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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **HAL-LIBURTON ENERGY SERVICES, INC.** [US/US]; 10200 Bellaire Boulevard, Houston, TX 77072 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(71) Applicants : **PARLIN, Joseph, DeWitt** [US/US]; 5200 Brouette Court, Plano, TX 75023 (US). **DAHL, Espen** [NO/BR]; Rua Baroa de Jaguaripe, Rio De Janeiro (BR).

(74) Agent: **KAISER, Iona**; McDermott Will & Emery LLP, The McDermott Building, 500 North Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001 (US).

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(54) Title: PROTECTION OF CASING LOWSIDE WHILE MILLING CASING EXIT

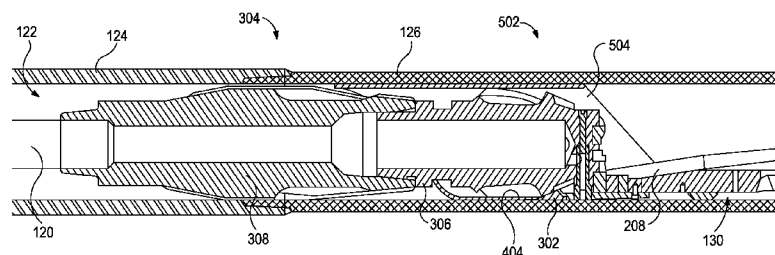


FIG. 5a

(57) Abstract: The lowside of a casing joint is protected from wear while milling a casing exit for a lateral borehole. The casing joint is coupled to a casing string and is made of a material that is softer than that of the casing string. A whipstock assembly is arranged within the casing joint and has a deflector surface operable to direct a drilling assembly into a sidewall of the casing joint to create the casing exit. A wear sleeve is coupled to and extends axially from the whipstock assembly, the wear sleeve defining a throat that extends axially along the axial length of the wear sleeve and transitions into the deflector surface. The axial length of the wear sleeve extends beyond a point of contact where the drilling assembly would otherwise engage the lowside of the casing joint.



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