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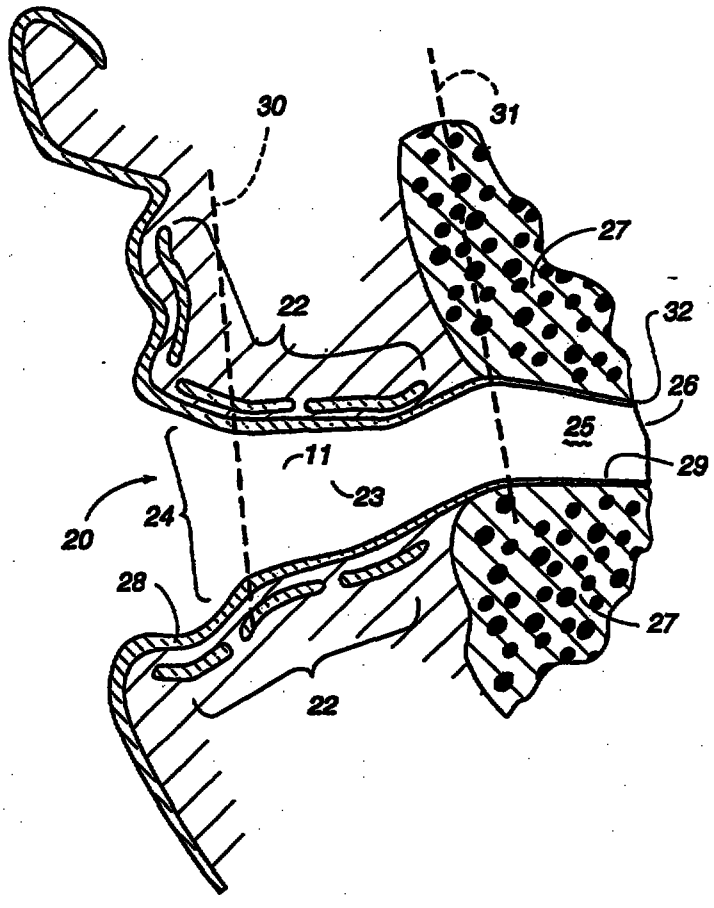
(54) Title: ACOUSTIC COUPLER

(57) Abstract

An acoustic coupler is detachably secured to a receiver assembly for deep insertion into an individual's ear canal. The acoustic coupler provides a semirigid, thin walled, cylindrical coupling sleeve that is adapted to be attached over a cylindrical receiver assembly. A conforming sealing material is attached diametrically over the coupling sleeve to fit comfortably and to seal the individual's ear canal acoustically. The coupling sleeve is substantially concentric to the receiver assembly for a highly space efficient interface and a user friendly replacement method. Attachment of the acoustic coupler to the receiver assembly is accomplished by applying a minimal axial (push) force to secure the acoustic coupler to the receiver assembly. The coupler remains securely attached thereto, and can withstand considerable axial detachment (pull) forces without being dislodged within or outside the ear canal. Applying a rotational (twist) force with respect to the receiver housing detaches the acoustic coupler from the receiver housing. Because rotational movements are minimal during insertion or removal of the coupler from the individual's ear, accidental detachment is not possible.