

Sword steel

What is Martensite?

Martensite is one of the crystalline structures that high carbon steels can take when heat treated. It's formation depends upon the carbon content of the blade and the rate at which it is cooled. Martensite is far too brittle to be used as the main body of any swords steel and is reserved for the edge of a differentially hardened blade. It's hardness allows it to take and keep an edge that softer steels would not and when formed on a sword with a softer Pearlitic spine, the combination of hard edge and more ductile back allows it to perform well as a tough and sharp cutter.

Unique solution ID: #1048

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Last update: 2014-03-17 14:24