

CLAIMS

[Claim 1] A polishing table replacement apparatus for removing a polishing table from a polishing apparatus, comprising:

- a crane configured to move the polishing table vertically and horizontally;
- 5 a table stage on which the polishing table can be placed; and
- a table-stage tilting mechanism configured to tilt the table stage.

[Claim 2] The polishing table replacement apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

- 10 a moving mechanism allowing an entirety of the polishing table replacement apparatus to move.

[Claim 3] The polishing table replacement apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

- 15 a joint portion which can be joined to the polishing apparatus.

[Claim 4] The polishing table replacement apparatus according to any one of claims 1 through 3, wherein the crane includes a lift arm which is expandable and contractible horizontally, a table support tool for supporting the polishing table, and a

20 vertically moving device configured to move the lift arm up and down, the table support tool being attached to a distal end of the lift arm.

[Claim 5] A method of replacing a polishing table, comprising:

- elevating a polishing table;
- 25 moving the elevated polishing table horizontally to remove the polishing table from a polishing apparatus;
- placing the polishing table onto a table stage; and
- tilting the table stage together with the polishing table.