CLAIMS

1. An alloy for a seed layer of a magnetic recording medium, consisting of:

Ni;

at least one selected from Fe and Co;

one or more elements M1 selected from the group consisting of W, Mo, Ta, Cr, V and Nb;

one or more elements M2 selected from the group consisting of Au, Ag, Pd, Rh, Ir, Ru, Re and Pt;

optionally, one or more elements M3 selected from the group consisting of Al, Ga, In, Si, Ge, Sn, Zr, Ti, Hf, B, Cu, P, C, and Mn; and

unavoidable impurities, wherein:

the content of the one or more elements M1 is 2 at.% or more and 13 at.% or less;

the content of the one or more elements M2 is 2 at.% or more and 13 at.% or less;

the sum of the content of the one or more elements M1 and the content of the one or more elements M2 is 4 at.% or more and 15 at.% or less;

the content of the one or more elements M3 is 0 at.% or more and 5 at.% or less; and

when a ratio of Ni:Fe:Co, which is a ratio of the content of Ni (at.%), the content of Fe (at.%), and the content of Co (at.%) in the alloy, is expressed as Ni:Fe:Co=X:Y:Z, X is 20 or more and 100 or less, Y is 0 or more and 50 or less, and Z is 0 or more and 60 or less.

2. The alloy for a seed layer according to claim 1, wherein:

the content of the one or more elements M3 is more than 0 at.% and 5 at.% or less.

3. A sputtering target composed of the alloy according to claim 1 or 2.

4. A magnetic recording medium comprising a seed layer composed of the alloy according to claim 1 or 2.