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09/823,198 29 March 2001 (29.03.2001) US(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **LAM
RESEARCH CORPORATION** [US/US]; 4650 Cushing
Parkway, Fremont, CA 94538 (US).

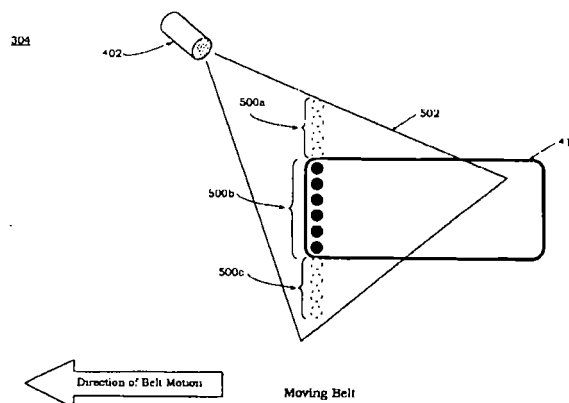
(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **BOYD, John, M.**
[CA/US]; 8730 Sierra Vista Road, Atascadero, CA 93422
(US). **LITVAK, Herbert, E.** [US/US]; 790 Lodgewood
Court, San Jose, CA 95120 (US).(74) Agent: **BROCK, Joe, A., II**; Martine & Penilla, LLP, 710
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR END POINT TRIGGERING WITH INTEGRATED STEERING



(57) Abstract: An invention is disclosed for end point triggering in a chemical mechanical polishing process. A sensor array (322) is positioned beneath a polishing belt (304) having an end point detection section, wherein the end point detection section can be an end point window, a hole in the polishing belt, or a translucent section of the polishing belt. The polishing belt (304) is then rotated during the CMP process, and a transverse position (424) of the end point detection section is determined based on a portion of the sensor array covered by a particular portion of the polishing belt. The particular portion of the polishing belt can be the end point window, a trigger slot, or a portion of the polishing belt covered by a reflective material. The sensor array can optionally be a charged coupled device (CCD), or a linear array of sensors (500). In operation, the positional information is determined based on which sensors (500a, 500b, 500c) are covered by the particular portion of the polishing belt. The positional information is then communicated to a belt steering system, which corrects the transverse position of the end point window based on which sensors are covered by the particular portion of the polishing belt.

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