



US007435012B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Beldycki

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,435,012 B1**

(45) **Date of Patent:** **Oct. 14, 2008**

(54) **FIBER OPTIC FERRULE**

(76) Inventor: **Wojciech Beldycki**, 936 Riviera St.,
Venice, FL (US) 34285

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/591,895**

(22) Filed: **Nov. 2, 2006**

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G02B 6/36 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **385/78; 385/81; 385/87**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **385/76-78,**
385/81, 84, 85, 87, 139

See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,127,319 A	11/1978	Forney, Jr. et al.
4,190,317 A	2/1980	Makuch
4,261,774 A	4/1981	Lewis et al.
4,440,471 A	4/1984	Knowles
4,447,121 A	5/1984	Cooper et al.
4,458,983 A	7/1984	Roberts
4,519,672 A	5/1985	Rogstadius
4,781,430 A	11/1988	Tanaka
4,813,760 A	3/1989	Tanaka et al.
4,936,662 A	6/1990	Griffin
5,018,819 A	5/1991	Schmidt

5,088,804 A	2/1992	Grinderslev
5,305,406 A	4/1994	Rondeau
5,341,447 A	8/1994	Edwards et al.
5,381,500 A	1/1995	Edwards et al.
5,502,784 A	3/1996	Rondeau
RE35,734 E	2/1998	Rondeau
5,822,483 A	10/1998	Rondeau
RE36,231 E	6/1999	Rondeau
6,000,857 A	12/1999	Rondeau
6,510,271 B1	1/2003	Beldycki
6,808,313 B1	10/2004	Hung

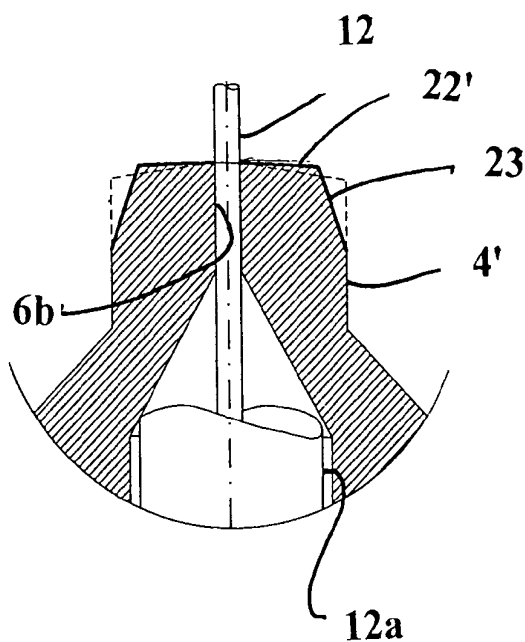
Primary Examiner—Kevin S Wood

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Charles J. Prescott

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A ferrule connectable to a fiber optic cable having an exposed portion of a length of optical fiber extending from a protective buffer. The ferrule includes a cylindrical body preferably having a mostly hollow interior open at a proximal end thereof adapted in size to receive an end portion of the buffer. An optical fiber bore coaxial with the hollow interior extends longitudinally through a distal end portion of the body sized to slidably receive the optical fiber therethrough. The distal end portion is mechanically deformable to frictionally engage the optical fiber within the bore, the distal end face being either conically shaped or including an outwardly extending ring resulting in the distal end face being a substantially planar surface, whereby a projecting length of the optical fiber extending beyond the distal end face may be cleaved in very close proximity to the distal end face.

6 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets



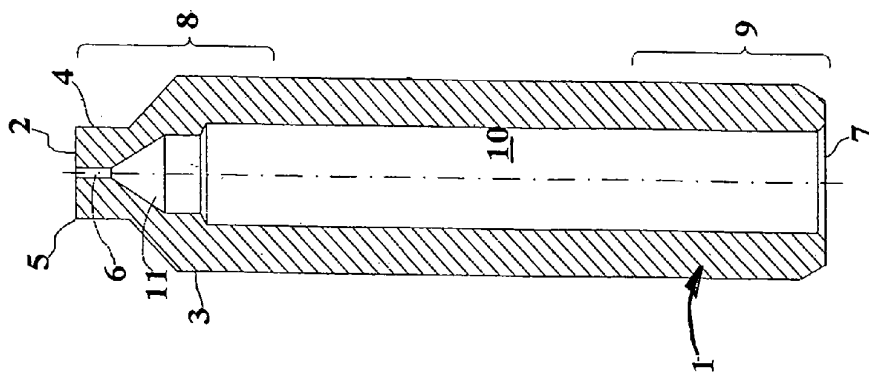


Fig. 1
(Prior art)

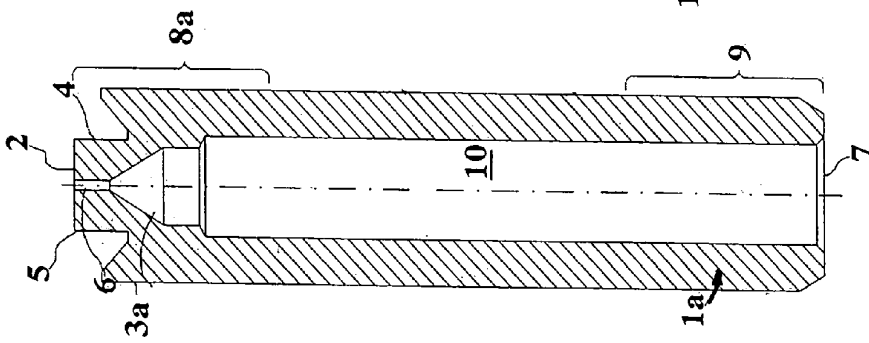


Fig. 2
(Prior art)

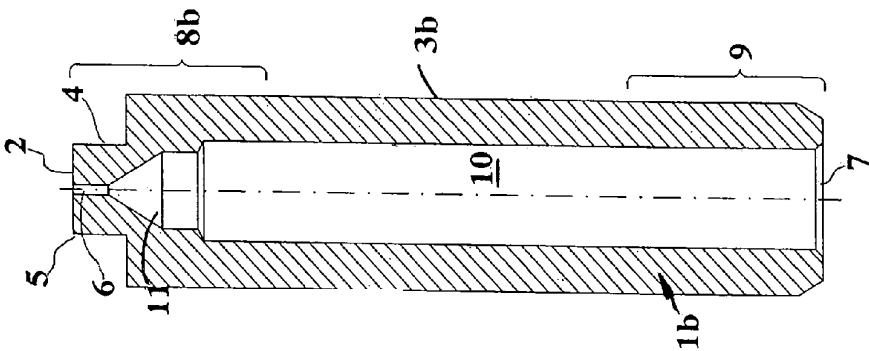


Fig. 3
(Prior art)

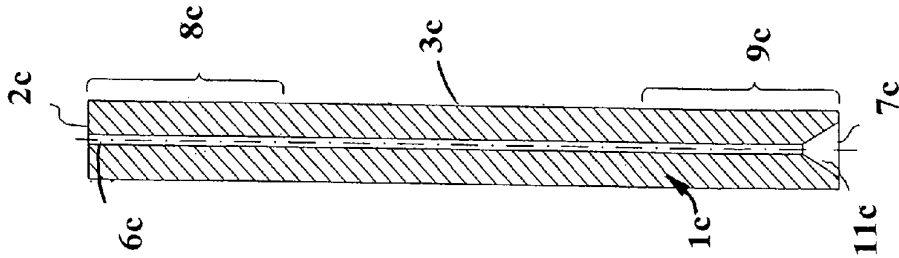


Fig. 4
(Prior art)

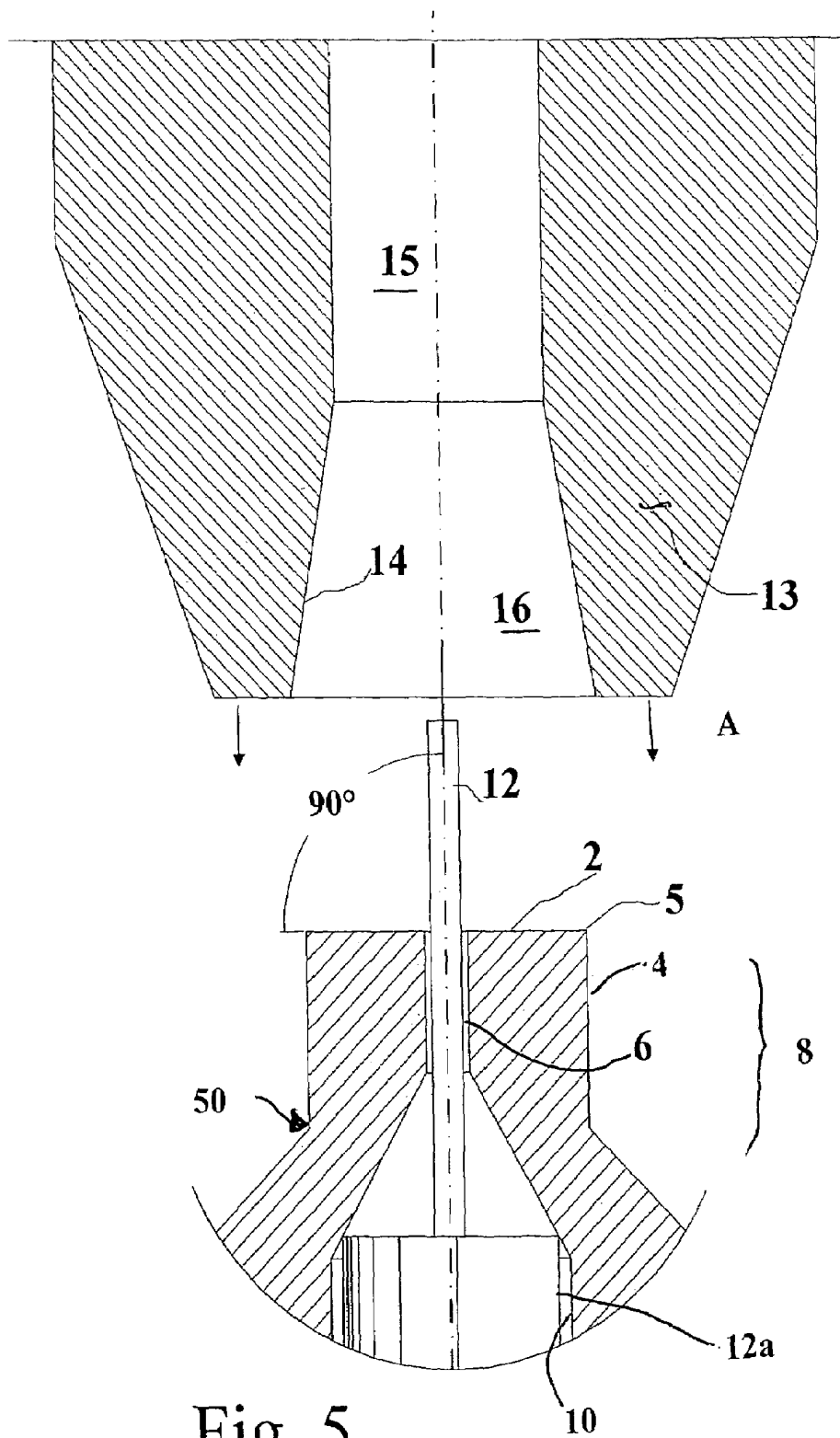


Fig. 5
(Prior art)

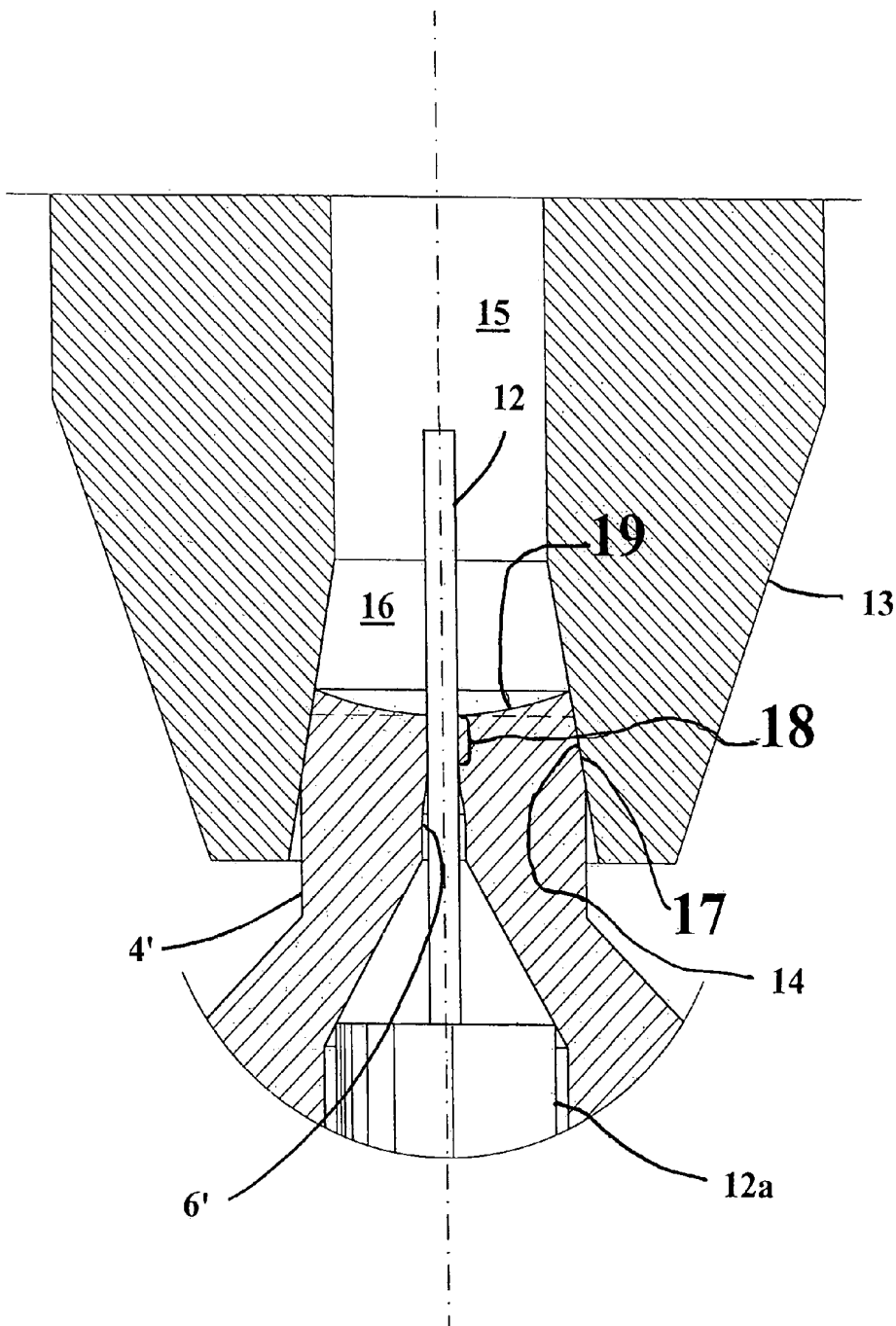


Fig. 6
(Prior art)

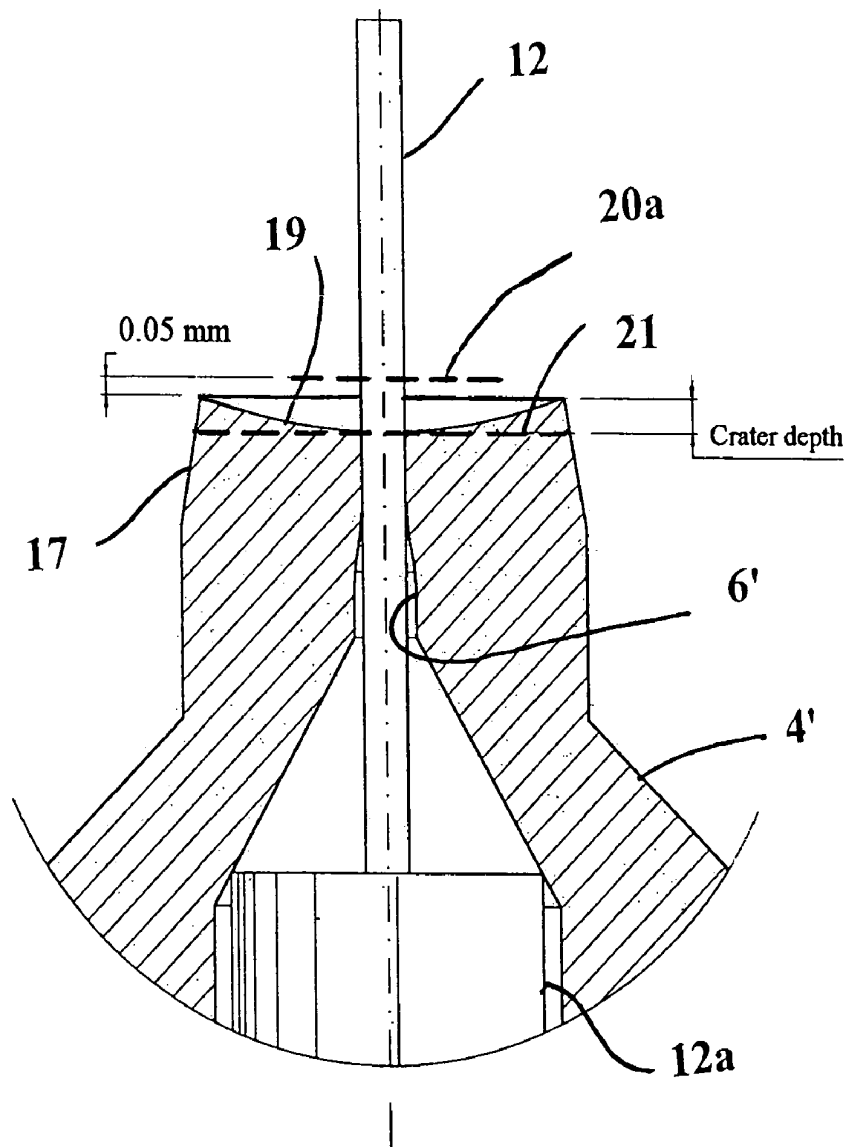


Fig. 7
(Prior art)

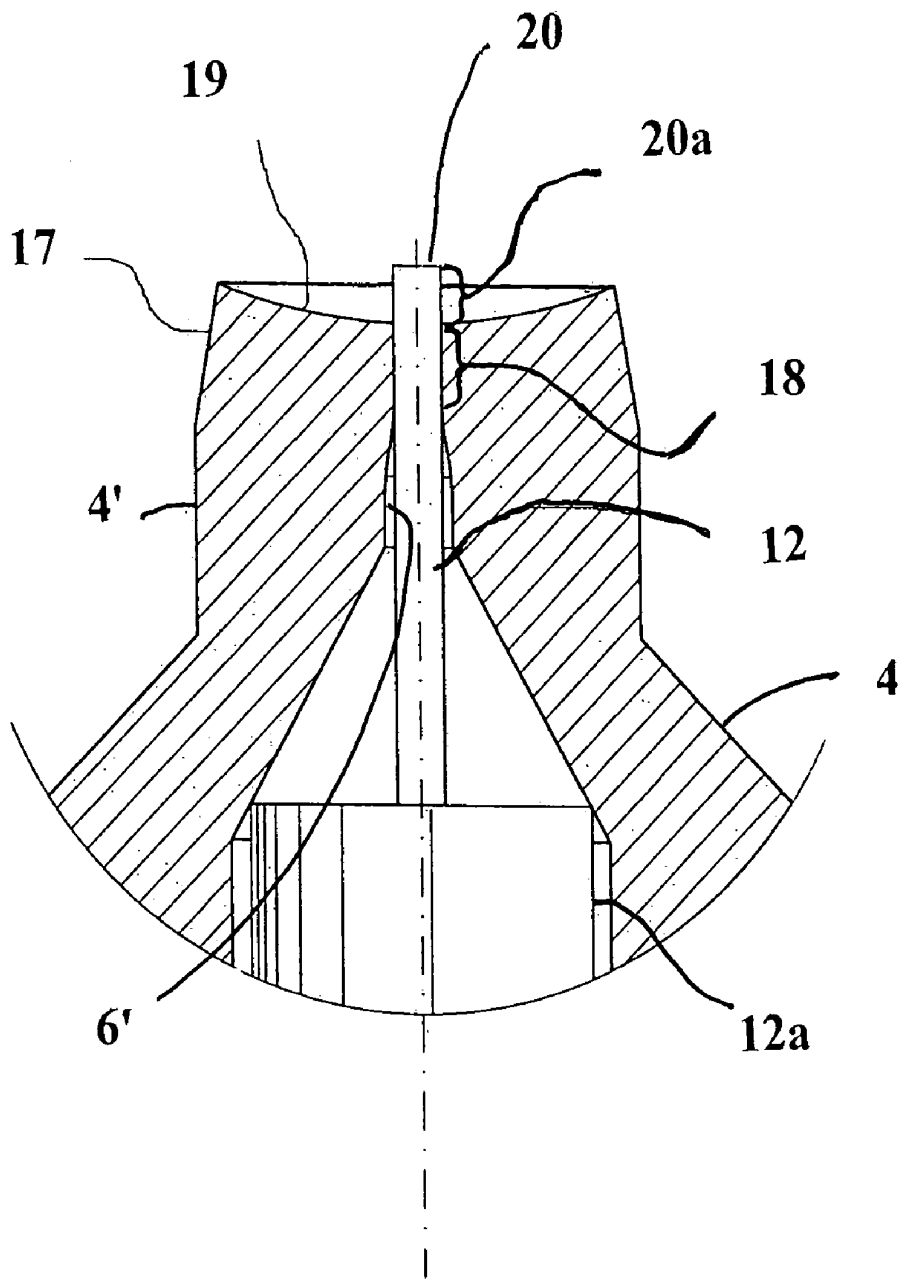
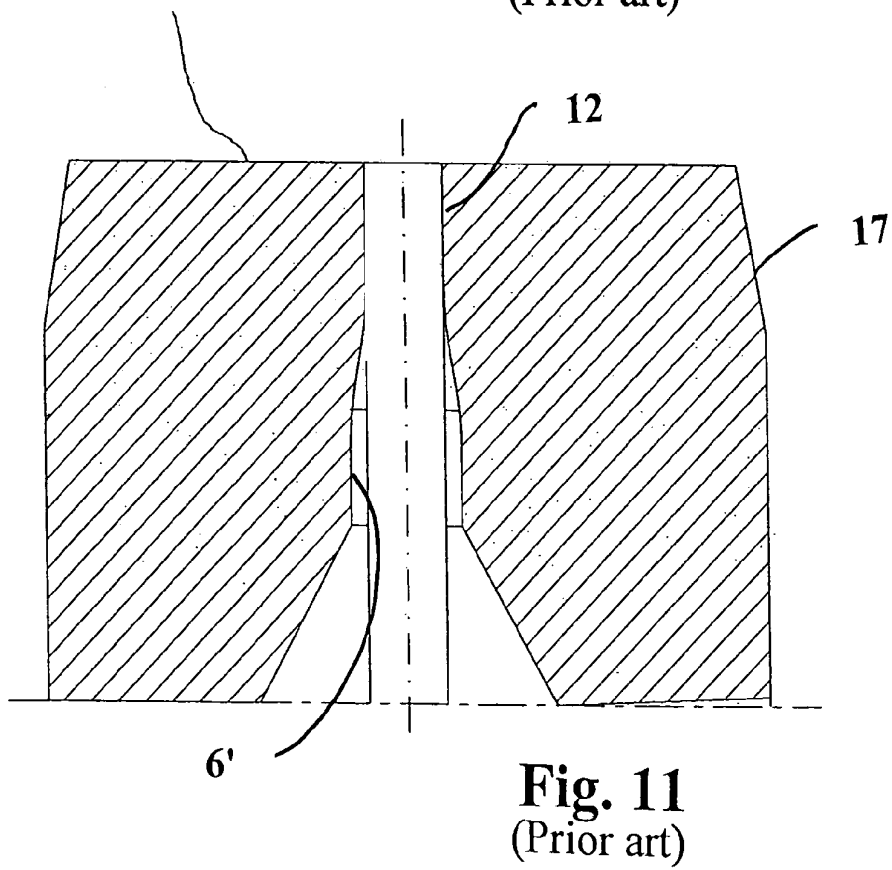
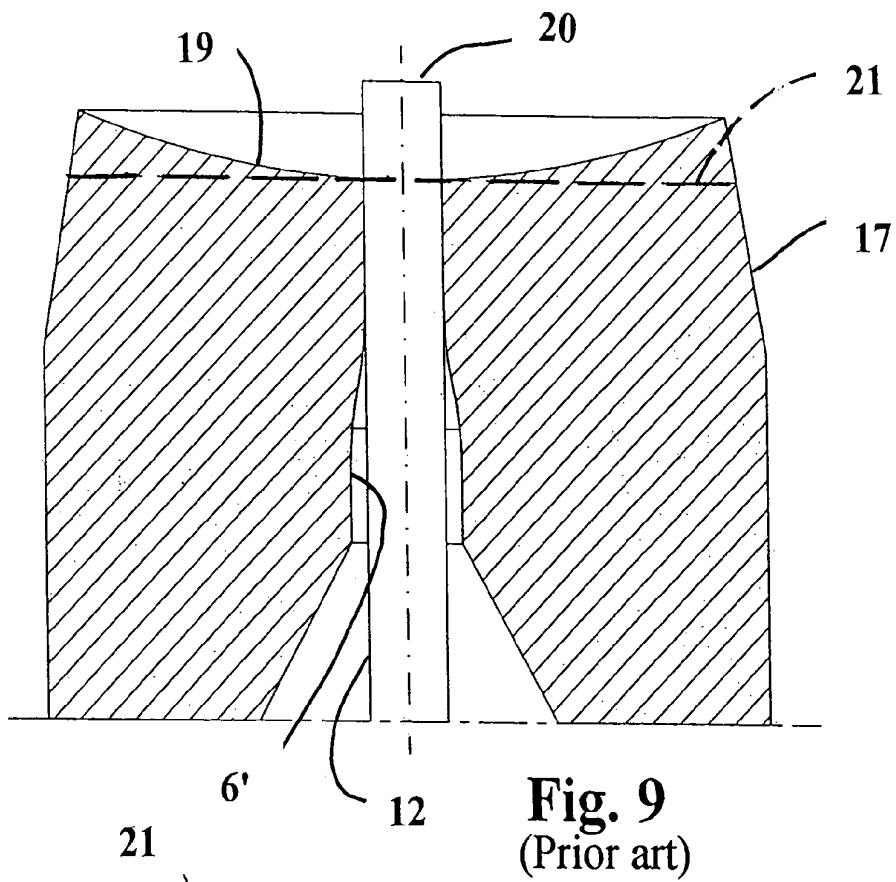


Fig. 8
(Prior art)



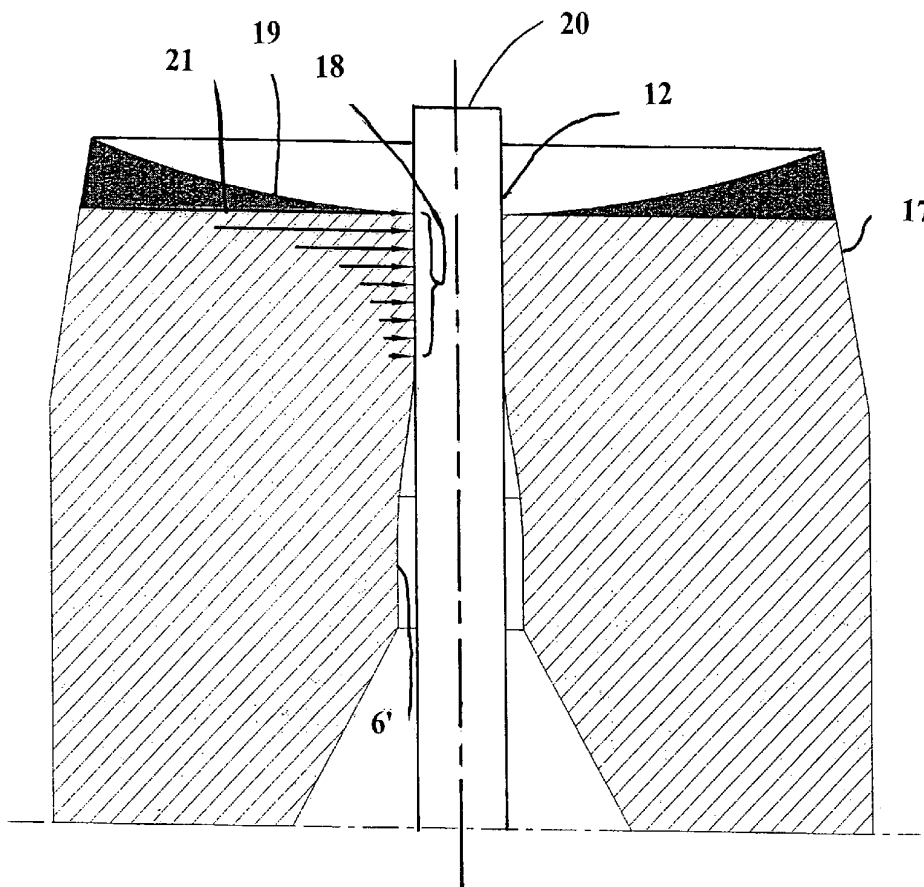


Fig.10
(Prior art)

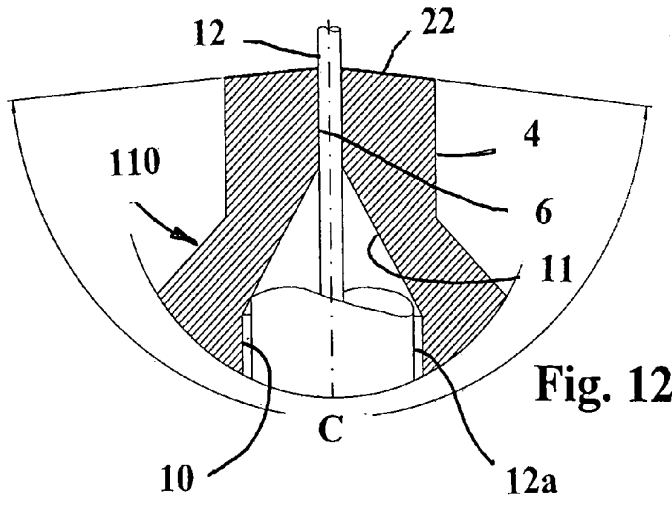


Fig. 12

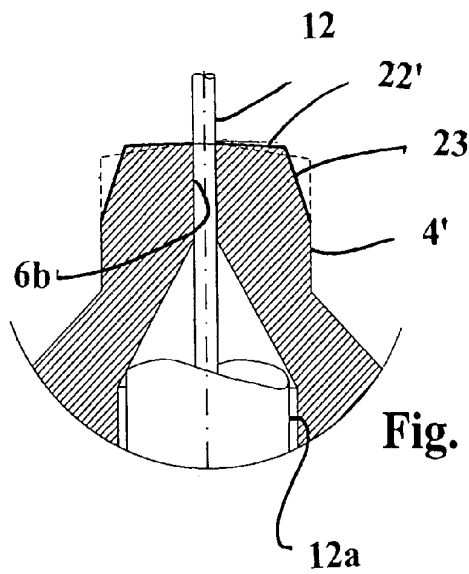


Fig. 13

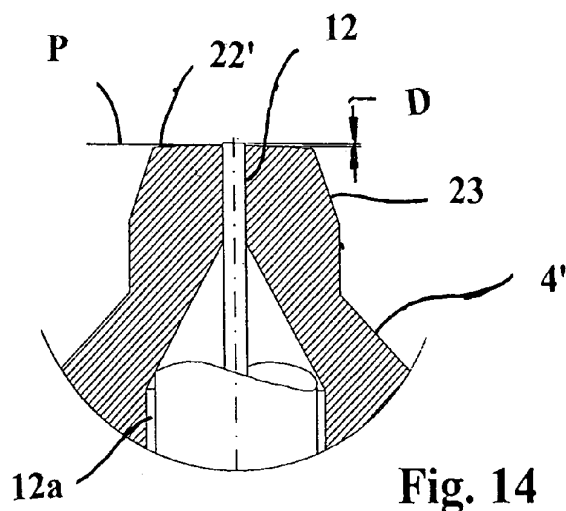


Fig. 14

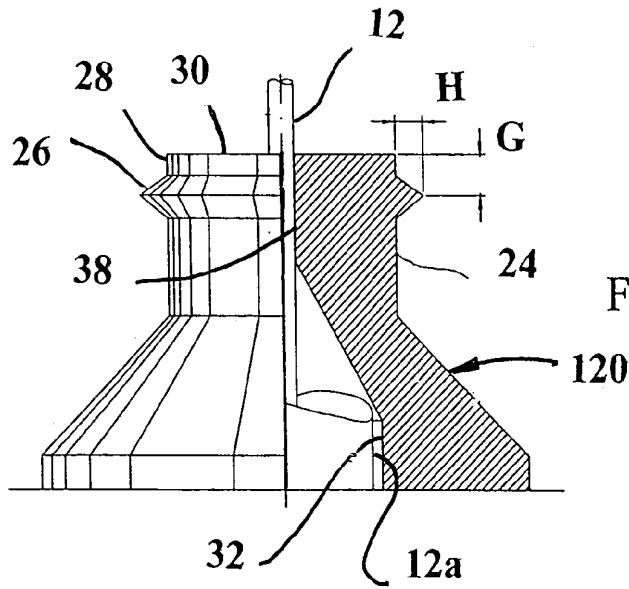


Fig. 15

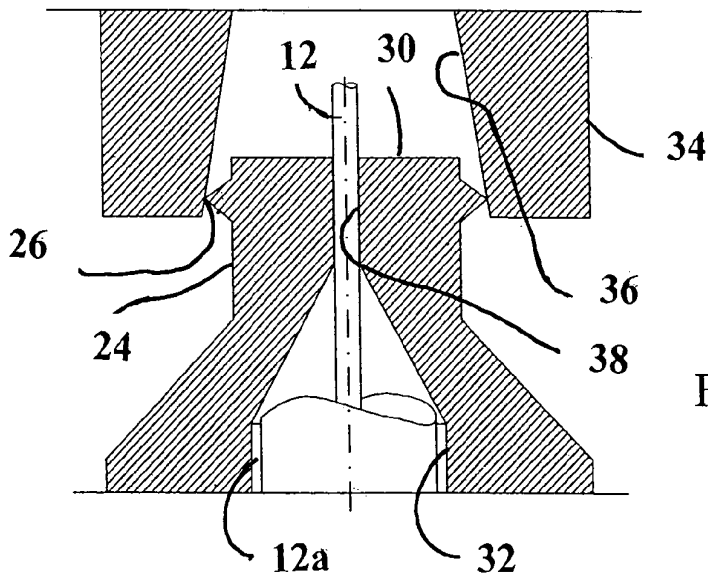


Fig. 16

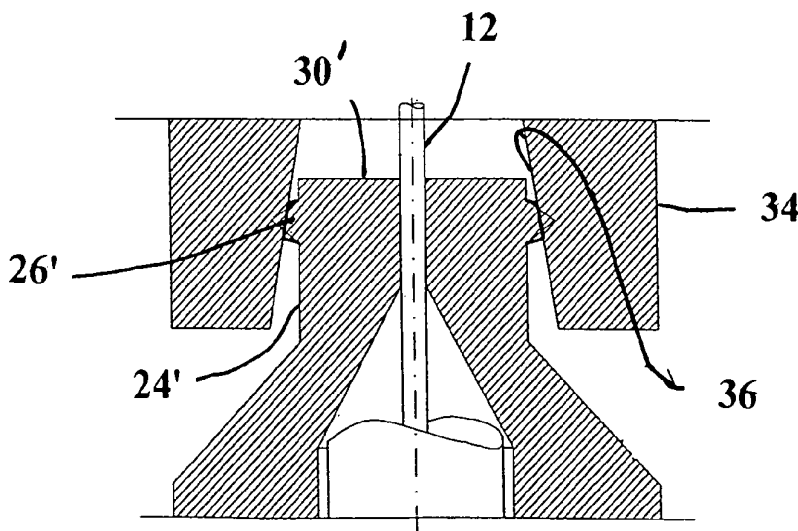


Fig. 17

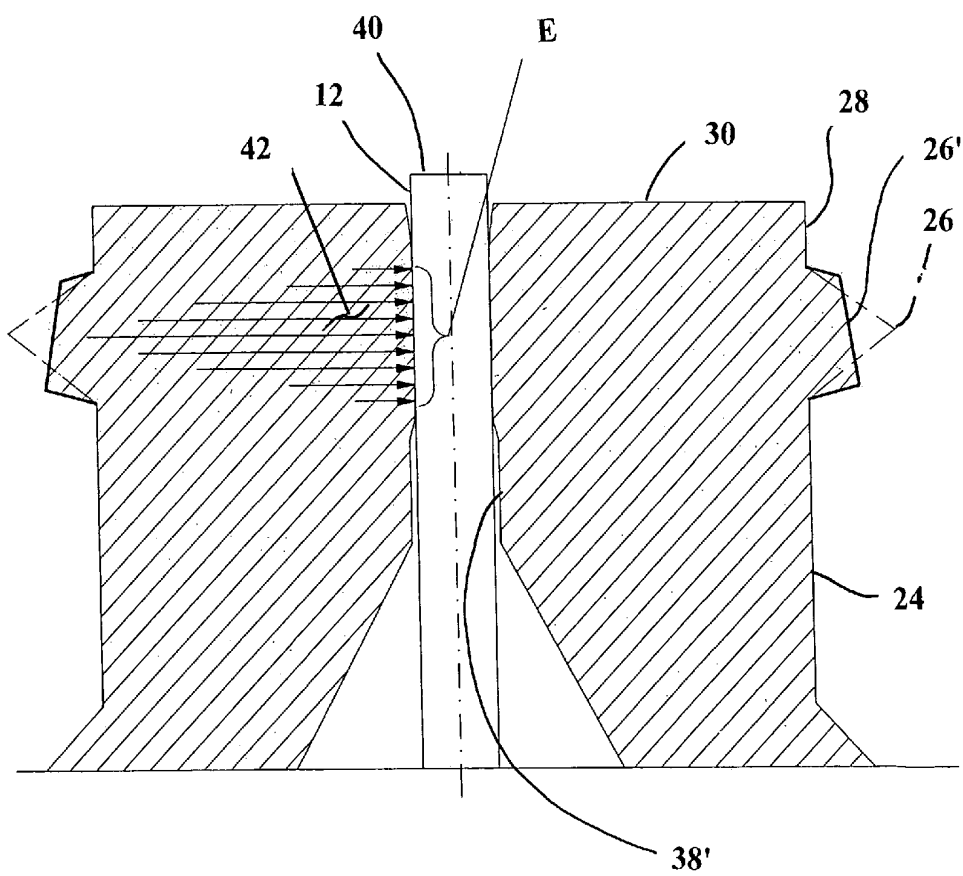
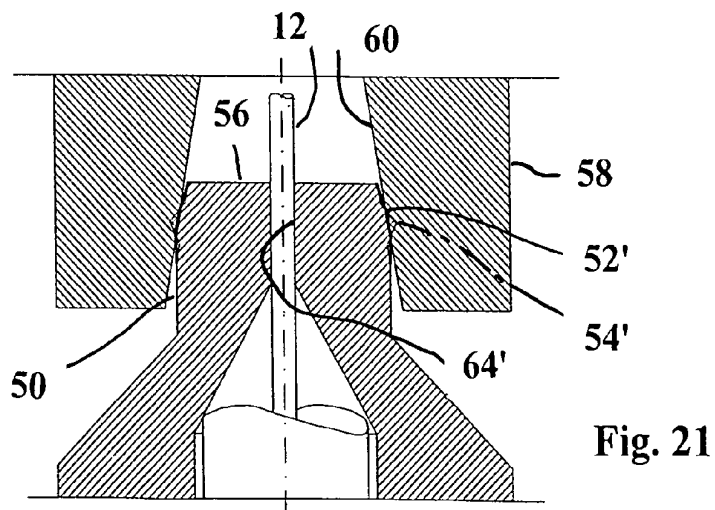
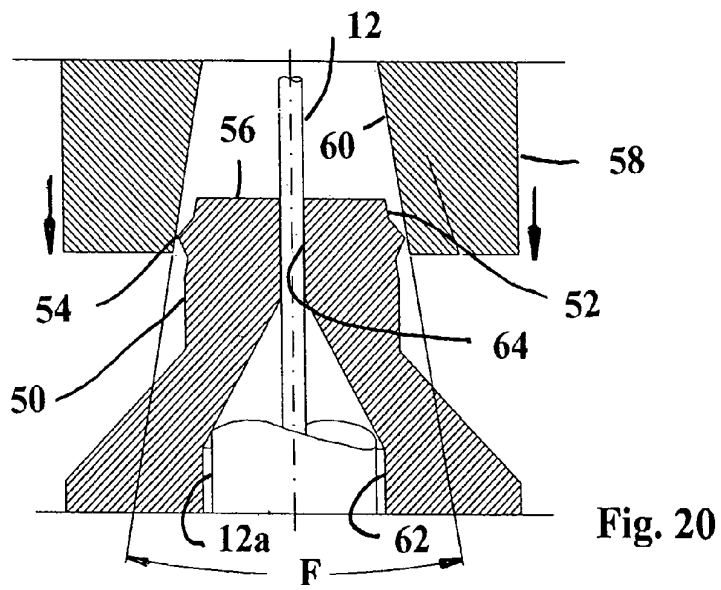
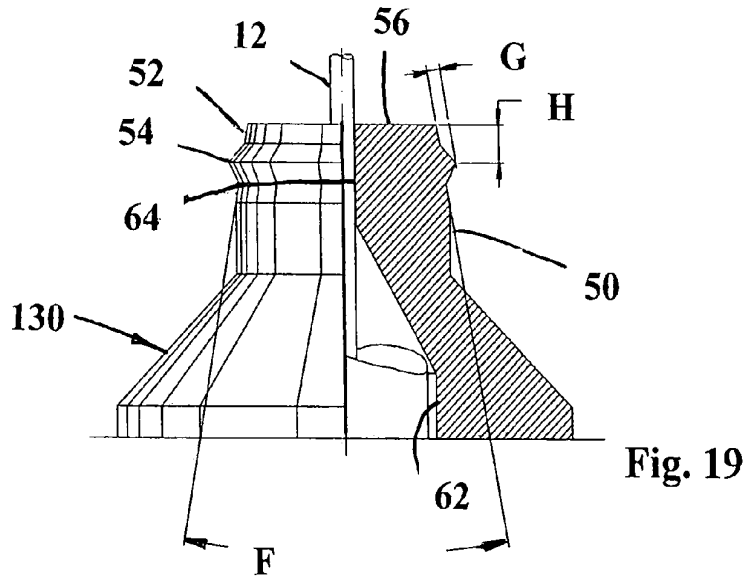


Fig. 18



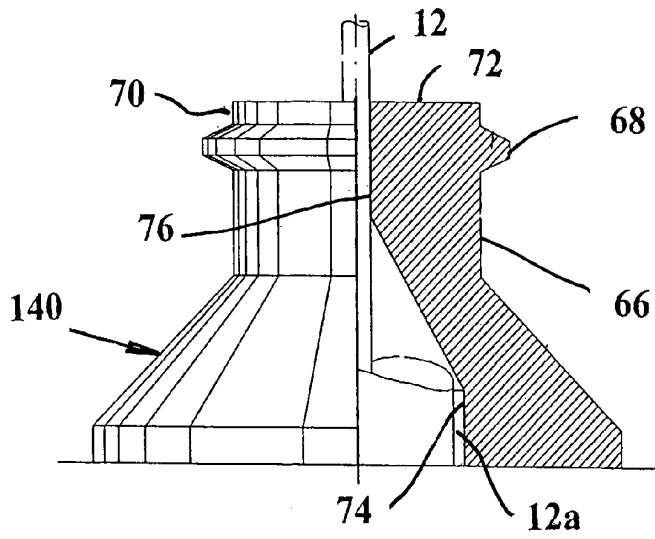


Fig. 22

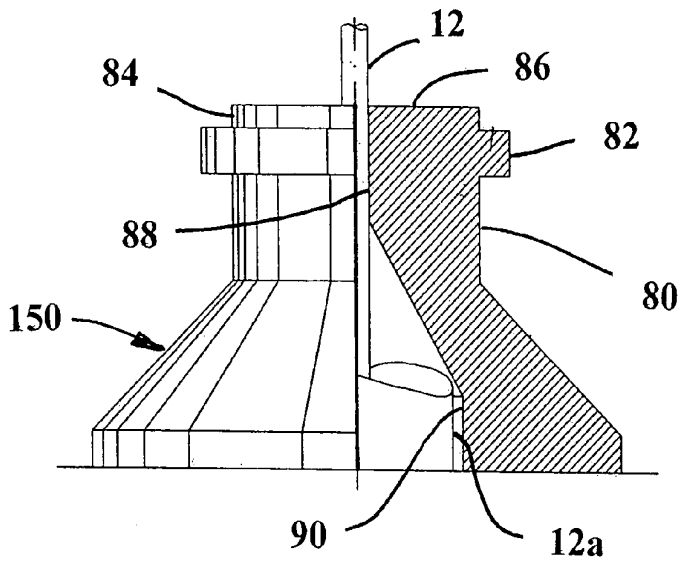


Fig. 23

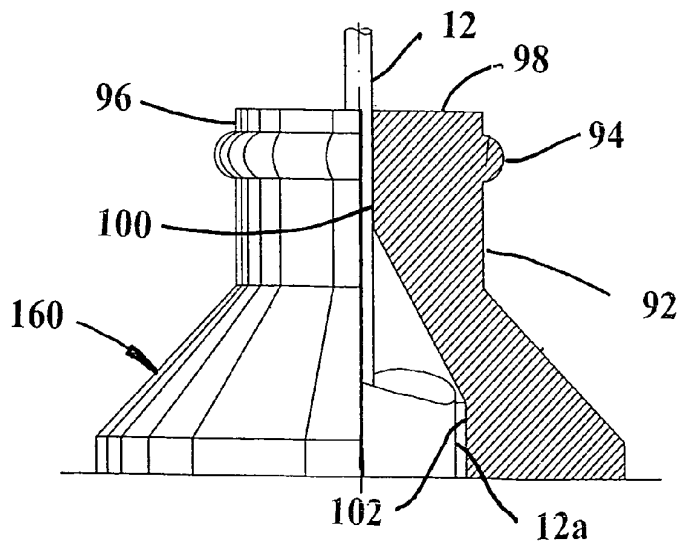


Fig. 24

1

FIBER OPTIC FERRULE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Not applicable

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not applicable

INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC

Not applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates generally to fiber optic connectors and ferrules therefor and more particularly to an improved ferrule which minimizes subsequent end polishing required after the optical fiber has been mechanically secured within the ferrule.

2. Description of Related Art

Fiber optic cables are utilized for carrying various forms of signals in countless industrial installations, in equipment and in apparatus, and in consumer and commercial products of all types. Typically, each end of the optical fiber held within a deformable ferrule which is secured within a connector must be polished in a plane generally orthogonal to the length of the fiber optic cable for proper signal transmission to occur with a mating optical fiber element.

To accomplish the polishing of the end of the optical fiber, as well as to provide support structure to effect the mechanical engagement between fiber optic cable ends, the fiber optic connector such as that shown in FIGS. 7 and 8 of U.S. Pat. No. 5,305,406 invented by Rondeau and incorporated by reference includes a metallic or deformable ferrule or core 166 mechanically attached around the optical fiber 168 extending from the buffer 232. The ferrule 168 is secured within the surrounding connector 162 for additional stabilizing support of the ferrule 168. An additional metallic sleeve 230 is also provided to interconnect the distal portion of the buffer 232 and the proximal end of the ferrule 168 as best seen in FIG. 8 of the '406 patent.

Both the '406 patent and U.S. Pat. No. 6,510,271 invented by applicant herein, disclose apparatus and methodology to reduce the amount of projecting optical fiber which extends beyond the distal tip of the ferrule 168 and to minimize the amount of looseness or side clearance between the optical fiber and the distal end portion of the ferrule 168 after it has been mechanically crimped or swaged around the optical fiber to mechanically secure this relationship. Thereafter, a small amount of the projecting optical fiber and the distal end face surface of the ferrule is typically polished substantially flat and orthogonal to the longitudinal axis of the ferrule so as to maximize the signal transmission between polished end surfaces of adjoining optical fiber connections. However, alternate polished distal tip ends such as radiused or tapered for specialized situations, are also used.

The current prior art is shown in FIGS. 1 to 11. Referring first to FIGS. 1 to 4, a number of metallic deformable ferrules which are used in conjunction with the method disclosed in the '406 patent are there shown generally at numerals 1, 1a,

2

1b and 1c. This type of ferrule has been utilized for a number of years in standard SMA, ST, SC, and FC connectors as well as in custom fiber optic connectors. These metallic ferrules are normally held at the rear or proximal end portion 9 and 9c to the body of a connector previously described in FIGS. 7 and 8 of the '406 patent. The connector itself forms no portion of the present invention and is being described for reference only.

Each of these ferrules 1, 1a and 1b include an elongated cylindrical body 3, 3a and 3b, respectively, each having a hollow cylindrical interior 10 open at a proximal end thereof to receive an end portion of the buffer or protective sheath around the optical fiber or optical fiber bundle. The exposed optical fiber is inserted through the proximal end 7 of the ferrule body and, with respect to the prior art ferrule embodiment of FIGS. 1 to 3, is passed through the cylindrical cavity 10 and is guided by tapered transitional region 11 into and through a longitudinal optical fiber bore 6 to extend longitudinally beyond the distal end face 2.

With respect to the prior art embodiment 1c of FIG. 4, the optical fiber bore 6c extends longitudinally through almost the entire ferrule body 3c from the tapered transition 11a which also defines the proximal opening 7c of the proximal end portion 9c to the distal end face 2c of the distal end portion 8c.

After the optical fiber 12 has been inserted through the optical fiber bore 6 as seen in FIG. 5 with the buffer 12a also inserted fully into the cylindrical interior 10, an impact forming or an impact swaging tool 13 having a truncated conical opening 16 defining a conical or tapered surface 14 and a longitudinal cylindrical bore 15 is brought together against the edge 5 of the distal end portion 8a, 8b or 8c of FIGS. 1 to 4, to mechanically deform the reduced diameter distal end portion 4 so as to mechanically crimp and frictionally engage the optical fiber 12 within the deformed bore 6' in FIG. 6. Note in FIG. 5 that the distal end face 2 is initially flat and orthogonal with respect to the longitudinal axis and bore 6 of the ferrule 50 itself.

In FIG. 6, the tool 13 has been forcibly urged against the outer distal corner 5 of the now deformed distal end portion 4' so as to cause inward deformation of this region at 17 of the ferrule in compliance against the tapered surface 14. Several deformations occur during this impact swaging or impact forming operation, the first of which is that the outer corner 5 are severely deformed inwardly so as to at least partially collapse the bore 6' in the region 18. The deformable material of the ferrule at deformed surface 17 causes tightening around the optical fiber 12 in the region 18 to reduce and eliminate any clearance which has been pre-established by the sizing between the diameter of the optical fiber 12 and that of the undeformed bore 6, now 6' when deformed. Additionally, the previously flat distal end face 2 has now taken a dish or crater configuration 19 with the distal end portion of the optical fiber 12 extending longitudinally therebeyond. Typically, the length of the optical fiber gripping region 18 is in the range of 0.2 mm, creating a frictional resistance to movement of the optical fiber 12 in the range of approximately 400 gms.

The depth of the concaved crater 19 as referenced in FIG. 7 is in the range of 0.1 mm and obviously will increase in proportion to the amount of force exerted by tool 13. The excess projection of the optical fiber 12 must be removed before the end polishing operation is commenced. To do this, typically the optical fiber 12 is cleaved at cutting line 20a in FIG. 7. However, the cleaving operation is typically only able to sever the optical fiber 12 in a range of approximately 0.05 mm at 20a from the edges of the crater 19. Thereafter, an end grinding and polishing operation must reduce the remaining

3

exposed portion of the optical fiber **20a** in FIG. **8**. Manual cleaving or the use of a cleaving device such as that shown in the '271 patent may be utilized after the optical fiber **12** has been cleaved to establish distal end face **2d**. The projecting small portion of optical fiber **12**, along with the crater **19** must be ground or sanded and polished down to the bottom of the crater at **21** to create preferably a substantially flat orthogonal surface as best seen in FIG. **11**. During the grinding or sanding and polishing operation, a lateral force in the direction of the array of arrows shown in FIG. **10** is imposed along the gripping area **18** between the optical fiber **12** and the deformed bore **6'**. As a result, the gripping force in gripping region **18** may be reduced by as much as 50% or more or even totally lost, rendering the ferrule unusable. Moreover, the overall length of this gripping region **18** may be reduced if excess material from the ferrule as well as the optical fiber **12** is removed inadvertently or carelessly during this polishing operation. The variables which affect the overall quality of this gripping force in this prior art arrangement are controlled by the impact of the swaging die process shown in FIG. **6**, the reduced diameter of the deformable tip **4**, and the angle of the conical surface **14** of the swaging tool **13**.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention is directed to a ferrule connectable to a fiber optic cable having an exposed portion of a length of optical fiber extending from a protective buffer. The ferrule includes an elongated cylindrical body having a substantially hollow longitudinally extending cylindrical interior open at a proximal end thereof adapted in size to receive an end portion of the buffer. An optical fiber bore coaxial with the hollow interior extends longitudinally through a distal end portion of the body sized to snugably slidably receive the optical fiber passing therethrough. The distal end portion is mechanically inwardly deformable to frictionally engage the optical fiber within the bore, the distal end face being either conically shaped having a cone angle such that the distal end face is also deformed into a substantially planar surface or the end portion including an outwardly extending ring whereby a projecting length of the optical fiber extending beyond the distal end face may be cleaved in very close proximity to the distal end face.

It is therefore an object of this invention to provide a fiber optic ferrule with enhanced optical fiber retention characteristics.

Yet another object of this invention to provide a ferrule which substantially reduces the cost of the after-assembly polishing process of the end of the ferrule/optical fiber end configuration.

Still another object of this invention is to provide a fiber optic ferrule which, by design choice, facilitates selected location of the mechanical gripping force region for enhanced optical fiber retention within the ferrule.

Yet another object of this invention is to provide a fiber optic ferrule which is substantially less impervious to loosening of the optical fiber after mechanical assembly thereof to the ferrule during final end polishing operations.

And another object of this invention is to provide a fiber optic ferrule which, when mechanically deformed to establish permanent connection with an optical fiber therewithin, substantially reduces the projected length of the optical fiber remaining for polishing removal after cleaving of the excess optical fiber from the distal end face of the assembly.

In accordance with these and other objects which will become apparent hereinafter, the instant invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

4

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S)

Prior Art

FIGS. **1** to **4** are longitudinal section views of typical metallic deformable prior ferrules for use in conjunction with a fiber optic cable.

FIG. **5** is an enlarged exploded view of the distal portion of the prior art ferrule embodiment of FIG. **1** in relation to an impact deforming or swaging tool.

FIG. **6** is a view of FIG. **5** showing the tool after deforming impact with the distal end face of the prior art ferrule.

FIG. **7** is a view of FIG. **6** with the tool removed.

FIG. **8** is a view of FIG. **7** after cleavage of the projected distal portion of the optical fiber.

FIG. **9** is an enlarged view of the distal end portion of FIG. **8**.

FIG. **10** is a further enlarged view of FIG. **9** showing the ferrule material required to be removed as shaded.

FIG. **11** is a view of FIG. **9** after polishing of the distal end face thereof has been accomplished.

The Instant Invention

FIG. **12** is an enlarged section view of a distal end portion of one embodiment of the ferrule of the present invention with the fiber optic cable in place ready for assembly.

FIG. **13** is a view of FIG. **12** after mechanical deformation of the distal tip portion around the optical fiber.

FIG. **14** is a view of FIG. **13** after cleavage of the projecting portion of the optical fiber beyond the distal end face of the ferrule.

FIG. **15** is an enlarged partial section view of the distal tip portion of another embodiment of the invention with the optical fiber cable in position prior to assembly.

FIG. **16** is a view of FIG. **15** showing the deforming tool at the point of impact with an outwardly laterally projecting ring or bead formed as a part of the distal tip portion.

FIG. **17** is a view of FIG. **16** at the maximum impact of the deforming tool against the distal end portion of the ferrule.

FIG. **18** is an enlarged view of the deformed ferrule and optical fiber of FIG. **17**.

FIG. **19** is a view similar to FIG. **15** of still another embodiment of the invention.

FIG. **20** is a section view similar to FIG. **19** showing the deforming tool at the point of impact with an outwardly laterally projecting annular ring or bead formed as a part of the distal tip portion.

FIG. **21** is a section view of FIG. **20** at the maximum impact of the deforming tool against the distal end portion of the ferrule.

FIG. **22** is a view similar to FIG. **15** of still another embodiment of the invention.

FIG. **23** is a view similar to FIG. **15** showing yet another embodiment of the invention.

FIG. **24** is a view similar to FIG. **15** showing yet another embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring now to FIGS. **12** to **14**, the preferred embodiment of the invention is there shown generally at numeral **110**. This ferrule **110** includes the elongated cylindrical body having the hollow cylindrical interior **10** similar to the previously described conventional deformable ferrules. This embodiment **110** includes the reduced-in-diameter distal end portion

4 having a longitudinally extending optical fiber bore *6b* adapted in size to slidably receive the optical fiber *12* which extends beyond the buffer *12a* or the protective sheath of the fiber optic cable. This embodiment *110* also includes a tapered transition zone *11* which greatly enhances guiding of the distal tip of the optical fiber *12* into and through the optical fiber bore *6b*.

The distal end face *22* of the ferrule *110* is uniquely configured initially as will be described with respect to FIGS. *13* and *14* having a very broad non-flat conical configuration with a cone angle *C* generally equal to in the range of 170°-179°, preferably 174°. As seen in FIG. *13*, after the mechanical deformation of the distal corners *23* by the utilization of the deforming tool (not shown as repetitive) against the undeformed distal end portion *4*, the distal corners *23* thus inwardly deform into a tapered truncated cone matching the deforming conical surface of the deforming tool so that the deformable bore tightly binds against the optical fiber *12* and in a manner which leaves the distal end face *22'* as nearly a flat surface. Then, as seen in FIG. *14*, the cleaving of the protruding portion of the optical fiber *12* is easily accomplished in very close proximity to the distal end face *22'*, leaving only a very small exposed optical fiber segment *D* in the range of just a few micrometers from the substantially flat distal end face *22'*. Thereafter, polishing for maximum signal transmission from cable to cable is easily and quickly accomplished.

Referring now to FIGS. *15* to *17*, another embodiment of the invention is there shown generally at numeral *120* and, again, this improved ferrule *120* includes the elongated body (not shown) which defines the hollow cylindrical interior *32* for receiving the buffer *12a*, the protruding length of optical fiber *12* inserted through the longitudinally extending optical fiber bore *38* in a fashion as previously described.

To accomplish the two-fold objectives of the present invention, i.e., (a) end up with a substantially flat distal end face surface *30* after the deformation of the reduced-in-size distal end portion *24* which (b) tightly secures the optical fiber *12* within the bore *38*, a triangular in section outwardly extending preferably annular ring or band *26* is provided formed preferably as an integral part of the reduced-in-size distal end portion *28* of the ferrule *120*. Once the buffer *12a* and the optical fiber *12* are inserted into the ferrule *120* as shown in FIG. *16*, the deforming tool *34* with its conically tapered surface *36* is impacted against these triangular rings *26* which radially inwardly deform as shown in FIG. *17*.

As better seen in FIG. *15*, the undeformed triangular band *26* have an outwardly extending dimension *H* and an offset from the distal end face *30* of *G*. By this arrangement as seen in FIG. *18*, an inwardly exerted force distribution *E* in the direction of arrows *42* clampingly engage around the cylindrical optical fiber *12* at a spacing from the distal end face *30* selected by dimension *G*. Likewise, the degree of compression or retention force *42* exerted to securely retain the optical fiber *12* in the deformed bore *38'* as determined by the outward protrusion *H* of the triangular ring *26* may easily be varied to accomplish a desired level of optical fiber retention.

Once the deformation of these triangular ring *26* into the configuration *26'* shown in FIGS. *17* and *18* is accomplished, cleavage of the protruding portion of the optical fiber *12* is accomplished at *40* in very close proximity to the flat distal end face *30*, leaving only a minimal amount of polishing of the end surface *40*, the distal end face *30* remaining substantially flat and orthogonally oriented to the longitudinal axis of the ferrule itself.

It is here noted that the diameter of the bore *38* is generally selected to be slightly larger than the outside diameter of the optical fiber *12* to allow sliding translation installation ther-

erebetween and to allow for the bore deformation to occur into the configuration shown in FIG. *18*.

Another embodiment of the invention is shown at numeral *130* in FIGS. *19* to *21*. In this ferrule embodiment *130*, the distal end portion *50* includes a tapered portion *52* and a triangular laterally or radially outwardly extending annular ring *54* positioned on the tapered portion *52* which is established at a conical angle *F* of preferably less than 30° or more preferably in the range of about 20°.

This conical angle *F* generally is equal to the taper *60* of the deforming tool *58* so as to provide an even more uniform inward deformation of the ring *54* as seen in FIG. *21*. The deformed triangular ring *54'* and the slightly compressed tapered portion *52'* greatly enhance the strength of retention of the optical fiber *12* within the compressed and deformed bore *64'* around the optical fiber *12*. As in previous embodiment *120*, this embodiment *130* also leaves the distal end face *56* in a substantially flattened configuration and orthogonally oriented to the longitudinal axis of the ferrule *120* thus facilitating close cleavage of the protruding portion of the optical fiber *12* and requiring minimal polishing thereafter for maximum signal transmission.

Three additional embodiments of the radially outwardly extending annular ring concept of the invention are shown in FIGS. *22*, *23* and *24*. In FIG. *22*, this embodiment *140* includes trapezoidally configured radially outwardly extending ring *68* integrally formed with the cylindrical reduced-in-diameter distal portion *66*. The smaller length *70* of the distal portion *66* positioned between the ring *68* and the distal end face *72* of the ferrule *140* is preselected in longitudinal position so that a desired distribution and location of clamping forces of bore *76* as described in FIG. *18* against the optical fiber *12* is accomplished. As in previous embodiments, the buffer *12a* is provided for within the hollow cylindrical interior *74*.

In FIG. *23*, this embodiment *150* includes an orthogonally configured radially outwardly extending ring *82* formed as a part of the reduced-in-diameter distal portion *80*, a small amount of which at *84* is provided to achieve a particularly desired clamping location and distribution against the optical fiber *12* when inward deformation of the bore *88* distal end portion and the ring *82* is accomplished. The cylindrical hollow interior *90*, again, accommodates the buffer *12a*.

Lastly, in FIG. *24*, a semi-circular in cross section annular ring *94* is provided which outwardly extends from the distal portion *92* leaving a small distal portion *96* spaced from the distal end face *98*. The optical fiber *12* extends through the longitudinal bore *100* as previously described in sliding fashion so that the deformation of the ring *94* will collapse the bore *100* slightly, resulting in the desired degree and tightness distribution of the clamping forces for optical fiber retention.

While the instant invention has been shown and described herein in what are conceived to be the most practical and preferred embodiments, it is recognized that departures may be made therefrom within the scope of the invention, which is therefore not to be limited to the details disclosed herein, but is to be afforded the full scope of the claims so as to embrace any and all equivalent apparatus and articles.

The invention claimed is:

1. A ferrule connectable to a fiber optic cable having an exposed portion of a length of optical fiber extending from a protective buffer, comprising:

an elongated body having a substantially hollow longitudinally extending cylindrical interior open at a proximal end of said body and being adapted in size to receive an end portion of a length of the buffer;

said body also including an optical fiber bore coaxial with said hollow interior and extending longitudinally through a distal end portion of said body, said bore sized to slidably receive the optical fiber passing therethrough and extend longitudinally from a distal end face of said body;

said distal end portion being reduced in outer diameter; said distal end portion being mechanically inwardly deformable to frictionally engage the optical fiber within said bore, substantially the entire said distal end face being conically shaped having a cone angle such that, when said distal end portion is deformed, said distal end face is deformed into a substantially flat surface whereby a projecting length of the optical fiber extending beyond said distal end face may be cleaved in very close proximity to said distal end face.

2. A ferrule connectable to a fiber optic cable having an exposed portion of a length of optical fiber extending from a protective buffer, comprising:

an elongated body having a substantially hollow longitudinally extending cylindrical interior open at a proximal end of said body and being adapted in size to receive an end portion of a length of the buffer;

said body also including a cylindrical optical fiber bore and a tapered transition extending coaxially from said hollow interior, said bore extending longitudinally through a distal end portion of said body and being sized to slidably receive the optical fiber passing through and being guided by, said transition and extending longitudinally from a distal end face of said body;

an outwardly extending ring formed with said distal end portion wherein, when said distal end portion is mechanically inwardly deformed against said ring, said optical fiber is frictionally engaged within said bore, said distal end face remaining substantially as a planar surface transversely oriented to a longitudinal axis of said body wherein a projecting length of the optical fiber extending beyond said distal end face may be cleaved in close proximity to said distal end face.

3. In a ferrule connectable to a fiber optic cable having an exposed portion of a length of optical fiber extending from a protective buffer, said ferrule including an elongated body having a substantially hollow longitudinally extending cylindrical interior open at a proximal end of said body adapted in size to receive an end portion of a length of the buffer, said body also including an optical fiber bore coaxial with said hollow interior and extending through a distal end portion and outwardly from a distal end face of said body, said bore sized to slidably receive the optical fiber passing therethrough and extending longitudinally from said distal end face, said distal end portion being mechanically inwardly deformable to frictionally engage the optical fiber within said bore, the improvement comprising:

said distal end face having a conical shape with a cone angle such that, when said distal end portion is deformed, said distal end face is also deformed into a substantially flat surface whereby a projecting length of the optical fiber extending beyond said distal end face may be cleaved in very close proximity to said distal end face.

4. In a ferrule connectable to a fiber optic cable having an exposed portion of a length of optical fiber extending from a protective buffer, said ferrule including an elongated body having a substantially hollow longitudinally extending cylindrical interior open at a proximal end of said body adapted in size to receive an end portion of a length of the buffer, said body also including a cylindrical optical fiber bore and a tapered hollow transition coaxial with said hollow interior, said bore extending longitudinally through a distal end portion of said body sized to slidably receive the optical fiber passing through said bore, the optical fiber being guided by said transition into said bore to extend outwardly from a distal end face of said body, said distal end portion reduced in outer diameter, the improvement comprising:

an outwardly extending ring formed as a part of an outer surface of said distal end portion adjacent to said distal end face;

said distal end portion being mechanically inwardly deformable against said ring to frictionally engage said optical fiber within said bore, said distal end face remaining substantially as a planar surface transversely oriented to a longitudinal axis of said body wherein a projecting length of the optical fiber extending beyond said distal end face may be cleaved in close proximity to said distal end face.

5. A ferrule connectable to a fiber optic cable having an exposed portion of a length of optical fiber extending from a protective buffer, comprising:

an elongated body including an optical fiber bore formed coaxially with said body and extending longitudinally through a distal end portion of said body, said bore sized to slidably receive the optical fiber passing therethrough to extend longitudinally from a distal end face of said body;

said distal end portion being mechanically inwardly deformable to frictionally engage the optical fiber within said bore, said distal end face being conically shaped having a cone angle such that said, when said distal end portion is deformed, said distal end face is also deformed into a substantially flat surface whereby a projecting length of the optical fiber extending beyond said distal end face may be cleaved in very close proximity to said distal end face.

6. A method of connecting a ferrule to a fiber optic cable having an exposed portion of a length of optical fiber extending from a protective buffer, said ferrule including an elongated body having an optical fiber bore formed coaxially with said body and extending longitudinally through a distal end portion of said body, said method comprising the steps of:

slidably inserting the optical fiber through said bore so as to extend longitudinally from a distal end face of said body; mechanically inwardly deforming said distal end portion to frictionally engage the optical fiber within said bore, said distal end face being conically shaped having a cone angle such that, when said distal end portion is deformed, said distal end face is also deformed into a substantially flat surface;

cleaving a projecting length of the optical fiber extending beyond said distal end face in very close proximity to said distal end face.