Recovery of Electrical Properties by Surface Treatment after Mesa Etching in InGaN/GaN Multiple Quantum Well Light Emitting Diodes

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To recover electrical properties of an InGaN/GaN multiple quantum well lighting emitting diode after mesa etching by Inductively Coupled Plasma (ICP), a surface treatment using ultrasonically BOE and ammonium sulfide (NH₄) $_2$ S_x has been performed. After the surface treatment, surface smoothness of p–GaN and n–GaN layers was improved, and the operating voltage (Vop). It was found that an increase in roughness of the n–GaN layer increases the operating voltage (V_{op}), but that of the p–GaN layer decreases V_{op}. This is because an increase in the surface roughness decreases the contact resistance between metal and GaN layers in the p–GaN layer, but it increases resistance due to an increase of current path in the n–GaN layer.