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A method of hardening steel.

(57)

A method for hardening steel in which the steel is from an austenitic state cooled through, or held at, that temperature range in which the transformation of the steel to ferrite, pearlite or bainite occurs the most rapidly, and in which after the transformation has taken place to a sufficient degree, rapid heating to hardening temperature is performed with a brief holding time at that temperature before the steel is hardened in the conventional manner in a suitable hardening medium.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
X	DE-A-2 324 750 (THE TORRINGTON CO.) * Claim 1; pages 1-2 * ---	1	C 21 D 1/19
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, vol. 7, no. 259 (C-195)[1404], 18th November 1983; & JP-A-58 141 331 (DAIDO TOKUSHUKO K.K.) 22-08-1983 * Abstract * ---	1	
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, vol. 7, no. 259 (C-195)[1404], 18th November 1983; & JP-A-58 141 333 (DAIDO TOKUSHUKO K.K.) 22-08-1983 * Abstract * ---	1	
A	US-A-3 337 376 (R.A. GRANGE) ---		
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 09-12-1988	Examiner MOLLET G.H.J.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	