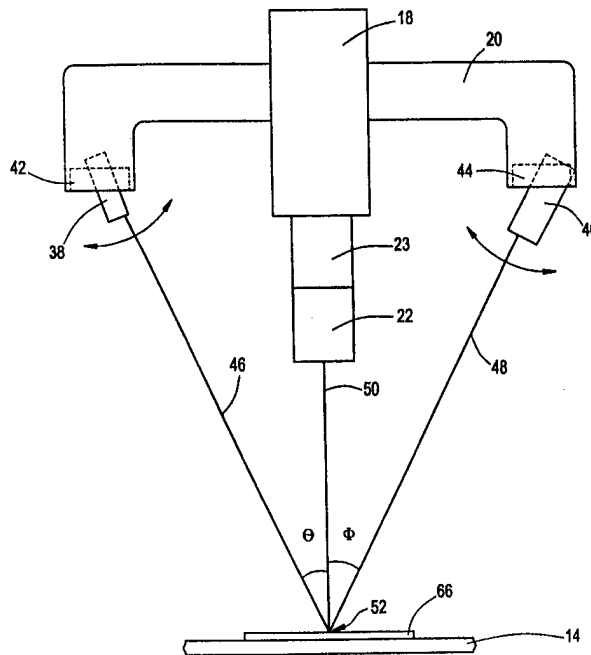




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/06500 (22) International Filing Date: 1 April 1998 (01.04.98) (30) Priority Data: 60/042,525 1 April 1997 (01.04.97) US (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): AGRIS-SCHOEN VISION SYSTEMS, INC. [US/US]; 4715-B Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BAUER, Heino, G. [DE/DE]; Buckelhalde 16, D-71549 Auenwald (DE). SCHOENBERGER, Robert, B. [US/US]; 501 S. Henry Street, Alexandria, VA 22304 (US). SIVITER, David, J. [US/US]; 5005 Knickerbocker Drive, #102, Alexandria, VA 22310 (US). (74) Agents: FAGIN, Kenneth, M. et al.; Rothwell, Figg, Ernst & Kurz, Suite 701 East, Columbia Square, 555 13th Street N.W., Washington, DC 20004 (US).</p>	<p>(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, GW, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims</i> <i>and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i> (88) Date of publication of the international search report: 3 December 1998 (03.12.98)</p>	

(54) Title: HIGH-PRECISION-RESOLUTION IMAGE ACQUISITION APPARATUS AND METHOD



(57) Abstract

A method and apparatus for setting and repeatably and reliably maintaining a desired image resolution. The invention features an optical, image acquiring device (18) and a pair of light sources (38, 40), the beams (46, 48) from which are caused to converge at a distance from the optical device which provides the desired resolution. Subsequently, positioning the optical device with the point of convergence of the beams on the surface of the object being imaged (66) ensures the desired resolution. In preferred embodiments, the plane yielding the desired resolution is caused to be coincident with the plane of optimal focus.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US98/06500

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :H04N: 07/18, 09/47
US CL :348/ 87, 94, 95, 126, 136, 137
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. : 348/ 86, 87, 92, 94, 95, 125, 126, 135, 136, 137

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

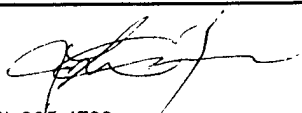
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,539,514 A (SHISIDO ET AL) 23 July 1996, column 27, lines 5-63; column 37, lines 32-67; column 39, lines 1-68.	1-43

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