

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SENSING SMALL PARCELS OR THE
LIKE IN MAILBOXES**

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An apparatus and a method for sensing for sensing small parcels or the like in mailbox having a front opening or slot and a plurality of enclosed sidewalls. The method comprises the steps of

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(a) creating infrared light beam bouncing onto a pair of mirror stripes mounted facing each other on the inner walls of the mailbox and creating a fine zigzag grid of infrared light across the mailbox; and

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(b) sensing said zigzag grid upon interruption of infrared light beam; thereby the interruption of the beam by the small parcels is detected.

(Fig. 3)