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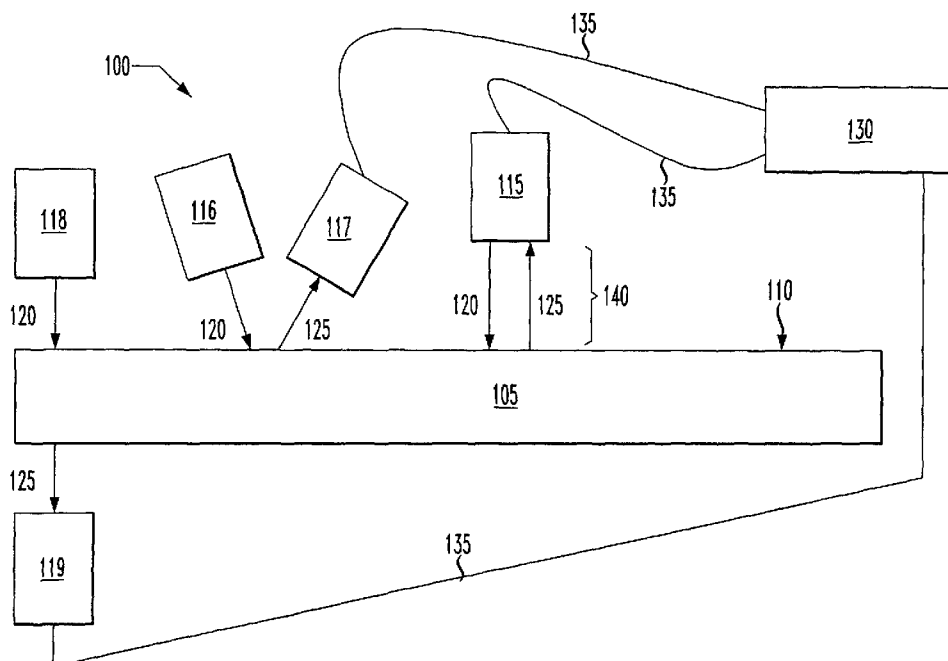
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(54) Title: MEASURING THE SURFACE PROPERTIES OF POLISHING PADS USING ULTRASONIC REFLECTANCE



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a system and method for measuring the surface properties of polishing pads using non-contact ultrasonic reflectance. An ultrasonic probe (15) is located over the polishing surface (120) and configured to both transmit an ultrasonic signal to the polishing surface (110) and receive a modified ultrasonic signal from the polishing surface without contacting the polishing surface. A subsystem coupled to the ultrasonic probe is configured to determine a surface property of the polishing (105) pad from the modified signal.

WO 2004/024392 A1