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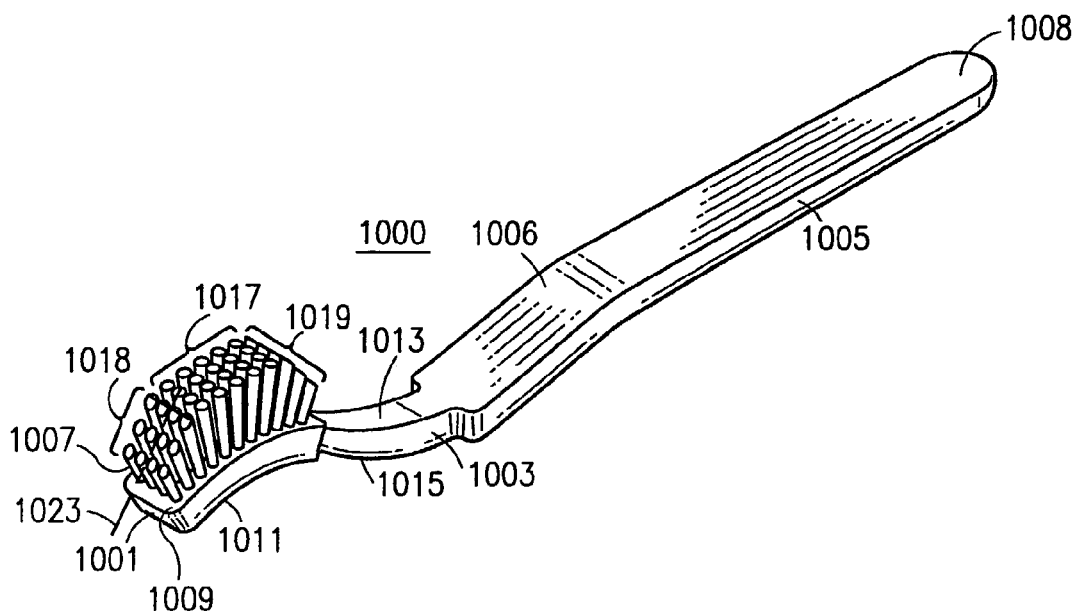
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(54) Title: TOOTHBRUSH WITH LONGITUDINAL BRISTLE REINFORCEMENT



(57) **Abstract:** A toothbrush is disclosed including a head (201) with a bristle mounting surface (209) having a center section (217) within which an array of bundles of bristles (207) is mounted, and a pair of bristle supports (218, 219) located at either end of the center section which are effective to resist bending of the bristles within the center section in the longitudinal direction in response to brushing motion so that the tips of such bristles are maintained in contact with the teeth.