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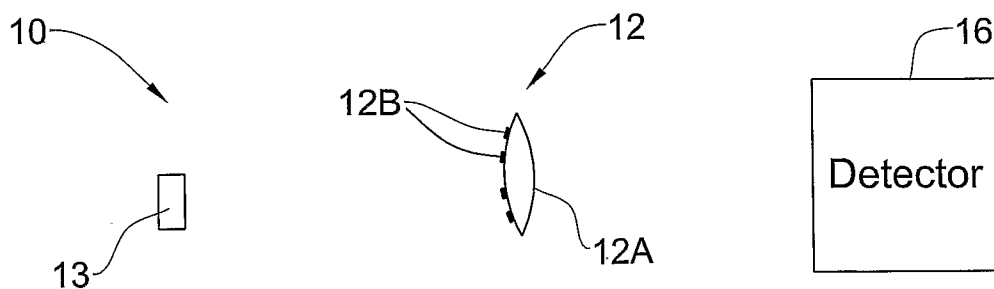
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(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR EXTENDED DEPTH OF FOCUS



(57) Abstract: An imaging arrangement and method for extended the depth of focus are provided. The imaging arrangement comprises an imaging lens having a certain affective aperture, and an optical element associated with said imaging lens. The optical element is configured as a phase-affecting, non-diffractive optical element defining a spatially low frequency phase transition. The optical element and the imaging lens define a predetermined pattern formed by spaced-apart substantially optically transparent features of different optical properties. Position of at least one phase transition region of the optical element within the imaging plane is determined by at least a dimension of said affective aperture.



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