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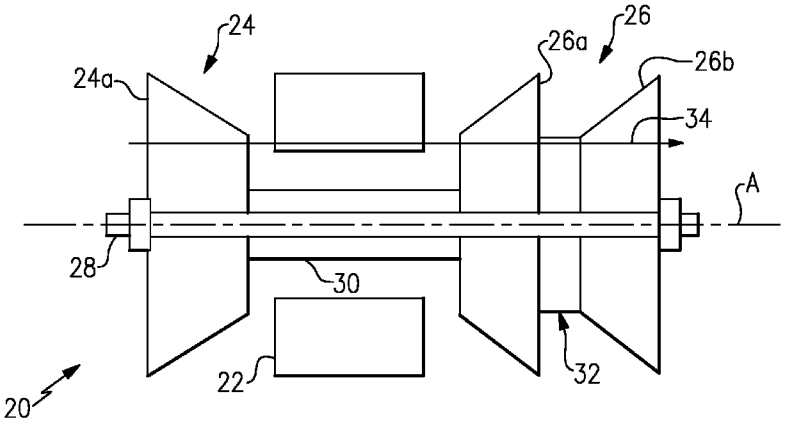


FIG.1

(57) Abstract: A rotor assembly includes a first rotor having first tabs and a second rotor that is arranged coaxial with the first rotor and that includes second tabs that are interlocked with the first tabs. A retainer locks the first tabs and the second tabs together.

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ROTOR ASSEMBLY WITH INTERLOCKING TABS

BACKGROUND

[0001] This disclosure relates to improvements in coupling rotors together.

[0002] Turbomachines, such as gas turbine engines, typically include a compressor section and a turbine section that is coupled for rotation with the compressor section. The compressor section may include one or more stages of compressor rotors and the turbine section likewise may include one or more stages of turbine rotors. One or more of the compressor rotors can be axially held together with one or more of the turbine rotors using a tie rod, for example. However, if the tie rod connection is lost, one or more of the rotors could move axially, resulting in an over speed condition.

SUMMARY

[0003] A rotor assembly according to an exemplary aspect of the present disclosure includes a first rotor including first tabs, a second rotor arranged coaxially with the first rotor which includes second tabs that are interlocked with the first tabs, and a retainer locking the first tabs and the second tabs together.

[0004] In a further non-limiting embodiment, each of the first tabs and each of the second tabs includes a base and a free end and extends radially inwardly from the base to the free end.

[0005] In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing examples, the first tabs and the second tabs define a circumferential channel.

[0006] In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing examples, the circumferential channel opens in a radially inward direction.

[0007] In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing examples, the retainer is located in the circumferential channel.

[0008] In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing examples, the retainer is a split ring.

[0009] In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing examples, the retainer is a positive engagement member.

[0010] In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing examples, the positive engagement member is a split ring.

[0011] In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing examples, the split ring includes radially inwardly projecting hooks.

[0012] In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing examples, the first rotor and the second rotor each include a number (N) of airfoils, and the first rotor and the second rotor each include a number (T) of, respectively, the first tabs and the second tabs such that N is a positive integer multiple of T.

[0013] In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing examples, the positive integer multiple is 2.

[0014] In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing examples, the second tabs are circumferentially interlocked with the first tabs.

[0015] In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing examples, the first rotor includes a first projection extending axially and located radially outwards of the first tabs and the second rotor includes a second projection extending axially and located radially outwards of the second tabs, the second projection axially overlapping the first projection and radially bearing against the first projection.

[0016] A turbomachine according to an exemplary aspect of the present disclosure includes a compressor section and a turbine section coupled to rotate with the compressor section. The turbine section includes a first rotor having first tabs, a second rotor arranged coaxially with the first rotor and having second tabs that are interlocked with the first tabs, and a retainer coupling the first tabs and the second tabs together.

[0017] In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing examples, each of the first tabs and each of the second tabs include a base and a free end and extends radially inwardly from the base to the free end.

[0018] In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing examples, the first tabs and the second tabs define a circumferential channel that opens in a radially inward direction, and the retainer is located in the circumferential channel.

[0019] In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing examples, the compressor section includes a compressor rotor, and the compressor rotor, the first rotor and the second rotor are axially held together by a tie rod.

[0020] A method of coupling a first rotor and a second rotor together according to an exemplary aspect of the present disclosure includes interlocking first tabs of a first rotor

with second tabs of a second rotor that is arranged coaxially with the first rotor and locking the first tabs and the second tabs together using a retainer.

[0021] In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing examples, the interlocking of the first tabs with the second tabs includes establishing a circumferential channel that opens in a radially inward direction.

[0022] In a further non-limiting embodiment of any of the foregoing examples, the locking of the first tabs and the second tabs together includes inserting the retainer into the circumferential channel.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0023] The various features and advantages of the present disclosure will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the following detailed description. The drawings that accompany the detailed description can be briefly described as follows.

[0024] Figure 1 illustrates an example turbomachine.

[0025] Figure 2 shows an expanded view of a first rotor, a second rotor and locking mechanism coupling the first rotor and the second rotor together.

[0026] Figure 3 shows an expanded view of the locking mechanism of Figure 2.

[0027] Figure 4 illustrates an expanded perspective view of the locking mechanism of Figure 2.

[0028] Figure 5 shows an isolated view of a retainer.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0029] Figure 1 schematically illustrates a turbomachine 20. In this example, the turbomachine 20 is a gas turbine engine and thus includes a combustor 22. However, it is to be understood that this disclosure is not limited to gas turbine engines and that the examples described herein are applicable to other types of gas turbine engines and turbomachinery that may not include the combustor 22.

[0030] The turbomachine 20 generally includes a compressor section 24 having a compressor rotor 24a and a turbine section 26 having a first rotor 26a and a second rotor 26b. For example, the first rotor 26a and the second rotor 26b are considered to be two stages of the turbine section 26, such as high pressure turbine stages of a gas turbine engine.

[0031] A tie rod 28 axially holds the compressor rotor 24a, the first rotor 26a and the second rotor 26b together. The compressor rotor 24a and the first rotor 26a are mounted on a common shaft 30 such that the first rotor 26a and the compressor rotor 24a are rotatable in unison. The second rotor 26b is coupled for rotation with the first rotor 26a through a locking mechanism 32, which is shown schematically in Figure 1.

[0032] The operation of the turbomachine 20 is generally known and is represented by the flow path 34 there through. The compressor section 24 compresses air and communicates the compressed air into the combustor 22. The compressed air is mixed and burned with fuel in the combustor 22, then expanded over the turbine section 26. It is to be understood that the turbomachine 20 is shown highly schematically and may include additional compression stages and additional turbine stages, as well as a fan, for example.

[0033] Figure 2 shows an expanded view of the first rotor 26a, the second rotor 26b and the locking mechanism 32. Figure 3 shows an expanded view of the locking mechanism 32 and Figure 4 shows a perspective view of a portion of the locking mechanism 32. Referring to Figures 2-4, the first rotor 26a includes a first tabs 40a and the second rotor 26b includes second tabs 40b that are interlocked with the first tabs 40a. That is, the first tabs 40a of the first rotor 26a are circumferentially arranged such that each tab 40a is circumferentially spaced from its neighboring first tabs 40a. Likewise, the second tabs 40b are circumferentially arranged such that each of the second tabs 40b is circumferentially spaced from its neighboring second tabs 40b. Thus, when the rotors 26a/26b are assembled into coaxial arrangement, the tabs 40a/40b circumferentially interlock such that the rotors 26a/26b are rotatable in unison.

[0034] The tabs 40a/40b extends both axially and radially from the respective rotors 26a/26b. Thus, the first tabs 40a extend axially rearwardly from the first rotor 26a and the second tabs extend axially forwardly from the second rotor 26b. Each of the first tabs 40a and each of the second tabs 40b include a base 42 and a free end 44 such that each of the tabs 40a/40b extends radially inwardly from the respective base 42 toward the free end 44.

[0035] When interlocked, the first tabs 40a and the second tabs 40b define a circumferential channel 46. A retainer 48 is located in the circumferential channel 46 to lock the first tabs 40a and the second tabs 40b together. Thus, the first rotor 26a and the second rotor 26b are coupled together for co-rotation through the locking mechanism 32. In other words, the interlocking of the first tabs 40a and the second tabs 40b circumferentially and

rotationally locks the first rotor 26a and the second rotor 26b together. The retainer 48 within the circumferential channel 46 defined by the first tabs 40a and the second tabs 40b prevents or limits relative axial movement between the first rotor 26a and the second rotor 26b. Thus, the rotors 26a/26b are rotationally and axially coupled together. The rotational and axial coupling of the first rotor 26a and the second rotor 26b ensures that the second rotor 26b will not axially disengage from the first rotor 26a in the case that the connection provided by the tie rod 28 is lost. Furthermore, the locking mechanism is compact and can be used as a design replacement where packaging considerations do not permit other bolted or other types of locking designs.

[0036] To further facilitate coupling of the rotors 26a/26b, the first rotor 26a includes an axial projection 60a and the second rotor 26b includes an axial projection 60b. The axial projections 60a/60b axially overlap and radially bear against one another at bearing surface 62. A thrust bearing surface 64 reacts axial loads and acts as an axial stop in assembling the rotors 26a/26b together. In operation, friction at the bearing surfaces 62 and 64 limits relative rotational and axial movement between the rotors 26a/26b.

[0037] Figure 5 shows an isolated full view of the retainer 48. In this example, the retainer 48 is a split ring, which is also considered to be a positive engagement member. In the uncompressed state shown in Figure 5, the retainer 48 is diametrically larger than the circumferential channel 46 defined by the first tabs 40a and the second tabs 40b. To assemble the retainer 48 into the circumferential channel 46, the retainer 48 is compressed using radially inwardly projecting hooks 48a. The retainer 48 is compressed to a size that is diametrically smaller than the circumferential channel 46. The compressed retainer 48 is then inserted into the circumferential channel 46 and released such that the retainer expands into the circumferential channel 46. Since the retainer 48 is diametrically larger than the circumferential channel 46, the retainer 48 exerts a positive force in a radially outward direction, thus ensuring that the retainer 48 stays in the circumferential channel 46 to lock the first tabs 40a and the second tabs 40b together. Similarly, the hooks 48a can also be used to remove the retainer 48 from the circumferential channel 46 for maintenance or the like.

[0038] In a further example, the first rotor 26a and the second rotor 26b each include a number N of airfoils 70, shown in part in Figure 2. Further, the first rotor 26a and the second rotor 26b each include a number (T) of the first tabs 40a and the second tabs 40b. The number N of the airfoils 70 and the number T of the tabs 40a/40b is selected such that N

is a positive integer multiple of T. In other words, the number T of the first tabs 40a multiplied by the positive integer multiple equals the number N of airfoils 70 mounted on the first rotor 26a. Likewise, the number T of the second tabs 40b on the second rotor 26b multiplied by the positive integer multiple equals the number T of airfoils 70 mounted on the second rotor 26b.

[0039] Selecting the number N to be the positive integer multiple of the number T ensures that the rotors 26a/26b are balanced with regard to the stress generated on each of the tabs 40a/40b. Further, the positive integer multiple also ensures that the tabs 40a/40b are clocked to the position of the airfoils 70. For instance, in one example where the positive integer multiple is 2, there would be one tab 40a or 40b per two airfoils 70 on the respective first rotor 26a or second rotor 26b. Additionally, the positive integer multiple of 2 facilitates selection of a proper size of the tabs to carry the torque between the first rotor 26a and the second rotor 26b. For instance, a relatively larger number of tabs 40a/40b would require a relatively small individual cross-sectional tab area and corresponding relatively low strength. On the other hand, for a relatively small number of the tabs40a/40b would require a relatively greater cross-sectional tab area and a corresponding greater strength, but at a weight penalty. The positive integer multiple of 2 provides a desirable balance between the stress that each tab would see in operation and size of the tabs to accommodate those stresses.

[0040] Although a combination of features is shown in the illustrated examples, not all of them need to be combined to realize the benefits of various embodiments of this disclosure. In other words, a system designed according to an embodiment of this disclosure will not necessarily include all of the features shown in any one of the Figures or all of the portions schematically shown in the Figures. Moreover, selected features of one example embodiment may be combined with selected features of other example embodiments.

[0041] The preceding description is exemplary rather than limiting in nature. Variations and modifications to the disclosed examples may become apparent to those skilled in the art that do not necessarily depart from the essence of this disclosure. The scope of legal protection given to this disclosure can only be determined by studying the following claims.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A rotor assembly comprising:

a first rotor including first tabs;

a second rotor arranged coaxially with the first rotor and including second tabs that are interlocked with the first tabs; and

a retainer locking the first tabs and the second tabs together.

2. The rotor assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein each of the first tabs and each of the second tabs includes a base and a free end and extends radially inwardly from the base to the free end.

3. The rotor assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the first tabs and the second tabs define a circumferential channel.

4. The rotor assembly as recited in claim 3, wherein the circumferential channel opens in a radially inward direction.

5. The rotor assembly as recited in claim 3, wherein the retainer is located in the circumferential channel.

6. The rotor assembly as recited in claim 5, wherein the retainer is a split ring.

7. The rotor assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the retainer is a positive engagement member.

8. The rotor assembly as recited in claim 7, wherein the positive engagement member is a split ring.

9. The rotor assembly as recited in claim 8, wherein the split ring includes radially inwardly projecting hooks.

10. The rotor assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the first rotor and the second rotor each include a number (N) of airfoils, and the first rotor and the second rotor each include a number (T) of, respectively, the first tabs and the second tabs such that N is a positive integer multiple of T.

11. The rotor assembly as recited in claim 10, wherein the positive integer multiple is 2.

12. The rotor assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the second tabs are circumferentially interlocked with the first tabs.

13. The rotor assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the first rotor includes a first projection extending axially and located radially outwards of the first tabs and the second rotor includes a second projection extending axially and located radially outwards of the second tabs, the second projection axially overlapping the first projection and radially bearing against the first projection.

14. A turbomachine comprising:

a compressor section; and

a turbine section coupled to rotate with the compressor section, the turbine section including a first rotor having first tabs, a second rotor arranged coaxially with the first rotor and having second tabs that are interlocked with the first tabs, and a retainer coupling the first tabs and the second tabs together.

15. The turbomachine as recited in claim 14, wherein each of the first tabs and each of the second tabs includes a base and a free end and extends radially inwardly from the base to the free end.

16. The turbomachine as recited in claim 14, wherein the first tabs and the second tabs define a circumferential channel that opens in a radially inward direction, and the retainer is located in the circumferential channel.

17. The turbomachine as recited in claim 14, wherein the compressor section includes a compressor rotor, and the compressor rotor, the first rotor and the second rotor are axially held together by a tie rod.

18. A method of coupling a first rotor and a second rotor together, the method comprising:

interlocking first tabs of a first rotor with second tabs of a second rotor that is arranged coaxially with the first rotor; and

locking the first tabs and the second tabs together using a retainer.

19. The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the interlocking of the first tabs with the second tabs includes establishing a circumferential channel that opens in a radially inward direction.

20. The method as recited in claim 19, wherein the locking of the first tabs and the second tabs together includes inserting the retainer into the circumferential channel.

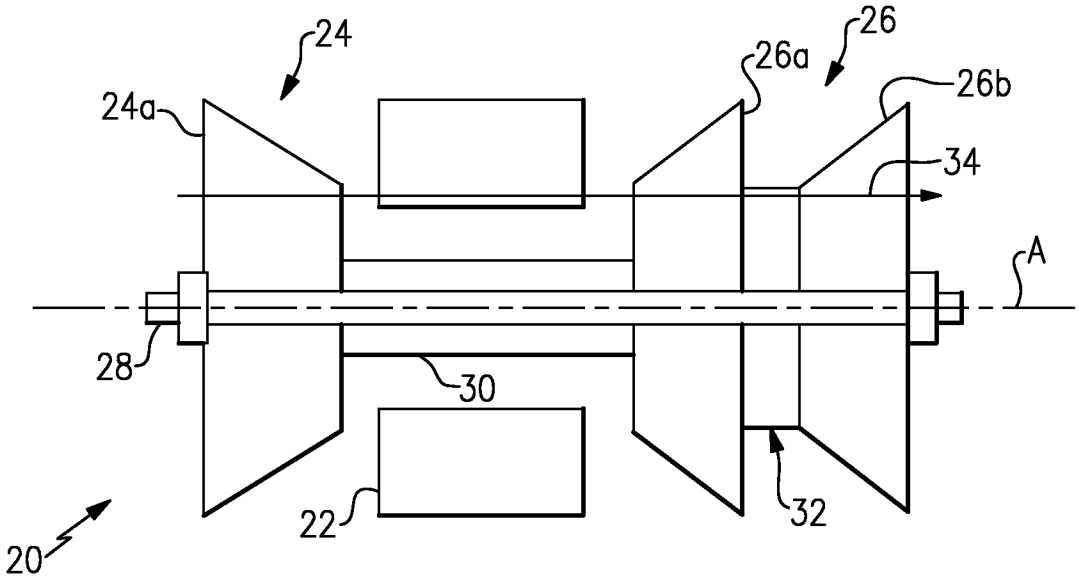

24
26
26a
26b
24a
34
A
28
30
22
32
20

FIG.1

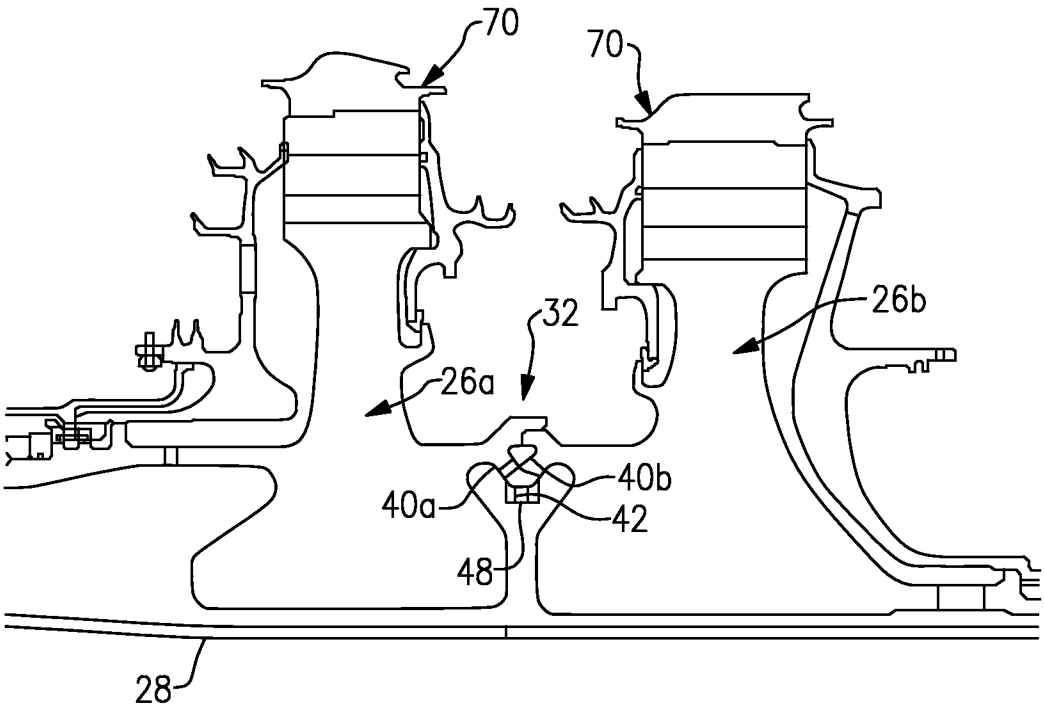

70
70
26b
32
26a
40b
40a
42
48
28

FIG.2

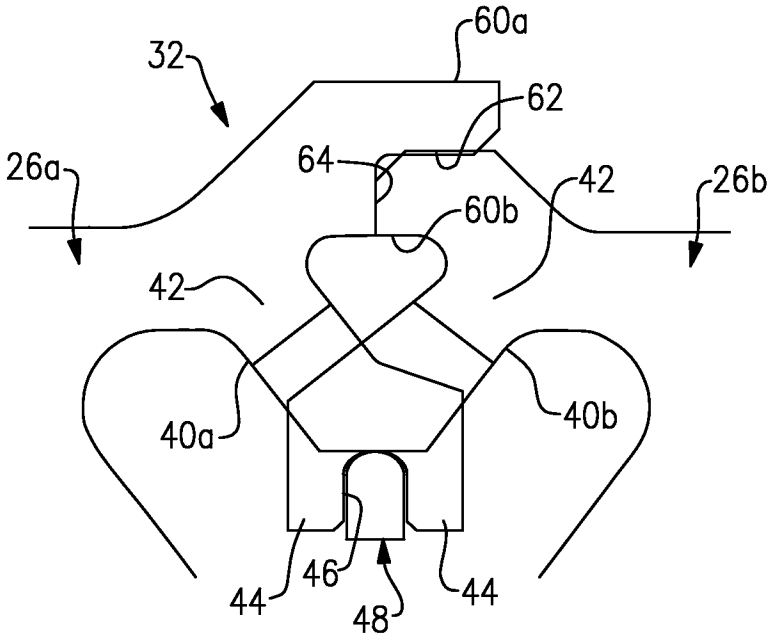


FIG.3

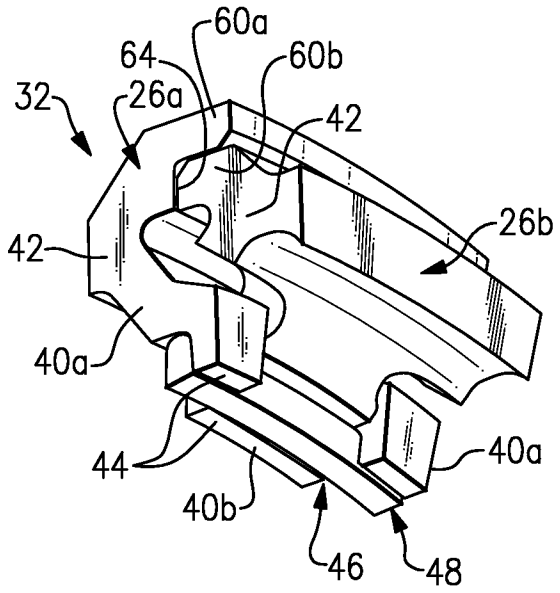


FIG.4

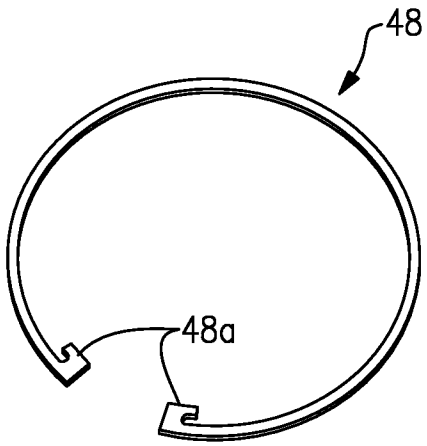


FIG.5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2013/043215

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

F01D 5/30(2006.01)i, F01D 5/32(2006.01)i, F02C 7/00(2006.01)i

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
F01D 5/30; B63H 1/00; F01D 5/08; F04D 13/12; B23P 11/00; F01D 11/00; F01D 5/32; F01D 1/24; F02C 7/00

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Korean utility models and applications for utility models
Japanese utility models and applications for utility models

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) & Keywords: rotor, tab, project, protrude, prominence, boss, retain, lock, interlock, clamp, engage, fasten, bind, tie, and couple

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 7,540,713 B1 (MARUSSICH, WALTER) 2 June 2009 See abstract; column 2 lines 26-28; claim 1 and figures 1,2.	1-5,7,12,14-20
Y		6,8,9
A		10,11,13
Y	US 6,443,699 B1 (MASHEY, CHARLES THOMAS) 3 September 2002 See abstract; column 3 lines 65-66; claim 1 and figures 2,3.	6,8,9
A		1-5,7,10-20
A	US 4,400,137 A (MILLER et al.) 23 August 1983 See abstract; claim 1 and figure 2.	1-20
A	US 2011-0135480 A1 (DRMIC, JOZO) 9 June 2011 See abstract; claim 1 and figure 1.	1-20
A	US 2008-0008582 A1 (PICKENS et al.) 10 January 2008 See abstract; claims 1,9 and figure 2	1-20

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
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"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	Date of mailing of the international search report
03 September 2013 (03.09.2013)	**04 September 2013 (04.09.2013)**

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/US2013/043215

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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