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(71) Applicant and

(72) Inventor: GREEN, David, T. [US/US]; 40 Madison Hill,
Fairfield, CT 06430 (US).

(74) Agent: CHACLAS, George, N.; Edwards Angell Palmer
& Dodge LLP, P.O. Box 55874, Boston, MA 02205 (US).

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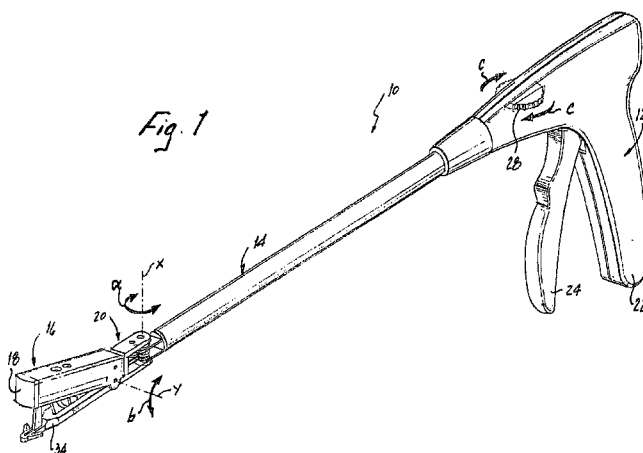
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(54) Title: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT FOR PROGRESSIVELY STAPLING AND INCISING TISSUE



(57) Abstract: An instrument including a clamping jaw with an anvil defining an elongated slot and staple forming cups on opposing sides of the elongated slot. A housing rotatably mounts on the anvil and a pusher rotatably mounts within the housing. A handle actuates the clamping jaw from the open to the intermediate position by rotating the housing towards the clamping jaw. To move from the intermediate position to the closed position, the pusher rotates towards the anvil. A staple cartridge, disposed in the housing, includes a staple track for retaining two rows of staples on opposing sides of the elongated slot. Two staple drivers align with the distal most staples. The drivers slidably mount in the staple cartridge and couple to the pusher such that each staple driver forces a staple into the forming cups and, in turn, staples the body tissue as the pusher rotates from the intermediate to closed position. A knife rotatably mounts on the staple cartridge and couples to the pusher such that the knife passes into the elongated slot and, in turn, cuts the body tissue as the pusher rotates from the intermediate to closed position.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC: A61B 17/068(2006.01) USPC: 227/180.1,19,176.1 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) U.S. : 227/175.1, 178.1, 180.1, 19, 176.1 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)		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,485,952 A (FONTAYNE) 23 January 1996. See entire document.	1-27
A	US 5,667,517 A (HOOVEN) 16 September 1997. See entire document.	1-27
A	US 5,901,895 A (HEATON et al.) 11 May 1999. See entire document.	1-27
A	US 5,954,259 A (VIOLA et al.) 21 September 1999. See entire document.	1-27
A	US 5,993,464 A (KNODEL) 30 November 1999. See entire document.	1-27
A	US 6,010,054 A (JOHNSON et al.) 04 January 2000. See entire document.	1-27
A	US 6,578,751 A (HARTWICK) 17 June 2003. See entire document.	1-27
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201		Authorized officer /Scott A. Smith/ <i>Scott A. Smith</i> Telephone No. 571-272-3700 <i>JS</i>

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6,716,232 A (VIDAL et al.) 06 April 2004. See entire document.	1-27