BLADESMITHING

5160 Steel

5160 is a medium carbon "spring steel" that has excellent toughness and high durability. It is quite flexible, resists heavy shocks well, and is well suited for swords, axes, large bowies, and other blades where a larger, flexible blade is desired.

5160 has the following characteristics:

Carbon	0.56 to 0.64%
Chromium	070 to 0.90%
Manganese	0.75 to 1.00%
Phosphorus	0.035% maximum
Silicon	
Sulphur	0.04% maximum
Wear resistance	high/medium
Toughness	high
Red hardness	low
Distortion in heat treating	low
Forge	Start at 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit
Austenite forging	yes
Hardening	
Quench	oil
Tempering	300 to 450 degrees Fahrenheit
Rc hardness	62 to 55