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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/20473 (22) International Filing Date: 2 October 1998 (02.10.98) (30) Priority Data: 08/942,749 2 October 1997 (02.10.97) US (71) Applicant: OWEN OIL TOOLS, INC. [US/US]; 8900 Forum Way, Fort Worth, TX 76140 (US). (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: NEWMAN, Frederic, M. [US/US]; 1618 West Dengar, Midland, TX 79705 (US). (72) Inventor: FORD, Bobby, R.; 5505 Finian Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76180 (US). (74) Agent: GUNTER, Charles, D., Jr.; Suite 1600, 201 Main Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.</i>

(54) Title: CHARGE ASSEMBLY FOR A PIPE-COUPLING CUTTING DEVICE**(57) Abstract**

A charge assembly for use in a cutter for splitting couplings used in joining together lengths of buried pipe is provided that allows several explosive charge segments to be used instead of a single explosive charge. The smaller explosive charge segments utilize less explosive material which complies with applicable shipping regulations. The charge assembly has an elongate charge housing with an open interior. At least two linear charge segments are longitudinally aligned in an abutting relationship with the other within the housing interior. The linear charge segments may be formed from an explosive core encased within a metal sheath. A pair of longitudinally spaced charge abutment members may be mounted within the housing interior, with the abutment members engaging the aligned charge segments at opposite ends. One of the abutment members includes a housing end closure. The abutment members may be provided with biasing means for engaging the longitudinally aligned charge segments and urging the charge segments into the abutting relationship. Further, a charge segment retainer, which includes a pair of longitudinally extending rails, may be provided and located within the interior of the housing. The charge retainer engages the charge segments for lateral retention of the charge segments within the interior of the charge housing.

