

ABSTRACT

DETERMINING APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING OBJECT STORED IN CASSETTE

Disclosed herein is a determining apparatus for determining whether an object stored by storing means having a storing space is a wafer alone or a frame unit formed by uniting the wafer and a ring frame. The determining apparatus includes a first detecting unit adapted to be inserted in the storing space and a second detecting unit adapted to be inserted in the storing space more shallowly than the first detecting unit. The determining apparatus further includes a determining unit for determining whether the object is the wafer or the frame unit in the condition where light transmitted from a light transmitting portion of the first detecting unit is blocked by the object and does not reach a light receiving portion of the first detecting unit, wherein when light transmitted from a light transmitting portion of the second detecting unit is blocked by the object and does not reach a light receiving portion of the second detecting unit, the determining unit determines that the object is the frame unit, whereas when the light transmitted from the light transmitting portion of the second detecting unit is not blocked by the object and reaches the light receiving portion of the second detecting unit, the determining unit determines that the object is the wafer.

(Figure 3)