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(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU98/00104 (22) International Filing Date: 19 February 1998 (19.02.98) (30) Priority Data: PO 5239 20 February 1997 (20.02.97) AU (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SECURENCY PTY. LTD. [AU/AU]; c/o Note Printing Australia, Hume Highway, Craigieburn, VIC 3064 (AU). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): ZIENTEK, Paul [AU/AU]; 546 Station Street, North Carlton, VIC 3054 (AU). (74) Agent: CARTER SMITH & BEADLE; Qantas House, 2 Railway Parade, Camberwell, VIC 3124 (AU).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: LASER MARKING OF ARTICLES**(57) Abstract**

A method of marking or forming a transparent window in an article (6), such as a security document, is provided in which areas of opacifying layers of printed ink (8, 10) on opposite surfaces of a polymeric film or substrate (12) are irradiated by laser radiation (4) of a selected wavelength. The opacifying layers (8, 10) have greater absorption characteristics for the laser radiation than the film or substrate (12) which is substantially transparent to the selected wavelength of the laser radiation so that after ablation of the area of printed matter (8) on one surface, the radiation passes through the substrate (12) substantially unaffected to ablate the area of printed matter (10) on the opposite surface. In the resultant article, the markings or windows formed by the areas of printing removed from each surface of the substrate (12) are in register, and provide a deterrent against counterfeiting.

