



Designation: B 477 – 97

Standard Specification for Gold-Silver-Nickel Electrical Contact Alloy ¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B 477; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers 75 % gold-22 % silver-3 % nickel alloy tubing, rod, wire, strip, and sheet material for sliding electrical contacts.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.4 It is the responsibility of the user to become familiar with all hazards including those identified in the appropriate Material Safety Data Sheet for this product/material as provided by the manufacturer.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

B 476 Specification for General Requirements for Wrought Precious Metal Electrical Contact Materials ²

E 384 Test Method for Microhardness of Materials ³

3. Manufacture

3.1 Raw materials shall be of such quality and purity that the finished product will have the properties and characteristics prescribed in this specification.

3.2 The material shall be finished by such operations (cold working, heat treating, annealing, turning, grinding, or pickling) as are required to produce the prescribed properties.

4. Chemical Composition

4.1 Material produced under the specification shall meet the requirements of chemical composition prescribed in Table 1.

TABLE 1 Chemical Composition

Element	Weight Percent
Gold	74.2–75.8
Silver	21.4–22.6
Nickel	2.6–3.4
Selected base metals (lead, antimony, bismuth, tin, arsenic, cadmium, germanium, thallium, gallium, sulfur)	0.01 max, total
Total all base metal impurities (including above selected base metals)	0.2 max
Total noble metal impurities	0.1 max

5. Mechanical and Electrical Requirements

5.1 The contract or order may specify ultimate tensile strength and elongation, microhardness (Knoop or Vickers), or a combination of these mechanical properties as temper criterion. If the contract or order does not specify a temper criterion, then the criterion for temper designation will be ultimate tensile strength and elongation.

5.2 Mechanical properties shall conform to the listings of Table 2.

5.3 All test specimens shall be full size when practical.

5.4 All tests are to be conducted at room temperature, about 68°F (20°C).

6. General Requirements

6.1 Specification B 476 shall apply to all materials produced to this specification.

6.2 *Microhardness*, when performed, shall be in accordance with Test Method E 384.

7. Inspection and Testing

7.1 Material furnished under this specification shall be inspected by the manufacturer as listed below:

7.1.1 Visual inspection at 10 \times ,

7.1.2 Temper test (hardness or tensile),

7.1.3 Dimensional tests, and

7.1.4 Spectrographic or chemical analysis when indicated by the purchase order.

7.2 The purchaser shall perform such tests as are required to verify the quality of material procured under this specification.

8. Keywords

8.1 contacts; electrical contact alloy; gold alloy

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B-2 on Nonferrous Metals and Alloys and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B2.05 on Precious Metals.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 02.04.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.01.