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(54) Title: WEAR COMPENSATING CONFINEMENT RING

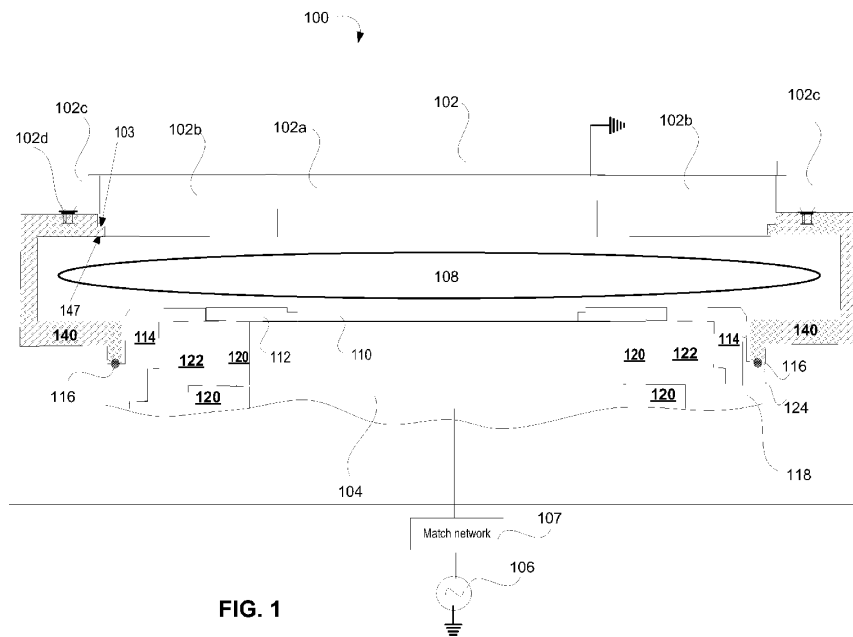


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A confinement ring for use in a plasma processing chamber includes a lower horizontal section, a vertical section, and an upper horizontal section. The lower horizontal section extends between an inner lower radius and an outer radius of the confinement ring, and includes an extension section that extends vertically downward at the inner lower radius. A plurality of slots is defined in the lower horizontal section, wherein each slot extends radially from an inner diameter to an outer diameter along the lower horizontal section. An inner slot radius of each slot at the inner diameter is defined to be less than an outer slot radius at the outer diameter. The upper horizontal section extends between an inner upper radius and the outer radius of the confinement ring, and the vertical section integrally continues the lower horizontal section to the upper horizontal section at the outer radius of the confinement ring.

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