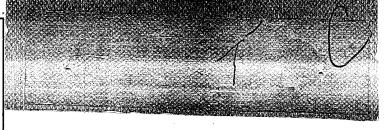
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| PATENT NUMBER      |
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| 6163492<br>6163492 |

U.S. UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION

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PATENT DATE

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| ☐ b) The term of th  | nis patent shall |             | 2 Nouy   | eV.         | 2-                                | 29-0               | 70              |  |  |  |
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| c) The terminalmonths of this patent have been disclaimed.  ISSUE BATCH NUMBER  (Date)  (Date) |                  |             |  |             |                                   |                    |                 |  |  |  |
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| The information disclose<br>Possession outside the   |                  |             |  |             |                                   | le 35, Sections 12 | 2, 181 and 368. |  |  |  |

Form **PTO-436A** (Rev. 6/98)

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## PATENT APPLICATION





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### ISSUE SLIP STAPLE AREA (for additional cross references)

| POSITION            | INITIALS | ID NO. | DATE    |
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| FEE DETERMINATION   | BA       | 70385  |         |
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| FORMALITY REVIEW    | ,        | 105474 | 11-6-94 |

### **INDEX OF CLAIMS**

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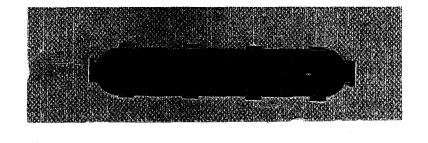
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# SEARCH NOTES (INCLUDING SEARCH STRATEGY)

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| 365   | 225.7<br>129.05<br>230.08<br>185.14 | 2/14/00 |       |
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### (RIGHT OUTSIDE)

PATENT APPLICATION SERIAL NO.

09/178,445

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE FEE RECORD SHEET

10/29/1998 BALEXAND 00000011 192386 09178445

01 FC:101 790.00 CF 02 FC:102 164.00 CF 03 FC:103 242.00 CF

PTO-1556 (5/87)

\*U.S. GPO: 1998-433-214/80404

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Washington, D. C. 20231

Enclosed herewith for filing is a patent application, as follows:

Inventors:

Sredanovic, Nikolas; Calendar, Helena

Title:

PROGRAMMABLE LATCHES THAT INCLUDE NON-VOLATILE

PROGRAMMABLE ELEMENTS

- Sheet(s) of drawings
- 19 page(s) Specification (Including Addendum A (2 pages))
- 10 page(s) Claims
- 1 page Abstract
- page(s) Declaration/Power of Attorney
- 1 page(s) Recordation Cover Sheet (in duplicate)
- page(s) Assignment
- Transmittal Letter (in duplicate)
- page(s) PTO Form 1449
- Copy(ies) of \_ Cited References
  - Other:

CLAIMS AS FILED (fees computed under §1.9(f))

| <u>For</u>                                | Number<br><u>Filed</u> |         |     | Number<br><u>Extra</u> |   | Rate |   | \$ | Basic Fee<br><u>790.00</u> |
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| Total Claims                              | 31                     | -20     | =   | 11                     | x | \$22 |   | \$ | 242.00                     |
| Independent                               |                        |         |     |                        |   |      |   |    |                            |
| Claims                                    | 5                      | -3      | =   | 2                      | x | \$82 | = | \$ | 164.00                     |
| Application contains one or more multiple |                        |         |     |                        |   |      |   |    |                            |
| ☐ dependent                               | t claims (\$270        | total f | ee) |                        |   |      |   | \$ | 0.00                       |

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464628 v1

### PROGRAMMABLE LATCHES THAT INCLUDE

### NON-VOLATILE PROGRAMMABLE ELEMENTS

Nikolas Sredanovic

Helena Calendar

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CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH
Not applicable.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to programmable latches that include non-volatile programmable elements. Examples of non-volatile programmable elements are fuses.

Programmable latches with fuses are used in integrated circuits to enable modification of the circuits without changing the masks used for circuit fabrication. For example, fuse programmable latches are used to replace defective memory cells with spare cells in semiconductor memories.

Fig. 1 shows one such latch described in U.S.

Patent 4,546,455 issued October 8, 1985 to Iwahashi et al. Fuse F1 is connected between the power supply terminal VDD and the latch output terminal OUT. An NMOS transistor 110 is connected between the terminal OUT and the ground terminal. Three serially connected

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inverters 120.1, 120.2, 120.3 are provided between the output terminal OUT and the gate of transistor 110.

If fuse F1 is intact, the terminal OUT is pulled to VDD. The inverters 120 keep transistor 110 off. If fuse F1 is blown, the terminal OUT is at the ground voltage. The inverters turn transistor 110 on to keep the terminal OUT at ground.

Bypass capacitor 130 is connected between the input of inverter 120.3 and the ground terminal to insure correct initialization of the latch on power-up. More particularly, when the power is off, transistor 110 is non-conductive. Therefore, terminal OUT is floating. According to U.S. Patent 4,546,455, the terminal OUT may "tend to have its potential raised to a logic level '1' ". In addition, the terminal OUT potential may become "unstable due to the capacitive coupling" in the integrated circuit. Consequently, during operation, transistor 110 could be off even if the fuse F1 were blown. As a result, the terminal OUT would provide an erroneous voltage.

Capacitor 130 is intended to avoid such malfunction. During power up, capacitor 130 keeps the input of inverter 120.3 low sufficiently long to allow the inverter to turn on transistor 110 and discharge the terminal OUT to ground if the fuse is blown. Then the ground voltage on terminal OUT propagates through the three inverters to keep transistor 110 on.

It is desirable to provide alternative programmable latches.

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#### SUMMARY

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Some embodiments of the present invention provide simple and reliable programmable latches. Some programmable latches are reliable because they do not depend on delays such as delays provided by capacitor 130. Dependence on delays is undesirable because delay-dependent circuits may not operate properly if VDD rises slowly. Some latches are simple because they omit capacitor 130 and include only one CMOS inverter.

High reliability is achieved in some embodiments by a diode that keeps a voltage on a latch output terminal within a predetermined range of values before power is supplied to the latch. In some embodiments, the diode's anode is connected to terminal OUT, and the cathode is connected to an external power supply pin EVCC or to a reference voltage terminal. When power is off, the EVCC pin or the reference voltage terminal is at ground, and therefore the voltage on the terminal OUT is not higher than one diode threshold voltage relative to ground (0.65V in some embodiments.) The maximum voltage of 0.65V on terminal OUT allows the latch to be powered up correctly even if fuse F1 is blown.

In some embodiments, the diode's cathode is connected to a reference voltage which is used also in other parts of the integrated circuit. The reference voltage is generated by a reference voltage generator which includes one or more pull-down resistors

connected to the reference voltage terminal and to the

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ground terminal. When the power is off, these resistors discharge the reference voltage terminal to ground. Hence, the OUT voltage is not higher than one diode threshold relative to ground when the power is off.

Prior art latch of Fig. 1 has an advantage that a latch initialization does not require a latch initialization signal from outside the latch. The state of the latch is completely determined by the state of fuse F1 and the voltages on the VDD and ground terminals. This advantage is preserved in some embodiments of the present invention. This advantageously distinguishes such embodiments of the invention from the latch described in U.S. Patent 5,566,107 issued October 15, 1996 to Gilliam in describing a circuit that needs an external "activate" signal for initialization.

Some embodiments do not include a capacitor to generate a delay.

In some embodiments, only one inverter having a pull-up device and one pull-down device is provided between the output terminal OUT and the gate of transistor 110.

Some embodiments with only one CMOS inverter and no capacitor operate successfully even without a diode because in such embodiments the voltage on the terminal OUT is at the ground level before the power is turned on. The voltage could drift away from the ground level during fuse programming if, for example, the fuse is programmed electrically. (Of note, some embodiments

use laser programmable fuses rather than electrically programmable fuses.) However, even if the voltage on terminal OUT becomes high when the fuse is being programmed, the power is turned off after programming, and the voltage on the terminal OUT is allowed to return to ground before the power is turned on again.

Further, in some embodiments, even if the voltage on the terminal OUT is at a high value immediately before the power is turned on, the latch operates properly due to the selection of the trip voltage of the inverter and/or the threshold voltage of transistor 110.

Other features and advantages of the invention are described below. The invention is defined by the appended claims.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a circuit diagram of a prior art programmable latch.

Fig. 2A is a circuit diagram of a programmable latch according to the present invention.

Fig. 2B illustrates a semiconductor cross section of the latch of Fig. 2A.

Fig. 3 is a circuit diagram illustrating a

25 reference voltage generator that powers the latch of

Fig. 2A.

Figs. 4 and 5 are circuit diagrams of alternative reference voltage generators for the latch of Fig. 2A.

Figs. 6-8 are circuit diagrams of programmable latches according to the present invention.



### DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Fig. 2A illustrates a programmable latch 210 according to the present invention. Terminal 211 of fuse F1 is connected to a terminal 212 providing a constant non-ground voltage VINT. Voltage VINT is an internal power supply voltage generated by VINT generator 213 from an external power supply voltage 10 EVCC received on an external pin 214 of the integrated circuit containing the latch 210. Voltage VINT also powers other parts of the integrated circuit. Voltage VINT is a positive voltage.

Terminal 215 of fuse F1 is connected to terminal OUT.

The terminal OUT is connected to the drain of NMOS transistor 110 whose source is connected to a ground terminal.

Terminal OUT is connected to the input of CMOS 20 inverter 120 formed by PMOS pull-up transistor 220 and NMOS pull-down transistor 230. The inverter input is connected to the gates of transistors 220, 230. source of transistor 220 is connected to VINT terminal 212. The source of transistor 230 is connected to the ground terminal. The drains of the two transistors are 25 connected to complimentary output terminal OUT- of latch 210. Terminal OUT- is connected to the gate of transistor 110.

Diode 234 has its anode terminal 238 connected to terminal OUT and its cathode terminal 240 connected to 3.0

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the VINT terminal 212. When the power is off, the VINT terminal is at ground. (VINT terminal is connected to ground by a resistor network in generator 213, as described below in connection with Fig. 3.) Therefore, the voltage on the terminal OUT is not higher than one threshold voltage of diode 234. If diode 234 is a silicon PN junction diode, the voltage on terminal OUT is not higher than 0.65V. This value is below the trip voltage of inverter 120 and even below the threshold voltage of NMOS transistor 230 (the threshold voltage of transistor 230 is 1.2V in some embodiments). Therefore, if fuse F1 is blown, transistor 230 remains off when the power is turned on. As soon as transistor 220 charges the gate of transistor 110 to the threshold voltage of transistor 110, transistor 110 connects the terminal OUT to ground.

If fuse F1 is conductive, then terminal OUT is at VINT, and transistor 110 is turned off by inverter 120.

During operation of latch 210 the diode is off and thus no current flows through diode 234.

Fig. 2B illustrates a cross section of a portion of the integrated circuit incorporating the latch 210 in some embodiments. The source 220S and the drain 220D of transistor 220 are P+ semiconductor regions in N well 242 in P substrate 244. Gate 220G of transistor 220 is separated from N well 242 by silicon dioxide (not shown). The N well is connected to the VINT terminal via an ohmic contact in the N+ region 246 formed in the N well. The diode cathode 238 is a P+ region formed in the N well. The diode is formed by

 $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ 

the PN junction between the region 238 and the surrounding region 240 of N well 242.

No external signal is used to initialize the latch. The state of the latch (the voltage on the terminal OUT) during the latch operation is completely determined by the state of fuse F1 and by the voltages on the terminal 212 and the ground terminal.

Fig. 3 shows one embodiment of VINT generator 213. The output terminal 212 of the VINT generator is connected to ground by a resistor network which includes: (1) resistors R1, R2, R3 connected in parallel between terminal 212 and a node FD; and (2) resistor R4 interconnecting the node FD and the ground terminal.

15 The pull-up path between the terminal 212 and the external voltage supply EVCC is through PMOS transistor 310. The gate of transistor 310 is connected to the output of a differential amplifier formed by PMOS transistors 314, 318 and NMOS transistors 322, 326, 330 and 334. The sources of transistors 314, 318 are 20 connected to the EVCC pin. The gates are connected to each other and to the drain of transistor 314. drain of transistor 318 is the amplifier output connected to the gate of transistor 310. The drain of transistor 318 is also connected to the drain of transistor 326. The drain of transistor 314 is connected to the drain of transistor 322. The gate of transistor 322 is connected to the node FD. The gate of transistor 326 receives a reference voltage VREF generated by some reference voltage generator (not 30



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shown) as known in the art. The sources of transistors 322, 326 are connected to the drain of transistor 330. The source of transistor 330 is connected to the drain of transistor 334. The source of transistor 334 is connected to ground.

The gate of transistor 334 receives a reference voltage VCMN generated by a reference voltage generator (not shown). The gate of transistor 334 is also connected to ground through MOS capacitor 340. (A MOS capacitor is a capacitor formed by a MOS transistor whose source and drain are shorted together.) The gate of transistor 330 receives an enable signal EN. The signal EN is also delivered to the gate of PMOS transistor 344 whose drain is connected to the gate of transistor 310 and whose source is connected EVCC. When EN is low (ground), the VINT terminal 212 is at ground. When EN is at EVCC, the terminal 212 provides a voltage between ground and EVCC.

Terminal 212 is connected to node FD by MOS capacitor 350.

Node FD is connected to the drain of NMOS transistor 354. The source node 358 of transistor 354 is connected to the drain of transistor 362 whose source is connected to ground. Node 358 is connected to terminal 212 through MOS capacitor 366.

The gate of transistor 362 is connected to the output of NAND gate 370. The output of gate 370 is also connected to the input of inverter 374 whose output is connected to the gate of transistor 354. One input of two-input gate 370 receives the enable signal

EN. The enable signal EN is delivered to the other output of gate 370 through three serially connected inverters 374, 378, 382.

In some embodiments, voltage VINT on terminal 212

is an internal power supply voltage that powers also other parts of the integrated circuit containing the latch 210. In some embodiments, the integrated circuit is a synchronous dynamic random access memory (SDRAM). The voltage VINT powers the memory address decoders, command decoding circuitry, burst counting circuitry, and input buffers such as clock enable buffer 386.

Buffer 386 receives a clock enable signal CKE from an external pin and generates an internal clock enable ICKE at ground and VINT voltage levels.

In some embodiments, the synchronous DRAM includes several generators 213. Each generator is enabled by its own signal EN. Thus, selective generators 213 can be disabled to reduce power consumption (in stand-by mode, for example). However, at least one generator 213 is enabled throughout the circuit operation in order to power circuits that are never disabled, for example, the buffer 386. Hence, the VINT voltage is a constant value throughout the operation of the integrated circuit.

In some embodiments, the outputs 212 of some or all of the generators 213 are shorted together.

However, some generators 213 are sometimes disabled (in stand-by mode for example) when the current drawn from the common terminal 212 of generators 213 is reduced.

In some embodiments, VINT = 2.5V and EVCC = 3.3V.

Addendum A provides transistor sizes and resistor values and some other particulars for one embodiment of a VINT generator 213.

Figs. 4 and 5 show other embodiments of a VINT generator 213. In Fig. 4, VINT generator 213 is a voltage divider formed by resistors 410, 420 connected in series between EVCC pin 214 and the ground pin of the integrated circuit.

In Fig. 5, resistor 420 is replaced by an NMOS transistor (a long channel transistor in some 10. embodiments) whose body region is connected to the ground terminal. The gate of transistor 420 receives a reference voltage VREF. This voltage is generated by a voltage divider consisting of resistors 510, 520 connected in series between EVCC and ground. 15 power is off, the VREF terminal is at ground, and transistor 420 is off. However, the drain/body diode of transistor 420 does not allow the voltage on terminal 212 to rise above one diode threshold relative 20 to ground.

Other resistors are replaced by transistors in some embodiments. Still other embodiments use other VINT generators, known in the art or to be discovered.

Latch 210 of Fig. 6 is identical to the latch of 25 Fig. 2A except that in Fig. 6 the diode cathode 240 is connected to EVCC pin 214.

Some embodiments include two diodes, with one diode connected as in FIG. 6 and the other diode connected as in FIG. 2A. Some embodiments include

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ground.

diodes connected in series or in parallel between the terminal OUT and the terminal 212 or 214.

In some embodiments, the terminals 211 and 240 are both connected to the EVCC terminal 214. Inverter 120 is powered by EVCC. When the power is off, the EVCC terminal is at ground because the integrated circuit includes a voltage divider, such as the voltage divider 213 of Fig. 4, to generate an intermediate voltage.

In some embodiments, diode 234 is omitted.

Nevertheless, if fuse F1 is non-conductive, the 10. terminal OUT is at ground before power-up. true even if the fuse was programmed electrically and some charge accumulated on terminal OUT during programming. Indeed, after the fuse is programmed (that is, made non-conductive), the power is kept off 15 for a while before the latch is used. For example, if the latch is part of a semiconductor memory, the memory fuses are typically programmed when the memory is tested. Then the power is turned off, and the memory is taken out of the testing equipment and shipped to a 20 customer. By the time the customer supplies power to the memory, any charge which may have accumulated on terminal OUT when the fuse was being programmed has

As soon as the terminal OUT- is charged by transistor 220 to a threshold voltage of transistor 110, transistor 110 turns on and keeps the node OUT at the ground voltage. Thus, even if the voltage on terminal OUT increased slightly at the beginning of the

been dissipated. Therefore, the terminal OUT is at



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power-up operation (that is, when the supply voltage EVCC started rising from 0 volts towards its final value), the terminal OUT is quickly returned to ground. If the power is turned off and then turned on again, the terminal OUT is at zero volts before the power is turned on. Therefore, reliable operation is provided.

In some embodiments, the inverter 120 trip voltage, measured when EVCC has reached its final value, is made high to ensure that the trip voltage will be higher than any voltage on terminal OUT. For example, in some embodiments, the inverter trip voltage is 1.6 V when EVCC = 3.3 V. The trip voltage can be made large by making transistor 220 large relative to transistor 230, or by increasing the threshold voltage of transistor 230, or by other methods known or to be discovered.

In some embodiments, the threshold voltage of transistor 110 is made low (lower than the threshold voltages of other NMOS transistors, including transistor 230, in the same integrated circuit), so that even if the terminal OUT is slightly above the inverter trip voltage when the fuse is blown, the inverter will charge the complementary terminal OUT- to a sufficiently high voltage to pull the terminal OUT down. As the terminal OUT is being pulled down, the voltage on terminal OUT- increases, the current through transistor 110 also increases, and eventually the terminal OUT is pulled to ground by the transistor 110.

In some embodiments with or without the diode 234, 30 EVCC = 3.3V, the threshold voltage of transistor 230 is

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1.2V, the threshold voltage of transistor 220 is -0.8V, and the threshold voltage of transistor 110 is 0.5V. The trip voltage of inverter 120 is 1.6V at the final EVCC value of 3.3V.

5 Fig. 7 illustrates another embodiment of latch 210. Fuse F1 and diode 234 are connected to terminals VINT and OUT, and NMOS transistor 110 is connected to the terminal OUT and to the ground terminal, as in Fig. 2A. However, three inverters 120.1, 120.2, 120.3 are provided between the terminal OUT and the gate of transistor 110. In inverter 120.1, the gates of PMOS transistor 220.1 and NMOS transistor 230.1 are connected to the terminal OUT. The source of transistor 220.1 is connected to VINT. The source of 15 transistor 230.1 is connected to ground. The drains of

transistors 220.1, 230.1 are connected to the gates of PMOS transistor 220.2 and NMOS transistor 230.2 of inverter 120.2. The drains of transistor 220.2, 230.2 are connected to the gates of PMOS transistor 220.3 and NMOS transistor 230.3 of inverter 120.3. The sources

of transistors 220.2, 220.3 are connected to the VINT terminal 212. The sources of transistors 230.2, 230.3 are connected to ground. The drains of transistors 220.3, 230.3 are connected to the gate of transistor

25 110.

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The voltage VINT is generated by some voltage generator such as the generator 213 of Fig. 3.

In some embodiments, diode 234 is omitted, or its cathode is connected to EVCC pin 214.

30 No capacitor is used in the latch of Fig. 7.



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The output of inverter 120.1 (the terminal connected to the drains of transistors 220.1, 230.1) is the complimentary output OUT- of latch 210.

If the fuse F1 is conductive, then terminal OUT is at VINT, and the three inverters keep transistor 110 off. If the fuse is blown, then terminal OUT is at ground, or is at most one diode threshold above ground, for essentially the same reasons as those explained above in connection with Fig. 2A. Therefore, when the power is supplied, transistor 110 is turned on.

In some embodiments, the trip voltage of inverter 120.1 is made high to ensure that when the fuse is blown, the trip voltage will be higher than any possible voltage on the terminal OUT.

In some embodiment, the threshold voltage of transistor 110 is made low (lower than threshold voltages of other NMOS transistors in the same integrated circuit) to facilitate discharge of terminal OUT, similarly to the Fig. 2A embodiment.

Some embodiments include five inverters, or some other number of inverters, connected in series between the terminal OUT and the gate of transistor 110.

Latch 210 of Fig. 8 is similar to the latch of Fig. 2A, but the supply voltage EVCC and the voltage VINT are negative. Transistors 110 and 230 are PMOS transistors. Transistor 220 is an NMOS transistor. Diode 234 has its anode connected to VINT terminal 212 and its cathode connected to terminal OUT.

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Some embodiments of the latch of Fig. 7 or of latches with five or more inverters also use negative supply voltages.

Some embodiments use a non-ground reference voltage instead of the ground.

In some embodiments of Figs. 2A, 7, 8, fuse F1 is a laser programmable fuse made of polysilicon, metal (for example, aluminum), or some other conductive material. In other embodiments, the fuse F1 is an

- electrically programmable fuse, for example, a polysilicon fuse which can be blown by current supplied through another transistor (not shown). In still other embodiments, fuse F1 is replaced by some other programmable element, for example, an antifuse, an
- 15 EPROM, EEPROM, or UPROM cell (<u>see</u> B. Prince,
  "Semiconductor Memories" (1991), pages 762-764
  incorporate herein by reference), or some other nonvolatile programmable element known or to be
  discovered.
- In some embodiments, the inverters 120 of Figs.

  2A, 7, 8 are non-CMOS inverters. For example, in some embodiments the pull-up transistors 220 are replaced by suitable resistors or depletion mode transistors.

Programmable latches 210 are suitable for use in a wide variety of memory and non-memory circuits. Some latch embodiments are used in dynamic random access memories. Some latch embodiments are used in spare row and column decoders to select spare rows or columns. Such use of programmable latches is described in U.S.

30 Patent 4,546,455 issued October 8, 1985 to Iwahashi et

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al. and incorporated herein by reference. In some embodiments, programmable latches 210 are used to adjust delay times or select a clock signal, as described in U.S. Patent 5,440,246 issued August 8, 1995 to Murray et al. and incorporated herein by reference. In some embodiments, the latches 210 are used to salvage defective memories as described in U.S. Patent Application 08/840,337 filed April 28, 1997 by Application 08/840,337 filed April 28, 1997 by Li-Chun Li et al. and incorporated herein by reference.

The invention is not limited by the embodiments described above. In some embodiments, transistor 110 is replaced by a variable-impedance electrical path which includes a number of transistors connected in series or in parallel between the terminal OUT and the ground terminal. One or more of the transistors have their gates connected to the output of inverter 120 or 120.3. In some embodiments, other circuit elements (such as resistors, perhaps variable-impedance resistors) are included between the terminal OUT and the ground or VINT terminals. In some embodiments, diode 234 is a Schottky diode. Other embodiments and variations are within the scope of the invention, as defined by the appended claims.

### ADDENDUM A

The table below specifies transistor channel width/length dimensions (in micrometers) and resistor values for one embodiment of a VINT generator 213 of Fig. 3. The NAND gate 370 and all the inverters are CMOS circuits.

| 1,0 | 190 |
|-----|-----|
|-----|-----|

| Device          | Specification            |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Resistor R1     | 5.6 ΚΩ                   |
| Resistor R2     | 90 ΚΩ                    |
| Resistor R3     | 90 ΚΩ                    |
| Resistor R4     | 6 ΚΩ                     |
| Transistor 310  | 1000/1                   |
| Transistor 314  | 50/0.6                   |
| Transistor 318  | 100/0.6                  |
| Transistor 322  | 50/0.6                   |
| Transistor 326  | 100/0.6                  |
| Transistors 330 | 100/1                    |
| Transistor 334  | 100/1                    |
| Transistor 340  | 2/15                     |
| Transistor 344  | 2/2                      |
| Transistor 350  | 2/100                    |
| Transistor 354  | 20/1                     |
| Transistor 362  | 4/1                      |
| Transistor 366  | 2/70                     |
| NAND gate 370   | 10/1 for each transistor |
| Inverter 374    | P = 6/1 (PMOS transistor |
|                 | width length),           |
|                 | N = 6/1 (NMOS transistor |

| Device                  | Specification    |
|-------------------------|------------------|
|                         | width/length)    |
| Inverters 374, 378, 382 | P = 5/1, N = 2/2 |

Each resistor R1, R2, R3, R4 is an N-type diffusion region in a P-type monocrystalline silicon substrate region biased at ground.

### CLAIMS

A programmable latch comprising:

a first terminal for receiving a first
voltage;

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a second terminal for receiving a second voltage;

a terminal T1 for providing a signal indicating a state of the programmable latch;

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a programmable electrical path including a non-volatile programmable element such that when the programmable element is conductive, the programmable path connects the terminal T1 to the first terminal, and when the programmable element is non-conductive, the programmable path does not connect the terminal T1 to the first terminal;

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a variable-impedance electrical path between the terminal T1 and the second terminal, wherein the impedance of the electrical path is controlled by a signal on the terminal T1; and

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a diode for keeping a voltage on the terminal T1 within a predetermined range of values before power is supplied to the latch, to prevent the latch from assuming an incorrect state when power is supplied to the latch.

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2. The programmable latch of Claim 1 wherein during operation of the latch the signal on the terminal T1 is completely determined by the state of the programmable element and the first and second voltages.

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3. The programmable latch of Claim 1 wherein the latch does not receive any latch initialization signal from outside the latch.

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- 4. The programmable latch of Claim 1 wherein no current flows through the diode during normal operation of the latch, but when the power is off then current flows through the diode if the voltage on the terminal T1 is outside the predetermined range of values.
- 5. The programmable latch of Claim 1 in combination with a first electrical path interconnecting a first terminal of the diode and a ground terminal, wherein during normal operation the first terminal of the diode is charged to a voltage that turns off the diode, but when the power is off the first terminal of the diode is discharged through said first electrical path.

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- 6. The combination of Claim 5 wherein the first electrical path is a resistor or a resistor network.
- 7. The combination of Claim 5 wherein the first electrical path is part of a reference voltage generator whose output is connected to the diode's first terminal.
- 8. The programmable latch of Claim 1 wherein the diode has one terminal connected to the terminal T1,

and the diode has another terminal connected to the first terminal.

9. The programmable latch of Claim 1 wherein the latch is an integrated circuit or a part of an integrated circuit, wherein the diode has one terminal connected to the terminal T1 and the diode has another terminal which is to receive a non-ground power supply voltage from an external pin of the integrated circuit.

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10. The programmable latch of Claim 1 wherein: the programmable element is a fuse connected to and between the terminal T1 and the first terminal;

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the variable-impedance path is a transistor connected to and between the terminal T1 and the second terminal and having a control terminal;

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the programmable latch further comprises an inverter whose input is connected to the terminal T1 and whose output is connected to the control terminal of said transistor, the inverter having a pull-up device and a pull-down device, wherein at least one of the pull-up and pull-down devices is connected to the inverter input, and both of the pull-up and pull-down devices are connected to the inverter output.

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11. The programmable latch of Claim 10 wherein one of the pull-up and pull-down devices is a MOS transistor formed in a first semiconductor region of a

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first conductivity type, and the diode comprises a second semiconductor region of a second conductivity type forming a junction with the first semiconductor region, the second region being connected to the terminal T1.

- The programmable latch of Claim 11 wherein the MOS transistor is a PMOS transistor, the first conductivity type is type N, the second conductivity type is type P, and the first semiconductor region is to receive a positive voltage.
- The programmable latch of Claim 1 wherein: said predetermined range consists of all voltages below a predetermined value; and

when the programmable element is conductive, the variable-impedance path is non-conductive.

A method for generating a signal indicating a state of a non-volatile programmable element connected to a first terminal and a terminal T1, the method comprising:

providing an electrical path between the first terminal and the terminal T1 before supplying power to the first terminal, to keep a voltage on the terminal T1 within a predetermined range of values; then

supplying/power to the first terminal and turning off said electrical path, and supplying a ground voltage to a ground terminal, wherein an

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impedance between the ground terminal and the terminal T1 is controlled by the voltage on the terminal T1, and wherein during operation of the latch the voltage on the terminal T1 is completely determined by the state of the programmable element and by a voltage on the first terminal.

The method of Claim 14 wherein the electrical path comprises a diode connected between the first terminal and the terminal T1.

A programmable latch comprising:

a first terminal for receiving a constant non-ground voltage throughout operation of the latch;

a second terminal for receiving a voltage;

a terminal T1 for providing a signal indicating a state of the programmable latch;

a non-volatile programmable element connected to the terminal T1 and the first terminal, the programmable element providing a conductive path between the terminal T1 and the first terminal when the programmable element is conductive, the programmable element isolating the terminal T1 from the first terminal when the programmable element is non-conductive;

a variable-impedance electrical path connected between the terminal T1 and the second terminal, the variable-impedance path having a

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control terminal for controlling the impedance of the variable-impedance path; and

an inverter having an input connected to the terminal T1 and an output connected to the control terminal of the variable-impedance path, wherein the inverter has a pull-up device and a pull-down device, at least one of the pull-up and pull-down devices is connected to the inverter input, and both of the pull-up and pull-down devices are connected to the inverter output.

The programmable latch of Claim 16 wherein during operation the voltage on the terminal T1 is completely determined by the state of the programmable element and the voltages on the first and second terminals.

The programmable latch of Claim 16 wherein the latch does not receive any latch initialization signal from outside the latch.

The programmable latch of Claim 16 wherein the second terminal is to receive a ground voltage throughout operation of the latch.

25 20. The programmable latch of Claim 16 wherein the programmable element is a fuse.

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graph 25

The programmable latch of Claim wherein the variable-impedance electrical path is an NMOS transistor, and the inverter is a CMOS inverter.

The programmable latch of Claim 16 wherein the first voltage is about 2.5 V, and the trip voltage of the inverter at a final value of a voltage that powers the inverter is about 1.6 V.

The programmable latch of Claim 16 wherein the variable-impedance path is an NMOS transistor having a threshold voltage of about 1.2 V, the constant non-ground voltage is about 2.5 V, and the second terminal is to receive a ground voltage throughout operation of the latch.

24. A programmable latch comprising:

a first terminal for receiving a first voltage which is a non-ground voltage.

a second terminal for receiving a second voltage;

a terminal T1 for providing a signal indicating a state of the programmable latch;

a non-volatile programmable element connected to the terminal T1 and the first terminal, the programmable element providing a conductive path between the terminal T1 and the first terminal when the programmable element is conductive, the programmable element isolating the terminal T1

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from the first terminal when the programmable element is non-conductive;

a variable-impedance electrical path connected between the terminal T1 and the second terminal, the variable-impedance path having a control terminal for controlling the impedance of the variable impedance path; and

one or more serially connected inverters  $IV_1$ , ...,  $IV_n$  ( $n\geq 1$ ), wherein the terminal T1 is connected to an input of inverter  $IV_1$ , and the control terminal is connected to an output of inverter  $IV_n$ ;

wherein during operation of the latch the signal on the terminal T1 is completely determined by the state of the programmable element and the first and second voltage; and

wherein no dapacitor is provided between an input of any inverter  $IV_i$  (i=1,..., n) and the second terminal

25. The programmable latch of Claim 24 wherein the second voltage is ground.

26. The programmable latch of Claim 24 wherein the variable-impedance path comprises a transistor connected to and between the second terminal and the terminal T1.

27. The programmable latch of Claim 24 wherein
30 the first voltage is about 2.5 V, and the trip voltage

-27-

of the inverter  $IV_1$  at a final value of a voltage that powers the inverter is about 1.6 V.

- 28. The programmable latch of Claim 24 wherein the programmable latch is part of an integrated circuit, and the programmable latch is to control another circuit which is part of the same integrated circuit.
- 10 29. The programmable latch of Claim 24 wherein the programmable element is a laser programmable fuse.

30. A method for providing a signal indicating a state of a non-volatile programmable element interconnecting a first terminal and a terminal T1, the method comprising:

supplying power to the first terminal to develop a non-ground voltage on the first terminal;

controlling an impedance of a variableimpedance electrical path interconnecting the
terminal T1 and a second terminal, wherein the
controlling operation uses an inverter whose input
is connected to the terminal T1 and whose output
is connected to a control terminal of the
electrical path, wherein the inverter has a pullup device and a pull-down device, at least one of
the pull-up and pull-down devices is connected to
the inverter input, and both of the pull-up and

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pull-down devices are connected to the inverter output, such that:

if the programmable element is non-conductive, the inverter causes the variable-impedance path to be conductive;

if the programmable element conducts and causes the voltage on the terminal T1 to move away from the ground voltage, the variable-impedance path is non-conductive,

wherein the signal on the terminal T1 is completely determined by the state of the programmable element and the voltages on the first and second terminals.

31. The method of Claim 29 wherein when power is supplied to the first terminal, the second terminal is at a ground voltage.

# PROGRAMMABLE LATCHES THAT INCLUDE NON-VOLATILE PROGRAMMABLE ELEMENTS

Nikolas Sredanovic

Helena Calendar

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# 09/178445

#### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A non-volatile programmable latch (210) has a fuse (F1) connected between a non-ground voltage terminal (212) and an output terminal (OUT). A NMOS transistor (110) is connected between the output terminal and ground. An inverter (120) has an input connected to the output terminal and an output connected to the output terminal and an output connected to the gate of the NMOS transistor. A diode connects the output terminal to the non-ground voltage terminal (212) to prevent a charge build up on the output terminal when the power is off.

ney Docket No.: M-5598 US

# DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

which (check) is attached hereto.

Provisional Application Number

N/A

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below adjacent to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of subject matter (process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or an improvement thereof) which is claimed and for which a patent is sought by way of the application entitled Programmable Latches that Include Non-Volatile Programmable Elements

and is amended by the Preliminary Amendment attached hereto.

| was   | filed on  | as Application Serial No  |  |  |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| and   | was amended on (if  | fapplicable).   |  |  |
| -   | _   | erstand the contents of the above dment referred to above.  | e identified   | specification,                                     |
| I acknowledge the duty<br>Code of Federal Regula  |   | n, which is material to patentabi   | lity as define                                       | ed in Title 37,                                    |
| application(s) for pater<br>least one country other<br>foreign application(s)<br>designating at least one | than the United States of<br>for patent or inventor<br>country other than the | Title 35, United States Code, § ate or any PCT international apport America listed below and have or's certificate or any PCT in United States of America filed by polication(s) of which priority is | plication(s) e also identifiternational by me on the | designating at<br>fied below any<br>application(s) |
|   | Prior Foreign Applica   | ation(s)  | Priority   | Claimed .  |
| Number  | Country   | Day/Month/Year Filed  | Yes  | No   |
| N/A   |   |   |  |  |
| I hereby claim the beneapplication(s) listed bel  |   | ted States Code, § 119(e) of any  | United Stat  | es provisional                                     |

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information, which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal

Filing Date

- Page 1 of 3 -

448675 v1

atty. Docket No.: M-5598 US

Regulations, § 1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

| Application Serial No. | Filing Date | Status (patented, pending, abandoned) |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| N/A                    |             |                                       |

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Alan H. MacPherson (24,423); Thomas S. MacDonald (17,774); Kenneth E. Leeds (30,566); Brian D. Ogonowsky (31,988); David W. Heid (25,875); Norman R. Klivans (33,003); Edward C. Kwok (33,938); David E. Steuber (25,557); Michael Shenker (34,250); Stephen A. Terrile (32,946); Peter H. Kang (40,350); T. Lester Wallace (34,748); Ronald J. Meetin (29,089); Ken John Koestner (33,004); Omkar K. Suryadevara (36,320); David T. Millers (37,396); Kent B. Chambers (38,839); Serge J. Hodgson (40,017); Michael P. Adams (34,763); Bernard Berman (37,279); Michael J. Halbert (40,633); Gary J. Edwards (41,008); William B. Tiffany (41,347); James E. Parsons (34,691); Daniel P. Stewart (41,332); Philip W. Woo (39,880); John T. Winburn (26,822); Tom Chen (42,406); Fabio E. Marino (43,339); William W. Holloway (26,182); Elaine H. Lo (41,158); and Don C. Lawrence (31,975).

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I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true, and all statements made herein are made with the knowledge that whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of the Patent and Trademark Office, knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact, or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry, shall be subject to the penalties including fine or imprisonment or both as set forth under 18 U.S.C. 1001, and that violations of this paragraph may jeopardize the validity of the application or this document, or the validity or enforceability of any patent, trademark registration, or certificate resulting therefrom.

tty. Docket No.: M-5598 US

| Full name of sole        | (or first joint) | inventor:      | Nikolas Sredanovic  |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------|
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Citizenship: U.S.

Mountain View, CA 94040

Full name of sole (or first joint) inventor:

Helena Calendar

Inventor's Signature:

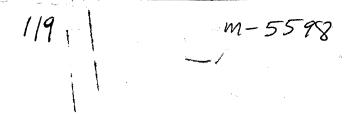
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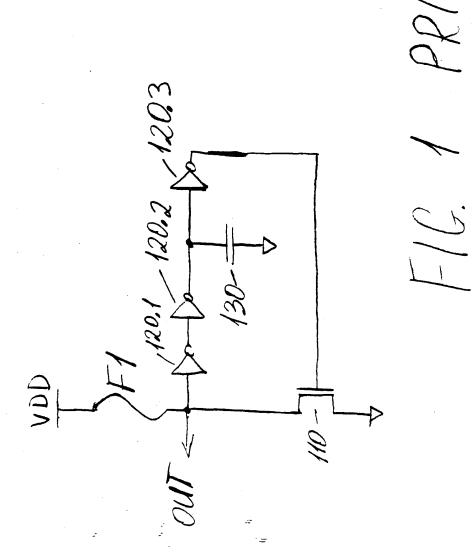
Residence: Post Office Address:

1960 California Street #5,

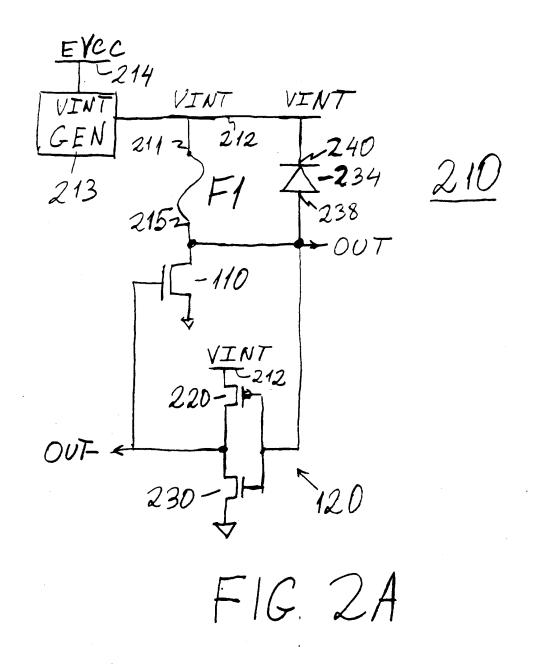
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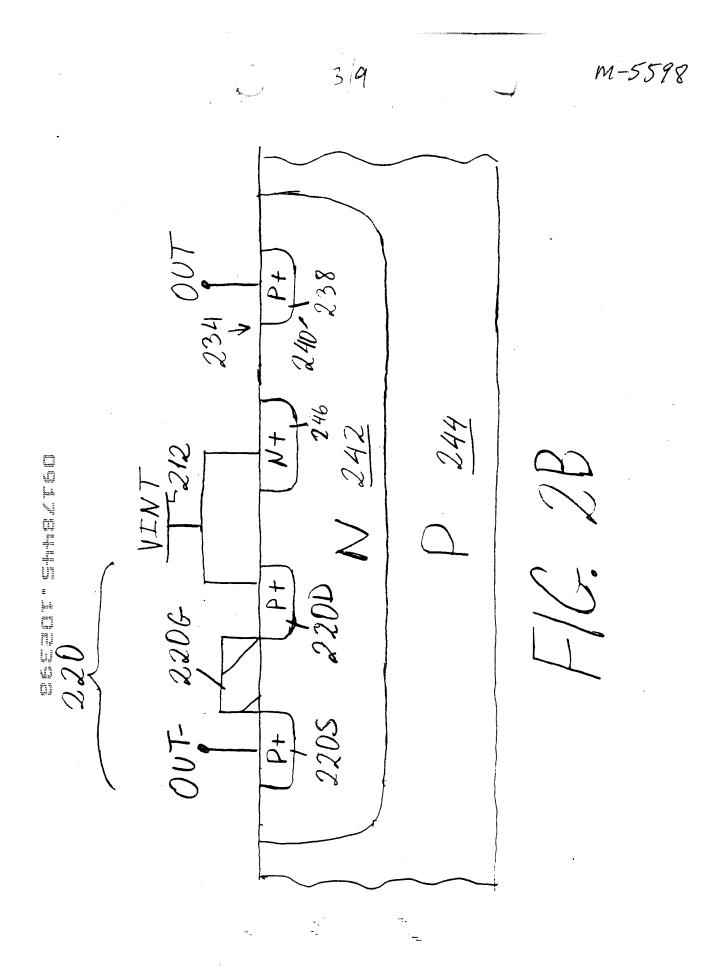
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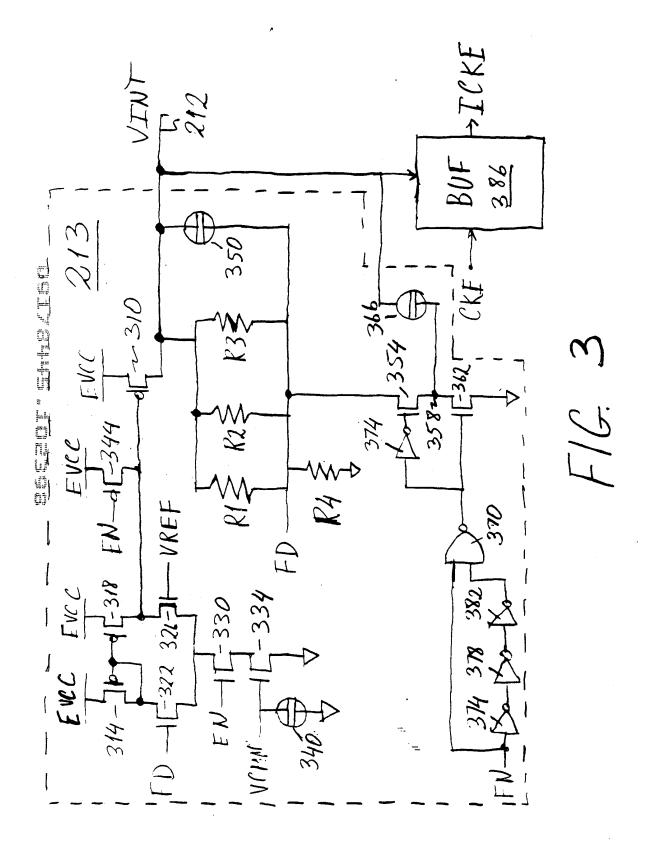


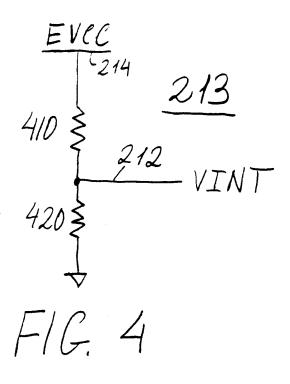
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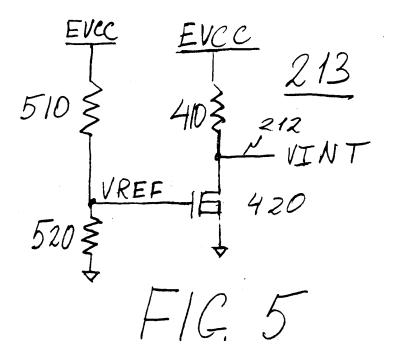


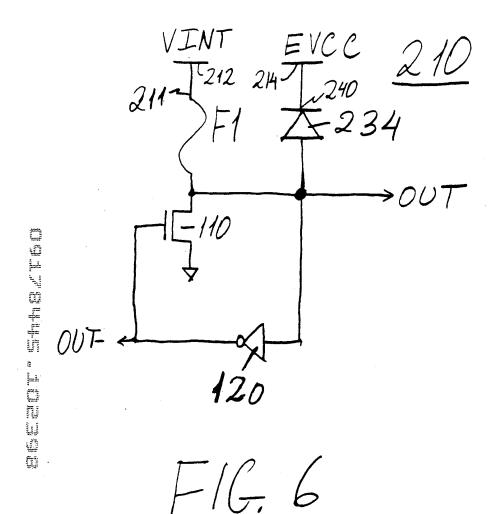


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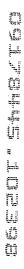


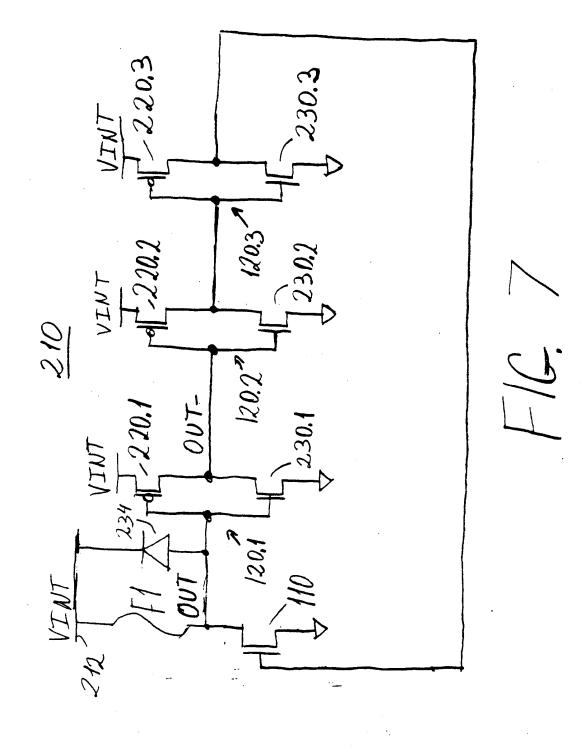




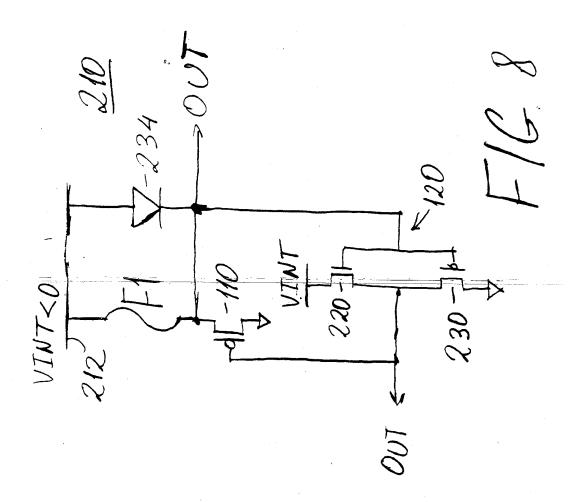


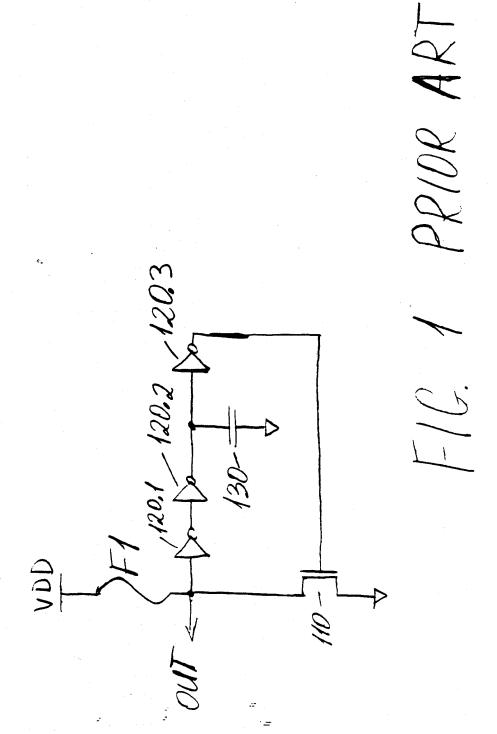
Page 47 of 110

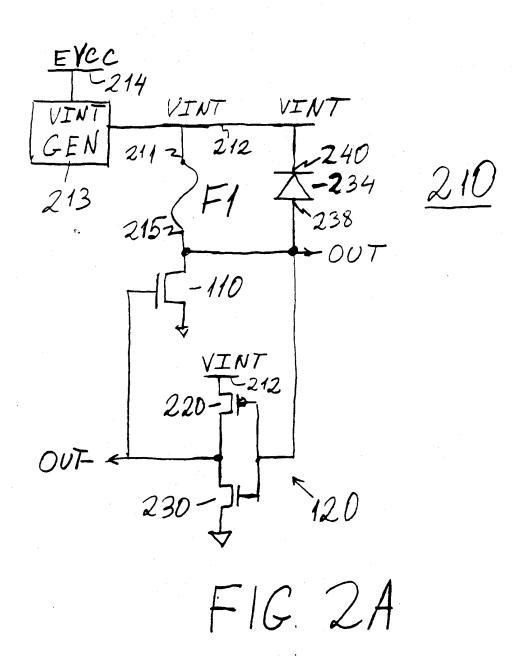


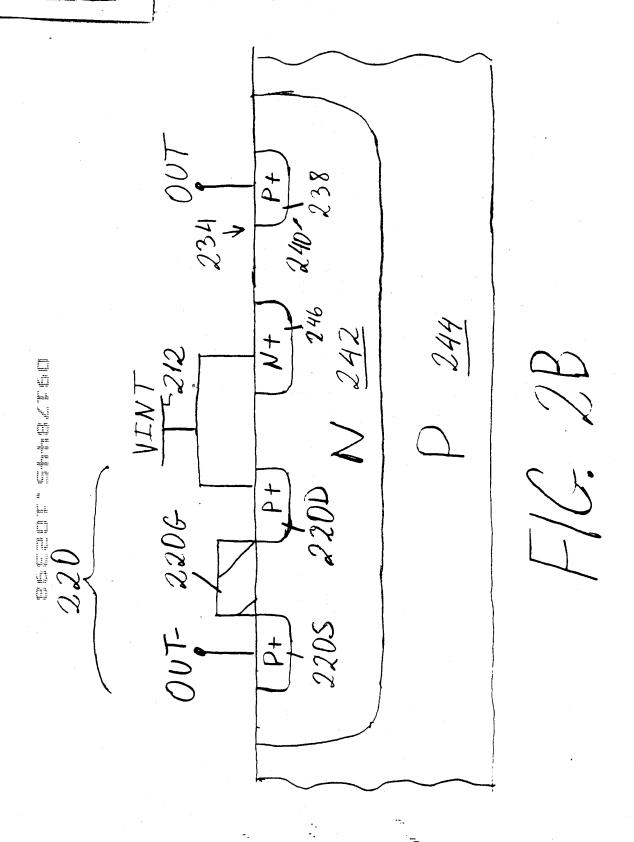


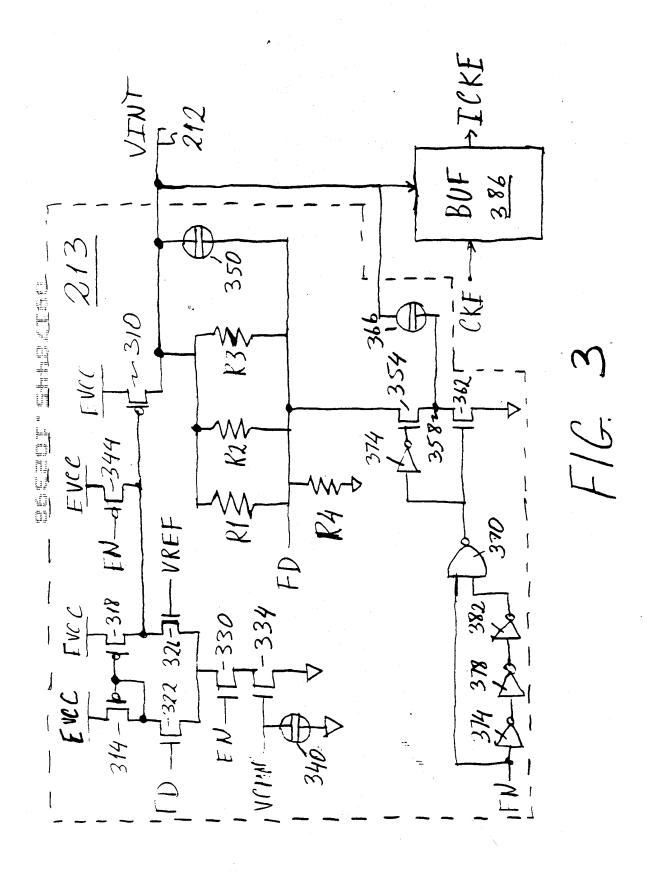


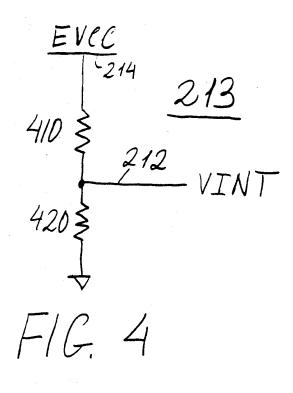


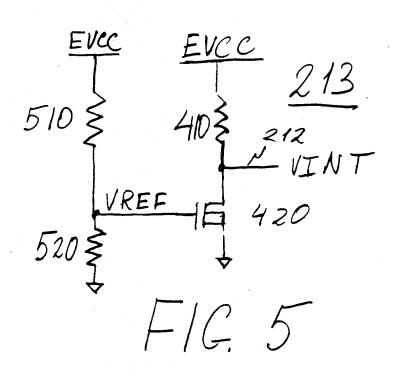


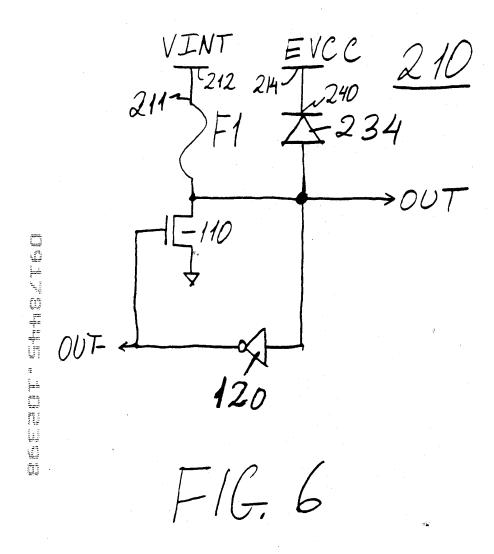




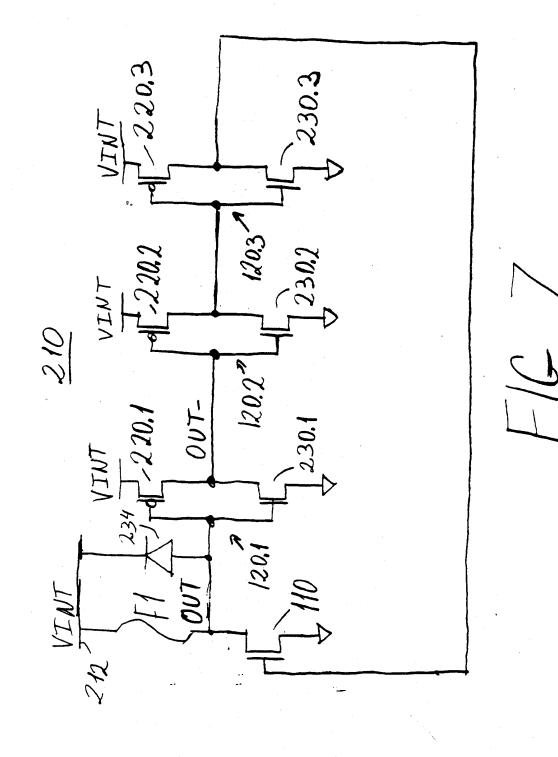




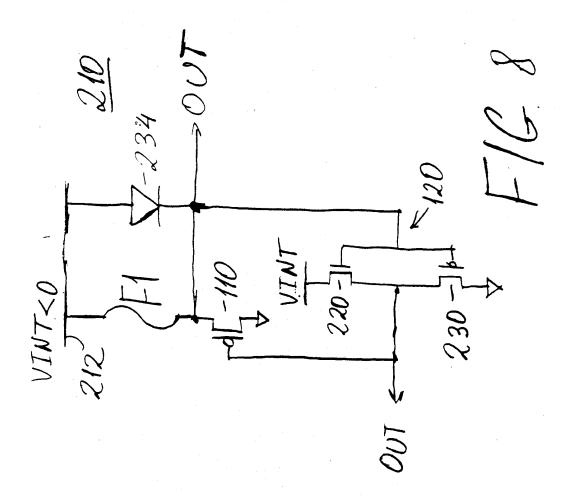




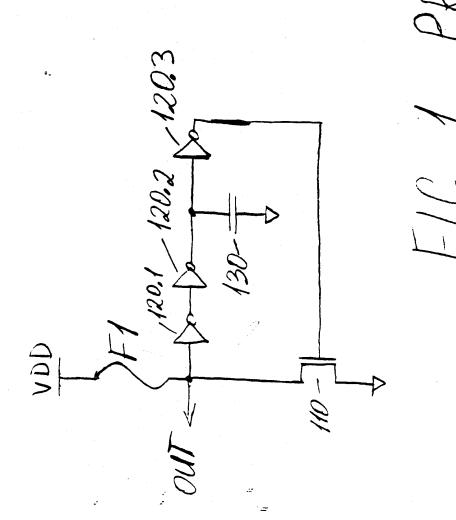
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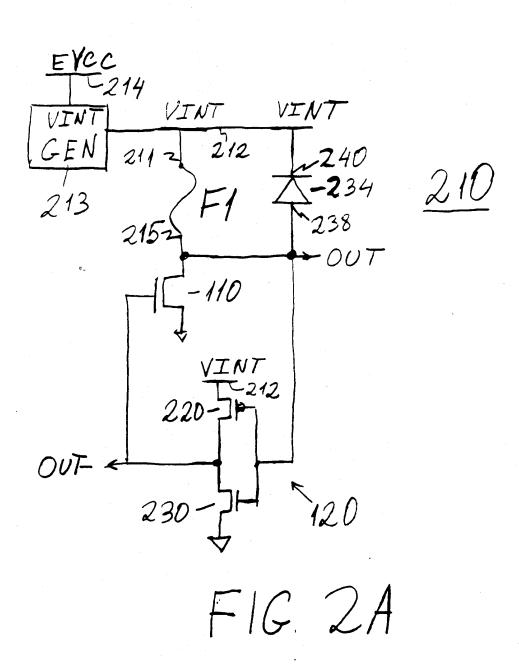


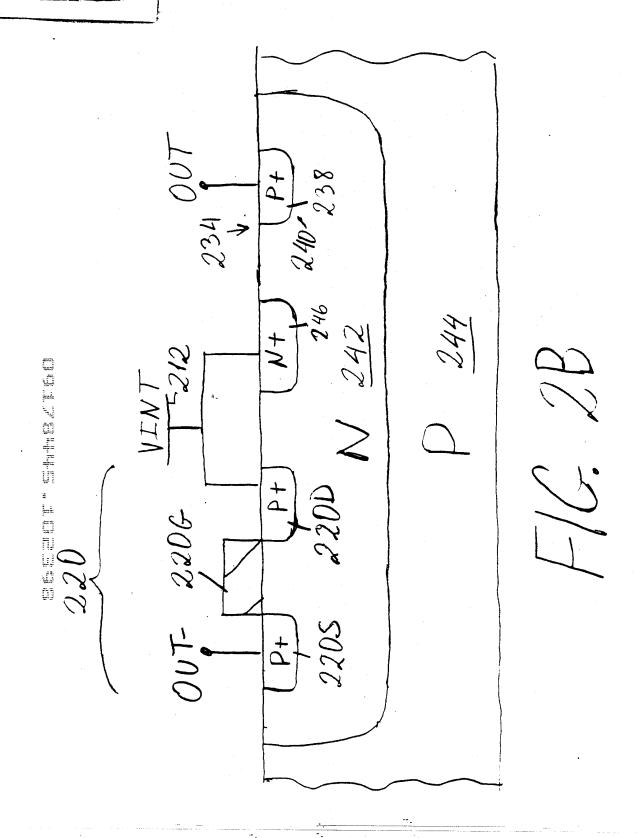


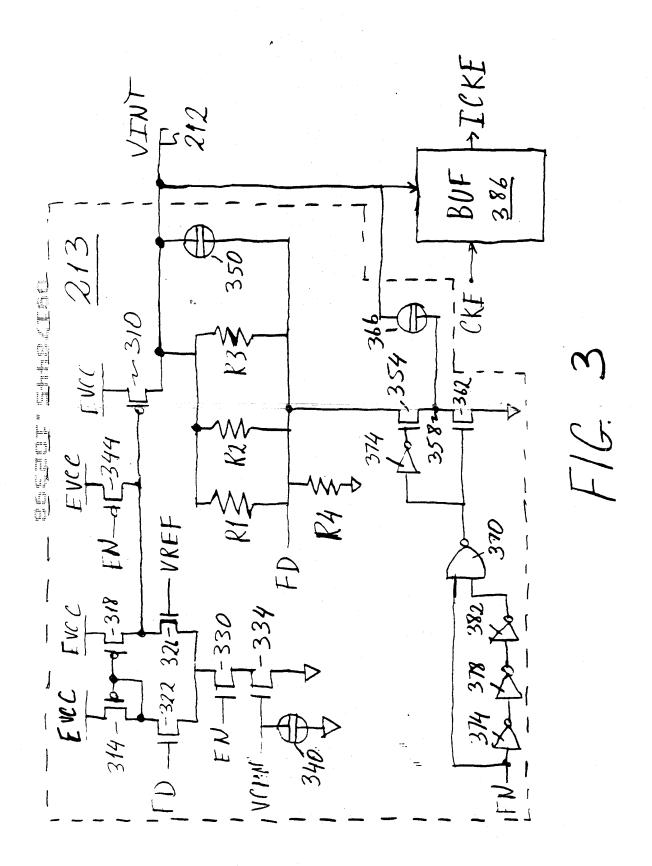


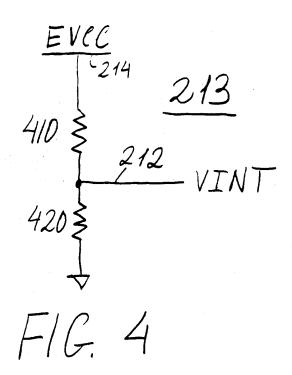


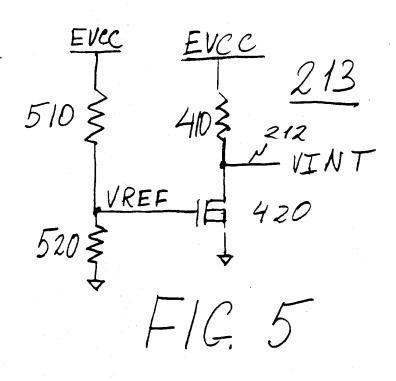


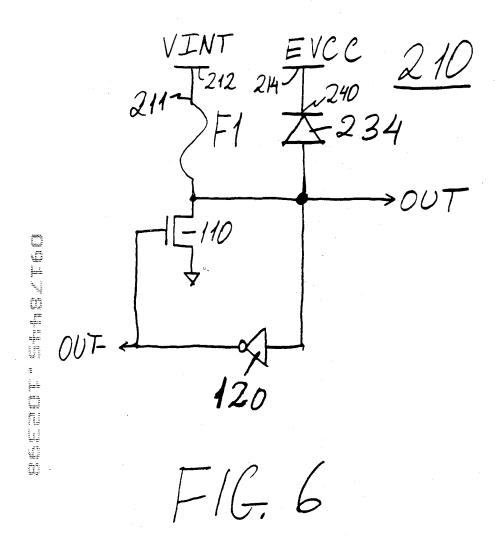


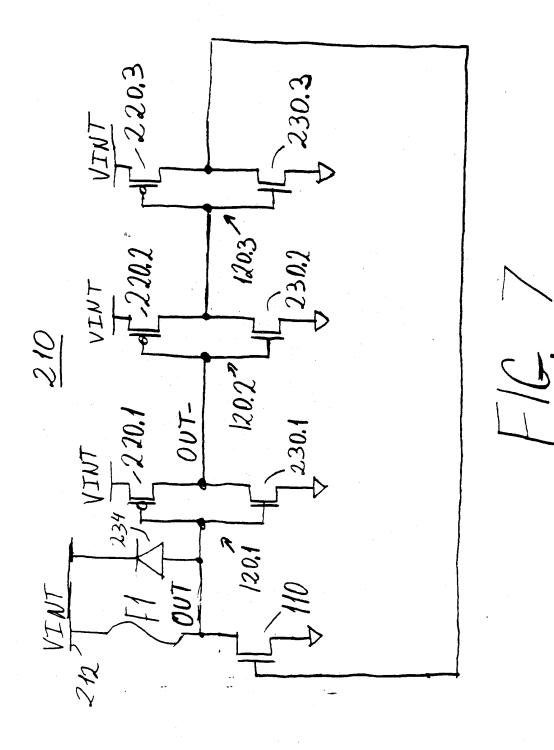


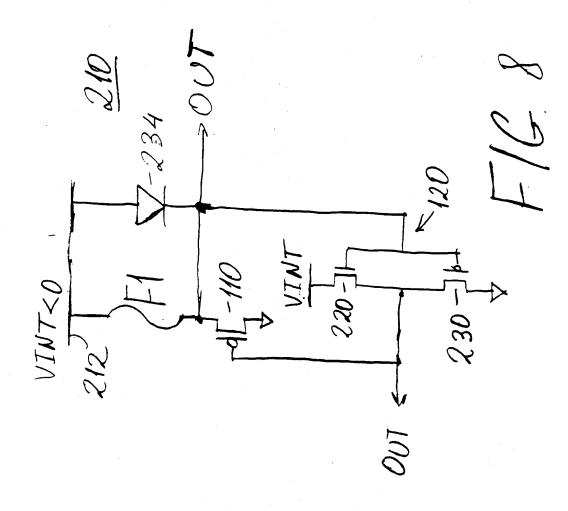












GAU2816

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):

Sredanovic, Wikolas; Calendar, Helena

Assignee:

Mosel Vitelic, Inc.

Title:

PROGRAMMABLE LATCHES THAT INCLUDE NON-VOLATILE

PROGRAMMABLE ELEMENTS

Serial No.:

09/178,445

NEC 0 7 1998 6 Filed:

October 23, 1998

Examiner:

Unknown

Group Art Unit:

Unknown

Docket No.:

M-5598 US

San Jose, California December 4, 1998

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS Washington, D. C. 20231

### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, § 1.97 and § 1.98, Applicants bring the documents listed in the enclosed form PTO-1449 to the Examiner's attention in the above-captioned application. Copies of the listed documents are enclosed.

Explanation of Relevance: The East German document DD 288689 discloses a CMOS redundancy decoder.

Citation of the listed documents shall not be construed as:

DEC 1 1 1990

- 1. an admission that the documents are necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention;
- 2. a representation that a search has been made, other than as described above; or
- 3. an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b).

the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231,

on Lee 4, 19

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Shenker
Attorney for Applicants

Reg. No. 34,250

SER. NO. 09/178,445

Michael Shenke

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- 1 -

Sheet 1 of 2

| U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent ar ademark Office |             |  |                                       |                              | Atty Locket No.   |                 | Serial No.            |           |
|---|-------------|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------|
|   |             |  |                                       | M-5598 US                    |                   | 09/178,445      |                       |           |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT         |             |  |                                       |                              | Applicant(s)      |                 |                       |           |
|   |             | (Use several sheet   | s if necessary)                       | 31/67                        | Sredanovic        | , Nikolas; Cale | ndar, Helen           | a         |
| DEC. 0. 7 1998 (6)                                    |             |  |                                       |                              | Filing Date       | ,               | Group                 |           |
|   |             |  | (E                                    | ,                            | October 23        | , 1998          | 28                    | 18        |
|   |             |  | U.S. P                                | atent Documents              |                   |                 |                       |           |
| *Examiner<br>Initial                                  |             | Document<br>Number   | Date                                  | Name                         | Class             | Subclass        | Filing I<br>If Appro  |           |
| VN  | AA          | 4,387,503  | 6/14/83                               | Aswell et al.                | 29                | 575             | 8/13/8                | 31        |
| 72  | AB          | 4,404,635  | 9/13/83                               | Flaker                       | 364               | 481             | 3/27/8                | 31        |
| 10 N  | AC          | 4,532,607 ".   | 7/30/95/3                             | Uchida                       | 365               | 96              | 7/16/8                | 32        |
| NVN   | AD          | 4,546,455  | 10/8/85                               | Iwahashi et al.              | 365               | 200             | 12/3/8                | 32        |
| 77  | AE          | 4,614,881  | 9/30/86                               | Yoshida et al.               | 307               | 219             | 1/27/8                | 34        |
| VV  | AF          | 4,617,651  | 10/14/86                              | Ip et al. Viet C             | . Nauven          | 200             | 2/22/8                | 34        |
| VN  | AG          | 4,725,979  | 2/16/88                               | Hoberman Primar              | Examine           | r 96            | 12/5/9                | 96        |
| VN  | AH          | 4,771,285  | 9/13/88                               | Agrawal et al.               | 340               | 825             | 11/5/8                | 35        |
| VV  | AI          | 4,779,229  | 10/18/88                              | Agrawal                      | 365               | 94              | 7/2/86                |           |
| VN,   | AJ          | 4,837,520  | 6/6/89                                | Golke et al.                 | 324               | 550             | 11/12/87              |           |
| VN  | AK          | 4,852,044  | 7/25/89                               | Turner et al.                | 364               | 900             | 8/22/8                | 38        |
|   |             |  | Foreign                               | Patent Documents             |                   |                 |                       |           |
|   |             |  |                                       |                              |                   |                 | Tran                  | slatio    |
|   |             | Document   | Date                                  | Country                      | Class             | Subclass        | Yes                   | No        |
| VN  | AL          | DD 288 689   | 10/27/83                              | East Germany                 |                   |                 |                       | -         |
| ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,               | AM          |  |                                       |                              |                   |                 |                       |           |
|   | \$Nt C      | ì. Nauyen  |                                       |                              |                   |                 |                       | 1         |
| <u> </u>  | FAO         | y Examiner   |                                       | Vist G. Nguy                 | en                |                 |                       | 1         |
|   | AP          |  | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | Primary Cont                 | 20 2 2 <b>3</b> 8 |                 |                       |           |
|   |             | OTHER A  | RT (Including A                       | uthor, Title, Date, Pertiner | nt Pages, Et      | c.)             |                       | 1         |
| VN  | AQ          | B. Prince, "High F<br>Function, 1996, p  |                                       | nories" New Architecture     | DRAMs an          | d SRAMs Evol    | ution and             |           |
| VV  | AR          | B. Prince, "Semiconductor Memories" A Handbook of Design, Manufacture and Application, Second Edition, (1991), pp. 762-764 |                                       |                              |                   |                 |                       |           |
| VN  | AS          | "Synchronous Graphics RAM" Micron Technology, Inc. of Boise Idaho, 1998, pp. 1-45  |                                       |                              |                   |                 |                       |           |
| Examiner  | V. N        | auto   | Date Considered                       | d 2/13/0                     | סל                | some points     | grand & Stand Rate of | 00        |
| *EXAMINER   | : Initial i | f reference consider   | ed, whether or no<br>dered. Include c | t citation is in conforman   | ce with MP        | EP 609; Draw    | ine through<br>ant.   | 2.00 2.00 |

Sheet 2 of 2

| U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent an. Arademark Office   |                   |   |  |  | Atty Docke  | Serial No  | Serial No.           |        |  |
|--|-------------------|---|--|--|---|--|----------------------|--------|--|
|  |                   |   |  | M-5598 U   | 09/178,445  |  |                      |        |  |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT  |                   |   |  |  | Applicant(s)  |  |                      |        |  |
| (Use several sheets if necessary)  |                   |   |  |  | Sredanovic, Nikolas; Calendar, Helena                                       |  |                      |        |  |
| DEC 0 7 1998 8)  |                   |   |  |  | Filing Date Group   |  |                      |        |  |
| . Autobio  | S. A. S. Lines L. |   | A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH | Dr. Market Control   | October 23  | , 1998   | Unknown              | 18     |  |
| and the same of th |                   | 1   | U.S. P   | atent Documents  | p) C  | A September 1  |                      |        |  |
| Examiner<br>Initial  |                   | Document<br>Number  | Date   | Name   | Class   | Subclass   | Filing I<br>If Appro |        |  |
| 2  | AA                | 4,943,804   | 7/24/90  | Lee et al.   | 340   | 825  | 9/26/                | 89     |  |
| \N   | AB                | 5,066,998   | 11/19/91   | Fischer et al.   | 357   | 51   | 8/20/                | 90     |  |
| VN   | AC                | 5,086,331   | 2/4/92   | Hartgring et al.   | 357   | 51   | 1/18/9               | 91     |  |
| VN   | AD                | 5,134,585   | 7/28/92  | Murakami et al.  | 365   | 200  | 3/29/                | 90     |  |
| VN   | AE                | 5,185,291   | 2/9/93   | Fischer et al.   | 437   | 173  | 9/6/9                | 1      |  |
| <i>υ</i> ν   | AF                | 5,285,953   | 29 V11/1/93  | Tsujimoto  | 365   | 200  | . 6/25/              | 92     |  |
| くて   | AG                | 5,440,246   | 8/895  | Murray et al.  | 326   | 38   | 3/22/                | 94     |  |
| VN   | AH                | 5,566,107   | 10/15/96   | Gilliam  | 365   | 200  | 5/5/9                | 95     |  |
| VN   | ΑI                | 5,506,638   | 4/16/96  | Cowles et al.  | 326   | 38   | 5/26/                | 95     |  |
| VN   | AJ                | 5,459,684   | 10/17/95   | Nakamura et al.  | 365   | 149  | 2/16/                | 94     |  |
| VN   | AK                | 4,532,402   | 7/30/85  | Overbeck   | 219   | 121 LU   | 9/2/8                | 33     |  |
|  | AL                |   |  |  |   |  |                      |        |  |
|  |                   |   | Foreign  | Patent Documents   |   |  | ·                    |        |  |
|  |                   |   |  |  |   |  | Tran                 | slatio |  |
|  |                   | Document  | Date   | Country  | Class   | Subclass   | Yes                  | No     |  |
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|  | AN                | F-12886   | ny Examinor  | A Section 18   | \$ 1.75 May 100 May 200 May 17 17 17 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 | and A series of the series of  |                      |        |  |
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| Examiner   | 1/                | Namita  | Date Considere   | d 2/13/0   | 90  | HOUP?  | 100                  |        |  |



SREDANOVIC

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### **Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

Washington, D.C. 20231 FIRST NAMED INVENTOR ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. M-5598-US N

MM42/0114 MICHAEL SHENKER SKJERVEN MORRILL MACPHERSON FRANKLIN & FRIEL 25 METRO DRIVE SUITE 700 SAN JOSE CA 95110-1349

FILING DATE

10/23/98

APPLICATION NO.

09/178,445

**EXAMINER** MGUYEN. V ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER 2818

DATE MAILED:

01/14/00

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

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks** 

PTO-90C (Rev. 2/95)

|  | Application No. 09/ Applicant(s)                                 |
|--|--|
| Office Action Summary  | 178,445  |
| omoc Action Gammary  | Examiner Group Art Unit  |
|  | VINGTELLEN 2818  |
| The MAILING DATE of this communication appears   | on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address            |
| Period for Reply   | 5 -441   |
| A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO I<br>OF THIS COMMUNICATION.   | XPIREMONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE                              |
| <ul> <li>Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.13 from the mailing date of this communication.</li> <li>If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply</li> <li>If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, ex</li> <li>Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute,</li> </ul> | ire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication . |
| Status   |  |
| ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on  | •  |
| ☐ This action is <b>FINAL</b> .  |  |
| <ul> <li>Since this application is in condition for allowance except for<br/>accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C</li> </ul>   |  |
| Disposition of Claims  |  |
| Claim(s)   | is/are pending in the application.                               |
| Of the above claim(s)  | is/are withdrawn from consideration.                             |
| ☐ Claim(s)   | is/are allowed.  |
| ☐ Claim(s)   | is/are rejected.   |
| ☐ Claim(s)   | is/are objected to.  |
| $\forall$ elaim(s) $/-3/$  | are subject to restriction or election                           |
| Application Papers   | requirement.   |
| See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing F   | eview, PTO-948.  |
| ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on  | is □ approved □ disapproved.                                     |
| ☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are objected  | to by the Examiner.  |
| ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  |  |
| $\hfill\Box$<br>The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.  |  |
| Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)   |  |
| Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under   | 35 U.S.C. § 11 9(a)-(d).   |
| ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the  | priority documents have been                                     |
| □ received.  |  |
| <ul> <li>received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number)</li> <li>received in this national stage application from the International</li> </ul>  |  |
|  |  |
| *Certified copies not received:  | •  |
| Attachment(s)  |  |
| ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s  |  |
| □ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892  | □ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152                 |
| Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948  | □ Other  |
|  | ction Summary  |
| S. Patent and Trademark Office<br><b>0-326</b> (Rev. 9-97)   | Part of Paper No.  |

\*U.S. GPO: 1998-454-457/97505

Application/Control Number: 09/178,445

Page 2

Art Unit: 2818

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: Group I, claims 1-13, 16-23 are drawn to a programmable latch having a programmable electrical path, a variable-impedance electrical path, and a diode for keeping a voltage on the terminal T, within a predetermined range of values before power is supplied to the latch to prevent the latch from assuming an incorrect date when power is supplied to the latch;

Group II, claims 14-15 are drawn to a method for generating a signal indicating a state of non-volatile programmable element;

Group III, claims 24-29 are drawn to a programmable latch having a non-volatile programmable element, a variable-impedance electrical path, and one or more connected inverters wherein no capacitor is provided between an input of any inverter and a second terminal, etc.,

Group IV, claims 30-31 are drawn to a method for providing a signal indicating a state of non-volatile element having steps of "controlling an impedance of the variable-impedance electrical path...", etc

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claim is generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable

Application/Control Number: 09/178,445

Page 3

Art Unit: 2818

thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Viet Nguyen at telephone number (703) 308-4897.

V/V Nguyen/ds

01/10/00

Tet Naugen

Viet Q. Nguyen Primary Examiner

# NOTICE OF DRAFTSPERSON'S PATENT DRAWING REVIEW

| The drawing(s) filed (insert date) 10 33/88 are:   | EAR OFF OTHER EXECUTED AS COME IN THE   |
|--|---|
| A. approved by the Draftsperson under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152.  B. objected to by the Draftsperson under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152 for the submission of new, corrected drawings when necessary. Corrected drawings under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152 for the submission of new, corrected drawings when necessary.   |   |
| The second of the second of the second secon | may gan han siyas wil walla wil bocay in ili. In Mili mun   |
| 1. DRAWINGS. 37 CFR 1.84(a): Acceptable categories of drawings: ACC Black ink. Color.  | Words do not appear on a horizontal, left-to-right fashion  |
| Color drawings are not acceptable until petiton is granted.  Fig(s) (AD: 2007)   | when page is either upright or turned so that the top<br>becomes the right side, except for graphs. Fig(s)                        |
| Pencil and non black ink not permitted. Fig(s)  PHOTOGRAPHS. 37 CFR 1.84 (b)   | 9. SCALE. 37 CFR 1.84(k)  Scale not large enough to show mechanism without  |
| I full-tone set is required. Fig(s) Photographs not properly mounted (must use brystol board or photographic double-weight paper). Fig(s)  | crowding when drawing is reduced in size to two-thirds in reproduction.  Fig(s)   |
| Foor quality (half-tone). Fig(s)  3. TYPE OF PAPER. 37 CFR 1.84(e)   | 10. CHARACTER OF LINES, NUMBERS, & LETTERS.<br>37 CFR 1.84(i)   |
| Paper not flexible, strong, white, and durable.  | Lines, numbers & letters not uniformly thick and well defined, clean, dyrable, and black (poor line quality).                     |
| Erasures, alterations, overwritings, interlineations, folds, copy machine marks not accepted. Fig(s)   | 11. SHADING. 37 CFR 1.84(m)   |
| Mylar, velum paper is not acceptable (too thin). Fig(s)  | Solid black areas pale. Fig(s) Solid black shading not permitted. Fig(s)  |
| 4. SIZE OF PAPER. 37 CFR 1.84(f): Acceptable sizes: 21.0 cm by 29.7 cm (DIN size A4)   | Shade lines, pale, rough and blurred. Fig(s)  12. NUMBERS, LETTERS, & REFERENCE CHARACTERS.                                       |
| 21.6 cm by 27.9 cm (8 1/2 x 11 inches)  All drawing sheets not the same size.  | CFR 1.84(p)  Numbers and reference characters not plain and legible.  |
| Sheet(s)   | Fig(s)  |
| 5. MARGINS. 37 CFR 1.84(g): Acceptable margins:  | Numbers and reference characters not oriented in the same direction as the view. 37 CFR 1.84(p)(1)                                |
| Top 2.5 cm Left 2.5cm Right 1.5 cm Bottom 1.0 cm<br>SIZE: A4 Size  | Fig(s) English alphabet not used. 37 CFR 1.84(p)(2)   |
| SIZE: 8 1/2 x 11   | FigsNumbers, letters and reference characters must be at least  |
| Margins not acceptable. Fig(s)  Top (T)  Left (L)  |   |
| Right (R) Bottom (B)  6. VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84(h)   | 13. LEAD LINES. 37 CFR 1.84(q)  Lead lines cross each other. Fig(s)   |
| REMINDER: Specification may require revision to correspond to drawing changes.   | Lead lines missing. Fig(s)  14. NUMBERING OF SHEETS OF DRAWINGS. 37 CFR 1.84(t)   |
| Partial views. 37 CFR 1.84(h)(2)  Brackets needed to show figure as one entity.  | Sheets not numbered consecutively, and in Arabic numerals beginning with number 1. Sheet(s)                                       |
| Fig(s)   | 15. NUMBERING OF VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84(u)  Views not numbered consecutively, and in Arabic numerals, beginning with number 1. Fig(s) |
| Enlarged view not labeled separetely or properly.  Fig(s)  | 16. CORRECTIONS. 37 CFR 1.84(w)  Corrections not made from prior PTO-948  |
| 7. SECTIONAL VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84 (h)(3) Hatching not indicated for sectional portions of an object.   | dated 17. DESIGN DRAWINGS, 37 CFR 1.152   |
| Fig(s)  Sectional designation should be noted with Arabic or   | Surface shading shown not appropriate. Fig(s) Solid black shading not used for color contrast.                                    |
| Roman numbers. Fig(s)  | Fig(s)  |
|  |   |
| COMMENTS   |   |
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| $\sim$ 1   | lor-  |
| REVIEWER DATE U 10   | TELEPHONE NO. 305-3406  |
| ATTACHMENT TO PAPER NO.  |   |
|  |   |

## INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES

THE EXPANCEMENT OF CONTARROSS PARMS and TORKS

#### 1. Correction of Informalities--37 CFR 1.85

File new drawings with the changes incorporated therein. The application number or the title of the invention, inventor's name, docket number (if any), and the name and telephone number of a person to call if the Office is unable to match the drawings to the proper application, should be placed on the back of each sheet of drawings in accordance with 37 CFR 1.84(c). Applicant may delay filing of the new drawings until receipt of the Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136. The drawing should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Drawing Processing Branch.

## 2. Timing for Corrections

Applicant is required to submit acceptable corrected drawings within the three-month shortened statutory period set in the Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37). If a correction is determined to be unacceptable by the Office, applicant must arrange to have acceptable corrections resubmitted within the original three-month period to avoid the necessity of obtaining an extension of time and paying the extension fee. Therefore, applicant should file corrected drawings as soon a possible.

Failure to take corrective action within set (or extended) period will result in ABANDONMENT of the Application.

#### 3. Corrections other than Informalities Noted by the Drawing Review Branch on the Form PTO-948

All changes to the drawings, other than informalities noted by the Drawing Review Branch, MUST be approved by the examiner before the application will be allowed. No changes will be permitted to be made, other than correction of informalities, unless the examiner has approved the proposed changes.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Sredanovic, Nikolas; Calendar, Helena

Assignee:

Mosel Vitelic, Inc.

Title:

PROGRAMMABLE LATCHES THAT INCLUDE NON-VOLATILE

PROGRAMMABLE ELEMENTS

Serial No.:

09/178,445

Filed:

10/23/98

Examiner:

V. Nguyen

Group Art Unit:

2818

Docket No.:

M-5598 US

RECEIVED San Jose, California

FEB 1 0 2000

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS Washington, D. C. 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

#### RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Sir:

The Office Action dated January 14, 2000 requires Applicants to elect one of the following groups of claims.

Group I, Claims 1-13, 16-23;

Group II, Claims 14-15;

Group III, Claims 24-29;

Group IV, Claims 30-31.

In response, Applicants elect Group I, Claims 1-13, 16-23.

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Shenker

Michael Shenker

Attorney for Applicants

Reg. No. 34,250

SKJERVEN, MORRILL, MacPHERSON, FRANKLIN & FRIEL LLP

25 METRO DRIVE SUITE 700 SAN JOSE, CA 95110 (408) 453-9200 FAX (408) 453-7979

v11



# UNITED STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE-Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NUMBER FIRST NAMED APPLICANT FILING DATE ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 09/178.445 10/23/98 SREDANOVIC M-5598-US EXAMINER MM42/0229 MICHAEL SHENKER NGUYEN, V SKJERVEN MORRILL MACPHERSON ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER 2818

DATE MAILED:

02/29/00

FRANKLIN & FRIEL 25 METRO DRIVE SUITE 700 SAN JOSE CA 95110-1349

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application. COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

| NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY   |
|--|
| 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 and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.  |
| This communication is responsive to <u>Hection filed on 2/7/00</u> .   |
| The allowed claim(s) is/are $\frac{1-13}{16-23}$ .   |
| The drawings filed on are acceptable.  |
| Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).  |
| ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been   |
| received.  |
| received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number)  |
| received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  |
| *Certified copies not received:  |
| Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).   |
| A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE <b>THREE MONTHS</b> FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). |
| Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.  |
| Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS  |
| because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.   |
| including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No.  |
| including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on, which has been approved by the examiner.   |
| including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.   |
| Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftperson.   |
| ☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.   |
| Any reply to this notice should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.  |
| Attachment(s)  |
| Notice of References Cited, PTO-892  |
| Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s).  |
| ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948  |
| □ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152   |
| ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152 ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413 ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413   |
| Examiner's Amendment/Comment Vist Q. Nguyen  |
| ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material Primary Examiner   |
| Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
| PTOL-37 (Rev. 8/97)  |

Page 78 of 110

\*U.S. GPO:1998/444-443

5/A
Page 2

Application/Control Number: 09/178,445

Art Unit: 2818

#### **DETAILED ACTION**

#### Reasons for Allowance

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

The prior arts fail to teach or fairly suggest a programmable latch having first terminal, second terminal, a terminal for indicating a state of programmable latch, a programmable electrical path, a variable-impedance electrical path between the terminal and the second terminal, and a diode for keeping a voltage on the terminal within a predetermined range of values before power is supplied to the latch, to prevent the latch from assuming an incorrect state when power is supplied to the latch.

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."

Page 3

Application/Control Number: 09/178,445

Art Unit: 2818

Examiner's Amendment

Claims 14-15 and 24-31 are canceled as directed to a non-elected invention.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Viet Nguyen at the number (703) 308-4897.

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VN V. Nguyen

2/13/00

Viet Q. Nguyen Primary Examiner

riet Newyen

|               |     |                                 |  |                                       | January Communication                 |             |                |         |          |
|---------------|-----|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------|----------|
|               |     |                                 | The Control of the Co |                                       | Application No. 09                    | Applicant(s |                |         |          |
|               |     | Notice of Refer                 | ences Cited  |                                       | 178,445                               | >r          | edano          | 25,     | etal     |
|               |     |                                 |  |                                       | Examiner                              |             | Group Art Unit | Page    | j /      |
|               |     |                                 |  |                                       | V. Norce                              | yen         | 2818           | > 1 ago |          |
|               |     |                                 |  | U.S. PAT                              | ENT DOCUMENTS                         |             |                |         |          |
| *             |     | DOCUMENT NO.                    | DATE   |                                       | NAMI                                  |             |                | CLASS   | SUBCLASS |
| 7             | A   | 5,696,455                       | 12/9/97  | N                                     | ladura                                | -           |                | 326     | Œ1       |
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|               | VI  |                                 | <u> </u>   |                                       |                                       |             |                |         |          |
| . 1           |     |                                 |  | OREIGN F                              | PATENT DOCUMENTS                      |             |                |         |          |
| *             | _   | DOCUMENT NO.                    | DATE   | COL                                   | INTRY                                 | NAME        |                | CLASS   | SUBCLASS |
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| T             | Р   |                                 |  |                                       | 1.1                                   |             |                |         |          |
| 7             | 2   |                                 |  | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |                                       |             | Q. Nguyen      |         |          |
| +             | R   |                                 |  |                                       |                                       | - Prime     | ry Diaminor    |         |          |
| -             | s   |                                 | -  |                                       |                                       |             |                |         |          |
|               | T   |                                 |  |                                       |                                       |             |                |         |          |
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|               | _   |                                 | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·  |                                       | ENT DOCUMENTS                         |             |                |         |          |
| *             |     | D                               | OCUMENT (Inčluding   | Author, Tit                           | le, Source, and Pertiner              | nt Pages)   |                |         | DATE     |
| 1             |     |                                 | ⇒.   | •                                     |                                       |             |                |         |          |
|               | u   |                                 |  |                                       |                                       |             |                |         |          |
| +             | +   |                                 |  |                                       |                                       |             |                |         |          |
| .  ,          | v   |                                 |  |                                       | Viet Q. Ngu                           | ryen        | <b>.</b>       |         |          |
|               |     | ***                             |  |                                       | Primary Exa                           | miner       |                |         |          |
| $\top$        | 7   |                                 |  | 1 44 5                                | the same                              |             |                |         |          |
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\*U.S. GPO: 1998-433-211/97502

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office PTO-892 (Rev. 9-96)



#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE **Patent and Trademark Office**

#### NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

MM42/0229

MICHAEL SHENKER SKJERVEN MORRILL MACPHERSON FRANKLIN & FRIEL 25 METRO DRIVE SUITE 700 SAN JOSE CA 95110-1349

| APPLICATION NO.                     | FILING DATE    | TOTAL CLAIMS | EXAMINER AND GROUP ART U | NIT       | DATE MAILED  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------|--|
| 09/178.445                          | 10/23/98       | 021          | NGUYEN, V                | 2818      | 02/29/00   |
| First Named SREDANDV I<br>Applicant | C.             | 35 US        | C 154(b) term ext. =     | 0 Davs    | ž u  |
| LE OF                               | LATCHES THE    | at thought i | NON-VOLATILE PROGRAMMA   | ARLE FLER | WWT S  |
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|                                     |                |              |                          |           |  |
| ATTY'S DOCKET NO.                   | CLASS-SUBCLASS | BATCH NO.    | APPLN. TYPE SMALL ENTITY | FEE DUE   | DATE DUE   |

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.

THE ISSUE FEE 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.

#### HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:

- 1. 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 changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
  - B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

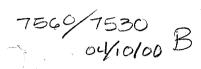
If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.
- II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.
- III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box 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.

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE COPY PTOL-85 (REV. 10-96) Approved for use through 06/30/99. (0651-0033)

\*U.S. GPO: 1999-454-457/24601



### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Calendar, Helena; Sredanovic, Nikolas

Assignee:

Mosel Vitelic, Inc.

Title:

PROGRAMMABLE LATCHES THAT INCLUDE NON-VOLATILE

PROGRAMMABLE ELEMENTS

Serial No.:

09/178,445

10/23/98

February 29, 2000

Batch No.:

**I86** 

V. Nguyen

Docket No.:

Examiner:

\* M-5598 US

oup Art Unit:

te Allowed:

2818

ISSUE FEE DUE MAY 30, 2000

San Jose, California

March 24, 2000

**BOX ISSUE FEE** 

Attn: Official Draftsperson

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Washington, D. C. 20231

#### SUBMISSION OF FORMAL DRAWINGS

Dear Sir:

Applicants submit five (5) sheets of formal drawings, consisting of Figures 1, 2A, 2B, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, in the above-named application. If there are any questions regarding these drawings, please call the undersigned at 408/453-9200.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on 1997.

Attorney for Applicants

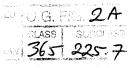
Respectfully suon.

Michael Meuke,

SER. NO.

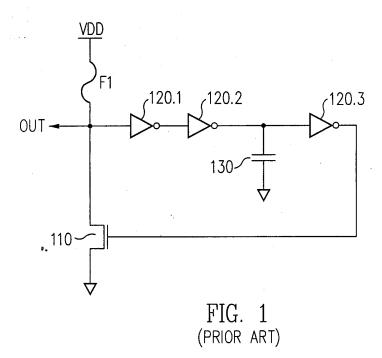
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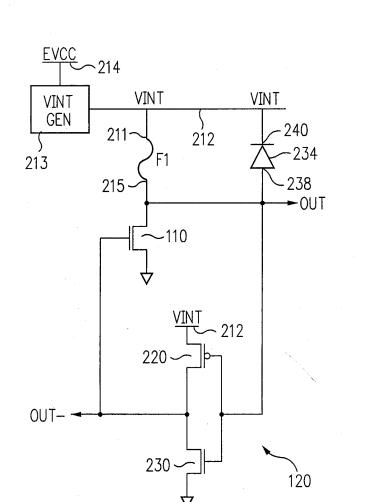
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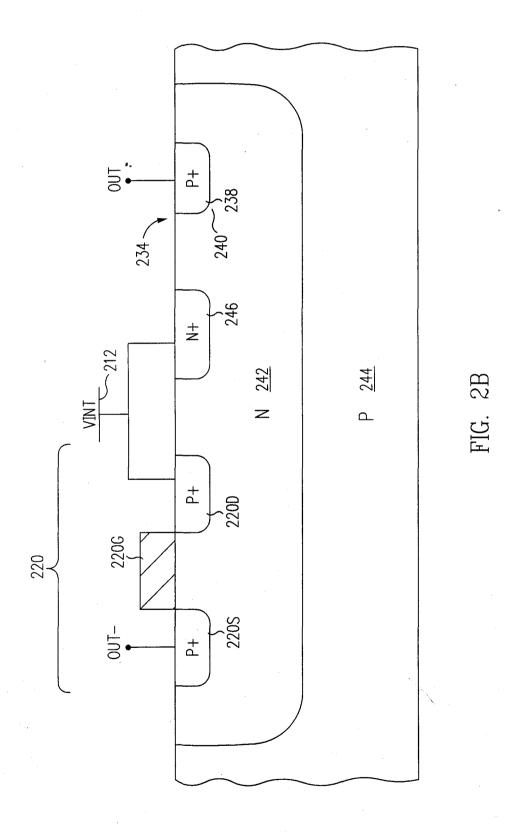
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<u>210</u>

FIG. 2A



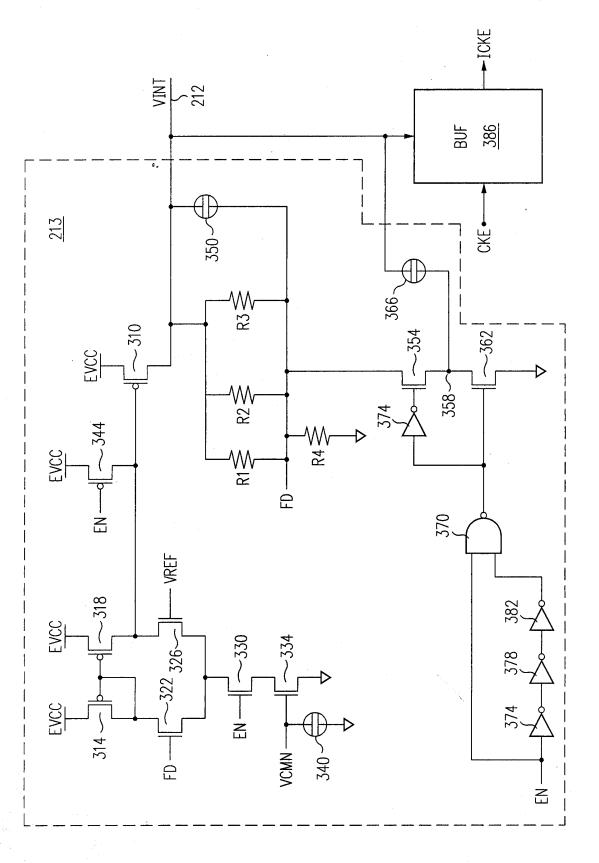


FIG. 3

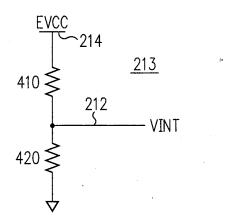


FIG. 4

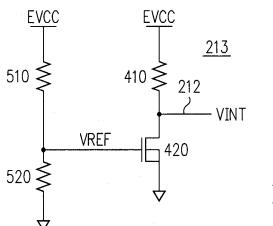
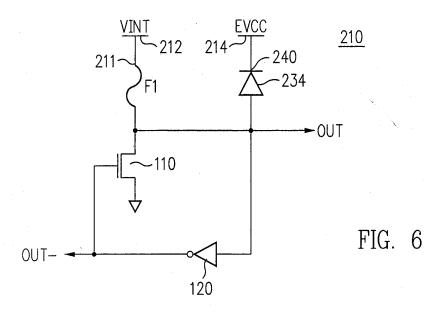


FIG. 5



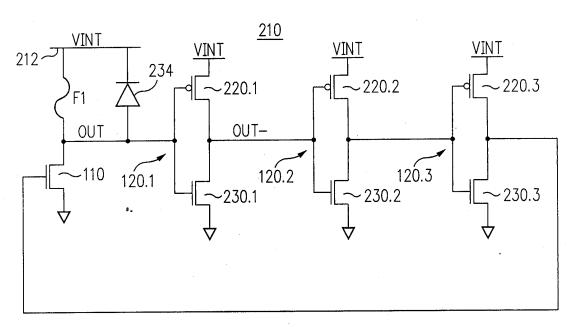
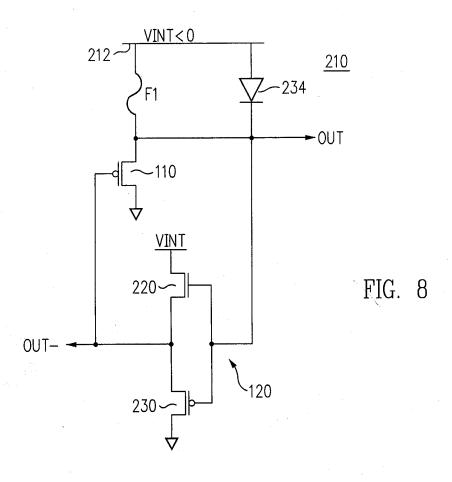


FIG. 7





# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS Washington, D.C. 20231

 APPLICATION NUMBER
 FILING DATE
 FIRST NAMED APPLICANT
 ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

 09/178, 445
 10/23/98
 SREDANOVIC
 N
 M-5598-US

MM41/0823

MICHAEL SHENKER
SKJERVEN MORRILL MACPHERSON
FRANKLIN & FRIEL
25 METRO DRIVE SUITE 700
SAN JOSE CA 95110-1349

| EXAM     | INER             |
|----------|------------------|
| NGUYE    | ٧, V             |
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER     |
|          | L'A ELITABLISEIT |
| 2818     |                  |

DATE MAILED:

08/23/00

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application. COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

#### **NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY**

| TOTIOL OF ALLOWADILITY  |
|---|
| 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 and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.   |
| This communication is responsive to <u>Electron</u> filed on 2/7/00.  |
| The allowed claim(s) is/are $\frac{1-13}{16-23}$ .  The drawings filed on $\frac{3}{28}$ $\frac{7}{00}$ are acceptable.   |
| The drawings filed on3/28/00 are acceptable.  |
| Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).   |
| ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been  |
| received.   |
| received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number)   |
| received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).   |
| *Certified copies not received:   |
| Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).  |
| A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE <b>THREE MONTHS</b> FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). |
| ☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.   |
| Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS   |
| because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.  |
| including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No  |
| including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on, which has been approved by the examiner.  |
| including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.  |
| Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftperson.  |
| ☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.  |
| Any response to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.  |
| Attachment(s)   |
| ☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892   |
| Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s).   |
| Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 (Approved)  |
| Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152  Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152  |
| Interview Summary, PTO-413  |
| ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment   Viet Q. Nguyen  Primary Examiner   |
| Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material   |
| Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
| PTOL-37 (Rev. 10/95)  |

Page 89 of 110

★ U.S. GPO: 1996-404-496/40507

Form PTO 948 (Rev. 8-98)

The drawing(s) filed (insert date)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - Patent and Trademark Office

Application No. 09/17845

# NOTICE OF DRAFTSPERSON'S PATENT DRAWING REVIEW

TRIPING SHIPS - 37 OFR 1.85

approved by the Draftsperson under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152.

objected to by the Draftsperson under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152 for the reasons indicated below. The Examiner will require objected to by the Draftsperson under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152 for the reasons indicated below. The Examiner will require submission of new, corrected drawings when necessary. Corrected drawing must be sumitted according to the instructions on the back of this notice. fithe name and telephon 1. DRAWINGS. 37 CFR 1.84(a): Acceptable categories of drawings: 8. ARRANGEMENT OF VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84(i) Words do not appear on a horizontal, left-to-right fashion Color drawings are not acceptable until petiton is granted.

when page is either upright or turned so that the top becomes the right side, except for graphs. Fig(s) Pencil and non black ink not permitted. Fig(s) 1988 1988 9: SCALE 37 CFR-1.84(k) 2. PHOTOGRAPHS. 37 CFR 1.84 (b) Scale not large enough to show mechanism without 1 full-tone set is required. Fig(s) crowding when drawing is reduced in size to two-thirds in Photographs not properly mounted (must use brystol board or photographic double-weight paper). Fig(s) reproduction. Fig(s) 10. CHARACTER OF LINES, NUMBERS, & LETTERS. Foor quality (half-tone). Fig(s) 3. TYPE OF PAPER. 37 CFR 1.84(e) 37 CFR 1.84(i) Paper not flexible, strong, white, and durable. Lines, numbers & letters not uniformly thick and well Fig(s) defined, clean, durable, and black (poor line quality). TOPE I a concentre Erasures, alterations, overwritings, interlineations, Fig(s) 11. SHADING. 37 CFR 1.84(m) folds, copy machine marks not accepted. Fig(s) Solid black areas pale. Fig(s)
Solid black shading not permitted. Fig(s) Mylar, velum paper is not acceptable (too thin). Fig(s) 4. SIZE OF PAPER. 37 CFR 1.84(f): Acceptable sizes: Shade lines, pale, rough and blurred. Fig(s)

12. NUMBERS, LETTERS, & REFERENCE CHARACTERS. 21.0 cm by 29.7 cm (DIN size A4) 21.6 cm by 27.9 cm (8 1/2 x 11 inches) 37 CFR 1.84(p) The state of the state of the property of the property of the state of All drawing sheets not the same size. Sheet(s) Figure legends are poor. Fig(s) Drawings sheets not an acceptable size. Fig(s) 5. MARGINS. 37 CFR 1.84(g): Acceptable margins: Numbers and reference characters not oriented in the Top 2.5 cm Left 2.5cm Right 1.5 cm Bottom 1.0 cm SIZE: A4 Size English alphabet not used. 37 CFR 1.84(p)(2) Top 2.5 cm Left 2.5 cm Right 1.5 cm Bottom 1.0 cm a ward and vd belou and the Figs Numbers, letters and reference characters must be at least .32 cm (1/8 inch) in height. 37 CFR 1.84(p)(3) SIZE: 8 1/2 x 11 Margins not acceptable. Fig(s) Fig(s) 37 CFR 1.84(q) Colorator with beyonggol well Left (L) Top (T) Right (R) Bottom (B) 6. VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84(h) Lead lines cross each other. Fig(s)\_ REMINDER: Specification may require revision to Lead lines missing. Fig(s) correspond to drawing changes 14. NUMBERING OF SHEETS OF DRAWINGS. 37 CFR 1.84(t) \_ Sheets not numbered consecutively, and in Arabic numerals Partial views. 37 CFR 1.84(h)(2) beginning with number 1. Sheet(s) Brackets needed to show figure as one entity. 15. NUMBERING OF VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84(u) Fig(s) Views not numbered consecutively, and in Arabic numerals, Views not labeled separately or properly. beginning with number 1. Fig(s) 16. CORRECTIONS. 37 CFR 1.84(w) Fig(s) Enlarged view not labeled separetely or properly. Corrections not made from prior PTO-948 Fig(s) 7. SECTIONAL VIEWS. 37 CFR 1.84 (h)(3) dated 17. DESIGN DRAWINGS. 37 CFR 1.152 Hatching not indicated for sectional portions of an object. Surface shading shown not appropriate. Fig(s) Fig(s) Sectional designation should be noted with Arabic or Solid black shading not used for color contrast. Roman numbers. Fig(s)\_ Fig(s) **COMMENTS** 

Page 90 of 110

REVIEWER

ATTACHMENT TO PAPER NO.

### INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES

PARTMENT OF COMMERCE - Paient and Trademark

#### 1. Correction of Informalities--37 CFR 1.85

File new drawings with the changes incorporated therein. The application number or the title of the invention, inventor's name, docket number (if any), and the name and telephone number of a person to call if the Office is unable to match the drawings to the proper application, should be placed on the back of each sheet of drawings in accordance with 37 CFR 1.84(c). Applicant may delay filing of the new drawings until receipt of the Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136. The drawing should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Drawing Processing Branch.

#### 2. Timing for Corrections

Applicant is required to submit acceptable corrected drawings within the three-month shortened statutory period set in the Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37). If a correction is determined to be unacceptable by the Office, applicant must arrange to have acceptable corrections resubmitted within the original three-month period to avoid the necessity of obtaining an extension of time and paying the extension fee. Therefore, applicant should file corrected drawings as soon a possible.

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POST BOOK WINDS

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Fig(s)\_\_\_

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Failure to take corrective action within set (or extended) period will result in ABANDONMENT of the Application.

#### 3. Corrections other than Informalities Noted by the Drawing Review Branch on the Form PTO-948

All changes to the drawings, other than informalities noted by the Drawing Review Branch, MUST be approved by the examiner before the application will be allowed. No changes will be permitted to be made, other than correction of informalities, unless the examiner has approved the proposed changes.

William



### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Calendar, Helena; Sredanovic, Nikolas

Assignee:

Mosel Vitelic, Inc.

Title:

Programmable Latches That Include Non-Volatile Programmable

Elements

Serial No.:

09/178,445

Filing Date:

10/23/98

Examiner:

V. Nguyen

Group Art Unit:

2818

Docket No.:

M-5598 US

Batch No.

**I86** 

Date Allowed:

, February 29, 2000

San Jose, California May 25, 2000

1/B KLM = 1/B/B

**BOX** Issue Fee

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Washington, D. C. 20231

#### **AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.312**

Sir:

Please amend the above patent application as follows:

#### IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 17, line 9: After "et al." delete "and" and insert --, now U.S. Patent No. 5,889,414 issued on March 30, 1999,--

#### **REMARKS**

The specification is amended to update the status of a patent application referenced in the specification.

Please telephone Applicants' attorney at 408-453-9200, ext. 1234, if there are any questions.

LAW OFFICES OF SKJERVEN, MORRILL, MACPHERSON, FRANKLIN & FRIEL LLP

25 METRO DRIVE SUITE 700 SAN JOSE, CA 95110 (408) 453-9200 FAX (408) 453-7979 I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on May 25, 2000.

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Shenker

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Reg. No. 34,250

635233 v1

-1-

Serial No. 09/178,445

Michael Shenke

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Calendar, Helena; Sredanovic, Nikolas

Assignee:

Mosel Vitelic, Inc.

/ Title:

Programmable Latches That Include Non-Volatile Programmable

Elements

Serial No.:

09/178,445

Filing Date:

10/23/98

Examiner:

V. Nguyen

Group Art Unit:

2818

Docket No.:

M-5598 US

Batch No.

I86

Date Allowed:

February 29, 2000

San Jose, California May 25, 2000

**BOX** Issue Fee

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Washington, D. C. 20231

### **REQUEST TO RETURN AN INITIALZED FORM PTO-1449**

Sir:

On February 3, 2000, Applicants mailed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office an Information Disclosure Statement including Form PTO-1449. A copy of the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed. Also enclosed is a copy of the Return Receipt Postcard showing that the Form PTO-1449 was received by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on February 8, 2000.

Applicants have not received a copy of the Form PTO-1449 initialed by the Examiner. Please return the initialized Form PTO-1449 to Applicants' attorney. Please telephone the undersigned at 408-453-9200, ext. 1234, if any problems arise.

LAW OFFICES OF SKJERVEN, MORRILL, MACPHERSON, FRANKLII & FRIEL LLP

> 25 METRO DRIVE SUITE 700 SAN JOSE, CA 95110 (408) 453-9200 FAX (408) 453-7979

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on May 25, 2000.

richard Mions

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Stewar

Michael Shenker

Attorney for Applicants

Reg. No. 34,250

635341 v1

-1-

Serial No. 09/178,445

Sheet 1 of 1 U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office Atty Docket No. Serial No. M-5598 US 09/178,445 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Applicant(s) Sredanovic, Nikolas; Calendar, Helena (Use several sheets if necessary) Filing Date Group October 23, 1998 2818 U.S. Patent Documents \*Examiner Document Filing Date Initial Number Date Class Subclass If Appropriate Mills et al. 230.08 AA5,497,355 3/1996 365 AB 5,526,320 6/1996 Zager et al. 365 233.5 8/1996 Zager et al. 230.08 AC 5,544,124 365 6/1997 Merritt et al. 233.5 AD 5,640,364 365 ΑE 5,710,741 6/1995 McLaury 226 365 AF 5,793,688 8/1998 McLaury 365 203 5,812,489 9/1998 Matsui 233 AG 365 2/1999 Fukuda 201 AH 5,870,342 365 4/1999 Takahashi et al. 185.33 ΑI 5,898,621 365 ΑJ ΑK AL Foreign Patent Documents Translation Document Date Country Class Subclass Yes AM AN ΑO ΑP AQ ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) **OTHER** AR AS AT Date Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through

citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with your communication to applicant.



## ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Applicants: Assignee: Title:

Sredanovic, Nikolas; Calendar, Helena Mosel Vitelic, Inc. Programmable Latches That Include Non-Volatile Programmable Elements

Serial No.: Filed: Atty Docket No.:

09/178,445 October 23, 1998 M-5598 US

ENCLOSED:
1. This Return Receipt Postcard
2. Information Disclosure Statement (1 p.)
3. Form PTO-1449 citing nine references (1 p.)
4. Copies of nine cited references
MS/van

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#### PART B-ISSUE FEE TRANSMITTAL

Complete and mail this form, together with ap

able f

, to: Box ISSUE FEE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

BBB

(Depositor's name)

(Signature)

MAILING INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE. Blocks 1 through 4 should be complete appropriate. All further correspondence including the Issue Fee Receipt, 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: Legibly mark-up with any corrections or use Block 1)

MM42/0229

MICHAEL SHENKER SKJERVEN MORRILL MACPHERSON FRANKLIN & FRIEL 25 METRO DRIVE SUITE 700 SAN JOSE CA 95110-1349 Note: The certificate of mailing below can only be used for domestic mailings of the Issue Fee 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.

#### **Certificate of Mailing**

I hereby certify that this Issue Fee Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Box Issue Fee address above on the date indicated below.

MICHAEL SHENKER

Michael Heenters

| ANTERIA NATURALAN ANTERIA        | and the state of t |              | May 25             | ,2000    | (Date)      |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------|--------------------|----------|-------------|
| APPLICATION NO.                  | FILING DATE  | TOTAL CLAIMS | EXAMINER AND GROUP | ART UNIT | DATE MAILED |
| 09/178,445                       | 10/23/98   | 021 NGUYEN   | , V                | 2818     | 02/29/00    |
| First Named Applicant SREDANDVII | ~  | 35 USC 154(  | b) term ext. =     | 0 Days   | 5 m         |

TITLE OF ROGRAMMABLE LATCHES THAT INCLUDE NON-VOLATILE PROGRAMMABLE ELEMENTS

| ATTY'S DOCKET NO.   | CLASS-SUBCLASS   | BATCH NO.  | APPLN. TYPE  | SMALL ENTITY   | FEE DUE   | DATE           | DUE                    |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|----------------|------------------------|
| 2 M-5598-US   | 365-225.7  | 00 186   | UTILI  | TY NO  | \$1210.00   | 05/3           |                        |
| 1. Change of correspondence address Use of PTO form(s) and Customer N  Change of correspondence addre PTO/SB/122) attached.  "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee  | Number are recommended, but the services of Correspondence of Corr | at not required.   | (1) the name<br>attorneys or<br>the name of<br>member a re<br>and the name | g on the patent front page, liss of up to 3 registered pater agents OR, alternatively, (2 a single firm (having as egistered attorney or agen so of up to 2 registered pater agents. If no name is listed, no printed. | nt 1 <u>Franklir</u><br>2)<br>a<br>t) 2 <u>Michae</u><br>nt |                | <u>1 LL</u> P          |
| (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY & STATE C  | e is identified below, no assignment of the properties of the prop | nee data will appear<br>it has been previous<br>n of this form is NOT<br>Chu, Taiwar | r on the patent. Ity submitted to a subsititue for                         | 4a. The following fees are of Patents and Tradem  Issue Fee Advance Order - # of DEPOSIT ACCOUNT (ENCLOSE AN EXTRA   | eficiency in these feet                                     | s should be ch |                        |
| Please check the appropriate assign   | nee category indicated below<br>r other private group entity   | (will not be printed o   | on the patent)   | X x Issue Fee<br>Advance Order - # c   | of Copies   | 9178445        |                        |
| The COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS   | AND TRADEMARKS IS reque  | sted to apply the Iss  | sue Fee to the ap  | plication identified above.  |   | 3178           |                        |
| (Authorized Signature) Michael Shenker, Reg<br>NOTE; The Issue Fee will not be accel<br>or agent; or the assignee or other party<br>Trademark Office.   | oted from anyone other than t  | he applicant; a regis  |  |  |   | 192386 0       |                        |
| Burden Hour Statement: This form<br>depending on the needs of the indiv<br>to complete this form should be se<br>Office, Washington, D.C. 20231. D<br>ADDRESS. SEND FEES AND TH<br>Patents, Washington D.C. 20231 | idual case. Any comments<br>nt to the Chief Information<br>O NOT SEND FEES OR C  | on the amount of t<br>Officer, Patent and<br>OMPLETED FORI                           | ime required<br>d Trademark<br>MS TO THIS                                  |  |   |                | 1210.00 CH<br>33.00 CH |
| Under the Paperwork Reduction Ac<br>of information unless it displays a v   |  | quired to respond to   | o a collection   |  |   | 0              | <br>4.0<br>6.4         |
| TOL-858 (REV.10-96) Approved for us   |  | TRANSMIT THIS  | FORM WITH  |  | emark Office; U.S. D  |                | 드<br>등<br>- COMME      |

Page 96 of 110



# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NUMBER

10/27/CNG BATE SREDANDV LARST NAMED APPLICANT

NATIORNEY POCKETINGS - LIST

7542/0915

MICHAEL SHENKER SKJERVEN MORRILL MACPHERSON FRANKLIN & FRIEL 25 METRO DRIVE SUITE 700 SAN JOSE CA 95110-1349

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ARTUNIT S

PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED:

#### **Response to Rule 312** Communication

|   |     |  | 37 CFR 1.312(b) is granted. The paper has been    |
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|   | for | orwarded to the examiner for consideration on the meri | ts.   |
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|   |     |  |   |
|   |     |  | Director,   |
|   |     |  | Patent Examining Group                            |
|   |     |  |   |
|   |     |  |   |
|   |     | · / / /  |   |
|   | The | he amendment filed onunder                             | r 37 CFR 1.312 has been considered, and has been: |
| \ |     | entered.   |   |
|   |     | entered as directed to matters of form not affecting t | he scope of the invention (Order 3311).           |
|   |     | disapproved. See explanation below.                    |   |
|   |     | entered in part. See explanation below.                |   |

**Publishing Division** 

FORM PTOL-271 (REV. 1-96) \*U.S. GPO: 1997-422-661/60011

#### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Sredanovic, Nikolas; Calendar, Helena

Assignee:

Mosel Vitelic, Inc.

Title:

FEB 0 8 2000

PROGRAMMABLE LATCHES THAT INCLUDE NON-VOI

PROGRAMMABLE ELEMENTS

Serial No.:

09/178,445

Filed:

October 23, 1998

Examiner:

V. Nguyen

Group Art Unit:

2818

Docket No.:

M-5598 US

San Jose, California February 3, 2000

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS Washington, D. C. 20231

RECEIVED

### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

FEB 1 0 2000

Dear Sir:

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, § 1.97 and § 1.98, the documents listed on the accompanying PTO Form-1449 are called to the attention of the Examiner for the above patent application. Copies of these documents are enclosed.

Citation of these documents shall not be construed as:

- an admission that the documents are necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention;
- 2. a representation that a search has been made, other than as described above; or
- 3. an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b).

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on Feb. 3, 20

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Shenker

Attorney for Applicants

Michael Shenker

Reg. No. 34,250

LAW OFFICES OF JERVEN, MORRILL, PHERSON, FRANKLIN & FRIEL LLP

25 METRO DRIVE SUITE 700 SAN JOSE, CA 95110 (408) 453-9200 FAX (408) 453-7979

SER. NO. 09/178,445

Page 98 of 110

- 1 -

Sheet 1 of 1 U.S. Department of Commerce, Patent and Trademark Office Atty Docket No. Serial No. M-5598 US 09/178,445 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Applicant(s) (Use several sheets if necessary) Sredanovic, Nikolas; Calendar, Helena Filing Date Group October 23, 1998 2818 U.S. Patent Documents \*Examiner Filing Date Document Class Initial Number Date Name Subclass If Appropriate Mills et al. 5,497,355 3/1996 365 230.08  $\sim$   $\sim$  $\vee$   $\vee$ AB 5,526,320 6/1996 Zager et al. 365 233.5 AC 5,544,124 8/1996 Zager et al. 365 230.08 6/1997 Merritt et al. 233.5 365 AD 5,640,364 ΑE 5,710,741 6/1995 McLaury 365 226 ΑF 5,793,688 8/1998 McLaury 365 203 9/1998 AG 5,812,489 Matsui 365 233 2/1999 Fukuda 201 AH 5,870,342 365 4/1999 Takahashi et al. 365 185.33 ΑI 5,898,621 Viet Q. Nguyen Primary Examiner ΑJ ΑK AL Foreign Patent Documents Translation Document Date Class Subclass Yes No Country AM AN ΑO ΑP AQ **OTHER** ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) Viet Q. Nguyen Primary Examiner AS AT Viet Q. Nguyen Primary Examiner 0 Date Considered Examiner \*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with your communication to applicant.



FILING DATE

#### **UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE** Patent and Trademark Office

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NUMBER FIRST NAMED APPLICANT SREDANOVIC 09/178.445 10/23/98 N M-5598-US EXAMINER MM41/1011 MICHAEL SHENKER ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER SKJERVEN MORRILL MACPHERSON FRANKLIN & FRIEL 25 METRO DRIVE SUITE 700 2818 SAN JOSE CA 95110-1349 DATE MAILED: 10/11/00 This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application. COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS onlemental NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY 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 and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. This communication is responsive to The allowed claim(s) is/are Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d). ☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). \*Certified copies not received: Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e). A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED. Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal. including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on by the examiner. including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment. Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftperson. ☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL. Any response to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included. Attachment(s) Notice of References Cited, PTO-892 Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 riet Nougen Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152 Interview Summary, PTO-413 Viet Q. Nguyen **Primary Examiner** Examiner's Amendment/Comment Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

PTOL-37 (Rev. 10/95)

This file wrapper was thoroughly reviewed by Our technical staff. Correspondence Address Change & Change in Power of Attorney dated 04/03/2003 is missing from the original USPTO file history.

This has been brought to your attention so that you will know it has not been overlooked.

050

MAR 0 2 2004 B

## CHANGE OF ORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS PATENT

Address to: Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandra, VA 22313-1450

| Patent Number          | 6,163,492          |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Issue Date             | 19-Dec-00          |
| Application Number     | 09/178,445         |
| Filing Date            | 23-Oct-98          |
| First Named Inventor   | Nikolas Sredanovic |
| Attorney Docket Number | M-5598 US          |
|                        |                    |

| Please change the Correspondence  | e Address for the above identified patent application to:                                     |          |
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|   | e Address for the above identified patent application to:                                     |          |
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|   | i v i   | <u>a</u> |
| Firm or Individual Name   | MacPherson Kwok Chen & Heid LLP   | 9        |
| Address   | 1762 Technology Drive   | 70       |
| Address   | Suite 226 State CA Zin 9511   | 0        |
| City  | San Jose  |          |
| Country   | U.S.A.  |          |
| Telephone   | (408) 392-9250 Fax (408) 392-9262   |          |
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| Patentee.   |   |          |
|   | rd of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71<br>r 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96). |          |
| Attorney or Ager  | nt of record. Registration Number <u>25,875</u>   |          |
| Typed or Printed  |   |          |
| Name  | David W. Heid   |          |
| Signature Dan W. Heis   |   |          |
| Date 2/27/04  | Telephone (408) 392-9250  |          |
|   | tors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) and             | e        |
| required. Submit multiple forms i                                       | if more than on signature is required, see below.*  |          |

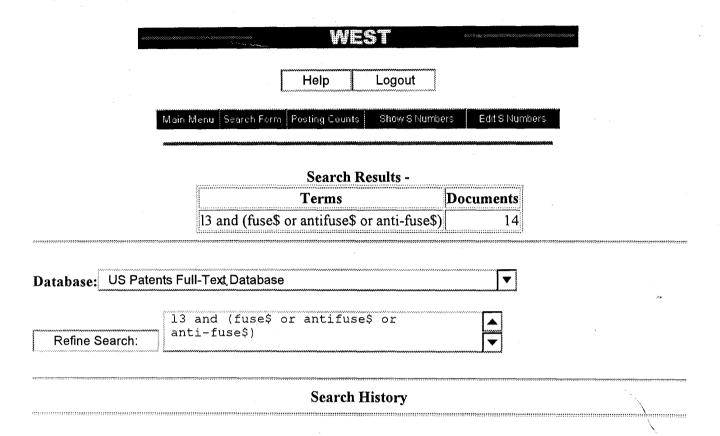
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|-------------|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------|--|------------------------|---------|---------------------------|------------------------|
|             | PATENT A                           | APPLICATION   | ON FEE D                           | ETERMIN                                   | IATION R                       | ECOR  | 1                                      | pplication             | or Doc. | ce wante                  |                        |
|             |                                    | Effe  | ective Octob                       | per 1, 1997                               |                                |       |  |                        |         |                           |                        |
|             |                                    |   | AS FILED -<br>Column 1)            |   | (Column 2)                     |       | SMALL<br>TYPE                          | ENTITY                 | OR      | OTHER<br>SMALL            | THAN<br>ENTITY         |
| FOR         |                                    | NUMBI   | R FILED                            | NUME                                      | BER EXTRA                      |       | RATE                                   | FEE                    |         | RATE                      | FEE                    |
| BASIC FEE   |                                    |   |                                    |   |                                |       |  | 395.00                 | OR      |                           | 790.00                 |
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|             |                                    | CLAIMS AS   | AMENDED                            | - PART II                                 |                                |       |  |                        |         |                           | R THAN                 |
|             |                                    | (Column 1)<br>CLAIMS  |                                    | (Column 2)<br>HIGHEST                     |                                | nn 3) | SMALL                                  | ENTITY                 | OR<br>I | SMALL                     | ENTITY                 |
| AMENDMENT A |                                    | REMAINING<br>AFTER<br>AMENDMENT   |                                    | NUMBER<br>PREVIOUS<br>PAID FOR            | PRES                           |       | RATE                                   | ADDI-<br>TIONAL<br>FEE |         | RATE                      | ADDI-<br>TIONAL<br>FEE |
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| ME          | Independent                        | *   | Minus                              | ***                                       |                                |       | x41=                                   |                        | OR      | x82=                      |                        |
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| ENT B       |                                    | REMAINING<br>AFTER<br>AMENDMENT   |                                    | NUMBER<br>PREVIOUS<br>PAID FOF            | PRES<br>LY EXT                 |       | RATE                                   | ADDI-<br>TIONAL<br>FEE |         | RATE                      | ADDI-<br>TIONAL<br>FEE |
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|             |                                    | (Column 1)  |                                    | (Column 2)                                | (Colum                         | nn 3) | TOTAL<br>ADDIT. FEE                    |                        | OR      | TOTAL<br>ADDIT. FEE       |                        |
| ENT C       |                                    | CLAIMS<br>REMAINING<br>AFTER<br>AMENDMENT   |                                    | HIGHEST<br>NUMBER<br>PREVIOUS<br>PAID FOR | PRES                           |       | RATE                                   | ADDI-<br>TIONAL<br>FEE |         | RATE                      | ADDI-<br>TIONAL<br>FEE |
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| USPT    | 13 and (fuse\$ or anti-fuse\$) | 14               | <u>L4</u> |
| USPT    | 12 and voltage and diode\$     | 54               | <u>L3</u> |
| USPT    | 11 and power                   | 203              | <u>L2</u> |
| USPT    | program\$ adj1 latch\$         | 264              | <u>L1</u> |

1 of 1

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Search Results - Record(s) 1 through 10 of 14 returned.

Document ID: US 6009284 A 1.

Entry/1 of 14

File: USPT

Dec 28, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 6009284

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6009284 A

TITLE: System and method for controlling image processing devices from a remote

DATE-ISSUED: December 28, 1999

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME Weinberger; Joseph

CITY East Brunswick

ZIP CODE STATE NJ N/A NY N/A

COUNTRY N/A N/A

Bricault; Gary Laird; James

Rochester Rochester

NY

N/A

N/A

US-CL-CURRENT: 399/8; 345/354, 399/77, 710/67

Fell Title Citation Front Review Classification Date Reference Claims EMIC Image

Document ID: US 5892712 A

Entry 2 of 14

File: USPT

Apr 6, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5892712

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5892712 A

TITLE: Semiconductor non-volatile latch device including embedded non-volatile

elements

DATE-ISSUED: April 6, 1999

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME

CITY

ZIP CODE

COUNTRY

Hirose; Ryan T.

Colorado Springs

CO N/A

STATE

N/A

Lancaster; Loren T.

Colorado Springs

CO N/A N/A

US-CL-CURRENT: 365/185.07; 365/154, 365/189.05

Full Title Citation Front Review Classification Date Reference Claims KMC Image

3. Document ID: US 5752047 A

Entry 3 of 14

File: USPT

May 12, 1998

1 of 4

Record List Display

US-PAT-NO: 5752047

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5752047 A

TITLE: Modular solid state power controller with Microcontroller

DATE-ISSUED: May 12, 1998

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

STATE ZIP CODE CITY NAME Madison ALN/A Darty; Mark Anthony N/A ALPrickett; Guy Brent Grant Schwarz; Charles Raymond Huntsville ALN/A

US-CL-CURRENT: 713/300; 361/2, 713/310

Full Title Citation Front Review Classification Date Reference Claims KMC Image

Document ID: US 5696455 A

Entry 4 of 14

US-PAT-NO: 5696455

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5696455 A

TITLE: Reconfigurable programmable logic device DATE-ISSUED: December 9, 1997

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME

CITY

STATE

File: USPT

ZIP CODE

COUNTRY

COUNTRY

Dec 9, 1997

N/A

N/A

N/A

Madurawe; Raminda

Sunnyvale

CA

N/A

N/A

TUS-CL-CURRENT: 326/41; 326/44, 365/189.08

Full Title Citation Front Review Classification Date Reference Claims KMIC Image

5. Document ID: US 5603060 A Entry 5 of 14

File: USPT

Feb 11, 1997

WS-PAT-NO: 5603060

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5603060 A

TITLE: Method of controlling copy machines from a remote location

DATE-ISSUED: February 11, 1997

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME Weinberger; Joseph Bricault; Gary

CITY East Brunswick Rochester

ZIP CODE STATE N/A NJ NY N/A NY

N/A

COUNTRY N/A N/A

N/A

US-CL-CURRENT: 399/8; 345/354, 399/77, 399/81, 709/223, 710/67

Rochester

Full Title Citation Front Review Classification Date Reference Claims KMC Image

6. Document ID: US 5548552 A

Entry 6 of 14

Laird; James

File: USPT

Aug 20, 1996

2 of 4

Record List Display

http://jupiter:88/bin/gate.exe?f=TOC&state=djekia.5&ref=4&dbname=USPT&ESNAME=CITAME=

US-PAT-NO: 5548552

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 55485\$2 A

TITLE: Reconfigurable programmable logic device DATE-ISSUED: August 20, 1996

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME

STATE

ZIP CODE

COUNTRY

Madurawe; Raminda

Sunnyvale

CA

N/A

N/A

US-CL-CURRENT: 365/185.33; 326/38

### Full Title Citation Front Review Classification Date Reference Citatins KVIIC Image

#### 7. Document ID: US 5548228 A

Entry 7 of 14

File: USPT

Aug 20, 1996

US-PAT-NO: 5548228

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5548228 A

TITLE: Reconfigurable programmable logic device having static and non-volatile

memory
DATE-ISSUED: August 20, 1996

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

COUNTRY

Madurawe; Raminda

Sunnyvale

CA

N/A

N/A

US-CL-CURRENT: 326/41; 326/39, 365/189.08

8. Document ID: US 5455937 A

Entry 8 of 14

US-PAT-NO: 5455937 DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5455937 A File: USPT

Oct 3, 1995

TITLE: Microcontroller with  $\underline{\text{fuse-emulating}}$  latches DATE-ISSUED: October 3, 1995

Full Title Citation Front Review Classification Date Reference Claims KNNC Image

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME Berman; Eric Italiano; Greg Padgaonkar; Ajay

CITY Hicksville Hicksville STATE NY NY

ZIP CODE N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

COUNTRY N/A

Allen; Ray

Sugarland Mesa

TX AZ N/A N/A N/A

US-CL-CURRENT: 395/500.44; 714/1

9. Document ID: US 5398206 A Entry 9 of 14

File: USPT

Mar 14, 1995

3 of 4

US-PAT-NO: 5398206 DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5398206 A TITLE: Semiconductor memory device/with data error compensation DATE-ISSUED: March 14, 1995 INVENTOR-INFORMATION: ZIP CODE COUNTRY CÏTY STATE NAME JPX Akizawa; Mitsuru Hachioji N/A JPX N/A Iwasaki; Kazuhiko Chiba N/A N/A N/A JPX Kokubunii Noguchi; Kouki JPX Hagashiyamato N/A N/A Shibata; Ryuuji N/A JPX N/A Yamaguchi; Noboru Hagashiyamato

US-CL-CURRENT: 365/200; 365/230.01, 365/230.03, 365/230.06, 365/230.08

#### Full Title Citation Front Review Classification Date Reference Claims KNNC Image

10. Document ID: US 5333286

Entry 10 of 14

File: USPT

Jul 26, 1994

US-PAT-NO: 5333286 DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5333286 A

TITLE: Two way copier monitoring system DATE-ISSUED: July 26, 1994

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

ZIP CODE COUNTRY NAME CITY STATE Weinberger; Joseph East Brunswick NJ 08816 N/A Bricault; Gary Rochester NY N/A N/A Laird; James N/A N/A Rochester

US-CL-CURRENT: 714/47; 364/921.8, 364/927.92, 364/928.2, 364/928.6, 364/933.8, 364/939, 364/939, 364/940.1, 364/943.9, 364/944.7, 364/910.1, 364/910 $\frac{92}{364}, \frac{364}{939.3}, \frac{364}{939.5}, \frac{364}{939.5}, \frac{364}{940}, \frac{395}{500.45}, \frac{395}{500.46}, \frac{399}{8}$ 

Full Title Citation Front Review Classification Date Reference Claims KMC Image

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4 of 4

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#### Search Results - Record(s) 11 through 14 of 14 returned.

11. Document ID: US 5214772 A Entry 11 of 14

File: USPT

May 25, 1993

US-PAT-NO: 5214772

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5214772 A/

TITLE: System for automatically monitoring copiers from a remote location DATE-ISSUED: May 25, 1993

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

Weinberger; Joseph Bricault; Gary

Laird; James

CITY East Brunswick Rochester Rochester

NJ

STATE

N/A

ZIP CODE

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

COUNTRY

US-CL-CURRENT: 714/47; 364/921.8, 364/927.2, 364/927.5, 364/927.92, 364/927.95, 364/927.99, 364/928.2, 364/928.6, 364/928.8, 364/933.62, 364/933.8, 364/939.3, 364/939.5, 364/940.5, 364/940.61, 364/940.61, 364/940.62, 364/941, 364/942, 364/942, 364/943.9, 364/944.7, 364/948.4, 364/959.1, 364/965, 364/965.76, 364/DIG2, 395/500.44, 399/8

Full Title Citation Front Review Classification Date Reference Claims KWAC Image

12. /Document ID: US 4571704 A Entry 12 of 14

US-FAT-NO: 4571704

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 4571704 A

File: USPT

Feb 18, 1986

TITLE: Nonvolatile latch

DATE-ISSUED: February 18, 1986

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME Bohac, Jr.; Frank J. CITY Laguna Hills STATE CA

ZIP CODE N/A

COUNTRY

N/A

US-CL-CURRENT: 365/185.07; 257/316, 257/904

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13. Document ID: US 4459582 A Entry 13 of 14

File: USPT

Jul 10, 1984

1 of 2

US-PAT-NO: 4459582

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 4459582 A

TITLE: Local control apparatus for central station alarm system DATE-ISSUED: July 10, 1984

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME

Sheahan; Robert F.

CITY

STATE ZIP CODE NY

COUNTRY

N/A

Terrett; David S.

Staten Island Lincroft

NJ

N/A N/A

N/A

US-CL-CURRENT: 340/539; 340/333, 340/506, 340/508, 340/510, 340/510, 340/517, 340/518, 340/527, 340/528, 340/825.06, 340/825.1, 340/825.31, 379/43

Full Title Citation Front Review Classification Date Reference Claims KWMC Image

14. Document ID: US 4427974 A

Entry 14 of 14

US-PAT-NO: 4427974 DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 4427974 A

TITLE: Local control apparatus for central station alarm system

DATE-ISSUED: January 24, 1984

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME

CITY

File: USPT

STATE ZIP CODE

Jan 24, 1984

Sheahan; Robert F.

Staten Island

NY

N/A

COUNTRY N/A

 $\begin{array}{l} \text{US-CL-CURRENT: } \underline{340}/\underline{539}; \ \underline{340}/\underline{333}, \ \underline{340}/\underline{506}, \ \underline{340}/\underline{508}, \ \underline{340}/\underline{510}, \ \underline{340}/\underline{517}, \ \underline{340}/\underline{518}, \\ \underline{340}/\underline{527}, \ \underline{340}/\underline{528}, \ \underline{340}/\underline{825.06}, \ \underline{340}/\underline{825.1}, \ \underline{340}/\underline{825.31}, \ \underline{379}/\underline{43}, \ \underline{379}/\underline{49} \end{array} \right.$ 

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