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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: BIO-ENHANCEMENT SYSTEMS CORPORATION [US/US]; 16 Bromleigh Way, Morris Plain, NJ 07950 (US).

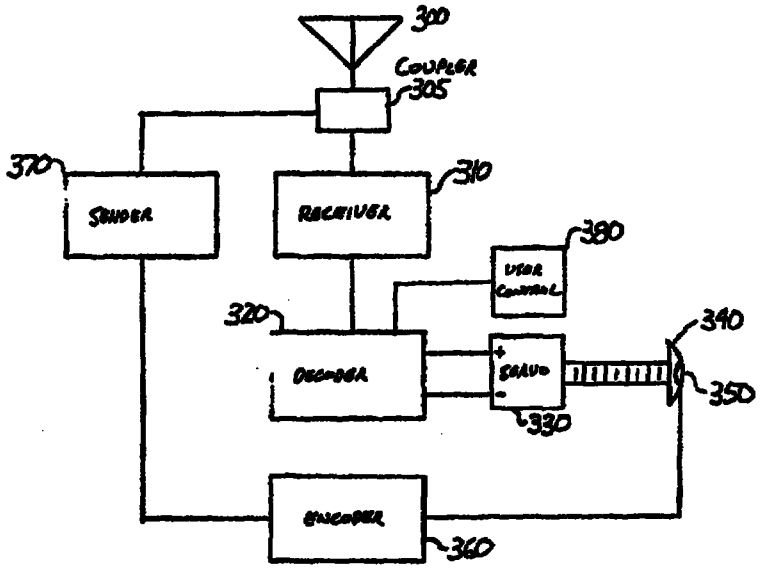
(72) Inventors; and
(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: FIELDING, Stuart [US/US]; 16 Bromleigh Way, Morris Plain, NJ 07950 (US). STEIN, John [US/US]; 4 Lois Court, Hackettstown, NJ 07840 (US).

(74) Agents: STEWART, David, L. et al.; Lowe Price Leblanc & Becker, Suite 300, 99 Canal Center Plaza, Alexandria, VA 22314 (US).

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(57) Abstract

An effect analogous to a tail-pinch effect is evoked in humans by apparatus for applying variable localized pressure to the spine. Control of the pressure can be accomplished manually, by remote control and/or automatically. By selectively applying pressure a number of changes can be evoked in the human including, for example, causing an increase in appetite, a change in sexual behavior, increased blood flow to brain, and/or an increase of neurotransmitters, including dopamine, serotonin and norepinephrine. The effect is useful in treating Parkinson's disease, depressive disorders, stroke and other conditions.