

Studying Tungsten-containing Electroerosion Powders and Alloys Synthesized from Them

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The results of the X-ray spectral microanalysis of the powder obtained using electroerosion dispersion of tungsten-containing wastes in distilled water, and the alloy powder synthesized from this powder are presented in the article. It is shown that the basic elements both in the powder obtained using electroerosion dispersion of tungsten-containing wastes in distilled water and in the synthesized alloy are tungsten, molybdenum, iron, oxygen and carbon.

Keywords: Tungsten-containing wastes, Electroerosion dispersion, Distilled water, Tungsten-containing powder, X-ray spectral microanalysis.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The analysis of the researches in the field of tungsten-containing tooling materials shows that the majority of them are related to the issue of tungsten saving. This issue is of great importance due to the shortage, high cost and the continuous widening of tungsten application areas. Activities aimed at wastes collection and processing are closely related with tungsten saving. Several methods of wastes processing are currently used in domestic and foreign industries. The characteristic features of these methods are large tonnage, energy intensity, large industrial areas, low efficiency and also environmental problems [1, 2]. Method of electroerosion dispersion (EED) is one of the most promising methods for producing powder from almost any current-conducting metal. This method has relatively low energy costs and is environmentally friendly [3-9].

The widespread use of EED method for processing tungsten-containing wastes (in particular high-speed steel) into powder with the purpose of their recycling is slowed down by the absence of comprehensive information on the influence of initial composition, conditions and environment on the properties of the powders in scientific and technical literature and by the absence of practical application technology. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct integrated theoretical and experimental studies to develop recycling technologies for powders produced from high-speed steel wastes, and to evaluate the efficiency of their use.

The objective of this work is to carry out X-ray spectral microanalysis (X-RSMA) of the powder produced using electroerosion dispersion of tungsten-containing wastes in distilled water and of the alloy synthesized from this powder.

2. MATERIALS AND METHOD OF EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

A special unit for EED of current-conducting materials developed by the authors was used to produce powder from tungsten-containing wastes using electroerosion dispersion method [10, 11]. The wastes were put into the reactor filled with distilled water as working fluid. The process was carried out at the following electrical parameters: the capacitance of the discharge capacitors

was 35 μ F, the voltage was 200 ... 220 V, time between pulses was 30 Hz. The destruction of waste material to form powder dispersion particles occurred as a result of the local impact of short-duration electrical discharges between the electrodes.

To carry out X-RSMA of the powder produced using electroerosion dispersion of tungsten-containing wastes in distilled water micrographs were made using scanning electron microscope "QUANTA 600 FEG".

From the obtained powder produced using electroerosion dispersion of T15K6 hard alloy wastes the hard alloy was synthesized using hot-pressing technique with the 3 minute high current passage in vacuum. The modified hot-pressing technique, in which an electric current passes directly through the mold and the stock material, rather than through an external heater, is used as the basis of the process. A very fast heating and extremely short work-cycle time are achieved using pulsed electric current and the so-called 'spark plasma effect'.

The study of the microstructure and the composition of the elements of the synthesized alloys was carried on the basis of scanning electron microscope (SEM) investigation methods using a scanning electron microscope 200 Quanta 3D.

3. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The micrographs of tungsten-containing powders are shown in Fig. 1.

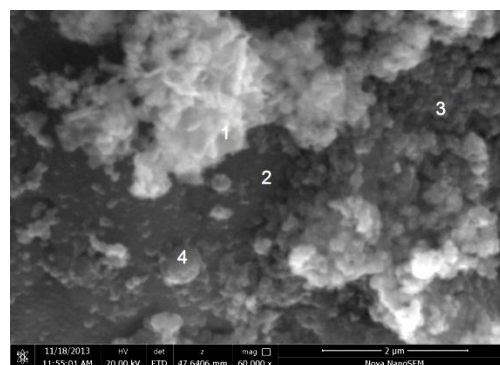


Fig. 1 – SEM- micrograph of the powder particles with the indicated points of carrying out X-RSMA

Then, at points 1-4 indicated on the resulted micrograph, spectra of characteristic xeroradiography at different points on the surface of the powder sample were obtained using EDAX energy dispersive X-ray analyzer, built in the scanning electron microscope "QUANTA 600 FEG" (Fig. 2-5).

Spectra of characteristic xeroradiography correspond to the points in the figures. On the spectrum the peak of a certain height corresponds to each chemical element.

Then, at points 1 and 2 indicated on the resulting micrograph, spectra of characteristic xeroradiography on the surface of the sample were obtained (Fig. 6).

Spectra of characteristic xeroradiography correspond to the points in the figures. On the spectrum the peak of a certain height corresponds to each chemical element.

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4. CONCLUSION

Thus, X-ray spectral microanalysis allowed determining the composition of the elements of microobjects of powder particles produced using electroerosion dispersion of tungsten-containing wastes on the basis of excited in them characteristic xeroradiography.

According to the results of the generalized presented data it was revealed that tungsten, molybdenum, iron, oxygen and carbon are the main elements both in the powder produced using the method of electroerosion dispersion of tungsten-containing wastes in distilled water, and in the synthesized alloy.

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