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(54) Title: ROLLING CONE BIT WITH GAGE AND OFF-GAGE CUTTER ELEMENTS POSITIONED TO SEPARATE SIDEWALL AND BOTTOM HOLE CUTTING DUTY			
(57) Abstract			
A rolling cone bit (10) includes at least one roller cone cutter (14, 15, 16) having a gage row of cutter elements (60) and a first inner row of near but off-gage cutter elements (70) that are positioned so as to divide the sidewall and the bottom hole cutting duty so as to enhance bit durability, maintain borehole diameter and improve ROP. The off-gage distance (D) of the first inner row of cutting elements is defined for various bit sizes to optimize the division of cutting duty. The distance that the first inner row of cutter elements (70) are off-gage may be constant for all the cones on the bit (10) or may be varied among the various cones to balance the durability and wear characteristics on all the cones of the bit.			