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(11) **EP 1 191 495 A3**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
28.05.2003 Bulletin 2003/22

(51) Int Cl.7: **G08B 13/14**

(43) Date of publication A2:
27.03.2002 Bulletin 2002/13

(21) Application number: **01308149.2**

(22) Date of filing: **25.09.2001**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE TR**
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: **25.09.2000 GB 0023461**

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(54) **A method and apparatus for security tagging**

(57) The electronic security alarm system (1) of the present invention detects the theft or loss of valuable items of personal property, for example briefcases, wallets, purses and such like.

The system includes an alarm unit (2) that monitors one or more tag units (14a, 14b) each of which is attached to a valuable item of property.

The alarm unit (2) has two main operating states. In the first state, the alarm unit (2) registers new tags (14a, 14b) when they are brought within a short distance of the alarm unit (the first state detection range (20)). In the second state these registered tag units (14a, 14b)

are monitored so that if any of them are moved outside a second distance (22) (the second state detection range) an alert is activated.

Once the alarm is activated it can be deactivated by either bringing the missing item back into the second state detection range (22) or by switching the alarm unit (2) into the first state.

Additionally, items may be registered whilst the alarm unit (2) is in the second state. This is achieved by registering the newly detected item if it passes within the first state detection range (20).

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 30 8149

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	WO 94 29824 A (DIREKT INC) 22 December 1994 (1994-12-22) * page 4, line 12 - page 8, line 32; figures 1-6 *	1-20	G08B13/14
A	US 4 675 656 A (NARCISSE BERNADINE O) 23 June 1987 (1987-06-23) * abstract *	1-20	
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			G08B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 8 April 2003	Examiner Sgura, S
<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 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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08-04-2003

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