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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/17931 (22) International Filing Date: 28 August 1998 (28.08.98) (30) Priority Data: 08/932,578 19 September 1997 (19.09.97) US (71) Applicant: SPEEDFAM CORPORATION [US/US]; 305 North 54th Street, Chandler, AZ 85226 (US). (72) Inventors: ANDERSON, Robert, L.; 4525 N. 66th Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85251 (US). MANSEAU, Michael; Apartment 3N, 7353 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60626 (US). DERZA, Janusz, Aleksander; Apartment 201, 928 Jonathan Court, Prospect Heights, IL 60070 (US). BUSSAN, John, Edward; 1990 Cranbrook Road, Libertyville, IL 60048 (US). (74) Agents: SAMPLES, Kenneth, H. et al.; Fitch, Even, Tabin & Flannery, 16th floor, 120 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60603-3406 (US).		(81) Designated States: DE, GB, JP, KR, SG, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: **POLISHING MACHINE INCLUDING A PLATFORM ASSEMBLY MOUNTED ON THREE COLUMNS**

(57) Abstract

A polishing machine includes a platform assembly (60) slidably mounted on three support columns (32-36). The assembly (60) includes first and second platforms (64, 66) joined together and slidably movable toward and away from each other. A lift plate (114) is supported above the uppermost platform (64) by a coil spring, which allows adjustment of the pressure applied on an upper polish plate (20) which is suspended from the lift plate (114) by a supporting element which passes through the assembly (60). Drive shafts (72-76) are suspended from an overlying superstructure and engage the upper platform (64) so as to raise and lower the assembly (60) and the upper polish plate (20).

