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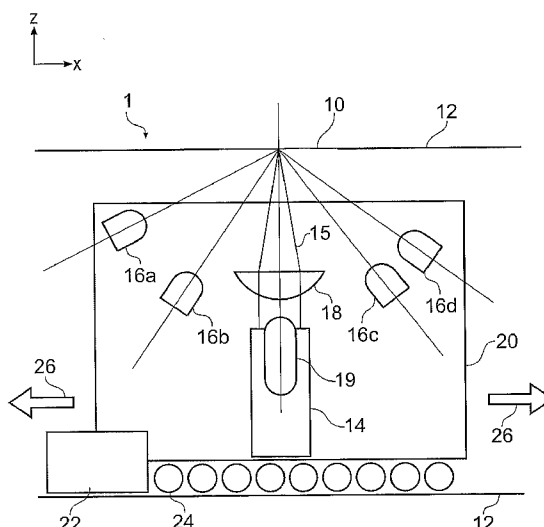
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **INGENIA TECHNOLOGY LIMITED** [GB/GB]; New Garden House, 78 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8JA (GB).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **COWBURN, Russell, Paul** [GB/GB]; Department of Physics, Blackett Laboratory, Imperial College London, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BW (GB).
- (74) Agents: **HAINES, Miles, John** et al.; D Young & Co., 120 Holborn, London EC1N 2DY (GB).
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: AUTHENTICITY VERIFICATION METHODS, PRODUCTS AND APPARATUSES



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for determining a digital signature from an article made of paper, cardboard, plastic or many other material types. A coherent light source directs a beam to illuminate the article and a detector arrangement collects data points from light scattered from many different parts of the article to collect a large number of independent data points, typically 500 or more. By collecting a large number of independent signal contributions specific to many different parts of the article, a digital signature can be computed that is unique to the area of the article that has been scanned. This measurement can be repeated whenever required to test authenticity of the article. Using this method, it has been discovered that it is essentially pointless to go to the effort and expense of making specially prepared tokens, since unique characteristics are measurable in a straightforward manner from a wide variety of every day articles.

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