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(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR BONE PLATING**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A bone plating system invention is shown comprising a bone plate and bone fasteners. The bone plate has a top portion, a bottom portion, and an interior middle portion. The fastener-retaining passageway extends through the plate. The fastener-retaining passageway comprises an upper portion having an inwardly projecting capture lip. The capture lip has a first diameter. The fastener-retaining passageway also has a middle undercut portion that has a second diameter. The second diameter is larger than the first diameter. The plate also has at least one access channel extending through the capture lip so as to communicate with the interior middle portion of the plate. The fastener comprises a shaft, a fastener engager means extending from, disposed on or coupled with the shaft for engaging bone and a head mounted on the shaft having a radially elastic member.

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