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(54) **Method for tracking the life cycle of film units and system**

(57) A method and system track the life-cycle of a film unit (10). The film unit (10) has a unique identifier (42). A logical memory unit (20) is allocated to the film unit (10). The logical memory unit (20) is remote from the film unit. The logical memory unit indicates the identifier. After the film unit is sold, status data about the film unit (10) is sent to the logical memory unit (20) and recorded, when the film unit is used in an input unit (16).

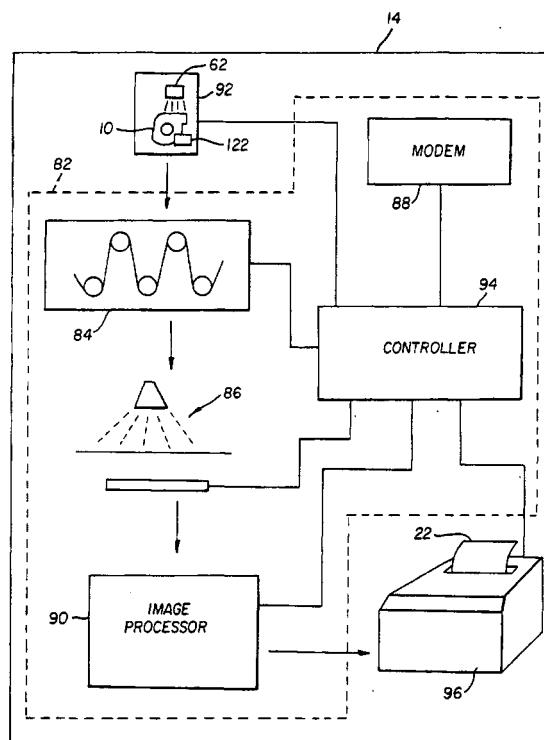


FIG. 5

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 20 4277

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 12 December 2003	Examiner Bähr, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS 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 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			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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