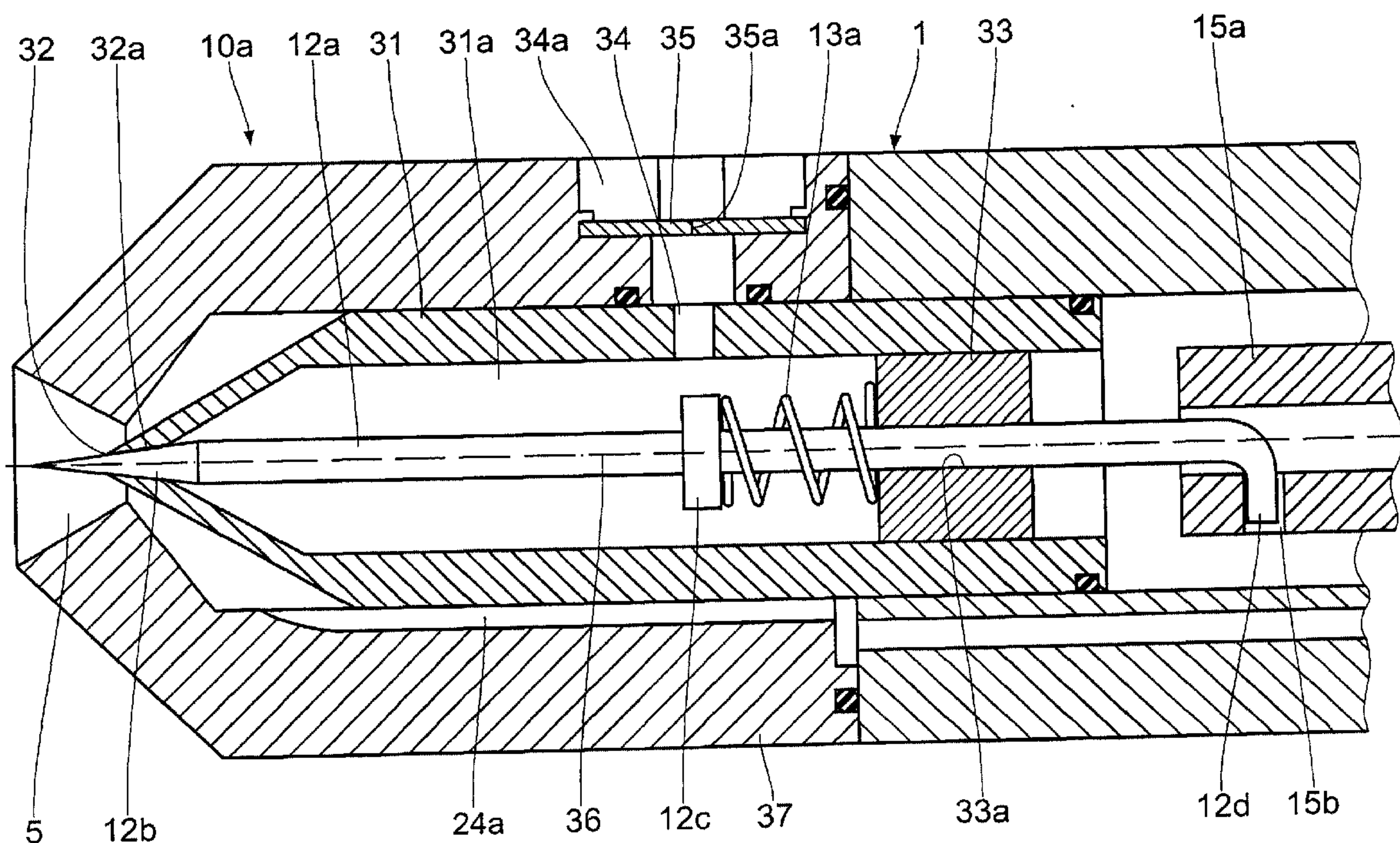




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(54) Titre : DISPOSITIF POUR VAPORISATION SUR LIQUIDES PIGMENTES
 (54) Title: DEVICE FOR SPRAYING ON PIGMENTED LIQUIDS



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

The invention relates to a device for spraying pigmented fluids by means of an air flow, comprising a base body (1), a spray nozzle (5) located on the front side of the base body (1), the nozzle having a needle (12a) centrally located therein, a compressed air inlet and a connecting compressed air channel (24a), an outlet opening (32) for a pigmented fluid, wherein a regulatable compressed air flow supplied through the compressed air channel (24a) is directed past the outlet opening (32) for the pigmented fluid and loaded with fluid droplets, said fluid droplets being emitted through the spray nozzle (5) as long as the compressed air flow is maintained, wherein the nozzle (5) and the needle (12a) are located in a nozzle head (10a) and the nozzle head (10a) can be removed or replaced as a unit, a storage tank (31) for the pigmented fluid to be sprayed being located in the nozzle head (10a).

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(54) Title: DEVICE FOR SPRAYING PIGMENTED FLUIDS

(54) Bezeichnung: VORRICHTUNG ZUM AUFSPRÜHEN VON PIGMENTIERTEN FLÜSSIGKEITEN

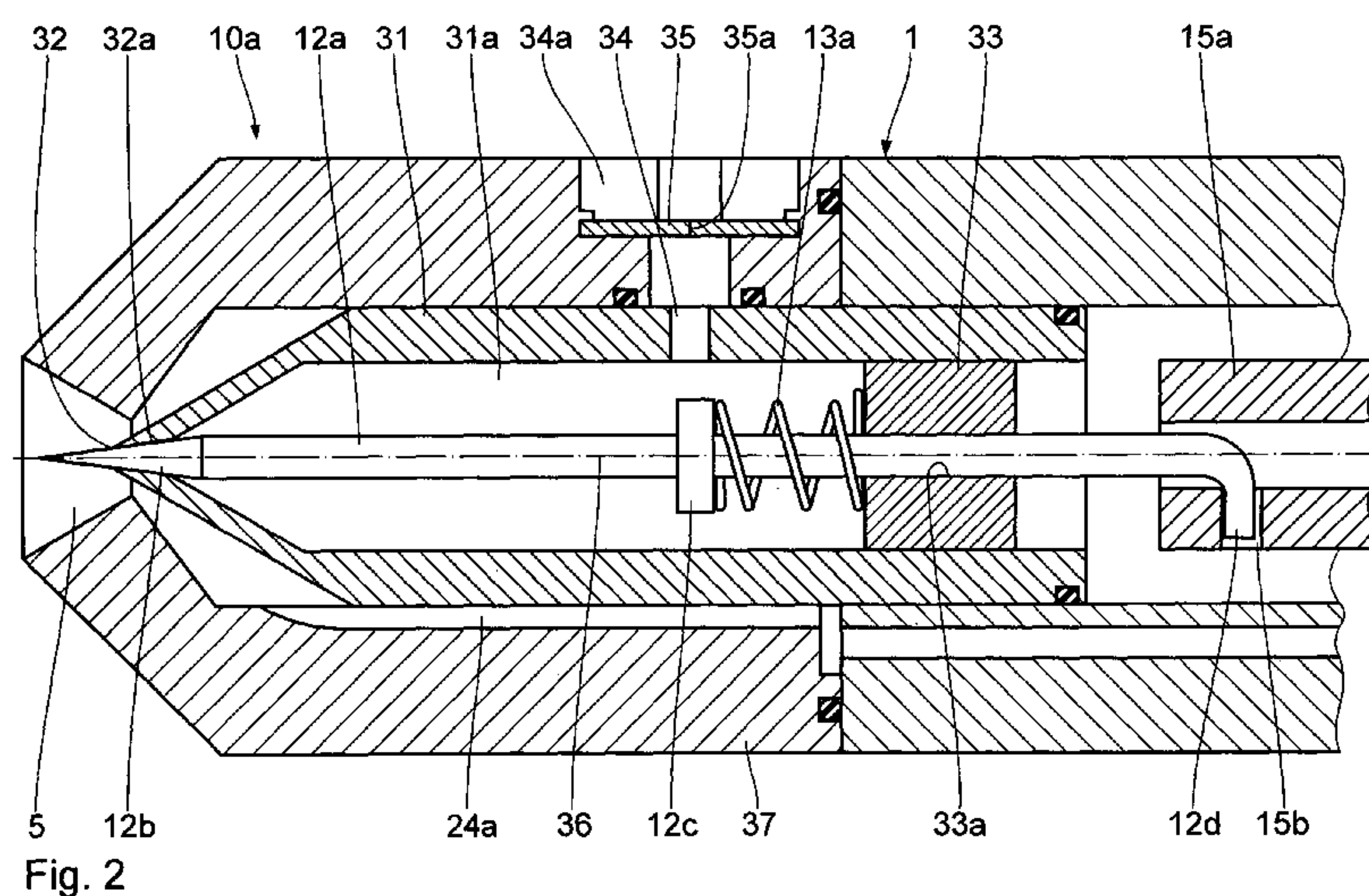


Fig. 2

(57) **Abstract:** The invention relates to a device for spraying pigmented fluids by means of an air flow, comprising a base body (1), a spray nozzle (5) located on the front side of the base body (1), the nozzle having a needle (12a) centrally located therein, a compressed air inlet and a connecting compressed air channel (24a), an outlet opening (32) for a pigmented fluid, wherein a regulatable compressed air flow supplied through the compressed air channel (24a) is directed past the outlet opening (32) for the pigmented fluid and loaded with fluid droplets, said fluid droplets being emitted through the spray nozzle (5) as long as the compressed air flow is maintained, wherein the nozzle (5) and the needle (12a) are located in a nozzle head (10a) and the nozzle head (10a) can be removed or replaced as a unit, a storage tank (31) for the pigmented fluid to be sprayed being located in the nozzle head (10a).(57) **Zusammenfassung:** Bei einer Vorrichtung zum Aufsprühen von pigmentierten Flüssigkeiten mittels eines Luftstroms umfassend einen Grundkörper (1), eine an der Vorderseite des Grundkörpers (1) angeordnete Sprühdüse (5) mit einer darin mittig angeordneten Nadel (12a), einen Drucklufteinlass und einen anschließenden Druckluftkanal (24a), eine Austrittsöffnung (32)

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für eine pigmentierte Flüssigkeit, wobei ein durch den Druckluftkanal (24a) zugeführter regelbarer Druckluftstrom an der Austrittsöffnung (32) für die pigmentierte Flüssigkeit vorbeigeführt und mit Flüssigkeitströpfchen beladen wird und diese Flüssigkeitströpfchen durch die Sprühdüse (5) abgegeben werden, solange der Druckluftstrom aufrechterhalten wird, wobei die Düse (5) und die Nadel (12a) in einem Düsenkopf (10a) angeordnet sind und der Düsenkopf (10a) als Ganzes entfernbar bzw. austauschbar ist, ist vorgesehen, dass in dem Düsenkopf (10a) ein Vorratsbehälter (31) für die zu versprühende pigmentierte Flüssigkeit angeordnet ist.

Device for spraying on pigmented liquids

The invention relates to a device for spraying on pigmented liquids by means of an air flow comprising a base body, a spray nozzle disposed at
5 the front side of the base body, wherein a needle is disposed centrally in the spray nozzle, a compressed air inlet and an adjacent compressed air duct, an outlet opening for a pigmented liquid, wherein a controllable compressed air flow is supplied via the compressed air duct and is guided past the outlet opening for the pigmented liquid where it is loaded with droplets
10 of liquid, these droplets of liquid being discharged through the spray nozzle as long as the compressed air flow is maintained, the nozzle and the needle being disposed in a nozzle head that is removable or replaceable, respectively, as a whole.

15 Such a device is described in DE 10 2005 038 162.6.

In the known device, it is provided that the pigmented liquid is supplied via an inlet opening from an external receptacle.

20 Based thereon, it is the object of the invention to develop a device of the generic type in a way as to achieve an even easier manipulation.

This object is attained according to the invention by disposing a receptacle for the pigmented liquid to be sprayed on in the nozzle head. The nozzle
25 support will then be available with an already filled receptacle; alternatively, the receptacle may be individually filled or refilled, respectively.

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To this end, a fill opening may be provided that is connected with the receptacle, the fill opening preferably being covered by a slit diaphragm that may consist of silicone.

- 5 The receptacle may be disposed about the needle so as to achieve a compact, symmetrical design.

According to another preferred embodiment, the receptacle has a hollow cylindrical basic shape with a conically tapering front end area forming the outlet opening and a rear end area, a sealing element being inserted into the
10 rear end area of the receptacle. The two mentioned end areas are disposed at the front or at the back, respectively, in relation to the axial direction, i.e. the direction defined by the central longitudinal axis of the needle. Thus, a hollow space is formed inside the receptacle for receiving the pigmented
15 liquid, the hollow space being sealed to the front and to the back. Sealing to the back is provided by the sealing element which in particular consists of Teflon. Sealing to the front is in particular performed by the needle which shuts off the outlet opening when in the rest position, i.e. in the inactive state. To this end, the needle may be force-fitted or pressed into a
20 conically tapering seat of the outlet opening and/or be disposed in this seat in a closely-adhering manner.

According to another preferred embodiment, the sealing element closely adheres to an inner wall of the receptacle so as to provide a sealing effect.
25 The sealing element furthermore has a passage opening through which the needle is guided in an axially movable manner, a contact between the sealing element and the needle in the passage opening being narrow enough to provide a sealing effect. The sealing element is in particular inserted into the receptacle by means of an interference fit. A form of an interference fit

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is preferably also provided between the needle and the sealing element, the contact force thereof advantageously being lower than between the sealing element and the inner wall of the receptacle, however, since the needle should be capable of reciprocating movement in the passage opening. This way, the two contact areas between the sealing element and the receptacle on the one hand and between the sealing element and the needle on the other hand are each designed in a tight manner, i.e. in particular so tight as to avoid a discharge of the pigmented liquid.

10 According to another preferred embodiment, a contact force between the sealing element and the needle guided through the sealing element is defined such as to maintain a relative position between the sealing element and the needle as long as there is no effect of an external force. An effect of an external force is in particular to be understood as the force exerted by the actuating ram of the spraying device. Above all, this ensures that the needle cannot move away from its rest position on its own and without any external action, the rest position being the position in which the needle is disposed in the seat of the outlet opening in a closely adhering manner that is in particular narrow enough to provide a sealing effect. In particular, a passage diameter of the passage opening of the sealing element is approximately 1% to approximately 5%, in particular approximately 2%, smaller than a needle diameter of the needle in the area that is situated in the passage opening when in the assembled state. According to an alternative embodiment, it is however also possible to provide an additional spring to press the needle into the seat of the outlet opening, thereby preventing an accidental opening of the outlet opening and, consequently, an unwanted leakage of the pigmented liquid stored in the receptacle.

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According to another preferred embodiment, the rear end of the needle is securely but detachably connected to an actuating ram by mechanical means. This enables the nozzle head to be replaced whilst ensuring a simple and secure manipulation of the spraying device.

5

According to another preferred embodiment, the connection between the rear end of the needle and the actuating ram is provided by means of a positive fit. For example, a form of a detachable bayonet coupling is provided between the rear end of the needle and the actuating ram.

10

According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a device for spraying on pigmented liquids by means of an airflow comprising:

a base body, a spray nozzle disposed at the front side of the base body, wherein a needle is disposed centrally in the spray nozzle, a compressed air inlet and an adjacent compressed air duct, an outlet opening for the pigmented liquid, wherein a controllable compressed air flow being supplied via the compressed air duct is guidable past the outlet opening for the pigmented liquid where the compressed air flow is loadable with droplets of liquid, these droplets of liquid being dischargeable through the spray nozzle as long as the compressed air flow is maintained, wherein the spray nozzle and the needle are disposed in a nozzle head, the nozzle head being removable or replaceable, respectively, as a whole;

wherein a receptacle is disposed in the nozzle head;

wherein a receiving space is formed in the receptacle for receiving the pigmented liquid to be sprayed on, so that the nozzle head is equipped with an integrated liquid container and the device is operable independently of an external liquid supply;

wherein a fill opening is provided, the fill opening being connected with the receptacle; and

30

- 4a -

wherein the fill opening is covered by a slit diaphragm.

The following is a more detailed description of the invention by means of a preferred embodiment, taken in conjunction with the drawing, in which

5

Fig. 1 shows a perspective, partially broken view of a device of the generic type as it is known from DE 10 2005 038 162.6; and

10 Fig. 2 shows a section through the nozzle support in accordance with the inventive solution.

An inventive device has a longitudinal base body 1 which may be hand-held in a pencil-like manner, a colour-carrying nozzle part 2 being disposed at the front end thereof.

15

The colour-carrying nozzle part 2 comprises a conical nozzle cover 3 with a passage-and-guide bore 4 for a nozzle 5, a safety cover 6 that overlaps with the nozzle cover 3 and a ring body 7.

- 5 -

The ring body 7 has an annular, circumferential groove 8, a guide collar 9 of the base body 1 engaging therewith so that the ring body is mounted for rotation through 360°.

5 Moreover, a nozzle support 10 forming a nozzle head is disposed in the colour-carrying nozzle part 2, a nozzle pipe 11 extending away therefrom, wherein the nozzle 5 is formed on the front end of the nozzle pipe 11. A needle 12 is positioned in the nozzle pipe 11, the needle 12 being acted upon by a helical spring 13. The helical spring 13 and the needle 12 are
10 positioned in a longitudinal bore 14 of the nozzle support 10, a longitudinally displaceable ram 15 acting into said longitudinal bore 14 as described below.

The nozzle support 10 has a substantially circular outer shape and may be
15 form-fitted into the ring body 7, a lateral projection 16 of the nozzle support 10 engaging with a slot – not shown in the drawing – of the ring body 7 so as to be non-rotational with respect to the ring body 7, which in turn is rotatable relative to the base body 1, however.

20 A colour inlet 17 in the shape of a recess is formed in the projection 16, wherein either a connecting hose leading to a colour reservoir or the connecting plug of a small, directly attachable colour reservoir is insertable into the colour inlet 17.

25 The ring body 7 has an external thread 18 over which the internal thread 19 of the safety cover 6 may be screwed. This way, the nozzle cover 3 may be attached to the ring body 7 via the safety cover 6 whilst at the same time axially fixing the nozzle support 10 which is positioned in the front-side recess of the base body 1.

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It is apparent from the above description that the entire colour-carrying nozzle part 2 is rotatable relative to the base body 1, and that the nozzle support 10, together with the colour inlet 17, the nozzle 5, the nozzle needle 12 and the helical spring 13, is replaceable in a way that no colour-carrying parts are left behind so that work may continue with another colour, i.e. upon inserting a new nozzle support 10, without any problems whatsoever.

10 The rear end of the nozzle needle 12 is attached to the helical spring 13, while the front end of the helical spring 13 rests against the tapered nozzle 5 in a way that a forward movement of the actuating ram 15 causes the helical spring 13 to be compressed and a backward movement of the actuating ram 15 causes the helical spring 13 to retract the nozzle needle 12.

15 At its inner end 20, the actuating ram 15 is attached to an actuating lever H that is operable in the direction of the arrow P and is mounted for rotation about a pivot axis 21, the actuating lever H causing the actuating ram 15 to be moved to the right or backwards, respectively, when moved in the direction of the arrow P against the force of a return spring 22, thereby enabling
20 the helical spring 13 to move the needle 12 in the drawing to the right so that the size of the passage opening of the nozzle 5 is steadily increased when moving further to the right or backwards, respectively, thus allowing a correspondingly larger amount of colour to be delivered.

25 An air inlet 23 is provided at the rear end of the base body 1. An air duct 24 of a hose-like, flexible material adjoins the air inlet 23 towards the inside. A guide 25 for an adjusting wheel 26 with a knurled surface extends at an angle with respect to the air duct 24, the adjusting wheel 26 engaging with

the compressed air duct 24, thus opening the latter when moved forward and closing the same when moved backward, thereby allowing the throughput of compressed air to be adjusted.

5 The compressed air duct 24 opens into the conically tapered nozzle cover 3, causing the air flow to be accelerated and to flow past the nozzle 5, thereby entraining the colour from a colour duct 27 adjoining the colour inlet 17 due to the low pressure generated by the Venturi effect so that a colour-air mixture is discharged through the nozzle 5.

10

The compressed air may for example be generated by means of a compressor. The maximum operating pressure amounts to 3 bar.

15 The air duct 24 is guided past the actuating lever H and is squeezed closed at 28 when the actuating lever H is in the front locking position. When the actuating lever H is moved in the direction of the arrow P, this causes the nozzle 5 to be opened due to the backward movement of the needle, thereby simultaneously opening the compressed air duct 24 as already described.

20

The travel of the actuating lever H may be limited or adjusted, respectively, by means of a knurled nut 29, enabling a constant thickness of the sprayed line to be maintained over a longer period of time. The knurled nut 29 is positioned on a threaded rod 30 which is axially displaced by a rotary
25 movement of the knurled nut 29, thereby forming a displaceable stop for the actuating lever H.

In the above described device of the generic type, it is provided that the pigmented liquid is supplied from the outside via a colour inlet 17.

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In the embodiment of an inventive spraying device shown in Fig. 2, on the other hand, a replaceable nozzle head 10a is provided in which a needle 12a and a helical spring 13a are directly disposed in a substantially hollow cylindrical receptacle 31 for the pigmented liquid to be sprayed on. At an axial front end, the receptacle 31 tapers conically and has an outlet opening 32 whose inner wall forms a seat 32a that also tapers conically in the forward direction. At its front end, the needle 12a tapers to form a needle tip 12b with which the needle 12a passes through the outlet opening 32. In the rest position of the needle 12a shown in Fig. 2, the needle tip 12b is disposed in the seat 32a in a closely-adhering manner so as to prevent a leakage of liquid. The inner wall of the seat 32a and the outer contour of the needle tip 12b are matched to each other. In particular, they each have the same conicity, i.e. the same inclination angle with respect to the central longitudinal axis 36 of the needle 12a or the entire spraying device, respectively.

In the vicinity of the outlet opening 32, a nozzle-head air duct 24a ends on the outside of the receptacle tapering conically at the front end, the nozzle-head air duct 24a being in connection with the compressed air duct 24 shown in Fig. 1. The nozzle-head air duct 24a extends between the receptacle 31 and an outer nozzle cap 37 of the replaceable nozzle head 10a.

At an axial rear or back end of the receptacle 31, a sealing element in the shape of a Teflon seal 33 is inserted into the receptacle 31 by means of an interference fit so as to prevent a leakage of liquid. The Teflon seal 33 has a central passage opening 33a through which the needle 12a is guided. Guidance of the needle 12a through the passage opening 33a is designed such that on the one hand an axial reciprocating movement of the needle

12a is possible while on the other hand a tight sealing is ensured to prevent a leakage of liquid.

Thus, a receiving space 31a is formed in the receptacle 31 for receiving the pigmented liquid to be sprayed on. This receiving space 31a is defined laterally by the wall of the receptacle 31, at the front end by the needle tip 12b that is tightly disposed in the seat 32a of the outlet opening 32 when in the rest position, and at the rear end by the Teflon seal 33.

10 A refill opening 34 is disposed in the hollow cylindrical wall of the receptacle 31, the refill opening 34 being shut off by a slit silicone diaphragm 35. In the described embodiment, the silicone diaphragm 35 is inserted into another opening 34a provided in the nozzle cap 37 so as to be aligned with the refill opening 34a, and has a slit 35a that has a pressure-compensating
15 function. When pigmented liquid is discharged from the receiving space 31a of the receptacle 31 during the manipulation of the spraying device, the slit 35a allows air to enter the receiving space 31a, thereby causing a pressure compensation to occur. Otherwise, the low pressure generated in the receiving space 31a could affect the functioning of the spraying device. On
20 the other hand, the slit silicone diaphragm 35 is designed such that the pigmented liquid cannot be discharged through the slit 35a. The silicone diaphragm 35 thus has a double function, on the one hand providing for the pressure compensation whilst preventing a leakage of liquid on the other.

25 In the receiving space 31a, the needle 12a is provided with a stop washer 12c that is securely attached to the needle 12a, for example by gluing, pressing or welding. The helical spring 13a is designed as a compression spring and is clamped between the stop washer 12c and the Teflon seal 33, thus pressing the needle tip 12b of the needle 12a into the seat 32a. When

- 10 -

the spraying device is operated, the needle 12a is moved backwards in the axial direction against the spring force of the helical spring 13a, causing the outlet opening 32 to open a bit.

- 5 The front of the needle 12a is guided by means of the conically tapering front end area of the receptacle 31, in particular by the seat 32a provided therein, while the back of the needle 12a is guided by means of the Teflon seal 33, in particular by the passage opening 33a thereof.
- 10 For operating the spraying device, the needle 12a is positively connected to an actuating ram 15a in a detachable manner. This connection is designed for the axial transmission of force from the actuating ram 15a to the needle 12a. To this end, the needle 12a has a crimped or bent fixing end portion 12d at its rear axial end on the side of the Teflon seal 33 facing away from
- 15 the receiving space 31a, the fixing end portion 12d engaging with a corresponding radial bore 15b of the actuating ram 15a when in the assembled state. The connection is detachable, for example in the manner of a bayonet coupling, which allows the nozzle head 10a comprising the needle 12a to be replaced.
- 20
- Along with the needle 12a, the replaceable nozzle head 10a also comprises the receptacle 31 with the inserted Teflon seal 33, the receptacle being more or less filled with pigmented liquid depending on the current filling state, the helical spring 13a and the outer nozzle cap 37 with the silicone
- 25 diaphragm 35 inserted therein. The nozzle cap 37 is detachably connected to the base body 1 of the spraying device by means of suitable fixing means not shown in Fig. 2, such as a bayonet coupling. Due to the receptacle 31, the nozzle head 10a is equipped with an integrated liquid container. Designed in particular as a hand-held device, the inventive spraying device

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may therefore be operated independently of an external liquid supply, in particular without requiring a large external liquid container attached separately to the nozzle head 10a.

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The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A device for spraying on pigmented liquids by means of an airflow comprising:

a base body, a spray nozzle disposed at the front side of the base body, wherein a needle is disposed centrally in the spray nozzle, a compressed air inlet and an adjacent compressed air duct, an outlet opening for the pigmented liquid, wherein a controllable compressed air flow being supplied via the compressed air duct is guidable past the outlet opening for the pigmented liquid where the compressed air flow is loadable with droplets of liquid, these droplets of liquid being dischargeable through the spray nozzle as long as the compressed air flow is maintained, wherein the spray nozzle and the needle are disposed in a nozzle head, the nozzle head being removable or replaceable, respectively, as a whole;

wherein a receptacle is disposed in the nozzle head;

wherein a receiving space is formed in the receptacle for receiving the pigmented liquid to be sprayed on, so that the nozzle head is equipped with an integrated liquid container and the device is operable independently of an external liquid supply;

wherein a fill opening is provided, the fill opening being connected with the receptacle; and

wherein the fill opening is covered by a slit diaphragm.

2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the diaphragm consists of silicone.

3. A device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the receptacle is disposed about the needle.

4. A device according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the receptacle has a hollow cylindrical basic shape with a conically tapering front end area forming the outlet opening and a rear end area, a sealing element being inserted into the receptacle in the rear end area.

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5. A device according to claim 4, wherein the sealing element closely adheres to an inner wall of the receptacle such as to provide a sealing effect, the sealing element having a passage opening through which the needle is guided in an axially movable manner, a contact between the sealing element and the needle in the passage opening being narrow enough to provide a sealing effect.

6. A device according to claim 4, wherein a contact force between the sealing element and the needle guided through the sealing element is defined such that a relative position between the sealing element and the needle is maintained as long as there is no effect of an external force.

7. A device according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein a rear end of the needle is securely but detachably connected to an actuating ram by mechanical means.

8. A device according to claim 7, wherein the connection between the rear end of the needle and the actuating ram is provided by a positive fit.

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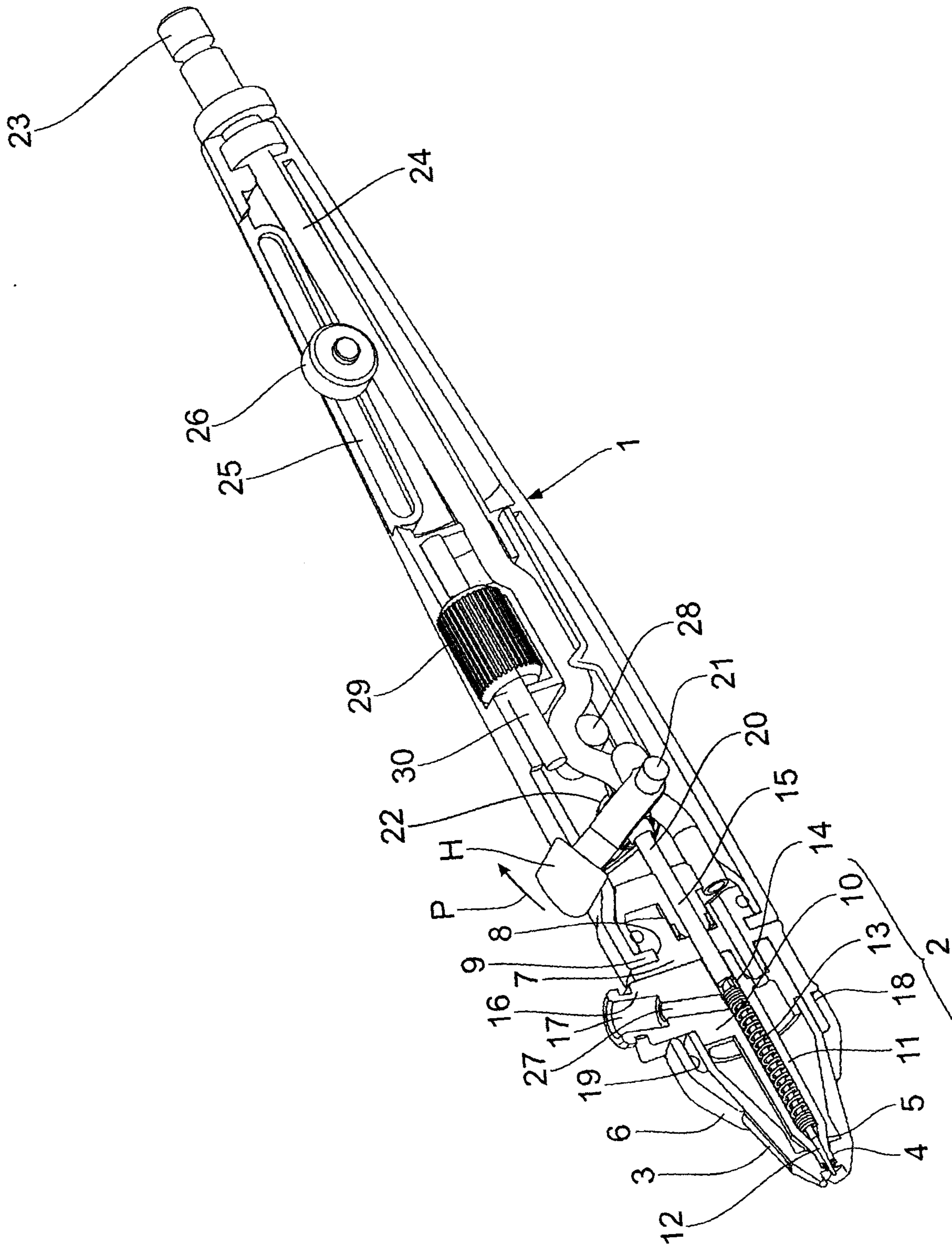


Fig. 1

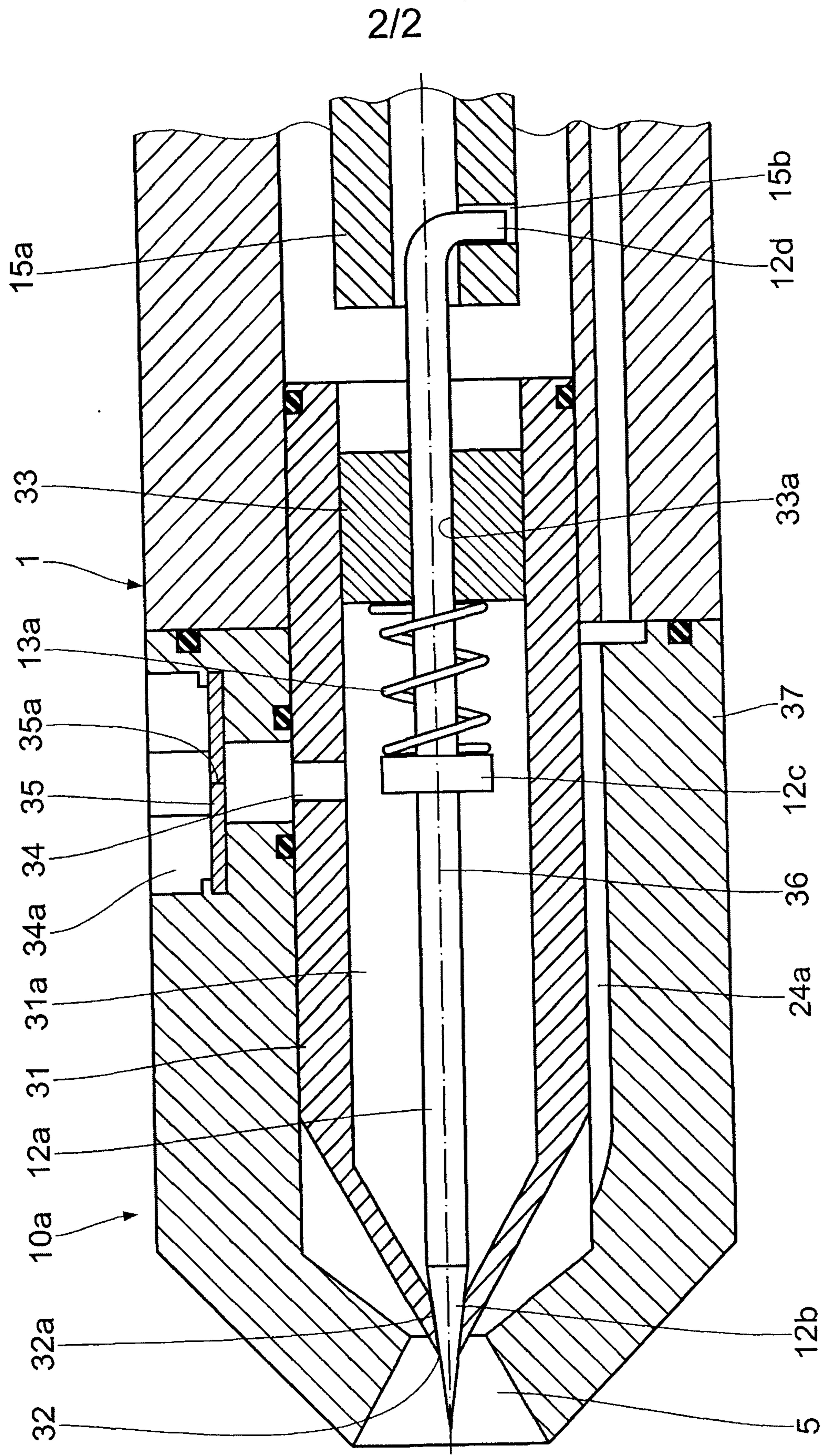


Fig. 2

