



(11) **EP 2 979 848 A8**

(12) **CORRECTED EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(15) Correction information:
Corrected version no 1 (W1 A1)
Corrections, see
Bibliography INID code(s) 72

(51) Int Cl.:
B29C 65/50 ^(2006.01) **B29C 65/36** ^(2006.01)

(48) Corrigendum issued on:
16.03.2016 Bulletin 2016/11

(43) Date of publication:
03.02.2016 Bulletin 2016/05

(21) Application number: **15175566.7**

(22) Date of filing: **07.07.2015**

(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
Designated Extension States:
BA ME
Designated Validation States:
MA

(30) Priority: **31.07.2014 DE 102014110908**

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(54) **THERMOPLASTIC JOINING SYSTEM AND METHOD**

(57) Composite component (40) that can be joined onto an area of a workpiece (28), with a base element (26) of a base material, the base element (26) having an area (44) for joining onto the workpiece area, a recess (42) in which a melting element (10) of a meltable plastics material is arranged being formed in the base area (44).

In this case, the melting element (10) protrudes axially with respect to the base area (44) in the non-melted state, so that the composite component (40) can be placed with the melting element (10) onto the workpiece

area at the beginning of the joining process, the volume of the melting element (10) and the volume of the recess (42) being adapted to one another in such a way that the base area (44) can come closer to the workpiece area during the joining process, in order to limit an escape of molten material of the melting element (10) from the recess (42).

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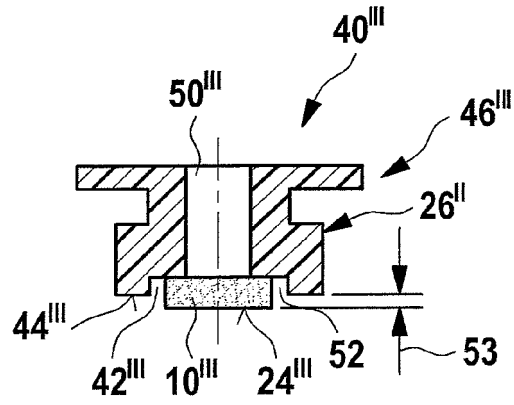


Fig. 5

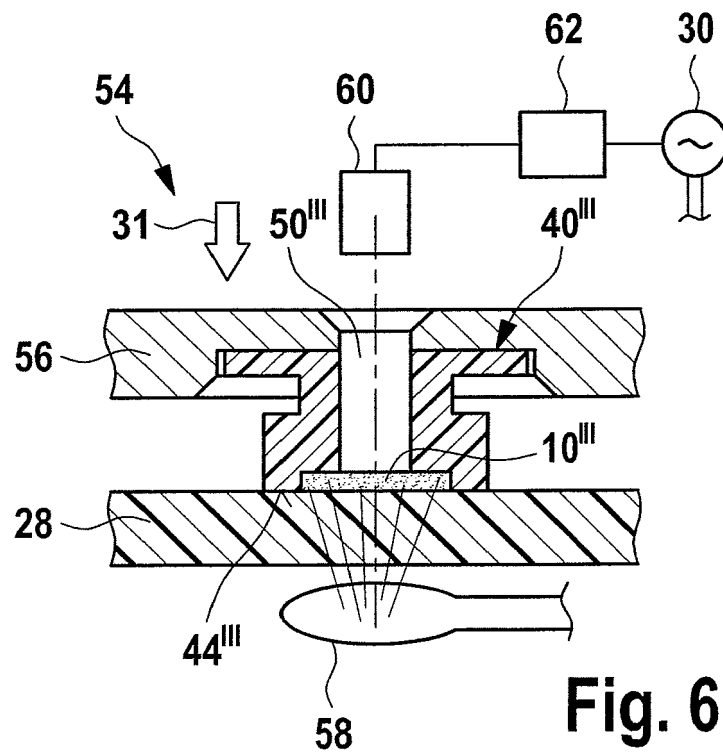


Fig. 6