

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An assembly comprising:
5 a rotatable platen;
a platen shield surrounding the platen and separated from the platen by a gap;
a sponge holder attached to the platen and situated in the gap; and
a sponge held by the sponge holder such that an outer surface of the sponge is
pressed against an inner surface of the platen shield.
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2. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the sponge holder further comprises an
adapter configured to be removably secured to the rotatable platen, the adapter configured
to press the sponge against the inner surface of the platen shield.
- 15 3. The assembly of claim 2, wherein the adapter further comprises a latch
configured to be removably secured to a plug extending from a platen.
4. The assembly of claim 3, wherein the sponge is pressed against an inner
surface of the platen shield by a plurality of springs.
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5. A platen shield cleaning system comprising:
an adapter configured to be removably secured to a platen of a chemical
mechanical polishing system; and
a sponge holder connected to the adapter and having an outer surface configured
25 to receive a sponge and hold the sponge against an inner surface of a platen shield that
surrounds the platen.
6. The platen shield cleaning system of claim 5, wherein the adapter further
comprises a latch configured to be removably secured to a plug extending from a platen.
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7. The platen shield cleaning system of claim 5, wherein the adapter further
comprises a support flange configured to abut a top surface of the platen to prevent the
adapter from rotating.

8. The platen shield cleaning system of claim 5, wherein a plurality of springs interposed between the adapter and the sponge holder to urge the sponge into contact with the inner surface of the platen shield.

5 9. The platen shield cleaning system of claim 6, wherein a plurality of cotter pins to hold the plurality of springs to the adapter and the sponge holder.

10 10. The platen shield cleaning system of claim 6, further comprising a sponge coupled to the sponge holder.

11. The platen shield cleaning system of claim 10, wherein the sponge is coupled to the sponge holder by a loop and hook fixture.

15 12. The platen shield cleaning system of claim 10, wherein the sponge is a dry sponge.

13. The platen shield cleaning system of claim 10, wherein the sponge is a wet sponge.

20 14. A platen shield cleaning method comprising:
installing a sponge and a sponge holder in a gap between a platen and a platen shield;
urging the sponge into contact with the platen shield; and
rotating the platen and the platen, the sponge holder, and, the sponge, the sponge
25 in contact with the platen shield.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein attaching the sponge and the sponge holder in the gap between the platen and the platen shield further comprises:
compressing a plurality of spring interposed between the sponge and the sponge
30 holder to move the sponge and the sponge holder closer to each other; and
releasing the plurality of spring interposed between the sponge and the sponge holder to move the sponge and the sponge holder away from each other.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein attaching the sponge and the sponge holder in the gap between the platen and the platen shield further comprises placing a latch on the sponge holder over a plug on the platen.

5 17. The method of claim 14, wherein installing a sponge and a sponge holder in a gap between a platen and a platen shield further comprises placing a support flange configured to abut a top surface of the platen to prevent the adapter from rotating.

10 18. The method of claim 14, further comprising scraping the platen shield with a dry sponge.

15 19. The method of claim 14, further comprising:
moistening the platen shield with a wet sponge containing a cleaning solution; and
scraping the platen shield with the wet sponge.