pipe elements, each of the projections having an arcuate surface facing the central axis,

wherein at least one of the projections comprises first and second outwardly facing surface portions, the first surface portion being angularly oriented relatively to the second surface portion, the first surface portion subtending an angle of about 35° to about 60° measured with respect to the central axis;

inserting the first pipe element into the central space from one side of the pipe coupling, the first pipe element engaging and thereby rotating the coupling segments relatively to one another about an axis passing through the connection members to provide clearance for inserting the first pipe element;

inserting the second pipe element into the central space from an opposite side of the pipe coupling; and

tightening the connection members and thereby drawing the coupling segments toward one another and into engagement with the first and second pipe elements to couple them in end to end relation.

[0018] The method may further include the step of inserting the second pipe element into the central space from an opposite side of the coupling and engaging and thereby rotating the coupling segments relatively to one another about the axis passing through the connection members to provide clearance for inserting the second pipe element.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0019] ~~Figure 1 is an elevational view of an example mechanical pipe coupling according to the invention;~~

[0020] Figure 2 is an elevational view of an example mechanical pipe coupling according to the invention;

[0021] Figure 3 is a cross sectional view of a segment of an example mechanical pipe coupling according to the invention taken at line 3-3 of Figure 2;

[0022] Figures 4A and 4B are isometric views of segments of example mechanical pipe couplings according to the invention;

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wherein at least one of the projections comprises first and second outwardly facing surface portions, the first surface portion being angularly oriented relatively to the second surface portion, the first surface portion subtending an angle of about 35° to about 60° measured with respect to the central axis;

inserting the first pipe element into the central space from one side of the pipe coupling, the first pipe element engaging and thereby rotating the coupling segments relatively to one another about an axis passing through the connection members to provide clearance for inserting the first pipe element;

inserting the second pipe element into the central space from an opposite side of the pipe coupling; and

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[0018] The method may further include the step of inserting the second pipe element into the central space from an opposite side of the coupling and engaging and thereby rotating the coupling segments relatively to one another about the axis passing through the connection members to provide clearance for inserting the second pipe element.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0019] Figure 1 is an elevational view of an example mechanical pipe coupling according to the prior art;

[0020] Figure 2 is an elevational view of an example mechanical pipe coupling according to the invention;

[0021] Figure 3 is a cross sectional view of a segment of an example mechanical pipe coupling according to the invention taken at line 3-3 of Figure 2;

[0022] Figures 4A and 4B are isometric views of segments of example mechanical pipe couplings according to the invention;