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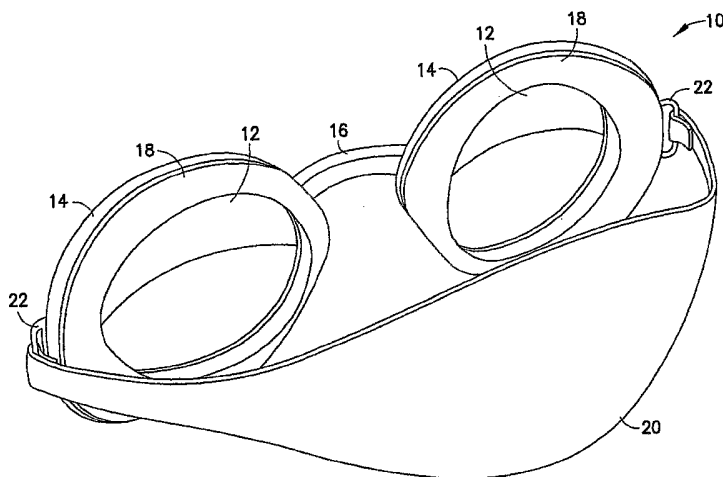
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD FOR TREATING DRY EYE CONDITIONS AND PROMOTING HEALTHY EYES



(57) Abstract: An apparatus and system, and methods for using such apparatus and system, is provided for preserving the eye's natural and artificial tears. The apparatus comprises two soft, pliable eyecups, which each include a curved lens and contoured frame, connected by a soft, pliable bridge. The lenses are maintained within a pliable, and contoured frame that is designed and constructed to encircle the orbital bone of the eye sockets, creating a custom fit and effective seal over each eye. Attached to each frame is a gasket that further seals the apparatus over the eyes and provides additional comfort to the wearer. A contoured strap, which is attached to each frame, maintains the position of the apparatus on the wearer.

WO 2005/011585 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/24300

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61F 9/00
 US CL : 128/858

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 U.S. : 128/858

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2003/0193644 A1 (Schwebel) 16 October 2003, 0038 lines 8-10, 0040 lines 1-3, 0043 lines 1-5, 0044 lines 5-8, 11-12, 0053 lines 8-11	1-3,5-11,13,15-16,25-31
Y	US 6,247,811 B1 (Rhoades et al) 6 June 2001, column 3 lines 51-55	1-3,5-11,13,15-16,25-31
Y	US 6,721,963 B1 (Kawashima) 20 April 2004, column 4, lines 17-20.	17-18

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

14 September 2005 (14.09.2005)

15 SEP 2006

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/24300

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-18

- Remark on Protest**
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US04/24300

BOX III. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 1-18, drawn to an apparatus.

Group II, claim(s) 19-21, drawn to an apparatus.

Group III, claim(s) 2-23, drawn to an apparatus.

Group IV, claim(s) 24, drawn to an apparatus.

Group V, claim(s) 25-29, drawn to a method.

Group VI, claim(s) 30-31, drawn to a method.

The inventions listed as Groups I-VI do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: group II has eye cup which is missing in group I; group I and II have straps which is missing in group II and IV. Group V is lacking eyecup and straps, which are found in other groups. Group VI require medicine, which is missing in groups I-V.