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

1. Name of conveying party(ies):
Emmanuelle Douce
Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached?
 Yes No **3-12-02**

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies)
Name: **Michelin Recherche et Technique, S.A.**

3. Nature of conveyance:
 Assignment Merger
 Security Agreement Change of Name
 Other
Execution Date: February 14, 2002

Address: Route Louis Braille 10 et 12
CH-1763 Granges-Paccot
Switzerland

City: State: Zip:
Additional name(s) and 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)
29/153,511

B. Patent No.(s)

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FINANCE SECTION

Additional numbers attached? Yes No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:
Name: Richard G. Berkley
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
30 Rockefeller Plaza - 44 Fl.
New York, NY 10112

6. Total number of applications and patents involved: 1

7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41): \$ 40.00
 Enclosed
 Authorized to be charged to deposit account

8. Deposit account number :
02-4377 (Charge any additional fees to this account)
(Attach duplicate copy of this page if paying by deposit account)

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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.
Richard G. Berkley, PTO#25,465 Richard G. Berkley March 7, 2002
Name of Person Signing Signature Date

Page 1 of _____
Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments and document:

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A S S I G N M E N T

WHEREAS, I, EMMANUELLE DOUCE, a citizen of France, whose post office address is Gunma-Ken, Ohta-Shi, Yasuraoka 317-1, Japan, have made an invention entitled "TREAD OF A TIRE", as set forth and described in application for Letters Patent of the United States, Serial No. 29/153,511, filed on January 9, 2002; and

WHEREAS, MICHELIN Recherche et Technique S.A., a corporation organized and existing under the laws 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 EMMANUELLE DOUCE, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00), lawful money of the United States, to us in hand paid by said , and other valuable considerations unto us 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 "TREAD OF A TIRE" as set forth and described in application for Letters Patent of the United States Serial No. 29/153,511, filed January 9, 2002, and any and all improvements thereon, and in and to said application and any division, continuation or continuation-in-part 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, 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 EMMANUELLE DOUCE, 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 benefit of said MICHELIN Recherche et Technique S.A., its successors and assigns;

AND I, the said EMMANUELLE DOUCE, 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

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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 more effectively to 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, titles, benefits, privileges, and advantages hereby sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed, and that we 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 OHITA (Japan) (Place)

on February 14 2002 (Date)



EMMANUELLE DOUCE

XAVIER LANGLOIS



Witness: _____ (Type Name)

Shwi KOGE

Witness: SK (Type Name)