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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **PRISMA
MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES LLC** [US/US]; 2035
Lakeville Road, Suite 206, New Hyde Park, NY 11040
(US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **HASTINGS,
Harold, M.** [US/US]; 23 Lindbergh Street, Garden City,

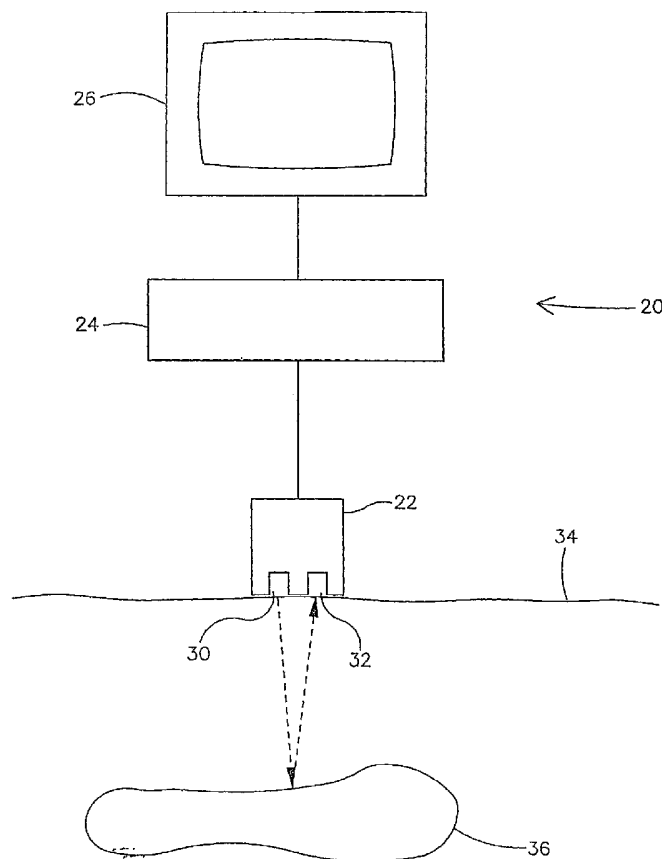
NY 11530 (US). **EVANS, Steven, J., L.** [US/US]; 875
Pirates Cove, Mamaroneck, NY 10543 (US). **ROTH,
Scott, L.** [US/US]; 2 Crescent Lane, East Hills, NY 11577
(US).

(74) Agents: **CRAWFORD, David, E., Jr.** et al.; Sonnen-
schein Nath & Rosenthal LLP, Attention: IP Department
- St. Louis Office, P.O. Box #061080, Wacker Drive Sta-
tion - Sears Tower, Chicago, IL 60606-1080 (US).

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ULTRASONIC IMAGING



(57) Abstract: A method for reducing speckle in an ultrasonic image formed from a digitized scan line including linearly arranged signal intensity data points obtained from ultrasonic energy reflected by structures within a body. The scan line is divided into intensity pixels. Each intensity pixel includes at least one data point. A raw intensity level and a feature gain factor are determined for each intensity pixel. A corrected intensity level is calculated for each intensity pixel by multiplying the raw intensity level for each intensity pixel by the corresponding feature gain factor. The corrected intensity level of each intensity pixel is displayed.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 8/00, 8/12, 8/14; G01N 19/02, 3/54

US CL : 600/437-472; 128/916; 73/625, 626; 367/7, 11, 130; 382/132

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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)
EAST; INTENSITY WITH PIXEL; FEATURE WITH GAIN; SPECKLE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A, P	US 6,739,511 B2 (TSIKOS ET AL.) 25 May 2004, see entire document.	
A	US 5,908,389 A (ROUNDHILL ET AL.) 01 June 1999, see entire document.	
A	US 5,777,891 A (PAGANO ET AL.) 07 July 1998, see entire document.	
A	US 5,754,676 A (KOMIYA ET AL.) 19 May 1998, see entire document.	

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

☐ See patent family annex.

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P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

LINDA SHOLL

Telephone No. (571) 272-4391