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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY** [US/US]; 1 River Road, Schenectady, New York 12345 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **EDWARDS, Richard** [US/US]; 135 Lake Pointe Circle Sw, Huntsville, Alabama 35824 (US). **LIANG, Erwin** [CN/US]; 8 Glenagles Boulevard, Ballston Lake, New York 12019 (US). **HAYDEN, Harland** [US/US]; 4698 Sonsaul Road, Amsterdam, New York 12010 (US). **SORENSEN, Donald** [US/US]; 5 Droms Road Extension, Scotia, New York 12302 (US). **CHEN, Alvin** [US/US]; 3048 Silent Valley Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22031 (US). **COYLE, Dennis** [US/US]; 3 Horeshoe Turn, Clifton Park, New York 12065 (US).

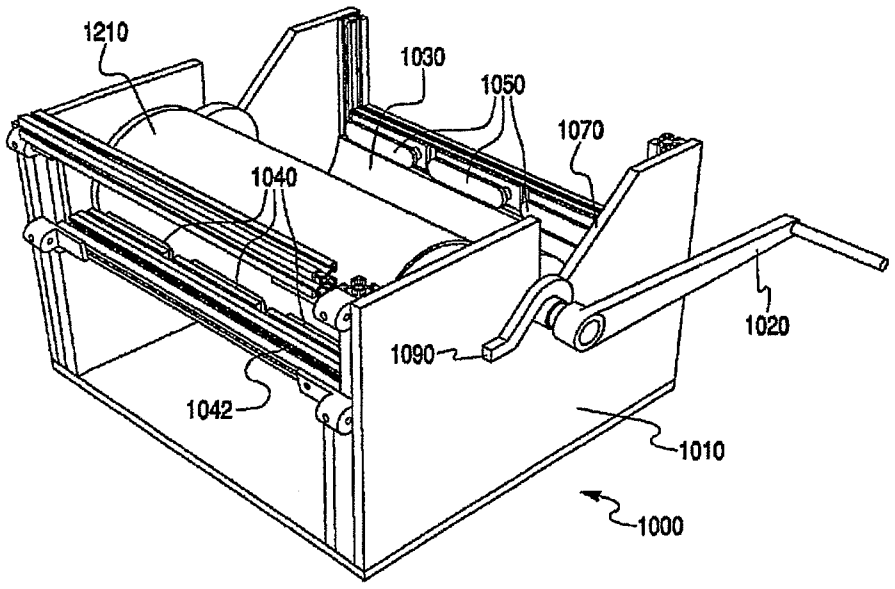
(74) Agents: **TOOP, Barbara** et al.; GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, GLOBAL PATENT OPERATION, 187 Danbury Road, Suite 204, Wilton, Connecticut 06897 (US).

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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REDUCING SURFACE DEFECTS IN MICROSTAMPS



(57) Abstract: A removal assembly and method for removing a submaster from a master is described. A curved tooling surface is arranged within a housing of the assembly. A first array of vacuum cups is attached to the housing adjacent a first end of the curved tooling surface, where the first array of vacuum cups are configured to provide a vacuum grip on a first portion of the submaster. A second array of vacuum cups is attached to the housing adjacent a second end of the curved tooling surface, where the second end opposes the first end, the second array of vacuum cups is configured to provide a vacuum grip on a second portion of the submaster. A rotation mechanism is configured to rotationally support the master as the master is rolled along the curved tooling surface to remove the submaster.

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