

REC 07-23-2001

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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TO THE HONORABLE DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE. PLEASE RECORD THE ATTACHED ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS OR COPY THEREOF.

OFFICE. PLEASE RECORD THE ATTACHED ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS OR COPY THEREOF.

1. Name of conveying party(ies):
ORIHASHI MFG. CO., LTD. **7-1601**

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

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

Name: NHK SPRING CO., LTD.
Street Address: 10, Fukuura 3-chome, Kanazawa-ku
City: Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa **JUL 16 2001**
Country: Japan

3. Nature of Conveyance:

Assignment Merger
 Security Agreement Change of Name
 Other _____

Execution Date: July 2, 2001

Name and address of receiving party(ies):

Name: YOKOHAMA KIKO CO., LTD.
Street Address: 11-1 Fukuura 2-chome, Kanazawa-ku
City: Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa
Country: Japan

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 is: _____

A. Patent Application No.(s) - 09/673,933
Title: RETAINING ARRANGEMENT FOR A ROD MEMBER

B. Patent No.(s)

Additional numbers attached? Yes No

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

Name: Alan H. MacPherson
Internal Address: SKJERVEN MORRILL MacPHERSON LLP
Street Address: 25 METRO DRIVE, SUITE 700
City SAN JOSE State CA Zip 95110

6. Total number of applications and patents involved: 1

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

Authorized to be charged to Deposit Account 19-2386
 Charge Deposit Account 19-2386 for any additional fees required for this conveyance and credit deposit account 19-2386 any amounts overpaid

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8. 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.

Alan H. MacPherson No. 24,423 Alan H. MacPherson July 9, 2001
Name of Person Signing Signature Date

Total number of pages comprising cover sheet: 4

ASSIGNMENT

For good and valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged _____, ORIHASHI MFG. CO., LTD., a Japanese corporation, having a place of business at 18-4 Kitakojiya 1-chome, Ota-Ku, Tokyo, Japan , having acquired by prior written assignments from the inventors Juichi Sugita, Toshiharu Yoshizawa, and Junji Orihashi (said prior assignment being executed on October 3, 2000 by Juichi Sugita, executed on September 25, 2000 by Toshiharu Yoshizawa, and executed on September 26, 2000 by Junji Orihashi), a one-third undivided right, title and interest in an invention of Juichi Sugita, Toshiharu Yoshizawa, and Junji Orihashi, entitled:

RETAINING ARRANGEMENT FOR A ROD MEMBER

(hereinafter "Said Invention") for which a United States patent application was filed on October 23, 2000, and which application now has Serial No. 09/673,933 (hereinafter "Said U.S. Patent Application"), and having acquired a one-third undivided right, title and interest in all patent applications and patents of every country for Said Invention, including divisions, reissues, continuations and extensions thereof (hereinafter "Said Patent Applications and Patents"), and all rights of priority resulting from the filing of said applications; and having acquired the right to apply for patents of countries foreign to the United States

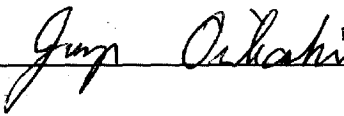
for Said Invention, and to claim all rights of priority without further authorization from the assignors (hereinafter "Said Rights of Priority"),

Now, in view of the above premises and effective July 2, 2001, ORIHASHI MFG. CO., LTD. hereby sells, assigns and transfers an undivided one-half of all of ORIHASHI MFG. CO., LTD.'s right, title and interest in Said Invention, Said U.S. Patent Application, Said Patent Applications and Patents and Said Rights of Priority to each of NHK SPRING CO., LTD., a Japanese corporation, having a place of business at 10, Fukuura 3-chome, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa, Japan, and YOKOHAMA KIKO CO., LTD., a Japanese corporation, having a place of business at 11-1 Fukuura 2-chome, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa, Japan, their successors and assigns, said two one-half interests making up ORISHASHI MFG., CO., LTD.'s entire right, title and interest throughout the world in Said Invention, Said U.S. Patent Application, Said Patent Applications and Patents and Said Rights of Priority.

ORIHASHI MFG. CO., LTD. further authorizes the above-named assignees to apply for patents of foreign countries for Said Invention, and to claim all rights of priority without further authorization from ORIHASHI MFG. CO., LTD.; and agrees to execute all papers useful in connection with said United States and foreign applications, and generally to do everything possible

to aid said assignees, their successors, assigns and nominees, at their request and expense, in obtaining and enforcing patents for Said Invention in all countries; and requests that the United States Patent and Trademark Office issue all patents granted for Said Invention to NHK SPRING CO., LTD. and YOKOHAMA KIKO CO., LTD., their successors and assigns.

Executed this 2nd day of July, _____, 2001.



By: Junji ORIHASHI

Title: President

Witness by:

Signature: Akira KEBUKAWA Akira KEBUKAWA

Date: July 2, 2001