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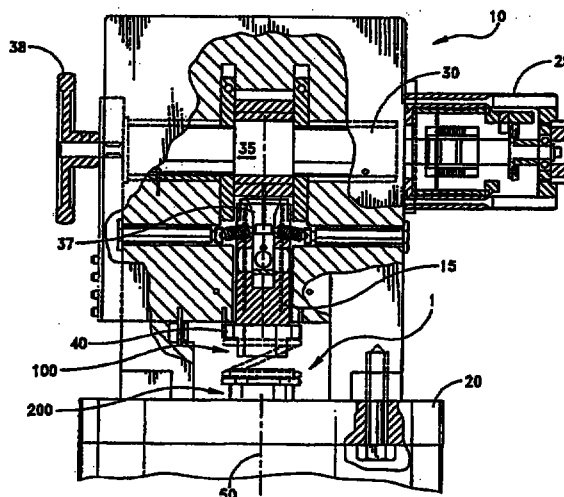
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(54) Title: **SELF-GUIDING PUNCH AND DIE SET**



(57) Abstract: A punch and die set (1) is provided for use in a stamping press (10) having a punch assembly (100) and a die assembly (200) reciprocated by a driving mechanism (25, 30, 35, 37, 38). The punch and die assemblies are aligned to a common center (50) and are structured to slidably engage one another for positive guidance of the punch and die tools without the need for other guidance by shafts, bars or the like. One of the punch assembly and die assembly can be non-fixedly carried by the drive mechanism, allowing the guidance of the engaged punch and die assemblies to define the relative positions of the tools. This arrangement eliminates any stack-up of tolerances between the assemblies and substantially reduces misalignment during stamping, including any misalignment that may be introduced by the press driving mechanism.

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