

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING SIGNS
WITH PRISMATIC LETTERS AND GRAPHIC IMAGES**

ABSTRACT

A method for producing signs having raised, prismatic graphic images such as letters, numbers and other graphic images, for which initial values are provided, carrying information defining an initial graphic representation and may also include a return, representing the measure of distance by which the graphic images are raised relative to a background of a sign. A cutting tool (50) is provided and has a radius (76) and a cutting angle (78). One or more tool paths (66,68,70) are determined using the initial graphic representation. Tool passes and depths for the other passes are determined using the initial graphic representation, the cutting angle, and a distance which is not greater than the tool radius. A controller (12) generates signals indicative of the tool paths and respective depths, and presents the signals to operate an automatic cutting machine (14) and cutting tool to selectively remove material from a sheet material to produce the graphic images.

Fig. 1