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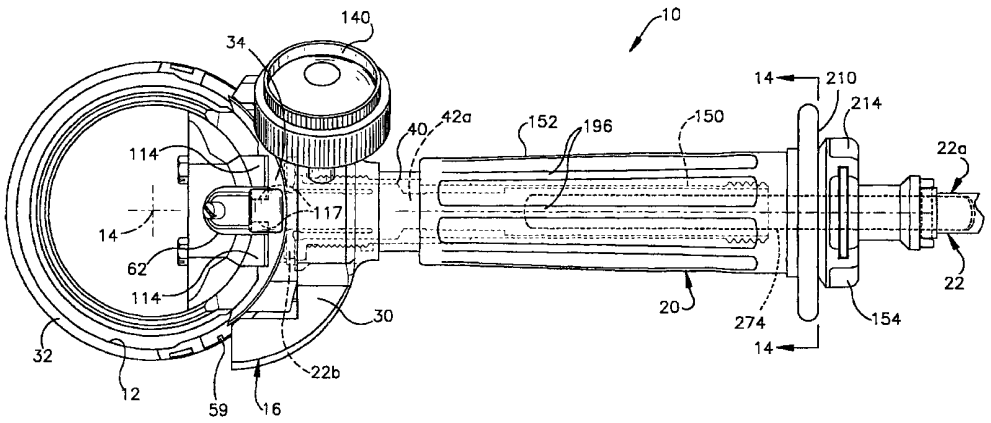
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: POWER OPERATED ROTARY KNIFE



(57) Abstract: A rotary knife (10) comprising, an annular blade (12) having a central axis (14), a blade supporting head assembly (16) supporting the blade for rotation about the axis, a manually grippable handle assembly (20) connected to the head assembly, and a flex shaft drive transmission (22) for driving the blade about the axis. The handle assembly comprises a core (150), a hand grip (152) surrounding the core, and a connector unit that secures the hand grip to the core. The core has a first end region (160) rigidly fixed with respect to the head assembly and a second end region (162) spaced from the head assembly. The core defines a drive transmission guiding channel leading toward the blade. The hand grip has a first end region (183) proximal the blade support assembly and a second end region (184) proximal the second core end region (162). The connector (154) detachably secures the hand grip in fixed relationship with the core. The connector engages the second end regions and is detachable for enabling hand grip removal and replacement.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern. nal Application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B26B25/00

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)
IPC 7 B26B B24B F16D

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 178 683 A (BETTCHER LOUIS A) 18 December 1979 (1979-12-18) the whole document	10
A		11

X	US 4 894 915 A (DECKER RICHARD B ET AL) 23 January 1990 (1990-01-23) column 7, line 17 - line 63; claim 1; figures 9-11	16

A	EP 0 482 351 A (BETTCHER INDUSTRIES) 29 April 1992 (1992-04-29) column 11, line 38 -column 15, line 39; figures 1-3,17-24 column 9, line 30 - line 32; figure 12	1,8,15

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[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[X] Patent family members are listed in 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 document 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	Date of mailing of the international search report
11 July 2001	24. 07. 01

Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Herijgers, J

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1992)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern. nal Application No
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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 3 349 485 A (BETTCHER) 31 October 1967 (1967-10-31) the whole document ---	15
P,A	EP 0 974 431 A (BETTCHER INDUSTRIES) 26 January 2000 (2000-01-26) column 4, line 19 -column 8, line 4; figures 1-9 -----	11

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of second sheet) (July 1992)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 00/27488

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 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 II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 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 fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

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.:

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

☒ 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: 1-9

   A rotary knife with a connector for detachably securing the hand grip.

2. Claims: 10-14

   A housing for a rotary knife and a clamping assembly for securing the housing.

3. Claim : 15

   A rotary knife with a steeling mechanism

4. Claim : 16

   A rotary knife with a drive coupling arrangement.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Interr. ...nal Application No
PCT/US 00/27488

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