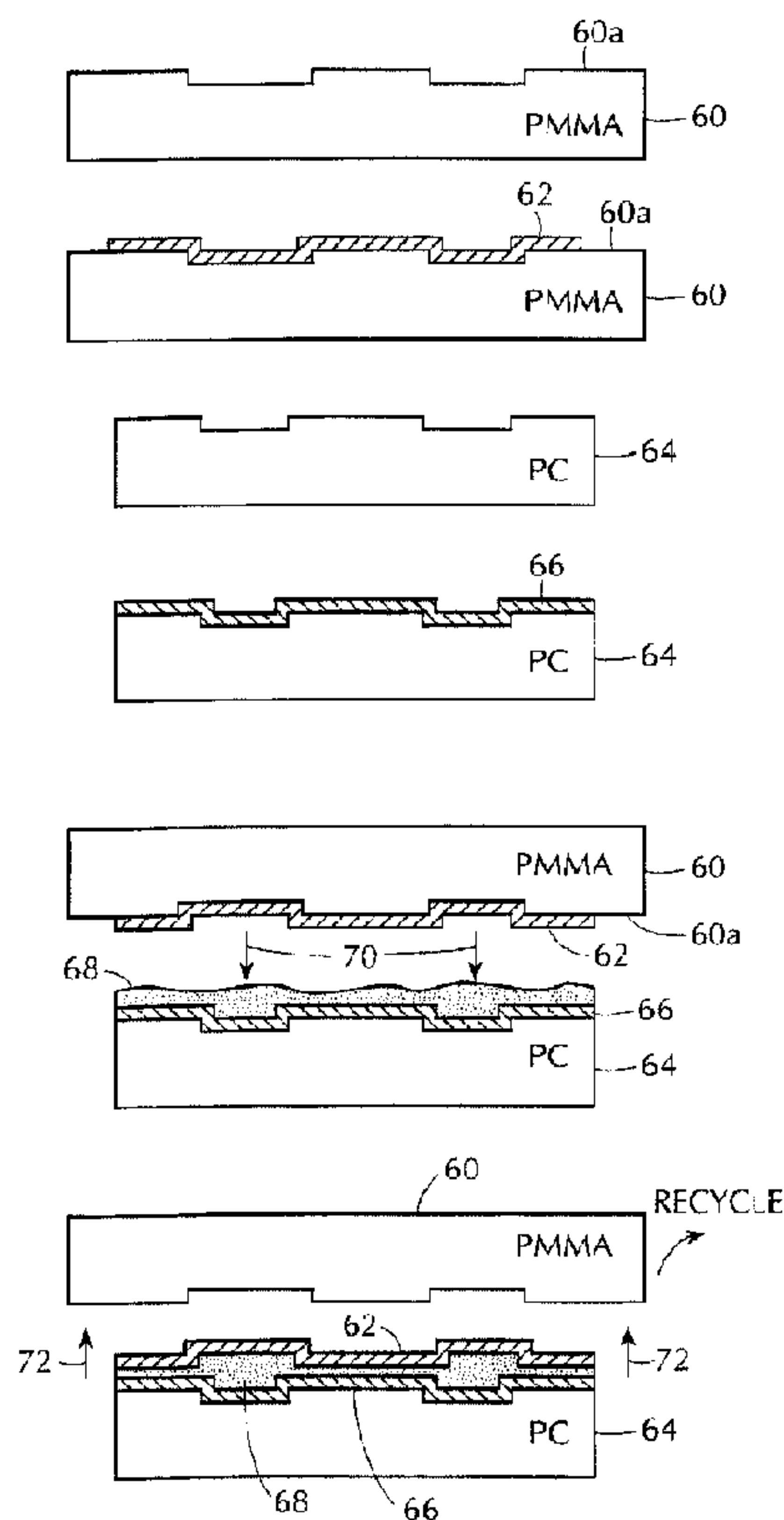




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(54) Title: DUAL-LAYER DVD DISC AND METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MAKING SAME



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

A dual-layer DVD disc that does not require a stamping step (typically as part of the 2P prior art manufacturing process) during its manufacture. A polycarbonate substrate (64) is molded and coated with a semireflective data layer (66), in the usual way. A PMMA substrate (60) is molded and coated on its surface (60a) with a fully reflective data layer (62). Adhesive (68) is placed on the semireflective data layer (66), and the fully reflective data layer (62) is transferred from its PMMA substrate (60) to the polycarbonate substrate (64). A force is applied in the direction of the arrows (72) on the PMMA to separate it from the remaining structure. The polycarbonate substrate thus ends up with two data layers in conformance with the DVD specifications, and the PMMA substrate can even be recycled for another use.

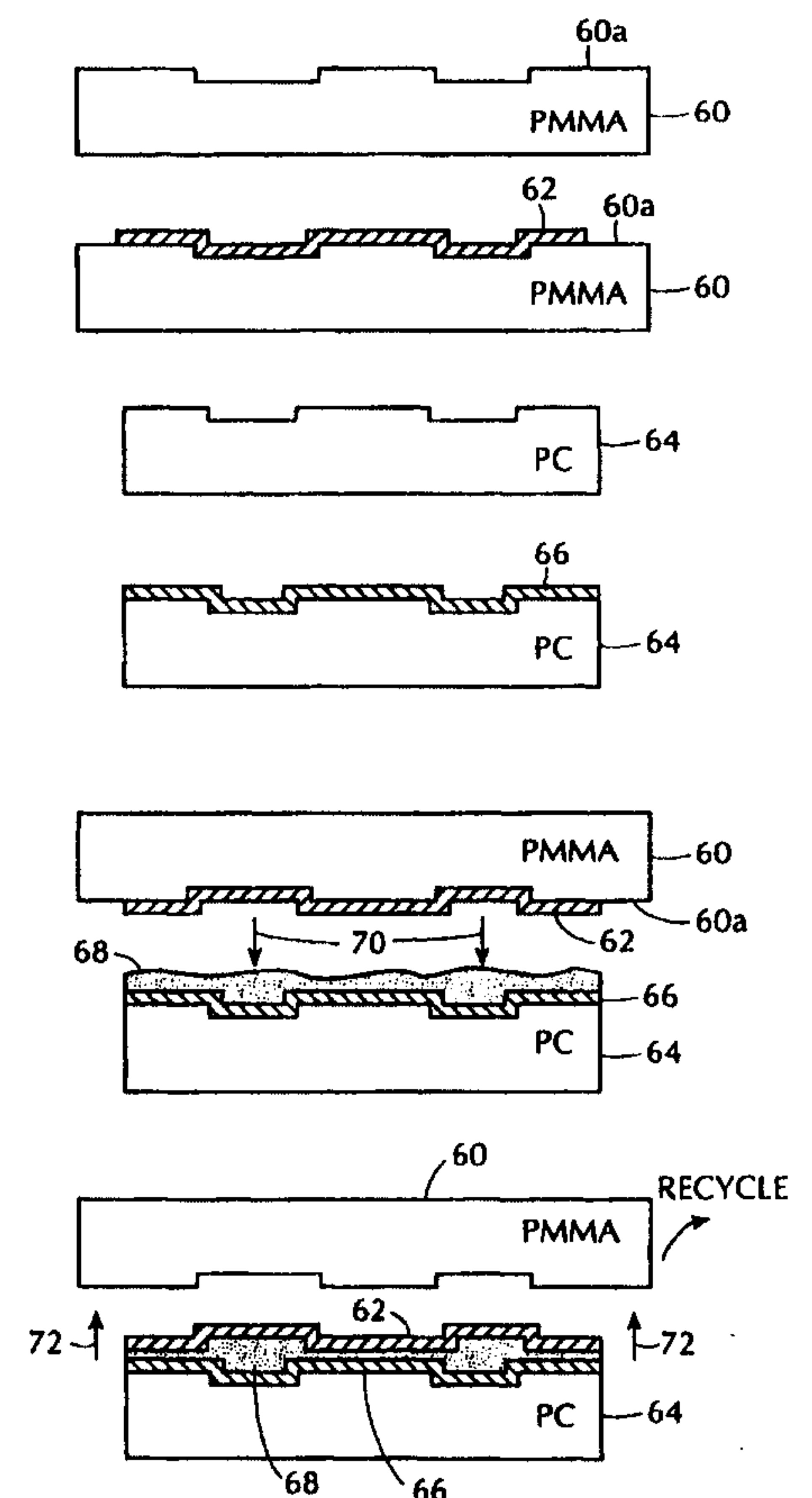
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A dual-layer DVD disc that does not require a stamping step (typically as part of the 2P prior art manufacturing process) during its manufacture. A polycarbonate substrate (64) is molded and coated with a semireflective data layer (66), in the usual way. A PMMA substrate (60) is molded and coated on its surface (60a) with a fully reflective data layer (62). Adhesive (68) is placed on the semireflective data layer (66), and the fully reflective data layer (62) is transferred from its PMMA substrate (60) to the polycarbonate substrate (64). A force is applied in the direction of the arrows (72) on the PMMA to separate it from the remaining structure. The polycarbonate substrate thus ends up with two data layers in conformance with the DVD specifications, and the PMMA substrate can even be recycled for another use.



DUAL-LAYER DVD DISC, AND METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MAKING SAME

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Background Of The Invention

10 This invention relates to optical discs, and more particularly to double-sided, 3-layer and 4-layer optical discs, such as DVD-14 and DVD-18 discs, and methods and apparatus for making them.

15 Very high capacity optical discs have two information layers that can be read with the same laser beam. The read head focuses the beam on a selected one of the two information layers. Each information layer is a reflective coating that modulates and reflects the laser beam. The information layer closest to the side of the disc where the read head is positioned has a semireflective coating. When the laser beam is focused on this layer, sufficient light is reflected to allow the data on this layer to be read. The information layer that is remote from the side of the disc where the read head is positioned has a fully reflective coating. When the laser beam is
20 focused on this layer, light that passes through the semireflective layer is modulated by the fully reflective layer and passes once again through the semireflective layer.

Single-layer DVD discs are made using the same type of equipment that has been used for many years in the manufacture of CDs. A substrate is injection molded to have an
25 information layer in the form of pits and lands. The information layer is then sputtered with a fully reflective aluminum coating, and a protective coating may be applied on top of the sputtered surface. Because a DVD disc made this way has only half the thickness of a CD yet the finished DVD must be as thick as a CD, two DVD discs are bonded together to make a finished DVD. If the DVD is to have only a single information layer, then the second disc may be a blank. If the DVD is
30 to have two information layers, two single-layer discs may be bonded together. (If reading is to take place from only one side, one of the reflective layers must be semireflective; if reading is to take place from both sides, then both reflective layers should be fully reflective.) But as long as no more than two information layers are required for a DVD, standard CD production techniques can be used to make each disc.

The problem is that standard CD production techniques are not adequate for manufacturing dual-layer optical discs that have three or more reflective coatings. The substrate and one semireflective coating can be made in the usual way – injection molding followed by sputtering (using gold to obtain a semireflective coating rather than aluminum as in the case of a CD where a fully reflective coating is needed). But the injection molding equipment used in CD production facilities can not be used to mold the additional pit-and-land structure required for a second information layer. Therefore, what has been proposed in the prior art is to coat the semireflective coating with a viscous resin and to stamp the second information layer in it (followed by conventional sputtering and application of a conformal coating). However, the companies presently in the CD production business do not generally have stamping equipment that is adequate for this purpose, and therefore new assembly lines have been proposed for producing dual-layer DVD discs.

Before proceeding, it is necessary to define certain terms as they are used herein. Because a CD has a single substrate structure that is 1.2-mm thick and a DVD has two 0.6-mm thick substrate structures bonded together, the word “disc” herein has different meanings depending on the context. It can refer to the 0.6-mm substrate structure that makes up half of a DVD, or it can refer to the entire 1.2-mm thick DVD itself. Also, the word substrate refers to an injection-molded plastic disc, while the term substrate structure refers to the same disc together with whatever coatings (sputtered, etc.) may be on it.

It is also important to understand what is meant herein by the terms stamping and stamper. Injection molding is a technique in which liquid plastic is injected into an enclosed volume (a mold). Stamping is a technique in which a press is caused to move against a solid sheet or a viscous layer of material to impress a pattern in it, the operation usually not taking place in an enclosed space. In the days of vinyl records, which records were made by stamping machines, the pattern in the press that was impressed into a flattened vinyl “biscuit” was naturally called a stamper. Since injection molds also require a pattern to impress into the injected plastic, and the pattern for a CD is made in a way reminiscent of the way vinyl record stampers were made, it was natural for the CD industry to call the pattern placed in a mold a “stamper” even though it is not used in a stamping machine. Thus as used herein the operation called stamping involves

09/27/2000 16:05 212-684-3999

GOTTLIEB RACKMAN

PAGE 02

STATUS 99/22134
IPERUS 27 SEP 2000

a press which moves, usually in open space, to emboss a pattern into a viscous material, and the word stamper refers to such a pattern whether it is used in stamping equipment or injection molding equipment.

5 It is a general object of my invention to provide a method (and associated manufacturing apparatus and finished product) for making dual-layer 0.6-mm DVD discs using injection molding equipment that does not also require the use of stamping equipment.

10 It is another object of my invention to provide a method (and associated manufacturing apparatus and finished product) for making dual-layer 0.6-mm DVD discs using primarily the equipment presently found on the assembly lines of CD and DVD manufacturers.

Summary of the Invention

15 The method of the invention, for making a dual-layer disc using primarily just injection molding equipment, entails making two substrates, each with a metallic information layer, in the usual way -- with injection molding and sputtering equipment. The first substrate has a semireflective (gold) information layer. The second substrate has a fully reflective (aluminum) information layer. The semireflective information layer on the first substrate is coated with a very thin layer of glue, and the fully reflective information layer on the second substrate is then transferred to the layer of glue. In this way, a 0.6-mm dual-layer disc is formed without requiring additional stamping equipment, and with both metallic layers having been sputtered onto molded substrates.

20 Because it is desired that the fully reflective metallic layer release from the second substrate during the transfer step, the second substrate -- which does not end up as part of the finished DVD -- can be made of polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) rather than the polycarbonate of the first substrate. The fact that PMMA does not bond well to aluminum, and adhesion is only through molecular roughness, is advantageous.

25 The usual protective coating may then be applied as the last step in the making of the dual-layer 0.6-mm substrate structure. Another single-layer or dual-layer substrate structure may then be bonded to the dual-layer structure made in accordance with my invention to make a DVD-14 or DVD-18 disc.

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09/27/2000 16:05 212-684-3999

GOTTLIEB RACKMAN

PAGE 03

PCT/US 99/22134

IPEA/US 27 SEP 2000

Brief Description of the Drawings

It being understood that none of the drawings is to scale (as some of the dimensions are in microns, as is well understood in the art),

Fig. 1 depicts the standard steps in making a prior art Single-Layer, Single-Side DVD-5 disc;

Fig. 2 depicts a prior art Dual-Layer, Single-Side DVD-9 disc which is basically two 0.6-mm discs bonded together, each made in accordance with the steps depicted in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 depicts the standard steps used in the 2P process for making a prior art Dual-Layer, Single-Side DVD-9 disc;

Fig. 4 depicts a prior art Dual-Layer, Dual-Side DVD-18 disc made by bonding together two Dual-Layer, Single-Side 0.6-mm discs;

Fig. 5 depicts the steps for making a dual-layer 0.6-mm disc in accordance with the principles of my invention; and

Fig. 6 is a diagrammatic sectional view of an apparatus for practicing the transfer and separation steps depicted in Fig. 5.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

The manufacture of a DVD optical disc is very similar to that of a CD optical disc. Although more care must be taken to properly replicate the tinier pits in thinner substrates, and two substrates must be bonded together, most of the production process is the same as that for a CD. In fact, as will become apparent, it is precisely because it is desired that the same type of equipment be useable in the manufacture of both products that the need for the present invention exists in the first place.

The standard (prior art) DVD manufacturing process, which is basically the CD manufacturing process, is shown schematically in Fig. 1. What is depicted here are the steps in making the simplest type of DVD disc, one that is read from only a single side ("Single Side") and that has only a single information layer ("Single Layer") that can be read from that side. The disc is referred to as DVD-5 because the bit capacity is between 4 and 5 gigabytes. Manufacture begins with "mastering" — creation of metal "stampers" that will ultimately be used in replication. The first step in this process, shown in Fig. 1, is to use a laser beam 6 from a laser beam recorder machine to expose a photoresist 4 that

is deposited on a glass master 2. The photoresist is then etched with developer solution 8 in order to form pits in the photoresist.

In the third step, the etched photoresist (with the required pit-and-land pattern) is metalized with nickel sputtering, shown by the numeral 10. The glass substrate with its metalized surface is then used in an electrochemical plating process ("electroforming") to create a "father" or "stamper" 14. (In many applications, the father is used to create "mother" discs, which can then be used to create multiple stampers.) The stamper, usually made of nickel, contains a mirror image of the pits that are to be created on the final discs. In the molding process, liquid plastic 18 (usually polycarbonate) is injected into a mold 16 in which the stamper is held. The raised bumps on the stamper are pressed into the liquid plastic during the injection molding process to create pits. The molded disc 18 is then metalized with aluminum sputtering, shown by the numeral 20, and the resulting aluminum layer 22 represents the information contained on the disc.

A molded CD has a thickness of 1.2 mm, and a DVD is to have the same thickness. But the molded DVD substrate has a thickness of only 0.6 mm. For this reason, the substrate structure is coated with a polymer resin 24, and a blank 0.6-mm thick disc 26 is bonded to it. In the last step, a roller 28 or some other mechanism prints the DVD label on the disc 26.

It is important to appreciate that while the element 14 is called a "stamper," it is used in an injection molding process. Injection molding is at the heart of disc manufacture, and injection molding involves use of a closed cavity into which liquid plastic is injected, the cavity imparting its form to the plastic after it cools and hardens.

The DVD of Fig. 2 is referred to as a Dual Layer, Single Side disc because it has two information layers that can be read from one side (the side at the bottom with the stylized triangular-shaped laser beam). Every DVD is composed of two bonded plastic substrates. Each substrate with data can contain one or two layers of data. The first layer, called layer 0, is closest to the side of the disc from which the data is read. The second layer, called layer 1, is farthest from the readout surface. A disc is read from the bottom, so layer 0 is below layer 1. The layers are spaced very close together -- the distance between layers is less than one-tenth of the thickness of the substrate (less than one-twentieth of the thickness of the overall DVD).

In the case of a single layer, the information surface is covered with a thin

reflective layer of aluminum by a sputtering process. This creates a metallic coating between 35 and 55 nanometers thick. For two layers, the laser must be able to reflect from the first layer when reading it, but also focus through it when reading the second layer. Therefore, the first layer is only semireflective, while the second layer is fully
5 reflective (a relative term since even the fully reflective layer is only about 70% reflective).

The various layers of the disc of Figure 2 are self-explanatory, but there are two points that should be understood. The first is that while the capacity of the single layer disc of Fig. 1 is 4.7 gigabytes, the capacity of the disc of Fig. 2, even though it has two information layers, is only 8.5 gigabytes, less than twice the capacity of the single-
10 layer disc. The reason for this is that the readout beam must pass through the outer layer to get to the inner layer, a distance of about 20 to 70 microns, and this gives rise to inter-layer crosstalk. To reduce the crosstalk, the minimum pit length of both layers is increased from .4 um to .44 um and there are slightly fewer tracks per inch, thus reducing the overall capacity somewhat.

15 The second point, far more important for an understanding of this invention, is that the prior art DVD of Fig. 2 has each of its information layers in a different 0.6-mm thick disc. Each "half DVD" is molded in the same kind of injection molding machine that has been used for many years in making CDs. Two discs are made in a conventional manner, with the major difference from the CD production process simply
20 being that one of the reflective coatings has less metal (typically, gold) sputtered onto it so that it is only semireflective. The final DVD is produced simply by gluing what are basically two thin (higher capacity) CDs to each other. (The adhesive space layer serves to bond the two discs to each other, and also to provide a 55-micron separation that should be present for proper focusing.) The present invention is not necessary when
25 making DVD-9 discs of the type shown in Fig. 2. The present invention is not necessary when making any 0.6-mm disc that has only a single layer. The present invention finds use when a 0.6-mm disc is to have dual layers.

The Dual layer, Single Side DVD-9 disc of Fig. 2, with one layer in each of the two substrates, is based on the design of Matsushita. But there is another way to
30 make a DVD-9 disc, using the 2P process proposed by 3M. Instead of forming one layer in each substrate, the 2P process gives rise to a single 0.6-mm substrate structure with two internal information layers; in this case, the second substrate, necessary to give rise

to a 1.2-mm thick finished product, is a total blank. The 2P process requires a stamping operation that can not take place in an enclosed mold, in addition to an injection molding operation, as will be described in detail below. Because CD manufacturing companies, the "natural" manufacturers for DVDs, have not used the required stamping equipment for making CDs, there is no known way to migrate easily to the making of dual-layer DVD discs without a major capital investment in equipment.

It should be appreciated that the real problem is not in making DVD-9 discs. The 3M-type 2P process that requires a stamping operation in "open" space is not necessary for making DVD-9 discs since conventional injection molding equipment by itself, using the Matsushita process, is sufficient for making DVD-9 discs (see Fig. 2). The real problem is in making 1.2 mm thick DVD-14 and DVD-18 discs. A DVD-14 disc has two substrates, one a single layer and the other a dual layer. Because the single-layer substrate has a reflective layer that is read from its own side of the overall disc, the two information layers for the dual-layer disc that are read from the other side must both be in the same substrate. This means that a process similar to the 2P process must be used because the second layer for the DVD-9 side of the overall disc can no longer come from the other substrate – the second layer must be internal to the dual-layer substrate structure. Similarly, a DVD-18 disc (Dual Layer, Dual Side) requires two layers in each substrate, for a total of four. Thus, there is no known way to avoid using some form of stamping process, along the lines of those proposed by 3M, for high capacity DVDs.

To understand how the 3M process for making a dual-layer disc requires an open-space stamping operation, reference may be made to Fig. 3 which depicts the steps in making a simple Dual Layer, Single Side DVD-9 disc. The basic idea is to form one layer on a substrate, and to then add a second layer to the same substrate using a photopolymer (2P) material that is stamped.

In the first step, a substrate 40 with an information layer is injection molded in the usual way. Then gold is sputtered onto the information layer, as shown by the numeral 42, to form a semireflective layer 42a. This layer is covered with viscous, transparent, UV-resin material 44, and stamping equipment 46 (whose undersurface 46a in Fig. 3 has the pit-and-land pattern required of the second information layer) forms the inner-layer pattern in the surface 44a of the viscous material. While the stamper is in place, ultra-violet light is directed from the underside of the substrate, up through the

semireflective layer 42a, to the resin in order to harden it. This stamping operation can not take place in an enclosed mold for the obvious reason that the mold itself would block the UV light from entering, and the resin would not harden in a reasonable time, if at all. (Also, injection molding equipment is operated at very high temperatures, and the 2P
5 process must take place at room temperature.)

After the inner information layer has hardened, a conventional sputtering step, shown by the numeral 50, is employed to provide a fully reflective layer. Finally, a layer of glue 52 is placed on the fully reflective layer, and a blank 0.6-mm substrate 54 is glued on to form the second half of the finished disc. (Although reference is made herein
10 to using "glue" to bond the two substrates to each other, in actual practice the two standard gluing techniques involve use of a hot melt or a UV resin. Also, after the bonding, a label can be printed in known manner.) The finished disc is "Single Side" because it is read from only one side, as shown by the diagrammatic laser beams 56a and 56b. It is "Dual Layer" because there are two information layers that are read from
15 the single reading side.

A DVD-14 disc has two substrates, one a single layer (Fig. 1) and one a dual layer. As described above, the dual layer half is made today by the 2P process because the alternative dual-layer technique of Fig. 2 requires one layer in each of the two substrates, and were the second layer placed in the other substrate, then this
20 substrate would have two layers and would have to be made using the 2P process. (A DVD-14 disc has a total of three information layers, so one of the two substrates must have two layers.) Fig. 4 shows a DVD-18 disc, where each substrate has two layers. It is apparent that each substrate must be made using the 2P or a comparable process that requires a stamping operation.

25 The method of the invention, for making a dual-layer disc using injection molding equipment without requiring additional stamping equipment, is shown in Fig. 5. The basic idea is to make two substrates, each with a metallic information layer, in the usual way -- with injection molding equipment. The metallic information layer on one of the substrates is then transferred to the other. In this way, a 0.6-mm dual-layer disc is
30 formed without requiring additional stamping, and with both metallic layers having been sputtered onto molded substrates.

Conventional CD and DVD substrates are made of polycarbonate.

Polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) material offers several advantages over polycarbonate, one of them being that it is cheaper. While PMMA material has been used in the past to make laserdiscs, PMMA absorbs much more moisture than polycarbonate, and moisture can cause the various layers of a CD or DVD to release from each other. For this reason,
5 PMMA is not typically used to make CDs and DVDs.

In the present invention, however, because it is actually desired that a metallic layer release from a substrate, as will become clear, the substrate which does not end up as part of the DVD can be made of PMMA. The fact that PMMA does not bond to aluminum, and adhesion is only through molecular roughness, aids in the transfer of the
10 fully reflective coating from one substrate to the other.

The PMMA substrate 60 in Fig. 5 is molded in the usual way (see Fig. 1), and its surface 60a is the information layer from which layer 1 in a dual-layer DVD is to be replicated. The diameter of the disc may be larger than the 12-cm diameter of a CD or DVD, however, because the outer edge is used later as a release flange. A fully reflective
15 aluminum data layer 62 is then sputtered onto the surface 60a. The diameter of the aluminum layer is 12 cm, equal to that of a DVD, because eventually the aluminum layer 62 will constitute layer 1 of the finished 0.6-mm substrate. Before sputtering, if desired, a release material such as silicone may be placed on surface 60a (or mixed in the plastic so that it migrates to the surface) to aid in the eventual separation of the layer 62 from the
20 substrate.

The next two steps shown (the ordering of the steps is unimportant) represent the several steps required to make a conventional substrate with a semireflective layer (which will be layer 0 of the finished disc). The substrate 64 is made of the usual material, polycarbonate (PC), and its information surface is coated with a
25 semireflective gold layer 66 (layer 0 of the finished disc).

It is the next step that constitutes a total departure from the prior art. The PMMA substrate is positioned so that its data layer 62 faces data layer 66. Before the PMMA substrate is moved in the direction of arrows 70, a bonding layer 68 (shown much thicker than its true thickness of about 55 microns) is placed on data layer 66. When the
30 two substrate structures are brought together, the metallic layer 62 transfers from substrate 60 to the bonding (adhesive) layer 68. The transfer is facilitated not only by the nature of the PMMA material, with whatever release material may also be employed, but

also by the bonding material 68 which is designed to adhere to aluminum. A preferred bonding material is DIC No. 675, manufactured by the Dai Nippon Ink & Chemical Company.

5 In the last step, a force is applied in the direction of arrows 72 on the PMMA flange to separate it from the remaining structure. It will be recalled that the PMMA substrate 60 has a diameter larger than the diameter of a DVD precisely so that there will be an area against which a separating force can be applied. The metallic layer 62 remains with the polycarbonate substrate structure. The usual protective coating may then be applied (not shown) as the last step in the making of the 0.6-mm substrate. Finally, another single-layer or dual-layer substrate structure may be
10 bonded (not shown) to the dual-layer structure to make a DVD-14 or DVD-18 disc.

FIG. 5 shows the PMMA substrate being recycled at the end of the manufacturing process. (The same thing is true if a polycarbonate substrate is used.) By recycling is meant that the substrate is melted down and used for some other purpose, perhaps even in the making of another
15 data layer to be transferred, or even recoated directly with another aluminum data layer without first being melted down and another substrate molded for the purpose.)

In U.S. Patent No. 6,309,496 issued to Peter Van Hoof, there is disclosed a technique of using equal diameter substrate structures and milling the edge of the combined structures before
20 they are separated. One advantage of that technique is that the PMMA substrate need not have a larger diameter than the polycarbonate substrate and thus the same molding equipment can be used for all substrates. Another advantage is that the separation of the fully reflective coating from its substrate is facilitated.

25 The method of the invention produces a dual-layer disc, one of the two substrate structures of a DVD-14 or DVD-18 disc, that can be characterized as having a first molded substrate with a semireflective sputtered coating, a fully reflective sputtered coating (whose configuration conforms to that of a different molded substrate), and an adhesive bonding the fully reflective sputtered coating to the semireflective sputtered coating. A broader way of characterizing the disc is
30 to say that it is a dual-layer optical disc that has a molded substrate with a first semireflective coating with a pit-and-land structure conforming thereto, a second fully reflective coating having another pit-and-land

structure whose configuration conforms to that of another molded substrate (which is not actually part of the finished disc), and an adhesive bonding the fully reflective coating to the semireflective coating.

Fig. 6 depicts diagrammatically a machine that can be used during the manufacture of a dual-layer disc, after the individual substrate structures have been formed and the fully reflective coating is to be transferred to the substrate structure that has the semireflective coating. Base 80 supports the substrate structure consisting of substrate 64 and semireflective coating 66. Ports 80a are coupled to a vacuum source to hold the substrate structure firmly in place until it is time for it to be released. A center post 82 properly positions the substrate structure.

Plate 88 is moved vertically by lift cylinder 86 and arm 84. Post 100 bears against a cushion 102 (an annular ring) which, in turn, rests on the substrate structure consisting of the PMMA substrate 60 and its fully reflective coating 62. Before the upper substrate structure is lowered, adhesive 68 is sprayed on top of the lower substrate structure by nozzle 104. The arm 84 is lowered to effect contact of the two substrate structures, and transfer of the fully reflective layer from the PMMA substrate to the polycarbonate substrate.

To separate the substrates from each other after the adhesive has hardened, the two trip cylinders 90 pull rods 92 upward so that fingers 94, whose engaging surfaces 94a bear against the undersurface of substrate 60, apply an upward force to the substrate. The post 100 and cushion 102 hold the center of the upper substrate in place while the edge is lifted slightly. Then the entire assembly is raised by lift cylinder 86 to effect the final separation of the substrates.

Although the invention has been described with reference to particular embodiments, it is to be understood that these embodiments are merely illustrative of the application of the principles of the invention. Numerous modifications may be made therein and other arrangements may be devised without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

What I Claim Is:

1. A method of making a dual-layer disc suitable for use as one of the two substrate structures of a DVD-14 or DVD-18 disc comprising the steps of:

- 5 (a) molding a first substrate to have a data layer and coating said data layer with a semireflective coating to form a first substrate structure,
- (b) molding a second substrate to have a data layer and coating said data layer with a fully reflective coating to form a second substrate structure,
- (c) placing an adhesive on the semireflective coating of said first substrate structure,
- 10 (d) placing said first and second substrate structures in contact with each other with said fully reflective coating on said second substrate structure bearing against the adhesive on said first substrate structure so that said fully reflective coating transfers from said second substrate structure to said first substrate structure, and
- (e) separating said second substrate structure from said first substrate structure following transfer of said fully reflective coating.
- 15

2. A method of making a dual-layer disc in accordance with claim 1 wherein said first substrate is molded of polycarbonate and said second substrate is molded of PMMA.

3. A method of making a dual-layer disc in accordance with claim 1 wherein said second substrate has a larger diameter than said first substrate to allow a force to be applied thereto in order to separate said substrate structures.

20

4. A method of making a dual-layer disc in accordance with claim 1 wherein said semireflective coating is sputtered gold and said fully reflective coating is sputtered aluminum.

25 5. A method of making a dual-layer disc in accordance with claim 1 wherein, prior to coating the data layer of said second substrate with a fully reflective coating, a release material is applied thereto to facilitate the subsequent separation of said substrate structures in step (e).

30 6. A method of making a dual-layer disc in accordance with claim 1 wherein said second substrate is recycled after separation from said first substrate

structure.

7. A method of making a dual-layer disc comprising the steps of:

(a) molding a first substrate to have a data layer and coating said data layer with a semireflective coating to form a first substrate structure,

5 (b) molding a second substrate to have a data layer and coating said data layer with a fully reflective coating to form a second substrate structure,

(c) placing said first and second substrate structures in contact with each other with an adhesive material therebetween and with said fully reflective coating on said second substrate structure facing said semireflective coating on said first substrate structure so that said fully reflective coating transfers from said second substrate structure to said first substrate structure, and

10 (d) separating said second substrate structure from said first substrate structure following transfer of said fully reflective coating.

8. A method of making a dual-layer disc in accordance with claim 7
15 wherein said first substrate is molded of polycarbonate and said second substrate is molded of PMMA.

9. A method of making a dual-layer disc in accordance with claim 7 wherein said second substrate has a larger diameter than said first substrate to allow a force to be applied thereto in order to separate said substrate structures.

20 10. A method of making a dual-layer disc in accordance with claim 7 wherein said semireflective coating is sputtered gold and said fully reflective coating is sputtered aluminum.

11. A method of making a dual-layer disc in accordance with claim 7 wherein, prior to coating the data layer of said second substrate with a fully reflective coating, a release material is applied thereto to facilitate the subsequent separation of said substrate structures in step (d).
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12. A method of making a dual-layer disc in accordance with claim 7 wherein said second substrate is recycled after separation from said first substrate structure.

30 13. A dual-layer disc that is suitable for use as one of the two substrate

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PAGE 04

structures of a DVD-14 or DVD-18 disc comprising a first molded substrate with a semireflective sputtered coating, a fully reflective sputtered coating, and an adhesive bonding said fully reflective sputtered coating to said semireflective sputtered coating.

14. A dual-layer disc in accordance with claim 13 wherein said
 5 semireflective coating is sputtered gold and said fully reflective coating is sputtered aluminum.

15. A dual-layer disc in accordance with claim 13 wherein said fully reflective coating has a configuration that conforms to that of a molded substrate.

16. A dual-layer optical disc suitable for use as one of the substrate
 10 structures of a DVD-14 or DVD-18 disc comprising a molded substrate having a first semireflective coating with a pit-and-land structure conforming thereto, a second fully reflective coating with another pit-and-land structure whose configuration conforms to that of another molded substrate, and an adhesive bonding said fully reflective coating to said semireflective coating, said dual layer optical disc having a total thickness of 0.6 mm.

15 17. A dual-layer optical disc in accordance with claim 16 wherein said semireflective coating is sputtered gold and said fully reflective coating is sputtered aluminum.

18. An apparatus for manufacturing a dual-layer optical disc comprising a
 20 base for positioning a first molded substrate having a semireflective coating thereon; a support for holding a second molded substrate having a fully reflective coating thereon; and a mechanism for effecting movement of the two molded substrates toward each other after an adhesive is placed therebetween so that the fully reflective coating transfers from said second molded substrate to said first molded substrate, and then for separating the two molded substrates from each other.

25

FIG. 1 Prior Art
(Single Layer, Single Side: DVD-5)

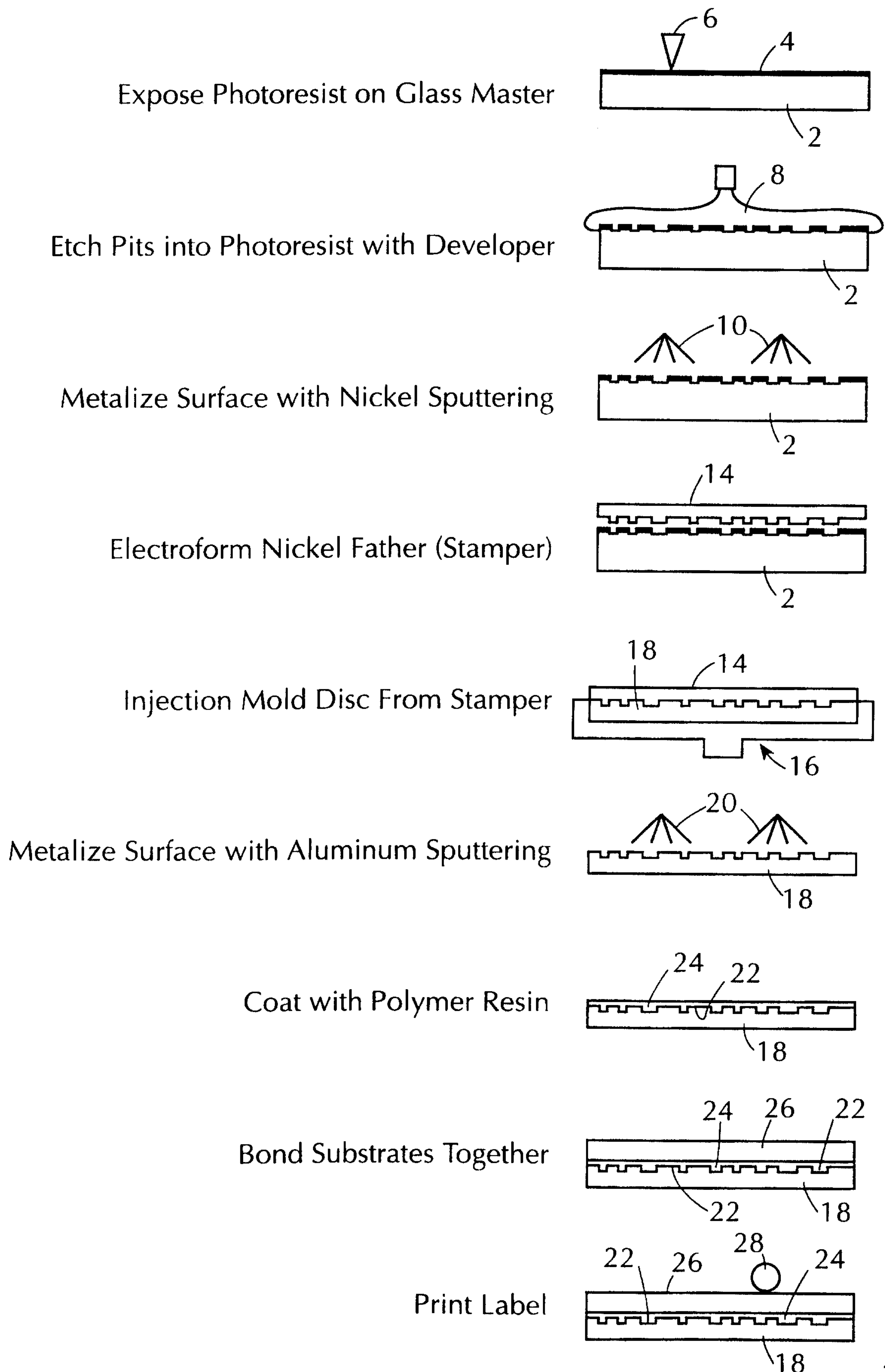


FIG. 2 Prior Art
(Dual Layer, Single Side: DVD-9)

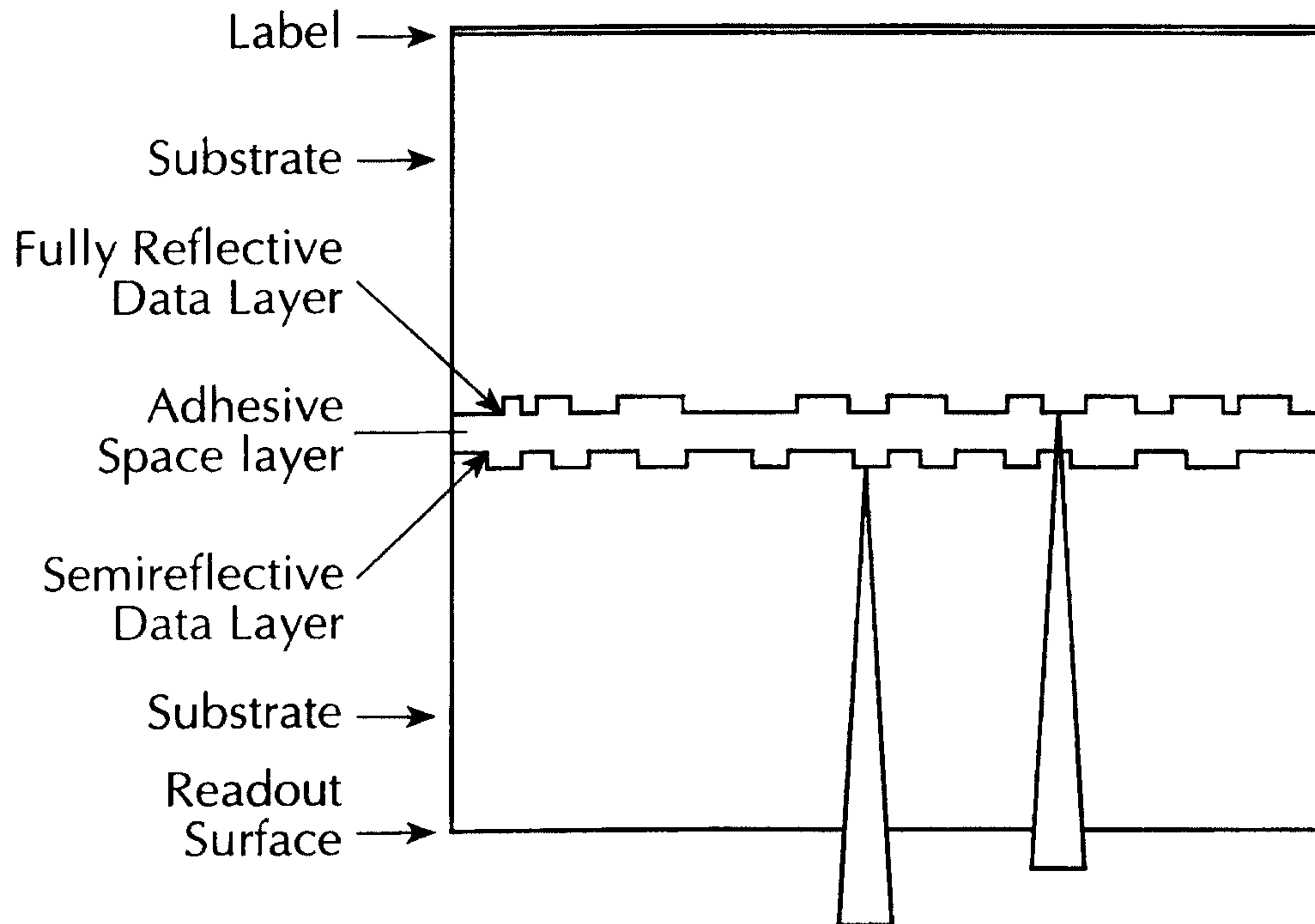


FIG. 4 Prior Art
(Dual Layer, Dual Side: DVD-18)

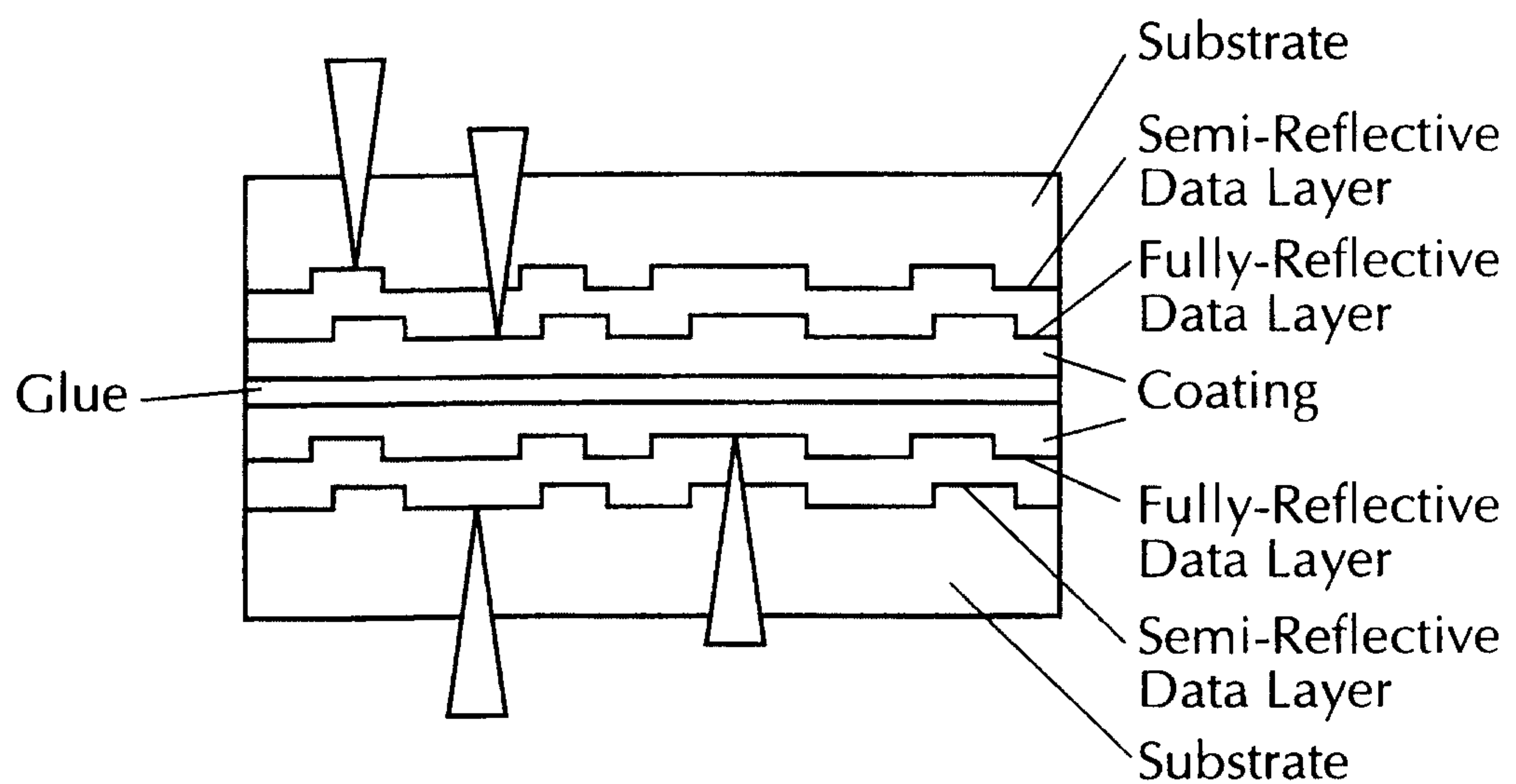


FIG. 3 Prior Art
(Dual Layer, Single Side: DVD-9)

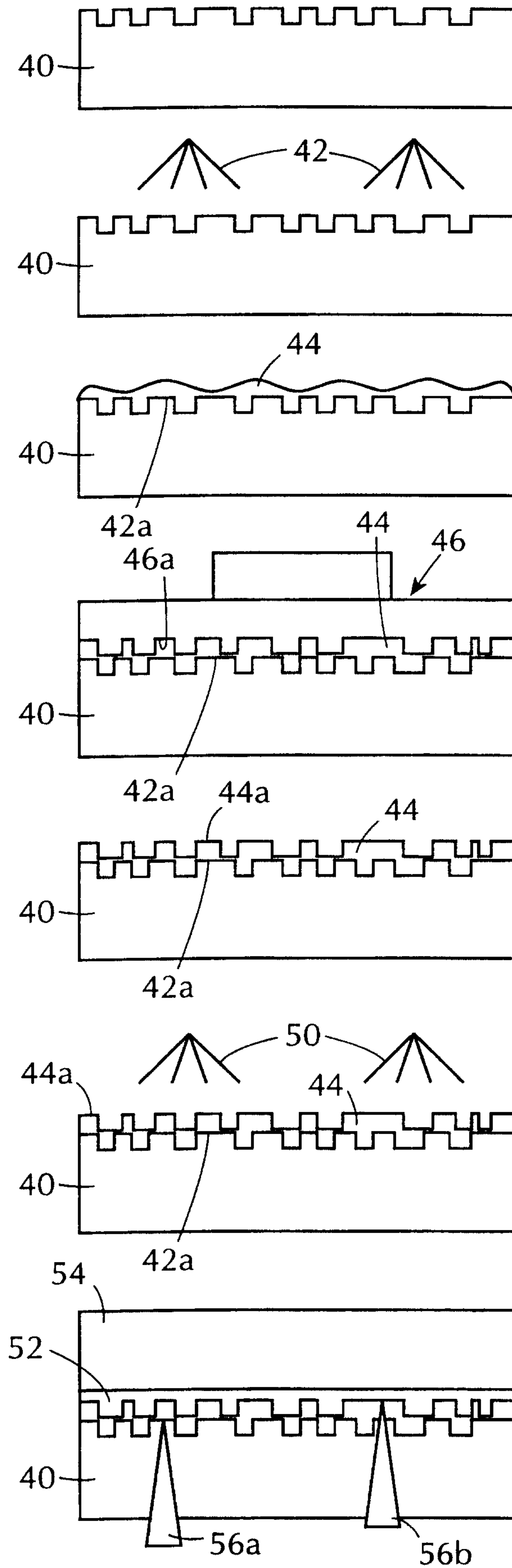


FIG. 5