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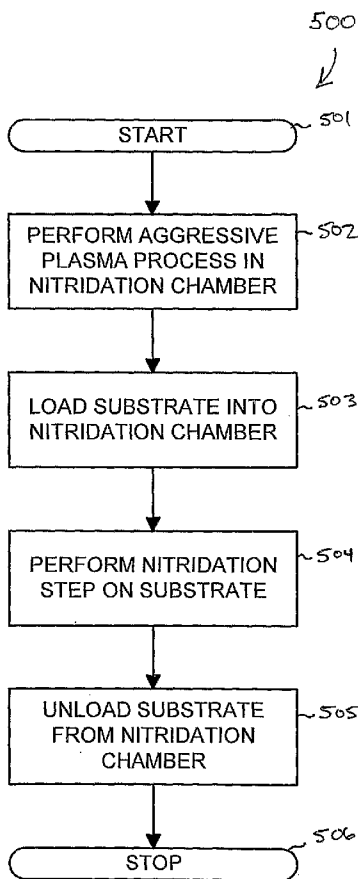
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR INCORPORATING NITROGEN IN OXIDE FILMS



(57) Abstract: In a first aspect, a first method is provided. The first method includes the steps of (1) preconditioning a process chamber with an aggressive plasma; (2) loading a substrate into the process chamber; and (3) performing plasma nitridation on the substrate within the process chamber. The process chamber is preconditioned using a plasma power that is at least 150% higher than a plasma power used during plasma nitridation of the substrate. Numerous other aspects are provided.

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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
H01J C23C 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, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 99/03312 A (APPLIED MATERIALS INC [US]; KAO CHIEN TEH [US]; LITTAU KARL ANTHONY [U] 21 January 1999 (1999-01-21) abstract page 10, line 2 - page 14, line 25 page 29, lines 3-5 page 30, lines 14,15 claim 22	25-27
A	WO 00/22664 A (APPLIED MATERIALS INC [US]; NARWANKAR PRAVIN K [US]; SAHIN TURGUT [US]) 20 April 2000 (2000-04-20) abstract page 8, lines 13-29	1-27

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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