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(54) **PRESSURE SENSOR HAVING  
NANOSTRUCTURE AND MANUFACTURING  
METHOD THEREOF**

**Publication Classification**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**  
The present disclosure relates to a pressure sensor having a nanostructure and a method for manufacturing the same. More particularly, it relates to a pressure sensor having a nanostructure attached on the surface of the pressure sensor and thus having improved sensor response time and sensitivity and a method for manufacturing the same. The pressure sensor according to the present disclosure having a nanostructure includes: a substrate; a source electrode and a drain electrode arranged on the substrate with a predetermined spacing; a flexible sensor layer disposed on the source electrode and the drain electrode; and a nanostructure attached on the surface of the flexible sensor layer and having nanosized wrinkles.

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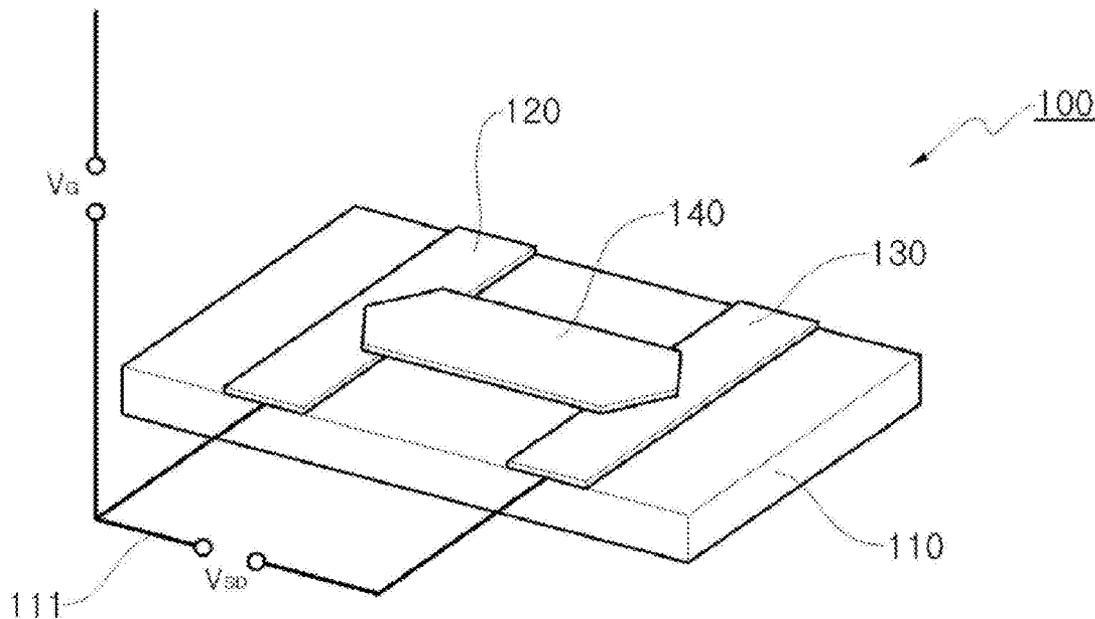


FIG. 1

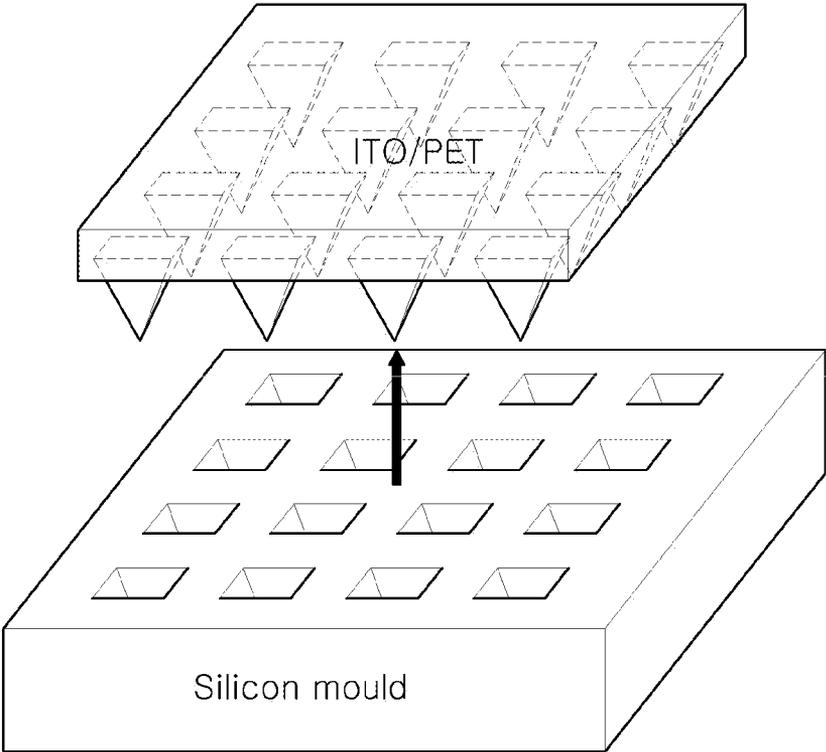


FIG. 2a

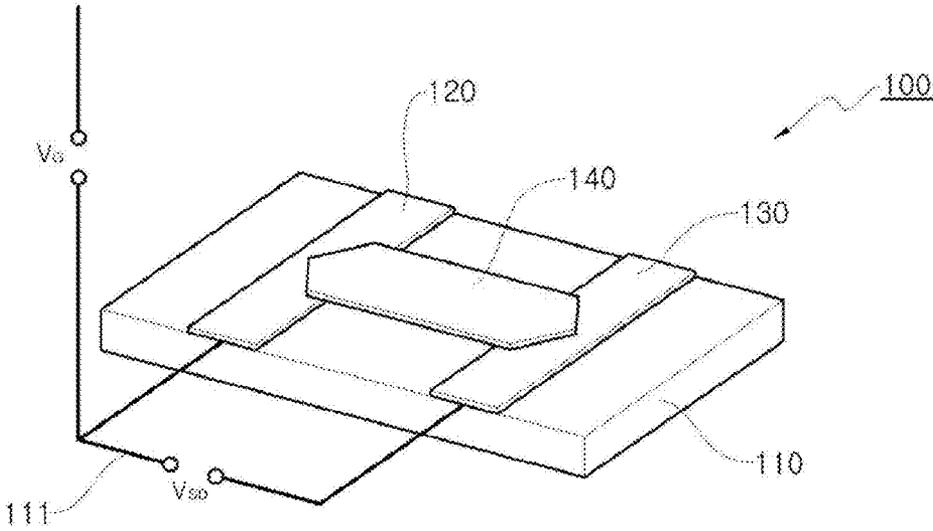


FIG. 2b

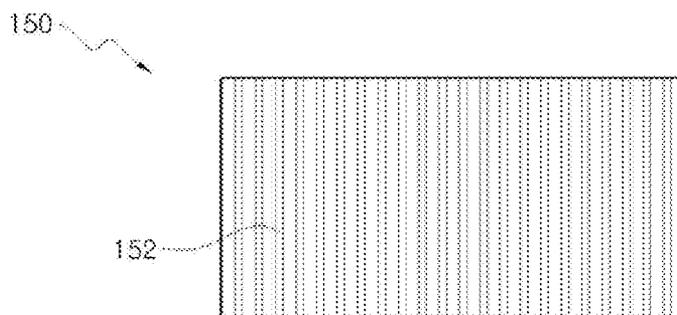


FIG. 2c

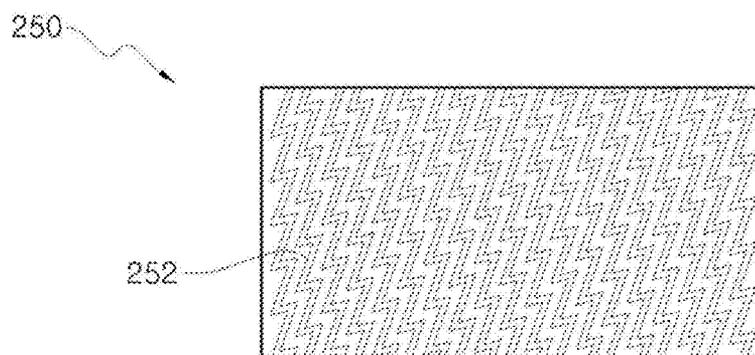


FIG. 2d

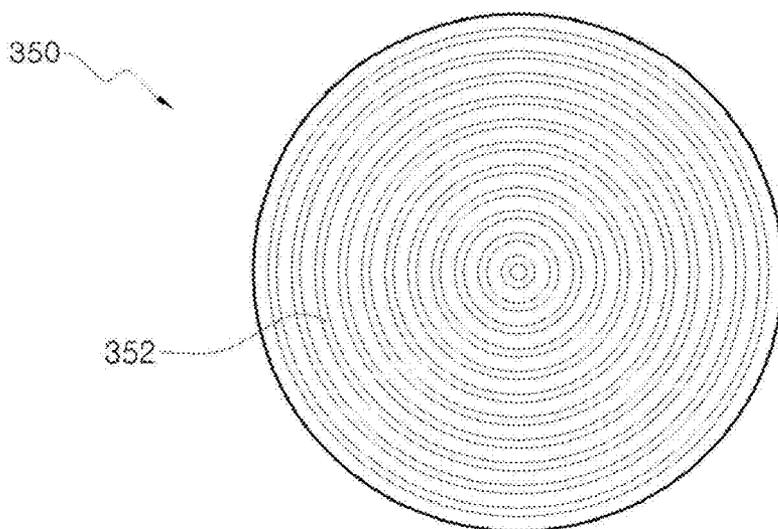


FIG. 2e

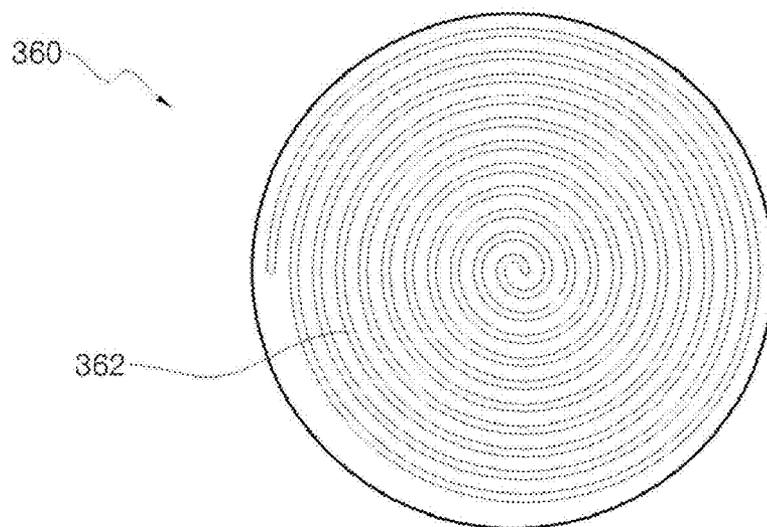


FIG. 3a

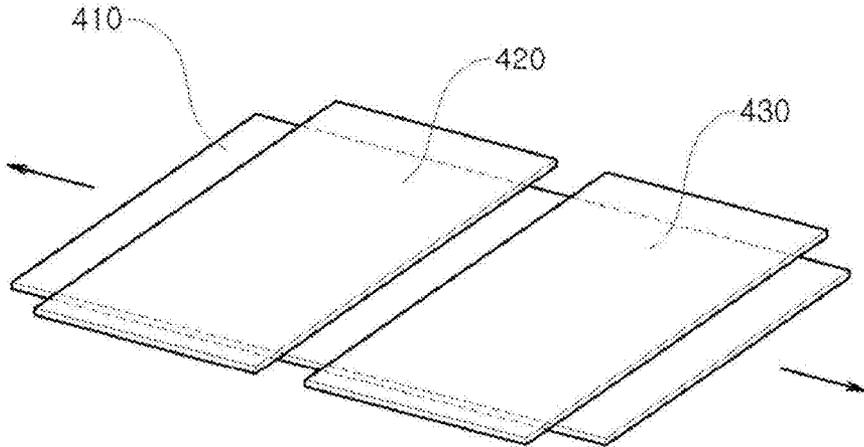


FIG. 3b

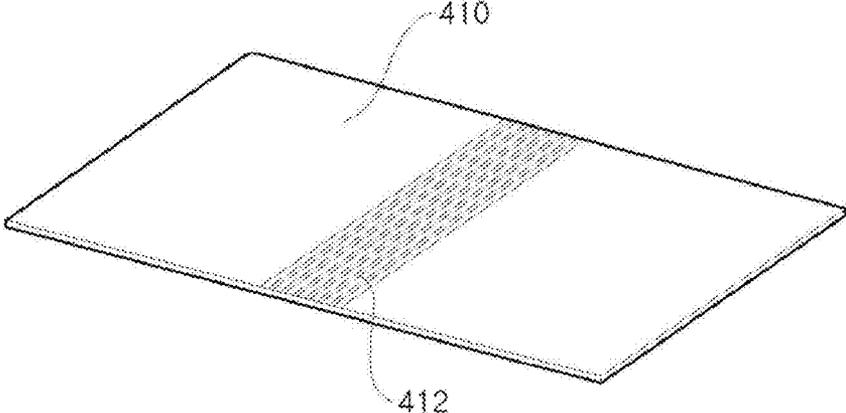


FIG. 4a

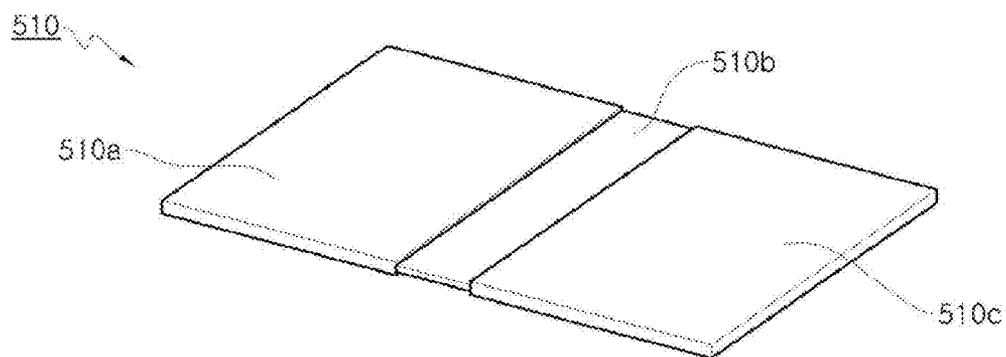


FIG. 4b

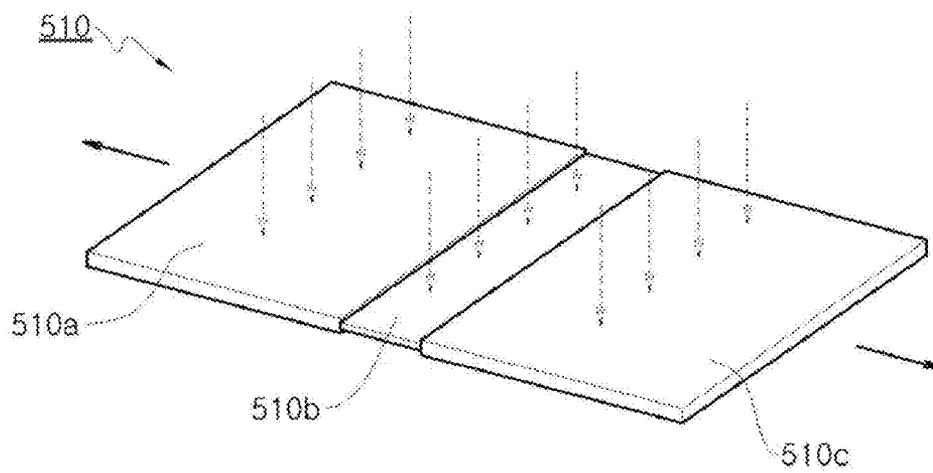


FIG. 4c

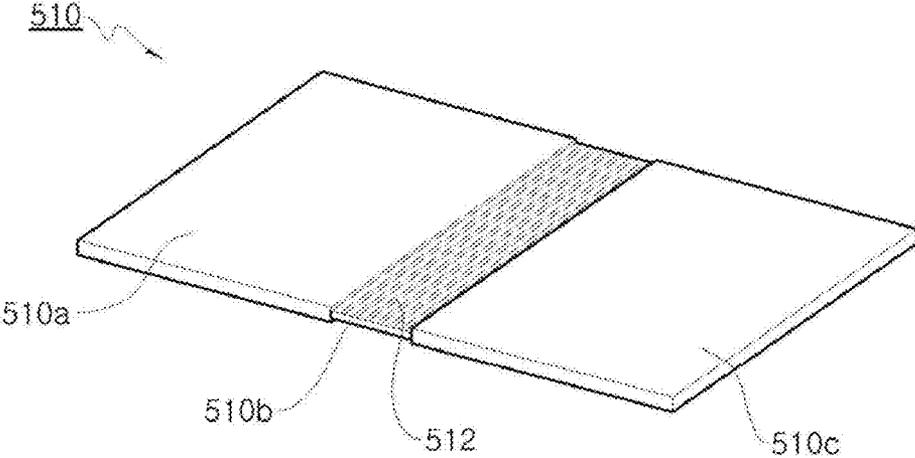


FIG. 5

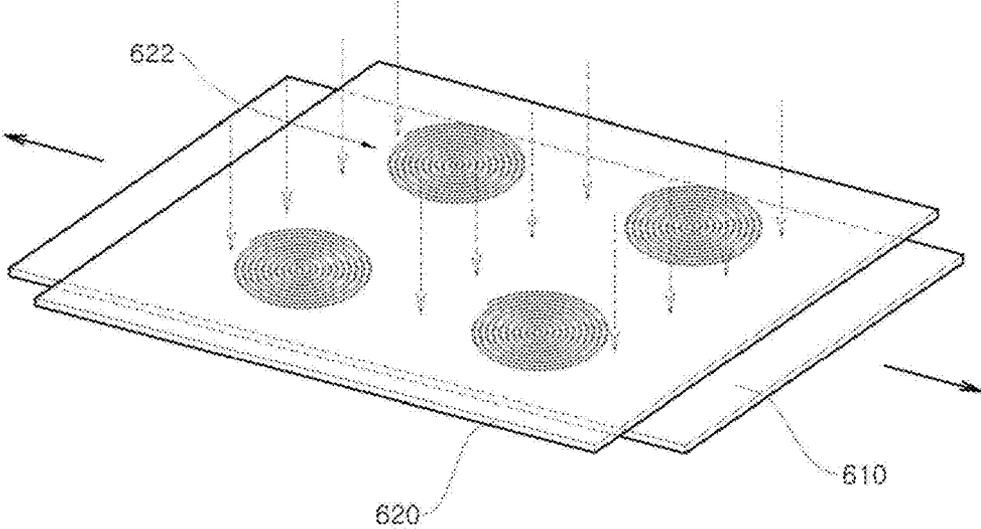


FIG. 6

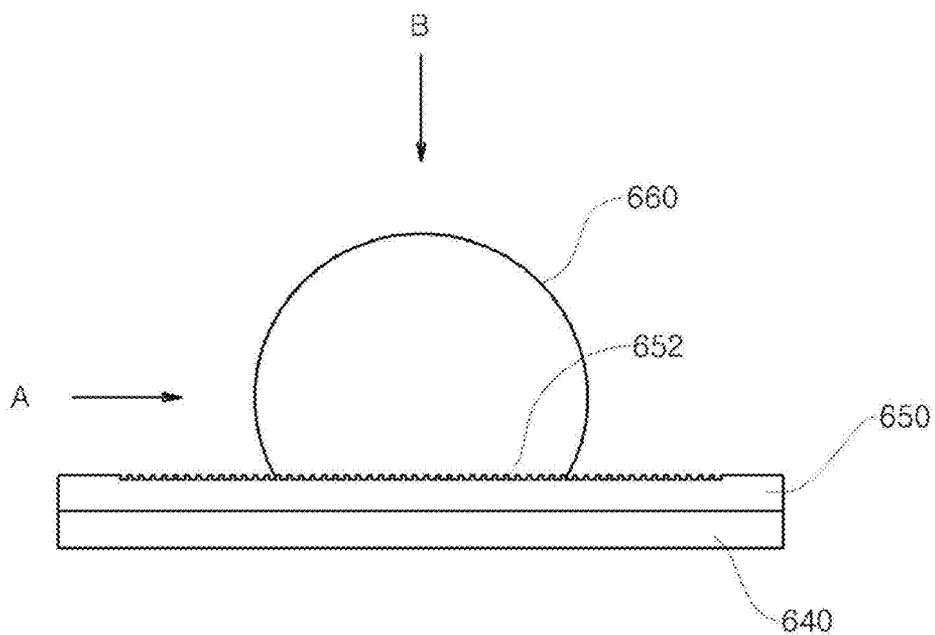
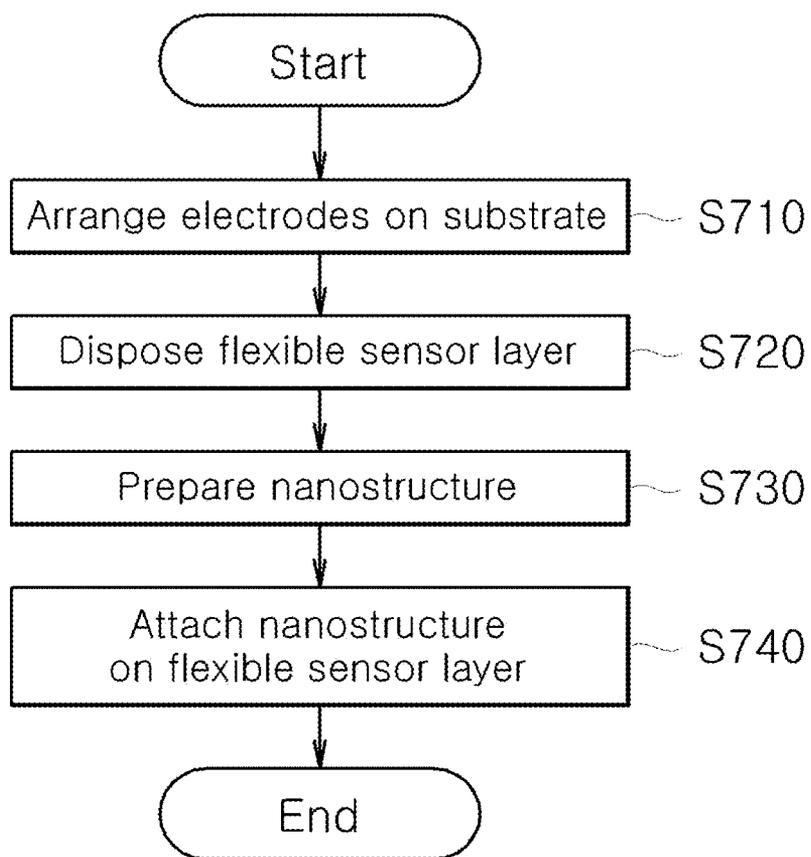


FIG. 7



**PRESSURE SENSOR HAVING  
NANOSTRUCTURE AND MANUFACTURING  
METHOD THEREOF**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED  
APPLICATION

[0001] This application claims priority to Korean Patent Application No. 10-2011-0128939, filed on Dec. 5, 2011, and all the benefits accruing therefrom under 35 U.S.C. §119, the contents of which in its entirety are herein incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND

[0002] 1. Field

[0003] The present disclosure relates to a pressure sensor having a nanostructure and a method for manufacturing the same. More particularly, it relates to a pressure sensor having a nanostructure attached on the surface of the pressure sensor and thus having improved sensor response time and sensitivity and a method for manufacturing the same.

[0004] 2. Description of the Related Art

[0005] A pressure sensor is a device used to measure pressure of liquids or gases and converts the measurement result into an electrical signal that can be processed or controlled easily.

[0006] Recently, as the pressure sensor is used for brain surgery, higher response time and sensitivity are required for the pressure sensor. During the brain surgery, measurement of intracranial pressure is very important since the intracranial pressure is closely related with hemorrhages and complications. Therefore, a pressure sensor capable of sensitively responding to a small change in the intracranial pressure is required.

[0007] Various methods are presented to improve the sensitivity of the pressure sensor. FIG. 1 shows an ITO/PET film having a microstructure which is attached on an existing pressure sensor.

[0008] Referring to FIG. 1, an ITO/PET film having a microstructure is fabricated using a silicon mold. The ITO/PET film is attached on a pressure sensor to improve the sensitivity of the pressure sensor.

[0009] However, the fabrication of the ITO/PET film using the silicon mold is restricted for a microsized structure. That is to say, it is not applicable to a smaller, nanosized structure. When a nanosized structure is introduced to the pressure sensor, the response time and sensitivity of the pressure sensor may be further improved.

REFERENCES CITED

Non-Patent Documents

[0010] Non-patent document 1: Highly sensitive flexible pressure sensors with microstructured rubber dielectric layers, Stefan C. B. Mannsfeld et al., *Nature Materials*, Vol. 9, October 2010, pp. 859-864.

SUMMARY

[0011] The present disclosure is directed to providing a pressure sensor having a nanostructure attached on the surface of the pressure sensor and thus having improved sensor response time and sensitivity and a method for manufacturing the same.

[0012] In one general aspect, the present disclosure provides a pressure sensor including: a substrate; a source electrode and a drain electrode arranged on the substrate with a predetermined spacing; a flexible sensor layer disposed on the source electrode and the drain electrode; and a nanostructure attached on the surface of the flexible sensor layer and having nanosized wrinkles.

[0013] The nanostructure may be a linear 1-dimensional structure, a zigzag-shaped 2-dimensional structure or a spiral-shaped structure.

[0014] The pressure sensor may further include a dome structure attached on the surface of the nanostructure to maximize pressure sensing in a 3-dimensional direction.

[0015] The dome structure dome structure may be formed of PDMS, PMMA, SU8, PU, parylene or elastomer.

[0016] The flexible sensor layer may be formed of thin-film PVDF, flexible thin-film piezoelectric PZT, or rubrene crystal.

[0017] The nanostructure may be formed of a polymer material.

[0018] In another general aspect, the present disclosure provides a method for manufacturing a pressure sensor, including: arranging a source electrode and a drain electrode on a substrate; disposing a flexible sensor layer on the source electrode and the drain electrode; forming nanosized wrinkles on a thin film of a polymer material to prepare a nanostructure; and attaching the nanostructure having wrinkles on the surface of the flexible sensor layer.

[0019] The preparing the nanostructure may include forming a linear 1-dimensional structure.

[0020] The forming the linear 1-dimensional structure may include forming wrinkles by disposing a mask on the thin film, applying UV ozone (UVO) or O<sub>2</sub> plasma to modify the surface selectively exposed by the mask and forming wrinkles using the difference in stress between the modified surface and the unmodified surface, while applying tension to the thin film.

[0021] The forming the linear 1-dimensional structure may include forming wrinkles on the portion of the thin film having a relatively smaller thickness by applying tension and UVO.

[0022] The preparing the nanostructure may include forming a zigzag-shaped 2-dimensional structure.

[0023] The forming the zigzag-shaped 2-dimensional structure may include artificially depositing a nano-linewidth metal thin film or metal oxide thin film having tensile strength on the thin film of a polymer material and artificially removing the metal thin film or the metal oxide thin film to generate local stress, thus forming wrinkles.

[0024] The preparing the nanostructure may include forming a spiral-shaped structure.

[0025] The forming the spiral-shaped structure may include applying tensile strength to both ends of the thin film, masking the portion except for the portion where wrinkles will be formed using a PET film or a photoresist, modifying the surface using UVO and removing the tensile strength applied to the thin film to form the wrinkles.

[0026] The forming the spiral-shaped structure may include masking the thin film with a PET film or a photoresist, artificially depositing a nano-linewidth metal thin film or metal oxide thin film having tensile strength on the thin film and artificially removing the metal thin film or the metal oxide thin film to generate local stress, thus forming wrinkles.

[0027] The method for manufacturing a pressure sensor may further include forming a nanosized dome structure and attaching it on the nanostructure having wrinkles.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0028] The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present disclosure will become apparent from the following description of certain exemplary embodiments given in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

[0029] FIG. 1 shows an ITO/PET film having a microstructure which is attached on an existing pressure sensor;

[0030] FIGS. 2a-2e show a pressure sensor according to an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0031] FIGS. 3a-3b illustrate a method of forming the wrinkles of the nanostructure of FIG. 2b;

[0032] FIGS. 4a-4c illustrate another method of forming the wrinkles of the nanostructure of FIG. 2b;

[0033] FIG. 5 illustrates a method of forming the wrinkles of the nanostructure of FIG. 2d or FIG. 2e;

[0034] FIG. 6 is a partial cross-sectional view of a pressure sensor according to another exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure; and

[0035] FIG. 7 is a flow chart illustrating a method for manufacturing a pressure sensor according to an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF MAIN ELEMENTS

- [0036] 100: pressure sensor
- [0037] 110: substrate
- [0038] 120: source electrode
- [0039] 130: drain electrode
- [0040] 140, 640: flexible sensor layer
- [0041] 150, 250, 350, 360, 650: nanostructure
- [0042] 152, 252, 352, 362, 652: wrinkles
- [0043] 410, 510, 610: thin film
- [0044] 412: wrinkles
- [0045] 420, 430: mask
- [0046] 510a, 510c: thick portion
- [0047] 510b: thin portion
- [0048] 512: wrinkles
- [0049] 620: PET film
- [0050] 622: spiral-shaped through-hole
- [0051] 660: dome structure

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0052] Hereinafter, a pressure sensor having a nanostructure and a method for manufacturing the same according to exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

[0053] FIGS. 2a-2e show a pressure sensor according to an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0054] Referring to FIGS. 2a-2e, a pressure sensor 100 according to an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure comprises a substrate 110, a source electrode 120, a drain electrode 130, a flexible sensor layer 140 and a nanostructure 150, 250, 350, 360.

[0055] The source electrode 120 and the drain electrode 130 are arranged on the substrate 110 with a predetermined spacing. A pressure input to the flexible sensor layer 140 is converted into an electrical signal by the electrodes.

[0056] The flexible sensor layer 140 is disposed on the source electrode 120 and the drain electrode 130. The flexible sensor layer 140 may be prepared, for example, from a piezoelectric polymer material such as thin-film polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF), flexible thin-film PZT, or rubrene crystal.

[0057] The nanostructure 150, 250, 350, 360 having nanosized wrinkles shown in FIGS. 2b-2e is attached on the flexible sensor layer 140 shown in FIG. 2a. As the nanostructure 150, 250, 350, 360 is attached integrally to the flexible sensor layer 140, the sensitivity and response time of the pressure sensor 100 may increase greatly.

[0058] The nanostructure 150, 250, 350, 360 may be formed into various shapes and each of the nanostructure 150, 250, 350, 360 has a plurality of wrinkles 152, 252, 352, 362.

[0059] In FIG. 2b, the nanostructure 150 is a linear 1-dimensional structure and a plurality of wrinkles 152 are formed linearly in parallel.

[0060] In FIG. 2c, FIG. 2d and FIG. 2e, the nanostructure 250, 350, 360 is a zigzag-shaped 2-dimensional structure or a spiral-shaped structure. The nanostructure 250, 350, 360 of FIG. 2c, FIG. 2d, FIG. 2e may respond more sensitively to pressure change than the nanostructure 150 of FIG. 2b because of their structural shape.

[0061] FIGS. 3a-3b illustrate a method of forming the wrinkles of the nanostructure of FIG. 2b.

[0062] Referring to FIG. 3a, a transparent mask 420, 430 is disposed on a thin film 410 and UV ozone (UVO) or O<sub>2</sub> plasma is applied while applying tension to both ends of the thin film 410. Then, the surface selectively exposed by the mask 420, 430, i.e. the intermediate portion of FIG. 3a, is modified and wrinkles 412 are formed in the middle portion as shown in FIG. 3b due to the difference in stress between the modified middle portion and the portion protected by the mask 420, 430.

[0063] If the thin film 410 is partially cut around the portion having the wrinkles 412 formed, the nanostructure 150 shown in FIG. 2b may be obtained. The thin film 410 may comprise a polymer material that can be easily processed with heat and pressure.

[0064] FIGS. 4a-4c illustrate another method of forming the wrinkles of the nanostructure of FIG. 2b.

[0065] Referring to FIG. 4a, a thin film has a relatively thick portion 510a, 510c and a relatively thin portion 510b. Although a mask is used in the embodiment illustrated in FIGS. 3a-3b, in this embodiment, UVO is applied from above the thin film while applying tension to both ends of the thin film as shown in FIG. 4b, without using a mask.

[0066] Difference in stress occurs between the portions having different thickness due to the tension and UVO treatment. As a result, wrinkles 512 are formed in the thin portion 510b which is relatively vulnerable to the stress as shown in FIG. 4c.

[0067] Meanwhile, the nanostructure 250 having the zigzag-shaped wrinkles 252 as shown in FIG. 2c may be formed by wrinkling alike the linear structure or by buckling. The buckling refers to a process of artificially depositing a nanolength metal thin film or metal oxide thin film having external tension, usually tensile strength, on a substrate and then artificially removing the metal thin film or the metal oxide thin film to generate local stress, thus forming wrinkles.

[0068] The zigzag-shaped wrinkles 252 enable transfer and sensing of not only normal pressure but also shear stress via 2-dimensional transfer of force and maximize the transfer of force in x-y directions.

[0069] And, the nanostructure **350**, **360** having the spiral-shaped wrinkles **352**, **362** as shown in FIG. **2d** or FIG. **2e** may be formed by wrinkling or buckling as described above.

[0070] FIG. **5** illustrates a method of forming the wrinkles of the nanostructure of FIG. **2d** or FIG. **2e**.

[0071] Referring to FIG. **5**, in order to form the spiral-shaped wrinkles **352**, **362**, tensile strength is applied to a thin film **610** and the portion except for the portion where the wrinkles will be formed is masked using a PET film **620** or a photoresist. Then, after modifying the surface using UVO, the tensile strength applied to the thin film **610** is removed to form the nanowrinkles **352**, **362**. As the surface of the thin film **610** is exposed to UVO by a spiral-shaped through-hole **622** of the PET film **620**, the nanowrinkles having a shape corresponding to the spiral-shaped through-hole **622** are formed.

[0072] Alternatively, after masking the thin film **610** with the PET film **620** or the photoresist, a nano-linewidth metal thin film or metal oxide thin film having external tension, usually tensile strength, may be artificially deposited on the thin film **610** and then the metal thin film or the metal oxide thin film may be artificially removed to generate local stress, thus forming wrinkles.

[0073] The spiral-shaped wrinkles **352**, **362** enable transfer and sensing of not only normal pressure but also shear stress via 2-dimensional transfer of force and maximize the transfer of force in x-y-z directions.

[0074] FIG. **6** is a partial cross-sectional view of a pressure sensor according to another exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0075] Referring to FIG. **6**, a nanostructure **650** having a plurality of wrinkles is attached on a flexible sensor layer **640** and then a dome structure **660** is attached on the nanostructure **650**. Although the number of the dome structure **660** is one in FIG. **6**, two or more dome structures may be attached by varying the size of the dome structure.

[0076] The dome structure **660** may maximize transfer and sensing of shear stress A and normal pressure B due to its convex shape. The dome structure **660** may comprise PDMS, PMMA, SU8, PU, parylene or elastomer.

[0077] FIG. **7** is a flow chart illustrating a method for manufacturing a pressure sensor according to an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0078] Referring to FIG. **7**, a source electrode **120** and a drain electrode **130** are arranged first on a substrate **110** (S710). Then, a flexible sensor layer **140** is disposed on the source electrode **120** and the drain electrode **130** (S720).

[0079] Subsequently, a nanostructure **150**, **250**, **350**, **360** is prepared by forming nanosized wrinkles on a thin film of a polymer material as illustrated in FIGS. **2b-2e** (S730), and the nanostructure **150**, **250**, **350**, **360** having wrinkles is attached on the flexible sensor layer **140** (S740).

[0080] Alternatively, the nanostructure **150**, **250**, **350**, **360** may be prepared prior to S710 and S720 and attached on the flexible sensor layer **140**.

[0081] In an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure, the nanostructure is a linear 1-dimensional structure as shown in FIG. **2b**. To prepare the nanostructure, while applying tension to a thin film **410**, a mask **420**, **430** may be disposed on the thin film and UV ozone or O<sub>2</sub> plasma may be applied to modify the surface selectively exposed by the mask so as to form wrinkles using the difference in stress between the modified surface and the unmodified surface, as illustrated referring to FIGS. **3a-3b**. Alternatively, tension and UVO may be applied onto a thin film **510** having portions

**510a**, **510b**, **510c** with different thickness so as to form wrinkles on a relatively thin portion **510b**, as illustrated referring to FIGS. **4a-4c**.

[0082] In another exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure, the nanostructure is a zigzag-shaped 2-dimensional structure as shown in FIG. **2c** and the structure is formed by buckling. That is to say, after depositing a nano-linewidth metal thin film or metal oxide thin film having external tension, usually tensile strength, on a thin film of a polymer material, the metal thin film or the metal oxide thin film may be artificially removed to generate local stress, thus forming wrinkles.

[0083] In another exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure, the nanostructure is a spiral-shaped structure as shown in FIG. **2d** or FIG. **2e** and the structure is formed by wrinkling or buckling.

[0084] To describe in detail, after applying tensile strength to a thin film **610**, the portion except for the portion where the wrinkles will be formed is masked using a PET film **620** or a photoresist, the surface is modified using UVO and the tensile strength is removed to form nanowrinkles, as illustrated referring to FIG. **5**. As the surface of the thin film **610** is exposed to UVO by a spiral-shaped through-hole **622** of the PET film **620**, the nanowrinkles having a shape corresponding to the spiral-shaped through-hole **622** are formed.

[0085] Alternatively, after masking the thin film **610** with the PET film **620** or the photoresist, a nano-linewidth metal thin film or metal oxide thin film having external tension, usually tensile strength, may be artificially deposited on the thin film **610** and then the metal thin film or the metal oxide thin film may be artificially removed to generate local stress, thus forming wrinkles.

[0086] After the nanostructure having wrinkles is attached on the flexible sensor layer **140** (S740), a process of forming a nanosized dome structure **660** and attaching it on the nanostructure having wrinkles may be further included.

[0087] The dome structure **660** may be attached onto one or more nanostructure and may further improve the response time and sensitivity of the sensor in 3-dimensional x-y-z directions.

[0088] The pressure sensor and the method for manufacturing the same according to the present disclosure may provide improved sensor response time and sensitivity because of the nanostructure attached on the surface of the sensor.

[0089] Also, the pressure sensor and the method for manufacturing the same according to the present disclosure may prevent degradation of viscoelastic property when the thickness of the flexible sensor layer is decreased by disposing a nanostructure on the surface of the flexible sensor layer.

[0090] While the present disclosure has been described with respect to the specific embodiments, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosure as defined in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A pressure sensor comprising:

- a substrate;
- a source electrode and a drain electrode arranged on the substrate with a predetermined spacing;
- a flexible sensor layer disposed on the source electrode and the drain electrode; and
- a nanostructure attached on the surface of the flexible sensor layer and having nanosized wrinkles.

2. The pressure sensor according to claim 1, wherein the nanostructure is a linear 1-dimensional structure, a zigzag-shaped 2-dimensional structure or a spiral-shaped structure.

3. The pressure sensor according to claim 1, which further comprises a dome structure attached on the surface of the nanostructure to maximize pressure sensing in a 3-dimensional direction.

4. The pressure sensor according to claim 3, wherein the dome structure comprises PDMS, PMMA, SU8, PU, parylene or elastomer.

5. The pressure sensor according to claim 1, wherein the flexible sensor layer comprises thin-film PVDF, flexible thin-film piezoelectric PZT, or rubrene crystal.

6. The pressure sensor according to claim 1, wherein the nanostructure comprises a polymer material.

7. A method for manufacturing a pressure sensor, comprising:

arranging a source electrode and a drain electrode on a substrate;

disposing a flexible sensor layer on the source electrode and the drain electrode;

forming nanosized wrinkles on a thin film of a polymer material to prepare a nanostructure; and

attaching the nanostructure having wrinkles on the surface of the flexible sensor layer.

8. The method for manufacturing a pressure sensor according to claim 7, wherein said preparing the nanostructure comprises forming a linear 1-dimensional structure.

9. The method for manufacturing a pressure sensor according to claim 8, wherein said forming the linear 1-dimensional structure comprises forming wrinkles by disposing a mask on the thin film, applying UV ozone (UVO) or O<sub>2</sub> plasma to modify the surface selectively exposed by the mask and forming wrinkles using the difference in stress between the modified surface and the unmodified surface, while applying tension to the thin film.

10. The method for manufacturing a pressure sensor according to claim 8, wherein said forming the linear 1-di-

mensional structure comprises forming wrinkles on the portion of the thin film having a relatively smaller thickness by applying tension and UV ozone (UVO).

11. The method for manufacturing a pressure sensor according to claim 7, wherein said preparing the nanostructure comprises forming a zigzag-shaped 2-dimensional structure.

12. The method for manufacturing a pressure sensor according to claim 11, wherein said forming the zigzag-shaped 2-dimensional structure comprises artificially depositing a nano-linewidth metal thin film or metal oxide thin film having tensile strength on the thin film of a polymer material and artificially removing the metal thin film or the metal oxide thin film to generate local stress, thus forming wrinkles.

13. The method for manufacturing a pressure sensor according to claim 7, wherein said preparing the nanostructure comprises forming a spiral-shaped structure.

14. The method for manufacturing a pressure sensor according to claim 13, wherein said forming the spiral-shaped structure comprises applying tensile strength to both ends of the thin film, masking the portion except for the portion where wrinkles will be formed using a PET film or a photoresist, modifying the surface using UV ozone (UVO) and removing the tensile strength applied to the thin film to form the wrinkles.

15. The method for manufacturing a pressure sensor according to claim 13, wherein said forming the spiral-shaped structure comprises masking the thin film with a PET film or a photoresist, artificially depositing a nano-linewidth metal thin film or metal oxide thin film having tensile strength on the thin film and artificially removing the metal thin film or the metal oxide thin film to generate local stress, thus forming wrinkles.

16. The method for manufacturing a pressure sensor according to claim 7, which further comprises forming a nanosized dome structure and attaching it on the nanostructure having wrinkles.

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