## Accepted Manuscript

Title: Fabrication of micro gear with intact tooth profile by micro wire electrical discharge machining

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PII: S0924-0136(17)30401-6

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jmatprotec.2017.09.002

Reference: PROTEC 15379

To appear in: Journal of Materials Processing Technology

Received date: 22-11-2016 Revised date: 22-7-2017 Accepted date: 1-9-2017

Please cite this article as: Wang, Yukui, Chen, Xiang, Wang, Zhenlong, Dong, Shuliang, Fabrication of micro gear with intact tooth profile by micro wire electrical discharge machining. Journal of Materials Processing Technology http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jmatprotec.2017.09.002

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Fabrication of micro gear with intact tooth profile by micro wire

electrical discharge machining

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Abstract

Micro wire electrical discharge machining (micro-WEDM) provides a promising alternative for

micro gear machining. However, the processing defect of non-intact tooth profile often appears

due to the influence of micro gear gravity, flushing force and explosive force in micro-WEDM

process. This paper presents a process change of micro-WEDM to achieve the precise fabrication

of micro gear with intact tooth profile, i.e. firstly reserving a sharp corner on the gear teeth where

the processing defect exists and then removing it by the second processing of micro-WEDM. The

locating and clamping of the micro gear with sharp corner has been achieved using a novel

self-centering flexible fixture. The machining error during the second processing is analyzed, and

whilst the process datum is accurately determined. Appropriate processing parameters are obtained

by performing preliminary experiments on X153CrMoV12 workpiece, indicating that high open

voltage and discharge capacitance cause large kerf width, moderate reference voltage and feed rate

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