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(54) **Microwave processing of MIM preforms**

(57) A method of producing a metallic component includes: providing a mixture of a metallic powder and a binder; melting the mixture and forming the mixture into a preform (48) in the shape of the component; remove a majority of the binder from the preform (48); and heating the preform (48) with microwave energy to remove the remainder of the binder and to sinter the metal powder together to form the component. The component may be formed as an individual component or continuously.

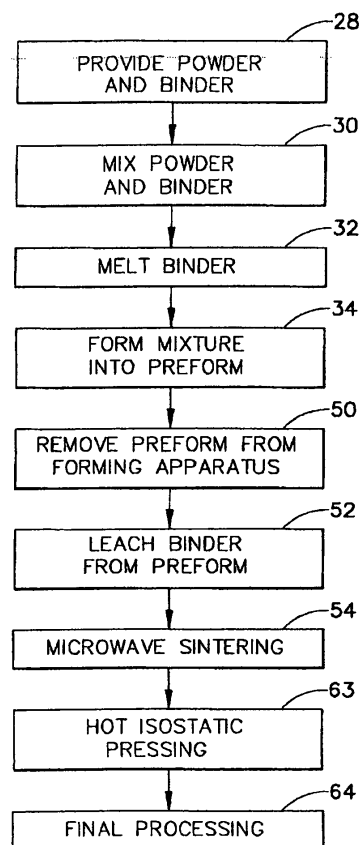


FIG. 2



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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 22 January 2007	Examiner VON ZITZEWITZ, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ..... & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 06 25 2361

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 22 January 2007	Examiner VON ZITZEWITZ, A
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
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