~~What is Claimed is:~~ CLAIMS

1. An identification system for a component which comprises a body having an outer surface which in use is subject to wear, the system comprising:

an identification disk which comprises upper and lower faces and a thickness which is defined between the upper and lower faces;

a unique identifying marking which is provided on at least the upper face, the identifying marking corresponding to the identity of the component;

a cavity which is formed in the body and extends from the outer surface to a depth that is greater than the thickness of the disk;

wherein in use of the identification system the disk is positioned in the cavity such that the upper face is directed toward and disposed below the outer surface; and

a lip which is formed from a portion of the body adjacent the cavity and which, when the disk is positioned in the cavity, overlaps an outer peripheral portion of the disk to thereby secure the disk in the cavity without obscuring the identifying marking,

wherein the cavity comprises:

an inner portion within which the disk is positioned;

an outer portion which extends between the inner portion and the outer surface; and

a shoulder which is located between the inner and outer portions;

wherein the lip is formed from the shoulder,

wherein the inner portion comprises a depth which is greater than the thickness of the disk.

2. The identification system of claim 1, wherein the lip comprises an upper portion which is located proximate the bottom of a wear allowance zone of the component.

3. The identification system of claim 1, wherein the identifying marking is also provided on the lower face of the disk.

~~4. The identification system of claim 1, wherein the cavity comprises:~~

~~an inner portion within which the disk is positioned;~~

~~an outer portion which extends between the inner portion and the outer surface; and~~

~~a shoulder which is located between the inner and outer portions;~~

~~wherein the lip is formed from the shoulder.~~

~~5. The identification system of claim 4, wherein the inner portion comprises a depth which is greater than the thickness of the disk.~~

~~6~~4. The identification system of claim ~~5~~1, wherein the inner portion comprises a first diameter, the outer portion comprises a second diameter which is greater than the first diameter, and the shoulder comprises a generally square profile.

~~7~~5. The identification system of claim ~~6~~4, wherein the lip comprises an upper portion which is located proximate the bottom of a wear allowance zone of the component.

~~8~~6. The identification system of claim 4~~1~~, wherein the inner portion comprises a first diameter, the outer portion comprises a second diameter which is greater than the first diameter, and the shoulder comprises a radially inner portion which is located a first distance from the outer surface and a radially outer portion which is located a second distance from the outer surface, the first distance being less than the second distance.

~~9~~7. The identification system of claim ~~8~~6, wherein the shoulder comprises a generally triangular profile.

~~10~~8. The identification system of claim ~~8~~6, wherein the shoulder comprises a concave profile.

~~11~~9. The identification system of claim ~~8~~6, wherein the shoulder comprises a convex profile.

~~12~~10. The identification system of claim ~~8~~6, wherein the lip comprises an upper portion which is located proximate the bottom of a wear allowance zone of the component.

~~13~~11. A method for providing a component with a unique identifying marking, the component having a body with an outer surface which in use is subject to wear, the method comprising:

providing an identification disk which comprises upper and lower faces and a thickness which is defined between the upper and lower faces;

disposing the identifying marking on at least the upper face;

forming a cavity in the body which extends from the outer surface to a depth which is greater than the thickness of the disk;

positioning the disk in the cavity such that the upper face is directed toward and disposed below the outer surface; and

forming a lip from a portion of the body adjacent the cavity such that, when the disk is positioned in the cavity, the lip overlaps an outer peripheral portion of the disk to thereby secure the disk in the cavity without obscuring the identifying marking,

wherein the cavity comprises:

an inner portion within which the disk is positioned;

an outer portion which extends between the inner portion and the outer surface; and

a shoulder which is located between the inner and outer portions;

wherein the lip is formed from the shoulder,

wherein the inner portion comprises a depth which is greater than the thickness of the disk.

~~14~~12. The method of claim ~~13~~11, wherein the lip comprises an upper portion which is located proximate the bottom of a wear allowance zone of the component.

~~15~~13. The method of claim ~~13~~11, wherein the identifying marking is also disposed on the lower face of the disk.

~~16. The method of claim 13, wherein the cavity comprises:~~

~~an inner portion within which the disk is positioned;~~

~~an outer portion which extends between the inner portion and the outer surface; and~~

~~a shoulder which is located between the inner and outer portions;~~

~~wherein the lip is formed from the shoulder.~~

~~17. The method of claim 16, wherein the inner portion comprises a depth which is greater than the thickness of the disk.~~

~~18~~14. The method of claim ~~17~~11, wherein the inner portion comprises a first diameter, the outer portion comprises a second diameter which is greater than the first diameter, and the shoulder comprises a generally square profile.

~~19~~15. The method of claim ~~18~~14, wherein the lip comprises an upper portion which is located proximate the bottom of a wear allowance zone of the component.

~~20~~16. The method of claim ~~16~~11, wherein the inner portion comprises a first diameter, the outer portion comprises a second diameter which is greater than the first diameter, and the shoulder comprises a radially inner portion which is located a first distance from the outer surface and a radially outer portion which is located a second distance from the outer surface, the first distance being less than the second distance.

~~21~~17. The method of claim ~~20~~16, wherein the shoulder comprises a generally triangular profile.

~~22~~18. The method of claim ~~20~~16, wherein the shoulder comprises a concave profile.

~~23~~19. The method of claim ~~20~~16, wherein the shoulder comprises a convex profile.

~~24~~20. The method of claim ~~20~~16, wherein the lip comprises an upper portion which is located proximate the bottom of a wear allowance zone of the component.