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(54) Document authentication system

(57) In a system for authenticating documents (12), such as banknotes, cheques or the like, a document (12) to be tested is driven past a sensing station (20) which provides a digital colour image of the document which is stored in a memory (38), in the form of plurality of digital images obtained by illuminating the document (12) with light of different colours. The stored colour image is processed using template matching, for example, to determine the type and orientation of the document (12). The type and orientation information is utilized to select a plurality of areas of the digital colour image for colour intensity analysis. For example, a statistical testing procedure using stored values derived from processing genuine documents may be utilised. Documents of different types are thus all processed in a uniform manner.

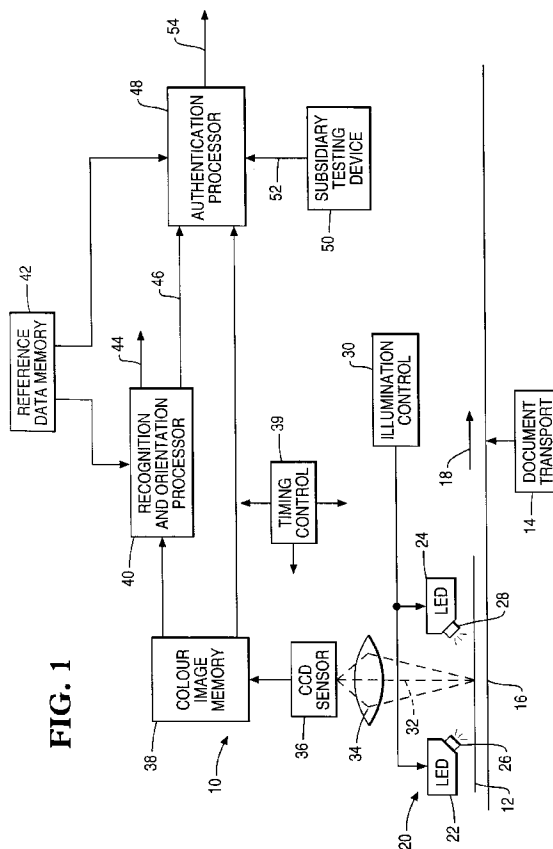


FIG. 1



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 95 30 8909

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	EP-A-0 558 340 (CANON KK) 1 September 1993 * claims 1,13; figures 1,15,16 *	1-13	G07D7/00
X	WO-A-91 03031 (DATLAB OY) 7 March 1991 * claim 1; figure 3 *	1-13	
A	EP-A-0 101 115 (NEDERLANDSE ORG TOEGEPAST) 22 February 1984 * claim 1; figure 1 *	1-13	
A	EP-A-0 294 497 (NIPPON ELECTRIC CO) 14 December 1988 * claim 1; figure 1 *	1-13	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			G07D
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		22 May 1996	Kirsten, K
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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