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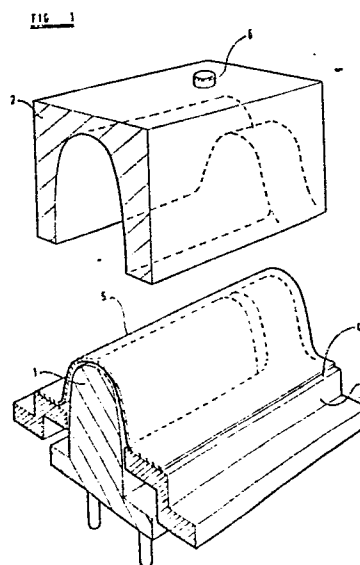
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(54) Pressing contoured shapes.

(57) A process for forming superplastically deformable sheet metal into contoured shapes, especially complex saddle shapes having compound curvature, utilises the technique of pressure forming in combination with a forming tool with the sheet metal in condition for superplastic deformation. A pre-form (5) of superplastically deformable sheet metal is first formed and then sealed to a pressure box (2). A forming tool (1) is engaged with the preform face external of the pressure box and, under conditions for superplastic deformation, the sheet metal is pressure-formed into conformity with the forming tool. Apparatus for performing the process is also disclosed.





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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
Y	CH-A- 611 815 (SUPERFORM) * claims 1, 14; figures 1-5 *	1-3, 5, 6	B 21 D 26/02
Y	GB-A-2 096 513 (SUPERFORM) * figures 1-4; claims 1-3, 6 *	1-3, 5, 6	
A	US-A-3 974 673 (FOSNESS) * claim 1; figures 1, 2, 5-8 *	1	
A	DE-A-2 839 469 (ROCKWELL) * claim 1 *	1	

			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)
			B 21 D 26/00
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 09-12-1986	Examiner SCHLAITZ J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			