



European Patent
Office

**SUPPLEMENTARY
PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**
under Rule 46, paragraph 1 of the European Patent
Convention

Application Number

EP 01 97 8957

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			A61B G06F
LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION			
<p>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:</p> <p>see sheet B</p> <p>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.</p>			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 6 October 2004	Examiner Willig, H
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
<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 & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			



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
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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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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
申请号	EP2001978957	申请日	2001-10-30
[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		
[标]发明人	SANO AKIHIRO HASHIMOTO KEISUKE		
发明人	SANO, AKIHIRO HASHIMOTO, KEISUKE		
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。

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see sheet B			
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Place of search		Date of completion of the report	Examiner
Munich		6 October 2004	W1111g, H
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		[] theory or principle underlying the invention	
[] particularly relevant if taken alone		[] other prior documents, but published on, or	
[] particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category		[] document cited in the application	
[] non-written disclosure		[] document cited for other reasons	
[] non-written disclosure		[] member of the same patent family, corresponding document	