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(54) **Title:** ELECTROPLATING CELL NEUTRALIZATION

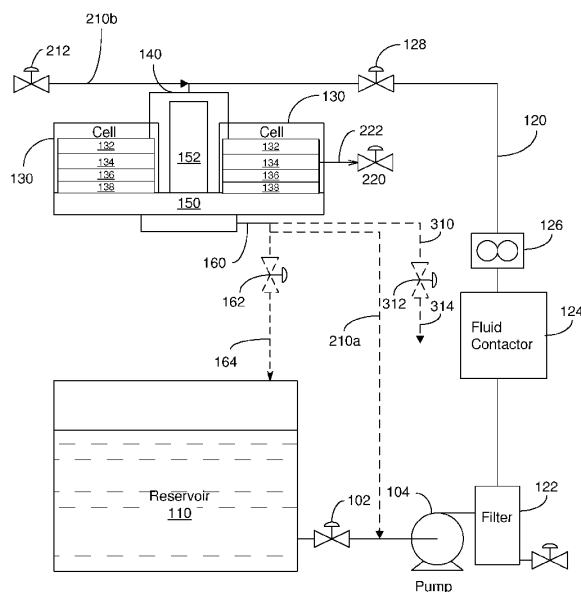


FIG. 3C

(57) **Abstract:** An electroplating system or apparatus is configured to neutralize electroplating cells and/or other hardware components in a plating cell loop so that maintenance can be performed with minimal exposure to acidic and hazardous chemicals. Neutralization solution such as deionized water is delivered to a plating cell loop. Selected electroplating cells are isolated for neutralization so that the neutralization solution bypasses an electrolyte reservoir. The selected electroplating cells are aspirated to remove residual chemistry and subsequently filled with the neutralization solution. This process of aspiration and filling is repeated until a pH of a solution from the selected electroplating cells reaches a threshold safety value.

[Continued on next page]

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