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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DIAGNOSING STATUS OF PARTS IN REAL TIME IN PLASMA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT

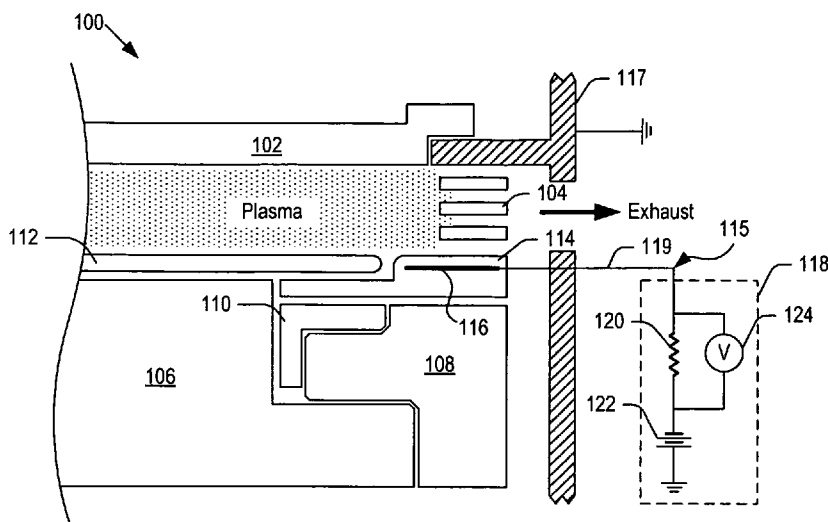


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Apparatus and methods for diagnosing status of a consumable part of a plasma reaction chamber, the consumable part including at least one conductive element embedded therein. The method includes the steps of: coupling the conductive element to a power supply so that a bias potential relative to the ground is applied to the conductive element; exposing the consumable part to plasma erosion until the conductive element draws a current from the plasma upon exposure of the conductive element to the plasma; measuring the current; and evaluating a degree of erosion of the consumable part due to the plasma based on the measured current.

WO 2009/032095 A1



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