Claims

1. A method for processing metal plated leadframes, the method comprising the steps of:

placing Zn/Cr alloy layer on said plated leadframes;

masking discrete portions of said leadframes, so as to expose wire connectable portions;

simultaneously immersing the leadframes in an electrolytic fluid and applying a current across said leadframes;

~~and consequently~~ stripping the Zn/Cr layer from the wire connectable portions, so as to expose a plated metal surface of said leadframe,

wherein the masking step includes the steps of providing a mask to said leadframes and applying a pressure to said mask, said pressure in the range 3.5 to 5.5 bar.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the immersing step includes the step of flowing the electrolytic fluid onto the leadframes.

~~3. The method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the masking step includes the steps of providing a mask to said leadframes and applying a pressure to said mask, said pressure in the range 3.5 to 5.5 bar.~~

~~4.~~3. The method according to claim 3 wherein the hardness of the mask is in the range 60 to 75 duro.

~~5.~~4. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the leadframes are arranged so as to be an anode within an electrolytic cell, with the current in the range of 100-300 milliamps/cm^2.

~~6.~~5. The method according to any one of claims 2 to 5 wherein the flow rate of the electrolytic fluid is in the range 4.0-6.5 li/sec.

~~7.~~6. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the temperature of the electrolytic fluid is in the range of 25 to 35°C.

~~8.~~7. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the current application and immersion steps are continuously performed for a period of 3.0 to 9.0 seconds.

~~9.~~8. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein the Zn/Cr alloy is A2

~~10.~~9. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein the metal plating is one of copper and silver.

~~11.~~10. A leadframe having wire connectable portions produced according to the method of claims 1 to 10.