

Programmable Rotary Actuators

Abstract

Disclosed is a programmable rotary actuator (100,100a,100b,200,300) for use to actuate a knob (10) on a stove (12), a handle/knob (14) on a door (16) or an adjust knob on an appliance. A gripper (130) has two adjustable clamping members (132,232L,232R) to fit onto the knob or handle. Preferably, the gripper (130) is connected to a gear-motor assembly via a drive stem (140,140b), and the components are disposed inside a hollow, open housing (110). An end of the drive stem extends out through a front wall of the hollow housing and terminates with a setting knob (120). Preferably, the drive stem has a conical joint (146) or a threaded sleeve (141) to allow the setting knob to be depressed. Preferably, a drive gear (248) is separately housed in a control box and is engageable with a ring gear (248a), with the ring gear housing a gripper assembly (230).

FIG. 1A for publication.