



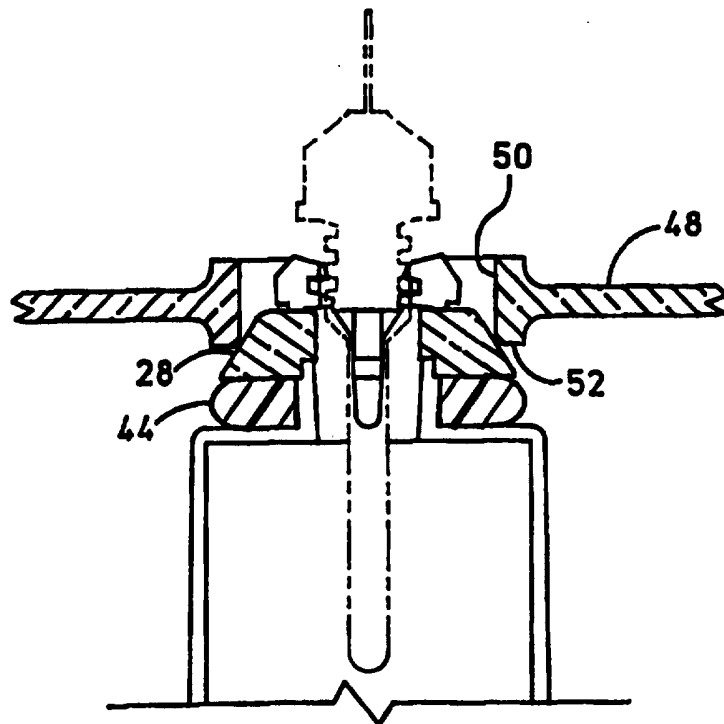
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<p>(51) International Patent Classification⁶ : A61M 5/34</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>(11) International Publication Number: WO 96/21484</p> <p>(43) International Publication Date: 18 July 1996 (18.07.96)</p>
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/US96/00353</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 11 January 1996 (11.01.96)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 08/370,241 9 January 1995 (09.01.95) US</p> <p>(71) Applicant: MED-SAFE SYSTEMS, INC. [US/US]; 4665 North Avenue, Oceanside, CA 92056-3590 (US).</p> <p>(72) Inventors: SHILLINGTON, Richard, A.; 1311 Hymettus Avenue, Leucadia, CA 92024 (US). McCORD, Kenneth, R.; 2314 11th Street, Encinitas, CA 92024 (US). SANDERS, Gary, H.; 3 Danta, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 (US).</p> <p>(74) Agent: BAKER, Freling, E.; Baker, Maxham, Jester & Meador, Suite 3100, 750 B Street, San Diego, CA 92101 (US).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AU, CA, JP, MX, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i></p>

(54) Title: QUICK RELEASE NEEDLE REMOVAL APPARATUS

(57) Abstract

A quick release needle holder, comprises a tubular barrel (12) having a needle receiving socket (10) on one end, the needle receiving socket having a segmented wall defining a plurality of annular jaws (20, 22, 24, 26) having internal threads (82), a device (28) for normally biasing the jaws into an inner position for threadably receiving a needle hub, and a device (32) for releasably biasing said jaws to a needle hub releasing position.



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QUICK RELEASE NEEDLE REMOVAL APPARATUSTECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to needle removal devices for syringes and other holders and pertains particularly to an improved extractor for quick and easy removal of needles from holders.

5 BACKGROUND ART

A huge volume of hypodermic needles are used daily in the medical and health care industry and must be disposed of safely. These used needles pose a major health problem to the medical personnel using them as well as others who may come into contact with them. The safe and effective disposal of these hypodermic needles poses one of the greatest disposal problems for the medical and health care industry.

Hypodermic needles are widely used for both injection of medication and for withdrawing blood samples for diagnostic purposes. In many instances the needle is removed from the holder and disposed of separately from the holder. In some cases, particularly with certain blood drawing devices, the holder is reused. In these cases, it is essential that the needle be easily, quickly and safely removed without risk to the user.

The typical hypodermic needle comprises an elongated thin cannula having a sharp tip on one end and a hub at or near the other end for detachable attachment to a holder. The hub may have a threaded screw connector, Luer lock, or other type connector. The needle is usually covered with a protective tube or sheath detachably coupled to the hub to aid in connecting the needle to the holder. The protective sheath is removed when the needle is to be used. The sheath may be used to protectively cover the needle after use. However, attempts to reinsert the needle into the sheath often result in pricks of the skin of the user.

25 The present common technique of drawing blood samples is by means of an evacuated tube and holder combination such as that sold under the trademark VACUTAINER by the Becton Dickinson Company. These blood collection assemblies comprise a tubular holder or barrel having a double needle in one end and receives an

evacuated tubular chamber. The needle is threadably mounted in one end of the tubular holder with an exterior needle for penetrating the patient tissue for receiving blood. The interior needle is covered with a sheath valve and penetrates an elastomeric stopper in one end of a vacuum tube which acts to draw the blood.

5 Many devices have been proposed in the past for removal and disposal of the needles. Examples of these are disclosed in the following patents:

	Shillington	4.667.821
	Shillington	4.984.686
	Thead et al.	4.986.811
10	Sagstetter et al.	5.086.922
	Sagstetter et al.	5.092.462
	Shillington	5.249.680

15 These prior art devices are generally effective to remove the needles. However, they all have various drawbacks. for example, most of them require the use of both hands.

It is desirable that a simple, safe and effective quick release needle holder for hypodermic needles be available.

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

20 It is the primary object of the present invention to provide a simple and effective quick release needle holder for hypodermic needles.

In accordance with a primary aspect of the present invention, a quick release needle holder for hypodermic needles, comprises a tubular barrel having a needle hub receiving socket on one end, said needle receiving socket having a segmented wall defining a plurality of inwardly directed annular jaws or receiving and gripping a needle
25 hub means for normally biasing said jaws inwardly to an innermost position for gripping and mounting a needle hub; and means for releasably biasing said jaws to a needle hub releasing position.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWING

The objects, advantages and features of this invention will be more readily appreciated from the following detailed description, when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, in which:

5 Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the invention with portions broken away to reveal details;

Fig. 2 is a an exploded view showing the holder socket in the ejection position with a needle shown adjacent the socket;

Fig. 3 is a section view taken generally on line 3-3 of Fig. 1;

10 Fig. 4 is a section view like Fig. 3 showing the needle holder in the ejection position;

Fig. 5 is a section view like Fig. 4 taken generally on line 5-5 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of an alternate embodiment of the invention with portions broken away to reveal details;

15 Fig. 7 is a top plan view of an ejector receptacle for the holder of Fig. 6;

Fig. 8 is a side elevation view in section showing the needle holder positioned for insertion in the ejector;

Fig. 9 is a side elevation partial view of a further embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 10 is a top plan view of an ejector receptacle for the holder of Fig. 9; and

20 Fig. 11 is a side elevation view in section showing the needle holder of Fig. 9 positioned for insertion in the ejector receptacle of Fig. 9.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Referring to Fig. 1 of the drawings an exemplary embodiment of the invention embodied in a holder of a blood collection assembly is illustrated. The blood collection
25 assembly comprises a generally cylindrical tube 12 having finger flanges 14 on an open end and a neck including a needle hub mounting socket designated generally by the numeral 16 on the other end. The present invention was devised specifically for blood collection assemblies but is applicable to other hypodermic needle holders such as syringes, IV tubing site connectors and the like.

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As illustrated in Figs. 1 -3 and 4, the tube or holder has a forward end-wall 18 with a reduced needle hub mounting socket formed of a reduced forwardly projecting neck or annular wall portion that is segmented into four segments 20,22, 24 and 26. These segments define a plurality of inwardly directed annular jaw members 20, 22, 24
5 and 26 which form a socket for threadably receiving and mounting a needle hub. The jaw members are formed with internal threads 38 for threadably receiving the threaded hub of a needle. The jaws extend coaxially and are annularly spaced about the central longitudinally axis of the barrel 12. The jaws are further mounted to pivot inwardly and outwardly toward and away from the central axis for gripping and releasing a threaded
10 hub of a needle, respectively. The slots (Fig. 3) between the jaws are formed of outermost opposed surfaces 40 tapered inward from the outer end to inner opposed surfaces 42 forming a straight portion at the inward or innermost portion.

A longitudinally slidable collet 28 is mounted on and extends around the jaw members 20-26 and is slideably mounted for axial reciprocal movement thereon. The
15 collet includes inwardly extending wedge members 30, 32, 34 and 36 which extend into the slots formed by surfaces 40 and 42 between the respective jaws 20-26. The wedge members 30-36 act as cam means for camming engagement with surfaces 40 and 42 of the slots between the jaw members for biasing them outwardly into a needle hub releasing position, as shown in Figs. 2 and 4. The collet is normally biased to a
20 forwardmost position by an elastic collar 44, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3 for retaining the jaws in an innermost position for threading engagement with the hub of the needle.

The connector assembly is designed to threadably receive or grip the threaded hub of a needle of the type as shown in Fig. 2. The collet 28 is normally biased to the forwardmost position by means of a silicone collar or spring 44 so that the jaws can
25 threadably receive the hub of the needle. The collet may be biased to the rearmost position as shown in Figs. 2 and 4 to cam the jaws open and release the hub of the needle.

Referring to Fig. 2 the needle connector assembly is designed to mount and retain a conventional needle assembly as illustrated. The needle has an elongated hollow
30 cannula 48 which is mounted to and extends to both directions from a hub designated generally by the numeral 50 which comprises a central radially extending disk like

flange 52 with a threaded stud like member 54 extending therefrom. A splined or fluted coupling is formed on the forward end of the needle assembly comprising radially extending splines or ribs 56, 58, 60 and 62. The cannula has an outer or external needle and an inner or internal needle which is covered by a silicone sheath 64 which forms a valve.

The needle is mounted in the retainer and connector assembly by threadably extending the needle hub assembly into the socket. The needle flange 52 engages the outer ends of the jaws and stops or positions the threaded portion 54. Release of the collet permits the spring to force the collet forward forcing the jaws to their inner gripping position for gripping or threadably receiving the hub of the needle assembly. This positions the inner needle inside the tube 12 to be engaged and to puncture a stopper of a vacuum blood collection tube.

When it is desired to remove the needle, the collet is simply moved backward to the position as shown in Figs. 2, 4 and 5 biasing the jaws open releasing the needle hub for its removal. This is preferably accomplished by means of an annular shoulder surrounding an aperture or opening in a disposable container, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5 so that the needle is quickly released and falls directly into the disposable container. As shown in Figs. 4 and 5, a disposable container wall 48 is provided with an aperture 50 having a surrounding annular shoulder 52. The collet 28 is engaged with shoulder 52 and the holder pushed axially forward. This forces the collet backward as shown against elastic collar 44 and cams the jaws 20-26 open allowing the needle to fall from the socket.

Referring to Fig. 5, further details of the jaws show a shoulder 54 on the back surface of each jaw. The collet 28 has a recess 56 that receives the shoulder 54 and a shoulder 58 which engages it when in the forward position. This construction retains the collet on the jaws and retains the jaws in the inner closed position.

Referring to Fig. 6, an alternate embodiment of the invention is illustrated wherein the blood collection holder comprises a barrel 70 having a forward end wall 72 from which projects a connector assembly comprising an annular forwardly extending wall, formed by two opposing segments defining opposed retainer jaws 76 and 78, respectively. The jaws are formed with an inner semicircular threaded surface 80

and 82, which contain thread portions as illustrated for threadably receiving the threaded hub of a needle. The jaw members are preferably designed to be normally biased to the innermost position as illustrated for threadably receiving the threaded hub of a hypodermic needle. Thus, the needle may be threadably mounted into the assembly as illustrated in prior embodiments.

Referring to Figs 7 and 8, a quick release device is provided in the form of a cam device for camming the jaws open to release the needle. The cam device comprises a cylindrical receptacle 90 which may be formed in a wall of a disposable container or as an insert for a container. The tube-like receptacle has a diameter to receive a holder 70 and a pair of wedge cams 92 and 94 at an inner end adjacent and on opposite sides of an aperture 96 for a needle to pass.

When it is desired to remove the needle, the holder is aligned with the receptacle as shown in Fig. 8 and inserted into the receptacle to engage the two cams. Tapered guides 84 and 86 are provided on the forward end of the jaw members 76 and 78 to enable quick and easy alignment of the cam members with the slots separating the jaws 76 and 78. Engagement of the slots with these wedges and forcing the holder downward into engagement with the cams or wedges, cams the jaws to an open position releasing the hub of the needle assembly. The needle assembly then falls out of the socket through aperture 96 into the container.

Referring to Figs. 9-11, a further embodiment of the invention is illustrated wherein guide or orientation means are on the side of the barrel and receptacle. This eliminates the forward projection and keeps the barrel or holder conventional size. In this embodiment a barrel 100 of a holder is provided with a forwardly extending necked down annular wall formed of segments 104 and 106, separated by slots 108 and 110. These segments are, as in the previous embodiments, are provided with internal threads 112 and 114 for threadably receiving the threaded hub of a needle. The segments define jaws that are connected or formed in the forward end of the barrel and normally positioned in the innermost position. They may be slightly tilted or cammed outward to the outermost position to release the threaded hub of a needle.

Referring to Figs. 10 and 11, a needle releasing device in the form of a tubular receptacle 116 is provided as an insert or molded into a wall of a disposable container.

The receptacle has an elongated bore to receive the barrel of the needle holder with an aperture 118 and wedge shaped cams 120 and 122 at each side for engaging the slots 108 and 110 for camming the jaws outward to release the needle. The holder barrel 100 is provided with a raised guide rib or projection 124 which cooperatively
5 engages a guide slot 126 in the side of the receptacle 116. This guides and aligns the cams with the slots for camming the jaws open to release a needle into a container (not shown). The rib and guide slot may be of any desired width. The rib may also be of any suitable length. Also, its function may also be achieved by any suitable projection such as a small pin or knob.

10 The guide slot and rib may also be eliminated in some instances. The ends of slots 108 and 110 engaging the upper edge of cams 120 and 122 can act as detents aligning the slots and cams.

15 While we have illustrated our invention by means of specific embodiments, it is to be understood that numerous changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, as defined in the appended claims.

CLAIMS

1. A quick release needle holder for hypo dermic needles. comprising:
a tubular barrel having a needle hub receiving socket on one end;
said needle receiving socket having a segmented wall defining a plurality of
inwardly directed annular jaws or receiving and gripping a needle hub;
5 means for normally biasing said jaws inwardly to an innermost position for
gripping and mounting a needle hub; and
means for releaseably biasing said jaws to a needle hub releasing position.
2. A needle holder according to claim 1 wherein said means for normally biasing
said jaws to said innermost position for gripping a needle hub comprises a collet biased
10 axially along an outer shoulder of said jaws.
3. A needle holder according to claim 2 wherein said means for releaseably biasing
said jaws to a needle hub releasing position comprises cam means slidable axially along
said jaws.
4. A needle holder according to claim 3 wherein said cam means is carried by said
15 collet.
5. A needle holder according to claim 1 wherein said means for releaseably
biasing said jaws to a needle hub releasing position comprises cam means slidable
axially along said jaws.
6. A needle holder according to claim 1 wherein said socket wall is divided into
20 four segments.
7. A needle holder according to claim 6 wherein said cam means extends between
said segments to the interior of said wall.

8. A needle holder according to claim 1 wherein said means for releaseably biasing said jaws to a needle hub releasing position comprises cam means on a disposal container slidable axially along said jaws.
9. A needle holder according to claim 8 wherein said socket wall is divided into
5 two segments.
10. A needle holder according to claim 9 wherein said socket wall segments are formed with guide means at an outer terminal end.
11. A quick detach needle hub connector assembly, comprising:
a generally cylindrical tubular barrel having a needle hub connector on one end;
10 said needle hub connector comprising a needle hub receiving socket defined by an annular wall divided by slots into segments defining a plurality of jaws;
retaining means for normally retaining said jaws into an innermost position for gripping and mounting a needle hub; and
biasing means for biasing said jaws to a needle releasing position.
- 15 12. A connector assembly according to claim 11 wherein said retaining means comprises a collet biased axially along an outer shoulder of said jaws.
13. A needle holder according to claim 12 wherein said biasing means comprises cam means slidably axially along said jaws.
14. A needle holder according to claim 13 wherein said cam means is carried by
20 said collet.
15. A needle holder according to claim 14 wherein said means for releaseably biasing said jaws to a needle hub releasing position comprises cam means slidable axially along said jaws.

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16. A needle holder according to claim 15 wherein said socket wall is divided into four segments.
17. A needle holder according to claim 16 wherein said cam means extends between said segments to the interior of said wall.
- 5 18. A needle holder according to claim 17 wherein said means for releaseably biasing said jaws to a needle hub releasing position comprises cam means on a disposal container slidable axially along said jaws.
19. A needle holder according to claim 18 wherein said socket wall is divided into two segments having internal threads.
- 10 20. A needle holder according to claim 19 wherein said socket wall segments are formed with guide means at an outer terminal end.

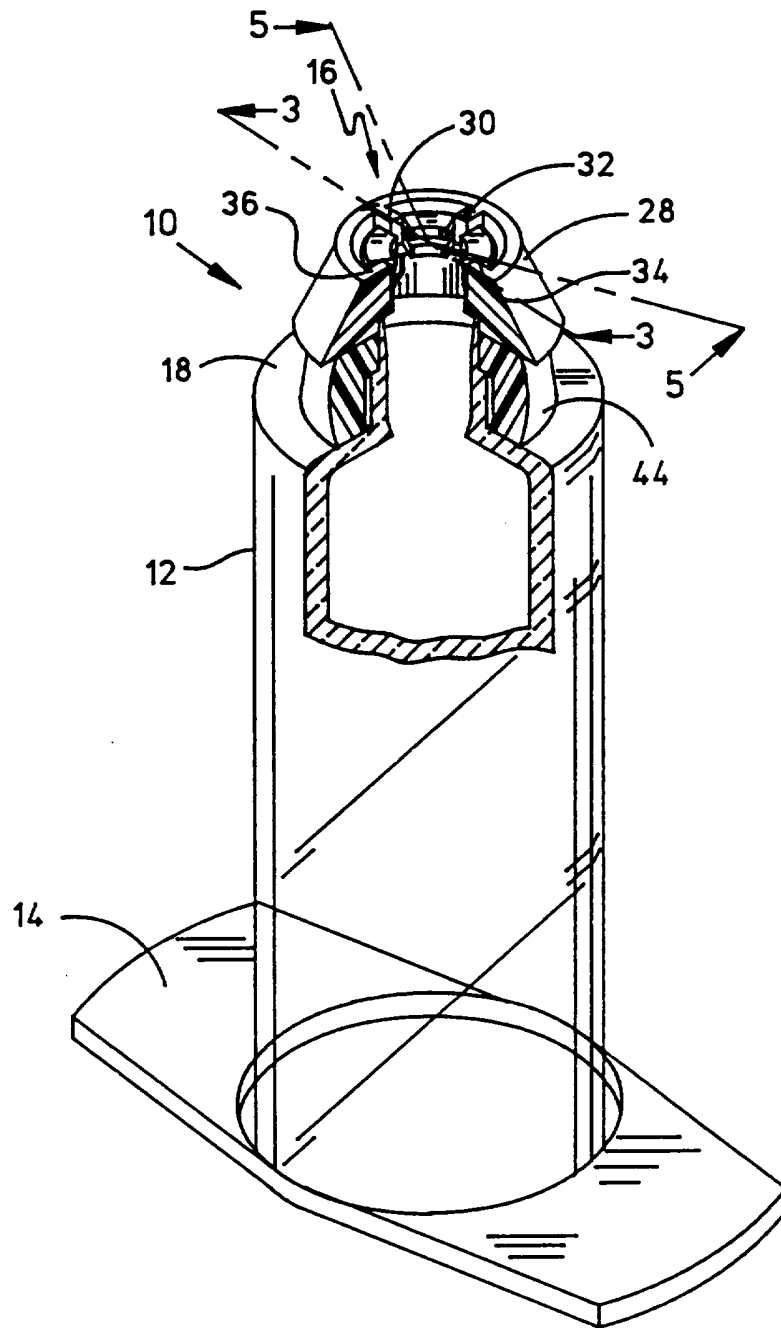


FIG. 1

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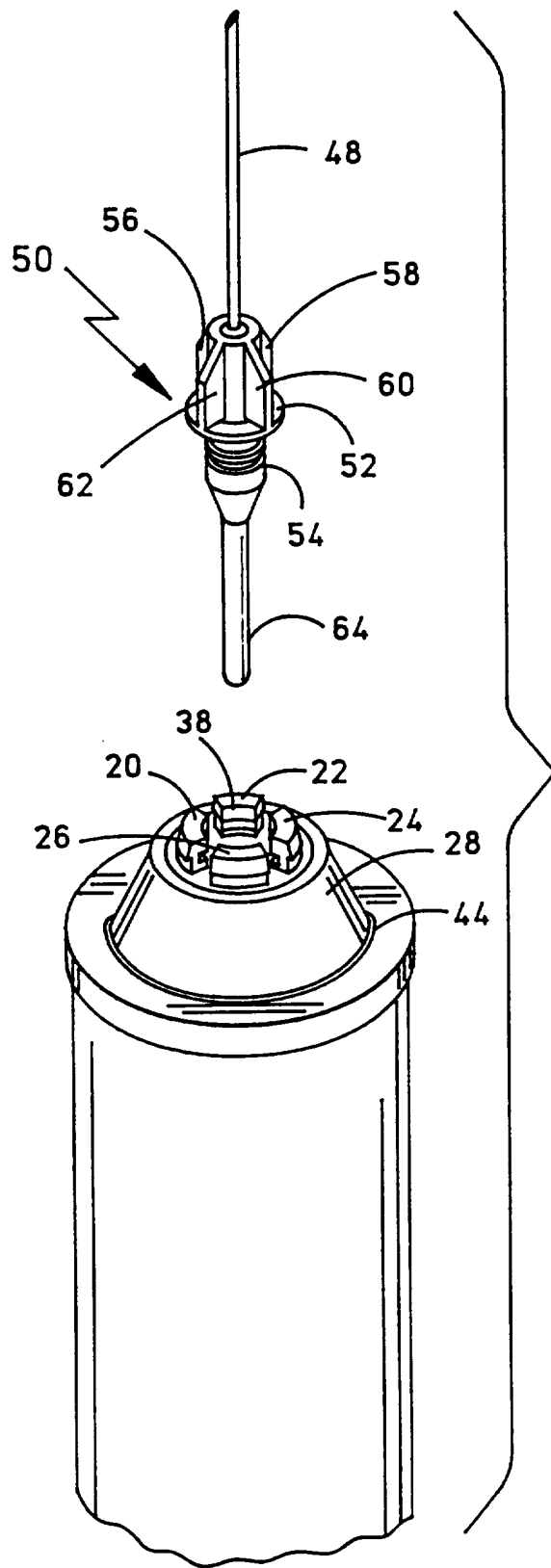


FIG. 2

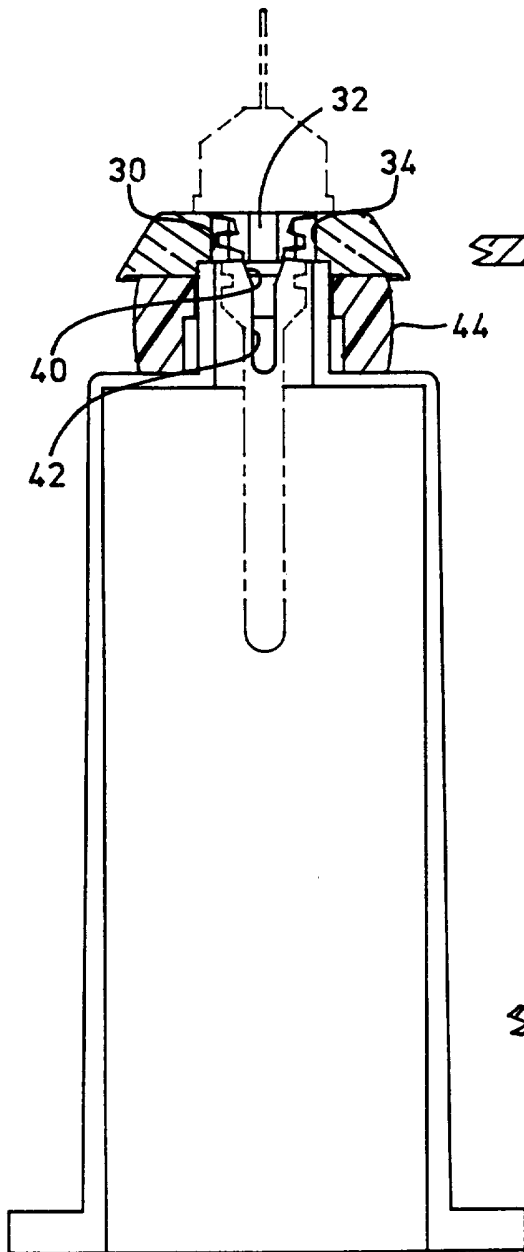


FIG. 3

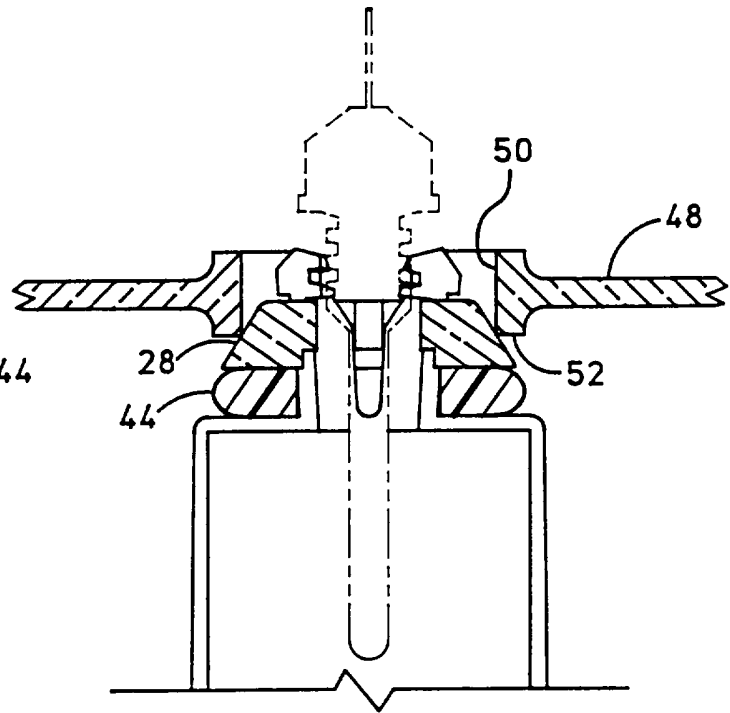


FIG. 4

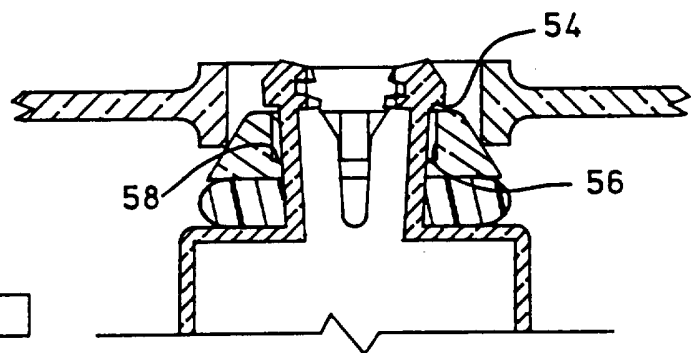


FIG. 5

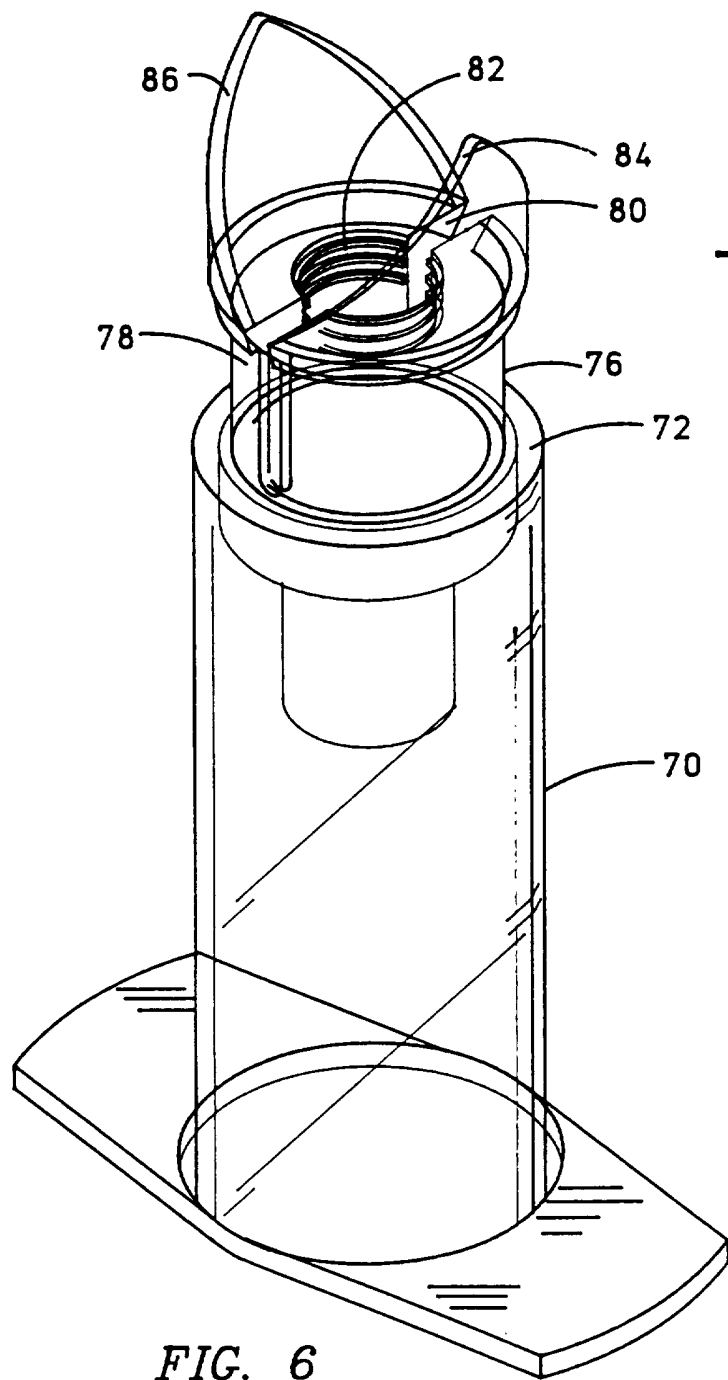


FIG. 6

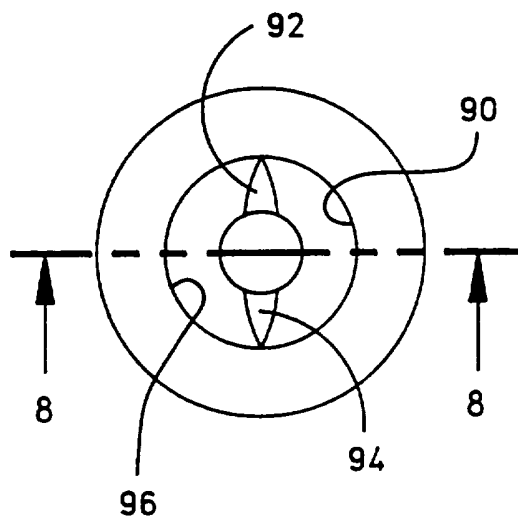


FIG. 7

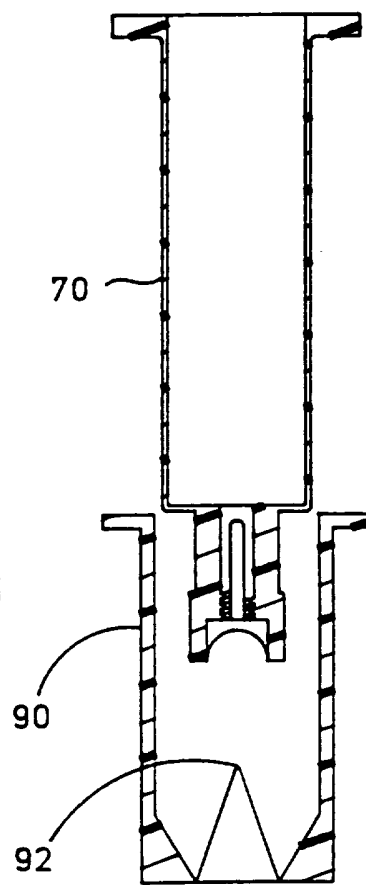


FIG. 8

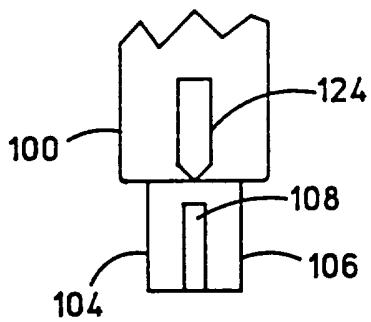


FIG. 9

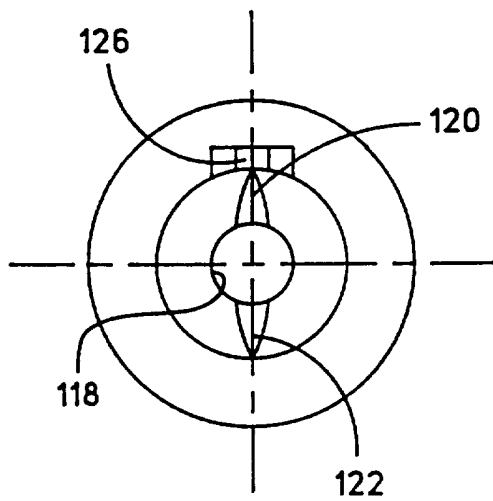
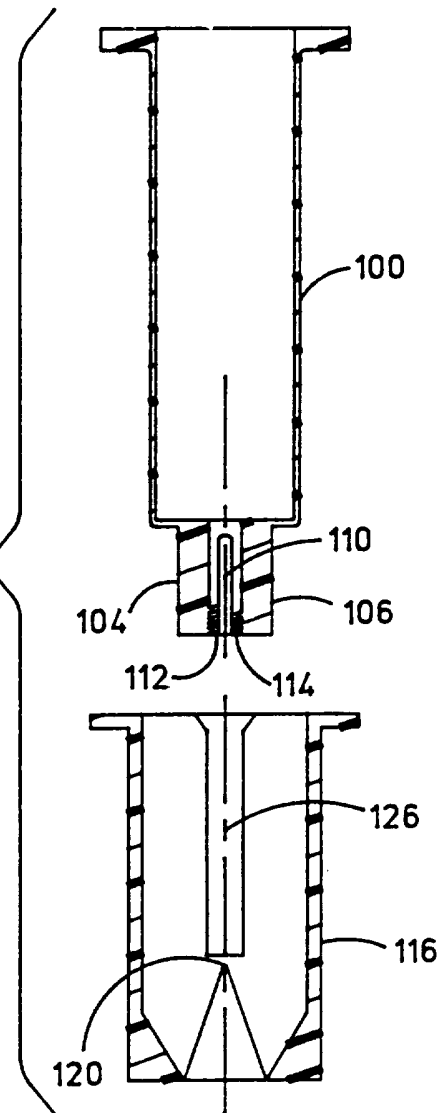


FIG. 10

FIG. 11



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. onal Application No
PCT/US 96/00353

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 A61M5/34

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 6 A61M

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US,A,5 002 537 (HOFFMAN ET AL.) 26 March 1991 see column 6, line 9 - line 30; figures 7,8	1-3, 11-13
Y	---	4,5,7, 14,15
Y	US,A,5 062 837 (AL-SIOUFI ET AL.) 5 November 1991 see column 3, line 50 - column 4, line 26; figures 10,11	4,5,7, 14,15
X	---	1,11
X	US,A,5 000 744 (HOFFMAN) 19 March 1991 see column 4, line 25 - line 68; figures 1-6	1,11
A	---	6,16
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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search 22 May 1996	Date of mailing of the international search report 11.06.96
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. onal Application No
PCT/US 96/00353

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,A,3 063 450 (SIMON MYERSON AND RICHARD L. MYERSON) 13 November 1962 see column 6, line 20 - line 40; figure 5 -----	1,11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 96/00353

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US-A-5002537	26-03-91	NONE	
US-A-5062837	05-11-91	US-A- 4942881 US-A- 5143083	24-07-90 01-09-92
US-A-5000744	19-03-91	US-A- 4990142	05-02-91
US-A-1683350	04-09-28	NONE	
US-A-3063450	13-11-62	NONE	