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10/298,367	11/18/2002	Jeffery R. Parker	GLOLP0106USD	3656

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EXAMINER

ASSAF, FAYEZ G

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2872

DATE MAILED: 02/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 2872

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

The status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 34-52 have been canceled.

Claims 1-33 remain in the application: claims 1-25 are pending and claims 26-33 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Terminal Disclaimer

The terminal disclaimer filed on 11/14/2003 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent 5,613,751 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 14-17, 19, 20, 22, 23 and 25 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakamura (US 5,467,417.)

Art Unit: 2872

Regarding claims 1 and 10, Nakamura discloses a light emitting assembly illumination comprising a light guide (3 of Fig. 1) having at least one light input surface (upper surface of light guide), a plurality of closely spaced light sources (1's of Fig. 1) along said light input surface for supplying light to said light guide, a plurality of light extracting deformities (5 of Fig. 1) on at least one surface of said light guide, said deformities having shapes (line 30 to line 32 of Col. 3) for controlling an output ray angle distribution of emitted light to suit a particular application, and a transparent substrate (6 of Fig. 1) overlying at least one surface of said light guide.

Regarding claim 17, Nakamura discloses both the light guide and the substrate having deformities on at least one surface of each of said light guide and said substrate, the deformities vary in at least size and or shape (see Fig. 1 and Fig. 2.)

Regarding claim 25, Nakamura discloses the substrate providing the device that changes the output ray angle distribution, and improved uniformity of the light output distribution (line 24 to line 36 of Col. 2.)

It is noted that the recitation with respect to the assembly being for vehicle illumination has not been given patentable weight, because the manner in which the claimed apparatus is intended to be used does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from the cited prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations.

Art Unit: 2872

Regarding claims 2-5, 19 and 22, Nakamura discloses the substrate comprising a plate attached to the light guide which covers said light guide (see Fig. 1, line 30 to line 32 of Col. 3.)

Regarding claim 6, Nakamura discloses the deformities being at least one of depressions and raised surfaces on the one surface of the light guide (see Fig. 2.)

Regarding claims 8 and 15, Nakamura discloses the deformities being a device that changes the output ray angle distribution (line 48 to line 51 of Col. 4.)

Regarding claims 14 and 23, Nakamura discloses at least one surface of at least one of said substrate and said light guide being prismatic (see Fig. 8.)

Regarding claim 16, Nakamura discloses more than one said substrate overlies said light guide (6 and 7 of Fig. 1.)

Regarding claim 20, Nakamura discloses the substrate having reflective and refractive surfaces (see Fig. 2, line 17 to line 27 of Col. 4.)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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