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The present invention relates to a case hardened component of a titanium alloy, the component having a diffusion zone of a thickness of at least 50 μm, as calculated from the surface of the component, the diffusion zone comprising oxygen and carbon in solid solution and having a distinct phase of a carbo-oxide compound having the composition TiOxCl-x, wherein x is a number in the range of 0.01 to 0.99, which diffusion zone has a microhardness of at least 800 HV0.025 and which carbo-oxide compound has a microhardness of at least 1200 HV0.025. In another aspect the invention relates to a method of producing the case hardened component. In a further aspect the invention relates to a method of oxidising a component of a Group IV metal.

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