

SEMICONDUCTOR SYSTEM WITH FINE PITCH LEAD FINGERS

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates generally to semiconductor packages, and more particularly to a system for wire bonding die in a semiconductor package.

BACKGROUND ART

Integrated circuit dies conventionally are enclosed in semiconductor packages that provide protection from hostile environments and enable electrical interconnection between the integrated circuit die and an underlying substrate, such as a leadframe or printed circuit board (PCB). In semiconductor packages using a leadframe, the leadframe is the central supporting structure of the semiconductor package. A portion of the leadframe is internal to the package, i.e., completely surrounded by an encapsulant.

For purposes of high-volume, low-cost production of semiconductor packages, a current industry practice is to etch or stamp a thin sheet of metal material to form a panel or strip that defines multiple leadframes. A single strip may be formed to include multiple arrays, with each such array including a multiplicity of leadframes in a particular pattern. In a typical semiconductor package manufacturing process, the integrated circuit dies are mounted and wire bonded to respective ones of the leadframes, with the encapsulant material then being applied to the strips to encapsulate the integrated circuit dies, bond wires, and portions of each of the leadframes.

Varieties of techniques are known for interconnecting an integrated circuit die to a substrate. These techniques include wire bonding, tape automated bonding (TAB), and flip chip bonding. In wire bonding, a bond pad on an integrated circuit die is attached to a contact on a substrate or other microelectronic component. In the case of leadframes as substrates, the contact is referred to as a lead finger. In forming the wire bond, a bonding wire is fed through a capillary, which is guided under computer control. A ball of molten wire is formed at the tip of the wire. The ball is then pressed against the bond pad of the integrated circuit die or the contact of the substrate, forming a "ball bond." Most commonly, the ball bond is formed on the bond pad of the integrated circuit die rather than on the contact of the substrate.

The other end of the bonding wire typically is attached to the contact of the substrate using a "stitch bond." In a stitch bond, ultrasonic energy is delivered to the wire through the capillary as the capillary presses the wire against the contact of the substrate. A bonding head carrying the capillary is retracted to leave a wire tail at the stitch. Thereafter, a wire clamp carried by the bonding head is closed, tearing the wire as the bonding head retracts further.

In conventional chip-on-board (COB) structures, an integrated circuit chip or other microelectronic component is attached to a substrate with the active surface of the microelectronic component facing outwardly away from the substrate. The back surface of the microelectronic component is adhesively bonded to the substrate. The bond pads on the microelectronic component may then be wire bonded to lead fingers or contacts arranged on the surface of the substrate to electrically couple the microelectronic component to the substrate. The bonding wire may extend laterally outwardly away from a stitch bond rather than generally perpendicularly outwardly, as is the case in a ball bond. The minimum height of a stitch bond, consequently, can be significantly smaller than a ball bond, being limited primarily by the thickness of the bonding wire.

As the trend toward smaller semiconductor packages increases, there is a need for higher wire density in a semiconductor package. Bond pads on the integrated circuit die have been formed smaller than or equal to about 45 microns to increase density, but there has been difficulty in manufacturing a leadframe with fine pitch lead fingers. Consequently, lead fingers have remained at a width of about 90 microns to accommodate the tolerances involved in stitch bonding bond wires to the lead fingers. Additionally, the upper surfaces of the lead fingers are not always flat thereby making it difficult to perform a stitch bond onto the lead fingers. Accordingly, there has been no acceptable solution for manufacturing a semiconductor package having lead fingers on a leadframe with a fine pitch.

Solutions to these problems have been long sought but prior developments have not taught or suggested any solutions and, thus, solutions to these problems have long eluded those skilled in the art.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a semiconductor package system includes a die having a plurality of contact pads. A leadframe is formed having a plurality of lead fingers with the plurality of lead fingers having a fine pitch and each having a substantially trapezoidal cross-

section. A plurality of bumps is formed on the plurality of lead fingers, the plurality of bumps are on the tops and extend down the sides of the plurality of lead fingers. A plurality of bond wires is attached to the plurality of contact pads and to the plurality of bumps. An encapsulant is formed over the plurality of lead fingers, the die, and the plurality of bond wires, the encapsulant leaving lower surfaces of the plurality of lead fingers exposed.

The present invention provides a semiconductor package with a leadframe having a fine pitch of narrow lead fingers.

Certain embodiments of the invention have other advantages in addition to or in place of those mentioned above. The advantages will become apparent to those skilled in the art from a reading of the following detailed description when taken with reference to the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a plan view of a semiconductor package system manufactured in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged partial cross-sectional view of the structure of FIG. 1 taken along line 2-2 at an intermediate stage of manufacture;

FIG. 3 is the structure of FIG. 2 after wire bonding;

FIG. 4 is an enlarged cross-sectional view of the lead finger shown in FIG. 3 having a flat upper surface in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 5 is an enlarged cross-sectional view of a lead finger having a non-flat upper surface in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 6 is an enlarged plan view of a lead finger after performing a stitch bond operation; and

FIG. 7 is a flow chart of a system for manufacturing a semiconductor package in accordance with the present invention.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

In the following description, numerous specific details are given to provide a thorough understanding of the invention. However, it will be apparent that the invention may be practiced without these specific details. In order to avoid obscuring the present invention, some well-known system configurations, and process steps are not disclosed in detail.

Likewise, the drawings showing embodiments of the system are semi-diagrammatic and not to scale and, particularly, some of the dimensions are for the clarity of presentation and are shown greatly exaggerated in the FIGs. Generally, the device can be operated in any orientation. The same numbers will be used in all the drawing FIGs. to relate to the same elements.

The term “horizontal” as used herein is defined as a plane parallel to the conventional plane or surface of the semiconductor package, regardless of its orientation. The term “vertical” refers to a direction perpendicular to the horizontal as just defined. Terms, such as “on”, “above”, “below”, “bottom”, “top”, “side”, “up”, “down”, “higher”, “lower”, “over”, and “under”, are defined with respect to the horizontal plane.

The term “narrow” as used herein with respect to lead fingers means lead fingers having an upper surface of a width less than or equal to about 40 microns. The term “fine pitch” as used herein means a distance less than or equal to about 90 microns between leading edges of adjoining lead fingers in a leadframe.

Referring now to FIG. 1, therein is shown a plan view of a semiconductor package system 100 manufactured in accordance with the present invention. The semiconductor package system 100 includes a leadframe 102, such as a copper (Cu) leadframe. The leadframe 102 includes a die pad 104 and a number of lead fingers 106 located around the periphery of the die pad 104. Each of the lead fingers 106 is a narrow lead finger having a narrow width 108 of less than or equal to about 40 microns. The lead fingers 106 have a fine pitch 110 of less than or equal to about 90 microns measured edge of lead finger to edge of lead finger.

A die 112 is attached to the die pad 104. The die 112 may be attached using a suitable attachment means (not shown), such as an adhesive, an adhesive tape, or other suitable means of attaching the die 112 to the die pad 104.

The die 112 includes a number of contact pads 114 around the periphery of the die 112. The contact pads 114 have a number of bond wires 116 of set lengths attached with a ball bond 118 formed using conventional wire bonding equipment. The bond wires 116 is attached to the number of lead fingers 106 by forming a number of bumps 120 at mid-way points along the set lengths of the lead fingers 106 and stitch bonding the bond wires 116 to the bumps 120.

An encapsulant 122 is formed to encapsulate the die 112, the lead fingers 106, the bond wires 116, and the lead fingers 106. The encapsulant 122 leaves the lower surfaces of the die pad 104 exposed.

Referring now to FIG. 2, therein is shown an enlarged partial cross-sectional view of the structure of FIG. 1 taken along line 2-2 at an intermediate stage of manufacture. A wire bond assembly 200 is representative of the number of wire bonds shown in FIG. 1. The wire bond assembly 200 includes a die 202 attached to a die pad 204, such as the die pad 104 shown in FIG. 1 or other substrate. The die 202 has a contact pad 206. The contact pad 206 is representative of the number of contact pads 114 shown in FIG. 1. A lead finger 208 is representative of the number of lead fingers 106 shown in FIG. 1. The lead finger 208 has a bump 210 formed on its upper surface. The bump 210 is representative of the number of bumps 120 shown in FIG. 1.

Referring now to FIG. 3, therein is shown the structure of FIG. 2 after wire bonding the die 202 to the lead finger 208 using a forward wire bonding method. A forward bonding method is a wire bonding process by which a bond wire 300 is subjected to ball bonding to the contact pad 206 on the die 202 and to stitch bonding to the bump 210 on the lead finger 208.

The bond wire 300, such as a gold (Au), copper (Cu), aluminum (Al), or other suitable conductor, is bonded to the contact pad 206 on the die 202. The bond wire 300 is connected to the contact pad 206 using a wire bonding apparatus including a capillary (not shown). The capillary is generally cone shaped and has a through hole through which the bond wire 300 is fed. The capillary includes a nose that typically is used to form ball bonds and stitch bonds. A ball is formed at the end of the bond wire 300. The ball is pressed against the contact pad 206. The ball is formed at the end of the wire by heating the tip of the bond wire. As the capillary applies pressure, heat is provided by either heating the capillary or using a light ultrasonic scrubbing action to cause a ball bond 302 to form a bond between the bond wire 300 and the contact pad 206 underneath.

A small length of the bond wire 300 is then fed out of the end of the capillary. The capillary is lowered so that the nose presses a portion of the bond wire 300 against the bump 210 on the lead finger 208. The capillary is ultrasonically vibrated to form a stitch bond, or wedge bond, between the bond wire 300 and the bump 210. Thereafter, the capillary is raised to break the bond wire 300 leaving a stitch bond on the bump 210.

Referring now to FIG. 4, therein is shown a cross-sectional view of a typical lead finger 400 in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. The lead finger 400 is representative of at least some of the number of lead fingers 106 shown in FIG. 1. The lead finger 400 has a trapezoidal cross-section with a flat upper surface 402. The flat upper surface 402 has the narrow width 108 of less than about 40 microns.

It has been discovered that a secure bond can be formed when the bump 210 covers the flat upper surface 402, extends beyond the widths of trapezoidal cross-sections, and extends laterally beyond the edges of the flat upper surface 402 to clamp to two sides 404 of the lead finger 400 that are slightly sloped so that a base 406 is wider than the flat upper surface 402.

Referring now to FIG. 5, therein is shown a cross-sectional view of a typical lead finger 500 in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. The lead finger 500 is representative of at least some of the number of lead fingers 106 shown in FIG. 1. The lead finger 500 has a trapezoidal cross-section with a non-flat upper surface 502. The non-flat upper surface 502 can be jagged, rough, grooved, or other configuration and has the narrow width 108 of less than about 40 microns.

It has been discovered that a secure bond can be formed when the bump 210 covers the non-flat upper surface 502 and extends laterally beyond the edges of the non-flat upper surface 502 to clamp to two sides 504 of the lead finger 500 that are slightly sloped so that a base 506 is wider than the non-flat upper surface 502.

Referring now to FIG. 6, therein is shown an enlarged plan view of a lead finger 600 after performing a stitch bond operation as described above in reference to FIG. 3. The lead finger 600 is representative of the number of lead fingers 106 shown in FIG. 1. The lead finger 600 has the narrow width 108 of less than or equal to about 40 microns. The bump 210 has been formed on the lead finger 600. A bond wire 602, which is representative of the number of bond wires 116 shown in FIG. 1 and the bond wire 300 shown in FIG. 3, has been stitch bonded to the bump 210.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art upon a reading of this disclosure that the width of a stitch bond 604 is larger than the narrow width 108 of the top of the lead finger 600 preventing stitch bonding of the bond wire 602 directly to the lead finger 600 having the narrow width 108. Additionally, it will be appreciated that due to stitch bond placement error the stitch bond 604 may not be centered over the lead finger 600 on a consistent basis in

manufacture thereby also preventing stitch bonding of the bond wire 602 directly to the lead finger 600 having the narrow width 108.

It has been discovered that stitch bonding the bond wire 602 to the lead finger 600 having the narrow width 108 is accomplished using the bump 210 on the lead finger 600 to accommodate the stitch bond 604 resulting in the ability to manufacture a semiconductor package using a leadframe having narrow and fine pitch lead fingers.

Referring now to FIG. 7, therein is shown a flow chart of a semiconductor package system 700 of manufacturing a semiconductor package in accordance with the present invention. The system 700 includes providing a die having a plurality of contact pads in a block 702; forming a leadframe having a plurality of lead fingers, the plurality of lead fingers having a fine pitch and each having a substantially trapezoidal cross-section in a block 704; attaching a plurality of bumps to the plurality of lead fingers, the plurality of bumps on the tops and extending down the sides of the plurality of lead fingers in a block 706; attaching a plurality of bond wires to the plurality of contact pads in a block 708; attaching the plurality of bond wires to the plurality of bumps in a block 710; and forming an encapsulant over the plurality of lead fingers, the die, and the plurality of bond wires, the encapsulant leaving lower surfaces of the plurality of lead fingers exposed in a block 712.

Thus, it has been discovered that the system of the present invention furnishes important and heretofore unavailable solutions, capabilities, and functional advantages for manufacturing semiconductor packages. There are an unexpected 40% reduction in wire consumption and a 6% reduction in manufacturing cost. The resulting process and configurations are straightforward, economical, uncomplicated, highly versatile, and effective, use conventional technologies, and are thus readily suited for manufacturing semiconductor devices that are fully compatible with conventional manufacturing processes and technologies.

While the invention has been described in conjunction with a specific best mode, it is to be understood that many alternatives, modifications, and variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art in light of the foregoing description. Accordingly, it is intended to embrace all such alternatives, modifications, and variations that fall within the scope of the included claims. All matters hithertofore set forth herein or shown in the accompanying drawings are to be interpreted in an illustrative and non-limiting sense.

THE INVENTION CLAIMED IS:

1. A semiconductor package system comprising:
 - a die having a plurality of contact pads;
 - a leadframe having a plurality of lead fingers with flat tops of predetermined lengths, the plurality of lead fingers having a fine pitch and each having a trapezoidal cross-section;
 - a plurality of bumps on the plurality of lead fingers, the plurality of bumps on the tops, extending beyond the widths of the trapezoidal cross-sections, and clamping down on the two sides of each of the plurality of lead fingers;
 - a plurality of bond wires attached to the plurality of contact pads, the plurality of bond wires to the plurality of bumps; and
 - an encapsulant over the plurality of lead fingers, the die, and the plurality of bond wires, the encapsulant with lower surfaces of the plurality of lead fingers exposed.
2. The system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the leadframe further comprises the tops of the plurality of lead fingers to have a flat upper surface.
3. The system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the leadframe further comprises the tops of the plurality of lead fingers to have a non-flat upper surface.
4. The system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the plurality of bond wires is attached to the plurality of bumps by stitch bonds.
5. The system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the plurality of bond wires is attached to the plurality of bumps by stitch bonds wider than the tops of the plurality of lead fingers.
6. A semiconductor package system comprising:
 - a leadframe having a die paddle and a plurality of lead fingers with flat tops of predetermined lengths, the plurality of lead fingers having a fine pitch and each having a trapezoidal cross-section;
 - a die having a plurality of contact pads, the die attached to the die paddle with the contact pads up;

a plurality of bumps attached to the plurality of lead fingers, the plurality of bumps on the tops, extending beyond the widths of the trapezoidal cross-sections, and clamping down on the two sides of each of the plurality of lead fingers;
a plurality of bond wires attached to the plurality of contact pads, the plurality of bond wires attached to the plurality of bumps; and
an encapsulant over the plurality of lead fingers, the die, and the plurality of bond wires, the encapsulant with lower surfaces of the plurality of lead fingers exposed.

7. The system as claimed in claim 6 wherein the leadframe further comprises the tops of the plurality of lead fingers having flat or non-flat surfaces.

8. The system as claimed in claim 6 wherein the leadframe further comprises the tops of the plurality of lead fingers having widths less than or equal to about 40 microns.

9. The system as claimed in claim 6 wherein forming the leadframe further comprises the plurality of lead fingers having a fine pitch spacing of less than or equal to about 90 microns.

10. The system as claimed in claim 6 wherein:
the plurality of bond wires are attached to the plurality of contact pads by ball bonds;
and
the plurality of bond wires are attached to the plurality of bumps by stitch bonds.