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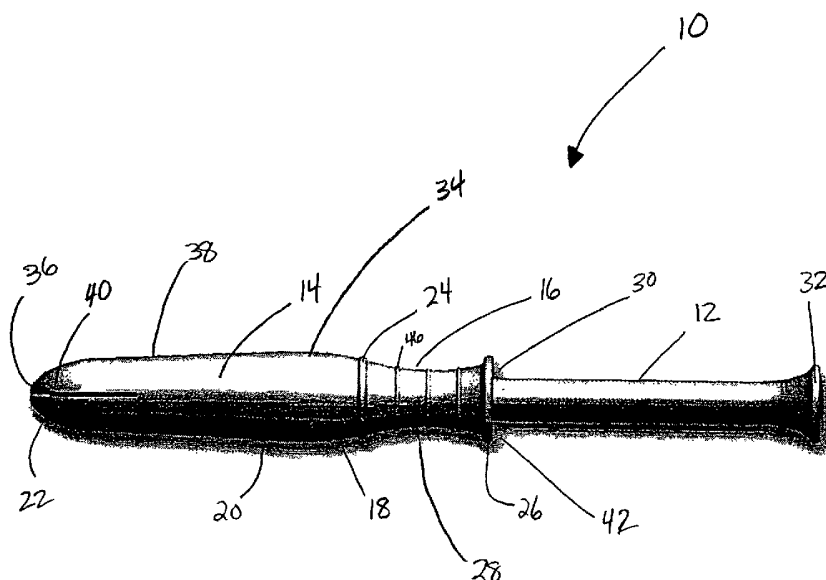
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(54) Title: ERGONOMIC TAMPON APPLICATOR



(57) Abstract: The present invention is directed to an ergonomically improved tampon applicator having a plunger (12) and a barrel (14). The barrel has four distinct sections, namely a finger grip section (16), a reverse taper section (18), a main body section (20), and an insertion tip section (22). The reverse taper section is tapered towards the finger grip section and the main body section is tapered in an opposite direction towards the insertion tip section. A maximum diameter is formed where the reverse taper section and main body section meet on the barrel. The maximum diameter provides a sensory means to the user to alert the user when the applicator has been inserted at the proper depth in the vagina.

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US Des. 250, 663 A (Koch et al) 26 December 1978 (26.12.1978), See entire document.	1-4,7-9,12-24,37-39 ----- 5,6,10,11,25,26,29,30, 33
X	US 3,628,533 A (Loyer) 21 December 1971 (21.12.1971) See figures 1 and 3 and col. 1, lines 18-25,	1, 27, 31, 32, and 34
Y	US 4,536,178 A (Lichstein et al.) 20 August 1985 (20.08.1985), See col. 5, lines 7-11 and figures.	28, 29
Y	US 4,508,531 A (Whitehead) 02 April 1985 (02.04.1985) See col. 2, lines 11-33 and col. 3, lines 3-9.	35,36

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
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