

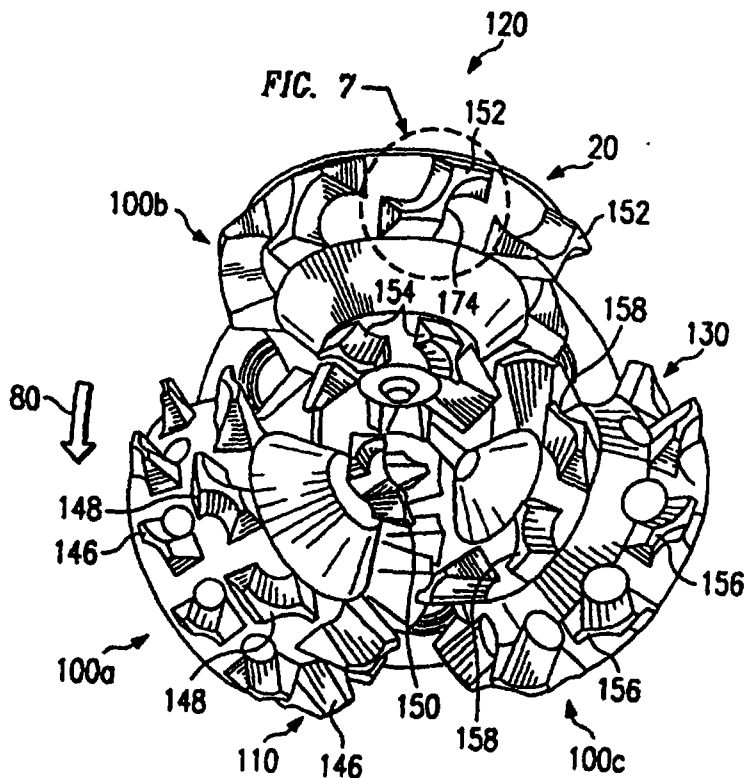
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International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : E21B 10/16, 10/50, B23P 15/28	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/03114 (43) International Publication Date: 20 January 2000 (20.01.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/15765 (22) International Filing Date: 9 July 1999 (09.07.99) (30) Priority Data: 09/114,787 13 July 1998 (13.07.98) US (71) Applicant: DRESSER INDUSTRIES, INC. [US/US]; 2001 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75201 (US). (72) Inventor: SAXMAN, William, C.; 1026 Essex Drive, Cedar Hill, TX 75104 (US). (74) Agents: GROOVER, Robert et al.; Groover & Associates, p.c., 17000 Preston Road #230, Dallas, TX 75248 (US).		(81) Designated States: CN, ID, MX, SG, 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). Published <i>With international search report.</i>  *162162*

(54) Title: ROTARY CONE DRILL BIT WITH MACHINED CUTTING STRUCTURE AND METHOD**(57) Abstract**

A rotary cone drill bit is provided with at least one cutter cone assembly having a machined cutting structure which will maintain an effective cutting profile despite abrasion, erosion and/or wear of the associated cutting elements. The machined cutting structure may be formed on a generally cone shaped blank by a series of lathe turns and/or plunge cuts. The cutting elements may be formed with an aggressive cutting profile. For one application, the crest of each cutting element has the general configuration of an ogee curve. A layer of hardfacing material may be applied over all or selected portions of the machined cutting structure.



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