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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR RECOVERING PHOTORESIST DEVELOPERS AND STRIPPERS

(57) Abstract

In a developing, etching and stripping apparatus, photoresist developing and stripping chemicals are drawn off into separate circulatory paths in each of which they are pumped through a heat exchanger (52), a series of tangential filters (60, 62, 64, 66), an ultraviolet contactor (56) and a collection tank (38). Permeate from the filters is returned to the developing (14) or stripping (22) stage, and solutions with high concentrations of solids are removed from the collection tanks for disposal. In regeneration of developer solution based on sodium or potassium carbonate, carbon dioxide gas is added along with an alkali metal hydroxide to maintain a suitable pH and carbonate/bicarbonate ratio.

