

US Patent & Trademark Office

Patent Public Search | Text View

United States Patent	12395150
Kind Code	B2
Date of Patent	August 19, 2025
Inventor(s)	Itomi; Noboru

Vibration device having a through electrode and a clock signal output external connection terminal

Abstract

A vibration device includes a base including a semiconductor substrate and a through electrode passing through the portion between a first surface and a second surface of the semiconductor substrate, a vibrator placed at the side facing the first surface, and an external connection terminal provided at the side facing the second surface via an insulating layer. An oscillation circuit that is electrically coupled to the vibrator via the through electrode and generates an oscillation signal by causing the vibrator to oscillate, and an output buffer circuit that outputs a clock signal based on the oscillation signal are placed at the second surface. The clock signal from the output buffer circuit is outputted via the external connection terminal. The through electrode and the external connection terminal are arranged so as not to overlap with each other in a plan view viewed in the direction perpendicular to the first surface.

Inventors:	Itomi; Noboru (Nirasaki, JP)
Applicant:	Seiko Epson Corporation (Tokyo, JP)
Family ID:	1000008767731
Assignee:	SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION (N/A, JP)
Appl. No.:	17/456391
Filed:	November 24, 2021

Prior Publication Data

Document Identifier	Publication Date
US 20220166405 A1	May. 26, 2022

Foreign Application Priority Data

JP	2020-195823	Nov. 26, 2020
----	-------------	---------------

Publication Classification

Int. Cl.: H03H9/19 (20060101); H03H9/02 (20060101); H03H9/05 (20060101); H03H9/10 (20060101); H03H9/13 (20060101)

U.S. Cl.:

CPC H03H9/19 (20130101); H03H9/02102 (20130101); H03H9/02133 (20130101); H03H9/0557 (20130101); H03H9/1021 (20130101); H03H9/13 (20130101);

Field of Classification Search

CPC: H03H (9/19); H03H (9/02102); H03H (9/02133); H03H (9/0557); H03H (9/1021); H03H (9/13); H03H (9/08); H03B (5/04); H03B (5/32)

References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Patent No.	Issued Date	Patentee Name	U.S. Cl.	CPC
2010/0237739	12/2009	Ouchi	29/25.35	H03H 9/21
2015/0123740	12/2014	Itasaka et al.	N/A	N/A
2020/0058843	12/2019	Mizugaki	N/A	N/A
2021/0098682	12/2020	Mizugaki	N/A	H10N 30/875

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Patent No.	Application Date	Country	CPC
2004-214787	12/2003	JP	N/A
2007-251601	12/2006	JP	N/A
2015-090973	12/2014	JP	N/A
2020-028095	12/2019	JP	N/A

Primary Examiner: Pham; Emily P

Attorney, Agent or Firm: Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.

Background/Summary

(1) The present application is based on, and claims priority from JP Application Serial Number 2020-195823, filed Nov. 26, 2020, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

1. Technical Field

(2) The present disclosure relates to a vibration device and the like.

2. Related Art

(3) Vibration devices, such as oscillators, have been known as devices using vibrators. For example, JP-A-2004-214787 discloses an oscillator in which a piezoelectric vibrating piece as a vibrator is mounted on a semiconductor substrate, such as a silicon substrate, on which a circuit pattern of an integrated circuit is formed, and the piezoelectric vibrating piece is encapsulated

between the semiconductor substrate and a lid. The oscillator described in JP-A-2004-214787 includes a through hole that connects the piezoelectric vibrating piece to the circuit pattern and a mount electrode as an external connection terminal.

(4) In such oscillators and other vibration devices, it has been found that capacitive coupling between the through hole, which serves as a wiring line that electrically couples an oscillation circuit provided in the integrated circuit to the vibrator, and the external connection terminal for outputting a clock signal based on an oscillation signal causes problems, such as degradation in the accuracy of the oscillation frequency and an increase in noise components contained in the oscillation signal.

SUMMARY

(5) An aspect of the present disclosure relates to a vibration device including a base including a semiconductor substrate having a first surface that is a front surface and a second surface that is a rear surface and a through electrode that passes through a portion between the first and second surfaces, a vibrator placed at a side facing the first surface, and an external connection terminal provided at a side facing the second surface via an insulating layer. Components below are placed at the second surface: an oscillation circuit that is electrically coupled to the vibrator via the through electrode and generates an oscillation signal by causing the vibrator to oscillate; and an output buffer circuit that outputs a clock signal based on the oscillation signal. The clock signal from the output buffer circuit is outputted via the external connection terminal. The through electrode and the external connection terminal are arranged so as not to overlap with each other in a plan view viewed in a direction perpendicular to the first surface.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- (1) FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view showing an example of the configuration of a vibration device according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.
- (2) FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view showing an example of a specific configuration of the vibration device according to the present embodiment.
- (3) FIG. 3 is a plan view showing an example of a vibrator of the vibration device.
- (4) FIG. 4 shows an example of the configuration of an integrated circuit.
- (5) FIG. 5 shows an example of the detailed configuration of the integrated circuit.
- (6) FIG. 6 shows an example of the configuration of an oscillation circuit.
- (7) FIG. 7 shows an example of the configuration of an output buffer circuit.
- (8) FIG. 8 is a manufacturing step diagram showing an example of a method for manufacturing the vibration device.
- (9) FIG. 9 is a plan view showing an example of the arrangement of through electrodes, external connection terminals, the integrated circuit, and other components.
- (10) FIG. 10 is a plan view showing an example of the arrangement of the outer connection terminals.
- (11) FIG. 11 is a cross-sectional view showing another example of the through electrodes.
- (12) FIG. 12 shows another example of the configuration of an output driver of the output buffer driver.
- (13) FIG. 13 shows another example of the configuration of the output driver of the output buffer driver.
- (14) FIG. 14 is a plan view showing another example of the arrangement of the external connection terminals.
- (15) FIG. 15 shows another example of the configuration of the integrated circuit.
- (16) FIG. 16 is a plan view showing another example of the arrangement of the external connection

terminals.

DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

(17) An embodiment of the present disclosure will be described below. It is not intended that the present embodiment described below unduly limits the contents described in the appended claims. Furthermore, all configurations described in the present embodiment are not necessarily essential configuration requirements of the present disclosure. In the following drawings, some components may be omitted for convenience of the description. In the drawings, the dimensional ratios among the components differ from the actual values for clarity.

(18) 1. Vibration Device

(19) FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view showing an example of the configuration of a vibration device **1** according to the present embodiment. The vibration device **1** according to the present embodiment includes a base **2**, a vibrator **5**, and external connection terminals **91** and **92**, as shown in FIG. 1. The vibration device **1** can further include a lid **7** and a relocation wiring layer **8**. The base **2** includes a semiconductor substrate **20** and a through electrode **40**. The semiconductor substrate **20** has a first surface **21**, which is the front surface, and a second surface **22**, which is the rear surface. The first surface **21** is, for example, the upper surface of the semiconductor substrate **20**, and the second surface **22** is, for example, the lower surface of the semiconductor substrate **20**. The through electrode **40** is an electrode that passes through the first surface **21** and the second surface **22** of the semiconductor substrate **20**. The vibrator **5** is placed at the side facing the first surface **21** of the semiconductor substrate **20**. For example, the vibrator **5** is placed in a position separate by a given separation distance from the first surface **21** of the semiconductor substrate **20**. Specifically, the vibrator **5** is fixed to the first surface **21** of the semiconductor substrate **20**, for example, via an electrically conductive joining member **60**. The external connection terminals **91** and **92** are provided at the side facing the second surface **22** of the semiconductor substrate **20**, for example, via an insulating layer **80**. The insulating layer **80** is, for example, an insulating layer that forms the relocation wiring layer **8**.

(20) The figures described in the present embodiment show axes X, Y, and Z as three axes perpendicular to one another. The direction along the axis X is referred to as an “axis-X direction”, the direction along the axis Y is referred to as an “axis-Y direction”, and the direction along the axis Z is referred to as an “axis-Z direction”. The tip side of the arrow in each of the axial directions is also referred to as a “positive side”, and the base side of the arrow is also referred to as a “negative side”. The positive side in the axis-Z direction is also referred to as an “upper side”, and the negative side in the axis-Z direction is also referred to as a “lower side”. For example, the axis-Z direction extends along the vertical direction, and the plane XY extends along the horizontal plane. FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view of the vibration device **1** viewed in the axis-Y direction. The first surface **21** and the second surface **22** of the semiconductor substrate **20** are surfaces that extend along the plane XY and are perpendicular to the axis Z. The term “perpendicular” includes not only the case of intersection at 90° but also the case of intersection at an angle that slightly deviates from 90°.

(21) The vibration device **1** is, for example, an oscillator. Specifically, the vibration device **1** is a simple package crystal oscillator (SPXO), a voltage controlled crystal oscillator (VCXO), a temperature compensated crystal oscillator (TCXO), an oven controlled crystal oscillator (OCXO), a surface acoustic wave (SAW) oscillator, a voltage controlled SAW oscillator, a micro-electro-mechanical systems (MEMS) oscillator, or any other oscillator. The MEMS oscillator can be achieved by a MEMS vibrator in which a piezoelectric film and electrodes are placed at a substrate, such as a silicon substrate. The vibration device **1** may, however, be an inertia sensor, such as an acceleration sensor and an angular velocity sensor, or a force sensor, such as a tilt sensor.

(22) The base **2** is formed of the semiconductor substrate **20**. The semiconductor substrate **20** is, for example, a silicon substrate. The semiconductor substrate **20** is, however, not limited to a silicon substrate and may instead be a semiconductor substrate made, for example, of Ge, GaP, GaAs, or

InP.

(23) The base **2** further includes an integrated circuit **10**. The integrated circuit **10**, which is a semiconductor circuit, is formed at the second surface **22** of the semiconductor substrate **20**. The integrated circuit **10** is formed of a plurality of circuit elements. The circuit elements are, for example, active elements, such as transistors, or passive elements, such as capacitors and resistors. Specifically, the integrated circuit **10** is formed of a plurality of circuit blocks each containing a plurality of circuit elements. The integrated circuit **10** is formed of two regions: a diffusion region that is an impurity region formed by doping an impurity into the semiconductor substrate **20**; and a wiring region in which a metal layer and an insulating layer are layered on each other. The diffusion region forms the source and drain regions of the transistors, which form the circuit elements of the integrated circuit **10**, and the wiring region forms wiring lines that couple the circuit elements to each other.

(24) The base **2** further includes the through electrode **40**. The through electrode **40** is made of an electrically conductive material that passes through the first surface **21** and the second surface **22** of the semiconductor substrate **20**. For example, the through electrode **40** is formed by forming a through hole in the semiconductor substrate **20** and filling the through hole with the electrically conductive material. The electrically conductive material may be a metal, such as copper, or an electrically conductive polysilicon. The electrically conductive polysilicon refers to polysilicon into which an impurity, for example, phosphorus (P), boron (B), or arsenic (As), is doped to give the electrical conductivity. Use of polysilicon as the electrically conductive material allows achievement of a through electrode **40** sufficiently resistant to heat applied during the step of forming the integrated circuit **10**.

(25) One end of the through electrode **40** is electrically coupled to the vibrator **5** via the electrically conductive joining member **60**. In FIG. **1**, the electrically conductive joining member **60** is achieved, for example, by a bump **62** having one end electrically coupled to the vibrator **5** and the other end electrically coupled to the through electrode **40**. Specifically, the other end of the bump **62** is coupled to the through electrode **40** via a terminal **64**. The bump **62** is an electrically conductive bump, specifically a metal bump. The electrically conductive joining member may be achieved, for example, by an electrically conductive adhesive.

(26) The other end of the through electrode **40** is electrically coupled to the integrated circuit **10**. Specifically, the other end of the through electrode **40** is coupled to the circuit elements of the integrated circuit **10** via a contact pad **36** formed in the integrated circuit **10**. The vibrator **5** can thus be electrically coupled to the integrated circuit **10** via the through electrode **40**.

(27) The lid **7** is joined to the base **2** via joining members **71** and **72**. The base **2** and the lid **7** form an airtight accommodation space SP, and the vibrator **5** is accommodated in the accommodation space SP. The accommodation space SP is hermetically sealed and has, for example, a depressurized state. The vibrator **5** can thus be stably driven. The state in the accommodation space SP is not limited to a depressurized state. For example, the accommodation space SP may be filled with an inert gas atmosphere.

(28) The relocation wiring layer **8** is provided at the side facing the second surface **22** of the semiconductor substrate **20** and includes the insulating layer **80** and wiring lines **82** for relocated wiring lines. The insulating layer **80** is achieved, for example, by a resin layer made, for example, of polyimide, and the wiring lines **82** are achieved, for example, by metal wiring lines made, for example, of copper foil. The insulating layer **80** needs to have heat resistance high enough to withstand soldering performed when the vibration device **1** is mounted, and polyimide is preferably used as the material of the insulating layer **80**. The wiring lines **82** may be made of a metal material, such as silver, in place of copper. The thickness of the wiring lines and terminals in the relocation wiring layer **8** is, for example, about 50 μm . Providing the relocation wiring layer **8** allows electrical coupling between contact pads **38**, **39** formed in the integrated circuit **10** and the external connection terminals **91**, **92**. The vibration device **1** can then be incorporated into an

electronic instrument by coupling the external connection terminals **91** and **92** of the vibration device **1** to terminals and wiring lines of a circuit substrate or any other substrate on which the vibration device **1** is mounted. Providing the relocation wiring layer **8** also allows mechanical protection of the portions of the integrated circuit **10** and thermal protection of the integrated circuit **10** and other components from heat generated in a soldering step carried out when the vibration device **1** is mounted.

(29) FIG. **2** is a cross-sectional view showing an example of a specific configuration of the vibration device **1**, and FIG. **3** is a plan view showing an example of the vibrator **5** of the vibration device **1**. The vibrator **5** will first be described in detail with reference to FIG. **3**.

(30) The vibrator **5** is a device that produces mechanical vibration in response to an electric signal. The vibrator **5** includes a vibration substrate **50** and electrodes placed at the surfaces of the vibration substrate **50**, as shown, for example, in FIG. **3**. The vibration substrate **50** operates in a thickness-shear vibration mode and is formed of an AT-cut quartz substrate in the present embodiment. The AT-cut quartz substrate has tertiary frequency-temperature characteristics and therefore allows the vibrator **5** to have excellent temperature characteristics. The electrodes are formed of an excitation electrode **52**, which is placed at the upper surface of the vibration substrate **50**, and an excitation electrode **53**, which is placed at the lower surface of the vibration substrate **50** so as to face the excitation electrode **52**. The upper surface is the surface on the positive side in the axis-Z direction, and the lower surface is the surface on the negative side in the axis-Z direction. One of the excitation electrodes **52** and **53** is a first excitation electrode, and the other one of the excitation electrodes **52** and **53** is a second excitation electrode. The electrodes include a pair of terminals **56** and **57** placed at the lower surface of the vibration substrate **50**, a wiring line **54**, which electrically couples the terminal **56** to the excitation electrode **52**, and a wiring line **55**, which electrically couples the terminal **57** to the excitation electrode **53**.

(31) The configuration of the vibrator **5** is not limited to the configuration described above. For example, the vibrator **5** may be a mesa-type vibrator in which a vibration region sandwiched between the excitation electrodes **52** and **53** protrudes from the portion around the vibration region or may conversely be an inverted-mesa-type vibrator in which the vibration region is recessed from the portion therearound. The vibration substrate **50** may undergo a beveling process of grinding a peripheral portion thereof or a convex-shape forming process of producing convexly curved upper and lower surfaces. The vibrator **5** is not limited to a vibrator that vibrates in the thickness-shear vibration mode. For example, the vibrator **5** may be a tuning-fork-shaped vibrator having a plurality of vibration arms that undergo bending vibration in the in-plane direction, a tuning-fork-shaped vibrator having a plurality of vibration arms that undergo bending vibration in the out-of-plane direction, a gyro sensor device having a driving arm that undergoes driving vibration and a detection arm that undergoes detection vibration to detect angular velocity, or an acceleration sensor device including a detector that detects acceleration. The vibration substrate **50** is not necessarily formed of an AT-cut quartz substrate and may instead be formed of a quartz substrate other than an AT-cut quartz substrate, for example, an X-cut quartz substrate, a Y-cut quartz substrate, a Z-cut quartz substrate, a BT-cut quartz substrate, an SC-cut quartz substrate, or an ST-cut quartz substrate. In the present embodiment, the vibration substrate **50** is made of quartz, but not necessarily, and may instead be made, for example, of lithium niobate, lithium tantalate, lithium tetraborate, potassium niobate, gallium phosphate, or any other piezoelectric single crystal or piezoelectric single crystal other than the substances described above. The vibrator **5** is not limited to a piezoelectrically driven vibrator and may be an electrostatically driven vibrator using electrostatic force.

(32) The vibrator **5** is fixed to the first surface **21**, which is the upper surface of the semiconductor substrate **20**, via the electrically conductive joining member **60** and another electrically conductive joining member **61**, as shown in FIGS. **2** and **3**. Although not shown in FIG. **2**, the two joining members **60** and **61** are provided, for example, along the axis-Y direction, as shown in FIG. **3**.

Furthermore, the semiconductor substrate **20** is provided, for example, with two through electrodes, that is, the through electrode **40** and another through electrode **41**, along the axis-Y direction, as shown in FIG. **9**, which will be described later, and the through electrodes **40** and **41** are electrically coupled to the vibrator **5** via the electrically conductive joining members **60** and **61**. One of the through electrodes **40** and **41** is a first through electrode, and the other one of the through electrodes **40** and **41** is a second through electrode. Specifically, one end of the through electrode **40** is electrically coupled to the excitation electrode **52** of the vibrator **5** via the joining member **60**, and the terminal **56** and the wiring line **54** of the vibrator **5**. One end of the through electrode **41** is electrically coupled to the excitation electrode **53** of the vibrator **5** via the joining member **61**, and the terminal **57** and the wiring line **55** of the vibrator **5**. The other ends of the through electrodes **40** and **41** are electrically coupled to the integrated circuit **10**. The vibrator **5** and the integrated circuit **10** are thus electrically coupled to each other via the through electrodes **40** and **41**. Specifically, the other ends of the through electrodes **40** and **41** are electrically coupled to an oscillation circuit **11** of the integrated circuit **10** via the contact pad **36** and another contact pad **37** shown in FIGS. **2** and **9**. The vibrator **5** and the oscillation circuit **11** are thus electrically coupled to each other via the through electrodes **40** and **41**.

(33) The joining members **60** and **61** are not particularly limited to specific members as long as they have both electrical conductivity and joinability and can be achieved by any of a variety of electrically conductive bumps **62**, such as gold bumps, silver bumps, copper bumps, solder bumps, and resin core bumps. Instead, the joining members **60** and **61** may each, for example, be an electrically conductive adhesive, such as any of a variety of polyimide-based, epoxy-based, silicone-based, and acrylic adhesives with electrically conductive fillers, such as silver fillers, dispersed therein. Using the electrically conductive bump as each of the joining members **60** and **61** allows suppression of gases produced from the joining members **60** and **61** and effective suppression of a change in the environment in the accommodation space SP, in particular, an increase in pressure therein. On the other hand, when the electrically conductive adhesive is used as the joining members **60** and **61**, the joining members **60** and **61** are softer than the case where they are each the electrically conductive bump **62**, so that stress induced in the joining members **60** and **61** is unlikely to be transmitted to the vibrator **5**.

(34) The semiconductor substrate **20** is thermally oxidized, after the through holes are formed, to form insulating layers **44**, which are each an insulating film made, for example, of silicon oxide (SiO₂), at the first surface of the semiconductor substrate **20** and at the inner surfaces of the through holes. Forming the insulating layers **44** by thermal oxidation allows dense, homogeneous insulating layers **44** to be formed at the surface of the semiconductor substrate **20**. The difference in the coefficient of linear expansion between the insulating layers **44** and the semiconductor substrate **20** can also be reduced. Thermal stress is therefore unlikely to occur, and a vibration device **1** having excellent oscillation characteristics can be achieved. The insulating layers **44** are not necessarily made of a specific material and may be made, for example, of silicon nitride (SiN) or resin. The method of forming the insulating layers **44** is not limited to thermal oxidation and may instead, for example, be chemical vapor deposition (CVD).

(35) The through electrodes **40** and **41** are then formed by filling the spaces inside the insulating layers **44** in the through holes with an electrically conductive material, such as copper or electrically conductive polysilicon. That is, the through holes **40** and **41** are formed by filling the interiors of the through holes with an electrically conductive material. One-side ends of the through electrodes **40** and **41** are electrically coupled to the vibrator **5**. Specifically, the one-side ends of the through electrodes **40** and **41** are electrically coupled to the excitation electrodes **52** and **53** of the vibrator **5**, respectively. On the other hand, the other-side ends of the through electrodes **40** and **41** are electrically coupled to the integrated circuit **10**. Specifically, the other-side ends of the through electrodes **40** and **41** are electrically coupled to the oscillation circuit **11** of the integrated circuit **10** via the contact pads **36** and **37**.

(36) The integrated circuit **10** is formed, for example, of an N-type transistor **23** and a P-type transistor **24**, as shown in FIG. 2. The transistors **23** and **24** are each formed of the source and drain regions, which are the diffusion regions formed in the semiconductor substrate **20**, a gate electrode, and a gate oxide film. The transistors **23** and **24** are separated from each other by a device separation film called LOCOS (LOCAl Oxidation of Silicon). The integrated circuit **10** further includes a wiring layer **30**, which achieves the connection wiring lines between the plurality of circuit elements, such as the transistors **23** and **24**. For example, the wiring layer **30** in FIG. 2 includes metal layers **31** and **32** and insulating layers **33**, **34**, and **35**. The metal layers **31** and **32** are first and second metal layers, respectively, and the insulating layers **33**, **34**, and **35** are first, second, and third insulating layers, respectively. The metal layer **31** is formed between the insulating layers **33** and **34**, and the metal layer **32** is formed between the insulating layers **34** and **35**. The metal layers **31** and **32** are achieved, for example, by metal, such as aluminum. The uppermost insulating layer **35** forms a passivation film. The metal layers **31** and **32** are electrically coupled to each other via contacts called via contacts, and the metal layer **31** is electrically coupled to the source and drain regions of the transistors **23** and **24** via contacts. The contact pad **36**, which is electrically coupled to the other-side ends of the through electrodes **40** and **41**, is formed by the underlying metal layer **31**, as shown in FIG. 2. The contact pads **38** and **39**, which are electrically coupled to the external connection terminals **91** and **92**, are formed by the overlying metal layer **32**. In the wiring layer **30**, a layer close to the transistors **23** and **24** in the integrated circuit is called a lower layer, and a layer far from the transistors **23** and **24** in the integrated circuit **10** is called an upper layer. FIG. 2 shows the case where the wiring layer **30** includes the two metal layers **31** and **32**, but not necessarily in the present embodiment, and the wiring layer **30** may include three or more metal layers. In this case, the contact pads **36** and **37** are formed by the lowermost metal layer of the plurality of metal layers, and the contact pads **38** and **39** are formed by the uppermost metal layer of the plurality of metal layers. The uppermost insulating layer forms a passivation film.

(37) The relocation wiring layer **8** includes the insulating layer **80** achieved by a resin layer made, for example, of polyimide, and the wiring lines **82** achieved, for example, by copper foil. The contact pad **38** is electrically coupled to the external connection terminal **91**, and the contact pad **39** is electrically coupled to the external connection terminal **92** via the wiring lines **82**.

(38) In FIG. 2, the external connection terminals **91** and **92** each have a two-layer structure including a first metal layer **101** and a second metal layer **102**. The first metal layer **101** at the side facing the insulating layer **80** made of polyimide is, for example, a titanium tungsten layer to improve adhesion to the polyimide. The second metal layer **102** is a metal layer made, for example, of copper or gold, which can be easily soldered or otherwise attached, for example, to external terminals or wiring lines.

(39) FIG. 4 shows an example of the configuration of the integrated circuit **10**. The integrated circuit **10** includes the oscillation circuit **11** and an output buffer circuit **12**. The integrated circuit **10** can further include a logic circuit **13** and a power circuit **14**.

(40) The oscillation circuit **11** is a circuit that causes the vibrator **5** to oscillate. For example, the oscillation circuit **11** is electrically coupled to terminals TXA and TXB and generates an oscillation signal OSC. Specifically, the oscillation circuit **11** is electrically coupled to the vibrator **5** via wiring lines LA and LB and the terminals TXA and TXB and generates the oscillation signal OSC by causing the vibrator **5** to oscillate. One of the terminals TXA and TXB is a first terminal, and the other one of the terminals TXA and TXB is a second terminal. For example, the oscillation circuit **11** can be achieved by a drive circuit for oscillation provided between the terminals TXA and TXB and passive elements, such as capacitors and resistors. The drive circuit can be achieved, for example, by a CMOS inverter circuit or a bipolar transistor. The drive circuit is a core circuit of the oscillation circuit **11**, and the drive circuit causes the vibrator **5** to oscillate by driving the vibrator **5** with voltage or current. The oscillation circuit **11** can be any of a variety of types of oscillation circuit, such as an inverter-type oscillation circuit, a Pierce-type oscillation circuit, a Colpitts-type

oscillation circuit, and a Hartley-type oscillation circuit. The oscillation circuit **11** is provided with a variable capacitance circuit, and the oscillation frequency of the oscillation circuit **11** can be adjusted by adjusting the capacitance of the variable capacitance circuit. The variable capacitance circuit can be achieved by a variable capacitance element, such as a varactor. Instead, the variable capacitance circuit may be achieved by a capacitor array and a switch array coupled to the capacitor array. For example, the variable capacitance circuit may be formed of the following two arrays: a capacitor array including a plurality of capacitors having binary-weighted capacitance values; and a switch array including a plurality of switches that each turn on and off the coupling between the corresponding capacitor of the capacitor array and the terminal TXA or TXB. Note that the coupling in the present embodiment is electrical coupling. The electrical coupling is coupling that allows transmission of an electric signal and hence transmission of information in the form of the electric signal. The electrical coupling may be coupling, for example, via an active element.

(41) The output buffer circuit **12** outputs a clock signal CK based on the oscillation signal OSC. For example, the output buffer circuit **12** buffers the oscillation signal OSC and outputs the oscillation signal OSC as the clock signal CK to a terminal TCK. The clock signal CK is then outputted out of the vibration device **1** via the external connection terminal **91** of the vibration device **1**. For example, the output buffer circuit **12** outputs the clock signal CK in the form of a single-ended CMOS signal. For example, when an output enable signal OE from a terminal TOE is active, an enable signal from the logic circuit **13** becomes active, and the output buffer circuit **12** outputs the clock signal CK that is the buffered oscillation signal OSC. On the other hand, when the output enable signal OE is inactive, the output buffer circuit **12** sets the clock signal CK at a fixed voltage level, for example, the low level. The voltage level at the terminal TCK is thus set at the fixed voltage level. The state in which a signal is active means that the signal has the high level in the case of positive logic and has the low level in the case of negative logic. The state in which a signal is inactive means that the signal has the low level in the case of positive logic and has the high level in the case of negative logic. The output buffer circuit **12** may be configured to output the clock signal CK in the form of a non-CMOS signal.

(42) The logic circuit **13** is a control circuit and performs a variety of types of control. For example, the logic circuit **13** controls the entire integrated circuit **10** or controls the action sequence of the integrated circuit **10**. The logic circuit **13** may further carry out a variety of processes of controlling the oscillation circuit **11** and control the power supply circuit **14**. The logic circuit **13** can, for example, be achieved by an ASIC (application specific integrated circuit) produced by automatically placed wiring lines, such as a gate array.

(43) The power supply circuit **14** receives power supply voltage VDD supplied via a terminal TVDD and ground voltage GND supplied via a terminal TGND. The power supply circuit **14** then supplies the internal circuits of the integrated circuit **10** with power supply voltage for the internal circuits. The power supply circuit **14** may generate reference voltage, reference current, or any other physical quantity used in the integrated circuit **10**. For example, the power supply circuit **14** includes a regulator and supplies the oscillation circuit **11**, the output buffer circuit **12**, and the logic circuit **13** with regulated voltage generated by the regulator. In this case, the power supply circuit **14** may include a regulator that generates regulated voltage supplied to the oscillation circuit **11** and a regulator that generates regulated voltage supplied to the output buffer circuit **12** and the logic circuit **13**.

(44) FIG. 5 shows an example of the detailed configuration of the integrated circuit **10**. In FIG. 5, a temperature compensation circuit **15**, a temperature sensor circuit **16**, and a memory **17** are further provided.

(45) The temperature compensation circuit **15** performs temperature compensation on the oscillation signal OSC from the oscillation circuit **11**. The temperature compensation performed on the oscillation signal OSC is temperature compensation performed on the oscillation frequency of

the oscillation circuit **11**. The output buffer circuit **12** then outputs the clock signal CK based on the temperature compensated oscillation signal OSC. Specifically, the temperature compensation circuit **15** performs the temperature compensation based on temperature detection information from the temperature sensor circuit **16**. For example, the temperature compensation circuit **15** generates temperature compensation voltage based on temperature detection voltage from the temperature sensor circuit **16** and outputs the generated temperature compensation voltage to the oscillation circuit **11** to perform the temperature compensation on the oscillation signal OSC from the oscillation circuit **11**. For example, the temperature compensation circuit **15** performs the temperature compensation by outputting the temperature compensation voltage, which serves as voltage that controls the capacitance of the variable capacitance circuit provided in the oscillation circuit **11**, to the variable capacitance circuit. In this case, the variable capacitance circuit in the oscillation circuit **11** is achieved by a variable capacitance element, such as a varactor. The temperature compensation is the process of suppressing variation in the oscillation frequency caused by variation in the temperature to compensate for the variation. For example, the temperature compensation circuit **15** performs analog temperature compensation using polynomial approximation. For example, when the temperature compensation voltage that compensates for variation in the frequency-temperature characteristics of the vibrator **5** is approximately expressed by a polynomial, the temperature compensation circuit **15** performs analog temperature compensation based on information on the coefficients of the polynomial. The analog temperature compensation is temperature compensation achieved, for example, by addition of a current or voltage signal, which is an analog signal. Specifically, the memory stores the information on the coefficients of the polynomial for temperature compensation, and the logic circuit **13** reads the coefficient information from the memory **17** and sets the coefficient information, for example, in a register of the temperature compensation circuit **15**. The temperature compensation circuit **15** then performs the analog temperature compensation based on the coefficient information set in the register.

(46) The temperature compensation circuit **15** may perform digital temperature compensation. In this case, the temperature compensation circuit **15** is achieved, for example, by a logic circuit. Specifically, the temperature compensation circuit **15** performs the digital temperature compensation based on temperature detection data that is the temperature detection information from the temperature sensor circuit **16**. For example, the temperature compensation circuit **15** determines frequency adjustment data based on the temperature detection data. Thereafter, based on the determined frequency adjustment data, the capacitance value of the variable capacitance circuit of the oscillation circuit **11** is adjusted, whereby the temperature compensation performed on the oscillation frequency of the oscillation circuit **11** is achieved. In this case, the variable capacitance circuit of the oscillation circuit **11** is achieved by a capacitor array including a plurality of binary weighted capacitors and a switch array. The memory **17** stores a lookup table representing the correspondence between temperature detection data and the frequency adjustment data, and the temperature compensation circuit **15** performs the temperature compensation process of determining the frequency adjustment data from the temperature data by using the lookup table read by the logic circuit **13** from the memory **17**.

(47) The temperature sensor circuit **16** is a sensor circuit that detects the temperature. Specifically, the temperature sensor circuit **16** outputs a temperature-dependent voltage that changes in accordance with the ambient temperature as the temperature detection voltage. For example, the temperature sensor circuit **16** uses a circuit element having a temperature dependence to generate the temperature detection voltage. Specifically, the temperature sensor circuit **16** uses the temperature dependence of the forward voltage of a PN junction to output the temperature detection voltage that changes depending on the temperature. The forward voltage of a PN junction can, for example, be the base-emitter voltage of a bipolar transistor.

(48) To perform the digital temperature compensation, the temperature sensor circuit **16** measures

the temperature, such as the ambient temperature, and outputs the result of the measurement as the temperature detection data. The temperature detection data is, for example, data that monotonously increases or decreases with temperature. The temperature sensor circuit **16** in this case can be a temperature sensor circuit that utilizes the fact that the oscillation frequency of a ring oscillator has a temperature dependence. Specifically, the temperature sensor circuit **16** includes a ring oscillator and a counter circuit. The counter circuit counts an output pulse signal that is the oscillation signal from the ring oscillator over a counting period of time specified by the clock signal based on the oscillation signal OSC from the oscillation circuit **11** and outputs the count as the temperature detection data.

(49) The memory **17** stores a variety of pieces of information used in the integrated circuit **10**. The memory **17** can be achieved, for example, by a nonvolatile memory. The nonvolatile memory is an EEPROM, such as an FAMOS (floating gate avalanche injection MOS) memory or an MONOS (metal-oxide-nitride-oxide-silicon) memory, but not necessarily, and may, for example, be an OTP (one time programmable) memory or a fuse-type ROM. Instead, the memory **17** may be achieved by a volatile memory, such as a RAM.

(50) The terminals TXA and TXB in FIGS. **4** and **5** are achieved by the contact pads **36** and **37** in FIGS. **2** and **9**. That is, the oscillation circuit **11** is electrically coupled to the vibrator **5** via the terminals TXA and TXB achieved by the contact pads **36** and **37**. The terminal TCK is achieved by the contact pad **38**. That is, the clock signal CK from the output buffer circuit **12** is outputted via the terminal TCK achieved by the contact pad **38** and exits out of the external connection terminal **91**. The terminals TVDD and TGND are achieved by the contact pad **39** shown in FIG. **2** and a contact pad **68** shown in FIG. **9**, respectively. That is, the power supply voltage VDD and the ground voltage GND are supplied to the integrated circuit **10** via the terminals TVDD and TGND achieved by the contact pads **39** and **68**. Specifically, VDD and GND are supplied to the power supply circuit **14**. The terminal TOE is achieved by a contact pad **69**. That is, the output enable signal OE is inputted to the integrated circuit **10** via the terminal TOE achieved by the contact pad **69**. For example, the output enable signal OE is inputted to the logic circuit **13**.

(51) FIG. **6** shows an example of the configuration of the oscillation circuit **11**. The oscillation circuit **11** includes inverter circuits DV1 and DV2 and variable capacitance circuits CV1 and CV2, as shown in FIG. **6**. The inverter circuit DV1 is a drive circuit that drives the vibrator **5**, and the inverter circuit DV1 has an input node coupled to one end of the vibrator **5** and an output node coupled to the other end of the vibrator **5**. The inverter circuit DV2 buffers an output signal from the inverter circuit DV1 and outputs the output signal as the oscillation signal OSC. The inverter circuits DV1 and DV2 operate when regulated power supply voltage VREG1 and the ground voltage GND are supplied thereto. The regulated power supply voltage VREG1 is generated by the regulator provided in the power supply circuit **14**.

(52) The variable capacitance circuit CV1 has one end coupled to the one end of the vibrator **5** and the other end coupled to a GND node. The variable capacitance circuit CV2 has one end coupled to the other end of the vibrator **5** and the other end coupled to GND. The variable capacitance circuits CV1 and CV2 may each be achieved by a variable capacitance element having capacitance controlled by the capacitance control voltage, which is the temperature compensation voltage, such as a varactor, as described above, or achieved by a circuit that includes a capacitor array and a switch array and has capacitance value controlled by frequency control data.

(53) FIG. **7** shows an example of the configuration of the output buffer circuit **12**. The output buffer circuit **12** includes a NAND circuit NA and inverter circuits IV1, IV2, and IV3, as shown in FIG. **7**. The output buffer circuit **12** is thus formed of a buffer circuit, for example, a plurality of signal inversion circuits. The oscillation signal OSC, which is the oscillation clock signal from the oscillation circuit **11**, is inputted to a first input node of the NAND circuit NA, and an enable signal EN from the logic circuit **13** is inputted to a second input node of the NAND circuit NA. For example, when the output enable signal OE inputted via the terminal TOE has the high level, which

is the active level, the enable signal EN has the high level, and the oscillation signal OSC is buffered by the NAND circuit NA and the inverter circuits IV1, IV2, and IV3 and is outputted as the clock signal CK. On the other hand, when the output enable signal OE inputted via the terminal TOE has the low level, which is the inactive level, the enable signal EN has the low level, and the output from the output buffer circuit 12 is fixed at the low level.

(54) A method for manufacturing the vibration device 1 according to the present embodiment will next be described. FIG. 8 is a manufacturing step diagram showing an example of the method for manufacturing the vibration device 1.

(55) In an integrated circuit formation step (S11), the semiconductor substrate 20 is prepared, and the integrated circuit 10 is formed at the second surface 22, which is the lower surface of the semiconductor substrate 20, as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2. In a relocation wiring layer formation step (S12), the relocation wiring layer 8 including, for example, the insulating layer 80, the wiring lines 82, and the external connection terminals 91 and 92 is formed to electrically couple the contact pads 38 and 39 and other contact pads of the integrated circuit 10 to the external connection terminals 91 and 92 and other terminals. In a base thinning step (S13), the first surface 21, which is the mounting surface of the semiconductor substrate 20, which is the surface on which the vibrator 5 is mounted, is polished to thin the base 2. That is, the base 2 is thinned.

(56) In a hole formation step (S14), the through holes are formed. Specifically, holes are formed by dry etching in the semiconductor substrate 20, and the holes are extended by wet etching to the metal layer 31, which is the first metal layer, of the wiring layer 30 in FIG. 2. In an insulating layer formation step (S15), the semiconductor substrate 20 is thermally oxidized to form the insulating layers 44, which are insulating films made of silicon oxide (SiO₂) or resin, at the surface of the semiconductor substrate 20, particularly at the inner surfaces of the through holes. In a through electrode formation step (S16), the interiors of the through holes are filled with an electrically conductive material, such as copper, to form the through electrodes 40 and 41. In a vibrator placement step (S17), the vibrator 5 is prepared and joined to the first surface 21 of the semiconductor substrate 20 via the joining members 60 and 61. In a lid joining step (S18), the lid 7 is prepared and joined to the base 2 via the joining members 71 and 72 in a depressurized environment. In an individualization step (S19), the entire structure is individualized into the vibration devices 1, for example, with a dicing saw. The vibration devices 1 are thus produced.

(57) As described above, in the present embodiment, a first semiconductor wafer in which a plurality of bases 2, which each include the vibrator 5 and the integrated circuit 10, are formed and a second semiconductor wafer in which a plurality of lids 7 are formed are bonded to each other so that the plurality of bases 2 and the plurality of lids 7 are joined to each other. The integrated vibration devices 1 are then separated into individual pieces to manufacture a large number of vibration devices 1. For example, compact vibration devices 1 each having longitudinal and lateral dimensions ranging from 1 millimeter to several millimeters and a thickness smaller than 1 mm are manufactured. The vibration devices 1 in the form of a wafer-level package (WLP) can thus be achieved and manufactured at high throughput and at low cost. That is, the vibration devices 1 each including the vibrator 5 and the integrated circuit 10 can be collectively manufactured in a wafer-level batch process.

(58) 2. Arrangement of Through Electrodes and External Connection Terminals

(59) FIG. 9 is a plan view showing an example of the arrangement of the through electrodes 40 and 41, the external connection terminals 91, 92, 93, and 94, the integrated circuit 10, and other components in the vibration device 1 according to the present embodiment. FIG. 9 further shows the relationship between the positions where the circuits in the integrated circuit 10 are placed and the positions where the through electrodes 40 and 41 and the external connection terminals 91, 92, 93, and 94 are placed. FIG. 9 is a plan view of the base 2 viewed from the negative side in the axis-Z direction and shows dotted lines that indicate the external shapes of the through electrodes 40 and 41 located on the positive side in the axis-Z direction with respect to the base 2, where the

integrated circuit **10** is formed, and the external shapes of the external connection terminals **91**, **92**, **93**, and **94** located on the negative side in the axis-Z direction with respect to the base **2**. FIG. **10** shows the positions where the external connection terminals **91**, **92**, **93**, and **94** are placed at the bottom surface of the vibration device **1** and is a plan view of the bottom surface of the vibration device **1** viewed from the negative side in the axis-Z direction. In FIGS. **9** and **10**, the external connection terminals **91**, **92**, **93**, and **94** each have a rectangular shape, but the terminals do not need to be exactly rectangular. For example, the terminals may each have chamfered corners or a shape other than a rectangular shape. FIG. **9** shows the layout of the variety of components in the integrated circuit **10**, such as the temperature compensation circuit **15** and the temperature sensor circuit **16**, but the integrated circuit **10** may instead be configured not to include the temperature compensation circuit **15**, the temperature sensor circuit **16**, or other components, as shown in FIG. **4**. In this case, the temperature compensation circuit **15**, the temperature sensor circuit **16**, or other components are not placed in FIG. **9**, and the resultant vacant regions may be occupied by other components.

(60) As described above, the vibration device **1** according to the present embodiment includes the base **2** including the semiconductor substrate **20** and the through electrodes **40** and **41** passing through the portion between the first surface **21** and the second surface **22** of the semiconductor substrate **20**, the vibrator **5** placed at the side facing the first surface **21** of the semiconductor substrate **20**, and the external connection terminals **91**, **92**, **93**, and **94** provided at the side facing the second surface of the semiconductor substrate **20** via the insulating layer **80**. The following components are placed at the second surface **22** of the semiconductor substrate **20**: the oscillation circuit **11**, which is electrically coupled to the vibrator **5** via the through electrodes **40** and **41** and generates the oscillation signal OSC by causing the vibrator **5** to oscillate; and the output buffer circuit **12**, which outputs the clock signal CK based on the oscillation signal OSC, as shown in FIG. **9**. For example, the oscillation circuit **11** causes the vibrator **5** to oscillate to generate the oscillation signal OSC, and the oscillation signal OSC is buffered by the output buffer circuit **12** and outputted as the clock signal CK. The clock signal CK from the output buffer circuit **12** is outputted via the external connection terminal **91**. That is, the clock signal CK from the output buffer circuit **12** in FIGS. **4** and **5** is outputted via the terminal TCK achieved by the contact pad **38**. Since the contact pad **38** is electrically coupled to the external connection terminal **91**, as shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**, the clock signal CK from the output buffer circuit **12** is outputted via the external connection terminal **91** and exits out of the vibration device **1**.

(61) In the vibration device **1** according to the present embodiment, the through electrodes **40** and **41** and the external connection terminal **91** are arranged so as not to overlap in the plan view viewed in the direction perpendicular to the first surface **21**, as shown in FIG. **9**. For example, the through electrodes **40** and **41**, which electrically couple the vibrator **5** to the integrated circuit **10**, and the external connection terminal **91**, via which the clock signal CK is outputted, are arranged so as not to overlap with each other in the plan view viewed in the axis-Z direction. As described above, in the WLP (wafer level package) vibration device **1** according to the present embodiment including the integrated circuit **10**, which includes the oscillation circuit **11** and the output buffer circuit **12**, and the vibrator **5**, the through electrodes **40** and **41**, which electrically couple the vibrator **5** to the oscillation circuit **11** of the integrated circuit **10**, and the external connection terminal **91** for outputting the clock signal CK are arranged so as not to overlap with each other in the plan view. That is, arranging the through electrodes **40** and **41**, which are part of the wiring lines electrically coupled to the vibrator **5**, and an external connection terminal through which an AC signal flows, such as the external connection terminal **91** for outputting the clock signal CK based on the oscillation signal OSC, so as not to overlap with each other in the plan view reduces the capacitance of the capacitive coupling between the through electrodes **40**, **41** and the external connection terminal **91**.

(62) For example, in the present embodiment, since the vibrator **5** is directly mounted on the

semiconductor substrate **20**, unlike a vibrator using a ceramic package in related art, to form the vibration device **1**, there are the following problems specific to the configuration in the present embodiment: In the package of the vibration device **1**, which has a compact size achieved by WLP, the integrated circuit **10** is formed at the second surface **22**, which is the lower surface of the semiconductor substrate **20**, which forms part of the airtight package, and the through electrodes **40** and **41**, which are called conduction vias or through holes and electrically coupled to the vibrator **5**, are formed in the semiconductor substrate **20**. The through electrodes **40** and **41**, to which the vibrator **5** is electrically coupled, adversely affect the oscillation frequency and other oscillation characteristics particularly when a terminal or an electrode for an AC or an alternating current signal is placed in the vicinity of the through electrodes **40** and **41** and capacitively coupled thereto. The insulating layer **80** having a thin film thickness and formed of a resin layer made, for example, of polyimide is formed at the side facing the second surface **22** of the semiconductor substrate **20**, such as a silicon substrate, and furthermore, for example, the four external connection terminals **91** to **94** are formed at the lower surface of the insulating layer **80**. The insulating layer **80** is thinner than the semiconductor substrate **20** and has a film thickness, for example, smaller than or equal to 0.1 mm. The thin insulating layers **44** are also formed around the through electrodes **40** and **41**, as shown in FIG. 2. The semiconductor substrate **20**, which can be a dielectric or a conductor, is interposed between the through electrodes **40**, **41** and the external connection terminals **91** to **94**, unlike in ceramic packages in related art. Therefore, if the through electrodes **40** and **41** and the external connection terminal **91** for outputting the clock signal CK, which is an AC signal, are arranged so as to overlap each other in the plan view, the through electrodes **40** and **41** and the external connection terminal **91** arranged via the thin insulating layers **80** and **44** and other components undesirably increase the degree of the capacitive coupling, which adversely affects the oscillation characteristics. That is, since the capacitance value is inversely proportional to the inter-electrode distance, the capacitance produced by the thin insulating layers **80** and undesirably increases. When the capacitance of the capacitive coupling between the through electrodes **40**, **41** and the external connection terminal **91** increases, the signal components of the clock signal CK at the external connection terminal **91** are transmitted as noise to the vibrator **5** and the oscillation circuit **11** via the through electrodes **40** and **41**, causing problems, such as degradation in the oscillation characteristics.

(63) In view of the situation described above, in the present embodiment, the through electrodes **40** and **41**, which are electrically coupled to the vibrator **5**, and the external connection terminal **91**, via which the clock signal CK, which is an AC signal, is outputted, are arranged so as not to overlap with each other in the plan view, as shown in FIG. 9. When the through electrodes **40** and **41** and the external connection terminal **91** are arranged so as not to overlap with each other in the plan view as described above, the distance between the through electrodes **40**, **41** and the external connection terminal **91** can be increased as compared with a case where the through electrodes **40** and **41** and the external connection terminal **91** are arranged so as to overlap with each other in the plan view. The capacitance of the capacitive coupling between the through electrodes **40**, **41** and the external connection terminal **91** can thus be reduced, whereby degradation in the oscillation characteristics of the vibrator **5** and other undesirable situations can be effectively suppressed.

(64) The external connection terminals **91** to **94** of the vibration device **1** are coupled, for example, by soldering to terminals and wiring lines of a circuit substrate on which the vibration device **1** is mounted. Therefore, the external connection terminals **91** to **94** are desirably terminals suitable for mounting, such as soldering, and also need to be thermally resistant and strong enough not to be damaged during the mounting.

(65) In this regard, pads of the integrated circuit are used as external connection terminals in JP-A-2004-214787 described above. For example, pads formed by the uppermost metal layer of a wiring layer are used as the external connection terminals. The pads of the integrated circuit are, however, not terminals suitable for mounting, such as soldering, and the small area, low thermal resistance,

and small strength of the pads may cause problems, for example, that the pads are damaged during the mounting.

(66) In contrast, the vibration device **1** according to the present embodiment uses the external connection terminals **91** to **94** provided at the side facing the second surface **22** of the semiconductor substrate **20** via the insulating layer **80**. That is, in place of the contact pads **38**, **39**, **68**, and **69** of the integrated circuit **10**, the vibration device **1** uses the external connection terminals **91** to **94**, which are provided separately from the pads and formed, for example, in the step of manufacturing the relocation wiring layer **8**. Terminals suitable for mounting, such as soldering, can therefore be used as the external connection terminals **91** to **94**. For example, the external connection terminals **91** to **94** can have larger areas than the contact pads **38**, **39**, **68**, and **69**, and can also be thicker with the strength maintained. Therefore, the external connection terminals **91** to **94** can be readily coupled to external terminals and wiring lines to mount the vibration device **1**, and damage and other undesirable situations during the mounting can also be suppressed.

(67) On the other hand, when the external connection terminals **91** to **94** have large areas as described above, the capacitive coupling between, for example, the through electrodes **40**, **41** and the external connection terminal **91** may undesirably have large capacitance. In this regard, in the present embodiment, since the through electrodes **40** and **41** and the external connection terminal **91** are arranged so as not to overlap with each other in the plan view, the degradation in the oscillation characteristics caused by the capacitive coupling can be suppressed even when the external connection terminal **91** has a large area. Therefore, the present embodiment can provide the external connection terminals **91** to **94**, which are readily coupled to external terminals and wiring lines and have so high thermal resistance and large strength that the external connection terminals **91** to **94** are unlikely to be damaged, and can also suppress the degradation in the oscillation characteristics caused by the capacitive coupling between the through electrodes **40**, **41** and the external connection terminal **91**.

(68) In the present embodiment, the base **2** has an edge SD1 and an edge SD2 facing the edge SD1, as shown in FIG. **9**. The edge SD1 is a first edge, and the edge SD2 is a second edge. The base **2** further has an edge SD3 and an edge SD4 facing the edge SD3. The edge SD3 is a third edge, and the edge SD4 is a fourth edge. For example, the base **2** has a rectangular shape having the edges SD1, SD2, SD3, and SD4 in the plan view. The rectangular shape does not need to be exactly rectangular. For example, the rectangular shape may have chamfered corners.

(69) The through electrodes **40** and **41** are placed in positions closer to the edge SD1, which is the first edge, than to the edge SD2, which is the second edge, in the plan view, as shown in FIG. **9**. On the other hand, the external connection terminal **91**, via which the clock signal CK is outputted, is placed in a position closer to the edge SD2 than to the edge SD1 in the plan view. For example, let CL be the center line between the edges SD1 and SD2. For example, the distance between the edge SD1 and the center line CL is equal to the distance between the edge SD2 and the center line CL. In this case, the through electrodes **40** and **41** are placed, for example, in a first region that is the region between the edge SD1 and the center line CL. On the other hand, the external connection terminal **91** is placed, for example, in a second region that is the region between the edge SD2 and the center line CL. Therefore, the through electrodes **40** and **41** are placed in positions shifted toward the edge SD1, and the external connection terminal **91** is placed in a position shifted toward the side SD2. The distance between the through electrodes **40**, **41** and the external connection terminal **91** can therefore be increased. The capacitance of the capacitive coupling between the through electrodes **40**, **41** and the external connection terminal **91** can thus be reduced, whereby degradation in the oscillation characteristics of the vibrator **5** and other undesirable situations can be suppressed.

(70) In the present embodiment, the contact pads **36** and **37** for through electrodes, which are electrically coupled to the through electrodes **40** and **41**, are placed at the second surface **22** of the semiconductor substrate **20**, as shown in FIGS. **1**, **2**, and **9**. For example, the contact pads **36** and

37 for through electrodes are formed by the metal layer **31** of the wiring layer **30** formed in a semiconductor manufacturing process. For example, the contact pads **36** and **37** for through electrodes are formed by patterning the metal layer **31** at the locations corresponding to the lower ends of the through electrodes **40** and **41**. The contact pads **36** and **37** for through electrodes are placed in positions closer to the edge **SD1** than to the edge **SD2** in the plan view, as shown in FIG. **9**. For example, the contact pads **36** and **37** are placed in the first region between the edge **SD1** and the center line **CL** and are electrically coupled to the through electrodes **40** and **41**. Not only the distance between the through electrodes **40**, **41** and the external connection terminal **91** but also the distance between the contact pads **36**, **37** for through electrodes and the external connection terminal **91** can thus be increased. Not only the capacitance of the capacitive coupling between the through electrodes **40**, **41** and the external connection terminal **91** but also the capacitance of the capacitive coupling between the contact pads **36**, **37** and the external connection terminal **91** can thus be reduced, whereby degradation in the oscillation characteristics of the vibrator **5** and other undesirable situations can be suppressed.

(71) The wiring lines **LA** and **LB**, which electrically couple the contact pads **36** and **37** for through electrodes to the oscillation circuit **11**, are placed at the second surface **22** of the semiconductor substrate **20**. The wiring lines **LA** and **LB** are wiring lines that couple the oscillation circuit **11** to the terminals **TXA** and **TXB**, which are achieved by the contact pads **36** and **37**, as shown in FIGS. **4** and **5**. For example, the wiring line **LA** is coupled to one of the input and output nodes of the oscillation circuit **11**, and the wiring line **LB** is coupled to the other node. The wiring lines **LA** and **LB** are formed by at least one of the metal layers **31** and **32** of the wiring layer **30** in FIG. **2**. The wiring lines **LA** and **LB** are placed in positions closer to the edge **SD1** than to the edge **SD2** in the plan view, as shown in FIG. **9**. For example, at least one of the wiring lines **LA** and **LB** is placed in a position closer to the edge **SD1** than to the edge **SD2**. For example, the wiring lines **LA** and **LB** are placed in the first region between the edge **SD1** and the center line **CL** and couple the oscillation circuit **11** to the terminals **TXA** and **TXB**, which are achieved by the contact pads **36** and **37**. Not only the distance between the through electrodes **40**, **41** and the external connection terminal **91** but also the distance between the wiring lines **LA** and **LB** and the external connection terminal **91** can thus be increased. Not only the capacitance of the capacitive coupling between the through electrodes **40**, **41** and the external connection terminal **91** but also the capacitance of the capacitive coupling between the wiring lines **LA**, **LB** and the external connection terminal **91** can thus be reduced, whereby degradation in the oscillation characteristics of the vibrator **5** and other undesirable situations can be suppressed.

(72) The contact pad **38** for clock signal output, via which the clock signal **CK** is outputted, is placed at the second surface **22** of the semiconductor substrate **20**, as shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**. The output buffer circuit **12** outputs the clock signal **CK** to the terminal **TCK** achieved by the contact pad **38**, and the contact pad **38** is placed at the second surface **22** of the semiconductor substrate **20**, as shown, for example, in FIGS. **4** and **5**. For example, the contact pad **38** for clock signal output is formed, for example, by the uppermost metal layer **32** of the wiring layer **30** formed in a semiconductor manufacturing process. The contact pad **38** for clock signal output is formed, for example, by patterning the metal layer **32**. In this process, it is desirable to expose the contact pads **38** via the passivation film, which is the uppermost insulating layer **35**.

(73) The contact pad **38** for clock signal output and the external connection terminal **91** are then electrically coupled to each other via the insulating layer **80**. For example, the insulating layer **80** is provided between the contact pad **38** and the external connection terminal **91**, and the contact pad **38** and the external connection terminal **91** are electrically coupled to each other via the insulating layer **80**. Specifically, the contact pad **38** and the external connection terminal **91** are electrically coupled to each other via the insulating layer **80**, which forms the relocation wiring layer **8**. That is, the electrical connection is achieved via the insulating layer **80** achieved by a resin layer made, for example, of polyimide. The vibration device **1** can therefore be coupled to external terminals or

wiring lines instead of using the contact pad **38** formed at the second surface **22** of the semiconductor substrate **20** but by using the external connection terminal **91** provided so as to be separate from the contact pad **38** via the insulating layer **80**. For example, it is difficult for the contact pad **38** to achieve an external connection terminal that has a large area suitable for mounting, for example, by soldering and is unlikely to be damaged. Using the contact pad **38** as an external connection terminal may therefore make the mounting of the vibration device **1** difficult or cause problems, such as damage to the external connection terminal. In this regard, the present embodiment, in which the external connection terminal **91** provided separately from the contact pad **38** is used, can prevent the occurrence of the problems described above. The distance between the external connection terminal **91** and the through electrodes **40**, **41** can also be increased, also preventing the degradation in the oscillation characteristics.

(74) In the present embodiment, the area of the external connection terminal **91** is greater than the area of the contact pad **38** for clock signal output, as shown in FIGS. **1**, **2**, and **9**. Similarly, the areas of the external connection terminals **92**, **93**, and **94** also have large areas. The contact pad **38** has, for example, an area of about the square of 70 to 100 μm . The external connection terminals **91**, **92**, **93**, and **94** each have, for example, an area of at least about the square of 0.19 mm. The large-area external connection terminal **91** and other terminals are provided at the bottom surface of the vibration device **1**, as shown in FIG. **10**, to facilitate the coupling between the external connection terminal **91** and other terminals and external terminals or wiring lines when the vibration device **1** is mounted.

(75) In the present embodiment, the contact pad **38** for clock signal output and the external connection terminal **91** are placed so as to overlap with each other in the plan view, as shown in FIGS. **1**, **2**, and **9**. For example, the external connection terminal **91** is placed below the contact pad **38** via the insulating layer **80**, as shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**. The contact pad **38** is then electrically coupled to the external connection terminal **91** placed below the contact pad **38**, for example, via a via contact in the relocation wiring layer **8**.

(76) The clock signal CK from the output buffer circuit **12** in FIGS. **4** and **5** can thus be outputted along a short path via the contact pad **38** and out of the external connection terminal **91**. Parasitic capacitance and parasitic resistance in the path along which the clock signal CK is outputted can thus be reduced, whereby the clock signal CK having good signal characteristics can be outputted via the external connection terminal **91**.

(77) In the present embodiment, the oscillation circuit **11** is placed in a position closer to the edge SD1 than to the edge SD2 in the plan view, as shown in FIG. **9**. For example, the oscillation circuit **11** is placed in the first region between the edge SD1 and the center line CL. Specifically, the oscillation circuit **11** is placed between the edge SD1 and the through electrodes **40**, **41** in the plan view. That is, the oscillation circuit **11** is placed in the region between the edge SD1 and the line connecting the through electrode **40** to the through electrode **41**. For example, the oscillation circuit **11** is so placed along the edge SD1 that the longitudinal direction of the oscillation circuit **11** extends along the edge SD1. The oscillation circuit **11** is then electrically coupled to the vibrator **5** via the wiring lines LA and LB and the terminals TXA and TXB achieved by the contact pads **36** and **37**, which are placed in the first region where the oscillation circuit **11** is placed, to cause the vibrator **5** to oscillate.

(78) For example, transistors, capacitors, resistors, and other circuit elements that form the oscillation circuit **11** each have an electrically conductive layer having an area in the plan view, such as a metal layer or a diffusion layer. The capacitive coupling between the electrically conductive layers in the oscillation circuit **11** and the external connection terminal **91** therefore causes the signal components of the clock signal CK outputted via the external connection terminal **91** to be transmitted as noise to the oscillation circuit **11**, and the transmitted signal components may adversely affect the oscillation characteristics of the oscillation circuit **11**. In this regard, in the present embodiment, the oscillation circuit **11** is placed in the vicinity of the edge SD1 in the plan

view, whereby the distance between the oscillation circuit **11** and the external connection terminal **91**, which is placed in the vicinity of the edge SD2 in the plan view, can be increased. The capacitance of the capacitive coupling between the oscillation circuit **11** and the external connection terminal **91** can thus be reduced, whereby degradation in the oscillation characteristics of the oscillation circuit **11** and other undesirable situations can be suppressed.

(79) In the present embodiment, the output buffer circuit **12** is placed in a position closer to the side SD2 than to the side SD1 in the plan view, as shown in FIG. 9. For example, the output buffer circuit **12** is placed in the second region between the edge SD2 and the center line CL. Specifically, the output buffer circuit **12** is placed in the vicinity of the corner where the edges SD2 and SD3 intersect with each other.

(80) For example, transistors and other circuit elements that form the output buffer circuit **12** each have an electrically conductive layer having an area in the plan view, such as a metal layer or a diffusion layer. The capacitive coupling between the electrically conductive layers in the output buffer circuit **12** and the through electrodes **40**, **41** therefore causes the signal components of the clock signal CK from the output buffer circuit **12** to be transmitted as noise to the vibrator **5** and the oscillation circuit **11** via the through electrodes **40** and **41**, and the transmitted noise may adversely affect the oscillation characteristics of the oscillation circuit **11**. In this regard, in the present embodiment, the output buffer circuit **12** is placed in the vicinity of the edge SD2 in the plan view, whereby the distance between the output buffer circuit **12** and the through electrodes **40**, **41**, which are placed in the vicinity of the edge SD1 in the plan view, can be increased. The capacitance of the capacitive coupling between the output buffer circuit **12** and the through electrodes **40**, **41** can therefore be reduced, whereby degradation in the oscillation characteristics and other undesirable situations can be suppressed.

(81) In the present embodiment, the external connection terminals **92** and **94** for constant potential signals are provided on side facing the second surface **22** of the semiconductor substrate **20** via the insulating layer **80**. The constant potential signals used herein are each a signal that is not an AC signal, for example, a signal carrying potential that does not change dynamically. The constant potential signals may each be a power supply signal. For example, the external connection terminal **92** is a terminal to which the power supply voltage VDD, which is a constant-potential power supply signal, is supplied. The external connection terminal **94** is a terminal to which the output enable signal OE, which is a constant potential signal fixed at the low or high level when the vibration device **1** operates, is inputted. The through electrode **40** is placed so as to overlap with the external connection terminal **92** for the power supply voltage VDD in the plan view, as shown in FIG. 9. The through electrode **41** is placed so as to overlap with the external connection terminal **94** for the output enable signal OE in the plan view. The external connection terminals for constant potential signals are not limited to the external connection terminal for the power supply voltage VDD or the external connection terminal for the output enable signal OE and may instead, for example, include an external connection terminal for GND.

(82) For example, since the external connection terminals **91** to **94** are terminals each having a large area, a large region of the bottom surface of the vibration device **1** is occupied by the external connection terminals **91** to **94**, as shown in FIG. 10. Therefore, when the external connection terminals **91** to **94** are not skillfully placed, the through electrodes **40** and **41** may overlap with the external connection terminal **91** for clock signal output in the plan view, resulting in degradation in the oscillation characteristics and other undesirable situations. In this regard, in the present embodiment, the external connection terminals **92** and **94** for constant potential signals are placed so as to overlap with the through electrodes **40** and **41** in the plan view. When the external connection terminals **92** and **94** are placed so as to overlap with the through electrodes **40** and **41** as described above, the external connection terminal **91** for clock signal output can be placed in a region of the bottom surface of the vibration device **1** that is the region excluding the regions where the external connection terminals **92** and **94** are placed. The through electrodes **40** and **41** and the

external connection terminal **91** for clock signal output are thus readily arranged so as not to overlap with each other in the plan view, whereby the occurrence of degradation in the oscillation characteristics and other undesirably situations can be suppressed.

(83) In the present embodiment, the vibration device **1** includes the lid **7**, which is joined to the base **2** so as to accommodate the vibrator **5**, as shown in FIG. **1**. For example, the lid **7** is joined to the base **2** via the joining members **71** and **72**. Providing the thus configured lid **7** allows the vibrator **5** to be placed in the accommodation space SP formed by joining the base **2** and the lid **7** to each other. For example, the vibrator **5** can be placed in the hermetically sealed accommodation space SP, whereby the vibrator **5** and other components can be preferably protected, for example, from impact, dust, heat, and moisture.

(84) The lid **7** can be achieved by a silicon substrate, as the base **2** can. The coefficients of linear expansion of the base **2** and the lid **7** are therefore equal to each other, so that thermal stress caused by thermal expansion of the base **2** and the lid **7** is suppressed, whereby a vibration device **1** having excellent vibration characteristics can be achieved. The base **2** and the lid **7** can both be formed in a semiconductor manufacturing process. Therefore, the vibration device **1** can be manufactured with high precision, and the size of the vibration device **1** can be reduced. The lid **7** is, however, not necessarily achieved by a silicon substrate and may instead be achieved by a semiconductor substrate made, for example, of Ge, GaP, GaAs, or InP.

(85) The vibration device **1** may be configured not to include the lid **7**, which is joined to the base **2**. For example, the base **2** with the vibrator **5** placed at the side facing the first surface **21** and the integrated circuit **10** formed at the second surface **22** may be accommodated in a separate package or in a container that serves as a thermostatic oven in an oven controlled crystal oscillator (OCXO).

(86) It is assumed in FIG. **9** that the direction from the edge SD**1** toward the edge SD**2** is a first direction, and that the direction from the edge SD**3** toward the edge SD**4** is a second direction. The first direction is the direction along the axis X, and the second direction is the direction along the axis Y. It is further assumed that the direction opposite the first direction is a third direction, and that the direction opposite the second direction is a fourth direction. Under the definitions described above, the oscillation circuit **11** is placed at a side of the edge SD**1** that is the side facing in the first direction, and the through electrodes **40** and **41** are placed at a side of the oscillation circuit **11** that is the side facing in the first direction. The temperature sensor circuit **16** is placed at a side of the oscillation circuit **11** that is the side facing in the second direction. The output buffer circuit **12**, the logic circuit **13**, the power supply circuit **14**, the temperature compensation circuit **15**, and the memory **17** are placed at a side of the through electrodes **40** and **41** that is the side facing in the first direction. That is, the output buffer circuit **12**, the logic circuit **13**, the power supply circuit **14**, the temperature compensation circuit **15**, and the memory **17** are placed in the region between the through electrodes **40**, **41** and the edge SD**2**. The temperature compensation circuit **15** is placed at a side of the output buffer circuit **12** that is the side facing in the second direction, the logic circuit **13** and the power supply circuit **14** are placed at a side of the temperature compensation circuit **15** that is the side facing in the second direction, and the memory **17** is placed at a side of the logic circuit **13** that is the side facing in the second direction.

(87) In the present embodiment, the vibrator **5** is fixed to the semiconductor substrate **20** via the electrically conductive joining members **60** and **61**, and the distance between the temperature sensor circuit **16** and, for example, the through electrode **41** is smaller than the distance between the output buffer circuit **12** and the through electrode **41**. As described above, in the present embodiment, since the vibrator **5** is directly fixed to the semiconductor substrate **20** via the joining members **60** and **61**, the heat generated by the output buffer circuit **12** is more likely to be transmitted to the vibrator **5** than in oscillators of related art using ceramic packages. That is, the heat generated by the output buffer circuit **12** causes an immediate increase in the temperature of the vibrator **5**. Furthermore, since no ceramic material having low thermal conductivity is present between the output buffer circuit **12** and the vibrator **5**, the heat generated by the output buffer

circuit **12** is likely to be transmitted also as radiant heat to the vibrator **5**. For example, since the output buffer circuit **12** is a circuit that drives an external load of the vibration device **1**, current having, for example, a magnitude of 10 mA or greater may flow through the output buffer circuit **12** when the external load is driven, so that the output buffer circuit **12** generates a very large amount of heat. On the other hand, since the distance between the temperature sensor circuit **16** and the through electrode **41** is small, the temperature sensor circuit **16** can quickly detect the actual temperature of the vibrator **5**, which has risen due to the heat generated by the output buffer circuit **12**. That is, the actual temperature of the vibrator **5** is transmitted to the integrated circuit **10** via the through electrode **41** having high thermal conductivity and other components, and the actual temperature can be quickly detected by the temperature sensor circuit **16** placed at the short distance from the through electrode **41**. For example, when the vibration device **1** is activated, the heat generated by the output buffer circuit **12** is quickly transmitted to the vibrator **5** via the short heat conduction path, causing the actual temperature of the vibrator **5** to rise, and the actual temperature of the vibrator **5** is detected via the through electrode **41** and other components by the temperature sensor circuit **16** placed in the vicinity of the through electrode **41**. The temperature compensation circuit **15** then performs the temperature compensation based on the temperature detected by the temperature sensor circuit **16**, whereby appropriate temperature compensation according to the actual temperature of the vibrator **5** is performed on the oscillation frequency. The occurrence of degradation in the oscillation characteristics caused by the deviation of the temperature detected by the temperature sensor circuit from the actual temperature of the vibrator **5** can therefore be effectively suppressed.

(88) 3. Variations

(89) A variety of variations of the present embodiment will next be described. For example, FIG. **11** shows another example of the through electrode **40**. The through electrode **41** has the same configuration and will therefore not be described. In FIG. **11**, the insulating layer **44** is formed at the inner wall of the through hole in the base **2**, and a resin layer **45** is further formed at the inner side of the insulating layer **44**. The through electrode **40** is formed of a metal layer formed at the inner side of the resin layer **45**. The thus configured through electrode **40** allows electrical coupling between the vibrator **5** and the oscillation circuit **11** of the integrated circuit **10**. That is, the vibrator **5** and the contact pad **36** of the integrated circuit **10** are electrically coupled to each other via the joining member **60**, which is formed of the bump **62**, and the through electrode **40**, and the contact pad **36** is electrically coupled as the terminals TXA and TXB in FIGS. **4** and **5** to the oscillation circuit **11**, so that the vibrator **5** is electrically coupled to the oscillation circuit **11**.

(90) The output buffer circuit **12** may output differential clock signals CK and CKX in a signal format, such as LVDS (low voltage differential signaling), PECL (positive emitter coupled logic), HCSL (high speed current steering logic), or differential CMOS (complementary MOS), to a component outside the output buffer circuit **12**. That is, the output buffer circuit **12** may include an output driver for LVDS, PECL, HCSL, or differential CMOS. For example, FIG. **12** shows an example of the configuration of an output driver for LVDS. The output driver includes a P-type transistor for a current source that causes a drive current of 3.5 mA to flow, P-type and N-type transistors that form a differential section to which differential input signals IN and INX are inputted and which outputs the differential clock signals CK and CKX, and an N-type transistor provided at the side facing VSS. Bias voltage BSP is applied to the gate of the P-type transistor that serves as the current source. The drive current of 3.5 mA thus flows. FIG. **13** shows an example of the configuration of an output driver for PECL. The output driver includes a P-type transistor that causes a drive current of 15.25 mA to flow, two P-type transistors that form a differential section, and two P-type transistors that form a bias current circuit that causes a bias current of 5.7 mA to flow to the nodes for the clock signals CK and CKX.

(91) FIG. **14** shows an example of the arrangement of the external connection terminals that output the differential clock signals CK and CKX, as shown in FIGS. **12** and **13**. In FIG. **14**, the vibration

device **1** has six external connection terminals or external connection terminals **91a**, **91b**, **92**, **93**, **94**, and **95**. The external connection terminals **91a** and **91b** are terminals via which the differential clock signals CK and CKX are outputted. The external connection terminals **92** and **93** are terminals for VDD and GND, and the external connection terminal **94** is a terminal for the output enable signal OE. The external connection terminal **95** is an NC (non-connection) terminal. The external connection terminals **91a**, **91b**, **92**, **93**, **94**, and **95** in FIG. **14** are also provided at the side facing the second surface **22** of the semiconductor substrate **20** of the base **2** via the insulating layer **80** in the vibration device **1**. The through electrodes **40** and **41** and the external connection terminals **91a** and **91b** for outputting the differential clock signals CK and CKX are arranged so as not to overlap with each other in the plan view.

(92) FIG. **15** shows another example of the configuration of the integrated circuit **10**, for example, used in a programmable voltage controlled crystal oscillator (VCXO). In FIG. **15**, a PLL circuit **18** is provided. For example, providing a fractional-N PLL circuit **18** allows output of the clock signals CK and CKX each having an arbitrary frequency that is a multiple of the frequency of the oscillation signal from the oscillation circuit **11**. In FIG. **15**, a terminal TVC, to which frequency control voltage VC is inputted, is provided. In FIG. **15**, a digital interface circuit **19** is further provided. The interface circuit **19** is a circuit that interfaces the vibration device **1** with an external apparatus, and the interface circuit **19** allows serial data transfer using a data signal SDA and a clock signal SCL. The interface circuit **19** can be a circuit that serves as an interface, for example, an I2C (inter integrated circuit) and an SPI (serial peripheral interface). Setting a register of the logic circuit **13** via the interface circuit **19** allows, for example, setting of the frequencies of the clock signals CK and CKX. In FIG. **15**, the logic circuit **13** is provided with a temperature compensation circuit **15** that performs digital temperature compensation.

(93) FIG. **16** shows an example of the arrangement of the external connection terminals of the vibration device **1** using the integrated circuit **10** in FIG. **15**. In FIG. **16**, the external connection terminals **91a**, **91b**, **92**, **93**, and **94** for CK, CKX, VDD, GND, and OE are provided, as in FIG. **14**. In FIG. **16**, an external connection terminal **96** for the frequency control voltage VC, an external connection terminal **97** for the data signal SDA, and an external connection terminal **98** for the clock signal SCL are further provided, so that the vibration device **1** has eight external connection terminals. In this case, for example, it is desirable that the external connection terminals for digital signals, such as the external connection terminal **98** for the clock signal SCL and the external connection terminal **97** for the data signal SDA, are arranged so as not to overlap with the through electrode **40** or **41** in the plan view. That is, the external connection terminals for digital signals, which are AC signals, and the through electrodes **40** and **41** are configured not to overlap with each other in the plan view. A digital signal contains many signals close to square waves, and the square waves each contain a variety of frequency components. Therefore, when an external connection terminal to which such a digital signal is applied is placed in the vicinity of the through electrodes **40** and **41** and other wiring lines coupled to the vibrator **5**, the oscillation characteristics of the vibrator **5** are adversely affected. For example, the oscillation frequency may shift, noise signals resulting from the digital signal may be superimposed on the oscillation signal, and other problems may occur. In this regard, the configuration in which the external connection terminals for digital signals and the through electrodes **40** and **41** do not overlap with each other in the plan view can prevent the problems described above from occurring.

(94) As described above, a vibration device according to the present embodiment includes a base including a semiconductor substrate having a first surface that is a front surface and a second surface that is a rear surface and a through electrode that passes through the portion between the first and second surfaces, a vibrator placed at the side facing the first surface, and an external connection terminal provided at the side facing the second surface via an insulating layer. The following components are placed at the second surface: an oscillation circuit that is electrically coupled to the vibrator via the through electrode and generates an oscillation signal by causing the

vibrator to oscillate; and an output buffer circuit that outputs a clock signal based on the oscillation signal. The clock signal from the output buffer circuit is outputted via the external connection terminal, and the through electrode and the external connection terminal are arranged so as not to overlap with each other in the plan view viewed in the direction perpendicular to the first surface. (95) As described above, the vibration device according to the present embodiment includes the base including the semiconductor substrate and the through electrode passing through the semiconductor substrate, the vibrator placed at the side facing the first surface of the semiconductor substrate, and the external connection terminal provided at the side facing the second surface of the semiconductor substrate via the insulating layer. The oscillation circuit and the output buffer circuit are placed at the second surface of the semiconductor substrate. The through electrode and the external connection terminal, via which the clock signal is outputted, are arranged so as not to overlap with each other in the plan view. When the through electrode and the external connection terminal for outputting the clock signal are arranged so as not to overlap with each other in the plan view, the distance between the through electrode and the external connection terminal can be increased as compared with the case where the through electrode and the external connection terminal are arranged so as to overlap with each other in the plan view. The capacitance of the capacitive coupling between the through electrode and the external connection terminal can thus be reduced, whereby degradation in the oscillation characteristics of the vibrator and other undesirable situations can be effectively suppressed.

(96) In the present embodiment, the base may have a first edge and a second edge facing the first edge, the through electrode may be placed in a position closer to the first edge than to the second edge in the plan view, and the external connection terminal may be placed in a position closer to the second edge than to the first edge in the plan view.

(97) Therefore, the through electrode is placed in a position shifted toward the first edge, and the external connection terminal is placed in a position shifted toward the second edge, so that the distance between the through electrode and the external connection terminal can be increased, whereby the capacitance of the capacitive coupling between the through electrode and the external connection terminal can be reduced.

(98) In the present embodiment, a contact pad for a through electrode electrically coupled to the through electrode may be placed at the second surface, and the contact pad for a through electrode may be placed in a position closer to the first edge than to the second edge in the plan view.

(99) The distance between the contact pad for a through electrode and the external connection terminal can therefore also be increased, whereby the capacitance of the capacitive coupling between the contact pad for a through electrode and the external connection terminal can be reduced.

(100) In the present embodiment, a wiring line that electrically couples the contact pad for a through electrode to the oscillation circuit may be placed at the second surface, and the wiring line may be placed in a position closer to the first edge than to the second edge in the plan view.

(101) The distance between the wiring line, which electrically couples the contact pad for a through electrode to the oscillation circuit, and the external connection terminal can therefore be increased, whereby the capacitance of the capacitive coupling between the wiring line and the external connection terminal can also be reduced.

(102) In the present embodiment, a contact pad for clock signal output via which the clock signal is outputted may be placed at the second surface, and the contact pad for clock signal output and the external connection terminal may be electrically coupled to each other via the insulating layer.

(103) The vibration device can therefore be coupled to external terminals or wiring lines instead of using the contact pad for clock signal output formed at the second surface of the semiconductor substrate but by using the external connection terminal provided so as to be separate from the contact pad via the insulating layer.

(104) In the present embodiment, the area of the external connection terminal may be greater than

the area of the contact pad for clock signal output.

(105) The large-area external connection terminal is provided at the vibration device to facilitate the connection between the external connection terminal and external terminals or wiring lines when the vibration device is mounted.

(106) In the present embodiment, the contact pad for clock signal output and the external connection terminal may be arranged so as to overlap with each other in the plan view.

(107) The clock signal from the output buffer circuit can thus be outputted from the vibration device via the contact pad and external connection terminal along a short path, whereby the clock signal having good signal characteristics can be outputted from the vibration device.

(108) In the present embodiment, the oscillation circuit may be placed in a position closer to the first edge than to the second edge in the plan view.

(109) Placing the oscillation circuit in a position close to the first edge as described above allows an increase in the distance between the oscillation circuit and the external connection terminal, which is placed in a position close to the second edge, whereby the capacitance of the capacitive coupling between the oscillation circuit and the external connection terminal can be reduced.

(110) In the present embodiment, the output buffer circuit may be placed in a position closer to the second edge than to the first edge in the plan view.

(111) Placing the output buffer circuit in a position close to the second edge as described above allows an increase in the distance between the output buffer circuit and the through electrode, which is placed in a position close to the first edge, whereby the capacitance of the capacitive coupling between the output buffer circuit and the through electrode can be reduced.

(112) In the present embodiment, an external connection terminal for a constant potential signal may be provided at the side facing the second surface via the insulating layer, and the through electrode may be placed so as to overlap with the external connection terminal for a constant potential signal in the plan view.

(113) The external connection terminal for a clock signal output can thus be placed in a region excluding the region where the external connection terminal for a constant potential signal is placed. The through electrode and the external connection terminal for clock signal output are thus readily arranged so as not to overlap with each other, whereby the occurrence of degradation in the oscillation characteristics of the vibration device and other undesirable situations can be suppressed.

(114) In the present embodiment, the vibration device may include a lid joined to the base so as to accommodate the vibrator.

(115) The vibrator can thus be placed in an accommodation space formed by the base and the lid, whereby the vibrator can be preferably protected, for example, from impact, dust, heat, or moisture.

(116) The present embodiment has been described above in detail, and a person skilled in the art will readily appreciate that a large number of variations are conceivable to the extent that they do not substantially depart from the novel items and effects of the present disclosure. Such variations are all therefore assumed to fall within the scope of the present disclosure. For example, a term described at least once in the specification or the drawings along with a different term having a broader meaning or the same meaning can be replaced with the different term anywhere in the specification or the drawings. Furthermore, all combinations of the present embodiment and the variations fall within the scope of the present disclosure. Moreover, the configuration, operation, and other factors of the vibration device are not limited to those described in the present embodiment and can be changed in a variety of manners.

Claims

1. A vibration device comprising: a base including a semiconductor substrate having a first surface that is a front surface and a second surface that is a rear surface and a through electrode that passes

through a portion between the first and second surfaces; a vibrator placed at a side facing the first surface; a first external connection terminal provided at a side facing the second surface via an insulating layer; and a second external connection terminal for a constant potential signal provided at the side facing the second surface via the insulating layer, wherein components below are placed at the second surface, an oscillation circuit that is electrically coupled to the vibrator via the through electrode and generates an oscillation signal by causing the vibrator to oscillate, and an output buffer circuit that outputs a clock signal based on the oscillation signal, the clock signal from the output buffer circuit is outputted via the first external connection terminal, the through electrode and the first external connection terminal are arranged so as not to overlap with each other in a plan view viewed in a direction perpendicular to the first surface, and the through electrode is placed so as to overlap with the second external connection terminal in the plan view.

2. The vibration device according to claim 1, wherein the base has a first edge and a second edge facing the first edge, the through electrode is placed in a position closer to the first edge than to the second edge in the plan view, and the first external connection terminal is placed in a position closer to the second edge than to the first edge in the plan view.
3. The vibration device according to claim 2, wherein a contact pad electrically coupled to the through electrode is placed at the second surface, and the contact pad is placed in a position closer to the first edge than to the second edge in the plan view.
4. The vibration device according to claim 3, wherein a wiring line that electrically couples the contact pad to the oscillation circuit is placed at the second surface, and the wiring line is placed in a position closer to the first edge than to the second edge in the plan view.
5. The vibration device according to claim 1, wherein a contact pad for clock signal output via which the clock signal is outputted is placed at the second surface, and the contact pad for clock signal output and the first external connection terminal are electrically coupled to each other via the insulating layer.
6. The vibration device according to claim 5, wherein an area of the first external connection terminal is greater than an area of the contact pad for clock signal output.
7. The vibration device according to claim 5, wherein the contact pad for clock signal output and the first external connection terminal are arranged so as to overlap with each other in the plan view.
8. The vibration device according to claim 2, wherein the oscillation circuit is placed in a position closer to the first edge than to the second edge in the plan view.
9. The vibration device according to claim 2, wherein the output buffer circuit is placed in a position closer to the second edge than to the first edge in the plan view.
10. The vibration device according to claim 1, further comprising a lid joined to the base so as to accommodate the vibrator.
