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(54) **Title:** ALIGNMENT MECHANISM FOR ASSEMBLY OF A DIFFUSER INSIDE A PRESSURE REDUCING AND CONDITIONING VALVE

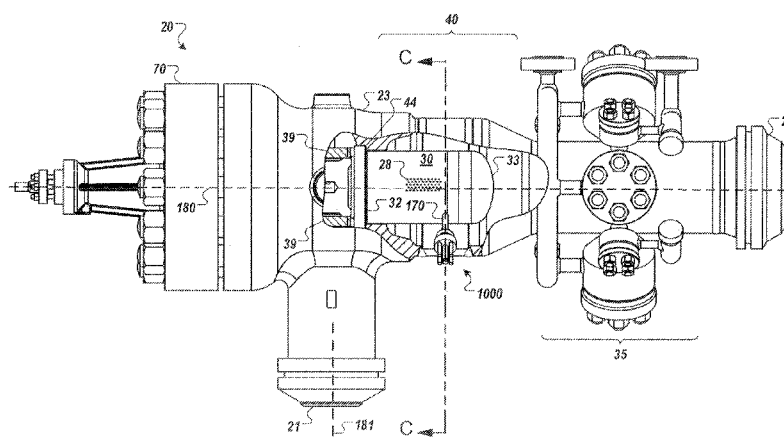


FIG. 1A

(57) **Abstract:** An alignment mechanism (100) is used for assembly of a diffuser (22) inside a pressure reducing and conditioning valve (20), said valve having a body (23), an inlet port (21), an outlet port (24), a pressure reducing section (40) between the ports, and a diffuser (30) in an internal cavity (42) of the pressure reducing section. The alignment mechanism (100) comprises at least one alignment assembly having an alignment port (110) disposed in the valve body (23) in the pressure reducing section (40). The port has a passageway (130) passing through an outer wall (123) of the valve, and has a removable closure member (150) adapted to close one end of the passageway. A removable alignment rod (170) is adapted to be inserted through the passageway (130) in the alignment port to contact an outer surface (31) of the diffuser (30) when the diffuser is inserted into the internal cavity (42) of the pressure reducing section (40) of the valve. A method of use (500) of the alignment assembly (100) is disclosed.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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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)
F22B F22G

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)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2002/092572 A1 (HIGUCHI HIROYUKI [JP]) 18 July 2002 (2002-07-18) paragraph [0015] - paragraph [0034]; claims; figures abstract	1-14
A	----- US 2002/096052 A1 (HIGUCHI HIROYUKI [JP]) 25 July 2002 (2002-07-25) paragraph [0018] - paragraph [0035]; claims; figures abstract -----	1-14

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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