

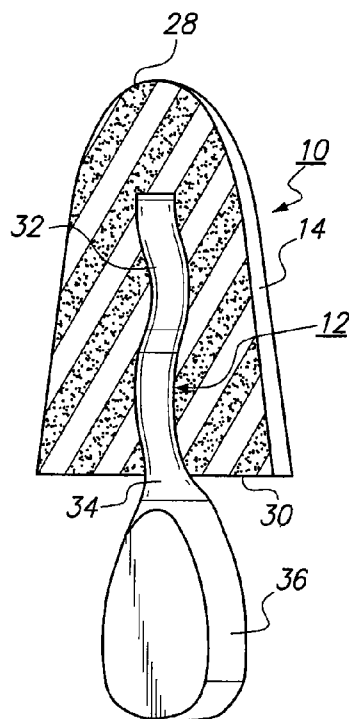


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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **MOL-DEX-METRIC, INC.** [US/US]; 10111 W. Jefferson Boulevard, Culver City, California 90232 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **TURDJIAN, Crest** [US/US]; Los Angeles, California (US). **MAGIDSON, Mark** [US/US]; Los Angeles, California (US).
- (74) Agents: **GALLENSON, Mavis S.** et al.; 5670 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 2100, Los Angeles, California 90036 (US).
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: EARPLUG WITH INSERTION STEM

(57) Abstract: An earplug having a soft resilient body comprises a main body with a front end for insertion into a human ear canal. The earplug has a stem having two ends, one being attached to the main body and extending outwardly and away therefrom, the other forming a handle. The stem is sufficiently stiff to allow manipulation of the main body into the ear canal and has a crooked or wavy configuration as it extends from the main body to the handle. As the front end of the main body is inserted into the ear canal, the stem is rotated with the handle to fit around the curved portion in the canal. This seats the main body to acoustically block the ear canal while spacing the stem within the curved portion of the ear canal to minimize contact with the sidewalls of the ear canal.



**FIG. 1**





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B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
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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)		
PatSearch (RUPTO internal), Esp@cenet, PAJ, USPTO		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y A	US 6695093 B1 (AEARO COMPANY) 24.02.2004, abstract, claims, drawings	1, 4-12, 23-25 2, 3 13-22
Y	US 5044463 A (CABOT CORPORATION) 03.09.1991, abstract, drawings	2
Y	WO 03/053295 A1 (CABOT SAFETY INTERMEDIATE CORPORATION) 03.07.2003, abstract	3
A	EP 0955026 A1 (BACOU USA SAFETY, INC) 10.11.1999	1-25
A	US 2007/0221232 A1 (JOHN ALLEN JENKINS) 27.09.2007	1-25
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ FIPS Russia, 123995, Moscow, G-59, GSP-5, Berezhkovskaya nab., 30-1	Authorized officer  M. Belugin	
Facsimile No. +7 (499) 243-33-37	Telephone No. 8(495)531-64-81	