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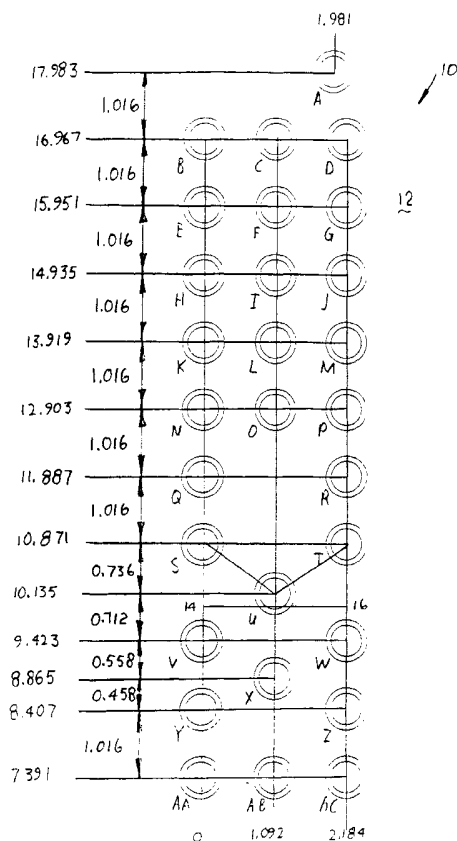
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(54) Title: AN ELECTRONIC ASSEMBLY HAVING A MORE DENSE ARRANGEMENT OF CONTACTS THA ALLOWS
FOR ROUTING OF TRACES TO THE CONTACTS

(57) Abstract: An electronic assembly is described, having a substrate and
contacts on the substrate which are spaced and arranged in a manner that
allows for a more dense arrangement of contacts but still allows for routing
of traces between the contacts.



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AN ELECTRONIC ASSEMBLY HAVING A MORE DENSE ARRANGEMENT OF CONTACTS THAT ALLOWS FOR ROUTING OF TRACES TO THE CONTACTS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1). Field of the Invention

[0001] This invention relates to an electronic assembly, and more particularly to a more dense arrangement of contacts on a substrate of the electronic assembly that still allows for routing of traces to the contacts without the need for expensive/non-standard manufacturing processes or technologies.

2). Discussion of Related Art

[0002] Microelectronic dies are usually mounted to package substrates, primarily to provide structural support to the microelectronic dies. Tiny balls are first secured to a surface of the package substrate opposing a side thereof to which the microelectronic die is secured. The balls provide functionality to a circuit in the microelectronic die by providing an electric path through which signals can be transmitted through the package substrate to or from the circuit, or for providing power or ground to the circuit.

[0003] The balls are subsequently located against corresponding terminals on a carrier substrate such as a motherboard, and secured to the terminals in a thermal reflow process. Electric signals can then be transmitted through traces in and on surfaces of the carrier substrate through the reflowed balls to or from the circuit.

[0004] The balls are usually located in a grid of rows and columns, also referred to as a "ball grid array," abbreviated as "BGA." A BGA package does not allow for a high density of balls while still allowing for routing of traces between outer ones of the balls to inner ones of the balls.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0005] The invention is described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

[0006] Figure 1 is a side view of a selection of contacts on a surface of a package

substrate when held in a vertical plane;

[0007] Figure 2 is a side view of the package substrate, illustrating the selection of contacts of Figure 1 and other contacts on the package substrate; and

[0008] Figure 3 is a side view after the package substrate is rotated so as to be in a horizontal plane and an electronic assembly is assembled from the package substrate, the contacts thereon, a microelectronic die, and a carrier substrate.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0009] Figure 1 of the accompanying drawings illustrates a selection 10 of functional contacts A through AC that are placed on a portion of a package substrate 12. The distances of the functional contacts from a horizontal line through a center of the substrate 12 are given down the left of the figure, and their distances from a vertical axis are given at the bottom.

[0010] The contacts B through AC are located in three columns. The first column, which includes contacts B, E, H, K, N, Q, S, V, Y, and AA have center points in a column through a center of the package substrate 12. The contacts C, F, I, L, O, U, and AB have center points in a column that is 1.092 mm from the column containing contact B. The contacts D, G, J, M, P, R, T, W, Z, and AC are in a column that is 2.184 mm from the column containing contact B, and therefore 1.092 mm from the column containing contact C. The contact A is at a distance of 1.981 mm from the column containing contact B.

[0011] The contacts B, C, and D have center points that are in a row that is 16.967 mm from the center point of the package substrate 12. The contacts E through P are in similar rows, each row containing three of the contacts and spaced from a previous row by a distance of 1.016 mm. The contacts B through P are thus in a rectangular grid with columns that are spaced from one another by 1.092 mm, and rows that spaced from one another by 1.016 mm. The contact A is at a distance that is 1.016 mm above the row containing contact B.

[0012] The contacts Q and R have center points that are in a row that is 1.016 mm below the row containing contact N, and the contacts S and T have center points that are

in a row that is spaced by a distance of 1.016 mm from the row containing contact Q. An area is identifiable having a rectangular shape with the contacts Q, S, T, and R on tips of corners of the rectangular shape. The rectangular shape has a width of 2.184 mm and a height of 1.016 mm. The only ones of the contacts that are within the rectangular area are quarters of the contacts Q, S, T, and R. The rectangular area is thus otherwise void of any functional contacts.

[0013] The contact U is at a distance of 0.736 mm below the row containing contact S. An imaginary area can be identified by connecting the center point of contact S with reference numeral 14, reference numeral 14 with reference numeral 16, reference numeral 16 with a center point of the contact T, and the center point of the contact T with the center point of the contact S. Such an imaginary area has the same shape, dimensions, and orientation as the rectangular shape defined by center points of the contacts Q, S, T, and R. The imaginary shape thus also has a width of 2.184 mm and a height of 1.016 mm. The imaginary shape also shares one side, namely the side connecting center points of the contacts S and T, with the rectangular shape of the area defined by center points of the contacts Q, S, T, and R. The center point of the contact U is entirely within the imaginary area, and is spaced from all four sides of the imaginary area. It could also be noted that a corridor is identifiable between one column containing contacts Q and S and another column containing contacts R and T, with contact U in an extension of the corridor. What can thus be noted is that a pentagonal shape is identifiable by connecting the center points of the contacts Q, S, U, T, and R. The pentagonal shape is entirely void of any other contacts. The corner of the pentagonal shape defined by connecting the center points of the contacts Q, S, and U is obtuse, as are the corners defined by connecting the center points of the contacts S, U, and T, and by connecting the center points of the contacts U, T, and R, respectively. The corner identifiable by connecting center points of the contacts R, Q, and S is 90°, as is the corner identifiable by connecting center points of the contacts T, R, and Q. A similar pentagonal shape with longer sides is identifiable by connecting center points of the contacts N, Q, S, U, T, R, P, and O, all of which having center points that are on corners or sides of the pentagonal shape as opposed to within the pentagonal shape.

[0014] An area having a pentagonal shape is also identifiable by connecting center

points of the contacts AA, AB, AC, Z, X, and Y. A corner identifiable by connecting center points of the contacts Y, X, and Z is more obtuse than the corner identifiable by connecting center points of the contacts S, U, and T. The corner defined by center points of contacts Y, X, and Z points toward the corner identifiable by the center points of the contacts S, U, and T. Other aspects of the pentagonal shapes formed by center points of the contacts Q, S, U, T, and R, and center points of the contacts AA, AB, AC, Z, X, and Y are the same. The contacts AA, AB, AC, Z, and Y are on a grid with rows and columns that are spaced from one another by distances that are the same as spaces between rows and columns of a grid on which the contacts B through T are located.

[0015] The selection 10 is also illustrated on Figure 2. The contacts in the first two columns of the selection 10 are repeated along all four outer edges of the package substrate 12.

[0016] The contacts B through P are in rows extending parallel to a top edge 20A of the package substrate 12, each row being spaced by a distance of 1.016 mm from a previous row. The row containing contact S has ten of the contacts. The other rows containing the contacts B through R each have more than ten contacts. The row containing the contact B, for example, has 31 contacts.

[0017] The contacts U through AC are also located in rows extending parallel to the upper edge 20A. The contacts A through P are located in an outer region, whereas the contacts U through AC are located in an intermediate region between the outer region and an inner region of the package substrate 12. The spacings between the rows containing the contacts S, U, V, X, and Y, respectively, are less than the spacings between the rows containing the contacts P through T.

[0018] More contacts AD are formed on the inner region of the package substrate 12. The contacts AD have center points that are in rows and columns on the same grid as the contacts on the outer region, namely the contacts B through T. A region between the contacts AD and the row containing the contact AA is free of contacts, and has a width that is approximately five times a spacing between rows of the contacts AD.

[0019] Figure 3 illustrates a complete electronic assembly 30 that includes the package substrate 12. The contacts hereinbefore described are, in the embodiment illustrated in Figure 3, in fact tiny balls 32 that are secured to the package substrate 12. The electronic

assembly 30 further includes a microelectronic die, typically a semiconductor die 34, mounted on a surface of the package substrate 12 opposing the balls 32. An integrated circuit in the semiconductor die 34 is electrically connected through vias (not shown) in the package substrate 12 to the balls 32.

[0020] The electronic assembly 30 further includes a carrier substrate in the form of a motherboard 36 and a plurality of terminals 38 on the motherboard 36. A layout of the terminals 38 is a mirror image of the layout of the balls 32 as illustrated in Figure 2. Each one of the balls 32 thus contacts a respective one of the terminals 38. The electronic assembly 30 is inserted into a reflow oven which melts the balls 32. The electronic assembly 30 is subsequently allowed to cool, whereafter the balls 32 secure the package substrate 12 to the terminals 38.

[0021] The layout illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 allows for a more dense layout of the contacts while still allowing for traces to be routed on upper and lower surfaces of the motherboard 36 to the terminals 38. Exactly three traces can be routed between, for example, the contacts B and C because of the pitch of 1.092 mm between the contacts B and C. Although even a slight decrease to a pitch of, for example, to 1.08 mm will disallow routing of three traces, it is within the scope of the invention that the pitch between the columns may be between 1.05 and 1.15 mm. It is also within the scope of the invention that the pitches between the rows containing the contacts A through P are between 1.05 and 1.15 mm. Existing pitches, by contrast, are either 1 mm or 1.20 mm.

[0022] While certain exemplary embodiments have been described and shown in the accompanying drawings, it is to be understood that such embodiments are merely illustrative and not restrictive of the current invention, and that this invention is not restricted to the specific constructions and arrangements shown and described since modifications may occur to those ordinarily skilled in the art.

CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1. An electronic assembly comprising:
a substrate;
first to fourth functional contacts on the substrate, with center points on tips of corners of a first area having a substantially rectangular shape that is otherwise void of center points of functional contacts; and
a fifth functional contact on the substrate, with a center point within and spaced from all sides of a second area having the same shape, dimensions, and orientations as, and sharing one side with the first area.
2. The electronic assembly of claim 1, wherein the first area is void of any portions of any contacts except for portions of the first to fourth contacts.
3. The electronic assembly of claim 1, further comprising:
at least a sixth functional contact on the substrate next to the first contact, center points of the second and sixth contacts being the same distance from the center point of the first contact.
4. The electronic assembly of claim 1, further comprising:
sixth through eighth functional contacts on the substrate in a row forming an edge of a third area having the same shape, dimensions, and orientation as, and sharing one side with the first area.
5. The electronic assembly of claim 4, wherein the first area is between the second and third areas.
6. The electronic assembly of claim 1, further comprising:
sixth through ninth functional contacts on the substrate, with center points on tips of corners of a third area having a substantially rectangular shape that is otherwise void

of center points of functional contacts; and

a tenth functional contact on the substrate, with a center point and spaced from all sides within a fourth area having the same shape, dimensions, and orientation as, and sharing one side with the third area.

7. The electronic assembly of claim 6, wherein the first, second, eighth, and ninth contacts are in the same row.

8. The electronic assembly of claim 6, wherein the second and fourth areas are between the first and third areas.

9. The electronic assembly of claim 1, wherein the substrate is a package substrate, further comprising:

a microelectronic die mounted to the package substrate on a side of the package substrate opposing the contacts.

10. The electronic assembly of claim 9, further comprising:

a carrier substrate having terminals matching and contacting the contacts.

11. An electronic assembly, comprising:

a substrate; and

five functional contacts on the substrate with center points at tips of corners of a first pentagonal shape which is otherwise void of center points of functional contacts, three of the corners sequentially after one another being obtuse.

12. The electronic assembly of claim 11, wherein a fourth of the corners is 90°.

13. The electronic assembly of claim 12, wherein a fifth of the corners is 90°.

14. The electronic assembly of claim 12, further comprising:

five functional contacts on the substrate at tips of corners of a second pentagonal

shape which is otherwise void of center points of functional contacts, three of the corners of the second pentagonal shape sequentially after one another being obtuse.

15. The electronic assembly of claim 12, wherein a second of the three corners of the first pentagonal shape and a second of the three corners of the second pentagonal shape point toward one another.

16. The electronic assembly of claim 14, wherein two of the contacts of the first pentagonal shape are in the same row as two of the contacts of the second pentagonal shape.

17. An electronic assembly, comprising:

a substrate;

first and second functional contacts with center points in a first row;

third and fourth contacts with center points in a second row next to the first row and spaced by a first distance from the first row, the center points of the first and third contacts being in a first column and the center points of the second and third contacts being in a second column, an area within the first, second, and third contacts being void of center points of functional contacts; and

a fifth functional contact in an extension of a corridor between the first and second columns, on a side of the second row opposing the first row and having a center point spaced from the second row by a second distance that is less than the first distance.

18. The electronic assembly of claim 17, further comprising:

sixth and seventh functional contacts, center points of the third, fourth, sixth and seventh contacts being at corners of a rectangular shape, with the fifth contact within the rectangular shape.

19. The electronic assembly of claim 18, wherein a spacing between the center points of the third and sixth contacts is between one and two times a spacing between the first and third contacts.

20. An electronic assembly, comprising:
a substrate; and
contacts with center points in rows and columns on the substrate, wherein the columns are spaced between 1.05 and 1.15 mm from one another.
21. The electronic assembly of claim 20, wherein the columns are approximately 1.092 mm from one another.
22. The electronic assembly of claim 20, wherein the rows are between 1.05 and 1.15 mm from one another.
23. The electronic assembly of claim 22, wherein the rows are approximately 1.016 mm from one another.
24. The electronic assembly of claim 20, wherein some of the rows are closer to one another than other ones of the rows.
25. An electronic assembly, comprising:
a substrate; and
contacts with center points in first, second, and third substantially parallel rows sequentially next to one another on the substrate, each row having at least four of the contacts and a spacing between the first and second rows being between one and two times a spacing between the second and third rows.
26. The electronic assembly of claim 25, wherein center points of the contacts of the first and second rows are located on columns extending substantially at right angles to the rows, and center points of the contacts of the third row are located in extensions of corridors between the columns.
27. The electronic assembly of claim 26, further comprising:
contacts in a fourth row having center points on the columns.

28. An electronic assembly, comprising:

a substrate having an edge;

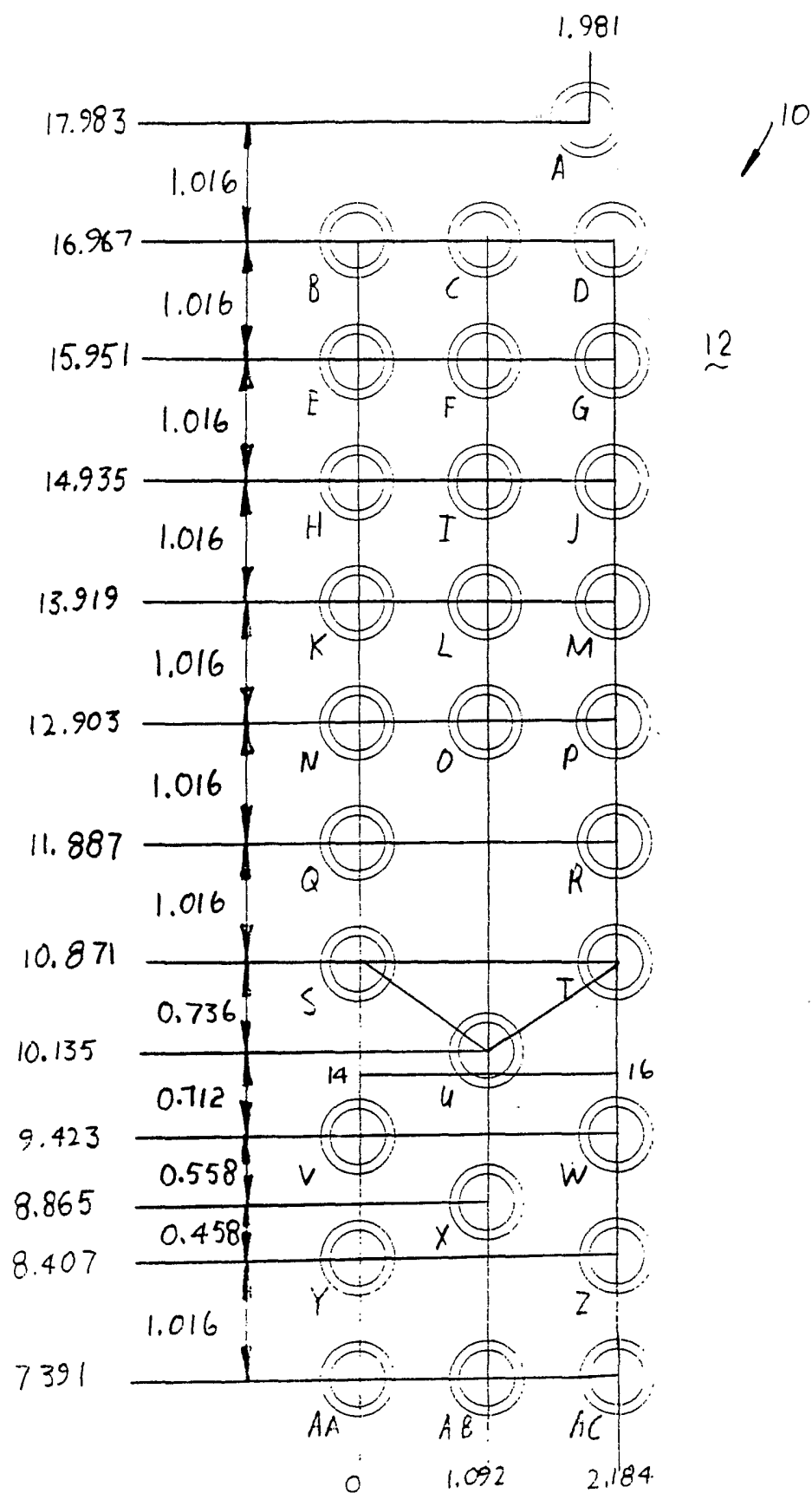
outer functional contacts on the substrate in a grid, having rows extending substantially in a direction of the edge;

intermediate functional contacts on the substrate with the outer functional contacts between the edge and the intermediate functional contacts, the intermediate functional contacts being in rows, extending substantially in a direction of the edge, having a different spacing between them than the rows of the grid of the outer functional contacts; and

inner functional contacts on the substrate with the intermediate functional contacts between the outer functional contacts and the inner functional contacts, the inner functional contacts being in a grid having rows with a spacing that is the same as the spacing between the rows of the grid of the outer functional contacts.

29. The electronic assembly of claim 28, wherein an area is defined between the intermediate contacts and the inner contacts which is free of functional contacts, and at least three times as wide as a spacing between the rows of the grid of the outer functional contacts.

30. The electronic assembly of claim 28, wherein center points of the outer and inner contacts are on the same columns.



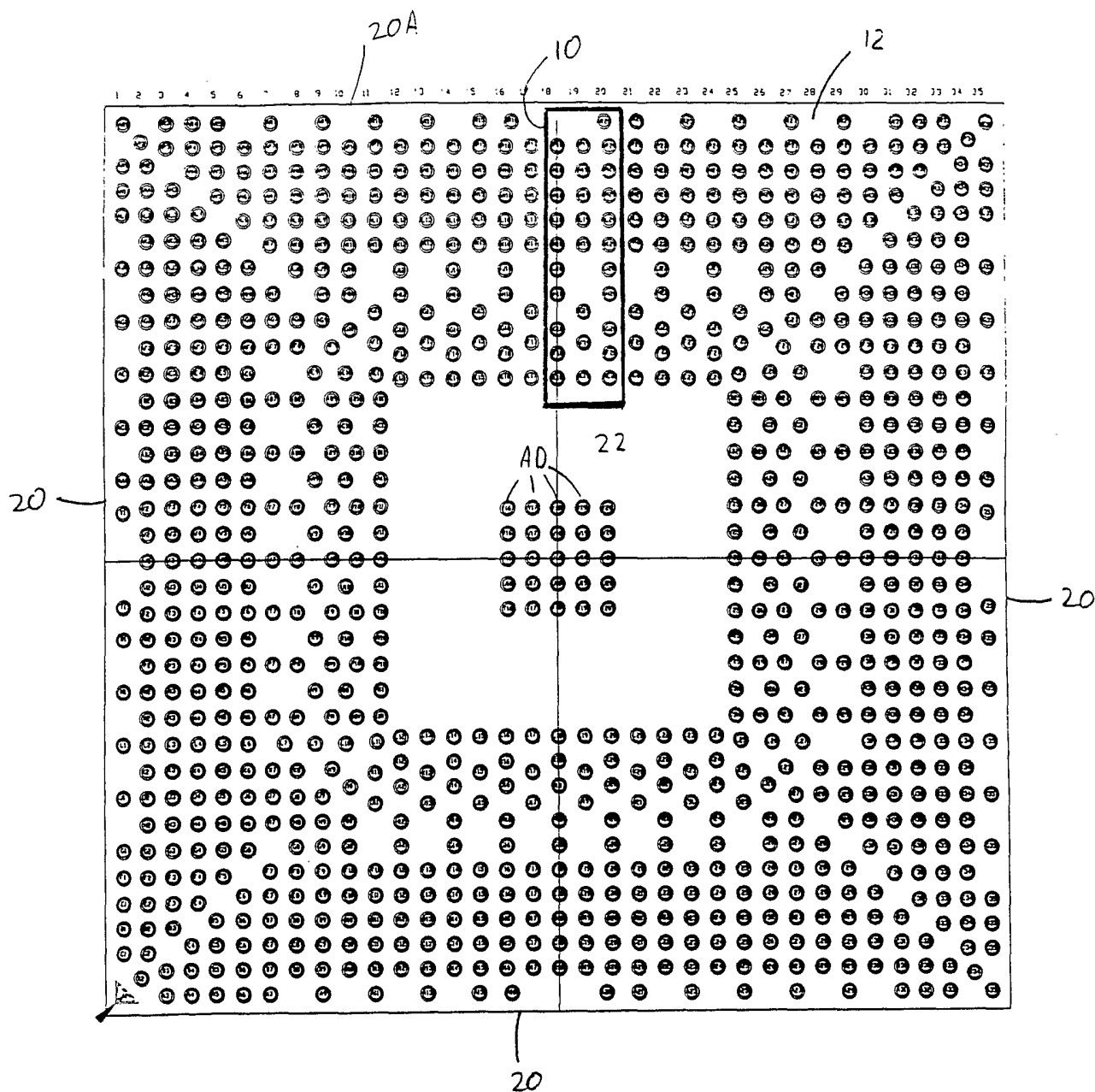


FIG 2

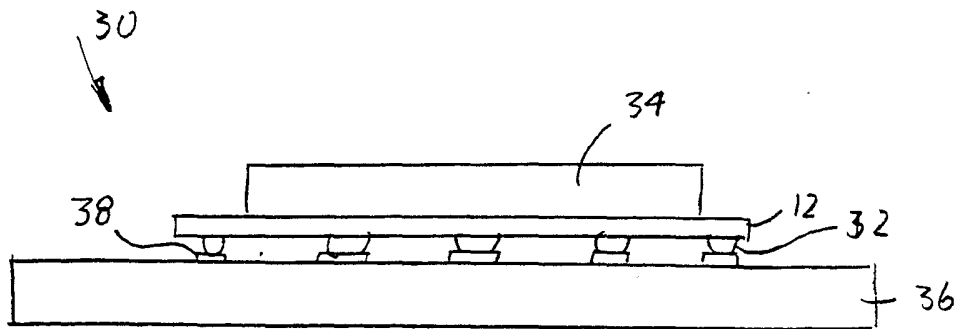


FIG 3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 02/38132

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H01L23/498

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)

IPC 7 H01L H05K

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

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 6 376 769 B1 (CHUNG KEVIN KWONG-TAI) 23 April 2002 (2002-04-23) See Figure 14A and accompanying description.	17
X	US 6 417 463 B1 (CORNELIUS WILLIAM P ET AL) 9 July 2002 (2002-07-09) See Figures 2,3 and accompanying description.	28,30
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 02/38132

C.(Continuation) 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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