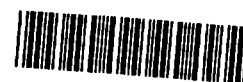




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TITLE OF THE INVENTION

METHOD OF CHARGING HOLE WITH FLUID MATERIAL

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

5 This invention generally relates to a method of charging a hole with fluid material. This invention specifically relates to a method of charging a hole in a substrate with fluid material such as electrically conductive paste.

Description of the Related Art

10 An insulating substrate forming a printed wiring board has via holes. It is known to use screen printing to charge via holes with electrically conductive paste being a mixture of metal particles, an organic solvent, and binder resin.

 The screen printing has the following sequence of steps.

15 First, a screen sheet is placed above an insulating substrate having via holes. The screen sheet has a pattern of open areas positionally corresponding to the via holes. Electrically conductive paste is applied onto the screen sheet. Subsequently, the electrically conductive paste is transferred across the screen sheet by a
20 squeegee while the squeegee is pressed against the screen sheet. At this time, the squeegee is moved linearly only in one direction or linearly reciprocated along two opposite directions. The squeegee forces the electrically conductive paste into the via holes through the open areas of the screen sheet.

25 As the via holes are smaller in diameter, the screen printing tends to insufficiently charge the via holes with the electrically

conductive paste. The inventors of this invention have found that the 1-direction movement or the 2-direction reciprocating movement of the squeegee causes the electrically conductive material to be unevenly distributed in the via holes. The uneven
5 distributions mean insufficiently charging the via holes with the electrically conductive paste.

Japanese patent application publication number 06-234204 discloses a screen printing device for cream solder which is capable of transferring the cream solder on a printed wiring board while
10 kneading the cream solder sufficiently and forcing the same into the pattern holes of a mask plate. The screen printing device includes a squeegee sliding on the mask plate. The squeegee has a cylinder containing the cream solder. The squeegee is moved along an X direction or a Y direction while being rotated in a horizontal plane.
15 The squeegee charges the pattern holes with the cream solder, and transfers the cream solder onto the printed wiring board.

United States Patent Number 5,254,362 corresponding to Japanese patent application publication number 7-68730 discloses a method and apparatus for uniformly depositing solder paste on a
20 printed wiring board which are designed so that a squeegee arrangement applies the solder paste through a stencil to a surface of the printed wiring board. As the squeegee assembly is moved in one planar direction over the stencil in a planar fashion, it is also vibrated by a vibrator to produce slight circular motion in addition
25 to the planar motion of the squeegee blade.

Japanese patent application publication number P2000-

117937A discloses a screen printing machine capable of forming a paste pattern on a substrate by pressing a head onto the substrate at a force chosen not to add an injury onto the substrate even in the case where a pattern aperture part is small. The head is filled with
5 paste. The head is pushed vertically against a main surface of the substrate via a mask having the pattern aperture part. The head is relatively moved in a direction parallel to the main surface of the substrate or the mask while the paste is discharged from an outlet opening of the head. As a result, a paste pattern is printed on the
10 substrate through the pattern aperture part of the mask. During the relative movement of the head, at least one among the head, the mask, and the substrate is reciprocated.

Japanese patent application publication number 11-77957 discloses solder paste printing method and apparatus designed so
15 that a squeegee is circularly moved, and hence part pads arranged in any directions can be sufficiently supplied with solder paste. The squeegee is placed on a printing jig having paste feed openings. The squeegee serves to spread the solder paste discharged from the paste feed openings in the printing jig. The solder paste is supplied
20 from the paste feed openings to the part pads on a substrate while the squeegee is circularly moved.

Japanese patent application publication number 3-93288 discloses a screen printing apparatus for a circuit pattern which is designed so that a squeegee device can be slid on a screen mask
25 along a prescribed direction (a sliding direction). When paste or solder cream clogs or blurs due to the directivity of pattern holes in

the screen mask, the squeegee device is horizontally rotated to change its orientation relative to the sliding direction. The orientation change enhances the degree of charging the pattern holes with the paste or solder cream.

5

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of this invention to provide a reliable method of charging a hole with fluid material.

A first aspect of this invention provides a method of charging a hole in a substrate with fluid material. The method comprises the
10 steps of supplying the fluid material onto a surface of the substrate; and forcing the fluid material into the hole along at least three different directions on the surface of the substrate to charge the hole with the fluid material.

A second aspect of this invention is based on the first aspect
15 thereof, and provides a method wherein the forcing step comprises using a forcing means placed on the surface of the substrate in forcing the fluid material into the hole; and rotating the forcing means about an axis perpendicular to the surface of the substrate and moving the axis of rotation of the forcing member along the
20 surface of the substrate to force the fluid material into the hole along the at least three different directions.

A third aspect of this invention is based on the second aspect thereof, and provides a method wherein the rotation of the forcing means comprises one of rotation of the forcing member about its
25 central axis and revolution of the forcing member about an axis separate from its central axis; and wherein the forcing step

comprises simultaneously executing at least two of the rotation of the forcing member about its central axis, the revolution of the forcing member about the axis separate from its central axis, and linear motion of the forcing member.

5 A fourth aspect of this invention is based on the first aspect thereof, and provides a method wherein the forcing step comprises using a forcing means placed on the surface of the substrate in forcing the fluid material into the hole; and moving the forcing means in at least three different linear directions along the surface
10 of the substrate to force the fluid material into the hole along the at least three different directions.

A fifth aspect of this invention is based on the first aspect thereof, and provides a method wherein the hole in the substrate has a closed bottom.

15 A sixth aspect of this invention is based on the first aspect thereof, and provides a method wherein the substrate comprises an insulating substrate, and the hole comprises a via hole in the insulating substrate.

A seventh aspect of this invention is based on the sixth aspect
20 thereof, and provides a method wherein the insulating substrate has a surface formed with a conductor pattern, and the via hole has a bottom closed by the conductor pattern.

An eighth aspect of this invention is based on the sixth aspect thereof, and provides a method wherein the fluid material
25 comprises electrically conductive paste.

A ninth aspect of this invention is based on the second aspect

thereof, and provides a method wherein the forcing means comprises a forcing member having a surface which faces the substrate and which has recesses; and wherein the forcing step comprises holding the fluid material in the recesses, and moving
5 the fluid material from the recesses into the hole.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a perspective diagram of a charging apparatus according to a first embodiment of this invention.

Figs. 2-8 are sectional views of a film or films in conditions
10 occurring at different stages in the fabrication of a printed wiring board which includes a step of charging via holes with electrically conductive paste according to the first embodiment of this invention.

Fig. 9 is a longitudinal section view of a rotary head in Fig. 1.

15 Fig. 10 is an enlarged view of a portion "A" in Fig. 9.

Fig. 11 is a plan diagram of the rotary head, a single-sided conductor-pattern film, and a trajectory described by the central axis of the rotary head in the first embodiment of this invention.

Fig. 12 is a perspective diagram of a portion of a single-sided
20 conductor-pattern film, a via hole therein, and directions along which electrically conductive paste is forced into the via hole in the first embodiment of this invention.

Fig. 13 is a plan diagram of a rotary head and a single-sided conductor-pattern film in a third embodiment of this invention.

25 Fig. 14 is a plan diagram of a rotary head, a single-sided conductor-pattern film, and a trajectory described by the central

axis of the rotary head in a fourth embodiment of this invention.

Fig. 15 is a plan diagram of a rotary head, a single-sided conductor-pattern film, and a trajectory described by the central axis of the rotary head in a fifth embodiment of this invention.

5 Fig. 16 is a plan diagram of squeegees and a single-sided conductor-pattern film in a sixth embodiment of this invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

First Embodiment

Fig. 1 shows a charging apparatus 1 according to a first
10 embodiment of this invention. The apparatus 1 is designed to charge via holes with electrically conductive paste. The electrically conductive paste is one type of fluid material. The via holes are formed in a resin film being a substrate. The structure of the apparatus 1 will be described later.

15 Figs. 2-8 show conditions of a film or films occurring at different stages in the fabrication of a printed circuit board (a printed wiring board) which includes a step of charging via holes with electrically conductive paste according to the first embodiment of this invention. The printed circuit board is made as follows.

20 With reference to Fig. 2, a single-sided conductor-pattern film 21 is prepared. Specifically, an electrical conductor foil is superposed on and attached to a first surface of a resin film 23. The electrically conductor foil uses, for example, a copper foil having a thickness of 18 μm . The electrically conductor foil is etched into a
25 conductor pattern 22. Therefore, the single-sided conductor-pattern film 21 having the conductor pattern 22 on its first surface

is completed. The resin film 23 uses a thermoplastic resin film having a thickness of 25 to 200 μm . The thermoplastic resin film contains 65-35% polyether ether keton resin and 35-65% polyether imide resin by weight.

5 As shown in Fig. 3, after the conductor pattern 22 is formed on the resin film 23, a protective film 81 is superposed on and attached to a second surface of the resin film 23 by using, for example, a laminator. The second surface of the resin film 23 is opposed to the first surface thereof on which the conductor pattern
10 22 extends. The protective film 81 uses a polyethylene terephthalate resin film having a thickness of 12 μm and coated with an adhesive layer having a thickness of 5 μm .

As shown in Fig. 4, after the attachment of the protective film 81 is completed, a carbon dioxide laser beam is applied, from above
15 in the drawing, to the protective film 81 and the resin film 23 to form openings (apertures) 81a and via holes 24 therein. The openings 81a in the protective film 81 align with the via holes 24 in the resin film 23. The openings 81a are approximately equal in diameter to the via holes 24. The via holes 24 have bottoms closed
20 by the conductor pattern 22. Thus, the conductor pattern 22 is exposed at the bottoms of the via holes 24. The power and application time of the carbon dioxide laser beam are chosen not to form holes in the conductor pattern 22. The via holes 24 have diameters of 30 to 200 μm .

25 An excimer laser beam may be used instead of the carbon dioxide laser beam to form the via holes 24. Alternatively, drilling

may be used to form the via holes 24.

As shown in Fig. 5, after the via holes 24 are formed, the via holes 24 are charged with electrically conductive paste 50 being inter-layer-connection fluid material. The electrically conductive paste 50 results from kneading metal particles, binder resin, and an organic solvent by a mixer. The metal particles include, for example, copper particles, silver particles, or tin particles. Specifically, the apparatus 1 in Fig. 1 forces the electrically conductive paste 50 into the via holes 24 through the openings 81a in the protective film 81. The electrically conductive paste 50 in the via holes 24 is in contact with the conductor pattern 22. Thus, the electrically conductive paste 50 in the via holes 24 is electrically connected with the conductor pattern 22. Also, the openings 81a in the protective film 81 are filled with the electrically conductive paste 50.

After the via holes 24 are charged with the electrically conductive paste 50, the protective film 81 is exfoliated and removed from the resin film 23 or the single-sided conductor-pattern film 21. Consequently, there occurs the single-sided conductor-pattern film 21 having the via holes 24 which are charged with the electrically conductive film 50 as shown in Fig. 6. The electrically conductive paste 50 which has filled the openings 81a in the protective film 81 remains as projections on the resin film 23 which extend from the electrically conductive paste 50 in the via holes 24.

As understood from the above description, the via holes 24 are

charged with the electrically conductive paste 50 while the protective film 81 remains on the resin film 23. Therefore, the protective film 81 prevents the electrically conductive paste 50 from being applied to portions of the resin film 23 except for the via
5 holes 24. Accordingly, the protective film 81 functions as a mask. After the charging is completed, the protective film 81 is removed from the resin film 23.

A plurality of single-sided conductor-pattern films 21 each in a state of Fig. 6 and fabricated by the steps in Figs. 2-6 are prepared.
10 As shown in Fig. 7, four single-sided conductor-pattern films 21 are arranged into a laminate in which the conductor patterns 22 on the films 21 vertically align with each other. In the laminate, the conductor pattern 22 on the uppermost film 21 faces upward while the conductor pattern 22 on the lowermost film 21 faces downward.
15 A cover layer 36a is placed at an upper side of the laminate. The cover layer 36a is a resist film extending over portions of the upper surface of the uppermost film 21 which include edges of the conductor pattern 22 on the uppermost film 21. A cover layer 36b is placed at a lower side of the laminate. The cover layer 36b is a
20 resist film extending over portions of the lower surface of the lowermost film 21 which include edges of the conductor pattern 22 on the lowermost film 21.

The cover layer 36a has openings (apertures) 39a positionally corresponding to electrode-forming portions of the conductor
25 pattern 22 on the uppermost film 21. Thus, the electrode-forming portions of the conductor pattern 22 on the uppermost film 21 are

exposed via the openings 39a in the cover layer 36a. The openings 39a are formed by, for example, drilling. Similarly, the cover layer 36b has openings (apertures) 39b positionally corresponding to electrode-forming portions of the conductor pattern 22 on the
5 lowermost film 21. Thus, the electrode-forming portions of the conductor pattern 22 on the lowermost film 21 are exposed via the openings 39b in the cover layer 36b. The openings 39b are formed by, for example, drilling. Each of the cover layers 36a and 36b uses a resin film made of the thermoplastic material same as that for the
10 resin film 23. Specifically, each of the cover layers 36a and 36b contains 65-35% polyether ether keton resin and 35-65% polyether imide resin by weight.

The laminate of the single-sided conductor-pattern films 21 and the cover layers 36a and 36b is heated and pressed by a vacuum
15 hot press. Consequently, as shown in Fig. 8, the resin films 23 in the single-sided conductor-pattern films 21, and the cover layers 36a and 36b are bonded together. Specifically, the resin films 23 and the cover layers 36a and 36b are thermally fused into an integral body of insulating material. At the same time, the
20 conductor patterns 22 on the resin films 23 are electrically connected by the electrically conductive paste 50 in the via holes 24. The conductor patterns 22 electrically connected by the electrically conductive paste 50 are supported by the integral body of insulating material. The conductor patterns 22 electrically
25 connected by the electrically conductive paste 50 and the integral body of insulating material compose a multi-layer printed circuit

board (a multi-layer printed wiring board) 100.

The apparatus 1 in Fig. 1 will be described below in more detail. As shown in Fig. 1, the apparatus 100 includes a base 2 and a table 3. The table 3 is movably located on the base 2. A single-sided conductor-pattern film 21 having a protective film 81 and via holes 24 as shown in Fig. 4 is placed and supported on the upper surface of the table 3.

An X-axis servo motor 4 and a Y-axis servo motor 5 are mechanically connected with the table 3. The X-axis servo motor 4 functions to move the table 3 along an X-axis direction in a horizontal plane. The Y-axis servo motor 5 functions to move the table 3 along a Y-axis direction in the horizontal plane. The X-axis direction and the Y-axis direction are perpendicular to each other. The X-axis servo motor 4 and the Y-axis servo motor 5 enable the table 3 to assume any position in the horizontal plane. The table 3 may be a known X-Y table.

A vertically-extending stand 6 is provided on one edge portion of the base 2. The stand 6 has an upper end provided with a head support arm 7. The head support arm 7 horizontally projects from the stand 6, and occupies a region above the table 3. A spindle motor 8 is provided on the lower surface of a distal end of the head support arm 7.

The spindle motor 8 has a rotatable shaft coupled with a rotary head 9 which functions as a forcing means. As the shaft of the spindle motor 8 rotates, the rotary head 9 rotates about its central axis. The central axis of the rotary head 9 is approximately

perpendicular to the upper surface of the single-sided conductor-pattern film 21 placed on the table 3. The rotary head 9 has a lower end surface provided with a pad member 91 which functions as a forcing member. The pad member 91 faces the upper surface of the single-sided conductor-pattern film 21 placed on the table 3.

The apparatus 1 includes a paste tank 10 containing electrically conductive paste 50 and located near the base 2. The paste tank 10 and the head support arm 7 are connected by a feed pipe 11. A feed passage 92 leading from the interior of an end of the feed pipe 11 extends through the head support arm 7, the shaft of the spindle motor 8, and the rotary head 9.

A pump 12 is provided in a mid point of the feed pipe 11. The pump 12 drives the electrically conductive paste 50 from the paste tank 10 toward the rotary head 9 via the feed pipe 11 and the feed passage 92 when being activated.

As shown in Fig. 9, the pad member 91 extends over the lower end face of the rotary head 9. A central part of the pad member 91 has an opening 93 which forms an outlet end of the feed passage 92. When the pump 12 is activated, the electrically conductive paste 50 is moved along the feed passage 92 and is discharged from the opening 93.

With reference to Fig. 10, the pad member 91 is made of urethane foam resin having a lot of independent and separate bubbles. The pad member 91 has a ground lower end surface at which bubbles are exposed. The exposed bubbles form approximately hemispherical recesses 94 in the lower end surface

of the pad member 91 which opposes the upper surface of the single-sided conductor-pattern film 21 placed on the table 3.

Operation of the apparatus 1 is as follows. A single-sided conductor-pattern film 21 having a protective film 81 and via holes 24 as shown in Fig. 4 is placed and supported on the upper surface of the table 3 in a fashion such that the surface of the single-sided conductor-pattern film 21 which has the protective film 81 faces upward. The rotary head 9 is set so that the lower surface of the pad member 91 will contact with or substantially contact with the upper surface of the protective film 81 on the single-sided conductor-pattern film 21.

The pump 12 is activated. Thus, the pump 12 drives the electrically conductive paste 50 from the paste tank 10 to the rotary head 9 via the feed pipe 11 and the feed passage 92. The electrically conductive paste 50 is discharged from the opening 93 in the rotary head 9, and is supplied onto the upper surface of the protective film 81 on the single-sided conductor-pattern film 21. Simultaneously with the activation of the pump 12, the spindle motor 8 is activated so that the rotary head 9 is rotated.

In addition, the X-axis servo motor 4 and the Y-axis servo motor 5 are suitably activated so that the table 3 moves horizontally relative to the rotary head 9. The relative movement of the table 3 is designed to cause the central axis of the rotary head 9 to describe a trajectory TR with respect to the protective film 81 on the single-sided conductor-pattern film 21. As shown in Fig. 11, the trajectory TR is composed of linear segments. Thus, the rotary head 9 linearly

moves along the upper surface of the protective film 81 on the single-sided conductor-pattern film 21 while rotating about its central axis. The speed of rotation of the rotary head 9 is set to, for example, 60 rpm. The speed of linear movement of the rotary head
5 9 is set to, for example, 1 mm/sec.

Preferably, there is a clearance between the pad member 91 on the rotary head 9 and the protective film 81 on the single-sided conductor-pattern film 21. The clearance allows the electrically conductive paste 50, which has been discharged from the opening
10 93, to spread over the whole of the lower end surface of the pad member 91. The clearance has a thickness (or a width) of, for example, 50-100 μm .

The positional relation between the pad member 91 on the rotary head 9 and the protective film 81 on the single-sided
15 conductor-pattern film 21 may be periodically alternated between a first condition where a clearance exists between the pad member 91 and the protective film 81 and a second condition where the pad member 91 and the protective member 81 are in contact without any clearance therebetween.

20 With reference to Figs. 11 and 12, since the rotary head 9 linearly moves through a region above a via hole 24 in the single-sided conductor-pattern film 21 while rotating about its central axis, the pad member 91 forces the electrically conductive paste 50 into the via hole 25 along many different directions (at least three
25 different directions).

The electrically conductive paste 50 which has been

discharged from the opening 93 spreads over the whole of the lower end surface of the pad member 91. At that time, portions of the electrically conductive paste 50 enter recesses 94 (see Fig. 10) in the lower end surface of the pad member 91. The portions of the electrically conductive paste 50 are held in the recesses 94. Accordingly, the whole of the lower end surface of the pad member 91 can be effectively used in forcing the electrically conductive paste 50 into via holes 24. The electrically conductive paste 50 can be moved from the recesses 94 into the via holes 24.

10 It should be noted that only one via hole 24 is shown in Fig. 11, and the illustration of other via holes 24 is omitted therefrom.

 Preferably, the trajectory TR described by the central axis of the rotary head 9 is separate from via holes 24.

 The surface of a conductor pattern 22 which is exposed at the bottoms of via holes 24 may be slightly processed by etching or reduction before the apparatus 1 charges the via holes 24 with the electrically conductive paste 50. This processing improves the performances of inter-layer-connection.

 During the operation of the apparatus 1, the rotary head 9 functions as a means for forcing the electrically conductive paste 50 into the via holes 24 in the single-sided conductor-pattern film 21. At that time, the rotary head 9 linearly moves in accordance with the motion of the table 3 while rotating about its central axis. Thus, on the upper surface of the protective film 81 of the single-sided conductor-pattern film 21, the rotary head 9 forces the electrically conductive paste 50 into the via holes 24 along many different

directions (at least three different directions). Accordingly, it is possible to prevent the electrically conductive paste 50 from being unevenly distributed in the via holes 24. Furthermore, it is possible to prevent the via holes 24 from being insufficiently charged with the electrically conductive paste 50.

Second Embodiment

A second embodiment of this invention is similar to the first embodiment thereof except for design changes mentioned hereafter. In the second embodiment of this invention, at least two of (1) rotation of the rotary head 9 about its central axis, (2) linear movement of the rotary head 9, and (3) revolution of the rotary head 9 about an axis separate from its central axis are simultaneously executed. Thus, the rotary head 9 is rotated about its central axis or an axis separate from its central axis while the axis of rotation of the rotary head 9 is moved.

Third Embodiment

A third embodiment of this invention is similar to the first embodiment thereof except for design changes mentioned hereafter. In the third embodiment of this invention, as shown in Fig. 13, the rotary head 9 is rotated about its central axis while being revolved about an axis separate from its central axis. It should be noted that the illustration of the via holes 24 is omitted from Fig. 13.

Fourth Embodiment

A fourth embodiment of this invention is similar to the first embodiment thereof except for design changes mentioned

hereafter. In the fourth embodiment of this invention, as shown in Fig. 14, the rotary head 9 is moved linearly while being revolved about an axis separate from its central axis. It should be noted that the illustration of the via holes 24 is omitted from Fig. 14.

5 Fifth Embodiment

A fifth embodiment of this invention is similar to the first embodiment thereof except for design changes mentioned hereafter. In the fifth embodiment of this invention, as shown in Fig. 15, the rotary head 9 is moved linearly while being rotated
10 about its central axis and being revolved about an axis separate from its central axis. In this case, the rotary head 9 can force the electrically conductive paste 50 into each of the via holes 24 along every direction toward the via hole 24. It should be noted that the illustration of the via holes 24 is omitted from Fig. 15.

15 Sixth Embodiment

Fig. 16 shows a portion of a charging apparatus 1A according to a sixth embodiment of this invention. The charging apparatus 1A in Fig. 16 is similar to the charging apparatus 1 in Fig. 1 except for design changes mentioned hereafter.

20 As shown in Fig. 16, the charging apparatus 1A includes squeegees 109A, 109B, 109C, and 109D instead of the rotary head 9 (see Fig. 1). Each of the squeegees 109A, 109B, 109C, and 109D functions as a means for forcing the electrically conductive paste 50 into the via holes 24 in the single-sided conductor-pattern film 21.
25 The squeegees 109A and 109C oppose each other. The squeegees 109B and 109D oppose each other. The squeegees 109A, 109B,

109C, and 109D are moved linearly along the upper surface of the single-sided conductor-pattern film 21 (that is, the upper surface of the protective film 81 on the single-sided conductor-pattern film 21) in directions 110A, 110B, 110C, and 110D respectively. The
5 directions 110A and 110C are opposite to each other. The directions 110B and 110D are opposite to each other. The directions 110A and 110C are perpendicular to the directions 110B and 110D. The squeegees 109A, 109B, 109C, and 109D force the electrically conductive paste 50 into each of the via holes 24 along
10 four different directions corresponding to the directions 110A, 110B, 110C, and 110D. It should be noted that the illustration of the via holes 24 is omitted from Fig. 16.

Seventh Embodiment

A seventh embodiment of this invention is similar to the first
15 embodiment thereof except for design changes mentioned hereafter. In the seventh embodiment of this invention, each of the recesses 94 in the lower end surface of the pad member 91 has the shape of a slit rather than a hemisphere.

Eighth Embodiment

20 An eighth embodiment of this invention is similar to the first embodiment thereof except for design changes mentioned hereafter. The eighth embodiment of this invention includes a feeding means provided separately of the rotary head 9 which functions as the forcing means. The feeding means supplies the
25 electrically conductive paste 50 onto the upper surface of the single-sided conductor-pattern film 21. Preferably, the feeding

means is located at a position in front of the forcing means (the rotary head 9) as viewed in the direction of movement of the forcing means.

Ninth Embodiment

5 A ninth embodiment of this invention is similar to the first embodiment thereof except for design changes mentioned hereafter. In the ninth embodiment of this invention, two or more single-sided conductor-pattern films 21 are juxtaposed on the upper surface of the table 3. In this case, the apparatus 1 charges
10 via holes 24 in the single-sided conductor-pattern films 21 with the electrically conductive paste 50.

Tenth Embodiment

 A tenth embodiment of this invention is similar to the first embodiment thereof except for design changes mentioned
15 hereafter. According to the tenth embodiment of this invention, the walls defining the via holes 24 are coated with metal layers by plating, and the apparatus 1 charges inner spaces of the metal layers with fluid material such as liquefied resin. The metal layers in the via holes 24 function to provide electrical connection between the
20 conductor patterns 22 on the single-sided conductor-pattern films 21.

Eleventh Embodiment

 An eleventh embodiment of this invention is similar to the first embodiment thereof except for design changes mentioned
25 hereafter. In the eleventh embodiment of this invention, each of the resin films 23 and the cover layers 36a and 36b uses a film

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of charging a hole (24) in a substrate (23) with fluid material (50), comprising the steps of:

5 supplying the fluid material (50) onto a surface of the substrate (23); and

forcing the fluid material (50) into the hole (24) along at least three different directions on the surface of the substrate (23) to charge the hole (24) with the fluid material (50).

10

2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the forcing step comprises:

using a forcing means (9) placed on the surface of the substrate (23) in forcing the fluid material (50) into the hole (24);

15 and

rotating the forcing means (9) about an axis perpendicular to the surface of the substrate (23) and moving the axis of rotation of the forcing member (9) along the surface of the substrate (23) to force the fluid material (50) into the hole (24) along the at least

20 three different directions.

3. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the rotation of the forcing means (9) comprises one of rotation of the forcing member (9) about its central axis and revolution of the forcing member (9)

25 about an axis separate from its central axis; and wherein the forcing step comprises simultaneously executing at least two of the rotation

of the forcing member (9) about its central axis, the revolution of the forcing member (9) about the axis separate from its central axis, and linear motion of the forcing member (9).

- 5 4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the forcing step comprises:

 using a forcing means (109A-109D) placed on the surface of the substrate (23) in forcing the fluid material (50) into the hole (24); and

- 10 moving the forcing means (109A-109D) in at least three different linear directions along the surface of the substrate (23) to force the fluid material (50) into the hole (24) along the at least three different directions.

- 15 5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the hole (24) in the substrate (23) has a closed bottom.

6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the substrate (23) comprises an insulating substrate (23), and the hole (24) comprises
20 a via hole (24) in the insulating substrate (23).

7. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the insulating substrate (23) has a surface formed with a conductor pattern (22), and the via hole (24) has a bottom closed by the conductor pattern
25 (22).

8. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the fluid material (50) comprises electrically conductive paste (50).

9. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the forcing means (9)
5 comprises a forcing member (91) having a surface which faces the substrate (23) and which has recesses (94); and wherein the forcing step comprises holding the fluid material (50) in the recesses (94), and moving the fluid material (50) from the recesses (94) into the hole (24).