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(54) Annular seal.

(57) The improved annular sea (10) of the present invention provides a seal across an annular space between facing cylindrical surfaces (20, 24) and includes an outer annular ring (26), and an inner annular ring (28). The gap between the outer annular ring (26) and the inner annular ring (28) is suitably sealed at (27, 29) at one-end thereof so that the open end is open to admit pressure which is to be sealed between the two rings. An outer sealing element (36) is provided on the exterior of the outer annular ring, and an inner sealing element (38) on the interior of said inner annular ring so that pressure exerted between the annular rings urges them apart and their sealing elements against the surfaces of the annular space. In another form of the invention three annular rings are provided with one end of the inner and outer rings being sealing to the end of the intermediate ring and with sealing elements on the exterior of the outer ring and on the interior of the inner ring so that the sealing elements are urged into sealing engagement with the surfaces of the annular space. Another form of the invention includes annular rings which vary in thickness from one end to the other so that they may have greater or less flexibility as needed to provide a response to the pressure responsive movements of the inner and outer members.

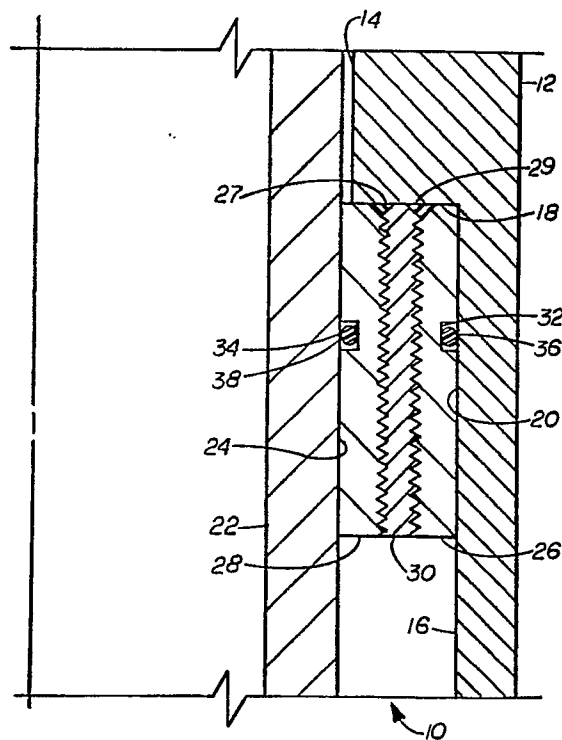


FIG. 1

EP 0 405 731 A3



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 30 5026

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)
A	EP-A-0 289 106 (CAMERON IRON WORKS) * figures 1-7; column 1, line 38 - column 2, line 9 * - - -	1,2	F 16 J 15/48 F 16 J 15/32
A	US-A-2 832 223 (COURAUD) * figures 1,2; claim 1 * - - -	1,2	
A	US-A-3 159 302 (LATHAM et al.) - - -		
A	FR-A-1 550 745 (THE CORRUGATED PACKING & SHEET METAL COMPANY) - - - - -		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			F 16 J
Place of search		Date of completion of search	Examiner
Berlin		19 April 91	THOMAS C L
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			