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(54) A method and apparatus for automatic attachment of a finishing block to a lens

(57) A method and apparatus for automatic determination of a location and orientation of a finishing block to be attached to a lens. The lens has either visible reference features or invisible reference features associated with a prescribed or predetermined value of at least one optical characteristic of the lens, with respect to which reference features the location and orientation of the finishing block are in a predetermined geometric relationship. The apparatus comprises a support (3) for carrying the lens (A); a reference features finder (5) for obtaining a graphic image of the lens (A) if the reference features are distinguishable when imaged, and/or obtaining a mapping image of the lens (A) based on which the optical characteristic of the lens (A) may be calculated, if the reference features are non-distinguishable when imaged, and a computer (24) for processing the graphic and/or mapping image of the lens (A), to derive therefrom the coordinates of the reference features and to determine the location and orientation of the finishing block (1) based on their predetermined geometrical relationship with the reference features and using the coordinates of the reference features.

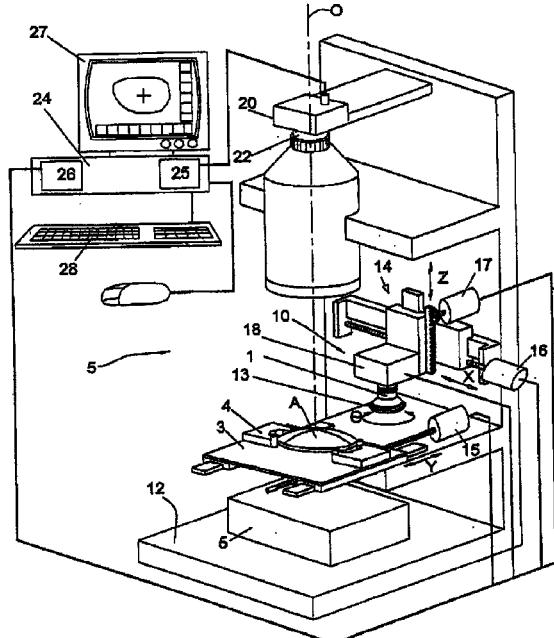


FIG. 1



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00122441.9

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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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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search VIENNA	Date of completion of the search 14-12-2000	Examiner REININGER	
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A: technological background	O: non-written disclosure		
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ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO. EP 00122441.9

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