

Claims:

1. A method of forming a hydrophobic coating on a surface of a polishing system component, comprising:
 - cleaning the surface of the polishing system component to remove a polishing fluid residue therefrom; and
 - applying a hydrophobicity causing chemical solution to the surface of the polishing system component.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the polishing system component is a part of a substrate carrier assembly, and wherein the hydrophobicity causing chemical solution is applied using a spray process.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the hydrophobicity causing chemical solution is applied using a hydrophobicity applicator, the hydrophobicity applicator comprising:
 - an applicator article formed of an open-celled foam material which has a porosity of about 60% or more; and
 - a hydrophobicity causing chemical solution.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the applicator and the hydrophobicity causing chemical solution are packaged in a sealed container.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the applicator article, as disposed in the sealed container, is impregnated with the hydrophobicity causing chemical solution.
6. The method of claim 4, wherein the sealed container comprises a membrane layer separating the applicator article from the hydrophobicity causing chemical solution and the method further includes breaking the membrane to impregnate the applicator article with the hydrophobicity causing chemical solution.
7. The method of claim 3, wherein
 - the polishing system component comprises a platen shield,

the hydrophobicity applicator is coupled to a polishing platen, and
applying the hydrophobicity causing solution comprises rotating the polishing platen to urge the hydrophobicity applicator against a radially inward-facing surface of the platen shield.

8. The method of claim 3, wherein
the polishing system component is disposed within a substrate processing environment of the polishing system, and
the hydrophobicity causing solution is applied to the surface of the polishing system component without removing the polishing system component from the substrate processing environment.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein
the polishing system component comprises a conditioner mounting plate having a first surface for mounting an abrasive pad conditioning disk and a second surface opposite of the first surface, and
the hydrophobicity causing solution is applied to the second surface without disassembling the conditioner mounting plate from a pad conditioner assembly.

10. A method of forming a hydrophobic coating on a surface of a polishing system component, comprising:
cleaning the surface of the polishing system component to remove a polishing fluid residue therefrom; and
applying a hydrophobicity causing chemical solution to the surface of the polishing system component, wherein the polishing system component is disposed within a substrate processing environment of the polishing system, and wherein the hydrophobicity causing solution is applied to the surface of the polishing system component without removing the polishing system component from the substrate processing environment.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the hydrophobicity causing chemical solution is applied using a hydrophobicity applicator, the hydrophobicity applicator comprising:

an applicator article formed of an open-celled foam material which has a porosity of about 60% or more; and
the hydrophobicity causing chemical solution.

12. A hydrophobicity applicator, comprising:

an applicator article formed of an open-celled foam material which has a porosity of about 60% or more; and

a hydrophobicity causing chemical solution, wherein the applicator and the hydrophobicity causing chemical solution are packaged in a sealed container.

13. The hydrophobicity applicator of claim 12, wherein the applicator article, as disposed in the sealed container, is impregnated with the hydrophobicity causing chemical solution.

14. The hydrophobicity applicator of claim 12, wherein the sealed container comprises a membrane layer separating the applicator article from the hydrophobicity causing chemical solution.

15. The hydrophobicity applicator of claim 12, wherein an amount by weight of the hydrophobicity causing chemical solution within the sealed container is about 0.9X or less than an amount by weight, which would be needed to fully saturate the applicator article.

16. The hydrophobicity applicator of claim 12, wherein a surface coating formed by the hydrophobicity causing chemical solution has a water contact angle of about 85° or more.

17. The hydrophobicity applicator of claim 12, wherein the applicator article is secured to a fastener layer, and wherein the fastener layer comprises one portion of a hook and loop fastening system.

18. The hydrophobicity applicator of claim 12, wherein the hydrophobicity causing chemical solution comprises a siloxane, a fluoroacrylate, or a combination thereof.

19. The hydrophobicity applicator of claim 18, wherein the hydrophobicity causing chemical solution further comprises a hydrocarbon solvent, a fluorosolvent, or a combination thereof.

20. The hydrophobicity applicator of claim 19, wherein the hydrophobicity causing chemical solution further comprises a carboxylic acid, a carboxylic salt, a carboxylic acid derivative, or a combination thereof.