What we claim is:

1. A coating apparatus for a lens, comprising:

a centering device for determining a center of a lens;

a spinning device for rotating a lens;

an applicator device comprising a nozzle for discharging a coating fluid for applying the coating fluid onto the surface of the lens held at the spinning device;

a drying device for drying the coating fluid on the surface of the lens ; and

a lens transport device for transporting the lens from the centering device to the spinning device, and further transporting the lens from the spinning device to the drying device, wherein

each of the centering device and the spinning device has a lens support portion, the drying device has plural of lens support portions, the lens transport device has a pair of lens support portions;

the lens support portion of the centering device, the lens support portion of the spinning device, one of lens support portions of the drying device, and a pair of lens support portions of the lens transport device are arranged such that these all lens support portions are being located on an identical line and also that the distance between a pair of lens holding portions of the transport device, the distance between the lens support portion of the centering device and the lens support portion of the spinning device, and the distance between the lens support portion of the spinning device and the lens support portion of the drying device are being the same;

a first lens support portion of the transport device transports the lens from the lens support portion of the centering device to the lens support portion of the spinning device; and

a second lens support portion of the transport device

simultaneously transports the lens from the lens support portion of the spinning device to the lens support portion of the drying device.

2. The coating apparatus according to claim 1, which further comprising a lens height measuring sensor for detecting a height difference between a height at the center of the lens and a height at other point on the lens surface spaced from the center.

3. The coating apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the lens height measuring sensor is equipped with two sets of light emitters and light receivers, and determines a height of the lens by allowing the lens to block light emitted from the light emitter and reaching the light receiver.

4. The coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the nozzle of the applicator device is being moved at a distance from, and along, a straight line connecting the center of the surface of the lens to an edge portion of the surface of the lens.

5. The coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the drying device comprises a turntable rotatable on an axis of rotation, and a plurality of the lens support portions of the drying device are provided on the turntable to dry a plurality of the lenses.

6. The coating apparatus according to claim 1, which further comprising a waiting tank storing a solvent to dip a tip of the nozzle when the applicator device is not in operation.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. A primer coating apparatus for a lens, including:

a centering device for determining a center of a lens;

a spinning device for rotating a lens;

an applicator device including a nozzle for discharging a primer coating fluid for applying the primer coating fluid onto the surface of the lens held at the spinning device;

a drying device for drying the primer coating fluid on the surface of the lens ; and

a lens transport device for transporting the lens from the centering device to the spinning device, and further transporting the lens from the spinning device to the drying device, wherein

each of the centering device and the spinning device has a lens support portion, the drying device has plural of lens support portions, the lens transport device has a pair of lens support portions;

the lens support portion of the centering device, the lens support portion of the spinning device, one of lens support portions of the drying device, and a pair of lens support portions of the lens transport device are arranged such that all these lens support portions are located on an identical line and also that the distance between a pair of lens holding portions of the transport device, the distance between the lens support portion of the centering device and the lens support portion of the spinning device, and the distance between the lens support portion of the spinning device and the lens support portion of the drying device are the same;

a first lens support portion of the transport device transports the lens from the lens support portion of the centering device to the lens support portion of the spinning device; and

a second lens support portion of the transport device simultaneously transports the lens from the lens support portion of the spinning device to the lens support portion of the drying device.

2. A coating apparatus according to claim 1, which further including a lens height measuring sensor for detecting a height difference between a height at the center of the lens and a height at other point on the lens surface spaced from the center.

3. A coating apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the lens height measuring sensor is equipped with two sets of light emitters and light receivers, and determines a height of the lens by allowing the lens to block light emitted from the light emitter and reaching the light receiver.

4. A coating apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the nozzle of the applicator device is moved at a distance from, and along, a straight line connecting the center of the surface of the lens to an edge portion of the surface of the lens.

5. A coating apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the drying device includes a turntable rotatable on an axis of rotation, and a plurality of the lens support portions of the drying device are provided on the turntable to dry a plurality of the lenses.

6. A coating apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, which further include a waiting tank storing a solvent to dip a tip of the nozzle when the applicator device is not in operation.

7. A coating apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the coating apparatus is used for primer coating as a pretreatment of photochromic coating of the lens.

8. A coating apparatus according to any one of the embodiments, substantially as herein described and illustrated.