

(19)



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European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 725 375 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
18.12.1996 Bulletin 1996/51

(51) Int Cl.⁶: **G07D 7/00**

(43) Date of publication A2:
07.08.1996 Bulletin 1996/32

(21) Application number: **96300447.8**

(22) Date of filing: **23.01.1996**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE ES FR GB IT

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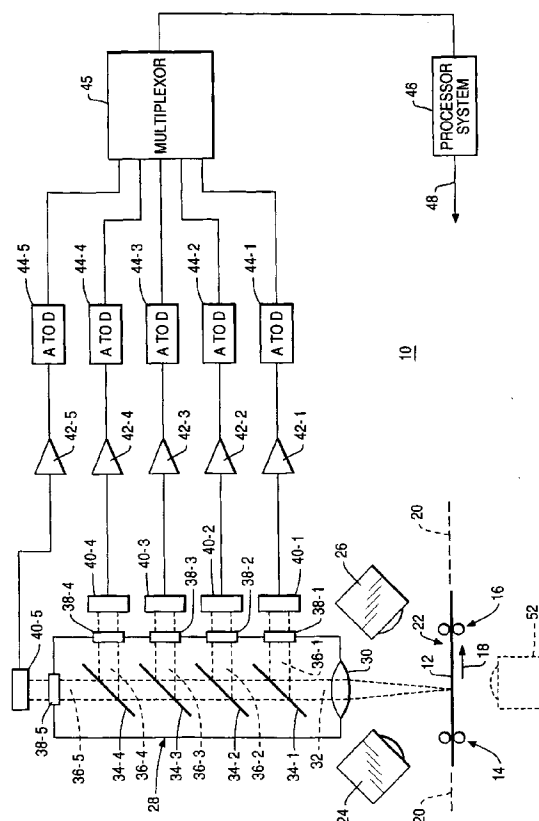
(30) Priority: **01.02.1995 GB 9501921**

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(54) Apparatus for authenticating documents

(57) In apparatus for authenticating documents (12) such as banknotes, light reflected from, or transmitted through, a document (12), is formed by a lens system (20) to a beam (32) which is directed to a series of wavelength selective beam splitters (34) each of which transmits light of greater than a characteristic wavelength and reflects light of lesser wavelength. The characteristic wavelengths of the beam splitters (34) increase or decrease along the series. The resulting output beams (36) are sensed by photosensors (40) to produce electrical signals which are digitized. The resulting data is analyzed, for example, by comparison with corresponding data derived from a genuine document, to provide an output signal on a line (48) indicative of the authenticity of the document (12).





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 96 30 0447

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	US 4 526 466 A (SANDERCOCK JOHN R) 2 July 1985	1,9-12	G07D7/00
A	* claim 1; figure 2 * ---	2-8,13	
A	DE 29 24 605 A (SODECO COMPTEURS DE GENEVE) 17 April 1980 * claim 1; figure 1 * ---	1-13	
A	US 5 304 813 A (DE MAN IVO) 19 April 1994 * claim 1; figure 1 * ---	1-13	
A	EP 0 024 352 A (PETERSEN HANS PETER) 4 March 1981 * claim 1; figure 1 * ---	1-13	
A	US 3 922 557 A (CARNES JR W ROBERT) 25 November 1975 * 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		21 October 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>			

EPO FORM 1503 03/92 (P44C01)