

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
26 September 2002 (26.09.2002)

PCT

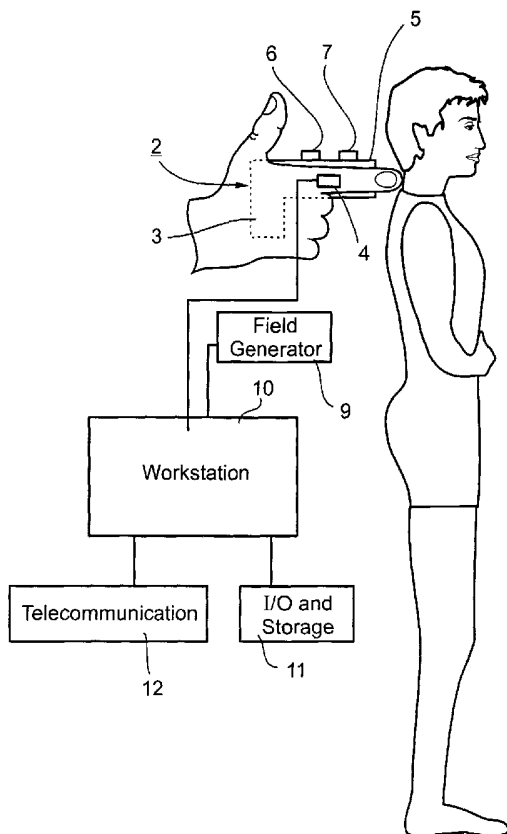
(10) International Publication Number  
WO 02/074155 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **A61B 5/103**
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/IL02/00221
- (22) International Filing Date: 19 March 2002 (19.03.2002)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
 

09/810,538	19 March 2001 (19.03.2001)	US
60/276,480	19 March 2001 (19.03.2001)	US
60/276,478	19 March 2001 (19.03.2001)	US
60/316,249	4 September 2001 (04.09.2001)	US
10/035,446	4 January 2002 (04.01.2002)	US
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- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT (utility model), AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ (utility model), CZ, DE (utility model), DE, DK (utility model), DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE (utility model), EE, ES, FI (utility model), FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK (utility model), SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: CONTOUR MAPPING SYSTEM AND METHOD PARTICULARLY USEFUL AS A SPINE ANALYZER AND PROBE THEREFOR



(57) Abstract: A contour mapping system useful as a spine analyzer includes a probe (2) for application to a user's hand with the outer tip of at least one finger of the hand movable along the outer surface of the person's spine or other object whose contour is to be mapped. A position sensor (4) carried by the probe is movable with the user's finger as the finger moves along the outer surface of the object. The system tracks and displays the movements of the position sensor (4) as the probe (2) is moved with the user's hand along the outer surface of the object. An ultrasonic transducer may be combined with the position sensor (4) on the same probe (2) and used to examine particular vertebrae, such as apex vertebrae, for rotation and/or deformation.



WO 02/074155 A3



**(84) Designated States (regional):** ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**(88) Date of publication of the international search report:**  
9 January 2003

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

**Published:**

— *with international search report*

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/IL02/00221

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 IPC(7) : A61B 5/103  
 US CL : 600/594  
 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. : 600/594, 409, 587

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)  
 Please See Continuation Sheet

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,042,505 A (MAYER et al) 27 August 1991 (27.08.1991), see entire document.	1-43
A	US 5,303,480 A (CHEK) 19 April 1994 (19.04.1994), see entire document.	1-43
A	DE 4216458 A1 (BRUNNER) 02 December 1993 (02.12.1993), see entire document.	1-43
A	DE 4402562 A1 (SEICHERT) 03 August 1995 (03.08.1995), see entire document.	1-43

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

Date of the actual completion of the international search: 07 September 2002 (07.09.2002)  
 Date of mailing of the international search report: 02 OCT 2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Box PCT, Washington, D.C. 20231, Facsimile No. (703)305-3230  
 Authorized officer: Robin O. Evans (Signature: J. Husley for), Telephone No. (703) 308-0861

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

PCT/IL02/00221

**Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:**

EAST BRS Search

Search terms: contour, mapping, sensor, probe, finger, spine, spinal, profile, scoliosis, posture