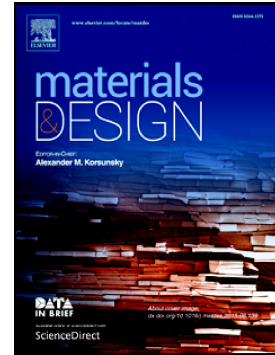


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Improved optical properties of switchable mirrors based on Pd/Mg-TiO₂ films fabricated by magnetron sputtering

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Abstract: For the past two decades, the reported magnesium-based gasochromic switchable mirrors have been limited to magnesium alloys. Herein, inspired by the excellent catalytic property of TiO₂ for the magnesium-hydrogen reaction, the novel gasochromic switchable mirrors based on Pd/Mg-TiO₂ films were fabricated by magnetron sputtering and their optical properties, microstructures and structure-function relationship were investigated in this study. The results show that the mirror based on Pd/0.9Mg-0.1TiO₂ film exhibits larger optical dynamic range at visible wavelengths and excellent structural recovery even after 100 cycles of hydrogenation and dehydrogenation compared with Pd/Mg film. The brookite TiO₂, crystalline Mg and some amorphous phases coexist in the Mg-TiO₂ layer of Pd/0.9Mg-0.1TiO₂ film with no trace of Pd. Interestingly, the TiO₂ nanocrystal clusters are distributed in stripe among Mg matrix. In contrast, the Pd/0.63Mg-0.37TiO₂ film consists of crystalline Mg and MgTi₂O₅ phase, where MgTi₂O₅ phase is derived from the reaction of superfluous TiO₂ with a part of Mg and deteriorates the optical properties of the mirror dramatically. In summary, this work offers a novel strategy for improving optical performance of Mg-based switchable mirrors by introducing metal oxides into switchable layer and uncovers a broad field to be explored.

Keywords: Switchable mirrors, Mg-TiO₂ films, Optical properties, Microstructure

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