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**Kasahara et al.**

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(54) **PRODUCTION METHOD FOR  
FABRY-PEROT INTERFERENCE FILTER**

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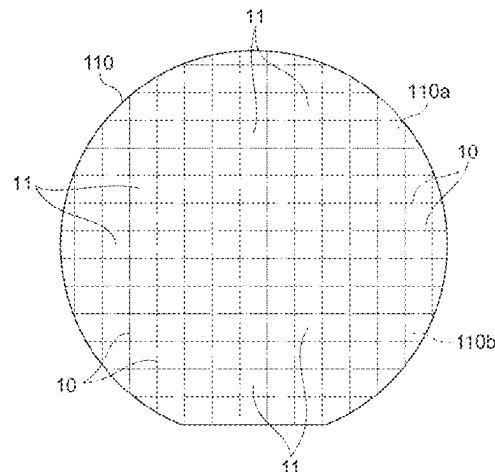
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method of manufacturing a Fabry-Perot interference filter  
includes a forming step of forming a first thinned region, a  
first mirror layer, a sacrificial layer, and a second mirror  
layer are formed on a first main surface of a wafer, and the  
first thinned region in which at least one of the first mirror  
layer, the sacrificial layer, and the second mirror layer is  
partially thinned along each of a plurality of lines is formed;  
a cutting step of cutting the wafer into a plurality of

(Continued)



substrates along each of the plurality of lines by forming a modified region within the wafer along each of the plurality of lines through irradiation of a laser light, after the forming step; and a removing step of removing a portion from the sacrificial layer through etching, between the forming step and the cutting step or after the cutting step.

## 2 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets

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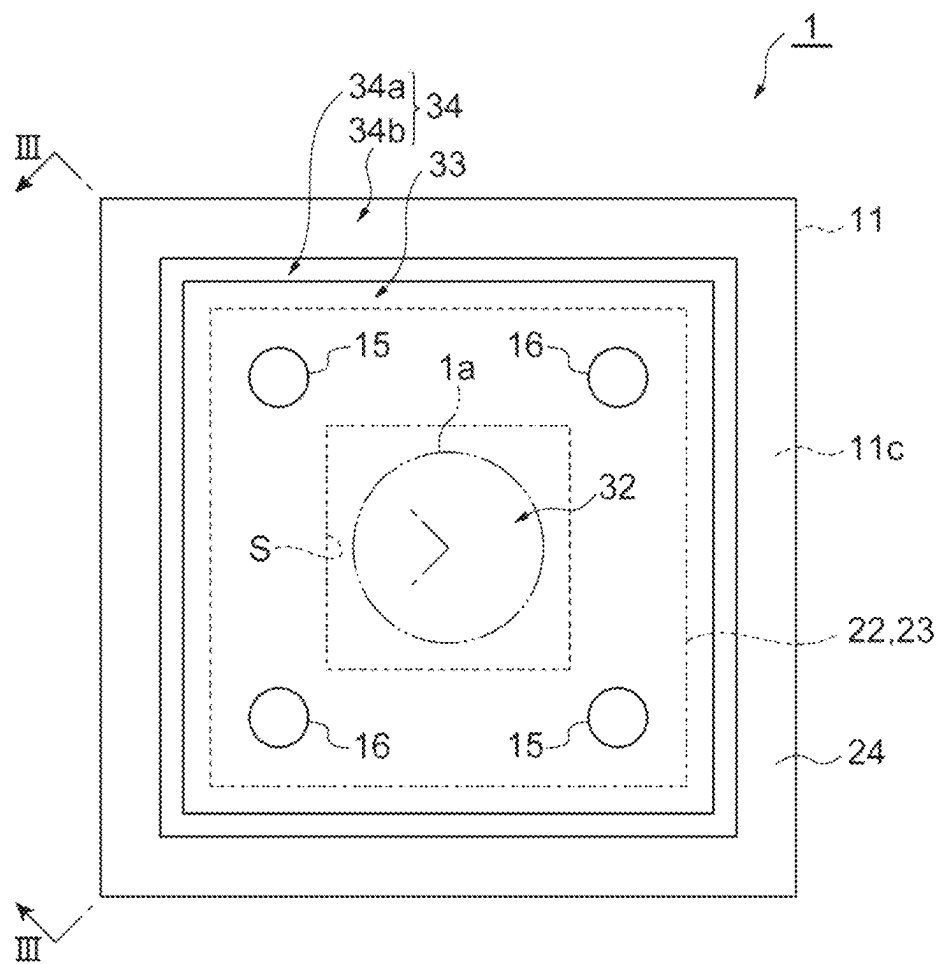
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**Fig.1**



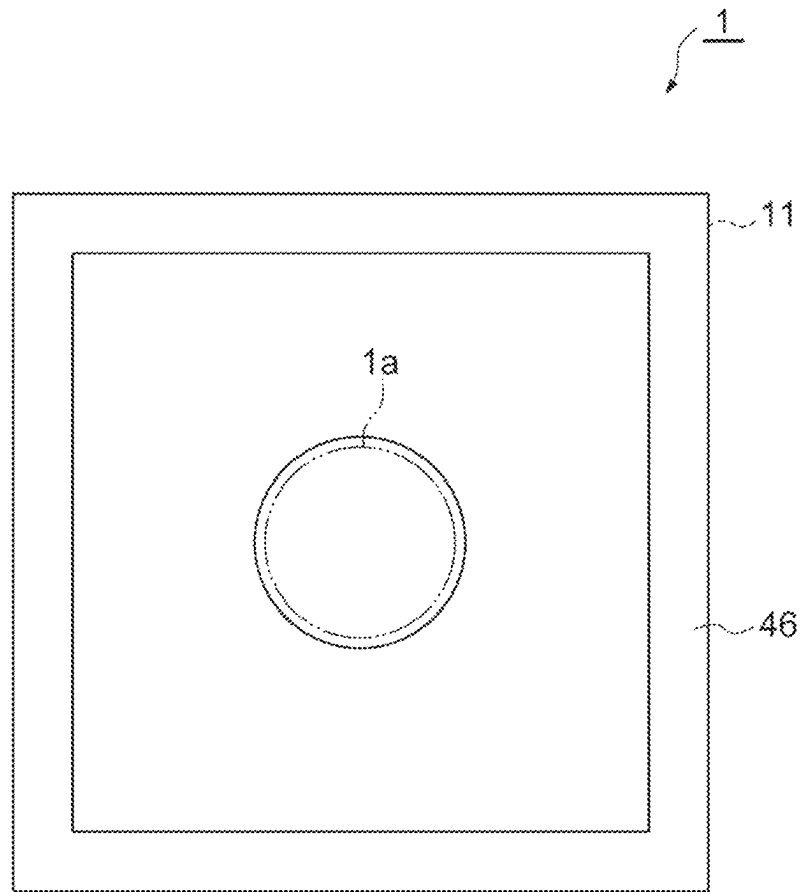
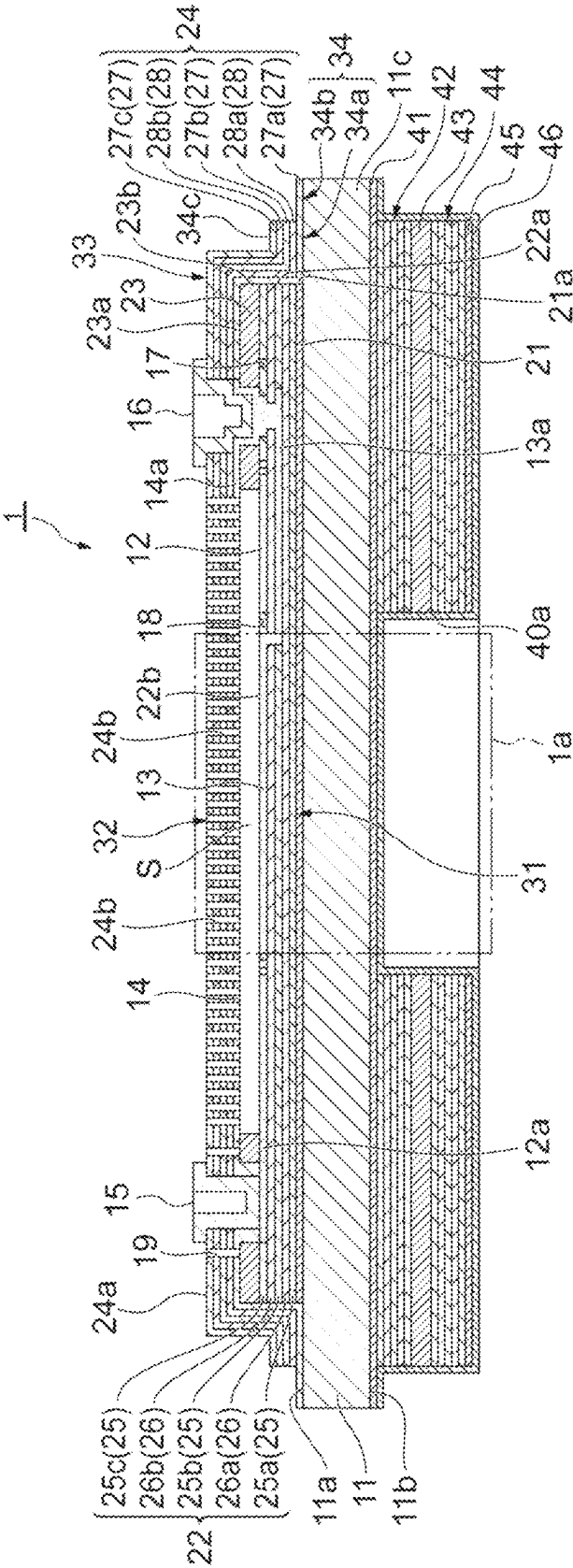
**Fig.2**

Fig.3



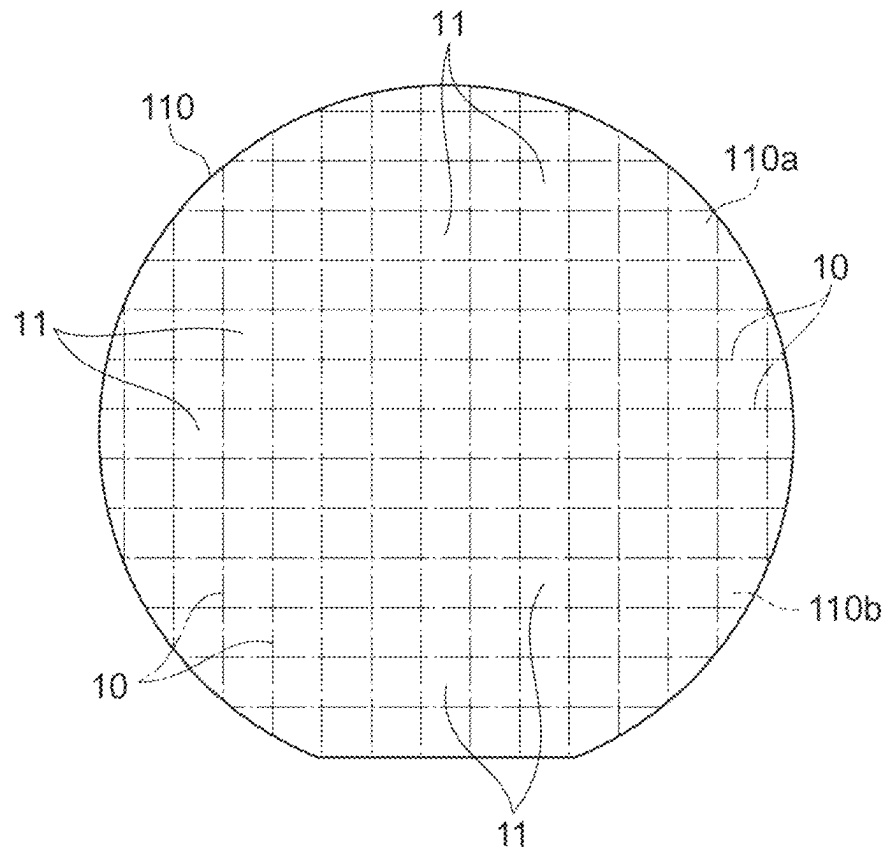
**Fig.4**

Fig. 5A

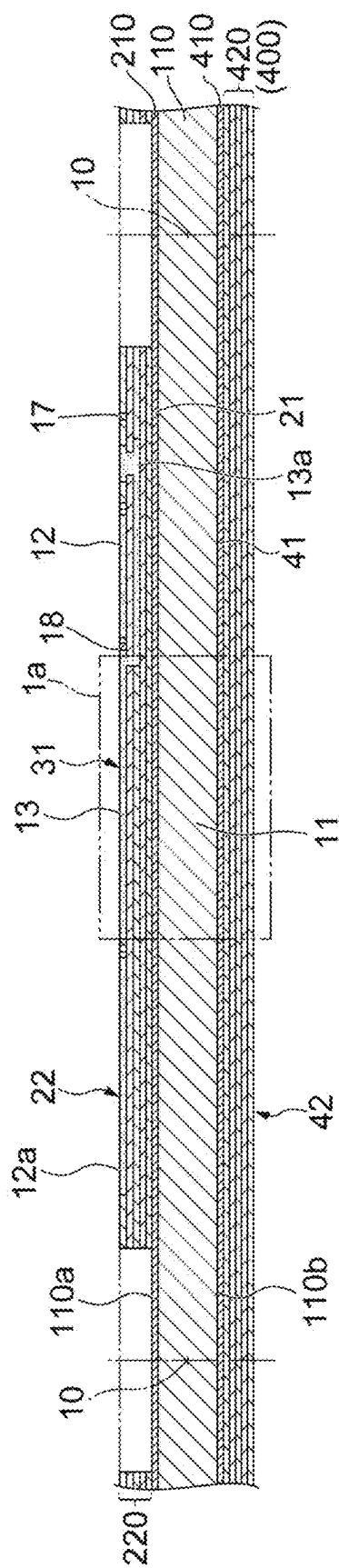


Fig. 5B

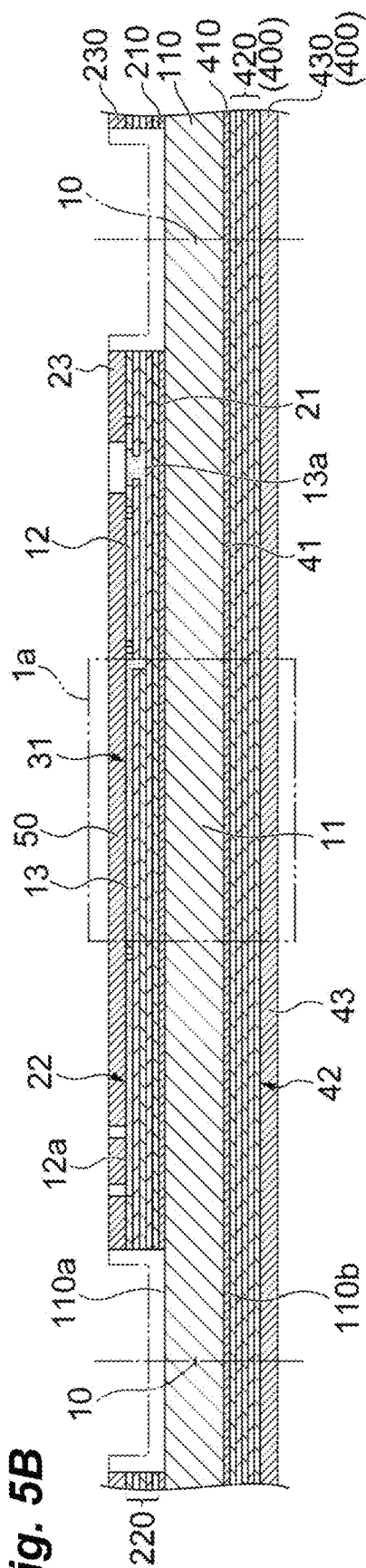




Fig. 6A

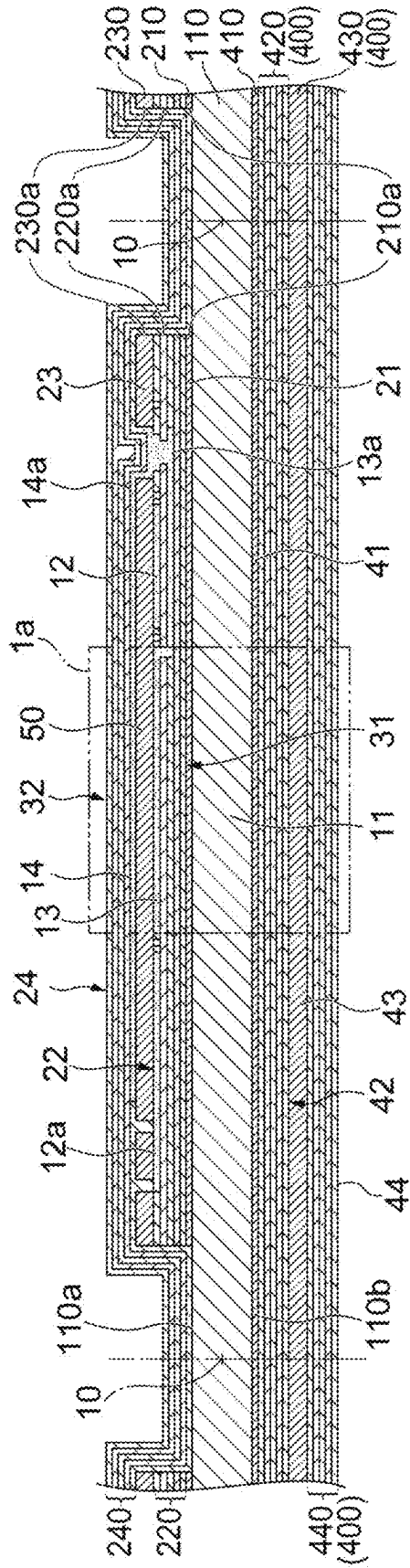
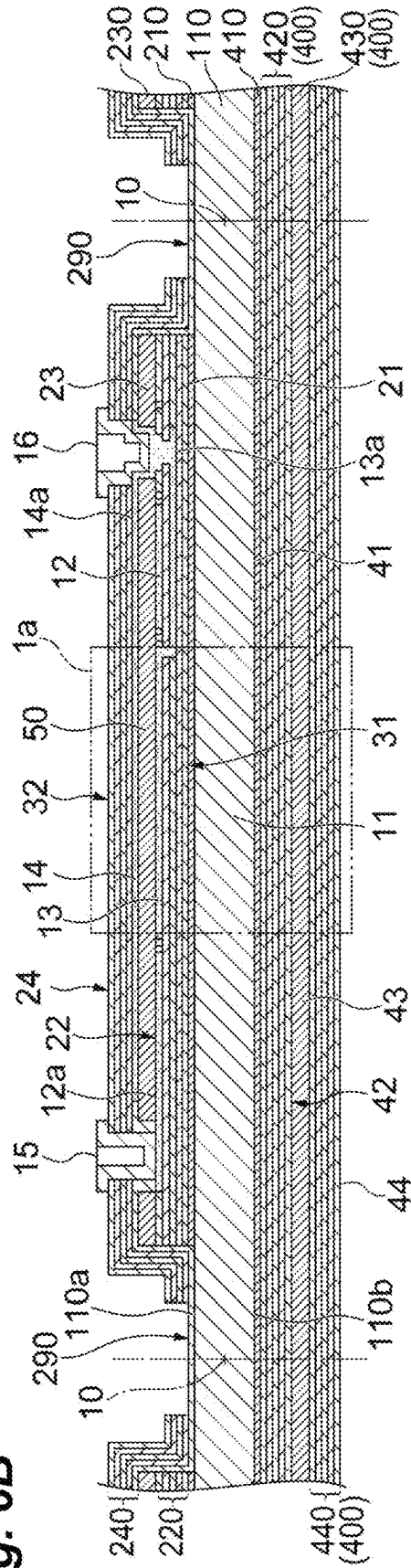
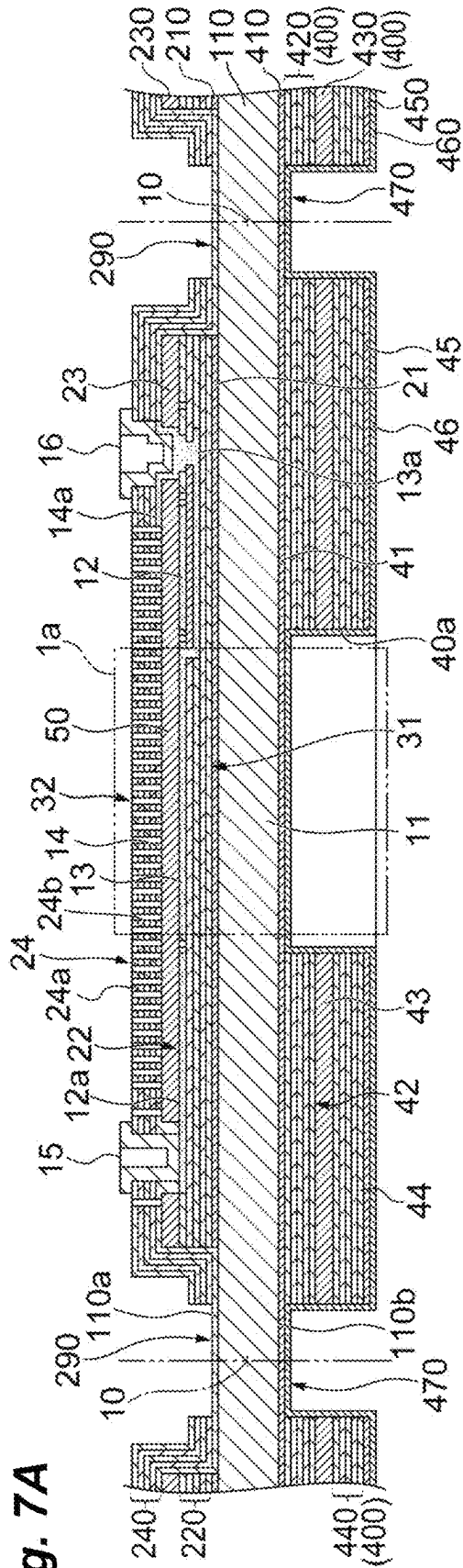


Fig. 6B



**Fig. 7A**



**Fig. 7B**

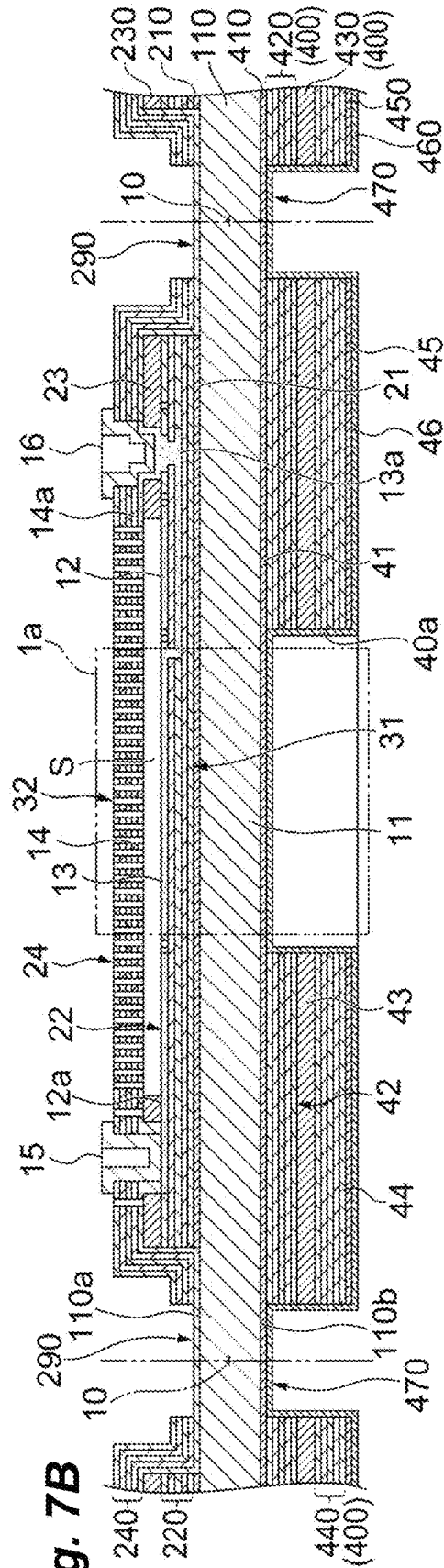


Fig. 8A

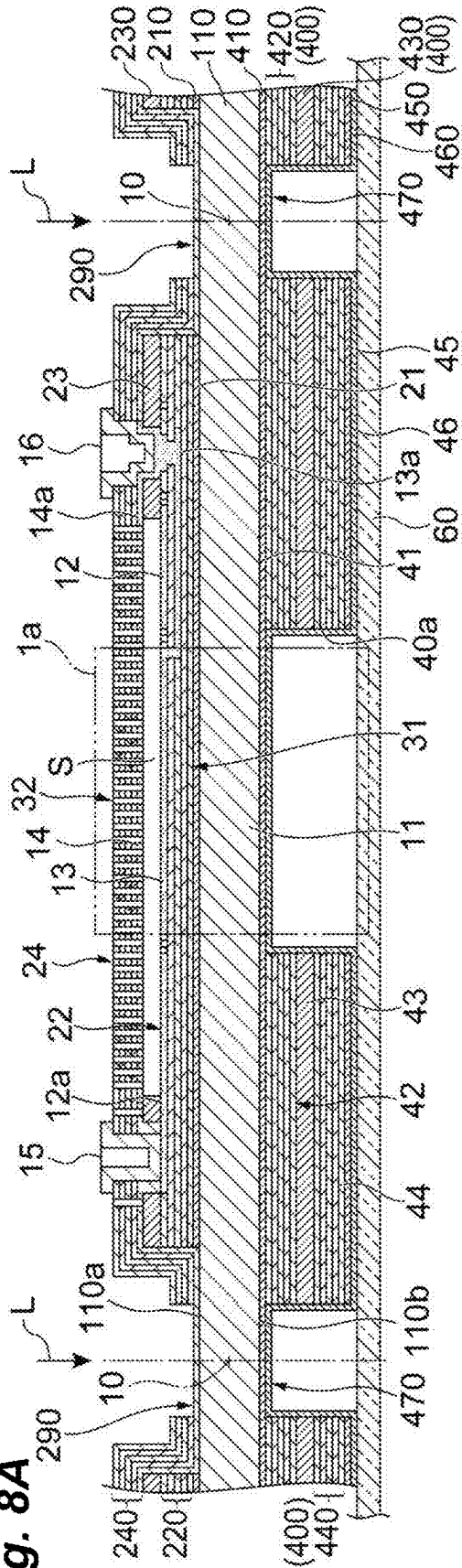
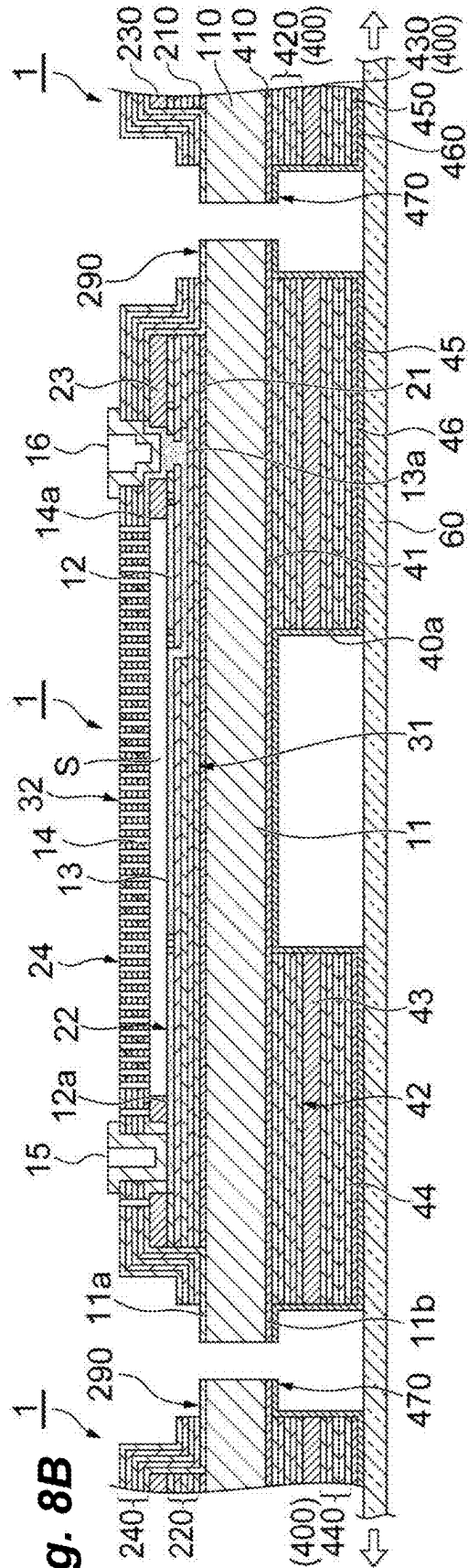
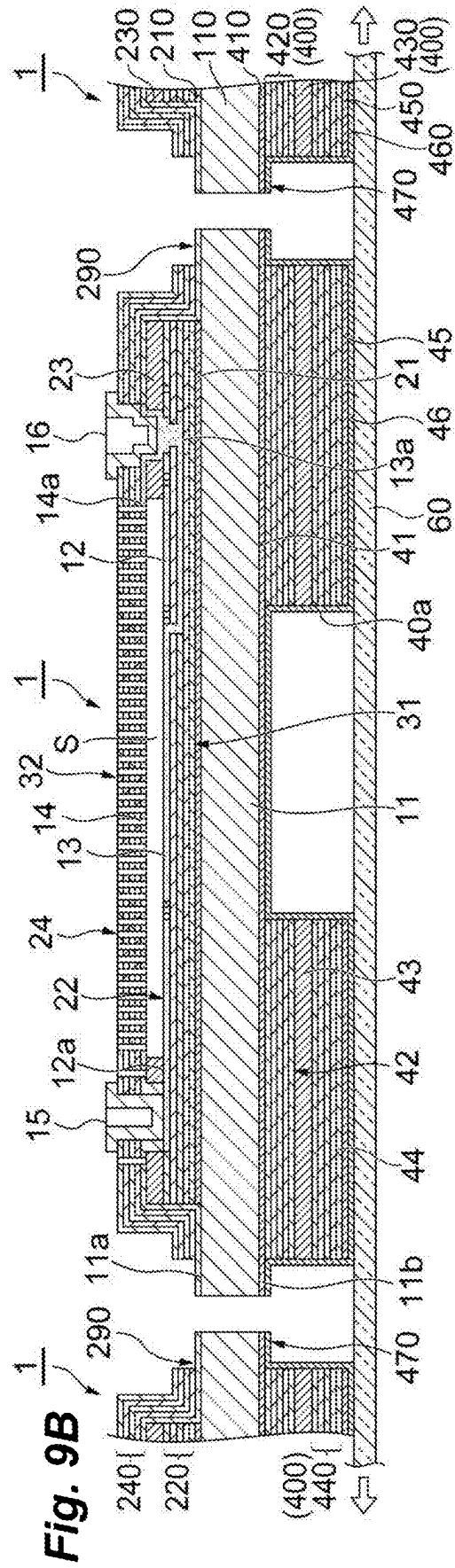
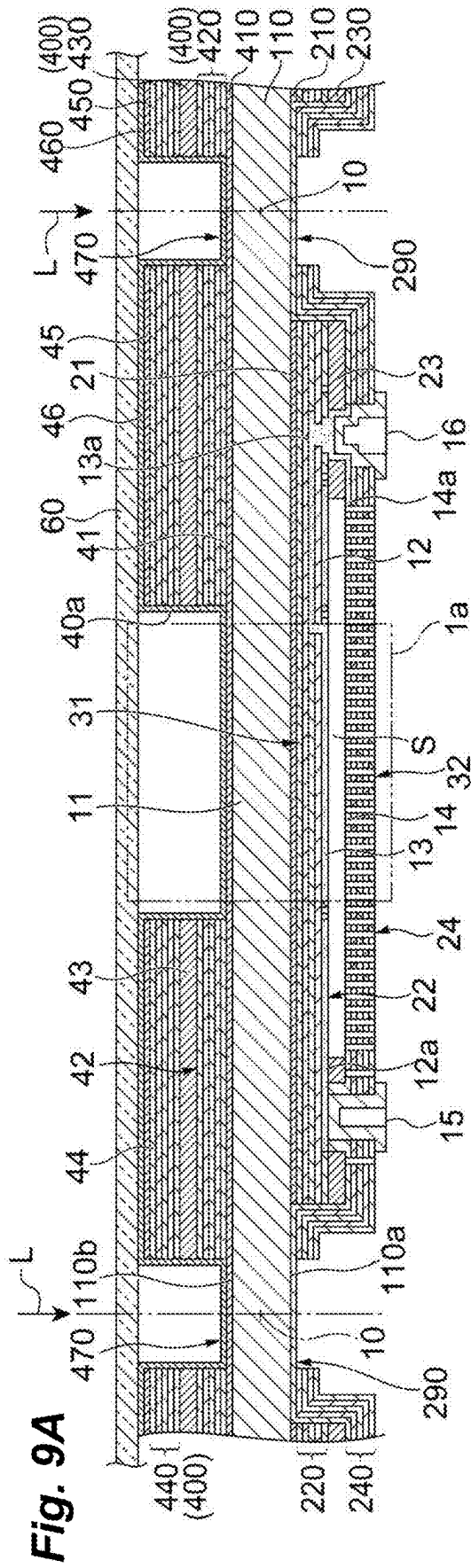


Fig. 8B





## PRODUCTION METHOD FOR FABRY-PEROT INTERFERENCE FILTER

### CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/065,856, filed Jun. 25, 2018, which is a 371 of International Application No. PCT/JP2017/017167, filed May 1, 2017, which claims the benefit of Japanese Patent Application No. 2016-106269, filed May 27, 2016, and Japanese Patent Application No. 2016-163928, filed Aug. 24, 2016, the entire contents of each of which is incorporated herewith by reference.

### TECHNICAL FIELD

The present disclosure relates to a method of manufacturing a Fabry-Perot interference filter.

### BACKGROUND ART

In the related art, a Fabry-Perot interference filter, which includes a substrate, a fixed mirror and a movable mirror facing each other with a gap interposed therebetween on the substrate, and an intermediate layer defining the gap, is known (for example, refer to Patent Literature 1).

### CITATION LIST

#### Patent Literature

Patent Literature 1: Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 2013-506154

### SUMMARY OF INVENTION

#### Technical Problem

Since a Fabry-Perot interference filter as described above is a fine structure, it is difficult to improve both manufacturing efficiency and a yield when a Fabry-Perot interference filter is manufactured.

Accordingly, an object of the present disclosure is to provide a method of manufacturing a Fabry-Perot interference filter, in which both manufacturing efficiency and a yield can be improved.

#### Solution to Problem

According to an aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a method of manufacturing a Fabry-Perot interference filter including a forming step of forming a first thinned region in the forming step, a first mirror layer having a plurality of first mirror portions each of which is expected to function as a fixed mirror, a sacrificial layer having a plurality of portions expected to be removed, and a second mirror layer having a plurality of second mirror portions each of which is expected to function as a movable mirror are formed on a first main surface of a wafer expected to be cut into a plurality of substrates along each of a plurality of lines such that one first mirror portion, one portion expected to be removed, and one second mirror portion are disposed in this order from one substrate side, and the first thinned region in which at least one of the first mirror layer, the sacrificial layer, and the second mirror layer is partially thinned along each of the plurality of lines is formed; a

cutting step of cutting the wafer into the plurality of substrates along each of the plurality of lines by forming a modified region within the wafer along each of the plurality of lines through irradiation of a laser light and extending a crack in a thickness direction of the wafer from the modified region, after the forming step; and a removing step of removing the portion expected to be removed from the sacrificial layer through etching, between the forming step and the cutting step or after the cutting step.

In the method of manufacturing a Fabry-Perot interference filter, after forming the first thinned region in which at least one of the first mirror layer, the sacrificial layer, and the second mirror layer is partially thinned along each of the lines, the modified region is formed within the wafer along each of the lines through irradiation of a laser light. Accordingly, scattering or the like of a laser light is prevented so that the modified region can be reliably formed within the wafer.

Moreover, since at least one of the first mirror layer, the sacrificial layer, and the second mirror layer is partially thinned along each of the lines, it is possible to prevent damage from being caused in the first mirror layer, the sacrificial layer, and the second mirror layer when a wafer is cut into a plurality of substrates along each of the lines. Thus, according to the method of manufacturing a Fabry-Perot interference filter, both manufacturing efficiency and a yield can be improved. The “first thinned region” includes a region from which all of the parts along each of the lines in the first mirror layer, the sacrificial layer, and the second mirror layer are removed.

According to the aspect of the present disclosure, in the method of manufacturing a Fabry-Perot interference filter, in the forming step, a stress adjustment layer may be formed on a second main surface of the wafer, and a second thinned region in which the stress adjustment layer is partially thinned along each of the plurality of lines may be formed. According to this configuration, it is possible to prevent warping of the wafer caused by discordance of a layer configuration between the first main surface side and the second main surface side. Moreover, since the stress adjustment layer is partially thinned along each of the lines, it is possible to prevent damage from being caused in the stress adjustment layer when a wafer is cut into a plurality of substrates along each of the lines. The “second thinned region” includes a region from which all of the parts along each of the lines in the stress adjustment layer are removed.

According to the aspect of the present disclosure, in the method of manufacturing a Fabry-Perot interference filter, in the cutting step, the crack may be extended in the thickness direction of the wafer from the modified region by expanding an expanding tape attached to the stress adjustment layer side. According to this configuration, it is possible to prevent damage from being caused due to the attached expanding tape in the second mirror layer having the plurality of second mirror portions each of which is expected to function as the movable mirror. Moreover, since an expanding force of the expanding tape is likely to be concentrated in the modified region and a part in the vicinity thereof due to the presence of the second thinned region, the crack can be easily extended in the thickness direction of the wafer from the modified region.

According to the aspect of the present disclosure, in the method of manufacturing a Fabry-Perot interference filter, in the cutting step, in a state in which the expanding tape is attached to the stress adjustment layer side, the laser light may be incident on the wafer from a side opposite to the expanding tape. According to this configuration, scattering,

attenuation, or the like of a laser light caused by the expanding tape is prevented so that the modified region can be reliably formed within the wafer along each of the lines.

According to the aspect of the present disclosure, in the method of manufacturing a Fabry-Perot interference filter, in the cutting step, in a state in which the expanding tape is attached to the stress adjustment layer side, the laser light may be incident on the wafer through the expanding tape from the expanding tape side. According to this configuration, for example, even if particles fall due to their own weight when irradiation of a laser light is performed from above, the expanding tape functions as a cover. Therefore, it is possible to prevent such particles from adhering to the second mirror layer or the like.

According to the aspect of the present disclosure, in the method of manufacturing a Fabry-Perot interference filter, the removing step may be carried out between the forming step and the cutting step. According to this configuration, since the removing step of removing the portion expected to be removed from the sacrificial layer through etching is carried out at wafer level, compared to a case in which the removing step is individually carried out at chip level, it is possible to form a gap between the first mirror portion and the second mirror portion in a remarkably efficient way. At this time, although parts respectively corresponding to the plurality of second mirror portions in the second mirror layer are in a state of floating in the gap, the following cutting step is carried out through irradiation of a laser light. Therefore, it is possible to effectively prevent a situation in which the second mirror portions floating in the gap become damaged.

According to the aspect of the present disclosure, in the method of manufacturing a Fabry-Perot interference filter, in the forming step, after a part along each of the plurality of lines in the sacrificial layer formed on the first mirror layer is thinned, side surfaces of the sacrificial layer facing each other along each of the plurality of lines may be covered with the second mirror layer by forming the second mirror layer on the sacrificial layer. According to this configuration, it is possible to prevent a part of the side surfaces of the sacrificial layer from being removed when the portion expected to be removed is removed from the sacrificial layer through etching. Moreover, in a manufactured Fabry-Perot interference filter, it is possible to prevent light which becomes stray light from being incident from the side surface of an intermediate layer corresponding to the side surface of the sacrificial layer.

According to the aspect of the present disclosure, in the method of manufacturing a Fabry-Perot interference filter, in the forming step, a part along each of the plurality of lines in at least one of the first mirror layer, the sacrificial layer, and the second mirror layer may be thinned such that a surface of at least one layer configuring the first mirror layer or the second mirror layer is exposed. In the cutting step, the laser light may be incident on the wafer through the surface of the layer. According to this configuration, the first main surface of the wafer is protected by at least one layer configuring the first mirror layer or the second mirror layer, and flatness of a surface, on which a laser light is incident, is maintained. Therefore, scattering or the like of a laser light is prevented so that the modified region can be more reliably formed within the wafer.

#### Advantageous Effects of Invention

According to the present disclosure, it is possible to provide a method of manufacturing a Fabry-Perot interference filter, in which both manufacturing efficiency and a yield can be improved.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a plan view of a Fabry-Perot interference filter of an embodiment.

FIG. 2 is a bottom view of the Fabry-Perot interference filter in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the Fabry-Perot interference filter taken along line in FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is a plan view of a wafer used in a method of manufacturing the Fabry-Perot interference filter in FIG. 1.

FIGS. 5A and 5B are cross-sectional views for describing the method of manufacturing the Fabry-Perot interference filter in FIG. 1.

FIGS. 6A and 6B are cross-sectional views for describing the method of manufacturing the Fabry-Perot interference filter in FIG. 1.

FIGS. 7A and 7B are cross-sectional views for describing the method of manufacturing the Fabry-Perot interference filter in FIG. 1.

FIGS. 8A and 8B are cross-sectional views for describing the method of manufacturing the Fabry-Perot interference filter in FIG. 1.

FIGS. 9A and 9B are cross-sectional views for describing the method of manufacturing the Fabry-Perot interference filter in FIG. 1.

#### DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENT

Hereinafter, an embodiment of the present disclosure will be described in detail with reference to the drawings. In all the drawings, the same or equivalent portions are denoted with the same reference numerals and duplicated description is omitted.

##### [Configuration of Fabry-Perot Interference Filter]

As illustrated in FIGS. 1, 2, and 3, a Fabry-Perot interference filter 1 includes a substrate 11. The substrate 11 has a first surface 11a and a second surface 11b facing the first surface 11a. On the first surface 11a, a reflection prevention layer 21, a first laminate (first layer) 22, an intermediate layer 23, and a second laminate (second layer) 24 are laminated in this order. A gap (air gap) S is defined between the first laminate 22 and the second laminate 24 by the frame-shaped intermediate layer 23.

The shape and the positional relationship of each portion in a case of being seen in a direction perpendicular to the first surface 11a (plan view) are as follows. For example, an outer edge of the substrate 11 has a rectangular shape. The outer edge of the substrate 11 and an outer edge of the second laminate 24 coincide with each other. An outer edge of the reflection prevention layer 21, an outer edge of the first laminate 22, and an outer edge of the intermediate layer 23 coincide with each other. The substrate 11 has an outer edge portion 11c positioned on an outer side of the outer edge of the intermediate layer 23 with respect to the center of the gap S. For example, the outer edge portion 11c has a frame shape and surrounds the intermediate layer 23 in a case of being seen in a direction perpendicular to the first surface 11a.

In the Fabry-Perot interference filter 1, light having a predetermined wavelength is transmitted through a light transmission region 1a defined in a center portion thereof.

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For example, the light transmission region **1a** is a columnar region. For example, the substrate **11** is made of silicon, quartz, or glass. When the substrate **11** is made of silicon, the reflection prevention layer **21** and the intermediate layer **23** are made of silicon oxide, for example. The thickness of the intermediate layer **23** ranges from several tens of nm to several tens of  $\mu\text{m}$ , for example.

A part corresponding to the light transmission region **1a** in the first laminate **22** functions as a first mirror portion **31**. The first mirror portion **31** is disposed on the first surface **11a** with the reflection prevention layer **21** interposed therebetween. The first laminate **22** is configured to have a plurality of polysilicon layers **25** and a plurality of silicon nitride layers **26** which are alternately laminated one by one. In the present embodiment, a polysilicon layer **25a**, a silicon nitride layer **26a**, a polysilicon layer **25b**, a silicon nitride layer **26b**, and a polysilicon layer **25c** are laminated on the reflection prevention layer **21** in this order. The optical thickness of each of the polysilicon layer **25** and the silicon nitride layer **26** configuring the first mirror portion **31** is preferably an integral multiple of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a center transmission wavelength. The first mirror portion **31** may be directly disposed on the first surface **11a** without the reflection prevention layer **21** interposed therebetween.

A part corresponding to the light transmission region **1a** in the second laminate **24** functions as a second mirror portion **32**. The second mirror portion **32** faces the first mirror portion **31** with the gap **S** interposed therebetween on a side opposite to the substrate **11** with respect to the first mirror portion **31**. The second laminate **24** is disposed on the first surface **11a** with the reflection prevention layer **21**, the first laminate **22**, and the intermediate layer **23** interposed therebetween. The second laminate **24** is configured to include a plurality of polysilicon layers **27** and a plurality of silicon nitride layers **28** which are alternately laminated one by one. In the present embodiment, a polysilicon layer **27a**, a silicon nitride layer **28a**, a polysilicon layer **27b**, a silicon nitride layer **28b**, and a polysilicon layer **27c** are laminated on the intermediate layer **23** in this order. The optical thickness of each of the polysilicon layer **27** and the silicon nitride layer **28** configuring the second mirror portion **32** is preferably an integral multiple of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the center transmission wavelength.

In the first laminate **22** and the second laminate **24**, silicon oxide layers may be used in place of the silicon nitride layers. In addition, as the material of each layer configuring the first laminate **22** and the second laminate **24**, titanium oxide, tantalum oxide, zirconium oxide, magnesium fluoride, aluminum oxide, calcium fluoride, silicon, germanium, zinc sulfide, or the like may be used.

In a part corresponding to the gap **S** in the second laminate **24**, a plurality of through-holes **24b** leading from a surface **24a** of the second laminate **24** on a side opposite to the intermediate layer **23** to the gap **S** are formed. The plurality of through-holes **24b** are formed so as not to substantially affect the function of the second mirror portion **32**. The plurality of through-holes **24b** are used for forming the gap **S** by removing a part of the intermediate layer **23** through etching.

In addition to the second mirror portion **32**, the second laminate **24** further has a covering portion **33** and a peripheral edge portion **34**. The second mirror portion **32**, the covering portion **33**, and the peripheral edge portion **34** are integrally formed to have a part of the same laminated structure as each other and to be connected to each other. The covering portion **33** surrounds the second mirror portion **32** in a case of being seen in a direction perpendicular to the

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first surface **11a**. The covering portion **33** covers a surface **23a** of the intermediate layer **23** on a side opposite to the substrate **11**, a side surface **23b** of the intermediate layer **23** (a side surface on the outer side, that is, a side surface on a side opposite to the gap **S** side), a side surface **22a** of the first laminate **22**, and a side surface **21a** of the reflection prevention layer **21** and leads to the first surface **11a**. That is, the covering portion **33** covers the outer edge of the intermediate layer **23**, the outer edge of the first laminate **22**, and the outer edge of the reflection prevention layer **21**.

The peripheral edge portion **34** surrounds the covering portion **33** in a case of being seen in a direction perpendicular to the first surface **11a**. The peripheral edge portion **34** is positioned on the first surface **11a** in the outer edge portion **11c**. An outer edge of the peripheral edge portion **34** coincides with the outer edge of the substrate **11** in a case of being seen in a direction perpendicular to the first surface **11a**.

The peripheral edge portion **34** is thinned along an outer edge of the outer edge portion **11c**. That is, a part along the outer edge of the outer edge portion **11c** in the peripheral edge portion **34** is thinned compared to other parts excluding the part along the outer edge in the peripheral edge portion **34**. In the present embodiment, the peripheral edge portion **34** is thinned by removing a part of the polysilicon layer **27** and the silicon nitride layer **28** configuring the second laminate **24**. The peripheral edge portion **34** has a non-thinned portion **34a** connected to the covering portion **33**, and a thinned portion **34b** surrounding the non-thinned portion **34a**. In the thinned portion **34b**, the polysilicon layer **27** and the silicon nitride layer **28** excluding the polysilicon layer **27a** directly provided on the first surface **11a** are removed.

The height of a surface **34c** of the non-thinned portion **34a** on a side opposite to the substrate **11** from the first surface **11a** is lower than the height of the surface **23a** of the intermediate layer **23** from the first surface **11a**. The height of the surface **34c** of the non-thinned portion **34a** from the first surface **11a** ranges from 100 nm to 5,000 nm, for example. The height of the surface **23a** of the intermediate layer **23** from the first surface **11a** is a height greater than the height of the surface **34c** of the non-thinned portion **34a** from the first surface **11a** within a range from 500 nm to 20,000 nm, for example. The width of the thinned portion **34b** (distance between an outer edge of the non-thinned portion **34a** and the outer edge of the outer edge portion **11c**) is equal to or greater than 0.01 times the thickness of the substrate **11**. The width of the thinned portion **34b** ranges from 5  $\mu\text{m}$  to 400  $\mu\text{m}$ , for example. The thickness of the substrate **11** ranges from 500  $\mu\text{m}$  to 800  $\mu\text{m}$ , for example.

A first electrode **12** is formed in the first mirror portion **31** such that the light transmission region **1a** is surrounded. The first electrode **12** is formed by doping impurities into the polysilicon layer **25c** and decreasing resistance. A second electrode **13** is formed in the first mirror portion **31** such that the light transmission region **1a** is included. The second electrode **13** is formed by doping impurities into the polysilicon layer **25c** and decreasing resistance. The size of the second electrode **13** is preferably a size for including the entirety of the light transmission region **1a**. However, the size may be approximately the same as the size of the light transmission region **1a**.

A third electrode **14** is formed in the second mirror portion **32**. The third electrode **14** faces the first electrode **12** and the second electrode **13** with the gap **S** interposed therebetween. The third electrode **14** is formed by doping impurities into the polysilicon layer **27a** and decreasing resistance.

A pair of terminals **15** is provided to face each other while having the light transmission region **1a** therebetween. Each of the terminals **15** is disposed inside a through-hole leading from the surface **24a** of the second laminate **24** to the first laminate **22**. Each of the terminals **15** is electrically connected to the first electrode **12** via a wiring **12a**. For example, the terminals **15** are formed from a metal film made of aluminum or an alloy thereof.

A pair of terminals **16** is provided to face each other while having the light transmission region **1a** therebetween. Each of the terminals **16** is disposed inside a through-hole leading from the surface **24a** of the second laminate **24** to the first laminate **22**. Each of the terminals **16** is electrically connected to the second electrode **13** via a wiring **13a** and is electrically connected to the third electrode **14** via a wiring **14a**. For example, the terminals **16** are formed from a metal film made of aluminum or an alloy thereof. The facing direction of the pair of terminals **15** and the facing direction of the pair of terminals **16** are orthogonal to each other (refer to FIG. 1).

Trenches **17** and **18** are provided on a surface **22b** of the first laminate **22**. The trench **17** annularly extends to surround a connection part with respect to the terminals **16** in the wiring **13a**. The trench **17** electrically insulates the first electrode **12** and the wiring **13a** from each other. The trench **18** annularly extends along an inner edge of the first electrode **12**. The trench **18** electrically insulates the first electrode **12** and a region of the first electrode **12** on an inner side (second electrode **13**). Each of the regions within the trenches **17** and **18** may be an insulating material or a gap.

A trench **19** is provided on the surface **24a** of the second laminate **24**. The trench **19** annularly extends to surround the terminals **15**. The trench **19** electrically insulates the terminals **15** and the third electrode **14**. The region inside the trench **19** may be an insulating material or a gap.

A reflection prevention layer **41**, a third laminate (third layer) **42**, an intermediate layer (third layer) **43**, and a fourth laminate (third layer) **44** are laminated on the second surface **11b** of the substrate **11** in this order. The reflection prevention layer **41** and the intermediate layer **43** each have a configuration similar to that of the reflection prevention layer **21** and the intermediate layer **23**. The third laminate **42** and the fourth laminate **44** each have a laminated structure symmetrical to that of the first laminate **22** and the second laminate **24** based on the substrate **11**. The reflection prevention layer **41**, the third laminate **42**, the intermediate layer **43**, and the fourth laminate **44** have a function of preventing warping of the substrate **11**.

The third laminate **42**, the intermediate layer **43**, and the fourth laminate **44** are thinned along the outer edge of the outer edge portion **11c**. That is, the part along the outer edge of the outer edge portion **11c** in the third laminate **42**, the intermediate layer **43**, and the fourth laminate **44** is thinned compared to other parts excluding the part along the outer edge in the third laminate **42**, the intermediate layer **43**, and the fourth laminate **44**. In the present embodiment, the third laminate **42**, the intermediate layer **43**, and the fourth laminate **44** are thinned by removing the entirety of the third laminate **42**, the intermediate layer **43**, and the fourth laminate **44** in a part overlapping the thinned portion **34b** in a case of being seen in a direction perpendicular to the first surface **11a**.

An opening **40a** is provided in the third laminate **42**, the intermediate layer **43**, and the fourth laminate **44** such that the light transmission region **1a** is included. The opening **40a** has a diameter approximately the same as the size of the light transmission region **1a**. The opening **40a** is open on a

light emission side, and the bottom surface of the opening **40a** leads to the reflection prevention layer **41**.

A light shielding layer **45** is formed on a surface of the fourth laminate **44** on the light emission side. For example, the light shielding layer **45** is made of aluminum. A protective layer **46** is formed on a surface of the light shielding layer **45** and an inner surface of the opening **40a**. The protective layer **46** covers the outer edges of the third laminate **42**, the intermediate layer **43**, the fourth laminate **44**, and the light shielding layer **45** and covers the reflection prevention layer **41** on the outer edge portion **11c**. For example, the protective layer **46** is made of aluminum oxide. Optical influence due to the protective layer **46** can be disregarded by causing the thickness of the protective layer **46** to range from 1 to 100 nm (preferably, approximately 30 nm).

In the Fabry-Perot interference filter **1** configured as described above, if a voltage is applied to a location between the first electrode **12** and the third electrode **14** via the terminals **15** and **16**, an electrostatic force corresponding to the voltage is generated between the first electrode **12** and the third electrode **14**. The second mirror portion **32** is attracted to the first mirror portion **31** side fixed to the substrate **11** due to the electrostatic force, and the distance between the first mirror portion **31** and the second mirror portion **32** is adjusted. In this way, in the Fabry-Perot interference filter **1**, the distance between the first mirror portion **31** and the second mirror portion **32** is changeable.

The wavelength of light transmitted through the Fabry-Perot interference filter **1** depends on the distance between the first mirror portion **31** and the second mirror portion **32** in the light transmission region **1a**. Therefore, the wavelength of transmitting light can be suitably selected by adjusting the voltage to be applied to a location between the first electrode **12** and the third electrode **14**. At this time, the second electrode **13** has the same potential as the third electrode **14**. Therefore, the second electrode **13** functions as a compensation electrode to keep the first mirror portion **31** and the second mirror portion **32** flat in the light transmission region **1a**.

In the Fabry-Perot interference filter **1**, for example, a spectroscopic spectrum can be obtained by detecting light transmitted through the light transmission region **1a** of the Fabry-Perot interference filter **1** using a light detector while the voltage to be applied to the Fabry-Perot interference filter **1** is changed (that is, while the distance between the first mirror portion **31** and the second mirror portion **32** is changed in the Fabry-Perot interference filter **1**).

As described above, in the Fabry-Perot interference filter **1**, in addition to the second mirror portion **32**, the second laminate **24** further includes the covering portion **33** covering the intermediate layer **23**, and the peripheral edge portion **34** positioned on the first surface **11a** in the outer edge portion **11c**. The second mirror portion **32**, the covering portion **33**, and the peripheral edge portion **34** are integrally formed in a manner of being connected to each other. Accordingly, the intermediate layer **23** is covered with the second laminate **24**, so that peeling off of the intermediate layer **23** is prevented. In addition, since the intermediate layer **23** is covered with the second laminate **24**, even when the gap **S** is formed in the intermediate layer **23** through etching, for example, deterioration of the intermediate layer **23** is prevented. As a result, stability of the intermediate layer **23** is improved. Moreover, in the Fabry-Perot interference filter **1**, the peripheral edge portion **34** is thinned along the outer edge of the outer edge portion **11c**. Accordingly, for example, even when a wafer including a part



corresponding to the substrate **11** is cut along the outer edge of the outer edge portion **11c** and the Fabry-Perot interference filter **1** is obtained, deterioration of each layer on the substrate **11** is prevented. As a result, stability of each layer on a substrate is improved. As described above, according to the Fabry-Perot interference filter **1**, it is possible to prevent peeling caused in each layer on the substrate **11**. Moreover, in the Fabry-Perot interference filter **1**, since the side surface **23b** of the intermediate layer **23** is covered with the second laminate **24**, light entering from the side surface **23b** of the intermediate layer **23** can be prevented, so that it is possible to prevent generation of stray light.

In addition, in the Fabry-Perot interference filter **1**, the covering portion **33** covers the outer edge of the first laminate **22**. Accordingly, it is possible to more reliably prevent peeling of the first laminate **22**. Moreover, for example, even when a wafer including a part corresponding to the substrate **11** is cut along the outer edge of the outer edge portion **11c** and the Fabry-Perot interference filter **1** is obtained, it is possible to more favorably prevent deterioration of the first laminate **22**.

In addition, in the Fabry-Perot interference filter **1**, an outer edge of the silicon nitride layer **26** included in the first laminate **22** is covered with the covering portion **33**. Accordingly, the silicon nitride layer **26** of the first laminate **22** is not exposed to the outside. Therefore, for example, even when the gap **S** is formed in the intermediate layer **23** through etching using hydrofluoric acid gas, it is possible to prevent a residue from being generated due to reaction between the hydrofluoric acid gas and the silicon nitride layer **26**.

In addition, in the Fabry-Perot interference filter **1**, since a part of the polysilicon layer **27** and the silicon nitride layer **28** configuring the second laminate **24** is removed, the Fabry-Perot interference filter **1** is thinned along the outer edge of the outer edge portion **11c**. Accordingly, the first surface **11a** of the substrate **11** can be protected by the part remaining without being removed in the polysilicon layer **27** and the silicon nitride layer **28** configuring the second laminate **24**. Moreover, in the Fabry-Perot interference filter **1**, only the polysilicon layer **27a** remains in the thinned portion **34b**. Accordingly, the surface of the thinned portion **34b** becomes smooth. Therefore, for example, even when a laser light is converged within a wafer along the outer edge of the outer edge portion **11c** in order to cut the wafer including a part corresponding to the substrate **11** along the outer edge of the outer edge portion **11c**, the laser light can be favorably converged within the wafer and the wafer can be precisely cut, so that it is possible to more favorably prevent deterioration of each layer on the substrate **11**.

In addition, in the Fabry-Perot interference filter **1**, the third laminate **42** and the fourth laminate **44** are disposed on the second surface **11b** of the substrate **11**, and the third laminate **42** and the fourth laminate **44** are thinned along the outer edge of the outer edge portion **11c**. Accordingly, it is possible to prevent warping of the substrate **11** caused by discordance of the layer configuration between the first surface **11a** side and the second surface **11b** side of the substrate **11**. Moreover, for example, even when a wafer including a part corresponding to the substrate **11** is cut along the outer edge of the outer edge portion **11c** and the Fabry-Perot interference filter **1** is obtained, deterioration of the third laminate **42** and the fourth laminate **44** is prevented. As a result, stability of each layer on the substrate **11** is improved.

[Method of Manufacturing Fabry-Perot Interference Filter]

First, as illustrated in FIG. **4**, a wafer **110** is prepared. The wafer **110** is a wafer including parts corresponding to a plurality of substrates **11** arranged in a two-dimensional state and being expected to be cut into the plurality of substrates **11** along each of a plurality of lines **10**. The wafer **110** has a first main surface **110a** and a second main surface **110b** facing each other. For example, the wafer **110** is made of silicon, quartz, or glass. As an example, when each of the substrates **11** exhibits a rectangular shape in a case of being seen in a direction perpendicular to the first main surface **110a**, the plurality of substrates **11** are arranged in a two-dimensional matrix state, and the plurality of lines **10** are set in a lattice state to pass through a location between the substrates **11** adjacent to each other.

Subsequently, as illustrated in FIGS. **5A** to **7A**, a forming step is carried out. In the forming step, a reflection prevention layer **210**, a first mirror layer **220**, a sacrificial layer **230**, a second mirror layer **240**, and a first thinned region **290** are formed on the first main surface **110a** of the wafer **110** (refer to FIG. **7A**). In addition, in the forming step, a stress adjustment layer **400**, a light shielding layer **450**, a protective layer **460**, and a second thinned region **470** are formed on the second main surface **110b** of the wafer **110** (refer to FIG. **7A**).

Specifically, as illustrated in FIG. **5A**, the reflection prevention layer **210** is formed on the first main surface **110a** of the wafer **110**, and a reflection prevention layer **410** is formed on the second main surface **110b** of the wafer **110**. The reflection prevention layer **210** is a layer expected to be cut into a plurality of reflection prevention layers **21** along each of the lines **10**. The reflection prevention layer **410** is a layer expected to be cut into a plurality of reflection prevention layers **41** along each of the lines **10**.

Subsequently, a plurality of polysilicon layers and a plurality of silicon nitride layers are alternately laminated on each of the reflection prevention layers **210** and **410**, so that the first mirror layer **220** is formed on the reflection prevention layer **210** and a layer **420** configuring the stress adjustment layer **400** is formed on the reflection prevention layer **410**. The first mirror layer **220** is a layer having a plurality of first mirror portions **31** each of which is expected to function as a fixed mirror and is a layer expected to be cut into a plurality of first laminates **22** along each of the lines **10**. The layer **420** configuring the stress adjustment layer **400** is a layer expected to be cut into a plurality of third laminates **42** along each of the lines **10**.

When the first mirror layer **220** is formed, a part along each of the lines **10** in the first mirror layer **220** is removed through etching, such that the surface of the reflection prevention layer **210** is exposed. In addition, a predetermined polysilicon layer in the first mirror layer **220** is partially decreased in resistance by doping impurities, so that the first electrode **12**, the second electrode **13**, and the wirings **12a** and **13a** are formed in each part corresponding to the substrate **11**. Moreover, the trenches **17** and **18** are formed on the surface of the first mirror layer **220** in each part corresponding to the substrate **11** through etching.

Subsequently, as illustrated in FIG. **5B**, the sacrificial layer **230** is formed on the first mirror layer **220** and the exposed surface of the reflection prevention layer **210**, and a layer **430** configuring the stress adjustment layer **400** is formed on the layer **420** configuring the stress adjustment layer **400**. The sacrificial layer **230** is a layer having a plurality of portions **50** expected to be removed and is a layer expected to be cut into a plurality of intermediate layers **23** along each of the lines **10**. The portion **50** expected to be removed is a part corresponding to the gap **S** (refer to

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FIG. 3). The layer 430 configuring the stress adjustment layer 400 is a layer expected to be cut into a plurality of intermediate layers 43 along each of the lines 10.

Subsequently, a part along each of the lines 10 in the sacrificial layer 230 and the reflection prevention layer 210 is removed through etching, such that the first main surface 110a of the wafer 110 is exposed. In addition, through the etching, in each part corresponding to the substrate 11, a gap is formed in a part corresponding to each of the terminals 15 and 16 (refer to FIG. 3) in the sacrificial layer 230.

Subsequently, as illustrated in FIG. 6A, a plurality of polysilicon layers and a plurality of silicon nitride layers are alternately laminated on each of the first main surface 110a side and the second main surface 110b side of the wafer 110, so that the second mirror layer 240 is formed on the sacrificial layer 230 and the exposed first main surface 110a of the wafer 110, and a layer 440 configuring the stress adjustment layer 400 is formed on the layer 430 configuring the stress adjustment layer 400. The second mirror layer 240 is a layer having a plurality of second mirror portions 32 each of which is expected to function as a movable mirror and is a layer expected to be cut into a plurality of second laminates 24 along each of the lines 10. The layer 440 configuring the stress adjustment layer 400 is a layer expected to be cut into a plurality of fourth laminates 44 along each of the lines 10.

When the second mirror layer 240 is formed, side surfaces 230a of the sacrificial layer 230, side surfaces 220a of the first mirror layer 220, and side surface 210a of the reflection prevention layer 210, facing each other along the line 10 are covered with the second mirror layer 240. In addition, a predetermined polysilicon layer in the second mirror layer 240 is partially decreased in resistance by doping impurities, so that the third electrode 14 and the wiring 14a are formed in each part corresponding to the substrate 11.

Subsequently, as illustrated in FIG. 6B, through etching, a part along each of the lines 10 in the second mirror layer 240 is thinned, such that the surface of the polysilicon layer 27a configuring the second mirror layer 240 (refer to FIG. 3) (that is, the polysilicon layer positioned closest to the first main surface 110a side) is exposed (more specifically, such that the surface of the polysilicon layer 27a is exposed in a case of being seen in a direction perpendicular to the first main surface 110a). In addition, through the etching, in each part corresponding to the substrate 11, a gap is formed in a part corresponding to each of the terminals 15 and 16 (refer to FIG. 3) in the second mirror layer 240. Subsequently, in each part corresponding to the substrate 11, the terminals 15 and 16 are formed in the gap, the terminal 15 and the wiring 12a are connected to each other, and the terminal 16 and each of the wiring 13a and the wiring 14a are connected to each other.

Up to this point, the reflection prevention layer 210, the first mirror layer 220, the sacrificial layer 230, the second mirror layer 240, and the first thinned region 290 are formed on the first main surface 110a of the wafer 110. The first thinned region 290 is a region in which the first mirror layer 220, the sacrificial layer 230, and the second mirror layer 240 are partially thinned along each of the lines 10. The reflection prevention layer 210, the first mirror layer 220, the sacrificial layer 230, and the second mirror layer 240 are formed such that one reflection prevention layer 21, one first mirror portion 31, one portion 50 expected to be removed, and one second mirror portion 32 are disposed from one substrate 11 side in this order (that is, in order of one

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reflection prevention layer 21, one first mirror portion 31, one portion 50 expected to be removed, and one second mirror portion 32).

Subsequently, as illustrated in FIG. 7A, in each part corresponding to the substrate 11, the plurality of through-holes 24b leading from the surface 24a of the second laminate 24 to the portion 50 expected to be removed are formed in the second laminate 24 through etching. Subsequently, the light shielding layer 450 is formed on the layer 440 configuring the stress adjustment layer 400. The light shielding layer 450 is a layer expected to be cut into a plurality of light shielding layers 45 along each of the lines 10. Subsequently, a part along each of the lines 10 in the light shielding layer 450 and the stress adjustment layer 400 (that is, the layers 420, 430, and 440) is removed through etching, such that the surface of the reflection prevention layer 410 is exposed. In addition, the opening 40a is formed in each part corresponding to the substrate 11 through the etching. Subsequently, the protective layer 460 is formed on the light shielding layer 450, the exposed surface of the reflection prevention layer 410, an inner surface of the opening 40a, and the side surface of the stress adjustment layer 400 facing the second thinned region 470. The protective layer 460 is a layer expected to be cut into a plurality of protective layers 46 along each of the lines 10.

Up to this point, the stress adjustment layer 400, the light shielding layer 450, the protective layer 460, and the second thinned region 470 are formed on the second main surface 110b of the wafer 110. The second thinned region 470 is a region in which the stress adjustment layer 400 is partially thinned along each of the lines 10.

Subsequent to the forming step described above, as illustrated in FIG. 7B, a removing step is carried out. Specifically, the plurality of portions 50 expected to be removed are removed all at the same time from the sacrificial layer 230 through etching (for example, gas phase etching using hydrofluoric acid gas) through the plurality of through-holes 24b. Accordingly, the gap S is formed in each part corresponding to the substrate 11.

Subsequently, as illustrated in FIGS. 8A and 8B, a cutting step is carried out. Specifically, as illustrated in FIG. 8A, an expanding tape 60 is attached onto the protective layer 460 (that is, to the stress adjustment layer 400 side). Subsequently, in a state in which the expanding tape 60 is attached to the stress adjustment layer 400 side, irradiation of a laser light L is performed from a side opposite to the expanding tape 60, and a converging point of the laser light L is relatively moved along each of the lines 10 while the converging point of the laser light L is positioned within the wafer 110. That is, the laser light L is incident on the wafer 110 from a side opposite to the expanding tape 60 through the surface of the polysilicon layer exposed in the first thinned region 290.

Then, a modified region is formed within the wafer 110 along each of the lines 10 through the irradiation of the laser light L. The modified region indicates a region in which a density, a refractive index, mechanical strength, and other physical characteristics have attained states different from those on the surroundings and indicates a region which becomes a start point of a crack extended in a thickness direction of the wafer 110. Examples of the modified region include molten processed regions (which means at least any one of a region resolidified after melting, a region in a melted state, and a region in the state of being resolidified from the melted state), a crack region, a dielectric breakdown region, a refractive index changed region, and a mixed region thereof. Further, there are a region where the density

of the modified region has changed from that of an unmodified region and a region formed with a lattice defect in a material of the wafer 110 as the modified region. When the material of the wafer 110 is monocrystalline silicon, the modified region can also be referred to as a high dislocation density region. The number of rows of the modified regions arranged in the thickness direction of the wafer 110 with respect to each of the lines 10 is appropriately adjusted based on the thickness of the wafer 110.

Subsequently, as illustrated in FIG. 8B, the expanding tape 60 attached to the stress adjustment layer 400 side is expanded, so that a crack is extended in the thickness direction of the wafer 110 from the modified region formed within the wafer 110, and the wafer 110 is then cut into the plurality of substrates 11 along each of the lines 10. At this time, the polysilicon layer of the second mirror layer 240 is cut along each of the lines 10 in the first thinned region 290, and the reflection prevention layer 410 and the protective layer 460 are cut along each of the lines 10 in the second thinned region 470. Accordingly, a plurality of Fabry-Perot interference filters 1 in a state of being separated from each other on the expanding tape 60 are obtained.

As described above, in a method of manufacturing the Fabry-Perot interference filter 1, after forming the first thinned region 290 in which at least one of the first mirror layer 220, the sacrificial layer 230, and the second mirror layer 240 is partially thinned along each of the lines 10, the modified region is formed within the wafer 110 along each of the lines 10 through irradiation of the laser light L. Accordingly, scattering or the like of the laser light L is prevented so that the modified region can be reliably formed within the wafer 110. Moreover, since at least one of the first mirror layer 220, the sacrificial layer 230, and the second mirror layer 240 is partially thinned along each of the lines 10, it is possible to prevent damage from being caused in the first mirror layer 220, the sacrificial layer 230, and the second mirror layer 240 when the wafer 110 is cut into the plurality of substrates 11 along each of the lines 10 (if the first thinned region 290 is not formed, an impact, stress, or the like is transferred to the first mirror layer 220, the sacrificial layer 230, and the second mirror layer 240 so that damage is likely to be caused when the wafer 110 is cut into the plurality of substrates 11 along each of the lines 10). Thus, according to the method of manufacturing the Fabry-Perot interference filter 1, both manufacturing efficiency and a yield can be improved, and the Fabry-Perot interference filter 1 with high quality can be stably mass-produced.

In addition, in the method of manufacturing the Fabry-Perot interference filter 1, in the forming step, the stress adjustment layer 400 is formed on the second main surface 110b of the wafer 110, and the second thinned region 470 in which the stress adjustment layer 400 is partially thinned along each of the lines 10 is formed. Accordingly, it is possible to prevent warping of the wafer 110 caused by discordance of the layer configuration between the first main surface 110a side and the second main surface 110b side. Moreover, since the stress adjustment layer 400 is partially thinned along each of the lines 10, it is possible to prevent damage from being caused in the stress adjustment layer 400 such as a part on the periphery of the opening 40a when the wafer 110 is cut into the plurality of substrates 11 along each of the lines 10, (if the second thinned region 470 is not formed, an impact, stress, or the like is transferred to the stress adjustment layer 400 such as a part on the periphery of the opening 40a so that damage is likely to be caused when the wafer 110 is cut into the plurality of substrates 11 along each of the lines 10).

Particularly, in the Fabry-Perot interference filter 1, since the first mirror layer 220, the sacrificial layer 230, and the second mirror layer 240 formed on the first main surface 110a of the wafer 110, and the stress adjustment layer 400 formed on the second main surface 110b of the wafer 110 are thin and elaborate layer structures, if the first thinned region 290 and the second thinned region 470 are not formed before the cutting step is carried out, damage is likely to be caused in the layer structure in the cutting step. This becomes noticeable because a force acts such that the layer structure is torn off when carrying out the cutting step in which the crack is extended from the modified region by expanding the expanding tape 60. In the method of manufacturing the Fabry-Perot interference filter 1, the first thinned region 290 and the second thinned region 470 are formed before the cutting step is carried out, so that it is possible to carry out laser processing with less contamination during a dry process (internal processing-type laser processing for forming a modified region within the wafer 110) while damage is prevented from being caused in the layer structure.

The above description is based on the following knowledge found out by the inventor, such as “although each of the first mirror layer 220, the sacrificial layer 230, the second mirror layer 240, and the stress adjustment layer 400 has a thin layer structure, it is difficult to stably form a modified region leading to the within of the layers thereof through irradiation of the laser light L” and “in contrast, since each of the first mirror layer 220, the sacrificial layer 230, the second mirror layer 240, and the stress adjustment layer 400 has a thin layer structure, the layers are likely to be torn off and be greatly damaged unless the first thinned region 290 and the second thinned region 470 are formed”.

In addition, in the method of manufacturing the Fabry-Perot interference filter 1, the forming step is carried out to form the first mirror layer 220, the sacrificial layer 230, the second mirror layer 240, and the first thinned region 290 on the first main surface 110a of the wafer 110 and to form the stress adjustment layer 400 and the second thinned region 470 on the second main surface 110b of the wafer 110. Thereafter, the removing step is carried out to remove the portion 50 expected to be removed from the sacrificial layer 230. Accordingly, the removing step is carried out in a state in which internal stress of the wafer 110 is reduced. Therefore, it is possible to prevent a strain, deformation, or the like from being generated in the first mirror portion 31 and the second mirror portion 32 facing each other through the gap S. For example, if at least forming of the second thinned region 470 is carried out after the portion 50 expected to be removed is removed from the sacrificial layer 230, a strain, deformation, or the like is likely to be generated in the first mirror portion 31 and the second mirror portion 32 facing each other through the gap S, so that it is difficult to obtain the Fabry-Perot interference filter 1 having desired characteristics.

In addition, in the method of manufacturing the Fabry-Perot interference filter 1, in the cutting step, the crack is extended in the thickness direction of the wafer 110 from the modified region by expanding the expanding tape 60 attached to the stress adjustment layer 400 side. Accordingly, it is possible to prevent damage from being caused due to the attached expanding tape 60 in the second mirror layer 240 having the plurality of second mirror portions 32 each of which is expected to function as the movable mirror. Moreover, since an expanding force of the expanding tape 60 is likely to be concentrated in the modified region and a part in the vicinity thereof due to the presence of the second

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thinned region 470, the crack can be easily extended in the thickness direction of the wafer 110 from the modified region.

In addition, in the method of manufacturing the Fabry-Perot interference filter 1, in the cutting step, in a state in which the expanding tape 60 is attached to the stress adjustment layer 400 side, the laser light L is incident on the wafer 110 from a side opposite to the expanding tape 60. Accordingly, scattering, attenuation, or the like of the laser light L caused by the expanding tape 60 is prevented so that the modified region can be reliably formed within the wafer 110 along each of the lines 10.

In addition, in the method of manufacturing the Fabry-Perot interference filter 1, the removing step of removing the portion 50 expected to be removed from the sacrificial layer 230 through etching is carried out before the cutting step (that is, between the forming step and the cutting step) of cutting the wafer 110 into the plurality of substrates 11 along each of the lines 10. Accordingly, since the removing step of removing the portion 50 expected to be removed from the sacrificial layer 230 through etching is carried out at wafer 110 level, compared to a case in which the removing step is individually carried out at chip level, it is possible to form the gap S between the first mirror portion 31 and the second mirror portion 32 in a remarkably efficient way. At this time, although a part corresponding to the second mirror portion 32 in the second mirror layer 240 is in a state of floating in the gap S, the following cutting step is carried out through irradiation of the laser light L. Therefore, it is possible to effectively prevent a situation in which the second mirror portion 32 floating in the gap S is damaged.

In addition, in the method of manufacturing the Fabry-Perot interference filter 1, in the forming step, after a part along each of the lines 10 in the sacrificial layer 230 formed on the first mirror layer 220 is thinned, the side surfaces 230a of the sacrificial layer 230 facing each other along each of the lines 10 are covered with the second mirror layer 240 by forming the second mirror layer 240 on the sacrificial layer 230. Accordingly, it is possible to prevent a part of the side surfaces 230a of the sacrificial layer 230 from being removed (erosion) when the portion 50 expected to be removed is removed from the sacrificial layer 230 through etching. Moreover, in the manufactured Fabry-Perot interference filter 1, it is possible to prevent light which becomes stray light from being incident from the side surface 23b of the intermediate layer 23 corresponding to the side surface 230a of the sacrificial layer 230.

In addition, in the method of manufacturing the Fabry-Perot interference filter 1, in the forming step, a part along each of the lines 10 in at least one of the first mirror layer 220, the sacrificial layer 230, and the second mirror layer 240 is thinned such that the surface of the polysilicon layer configuring the second mirror layer 240 is exposed (more specifically, such that the surface of the polysilicon layer 27a is exposed in a case of being seen in a direction perpendicular to the first main surface 110a). In the cutting step, the laser light L is incident on the wafer 110 through the surface of the polysilicon layer included in the second mirror layer 240. Accordingly, the first main surface 110a of the wafer 110 is protected by the polysilicon layer of which the surface is exposed, and flatness of a surface, on which the laser light L is incident, is maintained. Therefore, scattering or the like of the laser light L is prevented so that the modified region can be more reliably formed within the wafer 110.

In the related art, generally, the removing step of removing the portion 50 expected to be removed from the sacrificial layer 230 through etching is carried out after the

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cutting step of cutting the wafer 110 into the plurality of substrates 11 along each of the lines 10. The reason is that, for example, if forming of the gap S in the sacrificial layer 230 is carried out before blade dicing, there is increasing concern that the second mirror portion 32 floating in the gap S is damaged when blade dicing is carried out. In addition, there is increasing concern that particles generated when blade dicing is carried out infiltrate into the gap S or cooling rinse water used in blade dicing infiltrates into the gap S.

#### Modification Example

Hereinabove, the embodiment of the present disclosure has been described. However, the method of manufacturing a Fabry-Perot interference filter of the present disclosure is not limited to the embodiment described above. For example, the material and the shape of each configuration are not limited to the material and the shape described above, and it is possible to employ various materials and shapes.

In addition, the order of forming each layer and each region in the forming step is not limited to that described above. As an example, the first thinned region 290 may be formed by forming the first mirror layer 220, the sacrificial layer 230, and the second mirror layer 240 on the first main surface 110a of the wafer 110, and then thinning a part along each of the lines 10 in the first mirror layer 220, the sacrificial layer 230, and the second mirror layer 240. In addition, the first thinned region 290 and the second thinned region 470 may be formed after forming the first mirror layer 220, the sacrificial layer 230, and the second mirror layer 240 on the first main surface 110a of the wafer 110, and forming the stress adjustment layer 400 on the second main surface 110b of the wafer 110.

In addition, the first thinned region 290 need only be a region in which at least one of the first mirror layer 220, the sacrificial layer 230, and the second mirror layer 240 is partially thinned along each of the lines 10. Therefore, the first thinned region 290 may be a region from which all of the parts along each of the lines 10 in all of the layers on the first main surface 110a side including the first mirror layer 220, the sacrificial layer 230, and the second mirror layer 240 are removed.

In addition, the second thinned region 470 need only be a region in which at least a part of the stress adjustment layer 400 is partially thinned along each of the lines 10. Therefore, the second thinned region 470 may be a region from which all of the parts along each of the lines 10 in all of the layers on the second main surface 110b side including the stress adjustment layer 400 are removed. In the forming step, the second thinned region 470 does not have to be formed. Moreover, the stress adjustment layer 400 itself does not have to be formed.

In addition, the removing step of removing the portion 50 expected to be removed from the sacrificial layer 230 through etching may be carried out after the cutting step of cutting the wafer 110 into the plurality of substrates 11 along each of the lines 10. In this case, in each part corresponding to the substrate 11, the portion 50 expected to be removed is removed from the sacrificial layer 230 through etching.

In addition, the cutting step may be carried out as illustrated in FIGS. 9A and 9B. Specifically, as illustrated in FIG. 9A, the expanding tape 60 is attached onto the protective layer 460 (that is, the stress adjustment layer 400 side). Subsequently, in a state in which the expanding tape 60 is attached to the stress adjustment layer 400 side, irradiation of the laser light L is performed from the expanding tape 60

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side, and the converging point of the laser light L is relatively moved along each of the lines 10 while the converging point of the laser light L is positioned within the wafer 110. That is, the laser light L is incident on the wafer 110 from the expanding tape 60 side through the expanding tape 60. Then, the modified region is formed within the wafer 110 along each of the lines 10 through the irradiation of the laser light L.

Subsequently, as illustrated in FIG. 9B, crack is extended in the thickness direction of the wafer 110 from the modified region formed within the wafer 110 by expanding the expanding tape 60 attached to the stress adjustment layer 400 side, and the wafer 110 is cut into the plurality of substrates 11 along each of the lines 10. Then, the plurality of Fabry-Perot interference filters 1 in a state of being separated from each other on the expanding tape 60 are obtained.

According to such a cutting step, as illustrated in FIG. 9A, for example, even if generated particles fall due to their own weight when irradiation of the laser light L is performed from above, the expanding tape 60 functions as a cover. Therefore, it is possible to prevent such particles from adhering to the second mirror layer 240 or the like.

In addition, in the cutting step, when the modified region is formed within the wafer 110 along each of the lines 10 through irradiation of the laser light L, crack may be extended in the thickness direction of the wafer 110 from the modified region and the wafer 110 may be cut into the plurality of substrates 11 along each of the lines 10. In this case, the plurality of Fabry-Perot interference filters 1 obtained through cutting can be separated from each other by expanding the expanding tape 60.

In addition, in the forming step, at least one of the first mirror layer 220, the sacrificial layer 230, and the second mirror layer 240 may be partially thinned along each of the lines 10 such that the surface of the polysilicon layer configuring the first mirror layer 220 instead of the second mirror layer 240 is exposed, and in the cutting step, the laser light L may be incident on the wafer 110 through the surface of the polysilicon layer included in the first mirror layer 220 instead of the second mirror layer 240.

Moreover, the layer of which the surface is exposed in the forming step need only be at least one layer configuring the first mirror layer 220 or the second mirror layer 240. Specifically, the layer of which the surface is exposed in the forming step is not limited to a polysilicon layer and may be a silicon nitride layer or a silicon oxide layer, for example. In that case as well, the first main surface 110a of the wafer 110 is protected by the layer of which the surface is exposed, and flatness of a surface, on which the laser light L is incident, is maintained. Therefore, scattering or the like of

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the laser light L is prevented so that the modified region can be more reliably formed within the wafer 110. When forming a smooth surface, in order to partially thin at least one of the first mirror layer 220, the sacrificial layer 230, and the second mirror layer 240 along each of the lines 10, it is more advantageous to carry out wet etching than dry etching.

## REFERENCE SIGNS LIST

1: Fabry-Perot interference filter, 10: line, 11: substrate, 31: first mirror portion, 32: second mirror portion, 50: portion expected to be removed, 60: expanding tape, 110: wafer, 110a: first main surface, 110b: second main surface, 220: first mirror layer, 230: sacrificial layer, 230a: side surface, 240: second mirror layer, 290: first thinned region, 400: stress adjustment layer, 470: second thinned region, L: laser light

The invention claimed is:

1. A method of manufacturing a Fabry-Perot interference filter comprising:

a forming step of forming a first thinned region, in the forming step, a first mirror layer having a plurality of first mirror portions each of which is expected to function as a fixed mirror, a sacrificial layer having a plurality of portions expected to be removed, and a second mirror layer having a plurality of second mirror portions each of which is expected to function as a movable mirror are formed on a first main surface of a wafer expected to be cut into a plurality of substrates along each of a plurality of lines such that one first mirror portion, one portion expected to be removed, and one second mirror portion are disposed in this order from one substrate side, and the first thinned region in which at least one of the first mirror layer, the sacrificial layer, and the second mirror layer is partially thinned along each of the plurality of lines is formed;

a cutting step of cutting the wafer into the plurality of substrates along each of the plurality of lines by forming a modified region within the wafer along each of the plurality of lines through irradiation of a laser light and extending a crack in a thickness direction of the wafer from the modified region, after the forming step; and

a removing step of removing the portion expected to be removed from the sacrificial layer through etching, between the forming step and the cutting step.

2. The method of manufacturing a Fabry-Perot interference filter according to claim 1,

wherein in the forming step, the first thinned region is formed such that at least a part of the first mirror layer is continuous over the plurality of substrates.

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