CLAIMS

1. A method of additive manufacturing of an object using object material, the method comprising:

forming the object by processing some of the object material; and

forming an object identifier by forming a pattern comprising at least one coded volume within an internal volume of the object, each of the at least one coded volume enclosing unprocessed object material.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pattern is formed by forming a first coded volume at a first location in the internal volume of the object, the first coded volume being disposed relative to a reference location, the location of the first coded volume relative to the reference location being representative of a character associated with the pattern.

3. The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the pattern is formed by forming further coded volumes at further locations in the internal volume of the object, the location of the further coded volumes relative to the reference location being representative of the character associated with the pattern.

4. The method as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein the reference location is a reference coded volume disposed within the internal volume of the object or on an external surface of the object.

5. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the coded volumes are formed to form a multi-dimensional array.

6. The method as claimed in claim 5, comprising forming a pattern defining a start character.

7. The method as claimed in claim 5, comprising forming a pattern, the pattern having a guard encoded volume for each character.

8. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the coded volumes are formed in a three-dimensional matrix.

9. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the coded volumes are arranged in a pattern representative of plural characters,

the method comprising forming a pattern of coded volumes for each of the plural characters.

10. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, comprising forming an object identifier which encodes a character based on at least one of a dimension or a volume of the coded volume.

11. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10, comprising forming an object identifier which includes a character based on a shape of the coded volume.

12. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the additive manufacturing method comprises a selective laser sintering technique, and wherein the object material comprises powder.

13. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the additive manufacturing method comprises a selective laser melting technique, and wherein the object material comprises a metallic powder.

14. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the additive manufacturing method comprises a stereolithographic manufacturing process, and wherein the object material comprises polymeric liquid, and wherein the method comprises forming coded volumes that enclose unprocessed polymeric liquid.

15. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the additive manufacturing method comprises multi jet fusion manufacturing process, and wherein the object material comprises powder.

16. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the processed object material has a first density and the unprocessed object material has a second density, the first density being different from the second density.

17. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein each of the coded volumes has internal surfaces, each of the internal surfaces being disposed at least a minimum distance from an external scanning surface of the object.

18. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 17, wherein each of the coded volumes has internal surfaces that are roughened.

19. A method of scanning an object identifier formed using the method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 18, the method of scanning comprising:

scanning the object identifier with a scanner and acquiring imaging information therefrom.

20. The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the scanner comprises an ultrasonic scanner, or a CT scanner, or an X-ray scanner.