



# Standard Specification for White Metal Bearing Alloys (Known Commercially as “Babbitt Metal”)<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B23; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

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

## 1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers eight typical white metal bearing alloys, in bar or ingot form, known commercially as “babbitt metal.” The alloys are specified, covering the range commercially used, and are designated by the alloy numbers shown in [Table 1](#).

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.3 *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 become familiar with all hazards including those identified in the appropriate Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for this product/material as provided by the manufacturer, to establish appropriate safety and health practices, and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*<sup>2</sup>

[E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications](#)

[E57 Methods for Chemical Analysis of White Metal Bearing Alloys \(Withdrawn 1986\)](#)<sup>3</sup>

## 3. Ordering Information

3.1 Orders for materials under this specification shall include the following information:

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B02 on Nonferrous Metals and Alloys and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B02.02 on Refined Lead, Tin, Antimony, and Their Alloys.

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<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard’s Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

<sup>3</sup> The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org).

- 3.1.1 Name of material (white metal bearing alloy),
- 3.1.2 Form and nominal weight of individual bars,
- 3.1.3 Quantity,
- 3.1.4 Alloy number,
- 3.1.5 Inspection required (Section 9),
- 3.1.6 Certification required (Section 10),
- 3.1.7 Marking required (Section 11), and
- 3.1.8 ASTM designation and year of issue.

## 4. Materials and Manufacture

4.1 The bars or ingots shall be made in accordance with such practice as to obtain the chemical composition, weight, and dimensions as prescribed in this specification.

4.2 The bars or ingots shall be as uniform in quality as practicable.

## 5. Chemical Composition

5.1 The alloys covered by this specification shall conform to the requirements for chemical composition prescribed in [Table 1](#).

5.2 By agreement between manufacturer and purchaser, analysis may be required and limits established for elements not specified in [Table 1](#).

## 6. Dimensions and Weights

6.1 The babbitt shall be furnished in bars of a convenient weight and size for handling. Unless otherwise agreed upon, no unnotched bar shall exceed 10 lb (4.5 kg) in weight, nor notched bar exceed 15 lb (6.8 kg).

6.2 By mutual agreement, babbitt may be furnished in small round bars about 3.5 in. (90 mm) in diameter.

## 7. Sampling

7.1 Three bars shall be selected to represent a shipment of less than 1000 lb (450 kg), five bars to represent a shipment of 1000 lb to 10 000 lb (4500 kg) inclusive, and ten bars to represent a shipment of over 10 000 lb to one carload.

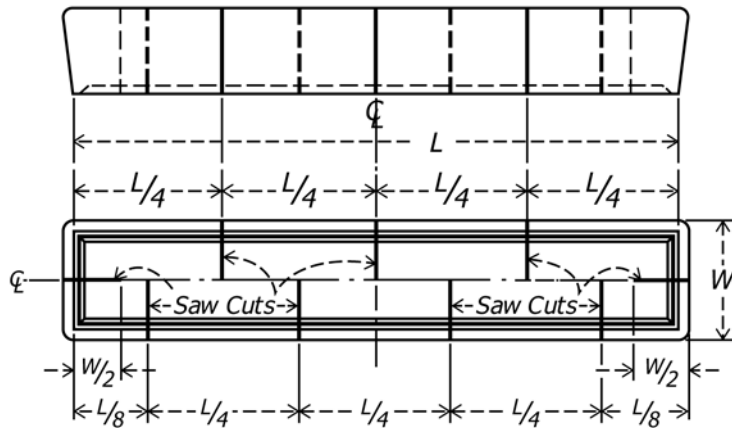
7.2 Saw cuts shall be made at points in the bars as indicated in [Fig. 1](#). No lubricants shall be used for sawing. The savings

**TABLE 1 Chemical Composition<sup>A</sup> — wt% (range or maximum)**

Chemical Composition, %	Alloy Number							
	Tin Base				Lead Base			
	1	2	3	11	7	8	13	15
	UNS—L13910	UNS—L13890	UNS—L13840	UNS—L13870	UNS—L53585	UNS—L53565	UNS—L53346	UNS—L53620
Tin	remainder <sup>B</sup>	remainder <sup>B</sup>	remainder <sup>B</sup>	remainder <sup>B</sup>	9.3–10.7	4.5–5.5	5.5–6.5	0.8–1.2
Antimony	4.0–5.0	7.0–8.0	7.5–8.5	6.0–7.5	14.0–16.0	14.0–16.0	9.5–10.5	14.5–17.5
Lead	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.50	remainder <sup>B</sup>	remainder <sup>B</sup>	remainder <sup>B</sup>	remainder <sup>B</sup>
Copper	4.0–5.0	3.0–4.0	7.5–8.5	5.0–6.5	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.6
Iron	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
Arsenic	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.30–0.60	0.30–0.60	0.25	0.8–1.4
Bismuth	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
Zinc	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005
Aluminum	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005
Cadmium	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
Total named elements, min	99.80	99.80	99.80	99.80				

<sup>A</sup> Alloy Number 9 was discontinued in 1946 and numbers 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 16, and 19 were discontinued in 1959. A new number 11, similar to SAE Grade 11, was added in 1966.

<sup>B</sup> To be determined by difference.



NOTE 1—With notched bars the saw cuts shall be distributed along the bar in a similar manner, avoiding if possible, saw cuts directly through a notch.

**FIG. 1 Method of Sampling Unnotched Bar**

shall be carefully treated with a magnet to remove any particles of steel introduced in taking the sample.

7.3 When babbitt is furnished in bars under 5 lb (2.3 kg) in weight, three bars shall be considered the equivalent of one bar (6.1) for sampling purposes. These may be remelted in a clean utensil at a temperature slightly above the liquids point of the alloy, mixed thoroughly, poured into a cold mold forming a convenient size bar, and then handled in accordance with 6.2.

7.4 Savings, thoroughly mixed, shall be separated into three equal portions, each of which shall be placed in a sealed package, one for the manufacturer, one for the purchaser, and one for an umpire, if necessary. Each portion should exceed 0.74 oz. (21 g) in weight.

7.5 When bars, by agreement, exceed 15 lb (6.8 kg) in weight, the number of sample bars taken and the sampling procedure shall be by agreement between the manufacturer and the purchaser.

## 8. Test Methods

8.1 In case of dispute, the chemical analysis shall be made in accordance with Methods E57.

8.2 The method of analysis for cadmium and aluminum in case of dispute shall be as agreed upon between manufacturer and purchaser.

8.3 For purposes of compliance with the specified chemical composition limits, the reported analysis shall be rounded to the nearest unit in the right hand place of figures used in expressing the limiting value, in accordance with the rounding method of Practice E29.

## 9. Inspection

9.1 Inspection of the material shall be made as agreed upon by the manufacturer and the purchaser as part of the purchase contract.

## 10. Rejection and Rehearing

10.1 Material that fails to conform to the requirements of this specification may be rejected. Rejection should be reported to the producer or supplier promptly and in writing. In case of dissatisfaction with the results of the test, the producer or supplier may make claim for a rehearing.