



(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
29 August 2002 (29.08.2002)

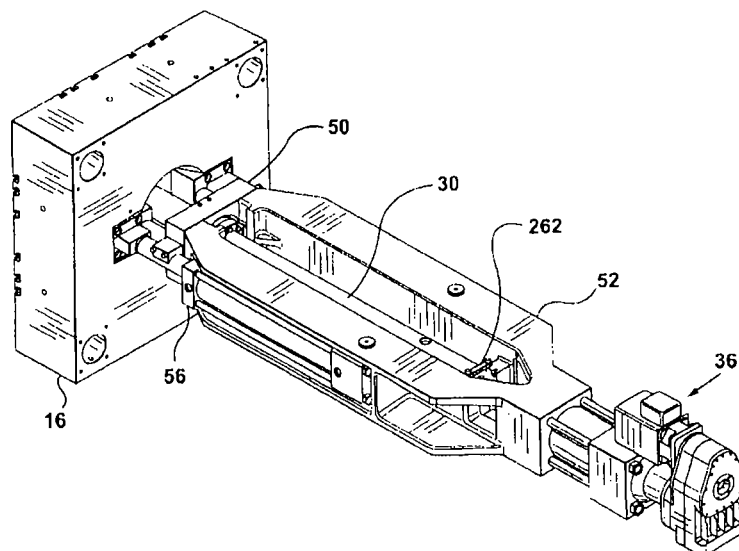
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/066183 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: B22D 17/00. 17/20, B29C 45/17
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/CA01/01634
- (22) International Filing Date:
21 November 2001 (21.11.2001)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
09/791,374 23 February 2001 (23.02.2001) US
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- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW). Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM). European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR). OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:
--- with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: INJECTION UNIT



(57) Abstract: The invention relates broadly to injection molding machines and more particularly to a novel combination of a barrel and carriage assembly for use in an injection unit of an injection molding machine. Barrels are conventionally mounted at an end in a carriage of an injection unit. Axial carriage force is directed along the entire length of the barrel which requires a thick barrel wall to withstand the axial carriage force. In addition, installation of the barrel in a conventional carriage is difficult and time consuming, and prone to alignment errors. A barrel (30) and carriage assembly (34) is disclosed having a first complimentary couplers and a second complimentary couplers. The first couplers (46) interlock to secure the barrel intermediate the ends of the barrel to a carriage (34). The second couplers retain an end of the barrel in the carriage preventing rotation of the barrel during operation

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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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