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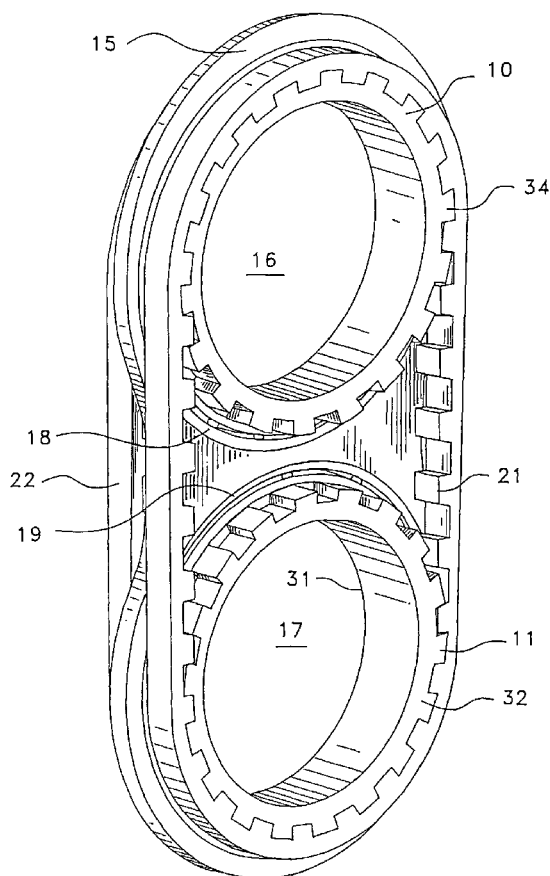
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(54) Title: **BELT DRIVE RING CVT COUPLER**



(57) **Abstract:** The invention comprises a belt drive ring CVT coupler. Drive rings (10, 11) are rotatably connected to each end of a frame (15). Belts (21, 22) are trained around the drive rings. The relative spatial arrangement of the axis of rotation of each set of drive rings is maintained by the frame, which holds the drive rings in a pre-determined relationship between the pulley sheaves (101, 102; 201, 202). The drive ring on the driver pulley (100) turns in the same direction as the driver pulley through frictional contact with the sides of the CVT driver pulley sheaves. The drive ring on the driven pulley side rotates in the same direction to the drive ring on the driver pulley, since they are mechanically connected by the belts. The driven drive ring is then in frictional contact with the sides of the driven pulley sheaves, thereby driving the driven pulley (200). The effective diameter or radius of each pulley is adjusted by movement of the pulley sheaves. Axial movement of the pulley sheaves causes the axis of rotation of each drive ring to move eccentrically with respect to the axis of rotation of its respective pulley. Since the drive rings are mechanically connected, the drive rings move with the frame as a unit in response to the movement of the pulley sheaves, thereby changing the effective gear ratio of the transmission.

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