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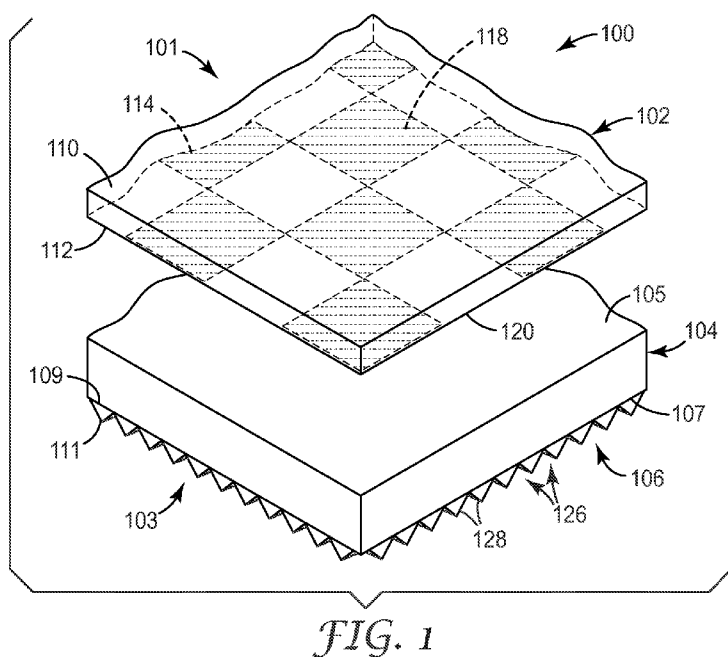
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PROTECTIVE OVERLAY BEARING A GRAPHIC AND RETROREFLECTIVE ARTICLES COMPRISING THE OVERLAY



(57) Abstract: A transfer article, a retroreflective article and methods of making the same. The transfer article can include an overlay. The retroreflective article can include an optical layer and an overlay. The optical layer can include a front surface and a rear surface, and can include retroreflective optical elements. The overlay can include a front surface and a rear surface adapted to be coupled to the front surface of a substrate, such as the optical layer. The overlay can further include a graphic, such that the graphic is buried with respect to the front surface of the overlay. A method of making the retroreflective article can include applying a graphic to the rear surface of the overlay, and coupling the overlay bearing the graphic to the front surface of a substrate, such as the optical layer.



TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

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

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

26 August 2010

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**G02B 5/122(2006.01)i**

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)

G02B 5/122; B41M 5/38; B41M 5/40; B44C 1/16; B44C 1/17; E01F 9/015; E01F 9/06; G02B 5/124; G09F 13/16

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Korean utility models and applications for utility models

Japanese utility models and applications for utility models

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

eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) & Keywords: film, sheet, retroreflective, cuve-corner, graphic, image

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 99-46616 A1 (MINNESOTA MINING AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY) 16 September 1999	1-5,29-31
A	See abstract; claims 7-9; figure 3.	32-36,39-44
A	JP 2004-036161 A (SEKISUI JUSHI CO LTD) 05 February 2004 See abstract; paragraph 8; claim 1; figures 3-5.	1-5,29-36,39-44
X	JP 2004-136541 A (TOSHIBA CORP) 13 May 2004	32-36,39-44
Y	See abstract; paragraph 3; claims 1-10; figures 1-7.	1-5,29-31
A	KR 10-1999-0060133 A (LG IND. SYSTEMS CO., LTD.) 26 July 1999 See abstract; claims 1-9; figure 3.	1-5,29-36,39-44



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family 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 application or patent 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 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

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2009/065231**Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 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.: 6-28,37-38,45
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

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 and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/US2009/065231

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 99-46616 A1	16.09.1999	AU 3073099 A CN 1126961 C0 CN 1292880 A0 EP 1062531 A1 EP 1062531 B1 JP 04-225599 B2 JP 11-296113 A KR 10-2001-0041727 A US 06048069A A	27.09.1999 05.11.2003 25.04.2001 27.12.2000 28.05.2003 18.02.2009 29.10.1999 25.05.2001 11.04.2000
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JP 2004-136541 A	13.05.2004	None	
KR 10-1999-0060133 A	26.07.1999	None	