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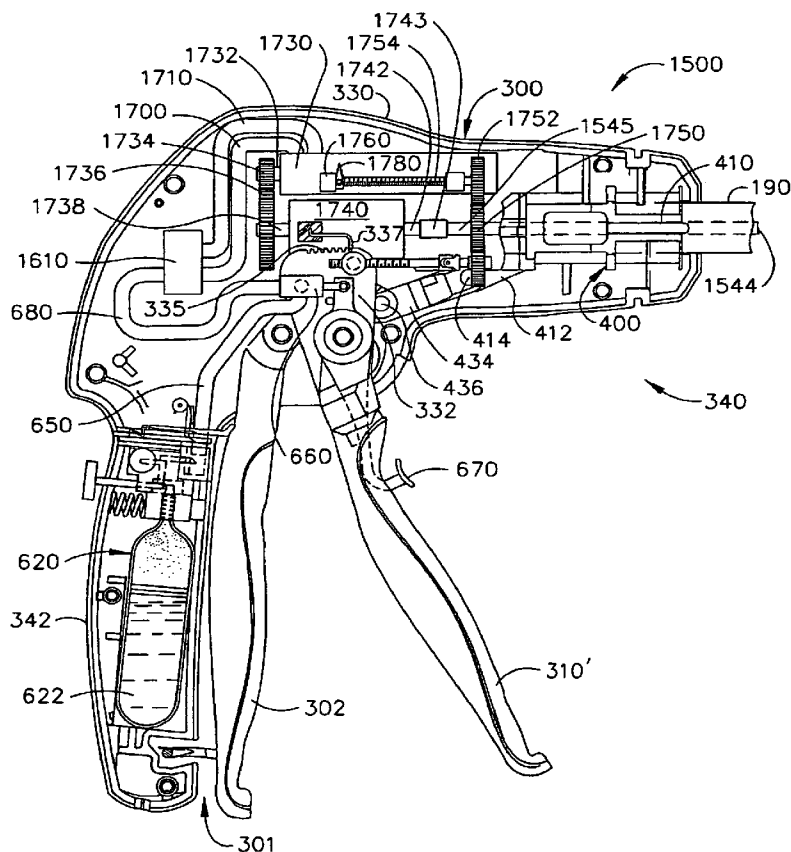
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(54) Title: PNEUMATICALLY POWERED SURGICAL CUTTING AND FASTENING INSTRUMENT WITH IMPROVED VOLUME STORAGE



(57) Abstract: A surgical instrument for use in connection with a pneumatically powered tool. IN various embodiments, the instrument include a drive system that is configured to apply at least one actuation motion to the pneumatically powered tool upon receipt of a flow of gas under pressure. The instrument may further comprise a material storage member that is fluidically coupled to the drive system. The material storage member may contain a material in a first non-gaseous state that selectively vaporizes into the gas under pressure upon actuation of the drive system. A power source for a gas driven device is also disclosed. In various embodiments, the power source comprises a material storage member that is fluidically coupled to the gas driven device. The material storage member contains a material having a first non-gaseous state and which selectively vaporizes into a gas under pressure upon actuation of the gas driven device.

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**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

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- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 INV. A61B17/072  
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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)  
 A61B

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 practical, search terms used)  
 EPO-Internal

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5 657 921 A (YOUNG WAYNE P [US] ET AL) 19 August 1997 (1997-08-19) column 5, line 13 - line 31	1-3,5,9, 10
Y	US 4 357 940 A (MULLER GEORGE H) 9 November 1982 (1982-11-09) column 2, line 63 - column 3, line 10	1-3,5,9, 10
A	US 6 171 330 B1 (BENCHETRIT SALOMON [FR]) 9 January 2001 (2001-01-09) the whole document	1-10
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.       See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents :

<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 when the document is taken alone</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>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</p>
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer  Held, Günter
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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No PCT/US2007/014880
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