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DESCRIPTION

METHOD OF POLISHING END SURFACES OF A SUBSTRATE FOR A
RECORDING MEDIUM BY A GRAIN FLOW PROCESSING METHOD

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CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is an application filed under 35 U.S.C. §111(a) claiming benefit pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of the filing date of Provisional Application No. 60/608103, filed on September 9, 2004, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §111(b).

Technical Field

The present invention relates to a method of polishing end surfaces of a substrate for a recording medium by a grain flow processing method and a method of producing a substrate for a recording medium by using the above method.

Background Art

An aluminum substrate has been widely used as a substrate for a magnetic recording medium such as a magnetic disk. As the magnetic disks are being produced in smaller sizes and smaller thickness but must record data at a higher density, the aluminum substrate is now being gradually replaced by a glass substrate having superior surface flatness and substrate strength. As glass substrates for magnetic recording medium, there have been used chemically strengthening glass substrates for enhancing the substrate strength and crystallized glass substrates featuring increased substrate strength based on the crystallization.

Accompanying the trend toward high-density recording, further, the magnetic head, is being changed from a thin-film head to a magneto-resistive head (MR head) and to a giant magneto-resistive head (GMR head). It is therefore expected that reproducing the contents the magnetic recording medium of the glass substrate by using a magneto-resistive heads will become standard in

the future.

Thus, a variety of improvements have been made to the magnetic disk for high-density recording. Advances in the magnetic disk, however, are also accompanied by
5 new problems concerning the glass substrate for the magnetic recording medium. One of the problems is to cleanse the surfaces of the glass substrate. That is, adhesion of a foreign matter on the surfaces of the glass substrate could become a cause of defects in the thin
10 film formed on the surfaces of the glass substrate or a cause of protuberances formed on the surfaces of the thin film. Further, in reproducing the contents of the magnetic recording medium of the glass substrate by using a magneto-resistive head, if the flying height (floating
15 height) of the head is reduced to increase the recording density, there may often occur erroneous reproducing operations or a phenomenon that the reproduction is not accomplished. The cause is that the protuberances formed on the surface of the magnetic disk, due to particles on
20 the glass substrate, turn into thermal asperity, generating heat at the magneto-resistive head, varying the resistance of the head, and adversely affecting the electromagnetic conversion.

A principal cause of foreign matter on the surface
25 of the glass substrate for the magnetic recording medium described above stems from the end surface of the glass substrate not being smooth and, hence, the end surface abrades the wall surface of the resin casing, whereby resin or glass particles formed by the abrasion, as well
30 as other particles trapped on the inner peripheral end surface and the outer peripheral end surface of the glass substrate, adhere to the surfaces.

Patent document 1 (JP-A-11-221742) discloses a polishing method wherein a disk-like glass substrate
35 (substrate for a recording medium) having a circular hole at the central portion is immersed in a polishing solution containing free grains, and the inner peripheral

end surfaces and/or the outer peripheral end surfaces of the glass substrate are polished by being brought into rotational contact with a polishing brush or a polishing pad by using the polishing solution containing the free grains.

However, use of the polishing brush together with the slurry is not capable of favorably polishing the substrate for a recording medium such as a small hard disk (e.g., a doughnut-shaped substrate having an inner diameter of not larger than 7 mm). Further, the conventional slurry contains cerium oxide and the like which cannot be easily removed by washing. Besides, the residual cerium oxide may make it difficult to obtain satisfactory reliability in performance in the applications where a highly reliable performance is required, such as in the use of a car-mounted hard disk (HD) and the like.

[Patent document 1] Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 11-221742

Disclosure of the Invention

It is, therefore, an object of the present invention to provide a method of polishing a substrate which is suited for polishing a substrate for a recording medium and, particularly, a substrate for a small recording medium. Another object of the present invention is to provide a polishing method capable of efficiently polishing the inner peripheral end surface and/or the outer peripheral end surface of the substrate. A further object of the present invention is to provide a polishing method, capable of forming a polished substrate, while preventing the reliability of performance from being impaired by the adhesion of the residual polishing material.

The present invention provides a method of polishing the end surfaces of a substrate for a recording medium and a method of producing a substrate for a recording medium using the above method as described below.

(1) A method of polishing end surfaces of a substrate for a recording medium wherein an inner peripheral end surface or an outer peripheral end surface of a substrate for a disk-like recording medium having a circular hole at the central portion thereof is brought into contact with a polishing medium obtained by dispersing polishing grains in a viscoelastic resin carrier and the polishing medium flows, thereby to polish the inner peripheral end surface or the outer peripheral end surface.

(2) The method of polishing end surfaces of a substrate for a recording medium according to (1) above, wherein the inner peripheral end surface and the outer peripheral end surface are polished simultaneously.

(3) The method of polishing end surfaces of a substrate for a recording medium according to (1) or (2) above, wherein the polishing grains are diamond grains.

(4) The method of polishing end surfaces of a substrate for a recording medium according to any one of (1) to (3) above, wherein the diameter of the circular hole is not larger than 7 mm.

(5) A method of producing a substrate for a recording medium by using the polishing method of any one of (1) to (4) above.

(6) A substrate for a recording medium, produced by the method according to (5).

(7) A recording medium, produced by using the substrate according to (6).

Unlike the conventional methods that use a polishing brush, the polishing method of the present invention is capable of effecting the polishing favorably even when the disk-like substrate for a recording medium has a very small inner diameter.

Further, the substrate is polished by using polishing grains in the flowing polishing medium, making it possible to polish both the inner peripheral end surface and the outer peripheral end surface simultaneously.

Further, the disk-like substrates for recording media can be polished in a state of being stacked one upon the other in a plural number to conduct the polishing efficiently.

5 According to the method of the present invention, further, the polishing is effected favorably by using diamond grains or grains such as of silicon carbide. Therefore, there is no need of washing, there is no problem of a decrease in the reliability of performance
10 caused by residual cerium oxide, and the performance is obtained by maintaining a sufficient degree of reliability.

Brief Description of the Drawings

15 Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a device used for the grain flow processing.

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view of a substrate in a state where the substrates to be polished are stacked together.

- 1 upper cylinder
- 20 2 lower cylinder
- 3 jig
- 4 polishing medium
- 5 substrate
- 6 cylinder control unit
- 25 10 grain flow processing device
- 21 outer peripheral end surface
- 22 end edge surface
- 23 chamfered portions

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

30 The method of polishing the end surfaces of the substrate for a recording medium of the present invention is based on a so-called "grain flow processing method" by bringing the substrate into contact with a polishing medium flows obtained by dispersing polishing grains in a
35 viscoelastic resin carrier while the polishing medium flows. The "grain flow processing method" itself has long been known for deburring metal parts. The polishing

medium is the one obtained by dispersing polishing grains, such as of diamond or silicon carbide, in a half-solid viscoelastic resin material having fluidity. Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a device used for the grain flow processing. Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view of a substrate in a state where the substrates that are to be polished by the polishing method of the present invention are stacked. The grain flow processing device 10 shown in Fig. 1 includes an upper cylinder 1, a lower cylinder 2, and a jig 3 incorporated in a cavity in which the upper and lower cylinders 1 and 2 freely move in two directions as indicated by arrows. Further, the grain flow processing device 10 includes a cylinder control unit 6 which so controls the upper and lower cylinders 1 and 2 as to move at a preset speed, and wherein a substrate 5 for a recording medium that is to be polished is fixed between the upper and lower cylinders 1, 2, and a polishing medium 4 obtained by mixing the polishing grains into the viscoelastic resin carrier having both viscosity and elasticity, is introduced into between the upper and lower cylinders 1, 2. The viscoelastic resin carrier is a viscoelastic polymer material of, for example, a silicone resin.

In this constitution, the polishing medium 4 is pressed by the upper and lower cylinders 1, 2 and moves over all the surfaces of the substrate 5 for a recording medium inclusive of the inner peripheral end surface and the outer peripheral end surface while being press-contacted thereto. Due to this movement, the inner peripheral end surface and the outer peripheral end surface of the substrate 5 for the recording medium 5 are finished like mirror surfaces. This removes the roughness from the surfaces, and the substrate 5 is suppressed from forming particles. In the chamfered portions 23 on the outer peripheral end surfaces (see Fig. 2), the corners are rounded, which prevents the formation of particles when the substrate 5 comes in

contact with other articles. The upper and lower cylinders 1 and 2 are controlled as to move at a speed that has been set in the cylinder control unit 6 in advance.

5 Namely, as the upper and lower cylinders 1 and 2 move at a constant speed, the medium 4 flows at a constant speed, too. Accordingly, even when the viscosity and kind of the medium 4 are changed, the flow speed remains constant and the polishing conditions are
10 not changed. Thus, a stable polishing precision is obtained.

 The control by the cylinder control unit 6 may be for maintaining constant the speed of the upper and lower cylinders 1 and 2. Therefore, no complex control unit is
15 necessary for effecting the control and maintaining correlation among the detected data such as the processing pressure, temperature of the medium 4 and the like. In other words, the upper and lower cylinders 1 and 2 can be controlled by using simply constituted
20 control means.

 As shown in Fig. 2, further, a stacked body 20 is formed by stacking a plurality of substrates to treat many substrates simultaneously with good working efficiency. Referring, here, to Fig. 2, the outer
25 peripheral end surface 21 of each substrate is constituted by an end edge surface 22 and chamfered portions 23. The inner peripheral end surface 21', too, is constituted by an end edge surface 22' and chamfered portions 23'. Dented portions 24, 24' are formed between
30 the end surfaces 21, 21' of the upper and lower substrates, and may often not be polished to a sufficient degree by the grains moving in the up-and-down direction of the stacked body 20. In this case, the stacked body is rotated with the center hole of the stacked substrates
35 as an axis to favorably polish the chamfered portions 23, 23', too.

 The end surfaces of the substrate are finished like

a mirror after a circular hole in the central portion of the glass substrate is formed and the inner peripheral end surface and the outer peripheral end surface are chamfered. Thereafter, the recording surfaces of the substrate may be subjected to the polishing and, as required, are, further, chemically reinforced by using a chemical reinforcing solution such as of potassium nitrate or sodium nitrate.

The magnetic recording medium is produced by successively overlaying an underlying layer, a magnetic layer, a protection layer and a lubricating layer on the substrate that is obtained as described above. As the underlying layer, there can be usually used such a nonmagnetic material as Cr, Mo, Ta, W, V, B or Al though this is not to impose any limitation. As the magnetic layer, there can be used a magnetic film comprising Co as a chief component. As the protection layer, there can be used a Cr film or a carbon film. As the lubricating layer, there can be used the one formed by diluting a perfluoroether which is a liquid lubricant with a fluoro-type solvent, applying it and drying it.

Examples

The method of the present invention will be described in further detail by way of an Example which, however, does not limit the invention.

Example 1.

Thirty pieces of substrates (TS-10SX manufactured by Ohara Co.) for a hard disk (HD) each having a diameter (outer diameter) of 21.6 mm, a diameter (inner diameter of the center hole) of 6 mm and a thickness of 0.421 mm, were stacked and were finished on their end surfaces as mirror surfaces by using a grain flow processing device (EX-100 manufactured by Extrude-Horn Co.) shown in Fig. 1 under the conditions described below. The outer peripheral end surface and the inner peripheral end surface of the substrate included an end edge surface of 0.181 mm and chamfered portions of 0.120 mm on both sides

thereof, respectively.

Polishing:

1. Polishing medium.

Kind of grains, size: diamond, #600 (average grain size,
5 30 μm)

Viscoelastic resin: Article No. EH020854

2. Grain flow processing device.

Cylinder diameter: 15 cm in diameter

3. Conditions in the device.

10 Temperature: 25°C

Pressure: 3 MPa

Polishing time: 120 minutes

In the above Example, the surfaces were observed for
defects. The surfaces were observed for defects by using
15 a microscope manufactured by Olympus Co. at a
magnification of 200 times. The polished surfaces were
completely free of scars or pits.

In the invention, further, no residue of a polishing
material, such as cerium oxide, was adhered. This means
20 that when the substrate for a recording medium is used,
to satisfy the requirement of high reliability, the
reliability is not deteriorated by the residue of the
polishing material, which is particularly desirable.
Besides, the inner peripheral end surface and the outer
25 peripheral end surface can be polished simultaneously
offering advantage from the standpoint of operation
efficiency. Unlike the conventional polishing method
using a brush, further, the Example favorably polishes
even a substrate having a very small diameter (e.g.,
30 inner diameter of 7 mm).

CLAIMS

**METHOD OF POLISHING END SURFACES OF A SUBSTRATE FOR A
RECORDING MEDIUM BY A GRAIN FLOW PROCESSING METHOD**

1. A method of polishing end surfaces of a substrate for a recording medium wherein a plurality of substrates for a disk-like recording medium having a circular hole at the central portion thereof are stacked, inner peripheral end surfaces or outer peripheral end surfaces of said substrates are brought into contact with a polishing medium obtained by dispersing polishing grains in a viscoelastic resin carrier, and said polishing medium flows, while the stacked body is rotated with the center hole of the stacked substrates as an axis, thereby to polish said inner peripheral end surfaces or said outer peripheral end surfaces.

2. The method of polishing end surfaces of a substrate for a recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said inner peripheral end surface and said outer peripheral end surface are polished simultaneously.

3. The method of polishing end surfaces of a substrate for a recording medium according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said polishing grains are diamond grains.

4. The method of polishing end surfaces of a substrate for a recording medium according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the diameter of said circular hole is not larger than 7mm.

5. A method of producing a substrate for a recording medium by using the polishing method of any one of claims 1 to 4.

6. A substrate for a recording medium, produced by the method according to claim 5.

7. A recording medium, produced by using the substrate according to claim 6.