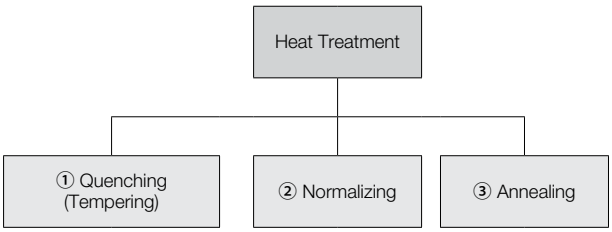
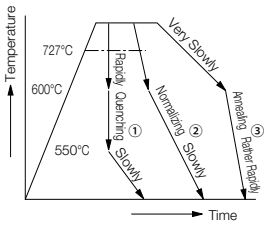
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Heat Treatment

One of the ways to determine the hardness of steel is the heat treatment and it is classified to 3 types.





Heat Treatment Method

① Quenching (Tempering)	After heating to over 727°C, cool rapidly down to 550°C in water or oil.	Quenching makes steel hard because it cools down red-hot steel very rapidly in water or oil, but it may promote internal stress. In order to remove such internal stress, tempering is used. (After cooled down once, reheat it to 200°C~600°C)
② Normalizing	After heating to over 727°C, cool down rapidly to 600°C and then to normal temperature.	It miniaturizes the crystals. (Steel is also composed of small cells.) It is used to improve the mechanical character or machinability.
③ Annealing	After heating to over 727°C, cool down very slowly to 600°C, then to normal temperature.	It miniaturizes the crystals like the process of normalizing, but the crystal size is bigger than that of normalizing. It targets machinability improvement and distortion correction.

Hardness Value

Hardness	Reference Standard	Example	Explanation of Example
Brinell Hardness	JIS Z 2243:1992	250HB	Hardness Value : 250, Hardness Symbol : HB
		200~250HB	When the hardness has the range
Vickers Hardness	JIS Z 2244:1998	640HV	Hardness Value : 640, Hardness Symbol : HV
Rockwell Hardness	JIS Z 2245:1992	60HRC	Hardness Value : 60, Hardness Symbol : HRC
Shore Hardness	JIS Z 2246:1992	50HS	Hardness Value : 50, Hardness Symbol : HS

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