

A high-throughput, single-step lithography process is discussed for fabricating on-chip capacitors using Manhattan-style double angle deposition utilizing *in-situ* plasma oxidation. Our AlOx thin film is incorporated as a dielectric between two aluminum electrodes to produce capacitors in superconducting LC circuits with intent to characterize microwave losses at single photon levels, a regime relevant for operation of superconducting qubits. The target capacitances require a trench width at 1 – 2  $\mu\text{m}$ , which then need a 5- $\mu\text{m}$ -thick resist stack for Manhattan style lithography. However, the thick resist structure results in artifacts for small capacitors with effective area variations between 4 – 16  $\mu\text{m}^2$ . In order to preserve the controlled geometry for capacitors, while minimizing undesired shadowing effects, we have developed a specially designed pattern and compatible fabrication.

Our AlOx thin film fabrication process combines Manhattan-style double angle deposition with *in-situ* plasma oxidation to synthesize high stability AlOx dielectrics. Our *in-situ* plasma oxidation technique has previously demonstrated excellent stability in single-electron charge sensors. The specific resistance of our AlOx thin films tunes across more than 8 orders of magnitude (from  $10^2$  to  $10^{10}$   $\text{Ohm}\cdot\mu\text{m}^2$ ). This is achieved by varying the oxidation time to include very high specific resistance values. For the long-oxidation-time samples, we measure a specific capacitance of approximately 22  $\text{fF}/\mu\text{m}^2$ , which remains stable for oxidation times exceeding 300 s. These efforts aim to produce lumped-element, low-loss parallel plate capacitors for use in superconducting qubits while maintaining the geometric flexibility needed to meet target capacitance values.

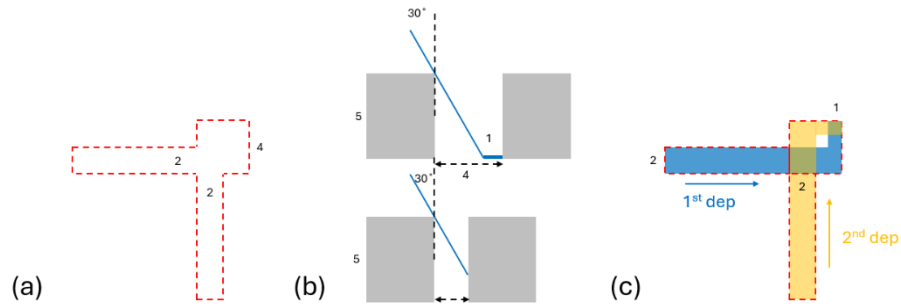


Figure 1 (a) Example resist pattern for capacitor fabrication. (b) Cross-sectional view that emerges from the double angle deposition. (c) Resulting deposited pattern from (a) which has a void in the center.

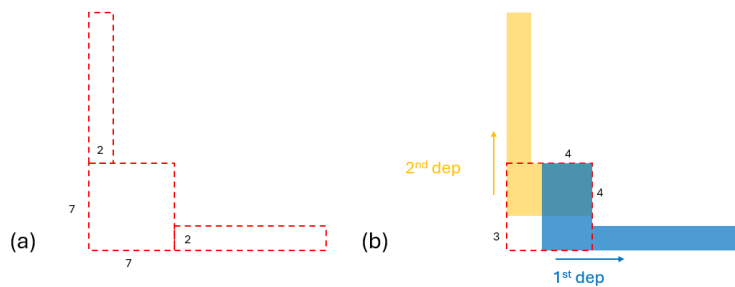


Figure 2 (a) Adjusted resist pattern that forms a contiguous (square) overlap for the capacitors. (b) equivalent deposited pattern from the designed mask with an effective overlap area at  $16 \mu\text{m}^2$ .

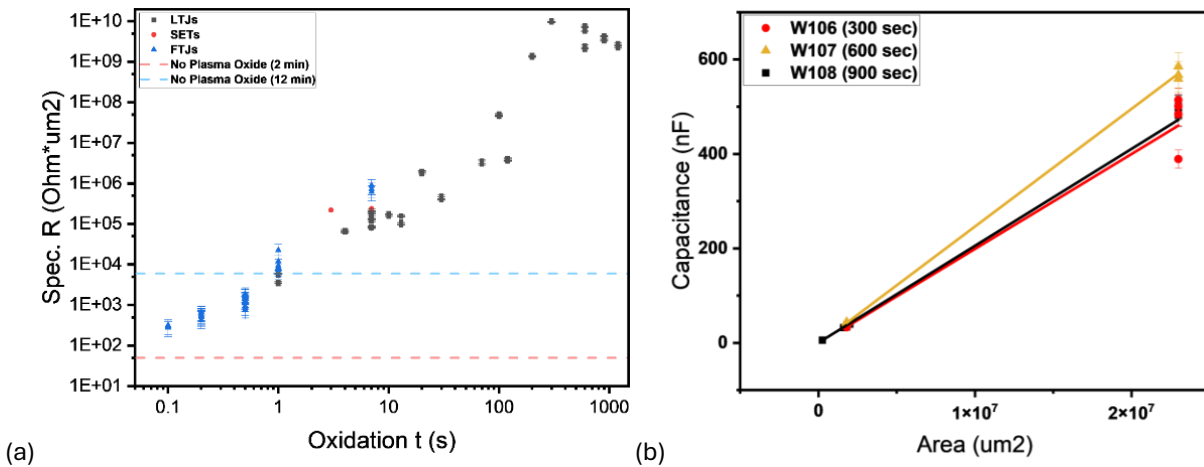


Figure 3 (a) Specific resistance due to varying plasma oxidation time for *in-situ* plasma-oxidized  $\text{AlOx}$  tunnel barriers at room temperature. (b) Measured capacitances as a function of area in the longer time regime of oxidation. The slope is the specific capacitance at  $22 \text{ fF}/\mu\text{m}^2$ .