



Nanolithograph (Greatly Enlarged)



Nanolithograph (Natural Size)

A Nanolithographic Illustration of Don Quixote

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I CONFESS THAT I never expected to be writing about this topic. Francisco Rico's son, Félix, a post-doc physicist at the Institut Curie in Paris, found this article¹ dealing with nanolithography. It was written by six Spanish physicists, all but one from Madrid. For their experimentation with placing images on silicon oxide they chose, appropriately enough, Don Quixote and Sancho.

A nanometer (nm) is a unit of length equivalent to one billionth of a meter, a millionth of a millimeter. But wait! The European billion is a million million and the US million is just a thousand million, so if we are talking about the European billion, a nanometer would be a *billionth* of a *millimeter*. Either way, it is REALLY TEENY. The width of the nanolithograph, left, is 2300 nanometers. This sounds bigger than it really is.

I have also included the nanolithograph in its natural size.

Well, at this point I have exhausted everything I had to say about this topic.

1 I. Horcas, R. Fernández, J. M. Gómez-Rodríguez, J. Colchero, J. Gómez-Herrero, and A. M. Baro. "WSXM: A software for scanning probe microscopy and a tool for nanotechnology," *Review of Scientific Instruments*, 78, 013705 (2007). Copyright © 2007 American Institute of Physics. Used by permission.