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Vasylyev

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(54) LIGHT TRAPPING OPTICAL COVER

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35

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(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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Related U.S. Application Data

- (63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 12/764,867, filed on Apr. 21, 2010.
- (60) Provisional application No. 61/461,522, filed on Jan. 18, 2011, provisional application No. 61/214,331, filed on Apr. 21, 2009.
- (51) Int. Cl. G02B 6/32 (2006.01) G02F 1/1333 (2006.01) H02N 6/00 (2006.01)

385/900; 349/56–67; 136/246, 256–257 See application file for complete search history.

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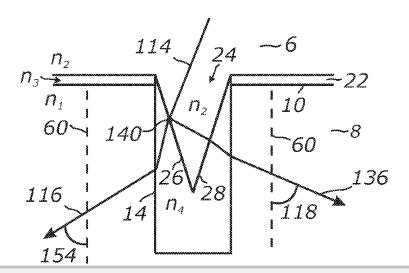
^{*} cited by examiner

Primary Examiner — Brian M. Healy Assistant Examiner — Guy Anderson

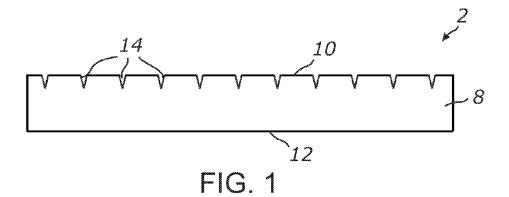
(57) ABSTRACT

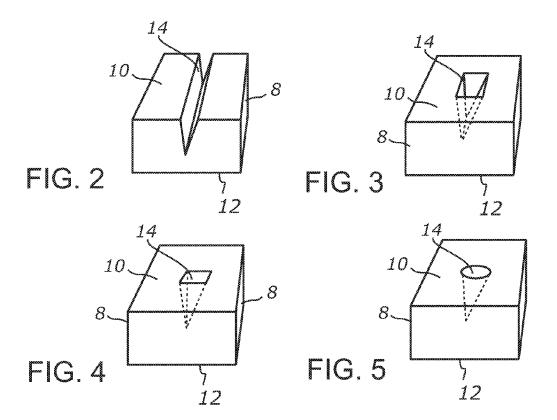
A light trapping optical cover employing an optically transparent layer with a plurality of light deflecting elements. The transparent layer is configured for an unimpeded light passage through its body and has a broad light input surface and an opposing broad light output surface. The light deflecting elements deflect light incident into the transparent layer at a sufficiently high bend angle with respect to a surface normal and direct the deflected light toward a light harvesting device adjacent to the light output surface. The deflected light is retained by means of at least TIR in the system formed by the optical cover and the light harvesting device which allows for longer light propagation paths through the photoabsorptive layer of the device and for an improved light absorption. The optical cover may further employ a focusing array of light collectors being pairwise associated with the respective light deflecting elements.

15 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets







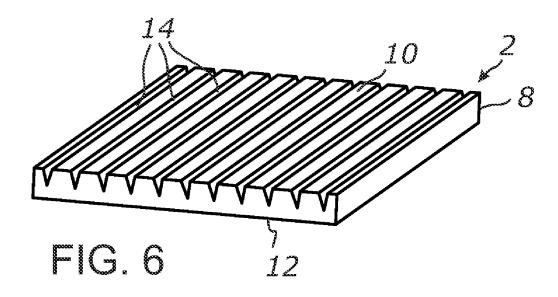


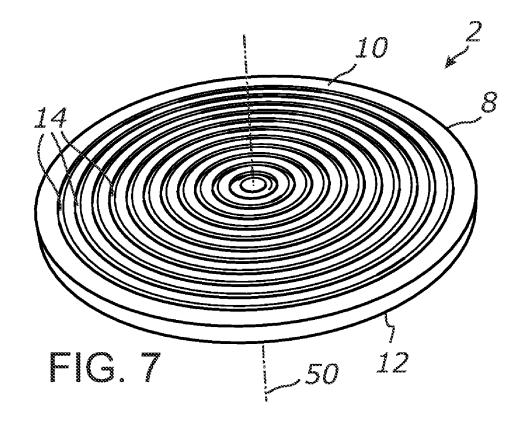
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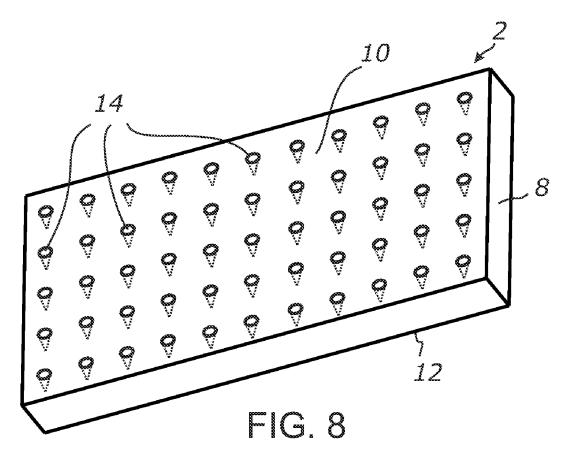
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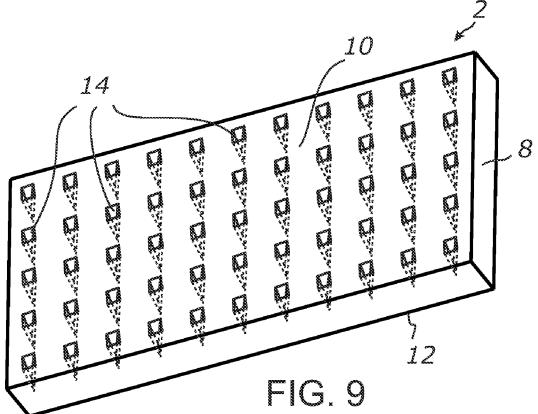
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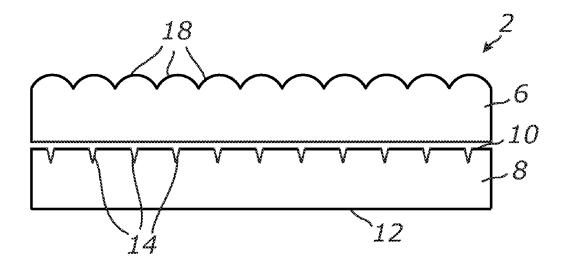


FIG. 10

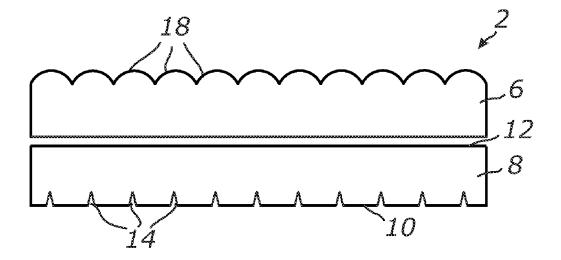


FIG. 11



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