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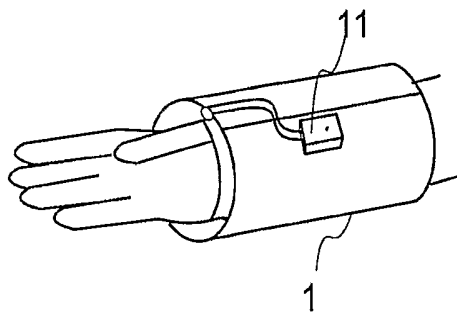
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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(54) Title: CONFORMABLE STRUCTURES



(57) Abstract: A conformable cushion (1) comprising: a fluid reservoir defined by walls (4, 5), at least one of which is flexible; electro-rheological fluid (8) located in the reservoir; and a pair of electrodes (9) contacting the electro-rheological fluid (8) whereby an electrical field may be applied across the electro-rheological fluid (8) so as to increase the viscosity thereof.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
/GB2005/003108

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 A61F5/01 A61F5/34 A47C4/54 A47C27/08 A47C7/18
 A47C7/74 A61G7/057

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)
 A47C A61G A61F

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, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 196 28 228 A1 (SCHUETT & GRUNDEI ORTHOPAEDIETECHNIK GMBH, 23556 LUEBECK, DE; SCHUETT) 22 January 1998 (1998-01-22)	1-4, 8, 9, 17-19
Y	column 1, line 63 - column 2, lines 12, 19-26, 50-54; figures	5-7, 10-12, 16
Y	US 6 237 598 B1 (SEREBOFF JOEL) 29 May 2001 (2001-05-29) column 8, lines 26-39, 65-67; figure 6	5-7, 16
X	US 5 985 383 A (ALLEN ET AL) 16 November 1999 (1999-11-16)	1
Y	column 5, lines 27-31 column 23, lines 11-20	10-12
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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	*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
E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date	*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
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 documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	*G* document member of the same patent family
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search 7 March 2006	Date of mailing of the international search report 22/03/2006
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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 Amghar, N
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
.../GB2005/003108

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 199 00 257 A1 (TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITAET DRESDEN) 13 July 2000 (2000-07-13) column 1, line 66 - column 2, line 2; claim 1; figures -----	1,13,14
X	US 2001/005097 A1 (HEILIG ALEXANDER ET AL) 28 June 2001 (2001-06-28) paragraph [0017]; claims 6,7,12; figures -----	1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB2005/003108

Box 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.: 15
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 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 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.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 15

The claim 15 is not in compliance with the clarity requirement of PCT Article 6, Rule 6.2 (a).

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, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
/GB2005/003108

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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US 6237598	B1	29-05-2001	AU 6637200 A 13-03-2001 CA 2420152 A1 22-02-2001 EP 1416871 A1 12-05-2004 WO 0112094 A1 22-02-2001
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DE 19900257	A1	13-07-2000	NONE
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