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| (54) Title: A PROCEDURE FOR BENDING A PROFILED METAL ELEMENT WHILE LIMITING DEFORMATION OF ITS CROSS-SECTIONAL SHAPE | | | | | |
| (57) Abstract | | | | | |
| <p>The bending procedure calls for a restraining force to be exerted on the profiled metal element (10) in a direction substantially orthogonal to that of the forces causing the bend, at the same time as the said forces are being exerted, in order to limit any deformation of the cross-sectional shape of the element (10). The associated apparatus includes means for exerting on the element (10) a restraining force in a direction substantially orthogonal to that of the forces causing the bending.</p> | | | | | |
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A PROCEDURE FOR BENDING A PROFILED METAL ELEMENT WHILE LIMITING DEFORMATION OF ITS CROSS-SECTtONAL SHAPE

The present invention relates to a procedure for bending a profiled metal element in one or more dimensions and associated apparatus.

The object of the invention is to provide a procedure of the above type whereby bending a profiled metal element, notably by drawing, does not carry the side effect of deforming the cross-sectional shape thereof.

This object is achieved thanks to a bending procedure characterised in that it exerts a restraining force on the said profiled metal element in a direction substantially orthogonal to that of the forces causing the bend, at the time that they are acting.

This restraining force counters the tendency of the cross section of the element to become deformed, thus ensuring that it retains its original shape.

Profile elements of an open or partially closed type are suited to the procedure of the invention.

A further object of the invention comprises apparatus for carrying out the aforesaid procedure, including means for exerting on the element to be bent a restraining force in a

direction substantially orthogonal to that of the forces causing the bend.

Additional advantages and characteristics of the present invention will become clear from the detailed description which follows, with reference to the appended drawings, provided purely by way of non-limitative example, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a profiled metal element to be bent by the procedure of the invention, and

Figure 2 is a view in section, taken on the line II-II of Figure 1, of the profiled element arranged on apparatus operable to carry out the procedure of the invention.

An elongate profiled metal element 10, having a W-shape in cross section (see Figure 1) is to be bent in several dimensions as shown by the arrows 14.

In order to carry out this bending procedure, apparatus is used which is known per se in the art and is only schematically illustrated in figure 2, and includes a template 16 having the shape to be imparted to the metal element and a series of dies 18 operated by respective actuators 20 able to press the element 10 against the template 16.

The surfaces of the template 16 and of the dies 18 intended to come into contact with the element 10 match the shape of the latter in order to provide adequate support during the bending procedure.

The apparatus also includes means for exerting a restraining force on the element 10 in a direction substantially orthogonal to that of the forces causing the bend by drawing.

These restraining means comprise pincers 22 located in recesses 24 formed along both sides of the template 16 and having jaws 26 able to grip the transverse edge regions of the element 10.

The jaws 26 of the pincers 22 are operated by respective actuators 28, which may be mechanically, pneumatically hydraulically or electrically operated.

In embodiments of the invention, not illustrated, the pincers can be replaced by vices, operated by mechanical lever systems instead of actuators.

In order to carry out the bending procedure, the jaws 26 of the pincers 22 hold the edge regions of the element 10 against the template 16 so that the forces exerted by the dies 18 produce the required bend by drawing the element 10 without deforming its cross-sectional shape.

In dependence on the shape of the element 10 and on the bending forces exerted on it, it is possible to provide a specific number of pincers 22 and/or a particular layout thereof, such that the cross section of the profiled element remains unchanged during the entire procedure.

Naturally, the principle of the invention remaining the same, manufacturing details and embodiments may vary widely from

those described and illustrated here purely by way of non-limitative example, without departing thereby from the scope of the invention.

For example, the bending of the profiled element can take place also only in one dimension, the longitudinal axis of the element remaining in the plane wherein it was originally.

CLAIMS

1. A procedure for bending a profiled metal element (10) in one or more dimensions, characterised in that it provides for a restraining force to be exerted on the said element (10) in a direction substantially orthogonal to that of the forces causing the bend and at the same time as the bending forces are acting, in order to limit any deformation of the cross-sectional shape of the element (10).
2. Apparatus for bending a profiled metal element (10) in one or more dimensions, characterised in that it includes means for exerting a restraining force on the said element (10) along a direction substantially orthogonal to that of the forces determining the bend.
3. Apparatus according to the preceding claim, characterised in that the said restraining means are mechanically, pneumatically, hydraulically or electrically operated.
4. Apparatus according to Claim 2 or Claim 3, characterised in that the said restraining means comprise pincers (22) and/or vices, located along both sides of the element (10) and having jaws (26) able to grip the transverse edge regions of the element (10).

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FIG. 1

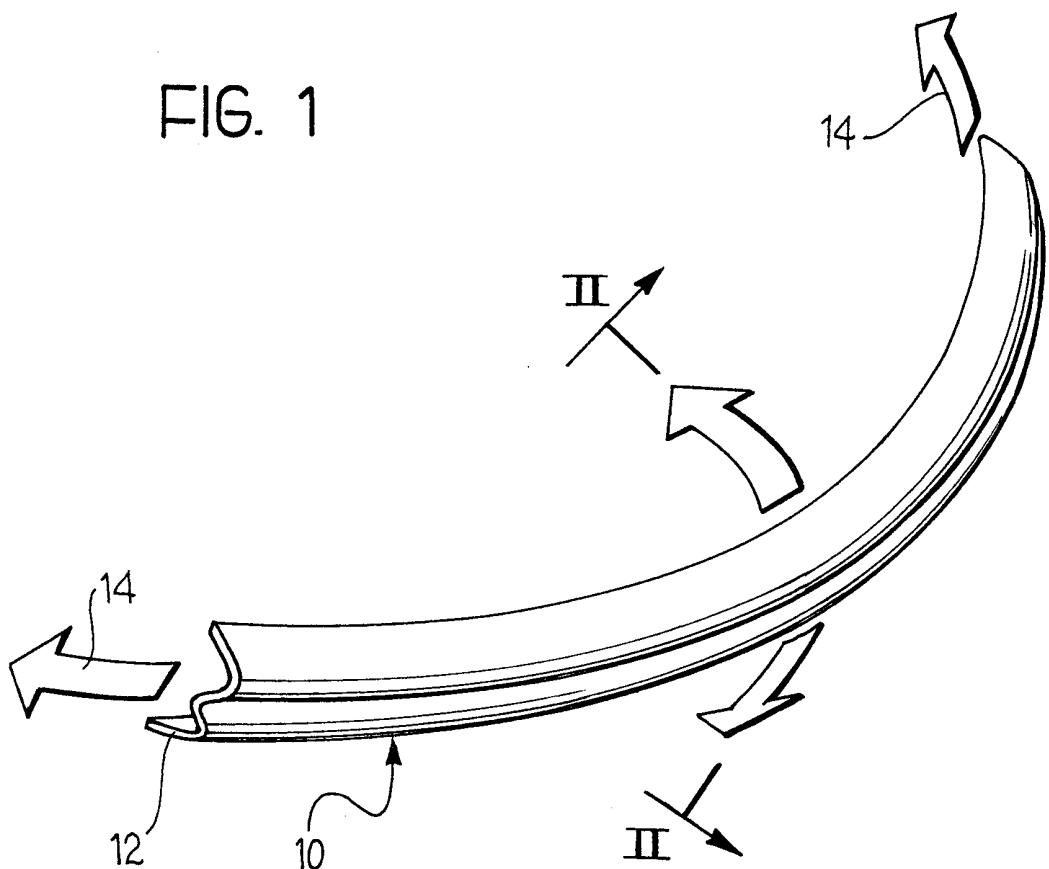
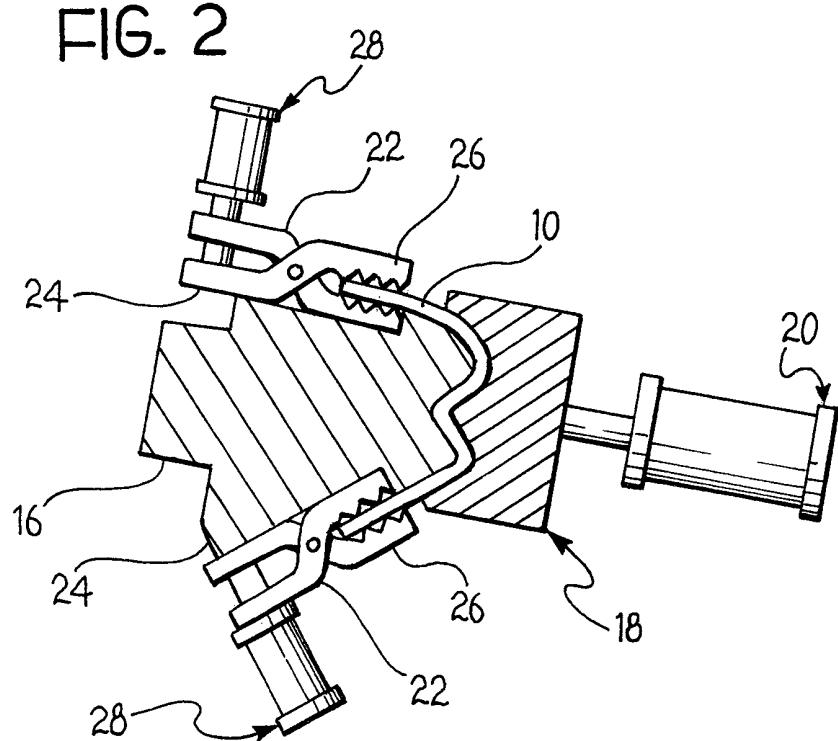


FIG. 2



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/EP 00/00208

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B21D7/03

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 B21D

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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| X | DE 15 27 336 A (HAMBURGER FLUGZEUGBAU GMBH) 24 April 1969 (1969-04-24) page 4; figures 1,2,5,20 --- | 1-5 |
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| X | GB 982 694 A (REYNOLDS METAL COMPANY) page 8, line 31-77; figure 43 ----- | 1,2,5 |

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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Information on patent family members

Int'l Application No

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