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CHICAGO, IL 60606

EXAMINER

ROGERS, MARTIN K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

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*Ex parte* AKIRA KURAMORI

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Appeal 2015-007434  
Application 12/435,911<sup>1</sup>  
Technology Center 1700

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Before CHUNG K. PAK, ROMULO H. DELMENDO, and BRIAN D. RANGE, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

PAK, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION ON APPEAL

This is a decision on an appeal under 35 U.S.C. § 134(a) from the Examiner's decision<sup>2</sup> finally rejecting claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 11, and 14. Claim 10, the other claim pending in the above-identified application, stands withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being directed to a nonelected invention.<sup>3</sup> We have jurisdiction under 35 U.S.C. § 6(b).

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<sup>1</sup> Appellant identifies the real party in interest as "Yokohama Rubber Co., LTD." Appeal Brief filed February 23, 2015 ("App. Br.") 2.

<sup>2</sup> See Final Action entered September 12, 2014 ("Final Act.") at 3–18; and Examiner's Answer entered June 5, 2015 ("Ans.") at 2–8.

<sup>3</sup> See Non-Final Action entered June 14, 2012 ("Non-Final Act.") at 2.

We AFFIRM.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The subject matter of the claims on appeal is directed to “a method for manufacturing a pneumatic tire including a sound-absorbing member made of a porous material [such as a urethane foam] on an inner surface of the tire.” Specification filed May 5, 2009 (“Spec.”) ¶¶ 1 and 8. An object of this method is to enable “a sound-absorbing member to be easily mounted on the tire with an improved fixation of the sound-absorbing member onto an inner surface of the tire.” Spec. ¶ 4. “The sound-absorbing member is preferably fixed onto the inner liner layer by a flame lamination process.” Spec. ¶ 9. “Alternatively, the sound-absorbing member may be fixed onto the inner liner layer with an adhesive agent.” Spec. ¶ 9. The sound absorbing member is a porous material, such as “a urethane foam having open cells therein.” Spec. ¶ 8.

Details of the appealed subject matter are recited in representative claim 1,<sup>4</sup> which is reproduced below from the Claims Appendix of the Appeal Brief (with disputed limitations italicized):

1. A method for manufacturing a pneumatic tire by a bladderless curing system, comprising the steps of:  
forming a green tire including an inner liner layer and a sound-absorbing member, the inner liner layer disposed in an inner surface of the tire and made of any one of a thermoplastic

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<sup>4</sup> Appellant presents substantive arguments for claim 1, but do not present substantive arguments for claims 3, 5, 9, 11, and 14 on appeal. App. Br. 12–27. Appellant relies upon the same substantive arguments directed to claim 1 as a basis for the patentability of claims 5, 9, and 11 event though the Examiner relied upon additional prior art to reject these dependent claims. App. Br. 26–27. Therefore, for purposes of this appeal, we limit our discussion to independent claim 1. 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(iv) (2012).

resin and a thermoplastic elastomer composition obtained by dispersing an elastomer in a thermoplastic resin, the sound-absorbing member fixed onto the inner liner layer and made of a porous material, *wherein the sound-absorbing member is fixed onto the inner liner layer by a flame lamination process;* and thereafter:

curing the green tire,

wherein the porous material of the sound-absorbing member is a urethane foam having open cells therein, and

wherein the radially inner surface of the sound-absorbing member has no skin layer thereon resulting in the suppressing of collapse of the sound-absorbing member due to pressurization at the curing step, and

wherein in the step of forming the green tire:

the inner liner layer is first formed by winding an inner liner member on an outer peripheral side of a making drum, *the inner liner member having the sound-absorbing member previously fixed thereto;*

a carcass layer is then formed by winding a carcass member on an outer peripheral side of the inner liner layer; and thereafter,

a cylindrical intermediate formed body including the inner liner layer and the carcass layer is inflated, so that the green tire is formed.

App. Br., Claims Appendix A-1.

Appellant seeks review of the following grounds of rejection<sup>5</sup> maintained by the Examiner in the Final Action and the Answer:

Rejection 1: Claims 1, 3, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combined disclosures of Dodt<sup>6</sup> (DE 19806935 A1

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<sup>5</sup> Appellant does not contest the prior art status of the Examiner's evidence. App. Br. 12-21.

<sup>6</sup> Our reference to Dodt is to the English translation of DE 19806935 A1, which was entered into the record on February 13, 2013.

published September 9, 1999), Watanabe et al. (US 6,062,283 issued May 16, 2000) (“Watanabe”), Horio<sup>7</sup> (JP 2005-14228 A published January 20, 2005), Rucker (US 5,851,339 issued December 22, 1998), Gonzales et al. (US 2007/0157948 A1 published July 12, 2007) (“Gonzales”), Conlon et al. (US 6,935,697 B2 issued August 30, 2005) (“Conlon”), Yukawa et al. ’042 (US 2006/0108042 A1 published May 25, 2006) (“Yukawa”), Hiranuma et al.<sup>8</sup> (JP 2004-290386 A published October 21, 2004) (“Hiranuma”), Schulpen (US 3,431,802 issued March 11, 1969), Hong et al. (US 4,664,168 issued May 12, 1987) (“Hong”), and Hashimura et al. (US 2002/0033557 A1 published March 21, 2002) (“Hashimura”);

Rejection 2: Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combined disclosures of Dodt, Watanabe, Horio, Rucker, Gonzales, Conlon, Yukawa ’042, Hiranuma, Schulpen, Hong, Hashimura, and Yukawa ’726 (US 2009/0038726 A1 published February 12, 2009);

Rejection 3: Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combined disclosures of Dodt, Watanabe, Horio, Rucker, Gonzales, Conlon, Yukawa ’042, Hiranuma, Schulpen, Hong, Hashimura, Takagi (US 2005/0269008 A1 published December 8, 2005), and Toru<sup>9</sup> (JP 2001-260135 A published September, 2001);

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<sup>7</sup> Our reference to Horio is to the English translation of JP 2005-14228 A, which was entered into the record on April 18, 2013.

<sup>8</sup> Our reference to Hiranuma is to the English translation of JP 2004-290386 A, which was entered into the record on May 22, 2014.

<sup>9</sup> Our reference to Toru is to the English translation of JP 2001-260135 A, which was entered into the record on October 18, 2011.

Rejection 4: Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combined disclosures of Dodt, Watanabe, Horio, Rucker, Gonzales, Conlon, Yukawa '042, Hiranuma, Schulpen, Hong, Hashimura, and Tanno (US 2008/0099177 A1 published May 1, 2008); and

Rejection 5: Claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the combined disclosures of Dodt, Watanabe, Horio, Rucker, Gonzales, Conlon, Yukawa '042, Hiranuma, Schulpen, Majumdar et al. (2004/0103967 A1 published June 3, 2004) (“Majumdar”), and Hashimura. Final Act. 3–18; Ans. 2–8; App. Br. 10–11; the Reply Brief filed August 4, 2015 (“Reply Br.”) 3.

## DISCUSSION

### *Rejections 1 through 4*

Upon consideration of the evidence relied upon by the Examiner in light of each of Appellant’s contentions,<sup>10</sup> we find Appellant does not identify reversible error in the Examiner’s decision rejecting claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 11, and 14, all of the claims on appeal, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as set forth in Rejections 1 through 4 in the Final Action and the Answer.

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<sup>10</sup> Any new arguments raised in the Reply Brief, which could have been raised in the Appeal Brief, will not be considered. 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(iv) (“Except as provided for in §§ 41.41, 41.47 and 41.52, any arguments or authorities not included in the appeal brief will be refused consideration by the Board for purposes of the present appeal.”); *see also Ex parte Borden*, 93 USPQ2d 1473, 1474 (BPAI 2010) (Informative) (explaining that under the previous rules, which are similar to the current rules, “the reply brief [is not] an opportunity to make arguments that could have been made in the principal brief on appeal to rebut the Examiner’s rejections, but were not.”).

Accordingly, we sustain the Examiner's § 103(a) rejections of the above claims substantially for the reasons set forth in the Final Action and the Answer. We add the following for emphasis.

As evidence of obviousness of the subject matter recited in claims 1, 3, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner relies upon the collective teachings of Dodt, Watanabe, Horio, Rucker, Gonzales, Conlon, Yukawa '042, Hiranuma, Schulpen, Hong, and Hashimura. Final Act. 3. The Examiner found, and Appellant does not dispute, that Dodt discloses a method of manufacturing a pneumatic tire with a bladderless curing system, which comprises dispersing an elastomer in a thermoplastic resin disposed on an inner surface of a green tire to form an inner liner layer,<sup>11</sup> fixing a sound-absorbing member made of a porous, open-cell polyurethane onto the inner liner layer with an adhesive to form a laminate, applying a carcass over the inner liner layer, and curing the green tire after attaching the sound absorbing member to the inner liner layer on the inner surface of the green tire. *Compare* Final Act. 3–4 and 7, *with* App. Br. 12–21. The Examiner also found, and Appellant does not dispute, that Dodt discloses that its sound-absorbing polyurethane foam layer having open cells therein has a

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<sup>11</sup> Alternatively, the Examiner also determined, and Appellant does not dispute, that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been led to form Dodt's inner liner of a green tire through dispersing an elastomer in a thermoplastic resin per teachings of Watanabe, with a reasonable expectation of successfully obtaining the advantages taught by Watanabe. *Compare* Final Act. 4, *with* App. Br. 12–21; *see also* Watanabe, col. 1, ll. 9–20.

radially interior contoured surface with no skin<sup>12</sup> and can be laminated in the form of a planar sheet (plate). *Compare* Final Act. 5–8, *with* App. Br. 12–21; *see also* Dodt p. 20 (“the foamed-material ring, or foamed-material plate, respectively, which outer surface is not anymore having any skin.”).

The Examiner acknowledged that Dodt alone, or in combination with Watanabe, Yukawa, Hiranuma, and/or Schulpen, does not disclose or suggest fixing its sound-absorbing polyurethane foam layer having open cells therein onto the inner liner layer by a flame lamination process as recited in claim 1. Final Act. 4–5. Nor does Dodt alone, or in combination with Watanabe, Yukawa, Hiranuma, and/or Schulpen, disclose or suggest fixing its sound-absorbing polyurethane foam layer having open cells therein onto the inner liner layer prior to winding the inner liner layer and a carcass layer on an outer peripheral side of a tire making drum and inflating the carcass to form a green tire, as recited in claim 1. Final Act. 8.

To account for these missing features, the Examiner first relied upon the disclosure of either Horio, Rucker, Gonzales, or Conlon to show that bonding a polyurethane foam with an adhesive or a flame lamination process was well known at the time of the invention. Final Act. 4–5 and Ans. 5. Of these alternatively relied upon prior art references, the Examiner primarily focused on the disclosure of Horio.<sup>13</sup> Final Act. 4. The Examiner found,

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<sup>12</sup> To the extent that Dodt does not teach or suggest a contoured foam noise dampener without a skin on its radially internal surface, the Examiner alternatively relied upon Yukawa, Hiranuma, and/or Schulpen to show the obviousness of using such contoured foam noise dampener for a tire without a skin in its interior surface as the foam noise dampener of the tire taught by Dodt. Final Act. 6–7.

<sup>13</sup> 37 C.F.R. § 1.104 (c)(2) (2013) requires the Examiner to focus on “the



and Appellant does not dispute, that “Horio discloses that when making a polyurethane foam laminate ([002]) to act as a sound-absorber (‘sound-absorbing material’ [002]), it is possible to achieve high production efficiency (‘working efficiency is excellent’ [004]) and avoid the unevenness and high costs of adhesive bond ([0003]) by flame laminating.” *Compare* Final Act. 4, *with* App. Br. 12–21; *see also* Horio ¶¶ 1–4. Thus, based on these undisputed findings, the Examiner correctly determined that one of ordinary skill in the art would have had an apparent reason, suggestion, or motivation to employ Horio’s flame lamination process, in lieu of Dodt’s adhesive lamination process, to bond the polyurethane foam (sound-absorbing material) on the inner liner layer of the green tire taught by Dodt, with a reasonable expectation of successfully obtaining the advantages associated with the flame lamination process taught by Horio.

The Examiner also relied upon the disclosures of Hong to show that laminating an interior component of a tire to the inner liner to form a liner laminate before winding the liner laminate and a carcass, respectively, to a drum and shaping (inflating<sup>14</sup>) the green tire into its desired shape, prior to vulcanization, as recited in claim 1, was known. Final Act. 8; *see also* Hong, col 5, l. 47–col. 6, l. 34. Although Hong does not specifically identify an interior component as a sound absorbing member as required by claim 1 and argued by Appellant, the Examiner found, and Appellant does not dispute, that Dodt discloses, *inter alia*, a polyurethane foam sound absorbing

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best references at his or her command.”

<sup>14</sup> Appellant does not dispute the Examiner’s finding that Hashimura explains that the act of shaping a cylindrical liner and carcass, as taught by Hong, constitutes inflating. *Compare* Final Act. 8 *with* App. Br. 12–21.

component in the form of a planar sheet (plate) in the interior of a tire, which is laminated to the inner liner of the tire as indicated *supra*. Compare Final Act. 7–8 with App. Br. 12–21; see also Dodt, pp. 17–18 (“Alternatively thereto, an embodiment as foamed-material plate can also be conceivable”). Moreover, as indicated *supra*, Horio teaches laminating a polyurethane foam material sheet useful for a sound-absorbing material via a flame laminating process is advantageous. The Examiner also found, and Appellant does not dispute, that Dodt discloses that the green tire includes a carcass applied over an inner liner. Compare Final Act. 7 with App. Br. 12–21; see also Dodt Figs. 1, 2, 4, and 5 and ¶ 2. Thus, based on these undisputed factual findings, the Examiner also correctly determined that one of ordinary skill in the art would have had an apparent reason, suggestion, or motivation to laminate a polyurethane foam sound absorbing material, of a tire to the inner liner to form a liner laminate before winding the liner laminate and a carcass, respectively, to a drum and shaping (inflating) the green tire into its desired shape, prior to vulcanization, as recited in claim 1, with a reasonable expectation of successfully forming the green tire.

Appellant contends that Dodt does not disclose laminating a sound absorbing material to the inner liner to form a liner laminate before winding the liner laminate and a carcass, respectively, to a drum and inflating the green tire into its final shape, as recited in claim 1. App. Br. 15. Appellant also contends that Hong does not relate to applying a sound-absorbing member to a liner of a tire. App. Br. 18–20. Appellant further contends that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been led to modify the process of Dodt “to include an additional step of fixing a sound absorbing member to an inner liner prior to winding a laminate of these two components upon a

tire making drum based on Hong . . .” App. Br. 16. However, we are not persuaded by these contentions.

As indicated *supra*, there is no dispute that Dodt discloses that the green tire includes a carcass applied over an inner liner. Although Dodt, at page 18, lines 12–14, discloses that “[p]rior to vulcanization of the tire, the [sound-absorbing] foamed-material ring 6, or the [sound-absorbing] foamed-material plate [(planar sheet)], is curled onto the tire’s inner surface [where the inner liner is located,]” as pointed out by Appellant, App. Br. 15, the Examiner found, and Appellant does not dispute, Hong discloses laminating an interior component of a tire to the inner liner to form a liner laminate before winding the liner laminate and a carcass, respectively, to a drum and shaping (inflating) the green tire into its desired shape prior to vulcanization, as recited in claim 1, *compare* Final Act. 8 *with* App. Br. 12–21. The sound-absorbing foamed-material plate (sheet) taught by Dodt is an interior component of a tire, which is laminated to the inner liner of the tire, prior to vulcanization, as indicated *supra*. Laminating the sound-absorbing material to a liner prior to winding the liner and/or carcass, as suggested by Dodt, Horio, and Hong, in lieu of laminating the sound-absorbing material to the liner subsequent to winding the liner and/or carcass, as taught by Dodt, does not add a step as argued by Appellant. More importantly, even without the teaching of Hong relating to laminating an interior component to a liner prior to winding the liner and carcass, one of ordinary skill in the art would have had a reasonable expectation of successfully forming the same tire structure regardless of whether the lamination of the sound-absorbing material to a liner is conducted prior to or subsequent to winding the liner and/or carcass so long as such lamination is conducted prior to vulcanization

as taught by both Dodt and Hong. *In re Burhans*, 154 F.2d 690, 692 (CCPA 1946) (explaining that changing the order of the sequence of adding components in a known process does not impart patentability absent proof in the record that the order of performing the steps produces a new and unexpected result). Further, as indicated *supra*, Horio teaches laminating a polyurethane foam material sheet useful as a sound-absorbing material via a flame laminating process is advantageous.

Under these circumstances, we find no reversible error in the Examiner's determination that one of ordinary skill in the art, armed with the knowledge of the collective teachings of the applied prior art, would have been led to flame laminate the sound-absorbing foamed-material plate (sheet) to an inner liner before winding the inner liner and the carcass, respectively and inflating the green tire into a desired shape prior to vulcanization, as required by claim 1, with a reasonable expectation of successfully forming a green tire.

Appellant contends that "the Hong et al. reference does not related to a tire that includes a sound-absorbing member, and thus the problems related to the affixing of such a component to the inner surface of a tire are not relevant to Hong et al." App. Br. 17. Appellant also contends that "the Hong et al. reference is not concerned with the same problem facing the present invention . . . ." App. Br. 17. In support of these contention, Appellant refers to Hong's disclosure directed to forming a self-sealing pneumatic tire and solving a problem associated with the flowable nature of a sealant. App. Br. 17–20. In so contending, Appellant fails to take into account the collective teachings of the applied prior art. *In re Merck & Co., Inc.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 1097 (Fed. Cir. 1986) ("[n]on-obviousness cannot be

established by attacking reference individually where the rejection is based upon the teachings of a combination of references”). Nor does Appellant recognize that “motivation to modify a prior art reference to arrive at the claimed invention need not be the same motivation that the patentee had.” *Alcon Research, Ltd. v Apotex Inc.*, 687 F.3d 1362, 1368 (Fed. Cir. 2012) (citing *KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex, Inc.*, 550 U.S. 398, 406, 420 (2007) (stating that it is error to look “only to the problem the patentee was trying to solve”). On this record, Appellant does not explain why the collective teachings of the applied prior art, especially Dodt, Horio, and Hong, would not have led one of ordinary skill in the art to flame laminate the sound-absorbing foamed-material plate (sheet) to an inner liner before winding the inner liner and the carcass, respectively prior to vulcanization, as required by claim 1, with a reasonable expectation of successfully forming a green tire. App. Br. 17–20; *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 425 (CCPA 1981) (“[T]he test [for obviousness] is what the combined teachings of the references would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art.”).

Appellant contends that “one of ordinary skill in the art would not have looked to [Horio, Rucker, Gonzales, and Conlon] for guidance on a method of creating a laminate of a sound-absorbing member and an inner liner of a pneumatic tire.” App. Br. 21. Appellant also contends that “none of these references relate to a tire manufacturing process, and thus . . . one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to use such a flame lamination process during tire manufacturing.” App. Br. 20. However, we are again not persuaded by these contentions.

As correctly found by the Examiner, Horio, Rucker, Gonzales, and Conlon are all directed to bonding a polyurethane foam material with which

Appellant is concerned from the perspective of one of ordinary skill in the art. *Ans. 6; compare* Horio ¶¶ 1–4, Rucker col. 5, ll. 5–20, Gonzales ¶ 28, or Conlon col. 3, ll. 50–55, *with* Spec. ¶ 3. Of these alternatively relied upon references, Horio, like Appellant, further discloses using a polyurethane foam material as a sound-absorbing material. Horio ¶ 2. In fact, Appellant does not dispute the Examiner’s finding that “Horio discloses that when making a polyurethane foam laminate ([0002]) to act as a sound-absorber (‘sound-absorbing material’ [0002]), it is possible to achieve high production efficiency (‘working efficiency is excellent’ [0004]) and avoid the unevenness and high costs of adhesive bond ([0003]) by flame laminating.” *Compare* Final Act. 4, *with* App. Br. 12–21; *see also* Horio ¶¶ 1–4. Thus, we find no reversible error in the Examiner’s finding that one of ordinary skill in the art would have looked to these references, in particular Horio, for improving the method disclosed by Appellant and suggested by Dodt and Hong as they are from analogous art and relevant to the method suggested by Dodt and Hong. *In re Kahn*, 441 F.3d 977, 986–87 (Fed. Cir. 2006) (“The analogous-art test requires ...that a reference is either in the field of the applicant's endeavor or is reasonably pertinent to the problem with which the inventor was concerned in order to rely on that reference as a basis for rejection. References are selected as being reasonably pertinent to the problem based on the judgment of a person having ordinary skill in the art.”). Nor do we find reversible error in the Examiner’s finding that one of ordinary skill in the art would have had an apparent reason or motivation to employ Horio’s flame lamination process, in lieu of Dodt’s adhesive lamination process, to bond the polyurethane foam (sound-absorbing material) on the inner liner layer of the green tire taught by Dodt, for Horio

discloses various advantages of using a flame lamination process rather than an adhesive lamination process.

With respect to claims 5, 9, and 11 separately rejected in Rejections 2 through 4, Appellant relies upon the same arguments advanced in connection with claim 1 discussed *supra*. App. Br. 26–27. Thus, we also find no reversible error in the Examiner’s § 103(a) rejections of claims 5, 9, and 11 set forth in Rejections 2 through 4 for the reasons indicated above.

Accordingly, we affirm the Examiner’s decision rejecting claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 11, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

#### *Rejection 5*

Having concluded that the Examiner did not err in rejecting all of the claims on appeal, we need not reach the decision on Rejection 5 directed to claims 1 and 9 as it is, at best, cumulative. *Cf. In re Basell Poliolefine Italia S.P.A.*, 547 F.3d 1371, 1379 (Fed. Cir. 2008) (“Having concluded that the Board properly affirmed the rejection of claims 1–52 of the ’687 patent based on obviousness-type double patenting in view of the ’987 patent, we need not address the remaining issues raised by Basell regarding the §§102(b) and 103(a) rejections, as well as the additional double patenting rejections. Accordingly, the Board’s decision is affirmed.”); *Beloit Corp. v. Valmet Oy*, 742 F.2d 1421 (Fed. Cir. 1984) (ITC having decided a dispositive issue, there was no need for the Commission to decide other issues decided by the presiding officer.)

DECISION

Upon consideration of the record, and for the reasons given in the Final Action, Answer and above, we affirm the Examiner's decision rejecting claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 11, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as set forth in Rejections 1 through 4 above and decline to reach the decision on the Examiner's decision rejecting claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as set forth in Rejection 5.

No time period for taking any subsequent action in connection with this appeal may be extended under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1)(iv).

AFFIRMED



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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Akira Kuramori  
Serial No.: 12/435,911  
Conf. No.: 4344  
Filed: 5/5/2009  
For: METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING  
PNEUMATIC TIRE  
Art Unit: 1747  
Examiner: Rogers, Martin K.

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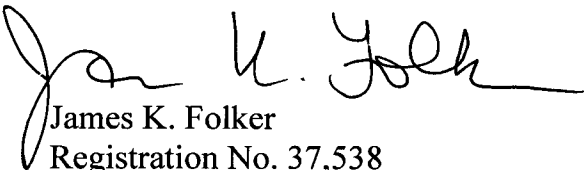
On February 3, 2014, Attorneys for Applicant filed a Notice of Appeal and paid the fee of \$800 in the above-identified Application. As indicated in the Office Action mailed May 22, 2014, prosecution was subsequently reopened. On December 12, 2014, Attorneys for Applicant filed another Notice of Appeal and again paid the fee of \$800 in the above-identified application. However, as indicated in the May 22, 2014 Office Action, the previously paid Notice of Appeal fee can be applied to the Notice of Appeal filed December 12, 2014.

Therefore, Applicant requests a refund in the **total amount of \$800.00**, which reflects the aforementioned erroneous payment made on December 12, 2014. We request that \$800.00 be credited to Deposit Account No. 07-2069.

Should there be any questions regarding this Request for a Refund, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By   
James K. Folker  
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July 22, 2016

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## Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

<b>EFS ID:</b>	26435072
<b>Application Number:</b>	12435911
<b>International Application Number:</b>	
<b>Confirmation Number:</b>	4344
<b>Title of Invention:</b>	METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING PNEUMATIC TIRE
<b>First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:</b>	Akira Kuramori
<b>Customer Number:</b>	24978
<b>Filer:</b>	James Kenneth Folker/Katie Cordova
<b>Filer Authorized By:</b>	James Kenneth Folker
<b>Attorney Docket Number:</b>	4386.084595
<b>Receipt Date:</b>	22-JUL-2016
<b>Filing Date:</b>	05-MAY-2009
<b>Time Stamp:</b>	17:55:46
<b>Application Type:</b>	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

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**If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.**

**New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office**

**If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.**