

so that the flat pad confines the immersion liquid between the flat pad and the projection system.

9. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a structure extending along at least a part of a boundary of the space between the projection system and the substrate table and wherein the flat pad, when keeping the projection system in contact with the immersion liquid, is positioned to cover the structure.

10. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the flat pad keeps the projection system in contact with the immersion liquid when the substrate is moved away from under the projection system.

11. A device manufacturing method comprising:

providing an immersion liquid to a space between a projection system and a substrate;

projecting a patterned beam of radiation, through the immersion liquid, onto a target portion of the substrate using the projection system; and

maintaining the projection system in contact with the immersion liquid when the substrate, at least while on a substrate table, comes out of contact with the immersion liquid by moving the substrate table and the flat pad relative to the projection system such that placing a flat pad, which is separate from the substrate table, is placed adjacent to the projection system in place of the substrate,

wherein the substrate table is moved away from below the projection system while maintaining the projection system in contact with the immersion liquid by the flat pad placed adjacent to the projection system.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein maintaining the projection system in contact with liquid comprises positioning the flat pad on a side opposite the projection system such that liquid is confined between the projection system and the flat pad.

13. A method according to claim 12, further comprising releasably attaching the flat pad over a final optical element of the projection system.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein releasably attaching comprises attaching the flat pad using vacuum.

15. A method according to claim 12, wherein the flat pad, when keeping the projection system in contact with the immersion liquid, is positioned to cover a structure