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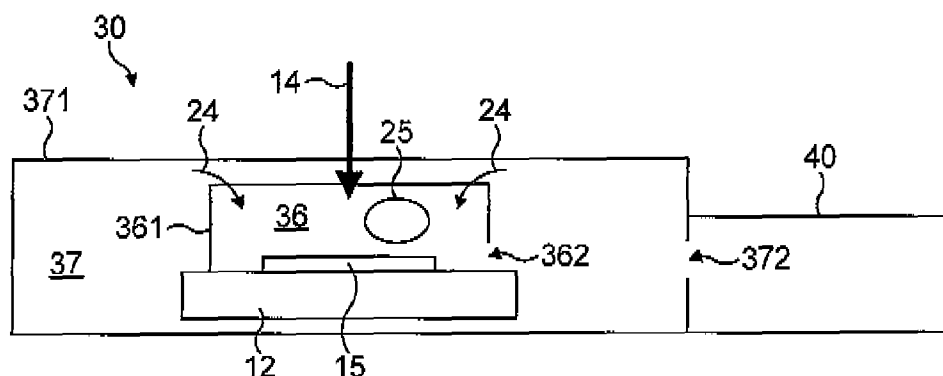
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(54) Title: LASER MACHINING APPARATUS AND METHOD WITH A VACUUM EXTRACTING SYSTEM AND AT LEAST A FIRST CONTAINEMENT ZONE FOR CONTAINING DEPOSITION OF EMITTED HAZARDOUS MATERIAL



(57) Abstract: A laser machining apparatus arranged to machine material (15) which emits a hazardous material during machining, includes a vacuum extraction system (24, 25) for extracting at least some of the emitted hazardous material from a machining region of the apparatus. At least a first containment zone (36) encompasses the machining region to contain deposition of any un-extracted emitted hazardous material to the machining region. A second containment zone (37) may surround the first containment zone (36) and a pressure differential may be provided between the two containment zones (36, 37) to assist in containing deposition of hazardous materials to the first containment zone (36). A transfer chamber (40) may be provided for transferring machined material (15) to a washing station to prevent release from the laser machining apparatus during the transfer of any emitted hazardous material deposited on the machined material (15).

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