

CUTTING TOOL AND CUTTING INSERT THEREFOR

5 FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to cutting tools of the type in which a cutting insert is retained in an insert pocket of a cutting tool by means of a retaining screw.

10 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In cutting tools for grooving, turning or parting-off, and in cutting tools for rotary slot cutting, a cutting insert is often retained in an insert pocket between two generally opposing jaws. In these tools, chips flowing from the cutting insert's cutting edge along its rake surface during a cutting operation may engage the jaw adjacent the rake surface and subject
15 it to considerable abrasive wear. This disadvantageous effect will in time reduce the jaw's ability to retain the cutting insert within the insert pocket.

One solution which significantly overcomes this disadvantageous effect is disclosed in US patent No. 5947648. A tool holder includes a
20 holder blade having an upper jaw and base jaw wherein the upper jaw is fitted with an exchangeable hard material shield insert for protecting it against wear. However, this introduces additional maintenance of the tool.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a cutting tool with a retaining mechanism in which the above referred to disadvantage is
25 substantially reduced or overcome.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a cutting insert comprising

an upper surface, a lower surface and a peripheral surface therebetween, the peripheral surface comprising

opposing forward and rear surfaces and opposing side surfaces extending between the forward and rear surfaces,

a through bore extending between the forward and rear surfaces,

the upper surface comprising a rake surface, the forward surface comprising a forward relief surface and the intersection of the rake surface and the forward relief surface forming a forward cutting edge,

the lower and rear surfaces being generally v-shaped in a first and second cross section, respectively.

Preferably, the first cross section is generally perpendicular to the side surfaces and upper surface, and the second cross section is generally perpendicular to the side surfaces and forward surface.

Further preferably, the lower surface comprises a pair of insert lower faces which extend at an insert lower angle relative to each other; and the rear surface comprises a pair of insert rear faces which extend at an insert rear angle relative to each other.

If desired, the insert lower and rear angles are external non-acute angles.

Optionally, the insert lower and rear angles are internal non-acute angels.

In accordance with a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided, a cutting insert comprising: an upper surface, the upper surface comprising a rake surface; a lower surface; and a peripheral surface between the upper and lower surfaces, the peripheral surface comprising: opposing forward and rear surfaces, the forward surface comprising a forward relief surface;

opposing side surfaces extending between the forward and rear surfaces; and a through bore extending between the forward and rear surfaces; wherein: an intersection of the rake surface and the forward relief surface forms a forward cutting edge; the lower surface comprises a pair of insert lower faces which form an insert lower angle between about 90° and about 150° ; and the rear surface comprises a pair of insert rear faces which form an insert rear angle between about 90° and about 150° .

There is also provided, in accordance with a third aspect of the present invention, a cutting tool having an insert pocket the

insert pocket comprising a rear abutment surface and a lower abutment surface, with a threaded bore formed in the rear abutment surface, and a cutting insert comprising: an upper surface, a lower surface and a peripheral surface therebetween, the peripheral surface comprising: opposing forward and rear surfaces and opposing side surfaces extending between the forward and rear surfaces, a through bore extending between the forward and rear surfaces, the upper surface comprising a rake surface, the forward surface comprising a forward relief surface and the intersection of the rake surface and the forward relief surface forming a forward cutting edge, the lower and rear surfaces being generally V-shaped in both a first cross-section and a second cross-section, respectively, seated in the insert pocket such that the rear abutment surface of the insert pocket at least partially abuts a rear surface of the cutting insert; the lower abutment surface of the insert pocket at least partially abuts a lower surface of the cutting insert; and a retaining screw passes through a through bore of the cutting insert and is threadingly received in the threaded bore of the insert pocket.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a better understanding of the present invention and to show how the same may be carried out in practice, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a first cutting tool in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a partial perspective view of a second cutting tool in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a cutting section of the first and second cutting tools showing a cutting insert retained in an insert pocket;

Fig. 4 is the view of the cutting section shown in Fig. 3 with the cutting insert removed from the insert pocket;

Fig. 5 is a perspective rear view of the cutting insert;

Fig. 6A is a partial first cross sectional view taken in the plane VI-VT in Fig. 3 showing a lower surface of the insert having a concave generally v- shaped cross-sectional surface, the insert being somewhat spaced from the insert holder for the sake of clarity;

Fig. 6B is similar to Fig. 6A but for the lower surface of the insert having a convex generally v-shaped cross-sectional surface;

Fig. 7A is a partial second cross sectional view taken in the plane VII-VII in Fig. 3 showing a rear surface of the insert having a concave generally v-shaped cross-sectional surface, the insert being somewhat spaced from the insert holder for the sake of clarity; and

5 Fig. 7B is similar to Fig. 7A but for the rear surface of the insert having a convex generally v-shaped cross-sectional surface.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Attention is first drawn to Figs. 1 and 2 showing two cutting
10 tools in accordance with the present invention. Fig. 1 shows a first cutting tool 10 used for metal cutting operations such as grooving, side turning and parting off. The first cutting tool 10 comprises an insert holder 12 in the form of a rectangular blade with a cutting insert 14 retained in an insert pocket 16 by means of a retaining screw 18. The cutting insert 14 is
15 typically manufactured by form-pressing and sintering carbide powders. Fig. 2 shows a second cutting tool 20, used for rotary slot metal cutting operations. The second cutting tool 20 comprises an insert holder 22 in the form of a circular disc with cutting inserts 14 retained in identical insert pockets 16 by means of retaining screws 18 and arranged around the
20 periphery of the disc. The cutting tools 10, 20 comprise a cutting section 24 which includes the cutting insert 14, the insert pocket 16 and the immediate vicinity of the insert holder 12, 22 adjacent the insert pocket 16. It should be noted that directional terms appearing throughout the specification and claims, e.g. "forward", "rear", "upper", "lower", etc., are used as terms of
25 convenience to distinguish the location of various surfaces relative to each other. These terms are defined with reference to Figs. 3 and 4, however, they are used for illustrative purposes only, and are not intended to limit the scope of the appended claims.

Attention is drawn to Figs. 3 to 5. The cutting insert 14 comprises an upper surface 26, a lower surface 28 and a peripheral surface therebetween. The peripheral surface comprises opposing forward and rear surfaces 30, 32 and opposing side surfaces 34 extending between the forward and rear surfaces 30, 32. A through bore 36 extends between the forward and rear surfaces 30, 32. A rake surface 38, over which chips cut from a workpiece flow, is located on the upper surface 26, a forward relief surface 40 is located on the forward surface 30 and a side relief surface 42 is located on each side surface 34. A forward cutting edge 44 is formed at the intersection of the rake surface 38 with the forward relief surface 40 and a side cutting edge 46 is formed at the intersection of the rake surface 38 with each side relief surface 42. The cutting insert 14 has a first dimension D1 measured between the upper and lower surfaces 26, 28 that is greater than a second dimension D2 measured between the forward and rear surfaces 30, 32.

The insert pocket 16 has a rear abutment surface 48 which extends between an upper end 50 and a lower end 52 thereof. The rear abutment surface 48 is connected at its lower end 52 via a pocket recess 54 to a lower abutment surface 56. An upper holder surface 58 extends rearwardly from the upper end 50 of the rear abutment surface 48. The rear abutment surface 48 is divided by a rear recess 60 into a first abutment surface 62 along an upper portion thereof distal the lower abutment surface 56 and a second abutment surface 64 along a lower portion thereof proximal the lower abutment surface 56. A threaded bore 66 is formed in the rear recess 60 and extends rearwardly and downwardly into the insert holder 12, 22.

Lateral stability of the cutting insert 14 relative to the insert holder 12, 22 is provided by the lower and rear surfaces 28, 32 of the cutting insert 14 having generally v-shape concave (or convex) cross sections, which mate

corresponding generally v-shape convex (or concave) cross sections of the lower and rear abutment surfaces 56, 48 of the insert pocket 16.

Figs. 1 to 5 and specifically Figs. 6A and 7A show the cutting insert 14 having concave lower and rear surfaces 28, 32 and the insert pocket 16 having mating convex lower and rear abutment surfaces 56, 48.

The lower surface 28 of the cutting insert 14 comprises a pair of insert lower faces 68 which extend rearwardly from the forward surface 30 at an external non-acute insert lower angle α_L to each other (Fig. 6A). The lower abutment surface 56 of the insert pocket 16 comprises a pair of holder lower faces 70 which extend forwardly from the pocket recess 54 at an internal holder lower angle β_L to each other (Fig. 6A). The internal holder lower angle β_L is equal or slightly smaller than the external insert lower angle α_L .

The rear surface 32 of the cutting insert 14 comprises a pair of insert rear faces 72 which extend downwardly from the upper surface 26 at an external non-acute insert rear angle α_R to each other (Fig. 7A). The rear abutment surface 48 of the insert pocket 16 comprises a pair of holder rear faces 74 which extend upwardly from the pocket recess 54 along the second and first abutment surfaces 64, 62 at an internal holder rear angle β_R to each other (Fig. 7A). The internal holder rear angle β_R is equal or slightly smaller than the external insert rear angle α_R .

Figs. 6B and 7B show an alternative of a cutting insert 14 having convex lower and rear surfaces 28, 32 and an insert pocket 16 having mating concave lower and rear abutment surfaces 56, 48. In this alternative, the insert lower angle α_L' is an internal non-acute angle (Fig. 6B), and the holder lower angle β_L' is an external non-acute angle equal to or slightly larger than the internal insert lower angle α_L' . Additionally, the insert rear angle α_R' is an internal non-acute angle (Fig. 7B), and the holder rear angle β_R' is an external non-acute angle equal to or slightly larger than the internal insert rear angle α_R' .

Preferably, the upper limit of the insert lower and rear angles α_L , α_R , α_L' , α_R' and the holder lower and rear angles β_L , β_R , β_L' , β_R' is 150° .

For those cases in which the lower surface 28 of the cutting insert 14 or lower abutment surface 56 of the insert pocket 16 are convex, a lower planar face 76 is located between each pair of insert or holder lower faces 68, 70. Similarly, for those cases in which the rear surface 32 of the cutting insert 14 or rear abutment surface 48 of the insert pocket 16 are convex, a rear planar face 78 is located between each pair of insert or holder rear faces 72, 74. This is to ensure that, inter alia, when the cutting insert 14 is mounted in the insert pocket 16 each insert rear face 72 will abut a corresponding holder rear face 74, and each insert lower face 68 will abut a corresponding holder lower face 70.

It is noted that when the cutting insert 14 is mounted in the insert pocket 16, the upper surface 26 of the cutting insert 14 and the upper holder surface 58 adjacent the insert pocket 16 are generally coplanar. As a result, chips flowing rearwardly from the forward cutting edge 44, during a cutting operation, will not engage any portion of the insert holder 12, 22 adjacent the insert pocket 16 and thereby will not effect the retainment of the cutting insert 14 within the insert pocket 16.

Although the present invention has been described to a certain degree of particularity, it should be understood that various alterations and modifications could be made without departing from the scope of the invention as hereinafter claimed.

What is claimed is:

1. A cutting insert comprising:

an upper surface, a lower surface and a peripheral surface therebetween, the peripheral surface comprising:

opposing forward and rear surfaces and opposing side surfaces extending between the forward and rear surfaces,

a through bore extending between the forward and rear surfaces,

the upper surface comprising a rake surface, the forward surface comprising a forward relief surface and the intersection of the rake surface and the forward relief surface forming a forward cutting edge,

the lower and rear surfaces being generally V-shaped in both a first cross-section and a second cross-section, respectively.

2. The cutting insert according to claim 1, wherein the first cross section is generally perpendicular to the side surfaces and upper surface, and the second cross section is generally perpendicular to the side surfaces and forward surface.

3. The cutting insert according to claim 1, wherein the lower surface comprises a pair of insert lower faces which extend at an insert lower angle relative to each other; and the rear surface comprises a pair of insert rear faces which extend at an insert rear angle relative to each other.

4. The cutting insert according to claim 3, wherein the insert lower and rear angles are external non-acute angles.

5. The cutting insert according to claim 3, wherein the insert lower and rear angles are internal non-acute angles.

6. The cutting insert according to claim 3, wherein:

one of the insert lower angle and the insert rear angle is an internal non-acute angle; and

the other of the insert lower angle and the insert rear angle is an external non-acute angle.

7. The cutting insert according to claim 3, wherein:

the lower surface of the cutting insert is convex; and

the insert lower faces are spaced apart by a lower planar face.

8. The cutting insert according to claim 3, wherein:

the rear surface of the cutting insert is convex; and

the insert rear faces are spaced apart by a rear planar face.

9. The cutting insert according to claim 8, wherein:

the lower surface of the cutting insert is convex; and

the insert lower faces are spaced apart by a lower planar face.

10. The cutting insert according to claim 3, wherein:

the insert lower angle and the insert rear angle are both between about 90° and about 150°.

11. A cutting insert comprising:

an upper surface, the upper surface comprising a rake surface;

a lower surface; and

a peripheral surface between the upper and lower surfaces, the peripheral surface comprising:

opposing forward and rear surfaces, the forward surface comprising a forward relief surface;

opposing side surfaces extending between the forward and rear surfaces; and

a through bore extending between the forward and rear surfaces; wherein:

an intersection of the rake surface and the forward relief surface forms a forward cutting edge;

the lower surface comprises a pair of insert lower faces which form an insert lower angle between about 90° and about 150° ; and

the rear surface comprises a pair of insert rear faces which form an insert rear angle between about 90° and about 150° .

12. The cutting insert according to claim 11, wherein the insert lower angle and the insert rear angles are both external angles.

13. The cutting insert according to claim 11, wherein the insert lower angle and the insert rear angles are both internal angles.

14. The cutting insert according to claim 11, wherein:

one of the insert lower angle and the insert rear angle is an internal angle; and

the other of the insert lower angle and the insert rear angle is an external angle.

15. The cutting insert according to claim 11, wherein:

the lower surface of the cutting insert is convex; and

the insert lower faces are spaced apart by a lower planar face.

16. The cutting insert according to claim 11, wherein:

the rear surface of the cutting insert is convex; and

the insert rear faces are spaced apart by a rear planar face.

17. The cutting insert according to claim 16, wherein:

the lower surface of the cutting insert is convex; and

the insert lower faces are spaced apart by a lower planar face.

18. A cutting tool comprising:

an insert holder having an insert pocket, the insert pocket comprising a rear abutment surface and a lower abutment surface, with a threaded bore formed in the rear abutment surface; and

a cutting insert in accordance with claim 1 seated in the insert pocket; wherein:

the rear abutment surface of the insert pocket at least partially abuts a rear surface of the cutting insert;

the lower abutment surface of the insert pocket at least partially abuts a lower surface of the cutting insert; and

a retaining screw passes through a through bore of the cutting insert and is threadingly received in the threaded bore of the insert pocket.

19. The cutting tool according to claim 18, wherein the insert holder is part of a rotary slot metal cutting tool.

20. The cutting tool according to claim 18, wherein the insert holder is part of a rectangular blade.