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(54) Title: DRIVE SHAFT AND METHOD AND APPARATUS SUITABLE FOR USE IN THE MANUFACTURE THEREOF

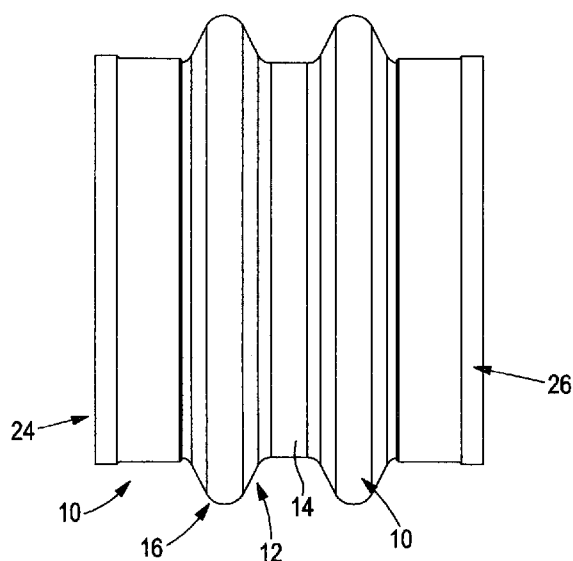


Figure 1

(57) Abstract: A drive shaft is described comprising a tubular component (12) of wound fibre composite form, the component (12) including a cylindrical section (14) in which the wall of the component is of cylindrical form and extends in a direction parallel to the axis of the drive shaft (12), the component (12) further including a bellows shaped section (16), wherein the fibre winding angle of the fibres in the cylindrical section (14) is different to the winding angle of the fibres in at least part of the bellows shaped section (16). Also described are methods and an apparatus for use in the manufacture or fabrication of such a drive shaft.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/GB2019/050609

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. B29C70/32
ADD.

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)

B29C B29L

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 practicable, search terms used)

EP0-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	FR 2 564 538 A1 (SKF CIE STE FINANCIERE IMMOBIL [FR]) 22 November 1985 (1985-11-22) page 2, line 27 - page 3, line 20; claim 1; figures -----	1-7
X	EP 0 022 467 A1 (MESSERSCHMITT BOELKOW BLOHM [DE]) 21 January 1981 (1981-01-21) claim 1 -----	1,8
X	WO 01/66965 A1 (VOLVO LASTVAGNAR AB [SE]; STERVIK HANS [SE]) 13 September 2001 (2001-09-13) page 6, line 19 - page 7, line 7; claims 1,7,8 -----	1

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ 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 another 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

Date of the actual completion of the international search

9 July 2019

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16/09/2019

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB2019/050609

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-8

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-8

Drive shaft with bellows and method of making

2. claims: 9-12

Method and apparatus of making object using low melting material

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/GB2019/050609

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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