

NICKEL COMPOSITE PARTICLE AND PRODUCTION PROCESS THEREFOR**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Nickel composite particles having a layer of a nickel-containing spinel on at least a part of the surface of nickel particles, or nickel composite particles having an oxide layer of metals other than nickel on at least a part of the surface of nickel particles and a layer of a nickel-containing spinel at an interface between the nickel particles and the metal oxide layer. The nickel composite particles are produced by forming fine liquid droplets from a solution containing (a) at least one thermally decomposable nickel compound and (b) at least one thermally decomposable metal compound capable of forming a spinel together with nickel; and heating the liquid droplets at a temperature higher than the decomposition temperatures of the compound (a) and (b) to nickel particles and simultaneously deposit a nickel-containing spinel layer, or further a metal oxide layer on the spinel layer. The composite particles are especially useful for the preparation of a conductor paste used in an internal conductor layer of a ceramic multilayer electronic part.

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