### UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL (Small Entity)

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No. P07 42750

Total Pages in this Submission 23

#### TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

**Box Patent Application** Washington, D.C. 20231

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## UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL (Small Entity)

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			Acc	ompanying App	ilication Pai	ts (Con	itinuea)		
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Michael L. Crapenhoft Registration No. 37,115 PRETTY, SCHROEDER & POPLAWSKI, P.C. 444 South Flower Street - 19th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90071-2919 Ofc: 213/622-7700 Fax: 213/489-4210							WSKI, P.C.		



#### APPLICATION

OF

C. KUMAR N. PATEL

**FOR** 

UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

ON

#### **CRUISE CONTROL INDICATOR**

Docket No. P07 42750

Sheets of Drawings: 4

#### **Attorneys**

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#### **CRUISE CONTROL INDICATOR**

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/085,183, filed on May 12, 1998.

#### FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to cruise control systems and more particularly to automotive cruise control systems which display preset speed information.

#### **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The cruise control accessory found in many automobiles today can be characterized as a human-machine system. That is, while the cruise control feature offers the operator of a vehicle the benefit of speed control (machine) automation, it also requires significant human interface for its proper and safe operation. In particular, conventional cruise control systems require the operator to (1) turn on the cruise control system (by depressing or rocking a button on the steering wheel or dashboard), (2) achieve the desired cruising speed (by controlling the deflection of the accelerator), and then (3) engage, or set, the cruise control (by pressing another button typically located on the steering wheel or cruise control stalk shift).

Further, the conventional cruise control system is provided with a memory function that stores the set control speed. Thus, applying the brakes to temporarily slow down temporarily disengages the cruise control function. However, re-engaging the cruise control by depressing the "resume" button returns the automobile to the preset, memorized speed. Similarly, temporarily accelerating while the cruise control is engaged, as is done, for example, when passing other vehicles, does not disengage the system. Rather, when the accelerator is released, the automobile slows down until it returns to its set cruising speed and continues at that speed. In fact, the preset, memorized speed is typically canceled only if the cruise control system is turned off (by either depressing the system button or turning off the automobile) or if another speed is set into the memory.

Thus, the conventional cruise control system can be characterized as existing in any one of five modes. Those modes are: (1) cruise control system off - the car's speed is controlled manually; (2) system on, but not engaged - the car's speed is still controlled manually; (3) system on and engaged at a set speed- the car's speed is automatically



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