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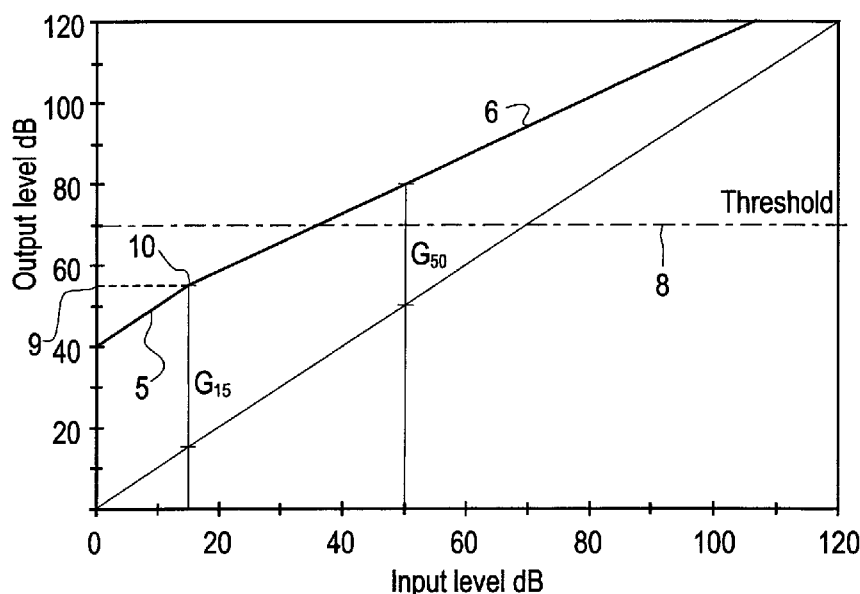
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(54) Title: HEARING AID AND A METHOD OF PROCESSING A SOUND SIGNAL



(57) Abstract: A multichannel hearing aid (20) comprises at least one frequency channel having a compressor (38) with a compression threshold at an output level below the hearing threshold and an attack time above 0.5 seconds whereby hearing of a sudden sound in a stationary sound environment is facilitated. With this compressor, the amplification of low signal levels may be increased compared to the prior art, as the compressor kicks in to generally suppress steady noises. The gain may generally be increased as high as feasible in view of the microphone baseline noise, which should preferably be kept below the hearing threshold. Thus the user of the hearing aid will generally have the option of a higher gain of low level sounds than generally feasible with prior art hearing aids.



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