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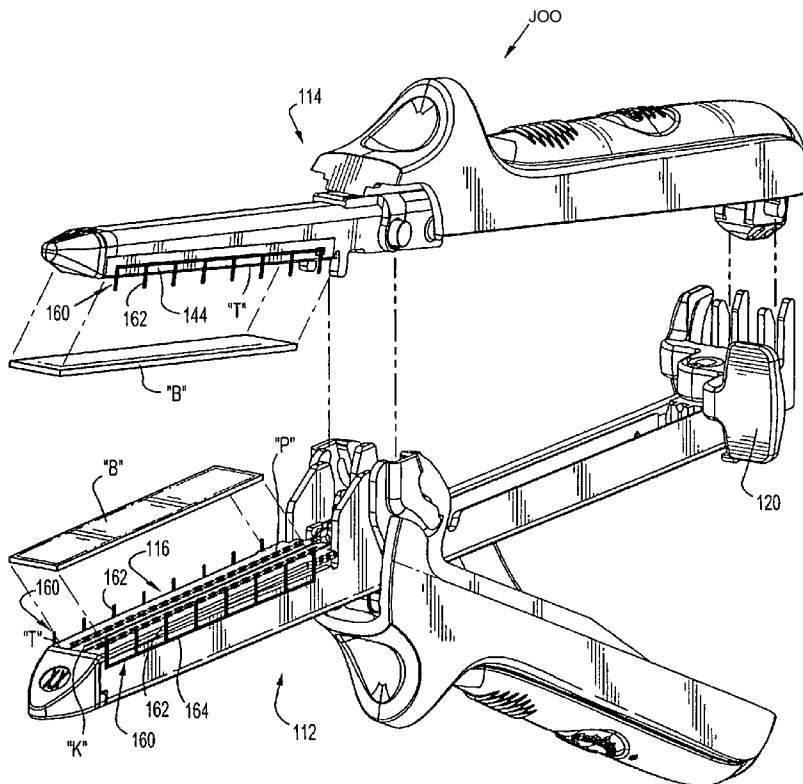
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[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title:** METHODS OF USING SHAPE MEMORY ALLOYS FOR BUTTRESS ATTACHMENT

(57) **Abstract:** A surgical stapling device includes a tissue contacting surface and a buttress attachment feature. The buttress attachment feature permits selectively securing a surgical buttress to the tissue contacting surface, which may be disposed on a cartridge assembly or an anvil plate of the surgical stapling device. The buttress attachment feature may include a shape memory alloy, such as a nickel titanium alloy, that is responsive to a temperature change to allow the buttress attachment feature to move between a first position where a free end of the buttress attachment feature is substantially spaced from the tissue contacting surface, and second position where the surgical attachment feature is approximated with respect to the tissue contacting surface.





FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL,
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B FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC(8) A61 B 17/04, 17/10 (2008 04) USPC 227/181 1 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched IPC(8) A61B 17/08, 17/50 (2008 04) USPC 606/151, 215 Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) PubEASTv(USPT,PGPB,EPAB,JPAB), GoogleScholar Search Terms surgical stapler, buttress, tissue, fan, nickel, titanium		
C DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No
Y	US 2006/0025816 A1 (SHELTON, IV) 2 February 2006 (02 02 2006) entire document, especially para[0041], para[0043], para[0055]	1-17
Y	US 2005/0251 164 A1 (GIFFORD, III et al) 10 November 2005 (10 11 2005) entire document, especially para[0176]	1-9 and 12-17
Y	US 6,325,810 B1 (HAMILTON et al) 4 December 2001 (04 12 2001) entire document, especially Fig 4, Fig 5 and col 7, ln 49-57	8
Y	US 2004/0220592 A1 (MUELLER et al) 4 November 2004 (04 11 2004) entire document, especially para[0090] and Fig 7	10-15
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