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- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

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(54) **Title:** READING AND WRITING CODES USING OPTICAL DEVICES



Fig. 1

(57) **Abstract:** A method for tracking an item that includes the steps of (a) providing an item having a solid polymer material; (b) irradiating the item to create a spatial pattern of optical modifications in the polymer material, wherein the spatial pattern of optical modifications includes a code that indicates information; and (c) detecting the pattern of optical modifications, thereby determining the information.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2016/022120

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. G06K19/06 G06K17/00
ADD.

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)
G06K

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)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2011/073442 A1 (UNIV GENT [BE]; HUANG CHAOBO [CN]; LUCAS BART [BE]; DE SMEDT STEFAAN []) 23 June 2011 (2011-06-23)	1-37
A	page 1, line 5 - line 8 page 7, line 6 - line 17 page 12, line 12 - line 13 page 17, line 20 - line 23 figures 2D, 2E	38-56
X	WO 02/33419 A1 (TIBOTEC NV [BE]; UNIV GENT [BE]; LEBLANS MARC JAN RENE [BE]; GUSTIN EM) 25 April 2002 (2002-04-25)	1-37
A	page 11, line 27 - page 14, line 32 page 9, line 22 - line 29 page 19, line 20 - line 30 figures 18-20 page 17, line 4 - line 23	38-56
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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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A	US 2002/187501 A1 (HUANG MINGXIAN [US] ET AL) 12 December 2002 (2002-12-12) paragraph [0002] - paragraph [0003] paragraph [0008] paragraph [0205] figure 9 -----	1-56

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Information on patent family members

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