CLAIMS

1. An imprinting device that pressurizes an object subjected to pattern formation by a mold and by a substrate to transfer a molding pattern of the mold to the object subjected to pattern formation comprising:

a stage on which either the mold or the substrate is mounted;

placing means for placing the other of the mold or the substrate not mounted on the stage, at a position where the mold and the substrate hold therebetween the object subjected to pattern formation, said object having fluidity, and the other of the mold or the substrate not mounted on the stage being substantially floating on the object subjected to pattern formation;

a pressure adjusting unit that comprises a pressure adjusting chamber in which the mold and the substrate are placed gas-tightly;

depressurizing means for depressurizing an interior of the pressure adjusting chamber;

pressurizing means for pressurizing the interior of the pressure adjusting chamber within a range that allows the other of the mold or the substrate not mounted on the stage to move freely within the chamber in a direction to become closer to the mold or the substrate mounted on the

stage, and the other of the mold or the substrate being substantially floating on the object subjected to pattern formation, said object having fluidity, and the entire mold or substrate receiving uniform pressure; and

fixing means for fixing the object subjected to pattern formation to the molding pattern.

2. The imprinting device according to claim 1, further comprising slide preventing means for preventing slide movement of the mold and of the substrate.

3. The imprinting device according to claim 1, wherein the placing means is movable to a position at which slide movement of the mold and of the substrate is prevented.

4. The imprinting device according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the placing means comprises position detecting means for detecting a relative position of the mold to the substrate.

5. The imprinting device according to claim 4, further comprising control means for controlling at least either one of the placing means or the pressurizing means

based on detection information from the position detecting means.

6. The imprinting device according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the placing means places the mold and the substrate so as to be in parallel with each other.

7. The imprinting device according to any one of claims 1 to 6, further comprising the mold wherein the mold comprises a wall portion that surrounds a circumference of the molding pattern.

8. The imprinting device according to claim 7, wherein a height of the wall portion relative to a surface where the molding pattern is formed is equal to or higher than 1 μm.

9. The imprinting device according to claim 7 or 8, wherein a difference between a maximum value of the height of the wall portion relative to a surface where the molding pattern is formed and a minimum value thereof is equal to or smaller than 1 μm.

10. The imprinting device according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the fixing means is light emitting means for emitting light to the object subjected to pattern formation for curing, or is temperature adjusting means for adjusting a temperature of the object subjected to pattern formation.

11. An imprinting method of pressuring an object subjected to pattern formation by a mold and by a substrate to transfer a molding pattern of the mold to the object subjected to pattern formation comprising:

a depressurizing process of eliminating a gas between the mold and the object subjected to pattern formation;

a placing process of placing, in the depressurization, the mold and the substrate with the object subjected to pattern formation being held therebetween, and with either one of the mold and the substrate being substantially floating on the object subjected to pattern formation, said object having fluidity;

a pressurizing process of pressurizing the mold and the object subjected to pattern formation by gas within a range that allows the mold or the substrate substantially floating on the object subjected to pattern formation, to

move freely in the direction to become closer to the other of the mold or the substrate, said object having fluidity, and the entire mold or substrate receiving uniform pressure; and

a fixing process of fixing the object subjected to pattern formation to the molding pattern.

12. The imprinting method according to claim 11, wherein the pressurizing process is executed while slide movement of the mold and of the substrate is prevented.

13. The imprinting method according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the placing process places the mold and the substrate so as to be in parallel with each other.

14. The imprinting method according to any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein the fixing process is a light emitting process of emitting light to the object subjected to pattern formation for curing, thereby fixing the molding pattern to the object subjected to pattern formation, or is a temperature adjusting process of adjusting a temperature of the object subjected to pattern formation for curing, thereby fixing the molding pattern to the object subjected to pattern formation.

15. The imprinting method according to any one of claims 11 to 14, wherein the mold comprises a wall portion that surrounds a circumference of the molding pattern.

16. The imprinting method according to claim 15, wherein a height of the wall portion relative to a surface where the molding pattern is formed is equal to or higher than 1 μm.

17. The imprinting method according to claim 15 or 16, wherein a difference between a maximum value of the height of the wall portion relative to a surface where the molding pattern is formed and a minimum value thereof is equal to or smaller than 1 μm.