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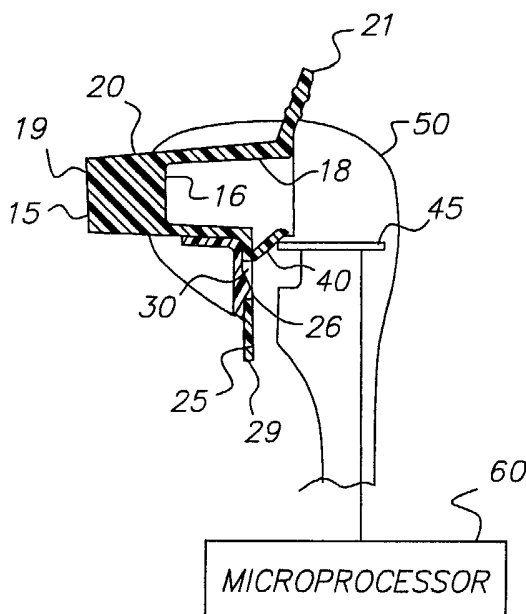
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(54) Title: OPTHALMOLOGIC APPLANATION PRISM REPLACEMENT SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A replaceable applanation prism (20) for an eye examining instrument is made to be discarded after each use. A bendable tab (40) molded on the prism (20) is deformed by a strain gauge (45) as the prism (20) is inserted into a prism holder (50), and a signal from the strain gauge (45) is used to verify that a previously unused prism (20) has been inserted into the holder (50). A microprocessor (60) is programmed to recognize the signal produced by initial deformation of the prism tab (40) so as to proceed with an eye examination only after receiving the strain gauge (45) signal verifying that a previously unused prism (20) has been inserted.



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B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 600/406, 405, 398; 73/78 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 4,922,914 A (Segal et al.) 8 May 1990 (08.05.1990), entire document.	1-33
A	US 5,002,057 A (Brady) 26 March 1991 (26.03.1991), entire document.	1-33
A	US 5,954,646 A (Jost et al.) 21 September 1999 (21.09.1999), entire document.	1-33
A	US 6,179,779 A (Falck et al.) 30 January 2001 (30.01.2001), entire document.	1-33
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