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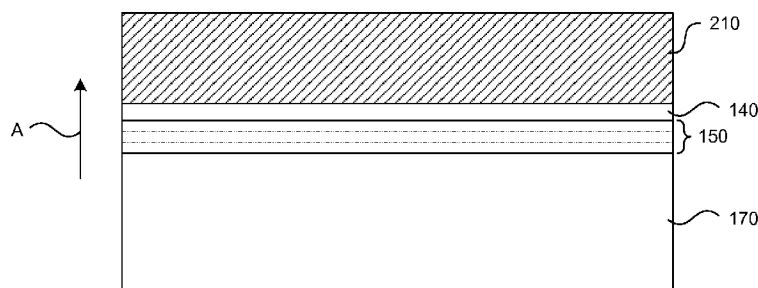


FIG. 4

(57) **Abstract:** A vertical solid state lighting (SSL) device is disclosed. In one embodiment, the SSL device includes a light emitting structure formed on a growth substrate. Individual SSL devices can include a embedded contact formed on the light emitting structure and a metal substrate plated at a side at least proximate to the embedded contact. The plated substrate has a sufficient thickness to support the light emitting structure without bowing.

