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Method for producing a magnetic recording medium and a magnetic recording medium produced by the method

The invention comprises steps of sequentially laminating an
5 underlayer 2, a magnetic recording layer 3, a protective layer 4, and a
liquid lubricant layer formed on a nonmagnetic substrate 1. The
magnetic recording layer 3 comprises ferromagnetic crystalline grains
and nonmagnetic and nonmetallic grain boundary region surrounding
the grains. The surface of the underlayer 2 before forming the
10 magnetic recording layer 3 is exposed to an O₂ or N₂ atmosphere or a
mixed gas atmosphere of rare gas containing O₂ or N₂, to attach the
O₂ or N₂ as nucleation sites for promoting growth of the nonmagnetic
and nonmetallic region. By forming the magnetic recording layer
thereafter, both ferromagnetic crystalline grains and the
15 nonmagnetic and nonmetallic grain boundary region are formed from
the initial stage of the growth of the magnetic recording layer. Thus,
a magnetic recording layer having excellent segregation structure can
be formed.

20 Selected drawing Figure 1



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