

Description

Title of Invention

CLEANING DEVICE AND CLEANING METHOD

5 Technical Field

[0001]

The present invention relates to a cleaning device for a reactor and a method of cleaning a reactor. More specifically, the present invention relates to a cleaning device and a cleaning method for cleaning an inner wall surface of a reactor for use in vapor phase epitaxy of polycrystalline silicon by the Siemens method.

Background Art

15 [0002]

The Siemens method is known as a method of producing high-purity polycrystalline silicon which is used as a semiconductor material. The Siemens method is a production method in which polycrystalline silicon is deposited. In the production method, a mixed gas of chlorosilane and hydrogen is used as a material gas. The mixed gas comes into contact with a silicon seed rod which has been heated. Then, thermal decomposition and hydrogen reduction occur at the surface of the silicon seed rod, so that the polycrystalline silicon is deposited. As a device for

carrying out the production method, a reactor (bell jar) for polysilicon production is used. This reactor has a reactor furnace in which a lot of silicon seed rods are provided upright.

5 [0003]

In a case where polycrystalline silicon is produced in the bell jar, a by-product attaches to an inner wall surface of the bell jar which is cooled. The by-product having attached to the inner wall surface of the bell jar is hydrolyzed with
10 water in the atmosphere and forms hydrogen chloride. The hydrogen chloride thus formed causes corrosion of the inner wall surface of the reactor furnace. Further, in a state in which the by-product is attached to the inner wall surface of the bell jar, the inner wall surface of the bell jar has a
15 decreased reflectance. When the inner wall surface of the bell jar has a decreased reflectance, power efficiency deteriorates and the temperature inside the bell jar does not increase sufficiently in production of polycrystalline silicon. As a result, polycrystalline silicon cannot be deposited.

20 [0004]

On this account, in order to efficiently produce high-purity polycrystalline silicon, it is necessary to clean the inner wall surface of the bell jar after the end of a reaction and before the start of a next reaction which follows
25 the first reaction. Conventionally, various techniques have

been proposed as methods of cleaning an inner wall surface of a bell jar.

[0005]

For example, Patent Literature 1 discloses a technique
5 of removing a substance attached to an inner wall surface of
a reactor furnace. According to the technique, (i) the inner
wall surface of the reactor furnace is heated by supplying
steam into a furnace wall of the reactor furnace and then (ii)
a humidity-adjusted gas is introduced into the reactor
10 furnace, so that the substance attached to the inner wall
surface of the reactor furnace is hydrolyzed. Further, into the
reactor furnace, a nozzle is inserted and a high-speed jet of
an inert gas is emitted toward the inner wall surface. As a
result, the substance attached to the inner wall surface of
15 the reactor furnace is removed. Patent Literature 2 discloses
a technique of removing a silicon substance attached on an
inner wall surface of a reactor furnace, by causing carbon
dioxide pellets to collide with the silicon substance. Patent
Literature 3 discloses a technique of cleaning an inner wall
20 surface of a reactor furnace. According to this technique,
while a shaft provided at a central part is being rotated and
caused to move in a vertical direction, a three-dimensional
high-pressure jet of cleaning water, which is pure water or
ultrapure water, is emitted through a nozzle at an upper end
25 of the shaft. As a result, the inner wall surface of the reactor

furnace is cleaned. Patent Literature 4 discloses a technique of removing a substance attached on an inner wall surface of a reactor furnace, by blowing ice particles to the substance with use of high-pressure gas. Patent Literature 5 discloses a technique of cleaning an inner wall surface of a reactor furnace. According to this technique, the inner wall surface is cleaned with a three-dimensional high-pressure jet of cleaning water provided through a rotating nozzle, which revolves around a vertical shaft that is movable along a vertical direction. In this technique, the cleaning water is pure water or ultrapure water. Patent Literature 6 discloses a technique of cleaning an inner wall of a main body of a reactor furnace by a rotating brush, which emits a jet of liquid while rotating.

Citation List

[Patent Literature]

[0006]

[Patent Literature 1]

Japanese Patent Application Publication, *Tokukaishou*,
No. 56-114815 (1981)

[Patent Literature 2]

Japanese Patent Application Publication, *Tokukaihei*,
No. 6-216036 (1994)

[Patent Literature 3]

Japanese Patent Application Publication, *Tokukai*, No.

2009-196882

[Patent Literature 4]

Japanese Patent Application Publication, *Tokukai*, No.

2012-101984

5 [Patent Literature 5]

Japanese Patent Application Publication, *Tokukai*, No.

2012-20917

[Patent Literature 6]

10 Japanese Patent Application Publication, *Tokukaihei*,
No. 2-145767 (1990)

Summary of Invention

Technical Problem

[0007]

15 However, the above-described conventional techniques
have the following problems. First, the substance attached to
the reactor furnace is often firmly attached to the inner wall
surface. Accordingly, with regard to the technique disclosed
in Patent Literature 1 according to which a high-speed jet of
20 an inert gas is emitted and the techniques disclosed in Patent
Literatures 3 and 5 according to which an attached
substance is removed by a high-pressure jet of pure water or
ultrapure water, these techniques of Patent Literatures 1, 3
and 5 may be insufficient in physical-removal ability.
25 Further, the technique disclosed in Patent Literature 2 with

use of carbon dioxide pellets and the technique disclosed in Patent Literature 4 with use of ice particles do not cause hydrolysis of an attached substance to proceed. On this account, the attached substance may stay behind. In such a case, hydrogen chloride may be formed with water in the atmosphere when the reactor furnace is opened. On the other hand, in the technique disclosed in Patent Literature 6 with use of a rotating brush, it is difficult to put a brush thoroughly all over an uneven inner wall surface of the reactor furnace. Accordingly, the technique disclosed in Patent Literature 6 may not be capable of completely removing an attached substance.

[0008]

In view of the above problems, an embodiment of the present invention has been attained. An object of the present invention is to provide a cleaning device etc. capable of reliably removing a substance attached to an inner wall surface of a bell jar.

Solution to Problem

[0009]

In order to solve the above problems, a method in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention is a method of cleaning an inner wall surface of a bell jar for use in production of polycrystalline silicon, by causing nozzles to discharge a cleaning liquid at the inner wall surface, the

cleaning liquid containing abrasive particles, the method including the steps of: (a) causing the nozzles to discharge the cleaning liquid at a discharge pressure at which erosion of the nozzles, due to the cleaning liquid, occurs by not more than 500 $\mu\text{m}/\text{hour}$; and (b) adjusting a distance between the inner wall surface and the nozzles so that an impingement pressure, at which the cleaning liquid impinges on the inner wall surface, secures a pressure at which dirt on the inner wall surface can be removed.

[0010]

Further, in order to solve the above problems, a device in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention is a device for cleaning an inner wall surface of a bell jar for use in production of polycrystalline silicon, by causing nozzles to discharge a cleaning liquid at the inner wall surface, the cleaning liquid containing abrasive particles, the nozzles including first nozzles and second nozzles, the device comprising: a first cleaning unit including the first nozzles of the device, which are arranged along at least half an arc of an upper-part curved inner wall surface of the bell jar, the arc passing an apex of the upper-part curved inner wall surface; a second cleaning unit including the second nozzles of the device, which are arranged along a shape in a height direction of a cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface of the bell jar; and a driving mechanism configured to cause the

first cleaning unit and the second cleaning unit to move relative to the bell jar, in a state where the nozzles of the device are in both of (i) a first state in which the first nozzles of the first cleaning unit are put close to the upper-part curved inner wall surface and (ii) a second state in which the second nozzles of the second cleaning unit are put close to the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface.

Advantageous Effects of Invention

[0011]

One embodiment of the present invention advantageously makes it possible to remove a substance attached to an inner wall surface of a bell jar. For example, the inner wall surface of the bell jar could be cleaned to the extent that the inner wall surface had a reflectance of not less than 0.7, in a case where cleaning was carried out by using a cleaning device illustrated in Fig. 1 in accordance with Embodiment 1 of the present invention under the following conditions (a) to (c): (a) a cleaning liquid for use in this cleaning contained highly abrasive particles; (b) a distance between each nozzle and the wall surface of the bell jar was adjusted (to approximately 200 mm) so that (i) erosion of the nozzle occurred by 100 $\mu\text{m}/\text{hour}$ and (ii) an impingement pressure, at which the cleaning liquid impinges on the wall surface, was 15 MPa; and (c) a cleaning time was 2 hours. Further, even in a case where the above cleaning

was carried out 30 times, no defect was found in the nozzle, and the inner wall surface of the bell jar could be cleaned to a substantially unchanged extent.

[0012]

5 In contrast, an inner wall surface of a bell jar could not be cleaned to the extent that the inner wall surface had a reflectance of not less than 0.7, in a case where cleaning was carried out, with use of the same cleaning liquid as in the above example, by using a device in accordance with one of
10 the above-described conventional techniques. This device cleans an inner surface of a reactor furnace by a three-dimensional high-pressure jet of cleaning water emitted through a nozzle at an upper end of a shaft which is provided at a central part, while the shaft is being rotated
15 and caused to move in a vertical direction. In this case, cleaning was carried out such that an impingement pressure, at which the cleaning liquid impinges on the inner wall surface, was 15 MPa. As a result, the nozzle was damaged due to erosion 1.7 hours after the cleaning had been started.

20

Brief Description of Drawings

[0013]

Fig. 1 is a view schematically illustrating an arrangement of a cleaning device in accordance with
25 Embodiment 1 of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a view schematically illustrating an arrangement of a supply unit of the cleaning device.

(a) and (b) of Fig. 3 are each a flow chart depicting a method of cleaning by the cleaning device.

5 Fig. 4 is a view schematically illustrating an arrangement of a portion of a cleaning device in accordance with Embodiment 2 of the present invention.

Description of Embodiments

10 [0014]

 The following description will discuss embodiments of the present invention. The present invention is, however, not limited to the embodiments below in details. Note that, for convenience of explanation, members having an identical function(s) in the following embodiments are given an identical reference sign, and a repeated description of those members is omitted as appropriate.

[0015]

Embodiment 1

20 The following will discuss Embodiment 1 of the present invention, with reference to Figs. 1 to 3. Fig. 1 is a view schematically illustrating an arrangement of a cleaning device 100 in accordance with Embodiment 1 of the present invention. Fig. 2 is a view schematically illustrating an arrangement of a supply unit 170 of the cleaning device 100.

25

[0016]

(Cleaning system)

A cleaning system 600 is a system configured to clean an inner wall surface 502 of a main body 501 of a bell jar 500.

5 The cleaning system 600 includes a cleaning device 100, a high pressure pump 200, and a cleaning liquid tank 300, as illustrated in Fig. 1.

[0017]

10 The cleaning liquid tank 300 is a tank in which a cleaning liquid containing abrasive particles is stored. The cleaning liquid tank 300 can be also used for collecting the cleaning liquid which has been used for cleaning the bell jar 500. The high pressure pump 200 is a pump for delivering the cleaning liquid under high pressure from the cleaning liquid
15 tank 300 to the cleaning device 100.

[0018]

(Cleaning device)

20 The cleaning device 100 causes nozzles 112 and 122 to discharges the cleaning liquid, which contains the abrasive particles, at a discharge pressure which is less likely to cause erosion of the nozzles 112 and 122. Then, the cleaning liquid impinges on the inner wall surface 502 of the bell jar 500 for use in production of polycrystalline silicon, so that the inner wall surface 502 is cleaned. Further, the cleaning
25 device 100 adjusts a distance between a surface to be cleaned

(inner wall surface 502) and the nozzles 112 and 122 to a constant distance so as to ensure that the cleaning liquid impinges on the inner wall surface 502 of the bell jar 500 at an impingement pressure which allows for removal of dirt on the inner wall surface 502. This can make erosion of the nozzles 112 and 122 etc. less likely to occur while making no sacrifice of a cleaning ability. The following will discuss in detail the cleaning device 100.

[0019]

The cleaning device 100 includes a first cleaning unit 110, a second cleaning unit 120, a main shaft 140, a driving section 160, and a supply unit 170, as illustrated in Fig. 1.

[0020]

Note that the bell jar 500, which is to be cleaned by the cleaning device 100, is in the form of a capsule and has an upper part 503 which is curved and a body part 504 which is cylindrical. Hereinafter, the inner wall surface of the upper part 503 is referred to as an upper-part curved inner wall surface 503a, and the inner wall surface of the body part 504 is referred to as a cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface 504a.

[0021]

(First cleaning unit 110)

The first cleaning unit 110 is configured to clean the upper-part curved inner wall surface 503a. The first cleaning

unit 110 includes a nozzle frame 111, nozzles 112, a nozzle header 113, and a nozzle hose 114.

[0022]

The nozzles 112 are fixed to the nozzle frame 111 so as
5 to be located along at least half an arc which passes an apex
503b of the upper-part curved inner wall surface 503a. The
nozzles 112 can be provided, for example, in one line along
the arc. The nozzles 112 can be alternatively provided in two
or more lines along two or more arcs which pass the apex
10 503b. It is only necessary to provide the nozzles 112 such
that a total extent of cleaning, which is carried out by the
nozzles 112, covers an extent of half the arc.

[0023]

The nozzles 112 themselves do not rotate. Further, the
15 nozzles 112 each have a jet orifice which is also fixed so as
not to rotate. For example, the nozzles 112 are arranged such
that one (1) nozzle set is composed of three nozzles 112 and
such that 10 nozzle sets (10 series of three nozzles 112) are
provided in the nozzle frame 111. The nozzles 112 each
20 include an inserted part which is desirably made of a
material whose degree of hardness is higher than that of
tungsten carbide. The nozzles 112 erode more at a higher
discharge pressure. In light of this, the nozzles 112 are
caused to discharge the cleaning liquid at a discharge
25 pressure at which erosion of the nozzles 112, due to the

cleaning liquid, occurs by not more than 500 $\mu\text{m}/\text{hour}$.

[0024]

The distance between the upper-part curved inner wall surface 503a and the nozzles 112 is adjusted to a constant distance so as to ensure that the cleaning liquid impinges on the upper-part curved inner wall surface 503a at an impingement pressure which allows for removal of dirt on the upper-part curved inner wall surface 503a. The impingement pressure can be set to not less than 10 MPa. Although a larger impingement pressure leads to a greater cleaning effect, it is necessary to take into account a decrease in thickness of a wall having the inner wall surface 502 (object to be cleaned). Note that, in a case where the impingement pressure is too small, cleaning becomes insufficient. Therefore, it is desirable for the impingement pressure to be not less than 10 MPa, although it depends on a kind of the abrasive particles.

[0025]

It is necessary to adjust the distance between the upper-part curved inner wall surface 503a and the nozzles 112, in order to ensure an impingement pressure which allows for removal of dirt on the upper-part curved inner wall surface 503a, by causing the nozzles 112 to discharge the cleaning liquid at a discharge pressure at which erosion of the nozzles 112 occurs by not more than 500 $\mu\text{m}/\text{hour}$.

Specifically, it is preferable that the distance, between the upper-part curved inner wall surface 503a and the nozzles 112, is approximately 100 mm to 300 mm, more preferably 150 mm to 250 mm. The cleaning ability becomes higher in a case where the distance is closer to 0 mm. However, in a case where the distance is set within the above-described range, it is possible to use wide-angle nozzles 112. This allows an area, which is cleaned by a single nozzle, to be wider. This causes a room to be secured between the main body 501 of the bell jar 500 and the cleaning device 100. This ultimately makes it possible to more easily attach and detach the bell jar 500 to and from the cleaning device 100. The discharge pressure and the distance can be adjusted manually or automatically.

[0026]

The nozzle frame 111 is provided so as to extend in a height direction of the bell jar 500, and includes a plurality of members so as to provide a projection toward the upper part of the bell jar 500. Further, the nozzle frame 111 can be configured to be made of two sets of the plurality of members. Note that each of the two sets is formed by the plurality of members which are arranged in parallel to the height direction of the bell jar 500. In this case, the two sets of the plurality of members are connected to the main shaft 140 (described later), via a nozzle frame 121, such that the two

sets are axisymmetric with respect to an axis of the bell jar 500 which axis passes through the apex 503b.

[0027]

5 The nozzle frame 111 rotates (moves) in
synchronization with rotation of the main shaft 140, in a
state in which the nozzles 112 are put close to the upper-part
curved inner wall surface 503a. The nozzle frame 111 here
rotates such that the distance, between the upper-part
curved inner wall surface 503a and the nozzles 112, stays
10 constant. In other words, the nozzle frame 111 rotates in
synchronization with rotation of the main shaft 140 which is
rotated by the main shaft 160. The nozzle frame 111 can be,
for example, a reciprocating rotation in which a forward
rotation is followed by a backward rotation. Note that the
15 nozzle frame 111 only rotates, and the nozzle frame 111
therefore never moves up and down.

[0028]

20 The nozzle header 113 distributes, to each of the
nozzles 112, the cleaning water which is supplied from the
supply unit 170 (later described), through nozzle hoses 114
and 174.

[0029]

25 The nozzle hose 114 is a flexible high-pressure hose. In
Embodiment 1, a flow path of the cleaning liquid (nozzle hose
114), which flow path extends from the main shaft 140 to

each of the nozzle 112, is flexible as described above. This allows the flow path to avoid having a sharper curve, as compared with a flow path made of a fixed pipe. This consequently makes it possible to prevent a trouble due to erosion of the flow path of the cleaning liquid from the main shaft 140 to each of the nozzle 112. In addition, because the flow path of the cleaning liquid has flexibility, the distance between the wall surface and the nozzle 112 can be easily adjusted.

[0030]

(Second cleaning unit)

The second cleaning unit 120 is configured to clean the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface 504a. The second cleaning unit 120 includes the nozzle frame 121, nozzles 122, a nozzle header 123, and a nozzle hose 124.

[0031]

The nozzles 122 are fixed to the nozzle frame 121 so as to be located along a height direction of the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface 504a. It is only necessary to provide the nozzles 122 at different positions, respectively, in the height direction of the bell jar 500 which is fixed. For example, the nozzles 122 can be provided in a line along the shape in the height direction of the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface 504a. The nozzles 122 are caused to discharge the cleaning liquid at a discharge pressure at

which erosion of the nozzles 122, due to the cleaning liquid, occurs by not more than 500 μm /hour.

[0032]

The distance between the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface 504a and the nozzles 122 is adjusted to a constant distance so as to ensure that the cleaning liquid impinges on the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface 504a at an impingement pressure which allows for removal of dirt on the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface 504a.

As described above, it is desirable that the impingement pressure be not less than 10 MPa and that the distance be 150 mm to 250 mm. The discharge pressure and the distance can be adjusted manually or automatically.

[0033]

The nozzle frame 121 is a member where four bar members are fixed to each other. The bar members extend in parallel to the height direction of the bell jar 500. The nozzle frame 121 is connected to the main shaft 140 (later described). The main shaft 140 is caused to rotate and move up and down by the drive section 160. Accordingly, the nozzle frame 121 moves (rotates and moves up and down) in synchronization with the above-described rotation and up-and-down movement of the main shaft 140. The nozzle frame 121 moves (rotates and moves up and down) in synchronization with the rotation and up-and-down

movement of the main shaft 140, in a state in which the
nozzles 122 are put close to the cylindrical-body lateral inner
wall surface 504a. The nozzle frame 121 here moves such
that the distance between the cylindrical-body lateral inner
wall surface 504a and the nozzles 122 stays constant.

[0034]

The nozzle header 123 is attached to the nozzle frame
121, and distributes, to each of the nozzles 122, the cleaning
water which is supplied from the supply unit 170 (later
described).

[0035]

In Embodiment 1, the nozzles 122 are not provided all
along the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface 504a in
the height direction of the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall
surface 504a, but are provided partially along the
cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface 504a in the height
direction. Accordingly, the second cleaning unit 120 cleans
an entire area of the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall
surface 504a, by causing the nozzle frame 121 to rotate and
move up and down.

[0036]

Note that in a case where the nozzle frame 121 is
caused to move up and down, a distance, by which the nozzle
frame 121 moves up and down, can be set to, for example,
500 mm. Further, the distance, by which the nozzle frame

121 moves up and down, can be shortened in a case where the nozzle frame 121 is provided with the nozzles 122 which are spaced apart from each other. In addition, the nozzle frame 121 can move up and down spirally at the same time as rotation of the nozzle frame 121. Alternatively, the nozzle frame 121 can simply move up and down after rotation of the nozzle frame 121. Such up-and-down movement of the nozzle frame 121 can be a descending movement starting from, for example, an upper-limit position of the nozzle frame 121 as an original position. In this case, the nozzle frame 121 descends at a speed which is determined depending on the number of rotations.

[0037]

The nozzle hose 124 carries the cleaning water from the supply unit 170 (later described) to each of the nozzles 122. The nozzle hose 124 is desirably a flexible high-pressure hose.

[0038]

In Embodiment 1, in the flow path of the cleaning liquid, which extends from the supply unit 170 to a discharge orifice of each of the nozzles 112 and 122, a flow rate of the cleaning liquid is controlled such that erosion of an inner wall of the flow path of the cleaning liquid, due to the cleaning liquid, occurs by not more than 1 $\mu\text{m}/\text{hour}$. Specifically, the flow rate is preferably not more than 2.0

m/s. This makes it possible to prevent a trouble due to wearing of the flow path of the cleaning liquid. The above control can be carried out manually or automatically.

[0039]

5 Further, in Embodiment 1, the nozzles 112 and 122 are not 3D nozzles (that is, the nozzles 112 and 122 themselves do not rotate). The nozzles 112 are fixed to the nozzle frame 111, and the nozzles 122 are fixed to the nozzle frame 121. With use of the nozzles 112 and 122 whose jet orifices are
10 fixed, the inner wall surface 502 is cleaned by causing the nozzle frames 111 and 121 to move. Since a 3D nozzle has a sliding section at a rotational joint, the 3D nozzle may erode due to the sliding section. In a case where a 3D nozzle is used, the 3D nozzle is eroded by not less than 2000 $\mu\text{m}/\text{hour}$.
15 Further, the 3D nozzle may defectively rotate due to erosion of a gear mechanism section which causes the 3D nozzle to rotate. As a result, the inner wall surface 502 may never be cleaned with that 3D nozzle. In contrast, in Embodiment 1, the sliding section is eliminated from the nozzles 112 and
20 122, and erosion of the nozzles 112 and 122 is prevented. This makes it possible to carry out cleaning with the cleaning liquid containing the abrasive particles.

[0040]

(Main shaft)

25 The main shaft 140 (rotating section) is connected to

the nozzle frames 111 and 121, and caused to rotate and move up and down by the driving section 160 (later described). This causes respective cleaning positions of the nozzles 112 and 122 to move via the nozzle frames 111 and 121.

[0041]

The main shaft 140 is a hollow shaft. The main shaft 140 contains therein a plurality of nozzle hoses 174 (nozzle hoses 114 and 124) each of which serves as the flow path of the cleaning liquid to each of the nozzles 112 and 122. The main shaft 140 includes a shaft cover (not illustrated). The shaft cover makes it possible to prevent the cleaning water from coming in contact with the surface of the main shaft 140 and also to prevent the cleaning liquid from flowing into the driving section 160 from the inside of the bell jar 500 during cleaning of the inner wall surface 502. Further, the shaft cover is separated into an upper part and a lower part. The upper part is formed so as to cover a portion of the lower part. The main shaft 140 is provided with a gland packing (not illustrated) between the upper part and the lower part. The gland packing prevents the cleaning liquid from flowing into the main shaft 140.

[0042]

Further, the cleaning device 100 can include a drier nozzle, which sends hot air or the like into the bell jar 500

and dry the inside of the bell jar 500 after cleaning.

[0043]

(Driving section)

5 The driving section 160 (driving mechanism) is
configured to generate rotational and up-and-down driving
force and to cause the main shaft 140 to rotate and move up
and down. Specifically, the following will discuss a case
where the nozzles 112 and 122 are in both of a first state in
which the nozzles 112 of the first cleaning unit 110 are put
10 close to the upper-part curved inner wall surface 503a and a
second state in which the nozzles 122 of the second cleaning
unit 120 are put close to the cylindrical-body lateral inner
wall surface 504a. In the above first and second states, the
driving section 160 causes the first cleaning unit 110 and the
15 second cleaning unit 120 to move relative to the bell jar 500.

[0044]

 The driving section 160 includes an elevating motor
161 (second driving section) and a rotating motor 162 (first
driving section and second driving section). The driving
20 section 160 is provided not inside the bell jar 500 (cleaning
space) but outside the bell jar 500, that is, outside a cleaning
atmosphere. This can prevent erosion of the driving section
160 due to the cleaning liquid.

[0045]

25 The elevating motor 161 causes the main shaft 140 to

move up and down via a speed reducer. The rotating motor 162 causes the main shaft 140 to rotate, by use of a speed reducer and a roller chain.

[0046]

5 (Supply unit)

The supply unit 170 is configured to supply, to each of the nozzles 112 and 122 via the nozzle headers 113 and 123, the cleaning water which has been delivered from the cleaning liquid tank 300 by the high pressure pump 200. The
10 supply unit 170 includes a valve header support 171, a valve header 172, high pressure valves 173, and the nozzle hoses 174, as illustrated in Fig. 2.

[0047]

The valve header support 171 is a horizontally
15 rotatable support stand, and rotates in synchronization with rotation of the main shaft 140. On the valve header support 171, the valve header 172 is provided. To the valve header 172, the high pressure valves 173 are attached. The valve header 172 switches a high pressure valve 173 to another
20 high pressure valve 173, so that the cleaning water is supplied to predetermined nozzles 112 and 122.

[0048]

The nozzle hoses 174 (flow paths of cleaning liquid) are flexible. Since the nozzle hoses 174 are flexible, the nozzle
25 hoses 174 can absorb rotation and up-and-down movement

which occur between the main shaft 140 and the high pressure valves 173. This consequently eliminates the need for using a joint including a sliding section between the main shaft 140 and each of the high pressure valve 173. As a result, it becomes possible to prevent a trouble due to wearing of the flow paths of the cleaning liquid, which extend from the supply unit 170 to the main shaft 140.

[0049]

(Variation)

The second cleaning unit 120 can be arranged such that the nozzles 122 are provided in a ring form along a shape in a circumferential direction of the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface 504a. In such an arrangement, the nozzle frame 121 does not rotate but moves up and down such that the distance, between the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface 504a and the nozzles 122, becomes constant while the nozzles 122 are being put close to the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface 504a. Note that the elevating motor 161 (third driving section) causes the nozzle frame 121 to move up and down.

[0050]

The nozzles 122 can be alternatively provided so as to be (i) along the shape in the height direction of the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface 504a and (ii) in the ring form along the shape in the circumferential direction of

the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface 504a.

[0051]

(Method of cleaning)

The following will discuss a method of cleaning in
5 accordance with Embodiment 1 of the present invention, with
reference to Fig. 3. Fig. 3 is a flow chart depicting the method
of cleaning by the cleaning device 100. Specifically, (a) of Fig.
3 is a flow chart depicting the method of cleaning, and (b) of
Fig. 3 is a flow chart depicting switching of the high pressure
10 valves 173.

[0052]

First, as depicted in (a) of Fig. 3, the inside of the bell
jar is washed with pure water. This is pre-cleaning. The
pre-cleaning is followed by the start of cleaning with the
15 cleaning liquid containing the abrasive particles.
Specifically, such cleaning is carried out by (i) opening a
predetermined first one (hereinafter, referred to as high
pressure valve V1) of the high pressure valves 173 and then
(ii) causing the main shaft 140 to rotate and move up and
20 down by the driving section 160. After an area to be cleaned
via the high pressure valve V1 has been completed, a second
one of the high pressure valves 173 (hereinafter, referred to
as high pressure valve V2) is opened and cleaning is carried
out. After cleaning via each of all the high pressure valves
25 173 has been completed, rinsing is carried out with pure

water. Subsequently, drying is carried out by the drier nozzle.

[0053]

Further, as illustrated in (b) of Fig. 3, after the
5 cleaning via the predetermined high pressure valve V1 has
been completed, the high pressure valve V1 is cleaned with
pure water so as to remove the abrasive particles remaining
in the high pressure valve V1. Then, the high pressure pump
200 is stopped until (i) the high pressure valve V2 is opened
10 and (ii) the high pressure valve V1 is closed after the above
cleaning. Thereafter, an area to be cleaned is cleaned by the
nozzles 112 and 122 which are connected to the high
pressure valve V2.

[0054]

15 With the above arrangement, after the high pressure
pump 200 is stopped, the second high pressure valve V2 is
opened before the high pressure valve V1 is closed. This
makes it possible to prevent the path of cleaning from being
completely closed. This allows pressure in the path of
20 cleaning to be discharged. This ultimately allows for (i)
prevention of a trouble due to opening and closing of valves
during switching from a high pressure valve 173 to another
high pressure valve 173 and (ii) prevention of erosion caused
by an increased flow rate which results from the flow path
25 narrowed in opening and closing the high pressure valves.

[0055]

Embodiment 2

The following will discuss Embodiment 2 of the present invention, with reference to Fig. 4. Fig. 4 is a view
5 schematically illustrating an arrangement of a cleaning device 100A in accordance with Embodiment 2 of the present invention. The cleaning device 100A is similar in arrangement to the cleaning device 100 except that the cleaning device 100A includes a driving section 160a in place
10 of a driving section 160.

[0056]

The driving section 160a is similar in arrangement to the driving section 160 except that the driving section 160a includes a bell jar driving section 180 and an elevating motor
15 161. The following will discuss a case where the nozzles 112 and 122 are in at least one of (i) a first state in which nozzles 112 of a first cleaning unit 110 is put close to an upper-part curved inner wall surface 503a and (ii) a second state in which nozzles 122 of a second cleaning unit 120 are put close
20 to a cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface 504a. The bell jar driving section 180 causes a bell jar 500 to move (rotate) in at least one of the above first and second states. The bell jar driving section 180 includes a rotary table 181, a bell jar rotating motor 182, a table driving tire 183, and a rotating
25 bearing 184, as illustrated in Fig. 4. The bell jar driving

section 180 is provided outside a cleaning atmosphere.

[0057]

The rotary table 181 is provided on an installation surface in a horizontally rotatable manner. On the rotary
5 table 181, the bell jar 500 is provided. The bell jar 500 rotates in synchronization with rotation of the rotary table 181. The rotating bearing 184 is provided between the rotary table 181 and the installation surface. The rotating bearing 184 allows the rotary table 181 to smoothly rotate.

10 [0058]

The bell jar rotating motor 182 causes the table driving tire 183 to rotate via a speed reducer and a roller chain, and rotation of the bell jar rotating motor 182 is transferred to the rotary table 181 via rotation of the table driving tire 183.
15 With this arrangement, the bell jar rotating motor 182 causes the bell jar 500 to rotate.

[0059]

The driving section 160a (driving mechanism) includes the elevating motor 161 (second driving section). In other
20 words, the first cleaning unit 110 and the second cleaning unit 120 do not rotate. Note however that when the second cleaning unit 120 carries out cleaning, the second cleaning unit 120 moves only up and down (double-headed arrow in Fig. 4).

25 [0060]

In other words, in the cleaning device 100A, the bell jar 500 itself rotates (outline arrow in Fig. 4) and the second cleaning unit 120 moves up and down, so that the inner wall surface 502 is cleaned. This eliminates the need for a rotatable valve header 172 etc. which absorbs rotation of a supply unit as illustrated in Fig. 2. This arrangement is effective in a case where it is not possible to secure a space to be equipped with the above mechanism.

[0061]

Note that it is also possible to arrange such that the inner wall surface 502 is cleaned by causing not the second cleaning unit 120 but the bell jar 500 to move up and down.

[0062]

(Sum-up of measures against erosion)

The following will sum up measures against erosion of the nozzles and erosion of the flow paths of the cleaning liquid in the above Embodiments of the present invention. (1) The distance between the inner wall surface 502 and the nozzles 112 and 122 is adjusted, so that a sufficient impingement pressure, at which the cleaning liquid impinges on the inner wall surface 502, is ensured while respective discharge pressures of the nozzles 112 and 122 are suppressed. (2) The nozzles 112 and 122 and the flow paths of the cleaning liquid are provided with no sliding section. (3) The flow rate in the flow paths of the cleaning liquid is

suppressed. (4) In the flow paths of the cleaning liquid, a sharp curve is avoided as much as possible. (5) The nozzles 112 and 122 each include an inserted part which is preferably made of a material whose degree of hardness is higher than that of tungsten carbide. (6) As a measure to prevent wearing of the high pressure valves 173, the abrasive particles remaining in pipes and valves are cleaned off by cleaning with pure water when the high pressure valves 173 are opened and closed. (7) As a measure to prevent wearing of the high pressure valves 173 and for prevention of a trouble caused by a sudden change in pressure due to opening and closing of the high pressure valves 173, the high pressure pump 200 is stopped when the high pressure valves 173 are opened and closed. (8) The whole of the driving section 160 is externally attached to the bell jar 500.

[0063]

The present invention is not limited to the embodiments, but can be altered by a skilled person in the art within the scope of the claims. The present invention also encompasses, in its technical scope, any embodiment derived by combining technical means disclosed in differing embodiments.

[0064]

Aspects of the present invention can also be expressed as follows:

In order to solve the above problems, a method in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention is a method of cleaning an inner wall surface of a bell jar for use in production of polycrystalline silicon, by causing nozzles to discharge a cleaning liquid at the inner wall surface, the cleaning liquid containing abrasive particles, the method including the steps of: (a) causing the nozzles to discharge the cleaning liquid at a discharge pressure at which erosion of the nozzles, due to the cleaning liquid, occurs by not more than 500 $\mu\text{m}/\text{hour}$; and (b) adjusting a distance between the inner wall surface and the nozzles so that an impingement pressure, at which the cleaning liquid impinges on the inner wall surface, secures a pressure at which dirt on the inner wall surface can be removed.

[0065]

In the above arrangement, the cleaning liquid contains abrasive particles. This increases a physical-removal ability of the cleaning liquid, so that a substance attached to the inner wall surface of the bell jar can be reliably removed.

[0066]

Further, the distance between the inner wall surface and the nozzles is adjusted so that the impingement pressure, at which the cleaning liquid impinges on the inner wall surface, can be sufficient. Accordingly, even in a case where the cleaning liquid is discharged through the nozzles

at a discharge pressure at which erosion of the nozzles occurs by not more than 500 $\mu\text{m}/\text{hour}$, it is possible to ensure a sufficient impingement pressure at which the cleaning liquid impinges on the inner wall surface, by placing
5 the nozzles in the vicinity of the inner wall surface. Consequently, it is possible to prevent erosion of the nozzles for discharging the cleaning liquid and to reliably remove the substance attached to the inner wall surface of the bell jar at the same time.

10 [0067]

Further, the method in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention is preferably arranged such that: the impingement pressure is not less than 10 MPa.

[0068]

15 The above arrangement makes it possible to have an impingement pressure at which the cleaning liquid containing abrasive particles can remove dirt on the inner wall surface.

[0069]

20 Further, a method in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention is preferably arranged to further includes the step of: (c) controlling a flow rate of the cleaning liquid in a flow path of the cleaning liquid up to a discharge orifice of each of the nozzles so that erosion of an inner wall
25 of the flow path, due to the cleaning liquid, occurs by not

more than 1 μm /hour.

[0070]

The above arrangement makes it possible to also prevent erosion of the flow path of the cleaning liquid.

5 [0071]

Further, in order to solve the above problems, a device in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention is a device for cleaning an inner wall surface of a bell jar for use in production of polycrystalline silicon, by causing nozzles to
10 discharge a cleaning liquid at the inner wall surface, the cleaning liquid containing abrasive particles, the nozzles including first nozzles and second nozzles, the device comprising: a first cleaning unit including the first nozzles of the device, which are arranged along at least half an arc of an
15 upper-part curved inner wall surface of the bell jar, the arc passing an apex of the upper-part curved inner wall surface; a second cleaning unit including the second nozzles of the device, which are arranged along a shape in a height direction of a cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface of
20 the bell jar; and a driving mechanism configured to cause the first cleaning unit and the second cleaning unit to move relative to the bell jar, in a state where the nozzles of the device are in both of (i) a first state in which the first nozzles of the first cleaning unit are put close to the upper-part
25 curved inner wall surface and (ii) a second state in which the

second nozzles of the second cleaning unit are put close to the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface.

[0072]

In the above arrangement, the cleaning liquid contains
5 abrasive particles. This increases a physical-removal ability of the cleaning liquid, so that a substance attached to the inner wall surface of the bell jar can be reliably removed.

[0073]

Further, the driving mechanism causes the first
10 cleaning unit and the second cleaning unit to move relative to the bell jar, in a state where the nozzles of the device are in both of (i) a first state in which first nozzles are put close to the upper-part curved inner wall surface and (ii) a second state in which second nozzles are put close to the
15 cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface. This makes it possible to clean all over the inner wall surface while the nozzles are kept close to the inner wall surface. Therefore, it is possible to ensure a sufficient impingement pressure at which the cleaning liquid impinges on the inner wall surface
20 even in a case where the discharge pressure of the cleaning liquid is kept suppressed. Consequently, it is possible to prevent erosion of the nozzles for discharging the cleaning liquid and to reliably remove the substance attached to the inner wall surface of the bell jar at the same time.

25 [0074]

Further, the device in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention is preferably arranged such that: the driving mechanism includes: a first driving section configured to cause the first cleaning unit to move in the first state; and a second driving section configured to cause the second cleaning unit to move in the second state.

[0075]

In the above arrangement, the first driving section and the second driving section can cause the first cleaning unit and the second cleaning unit to move relative to the bell jar, respectively.

[0076]

Further, the device in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention is preferably arranged such that: the second cleaning unit further includes third nozzles of the device, the third nozzles being arranged in a ring form along a shape in a circumferential direction of the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface of the bell jar; and the driving mechanism includes: a first driving section configured to cause the first cleaning unit to move, in the first state in which the first nozzles of the first cleaning unit are put close to the upper-part curved inner wall surface; and a third driving section configured to cause the second cleaning unit to move, in a third state in which the second nozzles and the third nozzles of the second cleaning unit are put close to the

cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface.

[0077]

In the above arrangement, the second cleaning unit has nozzles which are arranged in a ring form along a shape in a circumferential direction of the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface. Further, the inner wall surface of the bell jar is cleaned by the following operations (1) and (2): (1) the first driving section causes the first cleaning unit to move in the bell jar, in the first state in which the first nozzles are put close to the inner wall surface; and (2) the third driving section causes the second cleaning unit to move in the bell jar, in a third state in which the second nozzles and the third nozzles of the second cleaning unit are put close to the inner wall surface. This makes it possible to clean all over the inner wall surface while the nozzles are kept close to the inner wall surface. Therefore, it is possible to ensure a sufficient impingement pressure at which the cleaning liquid impinges on the inner wall surface even in a case where the discharge pressure of the cleaning liquid is kept suppressed.

[0078]

Further, the device in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention is preferably arranged such that: the driving mechanism is provided outside a cleaning space.

[0079]

In the above arrangement, the driving mechanism is

provided outside the cleaning space. This makes it possible to prevent erosion of the driving section due to the cleaning liquid.

[0080]

5 Further, the device in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention is preferably arranged to further include: a flow path of the cleaning liquid which extends from a rotating section of the device to each of the nozzles, the flow path being flexible.

10 [0081]

 In the above arrangement, because of the above flexibility of the flow path of the cleaning liquid, it is possible to absorb rotation and up-and-down movement which occur between the cleaning space and the driving section. This
15 consequently eliminates the need for using a joint including a sliding section for rotation and up-and-down movement. As a result, it becomes possible to prevent a trouble due to wearing of the flow path of the cleaning liquid which extends from the supply unit of the cleaning liquid to each of the
20 nozzles.

[0082]

 Further, the device in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention is preferably arranged such that: the driving mechanism includes a bell jar driving section
25 configured to cause the bell jar to move, in at least one of (i)

the first state in which the first nozzles of the first cleaning unit are put close to the upper-part curved inner wall surface and (ii) the second state in which the second nozzles of the second cleaning unit are put close to the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface.

[0083]

In the above arrangement, the inner wall surface of the bell jar is cleaned by moving the bell jar, in at least one of the first state in which the first nozzles are put close to the inner wall surface and the second state in which the second nozzles are put close to the inner wall surface. This makes it possible to clean all over the inner wall surface while the nozzles are kept close to the inner wall surface. Therefore, it is possible to ensure a sufficient impingement pressure, at which the cleaning liquid impinges on the inner wall surface, even in a case where the discharge pressure of the cleaning liquid is kept suppressed.

Reference Signs List

[0084]

100 Cleaning device

110 First cleaning unit

120 Second cleaning unit

112, 122 Nozzle

114, 124 Nozzle hose (flow path of cleaning liquid)

- 140 Main shaft (rotating section)
- 160 Driving section (driving mechanism)
- 161 Elevating motor (second driving section, third driving section)
- 5 162 Rotating motor (first driving section, second driving section)
- 174 Nozzle hose (flow path of cleaning liquid)
- 180 Bell jar driving section
- 500 Bell jar
- 10 502 Inner wall surface
- 503a Upper-part curved inner wall surface
- 504a Cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface

Claims

Claim 1

A method of cleaning an inner wall surface of a bell jar for use in production of polycrystalline silicon, by causing
5 nozzles to discharge a cleaning liquid at the inner wall surface, the cleaning liquid containing abrasive particles, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) causing the nozzles to discharge the cleaning liquid at a discharge pressure at which erosion of the nozzles, due
10 to the cleaning liquid, occurs by not more than 500 $\mu\text{m}/\text{hour}$; and

(b) adjusting a distance between the inner wall surface and the nozzles so that an impingement pressure, at which the cleaning liquid impinges on the inner wall surface,
15 secures a pressure at which dirt on the inner wall surface can be removed.

Claim 2

The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein:
20 the impingement pressure is not less than 10 MPa.

Claim 3

A method as set forth in claim 1 or 2, further comprising the step of:

25 (c) controlling a flow rate of the cleaning liquid in a flow

path of the cleaning liquid up to a discharge orifice of each of the nozzles so that erosion of an inner wall of the flow path, due to the cleaning liquid, occurs by not more than 1 $\mu\text{m}/\text{hour}$.

5

Claim 4

A device for cleaning an inner wall surface of a bell jar for use in production of polycrystalline silicon, by causing nozzles to discharge a cleaning liquid at the inner wall surface, the cleaning liquid containing abrasive particles, the nozzles including first nozzles and second nozzles, the device comprising:

a first cleaning unit including the first nozzles of the device, which are arranged along at least half an arc of an upper-part curved inner wall surface of the bell jar, the arc passing an apex of the upper-part curved inner wall surface;

a second cleaning unit including the second nozzles of the device, which are arranged along a shape in a height direction of a cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface of the bell jar; and

a driving mechanism configured to cause the first cleaning unit and the second cleaning unit to move relative to the bell jar, in a state where the nozzles of the device are in both of (i) a first state in which the first nozzles of the first cleaning unit are put close to the upper-part curved inner

wall surface and (ii) a second state in which the second nozzles of the second cleaning unit are put close to the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface.

5 Claim 5

The device as set forth in claim 4, wherein:

the driving mechanism includes:

 a first driving section configured to cause the first cleaning unit to move in the first state; and

10 a second driving section configured to cause the second cleaning unit to move in the second state.

 Claim 6

The device as set forth in claim 4, wherein:

15 the second cleaning unit further includes third nozzles of the device, the third nozzles being arranged in a ring form along a shape in a circumferential direction of the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface of the bell jar; and

the driving mechanism includes:

20 a first driving section configured to cause the first cleaning unit to move, in the first state in which the first nozzles of the first cleaning unit are put close to the upper-part curved inner wall surface; and

 a third driving section configured to cause the
25 second cleaning unit to move, in a third state in which the

second nozzles and the third nozzles of the second cleaning unit are put close to the cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface.

5 Claim 7

The device as set forth in any one of claims 4 through 6, wherein:

the driving mechanism is provided outside a cleaning space.

10

Claim 8

The device as set forth in any one of claims 4 through 7, further comprising:

15 a flexible flow path of the cleaning liquid which extends from a rotating section of the device to each of the nozzles.

Claim 9

The device as set forth in claim 4, wherein:

20 the driving mechanism includes a bell jar driving section configured to cause the bell jar to move, in at least one of (i) the first state in which the first nozzles of the first cleaning unit are put close to the upper-part curved inner wall surface and (ii) the second state in which the second nozzles of the second cleaning unit are put close to the
25 cylindrical-body lateral inner wall surface.

FIG. 1

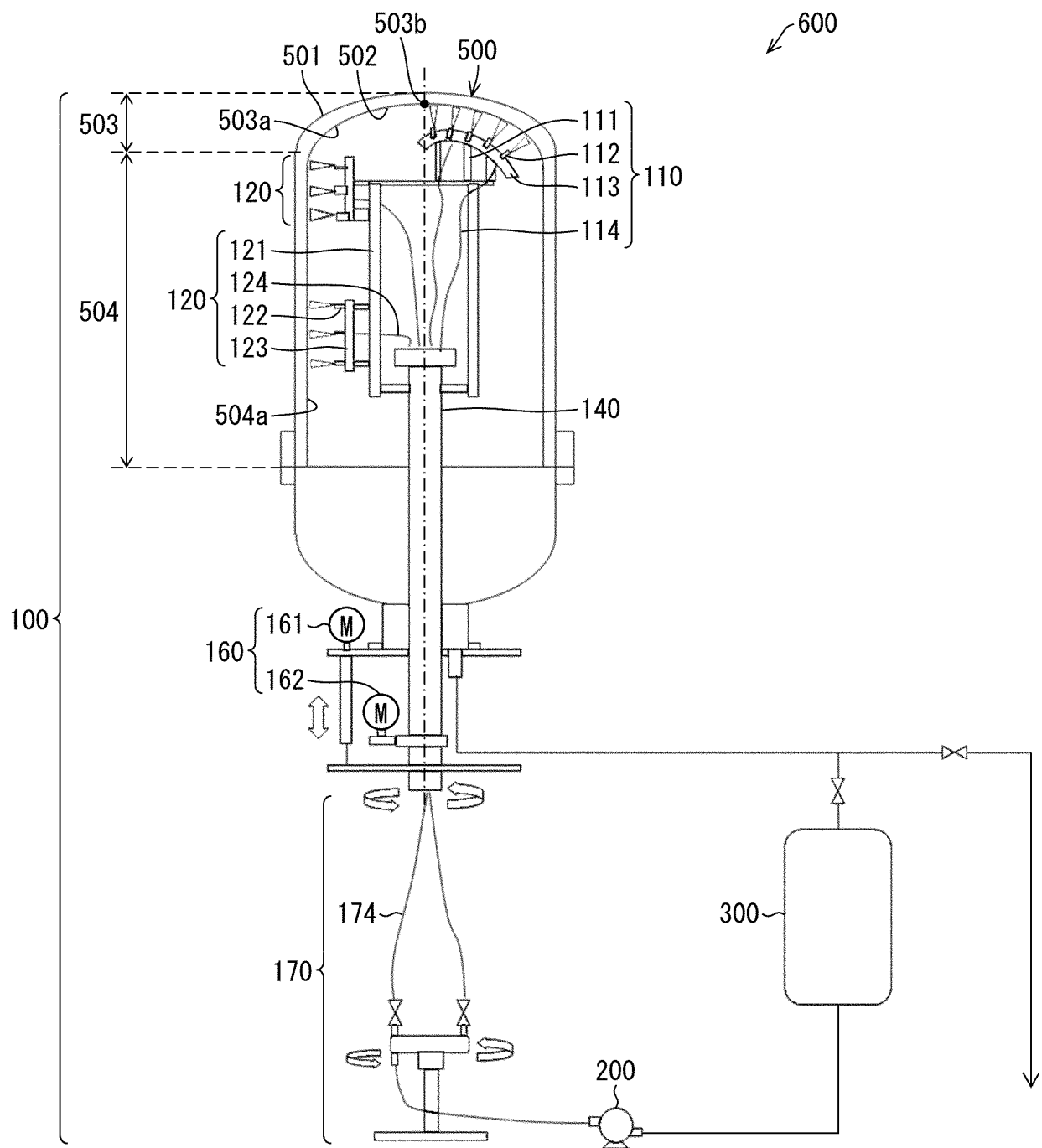


FIG. 2

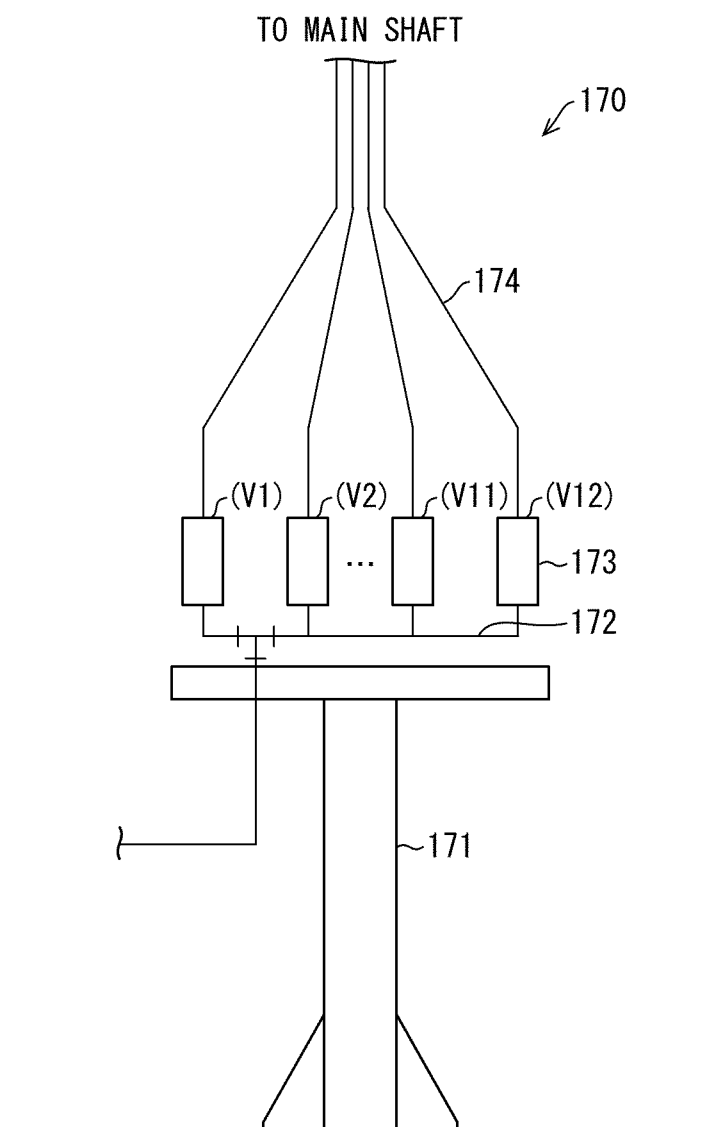


FIG. 3

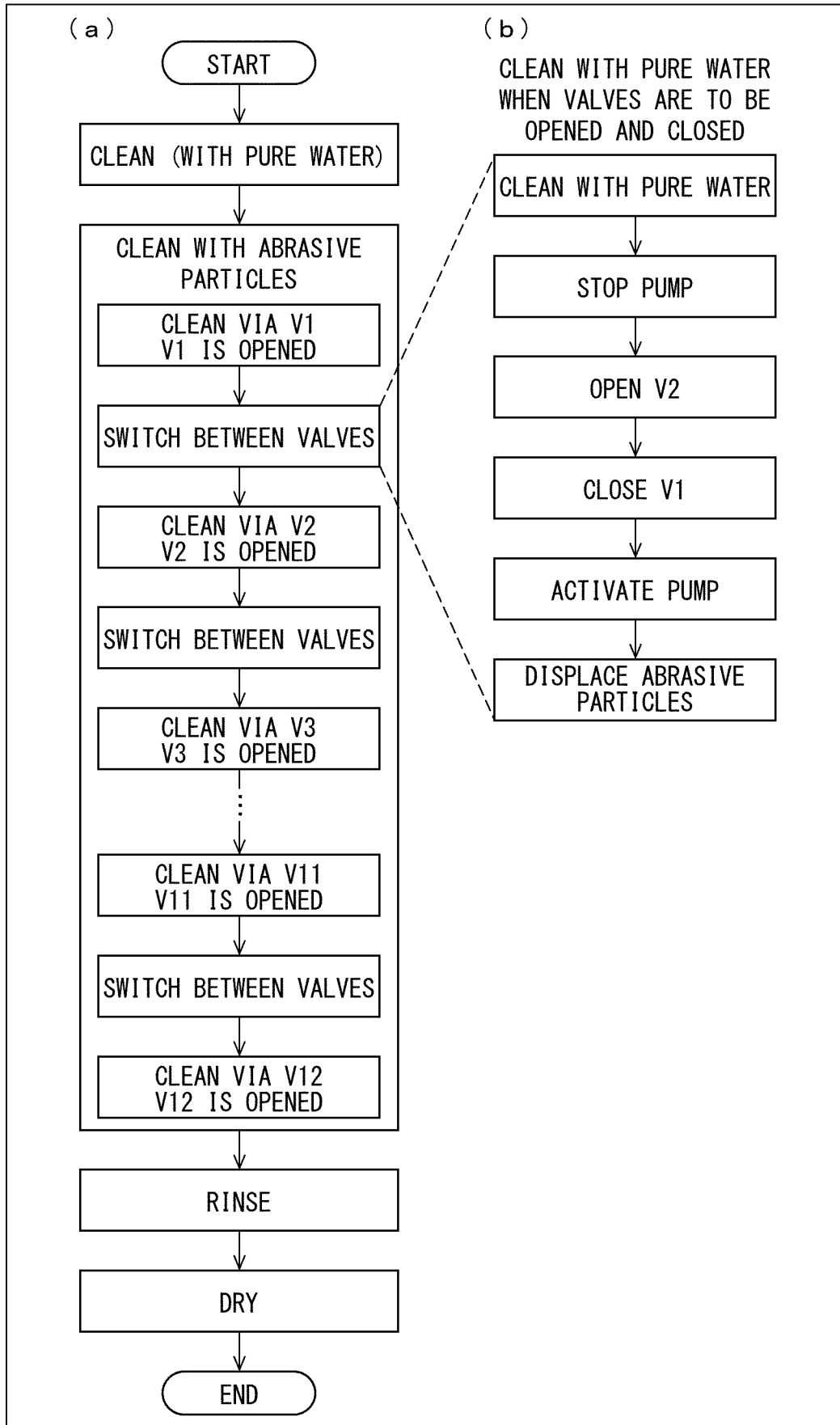


FIG. 4

