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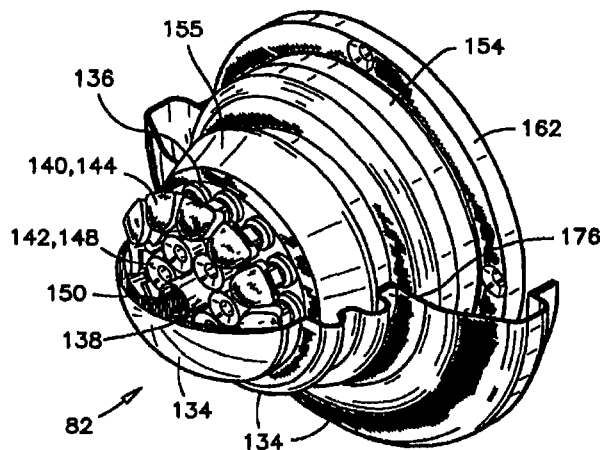
(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : B24B 13/00, 13/02		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/38650
			(43) International Publication Date: 5 August 1999 (05.08.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/CA99/00066 (22) International Filing Date: 28 January 1999 (28.01.99) (30) Priority Data: 2,228,323 30 January 1998 (30.01.98) CA 2,260,484 27 January 1999 (27.01.99) CA (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MICRO OPTICS DESIGN CORPORATION [CA/CA]; 40 Rooney Crescent, Moncton, New Brunswick E1E 4M3 (CA). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): SAVOIE, Marc, Y. [CA/CA]; 166 Maple Street, Moncton, New Brunswick E1C 6A4 (CA). (74) Agent: THERIAULT, Mario, D.; Suite 105, 1133 Regent Street, Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 3Z2 (CA).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report.	
(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR POLISHING OPHTHALMIC LENSES			



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(57) Abstract

The invention pertains to an improved method, a lapping tool head (82) and a lens polishing apparatus for carrying out the method, for polishing ophthalmic lenses (26). The apparatus has a lapping tool head (82), a flexible membrane (134) covering a lapping portion of the tool head (82), and pump and nozzle for pumping abrasive slurry over the lapping tool head. The new method comprises the conventional step of imparting an oscillatory movement to the lapping tool head (82) and contacting the lens surface with the lapping portion of the lapping tool head while an abrasive slurry is pumped over the lapping tool head (82). The improvement comprises the additional step of periodically undulating the membrane (134) for imparting a wave in that membrane such that the abrasive slurry can flow between the membrane and the lens surface. The lapping slurry is efficiently moved over the entire surface of the lens for improving the quality of the lenses (26) polished by this process.