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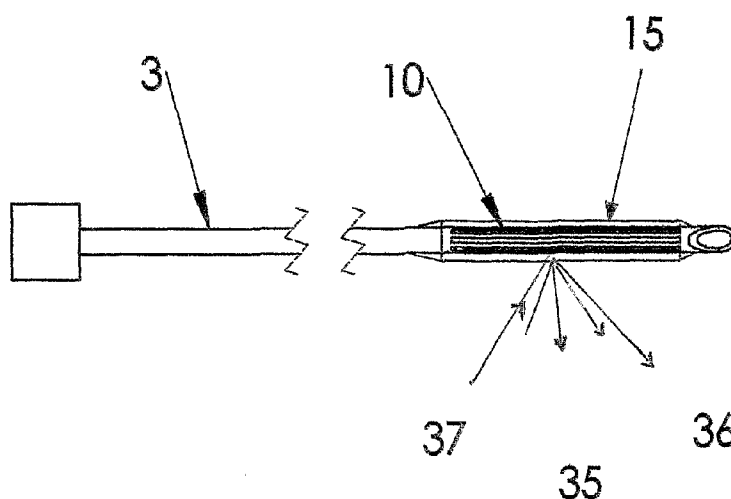
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(54) Title: ECHOGENIC SURFACE FOR SURGICAL INSTRUMENT



(57) Abstract: An echogenic surface surgical instrument, more particularly an echogenic surface surgical needle for use in ultrasonic imaging to facilitate real-time ultrasound imaging and monitoring of the needle during surgical procedures. At least a portion of a structural surface of the needle comprises grooves to entrap gas column.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
INV. A61B8/08

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)  
A61B

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

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 24 25 724 A1 (SIEMENS AG) 11 December 1975 (1975-12-11) the whole document	1-5,7
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X	EP 0 386 936 A (VANCE PRODUCTS INC [US]) 12 September 1990 (1990-09-12) column 1, line 15 - column 3, line 39 column 4, line 13 - column 5, line 17 column 9, lines 7-31 figures 1,3,4,7	8

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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