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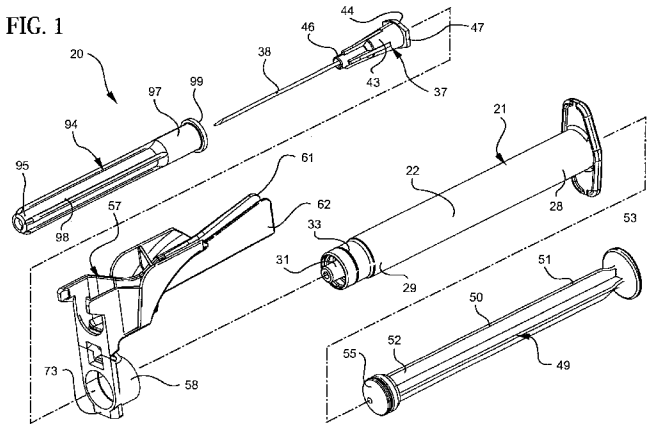
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FIG. 1



(57) Abstract: A syringe assembly (20) includes a syringe barrel (21) having an elongate body (22), a tip (31) on its distal end surrounded by a barrel collar (33). A needle assembly includes a needle cannula (38) attached to a hub (43) having a cavity in its open proximal end. The hub is attached to the barrel with the barrel tip in the hub cavity. A plunger (49) having a stopper (55) positioned in fluid tight engagement on the inside (23) of the barrel. A collar (58) is rotatably connected to the outside surface of the barrel collar. An elongate needle shield (57) is hingedly connected to the collar. The needle shield includes two side walls (61,62) defining a longitudinal opening (63) and a recess (65). A needle shield is capable of pivoting about the collar from an open position (Fig.3) to a closed position (Fig.11) wherein the distal end of the needle cannula is in the recess of the needle shield. Structure (69) is provided to lock the needle shield to the collar and to trap the needle cannula in the needle shield when the needle shield is in the closed position. Structure (74,79) is provided to prevent over- rotation of the needle shield past the needle protecting position and to guide a needle cannula into the recess of the needle shield. An over-center hinge (80) facilitates moving the needle shield to the closed position.

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