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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/09352 (22) International Filing Date: 29 May 1997 (29.05.97) (30) Priority Data: ① 60/018,721 31 May 1996 (31.05.96) US ② 08/864,476 28 May 1997 (28.05.97) US <i>(relinquished)</i> (71) Applicant: W.L. GORE & ASSOCIATES, INC. [US/US]; 551 Paper Mill Road, P.O. Box 9206, Newark, DE 19714 (US). (72) Inventors: ① REPOLLE, Damian, I. ; 204 MacDuff Road, Newark, DE 19711 (US); ② PRINCIPE, Frank, S. ; 9 St. David's Court, Landenberg, PA 19350 (US). (74) Agents: CAMPBELL, John, S. et al. ; W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc., 551 Paper Mill Road, P.O. Box 9206, Newark, DE 19714-9206 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments. 1 PD 1 appl. 2 Invs. IPC : G10K11/18	
(54) Title: PROTECTIVE COVER ASSEMBLY HAVING SOUND TRANSMISSION CHARACTERISTICS (57) Abstract A sound-transmissive cover assembly (14) which provides protection from the ambient environment to transducers such as microphones, loudspeakers, buzzers, ringers, and other delicate devices; and across which sound energy can pass with very low attenuation. The cover assembly (14) has a protective membrane layer (22) and a porous support material layer (30) which are selectively bonded together at least in the outer region near their edges. An inner unbonded region surrounded by the bonded outer region is provided so that the protective membrane (22) and porous support layer (30) can vibrate or move independently in response to acoustic energy passing through them. An embodiment of the assembly includes at least one acoustic gasket (40) attached to one or both of the layers so as not to impede independent movement of the layers.			