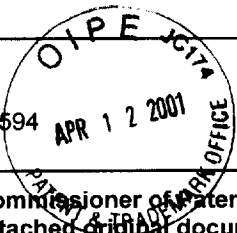


FORM PTO-1594
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RECORDATION FORM COVER SHEET
PATENTS ONLY

04-27-2001



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

ATTN. BOX ASSIGNMENTS

1. Name of conveying party(ies):

1. Gerhard WINKLHOFER
2. Dag HEINRICH
3. Thomas FINK

Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached? Yes No

MTC
4.12.01

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

Name: Joh. Winklhofer & Söhne GmbH & Co., KG

Internal Address:

3. Nature of conveyance:

Assignment Merger
 Security Agreement Change of Name

Street Address: Albert-Rosshaupter-Strasse 53,
D-81369, München, Germany

City:

State: | Zip Code: |

Other

Execution Date: 1. February 22, 2001; 2. and 3. February 19, 2001

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

4. Application number(s) or patent number(s): If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application:

A. Patent Application Number(s): 09/744,949

B. Patent Number(s):

Additional numbers attached? Yes No

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

Name: Mr. Ernest F. Chapman

Internal Address: FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

04/27/2001 TDIAZ1 00000010 09744949

01 FC:581 40.00 DP

Street Address: 1300 I Street, N.W.

City: Washington

State: DC Zip: 20005-3315

6. Total number of applications and registrations involved: 1

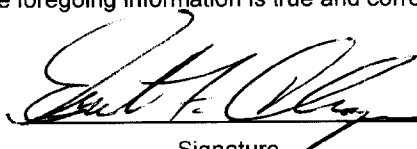
7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41): \$40

Enclosed (Please charge deficiency to deposit account)

Authorized to be charged to deposit account

8. Deposit account number: 06-0916

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.

Ernest F. Chapman  April 12, 2001

Reg. No. 25.961 Signature Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments and documents: 3

JOINT INVENTION
(U.S. Rights Only)

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, We, the below named inventors, (hereinafter referred to as assignors, have made an invention entitled:

METHOD FOR JOINING A FLAT-LINK ARTICULATED CHAIN ELEMENT

for which we executed an application for United States Letters Patent concurrently herewith or filed an application for United States Letters Patent on January 31, 2001, (Application No. _____); and

WHEREAS, **JOH. WINKLHOFER & SÖHNE GMBH & CO. KG**, a corporation of Germany, whose post office address is Albert-Rosshaupter-Strasse 53, D-81369 München, GERMANY (hereinafter referred to as assignee), is desirous of securing the entire right, title, and interest in and to this invention, the application for United States Letters Patent on this invention and the Letters Patent to be issued upon this application;

NOW THEREFORE, be it known that, for good and valuable consideration the receipt of which from assignee is hereby acknowledged, we, as assignors, have sold, assigned, transferred, and set over, and do hereby sell, assign, transfer, and set over unto the assignee, its lawful successors and assigns, our entire right, title, and interest in and to this invention and this application, and all divisions, and continuations thereof, and all Letters Patent of the United States which may be granted thereon, and all reissues thereof; and we hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks of the United States to issue all Letters Patent for this invention to assignee, its successors and assigns, in accordance with the terms of this Assignment;

AND, WE HEREBY further covenant and agree that we will, without further consideration, communicate with assignee, its successors and assigns, any facts known to us respecting this invention and testify in any legal proceeding, sign all lawful papers when called upon to do so, execute and deliver all papers that may be necessary or desirable to perfect the title to this invention in said assignee, its successors and assigns, execute all divisional, continuation, and reissue applications, make all rightful oaths and generally do everything possible to aid assignee, its successors and assigns, to obtain and enforce proper patent protection for this invention in the United States, it being understood that any expense incident to the execution of such papers shall be borne by the assignee, its successors and assigns.

AND, WE HEREBY authorize and request the attorneys we have empowered in the Declaration and Power of Attorney in this application, to insert here in parentheses (Application No. 09/744,949, filed January 31, 2001) the filing date and application number of said application when known.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands.

First Assignor

Gerhard WINKLHOFER
Amselweg 2, D-82152 Krailling, Germany

Citizenship: Germany

Signature: 

Date: 22.01.2001

Second Assignor

Dag HEINRICH
Poennensperchstrasse 4, D-82377 Penzberg, Germany

Citizenship: Germany

Signature: 

Date: 19.02.01

Third Assignor

Thomas FINK
Ulmenweg 17, D-85221 Dachau, Germany

Citizenship: Germany

Signature: 

Date: 19.02.2001