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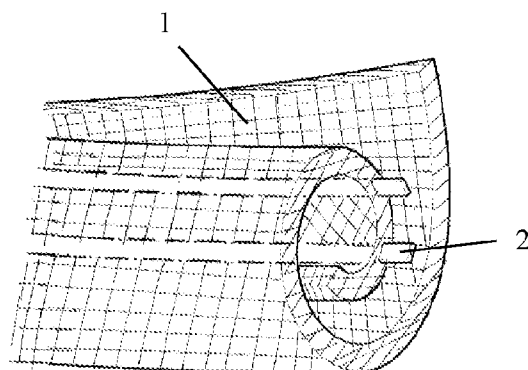
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(54) Title: FLEXIBLE COVER FOR WIRES OR CABLES

FIG. 2



(b)

(57) Abstract: A flexible covering for wires, cables, and the like includes a flexible sleeve in a partially rolled natural state and capable of being unrolled, and at least one pliable rod or insert running through an entire length of the flexible sleeve capable of firmly holding the flexible sleeve in a bent shape while allowing the flexible sleeve to remain wrapped around a bundle of wires.

FLEXIBLE COVER FOR WIRES OR CABLES

BACKGROUND

1. Field

5 The present disclosure relates to a flexible covering or sleeve for wires or cables.

2. Background

Various forms of coupling and bundling wires and cables together are known in the art, such as tape, twist ties, zip strips, and other pliable coverings. However, shortcomings with each of these tools exist, such as difficulty in adding or subtracting cables or wires from the bundle. Further, the bundle of wires may not be easily manipulated into convenient flexible and fixed positions to reduce clutter or effectively package the bundle in a certain space.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

15 Embodiments will be described in detail with reference to the following drawings in which like reference numerals refer to like elements, and wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view illustrating (a) an example of inner wires running through a sleeve, and (b) another example of wires running through the sleeve; and

FIG. 2 is a perspective view illustrating (a) an elongated version of the sleeve, and (b) another example of the sleeve.

FIG. 3 is a perspective view illustrating (a) an embodiment of a mesh type insert, and (b) an example of the mesh structure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

25 A flexible covering or sleeve is described which may partially overlap itself to wrap around a single or multiple wires, cables, rods, or similar objects. Once the objects are wrapped, a user may then bend the covering containing the objects to a predetermined degree as needed for a particular application, at which point the covering may firmly hold the objects in the bent state using one or more pliable rods or wires running through the covering.

30 As illustrated in FIG. 1, a covering or sleeve 1 may have a rolled shape capable of encasing or wrapping a grouping of wires or cables. The covering 1 may be made of a flexible rubber, plastic, silicone or other pliable solid material, which may be non-conducting. The covering 1 may have a certain rigidity to hold a partially rolled form so that edges overlap in a natural state, and may be temporarily unwrapped to insert one or more wires or cables. Once the one or more
35 wires or cables are inserted, the covering 1 may revert back to its partially rolled state to encase

the one or more wires together. The covering 1 may not need a separate fastening means to enclose the covering 1 in a rolled state.

One or more pliable rods or shafts 2 may be inserted into and run through the length of the covering 1. The rods 2 may be made of pliable metal, but the material is not limited thereto. The rods 2 may be oriented parallel to each other, and may be parallel to edges of the covering 1 or may be oriented to a predetermined degree with respect to the edges of the covering 1.

Once the one or more wires or cables are inserted, the user may bend the covering 1 to a predetermined degree. The pliable rods 2 may hold the covering in the bent position. The covering 1 may be rigid enough to keep the one or more wires or cables enclosed within the covering 1 even when the covering 1 is in the bent position.

The covering 1 may be electrically insulating and may have low thermal conductivity, i.e., high thermal resistance. The rods 2, which may be flat or rounded, may be embedded inside the covering 1, or in between two layers of the covering material to keep them enclosed. Although only two rods are shown, additional rods may be provided. The rods 2 may also have any cross section to allow for the covering 1 to be maintained in a bent state. Further, a thin sheet or multiple inner wires, rods, or sheets may be used, which may be solid or mesh like.

The covering 1 may allow users to cover or bundle single or multiple wires, cables, cordage, and other similar type objects together and bend them. The rods 2, sheets, or mesh may be embedded in the covering material and may allow the covering 1 to be bendable and hold the position in a wide range of angles. The metal rods 2, sheets, or mesh may have sufficient structural rigidity to allow the covering 1 to maintain its angled shape after bending.

As illustrated in FIG. 2, the covering 1 may be manufactured in pre measured lengths, and may further be cut to size depending on usage requirements. The ends of the pre-cut sections may be enclosed so the inner reinforcing rod 2, mesh, or sheet is not exposed. Although metal material may be generally used for the rods 2, other types of pliable materials may be used as long as the materials maintain sufficient rigidity after bending into a prescribed shape.

The covering 1 may also be manufactured in a multitude of sizes. For example, the covering 1 may be used in multiple applications, such as a home or office, an automobile, general building construction, or suspended telephone cables. Additional rods 2 may be inserted as necessary to ensure stability when a bending is applied to the covering 1. The additional rods 2 may be inserted at any angle with respect to the first rods 2.

Although the attached figures illustrate the covering 1 being wound around, the covering 1 may be provided where it is partially wound around a bundle of wires. In an alternative embodiment, the covering 1 may have a pattern, as shown in FIG. 2, or may be part of the pattern. Although the wires are shown in the figures to be embedded, the wires may be provided

on an external surface of the cover. The covering 1 may also be a pliable mesh type, which may allow for bending and stability without the need for additional rods 2 to be inserted through the covering 1.

As illustrated in FIG. 3, the insert 2 may be a pliable mesh type that runs through an entire length of the covering 1. The mesh insert 2 may also run through an entire width of the covering 1 in order to improve rigidity. The mesh insert 2 may also only run through a portion of the covering 1 in order to reduce material usage.

Any reference in this specification to “one embodiment,” “an embodiment,” “example embodiment,” etc., means that a particular feature, structure, or characteristic described in connection with the embodiment is included in at least one embodiment. The appearances of such phrases in various places in the specification are not necessarily all referring to the same embodiment. Further, when a particular feature, structure, or characteristic is described in connection with any embodiment, it is submitted that it is within the purview of one skilled in the art to effect such feature, structure, or characteristic in connection with other ones of the embodiments.

Although embodiments have been described with reference to a number of illustrative embodiments thereof, it should be understood that numerous other modifications and embodiments can be devised by those skilled in the art that will fall within the spirit and scope of the principles of this disclosure. More particularly, various variations and modifications are possible in the component parts and/or arrangements of the subject combination arrangement within the scope of the disclosure, the drawings and the appended claims. In addition to variations and modifications in the component parts and/or arrangements, alternative uses will also be apparent to those skilled in the art.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A flexible covering comprising:

5 a flexible wrap having a prescribed length between first and second ends in a first direction, wherein a first edge of the flexible wrap overlaps a second edge of the flexible wrap in a first state; and

10 at least one pliable insert embedded within the flexible wrap, the pliable insert being more rigid than the flexible wrap, wherein the pliable insert is configured to maintain the flexible wrap in a bent state when the flexible wrap is folded in a second direction different from the first direction, and wherein the flexible wrap is capable of being unrolled into a second state.

2. The flexible covering of claim 1, wherein the at least one pliable insert is a rod running through an entire length of the flexible wrap.

15 3. The flexible covering of claim 2, wherein the at least one pliable rod is made of a metal.

20 4. The flexible wrap of claim 3, wherein the at least one pliable rod runs diagonally through an entire length of the flexible wrap.

5. The flexible covering of claim 3, wherein the at least one pliable rod includes a pliable mesh sheet that runs through the entire flexible wrap.

25 6. The flexible covering of claim 1, wherein the at least one pliable rod includes two or more pliable rods arranged in parallel through an entire length of the flexible wrap.

7. The flexible covering of claim 1, wherein the flexible wrap is made of a non-conducting rubber.

30 8. The flexible covering of claim 1, wherein the flexible wrap is made of a mesh type material.

FIG. 1

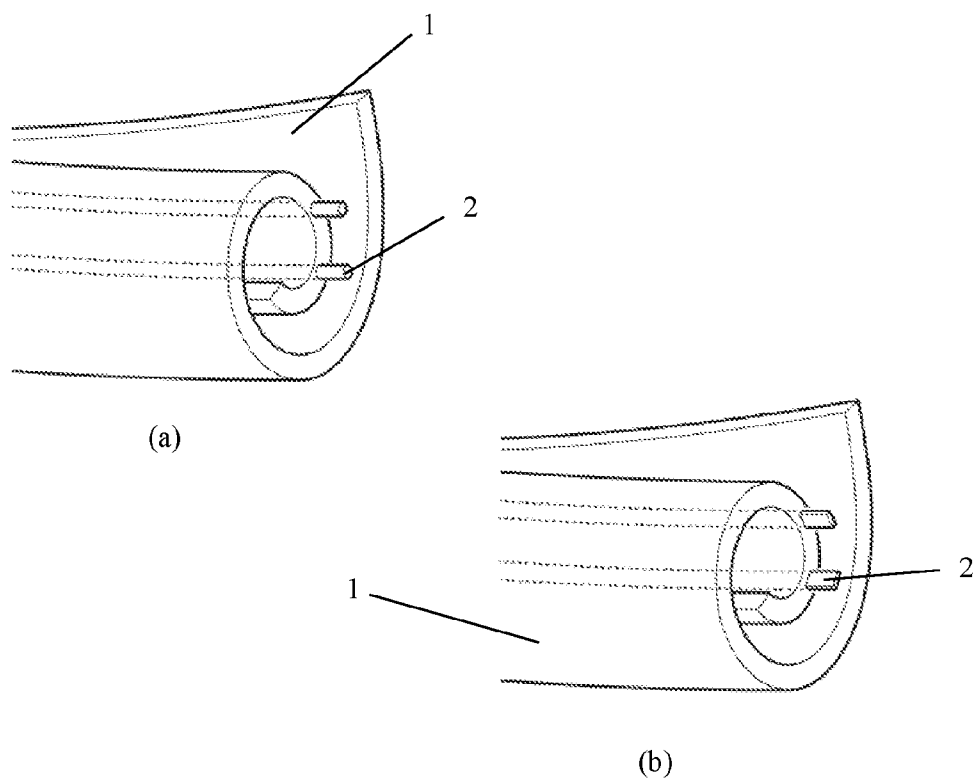


FIG. 2

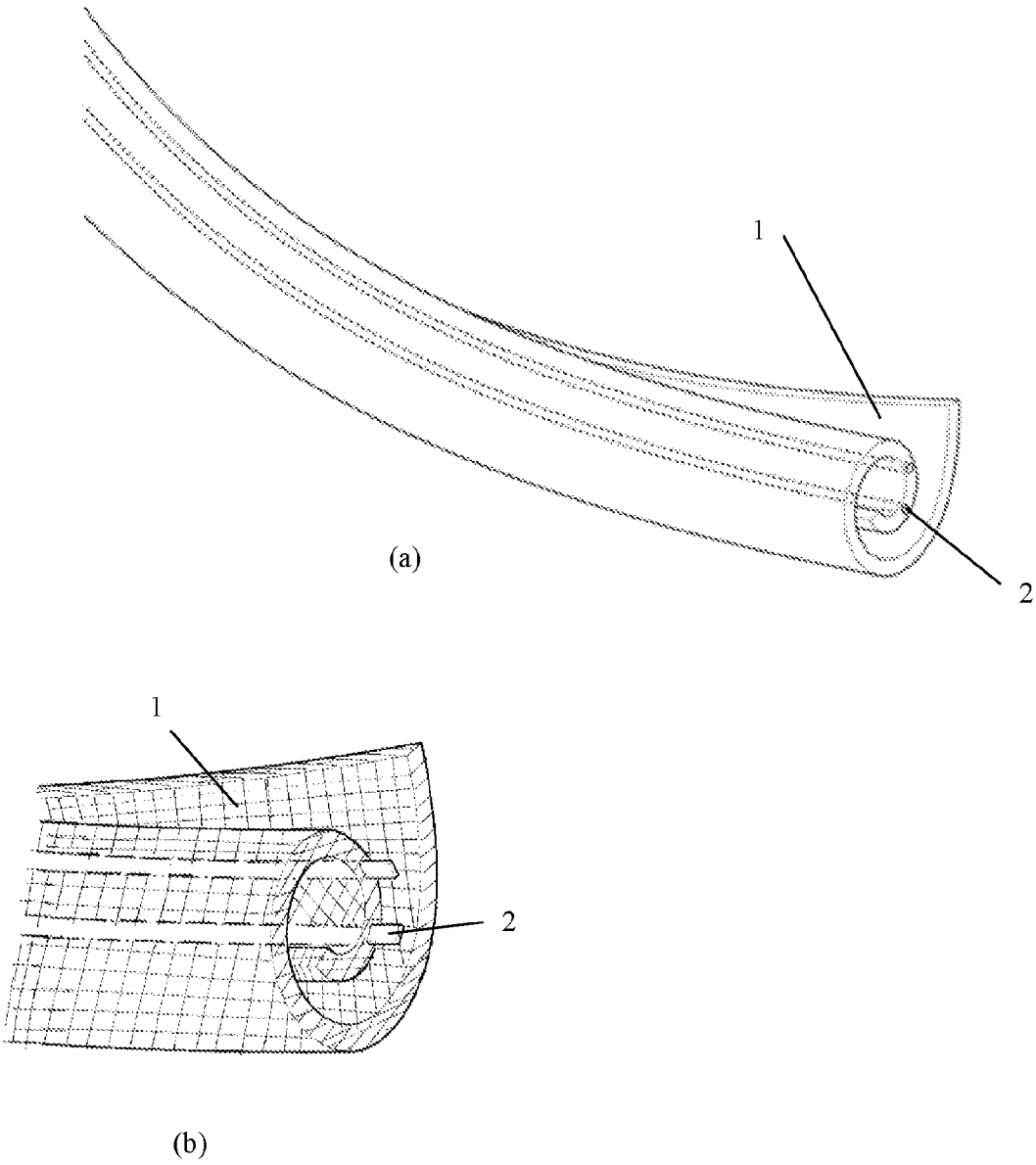
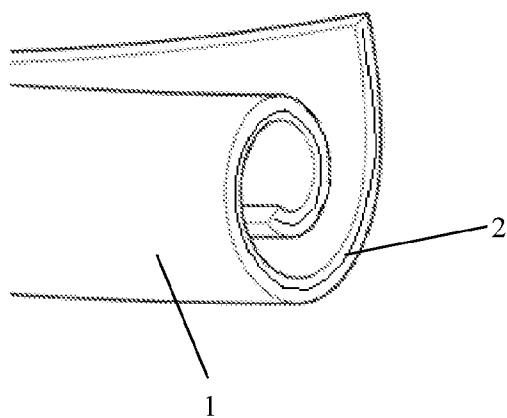
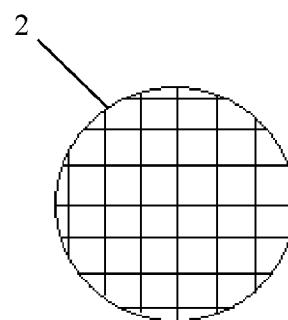


FIG. 3



(a)



(b)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US16/63114

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC - H02G 3/34, 15/18; B65H 75/24, 75/00; F16L 3/137 (2017.01)

CPC - H02G 3/0406, 3/34, 15/18; B65H 7/24, 75/00; F16L 3/137

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)

See Search History document

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

See Search History document

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

See Search History document

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2007/0210490 A1 (MALLOY, C et al.) September 13, 2007; abstract; figures 1-4; paragraphs [0029-0031]	1, 2, 5, 6, and 8 --- 3, 4, and 7
Y	US 4,836,080 A (KITE, J et al.) June 6, 1989; abstract; figures 1 and 2; column 1, lines 59-68; column 2, lines 1-8	3 and 4
Y	US 6,545,219 B1 (BUKOVNIK, R et al.) April 8, 2003; abstract; column 7, lines 25-41	7
A	US 2014/0220846 A1 (FEDERAL-MOGUL POWERTRAIN, INC.) August 7, 2014; entire document	1-8
A	US 2014/0174585 A1 (FEDERAL-MOGUL POWERTRAIN, INC.) June 26, 2014; entire document	1-8
A	US 2004/0099426 A1 (BRYL, B et al.) May 27, 2004; entire document	1-8
A	US 6,309,721 B1 (GLADFELTER, H et al.) October 30, 2001; entire document	1-8

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

☐ See patent family annex.

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