Solution processed nanomanufacturing of SERS substrates with random Ag nanoholes exhibiting uniformly high enhancement factor

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Table of contents

Note S1 XRD particle size analysis
Figure S1 Large Area photograph of SERS substrate
Figure S2 SEM images of Ag patterned on textured Si surface
Figure S3 UV-vis spectra of Ag films with different heating rates
Note S2 SERS enhancement factor calculation
Figure S4 Bar graph showing reproducibility of the SERS substrate over multiple samples.
Figure S5 Raman mapping of Ag film
Figure S6 AFM image and SERS spectra of the Ag film without nanoholes
Figure S7 Cross-sectional SEM images of Ag film on SiO$_2$/Si substrates with different SiO$_2$ thickness.
Figure S8 UV-Vis spectra of Ag/SiO$_2$(100 nm)/Si and Ag/SiO$_2$(300 nm)/Si and Ag/SiO$_2$(500nm)/Si substrates.
Figure S9 Electric field intensity distribution over the Ag/SiO$_2$(100 nm)/Si and Ag/SiO$_2$(500 nm)/Si substrates.
Figure S10 Bar graph showing mean and maximum electric field intensities for Ag/SiO$_2$/Si substrates with variable SiO$_2$ thickness.
Figure S11 SERS spectra before and after applying in-plane voltage
Figure S12 XRD showing oxidation of Ag film
Figure S13 Bar graph showing SERS intensities after application of 5V bias on Ag/SiO$_2$(300 nm)/Si substrate.
Note S1 XRD particle size analysis

\[ \tau = \frac{0.9\lambda}{\beta \cos \theta} \]

Wavelength (\( \lambda \)) = 0.15406 nm

\( \beta = 0.83^\circ = 0.0144 \) radians

\( 2\theta = 38.33^\circ, \theta = 19.16^\circ, \cos \theta = 0.944 \)

Particle size = 10 nm

Figure S1 Photograph showing large area fabrication of Ag film with nanoholes

The figure S1 shows a large area film prepared using meyer rod coating technique. This clearly demonstrates the potential of the method for scalable manufacturing of SERS substrate.
Figure S2 SEM images of Ag nanoholes fabricated on textured Si surface.

Figure S3 (a) UV absorption spectra of different films prepared at different ramp rates (1-20 °C/min) (b) the ratio of maximum absorption with respect to absorption at 633 nm for Ag films prepared at different ramp rates.
**Note S2** Enhancement factors: The enhancement factors calculated for the substrates are given below. Since the molecules are bound to the Ag surface, the actual area for G-factor is calculated by subtracting the area occupied by holes from total area illuminated by laser beam ($G_{Ag \ w/o \ holes}$).

(a) For 997 cm$^{-1}$ band

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ag films based on different ramp rate (°C/min)</th>
<th>Area occupied by Ag (%)</th>
<th>$G_{total \ area}$ ($\times 10^6$)</th>
<th>$G_{Ag \ w/o \ holes}$ ($\times 10^6$)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>65.03</td>
<td>12.39±1.01</td>
<td>8.06±0.652</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>31.80±2.72</td>
<td>17.55±1.50</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>22.01±1.09</td>
<td>12.98±0.64</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>61.46</td>
<td>16.76±1.21</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>63.74</td>
<td>14.38±0.72</td>
<td>9.16±0.46</td>
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(b) For 1572 cm$^{-1}$

<table>
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<th>Ag films based on different ramp rate (°C/min)</th>
<th>Area occupied by Ag (%)</th>
<th>$G_{total \ area}$ ($\times 10^5$)</th>
<th>$G_{Ag \ w/o \ holes}$ ($\times 10^6$)</th>
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<td>55.74±5.05</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>80.45±5.55</td>
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</table>
**Figure S4** Reproducibility of SERS substrate tested by measuring SERS signal for 7 different Ag/SiO$_2$(300 nm)/Si samples. The mean variation in SERS signal intensities from the substrates is less than 5%.

**Figure S5** Raman mapping of a typical Ag film on SiO$_2$(300 nm)/Si substrate over 10 × 10 µm substrate with laser beam size of 2 µm.
Figure S6 (a) AFM image of Ag film without nanoholes formed on Si surface (b) SERS spectra from 3 different regions corresponding to thiophenol adsorbed on Ag film without holes.

Figure S7 Cross-sectional SEM images of Ag/Si and Ag/SiO$_2$/Si films with SiO$_2$ of different thicknesses.
Figure S8 UV-visible spectra of Ag film with random holes on (a) Si, (b) SiO$_2$ (100 nm)/Si and (c) SiO$_2$ (500 nm)/Si substrates along with the blank substrate.
Figure S9 The electric field intensity patterns for (a) Ag/SiO$_2$(100 nm)/Si and (b) Ag/SiO$_2$(500 nm)/Si obtained from FDTD simulations.
**Figure S10** Electric field intensities from Ag/SiO$_2$/Si samples with varying thicknesses of SiO$_2$. The mean and maximum field intensities are denoted by red and green respectively.
Figure S11  SERS spectral changes on applying in-plane voltage to the Ag film.

Figure S12  Similar annealing of Ag nanoparticles was attempted by external heating (200 °C, 24 h). However, surface oxidation resulted as seen in XRD pattern showing Ag$_2$O peaks.
Figure S13 SERS signal from multiple locations after application of 5V bias on Ag/SiO₂(300 nm)/Si substrate.