

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD

A processing apparatus includes a housing,
a plurality of process units arranged within the
housing for subjecting an object to a series of
5 processes including coating of processing solution,
exposure and development, a transport mechanism for
conveying the object to and from the process units,
an air cleaning mechanism having a filter for removing
impurity which is contained in air introduced into the
10 housing and which lowers resolution, a concentration
detection mechanism for detecting the concentration of
the impurity in a region outside of the filter, and
a life estimation section for estimating the life of
the filter in accordance with the result of detection
15 by the concentration detection mechanism.

Fig. 2