

- 1 -

ELECTROSTATIC CHUCK WITH PHOTO-PATTERNABLE SOFT PROTRUSION CONTACT SURFACE

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 13/667,516, filed
5 November 2, 2012, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No.
13/266,657, filed October 27, 2011, which is the U.S. National Stage of
International Application No. PCT/US2010/034667, filed on May 13, 2010,
published in English, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No.
61/216,305, filed on May 15, 2009. The entire teachings of the above applications
10 are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

An electrostatic chuck holds and supports a substrate during a manufacturing
process and also removes heat from the substrate without mechanically clamping the
substrate. During use of an electrostatic chuck, the back side of a substrate, such as a
15 semiconductor wafer, is held to the face of the electrostatic chuck by an electrostatic
force. The substrate is separated from one or more electrodes in the face of the
electrostatic chuck by a surface layer of material that covers the electrode. In a
Coulombic chuck, the surface layer is electrically insulating, while in a Johnsen-
Rahbek electrostatic chuck, the surface layer is weakly conducting. The surface
20 layer of the electrostatic chuck may be flat or may have one or more protrusions,
projections or other surface features that further separate the back side of the
substrate from the covered electrode. Heat delivered to the substrate during
processing can be transferred away from the substrate and to the electrostatic chuck
by contact heat conduction with the protrusions and/or by gas heat conduction with a
25 cooling gas. Contact heat conduction is generally more efficient than gas heat
conduction in removing heat from the substrate. However, controlling the amount
of contact between the substrate and the protrusions can be difficult.

- 2 -

In microelectronics production, as semiconductor and memory device geometries become progressively smaller and the sizes of wafers, flat screen displays, reticles and other processed substrates become progressively larger, the allowable particulate contamination process specifications become more restrictive.

5 The effect of particles on electrostatic chucks is of particular concern because the wafers physically contact or mount to the chuck clamping surface. If the mounting surface of the electrostatic chuck allows any particulate to become entrapped between the mounting surface and the substrate, the substrate may be deformed by the entrapped particle. For example, if the back side of a wafer is clamped

10 electrostatically against a flat reference surface, the entrapped particle could cause a deformation of the front side of the wafer, which will therefore not lie in a flat plane. According to U.S. Patent No. 6,835,415, studies have shown that a 10-micron particle on a flat electrostatic chuck can displace the surface of a reticle (*i.e.*, a test wafer) for a radial distance of one inch or more. The actual height and diameter of

15 the particle-induced displacement is dependent on numerous parameters such as the particle size, the particle hardness, the clamping force and the reticle thickness.

During substrate processing it is important to be able to control the temperature of the substrate, limit the maximum temperature rise of the substrate, maintain temperature uniformity over the substrate surface, or any combination of

20 these. If there are excessive temperature variations across the substrate surface due to poor and/or non-uniform heat transfer, the substrate can become distorted and process chemistry can be affected. The greater the area of direct contact with the electrostatic chuck, the greater the heat transferred by contact heat conduction. The size of the area of direct contact is a function of the roughness, flatness and hardness

25 of the contact surfaces of the substrate and electrostatic chuck, as well as of the applied pressure between the contact surfaces. Since the characteristics of the contact surface vary from substrate to substrate, and since the characteristics of the contact surface can change over time, accurately controlling contact heat conductance between the electrostatic chuck and substrate is difficult.

30 Controlling the temperature of a substrate and the number of particles on its back side is important for reducing or eliminating damage to microelectronic devices, reticle masks and other such structures, and for reducing or minimizing

- 3 -

manufacturing yield loss. The abrasive properties of the electrostatic chuck protrusions, the high contact area of roughened protrusions, and the effect of lapping and polishing operations during manufacture of electrostatic chucks may all contribute to add particles to the back side of substrates during use with an electrostatic chuck.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, there is provided a soft protrusion structure for an electrostatic chuck, which offers a non-abrasive contact surface for wafers, workpieces or other substrates, while also having improved manufacturability and compatibility with grounded surface platen designs. The soft protrusion structure comprises a photo-patternable polymer.

In one embodiment according to the invention, there is provided an electrostatic chuck comprising a surface layer activated by a voltage in an electrode to form an electric charge to electrostatically clamp a substrate to the electrostatic chuck. The surface layer includes a plurality of protrusions comprising a photo-patternable polymer and a charge control layer to which the plurality of polymer protrusions adhere. The plurality of polymer protrusions extend to a height above portions of the charge control layer surrounding the plurality of polymer protrusions to support the substrate upon the plurality of polymer protrusions during electrostatic clamping of the substrate.

In further, related embodiments, the photo-patternable polymer may comprise a photo-patternable polymer that is liquid at room temperature prior to baking, or may comprise a photo-patternable polymer that is solid at room temperature prior to baking. The photo-patternable polymer may comprise an epoxy based, polyimide based or benzocyclobutene based photo-patternable polymer. The charge control layer may comprise silicon carbide or diamond like carbon. The charge control layer may comprise a surface resistivity of between about 10^8 ohms per square to about 10^{11} ohms per square. The polymer protrusions may comprise a height of between about 3 microns and about 12 microns; and may comprise a diameter of about 900 microns. The electrostatic chuck may further comprise a gas

- 4 -

seal ring comprising a photo-patternable polymer, such as an epoxy based, benzocyclobutene based or polyimide based photo-patternable polymer. The plurality of polymer protrusions may comprise a surface roughness of between about 0.02 μm and about 0.05 μm . The photo-patternable polymer may comprise a material having a tensile strength of greater than about 70 megapascals (MPa), and may comprise a material having a Young's modulus of less than about 3.5 gigapascals (GPa). The electrostatic chuck may comprise a conductive path covering at least a portion of a workpiece-contacting surface of a gas seal ring of the electrostatic chuck, the conductive path comprising at least a portion of an electrical path to ground. The conductive path may comprise diamond-like carbon.

In another embodiment according to the invention, there is provided an electrostatic chuck comprising a surface layer activated by a voltage in an electrode to form an electric charge to electrostatically clamp a substrate to the electrostatic chuck. The surface layer includes a plurality of protrusions comprising a conductive polymer and a charge control layer to which the plurality of polymer protrusions adhere. The plurality of polymer protrusions extend to a height above portions of the charge control layer surrounding the plurality of polymer protrusions to support the substrate upon the plurality of polymer protrusions during electrostatic clamping of the substrate.

In further, related embodiments, the conductive polymer may comprise a polymer from the group consisting of: a blend of a carbon nanotube and a polymer; and a conductive nanoparticle doped polymer.

In another embodiment according to the invention, there is provided a method of manufacturing an electrostatic chuck. The method comprises exposing a photo-patternable polymer, on a surface of the electrostatic chuck, to light through a mask, the electrostatic chuck comprising a charge control layer underlying at least a portion of the photo-patternable polymer; and removing areas of the surface of the electrostatic chuck based on a pattern of exposure of the surface to the light through the mask, thereby forming a plurality of polymer protrusions on the surface of the electrostatic chuck. The plurality of polymer protrusions adhere to the charge control layer and extend to a height above portions of the charge control layer surrounding the plurality of polymer protrusions.

- 5 -

In further related embodiments, the method may comprise laminating a polymer sheet including the photo-patternable polymer over at least a portion of the charge control layer, or spraying a liquid polymer including the photo-patternable polymer over at least a portion of the charge control layer. The photo-patternable polymer may comprise a material having a tensile strength of greater than about 70 megapascals (MPa) and having a Young's modulus of less than about 3.5 gigapascals (GPa). The method may further comprise covering at least a portion of a workpiece-contacting surface of a gas seal ring of the electrostatic chuck with a conductive path, the conductive path comprising at least a portion of an electrical path to ground.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The foregoing will be apparent from the following more particular description of example embodiments of the invention, as illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which like reference characters refer to the same parts throughout the different views. The drawings are not necessarily to scale, emphasis instead being placed upon illustrating embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional diagram of the top layers of an electrostatic chuck in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional diagram showing further layers of an electrostatic chuck in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 3 is an illustration of a pattern of protrusions on the surface of an electrostatic chuck in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 4 is a diagram of the surface appearance of an electrostatic chuck in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 5 is a diagram of the profile of a protrusion on an electrostatic chuck in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 6 is a schematic diagram illustrating use of a lamination process in manufacturing of an electrostatic chuck using a photo-patternable polymer, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

- 6 -

FIG. 7 is a block diagram illustrating use of a spray coating process in manufacturing of an electrostatic chuck using a photo-patternable polymer, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional diagram of an electrostatic chuck including polymer protrusions and a grounded layer, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 9 is a cross-sectional diagram of an electrostatic chuck including polymer protrusions and a conductive path, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

10 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

A description of example embodiments of the invention follows.

In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, there is provided an electrostatic chuck that includes protrusions on its surface for mounting a substrate. The protrusions are formed of a polymer substance, such as polyetherimide (PEI), polyimide or polyether ether ketone (PEEK). Further, the electrostatic chuck features a charge control surface layer, to which the polymer protrusions adhere. The charge control surface layer may be formed of the same polymer substance as the protrusions, such as polyetherimide (PEI), polyimide or polyether ether ketone (PEEK). Such protrusions and charge control surface layer may assist with encouraging contact of the electrostatic chuck with the substrate to promote contact cooling, while also reducing production of undesirable particles.

In another embodiment according to the invention, a photo-patternable polymer may be used to form protrusions and gas seals on an electrostatic chuck, as discussed further below.

FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional diagram of the top layers of an electrostatic chuck in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. The electrostatic chuck features protrusions 101 that are formed of a polymer, such as polyetherimide (PEI), polyimide or polyether ether ketone (PEEK). The gas seal rings (not shown) of the electrostatic chuck may be formed of a polymer, such as the same polymer as the protrusions 101. The protrusions 101 adhere to a charge control layer 102, which may also be formed of a polymer. The purpose of the charge control layer 102 is to

- 7 -

provide a conductive layer to bleed away surface charge. The charge control layer 102 reduces the likelihood of “wafer sticking,” which occurs when a wafer or other substrate electrostatically adheres to the chuck surface after the chuck power is removed. A charge control layer 102 having a surface resistivity in an appropriate range, such as, for example, a range of from about 1×10^8 ohms/square to about 1×10^{11} ohms/square, has been shown to reduce surface charge retention that can lead to undesirable electrostatic force and ultimately to wafer sticking. The slightly conductive surface layer bleeds charge to ground (not shown) while not interfering with the electrostatic attraction between the electrostatic chuck and the substrate. In one embodiment, both the protrusions 101 and the charge control layer 102 are formed of a single polymer, such as polyetherimide (PEI), polyimide or polyether ether ketone (PEEK). An adhesive layer 103 may be underneath the charge control layer 102, and may comprise a different polymer from the charge control layer. In particular, where the charge control layer is formed of polyether ether ketone (PEEK), the adhesive layer 103 may comprise polyetherimide (PEI). Alternatively, the adhesive layer 103 need not be present. Underneath the adhesive layer 103 (or directly underneath the charge control layer 102), the electrostatic chuck includes an adhesion coating 104 that encourages the polymer layers above it to adhere to the dielectric layer 105. The adhesion coating 104 stays buried under the polymer layers above it, and hides cosmetic defects in the polymers. The adhesion coating 104 may, for example, include silicon containing nitrides, oxides, carbides and non-stoichiometric versions of these, for example but not limited to SiO_xN_y , silicon nitride, silicon oxide or silicon carbide. The adhesion coating layer may also comprise carbon or a nitride compound of carbon; and may comprise diamond-like carbon; and/or a combination of any of the foregoing. Underneath the adhesion coating 104 is a dielectric layer 105, such as an alumina dielectric.

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional diagram showing further layers of an electrostatic chuck in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. In addition to protrusions 201, charge control layer 202, adhesive layer 203, adhesion coating 204 and dielectric layer 205, the electrostatic chuck includes metal electrodes 206. The metal electrodes 206 are bonded to electrode pins 207 by electrically conductive epoxy bonds 208. The dielectric layer 205 is bonded to a insulator layer 209, such

- 8 -

as an alumina insulator, by a ceramic to ceramic bond 210. The ceramic to ceramic bond 210 may be formed of a polymer, such as polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) or modified PTFE (which includes PFA and/or FEP in addition to PTFE). Further, the ceramic to ceramic bond 210 may be formed of polymers such as perfluoroalkoxy (PFA), fluorinated ethylene-propylene (FEP) and polyether ether ketone (PEEK). Underneath the insulator 209 there is a thermally conductive bond 211 (which may be formed, for example, using TRA-CON thermally conductive epoxy, sold by Henkel AG & Co. KGaA of Düsseldorf, Germany) and a water cooled base 212. The adhesion coating 204 may extend down an edge of the electrostatic chuck (including down the edges of the gas seal rings) to form a metals reduction layer 213, which prevents beam strikes on the edges of the electrostatic chuck from causing aluminum particles to strike the substrate.

In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, the polyetherimide (PEI) used for the protrusions 201, charge control layer 202 or other components of the electrostatic chuck may be formed of unfilled amorphous polyether imide (PEI), in a thickness of between about 12 microns and about 25 microns. For example, PEI sold under the tradename ULTEM 1000 may be used, sold by Sabic Innovative Plastics Holdings BV. Where the protrusions 201 and/or charge control layer 202 or other components are formed of polyether ether ketone (PEEK), they may be made from unfilled PEEK, in a thickness of between about 12 microns and about 25 microns. For example, PEEK sold under the trade name Victrex® APTIV PEEK™ FILM, 2000-006 (unfilled amorphous grade) may be used, sold by Victrex U.S.A., Inc. of West Conshohocken, PA, U.S.A.

An electrostatic chuck featuring polymer protrusions and a polymer charge control layer in accordance with an embodiment of the invention may include features of the electrostatic chuck of U.S. Patent App. No. 12/454,336, filed on May 15, 2009, published as U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2009/0284894, the teachings of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety. In particular, features relating to equally spaced protrusions, trigonal pattern protrusions and low particle production may be included, and other features may also be included.

- 9 -

FIG. 3 is an illustration of a pattern of protrusions 314 on the surface of an electrostatic chuck, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention, in which the protrusion pattern is used to reduce the forces between a substrate and the protrusions 314. Protrusion patterns that equally distribute such forces may be used, for example trigonal or generally hexagonal patterns of protrusions. It should be appreciated that, as used herein, a “trigonal” pattern is intended to mean a regularly repeating pattern of equilateral triangles of protrusions, such that the protrusions are substantially equally spaced apart. (Such a pattern may also be viewed as being generally hexagonal in shape, with a central protrusion in the center of an array of six protrusions that form the vertices of a regular hexagon). Forces may also be reduced by increasing the diameter 315 of the protrusions, or by decreasing the center-to-center spacing 316 of the protrusions 314. As shown in the embodiment of FIG. 3, the protrusions may be disposed in an equally spaced arrangement, in which each protrusion is substantially equally spaced apart from the adjacent protrusions by a center to center spacing dimension 316. By virtue of such spacing, a substantial portion of the back side of the substrate contacts the top portion of the protrusions, leaving a gap between the protrusions for helium or other gas for back side cooling. By contrast, without such protrusion spacing, only a small portion, 10% or less, of the protrusions may contact the substrate. In accordance with an embodiment of the invention the substrate may contact greater than 25% of the protrusion’s top surface area.

In one example, the electrostatic chuck may be a 300 mm configuration, including an aluminum base, an alumina insulator 209 of about 0.120 inches in thickness, an alumina dielectric 205 of about 0.004 inches thickness, and having a rotary platen design to allow rotating and tilting of the substrate that is mounted to the electrostatic chuck. The diameter of the electrostatic chuck may, for example, be 300mm, 200mm or 450mm. The protrusions 314 may be in a trigonal pattern, with a center to center spacing dimension 316 of from about 6 mm to about 8 mm, for example. The diameter 315 of the protrusions may, for example, be about 900 microns. The height of the protrusions 314 may, for example, be from about 3 microns to about 12 microns, such as about 6 microns. The protrusions 314 may be formed entirely of polymer, as may be the charge control layer 202 (see FIG. 2).

- 10 -

FIG. 4 is a diagram of the surface appearance of an electrostatic chuck in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. The electrostatic chuck surface includes gas inlets 417, a ground pin passage 418, a gas seal ring 419, a lift pin passage 420 that includes its own gas seal ring (outer light-colored structure of lift pin passage 420 in FIG. 4), and a small gas inlet at 421 in the center of the chuck (inlet not visible in FIG. 4). The ground pin passage 418 may include its own gas seal ring (outer ring of ground pin passage 419 in FIG. 4). A detail view (inset 422 in FIG. 4) shows the protrusions 414. The gas seal ring 419 (and the gas seal rings of the lift pin passages 420 and ground pin passages 418) may be about 0.1 inches in width and may have an equal height to that of the protrusions 414, such as from about 3 microns to about 12 microns, for example about 6 microns, although other widths and heights are possible.

In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, an electrostatic chuck may be made by the process of, first, preparing the ceramic assembly using a ceramic to ceramic bond. For example, the dielectric layer 205 may be bonded to the insulator layer 209 using the bonding substances described above in connection with the embodiment of FIG. 2. Next, the ceramic assembly is coated with the adhesion coating 204, such as the substances discussed above in connection with the embodiment of FIG. 1, to a thickness of about 1 or 2 microns. Next, the polymer substance that will make up the charge control layer 202 and protrusions 201 is bonded to the surface of the adhesion coating 204. The top of the polymer substance may then be plasma treated to help photoresist (applied next) to stick. Next, photoresist is deposited on the polymer substance, and is exposed and developed. Next, a reactive ion etch process is used to remove a thickness of the polymer substance (such as between about 3 microns and about 12 microns, in particular about 6 microns) to create the areas between the protrusions 201. The amount etched away (resulting in the height of the protrusions) may be optimized for the back side gas pressure that will be used with the electrostatic chuck. The height of the protrusions is preferably approximately the same as, or substantially equal to, the mean free path of the gas used in back side cooling. After etching, the photoresist is then stripped off, and the process proceeds to final assembly of the electrostatic chuck.

- 11 -

FIG. 5 is a diagram of the profile of a protrusion on an electrostatic chuck in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. The width and height are shown in micrometers. The protrusion is about 6 microns in height, and has a very smooth wafer contact surface 523. For example, the protrusion may have a surface roughness on the wafer contact surface 523 of about 0.02 to about 0.05 μm . Likewise, the gas seal rings may have a similarly smooth surface, which results in a good seal with the substrate. Table 1, below, shows the results of a gas leak rate experiment in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. The left column shows the back side gas pressure applied, the right column shows the back side gas flow, which occurs as a result of gas leaks out from under the edges of the electrostatic chuck, and the middle column shows the chamber pressure, which will rise as more gas leaks out the edge of the electrostatic chuck. Results of less than 1 sccm back side gas flow rate (as here) are considered desirable.

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Table 1: Gas Leak Rate Test

BSG Pressure	Chamber Pressure	BSG Flow
(Torr)	(Torr)	(sccm)
0	2.44E-06	na
4	5.17E-06	0.09
10	9.04E-06	0.34
15	1.24E-05	0.56
25	2.02E-05	1.1

In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, the gas seal rings of the electrostatic chuck may comprise a surface roughness of less than about 8 microinches, or less than about 4 microinches, or less than about 2 microinches, or less than about 1 microinches.

In another embodiment according to the invention, a photo-patternable polymer may be used to form protrusions and gas seals on an electrostatic chuck.

As used herein, a “photo-patternable polymer” is a polymer whose surface may be patterned based on the results of a photochemical reaction.

FIG. 6 is a schematic diagram illustrating use of a lamination process in manufacturing of an electrostatic chuck using a photo-patternable polymer, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. A photo-patternable polymer sheet is laminated 631 onto the electrostatic chuck. For example, a laminator using two rollers may apply a controlled heat and pressure to laminate the photo-patternable polymer sheet onto the electrostatic chuck. A soft bake process may be applied to the laminated sheet. Subsequently, an ultra-violet light exposure system is used 632 to expose the photo-patternable polymer, through a mask; and a developer is used 633 to remove undesired portions of the polymer that were not exposed through the mask, thereby producing the protrusions. Alternatively, the developer may be used to remove portions of the polymer that were exposed through the mask, depending on the type of photoresist used, in order to produce the protrusions. More generally, areas of the surface of the electrostatic chuck may be removed based on a pattern of exposure of the surface to the light through the mask, thereby producing the protrusions. An oven and hot plate is then used to hard bake 634 the protrusions. Some examples of photo-patternable polymer sheets that may be used include epoxy-based polymer sheets, polyimide-based polymer sheets and benzocyclobutene (BCB) polymer sheets. For example, epoxy-based polymer sheets such as the PerMx™ series, MX series and Riston® series polymer sheets sold by E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Company of Wilmington, DE, U.S.A., may be used.

FIG. 7 is a block diagram illustrating use of a spray coating process in manufacturing of an electrostatic chuck using a photo-patternable polymer, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. A liquid photo-patternable polymer is spray-coated 741 onto the electrostatic chuck. For example, a spray coating system may apply the liquid polymer to the electrostatic chuck, with a controlled heat on the electrostatic chuck and a controlled flow rate to the nozzle of the spray coating system. The desired thickness of polymer (for example, anywhere from sub-micrometer to millimeter thickness) may be precisely sprayed onto the surface of the electrostatic chuck. Subsequently, an ultra-violet light exposure system is used to expose 742 the photo-patternable polymer, through a mask; and a

developer is used 743 to remove undesired portions of the polymer that were not exposed through the mask, thereby producing the protrusions. Alternatively, the developer may be used to remove portions of the polymer that were exposed through the mask, depending on the type of photoresist used, in order to produce the protrusions. More generally, areas of the surface of the electrostatic chuck may be removed based on a pattern of exposure of the surface to the light through the mask, thereby producing the protrusions. An oven and hot plate is then used to hard bake 744 the protrusions. Some examples of liquid photo-patternable polymers that may be used include epoxy-based liquid polymers, polyimide-based liquid polymers and benzocyclobutene (BCB) based liquid polymers. For example, epoxy-based liquid polymers that may be used include the SU8 series and KMPR series liquid polymers sold by MicroChem Corporation of Newton, MA, U.S.A.; and polyimide-based liquid polymers that may be used include the HD4100 series, HD8800 series and HD8900 series liquid polymers sold by Hitachi DuPont MicroSystems, LLC of Wilmington, DE, U.S.A.

In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, where a photo-patternable polymer is used, the thickness of the protrusions determines the clamping force of the electrostatic chuck. Thus, in order to control the clamping force, the thickness of the protrusion can be controlled. For example, the thickness of the protrusion can be controlled by the thickness of the polymer sheet in a lamination process, and by the volume of polymer sprayed in a spray coating process. In addition, when a lamination process is used, the thickness can be changed by treating the protrusion with a reactive ion etch (RIE) process, for example to reduce the thickness of the protrusion. This may also result in the edges of the protrusion being smoother and cleaner.

Further, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention, the hard bake parameters for a photo-patternable polymer can be adjusted according to the application in which the electrostatic chuck is used, and the resulting desired polymer properties. For example, if particles are produced by abrasion of a substrate, which may be discovered in a clamping/declamping cycle test, it may be desirable to make the protrusions softer by decreasing the hard bake temperature and time. On the other hand, if particles from the polymer protrusions are discovered,

- 14 -

for example in a clamping/declamping cycle test, it may be desirable to make the protrusions harder by increasing the hard bake temperature and time.

In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, use of a photo-patternable polymer can provide several advantages. It can produce a uniform thickness of protrusions; and can produce non-abrasive and soft protrusions, with Young's modulus and hardness significantly lower than ceramic protrusions (such as diamond like carbon and silicon carbide protrusions). Use of a photo-patternable polymer can improve manufacturability and require less capital equipment, can reduce particulate contamination, can provide better compatibility with grounded surface platen designs, can provide lower cost and higher throughput electrostatic chucks, and can be easier to scale up to larger size electrostatic chucks (such as 450mm). In addition, photo-patternable polymer protrusions may have better adhesion than other protrusions, and can be used without an adhesion promoter. Further, an electrostatic chuck using photo-patternable polymer protrusions may be more easily refurbished than previous designs. For example, if a protrusion wears off, an oxygen plasma washer can be used to clean the surface, after which the protrusion may be reformed as described herein without disassembling the chuck.

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional diagram of an electrostatic chuck including polymer protrusions and a grounded layer, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. The electrostatic chuck includes polymer protrusions 801, which may for example include photo-patternable polymer protrusions, as well as a polymer gas seal 819. In a path for charge to ground, surface charge is bled to a grounded layer 851 through a charge control layer 802 and a metal layer 813. The metal layer 813 may, for example, be formed of silicon carbide, diamond like carbon and/or a substance used for charge control layers taught elsewhere herein, and may function as a conductive path to ground and also as a metals reduction layer. The grounded layer 851 may, for example, be formed of silicon carbide, diamond like carbon and/or a substance used for charge control layers taught elsewhere herein. The grounded layer 851 may, for example, comprise diamond-like carbon or silicon carbide, and may have a surface resistivity of between about 10^5 ohms per square and about 10^7 ohms per square. The electrostatic chuck of the embodiment of FIG. 8 also includes a dielectric layer 805, metal electrodes 806, a ceramic-to-ceramic

- 15 -

bond 810, electrically conductive epoxy bonds 808, electrode pins 807, insulator layer 809, thermally conductive bond 811 and water cooled based 812. The dielectric 805 may comprise a bulk resistivity greater than about 10^{12} ohm-cm such that the electrostatic chuck is a Coulombic chuck. The charge control layer 802
5 may, for example, comprise silicon carbide or diamond like carbon; may be directly overlying the dielectric; may comprise a thickness in the range of from about 0.1 microns to about 10 microns; and may comprise a surface resistivity in the range of from about 1×10^8 ohms/square to about 1×10^{11} ohms/square.

FIG. 9 is a cross-sectional diagram of an electrostatic chuck including
10 polymer protrusions and a conductive path, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. The electrostatic chuck includes polymer protrusions 901, which may for example include photo-patternable polymer protrusions, as well as a polymer gas seal 919. In a path for charge to ground, surface charge is bled to a grounded layer 951 through a charge control layer 902, a metal layer 813 and a conductive path 952.
15 The metal layer 913 may, for example, be formed of silicon carbide, diamond-like carbon and/or a substance used for charge control layers taught herein, and may function as a conductive path to ground and also as a metals reduction layer. The grounded layer 951 may, for example, be formed of silicon carbide, diamond-like carbon and/or a substance used for charge control layers taught elsewhere herein.
20 The grounded layer 951 may, for example, comprise diamond-like carbon or silicon carbide, and may have a surface resistivity of between about 10^5 ohms per square and about 10^7 ohms per square. The conductive path 952 may, for example, comprise diamond-like carbon or silicon carbide, and may have a surface resistivity of between about 10^5 ohms per square and about 10^7 ohms per square; and may, for
25 example, cover at least a portion of a workpiece-contacting surface of a gas seal ring 919 of the electrostatic chuck. The electrostatic chuck of the embodiment of FIG. 9 also includes a dielectric layer 905, metal electrodes 906, a ceramic-to-ceramic bond 910, electrically conductive epoxy bonds 908, electrode pins 907, insulator layer 909, thermally conductive bond 911 and water cooled based 912. The dielectric 905
30 may comprise a bulk resistivity greater than about 10^{12} ohm-cm such that the electrostatic chuck is a Coulombic chuck. The charge control layer 902 may, for example, comprise silicon carbide or diamond like carbon; may be directly

- 16 -

overlying the dielectric; may comprise a thickness in the range of from about 0.1 microns to about 10 microns; and may comprise a surface resistivity in the range of from about 1×10^8 ohms/square to about 1×10^{11} ohms/square.

5 *Experimental: Manufacturing Using Photo-Patternable Polymer*

1. *Lamination Process for the Embodiment of FIG. 8:*

In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, an electrostatic chuck may be made by the process of, first, preparing the ceramic assembly using a ceramic to ceramic bond 810. For example, the dielectric layer 805 may be bonded
10 to the insulator layer 809 using the bonding substances described above in connection with the embodiment of FIG. 2. Next, the back side of the ceramic assembly is coated with the metal layers 851 and 813 using Physical Vapor Deposition (PVD), such as by depositing the substances discussed above for use as the grounded layer 851 and metal layer 813 in FIG. 8, to a thickness of about 1
15 micron.

Next, the front side of the ceramic assembly is coated by the charge control layer 802 using Chemical Vapor Deposition (CVD), such as by depositing silicon carbide, diamond like carbon and/or a substance taught elsewhere herein for use as a charge control layer, with the layer 802 being electrically connected with grounded
20 layer 851 via the edge of the ceramic assembly.

Next, the polymer protrusions 801 and gas seal rings 819 are made by photolithography. The photo-patternable polymer sheet is laminated onto the charge control layer 802 by using CATENA (sold by GBC Films Group, Addison, IL, U.S.A.) with a 0.5 m/min roll speed and a 410-480kPa pressure at 80C, and then is
25 baked at 100C for 5 min. After that, the polymer is exposed to light of an intensity of $300\text{mJ}/\text{cm}^2$. The photo-patternable polymer is baked at 95C for 5 min and then developed in Propylene Glycol Monomethyl Ether Acetate (PGMEA) for 5 min, followed by Isopropyl Alcohol (IPA) rinsing for 2 min. At the end, the polymer is baked at 180C for 30 min. In addition, when a lamination process is used, the
30 thickness can be changed by treating the protrusion with a reactive ion etch (RIE) process, for example to reduce the thickness of the protrusion. This may also result in the edges of the protrusion being smoother and cleaner. The thickness of the

- 17 -

protrusion is between about 3 microns and about 12 microns, for example about 6 microns. The amount etched away (resulting in the height of the protrusions) may be optimized for the back side gas pressure that will be used with the electrostatic chuck. The height of the protrusions is preferably approximately the same as, or
5 substantially equal to, the mean free path of the gas used in back side cooling.

2. Lamination Process for the Embodiment of FIG. 9:

A process is used similar to that described above for producing the embodiment of FIG. 8, and in addition there is added a Diamond Like Carbon
10 (DLC) coating by a CVD process with a shadow mask, after the polymer protrusions have been made. The DLC coating covers the gas seal ring 819 and the side wall of ceramic assembly.

3. Spray Coating Process for the Embodiment of FIG. 8:

15 A similar process is used to that described above for lamination, except that a different technique is used to apply the photo-patternable polymer for the protrusions 801 and gas seal ring 819 onto the charge control layer 802.

The polymer protrusions 801 and gas seal ring 819 are made by a photolithography technique. The photo-patternable polymer is sprayed onto the
20 charge control layer 802 using a Prism 300 (sold by Ultrasonic Systems, Inc., Haverhill, MA, U.S.A.) with a 100mm/sec spray speed, 2ml/min flow rate, 30psi air pressure and 30mm height (distance between spray head and the surface of the charge control layer 802), and then is baked at 95C for 15 min. The ceramic assembly is heated up to 65C during the spray coating process. After that, the
25 polymer is exposed to light of an intensity of 300mJ/cm². The photo-patternable polymer is baked at 95C for 5 min and then developed in Propylene Glycol Monomethyl Ether Acetate (PGMEA) for 5 min, followed by Isopropyl Alcohol (IPA) rinsing for 2 min. At the end, the polymer is baked at 180C for 30 min. The thickness of the protrusion is between about 3 microns and about 12 microns, for
30 example about 6 microns. The thickness of the protrusions is controlled by the amount of polymer sprayed onto the surface of the charge control layer 802. The thickness of protrusions may be optimized for the back side gas pressure that will be

- 18 -

used with the electrostatic chuck. The height of the protrusions is preferably approximately the same as, or substantially equal to, the mean free path of the gas used in back side cooling.

5 4. *Spray Coating Process for the Embodiment of FIG. 9:*

 A process is used similar to that described above for producing the embodiment of FIG. 8, and in addition there is added a Diamond Like Carbon (DLC) coating by a CVD process with a shadow mask, after the polymer protrusions have been made. The DLC coating covers the gas seal ring 819 and the side wall of
10 ceramic assembly.

Experimental: Test Results

 In accordance with an embodiment of the invention a variety of tests were performed on an electrostatic chuck having photo-patternable polymer protrusions
15 described herein. Results were as follows.

 1) Scratch test: a needle was used to scratch through a protrusion. The protrusion passed the test; the blade cut through the protrusion without causing delamination.

 2) Tape test: a Kapton tape was placed on top of the protrusions, and was
20 then peeled off. The protrusions passed the test; no protrusions peeled off.

 3) IPA Wipe test: clean room paper with Isopropyl Alcohol (IPA) was used to wipe the embossments. The protrusions passed the test.

 4) Loading/unloading cycle test: a weight was loaded and unloaded onto the top of the protrusions several times. The protrusions passed the test.

25 5) Glass rubbing test: 15 μm PerMx™ protrusions on a silicon carbide surface were used. Normal stress was manually applied onto the protrusions using glass, while the glass was rubbed against the protrusions. The results were that the thickness of the protrusions did not change. Scratches were found on the top surface of the embossments.

30 6) Torture tests: Torture tests were performed using a ceramic assembly with 14 μm thick protrusions. In a solvent test, the protrusions were immersed in IPA and acetone for a day respectively. In a UV exposure test, the protrusions were

- 19 -

continually exposed to UV light for 10.25 hours. In a cold test, the sample was covered with dry ice at approximately -70 C. After the torture tests, a knife was used to scratch the protrusions. The knife cut through the protrusions without causing delamination and cracks. All protrusions passed the tests.

5 7) Clamp test: the charging current was measured during clamping of the electrostatic chuck, for both charging and discharging of the electrodes. The waveform was found to stay uniform and properly formed under all operating conditions (including varying back side gas pressures, in vacuum and in air).

10 8) Gas Leak Rate tests: similar gas leak rate tests were performed to those shown in Table 1, above. No arcing, a high clamp force and a low gas flow rate were found. Similar results were found both before and after a 500K cycle clamp/declamp test.

15 9) Materials Purity tests: three samples were made (photo-patternable polymer film; laminated photo-patternable polymer film on silicon wafer without additional processing; and fully formed photo-patternable polymer protrusions on a silicon wafer). The three samples were surface-extracted using 5% HNO₃ for one hour at room temperature and the resulting solutions were measured for 19 metals using inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS). The results found acceptably low levels of atoms per square centimeter of the 19 metals.

20 10) Clamp/Declamp Cycle Test: After a 500K cycle clamp/declamp test, the height and roughness of protrusions and gas seals did not change. Table 2 shows the results. Profilometry showed that the shapes of the protrusions and gas seals likewise did not change.

- 20 -

	Before cycle test		After 500k cycle	
	H (um)	R _a (um)	H(um)	R _a (um)
Embossment 1	4.9	0.027	5.0	0.03
Embossment 2	5.0	0.027	4.99	0.025
Embossment 3	4.95	0.038	5.35	0.025
Embossment 4	5.3	0.028	4.96	0.04
Embossment 5	5.1	0.03	4.99	0.03
Ave	5.05	0.03	5.05	0.03
Stdv	0.158	0.0046	0.16	0.006
Gas seal	3.3	0.03	5.06	0.049

Table 2: Height and Roughness after 500K Cycle Test

In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, photo-patternable polymer protrusions may be used that include materials of low Young's modulus and high tensile strength. Table 3 shows a comparison of mechanical properties of various materials, with the PerMX and SU8 materials being examples of epoxy based photo-patternable polymers. It can be seen in Table 3 that the thermal stability of polyether imide (PEI), epoxy and polyimide are similar; but the tensile strength of epoxy and polyimide based polymers are higher than PEI. The elastic modulus (stiffness) of PEI, epoxy and polyimide are similar, and all of them are softer than diamond like carbon (DLC). In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, a polymer substance may be used for protrusions that has a tensile strength of greater than about 70 megapascals (MPa), such as between about 70 MPa and 80 MPa; and that has a Young's modulus of less than about 3.5 gigapascals (GPa), such as between about 2 GPa and 3 GPa. Other substances may be used.

	Film		Liquid		
	PEI	PerMx	SU8	Polyimide	DLC
Tg (°C)	216	220	200	270	
Tensile Strength (Mpa)	0.12	75	73	114	
Young's Modulus (Gpa)	3.1	3.2	2	2	100-500
Solvent Resistant	Good	Good	Good	Good	
Properties adjustable by Hard bake?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Table 3: Mechanical Properties of Protrusion Materials

5 In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, the hardness of polymer protrusions, such as epoxy photo-patternable polymer protrusions, may be between about 350 MPa and about 450MPa. The bonding strength of the polymer protrusions may be greater than about 15 MPa between the polymer protrusions and an underlying charge control layer. In some embodiments, the adhesion of the

10 polymer protrusions may be sufficient to permit the charge control layer (802 of FIG. 8) to be adhered directly to the dielectric 805, without an intervening adhesion layer or adhesive. After clamping a wafer or other substrate to the polymer protrusions, the metallic contaminants (for example, Li, Mg, K, Ca, Ti, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Ge, Y, Mo, Sn, Ba, Ce, Hf, Ta, W, Pb, Sb) transferred from the

15 polymer protrusions to the wafer backside may be less than about 1×10^{10} atom/cm². After clamping a wafer or other substrate to the polymer protrusions, the particles deposited on the back side of the substrate as a result of the use of the electrostatic chuck may be less than about 2000 particle adders of particle size range of 0.16 μ m or greater.

20 In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, photo-patternable polymer protrusions set forth herein may, for example, be produced as set forth herein, to adhere to an underlying charge control layer. The charge control layer may, for example, include silicon carbide, diamond like carbon, or another material. Such a charge control layer may have a surface resistivity between about 10^8 ohms per square to about 10^{11} ohms per square.

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In another embodiment according to the invention, photo-patternable protrusions set forth herein may be used on a grounded electrostatic chuck, for

- 22 -

example as shown in the embodiments of FIGS. 8 and 9. For example, a grounding technique may include a conductive path covering at least a portion of a workpiece-contacting surface of a gas seal ring of the electrostatic chuck, the conductive path comprising at least a portion of an electrical path to ground. The conductive path
5 may, for example, comprise diamond-like carbon or silicon carbide, and may have a surface resistivity of between about 10^5 ohms per square and about 10^7 ohms per square. Other conductive paths may be used that are taught in International Application No. PCT/US2011/050841, published as WO2012/033922, entitled
10 “High Conductivity Electrostatic Chuck,” the entire teachings of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference. For example, teachings related to conductive paths covering over the outside edges of electrostatic chucks may be used.

Although photo-patternable polymers are discussed herein, similar spray-coating methods may be used with other soft materials, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. For example, conductive polymers, high chemical-
15 resistance polymers, high temperature resistant polymers, and other materials may be spray coated with a shadow mask to make soft protrusions for electrostatic chucks. In one example, conductive polymers may be spray coated to form conductive soft embossments for a grounded electrostatic chuck. For example, the conductive polymers may comprise a blend of a carbon nanotube and a polymer
20 (such as Entegris TEGO™ polymer, sold by Entegris, Inc. of Billerica, MA, U.S.A.); a carbon nanotube filled polycarbonate; and/or a conductive nanoparticle doped polymer. Such conductive polymer protrusions may be used with a wrap-around DLC coating for grounding of the electrostatic chuck, such as one of the conductive paths that are taught in International Application No.
25 PCT/US2011/050841, published as WO2012/033922, entitled “High Conductivity Electrostatic Chuck,” the entire teachings of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference. Various features of embodiments described herein may be combined; for example, heights and surface roughnesses of protrusions discussed herein may be obtained with a variety of different protrusions, including photo-patternable
30 protrusions taught herein.

In addition, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention, polymers taught herein, including photo-patternable polymers, conductive polymers, high

- 23 -

chemical-resistance polymers and high temperature resistant polymers, may be used for protrusions on vacuum chucks and mechanical chucks.

In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, an electrostatic chuck is a Coulombic chuck. The dielectric can include aluminum, for example alumina or
5 aluminum nitride. In a further embodiment according to the invention, an electrostatic chuck is a Johnsen-Rahbek electrostatic chuck. Alternatively, the electrostatic chuck may not be a Johnsen-Rahbek electrostatic chuck, and the dielectric may be chosen so that a Johnsen-Rahbek (JR) force or partial hybrid Johnsen-Rahbek force does not act on the wafer or substrate.

10 The teachings of all patents, published applications and references cited herein are incorporated by reference in their entirety.

While this invention has been particularly shown and described with references to example embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without
15 departing from the scope of the invention encompassed by the appended claims.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An electrostatic chuck comprising:
a surface layer activated by a voltage in an electrode to form an
5 electric charge to electrostatically clamp a substrate to the electrostatic
chuck, the surface layer including a plurality of protrusions comprising a
photo-patternable polymer and a charge control layer to which the plurality
of polymer protrusions adhere, the plurality of polymer protrusions
extending to a height above portions of the charge control layer surrounding
10 the plurality of polymer protrusions to support the substrate upon the
plurality of polymer protrusions during electrostatic clamping of the
substrate.
2. An electrostatic chuck according to Claim 1, wherein the photo-patternable
15 polymer comprises a photo-patternable polymer that is liquid at room
temperature prior to baking.
3. An electrostatic chuck according to Claim 1, wherein the photo-patternable
20 polymer comprises a photo-patternable polymer that is solid at room
temperature prior to baking.
4. An electrostatic chuck according to Claim 1, wherein the photo-patternable
polymer comprises an epoxy based photo-patternable polymer.
- 25 5. An electrostatic chuck according to Claim 1, wherein the photo-patternable
polymer comprises at least one of a polyimide based photo-patternable
polymer and a benzocyclobutene based photo-patternable polymer.
6. An electrostatic chuck according to Claim 1, wherein the charge control
30 layer comprises silicon carbide.

- 25 -

7. An electrostatic chuck according to Claim 1, wherein the charge control layer comprises diamond like carbon.
- 5 8. An electrostatic chuck according to Claim 1, wherein the charge control layer comprises a surface resistivity of between about 10^8 ohms per square to about 10^{11} ohms per square.
9. An electrostatic chuck according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer
10 protrusions comprise a height of between about 3 microns and about 12 microns.
10. An electrostatic chuck according to Claim 1, wherein the polymer protrusions comprise a diameter of about 900 microns.
- 15 11. An electrostatic chuck according to Claim 1, further comprising a gas seal ring comprising a photo-patternable polymer.
12. An electrostatic chuck according to Claim 11, wherein the gas seal ring
20 comprises at least one of an epoxy based photo-patternable polymer, a benzocyclobutene based photo-patternable polymer and a polyimide based photo-patternable polymer.
13. An electrostatic chuck according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of
25 polymer protrusions comprise a surface roughness of between about $0.02\ \mu\text{m}$ and about $0.05\ \mu\text{m}$.
14. An electrostatic chuck according to Claim 1, wherein the photo-patternable
30 polymer comprises a material having a tensile strength of greater than about 70 megapascals (MPa).

- 26 -

15. An electrostatic chuck according to Claim 1, wherein the photo-patternable polymer comprises a material having a Young's modulus of less than about 3.5 gigapascals (GPa).
- 5 16. An electrostatic chuck according to Claim 1, further comprising a conductive path covering at least a portion of a workpiece-contacting surface of a gas seal ring of the electrostatic chuck, the conductive path comprising at least a portion of an electrical path to ground.
- 10 17. An electrostatic chuck according to Claim 16, wherein the conductive path comprises diamond-like carbon.
18. An electrostatic chuck according to Claim 16, wherein the photo-patternable polymer comprises a photo-patternable polymer that is liquid at room
15 temperature prior to baking, and wherein the charge control layer comprises a surface resistivity of between about 10^8 ohms per square to about 10^{11} ohms per square.
19. An electrostatic chuck comprising:
20 a surface layer activated by a voltage in an electrode to form an electric charge to electrostatically clamp a substrate to the electrostatic chuck, the surface layer including a plurality of protrusions comprising a conductive polymer and a charge control layer to which the plurality of polymer protrusions adhere, the plurality of polymer protrusions extending to
25 a height above portions of the charge control layer surrounding the plurality of polymer protrusions to support the substrate upon the plurality of polymer protrusions during electrostatic clamping of the substrate.
20. An electrostatic chuck according to Claim 19, wherein the conductive
30 polymer comprises a polymer from the group consisting of: a blend of a carbon nanotube and a polymer; and a conductive nanoparticle doped polymer.

- 27 -

21. A method of manufacturing an electrostatic chuck, the method comprising:
exposing a photo-patternable polymer, on a surface of the
electrostatic chuck, to light through a mask, the electrostatic chuck
5 comprising a charge control layer underlying at least a portion of the photo-
patternable polymer; and
removing areas of the surface of the electrostatic chuck based on a
pattern of exposure of the surface to the light through the mask, thereby
forming a plurality of polymer protrusions on the surface of the electrostatic
10 chuck, the plurality of polymer protrusions adhering to the charge control
layer and extending to a height above portions of the charge control layer
surrounding the plurality of polymer protrusions.
22. A method according to Claim 21, comprising laminating a polymer sheet
15 including the photo-patternable polymer over at least a portion of the charge
control layer.
23. A method according to Claim 21, comprising spraying a liquid polymer
including the photo-patternable polymer over at least a portion of the charge
20 control layer.
24. A method according to Claim 21, wherein the photo-patternable polymer
comprises a material having a tensile strength of greater than about 70
megapascals (MPa) and having a Young's modulus of less than about 3.5
25 gigapascals (GPa).
25. A method according to Claim 21, further comprising covering at least a
portion of a workpiece-contacting surface of a gas seal ring of the
electrostatic chuck with a conductive path, the conductive path comprising at
30 least a portion of an electrical path to ground.