Wollaston Wire

Wollaston wire is a very fine (less than .01 mm thick) platinum wire clad in silver and used in electrical instruments. For most uses, the silver cladding is etched away by acid to expose the platinum core.

History
The wire is named after its inventor, William Hyde Wollaston, who first produced it in England in the early 19th century. Platinum wire is drawn through successively smaller dies until it is about .003 inches (0.076 mm) in diameter. It is then embedded in the middle of a silver wire having a diameter of about 0.1 inches (2.5 mm). This composite wire is then drawn until the silver wire has a diameter of about .002 inches (0.051 mm), causing the embedded platinum wire to be reduced by the same 50:1 ratio to a final diameter of .00006 inches (1.5 Âµm). Removal of the silver coating with an acid bath leaves the fine platinum wire as a product of the process.

Uses
Wollaston wire was used in early radio detectors known as electrolytic detectors 2 and the hot wire barretter. Other uses include suspension of delicate devices, sensing of temperature, and sensitive electrical power measurements. (WikiPedia)

See Also

Bixar
Trexar
Trexnonar