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Planetary Rock Corer and Drill Concepts

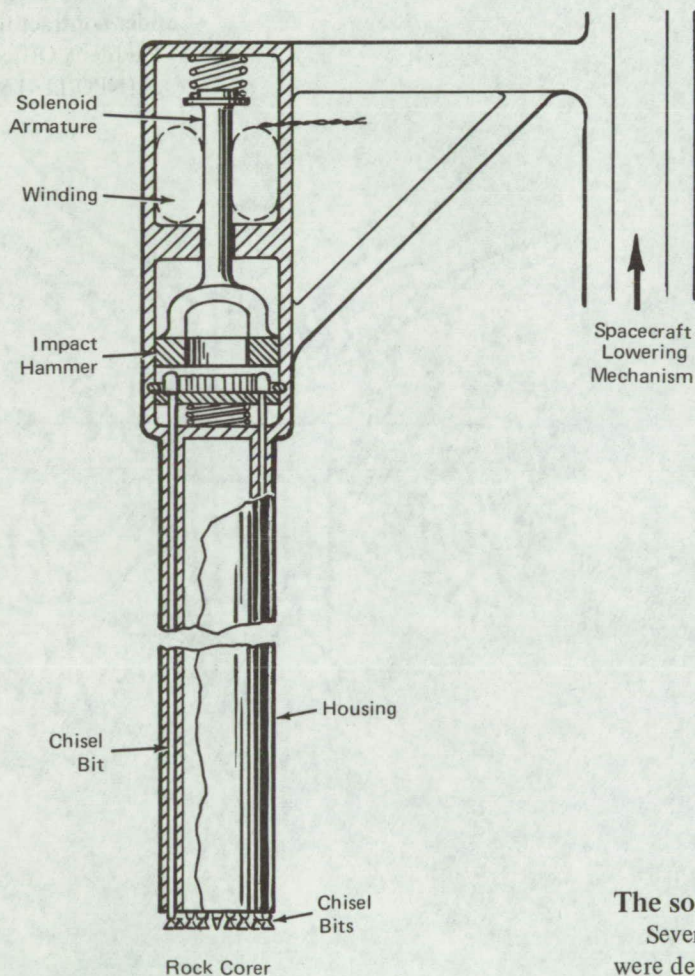


Figure 1.

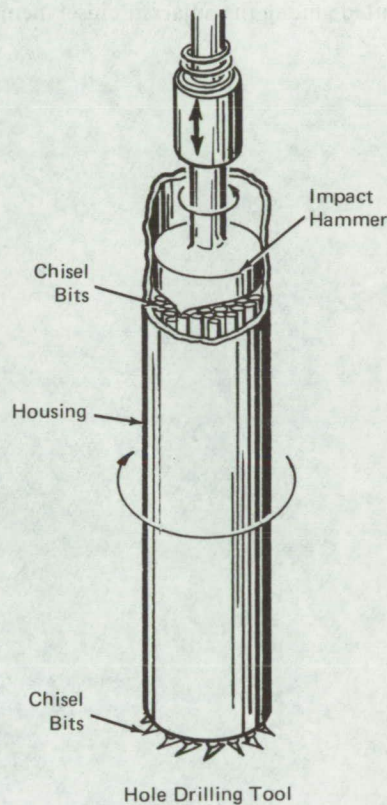


Figure 2.

The solution:

Several planetary rock corers and drill design concepts were developed for such applications.

How it's done:

The rock corer, shown in Figure 1, is a rotary-impact multiple-chisel-bit trepan. The chisel bits are supported and guided within the housing which rotates in one direction; the impact hammer rotates in the opposite direction. The hammer can be designed to strike all the chisel members simultaneously or diametrically opposite

The problem:

To obtain subsurface rock samples in future planetary explorations, a highly efficient and versatile tool is needed. The tool is to be designed for unmanned space vehicles.

(continued overleaf)

chisel pairs sequentially. Impact can be provided by a solenoid actuator and a return spring or by some other equivalent mechanical means. For a more effective local fracture of the rock, the adjacent bits are arranged at different angles. In addition, to minimize the required power and to increase the impact frequency rate, the bits are long and slim-sectioned. A conveyor arrangement built in among the chisel members removes the fractured material and prevents clogging of the tool.

The hole drilling tool, as shown in Figure 2, is similar in construction to the trepan. In this tool, however, the chisel members are not mounted along the perimeter only but fill the housing. Again, helical fracture material removing conveyors may be properly distributed among the adjacent chisel members.

Note:

Requests for further information may be directed to:
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Patent status:

No patent action is contemplated by NASA.

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