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Hole saw with hex sidewall holes

Abstract

A hole saw including a plurality of sidewall openings is provided. The sidewall openings are shaped and grouped in patterns that improve debris ejection of the hole saw and that allow for easy access to the interior of the hole saw for manual debris removal by the user. The opening groups are space from each other by larger uninterrupted areas such that the hole saw has a high strength despite the number and size of openings provided in the saw sidewall.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS (1) The present application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 17/495,008, filed on Oct. 6, 2021, which is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 16/518,326, filed Jul. 22, 2019, which issued as U.S. Pat. No. 11,148,212 on Oct. 19, 2021, which is a continuation of International Application No.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(1) The present invention relates generally to the field of tools. The present invention relates specifically to a hole saw having a plurality of sidewall openings. In general, a hole saw includes a cylindrical structure with cutting teeth at one end of the cylinder. In use, the hole saw spins at a high rate of speed, cutting a hole in a work piece that has a size and shape that generally matches the size and shape of the cylindrical structure.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

(2) One embodiment of the disclosure relates to a hole saw including a body, such as a cylindrical saw body, and an end cap. The saw body includes a cutting edge at a first end of the saw body, and a second end of the saw body is coupled to an outer section of the end cap. The cylindrical saw body includes an outer surface and an inner surface defining a hollow internal area. The cylindrical saw body includes a first group of openings extending between the outer surface and the inner surface, a second group of openings extending between the outer surface and the inner surface, and an uninterrupted area located between the first group of openings and the second group of openings. In specific embodiments, the hole saw side wall openings have a non-circular shape and specifically, all of the hole saw side wall openings have a non-circular shape.

(3) In specific embodiments, the first group of openings includes a first opening and a second opening, and the second group of openings includes a first opening and a second opening. In specific embodiments, the first opening and second opening of the first group are spaced from each other in the circumferential direction such that the first opening is not located above the second opening in the longitudinal direction. In a specific embodiment, the first opening and second opening of the second group are spaced from each other in the circumferential direction such that the first opening is not located above the second opening in the longitudinal direction.

(4) Additional features and advantages will be set forth in the detailed description which follows, and in part will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art from the description or recognized by practicing the embodiments as described in the written description and claims hereof, as well as the appended drawings. It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary.

(5) The accompanying drawings are included to provide a further understanding and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification. The drawings illustrate one or more embodiments and together with the description serve to explain principles and operation of the various embodiments.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- (1) FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a hole saw and arbor, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (2) FIG. 2 is a perspective view from below of a hole saw, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (3) FIG. 3 is a perspective view from above of the hole saw of FIG. 2, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (4) FIG. 4 is a side plan view of the sidewall of the hole saw of FIG. 2 prior to shaping to the cylindrical structure shown in FIG. 2, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (5) FIG. 5 is a perspective view from below of a hole saw, according to another exemplary embodiment.
- (6) FIG. 6 is a perspective view from above of the hole saw of FIG. 5, according to exemplary embodiment.

- (7) FIG. 7 is a side plan view of the sidewall of the hole saw of FIG. 5 prior to shaping to the cylindrical structure shown in FIG. 5, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (8) FIG. 8 is a side plan view of the sidewall of a hole saw prior to shaping to a cylindrical structure, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (9) FIG. 9 is a side plan view of the sidewall of a hole saw prior to shaping to a cylindrical structure, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (10) FIG. 10 is a side plan view of the sidewall of a hole saw prior to shaping to a cylindrical structure, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (11) FIG. 11 is a side plan view of the sidewall of a hole saw prior to shaping to a cylindrical structure, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (12) FIG. 12 is a side plan view of the sidewall of a hole saw prior to shaping to a cylindrical structure, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (13) FIG. 13 is a side plan view of the sidewall of a hole saw prior to shaping to a cylindrical structure, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (14) FIG. 14 is a side plan view of the sidewall of a hole saw prior to shaping to a cylindrical structure, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (15) FIG. 15 is a side plan view of the sidewall of a hole saw prior to shaping to a cylindrical structure, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (16) FIG. 16 is a side plan view of the sidewall of a hole saw prior to shaping to a cylindrical structure, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (17) FIG. 17 is a side plan view of the sidewall of a hole saw prior to shaping to a cylindrical structure, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (18) FIG. 18 is a side plan view of the sidewall of a hole saw prior to shaping to a cylindrical structure, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (19) FIG. 19 is a side plan view of the sidewall of a hole saw prior to shaping to a cylindrical structure, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (20) FIG. 20 is a side plan view of the sidewall of a hole saw prior to shaping to a cylindrical structure, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (21) FIG. 21 is a side plan view of the sidewall of a hole saw prior to shaping to a cylindrical structure, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (22) FIG. 22 is a side plan view of the sidewall of a hole saw prior to shaping to a cylindrical structure, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (23) FIG. 23 is a side plan view of the sidewall of a hole saw prior to shaping to a cylindrical structure, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (24) FIG. 24 is a side plan view of the sidewall of a hole saw prior to shaping to a cylindrical structure, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (25) FIG. 25 is a side plan view of the sidewall of a hole saw prior to shaping to a cylindrical structure, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- (26) FIG. 26 is a side plan view of the sidewall of a hole saw prior to shaping to a cylindrical structure, according to an exemplary embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

(27) Referring generally to the figures, various embodiments of a hole cutter or hole saw including a plurality of sidewall openings are shown. In general, a hole saw includes a cylindrical sidewall, a cutting end having cutting teeth at one end of the cylindrical sidewall and an end cap at the other end of the cylindrical sidewall. As will be generally understood, the end cap includes a mounting structure that mounts to a driving device (e.g., a power tool) that drives the hole saw in rotation to cut a hole in a workpiece. In various embodiments, the sidewall of the hole saw discussed herein includes a pattern of multiple sidewall openings strategically positioned and sized to provide improved functionality while still providing sufficient strength to the hole saw. In specific embodiments, the hole saw discussed herein specifically includes side wall openings having non-

circular shapes, and in at least some embodiments, Applicant believes that non-circular shaped sidewall openings may allow for improved debris removal through the provision of leverage points or corner.

(28) As will generally be understood, during use of the hole saw, some portion of cut material (e.g., saw dust, chips, a plug of the material being cut, etc.) material enters the central cavity of the hole saw. Some of this material eventually exits the hole saw through the sidewall holes by being ejected during spinning of the hole saw. Other material is manually removed by pushing or prying the material out by insertion of a tool through the sidewall openings. In general and as will be discussed in more detail below, the sidewall openings are positioned in a pattern surrounding the entire circumference of the sidewall such that no matter what position the saw is in when it is spinning, one of the openings is easily accessible by the user for debris removal without further rotation of the saw blade. Further, the sidewall openings are relatively large and numerous allowing the user to conveniently access the interior of the hole saw blade with a tool (e.g., a screw driver) to dig or pry a plug/debris out from the hole saw center. In addition, Applicant believes that because the hole patterns shown herein increase ejection of debris during cutting, the ease of plug removal is increased because there is less saw dust and chips remaining in the interior of the hole saw blocking plug removal.

(29) While generally increasing the size and number of the sidewall holes of the hole saw blade increases ease of access for debris removal, the hole saw sidewall also provides strength and rigidity to the hole saw blade. The sidewall opening designs discussed herein strike a balance between strength and debris removal accessibility that Applicant believes provide higher levels of accessibility and strength than achieved with prior designs. Further, the sidewall opening pattern is arranged such that there are relatively large uninterrupted portions of the sidewall located between hole groupings which increase strength and also provide locations for weld seam location and placement of information (e.g., product information, logos, etc.).

(30) Referring to FIG. 1, a hole saw, such as hole saw **10**, is shown according to an exemplary embodiment. Hole saw **10** includes a sidewall, shown as cylindrical body **12**, a cutting end **14** at a first end of body **12** and an end cap **16** coupled to the opposite, second end of body **12**. In general, end cap **16** is a disc of metal material that may be coupled to body **12** via a coupling structure such as a weld. In various embodiments, end cap **16** includes a central mounting portion for coupling to a tool attachment structure, shown as arbor **18**. As will be generally understood, arbor **18** facilitates coupling of hole saw **10** to a driving device (e.g., an impact driver, power drill driver, etc.) which drives hole saw **10** during cutting.

(31) As shown in FIG. 1, cutting end **14** includes a plurality of teeth **20** that extend around cutting end **14**. Teeth **20** may be formed in a wide variety of designs for different cutting applications. In specific embodiments, teeth **20** and cylindrical body **12** are formed from a single, contiguous, continuous piece of metal material in which teeth **20** are formed.

(32) Referring to FIGS. 2-4, details of cylindrical body **12** are shown and described. Cylindrical body **12** is a cylindrical wall of material (e.g., metal material) that has an exterior surface **22** and an interior surface **24**. Cylindrical body **12** is a substantially hollow cylinder such that a hollow internal area **26** is defined by interior surface **24** of body **12**. Hole saw **10** defines a longitudinal axis **28** that extends lengthwise through hole saw **10**, perpendicular to end cap **16** and perpendicular to a plane defined by cutting end **14**. As will be explained in more detail below, the pattern and geometry of the openings in body **12** discussed herein provide for easy debris removal while also providing a sidewall having sufficiently high strength.

(33) Referring to FIG. 4, body **12** of hole saw **10** is shown prior to shaping to the cylindrical shape shown in FIGS. 2 and 3 to more clearly depict the opening shape and pattern. As noted above, hole saw **10** includes a plurality of openings **30** that are shaped and arranged in a pattern around hole saw **10**. In the specific embodiment of FIG. 4, openings **30** are arranged in a first group **32** and a second group **34** with relatively large areas **36** of uninterrupted portions of body **12** located

between groups **32** and **34**. To form the cylindrical shape of hole saw **10**, body **12** is wrapped to a cylindrical shape and free edges **38** of body **12** are welded together to form the cylindrical body shown in FIGS. **2** and **3**.

(34) In general, large areas **36** and opening groups **32** and **34** are sized and positioned to provide a variety of functional benefits to hole saw **10**. As shown in FIG. **4**, hole groups **32** and **34** are evenly spaced circumferentially along body **12** such that when formed to a cylindrical shape, body **12** is substantially symmetrical. Similarly, the solid spaces are also positioned symmetrically around the circumference to provide dynamic balancing. This provides balance to hole saw **10** important to a rotary tool to limit/prevent shaking and vibration during use. In addition, this positioning ensures that one of the opening groups **32** or **34** is generally facing the user regardless of the rotational position when hole saw **10** stops spinning, allowing the user easy access through one of openings **30** into internal area **26** for debris removal.

(35) Still referring to FIG. **4**, uninterrupted areas **36** have a circumferential length or width, $W1$, and each opening group **32** and **34** have a circumferential length or width, $W2$. As will be understood, the absolute value of $W1$ and $W2$ will vary based on the diameter of a particular hole saw and on the number of hole groups located around body **12**. In addition, hole saw **10** may include more than two hole groups or hole groups with different numbers of holes as needed for different sized hole saws. However, in specific embodiments, $W1$ and $W2$ are substantially equal to each other, and specifically are within 50%, more specifically within 30%, and even more specifically within 20% of each other. Applicant has found that this relative sizing between uninterrupted areas **36** and opening groups **32** and **34** provides balance, sufficient strength and easy debris removal access to hollow internal area **26**. Further, this relative sizing ensures that uninterrupted areas **36** are also large enough to provide areas to place logos or product information.

(36) In various embodiments, each opening group includes a plurality of openings that are distributed both in the circumferential/width direction and in the longitudinal direction. In general, Applicant has found that an arrangement including multiple openings within each opening group **32** and **34** provides sufficient interior access for debris removal while also ensuring sufficient metal material is located within the area including the hole group to provide structural support to the hole saw. In addition to debris removal, in at least some of the embodiments discussed herein, hole saw **10** includes two or more hole groups extending around at least 50% of the circumference of hole saw **10**. In other words, in such arrangements, the sum of $W2$ for all hole groups is greater than 50% of the circumference of hole saw **10**. Such hole patterns allow for chip ejection around at least 50% of the circumference of the hole saw. Because chips are developed all around the circumference of the hole saw during cutting, the hole patterns discussed herein provide areas for chip ejection around a significant portion of the hole saw circumference, which is believed to improve hole saw performance.

(37) In the specific embodiment shown in FIG. **4**, each opening group **32** and **34** includes three openings, opening **40**, opening **42** and opening **44**. In this particular arrangement, openings **40** and **42** have the same shape as each other. Opening **40** is located closer to cutting teeth **20** than opening **42**, and openings **40** and **42** are offset from each other in the circumferential/width direction such that an uninterrupted portion **46** of body **12** is located in the width direction between openings **40** and **42**. In this arrangement, no portion of opening **40** is located between opening **42** and the cutting teeth in the longitudinal direction. In the specific embodiment shown, openings **40** and **42** are hexagonal in shape.

(38) Opening **44** is smaller than both openings **40** and **42**. In the specific embodiment shown, opening **44** has a shape that matches the shape of a lower portion of openings **40** and **42**. Opening **44** is aligned with opening **42** in the longitudinal direction, and is located between cutting teeth **20** and opening **42**. Applicant has found that by providing openings of various shapes and positioning within each opening group easy debris removal access to interior **26** is provided. In alternative embodiments, opening groups **32** and **34** do not include the smaller opening **44**, and only include

openings **40** and **42**.

(39) Specifically, within each opening group **32** and **34**, Applicant has determined that a ratio of open area to solid area relates to the balance between debris removal and strength. In specific embodiments, the total area of opening groups is determined by $W2$ times the longitudinal length of body **12**, where $W2$ is the circumferential length or width measured between widest lateral edges of openings within the group. In various embodiments, the ratio of the area of openings within each group to the total group area is between 20% and 80% and more specifically is between 40% and 60%.

(40) In addition to the shape and distribution within each opening group, openings **40**, **42** and **44** are sized and shaped to allow for easy insertion of a tool (e.g., a screw driver) through the openings to facilitate removing or prying of a plug or other cutting debris from interior **26**. Thus, the upper and lower edges of openings **40**, **42** and/or **44** having a circumferential length or width, $W3$, that is large enough to permit insertion of a standard flat head screw driver. Openings **40**, **42** and **44** are also shaped such that their width dimension increases to circumferential length or width, $W4$, that is greater than $W3$. In various embodiments, $W4$ is between 125% of $W3$ and 300% of $W3$ and specifically $W4$ is two times $W3$. In a specific embodiment, $W3$ is between 0.25 inches and 0.5 inches.

(41) In various embodiments, hole groups **32** and **34** are positioned relative to cutting teeth **20** and to end cap **16** to improve performance of hole saw **10**. For example, the lowest edge of the lowest hole of each hole group is spaced a short distance $D1$ from the weld joining end cap **16** to body **12**. For example, $D1$ is a small distance to allow a tool to be inserted behind debris located adjacent end cap **16** within hole saw **10** to facilitate removal of the debris. In specific embodiments, $D1$ is between $1/16$.sup.th of an inch and $1/2$ inch, specifically is between $2/16$.sup.th of an inch and $4/16$.sup.th of an inch and more specifically is $3/16$.sup.th of an inch.

(42) As another example, the highest edge of the highest hole of each hole group is spaced a distance $D2$ from the valley or gullet between adjacent cutting teeth. In general, Applicant has determined that if $D2$ is too small the cutting teeth can be damaged or experience high wear during use and/or an undesirable degree of heat can be built up at the cutting edge of the hole saw. In specific embodiments, $D2$ is between $1/32$.sup.nd of an inch and 1 inch, specifically is between $1/32$.sup.nd inch and $3/16$.sup.th of an inch and more specifically is $1/4$.sup.th of an inch.

(43) Referring to FIGS. 5-7, a hole saw **100** is shown according to an exemplary embodiment. Hole saw **100** is substantially the same as hole saw **10** except for the differences discussed herein. In general, hole saw **100** includes more opening groups and more openings within each group than hole saw **10**. In specific embodiments, hole saw **100** has a larger diameter than hole saw **10** with the increased number of holes accounting for the larger size.

(44) As shown in FIG. 7, hole saw **100** includes three opening groups, groups **102**, **104** and **106**. Each opening group **102**, **104** and **106** is separated from adjacent groups via uninterrupted areas **36**. Groups **102**, **104** and **106** are substantially evenly spaced such that one group is located within each 120 degree section around the circumference of hole saw **100**.

(45) Each opening group **102**, **104** and **106** has six openings rather than the three opening groups of hole saw **10**. In particular, in addition to openings **40**, **42** and **44**, each group **102**, **104** and **106** include openings **110**, **112** and **114**. As can be seen in FIG. 7, opening **110** has the same shape as openings **40** and **42** and is aligned with opening **40** in the circumferential direction and is spaced from both openings **40** and **42** in the circumferential/width direction.

(46) Openings **112** and **114** have the same shape as opening **44**. Openings **112** and **114** are located further from cutting teeth **20** than opening **44**. Further, opening **112** is located on one side of opening **42** in the circumferential/width direction and opening **114** is located on the other side of opening **42** in the circumferential/width direction. In the specific embodiment shown, opening **112** is aligned with opening **110** in the longitudinal direction and is located between opening **110** and end cap **16**. Similarly, in the specific embodiment shown, opening **114** is aligned with opening **40**

in the longitudinal direction and is located between opening **40** and end cap **16**.

(47) In various embodiments, the number of opening groups located around the hole saw body changes based on the size of the hole saw. In various embodiments, the number of openings within each opening group and/or the size of each opening increase as the size of the hole saw increases. In a specific embodiment both the number of hole groups and the relative width of the hole group, **W2**, to the width of the solid space, **W1**, increases as the diameter of the hole saw increases. In specific embodiments, a three inch diameter hole saw includes three hole groups and three space solid areas. In specific embodiments, a four inch diameter hole saw includes four hole groups and four space solid areas. In addition, as shown in the embodiment of FIG. 7, **W2** is greater than **W1** and specifically is between 1 and 2 times **W1**. In some embodiments, **W2** is greater than **W1**, specifically **W2** is greater than 1.5 times **W1**, greater than 2.5 times **W1** or greater than 3 times **W1**. In a specific embodiment, the diameter of the hole saw is six inches and **W2** is 3.5 times **W1**.

(48) Referring to FIG. 8, a hole saw **200** is shown according to an exemplary embodiment. Hole saw **200** is substantially the same as hole saw **10** and hole saw **100** except for the differences discussed herein. In general, hole saw **200** includes the same number of opening groups as hole saw **10** and the same number of openings within each opening group as hole saw **100**.

(49) As shown in FIG. 8, hole saw **200** includes two opening groups, groups **202** and **204**. Each opening group **202** and **204** is separated from adjacent opening groups via uninterrupted areas **36**. Opening groups **202** and **204** are evenly spaced such that one opening group is located within each 180 degree section around the circumference of hole saw **200**.

(50) Each opening group **202** and **204** has six openings, similar to hole saw **100**. In particular, each opening group **202** and **204** includes openings **210**, **212**, **214**, **216**, **218**, and **220**. As can be seen in FIG. 8, opening **210** has a shape of a first rectangle. Openings **216** and **218** have the same shape as opening **210**. Opening **212** has a shape of a second rectangle, with a smaller height than, and a same width as, the first rectangle. Openings **214** and **220** have the same shape as opening **212**. Opening **210** is aligned with opening **218** in the circumferential direction and is spaced from both openings **216** and **218** in the circumferential/width direction. Openings **212**, **216**, and **220** are located further from cutting teeth **20** than openings **210**, **214**, and **218**.

(51) Further, opening **210** is located on one side of opening **214** in the circumferential/width direction, and opening **218** is located on the other side of opening **214** in the circumferential/width direction. Similarly, opening **212** is located on one side of opening **216** in the circumferential/width direction, and opening **220** is located on the other side of opening **216** in the circumferential/width direction. In the specific embodiment shown, opening **212** is aligned with opening **210** in the longitudinal direction and is located between opening **210** and endcap **16**. Similarly, in the specific embodiment shown, opening **216** is aligned with opening **214** in the longitudinal direction and is located between opening **214** and endcap **16**. Similarly, in the specific embodiment shown, opening **220** is aligned with opening **218** in the longitudinal direction and is located between opening **218** and endcap **16**.

(52) Referring to FIG. 9, a hole saw **300** is shown according to an exemplary embodiment. Hole saw **300** is substantially the same as hole saw **10** except for the differences discussed herein. In general, hole saw **300** includes the same number of opening groups, and the same number of openings within each opening group, as hole saw **10**.

(53) As shown in FIG. 9, hole saw **300** includes two opening groups, groups **302** and **304**. Each opening group **302** and **304** is separated from adjacent opening groups via uninterrupted areas **36**. Opening groups **302** and **304** are evenly spaced such that one opening group is located within each 180 degree section around the circumference of hole saw **300**.

(54) Each opening group **302** and **304** has three openings. In particular, each opening group **302** and **304** includes openings **310**, **312**, and **314**. As can be seen in FIG. 9, opening **310** has a shape of a triangle. Openings **312** and **314** have the same shape as opening **310**. In a specific embodiment, openings **310**, **312**, and **314** each have a shape of an equilateral triangle. Opening **312** is aligned

with opening **314** in the circumferential/width direction and is spaced from both openings **310** and **314** in the circumferential/width direction. Openings **312** and **314** are located further from cutting teeth **20** than is opening **310**.

(55) In the specific embodiment shown, openings **310**, **312**, and **314** each has an apex point facing towards cutting teeth **20**. The apex point of opening **310** is positioned midway between the apex points of openings **312** and **314**. Opening **310** is aligned in the longitudinal direction with openings **312** and **314**. Openings **312** and **314** are located between opening **310** and endcap **16**.

(56) Referring to FIG. **10**, a hole saw **400** is shown according to an exemplary embodiment. Hole saw **400** is substantially the same as hole saw **10** except for the differences discussed herein. In general, hole saw **400** includes the same number of opening groups, and the same number of openings within each opening group, as hole saw **10**.

(57) As shown in FIG. **10**, hole saw **400** includes two opening groups, groups **402** and **404**. Each opening group **402** and **404** is separated from adjacent opening groups via uninterrupted areas **36**. Opening groups **402** and **404** are evenly spaced such that one opening group is located within each 180 degree section around the circumference of hole saw **400**.

(58) Each opening group **402** and **404** has three openings. In particular, each opening group **402** and **404** includes openings **410**, **412**, and **414**. As can be seen in FIG. **10**, opening **410** has a shape of a pentagon. Openings **412** and **414** have the same shape as opening **410**. In a specific embodiment, openings **410**, **412**, and **414** each have a shape of an equilateral pentagon. Opening **412** is aligned with opening **414** in the circumferential/width direction and is spaced from both openings **410** and **414** in the circumferential/width direction. Openings **412** and **414** are located further from cutting teeth **20** than opening **410**.

(59) In the specific embodiment shown, openings **410**, **412**, and **414** each has an apex point facing towards cutting teeth **20**. The apex point of opening **410** is positioned midway between the apex points of openings **412** and **414**. Opening **410** is aligned in the longitudinal direction with openings **412** and **414**. Openings **412** and **414** are located between opening **410** and endcap **16**.

(60) Referring to FIG. **11**, a hole saw **500** is shown according to an exemplary embodiment. Hole saw **500** is substantially the same as hole saw **10** and hole saw **100** except for the differences discussed herein. In general, hole saw **500** includes the same number of opening groups as hole saw **10** and the same number of openings within each opening group as hole saw **100**.

(61) As shown in FIG. **11**, hole saw **500** includes two opening groups, groups **502** and **504**. Each opening group **502** and **504** is separated from adjacent opening groups via uninterrupted areas **36**. Opening groups **502** and **504** are evenly spaced such that one opening group is located within each 180 degree section around the circumference of hole saw **500**.

(62) Each opening group **502** and **504** has six openings, similar to hole saw **100**. In particular, each opening group **502** and **504** includes openings **510**, **512**, **514**, **516**, **518**, and **520**. As can be seen in FIG. **11**, opening **510** has a shape of a first parallelogram leaning upwards and right. In a specific embodiment, opening **510** has a shape of a first rhomboid. Openings **516** and **518** have the same shape as opening **510**. Opening **512** has a shape of a second parallelogram leaning upwards and right, with a same width and a smaller height than the first parallelogram. In a specific embodiment, opening **512** has a shape of a second rhomboid. Openings **514** and **520** have the same shape as opening **512**. Opening **510** is aligned with opening **518** in the circumferential direction and is spaced from both openings **516** and **518** in the circumferential/width direction. Openings **512**, **516**, and **520** are located further from cutting teeth **20** than are openings **510**, **514**, and **518**.

(63) Further, opening **510** is located on one side of opening **514** in the circumferential/width direction, and opening **518** is located on the other side of opening **514** in the circumferential/width direction. Similarly, opening **512** is located on one side of opening **516** in the circumferential/width direction, and opening **520** is located on the other side of opening **516** in the circumferential/width direction. In the specific embodiment shown, opening **512** is aligned with opening **510** in a diagonal direction of hole saw **500** and is located between opening **510** and endcap **16**. Similarly, in

the specific embodiment shown, opening **516** is aligned with opening **514** in the same diagonal direction as openings **510** and **512**, and is located between opening **514** and endcap **16**. Similarly, in the specific embodiment shown, opening **520** is aligned with opening **518** in the same diagonal direction as openings **510** and **512**, and is located between opening **518** and endcap **16**.

(64) Referring to FIG. **12**, a hole saw **600** is shown according to an exemplary embodiment. Hole saw **600** is substantially the same as hole saw **10** and hole saw **100** except for the differences discussed herein. In general, hole saw **600** includes the same number of opening groups as hole saw **10** and more openings within each opening group than both hole saw **10** and hole saw **100**.

(65) As shown in FIG. **12**, hole saw **600** includes two opening groups, groups **602** and **604**. Each opening group **602** and **604** is separated from adjacent opening groups via uninterrupted areas **36**. Opening groups **602** and **604** are evenly spaced such that one opening group is located within each 180 degree section around the circumference of hole saw **600**.

(66) Each opening group **602** and **604** has nine openings, rather than the three openings of hole saw **10** or the six openings of hole saw **100**. In particular, each opening group **602** and **604** includes openings **610**, **612**, **614**, **616**, **618**, **620**, **622**, **624**, and **626**. As can be seen in FIG. **12**, opening **610** has a shape of a parallelogram leaning upwards and right. In a specific embodiment, opening **610** has a shape of a rhomboid. Openings **612**, **614**, **616**, **618**, **620**, **622**, **624**, and **626** have the same shape as opening **610**. Opening **610** is aligned with openings **616** and **622** in the circumferential direction and is spaced from both openings **612** and **616** in the circumferential/width direction. Openings **610**, **616**, and **622** are located nearest the cutting teeth **20**. Openings **612**, **618**, and **624** are located midway respectively between openings **610**, **616**, and **622** and openings **614**, **620**, and **626**, which are nearest the endcap **16**.

(67) Further, opening **610** is located on one side of opening **616** in the circumferential/width direction, and opening **622** is located on the other side of opening **616** in the circumferential/width direction. Similarly, opening **612** is located on one side of opening **618** in the circumferential/width direction, and opening **624** is located on the other side of opening **618** in the circumferential/width direction. Similarly, opening **614** is located on one side of opening **620** in the circumferential/width direction, and opening **626** is located on the other side of opening **620** in the circumferential/width direction. In the specific embodiment shown, openings **612** and **614** are aligned with opening **610** in a diagonal direction of hole saw **600**. Similarly, in the specific embodiment shown, openings **618** and **620** is aligned with opening **616** in the same diagonal direction as openings **610**, **612**, and **614**. Similarly, in the specific embodiment shown, openings **624** and **626** are aligned with opening **622** in the same diagonal direction as openings **610**, **612**, and **614**.

(68) Referring to FIG. **13**, a hole saw **700** is shown according to an exemplary embodiment. Hole saw **700** is substantially the same as hole saw **10** and hole saw **100** except for the differences discussed herein. In general, hole saw **700** includes the same number of opening groups as hole saw **10** and more openings within each opening group than both hole saw **10** and hole saw **100**.

(69) As shown in FIG. **13**, hole saw **700** includes two opening groups, groups **702** and **704**. Each opening group **702** and **704** is separated from adjacent opening groups via uninterrupted areas **36**. Opening groups **702** and **704** are evenly spaced such that one opening group is located within each 180 degree section around the circumference of hole saw **700**.

(70) Each opening group **702** and **704** has eight openings, rather than the three openings of hole saw **10** or the six openings of hole saw **100**. In particular, each opening group **702** and **704** includes openings **710**, **712**, **714**, **716**, **718**, **720**, **722**, and **724**. As can be seen in FIG. **13**, opening **710** has a shape of a parallelogram leaning upwards and right. In a specific embodiment, opening **710** has a shape of a rhomboid. Openings **710**, **712**, **714**, **716**, **718**, **720**, **722**, and **724** have the same shape as opening **710**. Opening **710** is aligned with openings **716** and **722** in the circumferential/width direction. Openings **710**, **716**, and **722** are located nearest the cutting teeth **20**. Openings **712** and **718** are located along the longitudinal direction midway between openings **710**, **716**, and **722** and openings **714**, **720**, and **724**, which are nearest the endcap **16**. Openings **712** and **718** are staggered

midway centrally along the circumference of hole saw **700** between openings **710**, **716**, and **722** and openings **714**, **720**, and **724**.

(71) Further, opening **710** is located on one side of opening **716** in the circumferential/width direction, and opening **722** is located on the other side of opening **716** in the circumferential/width direction. Similarly, opening **714** is located on one side of opening **720** in the circumferential/width direction, and opening **724** is located on the other side of opening **720** in the circumferential/width direction. In the specific embodiment shown, opening **714** is aligned with opening **710** in a diagonal direction of hole saw **700**. Similarly, in the specific embodiment shown, opening **716** is aligned with opening **720** in the same diagonal direction as openings **710** and **714**. Similarly, in the specific embodiment shown, opening **722** is aligned with opening **724** in the same diagonal direction as openings **710** and **714**.

(72) Referring to FIG. **14**, a hole saw **800** is shown according to an exemplary embodiment. Hole saw **800** is substantially the same as hole saw **10** and hole saw **100** except for the differences discussed herein. In general, hole saw **800** includes the same number of opening groups as hole saw **10** and more openings within each opening group than both hole saw **10** and hole saw **100**.

(73) As shown in FIG. **14**, hole saw **800** includes two opening groups, groups **802** and **804**. Each opening group **802** and **804** is separated from adjacent opening groups via uninterrupted areas **36**. Opening groups **802** and **804** are evenly spaced such that one opening group is located within each 180 degree section around the circumference of hole saw **800**.

(74) Each opening group **802** and **804** has nine openings, rather than the three openings of hole saw **10** or the six openings of hole saw **100**. In particular, each opening group **802** and **804** includes openings **810**, **812**, **814**, **816**, **818**, **820**, **822**, **824**, and **826**. As can be seen in FIG. **14**, opening **810** has a shape of a parallelogram leaning upwards and right. In a specific embodiment, opening **810** has a shape of a rhomboid. Openings **812**, **814**, **816**, **818**, **820**, **822**, **824**, and **826** have the same shape as opening **810**. Opening **810** is aligned with openings **816** and **822** in the circumferential/width. Openings **810**, **816**, and **822** are located nearest the cutting teeth **20**. Openings **812**, **818**, and **824** are located midway respectively between openings **810**, **816**, and **822** and openings **814**, **820**, and **826**, which are nearest the endcap **16**. Openings **812**, **818**, and **824** are staggered midway to the left along the circumference of hole saw **800** between openings **810**, **816**, and **822** and openings **814**, **820**, and **826**.

(75) Further, opening **810** is located on one side of opening **816** in the circumferential/width direction, and opening **822** is located on the other side of opening **816** in the circumferential/width direction. Similarly, opening **812** is located on one side of opening **818** in the circumferential/width direction, and opening **824** is located on the other side of opening **818** in the circumferential/width direction. Similarly, opening **814** is located on one side of opening **820** in the circumferential/width direction, and opening **826** is located on the other side of opening **820** in the circumferential/width direction. In the specific embodiment shown, opening **814** is aligned with opening **810** in a diagonal direction of hole saw **800**. Similarly, in the specific embodiment shown, opening **820** is aligned with opening **816** in the same diagonal direction as openings **810** and **814**. Similarly, in the specific embodiment shown, opening **826** is aligned with opening **822** in the same diagonal direction as openings **810** and **814**.

(76) Referring to FIG. **15**, a hole saw **900** is shown according to an exemplary embodiment. Hole saw **900** is substantially the same as hole saw **10** and hole saw **100** except for the differences discussed herein. In general, hole saw **900** includes the same number of opening groups as hole saw **10** and the same number of openings within each opening group as hole saw **100**.

(77) As shown in FIG. **15**, hole saw **900** includes two opening groups, groups **902** and **904**. Each opening group **902** and **904** is separated from adjacent opening groups via uninterrupted areas **36**. Opening groups **902** and **904** are evenly spaced such that one opening group is located within each 180 degree section around the circumference of hole saw **900**.

(78) Each opening group **902** and **904** has six openings, rather than the three openings of hole saw

10. In particular, each opening group **902** and **904** includes openings **910**, **912**, **914**, **916**, **918**, and **920**. As can be seen in FIG. 15, opening **910** has a shape of a parallelogram leaning upwards and right. In a specific embodiment, opening **910** has a shape of a rhomboid. Openings **910**, **912**, **914**, **916**, **918**, and **920** have the same shape as opening **910**. Opening **910** is aligned with opening **916** in the circumferential/width direction. Openings **910** and **916** are located nearest the cutting teeth **20**. Openings **912** and **918** are located midway respectively between openings **910** **916** and openings **914** and **920**, which are nearest the endcap **16**. Openings **912** and **918** are staggered midway to the left along the circumference of hole saw **900** between openings **910** and **916** and openings **914** and **920**.

(79) In the specific embodiment shown, opening **914** is aligned with opening **910** in a diagonal direction of hole saw **900**. Similarly, in the specific embodiment shown, opening **920** is aligned with opening **916** in the same diagonal direction as openings **910** and **914**.

(80) Referring to FIG. 16, a hole saw **1000** is shown according to an exemplary embodiment. Hole saw **1000** is substantially the same as hole saw **10** except for the differences discussed herein. In general, hole saw **1000** includes the same number of opening groups, and the same number of openings within each opening group, as hole saw **10**.

(81) As shown in FIG. 16, hole saw **1000** includes two opening groups, groups **1002** and **1004**. Each opening group **1002** and **1004** is separated from adjacent opening groups via uninterrupted areas **36**. Opening groups **1002** and **1004** are evenly spaced such that one opening group is located within each 180 degree section around the circumference of hole saw **1000**.

(82) Each opening group **1002** and **1004** has three openings. In particular, each opening group **1002** and **1004** includes openings **1010**, **1012**, and **1014**. As can be seen in FIG. 16, opening **1010** has a shape of a triangle. In a specific embodiment, opening **1010** has a shape of a scalene triangle. Opening **1014** has the same shape as opening **1010**. Opening **1010** is positioned nearest the cutting teeth **20**, and has a base facing the cutting teeth **20**, and an apex point facing endcap **16**. Opening **1010** has a hypotenuse facing opening **1012**. Opening **1014** is positioned nearest endcap **16**, and has a base facing endcap **16**, and an apex point facing the cutting teeth **20**. Opening **1014** has a hypotenuse facing opening **1012**. Neither opening **1010** nor opening **1014** extends along the full longitudinal direction of hole saw **1000**. Opening **1012** has a shape of a parallelogram leaning upwards and right. In a specific embodiment, opening **1012** has a shape of a rhomboid. Opening **1012** extends fully along a diagonal direction of hole saw **1000**. Opening **1010** is located on one side of opening **1012**, and opening **1014** is located on the other side of opening **1012**.

(83) Referring to FIG. 17, a hole saw **1100** is shown according to an exemplary embodiment. Hole saw **1100** is substantially the same as hole saw **10** except for the differences discussed herein. In general, hole saw **1100** includes the same number of opening groups as hole saw **10** and a greater number of openings within each opening group as hole saw **10**.

(84) As shown in FIG. 17, hole saw **1100** includes two opening groups, groups **1102** and **1104**. Each opening group **1102** and **1104** is separated from adjacent opening groups via uninterrupted areas **36**. Opening groups **1102** and **1104** are evenly spaced such that one opening group is located within each 180 degree section around the circumference of hole saw **1100**.

(85) Each opening group **1102** and **1104** has four openings, rather than the three openings of hole saw **10**. In particular, each opening group **1102** and **1104** includes openings **1110**, **1112**, **1114**, and **1116**. As can be seen in FIG. 17, opening **1110** has a shape of a semicircle. Opening **1116** has the same shape as opening **1110**. Opening **1112** has a shape of an ellipse, with larger dimensions than the semicircle. Opening **1114** has the same shape as opening **1112**. Opening **1110** is aligned with opening **1114** in the circumferential direction and is spaced from both openings **1112** and **1114** in the circumferential/width direction. Openings **1112** and **1116** are located further from cutting teeth **20** than are openings **1110** and **1114**.

(86) Opening **1110** has a flat end facing towards endcap **16**. Opening **1116** has a flat end facing towards the cutting teeth **20**. Openings **1112** and **1114** both have a major axis aligned in the

longitudinal direction. Opening **1110** and opening **1114** each has a tangent end that are aligned circumferentially facing the cutting teeth **20**. Similarly, opening **1112** and opening **1116** each has a tangent end that are aligned circumferentially facing endcap **16**.

(87) In the specific embodiment shown, opening **1112** is aligned with opening **1110** in the longitudinal direction and is located between opening **1110** and endcap **16**. Similarly, in the specific embodiment shown, opening **1116** is aligned with opening **1114** in the longitudinal direction and is located between opening **1114** and endcap **16**.

(88) Referring to FIG. **18**, a hole saw **1200** is shown according to an exemplary embodiment. Hole saw **1200** is substantially the same as hole saw **1100** except for the differences discussed herein. In general, hole saw **1100** includes the same number of opening groups, and the same number of openings within each group opening, as hole saw **1100**.

(89) As shown in FIG. **18**, hole saw **1200** includes two opening groups, groups **1202** and **1204**. Each opening group **1202** and **1204** is separated from adjacent opening groups via uninterrupted areas **36**. Opening groups **1202** and **1204** are evenly spaced such that one opening group is located within each 180 degree section around the circumference of hole saw **1200**.

(90) Each opening group **1202** and **1204** has four openings, similar to the four openings of hole saw **1100**. In particular, each opening group **1202** and **1204** includes openings **1210**, **1212**, **1214**, and **1216**. As can be seen in FIG. **18**, opening **1210** has a shape of a first ellipse. Opening **1216** has the same shape as opening **1210**. Opening **1212** has a shape of a second ellipse, with smaller dimensions than the first ellipse. Opening **1214** has the same shape as opening **1212**. Opening **1210** is aligned with opening **1214** in the circumferential direction and is spaced from both openings **1212** and **1214** in the circumferential/width direction. Openings **1212** and **1216** are located further from cutting teeth **20** than are openings **1210** and **1214**.

(91) Opening **1210** and opening **1216** each has a minor axis aligned in the longitudinal direction. Openings **1112** and **1114** both have a major axis aligned in the longitudinal direction. The minor axis of opening **1210** is aligned longitudinally with the major axis of opening **1212**, while the minor axis of opening **1216** is aligned longitudinally with the major axis of opening **1214**.

(92) Referring to FIG. **19**, a hole saw **1300** is shown according to an exemplary embodiment. Hole saw **1300** is substantially the same as hole saw **1100** except for the differences discussed herein. In general, hole saw **1300** includes the same number of opening groups, and the same number of openings within each opening group, as hole saw **1100**.

(93) As shown in FIG. **19**, hole saw **1300** includes two opening groups, groups **1302** and **1304**. Each opening group **1302** and **1304** is separated from adjacent opening groups via uninterrupted areas **36**. Opening groups **1302** and **1304** are evenly spaced such that one opening group is located within each 180 degree section around the circumference of hole saw **1300**.

(94) Each opening group **1302** and **1304** has four openings, similar to the four openings of hole saw **1100**. In particular, each opening group **1302** and **1304** includes openings **1310**, **1312**, **1314**, and **1316**. As can be seen in FIG. **19**, opening **1310** has a shape of a hexagon. Opening **1316** has the same shape as opening **1110**. Opening **1312** has a shape of a semi-hexagon with smaller dimensions than the hexagon, and has rounded corners, a rounded base edge, and a rounded top edge. Opening **1314** has the same shape as opening **1312**. The rounded base edge of opening **1312** faces towards endcap **16**, and the rounded top edge of opening **1312** faces towards cutting teeth **20**. The rounded base edge of opening **1314** faces towards cutting teeth **20**, and the rounded top edge of opening **1314** faces towards endcap **16**. Opening **1310** is aligned with opening **1314** in the circumferential direction and is spaced from both openings **1312** and **1314** in the circumferential/width direction. Openings **1312** and **1316** are located further from cutting teeth **20** than are openings **1310** and **1314**.

(95) In the specific embodiment shown, opening **1312** is aligned with opening **1310** in the longitudinal direction and is located between opening **1310** and endcap **16**. Similarly, in the specific embodiment shown, opening **1316** is aligned with opening **1314** in the longitudinal

direction and is located between opening **1314** and endcap **16**.

(96) Referring to FIG. **20**, a hole saw **1400** is shown according to an exemplary embodiment. Hole saw **1400** is substantially the same as hole saw **10** except for the differences discussed herein. In general, hole saw **1400** includes the same number of opening groups as hole saw **10** and a greater number of openings within each opening group than hole saw **10**.

(97) As shown in FIG. **20**, hole saw **1400** includes two opening groups, groups **1402** and **1404**. Each opening group **1402** and **1404** is separated from adjacent opening groups via uninterrupted areas **36**. Opening groups **1402** and **1404** are evenly spaced such that one opening group is located within each 180 degree section around the circumference of hole saw **1400**.

(98) Each opening group **1402** and **1404** has four openings, rather than the three openings of hole saw **10**. In particular, each opening group **1402** and **1404** includes openings **1410**, **1412**, **1414**, and **1416**. As can be seen in FIG. **20**, opening **1410** has a shape of a first rectangle. Opening **1416** has the same shape as opening **1410**. Opening **1412** has a shape of a second rectangle, with a smaller height than, and a same width as, the first rectangle. Opening **1414** has the same shape as opening **1412**. Opening **1410** is spaced from both openings **1412** and **1414** in the circumferential/width direction. Openings **1412** and **1416** are located further from cutting teeth **20** than are openings **1410** and **1414**.

(99) In the specific embodiment shown, opening **1412** is aligned with opening **1410** in the longitudinal direction and is located between opening **1410** and endcap **16**. Similarly, in the specific embodiment shown, opening **1416** is aligned with opening **1414** in the longitudinal direction and is located between opening **1414** and endcap **16**.

(100) Referring to FIG. **21**, a hole saw **1500** is shown according to an exemplary embodiment. Hole saw **1500** is substantially the same as hole saw **10** except for the differences discussed herein. In general, hole saw **1500** includes the same number of opening groups as hole saw **10** and fewer openings within each opening group as hole saw **10**.

(101) As shown in FIG. **21**, hole saw **1500** includes two opening groups, groups **1502** and **1504**. Each opening group **1502** and **1504** is separated from adjacent opening groups via uninterrupted areas **36**. Opening groups **1502** and **1504** are evenly spaced such that one opening group is located within each 180 degree section around the circumference of hole saw **1500**.

(102) Each opening group **1502** and **1504** has two openings, rather than the three openings of hole saw **10**. In particular, each opening group **1502** and **1504** includes openings **1510** and **1512**. As can be seen in FIG. **21**, opening **1510** has a shape of a slot. Opening **1512** has the same shape as opening **1510**. Opening **1510** and opening **1512** each has a pair of tangential ends, with a first tangential end facing towards the cutting teeth **20**, and a second tangential end facing towards endcap **16**. Openings **1510** and **1512** each has a major axis positioned longitudinally between the cutting teeth **20** and endcap **16**. Opening **1510** has a minor axis aligned horizontally with the first tangential end of opening **1512**. Opening **1512** has a minor axis aligned horizontally with the second tangential end of opening **1510**. Opening **1510** is spaced from opening **1512** in the circumferential/width direction.

(103) Referring to FIG. **22**, a hole saw **1600** is shown according to an exemplary embodiment. Hole saw **1600** is substantially the same as hole saw **1500** except for the differences discussed herein. In general, hole saw **1600** includes the same number of opening groups, and the same number of openings within each opening group, as hole saw **1500**.

(104) As shown in FIG. **22**, hole saw **1600** includes two opening groups, groups **1602** and **1604**. Each opening group **1602** and **1604** is separated from adjacent opening groups via uninterrupted areas **36**. Opening groups **1602** and **1604** are evenly spaced such that one opening group is located within each 180 degree section around the circumference of hole saw **1600**.

(105) Each opening group **1602** and **1604** has two openings, similar to hole saw **1500**. In particular, each opening group **1602** and **1604** includes openings **1610** and **1612**. As can be seen in FIG. **22**, opening **1610** has a shape of a profile. Opening **1612** has the same shape as opening **1510**. Opening

1610 and opening **1612** each has a flat edge facing towards the cutting teeth **20**, a pair of parallel edges aligned longitudinally, and an arcuate edge facing towards endcap **16**. Opening **1612** is staggered longitudinally and circumferentially with respect to opening **1610**, with its arcuate edge closer to endcap **16**, and its flat edge further from the cutting teeth **20**. Opening **1610** is spaced from opening **1612** in the circumferential/width direction.

(106) Referring to FIG. **23**, a hole saw **1700** is shown according to an exemplary embodiment. Hole saw **1700** is substantially the same as hole saw **1500** except for the differences discussed herein. In general, hole saw **1700** includes the same number of opening groups, and the same number of openings within each opening group, as hole saw **1500**.

(107) As shown in FIG. **23**, hole saw **1700** includes two opening groups, groups **1702** and **1704**. Each opening group **1702** and **1704** is separated from adjacent opening groups via uninterrupted areas **36**. Opening groups **1702** and **1704** are evenly spaced such that one opening group is located within each 180 degree section around the circumference of hole saw **1700**.

(108) Each opening group **1702** and **1704** has two openings, similar to hole saw **1500**. In particular, each opening group **1702** and **1704** includes openings **1710** and **1712**. As can be seen in FIG. **23**, opening **1710** has a shape of an ellipse. Opening **1712** has the same shape as opening **1710**.

Opening **1710** and opening **1712** each has a pair of tangential ends, with a first tangential end facing towards the cutting teeth **20**, and a second tangential end facing towards endcap **16**.

Openings **1710** and **1712** each has a major axis positioned longitudinally between the cutting teeth **20** and endcap **16**. Opening **1710** has a minor axis aligned horizontally with the first tangential end of opening **1712**. Opening **1712** has a minor axis aligned horizontally with the second tangential end of opening **1710**. Opening **1710** is spaced from opening **1712** in the circumferential/width direction.

(109) Referring to FIG. **24**, a hole saw **1800** is shown according to an exemplary embodiment. Hole saw **1800** is substantially the same as hole saw **10** except for the differences discussed herein. In general, hole saw **1800** includes the same number of opening groups, and the same number of openings within each opening group, as hole saw **10**.

(110) As shown in FIG. **24**, hole saw **1800** includes two opening groups, groups **1802** and **1804**. Each opening group **1802** and **1804** is separated from adjacent opening groups via uninterrupted areas **36**. Opening groups **1802** and **1804** are evenly spaced such that one opening group is located within each 180 degree section around the circumference of hole saw **1800**.

(111) Each opening group **1802** and **1804** has three openings. In particular, each opening group **1802** and **1804** includes openings **1810**, **1812**, and **1814**. As can be seen in FIG. **24**, opening **1810** has a shape of a first slot. Opening **1814** has the same shape as opening **1810**. Opening **1812** has a shape of a second slot, with smaller dimensions than the first slot. Opening **1810** is spaced from openings **1812** and **1814** in the circumferential/width direction. Opening **1810** is positioned closer to opening **1812** than opening **1812** is to opening **1814**. Openings **1810**, **1812**, and **1814** each has a pair of tangential ends, with a first tangential end facing the cutting teeth **20** and a second tangential end facing endcap **16**. Openings **1810**, **1812**, and **1814** each has a major axis aligned longitudinally between the cutting teeth **20** and endcap **16**. Opening **1810** has a center positioned midway between the cutting teeth **20** and endcap **16**. Opening **1812** has a center positioned closer to the cutting teeth **20**. Opening **1814** has a center positioned closer to endcap **16**.

(112) Referring to FIG. **25**, a hole saw **1900** is shown according to an exemplary embodiment. Hole saw **1900** is substantially the same as hole saw **10** except for the differences discussed herein. In general, hole saw **1900** includes more opening groups, and fewer openings within each opening group, as hole saw **10**.

(113) As shown in FIG. **25**, hole saw **1900** includes four opening groups, groups **1902**, **1904**, **1906**, and **1908**. Each opening group **1902**, **1904**, **1906**, and **1908** is separated from adjacent opening groups via uninterrupted areas **36**. Opening groups **1902**, **1904**, **1906**, and **1908** are evenly spaced such that one opening group is located within each 90 degree section around the circumference of

hole saw **1900**.

(114) Each opening group **1902**, **1904**, **1906**, and **1908** has one opening. In particular, each opening group **1902**, **1904**, **1906**, and **1908** includes opening **1910**. As can be seen in FIG. **25**, opening **1910** has a shape of an ellipse. Opening **1910** has a pair of tangential ends, with a first tangential end facing towards the cutting teeth **20**, and a second tangential end facing towards endcap **16**. Opening **1910** has a major axis positioned longitudinally between the cutting teeth **20** and endcap **16**.

(115) Referring to FIG. **26**, a hole saw **2000** is shown according to an exemplary embodiment. Hole saw **2000** is substantially the same as hole saw **10** except for the differences discussed herein. In general, hole saw **2000** includes fewer opening groups than hole saw **10**, and fewer openings within each opening group than hole saw **10**.

(116) As shown in FIG. **26**, hole saw **2000** includes one opening group, group **2002**. Opening group **2002** is located within a section around the circumference of hole saw **2000**.

(117) Opening group **2002** has one opening. In particular, opening group **2002** includes opening **2010**. As can be seen in FIG. **26**, opening **2010** has a shape of a slot. The slot of opening **2010** has a first tangent end leaning upward and left towards cutting teeth **20**, and a second tangent end leaning downward and right towards endcap **16**.

(118) It should be understood that the figures illustrate the exemplary embodiments in detail, and it should be understood that the present application is not limited to the details or methodology set forth in the description or illustrated in the figures. It should also be understood that the terminology is for the purpose of description only and should not be regarded as limiting.

(119) Further modifications and alternative embodiments of various aspects of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art in view of this description. Accordingly, this description is to be construed as illustrative only. The construction and arrangements, shown in the various exemplary embodiments, are illustrative only. Although only a few embodiments have been described in detail in this disclosure, many modifications are possible (e.g., variations in sizes, dimensions, structures, shapes and proportions of the various elements, values of parameters, mounting arrangements, use of materials, colors, orientations, etc.) without materially departing from the novel teachings and advantages of the subject matter described herein. Some elements shown as integrally formed may be constructed of multiple parts or elements, the position of elements may be reversed or otherwise varied, and the nature or number of discrete elements or positions may be altered or varied. The order or sequence of any process, logical algorithm, or method steps may be varied or re-sequenced according to alternative embodiments. Other substitutions, modifications, changes and omissions may also be made in the design, operating conditions and arrangement of the various exemplary embodiments without departing from the scope of the present invention.

(120) Unless otherwise expressly stated, it is in no way intended that any method set forth herein be construed as requiring that its steps be performed in a specific order. Accordingly, where a method claim does not actually recite an order to be followed by its steps or it is not otherwise specifically stated in the claims or descriptions that the steps are to be limited to a specific order, it is in no way intended that any particular order be inferred. In addition, as used herein the article “a” is intended to include one or more than one component or element, and is not intended to be construed as meaning only one.

(121) For purposes of this disclosure, the term “coupled” means the joining of two components directly or indirectly to one another. Such joining may be stationary in nature or movable in nature. Such joining may be achieved with the two members and any additional intermediate members being integrally formed as a single unitary body with one another, or with the two members and any additional member being attached to one another. Such joining may be permanent in nature or alternatively may be removable or releasable in nature. Various embodiments of the invention relate to any combination of any of the features, and any such combination of features may be claimed in this or future applications. Any of the features, elements, or components of any of the exemplary embodiments discussed above may be utilized alone or in combination with any of the

features, elements, or components of any of the other embodiments discussed above.

(122) In various exemplary embodiments, the relative dimensions, including angles, lengths and radii, as shown in the Figures are to scale. Actual measurements of the Figures will disclose relative dimensions, angles and proportions of the various exemplary embodiments. Various exemplary embodiments extend to various ranges around the absolute and relative dimensions, angles and proportions that may be determined from the Figures. Various exemplary embodiments include any combination of one or more relative dimensions or angles that may be determined from the Figures. Further, actual dimensions not expressly set out in this description can be determined by using the ratios of dimensions measured in the Figures in combination with the express dimensions set out in this description. In addition, in various embodiments, the present disclosure extends to a variety of ranges (e.g., plus or minus 30%, 20%, or 10%) around any of the absolute or relative dimensions disclosed herein or determinable from the Figures.

Claims

1. A hole saw comprising: a saw body, comprising: a first end; a second end opposite the first end along an axis; an outer surface extending circumferentially around the axis; and an inner surface opposite the outer surface and defining a hollow internal area; cutting teeth extending from the first end of the saw body; an end cap coupled to the second end of the saw body; an arbor configured to couple the hole saw to a driving tool, the arbor extending outward from the end cap in a direction opposite from the cutting teeth; and a group of openings extending between the outer surface and the inner surface of the saw body, wherein the group of openings comprises: a first discrete opening having a first shape; and a second discrete opening having a second shape, wherein the second discrete opening is smaller than the first discrete opening, and the second discrete opening is located closer to the cutting teeth than the first discrete opening; wherein the first shape is symmetrical in a longitudinal direction parallel to the axis; wherein the second shape is asymmetrical in the longitudinal direction; and wherein the saw body and the cutting teeth are formed from a single, contiguous, continuous piece of metal material.
2. The hole saw of claim 1, wherein the first shape is symmetrical in a circumferential direction along the outer surface with respect to the axis, and wherein the second shape is symmetrical in the circumferential direction.
3. The hole saw of claim 1, wherein the second discrete opening is aligned with the first discrete opening in a longitudinal direction such that the second discrete opening is between the first discrete opening and the cutting teeth.
4. The hole saw of claim 1, wherein the group of openings is a first group of openings and further comprising: a second group of openings extending between the outer surface and the inner surface of the saw body, wherein the second group of openings comprises: a third discrete opening having the first shape; and a fourth discrete opening having the second shape.
5. The hole saw of claim 4, wherein an uninterrupted area is located between the first group of openings and the second group of openings, and wherein the uninterrupted area extends from the cutting teeth to the second end of the saw body.
6. The hole saw of claim 4, wherein a total circumferential width of both the first group of openings and the second group of openings combined is at least 50% of a total circumferential width of the saw body.
7. A hole saw comprising: a saw body, comprising: a first end; a second end opposite the first end along an axis; an outer surface extending circumferentially around the axis; and an inner surface defining a hollow internal area; cutting teeth extending from the first end of the saw body; an end cap coupled to the second end of the saw body; an arbor configured to couple the hole saw to a driving tool, the arbor extending outward from the end cap in a direction opposite from the cutting teeth; a first group of at least two discrete openings extending between the outer surface and the

inner surface of the saw body, the first group comprising: a first discrete opening having a first shape; and a second discrete opening having a second shape, wherein the second discrete opening is smaller than the first discrete opening, and the second discrete opening is located closer to the cutting teeth than the first discrete opening; wherein the first shape is symmetrical in a circumferential direction along the outer surface with respect to the axis, and wherein the second shape is asymmetrical in a longitudinal direction parallel to the axis; a second group of at least two discrete openings extending between the outer surface and the inner surface of the saw body, the second group comprising: a third discrete opening having a third shape; and a fourth discrete opening having a fourth shape, wherein the fourth discrete opening is smaller than the third discrete opening, and the fourth discrete opening is located closer to the cutting teeth than the third discrete opening; and an uninterrupted area located between the first group of at least two discrete openings and the second group of at least two discrete openings, the uninterrupted area extending from the first end of the saw body to the second end of the saw body.

8. The hole saw of claim 7, wherein the uninterrupted area defines a first width and the first group of at least two discrete openings defines a second width, and wherein the first width and the second width are within 50% of each other.

9. The hole saw of claim 8, wherein the first width and the second width are within 30% of each other.

10. The hole saw of claim 7, wherein the first shape is symmetrical in the longitudinal direction.

11. The hole saw of claim 7, wherein the second shape matches a lower portion of the first shape.

12. The hole saw of claim 7, wherein the first shape and the third shape are the same size and shape as each other.

13. The hole saw of claim 12, wherein the second shape and the fourth shape have the same size and shape as each other.

14. The hole saw of claim 7, wherein the saw body and the cutting teeth are formed from a single, contiguous, continuous piece of metal material.

15. A hole saw comprising: a saw body, comprising: a first end; a second end opposite the first end along a longitudinal axis; an outer surface extending circumferentially around the longitudinal axis; and an inner surface defining a hollow internal area; cutting teeth extending from the first end of the saw body; an end cap coupled to the second end of the saw body; an arbor configured to couple the hole saw to a driving tool, the arbor extending outward from the end cap in a direction opposite from the cutting teeth; a first group of at least two discrete openings extending between the outer surface and the inner surface of the saw body, the first group comprising: a first discrete opening having a first shape; and a second discrete opening having a second shape, the second discrete opening located closer to the cutting teeth than the first discrete opening; a second group of at least two discrete openings extending between the outer surface and the inner surface of the saw body, the second group of at least two discrete openings spaced apart from the first group of at least two discrete openings in a circumferential direction along the outer surface with respect to the longitudinal axis, the second group comprising: a third discrete opening having the first shape; and a fourth discrete opening having the second shape; and an uninterrupted area located between the first group of at least two discrete openings and the second group of at least two discrete openings; wherein the second shape matches a lower portion of the first shape; wherein the second shape is defined in part by a flat edge that extends in the circumferential direction and faces the cutting teeth, a first width of the second shape measured along the flat edge; and wherein the first width is greater than a second width of the second shape measured along an edge opposite from the flat edge and facing the second end of the saw body.

16. The hole saw of claim 15, wherein the fourth discrete opening is located closer to the cutting teeth than the third discrete opening.

17. The hole saw of claim 15, wherein the second shape is a smaller size than the first shape, and wherein the flat edge extends in the circumferential direction oriented perpendicular to the

longitudinal axis of the hole saw.

18. The hole saw of claim 15, wherein the first shape is symmetrical in the circumferential direction, and wherein the second shape is symmetrical in the circumferential direction.

19. The hole saw of claim 15, wherein the first shape is symmetrical in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis.
