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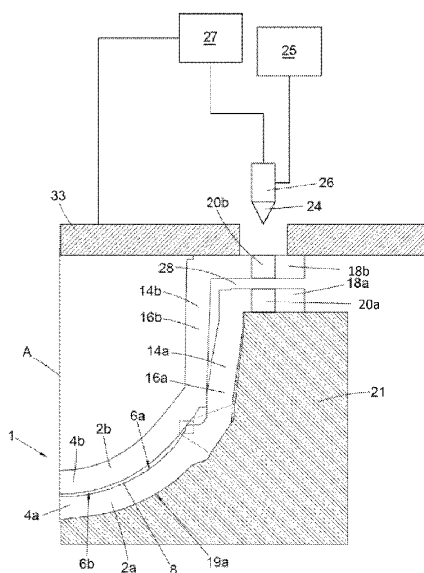


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A method of producing a silicone hydrogel contact lens mold assembly (1). The method comprises placing male (2b) and female (2a) mold members together to form a cavity (8) therebetween, the cavity comprising a polymerizable silicone hydrogel contact lens precursor composition (12). The male and female mold members are coupled together by inserting one or more heated elongate elements (26) into the members, thereby causing a portion of the members to become melted or softened, then withdrawing the one or more heated elements to form a weld between the male and female mold members. Throughout a time period beginning with insertion of the elongate elements and continuing until at least 3 seconds after withdrawal, the male and female members are pressed together by applying a force in the range of 20 N to 100 N.

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