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— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: BEARING BLOCKS FOR DRILL BITS, DRILL BIT ASSEMBLIES INCLUDING BEARING BLOCKS AND RELATED METHODS

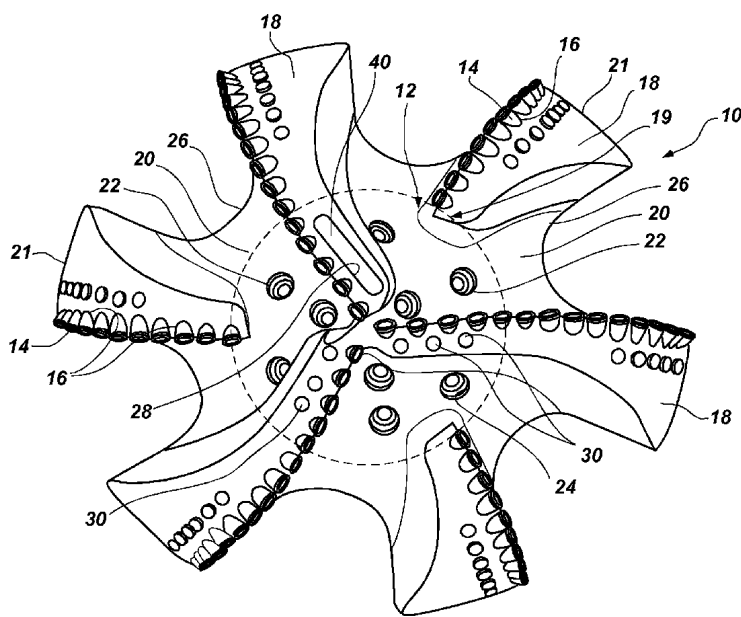


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Methods of drilling subterranean formations include coupling at least one bearing block having an initial thickness to a drill bit, engaging a formation with the drill bit within an initial depth of cut range, and reducing the initial thickness of the bearing block by contacting the formation to cause the initial depth of cut range to be at least partially increased. Methods of forming drill bits for drilling subterranean formations include forming at least one rubbing surface of at least one bearing block from at least one material exhibiting a reduced coefficient of friction and coupling the at least one bearing block to the drill bit. Drill bit assemblies include at least one bearing block having a distal portion configured to provide an initial depth of cut range and a base portion configured to provide an increased depth of cut range greater than the initial depth of cut range.



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<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
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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: bearing, block, element,bit		
<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	US 2008-0308321 A1 ( ALIKO ENIS et al. ) 18 December 2008 See abstract, figures 1-4, paragraphs 0013, 0015, 0018, 0041, 0044, 0045, 0048-0054.	1-9,14
A	US 6659199 B2 ( SWADI; MOHAMMAD ) 09 December 2003 See abstract, figures 1, 3, 4, column 3 line 59- column 4 line 9, line 28-55, claim 20.	1-15
A	US 6298930 B1 ( SINOR; L. ALLEN et al. ) 09 October 2001 See abstract, figure 1, column 5 line 30 - column 6 line 10-22.	1-15
A	US 6408958 B1 ( ISBELL; MATTHEW R. et al. ) 25 June 2002 See abstract, figures 4, 5.	1-15
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 "E" earlier application or patent 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 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
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