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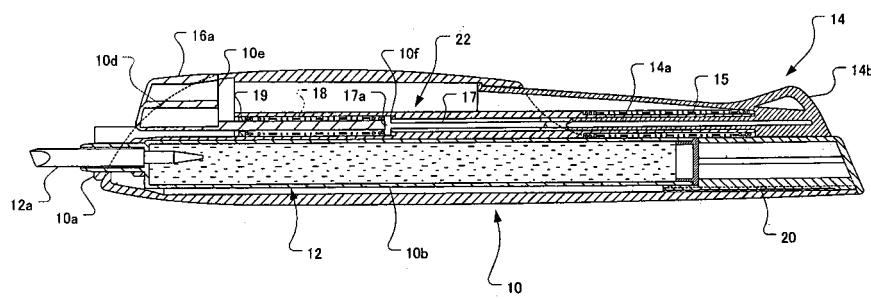
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(54) Writing Instrument

(57) An instrument includes a holder (10) for holding a medium (12), a cap (16) capable of covering a tip end portion of the medium (12), and a knock member (14) provided to be capable of knocking to attach and detach the cap. The cap is connected to the knock member via a rotational transform mechanism (14a). The rotational transform mechanism advances the cap in accordance

with one knock of the knock member in the axial direction, the rotational transform mechanism rotates the cap around an axis parallel to the axial direction, then retreats the cap, so that the state in which the cap covers the tip end portion of the medium and the state in which the cap allows the tip end portion of the medium to be exposed are switchable for each knock of the knock member.

FIG.2





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)						
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim							
A	JP 09 099688 A (KOBAYASHI TOMOTOYO) 15 April 1997 (1997-04-15) * abstract * X * figures 1-3 * -----	1-4,6-12 5	INV. B43K5/16						
A	US 2004/028453 A1 (KANARI HIROYUKI [JP] ET AL) 12 February 2004 (2004-02-12) * paragraph [0059] *	1-4							
A	US 1 859 775 A (HYAMS LESTER J) 24 May 1932 (1932-05-24) * the whole document *	5-12							
A	US 1 476 107 A (EDWARD RUDDERHAM THOMAS) 4 December 1923 (1923-12-04) * page 1, line 68 - page 2, line 5 *	5-12							
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)						
			B43K						
<p>4 The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>									
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Place of search</td> <td>Date of completion of the search</td> <td>Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Munich</td> <td>23 May 2007</td> <td>Daintith, Nichola</td> </tr> </table>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	Munich	23 May 2007	Daintith, Nichola
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Munich	23 May 2007	Daintith, Nichola							
<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>.....</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>									

**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:



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: 1-4,5-12

1. Claim 1 appears to concern the embodiments of figures 1 to 9. The closest prior art for this document is disclosed within the document JP-A-9-99688 (D1) which shows the following features of claim 1:

"An instrument comprising:

a holder (2) for holding a medium;
a cap (4) capable of covering a tip end portion (3) of the medium;

an operating member (8) provided ... to attach and detach the cap; and

a rotational transform mechanism connecting the cap to the operating member;

The features of claim 1 not known from D1 are:

-that the operating member is provided to be capable of knocking with respect to the holder,

-wherein the rotational transform mechanism advances the cap in accordance with one knock of the operating member in the axial direction, the rotational transform mechanism then rotates the cap around an axis parallel to the axial direction and then retreats the cap; and

-wherein with each knock of the operating member, a state in which the cap covers the tip end portion of the medium and a state in which the cap allows the tip end portion of the medium to be exposed are switchable."

1.1 The inventive concept appears to be a combination of the knocking mechanism and the rotational transform mechanism for rotating the cap around an axis parallel to the axial direction.

1.1. claims: 5-12

The features of claim 5 are all known from D1:
"An instrument including:

a holder (2) for holding a medium;
a tip end portion (3) of which is protruded forward from the holder;

a slide member (8, 8a) provided in the holder to be movable in an axial direction;

a cap (4) connected to a tip portion of the slide member so as to cover a tip end portion (3) of the medium; and
an operating portion (8b) connected to the slide member and movable in the axial direction so as to be operated from an outside of the holder."

The feature of dependent claim 6, i.e. "a hollow portion for housing said cap is provided in the vicinity of a tip end portion of the holder" is not known from D1 and this feature provides the inventive concept for the second 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:

Please note that all inventions mentioned under item 1, although not necessarily linked by a common inventive concept, could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee.

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

EP 04 25 5507

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.

23-05-2007

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
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