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Attorney Docket No.: A35508 070337.0351

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To the Honorable Commiss.

Trademarks: Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies): TATSUYUKI MASUKO **1-9-03**
Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached?
 Yes No

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies)
Name: Michelin Recherche et Technique S.A.
Address: Route Louis Braille 10 et 12

3. Nature of conveyance:
 Assignment Merger
 Security Agreement Change of Name
 Other _____

City: Granges-Paccot Country: Switzerland
Zip: CH-1763

Additional name(s) and address(es) attached?
 Yes No

Execution Date: December 16, 2002

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)
29/169,766, filed October 25, 2002

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: Kimberly J. McGraw, Esq.
BAKER BOTTS, L.L.P.
Address: 30 Rockefeller Plaza, 45th Floor
City: New York State: New York Zip: 10112-4498

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
(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.

Kimberly J. McGraw, PTO Reg. No. 50,994
Name of Person Signing

Signature

January 3, 2003
Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments and document: 6

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01 FC:8021 40.00 DP

ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, I, TATSUYUKI MASUKO, citizen of Japan, whose post office address is 880 Uekino-Cho Ota-Shi Gunma-Ken, 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. 29/169,766, filed October 25, 2002; and

WHEREAS, Michelin Recherche et Technique S.A., a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the Country of Switzerland, and having an office for the transaction of business at Route Louis Braille 10 et 12, Granges-Paccot CH-1763, 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, TATSUYUKI MASUKO, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00), lawful money of the United States, to me in hand paid by said Michelin Recherche et Technique S.A., and other valuable considerations unto me 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. 29/169,766, filed October 25, 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 claiming priority to this application for Letters Patent of the United States Serial No. 29/169,766, filed October 25, 2002 and any and all improvements, and any and all Letters Patent which may be granted in foreign countries therefrom, 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, TATSUYUKI MASUKO, 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 behalf of said Michelin Recherche et Technique S.A., its successors and assigns;

AND I, the said, TATSUYUKI MASUKO, 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 rights assigned are not encumbered by any grant, license or right heretofore given, and that I, my executor or administrator, 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 to more effectively 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, benefits, privileges and advantages hereby sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed, and that I 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.

IT WITNESS WHEREOF, I, the said TATSUYUKI MASUKO, have set my hand and seal on the date below written.

Subscribed and executed at Ota-Shi, Japan, this 16 day of December, 2002.

益子 竜行
TATSUYUKI MASUKO

Witness: Toyoshige SHIMIZU 清水豊成 Date: December 16, 2002
(Print) (Signature)

Witness: Yukinori IMAI 今井行則 Date: December 16, 2002
(Print) (Signature)