

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

TRANSLATION

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PF-3445		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below	
International application No. PCT/JP2006/312542	International filing date (day/month/year) 22.06.2006	Priority date (day/month/year)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC			
Applicant TANI, Michio			

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP	Date of completion of this opinion	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.		Telephone No.

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Box No. I	Basis of this opinion
1.	<p>With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the international application in the language in which it was filed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rule 12.3(a) and 23.1(b)).</p>
2.	<p>With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:</p> <p>a. type of material</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> a sequence listing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> table(s) related to the sequence listing</p> <p>b. format of material</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> on paper</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> in electronic form</p> <p>c. time of filing/furnishing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> contained in the international application as filed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> filed together with the international application in electronic form</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search</p>
3.	<p><input type="checkbox"/> In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.</p>
4.	<p>Additional comments:</p>

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement																											
1. Statement	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%; padding: 2px;">Novelty (N)</td> <td style="width: 60%; padding: 2px;"> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; padding: 2px;">Claims</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><u>1-4</u></td> <td style="width: 30%; padding: 2px;">YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Claims</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">_____</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">NO</td> </tr> </table> </td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Inventive step (IS)</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; padding: 2px;">Claims</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">_____</td> <td style="width: 30%; padding: 2px;">YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Claims</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><u>1-4</u></td> <td style="padding: 2px;">NO</td> </tr> </table> </td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Industrial applicability (IA)</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; padding: 2px;">Claims</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><u>1-4</u></td> <td style="width: 30%; padding: 2px;">YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Claims</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">_____</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">NO</td> </tr> </table> </td> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> </tr> </table>	Novelty (N)	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; padding: 2px;">Claims</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><u>1-4</u></td> <td style="width: 30%; padding: 2px;">YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Claims</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">_____</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">NO</td> </tr> </table>	Claims	<u>1-4</u>	YES	Claims	_____	NO		Inventive step (IS)	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; padding: 2px;">Claims</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">_____</td> <td style="width: 30%; padding: 2px;">YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Claims</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><u>1-4</u></td> <td style="padding: 2px;">NO</td> </tr> </table>	Claims	_____	YES	Claims	<u>1-4</u>	NO		Industrial applicability (IA)	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; padding: 2px;">Claims</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><u>1-4</u></td> <td style="width: 30%; padding: 2px;">YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Claims</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">_____</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">NO</td> </tr> </table>	Claims	<u>1-4</u>	YES	Claims	_____	NO	
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2. Citations and explanations:	<p>Document 1: JP 5-36068 B2 (Masayoshi HAKAMADA), 28 May 1993, column 12, lines 32-38, column 13, lines 18-36, column 14, lines 5-12, column 26, lines 11-16, and fig. 2</p> <p>Document 2: JP 2002-345979 A (YAMAN, Ltd.), 03 December 2002, paragraph [0015] and fig. 1, 2</p> <p>Document 3: JP 2867168 B2 (Myurenbekku Georugu Geruharuto), 08 March 1999, column 3, line 25 to column 4, line 13</p> <p>Claim 1</p> <p>The "pulse signal generator (4)" and the "electrode (7)" in the invention described in document 1 correspond respectively to the "low-frequency signal generation means" and the "electrode" in the invention as in claim 1. And because the invention described in document 1 switches the frequency in accordance with "meridian L", it has the "meridian frequency selection means" of the invention as in claim 1. In addition, having an "amplification means" in a low-frequency therapeutic device is common technical knowledge.</p> <p>Document 2 mentions having "fixable band parts in a ring shape for holding the electrode in place".</p>																											

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Thus it would be easy to come up with the invention as in claim 1 by applying the invention described in document 2 as a means for holding the "electrode (7)" in place in the invention described in document 1.

Claim 2

It is stated in document 2 that the electrode is made of "a protrusion (corresponding to the button protrusion (6) in the invention described in document 2) that passes through an opening part provided in the band part (corresponding to the "electrode belt (5)" in the invention described in document 2)".

Thus the invention as in claim 2 is one that could easily be conceived of by a person skilled in the art from the inventions described in documents 1 and 2.

Claims 3, 4

Being made up of a "PWM wave generation circuit", "low-pass filter circuit" and "VCO circuit" and generating a triangular wave is described in document 3.

Thus a person skilled in the art could easily conceive of the invention as in claims 3 and 4 from the inventions described in documents 1-3.

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Box No. VII **Certain defects in the international application**

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

It is unclear what the technical significance is that "the tip of the protrusion is coated with an electrically conductive material" as described in claim 2.