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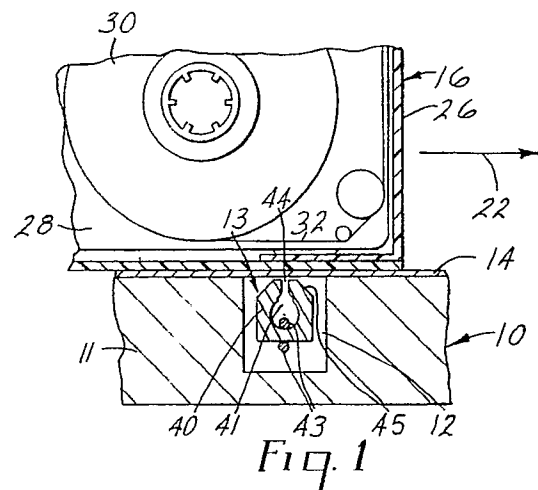
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(54) **Sensitizer for ferromagnetic markers used with electromagnetic article surveillance systems.**

(57) An apparatus for use with magnetically based electronic article surveillance systems employing certain types of markers includes a hollow core having a gap in its perimeter, a coil of wire wrapped around a portion of the core, and appropriate circuitry to drive the combination as an electromagnet. The gap configuration produces an external field of large intensity but limited range, such that the magnetizable portion of a marker is magnetized without affecting magnetic states of the article to which the marker is affixed. Depending on the nature of the circuit, the apparatus may be used as a desensitizer of such markers, or preferably as a resensitizer.



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 90 31 1821

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.5)
Y	EP-A-0 129 335 (MINNESOTA MINING AND MANUFACTURING CO.) * The whole document *	1,4	G 08 B 13/24
A	---	2-3,7-8	
Y	EP-A-0 202 033 (MAGNETIC PERIPHERALS) * Claim 1; figure 4 *	1,4	
A,D	DE-A-3 014 667 (REITER) * The whole document *	1,4,9	
A,D	US-A-3 665 449 (ELDER) * Column 5, lines 19-64 *	1,4-5	
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			G 08 B H 01 F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of search 27 August 91	Examiner SGURA S.
<div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div><div>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 T : theory or principle underlying the invention</div><div>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</div></div>			