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5 March 2009

(54) Title: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR REMOTE ACOUSTIC PORTING AND MAGNETIC ACOUSTIC CONNECTION

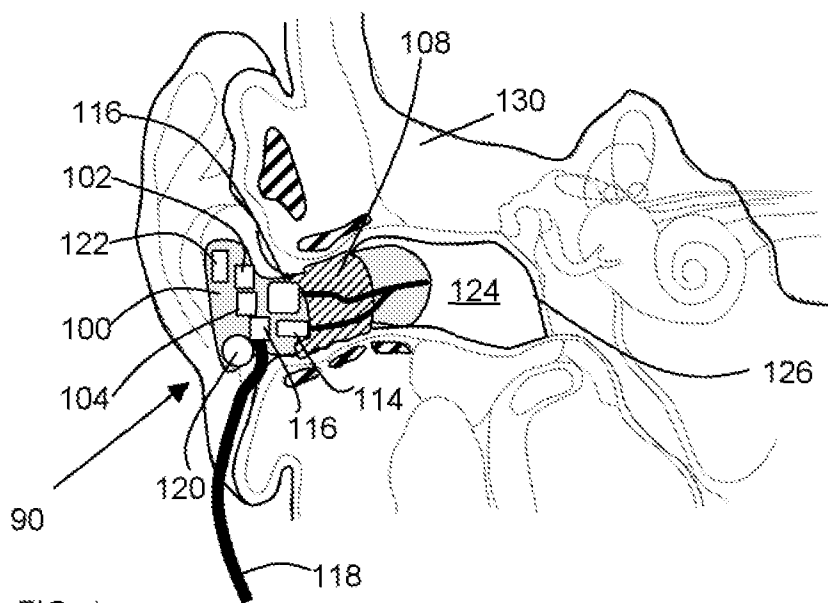


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: An earpiece device includes a microphone and a speaker having a common acoustic channel to reduce complexity and minimize components in an ear canal region. The earpiece device also includes a logic circuit operatively connected into an earpiece, where the microphone is configured to sample an acoustic signal traveling from either end of an acoustic channel. The earpiece device further includes a selective attenuation mechanism for varying the acoustic energy from one end of the acoustic channel or combining the acoustic energies in a controlled ratio from both ends of the acoustic channel before reaching the microphone.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 08/70642

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - H04R 25/00 (2008.04)

USPC - 381/314

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)

USPC: 381/314

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
USPC: 381/312,313,317,318 (see terms below)

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

PubWEST(PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB), GOOGLE SCHOLAR

terms: microphone, hearing, acoustic channel, audio, sound, speaker, receiver, processor, logic circuit, ambient environment, ear canal, rotatable cover, linear actuator, channel plug, cross-section, vary, earpiece, earplug, earbud, battery, magnet, holder, shield.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 6,754,359 B1 (Svean et al.) 22 June 2004 (22.06.2004), fig. 1-2, col 4, ln 16 - col 7, ln 56.	7 ----- 1-6,8-16
Y	US 6,768,804 B1 (Isvan) 27 July 2004 (27.07.2004), fig. 1, 3a, col 4, ln 3 - col 6, ln 56, col 8, ln 26-51.	1-6,8-16
Y	US 6,549,635 B1 (Gebert) 15 April 2003 (15.04.2003), fig. 1-4, col 3, ln 61 - col 5, ln 15.	4-6, 15

☐

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐

* 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

18 November 2008 (18.11.2008)

Date of mailing of the international search report

02 DEC 2008

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 08/70642

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:
Group I: claims 1-16 directed to a method for selective attenuation of audio signals.

Group II: claims 17-20 directed a battery holder.

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 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.:
1-16
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.:

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.