

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
27 June 2024 (27.06.2024)



(10) International Publication Number
WO 2024/136855 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:

B29C 48/31 (2019.01) *B05C 11/10* (2006.01)
B29C 48/08 (2019.01) *B29C 48/92* (2019.01)
B05C 5/02 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2022/053584

(22) International Filing Date:

21 December 2022 (21.12.2022)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

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(54) Title: SLOT DIE AND METHODS OF OPERATING IT

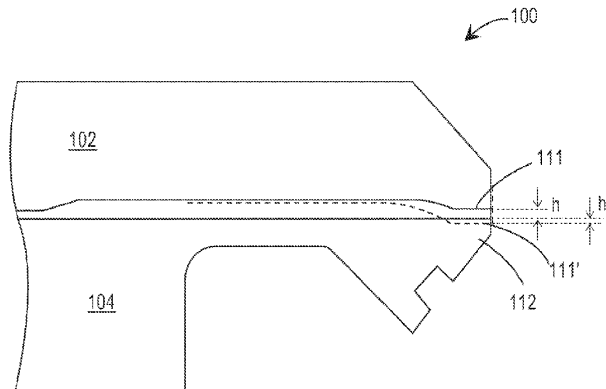


FIG. 5

(57) Abstract: Provided are slot dies and related methods of use. The slot dies comprise an applicator slot extending across a slot die width and comprising opposing first and second slot die surfaces, wherein the applicator slot is in fluid communication with a fluid flow path through the slot die. A flexible die lip provides the first slot die surface and is capable of independently adjusting a cross-sectional height of the fluid flow path. A plurality of actuators are spaced along the width of the first slot die surface, each actuator operatively coupled to the flexible die lip to adjust the cross-sectional height at its respective location to provide a local adjustment of fluid flow through the applicator slot, and the applicator slot has a neutral slot height profile that is negative along at least some of the slot die width.

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(81) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CV, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IQ, IR, IS, IT, JM, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, CV, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SC, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, ME, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))