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# United States Patent [19]

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Braudaway et al.

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[54] **COLOR CORRECT DIGITAL WATERMARKING OF IMAGES**

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### [57] ABSTRACT

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[51] Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup> ..... **H04K 1/00**

A system for placing a visible "watermark" on a digital image is disclosed, wherein an image of the watermark is combined with the digital image. The pixels of the watermark image are examined, and for each pixel whose value is not a specified "transparent" value, the corresponding pixel of the original image is modified by changing its brightness but its chromaticities. This results in a visible mark which allows the contents of the image to be viewed clearly, but which discourages unauthorized use of the image.

[52] U.S. Cl. .... **380/54; 580/3; 580/4; 382/137; 355/201**

[58] Field of Search ..... **380/3, 4, 54, 59; 382/7; 355/201**

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**12 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets**

