

RING FRAME HOLDING MECHANISM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A ring frame holding mechanism for holding under suction a lower surface of a ring frame in a condition where the ring frame is set at a target position by using a positioning unit. In positioning the ring frame, air is discharged from a suction cup provided in a table to thereby form an air layer between the upper surface of the table and the lower surface of the ring frame. This air layer brings the ring frame and the upper end of the suction cup into a noncontact state and also depresses the suction cup downward so that the upper end of the suction cup becomes flush with the upper surface of the table. Accordingly, the ring frame can be floated over the upper end of the suction cup, so that the ring frame can be easily moved horizontally by the positioning unit. That is, the ring frame can be easily set to the target position and the occurrence of improper positioning can be suppressed.

FIGURE 6.