In figures 2A and 2B a prior art method is elucidated for fabricating a grip element to be used in a coupling device as shown in figure 1. In this method a punching tool 10 is used to provide slit like openings 8 in a plate 7. This is shown in figure 2A from top to bottom in an isometric view, in a side view, and in a cross-sectional view. Similarly figure 2B shows that in a subsequent step a pressing tool 11 is used to press dents 9 out of the plane of the plate 7 adjacent to the openings 8.

Figure 2C shows on larger scale one of the resulting dents 9 which is pressed out of the plane of the plate 7. In this prior art process a frontal surface 9′ of the top of the dent 9 is at an angle of between 50° and 70° with reference to the plane of the plate 7 that eventually forms the grip element.

Correspondingly figures 3A - 3C show the method of the invention for fabricating a grip element 4 to be used in a coupling device as shown in figure 1.

In the method of the invention first a punching tool 10 is used to provide slit like openings 8 in a plate 7 as shown in figure 3A from top to bottom in an isometric view, in a side view, and in a cross-sectional view. Similarly figure 2B shows that in a subsequent step edges 8′ of the slit like openings 8 are subjected to an operation with a peening tool 12. Figure 2C shows that thereafter in a further process when the peening of the edges 8′ of the slit like openings 8 is complete, a pressing tool 11 is used to press dents 9 out of the plane of the plate 7 adjacent to the openings 8 to form the eventual grip element 4.

Figure 3D provides a detailed view on one of the resulting dents 9 which is pressed out of the plane of the plate 7. A frontal surface 9′ of the top of the dent 9 is at an angle of approximately 90° with reference to the plane of the plate 7 of the grip element 4.

Turning now to figure 4A and figure 4B another aspect of the invention is elucidated. Figure 4B shows separately in an isometric view a grip element 4 manufactured from a plate 7 as elucidated with reference to figures 3A - 3D, and a single pressure member 6. A multitude of such pressure members 6 to-

## CLAIMS

1. Coupling device (1) for a pipe (2), comprising a sleeve (13) for receiving the pipe (2) and at least one sealing member (5) to provide a seal between the sleeve (13) and the pipe (2), a pressure member (6) for applying a pressure to the sleeve (13) and to the pipe (2), and a grip element (4) extending along at least a part of the perimeter of the pipe (2), wherein the grip element (4) is provided with dents (9) pressed out of the plane of the grip element (4) adjacent to slit like openings (8) punched out of the grip element (4), **characterized in that** edges (8') of the slit like openings (8) are subjected to a peening operation.

2. Coupling device according to claim 1, **characterized in that** a frontal surface (9') of a top of each dent (9) is at an angle of approximately 90° with reference to the plane of the grip element (4).

3. Method for fabricating a grip element (4) to be used in a coupling device (1) for a pipe (2), wherein slit like openings (8) are punched in a plate (7) and that in a forming process dents (9) are pressed out of the plane of the plate (7) adjacent to the openings (8), **characterized in that** prior to pressing the dents (9) out of the plane of the plate (7) edges (8') of the slit like openings (8) are subjected to a peening operation.

4. Grip element (4) for use in a coupling device for a pipe provided with dents (9) pressed out of the plane of the grip element (4) adjacent to slit like openings (8) punched out of the grip element (4), **characterized in that** edges (8') of the slit like openings (8) are subjected to a peening operation.

5. Grip element (4) according to claim 4, **characterized in that** a frontal surface (9') of a top of the dent (9) is at an angle of approximately 90° with reference to the plane of the grip element (4).