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(54) Title: **RADIALLY EXPANDABLE ANTI-EXTRUSION BACKUP RING**

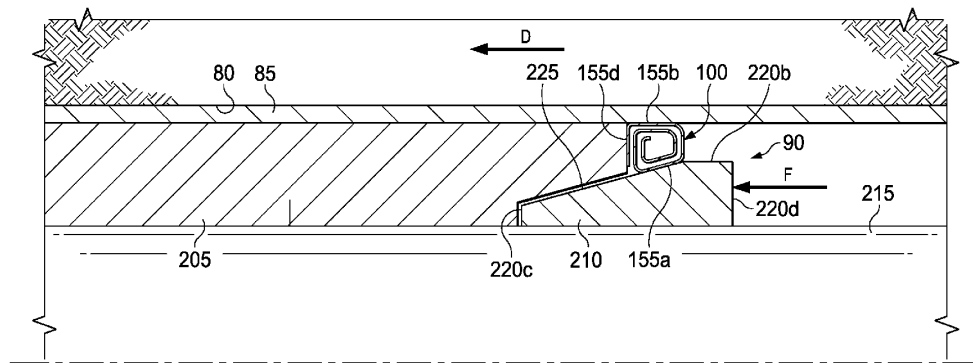


FIG. 6B

(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus according to which a backup ring is radially expanded to prevent, or at least reduce, extrusion of a sealing element. The backup ring includes an inner ring segment and an outer ring segment. The inner ring segment defines opposing first and second end portions. The outer ring segment defines opposing third and fourth end portions. The third end portion of the outer ring segment telescopically receives, and overlaps, the first end portion of the inner ring segment. Radially expanding the backup ring includes sliding the backup ring up an external tapered surface of a wedge ramp. Sliding the backup ring up the external tapered surface of the wedge ramp telescopes the first end portion of the inner ring segment outwardly from the third end portion of the outer ring segment.

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