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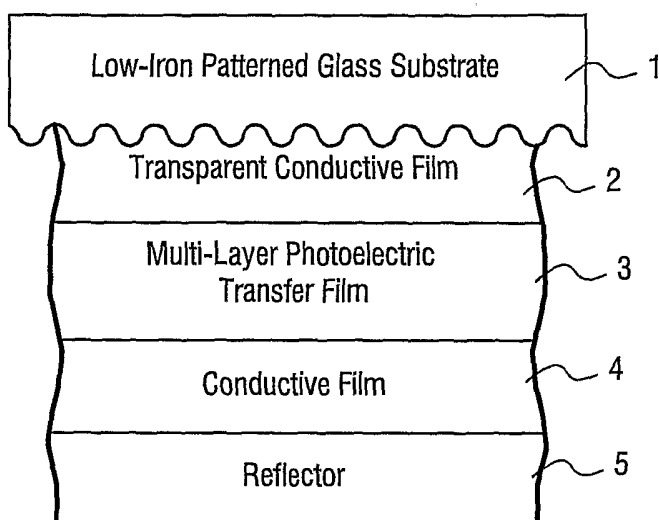
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(54) Title: SOLAR CELL LOW IRON PATTERNED GLASS AND METHOD OF MAKING SAME



(57) Abstract: A patterned glass substrate is provided for use in a solar cell. The glass substrate is both patterned on at least one surface thereof and has a low iron content. The combination of low iron content, optional oxidizing agent, and the patterning of the glass substrate results in a substrate with high visible transmission and excellent light refracting characteristics.

WO 2006/083545 A1

SOLAR CELL LOW IRON PATTERNED GLASS AND METHOD OF MAKING SAME

[0001] This invention relates to a patterned glass substrate for use in solar cells, and a method of making same. In certain example embodiments, the glass composition used for the patterned glass substrate is a low-iron type substrate which may optionally include cerium oxide, have a low glass redox and/or a high batch redox.

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF EXAMPLE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Solar cells are known in the art. A solar cell may include, for example, a photoelectric transfer film made up of one or more layers located between a pair of substrate. These layers may be supported by a glass substrate. Example solar cells are disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,510,344, 4,806,436, 6,506,622, 5,977,477, and JP 07-122764, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

[0003] Substrate(s) in a solar cell are sometimes made of glass. Glass that is fairly clear in color and highly transmissive to visible light is sometimes desirable. Glass raw materials (e.g., silica sand, soda ash, dolomite, and/or limestone) typically include certain impurities such as iron, which is a colorant. The total amount of iron present is expressed herein in terms of Fe_2O_3 in accordance with standard practice. However, typically, not all iron is in the form of Fe_2O_3 . Instead, iron is usually present in both the ferrous state (Fe^{2+} ; expressed herein as FeO, even though all ferrous state iron in the glass may not be in the form of FeO) and the ferric state (Fe^{3+}). Iron in the ferrous state (Fe^{2+} ; FeO) is a blue-green colorant, while iron in the ferric state (Fe^{3+}) is a yellow-green colorant. The blue-green colorant of ferrous iron (Fe^{2+} ; FeO) is of particular concern when seeking to achieve a fairly clear or neutral colored glass, since as a strong colorant it introduces significant color into the glass. While iron in the ferric state (Fe^{3+}) is also a colorant, it is of less concern when seeking to achieve a glass fairly clear in color since iron in the ferric state tends to be weaker as a colorant than its ferrous state counterpart.

[0004] It has been found that the use of a low-iron highly transparent patterned glass is advantageous for solar cell applications. The use of the low-iron composition in combination with the patterned surface(s) of the glass substrate(s) has been found to be advantageous with respect to optical properties, thereby leading to increased solar efficiency of a solar cell.

[0005] In certain example embodiments of this invention, a solar cell patterned glass substrate has a visible transmission of at least 75% (more preferably at least 80%, even more preferably at least 85%, and most preferably at least about 90%). In making such a glass, a batch therefor includes a base glass (e.g., soda lime silica glass) and in addition comprises (or consists essentially of in certain other embodiments) a very small amount of total iron.

[0006] Optionally, an amount of cerium oxide may also be present. In certain example embodiments, the patterned glass substrate may have fairly clear color that may be slightly yellowish (a positive b^* value is indicative of yellowish color). For example, in certain example embodiments, the patterned glass substrate may be characterized by a visible transmission of at least 90%, a total solar/energy value of at least 90%, a transmissive a^* color value of from -1.0 to +1.0 (more preferably from -0.5 to +0.5, and most preferably from -0.2 to 0), and a transmissive b^* color value of from 0 to +1.5 (more preferably from +0.1 to +1.0, and most preferably from +0.2 to +0.7). These properties may be realized at an example non-limiting reference glass thickness of from about 3-4 mm.

[0007] In certain example embodiments of this invention, there is provided a solar cell comprising: a patterned glass substrate, wherein at least one surface of the patterned glass substrate has a surface roughness of from about 0.1 to 1.5 μm ; first and second conductive layers with at least a photoelectric film provided therebetween; wherein the glass substrate is of a composition comprising:

Ingredient	wt. %
SiO ₂	67 – 75 %
Na ₂ O	10 – 20 %
CaO	5 – 15 %
total iron (expressed as Fe ₂ O ₃)	0.001 to 0.06 %
cerium oxide	0 to 0.30 %

wherein the glass substrate has visible transmission of at least 90%, a transmissive a* color value of -1.0 to +1.0 and a transmissive b* color value of from 0 to +1.5. The amount of total iron oxide (expressed as Fe₂O₃) is more preferably from 0.02 to 0.06%. MgO may also be provided in the glass in certain example embodiments.

[0008] In other example embodiments of this invention, there is provided a method of making patterned glass, the method comprising: providing a molten glass batch in a furnace or melter comprising from 67-75% SiO₂, from about 0.001 to 0.06% (more preferably from 0.01 to 0.06%) total iron, and from about 0 to 0.30% cerium oxide; providing the glass batch so as to have a batch redox of at least 10; forwarding a glass ribbon from the furnace or melter to a nip between first and second rollers, at least one of the rollers having pattern defined in a surface thereof, wherein the glass ribbon reaches the nip at a temperature of from about 1,900 to 2,400 degrees F; at the nip, transferring the pattern from the roller(s) to the glass ribbon; the glass ribbon being at a temperature of from about 1,100 to 1,600 degrees F upon exiting the nip; annealing the glass ribbon at least after the ribbon exits the nip, thereby providing a patterned glass having a visible transmission of at least 90%, from about 0.001 to 0.06% (more preferably from 0.01 to 0.06%) total iron, and from about 0 to 0.30% cerium oxide.

[0009] In certain example embodiments of this invention, the glass has no more than 0.07% cerium oxide, more preferably no more than 0.06%, a transmissive a* color value of -0.5 to +0.5 and a transmissive b* color value of from +0.1 to +1.0.

IN THE DRAWINGS

[0010] Fig. 1 is a cross sectional view of a solar cell according to an example embodiment of this invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF CERTAIN EXAMPLE EMBODIMENTS OF THIS INVENTION

[0011] An example solar cell is illustrated in cross section in Fig. 1. The solar cell includes, for example and without limitation, patterned glass substrate 1, conductive film 2 which may be transparent, a photoelectric transfer film 3 which may include one or more layers, a rear surface electrode 4, and an optional reflector 5. In certain example embodiments, the photoelectric transfer film 3 may include a p-type silicon inclusive layer, an i-type silicon inclusive layer, and an n-type silicon inclusive layer. These silicon inclusive layers may be composed of amorphous silicon or any other suitable type of semiconductor with suitable dopants in certain example embodiments of this invention. The electrodes 2, 4 may be of a transparent conductor such as zinc oxide, or any other suitable material in certain example embodiments of this invention, and the reflector 5 may be of aluminum, silver or the like.

[0012] Light tends to be refracted at interface(s) resulting from the patterning of the glass substrate 1, thereby causing light to proceed through the semiconductor layer(s) at an angle(s) such that the path is longer. As a result, more light can be absorbed by the solar cell and output current and/or efficiency can be improved/increased.

[0013] In certain example embodiments of this invention, the patterned surface(s) of the glass substrate 1 has a surface roughness (between peaks/valleys) of from about 0.1 to 1.5 μm , more preferably from about 0.5 to 1.5 μm .

[0014] In certain example embodiments of this invention, the glass substrate 1 has one or more surfaces which are patterned so as to have a waviness feature defined therein. In the Fig. 1 embodiment, only one surface of the glass substrate 1 is patterned, although in other example embodiments both surfaces of the glass substrate may be

patterned.

[0015] The patterning is preferably defined in the glass substrate 1 during the process of making the glass. An example technique for making such patterned glass is as follows. A furnace or melter is provided, as are first and second opposing rollers which define a nip therebetween. At least one of the rollers has a pattern defined in a surface thereof, where the pattern is made up of a plurality of peaks and valleys. A ribbon of glass exiting the furnace or melter is fed into the nip between the patterning rollers and reaches the nip at a temperature of from about 1,900 to 2,400 degrees F. At the nip, the pattern(s) from the roller(s) is transferred to the ribbon of glass, and then the patterned glass ribbon exits the nip at a temperature of from about 1,100 to 1,600 degrees F. After leaving the nip, the patterned glass ribbon is annealed, and may then be cut into a plurality of sheets. These glass sheets may or may not be heat treated (e.g., thermally tempered), and may be used in solar cell applications such as shown in Fig. 1. Example techniques for making the patterned glass substrate 1 are illustrated and described in U.S. Patent Nos. 6,796,146 and/or 6,372,327 (except that different types of patterns are used), the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

[0016] Certain glasses for patterned substrate 1 according to example embodiments of this invention utilize soda-lime-silica flat glass as their base composition/glass. In addition to base composition/glass, a colorant portion may be provided in order to achieve a glass that is fairly clear in color and/or has a high visible transmission. An exemplary soda-lime-silica base glass according to certain embodiments of this invention, on a weight percentage basis, includes the following basic ingredients:

TABLE 1: EXAMPLE BASE GLASS

Ingredient	Wt. %
SiO ₂	67 – 75 %
Na ₂ O	10 – 20 %
CaO	5 – 15 %

MgO	0 – 7 %
Al ₂ O ₃	0 – 5 %
K ₂ O	0 – 5 %
Li ₂ O	0 – 1.5%
BaO	0 – 1 %

Other minor ingredients, including various conventional refining aids, such as SO₃, carbon, and the like may also be included in the base glass. In certain embodiments, for example, glass herein may be made from batch raw materials silica sand, soda ash, dolomite, limestone, with the use of sulfate salts such as salt cake (Na₂SO₄) and/or Epsom salt (MgSO₄ x 7H₂O) and/or gypsum (e.g., about a 1:1 combination of any) as refining agents. In certain example embodiments, soda-lime-silica based glasses herein include by weight from about 10-15% Na₂O and from about 6-12% CaO.

[0017] In addition to the base glass (e.g., see Table 1 above), in making glass according to certain example embodiments of the instant invention the glass batch includes materials (including colorants and/or oxidizers) which cause the resulting glass to be fairly neutral in color (slightly yellow in certain example embodiments, indicated by a positive b* value) and/or have a high visible light transmission. These materials may either be present in the raw materials (e.g., small amounts of iron), or may be added to the base glass materials in the batch (e.g., cerium and/or the like). In certain example embodiments of this invention, the resulting glass has visible transmission of at least 75%, more preferably at least 80%, even more preferably of at least 85%, and most preferably of at least about 90% (sometimes at least 91%) (Lt D65). In certain example non-limiting instances, such high transmissions may be achieved at a reference glass thickness of about 3 to 4 mm

[0018] In certain embodiments of this invention, in addition to the base glass, the glass and/or glass batch comprises or consists essentially of materials as set forth in Table 2 below (in terms of weight percentage of the total glass composition):

TABLE 2: EXAMPLE ADDITIONAL MATERIALS IN GLASS

Ingredient	General (Wt.%)	More Preferred	Most Preferred
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total iron (expressed as Fe ₂ O ₃):	0.001 – 0.06 %	0.005 – 0.04 %	0.01 – 0.03 %
cerium oxide:	0 – 0.30 %	0.01 – 0.12 %	0.01 – 0.07 %
TiO ₂	0 – 1.0%	0.005 – 0.1%	0.01 – 0.04 %

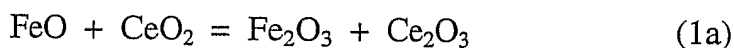
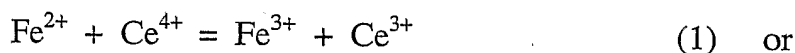
[0019] In certain example embodiments, the total iron content of the glass is more preferably from 0.01 to 0.06%, more preferably from 0.01 to 0.04%, and most preferably from 0.01 to 0.03%.

[0020] In certain example embodiments of this invention, the colorant portion is substantially free of other colorants (other than potentially trace amounts). However, it should be appreciated that amounts of other materials (e.g., refining aids, melting aids, colorants and/or impurities) may be present in the glass in certain other embodiments of this invention without taking away from the purpose(s) and/or goal(s) of the instant invention. For instance, in certain example embodiments of this invention, the glass composition is substantially free of, or free of, one, two, three, four or all of: erbium oxide, nickel oxide, cobalt oxide, neodymium oxide, chromium oxide, and selenium. The phrase “substantially free” means no more than 2 ppm and possibly as low as 0 ppm of the element or material. It is noted that while the presence of cerium oxide is preferred in many embodiments of this invention, it is not required in all embodiments and indeed is intentionally omitted in many instances. In certain example embodiments of this invention, cerium oxide (e.g., CeO₂) may be either replaced or supplemented by NaNO₃ in the glass batch.

[0021] The total amount of iron present in the glass batch and in the resulting glass, i.e., in the colorant portion thereof, is expressed herein in terms of Fe₂O₃ in accordance with standard practice. This, however, does not imply that all iron is actually in the form of Fe₂O₃ (see discussion above in this regard). Likewise, the amount of iron in the ferrous state (Fe⁺²) is reported herein as FeO, even though all ferrous state iron in the glass batch or glass may not be in the form of FeO. As mentioned above, iron in the ferrous state (Fe⁺²; FeO) is a blue-green colorant, while iron in the ferric state (Fe⁺³) is a yellow-green colorant; and the blue-green colorant of

ferrous iron is of particular concern, since as a strong colorant it introduces significant color into the glass which can sometimes be undesirable when seeking to achieve a neutral or clear color.

[0022] According to certain example embodiments of this invention, the optional presence of cerium oxide (e.g., CeO₂) as an oxidizer in the glass batch acts as a chemical decolorizer since during melting of the glass batch it causes iron in the ferrous state (Fe²⁺; FeO) to oxidize to the ferric state (Fe³⁺) by providing oxygen as illustrated by the following equation:



[0023] Equation (1) shows that the presence of cerium oxide in the glass batch causes an amount of the strong blue-green colorant of ferrous iron (Fe²⁺; FeO) to oxidize into the weaker yellow-green ferric iron colorant (Fe³⁺) during the glass melt (note: some ferrous state iron will usually remain in the resulting glass, as potentially may some Ce⁴⁺). Accordingly, a significant portion of the CeO₂ added to the original glass batch prior to the melt is transformed during the melt into Ce₂O₃ which is present in the resulting glass. The aforesaid oxidation of the iron tends to reduce coloration of the glass and also causes visible transmission to increase. It is noted that, like Fe₂O₃, the phrase "cerium oxide" as used herein refers to total cerium oxide (i.e., including cerium oxide in both the Ce⁴⁺ and Ce³⁺ states).

[0024] Any yellowish color caused by oxidation of iron into ferric state (Fe³⁺) iron (i.e., positive b*) is acceptable in solar cell applications and need not be compensated for by addition of other colorants thereby saving cost in certain example embodiments of this invention.

[0025] As mentioned above, the optional cerium oxide may be replaced by, or supplemented with, other oxidizing agents (sources of oxygen) such as sulfates or nitrates. In embodiments where sodium nitrate (NaNO₃) is provided in the glass, it

functions in a manner similar to cerium oxide (but note the potential for oxygen bubbles). In particular, like cerium oxide, sodium nitrate can be added to the glass batch as an oxidizer to cause an amount of the strong blue-green colorant of ferrous iron (Fe^{2+} ; FeO) to oxidize into the weaker yellow-green ferric iron colorant (Fe^{3+}) during the glass melt (note: some ferrous state iron will usually remain in the resulting glass).

[0026] Those skilled in the art will recognize that the most of the nitrate (e.g., sodium nitrate) added to the glass batch decomposes during the melt so that some burns off as NO_x while other parts of it end up in the glass as Na_2O . While sodium nitrate (NaNO_3) may be utilized as an oxidizer, the instant invention is not so limited. For example, other nitrates (e.g., potassium nitrate KNO_3 , or any other suitable nitrate) may be used instead of or in addition to sodium nitrate in alternative embodiments of this invention. In certain example embodiments of this invention, from about 0 to 2.0%, more preferably from about 0.3 to 1.2% when desired, of sodium nitrate may be used in the batch in the process of manufacture.

[0027] It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the optional addition of cerium oxide and/or sodium nitrate (see equations (1) and (2) above) results in a glass with a lower "redox" value (i.e., less iron in the ferrous state FeO). In this regard, the proportion of the total iron in the ferrous state (FeO) is used to determine the redox state of the glass, and redox is expressed as the ratio $\text{FeO}/\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$, which is the weight percentage (%) of iron in the ferrous state (FeO) divided by the weight percentage (%) of total iron (expressed as Fe_2O_3) in the resulting glass. Due to at least the presence of the cerium oxide and/or sodium nitrate, the redox of glass according to certain example embodiments of this invention is rather low; in particular, glass according to certain example embodiments of this invention may have a redox value (i.e., $\text{FeO}/\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$) of less than or equal to 0.20, more preferably less than or equal to 0.15; even more preferably less than or equal to 0.10. In certain example embodiments of this invention, the glass of substrate 1 may have a glass redox (i.e., $\text{FeO}/\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$) of less than or equal to 0.01.

[0028] Moreover, resulting glass according to certain example embodiments of this invention may include iron in the ferrous state (FeO) in an amount (wt. %) of less than or equal to 0.020 %, more preferably less than or equal to 0.010 %, and most preferably less than or equal to 0.004 %.

[0029] It is noted that glass according to certain example embodiments of this invention is often made via the known float process in which a tin bath is utilized. It will thus be appreciated by those skilled in the art that as a result of forming the glass on molten tin in certain exemplary embodiments, small amounts of tin or tin oxide may migrate into surface areas of the glass on the side that was in contact with the tin bath during manufacture (i.e., typically, float glass may have a tin oxide concentration of 0.05% or more (wt.) in the first few microns below the surface that was in contact with the tin bath).

[0030] In view of the above, glasses according to certain example embodiments of this invention achieve a neutral or substantially clear color and/or high visible transmission. In certain embodiments, resulting glasses according to certain example embodiments of this invention may be characterized by one or more of the following transmissive optical or color characteristics when measured at a thickness of from about 1mm - 6mm (most preferably a thickness of about 3-4 mm; this is a non-limiting thickness used for purposes of reference only) (L_{ta} is visible transmission %). It is noted that in the table below the a^* and b^* color values are determined per Ill. D65, 10 degree Obs.

TABLE 3: GLASS CHARACTERISTICS OF EXAMPLE EMBODIMENTS

Characteristic	General	More Preferred	Most Preferred
L_{ta} (Lt D65):	$\geq 85\%$	$\geq 90\%$	$\geq 91\%$
$\% \tau_e$ (ISO 9050):	$\geq 85\%$	$\geq 90\%$	$\geq 91\%$
$\% \text{FeO}$ (wt. %):	$\leq 0.020\%$	$\leq 0.005\%$	$\leq 0.004\%$
L^* (Ill. D65, 10 deg.):	90-98	n/a	n/a
a^* (Ill. D65, 10 deg.):	-1.0 to +1.0	-0.5 to +0.5	-0.2 to 0.0
b^* (Ill. D65, 10 deg.):	0 to +1.5	+0.1 to +1.0	+0.2 to +0.7

[0031] The aforesaid characteristics of the glass substrate 1 are for the glass substrate alone, not the overall solar cell or solar cell module.

[0032] As can be seen from Table 3 above, glasses for substrate 1 of certain embodiments of this invention achieve desired features of fairly clear color and/or high visible transmission, with slightly positive b* color in certain embodiments, while not requiring iron to be eliminated from the glass composition. This may be achieved through the provision of the unique material combinations described herein.

EXAMPLES 1-6

[0033] Example glasses for substrates 1 were made and tested according to example embodiments of this invention. Glasses of this invention may be made from batch ingredients using well known glass melting and refining techniques. The compositions of the glass batches according to the examples are set forth below, with like amounts ending up in the final glass. All amounts of ingredients are in terms of weight percentage.

TABLE 4: EXAMPLES

Compound	Ex. 1	Ex. 2	Ex. 3	Ex. 4	Ex. 5	Ex. 6
SiO ₂ :	73.39	70.66	71.01	71.14	70.98	71.37
Na ₂ O:	13.78	13.89	13.86	13.88	13.85	14.02
CaO:	10.45	9.82	9.54	9.67	9.59	9.70
MgO	0.07	4.1	4.01	4.12	4.08	4.31
Al ₂ O ₃ :	0.93	0.71	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.164
K ₂ O:	0.05	0.38	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.028
SO ₃ :	0.284	0.322	0.338	0.329	0.310	0.306
TiO ₂ :	0.023	0.017	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.011

Fe ₂ O ₃ (total iron):	0.023	0.025	0.026	0.028	0.026	0.029
Cerium oxide:	0	0	0	0	0.04	0.07

[0034] The batches were melted and glass formed using known techniques. Solar characteristics for the resulting Example glasses were as follows in the table below, with the below measurements taken after the melt and formation of the glass. It is noted that L_{ta} (visible transmission%) was measured in accordance with Ill. D65, % τ_e (total energy) was measured in accordance with ISO 9050 (incorporated herein by reference), and transmissive L*, a* and b* color coordinates (CIE) were measured using Ill. D65, 10 degree observer. All samples were from 3-4 mm thick. Note that the batch redox is indicative of the redox of the batch, as opposed to the final glass, whereas the glass redox is the redox of the final glass.

CHARACTERISTICS OF EXAMPLES 1-6 GLASSES

Characteristic	Ex. 1	Ex. 2	Ex. 3	Ex. 4	Ex. 5	Ex. 6
% L _{ta}	91.64	91.45	91.33	91.18	91.73	91.53
% τ_e	91.52	91.22	91.11	91.03	91.65	91.37
Fe ₂ O ₃ (total iron%):	0.023	0.025	0.026	0.028	0.026	0.029
FeO (wt. %)	0.0026	0.0018	0.0012	0.0015	0.0002	0.0001
L*	96.67	96.54	96.51	96.41	96.68	96.66
a*	-0.11	-0.16	-0.06	-0.09	-0.08	-0.06
b*	+0.24	+0.38	+0.46	+0.51	+0.37	+0.54
Glass Redox:	0.11	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.008	0.003
Batch Redox:	+15	+18	+20	+20	+22	+24

[0035] In certain example embodiments of this invention, it has been found that the use of a positive batch redox of at least 10, more preferably at least 15, and most preferably at least 18, permits an improved solar cell applicable glass to be made.

[0036] Once given the above disclosure many other features, modifications and improvements will become apparent to the skilled artisan. Such features, modifications and improvements are therefore considered to be a part of this invention, the scope of which is to be determined by the following claims:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A solar cell comprising:
 a patterned glass substrate, wherein at least one surface of the patterned glass substrate has a surface roughness of from about 0.1 to 1.5 μm ;
 first and second conductive layers with at least a photoelectric film provided therebetween;

wherein the glass substrate is of a composition comprising:

Ingredient	wt. %
SiO ₂	67 – 75 %
Na ₂ O	10 – 20 %
CaO	5 – 15 %
total iron (expressed as Fe ₂ O ₃)	0.001 to 0.06 %
cerium oxide	0 to 0.30 %

wherein the glass substrate has visible transmission of at least 90%, a transmissive a* color value of -1.0 to +1.0 and a transmissive b* color value of from 0 to +1.5.

2. The solar cell of claim 1, wherein the glass substrate comprises:

total iron (expressed as Fe ₂ O ₃)	0.02 to 0.04 %
cerium oxide	0 to 0.07 %.

3. The solar cell of claim 1, wherein the glass substrate comprises:

total iron (expressed as Fe ₂ O ₃)	0.01 to 0.03 %
cerium oxide	0.01 to 0.07 %.

4. The solar cell of claim 1, wherein the glass substrate has a visible transmission of at least 90%.

5. The solar cell of claim 1, wherein the glass substrate has a positive b* color value.

6. The solar cell of claim 1, wherein the glass substrate has a redox value (FeO/ Fe₂O₃) no greater than 0.10.
7. The solar cell of claim 1, wherein the glass substrate has a redox value (FeO/ Fe₂O₃) no greater than 0.01.
8. The solar cell of claim 1, wherein the glass substrate has a total solar and/or total energy value τ_e of at least 90%.
9. The solar cell of claim 1, wherein the glass substrate comprises less than or equal to 0.005 % FeO.
10. The solar cell of claim 1, wherein the glass substrate comprises less than or equal to 0.004% FeO.
11. The solar cell of claim 1, wherein the glass substrate is substantially free of two or more of erbium oxide, nickel oxide, cobalt oxide, neodymium oxide, chromium oxide, and selenium.
12. The solar cell of claim 1, wherein the glass substrate is substantially free of each of erbium oxide, nickel oxide, cobalt oxide, neodymium oxide, chromium oxide, and selenium.
13. The solar cell of claim 1, wherein the glass substrate is substantially free of erbium oxide and nickel oxide.
14. The solar cell of claim 1, wherein at least one surface of the patterned glass substrate is patterned so as to have has a surface roughness of from about 0.5 to 1.5 μm .

15. The solar cell of claim 1, wherein both surfaces of the glass substrate are patterned.

16. The solar cell of claim 1, wherein the glass substrate includes no more than 0.07% cerium oxide, more preferably no more than 0.06% cerium oxide.

17. The solar cell of claim 1, wherein the glass substrate has a transmissive a* color value of -0.5 to +0.5 and a transmissive b* color value of from +0.1 to +1.0.

18. The solar cell of claim 1, wherein the composition of the glass substrate has a total iron content of from 0.02 to 0.06%.

19. The solar cell of claim 1, wherein the composition of the glass substrate includes more cerium oxide than total iron oxide.

20. A solar cell comprising:

a glass substrate;

a photoelectric film supported by at least the glass substrate;

wherein the glass substrate is of a composition comprising:

Ingredient	wt. %
total iron (expressed as Fe ₂ O ₃)	0.01 to 0.06 %
cerium oxide	0 to 0.30 %

wherein the glass substrate has visible transmission of at least 90%, a transmissive a* color value of -1.0 to +1.0 and a positive transmissive b* color value.

21. A method of making patterned glass, the method comprising:

providing a molten glass batch in a furnace or melter comprising from 67-75% SiO₂, from about 0.01 to 0.06% total iron, and from about 0 to 0.30% cerium oxide;

providing the glass batch so as to have a batch redox of at least 10;

forwarding a glass ribbon from the furnace or melter to a nip between first and second rollers, at least one of the rollers having patten defined in a surface thereof, wherein the glass ribbon reaches the nip at a temperature of from about 1,900 to 2,400 degrees F;

at the nip, transferring the pattern from the roller(s) to the glass ribbon;

the glass ribbon being at a temperature of from about 1,100 to 1,600 degrees F upon exiting the nip;

annealing the glass ribbon at least after the ribbon exits the nip, thereby providing a patterned glass having a visible transmission of at least 90%, from about 0.01 to 0.06% total iron, and from about 0 to 0.30% cerium oxide.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the patterned glass has no more than 0.07% cerium oxide, a transmissive a* color value of -0.5 to +0.5 and a transmissive b* color value of from +0.1 to +1.0.

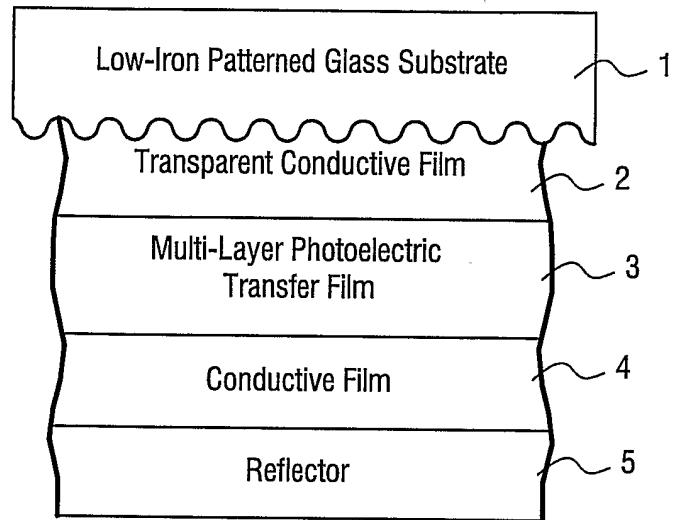


Fig. 1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2006/001594

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. C03C3/087 H01L33/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
C03C H01L

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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X	US 2003/216241 A1 (LANDA LEONID ET AL) 20 November 2003 (2003-11-20) paragraph [0001]; examples 10,11	1-22
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A	EP 1 118 597 A (NIHON YAMAMURA GLASS CO. LTD) 25 July 2001 (2001-07-25) tables	1-22
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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 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

Y document of 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.

G document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search 17 May 2006	Date of mailing of the international search report 24/05/2006
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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	Authorized officer Reedijk, A
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2006/001594

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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Information on patent family members

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