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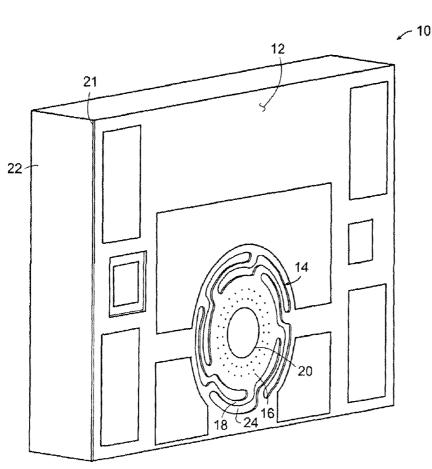
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(54) Title: MEMS SINGULATION PROCESS UTILIZING PROTECTIVE COATING



(57) Abstract: A process for singulating MOEMS optical devices (10) from a precursor structure (110), in which the precursor structure (110) comprises device material (12), having movable optical structures (14), and handle material (22), through which optical ports (30) are formed to provide for optical access to the movable optical structures (14). The process comprises coating a frontside and a backside of the precursor structure (110) with protection material (610). The precursor structure (110) is then attached to a substrate such as dicing tape and the precursor structure (110) separated into individual optical devices (10) by a process, including die sawing. Thereafter, the optical devices (10) are removed from the tape and the protection material (610) removed from the optical devices (10).

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European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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PCT/US 02/02348 a. classification of subject matter IPC 7 B81C1/00 G02B26/00 H01L21/304 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) B81C H01L IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, IBM-TDB, INSPEC, COMPENDEX C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category ° WO OO 44045 A (AMKOR TECHNOLOGY INC) 1-3.8-14χ 27 July 2000 (2000-07-27) page 2, line 18 -page 3, line 12; figures page 6, line 8 - line 15 page 11, line 7 - line 12 page 13, line 1 - line 14 page 14, line 5 - line 20 page 15, line 6 -page 16, line 3 1.3-7χ US 5 832 585 A (MATHEW RANJAN ET AL) 10 November 1998 (1998-11-10) column 2, line 39 - line 65; figures 1-3 column 3, line 23 - line 53 column 4, line 24 - line 43 -/--Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. ° Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the 'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention uccument or particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 16/12/2002 6 December 2002 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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