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— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a
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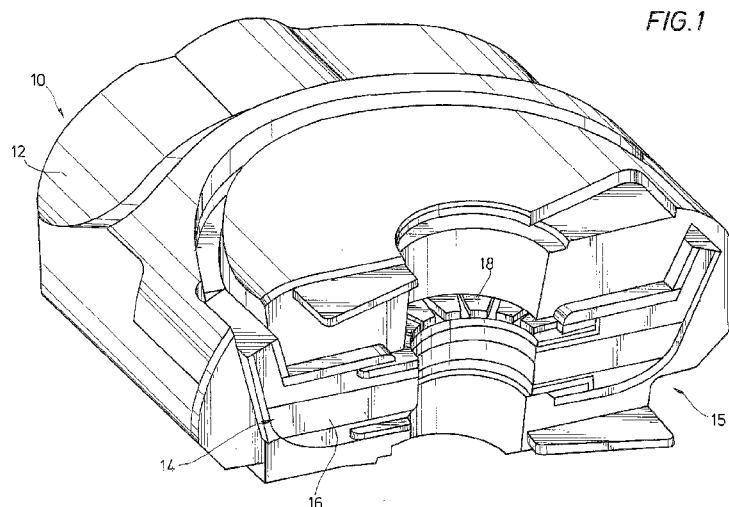
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(54) Title: REINFORCED VARIABLE RAM PACKER USING FABRIC



(57) Abstract: A variable ram assembly for use in a blowout preventer (BOP) stack includes a packer element. The packer element includes an elastomeric body having a contact surface configured with a curved recess for sealing engaging a tubular. Fibers are included in the body adjacent the contact surfaces that exert a restraining force to prevent extrusion of the elastomeric body when it is forced against the tubular. The fibers are integrally formed in the body and may be woven into a fabric, which is disposed into a packer element mold along with uncured elastomer before forming the body. The fabric can be coated with an elastomer to bond with the body during the forming process.



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