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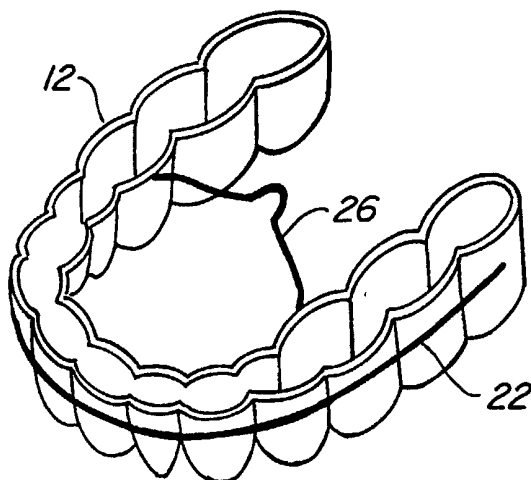
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(54) Title: EMBEDDED FEATURES AND METHODS OF A DENTAL APPLIANCE



(57) Abstract: Traditional orthodontic treatment often involves the use of basic repositioning devices, such as braces, and the use of supplementary devices, components or accessories to achieve desired end results. Such components may be mounted on fixed, non-removable devices or they may be part of a removable appliance typically worn prior to the application of the fixed devices. As with traditional treatment, it may be desired to utilize similar components when repositioning teeth with removable elastic repositioning appliances. Due to the nature of elastic appliances, such components may take a variety of forms ranging from readily available traditional accessories to specially created devices. Thus, traditional components may be mounted on or embedded in an elastic appliance, or the appliance may be formed to provide similar components. Likewise, the appliance may be modified to provide additional features for specific orthodontic treatments.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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US CL :433/6

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,022,855A (JECKEL) 11 June 1991, see entire document	1-8
X	US 5,645,420A (BERGERSEN) 08 July 1997, see entire document	9-14,18-22
X	US 4,253,828A (COLES et al.) 03 March 1981, columns 2, 3	16,17
X	US 5,951,291A (ALBERT et al.) 14 September 1999, columns 3-5	27,28
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Y		24-26,29
Y	US 4,150,485A (LEE, Jr. et al.) 24 April 1979, columns 3,4,8	24-26
Y	US 5,607,300A (TEPPER) 04 March 1997, columns 3,4	29



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"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
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
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