glass substrates (> 150 μm) can be fabricated with better puncture resistance, but these substrates lack suitable fatigue resistance and mechanical reliability upon bending.

Thus, there is a need for glass materials, components and assemblies for reliable use in flexible substrate and/or display applications and functions, particularly for flexible electronic device applications.

SUMMARY

[0006] A stack assembly is provided that comprises: a glass element having a thickness from about 25 μm to about 125 μm, a first primary surface, and a second primary surface, the glass element further comprising: (a) a first glass layer having a first primary surface; and (b) a compressive stress region extending from the first primary surface of the glass layer to a first depth in the glass layer, the region defined by a compressive stress of at least about 100 MPa at the first primary surface of the layer. The glass element is characterized by: (a) an absence of failure when the element is held at a bend radius from about 3 mm to about 20 mm for at least 60 minutes at about 25°C and about 50% relative humidity; (b) a puncture resistance of greater than about 1.5 kgf when the second primary surface of the element is supported by (i) an approximately 25 μm thick pressure-sensitive adhesive having an elastic modulus of less than about 1 GPa and (ii) an approximately 50 μm thick polyethylene terephthalate layer having an elastic modulus of less than about 10 GPa, and the first primary surface of the element is loaded with a stainless steel pin having a flat bottom with a 200 μm diameter; and (c) a pencil hardness of greater than or equal to 8H.

[0007] According to one implementation, a foldable electronic device is provided that includes an electronic device having a foldable feature. The foldable feature includes a stack assembly as defined above. In certain examples, the foldable feature can include a display, printed circuit board, housing and other features of the electronic device.

[0007a] In one aspect, there is provided a display device comprising a body and a cover glass, wherein the cover glass comprises the glass substrate as described herein.

[0008] In some examples, the glass element can further comprise one or more additional glass layers and one or more respective compressive stress regions disposed beneath the first glass layer. For example, the glass element can comprise two, three, four or more additional glass layers with corresponding additional compressive stress regions beneath the first glass layer.

[0009] A glass article is provided that comprises: a glass layer having a thickness from about 25 μm to about 125 μm, the layer further comprising: (a) a first primary surface; (b) a second primary surface; and (c) a compressive stress region extending

from the first primary surface of the glass layer to a first depth in the glass layer, the region defined by a compressive stress of at least about 100 MPa at the first primary surface of the layer. The glass layer is characterized by: (a) an absence of failure when the layer is held at a bend radius from about 3 mm to about 20 mm for at least 60 minutes at about 25°C and about 50% relative humidity; (b) a puncture resistance of greater than about 1.5 kgf when the second primary surface of the layer is supported by (i) an approximately 25 μm thick pressure-sensitive adhesive having an elastic modulus of less than about 1 GPa and (ii) an approximately 50 μm thick polyethylene terephthalate layer having an elastic modulus of less than about 10 GPa, and the first primary surface of the layer is loaded with a stainless steel pin having a flat bottom with a 200 μm diameter; and (c) a pencil hardness of greater than or equal to 8H.

[0010] In certain examples, the glass article may further include a glass structure having a thickness greater than the thickness of the glass layer and two substantially parallel edge surfaces, the structure comprising the glass layer, wherein the layer is arranged in a central region of the structure between the substantially parallel edge surfaces.

[0011] In some examples, the glass layer comprises an alkali-free or alkali-containing aluminosilicate, borosilicate, boroaluminosilicate, or silicate glass composition. The thickness of the glass layer can also range from about 50 μm to about 100 μm. The thickness can range from 60 μm to about 80 μm, according to some examples.

[0012] In some examples, the bend radius of the glass element or the glass layer can be from about 3 mm to about 20 mm. In other examples, the bend radius can be from about 3 mm to about 10 mm. The bend radius of the glass layer can be from about 1 mm to about 5 mm in some examples. Further, the bend radius can also be from about 5 mm to about 7 mm.

[0012a] In another aspect, there is provided a glass substrate comprising:

a region having a first thickness and a puncture resistance of at least 3 Kg force; and

a region having a second thickness providing the substrate the ability to achieve a bend radius of 5 mm.

[0013] According to certain examples, the stack assembly can further comprise a second layer having a low coefficient of friction disposed on the first primary surface of the glass element or layer. According to certain examples, the second layer can be a coating comprising a fluorocarbon material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastics and amorphous fluorocarbons. The second layer can also be a coating comprising one or more of the group consisting of a silicone, a wax, a polyethylene, a hot-end, a parylene, and a diamond-like

coating preparation. Further, the second layer can be a coating comprising a material selected from the group consisting of zinc oxide, molybdenum disulfide, tungsten disulfide, hexagonal boron nitride, and aluminum magnesium boride. According to some examples, the second layer can be a coating comprising an additive selected from the group consisting of zinc oxide, molybdenum disulfide, tungsten disulfide, hexagonal boron nitride, and aluminum magnesium boride.

[0014] In some examples, the compressive stress in the compressive stress region at the first primary surface is from about 600 MPa to 1000 MPa. The compressive stress region can also include a maximum flaw size of 5 μm or less at the first primary surface of the glass layer. In certain cases, the compressive stress region comprises a maximum flaw size of 2.5 μm or less, or even as low as 0.4 μm or less.

[0015] In other examples, the compressive stress region comprises a plurality of ion-exchangeable metal ions and a plurality of ion-exchanged metal ions, the ion-exchanged metal ions selected so as to produce compressive stress. In some examples, the ion-exchanged metal ions have an atomic radius larger than the atomic radius of the ion-exchangeable metal ions. The glass layer can further comprise a core region, and a first and a second clad region disposed on the core region, and further wherein the coefficient of thermal expansion for the core region is greater than the coefficient of thermal expansion for the clad regions.

[0016] A glass article is provided that comprises: a glass layer having a thickness, a first primary surface, and a second primary surface. The glass layer is characterized by: (a) an absence of failure when the layer is held at a bend radius from about 1 mm to about 5 mm for at least 60 minutes at about 25°C and about 50% relative humidity; (b) a puncture resistance of greater than about 1.5 kgf when the second primary surface of the layer is supported by (i) an approximately 25 μm thick pressure-sensitive adhesive having an elastic modulus of less than about 1 GPa and (ii) an approximately 50 μm thick polyethylene terephthalate layer having an elastic modulus of less than about 10 GPa, and the first primary surface of the layer is loaded with a stainless steel pin having a flat bottom with a 200 μm diameter; and (c) a pencil hardness of greater than or equal to 8H. The glass article also includes a glass structure having a thickness greater than the thickness of the glass layer and two substantially parallel edge surfaces. The structure includes the glass layer, and the layer is arranged in a central region of the structure between the substantially parallel edge surfaces. In some examples, the thickness of the glass structure may be equal to or greater than 125 μm. The thickness of the glass layer may be set from about 20 μm to about 125 μm to achieve the bend radius. According to an example, the thickness of the glass layer can be set from about 20 μm to about 30 μm to achieve the bend radius.

[0017] A method of making a stack assembly is provided that comprises the steps: forming a first glass layer having a first primary surface, a compressive stress region extending from the first primary surface of the glass layer to a first depth

in the glass layer, and a final thickness, wherein the region is defined by a compressive stress of at least about 100 MPa at the first primary surface of the layer; and forming a glass element having a thickness from about 25 μm to about 125 μm, the element further comprising the glass layer, a first primary surface, and a second primary surface. The glass element is characterized by: (a) an absence of failure when the element is held at a bend radius from about 3 mm to about 20 mm for at least 60 minutes at about 25°C and about 50% relative humidity; (b) a puncture resistance of greater than about 1.5 kgf when the second primary surface of the element is supported by (i) an approximately 25 μm thick pressure-sensitive adhesive having an elastic modulus of less than about 1 GPa and (ii) an approximately 50 μm thick polyethylene terephthalate layer having an elastic modulus of less than about 10 GPa, and the first primary surface of the element is loaded with a stainless steel pin having a flat bottom with a 200 μm diameter; and (c) a pencil hardness of greater than or equal to 8H.

[0018] In some examples, the step of forming the first glass layer can comprise a forming process selected from the group consisting of fusion, slot drawing, rolling, redrawing and float processes, the forming process further configured to form the glass layer to the final thickness. Other forming processes can be employed depending on the final shape factor for the glass layer and/or intermediate dimensions of a glass precursor used for the final glass layer. The forming process can also include a material removal process configured to remove material from the glass layer to reach the final thickness.

[0019] According to some examples of the method, the step of forming a compressive stress region extending from the first primary surface of the glass layer to a first depth in the glass layer comprises: providing a strengthening bath comprising a plurality of ion-exchanging metal ions having an atomic radius larger in size than the atomic radius of a plurality ion-exchangeable metal ions contained in the glass layer; and submersing the glass layer in the strengthening bath to exchange a portion of the plurality of ion-exchangeable metal ions in the glass layer with a portion of the plurality of the ion-exchanging metal ions in the strengthening bath to form a compressive stress region extending from the first primary surface to the first depth in the glass layer. In certain cases, the submersing step comprises submersing the glass layer in the strengthening bath at about 400°C to about 450°C for about 15 minutes to about 180 minutes.

[0020] In certain examples, the method can also include a step of removing about 1 μm to about 5 μm from the final thickness of the glass layer at the first primary surface after the compressive stress region is created. The removing step can be conducted such that the compressive stress region comprises a maximum flaw size of 5 μm or less at the first primary

surface of the glass layer. The removing step can also be conducted such that the compressive stress region comprises a maximum flaw size of 2.5 μm or less, or even as low as 0.4 μm or less, at the first primary surface of the glass layer.

[0020a] In another aspect, there is provided a method of etching glass comprising: obtaining a substrate having a first thickness, wherein the first thickness provides the substrate with a puncture resistance of at least 3 kgf force; and removing a portion of the substrate so as to achieve a second thickness, the second thickness being less than the first, wherein the second thickness provides the substrate the ability to achieve a bend radius of 5 mm, wherein after the removing, the substrate maintains a portion having the first thickness.

[0021] Additional features and advantages will be set forth in the detailed description which follows, and in part will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art from that description or recognized by practicing the examples as described herein, including the detailed description which follows, the claims, as well as the appended drawings.

[0022] It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are merely exemplary, and are intended to provide an overview or framework to understanding the nature and character of the claims. The accompanying drawings are included to provide a further understanding, and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification. The drawings illustrate one or more examples, and together with the description serve to explain principles and operation of the various examples. Directional terms as used herein—for example, up, down, right, left, front, back, top, bottom—are made only with reference to the figures as drawn and are not intended to imply absolute orientation.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0023] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a stack assembly comprising a glass element with a glass layer according to an aspect of this disclosure.

[0024] FIG. 1A is perspective view of the stack assembly depicted in FIG. 1 subjected to bending forces.

[0025] FIG. 1B is a cross-sectional view of the stack assembly depicted in FIG. 1.

[0026] FIG. 1C is a cross-sectional view of a stack assembly comprising a glass element with compressive stress regions formed by an ion exchange process according to a further aspect of this disclosure.

[0027] FIG. 1D is a cross-sectional view of a stack assembly comprising a glass element having a glass layer with a core region and two clad regions according to an aspect of this disclosure.

[0028] FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a stack assembly comprising a glass element with three glass layers according a further aspect of this disclosure.

[0029] FIG. 2A is a perspective view of the stack assembly depicted in FIG. 2 subjected to bending forces.

[0030] FIG. 3 is a perspective view of a stack assembly comprising a glass structure and a glass element according to an aspect of this disclosure.

What is claimed is:

1. A glass substrate comprising:

a region having a first thickness and a puncture resistance of at least 3 Kg force; and

a region having a second thickness providing the substrate the ability to achieve a bend radius of 5 mm.

2. The glass substrate of claim 1, wherein the second thickness provides the substrate the ability to achieve a bend radius of 2 mm.

3. The glass substrate of claim 1, wherein the second thickness provides the substrate the ability to achieve a bend radius of 1 mm.

4. The glass substrate of any one of claims 1-3, wherein the second thickness is ≤ 30 microns.

5. The glass substrate of any one of claims 1-3, wherein the second thickness is ≤ 25 microns.

6. The glass substrate of any one of claims 1-5, further comprising a length, and wherein the second thickness is continuously provided across the entire length.

7. The glass substrate of any one of claims 1-6, further comprising a protective member disposed so as to cover a portion of the substrate having the second thickness.

8. The glass substrate of any one of claims 1-7, wherein the first thickness is ≥ 130 microns.

9. The glass substrate of any one of claims 1-8, wherein the glass substrate comprises a composition that is an alkali-free, alumino-boro-silicate, glass.

10. The glass substrate of any one of claims 1-9, capable of at least 100 cycles of bending to a 5 mm radius before failure.

11. The glass substrate of any one of claims 1-10, further comprising a Young's modulus of > 50 GPa.

12. The glass substrate of any one of claims 1-11, having a pencil hardness of at least 8H.

13. A display device comprising a body and a cover glass, wherein the cover glass comprises the glass substrate of any one of claims 1-12.

14. A method of etching glass comprising: obtaining a substrate having a first thickness, wherein the first thickness provides the substrate with a puncture resistance of at least 3 kgf force; and removing a portion of the substrate so as to achieve a second thickness, the second thickness being less than the first, wherein the second thickness provides the substrate the ability to achieve a bend radius of 5 mm, wherein after the removing, the substrate maintains a portion having the first thickness.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the removing is performed by etching.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the second thickness provides the substrate the ability to achieve a bend radius of 2 mm.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the second thickness provides the substrate the ability to achieve a bend radius of 1 mm.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein the second thickness is ≤ 30 microns.

19. The method of claim 14, wherein the second thickness is ≤ 25 microns.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein the substrate comprises a length, and wherein removing provides the second thickness continuously across the entire length.

21. The method of claim 14, further comprising disposing a protective member to cover a portion of the substrate having the second thickness.

22. The method of claim 14, wherein the first thickness is ≥ 130 microns.

23. The method of claim 14, wherein the glass substrate comprises a composition that is an alkali-free, alumino-boro-silicate, glass.

24. The method of claim 14, wherein the substrate comprises an edge, and the method further comprising etching the edge.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein etching the edge is performed simultaneously with the removing.

26. The method of claim 14, wherein the glass substrate comprises a Young's modulus of > 50 GPa.

27. The method of claim 14, wherein the glass substrate comprises a pencil hardness of at least 8H.