

DESCRIPTION

Fe-Pt BASED MAGNETIC MATERIAL SINTERED COMPACT

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TECHNICAL FILED

[0001] The present invention relates to a sintered compact used in manufacture of a magnetic thin film for heat-assisted magnetic recording media, and a manufacturing method thereof.

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BACKGROUND ART

[0002] In the field of magnetic recording represented by hard disk drives, a material based on a ferromagnetic metal Co, Fe or Ni is used as a material for a magnetic thin film in a magnetic recording medium. For example, Co-Cr based or Co-Cr-Pt based ferromagnetic alloys having Co as a main component are used for magnetic thin films in hard disks employing the longitudinal magnetic recording system. Further, a composite material composed of a Co-Cr-Pt based ferromagnetic alloy having Co as a main component, and non-magnetic inorganic grains is often used for a magnetic thin film in a hard disk employing the recently-commercialized perpendicular magnetic recording system. In many cases, the above magnetic thin films are manufactured by sputtering a target consisting primarily of the above materials using a DC magnetron sputtering equipment in view of high productivity.

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[0003] The recording density of a hard disk is rapidly increasing every year, and a current surface density of 600 Gbit/in² may reach 1 Tbit/in² in the future. If the recording density reaches 1 Tbit/in², then the size of a recording bit becomes smaller than 10 nm. In that case, a problem of superparamagnetization due to thermal fluctuation may arise. Further, it is predicted that materials for magnetic recording media currently used, for example, materials in which magnetocrystalline anisotropy is enhanced by adding Pt to a Co-Cr based alloy, will be insufficient. This is because magnetic grains with a size of 10 nm or less stably showing ferromagnetic behavior are required to have higher magnetocrystalline anisotropy.

[0004] In view of the above reason, a FePt phase having the L1₀ structure has gathered much attention as a material for ultrahigh density recording media. A FePt phase is a promising material suitable for applications of magnetic recording media since it has high magnetic crystalline anisotropy as well as excellent corrosion resistance and oxidation resistance. Meanwhile, in order to use a FePt phase as a material for ultrahigh density recording media, a technology needs to be developed which allows regularly-arranged FePt grains to be dispersed as densely as possible in an aligned orientation and in a magnetically isolated manner.

[0005] For these reasons, a granular structure magnetic thin film, in which FePt magnetic grains having the L1₀ structure are isolated through the interposition of non-magnetic materials such as an oxide and carbon, has been proposed for a magnetic recording medium of a next generation hard disk adapted for the heat-assisted magnetic recording system. The granular structure magnetic thin film has a structure in which magnetic grains are magnetically insulated from each other through the interposition of nonmagnetic substances. In general, deposition of a granular structure magnetic thin film having a Fe-Pt phase is performed using a Fe-Pt based sintered compact sputtering target.

[0006] With regard to a sputtering target of Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact, the present inventors previously have disclosed a technology for a ferromagnetic sputtering target, which is configured from a magnetic phase such as an Fe-Pt alloy, and a nonmagnetic phase that decouples the magnetic phase, and in which a metal oxide is used as one of the nonmagnetic phase materials (Patent Literature 1).

In addition, Patent Literature 2 discloses a sputtering target for depositing a thin-film magnetic recording medium formed from a sintered compact having a structure in which C phases are dispersed in a FePt alloy phase. Patent Literature 3 discloses a sputtering target for depositing a thin-film magnetic recording medium comprising a SiO₂ phase, a FePt alloy phase and an interdiffusion phase. Further, Patent Literature 4 discloses a Fe-Pt based ferromagnetic material sputtering target comprising Pt, SiO₂, Sn, and the remainder being Fe. Patent Literature 5 discloses a sputtering target for depositing a magnetic recording film, in which a peak intensity ratio of the (011) plane of quartz is 1.40 or more relative to a background intensity in X-ray diffraction.

[0007] Hexagonal BN (a compound of boron and nitrogen) as the above non-magnetic material shows excellent performance as a lubricant. The compound, however, is difficult to be used for the production of a high density sintered compact because sinterability is poor when used as a raw material for powder metallurgy. In a case where the density of a sintered compact is low as described above, defects such as cracks and chipping may occur when processing the sintered compact into a target, causing a problem of a reduced yield. Further, low density may result in a large number of voids created in a target. These voids may cause abnormal electric discharge, which, in turn, may generate particles (dust which will adhere on a substrate) during sputtering, causing a problem of a reduced product yield.

[0008] Patent Literature 1: WO2012/029498

Patent Literature 2: Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2012-102387

Patent Literature 3: Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2011-208167

Patent Literature 4: WO2012/086578

Patent Literature 5: Japanese Patent No. 5009447

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

[Technical Problem]

[0009] An object of the present invention is to provide a Fe-Pt based sintered compact, which comprises hexagonal BN as a non-magnetic material and enables production of a magnetic thin film for heat-assisted magnetic recording media. Further, another object is to provide a high density sputtering target in which the amount of particles generated during sputtering is reduced.

[Solution to Problem]

[0010] After extensive studies to achieve the above objects, the present inventors have found that a high density sputtering target can be manufactured by dispersing hexagonal BN grains as a non-magnetic material, together with SiO₂ grains, in a Fe-Pt based parent metal. The present inventors also have found that a sputtering target manufactured in this way can significantly reduce particle generation, and can improve a deposition yield.

[0011] Based on the above findings, the present invention provides the followings:

1) A Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact, comprising hexagonal BN and SiO₂ as non-magnetic materials, wherein Si and O are present in a

region where B or N is present at a cut surface of the sintered compact.

2) The Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to 1), wherein an X-ray diffraction peak from a (002) plane of hexagonal BN appears in X-ray diffraction of the sintered compact, and an X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of a (101) plane of cristobalite, which is crystallized SiO₂, is 1.40 or less relative to a background intensity.

3) The Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to 1) or 2), wherein an X-ray diffraction peak ratio of the (002) plane of hexagonal BN relative to the background intensity is 1.50 or more.

4) The Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to any one of 1) to 3), wherein the content of SiO₂ relative to hexagonal BN is 1 mol% or more.

5) The Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to any one of 1) to 4), comprising 5 mol% or more and 60 mol% or less of Pt, 1 mol% or more and 50 mol% or less of BN, 0.5 mol% or more and 20 mol% or less of SiO₂, and the remainder being Fe.

6) The Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to any one of 1) to 5), further comprising 0.5 mol% or more and 40 mol% or less of C.

7) The Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to any one of 1) to 6), comprising 0.5 mol% or more and 10.0 mol% or less of one or more elements selected from the group consisting of B, Ru, Ag, Au and Cu as an additive element.

8) The Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to any one of 1) to 7), comprising one or more inorganic materials selected from the group consisting of oxides, nitrides, carbides and carbon nitrides as an additive.

[Advantageous Effects of Invention]

[0012] Advantageously, the Fe-Pt based sintered compact according to the present invention in which BN is used as a non-magnetic material enables deposition of a magnetic thin film having a granular structure, and further can provide a high density sputtering target in which the amount of particles generated during sputtering is reduced.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0013] Fig. 1 shows element mapping obtained with FE-EPMA of a sintered compact

from Example 1.

Fig. 2 shows element mapping obtained with FE-EPMA of a sintered compact from Example 2.

Fig. 3 shows an X-ray diffraction profile of the sintered compact from Example 1 (top panel).

Fig. 4 shows an X-ray diffraction profile of a sintered compact from Comparative Example 1 (top panel).

Fig. 5 shows an X-ray diffraction profile of the sintered compact from Example 2 (top panel).

Fig. 6 shows an X-ray diffraction profile of a sintered compact from Comparative Example 2 (top panel).

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

[0014] The Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to the present invention contains BN and SiO₂ as non-magnetic materials, and is characterized by the presence of Si and O in a region where B or N is present at a cut surface of the sintered compact.

[0015] Although hexagonal BN shows excellent performance as a lubricant as described above, the density of a BN-containing sintered compact is difficult to be increased because of poor sinterability. However, the sinterability can be significantly improved in a case where BN and SiO₂ are contained and mutually dispersed as compared with a case where BN is contained alone. A detailed mechanism why such a phenomenon occurs is not clearly understood. Nonetheless, this appears to be resulted from a high compatibility of SiO₂ and B as widely known that a softening temperature of SiO₂ glass is lowered when boric acid (B) is added to the SiO₂ glass.

[0016] Whether Si and O are present in a region where B or N is present at a cut surface of a sintered compact can be confirmed by element mapping created with a FE-EPMA (Field Emission Electron Probe Micro Analyzer). Specifically, complete or partial overlap between a region where B and N are present and a region where Si and O are present in element mapping can be indicative of the presence of these elements in the same region. Further, the presence of Si and O observed in a region where B and N are present suggests that BN and SiO₂ are solid dissolved.

[0017] In X-ray diffraction of a cut surface relative to a pressurized surface of the Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to the present invention, an X-ray diffraction peak of the (002) plane of hexagonal BN appears, and an X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of the (101) plane of cristobalite, which is crystallized SiO_2 , is preferably 1.40 or less relative to a background intensity. That is, in a case where a sintered compact is processed into a sputtering target, the generation of microcracks in the target can be controlled by allowing an X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of the (101) plane of cristobalite, which is SiO_2 , to be 1.40 or more in X-ray diffraction at a cut surface parallel to a sputtering surface of the target.

An X-ray diffraction peak of the (101) plane of cristobalite, which is crystallized SiO_2 , is observed at 21.98° . Further, a method of calculating the background intensity is as follows: ((the average value of X-ray diffraction intensities observed between 20.5° and 21.5°) + (the average value of X-ray diffraction intensities observed between 22.5° and 23.5°))/2.

[0018] In X-ray diffraction at a cut surface relative to a pressurized surface of the Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to the present invention, an X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of the (002) plane of hexagonal BN is preferably 1.50 or more relative to a background intensity. That is, in a case where a sintered compact is processed into a sputtering target, the generation of microcracks in the target can be controlled by allowing an X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of the (002) plane of hexagonal BN to be 1.50 or more in X-ray diffraction at a cut surface parallel to a sputtering surface of the target.

An X-ray diffraction peak of the (002) plane of hexagonal BN is observed at 26.75° . Further, a method of calculating the background intensity is as follows: ((the average value of X-ray diffraction intensities observed between 25.5° and 26.5°) + (the average value of X-ray diffraction intensities observed between 27.5° and 28.5°))/2.

[0019] In the Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to the present invention, the content of SiO_2 relative to hexagonal BN is preferably 1 mol% or more. Sinterability can be further improved by allowing the content of SiO_2 relative to hexagonal BN to be 1 mol% or more.

[0020] In the Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to the present invention, the content of Pt is preferably 5 mol% or more and 60 mol%

or less. Good magnetic properties can be obtained by allowing the content to be 5 mol% or more and 60 mol% or less. Further, the content of BN is preferably 1 mol% or more and 50 mol% or less, and the content of SiO₂ is preferably 0.5 mol% or more and 20 mol% or less. The contents of these non-magnetic materials beyond the above numerical ranges can improve magnetic insulation. Further, dispersed C grains in an alloy are effective. The C content of 0.5 mol% or more and 40 mol% or less can improve magnetic insulation.

[0021] The Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to the present invention may contain one or more elements selected from the group consisting of B, Ru, Ag, Au and Cu as an additive element in a total amount of 0.5 mol% or more and 10.0 mol% or less. Moreover, one or more inorganic materials selected from the group consisting of oxides, nitrides, carbides and carbon nitrides may be added as an additive into the Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to the present invention if desired. These additive elements and additive materials are effective components in order to improve magnetic properties of a film after sputtering.

[0022] The Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to the present invention may be manufactured, for example, by the following method.

Each of raw material powders (a Fe powder, a Pt powder, a BN powder and a SiO₂ powder) is prepared for production. Further, each of raw material powders of the above additive ingredients is prepared if desired. Note that quartz or an amorphous material is preferably used for the SiO₂ powder. Use of cristobalite as a SiO₂ powder is not preferred because α - β transition occurs at 250°C, causing change in volume. As a result of this, SiO₂ itself may have microcracks, which may cause abnormal electric discharge.

[0023] For these powders, those with a grain diameter of 0.5 μ m or more and 10 μ m or less are preferably used. Since oxidation is promoted to cause the increased concentration of oxygen in a sputtering target when the grain diameter of each raw material powder is too small, the grain diameter of 0.5 μ m or more is preferred. On the other hand, since fine dispersion of each component in an alloy becomes difficult when the grain diameter of each raw material powder is too large, the grain diameter of 10 μ m or less is further preferred..

Further, an alloy powder (a Fe-Pt powder and the like) may be used as a

raw material powder. In particular, an alloy powder containing Pt is effective because the amount of oxygen in a raw material powder can be decreased, depending on its composition. Also in a case where an alloy powder is used, the powder having a grain diameter of 0.5 μm or more and 10 μm or less is preferably used.

[0024] Next, the above powders are weighed out to give a desired composition, and then ground and mixed by a known method. At this time, in order to interdiffuse a BN powder and a SiO_2 powder, both powders are preferably mixed in a state of fine powders. More effective mixing can be achieved by mixing the both while grinding. For mixing and grinding, use of a ball mill, a medium agitation mill and the like are particularly effective.

[0025] A mixed powder obtained in this way is molded and sintered by hot press. In addition to hot press, the plasma discharge sintering method and the hot isostatic sintering method may be used. In many cases, a holding temperature for sintering is within a range between 800°C and 1400°C, depending on the composition of a sputtering target.

Then, a sintered compact removed from the hot press is subjected to hot isostatic pressing process. Hot isostatic pressing process is effective for improving the density of a sintered compact. In many cases, a holding temperature for hot isostatic pressing process is within a range between 800°C and 1200°C, depending on the composition of a sintered compact. Further, pressing force is set at 100 MPa or more.

[0026] A sputtering target can be manufactured by processing a sintered compact obtained in this way with a lathe into a desired shape.

As described above, a Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact and sputtering target containing BN and SiO_2 as non-magnetic materials in which Si and O are present in a region where B or N is present at a cut surface of the sintered compact can be manufactured.

[Examples]

[0027] In the followings, the present invention will be described with reference to Examples and Comparative Examples. Note that Examples are presented for merely illustrative purposes, and the present invention shall in no way be limited by them. That is, the present invention is limited only by the claims, and shall encompass various modifications other than those in Examples of the present invention.

(Example 1)

[0028] As raw material powders, a Fe powder, a Pt powder, an Ag powder, a SiO₂ powder and a BN powder were prepared. These powders were weighed out to give 65(50Fe-45Pt-5Ag)-5SiO₂-30BN (mol%).

5 Next, the weighed powders were introduced into a 5-liter medium agitation mill along with zirconia balls as grinding media, and rotated (a rotation speed of 300 rpm) for 2 hours to perform mixing and grinding. Then a carbon mold was filled with a mixed powder removed from the medium agitation mill, and hot press was performed.

10 The conditions of hot press were as follows: vacuum atmosphere, a rate of temperature increase of 300°C/hour, a holding temperature of 950°C and a holding time of 2 hours, and pressure was applied at 30 MPa from the beginning of temperature increase through the end of holding. After the end of holding, it was kept in the chamber to allow natural cooling.

15 Next, a sintered compact removed from the hot press mold was subjected to hot isostatic pressing process. The conditions for the hot isostatic pressing process were as follows: a rate of temperature increase of 300°C/hour, a holding temperature of 950°C and a holding time of 2 hours, and the Ar gas pressure was gradually increased from the start of temperature increase, and maintained at 150 MPa during holding at 950°C. After the end of holding, it was kept in the furnace to allow natural cooling.

The density of the sintered compact manufactured in this way was measured by the Archimedes method to calculate a relative density. The result was 97.9%.

25 An edge of the obtained sintered compact was cut out, and a cut surface was polished to analyze its structure with an FE-EPMA. Fig. 1 shows measurement results from element mapping of the cut surface of the sintered compact obtained in this way. As shown in Fig. 1, the presence of Si and O was observed at a location where B or N was present, demonstrating that solid dissolution of BN and SiO₂ was progressed.

30 Further, as a result of analyzing a cut surface of the sintered compact by the X-ray diffraction method (XRD), an X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of the (002) plane of BN was 5.46, and an X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of the (101) plane of SiO₂ cristobalite was 1.38.

35 Next, the sintered compact was cut with a lathe into a shape having a

diameter of 180.0 mm and a thickness of 5.0 mm, and then mounted on a magnetron sputtering equipment (Canon Anelva Corporation, a C-3010 sputtering system) to perform sputtering. The sputtering conditions were as follows: an input power of 1 kW and an Ar gas pressure of 1.7 MPa, and pre-sputtering was performed at 2 kW·hr. Then deposition was performed on a Si substrate having a diameter of 4 inches for 20 seconds. Subsequently, the number of particles adhering on the substrate was measured with a particle counter. At this time, the number of particles was 20.

(Comparative Example 1)

[0029] As an example in which BN alone was contained, a Fe powder, a Pt powder, an Ag powder and a BN powder were prepared as raw material powders in Comparative Example 1. These powders were weighed out to give 60(50Fe-45Pt-5Ag)-40BN (mol%).

Next, the weighed powders were introduced into a 5-liter medium agitation mill along with zirconia balls as grinding media, and rotated (a rotation speed of 300 rpm) for 2 hours to perform mixing and grinding. Then a carbon mold was filled with a mixed powder removed from the medium agitation mill, and hot press was performed.

The conditions of hot press were similar to those in Example 1: vacuum atmosphere, a rate of temperature increase of 300°C/hour, a holding temperature of 950°C and a holding time of 2 hours, and pressure was applied at 30 MPa from the beginning of temperature increase through the end of holding. After the end of holding, it was kept in the chamber to allow natural cooling.

Next, a sintered compact removed from the hot press mold was subjected to hot isostatic pressing process. The conditions for hot isostatic pressing process were similar to those in Example 1: a rate of temperature increase of 300°C/hour, a holding temperature of 950°C and a holding time of 2 hours, and the Ar gas pressure was gradually increased from the start of temperature increase, and maintained at 150 MPa during holding at 950°C. After the end of holding, it was kept in the furnace to allow natural cooling.

The density of the sintered compact manufactured in this way was measured by the Archimedes method to calculate a relative density. The result was 96.1%, showing a decrease as compared with Example 1. Note that as a result of analyzing a cut surface of the sintered compact by the X-ray

diffraction method (XRD), an X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of the (002) plane of BN was 5.42.

Next, the sintered compact was cut with a lathe into a shape having a diameter of 180.0 mm and a thickness of 5.0 mm, and then mounted on a magnetron sputtering equipment (Canon Anelva Corporation, a C-3010 sputtering system) to perform sputtering as in Example 1. Subsequently, the number of particles adhering on the substrate was measured with a particle counter. At this time, the number of particles was 840, showing a significant increase as compared with Example 1.

(Example 2)

[0030] As raw material powders, a Fe powder, a Pt powder, a SiO₂ powder and a BN powder were prepared. These powders were weighed out to give 70(50Fe-50Pt)-5SiO₂-25BN (mol%).

Next, the weighed powders were introduced into a 5-liter medium agitation mill along with zirconia balls as grinding media, and rotated (a rotation speed of 300 rpm) for 2 hours to perform mixing and grinding. Then a carbon mold was filled with a mixed powder removed from the medium agitation mill, and hot press was performed.

The conditions of hot press were similar to those in Example 1: vacuum atmosphere, a rate of temperature increase of 300°C/hour, a holding temperature of 950°C and a holding time of 2 hours, and pressure was applied at 30 MPa from the beginning of temperature increase through the end of holding. After the end of holding, it was kept in the chamber to allow natural cooling.

Next, a sintered compact removed from the hot press mold was subjected to hot isostatic pressing process. The conditions for hot isostatic pressing process were similar to those in Example 1: a rate of temperature increase of 300°C/hour, a holding temperature of 950°C and a holding time of 2 hours, and the Ar gas pressure was gradually increased from the start of temperature increase, and maintained at 150 MPa during holding at 950°C. After the end of holding, it was kept in the furnace to allow natural cooling.

The density of the sintered compact manufactured in this way was measured by the Archimedes method to calculate a relative density. The result was 98.3%.

An edge of the obtained sintered compact was cut out, and a cut surface

was polished as in Example 1 to analyze its structure with an FE-EPMA. As a result, the presence of Si and O was observed at a location where B or N was present, demonstrating that solid dissolution of BN and SiO₂ was progressed. Further, as a result of analyzing a cut surface of the sintered compact by the X-ray diffraction method (XRD), an X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of the (002) plane of BN was 17.98, and an X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of the (101) plane of SiO₂ cristobalite was 1.27.

Next, the sintered compact was cut with a lathe into a shape having a diameter of 180.0 mm and a thickness of 5.0 mm, and then mounted on a magnetron sputtering equipment (Canon Anelva Corporation, a C-3010 sputtering system) to perform sputtering as in Example 1. Subsequently, the number of particles adhering on the substrate was measured with a particle counter. At this time, the number of particles was 31.

(Comparative Example 2)

As an example in which BN alone was contained, a Fe powder, a Pt powder, an Ag powder and a BN powder were prepared as raw material powders in Comparative Example 2. These powders were weighed out to give 70(50Fe-50Pt)-30BN (mol%).

Next, the weighed powders were introduced into a 5-liter medium agitation mill along with zirconia balls as grinding media, and rotated (a rotation speed of 300 rpm) for 2 hours to perform mixing and grinding. Then a carbon mold was filled with a mixed powder removed from the medium agitation mill, and hot press was performed.

The conditions of hot press were similar to those in Example 1: vacuum atmosphere, a rate of temperature increase of 300°C/hour, a holding temperature of 950°C and a holding time of 2 hours, and pressure was applied at 30 MPa from the beginning of temperature increase through the end of holding. After the end of holding, it was kept in the chamber to allow natural cooling.

Next, a sintered compact removed from the hot press mold was subjected to hot isostatic pressing process. The conditions for hot isostatic pressing process were similar to those in Example 1: a rate of temperature increase of 300°C/hour, a holding temperature of 950°C and a holding time of 2 hours, and the Ar gas pressure was gradually increased from the start of temperature increase, and maintained at 150 MPa during holding at 950°C. After the end

of holding, it was kept in the furnace to allow natural cooling.

The density of the sintered compact manufactured in this way was measured by the Archimedes method to calculate a relative density. The result was 96.7%, showing a decrease as compared with Example 2. Note that as a result of analyzing a cut surface of the sintered compact by the X-ray diffraction method (XRD), an X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of the (002) plane of BN was 21.4.

Next, the sintered compact was cut with a lathe into a shape having a diameter of 180.0 mm and a thickness of 5.0 mm, and then mounted on a magnetron sputtering equipment (Canon Anelva Corporation, a C-3010 sputtering system) to perform sputtering as in Example 1. Subsequently, the number of particles adhering on the substrate was measured with a particle counter. At this time, the number of particles was 795, showing a significant increase as compared with Example 2.

(Example 3)

[0032] As raw material powders, a Fe powder, a Pt powder, a Cu powder, a SiO₂ powder, a BN powder, a TiO₂ powder and an MgO powder were prepared. These powders were weighed out to give 73(30Fe-60Pt-10Cu)-5SiO₂-20BN-1TiO₂-1MgO (mol%).

Next, the weighed powders were introduced into a 5-liter medium agitation mill along with zirconia balls as grinding media, and rotated (a rotation speed of 300 rpm) for 2 hours to perform mixing and grinding. Then a carbon mold was filled with a mixed powder removed from the medium agitation mill, and hot press was performed.

The conditions of hot press were similar to those in Example 1: vacuum atmosphere, the rate of temperature increase of 300°C/hour, holding temperature of 1060°C and holding time of 2 hours, and pressure was applied at 30 MPa from the beginning of temperature increase through the end of holding. After the end of holding, it was kept in the chamber to allow natural cooling.

Next, a sintered compact removed from the hot press mold was subjected to hot isostatic pressing process. The conditions for hot isostatic pressing process were similar to those in Example 1: a rate of temperature increase of 300°C/hour, a holding temperature of 1100°C and a holding time of 2 hours, and the Ar gas pressure was gradually increased from the start of temperature

increase, and maintained at 150 MPa during holding at 1100°C. After the end of holding, it was kept in the furnace to allow natural cooling.

The density of the sintered compact manufactured in this way was measured by the Archimedes method to calculate a relative density. The result was 98.6%.

An edge of the obtained sintered compact was cut out, and a cut surface was polished as in Example 1 to analyze its structure with an FE-EPMA. As a result, the presence of Si and O was observed at a location where B or N was present, demonstrating that solid dissolution of BN and SiO₂ was progressed. Further, as a result of analyzing a cut surface of the sintered compact by the X-ray diffraction method (XRD), an X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of the (002) plane of BN was 7.24, and an X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of the (101) plane of SiO₂ cristobalite was 1.32.

Next, the sintered compact was cut with a lathe into a shape having a diameter of 180.0 mm and a thickness of 5.0 mm, and then mounted on a magnetron sputtering equipment (Canon Anelva Corporation, a C-3010 sputtering system) to perform sputtering as in Example 1. Subsequently, the number of particles adhering on the substrate was measured with a particle counter. At this time, the number of particles was 16.

(Comparative Example 3)

[0033] As an example in which BN alone was contained, a Fe powder, a Pt powder, a Cu powder, a BN powder, a TiO₂ powder and an MgO powder were prepared as raw material powders in Comparative Example 3. These powders were weighed out to give 78(30Fe-60Pt-10Cu)-20BN-1TiO₂-1MgO (mol%).

Next, the weighed powders were introduced into a 5-liter medium agitation mill along with zirconia balls as grinding media, and rotated (a rotation speed of 300 rpm) for 2 hours to perform mixing and grinding. Then a carbon mold was filled with a mixed powder removed from the medium agitation mill, and hot press was performed.

The conditions of hot press were similar to those in Example 1: vacuum atmosphere, the rate of temperature increase of 300°C/hour, holding temperature of 1060°C and holding time of 2 hours, and pressure was applied at 30 MPa from the beginning of temperature increase through the end of holding. After the end of holding, it was kept in the chamber to allow natural

cooling.

Next, a sintered compact removed from the hot press mold was subjected to hot isostatic pressing process. The conditions for hot isostatic pressing process were similar to those in Example 1: a rate of temperature increase at 300°C/hour, a holding temperature of 1100°C and a holding time of 2 hours, and the Ar gas pressure was gradually increased from the start of temperature increase, and maintained at 150 MPa during holding at 1100°C. After the end of holding, it was kept in the furnace to allow natural cooling.

The density of the sintered compact manufactured in this way was measured by the Archimedes method to calculate a relative density. The result was 96.3%, showing a decrease as compared with Example 3. Note that as a result of analyzing a cut surface of the sintered compact by the X-ray diffraction method (XRD), an X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of the (002) plane of BN was 7.38.

Next, the sintered compact was cut with a lathe into a shape having a diameter of 180.0 mm and a thickness of 5.0 mm, and then mounted on a magnetron sputtering equipment (Canon Anelva Corporation, a C-3010 sputtering system) to perform sputtering as in Example 1. Subsequently, the number of particles adhering on the substrate was measured with a particle counter. At this time, the number of particles was 645, showing a significant increase as compared with Example 3.

(Example 4)

[0034] As raw material powders, a Fe powder, a Pt powder, a B powder, a Ru powder, a SiO₂ powder and a BN powder were prepared. These powders were weighed out to give 75(70Fe-20Pt-5B-5Ru)-5SiO₂-20BN (mol%).

Next, the weighed powders were introduced into a 5-liter medium agitation mill along with zirconia balls as grinding media, and rotated (a rotation speed of 300 rpm) for 2 hours to perform mixing and grinding. Then a carbon mold was filled with a mixed powder removed from the medium agitation mill, and hot press was performed.

The conditions of hot press were similar to those in Example 1: vacuum atmosphere, the rate of temperature increase of 300°C/hour, holding temperature of 1100°C and holding time of 2 hours, and pressure was applied at 30 MPa from the beginning of temperature increase through the end of holding. After the end of holding, it was kept in the chamber to allow natural

cooling.

Next, a sintered compact removed from the hot press mold was subjected to hot isostatic pressing process. The conditions for hot isostatic pressing process were similar to those in Example 1: a rate of temperature increase at 300°C/hour, a holding temperature of 1100°C and a holding time of 2 hours, and the Ar gas pressure was gradually increased from the start of temperature increase, and maintained at 150 MPa during holding at 1100°C. After the end of holding, it was kept in the furnace to allow natural cooling.

The density of the sintered compact manufactured in this way was measured by the Archimedes method to calculate a relative density. The result was 97.9%.

An edge of the obtained sintered compact was cut out, and a cut surface was polished as in Example 1 to analyze its structure with an FE-EPMA. As a result, the presence of Si and O was observed at a location where B or N was present, demonstrating that solid dissolution of BN and SiO₂ was progressed. Further, as a result of analyzing a cut surface of the sintered compact by the X-ray diffraction method (XRD), an X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of the (002) plane of BN was 10.82, and an X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of the (101) plane of SiO₂ cristobalite was 1.18.

Next, the sintered compact was cut with a lathe into a shape having a diameter of 180.0 mm and a thickness of 5.0 mm, and then mounted on a magnetron sputtering equipment (Canon Anelva Corporation, a C-3010 sputtering system) to perform sputtering as in Example 1. Subsequently, the number of particles adhering on the substrate was measured with a particle counter. At this time, the number of particles was 33.

(Comparative Example 4)

As an example in which BN alone was contained, a Fe powder, a Pt powder, a B powder, a Ru powder and a BN powder were prepared as raw material powders in Comparative Example 4. These powders were weighed out to give 80(70Fe-20Pt-5B-5Ru)-20BN (mol%).

Next, the weighed powders were introduced into a 5-liter medium agitation mill along with zirconia balls as grinding media, and rotated (a rotation speed of 300 rpm) for 2 hours to perform mixing and grinding. Then a carbon mold was filled with a mixed powder removed from the medium agitation mill, and hot press was performed.

The conditions of hot press were similar to those in Example 1: vacuum atmosphere, the rate of temperature increase of 300°C/hour, holding temperature of 1200°C and holding time of 2 hours, and pressure was applied at 30 MPa from the beginning of temperature increase through the end of holding. After the end of holding, it was kept in the chamber to allow natural cooling.

Next, a sintered compact removed from the hot press mold was subjected to hot isostatic pressing process. The conditions for hot isostatic pressing process were similar to those in Example 1: a rate of temperature increase of 300°C/hour, a holding temperature of 1100°C and a holding time of 2 hours, and the Ar gas pressure was gradually increased from the start of temperature increase, and maintained at 150 MPa during holding at 1100°C. After the end of holding, it was kept in the furnace to allow natural cooling.

The density of the sintered compact manufactured in this way was measured by the Archimedes method to calculate a relative density. The result was 96.2%, showing a decrease as compared with Example 4. Note that as a result of analyzing a cut surface of the sintered compact by the X-ray diffraction method (XRD), an X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of the (002) plane of BN was 10.59.

Next, the sintered compact was cut with a lathe into a shape having a diameter of 180.0 mm and a thickness of 5.0 mm, and then mounted on a magnetron sputtering equipment (Canon Anelva Corporation, a C-3010 sputtering system) to perform sputtering as in Example 1. Subsequently, the number of particles adhering on the substrate was measured with a particle counter. At this time, the number of particles was 816, showing a significant increase as compared with Example 4.

(Example 5)

[0036] As raw material powders, a Fe powder, a Pt powder, an Au powder, a SiO₂ powder, a BN powder and a SiC powder were prepared. These powders were weighed out to give 74(48Fe-48Fe-4Au)-5SiO₂-20BN-1SiC (mol%).

Next, the weighed powders were introduced into a 5-liter medium agitation mill along with zirconia balls as grinding media, and rotated (a rotation speed of 300 rpm) for 2 hours to perform mixing and grinding. Then a carbon mold was filled with a mixed powder removed from the medium agitation mill, and hot press was performed.

The conditions of hot press were similar to those in Example 1: vacuum atmosphere, the rate of temperature increase of 300°C/hour, holding temperature of 1050°C and holding time of 2 hours, and pressure was applied at 30 MPa from the beginning of temperature increase through the end of holding. After the end of holding, it was kept in the chamber to allow natural cooling.

Next, a sintered compact removed from the hot press mold was subjected to hot isostatic pressing process. The conditions for hot isostatic pressing process were similar to those in Example 1: a rate of temperature increase of 300°C/hour, a holding temperature of 950°C and a holding time of 2 hours, and the Ar gas pressure was gradually increased from the start of temperature increase, and maintained at 150 MPa during holding at 950°C. After the end of holding, it was kept in the furnace to allow natural cooling.

The density of the sintered compact manufactured in this way was measured by the Archimedes method to calculate a relative density. The result was 97.6%.

An edge of the obtained sintered compact was cut out, and a cut surface was polished as in Example 1 to analyze its structure with an FE-EPMA. As a result, the presence of Si and O was observed at a location where B or N was present, demonstrating that solid dissolution of BN and SiO₂ was progressed. Further, as a result of analyzing a cut surface of the sintered compact by the X-ray diffraction method (XRD), an X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of the (002) plane of BN was 5.96, and an X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of the (101) plane of SiO₂ cristobalite was 1.24.

Next, the sintered compact was cut with a lathe into a shape having a diameter of 180.0 mm and a thickness of 5.0 mm, and then mounted on a magnetron sputtering equipment (Canon Anelva Corporation, a C-3010 sputtering system) to perform sputtering as in Example 1. Subsequently, the number of particles adhering on the substrate was measured with a particle counter. At this time, the number of particles was 36.

(Comparative Example 5)

As an example in which BN alone was contained, a Fe powder, a Pt powder, an Au powder, a BN powder and a SiC powder were prepared as raw material powders in Comparative Example 5. These powders were weighed out to give 79(48Fe-48Fe-4Au)-20BN-1SiC (mol%).

Next, the weighed powders were introduced into a 5-liter medium agitation mill along with zirconia balls as grinding media, and rotated (a rotation speed of 300 rpm) for 2 hours to perform mixing and grinding. Then a carbon mold was filled with a mixed powder removed from the medium agitation mill, and hot press was performed.

The conditions of hot press were similar to those in Example 1: vacuum atmosphere, the rate of temperature increase of 300°C/hour, holding temperature of 1050°C and holding time of 2 hours, and pressure was applied at 30 MPa from the beginning of temperature increase through the end of holding. After the end of holding, it was kept in the chamber to allow natural cooling.

Next, a sintered compact removed from the hot press mold was subjected to hot isostatic pressing process. The conditions for hot isostatic pressing process were similar to those in Example 1: a rate of temperature increase of 300°C/hour, a holding temperature of 950°C and a holding time of 2 hours, and the Ar gas pressure was gradually increased from the start of temperature increase, and maintained at 150 MPa during holding at 950°C. After the end of holding, it was kept in the furnace to allow natural cooling.

The density of the sintered compact manufactured in this way was measured by the Archimedes method to calculate a relative density. The result was 95.3%, showing a decrease as compared with Example 5. Note that as a result of analyzing a cut surface of the sintered compact by the X-ray diffraction method (XRD), an X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of the (002) plane of BN was 5.86.

Next, the sintered compact was cut with a lathe into a shape having a diameter of 180.0 mm and a thickness of 5.0 mm, and then mounted on a magnetron sputtering equipment (Canon Anelva Corporation, a C-3010 sputtering system) to perform sputtering as in Example 1. Subsequently, the number of particles adhering on the substrate was measured with a particle counter. At this time, the number of particles was 942, showing a significant increase as compared with Example 5.

[0038] As demonstrated by the above results, the sputtering targets according to the present invention, in which the high density of the sputtering target was maintained by inclusion of SiO₂ along with hexagonal BN as non-magnetic materials, showed a superior effect in that the number of particles generated

during sputtering can be significantly suppressed.

[0039] [Table 1]

	Composition Ratio (mol%)	X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of BN (002) plane	X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of SiO ₂ cristobalite (101) plane	Relative density (%)	Number of particles
Example 1	65(50Fe-45Pt-5Ag)-5SiO ₂ -30BN	5.46	1.38	97.9	20
Comparative Example 1	60(50Fe-45Pt-5Ag)-40BN	5.42	-	96.1	840
Example 2	70(50Fe-50Pt)-5SiO ₂ -25BN	17.98	1.27	98.3	31
Comparative Example 2	70(50Fe-50Pt)-30BN	21.4	-	96.7	795
Example 3	73(30Fe-60Pt-10Cu)-5SiO ₂ -20BN-1TiO ₂ -1MgO	7.24	1.32	98.6	16
Comparative Example 3	78(30Fe-60Pt-10Cu)-20BN-1TiO ₂ -1MgO	7.38	-	96.3	645
Example 4	75(70Fe-20Pt-5B-5Ru)-5SiO ₂ -20BN	10.82	1.18	97.9	33
Comparative Example 4	80(70Fe-20Pt-5B-5Ru)-20BN	10.59	-	96.2	816
Example 5	74(48Fe-48Pt-4Au)-5SiO ₂ -20BN-1SiC	5.96	1.24	97.6	36
Comparative Example 5	79(48Fe-48Pt-4Au)-20BN-1SiC	5.86	-	95.3	942

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

[0040] Advantageously, the Fe-Pt based sintered compact according to the present invention, in which BN is used as a non-magnetic material, can provide
5 a high density sputtering target in which the amount of particles generated during sputtering is reduced. Therefore, it is useful as a sputtering target used for deposition of a magnetic thin film having a granular structure.

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CLAIMS

[Claim 1] A Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact, comprising hexagonal BN and SiO₂ as non-magnetic materials, wherein Si and O are present in a region where B or N is present at a cut surface of the sintered compact.

[Claim 2] The Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to claim 1, wherein an X-ray diffraction peak of a (002) plane of hexagonal BN appears in X-ray diffraction of the sintered compact, and an X-ray diffraction peak intensity ratio of a (101) plane of cristobalite, which is crystallized SiO₂, is 1.40 or less relative to a background intensity.

[Claim 3] The Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to claim 1 or 2, wherein an X-ray diffraction peak ratio of the (002) plane of hexagonal BN relative to the background intensity is 1.50 or more.

[Claim 4] The Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the content of SiO₂ relative to hexagonal BN is 1 mol% or more.

[Claim 5] The Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to any one of claims 1 to 4, comprising 5 mol% or more and 60 mol% or less of Pt, 1 mol% or more and 50 mol% or less of BN, 0.5 mol% or more and 20 mol% or less of SiO₂, and the remainder being Fe.

[Claim 6] The Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to any one of claims 1 to 5, further comprising 0.5 mol% or more and 40 mol% or less of C.

[Claim 7] The Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to any one of claims 1 to 6, comprising 0.5 mol% or more and 10.0 mol% or less of one or more elements selected from the group consisting of B, Ru, Ag, Au and Cu as an additive element.

[Claim 8] The Fe-Pt based magnetic material sintered compact according to any one of claims 1 to 7, comprising one or more inorganic materials selected from the group consisting of oxides, nitrides, carbides and carbon nitrides as an additive.