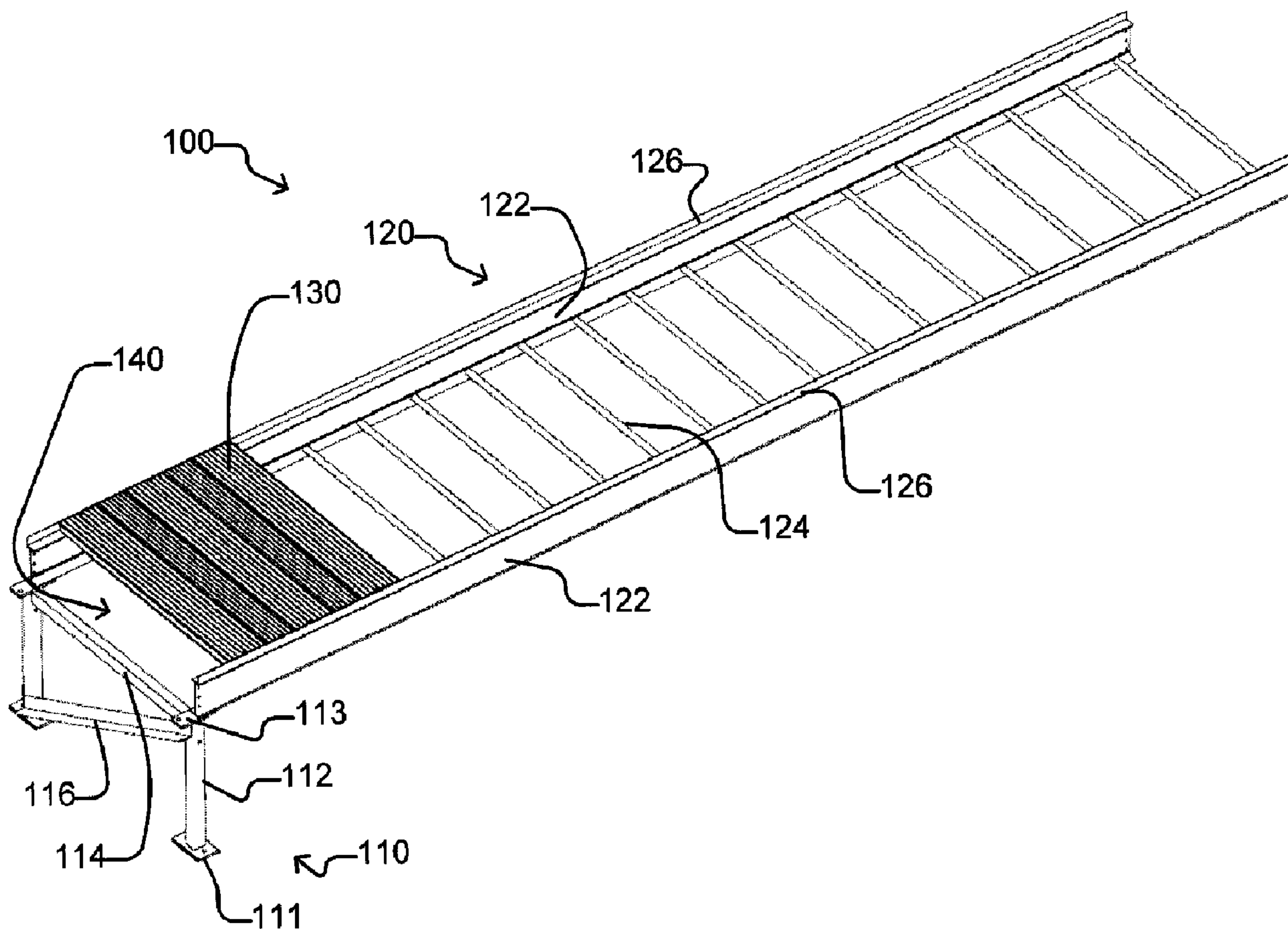




(22) Date de dépôt/Filing Date: 2008/12/29
(41) Mise à la disp. pub./Open to Public Insp.: 2010/06/29
(45) Date de délivrance/Issue Date: 2011/09/13

(51) Cl.Int./Int.Cl. *E04G 1/00* (2006.01),
B66B 21/00 (2006.01), *E01D 18/00* (2006.01),
E01D 19/00 (2006.01)
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(54) Titre : SYSTEME DE PASSERELLE INTEGRE
(54) Title: INTEGRATED WALKWAY SYSTEM



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

A walkway system comprising a plurality of frame assemblies, each having a pair of spaced apart beam support plates on an upper side thereof, and a plurality of pairs of beams. Each pair of beams is supported by pairs of spaced apart beam support plates of at

(57) **Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):**

least two frame assemblies. A plurality of cross members extend between lower portions of the pairs of beams. The cross members are configured to support one or more cables resting thereupon. A plurality of decking members extend between the pairs of beams. The decking members are secured to upper sides of the beams. The cross members, beams and decking members cooperate to form a partial enclosure for the cables, thereby eliminating the need for a separate cable tray.

Abstract of the Disclosure

A walkway system comprising a plurality of frame assemblies, each having a pair of spaced apart beam support plates on an upper side thereof, and a
5 plurality of pairs of beams. Each pair of beams is supported by pairs of spaced apart beam support plates of at least two frame assemblies. A plurality of cross members extend between lower portions of the pairs of beams. The cross members are configured to support one or more cables resting thereupon. A plurality of decking members extend between the pairs of
10 beams. The decking members are secured to upper sides of the beams. The cross members, beams and decking members cooperate to form a partial enclosure for the cables, thereby eliminating the need for a separate cable tray.

INTEGRATED WALKWAY SYSTEM

Technical Field

5 [0001] The invention relates to walkways. Certain embodiments provide integrated walkway systems for use with railways.

Background

10 [0002] Walkways are often erected next to railways, particularly next to elevated railways. Such walkways may facilitate access to the tracks for maintenance staff. Walkways may also be erected to provide a safe platform for receiving passengers exiting from trains in the event of an emergency or an unscheduled stop between stations.

15 [0003] Figures 17A-C show an example section of a prior art walkway. In the illustrated example, a steel frame is provided which includes a number of vertical posts 10, diagonal braces 12, lateral supports 14, upper longitudinal supports 16 and lower longitudinal supports 18. Lateral supports 14 support one or more cable trays 20 (see Figure 17C). Cable trays 20 are provided for carrying cables. A cover plate 17 may be attached between 20 upper longitudinal supports 16 and lower longitudinal supports 18. Upper longitudinal supports 16 support a plurality of decking planks 30, which are typically covered with safety tread to provide increased traction.

25 [0004] Typical prior art walkways are generally constructed primarily from steel, due to its strength. However, steel can be relatively difficult to work with, and is relatively heavy, which can lead to increased costs. Also, it is often not cost effective to form curved walkways from steel, so instead prior art walkways are typically made up of a number of straight sections when the walkway is placed alongside a curved railway.

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[0005] The foregoing examples of the related art and limitations related thereto are intended to be illustrative and not exclusive. Other limitations of

the related art will become apparent to those of skill in the art upon a reading of the specification and a study of the drawings.

Summary

5 [0006] The following embodiments and aspects thereof are described and illustrated in conjunction with systems, tools and methods which are meant to be exemplary and illustrative, not limiting in scope. In various embodiments, one or more of the above-described problems have been reduced or eliminated, while other embodiments are directed to other
10 improvements.

[0007] One aspect of the invention provides a walkway system comprising a decking assembly which both supports cables and serves as part of the structural support of the walkway system. Certain embodiments of the
15 invention thus provide walkway systems which are structurally sound and are more cost effective and faster and easier to install than typical prior art walkway systems.

[0008] Another aspect of the invention provides a walkway system
20 comprising a plurality of frame assemblies, each having a pair of spaced apart beam support plates on an upper side thereof, and a plurality of pairs of beams. Each pair of beams is supported by pairs of spaced apart beam support plates of at least two frame assemblies. A plurality of cross members extend between lower portions of the pairs of beams. The cross members are
25 configured to support one or more cables resting thereupon. A plurality of decking members extend between the pairs of beams. The decking members are secured to upper sides of the beams. The cross members, beams and decking members cooperate to form a partial enclosure for the cables, thereby eliminating the need for a separate cable tray.

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[0009] Further aspects of the invention and details of example embodiments are described below.

Brief Description of Drawings

5 **[0010]** In drawings which illustrate non-limiting example embodiments of the invention:

[0011] Figure 1 shows a section of walkway system according to one embodiment of the invention with some of the decking members removed;

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[0012] Figure 1A shows a support assembly of the walkway system of Figure 1;

15 **[0013]** Figure 1B shows a number of sections of the walkway system of Figure 1 joined together;

[0014] Figure 2 shows an end view of the walkway system of Figure 1;

20 **[0015]** Figure 3 is a close-up view of a portion of the walkway system of Figure 1;

[0016] Figure 4 is a top view of decking members according to one embodiment of the invention;

25 **[0017]** Figure 5 is a sectional view taken along line C-C of Figure 4;

[0018] Figure 6 is a sectional view of a first type of decking member;

30 **[0019]** Figure 7 is a sectional view of a second type of decking member;

- [0020] Figure 8 is a top view of decking members arranged to follow a curve according to one embodiment of the invention;
- 5 [0021] Figure 9 is a sectional view taken along line A-A of Figure 8;
- [0022] Figure 10 is a sectional view taken along line B-B of Figure 8;
- [0023] Figure 11 is a close-up view of a portion of a walkway system according to another embodiment of the invention;
- 10 [0024] Figures 12 and 12A show a section of walkway system according to another embodiment of the invention and a support assembly therefor;
- [0025] Figure 13 shows a section of walkway system according to
15 another embodiment of the invention;
- [0026] Figure 13A is an enlarged view of the area indicated by circle A in Figure 13;
- 20 [0027] Figure 13B shows the step of Figure 13 in isolation;
- [0028] Figure 13C is an enlarged view of the area indicated by circle C in Figure 13;
- 25 [0029] Figure 13D is an overhead view of the walkway system of Figure 13;
- [0030] Figures 14 and 14A show a section of walkway system according to another embodiment of the invention and a support assembly therefor;
- 30

[0031] Figures 15 and 15A show a section of walkway system according to another embodiment of the invention and a support assembly therefor;

5 [0032] Figures 16 and 16A show a section of walkway system according to another embodiment of the invention and a support assembly therefor;

[0033] Figure 16B shows the walkway system of Figure 16 attached to a vertical wall; and,

10 [0034] Figures 17A-C show an example prior art walkway system.

Description

15 [0035] Throughout the following description specific details are set forth in order to provide a more thorough understanding to persons skilled in the art. However, well known elements may not have been shown or described in detail to avoid unnecessarily obscuring the disclosure. Accordingly, the description and drawings are to be regarded in an illustrative, rather than a restrictive, sense.

20 [0036] Figures 1, 1A, 1B, 2 and 3 show an integrated walkway system **100** according to an example embodiment of the invention. Walkway system **100** comprises a plurality of support assemblies **110** which are configured to be secured to the ground or other supporting structure upon which walkway system **100** is to be mounted. A decking assembly **120** is mounted atop
25 support assemblies **110**. Walkway system **100** is preferably constructed entirely or almost entirely from aluminum, thereby providing reduced weight as compared to prior art walkway systems, which are typically constructed primarily from steel. The aluminum construction of walkway system **100** also facilitates the formation of curves sections of walkway system **100**.

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[0037] Decking assembly **120** defines a partial enclosure **140** in which a plurality of electrical cables or other elongated members may be supported, as described further below. Walkway system **100** thus eliminates the need for separate supporting structures such as cable trays or the like, which is typically required in prior art walkway systems in order to accommodate cables or other elongated members.

[0038] In the embodiment shown in Figures 1-3, each support assembly **110** comprises a pair of generally vertical posts **112** connected by a horizontal brace **114** and a diagonal brace **116**. Each post **112** has a base plate **111** coupled to the bottom thereof for securing frame assembly **110** to the supporting structure (not shown). Each post **112** also has a beam support plate **113** coupled to the top thereof for securing frame assembly **110** to decking assembly **120**, as described below. Beam support plates **113** are longitudinally-oriented rectangular plates in the illustrated embodiment.

[0039] As shown in Figures 1B and 3, supplemental support braces **118** may be provided for some frame assemblies **110**. The bottoms of support braces **118** are coupled to anchor plates (not specifically enumerated) for securing to the supporting structure, and the tops of support braces **118** are coupled to posts **112**, preferably at upper portions thereof. Supplemental support braces **118** may be provided, for example, at every third support assembly **110**, or at other locations (which may or may not be evenly spaced) along walkway system **100**.

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[0040] Decking assembly **120** comprises a single structural beam **122** along each side thereof. A plurality of longitudinally-oriented beams **122** are arranged in pairs along the length of walkway system **100**. In the illustrated embodiment, beams **122** are straight, but may be curved to facilitate the construction of curved sections of walkway system **100**. Each beam **122** has

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a height **H** (see Figure 2) sufficient to accommodate the installation of cables within decking system **120**, as described below. In some embodiments, **H** is at least 18 centimeters.

- 5 **[0041]** In the illustrated embodiment, each beam **122** comprises an I-beam having an upper flange **122U** and a lower flange **122L** connected by a central webbing **122W** (see Figure 2). In other embodiments, beams **122** may comprise "C"-channels, siderails, or custom extrusion members.
- 10 **[0042]** Each beam **122** is positioned atop beam support plates **113** of two or more support assemblies **110**. Beams **122** may be attached to beam support plates **113** using suitable fasteners such as, for example, bolts and nuts. In the illustrated embodiment, the ends of adjacent beams **122** running along one side of decking assembly **120** abut one another at the midpoints of
- 15 beam support plates **113**. Splice plates **121** (see Figure 3) are preferably attached to the ends of adjacent beams **122** to cover the junctions therebetween. Splice plates **121** may be attached to beams **122** using suitable fasteners such as, for example, bolts and nuts.
- 20 **[0043]** A plurality of cross members **124** extend between each pair of beams **122** for supporting cables **C** (not shown in Figures 1-3, see Figure 16B) or other flexible elongated members thereon. Cross members **124** are fixedly attached to lower portions of beams **122**. In some embodiments, cross members **124** are welded to beams **122** in a suitable fabrication facility before
- 25 being delivered to the location where walkway system **100** is to be installed. Cross members **124** are preferably supported by flanges extending inwardly from the bottoms of beams **122**. In the illustrated embodiment, cross members **124** are supported by lower flanges **122L** of beams **122**. Cross members **124** may be spaced approximately 30 cm (1 foot) apart in some embodiments. In
- 30 other embodiments, cross members **124** may be spaced closer together or

farther apart, depending upon the flexibility (or lack thereof) of the cables or other elongated members to be supported by cross members **124**.

[0044] A rim angle **126** may be attached to the top of each beam **122**.

5 Rim angles **126** may be attached to beams **122** using suitable fasteners, such as bolts and nuts, for example. A plurality of decking members **130** extend between the rim angles **126** attached atop each pair of beams **122**. Rim angles **126** provide upwardly extending flanges for aiding in the positioning of decking members **130**. Decking members **130** provide structural support for
10 decking assembly **120** by holding the tops of each pair of beams **122** in fixed relation to one another. In some embodiments, rim angles **126** may be attached to beams **122** using the same fasteners which are used to attach decking members **130** to beams **122**, as described below. Rim angles **126** are not required in all embodiments. For example, in some embodiments,
15 decking members **130** may be attached directly atop beams **122**.

[0045] Decking members **130** cooperate with beams **122** and cross members **124** to form a partial enclosure **140**. As noted above, cross members **124** are fixedly attached to bottom portions of beams **122**. Decking
20 members **130** are fastened between the tops of beams **122**, as described below, to provide increased structural stability to decking assembly **120**. Partial enclosure **140** provides protection and support for cables located therein, and thus avoids the need for cable trays.

25 **[0046]** Figures 4 to 10 show details of decking members **130** according to one embodiment of the invention. In the illustrated embodiment, decking members **130** come in one of two types: a first type of decking member **130A**, as shown in Figure 6, and a second type of decking member **130B** as shown in Figure 7. As shown in Figures 4 and 5, decking members **130A**
30 and **130B** (collectively referred to as decking members **130**) are arranged in

alternating fashion. Decking members **130A** and **130B** respectively comprise tread plates **131A** and **131B** (collectively referred to as tread plates **131**) forming the tops thereof. Tread plates **131** may have ridges **132** protruding upwardly therefrom for providing increased traction for people walking on decking members **130**. Decking members **130A** and **130B** may also have reinforcing ribs **133A** and **133B**, respectively, extending downwardly from central portions thereof to provide increased rigidity to decking members **130**.

[0047] Each decking member **130A** has a pair of webs **134A** extending downwardly from tread plate **131A** near the edges thereof. Webs **134A** are set back from the edges of tread plate **131A** by a distance **D1**, to define flanges **135A**. Webs **134A** have a width equal to a distance **D2**.

[0048] Each decking member **130B** has a pair of interlocking features **134B** at the edge of tread plate **131B** configured to correspond with the structure of decking members **130A**. Each interlocking feature **134B** comprises a first portion **135B** extending outwardly from the bottom of tread plate **131B** for a distance equal to **D1**, to accommodate flanges **135A** of decking members **130A**. A second portion **136B** extends downwardly from first portion **135B** by a distance equal to the height of webs **134A**, and a third portion **137B** extends outwardly from the bottom of second portion **135B** by a distance **D3**. A fourth portion **138B** extends upwardly from the outward edge of third portion **137B**. Distance **D3** is greater than distance **D2**, and may be more than three times greater than distance **D2** in some embodiments to allow decking members **130** to be arranged in a curved configuration, as described below with reference to Figures 8 to 10. For example, in some embodiments, distance **D2** is approximately 2.5 millimeters and distance **D3** is 8 millimeters or more.

[0049] As shown in Figures 4 and 5, decking members **130** may be arranged in a straight configuration, with webs **134A** of decking members **130A** either abutting or spaced slightly apart from second portions **136B** of decking members **130B**. When installed, first portions **135B** and third portions **137B** of interlocking features **134B** of decking members **130B** are held in place under flanges **135A** and webs **134A**, respectively, of decking members **130A**. Decking members **130** may be secured to beams **122** (and rim angles **126**) by bolting or otherwise fastening decking members **130A** to beams **122** at locations indicated by reference characters **139**. Decking members **130B** are thus held in place by portions of interlocking features **134B** located under corresponding portions of decking members **130A** without requiring bolts or other fasteners through decking members **130B**. Accordingly, only half as many bolts or other fasteners are required to secure decking members **130** in place as compared to prior art decking systems.

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[0050] Decking members **130** may also be arranged in a curved configuration, as shown in Figures 8 to 10. To arrange decking members **130** in a curved configuration, webs **134A** of decking members **130A** are positioned to abut second portions **136B** of decking members **130B** along one side of decking members **130**, as shown in Figure 9, and webs **134A** of decking members **130A** are positioned to be spaced apart from second portions **136B** of decking members **130B** along the other side of decking members **130**, as shown in Figure 10. This advantageously allows decking members **130** to be mounted on curved beams **122** without requiring specially made wedge-shaped decking, as would typically be required in prior art decking systems.

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[0051] In some embodiments, decking members **130** have a length equal to a spacing between beams **122**. In other embodiments, decking members **130** may be longer than the spacing between beams **122**. Figure 11 shows an

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embodiment similar to the embodiment of Figures 1-3 wherein rim angles **126** have been replaced with cantilevered rim members **127** to accommodate decking members **130'** which are longer than the spacing between beams **122**. Cantilevered rim members **127** and decking members **130'** may be attached to
5 beams **122** using suitable fasteners at locations indicated by reference characters **139'**.

[0052] To install walkway system **100**, support assemblies **110** are first mounted at predetermined locations along the length of the walkway.
10 Supplemental support braces **118** may be provided for selected support assemblies, as described above. Next, a plurality of pairs of beams **122** (each pair of beams **122** coupled together by cross members **124**) are fastened to beam support plates **113** of support assemblies. Each beam **122** may be attached to the associated beam support plates **113** using suitable fasteners
15 such as, for example, bolts and nuts. Splice plates **121** are then fastened between the adjacent ends of beams **122**. Next, cables may be laid out atop cross members **124**. Once the cables are in place, decking members **130** (and optionally rim angles **126**) are fastened across the tops of beams **122**.

20 **[0053]** Figures 12 to 16 show walkway systems **200**, **300**, **400**, **500** and **600** according to other embodiments of the invention. Walkway systems **200**, **300**, **400**, **500** and **600** are similar to walkway system **100**, and where applicable, corresponding features thereof are indicated using corresponding reference characters (for example, for system **200**, reference characters for
25 features corresponding to those in system **100** have the form **2xx** in place of **1xx**). To avoid unnecessary repetition, features of systems **200**, **300**, **400**, **500** and **600** which are analogous to those described above will not be described again.

[0054] Figures 12 and 12A show a walkway system **200** which comprises a support assembly **210** configured for supporting decking assembly **220** from both the ground (or other horizontal supporting structure) and a vertical wall. Support assembly **210** comprises a post **212** with one of the beam support plates **213** at the top thereof, which is anchored to the ground using a base plate **211**. The other of the beam support plates **213** is coupled to a side wall anchor plate **215**, which is coupled to post **212** by horizontal brace **214**. Side wall anchor plate **215** may be secured to the vertical wall using suitable fasteners.

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[0055] Figures 13 and 13A-D show a walkway system **300** which comprises a step **328** which facilitates walking between an upper decking assembly **320U** and a lower decking assembly **320L**. As shown in Figure 13B, step **328** comprises inwardly extending flanges **328A** at the bottom thereof. Flanges **328A** are configured to be secured under rim angles **326** of lower decking assembly **320L**. End plates **325** are attached to cover the ends of upper and lower decking assemblies **320U** and **320L** and the exposed side of step **328**. The beams **322** of upper decking assembly **320U** are supported by beam support plates **313** of support assemblies **310**, as are the beams **322** of lower decking assembly **320L** except at the junction between upper and lower decking assemblies **320U** and **320L**. At the junction between upper and lower decking assemblies **320U** and **320L**, support assembly **310** comprises one or more beam support flanges **323** attached to posts **312**. Also, as shown in Figure 13D, beams **322** of walkway system **300** are not parallel, but instead are at an angle to provide a change in width of walkway system **300**. Accordingly, cross members **324** and decking members **330** are likewise adapted to conform to the tapering width between beams **322**.

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[0056] Figures 14 and 14A show a walkway system **400** which comprises a support assembly **410** configured to support one or more

handrails **442** along one side thereof (two handrails are shown in the illustrated embodiment). Support assembly **410** comprises a socket **415** which is supported on one of posts **412** by a socket support plate **417**. Socket **415** is configured to receive a handrail post **419** which in turn supports handrails **442**. Decking assembly **420** has one rim angle **426** atop one beam **422**, and has a kickplate **444** attached atop the beam **422** adjacent to handrails **442**. A cable separator **429** may also be provided within decking assembly **420**.

[0057] Figures 15 and 15A show a walkway system **500** which comprises a support assembly **510** configured to support one or more handrails **542** down a central portion thereof (two handrails are shown in the illustrated embodiment). Support assembly **510** comprises a pair of diagonal braces **515** and **516** arranged in an "X" configuration between posts **512**. Diagonal braces **515** and **516** support a handrail post **519**, the bottom end of which may be coupled therebetween. A pair of horizontal braces **514** extend between the tops of posts **512** on either side of handrail post **519**. Handrail post **519** supports handrails **542**, and also comprises one or more decking support flanges **517** for supporting decking members **530**. Decking members **530** in the region of handrail post are adapted to fit around handrail post **519**, for example, by providing a hole therethrough or by providing a pair of smaller sized decking members (not shown), each extending from handrail post **519** out to one of beams **522**.

[0058] Figures 16, 16A and 16B show a walkway system **600** which comprises a support assembly **610** configured for supporting decking assembly **620** from only a vertical wall. Support assembly **610** comprises a lower side wall anchor plate **651** and an upper side wall anchor plate **652**. Anchor plates **651** and **652** may be secured to the wall using suitable fastener (not shown) and corresponding backing plates **653** and **654**, respectively. An angled support **655** extends outwardly and upwardly from lower side wall anchor

plate **651**. An outer post **656**, which has one beam support plate **613** on the top thereof, extends upwardly from the outer end of angled support **655**. Outer post **656** may also comprise a socket support plate **617** for supporting a socket **615** and a handrail post **619**. An inner post **657**, which has the other
5 beam support plate **613** on the top thereof, extends upwardly from an inner portion of angled support **655**. A first pair of angled braces **658** extend outwardly and downwardly from upper side wall anchor plate **652** and are coupled to either side of both inner and outer posts **657** and **656**. A second pair of angled braces **659** extend outwardly and downwardly from either side
10 of inner post **657** to either side of outer post **656**.

[0059] While a number of exemplary aspects and embodiments have been discussed above, those of skill in the art will recognize certain modifications, permutations, additions and sub-combinations thereof. It is
15 therefore intended that the following appended claims and claims hereafter introduced are interpreted to include all such modifications, permutations, additions and sub-combinations as are within their true spirit and scope.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A walkway system comprising:
 - a plurality of support assemblies, each support assembly comprising a pair of spaced apart beam support plates on an upper side thereof;
 - a plurality of pairs of beams, each pair of beams supported by pairs of spaced apart beam support plates of at least two support assemblies;
 - a plurality of spaced apart cross members extending between lower portions of the pairs of beams, the cross members having rounded upper surfaces configured to support one or more electrical cables resting thereupon; and,
 - a plurality of decking members extending between the pairs of beams, the decking members secured to upper sides of the beams, whereby the cross members, beams and decking members cooperate to form a partial enclosure for the electrical cables, thereby eliminating the need for a separate cable tray.
2. A walkway system according to claim 1 wherein each beam has an inwardly extending lower flange, and wherein the cross members are supported by the inwardly extending lower flanges of the beams.
3. A walkway system according to claim 1 wherein each beam comprises an I-beam having an upper flange and a lower flange connected by a generally vertically-oriented web, and wherein the cross members are supported by the lower flanges of the I-beams.
4. A walkway system according to claim 3 comprising a rim angle attached along a top side of the upper flange of each I-beam, each rim angle providing a flange extending upwardly from an outer edge thereof.
5. A walkway system according to claim 1 wherein the decking members comprise a plurality of first-type decking members and a plurality of second-type decking members, each of the first-type decking members having a pair of webs extending downwardly therefrom near an edge thereof to define a pair of flanges, and each of the second-type decking members having interlocking features extending outwardly and downwardly from edges thereof, the interlocking features comprising portions

configured to be held under the flanges and webs of the first-type decking members.

6. A walkway system according to claim 1 that is constructed entirely or almost entirely from aluminum.
7. A walkway system according to claim 3 comprising cantilevered rim members attached along a top side of the upper flange of each I-beam, the cantilevered rim members configured to accommodate decking members which are longer than the spacing between the I-beams.
8. A walkway system according to claim 3 wherein each support assembly comprises a pair of posts with a pair of diagonal braces arranged in an "X" configuration between spaced apart posts of the support assembly.
9. A walkway system according to claim 3 wherein the support assemblies are configured to be attached to both the ground and a vertical wall, wherein each support assembly comprises a first beam support plate anchored to the ground through a post and a second beam support plate coupled to the vertical wall.
10. A walkway system according to claim 3 wherein the support assemblies are configured to be attached to only a vertical wall, wherein each support assembly comprises a lower side wall anchor plate anchored to the vertical wall and an upper side wall anchor plate anchored to the vertical wall above the lower side wall anchor plate.
11. A walkway system according to claim 3 comprising one or more handrails supported by the support assemblies.
12. A walkway system according to claim 11 wherein the one or more handrails are coupled to the support assemblies by handrail posts which are received in sockets supported by socket support plates extending outwardly from the support assembly.
13. A walkway system according to claim 11 wherein each support assembly comprises a pair of posts with a pair of diagonal braces arranged in an "X" configuration between spaced apart posts of the support assembly, and wherein the one or more

handrails are coupled to the support assemblies by handrail posts extending through the decking members, the handrail posts supported by the diagonal braces.

14. A walkway system according to claim 1 comprising an end plate attached between ends of one of the pair of beams at an endpoint of the walkway system.
15. A walkway system according to any one of claims 1-14 wherein the cross members are spaced approximately 30 cm apart.
16. A walkway system according to any one of claims 1-14 wherein the cross members are spaced less than 30 cm apart.
17. A walkway system according to any one of claims 1-16 wherein the cross members have a generally circular cross-section.
18. A method of erecting a walkway, the method comprising:
 - mounting a plurality of support assemblies to a supporting structure at a plurality of predetermined locations, each support assembly comprising a pair of spaced apart beam support plates on an upper side thereof;
 - providing a plurality of prefabricated cable supporting structures, each cable supporting structure comprising a pair of beams coupled together at lower portions thereof by a plurality of cross members;
 - attaching the pair of beams of each cable supporting structure atop pairs of spaced apart beam support plates of at least two support assemblies;
 - laying one or more cables atop the cross members within the cable supporting structures; and
 - enclosing the cables within the cable supporting structures by attaching a plurality of decking members across the tops of the beams of each cable supporting structure, whereby the decking members provide sufficient structural integrity to the cable supporting structures to support foot traffic atop the decking members.

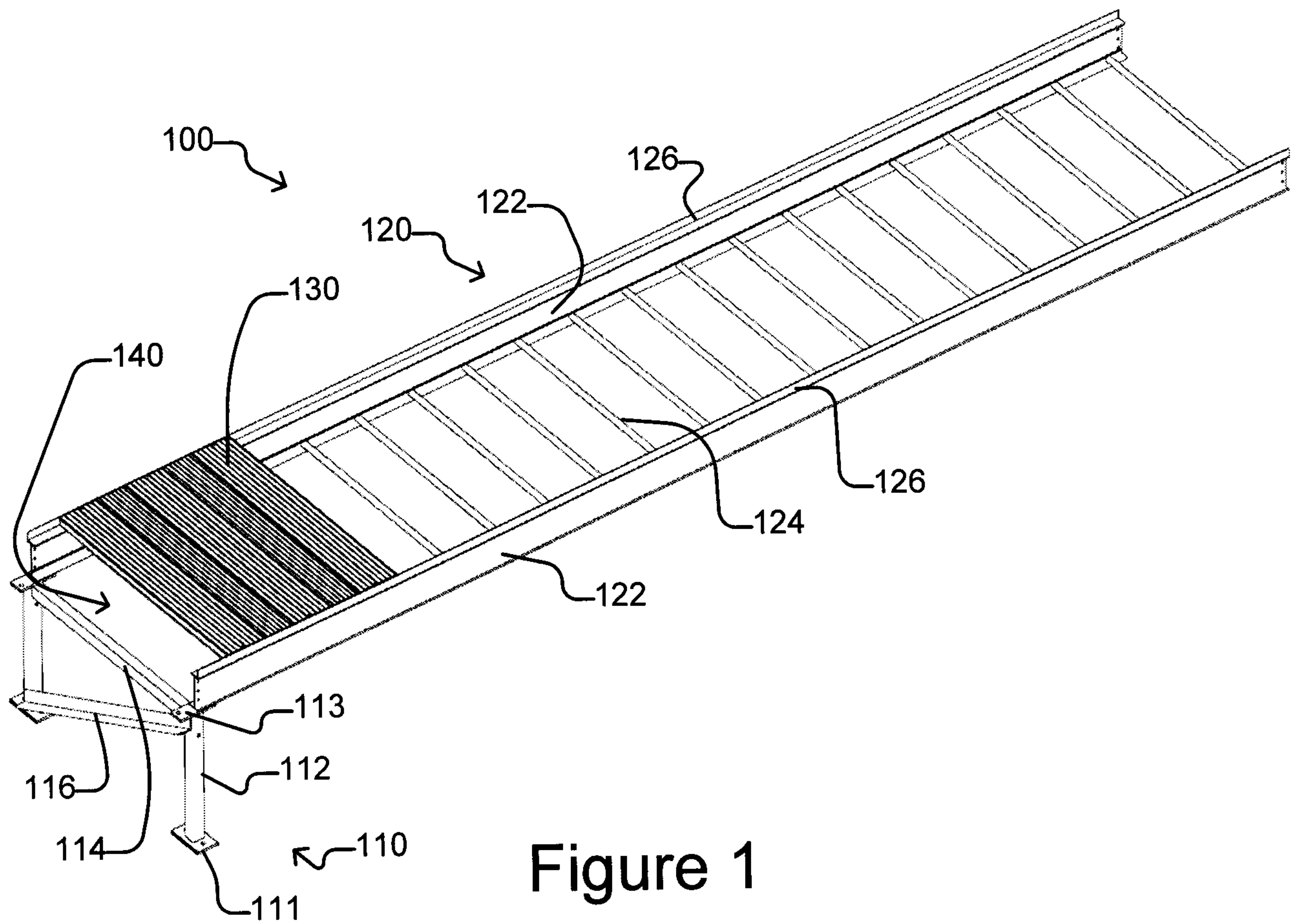


Figure 1

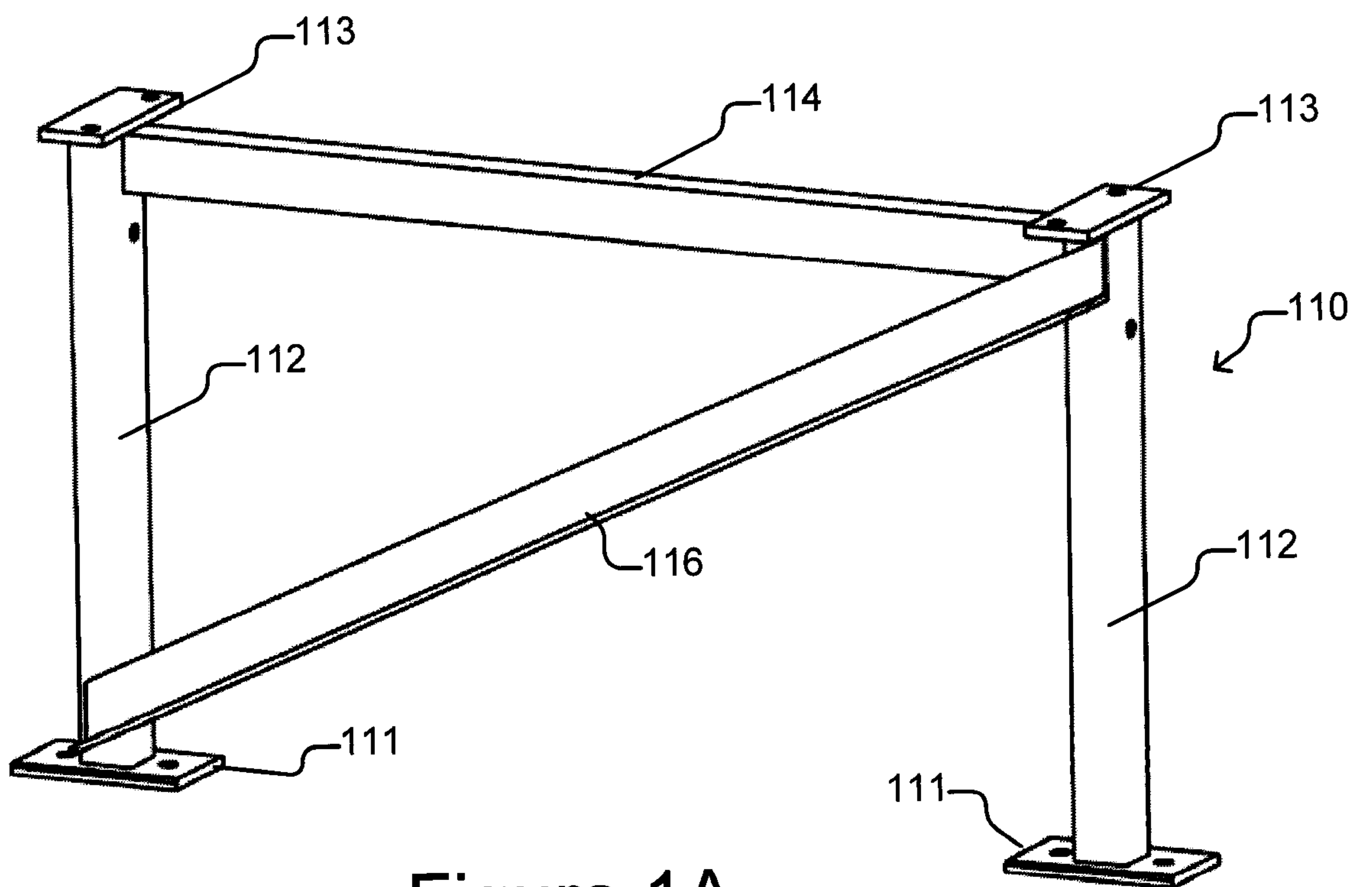


Figure 1A

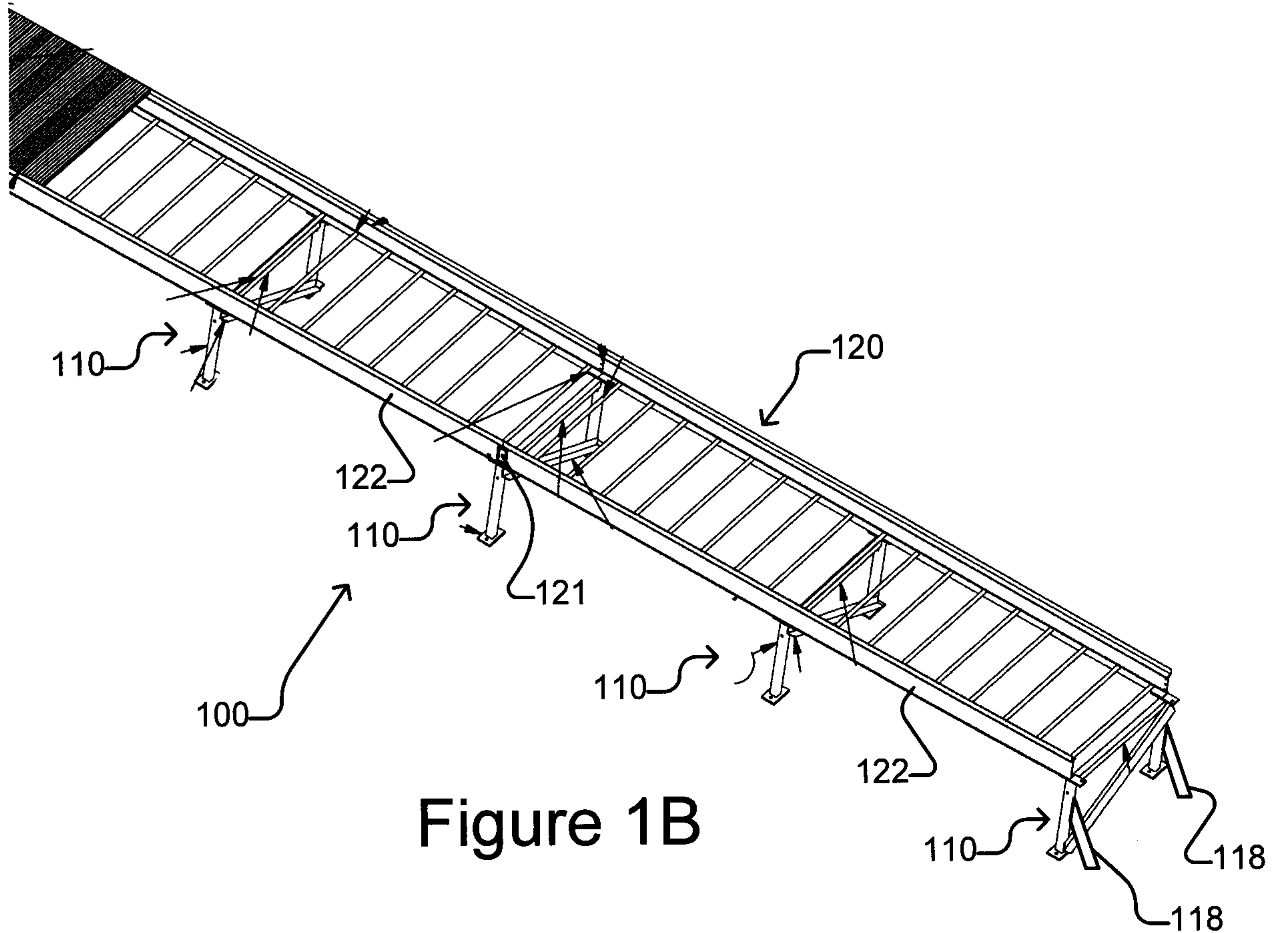


Figure 1B

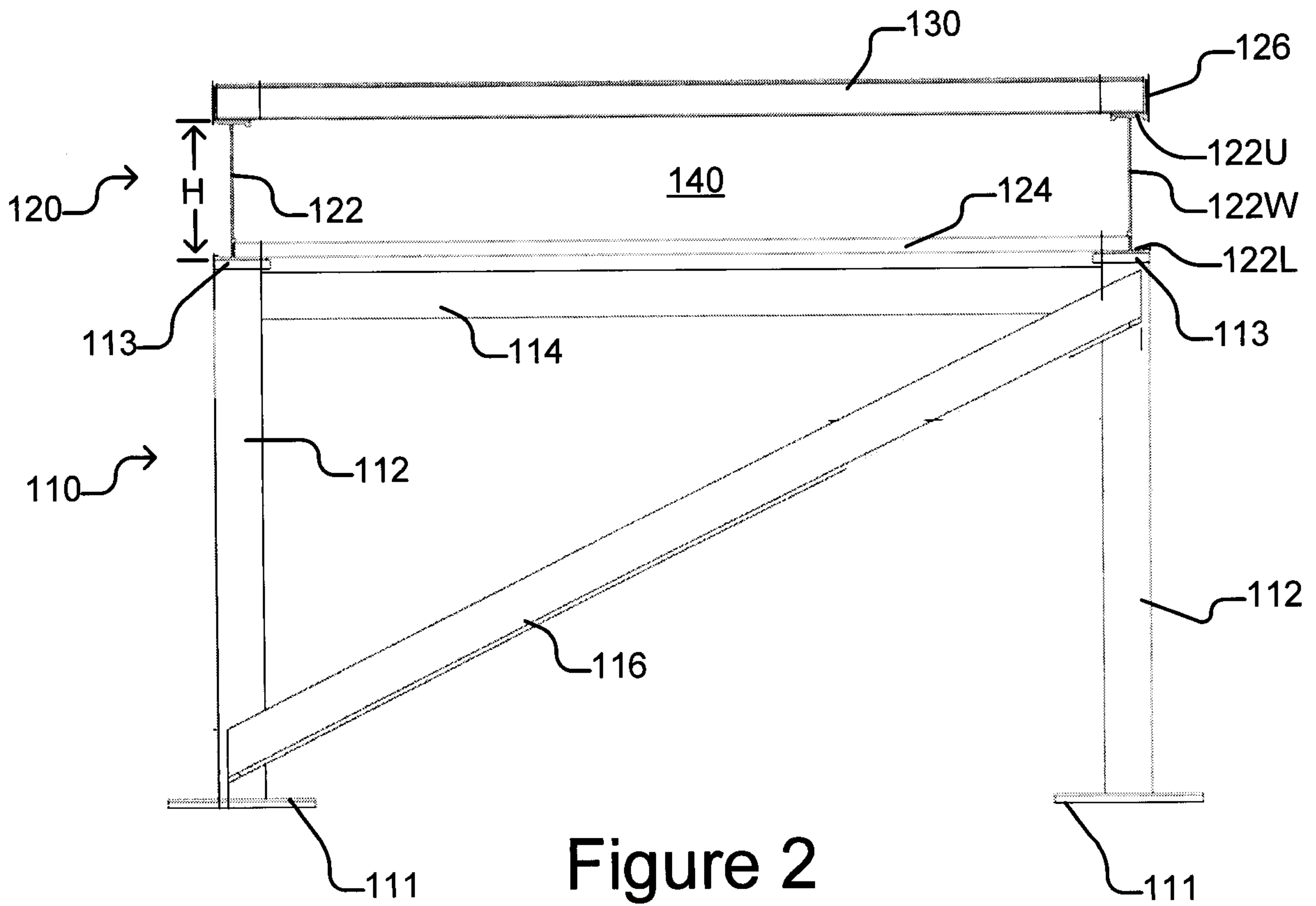


Figure 2

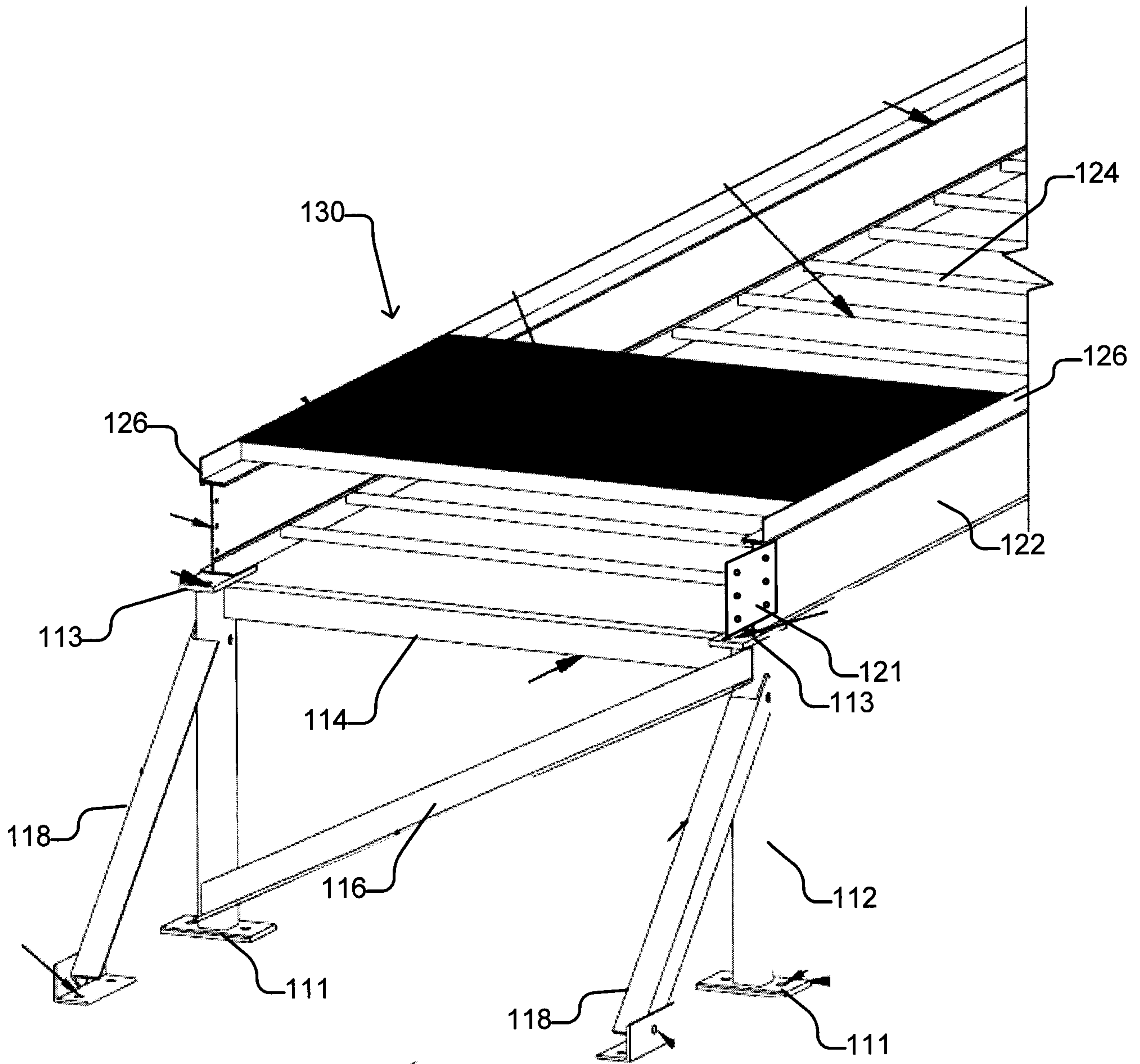
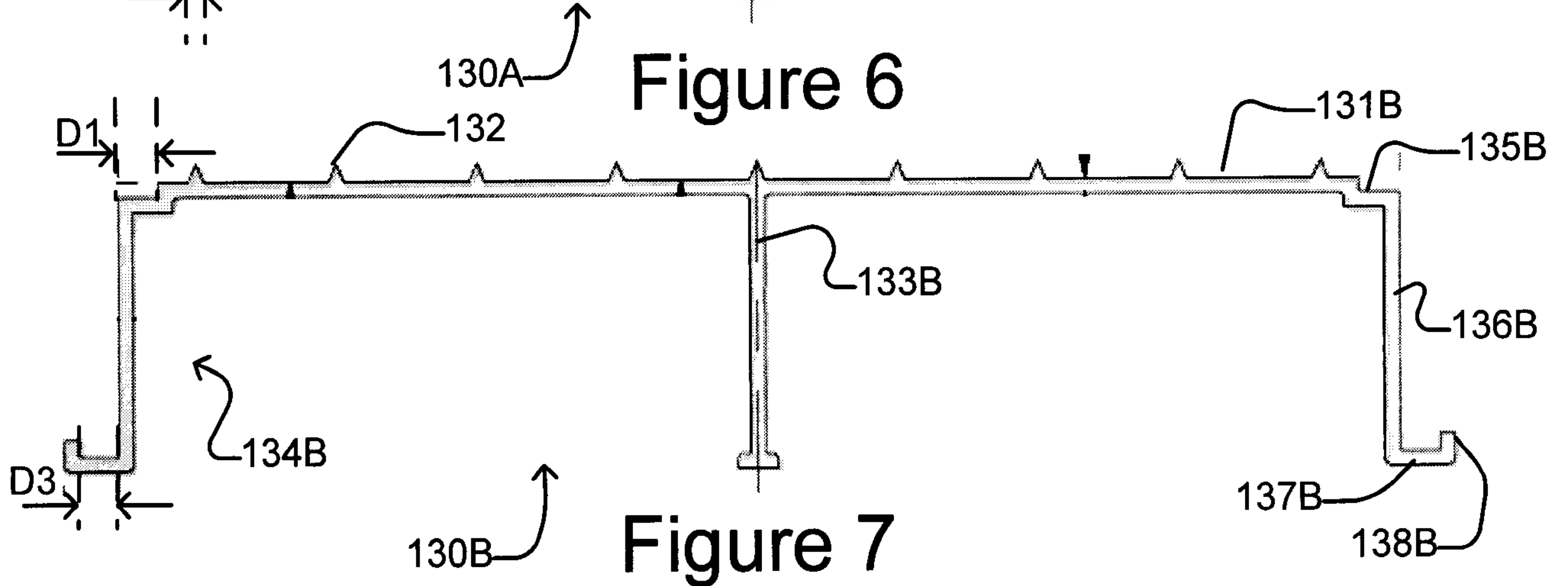
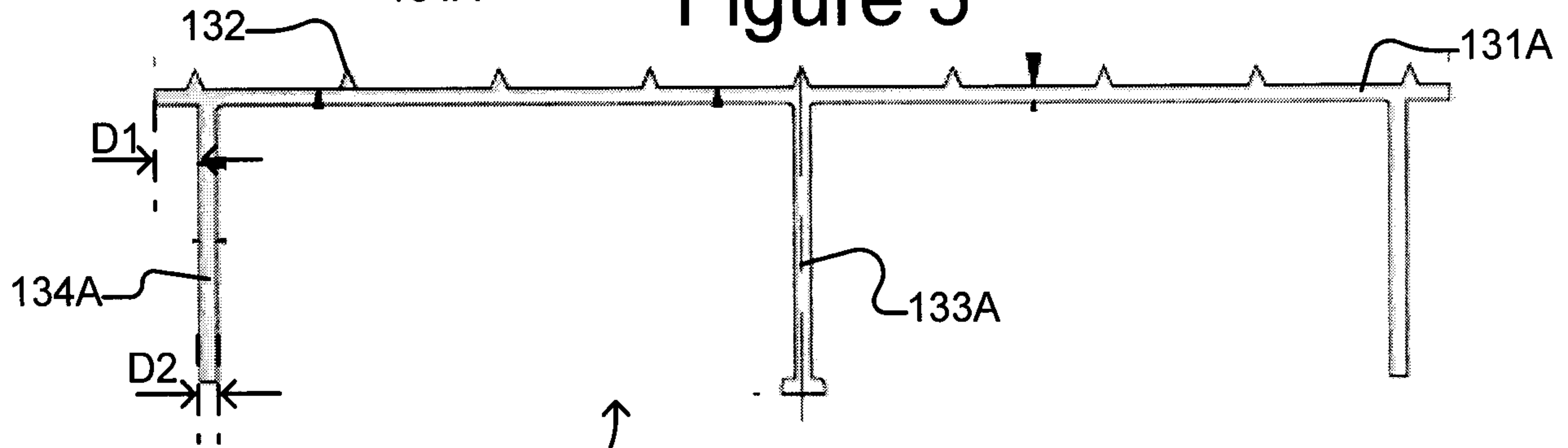
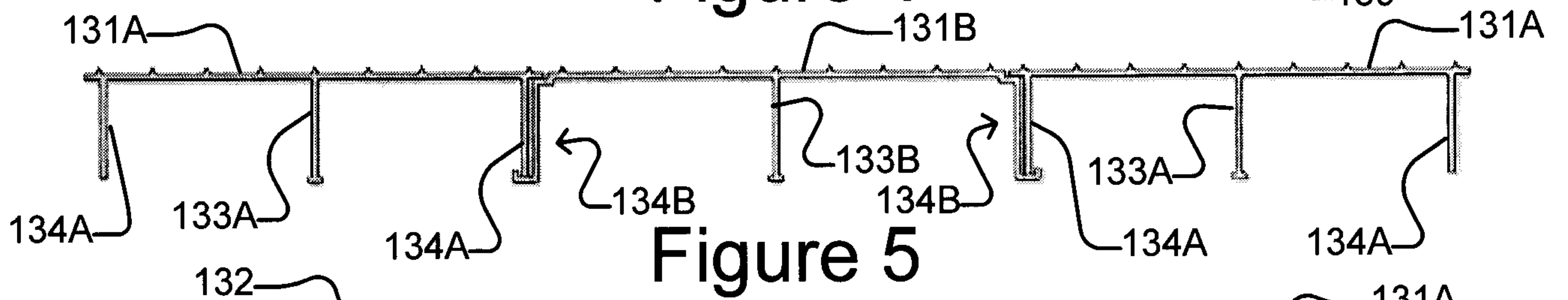
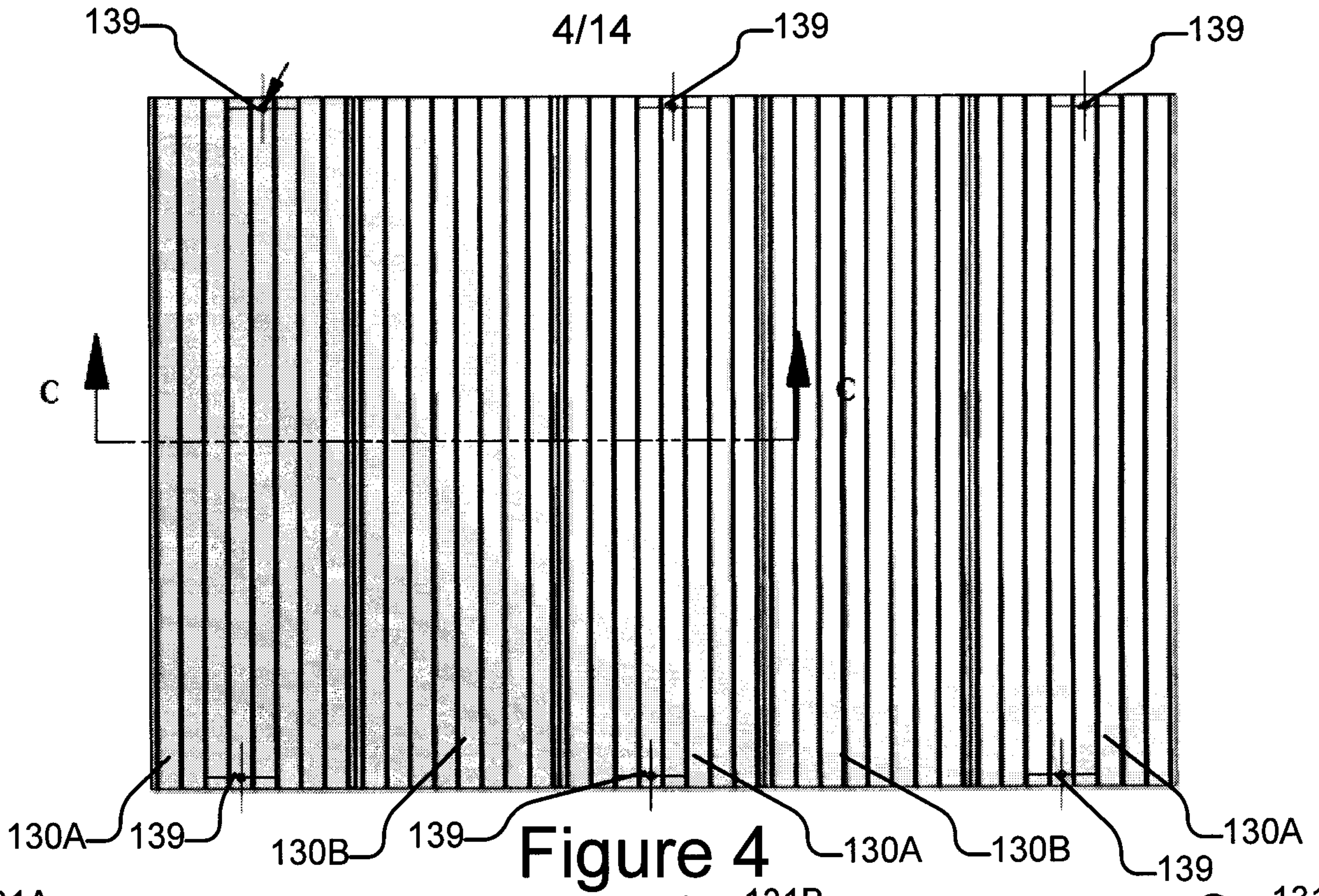


Figure 3



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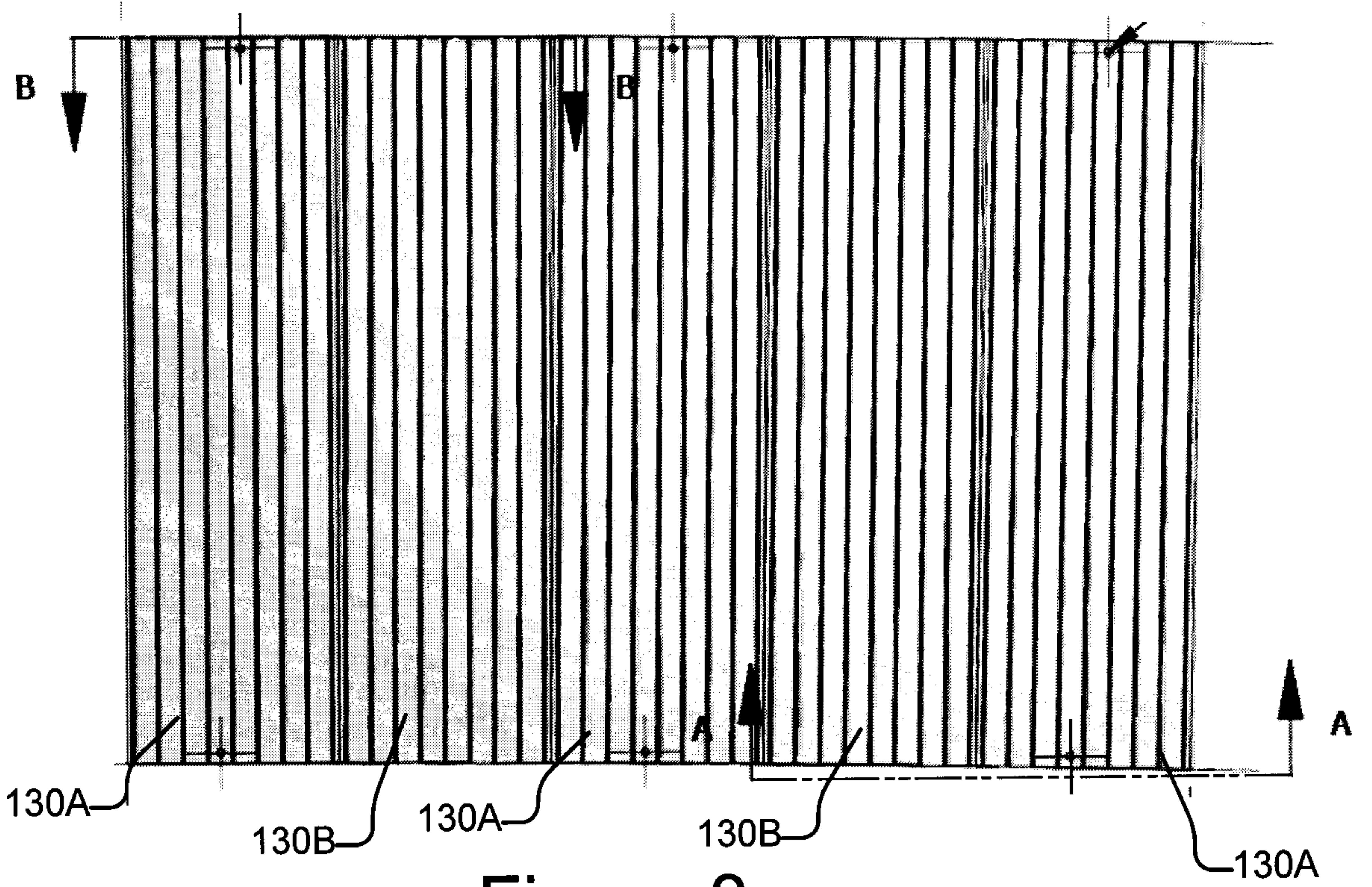


Figure 8

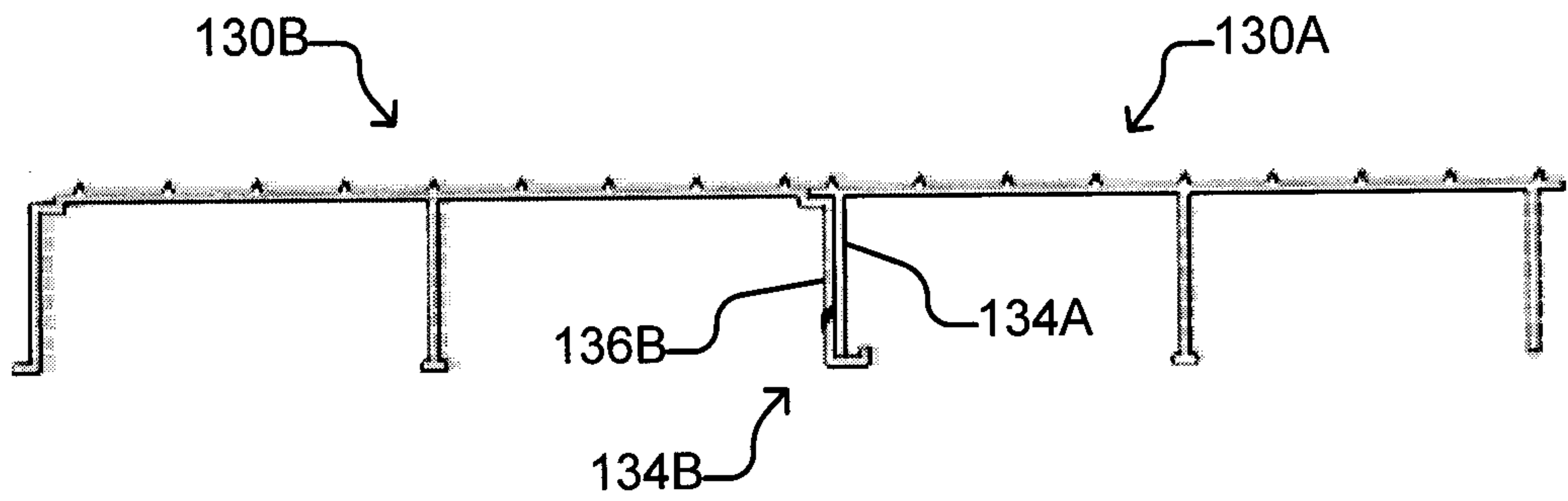


Figure 9

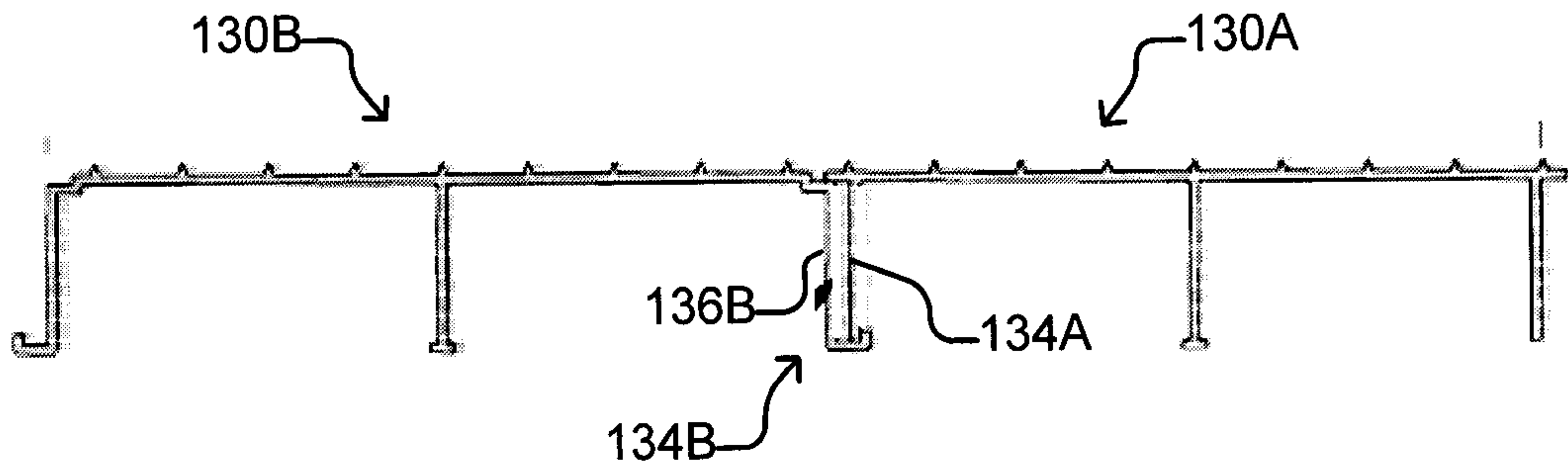


Figure 10

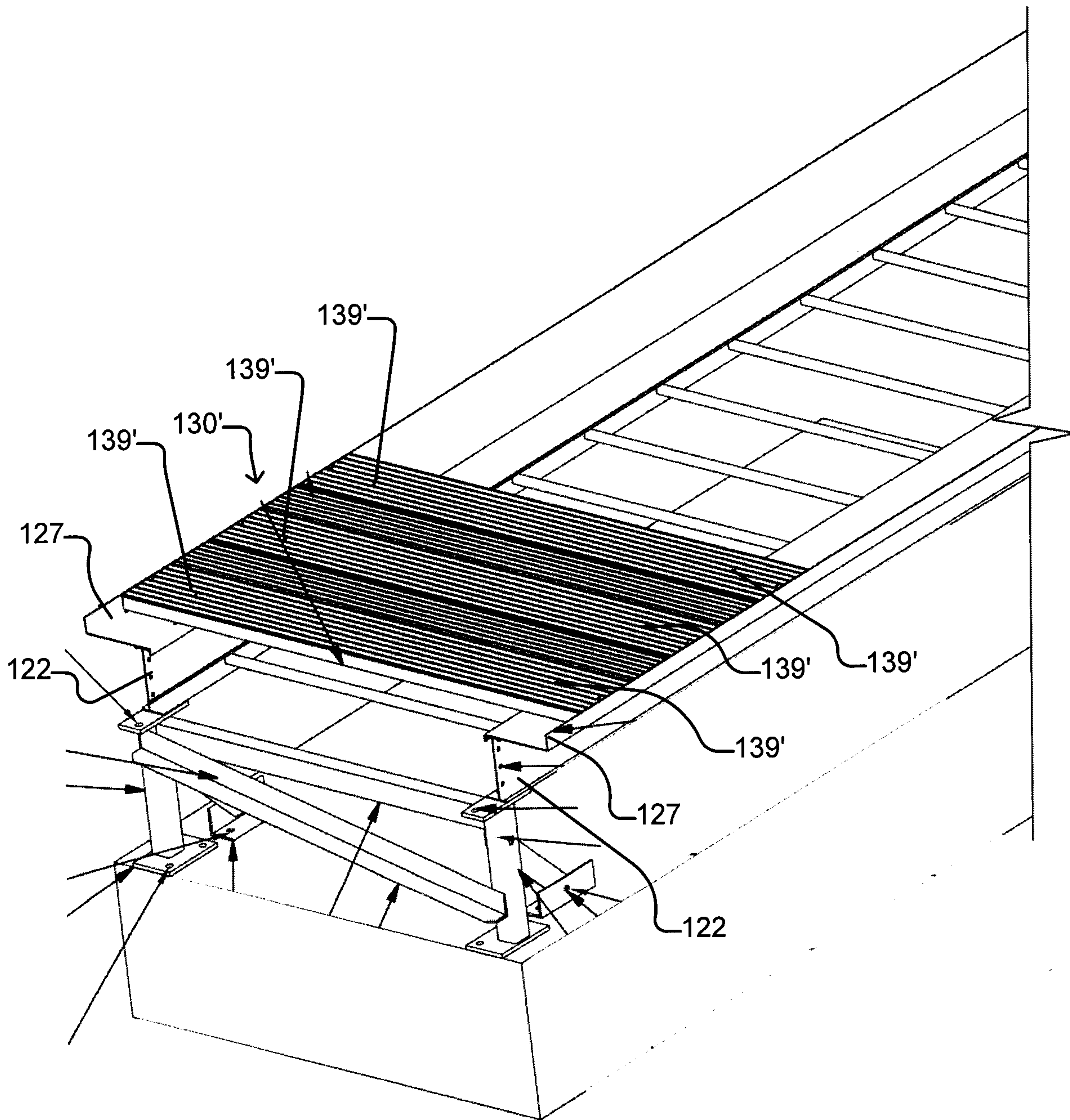


Figure 11

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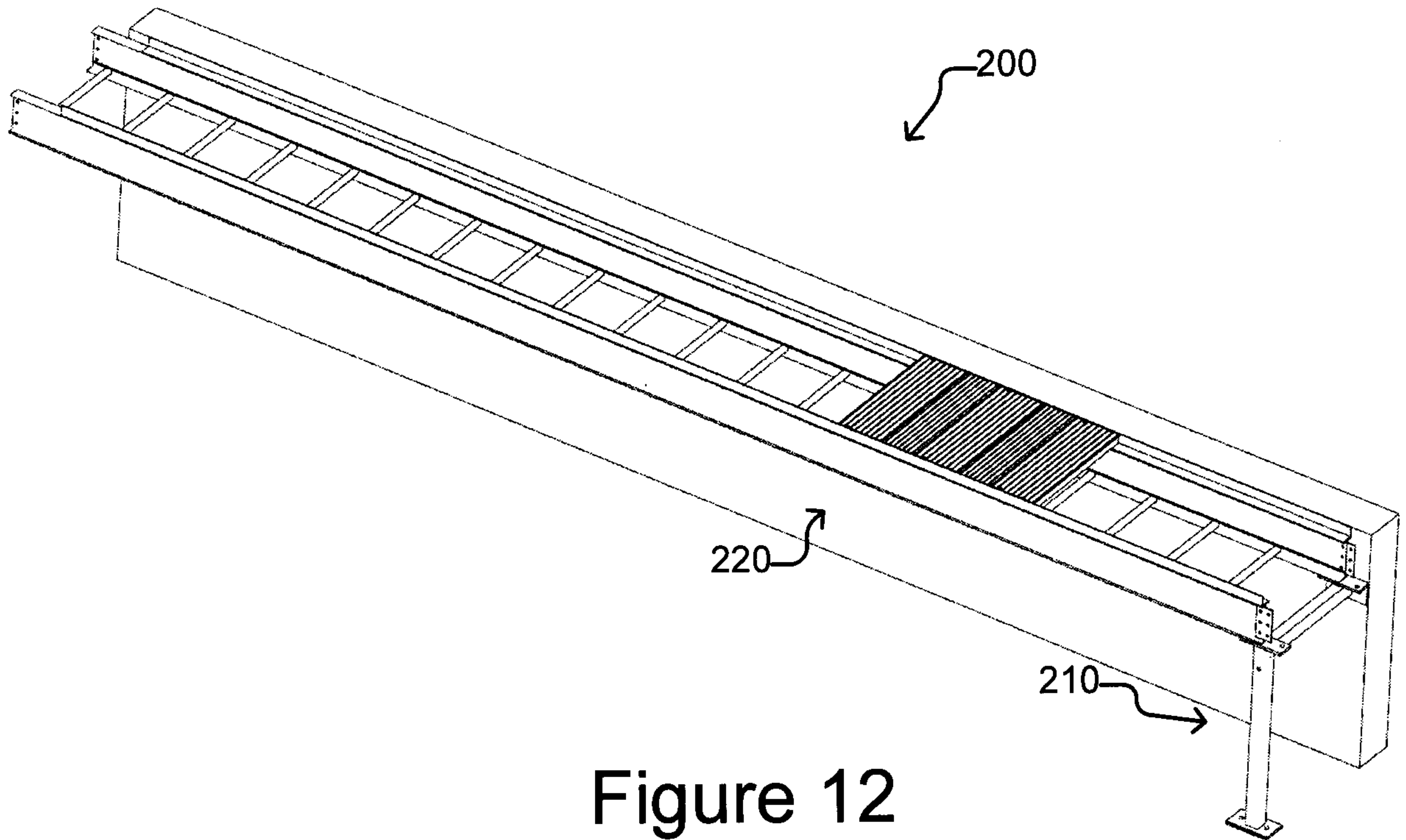


Figure 12

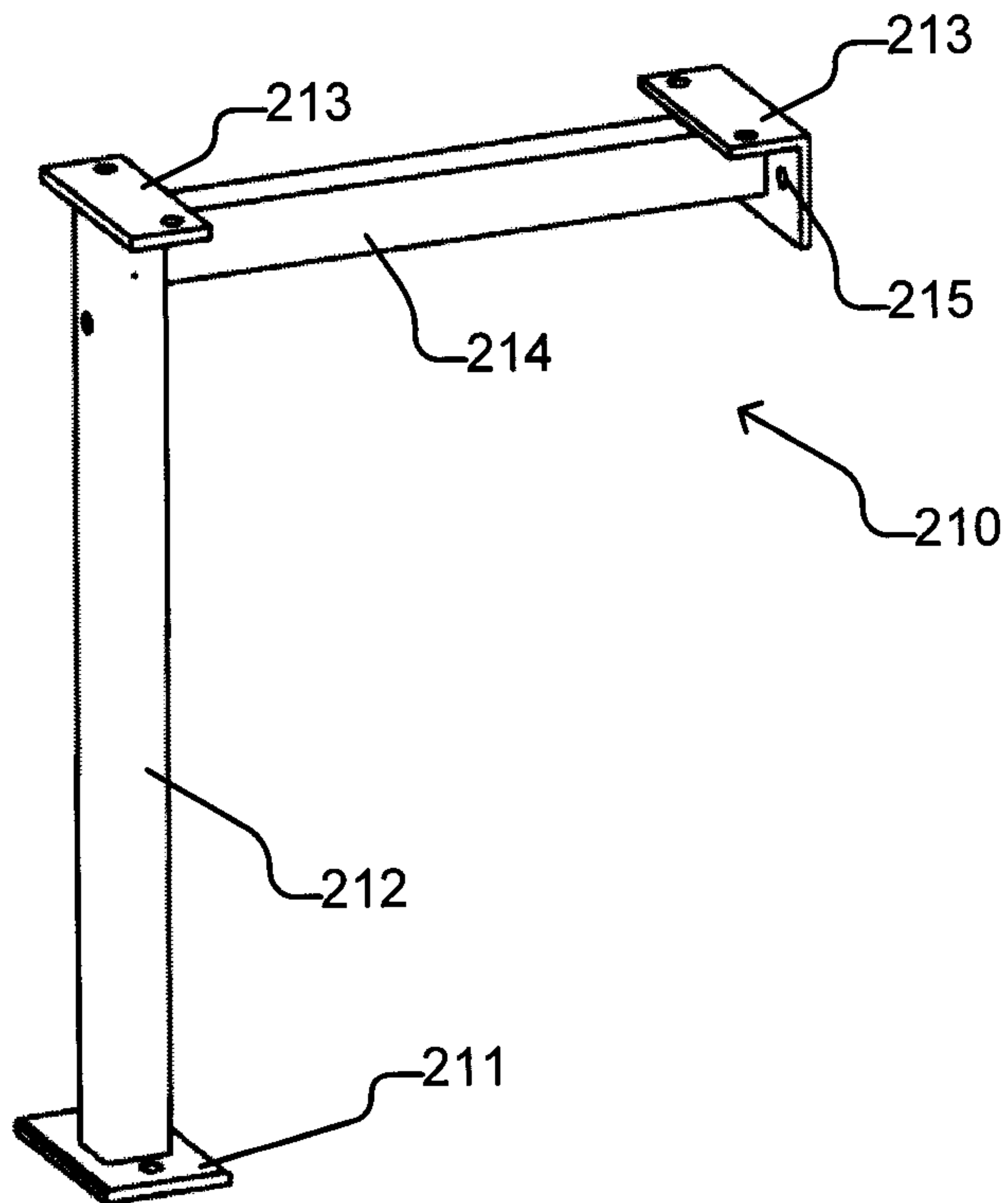


Figure 12A

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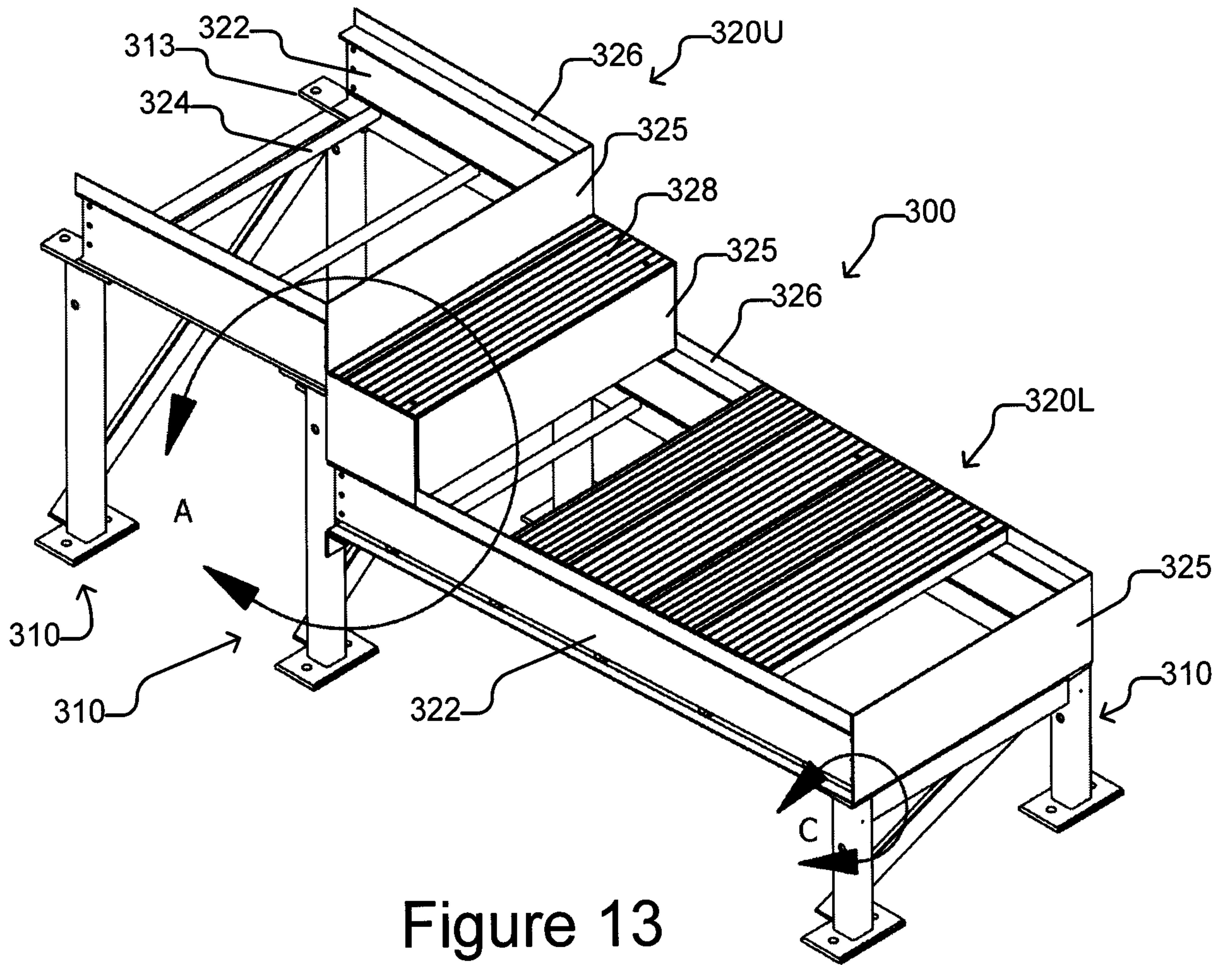


Figure 13

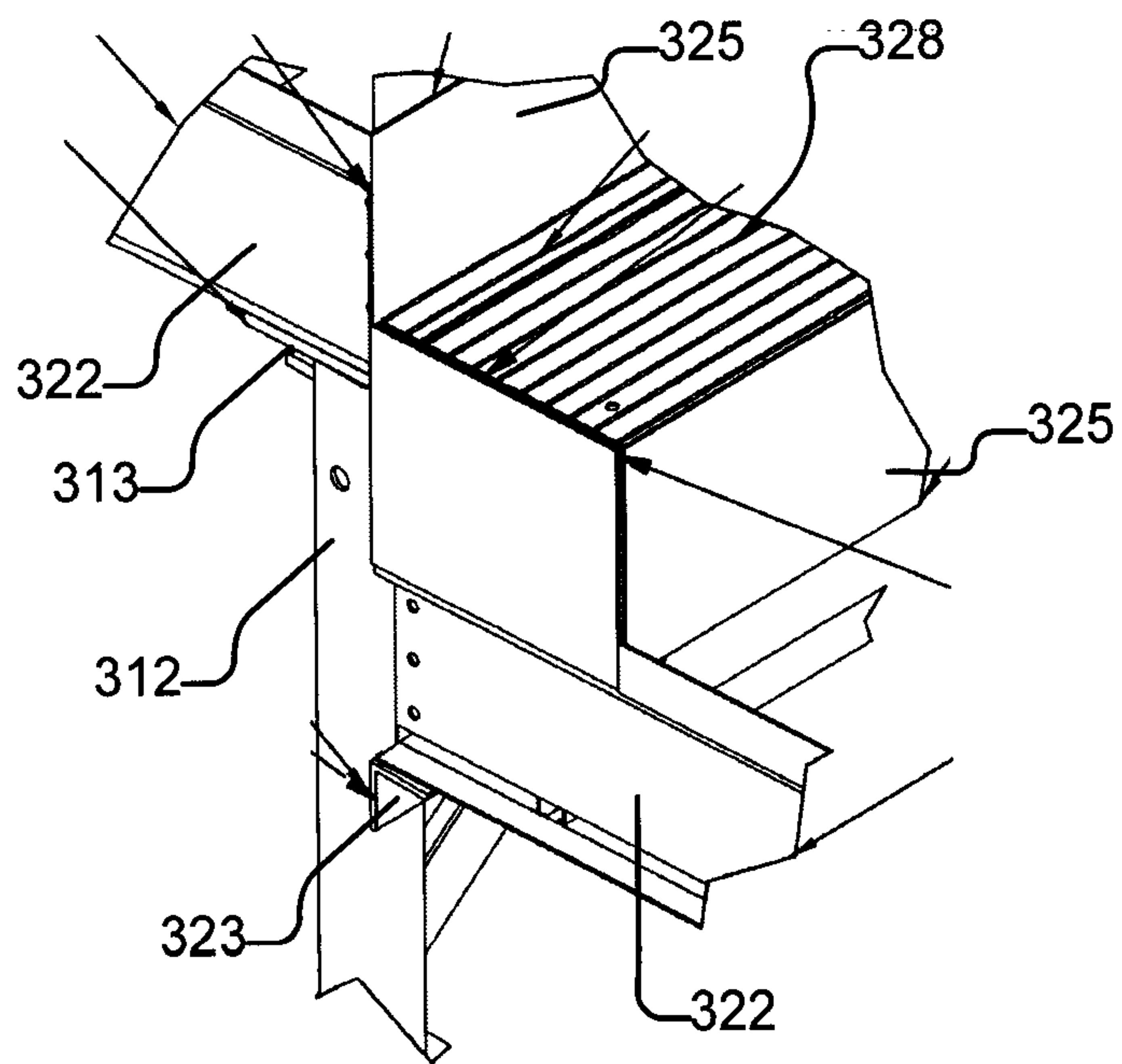


Figure 13A

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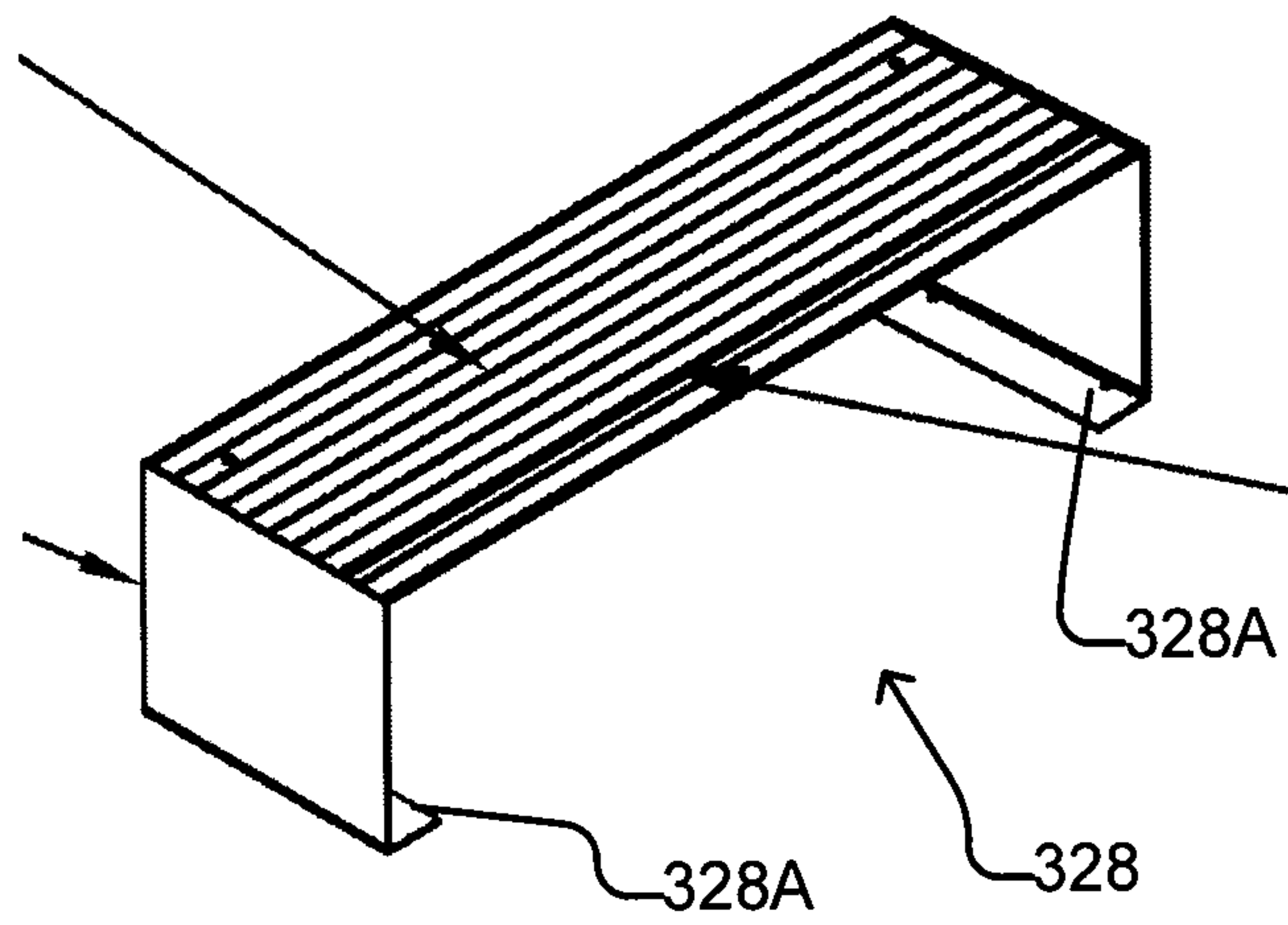


Figure 13B

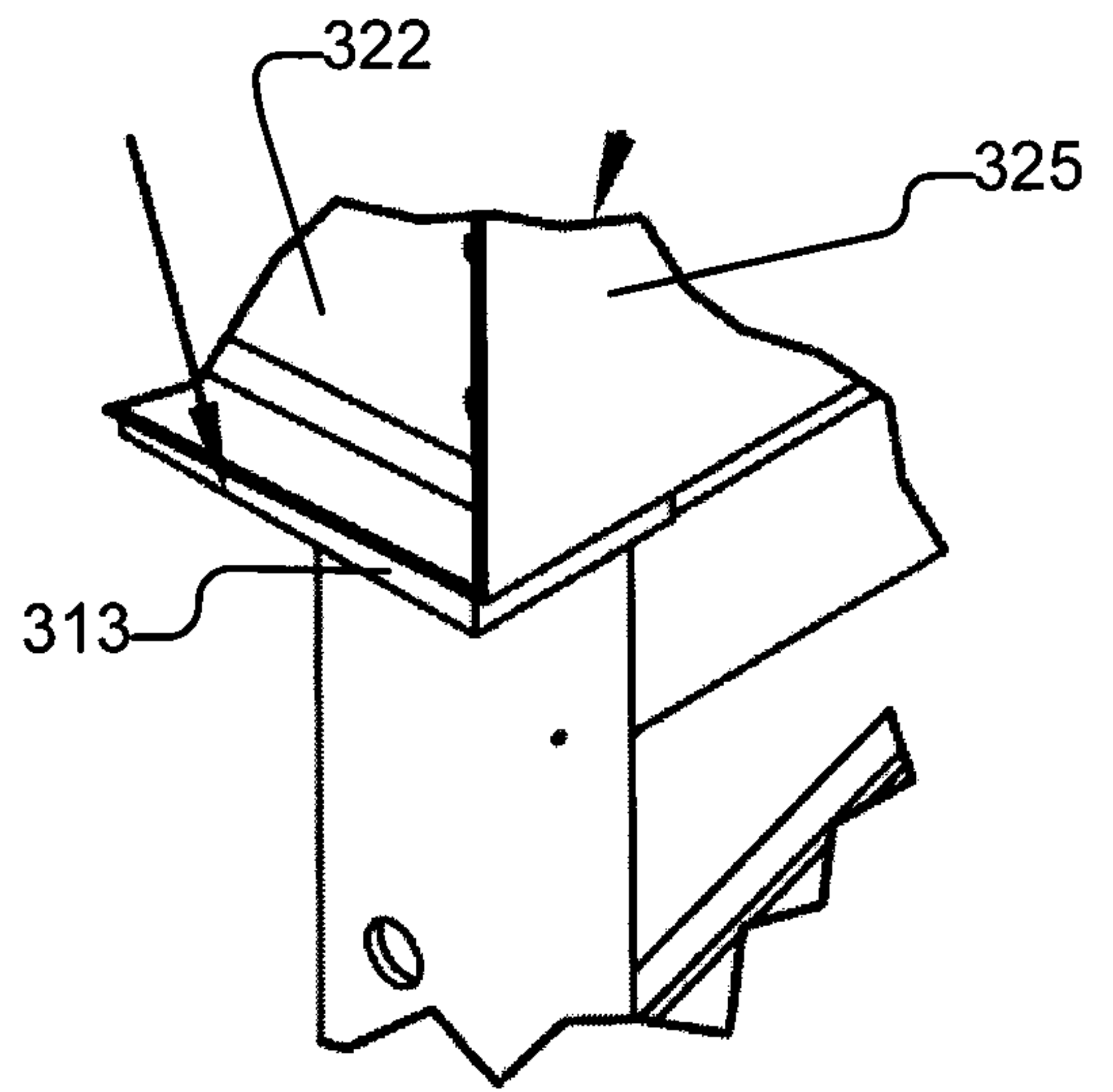


Figure 13C

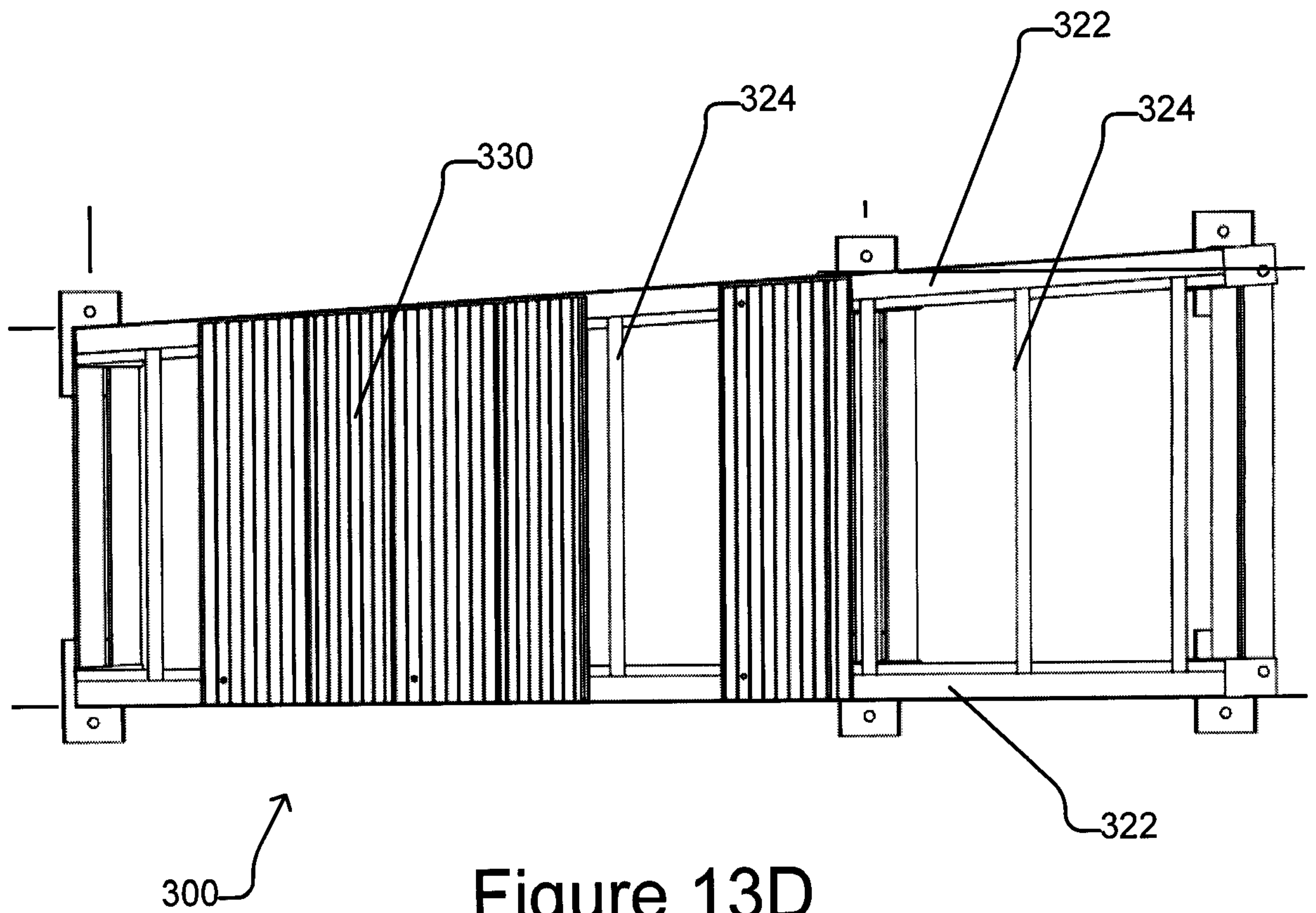


Figure 13D

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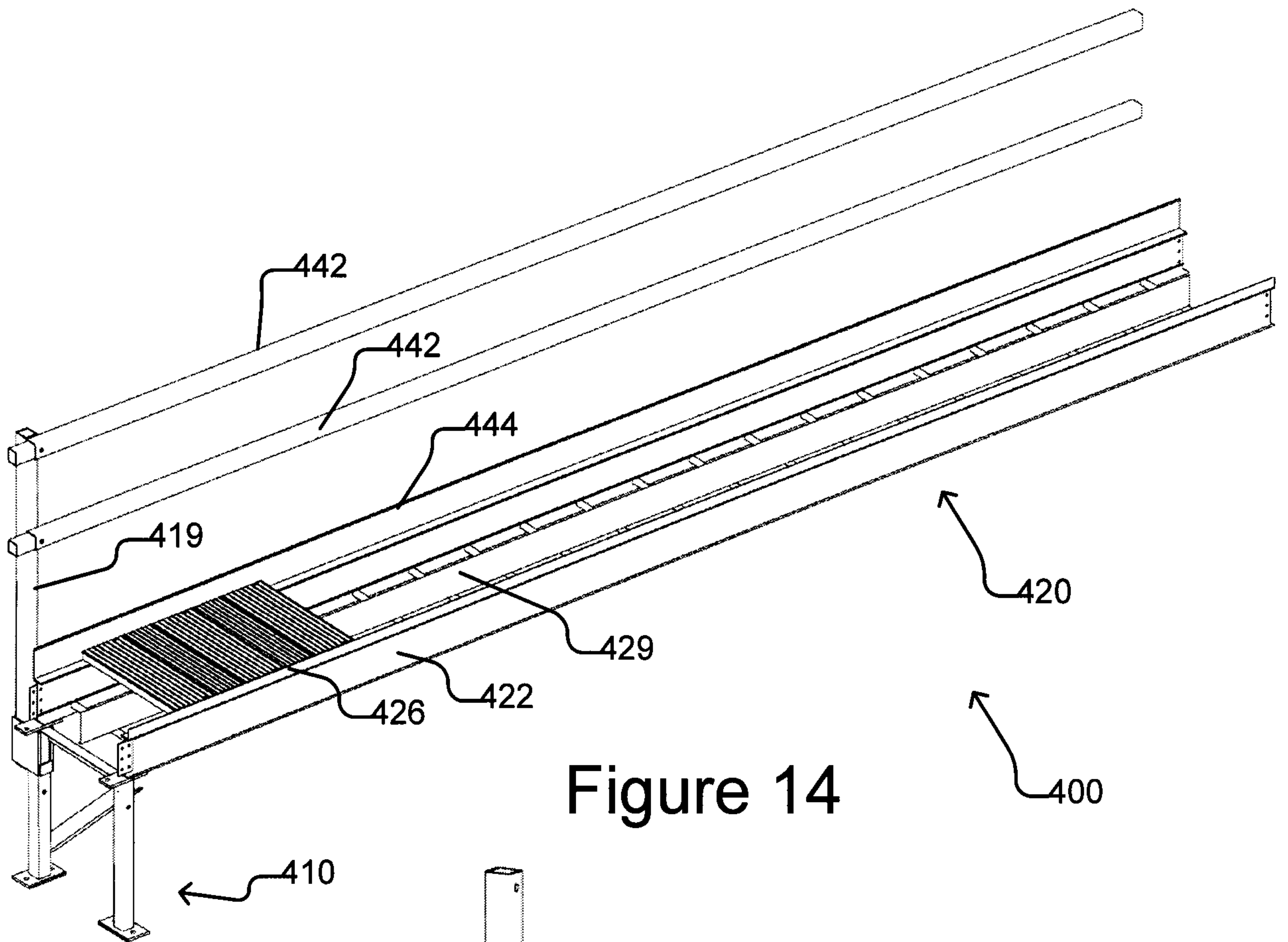


Figure 14

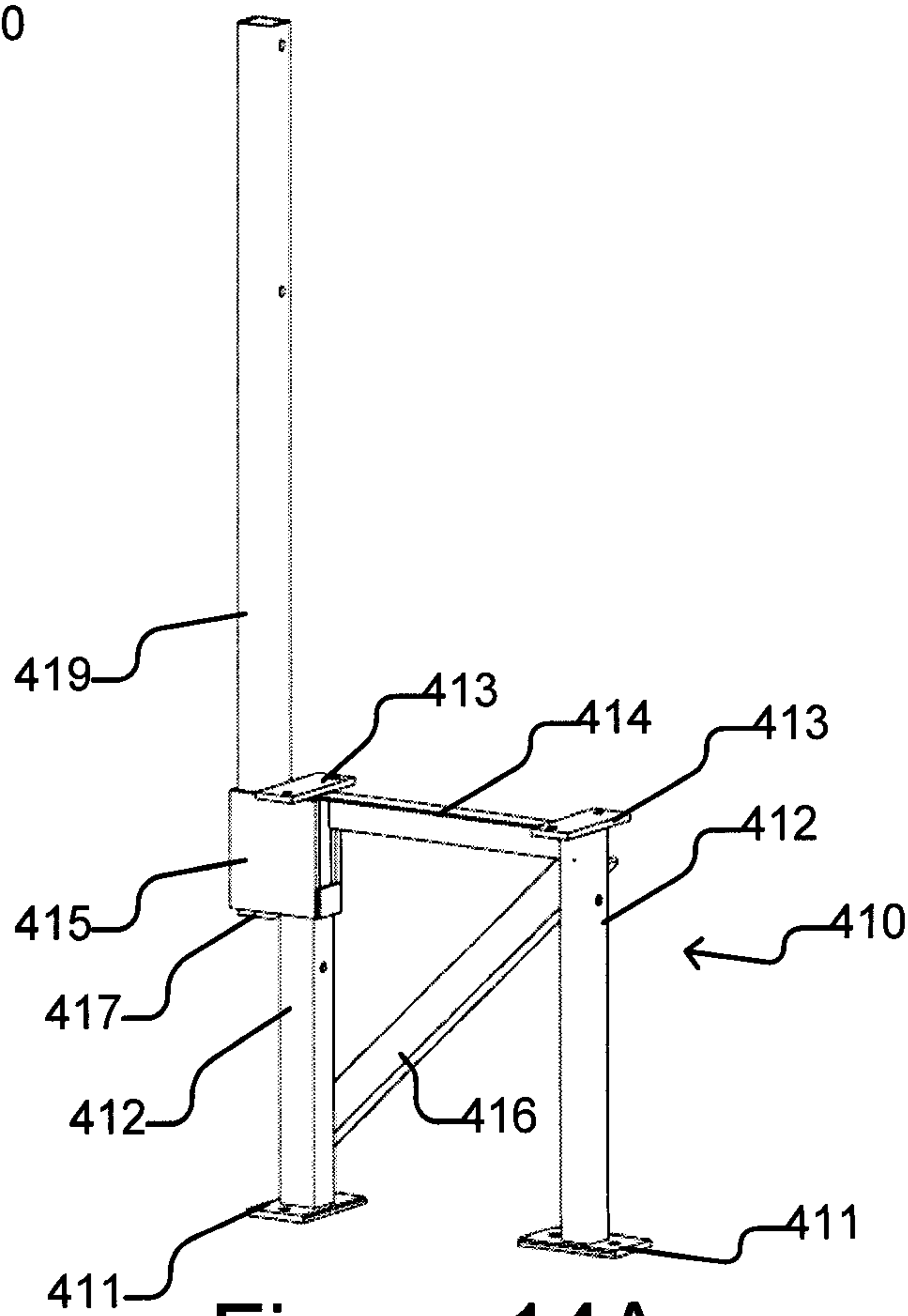


Figure 14A

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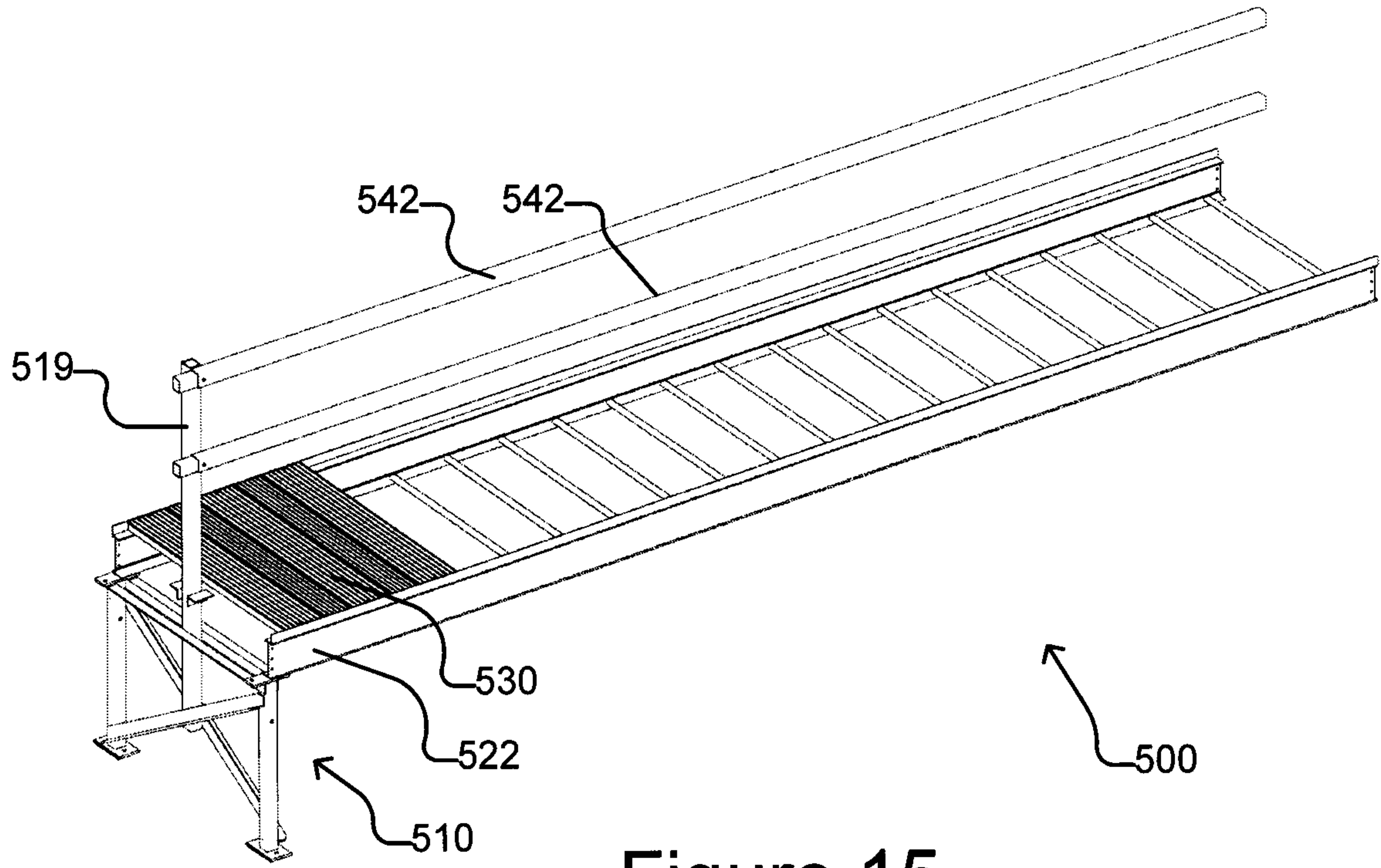


Figure 15

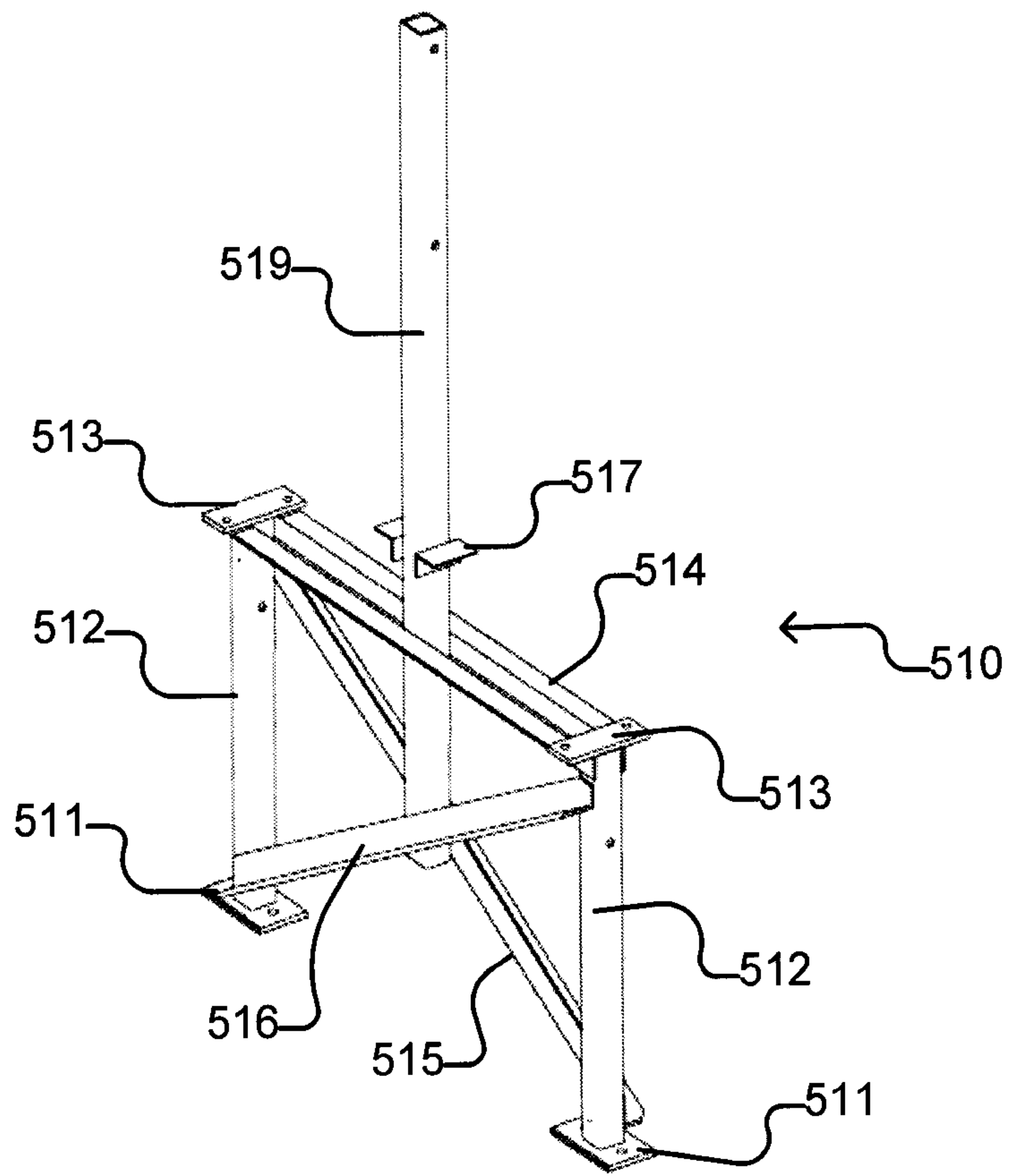


Figure 15A

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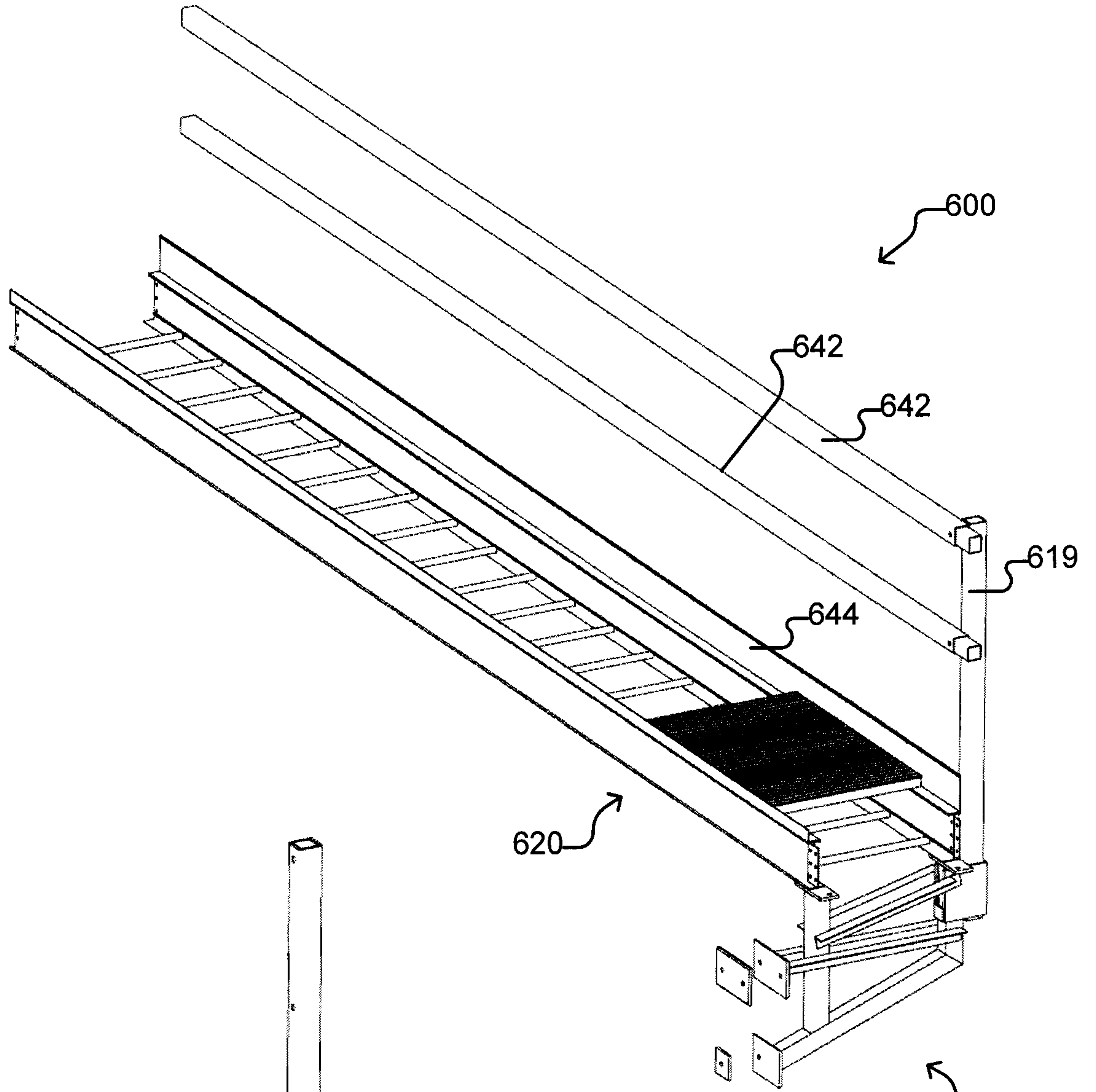


Figure 16

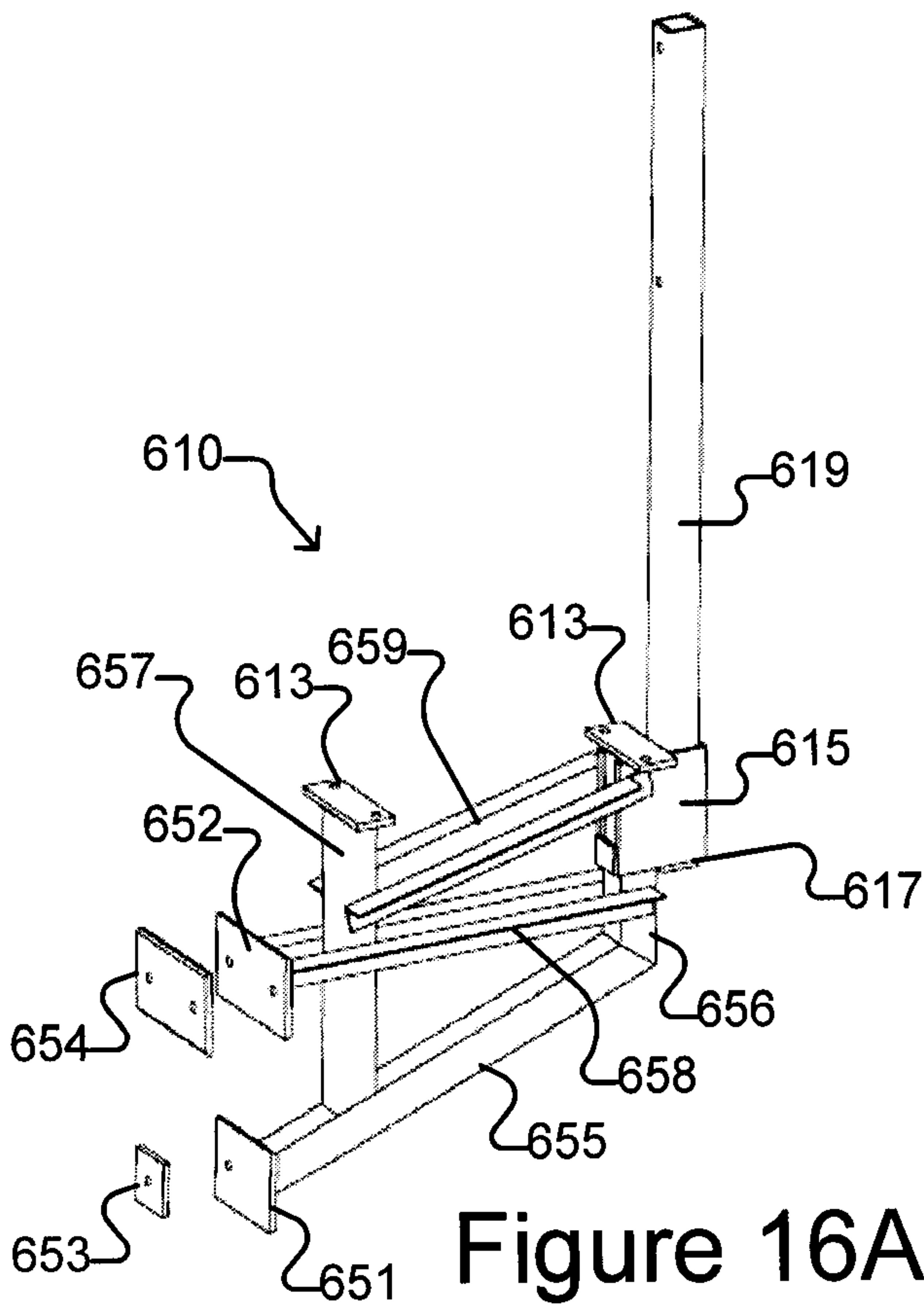


Figure 16A

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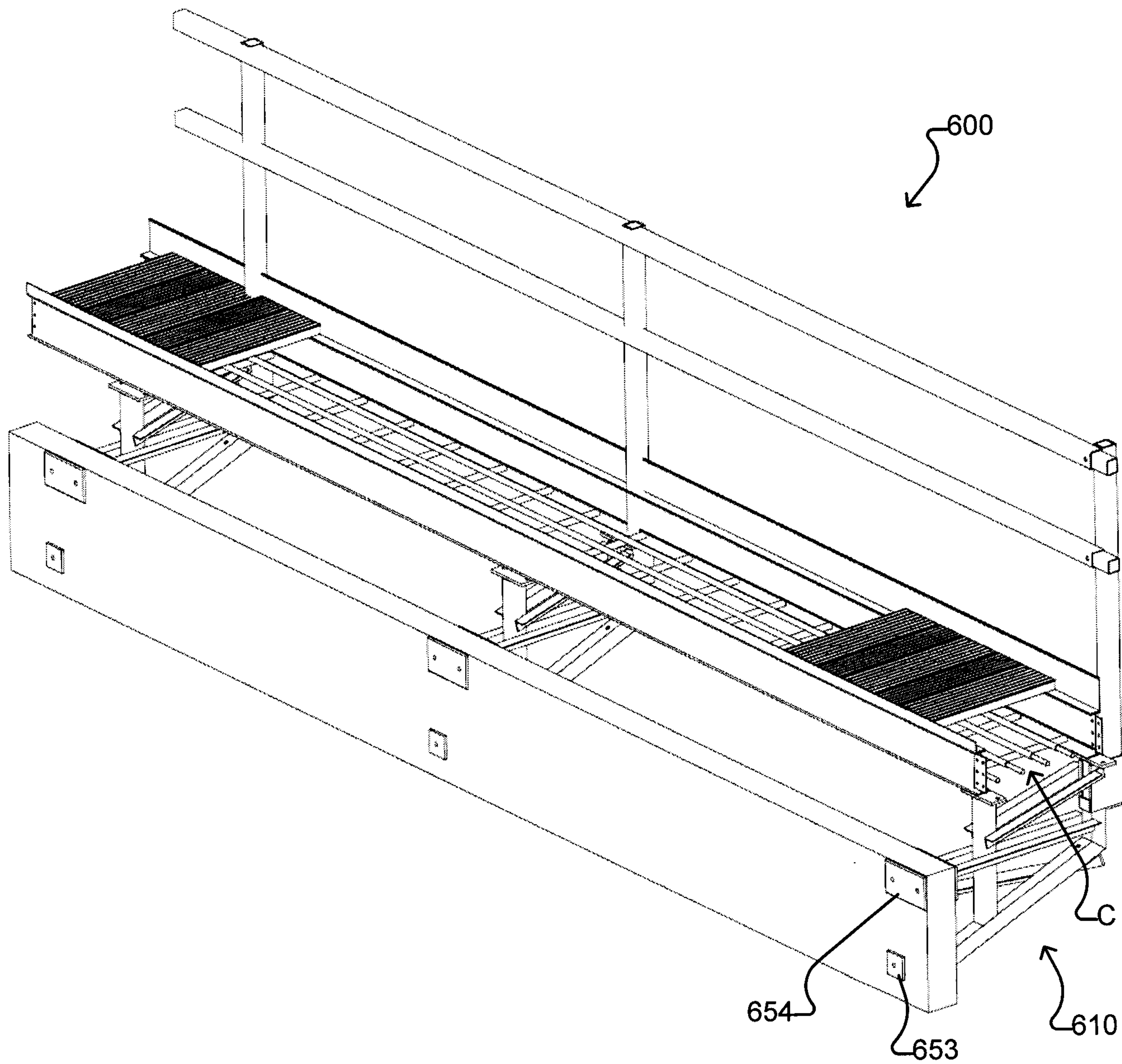


Figure 16B

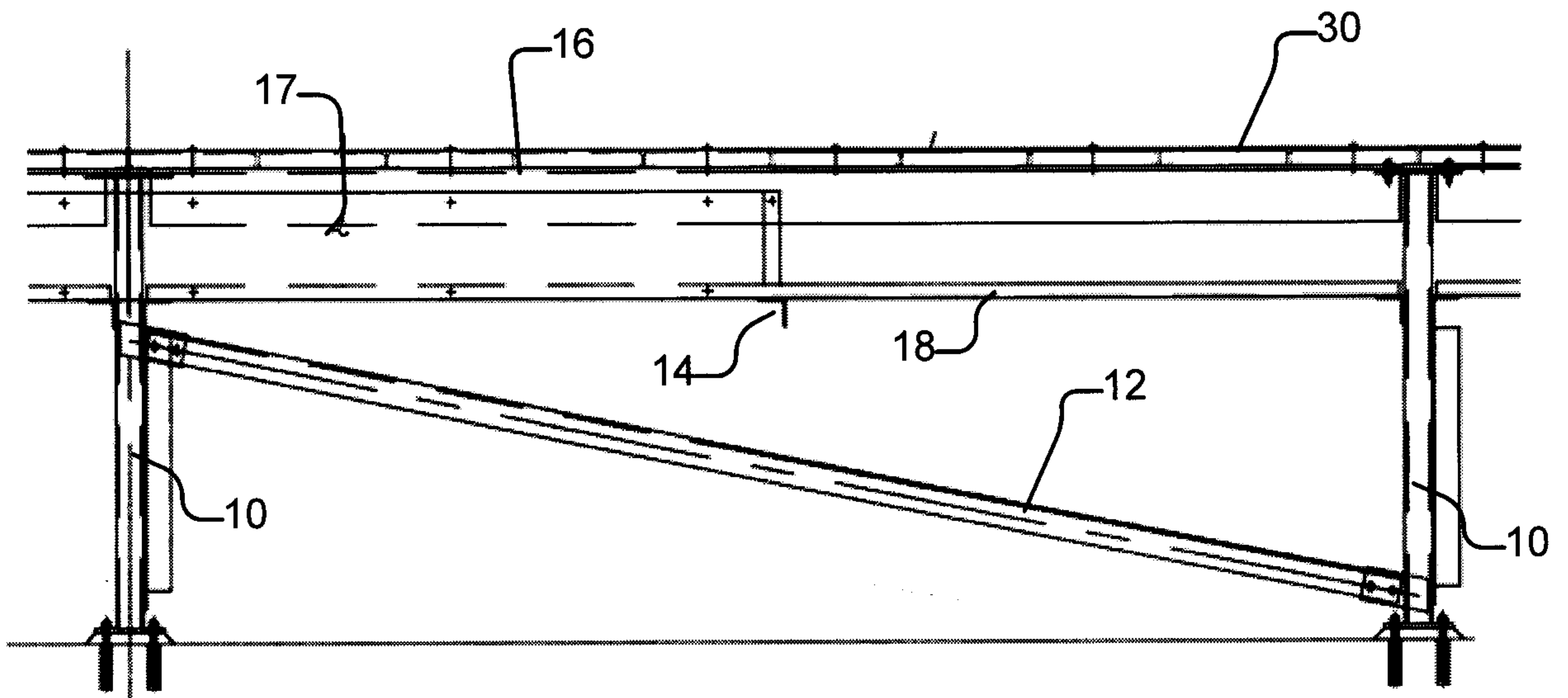


Figure 17A (Prior Art)

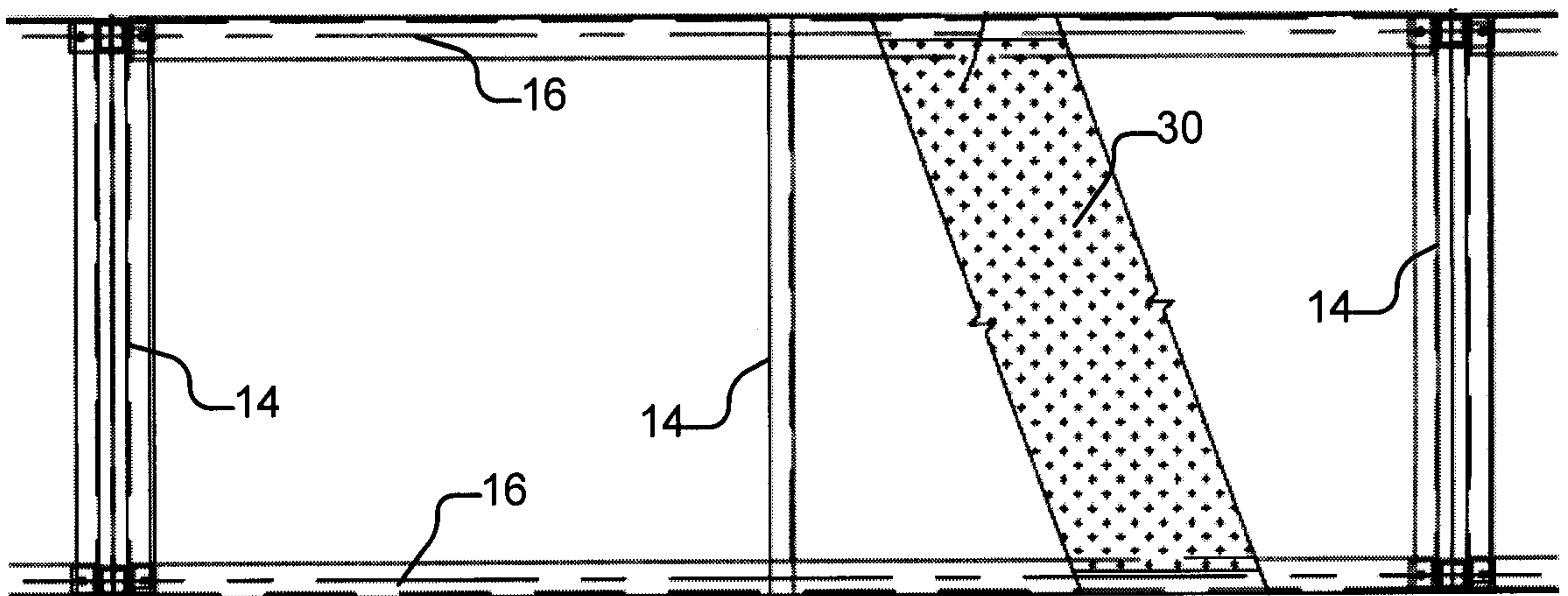


Figure 17B (Prior Art)

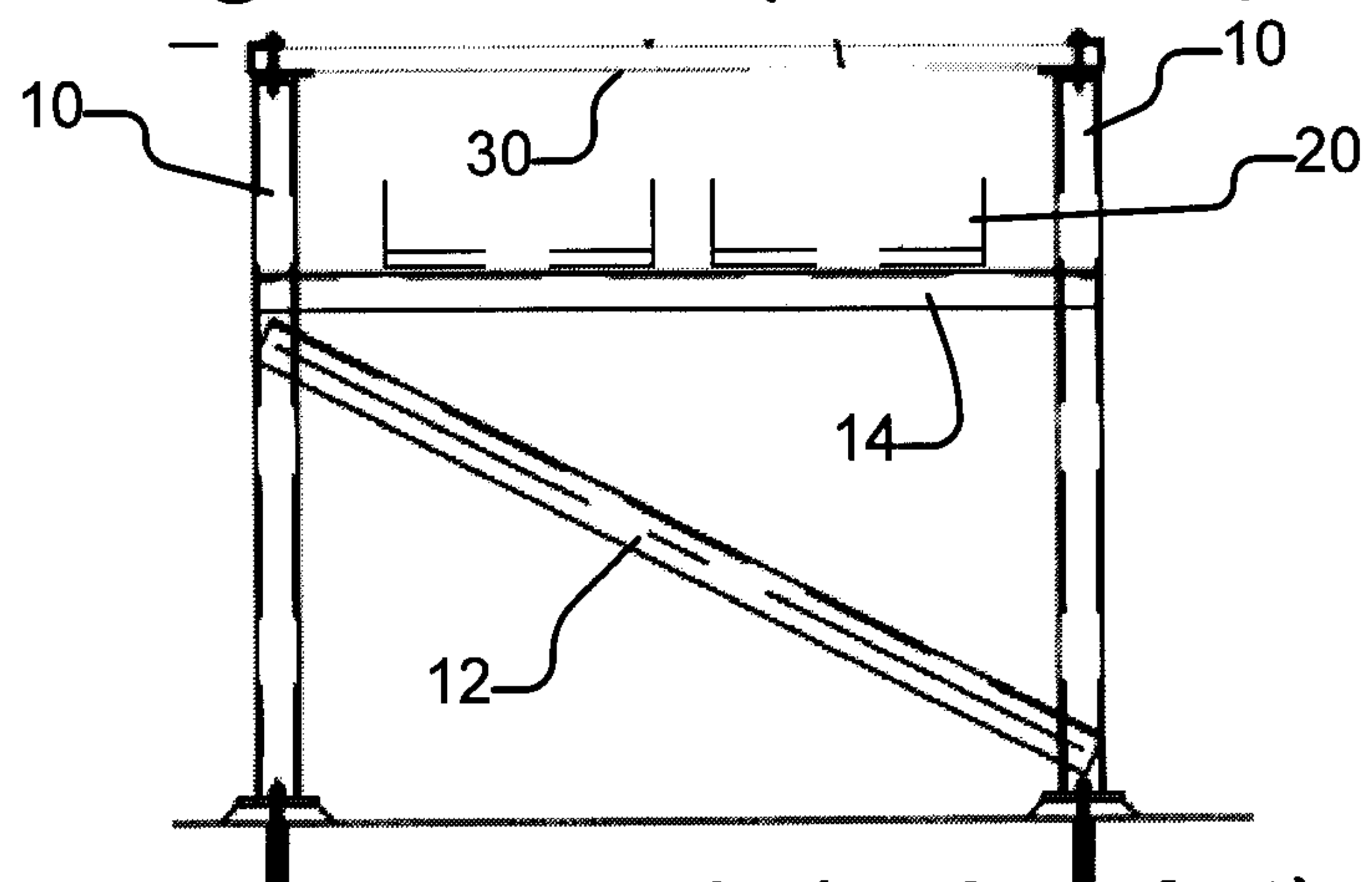


Figure 17C (Prior Art)

