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Howell

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(54) **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR LASER MARKING AN ARTICLE**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A method of marking an article is described. A laser beam is generated. A position of a focal point of the laser beam is detected with a CCD detector that is in a predetermined position relative to a frame. The detector is then moved out of a plane of the focal point. An article is then held by a holder that is in a predetermined position relative to the frame, so that a marking surface of the article is in the plane. The laser beam is then directed onto the marking surface of the article, and the focal point is moved relatively across the marking surface. The position of the focal point on the marking surface is based on both the data set and reference position. The reference position may, for example, be deduced from factory calibration data to obtain modified calibration data, and the modified calibration data may be used to control the laser beam.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
B23K 26/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **219/121.69**; 219/121.78

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 219/121.6,
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219/121.82, 121.83

See application file for complete search history.

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7 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

