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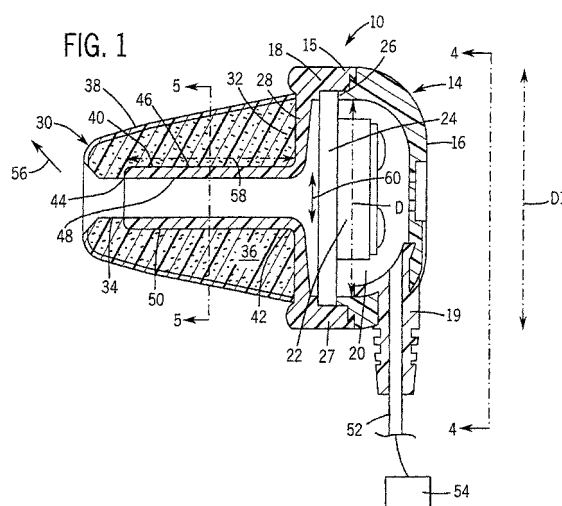
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(54) **A stereophonic earphone apparatus**

(57) A stereophonic earphone apparatus is disclosed for incanal of a user thereof. The apparatus includes a housing which has a first and a second end and which defines an enclosure. An electroacoustic transducer is disposed within the enclosure and a diaphragm is disposed within the enclosure adjacent to the transducer. A resilient anchor having a first and a second extremity is arranged such that the first extremity is removably secured to and extends from a cover of the housing. The anchor is fabricated from a hydrophilic urethane foam having a skinned over outer surface such that when the anchor is compressed, insertion of the anchor within the ear canal is permitted. The foam has a shape restoration memory such that after insertion of the anchor within the ear canal, the foam gradually expands so that the skinned over surface thereof comes into intimate contact with the ear canal so that the apparatus is secured within the ear canal. A tube extends from the cover and is disposed within a passageway defined by the anchor. The tube has an inner and an outer face such that the outer face of the tube extends contiguously along the passageway so that the tube prevents obturation of the passageway while permitting a transmission of sound waves from the diaphragm into the ear canal.





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 10 1714

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	WO 99/07182 A (DECIBEL INSTRUMENTS, INC) 11 February 1999 (1999-02-11) * page 1, line 5 - line 16 * * page 2, line 36 - page 3, line 2 * * page 5, line 15 - page 6, line 29 * * page 7, line 35 - page 13, line 30 *	1-4, 6-13, 18-20	INV. H04R1/10
Y	-----	1-17,20	
Y	US 5 319 163 A (SCOTT ET AL) 7 June 1994 (1994-06-07) * column 1, line 12 - column 2, line 63 *	5,8,11, 20	
X	US 5 002 151 A (OLIVEIRA ET AL) 26 March 1991 (1991-03-26) * column 2, line 26 - line 62 * * column 5, line 40 - column 12, line 7 *	18,19	
Y	-----	1-17,20	
A	GB 606 272 A (THE ZENITH RADIO CORPORATION) 11 August 1948 (1948-08-11) * page 1, line 28 - line 67 * * page 2, line 15 - page 3, line 76 *	1,18	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
Y	EP 0 383 483 A (KOSS CORP [US]) 22 August 1990 (1990-08-22) * column 3, line 8 - column 4, line 25 *	14-17	H04R A61F
A	US 2 430 229 A (KELSEY ELIZABETH L) 4 November 1947 (1947-11-04) * column 4, line 32 - column 5, line 18 *	14-17	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 6 February 2007	Examiner Peirs, Karel
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

4

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European Patent
Office

Application Number

EP 00 10 1714

CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☒ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number
EP 00 10 1714

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-13, 18-20

a tube is present extending contiguously along a passage way through the resilient support means.
Object: improve the guidance of sound in the earpiece.

2. claims: 14-17

an annular support flange is present extending from a cover of the housing and fitting over an end of the resilient support means.
Object: improve the attachment of the resilient support means to the housing.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 10 1714

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

06-02-2007

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