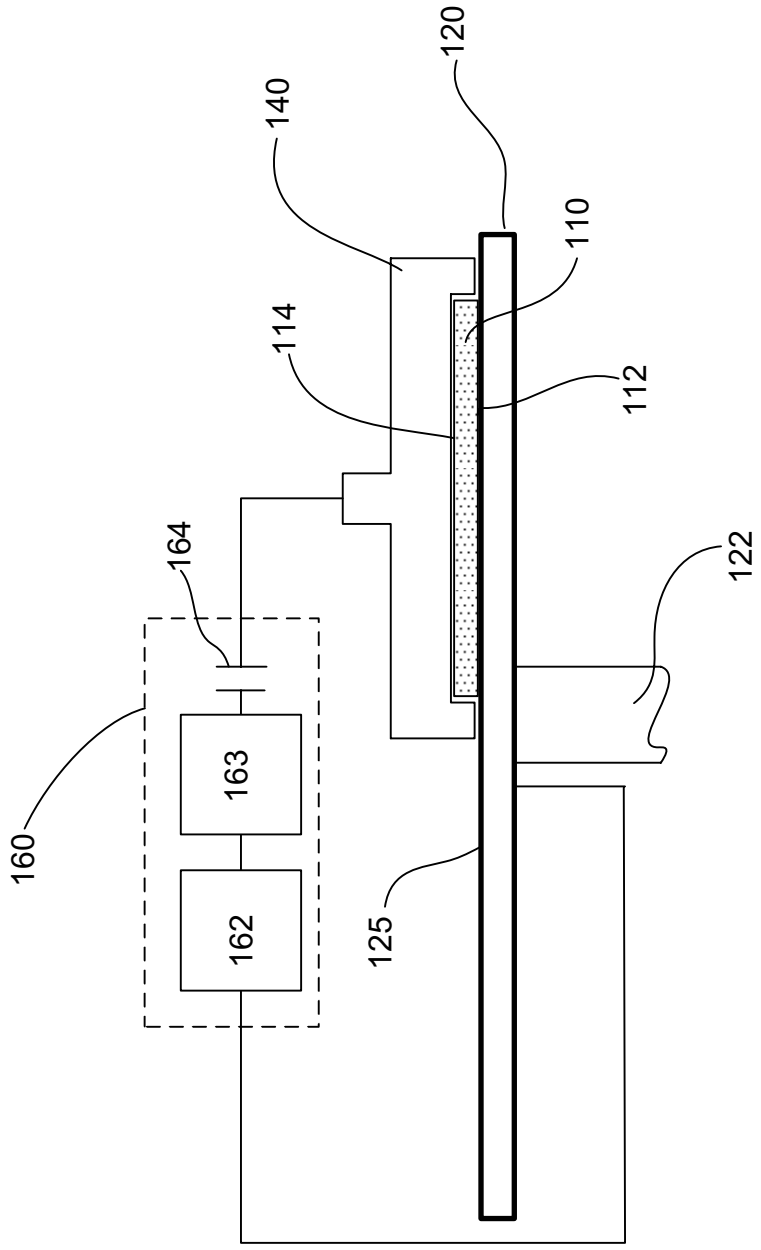


Fig. 1

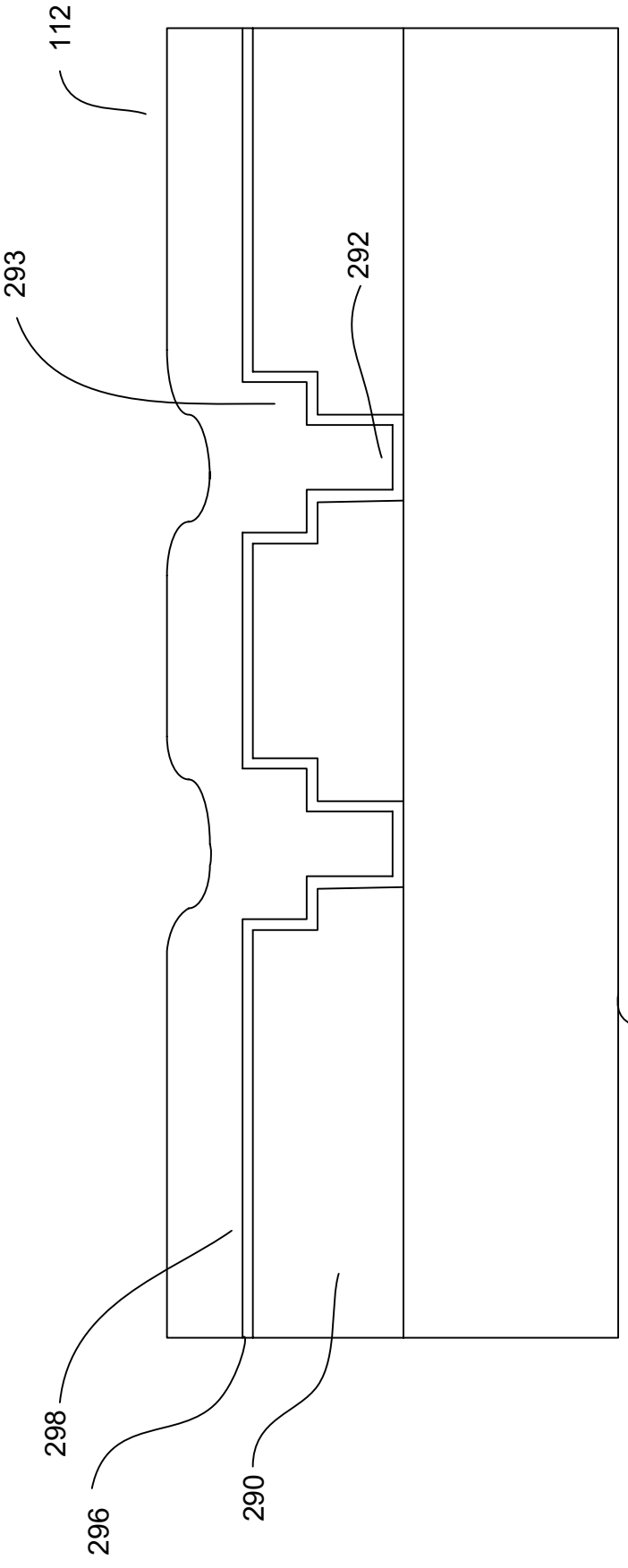


Fig. 2a

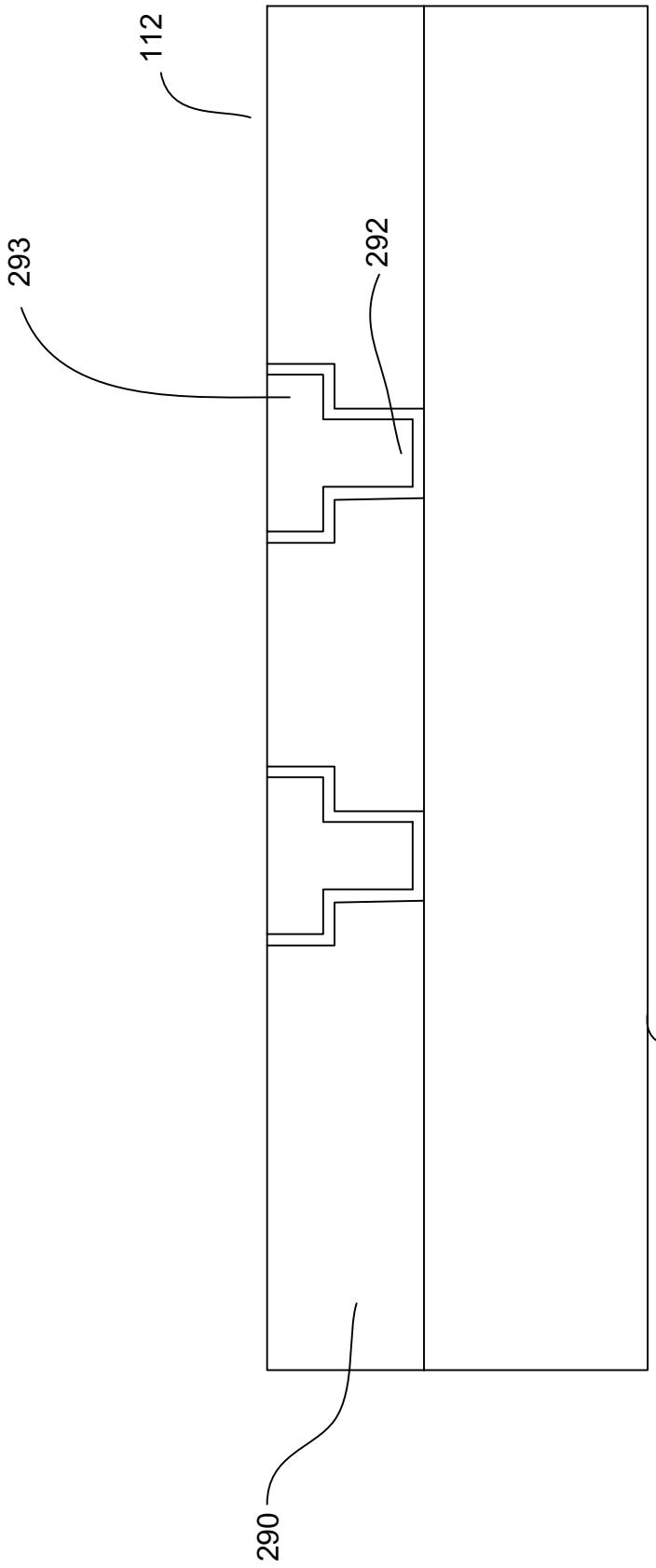


Fig. 2b

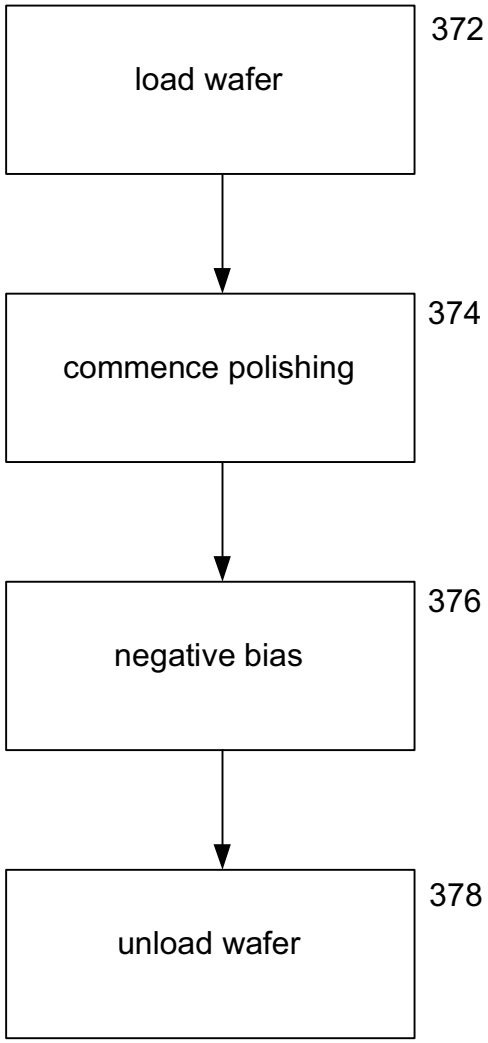

load wafer
372
commence polishing
374
negative bias
376
unload wafer
378
300

Fig. 3

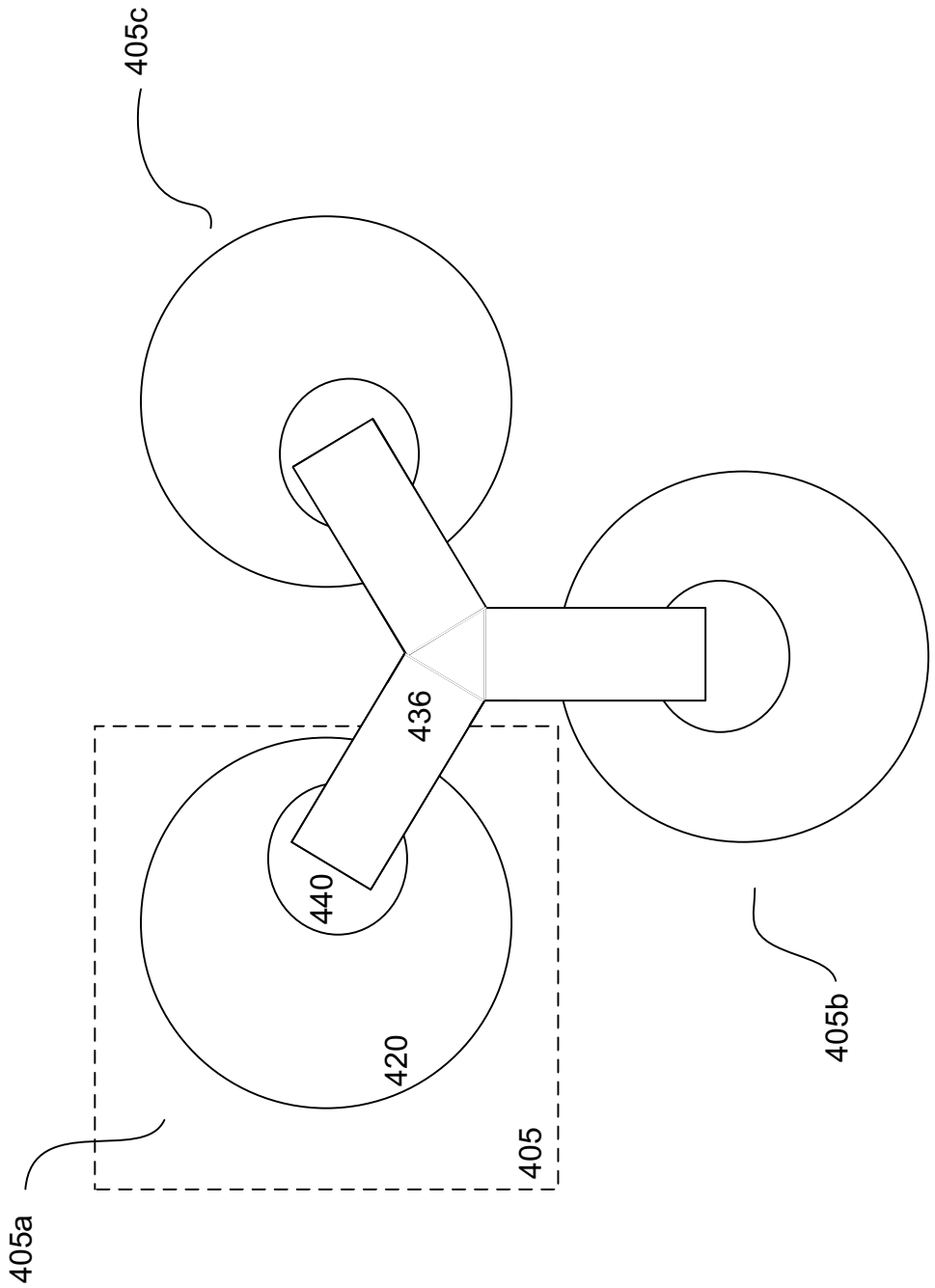


Fig. 4

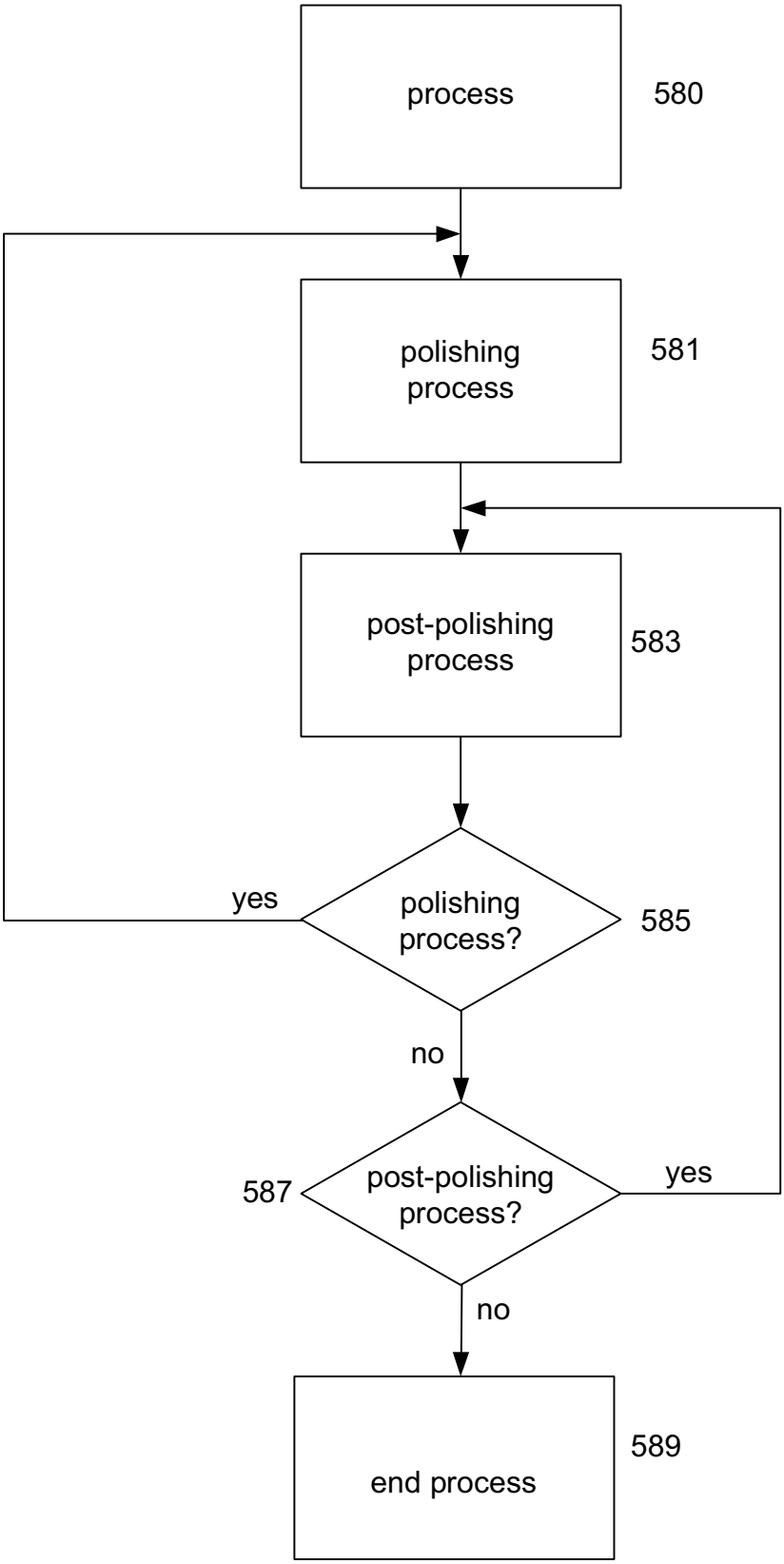

process
580
polishing process
581
post-polishing process
583
polishing process?
585
yes
no
post-polishing process?
587
yes
no
end process
589
500

Fig. 5