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(71) Applicant: RAYTHEON COMPANY [US/US]; 141
Spring Street, Lexington, MA 02421 (US).

(72) Inventors: KLOCEK, Paul; 16909 Old Pond Drive, Dal-
las, TX 75248 (US). FLORENCE, James, M.; 4803 Stony
Ford Drive, Dallas, TX 75287 (US).

(74) Agents: SCHUBERT, William, C. et al.; Corporate Coun-
sel-Patent Law, Raytheon Company, 2000 East El Segundo
Boulevard, PO BOX 902, El Segundo, CA 90245-0902
(US).

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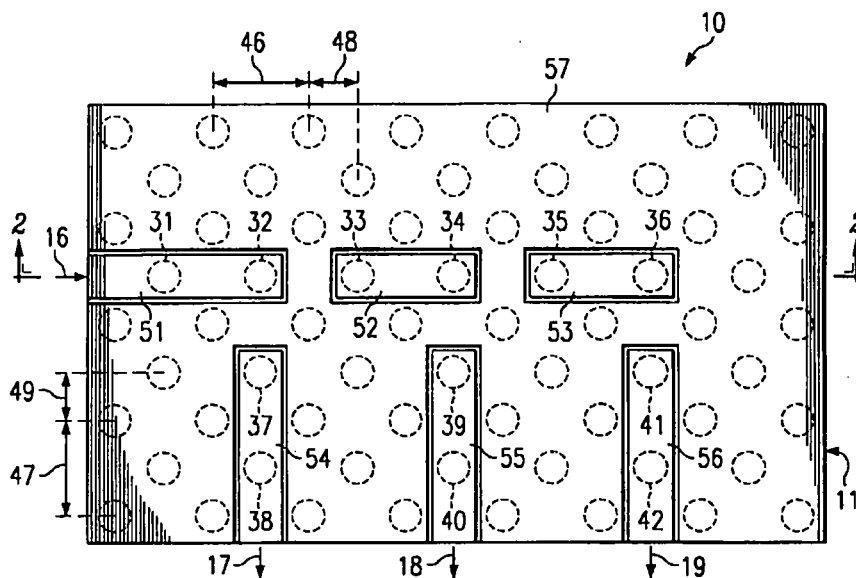
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SWITCHING OPTICAL SIGNALS WITH A PHOTON BAND GAP DEVICE



(57) Abstract: An optical switch (11, 111, 211) includes a member (26) having a plurality of openings (31-42) therethrough which are arranged in a periodic pattern. A path (86-87, 91-92, 96-97) extends through the member from an input to an output, with a subset of the openings disposed along the path. In one operational mode, each of the openings contains a material having an index of refraction which is different from the index of refraction of the member, so as to define a photon band gap configuration that inhibits propagation through the member of radiation at a predetermined wavelength. In a different operational mode, the index of refraction of the subset of openings along the path has a different value, which permits radiation to propagate along the path.

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