



US006019844A

United States Patent [19]

Chiu

[11] Patent Number: **6,019,844**
[45] Date of Patent: **Feb. 1, 2000**

[54] **ACOUSTIC WAVE ENHANCED SPIN COATER**

[75] Inventor: **Wei-Kay Chiu**, Hsin-Chu, Taiwan

[73] Assignee: **Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company**, Hsin-Chu, Taiwan

[21] Appl. No.: **09/196,753**

[22] Filed: **Nov. 20, 1998**

Related U.S. Application Data

[62] Division of application No. 08/772,609, Dec. 23, 1996, Pat. No. 5,858,475.

[51] Int. Cl.⁷ **B05C 13/00**

[52] U.S. Cl. **118/52; 118/57; 118/500**

[58] Field of Search 118/52, 57, 500; 427/240; 384/535, 536

[56] References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

- | | | | | |
|-----------|--------|---------|-------|--------|
| 3,862,856 | 1/1975 | Shipman | | 118/57 |
| 4,633,804 | 1/1987 | Arii | | 118/57 |
| 5,099,781 | 3/1992 | Frank | | 118/52 |

5,395,803	3/1995	Adams	437/229
5,454,871	10/1995	Liaw et al.	118/300
5,472,370	12/1995	Malshe et al.	.	
5,609,995	3/1997	Akram et al.	.	
5,803,970	9/1998	Tateyama	118/52

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Julian R. Frederick, Ultrasonic Engineering, pp. 1-3, 1965.
Antony Barber, Handbook of Noise and Vibration Control—6th Edition, “Glossary of Terms”, pp. 2-4, 1992.

Primary Examiner—Laura Edwards

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—George O. Saile; Stephen B. Ackerman

[57]

ABSTRACT

A method and an apparatus are disclosed to improve the planarization of a coating upon a substrate, in particular to improve the planarization of a photoresist or spin-on-glass coating upon a semiconductor wafer. This is achieved by coupling an ultrasonic wave generator to either the chuck or the spindle of the chuck. Ultrasonic waves emanating from the ultrasonic generator are induced into the coating, vibrating it. The vibration causes coating material to fill in the valleys of the coating, thus planarizing the surface of the coating.

2 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

