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(54) Title: PATTERNING LAYERS COMPRISED OF SPIN-ON CERAMIC FILMS

(57) Abstract: The present invention comprises a method for forming a hardmask including the steps of depositing a polymeric preceramic precursor film atop a substrate; converting the polymeric preceramic precursor film into at least one ceramic layer, where the ceramic layer has a composition of $\text{Si}_v\text{N}_w\text{C}_x\text{O}_y\text{H}_z$ where $0.1 \leq v \leq 0.9$, $0 \leq w < 0.5$, $0.05 \leq x \leq 0.9$, $0 \leq y \leq 0.5$, $0.05 \leq z \leq 0.8$ for $v+w+x+y+z=1$; forming a patterned photoresist atop the ceramic layer; patterning the ceramic layer to expose regions of the underlying substrate, where a remaining region of the underlying substrate is protected by the patterned ceramic layer; and etching the exposed region of the underlying substrate. Another aspect of the present invention is a buried etch stop layer having a composition of $\text{Si}_v\text{N}_w\text{C}_x\text{O}_y\text{H}_z$ where $0.05 < v < 0.8$, $0 < w < 0.9$, $0.05 < x < 0.8$, $0 < y < 0.8$, $0.05 < z < 0.8$ for $v+w+x+y+z=1$.

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