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4. A system in accordance with claim 3, wherein said breaker plate further includes a handle to facilitate insertion of said plate into, and removal from, said frame means.

5. A system in accordance with claim 2, wherein said breaker plate is perpendicular to said drill string.

6. A system in accordance with claim 3, wherein said frame means includes channels for receiving said side edges of said breaker plate.

7. A system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said opening in said rotary table is square, and wherein said sub includes a portion which is adapted to slidably engage said square opening.

8. In a drilling rig of the type having a rotary table with an opening therethrough, wherein a drill string extends through said opening and is adapted to be rotated by said rotary table; wherein a drill bit is carried by the lower end of said drill string; and wherein said opening in said rotary table is smaller than said drill bit; the improvement comprising:

- (a) a breaker plate having front, rear, and side edges and an irregularly-shaped central opening therethrough;
- (b) frame means carried by said drilling rig for supporting said breaker plate beneath said rotary table in a manner such that said drill string extends through said central opening of said breaker plate; and
- (c) a sub member having upper and lower ends, wherein said lower end is adapted to be connected to said drill bit and said upper end is adapted to be connected to said drill string; wherein said sub member is further adapted to be engaged by said

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rotary table for rotational movement when said drill bit is engaged by said breaker plate;

wherein said breaker plate includes a slot extending between said front edge and said central opening, thereby enabling said breaker plate to be inserted into or removed from said support means when said drill string is supported vertically by said drilling rig; wherein said irregularly-shaped central opening in said breaker plate is adapted to engage said drill bit and secure it against rotation when said drill string is raised to a point where said drill bit extends into said central opening and said sub member is engaged by said rotary table.

9. The improvement in accordance with claim 8, wherein said breaker plate is planar.

10. The improvement in accordance with claim 8, wherein said breaker plate is slidably received in said frame means.

11. The improvement in accordance with claim 10, wherein said breaker plate further includes a handle to facilitate insertion of said plate into, and removal from, said frame means.

12. The improvement in accordance with claim 9, wherein said breaker plate is perpendicular to said drill string.

13. The improvement in accordance with claim 10, wherein said frame means includes channels for receiving said side edges of said breaker plate.

14. The improvement in accordance with claim 8, wherein said opening in said rotary table is square, and wherein said sub member includes a portion which is adapted to slidably engage said square opening.

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