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(54) **Powder compacting tool**

(57) The present invention relates to a method of compacting a powder disposed in a forming chamber by a powder compacting tool having at least two upper punches and two lower punches, the punches being moved different travel distance during compaction in order to create a compacted body having uniform density and different thickness in different parts thereof, whereby the method includes moving the punches in sequence and with the same velocity, and accomplishing the method with a powder compacting tool (1) comprising a matrix (2) having a through-going cavity, at least two upper punches (3,4), which are movable in the axial direction of the cavity, and a at least two lower punches (5,6). According to the invention the upper punches (3,4) have different axial lengths and the tool comprises a single ram (8) for moving the upper punches (3,4) towards the at least two lower punches (5,6) during a compacting operation and means are for holding the at least two lower punches stationary during a compacting operation.

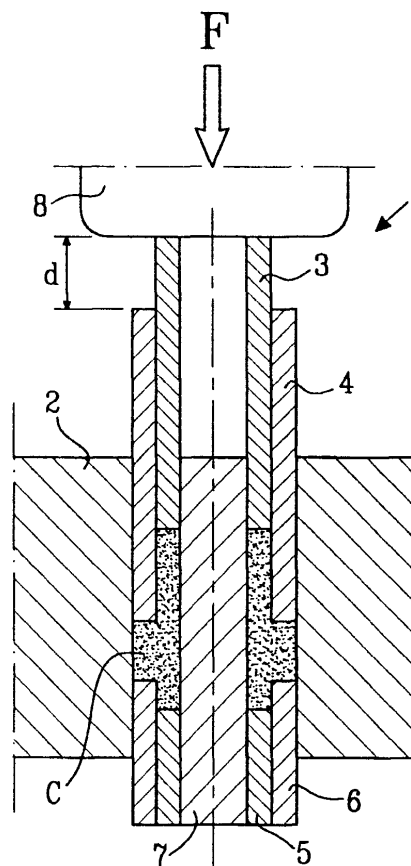


FIG. 1



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		4 July 2002	Belibel, C
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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