CLAIMS

1. A scaffold for reshaping the cartilaginous portion of an ear, the scaffold comprising engaging members and being formed from shape memory material which transforms from a first, substantially planar configuration to a second, horseshoe shaped, pre-programmed configuration, wherein the scaffold is resiliently biased in the second pre-programmed configuration and comprises tangential extensions~~characterised in that the scaffold is in the shape of a horseshoe~~.

~~2. A scaffold according to claim 1 which is capable of transforming from a first configuration to a second pre-programmed configuration.~~

~~3. A scaffold of claim 2 wherein the scaffold is configured to conform to the shape of a horseshoe when in the second pre-programmed shape.~~

~~4~~2. A scaffold ~~of any previous claim~~according to claim 1 configured to conform to the shape of the antihelical fold of an ear.

~~5~~3. A scaffold according to ~~any previous claim~~claim 1 or claim 2 wherein said ~~comprising~~ tangential extensions are between 1 and 5mm long.

~~6~~4. A scaffold according to ~~claim 5~~any of claims 1 to 3 wherein ~~the tangent length is~~said tangential extensions are at least 1mm long.

~~7~~5. A scaffold according to ~~claim 6~~any previous claim wherein said tangential extensions are ~~the tangent length is~~ 2.3mm long.

~~8~~6. A scaffold according to any previous claim wherein the scaffold is at least 10mm long, at least 1mm wide and up to 2mm thick.

~~9~~7. A scaffold according to any previous claim wherein the scaffold has a radius of curvature that is at least 3mm.

~~10. A scaffold according to any previous claim wherein the scaffold comprises engaging members.~~

~~11~~8. A scaffold according to ~~claim 10~~any previous claim wherein four engaging members are positioned at the ends of the scaffold on each edge.

~~12~~9. A scaffold according to ~~claims 10 or 11~~any previous claim wherein the engaging members are tines.

~~13~~10. A scaffold according to claim~~s 10 to 12~~ 9 wherein the tines are cylindrical in shape.

~~14~~11. A scaffold according to any previous claim wherein the scaffold is electropolished or passivated.

~~15~~12. An applicator for ~~inserting the scaffold into the ear comprising a handle, a retaining means and means for deployment~~deployment a scaffold for reshaping the cartilaginous portion of an ear, the scaffold comprising engaging members and being formed from a shape memory material which transforms from a first, substantially planar configuration to a second, horseshoe shaped, pre-programmed configuration, wherein the scaffold is resiliently biased in the second pre-programmed configuration and comprises tangential extensions, the applicator comprising: a handle, a retaining guide for holding the scaffold in the first, substantially planar configuration, and a deployment member for pushing the scaffold from the retaining guide to insert the scaffold into the ear, the deployment member having a free end provided with notches to receive a plurality of engaging members on the scaffold to prevent yawing movement of the scaffold during insertion.

~~16~~13. A method for reshaping the ear comprising the steps of inserting at least one scaffold as defined in claims 1~~-~~ to~~14~~ 11 into the ear to be corrected thereby altering the shape of the ear.~~, wherein the scaffold transforms from a first configuration to a second pre-programmed configuration, wherein the second pre-programmed configuration is in the shape of a horseshoe.~~

14. A scaffold according to claim 8, wherein the four engaging members are positioned on the tangential extensions of the scaffold.

15. A scaffold according to claim 14, wherein the four engaging members are each at least 1mm long with two of said four engaging members on a first of the tangential extensions and two of said four engaging members on a second of the tangential extensions, wherein the two engaging members on the first tangential extension extend inwardly toward the two engaging members on the second tangential extension, which also extend inwardly.

16. A scaffold according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the engaging members comprise eight engaging members which are each at least 1mm long and are positioned on the tangential extensions of the scaffold, with four of said eight engaging members on a first of the tangential extensions and four of said eight engaging members on a second of the tangential extensions, wherein the four engaging members on the first tangential extension extend inwardly toward the four engaging members on the second tangential extension, which also extend inwardly.

17. A scaffold according to any of claims 1 to 11 or 14 to 16, wherein the scaffold is gold plated.