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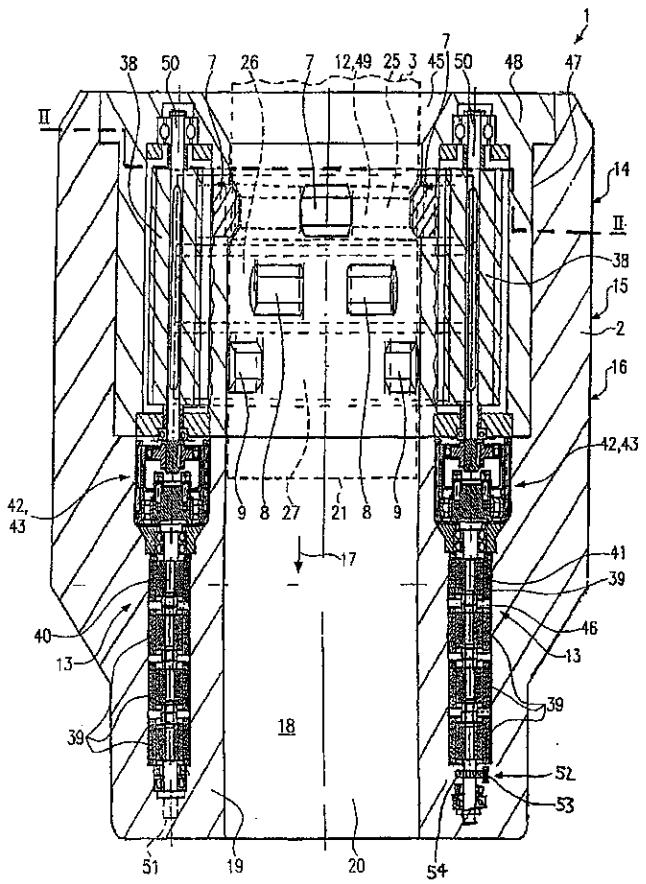
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(54) Title: CONNECTING MECHANISM



(57) Abstract: A connecting mechanism (1) for two parts (2, 3), which are at least partially insertable into one another, presents a cam-operated component (6), which runs on bearings and which is adjustable between a passive and an active position (4, 5), on the one part (2), for shifting a number of contact elements (7, 8, 9) between a withdrawal and a contact position (10, 11), whereby the contact elements (7, 8, 9), when in the contact position (11), mesh in a retaining indentation (12) on the other part (3), and a driving device (13) for the adjustment of the cam-operated component (6) between the active and passive positions (4, 5). In order to ensure a secure and stable connection of these parts, using simple design means without additional pre-stressing or restraining devices, even when the parts are only partially inserted into one another, the contact elements (7, 8, 9) are arranged in two or more levels (14, 15, 16) essentially parallel to the insertion direction (17) of the two parts (2, 3) and the cam-operated component (6) for shifting the contact elements (7, 8, 9) between the withdrawal and contact positions (10, 11) is allocated to each level (14, 15, 16).

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