Claims:-

1. A method of inspecting and/or repairing a component (38,42) in an assembled apparatus (10), the method comprising the steps of (a) inserting a boroscope (60) and a conduit (62) through an aperture (52,56) in a casing (50,54) of the apparatus (10), the conduit (62) having an applicator tip (68), (b) directing the boroscope (60) and the conduit (62) to a component (38,42) to be inspected and/or repaired, (c) supplying a liquid (64) through the conduit (62) to the applicator tip (68), (d) contacting the surface of the component (38,42) with the applicator tip (68) and supplying the liquid (64) onto the surface of the component (38,42), the applicator tip (68) comprising a porous and malleable member (70).

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the method comprises providing a foam or a woven fabric as the porous and malleable member (70).

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 comprising providing a sheath (74), the method comprising retracting the applicator tip (68) into the sheath (74) during steps (a) and (b) and moving the applicator tip (68) out of the sheath (74) during steps (c) and (d).

4. A method as claimed in claim 3 comprising providing a stop member (72) to limit the movement of the applicator tip (68) out of the sheath (74) during steps (c) and (d).

5. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 wherein step (c) comprises supplying a measured quantity of liquid (64) through the conduit (62) to the applicator tip (68).

6. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5 wherein step (c) comprises supplying the measured quantity of liquid (64) from a syringe (66).

7. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 wherein step (c) comprises supplying a dye penetrant (64) through the conduit (62) to the applicator tip (68), step (d) comprises contacting the surface of the component (38,42) with the applicator tip (68) and supplying the dye penetrant (64) onto the surface of the component (38,42) from the applicator tip (68) such that the dye penetrant (64) enters any defects in the surface of the component (38,42), the method comprises step (e) directing light onto the component (38,42) and (f) viewing the

surface of the component (38,42) through the boroscope (60) to determine if any defects are present in the surface of the component (38,42).

8. A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein step (e) comprises directing visible light or ultraviolet light onto the surface of the component (38,42).

9. A method as claimed in claim 7 or claim 8 wherein the method comprises step (g) of supplying a solvent or an emulsifying agent through a conduit to remove excess dye penetrant from the surface of the component (38,42) after step (d) and before step (e).

10. A method as claimed in claim 7, claim 8 or claim 9 wherein the method comprises step (h) of supplying a solvent or an emulsifying agent through a conduit to remove surface contaminants from the surface of the component (38,42) before step (d).

11. A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the method comprises drying the surface of the component (38,42) after step (g) and before step (e).

12. A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the method comprises drying the surface of the component (38,42) after step (h) and before step (d).

13. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 wherein the step (c) comprises supplying a solvent or an emulsifying agent through a conduit to remove excess dye penetrant from the surface of the component (38,42).

14. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 wherein step (c) comprises supplying a solvent or an emulsifying agent through a conduit to remove surface contaminants from the surface of the component (38,42).

15. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 wherein step (c) comprises supplying an etchant through a conduit to etch the surface of the component (38,42).

16. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 15 wherein the apparatus (10) comprises an engine.

17. A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the engine is a gas turbine engine, a diesel engine or a petrol engine.

18. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 17 wherein the apparatus comprises a nuclear reactor.

19. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 18 wherein the method comprises attaching the conduit (62) to the boroscope (60).

20. A device for inspecting and/or repairing a component (38,42) in an assembled apparatus (10), the apparatus comprising a boroscope (60) and a conduit (62), the conduit (62) having an applicator tip (68), means (66) to supply a liquid (64) through the conduit (62) to the applicator tip (68), the applicator tip (68) comprising a porous and malleable member (70).

21. A device as claimed in claim 20 wherein the applicator tip (68) comprises a foam or a woven fabric as the porous and malleable member (70).

22. A device as claimed in claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the conduit comprises a sheath (74), the applicator tip (68) being retractable into and movable out of the sheath (74).

23. A device as claimed in claim 22 wherein the conduit (62) comprises a stop member (72) to limit the movement of the applicator tip (68) out of the sheath (74).

24. A device as claimed in any of claims 20 to 23 wherein the conduit (62) is attached to the boroscope (60).

25. A device as claimed in any of claims 20 to 24 comprising means to direct light onto the component (38,42) and means to view the surface of the component (38,42) through the boroscope (60) to determine if any defects are present in the surface of the component (38,42).

Claims:-

1. A method of inspecting and/or repairing a component in an assembled apparatus, the method comprising the steps of (a) inserting a boroscope and a conduit through an aperture in a casing of the apparatus, the conduit having an applicator tip (b) directing the boroscope and conduit to a component to be inspected and/or repaired, (c) supplying a liquid through the conduit to the applicator tip, (d) contacting the surface of the component with the applicator tip and supplying the liquid onto the surface of the component, the applicator tip comprising a porous and malleable member.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the method comprises providing a foam or a woven fabric as the porous and malleable member.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 comprising providing a sheath, the method comprising retracting the applicator tip into the sheath during steps (a) and (b) and moving the applicator tip out of the sheath during steps (c) and (d).

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3 comprising providing a stop member to limit the movement of the applicator tip out of the sheath during steps (c) and (d).

5. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 wherein step (c) comprises supplying a measured quantity of liquid through the conduit to the applicator tip.

6. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5 wherein step (c) comprises supplying the measured quantity of liquid from a syringe.

7. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 wherein step (c) comprises supplying a dye penetrant through the conduit to the applicator tip, step (d) comprises contacting the surface of the component with the applicator tip and supplying the dye penetrant onto the surface of the component from the applicator tip such that the dye penetrant enters any defects in the surface of the component, the method comprises step (e) directing light onto the component and (f) viewing the surface of the component through the boroscope to determine if any defects are present in the surface of the component.

8. A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein step (e) comprises directing visible light or ultraviolet light onto the surface of the component.

9. A method as claimed in claim 7 or claim 8 wherein the method comprises step (g) of supplying a solvent or an emulsifying agent through a conduit to remove excess dye penetrant from the surface of the component after step (d) and before step (e).

10. A method as claimed in claim 7, claim 8 or claim 9 wherein the method comprises step (h) of supplying a solvent or an emulsifying agent through a conduit to remove surface contaminants from the surface of the component before step (d).

11. A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the method comprises drying the surface of the component after step (g) and before step (e).

12. A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the method comprises drying the surface of the component after step (h) and before step (d).

13. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 wherein the step (c) comprises supplying a solvent or an emulsifying agent through a conduit to remove excess dye penetrant from the surface of the component.

14. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 wherein step (c) comprises supplying a solvent or an emulsifying agent through a conduit to remove surface contaminants from the surface of the component.

15. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 wherein step (c) comprises supplying an etchant through a conduit to etch the surface of the component.

16. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 15 wherein the apparatus comprises an engine.

17. A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the engine is a gas turbine engine, a diesel engine or a petrol engine.

18. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 17 wherein the apparatus comprises a nuclear reactor.

19. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 18 wherein the method comprises attaching the conduit to the boroscope.

20. A device for inspecting and/or repairing a component in an assembled apparatus, the apparatus comprising a boroscope and a conduit, the conduit having an applicator tip, means to supply a liquid through the conduit to the applicator tip, the applicator tip comprising a porous and malleable member.

21. A device as claimed in claim 20 wherein the applicator tip comprises a foam or a woven fabric as the porous and malleable member.

22. A device as claimed in claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the conduit comprises a sheath, the applicator tip being retractable into and movable out of the sheath.

23. A device as claimed in claim 22 wherein the conduit comprises a stop member to limit the movement of the applicator tip out of the sheath.

24. A device as claimed in any of claims 20 to 23 wherein the conduit is attached to the boroscope.

25. A device as claimed in any of claims 20 to 24 comprising means to direct light onto the component and means to view the surface of the component through the boroscope to determine if any defects are present in the surface of the component.