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(54) **SURGICAL OR MEDICAL INSTRUMENT HOLDER**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 60/374,525, filed on Apr. 22, 2002. Provisional application No. 60/383,507, filed on May 26, 2002.

A device for holding scalpels or other instruments is provided. The device includes a non-fixed sterile body having at least one instrument mounting station that includes a holding portion for releasably holding the proximal end of a surgical or medical instrument while allowing access to the proximal end for grasping and removal of the instrument from the device by a user. The device has a recessed area for receiving the distal end of the instrument to facilitate preventing of inadvertent contact of the distal end by the user while the instrument is held by the device

