



US005658387A

United States Patent [19]

Reardon et al.

[11] Patent Number: 5,658,387
 [45] Date of Patent: Aug. 19, 1997

- [54] SEMICONDUCTOR PROCESSING SPRAY COATING APPARATUS
- [75] Inventors: **Timothy J. Reardon; Craig P. Meuchel; Thomas H. Oberlitner**, all of Kalispell, Mont.
- [73] Assignee: **Semitool, Inc.**, Kalispell, Mont.
- [21] Appl. No.: 422,485
- [22] Filed: Apr. 12, 1995
- Related U.S. Application Data**
- [63] Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 855,767, Mar. 18, 1992, Pat. No. 5,431,421, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 665,942, Mar. 6, 1991, Pat. No. 5,235,995.
- [51] Int. Cl. ⁶ B05B 3/12
- [52] U.S. Cl. 118/323; 118/58; 118/64; 118/302; 118/320; 118/321; 118/683; 118/667
- [58] Field of Search 118/302, 320, 118/321, 323, 683, 58, 64, 667

[56] References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

3,148,085	9/1964	Wiegmann	118/320
3,326,717	6/1967	Gregor et al.	117/212
4,222,345	9/1980	Bergfelt et al.	118/720
4,282,825	8/1981	Nagatomo et al.	118/58
4,290,384	9/1981	Ausschnitt et al.	118/722
4,416,213	11/1983	Sakiya	118/52
4,668,334	5/1987	Doorveld	156/640
4,688,918	8/1987	Suzuki et al.	118/320
4,709,858	12/1987	Stern et al.	239/296
4,793,282	12/1988	Greenberg et al.	118/667
4,875,824	10/1989	Moe et al.	414/751
4,895,099	1/1990	D'Amato	118/58
4,924,800	5/1990	Tanaka	118/58

4,932,353	6/1990	Kawata et al.	118/302
4,987,854	1/1991	Hall	118/679
4,996,080	2/1991	Darakchiev	427/57
5,056,462	10/1991	Perkin et al.	118/683
5,065,692	11/1991	Hollesen et al.	118/302
5,085,560	2/1992	Thompson et al.	417/53
5,094,884	3/1992	Hillman et al.	118/320
5,127,362	7/1992	Iwatsu et al.	118/667
5,168,886	12/1992	Thompson et al.	134/153
5,168,887	12/1992	Thompson et al.	134/153
5,183,508	2/1993	Cholinski	118/302
5,192,087	3/1993	Kawashima et al.	279/71
5,224,503	7/1993	Thompson et al.	134/95.2
5,232,328	8/1993	Owczarz et al.	414/222
5,252,137	10/1993	Tateyama et al.	134/34
5,270,248	12/1993	Rosenblum et al.	435/160
5,378,511	1/1995	Cardinali et al.	427/600
5,403,617	4/1995	Haaland	118/323
5,429,912	7/1995	Neoh	430/325

Primary Examiner—Jill Warden

Assistant Examiner—Sharidan Carrillo

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Wells, St. John, Roberts, Gregory & Matkin, P.S.

[57] ABSTRACT

A semiconductor processor for spray coating wafers or other semiconductor articles. The processor has a compartment in which are mounted a wafer transfer, coating station and thermal treatment station. The coating station has a spray processing vessel in which a movable spray-head and rotatable wafer holder. The spray station has coating viscosity control features. An ultrasonic resonating spray-head is precisely supplied with coating from a metering pump. The heat treatment station heat cures the coating and then cools the wafer. The system allows coatings to be applied in relatively uniform conformational layers upon irregular surfaces.

24 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets

