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(71) Applicant: SPEEDFAM-IPEC CORPORATION [US/US]; 305 North 54th Street, Chandler, AZ 85226 (US).

(72) Inventors: FRUITMAN, Clinton, O.; 3 North Galaxy Drive, Chandler, AZ 85226 (US). MELONI, Mark, A.; 1613 Tree Line Road, Flower Mound, TX 75028 (US). GOPALAN, Periya; 1780 East Gray Drive, Chandler, AZ 85225 (US). YEDNAK, Andrew, III; 1405 West Parsons Road, Phoenix, AZ 85027 (US).

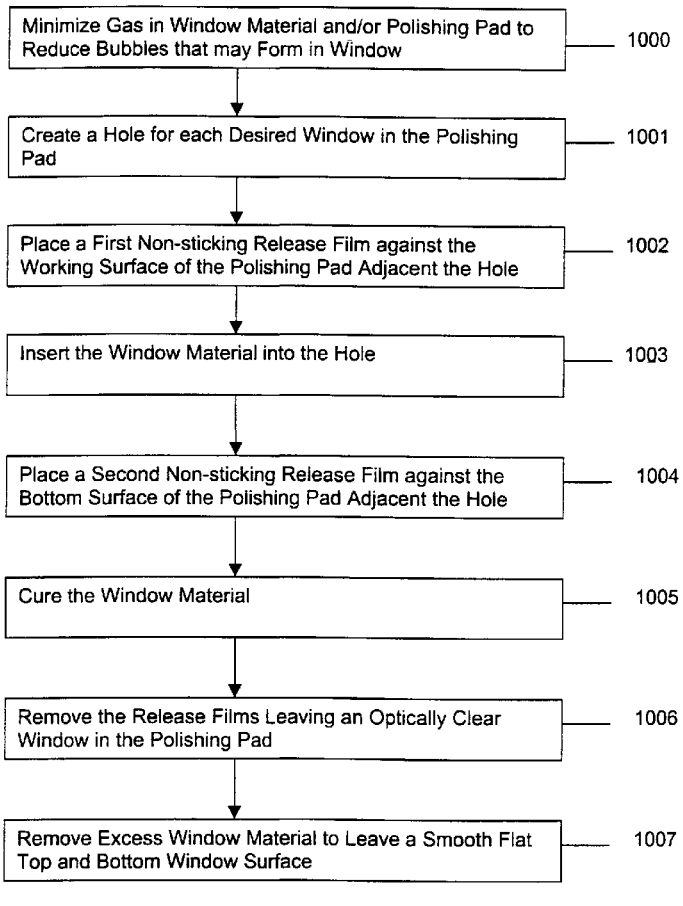
(74) Agent: FARMER, James, L.; Speedfam-Ipec Corporation, 305 North 54th Street, Chandler, AZ 85226 (US).

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(54) Title: POLISHING PAD WINDOW FOR A CHEMICAL-MECHANICAL POLISHING TOOL



(57) Abstract: The present invention is an apparatus and method for manufacturing a window (700) into a polishing pad (100) used during a planarization process of a front surface of a wafer. A hole is created in the polishing pad at a location where a window (700) is desired. A first release film (300) may be pressed against the working surface of the polishing pad thereby covering one end of the hole. Window material of suitable mechanical, chemical and optical properties is cast in the hole. A second release film (500) may also be pressed against the bottom surface of the polishing pad (100) covering the other end of the hole. The window material is preferably cured with light to quickly form and bond the window into the hole. The release films (300, 500) may be removed leaving the cast window (700) in the polishing pad (100).

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