

(43) International Publication Date
15 November 2012 (15.11.2012)

- (51) International Patent Classification:
H01Q 1/36 (2006.01) *H01P 11/00* (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2012/034477
- (22) International Filing Date:
20 April 2012 (20.04.2012)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
13/105,030 11 May 2011 (11.05.2011) US
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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, 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, 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.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ELECTRONIC DEVICE INCLUDING A PATCH ANTENNA AND PHOTOVOLTAIC LAYER AND RELATED METHODS

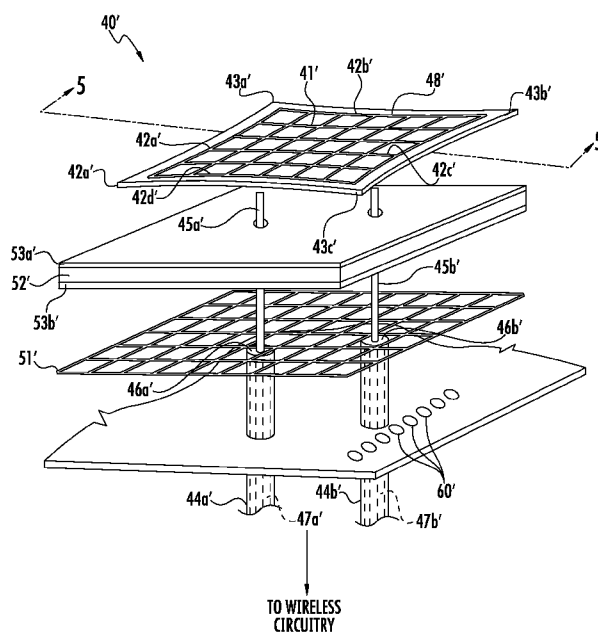


FIG. 4

(57) Abstract: An electronic device may include a substrate and a stacked arrangement of layers thereon. The stacked arrangement of layers may include a photovoltaic layer above the substrate, and an antenna ground plane above the photovoltaic layer. The antenna ground plane may include a first electrically conductive mesh layer being optically transmissive. The stacked arrangement of layers may further include a patch antenna above the photovoltaic layer and may include a second electrically conductive mesh layer being optically transmissive.



Published:

- *without international search report and to be republished
upon receipt of that report (Rule 48.2(g))*

ELECTRONIC DEVICE INCLUDING A PATCH ANTENNA AND PHOTOVOLTAIC LAYER AND RELATED METHODS

The present invention relates to the field of electronic devices, and,
5 more particularly, to electronic devices including antennas and related methods.

Antennas may be used for a variety of purposes, such as communications or navigation, and wireless devices may include broadcast receivers, pagers, or radio location devices (“ID tags”). The cellular telephone is an example of a wireless communications device, which is nearly ubiquitous. A relatively small
10 size, increased efficiency, and a relatively broad radiation pattern are generally desired characteristics of an antenna for a portable radio or wireless device.

Additionally, as the functionality of a wireless device continues to increase, so too does the demand for a smaller wireless device which is easier and more convenient for a user to carry, yet uses relatively less power and/or has a longer
15 standby time. One challenge this poses for wireless device manufacturers is designing antennas that provide desired operating characteristics within the relatively limited amount of space available for antennas, and that cooperate with related circuitry to use a reduced amount of power. For example, it may be desirable for an antenna to communicate at a given frequency with desired characteristics, such as
20 bandwidth, polarization, gain pattern, and radiation pattern, for example, and for the wireless device to be operational for several days on a single battery or charge cycle.

It may be desirable that a personal communications device, for example, a cellular telephone, be relatively small in size. In other words, it may be desirable that the device volume and surface area are relatively limited. This, in turn,
25 may result in size and performance trades between components, for example, having a relatively large battery may mean having a relatively small antenna. Compound designs may be desired to improve component integration.

The electrical power requirements of an electronic device, for example, have generally been reduced. For example, the field effect semiconductor has
30 allowed even solar powered electronics to become increasingly popular. The solar

cell may require increased product surface area however, which may be required for other purposes, for example, a keyboard.

Many antennas may include a combination of relatively good conductors and relatively good insulators for efficiency, for example. This may be particularly so in a microstrip patch antenna, for example, as strong near field reactive energies circulate in the printed wire board dielectric, which may cause heating losses. A solar cell which includes semiconductors, for example, are neither relatively good conductors nor relatively good insulators.

To achieve desired antenna characteristics, the size and shape of an antenna, for example, a patch antenna may be adjusted. For example, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2010/0103049 to Tabakovic discloses a patch antenna having a patch antenna element and a conductive layer and dual separated feeds coupled thereto. Each of the dual feeds has a conductor segment and a deltoid shaped conductive strip orthogonal to the conductor segment. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2009/0051598 to McCarrick et al. discloses a patch antenna having a solid geometry, for example, square, polygon, ellipse, oval, semicircle, and deltoid.

To reduce power consumption, the functionality of a photovoltaic cell may be combined with an antenna. For example, U.S. Patent No. 6,590,150 to Kiefer attempts to combine the functionality of a photovoltaic cell and an antenna in a single unit. More particularly, Kiefer discloses a grid or front electrical contact, an anti-reflective coating, two semiconductor layers, a dielectric layer, and a ground plane layer configured in a stacked arrangement.

In an attempt to further provide space savings, several approaches disclose using a display and an antenna in a stacked relation. For example, U.S. Patent No. 6,697,020 to Ying discloses an integrated multi-layer structure for a portable communications device that includes an antenna coupled between an LCD display and dielectric substrate. U.S. Patent No. 6,774,847 to Epstein et al. discloses a chip antenna, a rigid printed circuit, a conductive material, a lens material, and a display coupled in a stacked arrangement.

In view of the foregoing background, it is therefore an object of the present invention to provide an electronic device that includes a patch antenna that

provides desired operating characteristics and has a reduced size and cooperates with a photovoltaic layer.

This and other objects, features, and advantages in accordance with the present invention are provided by an electronic device that includes a substrate and a stacked arrangement of layers thereon. The stacked arrangement of layers includes a photovoltaic layer above the substrate, and an antenna ground plane above the photovoltaic layer. The antenna ground plane includes a first electrically conductive mesh layer being optically transmissive. The stacked arrangement of layers also includes a patch antenna above the photovoltaic layer and includes a second electrically conductive mesh layer being optically transmissive. Accordingly, the electronic device includes an optically transmissive patch antenna that cooperates with the photovoltaic layer and provides desired operating characteristics.

The electronic device may further include wireless circuitry powered by the photovoltaic layer and coupled to the patch antenna, for example. The electronic device may also include a dielectric layer between the antenna ground plane and the patch antenna. The dielectric layer may be optically transmissive, for example. The electronic device may further include at least one anti-reflective layer on the dielectric layer.

The patch antenna may have a perimeter defined by a plurality of perimeter segments comprising at least one pair of arcuate perimeter segments with a cusp therebetween. The at least one pair of arcuate perimeter segments may be inwardly extending, for example.

The patch antenna may be planar, for example. The electronic device may further include at least one antenna feed coupled to the patch antenna. The at least one antenna feed may include a pair of antenna feeds for a non-linear polarization, for example.

The second electrically conductive mesh layer may be a flexible interwoven electrically conductive mesh layer. The second electrically conductive mesh layer may include a body portion and a hem portion coupled thereto, for example.

A method aspect is directed to a method of making an electronic device. The method includes forming a stacked arrangement of layers on a substrate by at least positioning a photovoltaic layer above the substrate, and positioning an antenna ground plane above the photovoltaic layer. The ground plane includes a first
5 electrically conductive mesh layer that is optically transmissive. Forming the stacked arrangement of layers also includes positioning a patch antenna above the photovoltaic layer. The patch antenna includes a second electrically conductive mesh layer that is also optically transmissive.

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a portion of an electronic device in
10 accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 2 is an enlarged cross-sectional view of a portion of the electronic device in FIG. 1 taken along the line 2-2.

FIG. 3 is graph illustrating the relationship of between a circular shape antenna and the shape of the patch antenna of FIG. 1.

15 FIG. 4 is a perspective exploded view of a portion of another embodiment of an electronic device in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 5 is an enlarged cross-sectional view of a portion of the electronic device in FIG. 4 taken along the line 5-5.

FIG. 6 is a top view of another embodiment of an electronic device in
20 accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 7 is a perspective exploded view of a portion of the electronic device in FIG. 6.

FIG. 8 is a graph of measured impedance of a prototype electronic device in accordance with the present invention.

25 FIG. 9 is a graph of measured voltage standing wave ratio of the prototype electronic device.

FIG. 10 is a graph of measured gain of the prototype electronic device.

FIG. 11 is a graph of a calculated radiation pattern of the prototype electronic device.

30 The present invention will now be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which preferred embodiments of the

invention are shown. This invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein.

Rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the scope of the invention to those skilled in the art.

5 Like numbers refer to like elements throughout, and prime and multiple notation is used to indicate similar elements in alternative embodiments.

Referring initially to FIGS. 1-3, an electronic device **20** illustratively includes a housing **31**. The electronic device also includes circuitry **34** carried by the housing **31**. The electronic device **20** also includes input devices **33** and a display **32**
10 carried by the housing **31**. The circuitry **34** also includes a power divider **38** a receiver and/or transmitter **37** coupled thereto.

The circuitry **34** includes a controller **35** that is coupled to the display **32** and input devices **33**, and is carried by the housing **31**. Of course, the electronic device **20** may not include a display **32** and/or input devices **33**, for example, if the
15 circuitry is configured to perform at least one geo-location function or other function where these components may not be desired. The controller **35** may perform at least one wireless communications function. For example, the electronic device **20** may be a cellular telephone, and the controller **35** may cooperate with the receiver and/or transmitter **37** to communicate with a cellular base station. Of course, the electronic
20 device **20** may be another type of device, for example, a two-way radio or a satellite receiver. The controller **35** may cooperate with the receiver and/or transmitter **37** to perform either or both of a receive and transmit function.

The electronic device **20** illustratively includes a substrate **21**. The substrate may be a circuit board, such as, for example, a printed circuit board (PCB).
25 In some embodiments, the substrate **21** may be the device housing **31**.

The substrate **21** may be made of a material having permittivity and permeability within $\pm 50\%$ of each other to increase light transmission therethrough. It may be preferred that the substrate material may have a permittivity and a permeability within $\pm 10\%$ of each other. This may reduce loss of light transmission
30 due to reflections, for example. Permittivity and permeability being within $\pm 50\%$ of

each other in the substrate **21** may reduce the reflections to the air which can increase power production in a solar power embodiment, for example.

This may be shown mathematically. The reflection coefficient at the air to substrate interface is a function of the characteristic impedances of the air and substrate **21** according to:

$$\Gamma = (\eta_{\text{substrate } 21} - \eta_{\text{air}}) / (\eta_{\text{substrate } 21} + \eta_{\text{air}}) \quad (\text{equation 1})$$

Where:

Γ = the reflection coefficient, a dimensionless number between 0 and 1, preferentially 0 for the substrate **21**,

η_1 = the wave impedance in the substrate in ohms, and

η_2 = the wave impedance in the air = 377 ohms.

In turn the wave impedance in the air or substrate **21** may be calculated according to:

$$\eta = 120\pi \sqrt{(\mu_r / \epsilon_r)} \quad (\text{equation 2})$$

Where:

μ_r = the relative magnetic permeability of the air or substrate, and

ϵ_r = the relative dielectric permeability of the air or substrate.

Zero reflection and increased light transmission occurs when $\mu_r = \epsilon_r$ in the substrate

21 since this condition causes $\eta_{\text{substrate}} = 120\pi = \eta_{\text{air}}$ in equation 2. As can be

appreciated in equation 1 when $\eta_{\text{substrate}} = \eta_{\text{air}}$ the numerator is 0 which means equation

1 is 0, which thus means there is no reflection.

The electronic device **20** also includes a patch antenna **40** carried by the substrate **21**. The patch antenna **40** includes an electrically conductive mesh layer **41** having a perimeter defining four arcuate perimeter segments **42a-42d**. A

respective cusp **43a-43d** is between each of the four arcuate perimeter segments.

Each of the four arcuate perimeter segments **42a-42d** is illustratively extending

inwardly. Of course, not all the perimeter segments **42a-42d** may be arcuate, and not all the perimeter segments may extend inwardly. For example, a single pair of

segments may be arcuate. Additionally, while four perimeter segments are illustrated,

the patch antenna **40** may include two or more perimeter segments. Indeed, as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, the shape of the electrically conductive mesh layer **41** may be described as resembling a hypocycloid. A hypocycloid shape may include a deltoid shape and an astroid, for example.

5 Inward or outward adjustment of the arcuate perimeter segments **42a-42d** changes the frequency. In other words, the frequency is dependent on the overall size of the patch antenna **40**. For broadside radiation, the perimeter may correspond to 360-degrees guided wavelength, which may also correspond to the forced resonance or 1 wavelength of the desired operating frequency, for example, in a
10 dielectric printed wire board. An approximate formula for the circumference of an embodiment providing broadside radiation is:

$$C = c / (f \sqrt{\mu_r \epsilon_r})$$

Where:

C = circumference of the patch antenna **40**

15 c = speed of light

f = operating frequency in Hertz

μ_r = substrate relative magnetic permeability

ϵ_r = substrate relative dielectric permittivity

20 An increase in the diameter **a** decreases the operating frequency which also reduces antenna size (FIG. 3). This is because current through the patch antenna **40** has a longer path to curl around the periphery for such a shape.

Advantageously, frequency may be adjusted without changing the envelope of the patch antenna **40**, thus maintaining a smaller patch antenna. As will
25 be appreciated by those skilled in the art, the shape of the patch antenna **40** assumes antenna properties of both linear (rectangular) and circular patch antennas. In other words, by adjusting the shape of the patch antenna **40**, there is a continuous trade-off of divergence and curl, and antenna properties between patch antennas, such as, for example, size, frequency, and beam width. This relationship is illustrated more
30 particularly in FIG. 3, wherein $x^{2/3} + y^{2/3} = a^{2/3}$, $x = a \cos^3 f$, and $y = a \sin^3 f$, which

is the equation of the hypocycloid. The hypocycloid equation advantageously provides variation in the shape of the patch antenna **40** to form hybrids between the dipole turnstile (X shape) and loop (circle shape) patch antennas. For example, a concave arcuate patch embodiment has greater beamwidth than a convex arcuate
 5 embodiment and vice versa. The convex arcuate embodiment has more gain for area than a concave arcuate embodiment and vice versa.

The electrically conductive mesh layer **41** is also flexible. In other words, the electrically conductive mesh layer **41** may be contoured, for example, to the housing **31**, substrate **21**, or other structure, as will be appreciated by those skilled
 10 in the art. Additionally, the electrically conductive mesh layer **41** may also be interwoven.

The electrically conductive mesh layer **41** also includes a hem portion **48**, which is coupled to a body portion. The hem portion **48**, or solid border advantageously increases the overall strength of the patch antenna and flattens the
 15 Chebyshev response. More particularly, the hem portion **48** may make the Chebyshev response symmetrical about the polynomial zeroes.

The electrically conductive mesh layer **41** includes a metallic material, for example, molybdenum and gold. Further details of the electrically conductive mesh layer **41** may be found in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,609,923 and 4,812,854, both to
 20 Boan et al., both of which are assigned to the assignee of the present application, and both of which are incorporated in their entirety by reference.

It may be particularly advantageous to reduce the diameter of the conductors forming the electrically conductive mesh layer **41** to increase transparency, for example. An example conductor width corresponds to the radio
 25 frequency skin depth which is given by:

$$W = \sqrt{(2\rho/\omega\mu)}$$

Where:

w = mesh conductor width

ρ = resistivity of mesh conductor

30 ω = angular frequency = $2\pi f$

μ = magnetic permeability of mesh conductor

As an example, for copper conductors at 1 GHz, a desired conductor width calculates to be 2.1×10^{-6} meters. Thus, relatively fine width mesh conductors may be particularly advantageous for improved display visibility, for example.

The patch antenna **40** is illustratively planar. Indeed, while the patch antenna **40** being planar may be particularly advantageous for increased space savings in a limited space housing **31**, for example, the patch antenna, in some embodiments (not shown), may not be planar.

The electronic device **20** also includes an antenna ground plane **51** between the substrate **21** and the patch antenna **40**. The antenna ground plane **51** may be a conductive layer carried by the substrate **21** or PCB, and the antenna ground plane is preferentially optically transparent, for example, a relatively fine mesh. The substrate or PCB **21** may include the antenna ground plane **51** or it may be separate therefrom. A dielectric layer **52** is also between the antenna ground plane **51** and the patch antenna **40**. An antenna ground plane material may be a conductive fabric, such as, for example, described in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,609,923 and 4,812,854, both to Boan et al, as noted above. The substrate **21** may be coated with antireflection coatings (not shown) to increase light transmission through the dielectric layer **52**, for example. Antireflective coatings may be used with other layers.

A pair of antenna feeds **44** is coupled to the patch antenna. The pair of antenna feeds **44** are also coupled to the circuitry **32**, and more particularly, to the power divider **38**. The power divider **38** is a zero-degree power divider, but may be another type of power divider. The pair of antenna feeds **44** is illustratively coaxial cable feeds. Each of the coaxial cable feeds **44a**, **44b**, has a respective inner and outer conductor **45**, **46** separated by a dielectric layer **47**. The inner conductor **45**, or drive pin, of each of the coaxial cables **44a**, **44b** passes through the ground plane **51** and couples to the patch antenna **40**. The outer conductors **46** are coupled to the ground plane **51**.

Each coaxial cable feed **44a**, **44b** coupled between the electrically conductive mesh layer **41** and the power divider **38** may be a different length. The

different lengths advantageously introduce a 90-degree alternating current (AC) phase different (i.e. a time delay) into the signal. Thus, the signal has a circular, or non-linear, polarization. In some embodiments, a single antenna feed may be used, and thus, the signal would have a linear polarization.

5 The first coaxial cable **44a** is coupled to the electrically conductive mesh layer **41** at a first location, while the second coaxial cable **44b** is coupled to the antenna at a second location that is diagonal from the first location with respect to the electrically conductive mesh layer **41**. The position of the first and second locations determines impedance, which in the illustrated example, is about 50 ohms. The
10 angular position of the antenna feeds **44a**, **44b** determines the polarization angle and orientation angle. More particularly, if a sine wave, for example, is applied to the first antenna feed **44a**, because of the length difference of the coaxial cables, or antenna feeds, a cosine wave may be applied at the second location. This arrangement provides the circular polarization of a transmitted signal, for example. Indeed, while
15 the antenna feeds **44a**, **44b** are illustratively coaxial cables, they may be other types of antenna feeds, such as, for example, electrically conductive tubes.

Referring now to FIGS. 4-5, a particularly advantageous embodiment including a patch antenna **40'** similar the patch antenna illustrated in FIG. 1, is illustrated in an electronic device **20'**. The electronic device **20'** includes a substrate
20 **21'** and a stacked arrangement of layers. A photovoltaic layer **60'** is above the substrate **21'**. The photovoltaic layer **60'** is illustratively a layer of solar cells. The photovoltaic layer **60'** may include other types of photovoltaic cells or devices, as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art.

 The antenna ground plane **51'** is illustratively above the photovoltaic
25 layer **60'** and between the substrate **21'** and the patch antenna **40'**. The antenna ground plane **51'** is illustratively as a mesh so that it is optically transmissive. The antenna ground plane **51'** may be copper, for example. The antenna ground plane **51'** may be another type of conductive material, as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art. The antenna ground plane **51'** is particularly advantageous because the solar
30 cells of the photovoltaic layer **60'** are typically a relatively poor ground plane.

The patch antenna **40'** is illustratively above the photovoltaic layer **60'** and the antenna ground plane **51'**. The patch antenna **40'** is illustratively a conductive mesh material or includes a conductive mesh layer **41'** that is also optically transmissive. The optically transmissive patch antenna **40'** and antenna ground plane **51'** advantageously allow between about 51-52% of light through to the photovoltaic layer **60'**.

The dielectric layer **52'** between the antenna ground plane **51'** and the patch antenna **40'** is also light-transmissive. The dielectric layer **52'** may be glass. However, glass may be susceptible to increased breakage and may be relatively fragile. The dielectric layer **52'** may be polystyrene. The dielectric layer **52'** may also be polycarbonate, which exhibits increased RF dissipation, as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art.

The dielectric layer **52'** illustratively includes an anti-reflective layer **53a'**, **53b'** on both sides thereof to reduce light reflection back away from the photovoltaic layer **60'**. Of course, the anti-reflective layer **53'** may be on one side of the dielectric layer **52'** and may be on a portion or portions of the dielectric layer.

The anti-reflective layer **53'** may be a quarter-wavelength thick with respect to the desired light. The anti-reflective layer **53'** may include titanium and/or fluorine. Of course, the anti-reflective layer **53'** may include other types of materials.

Additionally, each anti-reflective layer **53'** may have a permeability that is within about $\pm 10\%$ of the permittivity. This may advantageously allows light to pass through regardless of color or wavelength.

As will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, light passing through the patch antenna **40'**, the dielectric layer **52'**, and the antenna ground plane **51'** to the photovoltaic layer **60'** is converted to electrical energy. The converted electrical energy from the photovoltaic layer **60'** may be used to power the wireless circuitry **34'**, for example.

A prior art ground plane antenna, for example, is typically a solid square of metallic material with radiating elements over a ground plane. Thus, light cannot pass through, which may make it increasingly difficult to combine the

functionality of a photovoltaic layer with a patch antenna to achieve desired antenna characteristics.

Indeed, combination of a patch antenna and photovoltaic layer, including, for example, a solar cell may be particularly advantageous in satellite communications. More particularly, a combined antenna and photovoltaic layer device may reduce surface area of a satellite, and thus launch costs. For example, year 2000 launch costs were about \$11,729.00 per pound. A solar cell, which is mostly silicon, weighs about 5803 pounds per cubic meter, and are about 0.002 meters thick. Thus, a solar cell weighs about 15 pounds per square meter, thus giving a launch cost of \$176,000.00 per square meter for solar cells. Thus, any reduction is overall weight advantageously translates into a reduced cost.

Referring now to FIGS. 6-7, another particularly advantageous embodiment of the patch is illustrated in an electronic device **20''**. The electronic device **20''** is illustratively a mobile wireless communications device and includes input devices **33''** or keys and a display **32''** carried by the housing **31''**. The electronic device **20''** includes a substrate **21''** and a stacked arrangement of layers (FIG. 7). A visual display layer **70''** is above the substrate **21''**. The visual display layer **70''** is illustratively a liquid crystal display (LCD). The visual display layer **70''** may be another type of light emitting or light modulating visual display, as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art.

The antenna ground plane **51''** is illustratively above the visual display layer **70''** and between the substrate **21''** and the patch antenna **40''**. The antenna ground plane **51''** is illustratively also as a mesh so that it is optically transmissive to allow the visual display layer **70''** to be seen therethrough. In some embodiments, the antenna ground plane **51''** may be omitted, as the visual display layer **70''** may include or be sufficient as the ground plane.

The patch antenna **40''** is illustratively above the visual display layer **70''** and the antenna ground plane **51''**. The patch antenna **40''** is illustratively a conductive mesh material or includes a conductive mesh layer **41''** that is also optically transmissive.

The dielectric layer **52''** between the antenna ground plane **51''** and the patch antenna **40''** is also light-transmissive. The dielectric layer **52''** may be plastic, for example, and may be part of the housing **31''** of the wireless communications device **20''**. More particularly, the dielectric layer **52''** may be the
5 clear plastic layer of a wireless communications device housing **31''** that typically covers the visual display layer **70''**, or LCD.

The dielectric layer **52''** may also include an anti-reflective layer **53a''**, **53b''** on both sides thereof to reduce light reflection back away from the visual display layer **70''**. Of course, the anti-reflective layer **53''** may be on one side of the
10 dielectric layer **52''** and may be on a portion or portions of the dielectric layer.

As will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, light passing through the patch antenna **40''**, the dielectric layer **52''**, and the antenna ground plane **51''** from the visual display layer **70''** advantageously allows a user to see the visual display layer, while including the functionality of the patch antenna. Thus, the overall
15 size increase of the electronic device for the stacked arrangement of layers is relatively small.

Referring now to the graphs **71**, **72**, **73**, **74**, **75** in FIGS. 8-11, a prototype electronic device was formed and included the patch antenna having an electrically conductive and optically transmissive mesh antenna patch layer, the
20 optically transmissive dielectric layer, and the optically transmissive antenna ground plane also having an electrically conductive mesh layer. The prototype electronic device has the parameters, for example, size, listed below in Table 1.

Parameter	Specification	Basis
Size	2.25" x 2.25" x 0.27"	Measured
Weight	25 grams	Measured
Center Operating Frequency	1575.42 MHz (GPS L1)	Specified
Realized Peak Gain Frequency	1598 MHz	Measured
Realized Gain	3.73 dBic	Simulated for
Realized Gain	-0.1 dBic	Measured
Half Power Beamwidth	88 degrees	Simulated for
Radiation Pattern	Single petal rose, broadside to antenna plane	Simulated for
3 dB Gain Bandwidth	99 MHz	Simulated for
3 dB Gain Bandwidth	129 MHz	Measured
Impedance	50 ohms nominal	Specified
Polarization	Right hand circular	Specified
Polarization Axial Ratio	< 0.3 dB	Measured
Beam Forming Network	0, 90 degree hybrid divider	Implemented
Antenna Patch Material	Brass screen of fine wire	Implemented
Reflector Material	Gold – Molybdenum fabric	Implemented
Substrate	Lexan™ Polycarbonate	Implemented
Substrate Relative Dielectric Constant (RF)	2.94 dimensionless	Handbook
Substrate Optical Transmission	88 %	Handbook
Total Light Transmission Through The Antenna, normal incidence	52 %	Measured
Current Distribution	Traveling Wave or nearly so	Simulated for

Table 1

It should be noted that simulated data in Table 1 assumed perfect loss-less materials, while the measured data was taken from a physical prototype having materials with heat losses. With respect to the differences between the measured and simulated losses for the prototype, the losses from the polycarbonate, i.e. optically

transmissive dielectric layer, may be attributed to the polycarbonate not being vended as a microwave printed wire board, or dielectric, material. The polycarbonate actual loss tangent was higher than listed in the table. Replacement of the polycarbonate with a polystyrene material may increase performance by reducing losses. A
5 polycarbonate substrate was used for its high impact resistance and was relatively efficient enough to permit GPS reception.

Additionally, the coaxial cable and power divider was not simulated. With respect to the ground plane layer, which was a brass mesh or screen, the measured results include contact resistances, directional bias, and mechanical
10 tolerances, which were not captured by simulation.

Referring particularly to the Smith Chart **71** in FIG. 8, the two curls of the impedance response **76** indicate that the patch antenna has a double tuned Chebyshev polynomial behavior. A Chebyshev behavior is relatively good for bandwidth, as it is about four-time that of a quadratic and/or single tuned response, for
15 example.

The realized gain of the physical prototype was measured on an antenna range. Referring now to the graph **73** in FIG. 10, the measured realized gain response over frequency is illustrated. This may be referred to as a swept gain measurement. The data was taken at the look angle of radiation pattern peak
20 amplitude, which was broadside or normal to the antenna physical plane. The method used was the gain comparison method or substitution method, and a thin wire half wave dipole was used as the gain standard which is known to have a gain of 2.1 dBil.

The reference dipole gain is illustrated by line **81**, and the realized gain at each of the antenna feeds is illustrated by lines **82** and **83**. There were two antenna
25 feed ports on the hybrid: one providing right hand circular polarization and the other left hand circular polarization. The prototype reception was 5.2 dB down from the half wave dipole. Applying the Substitution Method: Measured Patch Antenna Gain = Reference Dipole Gain + Polarization Loss Factor + The Difference In
Transmission Loss = 2.1 + 3.0 + (-5.2) = -0.1 dBic.

30 The polarization loss factor arises from the fact that the source dipole was linearly polarized, and the antenna under test was circularly polarized. The

polarization loss factor for a linearly polarized antenna receiving circular polarization is 3 dB. The measured realized gain includes the loss mechanisms that accompany real world antennas, such as, for example, materials heating and VSWR. Where lines **82, 83** overlap the polarization of the prototype was substantially or nearly perfectly circular so near perfect circular polarization was realized near 1610 MHz.

The graph **74** in FIG. 11 is an elevation plane radiation pattern cut obtained by numerical electromagnetic simulation, and it illustrates that the half power beamwidth is 88 degrees. The radiation pattern lobe is broadside, e.g. the beam is normal to plane that the antenna lies in and there is a radiation pattern minima in the antenna plane. FIG. 8 was calculated using an infinite ground plane so there are no side lobes or backlobes in the plot.

Another prototype electronic device was formed and further included the photovoltaic layer. The prototype electronic device was tested for DC power production. The photovoltaic layer included a series wired string of six model XOB 17-12 X1 Solar Cells as manufactured by IXYS Corporation of Milpitas, California. Standing alone, the solar cell string provided 2.9 volts at 362 milliamperes in relatively bright sunlight. When included as part of the prototype electronic device, the measured current output was 18.4 milliamperes at nearly the same voltage. Thus, 50 percent of the un-shaded power output was obtained. As will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, the patch antenna provided a beneficial trade of wireless transmission and reception while permitting useful solar power production from the same surface area, and increased levels of DC power output may be obtained. While an optical coating was not used in the prototype electronic device, it may be used in conjunction with any of the layers. Additionally, a relatively finer conductive mesh may also be used.

During the solar power testing no photosensitivity of the patch antenna was noted. In other words, neither the solar cells nor sunlight affected the tuning of the patch antenna.

A method aspect is directed to a method of making an electronic device **20**. The method includes forming a patch antenna **40** to be carried by a substrate **21** and to include an electrically conductive mesh **41** layer having a

perimeter defined by a plurality of perimeter segments comprising two pair of arcuate perimeter **42a-42d** segments with a cusp therebetween **43a-43d**. The method also includes coupling at least one antenna feed **44** to the patch antenna.

Another method aspect is directed to a method of making an electronic device **20'**. The method includes forming a stacked arrangement of layers on a substrate **21'** by at least positioning a photovoltaic layer **60'** above the substrate **21'**, and positioning an antenna ground plane **51'** above the photovoltaic layer **60'**. The antenna ground plane **51'** includes a first electrically conductive mesh layer being optically transmissive. Forming the stacked arrangement also includes positioning a patch antenna **40'** above the photovoltaic layer **60'** that includes a second electrically conductive mesh layer being optically transmissive.

Yet another method aspect is directed to a method of making an electronic device **20''**. The method includes forming a stacked arrangement of layers on a substrate **21''** by at least positioning a patch antenna **40''** above a visual display layer **70''**. The patch antenna **40''** includes an electrically conductive mesh that is optically transmissive.

CLAIMS

1. An electronic device comprising:
a substrate and a stacked arrangement of layers thereon comprising
5 a photovoltaic layer above said substrate,
an antenna ground plane above said photovoltaic layer and
comprising a first electrically conductive optically transmissive mesh layer,
and
a patch antenna above said photovoltaic layer and comprising a
10 second electrically conductive optically transmissive mesh layer.
2. The electronic device according to Claim 1, further comprising
an optically transmissive dielectric layer between said antenna ground plane and said
patch antenna.
- 15 3. The electronic device according to Claim 2, further comprising
at least one anti-reflective layer on said optically transmissive dielectric layer.
4. The electronic device according to Claim 1, wherein said patch
20 antenna has a perimeter defined by a plurality of perimeter segments comprising at
least one pair of arcuate perimeter segments with a cusp therebetween.
5. The electronic device according to Claim 4, wherein said at
least one pair of arcuate perimeter segments are inwardly extending.
- 25 6. The antenna assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said patch
antenna is planar.
- 30 7. A method of making an electronic device comprising:
forming a stacked arrangement of layers on a substrate by at least
positioning a photovoltaic layer above the substrate,

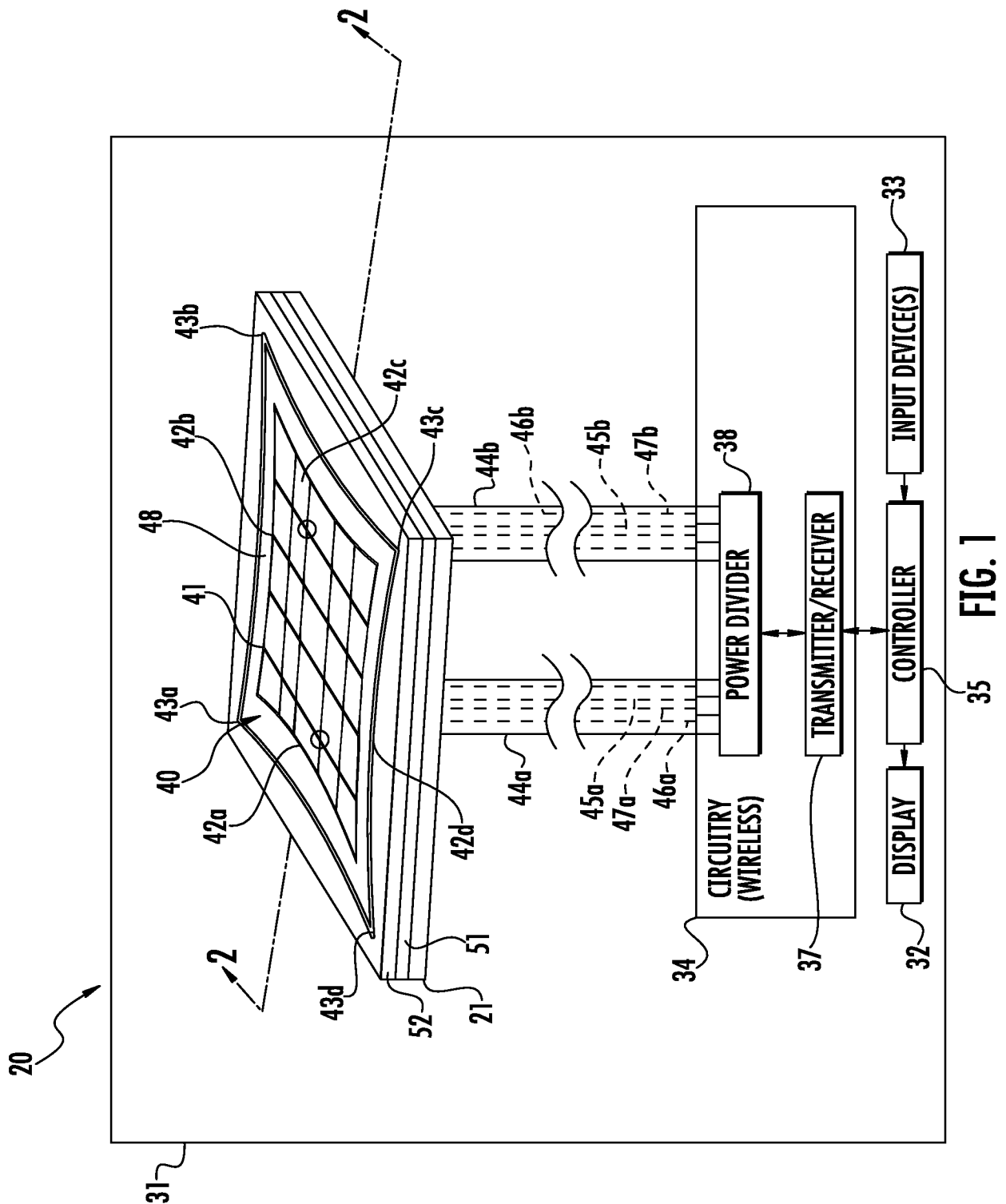
positioning an antenna ground plane above the photovoltaic layer and comprising a first electrically conductive optically transmissive mesh layer, and

5 positioning a patch antenna above the photovoltaic layer and comprising a second electrically conductive optically transmissive mesh layer.

8. The method according to Claim 7, wherein forming the stacked arrangement further comprises positioning an optically transmissive dielectric layer between the antenna ground plane and the patch antenna, the dielectric layer.

10 9. The method according to Claim 8, wherein forming the stacked arrangement further comprises forming at least one anti-reflective layer on the optically transmissive dielectric layer.

15 10. The method according to Claim 7, wherein the patch antenna has a perimeter defined by a plurality of perimeter segments comprising at least one pair of arcuate perimeter segments with a cusp therebetween.



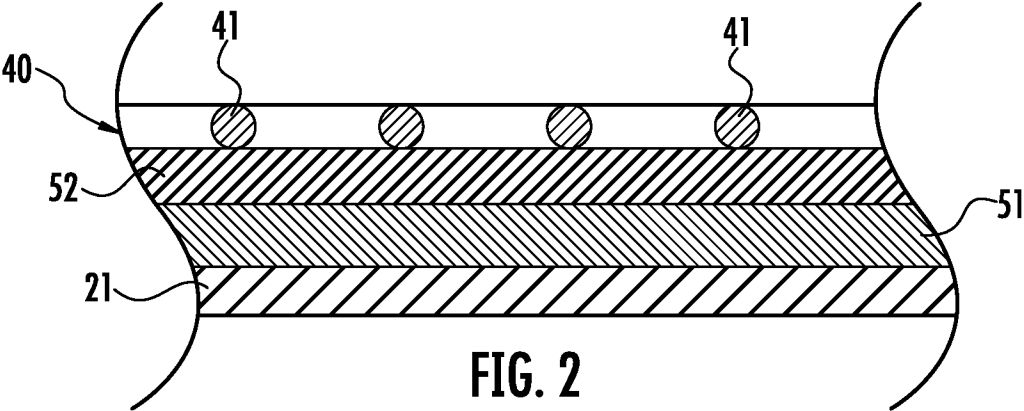


FIG. 2

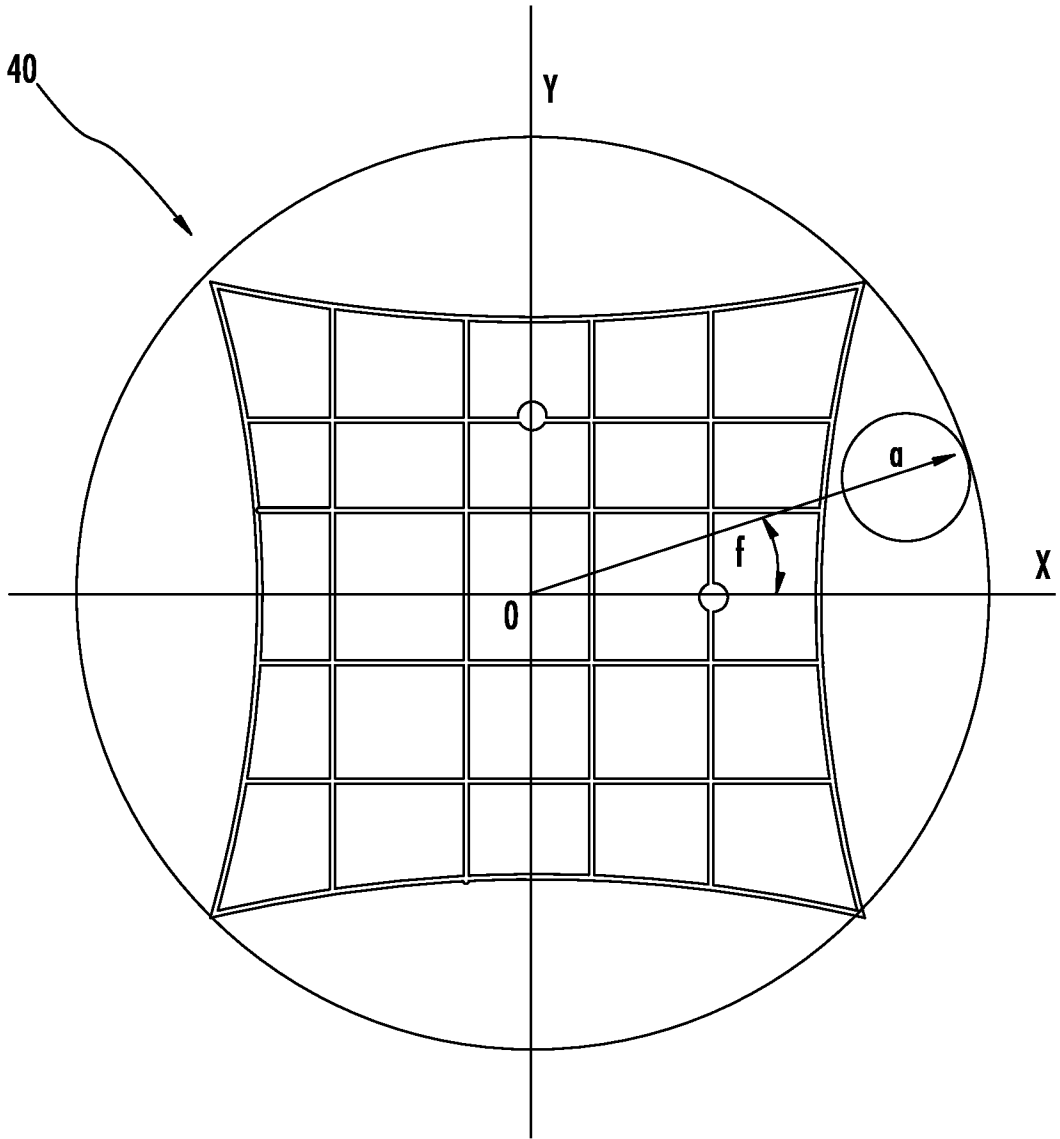


FIG. 3

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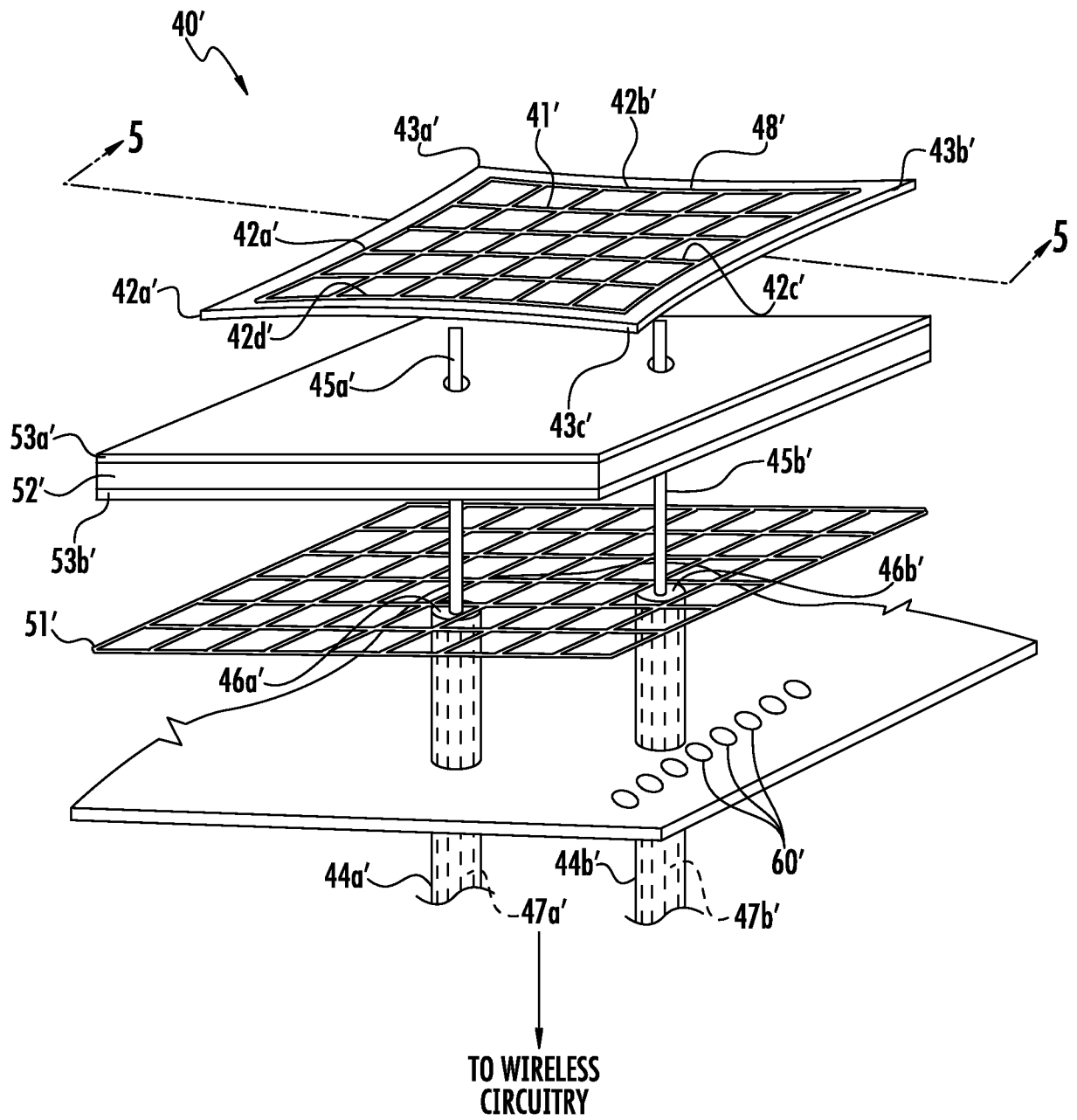
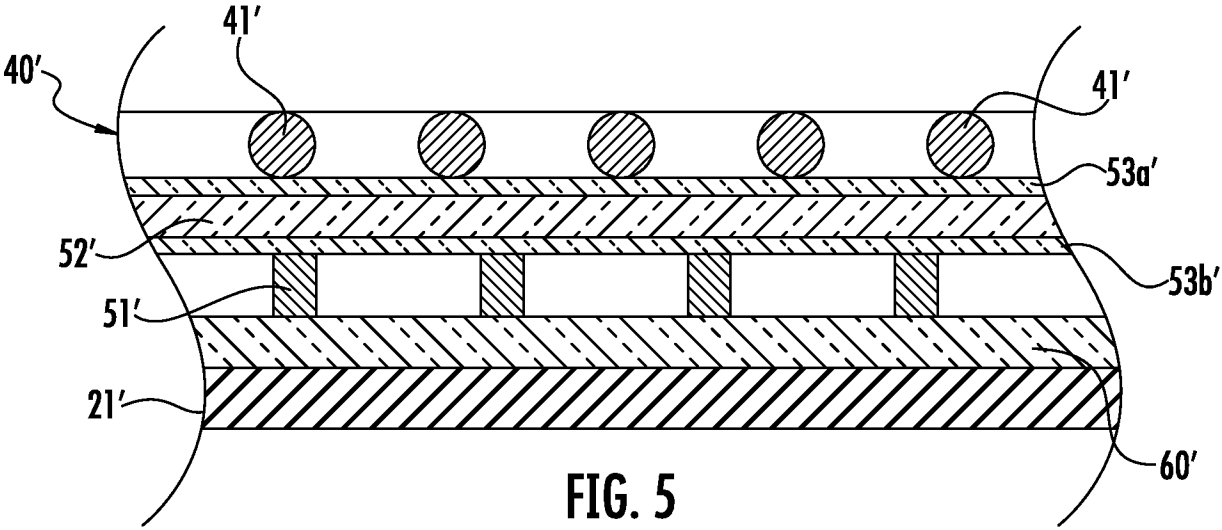


FIG. 4



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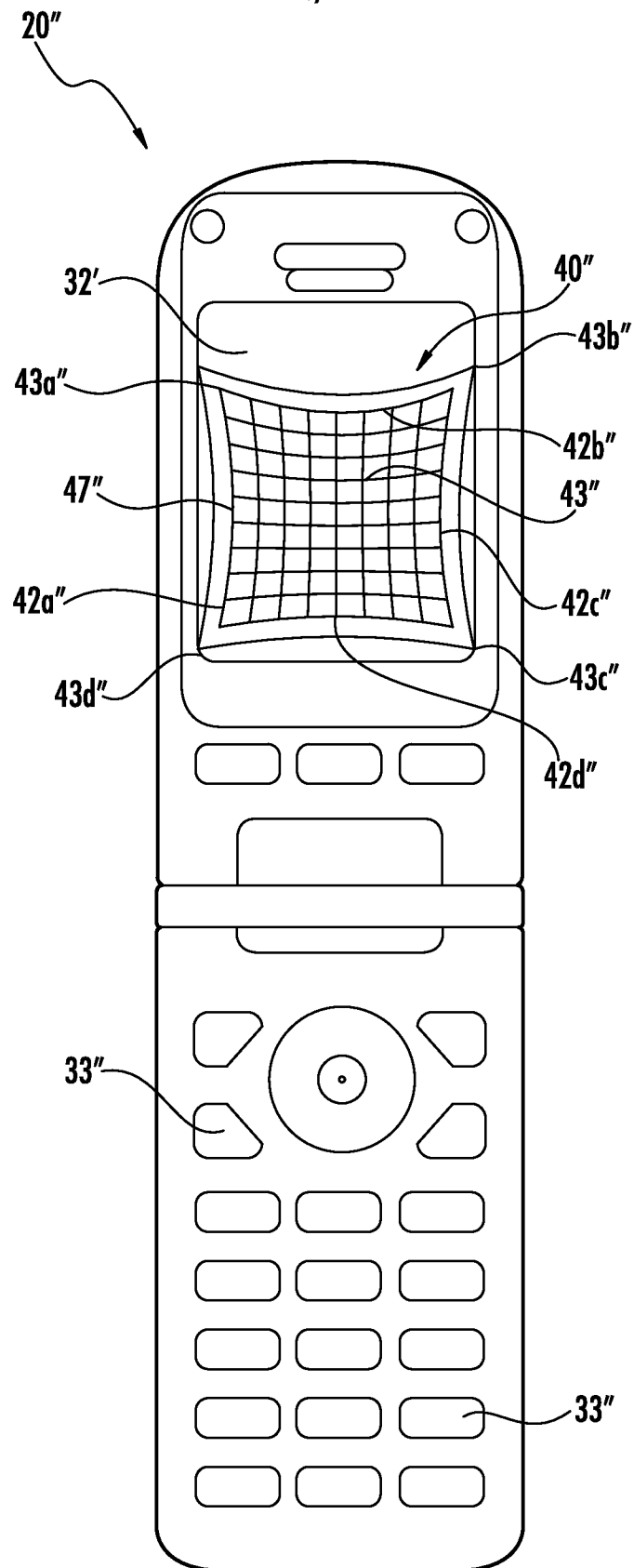
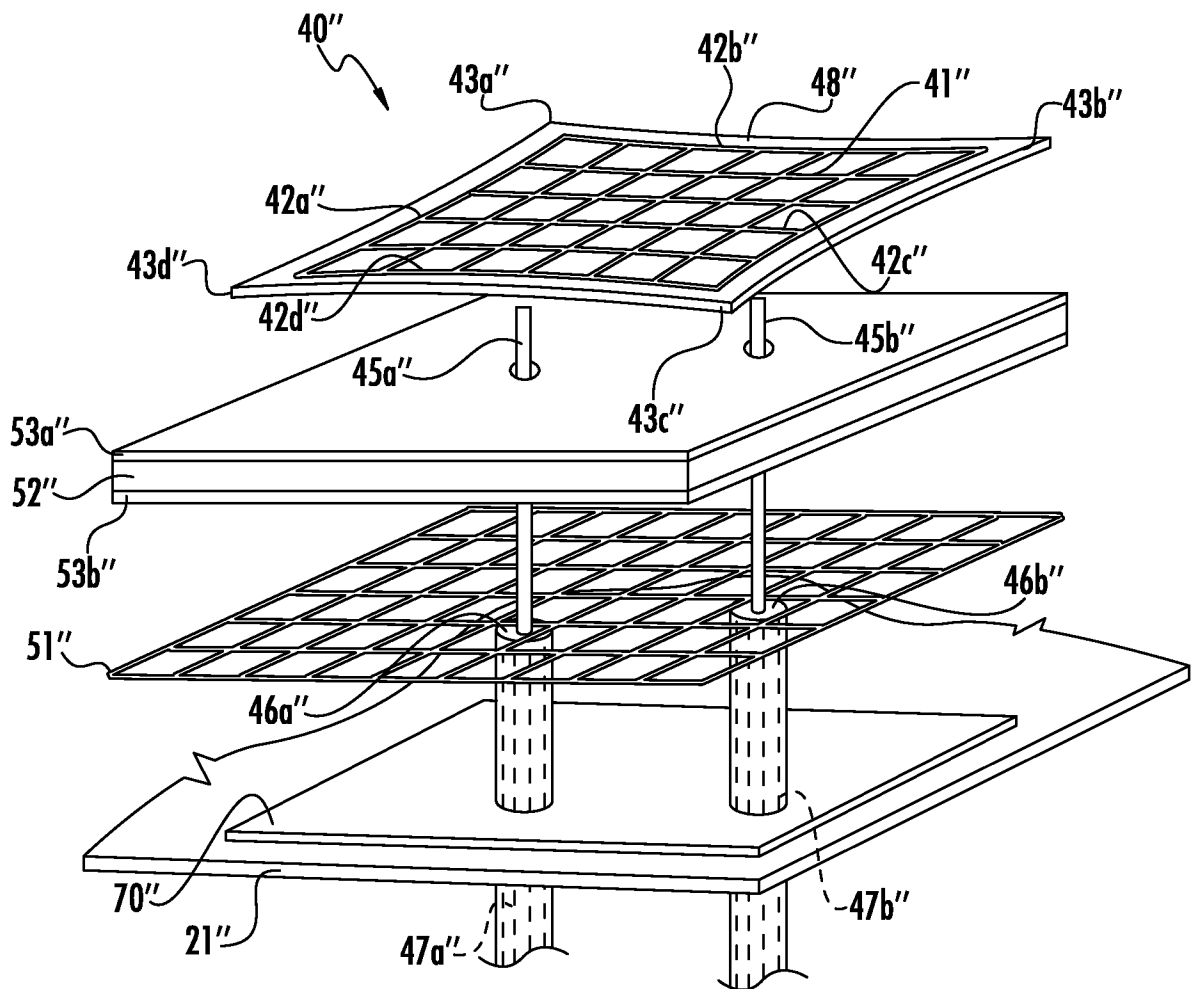


FIG. 6

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TO WIRELESS CIRCUITRY

FIG. 7

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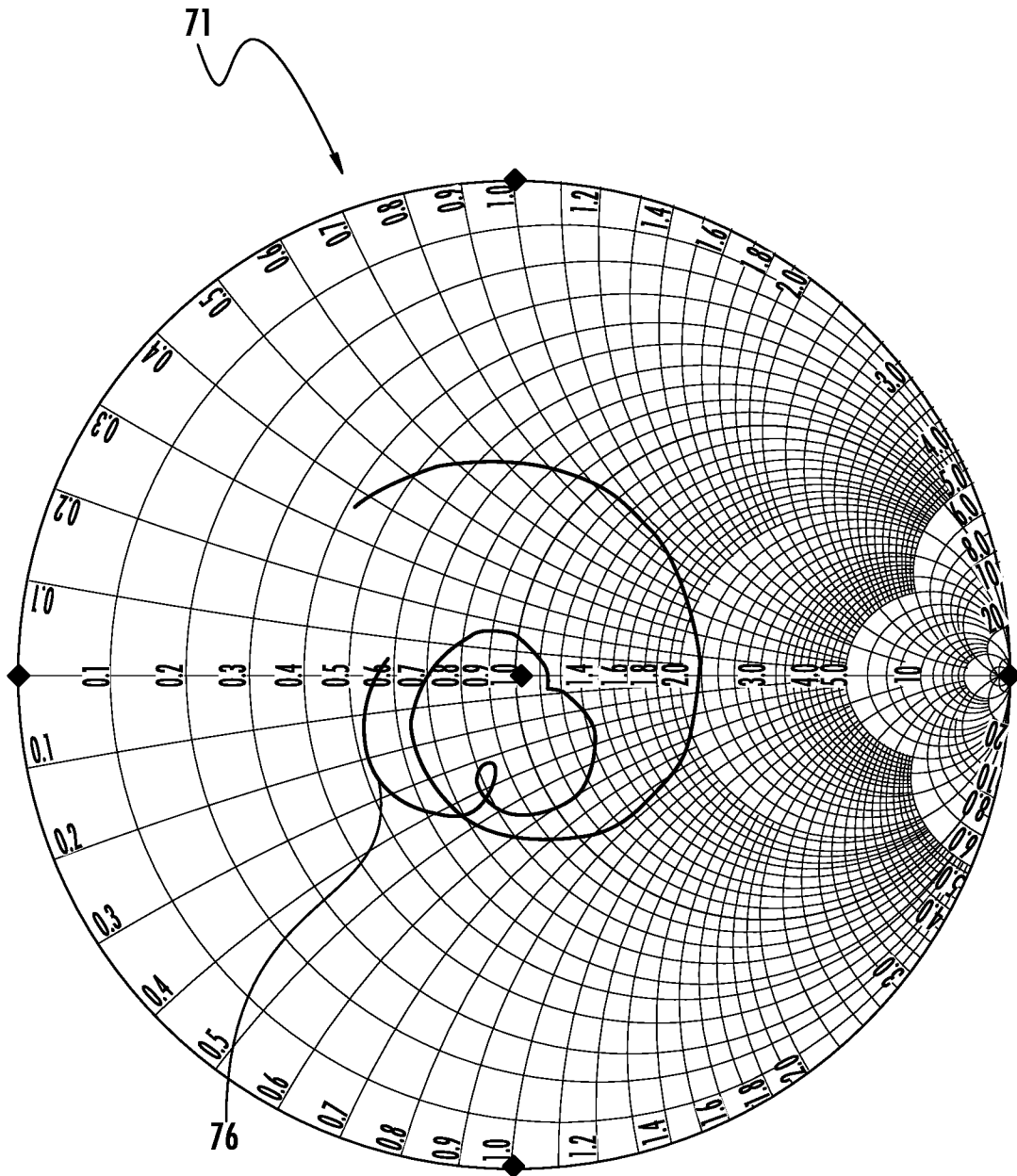


FIG. 8

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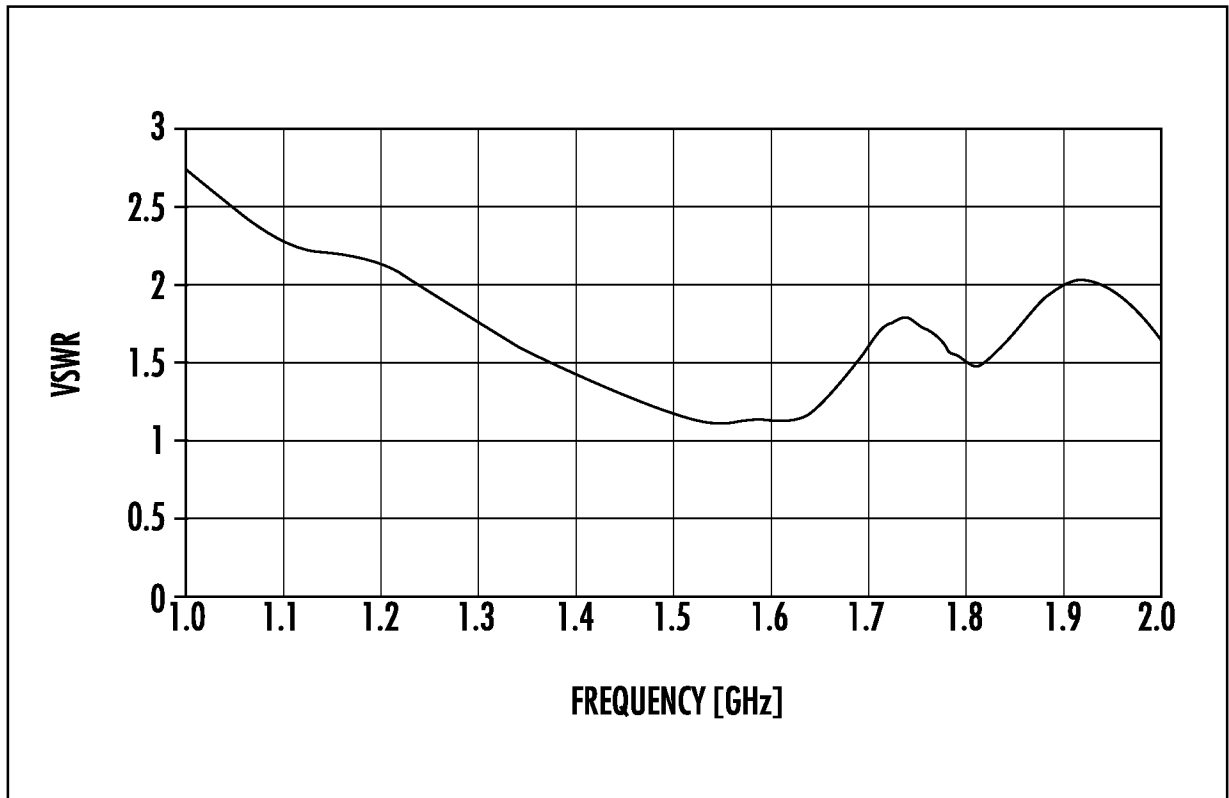


FIG. 9

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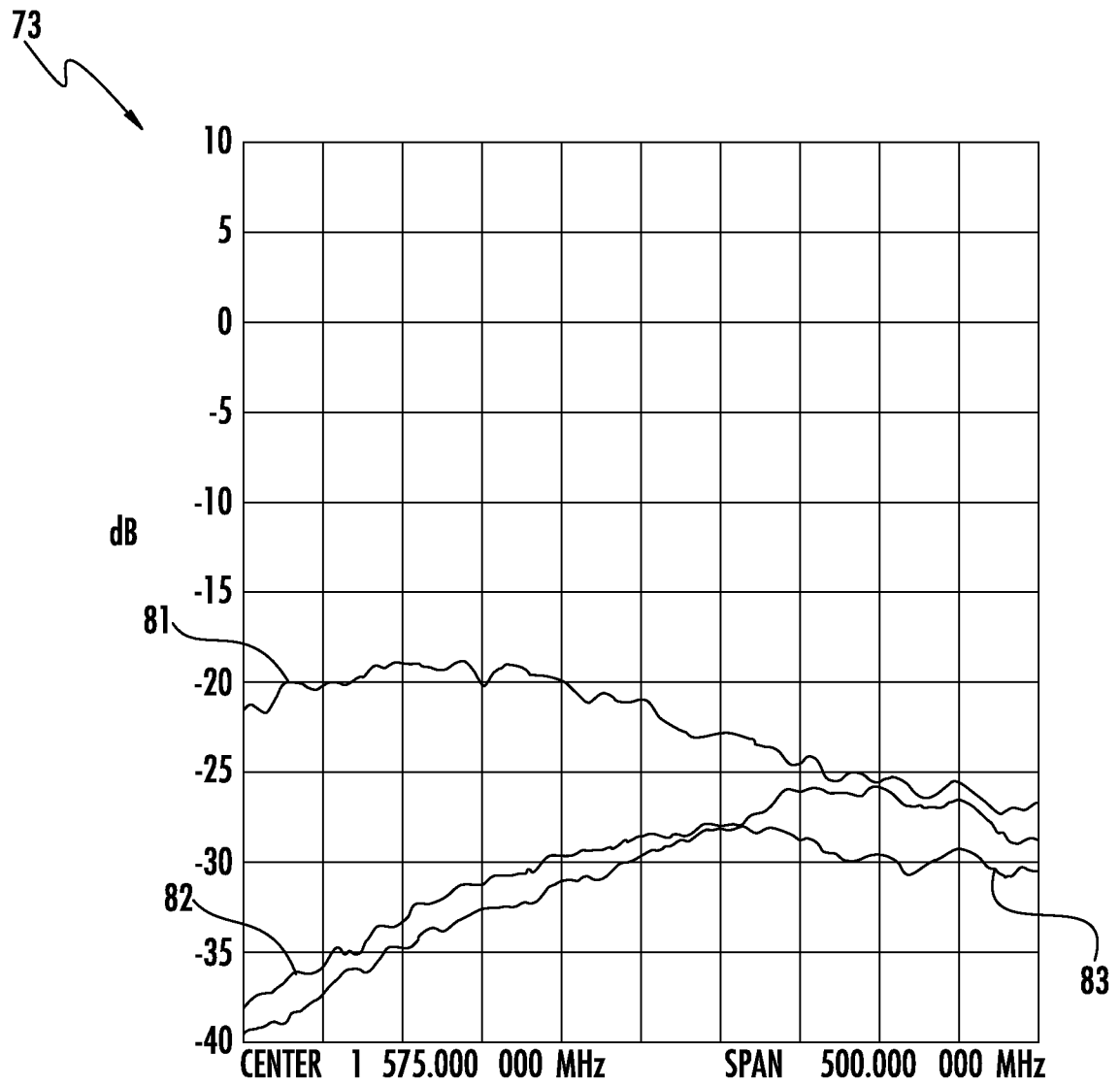


FIG. 10

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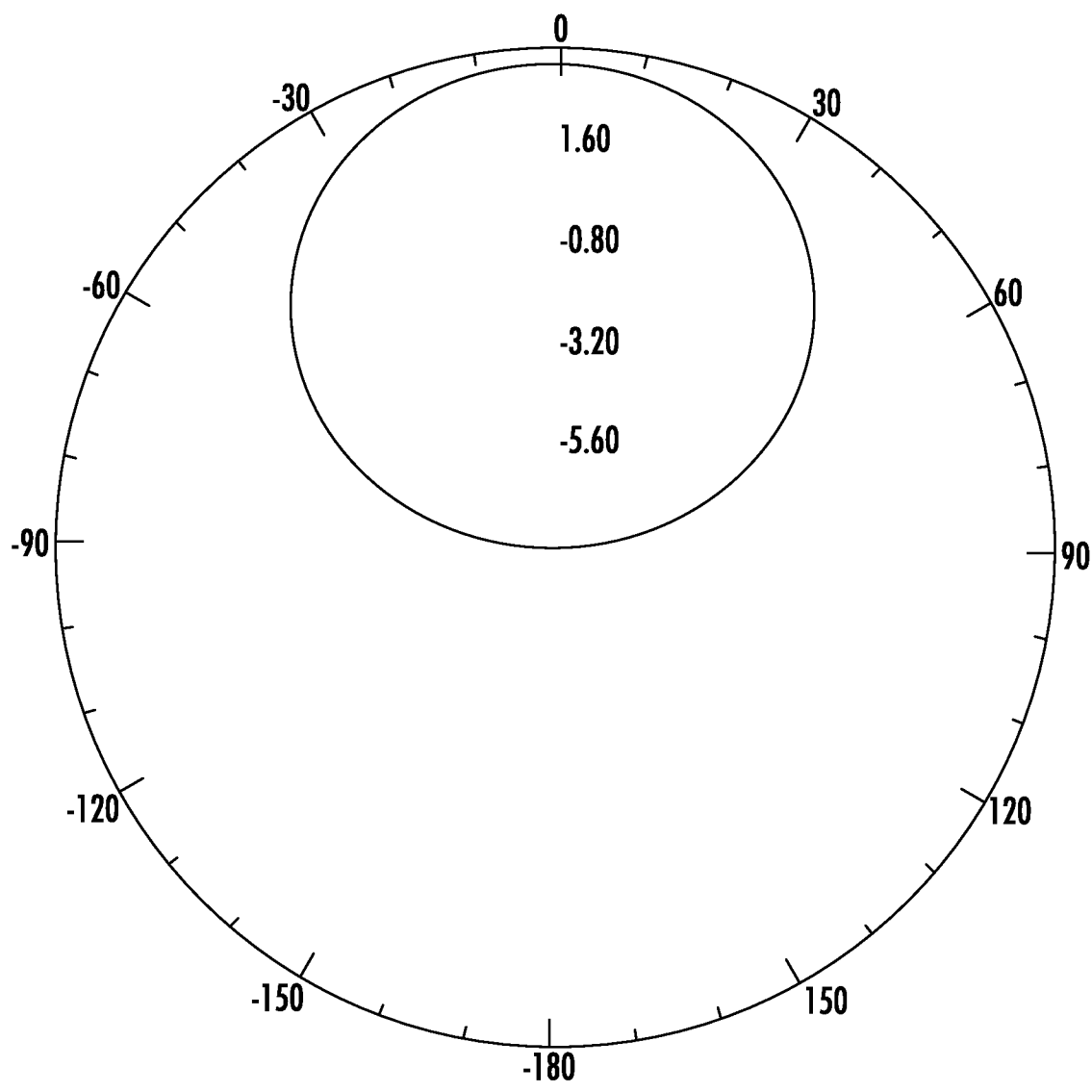


FIG. 11