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(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONNECTING TUBULARS USING A TOP DRIVE**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
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(58) **Field of Classification Search**
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See application file for complete search history.

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(56) **References Cited**

To view the complete listing of prior art documents cited during the proceeding for Reexamination Control Number 95/001,114, please refer to the USPTO's public Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system under the Display References tab.

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Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 10/738,950, filed on Dec. 17, 2003, now Pat. No. 7,021,374, which is a continuation of application No. 10/354,226, filed on Jan. 29, 2003, now Pat. No. 6,688,398, which is a continuation of application No. 09/762,698, filed as application No. PCT/GB99/02704 on Aug. 16, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,527,047.

Primary Examiner — Matthew C. Graham

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An apparatus for facilitating the connection of tubulars, said apparatus comprising a winch, at least one wire line, and a device for gripping the tubular, the arrangement being such that, in use, the winch can be used to winch said at least one wire and said device to position a tubular below said top drive.

