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(54) Title: AN APPARATUS FOR POSITIONING OF A CLAMP BODY AND A METHOD FOR OPERATING A CLAMP BODY

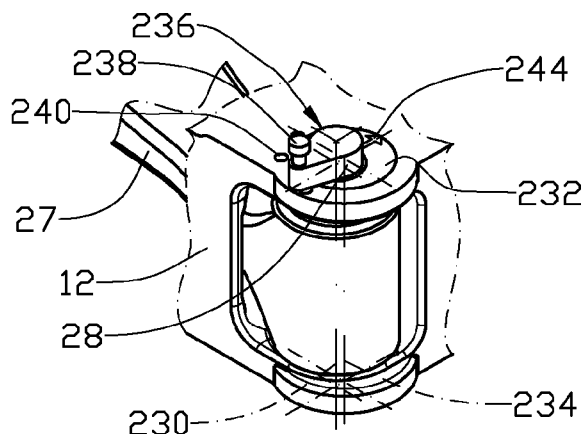


Fig. 25

(57) Abstract: Apparatus and method for positioning a first clamp body (22) relative a pipe in a torque device (1) for oilfield use, wherein the first clamp body (22) that includes a first clamp arm (27), is pivotably coupled to a first clamp pin (28), where the first clamp pin (28) is coupled to the torque device (1) via a turnable bearing (232), and where the first clamp pin (28) is eccentric relative a bearing axis (234).



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AN APPARATUS FOR POSITIONING OF A CLAMP BODY AND A METHOD FOR OPERATING A CLAMP BODY

Field of invention

5 There is provided an apparatus for positioning a clamp body. More precisely there is provided an apparatus for positioning a first clamp body relative to a pipe in a torque device for oilfield use. There is also provided a method of operation of an apparatus for positioning a clamp body.

10 In this document that is related to onshore and offshore oilfield equipment and methods, the word pipe is used to describe elongate elements in general. Depending on the operation in question the elongate element may be a tubular or a nonetubular, a tool or any related item that is associated
15 with a tool joint.

Background of the invention

A typical powered torque device used for making up or breaking out pipe connections in oilfield-related applications includes a pair of torque device members, here termed "first
20 torque device member" and "second torque device member", but often referred to as "power tong" and "backup tong". In use, the power tong rotates a first pipe relative to a second pipe while the backup tong holds the second pipe relatively stationary. Each of these tongs has a slot for receiving its re-

spective pipe. Typically, each of these tongs has a set of clamp bodies that normally includes clamp dies for engaging the pipe when the pipe is received in the tong slot.

Clamp dies typically include a series of teeth that penetrate
5 into the pipe surface to increase grip between materials. The teeth integrity is better preserved when the total load is distributed amongst them. When an individual tooth is overloaded, it could break, resulting in further overload on other teeth. This may subsequently lead to a drop in the effective
10 gripping coefficient.

Since the pipe has a curved surface, any lateral offset from the die center would result in unevenly distributed forces both due to geometry and force misalignment. Teeth positioned toward the offset will penetrate more. The force from the
15 pipe at these teeth would be larger than others because the reaction force is increasing with penetration.

In addition, the force from a linear clamp actuator is centered to the die. Because the reaction force at misalignment of the clamp die is shifted, there will also be a resulting
20 torque at the die.

A torque device that combines pivoting arms with linear sliding units to house the clamp dies will normally only achieve optimum tangential and radial alignment of dies at one pipe diameter. At all other diameters the contact position will be
25 moved away from the mid line of the die and therefore skew the clamp loading away from the die centerline.

The object of the invention is to remedy or reduce at least one of the disadvantages of the prior art.

The object is achieved according to the invention by virtue
30 of the features disclosed in the description below and in the

subsequent claims.

Brief description of the invention

According to a first aspect of the invention there is provided an apparatus for positioning a first clamp body relative a
5 pipe in a torque device for oilfield use, wherein the first clamp body that includes a first clamp arm, is pivotably coupled to a first clamp pin, the first clamp pin is coupled to the torque device via a turnable bearing, and where the first clamp pin is eccentric relative a bearing axis.

10 The tangential position of the first clamp body is thus adjustable relative an object that is to be clamped, here in the form of a pipe.

The first clamp pin may be fixed to one eccentric bearing at each end portion of the first clamp pin, and where the eccentric
15 bearings are turnable in a torque device member body.

In turning the first clamp pin, both bearings will turn simultaneously in the torque device member body.

The turnable bearing may have a lock that is lockable in at least a first position and a second position in order to fix
20 the bearings in more than one position.

The position of a clamp die centre axis of the first clamp body may correspond to a line through the operational axis of a pipe having a first diameter when the bearing is in its first position and to the pipe having a second diameter when
25 the bearing is in its second position.

The lock may comprise a movable locking pin that is engagable in a torque device member body for relatively simple fixing of the desired tangential position of the clamp body.

The angular position of the locking pin may be fixed relative to the turnable bearing.

According to a second aspect of the invention there is provided a method for positioning a first clamp body relative to a pipe in a torque device for oilfield use wherein the method includes:

- connecting a first clamp body that includes a first clamp arm to a first clamp pin;
- connecting the first clamp pin to the torque device via a turnable bearing; and
- placing the first clamp pin eccentric relative to a bearing axis.

The method may further include:

- fixing the first clamp pin to one eccentric bearing at each end portion of the first clamp pin; and
- arranging the eccentric bearings to be turnable in a torque device member body.

The method may further include arranging a lock that is lockable in at least a first position and a second position in the turnable bearing.

The method may further include:

- positioning a clamp die centre axis of the first clamp body to correspond to a line through the operational axis of a pipe having a first diameter when the bearing is in its first position; and
- positioning the clamp die centre axis of the first clamp body to correspond to a line through the operational axis of the pipe having a second diameter when the bearing is in its second position.

The method may further include letting the lock comprise a movable locking pin that is engagable in a torque device member body.

The method may further include letting the angular position
5 of the locking pin be fixed relative the turnable bearing.

The apparatus and method according to the invention render it possible to alter the tangential position of a pivotable clamp body in a relatively simple and inexpensive manner.

Brief description of the figures

10 Below, an example of a preferred device and method is explained under reference to the enclosed drawings, where:

Fig. 1 shows a perspective view of a torque device according to the invention;

Fig. 2 shows a section I-I in fig 1;

15 Fig. 3 shows a section II-II in fig. 2;

Fig. 4 shows a perspective view of a torque device in a different embodiment;

Fig. 5 shows a side view of a support pad;

Fig. 6 shows a perspective view of the torque device in
20 fig. 4 where different degrees of freedom are indicated;

Fig. 7 shows a hydraulic control circuit for the torque device.

Fig. 8 shows the control circuit in fig. 7 in normal
25 torque make up mode;

Fig. 9 shows the control circuit in fig. 7 in high torque

make up mode;

Fig. 10 shows a side view of the torque device;

Fig. 11 shows the same as in fig.1, but with the first torque device member and the torque actuators removed;

5

Fig. 12 shows a perspective view from a lower side of the first torque device member;

Fig. 13 shows a section X-X in fig. 10.

Fig. 14 shows the same as in fig. 13, but with clamp bodies activated;

10

Fig. 15 shows the same as in fig. 13, but with the first torque device member at a different angle of rotation;

Fig. 16 shows a perspective view of a first clamp body with a compliant die retainer;

15

Fig. 17 shows a section of compliant die retainer system in another embodiment;

Fig. 18 shows a perspective view of a die retainer;

Fig. 19 shows a section with the die retainer in fig. 18 in a die retainer system in yet another embodiment;

20

Fig. 20 shows a clamp die in an offset engagement with the first pipe;

Fig. 21 shows a sketch of a first pipe at different positions relative the first torque device member;

25

Fig. 22 shows a graph of the ratio of different clamp body travel distances;

- Fig. 23 shows a simplified diagram of speed control;
- Fig. 24 shows a sketch of resultant positions of different pipes in the first clamp device member as a result of passive compensation;
- 5 Fig. 25 shows in a larger scale a perspective view of a clamp pin arrangement;
- Fig. 26 shows the same as fig. 2, but with the clamp bodies in an active engaged position;
- Fig. 27 shows a graph where change in torque is plotted
10 against rotational angle of the torque device;
- Fig. 28 shows details regarding a first and a second pipe;
- Fig. 29 shows a principle drawing of a tool joint finder;
- Fig. 30 shows a graph where a tip position is plotted against axial distance;
- 15 Fig. 31 shows a principle drawing of a tool joint finder in another embodiment;
- Fig. 32 shows a principle drawing of a tool joint finder in yet another embodiment; and
- Fig. 33 shows a block diagram related to a pipe tally system.
20

Detailed description of the invention

It should be noted that the figures, in order to better disclose the inventive features, generally only show features necessary for the disclosure. This implies that a number of
25 necessary items such as fixings, power supplies, control cables and equipment are not shown. These items and their function are however known to a skilled person.

In the figures the reference number 1 denotes a powered torque device for making up or breaking out a connection tool joint 2 between a first pipe 4 and a second pipe 6. The torque device 1, see fig. 1, includes a first torque device member 10 that has a torque device member body 12.

The torque device member body 12 is in this embodiment made up of an upper part 14 and a lower part 16 where both parts 14, 16 have "U" formed slots 18 for placing the first pipe 4. The upper and lower parts 14, 16 are spaced apart and joined by side parts 20. Upper and lower refer to operational positions of the torque device 1.

The first torque device member 10 has three clamp bodies 22, 24, 26 that are designed to move between a retracted passive position and an active extended position where the clamp bodies 22, 24, 26 are in contact with the first pipe 4. Of these clamp bodies 22, 24, 26, the first clamp body 22 includes a clamp arm extension 27 that hinges on a first clamp pin 28, see fig. 2, the second clamp body 24 includes a clamp arm extension 29 that hinges on a second clamp pin 30, while the third clamp body 26 is linearly movable in a guide 32, see fig. 3. The clamp pins 28, 30 are in this embodiment fixed to the torque device member body 12.

A coordinate XYZ system is shown in fig. 1. The Z-axis is orthogonal to the XY plane. The torque device 1 has an operational axis of rotation 34 that extends in the Z direction. The operational axis 34 normally coincides with a centre axis of the first pipe 4 when the torque device 1 is clamped on to the first pipe 4.

The first torque device member body 12 that rests on a structure not shown, is slidable in the XY plane.

When viewed from the opposite side relative to the "U" formed slot 18, see fig. 2, the first clamp body 22 is positioned on the left hand side of the operational axis 34, the second clamp body 24 is positioned on the right hand side of the operational axis 34, while the third clamp body 26 is positioned between the first and second clamp bodies 22, 24. The clamp bodies 22, 24, 26 are here movable inside the torque device member body 12 in a plane parallel to the XY plane.

The first, second and third clamp bodies 22, 24, 26 are coupled to and moved by a first clamp actuator 36, a second clamp actuator 38 and a third clamp actuator 40 respectively. The clamp actuators 36, 38, 40 are fitted to the side part 20 of the torque device member body 12 and are connected to their respective clamp bodies 22, 24, 26 by intermediate struts 43.

A first torque actuator 42 is pivotably connected to the first torque device member 10 at a first actuator fixture 44 and at a first radial distance 46 from a centre line 48 of the first torque device member 10. When the first torque device member 10 is at its mid position, the centre line 48 is parallel with the X direction. A rod 50 is pivotably connected to the first torque device member 10 at a second actuator fixture 52 at a second radial distance 54 from the centre line 48. The first and second radial distances 46, 54 are on opposite sides relative the centre line 48. The connections of the first torque actuator 42 and the rod 50 at the first actuator fixture 44 and the second actuator fixture 52 respectively may be in the form of ball type connections as often used on actuators.

The first actuator 42 is also pivotably connected to a first portion 56 of an actuator support 58, while the rod 50 is pivotably connected to a second portion 60 of the actuator

support 58. The first and second portions 56, 60 of the actuator support 58 are here fork formed.

As shown in fig. 2 there is a variable clearance 62 between the third clamp actuator 40 and the actuator support 58.

5 The actuator support 58 is movable in the X direction which is the radial direction relative the operational axis 34 of the first torque device member 10. The actuator support 58 is however restrained from rotating in the XY plane that is perpendicular to the operational axis 34.

10 In fig. 1 the actuator support 58 is shown movable in a guide member 64 that is fixed to a structure not shown.

During normal operations the centre line 48 is perpendicular to the operational axis 34. Due to a possible imperfect clamping position of the first pipe 4 relative the first torque device member 10, the operational axis 34 may or may not intercept the centre line 48.

When a torque is to be applied to the first pipe 4, the first pipe 4 is positioned in the "U"-formed slot 18 of the first torque device member 10. The clamp bodies 22, 24, 26 are moved by their respective clamp actuators 36, 38, 40 to their active positions engaging the first pipe 4. As the first torque device member 10, prior to being clamped to the first pipe 4, apart from being connected to the first torque actuator 42 and the rod 50, is free to move in the XY plane, the first torque device member 10 will, when the clamp bodies 22, 24, 26 engage the first pipe 4, position itself on first pipe 4, the centre axis of the first pipe 4 thus becoming the operational axis 34 of the torque device 1.

30 In the embodiment shown in fig. 1 the second pipe 6 is fixed to a structure not shown at least in the directions perpen-

dicular to the operational axis 34. As the first actuator 42 extends or retracts, a torque is set up in the first pipe 4 about the operational axis 34. The actuator support 58 is moved by the rod 50 in the X direction, which is in the radial direction relative the operational axis 34, thus setting up a torque in the first pipe 4 without inducing radial forces in the first pipe 4 in the XY plane.

The rod 50 may be exchanged for a second torque actuator 66 as shown in fig. 4.

In one embodiment as shown in fig. 4, the torque device 1 includes the first torque device member 10 and a second torque device member 68 that is positioned below the first torque device member 10.

The second torque device member 68 is similar in design to the first torque device member 10 and includes a torque device member body 70 with an upper part 72.

A yoke 74 extends in the X direction from the second torque device member 68 and to below the actuator support 58. The actuator support 58 is connected to the yoke 74 via a pivot bearing 76 that pivots about a pivot axis 77 that is parallel to the Y direction. The actuator support 58 may pivot freely in the pivot bearing 76 to move in the radial direction to and from the first torque device member 10, see figs. 10 and 11, where the first torque device member 10 and the torque actuators 42, 66 are not shown.

In the embodiment shown in fig. 4, the first portion 56 and the second portion 60 of the actuator support 58 are pivotably connected to the actuator support 58 and may pivot about an support axis 78 that extends between the first and second portion 56, 60. The support axis 78 is parallel with the Y direction. The first and second portions 56, 60 are thus free

to pivot about the support axis 78 when the actuator support 58 pivots on the pivot bearing 76. The first and second portions 56, 60 may alternatively be formed as cardan or gimbal connections not shown.

5 If the torque device 1 is to be used for making up the tool joint 2, see fig. 1 and 4, the second torque device member 68 is clamped to the second pipe 6 and the first torque device member 10 is clamped to the first pipe 4. If the first actuator 42 extends at the same rate as the second torque actuator 66 retracts, the actuator support 58 will remain stationary while applying torque to the tool joint 2. Any discrepancy in the rate of movement between the two torque actuators 42, 66 will result in a movement of the actuator support 58 in the guide member 64, respectively about the pivot bearing 76 and
10
15 pivot axis 77.

Fig. 5 shows a support pad 80 having a top layer 82 and a bottom layer 84. The top layer 82 may be laminated to the bottom layer 84 by any suitable means such as, but not limited to, bonding. The support pad 80 may have a disc shape.
20 The top layer 82 is the layer that is in contact with the first torque device member 10. The top layer 82 is made of a low-friction, wear-resistant material, which would allow the upper first torque device member 10 to slide freely relative to the second torque device member 68. The bottom layer 84 is
25 the layer that is in contact with the upper part 72 of the second torque device member body 70.

The bottom layer 84 is made of a compressible, spring material that allows a small amount of compression without permanent deformation in order to sustain a relative movement
30 along the operational axis 34 between the first torque device member 10 and the second torque device member 68. The material of the bottom layer 84 is compressed against the second

torque device member 68 by the weight of the first torque device member 10 and by the first torque device member 10 moving a physical distance, not shown, while being rotated through a rotation angle to make-up a connection tool joint 2. The compressibility of the material of the bottom layer 84 is chosen to support the first torque device member 10 a sufficient distance above the second torque device member 68 and to allow sufficient movement of the first torque device member 10 along the operational axis 34 while making up a connection tool joint 2, thereby preventing other physical contact between the first torque device member 10 and the second torque device member 68.

Possible movements of the first torque device member 10 are indicated in fig. 6. An arrow shows the rotational position 86 of the first torque device member 10 about the operational axis 34, arrows show the possible movements 88 of the first torque device member 10 in the XY plane, arrows show the possible actuator support movement 90 of the actuator support 58 about the pivot axis 77. Arrows show torque actuators 42, 66 pivot movements 92 at their respective connections.

The torque device 1 may be controlled by a power circuit 100 as shown in fig 7.

The first torque actuator 42 shown in fig. 7 has a first plus chamber 102 and a first minus chamber 104. The second torque actuator 66 has a second plus chamber 106 and a second minus chamber 108.

When hydraulic fluid is supplied to the plus chambers 102, 106, the respective torque actuators 42, 66 extend, while they retract if hydraulic fluid is supplied to the minus chambers 104, 108.

Pressurized hydraulic fluid is in the normal way supplied to the pump port P (P port) of a direction valve 110, and hydraulic fluid is drained from the direction valve 110 through a drainage port T (T port). A first plus line 112 connects a
5 make port M (M port) on the direction valve 110 to the first plus chamber 102 and to a first closable valve 114. A second plus line 116 connects a break port B (B port) of the direction valve 110 to the second plus chamber 106 and to a second closable valve 118. A first minus line 120 connects the first
10 minus chamber 104 with a third closable valve 122 and the second closable valve 118. A second minus line 124 connects the second minus chamber 108 with the first and third closable valves 114, 122.

The torque device 1 has two modes of operation: a normal mode
15 and a high torque mode. When making up a tool joint 2 in normal mode, see fig. 8, the direction valve 110 is activated to flow pressurized hydraulic fluid through the M port and through the first plus line 112 to the first plus chamber 102 of the first torque actuator 42. The first closable valve 114
20 is closed. As the first torque actuator 42 is extending, fluid present in the first minus chamber 104 is flowing through the first minus line 120, the third closable valve 122 and the second minus line 124 to the second minus chamber 108. The second closable valve 118 is closed.

25 The flow from the first minus chamber 104 to the second minus chamber 108 causes the second torque actuator 66 to retract. As the second torque actuator 66 retracts, fluid from the second plus chamber 106 flows via the second plus line 116 to the B port and then to the T port of the direction valve 110.

30 In one embodiment, see fig. 7, the pump port P of the direction valve 110 is connected to a pressure regulating valve 126.

When making up a tool joint 2 in high torque mode, see fig. 9, the direction valve 110 is activated to flow pressurized hydraulic fluid through the M port and through the first plus line 112 to the first plus chamber 102 of the first torque actuator 42. The first closable valve 114 is closed. As the first torque actuator 42 is extending, fluid present in the first minus chamber 104 is flowing through the first minus line 120, the second closable valve 118 and the second plus line 116 to the B port and then to the T port of the direction valve 110. The first and third closable valves 114 and 122 are closed. No fluid may flow from the second minus chamber 108. The second torque actuator 66 is thus restrained from extending.

The normal and high torque modes when breaking up a tool joint 2 are similar to those explained above for the making up of the tool joint. Such operations may also be utilized for the return idle movement of the torque actuators 42, 66. Table 1 shows the valve positions at different modes of operation.

As explained above, the first torque device 10 is free to slide in the XY plane, while the actuator support 58 may, to a limited extent illustrated by reference numeral 90 in fig. 6, move freely about the pivot bearing 76. At least a component of this movement is in the X direction, which is in the radial direction relative the operational axis 34.

In order to explain the torque difference between the normal mode and the high torque mode, the operation of make up of the tool joint 2 is chosen. The first and second radial distances 46, 54, see fig. 1, are of equal length L. Further, at a certain fluid pressure supplied to the first plus chamber 102 the force exerted in the extending direction of the first torque actuator 42 is F.

In normal mode, when the first torque actuator 42 extends, fluid is flowing from the first minus chamber 104 of the first torque actuator 42, and to the second minus chamber 108 of the retracting second torque actuator 66. The force in the two torque actuators 42, 66 are equal but acting in opposite directions in order to keep the actuator support 58, that is freely movable in that direction, stationary. The forces from the two torque actuators 42, 66 forms a force couple. The hydraulic pressure is shared by the two torque actuators 42, 66. The resulting forces that are equal but acting in opposite directions are each equal to f .

The resulting force in the first torque actuator 42 is also equal to $F-f$. As the two torque actuators 42, 66 are equal in dimensions; the force in the first torque actuator 42 is reduced by the same amount that is transferred to the second torque actuator 66. Thus, as $F-f=f$, the force acting in each torque actuator 42, 66 in normal mode is half that acting in the first torque actuator 42 at high torque mode.

In make up normal mode the torque exerted on the first pipe 4 is the sum of the force from the first torque actuator 42 ($f=0,5F$) multiplied with the first radial distance 46 (L), and the force from the second torque actuator 66 ($f=0,5F$) multiplied with the second radial distance 54 (L).

$$0,5F*L+0,5F*L= FL$$

In make up high torque mode the first minus chamber 102 is drained to the T port. The force from the first torque actuator 42 is F . The second torque actuator 66 is restrained from moving and the reaction force in this is also F . Total torque acting on the first pipe 4 in high torque mode is thus

$$F*L+F*L= 2FL$$

At the same hydraulic fluid pressure, the torque at high torque mode is twice that at normal mode.

The operational "band width" of the torque device 1 is thus increased by utilizing the control circuit 100.

- 5 The second torque actuator 66, being restrained from extending during high torque make up, will move the actuator support 58 a distance during the high torque operation.

Table 1

Powered Torque Device Function	Torque Mode	Valve 110	Valve 114	Valve 118	Valve 122
Make	normal	Make	closed	closed	open
Break	normal	Break	closed	closed	open
Make	high	Make	closed	open	closed
Break	high	Break	open	closed	closed

- 10 The torque device 1 is equipped with a guide system 130 for aligning the first torque device member 10 to the second torque device member 68, see fig. 10. The guide system 130 includes a guide ring 132 that is fixed to one of the first or second torque device members 10, 68. The guide ring 132 is
- 15 here split into a first guide ring section 134, a second guide ring section 136 and a third guide ring section 138, see fig. 11. The three guide ring sections 134, 136, 138 are here positioned on and fixed to the upper part 72 of the second torque device member 68.

The guide system 130 also includes a first guide element 140, a second guide element 142 and a third guide element 144 that are movably connected to the other of the first or second torque device members 10, 68, here to the first torque device member 10 and moves with its respective first clamp body 22, second clamp body 24 and third clamp body 26, see fig. 12. The third guide element 144 extends through an elongate slot 146 in the lower part 16 of the torque device member body 12.

In fig. 13 the clamp bodies 22, 24, 26 are positioned in their retracted positions. The first, second and third guide elements 140, 142, 144, that move with their respective clamp bodies 22, 24, 26, are close to the first guide ring section 134, the second guide ring section 136 and the third guide ring section 138 respectively. The guide elements 140, 142, 144 do not retract sufficiently for simultaneously being in contact with their respective guide ring sections 134, 136, 138. Only two of the guide elements 140, 142, 144 are in contact with their guide ring sections 134, 136, 138 at any time to avoid undue friction forces developing between the guide elements 140, 142, 144 and their respective guide ring sections 134, 136, 138. The centre of rotation, not shown will be approximately at the centre of the guide ring 132.

In fig. 14 the clamp bodies 22, 24, 26 are shown in their active position clamping on the first pipe 4. In this position the guide elements 140, 142, 144 are moved away from the guide ring sections 134, 136, 138. No friction forces may develop in the guide system 130 when the clamp bodies 22, 24, 26 are clamped on and aligned along the operational axis 34.

When the clamp bodies 22, 24, 26 are in their retracted position, the guide system 130 will guide the first and second torque device member 10, 68 relative each other during the return stroke of the first and second torque actuators 42, 66

as the rotational position 86 of the first torque device member 10 is altered, see fig. 15.

It should be noted that the support pads 80 as well as the first, second and third guide ring sections 134, 136, 138 as shown in figs. 13, 14 and 15 are fixed to the second torque device member 68, see fig. 11, and are not fixed to the first torque device member 10 that is shown in figs. 13, 14 and 15.

As the first torque device member 10 is free to slide in the XY plane, the guide system 130 safeguards that the first torque device member 10 is roughly aligned with the second torque device member 68 when the first torque device member 10 is unclamped from the first pipe 4. Still, the guide system 130 is not engaged when the clamp bodies 22, 24, 26 of the first torque device member 10 are in their extended active position.

A compliant die retainer 150 is shown in fig. 16. A clamp die 152 is axially, that is in the general Z direction, movably positioned in a clamp fixture 154. A dovetail connection 156 is often utilized for retaining the clamp die 152 to the clamp fixture 154. The clamp fixture 154 is part of the first clamp body 22. The other clamp bodies 24, 26 may also be of the same design.

In fig. 16 a die retainer 158 in the form of a body has a first surface 160 that is abutting the clamp die 152 at its end surface 162. An elastic body 164 in the form of a band that is positioned in a groove 166 in the die retainer 158 is biasing the die retainer 158 towards the clamp die 152. A second surface 168 prevents the die retainer 158 from moving out of position. There may also be a die retainer 158 at an opposite end portion of the clamp die 152.

In fig. 17 the die retainer 158 is shown in another embodiment where die retainers 158 are positioned at each end of the clamp die 152. The die retainers 158 are here made from resilient material such as rubber or polyurethane. In fig. 17
5 the die retainers 158 are positioned between the clamp body 22 and the clamp die 152.

In another embodiment, see figs. 18, 19 the die retainer 158 has the form of a formed spring plate. A groove portion 170 is positioned between a first bent portion 172 and a second bent
10 portion 174.

As shown in fig. 19, the first bent portion 172 abuts the end surface 162 of the clamp die 152 and the second bent portion 174 abuts a housing 176 of the clamp body 22 as well as the clamp fixture 154.

15 The die retainer 158 as shown in fig. 19 is functional in itself, but the elastic body 164 may be positioned in the groove portion 170 to further secure that the die retainer 158 is kept in position.

A not shown end stop may be provided to limit the movement of
20 the clamp die 152 in the clamp fixture 154.

When a force is moving the clamp die 152 in the clamp fixture 154 as shown in fig. 16, the elastic body 164 is somewhat stretched. When said force is removed, the elastic body 164 returns the clamp die 152 to its initial position.

25 Similarly, when the clamp die 152 is moved a distance 178, see fig. 17, the material of the die retainer 158 is compressed. The clamp die 152, when offloaded, is returned to its initial position by the expansion of the die retainer 158.

As a similar movement occurs in the embodiment shown in fig. 19, the die retainer 158 is bent as indicated by the dashed lines. The clamp die 152 when offloaded, is returned to its initial position by the spring action of the die retainer 158
5 and the elastic body 164.

In fig. 20 the clamp die 152 is shown in an engaged, offset position relative the first pipe 4, resulting in a offset distance 180 between a centre line 182 of the clamp die 152 and the operational axis 34 of the first pipe 4.

10 Fig 21 shows a system sketch where the first clamp body 22 with its clamp arm extension 27 is hinged about the first clamp pin 28 as shown in fig. 2. The first pipe 4 is shown in three different dimensions as a larger diameter pipe 186, a medium diameter pipe 188 and a smaller diameter pipe 190.

15 During a clamping operation, the first clamp body 22 and the second clamp body 24, see fig. 2, moves from opposite sides of the first pipe 4 at equal speeds. The first pipe 4 is thus centred at the centre line 48 regardless of its diameter when clamped. The clamp bodies 22, 24, 26 include the clamp die
20 152. The positions of the first clamp body 22 shown in fig. 21 are also applicable for the second clamp body 24.

As the position of the first clamp pin 28 in this embodiment is fixed relative the first torque device member 10, the centre line 182 of the clamp die 152 intersects a larger pipe
25 centre position 192 at a larger pipe tangent position 194, a medium pipe centre position 196 at a medium pipe tangent position 198 and a smaller pipe centre position 200 at a smaller pipe tangent position 202.

The centre positions 192, 198, 200 that are different, correspond with the operational axis 34 for larger diameter pipe
30

186, the medium diameter pipe 188 and the smaller diameter pipe 190 respectively.

The third clamp body 24, see also fig. 2, engages the larger diameter pipe 186 at a larger pipe contact position 204, the
5 medium diameter pipe 188 at a medium pipe contact position 206 and the smaller diameter pipe 190 at a smaller pipe contact position 208.

The distance I, II the first and second clamp bodies 22, 24 need to move to achieve alignment of the different pipes 186,
10 188, 190 are different from the distance III the third clamp body 26 must move. The relationship between the equal distances I, II and the distance III is not linear. However, by using a first order approximation as shown in fig. 22, the offset distance 180 is reduced substantially; say by a factor
15 of ten compared to a non compensated system.

In fig. 22, the travel distance III of the third clamp body 26 is set out along the abscissa, while the corresponding travel equal distances I, II of the first and second clamp
20 bodies 22, 24 are set out along the ordinate. A line 210 shows the relationship between the travel distances I, II versus III. The travel speed of the first and second clamp bodies 22, 24 is adjusted so as they travel a first and second travel distance I, II between the larger pipe tangent position 194 and the smaller pipe tangent position 202 in the
25 same time as the third clamp body 26 travels a third distance III between the larger pipe contact position 204 and the smaller pipe contact position 208.

As the travel speed of the clamp bodies 22, 24, 26 in one embodiment are constant; the retracted positions of the respective clamp bodies 22, 24, 26 are on the line 210 at a first
30 and second retracted position 212 and a third retracted posi-

tion 214 respectively. The positions 212 and 214 are also indicated in fig. 21.

Fig. 23 shows the basic hydraulic unit to achieve the difference in travel speed of the clamping strokes. The first, second and third clamp actuators 33, 38, 40, here in the form of hydraulic rams, see fig. 2, are connected to a first flow control valve 216, a second flow control valve 218 and a third flow control valve 220 respectively. The flow control valves 216, 218, 220 are designed to operate over a range of differential pressures. Inside this range, the flow is maintained around a set value. Flow control valves 216, 218 are calibrated to the same flow value, and the third flow control valve 220 is calibrated to a lower flow rate than the first and second flow control valves 216, 218. The ratio between the flow to the third actuator 40 and the flow in the first and second actuators 36, 34 is determined by the geometry of the clamping mechanism and given by the slope and form of the line 210, see fig. 22. After the flow valves 216, 218, 220 have been adjusted once, they do not need further impending adjustment.

As explained above, the third clamp body 26 has to start at the third retracted position 214 that is closer to the first pipe 4 than the first and second clamp bodies 22, 24 that are at the first and second retracted position 212.

The flow valves 216, 218, 220 are supplied with hydraulic fluid through a supply line 222 that receives fluid through a pressure reducing valve 224. The clamping sequence terminates when no flow is detected through the pressure reducing valve 224. The pressure set at the reduction valve 224 and present after the flow control valves 216, 218, 220 is equivalent to the desired clamp force.

This allows for detection of when flow is still going through the reducing valve 224 and thus to monitor if clamping has finished or not. The first pipe 4 will be clamped also when off-centered relative to the first torque device member 10 because the clamp bodies 22, 24, 26 will continue to move until they all make contact with the first pipe 4. The set pressure has to be above the minimum value that would allow the flow valves 216, 218, 220 to be within the operational range; otherwise, the clamp bodies 22, 24, 26 may move at unpredictable speeds.

Fig. 24 shows the result of passive pipe centre compensation using differential clamping stroke speeds. The position of the larger pipe centre 192 is further away from a bottom 226 of the "U" formed slot 18, see also figs. 1 and 2, than the medium pipe centre 196. There is thus no need to remove the same amount of material from the bottom 226 of the "U"-formed slot 18 as if the large pipe centre 192 should be positioned in the same position as the medium pipe centre 196. A line 228 indicates the bottom of the "U"-formed slot 18 of an uncompensated system.

The system is applicable to both the first torque device member 10 and the second torque device member 68.

In fig. 25 an adjustable clamp pin arrangement is shown. The clamp arms 27, 29 is turnable about the first clamp pin 28 and the second clamp pin 30 respectively, the clamp pins 28, 30 being rotatable in eccentric bearings 232 in order to adjust the position of clamp dies 152 relative the first pipe 4. In this embodiment the first clamp pin 28, which has a clamp pin axis 230, is coupled to the first torque device member body 12 via turnable bearings 232, here in the form of discs. The bearings 232 have a bearing axis 234 that is eccentric relative the clamp pin axis 230.

In one embodiment the first clamp pin 28 has a lock 236 that includes a lock pin 238. The lock pin 238 may be inserted into any of a number of lock apertures 240 in the first torque device member body 12.

5 By turning the clamp pin 28 with the bearings 232 in the first torque device member body 12, the position of the first clamp body 22 relative the first torque device member 10 may be adjusted, see fig. 26.

10 In fig 26 a first pipe 4 of a diameter corresponding to the smaller diameter pipe 190 in figs. 21 and 24 is positioned in the first torque device member 10.

The centre line 182 of the clamp die 152 in the second clamp body 24 has an offset distance 180 relative the small pipe centre position 200 that corresponds with the operational axis 34.

By turning the first clamp pin 28 through an angle 242 as shown on the left hand side of the fig. 26, the centre line 182 of the clamp 152 in the first clamp body 22 is aligned with the centre 200 of the smaller diameter pipe 190.

20 An arrow 244 shows the present relative position of the first clamp pin 28.

The system is applicable to both the first torque device member 10 and the second torque device member 68.

25 In one embodiment shown in fig. 6, the first torque actuator 42 is equipped with a first position sensor 250 that is designed to give signal that reflects the stroke position of the first torque actuator 42. The second torque actuator 66 is equipped with a second position sensor 252. The actuator support 58 has an actuator support position sensor 254.

In one embodiment a position sensor 255 may be contact less relative the first torque device member 10.

The first torque actuator 42 has a first force sensor 256 that is designed to give a signal that reflects the force exerted by the first torque actuator 42. In an embodiment where
5 the first torque actuator is electrically driven, the first force sensor 256 may be positioned at the first portion 56 of the actuator support 58; alternatively it may measure the power. In an embodiment where the first torque actuator 42 is
10 fluid driven, the first force sensor 256 may be in the form of a fluid pressure sensor. The force may then be calculated.

Similarly the second torque actuator 66 has a second force sensor 258.

In one embodiment the torque may be measured by use of a
15 third force sensor 259 positioned in the actuator support 58.

The sensors 250, 252, 254, 255, 256, 256, 258 and 259 may be of any suitable design as known to a skilled person.

The sensors 250, 252, 254, 256, 256, 258 and 259 are connected to a torque control system 260 by wires 262.

20 The torque control system 260 is programmed to calculate torque or torque-turn data. The torque-turn data is determined by relating a torque value to the actual turn position of the first torque device member (10). It is thus possible to relate the actual torque exerted on the first pipe 4 by
25 the first torque device member 10 to the actual rotational position 86 of the first torque device member 10.

In one embodiment the torque control system 260 is equipped with memory 264 for storing at least said information.

As the first torque device member 10 alter its rotational position 86, see fig. 15, the length of a moment arm 266 between the operational axis 34 and a centre line of the first and second actuators 42, 66 alter. The length of the moment arm 266 varies approximately sinusoidal as indicated by a curve 268 in fig. 27 as the first torque device 10 pivots. In fig. 27 the abscissa shows the rotational position 86 of the first torque device 10 and the ordinate shows the uncompensated torque in percent. The torque reduction is typically in the region of 7% for a variation of rotational position 86 of ± 30 degrees.

This change in moment arm 266 length may be compensated by a change in torque actuator force.

In the case of fluid driven first and second torque actuators 42, 66, the fluid pressure may be adjusted. The adjustable pressure regulating valve 126 of the control circuit 100 for the first and second torque actuators 42, 66 is shown in fig. 7.

In an embodiment where the first and second torque actuators 42, 66 are electric, the supply current or/and the voltage may be altered as the length of the moment arm 266 changes in order to keep the torque of the first torque device member 10 constant or in line with a preset torque-turn curve.

A typical box connection 270 of the tool joint 2 is shown in fig. 28. The box connection 270, which during normal use is positioned at the top of the second pipe 6, has a cylindrical face 272 of diameter $\varnothing t$ with a so called hard band 274 close to the connection upset 276. The first pipe 4 has a pin connection 278 at its lower end. The box connection 270 and the pin connection 278 together form the tool joint 2. The box connection 270 has a box tool joint shoulder 280 and the pin

connection 278 has a pin tool joint shoulder 282. At make up of the tool joint 2 the shoulders 280, 282 abut each other.

As the box connection 270 is pipe formed, it is exposed to deformation from the clamp bodies 22, 24, 26 particularly if
5 gripped close to the box tool joint shoulder 280 of the box connection 270, see fig. 26. Such deformation may mask the torque reading during make up and break out of the tool joint 2.

The second pipe 6 has a pipe diameter \varnothing_p while the overall
10 shoulder to shoulder length is G. The box connection 270 has connection upset to box tool joint shoulder distance A and a cylindrical face distance B. Further, the box connection 270 has a base hardband 274 to box tool joint shoulder distance C and a top hardband 274 to box tool joint shoulder distance D.

15 The hard band 274 has the form of a protruding ring that is made of a relatively hard wearing material. The clamp dies 152 of the torque device 1 should not grip on the hard band 274 as the clamp dies 152 by doing so may be damaged. The clamp dies 152 should preferably grip the box connection 270
20 as close as possible to the hard band 274 and as far away from the box joint shoulder 280 in order to avoid or reduce the above mentioned deformation. A clamp die 152 is shown in fig. 20.

Fig. 29 shows an apparatus, here termed Tool Joint Finder
25 (TJF) 290 for reading the relative surface position of the pipes 4, 6. The TJF 290 includes a sensor tip 292 that is connected to a linear sensor 294 via a guide 296 in the form of a measuring rod. A signal from the linear sensor 294 is transmitted via a cable 298 to a measuring control system 300
30 that is programmed to at least transform the signal from the linear sensor 294 into a readable graph 302 shown in fig. 30.

In fig. 30, that shows a measured profile of the box connection 270 in fig. 28, the abscissa shows the position of the sensor tip 292 while the axial distance of the box connection 270 is plotted along the ordinate. The contour of the hard
5 band 274 is clearly visible on a curve 302.

The sensor tip 292 is in one embodiment biased against the first pipe 6 by a tip actuator 304, here in the form of a fluid driven ram. The tip actuator 304 may in one embodiment be connected to the measuring tip 222 via a tip spring 306 as
10 shown in fig. 31. When activating the TJF 290, the tip actuator 304 moves the tip spring 306 to a predetermined position or a position determined by help of the linear sensor 294. The radial movement of the sensor tip 292 relative the box connection 270 during the measuring operation is taken up by
15 the tip spring 306.

In one embodiment as shown in fig. 32 the tip actuator 304 is pushing against the box connection 270 of the first pipe 4 preferably with a constant force. If an external force exceeds the force from the tip actuator 304, the tip actuator
20 304 will yield.

In fig. 32 the sensor tip 292 is shown connected to the tip actuator 304 by a hinge 308 that allows the sensor tip 292 to locally move back and forth.

A sensor spring 310 in the linear sensor 294 is biasing the
25 guide 296 towards the sensor tip 292 with a relatively small force. The linear sensor 294 is thus only marginally influenced by the movement of the tip actuator 304.

The TJF 290 is in one embodiment positioned on one of the torque device members 10, 68 of the torque device 1. As the
30 torque device 1 is vertically moved relative the tool joint 2, the TJF 290 will read the surface of at least a part of

the first or second pipes 4, 6. The position of the hard band 274 of the box connection 270 is determined and the clamp dies 152 of the second torque device member 68 positioned as close to the hard band 274 as desirable.

5 A datum point 312 may be chosen on the box joint shoulder 280 in order to overcome some reference drawbacks of certain TJF 290.

A pipe tally system 320, as known from oilfield use, includes a database 322, see fig. 33, typically in the form of an
10 electronic database. The tally system 320 often includes such information as the identity of pipes, here exemplified by the first and second pipes 4, 6, the so-called shoulder to shoulder length G and the weight of each of the pipes 4, 6.

As the identity of the pipes 4, 6 are identified when built
15 into a string, not shown, the length and weight of said string may be updated by the prior art tally system as new pipes are added.

The torque device 1 and the TJF 290 may have separate or a common control system 324 that in one embodiment at least in-
20 cludes one of the torque control system 260, or the measuring control system 300.

The control system 324 is connected to the torque device 1 and the TJF 290. Such connections include necessary not shown power cables or hydraulic lines as well as control cables.

25 Pipes 4, 6 and tool joint 2 data stored in the tally system that in one embodiment are utilized by the torque device 1 and profile sensing/mapping tool joint finder (TJF) 290 could include, but not be limited to, the following:

General data:

Pipe 4,6 identity

Box connection 270 identity

Pin connection 278 identity

5 Pipe/connection type

Hardbanding yes/no/type

Calibration factor(s)

Dimensional data for pipe 4, 6 and tool tool joint 2:

Dimensions may be generic for pipe type and/or specific to
10 actual pipe/tool joints in current condition as tool joints
may be re-machined, hardbanding re-applied etc. Tool joint
dimensions can be for box connection and pin connection as
required.

G - overall shoulder to shoulder length

15 $\emptyset t$ - diameter tool joint

$\emptyset p$ - diameter pipe

A - upset to shoulder distance

B - cylindrical face distance

C - base of hardbanding to shoulder

20 D - top hardbanding to shoulder

Derived dimensions that may be calculated in the torque de-
vice 1/ TJJ 290 control system 324:

Width hardbanding = C - D

Upset slope = $(\emptyset t - \emptyset p) / (A - B)$

25 E = Datum distance for the TJJ 290 = $A - (\text{Register offset} * \text{upset slope})$

Register offset: As certain tool joint finders may have a
"deadband" F distance within which profile changes will not
be registered, a register offset is thus associated with that
30 particular TJJ 290. This and any other torque device 1 or TJJ
290 specific information would likely but stored in, or input

into the torque device 1 or TJF 290 control system 324 rather than in the tally database 322.

Torque data to be stored in the database 322:

Torque operation date and time tagged.

5 Well data as required.

Maximum, minimum and recommended make -up torque values for the tool joints 2. These may be stored in tally database 322 and output to torque device 1 control system 324 or be directly input by operator 326 to control system 324.

10 Target torque from operator 326 input may be stored in the torque device 1 control system 324 or in tally database 322.

Generally, inputs may be supplied by an operator 326 or read from an available source such as a radio frequency identification (RFID) reader 328 placed at the torque device 1 or at
15 the TJF 290.

The control system 322 receives information of actual torque and related rotational position 86 of the first torque device member 10 as mentioned above. Measured torque-turn information is in one embodiment stored in the tally database 320
20 and related to the actual tool joint 2.

Data from measurements that may be stored in the tally database 320:

Actual make-up torque that are registered by the torque control system 260 and output to a historical tool joint database that may be part of the tally database 322 or could be a
25 separate database not shown.

Expected or optimal break-out torque may be stored as an absolute value or as a derived function of actual make-up torque.

30 Actual break-out torque as registered by the torque control system 260 and output to the historical connection database.

Optimal torque/turn curves may be stored in tally system database if the associated torque device 1 is torque/turn capable.

Actual torque/turn curves may be stored in tally historical
5 database.

Out of range warnings may be logged.

Pipe profile data to be stored in the database 322:

- Measurement operation date.
- Generic and joint specific dimensional information as
10 listed above.
- Measured dimensional information as listed above from
the TJF 290.

Based on available information to the control system 324, the control system may in one embodiment produce outputs to the
15 operator 326. The output may include: actual torque compared with baseline torque, warnings, tong status, TJF 290 output and tool joint diagnosis.

Actual torque turn curves may be processed within tong control system in real time and out of range warnings given.

20 Tally historical database information may be output to and utilized by a maintenance planning system.

Additional benefits and possible uses of the integration of torque-turn and profile information in the pipe tally system 320 are discussed in the general part of the description.

C l a i m s

1. Apparatus for positioning a first clamp body (22) relative a pipe in a torque device (1) for oilfield use, characterized in that the first clamp body (22) that includes a first clamp arm (27), is pivotably coupled to a first clamp pin (28), where the first clamp pin (28) is coupled to the torque device (1) via a bearing (232) that is turnable, and where the first clamp pin (28) is eccentric relative a bearing axis (234).
2. Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the first clamp pin (28) is fixed to one bearing (232) at each end portion of the first clamp pin (28), and where the bearings (232) which are eccentric, are turnable in a torque device member body (12).
3. Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the bearing (232) that is turnable has a lock (236) that is lockable in at least a first position and a second position.
4. Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the position of a clamp die centre axis (182) of the first clamp body (22) corresponds to a line through the operational axis (34) of a pipe (4) having a first diameter when the bearing (232) is in its first position and to the pipe (4) having a second diameter when the bearing (232) is in its second position.
5. Apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that the lock (236) comprises a movable locking pin (238) that is engagable in a torque device member body (12).

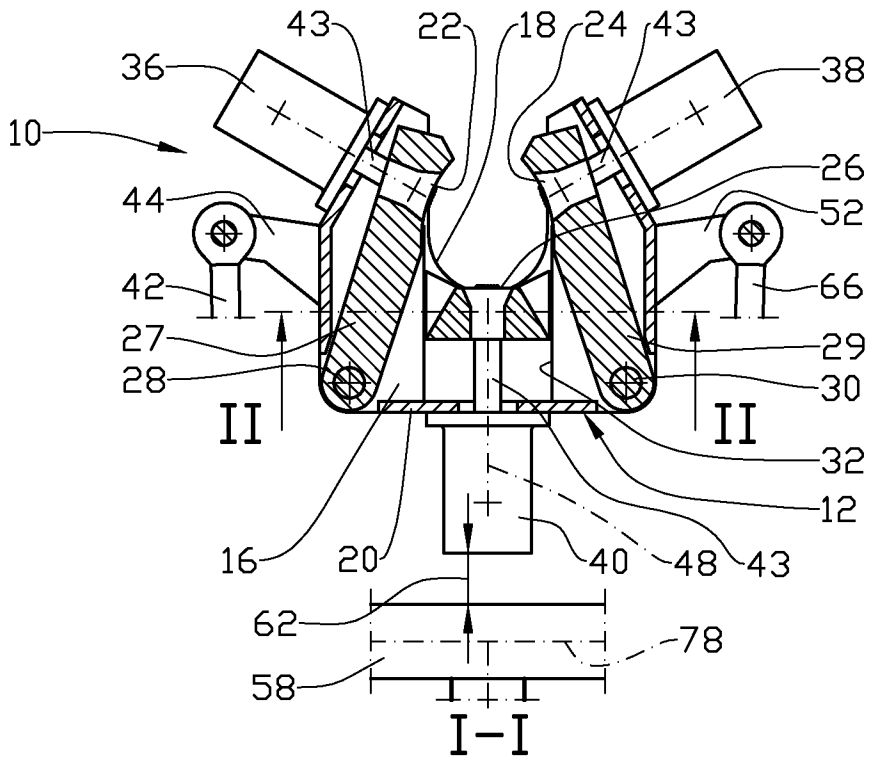
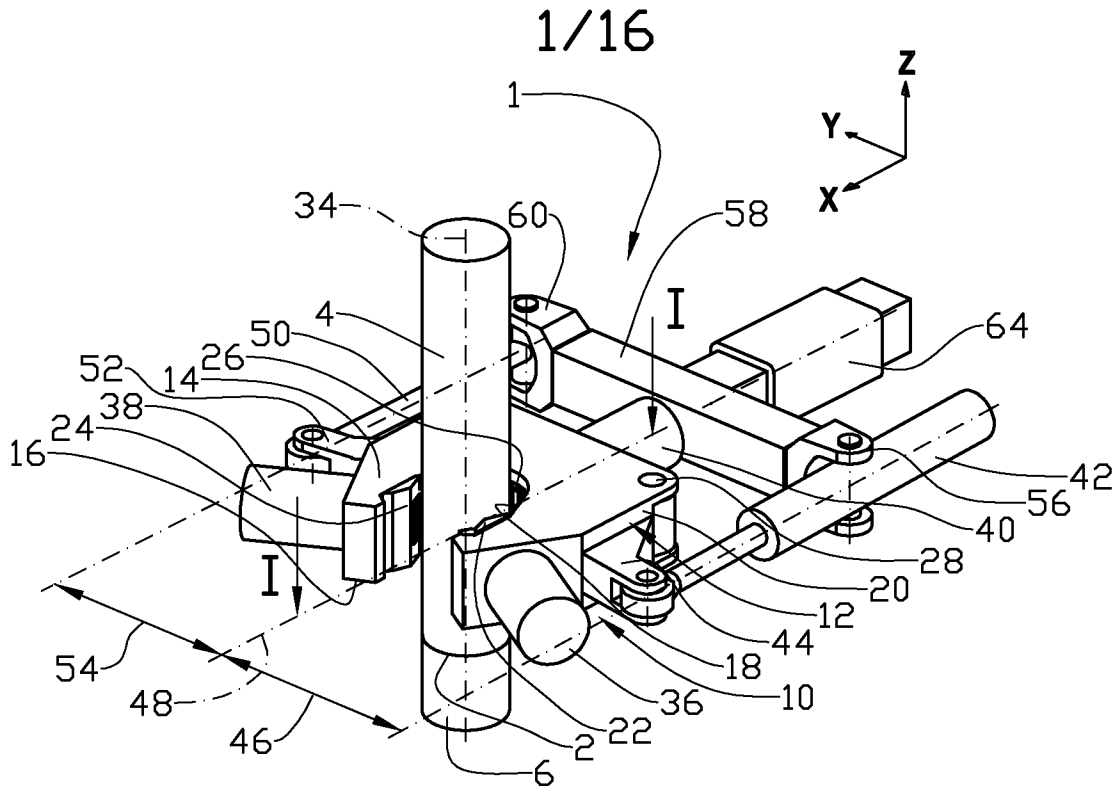
6. Apparatus according to claim 5, characterized in that the angular position of the locking pin (238) is fixed relative the bearing (232) that is turnable.
- 5 7. Method for positioning a first clamp body (22) relative a pipe in a torque device (1) for oilfield use, characterized in that the method includes:
- 10 - connecting a first clamp body (22) that includes a first clamp arm (27) to a first clamp pin (28);
 - connecting the first clamp pin (28) to the torque device (1) via a bearing (232) that is turnable; and
 - letting the first clamp pin (28) be eccentric relative a bearing axis (234).
- 15 8. Method according to claim 7, characterized in that the method includes:
- fixing the first clamp pin (28) eccentrically to one bearing (232) at each end portion of the first clamp pin (28); and
 - 20 - arranging the eccentric bearings be turnable in a torque device member body (12).
9. Method according to claim 7, characterized in that the method includes arranging the bearing (232) to have a lock (236) that is lockable in at least
- 25 a first position and a second position.
10. Method according to claim 7, characterized in that the method includes:
- 30 - positioning a clamp die centre axis (182) of the first clamp body (22) to correspond to a line through the operational axis (34) of a pipe (4) having a first diameter when the bearing (232) is in its first position; and

- positioning the clamp die centre axis (182) of the first clamp body (22) to correspond to a line through the operational axis (34) of the pipe (4) having a second diameter when the bearing (232) is in its second position.

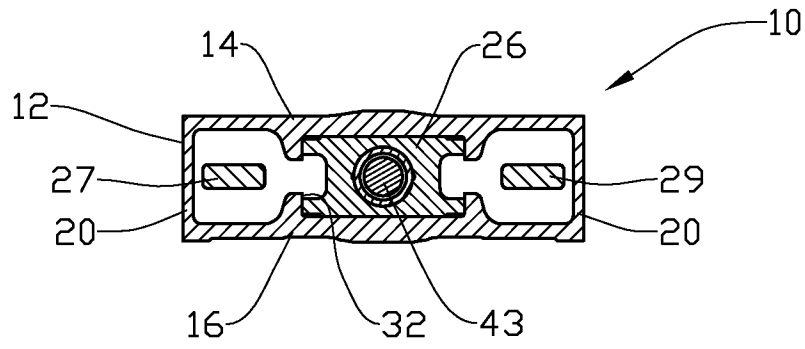
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11. Method according to claim 9, characterized in that the method includes letting the lock (236) comprises a movable locking pin (238) that is engagable in a torque device member body (12).

10 12. Method according to claim 11, characterized in that the method includes letting the angular position of the locking pin (238) be fixed relative the turnable bearing (232).



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II-II

Fig. 3

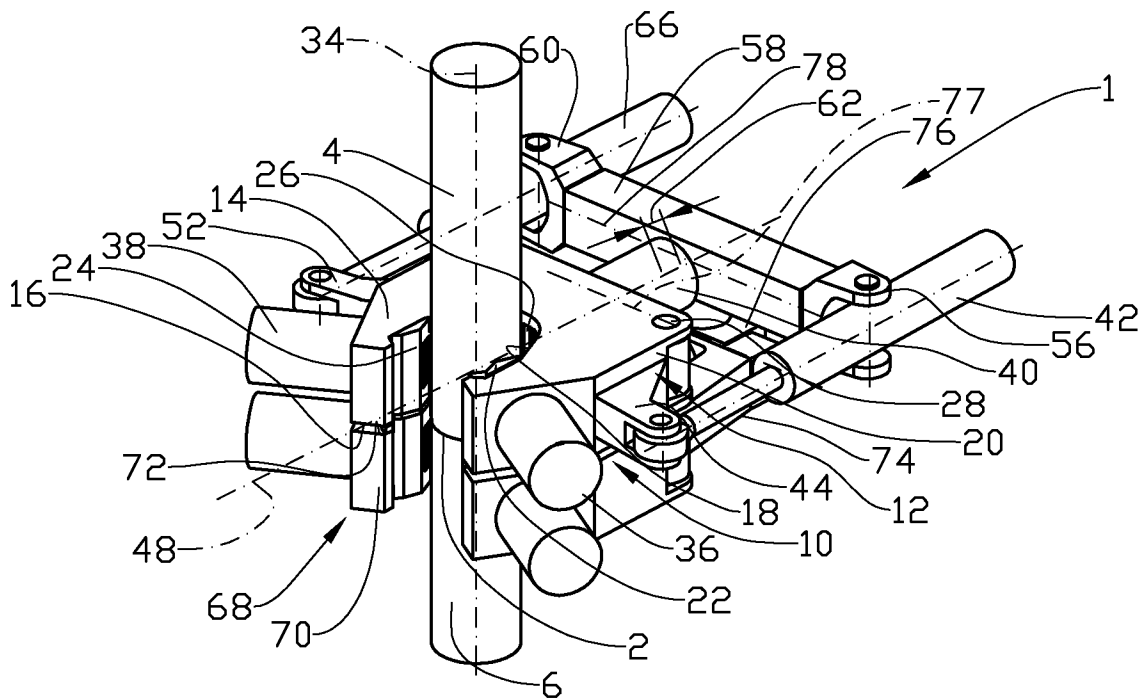


Fig. 4

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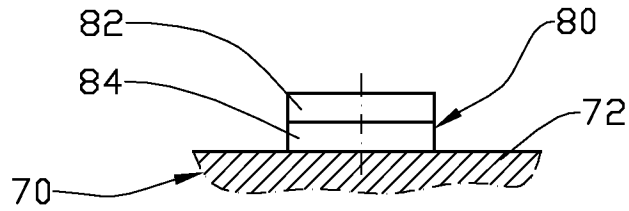


Fig. 5

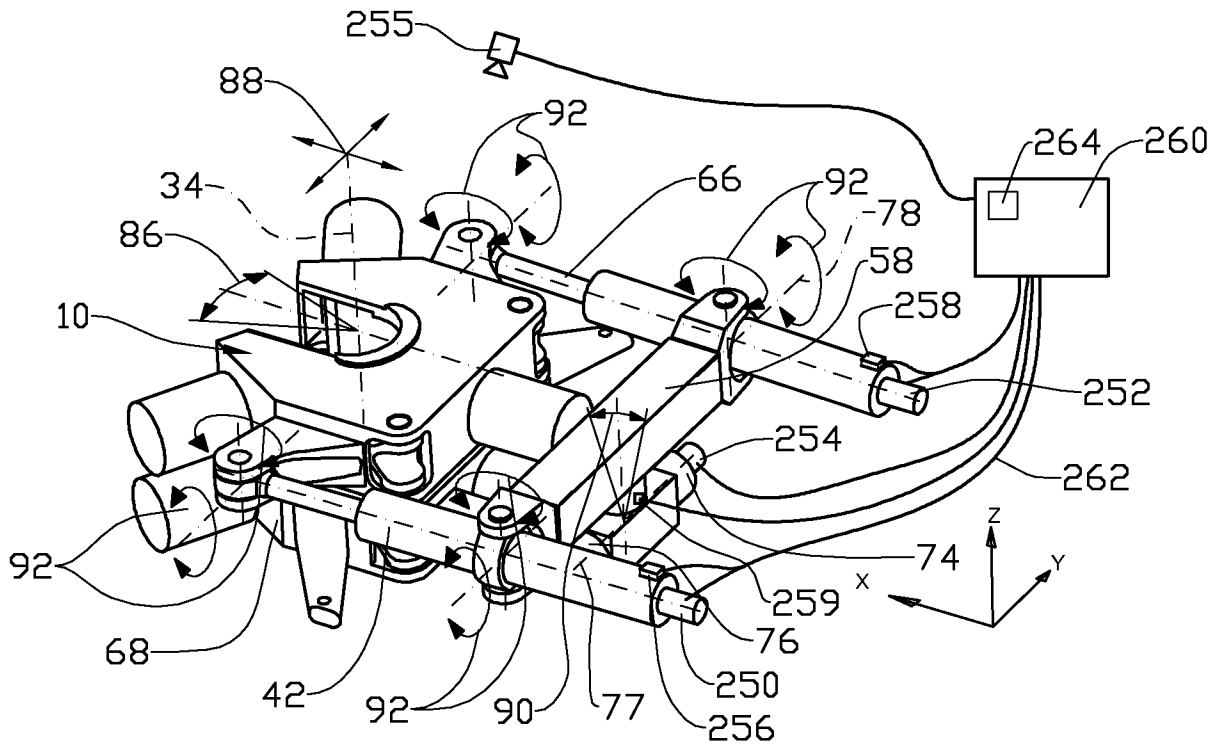


Fig. 6

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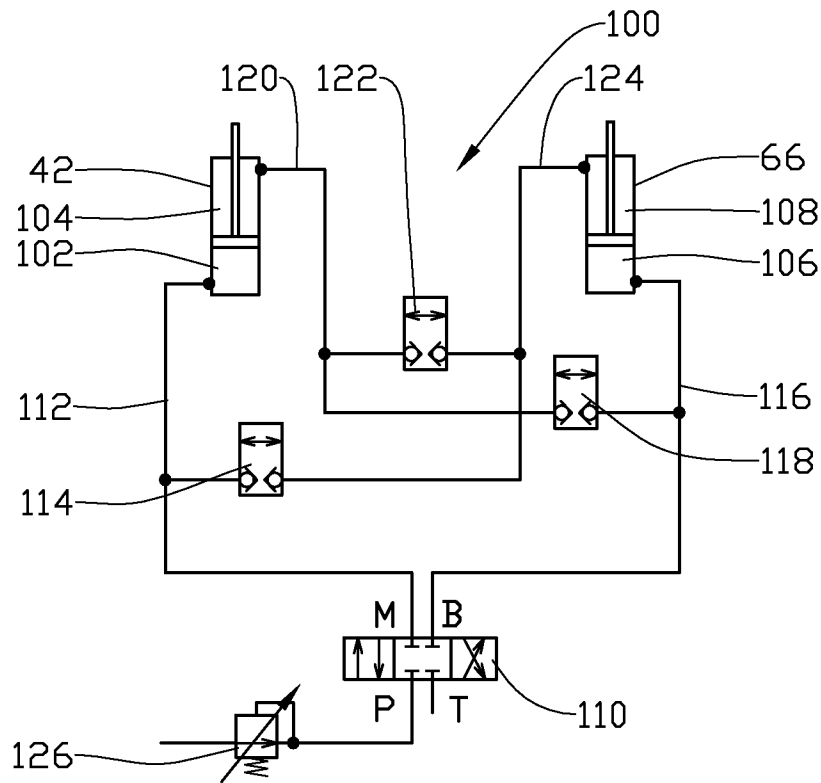


Fig. 7

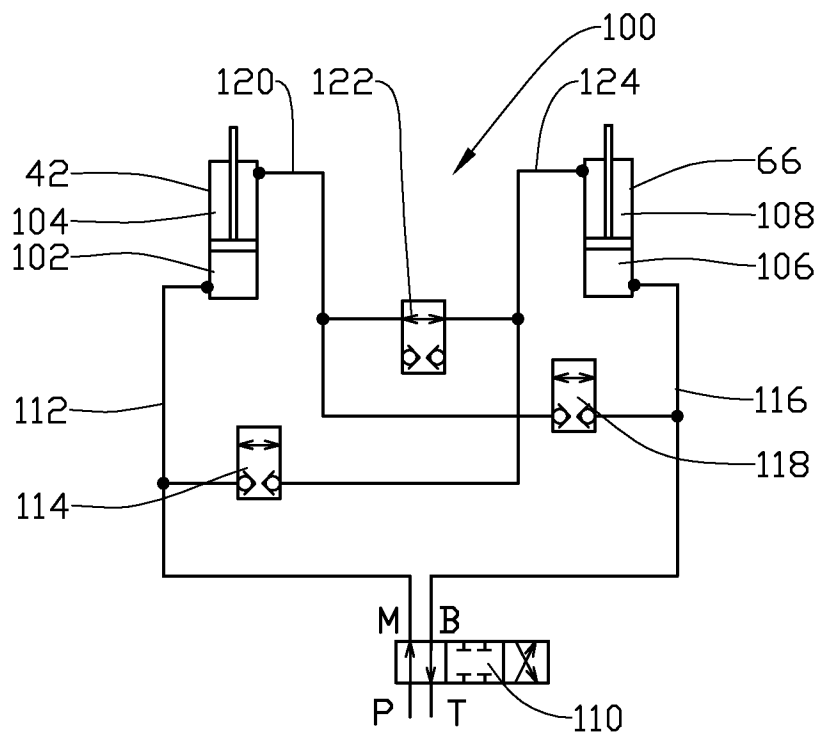


Fig. 8

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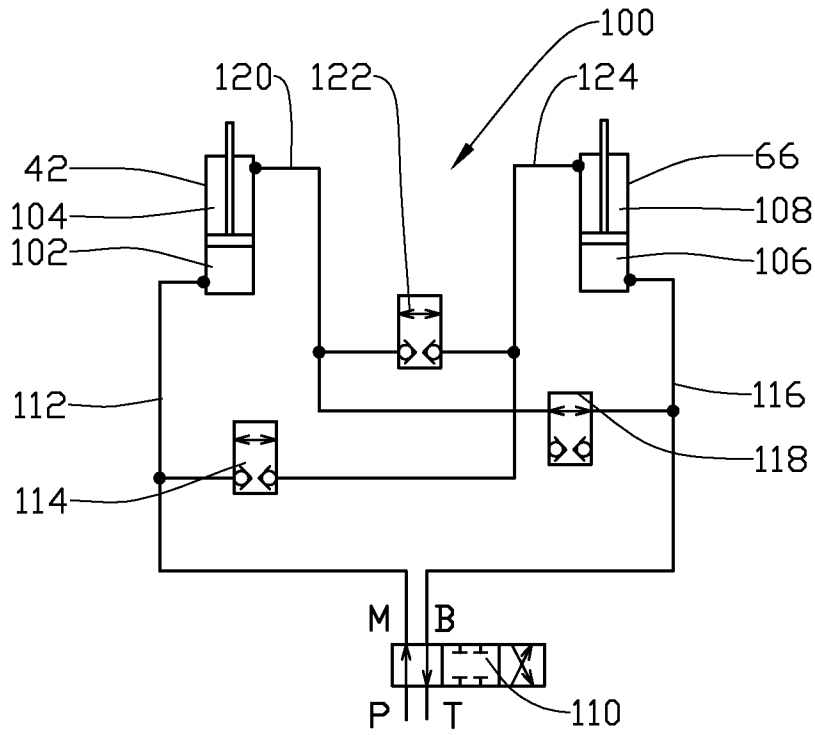


Fig. 9

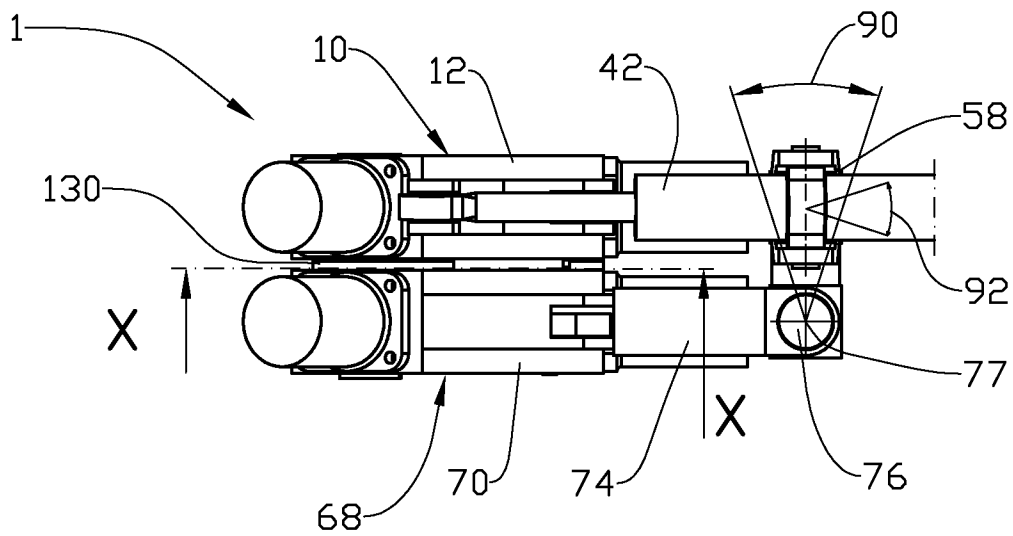


Fig. 10

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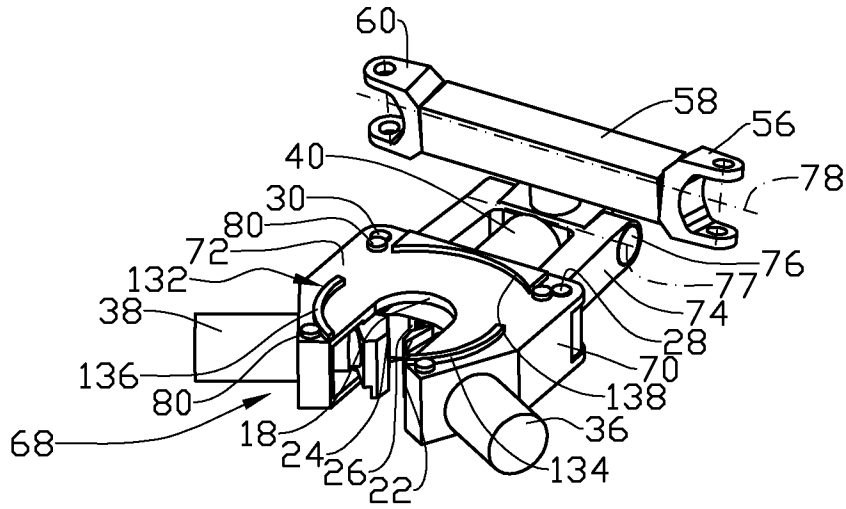


Fig. 11

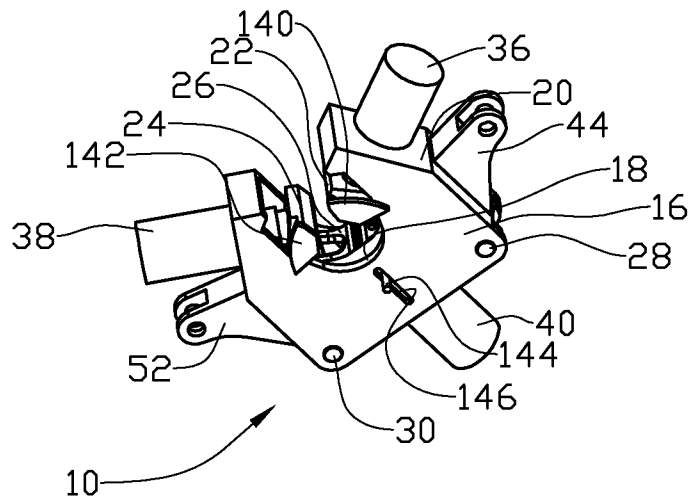


Fig. 12

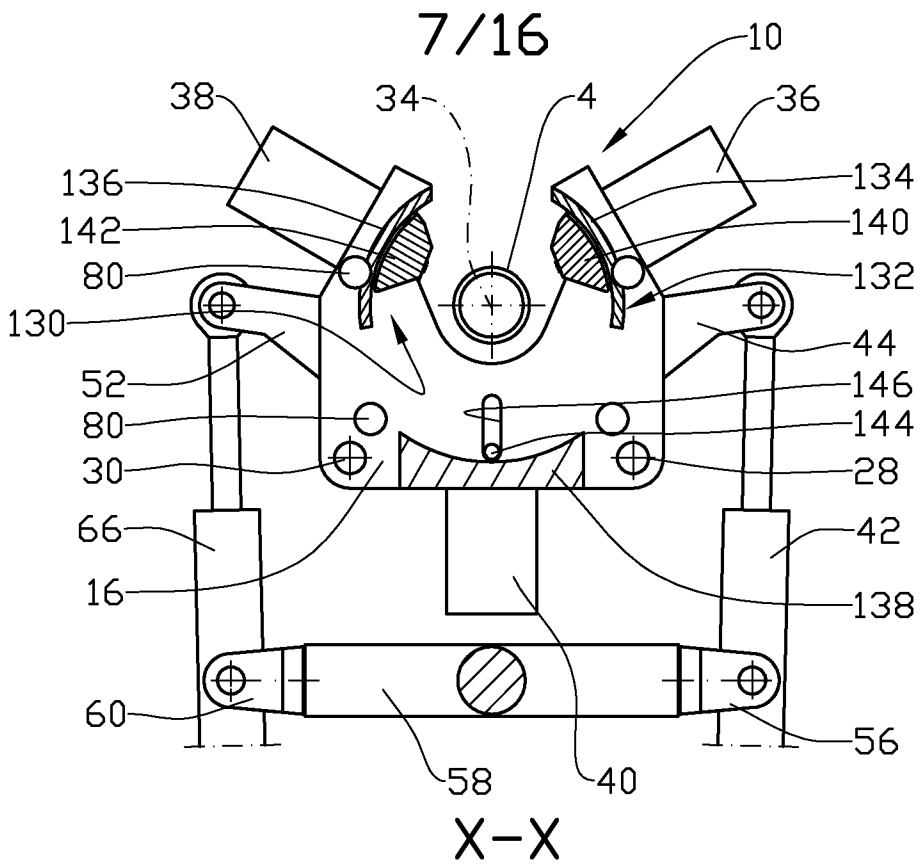
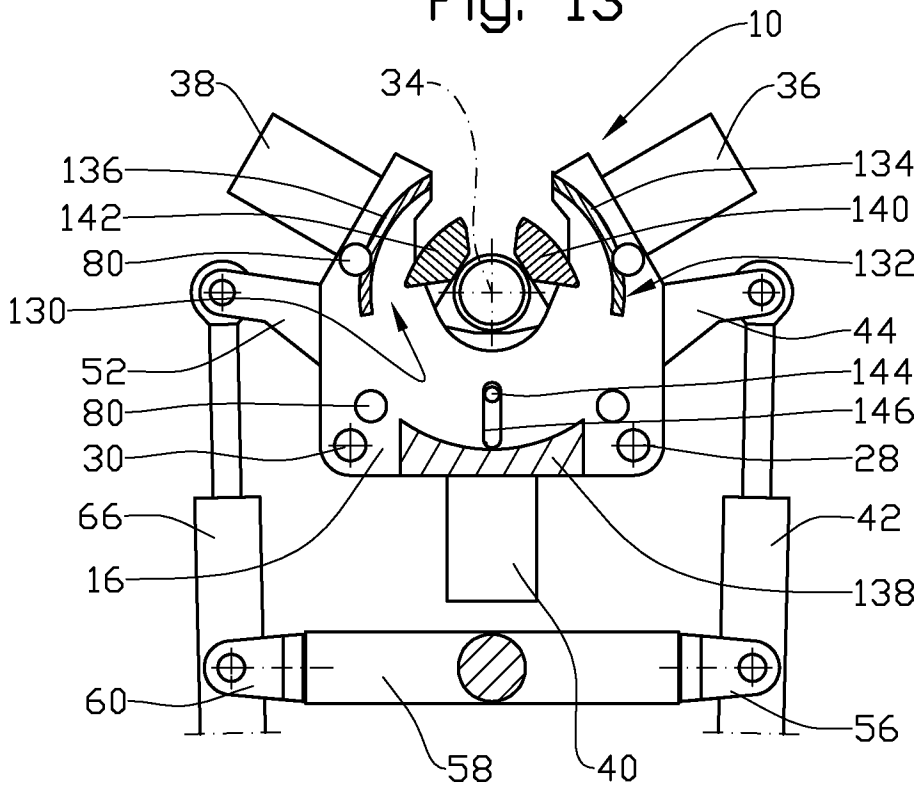


Fig. 13



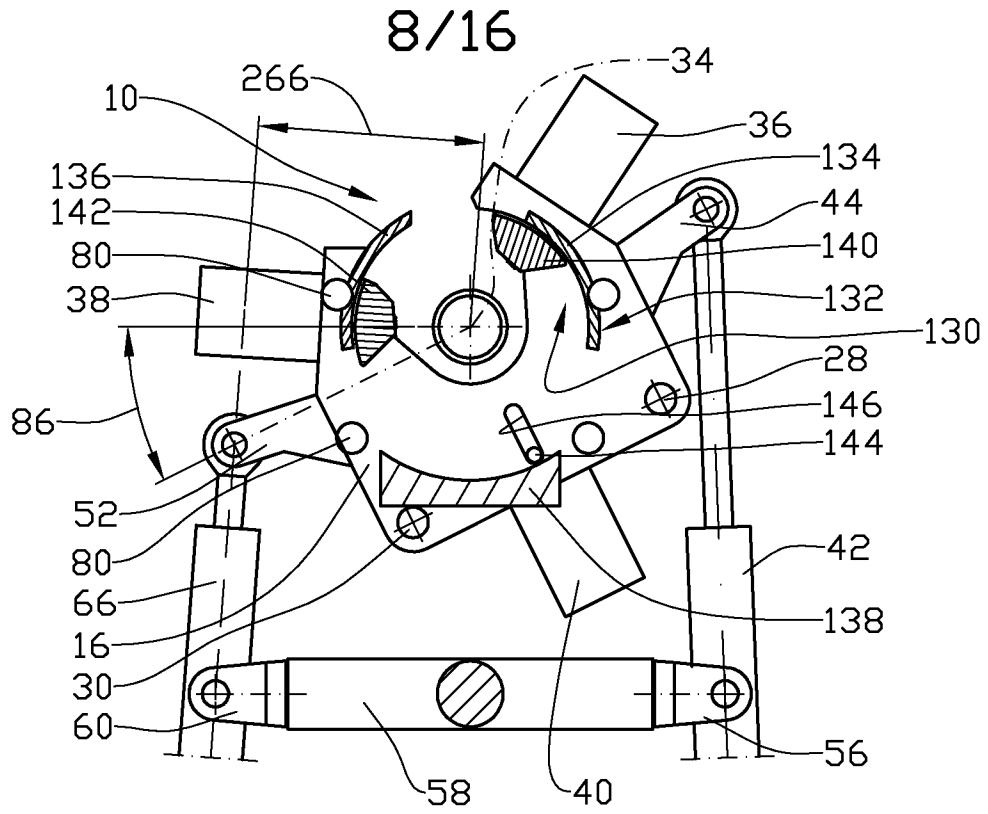


Fig. 15

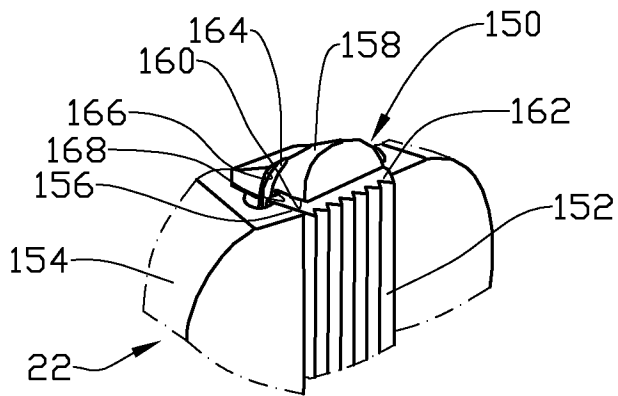


Fig. 16

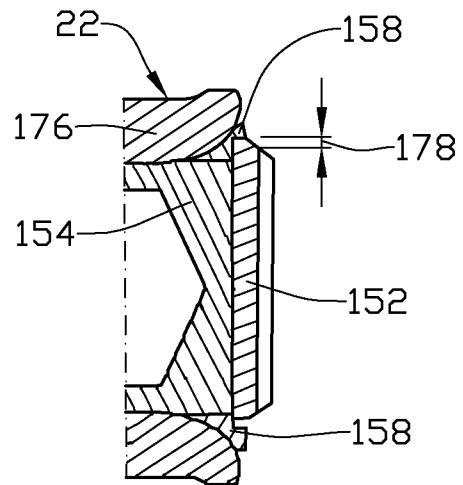


Fig. 17

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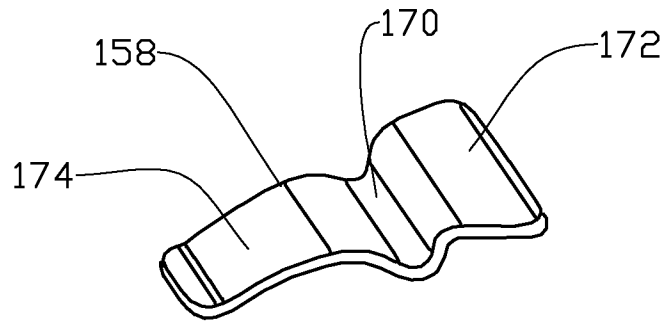


Fig. 18

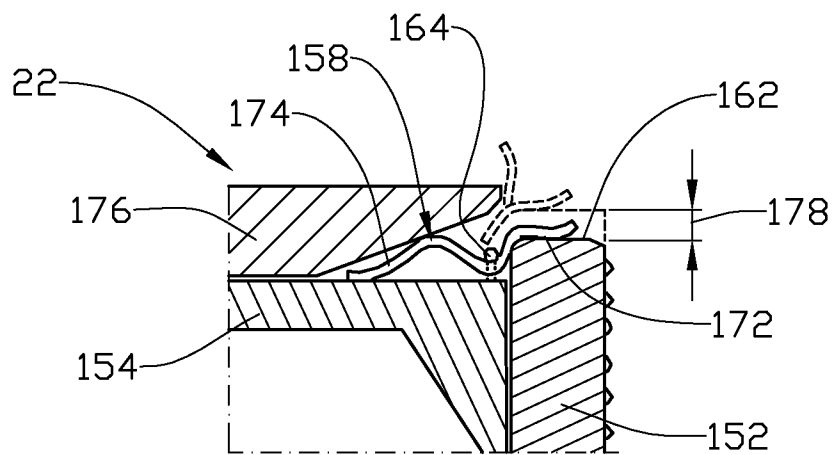


Fig. 19

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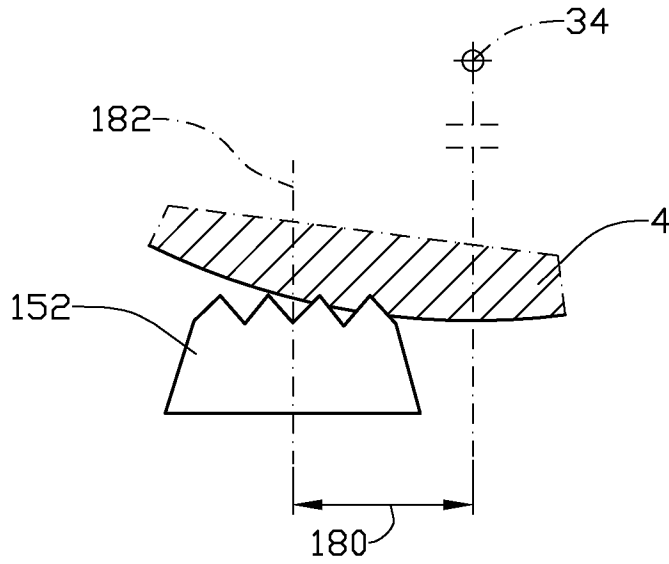


Fig. 20

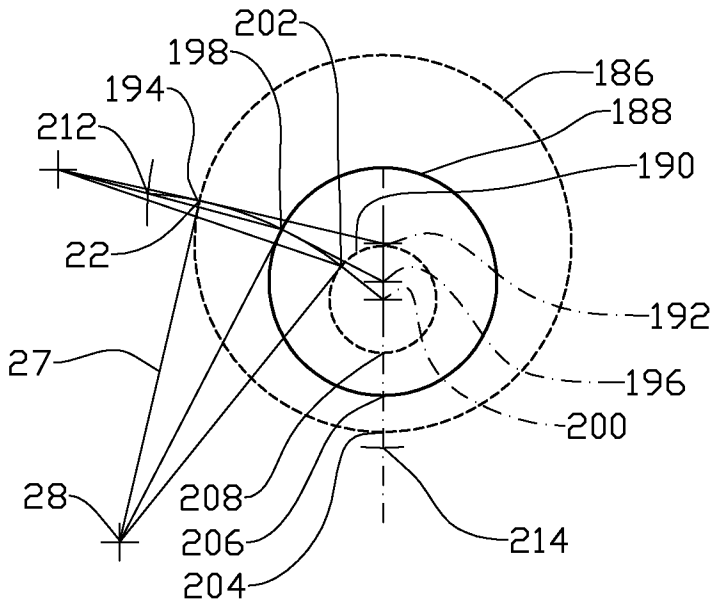


Fig. 21

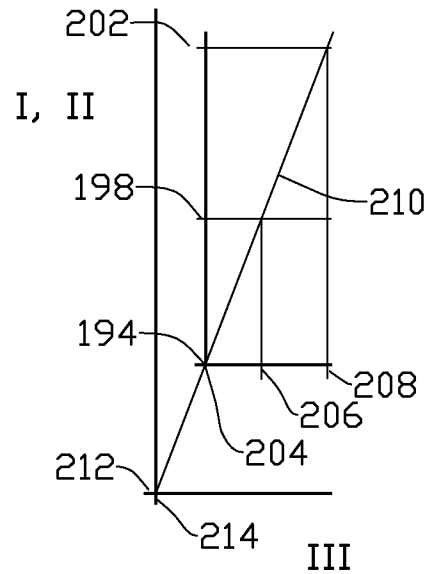


Fig. 22

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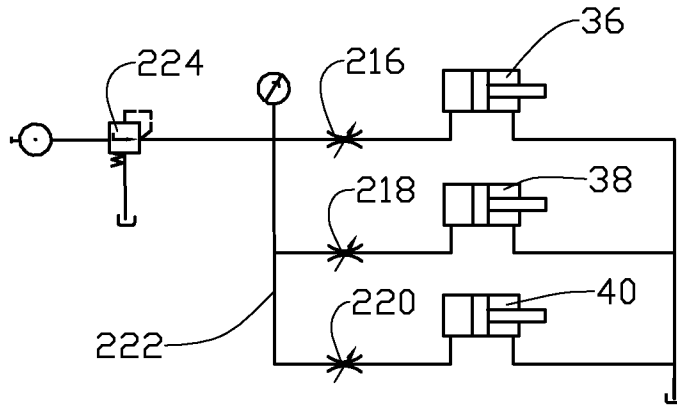


Fig. 23

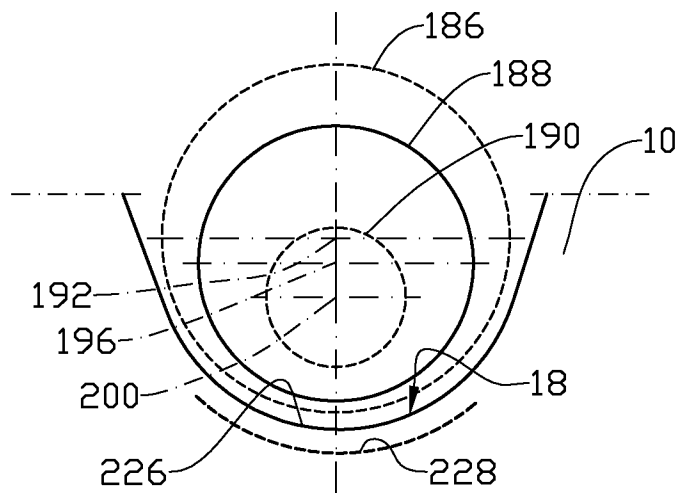


Fig. 24

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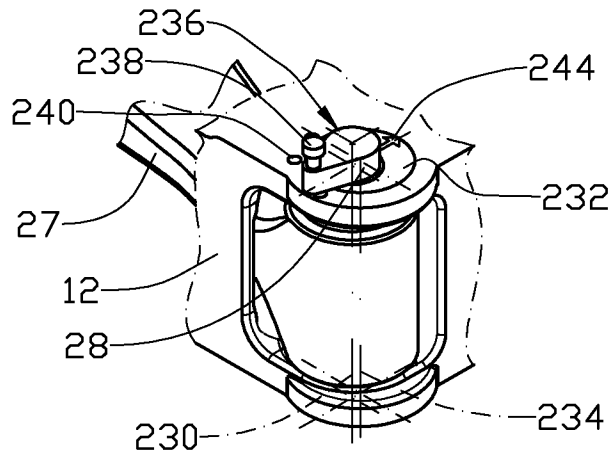


Fig. 25

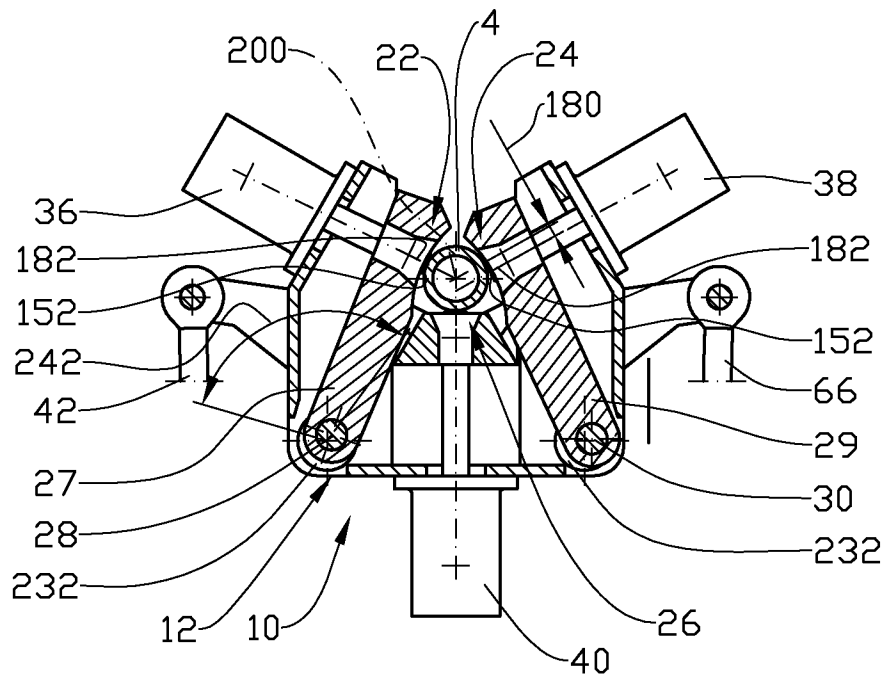


Fig. 26

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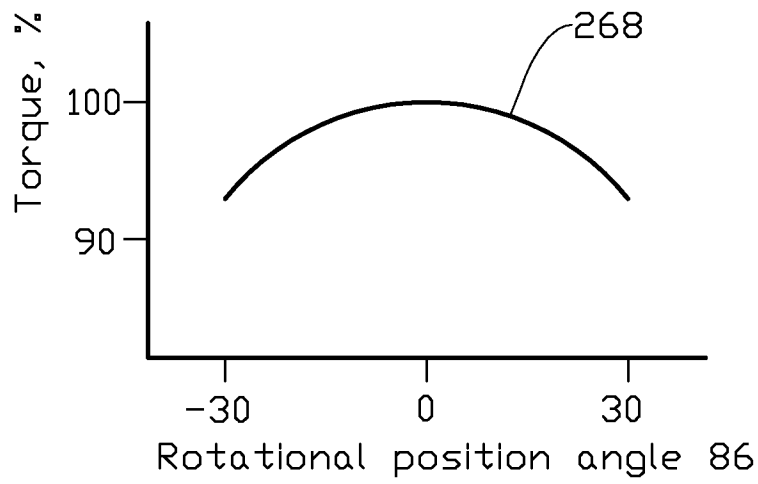


Fig. 27

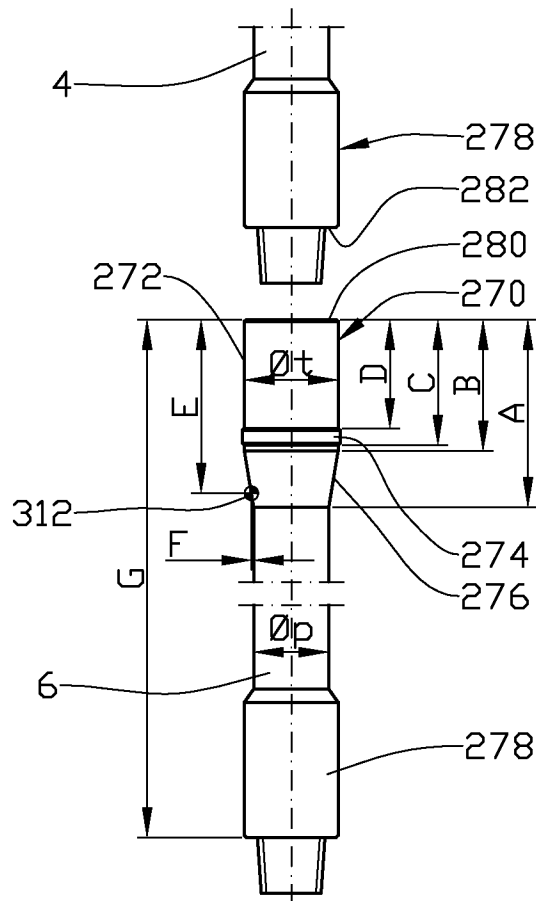


Fig. 28

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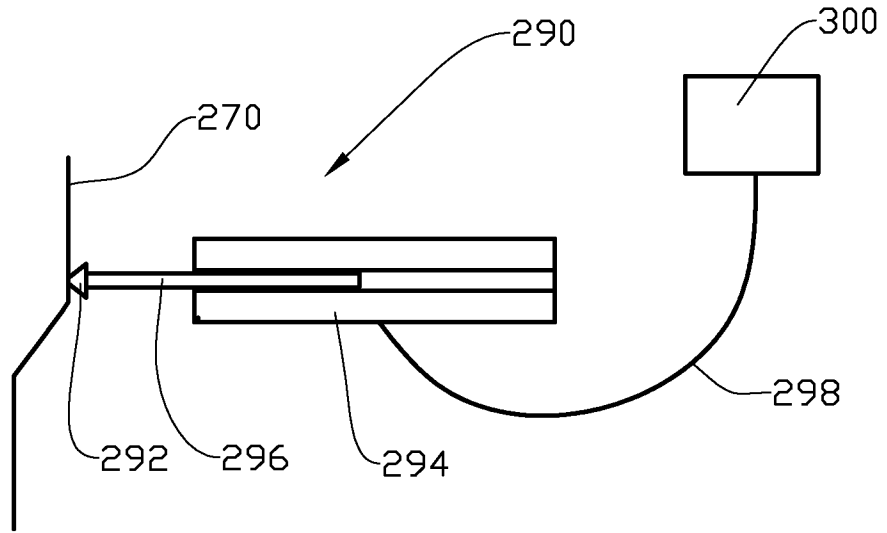


Fig. 29

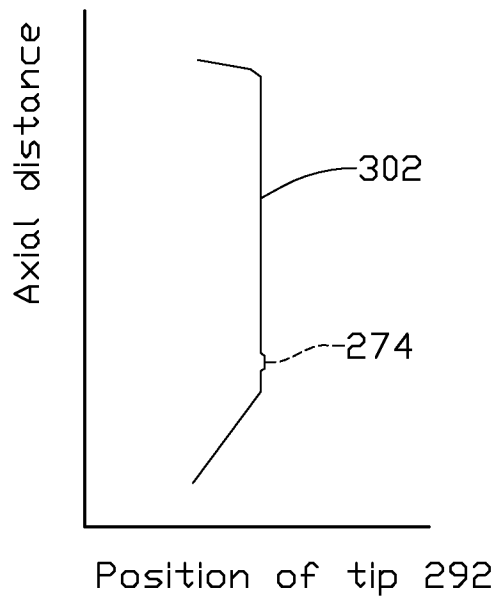


Fig. 30

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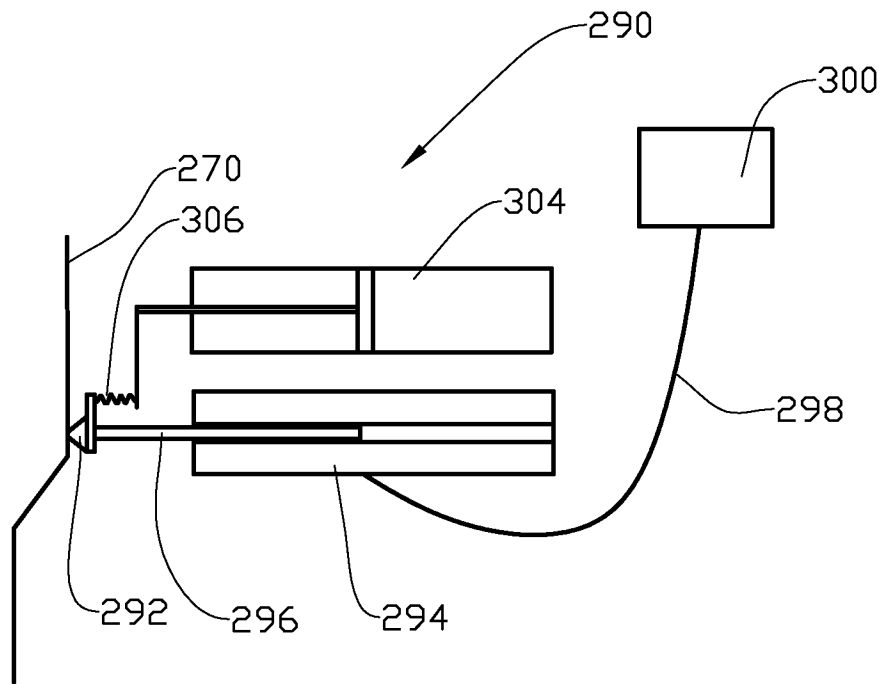


Fig. 31

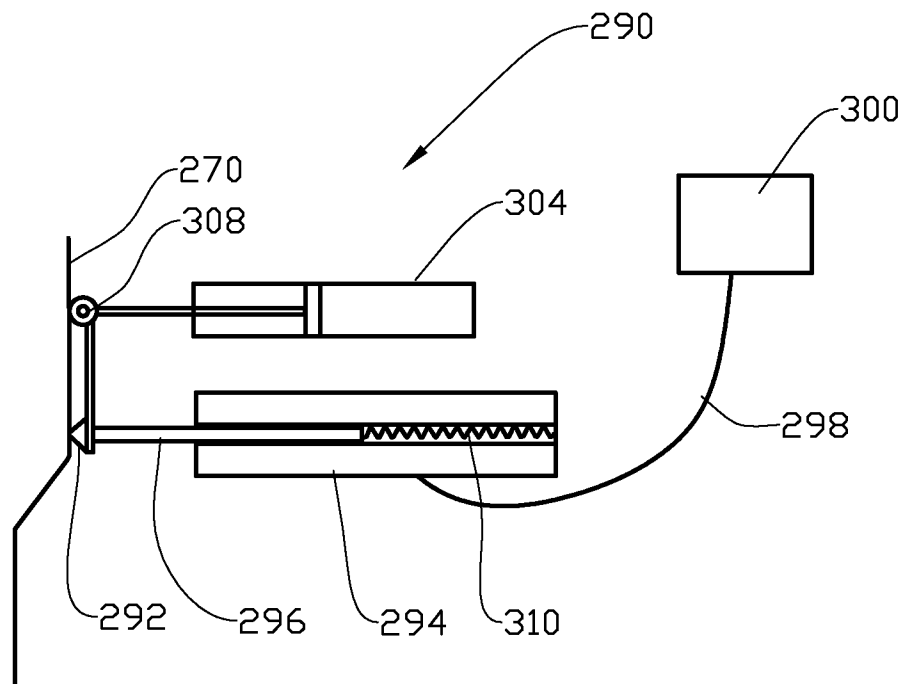


Fig. 32

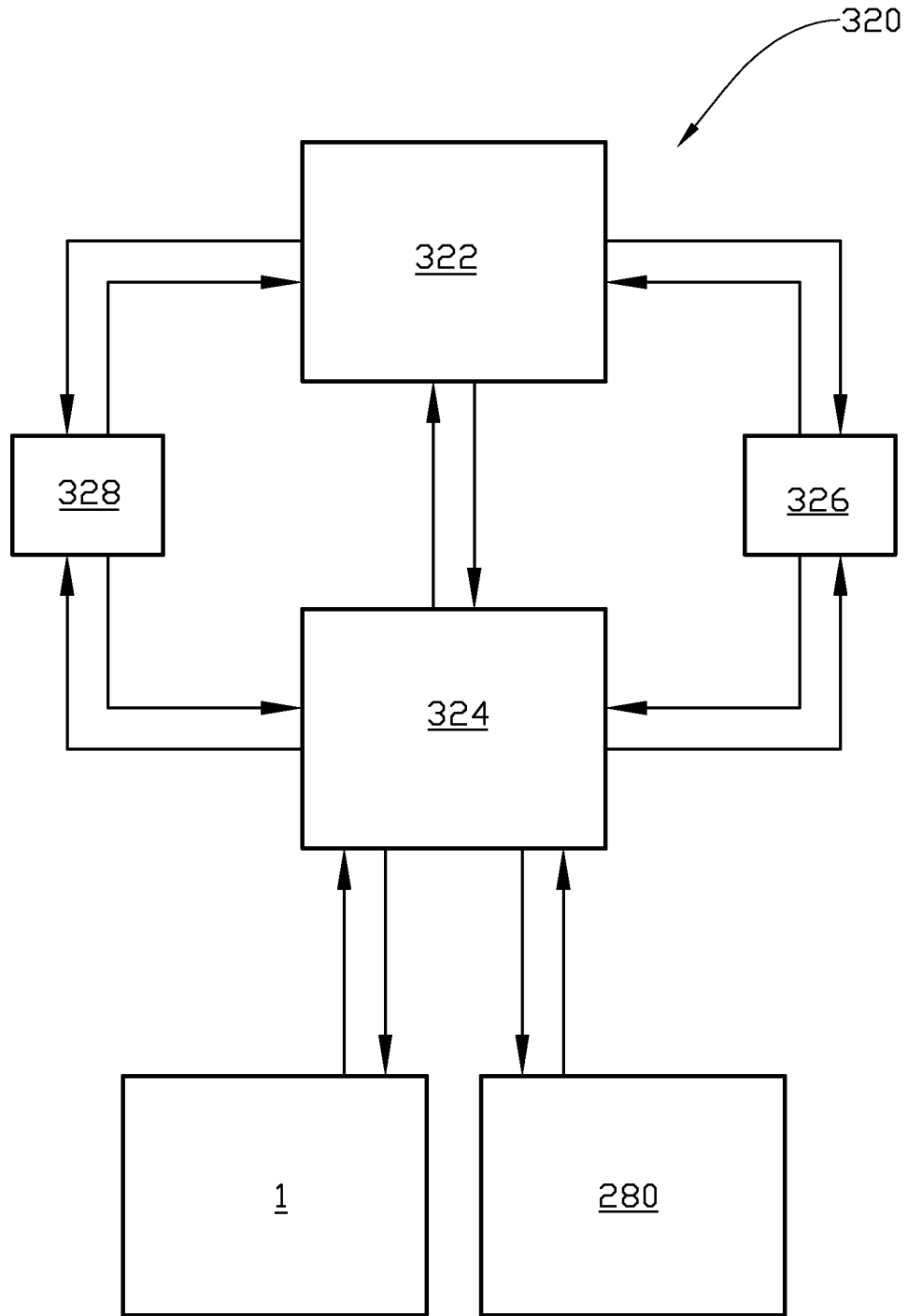


Fig. 33