

# US Patent & Trademark Office

## Patent Public Search | Text View

United States Patent Application Publication

20250266325

Kind Code

A1

Publication Date

August 21, 2025

Inventor(s)

Lin; Yung-Chi et al.

### Semiconductor Device Having Backside Interconnect Structure on Through Substrate Via

#### Abstract

A semiconductor device includes a through-substrate via extending from a frontside to a backside of a semiconductor substrate. The through-substrate via includes a concave or a convex portion adjacent to the backside of the semiconductor substrate. An isolation film is formed on the backside of the semiconductor substrate. A conductive layer includes a first portion formed on the concave or convex portion of the through substrate via and a second portion formed on the isolation film. A passivation layer partially covers the conductive layer.

**Inventors:** Lin; Yung-Chi (Su-Lin City, TW), Chen; Hsin-Yu (Taipei City, TW), Chung; Ming-Tsu (Hsinchu, TW), Lo; Hsiao Yun (Hsinchu, TW), Shih; Hong-Ye (New Taipei City, TW), Chen; Chia-Yin (Hsinchu, TW), Yang; Ku-Feng (Baoshan Township, TW), Wu; Tsang-Jiuh (Hsinchu, TW), Chiou; Wen-Chih (Zhunan Township, TW)

**Applicant:** Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd. (Hsinchu, TW)

**Family ID:** 1000008578262

**Appl. No.:** 19/199642

**Filed:** May 06, 2025

#### Related U.S. Application Data

parent US continuation 16570777 20190913 parent-grant-document US 11056419 child US 17366785

parent US division 18447871 20230810 parent-grant-document US 12322680 child US 19199642

parent US division 17366785 20210702 parent-grant-document US 11823979 child US 18447871

parent US division 15269753 20160919 parent-grant-document US 10510641 child US 16570777

parent US division 13955688 20130731 parent-grant-document US 9449898 child US 15269753

## Publication Classification

**Int. Cl.:** H01L23/48 (20060101); H01L21/768 (20060101)

**U.S. Cl.:**

**CPC** H01L23/481 (20130101); H01L21/76841 (20130101); H01L21/76883 (20130101); H01L21/76898 (20130101); H01L2924/0002 (20130101)

---

## Background/Summary

**PRIORITY CLAIM AND CROSS-REFERENCE [0001]** This application is a divisional of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 18/447,871, filed on Aug. 10, 2023, and entitled “Semiconductor Device Having Backside Interconnect Structure on Through Substrate Via,” which is a divisional of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/366,785, filed on Jul. 2, 2021, now U.S. Pat. No. 11,823,979 issued Nov. 21, 2023, and entitled “Method of Forming Semiconductor Device Having Backside Interconnect Structure on Through Substrate Via,” which application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/570,777, filed on Sep. 13, 2019, now U.S. Pat. No. 11,056,419 issued on Jul. 6, 2021, and entitled “Semiconductor Device Having Backside Interconnect Structure on Through Substrate Via and Method of Forming the Same,” which is a divisional of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/269,753, filed on Sep. 19, 2016, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,510,641, issued on Dec. 17, 2019, and entitled “Semiconductor Device Having Backside Interconnect Structure on Through Substrate Via and Method of Forming the Same,” which claims the benefit to and is a divisional of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/955,688, filed on Jul. 31, 2013, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,449,898 issued on Sep. 20, 2016, and entitled “Semiconductor Device Having Backside Interconnect Structure on Through Substrate Via and Method of Forming the Same,” all of which applications are incorporated herein by reference.

## BACKGROUND

[0002] The semiconductor industry has experienced rapid growth due to continuous improvements in the integration density of various electronic components (e.g., transistors, diodes, resistors, capacitors, etc.). For the most part, this improvement in integration density has come from repeated reductions in minimum feature size, which allows more components to be integrated into a given area. These integration improvements are essentially two-dimensional (2D) in nature, in that the volume occupied by the integrated components is essentially on the surface of the semiconductor wafer. Although dramatic improvements in lithography have resulted in considerable improvement in 2D IC formation, there are physical limits to the density that can be achieved in two dimensions. One of these limits is the minimum size needed to make these components. Also, when more devices are put into one chip, more complex designs are required.

[0003] In an attempt to further increase circuit density, three-dimensional (3D) ICs have been investigated. In a typical formation process of a 3D IC, two dies are bonded together and electrical connections are formed between each die and contact pads on a substrate. For example, one attempt involved bonding two dies on top of each other. The stacked dies were then bonded to a carrier substrate and wire bonds electrically coupled contact pads on each die to contact pads on the carrier substrate. This attempt, however, requires a carrier substrate larger than the dies for the wire bonding. More recent attempts have focused on through-substrate vias (TSVs). Generally, the TSV is formed by etching a vertical opening through a substrate and filling the opening with a

conductive material, such as copper. The backside of the substrate is thinned to expose the TSVs, and another die is bonded to the exposed TSVs, thereby forming a stacked-die package.

---

## Description

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0004] FIGS. **1-9** are cross-sectional views illustrating intermediate stages of a method for forming a semiconductor device with a backside interconnect structure on a through substrate via with a concave surface according to some embodiments; and

[0005] FIGS. **10-16** are cross-sectional views illustrating intermediate stages of another method for forming a semiconductor device with a backside interconnect structure on a through substrate via with a convex portion according to some embodiments.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0006] It is to be understood that the following disclosure provides many different embodiments or examples, for implementing different features of various embodiments. Specific examples of components and arrangements are described below to simplify the present disclosure. The present disclosure may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as being limited to the embodiments set forth herein; rather, these embodiments are provided so that this description will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the present disclosure to those of ordinary skill in the art. It will be apparent, however, that one or more embodiments may be practiced without these specific details.

[0007] In the drawings, the thickness and width of layers and regions are exaggerated for clarity. Like reference numerals in the drawings denote like elements. The elements and regions illustrated in the figures are schematic in nature, and thus relative sizes or intervals illustrated in the figures are not intended to limit the scope of the present disclosure.

[0008] FIGS. **1-9** are cross-sectional views illustrating intermediate stages of a method for forming a semiconductor device with a backside interconnect structure on a through substrate via according to some embodiments.

[0009] Referring to FIG. **1**, a semiconductor substrate **10** has electrical circuitry **12** formed thereon. The semiconductor substrate **10** may comprise, for example, bulk silicon, doped or undoped, or an active layer of a semiconductor-on-insulator (SOI) substrate. Generally, an SOI substrate comprises a layer of a semiconductor material, such as silicon, formed on an insulator layer. The insulator layer may be, for example, a buried oxide (BOX) layer or a silicon oxide layer. The insulator layer is provided on a substrate, typically a silicon or glass substrate. Other substrates, such as a multi-layered or gradient substrate may also be used. The electrical circuitry **12** formed on the semiconductor substrate **10** may be any type of circuitry suitable for a particular application. In an embodiment, the circuitry includes electrical devices formed on the substrate with one or more dielectric layers overlying the electrical devices. Metal layers may be formed between dielectric layers to route electrical signals between the electrical devices. Electrical devices may also be formed in one or more dielectric layers. For example, the electrical circuitry **12** may include various N-type metal-oxide semiconductor (NMOS) and/or P-type metal-oxide semiconductor (PMOS) devices, such as transistors, capacitors, resistors, diodes, photo-diodes, fuses, and the like, interconnected to perform one or more functions. The functions may include memory structures, processing structures, sensors, amplifiers, power distribution, input/output circuitry, or the like. The above examples are provided for illustrative purposes only to further explain illustrative applications and are not meant to limit other embodiments in any manner. Other circuitry may be used as appropriate for a given application.

[0010] Also shown in FIG. **1**, contacts **14** are formed through an inter-layer dielectric (ILD) layer **16** to provide an electrical contact to the electrical circuitry **12**. The ILD layer **16** may be formed,

for example, of a low-K dielectric material, such as silicon oxide, phosphosilicate glass (PSG), borophosphosilicate glass (BPSG), fluorinated silicate glass (FSG),  $\text{SiO}_2$ , Spin-On-Glass, Spin-On-Polymers, silicon carbon material, compounds thereof, composites thereof, combinations thereof, or the like, by any suitable method known in the art, such as spinning, CVD, and PECVD. In some embodiments, the ILD layer **16** includes a plurality of dielectric layers, with or without an etch stop layer formed between adjacent dielectric layers. The contacts **14** may be formed, for example, by using photolithography techniques to deposit and pattern a photoresist material on the ILD layer **16** to expose portions of the ILD layer **16** that are to become the contacts **14**. An etch process, such as an anisotropic dry etch process, may be used to create openings in the ILD layer **16**. The openings may be lined with a diffusion barrier layer and/or an adhesion layer (not shown), and filled with a conductive material. The diffusion barrier layer may comprise one or more layers of TaN, Ta, TiN, Ti, CoW, or the like, and the conductive material may comprise copper, tungsten, aluminum, silver, and combinations thereof, or the like, thereby forming the contacts **18**.

[0011] In accordance with an embodiment, through-substrate via (TSV) structures **18** are formed in the semiconductor substrate **10**. The TSV structures **18** are conductive vias extending from the frontside **10A** into a depth of the semiconductor substrate **10**. The TSV structures **18** may be formed by any appropriate method. For example, openings may be formed extending into the semiconductor substrate **110** after forming the ILD layer **16** by, for example, one or more etching processes, milling, laser techniques, or the like. The openings are lined with a liner, acting as an isolation layer, and filled with a conductive material. The liner may comprise one or more dielectric layers such as silicon oxide, silicon nitride, oxynitride, polymer, a combination thereof, or the like, and the conductive material may comprise one or more layers of a conductive material such as copper, copper alloy, tungsten, tungsten alloy, aluminum, silver, combinations thereof, or the like, thereby forming the TSV structures **18**. Other materials, including conductive diffusion barrier layers, such as TaN, Ta, TiN, Ti, CoW, or the like, may also be used between the liner and the conductive material. It should be noted that the TSV structures **18** are illustrated as extending in the semiconductor substrate **10** from a top surface of the ILD layer **16** for illustrative purposes only and that other arrangements may be utilized. For example, in another embodiment the TSV structures **18** may extend from a top surface at the frontside **10A** of the semiconductor substrate **110**. For example, in an embodiment, the TSV structures **18** are formed by creating openings extending into the semiconductor substrate **10** after forming the contacts **14**.

[0012] One or more inter-metal dielectric (IMD) layers **20** and the associated metallization layers **22** are formed over the ILD layer **16**. In some embodiments, the one or more IMD layers **20** and the associated metallization layers **22** are used to interconnect the electrical circuitry to each other and to provide an external electrical connection. In an embodiment, the metallization layers **22** are used to electrically connect to the TSVs **18** and the electrical circuitry **12**. In an embodiment, the IMD layers **20** includes at least one, and possibly a plurality of, low-k dielectric layer(s) having low dielectric constant (k) values. The k values of the low-k dielectric materials in the dielectric layer **22** may be lower than about 3.0, or lower than about 2.5, for example. The IMD layers **20** may be formed of a suitable dielectric material formed by PECVD techniques or high-density plasma chemical vapor deposition (HDPCVD), or the like, and may include intermediate etch stop layers. Top metal contacts **22T** are provided in the uppermost IMD layer **20** to provide external electrical connections. Conductive bumps **24**, such as metal bumps formed including Cu, Cu alloy, W, W alloy, silver, CuSn, AuSn, InAu, PbSn, AgSn, or the like, are formed on the top metal contacts **22T**, and a carrier substrate **28** is attached to the semiconductor substrate **10** using an adhesive layer **26**. In some embodiments, the carrier substrate **28** provides temporary mechanical and structural support during subsequent processing steps. The carrier substrate **28** may comprise, for example, glass, silicon oxide, aluminum oxide, and the like. The adhesive layer **26** may be any suitable adhesive, such as ultraviolet (UV) glue, which loses its adhesive property when exposed to UV

lights.

[0013] FIG. 2 illustrates a thinning process performed on a backside **10B** of the semiconductor substrate **10** to expose the TSV structures **18** in accordance with an embodiment. The thinning process may be performed using a mechanical grinding process, a chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) process, an etching process, and/or a combination thereof. For example, initially a planarizing process, such as grinding or a CMP, may be performed to initially expose the TSV structures **18**. Thereafter, a wet or dry etching process having a high etch-rate selectivity between the TSV structures **18** and the material of the semiconductor substrate **10** may be performed to recess the semiconductor substrate **10**, thereby leaving the TSV structures **18** protruding from the backside **10B''** of the thinned semiconductor substrate **10''** (portions **18P**).

[0014] Next, as shown in FIG. 3, an isolation film **30** is formed over the backside **10B''** of the thinned semiconductor substrate **10''** to cover the protruding portions of the TSV structures **18**. In an embodiment, the isolation film **30** is a dielectric material, such as SiN, an oxide, SiC, SiON, a polymer, or the like, and may be formed by, for example, spin-coating, printing, a CVD process, or the like. An etching process (wet or dry etching) or a planarization process (grinding or a CMP) may be further utilized to expose the top surfaces **18T** of the protruding portions **18P** of the TSV structures **18**. In an embodiment, the top surface **18T** is substantially level with the top surface **30A** of isolation film **30**.

[0015] Referring to FIG. 4, an etching process is performed to recess the top surface **18T** of the TSV structure **18**, and thereby the top surface **18T** becomes a concave surface **18A**. The concave surface **18A** is lower than the top surface **30A** of the isolation film **30**. In an embodiment, the TSV structure **18** can be recessed by, for example, performing a dry etch process using HBr/O.sub.2, HBr/Cl.sub.2/O.sub.2, SF.sub.6/CL.sub.2, SF.sub.6 plasma, or the like. In an embodiment, the distance between the concave surface **18A** and the top surface **30A** is in the range of about 1000 Å to about 2 μm. In some embodiments, at this step, a portion of the isolation film **30** adjacent to the concave surface **18A** is etched as a curved surface **30C**.

[0016] Referring now to FIG. 5, a conductive layer **40** is deposited over the isolation film **30** and the TSV structure **18**. In an embodiment, the conductive layer **40** is formed by depositing a conformal conductive layer, such as a layer of Al, an Al alloy, W, Cu, Ti, Ta, TiN, TaN, or the like, using CVD or PVD techniques. When the conductive layer **40** is deposited, it replicates the topography of the underlying feature, and thereby a concave portion **40A** is formed in the conductive layer **40** and positioned in accordance with the concave surface **18A** of the TSV structure **18**. The conductive layer **40** also includes a planar portion **40P** positioned in accordance with the top surface **30A** of the isolation film **30**. The concave portion **40A** is lower than the surface of the planar portion **40P**.

[0017] FIG. 6 illustrates a patterned mask **50** formed over the conductive layer **40** in accordance with an embodiment. The patterned mask **50** defines portions of the conductive layer **40** that will act as conductive pads and/or redistribution lines. The patterned mask **50** may be a patterned photoresist mask, hard mask, a combination thereof, or the like. In an embodiment, a photoresist material is deposited on the conductive layer **40** and patterned using photolithographic techniques. To locate the photoresist pattern accurately, a target location is acquired when light sources are utilized to detect and read reflection signals from the material layer underlying the photoresist material. By using the recessed TSV structure **18** as an alignment target, returned signals reflected from the concave portion **40A** and the planar portion **40P** are read and detected, and the step height is easily aligned by lithographic tools such that the photoresist material can be patterned and located accurately in the photolithography process.

[0018] Thereafter, as shown in FIG. 7, an etch process is performed to pattern the conductive layer **40** to form conductive elements **40''** that act as the conductive pads and/or redistribution lines. The etch process may be, for example, a wet or dry etch process. For example, in an embodiment in which the conductive layer **40** is formed of Al, the etch process may be performed using Cl.sub.2

and BCL.sub.3. After the etch process, the patterned mask **50** may be stripped by, for example, an ashing process, such as a plasma ashing process using O.sub.2 or another stripping process, and a cleaning process, such as a wet dip in dilute hydrofluoric acid or an organic chemical may be performed to remove any contaminants from the surface of the conductive elements **40''** and the isolation film **30**. In an embodiment, the conductive element **40''** physically contacts and electrically connects the TSV structure **18** and includes the concave portion **40A** located above the concave surface **18A** of the TSV structure **18**. In some embodiments, the conductive element **40''** also includes the planar portion **40P** that extends from the concave portion **40A** and physically contacts the top surface **30A** of the isolation film **30**. The conductive element **40''** may act as a redistribution layer to provide an electrical connection to the TSV structure **18** and to provide redistribution lines. The conductive element **40''** may act as a redistribution line which allows an electrical connection to another device, such as a die, wafer, packaging substrate, or the like, at a location other than the location of the TSV structure **18**. This allows for greater flexibility and a higher degree of independence regarding the placement of the TSV structures **18**, the electrical circuitry on the substrate, and the pin-out locations.

[0019] FIG. **8** illustrates a passivation layer **60** formed over the conductive element **40''** and the isolation film **30** in accordance with an embodiment. The passivation layer **60** is a dielectric material, such as SiN, an oxide, SiC, SiON, a polymer, SOG, combinations thereof, or the like, and may be formed by, for example, spin-coating, printing, a CVD process, or the like. The passivation layer **60** is formed of a thickness sufficient to cover the conductive elements **40''**. Next, as shown in FIG. **9**, the passivation layer **60** is patterned by using photoresist material, photolithographic techniques and an etch process, and the photoresist material is stripped after the etch process. In an embodiment, the patterned passivation layer **60** includes a contact opening **62** exposing a portion **40D** of the conductive element **40''**. A connection element can be formed on the exposed portion **40D** in accordance with an embodiment. The connection element may be any suitable conductive material, such as Cu, Ni, Sn, Au, Ag, solder or the like, and may be formed by any suitable method, including evaporation, electroplating, printing, jetting, stud bumping, direct placement, wire bonding or the like. Thereafter, other back-end-of-line processing techniques suitable for the particular application may be performed. For example, the carrier substrate **28** may be removed, an encapsulant may be formed, a singulation process may be performed to singulate individual dies, wafer-level or die-level stacking, and the like, may be performed. It should be noted, however, that embodiments may be used in many different situations. For example, embodiments may be used in a die-to-die bonding configuration, a die-to-wafer bonding configuration, or a wafer-to-wafer bonding configuration.

[0020] FIGS. **10-16** are cross-sectional views illustrating intermediate stages of another method for forming a semiconductor device with a backside interconnect structure on a through substrate via according to some embodiments. Unless specified otherwise, the reference numerals in these embodiments represent like elements in the embodiments illustrated in FIGS. **1-9**.

[0021] Referring to FIG. **10**, a thinning process performed on a backside **10B** of the semiconductor substrate **10** to expose the TSV structures **18** in accordance with an embodiment. The thinning process may be performed using a mechanical grinding process, a chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) process, an etching process, and/or a combination thereof. For example, initially a planarizing process, such as grinding or a CMP, may be performed to initially expose the TSV structures **18**. Thereafter, a wet or dry etching process having a high etch-rate selectivity between the TSV structures **18** and the material of the semiconductor substrate **10** may be performed to recess the semiconductor substrate **10**, thereby forming a convex portion **18B** of the TSV structures **18** protruding from the backside **10B''** of the thinned semiconductor substrate **10''**. In an embodiment, the distance between the top of convex portion **18B** and the top surface of backside **10B''** is in the range of about 1000 Å to about 2 μm.

[0022] Thereafter, as illustrated in FIG. **11**, an isolation film **302** is formed to cover the backside

**10B''** of the thinned semiconductor substrate **10''** and the convex portions **18B** of the TSV structures **18**. The isolation film **302** is a conformal film formed using similar processes and materials as the isolation film **30** discussed above with reference to FIG. **3**. In an embodiment, the isolation film **302** covers the top **18T** and sidewalls **18S** of the convex portion **18B**. Then an etching process (wet or dry etching) or a planarization process (grinding or a CMP) is utilized to remove the isolation film **302** from the top surfaces **18T** of the protruding portions of the TSV structures **18** as shown in FIG. **12**. Thereby the top surface **18T** is exposed again, a first portion **302I** of the isolation film **302** is left on the sidewall **18S** of the convex portion **18B**, and a second portion **302II** of the isolation film **302** is left on the backside **10B''** of the thinned semiconductor substrate **10''**, and. There is a step height between the top surface **18T** and the top surface of the portion **302II** in accordance with an embodiment.

[0023] Referring now to FIG. **13**, a conductive layer **40** is deposited over the isolation film **302** and the TSV structure **18**. In an embodiment, the conductive layer **40** is formed by depositing a conformal conductive layer, such as a layer of Al, an Al alloy,

[0024] W, Cu, Ti, Ta, TiN, TaN, or the like, using CVD or PVD techniques. When the conductive layer **40** is deposited, it replicates the topography of the underlying feature, and thereby the conductive layer **40** includes a first portion **40I** on the top surface **18T** of the TSV structure **18**, a second portion **40II** on the second portion **302II** of the isolation film **302**, and a third portion **40III** along the first portion **302I** of the isolation film **302**. There is a step height between the first portion **40I** and the second portion **40II** in accordance with an embodiment. For example, the distance between the top surface of the first portion **40I** and the top surface of the second portion **40II** is in the range of about 1000 Å to about 2 μm.

[0025] FIG. **14** illustrates a patterned mask **50** formed over the conductive layer **40** in accordance with an embodiment. The patterned mask **50** defines portions of the conductive layer **40** that will act as conductive pads and/or redistribution lines. The patterned mask **50** may be a patterned photoresist mask, hard mask, a combination thereof, or the like. In an embodiment, a photoresist material is deposited on the conductive layer **40** and patterned using photolithographic techniques. By using the convex portion **18B** of the TSV structure **18** as an alignment target, returned signals reflected from the first portion **40I** and the second portion **40II** are read and detected, and the step height is easily aligned by lithographic tools such that the photoresist material can be patterned and located accurately in the photolithography process.

[0026] Thereafter, as shown in FIG. **15**, an etch process is performed to pattern the conductive layer **40** to form conductive elements **40''** that act as the conductive pads and/or redistribution lines. After the etch process, the patterned mask **50** may be stripped. In an embodiment, the conductive element **40''** physically contacts and electrically connects the TSV structure **18** and includes the first portion **40I** located above the convex portion **18B** of the TSV structure **18**. In some embodiments, the conductive element **40''** also includes the third portion **40III** that extends from the first portion **40I** and physically contacts the isolation film **302** along the sidewall **18S** of the convex portion **18B**. In some embodiments, the conductive element **40''** also includes the patterned second portion **40II''** that extends from the third portion **40III** and physically contacts part of the portion **302II**. The conductive element **40''** may act as a redistribution layer to provide an electrical connection to the TSV structure **18** and to provide redistribution lines. The conductive element **40''** may act as a redistribution line which allows an electrical connection to another device, such as a die, wafer, packaging substrate, or the like, at a location other than the location of the TSV structure **18**. This allows for greater flexibility and a higher degree of independence regarding the placement of the TSV structures **18**, the electrical circuitry on the substrate, and the pin-out locations.

[0027] FIG. **16** illustrates a patterned passivation layer **60** formed over the conductive element **40''** and the isolation film **30** and having an opening **64** exposing a portion **40E** of the conductive element **40''**. In accordance with an embodiment, the exposed portion **40E** is within the first portion

**40I**, for example located above the convex portion **18B**. A connection element can be formed on the exposed portion **40E** in accordance with an embodiment. The connection element may be any suitable conductive material, such as Cu, Ni, Sn, Au, Ag, solder or the like, and may be formed by any suitable method, including evaporation, electroplating, printing, jetting, stud bumping, direct placement, wire bonding or the like. Thereafter, other back-end-of-line processing techniques suitable for the particular application may be performed. For example, the carrier substrate **28** may be removed, an encapsulant may be formed, a singulation process may be performed to singulate individual dies, wafer-level or die-level stacking, and the like, may be performed. It should be noted, however, that embodiments may be used in many different situations. For example, embodiments may be used in a die-to-die bonding configuration, a die-to-wafer bonding configuration, or a wafer-to-wafer bonding configuration.

[0028] According to some embodiments, a semiconductor device includes a semiconductor substrate and a through-substrate via extending from a frontside to a backside of the semiconductor substrate. The through-substrate via includes a concave surface adjacent to the backside of the semiconductor substrate. An isolation film is formed on the backside of the semiconductor substrate without covering the concave surface of the through-substrate via. A conductive layer includes a first portion which is a concave portion formed on the concave surface of the through substrate via and a second portion formed on the isolation film. A passivation layer partially covers the conductive layer.

[0029] According to some embodiments, a semiconductor device includes a semiconductor substrate and a through-substrate via extending from a frontside to a backside of the semiconductor substrate. The through-substrate via includes a convex portion protruding from the backside of the semiconductor substrate. An isolation film includes a first portion formed on a sidewall of the convex portion of the through-substrate via and a second portion formed on the backside of the semiconductor substrate. A conductive layer includes a first portion formed on a top of the convex portion of the through-substrate via and a second portion formed on the second portion of the isolation film. A passivation layer partially covers the conductive layer.

[0030] According to some embodiments, a semiconductor device includes a through-substrate via extending from a first surface to a second surface of a substrate, the second surface being opposite the first surface. A first end of the through-substrate via extends above the second surface of the substrate. An isolation film includes a first portion formed on sidewalls of the first end of the through-substrate via and a second portion formed on the second surface of the substrate. A conductive layer includes a first portion formed on a topmost surface of the first end of the through-substrate via, a second portion formed on the first portion of the isolation film, and a third portion formed on the second portion of the isolation film.

[0031] According to some embodiments, a method of forming a semiconductor device includes forming a through-substrate via in a substrate, thinning a backside of the substrate to expose a first end of the through-substrate via, the first end having a convex shape protruding from the backside of the substrate, and forming an isolation film over the backside of the substrate and the first end of the through-substrate via. The method further includes removing the isolation film from a topmost surface of the first end of the through-substrate via, depositing a conductive layer on the isolation film and the topmost surface of the first end of the through-substrate via, and patterning the conductive layer.

[0032] One general aspect of embodiments disclosed herein includes a method of forming a semiconductor device, the method including forming a through-substrate via in a substrate and thinning a backside of the substrate to expose a first end of the through-substrate via. The first end has a convex shape protruding from the backside of the substrate. The method further includes forming an isolation film over the backside of the substrate and the first end of the through-substrate via, and removing the isolation film from a topmost surface of the first end of the through-substrate via. The method further includes depositing a conductive layer on the isolation



film and the topmost surface of the first end of the through-substrate via, and patterning the conductive layer.

[0033] Another general aspect of embodiments disclosed herein includes a method of forming a semiconductor device, the method including forming on a frontside of a semiconductor substrate a transistor and forming a conductor extending from the frontside of the substrate into the substrate. The method further includes recessing a backside of the substrate to expose an end of the conductor, and conformally depositing a dielectric film over sidewalls and a top surface of the end of the conductor, then removing the dielectric film from the top surface of the end of the conductor, while the dielectric film remains covering the sidewalls of the end of the conductor. The method further includes depositing a conductive layer over the dielectric film and electrically contacting the top surface of the end of the conductor; and patterning the conductive layer.

[0034] Yet another general aspect of embodiments disclosed herein includes a method of forming a semiconductor device, the method including forming a continuous homogenous conductor extending into a semiconductor substrate, and recessing a surface of the semiconductor substrate to expose an end of the conductor. The method further includes covering sidewalls of the end of the conductor with an isolation film while leaving a top surface of the end of the conductor uncovered, covering with a conductive layer the isolation film and the top surface of the end of the conductor, and patterning the conductive layer. The method yet further includes forming a patterned passivation layer over the patterned conductive layer, the patterned passivation layer covering sidewalls of the patterned conductive layer and leaving uncovered a central portion of the patterned conductive layer.

[0035] One skilled in the art will recognize that, in one sense, this disclosure includes a method for forming a conductor extending from a frontside of a wafer toward a backside of the wafer. The method also includes thinning back the backside of the wafer to expose an end of the conductor protruding from the backside of the wafer. The method also includes covering the backside of the wafer with an isolation film. The method also includes patterning the exposed end of the conductor into a concave surface. The method also includes forming a conductive layer within the concave surface, the conductive layer having a concave surface, and patterning the conductive layer. The method also includes covering the conductive layer with a passivation layer, and patterning the passivation layer.

[0036] In another sense, this disclosure provides for a method including forming a conductor extending partially through a substrate, and thinning the substrate to expose an end of the conductor. The method also includes forming an isolation film on the substrate, leaving the end of the conductor exposed, and etching the end of the conductor to form a concave surface. The method also includes conformally depositing a conductive layer on the concave surface, and patterning the conductive layer. The method also includes covering the patterned conductive layer with a passivation layer, and patterning the passivation layer to expose a portion of the patterned conductive layer.

[0037] In yet another sense, this disclosure provides for a method for forming a through-substrate via extending from a front side of a semiconductor wafer into the semiconductor wafer. The method also includes thinning back a backside of the semiconductor wafer to expose an end of the through-substrate via. The method also includes forming an isolation film on the backside of the semiconductor wafer, and etching the end of the through-substrate via to form thereon a concave surface. The method also includes conformally depositing a conductive layer on the concave surface, the conductive layer including a second concave surface, and patterning the conductive layer. The method further includes conformally depositing a passivation layer on the second concave surface, and patterning the passivation layer to expose a non-concave portion of the patterned conductive layer to form a contact opening.

[0038] While the present disclosure has been particularly shown and described with reference to example embodiments thereof, a skilled person in the art will appreciate that there can be many

embodiment variations of this disclosure. Although the embodiments and their features 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 embodiments.

[0039] Features disclosed herein include a semiconductor device including a semiconductor substrate. The semiconductor device also includes a through-substrate via extending from a first side to a second side of the semiconductor substrate opposite the first side, and may include a curved surface adjacent to the second side of the semiconductor substrate. The device also includes an isolation structure formed on the second side of the semiconductor substrate without covering the curved surface of the through-substrate via. The device also includes a conductive layer which may include a first portion formed on the curved surface of the through substrate via and a second portion formed on the isolation structure. The device also includes a passivation layer provided on the conductive layer, where the passivation layer may include a concave portion on the first portion of the conductive layer.

[0040] Other features disclosed herein include a device including a substrate. The device also includes a conductive element extending through the substrate, the conductive element having an end extending beyond a surface of the substrate, the conductive element including a non-planar portion. The device also includes an isolation film isolating a portion of the non-planar portion of the conductive element. The device also includes a conductive film on the conductive element and over a portion of the substrate, the conductive film being conformal to at least a part of the non-planar portion of the conductive element. The device also includes a passivation layer over the conductive film, the passivation layer exposing a contact region of the conductive film.

[0041] Further features disclosed herein include an integrated circuit formed at a first surface of a semiconductor substrate. The device also includes an interconnect structure over the first surface, the interconnect structure including a stack of conductive layers respectively embedded within respective dielectric layers of a stack of dielectric layers. The device also includes a through substrate via (TSV) electrically connected to a conductive layer of the stack of conductive layers extending through the semiconductor substrate. The TSV has a non-planar end at a second surface of the semiconductor substrate opposite the first surface. The device also includes an isolation film surrounding an interface between the TSV and the second surface of the semiconductor substrate. The device also includes a conductive film on the isolation film, a portion of the conductive film being conformal to the non-planar end of the TSV, a second portion of the conductive film extending horizontally away from the TSV along the second surface of the semiconductor substrate. The device also includes a passivation film partially over the conductive film, the passivation film exposing a region of the conductive film.

[0042] Advantageous features of embodiments disclosed herein may include a device including a substrate, and a conductive element extending through the substrate, the conductive element having an end extending beyond a first surface of the substrate, the conductive element including a non-planar portion. The device also includes an isolation film isolating a portion of the non-planar portion of the conductive element. The device also includes a conductive film on the conductive element and over a portion of the substrate, the conductive film being conformal to at least a part of the non-planar portion of the conductive element, where the conductive film has a first portion overlying the conductive element and has a second portion laterally displaced from the conductive element, and where the first portion has a topmost surface that extends a greater distance above the surface of the substrate than does a topmost surface of the second portion. The device also includes a passivation layer over the conductive film, the passivation layer exposing a contact region of the conductive film.

[0043] Advantageous features of some embodiments disclosed herein may include a semiconductor substrate having formed on a front side thereof electronic devices. The device also includes a stack of metal layers embedded within respective dielectric layers of a stack of dielectric layer over the front side of the semiconductor substrate and interconnecting individual ones of the electronic

devices, and a conductor extending through the semiconductor substrate, the conductor being in electrical and physical contact with a first metal layer of the stack of meta layers. The conductor has a portion extending a first distance beyond a back side of the semiconductor substrate, the portion of the conductor having a topmost surface and sidewalls. The device also includes an isolation film extending over the back side of the substrate and along the sidewalls of the conductor. The device also includes a conductive film on the isolation film, the conductive film extending over the topmost surface of the conductor, the conductive film having a first top surface at a first point over the topmost surface of the conductor and having a second top surface at a second point laterally displaced from the conductor, the first top surface being further away from the back side of the substrate than the second top surface. The device also includes and a passivation film extending over the isolation film and at least partially over the conductive film, the passivation film having an opening therein that exposes the top surface of the conductive film at the first point.

[0044] Advantageous features of some embodiments disclosed herein may include an integrated circuit formed on a front surface of a semiconductor substrate. The device includes a conductor structure electrically extending through the semiconductor substrate, where the conductor structure includes a first conductive portion electrically connected to the integrated circuit at the front surface of the semiconductor substrate, a second portion protruding from a back surface of the semiconductor substrate, the second portion having a top surface and sidewalls, an isolation film extending along the sidewalls of the second portion, the isolation film further extending over the back surface of the semiconductor substrate, a conductive film extending along sidewalls of the isolation film and over the top surface of the second portion of the conductor structure, the conductive film further extending over the isolation film. The device also includes a passivation film extending along sidewalls of the conductive film and partially over the top surface of the second portion of the conductor structure, where the passivation film has a hole extending therethrough, the hole exposing the top surface of the second portion of the conductor structure.

[0045] The above method embodiments show exemplary steps, but they are not necessarily required to be performed in the order shown. Steps may be added, replaced, changed order, and/or eliminated as appropriate, in accordance with the spirit and scope of embodiment of the disclosure. Embodiments that combine different claims and/or different embodiments are within scope of the disclosure and will be apparent to those skilled in the art after reviewing this disclosure.

## Claims

1. A device comprising: a substrate; a conductive element extending through the substrate, the conductive element having an end extending beyond a first surface of the substrate, the conductive element including a non-planar portion; an isolation film isolating a portion of the non-planar portion of the conductive element; a conductive film, the conductive film being conformal to at least a part of the non-planar portion of the conductive element, wherein the conductive film has a first portion overlying the conductive element and has a second portion laterally displaced from the conductive element, and wherein the first portion has a topmost surface that extends a greater distance above the surface of the substrate than does a topmost surface of the second portion; and a passivation layer over the conductive film, the passivation layer exposing a contact region of the conductive film.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the passivation layer exposes the first portion of the conductive film.
3. The device of claim 1, further comprising a electrical circuitry formed over a second surface of the substrate, the second surface being opposite the first surface.
4. The device of claim 1, wherein the greater distance is between 1000 Å and 2 μm.
5. The device of claim 1, wherein the contact region of the conductive film is configured to

electrical connect to an electrical connector.

**6.** The device of claim 1, wherein the second portion of the conductive film is configured to route signals to other portions of the device.

**7.** The device of claim 1, wherein the conductive element comprises a liner surrounding a conductive material.

**8.** The device of claim 7, wherein the liner includes at least one layer of material selected from the group consisting of silicon oxide, silicon nitride, oxynitride, polymer, and combinations thereof, and wherein the conductive material includes at least one layer of material selected from the group consisting of copper, copper alloy, tungsten, tungsten alloy, aluminum, silver, and combinations thereof.

**9.** A device comprising: a semiconductor substrate having formed on a front side thereof electronic devices; a stack of metal layers embedded within respective dielectric layers of a stack of dielectric layer over the front side of the semiconductor substrate and interconnecting individual ones of the electronic devices; a conductor extending through the semiconductor substrate, the conductor being in electrical and physical contact with a first metal layer of the stack of metal layers, the conductor having a portion extending a first distance beyond a back side of the semiconductor substrate, the portion of the conductor having a topmost surface and sidewalls; an isolation film extending over the back side of the substrate and along the sidewalls of the conductor; a conductive film on the isolation film, the conductive film extending over the topmost surface of the conductor, the conductive film having a first top surface at a first point over the topmost surface of the conductor and having a second top surface at a second point laterally displaced from the conductor, the first top surface being further away from the back side of the substrate than the second top surface; and a passivation film extending over the isolation film and at least partially over the conductive film, the passivation film having an opening therein that exposes the top surface of the conductive film at the first point.

**10.** The device of claim 9, wherein the conductive film is conformal to the isolation film.

**11.** The device of claim 9, wherein the first top surface of the conductive film is a first distance from the back side of the semiconductor substrate, the second top surface of the conductive film is a second distance from the back side of the semiconductor of the substrate, and a difference between the first distance and the second distance is between 1000 Å and 2 μm.

**12.** The device of claim 9, wherein the isolation film comprises a material selected from the group consisting of SiN, an oxide, SiC, SiON, and a polymer.

**13.** The device of claim 9, wherein the passivation film comprises a material selected from the group consisting of as SiN, an oxide, SiC, SiON, a polymer, SOG, and combinations thereof.

**14.** The device of claim 9, wherein the conductor comprises a liner surrounding a conductive material.

**15.** The device of claim 14, wherein the liner includes at least one layer of material selected from the group consisting of silicon oxide, silicon nitride, oxynitride, polymer, and combinations thereof, and wherein the conductive material includes at least one layer of material selected from the group consisting of copper, copper alloy, tungsten, tungsten alloy, aluminum, silver, and combinations thereof.

**16.** The device of claim 9, wherein the passivation film is conformal to the conductive film.

**17.** A device comprising: an integrated circuit formed on a front surface of a semiconductor substrate; a conductor structure electrically extending through the semiconductor substrate, wherein the conductor structure includes, a first conductive portion electrically connected to the integrated circuit at the front surface of the semiconductor substrate, a second portion protruding from a back surface of the semiconductor substrate, the second portion having a top surface and sidewalls, an isolation film extending along the sidewalls of the second portion, the isolation film further extending over the back surface of the semiconductor substrate, a conductive film extending along sidewalls of the isolation film and over the top surface of the second portion of the conductor

structure, the conductive film further extending over the isolation film; and a passivation film extending along sidewalls of the conductive film and partially over the top surface of the second portion of the conductor structure, wherein the passivation film has a hole extending therethrough, the hole exposing the top surface of the second portion of the conductor structure.

**18.** The device of claim 17, wherein a step height between the portion of the conductive film over the top surface of the second portion of the conductor structure and the portion of the conductive film extending over the isolation film is a between 1000 Å and 2 μm.

**19.** The device of claim 17, wherein the passivation film has a topography that matches the topography of the conductive film.

**20.** The device of claim 17, wherein the second portion of the conductor structure forms a convex profile.

---