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HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

Published:

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- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

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(54) Title: ELECTROSURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH REMOVABLE COMPONENTS FOR CLEANING ACCESS

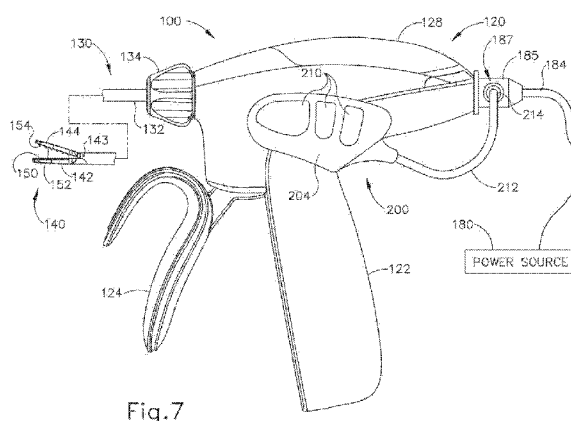


Fig. 7

(57) Abstract: A surgical instrument (100) includes a handpiece (120), an elongate shaft assembly (130) extending distally from the handpiece, an activation assembly (200), an end effector (140) disposed at a distal end of the shaft assembly, and a firing beam (160). The handpiece comprises a cover (128) operable to selectively expose an interior of the handpiece. The activation assembly is selectively coupleable with the handpiece and is operable to regulate the delivery of power to the end effector. The shaft comprises a selectively removable jaw assembly (250). The end effector has a pivoting jaw (144) operable to pivot toward and away from the jaw assembly to thereby capture tissue. The jaw assembly and the pivoting jaw each comprise an electrode surface (150, 152). The electrode surfaces are configured to seal the captured tissue by providing RF energy to the tissue. The firing beam is configured to sever the sealed tissue.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2015/064608

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. A61B18/14

ADD. A61B90/00 A61B17/29 A61N7/02 A61B18/08

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)

A61B A61N

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 practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, BIOSIS, COMPENDEX, INSPEC, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 2 074 959 A1 (OLYMPUS MEDICAL SYSTEMS CORP [JP]) 1 July 2009 (2009-07-01)	1-7, 14, 15
Y	paragraphs [0001], [0029], [0034], [0047], [0048], [0107], [0113], [0119]; figures 1, 2, 8A, 36	8-13
Y	US 2013/046295 A1 (KERR DUANE E [US] ET AL) 21 February 2013 (2013-02-21) paragraphs [0060] - [0062]; figure 14	8-11
Y	US 2013/345701 A1 (ALLEN IV JAMES D [US] ET AL) 26 December 2013 (2013-12-26) paragraph [0040]; figure 4	12, 13
	----- -/-	



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

9 March 2016

Date of mailing of the international search report

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/

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Aronsson, Fredrik

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2015/064608

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6 261 294 B1 (STIHL EWALD [DE] ET AL) 17 July 2001 (2001-07-17) column 2, line 39 - column 5, line 11; figures 1-9 column 6, lines 3-18 column 8, lines 32-46 -----	1
A	US 2013/046337 A1 (EVANS ALLAN J [US] ET AL) 21 February 2013 (2013-02-21) paragraph [0058]; figure 5 -----	1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2015/064608

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-15

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-15

Apparatus having a lower jaw assembly slidably disposed within an outer sheath

2. claims: 16-20

Apparatus having a removable activation assembly and a method of sterilizing such an apparatus.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2015/064608

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
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			EP	2074959 A1		01-07-2009
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			WO	9937221 A1		29-07-1999

US 2013046337	A1	21-02-2013	NONE			
