CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for forming an ophthalmic lens comprising

a mold assembly comprising a first mold half having a first molding surface and a second mold half having a second molding surface, between which in a final closed position of the mold assembly a mold cavity is formed that defines the shape of an ophthalmic lens;

means for arranging the first and second mold half at an intermediate closed position; wherein in the intermediate closed position, the first and second molding surfaces of the first and second mold halves are spaced apart at a distance increase (d1) relative to a final distance (d0) in a final closed position of the first and second mold halves; and

means for moving the first and second mold halves from the intermediate closed position to the final closed position; and

further comprising an interferometric measuring device which is arranged such. that during curing of the lens forming material the distance increase (d1) can be measured with the interferometric measuring device, and which device is connected to the means for moving the mold halves to control the relative movement of the first and second mold halves in accordance with the measured distance increase (d1) and the characteristics of the curing process for the lens forming material.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein in the intermediate closed position the first and second molding surfaces of the first and second mold halves are spaced apart from each other at a distance increase (d1) of 1 μm to 100 μm with reference to a final distance (d0) in a final closed position.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the means for arranging the first and second mold halves in the intermediate closed position are selected from friction type means or spacer type means.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the mold assembly further comprises means for actively moving the first and second mold halves from the intermediate closed position to the final closed position.

5. The apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the mold assembly further comprises means for re-opening the first and second mold halves from the final closed position to the intermediate closed position.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the means for arranging the first and second mold halves at a distance increase (d1) comprise a compressible sleeve.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising means for aligning and/or centering the two mold halves with respect to each other.