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Has received an application for a patent for a new and useful invention. The title and description of the invention are enclosed. The requirements of law have been complied with, and it has been determined that a patent on the invention shall be granted under the law.

Therefore, this

United States Patent

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John Doll

Acting Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office



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(54) **VACUUM HOLDER FOR INTEGRATED CIRCUIT UNITS**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 151 days.

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A support device for supporting a set of integrated circuit units (65), the device comprising: a support member having a metal surface, said surface having an array of recesses (27); a soft material layer, overlaying the recesses of the metal surface so as to protect the units (65) from damage caused by contact with the metal surface, and; a vacuum means (35) in communication with said recesses (27), such that the vacuum means supports each unit within a respective recess, wherein the soft material layer is formed of a plurality of independent inserts (40), each insert engageable with at least one recess using engagement means (50, 55) for engaging each insert (40) with the at least one recess (27).

10 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

