WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for producing a filament assembly comprising a flat frame, the apparatus comprising:

a frame holder mountable to a lathe for rotation of said flat frame about a lathe axis and configured to position said frame at a skewed angle to said lathe axis;

a filament applicator comprising a filament guide assembly and mountable to a tool holder of the lathe for movement parallel to said lathe axis to wind a ~~said~~ filament around said flat frame along a filament path in a series of parallel passes skewed relative to said lathe axis and square to said flat frame, said filament applicator comprising:

a spindle for rotatably supporting a spool of said filament;

~~a guide assembly defining a filament path;~~ and

a tension control device for applying tension to said filament.

~~2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said frame holder positions said frame with a frame axis at a skewed angle relative to said lathe axis, such that said frame axis is square to a helical path formed by said filament.~~

~~3.~~2. The apparatus of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said frame axis is parallel to said ~~helical path~~ parallel passes.

~~4.~~3. The apparatus of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said frame axis is perpendicular to said ~~helical path~~ parallel passes.

~~5.~~4. The apparatus of any one of claims 1 to ~~4~~ 3, wherein said filament guide assembly comprises a bearing device for limiting friction.

~~6.~~5. The apparatus of claim ~~5~~ 4, wherein said bearing device comprises a rotatable capstan.

~~7.~~6. The apparatus of claim~~s 5~~ 4 or claim ~~6~~ 5, wherein said bearing device comprises an air bearing.

~~8.~~7. The apparatus of any one of claims 1 to ~~7~~ 6, wherein said tension control device comprises is a tension arm biased against said thread by gravity.

~~9.~~8. The apparatus of claim ~~8~~ 7, wherein said tension~~er~~ arm is biased against said thread by an adjustable counterweight.

~~10.~~9. The apparatus of any one of claims 1 to ~~9~~ 8, wherein said tension control device comprises a braking device for resisting unwinding of said filament from said spool.

~~11.~~10. The apparatus of claim ~~10~~ 9, wherein said braking device comprises a drum brake for resisting rotation of said spool.

~~12.~~11. A method of producing a filament assembly comprising a flat frame, the method comprising:

mounting a flat frame to a lathe for rotation about a lathe axis, comprising positioning said flat frame at a skewed angle to said lathe axis;

feeding a filament through a filament guide assembly of a dispenser;

rotating said flat frame about said lathe axis to wind said filament around said flat frame;

moving said dispenser along said lathe axis to create a series of parallel passes of said filament about said flat frame, wherein said series of parallel passes are skewed relative to said lathe axis and square to said flat frame; and

during said rotating, applying tension to said filament using said dispenser.

~~13. The method of claim 12, wherein mounting a flat frame to a lathe comprises mounting said flat frame with a frame axis at a skewed angle relative to said lathe axis, such that said frame axis is square to a helical path formed by said filament.~~

~~14.~~12. The method of claim ~~13~~ 11, wherein said frame axis is parallel to said ~~helical path~~ parallel passes.

~~15.~~13. The method of claim ~~13~~ 11, wherein said frame axis is perpendicular to said ~~helical path~~ parallel passes.

~~16.~~14. The method of any one of claims ~~12~~ 11 to ~~15~~ 13, comprising guiding said filament through said ~~path~~ parallel passes with a rotatable bearing device.

~~17.~~15. The method of claim ~~16~~ 14, wherein said bearing device comprises an air bearing.

~~18.~~16. The method of any one of claims ~~12~~ 11 to ~~17~~ 15, comprising applying tension to said filament with a weighted tension arm.

~~19.~~17. The method of claim ~~18~~ 16, comprising adjusting an applied tension by adjusting a counterweight on said tension arm.

~~20.~~18. The method of any one of claims ~~12~~ 11 to ~~19~~ 17, comprising applying tension to said filament by squeezing the filament between pressure plates.

~~21.~~19. The method of any one of claims ~~12~~ 11 to ~~19~~ 17, comprising applying tension to said filament by applying a drum brake to a spool of said filament.

~~22.~~20. A filament applicator mountable to a tool holder of a lathe for movement parallel to wind a filament around a flat frame, said filament applicator comprising:

a spindle for rotatably supporting a spool of filament;

a guide assembly ~~defining a~~ configured to dispense said filament along a filament path in a series of parallel passes skewed relative to the lathe axis and square to said flat frame; and

a tension control device for applying tension to said filament.