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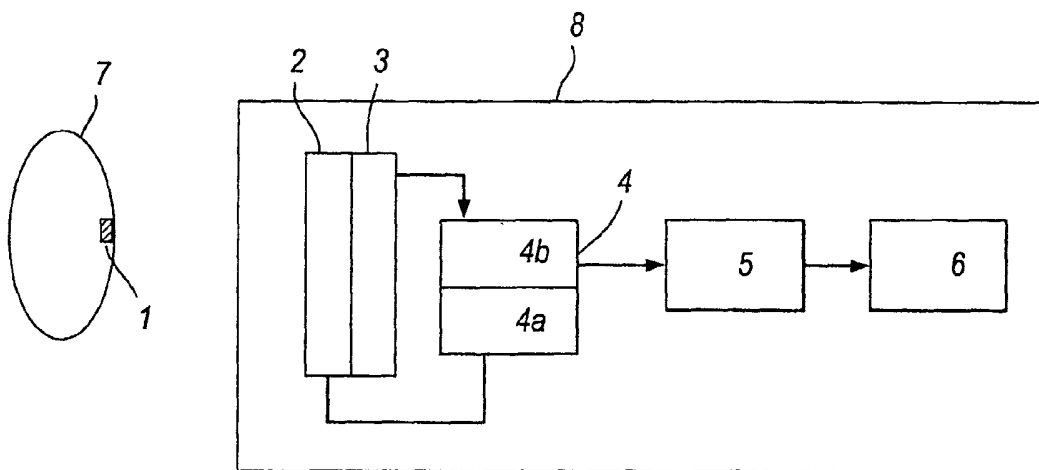
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **FLYING NULL LIMITED** [GB/GB]; Harston Mill, Harston, Cambridgeshire CB2 5GG (GB).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **DICKINSON, Robert** [GB/GB]; 51 West Hill Road, Wandsworth, London SW18 1LE (GB). **ARNOLD, David** [GB/GB]; 20 Pine Grove, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 9AW (GB).
- (74) Agent: **FENLON, Christine, Lesley**; Haseltine Lake, 15-19 Kingsway, London WC2B 6UD (GB).
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(54) Title: VERIFICATION KEY FOR REPLACEMENT PARTS



(57) Abstract: The present application relates to methods and apparatus for verifying the authenticity of, or ensuring, the correct substitution of, replacement units (7) which connect to a master device (8) in order to facilitate the operation of that device. A verification means to determine the authenticity and/or the correct connection of the replacement unit is provided in the form of a remotely detectable tag (1), such as an optical or magnetic tag, which is provided in or on the replaceable unit. A detection system is then provided in the master unit which provides a means to excite the tag when the replaceable unit when brought into proximity with the master unit, and which also provides a means to detect the response of the tag to the excitation means.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G01V15/00

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 7 G01V

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 practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 802 328 A (YOSHIMURA YOSHIMASA) 1 September 1998 (1998-09-01) column 1, line 53 -column 2, line 6; claim 1	1
A	FR 2 775 809 A (FINALUXE) 10 September 1999 (1999-09-10) page 2, line 10 -page 3, line 28	2
A	WO 96 31790 A (DAMES ANDREW NICHOLAS ;SCIENT GENERICS LTD (GB)) 10 October 1996 (1996-10-10) cited in the application abstract	2-13
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "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)
- "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

- "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
- "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
- "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

23 May 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

16.07.03

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Lorne, B

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 97 04338 A (DAMES ANDREW NICHOLAS ;SCIENT GENERICS LTD (GB); CROSSFIELD MICHAEL) 6 February 1997 (1997-02-06) cited in the application claim 1 ---	2-13
A	WO 98 13708 A (FLYING NULL LTD ;COGGILL CHRISTOPHER JOHN (GB); CROSSFIELD MICHAEL) 2 April 1998 (1998-04-02) cited in the application claims 1,2 -----	2-13

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB 02/05800

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

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 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:

see additional 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.:

1-13

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-13

Apparatus comprising tags and interrogation means

2. Claims: 14, 18-20

An electric toothbrush handle with a replaceable brush (or other medical replacement units)

3. Claim : 15

An apparatus comprising a printer and a printer cartridge

4. Claims: 16-17

An apparatus comprising a predetermined sub-optimum default operating mode

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 02/05800

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Information on patent family members

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