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ABSTRACT

A pipe connector not only allows a flexible pipe (like PEX pipe) easy to enter, but also ensures the sealing of socket and holding of pipe connection when the pipe is injected with liquid and gets pressurized to expand, the pipe connector includes a socket body in which in the direction of pipe entry, configuring in sequence: grab ring, retainer and O-shaped sealing ring; , when pipe enters the socket, flange arranged on the grab ring is deflected; when the pipe is injected with liquid and gets pressurized to expand, the O-shaped sealing ring is compressed and expands axially, then the O-shaped sealing ring pushes the retainer, so as to push the grab ring to move in reverse direction of pipe entry, thus locking the pipe.

Fig. 1

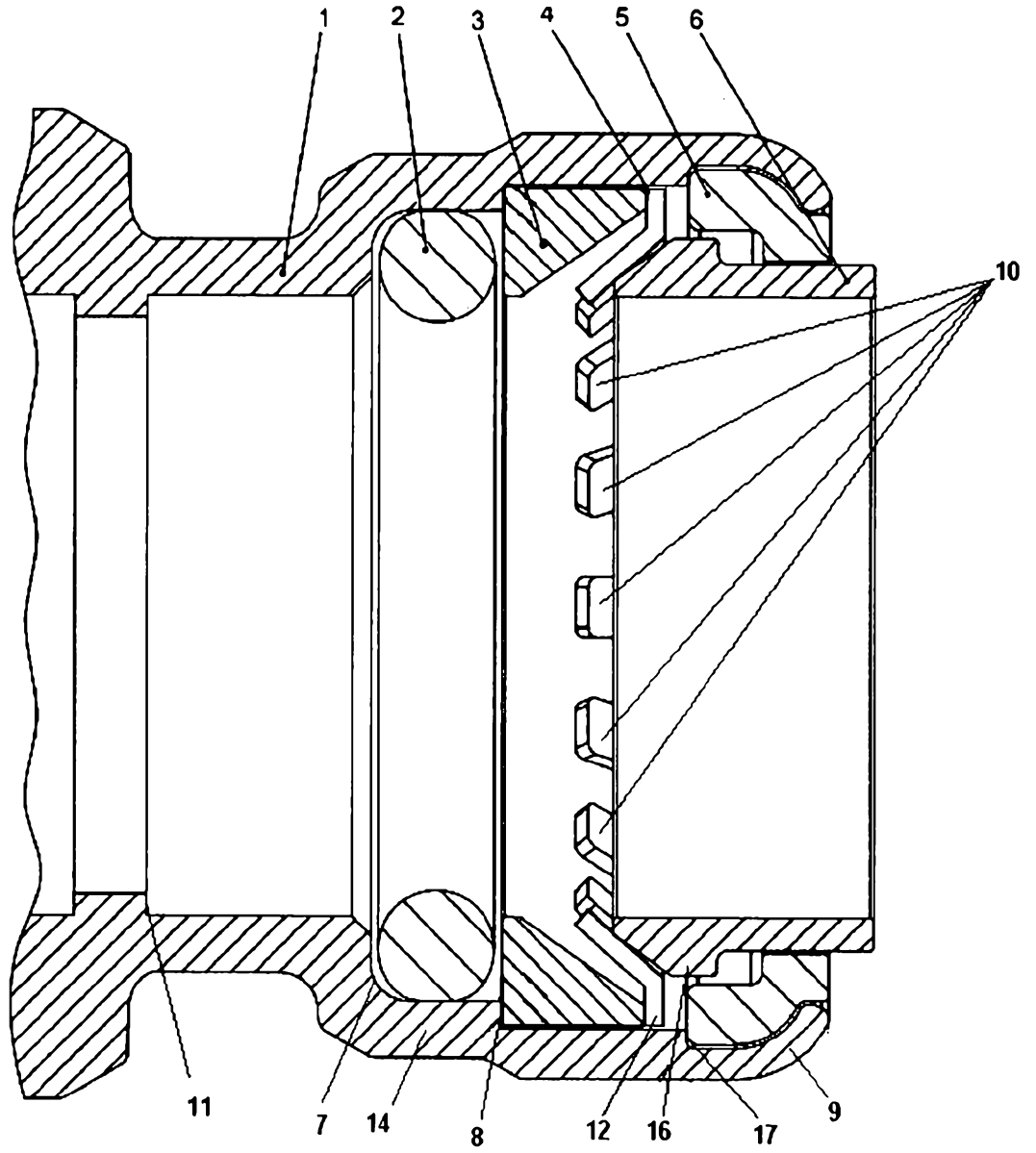


Fig.1

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

FOR A STANDARD PATENT

ORIGINAL

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The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to me/us:-

File: 70477AUP00

PIPE CONNECTOR

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] Pursuant to Paris Convention Treaty, this application claims the benefit of Chinese Patent Application No. 201010296449.9 filed on Sep. 29, 2010, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The invention refers to a pipe connector.

[0003] Any discussion of the prior art throughout the specification should in no way be considered as an admission that such prior art is widely known or forms part of common general knowledge in the field.

[0004] A pipe is one of essential facilities used in the industry, and a pipe connecting device, such as a socket, is an important device for connecting different pipes.

[0005] Nowadays, well known means of connecting pipes includes threaded connection (referring to metallic pipes) thermal welded joint (PP-R Pipe and PE pipe). Threaded connection of pipes is realized by screwing two pipes together via the internal thread of one of the pipes and the external thread of the other, and using Teflon belt for sealing, and thermal welded joint is realized by melting the joints of two pipe and connecting them together in molten state, so that the joint forms a sealed connection. However, the two above mentioned means of connection are very complex, and with bad quality of sealing, in addition, such means of connection may also bring inconvenience to the maintenance.

[0006] In order to meet different needs, improved ways of connecting pipes and the related devices are being expected. Chinese patent with publication No. CN1594954A discloses a socket for connecting a small or medium-sized gas pipe with a valve or a tap. The socket contains a tee joint and elbow on the connecting end, so as to improve the efficiency of connecting, facilitate the maintenance and change. However, this socket is only suitable for connecting a small or medium-sized gas pipe with a valve or a tap.

Chinese patent with publication No. CN1257169A disclose a socket for pipe connection. The socket comprises a first casing pipe that cases on the external wall of it, and a second casing

pipe that cases on the external wall of the first casing pipe. A fastening piece, with thread on its external wall, is arranged on the wall of the second casing pipe. The second casing pipe also contains a wheel and a spring that acts on the fastening piece. The left and the right locations of the spring are in close fit with the right end of the first casing pipe and the external wall of a spacing piece respectively. The first casing pipe contains a ramp on its external wall. This invention simplifies the mounting and demounting work, but with the pressure rises, the quality of sealing of device will be affected.

[0007] Chinese patent with publication No. CN2428674Y discloses a socket for pipe connection. The socket is metallic, and also suitable for connecting with PEX pipe. The socket contains a socket body, O-shaped sealing ring, retainer, grab ring, demounting ring, and the locking cap. The O-shaped sealing ring, retainer, grab ring, movable taper sleeve, and the locking cap are arranged in sequence inside the socket body. When the PEX pipe is inserted, the pipe may go through movable taper sleeve grab ring, retainer, O-shaped sealing ring and reach the pipe stop member A. Due to the flexibility of teeth arranged on the grab ring, the teeth may grab on the pipe when the pipe enters the socket. And also due to the flexibility of O-shaped sealing ring, the O-shaped sealing ring may form a sealed connection with the pipe when the pipe passes through. Finally, the locking cap is used to fasten the socket to prevent the components from escaping.

[0008] In order to take the PEX pipe out of the socket, the demounting ring will be used to push the teeth of the grab ring grabbing on the external wall of pipe by pushing the demounting ring in the direction of pipe entry to separate the teeth from the external wall of pipe.

[0009] Chinese patent with publication No. CN201096247Y discloses a pipe fast connecting socket that comprises in sequence O-shaped sealing ring, retainer, grab ring, demounting ring and locking cap. A cannellure is arranged on the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder for letting liquid pass through. This design can allow average pressure of the O-shaped sealing ring acting on the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder. When the pressure increases, the sealing of the socket gets better. Therefore, the invention may improve the sealing of the socket.

[0010] The above mentioned prior arts comprise a grab ring that is unmovable between the retainer and the locking cap, so that the teeth of the grab ring may strongly grabbing on the external wall of pipe to restrict the PEX pipe entering. Although the PEX pipe is unmovable in the socket after the PEX pipe is completed inserted into the socket, the teeth

may have been strongly restricting the entry of PEX pipe as it is being inserted, which causes much difficulty of pipe insertion.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0011] It is an object of the present invention to overcome or ameliorate at least one of the disadvantages of the prior art, or to provide a useful alternative.

[0012] Advantageously, in at least a preferred form of the invention, there is provided a pipe connector that not only allows a flexible pipe (like PEX pipe) easy to enter, but also ensures the sealing of socket and holding of pipe connection when the pipe is injected with liquid and gets pressurized to expand, and also provide a pipe connector using the same for liquid supply.

[0013] In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, provided is a pipe connector comprising a socket body, comprising in the direction of pipe entry: a locking cap for preventing components therein from escaping, a locking cap stop member arranged at the end of the socket body where the pipe enters, for preventing the locking cap from escaping; a demounting ring for unlocking the pipe; a grab ring, comprising a flange and a plurality of teeth arranged on the flange and adapted to be fixed to the external wall of the pipe; a retainer, in moveable connection with the internal wall of the socket body, for stopping the grab ring from moving in the direction of pipe entry; a retainer shoulder arranged on the internal wall of the socket body for stopping the retainer from moving in the direction of pipe entry; the arrangement of the retainer shoulder and the locking cap allows free axial movement of the grab ring and the retainer therebetween; an O-shaped sealing ring for forming a sealed connection with the external wall of the pipe; an O-shaped sealing ring shoulder, arranged on the internal wall of the socket body, for stopping the O-shaped sealing ring from moving in the direction of pipe entry; a pipe stop member, arranged on the internal wall of the socket body, for stopping the pipe from moving in the direction of pipe entry. The flange of the grab ring is adapted to be deflected with the pipe entering said socket; and the pipe is adapted to be pressurized and the O-shaped sealing ring is adapted to be compressed and expands axially with liquid being directed into said pipe, so as to allow the O-shaped sealing ring to push the retainer thereby pushing the grab ring to move in reverse direction of pipe entry which is adapted to force the deflected flange to recover from deflection and try to flatten itself to an initial state, allowing an increase of grabbing force acting on the external wall of the pipe and, locking the pipe in the socket.

[0014] In a class of this embodiment, the socket comprises an O-shaped sealing ring segment arranged between the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder and retainer shoulder.

[0015] In a class of this embodiment, a step in sealed movable connection with the O-shaped sealing ring segment, is arranged at the end of the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder in the vicinity of the O-shaped sealing ring, the step always keeps in sealed movable connection with the O-shaped sealing ring segment when the retainer is pushed to move in reverse direction of pipe entry.

[0016] In a class of this embodiment, the gap between the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder and the locking cap allows the O-shaped sealing ring to push the grab ring against the locking cap through the retainer when the pipe is injected with liquid and gets pressurized to expand to compress the O-shaped sealing ring to expand axially.

[0017] In a class of this embodiment, the gap between the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder and the retainer is no narrower than the axial width of the O-shaped sealing ring that is compressed when the pipe passes through the O-shaped sealing ring.

[0018] In a class of this embodiment, the internal diameter of the teeth in initial state is smaller than the external diameter of the pipe, the internal diameter of the O-shaped sealing ring is smaller than the external diameter of the pipe, and the internal diameter of the demounting ring is larger than the external diameter of the pipe.

[0019] In a class of this embodiment, the retainer is annular, and contains a ramp that coordinates with the teeth.

[0020] In a class of this embodiment, the socket further comprises: a locking cap shoulder, arranged on the internal wall of the socket body, between the grab ring and the locking cap, for stopping the locking cap from moving in the direction of pipe entry; a convex part, arranged on the external wall of the demounting ring for working with the locking cap to prevent the demounting ring from escaping from the socket.

[0021] In a class of this embodiment, the demounting ring contains a sharp angle at the end of the demount ring close to the grab ring

[0022] Advantages of the invention comprise:

1. The socket comprises a socket body, comprising in the direction of pipe entry: grab ring, retainer and O-shaped sealing ring; when pipe enters the socket, the flange arranged on the grab ring is deflected; in comparison with the grab ring with undeflected flange when a pipe enters, the grabbing force of teeth of the grab ring with deflected flange acting on the pipe is smaller than that of grab ring with undeflected flange, so that this deflection of flange allows ease of the pipe entry. When the pipe is injected with liquid and gets pressurized to expand, the O-shaped sealing ring is compressed to expand axially, then the O-shaped sealing ring pushes the retainer, so as to push the grab ring to move in reverse direction of pipe entry, and try to make the flange recover from deflection with the help of pushing of the retainer, then the grabbing force of teeth of grab ring acting on the external wall of pipe may increase, which locks the pipe in the socket and ensures sealing of the socket and holding of the pipe connection.

2. The socket body comprises an O-shaped sealing ring segment arranged between the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder and the retainer shoulder, a step in sealed movable connection with the O-shaped sealing ring segment, is arranged at the end of the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder close to the O-shaped sealing ring; , the a step keeps in sealed movable connection with the O-shaped sealing ring segment when the retainer is pushed to move in reverse direction of pipe entry. This design can effectively ensure sealing of the socket when the O-shaped sealing ring pushes the retainer to move in reverse direction of pipe entry.

3. The gap between the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder and the locking cap allows the O-shaped sealing ring to push the grab ring against the locking cap through the retainer when the pipe is injected with liquid and gets pressurized to expand, which compresses the O-shaped sealing ring to expand axially. This design increases grabbing force of the teeth acting on the external wall of the pipe when the grab ring is pushed against the locking cap, preventing the pipe from escaping from the socket, so as to improve holding of the pipe connection.

4. If the gap between the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder and the retainer is wider than the axial width of the O-shaped sealing ring that is compressed when the pipe enters the socket, the O-shaped sealing ring will not contact the retainer so as not to push the grab ring to move in reserve direction of pipe entry when the O-shaped sealing ring is compressed and expands axially, and this will not increase the grabbing force of the teeth of the grab ring acting on the external wall of the pipe entering, so that the compression of the O-shaped sealing ring may not restrict the pipe entry. If the gap between the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder and the retainer is as wide as the axial width of the O-shaped sealing ring that is compressed when the pipe enters the socket, the O-shaped sealing ring will just

contact the retainer but not give any pressure on the retainer, so as not to push the grab ring to move in reserve direction of pipe entry when the O-shaped sealing ring is compressed and expands axially, and this will not increase the grabbing force of the teeth of the grab ring acting on the external wall of the pipe entering, so that the compression of the O-shaped sealing ring may not restrict the pipe entry, in addition, this calculated gap between the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder and the retainer will allow the pressure of the compressed O-shaped sealing ring due to axial expansion to completely act on the retainer when the inserted pipe is injected with liquid and gets pressurized to expand, so as to push the grab ring to move in reverse direction of pipe entry.

5. As the internal diameter of the teeth in initial state is smaller than the external diameter of the pipe, the teeth of the grab ring can grab on the external wall of the pipe. As the internal diameter of the O-shaped sealing ring is smaller than the external diameter of the pipe, the O-shaped sealing ring can form a sealed connection with the external wall of the pipe, and as the internal diameter of the demounting ring is larger than the external diameter of the pipe, a sufficient clearance forms between the demounting ring and the pipe allowing an unrestricted entry of the pipe.

6. The retainer is annular, and contains a ramp that coordinates with the teeth. This allows the teeth of the grab ring to flex when pushed by the pipe being inserted.

7. The demounting ring containing a sharp angle at the end of the demount ring close to the O-shaped sealing ring ensures least contact with the teeth of the grab ring.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0023] One or more preferred embodiments of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

[0024] FIG. 1 illustrates a pipe connector without a step in an initial state;

[0025] FIG. 2 illustrates a pipe connector without a step after the entry of pipe;

[0026] FIG. 3 illustrates a pipe connector without a step after the pipe is injected with liquid and gets pressurized to expand;

[0027] FIG. 4 illustrates a pipe connector with a step in an initial state;

[0028] FIG. 5 illustrates a pipe connector with a step after the entry of pipe;

[0029] FIG. 6 illustrates a preferred embodiment for a pipe connector; and

[0030] FIG. 7 illustrates a preferred embodiment for a pipe connector after the pipe is injected with liquid and gets pressurized to expand;

[0031] In the drawings, the following reference numbers are used:

1-socket body; 2-O-shaped sealing ring; 3-retainer; 4-grab ring; 5-locking cap; 6-demounting ring; 7-O-shaped sealing ring shoulder; 8-retainer shoulder; 9- locking cap stop member; 10-tooth; 11-pipe stop member; 12-flange; 13-pipe; 14-O-shaped sealing ring segment; 15-step; 16-convex part; 17-locking cap shoulder

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

Embodiment 1

[0032] Referring to FIG. 1, a pipe connector comprises a socket body 1. The socket body 1 comprises, in the direction of pipe entry: a locking cap 5 for preventing the components such as demounting ring 6, grab ring 4, retainer 3 and O-shaped sealing ring 2 therein from escaping, a locking cap stop member 9 arranged at the end of the socket where the pipe 13 enters, for preventing the locking cap 5 from escaping; a demounting ring 6 for unlocking the pipe 13; a grab ring 4, comprising a flange 12 and a plurality of teeth 10 set on the flange and fixed to the external wall of the pipe 13; a retainer 3, in moveable connection with the internal wall of the socket body 1, for stopping the grab ring 4 from moving in the direction of pipe entry; a retainer shoulder 8 arranged on the internal wall of the socket body 1 for stopping the retainer 3 from moving in the direction of pipe entry; the arrangement of the retainer shoulder 8 and the and the locking cap 5 allows free axial movement of the grab ring 4 and the retainer 3 therebetween; an O-shaped sealing ring 2 for forming a sealed connection with the external wall of the pipe 13; an O-shaped sealing ring shoulder 7, arranged on the internal wall of the socket body 1, for stopping the O-shaped sealing ring 2 from moving in the direction of pipe entry; a pipe stop member 11, arranged on the internal wall of the socket body 1, for stopping the pipe 13 from moving in the direction of pipe entry;

[0033] The gap between the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder 7 and the locking cap 5 allows a designed movement of the O-shaped sealing ring 2, retainer 3 and grab ring 4 and also allows the O-shaped sealing ring 2 to push the grab ring 4 against the locking cap 5 through the retainer 3, when the pipe is injected with liquid and gets pressurized to expand so as to press the O-shaped sealing ring 2 to expand axially.

[0034] Referring to FIG. 2, the gap between the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder 7 and the retainer 3 is wider than the axial width of the O-shaped sealing ring 2 that is compressed when the pipe 13 enters the socket and passes through the O-shaped sealing ring 2. It allows the free compression of the O-shaped sealing ring 2, and the O-shaped sealing ring 2 is separated from the retainer 3.

[0035] The internal diameter of the teeth 10 in initial state is smaller than the external diameter of the pipe 13, the internal diameter of the O-shaped sealing ring 2 is smaller than the external diameter of the pipe 13, and the internal diameter of the demounting ring 6 is larger than the external diameter of the pipe 13.

[0036] The retainer 3 is annular, and contains a ramp that coordinates with the teeth 10.

[0037] The socket further comprises a locking cap shoulder 17, arranged on the internal wall of the socket body 1, between the grab ring 4 and the locking cap 5, for stopping the locking cap 5 from moving in the direction of pipe entry; a convex part 16, arranged on the external wall of the demounting ring for working with the locking cap (5) to prevent the demounting ring 6 from escaping from the socket.

[0038] The demounting ring 6 contains a sharp angle at the end of the demount ring 6 close to the O-shaped sealing ring 4. When the pipe 13 enters the socket, it initially passes through the demounting ring 6; then with the entry of the pipe 13, the external wall of the pipe 13 gets to contact the teeth 10 of the grab ring 4, and push the teeth 10 so as to make the flange 12 of the grab ring 4 deflected. When the pipe enters, force acting on the teeth 10 pushes the retainer towards the shoulder. After that the pipe 13 passes through the grab ring 4; with further entry of the pipe 13, it passes through the retainer 3 and the O-shaped sealing ring, then reaches the pipe stop member 11; the deflection of flange is illustrated in FIG. 1 that the external part of the flange 12 moves in reverse direction of pipe entry (Direction B), and the internal part of the flange 12 moves in the direction of pipe entry (Direction A).

[0039] Referring to FIG. 3, when the pipe 13 is injected with liquid and gets pressurized to expand, the pipe 13 will be expanded; with the expansion of the pipe 13, the O-shaped sealing ring 2 is pressured by the pipe 13 and expands axially, then the O-shaped sealing ring 2 pushes the retainer 3, so as to push the grab ring 4 to move in reverse direction of pipe entry until it is pushed against the locking cap; at this moment, the deflected flange begins to get recovered from deflection and try to flatten itself to an initial state, and this may

allow the increase of grabbing force acting on the external wall of the pipe 13, thus locking the pipe 13 in the socket.

[0040] In order to take the pipe 13 out of the socket, the demounting ring 6 is pushed in the direction of pipe entry, and then the end of the demounting ring 6 close to the grab ring pushes the teeth to separate them from the external wall of the pipe 13, so that the pipe 13 is unlocked and can be taken out of the socket.

[0041] The pipe 13 preferably can be PEX pipe.

[0042] The socket comprises a socket body, comprising in the direction of pipe entry: grab ring, retainer and O-shaped sealing ring; when pipe enters the socket, the flange arranged on the grab ring is deflected; in comparison with the grab ring with no deflection with its flange when a pipe enters, the grabbing force of teeth of the grab ring with deflected flange acting on the pipe is smaller than that of grab ring with undeflected flange, so that this deflection of flange allows ease of the pipe entry. When the pipe is injected with liquid and gets pressurized to expand, the O-shaped sealing ring is pressured to expand axially, then the O-shaped sealing ring pushes the retainer, so as to push the grab ring to move in reverse direction of pipe entry, and make the flange recover from deflection with the help of pushing of the retainer, then the grabbing force of teeth of grab ring acting on the external wall of pipe may increase, which locks the pipe in the socket and ensures sealing of the socket and holding of the pipe connection.

[0043] The gap between the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder and the locking cap allows the O-shaped sealing ring to push the grab ring against the locking cap through the retainer when the pipe is injected with liquid and gets pressurized to expand, which presses the O-shaped sealing ring to expand axially. This design increases grabbing force of the teeth acting on the external wall of the pipe when the grab ring is pushed against the locking cap, preventing the pipe from escaping from the socket, so as to improve holding of the pipe connection.

[0044] The gap between the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder and the retainer is wider than the axial width of the O-shaped sealing ring that is compressed when the pipe enters the socket, the O-shaped sealing ring will not contact the retainer so as not to push the grab ring to move in reserve direction of pipe entry when the O-shaped sealing ring is compressed and expands axially, and this will not increase the grabbing force of the teeth of the grab ring

acting on the external wall of the pipe entering, so that the compression of the O-shaped sealing ring may not restrict the pipe entry.

[0045] As the internal diameter of the teeth in initial state is smaller than the external diameter of the pipe, the teeth of the grab ring can grab on the external wall of the pipe. As the internal diameter of the O-shaped sealing ring is smaller than the external diameter of the pipe, the O-shaped sealing ring can form a sealed connection with the external wall of the pipe, and as the internal diameter of the demounting ring is larger than the external diameter of the pipe, a sufficient clearance forms between the demounting ring and the pipe allowing an unrestricted entry of the pipe.

[0046] The retainer is annular, and contains a ramp that coordinates with the teeth. This allows the teeth of the grab ring to flex when pushed by the pipe being inserted.

[0047] The demounting ring containing a sharp angle at the end of the demount ring close to the O-shaped sealing ring ensures least contact with the teeth of the grab ring.

Embodiment 2

[0048] Referring to FIG. 4, a pipe connector comprises a socket body 1 in which in the direction of pipe entry, configuring in sequence a locking cap 5 for preventing the components such as demounting ring 6, grab ring 4, retainer 3 and O-shaped sealing ring 2 therein from escaping, a locking cap stop member 9 arranged at the end of the socket where the pipe 13 enters, for preventing the locking cap 5 from escaping; a demounting ring 6 for unlocking the pipe 13; a grab ring 4, comprising a flange 12 and a plurality of teeth 10 arranged on the flange and fixed to the external wall of the pipe 13; a retainer 3, in moveable connection with the internal wall of the socket body 1, for stopping the grab ring 4 from moving in the direction of pipe entry; a retainer shoulder 8 arranged on the internal wall of the socket body 1 for stopping the retainer 3 from moving in the direction of pipe entry; the arrangement of the retainer shoulder 8 and the and the locking cap 5 allows free axial movement of the grab ring 4 and the retainer 3 therebetween; an O-shaped sealing ring 2 for forming a sealed connection with the external wall of the pipe 13; an O-shaped sealing ring shoulder 7, arranged on the internal wall of the socket body 1, for stopping the O-shaped sealing ring 2 from moving in the direction of pipe entry; a pipe stop member 11, arranged on the internal wall of the socket body 1, for stopping the pipe 13 from moving in the direction of pipe entry;

[0049] The socket also comprises an O-shaped sealing ring segment 14 arranged between the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder 7 and retainer shoulder 8, a step 15 in sealed movable connection with the O-shaped sealing ring segment 14, is arranged at the end of the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder 7 close to the O-shaped sealing ring 2; , the step 15 always keeps in sealed movable connection with the O-shaped sealing ring segment 14 when the retainer is pushed to move in reverse direction of pipe entry.

[0050] The gap between the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder 7 and the locking cap 5 allows a designed movement of the O-shaped sealing ring 2, retainer 3 and grab ring 4, and also allows the O-shaped sealing ring 2 to push the grab ring 4 against the locking cap 5 through the retainer 3 when the pipe is injected with liquid and gets pressurized to expand, which presses the O-shaped sealing ring 2 to expand axially.

[0051] Referring to FIG. 5, the gap between the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder 7 and the retainer 3 is wider than the axial width of the O-shaped sealing ring 2 that is compressed when the pipe 13 enters the socket and passes through the O-shaped sealing ring 2.

[0052] However, there is a preferred design is shown in FIG. 6 that the gap between the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder 7 and the retainer 3 is as wide as the axial width of the O-shaped sealing ring 2 that is compressed when the pipe 13 enters the socket and passes through the O-shaped sealing ring 2. It allows the free compression of the O-shaped sealing ring 2.

[0053] The internal diameter of the teeth 10 in initial state is smaller than the external diameter of the pipe 13, the internal diameter of the O-shaped sealing ring 2 is smaller than the external diameter of the pipe 13, and the internal diameter of the demounting ring 6 is larger than the external diameter of the pipe 13.

[0054] The retainer 3 is annular, and contains a ramp that coordinates with the teeth 10.

[0055] The socket further comprises a locking cap shoulder 17, arranged on the internal wall of the socket body 1, between the grab ring 4 and the locking cap 5, for stopping the locking cap 5 from moving in the direction of pipe entry; a convex part 16, arranged on the external wall of the demounting ring for working with the locking cap 5 to prevent the demounting ring 6 from escaping from the socket.

[0056] The demounting ring 6 contains a sharp angle at the end of the demount ring 6 close to the O-shaped sealing ring 4. When pipe 13 enters the socket, it initially passes through the demounting ring 6; then with the entry of the pipe 13, the external wall of the pipe 13 gets to contact the teeth 10 of the grab ring 4, and push the teeth 10 so as to make the flange 12 of the grab ring 4 deflected. When the pipe enters, the force acting on the teeth 10 pushes the retainer towards the shoulder. After that the pipe 13 passes through the grab ring 4; with further entry of the pipe 13, it passes through the retainer 3 and the O-shaped sealing ring, then reaches the pipe stop member 11; the deflection of flange is illustrated in FIG. 1 that the external part of the flange 12 moves in reverse direction of pipe entry (Direction B), and the internal part of the flange 12 moves in the direction of pipe entry (Direction A).

[0057] Referring to FIG. 3, when the pipe 13 is injected with liquid and gets pressurized to expand, the pipe 13 will be expanded; with the expansion of the pipe 13, the O-shaped sealing ring 2 is pressured by the pipe 13 and expands axially, then the O-shaped sealing ring 2 pushes the retainer 3, so as to push the grab ring 4 to move in reverse direction of pipe entry until it is pushed against the locking cap; at this moment, the deflected flange begins to get recovered from deflection and try to flatten itself to an initial state, and this may allow the increase of grabbing force acting on the external wall of the pipe 13, thus locking the pipe 13 in the socket.

[0058] In order to take the pipe 13 out of the socket, the demounting ring 6 is pushed in the direction of pipe entry, and then the end of the demounting ring 6 close to the grab ring pushes the teeth to separate them from the external wall of the pipe 13, so that the pipe 13 can be taken out of the socket.

[0059] The pipe 13 preferably can be PEX pipe.

[0060] The pipe connector mentioned in above embodiment comprises a socket body, comprising in the direction of pipe entry: grab ring, retainer and O-shaped sealing ring; , when pipe enters the socket, the flange arranged on the grab ring is deflected; in comparison with the grab ring with no deflection with its flange when a pipe enters, the grabbing force of teeth of the grab ring with deflected flange acting on the pipe is smaller than that of grab ring with undeflected flange, so that this deflection of flange allows ease of the pipe entry. When the pipe is injected with liquid and gets pressurized to expand, the O-shaped sealing ring is pressured to expand axially, then the O-shaped sealing ring pushes the retainer, so as to push the grab ring to move in reverse direction of pipe entry, and make the flange recover from deflection with the help of pushing of the retainer, then the grabbing force of teeth of

grab ring acting on the external wall of pipe may increase, which locks the pipe in the socket and ensures sealing of the socket and holding of the pipe connection.

[0061] The socket body comprises an O-shaped sealing ring segment arranged between the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder and the retainer shoulder, a step in sealed movable connection with the O-shaped sealing ring segment, is arranged at the end of the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder close to the O-shaped sealing ring; , the a step keeps in sealed movable connection with the O-shaped sealing ring segment when the retainer is pushed to move in reverse direction of pipe entry. This design can effectively ensure sealing of the socket when the O-shaped sealing ring pushes the retainer to move in reverse direction of pipe entry.

[0062] The gap between the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder and the locking cap allows the O-shaped sealing ring to push the grab ring against the locking cap through the retainer when the pipe is injected with liquid and gets pressurized to expand, which presses the O-shaped sealing ring to expand axially. This design increases grabbing force of the teeth acting on the external wall of the pipe when the grab ring is pushed against the locking cap, preventing the pipe from escaping from the socket, so as to improve holding of the pipe connection.

[0063] The gap between the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder and the retainer is as wide as the axial width of the O-shaped sealing ring that is compressed when the pipe enters the socket, the O-shaped sealing ring will just contact the retainer but not give any pressure on the retainer, so as not to push the grab ring to move in reserve direction of pipe entry when the O-shaped sealing ring is compressed and expands axially, and this will not increase the grabbing force of the teeth of the grab ring acting on the external wall of the pipe entering, so that the compression of the O-shaped sealing ring may not restrict the pipe entry, in addition, this calculated gap between the O-shaped sealing ring shoulder and the retainer will allow the pressure of the compressed O-shaped sealing ring due to axial expansion to completely act on the retainer when the inserted pipe is injected with liquid and gets pressurized to expand, so as to push the grab ring to move in reverse direction of pipe entry.

[0064] As the internal diameter of the teeth in initial state is smaller than the external diameter of the pipe, the teeth of the grab ring can grab on the external wall of the pipe. As the internal diameter of the O-shaped sealing ring is smaller than the external diameter of the pipe, the O-shaped sealing ring can form a sealed connection with the external wall of the pipe, and as the internal diameter of the demounting ring is larger than the external diameter

of the pipe, a sufficient clearance forms between the demounting ring and the pipe allowing an unrestricted entry of the pipe.

[0065] The retainer is annular, and contains a ramp that coordinates with the teeth. This allows the teeth of the grab ring to flex when pushed by the pipe being inserted.

[0066] The demounting ring containing a sharp angle at the end of the demount ring close to the O-shaped sealing ring ensures least contact with the teeth of the grab ring.

[0067] Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, throughout the description and the claims, the words “comprise”, “comprising”, and the like are to be construed in an inclusive sense as opposed to an exclusive or exhaustive sense; that is to say, in the sense of “including, but not limited to”.

[0068] While particular embodiments of the invention have been shown and described, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that changes and modifications may be made without departing from the invention in its broader aspects, and therefore, the aim in the appended claims is to cover all such changes and modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

CLAIMS

1. A pipe connector, comprising: a socket body, comprising in the direction of pipe entry:
 - a locking cap for preventing components in said socket from escaping,
 - a locking cap stop member arranged at the end of said socket body where said pipe enters, for preventing said locking cap from escaping;
 - a demounting ring for unlocking said pipe;
 - a grab ring, comprising a flange, and a plurality of teeth arranged on said flange and adapted to be fixed to the external wall of said pipe;
 - a retainer, in moveable connection with the internal wall of said socket body, for stopping said grab ring from moving in the direction of pipe entry;
 - a retainer shoulder arranged on the internal wall of said socket body for stopping said retainer from moving in the direction of pipe entry; the arrangement of said retainer shoulder and said locking cap allows free axial movement of said grab ring and said retainer therebetween;
 - an O-shaped sealing ring for forming a sealed connection with the external wall of said pipe;
 - an O-shaped sealing ring shoulder, arranged on the internal wall of said socket body, for stopping said O-shaped sealing ring from moving in the direction of pipe entry;
 - a pipe stop member, arranged on the internal wall of said socket body, for stopping said pipe from moving in the direction of pipe entry;wherein
 - said flange of said grab ring is adapted to be deflected with the pipe entering said socket; and the pipe is adapted to be pressurized and said O-shaped sealing ring is adapted to be compressed and expands axially with liquid being directed into said pipe, so as to allow said O-shaped sealing ring to push said retainer thereby pushing said grab ring to move in reverse direction of pipe entry which is adapted to force the deflected flange to recover from deflection and try to flatten itself to an initial state, allowing an increase of grabbing force acting on the external wall of the pipe and, locking the pipe in the socket.

2. The pipe connector of claim 1, further comprising an O-shaped sealing ring segment arranged between said O-shaped sealing ring shoulder and said retainer shoulder.

3. The pipe connector of claim 2, wherein
a step in sealed movable connection with said O-shaped sealing ring segment, is arranged at the end of said O-shaped sealing ring shoulder in the vicinity of said O-shaped sealing ring; and
said step always keeps in sealed movable connection with said O-shaped sealing ring segment when said retainer is pushed to move in reverse direction of pipe entry.
4. The pipe connector of claim 3, wherein a gap between said O-shaped sealing ring shoulder and the locking cap allows said O-shaped sealing ring to push said grab ring against the locking cap through said retainer when said pipe is injected with liquid and gets pressurized to expand to compress said O-shaped sealing ring to expand axially.
5. The pipe connector of claim 4, wherein the gap between said O-shaped sealing ring shoulder and said retainer is no narrower than the axial width of said O-shaped sealing ring that is compressed when said pipe passes through said O-shaped sealing ring.
6. The pipe connector of claim 5, wherein the internal diameter of said teeth in initial state is smaller than the external diameter of said pipe, the internal diameter of said O-shaped sealing ring is smaller than the external diameter of said pipe, and the internal diameter of said demounting ring is larger than the external diameter of said pipe.
7. The pipe connector of claim 6, wherein said retainer is annular, and contains a ramp that coordinates with said teeth.
8. The pipe connector of claim 7, further comprising
a locking cap shoulder, arranged on the internal wall of said socket body, between said grab ring and said locking cap, for stopping said locking cap from moving in the direction of pipe entry; and
a convex part, arranged on the external wall of said demounting ring for working with said locking cap to prevent said demounting ring from escaping from said socket.
9. The pipe connector of claim 8, wherein said demounting ring contains a sharp angle at the end of said demount ring close to said grab ring.
10. A pipe connector substantially as herein described with reference to any one of the embodiments of the invention illustrated in the accompanying drawings and/or examples.

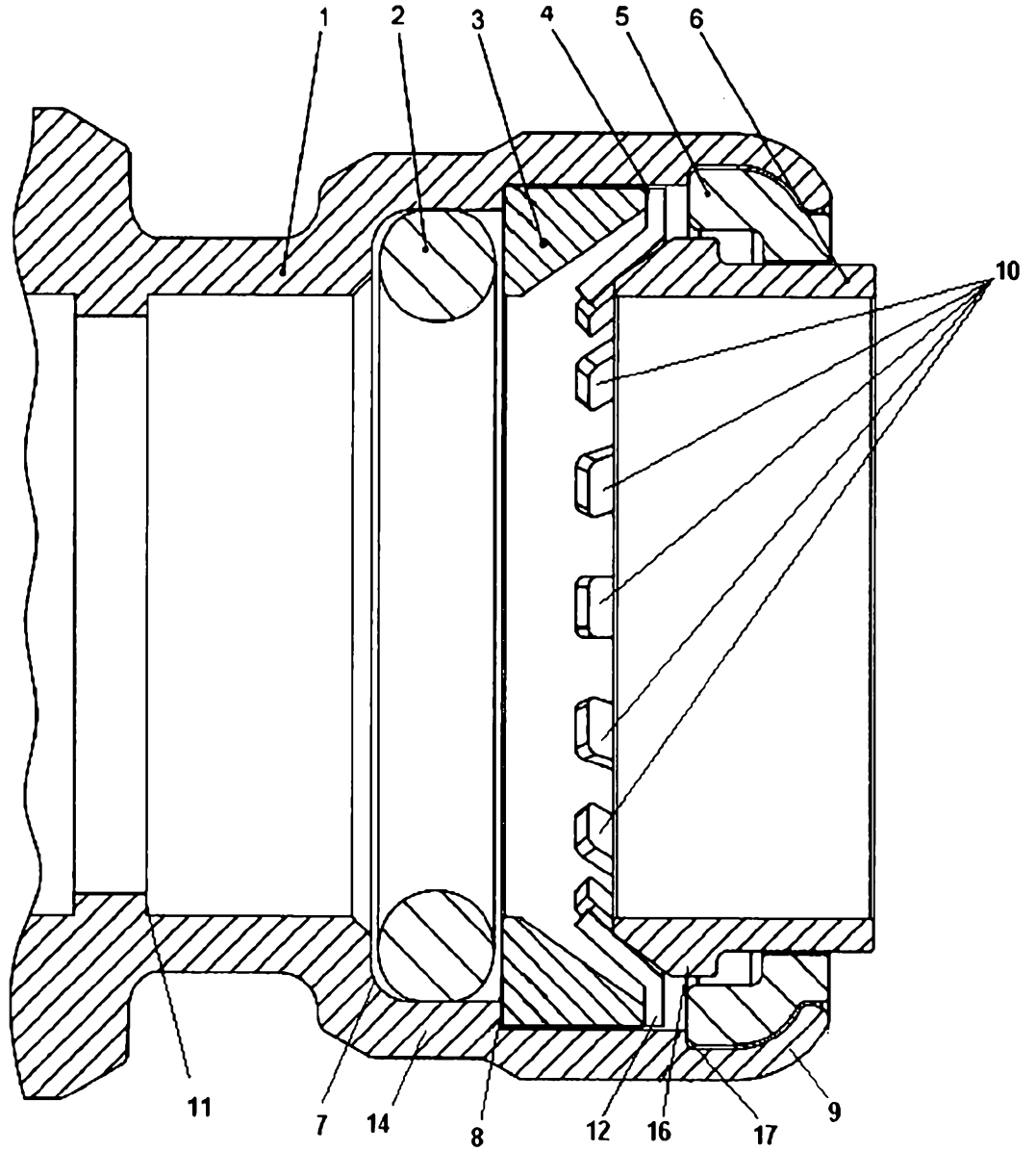


Fig.1

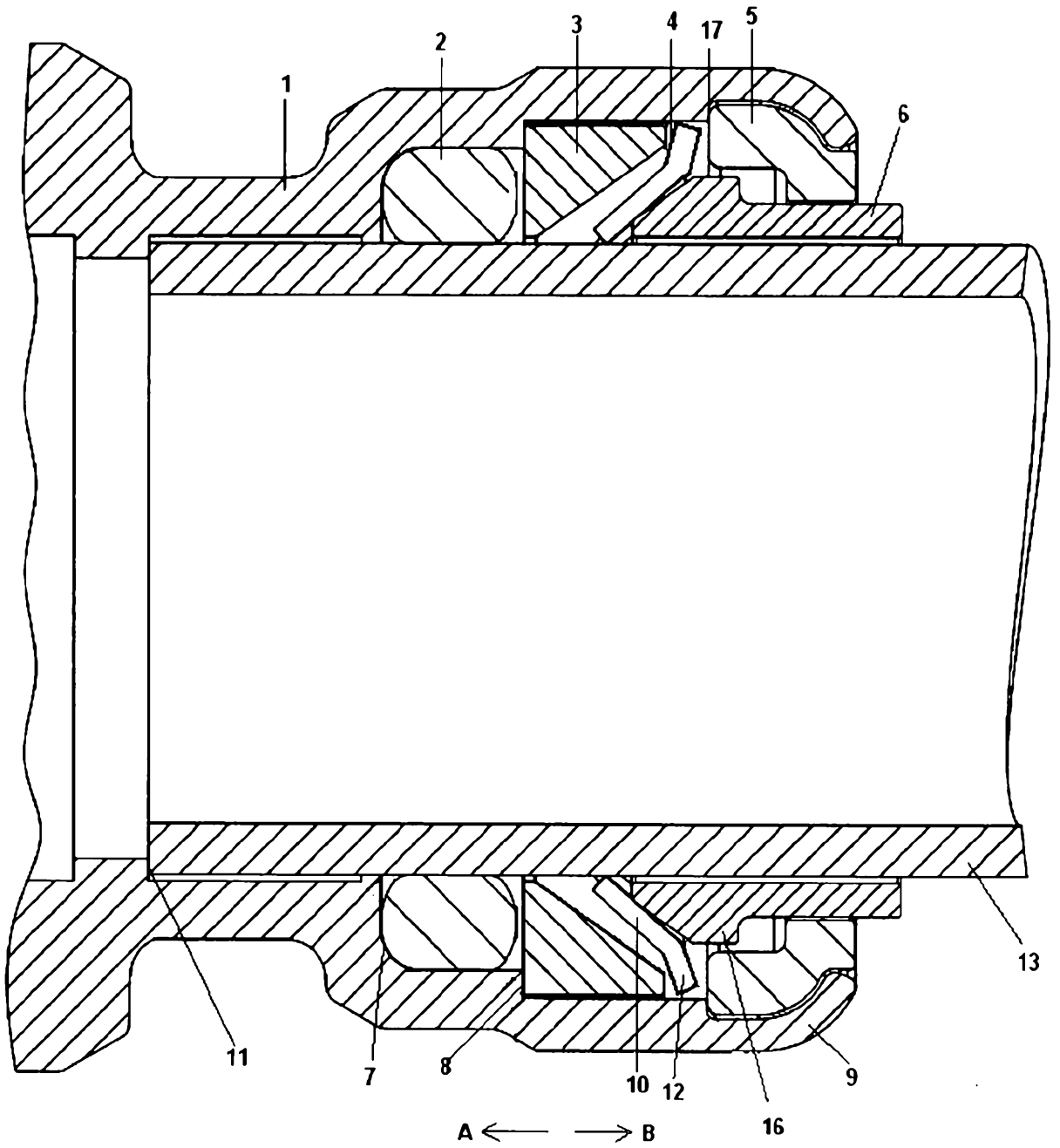


Fig.2

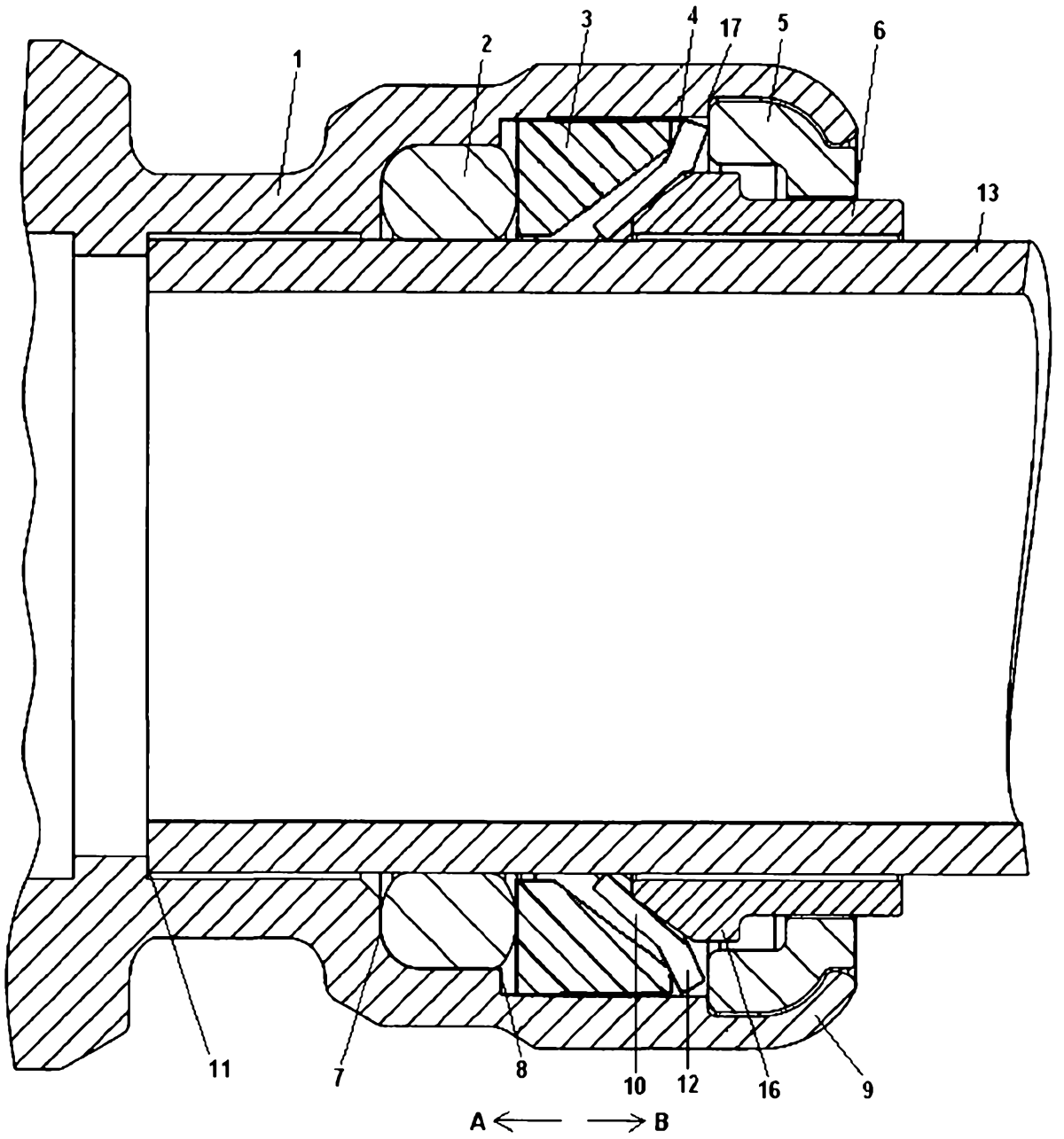


Fig.3

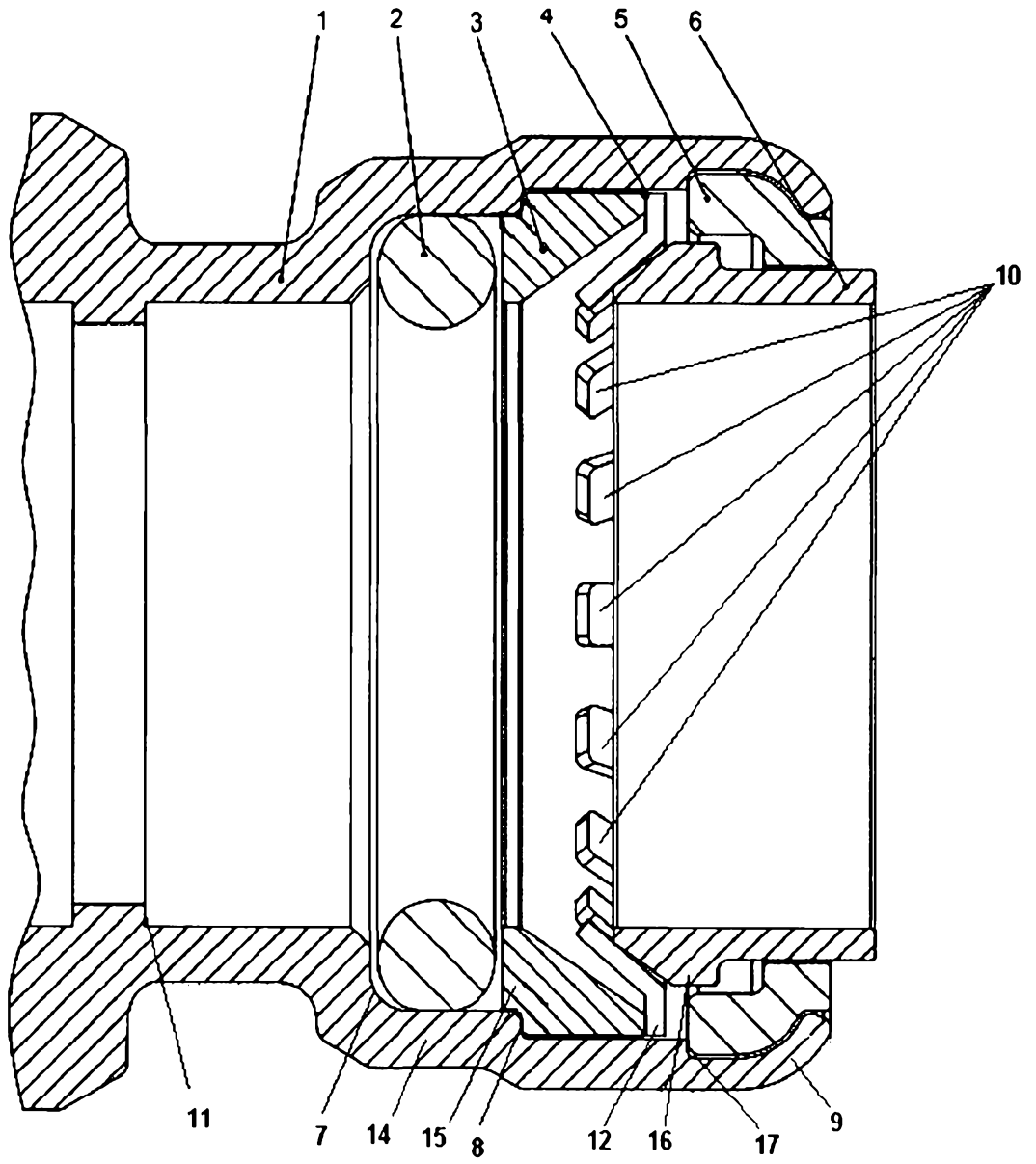


Fig. 4

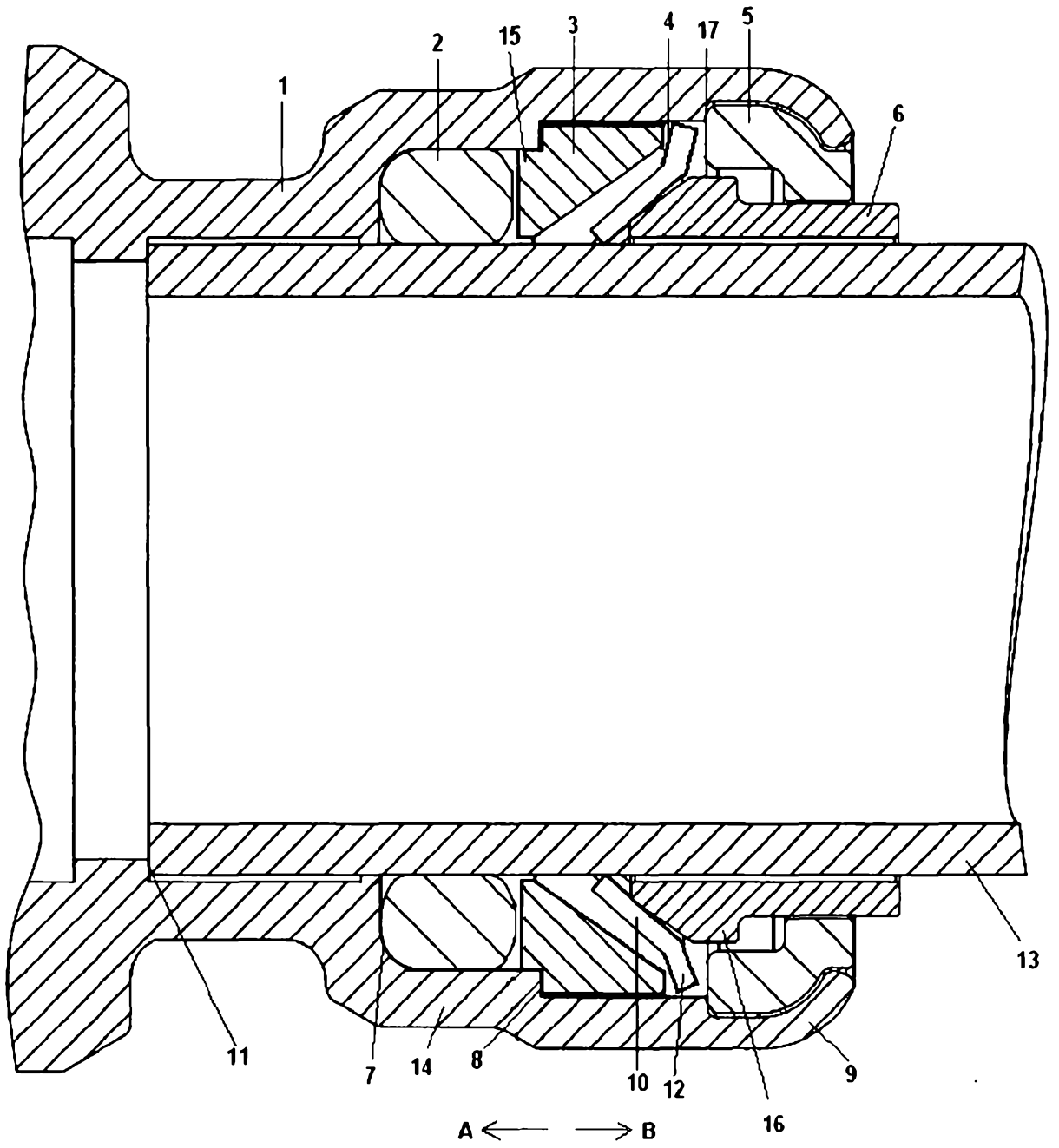


Fig.5

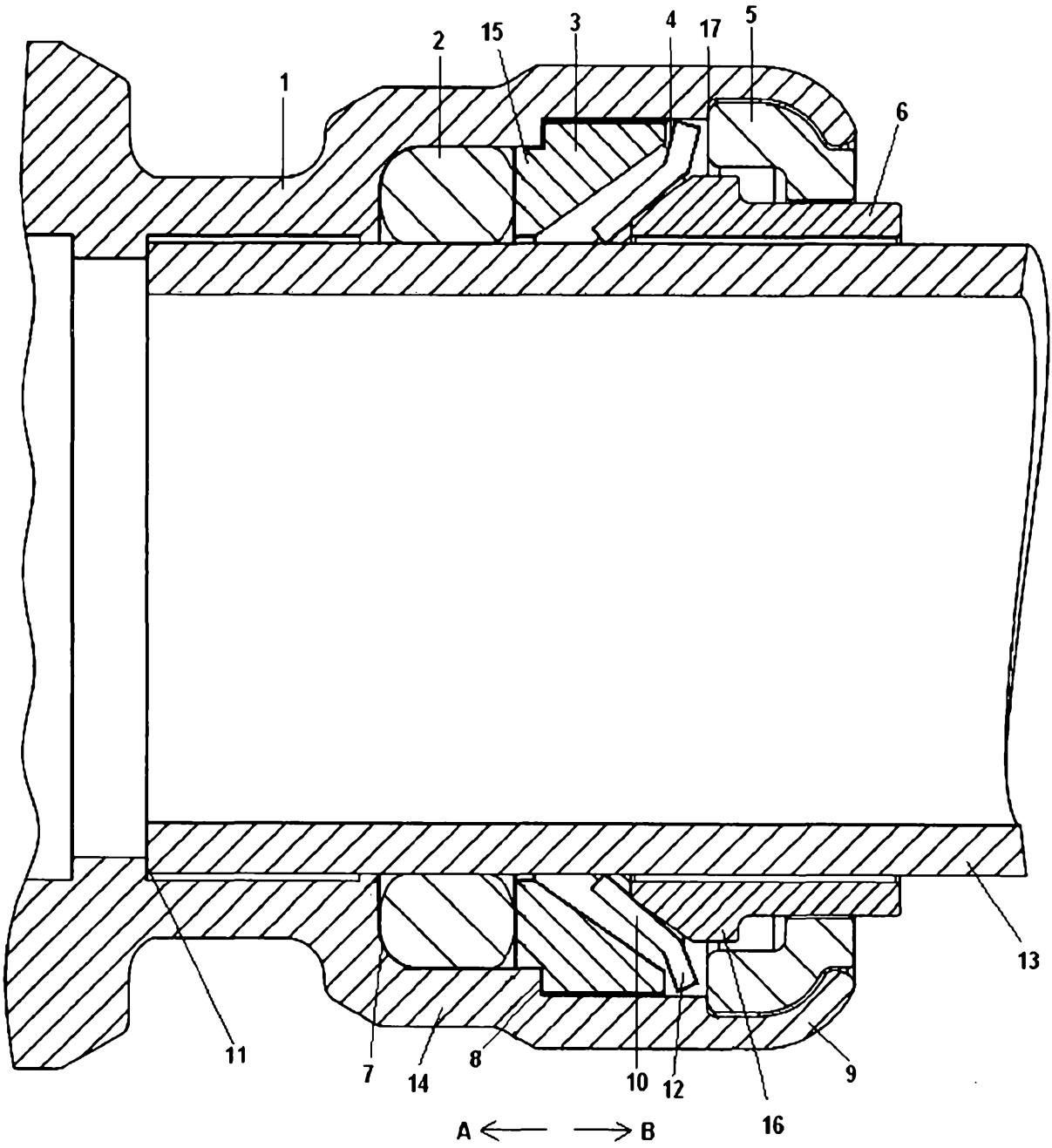


Fig.6

