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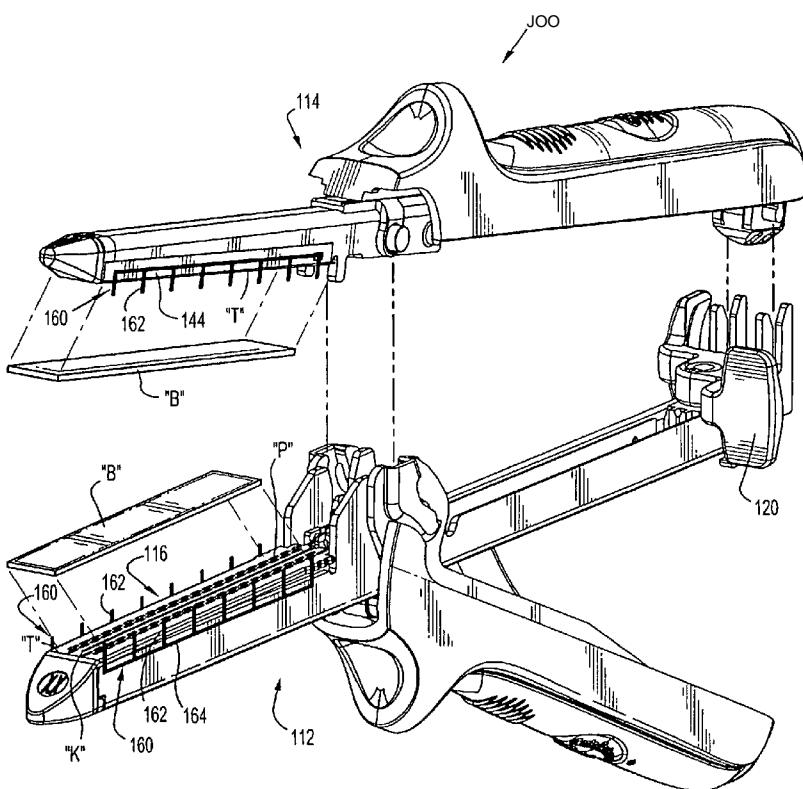
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*[Continued on next page]*

(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.

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FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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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 A 1 (SHELTON, IV) 2 February 2006 (02 02 2006) entire document, especially para[0041], para[0043], para[0055]	1-17
Y	US 2005/0251 164 A 1 (GIFFORD, III et al ) 10 November 2005 (10 11 2005) entire document, especially para[01 76]	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 A 1 (MUELLER et al ) 4 November 2004 (04 11 2004) entire document, especially para[0090] and Fig 7	10-15



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

**D**

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