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The image shows a screenshot of the Gillette MACH3 website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following links: Introduction, Products, Mach3 Ads, Press Room, Contact Us, and Event. Below the navigation bar, there is a banner with the text: "최초의 세날 면도기... 탁월한 밀착력으로!... 미는 힘은 적게!... 피부 자극도 적게!...". The main content area is titled "Introduction" and features a large image of a man shaving. Below the image, there is a section titled "Gillette History" with a list of events:

- 1895년 : King.C.Gillette 에 의해 안전 면도기 개발
- 1901년 : The Gillette Company 설립
- 1903년 : 세계 최초의 안전 면도기 시판
- 1918년 ~ 1941년 : 1, 2차 세계 대전시 군납으로 다국적 기업의 기틀 마련
- 1955년 : Paper Mate 인수로 문구업계 진출
- 1967년 : 독일의 가전 업체 Braun 인수 합병
- 1984년 : Oral-B 인수
- 1996년 : 듀라셀 건전지 인수

On the right side of the page, there are links for "[회사연혁]", "[계열사 링크]", and "[고객 지원실]".

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www.lycos.com

(<http://www.businesstoday.com/business/business/gil06192002.htm>)

Gillette must pay \$10M patent judgment

by Greg Gatlin

Wednesday, June 19, 2002

A federal jury in Chicago has told Gillette Co. to pay patent company Syndia Corp. \$10 million for infringing patents that cover a method for coating razor blades, a verdict Gillette says it will fight.

Syndia, a Chicago company that develops and markets products based on the patent portfolio of prolific inventor Jerome Lemelson, said it may ask U.S. **District Court Judge Joan Lefkow** to block Gillette from selling its Mach3 Turbo, Venus and other razor blades. Gillette said it doesn't expect any material impact on its business under any foreseeable outcome.

"The jury's findings do not prevent Gillette from manufacturing any of its blade and razor products," including Mach3 products, Gillette said in a statement.

Gillette, based in Boston, said it will immediately file a motion asking Lefkow to set aside the jury's findings, and it's prepared to appeal the verdict. **The jury found two patents were infringed** by Gillette's process of making coated razor blades.

Gillette argued that Syndia's patent, covering **a method for covering razor blades with diamondlike carbon** to make them stronger, was invalid. Gillette yesterday called it "a highly technical matter involving plasma physics and hard coatings on metal products." **It said Syndia had**

dropped two of four patent claims brought against Gillette. Syndia sent letters to about 250 other U.S. manufacturers seeking licensing deals for its various patents, Gillette said.

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(1) Joan Lefkow

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GILLETTE CO (NYSE : G)				04:23 PM	
Last	Change ▼	Volume	52-week High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed Quote Price Charts Financials Analysis Price History Provestor Plus Annual Reports 	
30.060	-0.490	2,637,800	37.300		
% Change	-1.60%	Prev Close	52-week Low		
		30.550	26.000		
Market/Quote data delayed a minimum of 15 minutes for NASDAQ, 20 minutes otherwise.					
Company Overview			News Headlines		
Company Description & Stats Financial Overview Technical Buy/Sell Indicators			Tuesday, July 16, 2002 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gillette to Webcast Second-Quarter Earnings Conference Call 		
WSRN Premium Spreadsheets (\$) Download complete spreadsheet reports you can save, edit, and analyze on your own.			Sunday, July 14, 2002 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gillette Co., The (EBITDA) (G.EB) Weekly Earnings Information Gillette Co., The (Ex GW) (NYSE:G) Weekly Earnings Information Gillette Co., The (EBITDA) (G.EB) Weekly Earnings Information Gillette Co., The (Ex GW) (NYSE:G) Weekly Earnings Information 		
Annual Financials Quarterly Financial Spreadsheet Financial Analysis & Ratios Stock Price & Volume History Provestor Plus Company Report			Wednesday, July 10, 2002 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pao de Acucar and Gillette use smart-tag system in Brazil Gillette Co., The (EBITDA) (G.EB) Weekly Earnings Information Gillette Co., The (Ex GW) (NYSE:G) Weekly Earnings Information 		
WSRN Members Only Data Bank (\$) A monthly subscription provides ready access to the latest data on all public companies.			Wednesday, July 03, 2002 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Les Echos: Gillette France appointment: Christian Duval (Gillette France : Christian Duval) 		
Stock Splits Current Dividend Information Dividend History (Chart) Annual Dividend History (Chart) Historical Quote Shares Outstanding (Chart) Annual EPS History (Chart) Quarterly EPS History (Chart) Stock Liquidity Data Liquidity Industry Comparison			Sunday, June 30, 2002 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gillette Co., The (Ex GW) (NYSE:G) Weekly Earnings Information Gillette Co., The (EBITDA) (G.EB) Weekly Earnings Information 		
Analysis and Estimates			Saturday, June 29, 2002		
Earnings Estimates Broker Recommendations MarketGuide Earnings Estimates Options Pricing			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just Wide! 25-Year-old Resident of Norway Misses \$1 Million Kick At Site of 2002 FIFA World Cup Final Nils Erik Eie Outlasts 15 Other Finalists, But Fails to Win Top Prize in Gillette "Shoot for \$1 Million" Promotion Y 		

http://www.wsrn.com/apps/links/index.xpl?s=G

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DOW JONES		-132.99		NASDAQ		-40.30		S&P 500		-24.48	
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Symbol: <input type="text" value="G"/>	View: <input type="text" value="Research/Quote"/>	<input type="button" value="GO"/>	<input type="button" value="Find Symbol"/>	<input type="button" value="Login"/>	<input type="button" value="Internet.com"/>						

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internet Stock Report	<h3>WSRN Members Only Data Bank (\$)</h3> <p>A monthly subscription provides ready access to the latest data on all public companies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Stock SplitsCurrent Dividend InformationDividend History (Chart)Annual Dividend History (Chart)Historical QuoteShares Outstanding (Chart)Annual EPS History (Chart)Quarterly EPS History (Chart)Stock Liquidity DataLiquidity Industry Comparison	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• smart-tag system in Brazil• Gillette Co., The (EBITDA) (G:EB) Weekly Earnings Information• Gillette Co., The (Ex GW) (NYSE:G) Weekly Earnings Information
<h3>WSRN Members Only Databank</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Service Description• Stock Splits• Current Dividend Info• Dividend History• Annual Dividend History• Historical Quote• Shares Outstanding• Annual EPS History• Quarterly EPS History• Stock Liquidity Data• Liquidity Industry Comparison	<h3>Analysis and Estimates</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Earnings EstimatesBroker RecommendationsMarketGuide Earnings EstimatesOptions Pricing	<p>Wednesday, July 03, 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Les Echos: Gillette France appointment: Christian Duval (Gillette France : Christian Duval)
<h3>Premium Spreadsheets</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual Financials• Quarterly Financials• Financial Analysis & Ratios• Stock Price & Volume History	<h3>Graphs and Charts</h3> <h4>Daily Chart (150 Day)</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Weekly Chart (3 Year)Monthly Chart (10 Year)Intraday Chart (5 Minutes)Intraday Chart (10 Minutes)Fundamental Data Charts	<p>Sunday, June 30, 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gillette Co., The (Ex GW) (NYSE:G) Weekly Earnings Information• Gillette Co., The (EBITDA) (G:EB) Weekly Earnings Information
	<h3>Research Reports and Summaries</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Annual Report from Global ReportsCompetitorsPartnersSEC Filings (SEC)SEC Filings (Edgar-Online)Zack's Annual Income StatementZack's Wall Street RecommendationsMarketGuide Report	<p>Saturday, June 29, 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Just Wide! 25-Year-old Resident of Norway Misses \$1 Million Kick At Site of 2002 FIFA World Cup Final Nils Erik Eie Outlasts 15 Other Finalists, But Fails to Win Top Prize in Gillette "Shoot for \$1 Million" Promotion Y
		<p>Friday, June 28, 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gillette Declares Quarterly Dividend
		<p>Thursday, June 27, 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mammon's mad delusion
		<p>Wednesday, June 26, 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Groundbreaking Held for Affordable Homes in South Boston
		<p>Tuesday, June 25, 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GERMAN WOMEN ARE HAIRY, BUT THE ENGLISH AREN'T
		<p>Monday, June 24, 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Boston Globe Consumer Beat Column
		<p>Sunday, June 23, 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gillette Co., The (Ex GW) (NYSE:G) Weekly Earnings Information• Gillette Co., The (EBITDA) (G:EB) Weekly Earnings Information
		<p>Tuesday, June 18, 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GILLETTE CO - Chicago Federal Jury Finds The Gillette Company Guilty of Patent - Infringement and Awards Syndia Corporation \$10 Million <p>More News >></p>

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가 U.S. Patent No.
4,702,808 (Claims 12 & 17) U.S. Patent No. 4,874,596 (Claim 18)

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GILLETTE CO - Chicago Federal Jury Finds The Gillette Company Guilty of Patent - Infringement and Awards Syndia Corporation \$10 Million

Tuesday, June 18, 2002 04:11:23 PM - Market News Publishing

New York, New York, Jun 18, 2002 (Market News Publishing via COMTEX) -- Permanent Injunctive Relief Contemplated Against Future Sales of Mach3, Mach3 Turbo, and venus Razor Blades

In patent litigation brought by Syndia Corporation against The Gillette Company, a Chicago federal jury rendered a verdict in Syndia's favor on all issues of liability, validity, and damages. In its verdict, the jury unanimously found that Gillette's process of manufacturing its "DLC"-coated razor blades for the Mach3, Mach3 Turbo, and Venus products infringes **U.S. Patent No. 4,702,808 (Claims 12 & 17)** and **U.S. Patent No. 4,874,596 (Claim 18)**. The '808 and '596 patents were issued to the late Jerome H. Lemelson and are now owned by Syndia Corporation, which is headquartered in Chicago. The patents cover Gillette's process of coating its razor blades with diamond-like carbon, or DLC, which permits Gillette to make thinner, yet stronger blades. The jury also rejected Gillette's defense that the '808 patent was invalid based on the prior art. In an important development prior to trial, Gillette abandoned a number of defenses which previously had been asserted by manufacturers of bar coding equipment against certain of Mr. Lemelson's other patents, including the defense of prosecution history laches.

The jury awarded Syndia \$10 million in damages for past infringement. Damages and injunctive relief for any future infringement by Gillette have yet to be finally determined. Syndia's attorneys have indicated that they intend to seek permanent injunctive relief against Gillette barring future sales of Mach3, Mach3 Turbo, and Venus products if Gillette does not agree to a license from Syndia covering future sales of its DLC-coated razor blade products.

Syndia filed suit against Gillette on April 9, 2001 and the jury trial was presided over by U.S. District Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow between May 15, 2002 and June 14, 2002. Ed Foote and Peter McCabe of the Chicago law firm of Winston & Strawn led Syndia's legal team. Gillette was represented by the patent firm of Fish & Neave, of New York City.

Entrepreneur Roger Hickey, Professor James Conley of Northwestern University, and the late inventor Jerome Lemelson founded Syndia in 1994. Initially founded with 16 patents, Syndia (an acronym for synthetic diamond) now owns 33 patents with broad applications in synthetic diamond, chemical vapor deposition, and other coating technologies used throughout the electronics, semiconductor, and other industries.

For further information, contact Syndia's president Roger Hickey at (312) 251-5910 or Peter McCabe of Winston & Strawn at (312) 558-5954.

CONTACT:

TEL: 312/ 251-4400 FAX: 312/ 251-5201 Syndia Corporation

Roger P. Hickey, Hickey@chipar.com

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(1) US Patent No. 4,702,808 US Patent No. 4,874,596.

(2) 2001.4.9.

Law Firm

(3) 1994 Roger Hickey () Jerome Lemelson 16 33

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(4) Syndia Synthetic Diamond

www.uspto.gov(Patent Number Search) 2

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Gillette 3 , diamond-like carbon coating(DLC)

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USP 4,702,808 (Claims 12 & 17) USP 4,874,596 (Claim 18).	가 Syndia Gillette (USP 5,799,549)

United States Patent [19]

Lemelson

[11] **Patent Number:** **4,702,808**

[45] **Date of Patent:** **Oct. 27, 1987**

[54] **CHEMICAL REACTION APPARATUS AND METHOD**

[76] **Inventor:** Jerome H. Lemelson, 85 Rector St., Metuchen, N.J. 08840

[21] **Appl. No.:** 712,411

[22] **Filed:** Mar. 15, 1985

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 592,968, Mar. 23, 1984, Pat. No. 4,566,678, and a continuation of Ser. No. 737,446, Oct. 29, 1976, which is a continuation of Ser. No. 165,445, Jul. 26, 1971, abandoned, and a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 12,082, Feb. 17, 1970, abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 710,518, Mar. 5, 1968, Pat. No. 3,566,645, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 501,395, Oct. 22, 1965, Pat. No. 3,371,404, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 668,561, Jun. 27, 1957, abandoned.

[51] **Int. Cl.⁴** **B01J 19/12**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **204/157.41; 204/157.42; 204/157.61; 204/157.62; 422/186**

[58] **Field of Search** 204/157.1 R, 157.1 L, 204/158 R, 158 L, 193, 157.41, 157.42, 157.62, 157.61; 422/186

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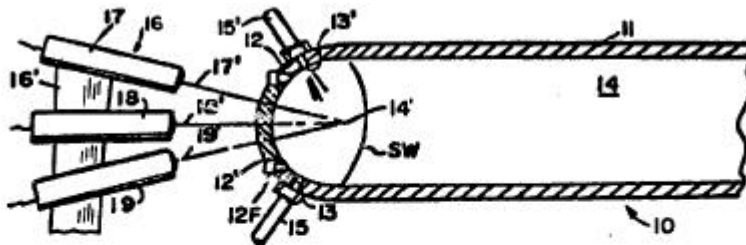
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Primary Examiner—Howard S. Williams

[57] **ABSTRACT**

This invention concerns an apparatus and method for reacting on matter, particularly to change its chemical properties and to create chemical reactions with respect to such matter by introducing the matter into a reaction chamber as one or more streams of particles, gas, liquid or plasma or a combination of such forms of matter and reacting on such matter by directing one or more beams of radiant energy, such as coherent light energy generated by a laser or a plurality of lasers wherein such radiant energy serves to initiate or complete the desired chemical reaction.

20 Claims, 12 Drawing Figures



which receive the molten particles. Such deposition may be accompanied by a chemical reaction between the fluid of the stream and either or both the molten particles or material of the substrate on which the particles are deposited. In addition to depositing, the operation may include machining or eroding material from the substrate.

What is claimed is:

1. Chemical reaction apparatus comprising in combination:

(a) first means for forming a first stream of first matter and flowing said first matter in a given direction along a selected path,

(b) second means for generating a beam of collimated coherent radiation,

(c) third means for directing said collimated radiation beam along a path to cause it to intersect said stream of matter and to transfer sufficient energy of said beam to a quantity of said matter so as to effect a chemical change in said matter,

(d) fourth means for controlling the conveyance of said first matter after it has undergone a reaction as a result of the transfer of energy thereto from said radiation beam to carry the products of reaction to a select location.

2. Chemical reaction apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein said third means is operable to direct said beam at an angle to the path said first matter is conveyed along.

3. Chemical reaction apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein said third means is operable to direct said beam in the direction of said first stream and parallel to the path of flow of said first matter.

4. Chemical reaction apparatus in accordance with claim 1 including fifth means for forming a second stream of second matter which is different from said first matter and causing said second stream of second matter to intersect, mix and flow with the first matter in said first stream at a location upstream of the location where said beam intersects said stream of first matter so as to permit said beam to react on the mixture of said first and second matter.

5. Chemical reaction apparatus in accordance with claim 4 including sixth and seventh means for respectively controlling the operation of said first and fifth means to control the flow of said streams of said first and second matter and master control means operable to selectively control the operation of said sixth and seventh means in effecting a chemical reaction.

6. Chemical reaction apparatus in accordance with claim 1 including fifth means for forming a second stream of second matter which is different from said first matter and causing said second stream of second matter to intersect the stream of said first matter at the location where said beam intersects said first matter so as to permit said second matter to combine with said first matter and to partake in a reaction effected by said beam of collimated radiation.

7. Chemical reaction apparatus in accordance with claim 1 including fifth means for controlling the rate of flow of said stream of said first matter, sixth means for controlling said second means to generate said beam of coherent radiation, and master control means connected to said fifth and sixth means in a manner to control the chemical reaction effected by said beam when it reacts on the matter flowing in said first stream.

8. Chemical reaction apparatus in accordance with claim 7 wherein said sixth means is operable to control

said second means to cause it to generate pulses of coherent beam radiation which are intermittently directed to intersect said stream of said first matter, said master control means being operable to control the timing of the radiation pulses generated during the operation of said second means.

9. Chemical reaction apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein said first means is operable for forming and flowing a stream of gas defining at least part of said first matter.

10. Chemical reaction apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein said first means is operable to form said stream of said first matter as a gas or vapor, and dispose particles of solid matter therein to define said first stream of matter.

11. Chemical reaction apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein said first means is operable to intermittently form and direct matter defining said first stream along said predetermined path.

12. A method for creating a chemical reaction comprising:

controllably directing a fluid as a stream of fluent material along a select path, which path intersects a reaction zone, so as to present molecules of said fluent material in a flow thereof through said reaction zone, and

as said fluent material passes through said reaction zone, generating and directing a collimated beam of intense radiation along a path which intersects said reaction zone such that the radiation of said beam passes through said reaction zone while molecules of said fluid are present in said reaction zone and transferring sufficient radiation from said beam to said molecules while in said reaction zone to cause said molecules to partake in a chemical reaction while located in said reaction zone.

13. A method in accordance with claim 12 wherein said fluid is continuously flowed at a constant rate of flow to and through said reaction zone.

14. A method in accordance with claim 13 wherein said radiation beam is generated for an extended period of time while fluid is flowing through said reaction zone.

15. A method in accordance with claim 12 wherein said fluid is flowed intermittently to said reaction zone.

16. A method in accordance with claim 15 wherein said radiation beam is generated intermittently in a manner to intersect respective quantities of said flow which are intermittently flowed to said reaction zone.

17. A method for creating a chemical reaction comprising:

(a) generating a beam of collimated radiation having sufficient intensity and energy for effecting a chemical reaction with respect to matter when said beam is caused to intersect said matter and directing said beam along a select path,

(b) controllably flowing a stream of fluent material containing particles of matter along at least a portion of the select path along which said beam is directed, such that radiation of said beam will be transferred to particles of said matter during a substantial portion of the travel of said particles along said select path, and

(c) causing radiation of said collimated beam to react on said particles in said stream as said particles travel said select path and to change the state of said particles and cause said particles to partake in a chemical reaction.

United States Patent [19]
Lemelson

[11] **Patent Number:** 4,874,596
[45] **Date of Patent:** Oct. 17, 1989

[54] **PRODUCTION OF CRYSTALLINE STRUCTURES**

[76] **Inventor:** Jerome H. Lemelson, 85 Rector St., Metuchen, N.J. 08840
[21] **Appl. No.:** 625,197
[22] **Filed:** Jan. 28, 1984

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] Continuation of Ser. No. 302,644, Sep. 15, 1981, abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 110,477, Jan. 8, 1980, abandoned, which is a continuation of Ser. No. 815,692, Jul. 14, 1977, abandoned, which is a continuation of Ser. No. 547,733, Feb. 6, 1975, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 93,779, Nov. 30, 1970, Pat. No. 4,207,154, said Ser. No. 302,644, is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 74,388, Sep. 10, 1979, Pat. No. 4,385,880, Ser. No. 958,514, Nov. 7, 1978, abandoned, and Ser. No. 165,445, Jul. 26, 1971, which is a continuation of Ser. No. 710,517, Mar. 5, 1970, which is a continuation of Ser. No. 501,695, Oct. 22, 1965.

[51] **Int. Cl.⁴** B01J 3/06; G21B 1/00
[52] **U.S. Cl.** 423/446; 376/103; 376/146; 376/152; 423/659; 423/DIG. 11; 219/121.85; 204/157.15

[58] **Field of Search** 376/101, 103, 105, 146, 376/152; 219/121 L, 121 LM; 204/157.15; 423/446, 659, DIG. 11

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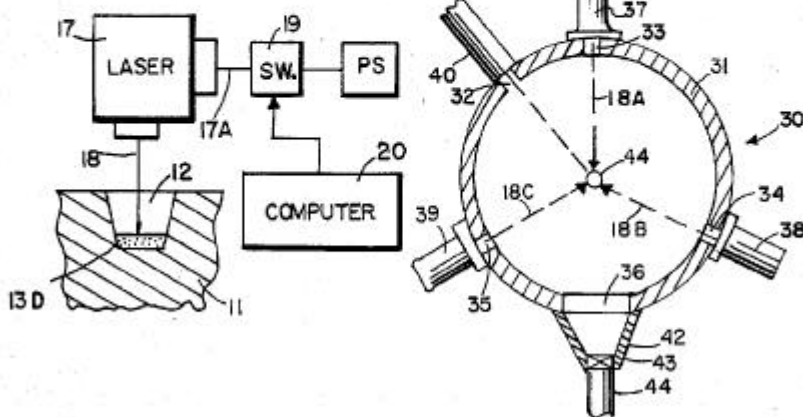
Physics Today, Aug. 1973, pp. 46-53, Nuckolls et al., "Laser Induced Thermonuclear Fusion".
Trans. of the A.N.S., 6/77, pp. 12-15.

Primary Examiner—John S. Maples

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An apparatus and method for reacting on material by means of intense radiation employed to change the physical and, in certain instances, the chemical characteristics of such material. In one form, an intense radiation beam is directed into a cavity of a die or support for a small quantity of material to be reacted on and the intense heat of the beam as well as the shock wave generated in the material in the die cavity by the rapid heat of the beam react on such material to change its physical characteristics. In another form, two or more intense radiation beams, such as generated by one or more lasers or electron guns as intense pulses of radiation, are directed against a particle or pellet of material directed along a predetermined path into a reaction chamber, intensely heat and transmit shock wave energy thereto from opposite directions which shock waves collapse against the material transforming it into another form. In still another form of the invention, pellets or small containers of material to be reacted on are supported by filaments, rods or other structures disposed in a reaction chamber and are reacted on by one or more intense radiation beams. In yet another form, one or more intense pulses of radiation are directed against a solid member compressing a quantity of material in a die and generate one or more shock waves in such solid member which are transmitted there-through to the compressed material. The pellet or particles may comprise carbon which is converted to diamond by the intense heat and force of the shock wave or shock waves or other material including such other material mixed with carbon.

18 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet



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containing material against said operating surface portion and simultaneously forming said hard diamond-like material from carbon thereof and bonding said diamond-like material to said operating surface portion of said die.

18. A method of forming a composite article having a hard wear resistant surface portion comprising:

disposing a carbon containing material against a surface of an article defined by a solid substrate and adapted to form part of a composite article, generating and directing intense radiation against said carbon containing material disposed against the surface of said article, and

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heating said carbon containing material and said substrate with said intense radiation while said carbon containing material is disposed adjacent said surface of said article in a manner to effect the conversion of at least a portion of said carbon containing material to a hard diamond-like material while it is disposed against the surface of said article so as to form a hard stratum of said diamond-like material on said surface, and

bonding said diamond-like material to the surface of said substrate to form a composite article of said substrate and said diamond-like material wherein said diamond-like material forms at least a portion of the surface of said composite article.

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US005799549A

United States Patent [19]

Decker et al.

[11] **Patent Number:** 5,799,549

[45] **Date of Patent:** Sep. 1, 1998

[54] **AMORPHOUS DIAMOND COATING OF BLADES**
 [75] **Inventors:** Thomas G. Decker, Arlington, Mass.;
 Gregory P. Lundie, Westminster, Colo.;
 David L. Pappas, Waltham, Mass.;
 Richard P. Welty, Boulder, Colo.; C.
 Robert Bennett, Westwood, Mass.

[73] **Assignee:** The Gillette Company, Boston, Mass.

[21] **Appl. No.:** 825,405

[22] **Filed:** Mar. 27, 1997

Related U.S. Application Data

[63] **Continuation of Ser. No. 232,928, Apr. 25, 1994, abandoned.**
 [51] **Int. Cl.⁶** B26B 21/30
 [52] **U.S. Cl.** 76/104.1; 30/346.54; 76/DIG. 8
 [58] **Field of Search** 76/101.1, 104.1,
 76/DIG. 8; 30/346.54

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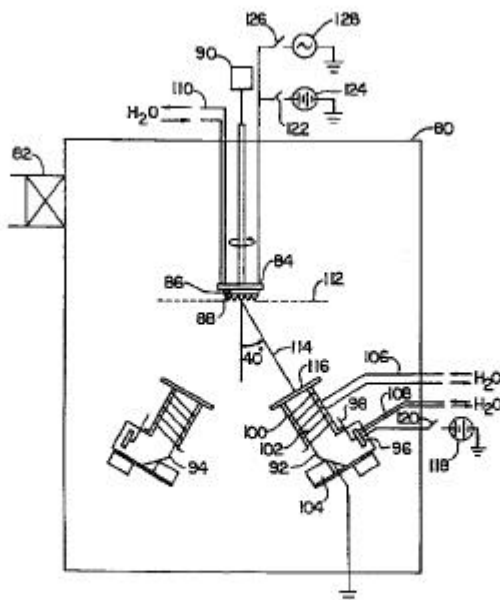
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Primary Examiner—Douglas D. Watts
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Davis, Graham & Stubbs

[57] **ABSTRACT**

Improved razors and razor blades and processes for producing razor blades or similar cutting tools with sharp and durable cutting edges, by hard-carbon coating of blades with amorphous diamond, preferably using a filtered cathodic arc plasma source. A coating of amorphous diamond having at least 40 percent sp³ carbon bonding, a hardness of at least 45 gigapascals and a modulus of at least 400 gigapascals is applied to the sharpened edge of a substrate. The substrate may be mechanically honed, and there is no interlayer between the substrate and the amorphous diamond coating. The coating imparts stiffness and rigidity to a thin blade while maintaining a high aspect ratio.

13 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets



AMORPHOUS DIAMOND COATING OF BLADES

This application is a continuation of application Ser. No. 08/232,928, filed on Apr. 25, 1994 now abandoned.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to improved razors and razor blades and to processes for producing razor blades or similar cutting tools with sharp and durable cutting edges, and in particular to amorphous diamond coating of blades using a filtered cathodic arc plasma source. The invention has particular utility for forming a very hard and rigid coating of high aspect ratio on very thin cutting edges of razor blades.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A razor blade typically is formed of suitable substrate material such as metal or ceramic, and an edge is formed with wedge-shape configuration with an ultimate edge or tip that has a radius of less than about 1,000 angstroms, the wedge shaped surfaces having an included angle of less than 30°. As shaving action is severe and blade edge damage frequently results and to enhance shavability, the use of one or more layers of supplemental coating material has been proposed for shave facilitation, and/or to increase the hardness and/or corrosion resistance of the shaving edge.

A number of such coating materials have been proposed, such as polymeric materials and metals, as well as ceramic materials including diamond-like carbon (DLC) material. Each such coating or layers of supplemental material must have adhesion compatibility so that each layer remains firmly adhered to the substrate throughout the useful life of the razor blade, and desirably provide characteristics such as improved shavability, improved hardness and/or corrosion resistance while not adversely affecting the geometry and cutting effectiveness of the shaving edge.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,032,243 of Bache et al. describes blade substrate materials sharpened by ion bombardment from ion sources having the axes of their beams directed at the edges of the razor blades. U.S. Pat. No. 5,232,568 of Parent et al. and U.S. Pat. No. 5,295,305 of Hahn et al. show blades which have an interlayer interposed between the substrate and the diamond-like coating, wherein the interlayer is deposited on the substrate and then the diamond-like coating is deposited on the interlayer.

The prior solutions are not entirely successful, and it would be desirable simply to use mechanical honing processes to form the sharpened substrate (rather than the ion beam formation shown in Bache et al.) followed by a direct deposition of amorphous diamond coating on the substrate (without the intervening step of depositing an interlayer). It would be desirable, therefore, to be able to start with a thin blade substrate produced by mechanical honing and to impart both rigidity and hardness to the substrate by depositing an amorphous diamond coating directly on the substrate.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to this invention, the cutting edges of razor blades are provided with improved mechanical properties by applying to the sharpened edge of the substrate a coating of an amorphous diamond material. Such materials may be characterized as having at least 40 percent sp³ carbon bonding, a hardness of at least 45 gigapascals and a modulus of at least 400 gigapascals. In addition, such materials are

not corroded by hot aqueous solutions and compounds commonly used in shaving. Materials having these characteristics will be denoted as amorphous diamond in the further course of this disclosure. In contrast to the amorphous diamond material of this invention, traditional diamond-like carbon coatings (DLC) produced by such traditional methods as sputtering do not exhibit such high hardnesses. Unlike the amorphous diamond of this disclosure, DLC coatings typically have hardnesses not exceeding 30 gigapascals.

The extreme hardness and rigidity of the applied amorphous diamond coating can provide strength to a very thin razor blade edge. U.S. Pat. No. 4,720,918 of Curry et al. describes edges of this type, and they are included here as examples and need not be considered limiting. A very thin blade edge can provide increased shaving comfort, but is practical only if the edge is strong enough to withstand shaving. A thin edge, including but not limited to those described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,720,918, strengthened by 400 to 2000 angstroms of amorphous diamond will comprise a finished edge which is significantly thinner than edges presently used for shaving, coupled with sufficient strength to withstand shaving, this due to the extraordinary strength of the amorphous diamond coating.

Further contributing to a thin edge is the large aspect ratio attainable by the particular cathodic arc deposition process used in this invention for manufacture of amorphous diamond coatings. The "aspect ratio" is explained in greater detail with reference to FIG. 3 in the discussion which follows, but may be understood for purposes of this summary as being the ratio of (a) to (b) where (a) is a first distance from the tip of the coating to the tip of the substrate, and (b) is a second distance from a surface of the coating to the tip of the substrate.

The aspect ratio provides a useful measure of the effect of a coating on the underlying blade edge geometry of the substrate—the larger or higher the aspect ratio of the coating, the "sharper" is the coated blade compared to a blade coated at a lower aspect ratio. As a further consequence of the extraordinary strength of the amorphous diamond coatings of this invention, application of such a coating to a razor blade of normal cross-section will be expected to provide longer shaving life.

In accordance with one aspect of the invention, there is provided a wedge-shaped edge and a layer of amorphous diamond on the tip and flanks of the wedge-shaped edge, preferably with a thickness of at least 400 angstroms, which defines a tip radius of less than about 500 angstroms and an aspect ratio of 2:1 to 4:1. The blade exhibits excellent shaving properties and long life.

In preferred embodiments, the razor blade substrate is steel, the amorphous diamond coating is at least four times as hard as the steel substrate; the wedge-shaped edge is formed by a sequence of mechanical abrading steps; and the layer of amorphous diamond is formed of carbon ions provided from a graphite target used as a filtered cathodic arc source.

In accordance with another aspect of the invention, there is provided a process for forming a razor blade that includes the steps of providing a substrate; forming on an edge of the substrate a wedge-shaped sharpened edge that has an included angle of less than 30° and a tip radius (i.e. the estimated radius of the largest circle that may be positioned within the ultimate tip of the edge when such ultimate tip is viewed under a scanning electron microscope at magnifications of at least 25,000) preferably of less than 1,200

may be disposed in a carousel, or otherwise; the layered concept involves either (i) using at least two sources so that the deposition rate is instantaneously equal on both sides of the cutting edge, or (ii) employing a movement of the blade set (stack or carousel) relative to a single source (a cyclic alternation of the presentation of the blades with respect to the source, as by a flipping of the stack, a rotation of the carousel, or other sequential presentation) in order that a coating will be laid down on both sides of the cutting edge of each razor at an approximately equal rate over time.

That is, in order to apply a coating of 1000 angstroms in thickness, a preferred method of this invention would not lay down all 1000 angstroms on the first side and then lay down all 1000 angstroms on the second side of a blade stack—instead, it would be either (i) a simultaneous deposition on both sides or (ii) a cyclic alternation in a range of 3 to 500 angstroms on the first side then 3 to 500 angstroms on the second side, and so on until the 1000 angstrom or other desired thickness is built on both sides of the cutting edge of each blade. While the foregoing is a preferred method, the invention is not to be understood as so limited, and may be practiced with an uneven or unbalanced layering.

It should be understood that the angle of presentation is of some concern. The low pressure (high vacuum) conditions produce a highly directional plasma stream of ionized carbon. The blades are presented at an angle measured from a line normal to the plane formed by the tips of the stacked blades (or measured from the line bisecting the angle enclosed by the tip and the first and second inclined surfaces of the cutting edge of an unstacked blade) that is greater than 20° but less than 90°. The angle of presentation is intended to direct the plasma stream more directionally against one or the other sides of the cutting edges of the blades.

As is conventionally known, the deposition process of this invention may be operated with or without a process gas such as argon; cleaning of the chamber may be accomplished with RF or DC glow discharge; and biasing of the substrate may be done with DC or RF sources (and such biasing may be used to shape the tip of the blade).

It should now be seen that this invention permits the strengthening of a thin blade while maintaining sharpness (that is, imparting stiffness and rigidity to the thin blade without ruining the acuteness or sharpness of the tip). Where a more conventional razor blade might be coated to a thickness in the order of a magnitude of about 100 to 350 angstroms, the method of this invention will deposit an amorphous diamond coat perhaps as high as 3,000 angstroms in thickness (as measured on the blade surface disposed away from the tip) and as high as 5,000 angstroms measured at the tip. As previously mentioned, all of this is achieved while maintaining a high aspect ratio.

It might be noted that the razor blades intended to be coated by this method are expected to be thinner than the usual razor blade, and sharper, and that the 2:1 and higher aspect ratios permitted by the process of this invention, coupled with the enormous strength of the amorphous diamond hard carbon coating, puts the blade in a class by itself.

What is claimed is:

1. A process for forming a razor blade comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a substrate;
- (b) forming a wedge-shaped sharpened edge on said substrate that has an included angle of less than thirty degrees and a tip radius of less than 1,200 angstroms; and
- (c) depositing a layer of amorphous diamond on said sharpened edges; applying an initial high bias to the

substrate during deposition, and then applying a second lower bias to the substrate during deposition.

2. The process of claim 1 wherein said step of forming a wedge-shaped sharpened edge includes the step of mechanically abrading the substrate in a sequence of honing steps to form said sharpened edge.

3. The process of claim 1 and further including, after the step of depositing a layer of amorphous diamond on the sharpened edge, the step of applying an adherent polymer coating on said amorphous diamond coated cutting edge.

4. The process of claim 1 wherein said step of depositing an amorphous diamond coating on said cutting edge includes the step of depositing said coating to a thickness of at least 400 angstroms from the wedge shaped sharpened edge of said substrate to a distance of forty micrometers from the sharpened edge.

5. The process of claim 1 wherein said step of providing a substrate includes selecting a metal substrate and said amorphous diamond coating is at least four times as hard as said metal substrate.

6. The process of claim 1 wherein said step of applying an initial high bias to the substrate includes applying an initial high bias in the range of 200 to 2,000 volts, and said step of applying a second lower bias to the substrate includes applying a second lower bias in the range of 10 to 200 volts.

7. The process of claim 1 wherein said step of depositing a layer of amorphous diamond includes the step of making the deposition in a vacuum or an inert atmosphere in an evacuated chamber in which a graphite target is located.

8. The process of claim 1 wherein said sharpened edge has an included angle bounding a first inclined surface (first blade facet) and a second inclined surface (second blade facet), and said step of depositing a layer of amorphous diamond includes generating a directional beam of carbon ions and presenting a blade facet on said sharpened edge to the beam wherein the angle between the plasma beam and a line bisecting said included angle is greater than 20 degrees.

9. A process for forming a razor blade comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a substrate,
- (b) forming on said substrate a wedge-shaped edge that has an included angle of less than 30 degrees bounding a first blade facet and a second blade facet, and a tip radius of less than 1,200 angstroms and
- (c) depositing a layer of amorphous diamond on said first blade facet and second blade facet, while controlling the deposition so that the layer of amorphous diamond is deposited on the first blade facet and second blade facet at an approximately equal average rate of deposition: applying an initial high bias to the substrate during deposition, and then applying a second lower bias to the substrate during deposition.

10. The process of claim 9 wherein said amorphous diamond material is deposited by cathodic arc generating a beam of carbon ions.

11. The process of claim 9 wherein said step of depositing an amorphous diamond coating on said first blade facet and second blade facet includes the step of depositing said coating on each of the first and second blade facets to a thickness of at least 200 angstroms.

12. The process of claim 11 and further including, after the step of depositing a layer of amorphous diamond on the first blade facet and second blade facet, the step of applying an adherent polymer coating on said amorphous diamond coated cutting edge.

13. The process of claim 12 wherein said step of depositing an amorphous diamond coating on said first blade facet and second blade facet includes the step of depositing said coating to a thickness of about 2,000 angstroms.

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가 Jerome Lemelson

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Jerome Lemelson(1923-1997)

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VCR, Camcorder, FAX

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1995

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