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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a valve.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

In order to prevent unintentional readjustment of a valve, the handwheel can be locked by means of a locking screw.

When this is done, the locking screw engages a circumferential annular groove provided in a nut member connected to the handwheel through which a spindle for opening and closing the valve is axially movable.

Introducing a threaded bore for the locking screw is possible only with additional manufacturing work which implies increased production costs. This shortcoming is important particularly because such valves are mass-produced articles.

It would therefore be desirable to configure a valve of the generic type so that its handwheel can be set with the aid of means which are simple and can be produced at low cost.

OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to overcome or ameliorate some of the disadvantages of the prior art, or at least to provide a useful alternative.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

There is firstly disclosed herein a valve, comprising a spindle which is adapted to be moved axially by means of a handwheel and a nut member and with which the valve can be opened and closed and a grease nipple which is screwed into a sleeve of a retention member and discharges into the nut member, through which lubricating agent can be introduced into the threaded region between the nut member and the spindle, and where in the nut member can be locked in non-rotatable fashion by means of the grease nipple.

This design, at least in a preferred embodiment, makes it possible to do without a locking screw.

It is possible to modify the functioning of the grease nipple to that of a locking screw by minor measures which do not substantially increase the production costs.

For this purpose it is necessary, for example, to make the threaded shaft of the grease nipple longer so that the same can enter into the annular groove when the handwheel is locked.

In order to increase the service life of the valve, it is also convenient to make the grease nipple from an appropriate wear-resistant material.



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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawing.

The only figure shows a longitudinal section of a valve according to an embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Figure 1 shows a valve having a housing 1 in which there is arranged a valve-closure body 7 adapted to shut the valve.

This valve-closure body 7 with shut-off capability is adapted to be actuated via a spindle 2 cooperating with nut member 9 which can be rotated by means of a handwheel 3. In this way the spindle 2 is moved in the axial direction.

The nut member 9 is rotatably supported in a sleeve 10 which forms part of a retention member 8 permanently joined with the housing 1.

Into the sleeve 10 there is screwed a grease nipple 4 discharging into an annular groove 5 provided in the nut member 9. A lubricating bore 6 extends from this annular groove 5 to the threaded portion of the threaded spindle 2.

The length of the threaded shaft of the grease nipple 4 exceeds the wall thickness of the sleeve 10. If the grease nipple 4 is fully turned in, it protrudes into the annular groove 5 and, hence, retains the nut member 9 in place.

In this way the handwheel 3 is locked so that unintentional resetting of the spindle 2 is precluded.

For undoing the locking of the handwheel 3, the grease nipple 4 has to be screwed out only partially, until the nut member 9 can rotate freely.

The functional capability of the grease nipple 4 is preserved at any time, even in the locked position of the handwheel because free exit of the lubricating agent via a groove in annular groove 5 is ensured.

Since the grease nipple 4 of the invention also carries out the function of a locking screw, one can do without the same.

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List of reference numbers

- 1 housing
- 2 spindle
- 3 handwheel
- 4 grease nipple
- 5 annular groove
- 6 lubricating bore
- 7 valve closure body
- 8 retention member
- 9 nut member
- 10 sleeve

Claims

1. A valve, comprising a spindle which is adapted to be moved axially by means of a handwheel and a nut member and with which the valve can be opened and closed and a grease nipple which is screwed into a sleeve of a retention member and discharges into the nut member, through which lubricating agent can be introduced into the threaded region between the nut member and the spindle, characterised in that the nut member can be locked in non-rotatable fashion by means of the grease nipple.
2. The valve according to Claim 1, characterised in that the length of the threaded shaft of the grease nipple exceeds the thickness of the wall of the sleeve.
3. The valve according to Claim 1, characterised in that the grease nipple is made from a wear-resistant material.
4. The valve according to Claim 1, characterised in that the grease nipple is pressed against the nut member when in the screwed-in end position.