

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
7 April 2005 (07.04.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/031198 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **F16K 7/04**
(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2004/031702

(22) International Filing Date:
27 September 2004 (27.09.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
10/605,385 26 September 2003 (26.09.2003) US

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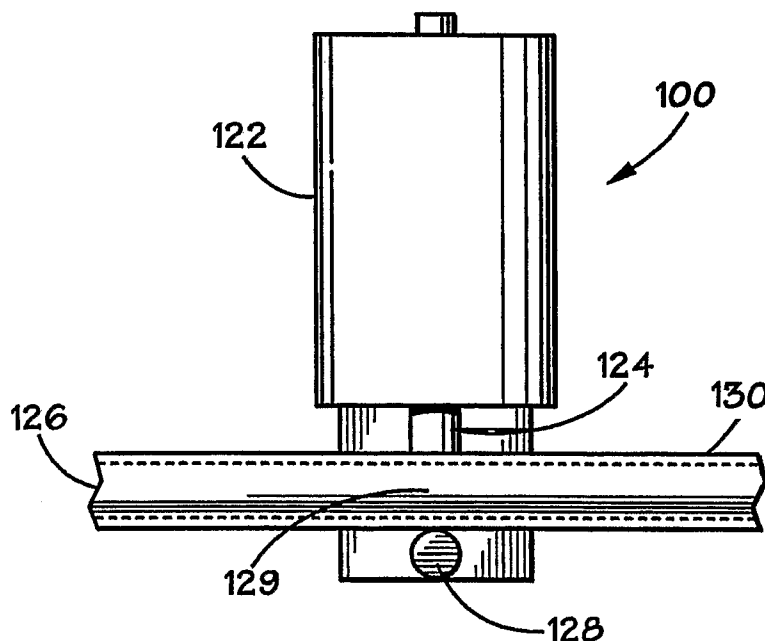
(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: PINCH VALVE



(57) Abstract: A control valve (100) includes an elastomeric flow tube (126), a plunger (124) having first and second ends, and a pinch member (502) connected to the first end of the plunger (124). The pinch member (502) is situated adjacent the flow tube. A reference surface (128) is positioned generally opposite the pinch member (502) such that the elastomeric tube (126) is squeezable between the pinch member (502) and the reference surface (126) to control fluid flow through the flow tube. A first guide spring (511) is situated between the pinch member (502) and the first end of the plunger (124), and a second guide spring (510) is situated adjacent the second end of the plunger (124). A damper (552, 554, 556) may be connected to the plunger. Further, a pressure containing member (130) may be situated about at least a portion of the flow tube.

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