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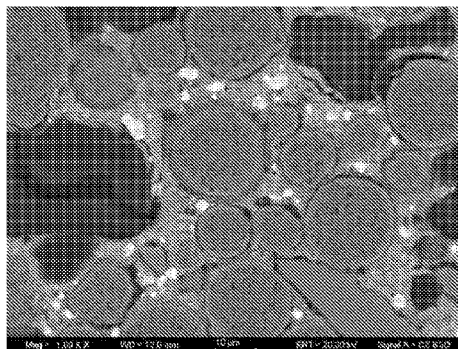
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FIG. 16D



(57) Abstract: The present disclosure relates to porous ceramic articles and a method of making the same. The porous ceramic articles have microstructure of sinter bonded or reaction bonded large pre-reacted particles and pore network structure exhibiting large pore necks. The method of making the porous ceramic articles involves using pre-reacted particles having one or more phases. A plastic ceramic precursor composition is also disclosed. The composition includes a mixture of at least one of dense, porous, or hollow spheroidal pre-reacted particles and a liquid vehicle.



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POROUS CERAMIC ARTICLE AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME

[0001] This application claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 61/825,200 filed on May 20, 2013, the content of which is relied upon and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

[0002] FIELD

[0003] Exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure relate to porous ceramic articles and a method of making the same. Exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure relate to porous ceramic articles having microstructure including sinter bonded or reaction bonded large pre-reacted particles and pore network structure and a method of making porous ceramic articles using pre-reacted particles.

[0004] DISCUSSION OF THE BACKGROUND

[0005] Cordierite, silicon carbide, and aluminum titanate-based honeycombs have been widely used for a variety of applications including catalytic substrates and filters for diesel and gasoline engine exhaust after treatment.

[0006] To meet increasingly stringent emission regulations for light and heavy duty vehicles, the substrate and filter materials have to be highly porous to allow gas flow through the walls without restricting the engine power, have to show high filtration efficiency for emitted particles, and, at the same time, are expected to demonstrate low back pressure. The substrates and filters also have to be able to withstand the erosive/corrosive exhaust environment and bear thermal shock during rapid heating and cooling. Regulation of CO₂ emission and raising fuel cost drive miniaturization and integrated functionality in the exhaust gas after-treatment system. It may be desirable to reduce the number of components

in the after-treatment system, decrease their size and implement multi-functionality of the different components. For example, integrating de-NO_x catalyst and diesel oxidation catalyst (DOC) into diesel particulate filters may be desired. To reach high de-NO_x efficiency, rather high loading of de-NO_x catalyst is required together with a high catalyst activity at low temperature, such as can be found for Cu-zeolites. Trends and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) desires may drive zeolite catalyst loading to high levels of 200g/l. In order to meet this loading target and preserve low pressure drop, the filter substrate may need high porosity and large pore size, for example, around 60% porosity with a median pore size of 18 μm or larger.

[0007] High porosity and large pore size that enables high de-NO_x efficiency are expected to not degrade the particulate filtration efficiency. They should also not decrease the thermo-mechanical properties of the filter. Cordierite and aluminum titanate may both have low thermal expansion and are therefore suited for applications where high thermal shock resistance is required. Both materials show anisotropy in their thermal expansion with different crystallographic directions exhibiting positive and negative expansion. Due to the anisotropy in thermal expansion, mismatch strains build up between grains with different crystallographic orientation; such strains can lead to microcracking. Polycrystalline cordierite or aluminum titanate ceramics may undergo extensive microcracking during thermal cycling. Microcracks open during cooling and close, sometimes even heal during heating. This creates a hysteresis response to thermal cycling with differences between heating and cooling that can be attributed to the reversible microcrack formation and closure. As a consequence of microcracking, the overall coefficient of thermal expansion (CTE) of the ceramics may be lower than the crystallographic average CTE.

[0008] On first look, microcracking may seem beneficial; the thermal shock resistance of the material, which is proportional to the material's strength and inversely

proportional to its elastic modulus and thermal expansion, is expected to be improved by microcracking. However, the material strength also decreases with increasing microcrack density. Microcrack densities in cordierite remain rather low, due to the small difference in crystallographic thermal expansion and large grain (domain) sizes required to reach the stress threshold for microcracking. As a result of a much larger anisotropy in crystallographic expansion, microcrack densities in aluminum titanate-based materials are much higher and strongly influence the ceramic article's strength.

[0009] Porous cordierite and aluminum titanate based honeycomb ceramic articles with low thermal expansion, high porosity, low Young's modulus and high strength are utilized as high-performance automotive catalytic converter substrates and diesel particulate filters. For cordierite products, raw materials such as alumina, talc, clay, magnesia, alumina and silica powders may be mixed with organic binders and pore formers. For aluminum titanate composite products, raw materials such as alumina, titania powders and raw materials for forming the "filler" phase, for example strontium oxide, alumina, silica to form feldspar (strontium aluminum silicate feldspar or "SAS"), may be mixed with organic binders, pore formers and water to form a plastic mixture. The plastic mixture may be extruded or otherwise shaped into a green body of desired shape, for example, a honeycomb, trough log or disk filter, dried, and then fired to temperatures between 1350 °C and 1450 °C, depending on the raw material combination. During the drying and firing process, the raw material particles react, and form, via various intermediates, the final crystalline cordierite or alumina titanate composite. The shaped green part transforms upon firing into a solid, durable porous ceramic article. Other substrate and filter honeycomb materials or mixtures of materials that upon high temperature treatments react to form oxide or non-oxide ceramics, may include metals, intermetallics, mullite, alumina (Al_2O_3), zircon, alkali and alkaline-earth alumin-

silicates, spinels, perovskites, zirconia, ceria, silicon nitride (Si_3N_4), silicon aluminum oxynitride (SiAlON), and zeolites.

[0010] Diesel particulate filters (DPF) and gasoline particulate filters (GPF) may be obtained from a honeycomb porous ceramic by plugging channels in a checkerboard pattern on one end and plugging the remaining channels at the other end to form a filter with inlet and outlet channels. The exhaust gas flows into the open inlet channels, through the wall of the honeycomb (through-wall flow) because the inlet channels are plugged at the other end and out of the outlet channels, which are plugged at the inlet end. During exhaust gas passage through the porous honeycomb wall, small particulates from the exhaust gas are deposited on the pore surface or as the soot layer on the wall surface, thus providing filtering of the exhaust gas. The soot cake of deposited particulates may be periodically burned in a regeneration cycle or continuously during passive regeneration so that the DPF or GPF has a lifetime similar to that of the vehicle. Alternative filter designs may be used, such as radial trough filters or radial disk filters, which compared to the honeycomb design with its long, narrow gas flow channels may show wider gas flow channels and a stronger radial component for the gas flow, but share the same particulate filtering of the gas when passing through the thin porous ceramic wall and offer the same opportunity for de- NO_x functionality with incorporation of a suited catalyst in the wall-porosity and/or on the channel walls.

[0011] Tightening of exhaust gas regulations may call for higher particulate filtration efficiency, particularly for small particle size, and for higher NO_x filtration efficiency, not only in the currently established test cycles, but also in continuous real-world driving. CO_2 regulations may call for use of less fuel and OEMs demand lower pressure drops, both at improved thermal shock resistance and extended lifetime of the porous ceramic honeycomb substrate. To meet these demands, substrates and filters with higher porosity, larger pore size, with thinner honeycomb walls than currently in use may be needed.

[0012] The above information disclosed in this Background section is only for enhancement of understanding of the background of the invention as claimed and therefore it may contain information that does not form any part of the prior art nor what the prior art may suggest to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

SUMMARY

[0013] Exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure provide porous ceramic articles having microstructures characterized by sinter bonded or reaction bonded engineered spheroidal particles and pore networks.

[0014] Exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure also provide a method of making porous ceramic articles using sinter bonded or reaction bonded engineered spheroidal particles.

[0015] Exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure also provide a plastic ceramic precursor batch composition for making porous ceramic articles having microstructures characterized by sinter bonded or reaction bonded engineered spheroidal particles and pore networks.

[0016] Additional features of the invention will be set forth in the description which follows, and in part will be apparent from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention.

[0017] An exemplary embodiment discloses a method of making a porous ceramic article. The method includes forming green particles of at least 10 μm diameter, calcining the green particles to form pre-reacted particles, mixing the pre-reacted particles and a liquid vehicle to form a paste and forming the paste into a wet green body. The pre-reacted particles include at least one of dense, porous, or hollow spheroidal particles, and the pre-

reacted particles include one or more phases. The method includes drying the wet green body to form a dried green body and firing the dried green body to form the porous ceramic article.

[0018] An exemplary embodiment also discloses a method of making a porous ceramic article having inverse porosity pore structure. The method includes forming green particles of at least 10 μm diameter, calcining the green particles to form pre-reacted particles, mixing the pre-reacted particles and a liquid vehicle to form a paste. The pre-reacted particles comprise at least one of dense, porous, or hollow spheroidal particles and the pre-reacted particles comprise one or more phases. The method includes forming the paste into a wet green body, drying the wet green body to form a dried green body, and firing the dried green body to form the porous ceramic article comprising inverse porosity pore structure. The porous ceramic article comprises a porosity of at least 50% and a median pore size (d_{50}) of 10 to 30 μm .

[0019] An exemplary embodiment also discloses a porous ceramic body including a microstructure of solid matter and a network of contiguous pores with large pore necks. The porous ceramic body has a permeability of greater than or equal to 1000, a porosity greater than or equal to 50%, a median pore size (d_{50}) greater than 10 μm , a coefficient of thermal expansion (CTE) in a range of $2 \times 10^{-7} \text{ K}^{-1}$ to $20 \times 10^{-7} \text{ K}^{-1}$ from room temperature (25 °C) to 800 °C, a strain tolerance greater than 0.10%, and an MOR greater than 170 psi for a honeycomb geometry (300/14) or equivalent.

[0020] An exemplary embodiment also discloses a porous ceramic body including a microstructure of sinter bonded or reaction bonded large pre-reacted particles and pore network structure exhibiting large pore necks. The sinter bonded or reaction bonded large pre-reacted particles comprise a homogeneous phase mixture or a phase distribution of reaction product layers and green phases.

[0021] An exemplary embodiment also discloses a plastic ceramic precursor batch composition for making a porous ceramic article. The plastic ceramic precursor batch includes at least one of dense, porous, and hollow pre-reacted particles, and a liquid vehicle, wherein the pre-reacted particles comprise one or more phases.

[0022] It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory and are intended to provide further explanation of the invention as claimed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0023] The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of the invention and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate exemplary embodiments of the disclosure, and together with the description serve to explain the principles of the claimed invention.

[0024] FIG. 1 is a schematic flow diagram of a method of making a porous ceramic honeycomb article according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0025] FIG. 2A shows green particle shapes. FIG. 2B shows reactions of the fine powder particles of the green particle after calcining to form the pre-reacted particle. FIG. 2C is a schematic showing (i) a dense pre-reacted particle, (ii) a porous pre-reacted particle, and (iii) a hollow pre-reacted particle.

[0026] FIG. 3A is a schematic diagram of a cross section through a porous ceramic article showing a regular porosity microstructure with narrow pore necks and FIG. 3B is a schematic diagram of a cross section through a porous ceramic article showing an inverse porosity microstructure with large pore necks according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0027] FIG. 4 is a graphical plot of particle size distributions of green particles made by spray-drying as a function of solid loading (TS) according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0028] FIG. 5 is a graphical plot of the evolution of particle size distributions of green particles made by spray-drying at fixed solid loading (30% solid loading (TS) of boehmite/3% silica from Ludox®) that were obtained with different spray-dryer outlet temperature according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0029] FIG. 6 is a scanning electron microscope (SEM) micrograph of a polished cross section of pre-fired, spray-dried particles with alumina-based composition, after firing at 1670°C for 120h, showing a significant fraction of hollow particles according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0030] FIG. 7 is a graphical plot of the evolution of spray-dried particle size as function of solid loading showing that a broad particle size distribution is obtained at 40% solid loading according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0031] FIG. 8 is a graphical plot of the evolution of spray-dried particle size at fixed solid loading (30%TS of alumina A1000/3% silica from Ludox®) as function of spray-dryer outlet temperatures of 90 °C and 120 °C according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0032] FIG. 9 shows SEM micrographs of green particles obtained by spray-drying alumina/3% silica with Triton and various levels of Antifoam between 0 and 6% according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0033] FIG. 10 shows SEM micrographs of green particles obtained by spray-drying alumina/3% silica with various levels of Darvan® between 0 and 5%, illustrating that addition of Darvan® yields particles with smooth surface, but donut shape according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0034] FIG. 11 shows SEM micrographs of green particles obtained by spray-drying alumina/3% silica with various levels of Duramax® between 0 and 5%, illustrating that Duramax® yields non-agglomerated particles, the size distribution of which is independent of the Duramax® level, the particle shape becomes more spherical with increasing Duramax® fraction, and the particle surfaces of which become porous at high Duramax® levels according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0035] FIG. 12A shows SEM micrographs of particles as spray-dried (green) (left) and after calcining (pre-reacted) at 1600 °C (right) according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. 12B is a graphical plot of green and pre-reacted particle size distributions as illustrated by the samples of FIG. 12A.

[0036] FIGS. 13A, 13B, and 13C are a series of SEM micrographs of pre-reacted particles made from green particles of spray-dried alumina (boehmite) with 17% silica (Ludox®), after firing to 1410 °C (FIG. 13A), 1610 °C with short hold time (FIG. 13B) and 1610 °C with long hold time (FIG. 13C) according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0037] FIGS. 14A and 14B are SEM micrographs of pre-reacted particles with full inorganic batch composition (aluminum titanate + feldspar) after pre-firing at 1200 °C according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. 14A is a regular surface view of the particles and FIG. 14B is a cross section of the particles. FIGS. 14C and 14D are regular surface and cross sectional SEM micrographs of pre-reacted particles having the same composition as in FIGS. 14A and 14B after pre-firing at 1300 °C according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0038] FIGS. 15A and 15B are SEM micrographs of pre-reacted particles of Example No. OTS, made from spray-dried powder with 2% boron oxide addition after rotary calcining

at 1100 °C, regular view and polished cross section according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0039] FIGS. 16A, 16B, and 16C show AT-type extruded greenware, in which alumina and a small fraction of silica had been replaced by green, charred, or pre-fired spray-dried powders of alumina/3%silica/organic binder according to exemplary embodiments of the disclosure. FIG. 16A shows the green (as-spray-dried) particles incorporated into the batch, FIG. 16B shows pre-reacted (spray-dried and fired) particles incorporated into the batch, and FIG. 16C shows charred (spray-dried and fired only to low temperature) particles incorporated into the batch. FIG. 16D shows a SEM image at higher magnification of FIG. 16B (first row) made without any addition, FIG. 16E shows a SEM image at higher magnification of FIG. 16B (second row) with addition of 5% Darvan, and FIG. 16F shows a SEM image of FIG. 16B (third row) with addition of 5% Duramax (polished cross sections).

[0040] FIG. 17A shows a graphical comparison of pore size distribution in Examples of porous ceramic articles having spray-dried alumina/3% silica with 5% Duramax using green, charred, or pre-fired to 1300 °C spray-dried particles. FIG. 17B shows a graphical comparison of pore size distribution in Examples of porous ceramic articles having pre-fired to 1300 °C spray-dried alumina/3% silica with organic additives.

[0041] SEM images of AT-type batch extruded and fired ware made with spray-dried alumina/3%silica are shown in FIGS. 18A and 18B for green spray-dried particles, and FIGS. 18C, and 18D for charred spray-dried particles.

[0042] FIGS. 19A and 19B show SEM images of the inverse porosity characteristics in the bulk and at the surface, phase distribution, and low microcrack density in AT-type extruded and fired ware made from spray-dried, pre-fired (pre-reacted) particles of alumina/3%silica according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0043] FIGS. 20A, 20B, 20C, and 20D show SEM images of AT-type batch extruded and fired ware made with pre-reacted (spray-dried, pre-fired) particles alumina/3%silica with 5% Darvan according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. 20A shows a polished cross section through a honeycomb channel wall. FIG. 20B shows details of the inverse porosity. FIG. 20C shows details of surface porosity, and FIG. 20D shows details of phase distribution and microcracking.

[0044] FIG. 21 shows SEM images of AT-type batch fired ware made from spray-dried, pre-fired alumina/3%silica with 5% Duramax, illustrating porosity, surface porosity, phase distribution and microcracking according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. 21(a) shows a polished cross section through a honeycomb channel wall. FIG. 21(b) shows details of the inverse porosity. FIG. 21(c) and 21(d) show details of phase distribution and microcracking. FIG. 21(e) and 21(f) show details of the surface and surface porosity.

[0045] FIG. 22A shows a polished cross-section of a wall of AT porous ceramic honeycomb fired at 1427 °C/15h having about 50% porosity and particles of spray-dried alumina/3% silica pre-fired at 1300 °C according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. FIGS. 22B and 22C show the polished cross-section at greater magnifications illustrating the regular porosity with small pore necks and the phase distribution. FIGS. 22D, 22E, and 22F are SEM micrographs of the fired, unpolished surface that illustrate pore and phase interconnectivity.

[0046] FIG. 23A is a SEM micrograph of a polished cross-section of a wall of AT porous ceramic honeycomb having spray-dried pre-fired alumina/3% silica/lanthanum oxide particles according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure showing inverse porosity with large pore necks. FIGS. 23B and 23C show the polished cross-section at greater magnifications illustrating the inverse porosity with large pore necks and the phase

distribution. FIG. 23D is a SEM micrograph of the unpolished surface of the AT porous ceramic honeycomb of FIG. 23A illustrating pore and pre-reacted particle interconnectivity.

[0047] FIG. 24A shows a polished cross-section of a wall of AT porous ceramic honeycomb fired at 1427 °C/15h having about 55% porosity and pre-reacted particles of spray-dried titania/silica pre-fired to 1300 °C with average particle size of about 13µm according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. FIGS. 24B and 24C show the polished cross-section at greater magnifications illustrating the pore structure and phase distribution. FIGS. 24D, 24E, and 24F are SEM micrographs of the fired, unpolished surface that illustrate pore and phase interconnectivity.

[0048] FIG. 25A shows a polished cross-section of a wall of AT porous ceramic honeycomb fired at 1427 °C/15h having about 54% porosity and made from pre-reacted particles of spray-dried titania/silica pre-fired to 1300 °C with average particle size of about 13µm and particles of spray-dried alumina/silica pre-fired to 1300 °C with average particle size of about 16µm according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. FIGS. 25B and 25C show the polished cross-section at greater magnifications illustrating the regular porosity with small pore necks and the phase distribution. FIGS. 25D, 25E, and 25F are SEM micrographs of the fired, unpolished surface that illustrate pore and phase connectivity.

[0049] FIG. 26A shows a polished cross-section of a wall of AT porous ceramic honeycomb fired at 1427 °C/15h made with pre-reacted particles of spray-dried titania/silica pre-fired to 1300 °C with average particle size of about 13µm and particles of spray-dried alumina/silica pre-fired to 1600 °C with average particle size of about 13µm according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. FIGS. 26B and 26C show the polished cross-section at greater magnifications illustrating the pore structure and the phase distribution. FIGS. 26D, 26E, and 26F are SEM micrographs of the fired, unpolished surface that illustrate pore and phase interconnectivity.

[0050] FIG. 27A shows a polished cross-section of a wall of AT porous ceramic honeycomb made from particles of pre-fired spray-dried full batch composition and fine alumina as binder according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. 27B shows the polished cross-section at greater magnification and FIG. 27C shows the as-fired wall surface illustrating the spheroid packing of the inverse porosity with small particle necks and large pore necks.

[0051] FIG. 28A, 28B, and 28C show SEM images of AT-type batch extruded and fired ware made from hollow pre-reacted calcined at 1650 °C for 15 hr, the extruded material was fired at 1410 °C according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. 28A shows a polished cross section through a honeycomb channel wall showing preserved hollow spheres and inverse porosity. FIG. 28B shows details of the solid phases and inverse porosity. FIG. 28C shows details of surface porosity and material.

[0052] FIGS. 29A and 29B are graphical plots of data showing the evolution of porosity, median pore size (d50) and modulus of rupture (MOR) of porous ceramic articles comprising aluminum titanate composition that were obtained from batch material including pre-reacted powders of alumina with different silica content according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0053] FIGS. 30A, 30B, 30C, and 30D show changes in CTE cooling-heating curve shape for AT-type materials made with pre-reacted particles of spray-dried alumina/3% silica with different organic additive type and volume.

[0054] FIG. 31 is a graphical plot of data of pressure drop as function of soot loading for uncoated porous ceramic filter samples made with pre-reacted powders as batch materials according to exemplary embodiments of the disclosure and a comparative sample made with commercial raw materials.

[0055] FIG. 32 is a graphical plot of data of filtration efficiency as function of soot loading for uncoated porous ceramic filter samples made with spray-dried pre-fired raw materials according to exemplary embodiments of the disclosure and a comparative sample made with commercial raw materials.

[0056] FIGS. 33A, 33B, 33C, 33D and 33E show SEM images of cordierite-type batch extruded and fired ware made from pre-reacted particles, spray-dried Example No. OJJ, pre-fired at 1410 °C, the extruded material was fired at 1300 °C according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. 33A shows a surface of a honeycomb wall indicating porosity shape and distribution. FIG. 33B shows a polished cross section through a honeycomb channel wall showing inverse porosity. FIG. 33C shows details of the solid phases. FIGS. 33D and 33E show details of surface porosity and material.

[0057] FIGS. 34A, 34B, 34C, and 34D show SEM images of cordierite-type batch extruded and fired ware made from pre-reacted particles, spray-dried Example No. OJJ pre-fired at 1410 °C; the extruded material was fired at 1610 °C according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. 34A shows a polished cross section through a honeycomb channel wall showing inverse porosity. FIG. 34B shows details of the solid phases, microcracking and inverse porosity. FIGS. 34C and 34D show details of surface porosity and material.

[0058] FIG. 35 shows the pore size distribution for the Example shown in FIGS. 33A-E. FIG. 36 shows the thermal expansion of the Examples shown in FIGS. 33A-E and FIGS. 34A-D.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATED EMBODIMENTS

[0059] The claimed invention is described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which embodiments of the disclosure are shown. This claimed

invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein. Rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure is thorough, and will fully convey the scope of the claimed invention to those skilled in the art. In the drawings, the size and relative sizes of layers and regions may be exaggerated for clarity. Like reference numerals in the drawings denote like elements.

[0060] It will be understood that when an element or layer is referred to as being "on" or "connected to" another element or layer, it can be directly on or directly connected to the other element or layer, or intervening elements or layers may be present. In contrast, when an element or layer is referred to as being "directly on" or "directly connected to" another element or layer, there are no intervening elements or layers present. It will be understood that for the purposes of this disclosure, "at least one of X, Y, and Z" can be construed as X only, Y only, Z only, or any combination of two or more items X, Y, and Z (e.g., XYZ, XYY, YZ, ZZ).

[0061] Exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure relate to a porous ceramic article and the production thereof. The porous ceramic article may be made of aluminum titanate based materials, such as aluminum titanate solid solution (pseudobrookite) as the main phase (greater than 50 vol%) and other phases such as cordierite, feldspar, mullite, spinel, alumina, rutile, or similar oxides, cordierite, or other oxide or non-oxide ceramics, including metals, intermetallics, mullite, alumina (Al_2O_3), zircon, alkali and alkaline-earth alumino-silicates, spinels, perovskites, zirconia, ceria, silicon oxide (SiO_2), silicon nitride (Si_3N_4), silicon aluminum oxynitride (SiAlON), and zeolites. Application of the porous ceramic article may include, for example, honeycomb integrated and non-integrated diesel and gasoline catalyst supports, substrates, and particulate filters. Exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure also relate to a porous ceramic article and batch compositions including

pre-reacted particles, and a process for making the porous ceramic article by using at least one batch material in the form of pre-reacted particles.

[0062] The pre-reacted particles may be of selected composition, structure, size, and size distribution to impose a reaction path and microstructure development during reactive firing of the porous ceramic article. The porous ceramic article produced with the pre-reacted particles may have an engineered pore distribution and phase distribution, which may be referred to herein as the pore network structure and the microstructure. The microstructure may be characterized by phases within the solid matter and the morphology may be characterized by the shape of the matter and the shape of the pores within the ceramic article. Generally, the microstructure and morphology are characterized by matter and pore channels of two-dimensional cross sections through the three dimensional structure. The porous ceramic article made from the pre-reacted particles may have a “normal” porosity of small pore necks and large matter necks or “inverse” porosity of large pore necks and small matter necks with large pore size in the final, fired ceramic. Pore necks may be considered the channels connecting pores. In microstructures having pores created by fugitive pore formers, the pores are generally spherical or other shape with small connecting channels where the pores intersect one another, as an example of normal porosity with small pore necks. On the other hand, in microstructures having pre-reacted spheroidal particles forming the microstructure, pores may be formed between the particle material as an example of inverse porosity with large pore necks. In the latter case the pore channels are wider and show less constriction for gas flow.

[0063] The porous ceramic article having the pre-reacted particles according to an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure provides improved diesel particulate filter (DPF), gasoline particulate filter (GPF), catalyst support, substrate, and combined substrate particulate filter product properties compared to porous ceramic articles made from powder

batches without pre-reacted particles. Porous ceramic articles made from batches with pre-reacted particles exhibited large pore size and high porosity, good strength and low coefficient of thermal expansion (CTE) that enable, low pressure drop at higher washcoat and catalyst loading. Thus, exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure enable integration of high selective catalytic reduction (SCR) catalyst loading and high de-NO_x catalyst efficiency at low pressure drop, high filtration efficiency, and good thermal shock resistance.

[0064] Use of spray-dried particles for good particle packing and narrow pore size distributions was attempted for making porous bodies applied through processes, such as pressing into shape and natural sintering. However, green spray-dried powders did not successfully survive extrusion processes. In fact, the inventors have run into many roadblocks and dead ends in attempting to use green spray-dried powders successfully in extrusion processes. Despite a broad exploration of different binders it seemed impossible to make the spray-dried particle strong enough to survive the pressures of extrusion. Trials were conducted to extrude green spray-dried alumina-talc, alumina-clay and graphite (GR) with binder and use them as raw material in ceramic precursor batches. Material properties in these trials were little changed over powder raw material. In these attempts, the spray-dried particles were used as spray-dried green and broke up into powder or small fragments under the shear stresses of screw and extrusion die.

[0065] FIG. 1 is a process flow diagram to manufacture a porous ceramic article according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. The method of manufacturing a porous ceramic article 100 may include spray-drying single batch components, partial batch compositions or full batch compositions 110. To provide mechanical strength to the spray-dried particles for the batch mixing and extrusion process, the spray-dried powders are calcined (pre-reacted) at high temperature so that a partial or complete reaction or sintering is induced 120. Pre-reacting in batch furnaces can be used for calcining, but may require

additional milling to break up sintered agglomerates. Rotary calcining, for example, may avoid agglomeration of the spray-dried particles. Sieving or other separation methods can be used to select narrower particle size fractions.

[0066] According to other exemplary embodiments, particles can be made by pre-reacting fine powders with a polymer followed by breaking up of the polymer, such as by grinding, and calcining (firing) the ground particles to form pre-reacted particles. Likewise, a slurry may be made of the fine powders, then compacted to form particles, such as by drying. The dried particles may then be calcined (fired) to form the pre-reacted particles. Other methods may include spray-drying, spin drying, and atomizing the slurry to form green particles that may then be calcined to form the pre-reacted particles.

[0067] The green particles may have spheroidal, such as (i) spherical (ii) ellipsoidal, and (iii) toroidal (torus like with or without a center hole) shapes as shown in a schematic of FIG. 2A. A particle may include fine powders, binders, and additives as described in more detail below. FIG. 2B shows a schematic of the fine powder particles of the green particle after calcining to form the pre-reacted particle. In this case, the fine powder particles may have (i) sintered, (ii) partially reacted, or (iii) fully reacted. Depending on the fine powders, calcining temperature, calcining time, and the like, one or more of these reactions may take place to form the pre-reacted particle. FIG. 2C is a schematic showing (i) a dense pre-reacted particle, (ii) a porous pre-reacted particle, and (iii) a hollow pre-reacted particle.

[0068] The pre-reacted particles are then incorporated in the batch and mixed with the other batch constituents 130. The batch is extruded 140, dried 150, and fired 160 to form the porous ceramic article. In the case of pre-fired, partially or fully pre-reacted spray-dried materials, firing temperatures can be lower or durations shorter. For fully pre-reacted spray-dried materials, very short or low temperature firing schedules can be implemented, for example, when a low firing binder may be sintered.

[0069] According to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure, fine powders and soluble constituents may be mixed in a slurry with water, and any of binder, dispersant, surfactant, and anti-foam agent. The slurry is then suspended in a carrier gas and atomized at the top of the spray dryer. Parameters such as nozzle size, temperature, pressure, and solid loading may be varied. Fine powders, for example, particles of less than 1 μm , or soluble constituents may be used.

[0070] Hollow and solid spray-dried particles of different sizes, size distribution and compositions may be made by using different settings of the spray-dryer and different starting materials according to exemplary embodiments of the disclosure. Green particles may be dense or contain different levels of porosity, ranging from dense over porous to hollow, and also different pore sizes.

[0071] According to exemplary embodiments alpha alumina or boehmite may be used as an alumina source, colloidal silica suspension may be used as a source for silica, fine titania as a source for titania, and fine magnesium oxide as a source for magnesia. Other inorganics, such as strontium carbonate, calcium carbonate, and lanthanum carbonate may be jet-milled to less than 1 μm particle size and added to the slurry. Lanthanum acetate, boron oxide and other sintering aids may be added in the form of an aqueous solution to the slurry.

[0072] Exemplary embodiments of combinations of inorganic powders spray-dried to form green particles include alumina (fine alpha alumina or boehmite) with 1.5 to 15% silica, alumina with different sinter additives such as B, Mg, Y, Fe, etc., alumina-silica mixtures with different sinter additives such as B, Mg, La, Y, Fe, etc., titania defining compositions, such as alumina with different levels of silica, alumina/titania mixtures, aluminum titanate composition, feldspar composition, and full aluminum titanate (AT) batch compositions (aluminum titanate and feldspar phases) with complete final AT inorganic composition or with a small deficiency in alumina or silica or (alumina + silica). Spray-dried full batch

compositions may also contain sintering aids such as lanthanum oxide, ceria, yttria, zirconia, boron oxide, alkali oxides, etc.

[0073] Spray-dried powders may be pre-fired at different temperatures for different times, in a regular box or tube furnace in a crucible, sinter box, or on a setter, or in a rotary calciner according to exemplary embodiments. Conditions for static firing of alumina/silica-based dried green powders include firing top temperatures between 1200 °C and 1600 °C and 1h to 15h hold time. Conditions for static firing of full AT-based composition green powders include temperatures between 1200 °C and 1600 °C. At lower reaction temperatures, aluminum titanate may not be formed; at temperatures greater than 1300 °C, aluminum titanate was formed.

[0074] In a static setting, the green powders may sinter together at high temperature and at long hold times and thus, may be broken apart prior to further use, for example, as a batch constituent. Sieving or low energy milling may be used to break the loosely sintered agglomerates.

[0075] Rotation of green powders during pre-firing avoids sintering together and may provide better preservation of particle shape. An industrial rotary calciner may be used for firing powders. For example, rotary calcining conditions of alumina/silica-based green particles may include, for example, 1000-1650 °C. As another example, rotary calcining conditions of the full batch AT spray-dried particles may include, for example, 1000-1480 °C.

[0076] According to exemplary embodiments the pre-reacted powders may be used as batch material together with other raw materials to match the final ceramic article (e.g., filter, substrate) inorganic composition, for example AT, AT-based composite, cordierite, cordierite composite, silicon carbide, silicon nitride, or like ceramic article inorganic compositions. Pore formers, such as graphite, polymer beads, foaming agents, starch and others with

particle sizes to match the pre-reacted particle size, may be added to the batch at levels of 0-50%, for example, at levels of 5%, 10%, 20%, 25%, 30%, or 40%. To provide satisfactory rheological properties and enable a good extrusion quality, methylcellulose (3-7%) may be added as a binder and a lubricating oil package, may be added to form a green ceramic article (green ware).

[0077] Batches may be engineered to achieve high porosity and large pore size in the ceramic article through a random loose packing (low density packing) of the pre-reacted (e.g., spray-dried pre-fired) particles in agglomerates, to benefit from engineered reaction path, microstructure and reaction degree of the pre-reacted particles to control firing shrinkage during drying and firing of the green ware to form the ceramic article.

[0078] According to exemplary embodiments, a method of making a porous ceramic honeycomb may include mixing batch constituents, for example, premixing powder batch ingredients including pre-reacted particles, pore-former, and binder. These dry ingredients may be combined in a mulling pan and mulled, while batch water is added during mulling until a suitable paste texture is reached. The paste may then be formed, for example, extruded or pressed, for example, in a ram extruder or a twin screw extruder through a die into a honeycomb structure. The cell geometry of the honeycomb structure may be, for example, 300 cells per square inch (cps) (46.5 cells per square cm) and 14 mil (0.014 inch or 0.0356 cm) wall thickness (300/14), 300/10, 400/14, 600/9, 900/12 or other cell geometry suitable as a honeycomb filter or substrate after drying and firing. The formed green ware with different pre-reacted particle batch materials may be dried and fired to obtain the porous ceramic honeycomb.

[0079] Formed green honeycomb parts may be dried in a microwave oven, air dried, hot air dried, RF dried, etc., or subjected to a combination of drying methods and times until sufficiently dried to be fired. Firing may include heating in an appropriate atmosphere at a

temperature sufficient to form the final phases of the porous ceramic honeycomb and subsequent cooling. For example, firing may occur in an air atmosphere in a furnace at heating rates of 120 °C/h to the maximum firing temperature, which may range from 1000 °C to 1650 °C, a hold for 1 to 30 hours and cool down rate of about 10 to 160 °C/hour. Heating may include slow ramp rates during debinding in low oxygen partial pressure during burnout of pore formers, surfactants, lubricants, additives, and binders.

[0080] FIG. 3A is a schematic diagram of a cross section through a porous ceramic article showing a regular porosity microstructure with narrow pore necks and FIG. 3B is a schematic diagram of a cross section through a porous ceramic article showing an inverse porosity microstructure with large pore necks according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. In porous ceramic precursor batches a pore former may be included. Pore formers may include graphite, polymer spheres, starches, and the like. During firing, the pore former is burned out leaving a pore in the fired porous ceramic article. During this burnout of the pore former, gases may need to escape from the article, while some reactants may be left behind as part of the solid matter of the final article. Exothermal and endothermal firing events due to dehydration, burn out and other transformations may require slow firing to avoid cracking of the article.

[0081] FIG. 3A demonstrates that regular porosity 200 with narrow necks 208, 220 between solid matter 212 may result in high pressure drop, as may be obtained from firing unreacted, fine powders with large fugitive pore former. The solid matter 212 may be multiphase, multicomponent, and microcracked, or a single phase with no microcracks. The pore morphology generally resembles the shape and arrangement of a fugitive pore former that was burned out during firing of the article. The pore network 200 through which gases travel during in-service consists of pores 204 and the connection between pores. These connections may be referred to as pore necks 208. Fluids, such as exhaust gases, may be

cleaned as they travel through the pore network 200. Pore neck 208 may cause flow restriction as the fluid flows from pore 204 to pore 216 through the pore neck 208. Small pore necks 208 may lead to a high pressure drop for a porous ceramic article or a honeycomb filter. Large pore necks 220 may lead to a lower pressure drop than small or narrow pore necks 208. Large pore neck 220 connects pore 224 to pore 228 in FIG. 3A. FIGS. 3A and 3B are schematics of cross sections (two-dimensional) through three-dimensional structures such that pores 204, 216, 224, and 228 may be connected in the pore network 200 even though pores 204 and 216 are shown as spaced apart from pores 224 and 228 by material 212 in the two-dimensional cross section schematic.

[0082] Inverse porosity with large pore necks between matter as can be obtained by sintering reacted spherical batch particles (spray-dried pre-fired particles) in a final firing process with or without a fine, low temperature binder is demonstrated in FIG. 3B. Small necks may limit permeability and gas flow and control the pressure drop. Materials with large necks in the pore structure produce improved permeability and thus provide low pressure drop filters. FIG. 3B illustrates a cross section of an inverse pore network 230 microstructure. Pre-reacted particles form a sinter-bonded or reaction-bonded porous ceramic article. Matter 212 may include shapes generally resembling spheroidal, pre-reacted particles such as shape 234 joined to shape 246 at matter neck 238. In an inverse porosity morphology, the matter 212 appears in a cross-sectional two-dimensional (2D) view as islands surrounded by irregularly shaped pores in contrast to the morphology of FIG. 3A. In the normal porosity morphology, the pores 204, 216 and 224, 228 appear in a 2D cross sectional view as islands surrounded by irregularly shaped matter as shown in FIG. 3A.

[0083] The pore neck 242 of FIG. 3B between matter islands 212 may be larger than pore necks 208 and 220 of FIG. 3A. The matter can be considered to have matter neck 238 and matter neck 250 where solid shape 254 joins solid shape 258. FIG. 3B is a schematic of

a cross section (two-dimensional) through a three-dimensional structure such that solid shapes 234, 246, 254, and 258 may be connected even though solid shapes 234 and 246 are shown in the 2D scheme as spaced apart from solid shapes 254 and 258 by pore network 230 in the two-dimensional cross section schematic. While the 2D projection of the pore structure 230 is shown as completely surrounding matter islands 212, this has been done for clarity of explanation of inverse porosity and the pore structure 230. In three-dimensional (3D) structures, for example, in 3D real pore network structures of Examples described below, the pore structure 230 does not completely surround the matter 212. In the inverse pore structures of embodiments of the materials, as will be seen in the following Examples, the inverse porosity microstructure is characterized in more contiguous pores than normal porosity and an inverse pore shape compared to normal porosity.

[0084] According to exemplary embodiments of the disclosure, a porous ceramic article having an inverse pore structure achieves higher permeability than a similar composition made from non pre-reacted particles. For example, the porous ceramic article may have a permeability greater than 1000 and a porosity greater than 50%. For example, the porosity may be greater than 57%, or even greater than 60%. The porous ceramic article may have a median pore size (d50) greater than 10 μ m, for example, a median pore size greater than 15 μ m, or even greater than 18 μ m. The porous ceramic article may have a coefficient of thermal expansion from room temperature (RT) to 800 °C less than $20 \times 10^{-7} \text{K}^{-1}$, for example, less than $15 \times 10^{-7} \text{K}^{-1}$, or even less than $10 \times 10^{-7} \text{K}^{-1}$. Furthermore, a (300/14) honey comb body of the porous ceramic article may have a modulus of rupture (MOR) flexural strength greater than 170 psi, for example, greater than 200 psi.

[0085] According to exemplary embodiments of the disclosure, a porous ceramic article having a regular (non-inverse) pore structure achieves higher permeability than a similar composition made from non pre-reacted particles. For example, the porous ceramic

article may have a permeability greater than 1000 and a porosity greater than 50%. For example, the porosity may be greater than 57%, or even greater than 60%. The porous ceramic article may have a median pore size (d50) greater than 10 μ m, for example, a median pore size greater than 15 μ m, or even greater than 18 μ m. The porous ceramic article may have a coefficient of thermal expansion from room temperature (RT) to 800 °C less than $20 \times 10^{-7} \text{K}^{-1}$, for example, less than $15 \times 10^{-7} \text{K}^{-1}$, or even less than $10 \times 10^{-7} \text{K}^{-1}$. Furthermore, a (300/14) honey comb body of the porous ceramic article may have a modulus of rupture (MOR) flexural strength greater than 170 psi, for example, greater than 200 psi.

[0086] EXAMPLES

[0087] To enhance understanding of the disclosure with respect to certain exemplary and specific embodiments thereof, which are illustrative only and not intended to be limiting, the following illustrative Examples are put forth and are intended to provide a complete disclosure and description of how the articles and methods claimed herein can be made and evaluated. They are intended to be purely exemplary and are not intended to limit the scope of what the inventors regard as their invention as claimed.

[0088] Table 1 lists the ingredients used for making green particles. Table 2 summarizes examples of hollow alumina-silica green particles obtained from boehmite - 3% silica slurries designated as A1, A2, and A3, in Table 1. Spray drying parameters, such as solid loading, surfactant addition, viscosity, nozzle size in mm, temperature in °C, pressure, and inlet and outlet pressure in atmospheres, are listed in Table 2. The obtained green particles are separated into a coarse and a fine particle size fraction and are characterized by parameters such as the ratio of coarse over fine particle fraction, the average diameter of the coarse particle fraction, the average diameter of the fine particle fraction and the breadth of the particle fractions. In addition, the fraction of hollow particles as determined by SEM is

indicated. Table 2 also shows the resulting pre-reacted particle average diameter of the spray-dried coarse particle fraction after firing to 1300 °C.

[0089] Table 1

Example No.	Raw Materials	Wt %
A1	SiO ₂	3.285 g
	water	230 g
	alumina	100 g
	additional binder, surfactant, dispersant	1 g
A2	SiO ₂	3.285 g
	water	400 g
	alumina	100 g
	additional binder, surfactant, dispersant	1 g
A3	SiO ₂	3.285 g
	water	580 g
	alumina	100 g
	additional binder, surfactant, dispersant	1 g

[0090] In Table 1, Ludox AS® was used as the SiO₂ (colloidal silica in water), a fine alumina powder was used, and Tritan x-100® was used as the organic additive. In Table 2, the nozzle size was 1.5 mm.

[0091] Table 2

Example No.	Comp	% hollow spheres from SEM	TS	Viscosity RPM200 (cp)	pressure (atm)	Flow (%)	Inlet T (°C)	Outlet T (°C)	Ratio coarse / fine	Coarse green d50 μm	Coarse spread (d90-d10) μm	Fines green d50 μm	Fine spread (d90-d10) μm
1	A1	>90	30	0.31	1.5	65	360	120	0.66	27.1	40	8.01	15.89
2	A1	50	30	0.31	1.5	65	300	120	0.41	29.39	46	9.09	17.78
3	A1	50	30	0.31	0.5	65	360	90	3.16	46.31	91	14.88	28.74
4	A2	75	25	0.83	1.5	65	360	120	0.41	21.23	28	7.89	13.95
5	A2	85	25	0.83	1.5	65	360	110	0.51	22	29		
6	A2	60	25	0.83	1.5	65	360	100	0.49	23.94	32		
7	A2	59	25	0.83	1	57	360	100	0.80	27.39	45		
8	A2	65	25	0.83	0.5	44	360	100	1.88	33.38	56		
9	A2	50	25	0.83	1.5	67	360	80	1.27	43.07	150		

10	A2	73	25	0.83	0.5	44	360	90	2.54	44.56	192		
11	A2	50	25	0.83	0.5	44	360	80	4.32	48.66	125		
12	A2	73	25	0.83	0.5	44	360	80	3.60	53.05	131		
13	A3	>90	15	0.51	1.5	65	300	120	0.12	18.06	19	6.4	10.07
14	A3	>90	15	0.51	1.5	65	360	120	0.28	19.98	26	7.18	12.05
15	A3	50	15	0.51	0.5	65	360	90	1.87	44.33	98	12.87	24.53

[0092] The effect of various parameters on the spray-dried particle size distribution will be described with reference to FIGS. 4-8 and Table 3. According to these results, green particle processing settings can be determined for the optimum engineered batch raw materials and optimum porous ceramic article properties.

[0093] FIG. 4 is a graphical plot of the green particle size with distributions obtained by spray-drying with different solid loading (TS) according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. 4 illustrates fine (F) and coarse (C) green particle size distributions obtained with solid loadings of 15, 25, and 30% of compositions A1, A2, and A3 (Table 1). The spray dryer settings were 1.5 atm pressure, inlet temperature 300°C, outlet temperature 120°C and 65% atm. FIG. 4 shows that the distribution and average particle size d50 decrease with decrease in solid loading TS. The demonstrated changes are related to the composition rheology, which is shown to be influenced by the solid loading. Lower solid loading produces a narrower particle size distribution.

[0094] FIG. 5 is a graphical plot of the evolution of green particle size distribution obtained by spray-drying at fixed solid loading (30%TS of boehmite/3% silica from Ludox®) at different outlet temperatures according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. 5 shows results for outlet temperatures of 90 °C and 120 °C. The outlet temperature has a strong impact on the spray-dried particle size distribution. At lower outlet temperature, a broad particle size distribution is obtained with large average particle size. The higher outlet temperature provides a narrower particle size distribution and a smaller average particle size.

[0095] FIG. 6 is a scanning electron microscope (SEM) micrograph of a polished cross section of pre-reacted particles with alumina-based composition, after firing at 1670°C

for 120h, showing a significant fraction of hollow particles according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0096] Solid pre-reacted particles with different sizes and compositions were made by spray-drying and pre-reacting for use as batch materials. Table 3 summarizes examples of processing solid green particles of alumina-silica composition by spray-drying. In the Examples, alumina with 3% silica slurry compositions and the listed spray-drying parameters (solid loading, viscosity, temperature, pressure, and inlet and outlet pressure) are presented. A nozzle diameter of 1.5 mm was used for all Examples in Table 3 except for the compositions of Samples 26-28 that used a 1.0 mm nozzle. A 1% surfactant (Tritan x-100®) was used in all Examples of Table 3. The achieved green particle size distributions are characterized by parameters such as the ratio of coarse over fine particles, the average diameter of the coarse particle fraction, the average diameter of the fine particle fraction and the breadth of the fine particle fraction. In addition, the fraction of solid particles as determined by SEM is indicated when differing from 100%. The results indicate that more hollow particles are obtained at 40% solid loading than at lower solid loading. The spray-dried coarse particle fraction has been fired to 1300°C; Table 3 also lists the average diameter of the pre-reacted particles.

[0097] Table 3

Example No.	% hollow	%TS	Viscosity RPM200 (cp)	Pressure (atm)	Flow (%)	Inlet T (°C)	Outlet T (°C)	Ratio coarse/fine	Coarse green d50 μ m	Coarse spread (d90-d10) μ m	Fines green d50 μ m	Coarse 1300°C d50 μ m
16	65	40		2	70	280	94	3.96	31.2	61		29.96
17	62	40		1.5	65	300	95	2.49	32.98	63	6.53	30.13
18	70	40		1.5	65	280	94	2.13	33.28	86		31.64
19	60	40		2	80	300	95	1.67	30.71	57	5.55	32.62
20		30	1.52	2	80	300	120	0.44	18.07	22	4.82	17.53
21		30	1.52	1.5	65	300	95	0.91	22.04	26	5.96	20.71
22		30	1.52	1	57	300	120	0.78	21.95	26	6.53	21.01
23		20	0.61	2	80	300	120	0.23	18.47	23	4.4	17.45
24		20	0.61	1	57	300	120	0.58	20.6	24	6.79	19.03

25		20	0.61	1.5	65	300	95	0.81	22.56	29	5.86	21.25
26		30		2	80	300	120	0.29	14.84	18	4.78	14.26
27		30		1.5	65	300	95	0.89	21.69	27	6.87	20.65
28		30		1	57	300	120	1.03	23.64	33	7.96	22.29

[0098] The impact of the spray-drying parameters on green particle size distribution is illustrated graphically in FIG. 7. FIG. 7 is a graphical plot of green particle size distribution obtained by spray-drying different solid loading (TS) of fine alumina /3% silica from Ludox® showing that a broad particle size distribution is obtained at 40% solid loading according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. 8 is a graphical plot of the green particle size distribution obtained by spray-drying fixed solid loading (30%TS of fine alumina /3% silica from Ludox®) with different spray-dryer outlet temperature, here 90 °C or 120 °C, according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. The higher outlet temperature of 120°C at 2 atm pressure produces the narrowest green particle size distribution with smallest average green particle size.

[0099] Many Examples of green particle compositions were made by spray-drying and are presented in Table 4. Exemplary embodiments of combinations of spray-dried batch constituents include fine alpha alumina or boehmite with 1.5 to 15% silica, alumina with sinter additives such as oxides of B, Mg, Y, Fe, etc., alumina/silica with different sinter additives B-, Mg-, La-, Y-, Fe-oxide, etc., titania with various levels of silica, and feldspar-based compositions. Aluminum titanate – feldspar composite compositions (full AT batch of inorganics), a small deficiency in alumina or silica or (alumina + silica) from full AT batch, and some spray-dried full batch compositions containing sintering aids such as lanthanum oxide, according to exemplary embodiments, were also made.

[0100] Table 4

Raw materials (wt %)	Example Nos.						
	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
40% silica	3.10		2.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

solution in water							
fine alumina	29.75	15.06	28.08	14.70	14.65	15.38	45.31
hydrated alumina	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.22	3.60
fine titania	0.52	10.49	0.00	10.24	10.22	9.89	29.13
fine silica	0.00	3.57	0.00	3.48	3.47	3.37	9.92
micro-crystalline silica	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
calcium carbonate	0.00	0.48	0.00	0.47	0.48	0.45	1.34
magnesium-hydroxide	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
strontium carbonate	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.74	2.72	2.64	7.78
strontium acetate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sr-carbonate+Ca-carbonate =5.5:1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
lanthanum oxide	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
lanthanum acetate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
additive	0.00	0.35	0.29	0.00	0.34	0.33	0.97
antifoam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
B ₂ O ₃	0.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.66	1.95
water	66.01	70.05	69.46	68.37	68.12	66.05	0.00

[0101] Table 4 (Continued)

Raw materials (wt %)	Example Nos.							
	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
40% silica	0.00	12.20	12.13	12.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
solution in water								
fine alumina	13.76	22.30	22.18	22.12	13.67	13.62	13.75	13.62
hydrated alumina	1.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.25	1.24	1.25	1.24
fine titania	10.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.09	10.06	10.15	10.05
fine silica	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
micro-crystalline silica	3.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.44	3.43	3.45	3.42
calcium carbonate	0.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.46	0.46	0.47	0.46
magnesium-hydroxide	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	0.00	0.34	0.00	0.00
strontium carbonate	2.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.70	2.69	2.71	0.00
strontium acetate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.74
Sr-carbonate+Ca-carbonate =5.5:1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
lanthanum oxide	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00
lanthanum acetate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
additive	0.34	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34
antifoam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
B ₂ O ₃	0.00	0.00	0.54	0.54	0.67	0.67	0.00	0.00
water	67.84	65.23	64.88	64.70	67.39	67.16	67.80	67.13

[0102] Table 4 (Continued)

Raw materials (wt %)	Example Nos.							
	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51
40% silica solution in water	8.79	8.90	4.35	7.23	7.22	9.90	10.73	9.87
fine alumina	13.99	16.28	27.25	26.01	25.98	17.83	19.33	18.04
hydrated alumina	1.28	1.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.44	1.57	1.44
fine titania	10.32	10.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.63	12.61	11.60
fine silica	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
micro-crystalline silica	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
calcium carbonate	0.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
magnesium- hydroxide	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
strontium carbonate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
strontium acetate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sr-carbonate+Ca- carbonate =5.5:1	0.00	3.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.64	3.95	3.63
lanthanum oxide	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
lanthanum acetate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00
additive	0.34	0.35	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.39	0.42	0.39
antifoam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.78	0.84	0.78
B ₂ O ₃	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
water	64.81	59.42	68.12	66.47	66.40	54.38	50.54	54.25

[0103] Table 4 (Continued)

Raw materials (wt %)	Example Nos.							
	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59
40% silica solution in water	4.79	12.86	12.82	11.51	14.07	13.62	4.82	8.35
fine alumina	29.99	23.51	23.43	41.44	22.40	24.89	30.19	0.00
hydrated alumina	0.13	1.88	3.53	0.00	2.05	1.98	0.00	2.96
fine titania	0.00	15.12	15.07	0.00	16.54	16.01	0.00	23.86
fine silica	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
micro-crystalline silica	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
calcium carbonate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
magnesium- hydroxide	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
strontium carbonate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
strontium acetate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sr-carbonate+Ca- carbonate =5.5:1	0.33	4.74	8.92	0.00	5.18	5.02	0.00	7.48

lanthanum oxide	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
lanthanum acetate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.00
additive	0.32	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
antifoam	0.64	1.01	1.01	0.92	1.11	1.07	0.64	1.59
B ₂ O ₃	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
water	63.81	40.38	35.22	46.04	38.65	37.42	64.23	55.77

[0104] Different binders, dispersants, surfactants and other organic additives may be added to the inorganic spray-drying batch. Table 5 shows compositions having additions of Triton™ X100 (SIGMA-ALDRICH®), Duramax™ D-3005 (THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY®), an ammonium salt of a polyelectrolyte, or Darvan-C® (R.T. VANDERBILT COMPANY, INC.), an ammonium polymethacrylate, at levels of 1-5% to the 97% alumina/3% silica inorganic batch mixtures. In some cases, antifoaming agent (Antifoam A) was added together with Triton to avoid foaming. Spray dryer settings of 1.5 atm pressure, 65% flow, inlet temperature 300 °C, outlet temperature 120 °C and a 1.5 mm tip were used. Spray-drying of compositions with the different levels of Darvan or Duramax and with small additions of Triton produced a similar spray-dried median particle size under the same spraying conditions. Smaller particle size was produced for higher Triton/Antifoam-A levels, due to a promoted agglomeration and formation of small particles in presence of the antifoaming agent as shown in FIG. 9. While spray-dried particle sizes were very similar for different Duramax and Darvan levels, the shape of the particles differed significantly. Spray-dried particles obtained by spraying alumina/3% silica with various levels of Darvan 0%, 1%, 2%, 3%, 4%, and 5% (FIG. 10, upper left to lower center) resulted in particles with smooth surfaces, but irregular torus shape. For increasing Darvan fraction, additional fine particles, more irregular shape and agglomeration of fine particles to the powder were observed so that 1% Darvan addition seemed to be a preferred level. Spray-dried particles obtained by spraying alumina/3% silica with various levels of Duramax of 0%, 1%, 2%, 3%, 4%, and 5% resulted in particles with spherical shape with smooth surfaces at low Duramax level and

increasingly rough, porous surfaces at higher Duramax level (FIG. 11, upper left to lower center). No agglomeration or other disadvantage was observed for high Duramax level, so that the 5% addition is considered as a preferred configuration.

[0105] Duramax levels of 3-5% to the spray-dried alumina-based batch provided preferred particle size, shape and surface texture. The surfactant Triton may produce fine porosity in the spray-dried particles; however, no fine porosity was observed. Darvan is a dispersant that may be used in many types of ceramic slurries. No advantage in phase distribution was observed in the spray-dried particles by the addition of Darvan. At high concentration, Duramax acts as a dispersant and binder; it may introduce porosity in the spray-dried particles. These examples of binders, dispersants and surfactants are not intended to be a complete list. One of ordinary skill in the art would know that other organic binders, dispersants, and surfactants, such as carboxymethylcellulose, acrylic binders, polyethylene glycol (PEG), or polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) may be used for the same purpose.

[0106] Table 5

Alumina A1000	Silica Ludox	Antifoam: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6%
Alumina A1000	Silica Ludox	Triton 1% + Antifoam: 0, 1, 2, 3% Triton 2% + no Antifoam
Alumina A1000	Silica Ludox	Darvan: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5%
Alumina A1000	Silica Ludox	Duramax: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5%

[0107] Green spray-dried particles in the batch did not survive mixing and extrusion shear forces independent of composition and type of organic addition. This was clearly demonstrated by examining microstructure and porosity of extruded and fired parts. Porosity and median pore size of materials made with green spray-dried particles or charred spray-dried powders did not reach the porosity and pore size of standard materials that were made with commercial coarse alumina, see Table 6.

[0108] Table 6

Example No.	Organics added for making green spray-dried particles	pretreatment of green spray-dried particles	Properties of extruded, fired ware		
			Porosity of fired ware in %	Median pore diameter in fired ware in μm	CTE in 10^{-7}K^{-1} from RT to 1000K
60	no	no	47.74	9.40	
61	no	Pre-fired to 1300°C	54.44	22.44	18.3
62	no	Charred	43.64	8.66	
63	1% Darvan	no	43.07	9.50	
64	1% Darvan	Pre-fired to 1300°C	46.42	16.72	21
65	1% Darvan	Charred	42.64	9.41	
66	5% Darvan	no	41.77	12.65	
67	5% Darvan	Pre-fired to 1300°C	53.05	21.38	
68	5% Darvan	Charred	41.03	12.25	
69	1 % Duramax	no	42.95	8.41	
70	1 % Duramax	Pre-fired to 1300°C	48.43	19.93	15
71	1 % Duramax	Charred	44.66	8.46	
72	5 % Duramax	no	38.04	4.38	14
73	5 % Duramax	Pre-fired to 1300°C	58.47	22.72	13
74	5 % Duramax	Charred	33.81	6.97	13
75	1% Triton + Antifoam	no	46.01	10.53	
76	1% Triton + Antifoam	Pre-fired to 1300°C	40.39	7.76	
77	1% Triton + Antifoam	Charred	43.78	10.52	

[0109] Aluminum titanate type batches with spray-dried alumina/3%silica/organic binder batch materials (97% alumina (A1000), 3% silica (Ludox) as inorganics and superaddition of surfactant) together with porosity and pore size for extruded, fired material (1410 °C, 15h) are shown in Table 6. Green, charred, or pre-fired spray-dried powders were used; spray-dried powders were made without any binder, with Triton and Antifoam, Darvan, or Duramax. The spray-dried particles were added in a batch with batch composition silica - 8.78%, strontium carbonate - 8.1%, calcium carbonate - 1.4%, titanium dioxide - 30.32%, spray-dried particles (green, charred or pre-fired) - 51.2%, lanthanum oxide - 0.2%, superaddition of potato starch (PS) - 15%, superaddition of Methocel - 4.5%. The Examples were subjected to twin-screw type mixing and 1 inch (2.54 cm) ram extrusion. Firing condition was 1410 °C/15 hrs.

[0110] Example spray-dried powders were pre-fired to improve their mechanical strength so that they would survive extrusion. Pre-firing conditions were varied and covered temperatures from 1000 °C to 1600 °C and different durations from fractions of an hour (in an industrial rotary calciner) to many hours, so that the particles were not reacted, partially reacted, or fully reacted and correspondingly not densified, partially densified, or fully densified. Particle size and shape were largely preserved during pre-firing. FIG. 12A shows an exemplary spray-dried powder of alumina/3%silica composition as spray-dried (left) and after firing (right). FIG. 12B shows the green and fired particle size distributions of the exemplary spray-dried powder of FIG. 12A. FIGS. 12A and 12B illustrate that the green particle size and size distribution are well preserved through firing. Tables 7, 8, and 9 show calcined particle average size and phase composition after firing for exemplary green spray-dried powders. The exemplary powders in Table 7 and 8 were fired in CMR box furnaces, except where indicated, in air at the indicated temperature. Table 7 presents characteristics of pre-reacted alumina/silica particles. Table 8 presents characteristics of pre-reacted full aluminum titanate-feldspar batch particles. The exemplary powders in Table 9 were fired in an industrial size rotary calciner at 1440 °C. Table 9 presents characteristics of pre-reacted full aluminum titanate-feldspar batch particles. FIG. 17A shows a graphical comparison of pore size distribution in Examples of porous ceramic articles having spray-dried alumina/3% silica with 5% Duramax using green, charred, or pre-fired to 1300 °C spray-dried particles. FIG. 17B shows a graphical comparison of pore size distribution in Examples of porous ceramic articles having pre-fired to 1300 °C spray-dried alumina/3% silica with addition of surfactants.

[0111] Table 7

Green alumina/silica particles	Pre-reacting Temp. in	Calcined particle diameter from Particle Track	Calcined particle diameter from	Pre-reacted particle composition vol%
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Green particle Example No.	Silica in wt%	Others in wt%	°C	analysis D in μm	SEM analysis D in μm	Al ₂ O ₃	cristobalite	mullite
78	3	0.03% Ga ₂ O ₃	1300					
79	3		1600					
80	3		1610	19.5	19.3			
81	3		1610	15.4	15.8			
82	3		1610	18.5	18.8	87.8		12.2
83	6		1410	20.4		94	4	
84	6		1610	16.4		75.2		24.8
85	10		1410	22.4	20.0			
86	10		1610	20.7	19.5	55		45
87	18		1410	16.1	13.8			
88	18		1610	15.7	15.1	70.2	11.7	18.1
89	18		1610	25.4	25.2	30.4		69.6
90	10	0.4% La ₂ O ₃	1410	22.1	18.9			
91	10	0.4% La ₂ O ₃	1390	23.6	21.8			
92	10	0.4% La ₂ O ₃ ; 2% Antifoam	1410	19.2	18.7			
93	6		1440 (rotary)	16.9	16.7			
94	6		1500 (rotary)	16.1	15.2			

[0112] Table 8

Green "full batch" AT-SAS particles		Pre-reacting Temp. in °C	Calcined particle diameter from Particle Track analysis D in μm	Calcined particle diameter from SEM analysis D in μm
Green particle Example No.	Deviations on full batch composition			
95	-6% alumina	1200	30.7	
96	-6% alumina	1200		
97	-6% alumina	1300		
98	-6% alumina	1410	42	25.8
99	-6% alumina	1410	42.4	
100	-6% alumina	1410		47.2
101	-6% alumina	1410	28.3	
102	-6% alumina	1200	24.8	20.0
103	-6% alumina	1300	27.0	21.4
104	-6% alumina	1200	11.1	41.0
105	-6% alumina	1200	25.3	27.1
106	-6% alumina	1300		28.4
107	-6% alumina	1410		
108	-6% alumina	1200	25.3	23.0

[0113] Table 8 (Continued)

Green “full batch” AT-SAS particles		Pre-reacted particle composition vol%						
Green particle Example No.	Deviations on full batch composition	Aluminum titanate	Al ₂ O ₃	rutile	feldspar	mullite	SrTi ₃ Al ₈ O ₁₉	quartz
95	-6% alumina							
96	-6% alumina							
97	-6% alumina	44.3	6.2	4.8	15.8		28.9	
98	-6% alumina	24.1	15.2	12.4	17.6		30.7	
99	-6% alumina	63.2	1.1	2	30.3		3.5	
100	-6% alumina	30.7	6.7	15.1	26.8	16.7	4.5	
101	-6% alumina							
102	-6% alumina							
103	-6% alumina							
104	-6% alumina							
105	-6% alumina							
106	-6% alumina	1.9	29.6	27.5	13.5	6.9	19.1	1.5
107	-6% alumina	11.4	22.8	20	15.9		29.9	
108	-6% alumina	9.4	30.1	27.4	27.6		5.6	

[0114] Table 9

Example No.	spray-dried rotary calcined particles	green spray-dried particle average diameter (μm)	rotary calcining temperature (°C)	calcined particle average diameter (μm)	AT vol%	Al ₂ O ₃ vol%	TiO ₂ vol%	SAS vol%
109	Full AT batch	43	1440	45	70.6	7.5	1.4	20.5
110	Full AT batch	51	1440 (milled)	49	70.6	7.6	1.3	20.5

[0115] SEM images in FIGS. 13A-C, 14A-C, and 15A-B illustrate characteristic spray-dried particle shape and phase distribution for various compositions. FIGS. 13A, 13B, and 13C are a series of SEM micrographs of spray-dried particles including alumina (boehmite) with 17% silica (Ludox®), after firing to 1410 °C (FIG. 13A), 1610 °C with short hold time (FIG. 13B) and 1610 °C with long hold time (FIG. 13C) according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. Pores 1201, 1203 are evident in the particles as are a first phase 1205 and a second phase 1207. Pore 1203 is a large pore compared to pore 1201. The particles increase in densification from FIG. 13A to FIG. 13C.

[0116] FIGS. 14A and 14B are SEM micrographs of pre-fired, spray-dried particles with full inorganic AT (aluminum titanate + feldspar) batch composition after pre-firing at

1200 °C according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. 14A is a regular surface view of the particles and FIG. 14B is a cross section of the particles. FIGS. 14C and 14D are regular surface and cross sectional SEM micrographs of pre-fired, spray-dried particles having the same composition as in FIGS. 14A and 14B after pre-firing at 1300 °C according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0117] FIGS. 15A and 15B are SEM micrographs of Example No. 34 spray-dried powder with 0.7% boron oxide addition after rotary calcining at 1100 °C, regular view (FIG. 15A) and polished cross section (FIG. 15B) according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure.

[0118] The phases present in the fired ceramic parts were identified by X-ray diffraction (XRD). A Philips PW1830® diffractometer (Co Ka radiation) was used for X-ray diffraction. Spectra were typically acquired from 20 to 100°. Rietveld refinement was used for quantification of the phase contributions.

[0119] Standard scanning electron microscopy, SEM, characterization was conducted on green and fired spray-dried particles and their polished cross-sections, on honeycomb wall surfaces and polished honeycomb wall cross sections. For the observation of polished sections, the fired ware was infiltrated with epoxy, sliced and polished. The spatial distribution of porosity and phases in presence at a microscopic level was visualized on polished sample cross sections. High resolution SEM was used to assess details of the microstructure and the phase distribution. Chemical composition of the different phases and elemental distributions were obtained from (qualitative) analysis and elemental mapping by energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy on the SEM.

[0120] Porosity, median pore diameter and pore size distribution were determined by mercury intrusion porosimetry from an Autopore™ IV 9500 porosimeter with software from Micromeritics®. The mercury intrusion porosimetry method uses the capillary law with non-

wetting liquid and cylindrical pores as may be expressed with the Washburn equation $D = - \frac{4\gamma \cos \Phi}{P}$, where D is the pore diameter, P is the applied pressure, γ is the surface tension and Φ is the contact angle. The volume of mercury is directly proportional to the pressure. Data reduction used the differential and log differential to calculate the first derivative of the cumulative specific intrusion volume as a function of calculated log diameter. Mercury porosimetry was used to calculate the permeability. Permeability is the gas flow rate through a material under applied pressure. In the Autopore device, pressure is increased and the mercury fills smaller and smaller pores until a critical pressure is reached where the mercury spans the sample, as may be expressed as $k [\text{in millidarcys}] = \frac{1}{226} (L_c)^2 \frac{\sigma}{\sigma_0}$, where σ is the conductivity at length L_c and σ_0 is the conductance in the pore. The mercury porosity data can further be used to deduce a tortuosity. The tortuosity factor characterizes the efficiency of gas interaction with the surface during its transport through a porous medium. Tortuosity is strongly dependent on the pore interconnectivity. The gas interaction with the material internal surface is greater the larger the tortuosity factor is. J. Hager derived an expression for material permeability based on a capillary bundle model in which pores are homogeneously distributed in random directions. Using the Hagen-Poiseuille correlation for fluid flow in cylindrical geometries, and making substitutions with measurable parameters, and combining with Darcy's law, an expression can be derived for material permeability in terms of total pore volume, material density, pore volume distribution by pore size, and material tortuosity. The total pore volume, material density, and pore volume distribution by pore size are obtainable from mercury porosimetry tests. Katz and Thompson also derived an expression for material permeability based on measurements obtainable from mercury porosimetry and which does not depend on knowledge of material tortuosity. Combining the Hager and Katz-Thompson expressions provides a means for determining tortuosity from data collected by mercury porosimetry.

[0121] Thermal expansion was measured for bar-shaped samples with dimension 0.25" x 0.25" x 2" (0.623 x 0.623 x 5.08 cm) during heating from room temperature to 1200°C at a rate of 4°C/min and subsequent cooling to room temperature. Unless otherwise noted herein, the longitudinal axis of the test bars was oriented in the direction of the honeycomb channels, thus providing the thermal expansion in the axial direction of the honeycomb parts. Unless otherwise noted herein, room temperature as stated herein refers to 25 °C. Average thermal expansion coefficients for various temperature ranges are listed in the tables and in the text are CTE₂₀₋₈₀₀ in K⁻¹, the average thermal expansion coefficient from room temperature to 800 °C, defined as $L(800^{\circ}\text{C}) - L(20^{\circ}\text{C}) / 780^{\circ}\text{C}$ as average thermal expansion coefficient in the temperature range from room temperature to 800°C, CTE₂₀₋₁₀₀₀ in K⁻¹, the average thermal expansion coefficient from room temperature to 1000°C, defined as $L(1000^{\circ}\text{C}) - L(20^{\circ}\text{C}) / 980^{\circ}\text{C}$ as average thermal expansion coefficient in the temperature range from room temperature to 1000°C, CTE₅₀₀₋₉₀₀ in K⁻¹, the average thermal expansion coefficient from 500 to 900°C, defined as $L(900^{\circ}\text{C}) - L(500^{\circ}\text{C}) / 400^{\circ}\text{C}$ as average thermal expansion coefficient in the temperature range from 500°C to 800°C.

[0122] The strength of the ceramics was tested using a transverse bending technique where test specimens were loaded to failure in using either three or four bending points. The maximum stress prior to failure is often referred to as the modulus of rupture or MOR. MOR, measured using four point flexure with a lower span (L) of two inches (fifty and four fifths millimeter) and an upper span (U) of three quarters of an inch (nineteen millimeters). The specimen geometry for the 4-point flexure tests was two and one half inches (sixty three and one half millimeters) in length, one half inch (twelve and seven tenths millimeters) in width (b) and one quarter inch (six and two fifths millimeters) thick (d). The force-measuring system used was equipped with a read-out of the maximum force (P) and a calibrated load cell. The MOR value was calculated using the ASTM flexure strength equation for a

rectangular specimen. All specimens tested had a square cellular (honeycomb) structure with the channels in the direction of the length of the honeycomb. The actual material strength independent of the structure of the body, often referred to as the wall strength, was determined by modifying the traditional MOR equation to account for the cellular structure of the honeycomb test bar, using ASTM standard C1674-08.

[0123] Bar-shaped samples with dimension 5" x 1" x 0.5" (12.7 x 2.54 x 1.27 cm) and the longitudinal axis being oriented in the direction of the honeycomb channels were used to measure the elastic modulus by flexural resonance frequency. Samples were heated to 1200°C and cooled back to room temperature. For each temperature the elastic modulus was directly derived from the resonance frequency and normalized for sample geometry and weight per ASTM C 1198-01.

[0124] Referring back to Table 6, materials made from spray-dried batch powders that were obtained with various levels of different dispersants, surfactants and binders are shown. The AT batch included 8.78% silica, 8.1% strontium carbonate, 1.4% calcium carbonate, 30.32% titanium dioxide, 51.2% of the spray-dried green compositions of Table 6 (alumina/silica), 0.2% lanthanum oxide, 15% superaddition potato starch, 4.5% superaddition methocel. The spray-dried powders were incorporated in the batch as green (as-spray-dried), charred, or pre-reacted powders. Table 6 compares porosities of fired extruded (300/13) materials made from batches with commercial raw materials, green spray-dried particles, charred spray-dried particles and pre-fired spray-dried particles. A batch with AT-type inorganic composition and pore former package was used, in which alumina and a small fraction of silica were replaced by spray-dried batch powder of same composition. Batch additions are listed in Table 6 together with the resulting porosity of the extruded fired material. The batch was subjected to twin-screw type mixing and 1" (2.54 cm) ram extruded. The dried extruded articles were fired at 1410 °C/ 15 hr.

[0125] The spray-dried powders were either not pretreated (green), charred in nitrogen to 500°C, or pre-reacted by firing in air for 5h at 1300°C. A standard AT batch Comparative Example with commercial particulate alumina A10 with 10µm median particle size extruded and fired under the same conditions produced about 50% porosity and 15µm pore size.

[0126] Mercury intrusion porosimetry showed that green, unfired spray-dried powders (without any surfactant addition) produced slightly lower porosity (48%) with significant smaller median pore size, $d_{50} = 9 \mu\text{m}$ than the Comparative Example. Charring the spray-dried particle in nitrogen to 500°C promoted further loss in porosity with a resulting 43% porosity, 9 µm pore size. In contrast, for the pre-fired spray-dried particles, the porosity was increased to 54.4% with median pore size of 22 µm. The gain compared to use of commercial coarse alumina raw material was a 4-5% increase in porosity and 6-7 µm increase in pore size.

[0127] Materials obtained from green or charred spray-dried batch materials with various organic additions (Darvan, Duramax, Triton) showed little change in porosity, indicating that green and charred spray-dried particles do not survive the shear during twin screw-like mixing and extrusion. Use of spray-dried, pre-fired particles containing Darvan or Duramax yielded a significant increase in porosity and pore size. Both, porosity and pore size increased with the amount of Darvan or Duramax in the slurry. For 5% addition, 53% and 58% porosity, 21µm and 23µm median pore size were obtained with 5% Darvan and Duramax, respectively. This is a significant gain in porosity (3% and 8%, respectively) and a significant gain in median pore size (5 and 7µm, respectively). It may be very difficult to obtain such high porosity and large pore size with commercial raw materials at such low pore former level.

[0128] FIGS. 16A, 16B, and 16C SEM images of the extruded green ware revealed that few spray-dried green and charred particles survived the mixing and extrusion, while spray-dried particles pre-fired to higher temperature survived mixing and extrusion. AT-type extruded greenware, in which alumina and a small fraction of silica had been replaced by spray-dried powders of alumina/3%silica/organic binder are shown in FIGS. 16A, 16B, and 16C. The spray-dried particles had been incorporated into the batch green as spray-dried (FIG. 16A), pre-fired at 1300°C for 5h in air (FIG. 16B), or charred to 500°C in nitrogen (FIG. 16C). Spray-dried powders were obtained without any addition (first row), with addition of 5% Darvan (second row), with addition of 5% Duramax (third row) or addition of 1% Triton (last row). The SEM images show polished cross sections of the green ware. The SEM images of FIG. 16B show that the pre-fired spray-dried particles were all fully preserved and regularly distributed in the greenware.

[0129] FIG. 16D shows an SEM image at higher magnification of FIG. 16B (first row) made without any addition, FIG. 16E shows a SEM image at higher magnification of FIG. 16B (second row) with addition of 5% Darvan, and FIG. 16F shows an SEM image of FIG. 16B (third row) with addition of 5% Duramax. The SEM images at higher magnification in FIG. 16D illustrates for the organic-free particles that they preserved a spherical shape and had suffered no fracture. Cross sections of the materials containing Darvan and Duramax show some distortion of the spray-dried particles possibly due to the distortions resulted from cutting and polishing of the green ware or related to the addition of the organics.

[0130] FIGS. 18A, 18B, 18C, and 18D show AT-type batch extruded and fired ware made from spray-dried alumina/3%silica. The SEM images show details of porosity, surface porosity, phase distribution and microcracking. The typical regular phase distribution of

well-mixed, fine raw materials is obtained for use of green spray-dried particles (FIGS. 18A and 18B) and charred spray-dried particles (FIGS. 18C and 18D).

[0131] FIGS. 19A and 19B show SEM images of the inverse porosity characteristics in the bulk and at the surface, phase distribution, and low microcrack density in AT-type extruded and fired ware made from spray-dried, pre-fired alumina/3%silica (aluminum titanate shows grey phase contrast, feldspar is bright and unreacted alumina dark grey) according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. The Examples made from pre-fired spray-dried material shown in FIGS. 19A and 19B are characterized by an inverse porosity with high pore interconnectivity. The shape of the individual spray-dried particles may still be visible, but was transformed into larger grain agglomerates of aluminum titanate and feldspar. The distribution of these two phases was regular. Unreacted alumina was visible in the form of agglomerates that typically are not present in materials made from commercial batch materials. Extending the pre-firing time of the spray-dried particles to achieve full reaction, account for different impurity levels in A1000, or adjust the AT-type batch composition may suppress the 3% excess of alumina that typically yields small alumina inclusions within the aluminum titanate grains. Possibly, but not necessarily related to the different distribution of the excess alumina, the microcrack density in the materials made from pre-fired spray-dried powders was much lower. Materials made from pre-fired spray-dried material that were spray-dried from slurries containing 5% Darvan (FIGS. 20A, 20B, 20C, and 20D) or 5% Duramax (FIGS. 21(a)-(f)) showed the same characteristic inverse porosity, but exhibited a more irregular, much coarser pore and phase distribution with more agglomeration. Agglomeration of unreacted alumina was also enhanced compared to the materials made from organic-free spray-dried materials. Low microcrack density is evident in FIGS. 20D and 21(d).

[0132] Regular and inverse pore structures (see FIGS. 3A and 3B) were obtained with pre-fired spray-dried AT-type batch components. The regular pore structure (FIG. 3A) is typically found in materials made from commercial raw materials and results from reactions of the raw materials and extensive sintering at contact, reaction and diffusion zones between the raw material particles. Inverse pore structure (FIG. 3B) is characterized by large pore necks and small material sinter necks. Such pore networks were observed in structures where particles were welded and underwent very little if any reaction or sintering. Inverse pore structures were obtained with certain spray-dried batch materials, pre-firing and part firing conditions. Inverse porosity was obtained when the full (or almost complete) batch composition was spray-dried and fully pre-reacted. Under such conditions, no major reactions occurred in the extruded material during firing, and the spray-dried particles sintered only at their contact points. Inverse porosity also formed more frequently in high and ultrahigh porosity materials. However, batch and firing conditions that produced inverse porosity were also found for low porosity and partially reacted spray-dried batch materials. The following Figures illustrate examples of the resulting microstructures together with their spray-dried powders, batch compositions and firing cycles.

[0133] FIGS. 22A-F show a representative material of regular pore structure with small pore necks. This material was obtained with an AT-type composition batch, in which spray-dried alumina/3%silica was used as pre-reacted particle batch material. The spray-dried alumina/silica powder of Example No. 78 had an average particle size of 16 μ m and had been pre-fired to 1300 °C. The SEM images show Example No. H1 (AT type batch extruded and fired ware made with Example No. 78 particles) ware after firing at 1427 °C/15h. The porosity was about 50% porosity. FIGS. 22A-C show polished cross-sections of the fired wall at different magnifications and illustrate the pore structure and phase distribution. The phase with brighter contrast is feldspar and the phase with darker contrast is aluminum

titanate. FIGS. 22D-F show the fired, unpolished surface. The fired material properties are summarized in Table 10.

[0134] Table 10

Example No.	Fully Fired MOR (psi)	CTE (RT to 1000 °C) in 10^{-7} K^{-1}	% Porosity	d50 (μm)	(d50-d10)/d50	Permeability in mDarcy	tortuosity
H1	286	17.2	51.85	12.89	0.49	376	8.4
H3			55.09	13.4	0.42	447	10.8
H4			53.72	13.59	0.47	406	10.3
H5		19.6	57.35	13.23	0.48	452	9.9

[0135] FIGS. 23A-D show a high porosity AT-type ware made from spray-dried alumina/3%silica/lanthanum oxide pre-reacted particles having inverse porosity. The material preserved during the firing the shape of spherical clusters that sintered together at their contact points, thus producing the inverse porosity with large pore necks. Example No. H2 was made from spray-dried Example No. 92 particles (alumina with 10% silica and 0.4% lanthanum acetate) with 19 μm average particle size and fired at 1410 °C. The material was extruded with 20% potato starch as pore former. SEM images of the wall surface and polished cross sections at different magnifications are shown in FIGS. 23A-D. FIG. 23A shows a polished cross-section of the wall showing inverse porosity with large pore necks. FIGS. 23B and 23C show the polished cross-section at greater magnifications illustrating the inverse porosity with large pore necks and the phase distribution. FIG. 23D is a SEM micrograph of the unpolished surface illustrating pore and pre-reacted particle interconnectivity. In Figure 23B, the brighter contrast phase is feldspar, the grey phase is aluminum titanate, and the dark phase is alumina.

[0136] Materials with high porosity and regular porosity morphology were also obtained by exemplary embodiments of spray-dried composition and firing schedule. FIGS. 24A-F show the example of a high porosity material Example No. H3 with 55% porosity that

was made from pre-reacted titania with small amount of silica in an AT-type batch. Example No. 111 pre-reacted spray-dried particles (titania/silica) used in Example No. H3 had an average particle size of 13 μ m and were pre-fired at 1300°C. Extruded ware of Example No. H3 was fired at 1427°C for 15h. Example No. H3 showed a regular porosity with relatively small pore necks. The phase distribution was coarse and the microcrack density rather low. FIGS. 24A, 24B and 24C show polished cross-sections of the fired wall at different magnifications and illustrate the pore structure and phase distribution. FIGS. 24D, 24E, and 24F show SEM views of the fired, unpolished surface and illustrate the pore and particle interconnectivity in the microstructure and pore structure. The bright phase is feldspar and the grey phase is aluminum titanate. The material properties are summarized in Table 10.

[0137] Some Examples were made by using two pre-reacted batch materials, such as Example No. H4 from pre-fired spray-dried AlSi Example No. 78 particles and pre-fired spray-dried TiSi Example No. 111 particles. FIG. 25A shows a polished cross-section of a wall of AT porous ceramic honeycomb fired at 1427 °C/15h having about 54% porosity and particles of spray-dried titania/silica pre-fired to 1300 °C with average particle size of about 13 μ m and particles of spray-dried alumina/silica pre-fired to 1300 °C with average particle size of about 16 μ m according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. Both powders were incorporated in the AT-type batch. FIGS. 25B and 25C show the polished cross-section at greater magnifications illustrating the regular porosity with small pore necks and the phase distribution. FIGS. 25D, 25E, and 25F are SEM micrographs of the fired, unpolished surface that illustrate pore and phase connectivity. The white particles are feldspar, the grey ones aluminum titanate. The material properties of Example H4 are summarized in Table 10.

[0138] High porosity Example H5 with 57% porosity after firing to 1427 °C/15h was made from the same spray-dried powder compositions as Example H4, but the spray-dried alumina-based powder had been fired to higher pre-firing temperature. FIG. 26A shows a

polished cross-section of a wall of Example H5 porous ceramic honeycomb fired at 1427 °C/15h having particles of spray-dried titania/silica pre-fired to 1300 °C with average particle size of about 13µm and particles of spray-dried alumina/silica pre-fired to 1600 °C with average particle size of about 13µm according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. FIGS. 26B and 26C show the polished cross-section at greater magnifications illustrating the pore structure and the phase distribution. FIGS. 26D, 26E, and 26F are SEM micrographs of the fired, unpolished surface that illustrate pore and phase interconnectivity. The bright contrast phase is feldspar and the grey one aluminum titanate. A regular, coarse phase distribution was obtained. The material properties of Example H5 are summarized in Table 10.

[0139] FIG. 27A shows a polished cross-section of a wall of AT porous ceramic honeycomb having particles of pre-fired spray-dried full batch composition and fine alumina as binder according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. 27B shows the polished cross-section at greater magnification and FIG. 27C shows the as-fired wall surface illustrating the spheroid packing of the inverse porosity with small particle necks and large pore necks.

[0140] FIG. 28A, 28B, and 28C show SEM images of AT-type batch extruded and fired ware made from hollow pre-reacted calcined alumina/silica. The spray-dried hollow particles were pre-fired to 1650 °C for 15 hr. The extruded honeycomb ware was fired at 1410 °C according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. 28A shows a polished cross section through a honeycomb channel wall showing preserved hollow spheres and inverse porosity. FIG. 28B shows details of the solid phases and inverse porosity. FIGS. 28C show details of surface porosity and material.

[0141] Properties of Examples having spray-dried, pre-fired alumina/silica batch material are summarized in Tables 11-13. The Examples were obtained by 1" and 2" ram

extrusions as indicated in Tables 11-13, and fired to the indicated temperature. It can be seen that the Examples cover a wide porosity and pore size range. FIGS. 29A and 29B show the evolution of porosity, median pore size d50 and MOR of materials with the same AT-type composition, but with different amounts of silica in the spray-dried alumina/silica batch material according to exemplary embodiments of the disclosure. It can be seen that the silica content in the spray-dried particles has little impact on the porosity. The porosity decreases slightly with the silica level in the spray-dried powder. The silica level in the spray-dried powder has a strong impact on the median pore size of the extruded, fired ware. A strong decrease in median pore size was observed with increasing silica content. 3% silica yielded 20µm median pore size, while 17% silica yielded only 10µm pore size. MOR increases with decreasing porosity and decreasing pore size. The examples include cases where, at similar or higher porosity and similar or larger median pore diameter, the MOR is higher than that of a material made from commercial coarse alumina raw material. The same is valid for the porosity-normalized MOR.

[0142] Table 11

Batch	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7	W8	W9	W10
Ram extrusion inch	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	2
spray-dried particles	Ex no. 84	Ex no. 83	Ex no. 85	Ex no. 90	Ex no. 86	Ex no. 88	Ex no. 87	Ex no. 88	Ex no. 89	Ex no. 92
spray-dried powder composition	alumina/6%silica	alumina/6%silica	alumina/10%silica	alumina/10%silica	alumina/10%silica	alumina/17%silica	alumina/17%silica	alumina/17%silica	alumina/17%silica	alumina/10%silica
sintering aid				0.4% La						0.4% La
spray-dried particle d50 in µm	16.38	20.4	22.39	22.08	20.71	15.67	16.09	15.67	25.42	19.2
Prefiring temperature of spray-	1610	1410	1410	1410	1610	1610	1410	1610	1610	1410

dried powder in °C										
Spray dried pre-reacted particles	49.54	49.54	51.74	51.74	51.74	56.75	56.76	56.76	56.76	51.74
Microcrystalline Silica	7.22	7.22	5.02	5.02	5.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.02
Strontium carbonate	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
calcium carbonate	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38
Titanium dioxide	29.95	29.95	29.95	29.95	29.95	29.95	29.95	29.95	29.95	29.95
Lanthanum oxide	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Hydrated aluminum oxide	3.71	3.71	3.71	3.71	3.71	3.71	3.71	3.71	3.71	3.71
Pore former	20PS	20PS	20PS	20PS	20PS	20PS	20PS	20PS	20PS	20PS

[0143] Table 11 (continued)

Batch	W11	W12	W13	W14	W15	W16	W17	W18	W19	W20
Ram extrusion inch	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
spray-dried particles	Ex no. 81	Ex no. 89	Ex no. 112	Ex no. 80	Ex no. 81	Ex no. 42	Ex no. 42	Ex no. 43	Ex no. 113	Ex no. 113
spray-dried powder composition	alumina/3%silica	alumina/17%silica	alumina/6%silica	alumina/3%silica	alumina/silica	AT/SAS - 6%alumina	AT/SAS - 6%alumina	AT/SAS - 6%alumina	AT/SAS	AT/SAS
spray-dried particle d50 in μ m	15	25	17	19	15.4	49	31	20	36	36
Prefiring temperature of spray-dried powder in °C	1600	1610	1610 rotary calciner	1610 rotary calciner	1600	1200	1200	1200	1300	1300
Spray	48.00	56.76	49.54	48.00	48.00	94.00	94.00	94.00	100.00	100.00

dried pre-reacted particles										
Microcrystalline Silica	8.73	0.00	7.22	8.73	8.73					
Strontium carbonate	8	8	8	8	8					
calcium carbonate	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38					
Titanium dioxide	29.95	29.95	29.95	29.95	29.95					
Lanthanum oxide	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2					
Hydrated aluminum oxide	3.71	3.71	3.71	3.71	3.71					
fine alumina <1 μ m						6	6	6		
sinter additives										1% Li-acetate
Pore former	20PS				10PS/8GR	15%PS	25%PS	15%PS/8%GR	20%PS	20%PS

[0144] Table 11 (continued)

Batch	W21	W22	W23	W24	W25	W26	W27	W28	W29	W30
Ram extrusion inch	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
spray-dried particles	Ex no. 113	Ex no. 113	Ex no. 103	Ex no. 34	Ex no. 42	Ex no. 42	Ex no. 103	Ex no. 103	Ex no. 105	Ex no. 107
spray-dried powder composition	AT/SAS	AT/SAS	AT/SAS	AT/SAS	AT/SAS - 6%alumina	AT/SAS - 6%alumina	full AT/SAS-batch composition - 6% alumina	full AT/SAS-batch composition - 6% alumina	full AT/SAS-batch composition - 6% alumina	full AT/SAS-batch composition - 6% alumina
sintering aid				0.4% La; 1% boron oxide						
spray-dried particle d50 in μ m	36	36	28				21	25	25	23
Prefiring temperature of spray-dried	1300	1300	1300	1100	1410	1300	1300	1200	1200	1200

powder in °C										
Spray dried pre- reacted particles	100.00	100.00	93.62	90.00	94.00	94.00	94.00	94.00	94.00	93.60
Microcry- stalline Silica				0.80						
Strontiu- m carbonat- e				0.15						
calcium carbonat- e				3						
Hydrate d aluminu- m oxide			3.71	0.37						3.71
fine alumina <1µm			2.67		3	3	6	6	6	2.67
alumina d50=10µ- m				5						
sinter additives	1% Zn- acetate				3% Al,Si,P- glass; phosphori- c acid	3% Al,Si,P- glass; phosphori- c acid				
Pore former	20%PS	0	10%PS/8 GR	10%PS/8 GR	15%PS/8 GR	15%PS/8 GR	20PS	20PS	25PS	10PS/8G R

[0145] Table 11 (Continued)

Batch	W31	W32	W33	W34	W35	W36	W37	W38
Ram extrusion inch	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
spray-dried particles	Ex no. 97	Ex no. 97	Ex no. 97	Ex no. 53	Ex no. 45	Ex no. 45	Ex no. 51	Ex no. 51
spray-dried powder composition	full AT/SAS- batch compositi- on - 6% alumina	full AT/SAS- batch compositi- on - 6% alumina	full AT/SAS- batch compositi- on - 6% alumina	full AT/SAS- batch compositi- on - 6% alumina	full AT/SAS- batch compositi- on - 6% alumina	full AT/SAS- batch compositi- on - 6% alumina	full AT/SAS- batch compositi- on - 6% alumina	full AT/SAS- batch compositi- on - 6% alumina
sintering aid								
spray-dried particle d50 in µm	41			36	23	31	43	43
Prefiring temperature of spray-dried powder in °C	1300	1300	1300	1300	1200	1300	1440 rotary calciner	1440 rotary calciner

Spray dried pre-reacted particles	94.00	94.00	94.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	100.00
fine alumina <1 μ m	6	6	6					
sinter additives				10% PDM fine green	10% PDM fine green	10% PDM fine green	10% PDM fine green	
Pore former	15PS/8GR	15PS/8GR	15PS/8GR	20PS	20PS	20PS	20PS	20PS

[0146] Table 11 (Continued)

	Comparative Examples with regular (non pre-reacted) powders				Comparative Examples made from milled, fired AT grog	
Batch	CW1	CW2	CW3	CW4	CW5	CW6
Ram extrusion inch	1	1	2	2	1	1
spray-dried particles	no	no	no	no	PDM Duratrap® AT reuse milled	Duratrap® AT reuse milled
Microcrystalline Silica	10.19	10.19	10.19	10.19		
Strontium carbonate	8	8	8	8		
calcium carbonate	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38		
Titanium dioxide	29.95	29.95	29.95	29.95		
Lanthanum oxide	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2		
Hydrated aluminum oxide	3.71	3.71	3.71	3.71		
alumina d50=10 μ m		46.57	46.57	46.57		
alumina d50=20 μ m	46.57					
sinter additives					90% coarse Duratrap® AT reuse fired to 1200C, milled (21 μ m) +10% fines	90% coarse Duratrap® AT reuse fired to 1300C, milled (27 μ m) +10% fines
Pore former	20PS	20PS	20PS	10PS/8GR	15PS/8GR	15PS/8GR

[0147] Table 12

1" extruded part containing alumina/silica spray-dried batch material								
Example No.	Batch	honeycomb firing temperature in °C	fully fired MOR (psi)	CTE (RT to 1000C) in 10 ⁻⁷ K ⁻¹	% porosity	d50 (μ m)	(d50-d10)/d50	permeability in mDarcy
H6	W1	1410	208	23.7	59.02	15.07	0.65	607
H7	W2	1410	137	7	58.39	15.21	0.68	607
H8	W3	1410	150	23.2	60.79	16.87	0.66	787
H9	W4	1410	230	21.2	56.52	17.21	0.56	755
H10	W5	1410	189	22	59.36	17.61	0.66	831
H11	W6	1410	286	23.3	57.46	7.77	0.59	152
H12	W7	1410	285	22.8	56.84	8.09	0.57	173

H13	W7	1410	298	26.7	56.00	8.10	0.57	155
H14	W6	1410	231	26.9	58.53	8.60	0.62	195
H15	W8	1410	228	24.9	59.72	12.03	0.72	375
H16	W9	1410	272	18.9	54.84	16.19	0.63	659
H17	W10	1410		9.9	61.36	15.37	0.65	632
H18	W4	1410	230		56.52	17.21	0.56	755

[0148] Table 12 (Continued)

1" extruded part containing alumina/silica spray-dried batch material				XRD phase fractions				
Example No.	Batch	tortuosity	Normalized MOR (psi) to 50% Porosity = MOR x 0.5/ (1-Porosity)	AT (%)	alumina (%)	Rutile (%)	SAS (%)	mullite (%)
H6	W1	8.61	254	66.3	8.3	3.7	21.8	0
H7	W2	7.92	165	60.8	9.5	5.5	20.5	3.8
H8	W3	7.74	191	68.1	5	2.6	19.7	4.6
H9	W4	6.43	264	69.7	5.8	2.6	22	
H10	W5	7.88	233	66.4	5	3	20.7	4.9
H11	W6	9.4	336	69.4	7.9	2.3	20.5	0
H12	W7	9.04	330	70.5	5.6	1.7	22.2	0
H13	W7	7.86	339	69.6	7.3	2.3	20.8	0
H14	W6	8.12	279	70.1	6.2	2.1	21.6	0
H15	W8	10.23	283	67.9	8	2.6	21.6	0
H16	W9	6.62	301	64.5	9.6	4.2	21.8	0
H17	W10	8.32		61.4	7.1	4.8	20.3	6.4
H18	W4	6.43	264	69.7	5.8	2.6	22	0

[0149] Table 13

Honeycomb 2" ram extrusion batch with pre-fired alumina/silica particles								
Example No.	Batch	Firing temperature in C	% porosity	d50 (μm)	(d50-d10)/d50	permeability in mDarcy	tortuosity	CTE (RT to 1000C) in 10 ⁻⁷ K ⁻¹
H19	W11	1410	58.65	21.37	0.43	1378	5.41	
H20	W11	1410	59.96	19.57	0.46	1148	6.92	13.4
H21	W11	1410	60.76	19.13	0.44	1100	6.75	13.4
H22	W15	1410	59.72	16.71	0.55	733	7.74	
H23	W15	1410	57.44	16.40	0.56	698	6.82	
H24	W15	1410	59.48	17.00	0.56	762	8.3	
H25	W15	1431	57.90	17.75	0.55	825	7.27	
H26	W15	1431	57.38	19.48	0.53	994	6.98	17.9
H27	W15	1431	56.72	19.93	0.51	1019	6.25	
H28	W15	1431	58.79	20.11	0.51	1047	7.29	
H29	W15	1440	53.94	20.12	0.43	1031	6.65	16.9
H30	W12	1410	46.47	11.20	0.51	245	8.4	20.7
H31	W12	1410	47.01	11.37	0.46	269	8.5	
H32	W12	1410	40.75	10.67	0.53	195	9.7	
H33	W10	1410	58.30	15.81	0.63	675	7.96	
H34	W14	1410	62.84	24.31	0.55	1507	7.65	
H35	W14	1410	61.72	27.51	0.47	1959	7.31	16.5

[0150] Table 13 (Continued)

Honeycomb 2" ram extrusion batch with pre-fired alumina/silica particles				XRD phase fractions				
Example No.	Batch	fully fired MOR (psi)	Normalized MOR (psi) on 50%P = (exp MOR x (0.5) (1- exp P)	AT (%)	alumina (%)	Rutile (%)	SAS (%)	mullite (%)
H19	W11			70.4	6.4	2.7	20.6	0
H20	W11	144	180	70.3	6.1	1.3	22	0
H21	W11	141	180	68.2	8.1	2.4	21.4	0
H22	W15			68.2	5.6	2.1	20.9	0
H23	W15	176	207	65.2	6.9	3.4	29.6	2.8
H24	W15	172	212	67.3	6.8	3.5	22.4	0
H25	W15			71.4	5.4	1.4	21.8	0
H26	W15	194	228	71.9	5.8	1.4	20.9	0
H27	W15	194	224	71.6	5.9	1.5	21	0
H28	W15	194	235	70.9	6	1.6	21.5	0
H29	W15	204	221	72.4	6	1	20.6	0
H30	W12	478	447	68.2	7	2.6	22.2	0
H31	W12							
H32	W12							
H33	W10	169	203					
H34	W14							
H35	W14							

[0151] For constant inorganic batch composition and use of spray-dried alumina/3% silica, it was shown that the use of organic additions in the spray-drying slurry had an impact on the spray-dried particle shape and the porosity of the pre-fired spray-dried particles. Table 14 shows that use of larger amount of organic binder in the spray-drying slurry produces fine porosity in the pre-fired spray-dried particles and contributes in the final batch to an increase in porosity. Type and quantity of the organic used in the spray-drying slurry do not only have an impact on the porosity in the final material, but also affect the microstructure. Porosity in the pre-fired spray-dried particles allows faster transport and matter exchange during the reaction so that different microstructures are obtained. Phase distribution and grain size in the reacted microstructures control the level of micorcracking and the microcrack distribution and thus impact the thermal expansion of the final material. FIGS. 30A, 30B, 30C, and 30D summarize the impact of the organics on the final material CTE by illustrating a panoply of materials with a wide range of microcrack behavior indicated by differences in breadth of hysteresis.

[0152] Table 14

AT batch with spray-dried alumina/silica Example No.	Particle Example No.	Firing conditions	Porosity of fired ware in %	Median pore diameter in fired ware in μm	CTE in 10^{-7}K^{-1} from RT to 1000K
H36	60	1410°C/15hrs	47.74	9.40	
H37	61	1410°C/15hrs	54.44	22.44	18.3
H38	62	1410°C/15hrs	43.64	8.66	
H39	63	1410°C/15hrs	43.07	9.50	
H40	64	1410°C/15hrs	46.42	16.72	21
H41	65	1410°C/15hrs	42.64	9.41	
H42	66	1410°C/15hrs	41.77	12.65	
H43	67	1410°C/15hrs	53.05	21.38	
H44	68	1410°C/15hrs	41.03	12.25	
H45	69	1410°C/15hrs	42.95	8.41	
H46	70	1410°C/15hrs	48.43	19.93	15
H47	71	1410°C/15hrs	44.66	8.46	
H48	72	1410°C/15hrs	38.04	4.38	14
H49	73	1410°C/15hrs	58.47	22.72	13
H50	74	1410°C/15hrs	33.81	6.97	13
H51	75	1410°C/15hrs	46.01	10.53	
H52	76	1410°C/15hrs	40.39	7.76	
H53	77	1410°C/15hrs	43.78	10.52	

[0153] Material properties of Examples that were obtained by spray-drying and pre-firing close to full inorganic batch mixture are summarized in Tables 15 and 16. Table 15 shows 1" ram extrusions and Table 16 shows 2" ram extrusions. Comparative Example PDG of AT made from commercial, non-spray-dried batch materials is also presented.

[0154] Table 15

Example No.	Honeycomb firing temperature	Fired (300/14) 1" honeycomb properties					
		fully fired MOR (psi)	CTE (RT to 1000°C) in 10^{-7}K^{-1}	% porosity	d50 (μm)	(d50-d10)/d50	permeability in mDarcy
H54	1410			48.5	11.6	0.29	348
H55	1410			56.3	14.3	0.44	466
H56	1410			55.7	12.9	0.51	392
H57	1410	76	21.9	63.6	13.8	0.58	514.4
H58	1410	154		61.4	15.5	0.56	617.3
H59	1410	98		59.7	10.1	0.48	243.3
H60				66.6	23.3	0.42	
H61				61.3	19.8	0.38	
H62				53.9	16.4	0.48	

H63				41.6	6.2	0.30	
H64		55	17.7	39.9	11.2	0.32	225
H65		327	17.4	38.2	11.7	0.38	224
H66				32.4	22.3	0.27	852
H67				51.1	17.8	0.36	755
Comparative Examples							
<i>CW5</i>	<i>1410</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>31.9</i>	<i>62.4</i>	<i>10.6</i>	<i>0.57</i>	<i>283</i>
<i>CW6</i>	<i>1410</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>33.2</i>	<i>58.5</i>	<i>9.4</i>	<i>0.46</i>	<i>207</i>

[0155] Table 15 (Continued)

Example No.	Tortuosity	Fired honeycomb phase composition in %					
		AT	alumina	Rutile	SAS	mullite	SrAl ₈ TiO ₁₉
H54	10.77						
H55	12.2	68.5	9.6	0	21.4		
H56	9.86	72.2	4.2	0	23		
H57	11.28	65.5	10.9	0	21.6		2
H58	9.82	65.1	11.3	2.1	21.5		
H59	14.64	64.3	12.6	2.2	20.9		
H60							
H61							
H62							
H63							
H64	11.56	69.4	5.4	0	24.8		
H65	11.64	69.9	5.2	0	24.7		
H66	7.2	68.4			24.1	7.5	
H67	7.39	66.1	2.4		29.5	2	
Comparative Examples							
<i>CW5</i>	<i>8.5</i>	<i>68.6</i>	<i>8.1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>21.3</i>		
<i>CW6</i>	<i>12.14</i>	<i>65.5</i>	<i>5.7</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>20.1</i>	<i>6.6</i>	

[0156] Table 16

Example No.	Honeycomb firing temperature	Fired (300/14) 2" honeycomb properties					
		fully fired MOR (psi)	CTE (RT to 1000C)	% porosity	d50 (um)	(d50-d10)/d50	perm
H68	1410C			55.4	10.8	0.44	178
H69	1410C	321	21	52.7	9.1	0.41	
H70	1410C	319		53.5	4.3	0.51	
H71	1410C			56.3	14.3	0.44	466
H72	1410C	180		57.4	4.5	0.54	
H73	1370C						
H74	1410C	70	23.5	62.3	14.9	0.59	585
H75	1410C			62.0	13.6	0.60	497
H76	1427C			63.9	13.9	0.57	513
H77	1440C	142	19.2	59.3	15.4	0.52	595
H78	1410C	48	28.9	64.0	13.7	0.62	481
H79	1410C	96	28.7	57.2	8.4	0.44	170
H80	1410C	104	37.2	60.7	11.9	0.54	
H81	1410C	129	33.3	60.6	12.0	0.49	336
H82	1375C	121	9.5	61.6	13.1	0.63	
H83	1375C	67	32.1	63.3	16.0	0.67	
H84	1410C	48	28.9	64.0	13.8	0.62	

[0157] Table 16 (Continued)

Example No.	Tortuosity	Fired honeycomb phase composition in %				
		AT	alumina	Rutile	SAS	mullite
H68	16					
H69		67.2	4.7	0.8	24.3	
H70		67.5	5.7	0	26.2	
H71	12	72.2	4.2	0	23	
H72		68.9	4.3	0.7	26.1	
H73						
H74	8					
H75	7	68.7	7		23.7	
H76	9					
H77	9	67	6.8		25.8	
H78	11	64.4	6.2	2.9	21	5.5
H79	8	72.6	5.9		21.5	
H80		68.8	4.2	1.2	20.8	5
H81	12	68.7	4	1.5	19.7	6.2
H82		67.8	3.6	1.5	20.8	6.8
H83		63.8	5.4	2.9	20.8	7.2
H84		64.4	6.2	2.9	21	5.5

[0158] Table 17 presents exemplary Examples showing the evolution of honeycomb physical properties as function of honeycomb firing temperature for Batch including Particle Example No. 42 (Table 4, fired at 1300°C), 15% potato starch (PS), and 8% graphite pore formers.

[0159] Table 17

Example No.	Particle Example No.	Particle Description	CTE (RT to 1000°C)	% porosity	d50 (μm)	(d50-d10)/d50
H73	42	1300°C, 15% PS 8% Graphite A60				
H74	42	1300°C, 15% PS 8% Graphite A60	23.5	62.27	14.89	0.59
H75	42	1300°C, 15% PS 8% Graphite		61.97	13.63	0.60

		A60				
H76	42	1300°C, 15% PS 8% Graphite A60		63.91	13.94	0.57
H77	42	1300°C, 15% PS 8% Graphite A60	19.2	59.26	15.40	0.52

[0160] A comparison of Example 2” filters made from pre-fired, spray-dried materials W11, W15, and W10 (Table 11) with Comparative Example AT (CW7) made with commercial raw materials was conducted. The fired honeycombs were plugged with cement to provide a bare filter. All filters had close geometries; for better comparison, data were normalized to common filter length 6” (15.24 cm), diameter 2” (5.1 cm), and wall thickness 13 mil (0.33 mm) in geometry (300/13). The three spray-dried Examples include normal and inverse porosity materials. The bare pressure drop of the Example filters made from spray-dried materials was found to be lower than the Comparative Example filter. Coated pressure drop was observed to follow this trend.

[0161] FIG. 31 is a graphical plot of data of pressure drop as function of soot loading for uncoated porous ceramic filter samples made with spray-dried pre-fired raw materials according to exemplary embodiments of the disclosure and a Comparative Sample made with commercial raw materials. Bare pressure drop shows an advantage of the filters made with spray-dried pre-fired batch materials.

[0162] FIG. 32 is a graphical plot of data of filtration efficiency as function of soot loading for uncoated porous ceramic filter samples made with spray-dried pre-fired raw materials according to exemplary embodiments of the disclosure and a comparative sample made with commercial raw materials. Filter efficiency of Example filters made from spray-

dried pre-fired material, exhibiting porosity above 57% and in some cases inversed porosity (Example No. H33) was measured. These bare filtration efficiencies were compared with a Comparative Sample AT material made from normal batch powders and achieving only 50% porosity and a median pore size of 15-16 μ m. FIG. 32 shows the comparison. Filtration efficiency of the Example filters with much higher porosity is in a similar range as the filtration efficiency of the 50% porosity Comparative Sample AT filter, suggesting that neither inversed porosity pore structures, nor microstructures as obtained with spray-dried batch materials provide any disadvantages for filtration.

[0163] According to exemplary embodiments of the disclosure, 8% gain in porosity were demonstrated over Comparative Samples having the same composition. Inverse porosity with 63% porosity and above and median pore size of 15 μ m and more were demonstrated. Sinter-bonded, reaction-bonded materials show less microcracking than Comparative Samples, with little or no CTE hysteresis and CTE in the range of 20-30 $\times 10^{-7}$ K⁻¹. For certain embodiments of spray-dried compositions, pre-firing and firing conditions, enhanced microcracking and lower CTE were achieved. CTE < 10 $\times 10^{-7}$ K⁻¹ was achieved for several materials. Example No. H7 made from alumina/6%silica spray-dried batch material produced CTE = 7 $\times 10^{-7}$ K⁻¹ at 58% porosity and median pore size 15 μ m; Example Nos. H20 and H21 with spray-dried alumina/silica showed CTE = 13 $\times 10^{-7}$ K⁻¹ at 60% porosity and median pore size 19 μ m. Example No. H82 with 60% porosity had a CTE of 9.5 $\times 10^{-7}$ K⁻¹.

[0164] Alumina with different levels of silica from 3% -18% or silica and lanthanum was spray-dried and pre-fired at various temperatures in the Examples. Materials with high porosity (55% - 61%) and with pore size of 16 - 20 μ m were obtained with CTE of 13-15 $\times 10^{-7}$ K⁻¹. While the porosity was unaffected by the silica level, the median pore size decreased with increasing silica content. The median pore size of the AT ware was affected by the spray-dried particle size, exhibiting a decrease for particle sizes below 15 μ m.

[0165] Example articles were ram extruded as 2" parts and fired under low oxygen pressure for polymer burn out, followed by firing in air. Bare filter performance was tested. Pressure drop measurements of bare filters showed a 27% decrease in pressure drop compared to Comparative Examples of AT-type compositions with the same filter geometry. Filtration efficiency of parts with more than 60% porosity and large pore size was similar to that of Comparative Examples of AT-type compositions with 50% porosity and 15 μ m median pore size.

[0166] Additional Examples of exemplary embodiments of the disclosure comprising cordierite spray-dried, pre-fired raw materials were made. FIGS. 33A, 33B, 33C, 33D and 33E show SEM images of Example Cor1 cordierite-type batch extruded and fired ware comprised of spray-dried Example No. 78, but pre-fired at 1410 °C, the extruded material was fired at 1300 °C according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. 33A shows a surface of a honeycomb wall indicating porosity shape and distribution. FIG. 33B shows a polished cross section through a honeycomb channel wall showing inverse porosity. FIG. 33C shows details of the solid phases. FIGS. 33D and 33E show details of surface porosity and material.

[0167] FIGS. 34A, 34B, 34C, and 34D show SEM images of Example Cor2 cordierite-type batch extruded and fired comprised of spray-dried Example No. 78, but pre-fired at 1410 °C, the extruded material was fired at 1610 °C according to an exemplary embodiment of the disclosure. FIG. 34A shows a polished cross section through a honeycomb channel wall showing inverse porosity. FIG. 34B shows details of the solid phases, microcracking and inverse porosity. FIGS. 34C and 34D show details of surface porosity and material.

[0168] Table 18 shows material properties of Examples Cor1 and Cor2. The Examples showed very little microcracking. Example Cor1 had a CTE of $14 \times 10^{-7} \text{ K}^{-1}$ (RT to

800 °C) and Example Cor2 had a CTE of $16 \times 10^{-7} \text{ K}^{-1}$ (RT to 800 °C). The MOR of Example Cor1 was 740 psi and the MOR of Example Cor2 was 1130 psi.

[0169] Table 18

Example	% Porosity	Median Pore Diameter d50 (μm)	(d50-d10)/d50
Cor1	47.2674	30.7792	0.35
Cor2	50.9072	22.7365	0.66

[0170] FIG. 35 shows the pore size distribution for Examples Cor1 and Cor2. FIG. 36 shows the thermal expansion of Examples Cor1 and Cor2.

[0171] Thus, exemplary embodiments of the disclosure provide higher porosity and larger pore size porous ceramic articles by use of pre-reacted particles compared to standard powder raw materials. Porosity above 55% or even above 65% can be achieved with median pore sizes in a range between 10 and 30 micrometers. The exemplary process provides filters with porosity of 60% and more, with median pore size of 20 μm or more, at relatively low cost and with control of raw material and pore former particle size and size distribution. Exemplary embodiments of the disclosure enable use of large size particles, narrow particle size distributions, mechanically robust, and combinations of one or more batch materials pre-reacted to obtain an advantageous batch material packing with large pores and high porosity that can be preserved during firing to result in higher porosity, larger pore size materials. The larger the particles and the more homogeneous in size, the larger are porosity and pore size in the porous ceramic article. Broad particle size distributions that have a negative impact on porous ceramic article properties by producing broad pore size distributions and thus low material strength can be avoided.

[0172] The exemplary embodiments of the disclosure enable high porosity and large pore size in porous ceramic articles at reasonable cost. For example, spray-dried porous alumina-based, pre-fired batch materials can be made at considerable cost savings with

tailored property advantages over other sources of large particle size alumina with a narrow particle size distribution. Spray-dried particles of narrow particle size distribution produce a natural low density packing. Both spray-drying and rotary-calcining are high throughput, low cost industrial processes that can be used to engineer the required batch materials.

[0173] The exemplary embodiments of the disclosure enable the reduction in the levels of pore former for comparable porosity of a porous ceramic article and the probability of concomitant firing cracks. Generally, in articles made with powder batches, high porosity can be created only by use of high pore former levels, which require long firing cycles to accommodate the pore former burnout exothermic and endothermic events and also increase the risk of forming firing cracks. Thus, exemplary embodiments of the disclosure enable faster firing times.

[0174] The exemplary embodiments of the disclosure enable low levels of microcracking, low CTE, and high strength in porous ceramic articles. The exemplary embodiments of the disclosure enable inverse porosity having large pore necks and small material necks compared to general powdered batch reaction-sintered material that forms an interconnected pore structure with small necks. Small necks may limit permeability and gas flow and control the pressure drop. Materials with very large necks in the pore structure produce improved permeability and thus provide low pressure drop filters.

[0175] According to exemplary embodiments of the disclosure, pre-reacted particles can be made in a wide range of sizes and compositions that can contain single or several batch components. According to exemplary embodiments of the disclosure, when several components are combined as a tight mixture in spray-dried particles and pre-fired, the spray-dried powder mixture can be reacted to an intermediate product or product mixture during pre-firing that, during firing of the extruded batch, promotes another reaction path and

different final phase distribution, grain size or, in short, different microstructure than a mixed powder batch of the same composition.

[0176] The exemplary embodiments of the disclosure enable the structuring of the extruded batch with mixed spray-dried particles not fully reacted to intermediates during pre-firing to act as small batch reactors and induce different reaction paths and yield different engineered microstructures than a mixed powder batch of the same composition.

[0177] The exemplary embodiments of the disclosure enable the use of pre-reacted batch constituents to control the final microstructure, its coarseness and phase distribution. Exemplary embodiments of the disclosure enable the use of pre-reacted materials to better control firing and fired properties. Exemplary embodiments of the disclosure also enable the contribution of reaction-related thermal events to be suppressed or decreased, and reaction-related shrinkage events to also be suppressed or decreased, for example, when using fully reacted spray-dried, pre-fired batch materials.

[0178] Reference throughout this specification to exemplary embodiments and similar language throughout this specification may, but do not necessarily, refer to the same embodiment. Furthermore, the described features, structures, or characteristics of the subject matter described herein with reference to an exemplary embodiment may be combined in any suitable manner in one or more exemplary embodiments. In the description, numerous specific details are provided, such as examples of controls, structures, processes, compositions, articles, etc., to provide a thorough understanding of embodiments of the subject matter. One skilled in the relevant art will recognize, however, that the subject matter may be practiced without one or more of the specific details, or with other methods, components, materials, and so forth. In other instances, well-known structures, materials, or operations are not shown or described in detail to avoid obscuring aspects of the disclosed subject matter.

[0179] The schematic flow chart diagrams and method schematic diagrams described above are generally set forth as logical flow chart diagrams. As such, the depicted order and labeled steps are indicative of representative embodiments. Other steps and methods may be conceived that are equivalent in function, logic, or effect to one or more steps, or portions thereof, of the methods illustrated in the schematic diagrams. Additionally, the format and symbols employed are provided to explain the logical steps of the schematic diagrams and are understood not to limit the scope of the methods illustrated by the diagrams. Although various arrow types and line types may be employed in the schematic diagrams, they are understood not to limit the scope of the corresponding methods. Indeed, some arrows or other connectors may be used to indicate only the logical flow of a method. For instance, an arrow may indicate a waiting or monitoring period of unspecified duration between enumerated steps of a depicted method. Additionally, the order in which a particular method occurs may or may not strictly adhere to the order of the corresponding steps shown.

[0180] It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made in the present disclosure without departing from the spirit or scope of the claimed invention. Thus, it is intended that the present claimed invention cover the modifications and variations of this disclosure provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A plastic ceramic precursor batch composition for making a porous ceramic article, comprising:
at least one of dense, porous, and hollow pre-reacted particles; and
a liquid vehicle, wherein
the pre-reacted particles comprise one or more phases.
2. The plastic ceramic precursor batch composition of claim 1, wherein the pre-reacted particles comprise two or more phases.
3. The plastic ceramic precursor batch composition of either one of claims 1 or 2, wherein the pre-reacted particles comprise at least one of sintered, partially reacted, and fully reacted particles.
4. The plastic ceramic precursor batch composition of claim 3, wherein the sintered pre-reacted particles comprise fine particles sintered together to form the pre-reacted particles, the partially reacted particles comprise fine particles sintered together and a portion of the sintered fine particles reacted to form another phase different from the fine particles adjacent the sintered connection, and the fully-reacted particles comprise a multiphase microstructure.
5. The plastic ceramic precursor batch composition of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the pre-reacted particles have a median particle size of equal to or greater than 10 μm .

6. The plastic ceramic precursor batch composition of any one of claims 1-5, wherein the pre-reacted particles comprise spheroidal particles comprising at least one of a sphere, torus (doughnut), prolate spheroid (egg, raindrop, American football), and oblate spheroid (pancake, lentil) particles.

7. The plastic ceramic precursor batch composition of any one of claims 1-6, further comprising at least one of an inorganic powder, an organic powder, and an inorganic binder.

8. The plastic ceramic precursor batch composition of any one of claims 1-7, wherein the pre-reacted particles comprise porous pre-reacted particles.

9. The plastic ceramic precursor batch composition of claim 8, wherein the porous pre-reacted particles comprise a porosity in a range of 10% to 50%.

10. The plastic ceramic precursor batch composition of claim 8, wherein the porous pre-reacted particles comprise a median pore size in a range of 200 nm to 10 μ m.

11. The plastic ceramic precursor batch composition of any one of claims 1-10, wherein the pre-reacted particles comprise mechanical strength to survive intact shear stresses from mixing and extrusion.

12. The plastic ceramic precursor batch composition of any one of claims 1-11, wherein

the pre-reacted particles comprise at least one of alumina, silica, titania, cordierite, magnesia, strontium oxide, calcium oxide, lanthanum oxide, boron oxide, cerium oxide, yttrium oxide, or other rare earth oxide, zirconium oxide, an alkali oxide, aluminum titanate solid solution pseudobrookite, mullite, spinel, feldspar, and glass.

13. The plastic ceramic precursor batch composition of any one of claims 1-12, wherein

the pre-reacted particles comprise at least two of alumina, silica, titania, cordierite, magnesia, strontium oxide, calcium oxide, lanthanum oxide, boron oxide, cerium oxide, yttrium oxide, or other rare earth oxide, zirconium oxide, an alkali oxide, aluminum titanate solid solution pseudobrookite, mullite, spinel, feldspar, and glass.

14. A crystalline cordierite article made by shaping and firing the plastic ceramic precursor batch composition of claim 12.

15. A crystalline aluminum titanate solid solution pseudobrookite article made by shaping and firing the plastic ceramic precursor batch composition of claim 12.

16. The plastic ceramic precursor batch composition of claim 12, further comprising at least one additional source of alumina, silica, magnesia, titania, strontium oxide, calcium oxide, lanthanum oxide, boron oxide, cerium oxide, yttrium oxide, or other rare earth oxide, zirconium oxide, and one or more alkali oxides.

17. The plastic ceramic precursor batch composition of any one of claims 1-16, further comprising a pore former.

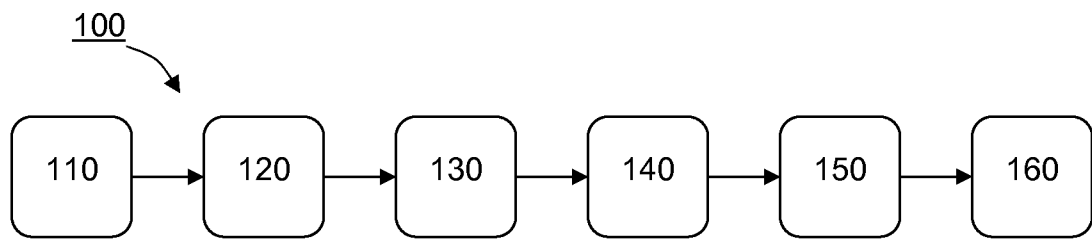


FIG. 1

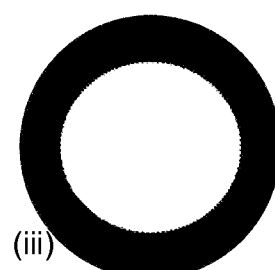
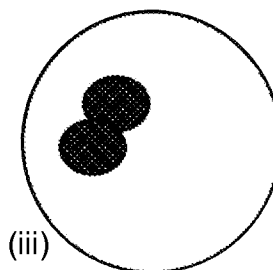
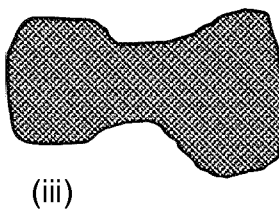
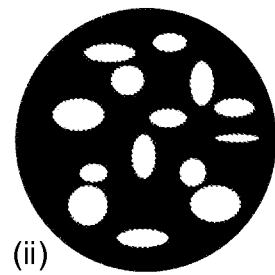
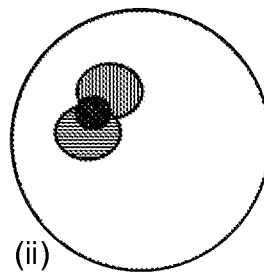
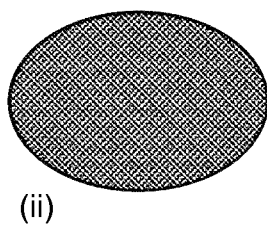
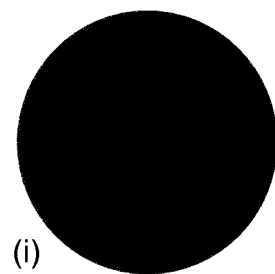
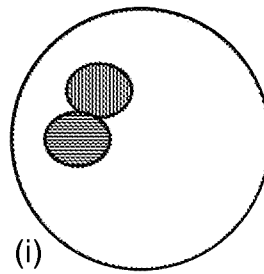
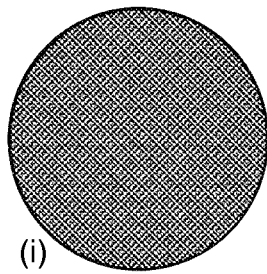


FIG. 2A

FIG. 2B

FIG. 2C

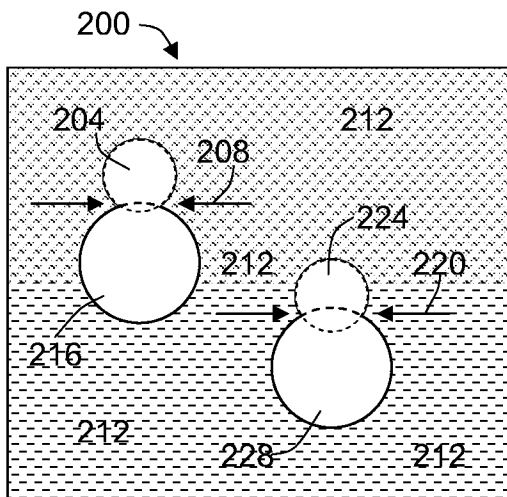


FIG. 3A

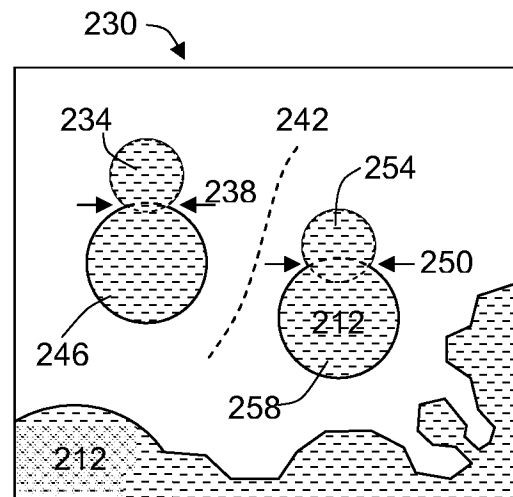


FIG. 3B

FIG. 4

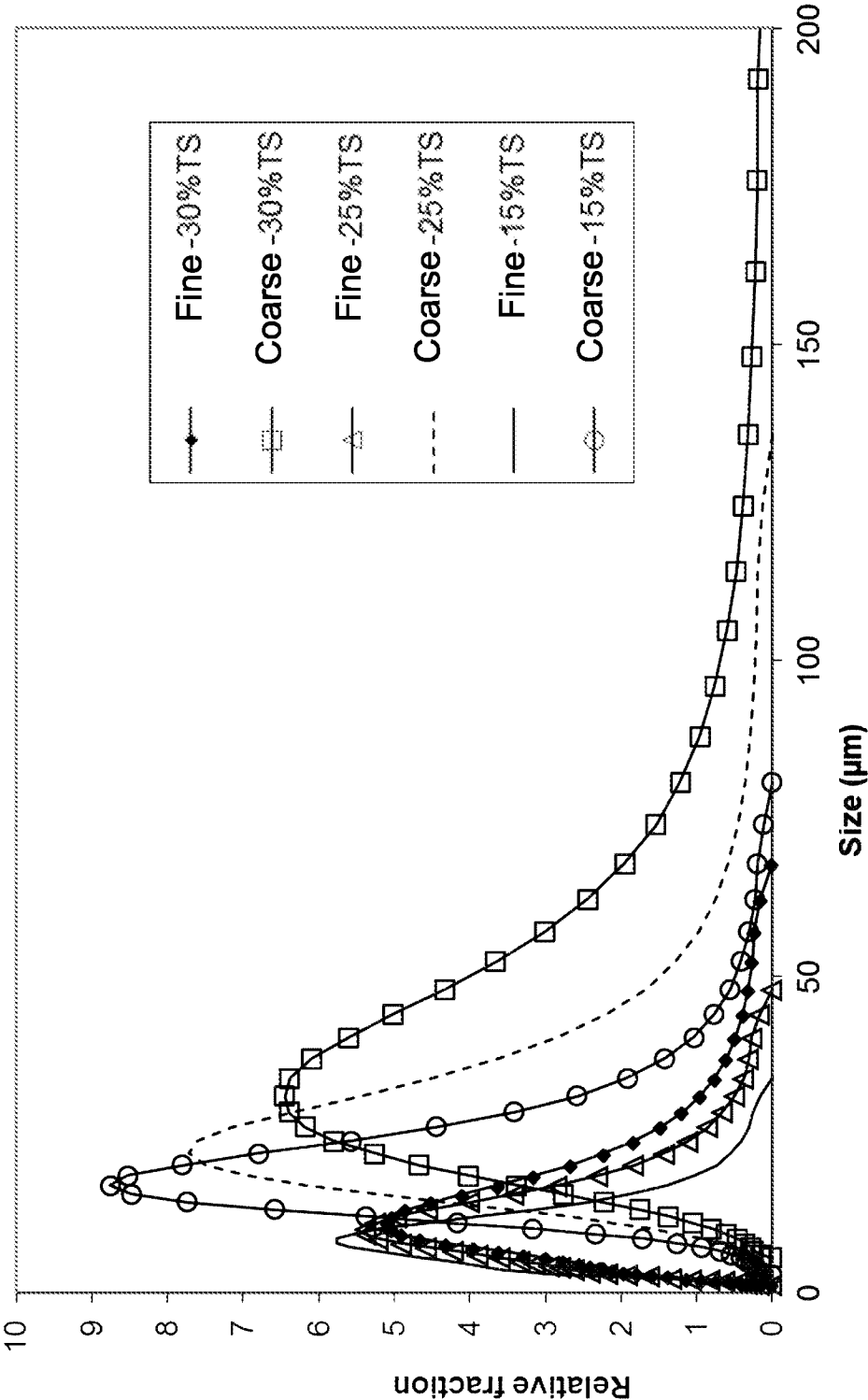
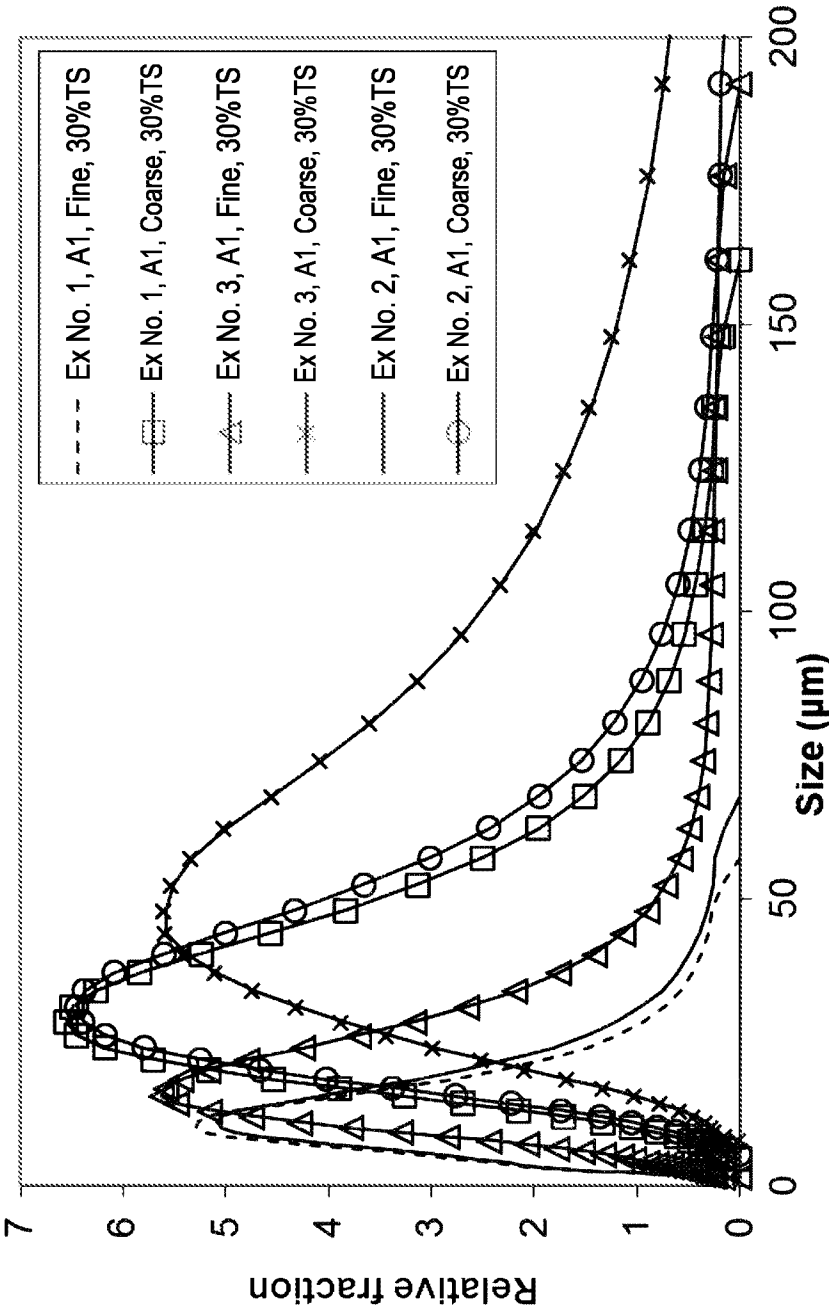


FIG. 5



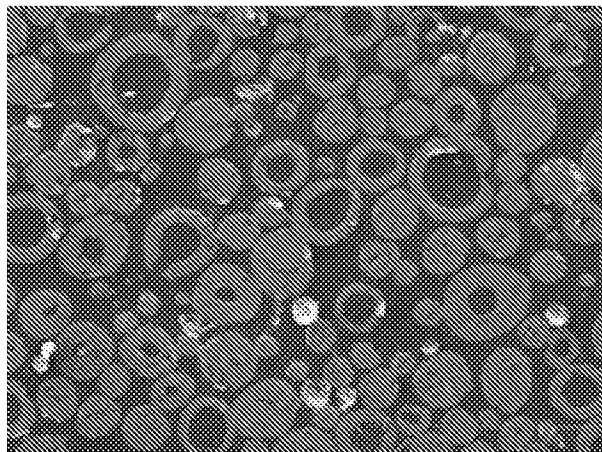


FIG. 6

FIG. 8

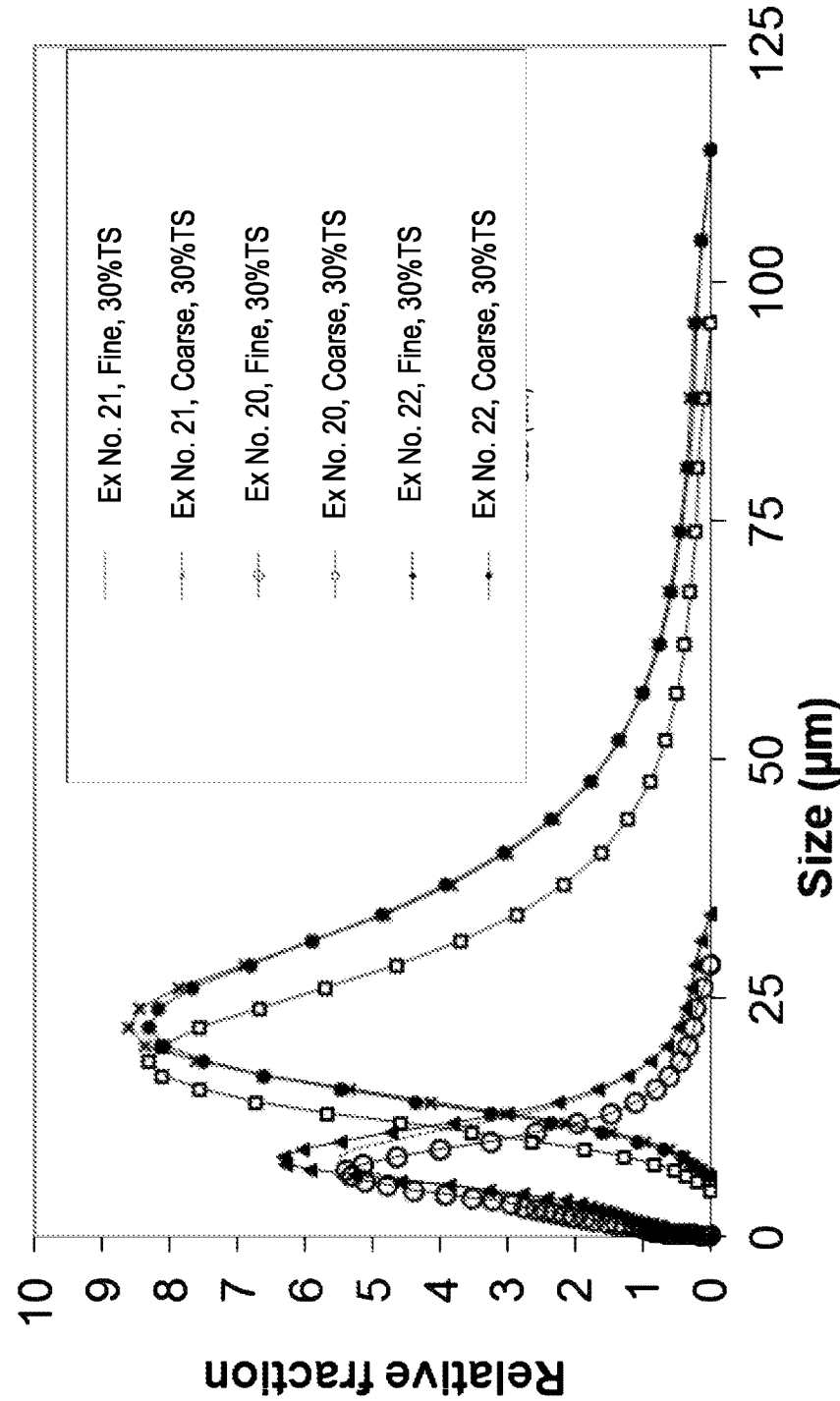


FIG. 9

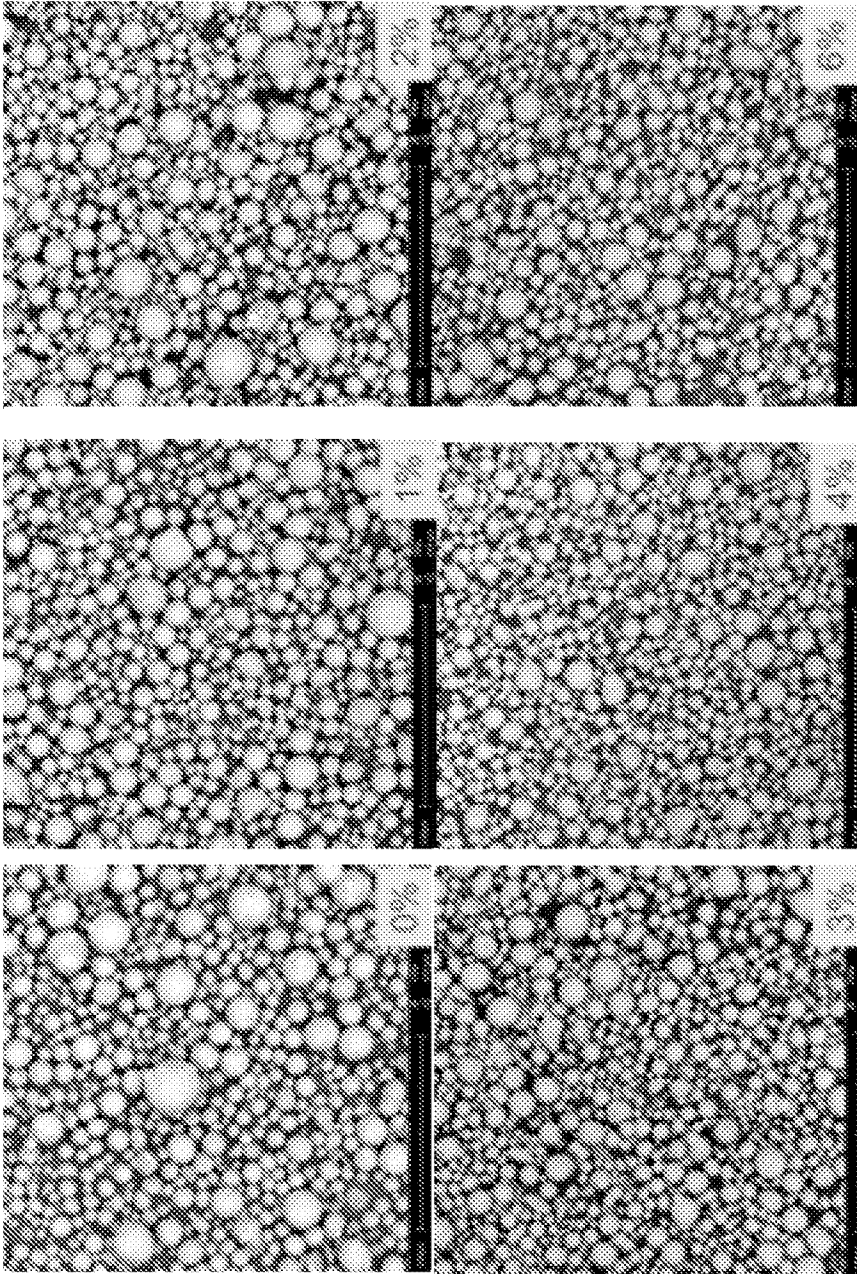


FIG. 10

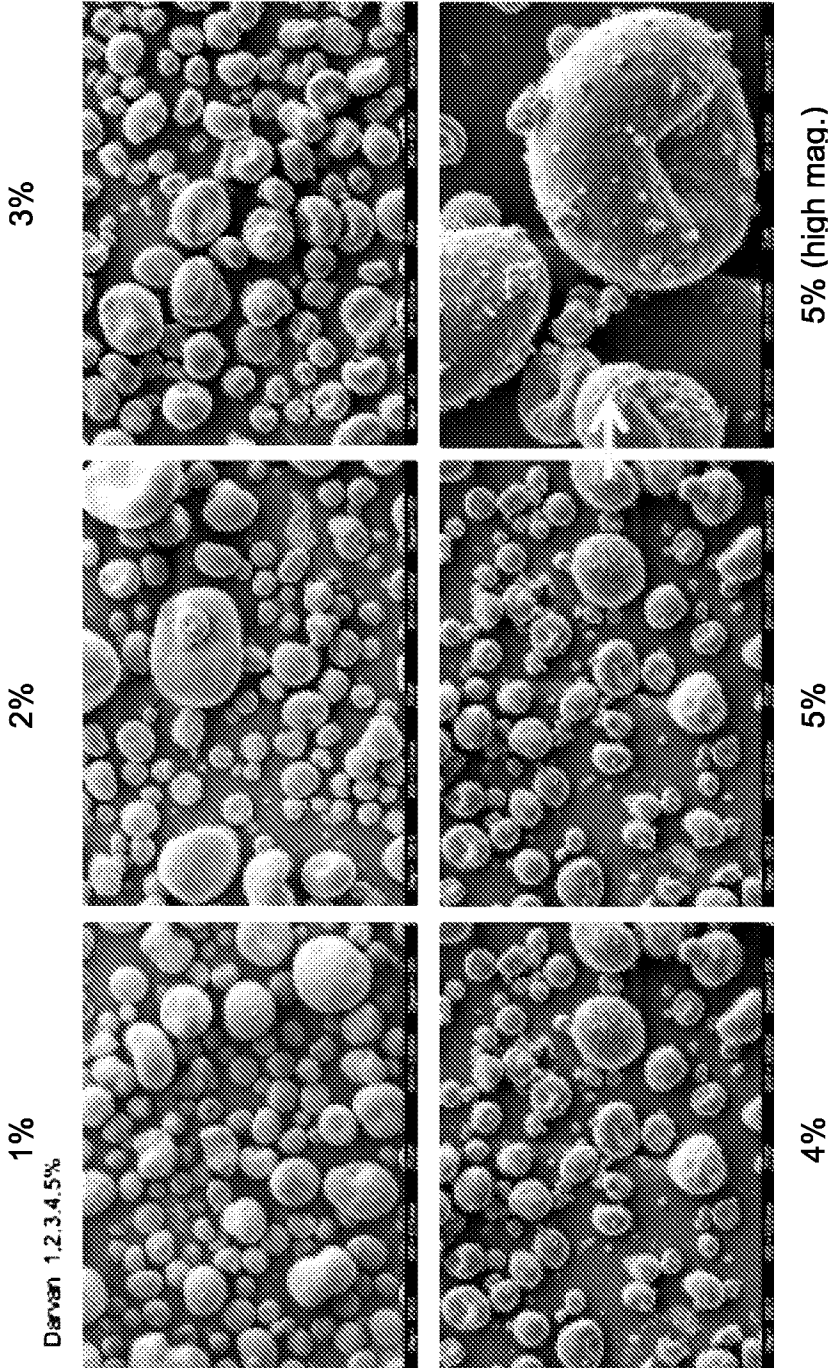
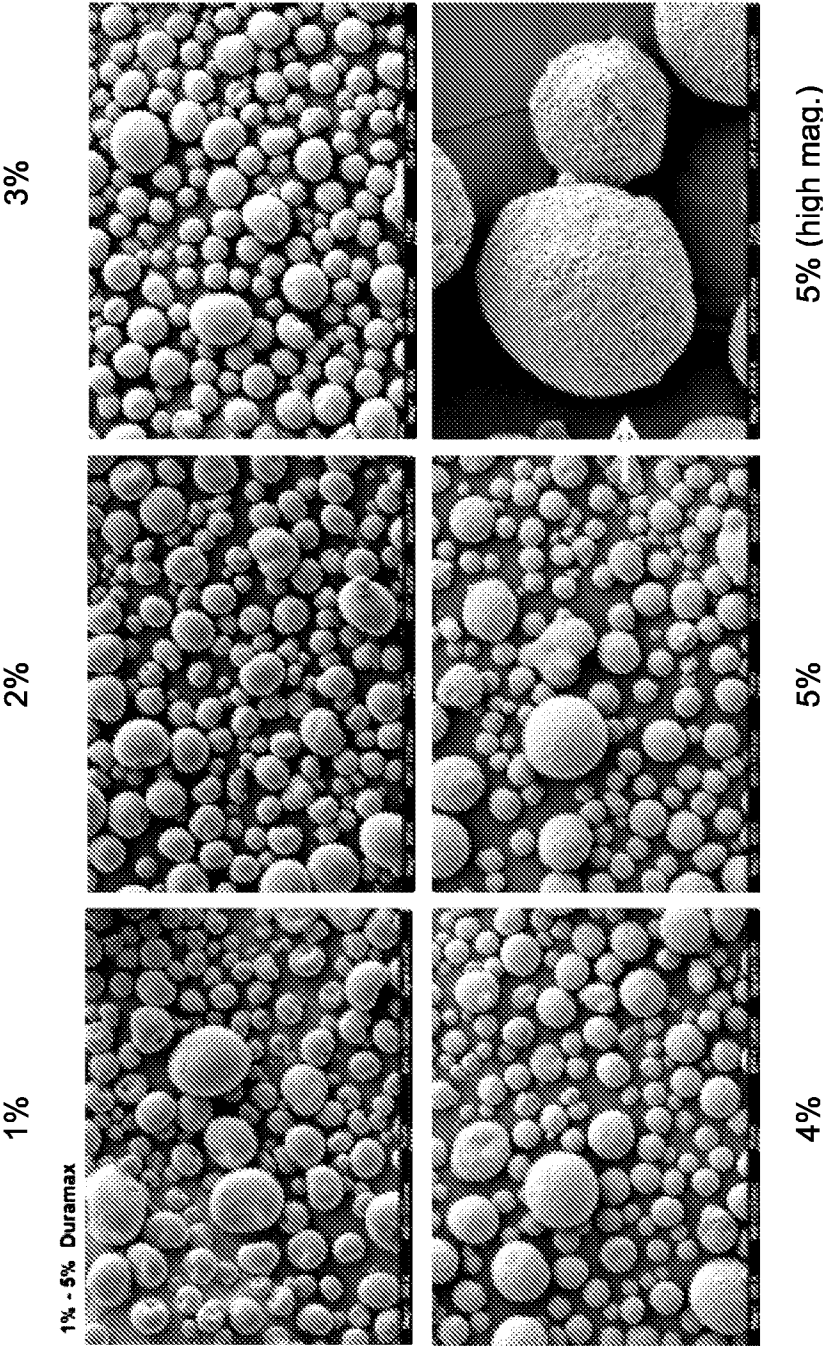


FIG. 11



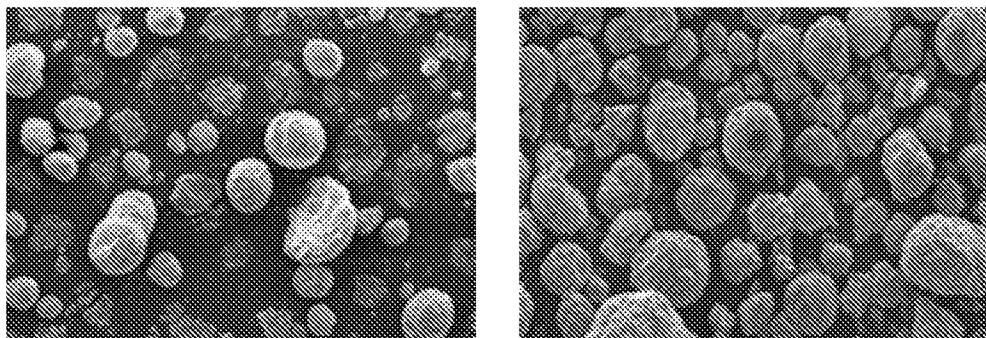


FIG. 12A

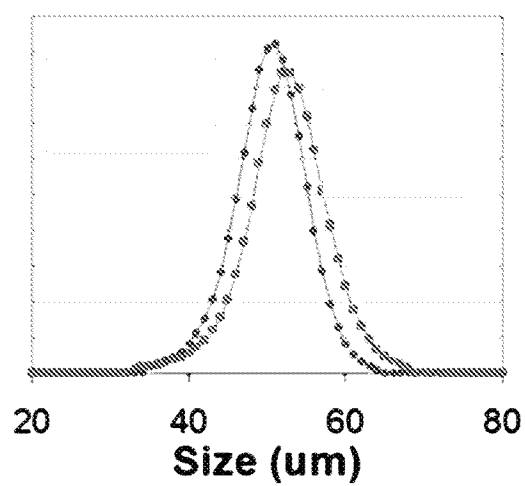


FIG. 12B

FIG. 15A

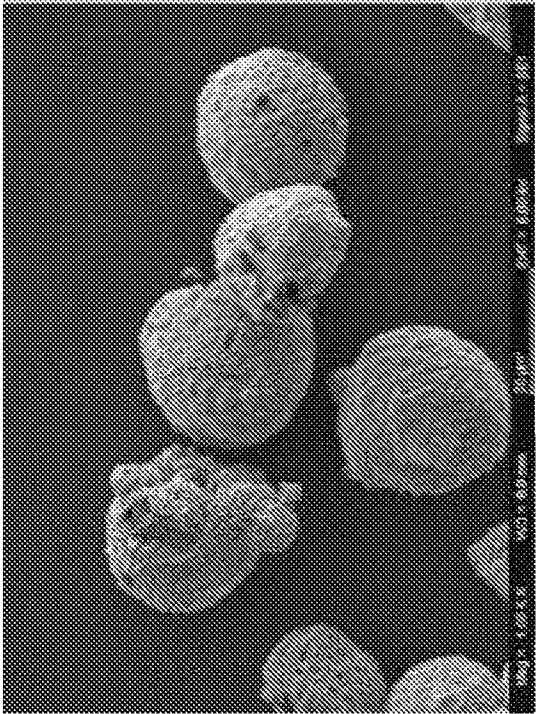


FIG. 15B

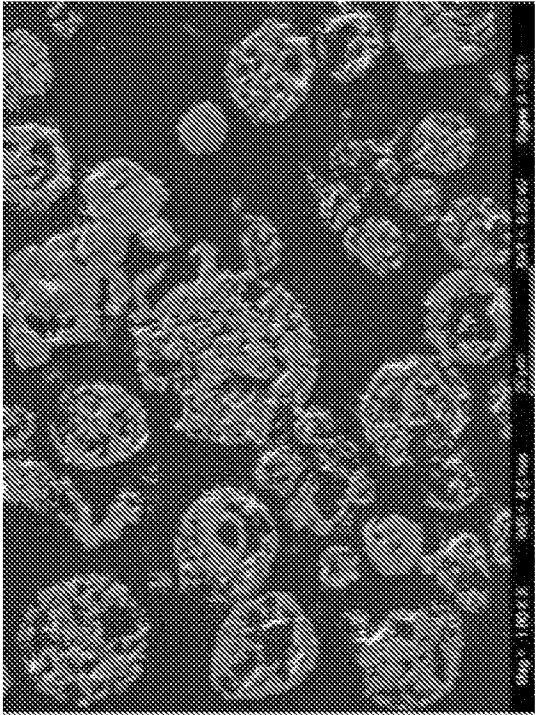


FIG. 16A

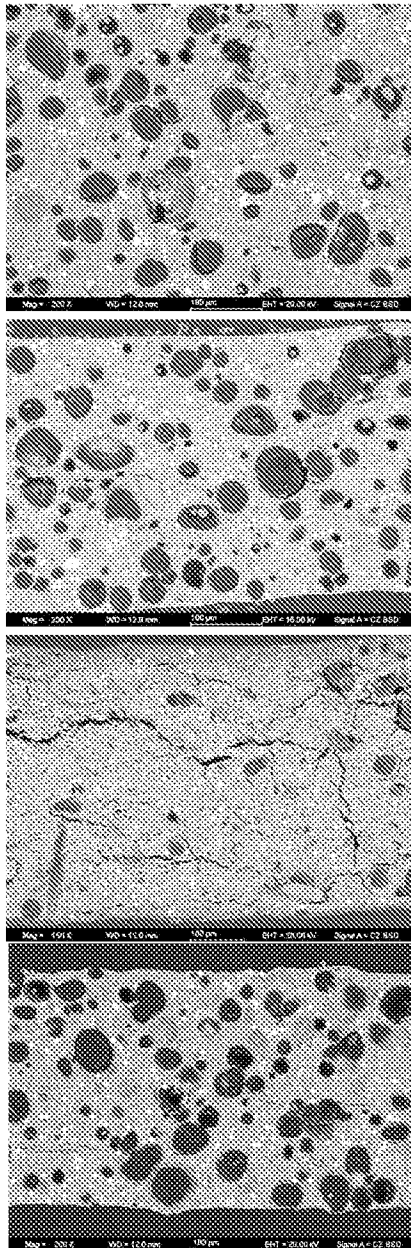


FIG. 16B

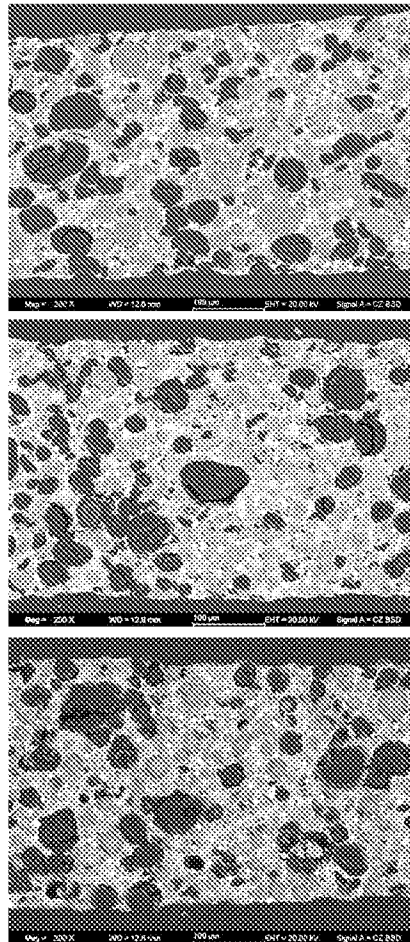


FIG. 16C

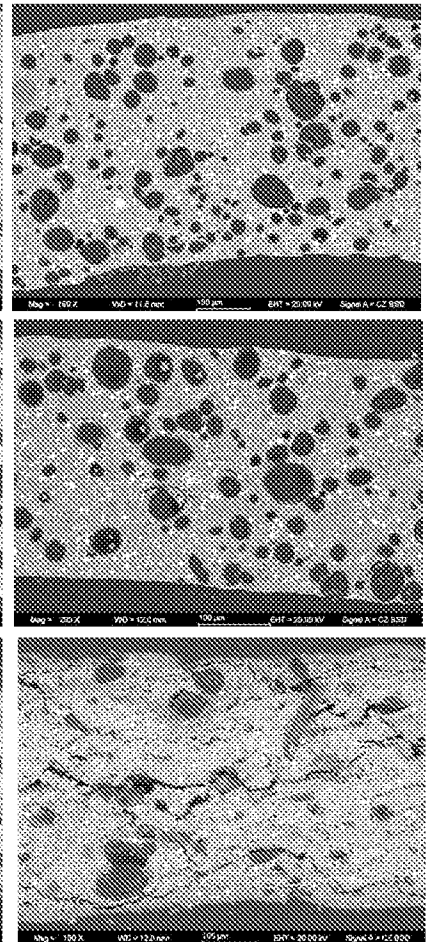


FIG. 16D

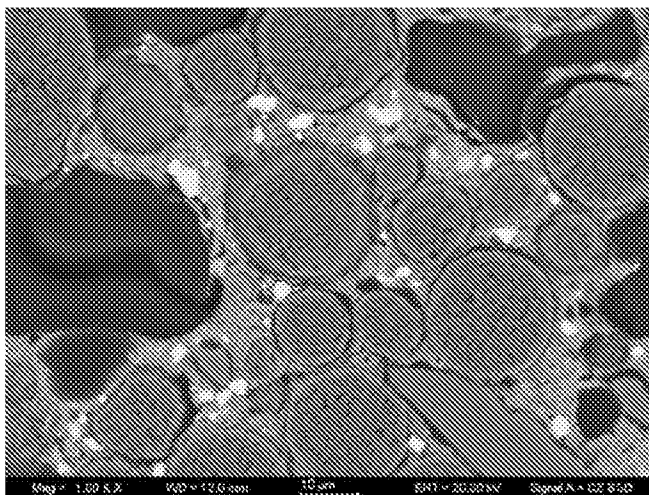


FIG. 16E

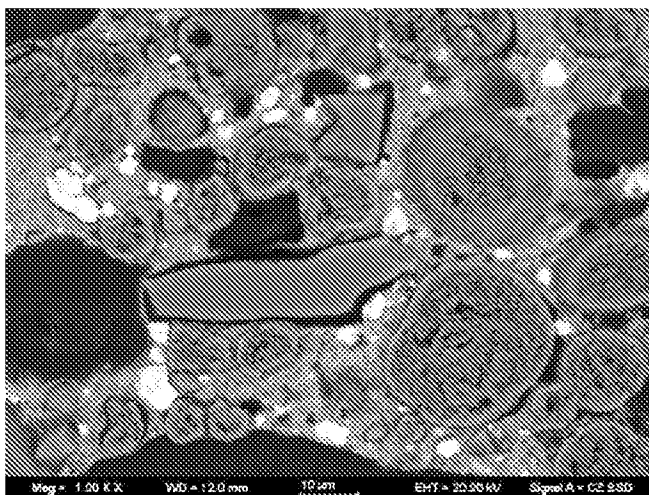
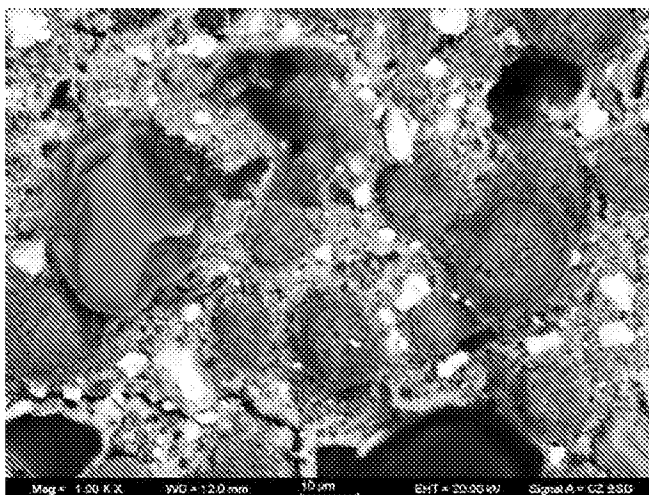


FIG. 16F



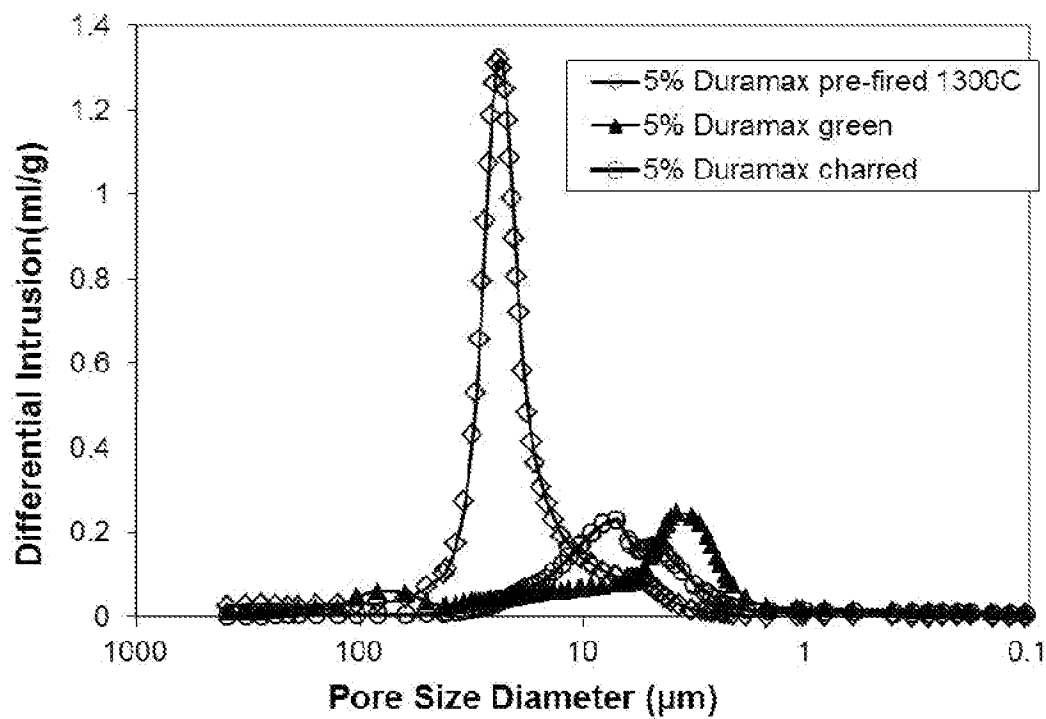


FIG. 17A

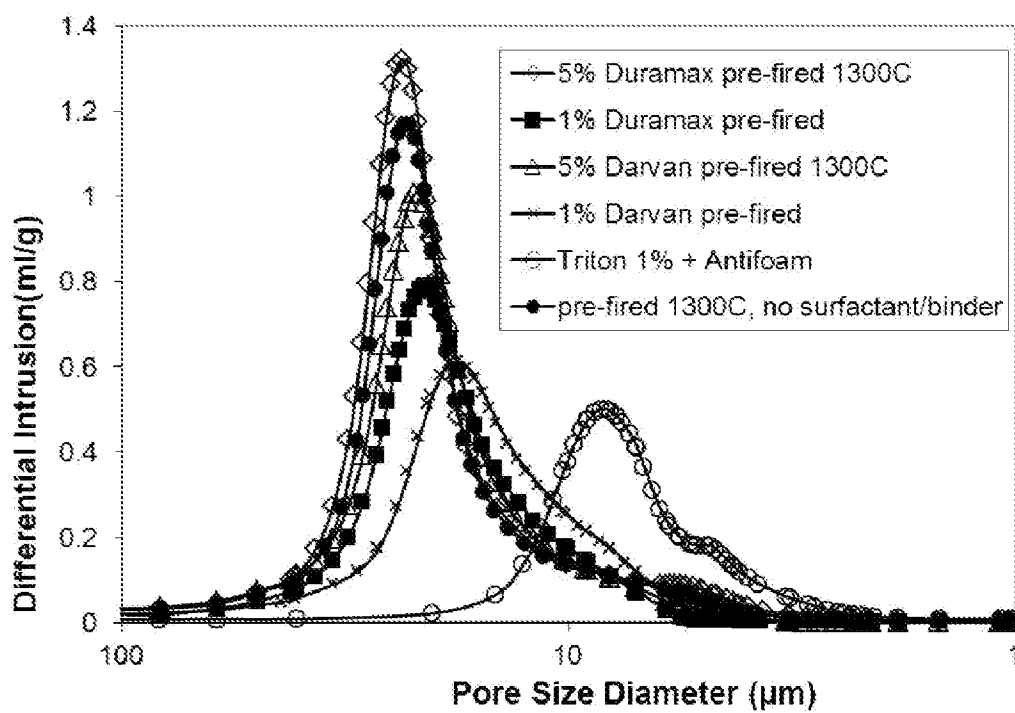


FIG. 17B

FIG. 18A

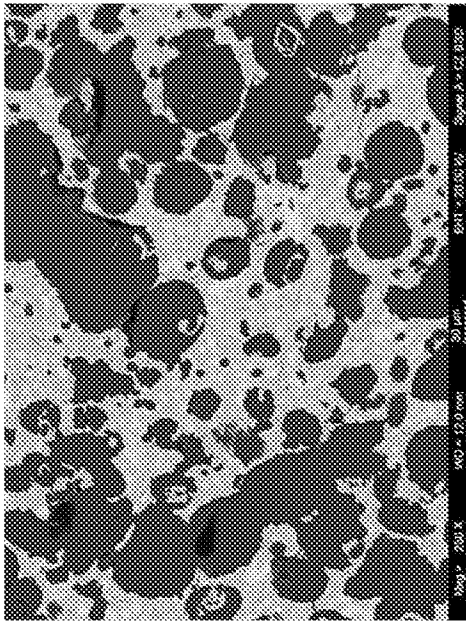


FIG. 18B

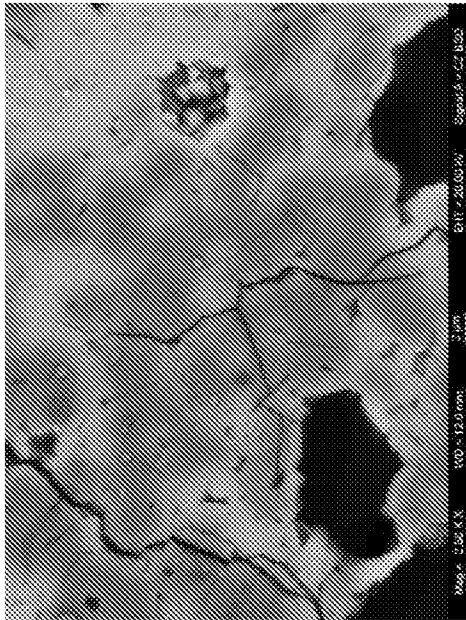


FIG. 18C

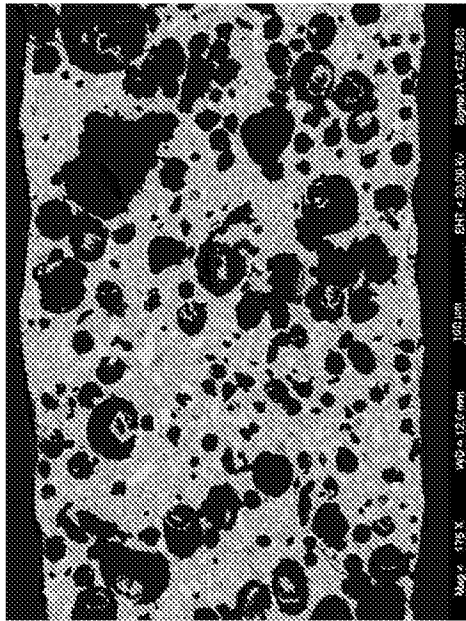


FIG. 18D

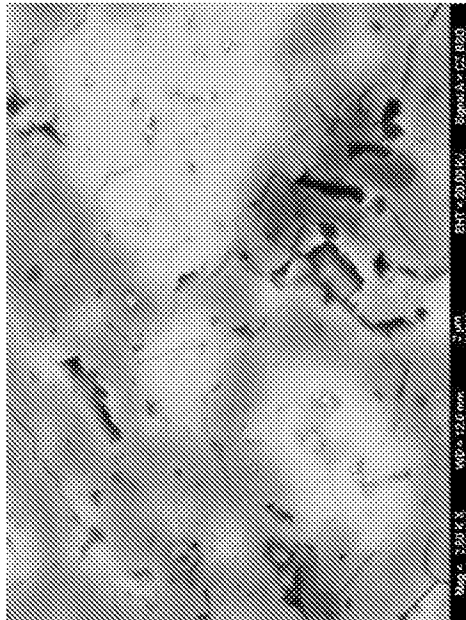


FIG. 19A

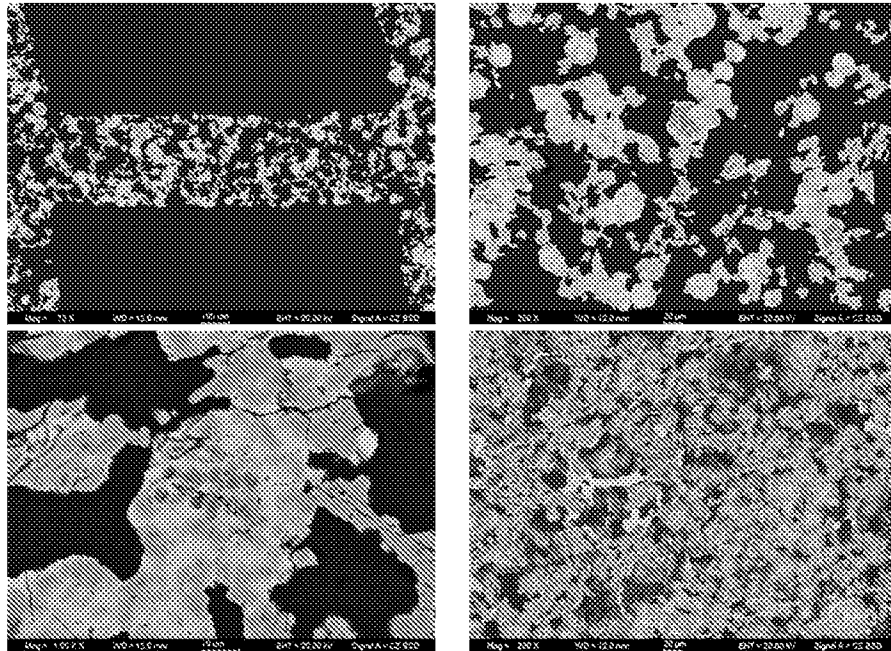


FIG. 19B

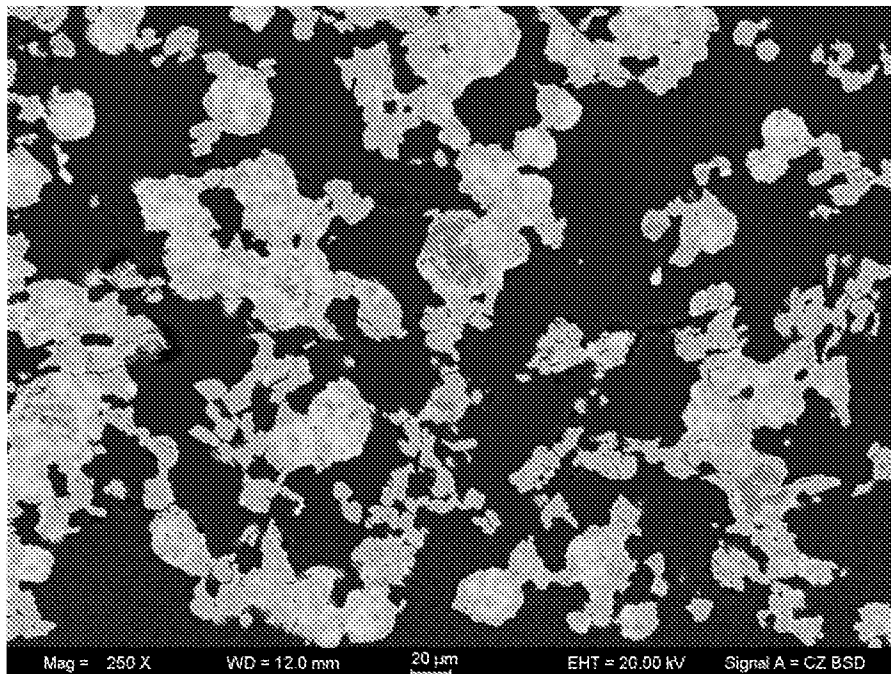


FIG. 20B

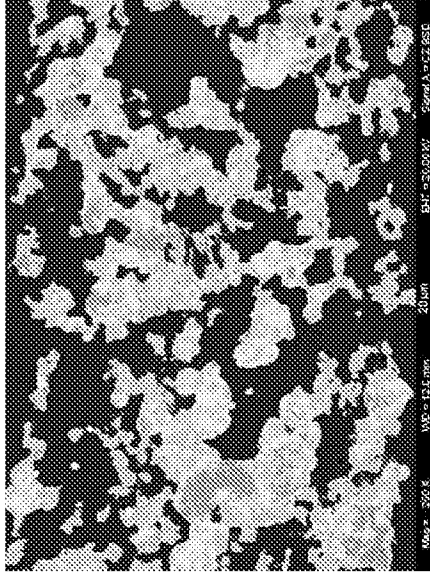


FIG. 20D

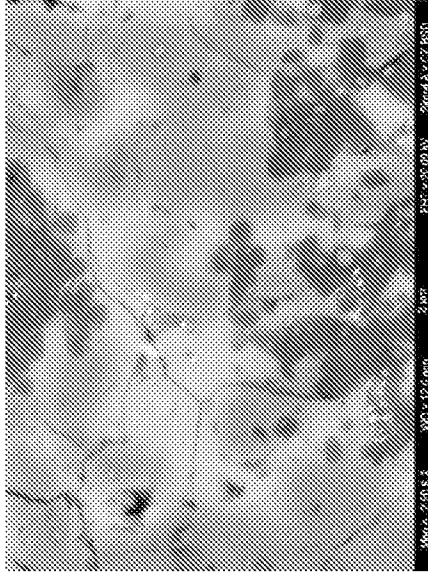


FIG. 20A

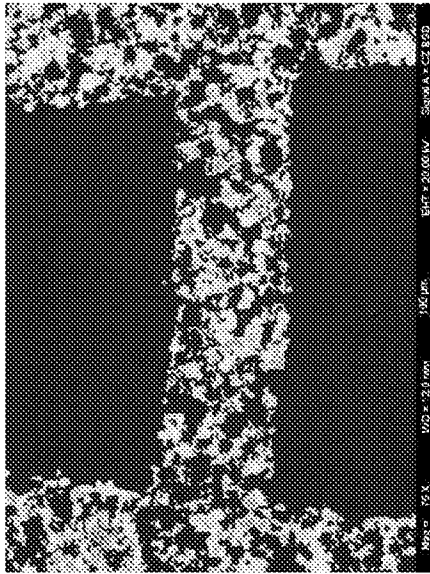


FIG. 20C

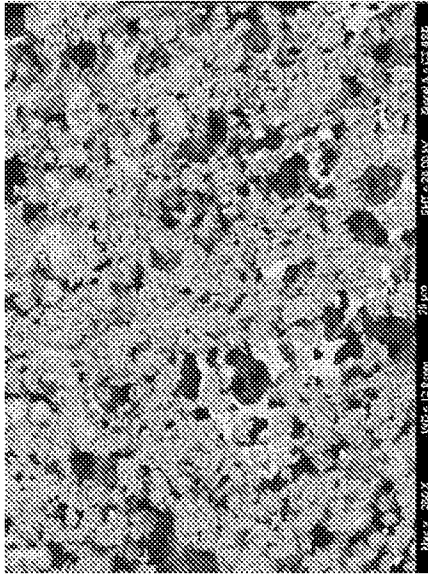


FIG. 21

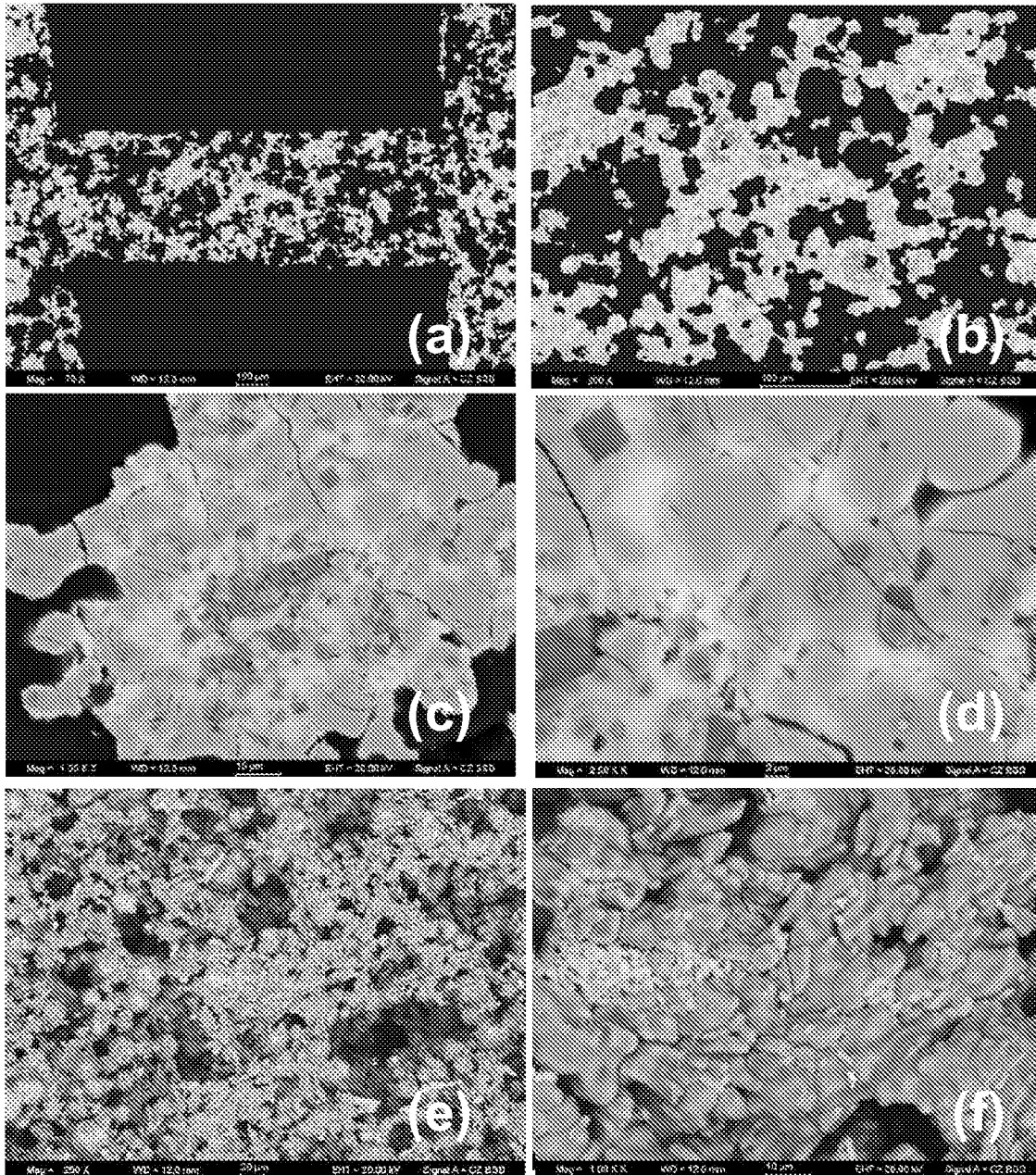


FIG. 22A

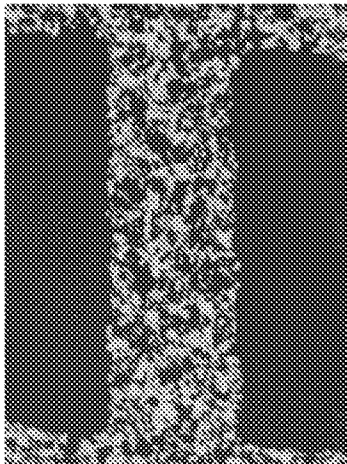


FIG. 22B

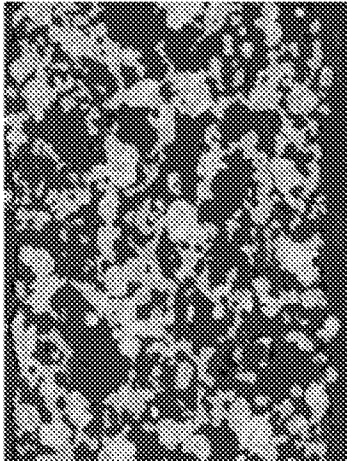


FIG. 22C

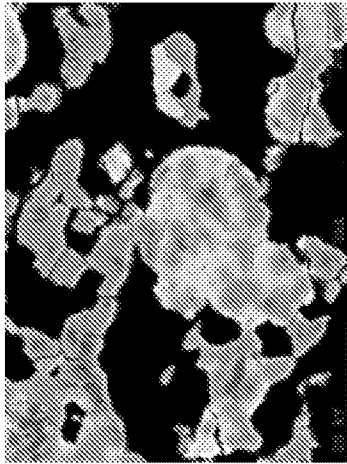


FIG. 22D

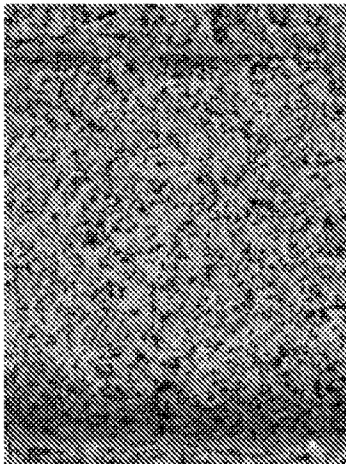


FIG. 22E

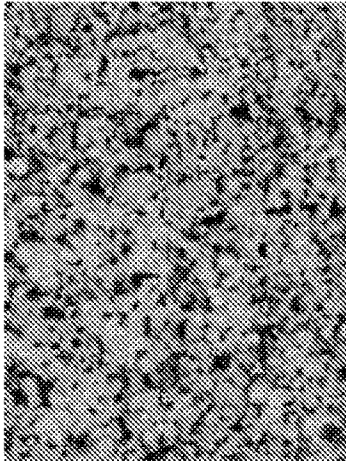


FIG. 22F

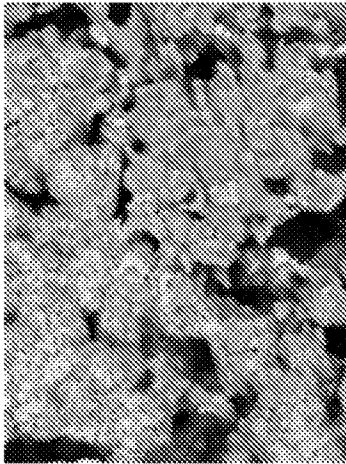


FIG. 23C

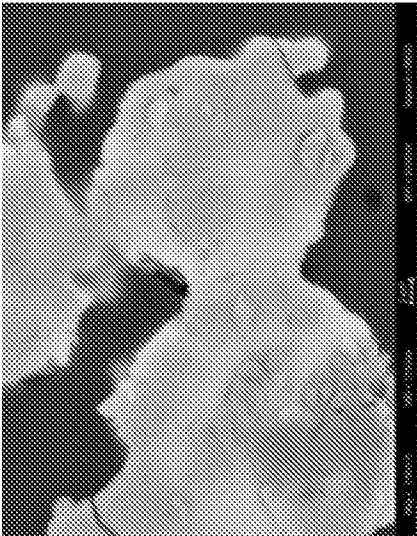


FIG. 23B

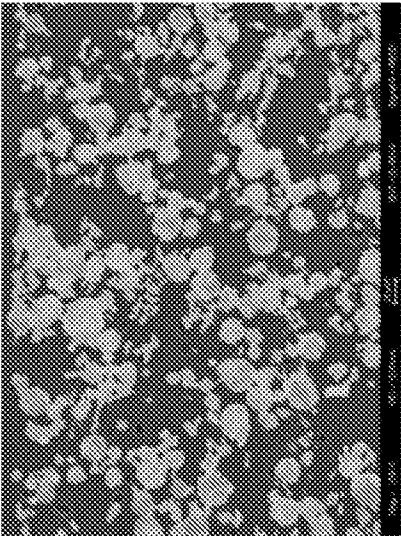


FIG. 23A

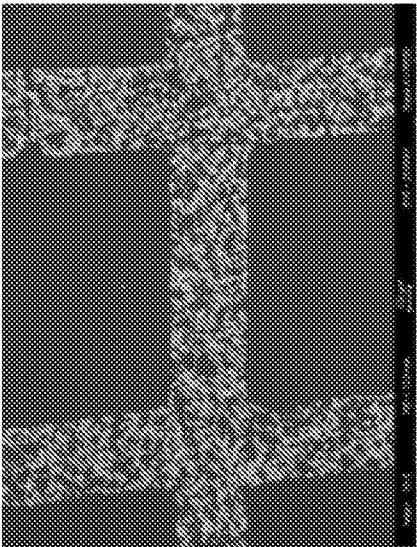


FIG. 23D

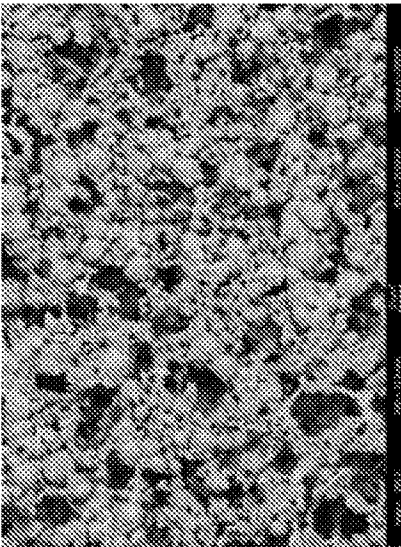


FIG. 24A

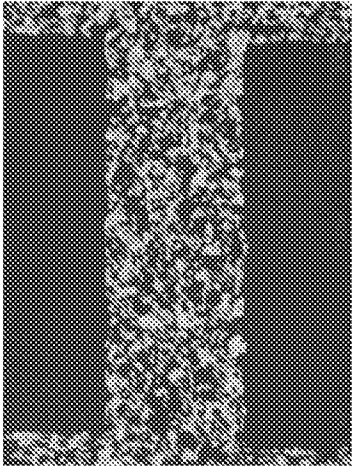


FIG. 24B

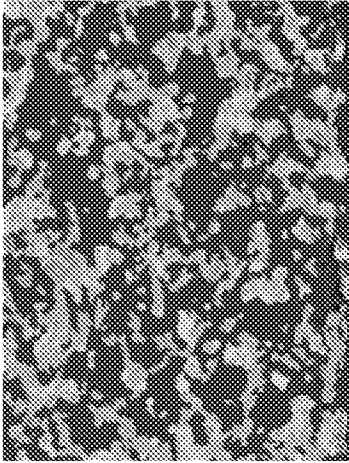


FIG. 24C

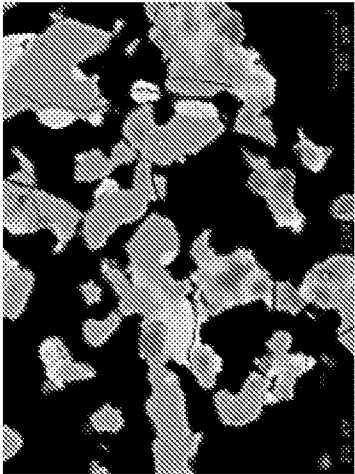


FIG. 24D

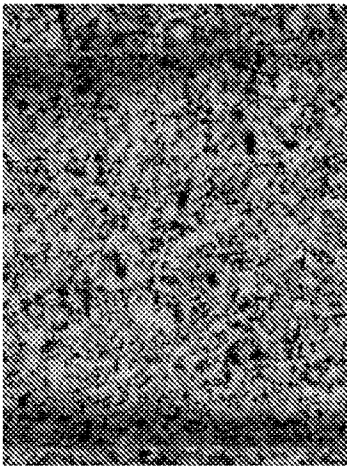


FIG. 24E

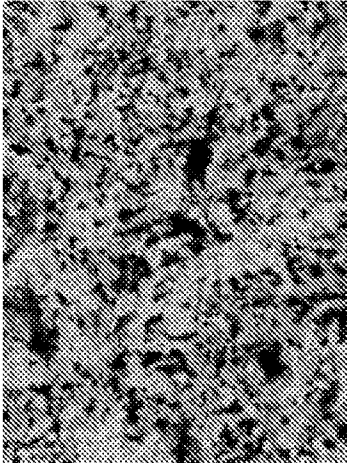


FIG. 24F

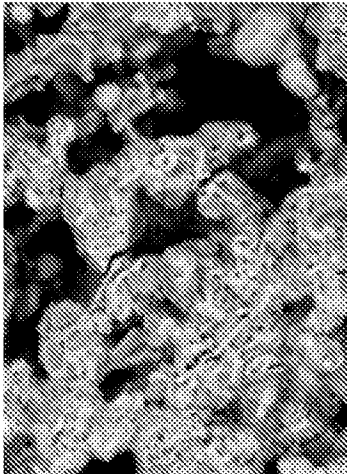


FIG. 25A

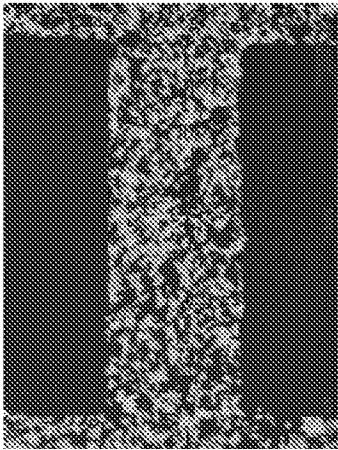


FIG. 25B

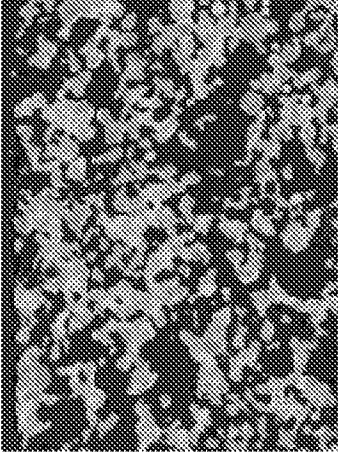
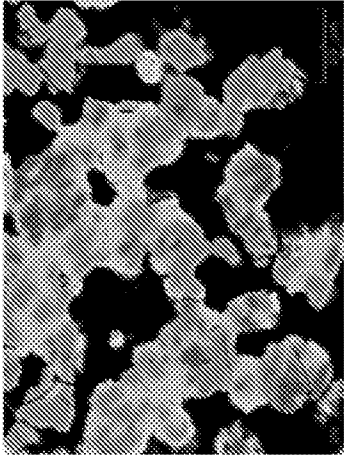


FIG. 25C



Example No.H4 made using Particle Example Nos. 78 and 111

FIG. 25D

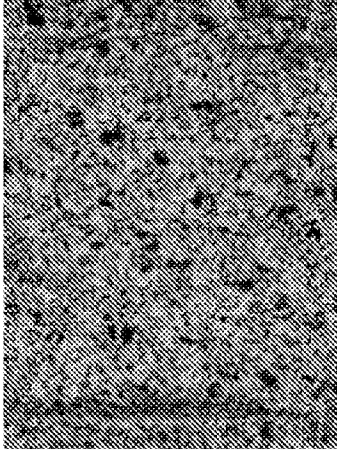


FIG. 25E

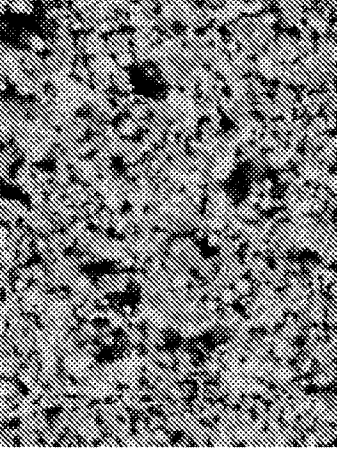


FIG. 25F

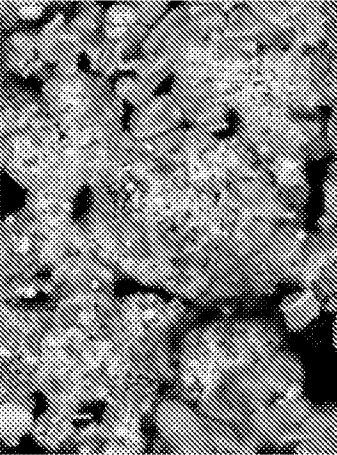


FIG. 26A

Example No.H5

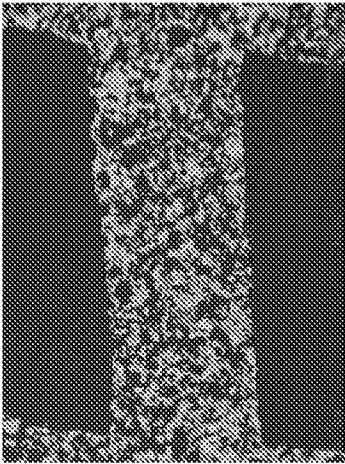


FIG. 26B

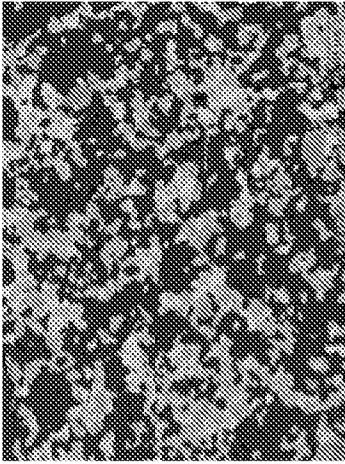


FIG. 26C

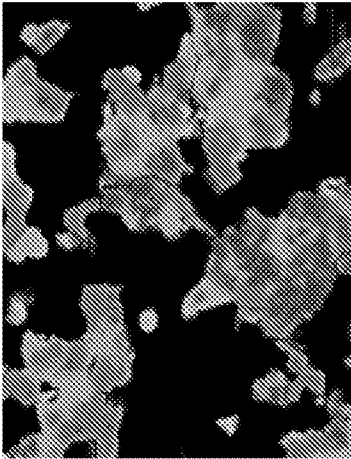


FIG. 26D

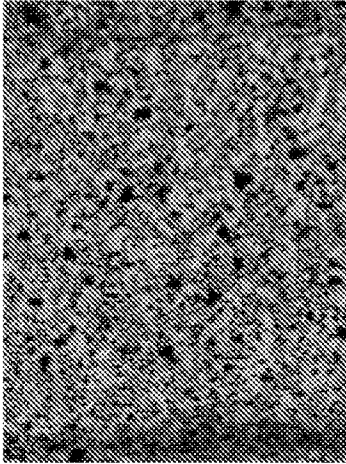


FIG. 26E

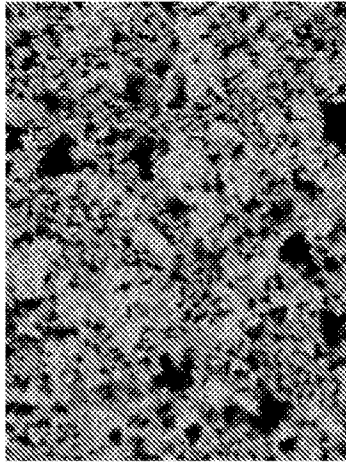


FIG. 26F

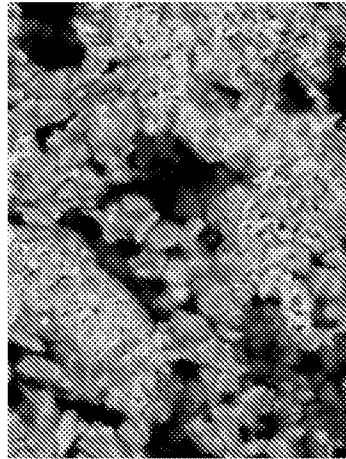


FIG. 27A

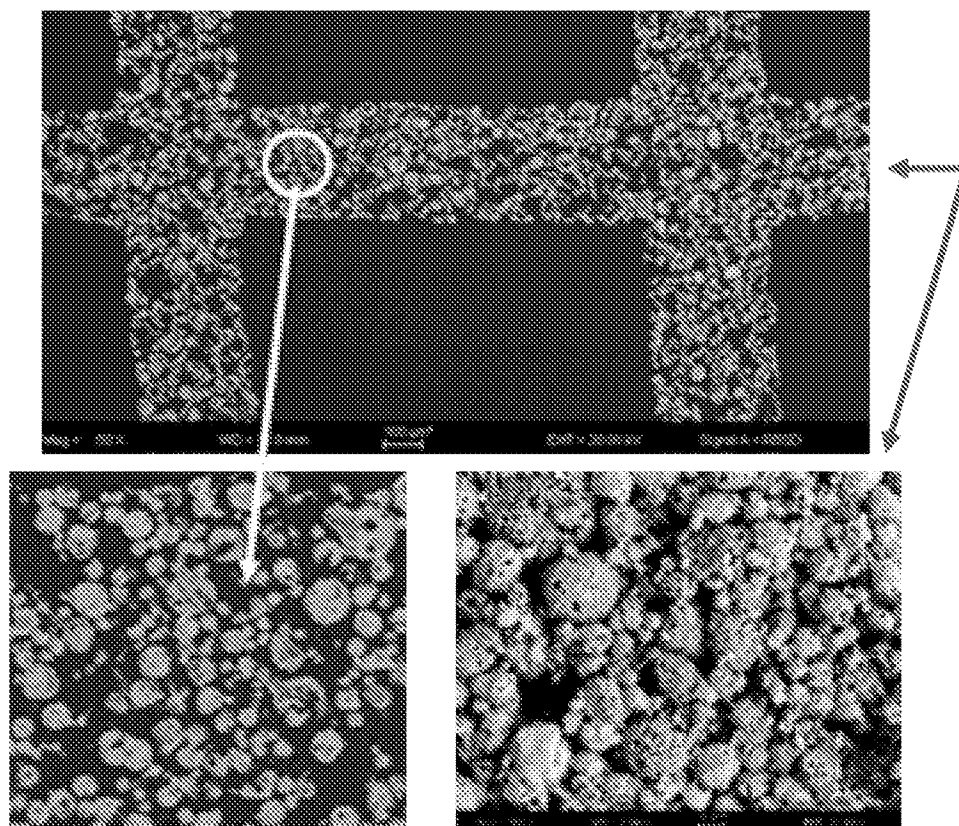


FIG. 27B

FIG. 27C

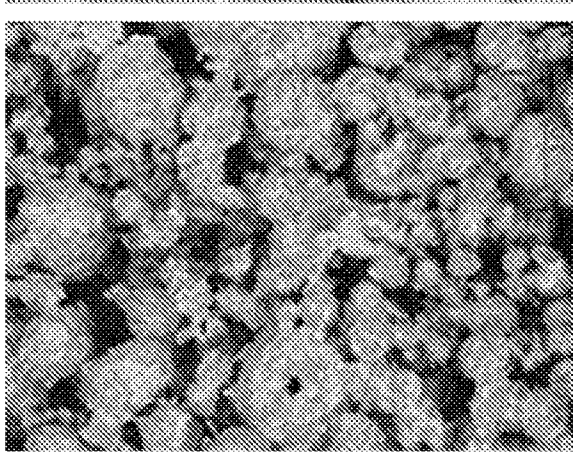


FIG. 28C

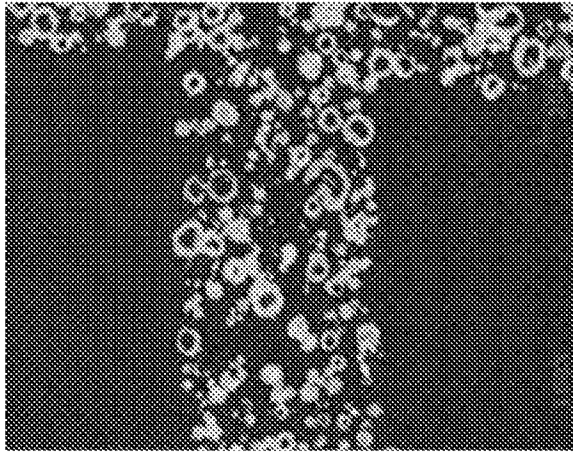


FIG. 28B

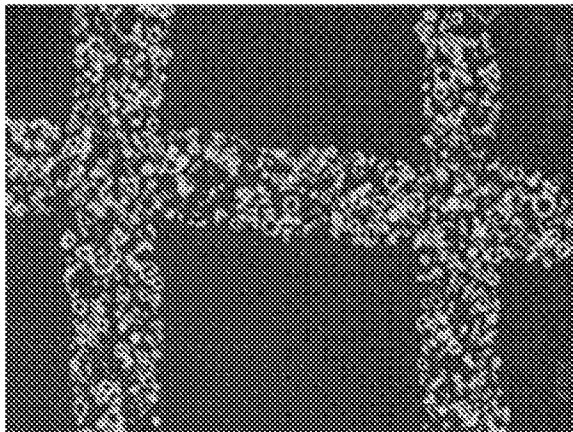


FIG. 28A

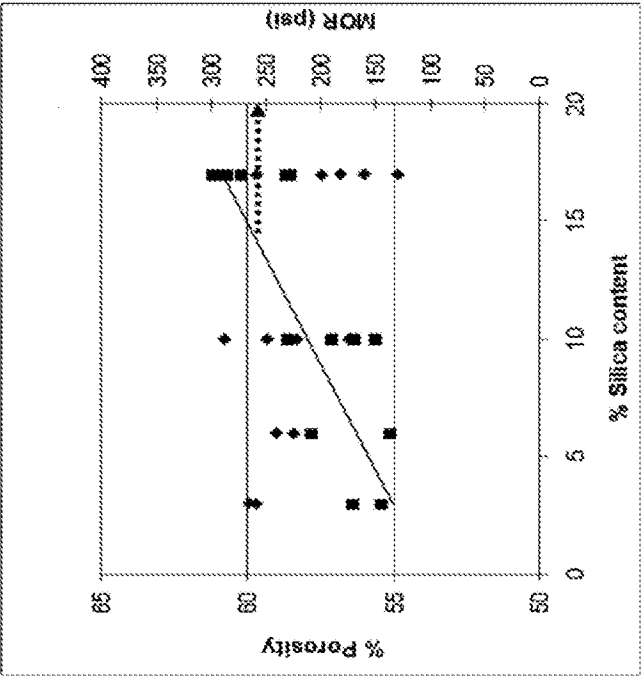


FIG. 29B

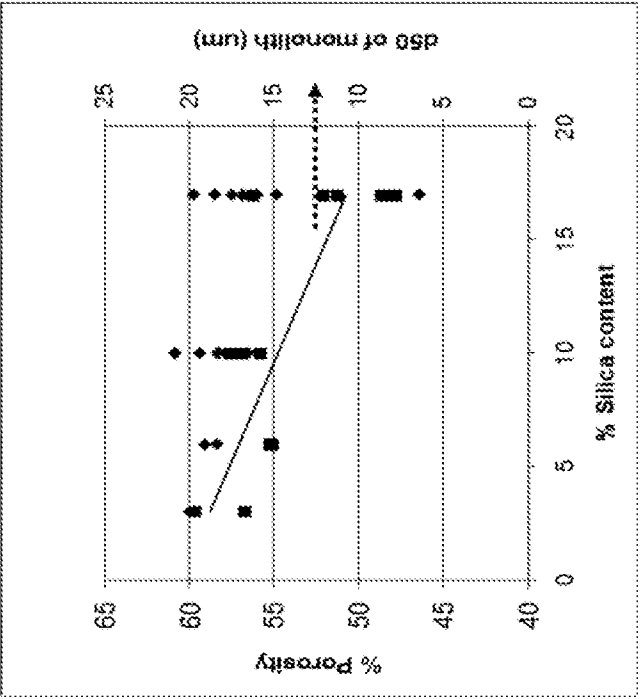


FIG. 29A

FIG. 30A

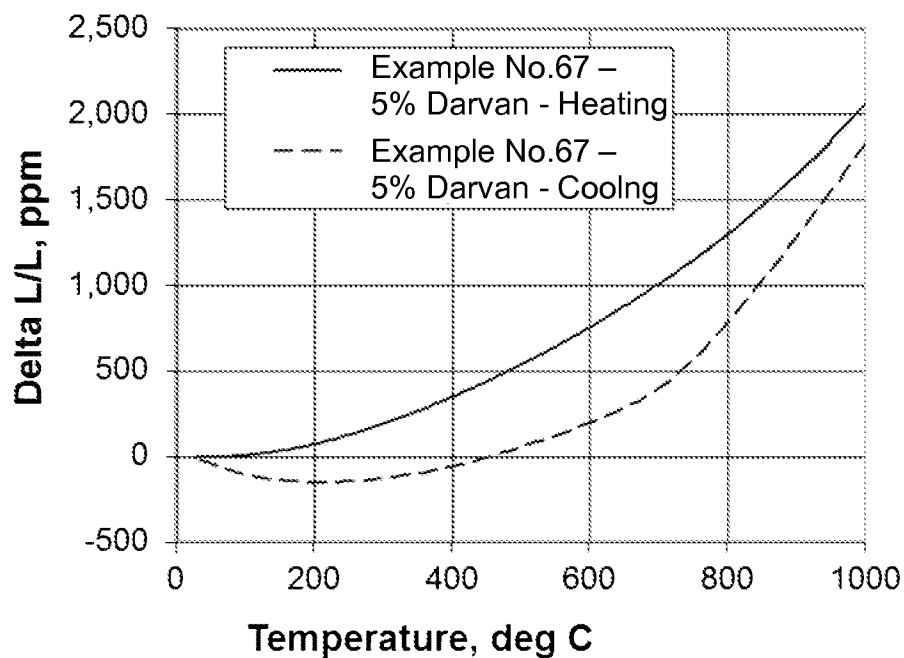


FIG. 30B

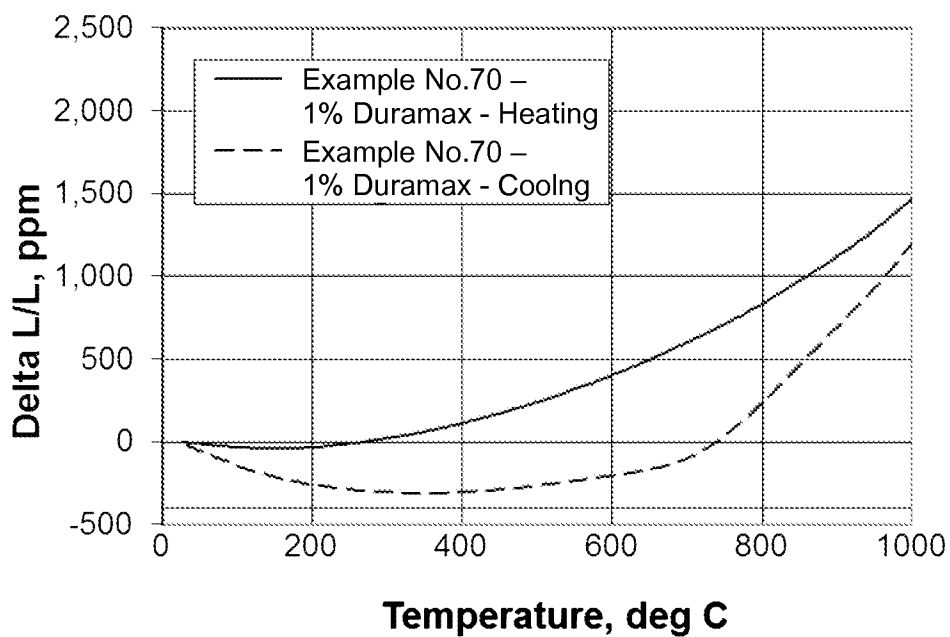


FIG. 30C

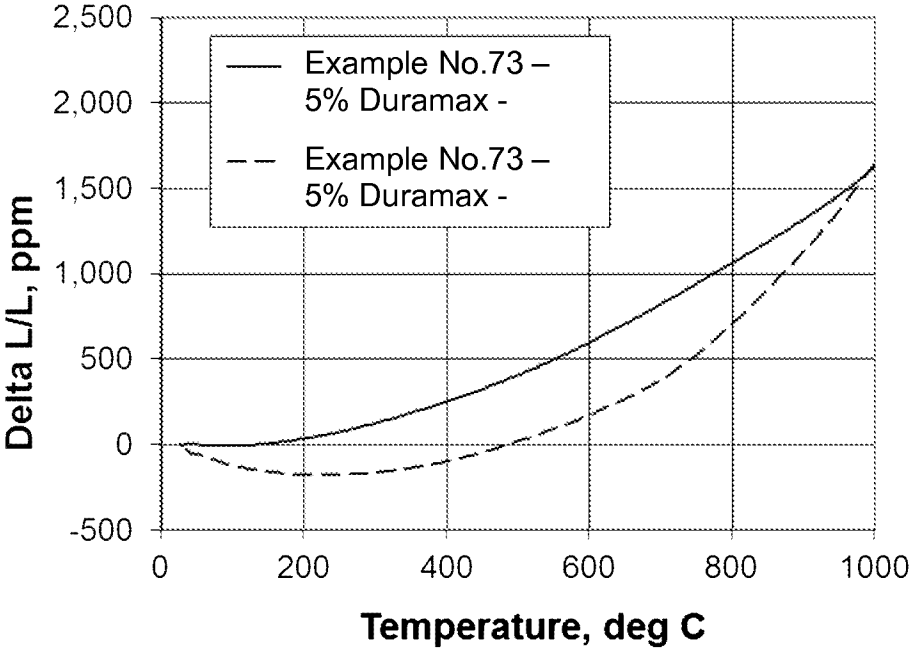
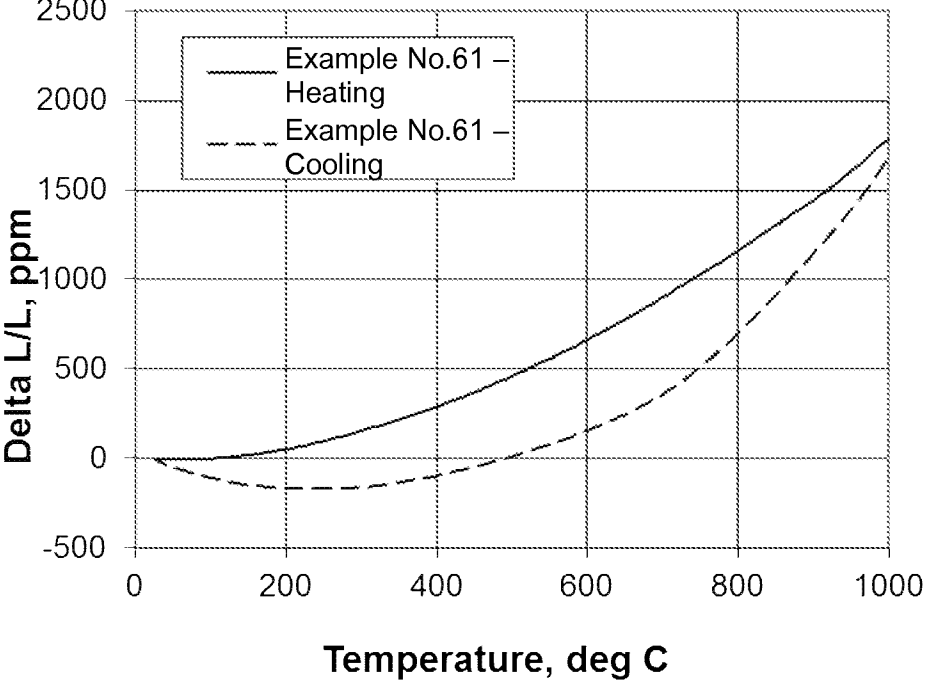


FIG. 30D



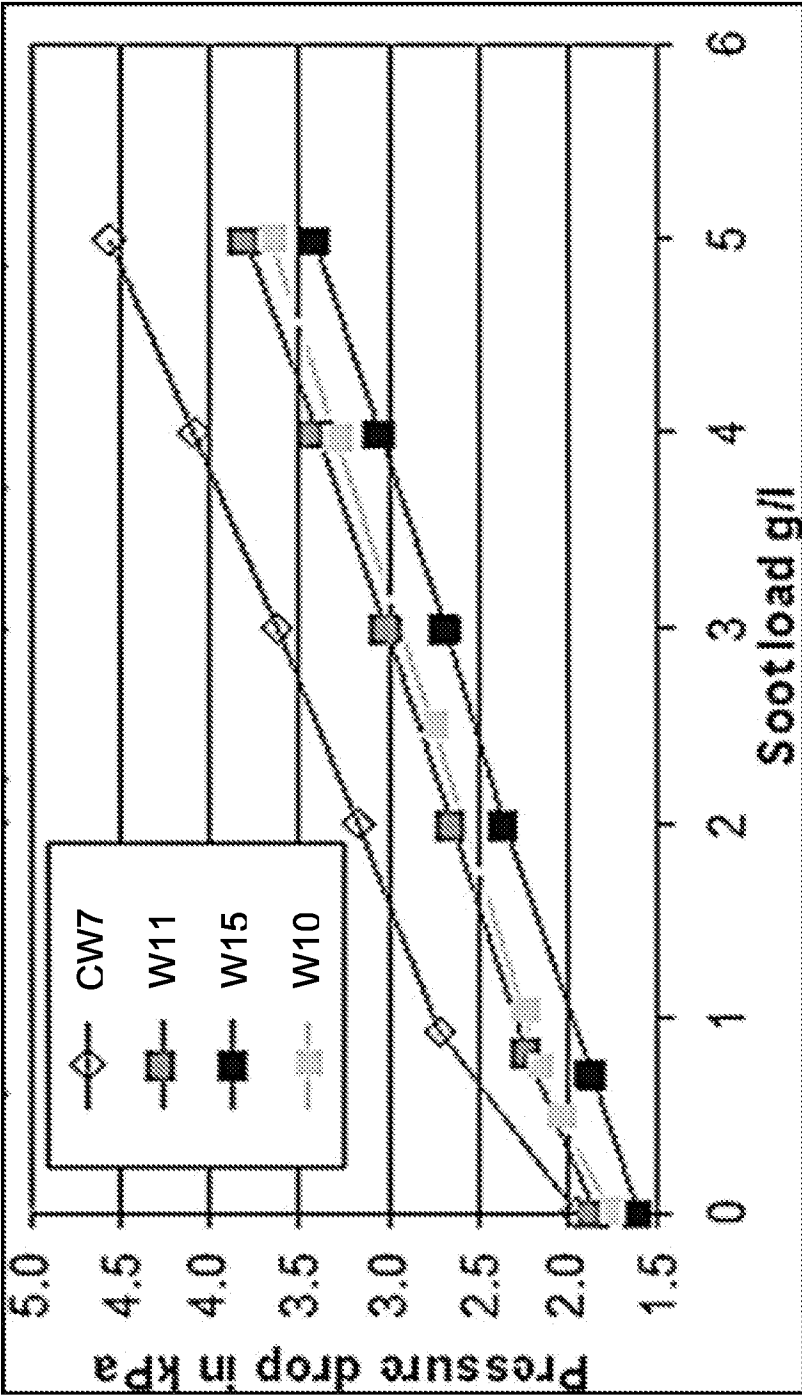


FIG. 31

FIG. 32

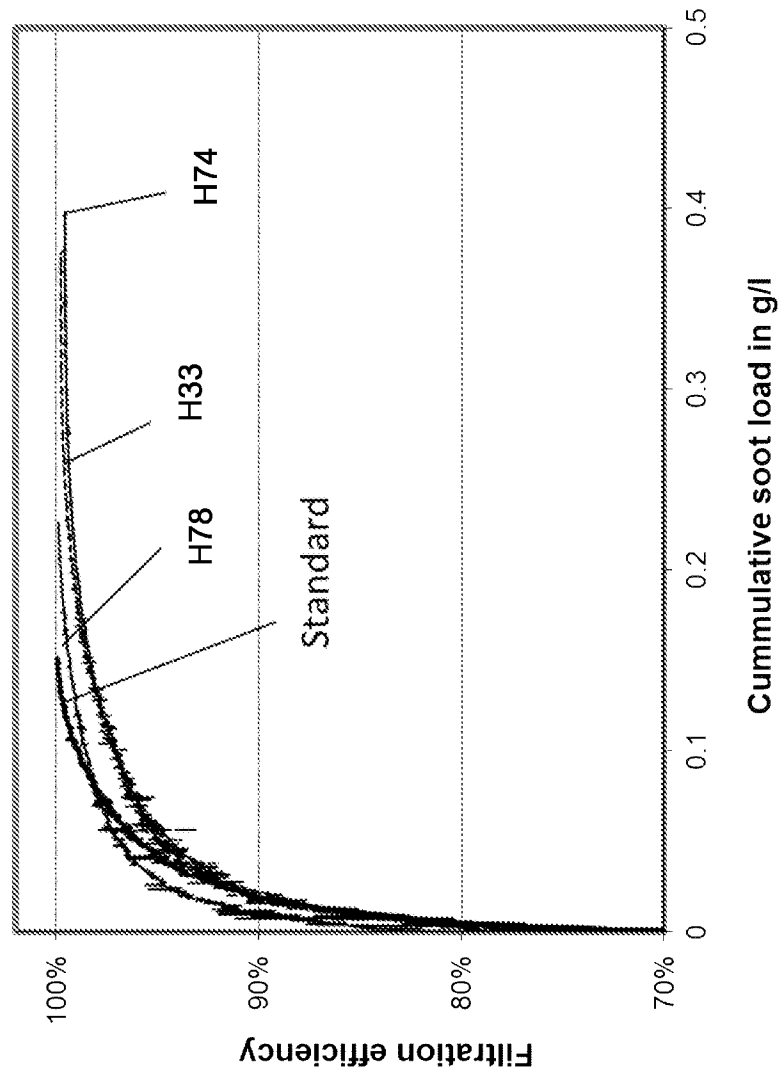


FIG. 33A

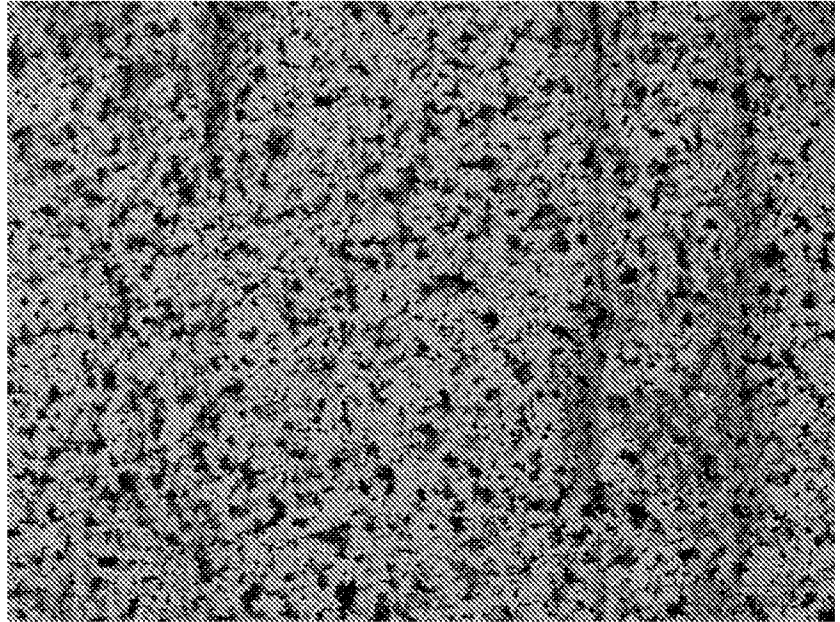


FIG. 33B

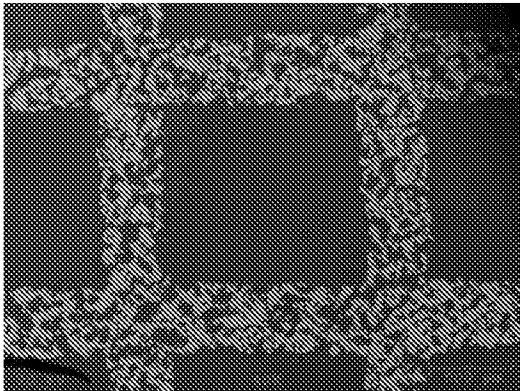


FIG. 33C

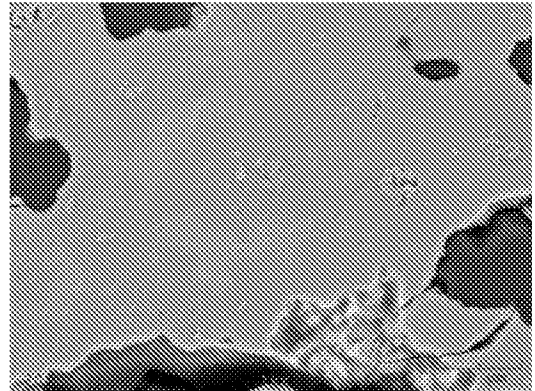


FIG. 33D

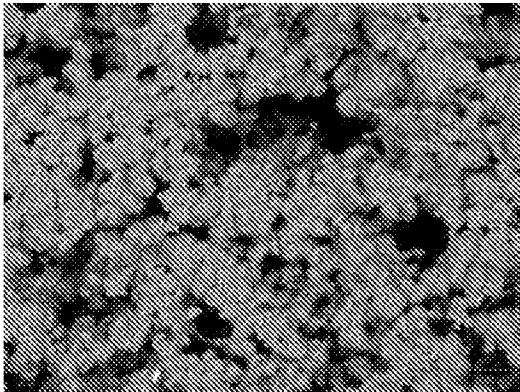


FIG. 33E

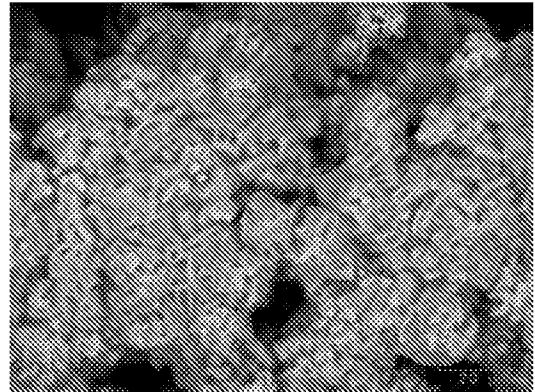


FIG. 34A

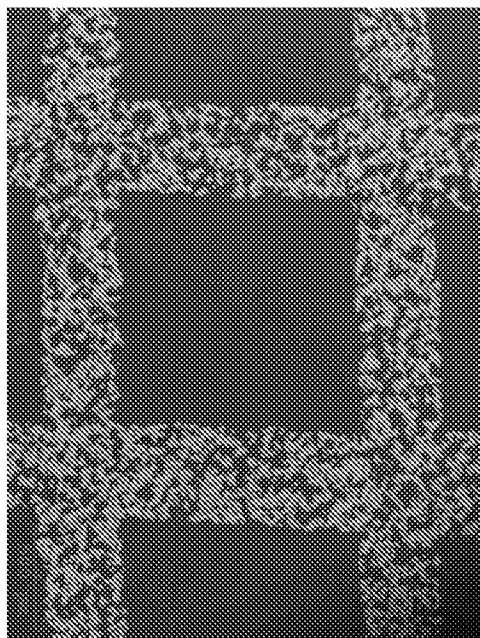


FIG. 34C

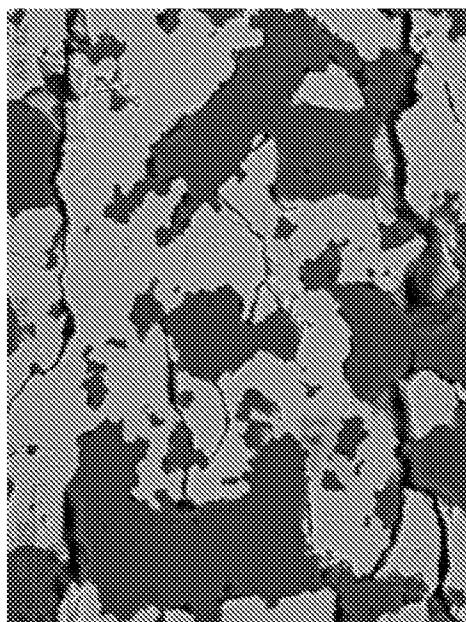
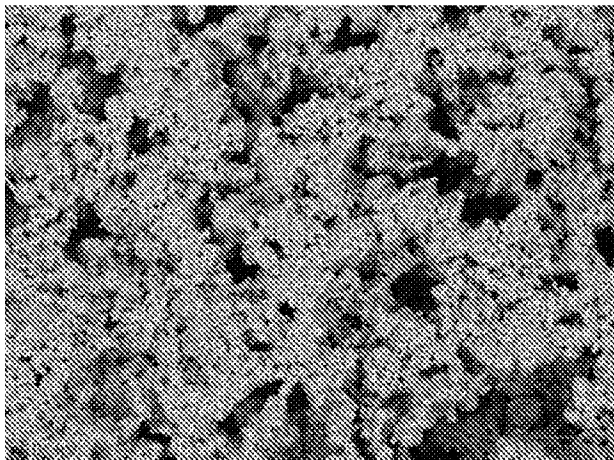


FIG. 34B

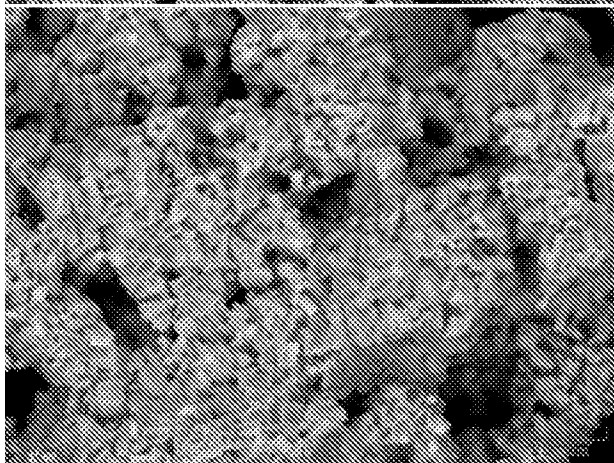


FIG. 34D

FIG. 35

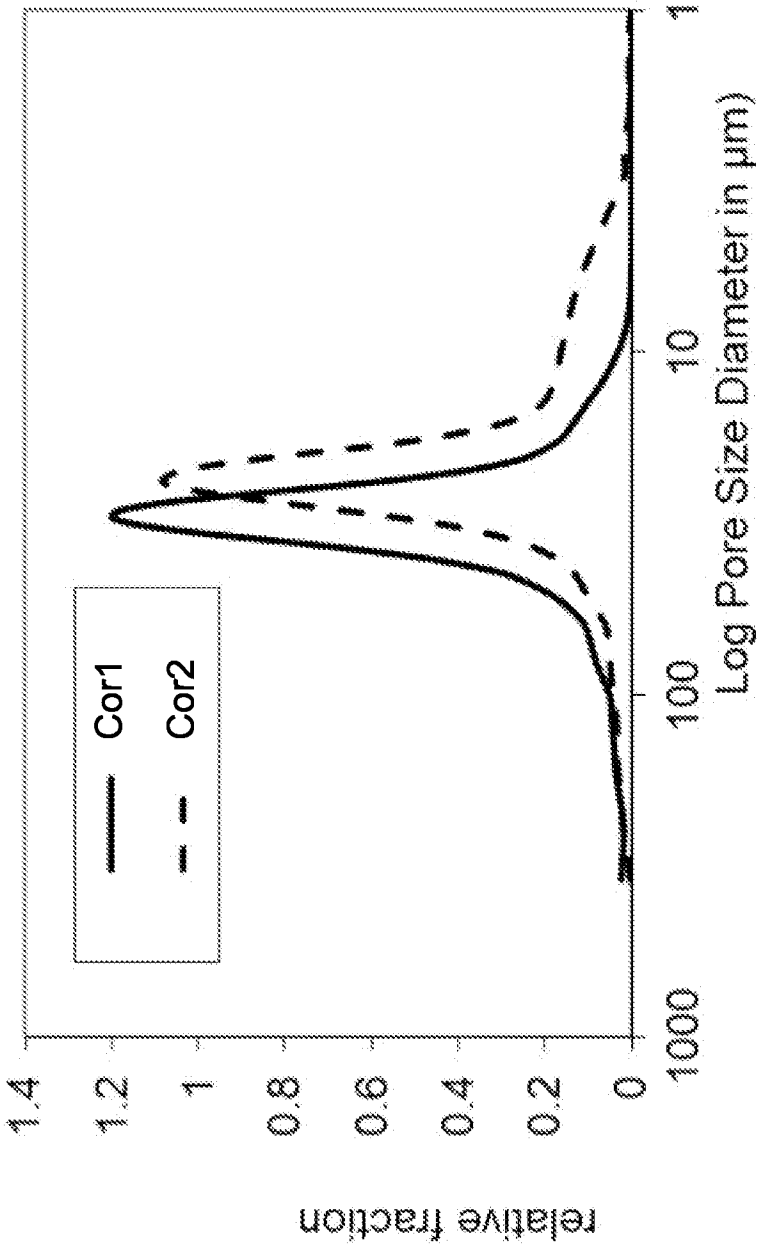
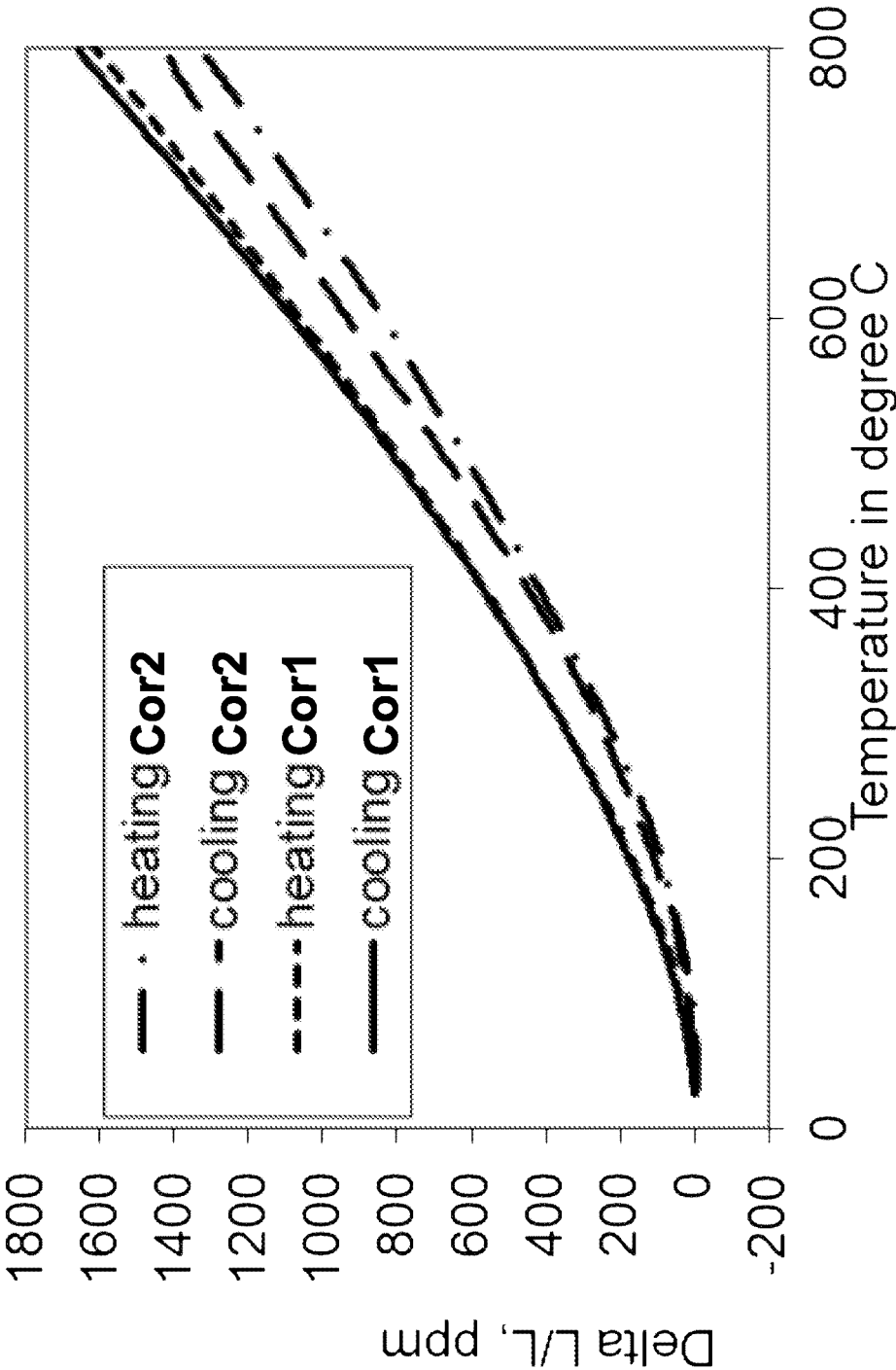


FIG. 36



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2014/038046

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. C04B35/195 C04B35/478 C04B35/626 C04B38/00
ADD.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

C04B

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 practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 2 402 295 A1 (KYOCERA CORP [JP] KYOCERA CORP [JP]; HONDA MOTOR CO LTD [JP]) 4 January 2012 (2012-01-04)	1-8, 11-17
A	example 1, paragraphs 0038 & 0076-0084 -----	9,10
X	EP 2 319 816 A1 (KYOCERA CORP [JP]) 11 May 2011 (2011-05-11)	1,3-8, 11-13, 15-17
A	paragraphs 0053-0060, examples, fig. 3 -----	2,9,10, 14
X	US 2009/137382 A1 (MERKEL GREGORY ALBERT [US]) 28 May 2009 (2009-05-28)	1,3,5,7, 11,12, 14,16,17
A	paragraphs 0038, 0073-0075, 0092 & 0098, batches 8, 9, 10 in tables 1, 2 and 8 ----- -/-	2,4,6, 8-10,13, 15



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 July 2014

Date of mailing of the international search report

30/07/2014

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Authorized officer

Munro, Brian

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2014/038046

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X A	JP 2012 188346 A (KYOCERA CORP) 4 October 2012 (2012-10-04) paragraphs 0040-0045 -----	1,3,5-8, 11,12, 15-17 2,4,9, 10,13,14
X A	JP 2010 228935 A (KYOCERA CORP) 14 October 2010 (2010-10-14) abstract, figures, paragraphs 0051 & 0052, examples -----	1,3,5-8, 11,12, 15-17 2,4,9, 10,13,14
X A	JP H08 72038 A (TOYOTA MOTOR CORP; NIPPON SOKEN) 19 March 1996 (1996-03-19) abstract, examples, figures -----	1,3-8, 11,17 2,9,10, 12-16
X A	US 4 295 892 A (MATSUHISA TADAAKI [JP] ET AL) 20 October 1981 (1981-10-20) examples -----	1,3,5,7, 11-14, 16,17 2,4,6, 8-10,15
X A	US 2008/125305 A1 (DAY JOHN PAUL [US] ET AL) 29 May 2008 (2008-05-29) paragraph 0042 & Table 2 -----	1,7,11, 17 2-6, 8-10, 12-16
X A	US 4 327 188 A (ENDO YASUHIKO ET AL) 27 April 1982 (1982-04-27) examples -----	1,7,11, 17 2-6, 8-10, 12-16

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

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