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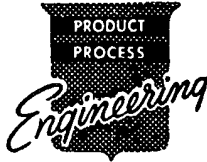
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rocket

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A DIVISION OF
FLIGHTEX FABRICS INC.
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

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REPORT NO. 1-8-50G-1

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

ENGINEERING PROGRAM FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF A LIGHTWEIGHT
ANTI-TANK ROCKET

FOR THE PERIOD

MONTH OF JANUARY 1958

CONTRACT NO. RD-142

~~DEFENSE PROJECT~~

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Progress Report #1-8-50G-1

HESSE - EASTERN DIVISION

FLIGHTEX FABRICS, INC.

PROGRESS REPORT #5

ENGINEERING PROGRAM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT

OF A LIGHTWEIGHT ANTI-TANK ROCKET

JANUARY 1958

CONTRACT NO. RD-142

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WORK DONE DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 1958REPORTING PERIOD 11 JANUARY TO 6 FEBRUARY 1958SYSTEM EVALUATION PROGRAM

A table showing all data obtained from tests of Evaluation Model No. 1 was prepared and the project reviewed from the point of view of the performance of Evaluation Model No. 1. The last test with E. M. No. 1 components was conducted on 5 February. Nine rounds were dynamically tested for penetration. Three fuze malfunctions occurred. Remedial action was started to correct the malfunctioning condition. The dynamic penetration results are in line with the results obtained from the static penetration test. The improved version of the liner with a heavier wall was assembled into 25 head bodies for static testing. Static tests were conducted with the igniter assembly of the launcher. After overcoming some preliminary difficulties, satisfactory initiation of the .22 cartridge was obtained. Some redesign of the linkage from the trigger to the igniter assembly was completed.

A meeting was held with representatives from your agency, and the future course of action as regards the E. M. No. 2 was decided upon. The problems encountered with the fuze assemblies were not included in this discussion, since the malfunctions occurred the day after the conference.

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A table showing the data obtained from all flight tests to date is enclosed. This shows that stability, velocity and accuracy of E. M. No. 1 appear to be satisfactory. The test samples used were rather small. However, the results are sufficiently consistent to warrant the above statement. During January components for a 200 lot of E. M. No. 2 were being manufactured. Some minor delays occurred in the delivery of components. Two hundred igniter assemblies were also ordered. One half of this order will have no provision to be used in conjunction with the launcher. The remainder will be used for tests of the complete weapons system. Due to delays in obtaining motor and other round components, testing of E. M. No. 2 will have to be postponed until the end of February or the beginning of March. It, therefore, appears that March and April will be spent in intensive flight testing of E. M. No. 2. It is expected that the manufacturing delays encountered to date will be compensated by a speed-up of the test program. The propellant was received from Radford Arsenal toward the end of the reporting period. It was used for the first time on 31 January and 5 February. As far as can be determined from this test, the results compare favorably with the machined propellant.

WARHEAD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Twenty-five head bodies were matched with 25 liners at the Eastern

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Tool Company and soldered together. Note was taken of the run-out between the inside wall of the head bodies and the center line of the liner. As mentioned in last month's report, the head bodies had been already manufactured before it was possible to change the tolerances. The heads were received toward the end of the reporting period. It is planned to measure the volume of Comp B very carefully and by running a comparison with the weight to find the density of the load. It is also planned to take Xrays of the charges before conducting the static penetration test. Upon completion of this preparatory work, the static test will be conducted as soon as possible.

Ogives and head bodies for E. M. No. 2 were being manufactured during the month. Some sample ogives were received at the end of the reporting period.

DYNAMIC PENETRATION TEST, 5 FEBRUARY 1958

Nine rounds were fired for dynamic penetration. One was tested on 31 January and the remainder on 5 February. Due to the fact that three fuze failures occurred, penetration results are available only on six rounds.

The test was conducted by firing the rocket against a steel target at a zero angle of obliquity. The target consisted of two pieces of armor plate having a thickness of 3" each with an air space of 1/4" in between.

Only one of the six rounds penetrated both pieces of armor plate. The remaining rounds appear all to have penetrated the first plate. The nature and bulk of the target did not permit a measurement of the exact extent of the penetration of each round.

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The results of this test confirm the test results obtained from the static penetration test. The liners used were the first design having a thinner wall than the new lot of liners which is presently being readied for a test.

It is expected that better penetration results will be obtained when the heavier wall liners and the improved methods of assembly (See December Report) will be used. Since this was an "either-or" test, no Xrays of the charges were taken.

FUZE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Parts for the new fuze model (shroud design) were detailed and manufactured. No malfunctions showed up in the static tests with this design. Nine fuzes were used in conjunction with the dynamic penetration test on 5 February. Three failed to function. The design used was C-8162 (double ball design). An investigation into the cause for the malfunctions is in progress. It was possible to recover one of the three fuzes in question. A program to speed up the fuze development was formulated. Initial steps were taken to obscure the design. A photographic record of the fuze assembly procedure was prepared.

STATIC TEST OF THE SHROUD DESIGN

Design No. D-8242 (See photograph enclosed in appendix) was statically

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tested by dropping the fuze on its base from a height sufficient to set back the triggering components (approximately 36"). This test was performed on 15 fuzes and repeated 50 times. No malfunctions occurred. Twenty sets of components were ordered to conduct dynamic tests at the earliest possible opportunity.

DYNAMIC TEST WITH THE DOUBLE BALL DESIGN

Nine fuzes were flight tested with HEAT heads on 31 January and 5 February. Three rounds failed to function. Due to the fact that HEAT heads were used, the disassembly of these rounds presented a problem. It was felt that, since the test on 5 February (when all the malfunctions occurred) was a penetration test and the number of rounds insufficient for a fuze functioning test, another functioning test would be run as soon as parts for E. M. No. 2 become available. Only one of the rounds could be disassembled without endangering personnel. The examination of this fuze showed that:

1. The rotor was in the unarmed position.
2. The triggering components had set back.
3. The firing pin had been released and had struck the rotor approximately 0.20-0.30" from the retaining hole.

EVALUATION OF RESULTS OF DYNAMIC TEST

In evaluating the problem encountered insofar as this can be done to date, we refer to the Progress Report of September, 1957, page 34, Section B.

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The examination of the parts of the recovered fuze reveals a condition similar to the one discussed in this paragraph, i.e., the triggering components have gone back and latched. However, the firing pin was released to immediately (or in an extremely short increment of time) be driven into the rotor by the firing spring. This condition could be caused by excessive overtravel. The likelihood of this is, however, not very great, since the effect of overtravel would be the same whether the set-back forces are great or small. It must be remembered that this condition was not encountered in static testing nor was it encountered in all the fuzes fired dynamically. All the fuzes fired on 5 February were statically tested at least 3 times before final assembly.

The possibility that some other condition than excessive overtravel caused the malfunctions must then be faced. In trying to arrive at a solution, the following has to be taken into consideration:

When the inertia element hits the base plate of the fuze upon set back, its backward motion is arrested. The greater the set-back force the greater will be the velocity and energy of the inertia element at this point in time. If we assume that no deformation of any parts occurs, we find that the reaction to the energy developed by the inertia element, and the triggering components contained therein will equal the energy with which it hits the base plate. The triggering components will then be moved forward again but not merely by the action of the firing spring but by this additional energy. The inertia element can only go forward as far as the latching spring will permit. However, the triggering sleeve is held on by the frictional

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force of the balls only. If the triggering components then have enough energy from the reaction here discussed, the possibility exists that the triggering sleeve will be thrown off and the firing pin fired prematurely.

Another way in which premature release of the firing pin could be brought about is through overtravel. However, if overtravel would cause the malfunctions, it would have shown up during the static tests. The cause for prematurely throwing off the triggering sleeve under conditions of excessive overtravel is the action of the firing spring which would be the same during static and dynamic operation as long as the triggering components are set back.

Immediately after the dynamic test more static testing was conducted. This time the fuzes were dropped from a greater height to come closer to the acceleration encountered when the rocket is fired. Some malfunctions occurred. Preparations have been completed to take high speed camera pictures of a transparent fuze setting back. A lucite fuze body is being machined at the present time. The result of these tests will show the way to overcome the present difficulties. It is very probable that the answer will consist in putting a buffer behind either the inertia element or the whole fuze. This will have the effect of absorbing the excess energy of the triggering components and thus avoid the condition described above.

SAFETY PIN

Some components have been completed, and others are still in process. As soon as a full set of components - consisting of housings with the

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appropriate groove, safety sleeves and safety pins - have been received, static and dynamic testing of the safety concept will commence. Since the round has to travel a distance of approximately 2" before the safety pin is ejected, there exists a possibility that reliable fuze functioning will occur as soon as the safety pin is used in dynamic tests. The reason for this is the fact that the steepest part of the acceleration curve is likely to be encountered during the first 1" or 2" of motion.

FUTURE PROGRAM

Intensive static testing will be conducted to try to correlate the failures encountered during the last period to the static testing program, i.e., to obtain the same type of malfunction statically. Different approaches to the problem will be tried out, and dynamic testing will commence as soon as the static program has shown results.

The dynamic testing program will consist of tests of approximately 50 rounds. These will be used to eliminate the malfunctioning conditions and to establish operation of the safety device. The next lot of test rounds will be used to establish arming distance. If possible, heavy walled motor bodies will be used in order to be able to use motors repeatedly. It is not anticipated that the problems encountered so far will result in a delay of the fuze program.

ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE

A step-by-step photographic record of the fuze assembly procedure is enclosed in the appendix.

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Extensive laboratory tests were conducted during January to determine the over-all workability of the design and to bring the igniter and trigger assembly to the point where a reliable design has been established.

One hundred tests were conducted to establish initiation of the .22 blank cartridge. Some trouble was experienced at first in consistently setting off the cartridge. It was found that the strength of the firing spring had to be increased and the distance between the point of the firing pin and the cartridge lengthened. The shape of the firing pin also had to be modified.

Upon completion of the above modifications, the assembly worked reliably. The restraining plunger stop was also redesigned. The tube surrounding the triggering link has been extended rearward in order to protect the parts from damage if the weapon should be dropped on its end. Modifications were also made to the trigger assembly in order to obtain more finger room.

The discussion of the launcher during the conference on 4 February produced the following decisions:

1. The trigger components will be redesigned still further to increase room available for the trigger finger.
 2. The trigger and safety handle will be designed with a plastic covering over the trigger. This will result in a better feel of the weapon.
 3. A three-round package will be considered for shipping purposes.
- The handle assembly will be designed in such a way as to permit folding it

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sideways if necessary to reduce bulk.

4. We will assume that a light (perhaps wooden) plug will be used as the forward stop when the weapon is packed.

5. Two safety pins will be incorporated. One will be located in the safety handle, the other in the igniter assembly. Both pins will have to be manually withdrawn before the weapon can be made operative.

FUTURE PROGRAM

1. Static Testing

Fuze tests to investigate and eliminate malfunctions if this can be done statically.

Static launcher tests to obtain proper sights, weight distribution and ease of handling.

2. Design Tasks

Perform necessary changes as indicated by static and dynamic testing.

Modify launcher details to make it possible to adopt inexpensive methods of production (slide machines, moldings, punchings, etc.).

3. Dynamic Testing

Formulate program of intensive dynamic tests with 200 rounds to check out E. M. No. 2. Basically, these tests will consist of the following:

(a) Stability and accuracy of E. M. No. 2 at both extremes of temperature.

(b) Establishing reliable fuze operation.

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- (c) Operation of safety pin.
- (d) Arming distance.
- (e) Graze functioning.
- (f) Dynamic penetration.

4. Static Penetration Test with the New Liners

This will be conducted as soon as possible to check out head design.

Evaluated vs. costs expended for the month

Paul H. C
Project Engineer

12,094,41 OK.

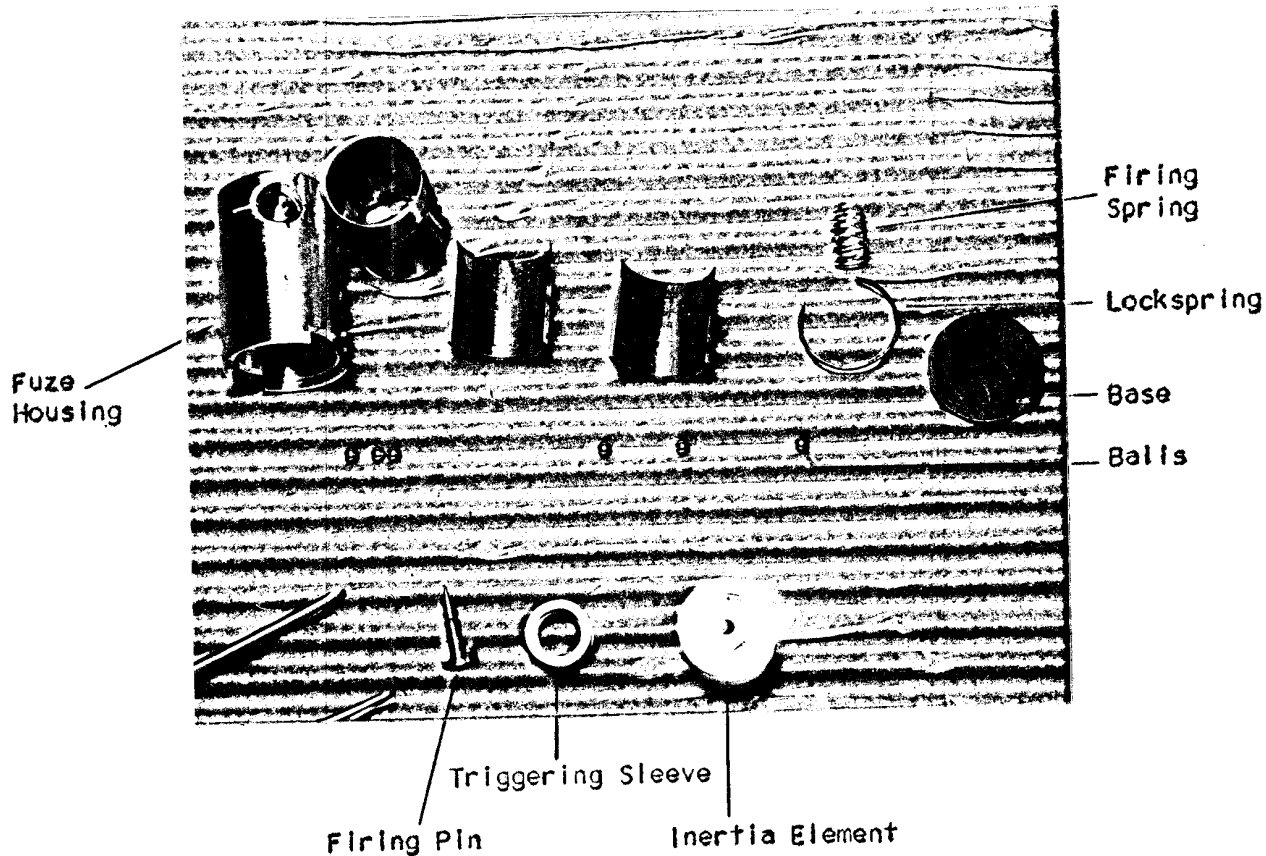
PVC for CBW
General Manager

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APPENDIX

Pictorial Record of Fuze Assembly

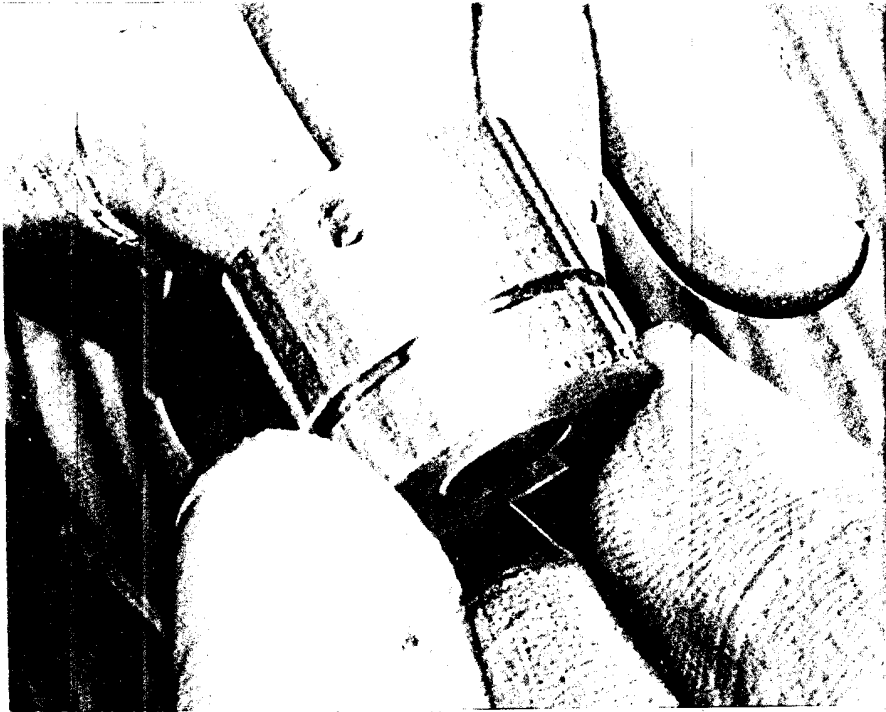


Photograph No. 42

Showing fuze housing and rotor assembly and triggering components ready for assembly. Note split sleeve and solid sleeve used for assembling lock spring. Double ball design illustrated.

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Step 1

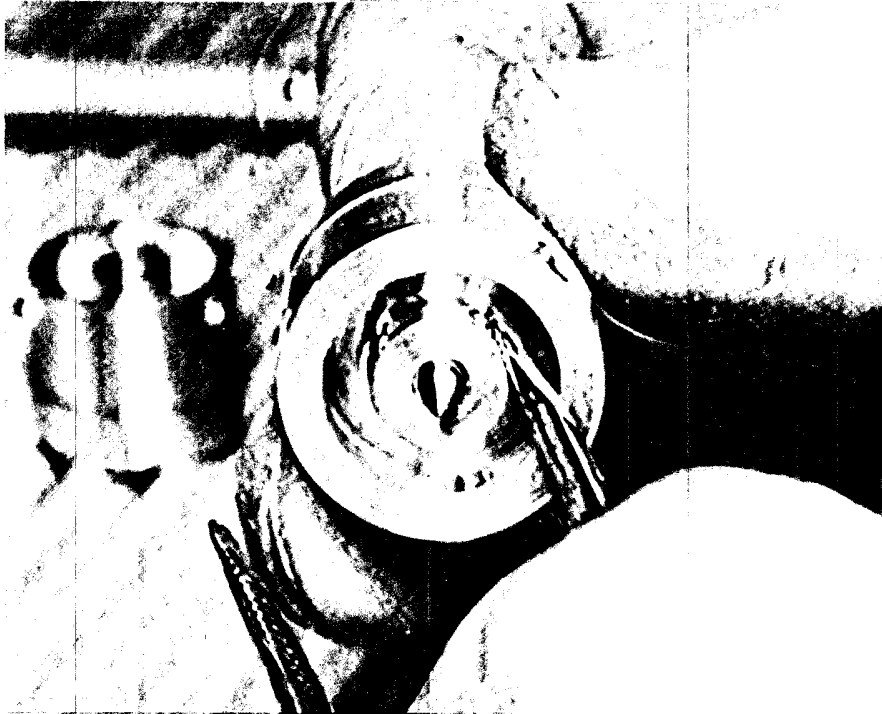
Photograph No. 43

Inserting firing pin into inertia element

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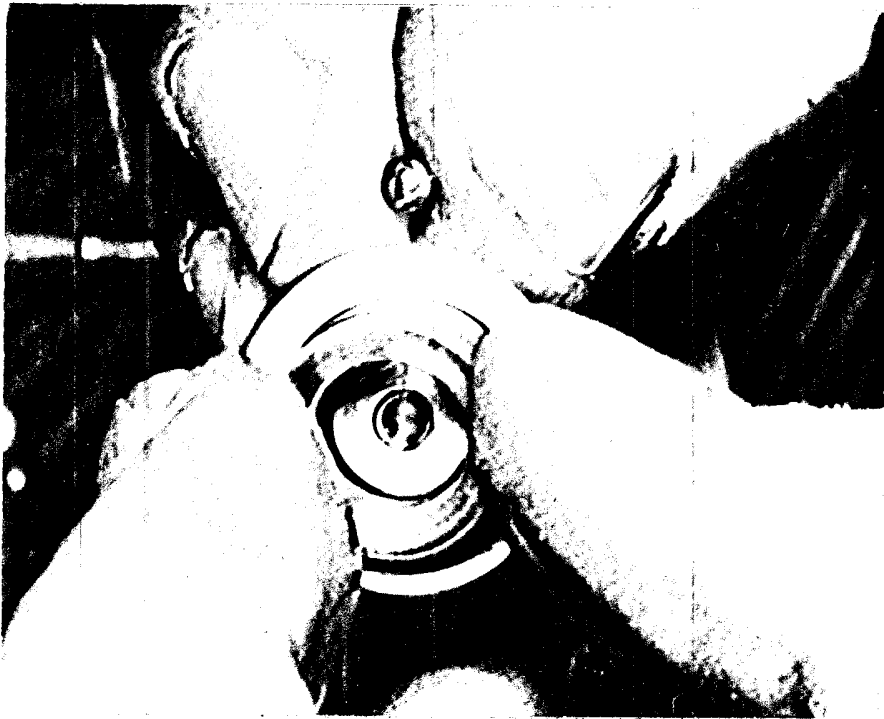
Step 2

Photograph No. 44

Placing first of three retaining balls in position

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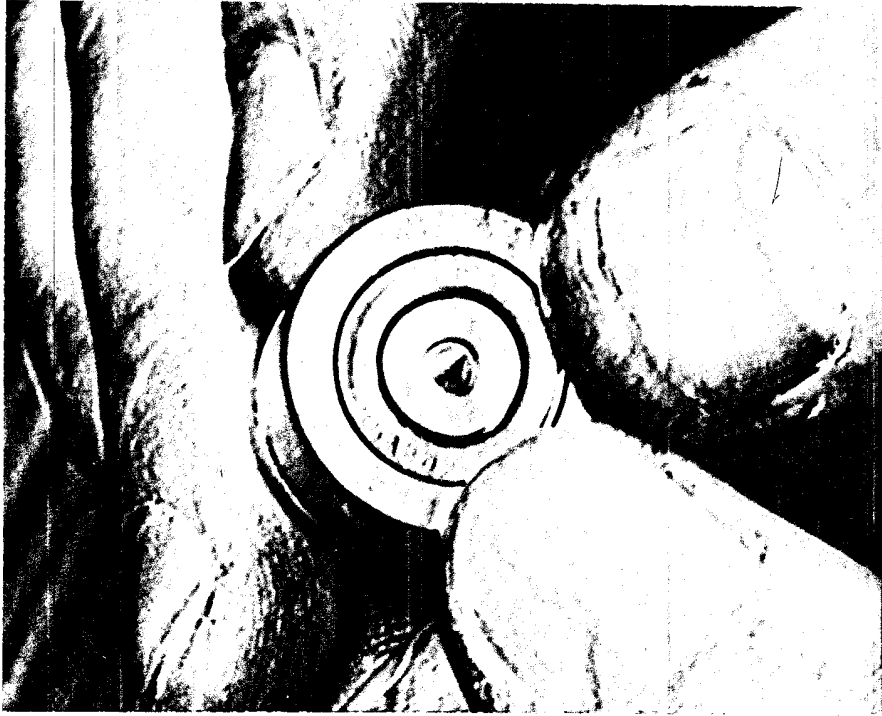
Step 3

Photograph No. 45

Holding ball already in position by means of triggering sleeve and dropping next ball into its hole. (Special slots are provided in the shroud type design to facilitate assembly.)

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Step 4

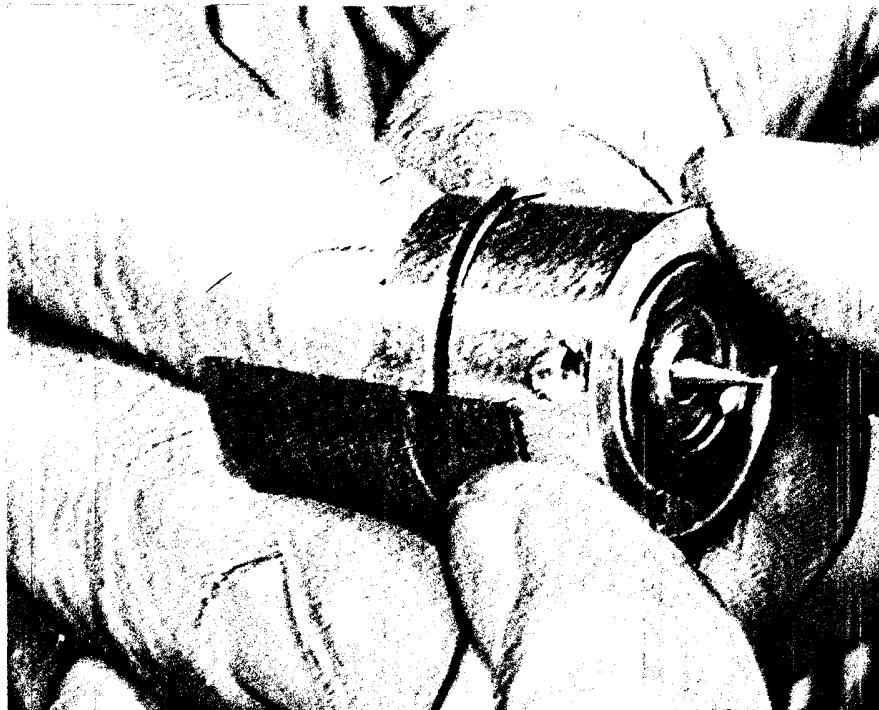
Photograph No. 46

Dropping triggering sleeve in place. Firing pin is now held and a check should be made that it has the proper amount of radial and axial play.

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Step 5

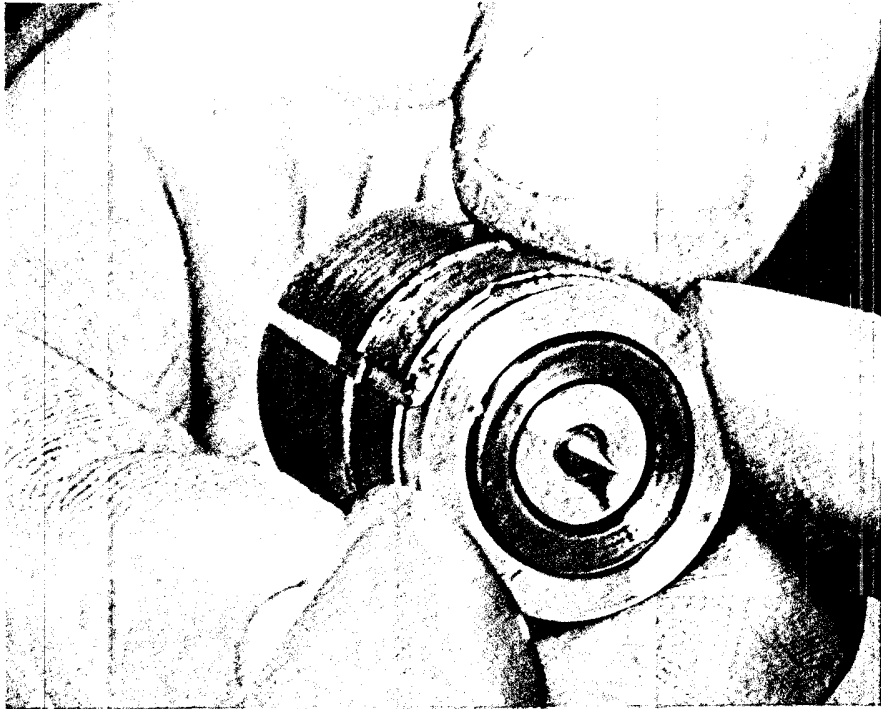
Photograph No. 47

Using split sleeve to hold locking spring in place

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Step 6

Photograph No. 48

Second half of split sleeve is in position

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Step 7

Photograph No. 49

Inertia element is pushed into solid sleeve. (This makes assembly into the fuze housing easier. However, this step may be omitted.)

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Step 8

Photograph No. 50

Testing firing pin

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Step 9

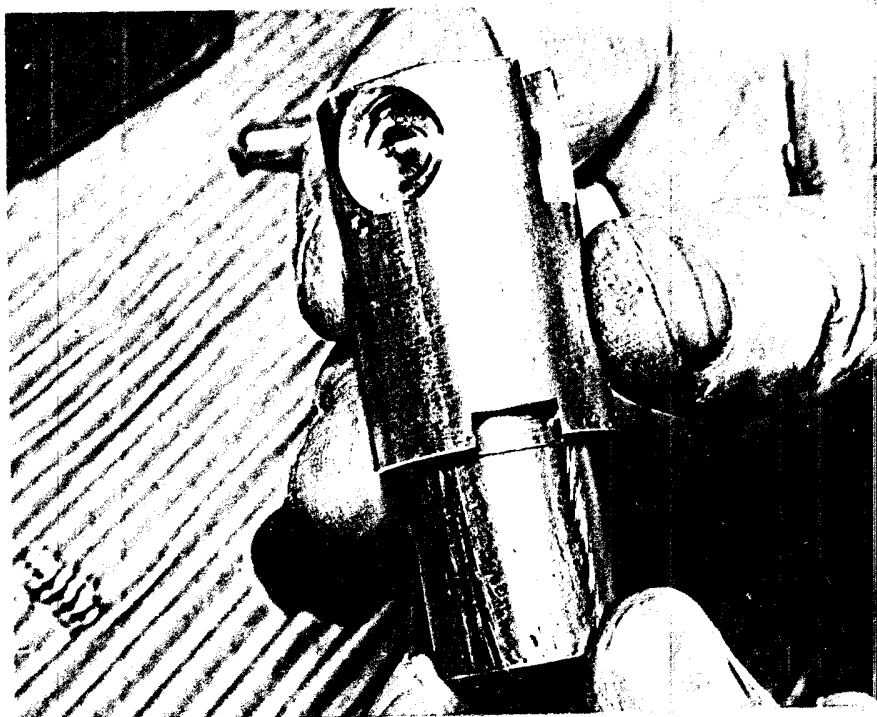
Photograph No. 51

Inserting locking balls

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Step 10

Photograph No. 52

Inertia element firing pin and balls
being assembled into fuze housing.

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Step II

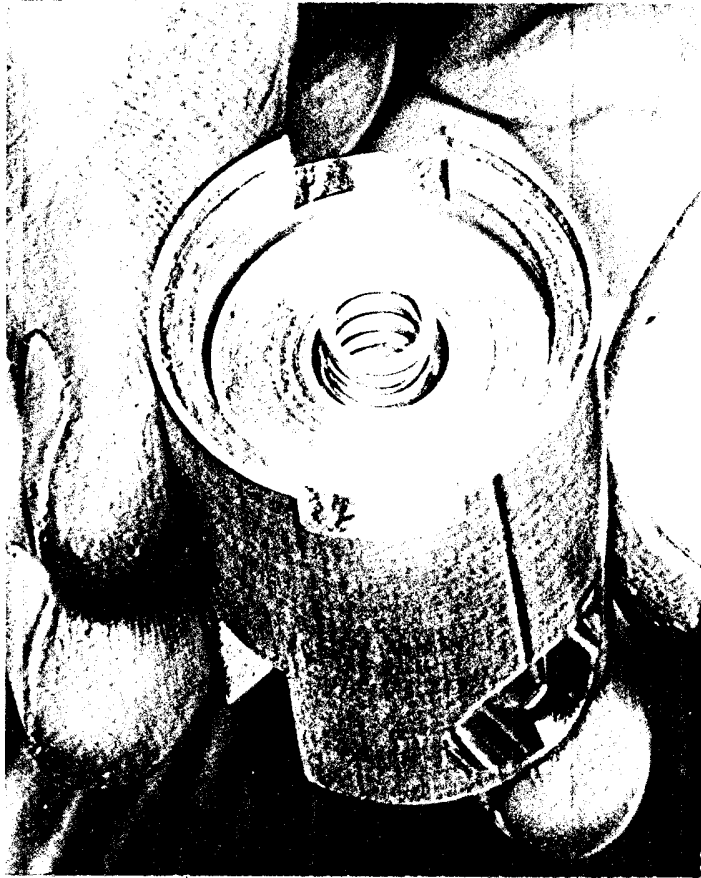
Photograph No. 53

Pushing components into position. Note rotor held in unarmed position against torque spring.

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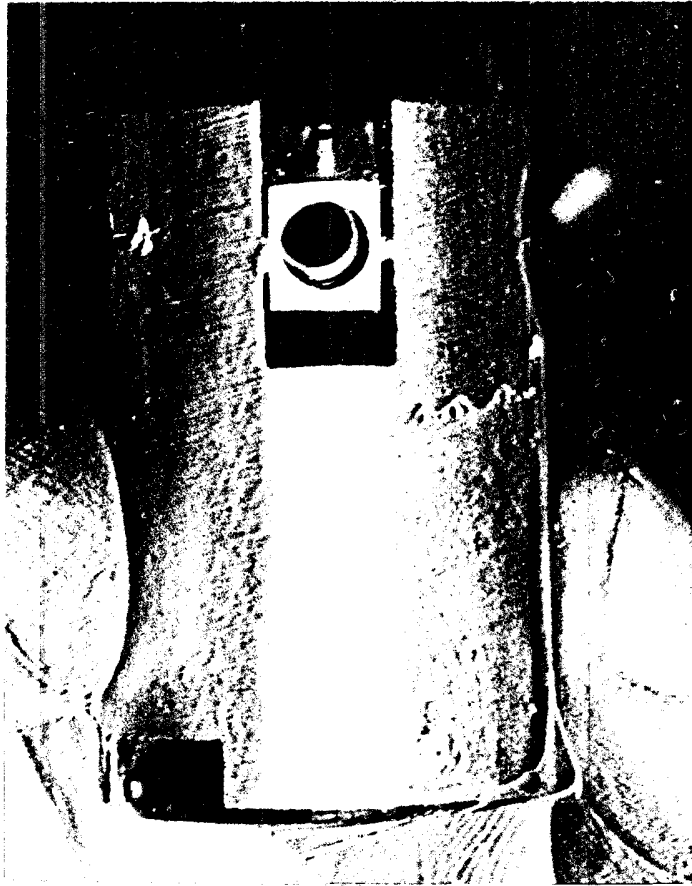
Step 12

Photograph No. 54

Assembling firing spring

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Step 13

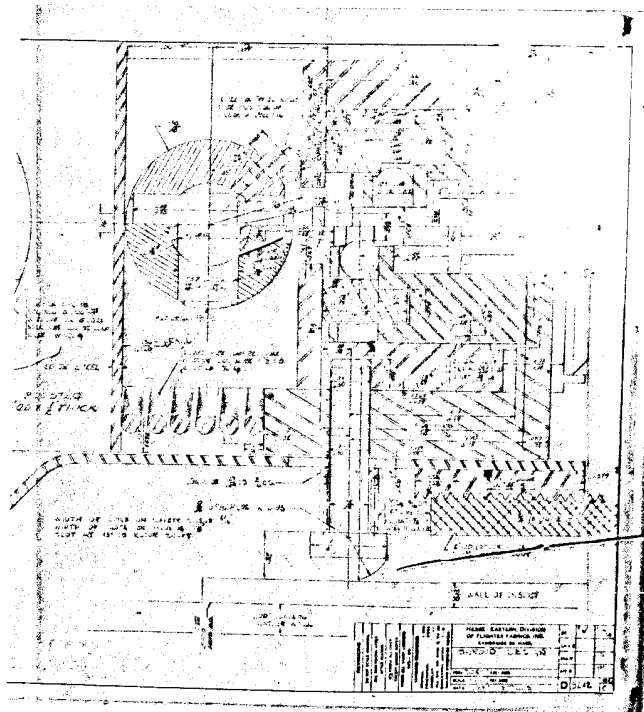
Photograph No. 55

Base assembled. (Scotch tape is used for test fuzes in order to be able to re-use parts. This will later be substituted by crimp. Total assembly time approximately 1 1/2 minutes per fuze.

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Photograph No. 56

Fuze, Shroud Design

Drawing No. D-4282-

D-8242

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