



159159

- 1 -



G00007

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

MAGNETIC RECORDING MEDIA, MAGNETIC RECORDING
APPARATUS, AND STAMPER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to a magnetic recording media having discrete tracks, a magnetic recording apparatus having the magnetic recording media, and a stamper used to manufacture the magnetic recording media.

10 In recent years, much attention has been paid to discrete track media expected to improve the recording density; in the discrete track media, adjacent recording tracks are separated from one another by guard bands formed of grooves or a nonmagnetic
15 material to suppress the magnetic interference between the adjacent tracks. To manufacture such discrete track media, the patterns of a magnetic layer are desirably formed by an imprint method using a stamper. In this case, if patterns of the magnetic layer
20 corresponding to signals for the servo region as well as the patterns of recording tracks are formed by using the imprint method, it is possible to eliminate the need for a servo track write process, thus reducing costs.

25 There is a document that refers to position detection marks (an address section) in the servo zone Sz in a discrete track media (Jps. Pat. Appln.

KOKAI Publication No. 2004-110896). However, the prior art does not consider adverse effects of fine configuration of the position detection marks (the address section) on signal quality.

5 The present inventors examined a discrete track media for the quality of address signals obtained from the servo regions. As a result, they have found that, in some cases, quality of the address signals is made insufficient with a high noise level. A
10 probable cause is that when two magnetic patterns used as address bits on servo regions corresponding to two adjacent recording tracks are arranged so that one corner of one of the magnetic patterns is almost in point-contact with one corner of the other, magnetic
15 fluxes are concentrated on the corners of the magnetic patterns. The concentration of the magnetic fluxes may increase the leakage magnetic field, which in turn may increase the noise.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

20 A magnetic recording media having a magnetic layer formed on a substrate according to one aspect of the present invention comprises: data regions including a magnetic pattern constituting a recoding track; and servo regions including magnetic patterns
25 used as address bits, the data regions and the servo regions being contained in a plane of the magnetic layer, wherein, in a case where two magnetic

patterns used as address bits on the servo regions corresponding to two adjacent recording tracks are arranged in such a manner that one corner of one of the magnetic patterns is closest to one corner of the other, the corners of the two magnetic patterns are substantially joined together.

A magnetic recording apparatus according to another aspect of the present invention comprises the above magnetic recording media.

A stamper used to manufacture the above magnetic recording media according to still another aspect of the present invention comprises patterns of projections and recesses corresponding to the magnetic patterns of the magnetic recording media.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is a perspective view showing a magnetic recording apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a plan view showing an example of magnetic patterns in a magnetic disk according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a plan view showing joined magnetic patterns used as address bits in the magnetic disk according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a plan view showing another example of magnetic patterns in a magnetic disk according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIGS. 5A to 5F are sectional views showing a method of manufacturing a stamper used in an example of the present invention;

5 FIGS. 6A to 6F are sectional views showing a method of manufacturing a magnetic disk according to an example of the present invention;

10 FIG. 7 is a plan view of joined magnetic patterns used as address bits in the magnetic disk according to an example of the present invention, in which the hatched portions show magnetic portions, while the white background shows a nonmagnetic portion;

15 FIG. 8 is a plan view showing the projection patterns in a stamper used to manufacture the magnetic disk shown in FIG. 7, in which the hatched portions show the projection portions, while the white background shows recess portions;

FIG. 9 is a plan view showing magnetic patterns used as address bits in a magnetic disk according to a comparative example; and

20 FIG. 10 is a plan view showing projection patterns in a stamper used to manufacture the magnetic disk shown in FIG. 9.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

25 With reference to FIG. 1, a magnetic recording apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention will be described. The magnetic recording apparatus comprises a magnetic disk 71, a head

slider 76 including a magnetic head, a head suspension assembly (suspension 75 and actuator arm 74) that supports the head slider 76, a voice coil motor (VCM) 77, and a circuit board; all these components
5 are provided inside a chassis 70.

The magnetic disk 71 is mounted on and rotated by a spindle motor 72. Various digital data are recorded on the magnetic disk 71 in a perpendicular magnetic recording system. The magnetic head incorporated
10 in the head slider 76 is a so-called integrated head including a write head of a single pole structure and a read head using a shielded MR read element (GMR film, TMR film, or the like). The suspension 75 is held at one end of the actuator arm 74 to support the
15 head slider 76 so as to face the recording surface of the magnetic disk 71. The actuator arm 74 is attached to a pivot 73. The voice coil motor (VCM) 77 is provided at the other end of the actuator arm 74. The voice coil motor (VCM) 77 drives the head suspension
20 assembly to position the magnetic head at an arbitrary radial position of the magnetic disk 71. The circuit board comprises a head IC to generate driving signals for the voice coil motor (VCM) and control signals for controlling read and write operations performed by the
25 magnetic head.

The magnetic disk used in the present invention is a so-called discrete track media. The discrete

track media has a magnetic layer formed on a substrate, in which data regions each including a pattern of the magnetic layer constituting a recording track and servo regions each formed between data regions along the track direction and including magnetic patterns used as address bits are contained in the plane of the magnetic layer. These magnetic patterns are separated from one another by grooves or a nonmagnetic portion.

FIG. 2 shows an example of magnetic patterns formed on the surface of the magnetic disk 71. As shown in FIG. 2, servo regions 20 and data regions 30 are alternately formed along a circumferential direction. The servo region 20 includes a preamble section 21, an address section 22, and a burst section 23; each of these regions is formed of patterns of the magnetic layer. The servo region 20 may include a gap section in addition to these regions or the regions may be arranged in a different order or manner. The data regions 30 have recording tracks 31 consisting of patterns of the magnetic layer and guard bands 32 consisting of grooves or a nonmagnetic portion, the recording tracks 31 and guard bands 32 being alternately formed along the radial direction. In such a microscopic range as shown in FIG. 2, the radial direction and the circumferential direction are depicted such that they are orthogonal to each

other. However, the servo regions may be formed like arcs in the magnetic disk as a whole so as to correspond with the locus of the actuator arm of the head slider. Further, the patterns of the magnetic layer may vary depending on the radial position.

In the embodiment of the present invention, in a case where two magnetic patterns used as address bits on the servo regions corresponding to two adjacent recording tracks are arranged in such a manner that one corner of one of the magnetic patterns is closest to one corner of the other, the corners of the two magnetic patterns are substantially joined together.

With reference to FIG. 3, a configuration of the magnetic patterns of the address section in the servo region 22 will be described. FIG. 3 shows a magnetic pattern 22a used as an address bit for a recording track m and magnetic patterns 22b and 22c used as address bits for the adjacent recording track $m+1$. The angular positions of 22a, 22b, and 22c are θ , $\theta-1$, and $\theta+1$, respectively. One corner of the magnetic pattern 22a is arranged closest to one corner of the magnetic pattern 22b, and the corners of the magnetic patterns 22a and 22b are joined together by a junction J. Likewise, one corner of the magnetic pattern 22a is arranged closest to one corner of the magnetic pattern 22c, and the corners of the magnetic patterns 22a and 22c are joined together by a junction J.

By thus joining the corners of the two adjacent magnetic patterns, used as address bits, it is possible to suppress concentration of magnetic fluxes in the corners of the magnetic patterns.

5 Consequently, noise is reduced to enable good address signals to be obtained.

 The positional relationship between the magnetic patterns used as address bits as shown in FIG. 3 is generalized as follows. The positional
10 relationship between the magnetic patterns 22a and 22b is such that a signal for the track m and angular position θ differs from a signal for the track $m+1$ and angular position θ and from a signal for the track m and angular position $\theta-1$ and that the signal for
15 the track m and angular position θ is the same as a signal for the track $m+1$ and angular position $\theta-1$. The positional relationship between the magnetic patterns 22a and 22c is such that the signal for the track m and angular position θ differs from the
20 signal for the track $m+1$ and angular position θ and from a signal for the track m and angular position $\theta+1$ and that the signal for the track m and angular position θ is the same as a signal for the track $m+1$ and angular position $\theta+1$. The two magnetic patterns
25 having such a positional relationship have their corners arranged closest to each other. In this case, one corner of the magnetic pattern (22a) with the

track m and angular position θ is substantially
joined to one corner of the magnetic pattern (22b)
with the track $m+1$ and angular position $\theta-1$ or the
magnetic pattern (22c) with the track $m+1$ and angular
5 position $\theta+1$.

The junction J preferably meets the following
conditions. The circumferential length of the
junction J is equal to or smaller than that of one
of the joined magnetic patterns. The radial length
10 of the junction J is equal to or smaller than a
quarter of the track width of one of the joined
magnetic patterns.

FIG. 4 shows another example of the magnetic
patterns formed on the surface of the magnetic disk
71. In FIG. 2, a burst ABCD is provided as one
15 section. In contrast, in FIG. 4, the burst section
is divided into a first burst section (AB) 25 and
a second burst section (CD) 26. In the first burst
section 25 and the second burst section 26, shown in
FIG. 4, adjacent magnetic patterns may be arranged
20 so that one corner of one of the magnetic patterns is
closest to one corner of the other, as in the case of
the address section 22. Accordingly, a magnetic disk
having such servo regions as shown in FIG. 4, corners
25 of two magnetic patterns are preferably joined
together as shown in FIG. 3, not only in the address
section 22 but also in the first burst section 25 and

the second burst section 26.

In order to join the corners of the magnetic patterns as shown in FIG. 3, imprinting is carried out using a stamper having patterns of projections and
5 recesses corresponding to the magnetic patterns.

The stamper has projection patterns in which portions corresponding to the junctions between the corners of the magnetic patterns in the magnetic recording media are separated from each other. Therefore, when such a
10 stamper is used to transfer fine patterns to a resist by imprinting, channels through which a part of the resist to be removed can pass are established. This makes it possible to avoid pattern fall or pattern collapse. Correspondingly, it is possible to suppress
15 pattern fall or pattern collapse in the stamper during imprinting. This improves the durability of the stamper to increase the number of magnetic disks that can be imprinted with one stamper.

Examples of the present invention will be
20 described below.

(Example)

In accordance with the processes shown in FIGS. 5A to 5F and 6A to 6F, a magnetic disk according to the present example was produced. The magnetic
25 disk had a track density of 100 kTPI (Track Per Inch) in a data zone of a radius range between 5 mm and 10 mm. One track includes 120 sectors. One sector

corresponds to 10,000 bits.

FIG. 7 shows a part of the address section 22, which is a part of the servo region in one sector. This figure shows that, where two magnetic patterns used as address bits were arranged in such a manner that one corner of one of the magnetic patterns was closest to one corner of the other, the corners of the two magnetic patterns are joined together with the junction J. The size of the junction J was designed as described below. The circumferential length of the junction J was about half that of one of the joined magnetic patterns. The radial length of the junction J is one-tenth of the track width of one of the joined magnetic patterns.

To manufacture a magnetic disk having such servo regions, imprinting is carried out using a stamper having patterns of projections and recesses corresponding to the magnetic patterns on the magnetic disk, as shown in FIG. 8. In the patterns of projections and recesses of the magnetic layer formed by imprinting and subsequent processing, the recess portions may be filled with a nonmagnetic material so as to flatten the surface.

A method for manufacturing the magnetic disk in this Example will be described in detail.

First, a stamper was produced using the method shown in FIGS. 5A to 5F.

As shown in FIG. 5A, a 6-inch Si wafer 1 was prepared and was surface-treated with hexamethyl disilazane (HMDS). On the other hand, a resist ZEP-520 manufactured by ZEON Corporation was diluted
5 twice with anisole, followed by filtering with a 0.2- μ m membrane filter. The Si wafer 1 was spin-coated with the resist solution, which was then pre-baked at 200°C for three minutes, thereby forming the resist 2 with a thickness of about 0.1 μ m.

10 As shown in FIG. 5B, desired patterns were drawn directly on the resist 2 on the Si wafer 1 at an acceleration voltage of 50 kV using electron beam lithography equipment having a ZrO/W thermal field emission type electron gun emitter. In the drawing
15 process, used was a signal source generating signals for forming servo patterns, burst patterns, address patterns, and track patterns, signals send to a stage driving system for the drawing equipment, and signals for controlling electron beam deflection in
20 a synchronized manner. In this process, the drawing was carried out such that, in a site where two magnetic patterns used as address bits on the servo regions corresponding to two adjacent recording tracks are arranged in such a manner that one corner
25 of one of the magnetic patterns is closest to one corner of the other, the corners of the two magnetic patterns are substantially joined together. During

the drawing process, the stage was rotated at a constant linear velocity (CLV) of 500 mm/s and moved in the radial direction. The electron beam was deflected for each rotation to draw track regions into concentric circles.

As shown in FIG. 5C, the Si wafer 1 was immersed in ZED-N50 (manufactured by ZEON Corporation) for 90 seconds to develop the resist 2. The wafer was then immersed and rinsed in ZMD-B (manufactured by ZEON Corporation) for 90 seconds. The wafer was then dried by air blow to produce a resist master 5.

As shown in FIG. 5D, a conductive film 6 consisting of Ni was deposited on the resist master 5 by sputtering. Specifically, pure nickel was used as a target and a chamber was evacuated to a vacuum of 8×10^{-3} Pa. An argon gas was introduced into the chamber by which the pressure of the chamber was adjusted to 1 Pa. In the chamber, 400-W DC power was applied to carry out sputtering for 40 seconds, thereby depositing a conductive film 6 with a thickness of about 30 nm.

As shown in FIG. 5E, the resist master 5 with the conductive film 6 was immersed in a nickel sulfamate plating solution (NS-160 manufactured by Showa Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.). The resist master 5 was electroformed for 90 minutes to form a Ni electroformed film 7 with a thickness of about 300 μm .

Conditions for the electroforming are as follows:

Nickel sulfamate: 600g/L,

Boric acid: 40g/L,

Surfactant (sodium lauryl sulfate): 0.15g/L,

5 Liquid temperature: 55°C,

pH: 4.0,

Current density: 20A/dm².

As shown in FIG. 5F, the electroformed film 7
and conductive film 6 were peeled off from the resist
10 master 5 with a resist residue adhered thereon.

The resist residue was removed by oxygen plasma
ashing. Specifically, an oxygen gas was introduced
into the chamber at 100 ml/min and the pressure in
the chamber was adjusted to 4 Pa. Then, in the
15 chamber, 100-W power was applied to carry out plasma
ashing for 20 minutes. Thus, a father stamper
including the conductive film 6 and electroformed
film 7 was provided. Subsequently, the unnecessary
portions of the farther stamper were punched off
20 using a metal blade to obtain an imprint stamper 8.
The stamper 8 had the patterns shown in FIG. 8.

Then, a magnetic disk was manufactured by
the method shown in FIGS. 6A to 6F.

As shown in FIG. 6A, the stamper 8 was
25 subjected to ultrasonic cleaning with acetone for
15 minutes. The stamper 8 was treated as described
below in order to improve releasability during

imprinting. A solution of fluoroalkylsilane
[CF₃(CF₂)₇CH₂CH₂Si(OMe)₃] (TSL8233 manufactured by
GE Toshiba Silicones) diluted with ethanol to a
concentration of 5% was prepared. The stamper 8 was
5 immersed in the solution for 30 minutes, followed by
blowing away a residual solution using a blower, and
then the stamper 8 was annealed at 120°C for one hour.

On the other hand, a magnetic recording layer
12 was deposited by sputtering on a disk substrate 11
10 having consisting of doughnut-shaped glass with
a diameter of 0.85 inches. The magnetic recording
layer 12 was spin-coated with a resist 15 (S1801
manufactured by Rohm and Haas) at a rotating speed
of 4,000 rpm.

15 As shown in FIG. 6B, the stamper 8 was brought
into contact with the resist 15 on the surface of
the disk substrate 11 and pressed at 1,800 bar for
one minute to transfer the patterns of the stamper 8
to the resist 15. The resist 15 to which the patterns
20 had been transferred was irradiated with UV for
five minutes, and then baked at 160°C for 30 minutes.
With the process for forming projections and recesses
by imprinting, resist residues remain at the bottom of
each of the recesses.

25 As shown in FIG. 6C, the resist residue at the
bottom of each of the recesses was removed by reactive
ion etching (RIE) with an oxygen gas. As shown in

FIG. 6D, the magnetic recording layer 12 was etched
by Ar ion milling using the patterns of the resist 15
as a mask. As shown in FIG. 6E, the patterns of the
resist 15 was stripped away by oxygen RIE. As shown
5 in FIG. 6F, a carbon protective layer 13 was deposited
all over the surface of the magnetic recording layer
12. Subsequently, a lubricant was applied to the
magnetic disk produced. The recesses in the stamper
8, shown in FIG. 6A, correspond to the projected
10 magnetic portions on the media shown in 6F.

One thousand magnetic disks were manufactured
by the method including the imprinting process
using one stamper. Magnetic recording apparatuses
were assembled using magnetic disks produced every
15 appropriate number of imprinting processes.
The magnetic recording apparatuses were tested for
performance by detecting address signals. As a
result, for all the magnetic disks including the
one produced in 1,000th imprinting process, desired
20 address signals were obtained within the range between
the inner peripheral position and the outer peripheral
position.

(Comparative Example)

In the Comparative Example, conditions for
25 electron beam lithography were varied from those in
the method for manufacturing a stamper in the above
Example. That is, in the electron beam lithography,

in a case where two projection patterns in a section corresponding to the address section on the servo region are arranged in such a manner that one corner of one of the projection patterns is closest to one corner of the other, electron beam spots for drawing these two projection patterns were applied so as not to overlap with each other. In the other respects, the processes similar to those used in the above Example were used to produce a stamper and then to manufacture a magnetic disk using the resultant stamper.

FIG. 10 shows the projection patterns of the stamper used in the Comparative Example. As shown in this figure, the two adjacent projection patterns of the stamper are formed such that their corners are almost in point-contact with each other. FIG. 9 shows the magnetic patterns of a magnetic disk according to the Comparative Example manufactured using the stamper. As shown in this figure, the two adjacent magnetic patterns of the magnetic disk are formed such that their corners are almost in point-contact with each other.

One thousand magnetic disks were manufactured by the method including the imprinting process using one stamper, as in the case of the Example. Magnetic recording apparatuses were assembled using magnetic disks produced every appropriate number of imprinting

processes. The magnetic recording apparatuses were tested for performance by detecting address signals.

As a result, in the 500th magnetic disk, an address signal error was detected particularly on an outer peripheral portion. The stamper after the use for processing the 500th magnetic disk was examined with an atomic force microscope (AFM). Then, no defect was observed in the projection patterns corresponding to the address section. Further, in the 1,000th magnetic disk, address signal errors occurred all over the disk from an inner peripheral position to an outer peripheral position. The stamper after the use for processing the 1,000th magnetic disk was examined with AFM. Then, defects were observed in the projection patterns corresponding to the address section.

Now, materials used for the layers of the magnetic recording media according to the embodiments of the present invention as well as the stacked structure of the layers will be described.

<Substrate>

The substrate may be, for example, a glass substrate, an Al-based alloy substrate, a ceramic substrate, a carbon substrate, a compound semiconductor substrate, or an Si single-crystal substrate. The glass substrate may be formed of amorphous glass or crystallized glass. The amorphous glass includes

soda lime glass, aluminosilicate glass, or the like.
The crystallized glass includes lithium-based crystallized glass or the like. The ceramic substrate includes a sintered body mainly formed of aluminum
5 oxide, aluminum nitride, silicon nitride, or the like, or a material obtained by fiber-reinforcing the sintered body. The compound semiconductor substrate includes GaAs, AlGaAs, or the like. The Si single-crystal substrate, so-called a silicon wafer, may have
10 an oxide film on the surface thereof.

<Soft-magnetic underlayer>

When a perpendicular magnetic recording media is produced, so-called perpendicular double layer media in which a perpendicular magnetic recording
15 layer is formed on a soft-magnetic underlayer (SUL) is used. The soft-magnetic underlayer in the perpendicular double layer media is provided so as to pass a recording magnetic field from a recording magnetic pole through this layer and to return the recording
20 magnetic field to a return yoke arranged near the recording magnetic pole. That is, the soft-magnetic underlayer provides a part of the function of the write head, serving to apply a steep perpendicular magnetic field to the recording layer so as to improve
25 recording efficiency.

The soft-magnetic underlayer is formed of a high permeability material containing at least one of Fe,

Ni, and Co. Such materials include, an FeCo-based alloy such as FeCo and FeCoV, an FeNi-based alloy such as FeNi, FeNiMo, FeNiCr and FeNiSi, an FeAl- and FeSi-based alloy such as FeAl, FeAlSi, FeAlSiCr, FeAlSiTiRu and FeAlO, an FeTa-based alloy such as FeTa, FeTaC and FeTaN, and an FeZr-based alloy such as FeZrN.

The soft-magnetic underlayer may be formed of a material having a microcrystalline structure or a granular structure containing fine grains dispersed in a matrix such as FeAlO, FeMgO, FeTaN, and FeZrN, each containing 60 at% or more of Fe.

The soft-magnetic underlayer may be formed of other materials such as a Co alloy containing Co and at least one of Zr, Hf, Nb, Ta, Ti and Y. The material preferably contains 80 at% or more of Co. An amorphous layer is easily formed when such a Co alloy is deposited by sputtering. The amorphous soft-magnetic material exhibits very excellent soft magnetism because of free of magnetocrystalline anisotropy, crystal defects and grain boundaries. Further, the use of the amorphous soft-magnetic material reduces noise from the media. Preferred amorphous soft-magnetic materials include, for example, a CoZr-, CoZrNb- and CoZrTa-based alloys.

Another underlayer may be provided under the soft-magnetic underlayer in order to improve the crystallinity of the soft-magnetic underlayer or

the adhesion to the substrate. Materials for the underlayer include Ti, Ta, W, Cr, Pt, and an alloy thereof, and oxide and nitride containing the above metal.

5 An intermediate layer consisting of a nonmagnetic substance may be provided between the soft-magnetic underlayer and the perpendicular magnetic recording layer. The intermediate layer serves to
10 soft-magnetic underlayer and the recording layer and to control the crystallinity of the recording layer. Materials for the intermediate layer include Ru, Pt, Pd, W, Ti, Ta, Cr, Si and an alloy thereof, and oxide and nitride containing the above metal.

15 To prevent spike noise, the soft-magnetic underlayer may be divided into layers that are antiferromagnetically coupled with each other through a Ru layer with a thickness of 0.5 to 1.5 nm sandwiched therebetween. Alternatively, the soft-
20 magnetic layer may be exchange-coupled with a pinning layer formed of a hard magnetic material with in-plane anisotropy, such as CoCrPt, SmCo and FePt, or an antiferromagnetic material such as IrMn and PtMn. In this case, to control the exchange coupling force, a
25 magnetic layer such as Co or a nonmagnetic layer such as Pt may be stacked on the Ru layer.

<Perpendicular Magnetic Recording Layer>

The perpendicular magnetic recording layer is formed of, for example, a material mainly containing Co, containing at least Pt, containing Cr as required, and further containing an oxide (such as silicon oxide and titanium oxide). In the perpendicular magnetic recording layer, magnetic crystal grains preferably form a columnar structure. In a perpendicular magnetic recording layer having such a structure, the magnetic crystal grains have favorable orientation and crystallinity, making it possible to provide a signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) suitable for high-density recording. The amount of oxide is important for obtaining the above structure. The content of the oxide in the total amount of Co, Pt and Cr is preferably 3 mol% or more and 12 mol% or less, more preferably 5 mol% or more and 10 mol% or less. If the content of the oxide in the perpendicular magnetic recording layer is within this range, the oxide is precipitated around the magnetic grains, making it possible to isolate the magnetic grains and to reduce their sizes. If the content of the oxide exceeds the above range, the oxide remains in the magnetic grains to degrade the orientation and crystallinity. Moreover, the oxide is precipitated over and under the magnetic grains to prevent formation of the columnar structure in which the magnetic grains penetrate the perpendicular

magnetic recording layer in the perpendicular direction. On the other hand, if the content of the oxide is less than the above range, the isolation of the magnetic grains and the reduction in their sizes
5 are insufficient. This increases noise in reading data, making it impossible to obtain a signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) suitable for high-density recording.

The content of Pt in the perpendicular magnetic recording layer is preferably 10 at% or more and
10 25 at% or less. When the Pt content is within this range, the perpendicular magnetic recording layer provides a required uniaxial magnetic anisotropy constant K_u . Moreover, the magnetic grains exhibit good crystallinity and orientation, resulting in
15 thermal fluctuation characteristics and read/write characteristics suitable for high-density recording. If the Pt content exceeds the above range, a layer of an fcc structure may be formed in the magnetic grains to degrade the crystallinity and orientation. On the
20 other hand, if the Pt content is less than the above range, it is impossible to obtain a uniaxial magnetic anisotropy constant K_u and thus thermal fluctuation characteristics suitable for high-density recording.

The content of Cr in the perpendicular magnetic
25 recording layer is preferably 0 at% or more and 16 at% or less, more preferably 10 at% or more and 14 at% or less. When the Cr content is within this range, high

magnetization can be maintained without reduction in uniaxial magnetic anisotropy constant K_u . This brings sufficient read/write characteristics and thermal fluctuation characteristics suitable for high-density recording. If the Cr content exceeds the above range, the constant K_u of the magnetic grains decreases to degrade the thermal fluctuation characteristics and the crystallinity and orientation of the magnetic grains. As a result, the read/write characteristics may be degraded.

The perpendicular magnetic recording layer may contain not only Co, Pt, Cr and an oxide but also one or more additive elements selected from the group consisting of B, Ta, Mo, Cu, Nd, W, Nb, Sm, Tb, Ru and Re. These additive elements enable to facilitate reduction in the sizes of the magnetic grains or to improve the crystallinity and orientation. This in turn makes it possible to provide read/write characteristics and thermal fluctuation characteristics more suitable for high-density recording. The total content of these additive elements is preferably 8 at% or less. If the total content exceeds 8 at%, a phase other than a hcp phase is formed in the magnetic grains. This disturbs crystallinity and orientation of the magnetic grains, making it impossible to provide read/write characteristics and thermal fluctuation

characteristics suitable for high-density recording.

Other materials for the perpendicular magnetic recording layer include a CoPt-based alloy, a CoCr-based alloy, a CoPtCr-based alloy, CoPtO, CoPtCrO, CoPtSi and CoPtCrSi. The perpendicular magnetic recording layer may be formed of a multilayer film containing a film of an alloy mainly including an element selected from the group consisting of Pt, Pd, Rh and Ru and a Co layer. The perpendicular magnetic recording layer may be formed of a multilayer film such as CoCr/PtCr, CoB/PdB and CoO/RhO, which are prepared by adding Cr, B or O to each layer of the above multilayer film.

The thickness of the perpendicular magnetic recording layer preferably ranges between 5 nm and 60 nm, more preferably between 10 nm and 40 nm. A perpendicular magnetic recording layer having a thickness within this range is suitable for high-density recording. If the thickness of the perpendicular magnetic recording layer is less than 5 nm, read output tends to be so low that a noise component becomes relatively high. On the other hand, when the thickness of the perpendicular magnetic recording layer exceeds 40 nm, read output tends to be so high as to distort waveforms. The coercivity of the perpendicular magnetic recording layer is preferably 237,000A/m (3,000 Oe) or more. If the

coercivity is less than 237,000A/m (3,000 Oe), the thermal fluctuation characteristics may be degraded. The perpendicular squareness of the perpendicular magnetic recording layer is preferably 0.8 or more.

5 If the perpendicular squareness is less than 0.8, the thermal fluctuation resistance tends to be degraded.

<Protective Layer>

The protective layer serves to prevent corrosion of the perpendicular magnetic recording layer and to prevent damage to the media surface when the magnetic head comes into contact with the media. Materials for the protective layer include, for example, C, SiO₂ and ZrO₂. The protective layer preferably has a thickness of 1 to 10 nm. When the thickness of the protective layer is within this range, the distance between the head and the media can be reduced. This is suitable for high-density recording.

15

<Lubricant Layer>

The lubricant may be formed of, for example, perfluoropolyether, fluorinated alcohol or fluorinated carboxylic acid.

20

Additional advantages and modifications will readily occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, the invention in its broader aspects is not limited to the specific details and representative embodiments shown and described herein. Accordingly, various modifications may be made without departing from the

25

spirit or scope of the general inventive concept as defined by the appended claims and their equivalents.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A magnetic recording media having a magnetic layer formed on a substrate, comprising:

5 data regions including a magnetic pattern constituting a recoding track; and

servo regions including magnetic patterns used as address bits,

the data regions and the servo regions being contained in a plane of the magnetic layer,

10 wherein, in a case where two magnetic patterns used as address bits on the servo regions corresponding to two adjacent recording tracks are arranged in such a manner that one corner of one of the magnetic patterns is closest to one corner of
15 the other, the corners of the two magnetic patterns are substantially joined together.

2. The magnetic recording media according to claim 1, wherein the magnetic patterns are separated from each other by a nonmagnetic portion.

20 3. The magnetic recording media according to claim 1, wherein the magnetic patterns are separated from each other by a groove.

4. The magnetic recording media according to claim 1, wherein the servo regions include a preamble
25 section, an address section, and a burst section.

5. The magnetic recording media according to claim 1, wherein a length of the junction in a

circumferential direction is equal to or smaller than that of one of the joined magnetic patterns.

6. The magnetic recording media according to claim 1, wherein a length of the junction in a radial direction is equal to or smaller than a quarter of the track width of one of the joined magnetic patterns.

7. The magnetic recording media according to claim 1, wherein the magnetic patterns include a soft magnetic underlayer and a perpendicular magnetic recording layer formed on the soft magnetic underlayer.

8. The magnetic recording media according to claim 1, further comprising a protective layer on the perpendicular magnetic recording layer.

9. A magnetic recording apparatus comprising the magnetic recording media according to claim 1.

10. A stamper used to manufacture the magnetic recording media according to claim 1 comprising patterns of projections and recesses corresponding to the magnetic patterns of the magnetic recording media.

11. The stamper according to claim 10, wherein the stamper has projection patterns in which portions corresponding to the junctions between the corners of the magnetic patterns in the magnetic recording media are separated from each other.

12. The stamper according to claim 10, wherein the stamper is formed of nickel.