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(54) Title: TEST EQUIPMENT FOR AUTOMATED QUALITY CONTROL OF THIN FILM SOLAR MODULES

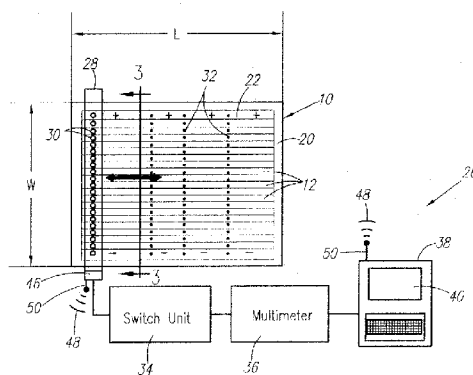


Fig. 2

(57) Abstract: Provided is a method and test system (26) for identifying a defective region of a photovoltaic cell from among a plurality of photovoltaic cells (12) collectively forming a thin film solar module (10). A probe (28) includes a plurality of test fingers (30) arranged to be simultaneously placed adjacent to an electric contact provided to different regions of photovoltaic cells. A light source (42) emits light to be converted by the photovoltaic cells into the electrical output during testing. A measurement circuit (36) measures a property of the electrical output received from the different regions of the photovoltaic cells and transmits a measured value signal indicative of the property measured by the measurement circuit. And a control unit (38) receives the measured value signal and generates a visible display (40) indicating that at least one of the different regions of the solar module is a defective region based at least in part on the measured value signal, and also indicates a location of the defective region on the solar module.

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**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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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, INSPEC

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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Information on patent family members

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