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(54) **MICROFABRICATED MICRO FLUID CHANNELS**

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438/700; 438/706

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See application file for complete search history.

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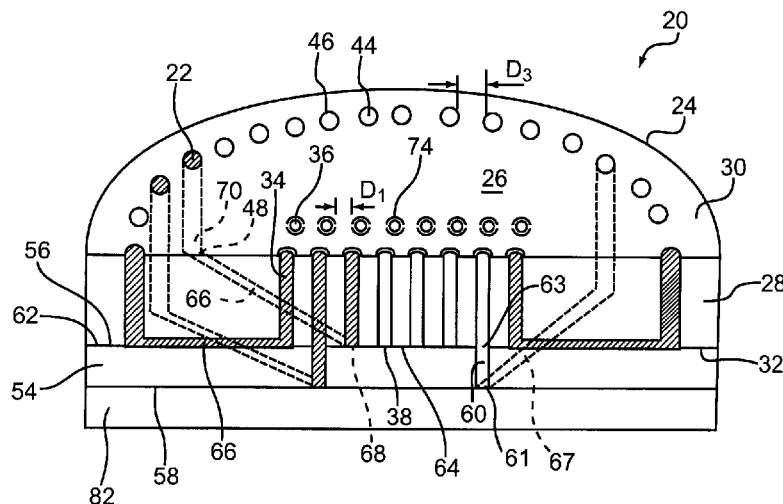
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A fluid delivery system including a first substrate having a micro-channel and a well both formed through the first substrate. The fluid delivery system also includes a second substrate and a delivery channel. The second substrate is on the first substrate and the delivery channel is formed between the first and second substrates. The delivery channel provides fluid communication between the micro-channel and the well.

26 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets



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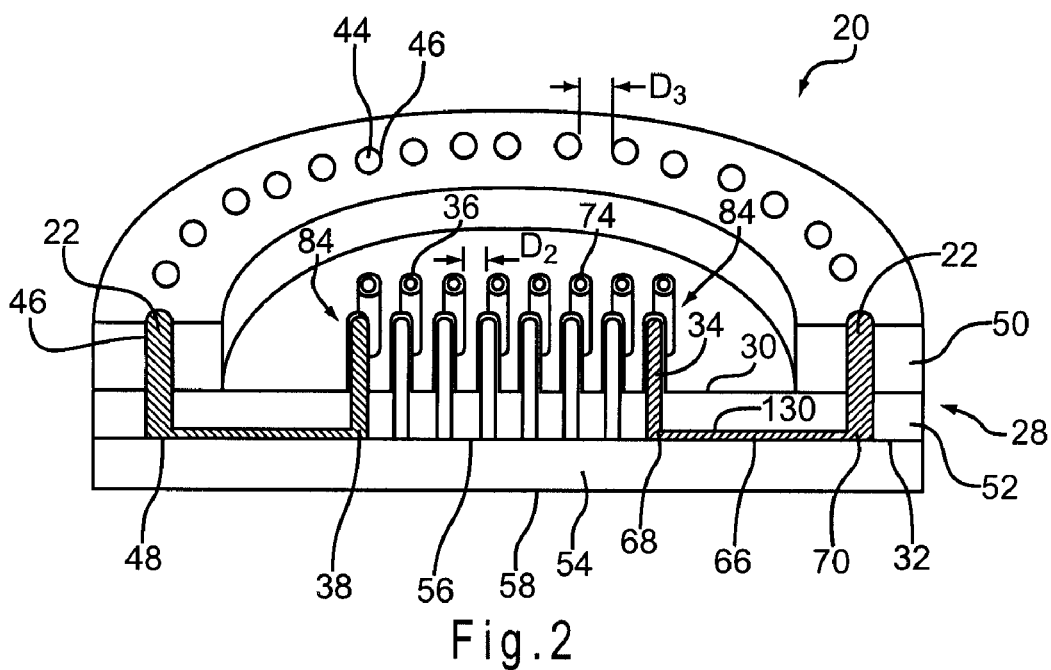
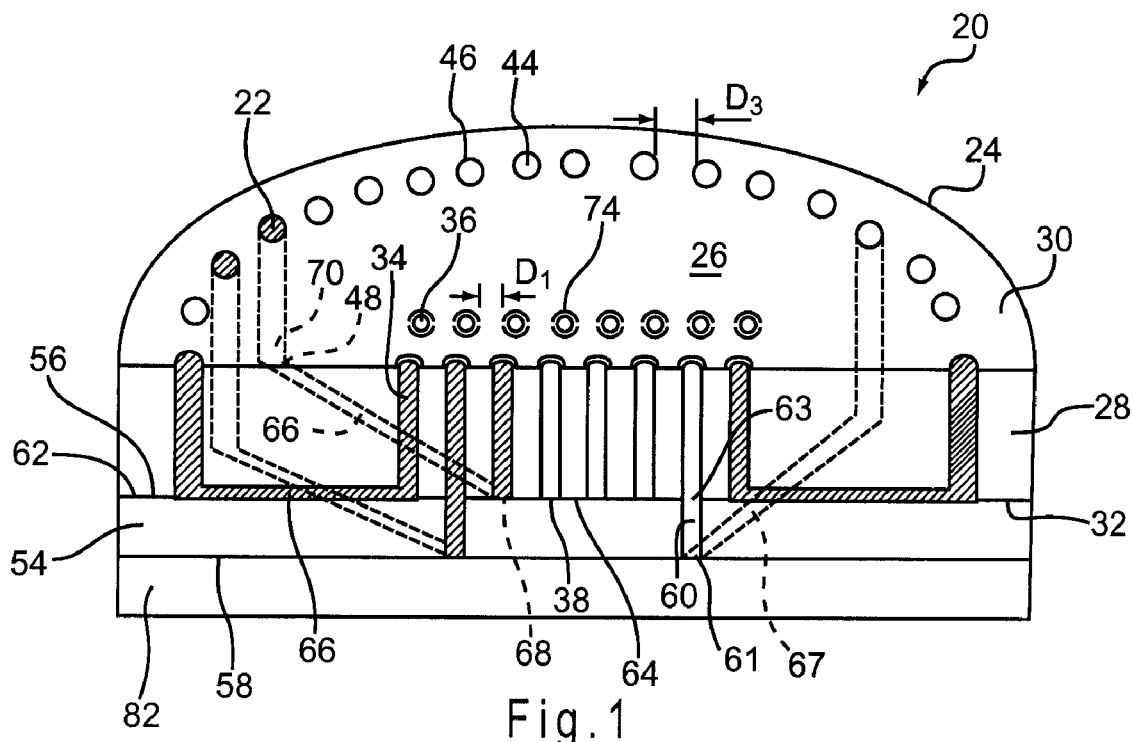
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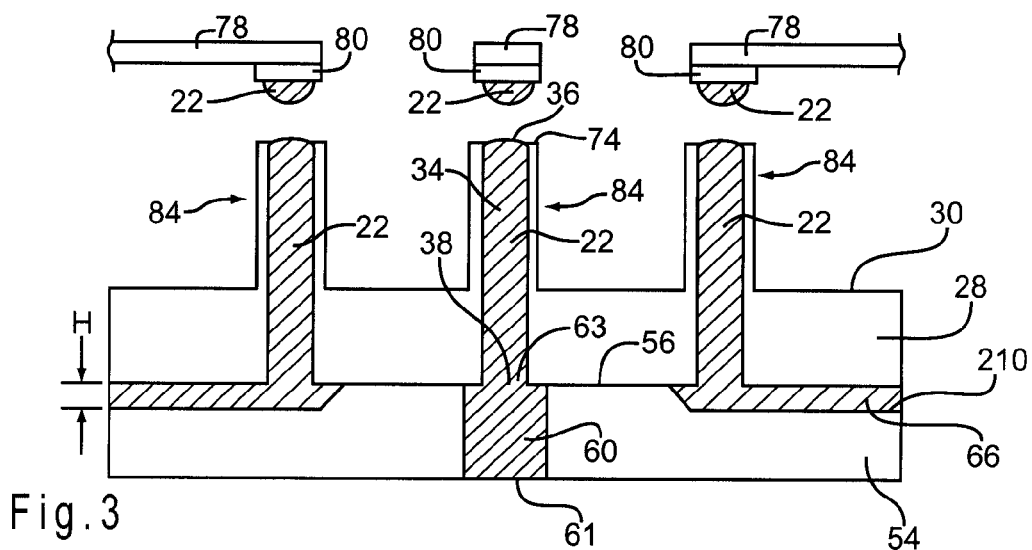
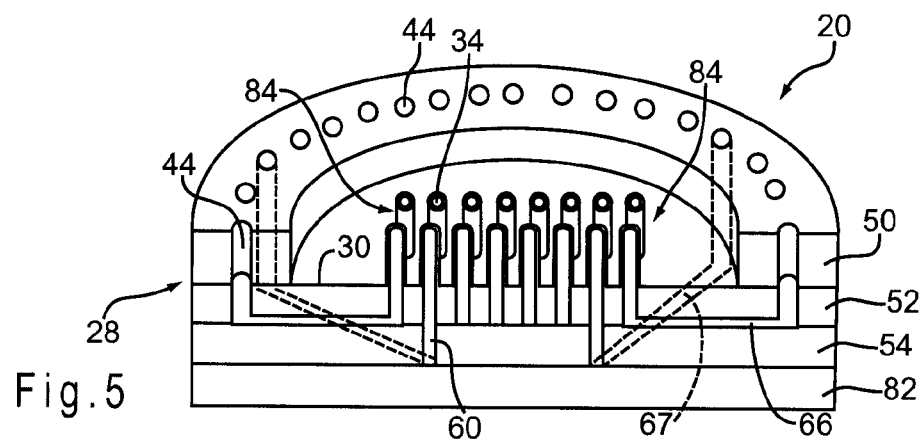
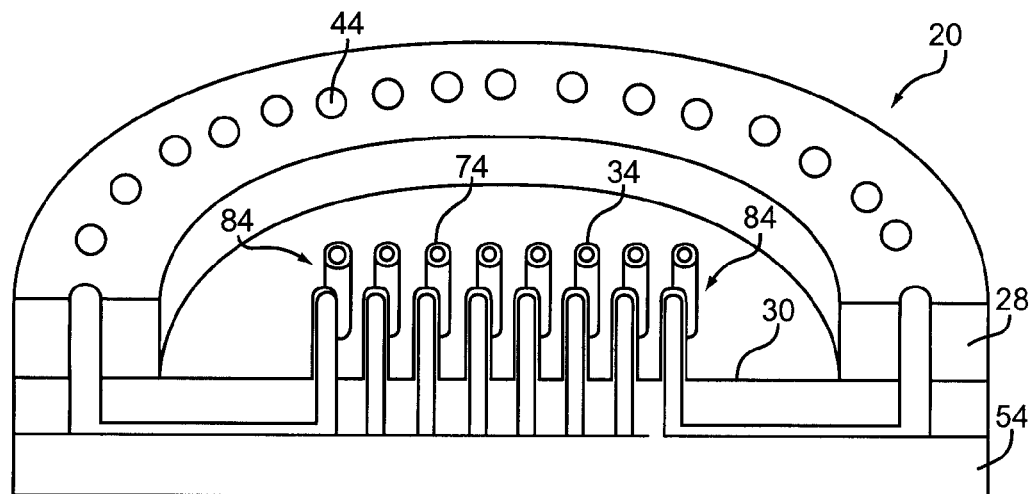
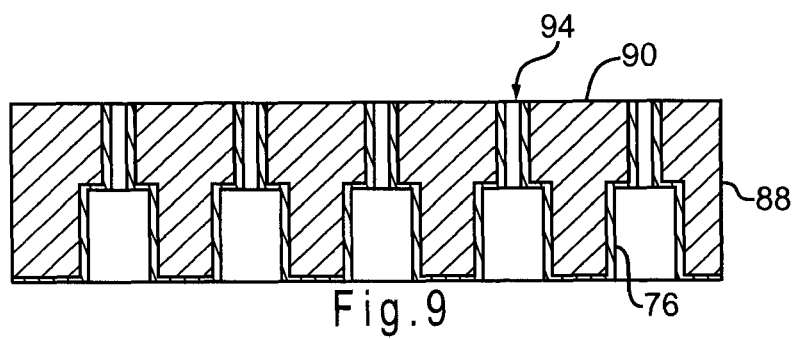
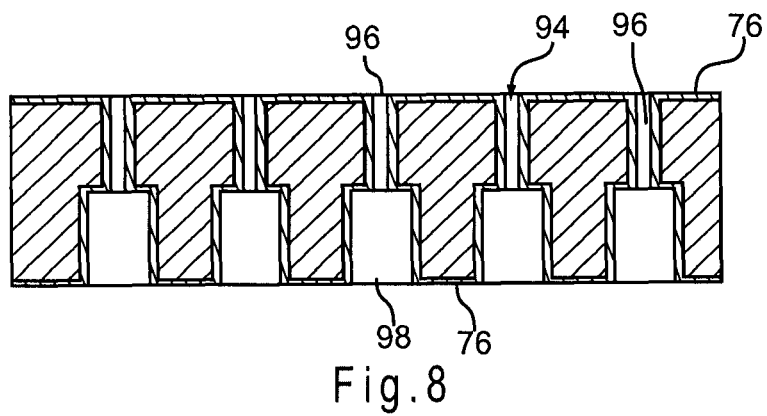
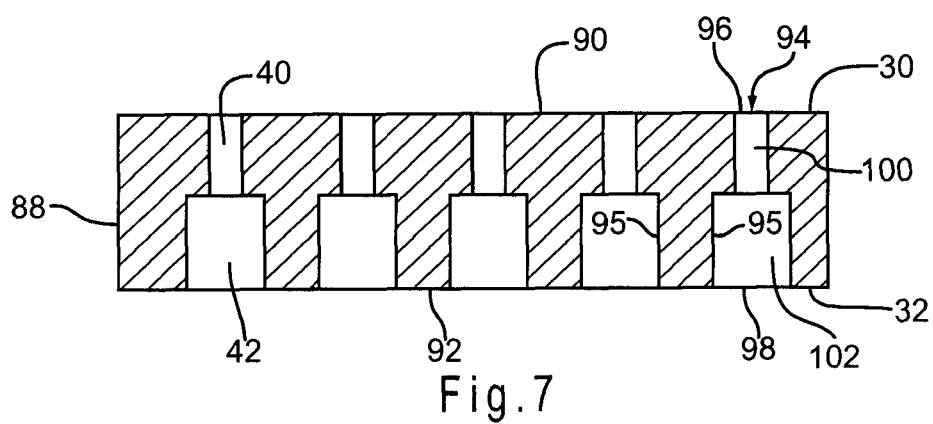
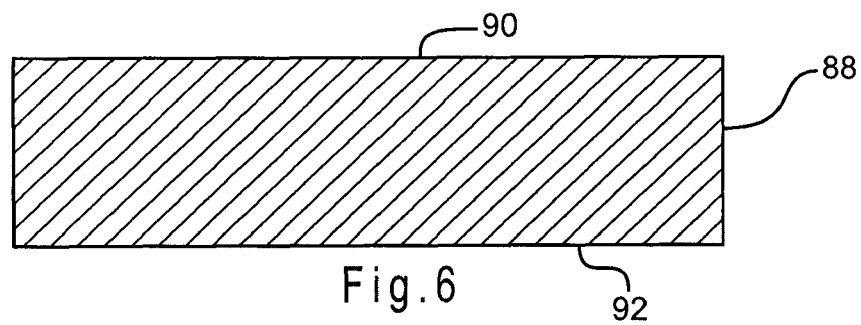


Fig.4





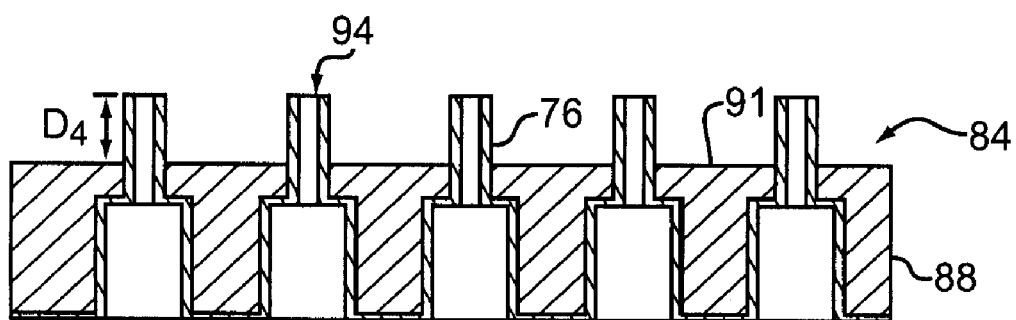


Fig. 10

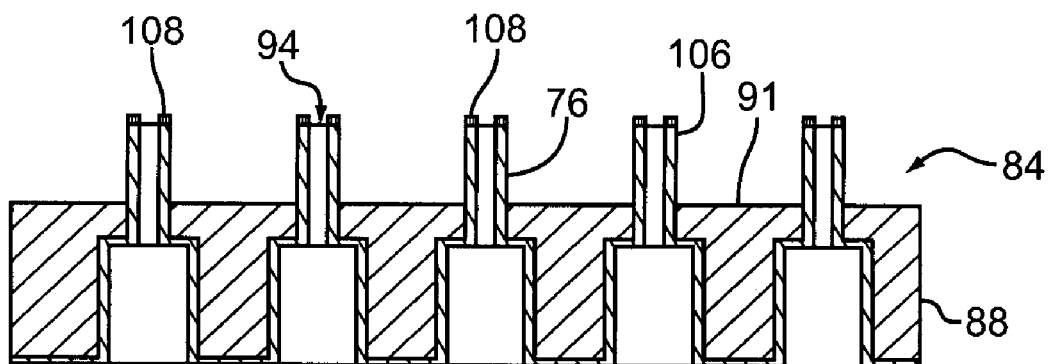


Fig. 11

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MICROFABRICATED MICRO FLUID CHANNELS

REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a Divisional application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/429,333 entitled "Microfabricated Micro Fluid Channels" filed May 5, 2003, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,217,396 which is incorporated by reference in its entirety.

FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

This invention was made with Government support under Contract Number DAAD19-00-1-0414 awarded by the Army Research Office (ARO), and Contract Number F49620-01-1-0401 awarded by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR). The Government may have certain rights in the invention.

BACKGROUND

This invention relates generally to array chemical transfer devices, and in particular, to a fluid delivery system having an array of micro-channels in fluid connection with an array of wells.

In nanolithography, such as dip pen lithography (DPN) or other types of arrayed chemical transfer methods, it is desirable to provide inks, chemical or biological fluids, to a plurality of probes simultaneously. An arrayed fluid dispensing system with matching spatial configuration to the probe array would allow efficient inking of such an array of probes. Neighboring probes with very small distances between them can receive distinct inks. The probes can then be used to create high density arrays of biochemical substances, such as DNA or protein arrays.

BRIEF SUMMARY

According to one aspect of the present invention, a method for fabricating a fluid delivery system is provided. The method includes attaching a first substrate and a second substrate to form a delivery channel between the first substrate and the second substrate. The delivery channel provides fluid communication between a first micro-channel and a first well. The first micro-channel and the first well are both in the first substrate.

According to another aspect of the present invention, a fluid delivery system is provided. The fluid delivery system includes a first substrate having a micro-channel and a well both formed through the first substrate. The fluid delivery system also includes a second substrate and a delivery channel. The second substrate is on the first substrate, and the delivery channel is formed between the first and second substrates. The delivery channel provides fluid communication between the micro-channel and the well.

According to another aspect of the present invention, a method for forming a micro-pipette is provided. The method includes etching a top surface of a substrate to remove a portion of the substrate. The substrate has a micro-channel formed through the first substrate, where the top surface is opposed to a bottom surface. The top surface, the bottom surface, and the micro-channel are coated with a support material.

According to another aspect of the present invention, an apparatus for transferring fluid is provided. The apparatus includes a substrate having a top surface opposed to a bottom

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surface and a layer of support material. The substrate and the layer of support material form a micro-channel. The micro-channel opens at the bottom surface of the substrate and extends above the top surface of the substrate.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates a cross-sectional view of a fluid delivery system containing multiple substrates, in accordance with one preferred embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 2 illustrates a cross-sectional view of a fluid delivery system containing multiple substrates, in accordance with one preferred embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 3 illustrates an enlarged cross-sectional view of a portion of a fluid delivery system containing multiple substrates, in accordance with one preferred embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 4 illustrates a cross-sectional view of a fluid delivery system containing multiple substrates, in accordance with one preferred embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 5 illustrates a cross-sectional view of a fluid delivery system containing multiple substrates, in accordance with one preferred embodiment of the invention; and

FIGS. 6-11 illustrate, in cross-section, process steps for the fabrication of a micro-pipette structure for use in a fluid delivery system in accordance with one preferred embodiment of the invention.

It should be appreciated that for simplicity and clarity of illustration, elements shown in the Figures have not necessarily been drawn to scale. For example, the dimensions of some of the elements are exaggerated relative to each other for clarity. Further, where considered appropriate, reference numerals have been repeated among the Figures to indicate corresponding elements.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present invention includes micro fluid channels. The micro fluid channels are formed by etching partially or completely through a substrate. The micro fluid channels may protrude from the substrate to form micro-pipettes, which may be in the form of an array. The channels may be part of a fluid delivery system, including one or more additional substrates, with channels between the substrates connecting the micro fluid channel to wells having a larger size, allowing for various fluids to easily be delivered to the micro fluid channel. These micro fluid channels may then be used to ink a probe or array of probes, to spot surfaces. This will allow for patterning, with the various fluids, to form, for example high density arrays of biochemical substances.

A "micro fluid channel" or "micro-channel" means a channel having a cross-sectional area of at most 10,000 square microns, more preferably at most 2500 square microns, most preferably at most 100 square microns.

Shown in FIG. 1, in cross-section, is a fluid delivery system 20 which includes a first substrate 28 overlying a second substrate 54. Preferably, the first and second substrate 28, 54 comprise a single crystal silicon substrate; however, first and second substrate 28, 54 may comprise other materials. Preferably, the substrates 28, 54 each have a thickness of 1000 to 200 microns, such as 300 to 500 microns. Preferably, the first and second substrates 28, 54 have top surfaces 30, 56 which are previously processed and cleaned to remove debris and native oxides.

First substrate 28 has a top surface 30 opposed to a bottom surface 32. First substrate 28 also has an outer edge 24 surrounding an inside surface 26, as illustrated in FIG. 1. In one

embodiment, the first substrate **28** is formed from a single substrate, as illustrated in FIGS. **1** and **4**, while in another embodiment, the first substrate **28** is formed from multiple substrates, such as an upper substrate **50** and a lower substrate **52**, and then bonded together, as illustrated in FIGS. **2** and **5**.

Upper and lower substrates **50**, **52** may be bonded in one of many ways, such as spin on bonding using photoresist or an adhesive polymer for adhesive bonding, which may be patterned (see for example "VOID-FREE FULL WAFER ADHESIVE BONDING" F. Niklaus, et al.); or high-temperature bonding, for example by heating the substrates together at about 1100° C. Alignment may be achieved using an alignment mark, or using features present on the substrates.

A micro-channel **34** is formed through the first substrate **28** from the top surface **30** to the bottom surface **32**. Preferably, the micro-channel **34** is formed by etching all the way through the first substrate **28** from the top surface **30** to the bottom surface **32**; however other means for forming the micro-channel **34** may be used, such as drilling. Preferably, the micro-channel **34** is formed using anisotropic etching. In one embodiment, the micro-channel **34** is formed by etching through the top surface **30** to form a first channel **40** and then etching through the bottom surface **32** to form a second channel **42**, wherein the first and second channels **40**, **42** are in fluid communication, as illustrated in FIG. **7**. Preferably, the cross-sectional area of the first channel **40** is less than the cross-sectional area of the second channel **42**. More preferably, the ratio of the cross-sectional area of the first channel **40** to the cross-sectional area of the second channel **42** is between 1 to 1 and 1 to 10.

The micro-channel **34** has an inlet **38** for receiving fluid **22** from a delivery channel **66** and an outlet **36** for delivering fluid **22**, preferably, to a probe **78**, as illustrated in FIG. **3**. In one embodiment, the outlet **36** has a cross-sectional area that is generally circular in shape. Preferably, the outlet **36** has a cross sectional area that is at most 10,000 square microns, more preferably at most 2,500 square microns, and most preferably at most 100 square microns. In one embodiment, the outlet **36** has a cross sectional area that is between ten and 10,000 square microns. Preferably, the inlet **38** has a cross-sectional area that is larger than the cross-sectional area of the outlet **36**. The cross-sectional areas and shapes of the inlet **38** and the outlet **36** may be freely chosen, using patterning techniques, such as those used to pattern semiconductor substrates.

Preferably, the first substrate **28** includes a hydrophobic surface **74** surrounding the outlet **36**, as illustrated in FIG. **1**. The hydrophobic surface **74** prevents fluid **22** from overflowing and unintentionally exiting the outlet **36**, and possibly causing cross-contamination between fluids **22**. The hydrophobic surface **74** can be formed in one of many ways, such as coating the outlet **36** of the micro-channel **34** with a hydrophobic material, for example a silane or thiol, such as 1-octadecanethiol (ODT), or a photoresist. Preferably, an array of micro-channels **34** is formed through the first substrate **28** from the top surface **30** to the bottom surface **32**, as illustrated in FIG. **1**. The distance D_1 between adjacent micro-channels **34** is preferably at most 1000 microns, more preferably at most 600 microns, most preferably at most 200 microns.

A well **44** is formed through the first substrate **28** from the top surface **30** to the bottom surface **32**. Preferably, the well **44** is formed by etching all the way through the first substrate **28** from the top surface **30** to the bottom surface **32**; however, other means for forming the well **44** may be used, such as drilling. Preferably, the well **44** is formed using reactive ion etching. The well **44** has an inlet **46** for receiving fluid **22** from a fluid delivery device, such as a conventional pipette or

pump. The well **44** also includes a well outlet **48** for delivering fluid **22** to the delivery channel **66**, as illustrated in FIG. **1**. In one embodiment, the well inlet **46** has a cross-sectional area that is generally circular in shape. Preferably, the well inlet **46** has a cross-sectional area that is greater than the cross-sectional area of the micro-channel outlet **36**. Forming the well inlet **46** with a cross-sectional area that is larger than the cross-sectional area of the micro-channel outlet **36** allows for fluids **22** to be easily injected into the well inlet **46**, and yet still be deliverable, through the smaller micro-channel outlet **36**, to a probe **78**. Preferably, the well inlet **46** has a cross sectional area that is between 1 and 20 square millimeters, more preferably between 3 and 12 square millimeters, and most preferably between 5 and 10 square millimeters. In one embodiment, the distance D_3 between adjacent wells **44** is greater than the distance D_1 between adjacent micro-channels **34** or the distance D_2 between adjacent micro-pipettes **84**, as illustrated in FIGS. **1** and **2**.

Preferably, an array of wells **44** is formed through the first substrate **28** from the top surface **30** to the bottom surface **32**, as illustrated in FIG. **1**. Preferably, the array of wells **44** is formed near the outer edge **24** of the first substrate **28**, while the array of micro-channels **34** is formed at the inside surface **26** of the first substrate **28**, as illustrated in FIG. **1**.

Second substrate **54** has a top surface **56** opposed to a bottom surface **58**. Second substrate **54** also has an outer edge **62** surrounding an inside surface **64**, as illustrated in FIG. **1**. Second substrate **54** is positioned so that the top surface **56** is on the bottom surface **32** of the first substrate **28**. In one embodiment, an extended channel **60** is formed through the second substrate **54** from the top surface **56** to the bottom surface **58**. Preferably, the extended channel **60** is formed by etching all the way through the second substrate **54** from the top surface **56** to the bottom surface **58**; however, other means for forming the extended channel **60** may be used, such as drilling. Preferably, the extended channel **60** is formed using reactive ion etching. The extended channel **60** has an inlet **61** for receiving fluid **22** from a secondary delivery channel **67** and an outlet **63** for delivering fluid **22** to the inlet **38** of the micro-channel **34**, as illustrated in FIGS. **1** and **3**. The secondary delivery channel **67** is formed between the second substrate **54** and a third substrate **82**, as illustrated in FIG. **1**. In one embodiment, the outlet **63** has a cross-sectional area that is generally circular in shape.

The delivery channel **66** is formed between the first and second substrates **28**, **54**, as illustrated in FIGS. **1** and **2**. Preferably, the height H of the delivery channel, as illustrated in FIG. **3**, is between one and twenty microns, and more preferably, at most ten microns. The delivery channel **66** may be formed in one of many ways. In one embodiment, the delivery channel **66** includes a groove **210** that is formed on the top surface **56** of the second substrate **54**. In one embodiment, the delivery channel **66** includes a groove **130** that is formed on the bottom surface **32** of the first substrate **28**. In one embodiment, the delivery channel **66** includes a first groove that is formed on the top surface **56** of the second substrate **54** and a second groove that is formed on the bottom surface **32** of the first substrate **28**. The first substrate **28** is aligned with the second substrate **54** so that the delivery channel **66** allows for fluid to travel between the micro-channel **34** and the well **44**. The delivery channel **66** includes an inlet **70** for receiving fluid and an outlet **68** for delivering fluid **22**. The delivery channel inlet **70** receives fluid **22** from the well outlet **48** of the well **44**, while the delivery channel outlet **68** delivers fluid **22** to the inlet **38** of the micro-channel **34**.

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The delivery channel inlet **70** is adjacent to the well outlet **48**, and the delivery channel outlet **68** is adjacent to the inlet **38**, as illustrated in FIG. 1.

In one embodiment, the micro-channel **34** extends both above and below the top surface **30** of the first substrate **28**, as illustrated in FIGS. 2-5. In this embodiment, the micro-channel **34** may be formed entirely from the first substrate **28**, a portion of the micro-channel **34** may be formed from the first substrate **28**, or the micro-channel **34** may be formed from a second material. The second material may be any material that can be formed or coated onto a surface, such as those used in semiconductor processing. Examples include oxides, such as silicon oxide and silicon oxynitride, nitrides such as silicon nitride and titanium nitride, metals such as tungsten and gold, and polymers. Preferably, the micro-channel **34** is formed from the second material, wherein the second material extends both above and below the top surface **30** of the first substrate **28**.

In one embodiment, a method for fabricating the fluid delivery system **20** is disclosed. Referring to FIG. 1 the fluid delivery system **20** is fabricated by attaching the first substrate **28** and the second substrate **54** to form the delivery channel **66**, wherein the delivery channel **66** provides fluid communication between the micro-channel **34** and the well **44**. Preferably, the first substrate **28** is aligned with the second substrate **54** so that the inlet **70** of the delivery channel **66** is adjacent the outlet **48** of the well **44**, while the outlet **68** of the delivery channel **66** is adjacent the inlet **38** of the micro-channel **34**. In this way, the micro-channel **34** is in fluid connection with the well **44**, and thus fluid **22** may travel from the inlet **46** of the well **44** through the well **44**, the delivery channel **66**, and the micro-channel **34**, only to exit at the outlet **36** of the micro-channel **34**. Preferably, either alignment marks or existing features on one or both of the first and second substrates **28**, **54** are used to align the first substrate **28** with the second substrate **54**.

Once the delivery channel **66** is formed, the fluid **22** is delivered to the well **44**. The fluid **22** travels down the well **44**, through the delivery channel **66**, and up the micro-channel **34** to the outlet **36**. Fluid **22** can be forced up into the micro-channel **34** by pumping the fluid **22** through the well **44** and the delivery channel **66**. Fluid **22** may be pumped through the well **44** and the delivery channel **66** using a variety of techniques, such as by creating a pressure differential between the inlet **46** and the outlet **36**, or simply by capillary action. Preferably, the fluid **22** is kept in the micro-channel **34** and prevented from unintentionally exiting the micro-channel **34** by creating a hydrophobic surface **74** adjacent the outlet **36** of the micro-channel **34**. Once the micro-channel **34** is filled with fluid **22**, the fluid **22** can then be transferred to a probe **78**, such as an SPM (Scanning Probe Microscopy) probe, and more specifically to the tip **80** of the probe **78**, as illustrated in FIG. 3.

In one embodiment, a micro-pipette **84** forms the micro-channel **34**. Preferably, a portion of the micro-pipette **84** extends both above and below the top surface **30** of the first substrate **28**, as illustrated in FIG. 2. Preferably, the fluid delivery system **20** includes an array of micro-pipettes **84**, as illustrated in FIGS. 2-5, allowing for multiple fluids **22** to be dispensed from the array of micro-channels **34**.

In one embodiment, a method for fabricating the micro-pipette **84** is disclosed, as illustrated in FIGS. 6-11. Referring to FIG. 6, a substrate **88**, such as first substrate **28**, is provided. Preferably, the substrate **88** has a top surface **90** which is previously processed and cleaned to remove debris and native oxides. The top surface **90** is opposed to a bottom surface **92**.

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Preferably, the bottom surface **92** is also previously processed and cleaned to remove debris and native oxides.

Referring to FIG. 7, a channel **94**, such as a micro-channel **34**, having a wall **95** is formed through the substrate **88** from the top surface **90** to the bottom surface **92**. Preferably, the channel **94** is formed by etching all the way through the substrate **88** from the top surface **90** to the bottom surface **92**; however, other means for forming the channel **94** may be used, such as drilling. Preferably, the channel **94** is formed using reactive ion etching. In one embodiment, the channel **94** is formed by etching through the top surface **92** to form a first channel **100** and then etching through the bottom surface **92** to form a second channel **102**, wherein the first and second channels **100**, **102** connect, as illustrated in FIG. 7. The channel **94** has an inlet **98** for receiving fluid, such as fluid **22**, and an outlet **96** for delivering fluid to, for example, a probe, such as probe **78**. In one embodiment, the outlet **96** has a cross-sectional area that is generally circular in shape. In yet another embodiment, the inlet **98** has a cross-sectional area that is larger than the cross-sectional area of the outlet **96**. The cross-sectional areas and shapes of the inlet **98** and the outlet **96** may be freely chosen, using patterning techniques, such as those used to pattern semiconductor substrates.

After forming the channel **94**, the top surface **90**, the bottom surface **92**, and the wall **95** of the channel **94** are all coated with a layer **76** of support material, as illustrated in FIG. 8. The support material may include any material that can be formed or coated onto a surface, such as those used in semiconductor processing. Examples include oxides, such as silicon oxide and silicon oxynitride, nitrides such as silicon nitride and titanium nitride, metals such as tungsten and gold, and polymers. The support material may be formed by chemical reaction with the substrate **88**, for example by oxidation, or by coating, for example with chemical vapor deposition or oblique angle physical vapor deposition. Preferably, the support material is different from the material contained in the substrate **88**. Multiple materials may also be used, and these may be applied with the first support material, or they may be applied after further processing steps. In one embodiment, the layer **76** is silicon dioxide which is formed by reacting the substrate **90**, preferably made of silicon, with oxygen.

After forming the layer **76**, a portion of the layer **76** is removed. Preferably, the layer **76** is removed from the top surface **90** to expose the top surface **90** of the substrate **88**. In one embodiment, the layer **76** is removed from the bottom surface **92** to expose the bottom surface **92** of the substrate **88**. Layer **76** may be removed in one of a number of ways, such as the use of chemical-mechanical polishing or etching. The channel **94** may be filled with a protectant, such as wax, to avoid damaging the channel **94** with a polishing agent. The protectant may be removed with a solvent, such as acetone.

Upon removing the layer **76**, the substrate **88** is then etched to remove a portion of either the top surface **90** or the bottom surface **92** of the substrate **88**, as illustrated in FIG. 10. Preferably, the substrate **88** is etched to a depth D_4 , as illustrated in FIG. 10, of between 50 and 500 microns, and more preferably, a depth of at most 150 microns. Various types of etching may be used to remove a portion of the substrate **88**, such as wet etching with ethylene diamine pyrocatechol or potassium hydroxide, or dry etching. Preferably, the top surface **90** is etched to remove a portion of the substrate **88** and create an etched surface **91** which is closer to the bottom surface **92** than the original top surface **90**.

Preferably, upon etching the substrate **88**, a hydrophobic material is applied to the surface **106** surrounding the outlet **96** to create a hydrophobic surface **108**, as illustrated in FIG. 11.

The individual processing steps used in accordance with the present invention are well known to those of ordinary skill in the art, and are also described in numerous publications and treatises, including: *Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, Volume 14* (Kirk-Othmer, 1995, pp. 677-709); *Semiconductor Device Fundamentals* by Robert F. Pierret (Addison-Wesley, 1996); *Silicon Processing for the VLSI Era* by Wolf (Lattice Press, 1986, 1990, 1995, vols 1-3, respectively); and *Microchip Fabrication: A Practical Guide to Semiconductor Processing* by Peter Van Zant (4th Edition, McGraw-Hill, 2000). In order to etch through the substrate, techniques such as deep ion etching may be used (also known as the Bosch process).

The fluid delivery system may be used to form patterns using fluids on surfaces. For example, if the fluid is an ink, then a surface, such as paper, could be printed with the probes after they have received the ink, to form microprinting. Biological arrays may similarly be formed, for example by using fluids containing biological compounds, such as nucleotides (RNA, DNA, or PNA), proteins (enzymes, antibodies, etc.), lipids, carbohydrates, etc. to spot a substrate, such as glass, silicon, or polymers. Since each micro-channel may be supplied for a dedicated well, very complex arrays may be produced quickly.

Numerous additional variations in the presently preferred embodiments illustrated herein will be determined by one of ordinary skill in the art, and remain within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents. For example, while the examples provided above relate to silicon-based semiconductor substrates, it is contemplated that alternative semiconductor materials can likewise be employed in accordance with the present invention, and that the semiconductor substrates may be undoped, P-doped, or N-doped. Suitable materials for the substrates include but are not limited to silicon, gallium arsenide, germanium, gallium nitride, aluminum phosphide, $\text{Si}_{1-x}\text{Ge}_x$ and $\text{Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{As}$ alloys, wherein x is greater than or equal to zero and less than or equal to one, the like, and combinations thereof. Additional examples of materials for use in accordance with the present invention are set forth in *Semiconductor Device Fundamentals* by Robert F. Pierret (p. 4, Table 1.1, Addison-Wesley, 1996).

Although the invention has been described and illustrated with reference to specific illustrative embodiments thereof, it is not intended that the invention be limited to those illustrative embodiments. Those skilled in the art will recognize that variations and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit of the invention.

The invention claimed is:

1. A method for fabricating a fluid delivery system, comprising:

attaching a first substrate and a second substrate to form a delivery channel between the first substrate and the second substrate,

wherein the delivery channel provides fluid communication between a first micro-channel and a first well, and the first micro-channel and the first well are both in the first substrate, and

a second micro-channel and a second well are in the first substrate, and the distance between the first and second wells is greater than the distance between the first and second micro-channels.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the delivery channel comprises a groove formed on a surface of the second substrate.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the delivery channel comprises a groove formed on a surface of the first substrate.

4. The method of claim 1,

wherein the first well has a well inlet for receiving fluid, the first micro-channel has a micro-channel outlet for delivering fluid, and

a cross-sectional area of the well inlet is greater than a cross-sectional area of the micro-channel outlet.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the cross sectional area of the well inlet is between one and twenty square millimeters, and the cross sectional area of the micro-channel outlet is between 100 and 10,000 square microns.

6. The method of claim 4, further comprising forming a hydrophobic surface surrounding the micro-channel outlet.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the first substrate has a thickness of at most 500 microns.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the first substrate is bonded to the second substrate by spin-on bonding or high temperature bonding.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising forming the first micro-channel in the first substrate.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the forming comprises etching the first substrate.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the first substrate comprises a top surface opposed to a bottom surface; the method further comprising coating the top surface, the bottom surface and the first micro-channel with a support material.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the coating the top surface, the bottom surface and the first micro-channel comprises growing a layer of oxide on the first substrate.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the support material comprises a dielectric.

14. The method of claim 11, further comprising etching the top surface to remove a portion of the first substrate.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the etching provides an etched surface opposed to the bottom surface, and the micro-channel extends both above and below the etched surface.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the first micro-channel comprises a coating comprising a support material, and

the first substrate comprises a top surface opposed to a bottom surface;

the method further comprising etching the top surface to remove a portion of the first substrate.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the support material comprises a dielectric.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the etching provides an etched surface opposed to the bottom surface, and the micro-channel extends both above and below the etched surface.

19. The method of claim 1, further comprising forming the first well in the first substrate.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the forming comprises etching the first substrate.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein the first substrate comprises an outer edge and an inside surface;

the method further comprising forming a plurality of micro-channels at the inside surface, and forming a plurality of wells near the outer edge.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein the second substrate is on a third substrate, a second delivery channel is formed between the second substrate and the third substrate, and the second substrate comprises an extended channel establishing

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fluid communication between the second micro-channel and the second delivery channel;

the second delivery channel and the extended channel providing fluid communication between the second micro-channel and the second well.

23. The method of claim **22**, further comprising forming the extended channel in the second substrate.

24. The method of claim **23**, where the forming comprises etching the second substrate.

25. A method for fabricating a fluid delivery system, comprising:

attaching a first substrate and a second substrate to form a delivery channel between the first substrate and the second substrate, and

forming the first micro-channel in the first substrate,

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wherein the delivery channel provides fluid communication between a first micro-channel and a first well, and the first micro-channel and the first well are both in the first substrate,

the forming comprises etching the first substrate, and the etching of the first substrate comprises

etching a top surface of the first substrate to form a first channel, and

etching a bottom surface, opposed to the top surface, to form a second channel;

wherein the first channel is in fluid communication with the second channel.

26. The method of claim **25**, wherein a cross-sectional area of the first channel is less than a cross-sectional area of the second channel.

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