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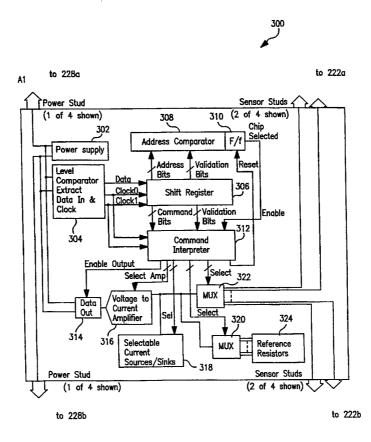
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- (71) Applicant: ANALATOM INCORPORATED [US/US]; Suite 9, 540 Weddell Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94089 (US).
- (72) Inventor: WILSON, Alan; 26 Nerissa Street, Burwood, VIC 3125 (AU).

- (74) Agent: PERRY, Clifford, B.; Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe, Suite 700, 4250 Executive Square, La Jolla, CA 92037 (US).
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### PCT/US 00/03308 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G01N27/24 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) G01N C25D 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) WPI Data, EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. A US 5 245 293 A (RUNNER JACK A) 1,8,15 14 September 1993 (1993-09-14) abstract; figures 2,3 DE 42 39 495 A (LUBER WILLIBALD) A 1 26 May 1994 (1994-05-26) the whole document DE 197 07 788 A (I M E S GES FUER 1 A INNOVATIVE ME) 2 July 1998 (1998-07-02) abstract; figure 1 DE 87 06 256 U (BAYER AG) A 1 25 June 1987 (1987-06-25) the whole document -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. X Special categories of cited documents : 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 "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 "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "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) "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 docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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

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