BALITHERM IONIT ST
wear-resistant and non-magnetic

For the treatment of austenitic and non-corrosive martensitic steels
With the new BALITHERM® IONIT ST process, Oerlikon Balzers has developed a reliable diffusion process for austenites and non-corrosive martensites. Non-magnetic properties are preserved, and the steels become more reliably resistant to wear while retaining their corrosion resistance.

In the automotive industry, high-alloy steels are used primarily in mechanical components. They are valued not only for their amagnetic (non-magnetic) properties, but also for their high wear resistance.

### WEAR MECHANISM | REQUIRED PROPERTIES
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Adhesive wear | - Low friction coefficient  
- Low affinity between the materials (adhesive force, mutual solubility)
Abrasive wear | - High surface hardness  
- Low friction coefficient  
- Low roughness  
- High fracture toughness
Fatigue wear | - High surface hardness  
- Low friction coefficient  
- Low roughness  
- High fracture toughness
Erosion | - High surface hardness  
- High elasticity

### BALITHERM IONIT ST for austenites and martensites

| HEAT TREATMENT | BALITHERM® IONIT ST Austenite | BALITHERM® IONIT ST Martensite |
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Compound layer thickness | 5 – 50 μm | 30 – 100 μm |
Surface hardness (HV 0.1) | > 1000 | > 1000 |
Max. application temperature | < 550 °C | < 520 °C |
Corrosion resistance | Depends on the treatment temperature |

Inlet and outlet valves, for instance, which are subject to high mechanical and thermal stresses, are made from a combination of martensitic steel and austenitic steel – the former is the ideal solution for high, thumping stresses resulting from the cams in the camshaft, while the latter is resistant to the high temperatures and mechanical stresses on the valve plate.

### Robust protection for toughest demands

BALITHERM® IONIT ST treated valves withstand high loads in an engine.

High thermal and mechanical loads of the valves during combustion process.
The BALITHERM® IONIT ST process means that Oerlikon Balzers can now offer a nitriding process which significantly improves the wear resistance of the austenite without affecting its non-magnetic properties. As the two materials nitride differently, diffusion depths of 15 µm in the austenite and 30 µm in the martensite can be achieved without any problems, increasing the reliability of their wear resistance. The low process temperature also ensures that no chromium depletion occurs at the edges, helping retain corrosion resistance.

- Non-magnetic properties are preserved
- Corrosion resistance of high-alloy steels is retained
- Scuffing is avoided
- Wear protection for austenitic materials with low core hardness
Take advantage of the benefits from BALITHERM IONIT ST
Get in touch with us today!

Balzers Headquarters
Oerlikon Balzers Coating AG
Balzers Technology and Service Centre
Iramali 18
LI-9496 Balzers
Liechtenstein
T +423 388 7500

China
Oerlikon Metco Surface Technology (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.
Changchun Branch
Building 3-3, 2177 Changde Road
Jingkai District
Changchun 13001
T +86 431 81907960

You can find a full listing of our locations at:
www.oerlikon.com/balzers