

ABSTRACT**“Method of forming selective electroless plating on polymer surfaces”**

A method of plating an aromatic polymer substrate comprises: applying a strippable coating of a non-aromatic polymer to a substrate surface to be plated; selectively illuminating the coated substrate surface with laser light to ablate a selected area of the strippable coating and to activate an underlying region of the substrate surface exposed by the ablation of the strippable coating; contacting the substrate surface with a seeding solution containing polymer-stabilised catalytic seeding particles, so that the seeding particles adhere preferentially to the activated region of the substrate; and electrolessly plating the substrate surface, whereby the seeded areas of the substrate surface are selectively plated.

Fig. 1