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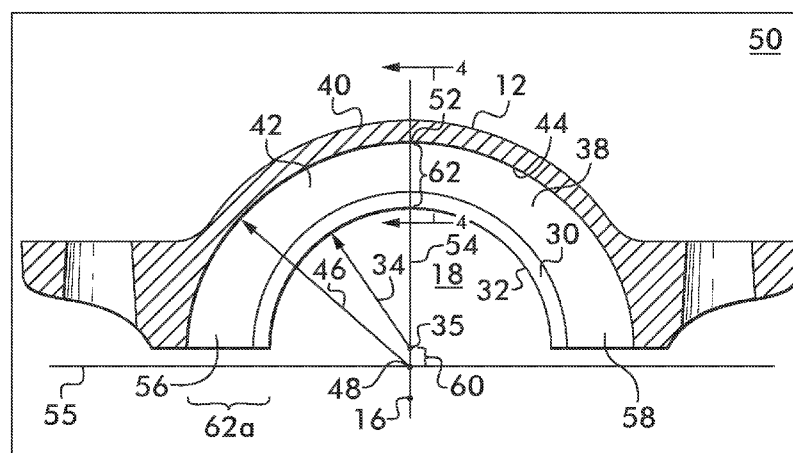
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(54) Title: COUPLING HAVING GASKET POCKET OF VARYING DEPTH

FIG.3



(57) Abstract: A mechanical coupling for joining pipe elements has segments joined end to end, each segment having a pocket of varying depth for receiving a ring gasket. The varying depth of the pocket is used to control the distortion of the ring gasket between a round shape and a non-round shape when the segments are arranged in spaced apart relation around the ring gasket, the spacing between the segments being sufficient to permit insertion of the pipe elements without disassembly of the coupling.