

ABSTRACT

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING EXTERNAL
SURFACE WORK ON SHIP HULLS

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Dry, particulate abrasive for use in abrasive blast cleaning of a ship hull (16,26) is supplied to blasting pots (36) from abrasive supply hopper assemblies (38,40) lifted into place from a recycling station (34). Spent abrasive, with debris, is collected and placed on a conveyor belt (28) extending parallel to the keel blocks (18), for conveying the collected material to the recycling station (34). There, the collected material is processed to remove undersized and foreign material from the reuseable abrasive grit. The latter is loaded into supply hopper assemblies (38,40), which are crane-lifted back into supplying relation with respective blasting pots (36). By preference, the abrasive blasting work takes place from elevatable, curtain-enclosed platforms (70) supported on a drydock floor (12), the blasting pots (36) are located on the drydock wing wall (14), the abrasive grit is ferromagnetic and recovered from the drydock floor (12) partly with the aid of a magnetic abrasive pick-up unit (112), and the recycling station (34) is located on a barge (32) moored at an end of the drydock (10).

This Sheet Has Been Replaced

