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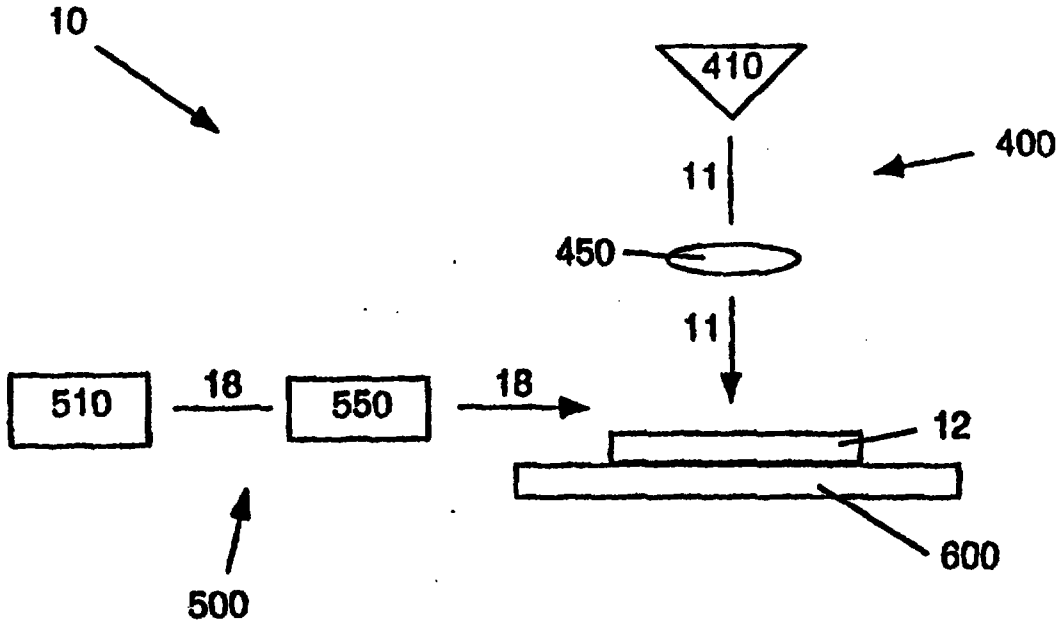
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(54) Title: REMOVAL OF MATERIAL BY POLARIZED RADIATION AND BACK SIDE APPLICATION OF RADIATION




(57) Abstract

An apparatus and method for selectively removing undesired material from the surface of a substrate provides a flow of inert gas over the undesired material substrate surface while irradiating the undesired material with energetic photons. The invention enables removal of undesired material without altering the physical properties of the material underlying or adjacent the removed, undesired material. Removal effectiveness may be enhanced by utilizing polarized energetic photons. Directing a laser beam to the back side of a transparent substrate may enhance the effectiveness of removal.