

## Supplementary

# Effects of crystal phase and composition on structurally ordered Pt-Co-Ni/C ternary intermetallic electrocatalysts for formic acid oxidation reaction

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**Table S1.** XRD Results of PtCo<sub>x</sub>Ni<sub>1-x</sub>/C annealing at 700 °C for 2 h.

	Structure	Lattice parameter a / nm	Lattice parameter c / nm	Domain size /nm
PtCo	Tetragonal	0.3799	0.3700	6.0
PtCo <sub>0.75</sub> Ni <sub>0.25</sub>	Tetragonal	0.3802	0.3673	6.6
PtCo <sub>0.5</sub> Ni <sub>0.5</sub>	Tetragonal	0.3820	0.3657	7.4
PtCo <sub>0.25</sub> Ni <sub>0.75</sub>	Tetragonal	0.3812	0.3631	
	Cubic	0.3737	-	
PtNi	Cubic	0.3735	-	10

**Table S2.** Comparison of activity (peak-current density in the anodic sweep) for various FAOR catalysts from literatures.

Catalysts	Activity	Activity of reference	Electrolyte	Ref s
Pt <sub>1</sub> Au <sub>1</sub> Ru <sub>1</sub>	1.044 A mg <sub>Pt</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	0.254 A mg <sub>Pt</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> + 0.5 M HCOOH	1
Pt-CeO <sub>2</sub> /RGO/CCE	60 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	6.6 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	0.1 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> + 0.1 M HCOOH	2
Pt-Ni/CCE	1.82 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	0.31 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	0.1 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> + 0.5 M HCOOH	3
PdNPs/NCB/CCE	24.9 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	10.78 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> + 0.5 M HCOOH	4
Pt-Sn/CCE	1.3 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	0.08 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> + 0.5 M HCOOH	5
AuPt@Pd/C	0.83 A mg <sub>Metal</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	0.52 A mg <sub>Metal</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> + 0.5 M HCOOH	6
PtAu	0.80 A mg <sub>Metal</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	-	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> + 0.5 M HCOOH	7
Fe <sub>43</sub> Pt <sub>37</sub> Au <sub>20</sub>	2.81 A mg <sub>Pt</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	-	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> + 0.5 M HCOOH	8
Pt/RGO/CC	0.12 A mg <sub>Pt</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	-	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> + 0.5 M HCOOH	9
Pt <sub>1</sub> @Pd <sub>75</sub> /C	2.3 A mg <sub>Metal</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	1.0 A mg <sub>Pd</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> + 0.5 M HCOOH	10
Pt-MoS <sub>2</sub> /RGO	6.8 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	1.4 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> + 0.5 M HCOOH	11
CuFePt/RGO	0.48 A mg <sub>Pt</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	0.09A mg <sub>Pt</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> + 0.5 M HCOOH	12
PtPd	1.29 A mg <sub>Metal</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	0.45 A mg <sub>Pt</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> + 0.5 M HCOOH	13
Pt <sub>3</sub> Zn <sub>7</sub> /C	1.46 A mg <sub>Pt</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	0.563 A mg <sub>Pt</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> + 0.5 M HCOOH	14
Pt <sub>2</sub> CoNi/C	2.16 A mg <sub>Pt</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	0.956 A mg <sub>Pt</sub> <sup>-1</sup>	0.5 M H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> + 0.5 M HCOOH	This work

**Table S3.** Average atomic ratios of Co/Pt and Ni/Pt for PtCo<sub>x</sub>Ni<sub>1-x</sub>/C after CA measurements.

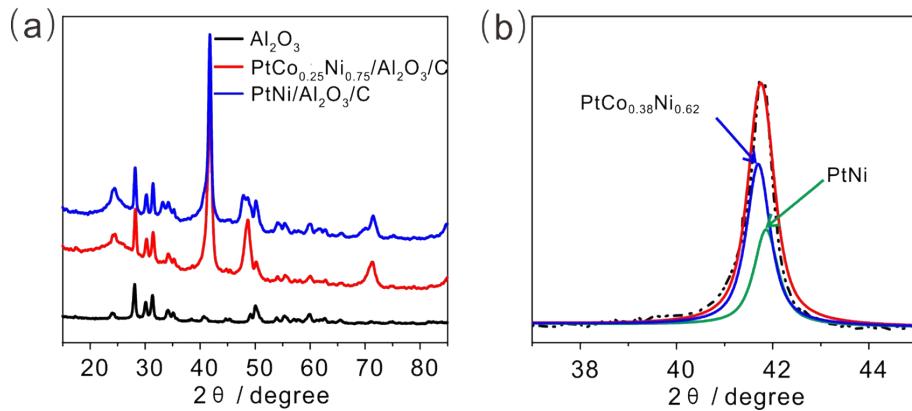
Catalyst		Average ratios		Retention (%)
PtCo <sub>0.75</sub> Ni <sub>0.25</sub>	PtCo	Co/Pt	Initial	1
			10 Ks	0.351
	PtCo <sub>0.5</sub> Ni <sub>0.5</sub>	Co/Pt	Initial	0.75
			10 Ks	0.636
PtCo <sub>0.25</sub> Ni <sub>0.75</sub>	PtCo <sub>0.5</sub> Ni <sub>0.5</sub>	Ni/Pt	Initial	0.25
			10 Ks	0.182
		Co/Pt	Initial	0.5
			10 Ks	0.429
PtNi	PtCo <sub>0.5</sub> Ni <sub>0.5</sub>	Ni/Pt	Initial	0.5
			10 Ks	0.357
		Co/Pt	Initial	0.25
			10 Ks	0.203
	PtCo <sub>0.25</sub> Ni <sub>0.75</sub>	Ni/Pt	Initial	0.75
			10 Ks	0.492
		Co/Pt	Initial	0.25
			10 Ks	0.818

**Table S4.** XRD Results of PtCo<sub>0.5</sub>Ni<sub>0.5</sub>/C annealing at different temperatures

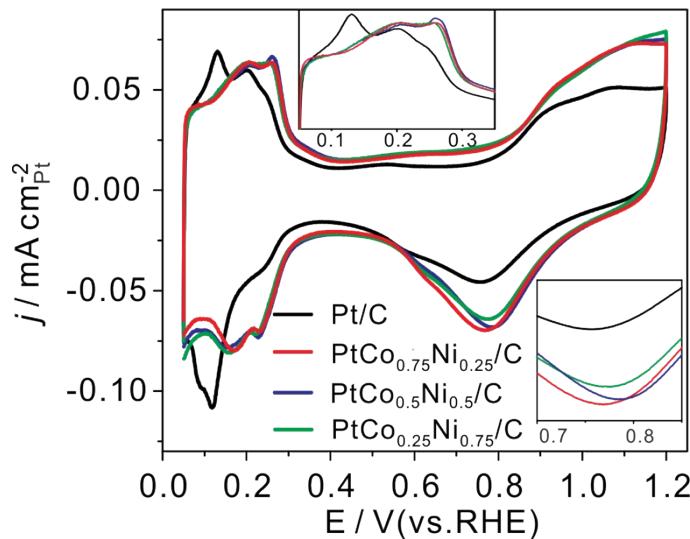
	Structure	Lattice parameter a / nm	Lattice parameter c / nm	Domain size /nm	I <sub>(100)</sub> /I <sub>(101)</sub> (%)
Pt	Cubic	0.3923			
PtCo <sub>0.5</sub> Ni <sub>0.5</sub> -500	Cubic	0.3747		5.1	
PtCo <sub>0.5</sub> Ni <sub>0.5</sub> -600	Tetragonal	0.3819	0.3672	6.2	11.38
PtCo <sub>0.5</sub> Ni <sub>0.5</sub> -700	Tetragonal	0.3820	0.3657	7.4	14.05

**Table S5.** Average ratios of Co/Pt and Ni/Pt of PtCo<sub>0.5</sub>Ni<sub>0.5</sub>/C annealing at different temperatures for 2 h after CA measurements.

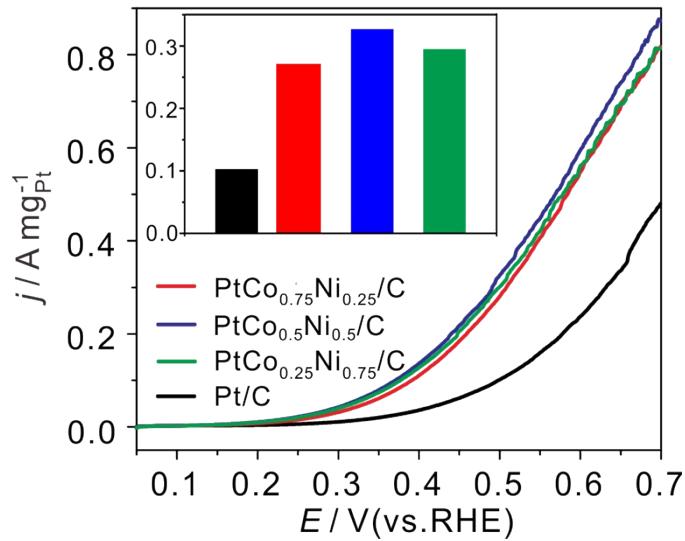
Catalyst			Average ratios	Retention (%)
PtNi <sub>0.5</sub> Co <sub>0.5</sub> -500	Co/Pt	Initial	0.5	
		10 Ks	0.328	65.6%
	Ni/Pt	Initial	0.5	
		10 Ks	0.311	62.2%
PtNi <sub>0.5</sub> Co <sub>0.5</sub> -600	Co/Pt	Initial	0.5	
		10 Ks	0.379	75.8%
	Ni/Pt	Initial	0.5	
		10 Ks	0.345	69.0%
PtNi <sub>0.5</sub> Co <sub>0.5</sub> -700	Co/Pt	Initial	0.5	
		10 Ks	0.429	85.8%
	Ni/Pt	Initial	0.5	
		10 Ks	0.357	71.4%



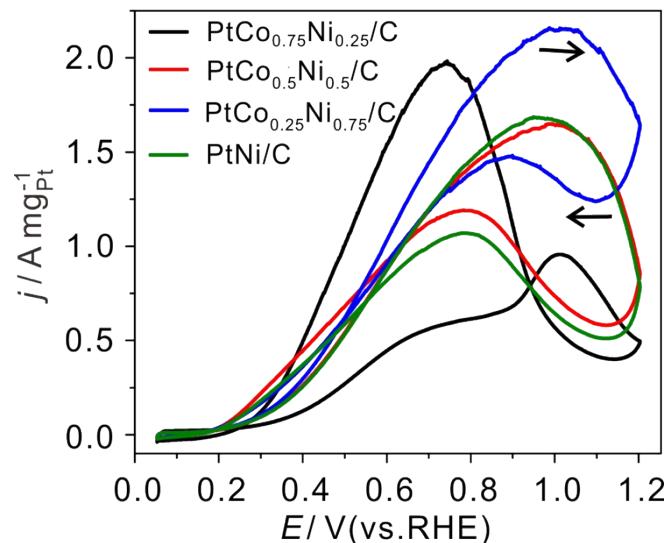
**Figure S1.** (a) XRD patterns for  $\text{PtCo}_{0.25}\text{Ni}_{0.75}/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{C}$  and  $\text{PtNi}/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{C}$ ; (b) (111) plane of  $\text{PtNi}$  alloy and  $\text{PtCo}$  intermetallic phase of  $\text{PtCo}_{0.25}\text{Ni}_{0.75}/\text{C}$  NCs. Peaks fitting are based on identical domain size, namely the almost same half-peak breadth.



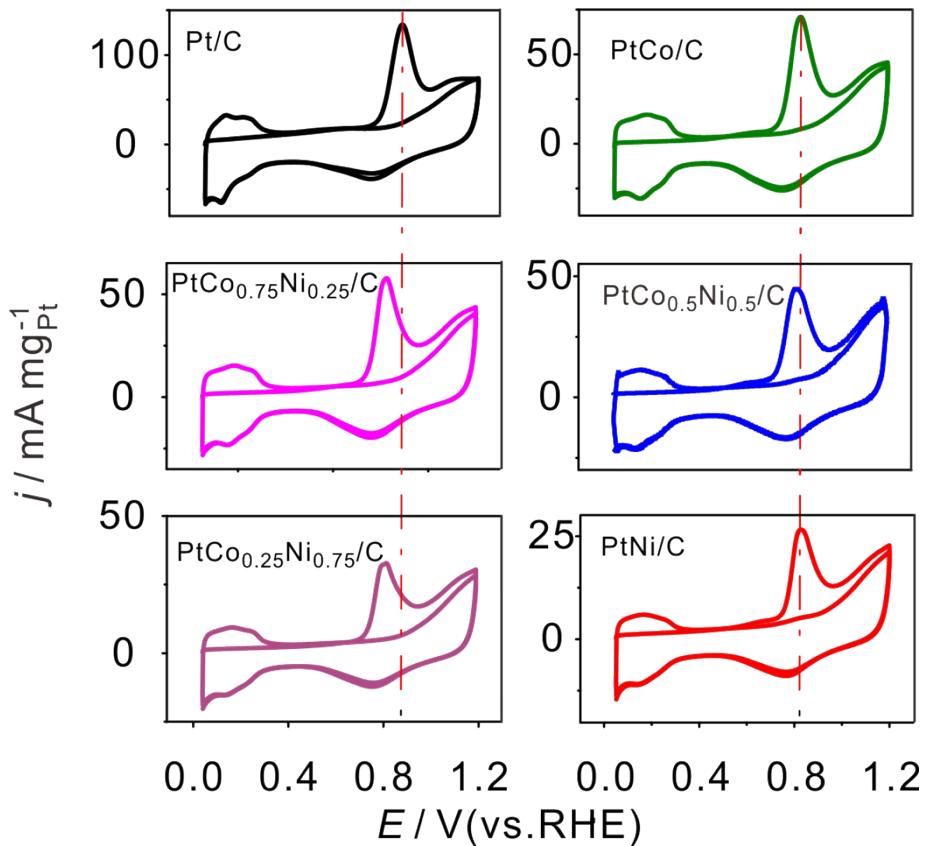
**Figure S2.** CV in 0.5 M  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  purged with  $\text{N}_2$  at room temperature and a sweep rate of  $50 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ .



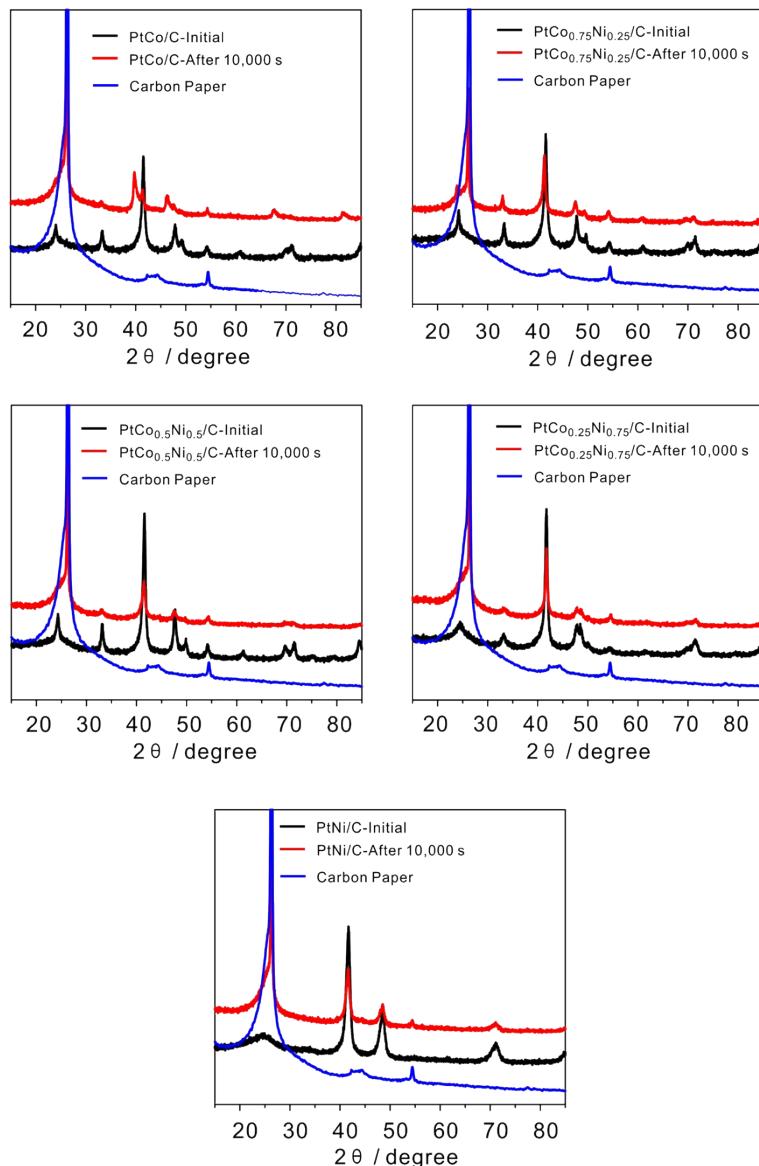
**Figure S3.** LSV in 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> + 0.5 M HCOOH at a sweep rate of 1 mV s<sup>-1</sup>.



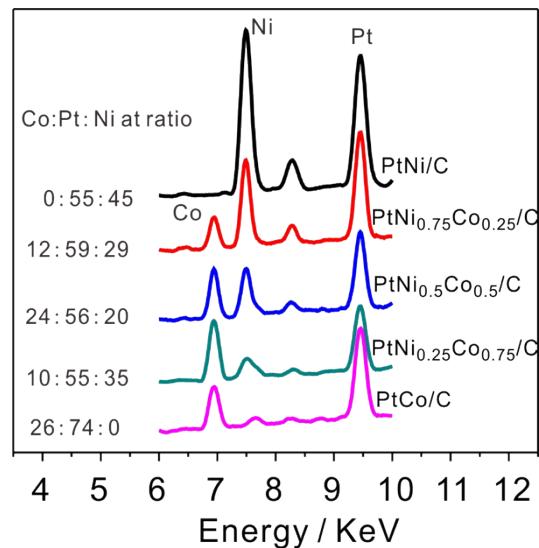
**Figure S4.** CV in 0.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> + 0.5 M HCOOH purged with N<sub>2</sub>, sweep rate of 50 mV s<sup>-1</sup>, at room temperature.



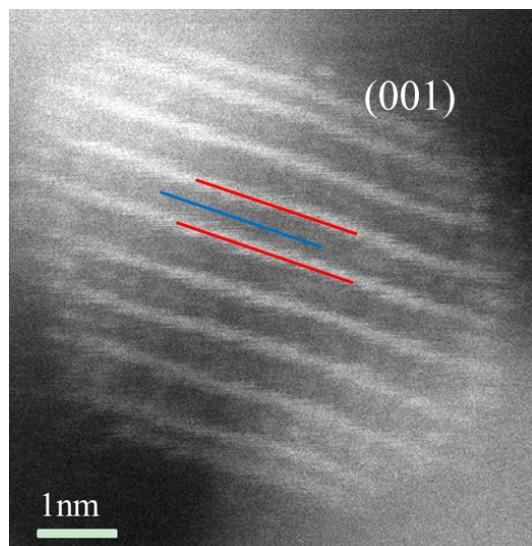
**Figure S5.** CO stripping voltammograms curves of  $\text{PtCo}_x\text{Ni}_{1-x}/\text{C}$  annealing at 700 °C for 2 h and Pt/C catalysts in 0.5 M  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  solution at room temperature and at a scan rate of 50  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$ .



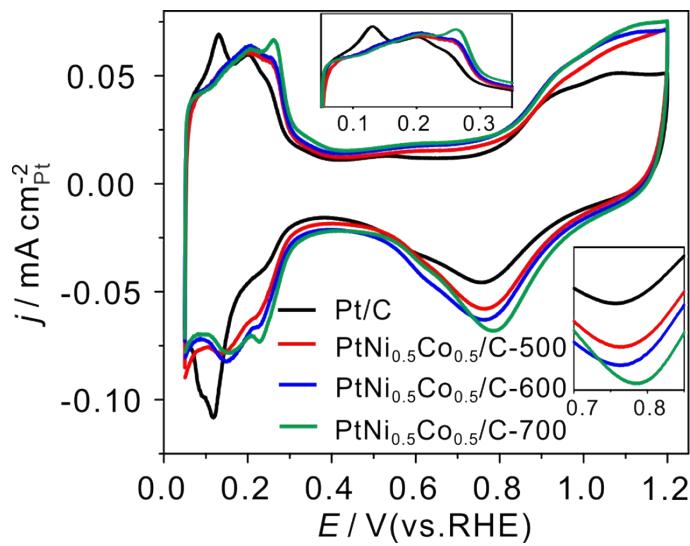
**Figure S6.** XRD patterns for PtCo<sub>x</sub>Ni<sub>1-x</sub>/C annealing at 700 °C for 2 h before and after CA measurements.



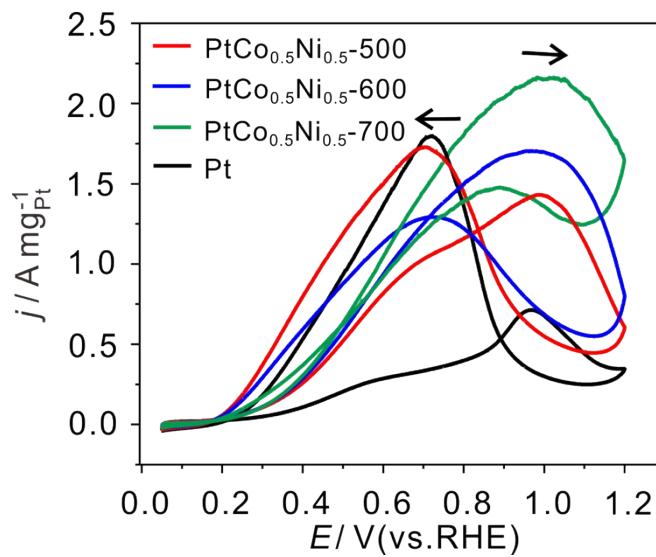
**Figure S7.** XRF patterns of  $\text{PtCo}_x\text{Ni}_{1-x}/\text{C}$  after CA measurements.



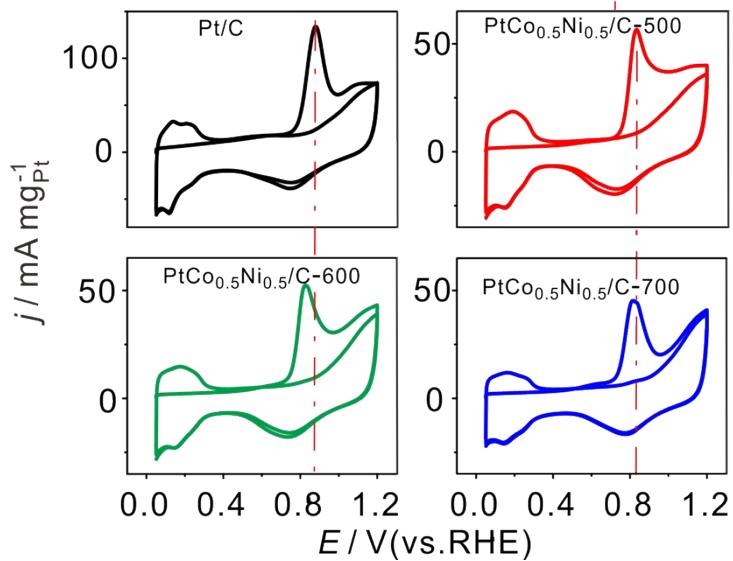
**Figure S8.** HRTEM micrographs of an individual particle of  $\text{PtNi}_{0.5}\text{Co}_{0.5}/\text{C}$  after CA measurements.



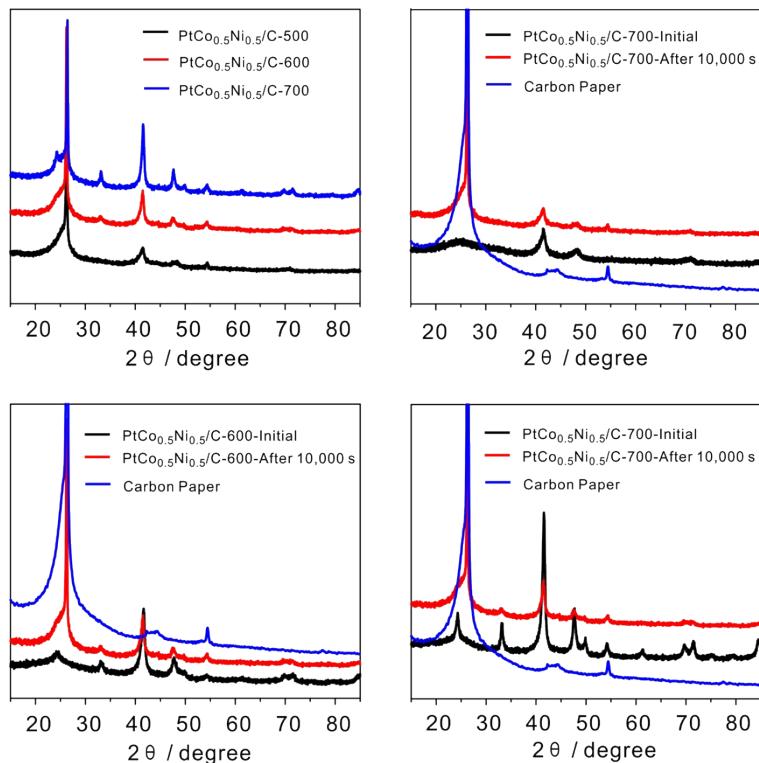
**Figure S9.** CV in 0.5 M  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  purged with  $\text{N}_2$  at room temperature and a sweep rate of  $50 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ . The inset shows enlarged region of hydrogen region and oxygen region.



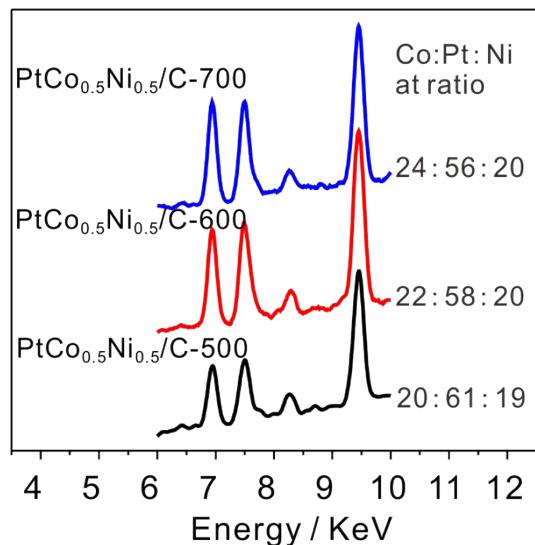
**Figure S10.** CV in  $0.5 \text{ M H}_2\text{SO}_4 + 0.5 \text{ M HCOOH}$  purged with  $\text{N}_2$ , sweep rate of  $50 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$ , at room temperature.



**Figure S11.** CO stripping voltammograms curves of  $\text{PtCo}_{0.5}\text{Ni}_{0.5}/\text{C}$  annealing at different temperatures for 2 h and Pt/C catalysts in 0.5 M  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  solution at room temperature and at a scan rate of 50  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$ .



**Figure S12.** XRD patterns for  $\text{PtCo}_{0.5}\text{Ni}_{0.5}/\text{C}$  annealing at different temperatures for 2 h before and after CA measurements.



**Figure S13.** XRF patterns of  $\text{PtCo}_{0.5}\text{Ni}_{0.5}/\text{C}$  after CA measurements.

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