

A capacitor-grade wire made from powder metallurgy containing at least niobium and silicon, wherein the niobium is the highest weight percent metal present in the niobium wire. The wire having a controlled tensile strength at finish diameter exceeds the strength of capacitor-grade wire formed by ingot metallurgy. Also, the powder metallurgy wire hardness exceeds capacitor-grade wire formed from ingot metallurgy with electrical leakage meeting the specifications normally applied to capacitor grade tantalum, niobium or niobium-zirconium lead wire at sinter temperatures of about 1150°C and above.