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(71) Applicant: **CAMERON IRON WORKS, INC.**  
**13013 Northwest Freeway Northwest Crossing**  
**Houston, TX 77040(US)**

(72) Inventor: **Schaeper, Gary R.**  
**14435 Ravenhurst**  
**Houston Texas 77070(US)**

(72) Inventor: **Taylor, William M.**  
**8705 Burkhart**  
**Houston Texas 77055(US)**

(72) Inventor: **Williams III, Bolie C.**  
**821 Janisch**  
**Houston Texas 77018(US)**

(74) Representative: **Smith, Norman Ian et al,**  
**F.J. CLEVELAND & COMPANY 40-43 Chancery Lane**  
**London WC2A 1JQ(GB)**

(54) **Annular blowout preventer.**

(57) An annular blowout preventer having a body 12 with a central bore 14 therethrough and a packer recess 16 surrounding and opening on said bore, an annular split packer 34 in said recess, and means for actuating the packer to closed position. An opening 50 extends through the side of the body 12 into the packer recess of sufficient size to permit removal of the packer therethrough. A plug 60 is sealed in the opening and a sleeve 68 is located around said body to engage the exterior of said plug and retain it in sealing position in the opening 50.

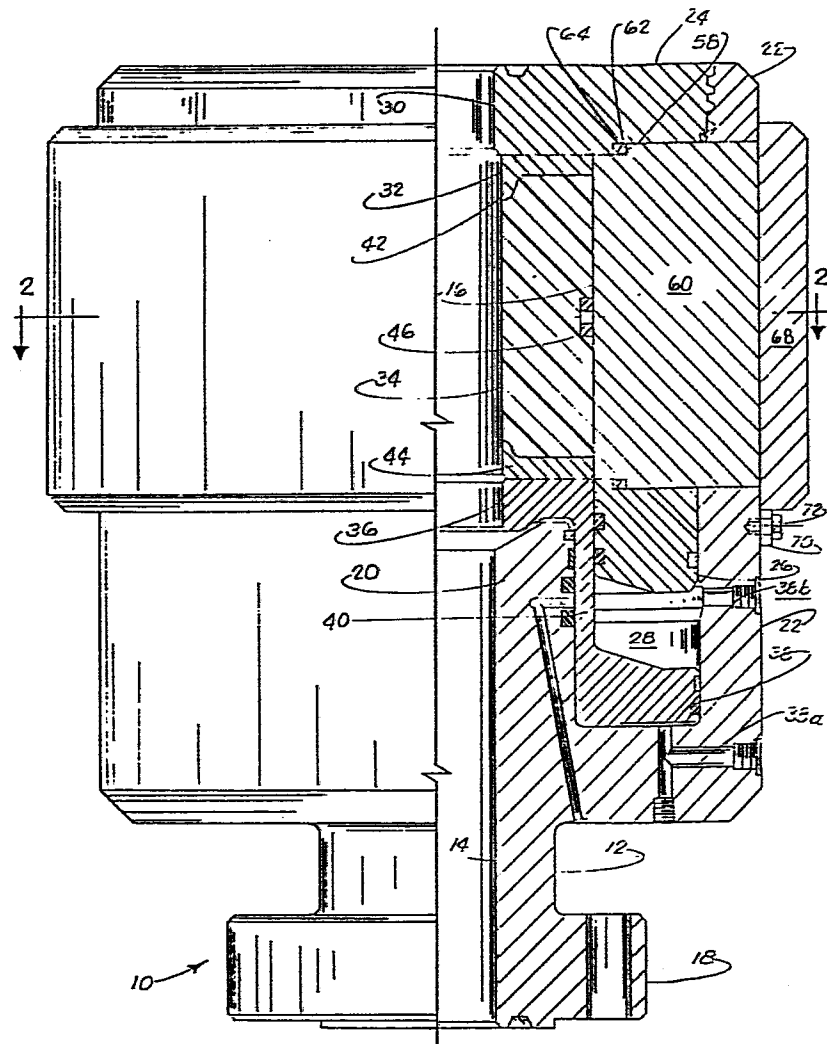


Fig. 1

ANNULAR BLOWOUT PREVENTER

DESCRIPTION

In use the resilient packer of an annular blowout preventer can wear and be damaged. Changing the packer in present annular blowout preventers requires the removal of the upper end connection plus other elements of the BOP stack which are above the annular preventer such as the bell nipple, stripper, or rotating head. To do this clearance must be provided between the rig floor substructure and the top of the BOP to allow the top to be lifted clear to provide access to the packer. This is very inconvenient in snubbing operations. Also the top portion of most present annular blowout preventers is large and heavy which reduces the clearance and increases the difficulty of replacing the packer.

U.S. Patent No. 2,154,955 discloses a well casing control valve having removable side plates allowing access for ram changes.

U.S. Patent No. 2,320,974 discloses a ram type blowout preventer with removable side plates for changing internal ram operating mechanisms and rams.

U.S. Patent No. 2,592,197 discloses a ram type blowout preventer with side windows for each ram for insertion and removal of the rams with covers secured over the windows for each ram for insertion and removal of the rams with covers secured over the windows.

None of the known prior art recognizes the problem of changing the annular packer in an annular blowout preventer. Flat door covering windows for access to rams in a ram type blowout preventer do not teach that the packer of an annular

blowout preventer could be removed in a manner other than through the top.

#### Summary

An improved annular blowout preventer having a body with  
05 a central bore therethrough, a split annular packer recess  
surrounding and opening onto the bore, an annular packer  
positioned in said recess, means for axially loading the  
packer, at least one opening through the side of the body into  
the packer recess of sufficient size for the removal of the  
10 packer therethrough, a plug removably positioned in the  
opening to close the opening and form the exterior of said  
packer recess, a ring surrounding said body to retain said  
plug in position in said opening and means supporting said  
ring in position surrounding said body and retaining said plug  
15 in said opening.

An object of the present invention is to provide an  
improved annular blowout preventer in which the annular packer  
may be changed without regard to the vertical clearance avail-  
able.

20 Another object is to provide an improved annular blowout  
preventer having simple and easy means for changing the  
annular packer.

A further object is to provide an improved annular  
blowout preventer with a side access to the annular packer.  
25 without sacrificing the strength of the preventer body.

#### Description of the Drawings

These and other objects and advantages of the present  
invention are hereinafter set forth and explained with respect  
to the drawings wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a partial sectional partial elevation view of the improved annular blowout preventer of the present invention.

FIGURE 2 is a sectional view through the packer taken  
05 along line 2-2 in FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 3 is a view similar to FIGURE 1 with the retaining sleeve lowered below the body plug.

FIGURE 4 is an end view of the plug.

FIGURE 5 is a plan view of the plug.

10 FIGURE 6 is a sectional view similar to FIGURE 2, but of a modified form of the present invention.

#### Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Annular blowout preventer 10, as shown in FIGURE 1, includes body 12 having central bore 14 extending therethrough  
15 with packer recess 16 surrounding and opening onto bore 14. Body 12 includes lower flange 18, inner upstanding rim 20 and outer upstanding rim 22. Upper end closure 24 is threaded into rim 22 and has depending rim 26 extending to a position between rims 20 and 22, and forming annular chamber 28. Upper  
20 end closure 24 extends inward as flange 30 to provide shoulder 32 at the upper end of packer recess 16. Annular packer 34 is positioned in packer recess 16 between shoulder 32 and annular actuating plate 36. Means for axially loading annular packer 34 is provided by piston 38 which is slidable  
25 in chamber 28 responsive to pressure through port 38a and port 38b and connected to annular actuating plate 36 by annular arm 40.

Annular packer 34 includes resilient annulus 41 with upper insert plates 42 and lower insert plates 44 embedded

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therein. Annular packer 34 is split and preferably has two semi-annular sections 34a and 34b. as shown in FIGURE 2. Ring 46 is embedded in the exterior of resilient annulus 41 and has a plurality of tapped holes 48 to allow firm engagement of packer 34 during removal. Annular packer 34 is split as described and shown to allow it to be removed easily from recess 16 through opening 50 in rim 22 and depending rim 26 of end closure 24 as best seen in FIGURE 2.

Opening 50 includes inner rectangular opening 52 with shoulder 54 at its inner end and outer rectangular opening 56 with shoulder 58 facing outward at the inner end of opening 56. Plug 60 is shaped to fit closely into opening 52 and 56, to engage shoulder 54 and capture seal ring 62 between shoulder 64 on plug 60 and shoulder 58. The inner surface 66 of plug 60 is cylindrical to form a portion of the wall of recess 16. Plug 60 is retained in opening 50 by sleeve 68 which surrounds outer rim 22 of body 12 from a position above opening 50 to a position below opening 50. Suitable means for supporting sleeve 68 in its plug retaining position is provided in the form of lugs 70 secured to outer rim 22 by screws 72.

Whenever it is desired to replace packer 34 then screws 72 are removed and sleeve 68 is lowered to the position shown in FIGURE 3 so that plug 60 can be removed. With plug 60 removed packer sections 34a and 34b can be removed even with a pipe extending through bore 14.

In the modified form shown in FIGURE 4, annular blowout preventer 80 includes outer rim 82 and depending rim 84 of end closure with inner rectangular opening 86 extending

transversely thereof and outer rectangular openings 88 and 90 provide shoulders 92 and 94. Plugs 96 and 98 are positioned therein and seal rings 100 and 102 are positioned between shoulders 104 and 106 on plugs 96 and 98 and shoulders 92 and 94. Sleeve 108 surrounds rim 82 and retains plugs 96 and 98 in position sealing both ends of bore 86. Packer 110 includes sections 112 and 114 and has ring 116 embedded therein with tapped holes 118 to assist in removal of packer sections 112 and 114 through opposite sides of bore 86 after plugs 96 and 98 are removed.

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CLAIMS

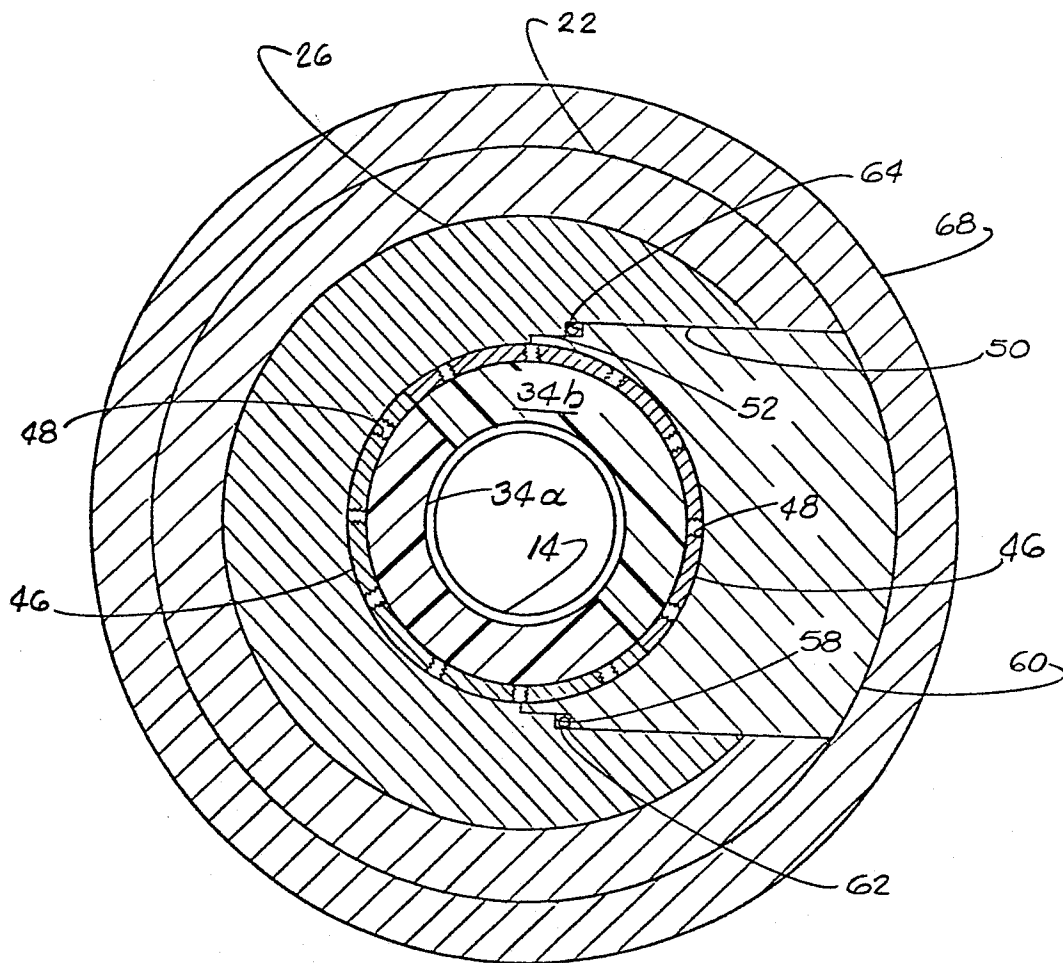
1. An annular blowout preventer including a body having a central bore extending therethrough with an annular packer recess surrounding and opening to said bore, an annular split  
05 packer positioned in said recess, means for loading said packer to seal within said bore, and characterized by an opening through the side of said body into said packer recess, a plug for sealing said opening, and means for retaining said plug in said opening.
- 10 2. An annular blowout preventer according to claim 1 wherein said packer includes two sections.
3. An annular blowout preventer according to claim 1 or 2 including means in said packer allowing engagement therewith to pull said packer through said opening.
- 15 4. An annular blowout preventer according to claim 3 wherein said engagement means includes a ring embedded in the outer exterior of said packer, and threaded holes in said ring.
5. An annular blowout preventer according to any of the  
20 preceding claims wherein said retain includes a sleeve surrounding said body and engaging the exterior of said plug.
6. An annular blowout preventer according to claim 5 including means for retaining said sleeve in engagement with the exterior of said plug.
- 25 7. An annular blowout preventer according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein said opening extends through both sides of said body with a plug in each side of said opening, and said packer is divided into two sections.

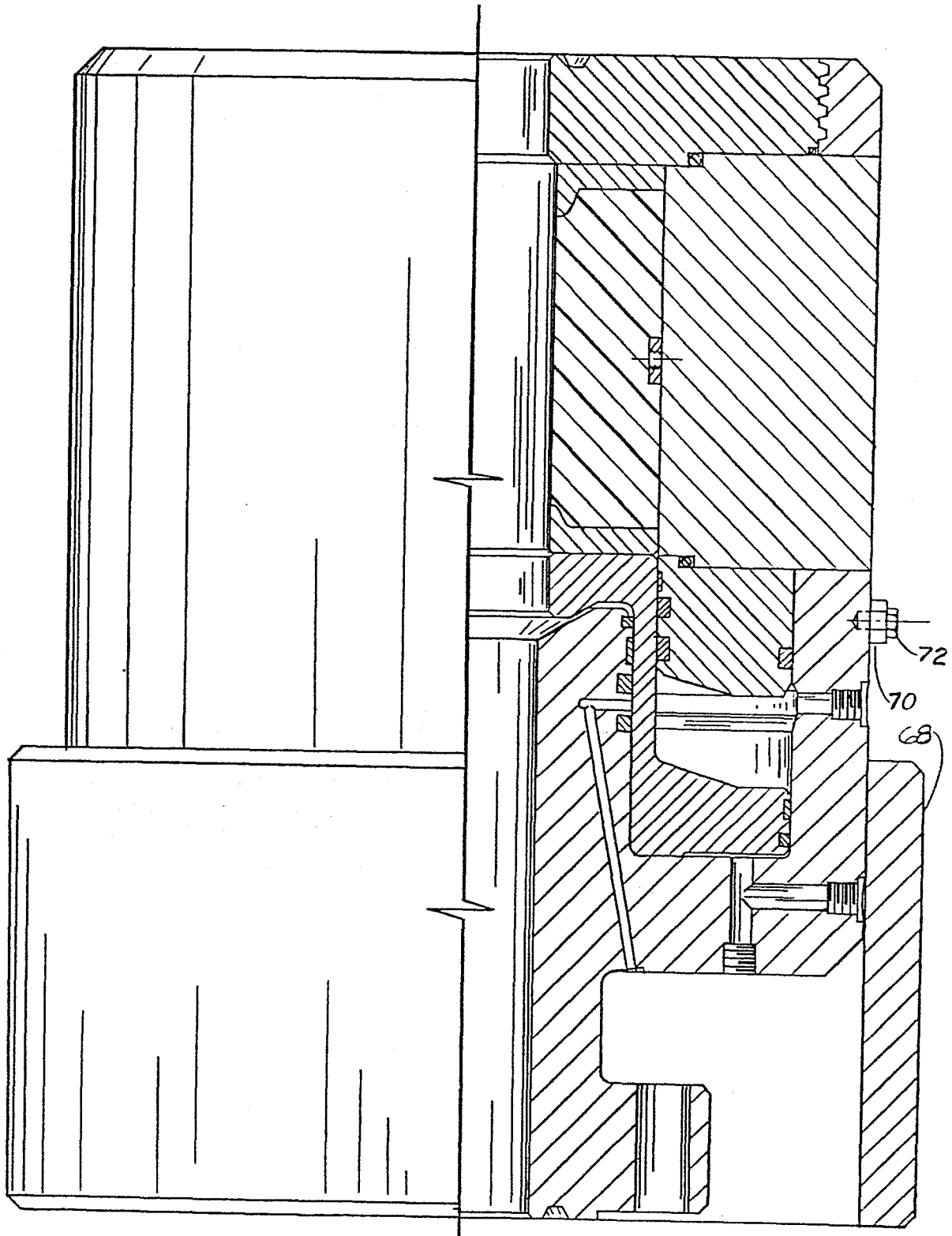


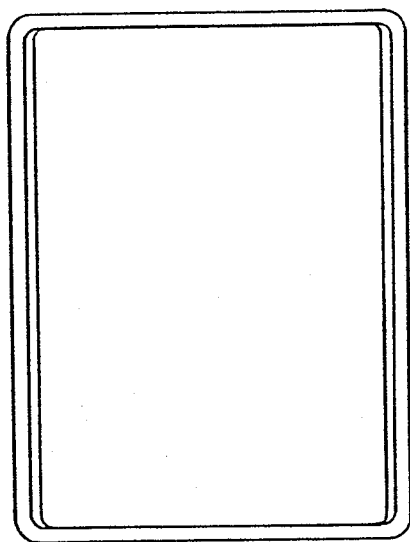
8. An annular blowout preventer according to any of the preceding claims wherein said loading means includes a piston movable vertically in said body, and an annular actuating plate engaging the underside of said packer, movement of said  
05 piston in one direction axially loading said packer to move inward into sealing position and in the other direction unloading said packer to allow it to relax from sealing position.

9. An annular blowout preventer comprising a body  
10 having a central bore therethrough and a recess surrounding and opening on said central bore, a split packer having a resilient annulus with a series of upper insert plates embedded in the upper surface of the annulus and a series of lower insert plates embedded in the lower surface of said annulus,  
15 said packer positioned in said recess, an annular piston chamber in said body with a piston movable therein responsive to pressure admitted to said chamber on opposite sides of said piston, said piston axially loading said packer, and characterized by an opening through the side of said body into said  
20 packer recess, a plug removable positioned in said opening, and a sleeve surrounding said body and retaining said plug in position within said opening.

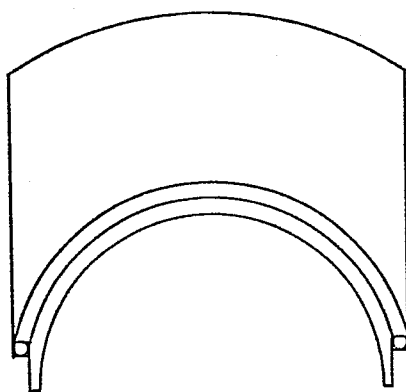


*Fig. 2*

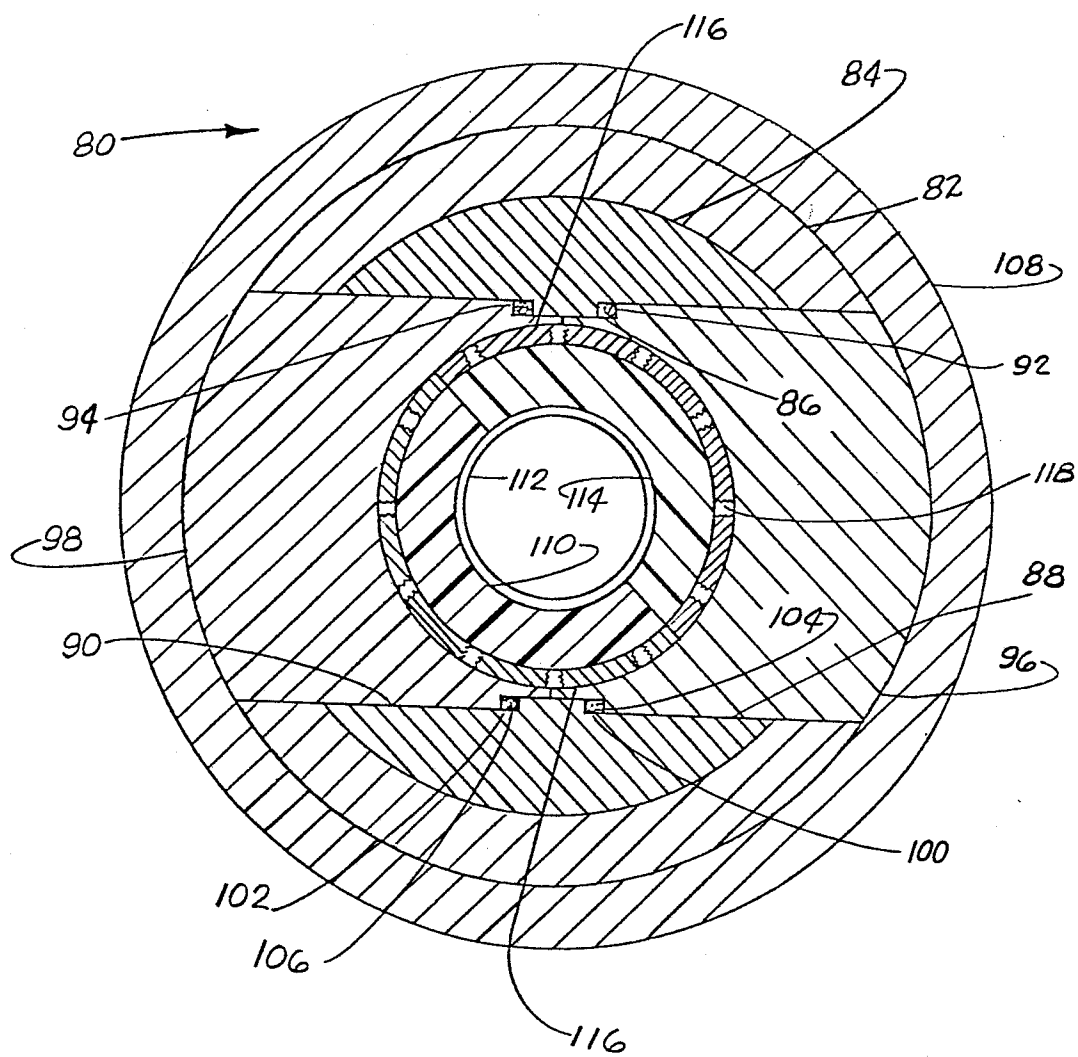
*Fig. 3*



*Fig. 4*



*Fig. 5*

**Fig. 6**