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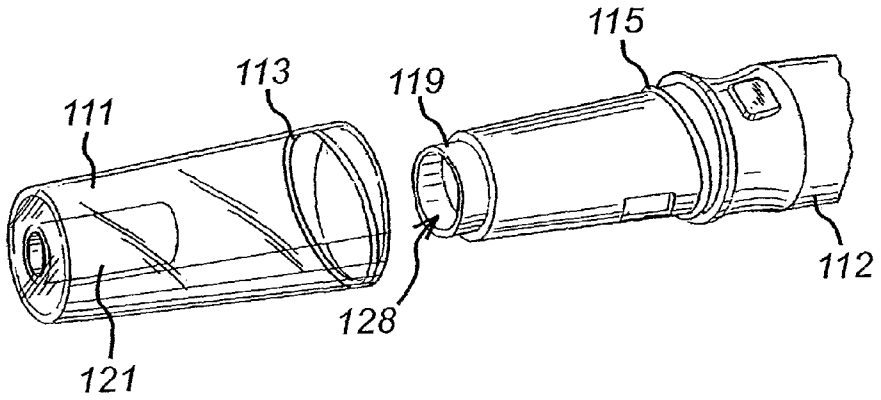
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(54) **Title:** AUTO-INJECTION DEVICE WITH NEEDLE PROTECTING CAP HAVING OUTER AND INNER SLEEVES



(57) **Abstract:** An injection device (110) is described having a housing (112) that receives a syringe (114) having a sealed boot (123) that covers its needle (118). A releasable locking mechanism retains the syringe (114) in its retracted position. A sleeve (119) projects from the exit aperture (128) and can be depressed to release the locking mechanism. A removable threaded cap (111) closes the housing (112), covers the exit aperture (128) and the sleeve (119), thus preventing the locking mechanism from being released, and engages the boot (123) on the syringe (114). When the cap (111) is removed, it takes the boot (123) with it, no longer closes the exit aperture (128) and no longer prevents the locking mechanism from being released. Then, the locking mechanism can be released and the injection cycle begun.

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