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(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR, AND METHOD OF, MANUFACTURING A PLURALITY OF UNIQUELY LABELLED ARTICLES

(57) Abstract

Apparatus for and a method of manufacturing a large number (typically more than 10^6) articles (12) are described. Typically 10,000 articles (12) are defined on a substrate (10) in an array of 100 rows by 100 columns. One method uses a screen printing technique and a mask to form a unique indicia on each article of the substrate. Several substrates (10) may be formed like this. Second, possibly third and more indicia is then applied to all articles (12) on a substrate (10). A different indicia is applied to all articles (12) on a different substrate (10). The result is that a very high number of unique articles (12) are fabricated rapidly and relatively easily. An alternative method employs a photolithographic technique. The two different methods may be combined. The substrates (10) are diced or cut into uniquely labelled articles (12) and may be used in combinational chemistry. The invention overcomes problems associated with prior art systems in that a large number of labelled articles (12) can be fabricated using less steps.

