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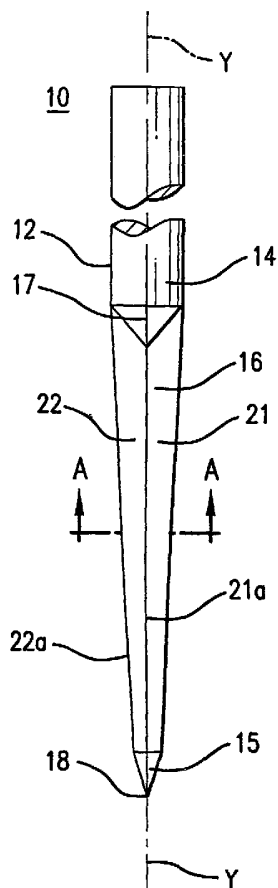
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(54) Title: ENDODONTIC INSTRUMENT



(57) Abstract: An endodontic instrument for use in performing root canal therapy on a tooth having at least one straight flute which prevents self-threading or screwing of the instrument into a root canal during use. The instrument includes a shaft having a longitudinal central axis, a shank portion and an elongated working portion extending from the shank portion along the central axis, the elongated working portion having a proximal end, a distal end, and at least one peripheral surface and at least one straight flute formed on at least a portion of the peripheral surface of the working portion, the straight flute forming at least one cutting edge on the peripheral surface. The straight flute may be formed of a plurality of flute sections disposed on the peripheral surface of the instrument, the plurality of flute sections angularly displaced about the central axis with respect to one another. A method of manufacturing an endodontic instrument is also disclosed.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61C 5/02  
US CL : 433/102

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. : 433/102,81,165,166,224

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.
X	US 5,857,852A (GARMAN) 12 January 1999 (12.01.1999), see entire document.	1,2,4,5,8,13,15
X	US 4,284,406A (HUGHES) 18 August 1981 (18.08.1081), see entire document.	1,13,14,16-19
X	US 4,345,899A (VLOCK) 24 August 1982 (24.08.1982), see entire document.	1,3-5,8-12,19-21
X	US 5,464,362A (HEATH et al.) 07 November 1995 (07.11.1995), see entire document.	24-26

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
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