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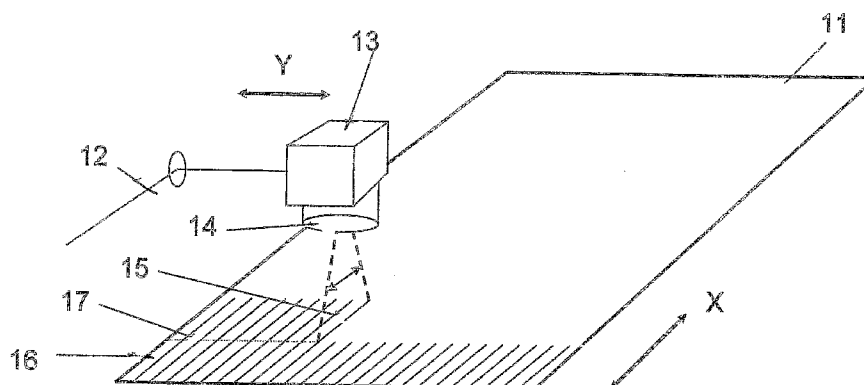
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(57) Abstract: A method for accurately laser scribing lines in thin coatings on a panel, typically a solar panel (11), utilising a laser beam scanner unit (13) including an optical system and a scanner lens characterised by the steps of: using the unit (13) to move a laser beam (12) in a first direction (X) to scribe sections of lines (15) on the panel (11) that are a fraction of the total line length required; moving the unit (13) continuously with respect to the panel (11) in a second direction (Y) perpendicular to the first direction (X) to form a band (16) of scribe lines; positioning the scanner unit (13) so that the starting position of scribe lines in each band next to be processed overlap exactly the finishing position ends of scribe lines in the last band that has been processed so that all scribe lines interconnect; and repeating the using and moving steps to form a plurality of parallel bands of scribe lines to cover the full area of the panel with continuous scribe lines.

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