(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
16 April 2009 (16.04.2009)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2009/048629 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:
F23D 14/06 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2008/011691

(22) International Filing Date: 10 October 2008 (10.10.2008)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/998,377 10 October 2007 (10.10.2007) US

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(81) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *with international search report*

(54) Title: VENTURI HOUSING ASSEMBLY AND METHOD

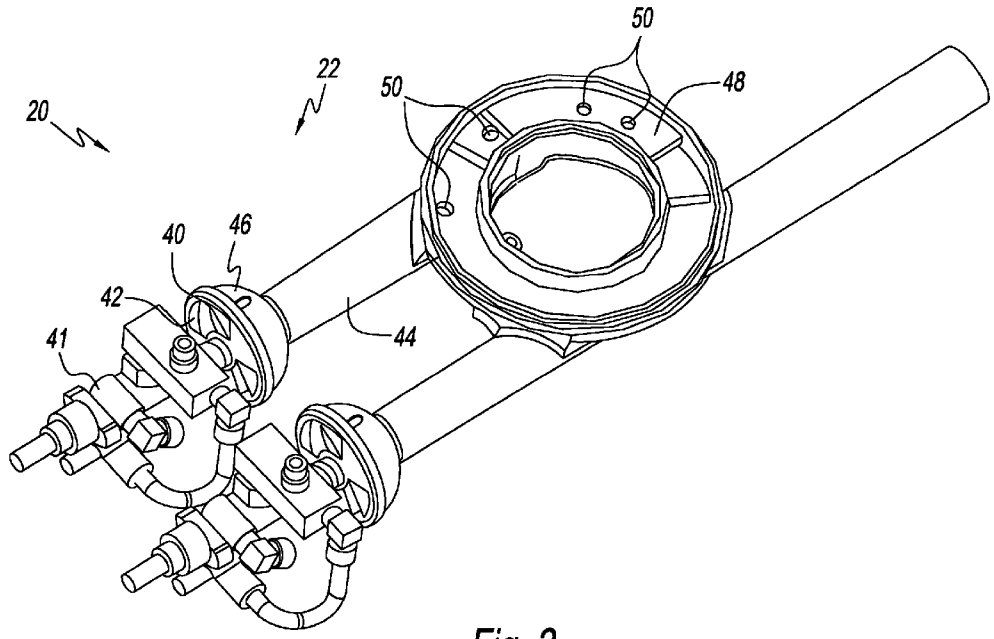


Fig. 2

(57) Abstract: A venturi housing assembly having a horizontal wall that is cast as part of the venturi housing assembly. A plurality of gas/air release openings are cast into the horizontal wall that gradually provide a balanced mix of gas and air to one or more burner heads and release the gas and air mixture in order to provide an even heat pattern.

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VENTURI HOUSING ASSEMBLY AND METHOD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0001] The present disclosure relates to a method and a venturi housing assembly that delivers a mixture of gas and air to one or more burner heads.

2. Description of Related Art

[0002] A venturi housing assembly is used to combine gas and air components into a mixture and to deliver the mixture to a burner or pilot. As used herein, the term "venturi housing assembly" refers to and includes any venturi, injector or similar device wherein a gas and air mixture flows therein.

[0003] Traditional venturi housing assemblies are manufactured with a horizontal wall that can be cast into the housing assembly. The horizontal wall functions to choke off the gas and air mixture and to define the release point for the gas and air mixture from the venturi assembly. However, the horizontal wall is traditionally manufactured so that the gas and air mixture is released in one large quantity at the end of the horizontal wall, which results in a hot spot from the burner head and uneven heat pattern. The horizontal wall does not provide a way to gradually release the mixture of gas and air. As a result, a traditional venturi housing assembly can only accommodate a single burner head design because the positioning of the horizontal wall is customized and optimized for a particular burner head.

[0004] There is a need for a method and a venturi housing assembly that provides a more balanced and gradual release of the gas and air mixture throughout the entire burner head.

[0005] There is also a need for a venturi housing assembly that can use one or more interchangeable burner heads.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] The present disclosure provides a venturi housing assembly with a horizontal wall that can be cast into the assembly that provides a balanced mixture of gas and air to a burner head so as to provide an even heat pattern from the burner head.

[0007] A venturi housing assembly of the present disclosure comprises a venturi assembly that comprises a horizontal wall and at least one gas/air release opening in the horizontal wall. The opening is shaped to gradually provide a balanced mix of gas and air to exit ports of a burner head so as to provide an even heat pattern from the burner head.

[0008] In one embodiment of the venturi housing assembly of the present disclosure, the opening is one of a plurality of openings in the horizontal wall spaced to provide the balanced mix of gas and air to the exit ports of the burner head.

[0009] In another embodiment of the venturi housing assembly of the present disclosure, the plurality of gas/air release openings is in the range of about two to about six openings.

[0010] In another embodiment of the venturi housing assembly of the present disclosure, each of the gas/air release openings has a diameter in a range of about 3/16 of an inch to about 3/8 of an inch.

[0011] In another embodiment of the venturi housing assembly of the present disclosure, a shape of the openings is selected from the group consisting of: a circle, a square, a triangle, a slit and any combinations thereof that releases the gas and air mixture in a controlled fashion to the exit ports in the burner head in a consistent, even and predictable manner.

[0012] In another embodiment of the venturi housing assembly of the present disclosure, the burner head is selected from the group consisting of: a star head burner, octagonal burner head and donut burner head.

[0013] In another embodiment of the venturi housing assembly of the present disclosure, an injector injects a mixture of gas and air through an air shutter and a throat to the horizontal wall.

[0014] In another embodiment of the venturi housing assembly of the present disclosure, the plurality of gas/air release openings is in a range of about two to about six openings.

[0015] In another embodiment of the venturi housing assembly of the present disclosure, each of the gas/air release openings has a diameter in a range of about 1/4 of an inch to about 1/3 of an inch.

[0016] In another embodiment of the venturi housing assembly of the present disclosure, the gas/air release openings are drilled, machined, or cast in the horizontal wall.

[0017] A method of the present disclosure supplies an air/gas mixture to exit ports of a burner head that sits over a horizontal wall. The method comprises supplying the air/gas mixture to the horizontal wall via a venturi and distributing the air/gas mixture to the exit ports via at least one opening in the horizontal wall. The opening is shaped to gradually provide a balanced mix of gas and air to the exit ports of the burner head so as to provide an even heat pattern from the burner head.

[0018] In one embodiment of the method of the present disclosure, the opening is one of a plurality of openings in the horizontal wall spaced to provide the balanced mix of gas and air to the exit ports of the burner head.

[0019] In another embodiment of the method of the present disclosure, the plurality of gas/air release openings is in a range of about two to six about openings.

[0020] In another embodiment of the method of the present disclosure, each of the plurality of gas/air release openings has a diameter in a range of about 3/16 of an inch to about 3/8 of an inch.

[0021] In another embodiment of the method of the present disclosure, a shape of the openings is selected from the group consisting of: a circle, a square, a triangle, a slit and any combinations thereof that releases the gas and air mixture in a controlled fashion to the exit ports in the burner head in a consistent, even and predictable manner.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

[0022] Fig. 1 is a top view of the venturi housing assembly of the present disclosure.

[0023] Fig. 2 is a top front perspective view of the front venturi assembly of the venturi housing assembly of Fig. 1 with the burner head removed.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0024] Referring to Fig. 1, a venturi housing assembly 20 comprises a front venturi assembly 22 and a rear venturi assembly 24. Front venturi assembly 22 comprises a front burner 28 and a front venturi 30. Rear venturi assembly 26 comprises a rear burner 32 and a rear venturi 34. Front venturi assembly 22 and rear venturi assembly 26 are substantially

identical so that only front venturi assembly 22 will be described in detail. Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, front venturi assembly 22 comprises an air shutter 40 that covers a bell section 46 of the venturi 30. Air shutter 40 supports and centers injector 42 and allows for the entry of primary air that is drawn into venturi housing assembly 22 as a result of the venturi effect, which occurs when gas is injected into venturi assembly 22. A valve 41 allows for the flow of gas through the injector 42. The gas and air begin to mix together in a bell 46. The gas and air mixture travels into a throat section 44 that further mixes the gas and air. The gas and air mixtures, for example, may include one or more supply gases including, but not limited to, manufactured gases, propane, natural gas, butane, liquefied natural gas and any combinations thereof.

[0025] As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, front burner 28 comprises a burner head 46 that sits over a horizontal wall 48 and provides a chamber in which to receive the gas and air mixture that flows in venturi housing assembly 22. Horizontal wall 48 controls the mixture because by stretching the wall, the air/gas mixture is forced to travel further before it is allowed to fill the chamber of the burner head 46 giving it more time to mix. This is beneficial as the better the mixture, the better the combustion. In another exemplary embodiment, horizontal wall 25 is cast into venturi housing assembly 5.

[0026] Front venturi assembly 22 comprises a plurality of gas/air release openings 50 that are drilled, machined or cast into horizontal wall 48. Gas/air release openings 50 are designed to release the gas and air mixture gradually and evenly towards one or more exit ports 60 within burner head 46 in order to achieve an even flame pattern in the burner. The resulting even flame pattern provided by gas/air release openings 50 assures that there are no hot or cold spots on the burner. The placement of gas/air release openings 50 on horizontal wall 48 can be varied to achieve a resulting even flame pattern.

[0027] The size of gas/air release openings 50 can range in diameter from about 1/32 of an inch up to the entire width of horizontal wall 48. In an exemplary embodiment, the diameter size of gas/air release openings 50 is in a range from about 3/16 of an inch to about 3/8 of an inch.

[0028] In addition, gas/air release openings 50 can be any shape including a circle, a square, a triangle, a slit, a slot, or any other shape that releases the gas and air mixture in a controlled fashion to the exit ports in the one or more burner heads in a consistent, even and predictable manner. In an exemplary embodiment, gas/air release openings 50 can be a slot that is machined from one end of horizontal wall 48 to the other side of horizontal wall 48. In another exemplary embodiment, gas/air release openings 50 can be a plurality of slits that are cut into horizontal wall 48. The number of slits and the space in between the slits can be varied to assure that the gas and air mixture is released in a controlled fashion in a consistent, even and predictable manner. This is in contrast to the typical known venturi assemblies in which all of the gas comes out at the end of the horizontal wall. This results in more gas being available for the exit ports directly above the end of the horizontal wall than is available at distances progressively away from the end of the horizontal wall. Thus, when the burner head is lit, some of the flames are actually higher than others, which result in the hot spot that is mentioned in paragraph [0004]. In contrast openings 50 in horizontal wall 48 serve to even out the gas distribution so that the same amount of gas is available to all ports 60 of burner head 46 so as to provide an even heat pattern.

[0029] Venturi housing assembly 22 as constructed with gas/air release openings 50 can be used with one or more interchangeable burner heads and still maintain the gradual release of the gas and air mixture while further providing a resulting even flame pattern. Test results have also demonstrated that venturi housing assembly 22 can pass regulatory tests with each of the one or more burner heads matched to the system.

[0030] Table 1 below provides open single burner testing results for a first exemplary embodiment unit and a second exemplary embodiment unit of venturi housing assembly 20 of the present disclosure. The first exemplary embodiment utilized venturi housing assembly 20 in conjunction with a star head burner 46. The second exemplary embodiment utilized an octagonal burner head 46 in conjunction with the same venturi housing assembly 20 from the first exemplary unit. Table 1 further provides open burner testing results for four other traditional venturi housing assemblies that do not have openings in the horizontal wall for the gradual release of the gas and air mixture. In addition to these tests, three cooking evenness tests were run for each burner (flour, water, pancake batter). The test data shows that the burners on the first exemplary embodiment and the second exemplary embodiment of venturi housing assembly 5 of the present disclosure provided the most even cooking results.

Table 1: Statistic Values for Open Burner Testing

	Test unit 1 with Openings	Test unit 2 with Openings	Competitor Unit 1	Competitor Unit 2	Competitor Unit 3	Competitor Unit 4
Average Overall Evenness	30.7°F	35.7°F	37.4°F	58.4°F	53.2°F	29.3°F
I/O Average	51.5°F	89.1F	63.5°F	155.4°F	128.3°F	21.4°F
L/R Average	15.0°F	3.6°F	41.5°F	8.2°F	17.0°F	35.0°F
F/B Average	25.7°F	14.5°F	7.2°F	11.6°F	13.3°F	31.5°F
500 Time	329 seconds	345 seconds	310 seconds	291 seconds	374 seconds	407 seconds
SS Temp	909°F	916°F	934°F	906°F	870°F	839°F
Average	11.5	17.4	14.3	11.2	11.8	7.6
I/O Average	7.2°F	22.0°F	28.5°F	26.5°F	31.6°F	13.5°F
L/R Average	10.5°F	16.3°F	13.8°F	0.8°F	0.9°F	3.9°F
F/B Average	16.9°F	13.9°F	0.7°F	6.2°F	2.9°F	5.5°F
SS Temp	321°F	299°F	494°F	269°F	310°F	580°F

Combustion %AFCO	0.010 @ 32.9K	0.010 @ 32.9K	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Efficiency	43.5%	43.1%	43.2%	45.3%	41.2%	40.6%.
Boiling Time	33'15"	35'58"	35' 30"	31' 07"	39' 29"	37' 22"

[0031] The tests for evenness used a standard ASTM 12-inch diameter, ¼-inch thick thermal test plate with seventeen thermocouples placed in prescribed spots (one in the center, eight in a middle ring, and eight in an outer ring). The plate was run for thirty minutes on a high heat setting and for one hour on a simmer heat setting to gather the evenness data.

[0032] The I/O average data denotes the average difference between the thermocouples in the center versus the outer ring of thermocouples. The higher numbers signify a poorer evenness when comparing the inner ring versus the outer ring.

[0033] The L/R average data denotes the average difference between the thermocouples on the left side of the thermal plate versus those on the right side of the thermal plate. The higher numbers signify a poorer evenness when comparing the left side versus the right side of the ring.

[0034] The F/B data denotes the average difference between the thermocouples on the front half of the thermal plate versus the back half of the thermal plate. The higher numbers signify a poorer evenness when comparing the front side versus the back side of the ring.

[0035] The data in Table 1 supports that the overall performance of venturi housing assembly 5 is improved vis-à-vis the traditional venturi assemblies of the competitor units used in the test. The first exemplary embodiment unit and the second exemplary embodiment unit of venturi housing assembly 20 of the present disclosure demonstrated optimal performance in regard to evenness of heat and boil time. The overall evenness is the

average of the I/O data, L/R data and F/B data. The lower numbers signify improved and optimal performance. Thus, the test data shows that the burners of the first and second test embodiments provide the most even cooking results.

[0036] From the present invention having been thus described with particular reference to the preferred forms thereof, it will be obvious that various changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined in the appended claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A venturi housing assembly comprising:
a venturi assembly that comprises a horizontal wall; and
at least one gas/air release openings in said horizontal wall,
wherein said opening is shaped to gradually provide a balanced mix of gas and air to exit ports of a burner head so as to provide an even heat pattern from said burner head.

2. The venturi housing assembly of claim 1, wherein said opening is one of plurality of openings in said horizontal wall spaced to provide said balanced mix of gas and air to said exit ports of said burner head.

3. The venturi housing assembly of claim 2, wherein said plurality of gas/air release openings is in a range of about two to about six openings.

4. The venturi housing assembly of claim 2, wherein each of said plurality of gas/air release openings has a diameter in a range of about 3/16 of an inch to about 3/8 of an inch.

5. The venturi housing assembly of claim 2, wherein a shape of said openings is selected from the group consisting of: a circle, a square, a triangle, a slit and any combinations thereof that releases the gas and air mixture in a controlled fashion to said exit ports in said burner head in a consistent, even and predictable manner.

6. The venturi housing assembly of claim 1, wherein said burner head is selected from the group consisting of: a star head burner, octagonal burner head and donut burner head.

7. The venturi housing assembly of claim 1, further comprising:
an injector that injects a mixture of gas and air through an air shutter and a throat to said horizontal wall.

8. The venturi housing assembly of claim 7, wherein the plurality of gas/air release openings is in a range of about two to about six openings.

9. The venturi housing assembly of claim 7, wherein each of said plurality of gas/air release openings has a diameter in a range of about 1/4 of an inch to about 1/3 of an inch.

10. The venturi housing assembly of claim 2, wherein said gas/air release openings are drilled, machined, or cast in said horizontal wall.

11. A method of supplying an air/gas mixture to exit ports of a burner head that sits over a horizontal wall, said method comprising:

supplying said air/gas mixture to said horizontal wall via a venturi; and

distributing said air/gas mixture to said exit ports via at least one opening in said horizontal wall, wherein said opening is shaped to gradually provide a balanced mix of gas and air to said exit ports of said burner head so as to provide an even heat pattern from said burner head.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said opening is one of a plurality of openings in said horizontal wall spaced to provide said balanced mix of gas and air to said exit ports of said burner head.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said plurality of gas/air release openings is in a range of about two to six about openings.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein each of said plurality of gas/air release openings has a diameter in a range of about 3/16 of an inch to about 3/8 of an inch.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein a shape of said openings is selected from the group consisting of: a circle, a square, a triangle, a slit and any combinations thereof that releases the gas and air mixture in a

controlled fashion to said exit ports in said burner head in a consistent, even and predictable manner.

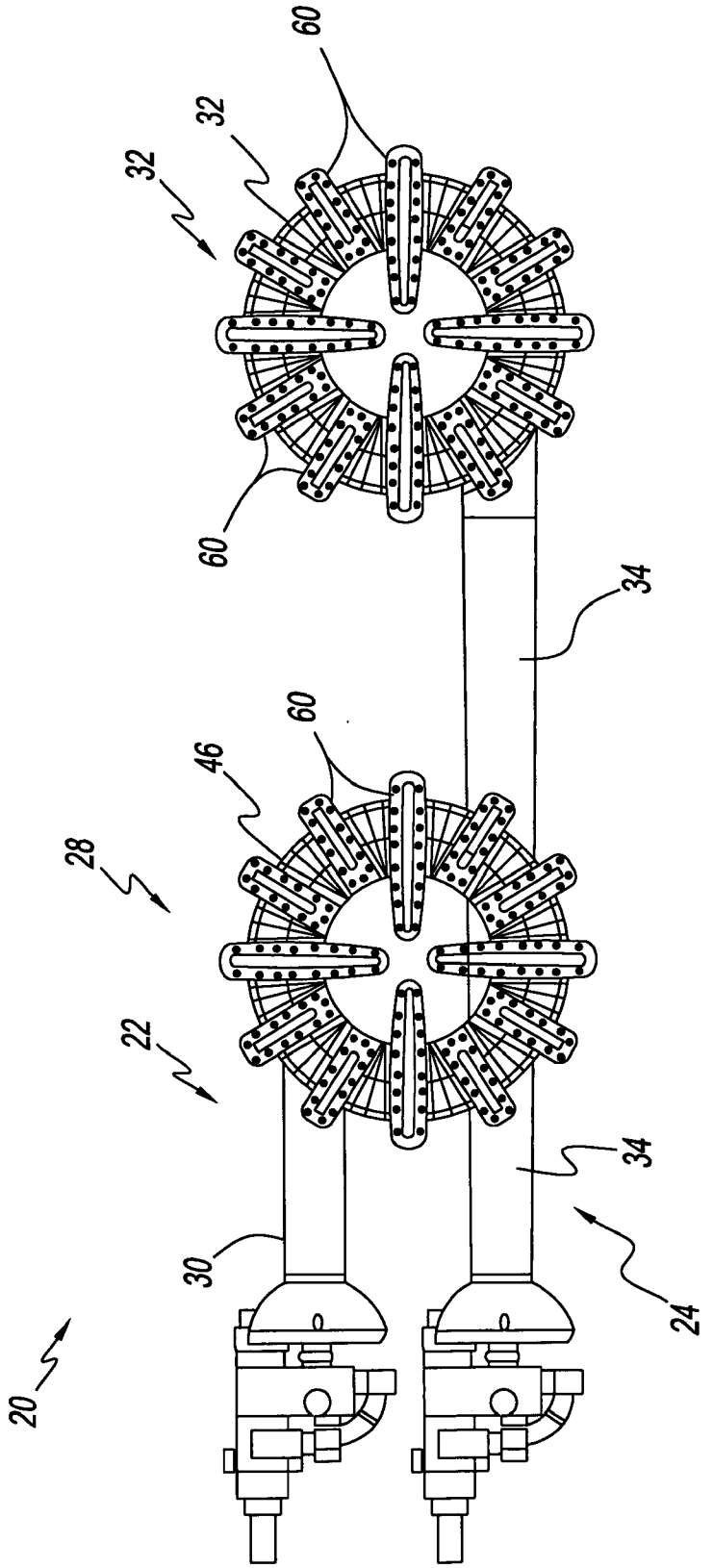


Fig. 1

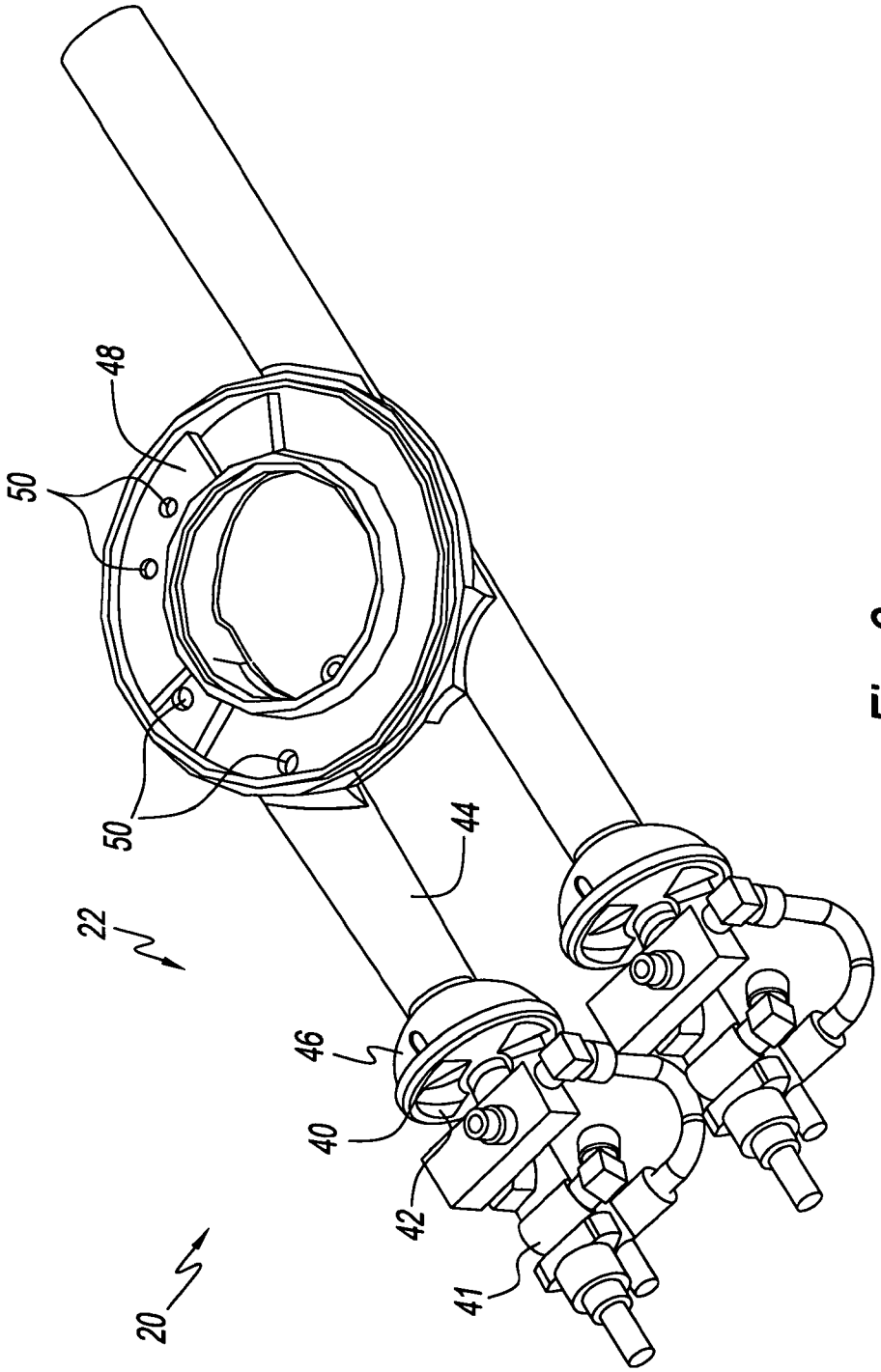


Fig. 2

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2008/011691

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(8) - F23D 14/06 (2008.04)
USPC - 126/39 R
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)
IPC(8) - F23D 14/06 (2008.04)
USPC - 126/39, 39 R

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)
MicroPatent

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2003/0024525 A1 (JENNINGS) 06 February 2003 (06.02.2003) entire document	1-15
Y	US 3,285,240 A (SCHMIDT) 15 November 1966 (15.11.1966) entire document	1-15

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

* Special categories of cited documents:
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"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	Date of mailing of the international search report
02 December 2008	12 DEC 2008
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-3201	Authorized officer: Blaine R. Copenheaver PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (April 2005)