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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

101739603

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

<p>1. Name of conveying party(ies): Thomas Hodge</p> <p>Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached? 5-31-01 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>2. Name and address of receiving party(ies) Name: Michelin Recherche et Technique S.A.</p> <p>Address: Route Louis Braille 10 et 12 31 CH-1763 Granges-Paccot Switzerland</p> <p>City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Additional name(s) and address(es) attached? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>3. Nature of conveyance:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment <input type="checkbox"/> Merger <input type="checkbox"/> Security Agreement <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Name <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p> <p>Execution Date: May 23, 2001</p>	

4. Application number(s) or patent number(s) **09/778,114**

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) _____

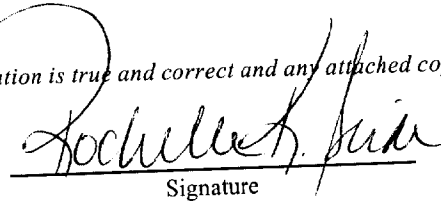
Additional numbers attached? Yes No

<p>5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:</p> <p>Name: BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. 30 Rockefeller Plaza - 44 Fl. New York, NY 10112</p>	<p>6. Total number of applications and patents involved: 1 (one)</p> <p>7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41): \$ 40.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> Authorized to be charged to deposit account</p> <p>8. Deposit account number : 02-4377 (Charge any additional fees to this account) (Attach duplicate copy of this page if paying by deposit account)</p>
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DO NOT USE THIS SPACE

9. Statement and signature

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

Rochelle K. Seide, Ph.D.  **May 29, 2001**
Name of Person Signing Signature Date

Page _____ of _____
Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments and document: **4**

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, I, Thomas Hodge, a citizen of the United States of America, whose post office address is 331 Parkside Drive, Simpsonville, SC 29681, have made an invention entitled "TIRES FOR HEAVY LOADS AND USE OF A RUBBER COMPOSITION TO DELAY IRREGULAR WEAR ON THESE TIRES" as set forth and described in application for Letters Patent of the United States Serial No. 09/778,144 filed February 7, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Michelin Recherche et Technique S.A., a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the Country of Switzerland, and having an office for the transaction of business at Route Louis Braille 10 et 12, CH-1763 Granges-Paccot, Switzerland, is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title and interest in and to said invention and any improvements thereon, and in and to the said application for Letters Patent therefor, and any Letters Patent which may be obtained therefor;

NOW, THEREFORE, TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, BE IT KNOWN, that I, the said, Thomas Hodge, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00), lawful money of the United States, to me in hand paid by said Michelin Recherche et Technique S.A., and other valuable considerations unto me moving from said Michelin Recherche et Technique S.A., at or before the ensealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, have sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed and by these presents do sell, assign, transfer and convey, unto said Michelin Recherche et Technique S.A., its successors and assigns, the entire right, title and interest in and to the said invention entitled "TIRES FOR HEAVY LOADS AND USE OF A RUBBER COMPOSITION TO DELAY IRREGULAR WEAR ON THESE TIRES" as set forth and described in application for Letters Patent of the United States Serial No. 09/778,144, filed February 7, 2001, and any and all improvements thereon, and in and to said application and any division, continuation or continuation-inpart thereof, and in and to any Letters Patent of the United States which may be issued on any of said applications, and any reissues thereof, and in and to any and all applications for Letters Patent filed in foreign countries for said invention or improvements, including all priority rights under the Paris Convention, and any and all Letters Patent which may be granted in foreign countries therefor, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD THE SAME to the full end of the term or terms for which any and all said Letters Patent may be granted;

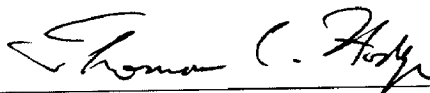
AND I, the said, Thomas Hodge, do hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to issue the said Letters Patent of the United States to said Michelin Recherche et Technique S.A., as the assignee of the entire right, title and interest in and to the same, for the sole use and behoof of said Michelin Recherche et Technique S.A., its successors and assigns;

NY02:320609.1

AND I, the said, Thomas Hodge for the considerations aforesaid, do hereby covenant and agree to and with said Michelin Recherche et Technique S.A., its successors and assigns, that I have the full power to make this assignment, and that the rights assigned are not encumbered by any grant, license or right heretofore given, and that I, my executors or administrators, shall and will do all lawful acts and things and make, execute and deliver without further compensation, any and all other instruments in writing, further applications, papers, affidavits, powers of attorney, assignments, and other documents which, in the opinion of counsel for said Michelin Recherche et Technique S.A., its successors and assigns, may be required or necessary to more effectively secure to and vest in said Michelin Recherche et Technique S.A., its successors and assigns, the entire right, title and interest in and to said invention and improvements, applications, Letters Patent, rights, benefits, privileges and advantages hereby sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed, and that I will sign any applications for reissue which may be desired by the owner of the patent or patents which may be issued for the said invention or improvements.

Subscribed and executed at Greenville, South Carolina
(Place)

on May 23, 2001
(Date)




Thomas Hodge

State of South Carolina
County of Greenville

Witness: _____
(Type Name)

Witness: _____
(Type Name)

Before me personally appeared Thomas Hodge who acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be a free act and deed and also represented that he is authorized to execute the same this 23rd day of May, 2001.


Notary Public, Sylvia A. Ransom

My Commission Expires
August 1, 2007