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(54) **Surgical suturing apparatus with needle position indicator**

(57) A surgical suturing apparatus includes a suture housing, a needle (1628) having a proximal end and a distal end, the needle being mounted within the suture housing for movement about an arcuate path, a drive assembly operably associated with the needle for controlling movement of the needle with a suture secured

thereto about the arcuate path in a manner facilitating application of the suture to tissue, and mechanism (1670) for determining the position of at least one of the distal end of the needle and the proximal end of the needle at all points along the arcuate path about which the needle moves.

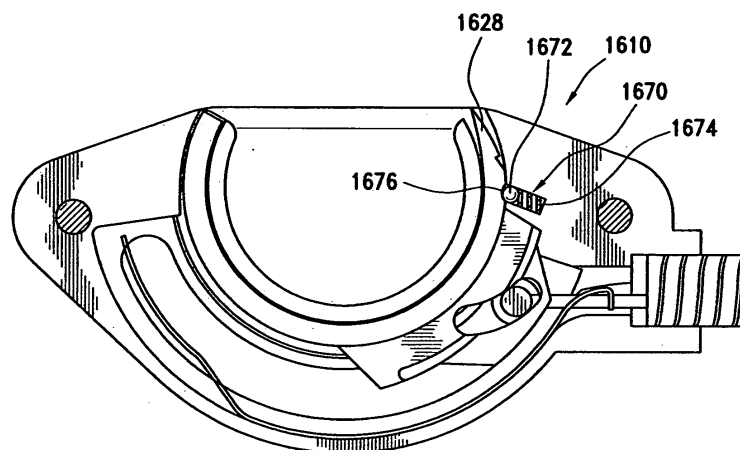


FIG. 32



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EP 07 25 1397

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 3 June 2008	Examiner Dennler, Samuel
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS 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 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			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 07 25 1397

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03-06-2008

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专利名称(译)	带针位置指示器的手术缝合器		
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摘要(译)

一种外科缝合设备，包括缝合线外壳，具有近端和远端的针（1628），针安装在缝合线外壳内以围绕弓形路径移动，驱动组件可操作地与针相关联以控制移动。具有缝合线的针以便于将缝合线施加到组织的方式围绕弓形路径固定到其上，并且机构（1670）用于确定针的远端和针的近端中的至少一个的位置。沿弓形路径移动的所有点。

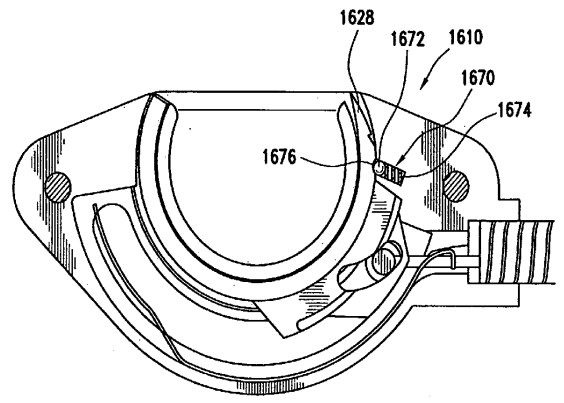


FIG. 32