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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
12/911,274	10/25/2010	Niall R. Lynam	DON09 P-1651	9837
28101 7590 10/31/2011 VAN DYKE, GARDNER, LINN & BURKHART, LLP SUITE 207 2851 CHARLEVOIX DRIVE, S.E. GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49546			EXAMINER AMARI, ALESSANDRO V	
			ART UNIT 2872	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 10/31/2011	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	12/911,274	LYNAM, NIAL R.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ALESSANDRO AMARI	2872	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 August 2011.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

5) ☒ Claim(s) 20-29 and 39-65 is/are pending in the application.

5a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.

7) ☒ Claim(s) 20-29 and 39-65 is/are rejected.

8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.

9) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

11) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 October 2010 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/7/2010</u>	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Group IV in the reply filed on 1 August 2011 is acknowledged.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to

be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 20, 26, 43-45, 49-51, 52 and 59 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 15, 25 and 26 of U.S. Patent No. 7934843. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because claims 20, 26, 43-45, 49-51, 52 and 59 recite essentially the same subject matter as claims 1, 15, 25 and 26 in US 7934843 except for a mirror housing and a spherical or single radius of curvature of the curved mirror element which are known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize a mirror housing and have the auxiliary non-plano curved element be defined by a spherical radius of curvature so as to provide for protection from the elements and to provide for an improved field of view to the user.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the

applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 20-29, 39-42, 46-48, and 52-65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lynam et al (hereafter "Lynam") US 2002/0072026.

The applied reference has a common inventor with the instant application.

Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

In regard to claims 20 and 26, Lynam discloses (see Figures 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 14) an exterior sideview mirror assembly suitable for vehicular use, said exterior sideview mirror assembly comprising: a mirror housing (40) defining a primary opening; a single mirror backing plate element (60) within said mirror housing and disposed adjacent to said primary opening; said single mirror backing plate element movable by an electrically-operable actuator (36) as described in paragraph [0042]; a main plano mirror element (50) fixedly secured to and supported by said single mirror backing plate element and disposed within said primary opening for providing a view rearward of a vehicle equipped with said exterior sideview mirror assembly through a first primary field of view as described in paragraphs [0041] and [0042]; an auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element (55) fixedly secured to and supported by said single mirror backing plate element and disposed adjacent to said main plano mirror element as described in

paragraph [0042], said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element defined by a single radius of curvature differing from said main piano mirror element such that said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element provides a second auxiliary field of view rearward of the vehicle equipped with said exterior sideview mirror assembly as described in paragraph [0083]; wherein said first primary field of view of said main piano mirror element overlaps said second auxiliary field of view of said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element as shown in Figure 14 and as described in paragraph [0076]; wherein said single mirror backing plate element comprises a generally rigid polymeric molding able to support said main piano mirror element and said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element as described in paragraph [0050]; wherein said single mirror backing plate element comprises a generally flat portion for supporting said main piano mirror element and a curved portion for supporting said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element as described in paragraph [0050]; wherein said curved portion of said single mirror backing plate element for supporting said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element is angled relative to said generally flat portion of said single mirror backing plate element for supporting said main piano mirror element in a manner such that, when a driver of a vehicle equipped with said exterior side view mirror assembly aligns the rearward field of view of said main piano mirror element, the rearward field of view of said main piano mirror element is aligned downwardly relative to a vehicle body side to which said exterior side view mirror assembly is attached as described in paragraphs [0059], [0072] – [0074] and as shown in Figure 6B; wherein said main piano mirror element comprises one of (a) a generally flat glass substrate having a surface coated

with a metallic reflector coating and (b) a generally flat polymeric substrate having a thin glass element applied to a surface thereof and with an opposing surface thereof having a reflecting layer applied thereto as described in paragraph [0043]; and wherein said curved portion of said single mirror backing plate element defines an auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element backing plate element radius of curvature substantially equal to said single radius of curvature as described in paragraph [0050].

In regard to claims 52 and 59, Lynam discloses (see Figures 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 14) an exterior sideview mirror assembly suitable for vehicular use, said exterior sideview mirror assembly comprising: a mirror housing (40) defining a primary opening; a single mirror backing plate element (60) within said mirror housing and disposed adjacent to said primary opening; said single mirror backing plate element movable by an electrically-operable actuator (36); a main plano mirror element (50) fixedly secured to and supported by said single mirror backing plate element and disposed within said primary opening for providing a view rearward of a vehicle equipped with said exterior sideview mirror assembly through a first primary field of view; an auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element (55) fixedly secured to and supported by said single mirror backing plate element and disposed adjacent to said main plano mirror element, wherein said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element comprises a reflector-coated spherically curved substrate and has a spherical radius of curvature with substantially a single radius of curvature differing from said main plano mirror element such that said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element provides a second auxiliary field of view rearward of the vehicle equipped with said exterior sideview mirror assembly as

described in paragraphs [0042] and [0083], wherein said first primary field of view of said main plano mirror element overlaps said second auxiliary field of view of said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element as shown in Figure 14 and as described in paragraph [0076]; wherein said single mirror backing plate element comprises a generally rigid polymeric molding able to support said main plano mirror element and said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element as described in paragraph [0050]; wherein said single mirror backing plate element comprises a generally flat portion for supporting said main plano mirror element and a curved portion for supporting said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element as described in paragraph [0050]; wherein said main plano mirror element is fixedly secured to said generally flat portion of said single mirror backing plate element and said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element is fixedly secured to said curved portion of said single mirror backing plate as described in paragraph [0050] and as shown in Figures 3 and 6; wherein said curved portion of said single mirror backing plate element for supporting said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element is angled relative to said generally flat portion of said single mirror backing plate element for supporting said main plano mirror element in a manner such that, when a driver of a vehicle equipped with said exterior side view mirror assembly aligns the rearward field of view of said main plano mirror element, the rearward field of view of said main plano mirror element is aligned downwardly relative to a vehicle body side to which said exterior side view mirror assembly is attached as described in paragraphs [0059], [0072] – [0074] and as shown in Figure 6B; wherein said main plano mirror element comprises one of (a) a generally flat glass substrate having a surface

coated with a metallic reflector coating and (b) a generally flat polymeric substrate having a thin glass element applied to a surface thereof and with an opposing surface thereof having a reflecting layer applied thereto as described in paragraph [0043]; and wherein said curved portion of said single mirror backing plate element defines an auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element backing plate element radius of curvature substantially equal to said single radius of curvature as described in paragraph [0050].

Regarding claims 21 and 27, Lynam discloses including a divider (65) between said main plano mirror element and said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element that demarcates said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element from said main plano mirror element visually as described in paragraph [0042].

Regarding claims 22, 54 and 61, Lynam discloses that said main plano mirror element comprises a generally flat glass substrate having a surface coated with a metallic reflector coating as described in paragraph [0047].

Regarding claim 23, Lynam discloses that said single mirror backing plate element includes a molded wall extending from a surface thereof and wherein said divider comprises at least a portion of said molded wall as described in paragraph [0051].

Regarding claim 24, Lynam discloses that said wall generally circumscribes the circumferential edge of said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element when said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element is supported by said single mirror backing plate element as described in paragraph [0051].

Regarding claims 25, 29, 55 and 62, Lynam discloses that said main plano mirror element comprises a generally flat glass substrate having a surface coated with a metallic reflector coating as described in paragraphs [0043] and [0047] and including a bracket (38) configured for fixedly securing said exterior sideview mirror assembly to the vehicle body side as shown in Figure 2.

Regarding claim 28, Lynam discloses that said single mirror backing plate element includes a molded wall extending from a surface thereof and wherein said divider comprises at least a portion of said molded wall and wherein said wall generally circumscribes the circumferential edge of said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element when said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element is supported by said single mirror backing plate element as described in paragraphs [0042] and [0051].

Regarding claim 39, Lynam discloses that said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element comprises a reflector-coated multiradius curved substrate as shown in Figure 6 and as described in paragraph [0042].

Regarding claims 40, 46, 56 and 63, Lynam discloses that said generally flat portion of said single mirror backing plate element defines a primary plane that is substantially flat and wherein said curved portion of said single mirror backing plate element is substantially convex-curved as described in paragraph [0080].

Regarding claims 41, 47, 57 and 64, Lynam discloses wherein a part of said curved portion of said single mirror backing plate element is one of (a) substantially coplanar with said primary plane and (b) substantially rearward of said primary plane as shown in Figure 3.

Regarding claims 42, 48, 58 and 65, Lynam discloses wherein a first part of said curved portion of said single mirror backing plate element is substantially coplanar with said primary plane and a second part of said curved portion of said single mirror backing plate element is substantially rearward of said primary plane as shown in Figure 3.

Regarding claims 53 and 60, Lynam discloses that said single mirror backing plate element includes a molded wall extending from a surface thereof, and wherein said wall generally circumscribes the circumferential edge of said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element when said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element is supported by said single mirror backing plate element as described in paragraph [0051].

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 43-45 and 49-51 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable (provided that the double-patenting rejection above is obviated) if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 43 and 49 are allowable for at least the reason, "comprises a generally flat polymeric substrate having a thin glass element applied to a surface thereof and with an opposing surface thereof having a reflecting layer applied thereto, and wherein said generally flat polymeric substrate is formed from an elongated sheet of substrate material comprising a polymeric resin material, and wherein said elongated sheet has a substantially transparent functional film applied at a surface thereof, and wherein said

substantially transparent functional film provides at least one of (a) an anti-abrasion function, (b) a hydrophobic function and (c) a hydrophilic function, and wherein said functional film comprises an ultrathin glass material which is sufficiently flexible to be provided in a reel or roll, and wherein said functional film is sufficiently flexible to conform to said generally flat polymeric substrate of said main plano mirror element, and said main plano mirror element comprises a reflective film disposed at a surface of said generally flat polymeric substrate opposite said substantially transparent functional film" as set forth in the claimed combination. Claims 44, 45, 50 and 51 are allowable due to their dependence on claims 43 and 49.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALESSANDRO AMARI whose telephone number is (571)272-2306. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephone B. Allen can be reached on (571) 272-2434. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alessandro Amari/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2872

PATENT
DON09 P-1651

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group : 2872
Examiner : Alessandro V. Amari
Applicant : Niall R. Lynam
Serial No. : 12/911,274
Filing Date : October 25, 2010
For : EXTERIOR SIDEVIEW MIRROR SYSTEM

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Responsive to the Office Action mailed October 31, 2011, Applicants wish to submit the following:

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.

A **Terminal Disclaimer** is attached.

A **Declaration** under Rule 131(a) is attached.

Applicant : Niall R. Lynam
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Remarks:

The amendments and remarks presented herein are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action dated October 31, 2011. Claims 20-29 and 39-65 are pending in the application.

Double Patenting Claim Rejection:

Claims 20, 26, 43-45, 49-51, 52 and 59 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 15, 25 and 26 of U.S. Patent No. 7,934,843. Enclosed herewith is a Terminal Disclaimer with respect to U.S. Patent No. 7,934,843. The basis for the double-patenting rejection is obviated. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 20, 26, 43-45, 49-51, 52 and 59 is respectfully requested. Applicant submits that the terminal disclaimer also disclaims the term of any patent that will issue from the present application beyond the term of U.S. Patent No. 6,522,451.

Please charge Account No. 50-5553 for the \$160 terminal disclaimer fee due and for any additional fees which may be due.

Allowable Claims:

Claims 43-45 and 49-51 were indicated as being drawn to allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Because Applicant believes that claims 20-29, 39-42, 46-48 and 52-65 are allowable, as discussed below, Applicant has not amended claims 43 and 49 to be in independent form.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 20-29, 39-42, 46-48 and 52-65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lynam, U.S. Publication No. US 2002/0072026 ("Lynam '026"). Applicant respectfully traverses.

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Applicant submits that Lynam '026 is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Lynam '026 published June 13, 2002, and, as discussed below, the present application has an effective filing date of May 20, 2003 (the filing date of U.S. provisional application 60/471,872). Thus, Lynam '026 published prior to the priority date of the presently claimed invention and Lynam '026 cannot be cited as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Also, because the present application has a priority date of May 20, 2003 that is less than one year after the publication date of Lynam '026 (June 13, 2002), and because (as discussed below) Applicant conceived and reduced to practice the invention claimed in at least the independent claims prior to the effective date of Lynam '026, Applicant respectfully submits that Lynam '026 is also not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(a).

The present application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/851,045, filed August 5, 2010, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,934,843, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Serial No. 12/197,666, filed August 25, 2008, now U.S. Patent No. 7,842,154, which is a division of U.S. patent application Serial No. 10/709,434, filed May 5, 2004, now U.S. Patent No. 7,420,756, which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application, Serial No. 60/471,872, filed May 20, 2003.

The present application incorporates by reference U.S. Patent Nos. 6,522,451 and 6,717,712. See, for example, paragraph [0045] on page 6 of the present application (reproduced below).

[0045] Reflective element 12 may comprise an aspheric or multi-radius or wide angle single element reflective element substrate. The reflective element 12 may provide a field of view similar to the plano-auxiliary reflective element assembly disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,522,451 and 6,717,712, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

With respect to the priority provisional application Serial No. 60/471,872, this application similarly incorporates by reference U.S. Patent No. 6,522,451 and U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/745,172, filed December 20, 2000. U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/745,172 issued

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as U.S. Patent No. 6,717,712. Thus, the present application and each of the priority applications incorporate by reference the same disclosures.

With respect to the rejection in view of Lynam '026, and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.131, Applicant submits herewith a Declaration which declares that the invention claimed in at least independent claims 20, 26, 52 and 59 was invented by Applicant prior to the publication date of Lynam '026, namely, June 13, 2002. The specification and drawings (Exhibit A) of U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/478,315, which was filed on January 6, 2000 by Niall R. Lynam (the sole named inventor of the present application), along with U.S. Patent No. 6,522,451 (Exhibit B), which issued to Lynam from U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/478,315, are submitted with the Declaration as corroborative evidence that the present invention was reduced to practice prior to the Lynam '026 publication date of June 13, 2002 (and prior to the December 20, 2000 filing date of the application that published as Lynam '026). The Declaration is signed by the named inventor (Niall R. Lynam) for the present application. The attached specification and drawings of Exhibits A and B clearly corroborate that the inventions claimed in at least independent claims 20, 26, 52 and 59 were reduced to practice well prior to June 13, 2002, the publication date of Lynam '026, and prior to December 20, 2000, the filing date of the application that published as Lynam '026.

Accordingly, the rejections of claims 20-29, 39-42, 46-48 and 52-65 under §102(e) in view of Lynam '026 are obviated, and reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

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Claims 20-29 and 39-65 are pending in the application. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 20-29 and 39-65 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly and respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIALL R. LYNAM

By: Gardner, Linn, Burkhart & Flory, LLP

Date: November 3, 2011.



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group : 2872
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Serial No. : 12/911,274
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For : EXTERIOR SIDEVIEW MIRROR SYSTEM

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

DECLARATION UNDER RULE 131(a)

Niall R. Lynam, the inventor and Applicant in the above referenced patent application,
declares as follows:

1. Prior to June 13, 2002, the inventor and Applicant conceived of the claimed invention of at least the independent claims as filed in the present application. For example, and with reference to claim 20 of the present application, the inventor and Applicant conceived of an exterior sideview mirror system comprising:
 - a. a mirror housing defining a primary opening;
 - b. a single mirror backing plate element within said mirror housing and disposed adjacent to said primary opening;
 - c. said single mirror backing plate element movable by an electrically-operable actuator;
 - d. a main plano mirror element fixedly secured to and supported by said single mirror backing plate element and disposed within said primary opening for providing a view rearward of a vehicle equipped with said exterior sideview mirror assembly through a first primary field of view;
 - e. an auxiliary non-plano curved mirror element fixedly secured to and supported by said single mirror backing plate element and disposed adjacent to said main plano mirror element, said auxiliary non-plano curved mirror element defined by a single radius of curvature differing from said main plano mirror element

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such that said auxiliary non-plano curved mirror element provides a second auxiliary field of view rearward of the vehicle equipped with said exterior sideview mirror assembly;

- f. wherein said first primary field of view of said main plano mirror element overlaps said second auxiliary field of view of said auxiliary non-plano curved mirror element;
 - g. wherein said single mirror backing plate element comprises a generally rigid polymeric molding able to support said main plano mirror element and said auxiliary non-plano curved mirror element;
 - h. wherein said single mirror backing plate element comprises a generally flat portion for supporting said main plano mirror element and a curved portion for supporting said auxiliary non-plano curved mirror element;
 - i. wherein said curved portion of said single mirror backing plate element for supporting said auxiliary non-plano curved mirror element is angled relative to said generally flat portion of said single mirror backing plate element for supporting said main plano mirror element in a manner such that, when a driver of a vehicle equipped with said exterior side view mirror assembly aligns the rearward field of view of said main plano mirror element, the rearward field of view of said main plano mirror element is aligned downwardly relative to a vehicle body side to which said exterior side view mirror assembly is attached;
 - j. wherein said main plano mirror element comprises one of (a) a generally flat glass substrate having a surface coated with a metallic reflector coating and (b) a generally flat polymeric substrate having a thin glass element applied to a surface thereof and with an opposing surface thereof having a reflecting layer applied thereto; and
 - k. wherein said curved portion of said single mirror backing plate element defines an auxiliary non-plano curved mirror element backing plate element radius of curvature substantially equal to said single radius of curvature.
2. The invention of at least the independent claims of the present application was reduced to practice sometime prior to June 13, 2002, as evidenced by the attached specification and drawings (Exhibit A), which were filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on January 6, 2000 by Niall R. Lynam, and assigned Serial No. 09/478,315, as evidenced by the attached U.S. Patent No. 6,522,451 (Exhibit B), which issued February 18, 2003 from the 09/478,315 application.

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3. I am the sole named inventor of U.S. patent application Serial No. 12/911,274 (the present application) and I am the sole named inventor of U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/478,315 (Exhibit A), which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,522,451 (Exhibit B).

I hereby declare that all activities relating to the conception and reduction to practice of the above invention occurred in the United States.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that the statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, as set forth under section 1001, title 18, of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Inventor:

Date:



Niall R. Lynam





UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

28101 7590 01/20/2012
VAN DYKE, GARDNER, LINN & BURKHART, LLP
SUITE 207
2851 CHARLEVOIX DRIVE, S.E.
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49546

EXAMINER

AMARI, ALESSANDRO V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2872

DATE MAILED: 01/20/2012

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
12/911,274	10/25/2010	Niall R. Lynam	DON09 P-1651	9837

TITLE OF INVENTION: EXTERIOR SIDEVIEW MIRROR SYSTEM

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1740	\$300	\$0	\$2040	04/20/2012

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail** Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or **Fax** (571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

28101 7590 01/20/2012
VAN DYKE, GARDNER, LINN & BURKHART, LLP
SUITE 207
2851 CHARLEVOIX DRIVE, S.E.
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49546

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
12/911,274	10/25/2010	Niall R. Lynam	DON09 P-1651	9837

TITLE OF INVENTION: EXTERIOR SIDEVIEW MIRROR SYSTEM

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1740	\$300	\$0	\$2040	04/20/2012

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
AMARI, ALESSANDRO V	2872	359-872000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

☐ Issue Fee

☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)

☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

☐ A check is enclosed.

☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
12/911,274	10/25/2010	Niall R. Lynam	DON09 P-1651	9837

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EXAMINER

AMARI, ALESSANDRO V

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2872

DATE MAILED: 01/20/2012

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 0 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 0 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	12/911,274	LYNAM, NIAL R.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ALESSANDRO AMARI	2872	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment of 11/3/2011.
2. ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
3. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 20-29 and 39-65.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date ____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date ____. 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____.
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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Terminal Disclaimer

The terminal disclaimer filed on 3 November 2011 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of US 7934843 and US 6522451 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Affidavit

The affidavit filed on 3 November 2011 under 37 CFR 1.131 is sufficient to overcome the Lynam et al US 2002/0072026 reference.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20-29 and 39-65 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 20 and 26 are allowable for at least the reason, "wherein said curved portion of said single mirror backing plate element for supporting said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element is angled relative to said generally flat portion of said single mirror backing plate element for supporting said main plano mirror element in a manner such that, when a driver of a vehicle equipped with said exterior side view mirror assembly aligns the rearward field of view of said main plano mirror element, the rearward field of view of said main plano mirror element is aligned downwardly relative to a vehicle body side to which said exterior side view mirror assembly is attached; wherein said main piano mirror element comprises one of (a) a generally flat glass

substrate having a surface coated with a metallic reflector coating and (b) a generally flat polymeric substrate having a thin glass element applied to a surface thereof and with an opposing surface thereof having a reflecting layer applied thereto; and wherein said curved portion of said single mirror backing plate element defines an auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element backing plate element radius of curvature substantially equal to said curvature of said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element” as set forth in the claimed combination. Claims 21-25, 27-29, 39-48, and 49-51 are allowable due to their dependence on claims 20 and 26.

Claim 52 is allowable for at least the reason, “wherein said curved portion of said single mirror backing plate element for supporting said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element is angled relative to said generally flat portion of said single mirror backing plate element for supporting said main plano mirror element in a manner such that, when a driver of a vehicle equipped with said exterior side view mirror assembly aligns the rearward field of view of said main plano mirror element, the rearward field of view of said main plano mirror element is aligned downwardly relative to a vehicle body side to which said exterior side view mirror assembly is attached; wherein said main plano mirror element comprises one of (a) a generally flat glass substrate having a surface coated with a metallic reflector coating and (b) a generally flat polymeric substrate having a thin glass element applied to a surface thereof and with an opposing surface thereof having a reflecting layer applied thereto; and wherein said curved portion of said single mirror backing plate element defines an auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element backing plate element radius of curvature substantially equal to said single

radius of curvature” as set forth in the claimed combination. Claims 53-58 are allowable due to their dependence on claim 52.

Claim 59 is allowable for at least the reason, “wherein said curved portion of said single mirror backing plate element for supporting said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element is angled relative to said generally flat portion of said single mirror backing plate element for supporting said main plano mirror element in a manner such that, when a driver of a vehicle equipped with said exterior side view mirror assembly aligns the rearward field of view of said main plano mirror element, the rearward field of view of said main plano mirror element is aligned downwardly relative to a vehicle body side to which said exterior side view mirror assembly is attached; wherein said main plano mirror element comprises one of (a) a generally flat glass substrate having a surface coated with a metallic reflector coating and (b) a generally flat polymeric substrate having a thin glass element applied to a surface thereof and with an opposing surface thereof having a reflecting layer applied thereto; and wherein said curved portion of said single mirror backing plate element defines an auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element backing plate element radius of curvature substantially equal to said substantially only one radius of curvature of said auxiliary non-piano curved mirror element” as set forth in the claimed combination. Claims 60-65 are allowable due to their dependence on claim 59.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALESSANDRO AMARI whose telephone number is (571)272-2306. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephone B. Allen can be reached on (571) 272-2434. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alessandro Amari/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2872