

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
16 January 2003 (16.01.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/004210 A1

(51) International Patent Classification: **B23K 15/08**

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US02/21082

(22) International Filing Date: 2 July 2002 (02.07.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/302,495 2 July 2001 (02.07.2001) US

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK,
SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SK,
TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

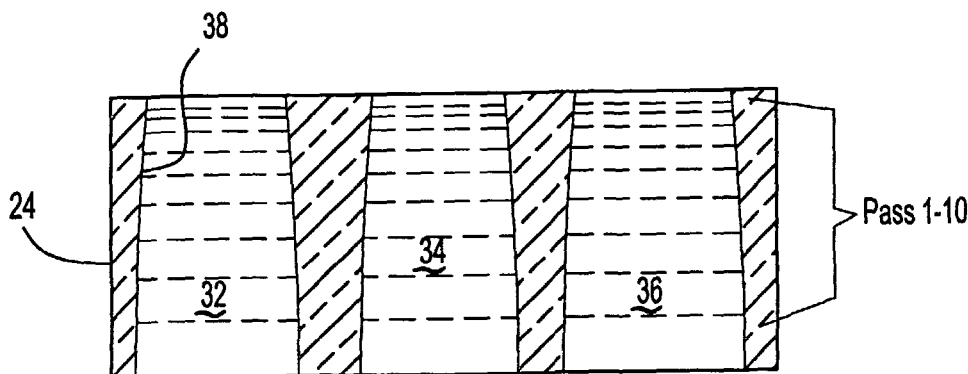
- with international search report
- with amended claims and statement

Date of publication of the amended claims and statement:

30 October 2003

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: METHOD OF ABLATING AN OPENING IN A HARD, NON-METALLIC SUBSTRATE



(57) Abstract: A method of ablating a hole into a hard, non-metallic substrate(24) is disclosed. At least on laser assembly (12) capable of generating a laser beam (16a) in an axis having a focus that is moveable relative to the axis is provided. A focus of the laser beam (16a) is positioned adjacent at least one surface of the substrate (24). A first layer (Pass-1) of the substrate (24) is ablated by the laser beam (16a). The focus is moved relative to the axis corresponding to the depth of the substrate (24) thereby enabling ablation of successive layers (Pass 2-10) of the substrate (24) are ablated to generate a hole (32) into the substrate (24).



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