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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TEXTURING A SHEET WAFER

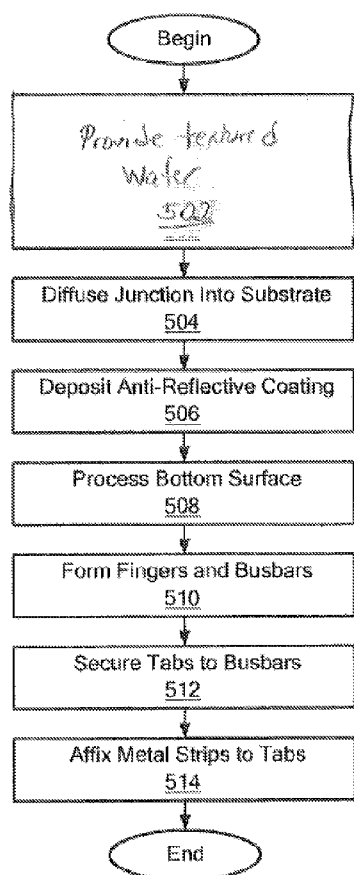


FIG. 5

(57) Abstract: A method of texturing a sheet wafer 1) provides a sheet wafer having a front surface with a preliminary average surface roughness, and a back surface, and then 2) positions the sheet wafer on a transport mechanism. The back surface of the sheet wafer is positioned to face downwardly. Next, the method sandblasts the front surface of the sheet wafer as it is supported by the transport mechanism to cause the front surface to have a final average surface roughness. The preliminary average surface roughness is less than the final average surface roughness.



KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - H01L 21/302 (2012.01)

USPC - 438/753

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)
USPC -- 438/753Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
USPC -- 438/753;257/E21.309;E29.155

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

PubWEST (USPT, PGPB, JPAB, EPAB); Google

Search Terms: Texturizing, sheet wafer, transport, belt, conveyor, sandblasting, front, back, smooth, surface, silicon, solar cell, dimple, roughness, thickness

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2010/0055398 A1 (Grupp Mueller et al.) 04 Mar 2010 (04.03.2010), entire document especially Abstract, para [0015], [0032], [0037], [0049] and [0052]	1-11
Y	US 3,487,223 A (St. John) 30 Dec 1969 (30.12.1969), entire document especially Abstract and col 2, ln 1-15	1-11



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



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"T" 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

"X" 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

"Y" 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

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