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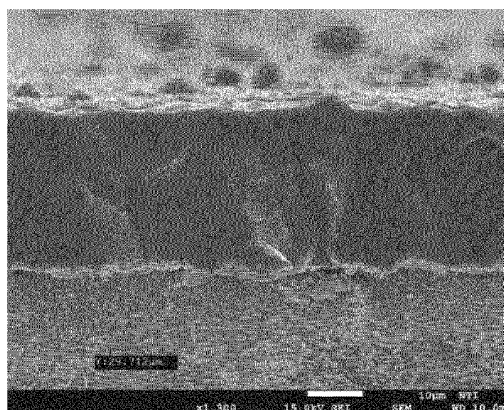


FIG. 5

(57) Abstract: A method of continuously depositing a coating on a substrate comprises (a) depositing a first layer of ta-C on a substrate via a CVA process, said first layer having a first hardness and a first thickness of 100 nm or greater; (b) adjusting the parameters of the CVA process and depositing a second layer of ta-C on a substrate via a CVA process, said second layer having a second hardness and a second thickness of 10 nm or less, and (c) repeating the above steps to provide a coating comprising at least 5 such first layers and at least 4 such second layers, wherein the first thickness is greater than the second thickness and the first hardness is greater than the second hardness.

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