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(12) United States Patent Jin et al.

(54) OPTICAL CROSSCONNECT SYSTEM COMPRISING RECONFIGURABLE LIGHT-REFLECTING DEVICES

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- (73) Assignee: Agere Systems Inc., Miami Lakes, FL (US)
- (*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.
- (21) Appl. No.: 09/197,800
- (22) Filed: Nov. 23, 1998
- (51) Int. Cl.⁷ G02B 6/26

(10) Patent No.: US 6,256,430 B1 (45) Date of Patent: Jul. 3, 2001

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* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner-Frank G. Font

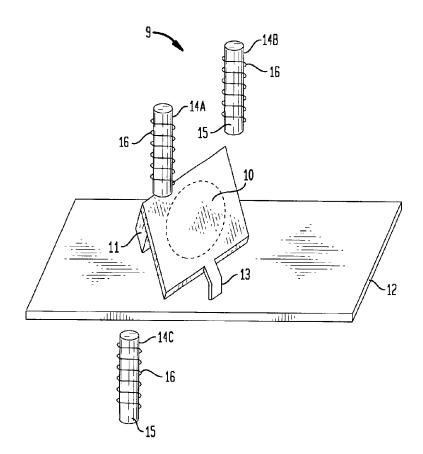
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(57) ABSTRACT

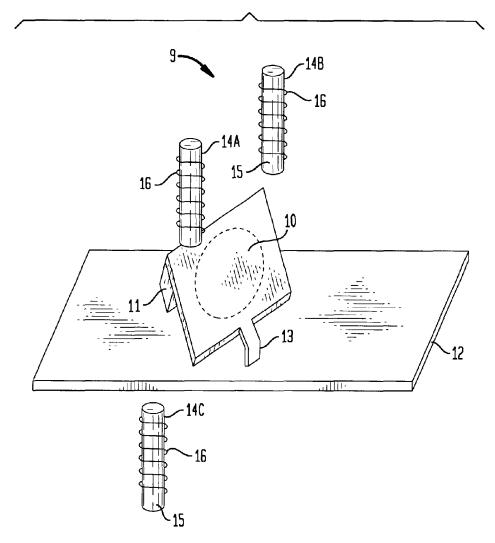
In accordance with the invention, an optical switching device comprises a light-reflecting mirror containing a magnetic component coupled to a substrate. One or more programmable magnets are provided for moving the mirror by interacting with the magnetic component. The programmable magnets move the mirrors between or among selected positions and then maintain the mirror position without continuous power. Exemplary cross connects and 2×2 switches are described.

9 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets

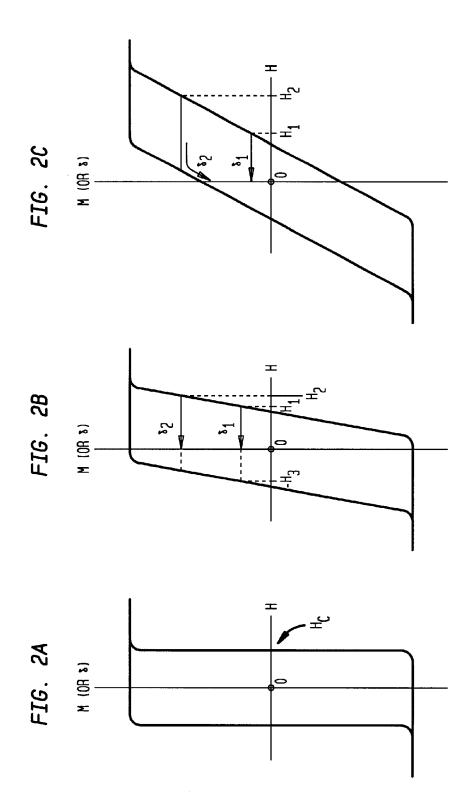


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FIG. 1



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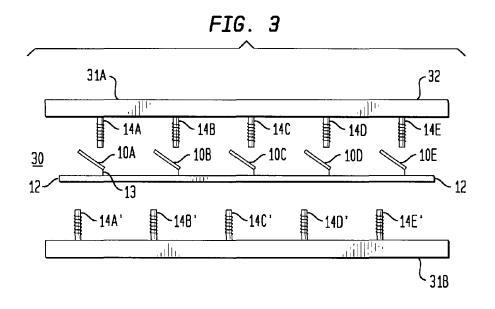
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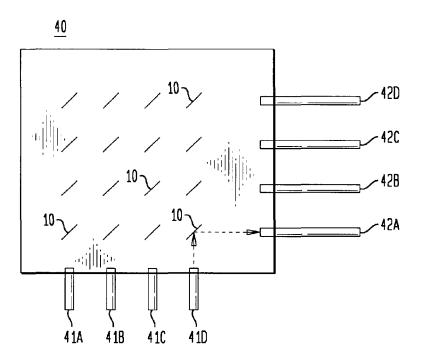
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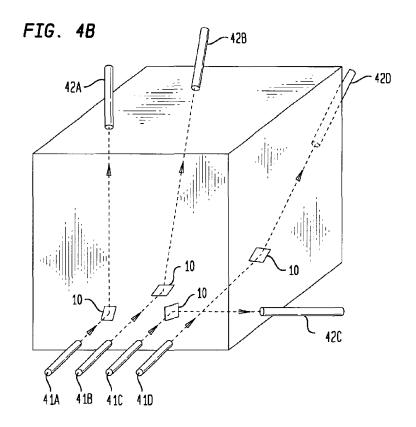
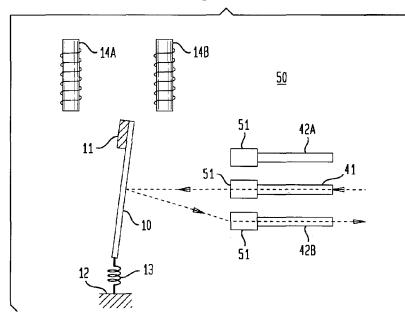


FIG. 5



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