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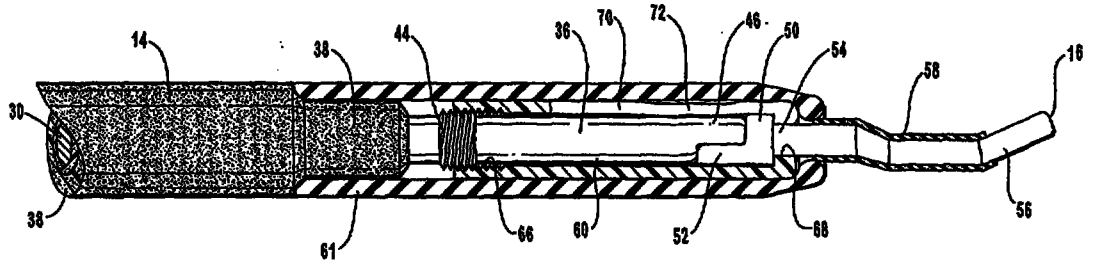
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(54) Title: RESPOSABLE ELECTROSURGICAL INSTRUMENT



(57) Abstract

An improved electrosurgical instrument is disclosed and claims which includes a reusable electrode shaft (14), a disposable tip (16) and a novel, insulated coupling (18) for removably connecting the disposable tip to the electrode shaft. The present invention provides several advantages and features. The coupling provides ease in connecting the disposable tip to the reusable electrode shaft in an operating room environment. Once the tip is connected to the shaft, the coupling provides a rigid and secure connection between the tip and shaft, such that the coupled tip/shaft assembly feels to the surgeon like a single, unitary instrument. In addition, the coupling ensures a good electrical connection between the tip and the shaft prevents the tip from inadvertently or accidentally becoming separated from the reusable electrode shaft, and maintains the position of the tip relative to the shaft by preventing the tip from rotating relative to the holder.