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(71) Applicant: BENOPCON, INC. [US/US]; A corporation of Ohio, 3997 McMann Road, Cincinnati, OH 45245 (US).

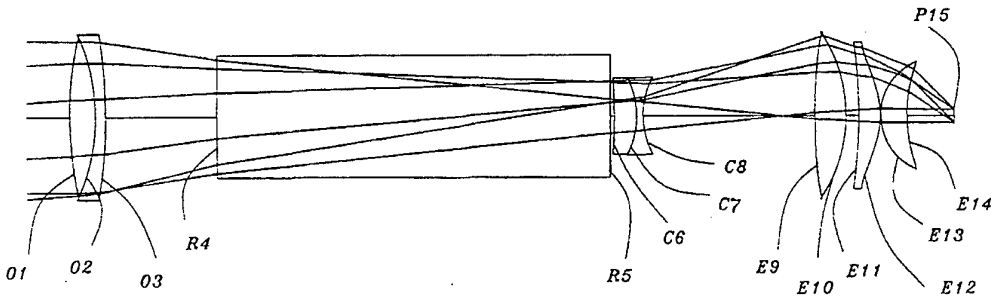
(72) Inventor: BETENSKY, Ellis, I.; 64 Seventy Acre Road, Redding, CT 06896 (US).

(74) Agent: KLEE, Maurice, M.; 1951 Burr Street, Fairfield, CT 06430 (US).

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(54) Title: WIDE ANGLE BINOCULAR SYSTEM WITH VARIABLE POWER CAPABILITY



(57) Abstract

Binoculars designed to provide a large aided static field of view are provided. The binoculars are characterized by S/D ratios of above 2.8, where S is the binoculars' aided static field of view calculated by multiplying the binoculars' magnifying power by the binoculars' semi field of view in object space and D is given by tan-1[(REX + 1.5)/13], where REX is the radius of binoculars' exit pupil and where REX and the constants 1.5 and 13 are measured in millimeters. As a result of the increased S/D ratio, the binoculars of the invention minimize the sensation of tunnel vision which normally occurs when binoculars are used and reduce the user's apprehension of missing activities in his or her peripheral vision. In certain embodiments, a movable field lens unit (F9, F10 - Figures 2-3; F8, F9, F10, F11 - Figure 4) is employed to provide variable power and a negative corrector lens unit (C6, C7, C8 - Figures 1-3; C6, C7 - Figure 4) is employed for aberration correction and to minimize the size of the binoculars. The binoculars are suitable for mass production and general consumer use.

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WIDE ANGLE BINOCULAR SYSTEM WITH VARIABLE POWER CAPABILITY

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to viewing systems for use with the human eye such as monoculars and binoculars.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Viewing Systems for Use with the Human Eye

A variety of viewing systems for use with the human eye are known. They fall into two categories: 1) those which are normally fixed during viewing with respect to the object such as telescopes and microscopes ("fixed systems"), and 2) those which are normally moved during viewing with respect to the object such as eyeglasses, loupes, monoculars, and binoculars ("movable systems"). The present invention relates to movable systems and, in particular, to monoculars and binoculars. To simplify the presentation, the following discussion uses the term "binoculars." As so used, the term is intended to include both binoculars and monoculars.

To understand the benefits of the invention it is necessary to understand how a person observes an event without binoculars, i.e., unaided by a viewing system. The first step, in general, involves noticing the movement of the image of an object on the retina in the low resolution, peripheral vision. The extent over which such movement can be observed is the eye's "unaided static field of view". Next, the eye is moved (scanned) to follow or observe the object in greater detail, i.e., at high resolution, by aligning the eye's fovea with the object. The extent over which the eye can move to follow the object is the eye's "unaided dynamic field of view".

Finally, the head is moved so that the eye is as straight ahead as possible with respect to the head.

For the purposes of the following discussion, these two fields of view of the eye, i.e., the eye's unaided static and dynamic fields of view, need to be distinguished from the eye's "aided static field of view" and "aided dynamic field of view" which are the fields of view achieved for a static and scanning eye, respectively, with binoculars held at a fixed position relative to the eye. These aided fields of view are defined and discussed in more detail below. As also discussed below, it should be noted that the eye's aided static field of view is the same as what is commonly referred to as a binoculars' "field of view" when transformed to image space.

2. Binocular Technology

Historically, designers of binoculars have concentrated on maximizing the eye's higher resolution aided dynamic field of view at the expense of the eye's lower resolution aided static field of view. In particular, designers have assumed that the user rotates (scans) his or her eyes to follow an object and then after seeing the image start to disappear because the exit pupil of the binoculars is not coincident with the entrance pupil of the rotated eye, moves the binoculars thereby placing the two pupils in coincidence.

As a result, the image has been corrected over the entire "field of view" and a field stop has been used to delimit the "field of view" in order to ensure that the user has a corrected image throughout the eye's aided dynamic field of view. In order to provide a hand held instrument at reasonable cost, this has meant that the eye's aided static field of view has been limited, i.e., less than about 30° semi-field of view (SFOV) and in many cases less than about 20° SFOV.

Recently, various companies have offered "wide angle" binoculars. These binoculars are reported to have

semi "fields of view" in object space which when transformed to image space, assuming f-θ distortion correction, correspond to semi "fields of view" in image space of around 33°. Although they represent some improvement over prior binoculars, as discussed below, these "wide angle" binoculars have still not satisfied the need for binoculars which truly deal with the fundamental difference between the eye's aided static and dynamic fields of view.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention takes a completely different approach from the prior art. Specifically, rather than designing binoculars based only on the eye's aided dynamic field of view, the binoculars of the present invention are designed based on both the eye's aided dynamic field of view and its aided static field of view. More particularly, in accordance with the invention, it has been determined that the eye's aided dynamic field of view is not the critical field of view in terms of designing binoculars which can be moved relative to the object, i.e., in designing a movable system, supra. For binoculars, the user can readily, and prefers to, move the combination of his or her head and the binoculars to follow an object rather than trying to move the binoculars relative to the eyes. This approach is 1) easier since it does not upset the alignment of the binoculars with the eye, 2) does not require reaccommodation of the eye due to uncorrected field curvature, and 3) does not lead to erroneous changes in focus if reaccommodation is not sufficient.

By emphasizing the eye's aided static field of view, a user of the binoculars of the present invention can employ substantially more of his or her peripheral vision to detect a change in the object scene. Also, by this emphasis, the user has less of a sensation of tunnel vision. These effects make it much easier for people to

use the binoculars of the invention over long periods of time which is clearly desirable.

Quantitatively, the enhancement of the aided static field of view relative to the aided dynamic field view is expressed herein in terms of the binoculars' "S/D" ratio. The definition and derivation of this ratio is shown in Figures 5 through 8.

Figure 5 shows a human eye 15 aligned with the central axis of stylized binoculars 13. See also Figure 7. The binoculars have an exit pupil 16 of radius R_{ex}, and the human eye has a center of rotation 19 and an entrance pupil 17 of radius R_{ep}, the radial distance between the center of rotation and the entrance pupil being R. R_{ep} of course will vary with the amount of light impinging on the eye. For the purposes of the present invention, R_{ep} is assumed to be approximately 1.5 mm, i.e., a typical daylight viewing pupil size. This value is chosen since the problems of tunnel vision are most pronounced in the daylight. Similarly, R will vary among individuals. For the purposes of the invention, R is assumed to have the typical value of around 13 mm.

As shown in Figure 5, the aided static field of view is given by the angle S. As mentioned above, this angle corresponds to the binoculars' conventional "field of view" when transformed to image space.

Figure 6 shows eye 15 rotated about its center of rotation 19 through an angle D so that the edge of the binoculars' exit pupil and the edge of the eye's entrance pupil are coincident. See also Figure 8. This position represents the eye's aided dynamic field of view when used with binoculars 13. Further rotation of the eye results in no image on the retina. In constructing Figure 6, it has been assumed that the binoculars provide an aided static field of view which is greater than D, i.e., the binoculars' stops and apertures are sufficient to allow light to reach the edge of the binoculars' exit pupil at the angle D.

From the geometry of Figure 6 and the values for R_{ep} and R given above, i.e., 1.5 mm and 13 mm, respectively, D is approximately equal to the following where R_{ex} and the constants 1.5 and 13 are in millimeters:

$$D = \tan^{-1}[(R_{ex} + 1.5)/13]. \quad (1)$$

Table 6 sets forth D values for exit pupil radii between 1.5 mm and 5.0 mm. A typical exit pupil radius for commercial binoculars is approximately 1.5 mm. Larger exit pupil radii are generally reserved for night vision devices because they result in larger entrance pupils which means heavier and more expensive binoculars. In view of these considerations, the most important parameter of the S/D ratio is the S value, and it is this value which has been ignored by prior workers in the art.

Thus, prior art binoculars, including the "wide angle" binoculars referred to above, because of their emphasis on the eye's aided dynamic field of view as opposed to its aided static field of view, have had S/D ratios below about 2.7 and in some cases as low as 1.3. The binoculars of the invention, on the other hand, have S/D ratios above 2.8, preferably above 2.9, and most preferably above 3.0. Prior to the present invention, binoculars with this level of emphasis on the eye's aided static field of view have not been proposed or available.

It should be noted that there is an upper limit to the S/D ratio. That limit occurs when the R_{ex} is zero, e.g., in the case of a pinhole placed near the eye's pupil. D for such a case is approximately 6.6°. Since the maximum S for most people is 90°, the maximum S/D ratio is approximately 13.7.

In view of the foregoing, the invention in accordance with certain of its aspects provides binoculars for use with the human eye which comprise an objective lens unit (first means) for forming an intermediate image and an eye lens unit (second means) for forming a virtual image of the intermediate image for viewing by the eye, said virtual image presenting an

aided static semi field of view to the eye of angular extent S, said binoculars having an exit pupil of radius R_{ex} and providing an aided dynamic semi field of view to the eye of angular extent D given by the following expression in which R_{ex} and the constants 1.5 and 13 are in millimeters:

$$D = \tan^{-1}[(R_{ex} + 1.5)/13],$$

the ratio of S to D being at least 2.8.

The aided static semi field of view of the binoculars of the invention is preferably at least about 30 degrees and preferably comprises a central region and a peripheral region, the image resolving power in the central region being better than the image resolving power in the peripheral region. In this way, the virtual image produced by the binoculars more closely matches the eye's unaided static field of view. That is, the virtual image has a better image resolving power at the center than at the periphery, just as the eye's visual acuity is better at the center than at the periphery.

The image resolving power in the central region of the virtual image can, for example, be less than about 4 minutes of arc, with the image resolving power in the peripheral region being greater than about 4 minutes of arc, and the central region can comprise a semi field of view of at least about 5 degrees. It should be noted that as the minutes of arc value decreases, the resolving power increases, i.e., improves, and visa versa.

The central region of the virtual image should be at least about 5 degrees for the user to perceive that he or she has a good image of the object. To provide adequate peripheral vision, the aided static semi field of view of the binoculars should be at least about 30°. As discussed above, the image resolving power in the peripheral region can be relatively poor, e.g., greater than 4 minutes of arc, since this region corresponds to the user's peripheral vision where the eye's visual acuity is very low.

With binoculars of this type, the user can take advantage of a significantly larger portion of his or her peripheral vision than in prior art binoculars while at the same time having a good magnified image of a distant object at the central portion of his or her vision.

In certain embodiments of the invention, it is desirable to provide the binoculars with more than one magnification. This can be done in a variety of ways, the most preferred of which involves moving a positive lens unit (field lens unit) in the vicinity of the binoculars' intermediate image. This aspect of the invention can be used independently of the other aspects of the invention, that is, it can be used with viewing systems generally.

In accordance with this aspect, the invention provides an optical system for magnifying an object comprising a positive first lens unit for forming an intermediate image of the object, a positive second lens unit in the vicinity of said intermediate image, a positive third lens unit for reimaging the intermediate image as modified by the positive second lens unit, and means for moving the positive second lens unit in the vicinity of the intermediate image to change the magnification of the object.

A further aspect of the invention involves the eyepiece of the binoculars. As the aided static field of view of the binoculars is increased, obtaining a large eye relief becomes difficult. Correcting off-axis aberrations requires the use of negative lens elements which further exacerbates the problem. In accordance with the invention, it has been found that these problems can be addressed by at least partially correcting off-axis aberrations with a negative lens unit placed ahead of the intermediate image. In this way, a large eye relief can be readily obtained.

An additional use of the negative lens unit involves its effects on the binoculars' objective. Specifically,

it allows the objective lens unit to have a shorter focal length which in turn allows the reverting and inverting means, e.g., an inversion prism, to be smaller. This effect can be seen by constructing a tunnel diagram for the reverting and inverting means.

In addition to these benefits, the negative lens unit also allows the overall length of the binoculars to be smaller.

As with the variable power aspect of the invention, the aspects of the invention relating to the use of a negative lens unit before the intermediate image can be used independently of the other aspects of the invention, that is, it can be used with viewing systems generally.

In accordance with this aspect of the invention, an eyepiece for viewing an intermediate image is provided which comprises a negative first lens unit positioned before the intermediate image and a positive second lens unit positioned after the intermediate image, said negative first lens unit providing aberration correction for the eyepiece and said positive second lens unit having only positive lens elements.

Alternatively, in accordance with this aspect of the invention, an objective for forming an intermediate image is provided which comprises in order a positive lens unit, means for reverting and inverting the intermediate image, and a negative lens unit before the intermediate image.

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute part of the specification, illustrate the preferred embodiments of the invention, and together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention. It is to be understood, of course, that both the drawings and the description are explanatory only and are not restrictive of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figures 1 through 4 are schematic side views of lens systems constructed in accordance with the invention.

Figures 5 through 8 are schematic diagrams relating to the definitions of S and D, respectively.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

As discussed above, the present invention relates to binoculars having an objective lens unit and an eye lens unit. In each of the drawings, the lens elements of the objective lens unit are identified by "O" reference numbers, while those of the eye lens unit are identified by "E" reference numbers. The exit pupils of the various embodiments are identified by "P" reference numbers. To produce a reverted and erect image, the objective lens unit includes a reverting and inverting means identified by "R" reference numbers, which may be a Porro prism or a roof-type inversion prism.

Certain embodiments of the invention also include a corrector lens unit identified by "C" reference numbers and/or a field lens unit identified by "F" reference numbers. The eye lens unit and the corrector lens unit together form the system's eyepiece. The objective lens unit, the reverting and inverting means, and the corrector lens unit together form the system's objective. That is, the corrector lens unit can be viewed as either part of the eyepiece or as part of the objective.

As discussed above, the field lens unit can be moved in the region of the intermediate image to change the magnification of the system. Such movement can be achieved using conventional techniques such as motors, cams, spring-loaded levers, or the like. It should be noted that a rapid change in magnification can be achieved in accordance with the invention since only a very small mass, i.e., the field lens, needs to be moved through only a relatively short distance.

The objective lens unit employs conventional lens elements known in the art for binoculars. Its aberrations are corrected in conjunction with the correction of the aberrations of the eye lens unit.

In the preferred embodiments of the invention, the eye lens unit is composed of only positive lens elements, although other types of eye lens units can be used if desired (see, for example, Examples 3 and 4).

The corrector lens unit is located between the reverting and inverting means and the eye lens units in front of the intermediate image. This unit has a negative power and in combination with the eye lens unit serves to correct off-axis aberrations while still allowing the overall optical system to have a large eye relief, e.g., an eye relief of at least 10 millimeters.

Aberration correction is also preferably provided by employing one or more aspherical surfaces in the lens system. Such aspherical surfaces are preferably employed in the eye lens unit where the manufacturing tolerances are least critical.

The field lens unit is located in the vicinity of the intermediate image. The unit has an overall positive power. When a corrector lens unit is used, the field lens unit will generally be located after that unit, i.e., closer to the eye lens unit. For single power systems, the field lens unit may be placed adjacent to the eye lens unit.

For variable power systems, the field lens unit may be moved from a position on the objective lens unit side of the intermediate image to a position on the eye lens unit side of the intermediate image, i.e., the field lens unit is moved through the intermediate image. Such movement results in an increase in the system's magnification. For example, as shown in Examples 2-4 below, the movement can increase the system's magnification from about 7 to about 12. In general, the field lens unit will have two positions corresponding to two magnifications with a common focus position, although if desired the unit can have multiple positions to provide a range of magnifications. In this latter case, the binoculars should include a compensator unit for

changing the overall focus of the binoculars with movement of the field lens unit. It should be noted that the while the field lens unit is on the objective lens unit side of the intermediate image, the intermediate image moves and changes in magnification as the field lens unit is moved.

The increase in magnification caused by moving the field lens unit is associated with a reduction in the binoculars' angular coverage in object space. Accordingly, the binoculars of the invention are preferably used primarily at low magnification where the angular coverage in object space is larger, with the higher magnification setting or settings being used when the user wishes to see a particular object in greater detail. It should be noted that the binoculars' aided static field of view as presented to the eye remains constant even though the angular coverage in object space is changed.

The effect of moving the field lens unit through the intermediate image can be understood in terms of the basic equation for the magnification of a telescope, namely, that the magnification is the ratio of the objective focal length to the eyepiece focal length. When the field lens unit is on the objective lens unit side of the intermediate image, it can be considered part of the objective. As such, since it has a positive power, it makes the objective focal length shorter, corresponding to less magnification. When on the eye lens unit side of the intermediate image, the field lens unit can be considered part of the eyepiece. In this case, it makes the eyepiece focal length shorter, which corresponds to an increase in magnification. When located at the intermediate image, the field lens unit neither increases nor decreases the basic magnification of the system, i.e., in terms of the field lens unit the system is at +1.0 magnification.

To achieve the user benefits discussed above, the eye lens unit of the binoculars will in general have a relatively large diameter. This results in the advantage that the weight of the portion of the binoculars nearest the eye is increased. This, in turn, results in greater user positional stability. To further increase user stability the eye portion of the housing used to hold the lens elements can be designed so that the forefingers can rest on the ridges above the eye and the thumb can rest on the check bones. As an alternative, the reverting and inverting means can be selected so that the user holds the binoculars in a vertical position so that the arms are close to the body and thus stable. See, for example, Alvarez et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,417,788.

In general, the benefits of the binoculars of the invention are best achieved when the user holds the binoculars in a fixed position relative to his or her eyes. Eyepiece cups or the like which will facilitate such fixed use are thus preferred.

Without intending to limit it in any manner, the present invention will be more fully described by the following Examples 1-4. Figures 1-4 and Tables 1-4 correspond to these examples. The glasses and plastics referred to in Tables 1-4 are set forth in Table 5, where the glass names are the SCHOTT designations. Equivalent glasses made by other manufacturers can be used in the practice of the invention. The aspheric coefficients set forth in Tables 1-4 are for use in the following equation:

$$z = \frac{cy^2}{1 + [1 - (1 + k)c^2y^2]^{1/2}} + ADy^4 + AEy^6 + AFy^8 + AGy^{10} + AHy^{12} + AIy^{14}$$

where z is the surface sag at a distance y from the optical axis of the system, c is the curvature of the lens at the optical axis, and k is a conic constant.

The abbreviations used in the tables are as follows: SN - surface number; CLR. AP. - clear aperture; and ZP - zoom (magnification) position. All dimensions given in the tables are in millimeters.

Example 1

This example illustrates a binocular construction in accordance with the invention having a single magnification and a S/D ratio greater than 3.0.

The binoculars operate at a magnifying power of 12X. As in all of the examples, the first lens unit is a conventional objective, although having a shorter focal length than the combined focal length of the first and second units so as to reduce the aperture and hence size of the reverting and inverting system. The second unit is a negative doublet, providing aberration correction and the desired shorter focal length for the first lens unit. To provide a large aided static field of view, two aspheric surfaces are employed in the eye lens unit. A glass element is used nearest the eye to provide durability.

Example 2

This example illustrates a binocular construction in accordance with the invention having two magnifications and a S/D ratio above 3.0 for its high magnification configuration. It also illustrates the ability of the invention to simplify the construction of the binoculars and thus minimize cost.

The lens system of this example has the same number of lens elements as the lens system of Example 1, but utilizes a moving field lens to provide the magnification change.

Example 3

Example 3 has a similar construction to Example 2, except a doublet is included in the eye lens unit for aberration correction. Variable power is again provided by moving a single element field lens unit.

Example 4

Example 4 is similar to Examples 2 and 3 except that no aspherical elements are included, and only a single negative element is used for the second unit. A doublet element is added in the eye lens unit for aberration correction as in Example 3, and the field lens unit has two positive elements.

Tables 7 and 8 summarize various of the properties of the lens systems of Examples 1-4. In particular, Table 7 sets forth their S/D ratios and the various quantities used to calculate these ratios. Table 8 sets forth the focal lengths of the objective lens unit (f_a), the corrector lens unit (f_b), their combination (f_{ab}), and the combined focal length of the field lens unit and the eye lens unit (f_{fe}). Among other things, it should be noted in this table that f_a is considerably smaller than f_{ab}, i.e., f_a is less than about 0.75 of f_{ab}. As discussed above, this leads to various practical advantages including smaller reverting and inverting means and smaller overall size of the binoculars.

Although specific embodiments of the invention have been described and illustrated, it is to be understood that modifications can be made without departing from the invention's spirit and scope. For example, the binoculars of the invention will normally include means for moving the objective lens unit and the eye lens unit relative to one another for overall focusing and means for moving one or more elements of the eye lens unit of one side of the binoculars for relative focusing between the two eyes. Automatic focusing systems can also be used if desired.

A variety of other modifications which do not depart from the scope and spirit of the invention will be evident to persons of ordinary skill in the art from the disclosure herein. The following claims are intended to cover the specific embodiments set forth herein as well as such modifications, variations, and equivalents.

TABLE 1

LENS SYSTEM PRESCRIPTION

SN	RADIUS	THICKNESS	MATERIAL	CLR. AP.
1	88.6136	6.00000	BK7	36.2
2	-44.5396	2.45000	SF2	36.1
3	-110.6635	26.09697		35.4
4	∞	92.00000	BK7	26.3
5	∞	1.00000		16.5
6	-122.2245	5.00000	SF6	16.5
7	-20.2152	1.50000	FK5	16.7
8	18.7242	39.97262		16.4
9	158.5377	7.00000	715537	36.6
10	-35.4812	3.11732		36.7
11	-114.4544	5.00000	ACRYLIC	31.8
12	-18.6258	0.10000		31.1
13	13.5177	6.00000	BK7	22.9
14	34.4993	11.00000		21.1
15	pupil	0.00000		3.0

ASPHERICAL SURFACE DATA

SN	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI	k
9	1.3264E-06	9.8519E-10	-1.5393E-13	8.5736E-16	2.5087E-17	1.5888E-19	0.0
12	5.0531E-05	7.2118E-08	-8.3705E-10	-2.8920E-12	3.1293E-14	-5.3833E-17	-1.0

TABLE 2

LENS SYSTEM PRESCRIPTION

SN	RADIUS	THICKNESS	MATERIAL	CLR. AP.
1	100.1433	6.00000	BK7	33.1
2	-39.1400	2.45000	SF2	33.1
3	-93.7651	24.93315		33.1
4	∞	92.00000	BK7	27.4
5	∞	1.00000		24.0
6	-171.6049	5.00000	SF6	24.0
7	-24.8945	1.50000	FK5	24.1
8	21.2647	zoom		22.6
9	54.8495	7.00000	LAK8	29.7
10	-54.8495	zoom		29.8
11	-313.1092	4.50000	ACRYLIC	23.5
12	-17.5737	0.10000		23.3
13	10.4116	4.69390	BK7	18.1
14	15.9230	10.00000		16.0
15	pupil	0.00000		4.7

ASPHERICAL SURFACE DATA

SN	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI	k
12	7.9444E-05	-2.4831E-07	-9.1815E-10	4.6797E-12	6.0963E-14	-2.6363E-16	-1.0

ZOOM SPACINGS

ZP\SN	8	10
1	20.04	25.74
2	42.44	3.38

TABLE 3

LENS SYSTEM PRESCRIPTION

SN	RADIUS	THICKNESS	MATERIAL	CLR. AP.
1	78.9704	8.34000	BK7	38.7
2	-50.6434	2.45000	SF2	38.5
3	-149.8664	31.91837		38.4
4	∞	88.00000	BK7	31.9
5	∞	1.00000		24.4
6	101.5039	5.00000	SF6	24.2
7	-41.8477	1.50000	FK5	23.8
8	15.6974	zoom		21.2
9	47.0792	8.00000	LAK8	26.1
10	-52.5059	zoom		26.2
11	79.2734	1.00000	FK5	20.9
12	12.8147	0.75816		19.3
13	15.5741	6.19112	ACRYLIC	18.9
14	-23.5443	0.10000		18.8
15	9.5127	4.36739	BK7	16.0
16	17.2584	10.00000		14.4
17	pupil	0.00000		5.5

ASPHERICAL SURFACE DATA

SN	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI	k
14	7.6858E-05	1.3190E-07	-1.2475E-08	7.0056E-11	7.8654E-13	-7.5457E-15	0.0

ZOOM SPACINGS

ZP\SN	8	10
1	15.435	20.897
2	36.128	0.246

TABLE 4

LENS SYSTEM PRESCRIPTION

SN	RADIUS	THICKNESS	MATERIAL	CLR. AP.
1	67.3956	8.34000	BK7	35.5
2	-57.3699	2.45000	SF2	35.0
3	-192.1898	29.61977		34.7
4	∞	88.00000	BK7	27.8
5	∞	4.30000		18.5
6	-17.6770	1.00000	FK5	18.3
7	-142.7945	zoom		19.4
8	-17.6578	4.61585	F2	23.2
9	-17.5431	0.20000		26.3
10	32.6313	7.50000	BK7	30.2
11	-62.1867	zoom		29.9
12	21.7839	8.00000	PCD2	21.7
13	-15.3201	1.00000	SF2	21.3
14	-111.9591	0.10000		19.6
15	12.0718	3.00000	BK7	16.7
16	21.4030	10.00000		15.5
17	pupil	0.00000		4.8

ZOOM SPACINGS

ZP\SN	7	11
1	11.637	28.247
2	30.708	9.179

TABLE 5

MATERIAL	N_e	V_e
BK7	1.51872	64.0
ACRYLIC	1.49353	57.3
LAK8	1.71615	53.6
FK5	1.48914	70.2
SF6	1.81264	25.2
SF2	1.65221	33.6
PCD2	1.57087	62.9
715537	1.71500	53.7
F2	1.62408	36.1

TABLE 6

R_{ex}	D
1.5	13°
2.0	15°
2.5	17°
3.0	19°
3.5	21°
4.0	23°
4.5	24.8°
5.0	26.6°

TABLE 7

Ex.	Mag.	R_{en}	R_{ex}	U_o	S	D	S/D
1	12	17.5	1.46	4.6	55.2	12.8	4.31
2	6.85	16	2.34	5.0	34.2	16.5	2.07
	12	16	1.33	3.4	40.8	12.3	3.32
3	6.79	18	2.65	5.0	34.0	17.7	1.92
	12	18	1.50	3.2	38.4	13.0	2.95
4	6.9	17	2.46	5.0	34.5	16.9	2.04
	12	17	1.42	3.2	38.4	12.7	3.02

Mag. is the magnifying power.

R_{en} is the entrance pupil radius in mm.

R_{ex} is the exit pupil radius in mm.

U_o is the semi "field of view" in object space in degrees.

S is the product of Mag. and U_o.

D is calculated using equation 1.

TABLE 8

Ex.	f_{ab}	f_a	f_b	f_{fe}
1	180.1	115.5	-59.9	15.0
2	175.8	115.8	-68.1	25.7 14.6
3	169.4	122.0	-69.4	24.9 14.1
4	199.5	115.1	-41.3	29.0 16.6

f_{ab} is the combined focal length of the objective lens unit and the corrector lens unit.

f_a is the focal length of the objective lens unit.

f_b is the focal length of the corrector lens unit.

f_{fe} is the combined focal length of the field lens unit and eye lens unit.

What is claimed is:

1. A viewing system of the monocular or binocular type for use with a human eye comprising an objective lens unit for forming an intermediate image and an eye lens unit for forming a virtual image of the intermediate image for viewing by the eye, said virtual image presenting an aided-by-the-viewing-system static semi field of view to the eye of angular extent S, said viewing system having an exit pupil of radius R_{ex} and providing an aided-by-the-viewing-system dynamic semi field of view to the eye of angular extent D given by the following expression in which R_{ex} and the constants 1.5 and 13 are in millimeters:

$$D = \tan^{-1}[(R_{ex} + 1.5)/13],$$

the ratio of S to D being at least 2.8.

2. The viewing system of Claim 1 wherein the ratio of S to D is at least 2.9.

3. The viewing system of Claim 1 wherein the ratio of S to D is at least 3.0.

4. The viewing system of Claim 1 further comprising a negative lens unit positioned ahead of the intermediate image.

5. The viewing system of Claim 4 wherein the eye lens unit includes only positive lens elements.

6. The viewing system of Claim 4 wherein the negative lens unit comprises a single negative lens element.

7. The viewing system of Claim 1 further comprising a positive lens unit in the vicinity of the intermediate image.

8. The viewing system of Claim 7 further comprising means for moving the positive lens unit in the vicinity of the intermediate image.

9. The view system of Claim 7 wherein the positive lens unit comprises a single positive lens element.

10. An optical system for magnifying an object comprising a positive first lens unit for forming an

intermediate image of the object, a positive second lens unit in the vicinity of said intermediate image, a positive third lens unit for reimaging the intermediate image as modified by the positive second lens unit, and means for moving the positive second lens unit in the vicinity of the intermediate image to change the magnification of the object.

11. The optical system of Claim 10 wherein the positive second lens unit comprises a single positive lens element.

12. The optical system of Claim 10 further comprising a negative lens unit positioned between the positive first lens unit and the positive second lens unit.

13. The optical system of Claim 12 wherein the negative lens unit comprises a single negative lens element.

14. The optical system of Claim 12 wherein the positive third lens unit includes only positive lens elements.

15. An eyepiece for viewing an intermediate image comprising a negative lens unit positioned before the intermediate image and a positive lens unit positioned after the intermediate image, said negative lens unit providing aberration correction for the eyepiece and said positive lens unit having only positive lens elements.

16. The eyepiece of Claim 15 wherein the negative lens unit comprises a single negative lens element.

17. The eyepiece of Claim 15 further comprising a second positive lens unit in the vicinity of the intermediate image.

18. The eyepiece of Claim 17 further comprising means for moving the second positive lens unit in the vicinity of the intermediate image.

19. The eyepiece of Claim 17 wherein the second positive lens unit comprises a single positive lens element.

20. An objective for use in a viewing system of the monocular or binocular type, said objective forming an intermediate image and comprising in order a positive lens unit, means for reverting and inverting the intermediate image, and a negative lens unit before the intermediate image.

21. The objective of Claim 20 wherein the ratio of the focal length of the positive lens unit to the combined focal length of the positive lens unit and the negative lens unit is less than about 0.75.

22. An optical system for imaging an object comprising a positive first lens unit for forming an intermediate image of the object, a negative second lens unit positioned before the intermediate image, a positive third lens unit in the vicinity of the intermediate image, and a positive fourth lens unit positioned after the intermediate image, said positive fourth lens unit including only positive lens elements.

23. The optical system of Claim 22 wherein the negative second lens unit comprises a single negative lens element.

24. The optical system of Claim 22 further comprising means for moving the positive third lens unit in the vicinity of the intermediate image.

25. The optical system of Claim 22 wherein the positive third lens unit comprises a single positive lens element.

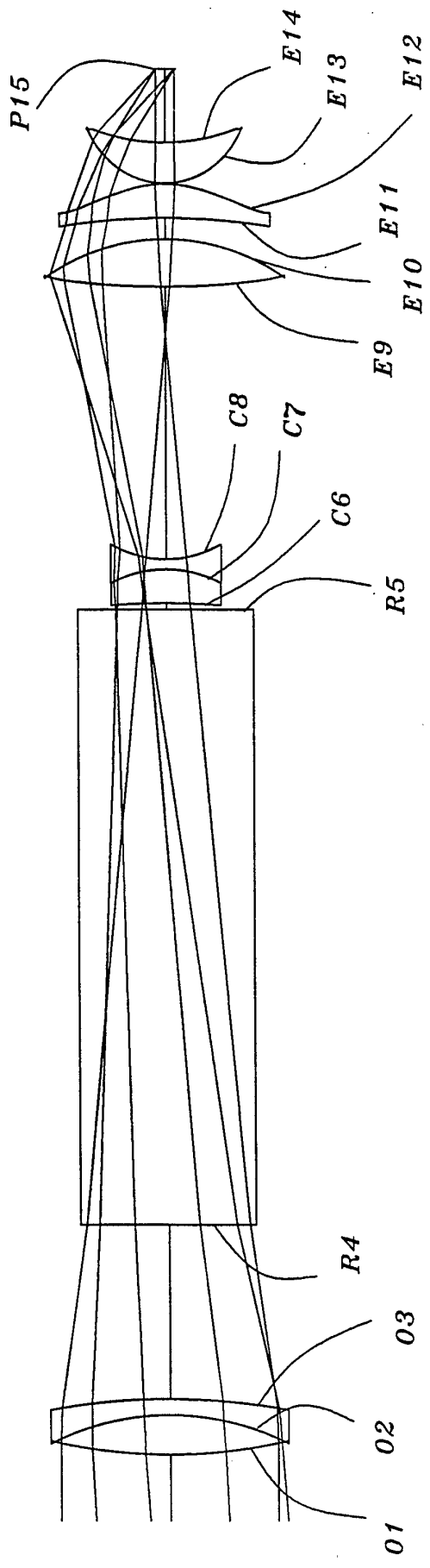


Figure 1

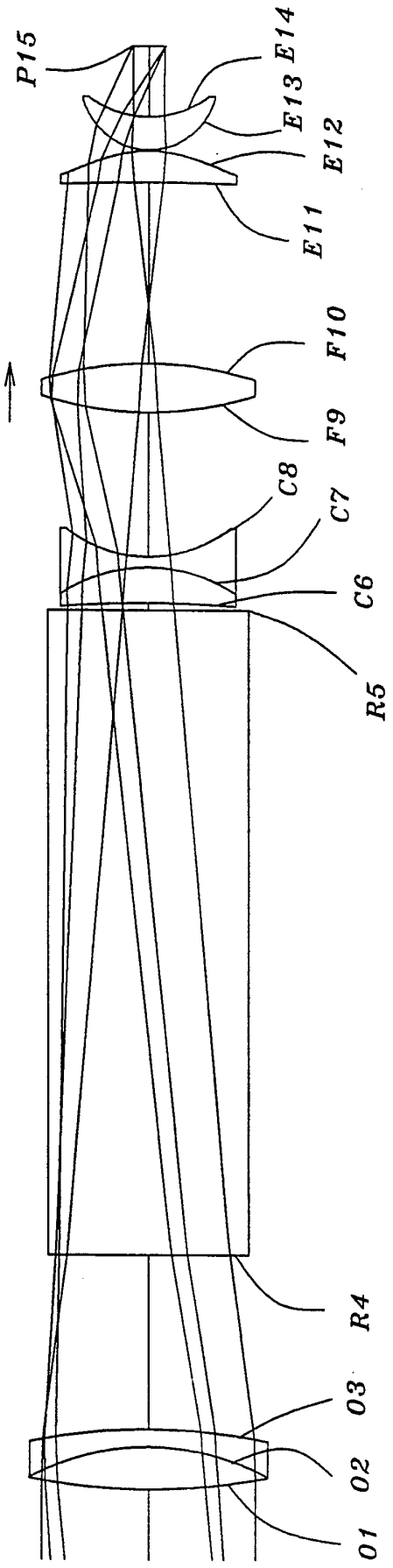


Figure 2

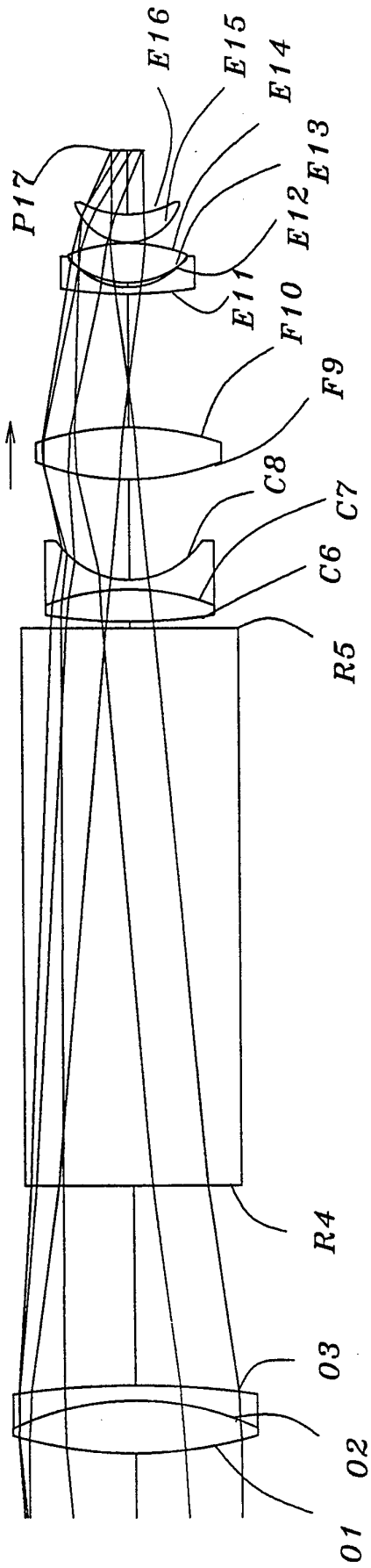


Figure 3

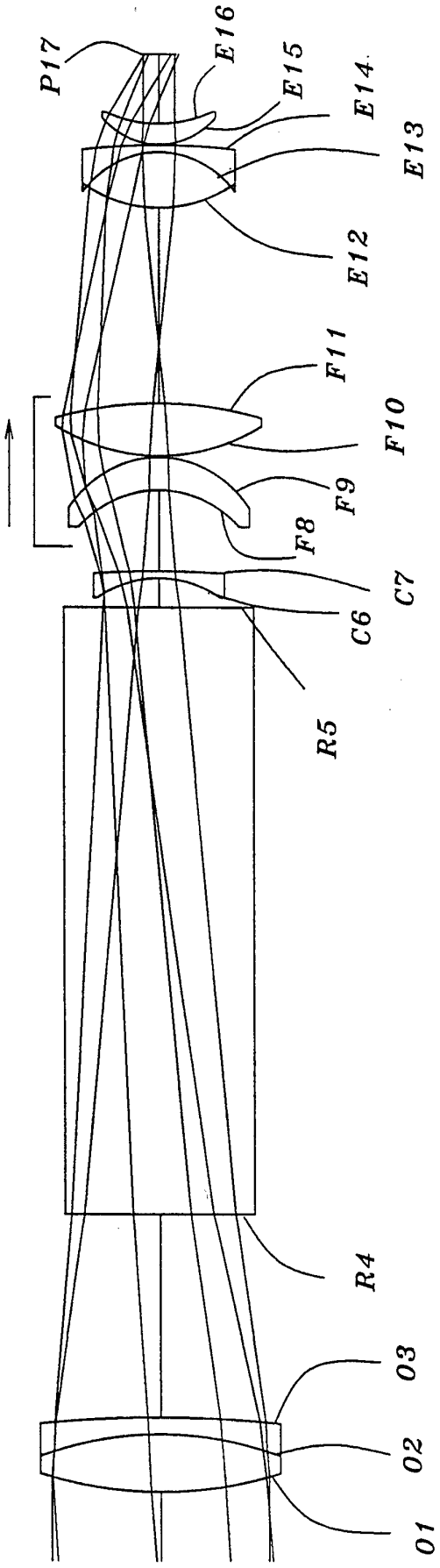


Figure 4

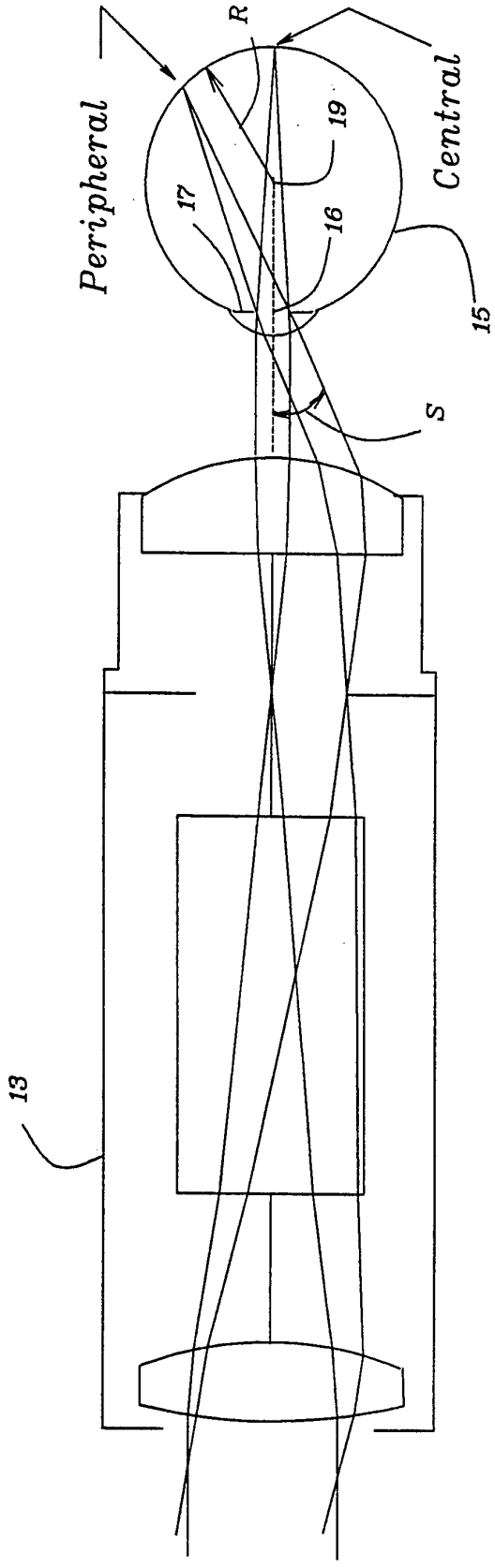


Figure 5

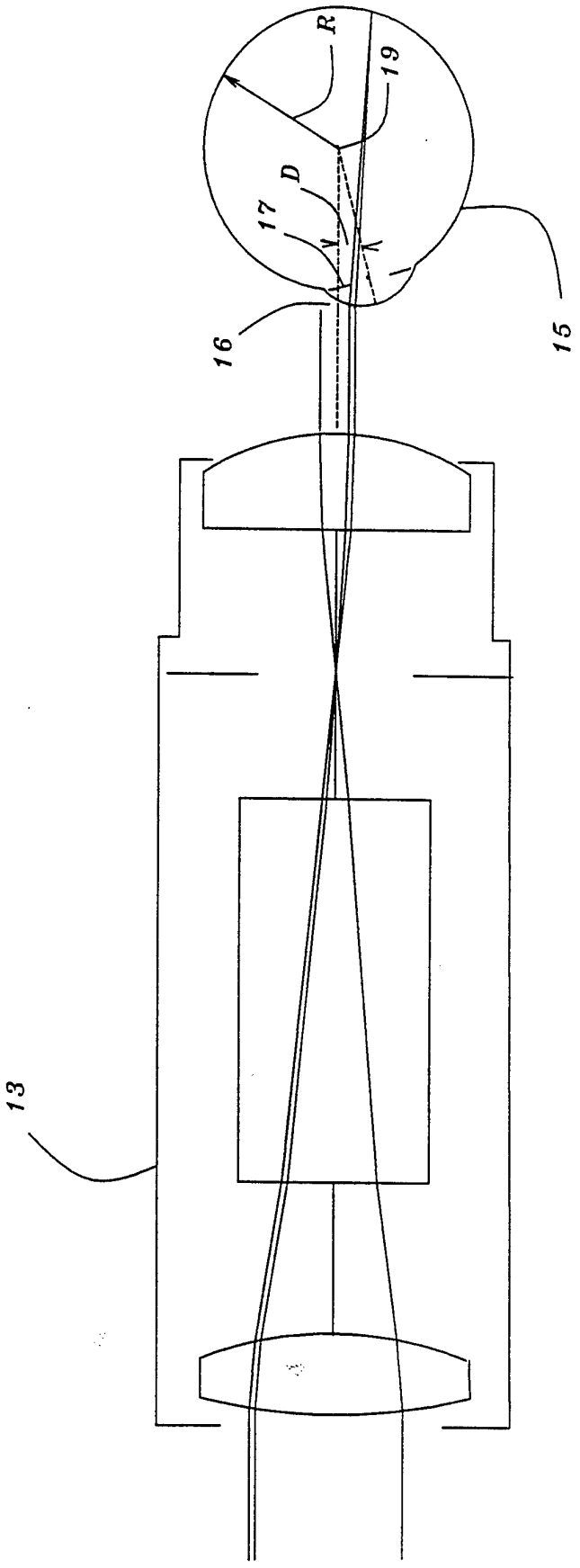


Figure 6

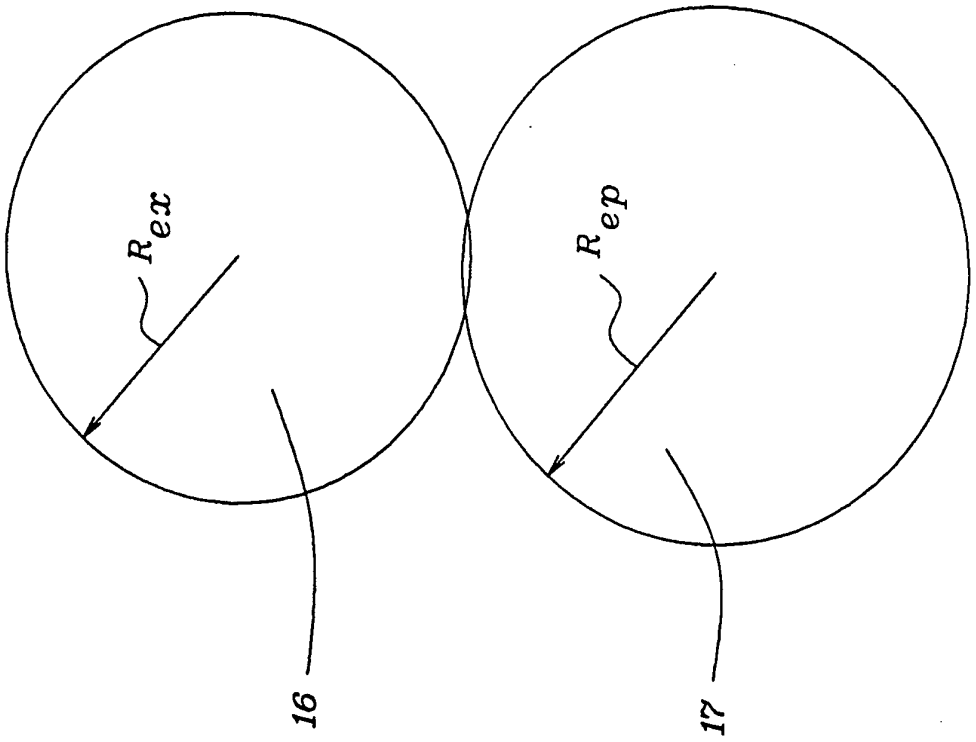


Figure 8

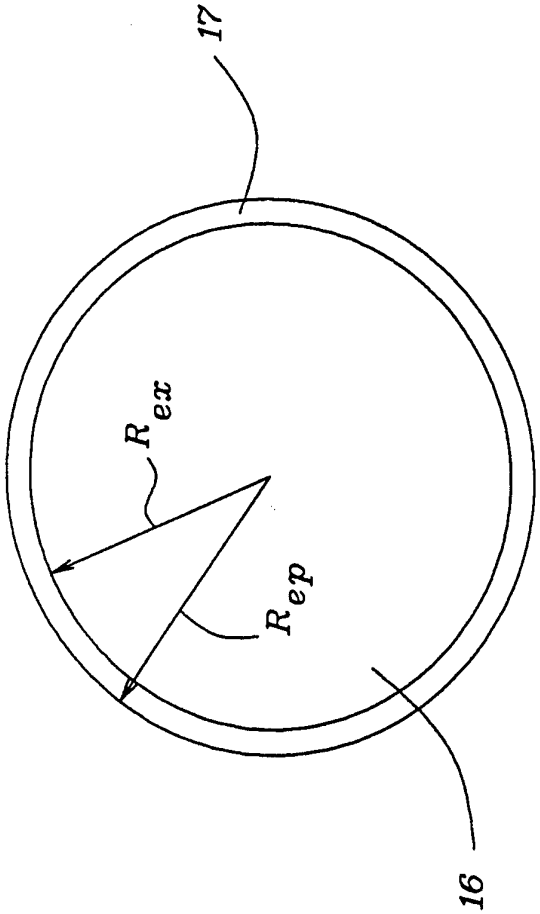


Figure 7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US94/02315

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(5) :Please See Extra Sheet.
US CL :Please See Extra Sheet.
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. : 359/399, 404, 407, 480, 643, 646, 656, 661, 676, 687, 689, 691, 692, 774, 792,

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US, A, 2,620,706 (Levin) 09 December, 1952, figure 1.	1
A	US, A, 5,028,125 (Kikuchi) 02 July, 1991, figure 1, Abstract.	1
Y	US, A, 4,621,909 (Hamanishi) 11 November 1986, Abstract, figure 1, column 2, lines 22-30.	10
A	US, A, 4,741,606 (Takamura) 03 May 1988.	10
Y	US, A, 4,217,048 (Egawa) 12 August 1980, Abstract, claim 1.	15
Y	US, A, 4,593,984 (Kimura et al) 10 June 1986, Abstract, figure 1, column 3, line 30-40.	15

[X] 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 part 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)	"&"	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		

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
12 May 1994	MAY 25 1994
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231	Authorized officer for Tan Nguyen
Facsimile No. NOT APPLICABLE	Telephone No. (703) 308-1298

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)(July 1992)*

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US94/02315

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US, A, 4,747,675 (Nagler) 31 May 1988, Abstract, figure 1.	15
Y,P	US, A, 5,227,918 (Suzuki et al) 13 July 1993, Abstract, figure 1.	15
Y,A	US, A, 4,989,957 (Suzuki) 05 February 1991, Abstract, figure 1, column 2, lines 1-25.	20
A	US, A, 5,074,650 (Yamagishi et al) 24 December 1991.	20
Y	US, A, 4,484,802 (Kikuchi) 27 November 1984, Abstract, figure 1, claim 1.	22
Y	US, A, 4,848,883 (Maruyama) 18 July 1989, Abstract, figure 1,	22
Y	US, A, 4,995,707 (Hashimoto) 26 February 1991, Abstract, figure 1.	22
Y	US, A, 5,032,013 (Shibayama) 16 July 1991, Abstract, figure 1, column 3, lines 63-68, column 2, lines 1-9.	22
Y,P	US, A, 5,231,540 (Shibata) 27 July 1993, Abstract, figure 1.	22

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US94/02315

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER:
IPC (5):

G02B 15/00, 15/177, 15/14, 15/15, 15/16, 23/14, 21/02, 21/20, 21/22, 25/00, 25/04,

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER:
US CL :

359/399, 404, 407, 480, 643, 646, 656, 661, 676, 687, 689, 691, 692, 774, 792,

BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION WAS LACKING
This ISA found multiple inventions as follows:

I. Claims 1-9, drawn to a viewing system of the monocular or binocular comprising an objective lens unit and an eye lens unit, classified in class 359, subclass 407.
II. Claims 10-14, drawn to an optical system for magnifying an object comprising a positive first lens unit, a positive second lens unit, a positive second lens unit, a positive third lens unit, and a means for moving the positive second lens unit, classified in class 359, subclass 676.
III. Claims 15-19, drawn to an eyepiece for viewing an intermediate image comprising a negative lens unit, classified in class 359, subclass 643.
IV. Claims 20-21, drawn to an objective for use in a viewing system comprising a positive lens unit, means for reverting and inverting the intermediate image, and a negative lens unit, classified in class 359, subclass 656.
V. Claims 22-25, drawn to an optical system comprising a positive first lens unit, a negative second lens unit, a positive third lens unit, and a positive four lens unit, classified in class 359, subclass 774.