



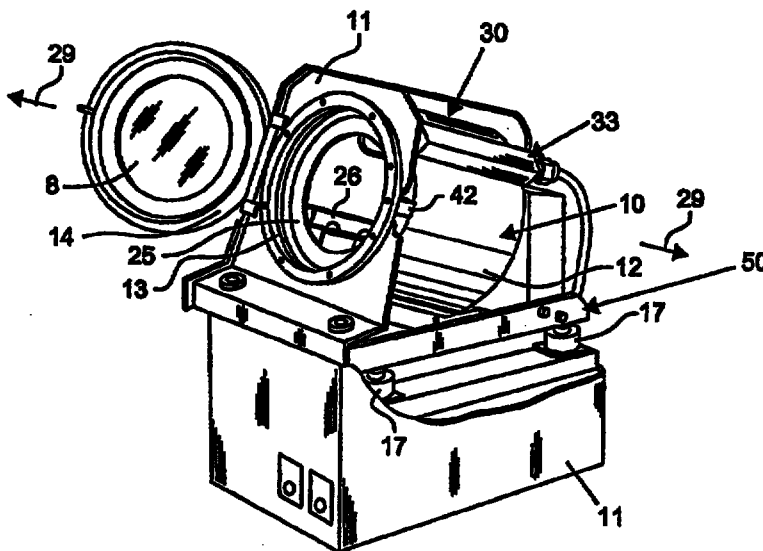
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International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : B08B 11/02		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/03608
			(43) International Publication Date: 28 January 1999 (28.01.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/15238 (22) International Filing Date: 21 July 1998 (21.07.98) (30) Priority Data: 08/897,914 21 July 1997 (21.07.97) US (71) Applicant: SEMITOOL, INC. [US/US]; 655 West Reserve Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901 (US). (72) Inventor: ALEKSANDER, Owczarz; 40884 Marty Terrace, Freemont, CA 94539-4459 (US). (74) Agent: POLIT, Robert, B.; Rockey, Milnamow & Katz, Suite 4700, 180 North Stetson, Chicago, IL 60601 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report.	

(54) Title: DRIVE ASSEMBLY FOR A WORKPIECE PROCESSING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

An apparatus (10) for processing a microelectronic workpiece is disclosed. The apparatus (10) comprises a bowl (12) defining a processing chamber. The bowl (12) is in fixed alignment with a frame (50). A workpiece support structure (15) is mounted for rotation within the processing chamber. A motor drive assembly (21) is disposed exterior to the processing chamber and rotates the workpiece support structure (15). The drive assembly (21) includes an electrically driven motor and at least one shock absorbing member (155) connected between the motor and the frame (50). The motor includes a shaft rotating about an axis of rotation (29). The shock absorbing member (155) elastically deforms in substantially all directions perpendicular to the axis of rotation (29) in response to vibrational forces having components perpendicular to the axis of rotation (29) and, to a lesser degree, in directions parallel to the axis of rotation (29) in response to vibrational forces having components parallel to the axis of rotation (29).