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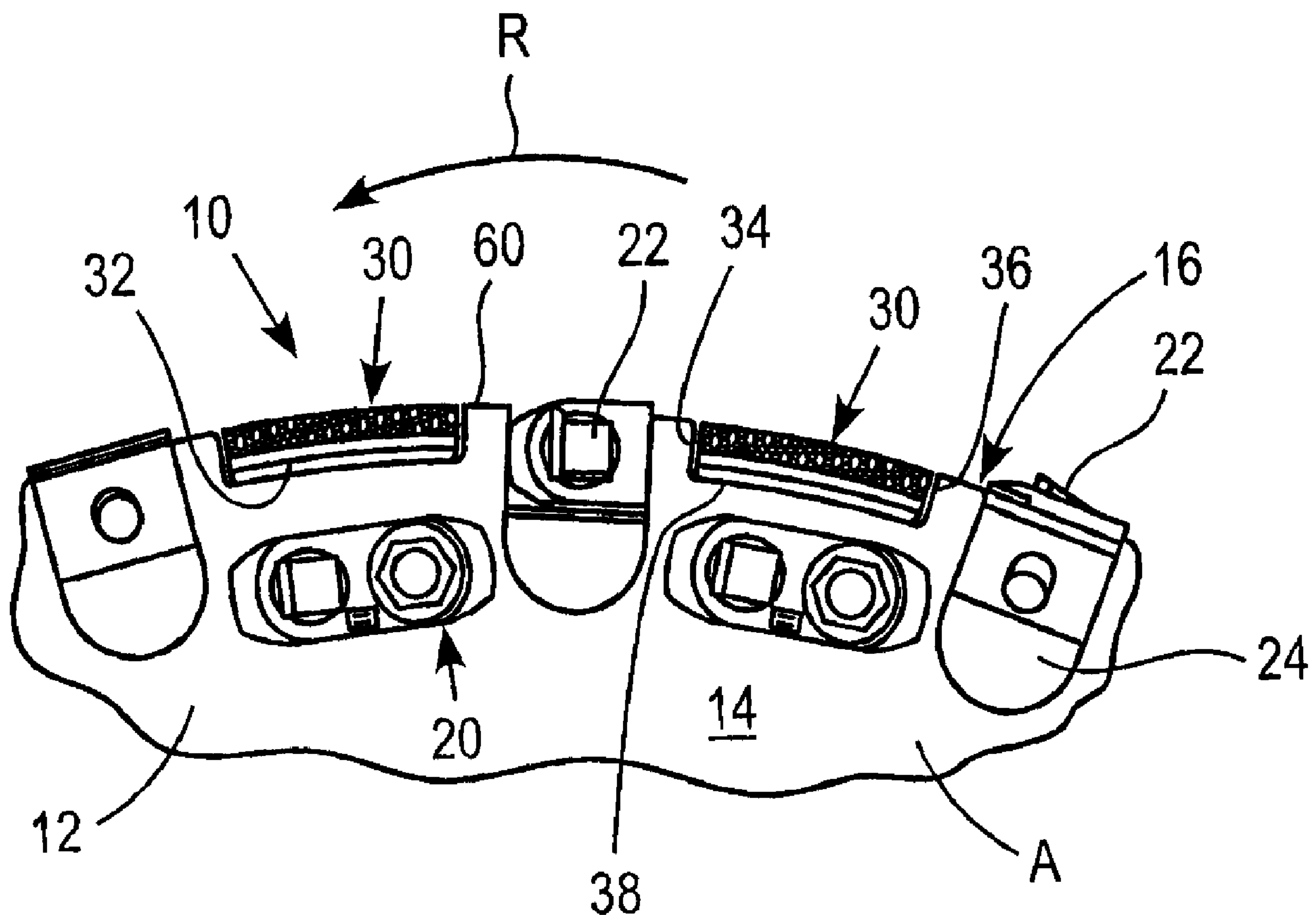
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(54) Titre : DISQUE DE BROyage DE SOUCHES ET SEGMENTS D'USURE CONNEXES

(54) Title: STUMP GRINDING DISK AND WEAR STRIPS THEREFOR



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

A stump grinding disk includes a metallic wheel defining an axis of rotation and including a pair of side surfaces and a circumferential outer edge surface. The outer edge surface includes a plurality of circumferentially spaced recesses. Each recess



(57) **Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):**

extends axially completely through the disk. A plurality of side cutting elements are mounted on each side surface. A plurality of outer peripheral cutters are spaced circumferentially apart around the outer edge surface. Wear strips are mounted in respective recesses. Each wear strip includes a metal matrix in which hard particles are disposed. Each wear strip defines a radially inner surface affixed to the wheel, and a radially outer surface arranged substantially flush with adjacent portions of the outer edge surface.



ABSTRACT

A stump grinding disk includes a metallic wheel defining an axis of rotation and including a pair of side surfaces and a circumferential outer edge surface. The outer edge surface includes a plurality of circumferentially spaced recesses. Each recess extends axially completely through the disk. A plurality of side cutting elements are mounted on each side surface. A plurality of outer peripheral cutters are spaced circumferentially apart around the outer edge surface. Wear strips are mounted in respective recesses. Each wear strip includes a metal matrix in which hard particles are disposed. Each wear strip defines a radially inner surface affixed to the wheel, and a radially outer surface arranged substantially flush with adjacent portions of the outer edge surface.

STUMP GRINDING DISK AND WEAR STRIPS THEREFOR

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to stump cutter disks which comprise a wheel on which cutting elements are mounted that grind-up stumps as the wheel is driven, and in particular to wear strips mounted on the wheel to minimize abrasive wear.

[0002] A stump grinding disc 100 disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 6,382,277, and depicted herein in Fig. 1, includes a metallic wheel 112 which defines an axis of rotation. The wheel has a pair of parallel side surfaces 114 intersected by the axis A, and an outer circumferential edge surface 116 defining a largest diameter of the disk. The side surfaces 114 are spaced axially apart by a distance which is much shorter than a maximum diameter of the disk. A plurality of side cutting elements 120 are mounted on each side surface, and a plurality of peripheral cutting elements 122 are mounted in recesses 124 formed in the circumferential edge surface 116.

[0003] Stump cutter disks experience wear on the outer circumferential edge surface 116 of the disk, especially in the case of larger disks turning at high rpm. As the disk is lowered into the ground to cut a root ball, the roots and surrounding ground and rocks wear on the edge surface. The disk material is quickly eroded and its diameter is reduced, requiring that the disk be repaired or replaced. Both of those options are expensive and time consuming. To repair the disk, hard face material in the form of weld wire or rod is deposited on the circumferential edge using a welding machine. That requires many man-hours, and the hard face material is expensive. The repair is temporary and must be replaced as the disk wears down again.

[0004] To replace the disk, it must be removed from the machine, and all of the cutters must be removed and re-attached to a new disk. Some machine designs require that the cutter shaft be removed in order to change the disk. That often requires that the shaft bearings be replaced, which is expensive.

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[0005] One attempt made to extend the life of stump cutters involved manufacturing the disk from an abrasive resistant material or work-hardened steel. Those materials are expensive and are difficult to machine and penetrate in order to form holes for the cutters. Moreover, the wear resistance offered by such disks is minimal and not very cost effective. Therefore, it would be desirable to provide a more effective and economical way of minimizing the rate of wear of a disk's outer surface.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] The present invention relates to a stump grinding disk which comprises a metallic wheel defining an axis of rotation and including a pair of side surfaces interconnected by the axis. A circumferential outer edge surface defines a largest diameter of the disk. The side surfaces are spaced axially apart by a distance substantially shorter than the maximum diameter. The outer edge surface includes a plurality of circumferentially spaced recesses. Each recess extends axially completely through the disk from one side surface to the other side surface. A plurality of outer peripheral cutters are spaced circumferentially apart around the outer edge surface. Wear strips are mounted in respective ones of the recesses between circumferentially adjacent outer peripheral cutters. Each wear strip includes a metal matrix in which hard particles are disposed. Each wear strip defines a radially inner surface affixed to the wheel, and a radially outer surface arranged substantially flush with adjacent portions of the outer edge surface.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] The objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following detailed description of preferred embodiments thereof in connection with the accompanying drawings in which like numerals designate like elements.

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Fig. 1 is a fragmentary side elevational view of a prior art stump grinding disk.

Fig. 2 is a fragmentary side elevational view of a stump grinding disk according to the present invention.

Fig. 3 is a side elevational view of a wear strip according to the present invention.

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken along the line 4-4 in Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4 of a second embodiment of the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0008] A stump grinding disk 10 according to the invention is depicted in Fig. 2. The disk includes a metallic wheel 12 which defines an axis of rotation. The wheel has a pair of side surfaces 14 intersected by the axis A, and an outer circumferential edge surface 16 defining a largest diameter of the disk. The side surfaces 14 are spaced axially apart by a distance which is much shorter than a maximum diameter of the disk.

[0009] A plurality of side cutting elements 20 are mounted on each side surface, and a plurality of peripheral cutting elements 22 are mounted in recesses 24 formed in the circumferential edge surface 16. Reference may be had to U.S. Patent Nos. 6,546,977 and 6,848,485 for a description of examples of suitable side cutting elements and peripheral cutting elements, although other types of side and peripheral cutting elements could be used if desired.

[0010] Alternating with the peripheral cutting elements 22 are wear strips 30 according to the invention which are mounted in respective recesses 32 formed in the circumferential edge surface 16. The recess extends axially completely through the disk from one side surface 14 to the other. The recess 32 includes leading and trailing faces 34, 36 (considered with reference to the direction of disk rotation R) interconnected by a floor 38.

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Each wear strip includes an inner surface 40 (see Fig. 3) attached to the wheel 12, and an outer wear surface 42.

[0011] For example, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the wear strip 30 could include a metallic mounting substrate 45 formed of steel for example, and a wear layer 46 formed of a mixture of a powdered steel matrix in which crushed carbide, e.g., crushed cemented carbide particles 44 are dispersed. The steel carbide mixture would be deposited onto the metallic substrate 45 and then the entire element would be forged and then immediately quenched.

[0012] Alternatively, a wear strip 30a could be formed by casting crushed cemented carbide particles 44 directly into an outer wear surface 42a of a steel or iron matrix 48 as shown in Fig. 5.

[0013] The outer wear surface 42 or 42a is preferably convexly curved along a length L of the wear strip, i.e., between leading and trailing ends 50, 52 of the wear strip, wherein the radius of curvature of the wear surface is substantially equal to the radius of curvature of the circumferential edge surface 16. The inner surface 40 would be shaped in accordance with the shape of the floor 38 of the recess 32. Thus, the inner surface 40 could be flat or concavely curved, for example. The length L is greater than a width W of the wear strip, and the width W is greater than a thickness T of the wear strip.

[0014] The wear strips are mounted in the recesses in any suitable fashion, but preferably by welding the metallic mounting substrate to the wheel, e.g., welding the wear strip to the floor 38 of the respective recess 32, with the wear surface arranged substantially flush with the adjacent portions of the circumferential edge surface 16 as depicted in Fig. 2. The total circumferential length of all of the wear surfaces of the wear strips (i.e., $L \times$ no. of wear strips) exceeds the total circumferential length of the non-recessed portions 60 of the circumferential edge surface disposed ahead of,

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and behind, the wear strips, so that a majority of the outer edge surface is defined by the wear strips.

[0015] During a stump cutting operation, the crushed cemented carbide 44 comes into contact with the ground and rocks, resisting wear and abrasion, and thereby extending the life of the disk. Once the wear strips have become excessively worn, they can be removed and replaced with fresh wear strips. Accordingly, the present invention enables the life of a stump cutting disk to be considerably lengthened.

[0016] Although the present invention has been described in connection with a preferred embodiment thereof, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that additions, deletions, modifications, and substitutions not specifically described may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A stump grinding disk comprising:

a metallic wheel defining an axis of rotation and including a pair of side surfaces intersected by the axis, and a circumferential outer edge surface defining a maximum diameter of the disk, the side surfaces spaced axially apart by a distance substantially shorter than the maximum diameter, the outer edge surface including a plurality of circumferentially spaced recesses, each recess extending axially completely through the disk from one side surface to the other side surface;

a plurality of side cutting elements mounted on each side surface;

a plurality of outer peripheral cutters spaced circumferentially apart around the outer edge surface; and

wear strips mounted in respective ones of the recesses between circumferentially adjacent outer peripheral cutters, each wear strip including a metal matrix in which hard particles are disposed, each wear strip defining a radially inner surface affixed to the wheel, and a radially outer surface arranged substantially flush with adjacent portions of the outer edge surface.

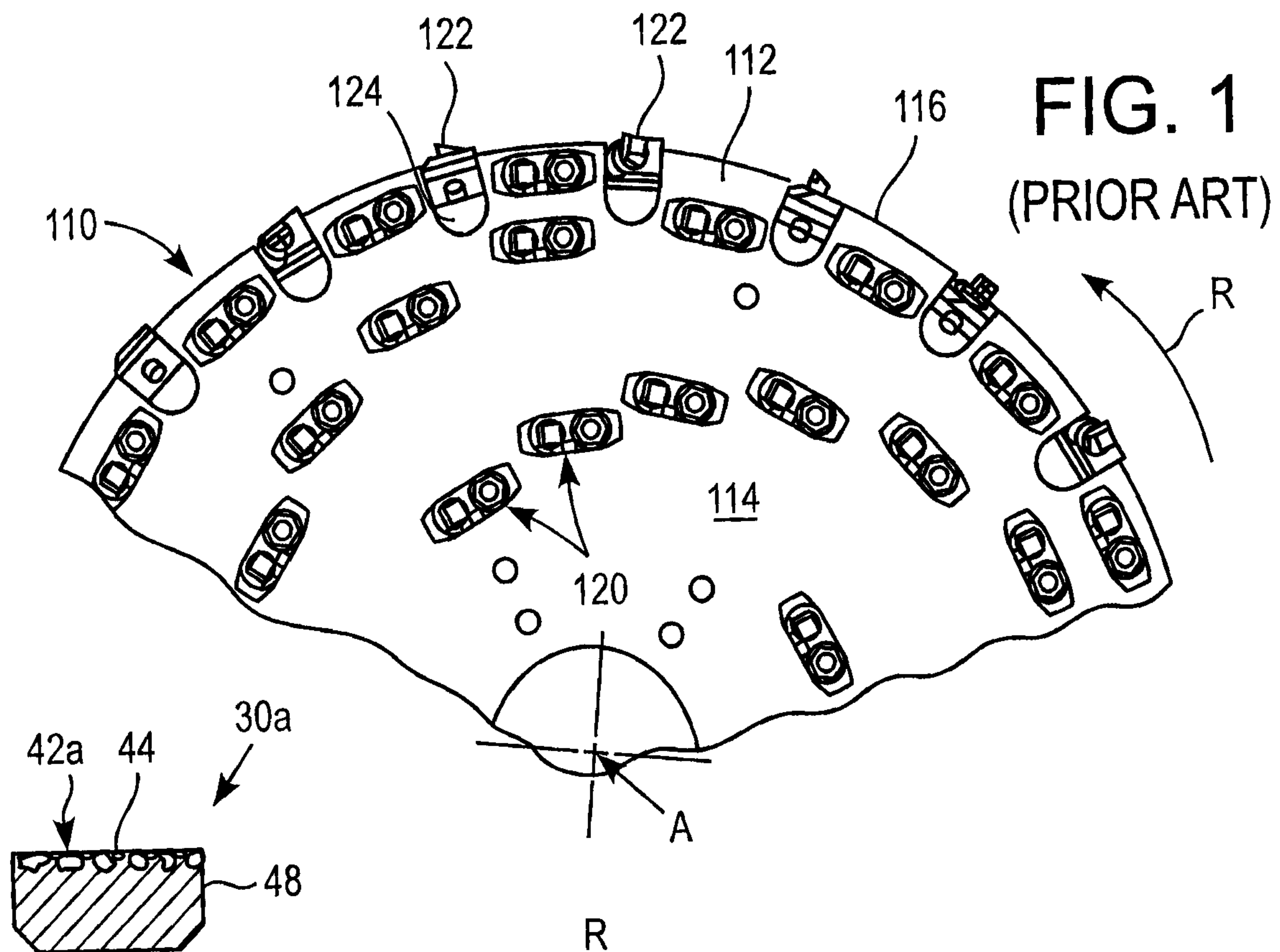
2. The stump grinding disk according to claim 1 wherein the metal matrix is steel, and the hard particles comprise crushed cemented carbide.

3. The stump grinding disk according to claim 1 wherein the metal matrix is iron and the hard particles comprise crushed cemented carbide.

4. The stump grinding disk according to claim 1 wherein the metal matrix is powdered steel and the hard particles comprise crushed cemented carbide.

5. The stump grinding disk according to claim 1 wherein each wear strip comprises a steel substrate on which is disposed a layer of the metal matrix and hard particles, the steel substrate being welded to the wheel.
6. The stump grinding disk according to claim 1 wherein a total circumferential length of all of the wear surfaces exceeds a total circumferential length of the adjacent portions of the outer edge surface of the wheel.
7. The stump grinding disk according to claim 1 wherein the outer wear surface of each wear strip is convexly curved with a radius substantially equal to a radius of curvature of the outer edge surface.

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**FIG. 5**