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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office



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Tab settings

To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks: Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof.



1. Name of conveying party(ies):  
**Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.**

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):

Name: **Bridgestone/Firestone Research, Inc.**

Internal Address:

Additional names(s) of conveying party(ies)  Yes  No

3. Nature of conveyance: **1-30-01**

- Assignment  Merger
- Security Agreement  Change of Name
- Other

Street Address: **1659 South Main Street**

City: **Akron** State: **OH** ZIP: **44301**

Execution Date: **January 26, 2001**

Additional name(s) & address(es) attached?  Yes  No

4. Application number(s) or registration numbers(s):

If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is:

A. Patent Application No. (s)

B. Patent No. (s)

**09/501,746**

Additional numbers attached?  Yes  No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:

Name: **John H. Hornickel**

Internal Address: **Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.**

Street Address: **1200 Firestone Parkway**

6. Total number of applications and patents involved: **1**

7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41):.....\$ **40.00**

- Enclosed - Any excess or insufficiency should be credited or debited to deposit account
- Authorized to be charged to deposit account

8. Deposit account number:

**06-0925**

**410E**

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City: **Akron** State: **OH** ZIP: **44317**

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9. Statement and signature.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.

**John H. Hornickel**

Name of Person Signing

Signature

**01/26/2001**

Date

**ASSIGNMENT**

WHEREAS BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE, INC., a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of Ohio and having its principal place of business in Nashville, Tennessee, owns all right and title to United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/501,746, entitled "Tire Tread Unit," as well as the underlying invention described and claimed in that patent application, by means of an assignment from the inventor, Ke-Jun Xie, executed on February 3, 2000 A.D.;

WHEREAS BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE RESEARCH, INC., a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Delaware and having a principal place of business in Akron, Ohio, is affiliated with BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE, INC. through their parent company BRIDGESTONE CORP.;

WHEREAS pursuant to previously entered into Agreements between parent company BRIDGESTONE CORP. and its wholly owned subsidiaries BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE, INC. and BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE RESEARCH, INC., relating to ownership of intellectual property, BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE RESEARCH, INC. is to own United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/501,746 and the underlying invention described and claimed therein;

NOW, THEREFORE:

In consideration of its obligations under the aforesaid Intellectual Property Agreements, BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE, INC. does hereby sell, assign, and transfer to BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE RESEARCH, INC., its successors, or its assigns the full and exclusive right in the United States to the aforesaid invention and the aforesaid U.S. patent application, as well as the right to enforce or defend any such letters patent which may issue therefrom.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE, INC. does execute this agreement on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2001.

BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE, INC., by

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: John H. Hornickel

Title: Assistant Secretary, Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.