FORM PTO-1619A Expires 06/30/99 OMB 0651-0027 02-18-2000

U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office PATENT

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Address (line 1)	4637 Chabot Drive, Suite	200			of a domestic representative is attached. (Designation must be a		
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Corresponde	nt Name and Address	Area Code and Telephone Numbe	r (510)832-4111
Name	Charles R. Cypher		
Address (line 1)	405 -14th Street, Suite	1607	
Address (line 2)	Oakland, CA 94612-2747		
Address (line 3)			
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	being filed together with a <u>new</u> Patent named executing inventor.	Application, enter the date the patent applic	ation was Month Day Year
Patent Coope	eration Treaty (PCT)		
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Charles R.	Cypher	Lale R. Cente	1/14/99
	f Person Signing	Signature	Date

PATENT REEL: 010552 FRAME: 0209

<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>

WHEREAS, I, WILLIAM F. LEEK, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at 2995 Ribera Road, Carmel, California, 93923, have made an invention entitled HOLDOWN, Attorney's Docket No. SST/1022 and have on February 14, 1998 executed an application for Letters Patent of the United States of America based thereon;

WHEREAS, SIMPSON STRONG-TIE COMPANY, INC., a corporation of California having its principal office at 4637 Chabot Drive, Suite 200, Pleasanton, CA 94588, is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title and interest in, to and under said invention and the United States Letters Patent to be obtained therefore;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I, WILLIAM F. LEEK by these presents do sell, assign and transfer unto said SIMPSON STRONG-TIE COMPANY, INC., its successors and assigns, the entire right, title and interest in and to the said invention and application, and in and to any division, continuation or continuation-in-part, of said application, and in and to any and all Letters Patent and reissues and extensions thereof, of the United States of America and countries foreign thereto (including the right to apply for Letters Patent in foreign countries in its own name and to claim any priority rights for such foreign applications to which such applications are entitled under international conventions, treaties, or otherwise), which have been or may be granted on any of the foregoing to be held and enjoyed as fully and exclusively as they would have been by me had this assignment and transfer not been made;

I hereby covenant that no assignment, sale, agreement or encumbrance has been or will be made or entered into which would conflict with this agreement and sale;

PATENT REEL: 010552 FRAME: 0210 I do further agree for myself and for my heirs, executors and administrators to execute and deliver without further consideration but at the expense of SIMPSON STRONG-TIE COMPANY, INC., any further applications, assignments and documents, and to perform such other acts as I lawfully may, that may be deemed necessary by the said SIMPSON STRONG-TIE COMPANY, INC., its successors, assigns, and nominees fully to secure its interests as aforesaid and to obtain or maintain Letters Patent in any and all countries;

And I do hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to issue any and all Letters Patent which may be grarted upon any of the said applications, to the said SIMPSON STRONG-TIE COMPANY, INC., as the assignee of the entire interest therein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name on the day and year set forth below.

SIGNED at PLEASANTON, California.

Dated: 1/10/00

WILLIAM F. LEEK

CERTIFICATE OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF EXECUTION OF INSTRUMENT

State of California
County of ALAMEDA

On this 10 day of TANUARY, 2000, before me KATHLEEN M. KUWITZKY, a Notary Public in and for the said County and State, residing therein, duly commissioned and sworr, personally appeared the above named WILLIAM F. LEEK personally known to me, and known by me to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument in my presence, and acknowledged that he executed the same as his free act and deed, on the day and year aforesaid. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my off cial seal the day and year in this certificate first above written.

NOTARY PUBLIC

(SEAL

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PATENT
RECORDED: 01/19/2000 REEL: 010552 FRAME: 0211