

(12) United States Patent

Chistyakov

US 6,853,142 B2 (10) Patent No.:

(45) Date of Patent: Feb. 8, 2005

(54) METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR GENERATING HIGH-DENSITY PLASMA

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Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this (*) Notice:

patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: 10/065,629

(22)Filed: Nov. 4, 2002

(65)**Prior Publication Data**

US 2004/0085023 A1 May 6, 2004

(51)	Int. Cl.		C23C	16/452
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118/723.1

(58) **Field of Search** 315/111.01–111.91; 156/345.21, 345.29, 345.33, 345.42, 345.44, 345; 204/298.06, 298.04, 298.08; 118/723 FE, 723.1, 723 MP; 423/210, 246, 248

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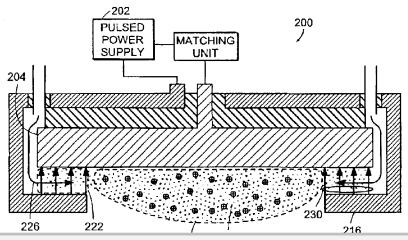
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(57)**ABSTRACT**

Methods and apparatus for generating a strongly-ionized plasma are described. An apparatus for generating a strongly-ionized plasma according to the present invention includes an anode and a cathode that is positioned adjacent to the anode to form a gap there between. An ionization source generates a weakly-ionized plasma proximate to the cathode. A power supply produces an electric field in the gap between the anode and the cathode. The electric field generates excited atoms in the weakly-ionized plasma and generates secondary electrons from the cathode. The secondary electrons ionize the excited atoms, thereby creating the strongly-ionized plasma

43 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets





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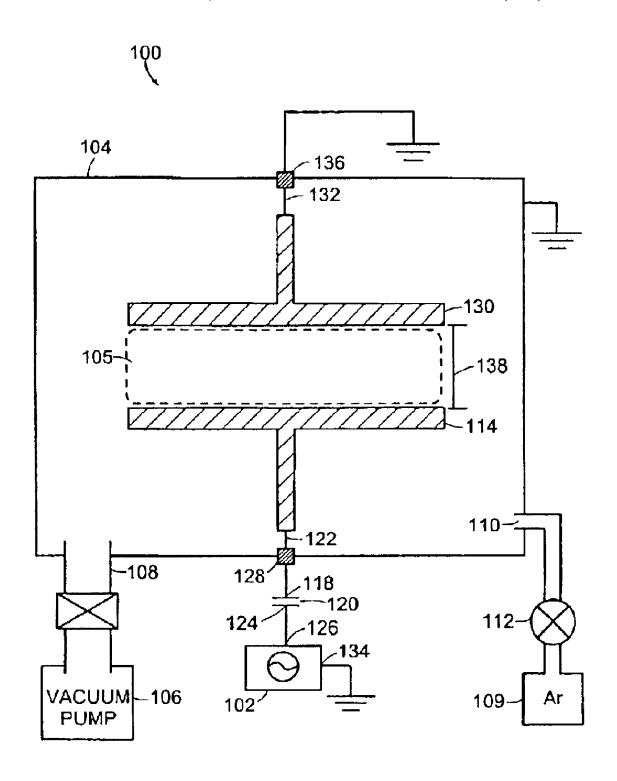


FIG. 1 PRIOR ART



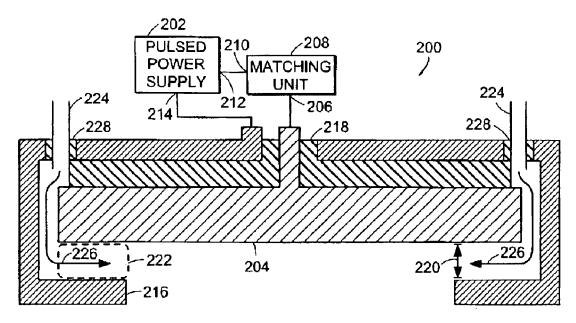


FIG. 2A

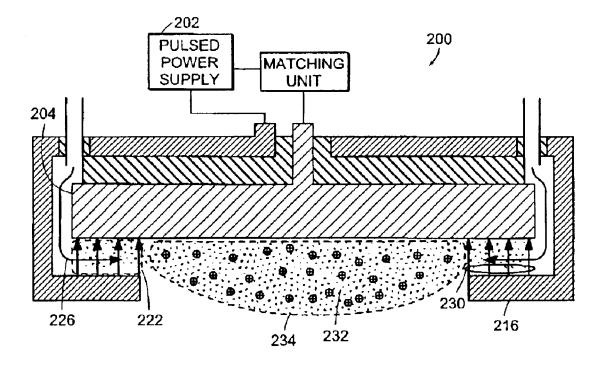


FIG. 2B



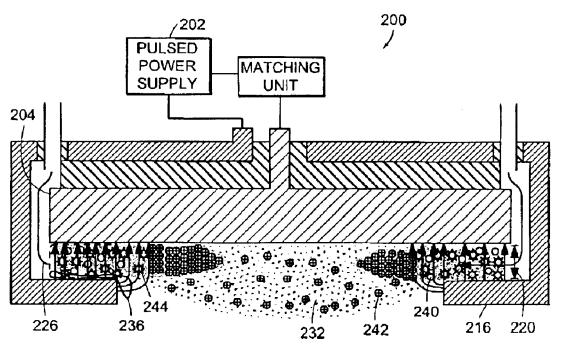


FIG. 2C

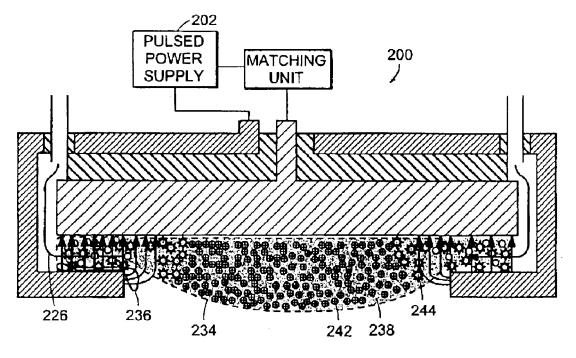


FIG. 2D



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