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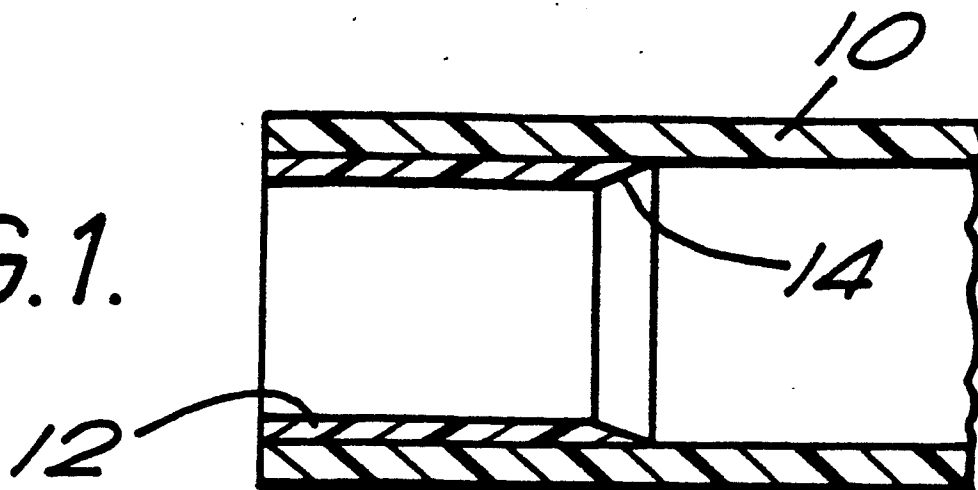
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(54) Mask and masking method.

(57) A tubular component 10, particularly a heat-shrinkable tubular component, is masked over a selected area before surface-treatment of the other areas, by fitting a re-usable masking element e.g 12

to the component 10, the tubular component 10 and/or the masking element 12 resiliently deforming so as to be urged together over the selected area of the component 10.

FIG.1.**EP 0 331 455 A3**



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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.5)		
X	GB-A-3 233 99 (NEW ECCLES RUBBER WORKS LTD) * Claims; fig.; page 2, lines 16-20 * - - -	1,3,5,7,8	B 05 D 1/32 B 05 C 21/00 B 24 C 1/04		
X	US-A-2 363 845 (J.E. DUGGAN) * Complete document * - - -	1,2,5,6	C 23 C 18/16 C 25 D 5/02		
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X	US-A-2 328 203 (J.E. DUGGAN) * Complete document * - - -	1,3,4	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)		
X	GB-A-4 586 96 (W. TANNER) ** Claims * - - -	1	B 05 C 21/00 B 05 D 1/32 B 24 C 1/04 B 24 C 3/32		
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X	GB-A-9 136 42 (POLYMER CORP.) * Claims; figures 1,2 * - - -	1			
		-/-			
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims					
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of search 24 October 90	Examiner STROUD J.G.		
<table><tr><td>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</td><td>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</td></tr></table>				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
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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
A	US-A-3 565 664 (R.J. AL) * Figures 3,4 *	1	
A	DE-A-2 034 180 (NAGOYA YIKAGAKU-KOGYO K.K.) * Claims; figures *	1	
A	US-A-4 656 058 (W.C. STARK) * Claims; figures *	1	
A	EP-A-0 142 705 (BMW AG) * Claims; figures *	1	
A	US-A-3 850 141 (E.W. SCHMITT) * Claims *	1	
A	DE-U-8 800 437 (H.J. CLAASSEN) * Figure 2 *	1,7	
A	EP-A-0 141 675 (RAYCHEM LTD) * Claims; figures *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of search	Examiner
The Hague		24 October 90	STROUD J.G.
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