

INTERFACIAL MICROSTRUCTURE GROWTH
MECHANISM OF LEAD-FREE SOLDER
USING LASER SOLDERING

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STUDENT'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah or any other institutions.

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ABSTRAK

Mengikuti bukti saintifik, Plumbum (Pb) dikenali sebagai logam yang berpotensi tinggi memberikan kesan buruk ke atas kesihatan manusia. Untuk itu, terdapat pembangunan khusus ke atas elektronik hijau, terutamanya teknologi pembungkusan elektronik termaju yang bertujuan untuk mempromosikan kesihatan masyarakat. Seperti yang kita ketahui, aloi hijau dianggap sebagai pilihan yang selamat untuk persekitaran dan kesihatan manusia. Aloi-aloi ini juga dikenali berdasarkan potensi mereka untuk diguna semula, yang membawa kepada penjimatan kos. Kajian ini bermatlamat untuk menyiasat kesan komposisi aloi pateri hijau yang berbeza terhadap pembentukan dan pertumbuhan sebatian antara logam (IMC) semasa pematerian laser ke atas substrat kuprum metalik. Selain itu, kekuatan sambungan pateri dianalisis melalui ujian mekanikal. Eksperimen dijalankan menggunakan serbuk Sn dan Cu dengan peratusan yang berbeza (Sn-xCu , $x = 0.0, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 1.0$). Dalam kajian ini, proses bermula dengan penyediaan bahan melalui proses metalurgi serbuk. Bahan serbuk ditimbang dan kemudian diadun menggunakan pengisar serbuk pada kelajuan 1300-1500 rpm selama 3 jam. Serbuk campuran kemudian dipadatkan dengan tekanan 5 tan membentuk palet nipis segi empat tepat dengan saiz 3.2x1.5 mm. Kemudian, palet-palet ini dikenakan pematerian laser menggunakan laser gas CO₂ dengan kuasa laser 35 watt, masa imbasan 0.04s, jarak fokus 40mm dan kelajuan imbasan 100mm/s. Substrat yang digunakan dalam eksperimen ini adalah electroless nickel immersion gold (ENIG). Proses diikuti oleh penuaan isoterma selama 0, 200, 500, 1000 dan 2000 jam pada suhu 150°C. Selepas itu, sampel-sampel ini diuji secara mekanikal menggunakan ujian ricih, mengikut piawaian ASTM D1002. Komposisi, ketebalan dan morfologi IMC yang terbentuk selepas pematerian laser diperiksa menggunakan pelbagai teknik pencirian bahan seperti analisis optik dan imej, analisis pengimbasan mikroskop elektron dan energy-dispersive X-ray. Kajian mendapati komposisi bahan mempengaruhi morfologi IMC, yang mana ia juga mempengaruhi kelakuan pertumbuhannya. Peningkatan kandungan Cu di dalam aloi pateri menyebabkan penurunan ketebalan IMC dengan ketebalan terendah pada 0.3wt% Cu. Walaubagaimanapun, ketebalan ini meningkat perlahan-lahan dengan penuaan isoterma, dan IMC berubah dari bentuk jejaram kepada bentuk rata yang berterusan. Pateri 0.7wt% Cu menunjukkan pekali resapan terendah dan paling berkesan mengurangkan pertumbuhan IMC. Tingkahlaku pembasahan bagi pateri komposit Sn-xCu dipengaruhi oleh kandungan partikel Cu, dengan sudut pembasahan terendah adalah didapati pada 0.7wt% Cu. Penambahan Cu ke dalam aloi pateri telah meningkatkan kekuatan ricih sambungan lap tunggal, dengan kekuatan tertinggi adalah didapati pada 0.7wt% Cu. Walaubagaimanapun, kekuatan ricih sambungan Sn-0.3Cu menurun selepas penuaan isothermal. Kombinasi teknik metalurgi serbuk dan pematerian laser telah meningkatkan keboleharapan sambungan pateri di dalam penghasilan mikroelektronik, sekaligus menyediakan potensi penyelesaian untuk mencapai keboleharapan di dalam proses penghasilan mikroelektronik. Kajian menunjukkan keberhasilan pendekatan ini dalam mencapai komposisi dan mikrostruktur yang sekata bagi prabentuk pateri, sekaligus menghasilkan sambungan pateri yang unggul dengan peningkatan ciri-ciri mekanikal dan haba.

ABSTRACT

According to scientific evidence, plumbum (Pb) is recognized as a metal with the highest potential for adverse impacts on human health. For that, there was a growing emphasis on green electronics, particularly advanced electronic packaging technology, to promote societal health. As we know, green alloys are considered a safer option for the environment and human health. These alloys are also recognized for their potential for reuse, resulting in cost-effectiveness. This study aims to investigate the impact of different compositions of green solder alloys on the development and growth of intermetallic compounds (IMC) during laser soldering of a metallized copper substrate. Besides that, the solder joint strength was analyzed through mechanical testing. The experiment used Sn and Cu powder with different percentages (Sn- x Cu, where $x = 0.0, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 1.0$). In this study, the process starts with materials preparation through powder metallurgy process route. Powder material was weighed and then blended using powder milling at the speed range of 1300-1500 rpm for 3 hours. The mixture of powders was compacted using a pressure of 5 tons to produce thin rectangular pallets with dimensions of 3.2 x 1.5 mm. These pallets were then subjected to laser soldering using a CO₂ gas laser, with a laser power of 35 watts, a scanning time of 0.04s, a focal length of 40mm, and a scanning speed of 100mm/s. The substrate employed in the experiment was electroless nickel immersion gold (ENIG). The procedure was further followed by subjecting the samples to isothermal ageing at a temperature of 150°C for durations of 0, 200, 500, 1000, and 2000 hours. After that, these samples were mechanically tested using a shear test, following the ASTM D1002 standard was used to evaluate single-lap-joint adhesively bonded metal specimens (solder alloy). The composition, thickness, and morphology of IMC formed after laser soldering were examined using various material characterization techniques, such as optical and image analysis, scanning electron microscopy, and energy-dispersive X-ray analysis. The study found that the material composition affected the morphology of IMCs, which also influenced their growth behaviour. Increasing the Cu content in the solder alloy decreased the thickness of the IMC, with the lowest thickness observed at 0.3wt% Cu. Nevertheless, the thickness gradually increased with isothermal ageing, and the IMC changed from a needle-shape to a continuous level-off shape. The 0.7wt% Cu solder exhibited the lowest diffusion coefficients and the most effective reduction in IMC growth. The wetting behaviour of Sn- x Cu composite solders was significantly affected by Cu particle content, with the lowest wetting angle observed at 0.7wt% Cu. Adding Cu to the solder alloy improved the shear strength of single lap joints, with the highest strength observed at 0.7wt% Cu. However, the shear strength of Sn-0.3Cu joints decreased after isothermal ageing. The combination of powder metallurgy and laser soldering techniques improved the reliability of solder joints in microelectronic production, providing a potential solution for achieving reliability in microelectronic production processes. The study's results demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach in achieving a uniform composition and microstructure of the solder preform, resulting in a superior solder joint with improved mechanical and thermal properties.

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