WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

~~1. An inner ring for holding a substrate, comprising:~~

~~an annular body having an inner surface configured to circumferentially surround the edge of a substrate to retain the substrate during polishing, an annular lower surface configured to be brought into contact with a polishing pad, an annular upper surface, and an outer surface,~~

~~wherein the inner surface includes a lower region adjacent to the lower surface that is a vertical cylindrical surface and an upper region that is a vertical cylindrical surface and has an inner radial diameter greater than the lower region of the inner surface, and~~

~~wherein the outer surface includes a lower region adjacent to the lower surface that is a vertical cylindrical surface, an upper region that is a vertical cylindrical surface and has a greater outer radial diameter than the lower region of the outer surface, an outwardly projecting lip between the lower region and the upper region of the outer surface, the lip including a horizontal lower surface, and a sloped area connecting the lower portion of the outer surface to the horizontal lower surface of the lip.~~

~~2. The inner ring of claim 1, wherein the annular body comprises an upper portion between the upper region of the inner surface and the upper region of the outer surface and a lower portion between the lower region of the inner surface and the lower region of the outer surface.~~

~~3. The inner ring of claim 2, wherein the upper portion is wider than the lower portion.~~

~~4. The inner ring of claim 2, wherein a width between the lower region of the inner surface and the lower surface is between 0.04 and 0.20 inches.~~

~~5. The inner ring of claim 4, wherein the width is between 0.05 and 0.15 inches.~~

~~6. The inner ring of claim 2, wherein the upper portion is formed of a material that is more rigid than the lower portion.~~

~~7~~1. An inner ring for holding a substrate, comprising:

an annular body having an inner surface configured to circumferentially surround the edge of a substrate to retain the substrate during polishing, an annular lower surface configured to be brought into contact with a polishing pad, an annular upper surface, and an outer surface,

wherein the inner surface includes a lower region adjacent to the lower surface that is a vertical cylindrical surface and an upper region that is a vertical cylindrical surface and has an inner radial diameter greater than the lower region of the inner surface, and

wherein the outer surface includes a lower region adjacent to the lower surface that is a vertical cylindrical surface, an upper region that is a vertical cylindrical surface and has a greater outer radial diameter than the lower region of the outer surface, an outwardly projecting lip between the lower region and the upper region of the outer surface, the lip including a horizontal lower surface, and a sloped area connecting the lower portion of the outer surface to the horizontal lower surface of the lip~~The inner ring of claim 1~~, wherein the inner surface includes a tapered region connecting the lower region and the upper region.

~~8. The inner ring of claim 1, wherein the upper surface includes two annular concentric recesses in the annular upper surface, and a plurality of cylindrical recesses, each cylindrical recess positioned between the two annular concentric recesses.~~

~~9. An outer ring for lateral referencing of a retaining ring, comprising:~~

~~an annular body having an inner surface, an annu~~

~~be brought into contact with a polishing pad, an annular~~

~~surface,~~

~~wherein the inner surface includes a lower region~~

~~that is a vertical cylindrical surface configured to circum~~

~~ring and an upper region extending between the lower re~~

~~an inner radial diameter of the upper region is greater at~~

~~a bottom of the upper region, and~~

~~wherein the outer surface includes a lower region~~

~~that is a vertical cylindrical surface, an upper region that~~

~~and has a greater outer radial diameter than the lower re~~

~~14. The outer ring of claim 9, wherein the upper surface includes a plurality of holes to receive fasteners.~~

~~15. The outer ring of claim 14, wherein the holes are positioned such that they do not extend over the horizontal lower surface.~~