

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
18 January 2007 (18.01.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/008944 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:

B65G 15/12 (2006.01) **B65G 43/10** (2006.01)
B65G 47/26 (2006.01) **H01L 21/677** (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2006/026978

(22) International Filing Date: 10 July 2006 (10.07.2006)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

60/698,124 11 July 2005 (11.07.2005) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **ASYST TECHNOLOGIES, INC.** [US/US]; 48761 Kato Road, Fremont, CA 94538 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **BONORA, Anthony, C.** [US/US]; 48761 Kato Road, Fremont, CA 94538 (US). **HINE, Roger, G.** [US/US]; 48761 Kato Road, Fremont, CA 94538 (US). **KROLAK, Michael** [US/US]; 48761 Kato Road, Fremont, CA 94538 (US).

(74) Agent: **SANFORD, Scott, D.**; O'MELVENY & MYERS LLP, EMBARCADERO CENTER WEST, 275 Battery Street, San Francisco, CA 94111-3344 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

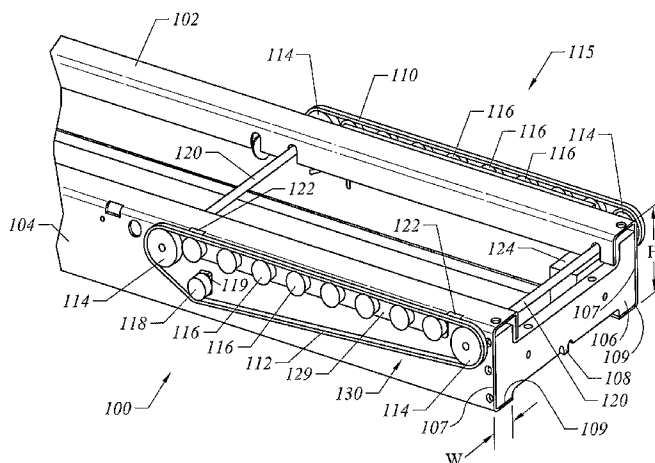
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: BELT CONVEYOR FOR USE WITH SEMICONDUCTOR CONTAINERS



(57) Abstract: The present invention comprises a conveyor (100) for moving a semiconductor containers (2) throughout a fabrication facility. In one embodiment, the conveyor comprises a plurality of individually controlled conveyor zones (Z). Each conveyor zone includes a first belt (110), a second belt (112), a drive assembly (138) for rotating the first belt and the second belt at substantially the same speed. The first belt and the second belt are driven at substantially the same speed and movably support the container's bottom plate as the container moves along the conveyor. In another embodiment, the conveyor includes sensors (200) to determine, among other things, the position of the container.

WO 2007/008944 A1



-
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*