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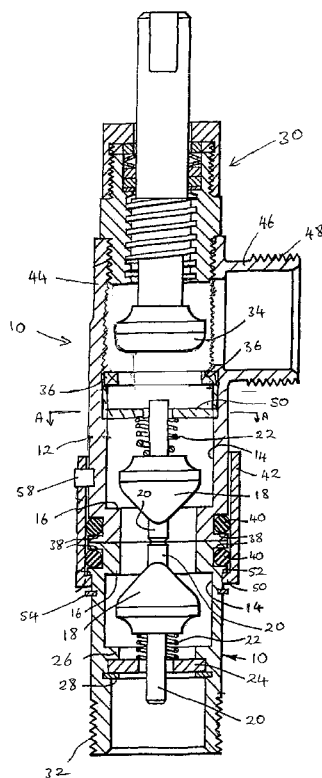


Figure 1

(57) Abstract: A valve assembly comprising mutually opposed first and second valves (10), each of which comprises a casing (12) in which a through passage (14) is defined, the through passages having, at contiguous ends, internally circumferential valve seats (16) against which respective movable valve members (18) are biased, the respective valve members of the first and second valves engaging one another when the first and second valves are brought together to urge the valve members away from their respective seats to open the first and second valves, a coupling member being provided for holding the first and second valves together wherein means are provided for limiting the travel of the valve member of at least one of the first and second valves away from its valve seat to prevent the valve member of the other of the first and second valves from engaging its valve seat when the first and second valves are together, thus preventing said other of the first and second valves from closing due to the flow of fluid through the valve assembly.