

ABSTRACT**Coated wire**

A wire comprising a silver-based wire core having a double-layer coating comprised of a 1 to 100 nm thick inner layer of palladium or nickel and an adjacent 1 to 250 nm thick outer layer of gold, wherein the wire exhibits at least one of the intrinsic properties A1) to A3):

A1) the average grain size of the crystal grains in the wire core, measured in longitudinal direction, is in the range of from 0.7 to 1.1 μm ;

A2) the fraction of twin boundaries, measured in longitudinal direction of the wire, is in the range of from 5 to 40 %;

A3) 20 to 70 % of the crystal grains of the wire core are oriented in $\langle 100 \rangle$ direction, and 3 to 40 % of the crystal grains of the wire core are oriented in $\langle 111 \rangle$ direction, each % with respect to the total number of crystal grains with orientation parallel to the drawing direction of the wire.

No Figure