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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A WALKING AID

(57) Abstract: A walking aid which includes a cane which carries a plurality of directionally dependent transmitter/receiver sensors and vibratory devices mounted to a user's body which respectively produce vibratory signals on the body in response to reflected signals detected by the respective receivers.

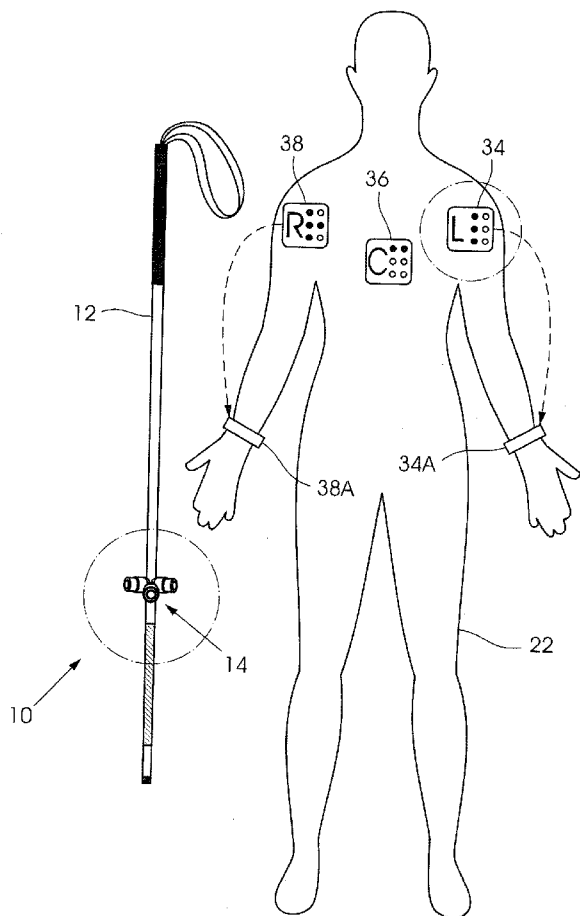


FIGURE 1





SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No  
PCT/ZA2012/000030

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
INV. A61H3/06  
ADD. A61H23/02

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)  
A61H

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)  
EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DE 93 00 256 U1 (SCHRÖDER, W.) 25 March 1993 (1993-03-25) page 1, line 25 - page 2, line 35; figures -----	1-16
X	DE 195 05 402 A1 (MEINERS HORST [DE]; LUBETZKI JOHANNES [DE]) 22 August 1996 (1996-08-22) column 1, lines 25-32,41-43 column 2, lines 42-44 column 4, lines 21-35; figure 1 -----	1-16
X	DE 100 04 841 A1 (WOESTE LUDGER [DE]; RITZ MARIA [DE]; KOENIG LUTZ [DE]) 3 August 2000 (2000-08-03) column 2, line 42 - column 3, line 9; figures ----- -/--	1-16

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
- "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- "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)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "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
- "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
- "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
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search  13 July 2012	Date of mailing of the international search report  04/01/2013
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer  Fischer, Elmar

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/ZA2012/000030

## Box No. 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.:  
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:
  
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 No. 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:

see additional sheet

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 fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
  
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.:

1-16

### Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No  
PCT/ZA2012/000030

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3 546 467 A (BENJAMIN JOEL MALVERN JR ET AL) 8 December 1970 (1970-12-08) column 4, lines 22-44 column 11, lines 41-49; figures 1,2,3a,3b -----	1-16
A	US 6 671 226 B1 (FINKEL JOEL L [US] ET AL) 30 December 2003 (2003-12-30) column 8, lines 17-29; figure 7 -----	5

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No PCT/ZA2012/000030
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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 9300256	U1	25-03-1993	NONE
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DE 19505402	A1	22-08-1996	AU 4618796 A 04-09-1996
			DE 19505402 A1 22-08-1996
			DE 19680083 D2 05-06-1997
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			WO 9625135 A1 22-08-1996
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DE 10004841	A1	03-08-2000	DE 10004841 A1 03-08-2000
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			ES 2183769 T3 01-04-2003
			US 6489605 B1 03-12-2002
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US 3546467	A	08-12-1970	NONE
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US 6671226	B1	30-12-2003	NONE
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**FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210**

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-16

A walking aid including a transmitter for emitting a directional signal, a receiver associated with the transmitter, which detects a reflection of the directional signal, and an actuator which, in response to the detection of a reflected directional signal, imparts a vibrating signal to the user.

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2. claim: 17

A walking aid including a control device and at least one actuator, wherein the control device, in response to an externally generated positional signal, activates the actuator to guide the user along a defined path.

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