



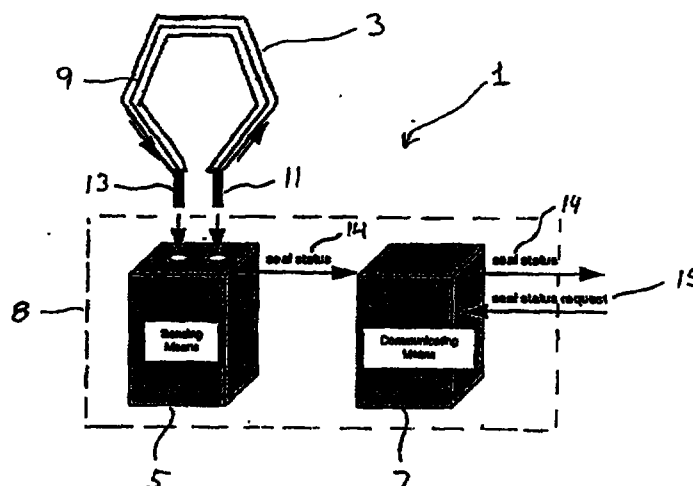
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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/03475 (22) International Filing Date: 11 March 1997 (11.03.97) (30) Priority Data: 08/613,945 13 March 1996 (13.03.96) US (71) Applicant: GLOBAL ASSOCIATES, LTD. [US/US]; 7600 Leesburg Pike, West Building, Falls Church, VA 22043- 2004 (US). (72) Inventor: HOUSER, Peter, Bennett; 14574 High Pine Street, Poway, CA 92064 (US). (74) Agents: POTENZA, Joseph, M. et al.; Banner & Witcoff, Ltd., 11th floor, 1001 G Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001- 4597 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: ELECTRONIC SECURITY BONDING DEVICE



(57) Abstract

An electronic bonding device (1) provides a seal for containers and equipment and allows the status of the seal to be remotely monitored. The device (1) has a seal body housing sensing means (5) and communication means (7), and sealing means (3) for affixing the device to an item to be bonded. The sealing means (3) comprises a line (9) providing, between terminal end portions (11, 13), a circuit having a detectable characteristic. In one embodiment, the circuit is an optical fiber light transmission circuit. Alternatively, the circuit may be an electrical circuit. A change in the circuit characteristic, e.g., a break in the continuity (optical or electrical), is sensed by the sensor (5) and transmitted to a remote location by a transmitter, to indicate that tampering with the item has occurred. The line is provided with a protective sheath. In one embodiment, the sheath is a relatively flexible adhesive tape strip. In other embodiments, the sheath is a relatively rigid or flexible shackle member.