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(54) Title: BLOWOUT PREVENTER BLADE ASSEMBLY AND METHOD OF USING SAME

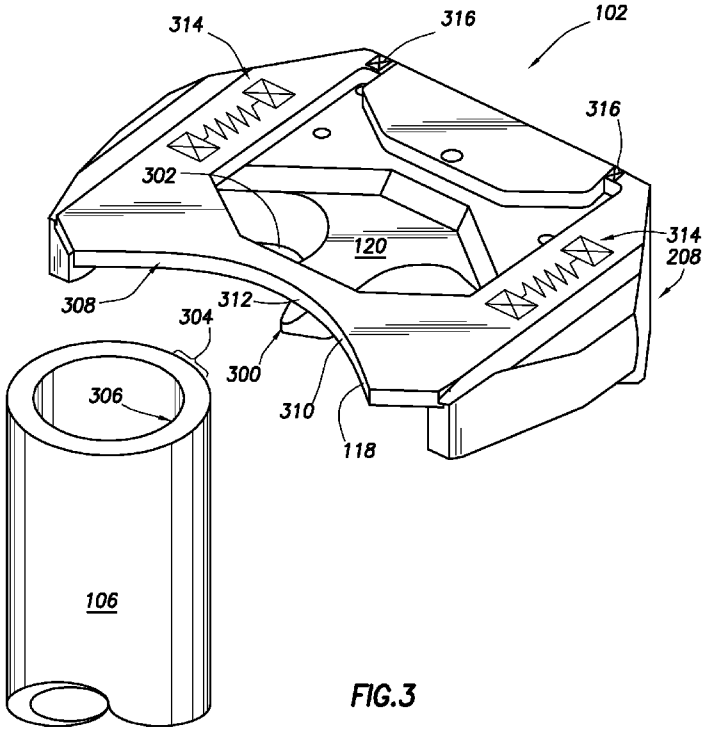


FIG.3

(57) Abstract: The techniques herein relate to a blade assembly of a blowout preventer for shearing a tubular of a wellbore penetrating a subterranean formation. The blowout preventer has a housing with a hole therethrough for receiving the tubular. The blade assembly includes a ram block movable between a non-engagement position and an engagement position about the tubular, a blade carried by the ram block for cuttingly engaging the tubular, a retractable guide carried by the ram block and slidably movable therealong, and a release mechanism for selectively releasing the guide to move between a guide position for guiding engagement with the tubular and a cutting position a distance behind the blade for permitting the blade to cuttingly engage the tubular.

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