and the final one being a tubular shipping container sized with an inside diameter larger than a maximum diameter of the brush portion; enclosing the cylindrical brush portion within the three polymer coverings.

~~According to a sixth aspect of the present invention, there is provided~~ Disclosed herein is a method of protecting a CMP brush having a cylindrical brush portion with radially extending nodules and a pair of end connection portions, the method comprising: having the brush dampened; wrapping the cylindrical brush portion and nodules with a non-self supporting wrap whereby the cylindrical brush may be grasped by a user's hand without the hand directly contacting the brush, wherein the non-self-supporting wrap is selected from the group consisting of a flexible material and a semi rigid material.

According to a ~~seventh~~ sixth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a packaged CMP brush, the brush having a cylindrical brush portion with nodules and a pair of end connection portions, the packaging comprising: three polymer coverings to the cylindrical brush portion, the three polymer coverings comprising: a non-self supporting wrap wrapped around the cylindrical portion and engaging the nodules without deforming the nodules, wherein the non-self-supporting wrap is selected from the group consisting of a flexible material and a semi rigid material; a sealed bag; and a rigid tubular shipping container sized with an inside diameter larger than a maximum diameter of the brush portion; wherein the CMP brush is sealingly enclosed in the rigid tubular shipping container and spaced from a tubular wall of the container.

These, and other, aspects of the invention will be better appreciated and understood when considered in conjunction with the following description and the accompanying drawings. The following description, while indicating various embodiments of the invention and numerous specific details thereof, is given by way of illustration and not of limitation. Many substitutions, modifications, additions or rearrangements may be made within the scope of the invention, and the invention includes all such substitutions, modifications, additions or rearrangements.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

The drawings accompanying and forming part of this specification are included to depict certain aspects of the invention. A clearer impression of the invention, and of the components and operation of systems provided with the invention, will become more readily apparent by referring to the exemplary, and therefore non-limiting, embodiments

engaging each of the end connection portions with a respective end support, the end supports having a flange portion with a diameter greater than a maximum diameter of the cylindrical portion;

inserting the brush into a rigid polymer tubular shipping container having a tubular wall with an inside surface, whereby the end supports keep the nodules from contact and from deformation of the cylindrical portion by the tubular wall; and

providing an additional exterior self-supporting packaging around the rigid polymer shipping container.

22. A method of shipping a CMP brush having a cylindrical brush portion with nodules and a pair of end connection portions, the method comprising:

providing three polymer coverings to the cylindrical brush portion:

one being a non-self-supporting wrap wrapped around the cylindrical portion and engaging the nodules, wherein the non-self-supporting wrap is selected from the group consisting of a flexible material and a semi rigid material;

another one being a sealed bag; and

the final one being a tubular shipping container sized with an inside diameter larger than a maximum diameter of the brush portion;

enclosing the cylindrical brush portion within the three polymer coverings.

23. The method of shipping a CMP brush having a cylindrical brush portion with nodules and a pair of end connection portions of claim 22, the method further comprising:

spacing the CMP brush from the tubular shipping container inside the container.

~~24. A method of protecting a CMP brush having a cylindrical brush portion with radially extending nodules and a pair of end connection portions, the method comprising:~~

~~having the brush dampened;~~

~~wrapping the cylindrical brush portion and nodules with a non-self-supporting wrap whereby the cylindrical brush may be grasped by a user's hand without the hand directly contacting the brush, wherein the non-self-supporting wrap is selected from the group consisting of a flexible material and a semi rigid material.~~

~~25. The method of claim 24 further comprising placing the brush inside a tubular shipping container with the nodules spaced from a wall of the container.~~

~~26. The method of claim 24 further comprising:~~

~~engaging each of the end connection portions with a respective end support, the end supports having a flange portion with a diameter greater than a maximum diameter of the cylindrical portion; and~~

~~providing an additional exterior self-supporting packaging around the rigid polymer shipping container.~~

~~27~~24. A packaged CMP brush, the brush having a cylindrical brush portion with nodules and a pair of end connection portions, the packaging comprising:

three polymer coverings to the cylindrical brush portion, the three polymer coverings comprising:

a non-self supporting wrap wrapped around the cylindrical portion and engaging the nodules without deforming the nodules, wherein the non-self-supporting wrap is selected from the group consisting of a flexible material and a semi rigid material;

a sealed bag; and

a rigid tubular shipping container sized with an inside diameter larger than a maximum diameter of the brush portion;

wherein the CMP brush is sealingly enclosed in the rigid tubular shipping container and spaced from a tubular wall of the container.