

REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the subject application and especially the allowance of claims 5-20. By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to better distinguish the invention from the cited reference and more concisely claim and describe the present invention. Claims 1-20 remain in the application for reconsideration by the Examiner and the allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

CLAIMS 1-4

Claims 1, 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Ho et al. (5,955,997). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious in light of Ho and therefore unpatentable over Ho.

As the Examiner has correctly stated, Ho discloses a slot (i.e., four slots) formed in a tubular member as depicted in Ho Figure 4. However, as Ho states at column 4, lines 19 and 20, "slots are disposed through ground plane 240 and laminate 110." Thus the amendment to Applicants' claim 1, as set forth above, renders the amended claim distinguishable from HO—the Applicants' slot is present in the conductive material, but not in the dielectric material. This feature is described in the Applicants' paragraph [018] and illustrated in Figures 1 and 2. The Applicants suggest that the lack of a slot in the dielectric material allows it to maintain its shape and therefore will not deform when in use. It is known that any deformations can affect the performance of the antenna. The radio waves transmitted and received from the antenna of the present invention pass through the dielectric material unimpeded.

Rejected claims 2-4 depend directly from amended claim 1. The Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable along with and for the same reasons as amended independent claim 1, and further that these claims reference other patentably distinguishable features of the present invention

CLAIMS 5-20

Claims 5-20 have been allowed. With the present amendment the Applicants have elected to continue prosecution of rejected claims 1-4 with the hope that Examiner Nguyen may now find them in allowable condition. In the event a final rejection is issued for claims 1-4, the Applicants will most likely cancel claims 1-4 and permit claims 5-20 to pass to issuance.

The Applicants have responded to the claim rejections in the Office Action and it is believed that the claims 1-20 remaining in the application are now in condition for allowance or have been allowed. In view of the foregoing amendments and discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's claim rejections have been overcome. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider these rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all the pending claims

If there are any questions concerning Amendment or if Examiner Nguyen would like to propose additional claim amendments to move the case to allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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