

- [54] METHOD OF CONSOLIDATING A METALLIC BODY
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[57] ABSTRACT

A method of consolidating a metallic body is disclosed. The method comprises the steps of forming an article of manufacture from powdered metal; sintering the article of manufacture so as to increase the strength thereof; coating the article with a sacrificial layer of ceramic; providing a bed of heated, generally spheroidal ceramic particles; compacting the coated article of manufacture embedded in the heated bed under pressure to thereby consolidate the article into a dense, desired shape; and, removing said sacrificial coating such that the surface of the article remains substantially free of process-related imperfections.

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10 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures

