

APPARATUS FOR AND A METHOD USED IN COMPRESSING A WORKPIECE**Abstract**

The invention relates to an apparatus for compressing a workpiece. The apparatus has a fixed platen 10 and a moving platen 12 to compress a workpiece 8 placed between the fixed platen 10 and the moving platen 12. The apparatus also has a displacement actuator 14 and a force actuator 16. The displacement actuator 14 has a displacement cam 114 releasably engaging a displacement cam-follower 214 that is mounted in a fixed connection with the moving platen 12. The force actuator 16 has a clamping cam 116 moveably connected to a moveable clamping platen 18. The clamping platen 18 has blocks 38 depending from it which are operable to engage blocks 39 mounted on the moving platen 12. and a toggle arm 38 for connecting the clamping platen 18 to the moving platen 12. Synchronised activation of the displacement actuator 14 and the force 16 actuator can effect high velocity of the moving platen 12 as well as transmission of a high compressive force from the clamping platen 18 to the moving platen 12 to compress the workpiece 8 between the moving platen 12 and the fixed platen 10.

Fig. 1