

Description

The invention refers to a device for applying a light sensitive film onto a surface of a printed circuit base board, as described in the general clause of the claims 1 and 2.

In Japanese Patent Publication Serial No. Sho. 53-31670 (1978), there is described a device for reduced pressure lamination of such a base board, which has input and output sealing devices, comprising and employing rollers for carrying out the supply of the base board to be laminated and the taking out of the laminated finished product and for providing seals, such as shown in transverse sectional view in Fig. 5 of the accompanying drawings. In that figure, the reference numerals 1 denote parallel and mutually contacting rollers, constructed to have resilient outer surfaces as by being covered with rubber or the like, which rotate in the directions as shown in the figure by the arrows "b", and which form a mutual gas tight pressure seal by being pressed together as well as forming gas tight pressure seals by being pressed against a wall 3 of a reduced pressure chamber on either side of a slot 3a formed in said wall 3, said slot 3a leading to the interior of said reduced pressure chamber (not otherwise shown). In operation, a base board 2 for lamination is fed in the direction indicated by the arrow "a" in the figure through between said rollers 1 and then through the slot 3a into the interior of the reduced pressure chamber 3 which is being maintained at a pressure substantially lower than atmospheric pressure, while still the gas tight pressure seal provided between said rollers 1 is substantially maintained due to the resilience of the material of said rollers 1.

Yet further, in Japanese Patent Laying Open Publication Serial No. Sho. 57-4194 (1982), there is described a refinement of the above described device for reduced pressure lamination of such a base board, which has similar input and output sealing devices comprising and employing rollers for carrying out the supply of the base board to be laminated and the taking out of the laminated finished product while maintaining seals, and further comprises sealing strip constructions such as shown in transverse sectional view in Fig. 6 of the accompanying drawings, in which figure reference numerals like to reference numerals in Fig. 5 denote like parts and openings and so on. The difference between the Fig. 6 construction and the Fig. 5 construction is that the rollers 1, although they are similarly constructed to have resilient outer surfaces as by being covered with rubber or the like and similarly still form a mutual gas tight pressure seal by being pressed together, are not pressed against the wall 3 of the reduced pressure chamber, but rather relatively small gaps are left between said rollers 1 and said reduced pressure chamber wall 3. For providing gas tight seals, instead, on either side of the slot 3a formed in said wall 3 and leading to the interior of said reduced pressure chamber, outside the rollers 1, there are provided constructions comprising

bases 5, to which sealing strips 4 are retained by being fixed by retaining bars 6 and fixing bolts 7. The sealing strips 4 are pressed against the outer sides of the rollers 1 in the trailing direction with regard to the rotation of said rollers 1 in the directions indicated by the arrows "b", and are sucked inwards by the reduced pressure in the laminating chamber (to the left in the figure of the wall 3), so as to form good and effective seals against the outer sides of said rollers 1. Again, in operation, the base board 2 for lamination is fed in the direction indicated by the arrow "a" in the figure through between said rollers 1 and then through the slot 3a into the interior of the reduced pressure chamber 3 which is being maintained at a pressure substantially lower than atmospheric pressure, while still the gas tight pressure seal provided between said rollers 1 is substantially maintained due to the resilience of the material of said rollers 1, as the base board 2 nevertheless passes between said rollers 1.

Recently, however, there has appeared a requirement for a device capable of handling base boards of a thickness of 3.5 mm to 10 mm and capable of employing lower absolute pressures.

The above-mentioned devices are not appropriate to handle those thick base boards and particularly not at higher vacuum.

Instead of using gas tight pressure seals, US-A-4 405 435 shows a sputtering apparatus or a similar apparatus in which the flow rate of a gas intake, the leakage through gaps in the inlet and outlet of gas-filled treatment chambers and the evacuating rate of a vacuum pump are coordinated in such a way that a certain pressure level lower than that of the environment air is maintained. This device, however, requires a vacuum pump of high capability.

Accordingly, it is the aim of the invention to provide a device as cited in the general clause of claim 1 or 2, which avoids the problems detailed above, can satisfactorily handle base boards which are considerably thick, can satisfactorily work at pressure conditions of greater vacuum than has heretofore been practicable and/or requires a vacuum pump of moderate capability.

This aim is solved by the characterizing features of claim 1 or 2.

The present invention will now be described with respect to the preferred embodiments thereof and with reference to illustrative drawings appended thereto, which however are provided for the purposes of explanation and exemplification only, and are not intended to be limitative of the scope of the present invention in any way. With relation to the figures, spatial terms are to be understood as referring only to the orientation on the drawing paper of the illustrations of the relevant parts, unless otherwise specified; like reference numerals, unless otherwise so specified, denote the same parts and gaps and spaces and so on in the various figures relating to one preferred embodiment, and like parts and gaps and spaces and so on in figures relating to different preferred embodiments; and:

Fig. 1 is a schematic longitudinal sectional view showing the first preferred embodiment of the reduced pressure laminating device according to the present invention, which practices the first method embodiment;

Fig. 2 is a schematic longitudinal sectional view showing the second preferred embodiment of the reduced pressure laminating device according to the present invention, said second preferred device embodiment incorporating input and output staging devices and practicing the second preferred method embodiment;

Fig. 3 is a partial side view showing an example of a mechanism for adjusting the spacing of certain base board preheating rollers in a main lamination chamber device of the first and second preferred embodiment devices of Figs. 1 and 2;

Fig. 4 shows in its two views a sectional view and a partial front elevation of a type of gate valve that may be used in said first and second preferred embodiment devices of Figs. 1 and 2;

Fig. 5 is a transverse sectional view of a roller type sealing construction for a reduced pressure laminating device, according to one prior art; and:

Fig. 6, similarly to Fig. 5, is a transverse sectional view of a roller type sealing construction for a reduced pressure laminating device, further employing strip type sealing constructions, as according to another prior art.

The present invention will now be described with reference to the preferred embodiments of the method and the device thereof, and with reference to the figures. Fig. 1 is a schematic longitudinal sectional view showing the first preferred embodiment of the reduced pressure laminating device according to the present invention. In this figure, the reference numeral 2 denotes a board such as a printed circuit base board, which is to be laminated by this apparatus together with a light sensitive thin film material, and which is fed through, in turn, an input staging chamber device 8, a main lamination chamber device 9, and an output staging chamber device 10. These input and output staging chamber devices 8 and 10 function as air locks for maintaining the reduced pressure in the main lamination chamber device 9 at an acceptably low level without any requirement for heavy duty operation of a vacuum pump.

In detail, in a first process stage, as the board 2 is fed in the leftwards direction as seen in the figure from the position shown therein, an input staging chamber device input gate valve 14 leading into the input staging chamber device 8 is opened, while an input staging chamber device output gate valve 15 leading out from said input staging chamber device 8 into the main lamination chamber device 9 is closed; and, furthermore, an input staging chamber device bleed valve 23 is opened, while an input staging chamber device evacuation valve 11 is closed. Thus, the board 2 is passed through the input staging chamber device input gate valve 14 and is received into the internal cavity of the input

staging chamber device 8. The gate valves such as the input staging chamber device input gate valve 14 and the input staging chamber device output gate valve 15 may be of a type described hereinafter, as may other gate valves which will be described shortly. In this first preferred embodiment of the method and device of the present invention, the board 2 is supplied individually; in other words boards are not taken in to the device in plurality as is the case with the second preferred method and device embodiments to be described subsequently.

Next, in a second process stage, the input staging chamber device input gate valve 14 is closed, while the input staging chamber device output gate valve 15 leading out from said input staging chamber device 8 into the main lamination chamber device 9 is maintained as closed; and now the input staging chamber device bleed valve 23 is closed, while the input staging chamber device evacuation valve 11 is opened and also a vacuum pump 31 is operated. Thus, the internal cavity of the input staging chamber device 8 holding the board 2 in it is isolated from the ambient atmosphere and also from the main lamination chamber device 9, while the vacuum pump 31, via a conduit system not denoted by any reference numeral, sucks out the atmospheric air within said internal cavity of said input staging chamber device 8, thus to bring the pressure in said internal cavity and surrounding the base board 2 down to an appropriate reduced pressure for performing lamination. During this air sucking out process, the pressure in the input staging chamber device 8 is monitored by the use of a per se conventional pressure metering device 22 which has contacts which close at a determinate pressure level, or the like.

Next, in a third process stage, when the pressure in said internal cavity of said input staging chamber device 8 has been brought down to be substantially equal to the reduced pressure in the internal cavity of the main lamination chamber device 9 which is an appropriate reduced pressure for performing lamination, the input staging chamber device input gate valve 14 is maintained as closed, while the input staging chamber device output gate valve 15 leading out from said input staging chamber device 8 into the main lamination chamber device 9 is now opened; and further the input staging chamber device bleed valve 23 is maintained as closed, while the input staging chamber device evacuation valve 11 is now closed and the vacuum pump 31 may be ceased to be operated. Thus, the internal cavity of the input staging chamber device 8 holding the board 2 in it is communicated to the main lamination chamber device 9 through said input staging chamber device output gate valve 15.

Next, in a fourth process stage, the board 2 is forwarded by a plurality of transport rollers 20 from the internal cavity of the input staging chamber device 8 through the input staging chamber device output gate valve 15 into the

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main lamination chamber device 9. As this occurs, the board 2 is preheated by heater rollers 28 in said main lamination chamber device 9, in between which rollers 28 said board 2 passes.

Next, in a fifth process stage, the board 2, in the internal cavity of the main lamination chamber device 9, is forwarded in between laminating rollers 26, and is laminated to a sheet 44 of thin film light sensitive material (or the like), which is transported while being preheated by a heating shoe 33 from a protection film winding shaft 30, with the aid of a light sensitive material extraction roller 29. The reference numeral 32 denotes a pressure cylinder for pressing the two laminating rollers 26 together. And, as the board 2 laminated with the light sensitive film material is further transported, said light sensitive film material is cut by a cutter 27.

Meanwhile, the input staging chamber device output gate valve 15 is now closed, so as to isolate the input staging chamber device 8 from the main lamination chamber device 9. After this, concurrently with the remaining process steps for the laminated board, the input staging chamber device bleed valve 23 is opened so as gradually to leak air from the ambient atmosphere into said input staging chamber device 8, so as to progressively bring its internal pressure up to atmospheric. When this pressure rise has been completed, the input staging chamber device input gate valve 14 may be opened, to repeat the cycle of inputting for the next printed circuit board 2 to be laminated, as described above, while the input staging chamber device output gate valve 15 is maintained as closed.

Next, in a sixth process stage, with the pressure in the internal cavity of the output staging chamber device 10 being substantially equal to the reduced pressure in the internal cavity of the main lamination chamber device 9, and with an output staging chamber device output gate valve 17 being maintained as closed, an output staging chamber device input gate valve 16 leading out from the main lamination chamber device 9 into said output staging chamber device 10 is now opened; and further an output staging chamber device bleed valve 25 is maintained as closed, while also an output staging chamber device evacuation valve 13 is kept open. Thus, the internal cavity of the main lamination chamber device 9 holding the board 2 in it is communicated to the output staging chamber device 10 through said output staging chamber device input gate valve 16.

Next, in a seventh process stage, the printed circuit board 2 now laminated with the thin light sensitive film material is forwarded by a plurality of transport rollers 21 from the internal cavity of the main lamination chamber device 9 into the output staging chamber device 10 through said output staging chamber device input gate valve 16. Again, according to this preferred embodiment, this taking out of the laminated printed circuit board 2 is performed one board at a time. When the length of the printed circuit board 2 is

less than the distance between the cutter 27 and the output staging chamber device input gate valve 16, then the thin pressure sensitive film may be cut by said cutter 27 before said output staging chamber device input gate valve 16 is opened; otherwise, it will be necessary to cut the thin pressure sensitive film by said cutter 27 while the printed circuit board 2 with the film laminated thereto is being passed through the opened output staging chamber device input gate valve 16.

Next, in an eighth process stage, the output staging chamber device input gate valve 16 is now closed, so as to isolate the output staging chamber device 10 from the main lamination chamber device 9. After this, the output staging chamber device bleed valve 25 is opened so as gradually to leak air from the ambient atmosphere into said output staging chamber device 10, so as to progressively bring its internal pressure up to atmospheric. At this time, the output staging chamber device bleed valve 25 is maintained as closed. When this pressure rise has been completed, the output staging chamber device output gate valve 17 is opened.

Next, in a ninth process stage, the board 2 is further fed by the rollers 21 in the leftwards direction as seen in the figure, through the opened output staging chamber device output gate valve 17 to the outside, while the output staging chamber device input gate valve 16 leading out from the main lamination chamber device 9 into said output staging chamber device 10 is kept closed; and, furthermore, the output staging chamber device evacuation valve 13 is kept closed. Thus, the board 2 is passed from the internal cavity of the output staging chamber device 10 through the output staging chamber device output gate valve 17 to the outside for further processing.

Next, in a final tenth process stage, the output staging chamber device output gate valve 17 is closed, while the output staging chamber device input gate valve 16 leading in to said output staging chamber device 10 from the main lamination chamber device 9 is maintained as similarly closed; and now the output staging chamber device bleed valve 25 is closed, while the output staging chamber device evacuation valve 13 is opened and also the vacuum pump 31 is operated. Thus, the internal cavity of the output staging chamber device 10 (which is currently empty) is isolated from the ambient atmosphere and also from the main lamination chamber device 9, while the vacuum pump 31, via the conduit system not denoted by any reference numeral, sucks out the atmospheric air within said internal cavity of said output staging chamber device 10, thus to bring the pressure in said internal cavity down to be substantially equal to the appropriate reduced pressure for performing lamination within the main lamination chamber device 9. During this air sucking out process, the pressure in said output staging chamber device 10 is monitored by the use of a per se conventional pressure metering device, not

denoted by any reference numeral but similar to the device 22 on the input side, which similarly has contacts which close at a determinate pressure level or the like. And then this output staging chamber device 10 is ready for the next cycle of receiving a printed circuit board 2 with laminated light sensitive film thereon and transferring it to the outside.

Now, during the performance of this process of reduced pressure lamination as described above, preferably the spacings between the transport rollers 20 of the input staging chamber device 8, the preheating rollers 28 and the laminating rollers 26 of the main lamination chamber device 9, and the transport rollers 21 of the output staging chamber device 10, are adjusted beforehand according to the thickness of the base board 2. The spacing of these rollers is preferably adjusted to be about 1.6 mm greater than the thickness of the board 2.

The reference numeral 12 denotes a main chamber evacuation valve. When this main chamber evacuation valve 12 is closed as is normally the case, vacuum (pressure depression) within the main lamination chamber device 9 is held therein and maintained. However, should it become necessary to evacuate further said main lamination chamber device 9, i.e. to drop the pressure therein, and of course when initially evacuating said main lamination chamber device 9, this main chamber evacuation valve 12 is opened, and simultaneously the vacuum pump 31 is operated, thus pumping air out of said main lamination chamber device 9 and reducing the pressure therein to an acceptable pressure level for lamination.

Now, referring to Fig. 2, the second preferred embodiment of the reduced pressure laminating device according to the present invention will be described. In this figure, reference numerals corresponding to reference numerals in Fig. 1 denote like parts.

In this second preferred embodiment, the input staging chamber device 8 and the output staging chamber device 10 are constructed to incorporate stocker devices 18 and 19. The stocker device 18 receives the base boards to be laminated and automatically supplies them one by one into the main lamination chamber device 9, for lamination therein. And the other stocker device 19 receives the base boards which have been laminated with light sensitive film. These stocker devices 18 and 19 are opening and closing door constructions respectively for inserting and taking out the boards.

Fig. 3 shows an example of a mechanism for adjusting the spacing of the base board preheating rollers 28 in the main lamination chamber device 9 of the first and second preferred embodiment devices shown in Figs. 1 and 2. The reference numeral 34 denotes a spacing adjustment knob, while 35 is a fitting for it, 36 is a bearing, 37 is a slide shaft, 38 is a roller support, and 39 is a main container frame. By turning the spacing adjustment knob 34, the base board preheating

roller 28 can be moved up and down at will, and the spacing between the rollers 28 can be set arbitrarily. The operation of this device will be clear to one of ordinary skill in the mechanical art without further explanation, in the light of this disclosure.

The lamination and adhesion within the main lamination chamber device 9 may be carried out by using a hot roller lined with a heat resistant rubber or rubber like material capable of being heated up to approximately 100°C by the use of a sheath heater or the like without damage. Alternatively, in the case of a construction provided with a heat shoe for preheating the light sensitive material in film form, the method of carrying out lamination and adhesion with a rubber lined cold roller is also acceptable. However, it is preferable for a method to be practiced whereby the lamination and adhesion pressure between the laminating rollers 26 is only their own weight when the base board 2 to be laminated is not inserted between said rollers 26, and that when the base board 2 to be laminated is present between said rollers 26 pressure is applied by the use of a hydraulic or air cylinder or the like.

The gate valves utilized in the device of the present invention may be conventional seal roller constructions such as those disclosed in the preamble to this specification, or may be of the type shown in detail in Figs. 4a and 4b. Fig. 4a is a transverse sectional view of such a gate valve, while Fig. 4b is a partial front elevation thereof. In these figures, the reference numeral 40 denotes an air cylinder for raising and lowering a gate denoted by 42, and 41 is a frame for the gate valve, while 43 is a seal plate.

In Figs. 1 and 2 there are shown devices including cutters for the film after it has been adhered to the printed circuit base board 2, but this is not to be considered as limitative of the present invention; it is alternatively possible for the film to be cut to the dimensions of the printed circuit board 2 and then subsequently to be stuck on to said printed circuit board 2 in the main lamination chamber device 9 without being further cut. Such a structure is, for example, disclosed in Japanese Patent Laying Open Publication Serial No. 59-105256 (1984). In this publication, there is disclosed a mechanism whereby the film is cut to the dimensions of the printed circuit board and then is laminated and adhered to said printed circuit board. In this device, the adhesion is performed vertically, but when using the present invention with this mechanism being incorporated, it is preferable for the intake and exit containers to be above and below the main container respectively.

Instead of cutting the film either before or after laminating it to the printed circuit board, it is alternatively possible to use precut film. In such a case, the precut film may be stored permanently inside the main container, or alternatively it may be supplied along with the printed circuit boards through the intake container. The film may not necessarily be cut to exactly the same size as the

printed circuit board; generally, in fact, the film is cut to be slightly smaller than the printed circuit board, but alternatively it could be larger.

In the devices shown in Figs. 1 and 2 the film further has a protective film, but this is not necessary to the present invention, and in such a case the protective film winding roller or rollers 30 could be omitted.

There is no particular limitation on the film for being used with the present invention, but for example the film described in Japanese Patent Publication Serial No. 45-25231 (1970) may be advantageously used.

The benefit of the present invention is that it is possible to satisfactorily perform adhesion of a light sensitive film material under reduced pressure conditions to a base board of thickness 35 to 10 mm, which as explained above is a substantially thicker type of base board than could conveniently be handled by prior art laminating methods and devices. During such adhesion and lamination according to the present invention, there is no substantial risk of generation of air bubbles or wrinkles or the like. Furthermore, a higher vacuum value than available by the prior art can be utilized, for example a pressure of 0.04 bar (0.97 bar below atmospheric).

Also, since the raising and lowering of pressure for taking in and taking out board which are to be, and have been, laminated with film are not required to be performed for the whole machine, but rather only for the input and the output containers, thus as compared with a conventional case the exhaustion of air and replenishment or bleeding of air can be done more smoothly, and it is possible for the device to be operated with a lower power type vacuum pump than has heretofore been the case.

Using the device according to the first preferred embodiment of the present invention shown in Fig. 1, incorporating a vacuum pump of capacity about 3000 liters per minute, about 50 mm diameter laminating rollers, and an about 40 N/cm² air cylinder for said laminating rollers, and using a temperature of about 110°C for the shoe for preheating the light sensitive film material, a base printed circuit board, about 8 mm in thickness (with printed circuit thickness about 75 microns) and about 330 mm by about 500 mm in size, was, at a feed speed of about 2 meters per minute, laminated and adhered to a light sensitive film material, so called Photek PHT-SR-1000N-75 (product name, manufactured by Hitachi Kasei Kogyo KK), with the intake container pressure of about 0.04 bar and with the intake container gate valve open. It was possible for the adhesion to be carried out in a high vacuum state of about 0.01 bar (1.0 bar below atmospheric), and for each board in about 1.5 minutes a satisfactory lamination process was performed without the generation of air bubbles or wrinkles or the like, and the Photek PHT-SR-1000N-75 film material was satisfactorily adhered to the base board.

Claims

1. A device for applying a light sensitive film (44) onto a surface of a printed circuit base board (2) as tightly adhered thereon, comprising:

an input staging chamber device (8) having an entrance and an exit located at opposite ends thereof;

a main lamination chamber device (9) having an entrance located at a first end thereof and internally connected with said exit of said input staging chamber device and an exit located at a second end thereof opposite to said first end thereof;

an output staging chamber device (10) having an entrance located at a first end thereof and internally connected with said exit of said main lamination chamber device and an exit located at a second end thereof opposite to said first end thereof;

a first gate valve (14) provided at said entrance of said input staging chamber device for selectively air-tightly closing said entrance of said input staging chamber device;

a second gate valve (15) provided at the connection between said exit of said input staging chamber device and said entrance of said main lamination chamber device for selectively air-tightly isolating the internal space of said main lamination chamber device from the internal space of said input staging chamber device;

a third gate valve (16) provided at the connection between said exit of said main lamination chamber device and said entrance of said output staging chamber device for selectively air-tightly isolating the internal space of said main lamination chamber device from the internal space of said output staging chamber device;

a fourth gate valve (17) provided at said exit of said output staging chamber device for selectively air-tightly closing said exit of said output staging chamber device;

transfer means (20, 28, 27, 21) for transferring said printed circuit base board through said first gate valve, said input stage chamber device, said second gate valve, said main lamination chamber device, said third gate valve, said output staging chamber device and said fourth gate valve in succession;

a first evacuation means (31, 11) for selectively evacuating the internal space of said input staging chamber device;

a second evacuation means (31, 12) for selectively evacuating the internal space of said main lamination chamber device; and

a third evacuation device (31, 13) for selectively evacuating the internal space of said output staging chamber device;

characterized in that a film supply means (29, 30, 33, 26, 27) is provided in said main lamination chamber device (9) as completely housed therein for supplying said light sensitive film (44) toward said printed circuit base board (2) transferred into said main lamination chamber device so that said film is applied onto the surface of said base board

printed circuit board; generally, in fact, the film is cut to be slightly smaller than the printed circuit board, but alternatively it could be larger.

In the devices shown in Figs. 1 and 2 the film further has a protective film, but this is not necessary to the present invention, and in such a case the protective film winding roller or rollers 30 could be omitted.

There is no particular limitation on the film for being used with the present invention, but for example the film described in Japanese Patent Publication Serial No. 45-25231 (1970) may be advantageously used.

The benefit of the present invention is that it is possible to satisfactorily perform adhesion of a light sensitive film material under reduced pressure conditions to a base board of thickness 35 to 10 mm, which as explained above is a substantially thicker type of base board than could conveniently be handled by prior art laminating methods and devices. During such adhesion and lamination according to the present invention, there is no substantial risk of generation of air bubbles or wrinkles or the like. Furthermore, a higher vacuum value than available by the prior art can be utilized, for example a pressure of 0.04 bar (0.97 bar below atmospheric).

Also, since the raising and lowering of pressure for taking in and taking out board which are to be, and have been, laminated with film are not required to be performed for the whole machine, but rather only for the input and the output containers, thus as compared with a conventional case the exhaustion of air and replenishment or bleeding of air can be done more smoothly, and it is possible for the device to be operated with a lower power type vacuum pump than has heretofore been the case.

Using the device according to the first preferred embodiment of the present invention shown in Fig. 1, incorporating a vacuum pump of capacity about 3000 liters per minute, about 50 mm diameter laminating rollers, and an about 40 N/cm² air cylinder for said laminating rollers, and using a temperature of about 110°C for the shoe for preheating the light sensitive film material, a base printed circuit board, about 8 mm in thickness (with printed circuit thickness about 75 microns) and about 330 mm by about 500 mm in size, was, at a feed speed of about 2 meters per minute, laminated and adhered to a light sensitive film material, so called Photek PHT-SR-1000N-75 (product name, manufactured by Hitachi Kasei Kogyo KK), with the intake container pressure of about 0.04 bar and with the intake container gate valve open. It was possible for the adhesion to be carried out in a high vacuum state of about 0.01 bar (1.0 bar below atmospheric), and for each board in about 1.5 minutes a satisfactory lamination process was performed without the generation of air bubbles or wrinkles or the like, and the Photek PHT-SR-1000N-75 film material was satisfactorily adhered to the base board.

Claims

1. A device for applying a light sensitive film (44) onto a surface of a printed circuit base board (2) as tightly adhered thereon, comprising:

an input staging chamber device (8) having an entrance and an exit located at opposite ends thereof;

a main lamination chamber device (9) having an entrance located at a first end thereof and internally connected with said exit of said input staging chamber device and an exit located at a second end thereof opposite to said first end thereof;

an output staging chamber device (10) having an entrance located at a first end thereof and internally connected with said exit of said main lamination chamber device and an exit located at a second end thereof opposite to said first end thereof;

a first gate valve (14) provided at said entrance of said input staging chamber device for selectively air-tightly closing said entrance of said input staging chamber device;

a second gate valve (15) provided at the connection between said exit of said input staging chamber device and said entrance of said main lamination chamber device for selectively air-tightly isolating the internal space of said main lamination chamber device from the internal space of said input staging chamber device;

a third gate valve (16) provided at the connection between said exit of said main lamination chamber device and said entrance of said output staging chamber device for selectively air-tightly isolating the internal space of said main lamination chamber device from the internal space of said output staging chamber device;

a fourth gate valve (17) provided at said exit of said output staging chamber device for selectively air-tightly closing said exit of said output staging chamber device;

transfer means (20, 28, 27, 21) for transferring said printed circuit base board through said first gate valve, said input stage chamber device, said second gate valve, said main lamination chamber device, said third gate valve, said output staging chamber device and said fourth gate valve in succession;

a first evacuation means (31, 11) for selectively evacuating the internal space of said input staging chamber device;

a second evacuation means (31, 12) for selectively evacuating the internal space of said main lamination chamber device; and

a third evacuation device (31, 13) for selectively evacuating the internal space of said output staging device;

characterized in that a film supply means (29, 30, 33, 26, 27) is provided in said main lamination chamber device (9) as completely housed therein for supplying said light sensitive film (44) toward said printed circuit base board (2) transferred into said main lamination chamber device so that said film is applied onto the surface of said base board



as tightly adhered thereon, and said transfer means (20, 28, 27, 21), said first through fourth gate valves (14, 15, 16, 17), said first through third evacuation means (31, 11, 12, 13) and said film supply means (29, 30, 33, 26, 27) are operated in correlation with one another so that, in a first aspect of operation said first gate valve (14) is opened, said second gate valve (15) is closed, and said transfer means (20) transfers one of said printed circuit base board completely into said input staging chamber device (8) from an outside thereof through said first gate valve (14), in a second aspect of operation following said first aspect of operation said first gate valve (14) is closed, and said first evacuation means (31, 11) evacuates the internal space of said input staging chamber device (8), in a third aspect of operation following said second aspect of operation said second gate valve (15) is opened, said transfer means (20, 28) transfers said one printed circuit base board from said input staging chamber device (8) completely into said main lamination chamber device (9), said second evacuation means (31, 12) evacuates the internal space of said main lamination chamber device (9) with said third gate valve (16) being closed, and said film supply means (29, 30, 33, 26, 27) supplies said light sensitive film (44) onto said one printed circuit base board, in a fourth aspect of operation following said third aspect of operation said third evacuation means (31, 13) evacuates the internal space of said output staging chamber device (10) with said fourth gate valve (17) being closed, said third gate valve (16) is opened, and said transfer means (28, 27, 21) transfers said one printed circuit base board with said light sensitive film (44) applied thereon from said main lamination chamber device (9) completely into said output staging chamber device (10), and in a fifth aspect of operation said third gate valve (16) is closed, said fourth gate valve (17) is opened, and said transfer means (21) transfers said one printed circuit base board with said light sensitive film applied thereon from said output staging chamber device (10) to an outside thereof.

2. A device for applying a light sensitive film (44) onto a surface of a printed circuit base board (2) as tightly adhered thereon, comprising:

an input staging chamber device (18) having an exit;

a main lamination chamber device (9) having an entrance located at a first end thereof and internally connected with said exit of said input staging chamber device and an exit located at a second end thereof opposite to said first end thereof;

an output staging chamber device (19) having an entrance internally connected with said exit of said main lamination chamber device;

a first gate valve (15) provided at the connection between said exit of said input staging chamber device and said entrance of said main lamination chamber device for selectively airtightly isolating the internal space of said main

lamination chamber device from the internal space of said input staging chamber device;

a second gate valve (16) provided at the connection between said exit of said main lamination chamber device and said entrance of said output staging chamber device for selectively airtightly isolating the internal space of said main lamination chamber device from the internal space of said output staging chamber device;

transfer means (28, 26) for transferring said printed circuit base board from said input staging chamber device through said first gate valve, said main lamination chamber device and said second gate valve into said output staging chamber device;

a first evacuation means (31, 11) for selectively evacuating the internal space of said input staging chamber device;

a second evacuation means (31, 12) for selectively evacuating the internal space of said main lamination chamber device; and

a third evacuation means (31, 13) for selectively evacuating the internal space of said output staging chamber device;

characterized in that a film supply means (29, 30, 33, 26, 27) is provided in said main lamination chamber device (9) as completely housed therein for supplying said light sensitive film (44) toward said printed circuit base board (2) transferred into said main lamination chamber device so that said film is applied onto the surface of said base board as tightly adhered thereon, said first input staging chamber device (18) incorporates therein a first stocker device for receiving a stock of said printed circuit base boards to be applied with said light sensitive film thereon and supplying them one by one toward said exit of said input staging chamber device, said output staging chamber device (19) incorporates therein a second stocker device for receiving a stock of said printed circuit base boards applied with said light sensitive films thereon from said entrance of said output staging chamber device, and said transfer means (28, 26), said first and second gate valves (15, 16), said first through third evacuation means (31, 11, 12, 13) and said film supply means (29, 30, 33, 26, 27) are operated in correlation with one another so that, in a first aspect of operation said first gate valve (15) is closed, said input staging chamber device (18) is charged with said stock of said printed circuit base boards as loaded on said first stocker device, and said first evacuation device (31, 11) evacuates the internal space of said input staging chamber device, in a second aspect of operation following said first aspect of operation said first gate valve (15) is opened, said transfer means transfers a successive one of said printed circuit base boards as unloaded from said first stocker device from said input staging chamber device (18) completely into said main lamination chamber device (9), said second evacuation means (31, 12) evacuates the internal space of said main lamination chamber device (9) with said second gate valve (16) being closed, and



said film supply means (29, 30, 33, 26, 27) supplies said light sensitive film (44) onto said printed circuit base board, in a third aspect of operation following said second aspect of operation said third evacuation means (31, 13) evacuates the internal space of said output staging chamber device (19), in a fourth aspect of operation following said third aspect of operation said second gate valve (16) is opened, and said transfer means (28, 26) transfers said printed circuit base board with said light sensitive film applied thereon from said main lamination chamber device (9) completely into said output staging chamber device (19) to be loaded on said second stocker device, and in a fifth aspect of operation following said fourth aspect of operation said second gate valve (16) is closed, and said printed circuit base boards are discharged as unloaded from said second stocker device from said output stage chamber device (19) to an outside thereof.

Patentansprüche

1. Vorrichtung zur Aufbringung eines lichtempfindlichen Films (44) auf die Oberfläche einer gedruckten Schaltungsgrundplatte (2) zur festen Haftung daran, mit:

einer Eingangsstufenkammer (8) mit einem Eingang und einem Ausgang, die an entgegengesetzten Enden vorgesehen sind;

einer Hauptlaminiierungskammer (9) mit einem Eingang, der an einem ersten Ende vorgesehen ist und intern verbunden ist mit dem Ausgang der Eingangsstufenkammer, und mit einem Ausgang, der an einem zweiten, dem ersten Ende entgegengesetzten Ende vorgesehen ist;

einer Ausgangsstufenkammer (10) mit einem Eingang, der an einem ersten Ende angeordnet ist und intern verbunden ist mit dem Ausgang der Hauptlaminiierungskammer, und mit einem Ausgang, der an einem zweiten Ende entgegengesetzt zum ersten Ende vorgesehen ist;

einem ersten Absperrschieber (14), der am Eingang der Eingangskammer zum selektiven luftdichten Verschluss des Eingangs der Eingangsstufenkammer vorgesehen ist;

einem zweiten Absperrschieber (15), der im Bereich der Verbindung zwischen dem Ausgang der Eingangsstufenkammer und dem Eingang der Hauptlaminiierungskammer angeordnet ist, zur selektiven luftdichten Isolierung des Inneren der Hauptlaminiierungskammer vom Inneren der Eingangsstufenkammer;

einem dritten Absperrschieber (16), der im Bereich der Verbindung zwischen dem Ausgang der Hauptlaminiierungskammer und dem Eingang der Ausgangsstufenkammer angeordnet ist zur selektiven luftdichten Isolierung des Inneren der Hauptlaminiierungskammer vom Inneren der Ausgangsstufenkammer;

einem vierten Absperrschieber (17), der am Ausgang der Ausgangsstufenkammer angeordnet ist zum selektiven luftdichten Verschluss des Ausgangs der Ausgangsstufenkammer;

Transportmitteln (20, 28, 27, 21) zum Transport

der gedruckten Schaltungsgrundplatte nacheinander durch den ersten Absperrschieber, die Eingangsstufenkammer, den zweiten Absperrschieber, die Hauptlaminiierungskammer, den dritten Absperrschieber, die Ausgangsstufenkammer und den vierten Absperrschieber;

einer ersten Evakuiereinrichtung (31, 11) zur selektiven Evakuierung des Innenraums der Eingangsstufenkammer;

einer zweiten Evakuiereinrichtung (31, 12) zur selektiven Evakuierung des Inneren der Hauptlaminiierungskammer; und

einer dritten Evakuiereinrichtung (31, 13) zur selektiven Evakuierung des Inneren der Ausgangsstufenkammer;

dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß eine Filmzufuhreinrichtung (29, 30, 33, 26, 27) in der Hauptlaminiierungskammer (9) angeordnet und von dieser vollständig umgeben ist für die Zuführung eines lichtempfindlichen Films (44) zur gedruckten Schaltungsgrundplatte (2), die in die Hauptlaminiierungskammer transportiert worden ist, so daß der Film auf der Oberfläche der Grundplatte aufgebracht wird, um fest daran zu haften, und die Transportmittel (20, 28, 27, 21), die ersten bis vierten Absperrschieber (14, 15, 16, 17), die ersten bis dritten Evakuiereinrichtungen (31, 11, 12, 13) und die Filmzufuhreinrichtungen (29, 30, 33, 26, 27) im Zusammenwirken miteinander derart betrieben werden, daß in einem ersten Betriebsstadium der erste Absperrschieber (14) geöffnet ist, der zweite Absperrschieber (15) geschlossen ist, und die Transportmittel (20) eine gedruckte Schaltungsgrundplatte vollständig von außen in die Eingangsstufenkammer (8) über den ersten Absperrschieber (16) transportieren, in einem zweiten, darauf folgenden Betriebsstadium der erste Absperrschieber (14) geschlossen ist, und die erste Evakuiereinrichtung (31, 11) das Innere der Eingangsstufenkammer (8) evakuiert, in einem dritten, dem zweiten Betriebsstadium folgenden Betriebsstadium der zweite Absperrschieber (15) geöffnet wird, die Transportmittel (20, 28) die gedruckte Schaltungsgrundplatte aus der Eingangsstufenkammer (8) vollständig in die Hauptlaminiierungskammer (9) transportieren, die zweite Evakuiereinrichtung (31, 12) das Innere der Hauptlaminiierungskammer (9) evakuiert, wobei der dritte Absperrschieber (16) geschlossen ist, und die Filmzufuhreinrichtung (29, 30, 33, 26, 27) den lichtempfindlichen Film (44) auf die gedruckte Schaltungsgrundplatte aufbringt, in einem vierten, dem dritten Betriebsstadium folgenden Betriebsstadium die dritte Evakuiereinrichtung (31, 13) das Innere der Ausgangsstufenkammer (10) evakuiert, wobei der vierte Absperrschieber (17) geschlossen ist, der dritte Absperrschieber (16) geöffnet ist und die Transportmittel (28, 27, 21) die gedruckte Schaltungsgrundplatte mit dem daran angebrachten lichtempfindlichen Film (44) von der Hauptlaminiierungskammer (9) vollständig in die Ausgangsstufenkammer (10) transportiert, und einem fünften Betriebsstadium der dritte Absperrschieber (16) geschlossen ist, der vierte Absperrschieber (17) geöffnet ist, und die



Transportmittel (21) die gedruckte Schaltungsgrundplatte mit dem daran angebrachten lichtempfindlichen Film von der Ausgangsstufenkammer (10) nach außen transportiert.

2. Vorrichtung zur Aufbringung eines lichtempfindlichen Films (44) auf die Oberfläche einer gedruckten Schaltungsgrundplatte (2) zur festen Haftung daran, mit:

einer Eingangsstufenkammer (18) mit einem Ausgang;

einer Hauptlaminiierungskammer (9) mit einem Eingang, der an einem ersten Ende angeordnet ist und intern mit dem Ausgang der Eingangsstufenkammer verbunden ist, und einem Ausgang, der an einem zweiten Ende entgegengesetzt zum ersten Ende vorgesehen ist;

einer Ausgangsstufenkammer (19) mit einem Eingang, der intern mit dem Ausgang der Hauptlaminiierungskammer verbunden ist;

einem ersten Absperrschieber (15), der im Bereich der Verbindung zwischen dem Ausgang der Eingangsstufenkammer und dem Eingang der Hauptlaminiierungskammer vorgesehen ist zur selektiven luftdichten Isolierung des Inneren der Hauptlaminiierungskammer vom Inneren der Eingangsstufenkammer;

einem zweiten Absperrschieber (16), der im Bereich der Verbindung zwischen dem Ausgang der Hauptlaminiierungskammer und dem Eingang der Ausgangsstufenkammer vorgesehen ist zur selektiven luftdichten Isolierung des Inneren der Hauptlaminiierungskammer vom Inneren der Ausgangsstufenkammer;

Transportmitteln (28, 26) zum Transport der gedruckten Schaltungsgrundplatte von der Eingangsstufenkammer durch den ersten Absperrschieber, die Hauptlaminiierungskammer und den zweiten Absperrschieber in die Ausgangsstufenkammer;

einer ersten Evakuereinrichtung (31, 11) zur selektiven Evakuierung des Inneren der Eingangsstufenkammer;

einer zweiten Evakuereinrichtung (31, 12) zur selektiven Evakuierung des Inneren der Hauptlaminiierungskammer; und

einer dritten Evakuereinrichtung (31, 13) zur selektiven Evakuierung des Inneren der Ausgangsstufenkammer;

dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß eine Filmzuführeinrichtung (29, 30, 33, 26, 27) in der Hauptlaminiierungskammer (9) angeordnet und vollständig von dieser umschlossen ist für die Zuführung eines lichtempfindlichen Films (44) zur gedruckten Schaltungsgrundplatte (2), die in die Hauptlaminiierungskammer transportiert wurde zum Zweck der fest haftenden Aufbringung des Films auf der Oberfläche der Grundplatte, wobei die Eingangsstufenkammer (18) eine erste Stapeleinrichtung für die Aufnahme eines Stapels der gedruckten, mit einem lichtempfindlichen Film zu versehenen Schaltungsgrundplatten umfaßt, und die eine der Platten nach der anderen zum Ausgang der Eingangsstufenkammer leitet, und daß die Ausgangsstufenkammer (19) eine zweite Stapeleinrichtung zur Aufnahme eines Stapels von

mit lichtempfindlichen Filmen versehenen gedruckten Schaltungsgrundplatten vom Eingang der Ausgangsstufenkammer umfaßt, wobei die Transportmittel (28, 26) die ersten und zweiten Absperrschieber (15, 16), die ersten bis dritten Evakuereinrichtungen (31, 11, 12, 13) und die Filmzuführeinrichtung (29, 30, 33, 26, 28) derart in Beziehung zueinander betrieben werden, daß in einem ersten Betriebsstadium der erste Absperrschieber (15) geschlossen ist, die Eingangsstufenkammer (18) geladen wird mit einem Stapel von gedruckten Schaltungsgrundplatten und die erste Evakuereinrichtung (31, 11) das Innere der Eingangsstufenkammer evakuiert, in einem zweiten, darauf folgenden Betriebsstadium der erste Absperrschieber (15) geöffnet ist, die Transportmittel eine gedruckte Schaltungsgrundplatte nach der anderen unter Entnahme von der ersten Stapelvorrichtung von der Eingangsstufenkammer (18) vollständig in die Hauptlaminiierungskammer (9) transportieren, die zweite Evakuereinrichtung (31, 12) das Innere der Hauptlaminiierungskammer (9) evakuiert, wobei der zweite Absperrschieber (16) geschlossen ist, und die Filmzuführeinrichtung (29, 30, 33, 26, 27) den lichtempfindlichen Film (44) auf die gedruckte Schaltungsgrundplatte aufbringt, in einer dritten, dem zweiten Betriebsstadium folgenden Betriebsstadium die dritte Evakuereinrichtung (31, 13) das Innere der Ausgangskammer (19) evakuiert, in einem vierten, dem dritten Betriebsstadium folgenden Betriebsstadium der zweite Absperrschieber (16) geöffnet ist, und die Transportmittel (28, 26) die mit einem lichtempfindlichen Film versehene gedruckte Schaltungsgrundplatte von der Hauptlaminiierungskammer (9) vollständig in die Ausgangsstufenkammer (19) zum Zweck der Beschickung der zweiten Stapeleinrichtung transportiert, und in einem fünften, dem vierten Betriebsstadium folgenden Betriebsstadium der zweite Absperrschieber (16) geschlossen ist, und die gedruckten Schaltungsgrundplatten entfernt werden durch Entnahme von der zweiten Stapeleinrichtung in der Ausgangsstufenkammer in die Umgebung.

Revendications

1. Dispositif d'application d'une pellicule photosensible (44) sur une surface d'un panneau (2) de circuit imprimé de manière qu'elle soit étroitement collée sur celle-ci, comportant:

un dispositif de chambre intermédiaire d'entrée (8) possédant une entrée et une sortie situées en des extrémités opposées de celui-ci;

un dispositif de chambre de stratification principal (9) possédant une entrée située à une première extrémité de celui-ci et relié intérieurement à ladite sortie dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire d'entrée et une sortie située à une seconde extrémité de celui-ci opposée à ladite première extrémité de celui-ci;

un dispositif de chambre intermédiaire de sortie (10) possédant une entrée située à une première extrémité de celui-ci et relié intérieurement



à ladite sortie dudit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal et une sortie située à une seconde extrémité de celui-ci opposée à ladite première extrémité de celui-ci;

une première vanne à obturateur (14) prévue à ladite entrée dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire d'entrée pour fermer sélectivement de manière étanche à l'air ladite entrée dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire d'entrée;

une seconde vanne à obturateur (15) prévue à la connexion entre ladite sortie dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire d'entrée et ladite entrée dudit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal pour isoler sélectivement de façon étanche à l'air l'espace intérieur dudit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal de l'espace intérieur dudit dispositif de chambre de transfert d'entrée;

une troisième vanne à obturateur (16) prévue à la connexion entre ladite sortie dudit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal et ladite entrée dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire de sortie pour isoler sélectivement de façon étanche à l'air l'espace intérieur dudit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal de l'espace intérieur dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire de sortie;

une quatrième vanne à obturateur (17) prévue à ladite sortie dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire de sortie pour fermer sélectivement de façon étanche à l'air ladite sortie dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire de sortie;

des moyens de transfert (20, 28, 27, 21) pour transférer ledit panneau de circuit imprimé à travers ladite première vanne à obturateur, ledit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire d'entrée, ladite seconde vanne à obturateur, ledit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal, ladite troisième vanne à obturateur, ledit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire de sortie et ladite quatrième vanne à obturateur en succession;

de premiers moyens de vide (31, 11) pour vider sélectivement l'espace intérieur dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire d'entrée;

de seconds moyens de vide (31, 12) pour vider sélectivement l'espace intérieur dudit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal; et

de troisièmes moyens de vide (31, 13) pour vider sélectivement l'espace intérieur dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire de sortie;

caractérisé en ce que des moyens d'alimentation de pellicule (29, 30, 33, 26, 27) sont prévus dans ledit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal (9) complètement reçus à l'intérieur pour délivrer ladite pellicule photosensible (44) vers ledit panneau de circuit imprimé (2) transféré dans ledit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal de sorte que ladite pellicule soit appliquée sur la surface dudit panneau en étant étroitement collée sur celle-ci, et lesdits moyens de transfert (20, 28, 27, 21), lesdites première à quatrième vannes à obturateur (14, 15, 16, 17), lesdits premiers à troisièmes moyens de vide (31, 11, 12, 13) et lesdits moyens d'alimentation de pellicule (29, 30, 33, 26, 27) sont actionnés en synchronisme entre eux de sorte que, au cours

d'une première étape de fonctionnement ladite première vanne à obturateur (14) est ouverte, ladite seconde vanne à obturateur (15) est fermée, et lesdits moyens de transfert (20) transfèrent l'un desdits panneaux de circuit imprimé complètement dans ledit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire d'entrée (8) depuis l'extérieur de celle-ci à travers ladite première vanne à obturateur (14), au cours d'une seconde étape de fonctionnement suivant ladite première étape, ladite première vanne à obturateur (14) est fermée, et lesdits premiers moyens de vide (31, 11) vident l'espace intérieur dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire d'entrée (8), au cours d'une troisième étape suivant ladite seconde étape, ladite seconde vanne à obturateur (15) est ouverte, lesdits moyens de transfert (20, 28) transfèrent ledit panneau de circuit imprimé dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire d'entrée (8) complètement dans ledit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal (9), lesdits seconds moyens de vide (31, 12) vident l'espace intérieur dudit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal (9), ladite troisième vanne à obturateur (16) étant fermée, et lesdits moyens d'alimentation de pellicule (29, 30, 33, 26, 27) délivrent ladite pellicule photosensible (44) sur ledit panneau de circuit imprimé, au cours d'une quatrième étape suivant ladite troisième étape, lesdits troisièmes moyens de vide (31, 13) vident l'espace intérieur dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire de sortie (10), ladite quatrième vanne à obturateur (17) étant fermée, ladite troisième vanne à obturateur (16) est ouverte, et lesdits moyens de transfert (28, 27, 21) transfèrent ledit panneau de circuit imprimé avec ladite pellicule photosensible (44) appliquée sur celui-ci depuis ledit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal (9) complètement dans ledit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire de sortie (10), et au cours d'une cinquième étape, ladite troisième vanne à obturateur (16) est fermée, ladite quatrième vanne à obturateur (17) est ouverte, et lesdits moyens de transfert (21) transfèrent ledit panneau de circuit imprimé avec ladite pellicule photosensible appliquée sur celui-ci dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire de sortie (10) à l'extérieur de celui-ci.

2. Dispositif d'application d'une pellicule photosensible (44) sur une surface d'un panneau de circuit imprimé (2) de manière qu'elle soit étroitement collée sur celle-ci, comportant:

un dispositif de chambre intermédiaire d'entrée (18) possédant une sortie;

un dispositif de chambre de stratification principal (9) possédant une entrée située à une première extrémité de celui-ci et connecté intérieurement à ladite sortie dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire d'entrée et une sortie située à une seconde extrémité de celui-ci, opposée à ladite première extrémité de celui-ci;

un dispositif de chambre intermédiaire de sortie (19) possédant une entrée intérieurement connectée à ladite sortie dudit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal;

une première vanne à obturateur (15) prévue à



la connexion entre ladite sortie dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire d'entrée et ladite entrée dudit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal pour isoler sélectivement de façon étanche à l'air l'espace intérieur dudit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal de l'espace intérieur dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire d'entrée;

une seconde vanne à obturateur (16) prévue à la connexion entre ladite sortie dudit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal et ladite entrée dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire de sortie pour isoler sélectivement de façon étanche à l'air l'espace intérieur dudit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal de l'espace intérieur dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire de sortie;

des moyens de transfert (28, 26) pour transférer ledit panneau de circuit imprimé dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire d'entrée à travers ladite première vanne à obturateur, ledit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal et ladite seconde vanne intermédiaire dans ledit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire de sortie;

de premiers moyens de vide (31, 11) pour vider sélectivement l'espace intérieur dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire d'entrée;

de seconds moyens de vide (31, 12) pour vider sélectivement l'espace intérieur dudit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal; et

de troisièmes moyens de vide (31, 13) pour vider sélectivement l'espace intérieur dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire de sortie;

caractérisé en ce que de premiers moyens d'alimentation de pellicule (29, 30, 33, 26, 27) sont prévus dans ledit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal (9) reçus complètement à l'intérieur pour délivrer ladite pellicule photosensible (44) vers ledit panneau de circuit imprimé (2) transféré dans ledit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal de sorte que ladite pellicule est appliquée sur la surface dudit panneau en étant étroitement collée sur celle-ci, ledit premier dispositif de chambre intermédiaire d'entrée (18) comporte à l'intérieur un premier dispositif de réserve pour recevoir une réserve desdits panneaux de circuit imprimé à revêtir de ladite pellicule photosensible et les délivrer un par un vers ladite sortie dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire d'entrée, ledit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire de sortie (19) comporte un second dispositif de réserve pour recevoir une réserve

desdits panneaux de circuit imprimé revêtus desdites pellicules photosensibles depuis ladite entrée dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire de sortie, et lesdits moyens de transfert (28, 26), lesdites première et seconde vannes à obturateur (15, 16), lesdits premiers à troisièmes moyens de vide (31, 11, 12, 13) et lesdits moyens d'alimentation de pellicule (28, 30, 33, 26, 27) sont actionnés en synchronisme entre eux de sorte que, au cours d'une première étape ladite première vanne à obturateur (15) est fermée, ledit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire d'entrée (18) est chargé avec ladite réserve desdits panneaux de circuit imprimé tels que chargés sur ledit premier dispositif de réserve, et lesdits premiers moyens de vide (31, 11) vident l'espace intérieur dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire d'entrée, au cours d'une seconde étape suivant la première étape, ladite première vanne à obturateur (15) est ouverte, lesdits moyens de transfert transfèrent un desdits panneaux de circuit imprimé successifs tel que déchargé dudit premier dispositif de réserve dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire d'entrée (18) complètement dans ledit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal (9), lesdits seconds moyens de vide (31, 12) vident l'espace intérieur dudit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal (9), ladite seconde vanne à obturateur (16) étant fermée, et lesdits moyens d'alimentation de pellicule (29, 30, 33, 26, 27) délivrent ladite pellicule photosensible (44) sur ledit panneau de circuit imprimé, au cours d'une troisième étape suivant ladite seconde étape, lesdits troisièmes moyens de vide (31, 13) vident l'espace intérieur dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire de sortie (19), au cours d'une quatrième étape suivant ladite troisième étape, ladite seconde vanne à obturateur (16) est ouverte, et lesdits moyens de transfert (28, 26) transfèrent ledit panneau de circuit imprimé avec ladite pellicule photosensible appliquée sur celui-ci dudit dispositif de chambre de stratification principal (9) complètement dans ledit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire de sortie (19) à charger sur ledit second dispositif de réserve, et au cours d'une cinquième étape suivant ladite quatrième étape, ladite seconde vanne à obturateur (16) est fermée, et lesdits panneaux de circuit imprimé sont évacués en étant déchargés dudit second dispositif de réserve dudit dispositif de chambre intermédiaire de sortie (19) vers l'extérieur de celui-ci.

