

replaced by the characteristic modes of NiCo_2O_4 , i.e., 183, 468, 517, and 655 cm^{-1} . The frequency at 655 cm^{-1} of A_{1g} mode involve breathing modes of the oxygen atoms in CoO_4 tetrahedra [46]. The E_g mode at 468 cm^{-1} originates from the bending motions of the oxygen atoms in tetrahedra. And the additional two F_{2g} modes at 183 and 517 cm^{-1} are associated with the order of $\text{Ni}^{2+}/\text{Co}^{2+}$ in octahedron [47]. Figure S1c shows the XRD pattern of Ni-Co alloy. The diffraction peaks are consistent with the (111), (200), and (220) planes in Fm-3m space group of Ni/Co. And that in Fig. 3d demonstrates the cubic spinel phase of NiCo_2O_4 . The XPS spectra of bimetallic oxide are shown in Fig. S1e-h. The O 1s spectra in figure S1f contain four oxygen species: (i) ions O^{2-} in the lattice and bonded to the metal (529.6 eV); (ii) ions O^{2-} in OH^- groups (530.7 eV); (iii) O species associated with the deficiencies (531.4 eV); and (iv) weakly adsorbed O species from air (533.0 eV) [48]. This result suggests that abundant defects and functional groups exist in the oxide sample. The $2p_{3/2}$ spectra of Ni and Co are fitted by different valence states and satellite (sat) signals, indicating Ni^{2+} , Ni^{3+} , Co^{2+} , and Co^{3+} coexist in the oxide sample (Fig. S1g-h). The ample defects and the diversity of ion valence states significantly increase the number of dipoles inside the material so as to enhance the number of dipoles and the dielectric property.

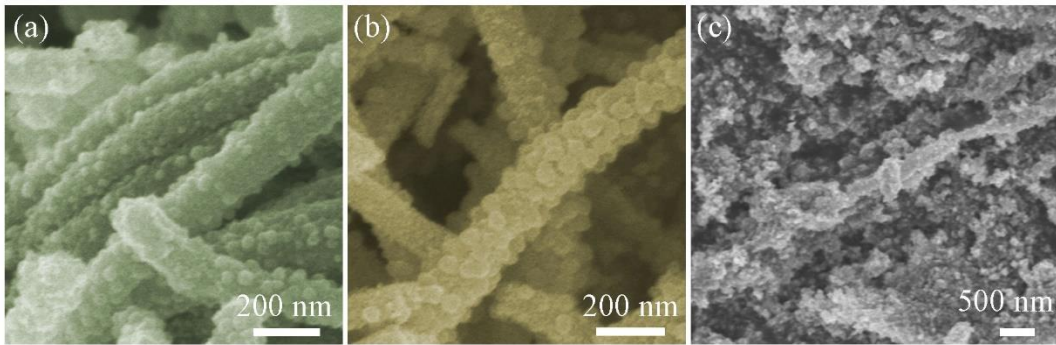


Fig. S2 a-c SEM images of N1, N2 and N3. The fibrous morphology of N3 collapses due to the too thin C template

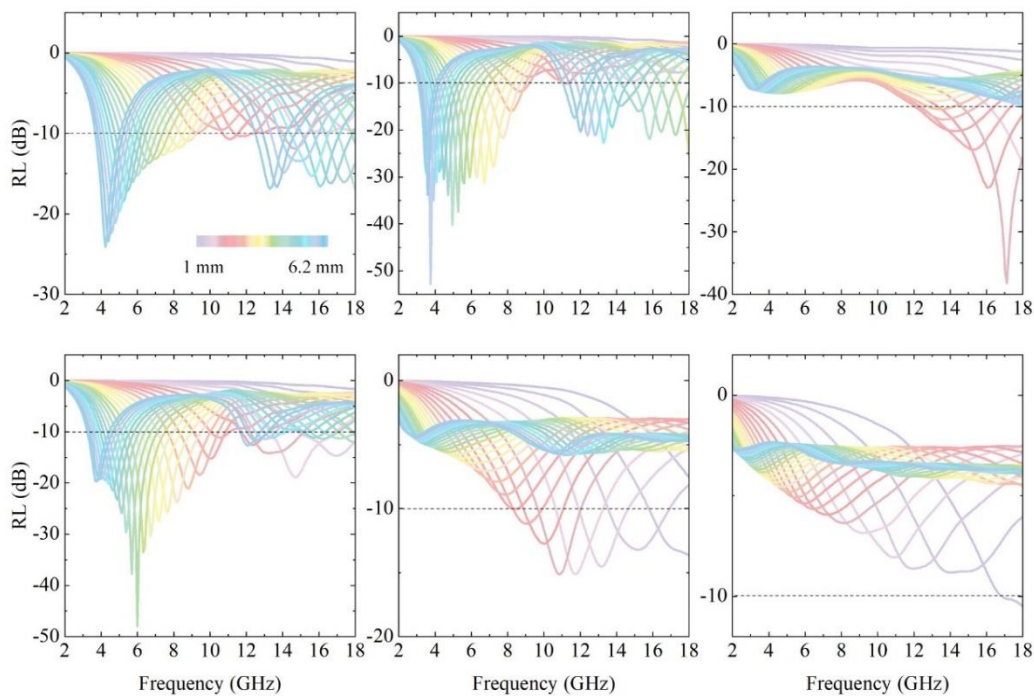


Fig. S3 Corresponding microwave absorption performance in Fig. 3d-i

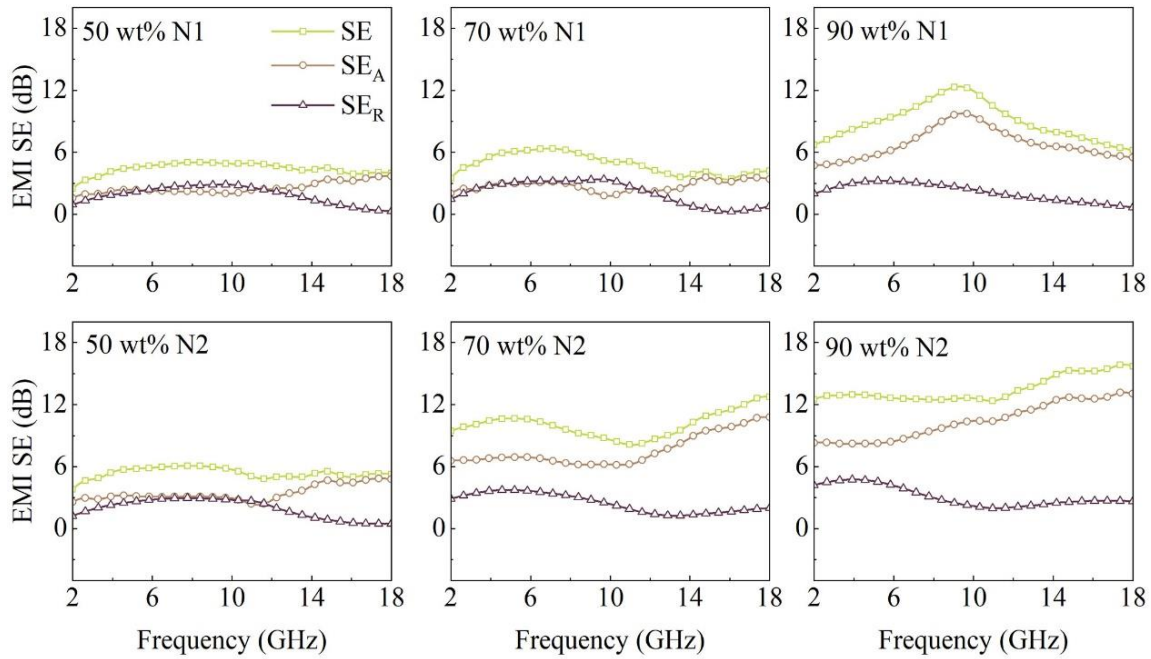


Fig. S4 EMI SE of the six NiCo₂O₄ composites

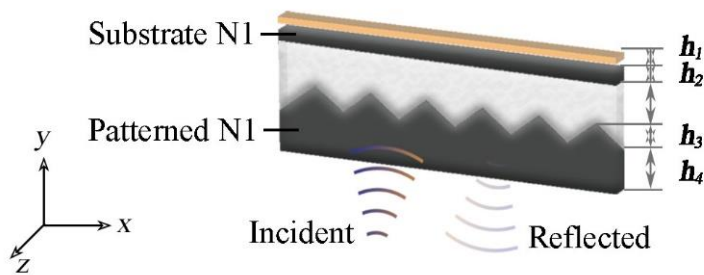


Fig. S5 Schematic illustration for NiCo₂O₄ composite patterns

The electromagnetic response of the patterned sensor is investigated by CST Microwave Studio. As shown in Fig. S5, a zigzag patterned 70wt% N1 composite ($h_3=1$ mm, $h_4=2$ mm) serves as the incident surface, and a 700 μm (h_2) thick substrate of the same material is placed at a distance l . Copper ($h_1=100$ μm) is selected as outer layer due to the mechanical and electrical superiority, such as high σ and strength. The incident wave port is towards the structure. The electric field boundary is set along x direction and the magnetic field boundary is set along z direction. The electric field, magnetic field, electric energy density and magnetic energy density monitors are exerted to reveal the field distributions inside the sensors. The sensor's working principle is that when the microwave incident on the sensor, the dielectric loss and coupled effect appear to attenuate electromagnetic wave. Meanwhile, the electromagnetic response is sensitive to the distance between two components, which can be to modulate the reflection coefficient S_{11} .