

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
30 December 2021 (30.12.2021)



(10) International Publication Number
WO 2021/262841 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:

H01L 21/3065 (2006.01) *H01L 27/11582* (2017.01)

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2021/038668

(22) International Filing Date:

23 June 2021 (23.06.2021)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

16/913,696 26 June 2020 (26.06.2020) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ,
CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO,
DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN,
HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, IT, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN,
KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD,
ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO,
NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW,
SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN,
TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ,
UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ,
TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK,
EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV,
MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM,
TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW,
KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(54) Title: IODINE-CONTAINING FLUOROCARBON AND HYDROFLUOROCARBON COMPOUNDS FOR ETCHING SEMI-
CONDUCTOR STRUCTURES

(57) Abstract: Disclosed are methods for etching a silicon-containing film to form a patterned structure, methods for reinforcing and/or strengthening and/or minimizing damage of a patterned mask layer while forming a patterned structure and methods for increasing etch resistance of a patterned mask layer in a process of forming a patterned structure. The methods include using an activated iodine-containing etching compound having the formula $C_nH_xF_yI_z$, wherein $4 \leq n \leq 10$, $0 \leq x \leq 21$, $0 \leq y \leq 21$, and $1 \leq z \leq 4$ as an etching gas. The activated iodine-containing etching compound produces iodine ions, which are implanted into the patterned hardmask layer, thereby strengthening the patterned mask layer.

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