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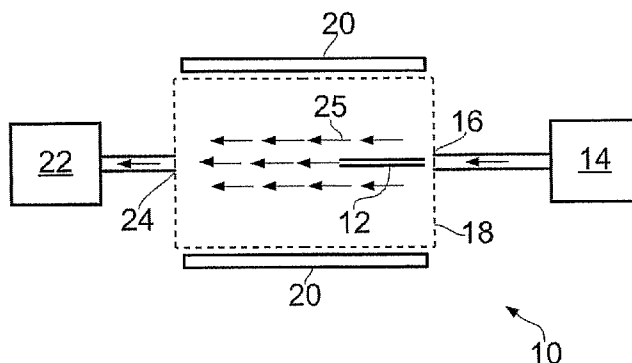


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Apparatus (10) is shown for plasma treating a surface of a small (channel 12) to modify the surface and change the functional effect. The apparatus comprises: a source (14) of active species for supply to an inlet (16) of a processing region (18) for forming a plasma in the processing region; means (20) for applying an electric field to the active species in the processing region so that a plasma is formed; and vacuum pumping means (22) for connection to an outlet (24) of the processing region. The vacuum pumping means are operable to provide a flow path (26) in the processing region from the inlet to the outlet thereof and to control pressure in the processing region. Apparatus (10) further comprises supporting means for supporting at least one small channel so that, in use, the flow path extends therethrough, and an internal surface of said at least one small channel is coated with a thin film polymer layer by plasma deposition.

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 223 308 A (DOEHLER JOACHIM [US]) 29 June 1993 (1993-06-29) column 5, line 48 - column 11, line 30; claims 1-20; figures 1-3	1-13
X	US 4 846 101 A (MONTGOMERY DAVID B [US] ET AL) 11 July 1989 (1989-07-11) column 4, line 31 - column 7, line 23; figures 1-3	1-13
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