## ABSTRACT

### WORKPIECE DIVIDING METHOD

There is provided a dividing method for dividing a plate-shaped workpiece. The dividing method includes: a starting point region forming step of forming a starting point region serving as a starting point of division along a planned dividing line set on the workpiece; a heating step of heating the workpiece after performing the starting point region forming step; a cooling step of cooling the workpiece after performing the heating step; a dividing step of dividing the workpiece along the starting point region by applying a force to the workpiece after performing the cooling step; and a sheet affixing step of affixing an expanding sheet to the workpiece before performing the dividing step; the dividing step applying the force to the workpiece by expanding the expanding sheet.

(Figure 2A)