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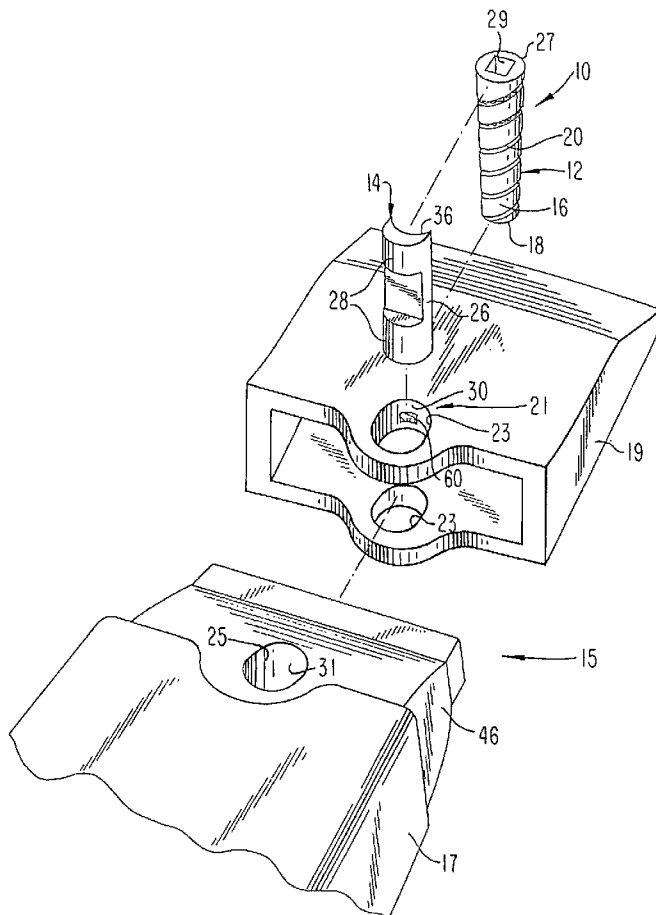
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(54) Title: **RELEASABLE COUPLING ASSEMBLY**



(57) Abstract: A lock (10) that includes a wedge (12) and spool (14) are used to releasably secure separable components of an assembly together. The wedge (12) and spool (14) are threadedly coupled together to drive the wedge into and out of an opening in the assembly without hammering or prying. The direct coupling of the wedge (12) and spool eliminates the need for bolts, washers, nuts and other hardware so as to minimize the number of parts. As a result, the lock is inexpensive to make, easy to use, and unlikely to become inoperative because of lost or broken parts or due to fines or other difficulties encountered in harsh digging environments. Further, the wedge (12) can be driven into the assembly to provide the degree of tightness necessary for the intended operation and/or to re-tighten the assembly after incurring wear during use. A latch assembly (56) is preferably provided to securely hold the wedge (12) in place and avoid and undesired loss of parts during use.



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