

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A chuck table for holding a frame unit including a workpiece securely placed in an opening of an annular frame by a tape, comprising:

a holder having a holding surface for holding the workpiece thereon with the tape interposed therebetween, the holder being made of a transparent material; and

a frame body erected around the holder and surrounding the holder, the frame body having an upper surface, a lower surface opposite the upper surface, an inner circumferential surface between the upper surface and the lower surface, an opening defined by the inner circumferential surface, and a plurality of suction holes defined in the frame body and open in the inner circumferential surface of the frame body, wherein

the frame body has an inside diameter equal to or smaller than an inside diameter of the annular frame, and,

while the opening of the frame body is being covered by the tape of the frame unit, a suction force is transmitted through the suction holes into the frame body, discharging air from between the tape and the holding surface to bring the tape into intimate contact with the holding surface thereby securing the workpiece of the frame unit to the holding surface.

2. The chuck table according to claim 1, wherein the holding surface of the holder is flat in its entirety

and is free of suction grooves.

3. An inspection apparatus for inspecting a workpiece, comprising:

a chuck table for holding, on a holding surface, a frame unit including a workpiece securely placed in an opening of an annular frame by a tape;

a camera unit for capturing an image of the workpiece held on the chuck table through the holding surface from a holding surface side; and

a moving unit for relatively moving the chuck table and the camera unit in X-axis directions parallel to the holding surface or Y-axis directions perpendicular to the X-axis directions, wherein

the chuck table includes:

a holder having the holding surface for holding the workpiece with the tape interposed therebetween, the holder being made of a transparent material, and

a frame body erected around the holder and surrounding the holder, the frame body having an upper surface, a lower surface opposite the upper surface, and inner circumferential surface between the upper surface and the lower surface, an opening defined by the inner circumferential surface and a plurality of suction holes defined in the frame body and open in the inner circumferential surface of the frame body,

the frame body has an inside diameter equal to or smaller

than an inside diameter of the annular frame, and,

while the opening of the frame body is being covered by the tape of the frame unit, a suction force is transmitted through the suction holes into the frame body, discharging air from between the tape and the holding surface to bring the tape into intimate contact with the holding surface thereby securing the workpiece of the frame unit to the holding surface.

4. The inspection apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

the inspection apparatus is incorporated in a processing apparatus including a processing unit for processing the workpiece with a cutting blade or a laser beam, and

the processing unit processes the workpiece held on the chuck table and inspects the workpiece by capturing an image of the workpiece processed by the processing unit through the chuck table.