WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for producing a filament assembly comprising a flat frame, the apparatus comprising:

   a frame holder mountable to a lathe for rotation of said flat frame about a lathe axis and configured to position said frame at a skewed angle to said lathe axis;

   a filament applicator comprising a filament guide assembly and mountable to a tool holder of the lathe for movement parallel to said lathe axis to wind a filament around said flat frame along a filament path in a series of parallel passes skewed relative to said lathe axis and square to said flat frame, said filament applicator comprising:

   a spindle for rotatably supporting a spool of said filament; and

   a tension control device for applying tension to said filament.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said frame axis is parallel to said parallel passes.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said frame axis is perpendicular to said parallel passes.

4. The apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said filament guide assembly comprises a bearing device for limiting friction.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said bearing device comprises a rotatable capstan.

6. The apparatus of claim 4 or claim 5, wherein said bearing device comprises an air bearing.

7. The apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein said tension control device comprises is a tension arm biased against said thread by gravity.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said tension arm is biased against said thread by an adjustable counterweight.

9. The apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein said tension control device comprises a braking device for resisting unwinding of said filament from said spool.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said braking device comprises a drum brake for resisting rotation of said spool.

11. A method of producing a filament assembly comprising a flat frame, the method comprising:

mounting a flat frame to a lathe for rotation about a lathe axis, comprising positioning said flat frame at a skewed angle to said lathe axis;

feeding a filament through a filament guide assembly of a dispenser;

rotating said flat frame about said lathe axis to wind said filament around said flat frame;

moving said dispenser along said lathe axis to create a series of parallel passes of said filament about said flat frame, wherein said series of parallel passes are skewed relative to said lathe axis and square to said flat frame; and

during said rotating, applying tension to said filament using said dispenser.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said frame axis is parallel to said parallel passes.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein said frame axis is perpendicular to said parallel passes.

14. The method of any one of claims 11 to 13, comprising guiding said filament through said parallel passes with a rotatable bearing device.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said bearing device comprises an air bearing.

16. The method of any one of claims 11 to 15, comprising applying tension to said filament with a weighted tension arm.

17. The method of claim 16, comprising adjusting an applied tension by adjusting a counterweight on said tension arm.

18. The method of any one of claims 11 to 17, comprising applying tension to said filament by squeezing the filament between pressure plates.

19. The method of any one of claims 11 to 17, comprising applying tension to said filament by applying a drum brake to a spool of said filament.

20. A filament applicator mountable to a tool holder of a lathe for movement parallel to wind a filament around a flat frame, said filament applicator comprising:

a spindle for rotatably supporting a spool of filament;

a guide assembly configured to dispense said filament along a filament path in a series of parallel passes skewed relative to the lathe axis and square to said flat frame; and

a tension control device for applying tension to said filament.