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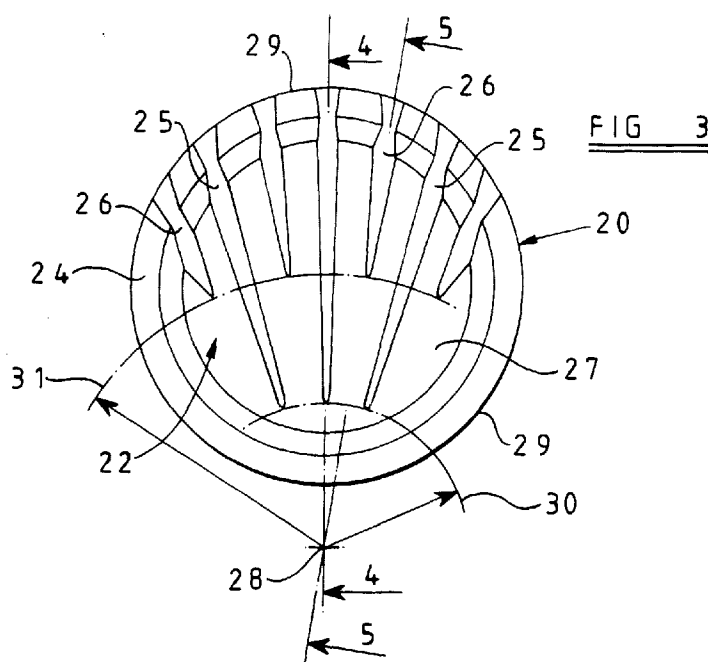
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(54) Improvements in or relating to elements faced with superhard material

(57) A preform element, such as a cutting element for a rotary drag-type drill bit, includes a facing table (20) of superhard material having a front face (23), a peripheral surface (29), and a rear surface (27) bonded to a substrate (21) which is less hard than the superhard material. The rear surface (27) of the facing table is inte-

grally formed with a plurality of ribs (25, 26) which project into the substrate (21), and at least major portions of the ribs extend across the rear surface of the facing table in directions which are generally radial with respect to at least one point (28) which is adjacent or outside the peripheral surface (29) of the facing table.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 96 30 2709

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	EP 0 601 840 A (CAMCO DRILLING GROUP LIMITED) * column 6, line 9 - line 29 * * column 8, line 31 - line 44; figures 14,15 *	1-11, 16-20, 25-28	E21B10/56 F16C33/04 B05B1/00 B21C3/02 F16H53/06 B23B27/14
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 15 September 1997	Examiner Sogno, M
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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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
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