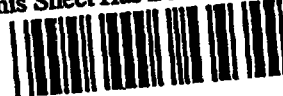


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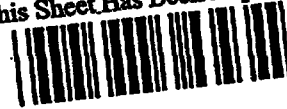


"Master disks for making dies for pressing in particular optical disks and their methods of manufacture as well as the pressing dies obtained from the master disks and optical disks obtained from these pressing dies and from these master disks."

The invention relates to master disks for making dies for pressing in particular optical disks. It also relates to methods for the manufacture of these master disks as well as to the pressing dies obtained from these master disks and to the optical disks obtained from these pressing dies and from these master disks.

There are known many methods of manufacture of pressing dies for making optical disks. One of them consists in depositing upon a glass support or backing a photosensitive resin layer of positive type, i.e. capable under the effect of a suitable directing radiation of changing its nature in the zones receiving this radiation. This resin layer is subjected to the moving past or travel of a laser beam which inscribes or writes into the latter a latent image representing the information or data to be recorded on the disk. The resin is chemically developed by removing through the dissolving those zones where the resin has been recorded and thus providing a succession of microcups or micropits corresponding to the reproduced signal.

The whole unit thus made constitutes a master disk. This master disk is then coated or lined with a fine



metal in particular silver layer preferably deposited through evaporation under vacuum. By means of galvanoplasty or electroplating is then deposited a nickel layer upon the master disk coated with the fine metal layer. The nickel layer thus formed exhibits at its surface microreliefs or microrises which are the exact replica of the microcups or micropits previously cited, the microreliefs or microrises representing in negative fashion the information or data recorded on the master disk. After separation of the nickel layer from the master disk, the fine metal layer no longer exists upon the separation. There is thus obtained a printing die made from nickel which will allow the desired disks for optical read-out to be made by pressing a suitable plastics material, in particular polycarbonate. After the separation of the die from the master disk thus obtained, the latter is destroyed.

Moreover this master disk is not readable in a reader of optical disks.

The object of the present invention is to cope with the foregoing inconveniences by providing master disks readable by a reader of optical disks and which may be used as many times as necessary for making new dies and this without any subsequent treatment or process. For that purpose, the invention provides a master disk allowing the making of a pressing die of the type consisting of a support or backing carrying at its surface a succession or series of microcups or micropits representative of the information or data to be duplicated and made from a hard material which is reflecting in the near infrared range and conducting and selected from a zirconium, hafnium or titanium nitride or carbonitride, a hard ceramic, reflecting in the near infrared range and conducting at the surface only and a hard glass reflecting in the near infrared range and conducting at the surface only.



According to a characterizing feature of this master disk, the support or backing is made from aluminum.

According to another characterizing feature of the master disk of the invention, the support or backing is made from tempered or toughened and/or de-alkalinized glass.

According to a particular embodiment of the invention, the succession of microcups or micropits representative of the information consists of the hard and conducting material (9) reflecting in the near infrared range at the surface only.

According to another particular embodiment of the invention, the support or backing of the master disk consists of the same material (9) as the succession of microcups.

According to a peculiarity of the master disks of the invention, the hard and conducting material reflecting in the near infrared range is titanium nitride.

According to other particular aspects of the master disks of the invention, the depth of the microcups lies between about 500 and about 2,000 Å, the total or aggregate thickness of the master disk lies between about 1 and about 5 mm and the master disk has a diameter lying between about 150 mm and about 200 mm.

The invention also provides methods of manufacture of said master disks.

One method according to the invention consists in depositing upon a substrate a layer of hard, conducting material reflecting in the near infrared range.

According to a characterizing feature of this method, the hard, conducting material reflecting in the near infrared range is selected from a zirconium, hafnium or titanium nitride or carbonitride, a hard ceramic reflecting in the near infrared range and conducting at the surface only and a hard glass reflecting in the near infrared range and conducting at



the surface only ; depositing upon this layer of hard and conducting material reflecting in the near infrared range a layer of photosensitive resin ; recording the information or data to be duplicated as a latent image into the layer of photosensitive resin by having a light beam modulated in accordance with the signal to be duplicated moving past or travelling along ; removing the insulated zones of resin, this removal leading to the creation of a succession of microcups ; transferring the information into the layer of hard and conductive material reflecting in the near infrared range and removing the zones of residual resin.

In this case the thickness of the hard and conducting material reflecting in the near infrared range is at least of 1,500 Å.

According to an alternative of the method of manufacture of the master disk of the invention, when the substrate consists of the same hard and conductive material reflecting in the near infrared range as the microcups, the step of depositing of the layer of hard and conductive material reflecting in the near infrared range is omitted and the information is transferred into this substrate.

When the microcups consist at the surface only of the hard and conducting material reflecting in the near infrared range, the method of manufacture of such a master disk consists in depositing upon a substrate a layer of photosensitive resin, recording the information to be duplicated into this layer of photosensitive resin by having a light beam modulated in accordance with the information to be duplicated moving past or travelling, removing the insulated resin zones, transferring the information into the substrate and then removing the residual resin zones and at last depositing a layer of hard and conductive material reflecting in the near infrared range.

According a particular aspect of the methods of manufacture of the master disks of the invention, the



light beam is a laser beam, the removal of the photosensitive substance is carried out by a chemical attack or by attack with an oxygen plasma and the transfer of the recorded information is performed by a process of chemical engraving or by a process of engraving with a reactive plasma.

The pressing dies obtained from these master disks are also comprised within the scope of the invention as well as the disks for optical reading obtained from these pressing dies or from these master disks.

The invention will be better understood and further objects, characterizing features, details and advantages thereof will appear more clearly as the following explanatory description proceeds with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings given by way of non limiting examples only illustrating several presently preferred specific embodiments of the invention and in which :

Figure 1 diagrammatically illustrates a first embodiment of the manufacture of the master disk according to the invention ;

Figure 2 diagrammatically shows a second embodiment of the manufacture of the master disks according to the invention ; and

Figure 3 diagrammatically illustrates a third embodiment of the manufacture of the invention.

In all cases the master disks according to the invention consist of a support or backing comprising at its surface a succession of microcups or micropits representative of the information to be duplicated constituted at least at the surface of a hard and conductive material 9 reflecting in the near infrared range.

This material 9 should be very hard and should not be easily scratchable so that it may be easily manipulated or handled and have a long operating life from the mechanical standpoint in order to permit the manufacture of many dies without these repeated



manufactures modifying or altering the shape of the microcups or their depth. It should have a very good adherence onto the substrate in particular onto glass and still more particularly onto aluminum so as to
5 remove any risk of being torn away during the subsequent step of galvanoplasty or electroplating which will lead to the obtainment of the pressing die. It should be conductive to permit the step of galvanoplasty. It should also be stable chemically so as to be resistant
10 in chemical bathes and to have a long operating life in difficult environments and at last it should be reflecting in the range of the wavelengths used by readers of optical disks, i.e. in the near infrared range and more specifically at wavelengths of about
15 780 nm.

In this respect, the material 9 should be selected from a zirconium, hafnium or titanium nitride or carbonitride or a hard and conductive ceramic reflecting in the near infrared range.

20 The master disks according to the invention exhibit many advantages over the master disks known heretofore. At first they will permit the manufacture of many pressing dies without any risk of being damaged and of modification of the information they contain and without
25 any previous treatment. Then it is not necessary to subject them to a special preparation prior to performing the step of manufacturing the die by galvanoplasty. At last the information they contain could be read out directly in a reader of optical disks.
30 All these combined properties will allow it to be used in addition for the purpose of long lasting archiving or filing of information.

To make the subject matter of the invention better understandable, several embodiments will now be
35 described by way of purely illustrative and non limiting examples.

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EXAMPLE 1

Referring to figure 1, the first step noted (a) of this preferred embodiment of the invention consists in depositing upon a substrate 1 made from de-alkalinized and/or tempered or toughened glass, a layer of the hard and conductive material 9 reflecting in the near infrared range, preferably of titanium nitride. The thickness of this layer of material 9 should be greater than the depth of the microcups to be formed. The depth of these microcups should lie between about 500 and about 2,000 Å with a view to be readable in present-day readers of optical disks. This depth should preferably be 1,500 Å.

The final thickness of the master disk obtained should lie between about 1 and about 5 mm, preferably between about 1 and about 3 mm to be readable in the readers of optical disks, thereby meaning that the thickness of the support 1 should lie between about 1 and about 5 mm, preferably between about 1 and about 3 mm and still to permit the reading of the master disk finally obtained in the existing readers of optical disks and to allow the use of a simple galvanoplasty process for making the die from this master disk, the diameter of this substrate 1 should lie between about 150 mm and about 200 mm. The layer of material 9 is then covered with a layer 2 of photosensitive resin and the information to be duplicated is recorded into this layer 2 of photosensitive resin as a latent image created by having a light beam 3 modulated in accordance with the signal to be encoded, moving past or travelling along, this light beam 3 preferably being a laser beam.

After that recording as illustrated in the step noted (b) on figure 1, the layer 2 of photosensitive resin then comprises insulated zones 4 of photosensitive resin and non insulated zones 5 of photosensitive resin.

During the step (c), the insulated zones 4 of resin are removed through chemical dissolution or by any other suitable process. There has thus been provided microcups



6 in the layer 2 of photosensitive resin, representative of the information to be duplicated.

During the next step noted (d), the information to be duplicated is transferred into those zones 7 of the layer of material 9 which are no longer covered with the photosensitive resin by a chemical engraving process or by a process of engraving with a reactive plasma.

At last, the non insulated and residual zones 5 of photosensitive resin are removed preferably by means of an oxygen plasma and there is obtained the desired master disk illustrated at (e) and consisting of the substrate 1 covered with microcups made from the material 9, preferably from titanium nitride.

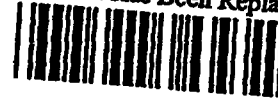
The master disk thus obtained allows the manufacture of the pressing die 10 shown at (f) by a subsequent galvanoplasty step without the necessity of any specific preparation.

After this step of galvanoplasty, the master disk could be re-used many times for the future manufacture of new dies, it could be read out in conventional disk readers and therefore be tested in adapted compact disks readers and it could serve as an information archive or storage.

An additional advantage of this embodiment is that it will be possible to prepare in advance the substrate 1 covered with the layer of hard and conductive material 9 reflecting in the near infrared range, thereby permitting to have the step of depositing the layer of material 9 not integrated into the method of manufacture of the master disk and of the die.

EXAMPLE 2

In this example, the master disk is made as in the example 1 except that the substrate 1 is made from aluminum. Aluminum offers the advantage over the glass to be less brittle while permitting as in the case of glass to obtain a state of surface compatible with the manufacture of master disks, of pressing dies and of



optical disks, i.e. a surface which has no rugosity greater than 50 Å.

Another advantage of the use of an aluminum substrate 1 is an advantage of economical character, aluminum being a less expensive material than glass.

Of course, as in the example 1, it will be possible to prepare in advance the aluminum substrate 1 covered with a layer of titanium nitride, thereby also permitting to have this step of depositing not integrated into the method of manufacture of the master disk and of the pressing die.

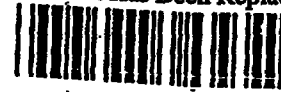
Thus the master disk obtained according to the embodiment of example 1 and consisting of an aluminum substrate 1 covered with a succession of microcups representative of the information to be duplicated, consisting of titanium nitride, is the most preferred embodiment of the invention.

EXAMPLE 3

Referring now to figure 2, there will be described an exemplary method of manufacture of a master disk according to the invention, wherein the microcups representative of the information and the substrate are made from the same hard and conductive material 9 reflecting in the near infrared range. As illustrated at the step noted (a) on figure 2, the first step of this method consists in depositing upon the substrate made from the material 9, a layer 2 of photosensitive resin into which the information to be duplicated is recorded by having a laser beam 3 modulated in accordance with the signal to be encoded, moving or travelling past.

The dimensions of the substrate made from the material 9 should be the same as those cited in the example 1.

As illustrated on the step noted (b) on figure 2, the support or backing made from the material 9 then comprises insulated zones 4 of photosensitive resin and non-insulated zones 5 of photosensitive resin.



The step noted (c) on figure 2 is a step of removal through chemical dissolution or by any other suitable process, of the insulated zones 4 of resin, thereby resulting in the creation of microcups 6 in the layer 2 of photosensitive resin.

At the step noted (d) on figure 2, there is performed the transfer of the information recorded into those zones 7 of the support made from the material 9 which are no longer covered with the photosensitive resin, by a chemical engraving process or by a method of engraving with a reactive plasma.

The zones 5 of residual resin are then removed by an oxygen plasma and there is then obtained the desired master disk shown at the step noted (e) on figure 2 and consisting of a support 1 comprising at its surface a succession of microcups the depth of which corresponds to the depth of the engraving previously carried out, the substrate and the microcups consisting of the same material 9.

In the embodiments described in the examples 1, 2 and 3, it is also possible to use as a material 9, a hard material reflecting in the near infrared range and conductive at the surface only, such as a conductive glass or a conductive ceramic.

EXAMPLE 4

Another exemplary method of manufacture of a master disk according to the invention is diagrammatically illustrated on figure 3.

This method consists in depositing upon a glass support or backing 1 a layer 2 of a photosensitive substance. This glass support should preferably be a disk with a thickness of about 1.2 mm which is the standard thickness of a compact disk and should have a diameter permitting on the one hand the reading in the conventional readers of optical disks and on the other hand permitting the use of a simple process of galvanoplasty. For grounds of standardization of



machines, this diameter should preferably lie between about 150 mm and about 200 mm.

This support could also consist of a tempered and/or de-alkalinized glass or of aluminum.

In a first step noted (a) on figure 3, the information to be duplicated is recorded onto this support as a latent image created by a light beam 3 modulated in accordance with the signal to be encoded, this light beam 3 preferably being a laser beam.

As illustrated at the step denoted (b) on figure 3, the glass support 1 comprises insulated zones 4 of photosensitive resin and non insulated zones 5 of photosensitive resin.

The step (c) is a step of removal of the insulated zones of resin through chemical dissolution or by any other suitable process.

At this stage is obtained the glass support 1 comprising a succession of microcups 6 at its surface.

During the following step denoted (d), there is performed the transfer of the information to be recorded into the zones 7 of the glass support by a chemical engraving process or by a process of engraving with a reactive plasma preferably by a method of engraving with a reactive plasma of argon ions and of fluorine ions, the fluorine ions being obtained by the use of gaseous trifluoromethane.

The residual resin is then removed preferably with an oxygen plasma and there is obtained the desired master disk consisting of the glass support 1 shown at (e) on figure 3 and comprising at its surface a succession of microcups the depth of which corresponds to the depth of the engraving previously carried out.

This succession of microcups is then covered with a layer of the material 9. The material 9 is deposited preferably through reactive cathodic spraying with a magnetron. The gases used in the case of a deposit of titanium nitride are argon required for bombarding the titanium target and nitrogen necessary to the formation



of the nitride. A very accurate control of the partial pressure of the gases within the chamber is necessary to obtain a good stoichiometry.

The deposited thickness should lie between about 500 Å and 1,400 Å. It should preferably be equal to 1,100 Å.

The master disk thus obtained shown at (f) consists of the glass support 1 carrying at its surface a succession of microcups 8 the surface of which consists of the material 9.

The die 10 shown at (g) is obtained from this master disk through a step of galvanoplasty.

As in the examples 1, 2 and 3 referred to hereinabove, the master disk will allow the manufacture of a die through a step of galvanoplasty without requiring any specific preparation. It could be read out by conventional disk readers and on account thereof it could be tested in adapted compact disk testers. In view of this very long operating life, it could thus be used as an archive or storage of information or for the future provision of new dies intended for the pressing of optical disks. Moreover it is possible to easily store it owing to its size.

An important interesting feature of the master disks according to the invention is that during the step of manufacture of the die, there is no tearing away or separation of the layer of hard and conductive material, reflecting in the near infrared range, from the master disk during the separation of the disk from the manufactured die, thereby permitting to be dispensed with depositing again a new conductive layer during the subsequent manufacture of new dies.

Owing to this preservation of the integrity of the master disks according to the invention, the information they contain are neither deteriorated nor modified.

The invention is of course not at all limited to the embodiments described and illustrated which have been given by way of examples only.

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Thus the support or backing, if it does not consist of the same material as the microcups, could consist of any other material than glass and aluminum cited hereinabove on condition that it permits the obtainment of the desired surface and provides the adherence of the hard and conductive material 9 reflecting in the near infrared range.

Likewise any other hard and conductive material 9 reflecting in the near infrared range and different from those cited here could be used.

Thus the invention comprises all the technical equivalents of the means described as well as their combinations if the latter are carried out according to its gist and within the scope of the appended claims.



WHAT IS CLAIMED IS :

1. A master disk for making a die for pressing in particular optical disks, of the type consisting of a support carrying at its surface a succession of microcups representative of the information to be duplicated, wherein the improvement consists in that the said succession of microcups consists of a hard and conductive material reflecting in the near infrared range.

2. A master disk according to claim 1, wherein the hard and conducting material reflecting in the near infrared range is selected from a zirconium, hafnium or titanium nitride or carbonitride, a hard ceramic reflecting in the near infrared range and conductive at the surface only and a hard glass reflecting in the near infrared range and conductive at the surface only.

3. A master disk according to claim 1, wherein the support is made from aluminum.

4. A master disk according to claim 1, wherein the support is made from tempered and/or de-alkalinized glass.

5. A master disk according to one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the succession of microcups is made at the surface only from the said hard and conductive material reflecting in the near infrared range.

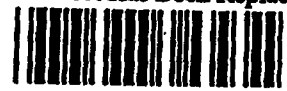
6. A master disk according to claim 1, wherein the support is made from the same material as the succession of microcups.

7. A master disk according to claim 1, wherein the material is titanium nitride.

8. A master disk according to claim 1, wherein the depth of the microcups lies between about 500 and about 2,000 Å, the total thickness of the master disk is lying between about 1 and about 5 mm and the diameter of the master disk is lying between about 150 mm and about 200 mm.

* C L N S *





9. A method of manufacture of a master disk for making a die for pressing in particular optical disks, according to one of claims 1 to 3, 6 and 7, of the kind comprising the steps of :

- depositing a layer of photosensitive resin upon a substrate ;
- recording the information to be duplicated into the layer of photosensitive resin as a latent image by having a light beam modulated in accordance with the signal to be recorded moving past ;
- removing insulated zones of photosensitive resin, this removal resulting in the provision of a succession of microcups,

wherein the improvement consists in that it further comprises the following steps :

- depositing a layer of hard and conductive material reflecting in the near infrared range upon the substrate prior to the depositing of the layer of photosensitive resin ;
- transferring the information into the layer of material after the step of removal of the insulated zones of photosensitive resin ; and
- removal of the zones of residual resin after this transfer.

10. A method of manufacture of a master disk according to claim 5, of the type comprising the steps of :

- depositing a layer of photosensitive resin upon a substrate ;
- recording the information to be duplicated into the layer of photosensitive resin as a latent image by having a light beam modulated in accordance with the signal to be recorded moving past ;
- removing the non-insulated zones of resin, this removal leading to the creation of a succession of microcups,

wherein the improvement consists in that the substrate consists of said material and in that after



the removal of the insulated zones of photosensitive resin, the information is transferred into the substrate and then the zones of residual resin are removed.

11. A method of manufacture of a master disk according to claim 4, of the kind comprising the steps of :

- depositing a layer of photosensitive substance upon a support ;

- recording the information to be duplicated as a latent image into this layer by having a light beam modulated in accordance with the information to be recorded moving past ;

- removing the photosensitive substance in the insulated zones, this removal resulting in the creation of a succession of microcups,

wherein the improvement consists in that after the removal of the insulated zones of resin, the information is transferred into the substrate and then the zones of residual resin are removed and at last a layer of said material is deposited.

12. A method according to one of claims 10 to 12, wherein the light beam is a laser beam, the removal of the photosensitive substance is performed through a chemical attack or through an attack with an oxygen plasma and in that the transfer of the information is carried out by a chemical engraving process or by a process of engraving with a reactive plasma.

13. A utilization of the master disk according to one of claims 1 to 8 and/or obtained from the method according to one of claims 9 to 12 for the manufacture of dies for pressing optical disks.