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(54) Title: PRODUCTION OF VALVE METAL POWDERS WITH IMPROVED PHYSICAL AND ELECTRICAL PROPERTIES

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a process that involves (1) feeding (a) a first valve metal powder component containing valve metal particles and (b) reducing component into a reactor having a hot zone; and (2) subjecting the first valve metal powder component and the reducing component to non-static conditions sufficient to simultaneously (i) agglomerate the first valve metal powder component particles, and (ii) reduce oxygen content in the valve metal powder component particles, and thereby form a second valve metal powder component containing oxygen-reduced valve metal particles, in which the reducing component is selected from the group consisting of magnesium reducing components, calcium reducing components, aluminum reducing components, lithium reducing components, barium reducing components, strontium, reducing components, and combinations thereof.



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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> B22F9/20      B22F1/00      C22C1/04		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) B22F C22C H01G		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 171 363 B1 (SHEKHTER LEONID N ET AL) 9 January 2001 (2001-01-09) figure 3	1-31
X	US 6 238 456 B1 (WOLF RÜDIGER ET AL) 29 May 2001 (2001-05-29) columns 4,5	28, 30, 31
X	US 4 483 819 A (ALBRECHT ET AL) 20 November 1984 (1984-11-20) cited in the application tables	28, 30, 31
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents :		
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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report	
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer  Alvazzi Delfrate, M	

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