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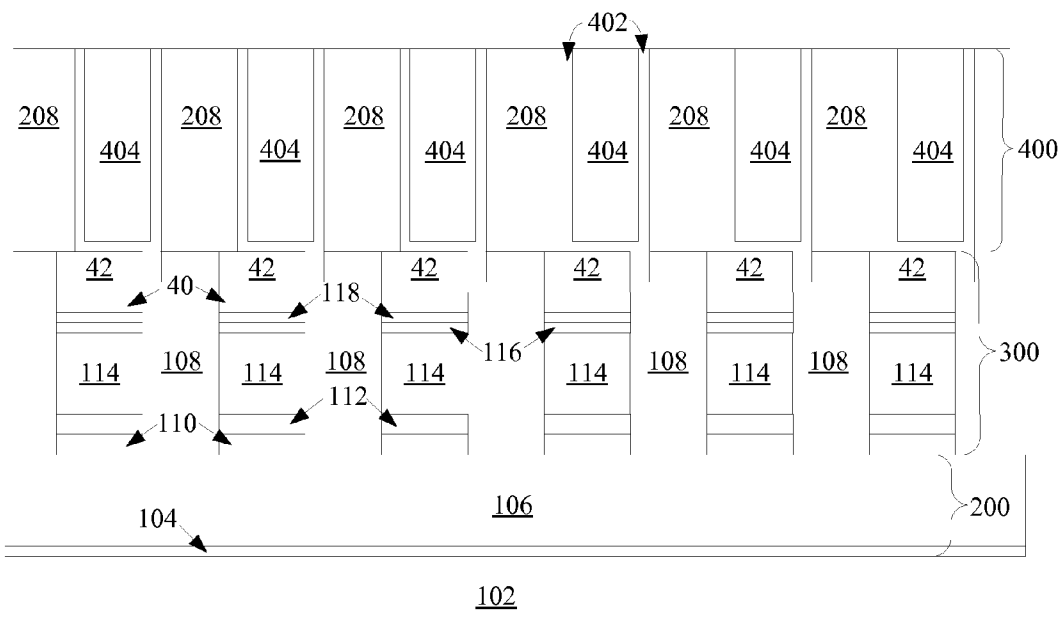
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(54) Title: CONDUCTIVE HARD MASK TO PROTECT PATTERNED FEATURES DURING TRENCH ETCH



(57) Abstract: A method is provided for forming patterned features using a conductive hard mask, where the conductive hard mask protects those features during a subsequent trench etch to form Damascene conductors providing electrical connection to those features from above. The thickness of the hard mask provides a margin to avoid overetch during the trench etch which may be harmful to device performance. The method is advantageously used in formation of a monolithic three dimensional memory array.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. H01L27/102 H01L21/768

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)
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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, IBM-TDB

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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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

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