

ABSTRACT

An abnormal contact detecting method is provided which can detect an abnormal contact of an electronic component during a transfer of the electronic component. An ascending and descending motor 4 applies descending force F_r to a holder unit 2 through a rod 32. A voice coil motor 37 applies, to the rod 32, opposing thrust force F_{opp} equivalent to counteracting force F_{cr} applied to the rod 32 relative to the descending force F_r . A relative floating of the rod 32 to the voice coil motor 37 in accordance with resistive force F_d caused when the electronic component D descends while contacting a carrier tape 61 is detected, and a contact to the carrier tape 61 during the descending is detected upon detection of the floating of the rod 32.