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(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO VALVES.

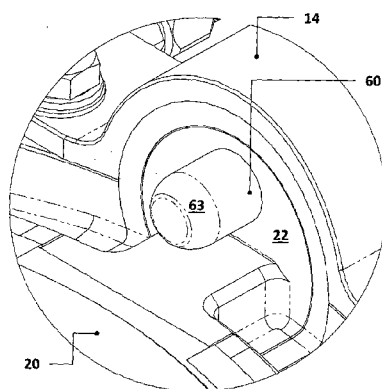


Fig 3a.

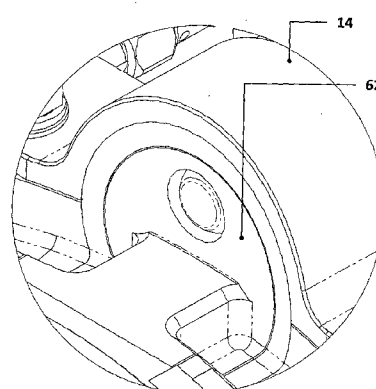


Fig 3b.

(57) Abstract: A spilt valve assembly (10) comprising two valve portions 12,14 complementarily shaped such that the first can sealingly engage with and co-operate with the second to allow the movement of material therethrough, each valve portion (12,14) comprising a housing (16,18) a valve seat and a valve closure member (20,20'), wherein the assembly has a first configuration in which the first and second valve portions engage with one another, the valve closure members being closed, and a second configuration in which the two valve portions are disengaged from one another, the first valve portion having locking means (60) moveable relative to the second valve portion to selectively lock and unlock the two valve portions together, said locking means received by the second valve portion which comprises a shim.