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- (81) **Designated States** (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.
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(54) **Title:** MODULE TRANSPORT SYSTEM THAT CAN BE COMBINED INTO AN AUTOMATION SYSTEM

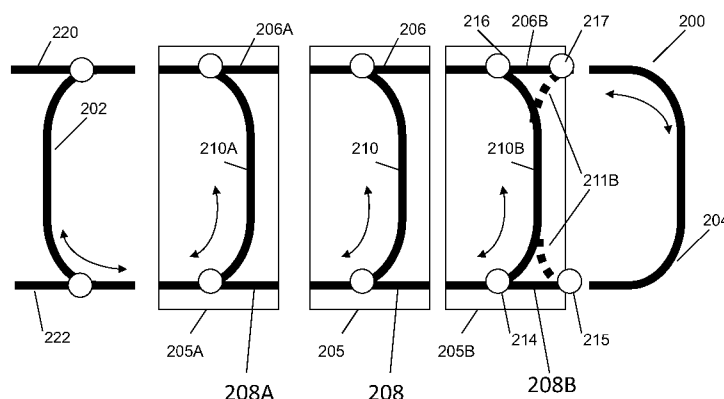


FIG. 3A

(57) **Abstract:** An integrated automation system for use in transporting samples between modules, the system can include a plurality of modules configured to be connected to one another for processing samples, each of the plurality of modules having an internal transport system. Each internal transport system includes one or more periphery track portions integrated within a respective module, each of the periphery track portions having two ends and one or more transverse track portions integrated within the respective module, the one or more transverse track portions intersecting at least one of the one or more periphery track portions. The internal transport systems can be configured to connect to one another.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - G01N 35/04 (2013.01)

USPC - 198/346.2

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)

IPC(8) - B65G 47/00; G01N 35/04 (2013.01)

USPC - 198/346.1, 346.2, 464.3; 414/749.1, 751.1; 422/63, 65, 67; 435/91.1, 287.1; 436/43, 180

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
CPC - B65G 47/00; G01N 2035/0039 (2013.01)

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

PatBase, Google Patent

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,988,857 A (OZAWA et al) 23 November 1999 (23.11.1999) entire document	1, 2, 5, 8-14, 16, 19-22
Y		3, 4, 6, 7, 15, 17, 18
Y	US 2008/0038827 A1 (MILLER et al) 14 February 2008 (14.02.2008) entire document	3, 4, 15
Y	US 6,429,016 B1 (MCNEIL) 06 August 2002 (06.08.2002) entire document	6, 7, 17, 18
A	US 2009/0117620 A1 (FRITCHIE et al) 07 May 2009 (07.05.2009) entire document	1-22
A	US 6,520,313 B1 (KAARAKAINEN et al) 18 February 2003 (18.02.2003) entire document	1-22
A	US 5,351,801 A (MARKIN et al) 04 October 1994 (04.10.1994) entire document	1-22

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"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

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"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

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

21 June 2013

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