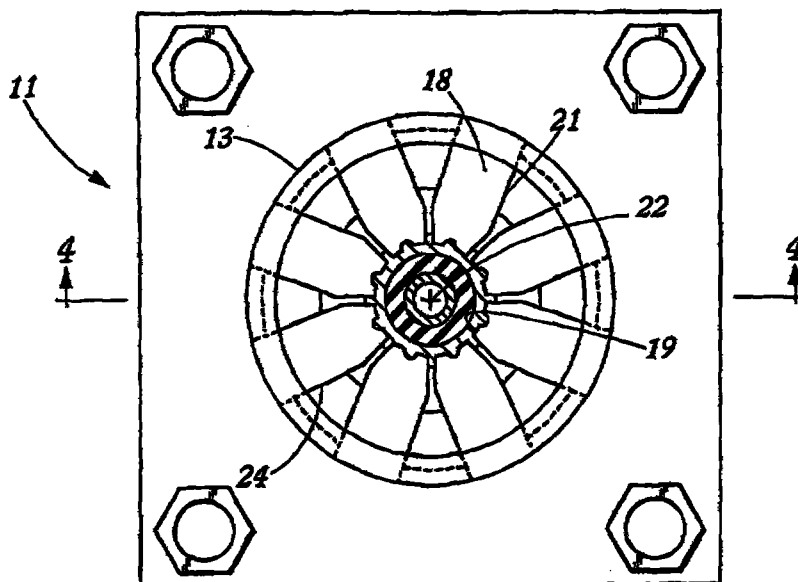


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(54) Title: **SLOTTED CRIMPING DIE FOR USE IN A CRIMPING MACHINE**

(57) Abstract

A die finger and a crimping die comprising a plurality of circumferentially spaced die fingers used in a crimping apparatus, wherein the die finger has an inner forming surface and an oppositely facing camming surface, and wherein at least one die finger having the inner forming surface includes at least one slot formed therein oriented along the longitudinal axis. Also included is a crimping apparatus utilizing the inventive die fingers, a method of crimping a ferrule with the inventive die fingers and a ferrule crimped by the inventive method.