



(43) International Publication Date
26 September 2013 (26.09.2013)

- (51) International Patent Classification:
H01L 21/301 (2006.01) *H01L 31/042* (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2012/070182
- (22) International Filing Date:
17 December 2012 (17.12.2012)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
13/429,141 23 March 2012 (23.03.2012) US
- (71) Applicant: **SUNPOWER CORPORATION** [US/US]; 77
Rio Robles, San Jose, California 95134 (US).
- (72) Inventors: **SUN, Sheng**; 707 Cayman Lane, Foster City,
California 94404 (US). **BOYON, Fernando**; 47 J. Bongon
Avenue San Antonio Tabaco, Albay, 4511 (PH). **LEG-
ASPI, Roy Joseph**; 27 Castlevue Street Laguna Belair,
Santa Rose, Laguna (PH). **DAWSON, Matthew**; 2021
Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park, California 94025 (US).
STONE, Charles; Suite 148, PMB231, 100 E. White-
stone, Cedar Park, Texas 78613 (US).
- (74) Agents: **VINCENT, Lester J.** et al.; Blakely, Sokoloff,
Taylor & Zafman LLP, 1279 Oakmead Parkway,
Sunnyvale, California 94085 (US).
- (81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY,
BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM,
DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT,
HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP,
KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD,
ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI,
NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU,
RW, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ,
TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA,
ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ,
UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ,
TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK,
EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV,
MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM,
TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW,
ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD OF CUTTING AN INGOT FOR SOLAR CELL FABRICATION

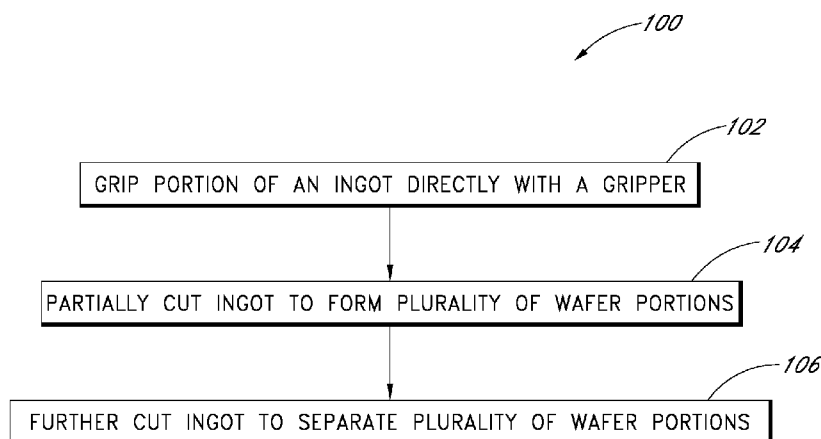


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Methods of cutting ingots for solar cell fabrication, as well ingots and grippers there for, are described. In an example, a method of cutting an ingot includes gripping a portion of the ingot directly with a gripper of a cutting apparatus. The ingot is partially cut to form a plurality of wafer portions projecting from an uncut portion of the ingot. The ingot is further cut to separate the plurality of wafer portions from the uncut portion, to provide a plurality of discrete wafers.

WO 2013/141914 A1



Published:

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*