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#### ABSTRACT

The present invention is directed to a method of scratch

removal from digitized images wherein a “scratched” portion of a digitized image which requires repair or noise removal, is identified and a binary mask is generated which distinguishes the defined “scratched” portion from the other portions of the digitized image. A repair window is defined which delineates the portion of the digitized image desired to be repaired of scratches or other noise. A sample window having the same dimensional attributes as the repair window, and preferably free of any scratch or other noise, is then defined. The sample window is preferably selected so as to be as close in resemblance to the repair window as possible. Image data of the repair window and the sample window are converted into the frequency domain and then processed to yield appropriate pixel data for transfer into the repair window so as to remove the scratch noise in such a way that alignment of edges, as well as textures and other details are maintained in the resulting digitized image without degrading existing non-scratched image areas.

**32 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets**