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(54) **Power operated rotary knife**

(57) A rotary knife (10) comprises an annular rotary blade (12), a blade support assembly (16), a handle assembly (20), and a blade drive transmission (22) for effecting blade rotation. The blade drive transmission (22) comprises a flexible drive shaft assembly (22a) extending to a location adjacent the blade (12), a blade driving member (226) rotatable about an axis (42a) and positioned to rotatably drive the rotary blade (12), and a drive coupling arrangement for selectively transmitting torque from the drive shaft assembly (22a) to the blade driving member (226). The drive coupling arrangement comprises a first drive transmitting surface (280) fixed

with respect to the blade driving member (226) and extending generally in the direction of the axis (42a), at least a portion of the first drive transmitting surface (280) disposed on a radial line passing substantially through the axis (42a), and a second drive transmitting surface (290) drivingly connected to the drive shaft assembly (22a), the second drive transmitting surface (290) engaging the first drive transmitting surface (280) along at least part of its axial extent, the second drive transmitting surface (290) having at least a portion thereof disposed on a radial line passing substantially through the axis (42a) when the first and second drive transmitting surfaces (280,290) are engaged.

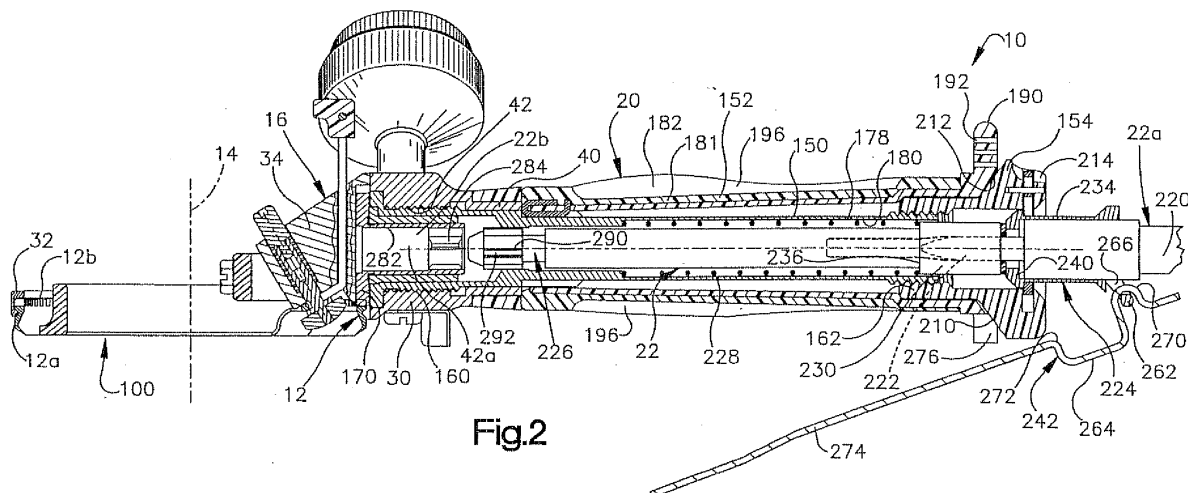


Fig.2



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	US 4 894 915 A (DECKER ET AL) 23 January 1990 (1990-01-23) * column 7, line 17 - line 63; claim 1; figures 9-12 *  -----	1	B26B25/00
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B26B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>The Hague</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>15 June 2005</b>	Examiner <b>Herijgers, J</b>
<b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b> 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  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 05 10 0356

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  
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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4894915	A	23-01-1990	NONE
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82