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Declaration under Rule 4.17:

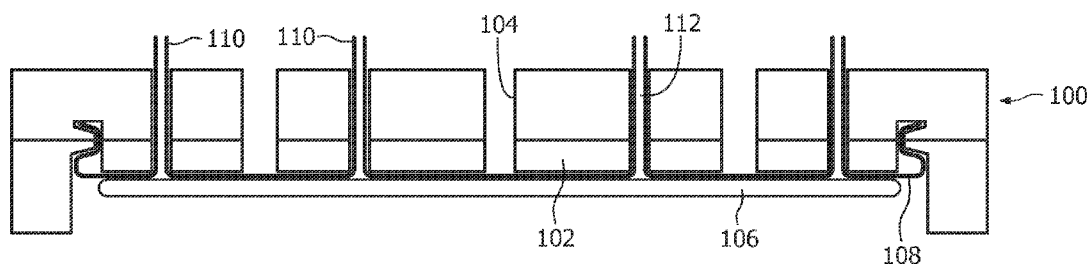
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(57) **Abstract:** A carrier head (100) for a CMP tool, wherein the membrane (108) defining a chamber with a contact surface (102) of the carrier head (100) has a number of integral tubes (110) terminating in openings coupled directly to the substrate (106), in addition to a main fluid flow passage (104) coupled to the chamber defined by the membrane (108). In use, during loading and polishing, a vacuum is applied to the main fluid flow passage (104) and the tubes (110) to hold the substrate (106) in flat engagement with the membrane (108) and contact surface (102). In order to unload the substrate (106), fluid pressure is applied to the substrate (106) via the tubes (110), whilst maintaining the application of the vacuum via the main fluid flow passage (104) so as to minimise bending and breakage of the substrate (106).

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/IB2007/051599

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. B24B37/04 B24B41/06

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)
B24B

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	US 2004/259476 A1 (KOROVIN NIKOLAY N [US] ET AL) 23 December 2004 (2004-12-23) paragraph [0051]; figure 9 -----	1-10
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X	US 2002/098780 A1 (BOO JAE-PHIL [KR] ET AL) 25 July 2002 (2002-07-25) paragraphs [0048], [0052], [0054]; figures 6A-6C -----	1, 7-10
X	US 6 080 046 A (SHENDON NORM [US] ET AL) 27 June 2000 (2000-06-27) column 18, lines 53-67; figure 11 ----- -/--	1, 7-10

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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.
A	US 2003/236056 A1 (BOO JAE-PHIL [KR] ET AL) 25 December 2003 (2003-12-25) cited in the application figures 4,7 -----	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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