

RECOATING OF STEREOLITHOGRAPHIC LAYERS

Abstract

A stereolithography method and system for producing three-dimensional plastic objects by forming a plurality of thin layers of partially cured plastic material which are thin cross sections of the desired object. A layer of polymerizable resin is applied to a support surface and the excess is struck off, such as with a doctor blade, to form a smoothed layer. The smoothed layer is subjected to radiation in a predetermined pattern to form the cross-sectional layer into the desired shape. A plurality of layers are subsequently applied, leveled, then cured in the same manner to produce the desired three-dimensional object. Apparatus for measuring the level of the surface of a fluid is also provided. Variations in the level of fluid will be detected and may be used to drive a pump, diaphragm, or plunger in order to maintain the level of the fluid.

This Sheet Has Been Replaced

