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Remarks:

Amended claims in accordance with Rule 86 (2) EPC.

(54) **Opening-sealing apparatus for honeycomb molded body, method of filling plug material paste, and method of manufacturing a honeycomb structured body**

(57) An object of the present invention is to provide an opening-sealing apparatus for a honeycomb molded body that makes it possible to certainly fill a plug material paste in the desired cells regardless of the shape of the honeycomb molded opening-sealing apparatus for a honeycomb molded body of the present invention is an opening-sealing apparatus for a honeycomb molded body, which is used for sealing, with a plug material paste, either one of the end portions of each of a number of cells placed in a pillar-shaped honeycomb molded body in parallel in a longitudinal direction with a cell wall therebetween, comprising:

a paste filling device equipped with a paste filling unit having an opening-sealing mask in which a number of openings are formed at predetermined positions and a paste supplying unit which supplies a plug material paste to the paste filling unit;

an image pickup device for picking up an image of the end face of the honeycomb molded body; and an image analyzing device for analyzing the image obtained by the image pickup device, wherein the image analyzing device analyzes the positions of the cells based upon the image of the end face picked up by the image pickup device; the opening-sealing mask is made in contact with the end face of the honeycomb molded body in such a manner that the positional error between the openings of the opening-sealing mask and the cells of the honeycomb molded body is reduced to a minimal level; and the plug material paste, which has been supplied from the paste supplying unit to the paste filling unit, is injected through the opening-sealing mask and filled in the end portion of the cells.

EP 1 825 977 A8

Fig. 1-1

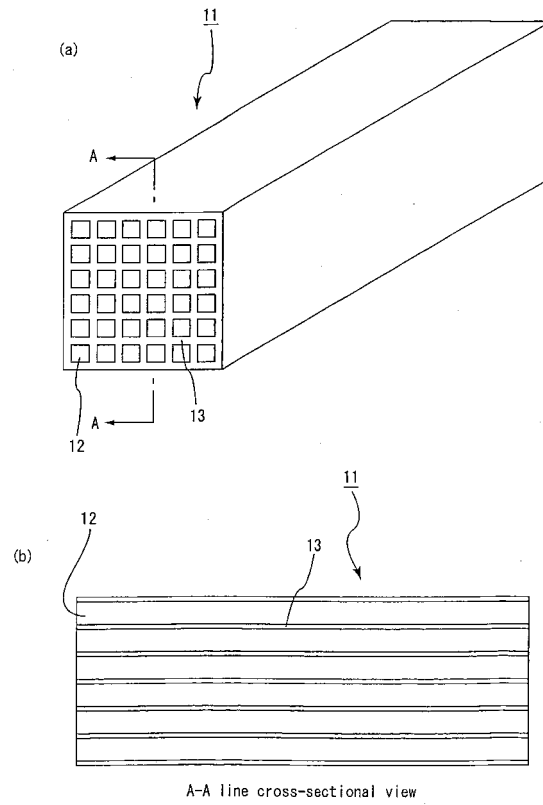


Fig. 1-2

