



Hamilton Precision Metals
1780 Rohrerstown Road, Lancaster, PA 17602
Phone: (717) 569-7061 Fax: (717) 569-7642

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

CONSTANTAN®

Constantan® is a copper-nickel alloy that contains specific minor amounts of additional elements to achieve precise values for the temperature coefficient of resistivity. Careful control of melting and conversion practices results in a very low level of pinholes at ultra-thin thicknesses. The alloy is used extensively for foil resistors and strain gauges.

NOMINAL COMPOSITION:

| | | | |
|-----------|-------|--------|---------|
| Nickel | 44.2% | Iron | .50 |
| Manganese | 1.5% | Copper | Balance |

TYPICAL MECHANICAL PROPERTIES:¹

| | <u>ANNEALED</u> | <u>COLD ROLLED</u> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Ultimate Tensile Strength | 60,000 PSI | 120,000 PSI |
| Elongation in 2" * | 25% | 2% |
| Modulus of Elasticity (Tension) | 24 x 10 ⁶ PSI | |

*The measured elongation will be less as thickness decreases to .002" and less.

¹ These values may be adjusted by control of process variables – consult HPM for desired values.

CONSTANTAN

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES:²

| | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Density | - | 0.321 lbs/cu.in. |
| Melting Point (Approx.) | - | 1210° C |
| Electrical Resistivity @ R.T. | - | 50.8 Microhm· cm |
| Temperature Coefficient of Resistivity (TCR) (25°C to 105°C) | - | ± 30 PPM/° c |
| Thermal Expansion Coefficient (20°C to 100°C) | - | 14.9 x 10 ⁻⁶ /°C |
| Thermal EMF vs. Copper (0°C to 100°C) | - | -0.043 Millivolts/°C |
| Thermal Conductivity R.T. | - | 21.2W/m· K |
| Magnetic Attraction | - | None |
| Specific Heat | - | .094 gram· cal./°C |

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The TCR can be adjusted from the furnished cold rolled values by using a low temperature heat treatment to achieve compensation for all types of spring elements. The foil is normally supplied with 90% cold reduction and a smooth bright surface. The foil is reasonably flat at 4" wide and nearly free of pinholes. The cold rolled foil can be produced with a TCR between +10 to -35 PPM/°C. The heat treatment will shift the foil TCR to the desired value. A typical heat-treat curve for Constantan shows decreasing resistivity but increasing TCR with increased heat-treating temperature (Figure 1).

AVAILABILITY:

Constantan is available from Hamilton Precision Metals as foil and strip product in thicknesses from .0005" to .050" and in widths up to 12". It is also available as thin as .000100" and in widths up to 4" maximum.

² Typical values to guide alloy selection but are not a guarantee of minimum or maximum.