



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : B24B 37/04, 53/02	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/55262 (43) International Publication Date: 10 December 1998 (10.12.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/10422 (22) International Filing Date: 21 May 1998 (21.05.98) (30) Priority Data: 08/868,110 3 June 1997 (03.06.97) US (71) Applicant: SPEEDFAM CORPORATION [US/US]; 305 North 54th Street, Chandler, AZ 85226 (US). (72) Inventors: FRUITMAN, Clinton, O.; 3 N. Galaxy Drive, Chandler, AZ 85226 (US). SCOTT, Philbin; 5810 N. 4th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85012 (US). CESNA, Joseph; 7029 W. Kedzie, Niles, IL 60714 (US). (74) Agent: SCHMELZER, Troy, M.; Snell & Wilmer, One Arizona Center, 400 E. Van Buren Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004-0001 (US).	(81) Designated States: DE, GB, JP, KR, SG, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>	

(54) Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR CONDITIONING GRINDING STONES

(57) Abstract

The present invention relates generally to a method for conditioning polishing materials that are generally used to polish disks used for magnetic recording. The polishing material is conditioned by moving a conditioning ring relative to the polishing material. More particularly, the conditioning ring is rotated and/or orbited across the surface of the polishing material, so that the material is conditioned. Preferably, the conditioning ring comprises an annular ring of abrasive material fixedly applied to a substantially planar surface of the conditioning ring.

