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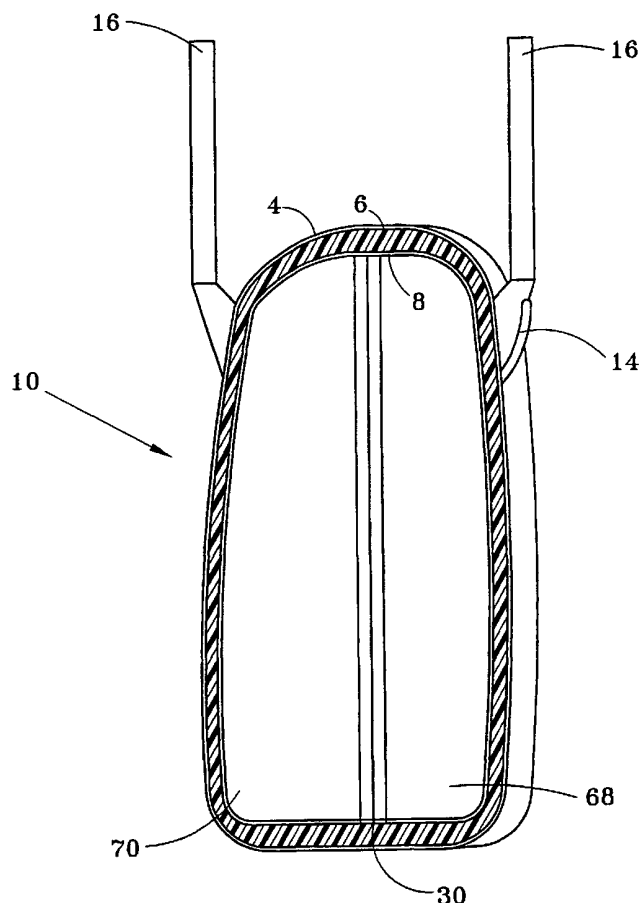
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: CARRYING CASE FOR LAPTOP COMPUTER



(57) Abstract: An inventive flexible shield and carrying
case for laptop computers and other delicate devices are
described herein. The flexible shield is preferably made of
polyethylene that increases in width from the front of the
case to the zipper, and from the back of the case to the zip-
per. The flexible shield dissipates the force of a blow to the
outside of the case and away from the computer.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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P, US 00/23589

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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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)

IPC 7 G06F A45C H05K

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, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 010 988 A (BROWN LAUREN) 30 April 1991 (1991-04-30) column 3, line 23 -column 3, line 40; figures 1-11	1-7,18
A	--- US 5 139 838 A (BAUM RUSSELL C) 18 August 1992 (1992-08-18) column 1, line 50 -column 1, line 54 column 1, line 65 -column 2, line 2 column 3, line 1-33 column 3, line 58-64	1,2,7, 18,22
A	--- US 5 274 846 A (KOLSKY RODGER E) 4 January 1994 (1994-01-04) column 1, line 21-34; figures 1-15 --- -/--	1,2,7, 18,22

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in 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 document 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 another 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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09.03.01

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 002 184 A (LLOYD GRAHAM P) 26 March 1991 (1991-03-26) column 3, line 34 -column 4, line 35; figures 1-5 ---	1,2,7,18
A	US 5 713 465 A (CHOE SUNJEEN) 3 February 1998 (1998-02-03) column 2, line 48 -column 3, line 3; figures 1,2 ---	1,2,7,18
A	GB 2 233 926 A (BP CHEM INT LTD) 23 January 1991 (1991-01-23) page 2, line 25-30; figures 2-4 ---	1,18,22
A	US 5 217 119 A (HOLLINGSWORTH DALE) 8 June 1993 (1993-06-08) cited in the application ---	
A	US 5 524 754 A (HOLLINGSWORTH W DALE) 11 June 1996 (1996-06-11) cited in the application -----	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 00/23589

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 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.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

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

see additional sheet

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.:

1 (Part a), 2-12, 18-20, 22

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1 (part a), 2-12, 18-20, 22 (searched)

The prior art has been identified as US 5010988(D1).

This document discloses a carrying case for protecting associated electronic and other delicate equipment comprising two parts connected by a hinge, two handles, a strap for securing the associated equipment, a zipper for selectively securing the case and a shock absorbing flexible shield made of thermoplastic material.

The first subject deals with the following aspect non-disclosed in the prior art : the flexible shield increasing in width and decreasing in density from one side of the case to the zipper.

The objective problem solved by this subject could be how obtain a high protective carrying case lighter in weight.

This is achieved by using a shield made of polymers having two different densities combined to enhance the dissipation of a force resulting from a shock inside the shield.

2. Claims: 1(part b), 13-17, 21 (not searched)

From the comparison of claims 1(part b), 13-17, 21 and the disclosure of D1, the second invention is a carrying case for a laptop computer containing a built-in adapter and solves the objective problem of recharging the computer batteries without opening the case.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PC, US 00/23589

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5010988 A	30-04-1991	NONE	
US 5139838 A	18-08-1992	NONE	
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