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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/12463 (22) International Filing Date: 19 June 1998 (19.06.98) (30) Priority Data: 60/051,973 8 July 1997 (08.07.97) US 09/092,321 5 June 1998 (05.06.98) US (71) Applicant: ETEC SYSTEMS, INC. [US/US]; 26460 Corporate Avenue, Hayward, CA 94545 (US). (72) Inventors: YAO, Shi-Kay; 9060 Telstar Avenue #225, El Monte, CA 91731 (US). TAMKIN, John, M.; 11306 N. Copper Springs Trail, Oro Valley, AZ 85737 (US). (74) Agents: MILLERS, David, T. et al.; Skjerven, Morrill, MacPherson, Franklin & Friel LLP, Suite 700, 25 Metro Drive, San Jose, CA 95110 (US).		(81) Designated States: CA, CN, IL, JP, KR, MX, RU, SG, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: ACOUSTO-OPTIC MODULATOR ARRAY WITH REDUCED RF CROSSTALK (57) Abstract The electrical (RF) crosstalk in multi-channel laser beam systems using an acoustooptic modulator is minimized. This is done without reducing packing density by arranging the modulator electrodes (44a, ..., 44h) in a two dimensional array. The electrodes in each column are staggered relative to the electrodes in adjacent columns. While this introduces a problem of potential gaps between the resulting laser beam spots, this gap is corrected by a beam translation device (50) located in the optical path of certain of the laser beams.		