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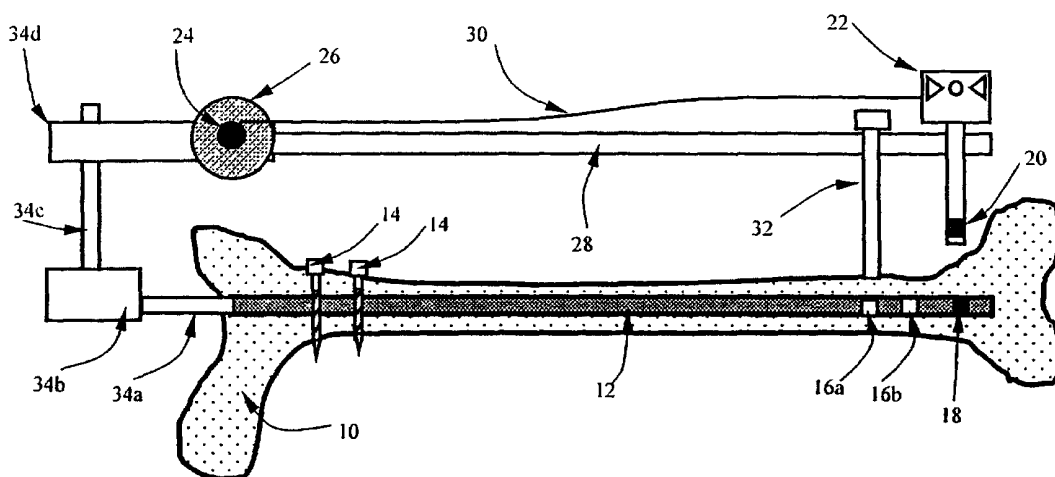
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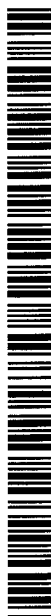
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(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR LOCATING HOLES IN ORTHOPAEDIC DEVICES



(57) Abstract: A method for locating holes in orthopaedic devices, consisting of a mechanical arm (28) which is able to sweep over the plane of deformation of the orthopaedic device. A magnet (18) is rigidly attached to the orthopaedic device and a plurality of magnetic sensors (20) which are attached to the moveable rigid arm are used to sense the magnetic field strength. The outputs of the magnetic sensors as well as a position sensor (24) attached to the moveable arm are in communication with a central processing unit (22) which is able to store and process the acquired data. The central processing unit is capable of subtracting the magnetic sensor outputs, curve fitting the acquired data and indicating the position of the maximum magnetic field which corresponds to the position of the magnet. Once the position of the magnet is located, a drill template (32) connected to the mechanical arm is used to drill holes.



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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61B17/17

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 196 40 474 A (M.WOLTER) 9 April 1998 (1998-04-09) column 8, line 15 - line 58; figure 4 column 6, line 33 - line 40 ---	1,3
A	EP 0 628 287 A (M.L.VALSECCHI) 14 December 1994 (1994-12-14) column 4, line 24 - line 46 column 5, line 25 - line 57; figure 2 ---	1,3,4
A	EP 0 135 804 A (ORTOPEDIA) 3 April 1985 (1985-04-03) abstract page 6, line 15 - line 24 page 8, line 20 - line 24 --- -/--	1,4



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>EP 0 589 592 A (ORTHOFIX)</p> <p>30 March 1994 (1994-03-30)</p> <p>abstract</p> <p>-----</p>	1,2,5

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