# CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A cutting element for an earth-boring tool, comprising:

a substrate;

a volume of superabrasive material disposed on the substrate, the volume of superabrasive material having a non-planar front cutting face and a lateral side surface; and

at least one of one or more recesses extending into the volume of superabrasive material from the front cutting face and one or more protrusions extending outward from the front cutting face of the volume of superabrasive material.

2. The cutting element of claim 1, wherein the non-planar front cutting face has a dome shape.

3. The cutting element of claim 1, wherein the at least one of a recess and a protrusion includes at least one linear segment extending linearly across the front cutting face in a direction oriented at least substantially transverse to a central axis of the cutting element.

4. The cutting element of claim 3, wherein the at least one recess comprises a plurality of recesses dispersed at least substantially entirely across the front cutting face of the cutting element.

5. The cutting element of claim 3, wherein the substrate has at least one lateral side surface having a non-circular shape in a plane transverse to a central axis of the cutting element.

6. The cutting element of claim 1, wherein the at least one of a recess and a protrusion comprises at least one of a plurality of discrete, laterally isolated recesses extending into the volume of superabrasive material from the front cutting face and a plurality of discrete, laterally isolated protrusions extending outward from the front cutting face of the volume of superabrasive material.

7. The cutting element of claim 6, wherein the at least one of a plurality of discrete, laterally isolated recesses and a plurality of discrete, laterally isolated protrusions are disposed in an ordered array over the front cutting face of the cutting element.

8. The cutting element of claim 1, wherein the at least one of a recess and a protrusion comprises at least one of an elongated recess extending into the front cutting face and extending along a helical path from a location proximate a central axis of the cutting element to a lateral, peripheral edge of the cutting element, and an elongated protrusion extending outward from the front cutting face and extending along a helical path from a location proximate a central axis of the cutting element to a lateral, peripheral edge of the cutting element.

9. The cutting element of claim 1, further comprising a recess extending into the volume of superabrasive material from the lateral side surface of the volume of superabrasive material.

10. An earth-boring tool, comprising:

a tool body; and

at least one cutting element as recited in any one of claims 1 through 9 bonded to the tool body.

11. A method of forming a cutting element for an earth-boring tool, comprising:

disposing a volume of superabrasive material on a substrate;

forming the volume of superabrasive material to have a front cutting face and a lateral side surface; and

forming at least one of a recess extending into the volume of superabrasive material from the front cutting face and a protrusion extending outward from the front cutting face of the volume of superabrasive material.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein forming the volume of superabrasive material to have front cutting face comprises forming the front cutting face to have a dome shape.

13. The method of claim 11, further comprising forming the at least one of a recess and a protrusion to include at least one linear segment extending linearly across the front cutting face in a direction oriented at least substantially transverse to a central axis of the cutting element.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein forming the at least one of a recess and a protrusion comprises forming at least one recess having a chevron shape.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein forming the at least one of a recess and a protrusion comprises forming two recesses extending at least substantially parallel to one another across the front cutting face.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein forming at least one of a recess and a protrusion comprises forming at least one of a plurality of discrete, laterally isolated recesses extending into the volume of superabrasive material from the front cutting face and a plurality of discrete, laterally isolated protrusions extending outward from the front cutting face of the volume of superabrasive material.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein forming the at least one of a plurality of discrete, laterally isolated recesses and a plurality of discrete, laterally isolated protrusions comprises disposing the at least one of a plurality of discrete, laterally isolated recesses and a plurality of discrete, laterally isolated protrusions in an ordered array over the front cutting face of the cutting element.

18. The method of claim 11, wherein forming at least one of a recess and a protrusion comprises forming at least one of an elongated recess extending into the front cutting face and extending along a helical path from a location proximate a central axis of the cutting element to a lateral, peripheral edge of the cutting element, and an elongated protrusion extending outward from the front cutting face and extending along a helical path from a location proximate a central axis of the cutting element to a lateral, peripheral edge of the cutting element.

19. The method of claim 11, further comprising forming a recess extending into the volume of superabrasive material from the lateral side surface of the volume of superabrasive material.

20. A method of forming an earth-boring tool, comprising:
forming at least one cutting element as recited in any one of claims 11 through 19; and
attaching the at least one cutting element to a body of an earth-boring tool.

## Claims

1. A shaped cutting element for an earth-boring tool, comprising:

a substrate;

a volume of superabrasive material disposed on the substrate, the volume of superabrasive material having a non-planar front cutting face, the non-planar front cutting face having a pointed configuration including a conical lateral side surface and a domed end, the substrate being a cylinder having a maximum diameter less than a maximum diameter of the volume of superabrasive material, an entire interface between the substrate and the volume of superabrasive material located rearward of the conical lateral side surface of the non-planar front cutting face of the volume of superabrasive material along a central axis of the shaped cutting element; and

at least one recess extending into the conical lateral side surface of the non-planar cutting face of the volume of superabrasive material from the front cutting face.

2. The shaped cutting element of claim 1, wherein the at least one recess extending into the conical lateral side surface has an annular configuration extending at least substantially entirely around the central axis of the shaped cutting element.

3. The shaped cutting element of claim 1, wherein the conical lateral side surface and the generally domed end surface define the front cutting face of the shaped cutting element.

4. The shaped cutting element of claim 1, wherein the at least one of a recess extending into the volume of superabrasive material from the front cutting face comprises a first recessed surface and a second recessed surface defined in the conical lateral side surface of the volume of superabrasive material.

5. The shaped cutting element of claim 4, wherein each of the first recessed surface and the second recessed surface is arcuate and concave.

6. The shaped cutting element of claim 4, wherein each of the first recessed surface and the second recessed surface extends circumferentially entirely around the cutting element about a central axis of the cutting element.

7. The shaped cutting element of claim 1, wherein the at least one recess is defined by an arcuate and concave recessed surface.

8. The shaped cutting element of claim 7, wherein the recessed surface extends circumferentially entirely around the cutting element about a central axis of the cutting element.

9. The shaped cutting element of claim 1, wherein the at least one recess extends circumferentially entirely around the cutting element about a central axis of the cutting element.