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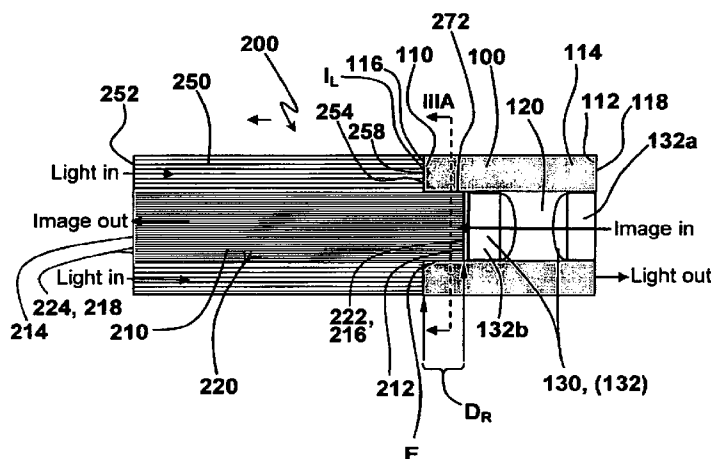
- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
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(54) Title: IMAGE-CONDUCTING OPTICAL ASSEMBLY INCLUDING LIGHT-CONDUCTIVE OPTICS HOUSING



(57) Abstract: An illuminable image-conducting optical assembly includes an illuminable image-transporting optical fiber bundle having (i) an inner image-conducting bundle with opposed image-input and image-output faces and (ii) a plurality of illumination conduits disposed peripherally about the image-conducting bundle. The illumination conduits include light-emission ends that combine to define a light-output face. A translucent optics housing includes light-entrance and light-exit ends and an inside surface defining an optics channel for housing at least one optical element. The optical fiber bundle and the optics housing cooperatively couple such that (a) at least one housed optical element is in optical communication with the image-input face in order to facilitate the projection of an image of an object of interest onto the image-input face and (b) the light-output face of the fiber bundle is in optical communication with the light-entrance end of the optics housing such that light introduced into the light-collection end of an illumination conduit enters the light-entrance end, and emits from the light-exit end, of the optics housing so as to facilitate illumination of the object to be imaged onto the image-input face.

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