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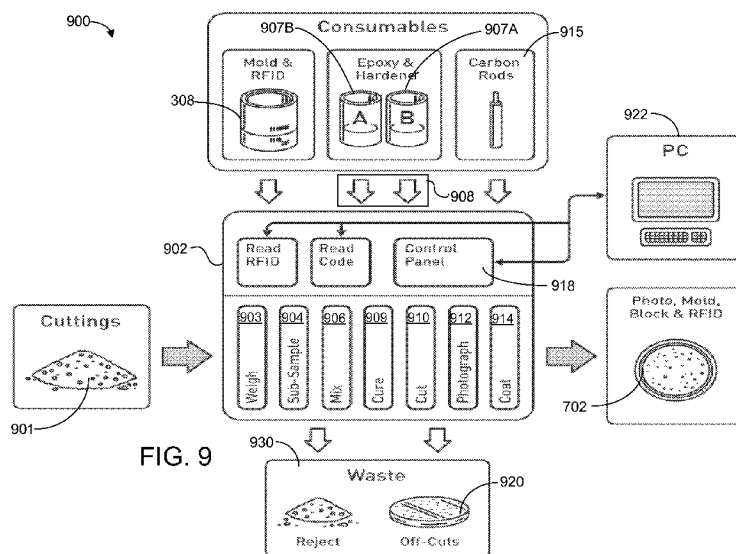
(54) Title: AUTOMATED SAMPLE PREPARATION

FIG. 9

(57) **Abstract:** Mineral samples for use in analytical instruments are created by a system that greatly reduces the sample preparation time and facilitates automation. For example, in some implementations, rather than grinding to expose the interior of mineral particles in sample plug containing mineral particles in an epoxy compound, the sample plug is sliced with a saw, which more rapidly provides in many applications a sufficiently smooth surface on the exposed particle surfaces for observation. Rather than slowly mixing a slow curing epoxy to avoid introducing bubbles into the sample plug, some implementations use a fast settle fixative and a mechanical mixture that avoid bubbles.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**G01N 1/28(2006.01)i, H01J 37/20(2006.01)i**

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)

G01N 1/28; G01N 23/00; G01N 21/00; G01N 31/00

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

Korean utility models and applications for utility models

Japanese utility models and applications for utility models

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

eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) & Keywords: mineral, sample, analysis, electron, beam, rubberizing, mixer, agent, mold, grinding, conductive.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 7490009 B2 (GOTTLIEB PAUL et al.) 10 February 2009 See column 6, line 11 - column 18, line 21; claim 1 and abstract.	1-20
A	KR 20-2000-0012548 U (RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY) 05 July 2000 See page 3, line 2 - page 4, line 19; claim 1 and abstract.	1-20
A	WO 87-01803 A1 (KABUSHIKI KAISHA TIYODA SEISAKUSHO et al.) 26 March 1987 See page 3, line 7 - page 14, line 1; claim 1 and abstract.	1-20
A	WO 82-00200 A1 (STENKVIST B) 21 January 1982 See page 1, line 4 - page 5, line 24; claim 1 and abstract.	1-20



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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"&" document member of the same patent family

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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