

ABSTRACT**IMPROVEMENTS IN AND RELATING TO BEARINGS**

5 There is disclosed an improved bearing and particularly an improved bearing assembly 15, 15A, eg. a thrust bearing assembly, which may be used in down-hole applications, such as down-hole drilling applications. Thrust bearing assemblies for use in down-hole applications
10 have the conflicting requirements of a thick shaft assembly and high axial load bearing capacity in a small cross-section. The invention, therefore, provides: a bearing assembly 15, 15A having at least two bearing elements 400, 400A spaced by a first body 500, 500A, the first body 500,
15 500A having means for flexing. Thus when a load is applied to the bearing assembly 15, 15A the first body 500, 500A is caused to flex. In an embodiment the flexing means comprise at least one circumferential groove or notch 510, 510A formed on the first body 500, 500A.

20



G00002



162162