

A Method of Detaching a Film of Material from a Substrate

FIELD OF INVENTION

- 5 The invention relates to a method of detaching a film from a substrate.

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

Recently, semiconductor device packaging techniques have been developed in which a semiconductor chip is mounted on a substrate and an epoxy resin material is molded around the semiconductor chip in only one side of the substrate. Hence, the underside of the substrate is left substantially free of the epoxy resin material. One particular type of packaged device where this technique is used is commonly known as a quad, flat no lead (QFN) package where the substrate is a metal lead frame. In order to prevent epoxy resin material seeping onto the underside of the lead frame and causing flashing, it is conventional practice to attach an adhesive masking tape to the underside of the lead frame. The lead frame with semiconductor chip and masking tape is then placed into a mold and epoxy resin material is molded around the semiconductor chip. The masking tape minimises seepage of epoxy resin molding material onto the underside of the lead frame, and so helps reduce flashing.

However, one of the problems with using masking tape to minimise flashing on the underside of the lead frame is the subsequent processing of the lead frame

to detach the adhesive masking tape from the lead frame without damaging the lead frame or the packaged device.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 In accordance with a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of detaching a film of material from a surface of a substrate, the method comprising attaching a detachment member to the external surface of the film opposite to the surface of a substrate such that the attachment force between the detaching member and the film is greater than the adhesion
10 force between the film and the surface of a substrate, and moving the detachment member away from the surface of the substrate to cause the film to detach from the substrate. Preferably, the detachment member comprises a second film of material which is attached to the exposed side of the first film, or a clamp device adapted to clamp onto an edge portion of the first film.

15

Preferably, the method further comprises engaging an outlet of a fluid delivery device with an aperture in the substrate from the opposite side of the substrate to the surface to which the film is attached, and causing the fluid delivery device to pass a fluid out of the outlet and through the aperture to
20 generate a detaching force between the film of material and the surface of a substrate adjacent to the aperture.

In accordance with a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided an apparatus for detaching a film of material from a surface of a substrate, the
25 apparatus comprising a holder adapted to hold a substrate but not a film

attached thereto and the holder holding the substrate in a holding plane, an applicator movably mounted with respect to the holder, and the applicator moving the detachment member into contact with a film of material attached to a substrate held in the holder to apply the detachment member to the film

5 so that the attachment force between the detaching member and the film is greater than the adhesion force between the film and the surface of the substrate, and means for moving the detachment member away from the holding plane to remove the detachment member and the film from a substrate held in the holder.

10

Preferably, the detachment member may be an adhesive tape. The detachment member may also be a clamp device comprising two clamp members movable with respect to each other between an open position and a closed position, and the clamp device being movably mounted with respect to

15 the holder for movement between a disengaged position, a clamped position and a removed position; whereby, when a substrate is held in the holder in use, the clamp device, with the clamp members in the open position, is moved from the disengaged position to the clamped position, in which the film is located between the clamp members, and when the clamp device is in the

20 clamped position, the clamp members are moved to the closed position to clamp the film between the clamp members, and the clamp device is then moved from the clamped position to the removed position to remove the film from the substrate.

Preferably, the apparatus includes a fluid delivery device adapted to be coupled to a pressurized fluid source, the fluid delivery device comprising an outlet adapted to be engaged with an aperture in the substrate to deliver fluid from the pressurized fluid source through the aperture.

5

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Examples of a method for detaching a film of material from a substrate in accordance with the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

10 Figures 1A to 1C are cross-sectional schematic views of an air purge mechanism showing initiating detachment of a masking tape from a lead frame;

Figures 2A to 2C are schematic cross-sectional views showing removal of the masking tape from the substrate following initiation of the detachment using a

15 clamp mechanism; and

Figures 3A and 3B show removal of the masking tape from the substrate using an adhesive tape.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

20 Figures 1A to 1C show a lead frame 1 with a polyimide adhesive tape 2 attached to a surface 5 of the lead frame 1. In this example, the lead frame 1 is a lead frame for a QFN semiconductor device package and a semiconductor chip (not shown) would be mounted on surface 6 of the lead frame 1 on a die attach portion (not shown) of the surface 6. The masking
25 tape is attached to the surface 5 of the lead frame 1 so that during molding of

epoxy resin material around a chip mounted on the surface 6, seepage of epoxy resin material onto the surface 5 (commonly known as flashing) is minimized.

5 However, after molding, it is necessary to remove the masking tape 2 from the surface 5 of the lead frame 1. Therefore, after the molded lead frame is removed from the mold, it passes to a position in an air purge mechanism 10 as shown in Figure 1A. The air purge mechanism 10 includes a hollow probe 11 and a passage within the probe 11 communicates with an air inlet chamber 10
12 located in an air purge block 13. The air purge mechanism 10 is movable relative to the lead frame 1 along an axis 14 so that the probe 11 can be inserted into an aperture 7 formed in a recess 8 in surface 6 of the lead frame 1. Surface 50 of the air purge block 13 is configured to be parallel to surface 52 of the recess 8. The aperture 7 is a through aperture between the recess 8
15 and surface 5 of the lead frame.

Hence, when the probe 11 is inserted into the aperture 7 through the recess 8, the end of the probe 11 hits the surface of the masking tape 2 which is adhered to the surface 5 and further movement of the probe 11 into the hole 7
20 (see Figure 1B) causes detachment of the film 2 from the lead frame 1 in the region adjacent to the hole 7 to form a cavity 16. At the same time a seal 15 on the probe 11 seals between the probe 11 and the hole 7. The air inlet 14 is connected to a pressurised air source (not shown) which is then actuated to cause air to flow through the probe 11 into the cavity 16 formed by the probe
25 11 pushing against the tape 2. The change in volumetric flow rate and

pressure within the cavity 16, caused by air from the inlet 14 entering the cavity 16 through the probe 11, causes the separation of the masking tape 2 from the surface 5, as shown in Figure 1C.

5 During the air purge operation, a support member 17 is moved into engagement with the tape 2 so that the tape 2 is supported on one side the probe 11, as shown in Figure 1C. This ensures that the masking tape 2 separates from the surface 5 on the left hand side of the probe 11, as shown in Figure 1C, as air is prevented from separating the masking tape 2 from the
10 lead frame 1 on the right hand side by the support member 17. This ensures that if the recess 8 and hole 7 are located adjacent to an edge 3 (see Figure 2A) of the lead frame 1, the tape 2 separates from the lead frame 1 at the edge 3 to enable a clamping mechanism 20 to engage with the edge of the masking tape 2 to enable the clamping mechanism 20 to remove the masking
15 tape 2 from the lead frame 1.

After separation of the tape 2 from the lead frame 1, as shown in Figure 1C, the tape may be removed from the lead frame 1 using a clamp mechanism 20 which comprises a wedge shaped member 21 and a gripping member 22 (see
20 Figure 2A). The clamp mechanism 20 is moved in the direction of arrow 23 so that the wedge shaped member 21 is inserted between the tape 2 and the substrate 1. The gripping member 23 is on the opposite side of the tape 2 from the wedge shaped member 21, as shown in Figure 2A. As shown in Figure 2B, the gripping member 23 is then moved upwards, with respect to
25 the wedge shaped member 21, to clamp the end of the tape 2 between the

gripping member 23 and the wedge shaped member 21. The clamp mechanism 20 is then moved away from the lead frame 1 in the direction of arrow 24 at a shearing angle θ to the position shown in Figure 2C. Further movement of the clamp mechanism 20 parallel to the lead frame 1 causes the
5 tape 2 to be sheared away from surface 5 of the lead frame 1 to remove the masking tape 2 from the surface 5.

It should be noted that use of the air purge mechanism 10 is not essential to permit removal of the masking tape 2 using the clamp mechanism 20, as it is
10 possible that the edge 3 of the lead frame 1 could be configured to enable the clamping mechanism 20 to engage with the end of the tape 2 without requiring an edge portion of the masking tape 2 to be first separated from the lead frame 1.

15 In addition, the use of the clamp mechanism 20 following use of the air purge mechanism 10 is not essential. After use of the air purge mechanism 10 to cause separation of a portion of the masking tape 2 from the lead frame 1, removal of the masking tape 2 from the lead frame 1 could be performed using any other suitable means. For example, the masking tape 2 could be
20 removed using adhesive tape 32 which is adhered to the exposed side of the masking tape 2 (i.e. the side of the masking tape 2 not attached to the lead frame 1), as shown in Figures 3A and 3B.

Figures 3A and 3B shows an adhesive masking tape removal mechanism 30
25 which includes a supply drum 31 on which is mounted a roll of adhesive tape

32. The adhesive tape 32 extends around the tension roller 33, an idling roller 34, through a pair of guide rollers 35 to a waste drum 36. The adhesive tape removal mechanism 30 also includes a press roller 37 which can be moved vertically in the direction of the arrow 38 with respect to the idle roller 34 and
5 the guide rollers 35 and horizontally in the direction of the arrow 39.

In use, a roll of adhesive tape 32 is mounted on the supply drum 31 and fed around the tensioning roller 33, the idler roller 34, through the guide rollers 35 and attach to the waste drum 36. The adhesive tape 32 is orientated so that
10 the adhesive side of the tape 32 is directed upwards towards a lead frame clamp 40. When a lead frame 2 is mounted in the clamp 40 after molding, the masking tape 2 attached to the surface 5 of the lead frame is located above the adhesive tape 32 between the idler roller 34 and the guide rollers 35. The press roller 37 is then moved upwards to cause the adhesive tape 32 to
15 contact the exposed side of the masking tape 2 and moved left and right in the direction of the arrow 39 to press the adhesive tape 32 onto the exposed side of the masking tape 2 so that the adhesive tape 32 adheres to the exposed side of the masking tape 2. The press roller 37 is then lowered away from the lead frame 1 and the adhesive tape removable mechanism 30 is
20 moved in the direction of arrow 41 to peel the masking tape 2 away from the lead frame 1, as shown in Figure 3B.

The masking tape 2 is peeled away from the lead frame 1 as the adhesive tape 32 is chosen such that the adhesion of the tape 32 to the exposed side

of the masking tape 2 is greater than the adhesion of the masking tape 2 to the lead frame 1.

After adhesive tape 32 and masking tape 2 have been removed from the lead
5 frame 1, the waste drum 36 is rotated by a drive mechanism (not shown) to wind the tape 32 onto the waste drum 36.

After the masking tape 2 has been removed from the lead frame 1, the waste drum 36 continues to be driven until a new section of adhesive tape 32 is
10 located between the idler roller 34 and the guide rollers 35. The adhesive tape removal mechanism 30 then moved in a reverse direction to the arrow 41 to return it to its original position and the new section of adhesive tape 32 between the idler roller 34 and guide rollers 35 can be used to remove another masking tape 2 from another lead frame 1.

15

In addition, as shown in Figure 3B, the air purge mechanism 10 described above, and shown in Figures 1A and 1C can also be used to aid detachment of the masking tape 2 from the lead frame1. It should be noted that the air
20 purge mechanism is used to aid detachment of the masking tape 2 after the adhesive tape 32 has been pressed on to the masking tape 2 by the press roller 37.

We claim:

1. Apparatus for detaching a film of material from a surface of a substrate, the apparatus comprising a holder adapted to hold a
5 substrate but not a film attached thereto and the holder holding the substrate in a holding plane, an applicator movably mounted with respect to the holder, and the applicator moving the detachment member into contact with a film of material attached to a substrate held in the holder to apply the detachment member to the film, a fluid
10 delivery device comprising an outlet adapted to be engaged with an aperture in the substrate to deliver fluid through the aperture to generate a detaching force between the film of material and the substrate and means for moving the detachment member away from the holding plane to remove the detachment member and the film from
15 a substrate held in the holder.

2. Apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a receiving mechanism to receive the detachment member and film removed from the substrate.

20

3. Apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the receiving mechanism comprises a drum onto which the removed detachment member and film is wound.

4. Apparatus according to claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the detachment member is continuous between the supply mechanism and the receiving mechanism.
- 5 5. Apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the fluid delivery device is adapted to be coupled to a pressurised fluid source, and the fluid delivery device being movably mounted with respect to the holder between an engaged position, in which the outlet engages with an aperture in a substrate held in the holder in use, and a
10 disengaged position in which the outlet is disengaged from an aperture in a substrate mounted in the holder in use.
6. Apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the fluid delivery device further comprises sealing means to seal the outlet to the aperture when
15 the fluid delivery device is in the engaged position.
7. Apparatus according to any one of claims 5 to 7, wherein the outlet is adapted to be inserted through the aperture.