

SOLID WIRE FOR ARC WELDING



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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to wires for automatic or semi-automatic arc welding, and more particularly to an improved wire for semi-automatic arc welding with no copper plating, wherein feedability of the improved wire
10 with no copper plating is superior to that of a solid wire with copper plating.

Description of the Related Art

These days, as automation or semi-automation of
15 welding work proceeds, applications of a solid wire for gas arc welding have been significantly enlarged, particularly, in industrial fields of steel framing, automobile fabrication, shipbuilding, and building construction.

In this type of a solid wire, it is the norm that a
20 surface of the solid wire is plated with copper to secure current-carrying characteristic and, more particularly, feedability. However, the solid wire with copper plating, which is consumed in large quantities, has the following problems, as are well known.

25 (a) When performing a drawing process upon manufacture

of the wire, part of copper plating in the form of fine copper powder are separated from the wire, and the separated copper powder remains attached to fine prominences and depressions of the wire surface. The fine powder is then
5 separated from the wire due to the friction between a cable or an inner sidewall of a tip and a wire, and the separated fine power is accumulated inside the tip to cause clogging, thereby deteriorating the wire feedability.

(b) Because copper is soft, the copper itself peels
10 off due to the friction with the inner sidewall of the tip, thereby deteriorating the wire feedability.

(c) Copper is vaporized within ultrahigh temperature arc during welding and copper fumes are generated, resulting in undesirably injuring a person's health.

15 Methods for improving the feedability mentioned at the above (a) and (b) are proposed in Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication Nos. Heisei 1-166899, Heisei 2-284792, Heisei 7-47490, Heisei 7-223087, Heisei 7-328789, Heisei 8-197278, Heisei 9-323191, etc.

20 To address the feedability problem, the above-described Japanese Laid-open Patent Publications include the following processes of:

(1) coating a metal salt of a fatty acid;

(2) coating a mixture of a metal soap and oil;

25 (3) carrying out surface carburization, forming a

crack in a carburization layer and filling the crack with a lubricant;

(4) forming artificial prominences and depressions on a surface, and filling the prominences and depressions with a lubricant;

(5) forming prominences on a wire surface, determining roughness and filling an uneven surface with a lubricant; and

(6) coating a mixture of MoS_2 , WS_2 , TiO_2 , etc. on the wire surface.

The above-described processes of the above Japanese Laid-open Patent Publications cannot completely address the above-described problems (a) and (b).

To address several problems associated with the copper plating, solid wires on which the copper plating is not applied are developed.

The above-described problem (c) is addressed by not applying the copper plating on the wire, but several problems associated with the wire feedability still remain.

To address the several problems associated with the wire feedability, various improved technologies are proposed, for example, in Japanese Patent No. 2682814, and Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication Nos. Heisei 11-147174, 2000-94178, 2000-317679, 2001-191195, etc. These technologies include the following processes:

(1) defining a specific surface area, coating MoS₂, oil, alkali metal, etc. on the specific surface area, and simultaneously attaching materials in an amount less than 2.0g/m² to a surface;

5 (2) coating MoS₂ on the wire and separating MoS₂ in a weld conduit tube, thereby improving the wire feedability;

(3) forming prominences and depressions on a surface using a temporary dull finish roller and filling the prominences and depressions with MoS₂, WS₂, C, Na, K, Cs, etc., thereby improving the wire feedability;

10 (4) attaching C, TiC, WC, Al₂O₃, SiO₂, FeO, ZnO, SnO, TiO₂, FC, MoS₂, BN, WS₂, FeS, TiN, CrN, or SN, ZN, Cu or Fe powder together with a water soluble polymer to a wire, or coating oil on the wire, thereby improving the wire feedability (coating of insulating inorganic powder such as C, TiC, etc. and coating of conductive inorganic powder such as Sn, Zn, etc.); and

15 (5) defining O: 10-300ppm, S: 0.0005-0.02%, C: 0.005-0.15%, Si: 0.2-1.2% and Mn: 1.0-2.2% contained in the wire, defining C: 0.005-3.0% detached from a wire surface based on 20 10kg of a wire, defining case where Ti: 0.10-0.35% is contained in the wire or a ratio of the detached C/S+O or coating MoS₂ on the wire surface, and defining a ratio of the detached C/MoS₂, thereby improving the wire feedability.

25 Although the above-described processes (1) to (5) are

performed, the feedability of a wire with no copper plating is not superior to that of a wire with copper plating. Thus, the feedability of a wire with no copper plating should be improved.

5 That is, the development of technology for improving the feedability of a wire with no copper plating superior to that of a wire with copper plating, is seriously required.

10 The inventors of the present invention reached the conclusion that factors of roughness of a surface, a specific surface area, prominences and depressions, various coating materials, etc. in both cases of solid wires with copper plating and no copper plating be adjusted cannot improve the feedability, which is the most important characteristic of a solid wire.

15 Thus, as a result of carrying out detailed investigations into surface friction between a traveling wire and a conduit cable or a welding tip, the inventors of the present invention found that a solid wire with no copper plating having excellent feedability is achieved if
20 materials capable of remarkably reducing friction are provided on an entire flat surface in a sufficient amount, because a surface of an ideal solid wire is flat like a surface of a mirror. This idea is based on the fact that complete frictionless movement of a material appears where
25 oil is dropped on a glass surface of a mirror and then the

material is put on the oil dropped on the glass.

The inventors of the present invention embodied the idea using a new method different from the conventional method through definition of microscopic characteristics of a wire surface, suitable coating material selection and the ensuring of a stable source for providing a lubricant coating material to the wire surface, and succeeded in significantly improving the feedability of a solid wire with no copper plating.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Therefore, the present invention has been made in view of the above problems, and it is an object of the present invention to provide a solid wire for arc welding with no copper plating, wherein feedability of the improved wire with no copper plating is superior to that of a solid wire with copper plating.

In accordance with an aspect of the present invention, the above object can be accomplished by the provision of a solid wire for arc welding, comprising: a flat portion of a wire surface, wherein micro Vickers hardness (Hv) of the flat portion is in the range of from 115 to 310 and arithmetical average roughness (Ra) of the flat portion is in the range of 0.01 to 0.30 μ m. In this

case, a ratio of an area of lubricant-rich pools to a unit area of the wire surface is adjusted in the range of 15 to 88%. Further, at least one component selected from a group of MoS₂, BN and a mixture thereof is preferably coated on the wire surface in an amount of from 0.002 to 0.40g/m².

With a new manufacturing concept different from the conventional manufacturing concept, the present invention can provide a solid wire for arc welding, which has excellent feedability with no copper plating. Also, the feedability of the solid wire with no copper plating in accordance with the present invention is equal to or better than the conventional solid wire with copper plating, thereby improving welding workability. Further, since a process of applying the copper plating is not needed, consumption of energy can be reduced. Furthermore, since copper fumes are not generated, a welding work environment can be improved.

The ratio of an area of lubricant-rich pools to a unit area is adjusted in the above-described range. Thus, friction-reducing materials, to be provided to a flat portion of the wire surface, are not exhausted, thereby implementing excellent feedability.

Further, where at least one component selected from a group of MoS₂, BN and a mixture thereof is coated on the wire surface in an amount of from 0.002 to 0.40g/m²,

because the lubricant-rich pools of the present invention are completely formed by depressions in which a drawing lubricant material is completely removed, the lubricant-rich pools can be sufficiently filled with at least one component selected from a group of MoS_2 , BN and a mixture thereof, thereby implementing excellent feedability.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and other objects, features and other advantages of the present invention will be more clearly understood from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is an enlarged microscopic image (x 200) illustrating a wire surface in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a view explaining the principle of the improved wire feedability in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 3 is graphs comparing the roughnesses of an inventive wire surface and a conventional wire surface; and

Fig. 4 is a view illustrating the arrangement of a conduit cable upon determining feedability of a wire.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

A detailed description of the present invention is as follows. First, the present invention is based on four factors:

5 (1) micro Vickers hardness (loading weight of 1g) of a flat portion of a wire surface;

(2) average roughness (Ra) of the flat portion of the wire surface;

10 (3) a ratio of an area of lubricant-rich pools to a unit area of a wire surface; and

(4) a coating amount of at least one component selected from a group of MoS₂, BN and a mixture thereof.

Further, the present invention basically includes processes of preparing a rod, pickling, coating, dry
15 drawing, wet drawing (including a low reduction skin pass), electrolytic cleaning (based on an alkaline solution and a bipolar method), coating rust-preventing oil and winding.

20 The above-described four factors (1)-(4) associated with the basic processes will be described. Further, the surface of the wire will be described with reference to an enlarged microscopic image shown in Fig. 1.

(1) Adjustment of micro Vickers hardness of flat portion

25 Micro-hardness of a wire surface means hardness of a

white portion (flat portion) in the enlarged microscopic image shown in Fig. 1. The hardness of this portion is adjusted by an entire processing degree and a final wet skin pass.

5 Hardness of the wire surface is conventionally proportional to the entire processing degree, but the inventors of the present invention found that friction between the wire and a conduit cable or a welding tip is controlled by hardness of a micro portion underneath the
10 wire surface rather than entire hardness. Thus, Vickers hardness is measured under a loading weight of 1g. It is important that the Vickers hardness measured under the loading weight of 1g means hardness corresponding to a portion below 1 μ m from the wire surface. The hardness of
15 the micro portion cannot be adjusted by only the entire processing degree.

So, the hardness of the micro portion is adjusted by varying a processing degree in a final wet skin pass in the range of 3~10%, varying an entire angle 2a of dies in the
20 range of 8~40° and combining them. In particular, if the entire angle of dies is increased, the lowest reduction drawing is focused on only the wire surface and the hardness of the micro portion of the wire surface is increased. In case the entire angle of dies in the skin pass is increased,
25 the occurrence of a die mark on the wire surface is

prevented by means of lowering the reduction rate of the wire.

Further, where micro hardness of the flat portion is lowered, an intermediate annealing process is carried out during the dry drawing process and then processes of pickling, coating, dry drawing (low reduction rate), wet drawing (skin pass of a low reduction rate) and degreasing are carried out. WC dies are used for the dry drawing process, and PCD diamond dies are used for the wet drawing process.

(2) Adjustment of arithmetical average roughness (Ra)

The flat portion of the wire surface is defined by way of only the dry drawing process. However, at this time, roughness of the flat portion becomes significantly worse. The present invention aims to lower the roughness of the flat portion, as in the effect of the above-described "oil on the glass of the mirror surface" example.

Thus, in accordance with the present invention, the wet drawing process is adjusted by a combination of a conventional wet drawing and a low reduction rate skin pass. The roughness of the flat portion of the wire surface can be lowered, but the conventional wet drawing process has to be combined with the present invention to effectively adjust the roughness.

(3) Adjustment of ratio of area of lubricant-rich

pools to unit area of wire surface

A ratio of an area of lubricant-rich pools preferably depends upon a drawing lubrication state.

Accordingly, the present invention provides sufficient
5 lubricant-rich pools up to the dry drawing process in the above-described basic processes, and the subsequent wet drawing process enlarges the flat portion, thereby adjusting an area of the lubricant-rich pools.

It is preferable to make the wire surface rough after
10 the pickling process in order to provide the sufficient lubricant-rich pools in the dry drawing process, and a lubrication method by compulsory lubrication drawing (based on double dies) or compression rollers is used to provide the sufficient lubricant-rich pools in the drawing process.
15 After the pickling process, desired roughness of the wire surface can be achieved by combining a pickling time, a pickling temperature, etc.

(4) Coating of at least one component selected from group of MoS₂ powder, BN powder or mixture thereof

20 In coating of at least one component selected from a group of MoS₂, BN or a mixture thereof, micro powder is mixed in rust-preventing oil and an amount of coating for the wire is adjusted according to a mixing ratio.

The coating method sandwiches a traveling wire between
25 two sheets of felt paper and drops the oil on the felt

paper.

As seen from the above description, the hardness and roughness of the flat portion of the wire surface are adjusted as shown in Fig. 2 in accordance with the present invention (the roughness is adjusted so that the wire surface can be as smooth as possible, and the present invention does not carry out a conventional process of forming severe prominences and depressions and filling the prominences and depressions with lubricating materials).

Further, the lubricant-rich pools are completely formed by depressions in which the drawing lubrication materials are all removed by bipolar electrolytic cleaning as described in the basic processes. The friction-reducing materials such as MoS_2 , BN, etc. can be filled in the depressions and hence a ratio of an area of lubricant-rich pools to a unit area of a wire surface is defined. Thus, MoS_2 , BN, etc., to be provided to a flat portion of the wire surface, are not exhausted, thereby implementing excellent wire feedability.

The present invention is implemented by new technology based on "hardness of a surface layer of the flat portion and smoothing, obvious lubricant residue (in depressions of the lubricant-rich pools), and specifying lubrication material" rather than the conventional technology based on "definition of prominences and depressions on the wire

surface and coating materials". Optimum values of factors will now be described.

Further, because a large amount of the drawing lubricant softened by heat generated during the drawing process remains within the conventional lubricant-rich pools, although MoS_2 , etc. are coated in the lubricant-rich pools, those cannot be appropriately maintained. In this point, the lubricant-rich pools of the present invention are material-rich pools capable of improving the wire feedability and addressing the above problem, and are an important characteristic of the present invention.

Next, experiments defining optimum values corresponding to the above-described four factors will be described.

(1) Optimum value of micro Vickers hardness of flat portion

When the flat portion shown in Fig. 1 is measured under a loading weight of 1g, an optimum value of micro Vickers hardness (Hv) is in the range of 115 to 310.

Striation may occur because the flat portion is very soft where the Hv is less than 115 and hence the wire surface becomes abruptly rough while the wire is moved, thereby negatively affecting the wire feedability. Because the flat portion becomes very hard if the Hv exceeds 310, a sidewall of a conduit cable or a welding tip can be easily

worn and abraded, thereby deteriorating the wire feedability.

(2) Optimum value of arithmetical average roughness (Ra) of flat portion

Fig. 3 is graphs comparing the roughnesses of an inventive wire surface and a conventional wire surface. The roughness of the inventive wire surface is fundamentally different from that of the conventional wire surface. The roughness of the conventional wire surface is based on prominences and depressions, while the roughness of the inventive wire surface is based on depressions.

To optimize the roughness of the flat portion on the wire surface in the present invention, the optimum value of its Ra is in the range of 0.01 to 0.30 μ m.

As the smoothing proceeds from the Ra of 0.01 μ m, the lubrication state is poor during drawing and stable production cannot be achieved by means of a die mark, etc. Thus, the smoothing must proceed on the basis of the Ra of over 0.01 μ m. Further, as the arithmetical average roughness (Ra) exceeds 0.30 μ m, prominences are increased on the wire surface and hence resistance is increased, thereby deteriorating the feedability.

(3) Optimum value of ratio of area of lubricant-rich pools to unit area of wire surface

As described above, the lubricant-rich pools of the

present invention are completely formed by depressions after drawing and electrolytic cleaning.

Special lubricating materials are retained in the depressions to improve lubricating effect. It is obvious that the area ratio of the depressions is associated with the wire feedability. If the wire is moved through the welding cable, MoS_2 , BN, etc. are provided from the lubricant-rich pools to the flat portion. In accordance with the present invention, an optimum value of a ratio of an area of the lubricant-rich pools to a unit area of the wire surface is in the range of 15 to 88%.

When the area ratio is less than 15%, the lubricating materials are not sufficiently provided, thereby deteriorating the wire feedability. When the area ratio exceeds 88%, an amount of lubricating materials detached from the conduit cable or the welding tip is increased, thereby deteriorating the wire feedability.

(4) Optimum value of amount of coating of at least one component selected from group of MoS_2 , BN or mixture powder thereof

As described above, the two materials in the form of powder are either independently coated or alternatively coated in the state of mixing in any ratio of from 0:100% to 100:0%, it is expected that this case achieves the same effect as the former cases. When MoS_2 and BN are

independently coated or at least one component of a mixture thereof is coated, the above-described cases achieve the same effect. Also, an optimum amount of the coating is in the range of 0.002 to 0.40g/m².

5 When the coating amount is less than 0.002g/m², an amount of MoS₂ or BN remaining on the bottoms of the depressions is insufficient, thereby deteriorating the wire feedability. Further, when the coating amount is over 0.40 g/m², an amount of MoS₂ or BN detached from the conduit tube
10 is increased, thereby causing clogging and deteriorating the wire feedability.

 As described above, the factors (1), (2) and (3) are interdependent in the present invention, and the factors (1), (2) and (4) are also interdependent in the present
15 invention. Thus, each factor depends upon other factors. Further, if a value of one of the factors (1), (2) and (3) or a value of one of the factors (1), (2) and (4) is out of an optimum value range, the wire feedability is deteriorated. Accordingly, to manufacture a solid wire with
20 no copper plating equal to or better than the feedability of a solid wire with copper plating, optimum values/ranges of the respective factors must be satisfied. These points can be referred to as characteristics of the present invention.

 Hereinafter, a description will be given of a method
25 for measuring the wire feedability, micro Vickers hardness,

average roughness (Ra), a ratio of an area of the lubricant-rich pools to a unit area of the wire surface and an amount of coating of MoS₂, BN, etc.

(1) Method for evaluating wire feedability

5 (a) The wire feedability indicates whether the solid wire is provided at a constant speed from the welding tip or not. If the wire feedability is poor and hence the wire feeding is insufficient, a length of arc column is long and then the welding arc is unstable (the welding arc is
10 lengthened) and a welding droplet is bounced and spattered by arc force. Accordingly, the superiority or inferiority of the wire feedability can be determined by measuring an amount of generated spatter after performing welding for a predetermined period of time.

15 By placing a steel plate having a thickness of 12mm, a width of 10cm and a length of 50cm in a box having a size of 80cm x 15cm x 20cm, welding a bead of 40cm length on the steel plate for 2 minutes, and collecting spatter which is generated during welding, an amount of generated spatter
20 expressed in units of mg/min was measured for the solid wire of the present invention and the conventional solid wire with copper plating under conditions given in the following Table 1. In this case, the weld conduit cable is based on w-type arrangement shown in Fig. 4. As a comparative
25 example, the solid wire with copper plating was used under

the above-described conditions.

Table 1

5

Wire diameter (mm)	Voltage (v)	Current (A)	Gas
1.40	34	350	Mixture of Ar and CO ₂

10

(b) The wire feedability was evaluated by another method in addition to an amount of generated spatter. That is, after a conduit cable is wound twice on a cylinder having a diameter of 300mm, which is different from the w-type arrangement, a period of arcing time is measured. Because the feeding degree of the wire is very severe in the case of the two windings as described above, it is irregular and arc generation and welding work finally stops.

15

A time period between a weld start time and an arcing stop time becomes a parameter used to determine the superiority or inferiority of the wire feedability. Accordingly, the inventive solid wire and the conventional solid wire were compared by the above-described method.

20

(2) Measurement of micro Vickers hardness (Hv) of flat portion

The flat portion in Fig. 1 of a wire surface for hardness measurement is shown enlarged 1000 times and Vickers hardness (Hv) is measured under a loading weight of

1g. At this time, the hardness was measured at 4 points on surface of the wire of respective 90 degree in the circumference direction of the cross section area. The hardness was measured at each point seven times ($n = 7$).
5 Maximum and minimum values of 28 hardness values were discarded and an average value of 26 hardness values was determined as hardness of a wire surface.

(3) Method for measuring arithmetical average roughness (Ra)

10 Roughness was measured on the basis of Japanese Industrial Standards JIS B 0601.

Arbitrarily sample wires cut having a length of 10cm were manually straightened and then the wires were immersed in a tetrachlorocarbon solution and coating materials of the
15 wire surface were removed by ultrasonic vibration.

Roughness of a roughness curve graph was measured on the wire surface in four directions, which are orthogonal to one another on the circumference of a circle in each of three wires (Fig. 3 shows an laterally enlarged roughness
20 curve and a clear flat portion). Further, the Ra was measured at three corresponding positions of the flat portion of each wire. Subsequently, Ra values were measured at total 36 points.

Then, the average roughness (Ra) was determined as an
25 average value of Ra values corresponding to the 36 points.

(4) Measurement of ratio of area of lubricant-rich pool to unit area of wire surface

Twenty microphotographs of lubricant-rich pools, as shown in Fig. 1, measured in four orthogonal directions on the circumference of a circle of a wire, were obtained. Further, the number of lattice points occupied by the lubricant-rich pools was calculated on the basis of a transparent film including a lattice composed of 325 points, thereby calculating a ratio of an area of the lubricant-rich pools to a unit area (based on a point counting method). A ratio of an area of the lubricant-rich pool to a unit area of a wire surface was determined as an average value of area ratios corresponding to the 20 images.

(5) Measurement of amount of coating of at least one component selected from group of MoS₂, BN or mixture powder thereof

A wire having a length of 10cm was cut to produce 50 test pieces. The test pieces were soaked in a solution of condensed hydrochloric acid and water (1:1) for 10 minutes. Then, coating materials contained in the depressions were completely separated. The solution is filtered and then residues were dissolved in an alkali solution. Concentration of Mo and B of the solution was analyzed by an induced-coupled plasma (ICP) method.

Further, the concentration of MoS₂ and BN was obtained

from the concentration of Mo and B, and the concentration of MoS₂ and BN converted was expressed as a coating amount per unit surface area (g/m²).

(6) Measurement of copper fumes

5 Amounts of copper fumes were measured about welding the inventive solid wire with no copper plating and the conventional solid wire with copper plating.

10 On the basis of straight-type arrangement of the conduit cable under conditions given in Table 1, the wire was welded for 3 minutes and generated copper fumes were absorbed through a fine quartz filter. Then, fine particles absorbed by the filter were dissolved in an acid solution, and concentration of copper was analyzed by the ICP method and the concentration of copper was expressed as an amount
15 of generated copper fumes (mg/minute).

 Rod samples of 8mm, 6.4mm and 5.5mm containing C: 0.070%, Si: 0.72%, Mn: 1.50%, P: 0.016%, S: 0.010% and Ti: 0.20% used.

20 A pickling process and a Bonderite coating process were applied to the rods. A pickling time and acid concentration were adjusted to vary an area of lubricant-rich pools, and then roughnesses of wire surfaces sharply varied after pickling.

25 A wire of 1.40mm was obtained through a dry drawing process and a wet drawing process. A reduction rate of

drawing and an entire reduction angle of dies were adjusted to vary a ratio of the area of the lubricant-rich pools to a unit area and micro Vickers hardness of the wire surface in the wet drawing process. The area of the lubricant-rich pools was increased using both a compulsory lubrication method based on double dies and a compression roller method.

Then, the wire was applied to a bipolar type alkali electrolytic cleaning process and wounded after surface treatment (coating of rust-preventing oil and lubricating material).

The feedability of the wire manufactured as described above is measured by carrying out welding under conditions given in Table 1 and measuring an amount of generated spatter, an interrupted arc time, an amount of copper fumes, etc.

The following Table 2 shows characteristics of wire feedability where micro hardness and arithmetical average roughness (Ra) are varied on condition that a ratio of an area of lubricant-rich pools to a unit area is constant. As shown in Table 2, where the micro Vickers hardness (Hv) is in the range of 115 to 310 and arithmetical average roughness is in the range of 0.01 to 0.30 μ m, it is understood that the feedability of the inventive solid wire with no copper plating is superior to that of the conventional solid wire with copper plating. Further, it

is shown that the inventive solid wire generates almost no copper fumes.

5

Table 2

Hv (lg)	Ra (μm)	Spatter amount (mg/min)	arcing time (sec)	Copper fumes (mg/min)	Remark
110	0.008	3010	15	0.001	Comparative Sample
	0.014	2610	26		Comparative Sample
	0.200	2880	20		Comparative Sample
	0.295	2980	17	0.001	Comparative Sample
	0.310	2840	21		Comparative Sample
115	0.009	2900	15		Comparative Sample
	0.010	2380	60		Inventive Sample
	0.220	2400	47	0.001	Inventive Sample
	0.297	2310	48		Inventive Sample
	0.312	3120	20		Comparative Sample
250	0.009	2990	15		Comparative Sample
	0.013	2310	48		Inventive sample
	0.250	2350	45	0.001	Inventive sample
	0.292	2400	58		Inventive sample
	0.305	2770	28		Comparative Sample
310	0.007	3020	12		Comparative Sample
	0.016	2400	47	0.001	Inventive sample
	0.275	2310	58		Inventive sample
	0.300	2200	59		Inventive sample
	0.310	2850	14	0.001	Comparative Sample
315	0.007	2900	15		Comparative Sample
	0.011	2650	17		Comparative Sample
	0.210	2700	20	0.001	Comparative Sample
	0.290	2710	14		Comparative Sample
	0.312	2760	13		Comparative Sample
340	0.009	2900	14		Comparative Sample
	0.012	2690	30		Comparative Sample
	0.190	2710	25		Comparative Sample
	0.295	2900	22	0.001	Comparative Sample

	0.309	2980	12		Comparative Sample
Solid wire with copper plating		2410	42	5.02	Conventional Sample

The following Tables 3 to 5 show that a ratio of an area of lubricant-rich pools to a unit area affects wire feedability. Where the area ratio is in the range of 15 to 88%, the micro Vickers hardness (Hv) is in the range of 115 to 310 and average roughness is in the range of 0.01 to 0.30 μ m, it is understood that only the wire satisfying the above-described requirements has wire characteristics equal to or better than the conventional solid wire with copper plating. Further, it is understood that the inventive solid wire generates almost no copper fumes. Table 4 and Table 5 are continuous with Table 3.

Table 3

Area rate of lubricant-rich pool (%)	Hv (1g)	Ra (μm)	Spatter amount (mg/min)	arcing time (sec)	Remark
13	110	0.008	2910	18	Comparative Sample
		0.200	3060	15	Comparative Sample
		0.350	2880	20	Comparative Sample
	200	0.007	2790	22	Comparative Sample
		0.270	2810	23	Comparative Sample
		0.340	3070	14	Comparative Sample
	325	0.009	3120	12	Comparative Sample
		0.290	2690	26	Comparative Sample
		0.340	2880	30	Comparative Sample
15	110	0.009	2910	19	Comparative Sample
		0.230	2900	18	Comparative Sample
		0.310	3010	15	Comparative Sample
	115	0.007	2780	29	Comparative Sample
		0.010	2370	49	Inventive sample
		0.210	2310	52	Inventive sample
		0.295	2390	50	Inventive sample
		0.314	2880	20	Comparative Sample
		0.390	2700	24	Comparative Sample
		0.007	2690	30	Comparative Sample
	190	0.200	2400	58	Inventive sample
		0.395	2910	16	Comparative Sample
		0.008	3050	15	Comparative Sample
	310	0.016	2370	49	Inventive sample
		0.240	2340	58	Inventive sample
		0.300	2330	60	Inventive sample
		0.319	2810	17	Comparative Sample
		0.400	2900	16	Comparative Sample
		0.005	3010	14	Comparative Sample
	317	0.290	3210	12	Comparative Sample
		0.350	3110	12	Comparative Sample

Table 4

Area rate of lubricant-rich pool (%)	Hv (1g)	Ra (μm)	Spatter amount (mg/min)	arcing time (sec)	Remark
60	112	0.005	2780	30	Comparative Sample
		0.240	2730	28	Comparative Sample

		0.390	2880	25	Comparative Sample
	255	0.007	2980	21	Comparative Sample
		0.014	2290	68	Inventive sample
		0.195	2340	61	Inventive sample
		0.295	2390	64	Inventive sample
		0.314	2770	35	Comparative Sample
		0.385	2870	27	Comparative Sample
	335	0.004	2810	21	Comparative Sample
		0.185	2910	21	Comparative Sample
		0.370	2760	26	Comparative Sample
88	112	0.005	2690	22	Comparative Sample
		0.205	2760	24	Comparative Sample
		0.309	2960	20	Comparative Sample
	115	0.008	2840	16	Comparative Sample
		0.010	2300	68	Inventive sample
		0.200	2290	79	Inventive sample
		0.290	2380	61	Inventive sample
		0.310	2900	15	Comparative Sample
		0.390	3010	14	Comparative Sample
	184	0.015	2390	62	Inventive sample
		0.215	2310	55	Inventive sample
		0.300	2300	59	Inventive sample
	310	0.007	2680	31	Comparative Sample
		0.012	2400	58	Inventive sample
		0.245	2390	62	Inventive sample
		0.300	2310	60	Inventive sample
		0.305	2900	17	Comparative Sample
		0.388	2880	16	Comparative Sample
	319	0.004	2890	15	Comparative Sample
		0.210	2970	15	Comparative Sample
		0.370	2610	20	Comparative Sample

Table 5

Area rate of lubricant-rich pool (%)	Hv (1g)	Ra (μm)	Spatter amount (mg/min)	arcing time (sec)	Remark
90	111	0.008	3040	12	Comparative Sample
		0.280	3010	11	Comparative Sample
		0.340	2930	17	Comparative Sample
	198	0.003	2870	14	Comparative Sample
		0.210	2810	18	Comparative Sample
		0.390	2760	19	Comparative Sample
	340	0.007	2740	20	Comparative Sample
		0.200	2730	22	Comparative Sample
		0.370	2930	17	Comparative Sample
95	113	0.007	2680	24	Comparative Sample
		0.280	2590	32	Comparative Sample
		0.340	2710	30	Comparative Sample
	289	0.009	2630	33	Comparative Sample
		0.270	2780	28	Comparative Sample
		0.330	2960	17	Comparative Sample

Tables 6 to 14 show effects of coating of MoS_2 , BN or a mixture thereof where a ratio of an area of lubricant-rich pools to a unit area is constant. Where an amount of coating of MoS_2 , BN or a mixture thereof is in an amount of from 0.002 to 0.40g/m², the micro Vickers hardness (Hv) is in the range of 115 to 310 and arithmetical average roughness(Ra) is in the range of 0.01 to 0.30 μm , it is understood that only the wire satisfying the above-described requirements has excellent wire feedability in comparison with the conventional solid wire with copper plating. Table 7 and Table 14 are continuous with Table 6.

Table 6

Coating amount (g/m ²)			Hv (1g)	Ra (μm)	Spatter amount (g/min)	Arcing time (sec)	Remark
MoS ₂	BN	MoS ₂ +BN					
0.001	-	-	110	0.008	2780	21	Comparative Sample
				0.200	2660	20	Comparative Sample
				0.370	2590	24	Comparative Sample
			185	0.007	2770	25	Comparative Sample
				0.190	2940	20	Comparative Sample
				0.310	2590	27	Comparative Sample
			320	0.009	2690	27	Comparative Sample
				0.018	2640	24	Comparative Sample
				0.305	2810	20	Comparative Sample
0.002	-	-	112	0.004	2710	21	Comparative Sample
				0.185	2840	20	Comparative Sample
				0.340	2790	22	Comparative Sample
			115	0.006	2660	22	Comparative Sample
				0.010	2180	278	Inventive sample
				0.330	2680	30	Comparative Sample
			310	0.010	2290	290	Inventive sample
				0.300	2200	355	Inventive sample
				0.350	2610	31	Comparative Sample
			317	0.006	2780	29	Comparative Sample
				0.220	2660	27	Comparative Sample
				0.310	2590	28	Comparative Sample

Table 7

Coating amount (g/m ²)			Hv (1g)	Ra (μm)	Spatter amount (g/min)	Arcing time (sec)	Remark
MoS ₂	BN	MoS ₂ +BN					
0.280	-	-	111	0.007	2700	26	Comparative Sample
				0.240	2610	34	Comparative Sample
				0.330	2660	30	Comparative Sample
			115	0.006	2570	38	Comparative Sample
				0.010	2010	320	Inventive sample
				0.198	1980	410	Inventive sample
				0.295	1880	520	Inventive sample
				0.310	2700	39	Comparative Sample
				0.345	2610	30	Comparative Sample
			310	0.005	2590	34	Comparative Sample
				0.012	2080	228	Inventive sample
				0.200	1970	610	Inventive sample
				0.300	1810	780	Inventive sample
				0.309	2600	39	Comparative Sample
				0.371	2560	37	Comparative Sample
			314	0.006	2710	28	Comparative Sample
				0.210	2700	29	Comparative Sample
				0.340	2670	30	Comparative Sample
			385	0.250	2710	31	Comparative Sample
				0.370	2600	33	Comparative Sample
0.400	-	-	113	0.007	2700	29	Comparative Sample
				0.180	2510	37	Comparative Sample
				0.320	2590	38	Comparative Sample
			115	0.005	2680	36	Comparative Sample
				0.010	1980	340	Inventive sample
				0.220	2020	270	Inventive sample
				0.295	1880	415	Inventive sample
				0.305	2510	37	Comparative Sample
				0.380	2640	31	Comparative Sample
			190	0.006	2730	31	Comparative Sample
				0.200	1930	205	Inventive sample
				0.290	1840	407	Inventive sample
				0.310	2570	30	Comparative Sample
			310	0.010	2300	295	Inventive sample
				0.300	2200	380	Inventive sample
				0.375	2640	31	Comparative Sample

Table 8

Coating amount (g/m ²)			Hv (lg)	Ra (μm)	Spatter amount (g/min)	Arcing time (sec)	Remark
MoS ₂	BN	MoS ₂ +BN					
0.410	-	-	110	0.008	2780	27	Comparative Sample
				0.150	2740	20	Comparative Sample
				0.320	2800	21	Comparative Sample
			119	0.006	2610	29	Comparative Sample
				0.014	2590	33	Comparative Sample
				0.205	2710	30	Comparative Sample
				0.290	2680	36	Comparative Sample
				0.310	2590	39	Comparative Sample
				0.400	2710	34	Comparative Sample
			210	0.009	2690	36	Comparative Sample
				0.170	2580	37	Comparative Sample
				0.310	2610	39	Comparative Sample
			320	0.020	2710	30	Comparative Sample
				0.190	2770	31	Comparative Sample
				0.315	2800	27	Comparative Sample
0.650	-	-	109	0.004	2710	27	Comparative Sample
				0.150	2680	29	Comparative Sample
				0.320	2640	30	Comparative Sample
			195	0.002	2590	37	Comparative Sample
				0.205	2610	30	Comparative Sample
				0.340	2680	32	Comparative Sample
			325	0.006	2710	30	Comparative Sample
				0.180	2740	31	Comparative Sample
				0.340	2800	27	Comparative Sample
-	0.001	-	108	0.006	2790	29	Comparative Sample
				0.250	2740	20	Comparative Sample
				0.310	2880	20	Comparative Sample
			245	0.005	2760	22	Comparative Sample
				0.195	2900	20	Comparative Sample
				0.380	2810	26	Comparative Sample
			340	0.005	2670	29	Comparative Sample
				0.230	2700	27	Comparative Sample
				0.340	2740	29	Comparative Sample

Table 9

Coating amount (g/m ²)			Hv (lg)	Ra (μm)	Spatter amount (g/min)	Arcing time (sec)	Remark
MoS ₂	BN	MoS ₂ +BN					
-	0.002	-	107	0.004	2660	30	Comparative Sample
				0.210	2770	31	Comparative Sample
				0.320	2640	34	Comparative Sample
			115	0.010	1980	305	Inventive sample
				0.300	1900	415	Inventive sample
				0.385	2710	38	Comparative Sample
			235	0.002	2730	29	Comparative Sample
				0.210	2040	270	Inventive sample
				0.290	2100	240	Inventive sample
			310	0.011	2010	298	Inventive sample
				0.300	2200	305	Inventive sample
				0.410	2870	25	Comparative Sample
			340	0.006	2710	30	Comparative Sample
				0.170	2840	22	Comparative Sample
				0.320	2590	29	Comparative Sample

Table 10

Coating amount (g/m ²)			Hv (1g)	Ra (μm)	Spatter amount (g/min)	Arcing time (sec)	Remark
MoS ₂	BN	MoS ₂ +BN					
-	0.400	-	109	0.005	2640	30	Comparative Sample
				0.210	2740	27	Comparative Sample
				0.315	2630	27	Comparative Sample
			115	0.008	2710	26	Comparative Sample
				0.010	1708	410	Inventive sample
				0.190	1700	590	Inventive sample
				0.270	1680	620	Inventive sample
				0.290	1910	610	Inventive sample
				0.380	2640	31	Comparative Sample
			235	0.006	2700	33	Comparative Sample
				0.016	1890	470	Inventive sample
				0.210	1940	400	Inventive sample
				0.260	1710	660	Inventive sample
				0.295	1680	740	Inventive sample
				0.360	2660	33	Comparative Sample
			310	0.007	2740	30	Comparative Sample
				0.300	2100	390	Inventive sample
				0.320	2610	29	Comparative Sample
			320	0.005	2740	29	Comparative Sample
				0.205	2680	30	Comparative Sample
				0.370	2660	34	Comparative Sample
-	0.410	-	112	0.008	2710	34	Comparative Sample
				0.240	2640	31	Comparative Sample
				0.320	2700	27	Comparative Sample
			215	0.007	2740	28	Comparative Sample
				0.170	2670	30	Comparative Sample
				0.330	2590	33	Comparative Sample
			370	0.015	2700	24	Comparative Sample
				0.200	2690	21	Comparative Sample
				0.270	2710	20	Comparative Sample
				0.350	2700	24	Comparative Sample

Table 11

Coating amount (g/m ²)			Hv (1g)	Ra (μm)	Spatter amount (g/min)	Arcing time (sec)	Remark
MoS ₂	BN	MoS ₂ +BN					
-	-	0.001	108	0.007	2710	29	Comparative Sample
				0.190	2680	29	Comparative Sample
				0.320	2730	27	Comparative Sample
			195	0.006	2710	27	Comparative Sample
				0.200	2740	31	Comparative Sample
				0.330	2660	30	Comparative Sample
			320	0.005	2890	30	Comparative Sample
				0.205	2710	27	Inventive sample
				0.340	2810	26	Inventive sample
-	-	0.002	107	0.008	2880	23	Comparative Sample
				0.015	2760	21	Comparative Sample
				0.210	2680	30	Comparative Sample
				0.290	2700	27	Comparative Sample
				0.315	2900	20	Comparative Sample
				0.380	2910	19	Comparative Sample
			115	0.005	2810	22	Comparative Sample
				0.010	2020	305	Inventive sample
				0.190	1810	595	Inventive sample
				0.295	1900	480	Inventive sample
				0.315	2610	38	Comparative Sample
				0.370	2700	34	Comparative Sample
			208	0.006	2740	37	Comparative Sample
				0.019	2040	395	Inventive sample
				0.215	2000	390	Inventive sample
				0.296	1910	485	Inventive sample
				0.315	2600	34	Comparative Sample
				0.400	2730	34	Comparative Sample
			310	0.006	2710	30	Comparative Sample
				0.017	1810	560	Inventive sample
				0.240	1740	710	Inventive sample
				0.300	1880	490	Inventive sample
				0.311	2600	33	Comparative Sample
				0.380	2600	39	Comparative Sample
			318	0.009	2710	30	Comparative Sample
				0.210	2800	21	Comparative Sample
				0.290	2720	24	Comparative Sample

Table 12

Coating amount (g/m ²)			Hv (1g)	Ra (μm)	Spatter amount (g/min)	Arcing time (sec)	Remark
MoS ₂	BN	MoS ₂ +BN					
-	-	0.185	110	0.006	2780	19	Comparative Sample
				0.019	2880	18	Comparative Sample
				0.230	2740	16	Comparative Sample
				0.290	2900	14	Comparative Sample
				0.315	2890	14	Comparative Sample
				0.395	2790	18	Comparative Sample
			115	0.007	2910	19	Comparative Sample
				0.010	2010	381	Inventive sample
				0.300	2115	490	Inventive sample
			205	0.007	2740	20	Comparative Sample
				0.014	1960	320	Inventive sample
				0.170	1890	480	Inventive sample
				0.289	1930	500	Inventive sample
				0.310	2600	39	Comparative Sample
			310	0.008	2880	31	Comparative Sample
				0.012	1880	410	Inventive sample
				0.300	1910	370	Inventive sample
			320	0.008	2590	38	Comparative Sample
				0.018	2710	32	Comparative Sample
				0.210	2800	30	Comparative Sample
				0.288	2830	27	Comparative Sample
				0.310	2730	30	Comparative Sample
				0.340	2660	33	Comparative Sample

Table 13

Coating amount (g/m ²)			Hv (1g)	Ra (μm)	Spatter amount (g/min)	Arcing time (sec)	Remark
MoS ₂	BN	MoS ₂ +BN					
-	-	0.400	112	0.007	2740	30	Comparative Sample
				0.150	2580	37	Comparative Sample
				0.310	2730	36	Comparative Sample
			115	0.007	2820	30	Comparative Sample
				0.010	1900	410	Inventive sample
				0.190	1830	510	Inventive sample
				0.294	1790	660	Inventive sample
				0.308	2610	30	Comparative Sample
				0.370	2710	31	Comparative Sample
			208	0.005	2680	32	Comparative Sample
				0.020	1910	370	Inventive sample
				0.170	1840	415	Inventive sample
				0.293	1900	405	Inventive sample
				0.314	2700	30	Comparative Sample
				0.390	2660	31	Comparative Sample
			310	0.002	2780	30	Comparative Sample
				0.021	2030	360	Inventive sample
				0.180	2000	406	Inventive sample
				0.300	1990	695	Inventive sample
				0.310	2590	37	Comparative Sample
				0.360	2710	34	Comparative Sample
			405	0.001	2710	34	Comparative Sample
				0.205	2740	34	Comparative Sample
				0.300	2800	30	Comparative Sample
				0.340	2860	27	Comparative Sample

Table 14

Coating amount (g/m ²)			Hv (1g)	Ra (μm)	Spatter amount (g/min)	Arcing time (sec)	Remark
MoS ₂	BN	MoS ₂ +BN					
-	-	0.412	107	0.004	2890	30	Comparative Sample
				0.021	2780	28	Comparative Sample
				0.290	2730	24	Comparative Sample
				0.310	2600	23	Comparative Sample
			206	0.009	2680	26	Comparative Sample
				0.187	2790	25	Comparative Sample
				0.310	2710	24	Comparative Sample
			325	0.190	2810	18	Comparative Sample
				0.205	2870	17	Comparative Sample
				0.314	2760	18	Comparative Sample
				0.330	2640	22	Comparative Sample

The present invention as disclosed in the accompanying claim 1 provides a solid wire for arc welding having excellent feedability without copper plating by adjusting micro Vickers hardness and arithmetical average roughness of a flat portion of the wire surface. Further, the feedability of the inventive solid wire with no copper plating is equal or superior to that of the conventional solid wire with copper plating, thereby improving weld workability. Furthermore, consumption of energy during manufacture of the solid wire can be reduced because the solid wire is manufactured without copper plating, and a welding work environment can be improved because copper fumes are not generated.

In accordance with the present invention as disclosed in the accompanying claim 2, friction-reducing materials

fed into a flat portion of a wire surface are not exhausted, thereby implementing excellent feedability.

5 In accordance with the present invention as disclosed in the accompanying claim 3, because the lubricant-rich pools are completely formed by depressions in which a drawing lubricant material is completely removed, the lubricant-rich pools can be sufficiently filled with at least one component selected from a group of MoS₂, BN and a mixture thereof, thereby implementing excellent
10 feedability.

Although the preferred embodiments of the present invention have been disclosed for illustrative purposes, those skilled in the art will appreciate that various modifications, additions and substitutions are possible,
15 without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention as disclosed in the accompanying claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A solid wire for arc welding, comprising:

5 a flat portion of a wire surface with no copper plating, wherein micro Vickers hardness (Hv) of the flat portion is in the range of 115 to 310 and arithmetical average roughness (Ra) of the flat portion is in the range of 0.01 to 0.30 μ m.

10 2. The solid wire as set forth in claim 1, wherein a ratio of an area of lubricant-rich pools to a unit area of the wire surface is in the range of 15 to 88%.

15 3. The solid wire as set forth in claim 1, wherein at least one component selected from a group of MoS₂, BN and a mixture thereof is coated on the wire surface in an amount of from 0.002 to 0.40g/m².