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- (71) Applicant: **HALLIBURTON ENERGY SERVICES, INC.** [US/US]; 3000 N. SAM HOUSTON PARKWAY E., HOUSTON, Texas 77032-3219 (US).
- (72) Inventors: **HUMPHREY, Ryan T.**; 1313 EXETER DR., PLANO, Texas 75093 (US). **ORNELAZ, Richard Dece-na**; 11341 COVEY POINT LANE, FRISCO, Texas 75035 (US). **WILLOUGHBY, Matthew Arran**; 2709 CROSS BEND, PLANO, Texas 75023 (US).
- (74) Agent: **COREY S. TUMEY**; P.O. BOX 890226, HOUSTON, Texas 77062-9998 (US).
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(54) Title: SEGMENTED RETAINER FOR HIGH PRESSURE BARRIERS

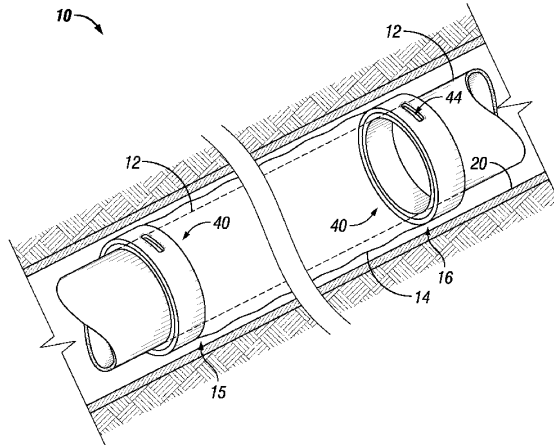


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Apparatus and methods are disclosed for securing a component, such as a sealing element, to a tubular member, such as a mandrel, of a downhole tool. In at least one example, a retaining ring is used to secure the component to a mandrel. The retaining ring is secured to the mandrel with a plurality of discrete retention segments disposed within a channel at least partially defined by an internal groove on the retaining ring and an external groove on the mandrel. The retention segments are individually insertable into the channel through an access opening on the retaining ring. A compression spring may be provided in the channel to provide compressive engagement of the retention segments. Various closure configurations are also disclosed for closing the access opening once the retention segments have been inserted.

[Continued on next page]

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