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(54) Title: HINGED NEEDLE SHIELD AND NEEDLE ASSEMBLIES

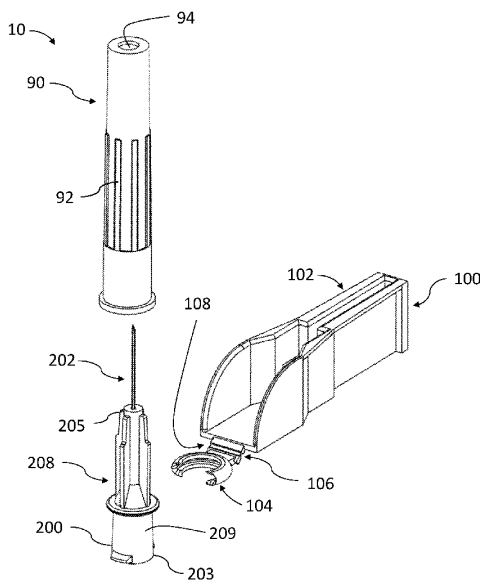


FIG. 1A

(57) Abstract: A needle shield assembly for use with a needle assembly is disclosed. The needle shield assembly includes an elongate needle shield comprising a shield portion, a hub connection portion and a bridge portion including a living hinge having a thickness. The bridge portion joins the hub connection portion and the shield portion. The hub connection portion includes a partially circular receiving ring having a diameter sized to frictionally receive a flange of a hub of the needle assembly. The shield portion includes two longitudinal walls defining a cavity and a needle assembling receiving cavity between the two longitudinal walls defining a recess. The shield portion is configured to pivot from an open position in which a needle cannula is exposed, to a closed needle protecting position in which a distal end of the needle cannula is within the longitudinal opening of the shield.

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