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(71) Applicant and
(72) Inventor: KIKER, Harvey, G. [US/US]; 3601 East Ramsey Way, Avon Park, Florida 33825 (US).

(74) Agent: PRESCOTT, Charles, J.; Charles J. Prescott, P.A., 2033 Wood Street, Suite 115, Sarasota, FL 34237 (US).

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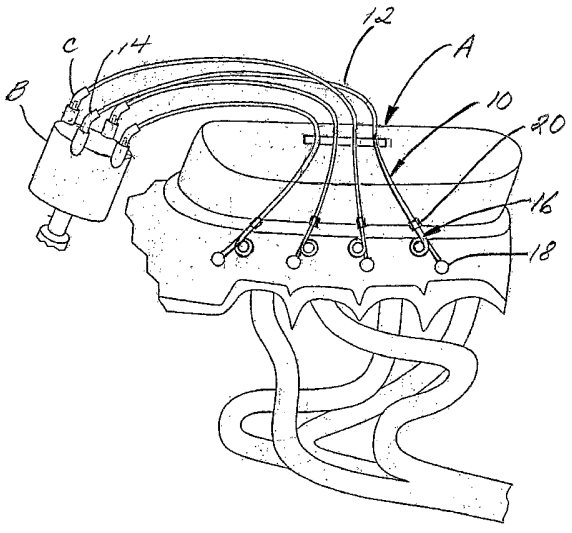
(54) Title: IGNITION SPARK ENHANCING DEVICE



(57) Abstract: In one embodiment, an ignition spark enhancing device (16, 30 or 40) and spark plug wire (12) disposed in or establishing the electrical path between a spark source (B) and a spark plug of an internal combustion engine (A). The device includes one or more coils or turns (23, 32 or 48) of conductive hollow tubing formed from a length of conductive tubing configured for connection to the spark plug wire (12) of the device or to a spark plug. The tubing is preferably copper and may also be aluminum or other conductive material. In a preferred embodiment (50 or 70), the conductive tubing is also used to form each spark plug wire as well for durability. At least five complete loops or turns (52 or 72) wound in helix fashion are preferred. The preferred devices are also preferably coated with a non conductive material (38, 58 or 78) to reduce any risk of electrical shock or short circuit.

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Ignition Spark Enhancing Device

This invention relates generally to devices for increasing internal combustion engine efficiency, economy and performance, and more particularly to a coil wound conductive device formed of highly conductive tubing positioned in the pathway between the spark source and each spark plug of such engines.

In an internal combustion engine using a spark plug to ignite combustion, the intensity or voltage of the spark produced across the gap of the spark plug has a great deal to do with the efficiency, economy, power output and acceleration to full power of the internal combustion engine. A great deal of technology has therefore developed to enhance this functional aspect of the operation of the engine.

A number of prior art devices are known which have attempted to provide a "hotter" spark to the spark plugs to achieve the enhanced performance of the engine. One such prior patented device is disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,944,280 invented by Washington which teaches a separated circuit or spark gap producing device that introduces an auxiliary gap into the electrical path between the spark source and the spark plug. This area of technology directed to producing a capacitive-type spark gap for enhanced voltage buildup before current is discharged and reaches the spark plug is well known. However, Washington developed an improved apparatus which accurately controls and varies this spark gap to achieve individual and selective adjustment of the size of the gap to achieve even more optimal performance from the engine.

Tagami in U.S. Patent 5,109,828 teaches an apparatus for supplying high voltage to the spark plug via a spark coil and a distributor plate of unitary construction.

In U.S. Patent 6,328,010, Thurman teaches a spark plug wire harness assembly having a substantially rigid body, plug wire mounting posts, and output terminals. The conductors are embedded within the rigid body.

An electrically controlled engine ignition system for increased power and economy was invented by Huan and disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,784,100. This disclosure is of an ignition system which is capable of controllably adjusting the ignition spark and timing in accordance with conditions imposed on the automobile by road and driver habit.

The present invention discloses a very simple, economical to manufacture and easy to install or incorporate into an originally manufactured spark plug wire extending from a spark source to the spark plug. The device, which in one embodiment is added to the spark plug wire itself in series therealong or, in another embodiment, at the end of the spark plug wire immediately adjacent to the spark plug, is formed of a length of highly conductive tubing, preferably copper tubing, having one or more loops of the coiled tubing formed therein. In still another embodiment, the entire spark plug wire is replaced with a single length of conductive tubing with a coiled segment formed therealong. This improvement has been shown to result in increased power, acceleration and economy. The preferred embodiment of the invention replaces the conventional spark plug wire in its entirety and replaces it preferably with a continuous length of copper tubing sized in inside and outside diameter to be substantially similar to that of the spark enhancing device itself. Alternately, the length of spark plug wire may be replaced by heavier current and voltage carrying spark plug wire formed of strands of solid copper wire encased within a shielding jacket or casing therefor.

This invention is directed to an ignition spark enhancing device which establishes the electrical path between a spark source and a spark plug of an internal combustion engine. The device includes one or more coils or turns of conductive hollow tubing having ends configured for connection to a new replacement spark plug wire and to a spark plug, respectively. Alternately, the entire spark wire is replaced. The tubing is preferably copper and may also be aluminum or other conductive material. At least five complete loops or turns wound concentrically or in helix form are preferred. The device and its new spark plug wire are also preferably coated with a non-conductive material to reduce any risk of electrical shock or short circuit.

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide a spark enhancing device for the ignition system of an internal combustion engine.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a simple addition to each of the spark plug wires which has shown measurable improvement upon the performance of an internal combustion engine.

Yet another object of this invention is to provide an improved spark plug wire which conveys higher ignition voltage from an ignition source to the spark plug of an internal combustion engine.

Still another object of this invention is to provide an improved ignition system spark voltage at the spark plug without substantial radio interference produced therefrom.

In accordance with these and other objects which will become apparent hereinafter, the instant invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Figure 1 is a perspective schematic view of the invention installed into each spark plug wire of an internal combustion engine.

Figure 2 is a side elevation view of the invention shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a right end elevation view of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a side elevation view in partial section of a preferred embodiment of the invention.

Figure 5 is a side elevation view of another embodiment of the spark enhancing device of the invention shown in Figure 1.

Figure 6 is a section view in the direction of arrows 6-6 in Figure 5.

Figure 7 is a side elevation view in partial section of still another embodiment of the spark enhancing device.

Figure 7A is a side elevation view of an alternate embodiment of one end of Figure 7.

Figure 8 is a perspective schematic view of yet another embodiment of the invention which totally replaces each spark plug wire of an internal combustion engine.

Figure 9 is a side elevation view in partial section of the embodiment shown in Figure 8.

Referring now to the drawings, the invention, in one embodiment thereof, is shown generally at numeral **16** in Figures 1 to 3. In Figure 1, the device **16** is shown interconnected in series along the length of each spark plug wire **12** which extends from an outlet port **14** of a spark source **B** to the spark plug cap **18** one of the spark plugs (not shown) of an internal combustion engine **A**.

The spark source **B** is typically in the form of a distributor having a spark coil for spark voltage buildup and a distributor plate which sequentially distributes spark voltage and current to each of the spark plug wires **12** for sequential firing of each of the spark plugs in a predetermined sequence.

This embodiment of the device **16** includes a coiled length of copper tubing having a single helix wound loop **22** formed centrally therealong. One end **20** of the device **16** is interconnected (or interconnectable) to one end of each spark plug wire **12** while the other end **18** of the device **16** is structured as a spark plug cap which tightly fits over the exposed end of the spark plug, making electrical contact with the metallic spark plug tip (not shown).

In this embodiment **16**, the sizing of the copper tubing has been selected as having an outside diameter of 1/8" (O.D.) an inside diameter (I.D.) of 1/16" and a wall thickness of approximately 1/32". The tubing is wrapped around a shaft having a diameter of **24** of ¼" in helix fashion.

Referring now to Figure 4, the preferred embodiment of the invention is there shown at numeral **30**. This embodiment **30** is also formed of a single length of copper tubing also having an outside diameter (O.D.) of 1/8", an inside diameter (I.D.) of 1/16" and a wall thickness of 1/32". This embodiment **30** includes five loops or turns **32** of the copper tubing, these loops **32** being formed about a mandrel or shaft having an outside diameter of ¼" as shown at numeral **40**.

One end **36** of the device **30** is structured for interconnection to an end of the spark plug wire while the other end **34** is structured as a spark plug cap for interconnection onto the exposed end of a spark plug. However, it should be understood that these end configurations also may be permanently connected to, and along the length of, the spark plug wire at each end thereof, utilizing a conventional spark plug connector and insulator boot rather than being directly connected directly to the spark plug.

Another embodiment of the invention is shown generally at numeral **40** in Figures 5 and 6 and includes a spark enhancing device **422** interconnected in series between the outlet port **14** of the spark source **B** to a spark plug cap **18** attached to one of the spark plugs of the internal combustion engine **A** as in Figure 1.

This embodiment of the spark enhancing device **42** includes a coiled length of copper tubing having a single helix wound loop **48** formed centrally therealong. One end **44** of the device **42** is interconnected (or interconnectable) to one end of each new spark plug wire **46** while the other end **18** of the device **42** is structured as a spark plug cap which tightly fits over the exposed end of the spark plug, making electrical contact with the metallic spark plug tip (not shown).

In this embodiment **42**, the sizing of the copper tubing has been selected as having an outside diameter of 1/8" (O.D.) an inside diameter (I.D.) of 1/16" and a wall thickness of approximately 1/32". The tubing is wrapped around a shaft having a diameter of **24** of ¼" in helix fashion. Because conventional carbon filled or impregnated spark plug wires have been found to be short lived when used in combination with the spark enhancing device **42**, a new spark plug wire **46** preferably formed of the same copper tubing as that of the device **42** itself is provided. Apparently the heavier voltage and current imposed on the conventional spark plug wiring cause it to rapidly fail. Use of a continuous length of copper tubing to replace the conventional spark plug wire eliminates this problem and, in fact, appears to enhance overall performance and economy still further as briefly described in Example K.

Referring now to Figure 7, in another embodiment of the spark enhancing device of the invention is there shown at numeral **50**. This embodiment **50** is also formed of a single length of copper tubing having an outside diameter (O.D.) of 1/8", an inside diameter (I.D.) of 1/16" and a wall thickness of 1/32". This embodiment **50** includes five loops or turns **52** of the copper tubing, these loops **52** being formed about a mandrel or shaft having an outside diameter of ¼" as shown at numeral **60** which may be increased to 5" in diameter or more for larger applications.

One end **52b** of the device **50** is structured at **54** as a spark plug cap for direct interconnection onto the exposed end of a spark plug. The other end **52a** of the device **50** is connected or made connectable by a metallic copper collar **56** to one end of a copper tube configured spark plug wire **62**. This spark plug wire **62** is formed of the same tubing size and material as that of the multi-coils **52**. As previously discussed, the overall durability of this form of spark plug wire **62** is

greatly enhanced as the entire ignition system delivers substantially higher voltage to each spark plug and has been shown to be detrimental to a conventional carbon filled spark plug wire. A tubular insulating layer **64** extends along the entire length of the copper tubular spark plug wire **64** for electrical isolation thereof.

Referring now to Figure 7A, an alternate embodiment of the spark plug wire is there shown at **68** in the form of strands of solid copper wire bundled together within a non-conductive jacket **66**. This spark plug wire **68** abuts against one end **52a** of the device **50**, the two being joined in end-to-end fashion as shown by a conductive collar **56** and an insulating tubular casing or sheath member **64** which is shrink wrapped tightly therearound.

Referring now to Figures 8 and 9, still another embodiment of the invention is there shown generally at numeral **70** and is formed of a single length of copper tubing **76** having an outside diameter (o.d.) of 1/8", an inside diameter (i.d.) of 1/16", a wall thickness of 1/32" and encapsulated in its entirety by an insulating layer **78** for electrical isolation thereof with respect to other unrelated engine components or engine compartment equipment. This embodiment **70** is more economical to manufacture in that the single length of copper tubing with insulating layer formed thereon is then formed to include a spark plug cap **18** at one end thereof and a distributor connector **14** formed at the other end thereof. The spark plug cap **18** connects onto a conventional spark plug (not shown) while the connector **14** is connected into an outlet port **C** of a distributor or spark source **B**.

Formed along the length of the insulated copper tubing length **74** are a series of tightly wrapped coils or loops **72** which are wrapped around a mandrel having an outside diameter of ½" to form an inner cylindrical surface **80** formed of the loops **72**. Note that a tie wrap may be used and is preferred so as to retain the tight uniform coiling in the position shown in Figure 9.

PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Several informal tests were conducted to verify the observed validity of the performance enhancing aspects of the invention. These are shown in the example herebelow.

EXAMPLE A

A 2001 Suzuki RM 250 dirt bike was initially tested utilizing the factory ignition system. The top speed was measured at 60 to 65 mph achieved from a standing stop over a distance of 660 feet in approximately 10 seconds. The test rider and owner of the dirt bike provided a subjective evaluation of the bike as having a great deal of vibration which was very tiring so that he was unable to ride the bike for long periods of time. The test driver/owner also observed that the "power band" is present only for about the first ten feet in each of the gears of the manual transmission shift pattern.

TEST NUMBER 1:

A device formed in accordance with the present invention as described in Figure 4 except for the coil **32** being formed of solid copper wire and using the existing spark plug wire was installed into the spark plug wires of the Suzuki engine. Although the "power band" seemed to last for up to thirty feet at the beginning of each gear shift, the dirt bike achieved a speed of 63 miles an hour, but accomplished this in excess of 10 seconds. It was determined from this test that a coiled solid copper wire device did not provide sufficient enhancing performance to satisfy applicant.

TEST NUMBER 2:

A hollow copper tubing device formed in accordance with Figure 4 and the description therewith was then installed into the existing spark plug wires of the device and tested. The "power band" stayed in or lasted for approximately thirty feet and the dirt bike achieved a top speed of 73 mph or an increase of approximately 15 to 20%. The time to achieve that top speed was reduced to 9.0 seconds. The rider/owner observed that the vibration from the engine had been substantially reduced and that takeoff power and torque was substantially increased.

TEST NUMBER 3:

Without the rider/owner's knowledge, a "dummy" device was installed. The maximum speed achieved was 66 mph over a time of 10.25 seconds. The rider/owner observed far less power and more vibration and, when he realized by the lack of performance that the device had been removed, complained for it to be reinstalled.

EXAMPLE B

A 1986 Honda "Big Red" three-wheeler having a 250cc engine was also tested.

TEST NUMBER 1:

With the standard ignition system, this three-wheeler achieved a top speed of 42 mph. Over a marked distance of 270' on a blacktop road, the factory ignition setup achieved 29 mph in 10.25 seconds. The rider observed a great deal of vibration.

TEST NUMBER 2:

A solid copper device formed of solid wire in accordance with the general description as in Figure 4 was then tested. Due to excessive vibration, top speed could not be determined. However, over the marked distance of 270', the three-wheeler achieved a top speed of 29 mph in 10.25 seconds, exactly the same as the factory ignition system achieved.

TEST NUBMER 3:

Utilizing a device formed of hollow copper wire as described in Figure 4 except using the existing spark plug wire, a top speed of 52 mph was achieved. Over the distance of 270', the three-wheeler achieved a top speed of 34 mph in 8.2 seconds, an increase in speed of approximately 17% and a decrease in time to achieve that speed of approximately 20%. The maximum or top speed achieved was 52 mph for a substantial increase of approximately 24%. The rider also observed a substantial decrease in engine vibration and found the three-wheeler much easier to handle as a result thereof.

EXAMPLE C

A 1980 Z-28 Camaro having a 350 cu. in. engine was also tested.

TEST NUMBER 1:

Without the device and utilizing factory ignition, the vehicle achieved a speed of 60 mph from a standstill in approximately 8 seconds.

TEST NUMBER 2:

Utilizing the device formed of hollow copper wire as described in Figure 4 installed onto each of the existing spark plug wires, the vehicle

achieved a 0 to 60 speed in approximately 7 ½ seconds, a decrease in time to achieve that speed of 60 mph of approximately 6%.

Economy

The economy of this vehicle was also evaluated on a cursory basis. After the vehicle had been driven and tested with the device **30** installed into each of the existing spark plug wires and then removed, economy began to noticeably decrease after approximately 100 miles from the original economy of 20.5 mpg down to approximately 17.5 mpg. The device **30** was then reinstalled into each of the spark plug wires, the 0 to 60 speed performance was regained, and the mileage increased back up to approximately 20.5 mpg for an increase of approximately 17%.

EXAMPLE D

A '96 Vermeer stump grinding machine having a 60 hp air-cooled engine used commercially by applicant was also evaluated.

TEST NUMBER 1:

To cut a pine stump 2" above the ground and 24" in diameter cut down to 6" below grade level would normally take approximately 10 minutes.

TEST NUMBER 2:

Utilizing the device **30** as shown in Figure 4 installed into the existing spark plug wires for each spark plug of the stump machine, the time to perform the same stump-grinding operation was reduced to five minutes. Applicant also observed that the engine ran smoother and could take deeper bites for each pass without excessive engine lugging. A further obvious benefit utilizing this device based upon the time reduction for performing the stump-grinding operation was that the fuel consumption was reduced by approximately 50% as well.

EXAMPLE E

A 1989 Ford 150 pickup truck having a six cylinder engine was also tested for economy only.

TEST NUMBER 1:

Utilizing the factory ignition system, the pickup truck typically achieved 12 mpg in city traffic.

TEST NUMBER 2:

Utilizing the device **30** as shown in Figure 4 installed into each existing spark plug wire, the economy increased to approximately 17.6 mpg, about a 45% mileage increase.

EXAMPLE F

A 1993 Honda Passport having a 70 cc engine was also evaluated.

TEST NUMBER 1:

Utilizing the factory ignition, the top speed achieved by this vehicle was 40 mph.

TEST NUMBER 2:

Utilizing the device shown in Figure 4 and the existing spark plug wires, the vehicle top speed increased to 45 mph, an improvement of approximately 12 ½%.

EXAMPLE G

A HUSKY 6.4 mulcher was also tested. This mulcher has a double cutting feature wherein one side is utilized for small limbs and branches while the other side is used for leaves and twigs.

TEST NUMBER 1:

Utilizing the conventional ignition system for this mulcher, only branches and limbs up to 1 ½" to 2" in diameter could be handled on the first side of the mulcher.

TEST NUMBER 2:

After installing the invention in the form shown in Figure 4 at numeral **30** into the existing spark plug wiring, the mulcher was able to chip limbs up to 3" in diameter. The owner of this mulcher indicated that the mulcher was never able to chop limbs that large in the past.

EXAMPLE H

A 2001 TORO Powerhouse Dingo having a 20 hp engine was also tested.

TEST NUMBER 1:

Utilizing the stump grinder attachment for the Dingo, with the conventional ignition system, a 15" stump normally requires approximately 15 minutes to cut. The Dingo also achieves a top speed of 3 mph.

TEST NUMBER 2:

Utilizing the present invention installed along the conventional spark plug wire, the top speed of the Dingo increased to 5 mph and, with the stump grinder attachment, a 15" stump was cut in approximately 10 minutes, a 33% reduction in time for cutting and a 67% increase in top speed.

EXAMPLE I

A 1986 Toyota Tacoma having a four cylinder engine utilized as a mail delivery vehicle was also tested for economy.

TEST NUMBER 1:

Using the conventional factory ignition system, the Tacoma will typically run approximately 2 ½ days on a single tank of gas.

TEST NUMBER 2:

With the present invention in the form shown in Figure 4 installed along each of the existing spark plug wires, the Tacoma will now run 3 ½ days on a single tank of gas of the same quantity for an increase of approximately 40% in running time under the same conditions of mail delivery.

EXAMPLE J

An ECHO 3000 12" chain saw was also tested for performance.

TEST NUMBER 1:

Utilizing the factory ignition system, a cut traversely through a 12" diameter pine log took approximately 30 seconds.

TEST NUMBER 2:

With the device as shown in Figure 4 at numeral **30** installed into the existing spark plug wire, the same cut through a 12" diameter pine log took only 25 seconds due to the fact this chainsaw performed having higher lugging power with much less vibration representing a service time decrease of approximately 17%.

EXAMPLE K

A 1992 Oldsmobile Delta 88 powered with a 3.800 C.I.D. V-6 engine was next tested for economy.

TEST NUMBER 1:

Utilizing the factory ignition system, this vehicle averaged 24 mpg at highway speeds averaging 65 mph.

TEST NUMBER 2:

Utilizing the device as shown in Figure 4 at numeral **30** installed into the existing spark plug wiring, this vehicle increased in overall economy to approximately 26 mpg. However, after approximately 300 miles of driving, the existing factory-installed spark plug wires failed as evidenced by poor engine operation and signs of having been overheated and physically burned or charred.

TEST NUMBER 3:

The device as shown in Figure 4 at numeral **30** was installed into the vehicle utilizing new spark plug wires **42** extending from the distributor to the device **30** and being formed of copper tubing as described with respect to Figure 4. This vehicle so equipped increased in overall economy to approximately 30 mpg or about 25% in a driving schedule that included both highway speeds of 65 mph and some stop and go driving over a total mileage of 440 miles. No damage to any aspect of the ignition or engine was detected during this extended test.

ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES

Several additional examples of the successful testing of this invention are briefly described as follows:

TEST NUMBER 1:

A 1993 Chevrolet pickup powered by a 4.3 liter V4 showed an increase in average mileage from 15 mpg to 20mpg.

TEST NUMBER 2:

A 1996 Jeep Cherokee powered by a 4 cylinder engine showed an improvement in average economy of from 14.5 mpg to 19.5 mpg.

TEST NUMBER 3:

A 1997 Harley Davidson motorcycle powered by a 1200 cc engine showed an increase in the average fuel economy from 43 mpg to 48 mpg.

TEST NUMBER 4:

A 2002 Chevrolet Avalanche SUV powered by a 5.3 liter V-8 showed an increase in mileage of from an average of 16 mpg to an average of 28 mpg, a startling result.

TEST NUMBER 5:

A 1987 Chevrolet ¾ ton pickup powered by a 350 cu. in. V-8 engine increased in mileage from an average of 8 mpg to 12 mpg.

TEST NUMBER 6:

A 1989 Ford F150 conversion van powered by a V-8 engine showed an increase in fuel economy of from 8 mpg to 12 mpg.

TEST NUMBER 7:

A 2002 Kawasaki Nomad powered by a 1500 cc engine increased in mileage from 30 mpg to 34 mpg.

TEST NUMBER 8:

A 1986 Nissan 4 cyl. pickup showed an increase in mileage from 31 mpg to 34 mpg.

TEST NUMBER 9:

A 1999 Chevrolet Blazer 4X4 powered by a 4.3 liter V-6 increased in mileage from 16 mpg up to between 20 and 24 mpg.

TEST NUMBER 10:

Thunder Autosports, Inc. dynamometer tested a 2003 Chevrolet S-10 pickup, previously driven about 14,000 miles, powered by a 4.3 liter V-6 engine. These actual dynamometer test results showed an average increase in horsepower and torque of about 9% between 3300 -3900 rpm.

THEORY OF OPERATION

Applicant can only speculate as to the theory of the enhanced performance achieved by internal combustion engines equipped with the present invention installed into each spark plug wire thereof. The preferred positioning of the device is approximately 2 to 4 inches from the spark plug along the length of the spark plug wire. However, as previously described, the positioning of the device may be anywhere along the length of the spark plug wire, including at the distal end thereof and forming the spark plug cap as well.

Utilizing a sensitive ohm meter, some insight into the theory of operation may be gained. Consistently, utilizing the hollow copper tubing to form the device, the resistance in ohms of the entire spark plug wire or simply a length of copper tubing in straight form versus being coiled into successive loops shows significant changes in measured resistance. That is to say that, when the device is installed into the length of a spark plug wire, the overall resistance between the source of the spark and the spark plug cap was reduced measurably from 13.1 ohms down to 1.9 ohms according to the meter utilized.

This significant decrease in resistance would appear to be at least one basis for explaining why the present invention produces more power, acceleration and economy from virtually all spark plug ignited internal combustion engines tested by applicant to evaluate the efficacy of this invention.

While the instant invention has been shown and described herein in what are conceived to be the most practical and preferred embodiments, it is recognized that departures may be made therefrom within the scope of the invention, which is therefore not to be limited to the details disclosed herein, but is to be afforded the full scope of the claims so as to embrace any and all equivalent apparatus and articles.

CLAIM OR CLAIMS

1. An ignition spark enhancing device disposed in the electrical path between a spark source and a spark plug of an internal combustion engine comprising:

a coil of conductive hollow tubing having at least one complete loop formed in said tubing and having ends each configured for connection to a spark plug wire.

2. An ignition spark enhancing device as set forth in Claim 1, wherein: said tubing is copper or aluminum.

3. An ignition spark enhancing device as set forth in Claim 1, wherein: said tubing has five (5) complete loops.

4. An ignition spark enhancing device as set forth in Claim 1, wherein: said tubing has an inside diameter (I.D.) of at least about 1/6" and an outside diameter (O.D.) of up to about 1/2" and a wall thickness of about 1/32".

5. An ignition spark enhancing device as set forth in Claim 1, wherein: said device is substantially coated with a non-conductive material.

6. An ignition spark enhancing device as set forth in Claim 4, wherein: said loop has an inside diameter (I.D.) of in the range of 1/8" to 5".

7. A coiled highly conductive device connected or connectable in the electrical path between a spark source and a spark plug of an internal combustion engine comprising:

a length of high conductivity hollow tubing formed having a plurality of substantially concentric loops arranged in closely spaced helix fashion and positioned between each end thereof;

one said end connected to, or configured for connection to a spark plug wire while the other said end is connected to, or configured for connection to, a spark plug or a spark plug wire.

8. An ignition spark enhancing device as set forth in Claim 7, wherein: said tubing has five (5) complete loops.

9. An ignition spark enhancing device as set forth in Claim 7, wherein: said device is substantially coated with a non-conductive material.

10. An ignition spark enhancing device as set forth in Claim 8, wherein:

each said loop has an inside diameter (I.D.) of in the range of 1/8" to 5".

11. In a spark plug wire which establishes an electrical path between a spark source and a spark plug of an internal combustion engine, the improvement comprising:

a coil of conductive hollow tubing having a plurality of complete loops formed therein and having ends thereof connected in series along the length of said spark plug wire.

12. An ignition spark enhancing apparatus disposed in the electrical path between a spark source and a spark plug of an internal combustion engine comprising:

a spark enhancing device including a coil of conductive hollow tubing having at least one complete loop formed in said coil and having a first end thereof configured for connection to a spark plug;

a length of electrically shielded spark plug wire formed of conductive copper or aluminum being connectable to the spark source at one end thereof and to a second end of said coil.

13. An ignition spark enhancing device as set forth in Claim 12, wherein:

said coil has five (5) complete loops.

14. An ignition spark enhancing device as set forth in Claim 12, wherein:

said coil has an inside diameter (I.D.) of at least about 1/6" and an outside diameter (O.D.) of up to about 1/2" and a wall thickness of about 1/32".

15. An ignition spark enhancing device as set forth in Claim 12, wherein:

said device is substantially coated with a non-conductive material.

16. An ignition spark enhancing device as set forth in Claim 12, wherein:

said loop has an inside diameter (I.D.) of in the range of 1/8" to 5".

17. An ignition spark enhancing device connected or connectable in the electrical path between a spark source and a spark plug of an internal combustion engine comprising:

a length of high conductivity hollow tubing formed as a coil having a plurality of substantially concentric loops arranged in closely spaced helix fashion and positioned adjacent a first end thereof;

said first end connected to, or configured for connection to the spark plug while the other said end is connected to, or configured for connection to, the spark source.

18. An ignition sparkplug wire connected or connectable in the electrical path between a spark source and a spark plug of an internal combustion engine comprising:

a length of conductive hollow tubing including a coil having a plurality of substantially concentric loops arranged in closely spaced helix fashion;

a first end of said tubing being connected to, or configured for connection to the spark plug while a second end of said tubing being connected to, or configured for connection to, the spark source.

FIG 1

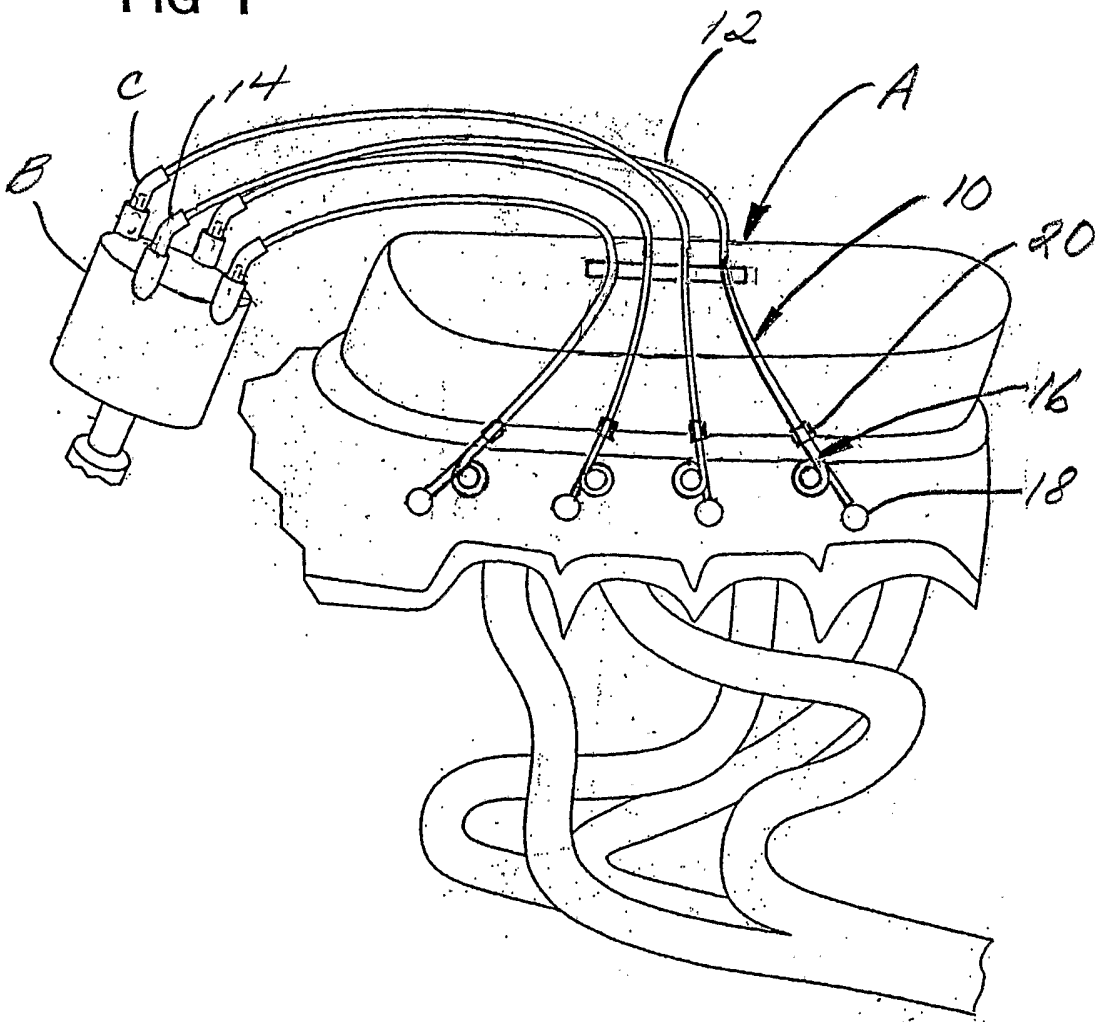


FIG 2

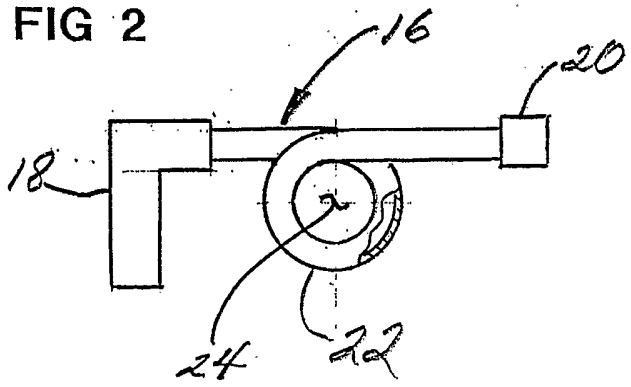


FIG 3

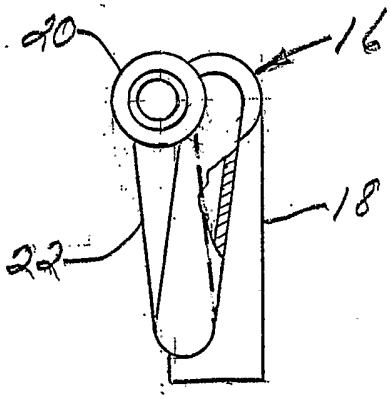


FIG 4

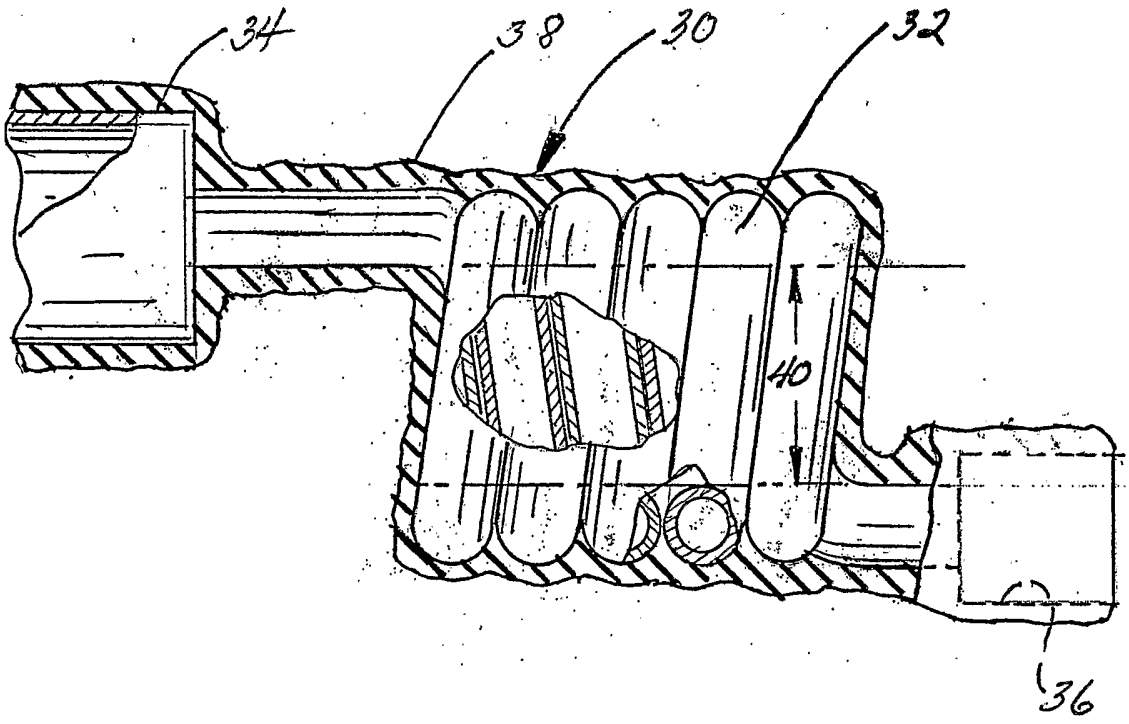


FIG 5

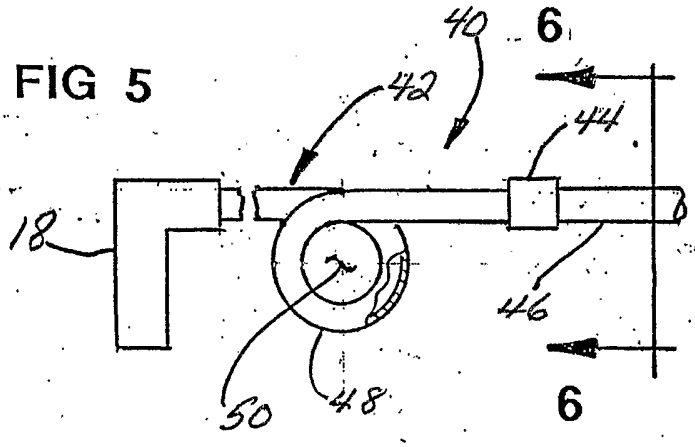
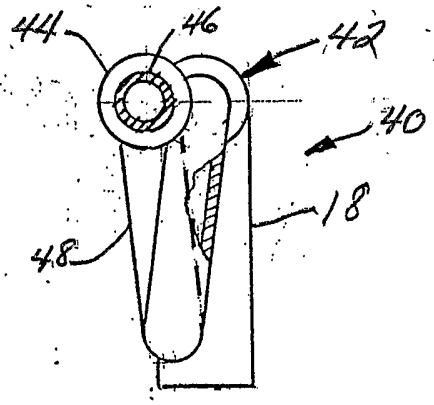


FIG 6



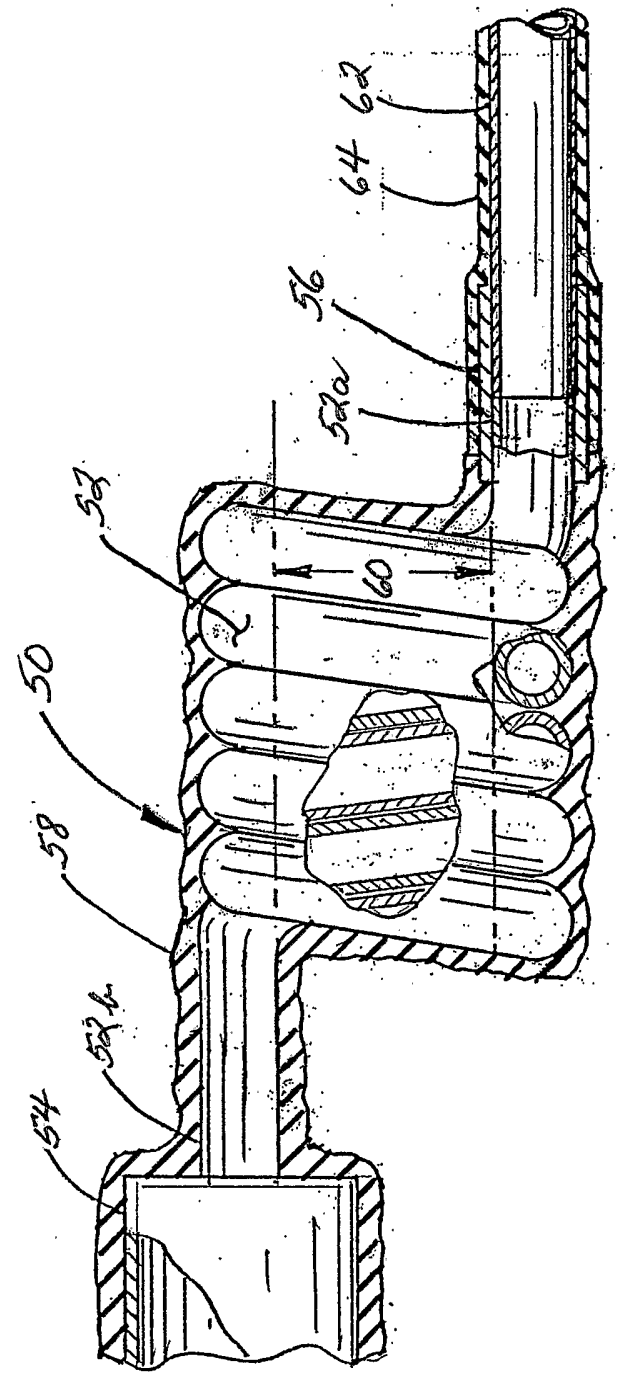


FIG 7

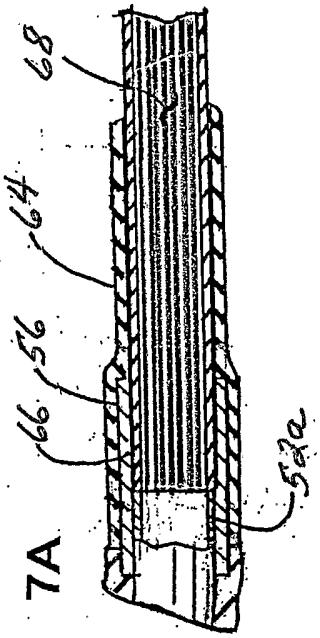


FIG 7A

FIG 8

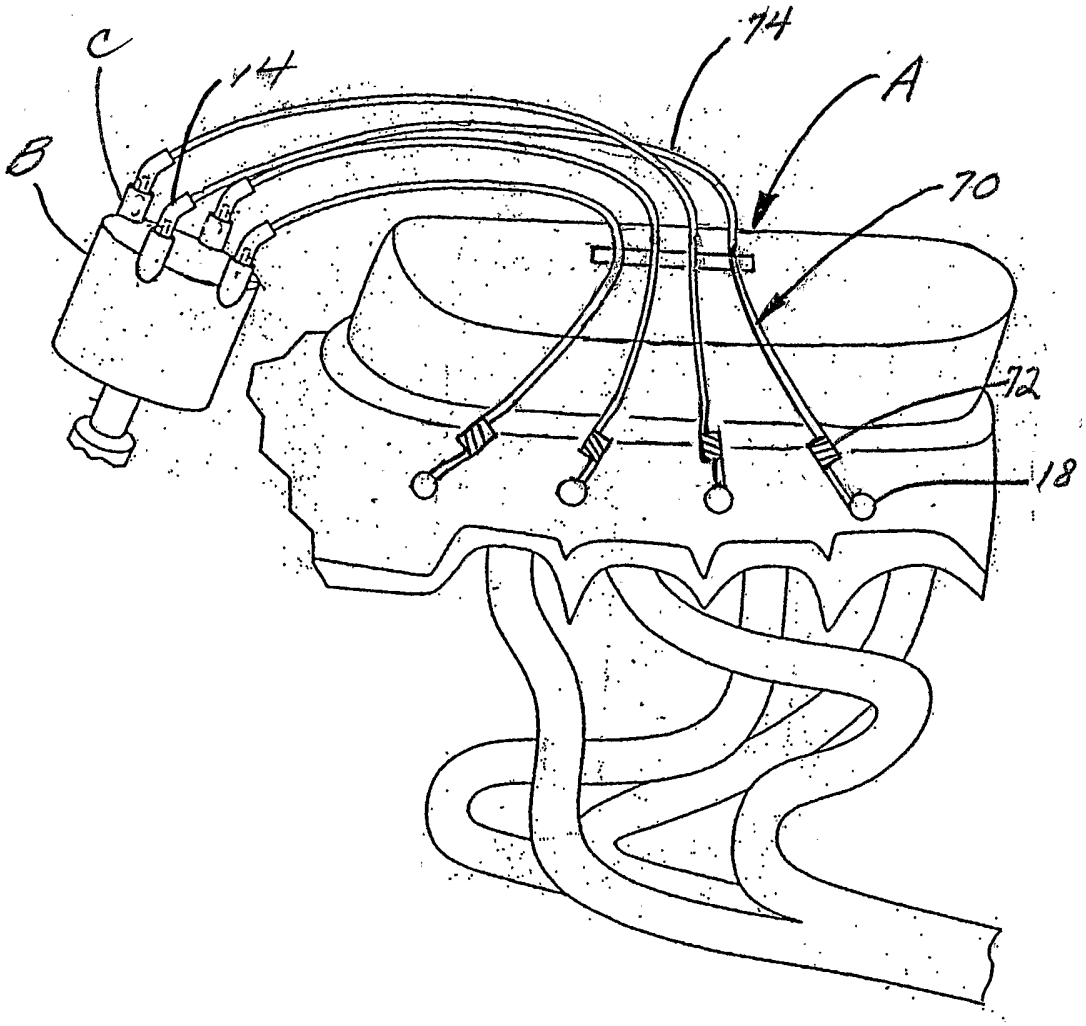
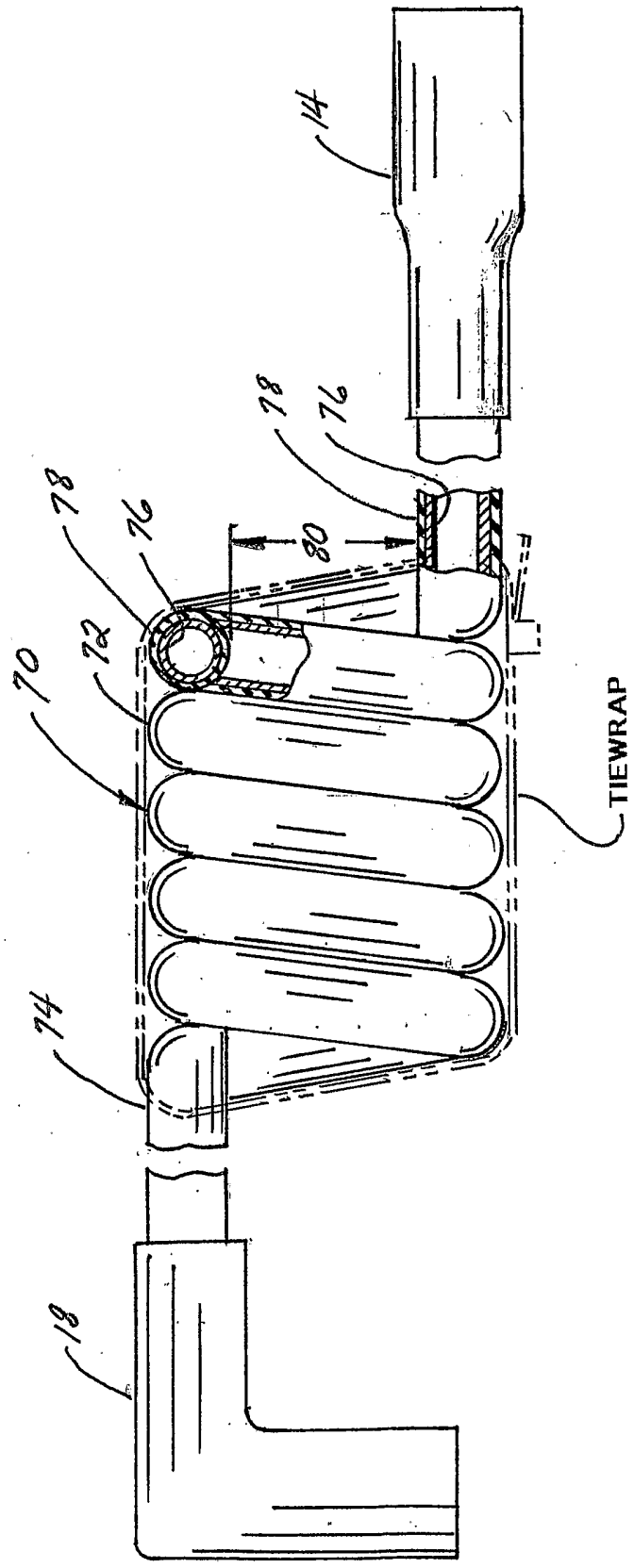


FIG 9



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US04/13262

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(7) : F02P 3/02, 15/00
US CL : 123/620, 536, 647
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. : 123/620, 536, 647, 633, 169.PA, 169.PH, 143.C; 333/24.R; 439/125, 126, 127, 502

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 3,939,814 A (BERGSTRESSER) 24 February 1976 (24.02.1976), column 2, line 59 through column 3, line 44.	1-18
A	US 4,596,222 A (ORTIZ) 24 June 1986 (24.06.1986), column 3, line 57 through column 5, line 12.	1-18
A	US 4,774,914 A (WARD) 04 October 1988 (04.10.1988), column 9, line 56 through column 10, line 10.	1-18
A	US 4,665,922 A (GILLBRAND et al) 19 May 1987 (19.05.1987), column 4, line 20 through column 5, line 53.	1-18
A	US 6,089,214 A (ANDERSON) 18 July 2000 (18.07.2000), column 5, lines 15-67.	1-18

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

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08 October 2004 (08.10.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report
16 NOV 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer
Willis R. Wolfe, Jr.
Telephone No. (703) 308-0861

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