



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) **EP 1 300 096 A3**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
26.11.2003 Bulletin 2003/48

(51) Int Cl.7: **A46B 7/06, A46B 9/04**

(43) Date of publication A2:
09.04.2003 Bulletin 2003/15

(21) Application number: **02028499.8**

(22) Date of filing: **12.07.1995**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GB GR IE IT LI LU NL PT SE

(30) Priority: **13.07.1994 GB 9414140**

(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in accordance with Art. 76 EPC:
95925631.4 / 0 769 920

(71) Applicant: **THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY**
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 (US)

(72) Inventors:
• **Van Gelder, Maria**
Malmesbury Wiltshire SN16 0AX (GB)
• **Morgan, Kirstie Jane**
Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 4LR (GB)

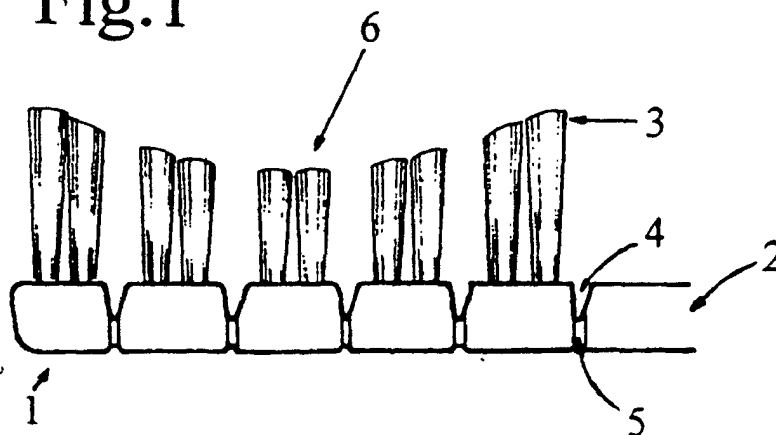
(74) Representative: **Clemo, Nicholas Graham et al**
Patent Department,
Procter & Gamble Technical Centres Limited,
Rusham Park,
Whitehall Lane
Egham, Surrey TW20 9NW (GB)

(54) **Toothbrush**

(57) A toothbrush, having handle and a resiliently flexible bristle-bearing head wherein, when the toothbrush is in its normal stress-free configuration, the free ends of bristles lying along a longitudinal and / or transverse axis of the brush form a generally concave profile adapted to suit the buccal surface of the teeth. The

toothbrush head comprises one or more extensions which are integral with the handle, said extensions being substantially thinner than the handle and wholly or partially surrounded by an elastomeric material. The toothbrush head can flexibly conform to a convex profile to suit the labial surface of the teeth or to avoid damage to the gums.

Fig.1



EP 1 300 096 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 02 8499

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 2 438 268 A (BRESSLER) 23 March 1948 (1948-03-23) * column 1, line 52 - column 2, line 33; figures *	1,2	A46B7/06 A46B9/04
X	DE 16 57 299 A (SOCIETE ANONYME DE ETABLISSEMENTS LECLERC) 11 February 1971 (1971-02-11)	1,2,6,8	
Y	* page 9, paragraph 1 - page 14, paragraph 5; figures *	9,10	
Y	FR 2 040 545 A (UNICLER) 22 January 1971 (1971-01-22) * claims; figures *	9	
Y	WO 92 17093 A (LINGNER + FISCHER) 15 October 1992 (1992-10-15) * page 8, line 22 - line 25; figure 2G *	10	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			A46B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		16 September 2003	Gavaza, B.
<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</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C01)

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

EP 02 02 8499

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.

16-09-2003

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2438268 A	23-03-1948	NONE	
DE 1657299 A	11-02-1971	FR 1524055 A	10-05-1968
		BE 697925 A	03-11-1967
		CH 460705 A	15-08-1968
		DE 1657299 A1	11-02-1971
		NL 6706832 A	20-11-1967
FR 2040545 A	22-01-1971	FR 2040545 A5	22-01-1971
WO 9217093 A	15-10-1992	AT 152890 T	15-05-1997
		AT 228321 T	15-12-2002
		CA 2106990 A1	28-09-1992
		DE 9219161 U1	10-09-1998
		DE 9219162 U1	20-08-1998
		DE 69219766 D1	19-06-1997
		DE 69219766 T2	18-12-1997
		DE 69232862 D1	09-01-2003
		DE 69232862 T2	31-07-2003
		DE 761124 T1	12-11-1998
		DK 577656 T3	16-06-1997
		DK 761124 T3	17-03-2003
		WO 9217093 A1	15-10-1992
		EP 1057425 A2	06-12-2000
		EP 1134004 A2	19-09-2001
		EP 0577656 A1	12-01-1994
		EP 0761124 A1	12-03-1997
		ES 2103938 T3	01-10-1997
		ES 2187614 T3	16-06-2003
		GR 3024299 T3	31-10-1997
		HK 1007266 A1	09-04-1999
		JP 3192422 B2	30-07-2001
		JP 6507792 T	08-09-1994
		US 5651158 A	29-07-1997