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FORM PTO-1595
(Rev. 6-93)



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PATENTS ONLY

S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office
HEET

Attorney Docket No.: 040894-5768

1017 U.S. PTO
10/09/02 535



03/11/02

To the Commissioner for Patents
Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof. **ATTN: BOX ASSIGNMENT**

<p>1. Name of conveying party(ies):</p> <p>1. Shinpei SUGIHARA 2. Shinya ABE 3. Hiroshi UDAGAWA</p> <p>Additional names of conveying party(ies) attached? [] Yes [X] No</p>	<p>2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):</p> <p>Name: MAX CO., LTD.</p> <p>Internal Address: 6-6, Nihonbashi Hakozaiki-cho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan</p> <p>Street Address:</p>
<p>3. Nature of conveyance:</p> <p>[X] Assignment [] Merger [] Security Agreement [] Change of Name [] Other _____</p> <p>Execution Date: <u>March 7, 2002</u></p>	<p>City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____</p> <p>Additional name(s) & address(es) attached? [] Yes [X] No</p>

4. New Application number(s) or patent number(s): **NEW APPLICATION**

If this document is being filed together with a new application the execution date of the application is:

March 7, 2002

A. Patent Application No.(s) _____ B. Patent No.(s) _____

Additional numbers attached: [] Yes [X] No

<p>5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:</p> <p>Name: Robert J. Gaybrick</p> <p>Internal Address: Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP Customer No. 09629</p> <p>Street Address: 1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. City: Washington State: D.C. Zip: 20004</p>	<p>6. Total number of applications and patents involved: 1</p> <p>7. Total fee (37 C.F.R. §3.41): <u>\$40.00</u> [] Enclosed [X] Authorized to be charged to Deposit Account 50-0310</p> <p>8. Deposit Account No. 50-0310 (Attach duplicate page if paying by deposit account)</p>
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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.

Robert J. Goodell Reg. No. 41,040
Name of Person Signing

Signature

March 11, 2002
Date

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

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ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS I/We, the below named inventor(s), [hereinafter referred to as Assignor(s)], have made an invention entitled:

STAPLE CARTRIDGE SYSTEM

for which I/WE executed an application for United States Letters Patent concurrently herewith; or filed an application for United States Letters Patent on _____, (Application No. _____); and

WHEREAS, MAX CO., LTD., a corporation of Japan, whose post office address is 6-6, Nihonbashi HakozaKI-cho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan (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, I/WE, as assignor(s), have sold, assigned, transferred, and set over, and do hereby sell, assign, transfer, and set over unto the assignee, its lawful successors and assigns, MY/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 I/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, I/WE HEREBY further covenant and agree that I/WE will, without further consideration, communicate with assignee, its successors and assigns, any facts known to ME/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, I/WE HEREBY authorize and request the attorneys I/WE have empowered in the Declaration and Power of Attorney in this application, to insert here in parentheses (Application No. _____, filed _____) the filing date and application number of said application when known.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I/WE have hereunto set our hand(s).

Full Name of Sole or First Assignor Shinpei SUGIHARA	Assignor's Signature <i>S. Sugihara</i>	Date March 7, 2002
Address c/o MAX CO., LTD., 6-6, Nihonbashi HakozaKI-cho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan		Citizenship Japan
Full Name of Second Assignor Shinya ABE	Assignor's Signature <i>S. Abe</i>	Date March 7, 2002
Address c/o MAX CO., LTD., 6-6, Nihonbashi HakozaKI-cho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan		Citizenship Japan
Names of additional inventors attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

3. Full Name of Third Assignor Hiroshi UDAGAWA	Assignor's Signature <i>H. Udagawa</i>	Date March 7, 2002
Address c/o MAX CO., LTD., 6-6, Nihonbashi Hakozaeki-cho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan		Citizenship Japan
4. Full Name of Fourth Assignor	Assignor's Signature	Date
Address		Citizenship
5. Full Name of Fifth Assignor	Assignor's Signature	Date
Address		Citizenship
6. Full Name of Sixth Assignor	Assignor's Signature	Date
Address		Citizenship
7. Full Name of Seventh Assignor	Assignor's Signature	Date
Address		Citizenship
8. Full Name of Eighth Assignor	Assignor's Signature	Date
Address		Citizenship
9. Full Name of Ninth Assignor	Assignor's Signature	Date
Address		Citizenship
10. Full Name of Tenth Assignor	Assignor's Signature	Date
Address		Citizenship
11. Full Name of Eleventh Assignor	Assignor's Signature	Date
Address		Citizenship

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS