

(19)



(11)

EP 2 815 820 B9

(12)

CORRECTED EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(15) Correction information:

Corrected version no 1 (W1 B1)

Corrections, see

Description	Paragraph(s) 48, 49, 50, 51
Claims DE	1, 8, 9, 10
Claims EN	1, 8, 9, 10
Claims FR	1, 8, 9, 10

(51) Int Cl.:

B22D 11/10 ^(2006.01) **B22D 41/50** ^(2006.01)

(48) Corrigendum issued on:

01.03.2017 Bulletin 2017/09

(45) Date of publication and mention of the grant of the patent:

30.11.2016 Bulletin 2016/48

(21) Application number: **13173091.3**

(22) Date of filing: **20.06.2013**

(54) **Refractory submerged entry nozzle**

Feuerfester Eintauchguss

Buse d'entrée immergée réfractaire

(84) Designated Contracting States:

AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR

(43) Date of publication of application:

24.12.2014 Bulletin 2014/52

(73) Proprietor: **Refractory Intellectual Property GmbH & Co. KG**

1100 Wien (AT)

(72) Inventors:

- **Tang, Yong**
8700 Leoben (AT)

- **Nitzl, Gerald**
2500 Baden (AT)

(74) Representative: **Becker, Thomas**

**Patentanwälte
Becker & Müller
Turmstrasse 22
40878 Ratingen (DE)**

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Description

[0001] The invention relates to a refractory submerged entry nozzle (also called SEN or casting nozzle) especially but not limited for use in a continuous casting process for producing steel.

[0002] During such casting the molten metal is transferred from a so called ladle (German: Pfanne) into a tundish (German: Verteiler) and from there via corresponding tundish-outlets into associated moulds.

[0003] The melt transfer from the tundish into a mould is achieved by a generic SEN [EP 1541258 A1], which is arranged in a vertical use position and which typically provides the following features:

a generally tube like shape comprising a nozzle wall surrounding a flow through channel which extends between an inlet opening at a first nozzle end, being an upper end in a use position of the nozzle, and at least one lateral outlet opening at a second nozzle end, being a lower end in the use position, to allow a continuous flow stream of a molten metal from said ladle along said flow through channel from its inlet opening through the outlet opening into an associated molten metal bath in said mould.

[0004] To improve the general performance of such a nozzle EP 2226141 B1 discloses a nozzle with a perturbation in the form of a recessed channel in the inner surface of the nozzle wall of at least one outlet opening so as to produce a fluid flow which follows the shape of the lateral outlet openings.

[0005] US 3,991,815 A, JP 09271910 and KR 2002-0000910 each disclose a nozzle design to improve a controlled flow at a separate bottom opening beneath the lateral outlet openings.

[0006] KR 2002-0000910 provides a nozzle with a molten steel suction passage in the bottom, covered by a guide plate, which extends into the adjacent outlet ports.

[0007] Both designs do not consider the following casting problem: After leaving the two lateral outlet openings the molten metal stream causes turbulences in the molten metal bath within the mould. To the contrary: there is nearly no flow velocity in the molten metal bath between the nozzle and the adjacent mould wall sections opposite to the "closed" nozzle walls, i.e. that nozzle area with no outlet opening.

[0008] A certain flow in the mould is important to prevent the formation of a top crust, caused by the so called mould flux (German: Schlackenpulver), which mould flux has the task to lubricate the inner surfaces of the mould to prevent the metal melt from sticking to the wall and solidifying in an uncontrolled manner.

[0009] An excessive flow in the mould has the disadvantage of uneven temperature distribution in the mould and poor lubrication properties of the mould flux.

[0010] Therefore it is an object of the invention to reduce the difference of the conditions within the mould

around the submerged nozzle.

[0011] The invention is based on the finding that this can be achieved by a change in the design of the nozzle.

[0012] According to prior art a generic nozzle has at least one, often two lateral outlet openings (EP2226141B1) and sometimes two lateral and one bottom outlet openings (US3991815 A). All designs are based on the idea to influence the flow of the melt stream on its way leaving the nozzle.

[0013] This gridlocked idea is now overcome by the invention providing a submerged nozzle with at least one intake port besides the various outlet openings, i.e. at least one opening via which the metal melt of the metal melt bath within the mould may enter the interior (the flow through channel) of the nozzle.

[0014] In other words: The invention is based on the concept to add at least one further melt stream (from the melt bath within the mould) to the existing melt stream (which directly comes from an upstream vessel like a ladle), thereby achieving the following effect:

The melt stream sucked in by the intake port and flowing through said intake port into the main flow through channel causes an unexpected (indirect) additional melt flow in the molten metal bath within the mould and thus an additional melt velocity and melt turbulences.

[0015] To use this effect in a favorable manner the intake port is placed along that side of the nozzle, facing the molten melt bath with the lowest (mostly insufficient) flow velocity (turbulences) to improve the melt circulation in that area accordingly.

[0016] In view of the aforesaid: in a nozzle with two lateral outlet openings (and optional one further bottom outlet) the intake port is preferably arranged just between these opposed lateral outlet openings.

[0017] At the same time this additional melt stream influences the melt flow in the area directly following the outlet openings in a favorable manner.

[0018] It is obvious that the melt, sucked in by the intake port(s) in one or more additional streams merges with the main melt stream within the nozzle on its/their further way downwardly towards the outlet opening(s) and then leaves the nozzle via said outlet openings.

[0019] The invention refers in general to a refractory submerged entry nozzle providing the features of claim 1.

[0020] The arrangement of the at least one intake port includes the whole area of the existing outlet opening(s), i. e. the whole axial length of these openings. In other words: The intake port may be arranged at any place between the lowermost end of any said outlet openings and the inlet opening with the proviso of being submerged in the metal bath during casting. Typically the placement within the lower third or lower fourth of the nozzle is preferred, i. e. in the area of the said outlet openings.

[0021] The at least one intake port may be provided by an opening extending from an outer surface to an inner

surface of the nozzle wall.

[0022] Whereas the shape of this intake port is more or less arbitrary at least one of the following cross sections is possible: circle, oval, triangle, rectangle.

[0023] The size (cross sectional area) of the suction port depends on the desired suction effect. In case of a circular opening a typical diameter is between 5 and 50 mm and correspondingly suitable cross sectional areas may be calculated for non-circular designs.

[0024] The intake port may extend more or less horizontally (in the use position of the nozzle) or with an inclination towards the lower end of the nozzle, i.e. in the flow direction of the melt stream.

[0025] A nozzle with at least two intake ports arranged at opposite sides of the nozzle describes one further embodiment which is suitable in particular with a general nozzle design as disclosed in Figure 1 of EP 2226141 B1 and further described hereinafter with reference to the drawing.

[0026] In case of a nozzle with two (opposed) lateral outlet openings, the at least one intake port can be arranged in a wall area between the two outlet openings. The nozzle may have an outlet opening as well as its lowermost end (in the use position).

[0027] Independently of the number and shape of outlets, the at least one intake port (suction port) should be arranged beneath a casting level in the use position of the nozzle to ensure that only molten metal enters the port while the casting flux, ambient air etc. being excluded from entering the port.

[0028] In a nozzle design as disclosed in EP 2226141 B1 the tube like shape comprises at least three sections, namely:

- an upper section, including the inlet opening and having a substantially circular cross-section,
- a middle section which is flared outwardly in one first plane and flattened in a second plane, being perpendicular to the first plane,
- a lower section comprising the at least one outlet opening.

[0029] This design may be improved in accordance with the invention if the at least one intake port is provided and preferably arranged in the lower part of the middle section and/or in the upper part of the lower section.

[0030] This is true in particular if the two lateral outlet openings in the lower section are arranged opposite to each other.

[0031] The inventive nozzle (according to claim 1) is characterized by the following features:

at least one intake port is arranged between two protrusions arranged at a distance to each other on opposite sides of the intake port in an axial direction of the nozzle and along the same inner surface of the

nozzle wall. This embodiment is shown in attached Fig. 2-4.

[0032] In other words: The two protrusions are discrete profiles providing a kind of a gap in between. The intake port merges into this gap. The central melt stream, flowing substantially vertically downwards, is guided along this gap, accelerated and providing a backpressure, namely a low pressure (partial vacuum) in the space defined by said intake port, causing the molten melt outside the nozzle to enter the intake port and to flow towards and into the main metal stream along the flow channel.

[0033] This effect can be improved if the distance between said two protrusions becomes smaller between their upper and lower ends.

[0034] This effect can further be improved if said two protrusions are arranged in such a way as to provide a Venturi nozzle between them, i.e. a converging upper and a diverging lower part and a necking portion therebetween.

[0035] This effect can still further be improved if the smallest distance (d_{\min}) between the two protrusions is adjacent to the intake port.

[0036] By varying these features as well as the size of the intake port it is possible to adjust the flow (speed) of the entrained metal melt in the desired way and to the desired amount.

[0037] Reference is made to the further embodiments disclosed in the Figures, features of which are not limited to the specific design but may also be realized in equivalent or similar nozzle designs.

[0038] Further features of the invention derive from the features of the sub-claims and the other application documents.

[0039] The invention will now be described in more details with respect to the attached drawing schematically representing possible embodiments of the invention, namely:

Figure 1: A perspective view onto a first embodiment of a refractory submerged entry nozzle (SEN) according to the invention,

Figure 2: The SEN according to Figure 1 in a longitudinal sectional view in its functional position within a tundish.

Figure 3: The SEN according to Figure 2 in an enlarged scale.

Figure 4: An enlarged view onto one intake port of the SEN according to Figures 2, 3.

Figure 5: A view according to Figure 3 for a second embodiment.

Figure 6: A view according to Figure 4 for the second embodiment.

Figure 7: A view according to Figure 3 for a third embodiment.

Figure 8: A view according to Figure 4 for the third embodiment.

Figure 9: A view according to Figure 3 for a fourth embodiment.

Figure 10: A view according to Figure 4 for the fourth embodiment.

[0040] In the Figures functionally identical or similar construction details are characterized by the same numerals.

[0041] Figure 1 is a perspective view onto a submerged refractory entry nozzle (SEN) according to the invention. It has a generally tube-like shape, comprising a nozzle wall 12, surrounding a flow through channel 14 (Figure 2) which extends between an inlet opening 16 at a first nozzle end 10o, being an upper end in the use position of the nozzle (Figure 2) and two lateral outlet openings 18.1, 18.2 at a second nozzle end 10u, being a lower end in the use position. This design allows a continuous flow stream of a molten metal from the inlet opening 16 along the flow through channel 14 downwardly and through the outlet openings 18.1, 18.2 into an associated molten metal bath B (Figure 2).

[0042] The SEN further comprises two intake ports 20, 22 being arranged between the outlet openings 18.1, 18.2 and the inlet opening 16 within the nozzle wall 12 within a section of said nozzle wall 12, which is submerged in the molten metal bath B when the nozzle 10 is in its use position (Figure 2) to allow molten metal of the molten metal bath (B) to penetrate via said intake ports 20, 22 into the flow through channel 14 and further leaving the flow through channel 14 via outlet ports 18.1, 18.2 and/or a third outlet opening 18.3 at the lowermost end of nozzle 10.

[0043] Figure 2 further represents a mould flux F on top of the melt bath B, defining a casting level L-L.

[0044] As may best be derived from Figures 2-4 intake ports 20, 22 are arranged along a height of the adjacent lateral outlet openings 18.1, 18.2 (seen in an axial direction A-A of nozzle 10, i. e. in flow direction of the melt through the nozzle).

[0045] Each intake port 20, 22 is provided by an opening extending from an outer surface 12o to an inner surface 12i of the nozzle wall 12 wherein said opening has a circular cross section.

[0046] In other words: The intake ports 20, 22 are arranged in a wall area between the two outlet openings 18.1, 18.2 and within a more or less planar wall section between the said two outlet openings 18.1, 18.2 (Figure 1).

[0047] In the embodiment described in Figures 1-4 the overall nozzle is characterized by an upper section 10.1, including the outlet opening 16, which upper section has

a substantially circular cross section. It is further characterized by a middle section 10.2, which is flared outwardly in one first plane and flattened in a second plane, being perpendicular to the first plane. It further comprises a lower section 10.3, comprising the outlet openings 18.1, 18.2, 18.3 and the intake ports 20, 22. The intake ports 20, 22 are arranged in the lower fourth (fifth) of the axial length of the nozzle.

[0048] Each of said intake ports 20, 22 is arranged between two protrusions 24l, 24r, arranged at a distance to each other on opposite sides of the respective intake port (22 in Figure 3) and in the axial direction of the nozzle as well as along the same inner surface 12i of the nozzle wall 12.

[0049] These protrusions 24l, 24r provide a gap in between, in which gap the said intake port 20, 22 is arranged. The intake port 20, 22 merges into this gap. Consequently, the central melt stream, flowing substantially vertically downwards (Figure 3 arrow F) is guided along this gap (on the inner side of surface 12i) accelerated and providing a back pressure, namely a low pressure (partial vacuum) in the space around said intake port. This causes the molten melt within the melt bath B to enter the intake port 20, 22 and to flow through said intake port 20, 22 into the main melt stream (within flow through channel 14). At the same time the metal melt bath on the respective side of nozzle 10 is set into motion, while further metal melt is flowing through said intake port into the nozzle.

[0050] The protrusions 24l, 24r according to the embodiment of Figures 1 to 4 have a triangular profile (in a view according to Figure 4, thus providing a kind of a Venturi nozzle, which further increases the melt velocity, passing the gap between said two protrusions 24l, 24r in a downward direction (arrow F in Figures 3, 4).

[0051] The Venturi design is characterized in that width d of the gap between opposed protrusions 24l, 24r gets smaller in the upper part and larger in the lower part, with d_{\min} in-between wherein intake port 22 is arranged between the lower parts of said protrusions 24l, 24r.

[0052] The embodiments of Figures 5 to 10 differ from the embodiment of Figures 1 to 4 only with respect to the design of the said protrusion(s).

[0053] The example of Figures 5, 6 discloses a funnel shaped monolithic protrusion 24, i. e. the lower part of said protrusion 24 covers the corresponding intake port 22 partially and with a distance to the inner end of said intake port 22.

[0054] The embodiment according to Figures 7, 8 is characterized by a box-like protrusion 24, which allows the intake port 22 to become longer such that the corresponding melt stream flowing into nozzle 10, enters the flow through channel 14 at a distance to said inner nozzle wall 12i.

[0055] The embodiment according to Figures 9, 10 is similar to that of Figures 7, 8 with the proviso that said box-like protrusion has an opening 24o at its lower end and a slit 24s at its upper end to allow the main stream

of the metal melt to pass said intake port 22 after passing slit 24s and before passing opening 24o.

Claims

1. Refractory submerged entry nozzle providing the following features:

- a generally tube like shape comprising a nozzle wall (12) surrounding a flow through channel (14) which extends between an inlet opening (16) at a first nozzle end (10o), being an upper end in a use position of the nozzle, and at least one outlet opening (18.1, 18.2, 18.3) at a second nozzle end (10u), being a lower end in the use position, to allow a continuous flow stream of a molten metal along said flow through channel (14) from its inlet opening (16) through the outlet opening (18.1, 18.2) into an associated molten metal bath (B),

- at least one intake port (20, 22) being arranged between the at least one outlet opening (18.1, 18.2, 18.3) and the said inlet opening (16) within the nozzle wall (12) in a section of said wall (12) being submerged in the molten metal bath (B) when the nozzle is in its use position, wherein at least one intake port (20, 22) is arranged between two protrusions (24l, 24r) arranged at a distance to each other on opposite sides of the intake port (20, 22) in an axial direction of the nozzle and along the same inner surface of the nozzle wall (12), to allow molten metal of the molten metal bath to penetrate via said intake port (20, 22) into the flow through channel (14).

2. Nozzle according to claim 1, wherein the at least one intake port (20, 22) is provided by an opening extending from an outer surface (12o) to an inner surface (12i) of the nozzle wall (12), wherein the said opening has one of the following cross sections: circle, oval, triangle, rectangle.

3. Nozzle according to claim 1 with at least two intake ports (20, 22) arranged at opposite sides of the nozzle.

4. Nozzle according to claim 1 with two lateral outlet openings (18.1, 18.2), wherein the at least one intake port (20, 22) is arranged in a wall area between the two outlet openings (18.1, 18.2).

5. Nozzle according to claim 1 wherein the at least one intake port (20, 22) is arranged beneath a casting level in the use position of the nozzle.

6. Nozzle according to claim 1, wherein the tube like shape comprises at least three sections (10.1, 10.2,

10.3), namely:

- an upper section (10.1), including the inlet opening (16) and having a substantially circular cross-section,

- a middle section (10.2) which is flared outwardly in one first plane and flattened in a second plane, being perpendicular to the first plane,

- a lower section (10.3) comprising the at least one outlet opening (18.1, 18.2, 18.3), wherein the at least one intake port (20, 22) is arranged in the lower part of the middle section (10.2) or the upper part of the lower section (10.3).

7. Nozzle according to claim 6 comprising two lateral outlet openings (18.1, 18.2) in the lower section (10.3), arranged opposite to each other.

8. Nozzle according to claim 1, wherein the distance (d) between said two protrusions (24l, 24r) becomes smaller between their upper and lower ends.

9. Nozzle according to claim 1, wherein said two protrusions (24l, 24r) are arranged in such a way as to provide a Venturi nozzle between them.

10. Nozzle according to claim 9, wherein the smallest distance (d_{\min}) between the two protrusions (24l, 24r) is adjacent to the intake port (22).

11. Nozzle according to claim 1 with an outlet opening (18.3) extending at a lowermost end of the lower end of the nozzle.

Patentansprüche

1. Feuerfester Eintauchausguss mit folgenden Merkmalen:

- einer weitgehenden Rohrform mit einer Ausgusswand (12), die einen Durchflusskanal (14) umgibt, der sich zwischen einer Einlassöffnung (16) am ersten Ausgussende (10o), welches das obere Ende in einer Benutzungsposition des Ausgusses ist, und mindestens einer Auslassöffnung (18.1, 18.2) an einem zweiten Ausgussende (10u), welches das untere Ende in der Benutzungsposition ist, erstreckt, um einen kontinuierlichen Fluss an geschmolzenem Metall durch den Durchflusskanal (14) von der Einlassöffnung (16) durch die Auslassöffnung (18.1, 18.2) in ein zugehöriges metallisches Schmelzbad (B) zu ermöglichen,

- wenigstens einem Einlassport (20, 22) zwischen der mindestens einen Auslassöffnung (18.1, 18.2, 18.3) und der Einlassöffnung (16) innerhalb der Ausgusswand (12) in einem Ab-

- schnitt der Wand (12), der in das metallische Schmelzbad (B) eingetaucht ist, wenn sich der Ausguss in seiner Benutzungsposition befindet, wobei mindestens ein Einlassport (20, 22) zwischen zwei Vorsprüngen (24l, 24r) angeordnet ist, und zwar im Abstand zueinander auf gegenüberliegenden Seiten des Einlassports (20, 22) in einer axialen Richtung des Ausgusses und entlang der gleichen inneren Oberfläche der Ausgusswand (12) um es geschmolzenen Metall des metallischen Schmelzbades zu erlauben, durch diesen Einlassport (20, 21) in den Durchlasskanal (14) zu fließen.
2. Ausguss nach Anspruch 1, bei dem der mindestens eine Einlassport (20, 22) von einer Öffnung gebildet wird, die sich von einer äußeren Oberfläche (12o) zu einer inneren Oberfläche (12i) der Ausgusswand erstreckt, wobei diese Öffnung eine der folgenden Querschnittsformen aufweist: Kreis, Oval, Dreieck, Rechteck.
 3. Ausguss nach Anspruch 1 mit mindestens zwei Einlassports (20, 22) auf gegenüberliegenden Seiten des Ausgusses.
 4. Ausguss nach Anspruch 1 mit zwei lateralen Auslassöffnungen (18.1, 18.2), wobei mindestens ein Einlassport (20, 22) in einem Wandbereich angeordnet ist, der zwischen den beiden Auslassöffnungen (18.1, 18.2) liegt.
 5. Ausguss nach Anspruch 1, wobei der mindestens eine Einlassport (20, 22) unterhalb eines Gießniveaus in der Benutzungsposition des Ausgusses liegt.
 6. Ausguss nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Rohrform mindestens drei Abschnitte (10.1, 10.2, 10.3) umfasst, nämlich:
 - einen oberen Abschnitt (10.1), der die Einlassöffnung (16) beinhaltet und im Wesentlichen einen kreisförmigen Querschnitt aufweist,
 - einen mittleren Abschnitt (10.2), der in einer ersten Ebene sich nach Außen aufweitet und in einer zweiten Ebene, die senkrecht zu der ersten Ebene ist, abflacht,
 - einem unteren Abschnitt (10.3), der mindestens eine Auslassöffnung (18.1, 18.2, 18.3) aufweist, wobei der mindestens eine Einlassport (20, 22) im unteren Teil des mittleren Abschnitts (10.2) oder im oberen Teil des unteren Abschnitts (10.3) angeordnet ist.
 7. Ausguss nach Anspruch 6 mit zwei lateralen Auslassöffnungen (18.1, 18.2) im unteren Abschnitt (10.3), die gegenüberliegend zueinander verlaufen.
 8. Ausguss nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Abstand (d) zwischen zwei Vorsprüngen (24l, 24r) zwischen deren oberen und unteren Enden schmaler wird.
 9. Ausguss nach Anspruch 1, wobei die beiden Vorsprünge (24l, 24r) so angeordnet sind, dass zwischen Ihnen eine Venturi-Düse ausgebildet wird.
 10. Ausguss nach Anspruch 9, wobei der kleinste Abstand (d_{\min}) zwischen den beiden Vorsprüngen (24l, 24r) benachbart des Einlassports (22) ist.
 11. Ausguss nach Anspruch 1 mit einer Auslassöffnung (18.3), die sich am untersten Ende des unteren Endes des Ausgusses erstreckt.
- ### Revendications
1. Buse d'entrée immergée réfractaire fournissant les caractéristiques suivantes ;
 - une forme globalement semblable à un tube comprenant une paroi de buse (12) entourant un canal d'écoulement (14) qui s'étend entre une ouverture d'entrée (16) à une première extrémité de buse (10o), qui est une extrémité supérieure dans une position d'utilisation de la buse, et au moins une ouverture de sortie (18.1, 18.2, 18.3) à une deuxième extrémité de buse (10u), qui est une extrémité inférieure dans la position d'utilisation, pour permettre un écoulement continu d'un métal fondu le long dudit canal d'écoulement (14) depuis son ouverture d'entrée (16) à travers l'ouverture de sortie (18.1, 18.2) jusque dans un bain de métal fondu (B) associé,
 - au moins un orifice d'admission (20, 22) étant disposé entre l'au moins une ouverture de sortie (18.1, 18.2, 18.3) et ladite ouverture d'entrée (16) dans la paroi de buse (12) dans une section de ladite paroi (12) qui est immergée dans le bain de métal fondu (B) lorsque la buse est dans sa position d'utilisation, dans laquelle au moins un orifice d'admission (20, 22) est disposé entre deux protubérances (24l, 24r) disposées à une distance l'une de l'autre sur des côtés opposés de l'orifice d'admission (20, 22) dans une direction axiale de la buse et le long de la même surface intérieure de la paroi de buse (12) pour permettre à du métal fondu du bain de métal fondu de pénétrer via ledit orifice d'admission (20, 22) à l'intérieur du canal d'écoulement(14).
 2. Buse selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle l'au moins un orifice d'admission (20, 22) est fourni par une ouverture s'étendant depuis une surface extérieure (12o) jusqu'à une surface intérieure (12i) de

la paroi de buse (12), dans laquelle ladite ouverture a l'une des coupes transversales suivantes : circulaire, ovale, triangulaire ou rectangulaire.

basse de l'extrémité inférieure de la buse.

3. Buse selon la revendication 1, avec au moins deux orifices d'admission (20, 22) disposés sur des côtés opposés de la buse. 5
4. Buse selon la revendication 1, avec deux ouvertures de sortie latérales (18.1, 18.2), dans laquelle l'au moins un orifice d'admission (20, 22) est disposé dans une zone de paroi entre les deux ouvertures de sortie (18.1, 18.2). 10
5. Buse selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle l'au moins un orifice d'admission (20, 22) est disposé sous un plancher de coulée dans la position d'utilisation de la buse. 15
6. Buse selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle la forme semblable à un tube comprend au moins trois sections (10.1, 10.2, 10.3), à savoir : 20
 - une section supérieure (10.1) incluant l'ouverture d'entrée (16) et ayant une coupe transversale sensiblement circulaire, 25
 - une section médiane (10.2) qui est évasée vers l'extérieur dans un premier plan et aplatie dans un deuxième plan qui est perpendiculaire au premier plan, 30
 - une section inférieure (10.3) comprenant l'au moins une ouverture de sortie (18.1, 18.2, 18.3), dans laquelle l'au moins un orifice d'admission (20, 22) est disposé dans la partie inférieure de la section médiane (10.2) de la partie supérieure de la section inférieure (10.3). 35
7. Buse selon la revendication 6, comprenant deux ouvertures de sortie latérales (18.1, 18.2) dans la section inférieure (10.3), disposées de manière opposée l'une à l'autre. 40
8. Buse selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle la distance (d) entre lesdites deux protubérances (24l, 24r) devient plus courte entre leurs extrémités supérieure et inférieure. 45
9. Buse selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle lesdites deux protubérances (24l, 24r) sont disposées de manière à fournir une buse de Venturi entre elles. 50
10. Buse selon la revendication 9, dans laquelle la distance la plus courte (d_{\min}) entre les deux protubérances (24l, 24r) est adjacente à l'orifice d'admission (22). 55
11. Buse selon la revendication 1 avec une ouverture de sortie (18.3) s'étendant à une extrémité la plus

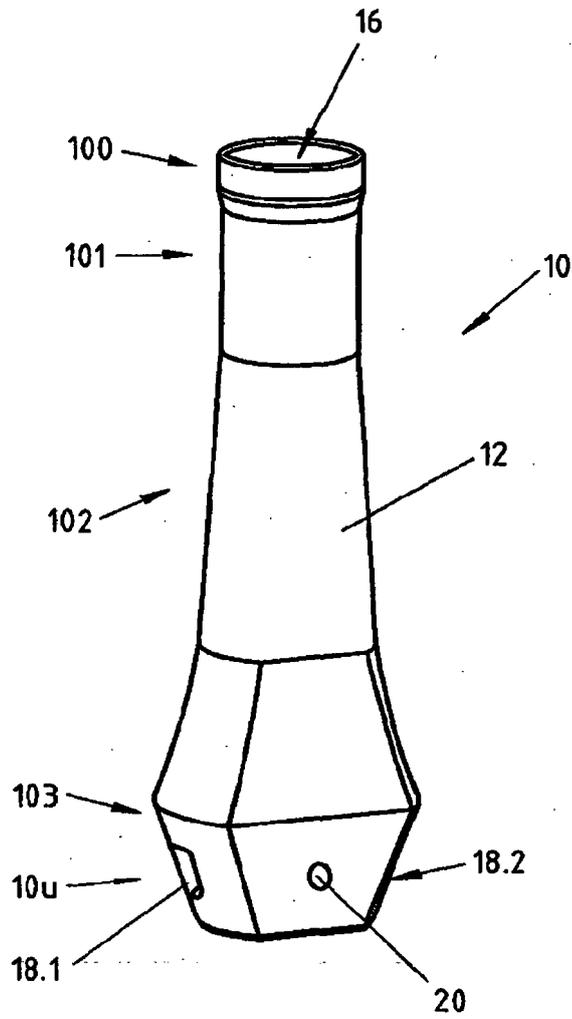


FIG.1

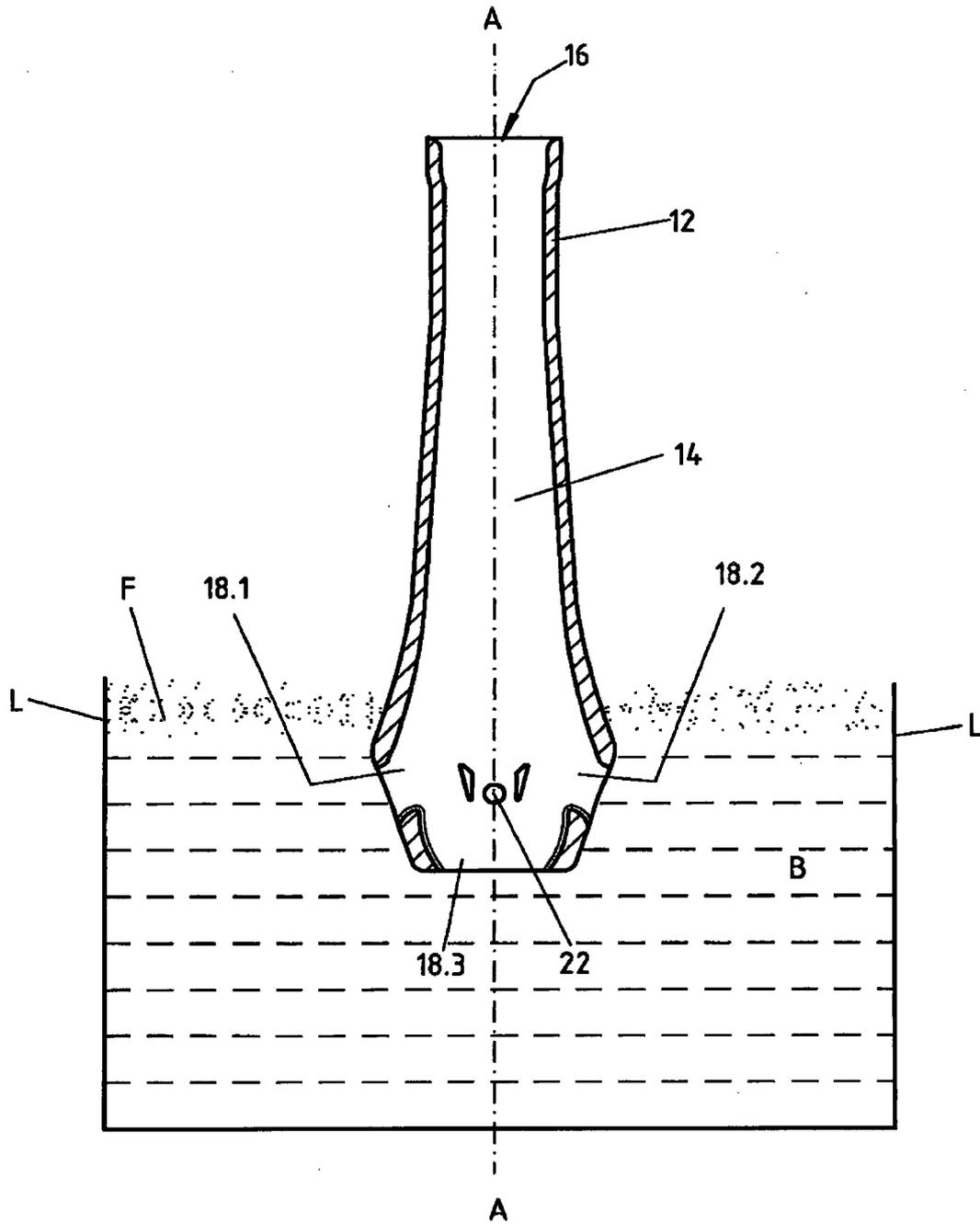


FIG.2

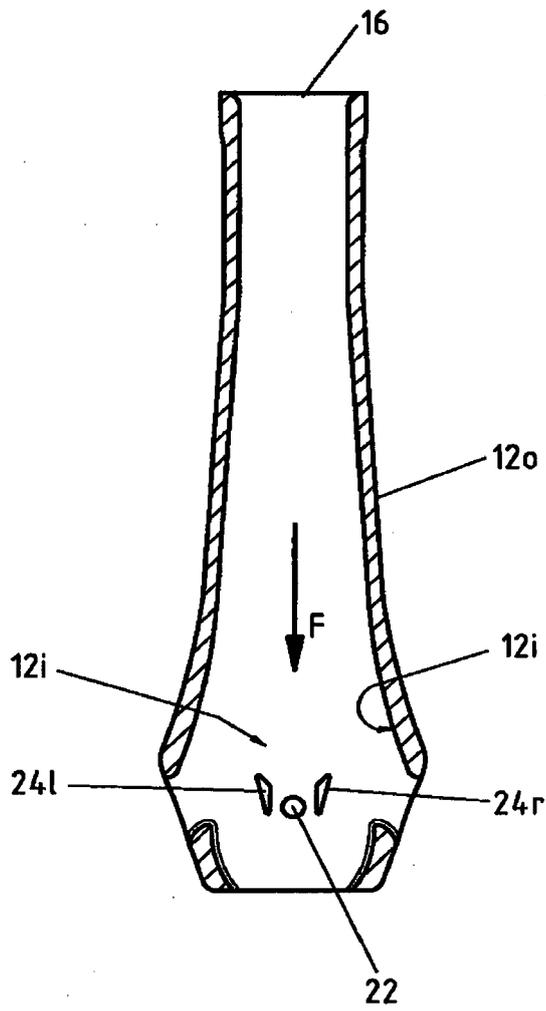


FIG. 3

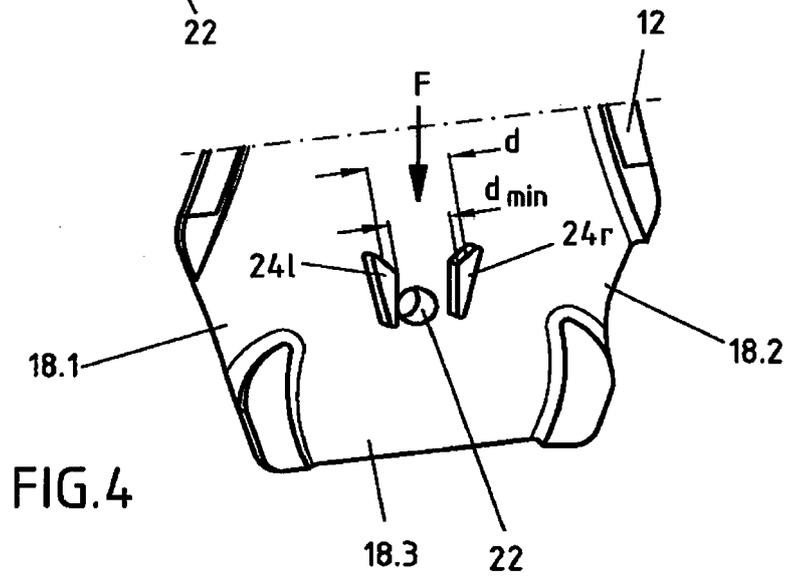
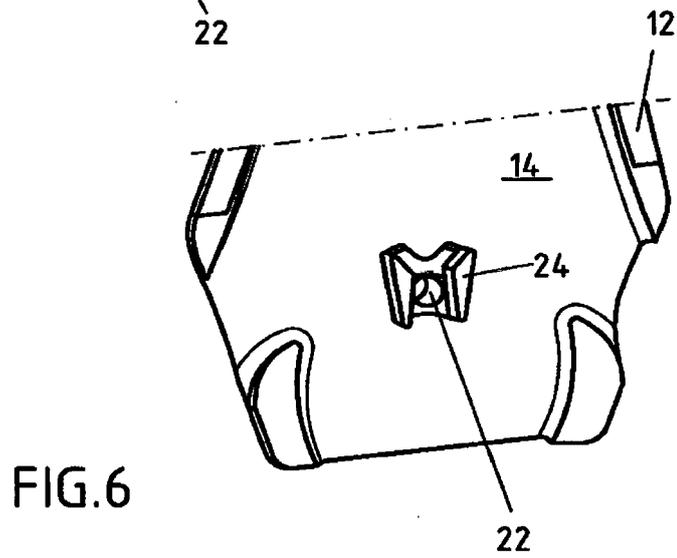
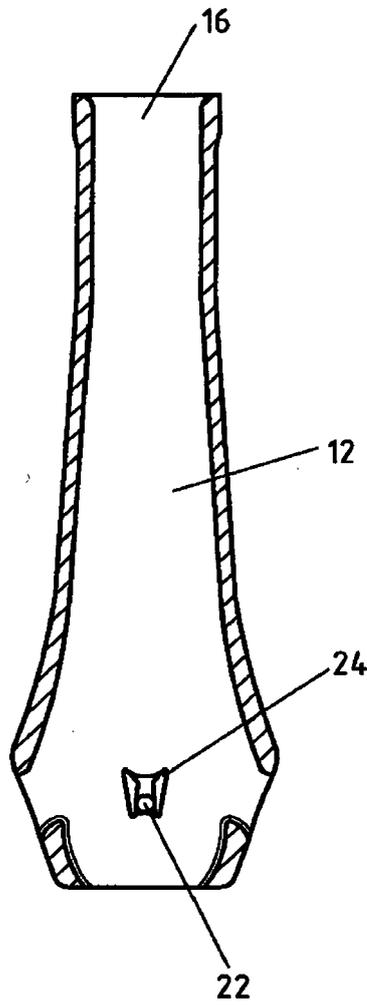
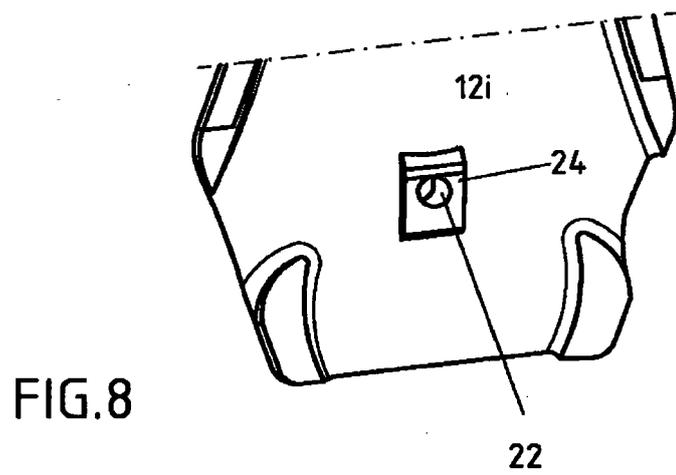
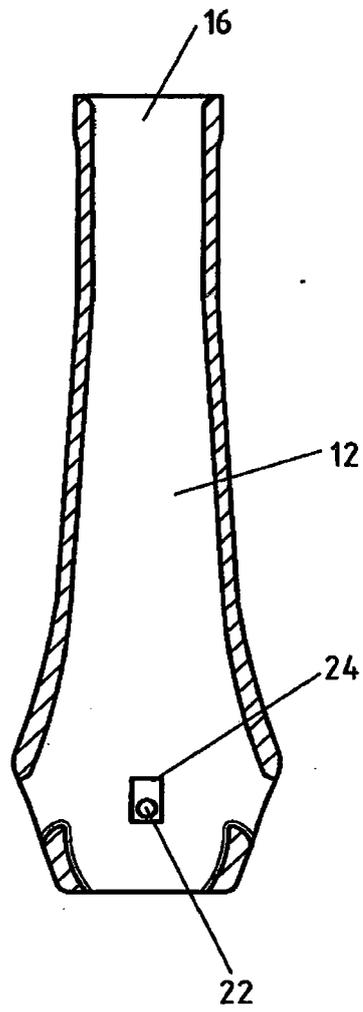


FIG. 4





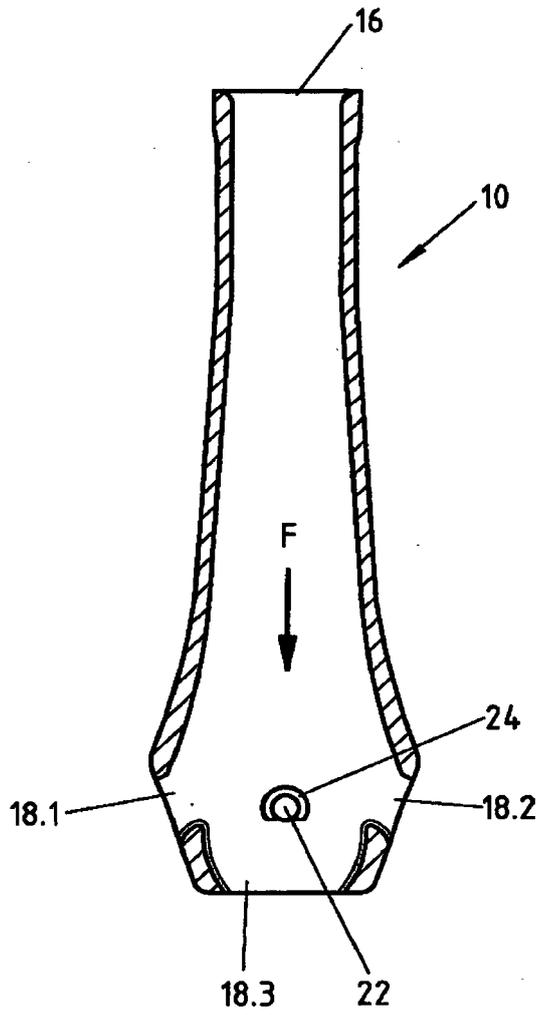


FIG. 9

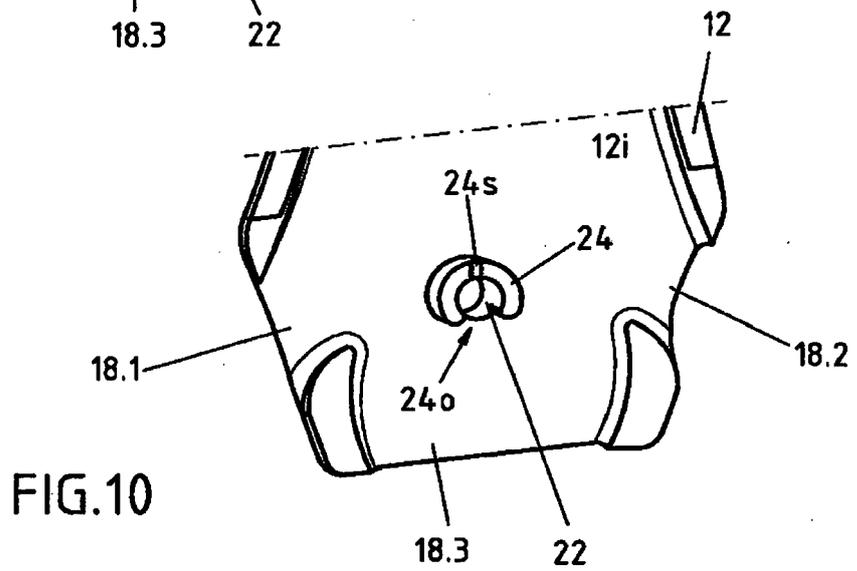


FIG. 10

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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