



EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
06.07.2022 Bulletin 2022/27

(51) International Patent Classification (IPC):
F28D 9/00 (2006.01) F28F 9/00 (2006.01)

(21) Application number: **20461613.0**

(52) Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC):
F28F 9/0075; F28D 9/0031; F28F 9/001;
F28D 2021/0082; F28D 2021/0091; F28F 2215/08;
F28F 2265/16; F28F 2265/26

(22) Date of filing: **30.12.2020**

(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:
KH MA MD TN

- **SZOSTEK, Dawid**
32 050 SKAWINA (PL)
- **MATYSZKOWICZ, Wojciech**
32 050 SKAWINA (PL)
- **SUS, Lukasz**
32 050 SKAWINA (PL)

(71) Applicant: **Valeo Autosystemy SP. Z.O.O.**
32-050 Skawina (PL)

(74) Representative: **Valeo Systèmes Thermiques**
Service Propriété Intellectuelle
ZA l'Agiot, 8 rue Louis Lormand
CS 80517
La Verrière
78322 Le Mesnil-Saint-Denis Cedex (FR)

(72) Inventors:
• **BELZOWSKI, Michal**
32 050 SKAWINA (PL)

(54) **A TUBE FOR A HEAT EXCHANGER**

(57) The present invention relates a tube for a heat exchanger. The tube includes at least one fusible part formed on at least one coupling edge of the tube for assembling with at least one wall of the heat exchanger. The tube is a flat tube assembled of two half-plates so that it comprises two flat walls joined along at least two coupling edges, wherein the two coupling edges define a general plane. Further, the fusible part is parallelly

aligned with respect to a general plane (P1) of the tube. The tube further includes a base portion located in the vicinity of the coupling edge and a tip portion defined in the vicinity of the wall of the heat exchanger. The tip portion of the fusible part is adapted to break by differential in expansion and contraction between the tube and the wall.

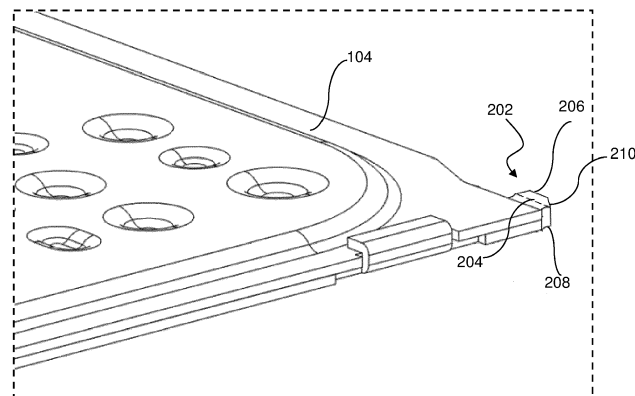


Fig. 4

Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a heat exchanger. In particular, the invention relates to a heat exchanger having tubes brazed to wall of a housing of the heat exchanger.

[0002] Generally, the heat exchangers are provided in a vehicle for various operations. Particularly, charge air coolers are provided in air inlet circuit of an engine. Generally, the engine may receive air from atmosphere and the atmospheric pressure decreases with the change in elevation of the vehicle, i.e., while the vehicle traveling in elevated area such mountain regions. In such case, the fuel economy and thermal efficiency of the engine may be reduced as the engine may receive inefficient amount/pressure of air. To overcome such problems, air is pressurized (herein referred to as the "charge air") by mechanical or electric compressors, known as superchargers or turbochargers. In the forced induction engines, power output becomes a function of how much air is delivered to the cylinders. Most commonly used methods is to introduce the compressors to recapture energy from gas exhaust manifold through an expansion turbine, which pressurizes air delivered to the engine, or relay part of engine's power to motorize a supercharger, usually by a set of pulleys.

[0003] Further, pressurizing the air leads to substantial increase of its temperature. Consequently, the density of the air decreases with the temperature, because hot air is less dense than cold air. The automotive industry, like many other industrial fields, uses heat exchangers to ensure optimal temperature operating conditions for the engine. Therefore, the charge air cooler is provided in the upstream to the engine and downstream to the turbo/super-charger. The charge air cooler may dissipate heat from the charged air flowing from the turbo-charger. The charge air cooler is equipped with a set of tubes forming a heat exchange bundle between a first fluid and a second heat transfer fluid, and the heat exchange bundle being housed in a casing.

[0004] The tubes in the charge air cooler can be made of aluminum as it offers significant weight savings, and aluminum alloys also have good thermal and corrosion resistance. Due to the complexity of the charge air cooler and the small dimensions allowed, the components of the charge air coolers are assembled by brazing. Further, the tubes are typically brazed to the housing of the charge air cooler, i.e. joined by adding liquid metal to the metal parts to be joined. As these tubes are brazed over their entire surface in contact with the walls of the housing, the metal thus added forms a continuous line, thereby the assembly lacks in flexibility. It is well known that the charge air coolers are subjected to high and varied stresses during operational mode, such as thermomechanical stresses and chemical reactions with more or less aggressive environments.

[0005] In particular, there are thermal shocks caused by a sudden and significant change in temperature, for

example when opening valves equipped with sensors that measure engine temperature and allow cold engine cooling water to pass into the warmer engine air intake system. These thermal shocks lead to expansion/contraction phenomena of the tubes of heat exchanger, called thermal cycles. However, the lack of flexibility of tubes generates significant stresses, which can lead to the appearance of rupture zones in tubes. It can then be observed that these fracture zones can lead to leakage of the heat transfer fluid.

[0006] In some prior arts, the heat exchange tubes may include some breakable tabs between the tube and the housing which are intended to crack during thermal cycle. However, the breakable tabs tend to form unpredictable shapes and structures which in most cases would cause collision between the housing and the tube, especially during expansion of the tubes. Such collision may lead to mechanical stress, and finally, to malfunction of the charge air cooler due to leakage.

[0007] Accordingly, there remains a need for a heat exchanger tube with an original design that ensures greater tube flexibility and which allows to avoid collision between the remaining elements of the breakable fuse element.

[0008] The present invention therefore aims to compensate for the disadvantages of the previous art and to meet the above-mentioned constraints by proposing a tube for heat exchanger, simple in its design and in its operating mode, reliable and economical, which makes it possible to limit, or even avoid, the appearance in the tube of rupture zones linked to thermal shocks, and collision between the remaining elements of the breakable fuse element.

[0009] Another object of the present invention is such a tube for a heat exchanger providing a support on the opposite walls of the casing with a view to its assembly by brazing with a complementary tube to form a conduit for the circulation of a heat transfer fluid.

[0010] The present invention is also intended for a heat exchanger comprising at least one such tube for an exchanger, so as to present enhanced reliability. For this purpose, the invention concerns a tube for a heat exchanger, said tube comprising a coupling edge to another tube.

[0011] According to the invention, said edge comprises at least one fusible part for assembling this coupling edge with at least one housing wall, said at least one fusible part being configured to be separated from the rest of said coupling edge by differential expansion/contraction between said tube and said at least one housing wall on which it is intended to be assembled.

[0012] In the present description, some elements or parameters may be indexed, such as a first element and a second element. In this case, unless stated otherwise, this indexation is only meant to differentiate and name elements which are similar but not identical. No idea of priority should be inferred from such indexation, as these terms may be switched without betraying the invention. Additionally, this indexation does not imply any order in

mounting or use of the elements of the invention.

[0013] In view of forgoing, the present invention relates a tube for a heat exchanger. The tube includes at least one fusible part formed on at least one coupling edge of the tube for assembling with at least one wall of the heat exchanger. Further, the fusible part is parallelly aligned with respect to a general plane (P1) of the tube. The tube is a flat tube assembled of two half-plates so that it comprises two flat walls joined along at least two coupling edges, wherein the two coupling edges define a general plane. The tube further includes a base portion located in the vicinity of the coupling edge and a tip portion located in the vicinity of the wall of the heat exchanger. The tip portion of the fusible part is adapted to be entirely separated from the wall by differential in expansion and contraction between the tube and the wall.

[0014] In one embodiment, the tube further includes at least one notch located on the corner area of the tube, in particular the notch being located between the coupling edge and base portion of the fusible part.

[0015] In one example, the tip portion of the fusible part extends beyond the coupling edge of the tube.

[0016] Further, the fusible part is formed at the corners of the coupling edge of the tube.

[0017] In one embodiment, the tip portion of the fusible part is narrower than the base portion to facilitate separation of the tube from the wall.

[0018] Further, the coupling edge is formed to delimit the tube formed by two plates assembled with each other with their respective opposite faces.

[0019] Further, the coupling edges are intended to delimit a conduit for the circulation of a heat-transfer fluid within the tube.

[0020] In one embodiment, the fusible part is of a trapezoidal shape, wherein the width of the tip portion is smaller than of the width of the base portion.

[0021] Further, the fusible part includes sloping edges connecting the tip portion with the base portion.

[0022] In another embodiment, the fusible part is of a triangular shape.

[0023] Preferably, the fusible part is half the thickness of the tube, wherein the thickness is measured in a direction perpendicular to the general plane (P1) of the tube.

[0024] Alternatively, the fusible part is thicker than half the thickness of the tube, wherein the thickness is measured in a direction perpendicular to the general plane (P1) of the tube.

[0025] Alternatively, the fusible part is thinner than half the thickness of the tube, wherein the thickness is measured in a direction perpendicular to the general plane (P1) of the tube.

[0026] Other characteristics, details and advantages of the invention can be inferred from the description of the invention hereunder. A more complete appreciation of the invention and many of the attendant advantages thereof will be readily obtained as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed

description when considered in connection with the accompanying figures, wherein:

Fig. 1 illustrates a perspective view of a heat exchanger, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 illustrates a side view of the heat exchanger with a detailed view of a tube-housing assembly, according to a state of the art;

Fig. 3 illustrates a perspective view of a standalone tube for the heat exchanger of Fig 1;

Fig. 4 illustrates a perspective view of a corner section of the tube shown in Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 illustrates a top view of a fusible part of the Fig. 3, formed on the coupling edge of the tube; and

Fig. 6 illustrates a front view of the fusible part of the Fig. 3, formed on the coupling edge of the tube.

[0027] It must be noted that the figures disclose the invention in a detailed enough way to be implemented, said figures helping to better define the invention if needs be. The invention should however not be limited to the embodiment disclosed in the description.

[0028] The present invention may disclose a heat exchanger tube having at least one fusible part provided in a heat exchanger. Conventionally, the heat exchanger may include bundle of tubes disposed between two manifolds and forming a fluid channel. The tubes may be brazed to the inner wall of a housing of the heat exchanger. During operation of heat exchanger, the tubes may undergo various thermal cycle. As a result, thermal stress may act on the tubes, which may lead to the appearance of rupture zones in the tubes. Further, such fracture/rupture zones can lead to leakage of the heat transfer fluid. To avoid such problems, tabs are provided at a coupling edge of the tube of the heat exchanger. Such tabs can be fusible part adapted to break when there is a differential expansion and contraction between tubes and corresponding wall of the heat exchanger.

[0029] Fig. 1 illustrates a perspective view of a heat exchanger 100, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. The heat exchanger 100 may include three walls forming a housing 150. The three walls being a first wall 110, a second wall 120 and a third wall 130, wherein the first wall 110 and the second wall 120 are aligned parallelly and spaced from each other, and the third wall 130 may be aligned perpendicularly with respect to the first and the second walls 110, 120, so that the opposite edges of the third wall 130 are in contact with the first wall 110, as well as the second wall 120.

[0030] The heat exchanger 100 may further comprise a manifold 140. The manifold 140 may be located parallelly with respect to the third wall 130 and perpendicularly

with respect to the first and the second walls 110, 120, so that, similarly to the third wall 130, the opposite edges of the manifold 140 are in contact with the first wall 110, as well as the second wall 120.

[0031] The walls 110, 120, 130 and the manifold 140 may be joined together, e.g. by brazing, so that the walls 110, 120, 130 and the manifold 140 form an essentially rectangular fluid tight housing 150 which delimits a first fluid circuit for a first fluid, e.g. charge air. The housing 150 may further receive intake and outtake (not shown) for the first fluid on its open ends. The exemplary first fluid flow direction from intake to outtake is depicted in Fig.1 by F_{in} and F_{out} , respectively

[0032] Further, a second fluid circuit for a second fluid may be formed, inter alia, by the manifold 140, which may include an inlet spigot 142 and an outlet spigot 144 for delivering or collecting second fluid, e.g. coolant. The exemplary second fluid flow direction from the inlet to the outlet is depicted in Fig. 1 by W_{in} and W_{out} , respectively. The second fluid circuit further includes at least one tube 102 located within the housing 150. In this example, the term "within" means that the tube 102 does not protrude beyond the space delimited by the housing 150. The tube 102 is aligned substantially in parallel with respect to the first wall 110 and the second wall 120, and in perpendicular to the manifold 150 and the third wall 130.

[0033] Further, the tube 102 extends from the manifold 140 to the third wall 130, whereas it is fluidly connected only with the manifold 140. The tube 102 is formed, so as to enable at least one U-turn at the path of the second fluid flowing there through. Generally, the manifold 140 is configured to deliver and/or collect the second fluid to the tube 102 through two parallel channels formed therein. Preferably, the channels in the manifold 150 are formed as a unitary element with e.g. partition, however other means of providing channels for the second fluid are also envisaged.

[0034] Usually, the heat exchanger 100 may include a plurality of tubes 102 to improve the efficiency thereof. The tubes 102 are stacked one on the other in a parallel manner, perpendicularly to the manifold 140, so that the second fluid is distributed as homogeneously as possible. The second fluid may flow through the inlet W_{in} and it is directed to respective channel of the manifold 140 which feeds the tubes 102. Next, the second fluid flows through the U-shaped tube 102 back to the manifold 150 and then it is collected by the second fluid outlet W_{out} .

[0035] In order to improve the heat exchange efficiency, the stack of tubes 102 may be interlaced with so-called turbulators or fins 160. The number of turbulators or fins 160 interlaced between the tubes 102 corresponds to the free spaces in the vicinity of the tubes 102. In other words, turbulators or fins 160 fill the spaces not occupied by other sub-components within the housing 140 in order to maximize the heat exchange efficiency and to reduce bypassing of the tubes 102 by the first fluid. In this present example, the heat exchanger 100 is a charge air cooler. In such case, the first fluid being a charged air and the

second fluid being a heat transfer fluid, i.e., coolant or water or water-glycol mixture.

[0036] Fig. 2 illustrates the heat exchanger 100 with plurality of tubes 102 in accordance to a prior art. The turbulators or fins 160 are omitted for the sake of clarity. The heat exchanger 100 may be oriented horizontally. Horizontal orientation of the heat exchanger 100 refers to horizontal direction of stacking of its tubes 1. Alternatively, the heat exchanger 100 could be oriented at any angle with respect to horizontal orientation as long as the first and second fluids are efficiently delivered to provide effective heat exchange between them. As shown in Fig. 2, each tube 102 may be formed out of two half-plates produced in the same process, wherein one half-plate is substantially a mirror image of the other to delimit the path for the circulation of a heat transfer fluid between these half-plates. Alternatively, the tube 102 may be a folded tube.

[0037] Fig. 2 further shows detailed section "S1" of an assembly of the tube 102 with the housing 140. According to the prior art, the tubes 102 are stacked and spaced from each other in order to provide good efficiency of the entire heat exchanger 100. During the operational mode the heat exchanger 100, the tubes 102 expands and contracts depending on the temperature of the first and the second fluids, as well as the temperature difference between them in different sections of the heat exchanger 100. Further, the different sub-components of the heat exchanger 100 may expand or contract to different extent, because the heat is not usually distributed evenly across all sub-components.

[0038] Each tube may be formed out of two half-plates produced in the same process, wherein one half-plate is substantially a mirror image of the other to delimit the path for the circulation of a heat transfer fluid between these half-plates. In other words, the tube may be the flat tube assembled of two half-plates so that it comprises two flat walls joined along at least two coupling edges 104.

[0039] The tubes 102 may be initially, i.e. in a pre-operational mode, secured both to the manifold 140 and the third wall 130, yet it may be possible for the tubes 102 to be secured only the manifold 140. As the tubes 102 are directly connected to the housing 102, the tubes 102 may lack flexibility, thereby the tubes may damage and cause leakage of the second fluid. To avoid such problem, a fusible part is introduced in the tubes 102. Schematic and geometry of the fusible part is described in the forthcoming figures.

[0040] Figs. 3 and 4 illustrates isometric views of the standalone tube 102 and one of the corner areas of the tube 102 of Fig. 1. In one embodiment, each tube 102 may have essentially rectangular shape, so that a general plane (P1) may be defined. In this example, the general plane (P1) of the tube 102 is defined along the contact area of two half-plates. In other words, the general plane (P1) of the tube 102 runs parallelly and in-between the half-plates of particular tube 102. In other words, the gen-

eral plane (P1) may cross the median section the tube 102, so that the conduit for the first fluid in both sections thereof is split into two even halves.

[0041] As shown in Fig. 3, the tube 102 may further include a coupling edge 104 for coupling two half-plates. As discussed above, the coupling edge 104 may delimit the tube 104 formed by the two plates assembled with each other with their respective opposite faces and may delimit a conduit for the circulation of the second fluid, i.e., heat-transfer fluid within the tube 102. The coupling edge 104 may include at least one fusible part 202 for assembling the coupling edge 104 with at least one wall of the heat exchanger 100, in particular the third wall 130 of the housing 150. Further, the tube 102 may include a fluid inlet 106 and a fluid outlet 108, as shown in Fig. 3. Each of the fluid inlet 106 and fluid outlet 108 may include a collar configured to provide a fluid-tight connection between tube 102 and the manifold 140 of the heat exchanger 100.

[0042] Thus, in preferred embodiment of an invention, the tube 102 is fixed to the housing 150 with one end, and the other ought to be a free end during the operational mode of the heat exchanger 100, in order to allow expansion or contraction of the tube 102 within the housing 150.

[0043] Fig. 4 illustrates in detail a fragment of the same tube 102 as shown in Fig. 3. In particular, Fig. 4 shows one of the corner areas of the tube 102 having the fusible part 202. The fusible part 202 is parallelly aligned with respect to the general plane "P1" of the tube 102. The fusible part 202 includes a base portion 204 located in the vicinity of the coupling edge 104 and a tip portion 206 located/defined in the vicinity of the wall, particularly third wall 130, of the heat exchanger 100. In one embodiment, the tip portion 206 of the fusible part 202 is in-contact with the third wall 130. In another embodiment, the tip portion 206 of the fusible part 202 may be formed in such a way that a gap defined in between the tip portion 206 and the third wall 130. The tip portion 206 is adapted to be entirely separated from the third wall 130 by differential in expansion and contraction between the tube 102 and the third wall 130 of the heat exchanger 100.

[0044] Figs. 5 and 6 illustrate top and front views of the fusible part 202 of the Fig. 3, formed on the coupling edge 104 of the tube 102. As shown in Fig. 5, the tip portion 206 is in-contact with the third wall 130 of the housing 150. When the tube 102 expands or contracts due to thermal cycles, the fusible part 202 may break or entirely separated from the third wall 130, particularly the tip portion 206, which is in contact with the third wall 130, may break, thereby preventing collation of tube 102 with the third wall 120 and damages of the tube 102. The tube 102 further includes at least one notch 208 located on the corner area of the tubes 102, particularly, the notch 208 being located between the coupling edge 104 of the tube 102 and the base portion 204 of the fusible part 202. In this present embodiment, the tip portion 206 of the fusible part 202 is narrower than the base portion 204 of

the fusible part 202 to facilitate separation of the tube 102 from the third wall 130. The fusible part 202 is formed at the corners of the coupling 104 of the tube 102. Further, the tip portion 206 of the fusible part 202 extends beyond the coupling edge 104 of the tube 104, so the tube 102 can be separated from the walls of the housing 150. As the tip portion 206 of the fusible part 202 is extended beyond the coupling edge 104 of the tube 102, the fusible part 202, particularly the tip portion 206, can break when the tube 102 is subjected to differential expansion or contractions due to various thermal cycles.

[0045] As shown in Fig. 5, the fusible part 202 is of a trapezoidal shape, in which the tip portion 206 is narrower than the base portion 204 of the fusible part 202. Further, the width of the tip portion 206 is smaller than of the width of the base portion 204, so that the tip portion 206 can be easily separated from the third wall 130 by differential in expansion or contraction between the tube 102 and the housing 150. Further, the fusible part 202 includes sloping edges 210 connecting the tip portion 206 with the base portion 204 of the fusible part 202. In one example, the tip portion 206 of the fusible part 202 is brazed to the housing 150, particularly to the third wall 130. In another example, the tip portion 206 is just in-contact with the housing 150, particularly with the third wall 130. In another embodiment, the fusible part 202 is of a triangular shape.

[0046] As discussed above, the tip portion 206 may be configured to be separated from the fusible part 202 by differential in expansion or contraction between the tube 102 and at least one wall on which it is intended to be assembled, such as the third wall 130. During the first thermal cycles, the stress put between the tubes 102 and the housing 150 allows the notch 208 to separate the tip portion 206 from the fusible part 202, thereby the tip portion 206 may break. Consequently, the base portion 204 of the fusible part 292 is integral with the tube 102 and the tip portion 206 is integral with the housing 150, in particular the third wall 130, in case the tip portion 206 is brazed with the housing 150.

[0047] Preferably, the fusible part 202 may be half the thickness of the tube 102, in which the thickness is measured in a direction perpendicular to the general plane (P1) of the tube 102. In other words, each fusible part 202 protruding from one corner area of the tube 102 is of the same thickness as the half-plate of the tube 102 from which the fusible part 202 protrudes there-from. Alternatively, the fusible part 202 protruding from one corner area of the tube 102 is thicker than the half-plate of the tube 102 from which the fusible part 202 protrudes there-from. Alternatively, the fusible part 202 protruding from one corner area of the tube 102 is thinner than the half-plate of the tube 102 from which the fusible part 202 protrudes there-from.

[0048] As the notch 208 is provided between the coupling edge 104 of the tube 102 and the base portion 204 of the fusible part 202, the tip portion 206 can be easily separated from the fusible part 202 when there is a dif-

ferential expansion and contraction between the tube 102 and the housing 150. In other words, the notch 208 allows the tip portion 206 be separated from the base portion 204 in such a way, that during the operational mode of the heat exchanger 100, the tube 102 does not collide with the housing 150 or the contact between these elements is very gentle. This allows to significantly improve the thermal resistance of the whole heat exchanger 100. To achieve similar effect, those skilled in the art could, for example, increase the size of the housing 150 in the direction parallel to the general plane (P1) of the tube 102, so that the tubes can expand and contract freely, yet it would create several problems, such as increased packaging, reduced thermal efficiency of the heat exchanger, and other

[0049] In any case, the invention cannot and should not be limited to the embodiments specifically described in this document, as other embodiments might exist. The invention shall spread to any equivalent means and any technically operating combination of means.

Claims

1. A tube (102) for a heat exchanger (100) comprising at least one fusible part (202) formed on at least one coupling edge (104) of the tube (102) for assembling with at least one wall (130) of the heat exchanger (100), wherein the tube (102) is a flat tube assembled of two half-plates so that it comprises two flat walls joined along at least two coupling edges (104), wherein the two coupling edges (104) define a general plane (P1), **characterised in that** the fusible part (202) is parallelly aligned with respect to a general plane (P1) of the tube (102), wherein the fusible part (202) comprises a base portion (204) located in the vicinity of the coupling edge (104) and a tip portion (206) located in the vicinity of the wall (130) of the heat exchanger (100), wherein the tip portion (206) of the fusible part (202) is adapted to be entirely separated from the wall (130) by differential in expansion and contraction between the tube (102) and the wall (130).
2. The tube (102) according to claim 1, the tube (102) further comprises at least one notch (208) located on the corner area of the tube (102), in particular the notch (208) being located between the coupling edge (104) and base portion (204) of the fusible part (202).
3. The tube (102) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the tip portion (206) of the fusible part (202) extends beyond the coupling edge (104) of the tube (102).
4. The tube (102) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the fusible part (202) is formed at the corners of the coupling edge (104) of the tube (102).
5. The tube (102) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the tip portion (206) of the fusible part (202) is narrower than the base portion (204) to facilitate separation of the tube (102) from the wall (130).
6. The tube (102) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the coupling edge (104) is formed to delimit the tube (102) formed by two plates assembled with each other with their respective opposite faces.
7. The tube (102) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the coupling edges (104) are intended to delimit a conduit for the circulation of a heat-transfer fluid within the tube (102).
8. The tube (102) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the fusible part (202) is of a trapezoidal shape, wherein the width of the tip portion (206) is smaller than of the width of the base portion (204).
9. The tube (102) according to claim 8, the fusible part (202) further comprises sloping edges (210) connecting the tip portion (206) with the base portion (204).
10. The tube (102) according to any of the claims 1 to 7, wherein the fusible part (202) is of a triangular shape.
11. The tube (102) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the fusible part (202) is half the thickness of the tube (102), wherein the thickness is measured in a direction perpendicular to the general plane (P1) of the tube (102).
12. The tube (102) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the fusible part (202) is thicker than half the thickness of the tube (102), wherein the thickness is measured in a direction perpendicular to the general plane (P1) of the tube (102).
13. The tube (102) according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the fusible part (202) is thinner than half the thickness of the tube (102), wherein the thickness is measured in a direction perpendicular to the general plane (P1) of the tube (102).

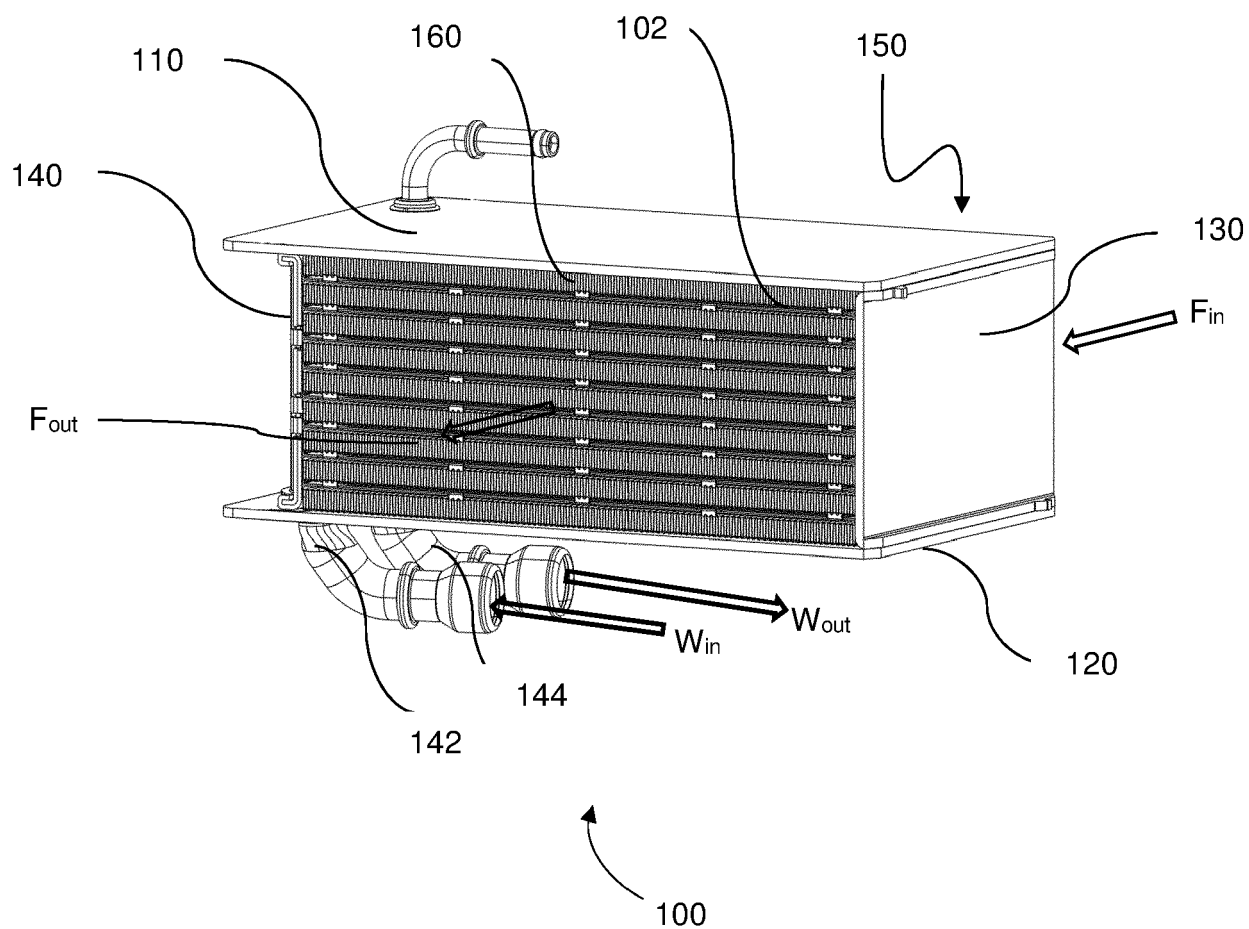


Fig. 1

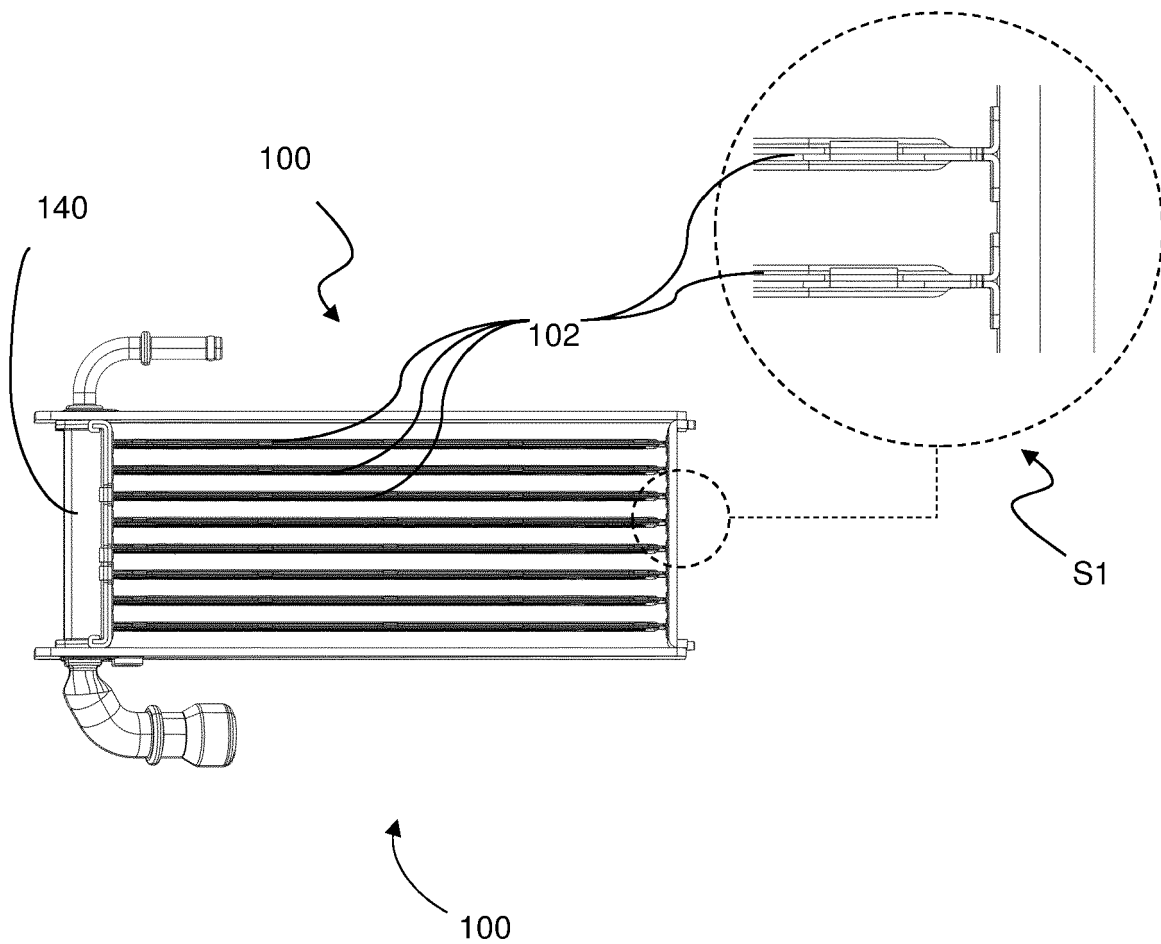


Fig. 2 (Prior art.)

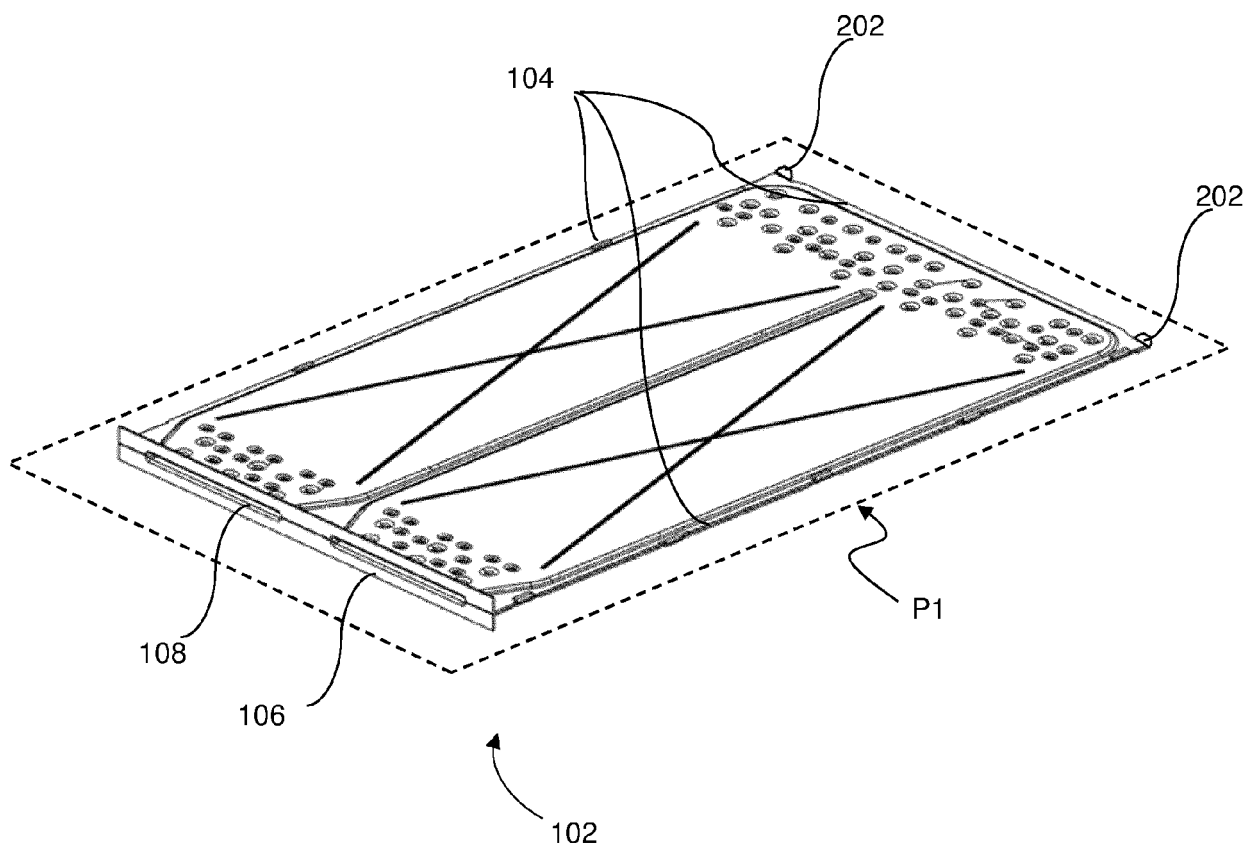


Fig. 3

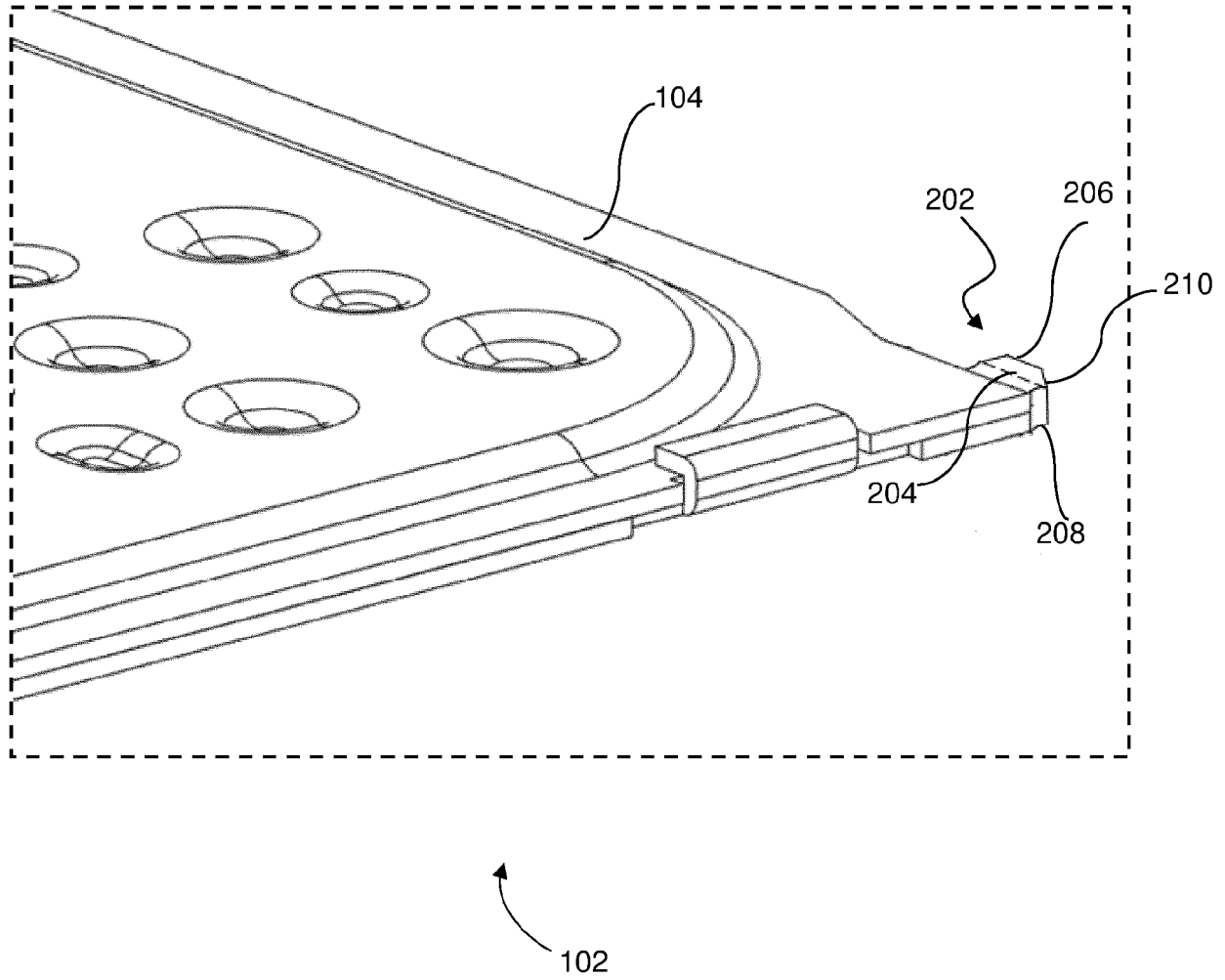


Fig. 4

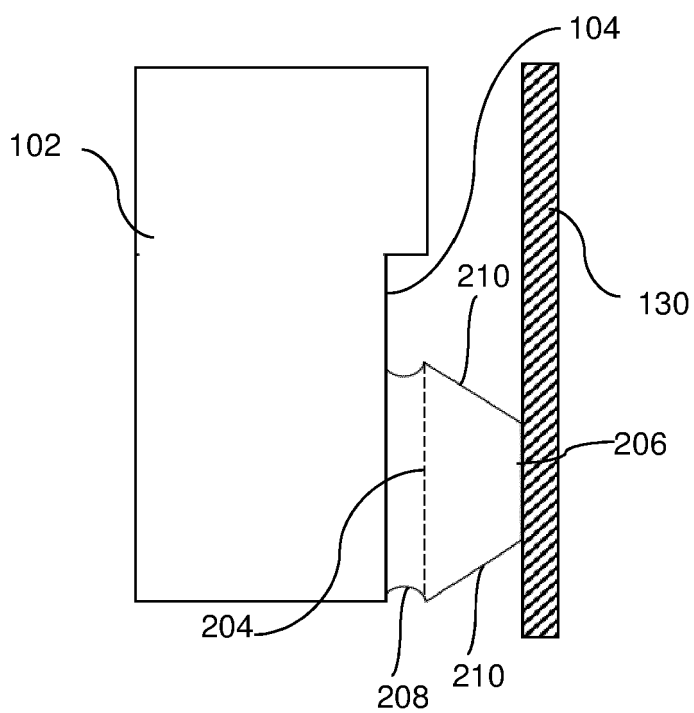


Fig. 5

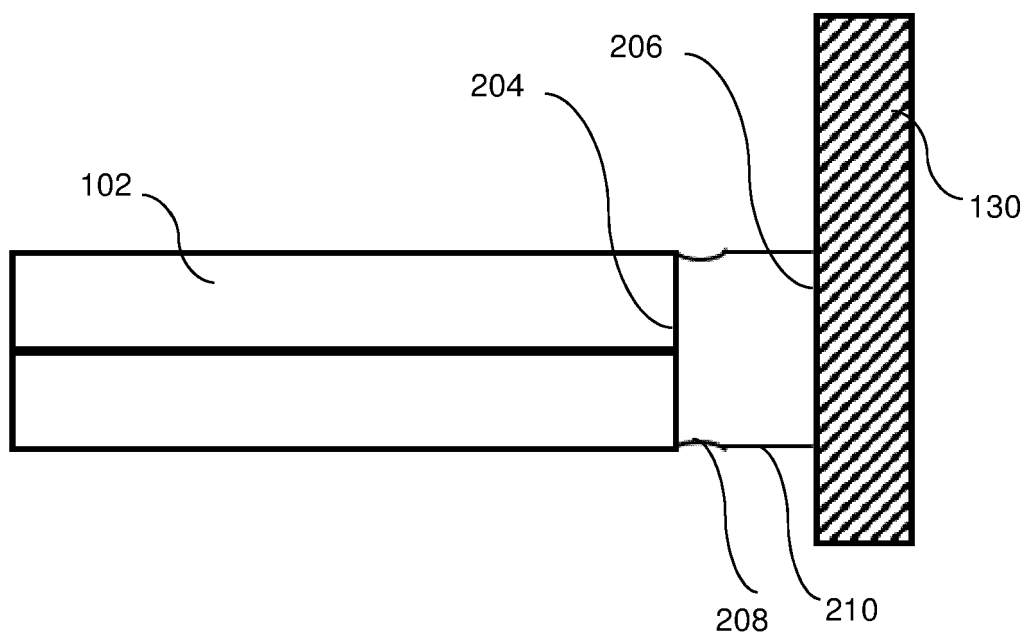


Fig. 6



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 20 46 1613

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

1

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	WO 2016/049776 A1 (DANA CANADA CORP [CA]) 7 April 2016 (2016-04-07) * figures *	1-13	INV. F28D9/00 F28F9/00
X	WO 2019/145022 A1 (VALEO SYSTEMES THERMIQUES [FR]) 1 August 2019 (2019-08-01) * figures *	1-4, 11-13	
A	US 2012/255709 A1 (KINDER LEE M [CA] ET AL) 11 October 2012 (2012-10-11) * figures *	1-13	
A	WO 2013/078530 A1 (DANA CANADA CORP [CA]; KINDER LEE M [CA]; SHORE COLIN [CA]) 6 June 2013 (2013-06-06) * figure 5 *	1-13	
A	DE 11 2014 004308 T5 (MITSUBISHI HEAVY IND AUTOMOTIVE THERMAL SYS CO LTD [JP]) 2 June 2016 (2016-06-02) * figure 3 *	1-13	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			F28D F28F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 18 May 2021	Examiner Mellado Ramirez, J
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			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 20 46 1613

5 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
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

18-05-2021

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 2016049776 A1	07-04-2016	CA 2962700 A1	07-04-2016
		CN 107003089 A	01-08-2017
		DE 112015004523 T5	13-07-2017
		US 2016097596 A1	07-04-2016
		WO 2016049776 A1	07-04-2016
WO 2019145022 A1	01-08-2019	CN 111886470 A	03-11-2020
		EP 3743667 A1	02-12-2020
		US 2021071961 A1	11-03-2021
		WO 2019145022 A1	01-08-2019
US 2012255709 A1	11-10-2012	CA 2830698 A1	11-10-2012
		CN 103582796 A	12-02-2014
		DE 112012001592 T5	13-02-2014
		KR 20140022407 A	24-02-2014
		US 2012255709 A1	11-10-2012
		WO 2012135956 A1	11-10-2012
WO 2013078530 A1	06-06-2013	CA 2857079 A1	06-06-2013
		CN 103958999 A	30-07-2014
		DE 112011105879 T5	20-11-2014
		GB 2512761 A	08-10-2014
		WO 2013078530 A1	06-06-2013
DE 112014004308 T5	02-06-2016	CN 105393077 A	09-03-2016
		DE 112014004308 T5	02-06-2016
		JP 2015058824 A	30-03-2015
		US 2016195341 A1	07-07-2016
		WO 2015041065 A1	26-03-2015