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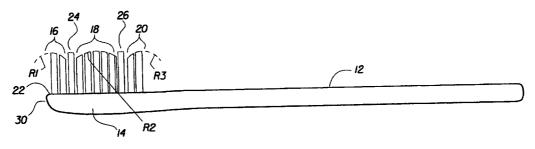
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(54) Title: TOOTHBRUSH HAVING AN EFFICACIOUS BRISTLE PATTERN



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to an enhanced cleaning toothbrush bristle pattern, wherein two rows of taller bristle tufts transversely divide the toothbrush head into three sections, the bristle tufts within each section having a trim pattern which in profile is convex in relation to the toothbrush face; wherein the two rows of taller bristle tufts penetrate between teeth, while the curved trim profile of each section provides for good conformity to the curved tooth surfaces and for an improved sweeping action.

#### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intro tional Application No PCT/US 01/15756

a. classification of subject matter IPC 7 A46B9/04 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 A46B 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, PAJ, WPI Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages 1-12P,A US 6 138 315 A (HART RICHARD STEVEN ET AL) 31 October 2000 (2000-10-31) figure CH 681 771 A (HANS RUDOLF PFISTER) 1 - 12Α 28 May 1993 (1993-05-28) figures 1,7,13 Α PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1996, no. 10, 31 October 1996 (1996-10-31) & JP 08 154740 A (LION CORP), 18 June 1996 (1996-06-18) abstract JP 11 290128 A (LION CORP) 1 - 6Α 26 October 1999 (1999-10-26) figures Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C ° 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 \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to 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) 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 docu-\*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but "&" document member of the same patent family later than the priority date claimed Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 14/12/2001 5 December 2001 Authorized officer 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 van Hoogstraten, S

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