

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A tubular expander, comprising:
 - a. a main tubular body;
 - 5 b. an inner tubular expansion cone disposed within the main tubular body; and
 - c. an expansion ring longitudinally detachable from a distal end of the inner tubular expansion cone.
- 10 2. The tubular expander as defined in claim 1, wherein the main tubular body has a tapered inner surface adjacent to and engageable with an outer surface of the inner tubular expansion cone.
- 15 3. The tubular expander as defined in claim 2, wherein the outer surface of the inner tubular expansion cone engageable with the tapered inner surface of the main tubular body has a complementary tapered surface.
- 20 4. The tubular expander as defined in claim 3, wherein the expansion ring comprises an outer curvilinear surface, which has an outer diameter greater than the outer diameter of the main tubular body.
- 25 5. The tubular expander as defined in claim 4, wherein the outer curvilinear surface of the expansion ring is partially hemispherical in shape.
- 30 6. The tubular expander as defined in claim 4, wherein the expansion ring comprises an outer taper disposed adjacent to the outer curvilinear surface, wherein the outer taper is angled towards the central axis of the expansion ring.
7. The tubular expander as defined in claim 6, wherein the expansion ring comprises a terminating end opposite to the outer curvilinear surface, wherein the outer diameter of the terminating end is less than the outer diameter of the outer curvilinear surface.
8. The tubular expander as defined in claim 1, wherein the expansion ring is detachably connected to the expansion cone by an interference fit of the expansion ring over the distal end of the inner tubular expansion cone.

9. The tubular expander as defined in claim 8, wherein the expansion ring fits over a recess formed in the distal end of the inner tubular expansion cone with an edge of the expansion ring abutting against a shoulder formed by said recess.
- 5 10. The tubular expander as defined in claim 1, wherein the expansion ring is detachably connected to the expansion cone via a threaded connection.
11. The tubular expander as defined in claim 1, wherein the expansion ring is formed of a
10 drillable material.
12. The tubular expander as defined in claim 1, wherein the main tubular body comprises a distal end having a nose formed thereon and the expansion ring has an outer lip, which engages with the nose of the main tubular body.
- 15 13. A method of expanding a tubular member, comprising:
- a. deploying a tubular expander having a main tubular body, an inner tubular expansion cone disposed within the main tubular body, and an expansion ring longitudinally detachable from a distal end of the inner tubular expansion cone into an inner surface
20 of the tubular member; and
- b. running the tubular expander along the inner surface of the tubular member such that the expansion ring causes the diameter of the tubular member to expand as it runs along the inner surface of the tubular member.
- 25 14. The method of expanding a tubular member as defined in claim 13, further comprising detaching the expansion ring from the expansion cone in the event that the tubular member fails or ceases to expand or the expansion ring becomes stuck inside the inner surface of the tubular member.
- 30 15. The method of expanding a tubular member as defined in claim 14, wherein the expansion ring detaches from the inner tubular expansion cone by overcoming a frictional force created by an interference fit formed between the expansion ring and the inner tubular expansion cone.

16. The method of expanding a tubular member as defined in claim 14, further comprising
leaving the detached expansion ring installed within the inner surface of the tubular member.
17. The method of expanding a tubular member as defined in claim 14, further comprising
5 drilling the expansion ring out of the inner surface of the tubular member.
18. The method of expanding a tubular member as defined in claim 14, further comprising
disposing a secondary tool downhole to continue the expansion of the tubular member.
- 10 19. The method of expanding a tubular member as defined in claim 18, wherein disposing the
secondary tool downhole comprises running the secondary tool through the tubular expander
and the tubular member.
20. The method of expanding a tubular member as defined in claim 13, wherein the tubular
15 member comprises a liner hanger having an inner surface having a diameter smaller than an
outer diameter of the expansion ring, such that as the expansion tubular is run through the
liner hanger its diameter is expanded by the expansion ring.