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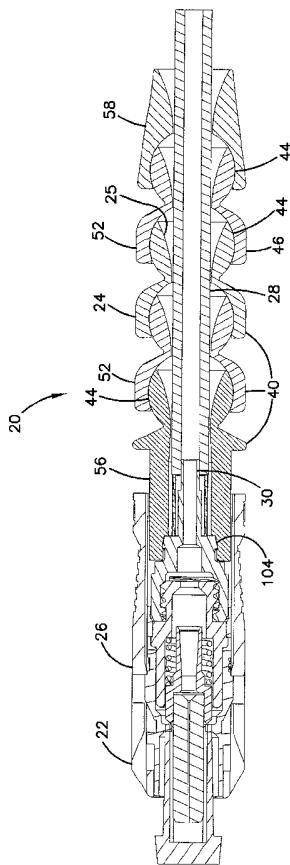
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: STRAIN RELIEF BOOT; OPTICAL CONNECTOR AND BOOT ASSEMBLY; AND METHODS



(57) Abstract: A strain relief boot and an optical connector assembly includes an optical connector having a cable with a power transmitting optical fiber and a boot. The boot has a central, hollow tube that holds the cable. The boot includes a series of discrete segments secured together, with each of the segments being preferably slidably connected together with a ball and socket joint. The boot may be manipulated into angles and the cable placed under tension forces, without loss of power transmission to the connector. Methods of assembling and using the boot are provided.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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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)
IPC 7 G02B H01R

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 094 552 A (MONROE KEVIN T ET AL) 10 March 1992 (1992-03-10)	1,23,28, 30
X	column 3, line 39 -column 4, line 16 figures 1,2 ---	10,11, 15,16
A	EP 0 523 473 A (NIPPON STEEL WELDING PROD ENG) 20 January 1993 (1993-01-20)	1,23,28, 30
X	figure 23 page 11, line 43 - line 57 ---	10,11, 15,16
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X	figure 1 page 5 ---	10,11, 15,16, 23,28-33
		-/-

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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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