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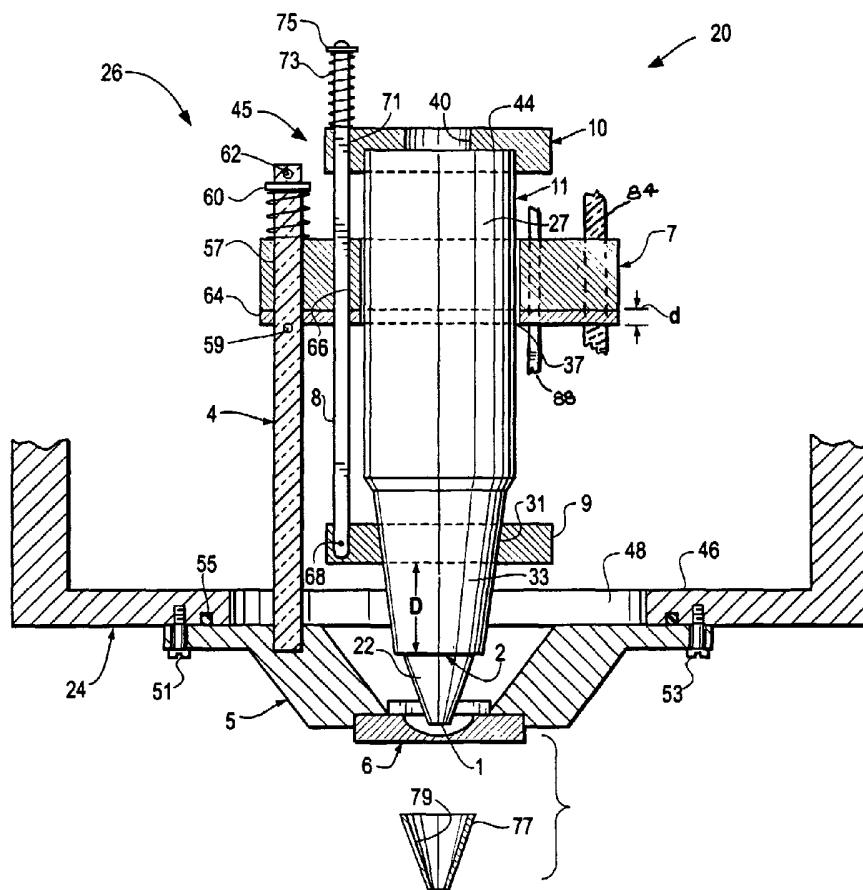
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SELF-ADJUSTING ASSEMBLY AND METHOD FOR CLOSE TOLERANCE SPACING



(57) Abstract: A self-adjusting assembly and method are disclosed. In the disclosed embodiments, a support assembly for supporting a device comprises a pair of support members (4) for supporting the device (11). One of the members (4) is adapted to help support the device (11) from a ground (5), and another of the members (8) is adapted to provide lateral support for the device (11) and to permit free longitudinal movement of the device as it expands or contracts due to temperature variations.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/27411

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G01R 33/00, 33/02; G12B 7/00
US CL : 324/248, 261, 262

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)

U.S. : 324/248, 261, 262, 224, 207.12; 165/81; 248/309.1

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)
Dialog search terms: SQUID and adjustment, contraction, expansion, support

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 3,976,938 A (HESTERMAN) 24 August 1976 (24.08.1976), column 3 lines 40-56	1-4, 8, 10, 14-17, 22, 24
A	US 4,437,064 A (OVERTON, JR. et al.) 13 March 1984 (13.3.84), column 4 lines 49-53; column 5 lines 23-42	2, 6-10, 16, 20-24
A	US 5,880,588 (KADO) 09 March 1999 (09.03.1999), columns 1-2, column 6 lines 65-66	2, 9-10, 16, 23-24
A	US 5,894,220 A (WELLSTOOD et al.) 13 April 1999 (13.04.99), columns 3-5	1-27
A	US 6,023,633 A (KADO) 08 February 2000 (08.02.00), Figures 4A, 4B, columns 4-5	1-3, 10, 14-17, 24
A,E	US 6,457,958 B1 (DUNN) 01 October 2002 (01.10.02), Figure 37B, column 14	1, 3, 14-15, 17
A,P	FLEET, E.F., "Closed-cycle refrigerator-cooled scanning SQUID microscope for room-temperature samples", Review Of Scientific Instruments Volume 72, number 8, pages 3281-3290 Aug 2001	1-24

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

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Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of Item 5 of the first sheet)

A self-adjusting assembly and method are disclosed. In the disclosed embodiments, a support assembly for supporting a device comprises a pair of support members (4) for supporting the device (11). One of the members (4) is adapted to help support the device (11) from a ground (5), and another of the members (8) is adapted to provide lateral support for the device (11) and to permit free longitudinal movement of the device as it expands or contracts due to temperature variations.