

**Clamping device for a tool or a workpiece**

The invention relates to a clamping device for a tool  
5 or a workpiece, comprising at least one chuck and at least one holder for the workpiece or the tool.

Clamping devices of this generic type are used to clamp  
workpieces or tools, very high precision being demanded  
10 in the machining of the workpiece. In addition, an exactly reproducible clamping of the workpiece or the tool in the x, y and z directions must be ensured.

From EP-A-255 042, a clamping device is described  
15 wherein, for the accurate positioning of the two coupling members (chuck and holder) relative to one another in the z direction, which usually coincides with the clamping direction, a plurality of uprights are present on one of the clamping members and the z  
20 reference surfaces are configured on the free end faces of said uprights. On the other coupling member there are, in an arrangement corresponding to the uprights, a plurality of z counter reference surfaces, which lie in a common plane and, when the coupling members are  
25 clamped together, cooperate with the z reference surfaces. A similar arrangement for the z positioning of two coupling members is known from German registered utility model DE-U-295 21 030.

30 Another clamping device comprising two coupling members and a clamping mechanism is disclosed in EP 1 013 375 A2. A coupling device is described, consisting of a first coupling member and a second coupling member, as well as a clamping mechanism for the axial clamping  
35 together of the two coupling members, wherein projecting from the first coupling member are at least three prism pins, each of which is provided on at least

one side with a prismatic surface, and wherein on the first coupling member there are configured at least three mutually spaced z reference surfaces, which lie in an x-y plane extending transversely to the clamping direction, and wherein, furthermore, the second coupling member has at least three grooves, which are aligned to the prism pins and on which axial-elastic elements for the accurate positioning of the coupling members relative to one another in the x-y plane are provided. In order to simplify the structural design of the z positioning of two coupling members, it is provided that the z reference surfaces are configured on the free end faces of the prism pins and a z counter reference surface is configured on the groove floor of each groove.

The problems and drawbacks associated with the current state of the art are described below.

The previous clamping devices can generally be used only for specific applications, so that a multiplicity of clamping devices are necessary to cover as wide a range of applications as possible. For the powder pressing process, for instance, high requirements are placed upon the tools and their clamping devices, in particular a high exposure to forces. It would further be advantageous if a clamping device could be used for different machining processes, for example in milling, in grinding, in EDM, or with other machine tools. Similarly, the clamping device should be usable for different tool forms (for instance, electrode forms in EDM), without time-consuming conversion times. One problem is to find a solution to clamping both the small-sized holders and the larger-sized holders to tools or workpieces on workpiece plates by means of a universally designed clamping device.

In addition, there is a requirement to provide in the coupling part designed for the clamping of a tool (drill, electrode, etc.) room to allow the tool to be firmly seated such that it can adequately withstand  
5 load. In high-speed milling cutters, specifically, this problem of the present state of the art is yet to be solved.

In addition, the drawback of undesirable lateral forces  
10 in the clamping phase often arises, caused by clamping balls or other clamping elements.

The object of the invention is thus to propose a clamping device which remedies these abovementioned  
15 drawbacks.

According to the invention, this object is achieved by the fact that the holder has an upper part and a tubular extension, the upper part being detachably  
20 connected to the tubular extension.

The feature according to which the holder is constructed in two parts from an upper part and a tubular extension lessens or eliminates the  
25 abovementioned drawbacks of the prior art.

The two-part holder according to the invention can be used in a chuck which is known per se and in a clamping device composed of two chucks.  
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Further drawbacks as occur in the prior art are remedied by the further inventive embodiment of two concentric chucks. Firstly, by virtue of this "double chuck", both small holders with tools and large holders  
35 with tool plates are able to be used. The inner and the outer chuck have similar or identical x-y references. The z references are disposed in the same plane or

virtually in the same plane. The x-y-z coordinates of the two chucks are fully coordinated. The z coordinate of one chuck is disposed close to the z coordinate of the other chuck. The two chucks are connected coaxially to one another to form a unit. In the connected state, the two chucks are perfectly centrically adjusted. No separate adjustment is necessary. Due to this inventive device, it is possible to produce chucks of substantially smaller diameter than chucks according to the prior art, generally up to 25% smaller.

The inner chuck has in the center a continuous opening. This allows the reception of tools with long clamping pins. The previous central openings in the clamping devices served exclusively as a passage for liquids and not for the clamping of tools or workpieces.

In order to reduce or eliminate the adverse lateral forces, the middle fastening part is of tubular configuration and is advantageously provided on the outer periphery as a bayonet fastening.

The clamping device according to the invention, comprising an inner and an outer chuck and comprising a tubular extension for clamping the holder to the chuck(s) offers a high and precise accuracy under extreme load, in particular in high-speed milling cutters, in EDM or in other machine tools.

The holder can be clamped to the inner and/or outer chuck or to a single chuck.

According to a preferred embodiment, the inner chuck has in the center a continuous opening running in the axial direction.

This inner pass-through opening provides sufficient room for clamping elements of tools or workpieces.

In addition, the holder can have in the center a pass-through opening for the evacuation of chips generated in the machining.

The inner chuck as well as the outer chuck has x-y references and z references, which, in the clamping operation, cooperate with corresponding means of the holder. In addition, the means of the holder for the x-y references can advantageously be configured as elastic inner and/or outer tongue pairs.

A further advantageous embodiment of the chuck consists in the holder having as z references inner and outer contact surfaces.

According to a preferred embodiment of the chuck according to the invention, the holder has a tubular extension for clamping to the inner and/or outer chuck, the external diameter D of the tubular extension lying in the order of magnitude of the internal diameter of the continuous opening up to the external diameter of the inner chuck.

In addition, the diameter of the central opening of the tubular extension can lie in the region of or can be at least half as large as the diameter which is given by the inner margin of the inner x-y surfaces.

Similarly, the diameter of the central opening in the upper part of the holder can lie in the order of magnitude of the diameter of the tubular extension.

The x-y references of the inner chuck can be disposed at the same height - viewed in the z direction - as the surfaces of the x-y planes of the outer chuck.

- 5 The x-y references and the z references of the outer chuck lie within two imaginary circles.

The holder can be clamped in a manner which is known per se to the inner and/or outer chuck or individual  
10 chucks.

The invention is represented below with reference to illustrative embodiments in the drawings, in which:

- 15 fig. 1 shows a sectional view of a clamping device,  
fig. 2 shows a top view of the clamping device of fig. 1,  
20 fig. 3 shows a holder of a chuck with the clamping device 1,  
fig. 4 shows a sectional view of the clamping device of fig. 1, with holder clamped in place,  
25 fig. 5 shows a top view of the clamping device, with holder, of fig. 4,  
fig. 6 shows two different applications for holders,  
30 fig. 7 shows a first embodiment according to fig. 6 in the clamped-together state,  
fig. 8 shows a top view according to fig. 7,  
35 fig. 9 shows a second embodiment according to fig. 6 in the clamped-together state,

fig. 10 shows a top view according to fig. 9,

fig. 11 shows another embodiment of a holder,

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fig. 12 shows the embodiment of figure 11 in the  
clamped-together state

10 fig. 13 shows a further embodiment of the holder 19  
with chuck in the machining of a workpiece.

In fig. 1 is shown a possible embodiment of a clamping  
device 1 according to the invention. The inner chuck 2  
is fixedly connected by means of the screws 18 to the  
15 outer chuck 3, the inner chuck 2 being disposed  
concentrically to the outer chuck 3. The basic element  
of the inner chuck 2 consists of the parts 15, which  
are held together by means of the screws 17. The inner  
chuck 2 has clamping balls 4, which cooperate with an  
20 inner clamping plunger 12 and a clamping spring 5 in a  
manner which is known per se. The outer chuck 3 is  
correspondingly constructed. The basic element consists  
of the parts 14, which are held together by means of  
the screws 16. It likewise has clamping balls 6, an  
25 outer clamping plunger 13 and a clamping spring 7. The  
two clamping plungers 12, 13 can be acted upon in a  
known manner by means of compressed air. Both the inner  
and the outer chuck 2, 3 possess both inner 8 and outer  
9 x-y references and inner 10 and outer 11 z  
30 references.

The arrangement of the x-y and z references 8, 9, 10,  
11 can be seen in the top view in figure 2. The inner  
x-y references 8 of the inner chuck 2 and the outer x-y  
35 references 9 are configured, for instance, as bars with  
conical edges, and the center lines of the inner and  
outer x-y references coincide with extreme accuracy.

Between the inner x-y references 8, inner z references 10 are provided. Correspondingly, the outer chuck 3 has on the peripheral side between the outer x-y references 9 the z references 11, the surface of the z references 10 and 11 having the same height or being slightly offset.

In figure 3, the clamping device 1 (as shown in figures 1 and 2) is shown with the holder 19, which serves as an element for a plate. The holder 19 has an upper part 36 and a tubular extension 24, the upper part 36 being detachably connected to the tubular extension 24 by means of a bayonet connection 26. The holder 19 can be clamped to the clamping device 1, as is shown in figures 4 and 5. In addition, in the holder 19, the outer tongue pairs 21 can be seen, which, in the clamped-together state, cooperate with the outer x-y references 9. In addition, the continuous opening 25 of the inner chuck 2 is shown. The diameter D of the tubular extension 24 lies, according to application, in the region of the diameter D' of the continuous opening 25 up to the diameter D'' of the inner chuck 2, as is represented in figure 4.

The top view in figure 5 shows the bayonet device 26 of the upper part 36 with the tubular extension 19 of the holder 19. The other reference symbols correspond to the reference symbols of figures 1 to 4.

Figure 6 shows two embodiments of holders 27 and 28. Both holders 27 and 28 respectively have a detachable hollow, tubular extension 24 of a diameter D, which lies in the order of magnitude of the diameter D' of the continuous opening 25 of the inner chuck 2. The holder 27 possesses a soldered or glued receiving fixture 29. The holder 28 has a special chuck 30. Figure 7 shows the holder 27 in the clamped-together

state. The top view can be seen in figure 8 with the x-y and z references. The x-y references 9 and the z references 11 lie between two imaginary circles 37 and 38. The other holder 28, in the clamped-together state, illustrates figure 9, together with the top view in figure 10.

In figure 11, the side view of a holder 31 for a plate element can be seen. In particular, the holder 31 has inner and outer tongue pairs 20, 21 and inner and outer contact surfaces 22 and 23. Figure 12 shows the holder 31 in the clamped-in state.

Figure 13 shows an embodiment of a holder 19 clamped into a chuck 39. The workpiece 34 is machined by means of the tool 33. The holder 19 has a pass-through opening 32, the diameter of which lies in the order of magnitude of the pass-through opening of the tubular extension 24 of the holder 19. In the illustrative embodiment, the continuous opening serves for the evacuation of chips 35 generated in the machining.

**Reference symbol list**

- 1 clamping device
- 2 inner chuck
- 5 3 outer chuck
- 4 balls
- 5 clamping spring
- 6 balls
- 7 clamping spring
- 10 8 inner x-y references
- 9 outer x-y references
- 10 inner z references
- 11 outer z references
- 12 inner clamping plunger
- 15 13 outer clamping plunger
- 14 part
- 15 part
- 16 screw
- 17 screw
- 20 18 screw
- 19 holder
- 20 inner tongue pairs
- 21 outer tongue pairs
- 22 inner contact surfaces
- 25 23 outer contact surfaces
- 24 tubular extension
- 25 continuous opening
- 26 bayonet connection
- 27 holder
- 30 28 holder
- 29 receiving fixture
- 30 chuck
- 31 holder
- 32 pass-through opening
- 35 33 tool
- 34 workpiece
- 35 chips

- 36 upper part
- 37 circle
- 38 circle
- 39 chuck
- 5 D external diameter of 24
- D' internal diameter of 25
- D'' external diameter of 2

Patent Claims:

1. A clamping device for a tool or a workpiece, comprising, in combination:  
at least one chuck and at least one holder for the workpiece or the tool,  
characterized in that the at least one holder (19) has an upper part (36) and a  
tubular extension (24), the upper part (36) being detachably connected to the  
tubular extension (24);  
wherein the at least one chuck comprises an inner chuck (2) and an outer  
chuck (3) having x-y references (8,9), and one of the inner chuck and the outer chuck or both  
cooperate with a bottom face of the at least one holder (19), the inner chuck (2) being  
fixedly connected, concentrically, to the outer chuck (3), and the x-y references (8,  
9) cooperate with elastic inner and/or outer tongue pairs (20, 21) of the bottom  
face of the holder (19) to hold the at least one chuck and the at least one holder in a  
clamped-together state; and  
the tubular extension (24) is clampable to the inner and/or outer chuck (2, 3),  
and when the tubular extension is clamped, an external diameter D of the tubular  
extension (24) lies in an order of magnitude between an internal diameter D' of a  
continuous opening (25) and an external diameter D" of the inner chuck (2).
2. The clamping device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the  
detachable connection of the upper part (36) of the holder (19) to the  
tubular extension (24) is a bayonet connection (26).
3. The clamping device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the  
holder (19) can be clamped to the inner chuck (2).
4. The clamping device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the  
holder (19) can be clamped to the outer chuck (3).
5. The clamping device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that  
the holder (19) can be clamped together with the inner chuck (2) and the  
outer chuck (3).
6. The clamping device as claimed in at least one of the 3 previous

claims, characterized in that the inner chuck (2) has in the center a continuous opening (25) running in the axial direction.

7. The clamping device as claimed in at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that both the inner chuck (2) and the outer chuck (3) have x-y references (8, 9) and z references (10, 11), which, in the clamping operation, cooperate with corresponding means of the holder (19).

8. The clamping device as claimed in at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that the holder (19) has as z references (10, 11) inner and/or outer contact surfaces (22, 23).

9. The clamping device as claimed in at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that the x-y references of the inner chuck (2) can be disposed at the same height - viewed in the z direction - as the surfaces of the x-y planes of the outer chuck (3).

10. The clamping device as claimed in at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that the holder (19) has in the center a continuous opening (32), the diameter of the opening (32) lying in the order of magnitude of the diameter of the opening of the tubular extension (24).