HIGH PERFORMANCE SYSTEM-ON-CHIP USING POST PASSIVATION PROCESS

This application is a continuation-in-part application of serial number 09/216,791 filed on 12/21/98.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(1) Field of the invention.

The invention relates to the manufacturing of high performance Integrated Circuit (IC's), and, more specifically, to methods of creating high performance electrical components (such as an inductor) on the surface of a semiconductor substrate by reducing the electromagnetic losses that are typically incurred in the surface of the substrate.

(2) Description of the Prior Art.

The continued emphasis in the semiconductor technology is to create improved performance semiconductor devices at competitive prices. This emphasis over the years has resulted in extreme miniaturization of semiconductor devices, made possible by continued advances of semiconductor processes and materials in combination with new and sophisticated device designs. Most of

the semiconductor devices that are at this time being created are aimed at processing digital data. There are however also numerous semiconductor designs and approaches that are aimed at incorporating analog functions into devices that simultaneously process digital and analog data, or devices that can be used for the processing of only analog data. One of the major challenges in the creation of analog processing circuitry (using digital processing procedures and equipment) is that a number of the components that are used for analog circuitry are large in size and are therefore not readily integrated into devices that typically have feature sizes that approach the sub-micron range. The main components that offer a challenge in this respect are capacitors and inductors, since both these components are, for typical analog processing circuits, of considerable size.

A typical application for inductors of the invention is in the field of modern mobile communication applications that make use of compact high-frequency equipment. Continued improvements in the performance characteristics of this equipment has over the years been achieved, further improvements will place continued emphasis on lowering the power consumption of the equipment, on reducing the size of the equipment, on increasing the frequency of the applications and on creating low noise levels. One of the main applications of semiconductor devices in the field of mobile

communication is the creation of Radio Frequency (RF) amplifiers. RF amplifiers contain a number of standard components whereby a major component of a typical RF amplifier is a tuned circuit that contains inductive and capacitive components. Tuned circuits form, dependent on and determined by the values of their inductive and capacitive components, an impedance that is frequency dependent, thereby enabling the tuned circuit to either present a high or a low impedance for signals of a certain frequency. The tuned circuit can therefore either reject or pass and further amplify components of an analog signal, based on the frequency of that component. The tuned circuit can in this manner be used as a filter to filter out or remove signals of certain frequencies or to remove noise from a circuit configuration that is aimed at processing analog signals. The tuned circuit can also be used to form a high electrical impedance by using the LC resonance of the circuit and to thereby counteract the effect of parasitic capacitances that are part of a circuit. One of the problems that is encountered when creating an inductor on the surface of a semiconductor substrate is that the self-resonance that is caused by the parasitic capacitance between the (spiral) inductor and the underlying substrate will limit the use of the inductor at high frequencies. As part of the design of such an inductor it is therefore of importance to reduce the capacitive

coupling between the created inductor and the underlying substrate.

At high frequencies, the electromagnetic field that is generated by the inductor induces eddy currents in the underlying silicon substrate. Since the silicon substrate is a resistive conductor, the eddy currents will consume electromagnetic energy resulting in significant energy loss, resulting in a low Q capacitor. This is the main reason for a low Q value of a capacitor, whereby the resonant frequency of $1/\sqrt{(LC)}$ only limits the upper boundary of the frequency. In addition, the inductor induced eddy currents will interfere with the performance of circuitry that is in close physical proximity to the capacitor.

It has already been pointed out that one of the key components that is used in creating high frequency analog semiconductor devices is the inductor that forms part of a LC resonance circuit. In view of the high device density that is typically encountered in semiconductor devices and the therefrom following intense use of the substrate surface area, the creation of the inductor must incorporate the minimization of the surface area that is required for the inductor while at the same time maintaining a high Q value for the inductor. Typically, inductors that are created on the surface of a substrate are of a spiral

shape whereby the spiral is created in a plane that is parallel with the plane of the surface of the substrate. Conventional methods that are used to create the inductor on the surface of a substrate suffer several limitations. Most high Q inductors form part of a hybrid device configuration or of Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuits (MMIC's) or are created as discrete components, the creation of which is not readily integratable into a typical process of Integrated Circuit manufacturing. It is clear that, by combining the creation on one semiconductor monolithic substrate of circuitry that is aimed at the function of analog data manipulation and analog data storage with the functions of digital data manipulation and digital data storage, a number of significant advantages are achieved. Such advantages include the reduction of manufacturing costs and the reduction of power consumption by the combined functions. The spiral form of the inductor that is created on the surface of a semiconductor substrate however results, due to the physical size of the inductor, in parasitic capacitances between the inductor wiring and the underlying substrate and cause the electromagnetic energy loss at the underlying resistive silicon substrate. These parasitic capacitances have a serious negative effect on the functionality of the created LC circuit by sharply reducing the frequency of resonance of the tuned circuit of the application.

More seriously, the inductor-generated electromagnetic field will induce eddy currents in the underlying resistive silicon substrate, causing a significant energy loss that results in low Q inductors.

The performance parameter of an inductor is typically indicated is the Quality (Q) factor of the inductor. The quality factor Q of an inductor is defined as Q = Es/El, wherein Es is the energy that is stored in the reactive portion of the component while El is the energy that is lost in the reactive portion of the component. The higher the quality of the component, the closer the resistive value of the component approaches zero while the Q factor of the component approaches infinity. For inductors that are created overlying a silicon substrate, the electromagnetic energy that is created by the inductor will primarily be lost in the resistive silicon of the underlying substrate and in the metal lines that are created to form the inductor. The quality factor for components differs from the quality that is associated with filters or resonators. For components, the quality factor serves as a measure of the purity of the reactance (or the susceptance) of the component, which can be degraded due to the resistive silicon substrate, the resistance of the metal lines and dielectric losses. In an actual configuration, there are always some physical resistors that will

dissipate power, thereby decreasing the power that can be recovered. The quality factor Q is dimensionless. A Q value of greater than 100 is considered very high for discrete inductors that are mounted on the surface of Printed Circuit Boards. For inductors that form part of an integrated circuit, the Q value is typically in the range between about 3 and 10.

In creating an inductor on a monolithic substrate on which additional semiconductor devices are created, the parasitic capacitances that occur as part of this creation limit the upper bound of the cut-off frequency that can be achieved for the inductor using conventional silicon processes. This limitation is, for many applications, not acceptable. Dependent on the frequency at which the LC circuit is designed to resonate, significantly larger values of quality factor, such as for instance 50 or more, must be available. Prior Art has in this been limited to creating values of higher quality factors as separate units, and in integrating these separate units with the surrounding device functions. This negates the advantages that can be obtained when using the monolithic construction of creating both the inductor and the surrounding devices on one and the same semiconductor substrate. The non-monolithic approach also has the disadvantage that additional wiring is required to interconnect the sub-components of the assembly, thereby again

introducing additional parasitic capacitances and resistive losses over the interconnecting wiring network. For many of the applications of a RF amplifier, such as portable battery powered applications, power consumption is at a premium and must therefore be as low as possible. By raising the power consumption, the effects of parasitic capacitances and resistive power loss can be partially compensated, but there are limitations to even this approach. These problems take on even greater urgency with the rapid expansion of wireless applications, such as portable telephones and the like. Wireless communications is a rapidly expanding market, where the integration of RF integrated circuits is one of the most important challenges. One of the approaches is to significantly increase the frequency of operation to for instance the range of 10 to 100 GHz. For such high frequencies, the value of the quality factor obtained from silicon-based inductors is significantly degraded. For applications in this frequency range, monolithic inductors have been researched using other than silicon as the base for the creation of the inductors. Such monolithic inductors have for instance been created using sapphire or GaAs as a base. These inductors have considerably lower substrate losses than their silicon counterparts (no eddy current, hence no loss of electromagnetic energy) and therefore provide much higher Q inductors. Furthermore, they have lower

parasitic capacitance and therefore provide higher frequency operation capabilities. Where however more complex applications are required, the need still exists to create inductors using silicon as a substrate. For those applications, the approach of using a base material other than silicon has proven to be too cumbersome while for instance GaAs as a medium for the creation of semiconductor devices is as yet a technical challenge that needs to be addressed. It is known that GaAs is a semi-insulating material at high frequencies, reducing the electromagnetic losses that are incurred in the surface of the GaAs substrate, increasing the Q value of the inductor created on the GaAs surface. GaAs RF chips however are expensive, a process that can avoid the use of GaAs RF chips therefore offers the benefit of cost advantage.

A number of different approaches have been used to incorporate inductors into a semiconductor environment without sacrificing device performance due to substrate losses. One of these approaches has been to selective remove (by etching) the silicon underneath the inductor (using methods of micro machining) thereby removing substrate resistive energy loss and parasitic effects. Another method has been to use multiple layers of metal (such as aluminum) interconnects or of copper damascene interconnects.

Other approaches have used a high resistivity silicon substrate thereby reducing resistive losses in the silicon substrate. Resistive substrate losses in the surface of the underlying substrate form a dominant factor in determining the Q value of silicon inductors. Further, biased wells have been proposed underneath a spiral conductor, this again aimed at reducing inductive losses in the surface of the substrate. A more complex approach has been to create an active inductive component that simulates the electrical properties of an inductor as it is applied in active circuitry. This latter approach however results in high power consumption by the simulated inductor and in noise performance that is unacceptable for low power, high frequency applications. All of these approaches have as common objectives to enhance the quality (Q) value of the inductor and to reduce the surface area that is required for the creation of the inductor. the most important consideration in this respect is the electromagnetic energy loss due to the electromagnetic induced eddy current in the silicon substrate.

When the geometric dimensions of the Integrated Circuits are scaled down, the cost per die is decreased while some aspects of performance are improved. The metal connections which connect the Integrated Circuit to other circuit or system components become of relative more importance and have, with the further

miniaturization of the IC, an increasingly negative impact on circuit performance. The parasitic capacitance and resistance of the metal interconnections increase, which degrades the chip performance significantly. Of most concern in this respect is the voltage drop along the power and ground buses and the RC delay of the critical signal paths. Attempts to reduce the resistance by using wider metal lines result in higher capacitance of these wires.

Current techniques for building an inductor on the surface of a semiconductor substrate use fine-line techniques whereby the inductor is created under a layer of passivation. This however implies close physical proximity between the created inductor and the surface of the substrate over which the inductor has been created (typically less than 10 um), resulting in high electro-magnetic losses in the silicon substrate which in turn results in reducing the Q value of the inductor. By increasing the distance between the inductor and the semiconductor surface, the electromagnetic field in the silicon substrate will be reduced in reverse proportion to the distance, the Q value of the inductor can be increased. By, therefore, creating the inductor overlying the layer of passivation (by a post passivation process) and by, in addition, creating the inductor on the surface of a thick layer of dielectric (such as a polymer) that

is deposited or adhered over the surface of a layer of passivation, the Q value of the inductor can be increased. In addition, by using wide and thick metal for the creation of the inductor, the parasitic resistance is reduced. The process of the invention applies these principles of post passivation inductor creation while the inductor is created on a thick layer of dielectric using thick and wide metals.

US 5,212,403(Nakanishi) shows a method of forming wiring connections both inside and outside (in a wiring substrate over the chip) for a logic circuit depending on the length of the wire connections.

US 5,501,006(Gehman, Jr. et a].) shows a structure with an insulating layer between the integrated circuit (IC) and the wiring substrate. A distribution lead connects the bonding pads of the IC to the bonding pads of the substrate.

US 5,055,907(Jacobs) discloses an extended integration semiconductor structure that allows manufacturers to integrate circuitry beyond the chip boundaries by forming a thin film multi-layer wiring decal on the support substrate and over the chip. However, this reference differs from the invention.

US 5,106,461 (Volfson et al.) teaches a multi layer interconnect structure of alternating polyimide (dielectric) and metal layers over an IC in a TAB structure.

US 5,635,767 (Wenzel et al.) teaches a method for reducing RC delay by a PBGA that separates multiple metal layers.

US 5,686,764 (Fulcher) shows a flip chip substrate that reduces RC delay by separating the power and 1/0 traces.

US 6,008,102 (Alford et al.) shows a helix inductor using two metal layers connected by vias.

US 5,372,967 (Sundaram et al.) disclose a helix inductor.

US 5 '576,680 (Ling) and US 5,884,990 (Burghartz et al.) show other helix inductor designs.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is the primary objective of the present invention to improve the RF performance of High Performance Integrated Circuits.

Another objective of the present invention is to provide a method for the creation of a high-Q inductor.

Another objective of the present invention is to replace the GaAs chip with a silicon chip as a base on which a high-Q inductor is created.

Yet another objective of the present invention is to extend the frequency range of the inductor that is created on the surface of a silicon substrate.

It is yet another objective of the invention to create high quality passive electrical components overlying the surface of a silicon substrate.

The above referenced continuation-in-part application adds, in a post passivation processing sequence, a thick layer of dielectric over a layer of passivation and layers of wide and thick metal lines on top of the thick layer of dielectric. The present invention extends the above referenced continuation-in-part application by in addition creating high quality electrical components, such as an inductor, a capacitor or a resistor, on a layer of passivation or on the surface of a thick layer of dielectric. In addition, the process of the invention provides a

method for mounting discrete passive electrical components at a significant distance removed from the underlying silicon surface.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 shows a cross section of the interconnection scheme of the referenced continuation-in-part application invention.

Fig. 2 shows a cross section of an extension of the referenced continuation-in-part application whereby an inductor has been created on the surface of a thick layer of polyimide.

Fig. 3 shows a top view of an inductor that is created following the process of the invention.

Fig. 4 shows a cross section of a substrate and the overlying layers, an inductor has been created on the surface of the thick layer of polyimide, a layer of ferromagnetic material has been added to further insulate the inductor from the underlying silicon substrate.

Fig. 5a shows a cross section of a simplified version of the substrate and the layers that are created on the surface of the

substrate under the processes of the referenced continuation-in-part application.

Fig. 5b shows the cross section of Fig. 5a where an inductor has been added above the layer of passivation.

Fig. 6a shows a cross section of a substrate on the surface of which has deposited a layer of passivation, a capacitor has been created on the surface of the layer of passivation.

Fig. 6b shows a three dimensional view of an inductor that has been created on the surface of a layer of passivation by creating vias in a thick layer of polymer.

Fig. 6c shows a three-dimensional view of an inductor that has been created in a thick layer of polymer that has been deposited on the surface of a thick layer of polyimide.

Fig. 7 shows a cross section of a substrate on the surface of which has been deposited a layer of passivation over which a thick layer of polyimide has been deposited, a capacitor has been created on the surface of the thick layer of polyimide.

Fig. 8 shows a cross section of a substrate on the surface of which has deposited a layer of passivation, a resistor has been created on the surface of the layer of passivation.

Fig. 9 shows a cross section of a substrate on the surface of which has deposited a layer of passivation over which a thick layer of polyimide has been deposited, a resistor has been created on the surface of the thick layer of polyimide.

Fig. 10 shows a cross section of a silicon substrate on the surface of which a discrete electrical component has been mounted, contact balls are used whereby the distance between the substrate and the electrical component is of a significant value, a thick layer of polyimide has been used.

Fig. 11 shows a cross section of a silicon substrate on the surface of which a discrete electrical component has been mounted, thick contact balls are used whereby the distance between the substrate and the electrical component is of a significant value, no layer of polyimide has been used.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The referenced continuation-in-part application teaches an Integrated Circuit structure where re-distribution and interconnect metal layers are created in layers of dielectric on the surface of a conventional IC. A layer of passivation is deposited over the dielectric of the re-distribution and interconnection metal layers, a thick layer of polymer is deposited over the surface of the layer of passivation. Under the present invention, a high-quality electrical component is created on the surface of the thick layer of polymer.

The invention addresses, among others, the creation of an inductor whereby the emphasis is on creating an inductor of high Q value on the surface of a semiconductor substrate using methods and procedures that are well know in the art for the creation of semiconductor devices. The high quality of the inductor of the invention allows for the use of this inductor in high frequency applications while incurring minimum loss of power. The invention further addresses the creation of a capacitor and a resistor on the surface of a silicon substrate whereby the main objective (of the process of creating a capacitor and resistor) is to reduce parasitics that are typically incurred by these components in the underlying silicon substrate.

Referring now more specifically to Fig. 1, there is shown a cross section of one implementation of the referenced application. The surface of silicon substrate 10 has been provided with transistors and other devices (not shown in Fig. 1). The surface of substrate 10 is covered by a dielectric layer 12, layer 12 of dielectric is therefore deposited over the devices that have been provided in the surface of the substrate and over the substrate 10. Conductive interconnect lines 11 are provided inside layer 12 that connect to the semiconductor devices that have been provided in the surface of substrate 10.

Layers 14 (two examples are shown) represent all of the metal layers and dielectric layers that are typically created on top of the dielectric layer 12, layers 14 that are shown in Fig. 1 may therefore contain multiple layers of dielectric or insulation and the like, conductive interconnect lines 13 make up the network of electrical connections that are created throughout layers 14. Overlying and on the surface of layers 14 are points 16 of electrical contact. These points 16 of electrical contact can for instance be bond pads that establish the electrical interconnects to the transistors and other devices that have been provided in the surface of the substrate 10. These points of contact 16 are points of interconnect within the IC arrangement that need to be further connected to surrounding circuitry. A

passivation layer 18, formed of for example silicon nitride, is deposited over the surface of layer 14 to protect underlying layers from moisture, contamination, etc.

The key steps of the above referenced application begin with the deposition of a thick layer 20 of polyimide that is deposited over the surface of layer 18. Access must be provided to points of electrical contact 16, for this reason a pattern of openings 22, 36 and 38 is etched through the polyimide layer 20 and the passivation layer 18, the pattern of openings 22, 36 and 38 aligns with the pattern of electrical contact points 16. Contact points 16 are, by means of the openings 22/36/38 that are created in the layer 20 of polyimide, electrically extended to the surface of layer 20.

The above referenced material that is used for the deposition of layer 20 is polyimide, the material that can be used for this layer is not limited to polyimide but can contain any of the known polymers ($SiCl_xO_y$). The indicated polyimide is the preferred material to be used for the processes of the invention for the thick layer 20 of polymer. Examples of polymers that can be used are silicons, carbons, fluoride, chlorides, oxygens, parylene or teflon, polycarbonate (PC), polysterene (PS), polyoxide (PO), poly polooxide (PPO), benzocyclobutene (BCB).

Electrical contact with the contact points 16 can now be established by filling the openings 22/36/38 with a conductive material. The top surfaces 24 of these metal conductors that are contained in openings 22/36/38 can now be used for connection of the IC to its environment, and for further integration into the surrounding electrical circuitry. This latter statement is the same as saying the semiconductor devices that have been provided in the surface of substrate 10 can, via the conductive interconnects contained in openings 22/36/38, be further connected to surrounding components and circuitry. Interconnect pads 26 and 28 are formed on top of surfaces 24 of the metal interconnects contained in openings 22, 36 and 38. These pads 26 and 28 can be of any design in width and thickness to accommodate specific circuit design requirements. A pad can, for instance, be used as a flip chip pad. Other pads can be used for power distribution or as a ground or signal bus. The following connections can, for instance, be made to the pads shown in Fig. 1: pad 26 can serve as a flip chip pad, pad 28 can serve as a flip chip pad or can be connected to electrical power or to electrical ground or to an electrical signal bus. There is no connection between the size of the pads shown in Fig. 1 and the suggested possible electrical connections for which this pad can be used. Pad size and the standard rules and restrictions of

electrical circuit design determine the electrical connections to which a given pad lends itself.

The following comments relate to the size and the number of the contact points 16, Fig. 1. Because these contact points 16 are located on top of a thin dielectric (layer 14, Fig. 1) the pad size cannot be too large since a large pad size brings with it a large capacitance. In addition, a large pad size will interfere with the routing capability of that layer of metal. It is therefore preferred to keep the size of the pad 16 relatively small. The size of pad 16 is however also directly related with the aspect ratio of vias 22/36/38. An aspect ratio of about 5 is acceptable for the consideration of via etching and via filling. Based on these considerations, the size of the contact pad 16 can be in the order of 0.5 um to 30 um, the exact size being dependent on the thickness of layers 18 and 20.

The referenced application does not impose a limitation on the number of contact pads that can be included in the design, this number is dependent on package design requirements. Layer 18 in Fig. 1 can be a typical IC passivation layer.

The most frequently used passivation layer in the present state of the art is plasma enhanced CVD (PECVD) oxide and

nitride. In creating layer 18 of passivation, a layer of approximately 0.2 um. PECVD oxide can be deposited first followed by a layer of approximately 0.7 um. nitride. Passivation layer 18 is very important because it protects the device wafer from moisture and foreign ion contamination. The positioning of this layer between the sub-micron process (of the integrated circuit) and the tens-micron process (of the interconnecting metalization structure) is of critical importance since it allows for a cheaper process that possibly has less stringent clean room requirements for the process of creating the interconnecting metalization structure.

Layer 20 is a thick polymer dielectric layer (for example polyimide) that have a thickness in excess of 2 um (after curing). The range of the polymer thickness can vary from 2 um. to 150 um, dependent on electrical design requirements.

For the deposition of layer 20 the Hitachi-Dupont polyimide HD 2732 or 2734 can, for example, be used. The polyimide can be spin-on coated and cured. After spin-on coating, the polyimide will be cured at 400 degrees C. for 1 hour in a vacuum or nitrogen ambient. For thicker polyimide, the polyimide film can be multiple coated and cured.

Another material that can be used to create layer 20 is the polymer benzocyclobutene (BCB). This polymer is at this time commercially produced by for instance Dow Chemical and has recently gained acceptance to be used instead of typical polyimide application.

The dimensions of openings 22, 36 and 38 have previously been discussed. The dimension of the opening together with the dielectric thickness determine the aspect ratio of the opening. The aspect ratio challenges the via etch process and the metal filling capability. This leads to a diameter for openings 22/36/38 in the range of approximately 0.5 um. to 30 um. the height for openings 22/36/38 can be in the range of approximately 2 um. to 150 um. The aspect ratio of openings 22/36/38 is designed such that filling of the via with metal can be accomplished. The via can be filled with CVD metal such as CVD tungsten or CVD copper, with electro-less nickel, with a damascene metal filling process, with electroplating copper, etc.

The referenced application can be further extended by applying multiple layers of polymer (such as polyimide) and can therefore be adapted to a larger variety of applications. The function of the structure that has been described in Fig. 1 can be further extended by depositing a second layer of polyimide on

top of the previously deposited layer 20 and overlaying the pads 26 and 28. Selective etching and metal deposition can further create additional contact points on the surface of the second layer of polyimide that can be interconnected with pads 26 and 28. Additional layers of polyimide and the thereon created contact pads can be customized to a particular application, the indicated extension of multiple layers of polyimides greatly enhances the flexibility and usefulness of the referenced continuation-in-part application.

Fig. 1 shows a basic design advantage of the referenced continuation-in-part application. This advantage allows for the sub-micron or fine-lines, that run in the immediate vicinity of the metal layers 14 and the contact points 16, to be extended in an upward direction 30 through metal interconnect 36, this extension continues in the direction 32 in the horizontal plane of the metal interconnect 28 and comes back down in the downward direction 34 through metal interconnect 38. The functions and constructs of the passivation layer 18 and the insulating layer 20 remain as previously highlighted. This basic design advantage of the invention is to "elevate" or "fan-out" the fine-line interconnects and to remove these interconnects from the micro and sub-micro level to a metal interconnect level that has considerably larger dimensions and that therefore has smaller

resistance and capacitance and is easier and more cost effective to manufacture. This aspect of the referenced application does not include any aspect of conducting line re-distribution and therefore has an inherent quality of simplicity. It therefore further adds to the importance of the referenced application in that it makes micro and sub-micro wiring accessible at a wide and thick metal level. The interconnections 20, 36 and 38 interconnect the fine-level metal by going up through the passivation and polymer or polyimide dielectric layers, continuing over a distance on the wide and thick metal level and continuing by descending from the wide and thick metal level back down to the fine-metal level by again passing down through the passivation and polymer or polyimide dielectric layers. The extensions that are in this manner accomplished need not to be limited to extending fine-metal interconnect points 16 of any particular type, such as signal or power or ground, with wide and thick metal line 26 and 28. The laws of physics and electronics will impose limitations, if any, as to what type of interconnect can by established in this manner, limiting factors will be the conventional electrical limiting factors of resistance, propagation delay, RC constants and others. Where the referenced application is of importance is that the referenced continuation-in-part application provides much broader latitude in being able to apply these laws and, in so doing, provides a considerably

extended scope of the application and use of Integrated Circuits and the adaptation of these circuits to a wide and thick metal environment.

Fig. 2 shows how the basic interconnect aspect of the referenced continuation-in-part application can further be extended under the present invention to not only elevate the fine-metal to the plane of the wide and thick metal but to also add an inductor on the surface of the thick layer 20 of polyimide. The inductor is created in a plane that is parallel with the surface of the substrate 10 whereby this plane however is separated from the surface of the substrate 10 by the combined heights of layers 12, 14, 18, and 20. Fig. 2 shows a cross section 40 of the inductor taken in a plane that is perpendicular to the surface of substrate 10. The wide and thick metal will also contribute to a reduction of the resistive energy losses. Furthermore, the low resistivity metal, such as gold, silver and copper, can be applied using electroplating, the thickness can be about 20 um.

Fig. 3 shows a top view of the inductor 42 that has been created on the surface of layer 20 of dielectric. The cross section that is shown in Fig. 2 of the inductor 40 has been taken along the line 2-2′ of Fig. 3. The method used for the creation

of the inductor 42 uses conventional methods of metal, such as gold, copper and the like, deposition by electroplating or metal sputter processes.

Fig. 4 shows a top view of inductor 44 whereby the inductor has been further isolated from the surface of the substrate 10 by the addition of layer 44 of ferromagnetic material. Openings are created in layer 44 of ferromagnetic material for the conductors 34 and 38, the layer 44 is deposited using conventional methods to a thickness that can be experimentally determined and that is influenced by and partially dependent on the types of materials used and the thickness of the layers that are used overlying the ferromagnetic material (such as layer 20) for the creation of the structure that is shown in cross section in Fig. 4. The surface area of the ferromagnetic layer 44 typically extends over the surface of layer 18 such that the inductor 40 aligns with and overlays the layer 44, the surface area of layer 44 can be extended slightly beyond these boundaries to further improve shielding the surface of substrate 10 from the electromagnetic field of the inductor 42 (Fig. 3).

Fig. 5a shows, for reasons of clarity, a simplified cross section of the substrate and the layers that are created on the surface of the substrate under the processes of the invention,

the highlighted areas that are shown have previously been identified as:

- 10 the silicon substrate
- 12 is a layer of dielectric that has been deposited over the surface of the substrate
- 14 is an interconnect layer that contains interconnect lines, vias and contact points
- 16 are the contact points on the surface of the interconnect layer 14
- 18 is a layer of passivation into which openings have been created through which the contact points 16 can be accessed
- 20 is a thick layer of polymer, and
- 21 are the conductive plugs that have been provided through the layer 20 of polyimide.

The thick layer 20 of polymer can be coated in liquid form on the surface of the layer 18 of passivation or can be laminated over the surface of layer 18 of passivation by dry film application. Vias that are required for the creation of conductive plugs 21 can be defined by conventional processes of photolithography or can be created using laser (drill) technology.

It is clear from previous discussions that the sequence of

layers that is shown in cross section in Fig. 5a has been created so that additional electrical components such as an inductor, a capacitor and the like can be created on the surface of layer 20 of polyimide and in electrical contact with conductive plugs 21. Layer 12 of dielectric may, in the cross section that is shown in Fig. 5a, be part of layer 14 since layer 14 is a layer of Intra Level Dielectric (ILD) within which layer 12 can be readily integrated.

With respect to the cross section that is shown in Fig. 5b, the same layers that have been identified for Fig. 5a are again provided in this cross section. Additionally has been shown the upper layer 17 of the silicon substrate 10 that contains active semiconductor devices. Also shown is cross section of an inductor 19 that has been created on the surface of layer 18 of passivation. It must again be emphasized that the ohmic resistivity of the metal that is used for the inductor 19 must be as low as possible. For this reason, the use of a thick layer of for instance gold is preferred for the formation of inductor 19, it has been shown that a thick layer of gold increased the Q value of inductor 19 from about 5 to about 20 for 2.4 GHz applications which represents a significant improvement in the Q value of inductor 19.

Fig. 6a shows a cross section of a capacitor that has been created on the surface of a substrate 10. A layer 14 of conductive interconnect lines and contact points has been created on the surface of substrate 10, a layer 18 of passivation has been deposited over the surface of layer 14, openings have been created in layer 18 of passivation through which the surface of contact pads 16 can be accessed.

A capacitor contains, as is well known, a lower plate, an upper plate and a layer of dielectric that separates the upper plate from the lower plate. These components of a capacitor can be readily identified from the cross section that is shown in Fog. 6, as follows:

- 42 is a conductive layer that forms the lower plate of the capacitor
- 44 is a conductive layer that forms the upper plate of the capacitor
- 46 is the dielectric layer that separates the upper plate of the capacitor from the lower plate.

It must be noted from the cross section that is shown in Fig. 6a that the capacitor has been created on the surface of layer 18 of passivation, the process of creating the capacitor is therefore referred to as a post-passivation processing sequence.

Processing conditions and materials that can be used for the creation of the respective layers 42, 44 and 46 have already been highlighted and need therefore not be further detailed at this time.

The main points of interest are the various thicknesses to which the three layers 42, 44 and 46 can be deposited, as follows:

- layer 18 of passivation between about 0.1 um and 0.3 um
- layer 42 of conductive material between about 0.5 and 20 um
- layer 44 of dielectric between about 500 and 10,000 Angstrom, and
- layer 46 of conductive material between about 0.5 and 20 um.

The post-passivation created capacitor that is shown in cross section in Fig. 6a has:

- reduced parasitic capacitance between the capacitor and the underlying silicon substrate
- allowed for the use of a thick layer of conductive material, reducing the resistance of the capacitor; this is particularly important for wireless applications
- allowed for the use of high-dielectric material such as TiO_2, Ta_2O_5 for the dielectric between the upper and the lower plate

of the capacitor, resulting in a higher capacitive value of the capacitor.

Fig. 6b shows a three-dimensional view of an inductor 19 that has been created on the surface of the layer 18 of passivation. Further highlighted in Fig. 6b are:

- 23, the vias that are created in the thick layer of polymer 20, Fig. 5a, for the interconnects of the upper and the lower levels of metal of the inductor
- 25, the bottom metal of the inductor
- 27, the top metal for the inductor.

Fig. 6c shows a three dimensional view of an inductor that has been created on the surface of a layer of passivation by first depositing a thick layer of polyimide over which a layer of polymer is deposited, vias 23 are created in the thick layer 20 (Fig. 5a) of polymer. In addition to the previously highlighted layers, Fig. 6c shows a layer 29 of polyimide. The inductor 19 is created by creating the bottom metal 25 of the inductor 19, the top metal 27b of the inductor and the vias 23 that are created in layer 20 (Fig. 5a) that may contain a polymer but preferably contains polyimide.

Fig. 7 shows a cross section where, as in Fig. 6, a capacitor is created on the surface of substrate 10. In the cross section that is shown in Fig. 7 however a thick layer 20 of polyimide has been deposited over the surface of the passivation layer 18 and has been patterned and etched in order to make the contact pads 16 accessible though the thick layer 20 of poly. The thick layer 20 of polymer removes most of the capacitor, that is the lower plate 42, the upper plate 44 and the dielectric 46, from the surface of substrate 10 by a distance that is equal to the thickness of layer 20. It has previously been state that the range of polyimide thickness can vary from 2 um. to 150 um. and is dependent on electrical design requirements, this statement is equally valid for the cross section that is shown in Fig. 7 so that the main layers of the capacitor can be removed from the surface of substrate 10 over that distance of 2 um. to 150 um. It is clear that this leads to a significant increase in distance between the capacitor and the underlying silicon substrate, the parasitic capacitance will therefore be significantly reduced.

Fig. 8 shows a cross section of a substrate 10 on the surface of which has been deposited a layer 18 of passivation, a resistor has been created on the surface of the layer of passivation. A resistor, as is well known, is created by connecting two points with a material that offers electrical

resistance to the passage of current through the material. The two points that are part of the resistance that is shown in cross section in Fig. 8 are the contact pads 16 that have been created in the surface of the interconnect layer 14. By creating layer 48 between the two contact pads, that interconnects the two contact pads and that is deposited on the surface of passivation layer 18, a resistor has been created in accordance with the processes of the invention. For the creation of layer 48 a high resistivity material can be used such as TaN, silicon nitride, phosphosilicate glass (PSG), silicon oxynitride, aluminum, aluminum oxide (Al_xO_y), tantalum, nionbium, or molybdenum. It is clear that dimensions such as thickness, length and width of deposition of layer 48 of high resistivity material are application dependent and can therefore not be specified at this time in any detail. The resistor that is shown in cross section in Fig. 8 is, as is the capacitor of Figs. 6 and 7, created in a post-passivation process on the surface of layer 18 of passivation.

Fig. 9 shows a cross section of a substrate 10, an interconnect layer 14 has been created on the surface of the substrate. A layer 18 of passivation has been deposited over the layer 14 of interconnect metal, a thick layer 20 of polyimide has been deposited over the surface of the passivation layer 18. A

resistor 48 has been created on the surface of the layer 20 of polyimide. The resistor 48 is created connecting the two contact pads 16 with a thin high resistivity layer of metal. By increasing the distance between the body of the resistor and the surface of substrate (by the thickness of the poly layer 20) the parasitic capacitance between the body of the resistor and the substrate is reduced resulting in an improved resistive component (reduced parasitic capacitive loss, improved high frequency performance).

Further application of the post-passivation processing of the invention is shown in Figs. 10 and 11, which concentrate on making ball contact points between contact pads 16 and an overlying electric component, such as a discrete inductor. Proceeding from the surface of substrate 10 in an upward direction, most of the layers that are shown in Fig. 10 have previously been identified and are identified in Fig. 10 using the same numerals as have previously been used for these layers. Where Fig. 10 shows previously not identified layers is in:

- 50, contact plugs that have been formed through the thick layer 20 of polymer
- 52 contact balls that have been formed on the surface of the contact plugs 50 using conventional methods of selective solder deposition (plating or ball mounting on the surface of

plugs 50), the application of a flux on the deposited solder and flowing the solder to form the contact balls 52, and

- 54, a cross section of a discrete electrical component such as an inductor or a discrete capacitor or a resistor.

Fig. 11 shows a cross section of a silicon substrate 10 on the surface of which a discrete electrical component 54 has been mounted, contact balls 56 are used whereby the distance between the substrate 10 and the electrical component 54 is of a significant value. Contact balls are inserted into the openings that have been created in the layer 18 of passivation, the (relatively large) contact balls 56 create a significant separation between the surface of substrate 10 and the discrete electrical component 54.

The methods that have been shown in Figs. 10 and 11 indicate that:

- the passive component 54 is removed from the surface of substrate 10 by a significant distance, and
- instead of mounting the passive, discrete component 54 on the surface of a Printed Circuit Board (PCB), the passive component 54 can be mounted closer to a semiconductor device in the present invention.

Throughout the methods and procedures that have been explained above using the examples that are shown in cross section in the accompanying drawings, the following has been adhered to:

- the passive components have been further removed from the silicon substrate, thereby reducing the negative impact that is induced by the substrate by electromagnetic losses incurred in the substrate
- the post-passivation process of the invention, allows for the selection of discrete component design parameters that result in reduced resistance of the discrete capacitor and the discrete inductor, this is further clear from the following comparison between prior art processes and the processes of the invention.

Prior art requires for the creation of an inductor:

- the use of thin metal, which imposes the creation of
- wide coils for an inductor resulting in
- increased surface area that is required for the inductor which in turn
- increases the parasitic capacitance of the inductor
- causing eddy current losses in the surface of the substrate.

The present invention by contrast:

- can use thick metal, since the metal of the passive component is (by the thick layer of polymer) removed from the (thin metal) interconnect layer 14, and (as a consequence)
- reduce the surface area that is required for the inductor, and
- reduce the resistivity of the inductor, thereby increasing the Q value of the inductor.

Although the preferred embodiment of the present invention has been illustrated, and that form has been described in detail, it will be readily understood by those skilled in the art that various modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention or from the scope of the appended claims.



What is claimed is:

1. A method for forming an inductor for high performance integrated circuits overlaying the surface of a semiconductor substrate, comprising:

providing a semiconductor substrate, in or on the surface of which semiconductor devices have been created, having points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the active surface of said substrate;

creating an overlaying interconnecting metalization structure comprising one or more layers of interconnects over the active surface of said substrate, said layers of interconnects comprising conductive interconnect lines or conductive contact points or conductive vias in one or more layers, with points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said points of electrical contact making contact with at least one of said conductive interconnect lines or said conductive contact points or said conductive vias provided in said one or more layers of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said metal lines or said contact points or said conductive vias making contact with at least one of said points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the surface of said substrate;

depositing a passivation layer over said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure;

depositing an polymer insulating, separating layer over said passivation layer that is substantially thicker than said passivation layer and that is also substantially thicker than an inter-layer dielectric used for creating said interconnecting metallization structure;

forming openings through said polymer insulating, separating layer and through said passivation layer to expose at least one pair of said points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure;

filling said openings with a conductive material, creating metal contacts through said openings; and

forming said inductor on the surface of said polymer insulating, separating layer, said inductor being connected to at least one pair of said points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the size of said points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure is within the range of approximately 0.3 um. to 50 um.



3. The method of claim 1 wherein said points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure comprise a material that is selected from a group comprising sputtered aluminum, CVD tungsten, CVD copper, electroplated gold, electroplated silver, electroplated copper, electroless gold and electroless nickel.

4. The method of claim 1 whereby said inductor is embedded in a dielectric and furthermore covered by a layer of passivation.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said dielectric is a low-K dielectric.

6. The method of claim 1 with the addition of one or more layers of ferromagnetic material overlying said passivation layer over a thickness of between about 2,000 and 50,000 Angstrom and over a surface area that is about the surface area over which said inductor overlays said polymer insulating, separating layer, interspersing said one or more layers of ferromagnetic material between the surface of said passivation layer and the thereover deposited polymer insulating, separating layer.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said inductor is of a spiral design and is created on the surface of said polymer insulating,

separating layer and in a plane that is parallel to the plane of the surface of said polymer insulating, separating layer.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said inductor is created using damascene processing procedures.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said inductor is created using methods of photolithographic exposure and etching.

10. A method for forming a capacitor for high performance integrated circuits on the surface of a semiconductor substrate, said capacitor comprising a top plate and a bottom plate and a layer of dielectric interspersed between said top and said bottom plate, comprising:

providing a semiconductor substrate, in or on the surface of which semiconductor devices have been created, having points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the active surface of said substrate;

creating an overlaying interconnecting metalization structure comprising one or more layers of interconnects over the active surface of said substrate, said layers of interconnects comprising conductive interconnect lines or conductive contact points or conductive vias in one or more layers, with points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of

said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said points of electrical contact making contact with at least one of said conductive interconnect lines or said conductive contact points or said conductive vias provided in said one or more layers of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said metal lines or said contact points or said conductive vias making contact with at least one of said points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the surface of said substrate, said points of electrical contact provided on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure being divided into pairs of even and odd numbered adjacent contact points whereby one point of electrical contact can belong to only one pair;

depositing a passivation layer over said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure;

patterning and etching said layer of passivation, creating openings in said layer of passivation, at least one opening overlaying at least one even contact point of said points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure;

depositing a first layer of conductive material over the surface of said layer of passivation, including said openings created in said layer of passivation;

patterning and etching said first layer of conductive material creating an opening to at least one of said even numbered points of electrical contact provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, creating said bottom plate of said capacitor;

depositing a layer of dielectric over the surface of said first layer of conductive material, including said opening to at least one of said even numbered points of electrical contact;

patterning and etching said layer of dielectric, creating an opening in said layer of dielectric to at least one of said even numbered points of electrical contact, partially exposing at least one of said even numbered points of electrical contact, creating said layer of dielectric interspersed between said top plate and said bottom plate;

depositing a second layer of conductive material over the surface of said layer of dielectric, including at least one opening created in said layer of dielectric; and

patterning and etching said second layer of conductive material, creating said top plate of said capacitor.

11. The method of claim 10 with additional processing steps performed after said step of the patterning and etching said layer of passivation, comprising:

depositing a polymer insulating, separating layer over the surface of said patterned and etched layer of passivation, including said openings created in said layer of passivation; and patterning and etching said polymer insulating, separating layer, creating at least one opening in said polymer insulating, separating layer that aligns with at least one of said even numbered points of electrical contact on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is of a thickness after curing within the range of approximately 1.0 to 150 um.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is spin-on coated and cured.

14. A method for forming a resistor for high performance integrated circuits on the surface of a semiconductor substrate, comprising:

providing a semiconductor substrate, in or on the surface of which semiconductor devices have been created, having points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the active surface of said substrate;

creating an overlaying interconnecting metalization structure comprising one or more layers of interconnects over the active surface of said substrate, said layers of interconnects comprising conductive interconnect lines or conductive contact points or conductive vias in one or more layers, with points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said points of electrical contact making contact with at least one of said conductive interconnect lines or said conductive contact points or said conductive vias provided in said one or more layers of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said metal lines or said contact points or said conductive vias making contact with at least one of said points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the surface of said substrate;

depositing a passivation layer over said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure;

patterning and etching said layer of passivation, creating openings in said layer of passivation, at least two of said openings overlaying at least one pair of points of electrical contact having been provided in the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization;

depositing a layer of conductive material over the surface of said layer of passivation, including said openings created in said layer of passivation;

patterning and etching said layer of conductive material, creating a layer of conductive material that interconnects at least one pair of said openings created in said layer of passivation, creating said resistor.

15. A method for forming a resistor for high performance integrated circuits on the surface of a semiconductor substrate, comprising:

providing a semiconductor substrate, in or on the surface of which semiconductor devices have been created, having points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the active surface of said substrate;

creating an overlaying interconnecting metalization structure comprising one or more layers of interconnects over the active surface of said substrate, said layers of interconnects comprising conductive interconnect lines or conductive contact points or conductive vias in one or more layers, with points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said points of electrical contact making contact with at least one of said conductive interconnect lines or said

conductive contact points or said conductive vias provided in said one or more layers of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said metal lines or said contact points or said conductive vias making contact with at least one of said points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the surface of said substrate;

depositing a passivation layer over said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure;

patterning and etching said layer of passivation, creating openings in said layer of passivation, at least two of said openings overlaying and partially exposing at least one pair of points of electrical contact having been provided in the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure;

depositing an polymer insulating, separating layer over the surface of said patterned and etched layer of passivation, including said openings created in said layer of passivation;

patterning and etching said polymer insulating, separating layer, creating at least one pair of openings in said polymer insulating, separating layer that aligns with at least one pair of openings created in said layer of passivation, partially exposing at least one pair of points of electrical contact having been provided in the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure;

depositing a layer of conductive material over the surface of said

polymer insulating, separating layer including said openings created in said polymer insulating, separating layer;

patterning and etching said layer of conductive material, creating a layer of conductive material that interconnects at least one pair of said openings created in said layer of passivation, creating said resistor.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein said passivation layer comprises a layer within the range of approximately 0.15 to 2.0 um of Plasma Enhanced CVD (PECVD) oxide over which a layer within the range of approximately 0.5 to 2.0 um PECVD nitride is deposited.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer comprises polyimide or the polymer benzocyclobutene (BCB).

18. The method of claim 15 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is of a thickness after curing within the range of approximately 1.0 to 150 um.

19. The method of claim 15 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is spin-on coated and cured.



20. The method of claim 19 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is subjected to multiple processing steps of spin on coating and curing.

21. A method for mounting a discrete electrical component above the surface of a semiconductor substrate, comprising:
providing a semiconductor substrate, in or on the surface of which semiconductor devices have been created, having points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the active surface of said substrate;
creating an overlaying interconnecting metalization structure comprising one or more layers of interconnects over the active surface of said substrate, said layers of interconnects comprising conductive interconnect lines or conductive contact points or conductive vias in one or more layers, with points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said points of electrical contact making contact with at least one of said conductive interconnect lines or said conductive contact points or said conductive vias provided in said one or more layers of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said metal lines or said contact points or said conductive vias making contact with at

least one of said points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the surface of said substrate;

depositing a passivation layer over said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure;

patterning and etching said layer of passivation, creating openings in said layer of passivation, at least two of said openings overlaying at least one pair of points of electrical contact having been provided in the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, providing at least one pair of points of electrical contact in said layer of passivation;

depositing an polymer insulating, separating layer over the surface of said patterned and etched layer of passivation, including said openings created in said layer of passivation;

patterning and etching said polymer insulating, separating layer, creating at least one pair of openings in said polymer insulating, separating layer that aligns with at least one pair of points of electrical contact provided in said layer of passivation;

selectively depositing a layer of conductive material over the surface of at least one pair of points of electrical contact provided in said layer of passivation, filling said openings created in said polymer insulating, separating layer, creating conductive plugs through said polymer insulating, separating layer, said conductive plugs overlaying at least one pair of

points of electrical contact provided in said layer of passivation;

selectively creating a layer of solder over the surface of said conductive plugs;

positioning said discrete electrical component above and in alignment with said selectively created layer of solder such that electrical contact points of said discrete electrical component align with said selectively created layer of solder; and

flowing said selectively created layer of solder, creating solder balls connecting said discrete electrical component with said conductive plugs in said polymer insulating, separating layer, thereby connecting said discrete electrical component with a pair of points of electrical contact in said layer of passivation.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer comprises a polyimide or the polymer benzocyclobutene (BCB).

23. The method of claim 21 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is of a thickness after curing within the range of approximately 1.0 to 150 um.

24. The method of claim 21 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is subjected to multiple processing steps of spin on coating and curing.

25. The method of claim 21 wherein said discrete electrical component is selected from a group comprising a resistor, a capacitor and an inductor.

26. A method for mounting a discrete electrical component above the surface of a semiconductor substrate, comprising:
providing a semiconductor substrate, in or on the surface of which semiconductor devices have been created, having points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the active surface of said substrate;
creating an overlaying interconnecting metalization structure comprising one or more layers of interconnects over the active surface of said substrate, said layers of interconnects comprising conductive interconnect lines or conductive contact points or conductive vias in one or more layers, with points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said points of electrical contact making contact with at least one of said conductive interconnect lines or said conductive contact points or said conductive vias provided in

said one or more layers of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said metal lines or said contact points or said conductive vias making contact with at least one of said points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the surface of said substrate;

depositing a passivation layer over said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure;

patterning and etching said layer of passivation, creating openings in said layer of passivation, at least two of said openings overlaying at least one pair of points of electrical contact having been provided in the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, providing at least one pair of points of electrical contact in said layer of passivation;

selectively creating a layer of solder over the surface of at least one pair of points of electrical contact in said layer of passivation;

positioning said discrete electrical component above and aligned with said selectively created layer of solder such that electrical contact points of said discrete electrical component align with said selectively created layer of solder; and

flowing said layer of selectively created solder, creating solder balls connecting said discrete electrical component with at least one pair of points of electrical contact in said layer of passivation.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein said discrete electrical component is selected from a group comprising a resistor, a capacitor and an inductor.

28. An inductor for high performance integrated circuits overlaying the surface of a semiconductor substrate, comprising:
a semiconductor substrate, in or on the surface of which semiconductor devices have been created, having points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the active surface of said substrate;
an overlaying interconnecting metalization structure comprising one or more layers of interconnects over the active surface of said substrate, said layers of interconnects comprising conductive interconnect lines or conductive contact points or conductive vias in one or more layers, with points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said points of electrical contact making contact with at least one of said conductive interconnect lines or said conductive contact points or said conductive vias provided in said one or more layers of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said metal lines or said contact points or said conductive vias making contact with at least one

of said points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the surface of said substrate;

a passivation layer deposited over said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure;

a polymer insulating, separating layer deposited over said passivation layer that is substantially thicker than said passivation layer and that is also substantially thicker than an inter-layer dielectric used for creating said interconnecting metallization structure;

openings formed through said polymer insulating, separating layer and through said passivation layer to expose at least one pair of said points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure;

said openings filled with a conductive material, creating metal contacts through said openings; and

said inductor formed on the surface of said polymer insulating, separating layer, said inductor being connected to at least one pair of said points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure.

29. The inductor of claim 28 wherein the size of said points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of

said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure is within the range of approximately 0.3 um. to 50 um.

30. The inductor of claim 28 wherein said passivation layer comprises a layer within the range of approximately 0.15 to 2.0 um of Plasma Enhanced CVD (PECVD) oxide over which a layer within the range of approximately 0.5 to 2.0 um PECVD nitride is deposited.

31. The inductor of claim 28 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer comprises polyimide or the polymer benzocyclobutene (BCB).

32. The inductor of claim 28 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is of a thickness after curing within the range of approximately 1.0 to 150 um.

33. The inductor of claim 28 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is spin-on coated and cured.

34. The inductor of claim 28 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is subjected to multiple processing steps of spin on coating and curing.

35. The inductor of claim 28 wherein said points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure comprise a material that is selected from a group comprising sputtered aluminum, CVD tungsten, CVD copper, electroplated gold, electroplated copper, electroplated silver, electroless gold and electroless nickel.

36. The inductor of claim 28 whereby said inductor is embedded in a dielectric and furthermore covered by a layer of passivation.

37. The inductor of claim 36 wherein said dielectric is a low-K dielectric.

38. The inductor of claim 28 with the addition of one or more layers of ferromagnetic material overlying said passivation layer over a thickness of between about 2 and 50 KAngstrom and over a surface area that is about the surface area over which said inductor overlays said polymer insulating, separating layer, interspersing said one or more layers of ferromagnetic material between the surface of said passivation layer and the thereover deposited polymer insulating, separating layer.

39. The inductor of claim 28 wherein said inductor is of a spiral design and is created on the surface of said polymer insulating, separating layer and in a plane that is parallel to the plane of the surface of said polymer insulating, separating layer.

40. The inductor of claim 28 wherein said inductor is created using damascene processing procedures.

41. The inductor of claim 28 wherein said inductor is created using methods of photolithographic exposure and etching.

42. A capacitor for high performance integrated circuits on the surface of a semiconductor substrate, said capacitor comprising a top plate and a bottom plate and a layer of dielectric interspersed between said top and said bottom plate, comprising:

a semiconductor substrate, in or on the surface of which semiconductor devices have been created, having points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the active surface of said substrate;

an overlaying interconnecting metalization structure comprising one or more layers of interconnects over the active surface of said substrate, said layers of interconnects comprising conductive interconnect lines or conductive contact points or

conductive vias in one or more layers, with points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said points of electrical contact making contact with at least one of said conductive interconnect lines or said conductive contact points or said conductive vias provided in said one or more layers of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said metal lines or said contact points or said conductive vias making contact with at least one of said points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the surface of said substrate, said points of electrical contact provided on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure being divided into pairs of even and odd numbered adjacent contact points whereby one point of electrical contact can belong to only one pair;

a passivation layer deposited over said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure;

openings created in said layer of passivation, at least one opening overlaying at least one even contact point of said points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure;

* C L M S *

a first layer of conductive material deposited over the surface of said layer of passivation, including said openings created in said layer of passivation;

an opening created in said first layer of conductive material to at least one of said even numbered points of electrical contact provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, said first layer of conductive material forming said bottom plate of said capacitor;

a layer of dielectric deposited over the surface of said first layer of conductive material, including said opening to at least one of said even numbered points of electrical contact;

an opening in said layer of dielectric to at least one of said even numbered points of electrical contact, partially exposing at least one of said even numbered points of electrical contact, forming said layer of dielectric interspersed between said top plate and said bottom plate;

a second layer of conductive material deposited over the surface of said layer of dielectric, including at least one opening created in said layer of dielectric; and

said top plate of said capacitor created by patterning and etching said second layer of conductive material.

43. The capacitor of claim 42 with additionally comprising, over said patterned and etched said layer of passivation:

an polymer insulating, separating layer deposited over the surface of said patterned and etched layer of passivation, including said openings created in said layer of passivation; and least one opening created in said polymer insulating, separating layer that aligns with at least one of said even numbered points of electrical contact on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure.

44. The capacitor of claim 42 wherein said passivation layer comprises a layer within the range of approximately 0.15 to 2.0 um of Plasma Enhanced CVD (PECVD) oxide over which a layer within the range of approximately 0.5 to 2.0 um PECVD nitride is deposited.

45. The capacitor of claim 43 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer comprises polyimide or the polymer benzocyclobutene (BCB).

46. The capacitor of claim 43 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is of a thickness after curing within the range of approximately 1.0 to 150 um.

47. The capacitor of claim 43 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is spin-on coated and cured.



48. A resistor for high performance integrated circuits on the surface of a semiconductor substrate, comprising:

a semiconductor substrate, in or on the surface of which semiconductor devices have been created, having points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the active surface of said substrate;

an overlaying interconnecting metalization structure comprising one or more layers of interconnects over the active surface of said substrate, said layers of interconnects comprising conductive interconnect lines or conductive contact points or conductive vias in one or more layers, with points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said points of electrical contact making contact with at least one of said conductive interconnect lines or said conductive contact points or said conductive vias provided in said one or more layers of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said metal lines or said contact points or said conductive vias making contact with at least one of said points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the surface of said substrate;

a passivation layer deposited over said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure;

openings created in said layer of passivation, at least two of said openings overlaying at least one pair of points of electrical contact having been provided in the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization;

a layer of conductive material deposited over the surface of said layer of passivation, including said openings created in said layer of passivation; and

a layer of conductive material that interconnects at least one pair of said openings created in said layer of passivation, creating said resistor.

49. The resistor of claim 48 wherein said passivation layer comprises a layer within the range of approximately 0.15 to 2.0 um of Plasma Enhanced CVD (PECVD) oxide over which a layer within the range of approximately 0.5 to 2.0 um PECVD nitride is deposited.

50. A resistor for high performance integrated circuits on the surface of a semiconductor substrate, comprising:

a semiconductor substrate, in or on the surface of which semiconductor devices have been created, having points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the active surface of said substrate;

an overlaying interconnecting metalization structure comprising one or more layers of interconnects over the active surface of

said substrate, said layers of interconnects comprising conductive interconnect lines or conductive contact points or conductive vias in one or more layers, with points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said points of electrical contact making contact with at least one of said conductive interconnect lines or said conductive contact points or said conductive vias provided in said one or more layers of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said metal lines or said contact points or said conductive vias making contact with at least one of said points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the surface of said substrate;

a passivation layer deposited over said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure;

openings created in said layer of passivation, at least two of said openings overlaying and partially exposing at least one pair of points of electrical contact having been provided in the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure;

a polymer insulating, separating layer deposited over the surface of said patterned and etched layer of passivation, including said openings created in said layer of passivation;

at least one pair of openings in said polymer insulating, separating layer that aligns with at least one pair of openings

created in said layer of passivation, partially exposing at least one pair of points of electrical contact having been provided in the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure;

a layer of conductive material deposited over the surface of said polymer insulating, separating layer including said openings created in said polymer insulating, separating layer;

a layer of conductive material that interconnects at least one pair of said openings created in said layer of passivation, creating said resistor.

51. The resistor of claim 50 wherein said passivation layer comprises a layer within the range of approximately 0.15 to 2.0 um of Plasma Enhanced CVD (PECVD) oxide over which a layer within the range of approximately 0.5 to 2.0 um PECVD nitride is deposited.

52. The resistor of claim 50 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer comprises a polymer dielectric comprises polyimide or the polymer benzocyclobutene (BCB).

53. The resistor of claim 50 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is of a thickness after curing within the range of approximately 1.0 to 150 um.

54. The resistor of claim 50 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is spin-on coated and cured.

55. The resistor of claim 50 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is subjected to multiple processing steps of spin on coating and curing.

56. A discrete electrical component above the surface of a semiconductor substrate, comprising:
a semiconductor substrate, in or on the surface of which semiconductor devices have been created, having points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the active surface of said substrate;
an overlaying interconnecting metalization structure comprising one or more layers of interconnects over the active surface of said substrate, said layers of interconnects comprising conductive interconnect lines or conductive contact points or conductive vias in one or more layers, with points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said points of electrical contact making contact with at least one of said conductive interconnect lines or said conductive contact points or said conductive vias provided in said one or more layers of said overlaying interconnecting metalization

structure, at least one of said metal lines or said contact points or said conductive vias making contact with at least one of said points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the surface of said substrate;

a passivation layer deposited over said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure;

openings created in said layer of passivation, at least two of said openings overlaying at least one pair of points of electrical contact having been provided in the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, providing at least one pair of points of electrical contact in said layer of passivation;

an polymer insulating, separating layer deposited over the surface of said patterned and etched layer of passivation, including said openings created in said layer of passivation;

at least one pair of openings created in said polymer insulating, separating layer that aligns with at least one pair of points of electrical contact provided in said layer of passivation;

a layer of conductive material selectively deposited over the surface of at least one pair of points of electrical contact provided in said layer of passivation, filling said openings created in said polymer insulating, separating layer, creating conductive plugs through said polymer insulating, separating layer, said conductive plugs overlaying at least one pair of

points of electrical contact provided in said layer of passivation;

a layer of solder selectively created over the surface of said conductive plugs;

said discrete electrical component positioned above and in alignment with said selectively created layer of solder such that electrical contact points of said discrete electrical component align with said selectively created layer of solder; and

said selectively created layer of solder flowed, creating solder balls connecting said discrete electrical component with said conductive plugs in said polymer insulating, separating layer, thereby connecting said discrete electrical component with a pair of points of electrical contact in said layer of passivation.

57. The discrete electrical component of claim 56 wherein said passivation layer comprises a layer within the range of approximately 0.15 to 2.0 um of Plasma Enhanced CVD (PECVD) oxide over which a layer within the range of approximately 0.5 to 2.0 um PECVD nitride is deposited.

58. The discrete electrical component of claim 56 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer comprises polyimide or the polymer benzocyclobutene (BCB).

59. The discrete electrical component of claim 56 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is of a thickness after curing within the range of approximately 1.0 to 150 um.

60. The discrete electrical component of claim 56 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is spin-on coated and cured.

61. The discrete electrical component of claim 56 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is subjected to multiple processing steps of spin on coating and curing.

62. The discrete electrical component of claim 56 wherein said discrete electrical component is selected from a group comprising a resistor, a capacitor and an inductor.

63. A discrete electrical component mounted above the surface of a semiconductor substrate, comprising:
a semiconductor substrate, in or on the surface of which semiconductor devices have been created, having points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the active surface of said substrate;
an overlaying interconnecting metalization structure comprising one or more layers of interconnects over the active surface of said substrate, said layers of interconnects comprising

conductive interconnect lines or conductive contact points or conductive vias in one or more layers, with points of electrical contact having been provided in or on the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said points of electrical contact making contact with at least one of said conductive interconnect lines or said conductive contact points or said conductive vias provided in said one or more layers of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, at least one of said metal lines or said contact points or said conductive vias making contact with at least one of said points of electrical contact provided to said semiconductor devices in or on the surface of said substrate;

a passivation layer deposited over said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure;

openings created in said layer of passivation, at least two of said openings overlaying at least one pair of points of electrical contact having been provided in the surface of said overlaying interconnecting metalization structure, providing at least one pair of points of electrical contact in said layer of passivation;

a layer of solder selectively deposited over the surface of at least one pair of points of electrical contact in said layer of passivation;

said discrete electrical component positioned above and aligned with said selectively deposited layer of solder such that

electrical contact points of said discrete electrical component align with said selectively deposited layer of solder; and said layer of selectively deposited solder flowed, creating solder balls connecting said discrete electrical component with at least one pair of points of electrical contact in said layer of passivation.

64. The discrete electrical component of claim 63 wherein said passivation layer comprises a layer within the range of approximately 0.15 to 2.0 um of Plasma Enhanced CVD (PECVD) oxide over which a layer within the range of approximately 0.5 to 2.0 um PECVD nitride is deposited.

65. The discrete electrical component of claim 63 wherein said discrete electrical component is selected from a group comprising a resistor, a capacitor and an inductor.

66. The method of claim 1 wherein said inductor is created overlying the surface of a layer of passivation whereby no layer of polyimide is applied.

67. The method of claim 1 wherein said inductor is a helix structure overlying a layer of polymer, said layer of polymer overlying a layer of passivation.

68. The method of claim 1 wherein said inductor is a helix structure overlying a layer of passivation whereby no layer of polyimide is applied.

69. The method of claim 11 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is laminated dry film.

70. The method of claim 15 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is laminated dry film.

71. The method of claim 21 wherein said solder ball is created by electroplating, screen printing, and ball mounting.

72. The method of claim 21 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is laminated dry film.

73. The inductor of claim 28 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is laminated dry film.

74. The inductor of claim 28 wherein said inductor is of a helix design and is created on the surface of said polymer insulating, separating layer and in a plane that is parallel to the plane of the surface of said polymer insulating, separating layer, whereby

said layer of polymer is deposited over the surface of a layer of passivation.

75. The inductor of claim 28 wherein said inductor is of a helix design and is created on the surface of said polymer insulating, separating layer and in a plane that is parallel to the plane of the surface of said polymer insulating, separating layer, whereby said layer of polymer is deposited over the surface of a layer of polyimide, whereby said layer of polyimide is deposited over the surface of a layer of passivation.

76. The capacitor of claim 43 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is laminated dry film.

77. The resistor of claim 50 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is laminated dry film.

78. The discrete electrical component of claim 56 wherein said polymer insulating, separating layer is laminated dry film.