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(54) **FASTENERS HAVING STIFFNESS ZONES**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A fastening member has an inboard end and an outboard end. The fastening member comprises a base substrate comprising a panel region disposed adjacent to the inboard end and an end region disposed adjacent to the outboard end. The end region comprises a fastening element zone having a first stiffness and an intermediate zone having a second stiffness. The intermediate zone is disposed between the fastening element zone and the panel region adjacent to an interface between the panel region and the end region. The fastening member comprises a fastening element disposed in the fastening element zone and joined to the base substrate and a bonding agent disposed intermediate the fastening element and the base substrate. The bonding agent comprises a molten polymer.

23 Claims, 23 Drawing Sheets

