CLAIMS

1. An assembly comprising:

a rotatable platen;

a platen shield surrounding the rotatable platen and separated from the rotatable platen by a gap;

an adapter configured to be removably secured to the rotatable platen;

a sponge holder attached to the adapter and situated in the gap; and

a sponge held by the sponge holder such that an outer surface of the sponge is pressed by the adapter against an inner surface of the platen shield.

2. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the adapter further comprises a latch configured to be removably secured to a plug extending from the rotatable platen.

3. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the adapter further comprises a support flange configured to abut a top surface of the rotatable platen to prevent the adapter from rotating.

4. The assembly of claim 1, comprising a plurality of springs interposed between the adapter and the sponge holder to urge the sponge into contact with the inner surface of the platen shield.

5. The assembly of claim 4, comprising a plurality of cotter pins that hold the plurality of springs to the adapter and the sponge holder.

6. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the sponge is coupled to the sponge holder by a loop and hook fixture.

7. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the sponge is a dry sponge.

8. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the sponge is a wet sponge.

9. A platen shield cleaning system comprising:

an adapter configured to be removably secured to a platen of a chemical

mechanical polishing system; and

a sponge holder connected to the adapter and having an outer surface configured to receive a sponge and hold the sponge against an inner surface of a platen shield that surrounds the platen.

10. The platen shield cleaning system of claim 9, wherein the adapter further comprises a latch configured to be removably secured to a plug extending from the platen.

11. The platen shield cleaning system of claim 9, wherein the adapter further comprises a support flange configured to abut a top surface of the platen to prevent the adapter from rotating.

12. The platen shield cleaning system of claim 9, further comprising a plurality of springs interposed between the adapter and the sponge holder to urge the sponge into contact with the inner surface of the platen shield.

13. The platen shield cleaning system of claim 12, further comprising a plurality of cotter pins to hold the plurality of springs to the adapter and the sponge holder.

14. The platen shield cleaning system of claim 10, further comprising a sponge coupled to the sponge holder.

15. The platen shield cleaning system of claim 14, wherein the sponge is coupled to the sponge holder by a loop and hook fixture.

16. The platen shield cleaning system of claim 14, wherein the sponge is a dry sponge.

17. The platen shield cleaning system of claim 14, wherein the sponge is a wet sponge.

18. A platen shield cleaning method comprising:

installing a sponge on a sponge holder;

attaching the sponge holder to an adapter to form a cleaning tool;

removably securing the cleaning tool by the adapter to a platen in a gap between the platen and a platen shield;

urging the sponge into contact with an inner surface of the platen shield; and

rotating the platen, the adapter, the sponge holder, and the sponge, with the sponge in contact with the platen shield.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein removably securing the cleaning tool by the adapter to the platen in the gap between the platen and the platen shield further comprises:

compressing a plurality of springs interposed between the adapter and the sponge holder to move the adapter and the sponge holder closer to each other; and

releasing the plurality of springs to move the adapter and the sponge holder away from each other.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein removably securing the cleaning tool by the adapter to the platen in the gap between the platen and the platen shield further comprises placing a latch of the adapter over a plug on the platen.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein removably securing the cleaning tool by the adapter to the platen in the gap between the platen and the platen shield further comprises placing a support flange of the adapter to abut a top surface of the platen to prevent the adapter from rotating.

22. The method of claim 18, wherein the sponge comprises a dry sponge, and the method further comprises scraping the platen shield with the dry sponge.

23. The method of claim 18, further comprising:

moistening the sponge with a cleaning solution to form a wet sponge; and

scraping the platen shield with the wet sponge.