

METAL POWDER AND PROCESS FOR PREPARING THE SAME

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A metal powder having a vitreous thin layer on at least a part of the surface thereof wherein the amount of the vitreous thin layer is preferably 0.01 to 50% by weight based on the metal powder excluding the vitreous thin layer. The metal powder is prepared a process comprising the steps of: bringing a solution comprising a heat-decomposable metal compound to fine droplets; and heating the droplets to a temperature above the decomposition temperature of the metal compound, wherein a precursor of an oxide, heat-decomposable to produce a vitreous material which, together with the metal, does not form a solid solution, is added to the solution and the vitreous material is deposited, upon the heating, in the vicinity of the surface of the metal powder. The powder is useful for the preparation of a thick film paste used in a multilayer ceramic electronic component or substrate, since it has an excellent oxidation resistance during storage, in a conductor paste, and during firing of the paste.