WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A transfer apparatus for holding a plate-shaped workpiece under suction in a noncontact condition and transferring said plate-shaped workpiece, said transfer apparatus comprising:

a base;

a Bernoulli transfer pad fixed to said base for spraying a fluid toward said workpiece to produce a vacuum; and

a moving unit for moving said base;

said Bernoulli transfer pad including a cylindrical pad body, said pad body having a first holding surface to which a fluid spraying portion opens and an annular pad mounting portion for mounting an annular pad,

said annular pad mounting portion is formed by a cylindrical outer surface of said pad body,

said annular pad is selected from a plurality of annular pads having different outer diameters and is mounted on the cylindrical outer surface of said pad body,

said annular pad having a second holding surface and being mounted to said annular pad mounting portion and having an inner diameter equal to a diameter of said pad body,

wherein when said annular pad is mounted on said annular pad mounting portion, said second holding surface of said annular pad is flush with said first holding surface of said pad body, and ~~wherein when said annular pad is mounted on said annular pad mounting portion,~~

said first holding surface of said pad body is radially extended by said second holding surface of said annular pad ~~increased in a radial direction of said pad body~~ to thereby increase a suction force for sucking said workpiece~~,~~

~~wherein~~

~~said annular pad mounting portion is formed by a cylindrical outer surface of said pad body, said annular pad includes a plurality of annular pads having different outer diameters and a selected one of said plurality of annular pads is mounted on the cylindrical outer surface of said pad body; and~~

~~said Bernoulli transfer pad further includes an annular pad mounted to said pad body, said annular pad having an inner diameter equal to a diameter of said pad body and a second holding surface flush with said first holding surface on a radially outside of said pad body~~.