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(54) Title: PULSE WIDTH CONTROLLER

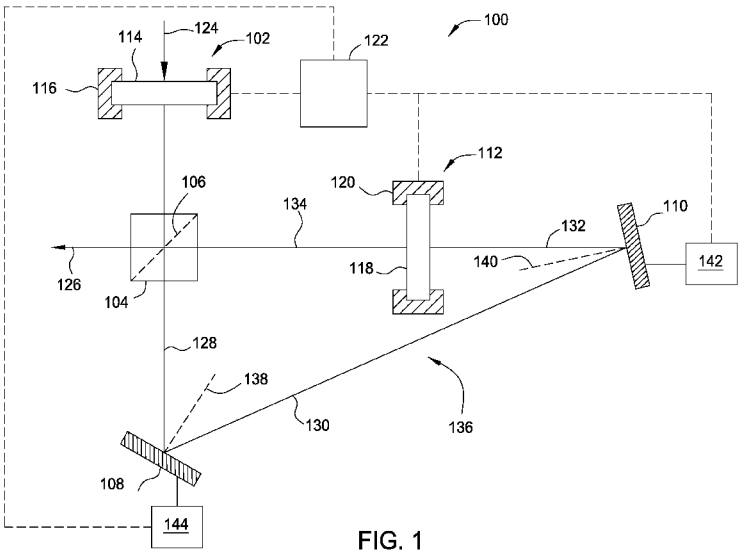


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A pulse width controller for a thermal processing system is disclosed. Pulsed electromagnetic radiation is directed through a rotatable wave plate to a polarizing beam splitter, which reflects and transmits according to the phase angle of the wave plate. Radiation transmitted by the polarizing beam splitter is directed into an optical circuit that returns the radiation to the polarizing beam splitter after a transit time. A second rotatable wave plate is positioned in the optical circuit. The polarizing beam splitter reflects and transmits the returned radiation according to the phase angle of the second rotatable wave plate. A second pulse width controller may be nested in the optical circuit, and any number of pulse width controllers may be nested.

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