



162162

ABSTRACT

A method of authenticating a marking on a workpiece, comprising marking the workpiece with a laser ablation pattern, storing the image of marking, and producing a secure certificate bearing the stored image. The certificate may be self authenticating with crypted information, and may be packaged with the marked workpiece. The certificate is preferably tamper evident. The workpiece is preferably a cut diamond, with an inscription formed on a girdle portion thereof. The stored image of a cut diamond preferably includes both the inscription and an outline of the surrounding portion of the girdle.

FIGURE 10



G00002