

**DEFOCUSED LASER DRILLING PROCESS
FOR MAKING FABRIC FORMING DEVICE**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A topographical support member and method of forming a
topographical support member for use in producing
nonwoven fabrics, especially tricot-like nonwoven
fabrics. The topographical support member includes a
body having a top surface comprising a pattern of a
10 plurality of peaks and valleys and a plurality of
apertures. The apertures have a conical top portion
that is surrounded by a cluster of the peaks and
valleys. The center line to center line spacing of
adjacent apertures is less than the major diameter of
15 the conical top portion of the apertures. The
topographical support member is formed by focusing a
laser beam so that the focal point is below the top
surface of a starting workpiece and drilling with the
laser beam the predetermined pattern of tapered
20 apertures. The pattern of tapered apertures forms the
cluster of peaks and valleys surrounding each aperture
on the top surface of the resulting support member.

