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(54) Title: LATCHING ASSEMBLY

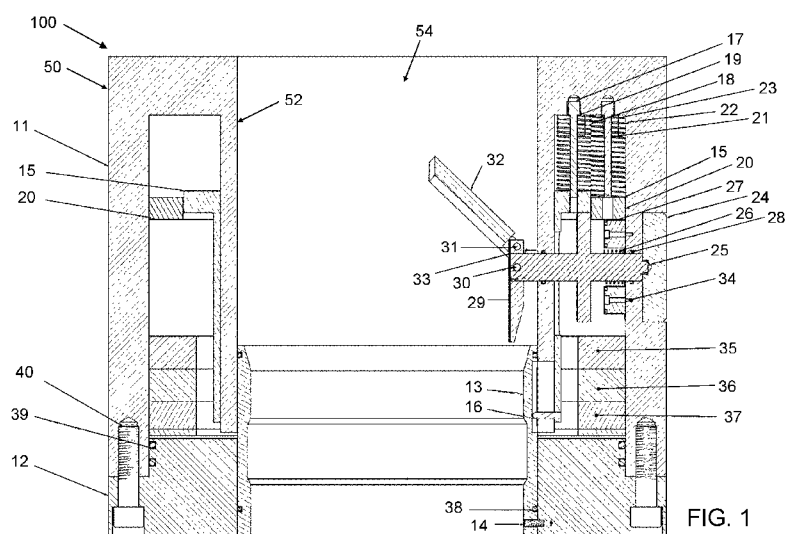


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A latching assembly has a tubular housing having an outer surface and an inner surface that defines an inner bore. Latch members are carried by the housing that have a latch position that extends out from the outer surface and a release position that is retracted from the latch position. A plurality of gripping members are pivotally attached to the housing. The gripping members are pivotally attached to the tubular housing and move between a gripping position wherein the gripping members extend into the inner bore and a retracted position. An actuator engages the latch members and the gripping members and moves between a first position and a second position. The actuator moves the latch members from the latch position to the release position and the gripping members from the retracted position to the gripping position as the actuator moves from the first position to the second position.