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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR APPLYING A SHEET TO A SUBSTRATE

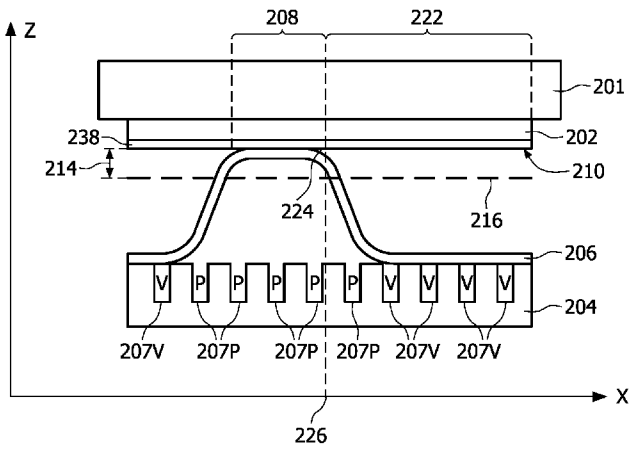


FIG. 2D

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method and apparatus for laminating a sheet to a substrate in a stress free and distortion-less manner. The method comprises providing the sheet and substrate such that an attractive force between them exists that is capable of bringing the sheet and surface together at least when their distance is shorter than a critical distance. The method creates these conditions by locally making an initial contact between the sheet and substrate such that at a contact front, being the boundary between areas where the substrate and sheet are in contact and those where they are not in contact, these conditions exist. In a further step the sheet and substrate are allowed to gradually make contact such that the contact front advances along either of the substrate or sheet surface therewith increasing the contacting area between the substrate and the sheet. The method is advantages when used during imprint lithography or embossing processes or other processes where feature patterns need to be transferred from the substrate to the surface or vice versa.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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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)
B05D G03F B05C

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 practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2006/117745 A (KONINKL PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NV [NL]; SCHNEIDER RONALD M [NL]; DONA MAR) 9 November 2006 (2006-11-09) claims; figures	1,3,5,6, 10,14-18
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X	EP 0 794 016 A (MOTOROLA INC [US]) 10 September 1997 (1997-09-10) cited in the application column 6, line 22 - line 50 column 8, line 35 - line 44; claims; figures 10-14	1,3,10, 14,15

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[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

[X] See patent family annex.

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/	Authorized officer
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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2005/087911 A1 (FORD STANLEY [US]) 28 April 2005 (2005-04-28) claims; figures	1,3,6, 10,14
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