1. Method for structuring a decorative or technical pattern (22, 60) in the thickness of an object made of an at least partially transparent amorphous, semi-crystalline or crystalline material, the object made of an at least partially transparent material comprising a top surface (18a) and a bottom surface (18b) which extends away from the top surface (18a), the method comprising the step consisting of providing at least one of the top (18a) or bottom (18b) surfaces of the object made of an at least partially transparent material with a mask (24) which defines at least one opening (25) whose outline corresponds to the profile of the decorative or technical pattern (22, 60) to be structured, and is fastened onto at least one of the top (18a) or bottom (18b) surfaces of the object, the mask (24) being fastened onto the at least one top (18a) or bottom (18b) surface of the object made of an at least partially transparent material at the positions which are not to be structured, the method also comprising the step which consists of structuring the decorative or technical pattern (22, 60) by creating cavity or defects from predetermined distance from the surface of the object bombarding by means of a mono- or multicharged ion beam (14) through the at least one opening (25) of the mask (24), the mechanical properties of the mask (24) being sufficient to prevent the ions of the ion beam (14) from etching the at least one top (18a) or bottom (18b) surface of the object made of an at least partially transparent material at the positions where this top (18a) or bottom (18b) surface is covered by the mask (24).

2. Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the mono- or multicharged ion beam (14) is produced by a mono- or multicharged ion source (1) of the ECR electron cyclotron resonance type.

3. Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the at least partially transparent object is made of natural or synthetic sapphire, ruby or diamond.

4. Method according to claim 2, characterised in that the at least partially transparent object is made of natural or synthetic sapphire, ruby or diamond.

5. Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the at least partially transparent object is made of a semi-crystalline organic material.

6. Method according to claim 2, characterised in that the at least partially transparent object is made of a semi-crystalline organic material.

7. Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the at least partially transparent object is made of mineral glass or of an amorphous organic material.

8. Method according to claim 2, characterised in that the at least partially transparent object is made of mineral glass or of an amorphous organic material.

9. Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the mask (24) is a sheet of material in which the outline of the decorative or technical pattern (22, 60) has been cut, this sheet of material being subsequently fastened onto that of the top (18a) and/or bottom (18b) surfaces of the object in which it is sought to structure the pattern (22, 60).

10. Method according to claim 9, characterised in that the mask (24) is made of metal or of ceramic.

11. Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the mask (24) is obtained by selective deposition of a masking material at the positions where the mask (24) is to cover that of the top (18a) and/or bottom (18b) surface at the positions where this top (18a) and/or bottom (18b) surface is not to be struck by the ion beam (14).

12. Method according to claim 11, characterised in that the mask is produced by ink-jet printing.

13. Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the mask (24) is obtained by deposition of a layer of a masking material on that of the top (18a) and/or bottom (18b) surfaces whereon the mask (24) is to be structured, followed by ablation of the masking layer at the positions where that of the top (18a) and/or bottom (18b) surface is to be structured.

14. Method according to claim 13, characterised in that the layer of masking material is ablated by means of a laser beam.

15. Method according to claim 14, characterised in that the masking material is an ultraviolet radiation-sensitive resin which is structured by means of a UV source.

16. Object obtained by implementing the method according to one of claims 1 to 15.

17. Object according to claim 16, characterised in that it consists of:

- a glass (16), a dial (50) or a bezel (42) for a timepiece or a wristwatch;
- a middle (44) or a back (58) of a watchcase (40);
- a crown (46), a corrector head (47) or a bridge (62) for a timepiece movement, or
- a wristlet link (48) for a watch or a piece of jewellery.

18. Portable object comprising at least one element chosen in the group formed by a glass (16), a dial (50), a bezel (42), a middle (44), a back (58), a crown (46), a corrector head (47), a bridge (62) and a wristlet link (48), this at least one element being made of an at least partially transparent amorphous, semi-crystalline or crystalline material and structured in accordance with the method according to any one of claims 1 to 15, this element comprising at least one top surface and at least one bottom surface interconnected by an edge, the portable object also comprising a light source (52), the light source (52) being arranged so as to illuminate the element via the bottom surface thereof or via the edge thereof.

19. Portable object according to claim 18, characterised in that it is a watchcase (40).