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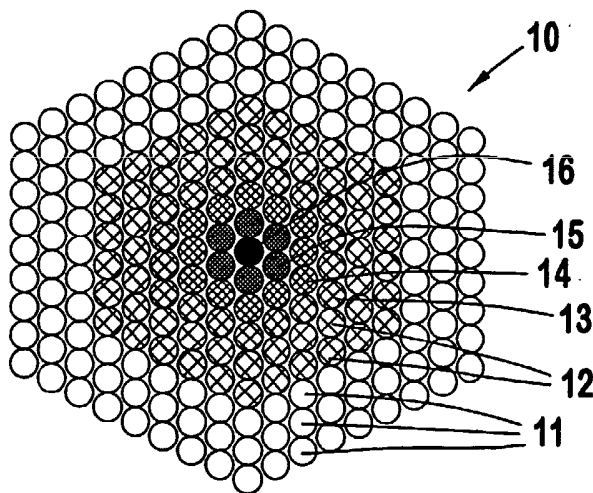
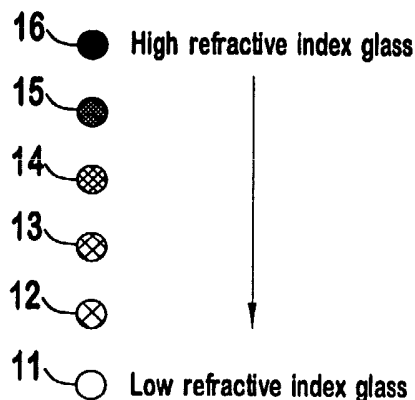
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(54) Title: GRADED INDEX FIBER, ARRAY AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURE



(57) Abstract: A graded index fiber formed of a plurality of fused graded index fibers is provided. Each fiber is formed from a perform (10) comprising a plurality of fused low index rods (11, 12, 13, 14) with at least one high index rod (16) arranged in a pre-determined pattern which have been drawn and fused. An array may be made utilizing such fibers, with each fiber having a center located at a specific position. A method of forming the GRIN fibers and the GRIN array is also provided.

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) :G02B 6/18; C03B 37/025

US CL :385/124; 65/435

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)

U.S. : 385/124; 65/435

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
NONE

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

USPTO APS EAST

search terms: index near5 fiber, grad\$ near5 index, perform, fiber or fibre, fus\$

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X ---	US 6,243,522 B1 (ALLAN et al) 05 June 2001 (05.06.2001), column 3.	1-4, 7-14 -----
Y		5, 6
Y	US 6,091,872 A (KATOOT) 18 July 2000 (18.07.2000), column 9, lines 11-15; column 10, lines 5-10.	5, 6



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:		"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
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
"E"	earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"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
"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)	"G"	document member of the same patent family
"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		

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