

**LUCCHINI** 2343

**PIONEER HOT WORK TOOL STEEL  
RESISTANT TO THERMAL FATIGUE  
AND HIGH-TEMPERATURE WEAR**

**FORGING  
VALUES  
IN TOOL  
STEELS**

IMPROVEMENT  
COURAGE  
PEOPLE  
PASSION  
SPIRIT  
GROUP  
CUSTOMER  
SUCCESS

GROUP  
**LUCCHINI** RS

## General characteristics

---

Lucchini 2343 is the pioneer Chromium-Molybdenum- Vanadium alloyed steel designed for the manufacturing of dies, moulds, punches and other components subjected to high working temperatures. Lucchini 2343 is one of the most used and appreciated steels for the production of dies and moulds subjected to high working temperature. Lucchini 2343 is obtained through a special 'super clean' manufacturing process, which allows a high level of micro-purity.

LUCCHINI 2343 represents one of the most important tough options, for highly resistant plastic moulds that need very high pressure strength, excellent resistance to abrasion, also in combination with different surface coatings, and improved toughness in the meantime.

If subjected to suitable hardening, followed by at least two suitable tempers, LUCCHINI 2343 can reach a hardness of 50 HRC without affecting the toughness.

In order to improve further the mechanical characteristics of the surface, LUCCHINI 2343 can be coated with PVD or PA/ CVD methods.

Alternatively it can be subjected to nitriding: this allows a hardness value of the nitrided layer up to about 900-1000 HV.

## Delivery conditions

---

LUCCHINI 2343 can be supplied both in round and rectangular cross-section. In round section LUCCHINI 2343 is supplied in annealed condition in dimensional range up to 900 mm diameter.

In rectangular cross-section LUCCHINI 2343 is supplied in annealed condition in a dimensional range up to 500 mm in thickness.

The surface hardness value is lower than 250 HB, guaranteeing a good machinability.

## Main features

---

- high resistance to thermal shock and to heat cracking;
- good mechanical characteristics in hot condition;
- good toughness in hot condition;
- constant hardness throughout the production cycle;
- excellent machinability.

## Main application

---

- dies for aluminium die-casting
- dies subjected to low pressure
- chill moulds for gravity casting
- containers for die-casting presses
- dies for aluminium extrusion
- extrusion press blocks
- sleeves for extrusion presses
- injection moulds.

## Chemical analysis

	Range	C [%]	Si [%]	Mn [%]	Cr [%]	Mo [%]	Ni [%]	V [%]
<b>LUCCHINI 2343</b> Alloying [% in weight]	min	0,35	0,80	0,30	4,80	1,10	-	0,30
	max	0,40	1,10	0,50	5,50	1,50	-	0,50

Comparison with international classifications:

**W. Nr.** 1.2343

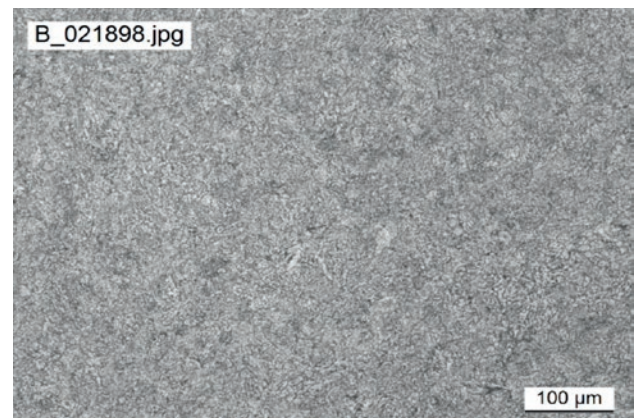
**DIN EN ISO4957 X38CrMoV5-1**

**AISI H11**

## Physical and mechanical properties

### Main physical properties

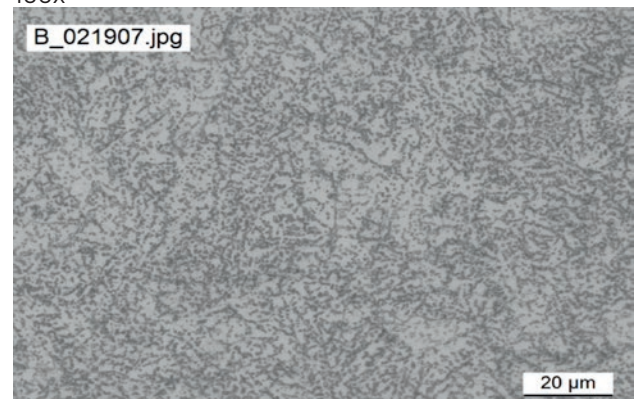
<b>LUCCHINI 2343</b>	20°C	400°C	600°C
Young modulus E [MPa]	210	183	168
Coefficient of linear thermal expansion $\alpha$ [ $10^{-6}/K$ ]	-	11,8	12,4
Thermal conductivity $\lambda$ [W/mK]	24,4	27,1	28,5



100x

### Main mechanical properties

<b>LUCCHINI 2343</b>	400°C	500°C	600°C
Ultimate tensile strength UTS [MPa]	1150	950	670
Yield strength YS [MPa]	900	750	470



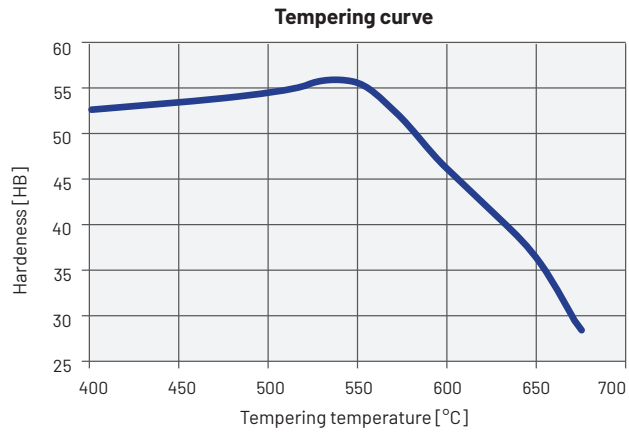
500x

### Microstructure

The main microstructure of LUCCHINI 2343 consist of a ferritic matrix with a homogeneous distribution of spheroidized carbides.

## Surface hardness vs tempering temperature

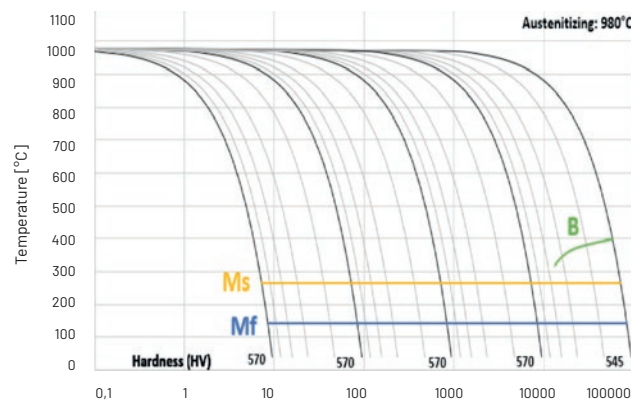
Tempering curve of a sample austenitized at 980°C.  
The diagram shows values obtained after the second tempering; the first tempering is performed at 550°C.



## Heat treatment

Lucchini 2343 is supplied in annealed condition with a hardness value below 220 HB. Heat treatment shall be carried out using the parameters recommended and given below.

### Continuous cooling transformation curve (CCT)



### Soft annealing

Heating	Max 50°C/h
Suggested temperature	850°C
Soaking time	120 min from the temperature's settlement
Cooling	Slow cooling in furnace (20°C/h)

Soft annealing is useful to improve machinability reducing hardness at 220 HB.

### Stress relieving

Heating	Max 100°C/h
Suggested temperature	Annealed condition: 650°C QT condition: 50°C lower than the last tempering
Soaking time	120 min from the temperature's settlement
Cooling	Slow cooling in furnace (20°C/h)

We strongly recommend to perform the stress relieving:

- After rough machining in order to minimize distortions and avoid quenching cracks by hardening treatment;
- After the finish machining, before the very first sampling, to avoid possible damages to cavity surface and sub-surface caused by not optimized hard milling.

### Hardening

We suggest to carry out the hardening process on material supplied in the annealed condition and to temper it immediately afterwards.

Hardening should be carried out after the material pre-heating according to the following table.

Heating	Max 150°C/h
First pre-heating temperature	400°C
Soaking time	25 min / 25 mm in thickness or ( $T_{SURFACE} - T_{CORE}$ ) < 90°C

Heating	Max 150°C/h
Second pre-heating temperature	600°C
Soaking time	20 min / 25 mm in thickness or ( $T_{SURFACE} - T_{CORE}$ ) < 90°C

Heating	Max 150°C/h
Third pre-heating temperature	800°C
Soaking time	20 min / 25 mm in thickness or ( $T_{SURFACE} - T_{CORE}$ ) < 90°C

The aim of the first pre-heat at 400 °C is to eliminate stresses caused by machining: if stress relieving is performed earlier, this step could be avoided.

The following pre-heating cycles at 600 °C and 800 °C are necessary to homogenize the temperature of the piece. We recommend an heating rate of 150 °C/h max.

The time of the different stages of pre-heating is calculated on the basis of the thickness of the piece and the temperature, as described in the above attached table.

Alternatively, the time can be adjusted on the basis of the difference between the internal temperature ( $T_{CORE}$ ) and the Surface temperature ( $T_{SURFACE}$ ) of the piece, measured by two thermocouples.

After the third pre-heating at 800°C, the austenitizing temperature should be reached as quickly as possible and maintained for 30 min from when ( $T_{SURFACE} - T_{CORE}$ ) < 15 °C or on the basis of the following formula:

$$t = (x + 39) / 2$$

t = soaking time [min]  
x = thickness [mm]

Heating temperature	Max 150°C/h
Soaking time	980°C
Cooling	t=(x+39)/2 or 30 min from ( $T_{SURFACE} - T_{CORE}$ ) < 15°C
	Air, vacuum cooling, salt bath, polymer

## Tempering

It is recommended to set the temperature of the first tempering at 550°C, close to the secondary peak hardness.

The temperature of the second tempering must be set according to the required mechanical properties and must be higher than the temperature of the first tempering.

The soaking time for the first and the second tempering are calculated by the following empirical formula:

$$t' = t'' = 0,8 x + 120$$

t' = t'' = soaking time [min]  
x = thickness [mm]

A third tempering at 30-50 °C less than the maximum temperature previously used will work as a stress relieving process.

Tempering at a temperature between 400 and 550 °C is not advisable, as it may reduce the material toughness. Tempering at a temperature lower than 200 °C should not be carried out.

The soaking time for the third tempering is calculated by the following empirical formula:

$$t''' = 0,8 x + 120$$

t''' = soaking time [min]  
x = thickness [mm]

First tempering temperature	550°C
Soaking time	t' = 0,8 x + 120
Cooling	Still air

Second tempering temperature	Based on mechanical properties required
Soaking time	t'' = 0,8 x + 120
Cooling	Still air

Third tempering temperature	30-50 °C less than the maximum temperature previously used
Soaking time	t''' = 0,8 x + 180
Cooling	Still air

## **Chrome plating**

LUCCHINI 2343 can be Chrome plated in order to enhance the mechanical characteristics on the surface.

In order to prevent Hydrogen embitterment, within 4 hours of Chrome plating it is advisable to carry out heat treatment at 200 °C for about 4 hours.

## **Nitriding**

LUCCHINI 2343 is suitable for ionic and gas nitriding. This treatment is very useful for moulds subjected to extremely stressful applications.

The increase of the surface hardness, following nitriding, extends the component life cycle.

Up-to-date nitriding procedures allow to minimize the dimensional variation of the piece.

Other properties can be deeper analysed against specific Customer request: please contact our Metallurgy Department.

## **Polishing and photo-engraving**

---

Lucchini 2343 is the suitable material when polishing and photoengraving are needed. Thanks to its integrated manufacturing process, those material manufactured by Lucchini RS are characterized by a high degree of purity.

**Polishing for graining: 4 Excellent**

**Suitability for medium gloss polishing: 4 Excellent**

**Suitability for mirror polishing: 3 Very good**

**Suitability for engraving: 3 Very good**

Rating scale:

**4 Excellent – 3 Very good – 2 Good – 1 Normal – 0 Unsuitable**

## Guidance for machining

The following parameters are approximate only and must be adjusted to the specific application and machine tool.

### Turning

Type of insert	Rough machining		Finish machining	
	P20-P40 coated	HSS	P10-P20 coated	Cermet
$V_c$ cutting speed [m/min]	150 ÷ 190	(*)	190 ÷ 230	260 ÷ 320
$a_r$ cutting depth [mm]	5	(*)	< 1	< 0,5

### Milling

Type of insert	Rough machining		
	P25-P35 not coated	P25-P35 coated	HSS
$V_c$ cutting speed [m/min]	120 ÷ 140	160 ÷ 180	(*)
$f_z$ feed [mm]	0,15 ÷ 0,3	0,15 ÷ 0,3	(*)
$a_r$ cutting depth [mm]	2 ÷ 4	2 ÷ 4	(*)

Type of insert	Pre-finishing		
	P10-P20 not coated	P10-P20 coated	HSS
$V_c$ cutting speed [m/min]	140 ÷ 160	180 ÷ 200	(*)
$f_z$ feed [mm]	0,2 ÷ 0,3	0,2 ÷ 0,3	(*)
$a_r$ cutting depth [mm]	< 2	< 2	(*)

Type of insert	Finishing		
	P10-P20 not coated	P10-P20 coated	Cermet P15
$V_c$ cutting speed [m/min]	200 ÷ 240	250 ÷ 270	300 ÷ 340
$f_z$ feed [mm]	0,05 ÷ 0,2	0,05 ÷ 0,2	0,05 ÷ 0,2
$a_r$ cutting depth [mm]	0,5 ÷ 1	0,5 ÷ 1	0,3 ÷ 0,5

(\*) not advisable



## Drilling

Type of insert	tip with interchangeable inserts	HSS	brazed tip
$V_c$ cutting speed [m/min]	130 ÷ 160	(*)	90 ÷ 120
$f_z$ feed per turn [mm/turn]	0,05 ÷ 0,15	(*)	0,15 ÷ 0,25

(\*) not advisable

## General formulae

Type of machining	Drilling	Milling
n: number of turns of mandrel	$V_c * 1000 / \pi * D_c$	$V_c * 1000 / \pi * D_c$
$V_f$ : feed speed [m/min]	$V_f = f_z * n$	$V_f = f_z * n * z_n$
$f_z$ feed per turn [mm/turn]	-	$f_n = V_f / n$
Note	$D_c$ : Milling cutter or tip diameter [mm] $V_c$ : cutting speed [m/min] $f_z$ : feed [mm]	$f_n$ : feed per turn [mm/turn] $z_n$ : No. of milling cutter inserts

## Welding

Welding LUCCHINI 2343 can give good results if it is carried out using the recommended procedure.

As steel with high Carbon Equivalent content, LUCCHINI 2343 is very sensitive to cracking.

We recommend to carry out pre-heating and heat treatment after welding.

In order to obtain the best results, we recommend the following procedure:

<b>Material condition</b>	Annealed	
<b>Welding technique</b>	TIG	MMA
<b>Pre-heating at</b>	330 – 380°C	
<b>Recommended Heat treatment</b>	Heating of the material at 850 °C, cooling in the furnace to 600 °C at a rate of 20 °C/h, cooling at room temperature	
<b>Material condition</b>	Hardened and tempered	
<b>Welding technique</b>	TIG	MMA
<b>Pre-heating at</b>	330 – 380°C	
<b>Recommended Heat treatment</b>	650 °C or 50 °C lower than the tempering temperature previously applied	

## Electrical Discharge Machining (EDM)

Lucchini 2343 can be machined by EDM to obtain complex shape. Afterwards we advise to carry out the stress relieving procedure.

### Process and materials selection for product recyclability

According to the potential of steel recycling, Lucchini RS is adopting a strategy for environmental excellence in designing and manufacturing its tool steel grades, putting eco-effectiveness into practice.

The main adopted steps are:

- to carry out an environmental assessment on processes and products, with the minimum use of virgin materials and non-renewable forms of energy;
- to move toward zero-waste manufacturing processes, considering that the ultimate destination of scrapped steel moulds becomes food for the next steel making process, that is the “waste equals food” philosophy;
- to carry out a life cycle assessment for each product and process, minimizing the environmental cost of product and service over its complete life cycles, from creation to disposal, that is the “Cradle to Cradle” philosophy

Lucchini RS S.p.A. All rights reserved. All contents of this document and all the related industrial and intellectual rights belongs exclusively to Lucchini RS S.p.A. that owns and manages the original version of it. The reproduction, disclosure, dissemination and/or changing of this document, in whole or in part, as well as the utilization of its content and/or the communication there of to third party without express written authorization of Lucchini RS S.p.A. are prohibited.

Via Giorgio Paglia, 45  
24065 LOVERE (BG) - Italy  
Phone +39 035 963724



[www.lucchinirs.com](http://www.lucchinirs.com)

*GROUP*  
**LUCCHINI RS**