9900205-7
IPOS

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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 :		(11) International Publication Number:
B08B 7/00	A1	WO 98/04366
		(43) International Publication Date: 5 February 1998 (05.02.98)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/13317

(22) International Filing Date: 22 July 1997 (22.07.97)

(30) Priority Data:
08/686,523 26 July 1996 (26.07.96) US

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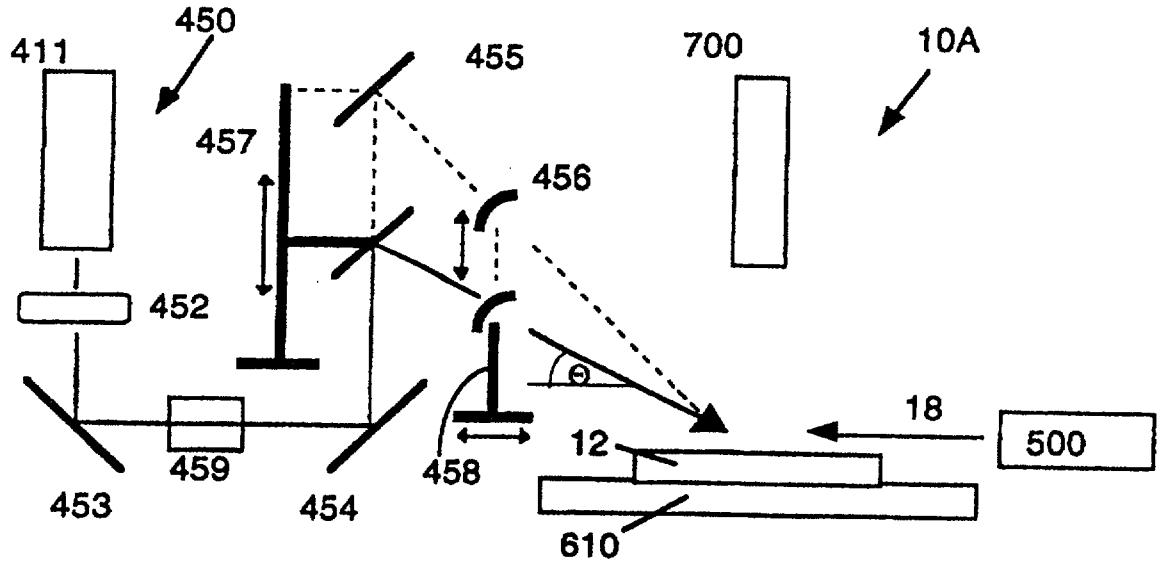
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(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published
With international search report.
Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(54) Title: REMOVAL OF MATERIAL BY RADIATION APPLIED AT AN OBLIQUE ANGLE



(57) Abstract

An apparatus (10) and method for removing undesired material from the surface of a substrate (12) provides a flow (18) of inert gas over the undesired material substrate surface while irradiating (11) the undesired material with energetic photons directed at an angle (8) that is oblique to the substrate (12). The invention enables removal of undesired material without altering the physical properties of the material underlying or adjacent the removed, undesired material. In certain circumstances, the non-perpendicular incidence permits effective removal where normal incidence caused damage to the substrate or poor removal or both.