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(54) Title: PROTECTIVE MATERIAL HAVING GUARD PLATES ON CLEARLY VISIBLE SUBSTRATE

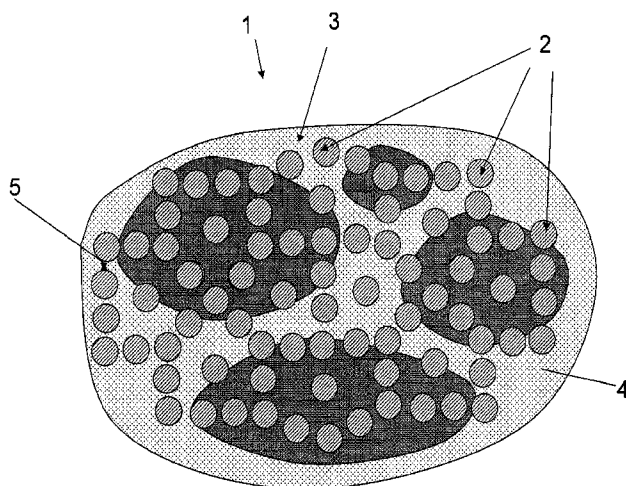


FIG. 9

(57) Abstract: A supple, globally flexible, composite protective material having guard plates on a substrate with a clearly visible pattern. The substrate is flexible and has a surface with a colored pattern including two or more colors. The guard plates are small, non-overlapping, printed resin material members having major and minor dimensions and are arranged in a predetermined pattern over a substantial portion of the surface of the substrate. In one embodiment of the invention the guard plates are transparent or translucent to visible light so that the colored pattern on the surface of the substrate is visible. In another embodiment the colors of the guard plates blend in with the colored pattern of the substrate.