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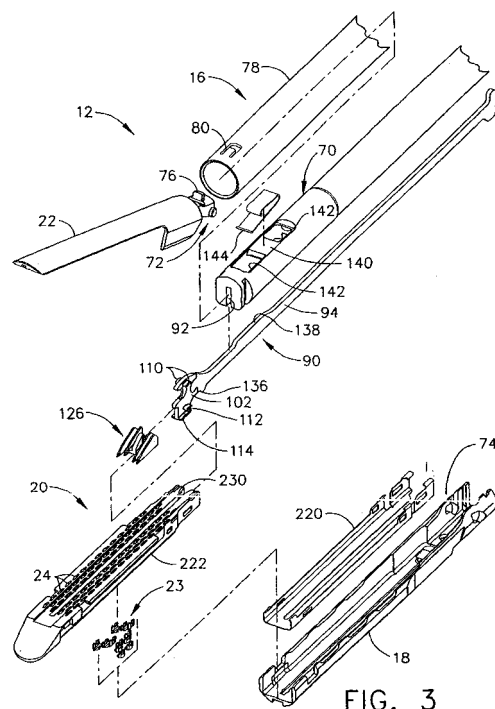
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(54) Articulating surgical stapling instrument

(57) A surgical severing and stapling instrument, suitable for laparoscopic and endoscopic clinical procedures, clamps tissue within an end effector of an elongate channel pivotally opposed by an anvil. An E-beam firing bar moves distally through the clamped end effector to sever tissue and to drive staples on each side of the cut. The E-beam firing bar affirmatively spaces the anvil from the elongate channel to assure properly formed closed staples, especially when an amount of tissue is clamped that is inadequate to space the end effector. In particular, an upper pin of the firing bar longitudinally moves through an anvil slot and a channel slot is captured between a lower cap and a middle pin of the firing bar to assure a minimum spacing. Forming the E-beam from a thickened distal portion and a thinned proximal strip enhances manufacturability and facilitates use in such articulating surgical instruments.



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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) A61B
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 17 March 2008	Examiner Barton, Simon
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	伊西康内外科公司		
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摘要(译)

适用于腹腔镜和内窥镜临床手术的外科切断和缝合器械将组织夹在由砧座枢转地相对的细长通道的末端执行器内。电子束击发杆向远侧移动通过夹紧的末端执行器以切断组织并在切口的每侧驱动钉。电子束击发杆肯定地将砧座与细长通道隔开, 以确保适当形成的闭合钉, 特别是当夹紧一定量的组织时, 不足以使端部执行器间隔开。特别地, 击发杆的上销纵向移动通过砧座槽, 并且通道槽被捕获在击发杆的下帽和中间销之间, 以确保最小间距。从加厚的远端部分和变薄的近端条带形成电子束增强了可制造性并且便于在这种铰接外科器械中使用。

