

ABSTRACT

An object of the present invention is to provide a Ni-based sputtering target in which the bias in magnetic distribution within the target is small, and a magnetic recording medium including a seed layer formed using the sputtering target, and, in order to achieve such an object, the present invention provides a Ni-based sputtering target consisting of an Fe-Ni-Co-M-based alloy, the alloy consisting of: an additive element M; at least one element selected from Fe and Co; and the balance consisting of Ni and unavoidable impurities, wherein the Fe-Ni-Co-M-based alloy has a microstructure composed of regions varying in Ni content, the additive element M is present in each of the regions, and the additive element M is present only in the form of a solid solution, only in the form of a compound of at least one element selected from Fe, Ni and Co and the additive element M, or in the forms of both the solid solution and the compound.

[No drawing]