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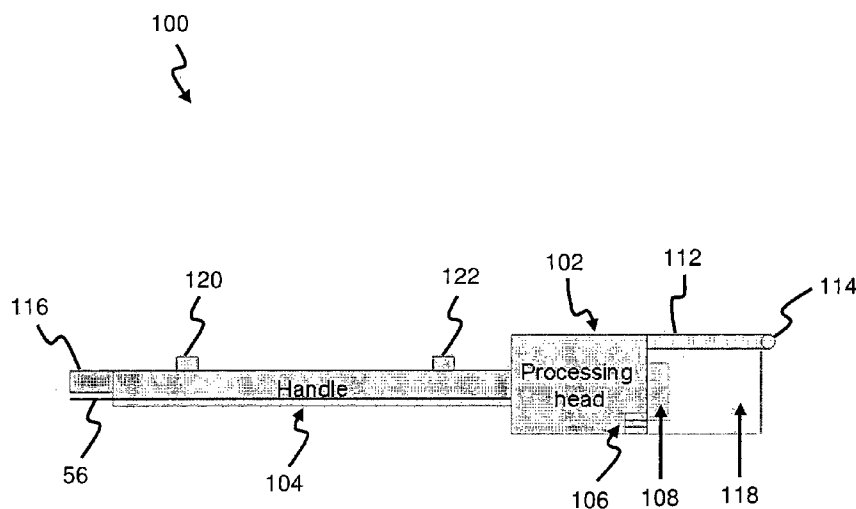
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(54) **Title:** A LASER CLEANING APPARATUS AND METHOD



(57) **Abstract:** A laser cleaning apparatus is disclosed. The apparatus comprises a fibre laser source, a hand held device (100), and a plurality of acoustic sensors (106). The hand held device (100) is coupled to the fibre laser source, and to controllably emit pulsed coherent light, while the plurality of acoustic sensors (106) are connected to the hand held device (100), and configured to determine a focus position for focusing the light onto a steel surface of a marine structure to ablate material on the steel surface. A method for ablating material from a steel surface of a marine structure, bolts, or nuts is also disclosed.