

Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Any idea on manufacturer?

Re: Any idea on manufacturer?

Author: : pcray1231

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URL:

No, you gave him 17-4. You said 304 would have worked unless he cleaned with Clorox. Meaning, 304 would have sufficed (I agree), but you gave him something even better (in some ways, but not in others, and not in the example you gave).

17-4, while being less corrosion resistant, is also much, much stronger than 304, for instance. All else being equal, it's also cheaper, on account of having much lower % Ni. But generally, it's an aerospace alloy so it often has cleaner melting methods which bumps the price back up. Trade-offs abound in material selections. If you really want a better product, rather than a more marketable one, well, you gotta be informed or consult someone who is.

Regarding the term "exotic", that could be construed as merely an exaggeration. It has real meaning in the market, and 17-4 wouldn't fit, but that meaning is rather subjective. I'm not too upset that the author took liberties.

But calling it a super-alloy. That one wasn't an exaggeration, it was just plain wrong. Super, when used like this, isn't a subjective adjective. It means something very specific. And 17-4 is pretty much the complete opposite.

I know you're just playing. I am too. Well, sort of. I took playful shots at you. But the shots at the author were a good old fashioned rant. If it were about software or something, instead of metallurgy, I wouldn't have known, just like nobody else did. But knowing what marketers do to metallurgy makes me awfully suspicious of what they do to everything else. I don't tend to believe anything a manufacturer publicly says!