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(54) **A hearing aid and a method of operating a hearing aid**

(57) A hearing aid comprising a housing with a connector enabling an external device to be connected thereto. The connector includes a set of closely spaced electrical terminals operatively connected to one or more internal hearing aid components. The hearing aid also comprises detecting means adapted for determining whether an external device is connected or unconnected

to the hearing aid, and the hearing aid is adapted for keeping the set of closely spaced electrical terminals at a substantially equal electrical potential during at least a part of the time periods wherein an external device is unconnected.

The invention also relates to a hearing aid implemented method of operating a hearing aid and a program comprising code adapted for operating a hearing aid.

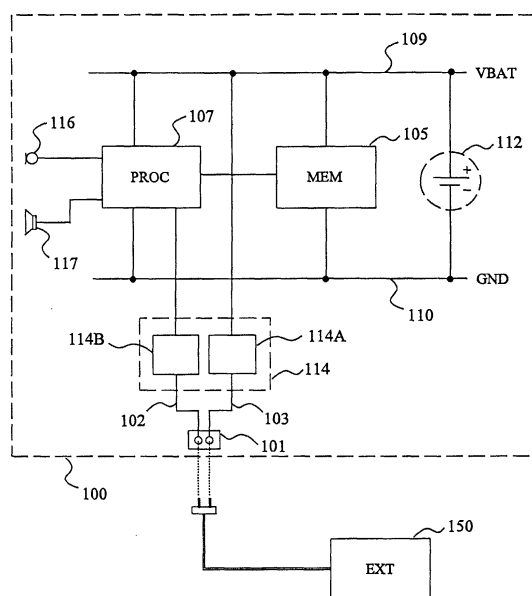


FIG. 1B



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 07 9246

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 4 July 2008	Examiner Peirs, Karel
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS 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 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			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 02 07 9246

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
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