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Semiconductor device having fuse component

Abstract

A semiconductor device is provided. The semiconductor device includes a substrate having an active area and a fuse component. The fuse component has a bottom electrode in the active area, a first dielectric layer on the active area and a top electrode on the first dielectric layer. The semiconductor device also includes a second dielectric layer on the active area and surrounding the first dielectric layer.

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Background/Summary

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) The present disclosure relates to a semiconductor device having a fuse component, and more particularly, to a fuse component having a fuse blown area.

DISCUSSION OF THE BACKGROUND

(2) Fuses and anti-fuses are widely used in the fabrication of semiconductor devices, such as

dynamic random-access memory (DRAM) or other memory devices for fault tolerance, or used as programmable links in programmable circuits. For example, a circuit path that is initially conductive can be broken or cut off by activating (e.g., blowing, melting, etc.) a fuse. Conversely, a non-conductive circuit path may become a short circuit by activating (e.g., through unblowing, breakdown, metal diffusion, transformation of properties, etc.) an anti-fuse.

(3) However, fuses and anti-fuses may occupy a large area. As semiconductor devices become more highly integrated, fuses and anti-fuses with favorable size and breakdown conditions are required.

(4) This Discussion of the Background section is provided for background information only. The statements in this Discussion of the Background are not an admission that the subject matter disclosed herein constitutes prior art with respect to the present disclosure, and no part of this Discussion of the Background may be used as an admission that any part of this application constitutes prior art with respect to the present disclosure.

SUMMARY

(5) One aspect of the present disclosure provides a semiconductor device. The semiconductor device includes a substrate having an active area and a fuse component. The fuse component has a bottom electrode in the active area, a first dielectric layer on the active area and a top electrode on the first dielectric layer. The semiconductor device also includes a second dielectric layer on the active area and surrounding the first dielectric layer.

(6) Another aspect of the present disclosure provides a semiconductor device. The semiconductor device includes a substrate having an active area and a first diffusion area adjacent to a surface of the active area. The semiconductor device also includes a nitride layer on the active area and defines a first fuse blown area above the first diffusion area.

(7) Another aspect of the present disclosure provides a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device. The method includes providing a substrate having an active area and forming a first diffusion area in the active area. The method also includes disposing a nitride layer on the active area and forming an opening in the nitride layer to expose the first diffusion area. The method also includes disposing an oxide layer in the opening to contact the first diffusion area.

(8) By using a nitride layer to define a fuse blown area, the oxide breakdown area of the fuse component of the present disclosure is reduced and the probability of successfully fusing the fuse components is increased. In addition, since the oxide breakdown location of the fuse component of the present disclosure is spaced apart from the transistor, the drain-gate (D-G) short probability is reduced.

(9) The foregoing has outlined rather broadly the features and technical advantages of the present disclosure so that the detailed description of the disclosure that follows may be better understood. Additional features and advantages of the disclosure will be described hereinafter, and form the subject of the claims of the disclosure. It should be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the conception and specific embodiment disclosed may be readily utilized as a basis for modifying or designing other structures or processes for carrying out the same purposes of the present disclosure. It should also be realized by those skilled in the art that such equivalent constructions do not depart from the spirit and scope of the disclosure as set forth in the appended claims.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) A more complete understanding of the present disclosure may be derived by referring to the detailed description and claims when considered in connection with the Figures, where like reference numbers refer to similar elements throughout the Figures, and:

(2) FIG. 1A is a schematic cross-sectional view of a semiconductor device in accordance with some

embodiments of the present disclosure.

(3) FIG. 1B is a schematic top view of a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(4) FIG. 1C is a schematic top view of a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(5) FIG. 2 is a schematic cross-sectional view of a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(6) FIG. 3 illustrates a schematic top view of a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(7) FIG. 4A is a schematic cross-sectional view of a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(8) FIG. 4B is a schematic top view of a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(9) FIG. 5A illustrates one or more stages of a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(10) FIG. 5B illustrates one or more stages of a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(11) FIG. 5C illustrates one or more stages of a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(12) FIG. 5D illustrates one or more stages of a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(13) FIG. 5E illustrates one or more stages of a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(14) FIG. 5F illustrates one or more stages of a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(15) FIG. 5G illustrates one or more stages of a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(16) FIG. 5H illustrates one or more stages of a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(17) FIG. 5I illustrates one or more stages of a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(18) FIG. 5J illustrates one or more stages of a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(19) FIG. 6 illustrates a flow chart of a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

(20) Embodiments, or examples, of the disclosure illustrated in the drawings are now described using specific language. It shall be understood that no limitation of the scope of the disclosure is hereby intended. Any alteration or modification of the described embodiments, and any further applications of principles described in this document, are to be considered as normally occurring to one of ordinary skill in the art to which the disclosure relates. Reference numerals may be repeated throughout the embodiments, but this does not necessarily mean that feature(s) of one embodiment apply to another embodiment, even if they share the same reference numeral.

(21) It shall be understood that, although the terms first, second, third, etc., may be used herein to describe various elements, components, regions, layers or sections, these elements, components, regions, layers or sections are not limited by these terms. Rather, these terms are merely used to distinguish one element, component, region, layer or section from another region, layer or section. Thus, a first element, component, region, layer or section discussed below could be termed a second element, component, region, layer or section without departing from the teachings of the present inventive concept.

(22) The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular example embodiments only, and is not intended to be limited to the present inventive concept. As used herein, the singular forms “a,” “an” and “the” are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. It shall be further understood that the terms “comprises” and “comprising,” when used in this specification, point out the presence of stated features, integers, steps, operations, elements, or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, operations, elements, components, or groups thereof.

(23) FIG. 1A is a schematic cross-sectional view of a semiconductor device **1** in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(24) In some embodiments, the semiconductor device **1** may be disposed adjacent to a main device. In some embodiments, the main device may include a volatile memory device or a nonvolatile memory device, such as a dynamic random-access memory (DRAM), an electrically erasable programmable read-only memory (EEPROM), a flash memory, etc. In some embodiments, the semiconductor device **1** may be disposed adjacent to a circuit, such as an analog circuit, a digital circuit, a radio frequency (RF) circuit, a logic operation circuit, or a combined circuit including more than one of these circuits.

(25) In some embodiments, the semiconductor device **1** may be configured to repair the main device. In some embodiments, the semiconductor device **1** may be configured to trim or adjust an operation voltage or an operation frequency in the main device. In some embodiments, the semiconductor device **1** may include a permanent storage, such as a one-time-programmable (OTP) memory device. In some embodiments, the semiconductor device **1** may be configured to store programs, boot codes (e.g., instructions are run by a computer or an electronic device at start up), device identification information, and/or other information to be fixed in value.

(26) In some embodiments, the semiconductor device **1** may include a fuse-array to ensure that bits of the semiconductor device **1** remain fixed (e.g., cannot be altered). The fixing of bits of the semiconductor device **1** may be accomplished via activating (e.g., blowing, melting, etc.) a fuse or activating (e.g., through unblowing, breakdown, metal diffusion, transformation of properties, etc.) an anti-fuse, depending on the fuse type of the semiconductor device **1** utilized.

(27) For example, when a fuse is utilized, it is initially in an unblown state characterized by a relatively low resistance. Application of a high current (e.g., above a predetermined level) causes a permanent transition of the fuse to a blown state characterized by a relatively high resistance (i.e., effectively generating an open circuit). Conversely, when an anti-fuse is utilized, it is initially in a blown state and application of a high voltage (e.g., above a predetermined level) causes a permanent transition of the anti-fuse to an unblown state characterized by a relatively low resistance (i.e., effectively generating a closed circuit). In some embodiments, a blown state may correspond to a logical low value (e.g., 0) and an unblown state may correspond to a logical high value (e.g., 1), or vice versa.

(28) As used herein, the term “fuse component” encompasses a fuse or an anti-fuse. The fuse refers to a component having binary states and is alterable from a conductive state to a non-conductive state (or is alterable from a low resistance to a high resistance) in response to electric stress, such as a programming voltage or current. The anti-fuse refers to a component having binary states and is alterable from a non-conductive state to a conductive state (or is alterable from a high resistance to a low resistance) in response to electric stress, such as a programming voltage or current. Although an anti-fuse is described in the following descriptions as an example, the present disclosure is not limited thereto.

(29) As shown in FIG. 1A, in some embodiments, the semiconductor device **1** may include a substrate **10**, one or more transistors **11**, one or more fuse components **12**, a diffusion area **13**, and a dielectric layer **14**.

(30) The substrate **10** may include a semiconductor substrate. In some embodiments, the substrate **10** may include, for example, silicon (Si), monocrystalline silicon, polysilicon, amorphous silicon,

germanium (Ge), silicon germanium (SiGe), silicon carbide (SiC), silicon germanium carbide (SiGeC), gallium (Ga), gallium arsenide (GaAs), indium (In), indium arsenide (InAs), indium phosphide (InP) or other IV-IV, III-V or II-VI semiconductor materials. In some other embodiments, the substrate **10** may include a layered semiconductor such as silicon/silicon germanium, silicon-on-insulator, or silicon germanium-on-insulator.

(31) The substrate **10** may include one or more isolation structures **10i** and one or more active areas **10a**. The isolation structures **10i** may be disposed between the active areas **10a** to isolate the active areas **10a**. The active areas **10a** may be defined by the isolation structures **10i**.

(32) In some embodiments, the isolation structures **10i** may be disposed over or in the substrate **10**. In some embodiments, the isolation structures **10i** may be disposed in the active area **10a**. In some embodiments, the isolation structures **10i** may include shallow trench isolation (STI) structures.

(33) In some embodiments, the isolation structures **10i** may each include an insulating material such as silicon oxide (SiO₂), silicon nitride (Si₃N₄), silicon oxynitride (N₂O₂Si₂), silicon nitride oxide (N₂O₂Si₂), or fluorine-doped silica.

(34) In some embodiments, the active area **10a** may be disposed over or in the substrate **10**. In some embodiments, the active area **10a** may be disposed over or proximal to a top surface of the substrate **10**. In some embodiments, the active area **10a** may have a surface (or a top surface) **10a1** exposed from the top surface of the substrate **10**. In some embodiments, the surface **10a1** of the active area **10a** may be substantially coplanar with the top surface of the substrate **10**. In some embodiments, the active area **10a** may be disposed between two isolation structures **10i**. For example, a part of the active area **10a** may be disposed between the two isolation structures **10i**.
(35) In some embodiments, the active area **10a** may be doped with an N-type dopant such as phosphorus (P), arsenic (As), or antimony (Sb). In some other embodiments, the doped area **10a** may be doped with a P-type dopant such as boron (B) or indium (In). In some embodiments, the substrate **10** may be or include an unimplanted area. In some embodiments, the active area **10a** may have a higher doping concentration than the substrate **10**.

(36) In some embodiments, the active area **10a** may include a substantially constant doping concentration. In some embodiments, the active area **10a** may include a step, gradient, or other doping profile. For example, the active area **10a** may include a gradually changing doping concentration.

(37) The transistor **11** may be disposed over or in the active area **10a**. The transistor **11** may include a buried transistor. The transistor **11** may be disposed in a trench that runs through one of the active areas **10a**. The transistor **11** may include an insulating liner **11i**, a conductor **11c** and a dielectric layer **11d**.

(38) The conductor **11c** may be the gate of the transistor **11**. In some embodiments, the diffusion area **13** and a bottom electrode **12b** may be source/drain of the transistor **11**. A word-line WL may be connected to the conductor **11c** to turn it on. A bit-line BL may be connected to the diffusion area **13** to apply a voltage to the bottom electrode **12b** through the transistor **11**.

(39) The insulating liner **11i** may be conformally formed on the bottom surface and sidewall of the trench. The insulating liner **11i** may surround or cover a part of the conductor **11c**. The insulating liner **11i** may separate the conductor **11c** from the substrate **10**. The insulating liner **11i** may be disposed between the conductor **11c** and the substrate **10**.

(40) In some embodiments, the insulating liner **11i** may include, for example, silicon oxide (SiO₂), silicon nitride (Si₃N₄), silicon oxynitride (N₂O₂Si₂), silicon nitride oxide (N₂O₂Si₂), a high-k material or combinations thereof. Examples of the high-k material include a dielectric material having a dielectric constant that is higher than that of silicon dioxide (SiO₂), or a dielectric material having a dielectric constant higher than about 3.9. In some embodiments, the insulating liner **11i** may include at least one metallic element, such as hafnium oxide (HfO₂), silicon doped hafnium oxide (HSO), lanthanum oxide (La₂O₃), lanthanum aluminum oxide (LaAlO₃), zirconium oxide (ZrO₂),

zirconium orthosilicate (ZrSiO.sub.4), aluminum oxide (Al.sub.2O.sub.3) or combinations thereof.

(41) The conductor **11c** may include a buried conductor. The conductor **11c** may be disposed on the insulating liner **11i** and spaced apart from the substrate **10** by the insulating liner **11i**.

(42) In some embodiments, the conductor **11c** may include a single layer of metal, metal composite or layers of conductive materials. In some embodiments, the conductor **11c** may include a metal-based material. For example, the conductor **11c** may include titanium (Ti), titanium nitride (TiN), titanium silicon nitride (TiSiN), tantalum (Ta), tantalum nitride (TaN), tantalum silicon nitride (TaSiN), tungsten (W), tungsten nitride (WN), tungsten silicon nitride (WSiN), a stack thereof or a combination thereof.

(43) The dielectric layer **11d** may be disposed on the conductor **11c**. The dielectric layer **11d** may serve to protect the conductor **11c**. The dielectric layer **11d** may have a surface substantially coplanar with the surface **10a** of the active area **10a**.

(44) In some embodiments, the dielectric layer **11d** may include a dielectric material, such as silicon oxide (SiO.sub.2), silicon nitride (Si.sub.3N.sub.4), silicon oxynitride (N.sub.2OSi.sub.2), and silicon nitride oxide (N.sub.2OSi.sub.2), tantalum pentoxide (Ta.sub.2O.sub.5), aluminum oxide (Al.sub.2O.sub.3), strontium bismuth tantalum oxide (SrBi.sub.2Ta.sub.2O.sub.9, SBT), barium strontium titanate oxide (BaSrTiO.sub.3, BST), or a combination thereof. In some embodiments, the dielectric layer **11d** may include a silicon nitride liner and a spin-on-dielectric (SOD) material.

(45) The fuse component **12** may be disposed adjacent to the transistor **11**. The fuse component **12** may include a capacitor used as an anti-fuse. The fuse component **12** may include a capacitor function as an anti-fuse. The capacitor may include a planar capacitor or a metal oxide semiconductor (MOS) capacitor.

(46) However, in some other embodiments, the fuse component **12** may include a metal-oxide-semiconductor field-effect transistor (MOSFET), a poly-fuse or any OTP memory element. The fuse component **12** may include a bottom electrode **12b**, a top electrode **12t** and a dielectric layer **12d** between the bottom electrode **12b** and the top electrode **12t**.

(47) The bottom electrode **12b** may also be referred to as a bottom node or a bottom plate. In some other embodiments, the bottom electrode **12b** may include, but is not limited to, a bowl-shaped profile, a U-shaped profile, or another feasible profile.

(48) The bottom electrode **12b** may include a diffusion area or a doped area. In some embodiments, the diffusion area may be doped with an N-type dopant such as phosphorus (P), arsenic (As), or antimony (Sb). In some embodiments, the diffusion area may be doped with a P-type dopant such as boron (B) or indium (In). In some embodiments, a lightly doped diffusion (LDD) area may be disposed between the bottom electrode **12b** and an edge of the transistor **11**.

(49) The dielectric layer **12d** may include an active area of the fuse component **12**. For example, the dielectric layer **12d** may include a fuse blown area. The fuse blown area may be a region where oxide breakdown can occur. In some embodiments, a dimension (e.g., a thickness, a width or a surface area) of the dielectric layer **12d** may determine a breakdown voltage of the fuse component **12**.

(50) In some embodiments, the dielectric layer **12d** may include oxide, nitride or oxynitride. In some embodiments, the dielectric layer **12d** may include hafnium oxide (f.sub.2), hafnium silicate (HfSiO.sub.4), lanthanum oxide (La.sub.2O.sub.3), lanthanum aluminum oxide (LaAlO.sub.3), zirconium oxide (ZrO.sub.2), zirconium silicate (ZrSiO.sub.4), aluminum oxide (Al.sub.2O.sub.3), other high-k materials, or a combination thereof.

(51) The top electrode **12t** may also be referred to as a top node or a top plate. In some embodiments, the top electrode **12t** may include, for example, a polysilicon layer or a polysilicon strip.

(52) In some embodiments, the fuse components **12** may include a fuse array including a plurality of fuse-array elements. In some embodiments, a node (such as the bottom electrode **12b**) of each

fuse-array element is connected with a transistor. The opposite nodes (such as the top electrodes **12t**) of the fuse-array elements are connected together.

(53) For example, the top electrode **12t** may extend between two fuse components **12**. For example, the top electrode **12t** may connect with a plurality of dielectric layers **12d**. For example, the top electrode **12t** may connect with a plurality of fuse blown areas.

(54) In some embodiments, a voltage $V_{sub.cp}$ (e.g., a pumped voltage, a programming power voltage, a bias voltage, etc.) may be connected to the top electrode **12t** to program the fuse components **12**.

(55) The diffusion area **13** may be doped with an N-type dopant such as phosphorus (P), arsenic (As), or antimony (Sb). In some embodiments, the diffusion area **13** may be doped with a P-type dopant such as boron (B) or indium (In). In some embodiments, a lightly doped diffusion (LDD) area may be disposed between the diffusion area **13** and an edge of the transistor **11**. In some other embodiments, the diffusion area **13** may include, but is not limited to, a bowl-shaped profile, a U-shaped profile, or another feasible profile.

(56) In some embodiments, the diffusion area **13** and the bottom electrode **12b** may be doped with dopants or impurity ions having the same conductivity types. In some embodiments, the diffusion area **13** and the bottom electrode **12b** may be doped with dopants or impurity ions having different conductivity types.

(57) In some embodiments, the diffusion area **13** and the bottom electrode **12b** may be referred to as source/drain regions. In some embodiments, the diffusion area **13** and the bottom electrode **12b** may be disposed on opposite sides of the transistor **11**.

(58) In some embodiments, the transistor **11** may function as an access transistor for activating the fuse component **12**. For example, the transistor **11** may be configured to connect to the bottom electrode **12b**. For example, the transistor **11** may be configured to couple a voltage from the diffusion area **13** to the bottom electrode **12b**.

(59) In some embodiments, each fuse-array element of the semiconductor device **1** may include a fuse component and an access transistor.

(60) In some embodiments, the transistor **11** may be controlled by the bit-line BL and the word-line WL. The bit-line BL may be coupled to the diffusion area **13** and the word-line WL may be coupled to the conductor **11c** of the transistor **11**.

(61) In some embodiments, the top electrode **12t** may be connected or coupled to the voltage $V_{sub.cp}$. In some embodiments, the bottom electrode **12b** may be grounded or held at the substrate potential. In some embodiments, when the voltage exceeds a threshold value (e.g., a breakdown voltage), the fuse component **12** may be activated.

(62) Alternatively, the top electrode **12t** may be grounded or held at the substrate potential. The bottom electrode **12b** may be connected or coupled to a voltage exceeding the threshold value to activate the fuse component **12**.

(63) In some embodiments, a conductive path across the dielectric layer **12d** may be formed, thereby causing an open circuit in the semiconductor device **1** to become a short circuit or a relatively low resistance link or node.

(64) It will be understood that when an element is referred to as being “connected” or “coupled” to another element, it can be directly connected or coupled to the other element, or intervening elements may be present. In contrast, when an element is referred to as being “directly connected” or “directly coupled” to another element, there are no intervening elements present.

(65) In some embodiments, the dielectric layer **12d** may undergo a dielectric breakdown process or a transformation of properties after the breakdown voltage is applied between the top electrode **12t** and the bottom electrode **12b**. In some embodiments, the dielectric layer **12d** may be damaged. In some embodiments, the lattice structure of the dielectric layer **12d** may be changed. In some embodiments, a defect may be formed in the dielectric layer **12d**. In some embodiments, top electrode **12t** and the bottom electrode **12b** may be electrically connected through the dielectric

layer **12d**. In some embodiments, the conductivity of the dielectric layer **12d** may be increased by about 1000 times, by about 10000 times, or more after the breakdown voltage is applied between top electrode **12t** and the bottom electrode **12b**. In some embodiments, the resistivity of the dielectric layer **12d** may be decreased after the breakdown voltage is applied between top electrode **12t** and the bottom electrode **12b**. It will be understood that the conductive path across the dielectric layer **12d** may not be observed when the breakdown voltage is applied.

(66) The dielectric layer **14** may be disposed on the substrate **10** and surrounding the dielectric layer **12d**. The dielectric layer **14** may include, for example, silicon nitride (Si₃N₄) or other nitrides different from the material of the dielectric layer **12d**.

(67) The dielectric layer **14** may be configured to define the fuse blown area (e.g., the region where oxide breakdown can occur). The dielectric layer **14** may define an edge where oxide breakdown is prevented.

(68) In some embodiments, when the breakdown voltage is applied between the top electrode **12t** and the bottom electrode **12b** and the dielectric layer **12d** undergoes a dielectric breakdown process, the dielectric layer **14** may remain unchanged.

(69) In some embodiments, a thickness of the dielectric layer **14** may be greater than a thickness of the dielectric layer **12d** along a direction substantially perpendicular to the surface **10a** of the active area **10a**. In some embodiments, a ratio of the thickness of the dielectric layer **14** to the thickness of the dielectric layer **12d** may be from about 1.0 to 2.0 or higher.

(70) In some embodiments, an edge of the dielectric layer **14** may be rounded. The dielectric layer **14** may include a rounded corner adjacent to a surface thereof facing away from the substrate **10**.

(71) In some embodiments, the dielectric layer **14** may define an opening **14h** exposing a part of the bottom electrode **12b**. The dielectric layer **14** may be disposed on the top surface of the bottom electrode **12b**. The dielectric layer **14** may contact the periphery of the top surface of the bottom electrode **12b**. A part of the bottom electrode **12b** may be covered by the dielectric layer **14** while a part of the bottom electrode **12b** may be covered by the dielectric layer **12d**.

(72) In some embodiments, a width **12bw** of the bottom electrode **12b** may be greater than a width **12dw** of the dielectric layer **12d**. In other words, the width **12dw** of the dielectric layer **12d** may be less than the width **12bw** of the bottom electrode **12b**.

(73) In some embodiments, the dielectric layer **14** may define a plurality of openings **14h**, each exposing a part of the bottom electrodes **12b**. In some embodiments, the dielectric layer **14** may continuously extend among the plurality of openings **14h**. For example, the dielectric layer **14** may connect a plurality of dielectric layers **12d** with one another.

(74) The top electrode **12t** may define a recessing portion **12tr** over the opening **14h** of the dielectric layer **14**. The recessing portion **12tr** may also be disposed over the dielectric layer **12d** and the bottom electrode **12b**. For example, the recessing portion **12tr**, the dielectric layer **12d** and the bottom electrode **12b** may overlap along a direction substantially perpendicular to the surface **10a** of the active area **10a**.

(75) In some embodiments, the top electrode **12t** may define a plurality of recessing portions **12tr**, each being over an opening **14h** of the dielectric layer **14**.

(76) In a comparative embodiment, the fuse dielectric layer (e.g., the fuse blown area) may occupy a larger area on the semiconductor substrate. As semiconductor devices become more highly integrated, fuse components with favorable size and breakdown conditions are required.

(77) According to some embodiments of the present disclosure, by using a nitride layer to define a fuse blown area, the oxide breakdown area of the fuse component of the present disclosure is reduced and the probability of successfully fusing the fuse components is increased. In addition, since the oxide breakdown location of the fuse component of the present disclosure is spaced apart from the transistor, the drain-gate (D-G) short probability is reduced.

(78) FIG. 1B illustrates a schematic top view of a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure. In some embodiments, the semiconductor device **1** of FIG.

1A may be a schematic cross-sectional view cutting through line AA' in FIG. 1B.

(79) As shown in FIG. 1B, the semiconductor device may include a plurality of active areas **10a** separated from one another by the isolation structures (not shown in FIG. 1B, such as the isolation structures **10i** in FIG. 1A).

(80) The top electrodes **12t** may each be formed as a strip-like configuration extending over the substrate (not shown in FIG. 1B, such as the substrate **10** in FIG. 1A) along a first direction, such as the direction D1 shown in FIG. 1B. The top electrodes **12t** may each be formed as a continuous polysilicon line. The top electrodes **12t** may each run through the active areas **10a**. The top electrodes **12t** may each be coupled to a voltage to program the fuse components, such as the voltages V.sub.cp0 and V.sub.cp1.

(81) The transistors **11** may each have a line shape extending along a second direction, such as the direction D2 shown in FIG. 1B. The transistors **11** may each include a buried conductor buried in a trench that runs through the active areas **10a**. The transistors **11** may each be coupled to a word-line (such as the word-lines WL.sub.0, WL.sub.1, WL.sub.2, WL.sub.3, WL.sub.4 and WL.sub.5) to turn on the transistors **11**.

(82) Each active area **10a** may cross two transistors **11** and may be divided into three diffusion areas by the two transistors **11**. For example, the active areas **10a** may be divided into a first diffusion area (where the diffusion areas **13** are located) disposed between the two transistors **11** and second diffusion areas (where the dielectric layers **12d** or the oxide breakdown areas are located) located at two sides of the first diffusion area. It is to be noted that the diffusion areas **13** may not be aligned with the dielectric layers **12d** along the line AA'. Therefore, the diffusion area **13** in FIG. 1A is illustrated with dashed lines.

(83) In some embodiments, the top electrodes **12t** may each be intersected with the transistors **11** at an angle of about 90 degrees. In some embodiments, the active areas **10a** may each be intersected with the transistors **11** at an angle of about 90 degrees.

(84) As described, the word-lines WL.sub.0, WL.sub.1, WL.sub.2, WL.sub.3, WL.sub.4 and WL.sub.5 may be connected to the conductors (such as the connector **11c** in FIG. 1A) of the transistors **11** to turn it on. The diffusion areas **13** may receive a voltage (such as from the bit-line BL in FIG. 1A), which may be coupled to a node or an electrode (such as the bottom electrode **12b** in FIG. 1A) through the transistors **11**. The voltages V.sub.cp0 and V.sub.cp1 (e.g., a pumped voltage, a programming power voltage, a bias voltage, etc.) may be connected to the top electrodes **12t**.

(85) FIG. 1C illustrates a schematic top view of a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure. In some embodiments, the semiconductor device **1** of FIG. 1A may be a schematic cross-sectional view cutting through line AA' in FIG. 1C.

(86) The semiconductor device of FIG. 1C is similar to the semiconductor device of FIG. 1B, except for the differences described below.

(87) The diffusion areas **13** may include bit-line contacts and may each be coupled to a bit-line (such as the bit-lines BL.sub.0, BL.sub.1, BL.sub.2 and BL.sub.3). In some embodiments, the bit-lines BL.sub.0, BL.sub.1, BL.sub.2 and BL.sub.3 may each be intersected with the transistors **11** at an angle of about 90 degrees.

(88) FIG. 2 is a schematic cross-sectional view of a semiconductor device **2** in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure. The semiconductor device **2** of FIG. 2 is similar to the semiconductor device **1** of FIG. 1A, except for the differences described below.

(89) In some embodiments, the dielectric layer **14** may define an opening **14h** exposing the bottom electrode **12b**. The dielectric layer **14** may be spaced apart from the top surface of the bottom electrode **12b**. The dielectric layer **14** may not contact the top surface of the bottom electrode **12b**. An edge of the dielectric layer **14** may be spaced apart from the bottom electrode **12b**. The bottom electrode **12b** may be entirely covered by the dielectric layer **12d**.

(90) In some embodiments, a width **12bw'** of the bottom electrode **12b** may be less than a width

12dw' of the dielectric layer **12d**. In other words, the width **12dw'** of the dielectric layer **12d** may be greater than the width **12bw'** of the bottom electrode **12b**.

(91) FIG. 3 is a schematic cross-sectional view of a semiconductor device **3** in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure. The semiconductor device **3** of FIG. 3 is similar to the semiconductor device **1** of FIG. 1A, except for the differences described below.

(92) In some embodiments, the dielectric layer **14** may include a plurality of portions, each of which may define an opening **14h** to expose a part of the bottom electrodes **12b**. The portions of the dielectric layer **14** may be spaced apart from one another. For example, the dielectric layer **14** may not continuously extend among the plurality of openings **14h**. For example, the dielectric layer **14** may not connect a plurality of dielectric layers **12d** with one another.

(93) For example, the dielectric layer **14** may include a portion **30** defining a fuse blown area over one bottom electrode **12b** and a portion **31** defining a fuse blown area over another bottom electrode **12b**. The portion **30** and the portion **31** may be spaced apart from each other. The portion **30** and the portion **31** may be physically disconnected from each other.

(94) For example, the dielectric layer **14** in FIG. 1A may extend between two adjacent dielectric layers **12d** and run over the transistors **11**. In FIG. 3, the dielectric layer **14** is not extending between two adjacent dielectric layers **12d**.

(95) FIG. 4A is a schematic cross-sectional view of a semiconductor device **4** in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure. FIG. 4B illustrates a schematic top view of a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure. In some embodiments, the semiconductor device **4** of FIG. 4A may be a schematic cross-sectional view cutting through line BB' in FIG. 4B. The semiconductor device **4** is similar to the semiconductor device **1** of FIG. 1A, except for the differences described below.

(96) As shown in FIG. 4B, the active areas **10a** may each be formed as a strip-like configuration extending over the substrate (not shown in FIG. 4B, such as the substrate **10** in FIG. 1A) along a third direction, such as the direction D3 shown in FIG. 4B.

(97) In some embodiments, the top electrodes **12t** may each be intersected with the active areas **10a** at an angle less than about 90 degrees. In some embodiments, the transistors **11** may each be intersected with the active areas **10a** at an angle less than about 90 degrees.

(98) The diffusion area **13** (which may include bit-line contacts) may be shared by two transistors **11**.

(99) FIGS. 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5I and 5J illustrate stages of a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure. At least some of these figures have been simplified for a better understanding of the aspects of the present disclosure. In some embodiments, the semiconductor device **1** in FIG. 1A may be manufactured by the operations described below with respect to FIGS. 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5I and 5J.

(100) Referring to FIG. 5A, the substrate **10** may be provided. The isolation structures **10i** may be disposed over or in the substrate **10**. The active area **10a** may be defined by the isolation structures **10i**. In some embodiments, the isolation structures **10i** may be formed by trench etching followed by filling the trench with a dielectric material. In some embodiments, the active area **10a** may be formed by doping impurities through ion-implantation or thermal diffusion. In some embodiments, the active area **10a** may be formed over or proximal to the top surface of the substrate **10**. In some embodiments, the active area **10a** may be formed after the formation of the isolation structures **10i**. In some other embodiments, the active area **10a** may be formed before the formation of the isolation structures **10i**.

(101) Referring to FIG. 5B, the transistors **11** may be formed in the active area **10a**. For example, trenches may be formed in the active area **10a**. Each of the trenches may have a line shape crossing the active area **10a**. In some embodiments, the trenches may be formed by lithography and etching techniques. For example, each of the trenches may be formed by an etch process of the substrate **10**

using a hard mask layer as an etch mask. The hard mask layer may be formed on the substrate and have line-shaped openings.

(102) In some embodiments, the trenches may each have a depth shallower than that of the active area **10a**. In some embodiments, the trenches may each have a depth shallower than that of the isolation structures **10i**.

(103) The insulating liners **11i** may be formed in each of the trenches. Before the insulating liners **11i** are formed, the inside surface of each of the trenches that is damaged from the etch process may be recovered. For example, sacrificial oxide may be formed by a thermal oxidation treatment, and then the sacrificial oxide may be removed.

(104) The insulating liners **11i** may be formed by a thermal oxidation process. In some embodiments, the insulating liners **11i** may be formed by a deposition process, such as a chemical vapor deposition (CVD) process or an atomic layer deposition (ALD) process.

(105) The conductors **11c** may be formed on the insulating liner **11i** to fill each of the trenches. The conductors **11c** may be formed by a CVD process, ALD process, or a combination thereof.

(106) Referring to FIG. 5C, a recessing process may be performed. The recessing process may be performed by a dry etch process, for example, an etch-back process. The recessing process may be performed to recess the conductors **11c** (and also the insulating liner **11i**) into the substrate **10**.

(107) In some embodiments, a planarization process may be performed in advance to expose the top surface of the substrate **10**, and then the recessing process may be performed.

(108) After the recessing process, a plurality of recess portions **10ar** may be formed in the trenches.

(109) Referring to FIG. 5D, the bottom electrode **12b** and the diffusion area **13** are formed in the substrate **10**. In some embodiments, the bottom electrode **12b** and the diffusion area **13** may be formed by a chemical diffusion process or an ion implantation process.

(110) Referring to FIG. 5E, the dielectric layer **11d** may be formed on the conductors **11c**. In some embodiments, the dielectric layer **11d** may be disposed to cover the conductors **11c** and portions of the substrate **10**. In some embodiments, the dielectric layer **11d** covers sidewalls of the substrate **10** that are exposed through the trenches. In some embodiments, the dielectric layer **11d** may be disposed by, for example, an ALD process, a CVD process, a physical vapor deposition (PVD) process, a remote plasma CVD (RPCVD) process, a plasma enhanced CVD (PECVD) process, a coating process, etc.

(111) Referring to FIG. 5F, the dielectric layer **11d** may be planarized so that the top surface of the bottom electrode **12b** is exposed.

(112) Referring to FIG. 5G, the dielectric layer **14** may be disposed on the substrate **10**. In some embodiments, the dielectric layer **14** may be disposed by, for example, an ALD process, a CVD process, a PVD process, a RPCVD process, a PECVD process, a coating process, etc.

(113) Referring to FIG. 5H, openings **14h** may be formed in the dielectric layer **14** by lithography and etching techniques. At least a part of each of the bottom electrode **12b** may be exposed from the openings **14h**.

(114) Referring to FIG. 5I, the dielectric layers **12d** may be disposed in the openings **14h**. The dielectric layers **12d** may contact at least a part of each of the bottom electrodes **12b**.

(115) In some embodiments, the fuse dielectric material may be formed by a thermal oxidation operation. In some embodiments, the fuse dielectric material may be formed by an ALD process, a CVD process, or a combination thereof.

(116) Referring to FIG. 5J, the top electrode **12t** may be formed on the dielectric layer **14**. The top electrode **12t** may be disposed in the openings **14h** to contact the dielectric layers **12d**.

(117) In some embodiments, the top electrode **12t** may be formed by a CVD process. In some embodiments, the top electrode **12t** may be formed by depositing a blanket polysilicon layer on the dielectric layer **14** and then performing a patterning process to form strips spaced apart from one another by a given distance.

(118) In some embodiments, subsequent to the formation of the fuse component **12**, a wiring layer

(not shown in the figures) may be formed on the fuse component **12**. For example, the wiring layer may have a multilayer wiring structure which includes a plurality of wiring layers and interlayer insulating films.

(119) In some embodiments, the method may further include connecting the top electrode **12t** and the bottom electrode **12b** to a power supply so as to apply a voltage to the top electrode **12t** and the bottom electrode **12b** to cause an open circuit in the semiconductor device to become a short circuit or a relatively low resistance link or node. For example, when a voltage applied to the top electrode **12t** and the bottom electrode **12b** exceeds a threshold value, the resistivity of the dielectric layer **12d** may be changed. For example, the dielectric layer **12d** may undergo a dielectric breakdown process.

(120) In some embodiments, the operations described with respect to FIGS. 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F, 5G, 5H, 5I and 5J may be performed concurrently during a manufacturing process of, for example, a buried-gate structure of an adjacent circuit.

(121) FIG. 6 illustrates a flow chart of a method **60** of manufacturing a semiconductor device in accordance with some embodiments of the present disclosure.

(122) In some embodiments, the method **60** may include a step **S61**, providing a substrate having an active area. For example, as shown in FIG. 5A, the substrate **10** having the active area **10a** disposed over or proximal to the top surface of the substrate **10** may be provided.

(123) In some embodiments, the method **60** may include a step **S62**, forming a transistor in the active region. For example, as shown in FIG. 5B, the transistors **11** may be formed in the active area **10a**.

(124) In some embodiments, the method **60** may include a step **S63**, forming a first diffusion area in the active area. For example, as shown in FIG. 5D, the bottom electrode **12b** may be formed in the active area **10a**.

(125) In some embodiments, the method **60** may include a step **S64**, forming a second diffusion area in the active area. For example, as shown in FIG. 5D, the diffusion area **13** may be formed in the active area **10a**.

(126) In some embodiments, the step **S63** and the step **S64** may be performed in the same operation. In some embodiments, the step **S63** and the step **S64** may be performed sequentially or in parallel.

(127) In some embodiments, the method **60** may include a step **S65**, disposing a nitride layer on the active area. For example, as shown in FIG. 5G, the dielectric layer **14** may be disposed on the substrate **10**.

(128) In some embodiments, the method **60** may include a step **S66**, forming an opening in the nitride layer to expose the first diffusion area. For example, as shown in FIG. 5H, openings **14h** may be formed in the dielectric layer **14** by lithography and etching techniques. At least a part of each of the bottom electrode **12b** may be exposed from the openings **14h**.

(129) In some embodiments, the method **60** may include a step **S67**, disposing an oxide layer in the opening to contact the first diffusion area. For example, as shown in FIG. 5I, the dielectric layers **12d** may be disposed in the openings **14h**. The dielectric layers **12d** may contact at least a part of each of the bottom electrodes **12b**.

(130) In some embodiments, the method **60** may include a step **S68**, disposing a polysilicon layer on the nitride layer to cover the oxide layer. For example, as shown in FIG. 5J, the top electrode **12t** may be formed on the dielectric layer **14**. The top electrode **12t** may be disposed in the openings **14h** to contact the dielectric layers **12d**.

(131) One aspect of the present disclosure provides a semiconductor device. The semiconductor device includes a substrate having an active area and a fuse component. The fuse component has a bottom electrode in the active area, a first dielectric layer on the active area and a top electrode on the first dielectric layer. The semiconductor device also includes a second dielectric layer on the active area and surrounding the first dielectric layer.

(132) Another aspect of the present disclosure provides a semiconductor device. The semiconductor device includes a substrate having an active area and a first diffusion area adjacent to a surface of the active area. The semiconductor device also includes a nitride layer on the active area and defines a first fuse blown area above the first diffusion area.

(133) Another aspect of the present disclosure provides a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device. The method includes providing a substrate having an active area and forming a first diffusion area in the active area. The method also includes disposing a nitride layer on the active area and forming an opening in the nitride layer to expose the first diffusion area. The method also includes disposing an oxide layer in the opening to contact the first diffusion area.

(134) By using a nitride layer to define a fuse blown area, the oxide breakdown area of the fuse component of the present disclosure is reduced and the probability of successfully fusing the fuse components is increased. In addition, since the oxide breakdown location of the fuse component of the present disclosure is spaced apart from the transistor, the drain-gate (D-G) short probability is reduced.

(135) Although the present disclosure and its advantages have been described in detail, it should be understood that various changes, substitutions and alterations can be made herein without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosure as defined by the appended claims. For example, many of the processes discussed above can be implemented in different methodologies and replaced by other processes, or a combination thereof.

(136) Moreover, the scope of the present application is not intended to be limited to the particular embodiments of the process, machine, manufacture, and composition of matter, means, methods and steps described in the specification. As one of ordinary skill in the art will readily appreciate from the present disclosure, processes, machines, manufacture, compositions of matter, means, methods, or steps, presently existing or later to be developed, that perform substantially the same function or achieve substantially the same result as the corresponding embodiments described herein may be utilized according to the present disclosure. Accordingly, the appended claims are intended to include within their scope such processes, machines, manufacture, compositions of matter, means, methods, or steps.

Claims

1. A semiconductor device, comprising: a substrate having an active area; a fuse component comprising: a bottom electrode in the active area; a first dielectric layer on the active area, wherein the first dielectric layer is a planar layer and has an upper surface and a lower surface opposite to the upper surface; and a top electrode on the first dielectric layer, wherein the upper surface of the first dielectric layer is entirely in contact with the top electrode, and the lower surface of the first dielectric layer is entirely in contact with the bottom electrode; and a second dielectric layer on the active area and surrounding the first dielectric layer.
2. The semiconductor device of claim 1, further comprising: a transistor configured to couple a first voltage to the bottom electrode of the fuse component, wherein the transistor is downwardly extended from a top surface of the substrate.
3. The semiconductor device of claim 2, wherein the transistor comprises a transistor dielectric layer downwardly extended from the top surface of the substrate, a buried conductor in the active area and below the transistor dielectric layer, and an insulating liner surrounding the buried conductor.
4. The semiconductor device of claim 2, wherein the bottom electrode of the fuse component is configured to receive the first voltage to change a resistivity of the first dielectric layer of the fuse component.
5. The semiconductor device of claim 4, wherein the top electrode of the fuse component is configured to receive a second voltage to change the resistivity of the first dielectric layer of the

fuse component.

6. The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein the bottom electrode of the fuse component comprises a diffusion area adjacent to a surface of the active area.

7. The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein the second dielectric layer is in contact with the bottom electrode of the fuse component, wherein the first dielectric layer and the second dielectric layer are made of different materials.

8. The semiconductor device of claim 7, wherein a width of the bottom electrode of the fuse component is greater than a width of the first dielectric layer of the fuse component.

9. The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein the second dielectric layer is spaced apart from the bottom electrode of the fuse component.

10. The semiconductor device of claim 9, wherein a width of the first dielectric layer of the fuse component is greater than a width of the bottom electrode of the fuse component.

11. The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein the second dielectric layer comprises an opening for receiving the first dielectric layer therein and the bottom electrode of the fuse component is exposed from the opening of the second dielectric layer, wherein the top electrode, which is formed on the second dielectric layer, has a recessing portion recessed in the opening of the second dielectric layer, wherein the second dielectric layer further has a rounded corner at the opening.

12. The semiconductor device of claim 11 wherein a thickness of the second dielectric layer is larger than a thickness of the first dielectric layer, such that a depth of the opening of the second dielectric layer is larger than the thickness of the first dielectric layer, so as to form and recess the recessing portion of the top electrode in the opening to contact the first dielectric layer.

13. A semiconductor device, comprising: a substrate having an active area; a first diffusion area adjacent to a surface of the active area; a nitride layer on the active area and defining a first fuse blown area above the first diffusion area, wherein the first fuse comprises: a bottom electrode in the active area; a first dielectric layer on the active area, the first dielectric layer is a planar layer and has an upper surface and a lower surface opposite to the upper surface; and a top electrode on the first dielectric layer, wherein the upper surface of the first dielectric layer is entirely in contact with the top electrode, and the lower surface of the first dielectric layer is entirely in contact with the bottom electrode, wherein the nitride layer surrounds the first dielectric layer.

14. The semiconductor device of claim 13, wherein the nitride layer further defines a second fuse blown area above a second diffusion area.

15. The semiconductor device of claim 14, wherein the nitride layer extends between the first fuse blown area and the second fuse blown area.

16. The semiconductor device of claim 14, wherein the nitride layer comprises a first portion defining the first fuse blown area and a second portion defining the second fuse blown area, and the first portion is spaced apart from the second portion.

17. The semiconductor device of claim 13, further comprising: a transistor configured to couple a first voltage to the first diffusion area; wherein the transistor comprises a buried conductor in the active area; wherein the first diffusion area is configured to receive the first voltage to change a resistivity of the first fuse blown area.

18. The semiconductor device of claim 17, further comprising: a polysilicon layer disposed on the first fuse blown area and configured to receive a second voltage to change the resistivity of the first fuse blown area; wherein the polysilicon layer comprises a recessing portion over the first fuse blown area.

19. The semiconductor device of claim 13, wherein the nitride layer is in contact with the first diffusion area, and a width of the first diffusion area is greater than a width of the first fuse blown area.

20. The semiconductor device of claim 13, wherein the nitride layer is spaced apart from the first diffusion area, and a width of the first fuse blown area is greater than a width of the first diffusion area.

