

ABSTRACT

CONNECTION METHODS AND SYSTEMS

Various novel connectors are provided. In one embodiment, the connector includes a collar (16) configured to receive first (14) and second (12) components. In this embodiment, the connector may also include a load ring (50) configured to be received in a groove (46) of the second component and to move into and out of engagement with the collar when the second component is received by the collar. The connector of this illustrative embodiment may also include a cotter (60) configured for installation to the second component and to inhibit disengagement of the load ring from the collar. In some embodiments, engagement of the load ring and the collar effects securing of the first and second components to one another. Other devices, systems, and methods related to connectors are also disclosed.

Fig. 2