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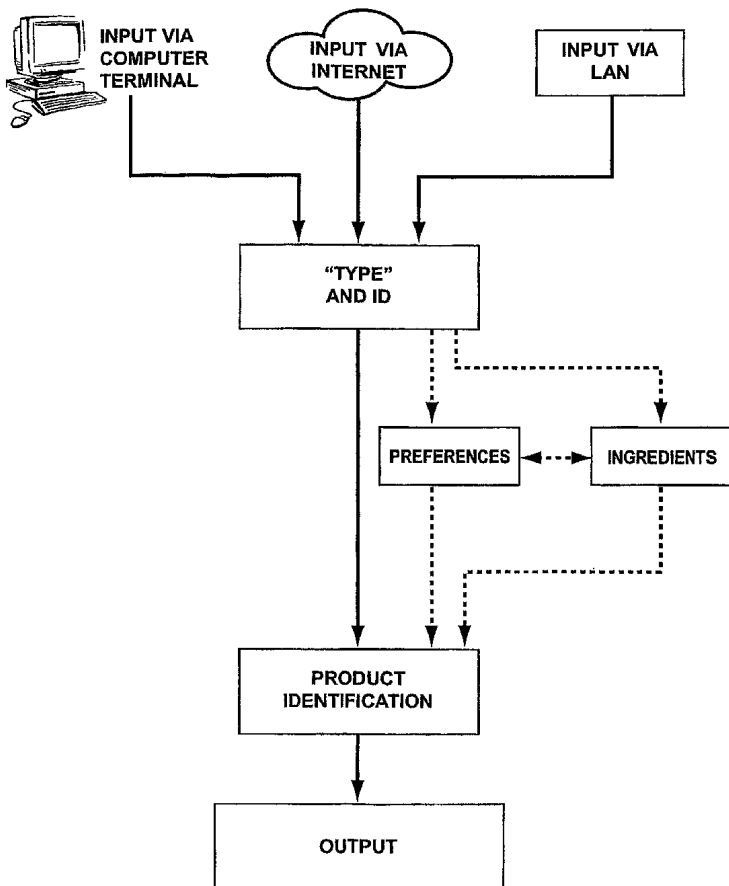
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD OF DETERMINING SKIN TYPE, CHOOSING SKIN CARE PRODUCTS AND PROCEDURES AND PROMOTING SKIN CARE PRODUCTS



(57) Abstract: The invention comprises a system and method for assigning a skin type and/or hair type to an individual, where a preferred example is one of sixteen hair types and one of sixteen skin types. The hair or skin type score uses at least four factors related to the condition of the skin or hair, or a section of it. The invention also comprises using the hair type and skin type scores assigned to an individual to recommend or suggest certain skin and/or hair care products, as well as skin and/or hair care products that can be avoided. A preferred embodiment employs the skin or hair type in an online marketing, web-based sales network, or other computer-implemented or electronic interface, so that customers can use skin or hair type scores to receive information about products, ingredients, or to buy recommended products in a variety of ways.

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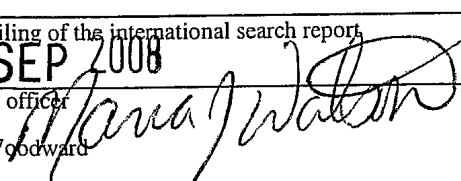
(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

9 April 2009

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/42130

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC: A61B 5/00 (2006.01) USPC: 600/306 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 600/306 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) EAST - USPGPUB, USPAT, USOCR, EPO, JPO, DERWENT, IBM_TDB		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 2004/0143513 (Aleles et al.), 22 July 2004 (22.07.2004), [0027], [0028], [0031]-[0035], [0040]-[0042], [0048]-[0054], [0059]-[0062], [0065], [0071]	1-18 and 50-53 ----- 54
X --- Y	US 2003/0138249 (Merola et al.) 24 July 2003 (24.07.2003), [0012], [0054], [0056], [0060], [0061], [0079]-[0081], [0085]-[0088]	19-24 ----- 54
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 27 August 2008 (27.08.2008)	Date of mailing of the international search report 18 SEP 2008	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201	Authorized officer  Michael Woodward Telephone No. 571-272-1600	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/42130

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: 25-32
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Please See Continuation Sheet

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
 2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.
 3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

 4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-32 and 50-54
- Remark on Protest**
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
 - The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
 - No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable 1. because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

Claims 25-32 were not searched because the claims are directed towards subject matter under PCT Rule 67.1

With respect to claims 25-30, the claims are directed towards an unpatentable abstract idea, and not a patentable process, because neither were tied to a particular machine nor operated to change materials to a different state or thing. A method claim must be tied to subject matter of another statutory category. In re Comiskey.

With respect to claims 31 and 32, the claims are directed towards non-functional descriptive material. Ex parte Gwinn.

BOX III. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 1-32 and 50-54, drawn to methods and systems of identifying/assigning skin types/products.

Group II, claim(s) 33-49 and 55-58, drawn to methods and systems of identifying/assigning hair types/products.

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:
The special technical feature of the Group I invention is the methods/systems of identifying/assigning skin types and products based on skin type factors, which is not present in the Group II invention. The special technical feature of the Group II invention is the methods/systems of identifying/assigning hair types and products based on hair type factors, which is not present in the Group I invention.