

PROCESSING METHOD

ABSTRACT

A processing method includes a holding step of holding a workpiece by a chuck table including a holding surface that holds the workpiece in an upper surface and a sheet covering step of covering the upper surface of the chuck table in addition to the workpiece by a sheet having transmissibility. The processing method also includes a close contact step of generating a suction force for the holding surface of the chuck table and reducing the pressure on a region covered by the sheet to bring the workpiece into close contact with the upper surface of the chuck table by an atmospheric pressure applied to the sheet and a modified layer forming step of positioning the focal point of a laser beam inside the workpiece through the sheet and irradiating the workpiece with the laser beam to form a modified layer.

[Fig. 4A]