

REMARKS

After the foregoing amendment, claims 9-14, 16, 17, 30-42, and 44-54 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-8, 15, 18-29, and 43, which were canceled during reexamination, have been presented with the previous claim language in strike-through in accordance with MPEP § 1453[VI][D]. Claim 55, which was newly added in this application, has been canceled without prejudice. No other amendments have been made to the claims.

Telephonic Interview

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's courtesy during the February 1, 2012 telephone interview to discuss the rejection of the reissue oath/declaration. The Examiner stated that the inventor's Reissue Declaration should list the date of every amendment made to the reissue application after it was initially filed on March 2, 2006. The Examiner also stated that amendments made in the present Reply can be referred to as the Reply that is being filed concurrently with the corrected Reissue Declaration, and that the same listing can be provided in the Supplemental Reissue Declaration.

Oath/Declaration

The Action found the reissue oath/declaration to be defective because the declaration states that the Applicant has reviewed and understands the contents of the specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to

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above, but does not list the previous amendments. The Action stated that a new declaration listing the previous amendments made in this reissue application is required.

A corrected Reissue Declaration and a corrected Supplemental Reissue Declaration are enclosed. The enclosed declarations identify the previous Replies and Amendments filed on September 14, 2011, May 4, 2011, December 1, 2010, October 13, 2010, July 29, 2010, July 2, 2010, December 29, 2009, October 9, 2009, and March 2, 2006.

Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the reissue oath/declaration be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 251

Claims 9-14, 16, 17, 30-42, and 44-55 were rejected as being based upon a defective reissue declaration under 35 U.S.C. § 251. As noted above, Applicant has submitted a corrected Reissue Declaration and a Supplemental Reissue Declaration, which list each of the amendments made in this application. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 251 rejection of claims 9-14, 16, 17, 30-42, and 44-55 is respectfully requested.

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Duplicate Claims

The Action stated that should claim 51 be found allowable, claim 55 will be objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. Claim 55 has been canceled without prejudice, rendering this issue moot.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that an interview will advance prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to arrange an interview at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including all of the pending claims, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Giuseppe Dal Pra'

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Enclosures