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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ELECTRODE ASSEMBLY FOR ANALYSIS OF METAL ELECTROPLATING SOLUTIONS

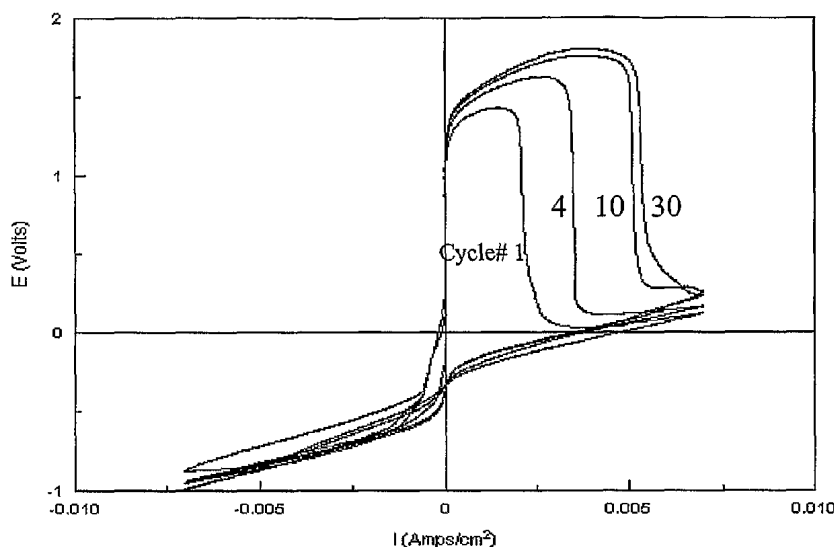


Figure 1

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to an electrode assembly useful for analyzing metal electroplating solutions. Such electrode assembly comprises a measuring electrode, preferably a rotating disc electrode or a microelectrode, and at least one of an *in situ* cleaning mechanism, a nucleation and metal growth optimization mechanism, and a voltage limiting mechanism. The present invention also relates to usage of such electrode assembly for *in situ* cleaning of the measuring electrode, nucleation and metal growth optimization, or voltage limitation.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/29705

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC: **G01N 27/403(2006.01)**

 USPC: **205/81,775;204/402,434**
 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. : 205/81,775;204/402,434

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,P	US 6,758,960 B1 (ROBERTSON) 06 July 2004 (06.07.2004), fig. 1A, 1B, col. 2, ll. 13-21, col. 3, ll. 40-53.	1-10, 15-23
Y	US 5,192,403 A (CHANG et al) 9 March 1993 (09.03.1993), col. 7, ll. 52-65	1-10, 15-23
Y	US 4,772,375 A (WULLSCHLEGER et al) 20 September 1988 (20.09.1988), fig. 1 and col. 4, l. 49 - col. 5, l. 32.	1-10, 15-23

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:		"T"
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	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"
"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)	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
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"Y"
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	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
		"&"
		document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search: **13 June 2008 (13.06.2008)**
 Date of mailing of the international search report: **25 JUN 2008**

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US: **Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201**
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/29705

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

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

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims 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. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 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 additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.
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.: 1-10 and 15-23

- Remark on Protest**
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
 - The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
 - No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

BOX III. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In order for more than one species to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid. The species are as follows:

Species A is the presence of (or use thereof) an in situ cleaning mechanism. Species B is the presence of (or use thereof) a nucleation and metal growth optimization mechanism. Species C is the presence of (or use thereof) a voltage limiting mechanism..

The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

Species A: claims 2-10 and 15-23. Species B: 11, 12 and 24-26. Species C: claims 13, 14, and 27-29

The following claim(s) are generic: claim 1.