CLAIMS

1. A silver powder which has a copper content of 40 to 10000 ppm and a carbon content of not higher than 0.1 % by weight.

2. A silver powder as set forth in claim 1, wherein said copper content in said silver powder is in the range of from 40 ppm to 800 ppm.

3. A silver powder as set forth in claim 1, wherein said copper content in said silver powder is in the range of from 218 ppm to 800 ppm.

4. A silver powder as set forth in claim 1, wherein said copper content in said silver powder is in the range of from 230 ppm to 750 ppm.

5. A silver powder as set forth in claim 1, wherein the particle diameter (D_{50} diameter) corresponding to 50% of accumulation in volume-based cumulative distribution of the silver powder, which is measured by means of a laser diffraction particle size analyzer, is in the range of from 1 μm to 15 μm.

6. A silver powder as set forth in claim 5, wherein the ratio (SEM diameter / D_{50} diameter) of an average particle diameter (SEM diameter) of single particles, which is measured by means of a field emission scanning electron microscope, to said particle diameter (D_{50} diameter) corresponding to 50% of accumulation in volume-based cumulative distribution of the silver powder is in the range of from 0.3 to 1.0.

7. A silver powder as set forth in claim 5, wherein the ratio (tap density / D_{50} diameter) of a tap density to said particle diameter (D_{50} diameter) corresponding to 50% of accumulation in volume-based cumulative distribution of the silver powder is in the range of from 0.45 g/(cm^3 · μm) to 3.0 g/(cm^3 · μm).

8. A silver powder as set forth in claim 1, which has an oxygen content of not higher than 0.1 % by weight.

9. A silver powder as set forth in claim 1, which has a BET specific surface area of 0.1 to 1.0 m^2/g.

10. A silver powder as set forth in claim 1, which has a tap density of 2 to 6 g/cm^3.

11. A method for producing a silver powder, the method comprising the steps of:

preparing a molten metal of silver containing 40 to 10000 ppm of copper; and

rapidly cooling and solidifying the molten metal by spraying a high-pressure water onto the molten metal while allowing the molten metal to drop.

12. A method for producing a silver powder as set forth in claim 11, wherein the content of copper in said molten metal of silver is in the range of from 40 ppm to 800 ppm.

13. A new method for producing a silver powder as set forth in claim 11, wherein the content of copper in said

molten metal of silver is in the range of from 218 ppm to 800 ppm.

14. A new method for producing a silver powder as set forth in claim 11, wherein the content of copper in said molten metal of silver is in the range of from 230 ppm to 750 ppm.

15. An electrically conductive paste comprising:

an organic component; and

a silver powder as set forth in claim 1, the silver powder being dispersed in the organic component.

16. A method for producing an electrically conductive film, the method comprising the steps of:

applying an electrically conductive paste as set forth in claim 15, on a substrate; and

burning the applied electrically conductive paste.