

66. The crimping element of claim 64, wherein said first crimp features are substantially juxtaposed and coplanar with one another in a first plane, and said second crimp features are substantially juxtaposed and coplanar with one another in a second plane.

67. The crimping element of claim 64, wherein said first and second pluralities of crimp features each comprise substantially rounded edges, said substantially rounded edges mitigating detrimental material deformation of at least a portion of said filament during crimping.

68. The crimping element of claim 64, wherein said first and second pluralities of crimp features each comprise filament engagement surfaces having substantially rounded profiles, said substantially rounded profiles mitigating material deformation or cutting of at least a portion of said filament during crimping.

69. The crimping element of claim 64, wherein the crimped filament comprises a diameter of less than 0.010 inches (0.254 mm)

70. A method of manufacturing a crimping assembly comprising a crimping element and a crimped filament, comprising:

pre-forming said crimping element prior to crimping so as to provide a gap, said pre-formed crimping element comprised of:

a first plurality of cavities, said first plurality of cavities disposed so as to at least partly define a first plurality of features; and

a second plurality of cavities, said second plurality of cavities disposed so as to at least partly define a second plurality of features;

disposing a filament at least partly within said gap and adjacent at least a portion of said first and second plurality of cavities;

placing said filament under tension; and

crimping said crimping element so as to fixedly secure said filament to said crimping element.

71. The method of claim 70, further comprising: feeding said crimping element into a crimping machine along a given feed direction; wherein said given feed direction is substantially parallel with said disposed filament.

72. The method of claim 70, wherein said act of crimping causes said first and second pluralities of cavities and features to form a substantially serpentine channel therebetween for said filament.

73. The method of claim 72, wherein when said act of crimping causes a part of said first plurality of features to be received within said second plurality of cavities, and a part of said second plurality of features to be received within said first plurality of cavities, thereby forming said substantially serpentine channel.

74. The method of claim 70, wherein said crimping element is formed from a material which has a hardness less than that of said filament, said lesser hardness of said material at least mitigating deleterious material deformation of said filament by said crimping element during the act of crimping.

75. The method of claim 74, wherein said first features are substantially juxtaposed and coplanar with one another in a first plane, and said second features are substantially juxtaposed and coplanar with one another in a second plane.

76. The method of claim 75, wherein said first and second features each comprise substantially rounded edges, said substantially rounded edges mitigating deleterious material deformation of at least a portion of said filament during crimping.

77. The method of claim 75, wherein said first and second features each comprise filament engagement surfaces having substantially rounded profiles, said substantially rounded profiles mitigating cutting of said filament during crimping.

78. The method of claim 70, wherein said act of placing said filament under tension comprises placing said filament under 15-30 g of tension.

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