

ABSTRACT

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR IDENTIFYING & TRACKING MULTIPLE TOOLS AND DISPOSABLES

A method and apparatus for identifying and tracking instruments, in multiple instrument environments such as an operating room or a garage.
5 Each instrument or disposable has attached thereto an identifying tag, such as an RFID tag. Each plane or location the instruments or disposables are placed on, comprises an antenna and thus continuously identifies the tools. In order for the antenna to work in a metallic environment, the antenna is equipped with a metallic board underneath,
10 which insulates from other metals, and in order for the metallic board not to absorb all the energy, a spacing layer is placed between the metal board and the antenna. Flat antennas may be implemented as a collection of wire loops, overlapping in about 20% of one of their dimensions.

15 FIG. 1