

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, WE, G.A. John COLEMAN and Joseph A. FRADY, have invented a certain improvement in TOBACCO BALE SLICING APPARATUS AND METHOD, for which a regular utility patent application was filed on September 30, 1998 as U.S. Application No. 09/163,182;

WHEREAS, UNIVERSAL LEAF TOBACCO CO., INC., a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of Virginia, and having its principal office and place of business at Richmond, Virginia, is desirous of acquiring an interest therein;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00) and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, WE, the said, G.A. John COLEMAN and Joseph A. FRADY, by these presents do sell, assign and transfer unto the said UNIVERSAL LEAF TOBACCO CO., INC., its successors, assigns and legal representatives, the full and exclusive right to the said invention in the United States and all foreign countries as described in the aforesaid application, together with the right of priority under the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, Inter-American Convention Relating to Patents, Designs and Industrial Models, and any other international agreements to which the United States of America adheres, and WE do hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to issue said Letters Patent to the said UNIVERSAL LEAF TOBACCO CO., INC., for its interest as assignee, for the sole use and behoof of the said UNIVERSAL LEAF TOBACCO CO., INC., its successors, assigns, and legal representatives;

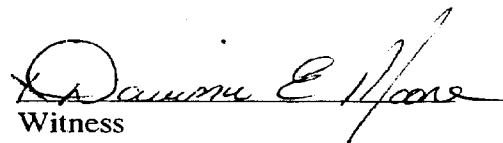
AND WE HEREBY agree to transfer a like interest upon request of said assignee, its successors, assigns and legal representatives, and without further remuneration, in and to any improvements and applications for patents based thereon, growing out of or related to the said invention, and to execute any papers by the said assignee, its successors, assigns and legal representatives, deemed essential to the assignee's full protection and title in and to the invention hereby transferred;

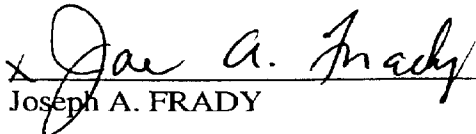
Agreeing, furthermore, upon request of said assignee and without further remuneration, to execute any and all papers desired by the said assignee for the filing and granting of foreign applications and the perfecting of title thereto in said assignee.

The undersigned hereby authorize Pillsbury Madison & Sutro LLP, to insert hereon any further identification necessary or desirable for recordation of this document.

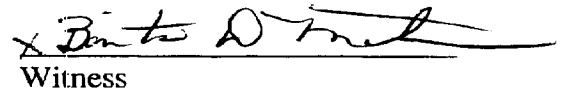

G.A. John COLEMAN

X 11-9-98
Date


Witness

X 
Joseph A. FRADY

X 11/19/98
Date

X 
Witness

Date

Witness

Date

Witness

Date

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