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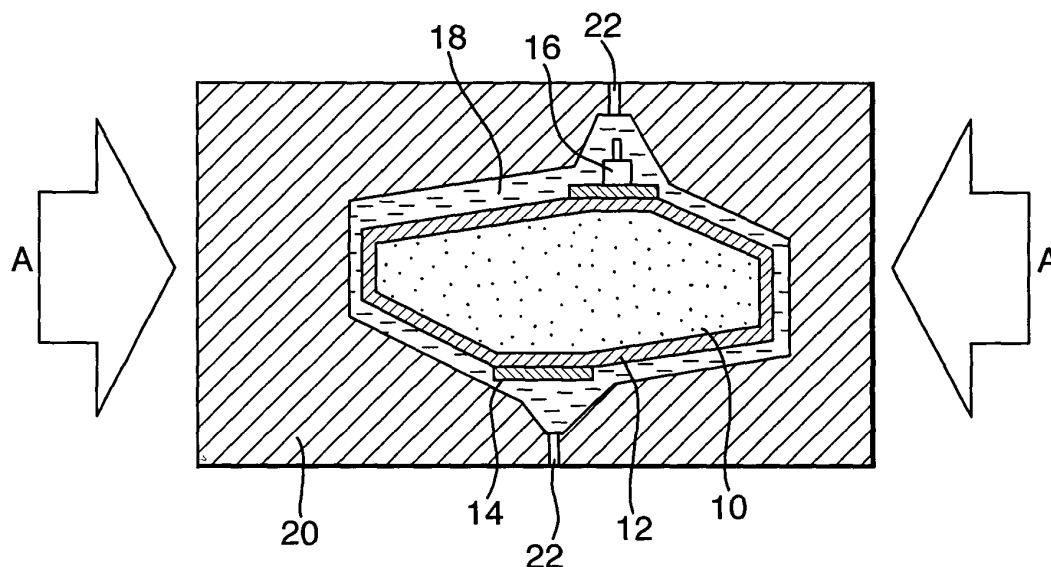
(54) **A method of consolidating a powder**

(57) A method of consolidating a powder (10) comprises the steps of filling an electrically conductive container (12) with the powder (10). Any air is evacuated out of the filled container (12), which is then sealed. The sealed container (12) is placed in a die (20) and a force is applied to consolidate the powder (10). Simultaneously

an electric pulse and an ultrasonic pulse are applied to the container (12) as the powder (10) is consolidated. The electric and ultrasound pulses are applied during consolidation to disrupt the grain boundaries and assist in the fragmentation of any oxides.

The container (12) is then removed from the die (20) and from the consolidated powder (10).

**Fig.1.**





## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 05 25 3052

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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Y	US 3 656 946 A (INQUE KIYOSHI ET AL) 18 April 1972 (1972-04-18) * column 6, lines 15-19 * * column 14; claim 1 * * column 5, lines 69-74 * * column 14; claim 6 * * column 5, lines 44,45 * * column 5, lines 60-64 * * column 14; claim 1 * * column 3, lines 4-7 * -----	1-16	
Y	US 3 508 209 A (AGUSTA BENJAMIN ET AL) 21 April 1970 (1970-04-21) * column 2, lines 19-34 * -----	1-5	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			B22F B21D
2	Place of search The Hague	Date of completion of the search 3 June 2009	Examiner Forestier, Gilles
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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 05 25 3052

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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