

METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR
MOLDING A HOLLOW FAN BLADE

ABSTRACT

A method of and apparatus for molding hollow items using the resin transfer molding technique in such a manner that the resin is more uniformly distributed about and along the molding region of the mold. This is accomplished by installing oppositely spaced grooves (22) in the mold and injecting resin directly into these grooves (22). Upon such injection, the resin travels along and fills the groove (22) (by taking the path of least resistance) before such resin is squeezed or forced out a minute gap (50) that exists between the molding surfaces (12) and (14) and into the molding region of the mold (10). As such resin is being forcibly injected into the cloths (20) in the mold (10), a vent (42) permits any air displaced from the cloths by the resin to be released.

Fig. 1