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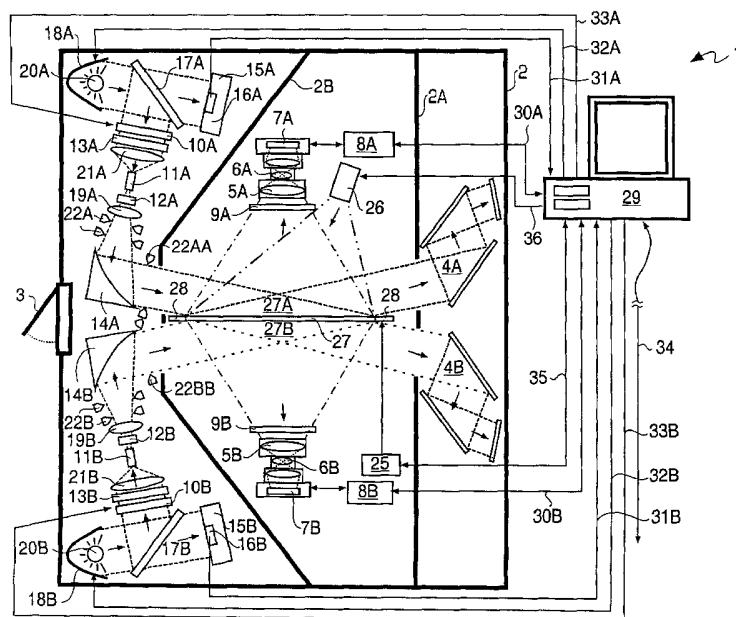
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: HIGH DYNAMIC RANGE OPTICAL INSPECTION SYSTEM AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: A high dynamic range and high precision broadband optical inspection system (1) and method are provided. The system provides capability of optical inspection of patterned and unpatterned substrates (27) in which a very large dynamic range with very high precision is desirable to provide detection of light scattering defects from sub micron to hundreds of microns in size. The system permits high throughput substrate inspection in which the sides, bevels and edges of the substrate may be rapidly or simultaneously inspected for defects.



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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/31071

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G01N 21/00

US CL : 356/237.2

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 356/237.2

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
USPTO EAST

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,963,316 A (Miura et al) 05 October 1999 (05.10.1999), see entire document.	1,103,228
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Y		2-102,104-200,229-326



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/31071

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claim Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claim Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:  
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-200 and 228-326

Remark on Protest

☐  
☐

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US03/31071

## **BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING**

Groups I-IV fail to have any common technical features and can be claimed as separate inventions.

Group I, claim(s) 1-200, 228-326, drawn to an optical inspection system.

Group II, claim(s) 201-211, drawn to a light collection system.

Group III, claim(s) 212-227, drawn to a substrate handler.

Group IV, claim(s) 327-346, drawn to an illumination source.