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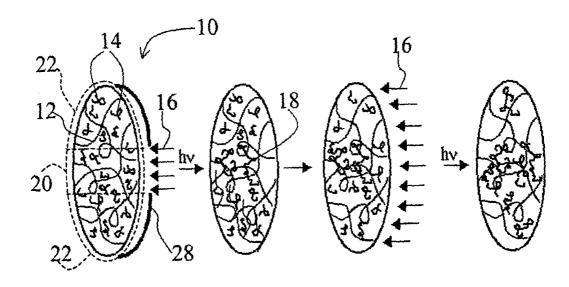
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(54) Title: PHASE CONTRAST VARIATION OF A PHOTO-INDUCED REFRACTIVE MATERIAL



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to compositions useful for optically recording or storing data by stimulating a composition having a refraction modulating composition, where a stimulated region of the composition represents one kind of data and a non-stimulated region of the composition represents another kind of data. The present invention also relates to methods of optically recording data utilizing the compositions of the present invention, as well as to optical data storage devices and optical data storage elements which utilize the optical data storage compositions of the invention.





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.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G11B7/00 G11C G11B7/24 G11C13/04 G03H1/02 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 G11B G11C G03F G03H 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, PAJ, WPI Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Category ° 1-5,7,9,WO 99 26112 A (POLAROID CORP) χ 13-19, 27 May 1999 (1999-05-27) 24 - 28, 30,32, 35-44.46.49. 50,52, 53,56, 57,60-62 abstract page 1, line 1 - line 17 page 6 -page 9, line 24 page 10; example 1 -/--Patent family members are listed in annex Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C χ χ 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 *A* document defining the general state of the lart which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "!" 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) "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 docu-*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means in the art. *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *&* document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 07/12/2001 26 November 2001 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040. Tx. 31 651 epo nl. Vogt, C Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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