(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
22 July 2004 (22.07.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/061949 A1

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: H01L 21/768, 21/314

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2003/035272

(22) International Filing Date:
6 November 2003 (06.11.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
102 60 619.6 23 December 2002 (23.12.2002) DE
10/463,910 16 June 2003 (16.06.2003) US

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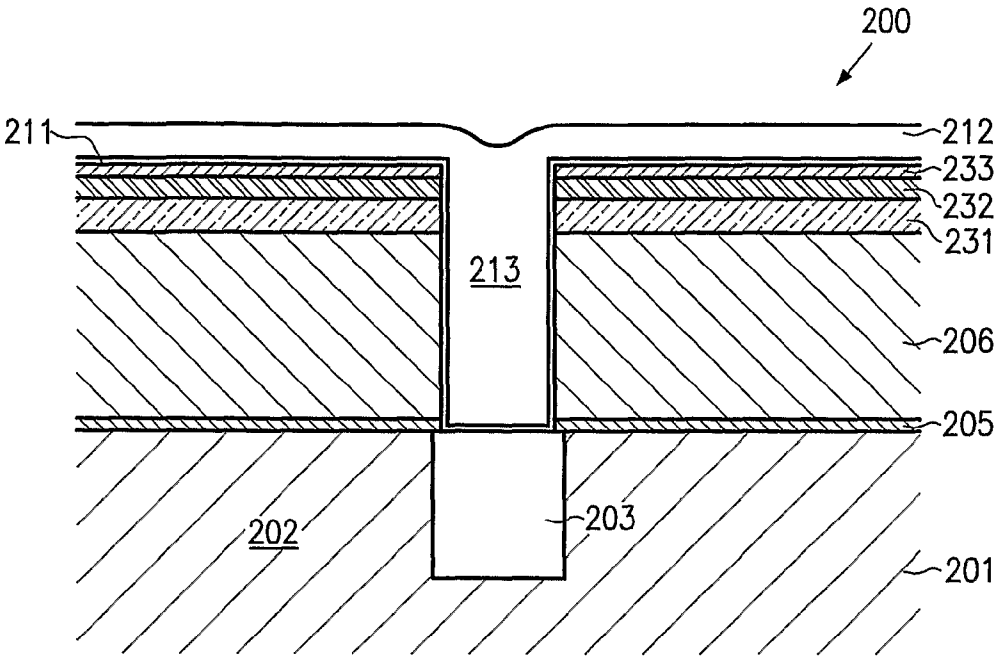
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(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD OF FORMING A CAP LAYER HAVING ANTI-REFLECTIVE CHARACTERISTICS ON TOP OF A LOW-K DIELECTRIC



(57) Abstract: A method of forming a multi-layer stack (230) over a low-k dielectric layer (206) is disclosed, wherein the multi-layer stack (230) provides an improved anti-reflective effect and an enhanced protection of the underlying low-k dielectric material during the chemical mechanical polishing process. The multi-layer stack (230) comprises silicon dioxide based sub-layers (231, 232, 233), which may be formed in a highly efficient, non-expensive plasma enhanced deposition method, wherein the optical characteristics may be adjusted by varying a ratio of silane and nitrogen oxide during the deposition.

WO 2004/061949 A1

SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— *with international search report*

— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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