CLAIMS

1. A method of removing a contact lens from a lens mold portion carrying a contact lens, the method comprising reciprocally displacing a region of the mold portion to thereby cause an edge portion of the contact lens to become detached from the mold portion.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the reciprocal displacement has an amplitude, the method further comprising varying the amplitude of the reciprocal displacement with respect to time.

3. The method according to any preceding claim, further comprising moving a suction head synchronously with the reciprocal displacement of the mold portion.

4. The method according to any preceding claim, further comprising blowing gas towards the edge portion of the contact lens.

5. A method of manufacturing a contact lens using lens mold portions, the method comprising removing the contact lens from a lens mold portion in accordance with the method of one of claims 1 to 4.

6. An apparatus for removing a contact lens from a lens mold portion, the apparatus comprising:

a platform for retaining the lens mold portion; and

a reciprocating member arranged to reciprocally displace a region of said lens mold portion when the lens mold portion is retained by the platform.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising a clamp arranged and configured such that, in use, the clamp acts on an outer circumference of the mold portion.

8. The apparatus according to claim 6 or claim 7, wherein the clamp defines a circular aperture.

9. The apparatus according to any of claims 6 to 8, wherein the reciprocating member comprises a non-planar end portion shaped to complement the mold portion.

10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the reciprocating member is arranged such that, in use, the end portion contacts the center of the mold portion.

11. An apparatus according to either claim 9 or claim 10, wherein the clamp defines a circular aperture, and the end portion of the reciprocating member and the circular aperture define an annulus on the mold portion.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the annulus is outside an optic portion of the mold portion.

13. The apparatus according to any of claims 6 to 12, further comprising a suction head, wherein the suction head is arranged and configured such that, in use, the suction head is located on a side of the mold portion opposite the reciprocating member and moves substantially synchronously with the reciprocating member.

14. The apparatus according to any of claims 6 to 13, further comprising a blower arranged to blow air towards an edge of a lens attached to the mold portion.

15. The apparatus according to any of claims 6 to 14, wherein the mold portion is a female mold portion.

16. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the platform comprises a recess in which the female mold portion is supported.

17. A delensing station comprising an apparatus according to any of claims 6 to 16.

18. A manufacturing line for the production of contact lenses, comprising a delensing station according to claim 17.