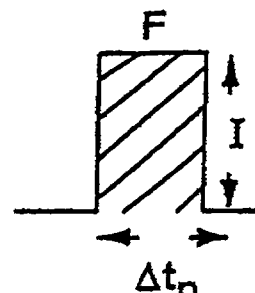
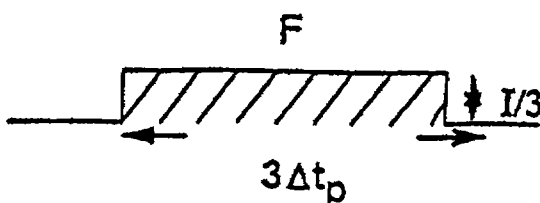
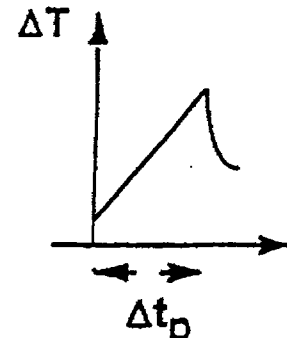
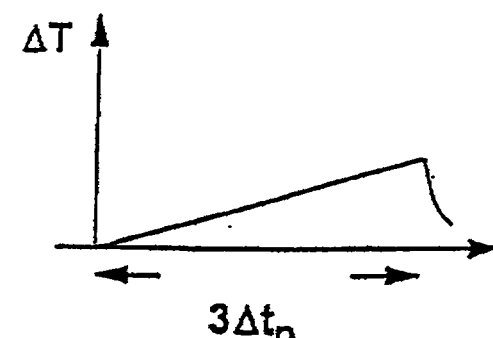




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(57) Abstract A method and apparatus for preventing surface damage of an object being laser treated, comprising extending the laser pulse generated by a laser, before it reaches the surface to be ablated.  Diagram showing a rectangular pulse of intensity F and duration Δt_p.  Diagram showing a rectangular pulse of intensity F and duration $3\Delta t_p$.  Graph showing temperature change ΔT versus time Δt_p. The curve rises linearly and then drops sharply.  Graph showing temperature change ΔT versus time $3\Delta t_p$. The curve rises linearly and then drops sharply.		