

ABSTRACT

Provided is a magnetic recording medium which can be advantageously used for heat-assisted magnetic recording and which has a temperature gradient dT/dx of 10K/nm or higher while maintaining magnetic separation between magnetic crystal grains. The magnetic recording medium for heat-assisted magnetic recording of the present invention includes at least a non-magnetic substrate and a magnetic recording layer. The magnetic recording layer includes a lower magnetic recording layer and an upper magnetic recording layer. The lower magnetic recording layer has a granular structure including magnetic crystal grains and a non-magnetic portion that surrounds the magnetic crystal grains and is formed from a material mainly composed of carbon. The upper magnetic recording layer has a granular structure including magnetic crystal grains and a non-magnetic portion that surrounds the magnetic crystal grains and is formed from a material different from that of the non-magnetic portion of the lower magnetic recording layer.