IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Box Assignments
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

ASSIGNMENT (DOCUMENT) COVER SHEET (37 C.F.R. Section 3.31)

Attached please find an assignment (document) for recordal.

IDENTIFICATION OF APPLICATION(S) AND/OR PATENT(S)
FOR ASSIGNMENT (DOCUMENT) RECORDAL
(37 C.F.R. Section 3.21 and 37 C.F.R. Section 3.31(a)(4))

1. This assignment is for the following patent application and/or issued patent: 1-18-02

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. SECTIONS 1.8(a) AND 1.10*
(When using Express Mail, the Express Mail label number is mandatory;
Express Mail certification is optional.)

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being:

MAILING

[x] deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

37 C.F.R. Section 1.8(a)

[x] with sufficient postage as first class mail.

37 C.F.R. Section 1.10*

[ ] as "Express Mail Post Office to Address" Mailing Label No. (mandatory)

TRANSMISSION

[ ] transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office (703)

Date: October 26, 2001

Signature

Lia H. Costello, Legal Assistant
(type or print name of person certifying)

*WARNING: Each paper or fee filed by "Express Mail" must have the number of the "Express Mail" mailing label placed thereon prior to mailing. 37 C.F.R. Section 1.10(b).
"Since the filing of correspondence under [Section] 1.10 without the Express Mail mailing label thereon is an oversight that can be avoided by the exercise of reasonable care, requests for waiver of this requirement will not be granted on petition." Notice of Oct. 24, 1996, 60 Fed. Reg. 56,439, at 56,442.
TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS AND/OR PATENTS
AND TOTAL FEE

2. A. The total number of applications and/or patents identified in this cover sheet is: 1.
B. The total fee is (37 C.F.R. Section 1.21(h)):

\[ 1 \times \$40.00 = \$40.00 \]

C. Please charge Account 13-1992 the sum of $40.00. A duplicate of this cover sheet is attached.

Please charge Account 13-1992 for any fee deficiency or credit to account any overpayment.

NAME OF PARTIES CONVEYING INTEREST
(37 C.F.R. Section 3.31(a)(1))

3. The parties conveying interest are:

Hirokazu YAMADA
Nobuhiro UMEDA
Seiichi UCHIDA
Yasuyuki SHIINOZI
Hiromi HORIKOSHI
Nobuo MOCHIZUKI

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PARTY(IES) RECEIVING INTEREST
(37 C.F.R. Section 3.31 (a)(2))

4. The rights are being conveyed to:

Nippon Soda Co., Ltd.
2-1 Ohtemachi 2-chome, , Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo, 100-8165 JAPAN

DESCRIPTION OF INTEREST CONVEYED OR
TRANSACTION RECORDED (37 C.F.R. Section 3.31(a)(3))

5. The accompanying document intends to accomplish an assignment.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PARTY TO WHOM
CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE MAILED (37 C.F.R. Section 3.31 (a)(5))

(Assignment (Document) Cover Sheet--page 2 of 3)
6. Please address correspondence to:
   Name: Dennis G. LaPointe
   Address: Mason & Associates, P.A.
            17757 US Hwy 19 N., Suite 500
            Clearwater, FL 33764
   Telephone No.: 727-538-3800

DATE ASSIGNMENT (DOCUMENT) EXECUTED
   (37 C.F.R. Section 3.31(a)(7))

7. The attached assignment (document) was executed on September 14, 2001.

LANGUAGE OF ASSIGNMENT (DOCUMENT) TO BE RECORDED

8. The attached document is in the English language.

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT OR TRUE COPY SUBMITTED

9. Submitted herewith is the original document.

STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. Section 3.31(a)(9)) AND
   SIGNATURE (37 C.F.R. Section 3.31(a)(10))

10. 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.

   [Signature]

   Dennis G. LaPointe
   Mason & Associates, P.A.
   17757 US Hwy 19 N., Suite 500
   Clearwater, FL 33764

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES BEING SUBMITTED

11. The total number of pages being submitted, including documents are: 6.

   (Assignment (Document) Cover Sheet--page 3 of 3)
ASSIGNMENT OF INVENTION (MULTIPLE INVENTORS)

In consideration of the payment by ASSIGNEE to ASSIGNOR of the sum of One Dollar ($1.00), the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and for other good and valuable consideration,

ASSIGNORS (Inventors):

Hirokazu YAMADA
Nobuhiro UMEDA
Parent

Seiichi UCHIDA

Yasuyuki SHIINOHI

Hiromi HORIKOSHI

Nobuo MOCHIZUKI

1160-2, Oaza Fujisawa, Nakago-mura, Nakakubiki-gun, Niigata 250-0874 Japan
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403-1-23-15, Sakawa, Odawara-shi
kanagawa 256-0816 Japan

105-2-12, Hiragishi 2jyo 4-chome, Toyohira
ku, Sapporo-shi, Hokkaido 062-0932 Japan
4-10-1-214, Sakawa, Odawara-shi,
Kanagawa 256-0816 Japan

hereby sells, assigns and transfers to
ASSIGNEE:

Nippon Soda Co., Ltd.
(type or print name of ASSIGNEE)

JAPAN
Nationality

2-1, Ohtemachi 2-chome
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8165 JAPAN
Address

(Assignment of Invention—Multiple Inventors—page 1 of 3)
and the successors, assigns and legal representatives of the ASSIGNEE

(complete one of the following)

[X] the entire right, title and interest

[ ] an undivided __________ percent (________ %) interest

for the United States and its territorial possessions

(check the following box, if foreign rights are also to be assigned)

[ ] and in all foreign countries, including all rights to claim priority,
in and to any and all improvements which are disclosed in the invention entitled:

________________________________________________________

Name of inventor(s) ______________________________________

________________________________________________________

(check and complete (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) or (g))

and which is found in (37 C.F.R. section 3.21)

(a) [ ] U.S. patent application executed on even date herewith

(b) [ ] U.S. patent application executed on _______________________

(c) [ ] U.S. provisional application naming the above inventor(s) for the above-entitled invention.

[ ] Express mail label no.: ______________________

Mailed: ______________________

[ ] To comply with 37 C.F.R. section 3.21 for recordal of this assignment, I, an ASSIGNOR

signing below, hereby authorize and request my attorney to insert below the filing date and

application number when they become known.

(d) [x] U.S. application no. 09/914,825 _______________

filed on 31 August 2001

(e) [ ] International application no. PCT/ __________/ __________

(f) [ ] U.S. patent no. __________ issued __________

[ ] A change of address to which correspondence is to be sent regarding patent

maintenance fees is being sent separately.

(also check (g), if foreign application(s) is also being assigned)

(g) [ ] and any legal equivalent thereof in a foreign country, including the right to claim priority

and, in and to, all Letters Patent to be obtained for said invention by the above application or any

continuation, division, renewal, or substitute thereof, and as to letters patent any reissue or re-examination

thereof.

ASSIGNOR hereby covenants that no assignment, sale, agreement or encumbrance has been or will be

made or entered into which would conflict with this assignment.

(Assignment of Invention–Multiple Inventors–page 2 of 3)
ASSIGNOR further covenants that ASSIGNEE will, upon its request, be provided promptly with all pertinent facts and documents relating to said invention and said Letters Patent and legal equivalents as may be known and accessible to ASSIGNOR and will testify as to the same in any interference, litigation or proceeding related thereto and will promptly execute and deliver to ASSIGNEE or its legal representatives any and all papers, instruments or affidavits required to apply for, obtain, maintain, issue and enforce said application, said invention and said Letters Patent and said equivalents thereof which may be necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto set hand and seal this 14 September 2001

Date of signing

WARNING: The date of signing must be the same as the date of execution of the application, if item (a) was checked above.

Hirokazu YAMADA
(type name of Inventor)

Signature of INVENTOR

Nobuhiro UMEUDA

Seiichi UCHIDA

Yasuyuki SHINOKI

Hiromi HORIKOSHI

Nobuo MOCHIZUKI

[ ] Notarization or Legalization Page Added.

NOTE: No witnessing, notarization or legalization is necessary. If the assignment is notarized or legalized then it will only be prima facie evidence of execution. 35 U.S.C. section 261. Use next page if notarization is desired.

(Assignment of Invention—Multiple Inventors—page 3 of 3)