



Designation: E 3 – 9501

An American National Standard

Standard Practice Guide for Preparation of Metallographic Specimens¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E 3; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 The primary objective of metallographic examinations is to reveal the constituents and structure of metals and their alloys by means of a light optical or scanning electron microscope. In special cases, the objective of the examination may require the development of less detail than in other cases but, under nearly all conditions, the proper selection and preparation of the specimen is of major importance. Because of the diversity in available equipment and the wide variety of problems encountered, the following text presents for the guidance of the metallographer only those practices which experience has shown are generally satisfactory; it cannot and does not describe the variations in technique required to solve individual specimen preparation problems.

NOTE 1—For a more extensive description of various metallographic techniques, refer to Samuels, L. E., *Metallographic Polishing by Mechanical Methods*, American Society for Metals (ASM) Metals Park, OH, 3rd Ed., 1982; Petzow, G., *Metallographic Etching*, ASM, 1978; and VanderVoort, G., *Metallography: Principles and Practice*, McGraw Hill, NY, ~~1984~~, 2nd Ed., 1999.

1.2 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

A 90/A 90M Standard Test Method for Weight (Mass) of Coating on Iron and Steel with Zinc or Zinc-Alloy Coatings

¹ This practice guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee ~~E-4~~ E04 on Metallography and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E04.01 on Sampling, Specimen Preparation, and Photography.

Current edition approved ~~Jan. 15, 1995~~, April 10, 2001. Published ~~March 1995~~, July 2001. Originally published as E 3 – 21 T. Last previous edition ~~E 3 – 80 (1986)~~, E 3 – 95.