CLAIMS:

1. A solar cell-forming silicon substrate of square shape with corners as viewed in plan view, which is provided with a chamfer at ~~one~~ a first corner or a notch at or near ~~one~~ a first corner,

wherein the first corner has a different shape from other corners whereby the direction of the silicon substrate is judged to keep the silicon substrate in the identical direction throughout the process of manufacturing a solar cell.

2. ~~A~~ The solar cell-forming silicon substrate of ~~square shape as viewed in plan view~~ claim 1, having ~~a first corner and~~ a second corner not diagonal to the first corner, which is provided with a chamfer at the first corner or a notch at or near the first corner and with a notch at or near the second corner or a chamfer at the second corner, the notch or chamfer at the second corner ~~is selected to be~~ being different from the chamfer or notch at the first corner.

3. A solar cell-forming silicon substrate of square shape with corners as viewed in plan view, which is a monocrystalline silicon substrate ~~of square shape~~ with rounded corners, ~~as viewed in plan view, which is~~ provided with an orientation flat at ~~one~~ a first corner or a notch at or near ~~one~~ a first corner,

wherein the first corner has a different shape from other corners whereby the direction of the silicon substrate is judged to keep the silicon substrate in the identical direction throughout the process of manufacturing a solar cell.

4. ~~A~~ The solar cell-forming ~~monocrystalline~~ silicon substrate of claim 3 ~~square shape with rounded corners as viewed in plan view~~, having a surface in (100) plane, which substrate is provided with ~~an~~ the orientation flat or the notch in a crystal orientation <110> passing substantially the center of the substrate.

5. ~~A~~ The solar cell-forming ~~monocrystalline~~ silicon substrate of claim 3 or 4 ~~square shape with rounded corners as viewed in plan view~~, which is provided with ~~an~~ the orientation flat at ~~one~~ the first corner and a notch at or near another corner not diagonal to the ~~one~~ first corner.

6. A solar cell comprising ~~the~~ a substrate of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein a low-concentration diffusion layer is formed on the light-receiving surface of the substrate, and a high-concentration diffusion layer is formed where a finger electrode is to be formed.

7. A method for manufacturing a solar cell using a silicon substrate of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein said first corner having chamfer at the first corner, notch at or near the first corner or orientation flat at the first corner is used to identify the direction of the substrate during manufacturing.

8. The method for manufacturing a solar cell of claim 7, wherein the method includes forming a high-concentration diffusion layer where a finger electrode is to be formed and a low-concentration diffusion layer on the light-receiving surface of the substrate.

9. The method for manufacturing a solar cell of claim 8, wherein the method further includes forming a finger electrode on the high-concentration diffusion layer.