
(12) PATENT ABRIDGMENT (11) Document No. AU-B-30546/89
(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE (10) Acceptance No. 615261

(54) Title
INTRAOCULAR LENS

International Patent Classification(s)
(51)⁴ **A61F 002/16 A61L 027/00**

(21) Application No. : **30546/89** (22) Application Date : **03.02.89**

(87) PCT Publication Number : **WO90/08517**

(43) Publication Date : **24.08.90**

(44) Publication Date of Accepted Application : **26.09.91**

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(56) Prior Art Documents
US 4759762
GB 2181355

(57) Claim

1. A method of forming core members from which single-piece intraocular lenses (IOL) may be machined comprising the steps of:

forming a thin sheet of coloured polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA);

coring the sheet to form holes therein;

filling the holes with a clear or differently coloured PMMA material;

polymerising the PMMA materials comprising the sheet and filled holes; and

cutting core members from the polymerised sheet each having an inner circular region of clear or differently coloured PMMA material and an outer region of coloured PMMA material integral with the inner region.

9. A single piece intraocular lens (IOL), comprising a central lens body of polymethyl methacrylate PMMA material, positioning loops extending from the central lens body and formed of coloured PMMA material, wherein

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(10) 615261

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there are positioning holes at the junct.on of the
central lens body and positioning loops.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<p>(51) International Patent Classification⁴ : A61F 2/16, A61L 27/00</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>(11) International Publication Number: WO 90/08517</p>
		<p>(43) International Publication Date: 9 August 1990 (09.08.90)</p>

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB89/00097

(22) International Filing Date: 3 February 1989 (03.02.89)

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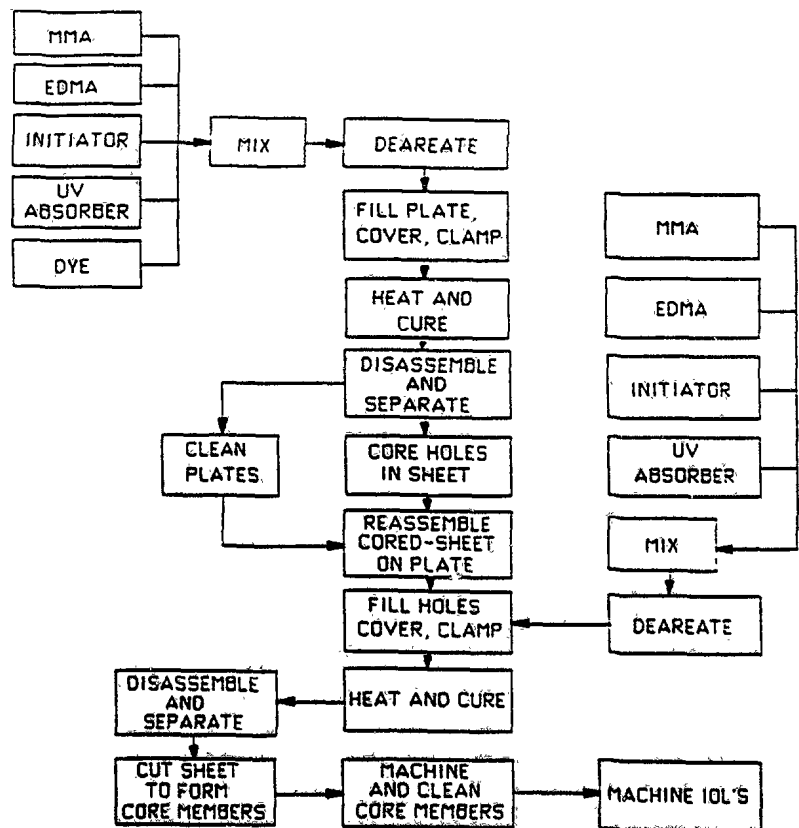
(81) Designated States: AT (European patent), AU, BE (European patent), CH (European patent), DE (European patent), FR (European patent), GB (European patent), IT (European patent), JP, LU (European patent), NL (European patent), SE (European patent).

Published
With international search report
615261

(54) Title: METHOD OF FORMING SINGLE-PIECE INTRAOCULAR LENS AND CORE MEMBER AND LENS FORMED THEREBY

(57) Abstract

A method of forming single-piece intraocular lenses comprising the steps of forming a thin sheet of colored polymethyl methacrylate, coring the sheet to form holes therein, filling the holes with a clear or differently colored PMMA material, polymerizing the colored and clear or differently colored PMMA material comprising the sheet and filled holes, cutting core members from the polymerized sheet each having an inner circular region of PMMA material and an outer region of colored PMMA material and machining a single-piece intraocular lens from a core member to have a central lens body of PMMA material and colored PMMA positioning loops extending from and integral with the central lens body.



METHOD OF FORMING SINGLE-PIECE INTRAOCULAR
LENS AND CORE MEMBER AND LENS FORMED THEREBY

Background of Invention

5 The present invention relates to a method of forming a single-piece polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) intraocular lens (IOL) having a central lens body and colored positioning loops extending therefrom and to a PMMA core member and lens formed in and by the method.

10 One-piece IOLs are widely used for implantation in both anterior and posterior chambers of the eye. Such single-piece IOLs are commonly fabricated of PMMA, a polymer which is known for its long term stability and biocompatibility. Currently, all such IOLs are constructed of a clear or
15 colorless transparent PMMA, which may be formulated with a UV-absorber to protect the retina of the eye from ultraviolet radiation present in solar flux.

 Clear transparent IOLs, particularly those implanted in the capsular bag or sulcus of the eye are difficult to
20 visualize and manipulate during implantation. For this reason, it is common in the case of IOLs having separate positioning loops staked or otherwise secured to the central

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lens body of the IOL, for the positioning loops to be formed of a colored material. Examples of such IOLs are the Styles 30, 31 and 34S manufactured by McGahn Medical/3M, the Model G704M Capsulform lens manufactured by IOLAB, and the Model
5 PC-80 lens manufactured by American Medical Optics. The colored positioning loops of such lenses are readily visible and easy to manipulate during implantation. To date, however, commercially available single-piece IOLs, particularly those fabricated of PMMA, have not included
10 colored positioning loops. Hence, such IOLs are difficult to visualize and manipulate during implantation.

Summary of Invention

The present invention provides a method for simply and
15 reliably forming single-piece PMMA IOLs having colored positioning loops which are readily visible and easy to manipulate during implantation of the IOL thereby insuring accurate placement and centration of the lens.

Generally speaking, the method of the present invention
20 comprises the following steps:

- (1) Forming a thin sheet of colored PMMA;
- (2) Coring the sheet to form holes therein;

- (3) Filling the holes with a clear or differently colored PMMA material;
- (4) Polymerizing the colored and clear or differently colored PMMA materials comprising the sheet and filled holes;
- (5) Cutting core members from the polymerized sheet, each having an inner circular region of clear or differently colored PMMA material and an outer region of colored PMMA material integral with the inner region.

The thus formed core member may then be machined to form a single piece IOL having a central lens body of clear or differently colored PMMA and positioning loops of colored PMMA material extending from the central lens body.

The core members and IOLs formed in and by the method are important elements of the present invention. In particular a preferred embodiment of the invention provides a single piece intraocular lens (IOL) comprising a central lens body of polymethyl methacrylate PMMA material, positioning loops extending from the central lens body and formed of colored PMMA material, wherein there are positioning holes at the junction of the central lens body and positioning loops.

Brief Description of Drawings

Figure 1 is a flow diagram of one embodiment of the method of the present invention.

Figures 2A and 2B are plane and side views,



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respectively, of a core member formed in the method of the present invention.

Figures 3A and 3B are plane and side views, respectively, of another core member formed in the method of
5 the present invention.

Figures 4A and 4B are plane and side views, respectively, of a single-piece PMMA IOL formed by the method of the present invention including a central lens body of PMMA material and colored PMMA positioning loops
10 integral with and extending from the central body.

Detailed Description of Invention

A preferred embodiment of the method of the present invention is illustrated in flow-diagram form in Figure 1.

15 Generally speaking, as illustrated in Figure 1, the method of the present invention comprises the steps of forming a thin sheet of colored PMMA, coring the sheet to form holes therein, filling the holes with a clear or differently colored PMMA material, polymerizing the colored
20 and clear or differently colored PMMA materials comprising the sheet and filled holes, cutting core members from the polymerized sheet each having an inner circular region of

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clear or differently colored PMMA and an outer region of colored PMMA integral with the inner region, and machining the core members to form single-piece IOLs each having a central lens body of clear or differently colored PMMA material and positioning loops of colored PMMA material extending from and integral with the central lens body. Figures 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, and Figure 4 depict typical core members and an IOL formed during and by the method described hereinabove.

More particularly, in a preferred embodiment of the method of the present invention, methyl methacrylate (MMA), ethylene glycol dimethacrylate (EDMA), a free radical polymerization initiator, a polymerizable UV-absorber, and a dye material are mixed. By way of example, the free radical polymerization initiator may comprise USP-245. Examples of other usable initiators are 1) other peroxides such as Lupersol 101tm (DuPont), 2) Azoisobutyronitrile (AIBN), and 3) Cumene Hydroperoxide. By way of example, the polymerizable UV-absorber may be 2-hydroxy, 4-ethyloxyacryloxy benzophenone (UV-2098). Other examples of useful UV-absorbers are 2(2'-hydroxy 5'-vinylphenyl) 2H-benzotriazole, Permasorb MA (tm) (Hexcel Corporation). By

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clear or differently colored PMMA and an outer region of colored PMMA integral with the inner region, and machining the core members to form single-piece IOLs each having a central lens body of clear or differently colored PMMA material and positioning loops of colored PMMA material extending from and integral with the central lens body. Figures 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, and Figure 4 depict typical core members and an IOL formed during and by the method described hereinabove.

More particularly, in a preferred embodiment of the method of the present invention, methyl methacrylate (MMA), ethylene glycol dimethacrylate (EDMA), a free radical polymerization initiator, a polymerizable UV-absorber, and a dye material are mixed. By way of example, the free radical polymerization initiator may comprise USP-245. Examples of other usable initiators are 1) other peroxides such as Lupersol 101tm (DuPont), 2) Azobutyronitrile (AIBN), and 3) Cumene Hydroperoxide. By way of example, the polymerizable UV-absorber may be 2-hydroxy, 4-ethoxyacryloxy benzophenone (UV-2098). Other examples of useful UV-absorbers are 2(2'-hydroxy 5'-vinylphenyl) 2H-benzotriazole, Permasorb MA (tm) (Hexcel Corporation). By

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way of example, the dye material may comprise a blue dye such as tetra n-butyl phthalocyanato copper (II). Examples of other useful dye materials are D and C Green No. 6 (tm) (Pylam Chemical Company).

5 With the foregoing materials and following the methods set forth in Figure 1, an example of the formation procedure may comprise the mixing of 100 g of distilled methyl methacrylate with 5 g of distilled ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, 0.5 g of USP-245, 1.5 g of UV-2098 and 1 mg
10 of the blue dye material. After mixing, the mixture may be deaerated and poured as a sheet into the shallow well of a glass plate such as a 6" x 6" tempered glass plate which has been thoroughly cleaned and edged on all four sides with a semisoft gasket material approximately 1" thick. After the
15 well has been filled with the mixture to form a sheet, the sheet may be closed at the top by a second clean tempered glass plate and the two plates clamped together. The resulting package may then be placed in an oven for heating, curing, and polymerization of the monomer mixture. For
20 example, the package may be heated at 60C for 12 hours and then for an additional 4 hours at 90C. Following heating and curing, the package is removed from the oven, the clamps

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loosened and the glass plates separated to expose a clear blue PMMA sheet. The sheet may be removed from the package and holes formed therein as by standard coring methods to produce a regular array of holes which may be approximately
5 8 mm in diameter. The cored sheet then may be placed on a clean glass plate having a gasket around its marginal edge and the holes filled with a monomer mixture formed as described above without the blue dye or with a different dye. For example, as illustrated in Figure 1, the mixture
10 may consist of methyl methacrylate, ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, free radical polymerization initiator and the polymerizable UV-absorber. After mixing, the monomer mixture may be deaerated and poured into the holes formed in the sheet supported on the clean glass plate. A clean glass
15 plate may be placed over the cored sheet and the stack clamped together as before. The resulting package then may be placed in an oven and cured in the same manner as previously described to effect a polymerization of the clear or differently colored and colored PMMA to form a one piece
20 integral sheet. After heating and curing, the plates may be separated as before and the polymerized sheet of PMMA material withdrawn therefrom and cut into core members which

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may be in the form illustrated in Figures 2A and 2B or 3A and 3B.

As represented in Figures 2A and 2B, the core member may have a thickness of between 2 mm and 6 mm (dimension C) and may include an inner flat circular region of clear polymethyl methacrylate having a radius A of between 4 mm and 8 mm surrounded by an outer flat region integral therewith formed of a colored PMMA material and having an outer radius of between 8 mm and 20 mm.

Alternately, as illustrated in Figures 3A and 3B, the resulting core members cut from the polymerized sheet of PMMA material may have a rectangular form between 16 mm and 40 mm square with a thickness C of between 2 mm and 6 mm, an inner flat circular region having a radius of between 4 mm and 8 mm and a dimension B between center and edge of between 8 mm and 20 mm. As with the core member of Figures 2A and 2B, the core member of Figures 3A and 3B has an inner circular region of clear polymethyl methacrylate and an outer flat region integral with and surrounding the inner region and formed of a colored PMMA material.

Returning to the method of Figure 1, the core members may be cleaned and machined of all irregularities and then

further machined by conventional and well known methods to form an IOL of single-piece construction, such as illustrated in Figures 4A and 4B. As illustrated, such an IOL comprises a central lens body of PMMA material and positioning loops extending from the central lens body and formed of colored PMMA material. Since the positioning loops are colored, they are readily visible and easily manipulated during implantation of the IOL to provide for accurate placement and centration of the lens during implantation.

While a specific lens composition has been described hereinabove, a more general composition for the core members may be as follows:

inner circular region:

15 methyl methacrylate equal or greater than 90% by weight;

ethylene glycol dimethacrylate equal to or less than 5% by weight;

UV-absorber equal to or less than 5% by weight;

20 outer region:

methyl methacrylate equal to or greater than 95% by weight;

ethylene glycol dimethacrylate equal to or less than 5% by weight;

dye material concentrations ranging from 1×10^{-6} % by weight to 1% by weight.

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THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

1. A method of forming core members from which single-piece intraocular lenses (IOL) may be machined comprising the steps of:

forming a thin sheet of coloured polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA);

coring the sheet to form holes therein;

filling the holes with a clear or differently coloured PMMA material;

polymerising the PMMA materials comprising the sheet and filled holes; and

cutting core members from the polymerised sheet each having an inner circular region of clear or differently coloured PMMA material and an outer region of coloured PMMA material integral with the inner region.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the sheet of PMMA is formed by the steps of:

mixing methyl methacrylate, ethylene glycol dimethacrylate, a polymerisation initiator, and a dye material;

deareating the mixture;

pouring the mixture as a sheet onto a first plate;

covering the sheet with a second plate;

heating the plates and sheet to polymerise the



mixture; and

separating the plates to expose the resulting PMMA sheet.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein;

the clear or differently coloured PMMA material is formed by mixing methyl methacrylate, ethylene glycol dimethacrylate and a polymerisation initiator, and deaerating the mixture;

the holes in the sheet are filled by lying the sheet on a flat plate and pouring the clear or differently coloured PMMA material into the holes; and

the coloured and clear or differently coloured PMMA materials are polymerised by covering and heating the holefilled PMMA sheet.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein;

the mixtures comprising the coloured PMMA material and clear or differently coloured PMMA material further include a polymerisable UV absorber.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein;

the UV absorber is 2-hydroxy, 4-ethyloxyacryloxy benzophenone (UV-2098); and

the initiator is USP-245.

6. The methods of claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 further



including the step of machining a core member to form a single-piece intraocular lens (IOL) having a central lens body of clear or differently coloured PMMA material and positioning loops of coloured PMMA material extending from the central lens body.

7. A core member formed by the method of claim 1.

8. An intraocular member formed by the method of claim 6 and having a central lens body and positioning loops of coloured PMMA material extending from the central lens body, the central lens body being of a clear or differently coloured PMMA material.

9. A single piece intraocular lens (IOL), comprising a central lens body of polymethyl methacrylate PMMA material, positioning loops extending from the central lens body and formed of coloured PMMA material, wherein there are positioning holes at the junction of the central lens body and positioning loops.

10. A method for forming core members or intraocular lenses substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the Examples.

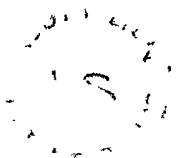


11. An intraocular lens according to claim 9 and substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the drawings.

DATED this 10th day of July, 1991.

SMITH & NEPHEW PLC
By Its Patent Attorneys
DAVIES & COLLISON

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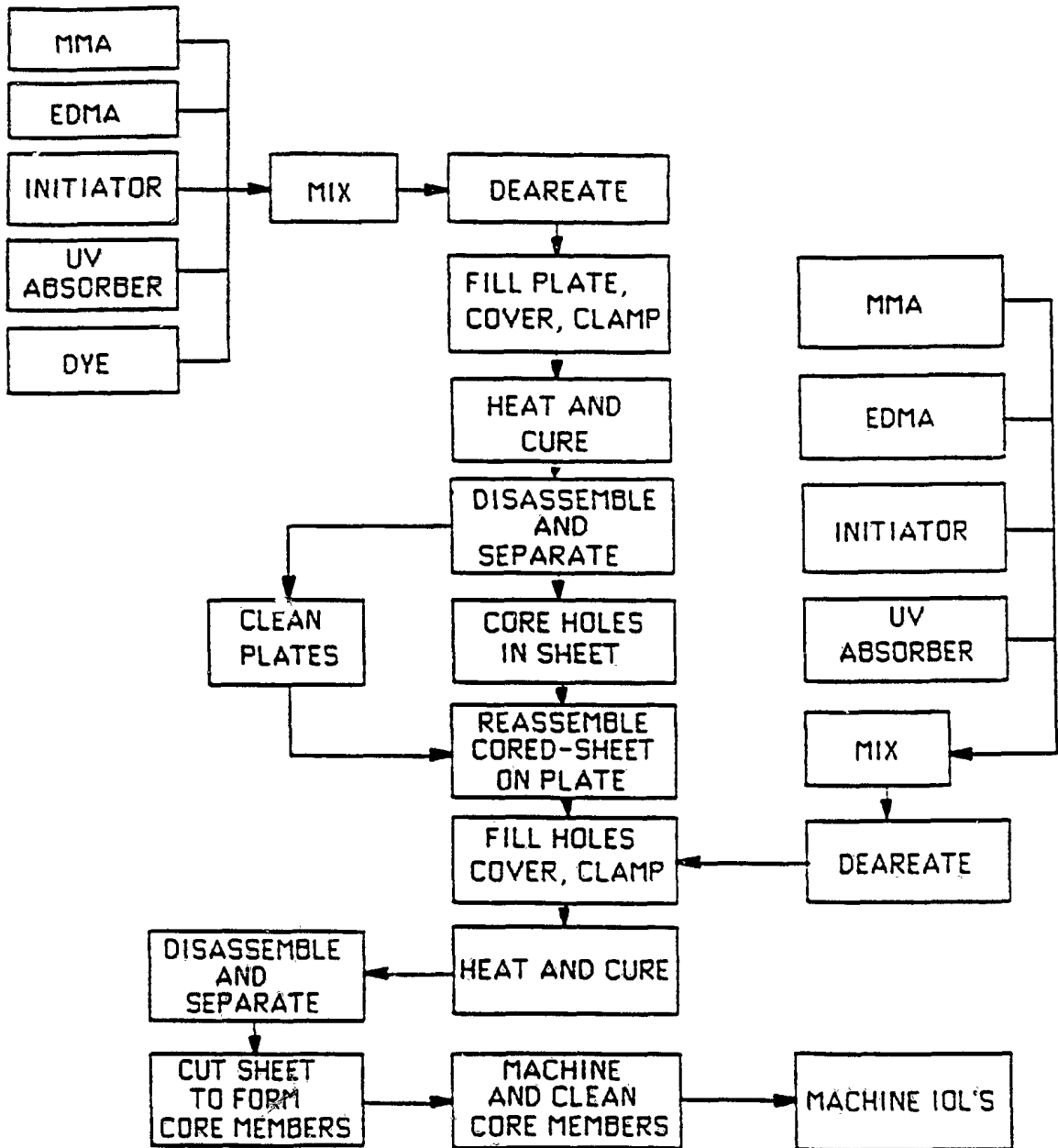


FIG. 1

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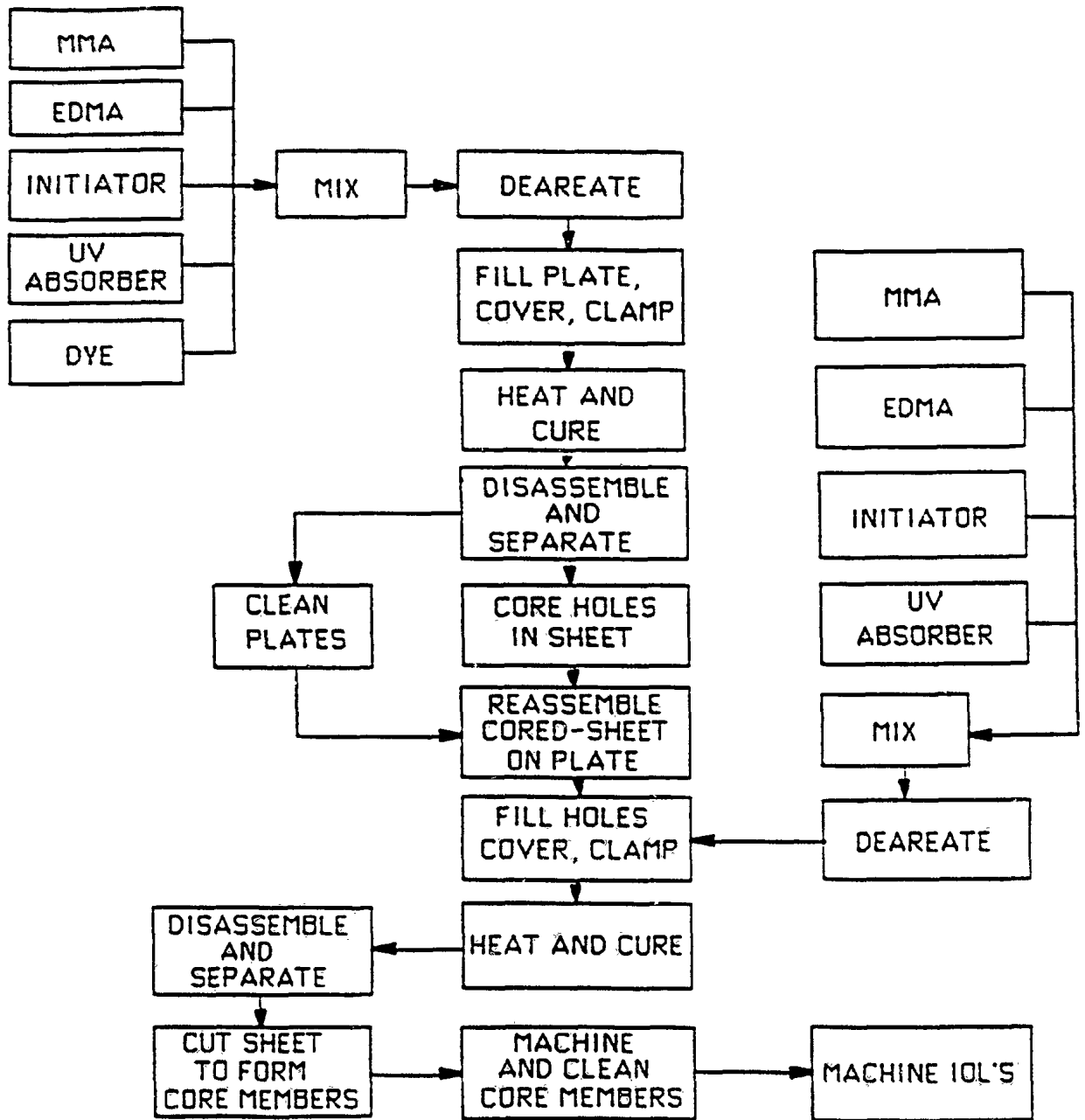


FIG. 1

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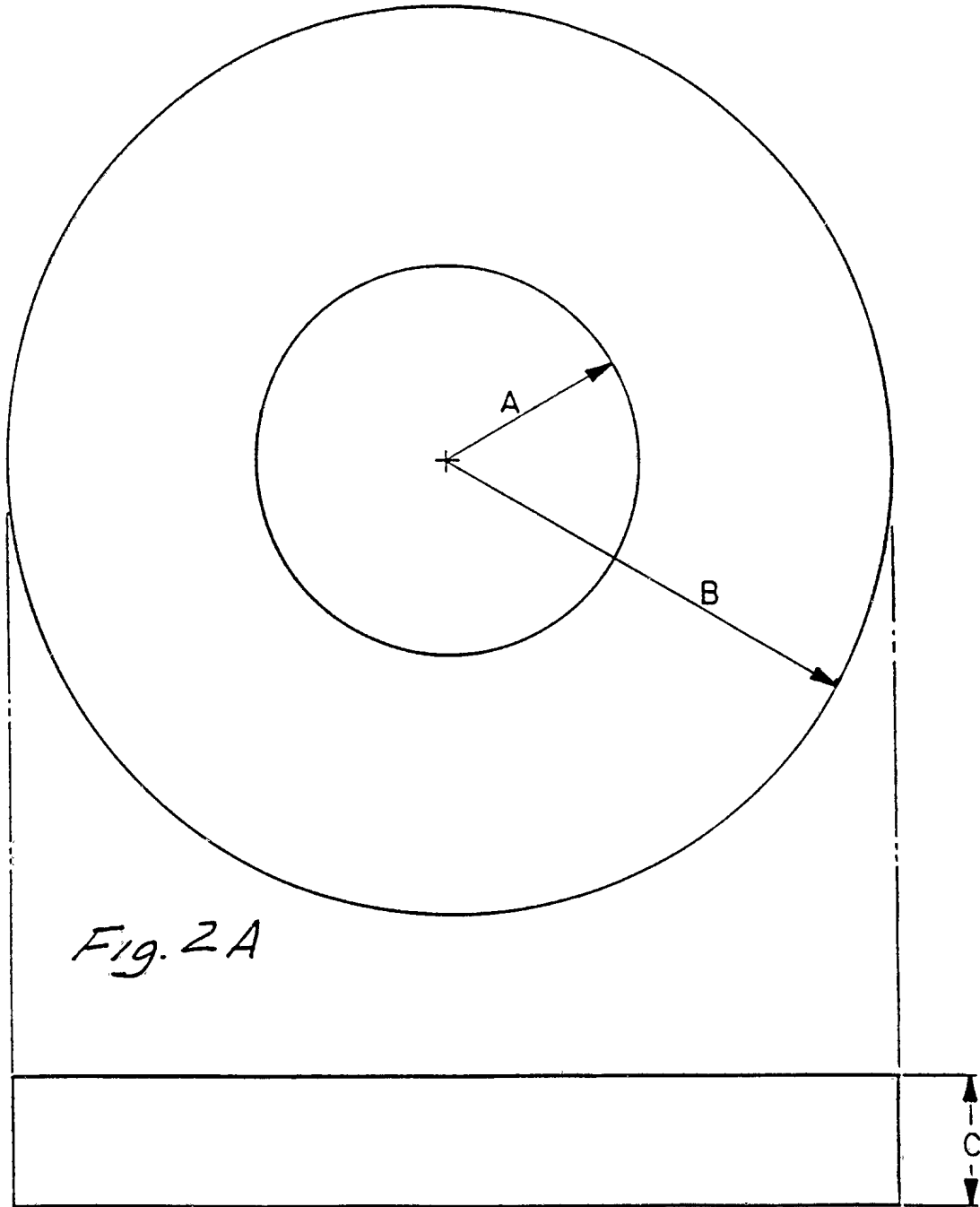


Fig. 2 A

Fig. 2 B

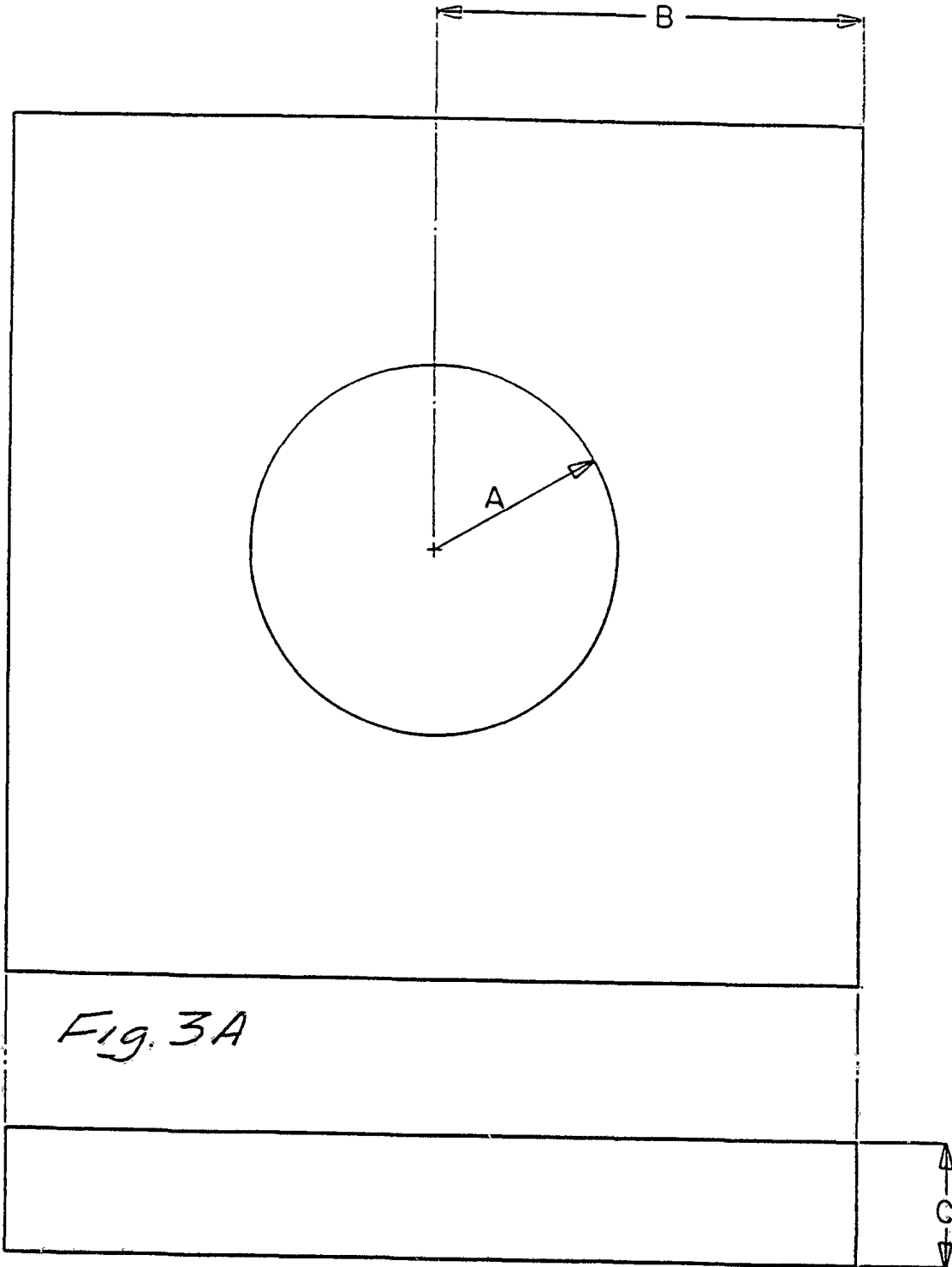


Fig. 3A

Fig. 3B

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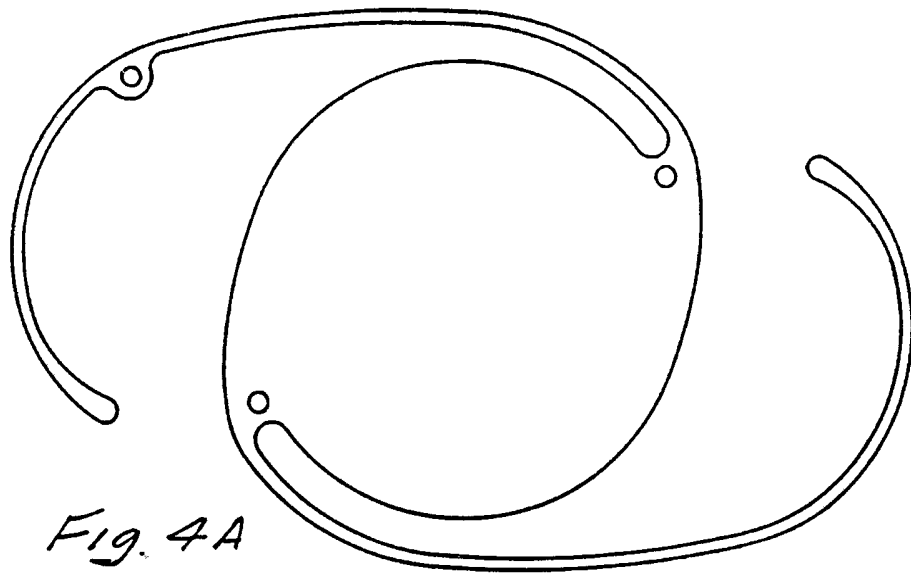


Fig. 4A

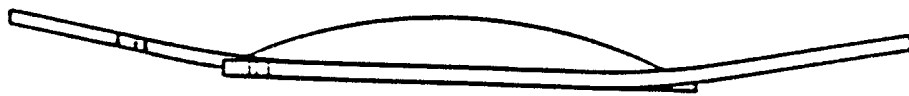


Fig. 4B

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No **PCT/GB 89/00097**

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁶		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC IPC4: A 61 F 2/16, A 61 L 27/00		
II. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum Documentation Searched ⁷		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
IPC4	A 61 F; A 61 L	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched ⁸		
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT ⁹		
Category ¹⁰	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³
Y	GB, A, 1404844 (HYDROPHILICS INTERNATIONAL INC.) 3 September 1975, see page 7, line 45 - line 53 --	3,7,10, 11
X	GB, A, 2181355 (STORZ INSTRUMENT COMPANY) 23 April 1987, see figures 9,10; claims 1-53	1-2,5-6, 9,12,14- 16
Y	--	3,7,10, 11
A	US, A, 4759762 (GREND AHL) 26 July 1988, see column 2, line 46 - line 53; figure 3 -- -----	1-2,5-6, 16
<p>¹⁰ Special categories of cited documents: ¹⁰</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"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)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"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</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>"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.</p> <p>"A" document member of the same patent family</p>		
IV. CERTIFICATION		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search 20th September 1989		Date of Mailing of this International Search Report 06 OCT 1989
International Searching Authority EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE		Signature of Authorized Officer T.K. WILLIS

**ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO. PCT/GB 89/00097**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office (EPO) file on 03/03/89. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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		CA-A- 987443	13/04/76
		US-A- 3957740	18/05/76
		AT-A- 333506	25/11/76
		AU-A- 471857	06/05/76
		AU-A- 471891	06/05/76
		BE-A- 787507	01/12/72
GB-A- 2181355	23/04/87	DE-A- 3635111	16/04/87
		FR-A- 2589352	07/05/87
		JP-A- 62161360	17/07/87
US-A- 4759762	26/07/88	NONE	

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