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(54) **Fastener with sliding hook for restraint system, and method of using fastener**

(57) A fastener for a restraint system. The restraint system is preferably intended to be used in a vehicle with a lower anchor. The fastener includes a clip having longitudinal axis, with a hook end and a strap attachment end, the hook end having a curved portion defining a hook and an opening to the hook for receiving the lower anchor. A cover is slidably secured to the clip, the cover slidable relative to the clip along the longitudinal axis, between a closed position and an open position, wherein with the cover in the open position, the hook opening is exposed, and with the cover in the closed position the hook opening is closed by the cover. With the cover in

the open position the fastener may be hooked or unhooked to the lower anchor, and with the cover in the closed position, a lower anchor located in the hook will be locked within the hook. The fastener may also include a lock for locking the cover in the closed position and the open position. The present invention also contemplates providing a lower anchor belt system to be used to secure a child restraint seat to a vehicle equipped with at least one pair of lower anchors which includes a rigid, round rod or bar typically located at the seat bight. The system includes a strap having a first end and a second end, a strap adjuster coupled to the strap and two of the lower anchor fasteners.

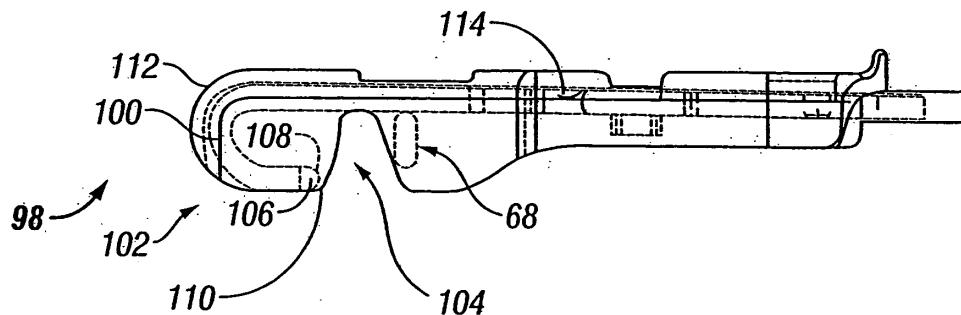


FIG. 6



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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
1	Place of search Munich	Date of completion of the search 29 November 2006	Examiner Westermayer, Wilhelm
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			

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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