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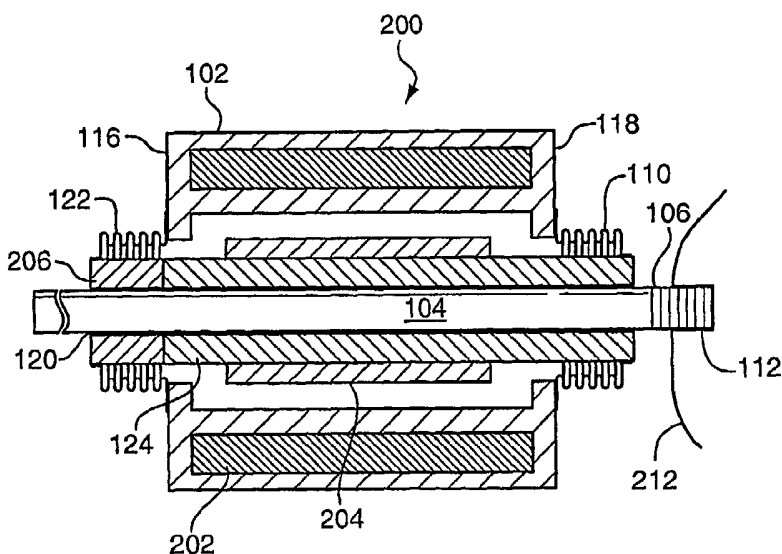
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(54) Title: IMPLANTABLE HEARING AID TRANSDUCER WITH ADVANCEABLE ACTUATOR TO FACILITATE COUPLING WITH THE AUDITORY SYSTEM



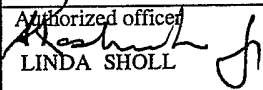
(57) Abstract: A hearing aid transducer that includes an actuator advanceable relative to the transducer to couple with a middle ear component. In one aspect of the invention, the actuator is a separate structure from the transducer that is insertable into an aperture defined between a first and second end of the transducer. This permits separate connection of the actuator to the middle ear component and the transducer to improve coupling of the transducer to the middle ear component, e.g., minimizing loads on the middle ear component.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 600/25, 559, 587; 607/55; 623/10; 73/585; 606/130; 381/322, 323, 190, 328, 312; 181/130 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) EAST WEST		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, P	US 6 537 201 B1(KASIC, II et al.) 25 March 2003, see entire document.	1, 4, 16, 20, 29, 30
X, P	US 6 592 512 B2 (STOCKERT et al.) 15 July 2003, see entire document.	1, 4, 11, 16, 20, 27, 61
A, P	US 6 663 575 B2 (LEYSIEFFER et al.) 16 December 2003, see entire document.	42-53, 55-60
A	US 5 788 711 A (LEHNER et al.) 04 August 1998, see entire document.	1-61
X	US 2002/0 019 668 A1 (STOCKERT et al.) 14 February 2002, see entire document.	1, 4, 11, 16, 20, 27, 61
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230		Authorized officer  LINDA SHOLL Telephone No. 703-308-3880