



ABSTRACT

An aluminum nitride sintered body characterized by comprising aluminum nitride as the main component, containing a titanium compound, and having a black color, a transmittance of 10% or less with the light having a wavelength in the range of from 500 to 650 nm and a heat conductivity of 120 W/m·K or more. The sintered body is produced by adding 0.05 to 5% by weight, in terms of Ti, of a titanium compound and a sintering aid compound and, if necessary, a compound capable of forming carbon after being thermally decomposed to an aluminum nitride powder, molding the mixture, heating the molding in vacuo, air or a nitrogen gas, a hydrogen gas or an atmosphere comprising a mixture of these gases until the residual carbon content is reduced to 2.0% by weight or less, and sintering the heat-treated mixture in a nonoxidizing atmosphere containing nitrogen at 1600°C or above. The titanium compound is Ti_nO_{2n-1} or a solid solution comprising Ti_nO_{2n-1} and nitrogen partly dissolved therein in the solid solution form wherein n is 1 or more, or a compound represented by the formula TiN_xO_y wherein $0 < x < 1$ and y is $3/2 (1 - x)$.

There is provided an aluminum nitride sintered body wherein both the light shielding property and the heat conductivity are stabilized.

