CLAIMS

1. A method of forming a pattern within a contact lens, the method comprising:

forming a contact lens base, wherein the forming comprises molding;

placing the contact lens base into a package for storage;

interacting with a design system to select a pattern design;

imparting a colorant to the contact lens base by penetrating the contact lens base with an array of needles, wherein each needle is coated with an ink;

depositing a monomer mixture upon the contact lens base, wherein the monomer mixture surrounds an exposed surface of the colorant; and

fixing the monomer mixture by polymerization.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein each needle includes a support formed of a piezoelectric material that expands in length with an applied voltage.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the needles become hydrophilic on application of an electrical potential.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the array of needles are stepped across the contact lens base to form a complete pattern.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of fixing the monomer includes an exposure of the contact lens to UV light.