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Application of Friction Stir Welding and Allied Techniques to Aluminium

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29th October 2014
Turku, Finland

AGENDA

Introduction to School of Engineering of Aalto University
Fundaments of Friction Stir Welding (FSW)
Industrial Application Samples of FSW
Variants of FSW
Innovations Based on Friction Stir Concept
Applications and Developments of FSW at Aalto University
Aalto University - Where Science and Art meet Technology and Business

Created from the merger of 3 leading Finnish universities 1 January 2010:

- the Helsinki School of Economics (HSE), founded 1911
- the University of Art and Design Helsinki (TaiK), founded 1871
- the Helsinki University of Technology (TKK), founded 1849

Aalto University is a community of:
- 75,000 alumni
- 20,000 students
- 4,700 faculty & staff
- with 340 professors

Aalto University
6 Schools (with a Dean) and Respective Focus Areas

- School of Engineering
- School of Science
- School of Chemical Technology
- School of Electrical Engineering
- School of Arts, Design and Architecture
- School of Business

- Arctic technology
- Mechanics and material technology
- Multidisciplinary energy technologies
- Sustainable built environment
- Systems design and production

- Computing and modeling
- Materials physics
- Energy sciences
- ITC, software and media
- Neuroscience and technology
- Creating and transforming technology based entrepreneurship

- Sustainable use and processing of natural resources
- New materials
- Energy technologies

- Energy
- Health and wellbeing
- Environment
- Information and communication technology
- Micro- and nanotechnology

- User driven design and art
- Art & design, science and business
- Heritage based forerunning
- Sense based skills and knowledge

- Strategic management & marketing in the global context
- Microeconomics
- Behavioral finance & corporate governance
- Decision-making
Welding Technology

Welding Technology

Classification

Fusion Welding
Includes partial fusion of Base Material, with/without application of pressure, with/without filler metal added to weld pool

Brazing and Soldering
No fusion of base material components which are joined by inserting melted filler metal in the overlap joint configuration

Solid State Welding
Joining is obtained by solid state joining mechanisms

Welding Process Classification

Note: There are (many) others possible classifications
Welding Technology
Solid State Welding History

Iron and coal; 1855-60
(The Industrial Revolution by
William Bell Scott)

Friction Stir Processing

Solid State Welding
Classification

Friction; Ultrasonic; Explosion; Diffusion
High-frequency; Flash; Stud (liquid joining interface)
Mechanical Activation
Thermomechanical Activation
Thermal Activation
No-Weld
Mechanical Energy
Cold Pressure
P [N/m²]

Aalto University
School of Engineering
Department of Engineering Design and Production
Materials Joining and NDT
Solid State Welding
Sample of Conventional Solutions

High-Frequency Welding
Stud Welding
Ultrasonic Welding

“Third-Body” Region Based Technologies
Friction Based Technology
Sample of Processes

Friction Welding

Internacional Patent
2/1956 (A.I.Chudikov)

Friction Extrusion
Friction Hydro Pillar
Friction Riveting

© TWI, England
© HGZ, Germany
Friction Based Technology
Sample of Processes

Friction Surfacing
FS Production of Functionally Graded Materials (FGM)

Aalto University
School of Engineering
Department of Engineering Design and Production
Materials Joining and NDT

Friction Stir Welding Process
Fundamentals and Parameters

FSW was patented by TWI, 1991, W. Thomas et al., UK
Friction Stir Welding Process
Inventor: Wayne Morris Thomas @ TWI (UK)

The responsible for the most significant development of welding technology in recent history


Last Patent (US 5,813592) assigned to TWI Expires: 29 September 2015

Friction Stir Welding Process
Fundaments - Typical Macrostructure
Friction Stir Welding Process
Fundamentals – Heat Input

\[ P_{\text{mech}}[\text{W}] = \left[ M_{[\text{w, min}]} \times 2.2 \Omega_{[\text{rpm}]} + F_{[\text{w}]} \times v_{[\text{mm/min}]} \right] \times \frac{1000}{60} \]

\[ \eta_{\text{heat}} = \left( 1 - \frac{P_{\text{heat}}}{P_{\text{mech}}} \right) \times 100\% \]

\[ Hl[\text{J/mm}] = \frac{P_{\text{heat}}[\text{W}]}{v[\text{mm/min}]} \times 60 \]
Friction Stir Welding Process
Fundamentals – 3D Material Flow

Friction Stir Welding Process
Fundamentals – Standards

ISO EN DIN 25239 (03/2012) Friction Stir Welding - Aluminium
Part 1: Vocabulary
Part 2: Design of weld joints
Part 3: Qualification of welding operators
Part 4: Specification and qualification of welding procedures
Part 5: Quality and inspection requirements

AWS D17.3 / D17.3M:2010
Specification for Friction Stir Welding of Aluminum Alloys for Aerospace Applications
Friction Stir Welding Process  
Fundaments – **Advantages** versus **Disadvantages**

- Welds materials whose structure and properties would be degraded by fusion welding
- Minimal distortion + Low residual stress levels compared to fusion welding processes
- Environmentally friendly + Safe: No fumes + No radiation + High energy efficiency
- Easy repeatability + good control: suitable for automation and robotization
- Good mechanical properties: No cracks + No porosity
- No consumables for aluminium alloys
- Joint can be produced from one side and in all positions
- Minimal edge preparation required
- Not influenced by magnetic forces

- Backing anvil required (except bobbin stir tools)
- Keyhole at the end of each weld (except when a tool with a retractable probe is used)
- Workpiece requires rigid clamping (except when the Twin-stir™ variant is used)
- Application not as flexible as certain fusion welding processes

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**Industrial Application Samples of FSW**  
**Shipbuilding Industry**

- First vessel (catamaran) in history made from FSW panels was built by Fjellstrand AS in 1996
- The panels were made by Marine Aluminium. This kick started the industrialization of FSW process
- Panels with total FSW length of 110km from 1996 to 1999
Industrial Application Samples of FSW
Aeronautic Industry

- Eclipse Aviation @ USA
- Wing
- Fuselage

Industrial Application Samples of FSW
Aerospace Industry

- Boeing Co @ USA
- FSW facility dedicated for the production of the fuel tanks of Delta IV
Industrial Application Samples of FSW

Aerospace Industry

New FSW for Space Launch System:

**Vertical Assembly Center (VAC)**
(NASA’s Michoud Assembly Facility New Orleans)

61 m Tall x 8.4 m Diameter

Cryogenic liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen that will feed the vehicle’s RS-25 engine

Industrial Application Samples of FSW

Automotive Industry

Tailored Blanks joined by FSW and subsequently formed

- Ford GT: FSW of tunnel to Al frame to form housing of transmission system and fuel tank
- FSW of Tailor Welded Blanks using dissimilar thickness Al sheets - TWI research study
- FSW of cast Al hub to wrought Al rim section
- Produced by Fundo Wheels for Volvo XC90

Friction Stir Welds
**Industrial Application Samples of FSW**

**Railway Industry**

- **A-Train concept from Hitachi, Ltd @ Japan for rolling stock based on FSW**

  - Features:
    - Self-supported module
    - Mounting rail fastening by bolts
    - Reduced number of parts
    - No adjustment work required
    - Easier reflectivity and maintenance

**Informatics Industry**

- **Apple 21.5 and 27-inch iMacs 2012 @ USA**

  - Apple slim down iMac 40% with 'friction-stir welding' & ditching the disc drive

  - By Daniel Eran Dilger

  - Apple’s new iMac updates the company’s flagship Macintosh into a faster, faster and — in particular — thinner version of itself.
Industrial Application Samples of FSW

FSW (kitkahitsaus) in Finland

- Equipment delivered to KMT Oy (PROMECO-Kankaanpää) in 12.2003
- Modular LEGIO 5UT (6m x 0.5m x 0.3m)
- Applied e.g. electromechanical components

Jori Oy (South Ostrobothnia) designed and built their own automatic FSW machine in 2004

Table 14m long for FSW of Al alloy tanks mostly for powder

Industrial Application Samples of FSW

Architecture Application

- Nobel Peace Centre @ Oslo, Norway

Canopy by David Adjaye that serves as gateway between Oslo City Hall where the Peace Prize Ceremony takes place and the Nobel Peace Center
Friction Stir Welding
Based Innovations

Friction Stir Welding
Variants

- Com-stir™ Welding
- Stationary Shoulder FSW
- Skew-stir™ Welding
- Twin-stir™ Welding
- Re-stir™ Welding
- Bobbin Tool Stir Welding
- Dual-rotation FSW
- Ras-stir™ Welding

Friction Stir
Based Innovations

- Friction Stir Processing
- Friction Stir Channeling

- Friction Stir Microforming
- Near-Net Shaped Manufacture by FSW
- Friction Stir Self Embossing and In-Process Forge/Forming
- Friction (Stir) Spot Welding
FSW @ Aalto University
Different Joints and Materials

Overlap

Thick Al alloy
Mg Alloy
Dissimilar Mg-Al

Thin Al alloy
Polyamide

Dissimilar Al-Cu

Overlapping thickness

Al alloy embedding steel

SPIF of tailored blanks welded by FSW

Department of Engineering Design and Production

Thank You / Kiitos / Tack

ALUMIINIPÄIVÄT

29th October 2014
Turku, Finland