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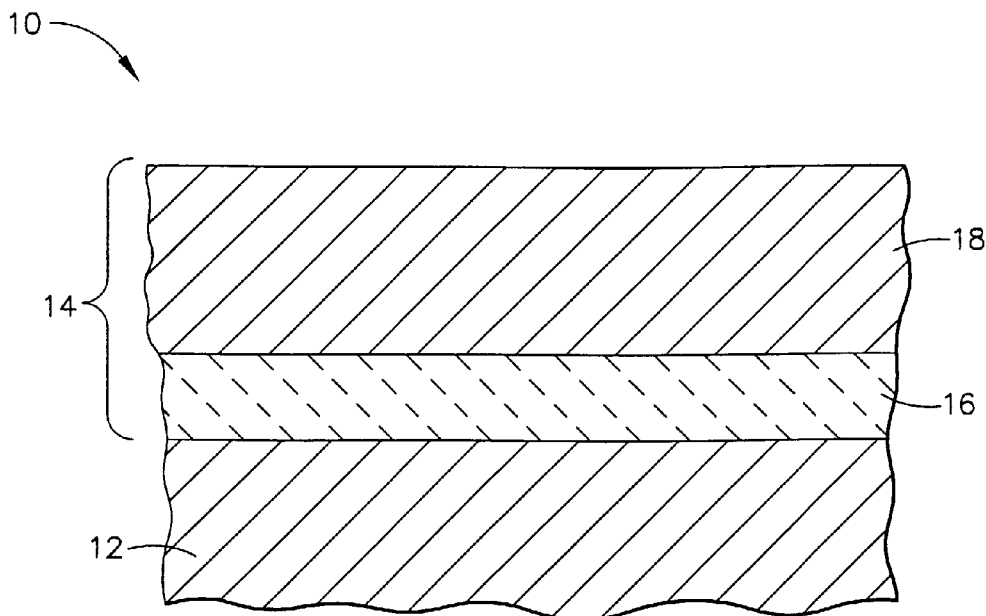
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD OF REMOVING CERAMIC COATINGS



(57) Abstract: A method of removing a ceramic coating (18), and particularly zirconia-containing thermal barrier coating (TBC) materials such as yttria-stabilized zirconia (YSZ), that has been either intentionally or unintentionally deposited on the surface of a component (10). The method entails subjecting a ceramic coating (18) to an aqueous solution containing an acid fluoride salt, such as ammonium bifluoride (NH<sub>4</sub>HF<sub>2</sub>) or sodium bifluoride (NaF<sub>2</sub>), and a corrosion inhibitor. The method is capable of completely removing the ceramic coating (18) without removing or damaging the underlying substrate material, which may include a metallic bond coat (16).