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(54) Title: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR IMPROVING HEARING

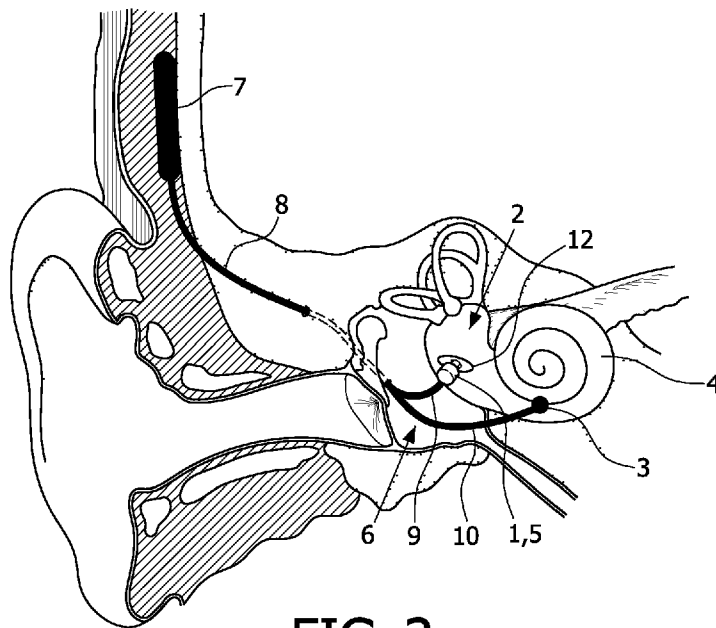


FIG. 2

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to implantable device for improving hearing in a subject comprising a vibration generator (5) comprising an output region (19) configured to apply vibrational stimulation to the inner ear (2) fluid, a proximal electrode (X) configured for physical attachment to a wall enclosing the inner ear (2) at a location proximal to the output region of the vibration generator, and a separate distal electrode (3) configured to make electrical contact with the auditory nerve (4). It also relates to a method and kit for improving hearing.

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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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 practical, search terms used)
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 39 40 632 C1 (HORTMANN GMBH, 7449 NECKARTENZLINGEN, DE) 6 December 1990 (1990-12-06) cited in the application the whole document -----	1-65
A	US 4 988 333 A (ENGBRETSON A MAYNARD [US] ET AL) 29 January 1991 (1991-01-29) the whole document -----	1-65
A	DE 42 21 866 A1 (HORTMANN GUENTER [DE]) 5 January 1994 (1994-01-05) the whole document -----	1-65
A	GB 2 181 622 A (NAT RES DEV) 23 April 1987 (1987-04-23) the whole document -----	1-65
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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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A	US 6 068 589 A (NEUKERMANS ARMAND P CUS]) 30 May 2000 (2000-05-30) the whole document -----	1-65

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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US 4988333	A	29-01-1991	NONE
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