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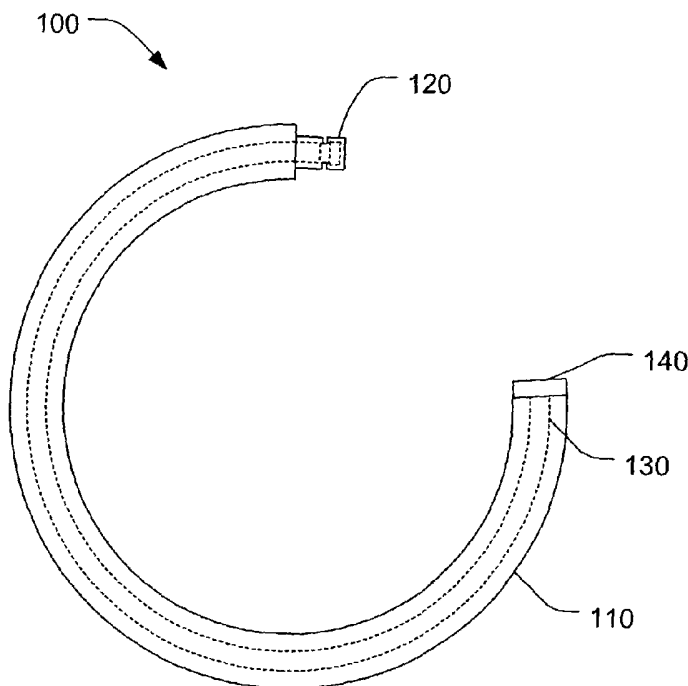
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: FUNCTIONAL AND ORNAMENTAL VEHICLE ACCESSORIES



(57) Abstract: Systems and methods for a functional and ornamental vehicle accessory are provided. The vehicle accessory includes a housing (110, 810) and a mounting mechanism (200, 830) for coupling the accessory to a vehicle (900, 1000). The vehicle accessory can also include a light source or light conducting member (130). Wiring for electrically connecting the light source can be included such that the vehicle accessory can illuminate during a variety of vehicle functions. The vehicle accessory can also operate as a communication hub for the vehicle (900, 1000).

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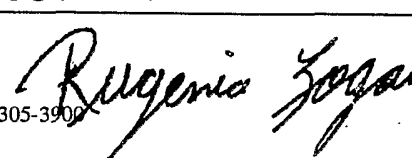
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16 December 2004

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/US03/00633

<p><b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b>                  IPC(7) : B60Q 1/22, 1/26, 1/34, 1/44, 1/50, 1/52; G08B 1/08                  US CL : 340/463, 468, 475, 539; 362/80, 83.3, 250                  According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC</p>																	
<p><b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b></p> <p>Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)                  U.S. : 340/463, 464, 466, 467, 468, 475, 539, 83.3, 250; 362/80, 459, 540, 541</p> <p>Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched</p> <p>Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)</p>																	
<p><b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category *</th> <th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th> <th>Relevant to claim No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>US 6,326,888 B1 (WANG) 04 December 2001, see cols. 2-4.</td> <td>1-6, 12-25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X,E</td> <td>US 6,677,856 B2 (PERLMAN et al) 13 January 2004, cols. 3-20.</td> <td>26-36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>US 5,939,979 A (LEE) 17 August 1999, cols. 4-10.</td> <td>7-11, 43-46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X,E</td> <td>US 6,657,558 B2 (HORITA et al) 02 December 2003, see entire document,</td> <td>47-52</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	X	US 6,326,888 B1 (WANG) 04 December 2001, see cols. 2-4.	1-6, 12-25	X,E	US 6,677,856 B2 (PERLMAN et al) 13 January 2004, cols. 3-20.	26-36	X	US 5,939,979 A (LEE) 17 August 1999, cols. 4-10.	7-11, 43-46	X,E	US 6,657,558 B2 (HORITA et al) 02 December 2003, see entire document,	47-52
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<p><input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.      <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.</p>																	
<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>“A” document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td> <td>“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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>“B” earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date</td> <td>“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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>“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)</td> <td>“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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>“O” document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td> <td>“&amp;” document member of the same patent family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>“P” document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			“A” document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	“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	“B” earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	“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	“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)	“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	“O” document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	“&” document member of the same patent family	“P” document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed						
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<p>Date of the actual completion of the international search                  26 October 2004 (26.10.2004)</p>		<p>Date of mailing of the international search report  <b>29 OCT 2004</b></p>															
<p>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. (703) 305-3230</p>		<p>Authorized officer                  Jeffery A. Hofsass                  Telephone No. 703-305-3900  </p>															

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/00633

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

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

1.  Claim Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
2.  Claim 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.  Claim Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 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 an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
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.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

**BOX II. 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.

Generic claims 1-5, 14, 15, 43 drawn to a vehicle accessory.

Group I, claim(s) 6, 12, 13, 16-36, 44 and 45, drawn to a vehicle accessory with light source.

Group II, claim(s) 8-11, 46 and 52-59, drawn to a vehicle accessory with end ornament.

Group III, claim(s) 7, 37-42, 47-51, drawn to vehicle accessory with communication device.

1. This International Searching Authority considers that the international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention (Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3) for the reasons indicated below:

The inventions listed as Groups I, II, III 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:

Group I relates to vehicle signaling system.

Group II relates to vehicle accessory with end ornament.

Group III relates vehicle accessory with communication device.