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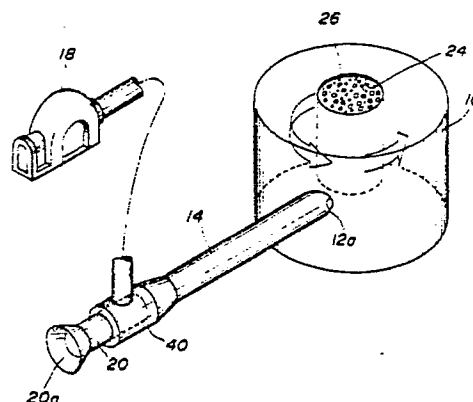
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(54) **Carbon fiber aggregate capable of feeding by gravity-feed and production method therefor.**

(57) A compressed carbon fiber aggregate has a ball-shaped, elongated ellipsoidal or cylindrical configuration made up of individual carbon fibers. The carbon fiber aggregate is produced without the need for a binder but is made sufficiently dense by compression into the ball-shaped, ellipsoidal or cylindrical configuration. To produce the aforementioned carbon fiber aggregate with increased density, loose carbon fibers are circulated by means of a gas, such as air, within a circular chamber (10). As they are being driven around the circular chamber by the gas, individual carbon fibers separate and then reaggregate into a more compact ball-shaped or ellipsoidal configuration. By performing the aforementioned process for a sufficient period of time, e.g. 10 to 20 min., a ball-shaped or ellipsoidal carbon fiber aggregate with a density sufficiently high for gravity-

feed can be obtained. The obtained carbon fiber aggregates may be of essentially uniform size and density.

FIG. 1





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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)
X	FR-A-2 384 049 (CENTRAL GLASS CO.) * Claims 1-7,9,11,12; page 1, line 1 - page 5, line 27; figure * ---	1,3,8,9 ,12-14	D 04 H 1/00 C 04 B 18/02
A	US-A-2 571 334 (W.H. BROWNE) * Claims 1-4; column 2, line 2 - column 7, line 22; figures 3,5-8 * -----	1,6	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)
			D 04 H C 04 B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 16-08-1989	Examiner BLASBAND I.
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			