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(71) Applicant: **SDGI HOLDINGS, INC.** [US/US]; 300 Delaware Avenue, Suite 508, Wilmington, DE 19801 (US).

(72) Inventors: **NEEDHAM, Dusty, A.**; 9999 Woodland Fern Drive, Lakeland, TN 38028 (US). **SHIPP, Kenneth,**

S.; 927 Stonehedge Cove, Collierville, TN 38017 (US). **COATES, Bradley, J.**; 1760 Nuckolls Road, Rossville, TN 38066 (US).

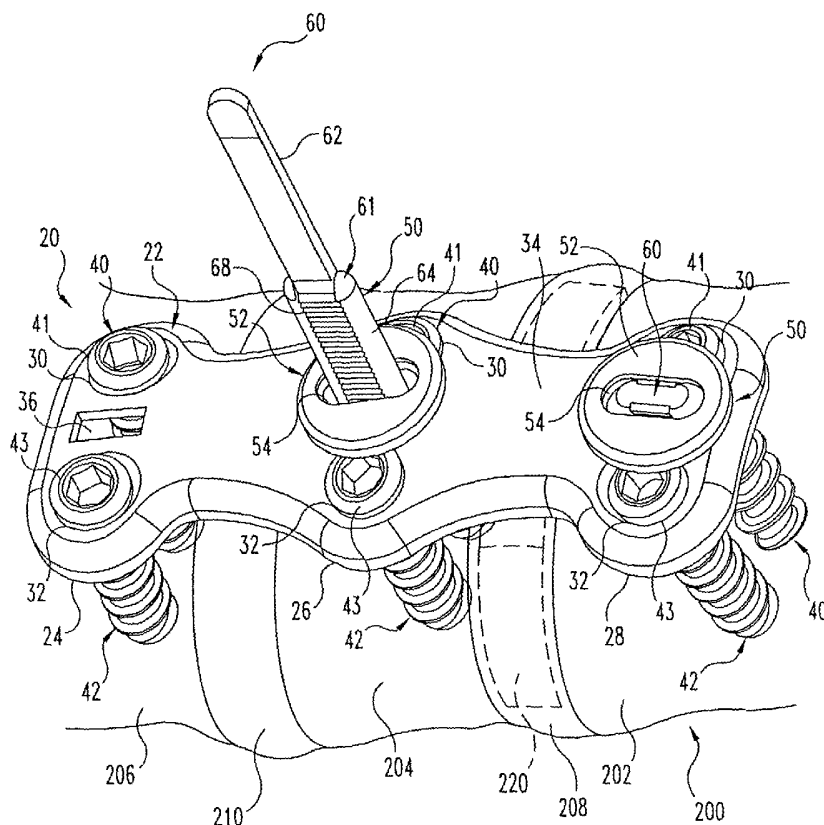
(74) Agents: **BINDSEIL, James, J.** et al.; LC340, 710 Medtronic Parkway NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432 (US).

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEMS, INSTRUMENTATION AND TECHNIQUES FOR RETAINING FASTENERS RELATIVE TO A BONE PLATE



(57) Abstract: Retaining mechanisms (50) are attachable to a bone plate (22) to retain one or more bone engaging fasteners (40) relative to the bone plate. The retaining mechanisms include a retaining element (52) engaged to an attachment element (61). One or both of the retaining element and the attachment element are moveable relative to the plate to position and/or maintain the retaining element in contact with one or more bone engaging fasteners.

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SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE,*

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 03/24990

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61B17/80

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 7 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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 00 49949 A (BREMER PAUL W ; BREMER ROSS L (US); GINGOLD SCOTT (US)) 31 August 2000 (2000-08-31) figures 1-6 ---	1-37
X	EP 0 242 842 A (WOLTER DIETMAR) 28 October 1987 (1987-10-28) the whole document	1,5,6, 10,11, 15, 19-21, 27,30
A	---	34,38, 46,50,55
A	US 6 235 034 B1 (BRAY ROBERT S) 22 May 2001 (2001-05-22) figures 1-6B --- -/--	



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Hamann, J

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte: nal Application No

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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 6 413 259 B1 (LA ROSA FRANK ET AL) 2 July 2002 (2002-07-02) the whole document ---	
X	DE 198 32 798 C (AESCULAP AG & CO KG) 4 November 1999 (1999-11-04) figures 3-5 ---	70,71
X	US 5 388 619 A (GHAWI ROGER) 14 February 1995 (1995-02-14) figures 2,3 ---	70,71
X	WO 02 09602 A (SYNTHES AG ;HEARN JAMES P (US); KERR SEAN H (US); SYNTHES USA (US)) 7 February 2002 (2002-02-07) figures 12-14 -----	70,71

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 03/24990

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 61-69
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/ US 03 /24990

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-60

A mechanism for retaining at least one bone engaging fastener relative to a bone plate.

2. Claims: 70,71

An instrument for positioning a retaining mechanism in contact with one or more bone engaging fasteners of a bone plate.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 03/24990

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