G06E

OPTICAL COMPUTING DEVICES [N: COMPUTING DEVICES USING OTHER RADIATIONS WITH SIMILAR PROPERTIES] (optical logic elements per se G02F 3/00; digital storage using optical elements G11C 13/04)

Definition statement

This subclass/group covers:
All devices in which at least one computing function is performed by optical means.

References relevant to classification in this group

This subclass/group does not cover:

Computer systems based on specific computational models	G06N
Digital storage using optical elements	G11C 13/04
Optical logic elements per se	G02F 3/00

Special rules of classification within this group

This technology is hardly used anymore.

Optical computers were a technology that was popular between 1900 - 2000.

After 2000 there are virtually no patent applications in this field anymore.

If other aspects, for example mechanical, fluid pressure or electrical computing, are of interest, classification is also made in the relevant subclass for such aspects.

G06E 1/00

Devices for processing exclusively digital data

Definition statement

This subclass/group covers:
Optical computers working exclusively on digital data.

References relevant to classification in this group

This subclass/group does not cover:

Electronic digital computers	G06F
Optical digital storage	G11C 13/04
Optical logic elements	G02F 3/00
Quantum computers	G06N 99/002

Special rules of classification within this group

Documents should be classified in the subgroups of G06E 1/00 only if they deal with purely digital optical computing.

G06E 3/00

Devices not provided for in group G06E 1/00, e.g. for processing analogue or hybrid data

Definition statement

This subclass/group covers:
Optical computers operating not exclusively on digital data, but on analogue data or a combination of digital and analogue data (hybrid).

References relevant to classification in this group

This subclass/group does not cover:

Analog electronic computers	G06G 7/00
Electronic digital computers	G06F
Hybrid non-optical computing devices	G06J
Optical digital storage	G11C 13/04
Optical logic elements	G02F 3/00
Quantum computers	G06N 99/002

Special rules of classification within this group

Documents should be classified in the subgroups of G06E 3/00 only if they deal with purely optical computing on a combination of digital and analogue data or on analogue data only.