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



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Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks:

5.8.98

Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof.

<b>1. Name of conveying party(ies):</b> Ronald J. Brinkerhoff David Stefanchik Jeffrey S. Swayze Byran D. Knodel Rudolph H. Nobis  <b>Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		<b>2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):</b> Name: Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc.  Street Address: 4545 Creek Road  City: Cincinnati State: OH Zip: 45242  <b>Additional name(s) &amp; address(es) attached?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>3. Nature of conveyance:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment <input type="checkbox"/> Merger <input type="checkbox"/> Security Agreement <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Name <input type="checkbox"/> Other  <b>Execution Date:</b> February 26, 1998			
<b>4. Application number(s) or patent number(s):</b>  If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is:  A. Patent Application No.(s) B. Patent No.(s)  08/947,115  <b>Additional numbers attached?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:</b>  Audley A. Ciamporero, Jr., Esq. Chief Patent Counsel Johnson & Johnson One Johnson & Johnson Plaza New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003		<b>6. Total number of applications &amp; patents involved:</b> 1	
05/28/1998 TTOM11 00000037 100750 08947115 01 FC:581 40.00 CH		<b>7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41) .....</b> \$40.00  <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorized to be charged to Deposit Account	
		<b>8. Deposit Account Number:</b> 10-0750/END0494/DLG	
<b>9. Statement and signature</b>  <i>To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.</i>  Dean L. Garner  May 5, 1998  Name of Person Signing Signature Date Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and document: 6			

Mail documents to be recorded with required cover sheet information to:

Box Assignments  
Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

A S S I G N M E N T

Serial No.  
Filed

WHEREAS, Ronald J. Brinkerhoff, citizen of the United States of America, residing at 3030 Twin Ridge Drive, New Richmond, OH 45157; David Stefanchik, citizen of the United States of America, residing at 9831 Whippoorwill Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45040; Jeffrey S. Swayze, citizen of the United States of America, residing at 11971 Stillwind Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45249; Bryan D. Knodel, citizen of the United States of America, residing at 6100 N. Country Club Road, Flag Staff, Arizona 86004; Rudolph H. Nobis, citizen of the United States of America, residing at 9575 Fox Run Drive, Mason, OH 45040 (hereinafter called "Assignors"), have made certain new and useful inventions or discoveries relating to

A METHOD FOR USING A NEEDLE HOLDER TO ASSIST IN SUTURING

for which they have this day executed an application for Letters Patent of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc., a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Ohio, (hereinafter called "Assignee"), is desirous of acquiring Assignors' entire right, title, and interest therein:

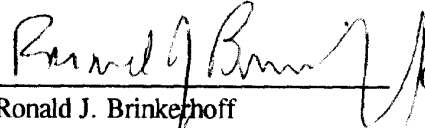
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN that for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar and other valuable considerations to them moving, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, Assignors have sold, assigned, and transferred, and do hereby sell, assign and transfer unto said Assignee their entire right, title and interest in and to all said inventions and discoveries disclosed in said application whose identification above by serial number and filing date, when available is hereby authorized, and in and to said application, all substitutions, divisions, and continuations thereof, and in and to all Letters Patent, United States and foreign, that may be granted for said inventions and discoveries, and in and to all extensions, renewals, and reissues thereof, the same to be held and enjoyed by said Assignee, its successors and assigns, as fully and entirely as the same would have been held and enjoyed by Assignors if this Assignment and sale had not been made;

And Assignors hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents of the United States to issue said Letters Patent in accordance with this Assignment;

And for the consideration aforesaid, Assignors covenant and agree with said Assignee that he has a full and unencumbered title to the inventions and discoveries above described and hereby assigned, which title they warrant unto said Assignee, its successors and assigns;


And for the consideration aforesaid, Assignors further covenant and agree that they will, whenever requested, but without cost to them promptly communicate to said Assignee or its representatives any facts known to them relating to said inventions and discoveries, testify in any interference or legal proceedings involving said inventions and discoveries, and execute any additional papers that may be necessary to enable said Assignee or its representatives, successors, nominees, or assigns to secure full and complete protection for the said inventions and discoveries or that may be necessary to vest in said Assignee the complete title to the said inventions and discoveries and patents hereby conveyed and to enable it to record said title.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Assignors have hereunto set their hands and seals this ~~32<sup>nd</sup>~~ day of October, 1997.

  
(L.S.)  
Ronald J. Brinkerhoff

STATE OF Ohio )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF Hamilton )

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this ~~32<sup>nd</sup>~~ day of October, 1997, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Ronald J. Brinkerhoff, who I am satisfied is the person named in and who executed the foregoing instrument in my presence, and I having first made known to him the contents thereof, he did acknowledge that he signed, sealed, and delivered the same as his voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein expressed.

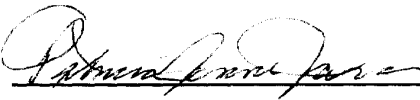
  
PATRICIA ANNE JARA  
Notary Public  
Notary Public, State of Ohio  
Commission Expires Sept. 22, 1998

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Assignors have hereunto set their hands and seals this ~~26<sup>th</sup>~~ day of ~~October, 1997.~~  
*January, 1998.*

  
(L.S.)  
David Stefanchik

STATE OF Ohio )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF Hamilton )

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this ~~26<sup>th</sup>~~ day of ~~October, 1997,~~ *January, 1998* before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared David Stefanchik, who I am satisfied is the person named in and who executed the foregoing instrument in my presence, and I having first made known to him the contents thereof, he did acknowledge that he signed, sealed, and delivered the same as his voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein expressed.

  
Notary Public ANNE JARA  
Notary Public, State of Ohio  
Commission Expires Sept. 22, 1998

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Assignors have hereunto set their hands and seals this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October, 1997.

Jeffrey S. Swayze (L.S.)  
Jeffrey S. Swayze

STATE OF Ohio )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF Hamilton )

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October, 1997, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Jeffrey S. Swayze, who I am satisfied is the person named in and who executed the foregoing instrument in my presence, and I having first made known to him the contents thereof, he did acknowledge that he signed, sealed, and delivered the same as his voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein expressed.

Patricia A. Jara  
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Assignors have hereunto set their hands and seals this day of October, 1997.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(L.S.)  
Bryan D. Knodel

STATE OF Ohio )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF Hamilton )

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this day of October, 1997, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Bryan D. Knodel, who I am satisfied is the person named in and who executed the foregoing instrument in my presence, and I having first made known to him the contents thereof, he did acknowledge that he signed, sealed, and delivered the same as his voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein expressed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Assignors have hereunto set their hands and seals this day of October, 1997.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey S. Swayze (L.S.)

STATE OF Ohio )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF Hamilton )

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this day of October, 1997, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Jeffrey S. Swayze, who I am satisfied is the person named in and who executed the foregoing instrument in my presence, and I having first made known to him the contents thereof, he did acknowledge that he signed, sealed, and delivered the same as his voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein expressed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Assignors have hereunto set their hands and seals this day of October, 1997.  
*16th day of January, 1998*

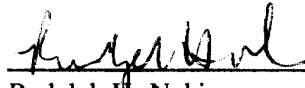
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryan D. Knodel (L.S.)

STATE OF Ohio )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF Hamilton )

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this *16th* day of *January, 1998*, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Bryan D. Knodel, who I am satisfied is the person named in and who executed the foregoing instrument in my presence, and I having first made known to him the contents thereof, he did acknowledge that he signed, sealed, and delivered the same as his voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein expressed.


\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
PATRICIA ANNE JARA  
Notary Public, State of Ohio  
My Commission Expires Sept. 27, 1998

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Assignors have hereunto set their hands and seals this  
21<sup>st</sup> day of October, 1997.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rudolph H. Nobis (L.S.)

STATE OF Ohio                    )  
  ) ss.  
COUNTY OF Hamilton         )

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October, 1997, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Rudolph H. Nobis, who I am satisfied is the person named in and who executed the foregoing instrument in my presence, and I having first made known to him the contents thereof, he did acknowledge that he signed, sealed, and delivered the same as his voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein expressed.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public  
PATRICIA ANNE JARA  
Notary Public, State of Ohio  
My Commission Expires Sept. 22, 1998