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Commissioner of Patent and Tr.

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Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof.

<p>1. Name of conveying party(ies):</p> <p>L. Hamilton - Aug. 11, 1999 R. S. Bezwada - Aug. 10, 1999 M. B. Roller - Aug. 10, 1999 M. N. Vyakarnam - Aug. 13, 1999 D. A. Dalessandro - Aug. 11, 1999 J. S. Rosenblatt - Aug. 11, 1999 R. L. Kataria - Aug. 11, 1999 L. G. Saferstein - Aug. 30, 1999 J. F. Martin - Aug. 18, 1999</p> <p>Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>		<p>2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):</p> <p>Name: Ethicon, Inc.</p> <p>Street Address: U.S. Route #22</p> <p>City: Somerville State: NJ Zip: 08876</p> <p>Additional name(s) & address(es) attached? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p>3. Nature of conveyance:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment <input type="checkbox"/> Merger <input type="checkbox"/> Security Agreement <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Name <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p> <p>Execution Date: August 10, 1999; August 11, 1999 August 13, 1999; August 18, 1999 August 30, 1999</p>			
<p>4. Application number(s) or patent number(s):</p> <p>If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is:</p> <p>A. Patent Application No.(s) B. Patent No.(s)</p> <p>09/345,093</p> <p>Additional numbers attached? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>			
<p>5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:</p> <p>Audley A. Ciamporcero, Jr., Esq. Chief Patent Counsel Johnson & Johnson One Johnson & Johnson Plaza New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003</p>		<p>6. Total number of applications & patents involved: <u>1</u></p> <p>7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41) \$<u>40.00</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorized to be charged to Deposit Account</p> <p>8. Deposit Account Number: 10-0750/ETH-1297/11W</p>	
<p>9. Statement and signature</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Hal Brent Woodrow <u>Hal Brent Woodrow</u> September 7, 1999</p> <p>Name of Person Signing Signature Date</p> <p>Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and document:</p>			

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

DOCKET NO. ETH-1297

Joint Inventors

A S S I G N M E N T

Serial No. 09/345,093

Filed June 30, 1999

WHEREAS, Leslie Hamilton, Rao S. Bezwada, Mark B. Roller, Murty N. Vyakarnam, David A. Dalessandro, Joel S. Rosenblatt, Ram L. Kataria, Lowell G. Saferstein and James F. Martin, residing at 23 High Mowing Road, Ringoes, NJ 08551; 1 Nevius Road, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889; 9 Quince Place, North Brunswick, NJ 08902; 2420 Forest Haven Blvd., Edison, NJ 08817; 59 Helen Street, Fanwood, NJ 07023; 47 Robin Glen Road, Watchung, NJ 07060; 16 Hoffman Drive, Hamilton Square, NJ 08690; 14 Currey Lane, West Orange, NJ 07052 and 527 Quail Court, Lebanon, OH 45036 respectively (hereinafter called "Assignors"), have made certain new and useful inventions or discoveries relating to

Foam Buttress For Stapling Apparatus

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

WHEREAS, Ethicon, Inc., a corporation of the State of New Jersey, (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, Assignor has hereunto set his hand and seal this 11 day of Aug., 1999

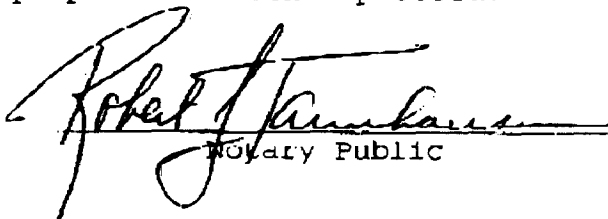


Leslie Hamilton (L.S.)

STATE OF New Jersey)
COUNTY OF Somerset) ss.

ROBERT J. TANNHAUSER
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires Oct. 18, 1999

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 11th day of August, 1999, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Leslie Hamilton, 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, Assignor has hereunto set his
hand and seal this 10th day of August, 1999

Rao S. Bezwada (L.S.)
Rao S. Bezwada

STATE OF New Jersey)

COUNTY OF Somerset) ss.

ROBERT J. TANNHAUSER
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires Oct 18, 1999

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 10th day of August,
1999, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Rao S.
Bezwada, 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.

Robert J. Tannhauser
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Assignor has hereunto set his
hand and seal this 10 day of August, 1999

Mark B. Roller (L.S.)
Mark B. Roller

STATE OF New Jersey)

COUNTY OF Somerset) ss.

ROBERT J. TANNHAUSER
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires Oct 18, 1999

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 10th day of August,
1999, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Mark B.
Roller, 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.

Robert J. Tannhauser
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Assignor has hereunto set his hand and seal this 13 day of August, 1999

Murty N. Vyakarnam (L.S.)
Murty N. Vyakarnam

STATE OF New Jersey)

COUNTY OF Somerset) ss.

ROBERT J. TANNHAUSER
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires Oct. 18, 1999

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 13th day of August, 1999, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Murty N. Vyakarnam, 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.

Robert J. Tannhauser
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Assignor has hereunto set his hand and seal this 11th day of August, 1999

David A. Dalessandro (L.S.)
David A. Dalessandro

STATE OF New Jersey)

COUNTY OF Somerset) ss.

ROBERT J. TANNHAUSER
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires Oct. 18, 1999

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 11th day of August, 1999, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared David A. Dalessandro, 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.

Robert J. Tannhauser
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Assignor has hereunto set his
hand and seal this 11th day of August, 1999

Joel S. Rosenblatt (L.S.)
Joel S. Rosenblatt

STATE OF New Jersey)

COUNTY OF Somerset) ss.

ROBERT J. TANNHAUSER
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires Oct. 18, 1999

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 11th day of August, 1999, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Joel S. Rosenblatt, 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.

Robert J. Tannhauser
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Assignor has hereunto set his
hand and seal this 11th day of August, 1999

Ram L. Kataria (L.S.)
Ram L. Kataria

STATE OF New Jersey)

COUNTY OF Somerset) ss.

ROBERT J. TANNHAUSER
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires Oct. 18, 1999

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 11th day of August, 1999, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Ram L. Kataria, 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.

Robert J. Tannhauser
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Assignor has herunto set his hand and seal this 30 day of Aug., 1999

Lowell G. Saferstein (L.S.)
Lowell G. Saferstein

STATE OF New Jersey)

COUNTY OF Somerset) ss.

ROBERT J. TANNHAUSER
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires Oct. 18, 1999

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 30th day of August, 1999, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Lowell G. Saferstein, 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.

Robert J. Tannhauser
Notary Public

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Assignor has hereunto set his hand and seal this 18 day of August, 1999

James F. Martin (L.S.)
James F. Martin

STATE OF Ohio) New Jersey
COUNTY OF Somerset) ss.

ROBERT J. TANNHAUSER
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires Oct. 18, 1999

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 18th day of August, 1999, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared James F. Martin, 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.

Robert J. Tannhauser
Notary Public