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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):

SONOMA ORTHOPEDIC PRODUCTS, INC.
[US/US]; 650 Larkfield Shopping Center, Santa Rosa, CA
95403 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **SARAVIA, Herber**
[US/US]; 473 Tarton Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95405 (US).
HAUCK, Brian, A. [US/US]; 215 Flametree Circle,
Windsor, CA 95492 (US). **PHAM, Trung** [US/US]; 1077

Stanislaus Way, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 (US). **NELSON, Charles, L.** [—/US]; 3744 Woodbourne Place, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 (US). **ANDERSON, Arthur, E., III**; 1109 Sage Court N., Sunnyvale, CA 94087 (US). **BOWEN, William, W.** [US/US]; 84 Madrone, Willits, CA 95490 (US). **MCDANIEL, Stephen, R.** [US/US]; 1071 Sea Eagle Loop, Bodega Bay, CA 94923 (US).

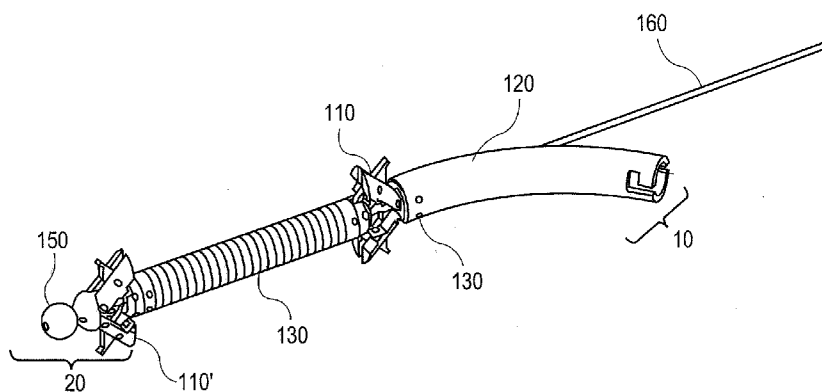
(74) Agents: **LIMBACH, Douglas, C.** et al.; Shay Glenn, LLP, 2755 Campus Drive, Suite 210, San Mateo, CA 94403 (US).

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(54) Title: FRACTURE FIXATION DEVICE, TOOLS AND METHODS



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FIG. 1C

(57) Abstract: A bone fixation device is provided with an elongate body having a longitudinal axis and having a flexible state and a rigid state, a plurality of grippers disposed at longitudinally spaced locations of the elongated body, a curved rigid hub connected to the elongated body, and an actuator operably connected to the grippers to deploy the grippers from a first shape to an expanded second shape. Methods of repairing a fracture of a bone are also disclosed. One such method comprising inserting a bone fixation device into an intramedullary space of the bone to place at least a portion of an elongate body of the fixation device in a flexible state on one side of the fracture and at least a portion of a curved rigid hub on another side of the fracture, and operating an actuator to deploy a plurality of grippers of the fixation device to engage an inner surface of the intramedullary space to anchor the fixation device to the bone.



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USPC - 606/63

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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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)

MicroPatent

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6,575,973 B1 (SHEKALIM) 10 June 2003 (10.06.2003) entire document	1-43
Y	US 2004/0230193 A1 (CHEUNG et al) 18 November 2004 (18.11.2004) entire document	1-43
Y	US 2002/0188297 A1 (DAKIN et al) 12 December 2002 (12.12.2002) entire document	41-43
A	US 6,755,862 B2 (KEYNAN) 29 June 2004 (29.06.2004) entire document	1-43

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Authorized officer:

Blaine R. Copenheaver

PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300

PCT OSP: 571-272-7774