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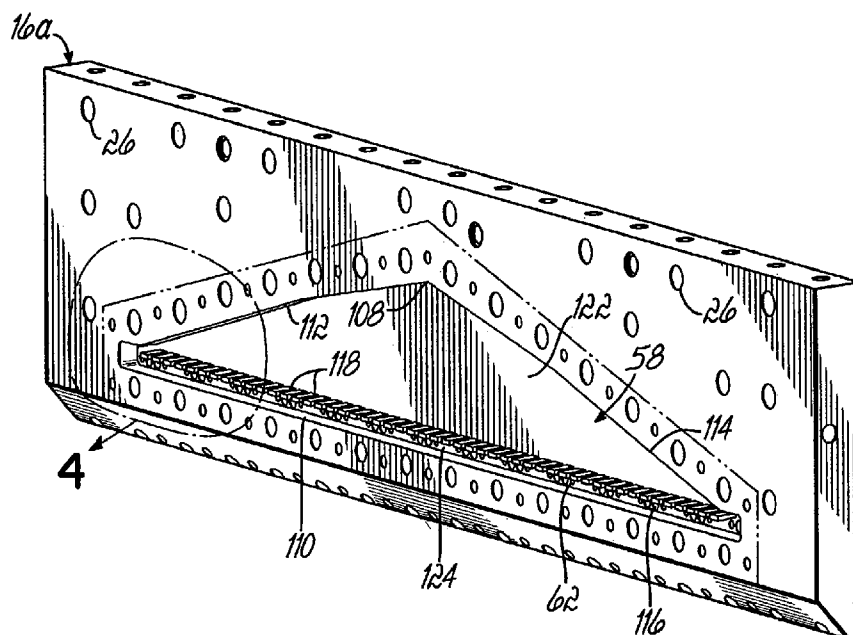
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(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR DISTRIBUTING A BALANCED AIR STREAM TO AN EXTRUSION DIE



(57) Abstract: A distribution manifold for transferring a balanced air stream to an extrusion die of a meltspinning apparatus, meltspinning apparatus including the distribution manifold, and methods of operating a meltspinning apparatus. The distribution manifold comprises a body member having a cavity, an inlet coupling the cavity with the air supply, and a plurality of outlet passages coupling the cavity with the extrusion die. A plurality of metering elements are disposed within the cavity between the inlet and the plurality of outlet passages to restrict the flow of air through gaps formed between adjacent pairs of the metering elements.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 07/63172

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC(8) - B28B 5/00 (2007.01)
 USPC - 425/72.2
 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)
 USPC: 425/72.2

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
 USPC: 425/72.2; 264/211.14

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 Pub WEST (USPT, PGPB, EPAB, JPAB); Google Scholar
 Search Terms Used: die, distribution, manifold, air, stream, metering, element, balance, mass, flow, meltspinning


C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2005/0046090 A1 (ALLEN et al.) 03 March 2005 (03.03.2005), para [0019]-[0027].	1-21
Y	US 4,983,109 A (MILLER et al.) 08 January 1991 (08.01.1991), col. 6, ln 34 - col. 7, ln 40	1-21
Y	US 4,889,476 A (BUEHNING) 26 December 1989 (26.12.1989), col. 2, ln 65 - col. 12, ln 2.	1-18
A	US 2005/0008728 A1 (Wilkie et al.) 13 January 2005 (13.01.2005).	1-21
A	US 2003/0116874 A1 (Haynes) 26 June 2003 (26.06.2003).	1-21

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