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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ORAL DEVICE FOR TREATING OR PREVENTING DRY MOUTH

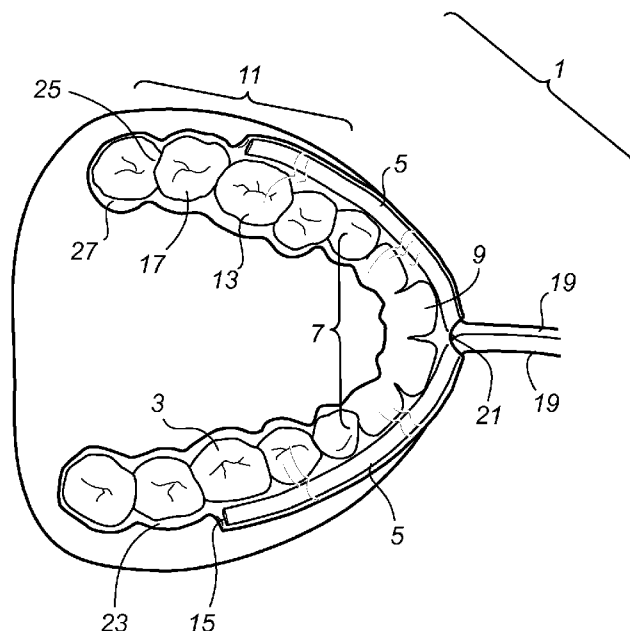


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: An oral device (1) for delivery of fluid to the mouth having a teeth engagement element (3) and a fluid delivery conduit (5) for the flow of fluid or receipt of a fluid delivery tube, which is formed about the periphery of the teeth engagement element and is capable of delivery of fluid to one or more outlets to pre-determined locations in the mouth is formed such that when not in use in a user's mouth the fluid delivery conduit is readily accessible for cleaning. Effective treatment of dry mouth syndrome can be achieved whilst allowing for conduits and cavities to be readily accessed for cleaning thus providing a more hygienic oral device for fluid delivery.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A61C17/02
ADD.

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)
A61C A61F A61J 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 practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2003/003421 A1 (BESTENHEIDER THIERRY [US] ET AL) 2 January 2003 (2003-01-02) paragraphs [0012], [0051], [0061]; claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12; figures 4a-5b -----	1-11,13, 14
X	FR 2 905 258 A1 (SLAMA THIERRY [FR]; SABBAN JEAN LUC [FR]) 7 March 2008 (2008-03-07) page 5, line 8 - page 6, line 21 page 7, lines 11-31; figures 1-3 page 8, line 24 - page 9, line 9 -----	1-4, 6-11,15
X	US 2008/274438 A1 (SCHEMMER JURGEN H [CA]) 6 November 2008 (2008-11-06) paragraphs [0025] - [0046] ----- -/-	1,3-11, 13-15

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family 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 application or patent 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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Date of mailing of the international search report

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International 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.
X	WO 98/38944 A1 (UNIV TEXAS [US]) 11 September 1998 (1998-09-11) page 16, line 1 - page 18, line 3; figures 20-24 -----	1,3-11, 13-15
X	US 2007/204867 A1 (KENNEDY EARLE J JR [US] ET AL) 6 September 2007 (2007-09-06) cited in the application paragraphs [0003] - [0005], [19.24] -----	1,3,4, 6-11,13, 15
X	WO 2006/060547 A2 (ALIGN TECHNOLOGY INC [US]; LI CHUNHUA [US]; CARLYLE WENDA C [US]; DE S) 8 June 2006 (2006-06-08) paragraphs [0037], [0046], [0001], [0002], [0044]; figures 2B-2D -----	1-4,6-8, 10,11
A	US 2008/161750 A1 (PONTIS ANNE-MARIE [FR]) 3 July 2008 (2008-07-03) cited in the application paragraphs [0045] - [0050]; figures 4, 5 -----	1,15

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP2012/064544

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 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.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 12, 16(completely); 13(partially)
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:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
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 No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

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

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 fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
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 and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 12, 16(completely); 13(partially)

In claim 16, the wording "hereinbefore described with reference to the drawings" does not form any clear definition of a subject-matter: no technical features can be clearly attributed to the subject-matter of claim 16. The non-compliance with the substantive provisions is to such an extent that no meaningful search of claim 16 could be carried out at all (Article 17(2) PCT). Claim 12 attempt to define a blank in terms of its possibility to be used in forming a device as defined in claim 11, that is a thermally formed device having at least the features of claim 1. From this definition of claim 12, the technical features of the blank itself (size, material, structural features) are not clearly defined, except that it is formed from "thermally formable" material. Can any sheet of thermally formable material be considered as novelty destroying or are there any additional features of the blank implicitly defined and which ones ? The non-compliance with the substantive provisions is to such an extent that no meaningful search of claim 12 could be carried out at all (Article 17(2) PCT). Claim 13 is either depending on claim 12 or on any of the claims 1-11. The subject-matter of claim 13 defining a blank as claimed in claim 12 has not been searched. The subject-matter further defining an oral device as claimed in claims 1-11 has been searched.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.2), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/EP2012/064544

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US 2003003421	A1	02-01-2003	NONE
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