



(19) **United States**
 (12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) **Pub. No.: US 2023/0223400 A1**
 Lee et al. (43) **Pub. Date: Jul. 13, 2023**

(54) **RESISTOR AND RESISTOR-TRANSISTOR-LOGIC CIRCUIT WITH GAN STRUCTURE AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME**

Publication Classification

(71) Applicant: **UNITED MICROELECTRONICS CORP.**, Hsin-Chu City (TW)

- (51) **Int. Cl.**
H01L 27/06 (2006.01)
H01L 29/778 (2006.01)
H01L 21/306 (2006.01)
H01L 29/205 (2006.01)
H01L 21/765 (2006.01)
H01L 29/40 (2006.01)
H01L 21/8252 (2006.01)
H01L 29/66 (2006.01)
H01L 29/20 (2006.01)

(72) Inventors: **Kuo-Hsing Lee**, Hsinchu County (TW); **Sheng-Yuan Hsueh**, Tainan City (TW); **Chien-Liang Wu**, Tainan City (TW); **Te-Wei Yeh**, Kaohsiung City (TW); **Yi-Chun Chen**, Kaohsiung City (TW)

- (52) **U.S. Cl.**
 CPC *H01L 27/0605* (2013.01); *H01L 21/765* (2013.01); *H01L 21/8252* (2013.01); *H01L 21/30621* (2013.01); *H01L 27/0629* (2013.01); *H01L 28/20* (2013.01); *H01L 29/205* (2013.01); *H01L 29/402* (2013.01); *H01L 29/2003* (2013.01); *H01L 29/7786* (2013.01); *H01L 29/66462* (2013.01)

(73) Assignee: **UNITED MICROELECTRONICS CORP.**, Hsin-Chu City (TW)

(21) Appl. No.: **18/119,260**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 8, 2023**

Related U.S. Application Data

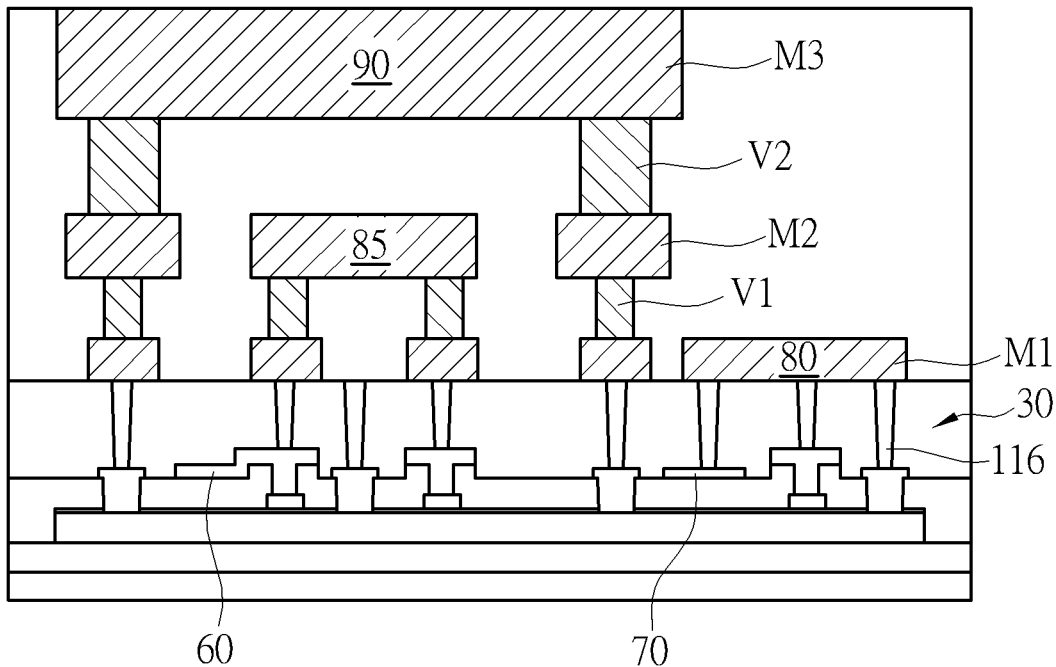
(63) Continuation of application No. 17/075,707, filed on Oct. 21, 2020, now Pat. No. 11,631,664.

Foreign Application Priority Data

Sep. 21, 2020 (CN) 202010993249.2

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A resistor-transistor-logic circuit with GaN structures, including a 2DEG resistor having a drain connected with an operating voltage, and a logic FET having a gate connected to an input voltage, a source grounded and a drain connected with a source of the 2DEG resistor and connected collectively to an output voltage.



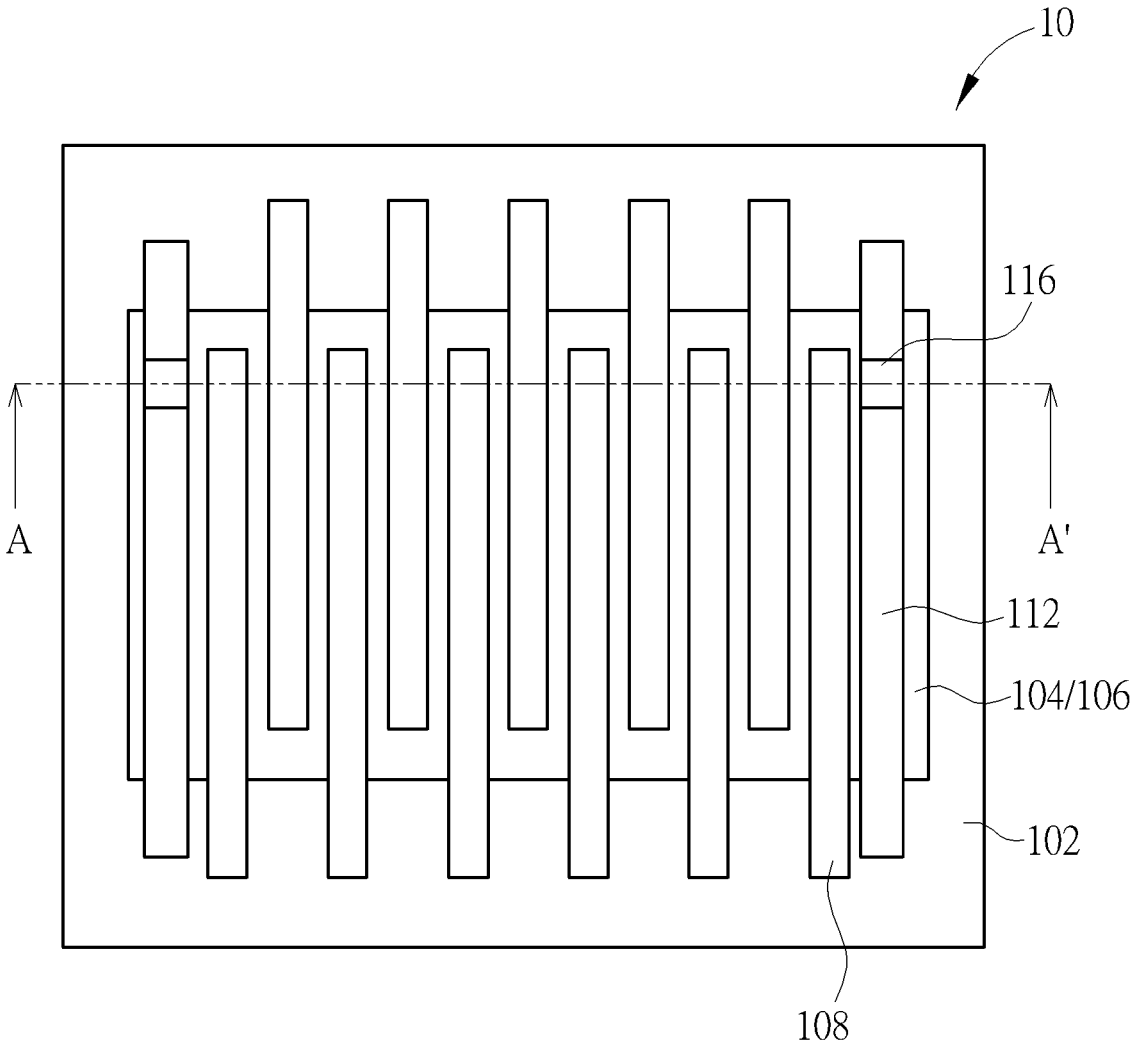


FIG. 1

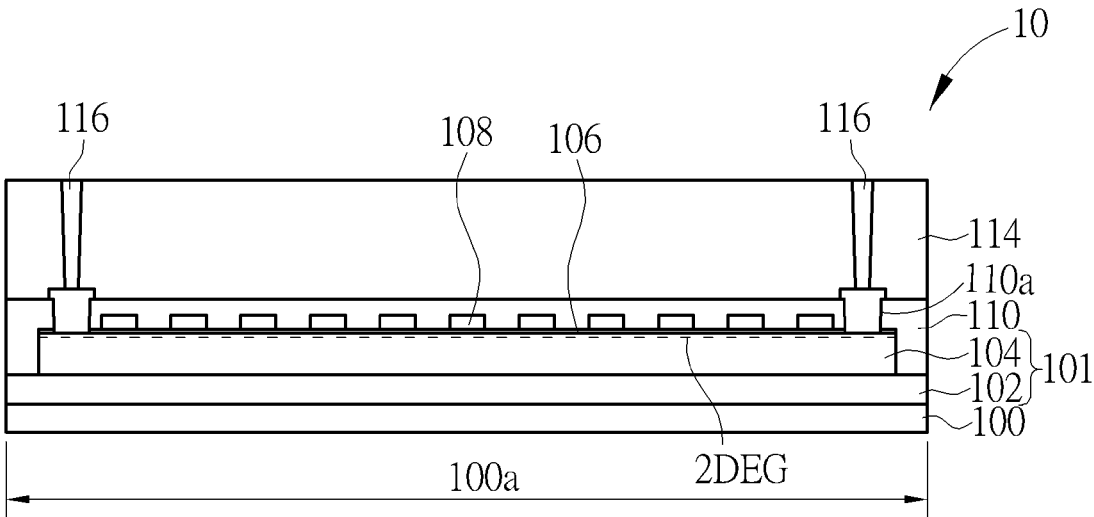


FIG. 2

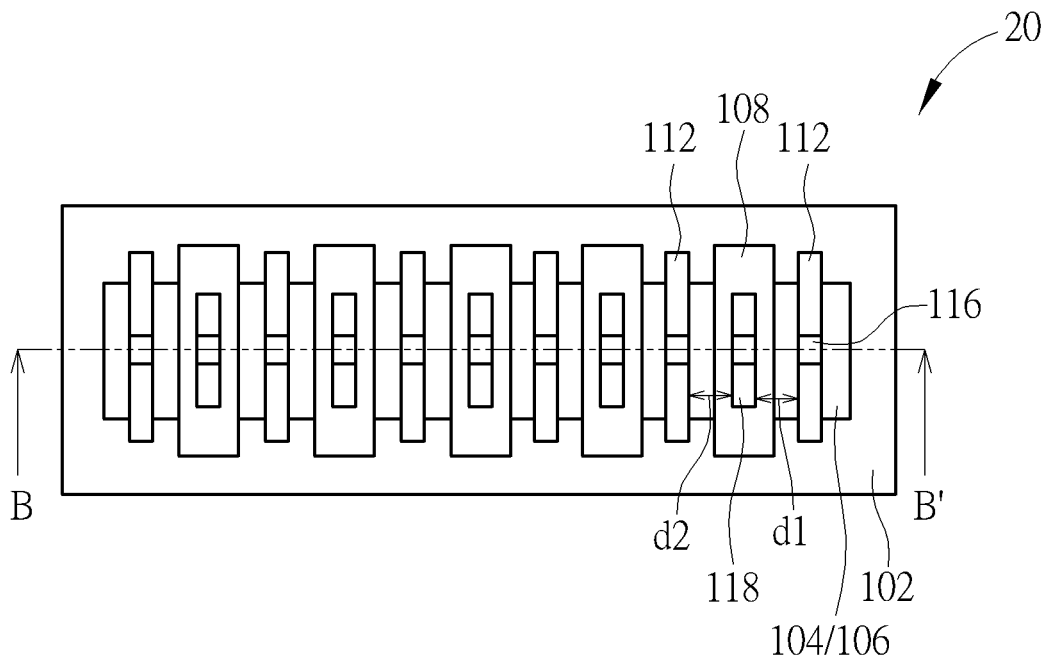


FIG. 3

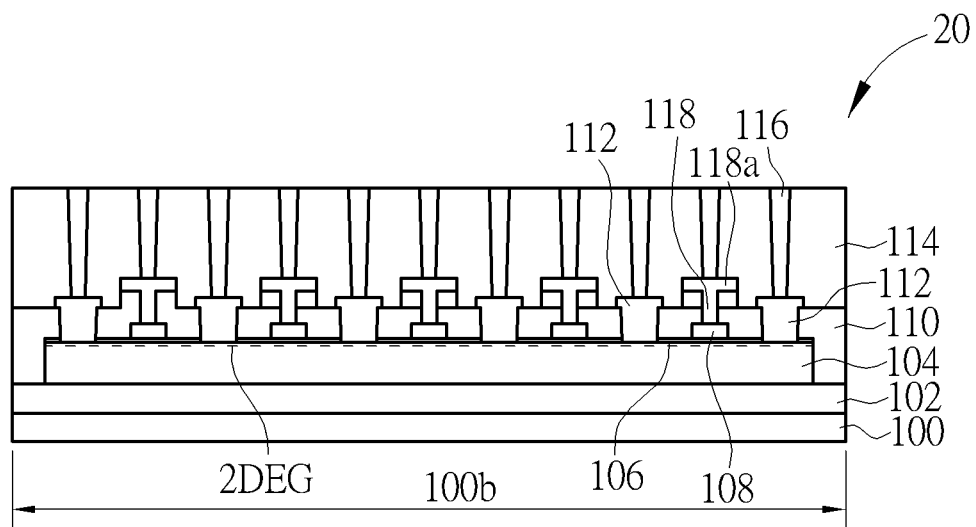


FIG. 4

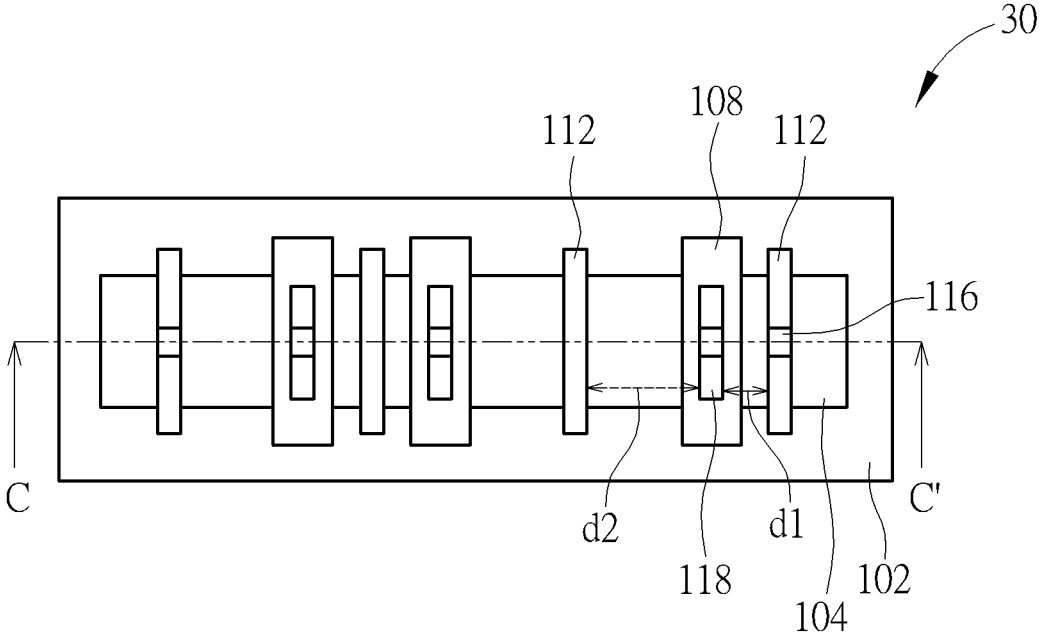


FIG. 5

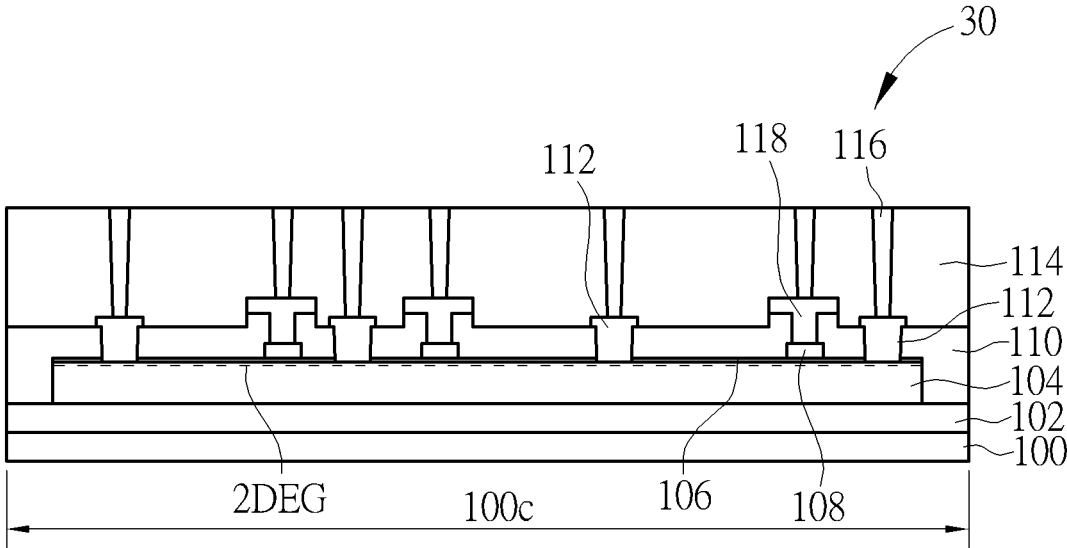


FIG. 6

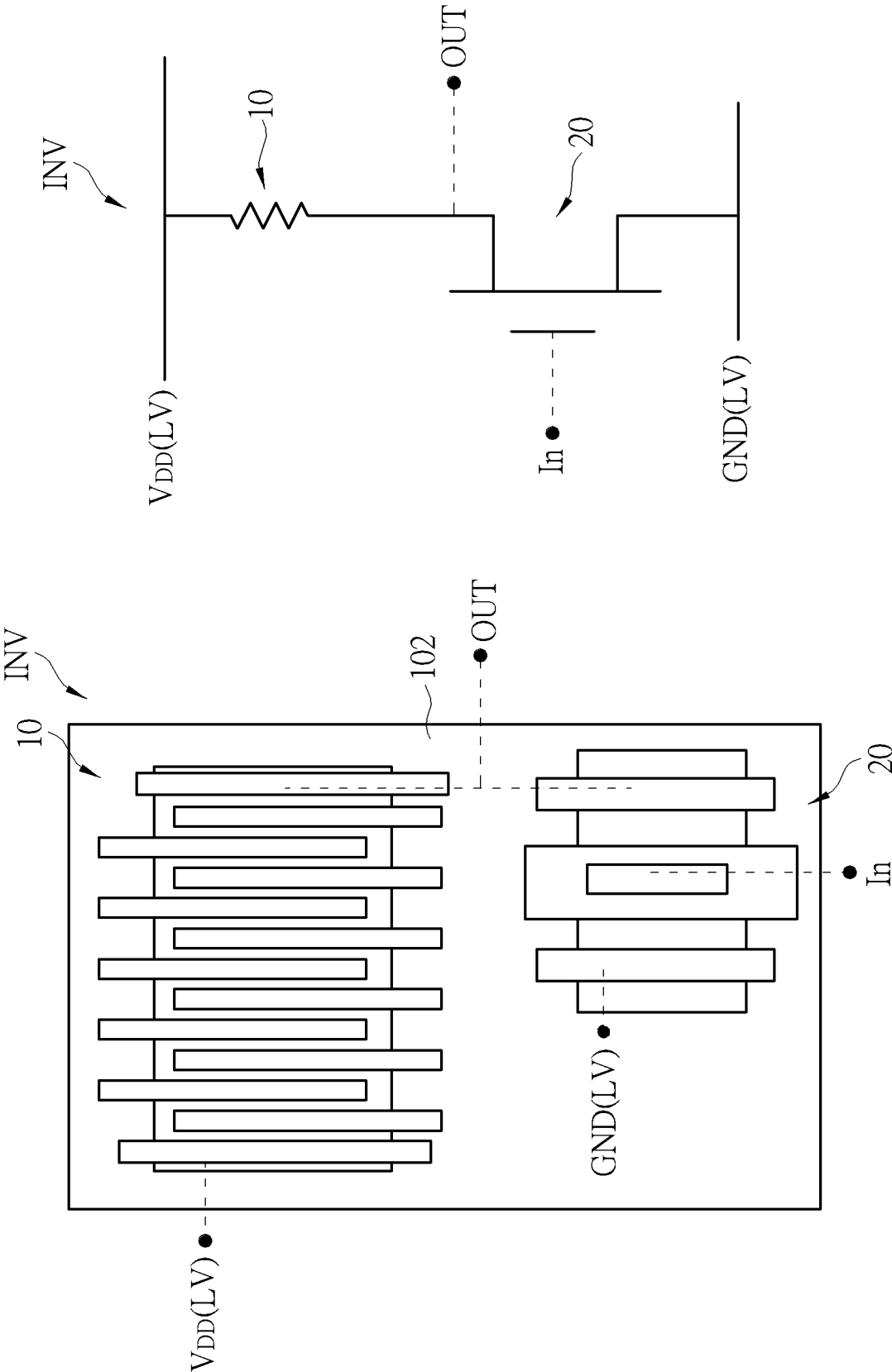


FIG. 7

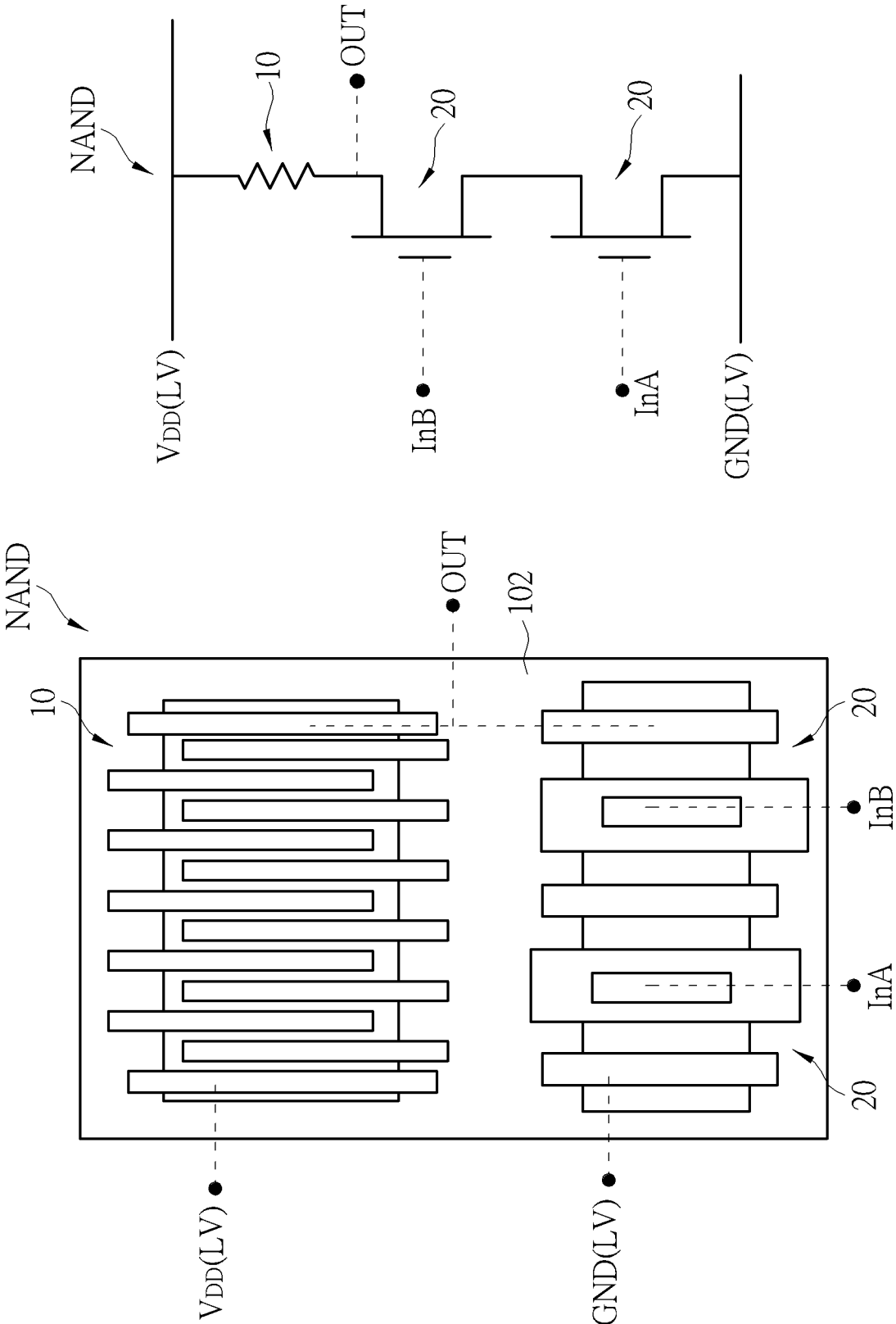


FIG. 8

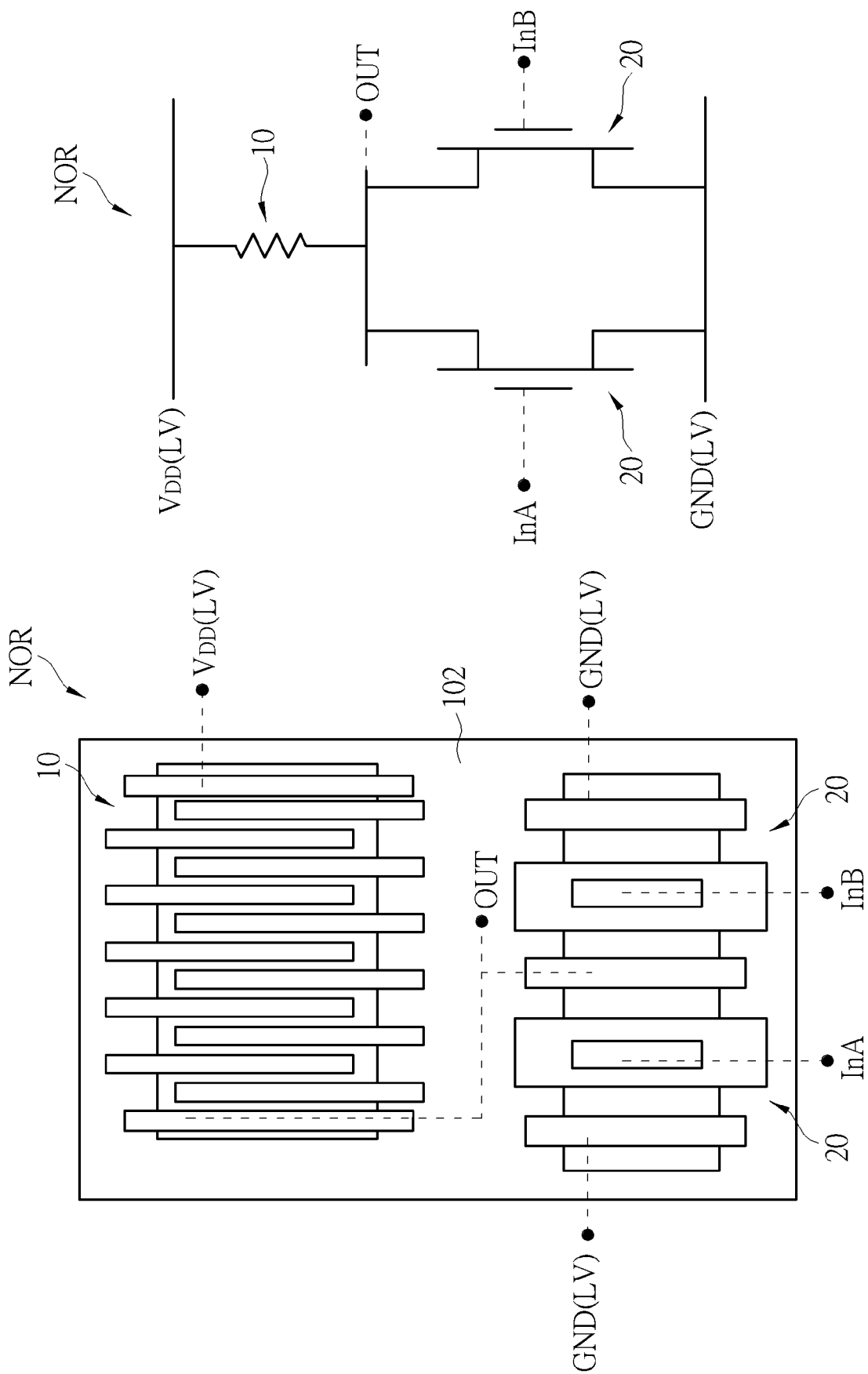


FIG. 9

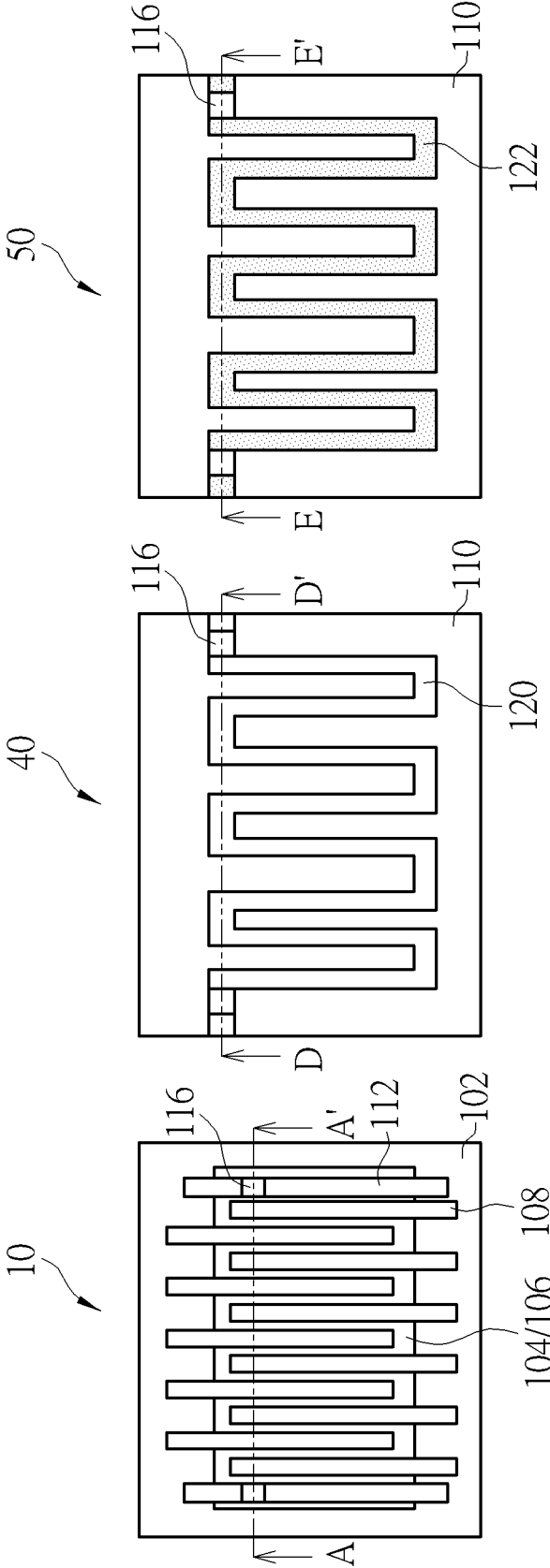


FIG. 10

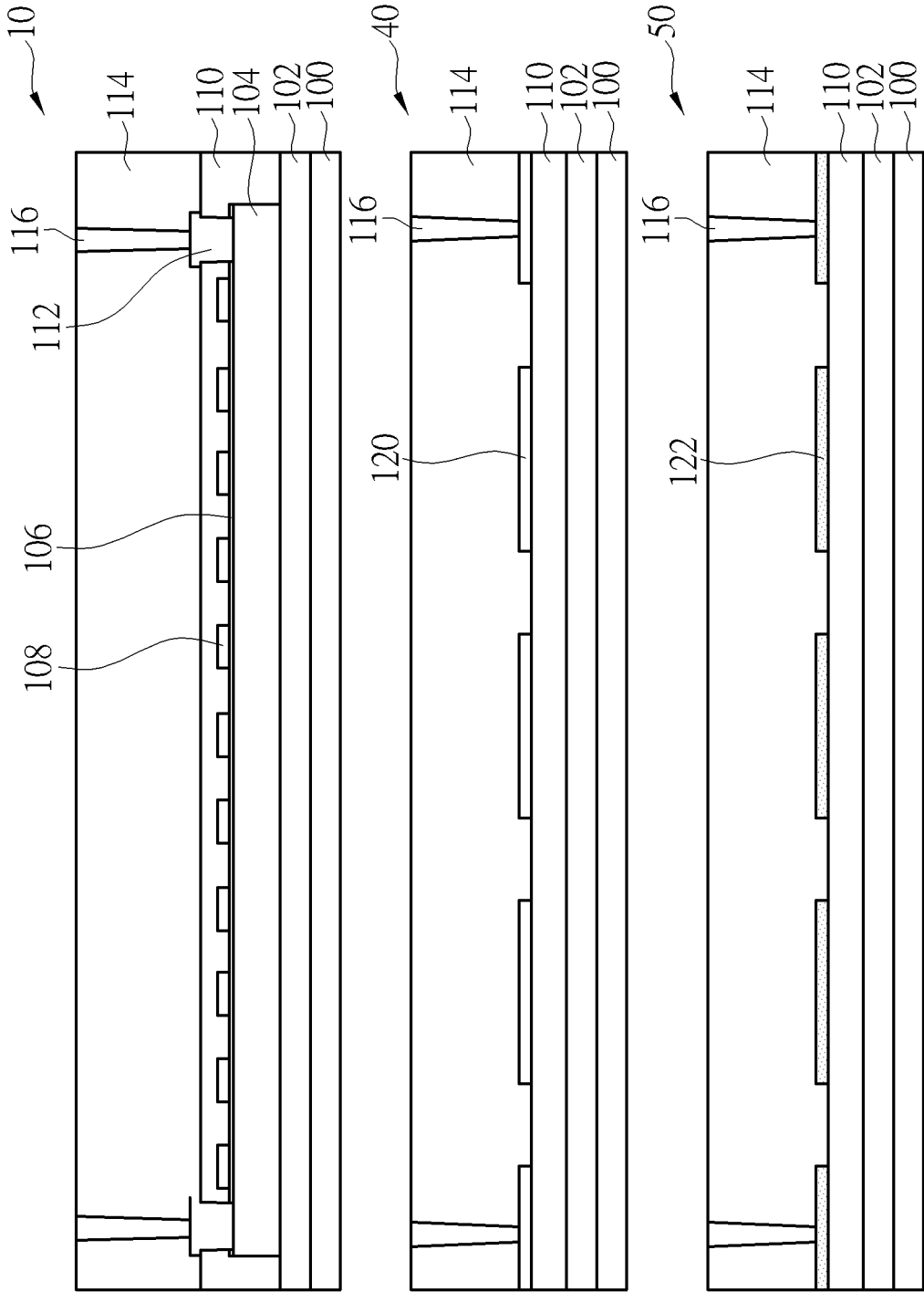


FIG. 11

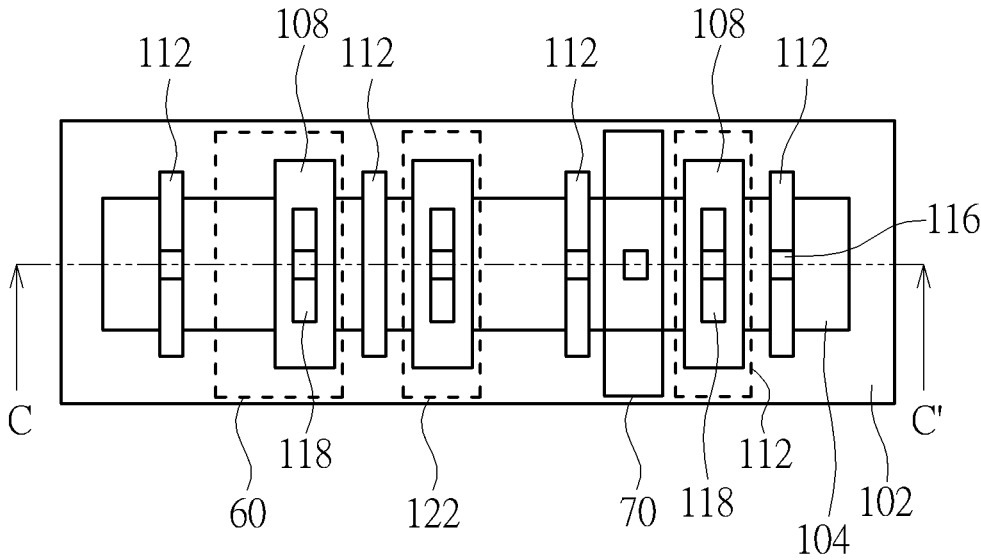


FIG. 12

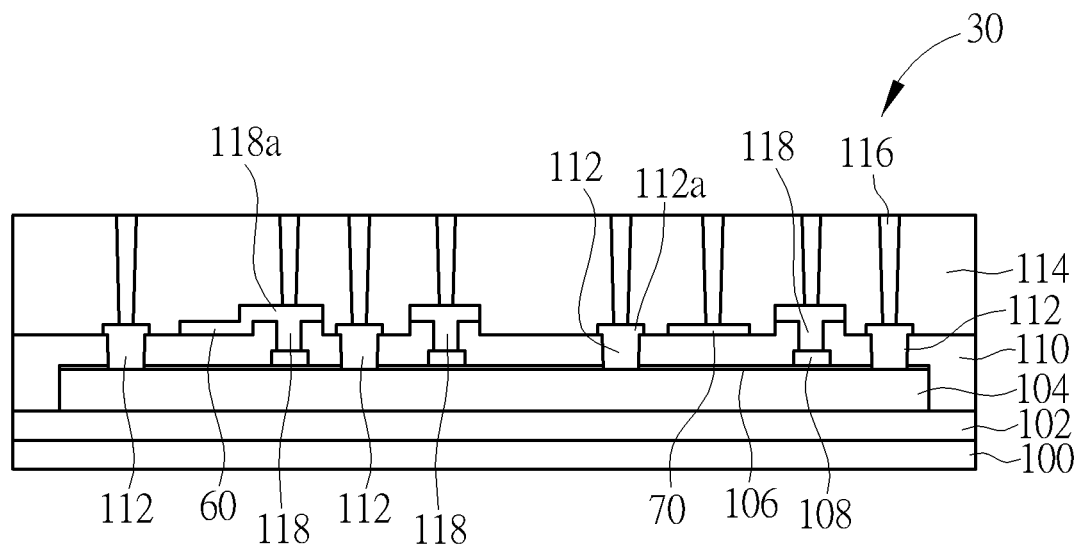


FIG. 13

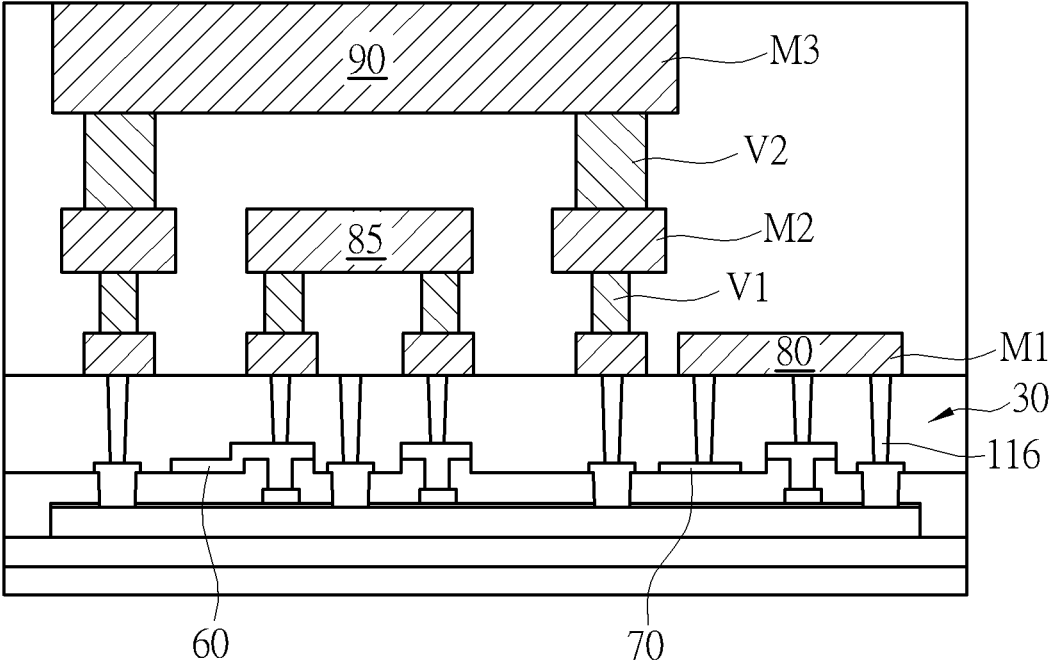


FIG. 14

RESISTOR AND RESISTOR-TRANSISTOR-LOGIC CIRCUIT WITH GAN STRUCTURE AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation application of U.S. Application No. 17/075,707, filed on October 21st, 2020. The content of the application is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates generally to a resistor and a resistor-transistor-logic (RTL) circuit, and more specifically, to a resistor and a resistor-transistor-logic circuit with gallium nitride (GaN) structure and method of manufacturing the same.

2. Description of the Prior Art

[0003] Current semiconductor devices used all over the world are generally Si-based semiconductor using silicon as base material and channels. However, in the application of high-voltage and high power devices, since Si-based device has larger ON resistance that may cause high power consumption and has relatively low switch frequency in high-frequency operation, the performance of Si-based devices is far lower than the level of wide band gap compound semiconductor like gallium nitride (GaN) or silicon carbide (SiC). The wide band gap compound semiconductor material like GaN has wider band gap and lower On resistance, so that it may endure high temperature, high voltage, high frequency and high current and with better energy conversion efficiency. Therefore, GaN material has excellent characteristics of good heat dissipation, small volume, low power consumption and high power, which is suitable in the application of power semiconductor. Boosting by the demand of high-end industry like 5G and electric vehicle in recent years, GaN material becomes a rising star for third generation semiconductor material.

[0004] Although GaN-based compound semiconductor materials have promising development prospects, current global application of GaN material is still limited in the aspect like photoelectric, communication and radio frequency, and source power devices. It can't replace conventional Si-base material in the application of logic circuit and design. Therefore, it is still a subject for those skilled in the art to develop and research how to increase the density of GaN-based MOS devices on a wafer so that they can be practically applied in transistorized digital logic circuit design.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] In light of increased demand and development for aforementioned GaN wide band gap compound semiconductor material, the present invention hereby provides a resistor-transistor-logic (RTL) circuit structure adopting GaN-based structure. The essential feature of the present invention is that its two-dimensional electron gas (2DEG)

resistor device is not formed by conventional mesa etching method. Instead, its resistor is formed by forming p-type doped GaN patterns on a GaN layer to define depletion regions. The advantage of this approach is, in comparison to the mesa etching, that it may significantly increase the density of the resistor devices so that the density of whole RTL circuit may be improved.

[0006] One aspect of the present invention is to provide a resistor-transistor-logic circuit with GaN structure, including a GaN layer with a high-voltage device region, a low-voltage device region and a resistor region, an AlGaIn barrier layer on the GaN layer, multiple p-type doped GaN capping layers on the AlGaIn barrier layer, wherein parts of the p-type doped GaN capping layers in the high-voltage device region and the low-voltage device region convert the GaN layer under the part of p-type doped GaN capping layers into gate depletion regions, the GaN layer not covered by the p-type doped GaN capping layers in the resistor region functions as a 2DEG resistor. Multiple first gates are formed on the p-type doped GaN capping layers in the high-voltage device region, multiple first sources and multiple first drains are formed on the GaN layer in the high-voltage device region, wherein the first gates, the first sources and the first drains constitute high-voltage HEMTs. Multiple second gates are formed on the p-type doped GaN capping layers in the low-voltage device region, and multiple second sources and multiple second drains are formed on the GaN layer in the low-voltage device region, wherein the second gates, the second sources and the second drains constitute low-voltage logic FETs.

[0007] Another aspect of the present invention is to provide a resistor with GaN structure, including a GaN layer with a 2DEG resistor region and an undoped polysilicon resistor region, an AlGaIn barrier layer on the GaN layer in the 2DEG resistor region, multiple p-type doped GaN capping layers arranged on the AlGaIn barrier layer so that the GaN layer not covered by the p-type doped GaN capping layers in the 2DEG resistor region become a 2DEG resistor, a passivation layer on the GaN layer, and an undoped polysilicon layer on the passivation layer in the undoped polysilicon resistor region and functions as an undoped polysilicon resistor.

[0008] Still another aspect of the present invention is to a method of manufacturing a resistor-transistor-logic circuit with GaN structure, including steps of providing a substrate with a high-voltage device region, a low-voltage device region and a resistor region, sequentially forming a GaN layer, an AlGaIn barrier layer and a p-type doped GaN capping layer on the substrate, patterning the p-type doped GaN capping layer into multiple p-type doped GaN capping patterns, wherein the GaN layer under part of the p-type doped GaN capping patterns becomes gate depletion regions, and the GaN layer not covered by the p-type doped GaN capping patterns in the resistor region functions as 2DEG resistors, forming a passivation layer on the GaN layer and the p-type doped GaN capping patterns, forming multiple sources and drains on the GaN layer in the passivation layer, and forming multiple gates on the p-type doped GaN capping patterns in the passivation layer, wherein the gates, the sources and the drains in the high-voltage device region constitute high-voltage HEMTs, and the gates, the sources and the drains in the low-voltage device region constitute low-voltage logic FETs.

[0009] These and other objectives of the present invention will no doubt become obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art after reading the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment that is illustrated in the various figures and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] The accompanying drawings are included to provide a further understanding of the embodiments, and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification. The drawings illustrate some of the embodiments and, together with the description, serve to explain their principles. In the drawings:

[0011] FIG. 1 is a schematic plan view of a 2DEG resistor in accordance with the preferred embodiment of present invention;

[0012] FIG. 2 is a cross-section along the section line A-A' in FIG. 1;

[0013] FIG. 3 is a schematic plan view of low-voltage logic FETs in accordance with the preferred embodiment of present invention;

[0014] FIG. 4 is a cross-section along the section line B-B' in FIG. 3;

[0015] FIG. 5 is a schematic plan view of high-voltage HEMTs in accordance with the preferred embodiment of present invention;

[0016] FIG. 6 is a cross-section along the section line C-C' in FIG. 5;

[0017] FIG. 7 is a schematic plan view and a circuit diagram of a resistor-transistor-logic inverter (INV) circuit structure in accordance with the preferred embodiment of present invention;

[0018] FIG. 8 is a schematic plan view and a circuit diagram of a resistor-transistor-logic NAND circuit structure in accordance with the preferred embodiment of present invention;

[0019] FIG. 9 is a schematic plan view and a circuit diagram of a resistor-transistor-logic NOR circuit structure in accordance with the preferred embodiment of present invention;

[0020] FIG. 10 is a schematic plan view of three different kinds of resistors, including a 2DEG resistor, an undoped polysilicon resistor and a doped polysilicon resistor in accordance with the preferred embodiment of present invention;

[0021] FIG. 11 is cross-sections along the section lines A-A', D-D' and E-E' in FIG. 10;

[0022] FIG. 12 is a schematic plan view of high-voltage HEMTs with field plate structures in accordance with another embodiment of present invention;

[0023] FIG. 13 is a cross-section along the section line C-C' in FIG. 12; and

[0024] FIG. 14 is a cross-section of high-voltage HEMTs with upper metal interconnect resistors in accordance with another embodiment of present invention.

[0025] It should be noted that all the figures are diagrammatic. Relative dimensions and proportions of parts of the drawings have been shown exaggerated or reduced in size, for the sake of clarity and convenience in the drawings. The same reference signs are generally used to refer to corresponding or similar features in modified and different embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0026] Reference now be made in detail to exemplary embodiments of the invention, which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings in order to understand and implement the present disclosure and to realize the technical effect. It can be understood that the following description has been made only by way of example, but not to limit the present disclosure. Various embodiments of the present disclosure and various features in the embodiments that are not conflicted with each other can be combined and rearranged in various ways. Without departing from the spirit and scope of the present disclosure, modifications, equivalents, or improvements to the present disclosure are understandable to those skilled in the art and are intended to be encompassed within the scope of the present disclosure.

[0027] It should be readily understood that the meaning of “on,” “above,” and “over” in the present disclosure should be interpreted in the broadest manner such that “on” not only means “directly on” something but also includes the meaning of “on” something with an intermediate feature or a layer therebetween, and that “above” or “over” not only means the meaning of “above” or “over” something but can also include the meaning it is “above” or “over” something with no intermediate feature or layer therebetween (i.e., directly on something).

[0028] Further, spatially relative terms, such as “beneath,” “below,” “lower,” “above,” “upper,” and the like, may be used herein for ease of description to describe one element or feature’s relationship to another element(s) or feature(s) as illustrated in the figures.

[0029] In general, terminology may be understood at least in part from usage in context. For example, the term “one or more” as used herein, depending at least in part upon context, may be used to describe any feature, structure, or characteristic in a singular sense or may be used to describe combinations of features, structures or characteristics in a plural sense. Similarly, terms, such as “a,” “an,” or “the,” again, may be understood to convey a singular usage or to convey a plural usage, depending at least in part upon context. In addition, the term “based on” may be understood as not necessarily intended to convey an exclusive set of factors and may, instead, allow for existence of additional factors not necessarily expressly described, again, depending at least in part on context.

[0030] It should be further understood that the terms “comprises” and/or “comprising”, when used in this specification, specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps, operations, elements, and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, operations, elements, components, and/or groups thereof.

[0031] As used herein, the term “layer” refers to a material portion including a region with a thickness. A layer can extend over the entirety of an underlying or overlying structure, or may have an extent less than the extent of an underlying or overlying structure. Further, a layer can be a region of a homogeneous or inhomogeneous continuous structure that has a thickness less than the thickness of the continuous structure. For example, a layer can be located between any pair of horizontal planes between, or at, a top surface and a bottom surface of the continuous structure. A layer can extend horizontally, vertically, and/or along a tapered surface. A substrate can be a layer, can include one or more

layers therein, and/or can have one or more layer thereupon, thereabove, and/or therebelow. A layer can include multiple layers. For example, an interconnect layer can include one or more conductor and contact layers (in which contacts, interconnect lines, and/or through holes are formed) and one or more dielectric layers.

[0032] The purpose of present invention is to provide a circuit structure used gallium nitride (GaN) as channels. The resistor devices (FIG. 1 and FIG. 2), low-voltage logic field effect transistors (FETs, in FIG. 3 and FIG. 4) and high-voltage high electron mobility transistor (HEMTs, in FIG. 5 and FIG. 6) with this kind of GaN channels will be described in embodiments, and the resistor-transistor-logic (RTL) circuit design based on these devices are also provided (FIG. 7 and FIG. 9). Furthermore, the GaN-based resistor provided in the present invention may work together with other known resistors to provide a full-scale resistor combination with different resistance magnitudes to be applied in different circuit structures or components.

[0033] According to the embodiment of present invention, forming an aluminum gallium nitride (AlGaN) barrier layer on a GaN layer can constitute a heteroepitaxial structure. The spontaneous polarization induced by the strain at the heterogeneous interface and the piezoelectric polarization induced by the epitaxial stress would form a two-dimensional electron gas (2DEG) channel in the GaN layer close to the interface. The 2DEG channel has the characteristics of extremely high charge polarization, high mobility as well as excellent thermal stability and high breakdown field, so this structure may be used to constitute HEMT devices. However, the FET constituted by the aforementioned channel mechanism is normally-on (i.e., its conductive channel is always on without voltage applied to gates). A gate bias will be needed to cut off this type of normally-on transistor, so that it may have increased power consumption and require additional layout area for control circuits. In the light of this, by forming a p-type doped GaN (p-GaN) capping layer on the AlGaN layer, the 2DEG channel under the GaN layer may be depleted into a gate depletion region, so as to manufacture normally-off or enhancement mode FET devices, which is always in off state without applied bias to gate.

[0034] According to the aforementioned fundamental principle about the GaN epitaxial structure, relevant GaN devices in the present invention will now be described in following embodiments. Firstly, please refer to FIG. 1, which is a schematic plan view of a 2DEG resistor in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention. The 2DEG resistor **10** in the present invention is formed on a GaN epitaxial layer **102**. A GaN mesa layer **104** and an AlGaN barrier layer **106** on the GaN mesa layer **104** are formed on the GaN epitaxial layer **102** to define the boundary of active areas of the GaN devices. In order to convert the GaN mesa layer **104** into desired resistor structures, multiple p-type doped GaN capping layer **108** are formed on the AlGaN barrier layer **106** in a staggered arrangement, so that the exposed region of the GaN mesa layer/AlGaN barrier layer **104/106** looks like a winding pattern in the plan view. Part of the p-type doped GaN capping layer **108** may extend beyond the GaN mesa layer **104**. The winding portion of the exposed GaN mesa layer/AlGaN barrier layer **104/106** has higher conductivity than the one of surrounding portion that is covered by the p-type doped GaN capping layer **108**, so the winding portion may func-

tion as a customized resistor structure. The length and width of the winding portion and the thickness of 2DEG channel formed therein determine the resistance of the resistor, which is about 300 ohm/sq, suitable as a resistor component for digital logic circuit. Source and drain **112** are formed at two terminals of the winding pattern and are further connected to external circuit through upper contacts **116**.

[0035] Next, please refer to FIG. 2, which is a cross-section along the section line A-A' in FIG. 1. The following embodiment will describe the vertical connections and relative positions of the components of the 2DEG resistor **10** and their manufacturing method in cross-sectional views. A substrate **100** is provided at the bottom of the 2DEG resistor **10**. The substrate **100** is divided into three different device regions, including a resistor region **100a**, a low-voltage device region **100b** (FIG. 4) and a high-voltage device region **100c** (FIG. 6). The 2DEG resistor **10** of the present invention is formed in the divided resistor region **100a**. A silicon substrate with <111> crystallographic plane may be used as the substrate **100** to avoid dislocation or defect issues caused by mismatched lattice constants and coefficients of thermal expansion in later heterogeneous epitaxy process. In other embodiment, aluminum oxide, silicon carbide <0001>, gallium arsenide <100> or gallium arsenide <111> may also be used as the material of the substrate **100**. Next, forming a GaN epitaxial layer **101** and an AlGaN barrier layer **106** sequentially, for example by MOCVD or HVPE process, on the substrate **100**. A 2DEG channel is formed in the GaN epitaxial layer **101** close to the heterogeneous interface between the GaN epitaxial layer **101** and the AlGaN barrier layer **106**. In some embodiment, AlGaN barrier layer **106** may be a multilayer structure, which may include layers of AlN, AlGaN and/or InAlGaN, etc., and these layers may have gradient composition ratios to achieve better epitaxy quality and channel characteristics. In some embodiment, buffer layers or superlattice layers (not shown) made of low-temperature GaN, AlN or ZnO may be grown in advance on the substrate **100** before the high-temperature GaN epitaxial layer **101** and the AlGaN barrier layer **106**, in order to mitigate the lattice mismatch issue.

[0036] Refer still to FIG. 2. After the GaN epitaxial layer **102** and the AlGaN barrier layer **106** are formed, a mesa etching process is then required to form the active areas of devices and achieve better performances of breakdown voltage and drain leakage. A dry etching process like ICP or RIE with Cl₂/Ar or Cl₂/BCl₃ based etching gas may be adopted to pattern the GaN epitaxial layer **102** and the AlGaN barrier layer **106** thereon to a certain depth, so as to form a damage-free mesa isolation with vertical sidewalls. It is shown in the figure that the GaN epitaxial layer **101** grown in previous process is divided into a lower GaN epitaxial layer **102** covering the whole substrate **100** and an upper GaN mesa layer **104** in the defined active area. The AlGaN barrier layer **106** remains only on the GaN mesa layer **104** to form the 2DEG channel required only in the area. In other embodiments, the device may be manufactured directly on the GaN epitaxial layer **101** without mesa etching to form the GaN mesa layer **104**.

[0037] Refer still to FIG. 2. After the GaN mesa layer **104** is formed, a patterned p-type doped GaN capping layer **108** is then formed on the AlGaN barrier layer **106**. The p-type doped GaN capping layer **108** may be a GaN layer doped with Mg. The p-type doped GaN capping layer **108** is pat-

terned into multiple strip patterns as shown in FIG. 1. In this way, the 2DEG channel in the GaN mesa layer **104** right under the patterned p-type doped GaN capping layer **108** is converted into a normally-off depletion region, while the GaN mesa layer **104** not covered by the patterned p-type doped GaN capping layer **108**, i.e. the winding pattern in FIG. 1, may function as a resistor structure with higher conductivity. The p-type doped GaN capping layer **108** may be formed and patterned by the same processes as the ones used in aforementioned mesa etching step. After the patterned p-type doped GaN capping layer **108** is formed, a passivation layer **110**, such as a SiN layer, is then formed on the substrate **100** to cover the GaN epitaxial layer **102**, GaN mesa layer **104**, AlGaIn barrier layer **106** and patterned p-type doped GaN capping layer **108**. In the embodiment of present invention, the passivation layer **110** not only protects the patterned p-type doped GaN capping layer **108** and the AlGaIn barrier layer **106**, but also provides isolation effect to reduce current leakage for the gates and source/drains of HEMT devices that will be formed in later processes. In some embodiment, the passivation layer **110** may further function as a dielectric layer for field plate portions or structures. The passivation layer **110** in the embodiments may be formed by CVD process, with materials selected from silicon oxide, aluminum oxide, aluminum nitride, silicon oxynitride, Teflon® or hafnium oxide.

[0038] Refer still to FIG. 2. After the passivation layer **110** is formed, source/drain openings **110a** are then formed in the passivation layer **110**, and the openings **110a** are then filled with source/drain material to form sources/drains **112**. The steps of forming sources/drains **112** may include: firstly, forming openings in the passivation layer **110**, performing an E-beam evaporation to deposit source/drain material, ex. multilayer structure made of Ti/Al/ Ni/Ag materials, in the source/drain openings **110a** and on the passivation layer **110**. A photolithography process is then performed to pattern the source/drain material on the passivation layer **110** to form source/drain patterns. Lastly, perform a rapid thermal annealing process to form ohmic contacts. In the embodiment of the present invention, the AlGaIn barrier layer **106** under sources/drains **112** may be optionally removed or kept. It is shown in the figure that the sources/drains **112** formed after the process are provided with horizontally extending field plate portions **112a** on the passivation layer **110**, which may modify the electric field there to achieve better breakdown voltage.

[0039] Refer still to FIG. 2. After the sources/drains **112** are formed, an interlayer dielectric **114** is formed on entire passivation layer **110** to cover the sources/drains **112**. The interlayer dielectric **114** may be formed by CVD with materials like silicon oxide. Next, forming contact openings in the interlayer dielectric **114** to expose the sources/drains **112** and filling the contact openings with contact material such as W, Co or Cu, to form contacts **116** connecting the sources/drains **112**. The manufacture of 2DEG resistor **10** of the present invention is, therefore, completed.

[0040] The advantages of the 2DEG resistor **10** in present invention is, by adopting the method of forming depletion regions with p-type doped GaN capping layer **108** to define the winding structure of resistor, the approach of present invention make it easier to reduce the width of the winding structure in comparison to conventional mesa etching approach for forming the winding structure in prior art, so that the density per unit area of the resistor of the present

invention may be significantly increased to benefit the application of the devices in the manufacture and design of RTL circuit.

[0041] Please refer next to FIG. 3, which is a schematic plan view of low-voltage logic FETs **20** in accordance with the preferred embodiment of present invention. In addition to the aforementioned resistor devices, in the embodiment of present invention, the GaN-base structure may also form desired FET structures on the substrate in similar way. As shown in the figure, similarly, the low-voltage logic FETs **20** is also formed on the same GaN epitaxial layer **102** as the aforementioned 2DEG resistor **10**. The GaN epitaxial layer **102** is provided with the GaN mesa layer **104** and the AlGaIn barrier layer **106** on the GaN mesa layer **104**, to define the active areas of the low-voltage logic FETs **20** and form 2DEG channels. Unlike the aforementioned 2DEG resistor **10**, multiple spaced apart p-type doped GaN capping layer **108** are provided on the AlGaIn barrier layer **106** to form normally-off gate depletion regions in the GaN mesa layer **104**, wherein each p-type doped GaN capping layer **108** corresponds to a gate region with a gate **118** formed thereon. Parts of the p-type doped GaN capping layer **108** may extend beyond the GaN mesa layer **104**. In this way, the exposed GaN mesa layer/AlGaIn barrier layer **104/106** would have higher conductivity than the one of surrounding gate regions covered by the p-type doped GaN capping layer **108**, so that it may function as source/drain regions for the low-voltage FETs **20**, and sources/drains **112** are formed on these regions. Contacts **116** are formed on gates **118** and sources/drains **112** to electrically connect to external circuits.

[0042] Please note that, in the embodiment of present invention, the spacing $d1$ between source and gate of the low-voltage logic FET **20** is intended to be equal to the spacing $d2$ between drain and gate of the low-voltage logic FET **20**. This feature is distinguished from the one in prior art, that the spacing between drain and gate of the GaN HEMT device is usually designedly larger than the spacing between source and gate. The advantage of equal spacing is that it may significantly reduce necessary layout area for the devices, thereby significantly increasing the density per unit area of the FETs and benefiting the application in the manufacture and design of RTL circuits.

[0043] Next, please refer to FIG. 4, which is a cross-section along the section line B-B' in FIG. 3. The following embodiment will describe the vertical connections and relative positions of the components of the low-voltage logic FET **20** and their manufacturing method in cross-sectional views. The layer structures and processes of the low-voltage logic FET **20** are generally the same as the ones of aforementioned 2DEG resistor **10**, with the difference that the low-voltage FET **20** is formed in the low-voltage device region **100b** of the substrate **100**, and the main purpose of its p-type doped GaN capping layer **108** is to define gate depletion regions of the FET devices rather than the winding portion of the resistor. Gates **118** will be formed on the p-type doped GaN capping layer **108**. Gates **118** in the embodiment may be formed after sources/drains **112** through the same processes, for example by forming openings in the passivation layer **110** and depositing gate material, ex. Ni/Ag multilayer structure, in the openings and on the passivation layer **100**. A photolithography process is then performed to form gate patterns and a rapid thermal annealing is performed to form ohmic contacts. It is shown in the fig-

ure that the formed gates **118** on the passivation layer **110** are also provided with horizontally extending field plate portions **118a**, which may modify the electric field there to achieve better breakdown voltage. Other components and processes similar to the ones described in previous embodiment will not be herein repeated.

[0044] Next, please refer to FIG. 5, which is a schematic plan view of high-voltage HEMTs in accordance with the preferred embodiment of present invention. In addition to the aforementioned resistor device and low-voltage logic device, in the embodiment of present invention, the GaN-base structure may also form desired HEMT structures on the substrate in similar way. As shown in the figure, similarly, the HEMTs **30** are also formed on the same GaN epitaxial layer **102** like aforementioned 2DEG resistors **10** and low-voltage logic FETs **20**. The GaN epitaxial layer **102** is provided with the GaN mesa layer **104** and the AlGaN barrier layer **106** on the GaN mesa layer **104** to define the active areas of high-voltage HEMTs **30** and form 2DEG channels. In order to form normally-off gate depletion regions in the GaN mesa layer **104**, multiple spaced apart p-type doped GaN capping layer **108** are provided on the AlGaN barrier layer **106**, wherein each p-type doped GaN capping layer **108** corresponds to a gate region with a gate **118** formed thereon. Parts of the p-type doped GaN capping layer **108** may extend beyond the GaN mesa layer **104**. In this way, the exposed GaN mesa layer/AlGaN barrier layer **104/106** would have higher conductivity than the ones of surrounding gate regions covered by the p-type doped GaN capping layer **108**, so that they may function as source/drain regions of the high-voltage HEMTs **30**, and sources/drains **112** are formed on those regions. Contacts **116** are further formed on gates **118** and sources/ drains **112** to electrically connect to external circuits.

[0045] Please note that in the embodiment of present invention, the spacing $d1$ between source and gate of the high-voltage HEMT **30** is designedly not equal to the spacing $d2$ between drain and gate of the high-voltage HEMT **30**. The drain-to-gate spacing $d2$ may be designedly several times larger than the source-to-gate spacing $d1$. The advantage of larger drain-to-gate spacing $d2$ is that the breakdown voltage of the device may be improved by extending drift regions and field plate portions. Relevant details will be described in following embodiments.

[0046] Please refer to FIG. 6, which is a cross-section along the section line C-C' in FIG. 5. The following embodiment will describe the vertical connections and relative positions of the components of the high-voltage HEMT **30** and their manufacturing method in cross-sectional views. The layer structures and processes of the high-voltage HEMT **30** are generally the same as the ones of aforementioned low-voltage logic FETs **20**, with the difference that the high-voltage HEMT **30** is formed in the high-voltage device region **100c** defined on the substrate **100** and is provided with larger drain-to-gate spacing $d2$ and additional field plate structures to improve breakdown voltage of the devices. Other components and processes similar to the ones described in previous embodiments will not be herein repeated.

[0047] After describing the layouts and structures of the 2DEG resistor **10**, the low-voltage logic FET **20** and the high-voltage HEMT **30**, basic RTL circuits constituted by the aforementioned 2DEG resistor **10** and low-voltage

logic FET **20** of the present invention will now be described through FIG. 7 to FIG. 9.

[0048] Firstly, please refer to FIG. 7, which includes a schematic plan view and a circuit diagram of an inverter (INV) circuit structure in accordance with the preferred embodiment of present invention. As shown in the figure, the inverter INV of the present invention is constituted by a 2DEG resistor **10** and a low-voltage logic FET **20**, wherein the gate of low-voltage logic FET **20** is connected to an input voltage In , the source of low-voltage logic FET **20** is grounded, and the drain of low-voltage logic FET **20** and the source of 2DEG resistor **10** are connected with each other and are connected collectively to an output voltage Out , while the drain of 2DEG resistor **10** is connected with an operating voltage V_{DD} . In the operation, when the input voltage In equals the operating voltage V_{DD} (high level), the low-voltage logic FET **20** is turned ON and the output voltage Out is approximately equal to the ground voltage GND (low level). When the input voltage In equals $0V$ (low level), the low-voltage logic FET **20** is in cut-off state and the output voltage Out is approximately equal to the operating voltage V_{DD} (high level).

[0049] Next, please refer to FIG. 8, which includes a schematic plan view and a circuit diagram of a RTL NAND circuit structure in accordance with the preferred embodiment of present invention. As shown in the figure, the NAND circuit of the present invention is constituted by a 2DEG resistor **10** and two series low-voltage logic FETs **20**, wherein the gates of the two low-voltage logic FETs **20** are connected respectively to an input voltage InA and an input voltage InB , the source of one of the low-voltage logic FET **20** is grounded, and the drain of the other low-voltage logic FET **20** and the source of 2DEG resistor **10** are connected with each other and are connected collectively to an output voltage Out , while the drain of 2DEG resistor **10** is connected with an operating voltage V_{DD} . In the operation, only when the input voltages InA and InB both equal to the operating voltage V_{DD} (high level), the two low-voltage logic FETs **20** in series will be turned ON to make the output voltage Out equals to the ground voltage GND (low level). When the two input voltages InA and InB are both in low level or one of them is in low level, at least one of the two series low-voltage logic FETs **20** would be in cut-off state to make the output voltage Out approximately equal the operating voltage V_{DD} (high level).

[0050] Next, please refer to FIG. 9, which includes a schematic plan view and a circuit diagram of a RTL NOR circuit structure in accordance with the preferred embodiment of present invention. As shown in the figure, the NOR circuit of the present invention is constituted by a 2DEG resistor **10** and two parallel low-voltage logic FETs **20**, wherein the gate of two low-voltage logic FETs **20** are connected respectively to an input voltage InA and an input voltage InB , two sources of the low-voltage logic FETs **20** are respectively grounded, the common drain of the two parallel low-voltage logic FETs **20** is connected with the source of 2DEG resistor **10** and are collectively connected to the output voltage Out , and the drain of 2DEG resistor **10** is connected with the operating voltage V_{DD} . In the operation, only when the input voltages InA and InB both equal $0V$ (low level), the output voltage Out of the common drain would be approximately equal to the operating voltage V_{DD} (high level). When the two input voltages InA and InB are both in high level or one of them is in high level, at least one of the two

low-voltage logic FETs **20** in parallel will be turned ON to make the output voltage Out of the common drain approximately equal to the ground voltage GND (low level).

[0051] After describing the application of 2DEG resistor **10** and low-voltage logic FET **20** of the present invention in RTL circuits, the following embodiment will describe the combination of 2DEG resistor **10** of the present invention with other known resistors to provide a full-scale resistor scheme with different resistance magnitudes to be applied in different circuit structures or components.

[0052] Firstly, please refer to FIG. **10**, which is a schematic plan view of three different resistors, including a 2DEG resistor **10**, an undoped polysilicon resistor **40** and a doped polysilicon resistor **50** in accordance with the preferred embodiment of present invention. The three different resistors are manufactured on the same GaN substrate with different materials for their winding portions, wherein the 2DEG resistor **10** uses GaN mesa layer **104**, the undoped polysilicon resistor **40** uses undoped polysilicon layer **120** and the doped polysilicon resistor **50** uses doped polysilicon layer **122** as their winding portions. Since different materials are used, the three different resistors are provided with resistances in different magnitudes, wherein the resistance of undoped polysilicon resistor **40** is about 2000 ohm/sq (suitable for analog-to-digital converter, ADC), the resistances of 2DEG resistor **10** and doped polysilicon resistor **50** are respectively about 300 ohm/sq and 50 ohm/sq (suitable for RTL circuit).

[0053] Next, please refer to FIG. **11**, which includes cross-sections along the section lines A-A', D-D' and E-E' in FIG. **10**. The following embodiment will describe the vertical connections and relative positions of the components of the three different resistors and their manufacturing method in cross-sectional views, wherein the details about the 2DEG resistor **10** is similar to previous embodiments and will not be herein repeated. Regarding the undoped polysilicon resistor **40**, since 2DEG channel is not required in a non GaN-based resistor, layer structures like the GaN mesa layer **104**, AlGaIn barrier layer **106** and p-type doped GaN capping layer **108** are not formed on the GaN epitaxial layer **102** in the undoped polysilicon region. The doped polysilicon layer **120** is formed directly on the passivation layer **110** by a LPCVD process and function as the winding portion of the resistor, and the interlayer dielectric **114** covers on the whole resistor. Similarly, layer structures like the GaN mesa layer **104**, AlGaIn barrier layer **106** and p-type doped GaN capping layer **108** are not formed on the GaN epitaxial layer **102** of the doped polysilicon resistor **50**. The doped polysilicon layer **122** may be formed directly on the passivation layer **110** by a CVD process, with in-situ doping using n-type dopants such as P or As, to function as the winding portion of the resistor.

[0054] It can be understood from the aforementioned embodiments that the resistor structures and relevant processes provided by the present invention may easily integrate the three different kinds of resistors, including 2DEG resistor **10**, undoped polysilicon resistor **40** and doped polysilicon resistor **50**, on the same GaN substrate without additional steps or modifying current process flow.

[0055] Next, please refer to FIG. **12** and FIG. **13**, which include a schematic plan view of high-voltage HEMTs with field plate structures in accordance with another embodiment of present invention and a cross-section taken along the section line C-C' in FIG. **12**. The high-voltage HEMT

30 in this embodiment is similar to the ones shown in FIG. **5** and FIG. **6**, with differences that additional field plate structures **60**, **70** are provided on the passivation layer **110** between gate **118** and drain **112** to further improve the breakdown voltage of the device, wherein the field plate structure **60** may be a part of original field plate portion **118a** of the gate **118** or an individual pattern not connected with the gate **118** but formed simultaneously with the gate **118**. Similarly, the field plate structure **60** may be a part of original field plate portion **112a** of the drain **112** or an individual pattern not connected with the drain **112** but formed simultaneously with the gate **112**. In the embodiment of present invention, the resistances of field plate structures **60** and **70** are approximately 0.2-0.3 ohm/sq, which may function as a resistor structure to be applied in devices and circuits.

[0056] Lastly, please refer to FIG. **14**, which is a cross-section of high-voltage HEMTs with upper metal interconnect resistors in accordance with another embodiment of present invention. In this embodiment of present invention, the resistors mentioned in previous embodiments may be further combined with the metal interconnect resistor formed in metal interconnect structure to achieve full-scale resistor scheme with different resistance magnitudes. As shown in the figure, the high-voltage HEMT **30** may be connected to the upper metal interconnects, such as metal layers M1, M2, M3 and vias V1, V2, through contacts **116**. The desired metal interconnect resistor may be formed by parts of metal lines in the metal interconnect structure, such as the metal interconnect resistors **80**, **85** and **90** respectively in metal layers M1, M2 and M3. As the thicknesses of upper metal layers are usually larger than the ones of lower metal layer, the resistances of metal interconnect resistors **80**, **85**, **90** become smaller in order. For example, the resistances of metal interconnect resistors **80**, **85**, **90** in the embodiment are respectively 0.08 ohm/sq, 0.04 ohm/sq and 0.01 ohm/sq.

[0057] Accordingly, as a summary to the aforementioned embodiments, a resistor combination and scheme integrated with the resistors with different resistance magnitudes, including 2DEG resistor **10**, undoped polysilicon resistor **40**, doped polysilicon resistor **50**, field plate structures **60**, **70** and the metal interconnect resistors **80**, **85**, **90**, are provided in the present invention, with the resistances ranging from 5000 ohm/sq to 0.01 ohm/sq, to be applied in circuits required different resistance magnitudes.

[0058] Those skilled in the art will readily observe that numerous modifications and alterations of the device and method may be made while retaining the teachings of the invention. Accordingly, the above disclosure should be construed as limited only by the metes and bounds of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A resistor-transistor-logic inverter circuit with GaN structures, comprising:
 - a 2DEG resistor, wherein a drain of said 2DEG resistor is connected with an operating voltage; and
 - a logic FET, wherein a gate of said logic FET is connected to an input voltage, a source of said logic FET is grounded, and a drain of said logic FET and a source of said 2DEG resistor are connected with each other and are connected collectively to an output voltage.
2. The resistor-transistor-logic inverter circuit with GaN structures of claim **1**, wherein in an operation, when said input voltage equals said operating voltage, said logic FET

20 is turned ON and said output voltage is approximately equal to a ground voltage, when said input voltage equals 0 V, said logic FET is in cut-off state and said output voltage is approximately equal to said operating voltage.

3. The resistor-transistor-logic inverter circuit with GaN structures of claim 1, wherein said 2DEG resistor comprises:

- a GaN layer;
- an AlGaIn barrier layer on said GaN layer; and
- multiple p-type doped GaN capping layers on said AlGaIn barrier layer, wherein said GaN layer not covered by said p-type doped GaN capping layers functions as said 2DEG resistor.

4. The resistor-transistor-logic inverter circuit with GaN structures of claim 3, wherein said p-type doped GaN capping layers are in a staggered arrangement on said GaN layer so that said GaN layer not covered by said p-type doped GaN capping layers forms a winding pattern of said 2DEG resistor.

5. The resistor-transistor-logic inverter circuit with GaN structures of claim 1, wherein said logic FET comprises:

- a GaN layer;
- an AlGaIn barrier layer on said GaN layer;
- a p-type doped GaN capping layers on said AlGaIn barrier layer, wherein said p-type doped GaN capping layer converts said GaN layer under said p-type doped GaN capping layers into gate depletion regions;
- said gate formed on said p-type doped GaN capping layer; and
- said source and said drain formed on said GaN layer at two sides of said gate respectively, wherein said gate, said source and said drain constitute said logic FET.

6. A resistor-transistor-logic NAND circuit with GaN structures, comprising:

- a 2DEG resistor, wherein a drain of said 2DEG resistor is connected with an operating voltage;
- a first logic FET, wherein a gate of said first logic FET is connected to a first input voltage, and a source of said first logic FET is grounded; and
- a second logic FET, wherein a gate of said second logic FET is connected to a second input voltage, a drain of said second logic FET and a source of said 2DEG resistor are connected with each other and are connected collectively to an output voltage, a source of said second logic FET is connected with a drain of said first logic FET, and said first logic FET and said second logic FET are in series connection.

7. The resistor-transistor-logic NAND circuit with GaN structures of claim 6, wherein in an operation, when said first input voltage and said second input voltage equal said operating voltage, said first logic FET and said second logic FET are turned ON and said output voltage is approximately equal to a ground voltage, when said first input voltage and said second input voltage equal 0 V, said first logic FET and said second logic FET are in cut-off state and said output voltage is approximately equal to said operating voltage.

8. The resistor-transistor-logic NAND circuit with GaN structures of claim 6, wherein said 2DEG resistor comprises:

- a GaN layer;
- an AlGaIn barrier layer on said GaN layer; and
- multiple p-type doped GaN capping layers on said AlGaIn barrier layer, wherein said GaN layer not covered by said p-type doped GaN capping layers functions as said 2DEG resistor.

9. The resistor-transistor-logic NAND circuit with GaN structures of claim 8, wherein said p-type doped GaN capping layers are in a staggered arrangement on said GaN layer so that

said GaN layer not covered by said p-type doped GaN capping layers forms a winding pattern of said 2DEG resistor.

10. The resistor-transistor-logic NAND circuit with GaN structures of claim 6, wherein said first logic FET and said second logic FET comprise:

- a GaN layer;
- an AlGaIn barrier layer on said GaN layer;
- two p-type doped GaN capping layers on said AlGaIn barrier layer, wherein said two p-type doped GaN capping layers convert said GaN layer under said two p-type doped GaN capping layers into gate depletion regions;
- two gates formed respectively on said two p-type doped GaN capping layers;
- said source and said drain of said first logic FET formed on said GaN layer at two sides of said gate of said first logic FET; and
- said source and said drain of said second logic FET formed on said GaN layer at two sides of said gate of second logic FET.

11. The resistor-transistor-logic NAND circuit with GaN structures of claim 10, wherein said drain of said first logic FET and said source of said second logic FET are common.

12. A resistor-transistor-logic NOR circuit with GaN structures, comprising:

- a 2DEG resistor, wherein a drain of said 2DEG resistor is connected with an operating voltage;
- a first logic FET, wherein a gate of said first logic FET is connected to a first input voltage, and a source of said first logic FET is grounded; and
- a second logic FET, wherein a gate of said second logic FET is connected to a second input voltage, a source of said second logic FET is grounded, a drain of said second logic FET and a drain of said first logic FET are connected to a common output voltage and are connected collectively to a source of said 2DEG resistor, and said first logic FET and said second logic FET are in parallel connection.

13. The resistor-transistor-logic NOR circuit with GaN structures of claim 12, wherein in an operation, only when said first input voltage and said second input voltage both equal 0V, said output voltage is approximately equal to said operating voltage, and when said first input voltage and said second input voltage are both in said operating voltage or one of them is in said operating voltage, at least one of said first logic FET and said second logic FET is turn ON to make said output voltage approximately equal to a ground voltage.

14. The resistor-transistor-logic NOR circuit with GaN structures of claim 12, wherein said 2DEG resistor comprises:

- a GaN layer;
- an AlGaIn barrier layer on said GaN layer; and
- multiple p-type doped GaN capping layers on said AlGaIn barrier layer, wherein said GaN layer not covered by said p-type doped GaN capping layers functions as said 2DEG resistor.

15. The resistor-transistor-logic NOR circuit with GaN structures of claim 14, wherein said p-type doped GaN capping layers are in a staggered arrangement on said GaN layer so that said GaN layer not covered by said p-type doped GaN capping layers forms a winding pattern of said 2DEG resistor.

16. The resistor-transistor-logic NOR circuit with GaN structures of claim 12, wherein said first logic FET and said second logic FET comprise:

- a GaN layer;
- an AlGaIn barrier layer on said GaN layer;

two p-type doped GaN capping layers on said AlGaIn barrier layer, wherein said two p-type doped GaN capping layers convert said GaN layer under said two p-type doped GaN capping layers into gate depletion regions; two gates formed respectively on said two p-type doped GaN capping layers; said source and said drain of said first logic FET formed on said GaN layer at two sides of said gate of said first logic FET; and said source and said drain of said second logic FET formed on said GaN layer at two sides of said gate of second logic FET.

17. The resistor-transistor-logic NOR circuit with GaN structures of claim 16, wherein said drain of said first logic FET and said drain of said second logic FET are common.

* * * * *