



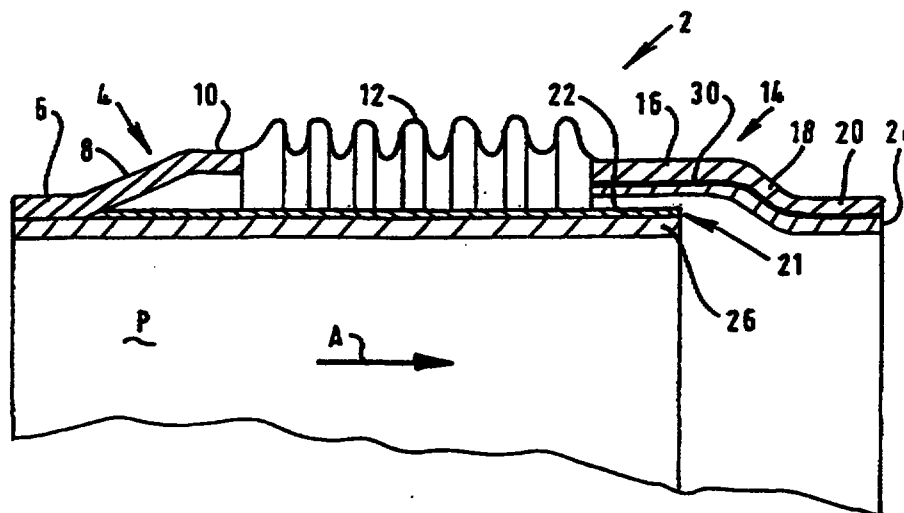
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(54) Title: FLEXIBLE JOINT



(57) Abstract

A flexible joint (2) comprises a first rigid wall portion (4), a second rigid wall portion (14), a flexible wall portion (12) extending between the first and second rigid wall portions (4, 14), the three wall portions defining a longitudinal passage through the joint and being arranged along the length of the passage, a sleeve (22) secured at one end to the first rigid wall portion (4) and extending through the passage so as to overlap the second rigid wall portion (14), the sleeve (22) being spaced from the flexible wall portion (12) and free to move relative to the second rigid wall portion (14). In one aspect, a layer of insulating material (24) is provided on a surface of the sleeve (22) whilst leaving the space between the sleeve (22) and the flexible wall portion (12) substantially free to be occupied by process fluid when in use. In a second aspect, the length of the portion of the sleeve (22) overlapping the second rigid wall portion (14) is at least five times the distance of the sleeve (22) from the second rigid wall portion (14), as measured perpendicular to the sleeve (22).