(54) Title: INVENTORY TRACKING SYSTEM

(57) Abstract: An inventory tracking system and method having a handheld unit (20) with a housing (34, 36), a battery (24) disposed within the housing (34, 36), a chip (75) having identification information, and at least one contact element (22, 39) connected to the battery (24) and the chip (75). The system having a receptacle unit (30) placed at a storage location of items, the receptacle unit (30) having at least one contact element (22, 39), a chip (75) having receptacle-identifying information, and a transmitter (30) for transmitting signals to a processing unit (40) when the handheld unit contact element (22) touches the receptacle unit contact element (39). The processing unit (40) has a receiver (30) to receive transmitted signals from the receptacle unit (30) and uses the information in the signals to update the inventory information about the items at the storage location.
# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IPC(7)</th>
<th>US CL</th>
<th>According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G06P 17/60, 7/10</td>
<td>235/375, 383, 472; 705/4, 10-12, 14, 22, 28, 104, 182-186</td>
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## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S.: 235/375, 383, 472; 705/4, 10-12, 14, 22, 28, 104, 182-186

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

NONE

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

NONE

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 6,154,728 A (SATTAR et al.) 28 November 2000 (28.11.20000), see entire document.</td>
<td>1-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 6,105,004 A (HALPERIN et al.) 15 August 2000 (15.08.2000), see entire document.</td>
<td>1-19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

- **A**:  document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- **B**: earlier application or patent 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
- **R**: 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
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- **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
- **A**: document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search: 05 April 2002 (05.04.2002)

Date of mailing of the international search report: 25 APR 2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Box PCT

Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703)305-3220

Authorized officer

[Signature]

Michael L. Golday

[Telephone No. (703)305-0956]