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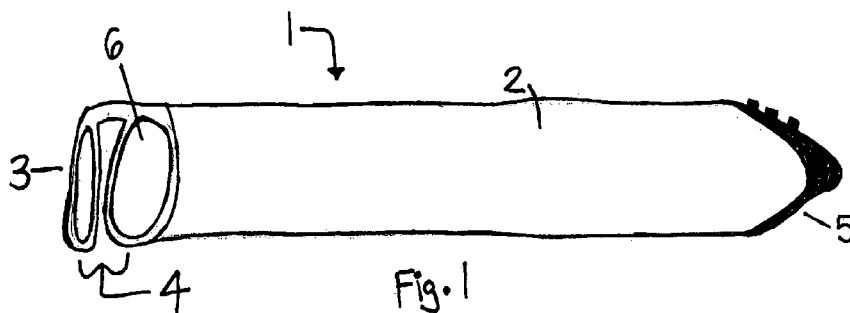
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(54) **Title:** CONDOM WITH ANTI-RUPTURE MEANS AND SECURING MEANS



(57) **Abstract:** A prophylactic device providing the wearer with increased protection against slippage and ruptures. The device has a tubular body with an extra strength tip and a band. The band is elastic and has a ring that stretches to pass comfortably over a wearer's testicles. The band secures the prophylactic device to the wearer and prevents the device from slipping off of the wearer. Both the extra strength tip and the band are thicker than the tubular body and provide the wearer protection against ruptures.

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CONDOM WITH ANTI-RUPTURE MEANS AND SECURING MEANS

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates generally to contraceptive and prophylactic devices.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A conventional condom comprises an elongate thin tubular sheath made of a resilient material. The sheath is closed on one end and open at the other end to provide for insertion of a penis. The condom is typically rolled into a relatively thin disc during manufacture thereof to provide for compact storage and to provide for ease of application of the condom. Conventional condoms are considered to be very effective in preventing unwanted pregnancies and transmission of venereal diseases. However, during coitus, a conventional condom is susceptible to slipping off. This slippage has the obvious disadvantage of potentially allowing leakage of semen or other bodily fluids. Further, a conventional condom, which tends to function best when the penis is fully erect, may slip with regards to a partially erect penis. This is particularly significant after ejaculation if the penis remains in the vagina. In that case, the penis may soften, and become smaller, thus allowing for possible slippage (i.e., the condom may slip off of the wearer).

A conventional condom is also susceptible to breaks or ruptures. Again, such occurrences have the obvious disadvantage of potentially allowing leakage of semen or other bodily fluids.

A search of the prior art shows that there are numerous patents relating to condoms. All of these patents disclose condoms constructed of conventional materials and thickness. Therefore, none provide the wearer protection against breaks or ruptures.

Some of these patents disclose a condom equipped with retaining apparatus to secure the condom to the user. However, the retaining devices disclosed are straps that must be tied together or are otherwise discontinuous. These methods of keeping the condom attached to the wearer allow for the condom to become untied or otherwise unsecured and, thus, may allow for slippage. Consequently, there is a need for a condom that fits comfortably on the wearer and that will not break or accidentally slip off. A search of the prior art shows that no such condom is known.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is a primary objective of the present invention to provide a prophylactic device that can be used by a male wearer to help prevent pregnancy or transmission of sexually transmitted diseases. More particularly, it is an objective of the present invention to provide a prophylactic device that attaches to a wearer and is sufficiently secured so that the contraceptive device will not slip off.

It is another objective of the present invention to provide a prophylactic device that protects the wearer against breaks and ruptures of the prophylactic device.

It is still another objective of the present invention to provide a prophylactic device that promotes fuller, thicker erections achieved by the male wearer.

It is a further objective of the present invention to provide a prophylactic device that gives the male wearer the guaranty that the condom is positioned correctly on the wearer's penis.

The prophylactic device is comprised of a condom (which comprises a tip and a longitudinal body), and a band. The tip and band of the condom are thicker than the body (which is of conventional thickness), thereby providing the wearer assurances that the tip

and band will not break or rupture. The band is durable, stretchable, and fits comfortably over the wearer's penis and testicles. The correct positioning of the band around the wearer's testicles helps to promote longer, fuller erections. Just beyond the extra safety tip, the condom has three dots that protrude from the condom. When positioned properly on the wearer, these three dots will be on the topside of the condom (i.e., the wearer would be able to look directly down at the condom and see the dots). This feature helps to ensure that the condom is positioned properly on the wearer. The condom may also have ribs along the longitudinal body, thereby providing a more intense sensation for the wearer's sexual partner.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Preferred and alternative embodiments of the present invention are described in detail below with reference to the following drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a side view of the fully unrolled (unoccupied) condom, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

FIGURE 2 is a top view of the prophylactic device, fully unrolled and secured onto a wearer.

FIGURE 3 is a bottom view of the prophylactic device of FIGURE 2.

FIGURE 4 is a side view of the prophylactic device of FIGURE 1, as the device is worn by a wearer.

FIGURE 5 is a bottom view of the prophylactic device, wherein the condom is not yet fully secured unto the wearer and the band is being stretched to fit around the wearer's testicles.

FIGURE 6 is a top view of the prophylactic device having ribs, in accordance with an alternative embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to FIG 1, a prophylactic device 1 is comprised of a condom 2 a band 3, and a gap 4. In a first preferred embodiment, the prophylactic device 1 is constructed of latex. The condom has an extra safety tip 5 and a condom opening 6. Both the extra safety tip 5 and the band 3 are thicker than the rest of the prophylactic device 1. The added thickness helps to prevent breaks and/or ruptures in the prophylactic device 1.

Referring to FIG 2, the band 3 is attached to the condom 2 at the top of the condom opening 6. The band 3 is continuous and is comprised of a continuous band ring 7 and a continuous connector 8 that joins the band ring 7 to the condom 2. The connector 8 provides a continuous connection from the condom 2 to the band ring 7. Since the band 3, which securely attaches to the wearer preventing the condom from inadvertently slipping off, is continuous and does not have straps, claps, or other similar attachment means, the wearer does not have to worry about the condom becoming unattached (from the wearer).

As is shown in FIG 3, the gap 4 allows for the band 3 to fit comfortably around the wearer's testicles.

Referring to FIG 4, when the wearer has properly put on the prophylactic device 1, the dots 9 and connector 8 are on top and the gap 4 is under the connector 8, thereby accommodating the wearer's testicles.

Referring to FIG 5, it can be seen that the band 3 is sufficiently elastic so that it can be stretched to pass over the wearer's testicles.

Referring to FIG 6, an alternative embodiment is shown. The prophylactic device **1** also comprises a plurality of circular ribs **10**, spaced apart along the length of the condom. The plurality of ribs may be positioned along a portion of the condom or along the entire length of the condom. In addition to being circular, the ribs are also wavy-shaped. The ribs provide added pleasure for the wearer's sexual partner.

While the preferred embodiment of the invention has been described, various alternative embodiments of the invention are possible without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. For example, the prophylactic device may be constructed of any elastic material. Also, although the preferred embodiment discloses three dots, the prophylactic device may have any number of dots. Accordingly, the scope of the invention is not limited by the disclosure of the preferred embodiment.

What is claimed is:

1. A prophylactic device comprising:

a tubular body defining a longitudinal axis and having a thin wall, a closed distal end, and an open proximal end;

a continuous band extending from the open proximal end; and

at least one dot protruding from the tubular body;

wherein the at least one dot is positioned longitudinally and is located just prior to the closed distal end.

2. The prophylactic device of claim 1, wherein the band comprises a continuous connector and a continuous ring.

3. The prophylactic device of claim 2, wherein the band is thicker than the tubular body.

4. The prophylactic device of claim 3, further comprising an extra safety tip that is located at the closed distal end.

5. The prophylactic device of claim 4, wherein the extra safety tip is thicker than the tubular body.

6. The prophylactic device of claim 5, wherein the connector joins the tubular body and the band ring.

7. The prophylactic device of claim 6, wherein the prophylactic device is constructed of an elastic material.

8. The prophylactic device of claim 7, further comprising a plurality of ribs.

9. The prophylactic device of claim 8, wherein each rib of the plurality of ribs is circular (thereby going around the circumference of the tubular body), is spaced apart from the nearest other ribs, and is wavy-shaped.

10. The prophylactic device of claim 9, wherein the plurality of ribs is positioned along the entire length of the tubular body.

11. A prophylactic device comprising:

a tubular body defining a longitudinal axis, a closed distal end, and an open proximal end;

a band extending from the open proximal end;

an extra safety tip located at the closed distal end;

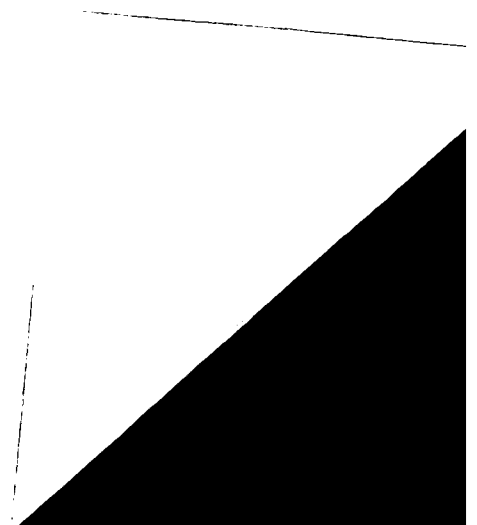
a plurality of ribs located along the entire length of the tubular body; and

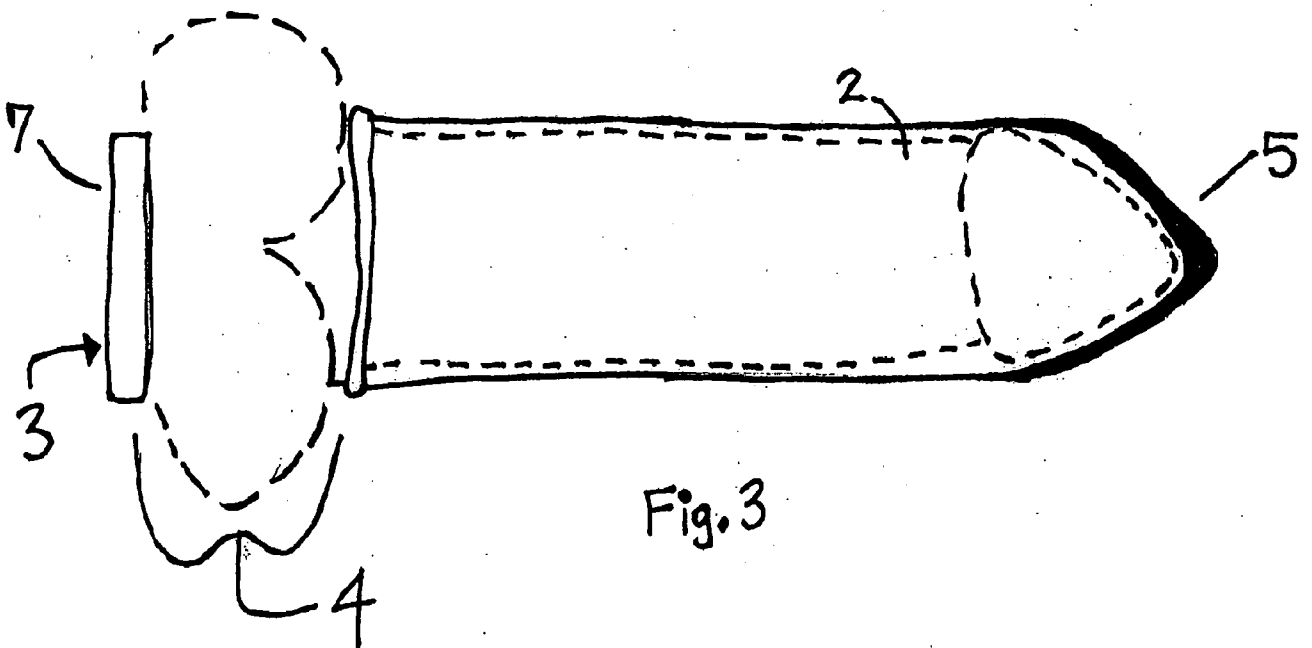
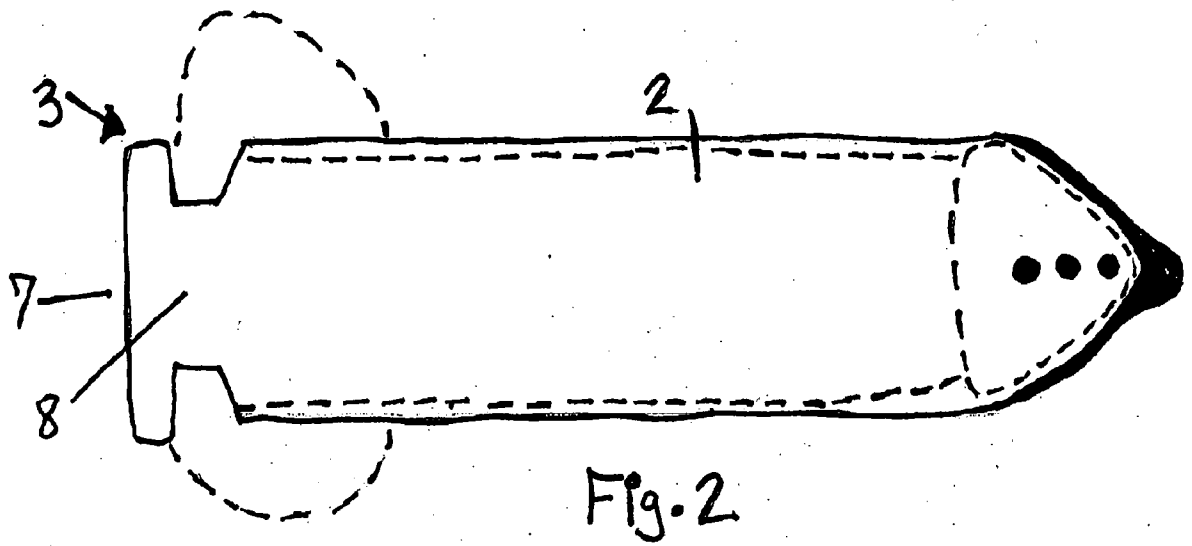
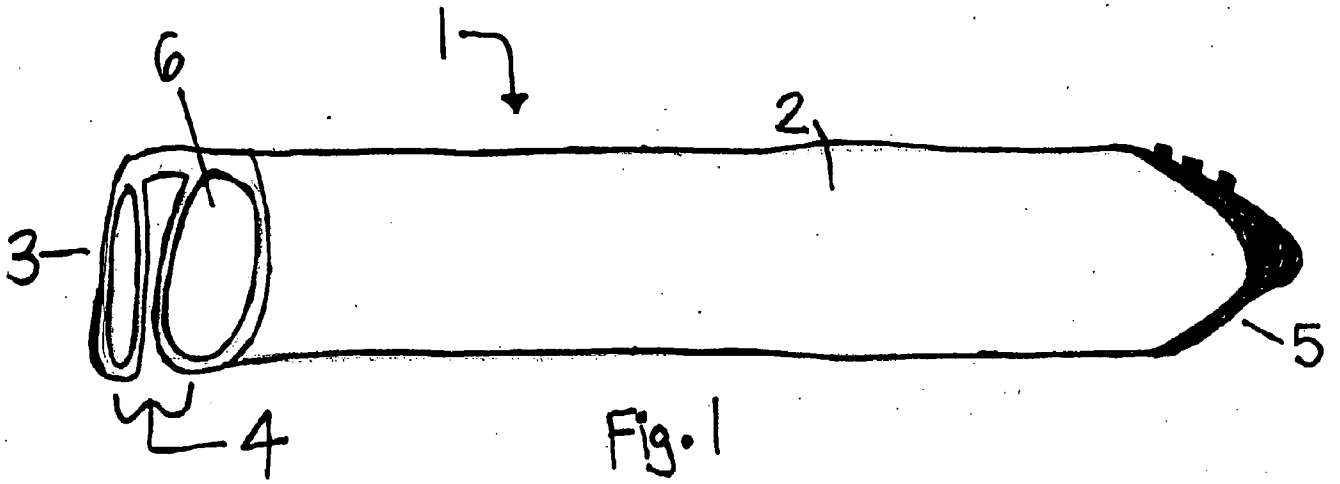
a plurality of dots protruding from the tubular body;

wherein each rib of the plurality of ribs is circular (thereby going around the circumference of the tubular body), is spaced apart from the nearest other ribs, and is wavy-shaped; and

wherein the plurality of dots is positioned longitudinally and is located just prior to the closed distal end.

12. The prophylactic device of claim 11, wherein the extra safety tip and the band are thicker than the tubular body.





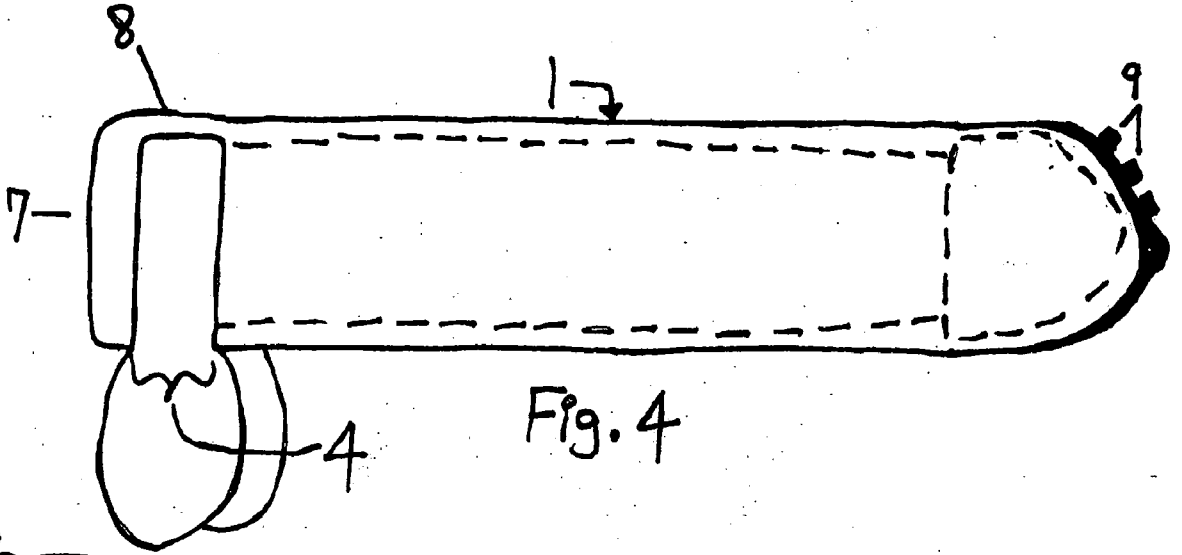


Fig. 4

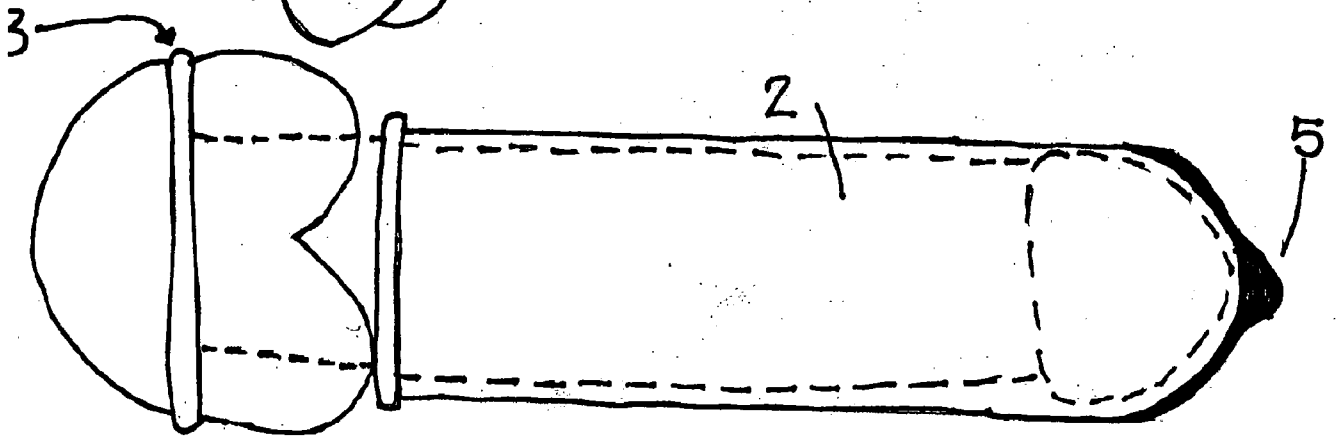


Fig. 5

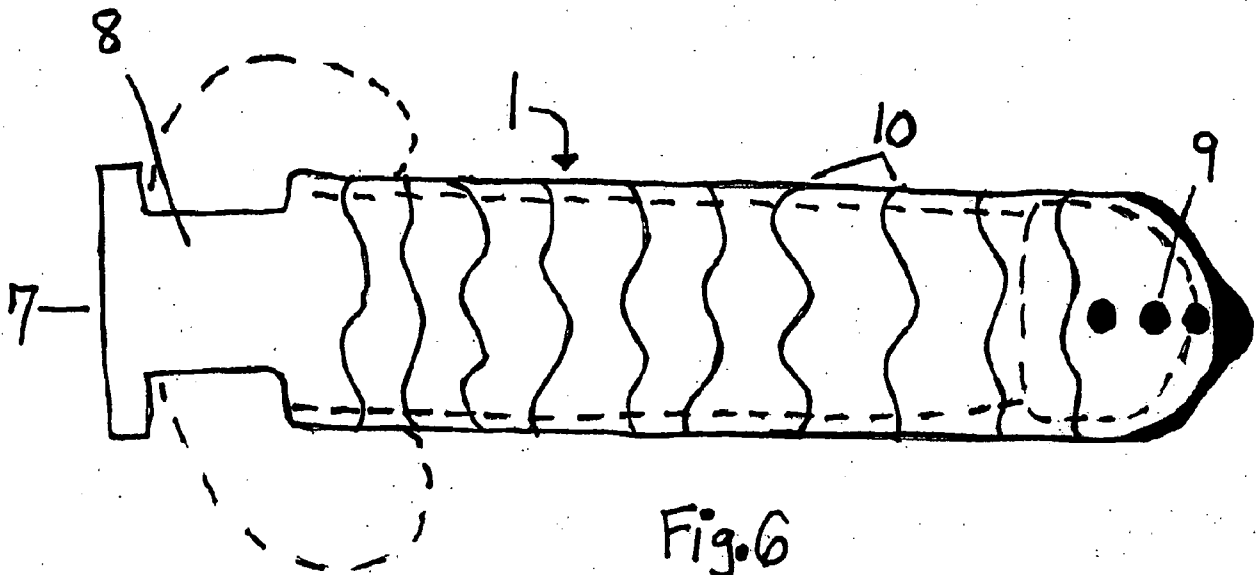


Fig. 6

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER*A61F 6/04(2006.01)i, A61F 6/02(2006.01)i*

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)

IPC 8 : A61F 6/00~6/24

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

Korean Utility models and Applications for Utility model since 1975 : IPC 8 as above

Japaneses Utility models and Applications for Utility models since 1975 : IPC 8 as above

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

eKIPASS (KIPO internal)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 4,354,494 A (PHILIP E. HOGIN) 19 OCTOBER 1982 See Abstract; Column 1, Line 55-Column 2, Line 46; Claims 1-6 and Figures 1-4	1-3 ----- 4-12
Y --- A	US 4,972,849 A (YONG-YEON PARK; WEOL-SEON SUH) 27 NOVEMBER 1990 See Abstract; Column 2, Line 55-Column 3, Line 22; Claim 1 and Figures 1-4	4-12 ----- 1-3
Y --- A	US 6,308,708 B2 (STEVEN R. STRAUSS ET AL.) 30 OCTOBER 2001 See Abstract; Column 1, Line 16-21, 47-58; Column 4, Line 34-50; Claims 1-10 and Figures 1A, 6A	8-12 ----- 1-7

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"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

"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

"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

"&" document member of the same patent family

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29 MAY 2009 (29.05.2009)

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/KR

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Authorized officer

JANG, Nak Yong



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/US2008/014123

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