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(54) **A device and a method for identifying graphic matter**

(57) The identification device comprises a light sensor which is focused on the document to be identified by means of an optical system and which can receive light reflected on the document and emitted by light sources incorporated in the device, the light sources being tuned individually to different wavelengths. The

method comprises; the emission of light of a controlled wavelength directed towards a region of the document to be checked, the collection of the reflected light on a light sensor by means of an optical focusing system, and the transmission of the signal generated in the light sensor to an interpretation and validation microprocessor.

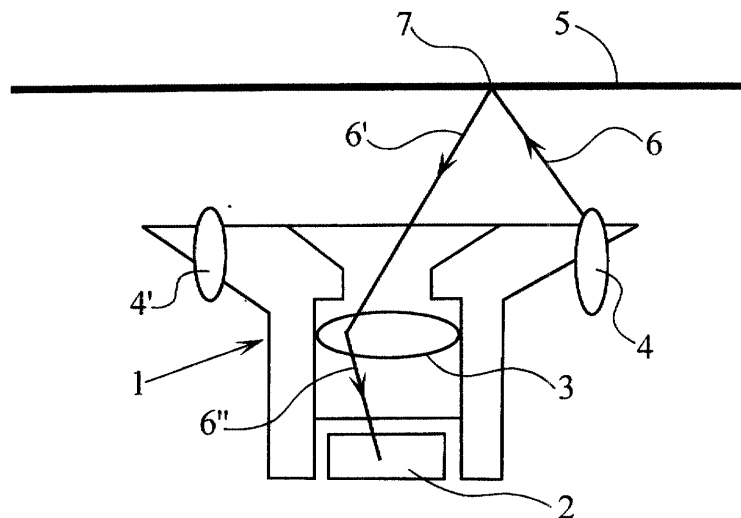


FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.CI.7) |
| X | US 4 204 765 A (KOVACH ALAN J ET AL) 27 May 1980 (1980-05-27) * figure 1 * * abstract * * column 2, line 26 - column 3, line 18 * --- | 1-4,6,7 | G07F7/12 G07D7/12 |
| X | US 5 304 813 A (DE MAN IVO) 19 April 1994 (1994-04-19) | 1-3,5-9 | |
| Y | * figures 1,2 * * column 2, line 50 - column 3, line 50 * * column 7, line 21 - line 40 * --- | 4 | |
| X | PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 017, no. 127 (P-1502), 17 March 1993 (1993-03-17) & JP 04 307693 A (OKI ELECTRIC IND CO LTD), 29 October 1992 (1992-10-29) | 1 | |
| A | * abstract * --- | 6,8,9 | |
| Y | US 4 618 257 A (BAYNE ROBERT T ET AL) 21 October 1986 (1986-10-21) | 4 | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.CI.7) |
| A | * figure 1 * * column 2, line 51 - column 4, line 22 * ----- | 1-3,6,7,9 | G07D |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search THE HAGUE | | Date of completion of the search 29 June 2001 | Examiner Verhoef, P |
| 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 | |

EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 00 50 0182

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82