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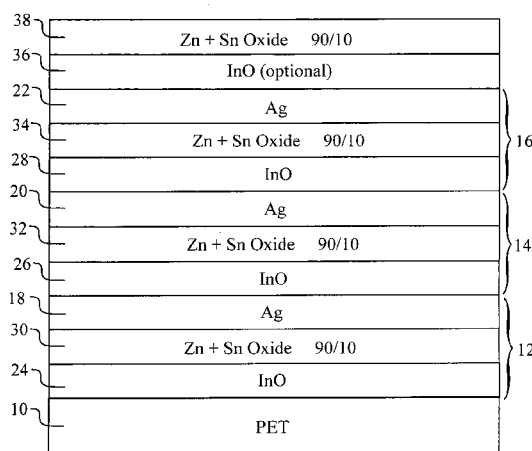
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(54) Title: ROBUST OPTICAL FILTER UTILIZING PAIRS OF DIELECTRIC AND METALLIC LAYERS

FIG. 1



(57) Abstract: 'Corrosion' performance of an optical filter is enhanced when a relatively thick zinc-based film (30, 32 and 34) functions as a seed layer for a subsequently formed silver-based film (18, 20 and 22). At least two pairs (12, 14 and 16) of dielectric and metallic layers are included within the optical filter, where the zinc-based film is a second film of the dielectric layer and where the silver-based film is the metallic layer. The zinc-based film has a zinc content of at least 80 percent and has a thickness of at least 15 nm. In order to further improve the corrosion performance, gold may be incorporated into the silver-based film.