Claims:

1. A method of supporting a blade mounted on a hub, the method comprising the step of locating a cassette in proximity to a blade mounted on a hub, the cassette defining a volume for filling with an encapsulant;

   filling the volume with an encapsulant material; and

   causing the encapsulant to solidify to the blade to support the blade on the hub.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the cassette has walls extending in a direction away from the hub, a bottom facing the hub and a top facing away from the hub, the method comprising placing the cassette in proximity to the blade and filling the volume with encapsulant through the top of the cassette.

3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the cassette is placed to surround the blade

4. A method according to claim 2, wherein the cassette is placed in proximity to the blade, the blade forming one wall of the cassette.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein a sealant is applied between the blade and the other walls of the cassette.

6. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the method comprises providing a sheet between the hub and the cassette for separating the hub from the volume.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the sheet comprises one or more openings, the method comprising inserting a blade through a respective opening.

8. A method according to claim 6 or claim 7, wherein the sheet has a plurality of alignment features and the cassette has a plurality of complementary alignment features, the method comprising aligning the cassette to the hub by engaging the alignment features with the complementary alignment features.

9. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the cassette is removed after the encapsulant is solidified.

10. A method according to any of claims 1 to 9, wherein the volume is filled with a liquid encapsulant that is solidified by cooling.

11. A method according to any of claims 1 to 9, wherein the volume is filed with a liquid encapsulant that is solidified by applying energy to cure the encapsulant.

12. A method according to any of claims 1 to 9, wherein the volume is filled with a liquid encapsulant that is solidified by reaction with a chemical initiator.

13. A method according to any of claims 1 to 9, wherein the volume is filled with a particulate encapsulant that is heated and cooled to solidify the encapsulant to the blade to support the blade on the hub.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the heating and cooling sinters the particulate encapsulant.

15. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the cassette comprises integral heating or cooling elements.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the integral heating elements are selected from the group comprising: resistive heating wires or conduits configured to carry a heating or cooling fluid.

17. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein following support of the blade with the solidified encapsulant, the blade is machined in a machining step.

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the blade is machined in the machining step whilst the blade is supported by the solid encapsulant.

19. A method according to claim 18, wherein the machining step machines the blade and removes at least a portion of the solidified encapsulant.

20. A method according to claim 19, wherein the machining step further removes at least a portion of the cassette.

21. A method of supporting a cantilevered component mounted to a hub, the method comprising the step of locating a cassette in proximity to the cantilevered component, the cassette defining a volume for filling with an encapsulant;

filling the volume with an encapsulant material; and

causing the encapsulant to solidify to the cantilevered component to support the cantilevered component.

22. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the blade or cantilevered component is supported to change its vibration response.

23. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the blade or cantilevered component is integrally formed with its respective hub.