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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): PREMIERE, INC. [US/US]; 615 North Landry Drive, New Iberia, Louisiana 70563 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): HENDERSON, Kris [US/US]; Lafayette, Louisiana (US). MATHERNE, Lee, Jr. [US/US]; Lafayette, Louisiana (US). ROBICHAUX, Lee [US/US]; Lafayette, Louisiana (US).
- (74) Agent: BLAKE, William; William A Blake LLC, 19814 Falling Spring CT, Laytonsville, Maryland 20882 (US).
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(54) Title: MODULAR APPARATUS FOR ASSEMBLING TUBULAR GOODS

(57) Abstract: A modular pipe running assembly (100) has a universal actuator assembly (10) having a control fluid swivel. An external pipe gripping assembly (130) can be attached to the actuator assembly for gripping the external surface of a section of pipe (300). Alternatively, the external pipe gripping assembly can be quickly and easily removed and replaced with an internal pipe gripping assembly for gripping the internal surface of a section of pipe. Control fluid pressure is trapped within the actuator assembly, but relieved from a fluid swivel, permitting high speed rotation of the modular pipe gripping assembly and preserving swivel seal life.

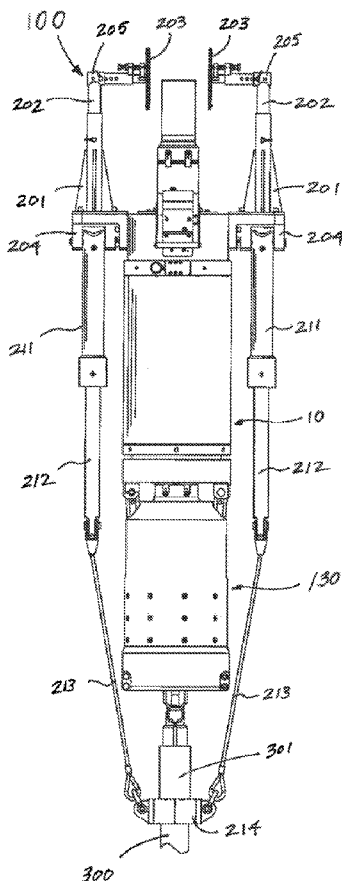


FIG. 1



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AMENDED CLAIMS

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CLAIMS

1. A modular pipe running assembly comprising:
 - a) a fluid operated modular actuator assembly adapted to be connected to a top drive assembly, said modular actuator assembly comprising:
 - i) a fluid swivel assembly;
 - ii) a control manifold detachably connected to said swivel assembly;
 - iii) a check valve disposed downstream of said swivel assembly;
 - and
 - b) a modular pipe gripping assembly connected to said actuator assembly.
2. The modular pipe running assembly of Claim 1, wherein said modular pipe gripping assembly grips pipe on the external surface of said pipe.
3. The modular pipe running assembly of Claim 2, further comprising at least one slip assembly adapted to grip said external surface of said pipe.
4. The modular pipe running assembly of Claim 1, wherein said modular pipe gripping assembly grips pipe on the internal surface of said pipe.
5. The modular pipe running assembly of Claim 4, further comprising at least one slip assembly adapted to grip said internal surface of said pipe.
6. The modular pipe running assembly of Claim 1, further comprising a weight compensator assembly.
7. The modular pipe running assembly of Claim 1, wherein said check valve comprises a pilot-operated check valve having a control line, wherein said control line is routed through said control manifold.

8. A modular pipe running assembly comprising:
- a) a fluid operated actuator assembly adapted to be connected to a top drive assembly, said actuator assembly comprising:
 - i) a control fluid swivel assembly comprising:
 - aa) a swivel sleeve body having an outer surface, a central bore defining an inner surface, a plurality of fluid channels disposed along said inner surface, and at least one bore extending from a channel to said outer surface defining a port;
 - bb) a body member rotatably received within the central bore of said swivel sleeve, wherein said body member has at least one bore aligned with and in fluid communication with a channel of said swivel sleeve;
 - cc) at least one sealing element disposed between fluid channels of said swivel sleeve, wherein said at least one sealing element forms a fluid pressure seal between said swivel sleeve and said body member;
 - ii) a control manifold detachably connected to said swivel assembly for supplying control fluid to said swivel assembly through said at least one port in said swivel sleeve;
 - iii) at least one fluid actuated piston;
 - iv) a check valve disposed between said swivel assembly and said at least one fluid actuated piston; and
 - b) an interchangeable pipe gripping assembly connected to said actuator assembly, wherein said interchangeable pipe gripping assembly is actuated by said actuator assembly.
9. The modular pipe running assembly of Claim 8, wherein said interchangeable pipe gripping assembly grips pipe on the external surface of said pipe.
10. The modular pipe running assembly of Claim 9, further comprising at least one slip assembly adapted to grip said external surface of said pipe.
11. The modular pipe running assembly of Claim 8, wherein said interchangeable pipe gripping assembly grips pipe on the internal surface of said pipe.

12. The modular pipe running assembly of Claim 11, further comprising at least one slip assembly adapted to grip said internal surface of said pipe.

13. The modular pipe running assembly of Claim 8, further comprising a weight compensator.

14. The modular pipe running assembly of Claim 8, wherein said check valve comprises a pilot-operated check valve having a control line, wherein said control line is routed through said control manifold.