

REMARKS

The Action stated that the pending claims, 1-50, are directed to the following patentably distinct inventions:

Group I: claims 1-40 and 46-50 classified in class 74, subclass 502.2;

Group II: claims 41-45 classified in class 280, subclass 267.

The Action required election of a single invention for prosecution and identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention. Applicant respectfully traverses this restriction requirement. Restriction is only proper where claims in a single application are directed to multiple inventions that are independent or distinct and there would be serious burden on the Examiner if restriction were not required. *See* MPEP § 803. Applicant respectfully submits that Groups I and II should be examined together, as the claims are closely related in scope and would require the same field of search. While there would be no serious burden on the Examiner in examining both groups of claims, Applicant, in order to expedite prosecution, elects claims 1-40 and 46-50 of Group I.

The Action also stated that the pending claims are drawn to the following patentably distinct species:

Embodiment I: Figs. 1-16;

Embodiment II: Figs. 17-21; and

Embodiment III: Figs. 22 and 23.

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Application No.: 12/029,047

The Action required election of a single species for prosecution because the species include mutually exclusive and patentably distinct features which are not obvious variants of each other. Applicant respectfully traverses this restriction requirement. In order to expedite prosecution, Applicant elects Embodiment I as shown in Figures 1-16 and submits that at least claims 1-25 and 46-50 read on the elected species. Applicant submits that at least claims 1, 46, 49 and 50 are generic.

Conclusion

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

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of all of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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