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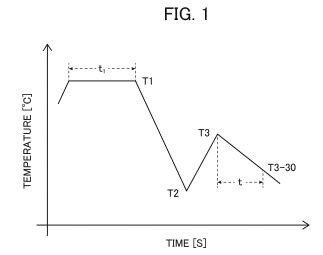
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(54) HIGH-STRENGTH STEEL SHEET AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME, AND MEMBER AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME

Provided is a high strength steel sheet having a yield strength of not less than 800 MPa and also having excellent collision proof stress and fracture resistance. The chemical composition includes, by mass: C in an amount of 0.150 to 0.500%, Si in an amount of 0.01 to 3.00%, Mn in an amount of 1.50 to 4.00%, P in an amount of not more than 0.100%, S in an amount of not more than 0.0200%, Al in an amount of not more than 0.100%, N in an amount of not more than 0.0100%, and O in an amount of not more than 0.0100%, with a balance being Fe and inevitable impurities. A total area fraction of tempered martensite and bainite is 55% to 95%, an average grain size of retained austenite is not more than 5.0 µm, and an area fraction of a structure S₁ having a carbon concentration of more than 0.1 mass% and not more than 0.3 mass% is not less than 50.0%, and an area fraction of a structure S₂ having a carbon concentration of not more than 0.5 mass% is not more than 10.0%.



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Description

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The invention relates to a high strength steel sheet having a yield strength (YS) of not less than 800 MPa and a method of producing the same as well as a member and a method of producing the same.

BACKGROUND ART

[0002] In recent years, in the automotive industry for example, an improvement in the fuel efficiency of automobiles has been hoped for to reduce the carbon dioxide gas (CO₂) emission from a viewpoint of the preservation of the global environment.

[0003] In order to improve the fuel efficiency of automobiles, it is effective to reduce the vehicle body weight, and in this case, it is necessary to reduce the vehicle body weight while maintaining the strength of the vehicle body. If the number of automotive parts can be reduced by strengthening a steel sheet which becomes the parts and simplifying the structure of the vehicle body, reduction of the vehicle body weight can be achieved.

[0004] For example, Patent Literatures 1 to 3 each disclose a high strength steel sheet having a yield strength of not less than 800 MPa.

20 CITATION LIST

PATENT LITERATURE

[0005]

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Patent Literature 1: JP 2018-21231 A Patent Literature 2: JP 2018-21233 A Patent Literature 3: JP 2017-214647 A

30 SUMMARY OF INVENTION

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

[0006] A high strength steel sheet having a yield strength of not less than 800 MPa usually improves processability due to a transformation induced plasticity (TRIP) effect of retained austenite.

[0007] In other words, retained austenite is transformed into martensite due to the TRIP effect during processing to enhance the strength and increase the strain dispersibility, thereby improving the ductility.

[0008] However, when such a steel sheet is formed into automotive parts, retained austenite is transformed into hard martensite, and this transformation sometimes degrades the fracture resistance at a collision (hereinafter, also simply referred to as "fracture resistance").

[0009] Further, a steel sheet used as automotive parts is also required to be excellent in terms of proof stress at a collision (hereinafter, referred to as "collision proof stress").

[0010] Therefore, the present invention aims at providing a high strength steel sheet having a yield strength of not less than 800 MPa and also having excellent collision proof stress and fracture resistance.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS

[0011] The present inventors found that employing the configuration described below enables the achievement of the above-mentioned object. The invention has been thus completed.

⁵⁰ **[0012]** Specifically, the present invention provides the following [1] to [10].

[1] A high strength steel sheet comprising a steel sheet,

wherein an amount of diffusible hydrogen in steel of the steel sheet is not more than 0.50 mass ppm, the steel sheet has chemical composition and microstructure, the chemical composition including, by mass:

C in an amount of 0.150 to 0.500%,

Si in an amount of 0.01 to 3.00%,

Mn in an amount of 1.50 to 4.00%,

P in an amount of not more than 0.100%,

S in an amount of not more than 0.0200%,

Al in an amount of not more than 0.100%,

N in an amount of not more than 0.0100%, and

O in an amount of not more than 0.0100%, with a balance being Fe and inevitable impurities,

in the microstructure,

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a total area fraction of tempered martensite and bainite is 55% to 95%,

an average grain size of retained austenite is not more than 5.0 µm, and

an area fraction of a structure S_1 having a carbon concentration of more than 0.1 mass% and not more than 0.3 mass% is not less than 50.0%, and an area fraction of a structure S_2 having a carbon concentration of not more than 0.5 mass% is not more than 10.0%.

[2] The high strength steel sheet according to [1] above, wherein the chemical composition further includes at least one element selected from the group consisting of: by mass,

B in an amount of not more than 0.0100%,

Ti in an amount of not more than 0.200%,

Nb in an amount of not more than 0.200%,

V in an amount of not more than 0.200%,

v in an amount of not more than 0.200%

W in an amount of not more than 0.100%,

Mo in an amount of not more than 1.000%,

Cr in an amount of not more than 1.000%,

Sb in an amount of not more than 0.200%,

Sn in an amount of not more than 0.200%.

Zr in an amount of not more than 0.1000%,

Te in an amount of not more than 0.100%,

Cu in an amount of not more than 1.000%,

Ni in an amount of not more than 1.000%.

Ca in an amount of not more than 0.0100%,

Mg in an amount of not more than 0.0100%,

REM in an amount of not more than 0.0100%,

O : U O O A O O

Co in an amount of not more than 0.010%,

Ta in an amount of not more than 0.10%, Hf in an amount of not more than 0.10%, and

Bi: in an amount of not more than 0.200%.

- [3] The high strength steel sheet according to [1] or [2] above, wherein a plating layer is further provided on a surface of the steel sheet.
 - [4] The high strength steel sheet according to [3] above, wherein the plating layer is a galvanizing layer, a galvannealing layer or an electrogalvanizing layer.
 - [5] A method of producing the high strength steel sheet according to [1] above, the method comprising:

subjecting a steel slab having the chemical composition according to [1] above to hot rolling to obtain a hot rolled steel sheet;

subjecting the hot rolled steel sheet to cold rolling to obtain a cold rolled steel sheet; and

heating the cold rolled steel sheet at a heating temperature T1 of 750° C to 950° C for 10 s to 500 s, cooling the heated cold rolled steel sheet to a cooling stop temperature T2 of not lower than 120° C and lower than 280° C, reheating the cooled cold rolled steel sheet to a re-heating temperature T3 of 280 to 400° C, and re-cooling the reheated cold rolled steel sheet without retaining the re-heated cold rolled steel sheet at the re-heating temperature T3

wherein a heat effect index P from the re-heating temperature T3 to (T3 - 30)°C is 4000 to 6200, the heat effect index P being expressed by Formula (1),

$$P = T3(log(5t) + 12) \dots (1)$$

in Formula (1), t is a cooling time from the re-heating temperature T3 to (T3 - 30)°C, and a unit thereof is second.

[6] A method of producing the high strength steel sheet according to [2] above, the method comprising:

subjecting a steel slab having the chemical composition according to [2] above to hot rolling to obtain a hot rolled steel sheet:

subjecting the hot rolled steel sheet to cold rolling to obtain a cold rolled steel sheet; and

heating the cold rolled steel sheet at a heating temperature T1 of 750° C to 950° C for 10 s to 500 s, cooling the heated cold rolled steel sheet to a cooling stop temperature T2 of not lower than 120° C and lower than 280° C, reheating the cooled cold rolled steel sheet to a re-heating temperature T3 of 280 to 400° C, and re-cooling the reheated cold rolled steel sheet without retaining the re-heated cold rolled steel sheet at the re-heating temperature T3

wherein a heat effect index P from the re-heating temperature T3 to (T3 - 30)°C is 4000 to 6200, the heat effect index P being expressed by the Formula (1),

$$P = T3(log(5t) + 12) \dots (1)$$

in Formula (1), t is a cooling time from the re-heating temperature T3 to (T3 - 30)°C, and a unit thereof is second.

[7] The method of producing the high strength steel sheet according to [5] or [6] above, wherein the cold rolled steel sheet is subjected to a plating treatment.

[8] The method of producing the high strength steel sheet according to [7] above, wherein the plating treatment is a galvanizing treatment, a galvannealing treatment, or an electrogalvanizing treatment.

[9] A member obtained by using the high strength steel sheet according to any one of [1] to [4] above.

[10] A method of producing a member, the method comprising subjecting the high strength steel sheet according to any one of [1] to [4] above to at least one of a forming process and a joining process to obtain a member.

ADVANTAGEOUS EFFECTS OF INVENTION

[0013] According to the present invention, there can be provided a high strength steel sheet having a yield strength of not less than 800 MPa and also having excellent collision proof stress and fracture resistance.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014]

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[FIG. 1] FIG. 1 is a chart diagram showing one example of a heat treatment.

[FIG. 2A] FIG. 2A is a cross-sectional view showing a hat member.

[FIG. 2B] FIG. 2B is a schematic view showing the hat member subjected to a three-point bending test.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[High Strength Steel Sheet]

[0015] A high strength steel sheet of the present embodiment (hereinafter also referred to as the "present high strength steel sheet") includes a steel sheet, and may further include a plating layer on a surface of the steel sheet as described later

[0016] The steel sheet included in the present high strength steel sheet has chemical composition and microstructure which are to be described later, and satisfies an amount of diffusible hydrogen in steel to be described later.

[0017] The term "high strength" means having a yield strength (YS) of not less than 800 MPa.

[0018] The present high strength steel sheet has a yield strength of not less than 800 MPa and also has excellent collision proof stress and fracture resistance. Therefore, since the strength against a collision is sufficient, the steel sheet is preferably used as parts of transportation machines such as automobiles.

[0019] As a method offorming the present high strength steel sheet, a general processing method such as press working can be used without limitation. As a method of welding the present high strength steel sheet, a general welding method such as spot welding or arc welding can be used without limitation.

<Steel Sheet>

[0020] First, the steel sheet included in the present high strength steel sheet is described.

[0021] The thickness of the steel sheet is not particularly limited and is, for example, not less than 0.5 mm and not more than 3.0 mm.

<< Chemical Composition>>

[0022] Chemical composition of the steel sheet included in the present high strength steel sheet (hereinafter, conveniently referred to as "present chemical composition") is described.

[0023] The percentage "%" used in the present chemical composition means "mass%" unless otherwise noted.

10 (C: 0.150 to 0.500%)

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[0024] C generates martensite to raise the strength of the steel sheet. When an amount of C is too small, the total area fraction of tempered martensite and bainite decreases, whereby the collision proof stress and the yield strength deteriorate. Hence, the amount of C is not less than 0.150%, preferably not less than 0.180%, and more preferably not less than 0.200%.

[0025] On the other hand, when the amount of C is too large, a structure (structure S_2) having a high carbon concentration increases and becomes a starting point of cracking at a collision, whereby the fracture resistance deteriorates. Hence, the amount of C is not more than 0.500%, preferably not more than 0.460%, and more preferably not more than 0.400%.

(Si: 0.01 to 3.00%)

[0026] Si suppresses generation of carbides during a heat treatment and increases the yield strength. From the viewpoint of obtaining a good collision proof stress and the yield strength of not less than 800 MPa, an amount of Si is not less than 0.01%, preferably not less than 0.50%, and more preferably not less than 0.80%.

[0027] On the other hand, when the amount of Si is too large, a carbon concentration in the retained austenite excessively increases, and a hard structure (structure S_2) having a high carbon concentration increases and becomes a starting point of cracking at a collision, whereby the fracture resistance deteriorates. Hence, the amount of Si is not more than 3.00%, preferably not more than 2.60%, and more preferably not more than 2.40%.

(Mn: 1.50 to 4.00%)

[0028] Mn influences the area fraction of tempered martensite and bainite. From the viewpoint of obtaining a good collision proof stress and the yield strength of not less than 800 MPa, an amount of Mn is not less than 1.50%, preferably not less than 1.90%, and more preferably not less than 2.30%.

[0029] On the other hand, when the amount of Mn is too large, hard tempered martensite and bainite excessively increase, whereby the fracture resistance at a collision deteriorates. Hence, the amount of Mn is not more than 4.00%, preferably not more than 3.50%, and more preferably not more than 3.30%.

40 (P: Not more than 0.100%)

[0030] P is segregated in a prior austenite grain boundary to embrittle the grain boundary, whereby the fracture resistance at a collision deteriorates. Accordingly, an amount of P is not more than 0.100%, preferably not more than 0.030%, and more preferably not more than 0.010%.

[0031] While the lower limit of the amount of P is not particularly limited, since P is a solid-solution strengthening element and increases the strength of the steel sheet, the amount of P is preferably 0.001%, more preferably 0.002%, and further preferably 0.003%.

(S: Not more than 0.0200%)

[0032] S combines with Mn to form coarse MnS, and the MnS becomes a starting point of cracking at a collision, whereby the fracture resistance at a collision deteriorates. Hence, an amount of S is not more than 0.0200%, preferably not more than 0.0100%, and more preferably not more than 0.0020%.

[0033] The lower limit of the amount of S is not particularly limited and is preferably 0.0001%, more preferably 0.0002%, and further preferably 0.0003% due to the production engineering restrictions.

(Al: Not more than 0.100%)

[0034] Al acts as a deoxidizer. When an amount of Al is too large, an oxide and a nitride aggregate and coarsen to become a starting point of cracking at a collision, whereby the fracture resistance at a collision deteriorates. Hence, an amount of Al is not more than 0.100%, preferably not more than 0.080%, and more preferably not more than 0.060%. **[0035]** The lower limit of the amount of Al is not particularly limited and is, for example, 0.010% and preferably 0.020% because generation of carbides during the heat treatment is suppressed and generation of retained austenite is promoted.

(N: Not more than 0.0100%)

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[0036] N combines with Ti to form TiN. When an amount of N is too large, an amount of TiN to be formed increases, and therefore, the TiN becomes a starting point of cracking at a collision, whereby the fracture resistance at a collision deteriorates. Hence, the amount of N is not more than 0.0100%, preferably not more than 0.0080%, and more preferably not more than 0.0060%.

[0037] The lower limit of the amount of N is not particularly limited and is preferably 0.0001%, more preferably 0.0003%, and further preferably 0.0005% due to the production engineering restrictions.

(O: Not more than 0.0100%)

[0038] O forms an oxide, and the formed oxide becomes a starting point of cracking at a collision, whereby the fracture resistance at a collision deteriorates. Accordingly, an amount of O is not more than 0.0100%, preferably not more than 0.0050%, and more preferably not more than 0.0020%.

(Other elements)

[0039] The present chemical composition may further include at least one element selected from the group consisting of elements described below, in percentage by mass.

((B: Not more than 0.0100%))

[0040] B is preferably added because it is an element capable of improving the hardenability of the steel sheet by being segregated in an austenite grain boundary and increases the yield strength of the steel sheet.

[0041] Meanwhile, when the amount of B is too large, $Fe_{23}(CB)_6$ is formed and becomes a starting point of cracking at a collision, whereby the fracture resistance at a collision deteriorates. Hence, an amount of B is preferably not more than 0.0100%, preferably not more than 0.0050%, more preferably not more than 0.0040%, and particularly preferably not more than 0.0030%

[0042] The lower limit of the amount of B is not particularly limited and is, for example, 0.0005% and preferably 0.0010% from the viewpoint of obtaining the effect of addition of B.

40 ((Ti: Not more than 0.200%))

[0043] Ti is preferably added because it forms fine carbides, nitrides or carbonitrides during hot rolling or a heat treatment to thereby increase the yield strength of the steel sheet.

[0044] Meanwhile, when an amount of Ti is too large, Ti combines with N to form coarse nitrides, whereby the fracture resistance at a collision deteriorates. Accordingly, the amount of Ti is preferably not more than 0.200%, more preferably not more than 0.100%, and further preferably not more than 0.050%.

[0045] The lower limit of the amount of Ti is not particularly limited and is, for example, 0.005%, and preferably 0.010% from the viewpoint of obtaining the effect of addition of Ti.

⁵⁰ ((Nb: Not more than 0.200%, V: Not more than 0.200%, W: Not more than 0.100%))

[0046] Nb, V and W are preferably added because each of them forms fine carbides, nitrides or carbonitrides during hot rolling or a heat treatment to thereby increase the yield strength of the steel sheet.

[0047] Meanwhile, when an addition amount is excessively large, these elements do not dissolve during slab heating and remain as coarse carbides. The coarse carbides become starting points of cracking at a collision, whereby the fracture resistance at a collision deteriorates.

[0048] Accordingly, an amount of Nb is preferably not more than 0.200%, more preferably not more than 0.100%, and further preferably not more than 0.050%. The lower limit thereof is not particularly limited and is, for example, 0.005% and is

preferably 0.010% from the viewpoint of obtaining the effect of addition of Nb.

[0049] An amount of V is preferably not more than 0.200%, more preferably not more than 0.100%, and further preferably not more than 0.050%. The lower limit thereof is not particularly limited and is, for example, 0.005% and preferably 0.010% from the viewpoint of obtaining the effect of addition of V.

[0050] An amount of W is preferably not more than 0.100%, more preferably not more than 0.080%, and further preferably not more than 0.050%. The lower limit thereof is not particularly limited and is, for example, 0.010% and preferably 0.020% from the viewpoint of obtaining the effect of addition of W.

((Mo: Not more than 1.000%, Cr: Not more than 1.000%))

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[0051] Mo and Cr are preferably added because they increase the hardenability of the steel sheet to thereby increase the yield strength of the steel sheet. Meanwhile, when an amount of each of these elements is excessively large, hard martensite is excessively generated, whereby the fracture resistance at a collision deteriorates.

[0052] Accordingly, an amount of Mo is preferably not more than 1.000%, more preferably not more than 0.800%, and further preferably not more than 0.500%. The lower limit thereof is not particularly limited and is, for example, 0.010% and preferably 0.020% from the viewpoint of obtaining the effect of addition of Mo.

[0053] An amount of Cr is preferably not more than 1.000%, more preferably not more than 0.800%, and further preferably not more than 0.500%. The lower limit thereof is not particularly limited and is, for example, 0.010% and preferably 0.020% from the viewpoint of obtaining the effect of addition of Cr.

((Sb: Not more than 0.200%, Sn: Not more than 0.200%))

[0054] Sb and Sn are preferably added because each of them suppresses decarburization of the surfaces of the steel sheet to thereby increase the yield strength of the steel sheet. Meanwhile, when an amount of each of these elements is excessively large, the steel is embrittled, whereby the fracture resistance at a collision deteriorates.

[0055] Hence, an amount of Sb is preferably not more than 0.200%, more preferably not more than 0.080%, and further preferably not more than 0.040%. The lower limit thereof is not particularly limited and is, for example, 0.001% and preferably 0.002% from the viewpoint of obtaining the effect of addition of Sb.

[0056] An amount of Sn is preferably not more than 0.200%, more preferably not more than 0.080%, and further preferably not more than 0.040%. The lower limit thereof is not particularly limited and is, for example, 0.001% and preferably 0.002% from the viewpoint of obtaining the effect of addition of Sn.

((Zr: Not more than 0.1000%, Te: Not more than 0.100%))

[0057] Zr and Te are preferably added because each of them spheroidizes the shapes of nitrides and sulfides to thereby improve the fracture resistance at a collision. Meanwhile, when an amount of each of these elements is excessively large, they increase coarse precipitates remaining in an undissolved state during steel slab heating, whereby the fracture resistance at a collision deteriorates.

[0058] Hence, an amount of Zr is preferably not more than 0.1000%, more preferably not more than 0.0800%, and further preferably not more than 0.0500%. The lower limit thereof is not particularly limited and is, for example, 0.0050% and preferably 0.0100% from the viewpoint of obtaining the effect of addition of Zr.

[0059] An amount of Te is preferably not more than 0.100%, more preferably not more than 0.080%, and further preferably not more than 0.050%. The lower limit thereof is not particularly limited and is, for example, 0.005% and preferably 0.010% from the viewpoint of obtaining the effect of addition of Te.

((Cu: Not more than 1.000%))

[0060] Cu is preferably added because it increases the hardenability of the steel sheet to thereby increase the yield strength of the steel sheet. Meanwhile, when an amount of Cu is excessively large, the fracture resistance at a collision deteriorates due to an increase of Cu inclusions.

[0061] Hence, an amount of Cu is preferably not more than 1.000%, more preferably not more than 0.800%, and further preferably not more than 0.500%. The lower limit thereof is not particularly limited and is, for example, 0.010% and preferably 0.020% from the viewpoint of obtaining the effect of addition of Cu.

⁵⁵ ((Ni: Not more than 1.000%))

[0062] Ni is preferably added because it increases the hardenability of the steel sheet to thereby increase the yield strength of the steel sheet. Meanwhile, when an amount of Ni is excessively large, the fracture resistance at a collision

deteriorates due to an increase of hard martensite.

[0063] Hence, an amount of Ni is preferably not more than 1.000%, more preferably not more than 0.800%, and further preferably not more than 0.500%. The lower limit thereof is not particularly limited and is, for example, 0.010% and preferably 0.020% from the viewpoint of obtaining the effect of addition of Ni.

((Ca: Not more than 0.0100%, Mg: Not more than 0.0100%, REM: Not more than 0.0100%))

[0064] Ca, Mg and REM (Rare Earth Metal) are preferably added because they spheroidize the shapes of precipitates such as sulfides and oxides to thereby increase the fracture resistance at a collision. Meanwhile, when an amount of each of these elements is excessively large, coarse sulfides become starting points of cracking at a collision, whereby the fracture resistance at a collision deteriorates.

[0065] Hence, an amount of Ca is preferably not more than 0.0100%, more preferably not more than 0.0050%, and further preferably not more than 0.0040%. The lower limit thereof is not particularly limited and is, for example, 0.0005% and preferably 0.0010% from the viewpoint of obtaining the effect of addition of Ca.

[0066] An amount of Mg is preferably not more than 0.0100%, more preferably not more than 0.0050%, and further preferably not more than 0.0040%. The lower limit thereof is not particularly limited and is, for example, 0.0005% and preferably 0.0010% from the viewpoint of obtaining the effect of addition of Mg.

[0067] An amount of REM is preferably not more than 0.0100%, more preferably not more than 0.0040%, and further preferably not more than 0.0030%. The lower limit thereof is not particularly limited and is, for example, 0.0005% and preferably 0.0010% from the viewpoint of obtaining the effect of addition of REM.

((Co: Not more than 0.010%, Ta: Not more than 0.10%, Hf: Not more than 0.10%, Bi: Not more than 0.200%))

[0068] Co, Ta, Hf and Bi are preferably added because they spheroidize the shapes of precipitates to thereby increase the fracture resistance at a collision. Meanwhile, when an amount of each of these elements is excessively large, coarse precipitates become starting points of cracking at a collision, and the fracture resistance at a collision deteriorates.

[0069] Hence, an amount of Co is preferably not more than 0.010%, more preferably not more than 0.008%, and further preferably not more than 0.007%. The lower limit thereof is not particularly limited and is, for example, 0.001% and preferably 0.002% from the viewpoint of obtaining the effect of addition of Co.

[0070] An amount of Ta is preferably not more than 0.10%, more preferably not more than 0.08%, and further preferably not more than 0.07%. The lower limit thereof is not particularly limited and is, for example, 0.01% and preferably 0.02% from the viewpoint of obtaining the effect of addition of Ta.

[0071] An amount of Hf is preferably not more than 0.10%, more preferably not more than 0.08%, and further preferably not more than 0.07%. The lower limit thereof is not particularly limited and is, for example, 0.01% and preferably 0.02% from the viewpoint of obtaining the effect of addition of Hf.

[0072] An amount of Bi is preferably not more than 0.200%, more preferably not more than 0.100%, and further preferably not more than 0.080%. The lower limit thereof is not particularly limited and is, for example, 0.001% and preferably 0.005% from the viewpoint of obtaining the effect of addition of REM.

40 (Balance)

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[0073] The balance in the present chemical composition consists of Fe and inevitable impurities.

<<Microstructure>>

[0074] Next, a microstructure of the steel sheet included in the present high strength steel sheet (hereinafter, conveniently referred to as "present microstructure") is described.

[0075] In order to obtain the effect of the present invention, it is not enough to satisfy the present chemical composition alone, and it is necessary to satisfy the present microstructure described below.

[0076] Hereinbelow, the area fraction is an area fraction with respect to the entire microstructure. The area fraction of each structure is determined by a method described in Examples below.

(Total area fraction of tempered martensite and bainite: 55% to 95%)

⁵⁵ **[0077]** From the viewpoint of stably securing good collision proof stress and yield strength, the total area fraction of tempered martensite and bainite is not less than 55%, preferably not less than 58%, and more preferably not less than 60%.

[0078] On the other hand, when the total area fraction of tempered martensite and bainite is too high, the hard structure

(structure S_2) having a high carbon concentration increases and becomes a starting point of cracking at a collision, whereby the fracture resistance deteriorates. Accordingly, this total area fraction is not more than 95%, preferably not more than 92%, and more preferably not more than 88%.

5 (Average grain size of retained austenite: Not more than 5.0 μm)

[0079] When a stress is repeatedly applied to the steel sheet, retained austenite is transformed into hard martensite by work hardening. When the retained austenite is too large, the martensite transformed from the retained austenite becomes a starting point of cracking at a collision, whereby the fracture resistance deteriorates.

[0080] Accordingly, the average grain size of retained austenite is not more than 5.0 μ m, preferably not more than 4.0 μ m, more preferably not more than 3.0 μ m, further preferably not more than 2.0 μ m, and particularly preferably not more than 1.0 μ m.

(Area fraction of structure S₁: Not less than 50.0%)

[0081] A structure having a low carbon concentration has high toughness and high fracture resistance. In addition, the structure having a low carbon concentration includes at least part of retained austenite. The retained austenite having a low carbon concentration is liable to undergo martensitic transformation. When a stress is repeatedly applied to the steel sheet, the retained austenite having a low carbon concentration undergoes martensitic transformation, so that strain at a collision is largely dispersed, and occurrence of cracks at a collision can be suppressed. In other words, the fracture resistance is improved.

[0082] Hence, the area fraction of a structure S_1 having a carbon concentration of more than 0.1 mass% and not more than 0.3 mass% is not less than 50.0%, preferably not less than 55.0%, and more preferably not less than 60.0%.

[0083] Meanwhile, the upper limit of the area fraction of the structure S₁ is not particularly limited and is, for instance, 90.0% and preferably 95.0%.

(Area fraction of structure S_2 : Not more than 10.0%)

[0084] Since a structure having a high carbon concentration is hard, it becomes a starting point of cracking at a collision, whereby the fracture resistance deteriorates.

[0085] Hence, the area fraction of the structure S_2 having a carbon concentration of not less than 0.5 mass% is not more than 10.0%, preferably not more than 8.0%, and more preferably not more than 7.0%.

(Remaining structure)

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[0086] The present microstructure may include a structure (remaining structure) other than tempered martensite, bainite and retained austenite.

[0087] Examples of the remaining structure include known structures such as fresh martensite; pearlite; ferrite; iron-based carbonitride; alloyed carbonitride; and inclusions such as MnS and Al₂O₃.

[0088] The area fraction of the remaining structure is preferably not more than 10%, more preferably not more than 8%, and further preferably not more than 5%. When the area fraction of the remaining structure falls within this range, the effect of the present invention would not be impaired.

<<Amount of diffusible hydrogen in steel: Not more than 0.50 mass ppm>>

[0089] When an amount of diffusible hydrogen in steel is too high, delayed fracture occurs, whereby the fracture resistance deteriorates. Hence, the amount of diffusible hydrogen in steel is not more than 0.50 mass ppm, preferably not more than 0.30 mass ppm, and more preferably not more than 0.20 mass ppm.

[0090] The amount of diffusible hydrogen in steel is determined by a method described in Examples below.

<Plating Layer>

[0091] The present high strength steel sheet may further have a plating layer on a surface of the steel sheet for the purpose of improving corrosion resistance and other properties.

[0092] Examples of the plating layer include a galvanizing layer, a galvannealing layer and an electrogalvanizing layer. The plating layer is formed by a plating treatment described later.

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[Method of Producing High Strength Steel Sheet]

[0093] Next, a method of producing a high strength steel sheet of the present embodiment (hereinafter also referred to as "present production method") is described. The present production method is a method of producing the present high strength steel sheet described above.

[0094] A temperature at which the steel slab, the steel sheet or the like is heated or cooled, which is described below, means a surface temperature of the steel slab, the steel sheet or the like, unless otherwise specified.

[0095] A method of producing molten steel which becomes a steel slab (steel material) is not particularly limited, and known methods using a converter, an electric furnace or the like are applicable. It is preferable to obtain a steel slab from molten steel by a continuous casting method. Another method such as an ingot casting blooming method or thin slab continuous casting may be adopted to obtain a steel slab.

<Hot rolling>

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[0096] In the present production method, first, a steel slab having the present chemical composition described above is hot-rolled. Thus, a hot rolled steel sheet is obtained.

[0097] When the hot rolling is performed, the steel slab may be re-heated in a heating furnace and then rolled. When the steel slab maintains a temperature equal to or higher than a predetermined temperature, the steel slab may be directly rolled without being heated.

20 [0098] In the hot rolling, a steel slab is subjected to rough rolling and finish rolling.

[0099] Preferably, the steel slab is heated to dissolve carbides in the steel slab prior to rough rolling.

[0100] From the viewpoint of dissolving the carbides or preventing an increase in the rolling load, the temperature at the time of heating the steel slab (steel slab heating temperature) is preferably not lower than 1100°C and more preferably not lower than 1150°C.

[0101] On the other hand, from the viewpoint of preventing an increase in scale loss, the steel slab heating temperature is preferably not higher than 1300°C and more preferably not higher than 1280°C.

[0102] As described above, when the steel slab before the rough rolling maintains a temperature equal to or higher than a predetermined temperature and the carbides in the steel slab are dissolved, heating of the steel slab before the rough rolling can be omitted.

³⁰ **[0103]** The conditions of the rough rolling and the finish rolling are not particularly limited, but for example, a finish rolling end temperature is preferably 700 to 1100°C, and more preferably 800 to 1000°C.

<Cold Rolling>

³⁵ **[0104]** Next, the hot rolled steel sheet is subjected to cold rolling, whereby a cold rolled steel sheet is obtained.

[0105] A rolling rate of the cold rolling is preferably not less than 30% and more preferably not less than 35%. The upper limit thereof is not particularly limited and is, for example, not more than 70% and preferably not more than 65%.

[0106] <Heat treatment>

[0107] Next, the cold rolled steel sheet obtained by the cold rolling is subjected to a heat treatment.

[0108] FIG. 1 is a flowchart diagram showing an example of the heat treatment.

[0109] In the heat treatment, generally speaking, the cold rolled steel sheet is heated at a heating temperature T1, cooled to a cooling stop temperature T2, then re-heated to a re-heating temperature T3, and re-cooled without being retained at the re-heating temperature T3. In the re-cooling, the cold rolled steel sheet is cooled from the re-heating temperature T3 to at least (T3 - 30)°C.

⁴⁵ **[0110]** The cold rolled steel sheet having undergone the heat treatment corresponds to the steel sheet included in the present high strength steel sheet described above.

<<Heating temperature T1: 750°C to 950°C, Heating time t₁: 10 s to 500 s>>

⁵⁰ **[0111]** First, the cold rolled steel sheet is heated at the heating temperature T1.

[0112] At this time, when the heating temperature T1 is too low or when a heating time t₁ (the time for retaining the cold rolled steel sheet at the heating temperature T1) is too short, the steel sheet is heated in a dual phase region of ferrite and austenite. In this case, since the final microstructure contains ferrite and the total area fraction of tempered martensite and bainite is reduced, it is difficult to ensure good collision proof stress and yield strength.

[0113] Therefore, the heating temperature T1 is not lower than 750°C, preferably not lower than 800°C, and more preferably not lower than 850°C. The heating time t₁ is preferably not less than 10 s, preferably not less than 50 s, and more preferably not less than 80 s.

[0114] On the other hand, when the heating temperature T1 is too high, the average grain size of the retained austenite

tends to be coarse, whereby the fracture resistance decreases. In addition, the amount of hydrogen entering steel increases due to an increase in a hydrogen partial pressure, whereby the amount of diffusible hydrogen in steel increases.

[0115] Further, when the heating time t_1 is too long, the average grain size of the retained austenite tends to be coarse, whereby the fracture resistance decreases.

[0116] Therefore, the heating temperature T1 is not higher than 950°C, preferably not higher than 930°C, and more preferably not higher than 900°C. The heating time t_1 is not more than 500 s, preferably not more than 300 s, and more preferably not more than 200 s.

<<Cooling stop temperature T2: Not lower than 120°C but lower than 280°C>>

[0117] Next, the cold rolled steel sheet having been heated at the heating temperature T1 is cooled to the cooling stop temperature T2.

[0118] When the cooling stop temperature T2 is too low, the total area fraction of tempered martensite and bainite increases, and the structure (structure S₂) having a high carbon concentration increases, whereby the fracture resistance deteriorates.

[0119] Thus, the cooling stop temperature T2 is not lower than 120°C, preferably not lower than 140°C, and more preferably not lower than 150°C.

[0120] On the other hand, when the cooling stop temperature T2 is too high, the total area fraction of tempered martensite and bainite decreases, whereby good collision proof stress and yield strength cannot be stably secured.

[0121] Therefore, the cooling stop temperature T2 is lower than 280°C, preferably not higher than 270°C, and more preferably not higher than 260°C.

<<Re-heating temperature T3: 280°C to 400°C>>

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[0122] Next, the cold rolled steel sheet having been cooled to the cooling stop temperature T2 is re-heated to the reheating temperature T3 and is re-cooled without being retained at the re-heating temperature T3.

[0123] At this time, when the re-heating temperature T3 is too low, the structure (structure S_1) having a low carbon concentration decreases, whereby the fracture resistance deteriorates.

[0124] Therefore, the re-heating temperature T3 is not lower than 280°C, preferably not lower than 290°C, and more preferably not lower than 300°C.

[0125] On the other hand, when the re-heating temperature T3 is too high, a large amount of iron carbides precipitates in tempered martensite, the total area fraction of tempered martensite and bainite decreases, resulting in lower yield strength and lower collision proof stress.

[0126] Therefore, the re-heating temperature T3 is not higher than 400°C, preferably not higher than 380°C, and more preferably not higher than 350°C.

<<Heat effect index P: 4000 to 6200>>

[0127] As described above, the cold rolled steel sheet having been re-heated to the re-heating temperature T3 is recooled without being retained at the re-heating temperature T3.

[0128] In the re-cooling, the cold rolled steel sheet is cooled from the re-heating temperature T3 to at least (T3 - 30)°C. At this time, the heat effect index P from the re-heating temperature T3 to (T3 - 30)°C for the cold rolled steel sheet is expressed by the following Formula (1).

$$P = T3(log(5t) + 12) \dots (1)$$

[0129] In the above Formula (1), t is the cooling time (unit: s) from the re-heating temperature T3 to (T3 - 30) °C.

[0130] The carbon concentration of each structure constituting the microstructure can be controlled by the heat effect index P.

[0131] In other words, in the temperature range from the re-heating temperature T3 to (T3 - 30)°C, solid solution carbon in martensite as a matrix phase is diffused into untransformed austenite.

[0132] When the heat effect index P is too low, solid solution carbon in martensite is not sufficiently diffused into untransformed austenite, the structure (structure S_2) having a high carbon concentration increases, and the structure (structure S_1) having a low carbon concentration decreases. Thus, the heat effect index P is not lower than 4000, preferably not lower than 4200, and more preferably not lower than 4400.

[0133] On the other hand, when the heat effect index P is too high, solid solution carbon in untransformed austenite is too large, whereby the structure (structure S₂) having a high carbon concentration increases in the final microstructure.

[0134] Accordingly, the heat effect index P is not more than 6000, preferably not more than 5800, and more preferably not more than 5500.

<Plating treatment>

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[0135] In the present production method, the re-cooled cold rolled steel sheet may be subjected to a plating treatment to form a plating layer on the surface thereof.

[0136] Examples of the plating layer include a galvanizing layer, a galvannealing layer and an electrogalvanizing layer.

[0137] For the plating treatment, galvanizing treatment, galvannealing treatment, or electrogalvanizing treatment is preferred.

[0138] When the galvanizing treatment is performed, an apparatus configured to continuously perform the above-described heat treatment and galvanizing treatment may be used.

[0139] When the galvanizing treatment is performed, for example, the steel sheet is immersed in a zinc bath having a bath temperature of 440°C to 500°C to be galvanized. Thereafter, it is preferable to adjust a coating weight of the plating layer by gas wiping or other methods.

[0140] As the zinc bath, a zinc bath having a chemical composition including the Al content of 0.10 to 0.23 mass% with a balance being Zn and inevitable impurities is preferred.

[0141] When the galvannealing treatment is performed, a too low alloying temperature causes an excessively low Zn-Fe alloying rate, and this may make alloying extremely difficult. On the other hand, when the alloying temperature is too high, untransformed austenite may be transformed into pearlite. Thus, the alloying temperature is preferably 450°C to 600°C, more preferably 470°C to 550°C, and further preferably 470°C to 530°C.

[0142] When the electrogalvanizing treatment is performed, an apparatus configured to be capable of successively performing the above-described heat treatment and electrogalvanizing treatment may be used.

[0143] The electrogalvanizing treatment is performed to thereby form an electrogalvanizing layer.

[0144] The types of electrogalvanizing layers are not particularly limited, and known electrogalvanizing layers are advantageously applicable. The electrogalvanizing layer may be a zinc alloy plating layer obtained by adding, to Zn, one or more of such elements as Fe, Cr, Ni, Mn, Co, Sn, Pb and Mo in suitable amounts in accordance with the intended purpose.

[0145] The coating weight of the plating layer of the galvanized steel sheet (GI), the galvannealed steel sheet (GA), or the electrogalvanized steel sheet (EG) is preferably 20 to 80 g/m² per one side (double-sided plating).

[0146] The steel sheet having undergone the plating treatment is cooled to a temperature of, for example, not higher than 50°C. The steel sheet having been cooled to a temperature of not higher than 50°C may be subjected to rolling at an elongation rate of 0.05% to 1.00%. The elongation rate is preferably 0.08% to 0.70%.

[0147] The rolling may be performed in an apparatus that is continuous with an apparatus (plating apparatus) for performing the galvanizing treatment, or may be performed in an apparatus that is discontinuous with the plating device. In addition, the desired elongation rate may be achieved by one rolling operation, or the desired elongation rate may be achieved by performing a plurality of rolling operations in total.

[0148] Meanwhile, the rolling described here generally refers to temper rolling, but it may be rolling by processing using a leveler or the like as long as it is possible to impart an elongation rate equivalent to that achieved by temper rolling.

[0149] In the present production method, for example, the retaining temperature such as the heating temperature or the re-heating temperature need not be constant as long as it is within the above-described temperature range. A cooling rate may vary during cooling as long as it is within the above-described rate range. The heat treatment may be performed in any equipment as long as the conditions such as the above-described temperature range are satisfied.

[Member]

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[0150] Next, a member of the present embodiment (hereinafter also referred to as "present member") is described.

[0151] The present member is a member formed by using the present high strength steel sheet described above as at least part of the member, and is, for example, a member formed into a target shape by processing (e.g., pressing) the present high strength steel sheet.

[0152] The present member is preferably a member for automotive parts. Note that the member for automotive parts may include a steel sheet other than the present high strength steel sheet as a material.

[0153] As described above, the present high strength steel sheet has a yield strength of not lower than 800 MPa and also has excellent collision proof stress and fracture resistance. Therefore, the present member is excellent in collision proof stress and fracture resistance and can contribute to reduction of the vehicle body weight, and thus is suitable for all members used in, among automotive parts, particularly skeletal structure parts or reinforcing parts of automobiles.

[Method of Producing Member]

[0154] Next described is the method for producing the present member.

[0155] The present member is obtained by, for example, subjecting the present high strength steel sheet to at least one of a forming process and a joining process.

[0156] The forming process is not particularly limited, and examples thereof include press working.

[0157] The joining process is not particularly limited, and examples thereof include: general welding such as spot welding and arc welding; and crimping using rivets; and the like.

10 [EXAMPLES]

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[0158] The invention is specifically described below with reference to Examples. However, the invention is not limited to the examples described below.

15 < Production of Steel Sheet>

[0159] Molten steel having the chemical composition as shown in Table 1 below with the balance being Fe and inevitable impurities was made in a converter, and a steel slab was obtained by a continuous casting method. In Table 1 below, the underlined figures mean those out of the ranges of the invention (the same applies to Tables 2 to 3 to be described later).

[0160] The steel slabs thus obtained were subjected to hot rolling under the conditions described in Table 2 below, and thus hot rolled steel sheets were obtained. Specifically, each steel slab was heated to 1250°C and rough rolled, and finish rolling was then performed at a finish rolling end temperature of 900°C.

[0161] The hot rolled steel sheet obtained was subjected to cold rolling at a rolling rate shown in Table 2 below, thereby obtaining a cold rolled steel sheet (thickness: 1.2 mm).

[0162] The cold rolled steel sheet obtained was subjected to the heat treatment under the conditions shown in Table 2 below

[0163] In some examples, both surfaces of the cold rolled steel sheet (CR) after the heat treatment were subjected to the plating treatment to obtain a galvanized steel sheet (GI), galvannealed steel sheet (GA), or electrogalvanized steel sheet (FG).

³⁰ **[0164]** As a galvanizing bath, when GI was produced, a zinc bath containing AI: 0.20 mass% with the balance being Zn and inevitable impurities was used, and when GA was produced, a zinc bath containing AI: 0.14 mass% with the balance being Zn and inevitable impurities was used.

[0165] The bath temperature was 470°C for both GI and GA production.

[0166] The coating weight of the plating layer was 45 to 72 g/m² per one side when GI was produced, and 45 g/m² per one side when GA was produced.

[0167] When GA was produced, the alloying temperature was 500°C.

[0168] The composition of the plating layer of GI was a composition including Fe: 0.1 to 1.0 mass% and AI: 0.2 to 1.0 mass% with the balance being Fe and inevitable impurities. The composition of the plating layer of GA was a composition including Fe: 7 to 15 mass% and AI: 0.1 to 1.0 mass% with the balance being Fe and inevitable impurities.

[0169] When EG is produced, an electrogalvanizing treatment was performed using an electrogalvanizing line such that the resulting plating layers had a coating weight of 30 g/m² per one side.

[0170] Hereinbelow, each of the cold rolled steel sheet (CR), the galvanized steel sheet (GI), the galvannealed steel sheet (GA), and the electrogalvanized steel sheet (EG) after the heat treatment is also simply referred to as "steel sheet."

45 <Observation of Microstructure>

[0171] For each of the steel sheets thus obtained, the microstructure was observed as described below. The results are shown in Table 3 below. In Table 3 below, martensite is denoted as "M," bainite is denoted as "B," and austenite is denoted as " γ ."

<<Total area fraction of tempered martensite and bainite>>

[0172] The obtained steel sheet was polished such that a cross section (L cross section) at a position of 1/4 of the sheet thickness and parallel to the rolling direction became an observation surface. The observation surface was etched using 1 vol% Nital, and then enlarged and observed with a scanning electron microscope (SEM) at a magnification of 3,000X.

[0173] The observation surface was observed in 10 fields, and SEM images were obtained. The obtained SEM images were analyzed to determine the total area fraction (unit: %) of tempered martensite and bainite.

[0174] More specifically, dark gray parts in each obtained SEM image were determined to be tempered martensite and

bainite, and the area fraction (average area fraction of the 10 fields) was determined. For the SEM image analysis, Image-Pro available from Media Cybernetics Inc. was used as analysis software.

<<Average grain size in retained austenite>>

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[0175] The obtained steel sheet was subjected to buffing using a colloidal silica solution after grinding such that a cross section (L cross section) parallel to the rolling direction became an observation surface. Thereafter, 10 regions of 50 μ m \times 50 μ m on the observation surface were measured by the EBSD method (electron beam accelerating voltage: 15 kV, step interval: 0.04 μ m), and data for obtaining structure images was obtained. The obtained data was processed using OIM Analysis software available from TSL Co. to obtain structure images. With the obtained structure images, the areas of the retained austenitic crystal grains were determined using Image-Pro available from Media Cybernetics Inc., and the circle equivalent diameters thereof were calculated. An average of these values was defined as the average grain size (unit: μ m) of retained austenite.

<<Area fraction of structure S₁ and structure S₂>>

[0176] The obtained steel sheet was polished using a diamond paste such that a cross section (L cross section) parallel to the rolling direction became an observation surface. The observation surface was finished to a mirror surface by alumina polishing, and then cleaned using a plasma cleaner in order to eliminate contamination of hydrocarbons (carbon contamination, hereinafter referred to as "contamination") on the observation surface.

[0177] The cleaned observation surface was measured using an electron beam microanalyzer (FE-EPMA: Field Emission Electron Probe Micro Analyzer) equipped with a field emission electron gun to obtain data for obtaining elemental mapping images. In accordance with Non-Patent Literature (T.Yamashita, Y.Tanaka, M.Nagoshi and K.Ishida: Sci.Rep., 6 (2016), DOI: 10.1038/srep29825.), the measurement conditions were an acceleration voltage of 7 kV and an electric current of 50 nA. At this time, the steel sheet as a sample was heated and retained at 100°C and measured under conditions which do not allow contamination to be present. The data after the measurement was converted to carbon concentration by a calibration method, and an elemental mapping image of carbon was obtained.

[0178] For each steel sheet, the measurement with the FE-EPMA was performed 30 times, and an elemental mapping image was obtained each time.

[0179] With respect to the whole area of the obtained elemental mapping image, a ratio of a region (area fraction) in which a carbon concentration was more than 0.1 mass% and not more than 0.3 mass% was determined, the average value of 30 measurements was defined as the area fraction (unit: %) of the structure S₁.

[0180] Similarly, with respect to the whole area of the obtained elemental mapping image, the ratio of a region (area fraction) where a carbon concentration was not less than 0.5 mass% was determined, and the average value of 30 measurements was defined as the area fraction (unit: %) of the structure S_2 .

<Measurement of amount of diffusible hydrogen in steel>

[0181] A specimen having a length of 30 mm and a width of 5 mm was sampled from the obtained steel sheet. For the sampled specimen, the amount of diffusible hydrogen in steel was measured by the thermal desorption analytical method. The heating rate was 200°C/hr. The cumulative value of the amount of hydrogen detected in the temperature range from room temperature (25°C) to a temperature lower than 210°C was defined as the amount of diffusible hydrogen in steel (unit: mass ppm).

[0182] The steel sheet on which the plating layer had been formed was measured in the same manner after the plating layer was removed using a router (precision grinder).

[0183] The result is shown in Table 3 below. The amount of diffusible hydrogen in steel is preferably not more than 0.50 mass ppm.

<Evaluation>

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[0184] The obtained steel sheets were evaluated by the following methods. The results are shown in Table 3 below.

<<Tensile test>>

[0185] From each of the obtained steel sheets, No. 5 specimen described in JIS Z 2241 with its longitudinal direction (tensile direction) being a direction of 90° to the rolling direction was sampled. Using the specimen thus sampled, a tensile test according to JIS Z 2241 was performed 5 times, and the yield strength (YS) was determined from the average value of 5 tests.

[0186] When the YS was not less than 800 MPa, the strength can be determined to be high.

<<Collision proof stress evaluation test>>

⁵ **[0187]** Using each of the obtained steel sheets, a member (hat member) having a hat-shaped cross section was produced, and a three-point bending test was performed to determine the maximum load (unit: kN).

[0188] First, a hat member 1 is described with reference to FIG. 2A.

[0189] FIG. 2A is a cross-sectional view showing the hat member 1. In FIG. 2A, the dimensions of the hat member 1 are shown. The hat member 1 is joined to a flat plate 2 by spot welding (nugget diameter: $4.5\sqrt{t}$, spot-to-spot pitch: 35 mm). The flat plate 2 is a cold-rolled steel sheet having no plating layer, and has a tensile strength (TS) of 590 MPa and a thickness t that is the same (1.2 mm) as that of the hat member 1.

[0190] Next, the three-point bending test is described with reference to FIG. 2B.

[0191] FIG. 2B is a schematic view showing the hat member 1 subjected to the three-point bending test. Various dimensions are shown also in FIG. 2B. The flat plate 2 joined to the hat member 1 is supported by a support member 3 which is a rigid body. In this state, an impactor 4, which is a rigid body, is moved from above toward the hat member 1 at a velocity of 1 m/s. In this way, the three-point bending test is performed.

[0192] For each steel sheet, the three-point bending test was performed three times, and the average value of the maximum loads obtained in respective tests was defined as the maximum load of the steel sheet.

[0193] When the maximum load was not less than 40 kN, "A" was given, when the maximum load was not less than 30 kN and less than 40 kN, "B" was given, and when the maximum load was less than 30 kN, "C" was given in Table 3 below.

[0194] When the result is A or B, the collision proof stress can be rated as excellent.

<<Fracture Resistance Evaluation Test>>

[0195] From each of the obtained steel sheets, a test piece (length of parallel portion: 40 mm, width of parallel portion: 20 mm) whose longitudinal direction (tensile direction) was 90° with respect to the rolling direction was cut out in accordance with JIS Z 2241. A machined hole having a diameter of 8 mm was formed at a central position in the longitudinal direction of the parallel portion and at a center position in the width direction of the parallel portion in the test piece.

[0196] A tensile test with a constant tensile rate (2 mm/min) was performed 5 times in accordance with JIS Z 2241 using the specimen in which the machined hole was formed, and a fracture stroke was determined.

[0197] When the fracture stroke (average value of 5 tensile tests) was not less than 0.85 mm, "A" was given, when the fracture stroke was not less than 0.70 mm and less than 0.85 mm, "B" was given below, and when the fracture stroke is less than 0.70 mm, "C" was given in Table 3 below.

[0198] When the result is A or B, the fracture resistance can be rated as excellent.

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				Cr		ı	1	-	1			1	-	-		0.220	1	-	•	1		1	1	-	-	-	1	
5				Мо			-	-	0.198	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10				W	-	-	-	0.025	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				^	-	-	0.090	-	-	-	-	0.022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15				Nb	0.020	0.018	-	-	0.046	-	-	-	0.035	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20				Ti	0.021	-	-	-	-	0.020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	0.091	-	-	-	-	-
25			[mass%]	В	0.0019	ı	-	-	-	0.0046	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1]		omposition	0	9000.0	0.0007	0.0006	0.0008	0.0012	0.0004	0.0006	0.0007	0.0010	0.0020	0.0060	0.0006	0.0050	0.0030	0.0004	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0015	0.0016	0.0004	0.0006	0.0004
30	[Table 1]		Chemical composition [mass%]	z	0.0040	0.0041	0.0039	0.0042	0.0048	0.0051	0.0061	0.0035	0.0041	0.0038	0.0059	0.0035	0.0051	0.0034	0.0041	0.0038	0.0042	0.0051	0.0034	0.0052	0.0041	0.0092	0.0038	0.0025
35				Al	0.041	0.036	0.040	0.052	0.045	0.042	0.031	0.029	0.041	0.036	0.055	0.039	0.032	0.058	0.032	0.041	0.054	0.042	0.053	0.029	0.091	0.041	0.059	0.049
40				S	0.0005	0.0008	0.0010	0.0010	0.0015	0.0011	0.0007	0.0019	0.0020	0.0015	0.0012	0.0009	0.0015	0.0015	0.0009	6000.0	0.0009	0.0009	0.0009	0.0016	0.0014	0.0011	0.0020	0.0016
				Ь	900.0	0.004	0.005	0.010	600.0	0.011	0.004	0.012	0.010	900.0	0.007	0.013	0.015	0.018	0.008	900.0	0.009	0.010	0.005	0.015	0.016	0.012	0.010	0.015
45				Mn	2.82	3.08	2.95	3.50	1.65	2.79	2.35	1.43	4.02	2.23	3.10	2.41	2.64	2.52	2.75	2.65	2.79	2.85	2.72	2.87	2.65	2.65	3.52	1.81
50				Si	1.23	1.52	1.31	1.52	2.91	1.36	1.45	1.05	1.45	1.25	1.15	1.72	3.20	0.004	1.62	1.39	1.28	1.26	1.35	0.02	2.76	0.42	1.26	1.32
		2)		С	0.234	0.322	0.242	0.153	0.288	0.248	0.275	0.223	0.191	0.502	0.141	0.270	0.261	0.262	0.321	0.241	0.261	0.254	0.235	0.223	0.225	0.311	0.238	0.238
55		Table 1 (1/2)	OI 100+3	Oleel ID	٧	В	O	Q	Э	Ł	g	H	Ī	ī	۲۱	Γ	M	Ζl	0	Ь	Ø	R	S	T	n	Λ	M	×

Table 1 (2/2)

	Steel					Ch	emical co	mposition	[mass%	•]				
	ID	Sb	Sn	Zr	Cu	Ni	Ca	Mg	Со	Та	REM	Hf	Те	Bi
5	Α	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	В	0.007	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	С	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	D	-	ı	-	-	ı	ı	•	-	1	•	ı	1	-
	Е	ı	ı	-	ı	ı	-	•	ı	ı	•	ı	ı	-
	F	ı	ı	-	0.120	ı	-	•	ı	ı	•	ı	ı	-
	G													
15	<u>H</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>I</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>J</u>													
20	<u>K</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	L	0.015	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>M</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>N</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	0	-	0.010	0.0220	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Р	-	-	-	0.220	0.125	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Q	-	-	-	-	-	0.0012	0.0020	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.005	-	-	-	-	-
30	S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.03	0.0010	-	-	-
	Т	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.03	0.005	-
	U	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	V													
	W	-	-	-	0.360	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.013
	Х	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.004

[0199] [0087]

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5				Remarks	Compatible steel	Comparative steel									
10				Plating treatment	CR	CR	GA	CR	CR	CR	CR	EG	CR	CR	GA
				Heat effect index P	4825	5133	4950	4740	4800	5533	5206	5145	5321	4950	4800
15				Cooling time t from T3 to (T3-30-)°C [s]	240	250	200	390	200	180	150	100	320	200	200
20			nent	Re-heating temperature T3 [°C]	320	340	330	310	320	370	350	350	350	330	320
25	2]		Heat treatment	Cooling stop temperature T2 [°C]	200	200	180	210	150	200	150	200	180	190	200
30	[Table 2]			Heating time t ₁ [s]	130	130	130	130	120	120	120	110	110	100	100
35				Heating temperature T1 [°C]	875	875	875	875	870	880	880	880	880	870	9.65
40			Cold rolling	Rolling rate [%]	45	46	45	45	45	9	50	20	45	45	45
45			Hot rolling	Finish rolling end temperature [°C]	006	006	006	006	006	006	006	006	006	006	006
50			Hotr	Steel slab heating temperature [°C]	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250
55		Table 2 (1/2)		Steel ID	Α	А	А	А	А	В	В	В	В	С	O
		Table		o Z	~	2	3	4	2	9	7	8	6	10	

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5				Remarks	Comparative steel	Comparative steel	Comparative steel	Compatible steel	Compatible steel	Compatible steel	Comparative steel	Comparative steel	Comparative steel	Comparative steel
10				Plating treatment	EG	CR	SCR	S	19	CR	CR	CR	GA	CR
				Heat effect index P	4831	4500	5400	5284	5415	5121	4982	4982	3969	6205
15				Cooling time t from T3 to (T3-30-)°C [s]	250	200	200	250	220	230	250	250	30	780
20			nent	Re-heating temperature T3 [°C]	320	300	360	350	360	340	330	330	280	398
25	ed)		Heat treatment	Cooling stop temperature T2 [°C]	200	110	300	280	200	200	200	200	200	200
30	(continued)			Heating time t ₁	100	100	100	150	120	150	8	520	150	150
35				Heating temperature T1 [°C]	730	870	870	880	880	880	880	880	880	880
40			Cold	Rolling rate [%]	45	45	45	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
45			Hot rolling	Finish rolling end temperature [°C]	006	006	006	006	006	006	006	006	006	006
50			Hot n	Steel slab heating temperature [°C]	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250
55		Table 2 (1/2)		Steel	O	O	2	Q	Э	F	Ŧ	F	Ŧ	Щ
		Table		o Z	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	<u>20</u>	21

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5			Remarks	Compatible steel	Comparative steel	Comparative steel	Compatible steel	Comparative steel	Comparative steel	Comparative steel	Comparative steel	Compatible steel	Comparative steel	Comparative steel	Compatible steel
10			Plating treatment	CR	GA	CR	CR	CR	CR	CR	CR	CR	CR	CR	GA
			Heat effect index P	5242	3894	6291	5160	4813	5327	4896	5471	4982	4982	4982	5100
15			Cooling time t from T3 to (T3-30-)°C [s]	190	190	190	300	220	20	400	50	250	250	250	200
20		nent	Re-heating temperature T3 [°C]	350	<u>260</u>	420	340	320	370	320	380	330	330	330	340
25	2/2)	Heat treatment	Cooling stop temperature T2 [°C]	190	190	190	200	200	275	200	270	200	210	210	210
30	Table 2(2/2)		Heating time t ₁ [s]	150	150	150	150	110	150	110	150	150	150	150	390
35			Heating temperature T1 [°C]	880	880	880	880	870	880	870	880	088	088	880	865
40		Cold rolling	Rolling rate [%]	50	50	50	50	45	50	45	50	50	50	50	50
45		olling	Finish rolling end temperature [°C]	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	006	900	900	006
50		Hot rolling	Steel slab heating temperature [°C]	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250
55			Steel	g	9	9	9	H	-	<u> </u>	소I	7	W	ZI	0
			o N	22	23	24	25	<u>26</u>	27	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	30	31	32	33

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5			Remarks	Compatible steel	Compatible steel	Compatible steel						
10			Plating treatment	GA	GA	GA	GI	CR	GI	EG	CR	CR
			Heat effect index P	4500	4950	4337	4500	5355	4500	4500	4813	4813
15			Cooling time t from T3 to (T3-30-)°C [s]	200	200	180	200	150	200	200	220	220
20		nent	Re-heating temperature T3 [°C]	300	330	290	300	360	300	300	320	320
25	(pa)	Heat treatment	Cooling stop temperature T2 [°C]	220	220	140	200	220	220	160	200	200
30	(continued)		Heating time t ₁ [s]	100	150	60	150	150	100	100	110	110
35			Heating temperature T1 [°C]	870	088	880	880	088	870	870	870	870
40		Cold rolling	Rolling rate [%]	45	09	90	09	09	45	45	45	45
45		Hot rolling	Finish rolling end temperature [°C]	006	006	900	006	006	006	006	900	006
50		Hot r	Steel slab heating temperature [°C]	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250	1250
55			Steel	Ъ	Ø	Я	S	Τ	n	^	W	×
			o N	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	14	42

[0200] [0088]

[Table 3]

5	Table	3 (1/2)								
		Total area	Microst Average		A	Amount of diffusible		Collision		
10	No.	fraction of tempered M and B [%]	grain size of retained γ [μm]	Area fraction of structure S ₁ [%]	Area fraction of structure S ₂ [%]	hydrogen in steel [mass ppm]	YS [MPa]	proof stress	Fracture resistance	Remarks
	1	83	0.6	70.3	2.1	0.00	1135	А	Α	Compatible steel
15	2	88	0.5	72.1	2.5	0.00	1170	А	Α	Compatible steel
	3	70	0.4	65.5	3.4	0.19	1250	А	Α	Compatible steel
20	4	85	0.8	65.2	2.6	0.00	1140	А	Α	Compatible steel
	5	55	0.5	62.4	4.2	0.00	1220	В	Α	Compatible steel
25	6	90	0.9	60.1	5.5	0.00	1300	А	Α	Compatible steel
	7	93	0.9	65.2	6.2	0.00	1350	А	Α	Compatible steel
30	8	88	0.9	58.5	6.1	0.00	1280	А	Α	Compatible steel
	9	82	0.8	55.3	6.8	0.00	1320	А	Α	Compatible steel
35	10	85	0.6	72.2	3.5	0.00	1250	А	Α	Compatible steel
	<u>11</u>	86	8.3	68.7	4.0	0.66	1210	А	С	Comparative steel
40	<u>12</u>	<u>43</u>	0.7	64.9	5.1	0.25	<u>770</u>	С	Α	Comparative steel
	<u>13</u>	<u>96</u>	0.8	68.3	<u>13.6</u>	0.00	1300	В	С	Comparative steel
45	<u>14</u>	<u>42</u>	0.9	60.5	4.6	0.00	780	С	Α	Comparative steel
	15	56	0.8	65.1	2.1	0.01	850	В	В	Compatible steel
50	16	60	0.8	55.2	9.2	0.01	880	В	В	Compatible steel
	17	85	0.7	62.4	1.8	0.00	1330	А	Α	Compatible steel
55	<u>18</u>	<u>45</u>	0.8	60.8	6.2	0.01	<u>770</u>	С	Α	Comparative steel
	<u>19</u>	80	<u>7.5</u>	58.2	5.1	0.01	1280	А	С	Comparative steel

(continued)

Table	3 (1/2)								
		Microst	ructure		Amount of				
No.	Total area fraction of tempered M and B [%]	Average grain size of retained γ [μm]	Area fraction of structure S ₁ [%]	Area fraction of structure S ₂ [%]	diffusible hydrogen in steel [mass ppm]	YS [MPa]	Collision proof stress	Fracture resistance	Remarks
<u>20</u>	80	0.7	40.1	<u>13.5</u>	0.00	1280	А	С	Comparative steel
<u>21</u>	82	0.7	60.5	<u>11.5</u>	0.01	1290	А	С	Comparative steel

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Table 3 (2/2)

					Ia	ble 3 (2/2)				
			Microst	ructure		Amount of				
20	No.	Total area fraction of tempered M and B [%]	Average grain size of retained γ [μm]	Area fraction of structure S ₁ [%]	Area fraction of structure S ₂ [%]	diffusible hydrogen in steel [mass ppm]	YS [MPa]	Collision proof stress	Fracture resistance	Remarks
25	22	88	0.8	75.7	2.6	0.00	1390	А	А	Compatible steel
	<u>23</u>	90	0.8	<u>45.2</u>	<u>12.5</u>	0.40	1290	А	С	Comparative steel
30	<u>24</u>	<u>52</u>	0.7	52.2	14.2	0.00	<u>790</u>	С	С	Comparative steel
	25	84	0.8	74.3	3.2	0.00	1350	А	Α	Compatible steel
35	<u>26</u>	52	0.7	65.9	5.1	0.01	<u>750</u>	С	Α	Comparative steel
	<u>27</u>	<u>97</u>	0.9	52.2	12.0	0.01	850	А	С	Comparative steel
40	<u>28</u>	93	0.9	51.7	<u>13.5</u>	0.01	1540	Α	О	Comparative steel
	<u>29</u>	<u>43</u>	0.8	52.2	2.4	0.01	<u>750</u>	С	Α	Comparative steel
45	30	78	0.6	70.1	4.1	0.00	1150	А	Α	Compatible steel
	<u>31</u>	70	0.8	55.9	<u>11.6</u>	0.01	1220	А	О	Comparative steel
50	<u>32</u>	<u>52</u>	0.8	60.5	3.2	0.01	<u>780</u>	С	Α	Comparative steel
	33	88	0.8	62.3	6.3	0.15	1250	А	Α	Compatible steel
55	34	81	0.6	70.8	3.6	0.11	1260	А	Α	Compatible steel
	35	82	0.8	72.6	4.3	0.12	1320	А	А	Compatible steel

(continued)

			Microst	ructure		Amount of				
5	No.	Total area fraction of tempered M and B [%]	Average grain size of retained γ [μm]	Area fraction of structure S ₁ [%]	Area fraction of structure S ₂ [%]	diffusible hydrogen in steel [mass ppm]	YS [MPa]	Collision proof stress	Fracture resistance	Remarks
10	36	62	0.6	65.5	5.6	0.12	980	Α	Α	Compatible steel
	37	82	0.6	68.1	4.3	0.00	1120	А	Α	Compatible steel
15	38	56	0.6	55.3	4.1	0.00	1050	В	Α	Compatible steel
	39	80	0.7	60.6	9.2	0.00	1120	Α	В	Compatible steel
20	40	88	0.8	61.3	6.5	0.00	1210	В	Α	Compatible steel
	41	89	0.7	68.9	3.9	0.00	1140	А	В	Compatible steel
25	42	65	0.7	65.5	3.6	0.00	850	В	А	Compatible steel

<Summary of Evaluation Results>

[0201] As shown in Tables 1 to 3 above, the steel sheets of Nos. 1 to 10, 15 to 17, 22, 25, 30, and 33 to 42 all had yield strengths of not less than 800 MPa and were excellent in collision proof stress and fracture resistance.

[0202] In contrast, in the steel sheet of each of Nos. 11 to 14, 18 to 21, 23, 24, 26 to 29, 31 and 32, at least one of the yield strength, the collision proof stress and the fracture resistance was insufficient.

35 Claims

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- 1. A high strength steel sheet comprising a steel sheet,
- wherein an amount of diffusible hydrogen in steel of the steel sheet is not more than 0.50 mass ppm, the steel sheet has chemical composition and microstructure, the chemical composition including, by mass:

C in an amount of 0.150 to 0.500%,

Si in an amount of 0.01 to 3.00%,

Mn in an amount of 1.50 to 4.00%,

P in an amount of not more than 0.100%,

S in an amount of not more than 0.0200%,

Al in an amount of not more than 0.100%,

N in an amount of not more than 0.0100%, and

O in an amount of not more than 0.0100%, with a balance being Fe and inevitable impurities,

in the microstructure,

a total area fraction of tempered martensite and bainite is 55% to 95%,

an average grain size of retained austenite is not more than 5.0 μ m, and

an area fraction of a structure S_1 having a carbon concentration of more than 0.1 mass% and not more than 0.3 mass% is not less than 50.0%, and an area fraction of a structure S_2 having a carbon concentration of not more than 0.5 mass% is not more than 10.0%.

2. The high strength steel sheet according to claim 1, wherein the chemical composition further includes at least one

element selected from the group consisting of: by mass,

B in an amount of not more than 0.0100%, Ti in an amount of not more than 0.200%, 5 Nb in an amount of not more than 0.200%, V in an amount of not more than 0.200%, W in an amount of not more than 0.100%, Mo in an amount of not more than 1.000%, Cr in an amount of not more than 1.000%, 10 Sb in an amount of not more than 0.200%, Sn in an amount of not more than 0.200%. Zr in an amount of not more than 0.1000%, Te in an amount of not more than 0.100%, Cu in an amount of not more than 1.000%, 15 Ni in an amount of not more than 1.000%. Ca in an amount of not more than 0.0100%, Mg in an amount of not more than 0.0100%, REM in an amount of not more than 0.0100%, Co in an amount of not more than 0.010%, 20 Ta in an amount of not more than 0.10%, Hf in an amount of not more than 0.10%, and Bi: in an amount of not more than 0.200%.

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- 3. The high strength steel sheet according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a plating layer is further provided on a surface of the steel sheet.
 - **4.** The high strength steel sheet according to claim 3, wherein the plating layer is a galvanizing layer, a galvannealing layer or an electrogalvanizing layer.
- 30 5. A method of producing the high strength steel sheet according to claim 1, the method comprising:

subjecting a steel slab having the chemical composition according to claim 1 to hot rolling to obtain a hot rolled steel sheet;

subjecting the hot rolled steel sheet to cold rolling to obtain a cold rolled steel sheet; and heating the cold rolled steel sheet at a heating temperature T1 of 750°C to 950°C for 10 s to 500 s, cooling the heated cold rolled steel sheet to a cooling stop temperature T2 of not lower than 120°C and lower than 280°C, reheating the cooled cold rolled steel sheet to a re-heating temperature T3 of 280 to 400°C, and re-cooling the reheated cold rolled steel sheet without retaining the re-heated cold rolled steel sheet at the re-heating temperature T3.

wherein a heat effect index P from the re-heating temperature T3 to (T3 - 30)°C is 4000 to 6200, the heat effect index P being expressed by Formula (1),

$$P = T3(loq(5t) + 12) \dots (1)$$

in Formula (1), t is a cooling time from the re-heating temperature T3 to (T3 - 30)°C, and a unit thereof is second.

- 6. A method of producing the high strength steel sheet according to claim 2, the method comprising:
- subjecting a steel slab having the chemical composition according to claim 2 to hot rolling to obtain a hot rolled steel sheet;

subjecting the hot rolled steel sheet to cold rolling to obtain a cold rolled steel sheet; and heating the cold rolled steel sheet at a heating temperature T1 of 750°C to 950°C for 10 s to 500 s, cooling the heated cold rolled steel sheet to a cooling stop temperature T2 of not lower than 120°C and lower than 280°C, reheating the cooled cold rolled steel sheet to a re-heating temperature T3 of 280 to 400°C, and re-cooling the reheated cold rolled steel sheet without retaining the re-heated cold rolled steel sheet at the re-heating temperature T3,

wherein a heat effect index P from the re-heating temperature T3 to (T3 - 30)°C is 4000 to 6200, the heat effect index P being expressed by the Formula (1),

$$P = T3(log(5t) + 12) \dots (1)$$

in Formula (1), t is a cooling time from the re-heating temperature T3 to (T3 - 30)°C, and a unit thereof is second.

- ⁵ The method of producing the high strength steel sheet according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the cold rolled steel sheet is subjected to a plating treatment.
 - **8.** The method of producing the high strength steel sheet according to claim 7, wherein the plating treatment is a galvanizing treatment, a galvannealing treatment, or an electrogalvanizing treatment.
 - 9. A member obtained by using the high strength steel sheet according to any one of claims 1 to 4.

10. A method of producing a member, the method comprising subjecting the high strength steel sheet according to any one of claims 1 to 4 to at least one of a forming process and a joining process to obtain a member.

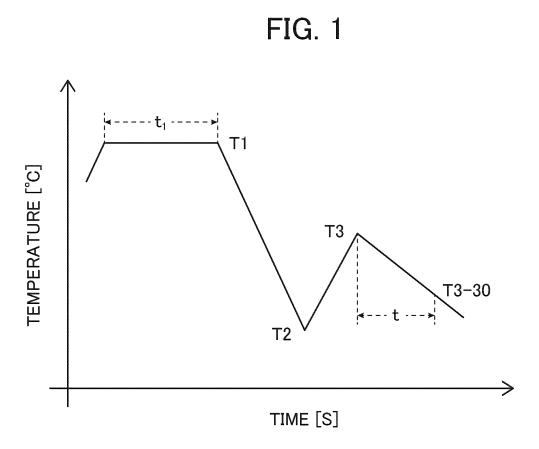


FIG. 2A

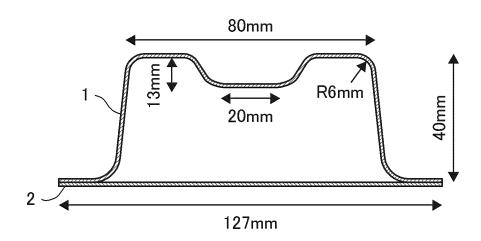
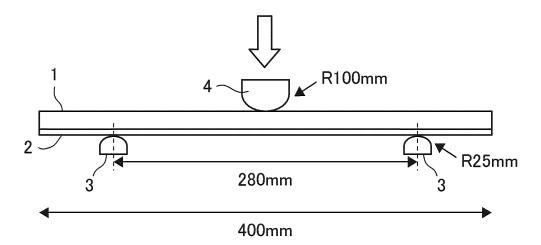


FIG. 2B



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2023/027165

		<u> </u>	
	SSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
	38/00 (2006.01)i; C21D 9/46 (2006.01)i; C22C 38/06 (C22C38/00 301U; C22C38/00 301T; C22C38/06; C22		
According to	International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both na	tional classification and IPC	
	DS SEARCHED		
	ocumentation searched (classification system followed	by classification symbols)	
C22C	38/00-38/60; C21D8/02; C21D9/46		
Documentat	ion searched other than minimum documentation to the	e extent that such documents are included in	n the fields searched
	hed examined utility model applications of Japan 1922 hed unexamined utility model applications of Japan 19		
Regist	tered utility model specifications of Japan 1996-2023		
	hed registered utility model applications of Japan 1994 ata base consulted during the international search (nam		h tarms usad)
Electronic di	ata base consulted during the international search (nam	e of data base and, where practicable, searc	m terms used)
C. DOC	UMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where a	appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 2017/179372 A1 (JFE STEEL CORP) 19 October claims, tables 1-3	per 2017 (2017-10-19)	1-10
A	JP 2021-25094 A (JFE STEEL CORP) 22 February claims, tables 1-3	2021 (2021-02-22)	1-10
A	WO 2018/147400 A1 (JFE STEEL CORP) 16 Augu claims, tables 1-1-3-2		1-10
A	JP 2020-509199 A (ARCELORMITTAL) 26 March claims, tables 1-4		1-10
A	JP 2019-534941 A (BAOSHAN IRON & STEEL CO (2019-12-05) claims, tables 1-3	D., LTD.) 05 December 2019	1-10
A	WO 2019/212045 A1 (NIPPON STEEL CORPORA claims, paragraphs [0002]-[0004], [0016]-[0017]	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1-10
Further of	documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	See patent family annex.	
	rategories of cited documents: at defining the general state of the art which is not considered	"T" later document published after the internal date and not in conflict with the application	on but cited to understand the
to be of	particular relevance oplication or patent but published on or after the international	principle or theory underlying the inventi "X" document of particular relevance; the c	
	it which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is	considered novel or cannot be considered when the document is taken alone	•
special r	establish the publication date of another citation or other cason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the c considered to involve an inventive st	ep when the document is
means	at referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other at published prior to the international filing date but later than	combined with one or more other such debeing obvious to a person skilled in the a	rt
	it published prior to the international filing date but later than ity date claimed	"&" document member of the same patent fan	nily
Date of the ac	tual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search	report
	05 October 2023	17 October 2023	3
Name and ma	iling address of the ISA/JP	Authorized officer	
	tent Office (ISA/JP) umigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915		
Japan Japan	uninguotai, Onijoun-ku, rokjo 199-9/15		
	1210 (second sheet) (January 2015)	Telephone No.	

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP2023/027165

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim
A	WO 2019/212047 A1 (NIPPON STEEL CORPORATION) 07 November 2019 (2019-11-07) claims, paragraphs [0002]-[0004], [0016]-[0017]	1-10
Р, А	WO 2022/185804 A1 (JFE STEEL CORP) 09 September 2022 (2022-09-09) claims, tables 1-3	1-10
Р, А	WO 2022/215389 A1 (JFE STEEL CORP) 13 October 2022 (2022-10-13) claims, tables 1-4	1-10

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (January 2015)

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REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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