

Formation of Hard Magnetic Phase in Bulk Al₄₅Mn₅₅ Prepared by Suction Casting

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Abstract. Metastable tetragonal τ -phase with L10 structure and composition Al₄₅Mn₅₅, which can be formed in Al-Mn alloys with composition 50 – 60 at. % Mn, is strongly ferromagnetic and has potential to replace conventional hard magnetic materials using strategic rare-earth elements. Its preparation by rapid quenching of a suitable alloy precursor and subsequent thermal processing of prepared ribbons has been successfully assessed in our previous works. The aim of this contribution is preparation of the alloy in bulk form from Al₄₅Mn₅₅ precursor by suction casting. Special construction of suction casting attachment to commercial arc-melting furnace has allowed to prepare alloy rods with 3 mm diameter and length of more than 5 cm. Structure and phase analysis of such bulk-quenched rods in as-prepared and annealed states will be presented to monitor the evolution and content of the τ -phase and its selected properties using differential scanning calorimetry, magnetic thermogravimetry, x-ray analysis and electron microscopy.

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