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(54) **Intermediate drive assembly**

(57) An intermediate drive assembly (1) is provided for a fuel pump (10) having a pump housing (12) provided with at least one bore (20a, 20b, 20c) for receiving the intermediate drive assembly (1) and a pumping plunger (30) which are driven, in use, in a reciprocal manner within the bore (20a, 20b, 20c) by a drive arrangement (2) so as to pressurise fuel within a pump chamber (32). The intermediate drive assembly (1) is arranged so as to co-operate between the drive arrangement (2) and the pumping plunger and comprises a tappet (34) having a base portion (38) and a side wall portion (36), and a coupling mechanism, in use for coupling the pumping plunger (30) to the base portion (38). The coupling mechanism comprises a spring seat (40) adapted to engage an end of the pumping plunger (30), and interlocking means, in use for substantially preventing relative rotation between the base portion (38) and the spring seat (40). The base portion (38) has a drive surface (5) for cooperating with the drive arrangement (2), a thrust surface (7) for cooperating with and imparting drive to the pumping plunger (30), and a recess (9), the recess (9) receiving an insert (11) formed of a material having a hardness greater than the base portion (38). The insert (11) is a clearance fit in the recess (9).

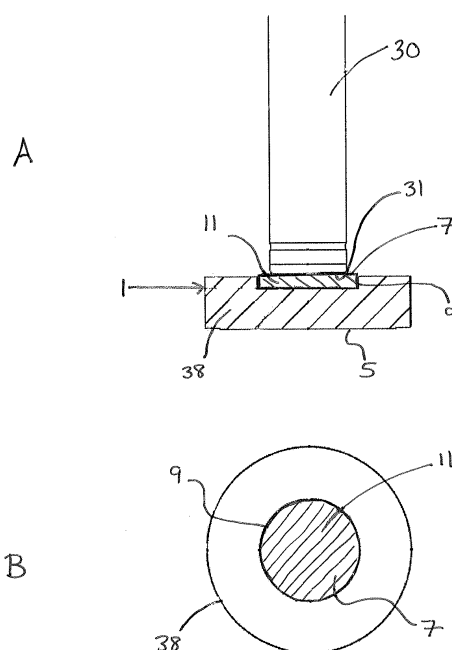


Figure 4



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 11 17 5789

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 20 April 2012	Examiner Fistas, Nikolaos
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
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EP 11 17 5789

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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