

applications as a hearing aid having an combined transducer-battery-amplifier device in order to provide a radio frequency-wave-rechargeable hearing aid which could be taken out of the ear at night and placed in a RF-emitting recharging stand (e.g., that of FIG. 27M), avoiding the need to replace batteries or even to electrically connect to an external recharging circuit.

[0279] In various embodiments, such an antenna or electromagnetic radiation receiving loop 2660 is fabricated on device 2202, 2203, 2203, 2204, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2300, 2400, or 2500 (or 2700 described below) or other battery devices described herein. In some such embodiments, electromagnetic radiation received wirelessly by antenna 2660 can be such low-frequency radiation as 50-or 60-hertz magnetic radiation from a coil connected to house current (e.g., that of FIG. 27L). In other such embodiments, RF radiation such as radio, TV, cellular, etc. having frequencies up to and exceeding 2.4 GHz is received. In some embodiments, multiple antennae are used, e.g., one for transducing communications signals and another for receiving recharging signals. FIG. 26B shows a block diagram of a layer-deposition system 2660. System 2660 is much the same as system 2560 of FIG. 25B, except that the battery material is deposited on the back of the sheet, i.e., on the side opposite the active parts or connections of circuit 2510.

[0280] FIG. 26C shows a perspective view of a processed sheet 2669. Sheet 2669 includes a plurality of devices or circuits 2510 each having a battery 2320 on the back. FIG. 26D shows a perspective view of diced final devices 2600 after being dices or cut apart. FIG. 26E shows a perspective view of wired diced final device 2600 after being wired, e.g., by wires 2615 and 2616 as shown, or by deposited traces (not shown) that extend electrical connections from the top to the bottom of device 2600.

[0281] In some embodiments, a roll of flexible fabric 2661 suitable for use as a substrate for direct energy conversion has deposited on it the necessary elements and/or layers to form the desired unit (such as a photovoltaic cell) using roll-to-roll concepts. The roll is then taken to the energy deposition tool 2660 which is also configured to operate in a roll-to-roll mode. The battery 2320 is fabricated on the backside (the side opposite the active side of the device, e.g., the side having the light-reception face of a photovoltaic cell) of the roll. Electrical connection is made after fabrication using hardwire techniques, such as shown in FIG. 26E.

[0282] In other embodiments such as shown in FIGS. 24B-24F, a roll of flexible fabric 2461 suitable for use as a substrate for direct energy conversion (e.g., for a photovoltaic cell) is deposited with materials to form a solid-state lithium battery using roll-to-roll concepts in system 2460. The resulting roll 2463 is then taken to the direct energy conversion materials deposition tool 2465 which is also configured to operate in a roll-to-roll mode. The direct energy conversion material 2430 is deposited directly on the solid-state battery 2320. In some embodiments, electrical connection is made through vias formed during battery and device fabrication such as shown in FIG. 23.

[0283] In yet other embodiments, roll 2461 above is replaced by a different substrate, such as wafer 2961 of FIG. 29A described below, also suitable for use in direct energy conversion. The fabrication tools 2960 and 2965 are also

configured to handle the new substrate form factor such as square plates or round wafers.

[0284] In still other embodiments, roll 2661 above is replaced by a different substrate, such as wafer 2971 of FIG. 29E below, also suitable for use in direct energy conversion. The fabrication tools 2960 and 2965 are also configured to handle the new substrate form factor such as square plates or round wafers.

[0285] Thus, the present invention provides a method for integrating solid-state lithium batteries with direct energy conversion materials on a flexible fabric. Further, the present invention provides a method for integrating solid-state lithium batteries with direct energy conversion materials on a rigid substrate.

[0286] FIG. 26F shows a perspective view of a hearing aid 2690 incorporating a wired diced final device 2600. In some embodiments, device 2600 includes a photovoltaic cell 2650 for recharging battery 2320 the operates hearing aid 2690. In some embodiments, sound transducers of conventional materials such as piezo-electric materials are deposited as layers by system 2660 to be used as the microphone and speaker of hearing aid 2690.

[0287] FIG. 27A shows a plan view of a starting substrate 2710 of an embodiment that will have an integrated battery and device sharing a common terminal. FIG. 27F shows an elevation view of the starting substrate of FIG. 27A. FIG. 27B shows a plan view of the substrate 2710 of FIG. 27A after deposition of the integrated battery 2320 and device 2430 sharing a common terminal. In some embodiments, integrated battery 2320 and device 2430 are a thin-film battery and supercapacitor having electrical connections 2322, 2324, and 2431 such as shown and described in FIG. 24A above. FIG. 27G shows an elevation view of the partially built device of FIG. 27B. FIG. 27C shows a plan view of the substrate of FIG. 27B after placing and wiring a separately fabricated chip 2440 connected by wires 2441, 2442, and 2443 to the integrated battery 2320 and device 2430 sharing common terminal 2324. FIG. 27H shows an elevation view of the partially built device of FIG. 27C. FIG. 27D shows a plan view of the substrate 2710 of FIG. 27C after placing and wiring a loop antenna 2750. FIG. 27I shows an elevation view of the partially built device of FIG. 27D. FIG. 27E shows a plan view of the final device 2700 having the partially built device of FIG. 27D after a top encapsulation layer 2760 has been deposited. FIG. 27J shows a cross-section elevation view of the device 2700 of FIG. 27E. The elevational views of FIGS. 27E-27J are not to scale. In some embodiments, device 2700 is approximately the size and thickness of a common credit card. In some embodiments, a magnetic strip 2770 and raised lettering 2780 are also fabricated on device 2700.

[0288] FIG. 27K shows a perspective view of the device of FIG. 27E at a magnetic-recharging station. In the embodiment shown, coil 2790 uses house current to generate a 60 Hz magnetic field, and together with coil 2750, form a transformer inducing current flow in coil 2750, which is rectified and used to recharge battery 2320.

[0289] FIG. 27L shows a perspective view of a device 2700 of FIG. 27E, but further including a photovoltaic cell 2650, at a light-recharging station that includes lamp In some embodiments, device 2700 is fabricated in a shape to