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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **OMNIPROBE, INC.** [US/US]; 10410 Miller Road, Dallas, TX 75238 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **MOORE, Thomas, M.** [US/US]; 10410 Miller Road, Dallas, TX 75238 (US). **ANTHONY, John, M.** [US/US]; 10300 Wolftrap, Austin, TX 78749 (US).

(74) Agent: **THOMAS, John, A.**; 2200 One Galleria Tower, 13355 Noel Road, L.B. 48, Dallas, TX 75240-1518 (US).

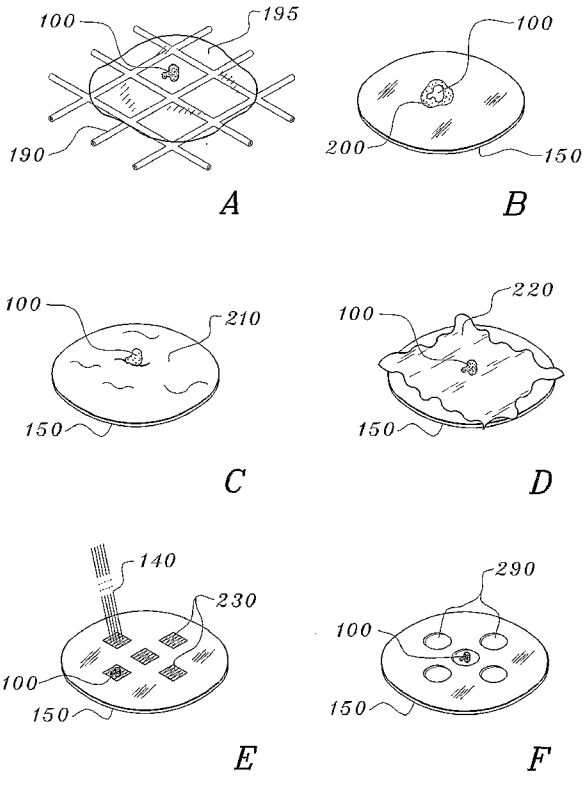
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(54) Title: METHOD FOR MANIPULATING MICROSCOPIC PARTICLES AND ANALYZING THE COMPOSITION THEREOF




(57) Abstract: Disclosed is a method for analyzing the composition of a microscopic particle (100) resting on a first sample surface (110). The method comprises positioning a micro-manipulator probe (120) near the particle; attaching the particle to the probe (120); moving the probe (120) and the attached particle (100) away from the first sample surface (110); positioning the particle on a second sample surface (150); and, analyzing the composition of the particle on the second sample surface (150) by energy-dispersive X-ray analysis or detection of Auger electrons. The second surface (150) has a reduced or non-interfering background signal during analysis relative to the background signal of the first surface (110). Also disclosed are methods for adjusting potentials after its transfer and relocation to the second sample surface (150).

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