

(19) World Intellectual Property
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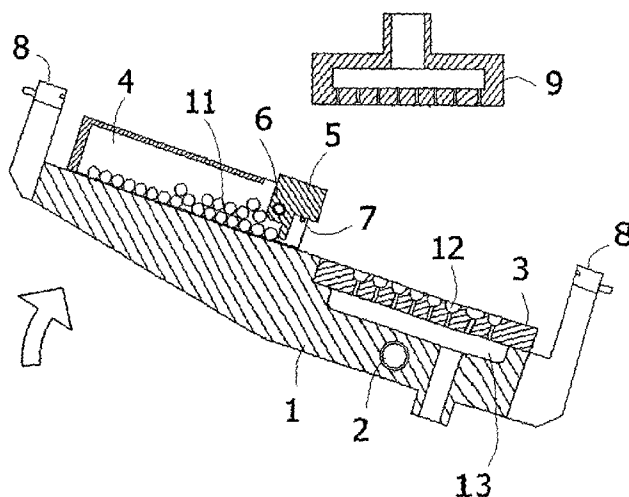
(43) International Publication Date
29 April 2004 (29.04.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/035253 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B23K 3/06**, H01L 21/60
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/SG2003/000246
- (22) International Filing Date: 13 October 2003 (13.10.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
0206254-5 14 October 2002 (14.10.2002) SG
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- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:
— with international search report
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: AN APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR FILLING A BALL GRID ARRAY TEMPLATE



(57) Abstract: An apparatus and method for filling a ball grid array template (3) is disclosed. The apparatus comprises a normally horizontal base plate (1) with the ball grid array template (3) being mounted onto the base plate at one end. A solder ball supply bin (4) is slidably mounted over the surface of the base plate (1). The bin (4) is enclosed on three vertical sides, while the fourth vertical side proximate the ball grid array template (3) is a pivotable ball gate (5). At rest, the bin (4) is located at an end of the base plate (1) opposite to the template (3). When the base is tilted, the bin (4) slides from its rest location to the other end of the base plate, so that it is positioned over the template (3), thereby allowing the solder balls (11) to fill the locating holes (12) of the template (3). The base is then rotated so that it tilts the opposite way, allowing the bin (4) to return to its rest position. As the bin returns to its rest position, the ball gate (5) sweeps any excess balls (14) on the surface of the template (3) back into the bin (4). A sensing device (8) monitors the position of the ball gate (5). If the ball gate (5) is in an open position, this indicates an abnormality in operation.