



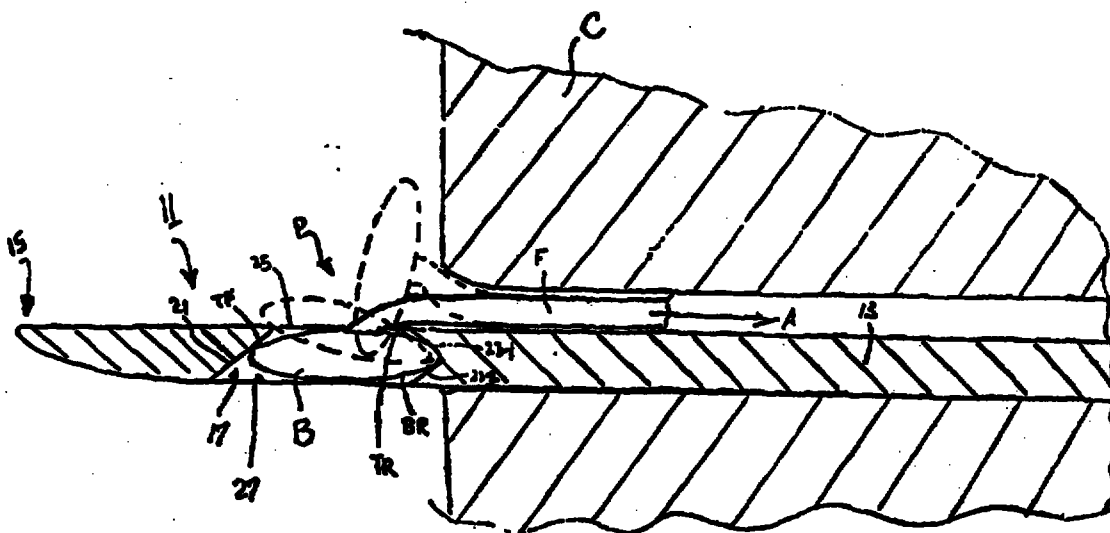
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(54) Title: NEEDLE FOR USE IN THE RODLESS DISPENSING OF PLASTIC FASTENERS



(57) Abstract

Needle used in the rodless dispensing of plastic fasteners (P) which have a flexible filament (F) and a cross-bar (B) disposed at one end of the flexible filament (F). In one embodiment, the needle (11) comprises a solid elongated member (13) terminating at its front end in a tip (15) adapted to penetrate a desired article and a chamber (17) adapted to receive a cross-bar (B) of a plastic fastener (P). The chamber (17) includes a front end (21), a rear end (23), an open top (25) and an open bottom (27). The open top (25) is spaced rearwardly from the tip (15) and is appropriately sized and shaped to permit the insertion and removal of a cross-bar (B) into and from the chamber (17). Front end (21) is downwardly angled towards tip (15) to releasably engage top surface (TF) of the front end of cross-bar (B), and rear end (23) has a pair of walls intersecting in a V-shape to releasably engage bar (B) to prevent the cross-bar (B) from being pulled out of chamber (17) through open top (25) when low tension is applied to the flexible filament. When high tension is applied to the flexible filament, cross-bar (B) is caused to be pulled out of chamber (17) through open top (25).

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