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(54) Title: METHOD FOR MANEUVERING A THIN PREPREG AND FOR FORMING A RIGID COMPOSITE STRUCTURE

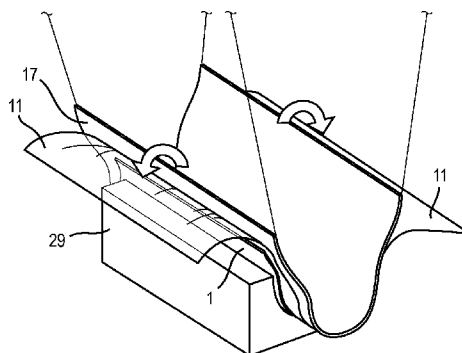


FIG. 8

(57) Abstract: A method for maneuvering a flexible pre-impregnated composite sheet (1) is disclosed. The flexible pre-impregnated composite sheet (1) is positioned onto a work surface and a vacuum sheet (11) is operatively coupled to the flexible pre-impregnated composite sheet (1). The vacuum sheet (11) is operatively coupled to a flexible conveyor sheet (17) and the flexible conveyor sheet (17) is positioned proximate to a mold (29) such that the flexible pre-impregnated composite sheet (1) is in contact with the mold (29). The vacuum sheet (11) is decoupled from the flexible conveyor sheet (17) and the vacuum sheet (11) is removed from the flexible pre-impregnated composite sheet (1) after the debulking of the flexible pre-impregnated composite sheet(s) (1).



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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category*</th> <th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th> <th>Relevant to claim No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>US 2006/068170 A1 (HANSON STEVEN F [US]) 30 March 2006 (2006-03-30)</td> <td>1,2,4, 10-12, 14,15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>figures 2,3</td> <td>1,4-9, 15-20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>paragraphs [0016], [0017], [0022] - [0025]</td> <td>3,13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>----- US 4 622 091 A (LETTERMAN LESLIE E [US]) 11 November 1986 (1986-11-11) figures 2-4 column 5, line 7 - column 6, line 15</td> <td>4-9, 18-20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>----- US 2006/108058 A1 (CHAPMAN MICHAEL R [US] ET AL) 25 May 2006 (2006-05-25) figures 6,8,9 paragraphs [0010], [0046], [0073], [0074], [0076], [0077] ----- -/-</td> <td>4-9,17, 18</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	X	US 2006/068170 A1 (HANSON STEVEN F [US]) 30 March 2006 (2006-03-30)	1,2,4, 10-12, 14,15	Y	figures 2,3	1,4-9, 15-20	A	paragraphs [0016], [0017], [0022] - [0025]	3,13	Y	----- US 4 622 091 A (LETTERMAN LESLIE E [US]) 11 November 1986 (1986-11-11) figures 2-4 column 5, line 7 - column 6, line 15	4-9, 18-20	Y	----- US 2006/108058 A1 (CHAPMAN MICHAEL R [US] ET AL) 25 May 2006 (2006-05-25) figures 6,8,9 paragraphs [0010], [0046], [0073], [0074], [0076], [0077] ----- -/-	4-9,17, 18
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