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(54) **Surgical suturing apparatus with needle release system**

(57) A surgical suturing apparatus includes a suture housing (814), a needle (828) mounted within the suture housing for movement about an arcuate path, and 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. The suture housing has an open position and a closed position, and the needle can be removed from the suture housing when in the open position.

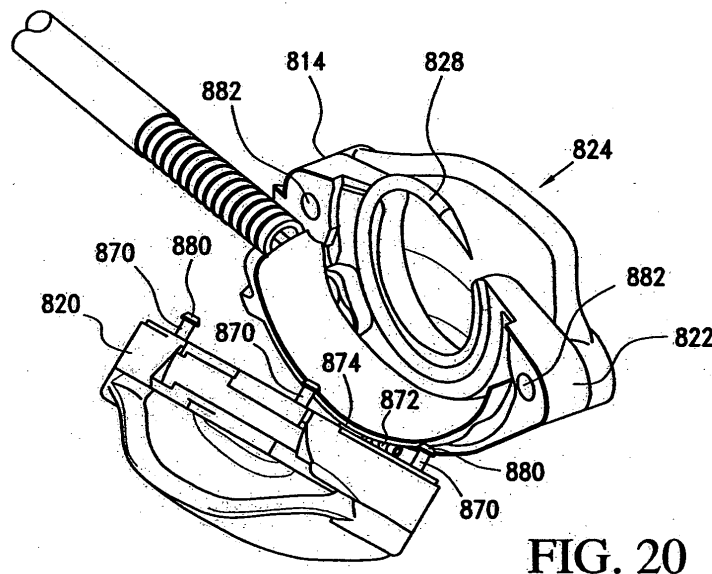


FIG. 20

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich		4 June 2008	Denkler, Samuel
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone		T : theory or principle underlying the invention	
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category		E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date	
A : technological background		D : document cited in the application	
O : non-written disclosure		L : document cited for other reasons	
P : intermediate document		& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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专利名称(译)	具有针头释放系统的手术缝合设备		
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摘要(译)

一种外科缝合设备, 包括缝合线外壳 (814), 安装在缝合线外壳内用于围绕弧形路径移动的针 (828), 以及与针可操作地相关联的驱动组件, 用于控制针的移动, 缝合线固定于其上。弧形路径以便于将缝合线施加到组织的方式。缝合线壳体具有打开位置和闭合位置, 并且当处于打开位置时, 针可以从缝合线壳体移除。

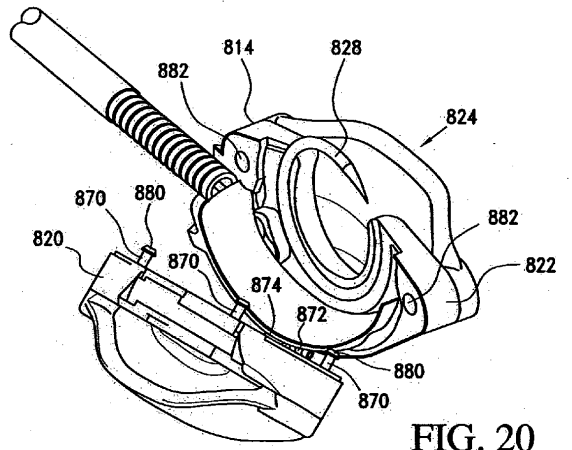


FIG. 20