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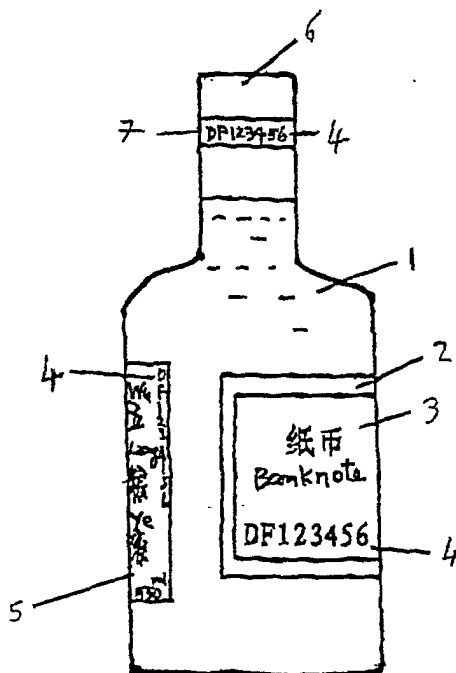
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(54) **A method of preventing counterfeiting**

(57) A method of preventing counterfeiting of an item, comprising the steps of: providing an item, the authenticity of which is to be verified; providing a bank note having a serial number marked thereon; physically associating the bank note with the item; and marking at least a part of the serial number on the item.

Also disclosed is a combination of an item, the authenticity of which is to be verified, and a bank note having a serial number marked thereon, wherein the bank note is physically associated with the item and the item has at least a part of the serial number of the bank note marked thereon.

Fig 1



EP 1 176 562 A3



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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 12 0749

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.7)
X	EP 0 710 934 A (AT&T CORP) 8 May 1996 (1996-05-08) * column 1, line 56 - column 2, line 27 * * column 3, line 31 - column 4, line 11 * * column 5, line 25 - column 6, line 51; figures *	1-16	G07D7/00 G07F7/08
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			G07D G07F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 13 October 2003	Examiner Rivero, C
<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 &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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EP 00 12 0749

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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