



European Patent
Office

SUPPLEMENTARY
PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

under Rule 46, paragraph 1 of the European Patent EP 01 97 8957
Convention

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
X	US 5 897 498 A (DICKERSON KENNETH ET AL) 27 April 1999 (1999-04-27) * the whole document *	1-13, 17-25	A61B8/00 A61B8/14 G06F19/00
A	EP 0 457 940 A (HEWLETT PACKARD GMBH) 27 November 1991 (1991-11-27) * the whole document *	1-13, 17-25	
P, X	WO 01/70100 A (KONINKL PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NV) 27 September 2001 (2001-09-27) * the whole document *	1-13, 17-25	
LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
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:			A61B G06F
see sheet B			
The present partial 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.			
2	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
	Munich	6 October 2004	Willig, H
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			



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: 1-13, 17-25

Ultrasonic devices with provisions to be adapted to the location where the ultrasonic devices are used based on information related to the location, methods to adapt ultrasonic devices to the location where the ultrasonic devices are used based on information related to the location.

2. claims: 14-16

Ultrasonic devices having function extension units which can be mounted via a slot to the ultrasonic devices.

According to the first invention, the functionality of the device can be adapted via software modification to location specific purposes.

According to the second invention, the hardware of the device can easily and quickly be modified, e.g. upgraded or updated.

The two inventions do not involve same or corresponding special technical features (Rule 30 EPC). Therefore, they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept (Art. 82 EPC).

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

EP 01 97 8957

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.

06-10-2004

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5897498	A	27-04-1999	US	5715823 A	10-02-1998
			AU	704680 B2	29-04-1999
			AU	3924697 A	02-04-1998
			BR	9705239 A	20-03-2001
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			EP	1235510 A2	04-09-2002
			JP	2003527184 T	16-09-2003
			US	2004153862 A1	05-08-2004

专利名称(译) 超声波诊断装置，扩展超声波诊断功能的方法，以及在超声波诊断中提供扩展功能的方法

公开(公告)号	EP1336378A4	公开(公告)日	2004-12-01
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[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	株式会社东芝		
申请(专利权)人(译)	株式会社东芝		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	株式会社东芝		
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IPC分类号	A61B8/00 A61B8/14 G06F19/00		
CPC分类号	G06F19/3418 A61B8/00 A61B8/14 G06F19/321 G16H40/63		
优先权	2000334970 2000-11-01 JP		
其他公开文献	EP1336378B1 EP1336378A1		
外部链接	Espacenet		

摘要(译)

超声诊断装置基于通过向/从对象体发送/接收超声波而获得的回声信号来生成超声图像。设备是移动的。该设备包括：操作面板15，用于输入与使用该设备的位置有关的信息；CPU 16，用于提取可以在该设备上扩展的多个扩展功能中的，可以在输入位置中使用的多个扩展功能。显示部8显示所提取的多个扩展功能，以要求操作者在所提取的多个扩展功能中指定至少一个期望的功能。

 European Patent Office		SUPPLEMENTARY PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT <small>under Article 46, paragraph 1 of the European Patent Convention</small>		Application Number EP 01 97 8957
DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		Relevant to claim		CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.)
Category	Citation of document with indication of relevant passages	1-13 17-26	1-13 17-26	
X	US 5 891 492 A (DICKINSON KENNETH ET AL.) 27 April 1999 (2001-09-27) + the whole document +			AG1B8/14 G06F19/00
A	EP 0 457 940 A (HEWLETT PACKARD GMBH) 27 October 1991 (2001-09-27) + the whole document +	1-13 17-26		
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see sheet B				
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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		Date of citation of the document		Examiner
Munich		6 October 2004		W11110..H
<small> X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : relevant if taken in combination with another document of the same category R : relevant if taken in combination with another document of a different category P : intermediate document </small>				
<small> 1: theory or principle underlying the invention 2: theory or principle underlying the invention, or 3: theory or principle underlying the invention, or 4: theory or principle underlying the invention, or 5: document cited for other reasons 6: prior art document of the same patent family, corresponding document </small>				