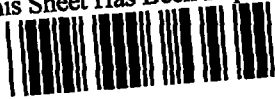


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-13-

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

LASER-PROCESSING HEAD FOR LASER PROCESSING APPARATUS

- 5     An improved laser processing head comprising a housing,  
a lens holder-nozzle mounted within the housing and a  
gas distributor for introducing gas adjacent a focusing  
lens retained within the housing to cool the lens and  
prevent the lens from becoming contaminated or damaged  
10    from material ablated from the workpiece. The gas  
distributor is comprised of a plurality of angled  
distribution slots that creates a vortex gas flow action  
directed away from the face of the lens and towards the  
nozzle outlet.