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December 19, 2002

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Sir:

Enclosed for recordation in the records of the U.S. Patent and

Trademark Office is an original document with particulars as follows.

Of Counsel:
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(1) Name of conveying party: Seiichiro Yamashita.

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M.H. Hartwell 1927-2000

(3) The nature of the conveyance is an assignment, which

- *OR, CA & ID Bars
- ^OR, CA & WA Bars
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was executed December 6, 2002.

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(4) This document is being filed in connection with U.S.

Patent Application Serial No. 10/304,545, filed November 25, 2002.

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(6) The total number of patent applications involved in this

PATENT
REEL: 013607 FRAME: 0169

conveyance is one.

(7) Our check in the amount of \$40.00 to cover the recordation fee is enclosed, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 3.41.

(8) Please charge our Deposit Account No. 11-1540 for any additional fees which may be required. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

(9) 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.

Respectfully submitted,

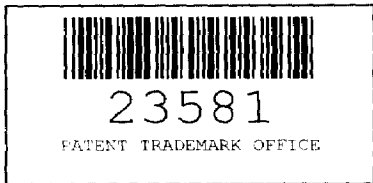
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TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES,
INCLUDING COVER SHEET,
ATTACHMENTS, AND DOCUMENT: 4



MDA:gp
Enclosures

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, I, Seiichiro Yamashita, of Kobe-shi, Hyogo, Japan, have invented certain improvements in a FRICTION STIR WELDING METHOD, for which I have executed an application for Letters Patent of the United States on the date I executed this Assignment as hereinafter set forth.

WHEREAS, Kawasaki Jukogyo Kabushiki Kaisha, a Japanese corporation, having its principal place of business in Kobe, Japan, is desirous of acquiring an interest therein:

NOW, THEREFORE, for other good and valuable consideration, I the said Seiichiro Yamashita, have sold, assigned, and transferred, and by these presents do sell, assign, and transfer unto the said Kawasaki Jukogyo Kabushiki Kaisha, the full and exclusive right to the said invention in the United States and its territorial possessions and in all foreign countries and the entire right, title and interest in and to any and all Letters Patent which may be granted therefor in the United States and its territorial possessions in any and all foreign countries and in and to any and all divisions, reissues, continuations and extensions thereof.

I hereby authorize and request the Patent Office officials in the United States and any and all foreign countries to issue any and all of said Letters Patent, when granted, to the said Kawasaki Jukogyo Kabushiki Kaisha, as the assignee of our entire right, title, and interest in and to the same, for the sole use of the said Kawasaki Jukogyo Kabushiki Kaisha, its successors and assigns.

Further, I agree that I will communicate to the said Kawasaki Jukogyo

Kabushiki Kaisha, or its representatives any facts known to us respecting said invention, and testify in any legal proceeding, sign all lawful papers, execute all divisional, continuation, substitution, renewal, and reissue applications, execute all necessary assignment papers to cause any and all of said Letters Patent to be issued to the said Kawasaki Jukogyo Kabushiki Kaisha, make all rightful oaths and generally do everything possible to aid the said Kawasaki Jukogyo Kabushiki Kaisha, its successors and assigns, to obtain and enforce proper protection for said invention in the United States and in any and all foreign countries.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 6th day of December, 2002.



Seiichiro Yamashita

Witness:



(Name) Shozo Yamada

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