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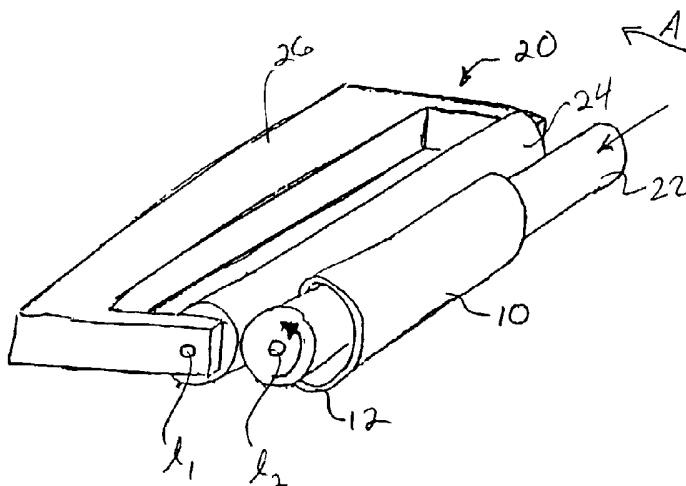
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- (74) Agents: **SALVATORE, J., Abbruzzese et al.**; Hoffmann & Baron, LLP, 6900 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset, NY 11791 (US).
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- (71) Applicant: **SCIMED LIFE SYSTEMS, INC.** [US/US]; One SciMed Place, Maple Grove, MN 55331-1566 (US).
- (72) Inventors: **HILL, Jason, P.**; 7333 Drew Avenue No., Brooklyn Park, MN 55443 (US). **LININGER, James, R.**; 4472 Independence Avenue North, New Hope, MN 55428 (US). **BROWN, Brian, J.**; 178 Jandel Avenue Northeast, Hanover, MN 55341 (US).
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(54) Title: METHOD OF REDUCING THE WALL THICKNESS OF A PTFE TUBE AND PRODUCT FORMED THEREBY



(57) Abstract: A thin wall PTFE tube is formed from an extruded green tube (10). The PTFE tube includes an inner tubular surface and an opposed outer tubular surface defining a tubular wall of a first thickness. The tubular wall is compressed to uniformly reduce the wall-thickness and circumferentially orient the tube. The PTFE tube is positioned over a first elongate roller (22) with the inner tubular surface being in contact therewith. A second roller (24) is positioned against the outer tubular surface of the PTFE tube. The pair of rollers are counter rotated so as to circumferentially compress the tubular (12) wall between the rollers (22, 24). This results in the uniform reduction in the tubular wall (12) from the first thickness to a lesser second thickness and a circumferential orientation otherwise not occurring in an extruded PTFE paste extrusion.



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PCT/US 01/48107

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> IPC 7 B29C55/24 B29C67/00 //A61F2/04, B29K27:18, B29L23:00		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 B29C B29D		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	DE 43 36 175 C (LENZENBACH JUERGEN) 6 October 1994 (1994-10-06) the whole document  --- US 3 225 129 A (TAYLOR JOHN S ET AL) 21 December 1965 (1965-12-21) column 3, line 5 - line 9; claim 1; figure 2  --- US 5 843 173 A (KUO CHRIS ET AL) 1 December 1998 (1998-12-01) column 3, line 63 -column 4, line 27  --- DE 25 36 358 A (CANON KK) 26 February 1976 (1976-02-26) figures 9,10  --- -/--	1-5,12, 28,29,33 7,8, 22-27, 31,32  1-5,11, 28-30,33  22-27  7,8,31, 32
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.</span>		
* Special categories of cited documents :		
*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. *&* document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search  <p style="text-align: center;">7 August 2002</p>	Date of mailing of the international search report  <p style="text-align: center;">16/08/2002</p>	
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer  <p style="text-align: center;">Cordenier, J</p>	

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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