

What is claimed is:

1. A method for installing a liner string in a casing string disposed within a wellbore, the method comprising:

positioning the liner string in the wellbore, the liner string including a liner hanger and a liner top;

running the liner string through the casing string such that at least the liner hanger is positioned within the casing string;

after running the liner string through the casing string, positioning a setting tool in the wellbore, the setting tool having an expansion cone assembly and a locator cylinder;

running the setting tool through the casing string;

contacting the liner top with the locator cylinder;

axially moving the expansion cone assembly through the liner string to radially expand the liner hanger into contact with the casing string; and

retrieving the setting tool out of the wellbore,

wherein, during the axial movement of the expansion cone through the liner string to radially expand the liner hanger into contact with the casing string, the locator cylinder remains in contact with the liner top.

2. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising anchoring the setting tool within the liner string before axially moving the expansion cone assembly through the liner string.

3. The method as recited in claim 2 wherein anchoring the setting tool within the liner string further comprises mechanically actuating an anchor assembly operably associated with the setting tool.

4. The method as recited in claim 2 wherein anchoring the setting tool within the liner string further comprises hydraulically actuating an anchor assembly operably associated with the setting tool.

5. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein axially moving the expansion cone assembly through the liner string further comprises hydraulically shifting a piston operably associated with the expansion cone relative to the locator cylinder.

6. The method as recited in claim 5 further comprising defining full travel of the expansion cone assembly by exposing at least one bypass port extending through the locator cylinder to an operating fluid that hydraulically shifts the piston.

7. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein axially moving the expansion cone assembly through the liner string to radially expand the liner hanger into contact with the casing string further comprises primary expansion of the liner hanger.

8. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein axially moving the expansion cone assembly through the liner string to radially expand the liner hanger into contact with the casing string further comprises re-expansion of the liner hanger.

9. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising cementing at least a portion of the liner string from the liner top down before positioning the setting tool in the wellbore.

10. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein axially moving the expansion cone assembly through the liner string to radially expand the liner hanger into contact with the casing string further comprises anchoring and sealing the liner hanger within the casing string.

11. A liner installation system for use in a wellbore having a casing string disposed therein, the system comprising:

a liner string having a liner hanger and a liner top, wherein the liner string is run through the casing string such that at least the liner hanger is positioned within the casing string; and

a setting tool having an expansion cone assembly and a locator cylinder, wherein, after running the liner string through the casing string such that at least the liner hanger is positioned within the casing string, the setting tool is run through the casing string until the locator cylinder contacts the liner top;

wherein the expansion cone assembly is axially moved through the liner string to radially expand the liner hanger into contact with the casing string; and

wherein, during the axial movement of the expansion cone through the liner string to radially expand the liner hanger into contact with the casing string, the locator cylinder remains in contact with the liner top.

12. The system as recited in claim 11 wherein the setting tool further comprising an anchor assembly operable to anchor the setting tool within the liner string before axially moving the expansion cone assembly through the liner string.

13. The system as recited in claim 12 wherein the anchor assembly further comprises a mechanically actuating anchor assembly.

14. The system as recited in claim 12 wherein the anchor assembly further comprises a hydraulically actuating anchor assembly.

15. The system as recited in claim 11 wherein the expansion cone assembly further comprises a piston operable for axial movement relative to the locator cylinder responsive to hydraulic pressure.

16. The system as recited in claim 15 wherein the locator cylinder further comprises at least one bypass port operable to define full travel of the expansion cone assembly when the bypass port is exposed to the hydraulic pressure.

17. The system as recited in claim 11 wherein the radial expansion of the liner hanger into contact with the casing string further comprises primary expansion of the liner hanger.

18. The system as recited in claim 11 wherein the radial expansion of the liner hanger into contact with the casing string further comprises re-expansion of the liner hanger.

19. The system as recited in claim 11 further comprising cement positioned between the liner string and the casing string from the liner top down prior to the setting tool being run through the casing string.

20. The system as recited in claim 11 wherein the radial expansion of the liner hanger into contact with the casing string further comprises anchoring and sealing the liner hanger within the casing string.