

(12) STANDARD PATENT
(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE

(11) Application No. **AU 2018229808 B2**

(54) Title
Negative pressure wound therapy device control in presence of fault condition

(51) International Patent Classification(s)
A61F 13/00 (2006.01) **A61M 27/00** (2006.01)
A61F 13/02 (2006.01)

(21) Application No: **2018229808** (22) Date of Filing: **2018.03.08**

(87) WIPO No: **WO18/162613**

(30) Priority Data

(31)	Number	(32)	Date	(33)	Country
	62/468,796		2017.03.08		US

(43) Publication Date: **2018.09.13**

(44) Accepted Journal Date: **2024.04.11**

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(56) Related Art
US 2015/0025482 A1
WO 2013/136181 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:

A61F 13/00 (2006.01) A61F 13/02 (2006.01)
A61M 27/00 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/EP2018/055698

(22) International Filing Date:

08 March 2018 (08.03.2018)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

62/468,796 08 March 2017 (08.03.2017) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP,

(54) Title: NEGATIVE PRESSURE WOUND THERAPY DEVICE CONTROL IN PRESENCE OF FAULT CONDITION

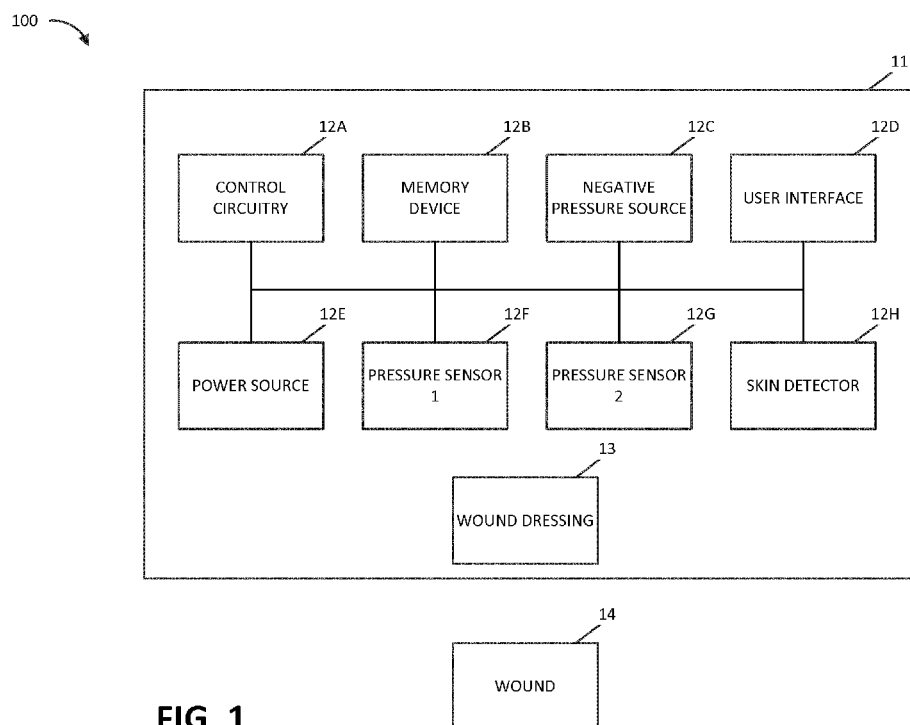


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Embodiments of negative pressure wound therapy systems and methods are disclosed. In one embodiment, an apparatus includes a wound dressing, negative pressure source, switch, interface element, and control circuitry. The negative pressure source, switch, and interface element can be disposed on or within the wound dressing. The control circuitry can be in a first or second mode. In the first mode, the control circuitry can cause supply of negative pressure in response to a first user input via the switch when the negative pressure source is not supplying negative pressure and prevent supply of negative pressure in response to the first user input while the negative pressure source is supplying negative pressure, and the control circuitry can change from the first mode to a second mode in response to a second user input via the interface element. In the second mode, the control circuitry can disable supply of negative pressure.

KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ,
OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA,
SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN,
TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

NEGATIVE PRESSURE WOUND THERAPY DEVICE CONTROL IN PRESENCE OF FAULT CONDITION

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/468,796, filed March 8, 2017; the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Embodiments of the present disclosure relate to methods and apparatuses for dressing and treating a wound with negative or reduced pressure therapy or topical negative pressure (TNP) therapy. In particular, but without limitation, embodiments disclosed herein relate to negative pressure therapy devices, methods for controlling the operation of TNP systems, and methods of using TNP systems.

SUMMARY

[0003] In a first aspect, the invention provides an apparatus for applying negative pressure to a wound, the apparatus comprising: a wound dressing configured to be placed over a wound of a patient; a negative pressure source disposed on or within the wound dressing, the negative pressure source configured to provide negative pressure to the wound dressing via a fluid flow path; a switch disposed on or within the wound dressing, the switch being configured to receive a first user input to control supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source; an interface element disposed on or within the wound dressing, the interface element being configured to receive a second user input to disable supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source if the first user input is no longer usable to prevent supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source; and control circuitry coupled to the switch and the interface element, the control circuitry being configured to: supply negative pressure with the negative pressure source in response to receipt of the first user input when the negative

pressure source is not supplying negative pressure, prevent supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source in response to receipt of the first user input when the negative pressure source is supplying negative pressure, and in response to receipt of the second user input, disable supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source by disconnection of power to the negative pressure source without disconnecting power to the control circuitry.

[0004] The apparatus of the preceding paragraph can include one or more of the following features: When the switch experiences a fault and is no longer able to receive the first user input, the control circuitry can prevent or disable supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source in response to receipt of no user inputs other than the second user input. The control circuitry can supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source in response to receipt of no user inputs other than the first user input. While the negative pressure source is supplying negative pressure, the control circuitry can prevent or disable supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source in response to receipt of no user inputs other than the first user input and the second user input. When the control circuitry is in the second mode, the control circuitry can, in response to receipt of the second user input, change from the second mode to the first mode, and supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source. The control circuitry can disable supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source by deactivation of operation of the negative pressure source or the control circuitry, opening of a vent positioned in the fluid flow path, or closing of a valve positioned in the fluid flow path. The control circuitry can deactivate operation of the negative pressure source or the control circuitry by (i) disconnection of power to the negative pressure source or the control circuitry or (ii) withdrawal of an enable signal provided to the negative pressure source or the control circuitry. The control circuitry can prevent supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source by deactivation of operation of the negative pressure source, opening of a vent positioned in the fluid flow path, and closing of a valve positioned in the fluid flow path. The interface element can be molded in film coupled to the wound dressing. The interface element can include an electrical contact configured to receive the

second user input. The switch can receive the first user input in response to depression of the switch for a period of time. The period of time can be between 0.5 seconds and 5 seconds.

[0005] A method of operating, using, or manufacturing the apparatus of the preceding two paragraphs is also disclosed.

[0006] In a second aspect, the invention provides a method of operating a negative pressure wound therapy apparatus comprising a wound dressing, a negative pressure source disposed on or within the wound dressing, and a switch disposed on or within the wound dressing, and an interface element disposed on or within the wound dressing, the switch being configured to receive a first user input to control supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source the interface element being configured to receive a second user input to disable supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source if the first user input is no longer usable to prevent supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source, and control circuitry, the method comprising: supplying negative pressure with the negative pressure source to the wound dressing via a fluid flow path in response to receipt of the first user input when the negative pressure source is not supplying negative pressure to the wound dressing; preventing supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source to the wound dressing via the fluid flow path in response to receipt of the first user input when the negative pressure source is supplying negative pressure to the wound dressing; in response to receipt of the second user input, disabling supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source by disconnecting power to the negative pressure source without disconnecting power to the control circuit..

[0007] The method of the preceding paragraph can include one or more of the following features: The method can further include, subsequent to the switch experiencing a fault and no longer being able to receive the first user input, preventing or disabling supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source in response to receipt of no user inputs other than the second user input. The method can further include supplying of negative pressure with the negative pressure source in response to receipt of no user inputs other than the first user

input. The method can further include, while the negative pressure source is supplying negative pressure, preventing or disabling supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source in response to receipt of no user inputs other than the first user input and the second user input. The disabling supply of negative pressure can include deactivation of operation of the negative pressure source or the control circuitry, opening of a vent positioned in the fluid flow path, or closing of a valve positioned in the fluid flow path. The method can further include receiving the second user input via an electrical contact of the interface element. The method can further include receiving the first user input in response to depression of the switch for a period of time. The period of time can be between 0.5 seconds and 5 seconds.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008] Features and advantages of the present disclosure will be apparent from the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings of which:

[0009] FIG. 1 illustrates a negative pressure therapy system according to some embodiments.

[0010] FIGS. 2A and 2B respectively illustrate a side view and top view of a negative pressure therapy system according to some embodiments, such as the negative pressure therapy system of FIG. 1.

[0011] FIGS. 3, 4, 5A, and 5B illustrate top views of negative pressure therapy systems according to some embodiments, such as the negative pressure therapy system of FIGS. 2A and 2B.

[0012] FIG. 6 illustrates a therapy control process performable by a negative pressure therapy system according to some embodiments.

[0013] FIGS. 7A, 7B, and 7C illustrate connectors according to some embodiments.

[0014] FIGS. 8A and 8B illustrate top views of negative pressure therapy systems according to some embodiments, such as the negative pressure therapy system of FIGS. 2A and 2B.

[0015] FIGS. 9, 10, 11, and 12 illustrate components of negative pressure therapy systems according to some embodiments, such as the negative pressure therapy system of FIGS. 2A and 2B.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0016] The present disclosure relates to methods and apparatuses for dressing and treating a wound with reduced pressure therapy or topical negative pressure (TNP) therapy. In particular, but without limitation, embodiments of this disclosure relate to negative pressure therapy apparatuses, methods for controlling the operation of TNP systems, and methods of using TNP systems. The methods and apparatuses can incorporate or implement any combination of the features described below.

[0017] Many different types of wound dressings are known for aiding in the healing process of a human or animal. These different types of wound dressings include many different types of materials and layers, for example, gauze, pads, foam pads or multi-layer wound dressings. TNP therapy, sometimes referred to as vacuum assisted closure, negative pressure wound therapy, or reduced pressure wound therapy, can be a beneficial mechanism for improving the healing rate of a wound. Such therapy is applicable to a broad range of wounds such as incisional wounds, open wounds and abdominal wounds or the like.

[0018] TNP therapy can assist in the closure and healing of wounds by reducing tissue oedema, encouraging blood flow, stimulating the formation of granulation tissue, removing excess exudates, and reducing bacterial load and thus, infection to the wound. Furthermore, TNP therapy can permit less outside disturbance of the wound and promote more rapid healing.

[0019] As is used herein, reduced or negative pressure levels, such as $-X$ mmHg, represent pressure levels that are below atmospheric pressure, which typically corresponds to 760 mmHg (or 1 atm, 29.93 inHg, 101.325 kPa, 14.696 psi, etc.). Accordingly, a negative pressure value of $-X$ mmHg reflects pressure that is X mmHg below atmospheric pressure, such as a pressure of $(760-X)$ mmHg. In addition, negative pressure that is “less” or “smaller” than $-X$ mmHg corresponds to

pressure that is closer to atmospheric pressure (e.g., -40 mmHg is less than -60 mmHg). Negative pressure that is “more” or “greater” than -X mmHg corresponds to pressure that is further from atmospheric pressure (e.g., -80 mmHg is more than -60 mmHg).

Overview

[0020] The user interfaces of some TNP apparatuses may have a limited elements through which a user can provide user input. In some instances, particular user interfaces may include just a single element usable by the user to stop and start delivery of negative pressure, and the user may not be able to replace or interchange the single element with another element. These particular user interfaces can desirably be easier to construct and operate than more complicated user interfaces having numerous elements. However, the particular user interfaces may present a problem if the single element experiences a fault (for example, a failure) and is no longer able to function to receive user input. The user of the particular user interfaces may undesirably be unable to start delivery of negative pressure if negative pressure is not already being provided and stop delivery of negative pressure if negative pressure is being provided.

[0021] The situation of a user being unable to stop delivery of negative pressure can additionally introduce risks to the healing of a wound of a patient. If the patient experiences discomfort from the wound dressing during delivery of negative pressure and the single element experiences is no longer able to function to receive user input, the patient may be forced to remove the wound dressing to terminate delivery of negative pressure. The removal of the wound dressing can damage the wound of the patient and hinder any healing trajectory that was already progressed, as well as exposing the wound to external contaminants due to a loss of protection from the wound dressing.

[0022] To address the situation of the user being unable to stop delivery of negative pressure, a TNP apparatus with the single element usable by the user to stop and start delivery of negative pressure can include another mechanism, such as another redundant mechanism, to stop delivery of negative pressure. In some

implementations, a header circuit with four circuits could be used, and each pair of circuits could be used to deactivate operation by one or more means. One pair of the circuits could be used to connect to a power supply of the TNP apparatus, and the other pair of circuits could be used to connect to an enable signal (for example, a control circuitry enable signal). Additionally or alternatively, a surface mount technology (SMT) pin header could be used. The another mechanism can, for instance, be an activating part molded in a film that may be welded to the wound dressing so that the activating mechanism may not be easily lost. Additionally or alternatively, the locking mechanism of a zero insertion force (ZIF) connector may be used to improve retention. The activating mechanism can, in another example, be a printed circuit board (PCB), such as a flexible PCB, built into a film for insertion. The activating mechanism can, in yet another example, include a conductive label that completes the circuit when attached and is removable to stop delivery of negative pressure. In some implementations, a tab may additionally or alternatively be used, and the tab may, for instance, be pulled to disrupt a power supply for the TNP apparatus (such as to remove a battery) or pulled to rip an aperture in the wound dressing (such as by pulling a tab on an outside of the wound dressing) to force a gross leak that causes termination of delivery of negative pressure.

Reduced Pressure Therapy Systems and Methods

[0023] FIG. 1 illustrates a negative pressure therapy system 100 that includes a TNP apparatus 11 and a wound 14. The TNP apparatus 11 can be used to treat the wound 14. The TNP apparatus 11 can include control circuitry 12A, memory 12B, a negative pressure source 12C, a user interface 12D, a power source 12E, a first pressure sensor 12F, a second pressure sensor 12G, and a skin detector 12H that are configured to electrically communicate with one another. In addition, the TNP apparatus 11 can include a wound dressing 13. The power source 12E can provide power to one or more components of the TNP apparatus 11.

[0024] One or more of the control circuitry 12A, memory device 12B, negative pressure source 12C, user interface 12D, power source 12E, first pressure sensor 12F, second pressure sensor 12G, and skin detector 12H can be integral

with, incorporated as part of, attached to, or disposed in the wound dressing 13. The TNP apparatus 11 can accordingly be considered to have its control electronics and pump on-board the wound dressing 13 rather than separate from the wound dressing 13.

[0025] The control circuitry 12A can include one or more controllers, activation circuits, boost converters, current limiters, feedback conditioning circuits, and H-bridge inverters. The one or more controllers can control the operations of one or more other components of the TNP apparatus 11 according at least to instructions stored in the memory device 12B. The one or more controllers can, for instance, control operations of the negative pressure source 12C via a signal input (for example, a pulse width modulation of the signal) to the one or more H-bridge inverters, which in turn drive power from the power source 12E to the negative pressure source 12C.

[0026] The negative pressure source 12C can include a pump, such as, without limitation, a rotary diaphragm pump or other diaphragm pump, a piezoelectric pump, a peristaltic pump, a piston pump, a rotary vane pump, a liquid ring pump, a scroll pump, a pump operated by a piezoelectric transducer, a voice coil pump, or any other suitable pump or micropump or any combinations of the foregoing.

[0027] The user interface 12D can include one or more elements that receive user inputs or provide user outputs to a patient or caregiver. The one or more elements that receive user inputs can include buttons, switches, dials, touch screens, or the like, and the one or more elements that provide user outputs can include activation of a light emitting diode (LED) or one or more pixels of the display or activation of a speaker or the like. In one example, the user interface 12D can include a switch to receive a first user input (for instance, a negative pressure activation or deactivation input), an interface element to receive a second user input (for instance, a negative pressure disable input), and two LEDs to indicate an operating status (for example, functioning normally, under fault condition, or awaiting user input) of the TNP apparatus 11.

[0028] The first pressure sensor 12F can be used to monitor pressure underneath the wound dressing 13, such as pressure in a fluid flow path connecting the negative pressure source 12C and the wound 14, pressure at the wound 14, or pressure in the negative pressure source 12C. The second pressure sensor 12G can be used to monitor pressure external to the wound dressing 13. The pressure external to the wound dressing can be atmospheric pressure; however, the atmospheric pressure can vary depending on, for instance, an altitude of use or pressurized environment in which the TNP apparatus 11 may be used.

[0029] The control circuitry 12A can control the supply of negative pressure by the negative pressure source 12C according at least to a comparison between the pressure monitored by the first pressure sensor 12F and the pressure monitored by the second pressure sensor 12G. The control circuitry 12A can include a controller, such as a microcontroller or microprocessor.

[0030] The skin detector 12H can be used to determine if the wound dressing 13 has been placed over the wound 14. The skin detector 12H can, for example, detect skin of a patient. The detection by the skin detector 12H can confirm whether the wound dressing 13 is coupled to skin of the patient next to the wound 14. When skin is detected, this may indicate that activation of the TNP apparatus 11 is intentional rather than unintentional and can thus be used to prevent unintentional activation of the TNP apparatus 11 or an end-of-life timer of the TNP apparatus 11, such as during transportation or manufacture of the TNP apparatus 11. In one example, if the skin detector 12H indicates to the control circuitry 12A that skin is detected, the control circuitry 12A can activate the negative pressure source 12C to supply negative pressure in response to receiving an activation input via the user interface 12D. If the skin detector 12H, on the other hand, indicates to the control circuitry 12A that skin is not detected, the control circuitry 12A may not activate the negative pressure source 12C to supply negative pressure in response to receiving an activation input via the user interface 12D. The skin detector 12H can include one or more of a capacitive sensor, an impedance sensor, an optical sensor, a piezoresistive sensor, a piezoelectric sensor, an elastoresistive sensor, and an electrochemical sensor.

[0031] The wound dressing 13 can include a wound contact layer, a spacer layer, and an absorbent layer. The wound contact layer can be in contact with the wound 14. The wound contact layer can include an adhesive on the patient facing side for securing the dressing to the skin surrounding the wound 14 or on the top side for securing the wound contact layer to a cover layer or other layer of the wound dressing 13. In operation, the wound contact layer can provide unidirectional flow so as to facilitate removal of exudate from the wound while blocking or substantially preventing exudate from returning to the wound 14. The spacer layer can assist in distributing negative pressure over the wound site and facilitating transport of wound exudate and fluids into the wound dressing 13. Further, the absorbent layer can absorb and retain exudate aspirated from the wound 14.

[0032] The control circuitry 12A can, in some instances, prevent supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source 12C. For example, the control circuitry 12A can prevent supply of negative pressure by deactivating operation of the negative pressure source, opening a vent positioned in the fluid flow path, and closing a valve positioned in the fluid flow path.

[0033] The supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source 12C can, in some instances, be disabled. For example, supply of negative pressure can be disabled by deactivating operation of the negative pressure source 12C or the control circuitry 12A, opening a vent positioned in the fluid flow path, and closing a valve positioned in the fluid flow path. In some implementations, deactivating operation of the negative pressure source 12C or the control circuitry 12A can be performed by disconnection of power to the negative pressure source 12C or the control circuitry 12A or withdrawal of an enable signal provided to the negative pressure source 12C or the control circuitry 12A.

[0034] The control circuitry 12A can monitor a duty cycle of the negative pressure source 12C. As is used herein, the “duty cycle” can reflect the amount of time the negative pressure source 12C is active or running over a period of time. In other words, the duty cycle can reflect time that the negative pressure source 12C is in an active state as a fraction of total time under consideration. Duty cycle measurements can reflect a level of activity of the negative pressure source 12C.

For example, the duty cycle can indicate that the negative pressure source 12C is operating normally, working hard, working extremely hard, etc. Moreover, the duty cycle measurements, such as periodic duty cycle measurements, can reflect various operating conditions, such as presence or severity of leaks, rate of flow of fluid (for instance, air, liquid, or solid exudate, etc.) aspirated from a wound, or the like. Based on the duty cycle measurements, such as by comparing the measured duty cycle with a set of thresholds (for instance, determined in calibration), the controller can execute or be programmed to execute algorithms or logic that control the operation of the system. For example, duty cycle measurements can indicate presence of a high leak, and the control circuitry 12A can be programmed to indicate this condition to a user (for instance, patient, caregiver, or physician) or temporarily suspend or pause operation of the source of negative pressure in order to conserve power.

[0035] When the TNP apparatus 11 may be used to treat the wound 14, the wound dressing 13 can create a substantially sealed or closed space around the wound 13 and under the wound dressing 13, and the first pressure sensor 12F can periodically or continuously measure or monitor a level of pressure in this space. The control circuitry 12A can control the level of pressure in the space between a first negative pressure set point limit and at least a second negative pressure set point limit. In some instances, the first set point limit can be approximately -70 mmHg, or from approximately -60 mmHg or less to approximately -80 mmHg or more. In some instances, the second set point limit can be approximately -90 mmHg, or from approximately -80 mmHg or less to approximately -100 mmHg or more.

[0036] FIG. 2A illustrates a side view of a negative pressure therapy system 200, and FIG. 2B illustrates a top view of the negative pressure therapy system 200. The negative pressure therapy system 200 can be an example implementation of the negative pressure therapy system 100.

[0037] In the negative pressure therapy system 200, the wound dressing 13 of the TNP apparatus 11 is shown as attached to the wound 14. Arrows depict the flow of air through the wound dressing 13 and wound exudate from the wound

14. The TNP apparatus 11 can include an air exhaust 26 and a component area 25, such as a components housing or storage area for components of the TNP apparatus 11 like one or more of the control circuitry 12A, memory device 12B, negative pressure source 12C, user interface 12D, power source 12E, first pressure sensor 12F, second pressure sensor 12G, and skin detector 12H.

[0038] The user interface 12D of the negative pressure therapy system 200 can include a switch 21 (such as a dome switch), an interface element 22 (such as an electrical contact), a first indicator 23 (such as a first LED), and a second indicator 24 (such as a second LED). The switch 21 can receive a negative pressure activation or deactivation user input (for example, such as receiving the activation or deactivation user input in response to depression of the switch 21 for a period of time, like from between 0.5 seconds and 5 seconds). The interface element 22 can receive a negative pressure disable user input. The first indicator 23 and the second indicator 24 can indicate an operating status like functioning normally, under fault condition, or awaiting user input. In some implementations, the switch 21 or the interface element 22 can couple to a power supply connection of the negative pressure source 12C or the control circuitry 12A (such as a controller of the control circuitry 12A) or an enable signal of the negative pressure source 12C or the control circuitry 12A to activate or deactivate supply of negative pressure or disable supply of negative pressure. Additionally or alternatively, a SMT pin header may be used to activate or deactivate supply of negative pressure or disable supply of negative pressure.

[0039] Component parts of the wound dressing 13 of the negative pressure therapy system 200 are illustrated to include an airlock layer 27, an absorbing layer 28, and a contact layer 29. The airlock layer 27 can enable air flow. The absorbing layer 28 can absorb wound exudate. The contact layer 29 can be soft and include silicon and be used to couple the TNP apparatus 11 to the patient.

[0040] FIG. 3 illustrates a top view of a negative pressure therapy system 300, which can be a more detailed example implementation of the negative pressure therapy system 200. The interface element 22 as shown can include an activating part 31 that may be molded in the film welded at position 32 to the wound dressing

13. The activating part 31 can be used to receive the user input for the interface element 22.

[0041] FIG. 4 illustrates a top view of a negative pressure therapy system 400, which can be a more detailed example implementation of the negative pressure therapy system 200. The interface element 22 as shown can include a printed circuit board (PCB) 41 that may be flexible and built into a film for insertion and welded at position 42 to the wound dressing 13. The printed circuit board 41 can be used to receive the user input for the interface element 22. Moreover, the locking mechanism of a zero insertion force (ZIF) connector may be used to improve retention.

[0042] FIGS. 5A and 5B illustrate a top view of a negative pressure therapy system 500, which can be a more detailed example implementation of the negative pressure therapy system 200. The interface element 22 as shown can include a conductive label 51 that can be used to complete an electrical contact when attached (see FIG. 5B) and disconnect the electrical contact upon removal to receive the user input for the interface element 22. Moreover, the locking mechanism of a ZIF connector may be used to improve retention.

[0043] FIG. 6 illustrates a therapy control process 600 usable to control delivery of negative pressure therapy by an apparatus, such as the TNP apparatus 11. For convenience, the therapy control process 600 is described in the context of the TNP apparatus 11, but may instead be implemented in other systems described herein or by other systems not shown. The therapy control process 600 can be performed, in some instances, by the control circuitry 12A of the TNP apparatus 11.

[0044] At block 602, the therapy control process 600 can determine whether a disable input was received from a user. The disable input may, for instance, be received from the user via the interface element 22. In some implementations, the disable input may not be provided by any user input to the TNP apparatus 11 other than via the interface element 22.

[0045] If the disable input was received, at block 604, the therapy control process 600 can disable supply of negative pressure. The supply of negative pressure can, for instance, be disabled by deactivation of operation of the negative

pressure source 12C or the control circuitry 12A, opening of a vent positioned in the fluid flow path, and closing of a valve positioned in the fluid flow path. After block 604, the therapy control process 600 can end. In some implementations, after block 604, the TNP apparatus 11 may no longer be activated by user input to the switch 21, and the user may thus no longer be able to cause the TNP apparatus 11 to generate negative pressure.

[0046] If the disable input was not received, at block 606, the therapy control process 600 can determine whether an activation input was received from the user. The activation input may, for instance, be received from the user via the switch 21. In some implementations, the activation input may not be provided by any user input to the TNP apparatus 11 other than via the switch 21.

[0047] If the activation input was not received, the therapy control process 600 can return to block 602 and again determine whether the disable input was received from the user.

[0048] On the other hand, if the activation input was received, at block 608, the therapy control process 600 can supply negative pressure. The supply of negative pressure can be performed by the negative pressure source 12C, and the negative pressure can be supplied to the wound dressing 13 via the fluid flow path.

[0049] At block 610, the therapy control process 600 can determine whether a deactivation input was received from the user. The deactivation input may, for instance, be received from the user via the switch 21. In some implementations, the deactivation input may not be provided by any user input to the TNP apparatus 11 other than via the switch 21.

[0050] If the deactivation input was received, at block 612, the therapy control process 600 can prevent the supply of negative pressure. The supply of negative pressure can, for instance, be prevented by one or more of deactivation of operation of the negative pressure source 12C, opening of a vent positioned in the fluid flow path, and closing of a valve positioned in the fluid flow path. After block 612, the therapy control process 600 can return to block 602 and again determine whether the disable input was received from the user.

[0051] If the deactivation input was received, at block 614, the therapy control process 600 can determine whether the disable input was received from the user. The disable input may, for instance, be received from the user via the interface element 22. In some implementations, the disable input may not be provided by any user input to the TNP apparatus 11 other than via the interface element 22. In some embodiments, block 614 is periodically executed while the TNP apparatus 11 provides negative pressure wound therapy in order to determine if supply of negative pressure should be disabled.

[0052] If the disable input was not received, the therapy control process 600 can return to block 608 and the supply of negative pressure can continue.

[0053] If the disable input was received, at block 616, the therapy control process 600 can disable supply of negative pressure. The supply of negative pressure can, for instance, be disabled by deactivation of operation of the negative pressure source 12C or the control circuitry 12A, opening of a vent positioned in the fluid flow path, and closing of a valve positioned in the fluid flow path. After block 616, the therapy control process 600 can end. In some implementations, after block 616, the TNP apparatus 11 may no longer be activated by user input to the switch 21, and the user may thus no longer be able to cause the TNP apparatus 11 to generate negative pressure. Additionally or alternatively, the TNP apparatus 11 may no longer be activated by user input to the switch 21 until an enable input is received, such as from the user via the interface element 22. In some implementations, the enable input may not be provided by any user input to the TNP apparatus 11 other than via the interface element 22.

[0054] In some implementations of the therapy control process 600, the supply of negative pressure may not stop by any user inputs other than the deactivation input or the disable input.

[0055] FIGS. 7A, 7B, 7C illustrate connectors, which can be used with any of the embodiments of the negative pressure system described herein. FIG. 7A illustrates a header 700A with four circuits (or connectors) 70A, 70B, 70C, and 70D for connecting, for example, the switch 21 and the interface element 22 to each pair of circuits. FIG. 7B illustrates an SMT pin header 700B for connecting, for example,

the switch 21 and the interface element 22. In some implementations, the switch 21 can be connected to the connector 72A and the interface element 22 can be connected to the connector 72B or vice versa. FIG. 7C illustrates a ZIF connector 700C having a terminal 74 to which the switch 21 or the interface element 22 can be connected. In some embodiments, two ZIF connectors 700C can be used for connecting each of the switch 21 and interface element 22.

[0056] FIG. 8A illustrates a top view of a negative pressure therapy system 800A, which can be a more detailed example implementation of the negative pressure therapy system 200. A tab 810A can be pulled to rip an aperture in the wound dressing to force a gross leak along the dotted line 820A that causes termination of delivery of negative pressure. FIG. 8B illustrates a top view of a negative pressure therapy system 800B, which can be a more detailed example implementation of the negative pressure therapy system 200. Tabs 810B can be pulled to tear the wound dressing along the dotted line 820B to disrupt a power supply or electronics for the TNP apparatus (such as to remove a battery or electrical components) that causes termination of delivery of negative pressure.

[0057] FIG. 9 illustrates components 900 of a negative pressure therapy system, which can be a more detailed example implementation of the negative pressure therapy system 200. The components 900 can illustrate that the batteries can be separated from control electronics, and the connection between the batteries and control electronics can be used as an activation function. The components 900 can include a surface mount connector 910 on an underside as illustrated.

[0058] FIG. 10 illustrates components 1000 of a negative pressure therapy system, which can be a more detailed example implementation of the negative pressure therapy system 200. The components 1000 can include a surface mount connector 1010 on an upperside as illustrated. The components 1000 can illustrate that a main electric area can include a rigid PCB and have a connector on an uppermost surface to connect to a battery assembly.

[0059] FIG. 11 illustrates components 1100 of a negative pressure therapy system, which can be a more detailed example implementation of the negative pressure therapy system 200. The components 1100 can illustrate an arrangement

of repartitioned electronics relative to one or more other embodiments. The pump can be on one side, and batteries can be added as a pack. The pack could have silicone underside to adhere to the wound dressing. The components 1100 can include a surface mount connector on an underside as illustrated.

[0060] FIG. 12 illustrates components 1200 of a negative pressure therapy system, which can be a more detailed example implementation of the negative pressure therapy system 200. The components 1200 can illustrate a top of a pump module with a surface mount connector 1210 still on an upperside.

Other Variations

[0061] Any value of a threshold, limit, duration, etc. provided herein is not intended to be absolute and, thereby, can be approximate. In addition, any threshold, limit, duration, etc. provided herein can be fixed or varied either automatically or by a user. Furthermore, as is used herein relative terminology such as exceeds, greater than, less than, etc. in relation to a reference value is intended to also encompass being equal to the reference value. For example, exceeding a reference value that is positive can encompass being equal to or greater than the reference value. In addition, as is used herein relative terminology such as exceeds, greater than, less than, etc. in relation to a reference value is intended to also encompass an inverse of the disclosed relationship, such as below, less than, greater than, etc. in relations to the reference value. Moreover, although blocks of the various processes may be described in terms of determining whether a value meets or does not meet a particular threshold, the blocks can be similarly understood, for example, in terms of a value (i) being below or above a threshold or (ii) satisfying or not satisfying a threshold.

[0062] Features, materials, characteristics, or groups described in conjunction with a particular aspect, embodiment, or example are to be understood to be applicable to any other aspect, embodiment or example described herein unless incompatible therewith. All of the features disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract, and drawings), or all of the steps of any method or process so disclosed, may be combined in any combination, except

combinations where at least some of such features or steps are mutually exclusive. The protection is not restricted to the details of any foregoing embodiments. The protection extends to any novel one, or any novel combination, of the features disclosed in this specification (including any accompanying claims, abstract and drawings), or to any novel one, or any novel combination, of the steps of any method or process so disclosed.

[0063] While certain embodiments have been described, these embodiments have been presented by way of example only, and are not intended to limit the scope of protection. Indeed, the novel methods and systems described herein may be embodied in a variety of other forms. Furthermore, various omissions, substitutions and changes in the form of the methods and systems described herein may be made. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that in some embodiments, the actual steps taken in the processes illustrated or disclosed may differ from those shown in the figures. Depending on the embodiment, certain of the steps described above may be removed, others may be added. For example, the actual steps or order of steps taken in the disclosed processes may differ from those shown in the figure. Depending on the embodiment, certain of the steps described above may be removed, others may be added. For instance, the various components illustrated in the figures may be implemented as software or firmware on a processor, controller, ASIC, FPGA, or dedicated hardware. Hardware components, such as processors, ASICs, FPGAs, and the like, can include logic circuitry. Furthermore, the features and attributes of the specific embodiments disclosed above may be combined in different ways to form additional embodiments, all of which fall within the scope of the present disclosure.

[0064] User interface screens illustrated and described herein can include additional or alternative components. These components can include menus, lists, buttons, text boxes, labels, radio buttons, scroll bars, sliders, checkboxes, combo boxes, status bars, dialog boxes, windows, and the like. User interface screens can include additional or alternative information. Components can be arranged, grouped, displayed in any suitable order.

[0065] Although the present disclosure includes certain embodiments, examples and applications, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that the present disclosure extends beyond the specifically disclosed embodiments to other alternative embodiments or uses and obvious modifications and equivalents thereof, including embodiments which do not provide all of the features and advantages set forth herein. Accordingly, the scope of the present disclosure is not intended to be limited by the specific disclosures of preferred embodiments herein, and may be defined by claims as presented herein or as presented in the future.

[0066] Conditional language, such as “can,” “could,” “might,” or “may,” unless specifically stated otherwise, or otherwise understood within the context as used, is generally intended to convey that certain embodiments include, while other embodiments do not include, certain features, elements, or steps. Thus, such conditional language is not generally intended to imply that features, elements, or steps are in any way required for one or more embodiments or that one or more embodiments necessarily include logic for deciding, with or without user input or prompting, whether these features, elements, or steps are included or are to be performed in any particular embodiment. The terms “comprising,” “including,” “having,” and the like are synonymous and are used inclusively, in an open-ended fashion, and do not exclude additional elements, features, acts, operations, and so forth. Also, the term “or” is used in its inclusive sense (and not in its exclusive sense) so that when used, for example, to connect a list of elements, the term “or” means one, some, or all of the elements in the list. Further, the term “each,” as used herein, in addition to having its ordinary meaning, can mean any subset of a set of elements to which the term “each” is applied.

[0067] Conjunctive language such as the phrase “at least one of X, Y, and Z,” unless specifically stated otherwise, is otherwise understood with the context as used in general to convey that an item, term, etc. may be either X, Y, or Z. Thus, such conjunctive language is not generally intended to imply that certain embodiments require the presence of at least one of X, at least one of Y, and at least one of Z.

[0068] Language of degree used herein, such as the terms “approximately,” “about,” “generally,” and “substantially” as used herein represent a value, amount, or characteristic close to the stated value, amount, or characteristic that still performs a desired function or achieves a desired result. For example, the terms “approximately,” “about,” “generally,” and “substantially” may refer to an amount that is within less than 10% of, within less than 5% of, within less than 1% of, within less than 0.1% of, and within less than 0.01% of the stated amount. As another example, in certain embodiments, the terms “generally parallel” and “substantially parallel” refer to a value, amount, or characteristic that departs from exactly parallel by less than or equal to 15 degrees, 10 degrees, 5 degrees, 3 degrees, 1 degree, or 0.1 degree.

[0069] The scope of the present disclosure is not intended to be limited by the specific disclosures of preferred embodiments in this section or elsewhere in this specification, and may be defined by claims as presented in this section or elsewhere in this specification or as presented in the future. The language of the claims is to be interpreted broadly based on the language employed in the claims and not limited to the examples described in the present specification or during the prosecution of the application, which examples are to be construed as non-exclusive.

[0070] It is to be understood that, if any prior art publication is referred to herein, such reference does not constitute an admission that the publication forms a part of the common general knowledge in the art, in Australia or any other country.

[0071] In the claims which follow and in the preceding description of the invention, except where the context requires otherwise due to express language or necessary implication, the word “comprise” or variations such as “comprises” or “comprising” is used in an inclusive sense, i.e. to specify the presence of the stated features but not to preclude the presence or addition of further features in various embodiments of the invention.

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. An apparatus for applying negative pressure to a wound, the apparatus comprising:

a wound dressing configured to be placed over a wound of a patient;

a negative pressure source disposed on or within the wound dressing, the negative pressure source configured to provide negative pressure to the wound dressing via a fluid flow path;

a switch disposed on or within the wound dressing, the switch being configured to receive a first user input to control supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source;

an interface element disposed on or within the wound dressing, the interface element being configured to receive a second user input to disable supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source if the first user input is no longer usable to prevent supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source; and

control circuitry electrically coupled to the switch and the interface element, the control circuitry being configured to:

supply negative pressure with the negative pressure source in response to receipt of the first user input when the negative pressure source is not supplying negative pressure,

prevent supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source in response to receipt of the first user input when the negative pressure source is supplying negative pressure, and

in response to receipt of the second user input, disable supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source by disconnection of power to the negative pressure source without disconnecting power to the control circuitry.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein when the switch experiences a fault and is no longer able to receive the first user input, the control circuitry is further

configured to prevent or disable supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source in response to receipt of no user inputs other than the second user input.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the control circuitry is further configured to supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source in response to receipt of no user inputs other than the first user input.

4. The apparatus of any one of claims 1-3, wherein when the negative pressure source is supplying negative pressure, the control circuitry is further configured to prevent or disable supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source in response to receipt of no user inputs other than the first user input and the second user input.

5. The apparatus of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the interface element is configured to receive a third user input to enable supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source, and subsequent to disabling supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source, the control circuitry is, in response to receipt of the third user input, further configured to enable supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source by connection of power to the negative pressure source.

6. The apparatus of any one of claims 1-5, wherein the control circuitry is configured to prevent supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source by deactivation of operation of the negative pressure source.

7. The apparatus of any one of claims 1-6, wherein the control circuitry is configured to prevent supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source by opening of a vent positioned in the fluid flow path.

8. The apparatus of any one of claims 1-6, wherein the control circuitry is configured to prevent supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source by closing of a valve positioned in the fluid flow path.

9. The apparatus of any one of claims 1-8, wherein the interface element is molded in a film coupled to the wound dressing.

10. The apparatus of any one of claims 1-9, wherein the interface element comprises an electrical contact configured to receive the second user input.

11. The apparatus of any one of claims 1-10, wherein the switch is configured to receive the first user input in response to depression of the switch for a period of time.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the period of time is between 0.5 seconds and 5 seconds.

13. A method of operating a negative pressure wound therapy apparatus comprising a wound dressing, a negative pressure source disposed on or within the wound dressing, a switch disposed on or within the wound dressing, and an interface element disposed on or within the wound dressing, the switch being configured to receive a first user input to control supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source the interface element being configured to receive a second user input to disable supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source if the first user input is no longer usable to prevent supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source, and control circuitry, the method comprising:

supplying negative pressure with the negative pressure source to the wound dressing via a fluid flow path in response to receipt of the first user input when the negative pressure source is not supplying negative pressure to the wound dressing;

preventing supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source to the wound dressing via the fluid flow path in response to receipt of the first user input when the negative pressure source is supplying negative pressure to the wound dressing;

in response to receipt of the second user input, disabling supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source by disconnecting power

to the negative pressure source without disconnecting power to the control circuitry.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising subsequent to the switch experiencing a fault and no longer being able to receive the first user input, preventing or disabling supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source in response to receipt of no user inputs other than the second user input.

15. The method of claim 13 or claim 14, further comprising supplying negative pressure with the negative pressure source in response to receipt of no user inputs other than the first user input.

16. The method of any one of claims 13-15, further comprising when the negative pressure source is supplying negative pressure, preventing or disabling supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source in response to receipt of no user inputs other than the first user input and the second user input.

17. The method of any one of claims 13-16, wherein said preventing supply of negative pressure with the negative pressure source comprises deactivating operation of the negative pressure source.

18. The method of any one of claims 13-17, further comprising receiving the second user input via an electrical contact of the interface element.

19. The method of any one of claims 13-18, further comprising receiving the first user input in response to depression of the switch for a period of time.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the period of time is between 0.5 seconds and 5 seconds.

100 

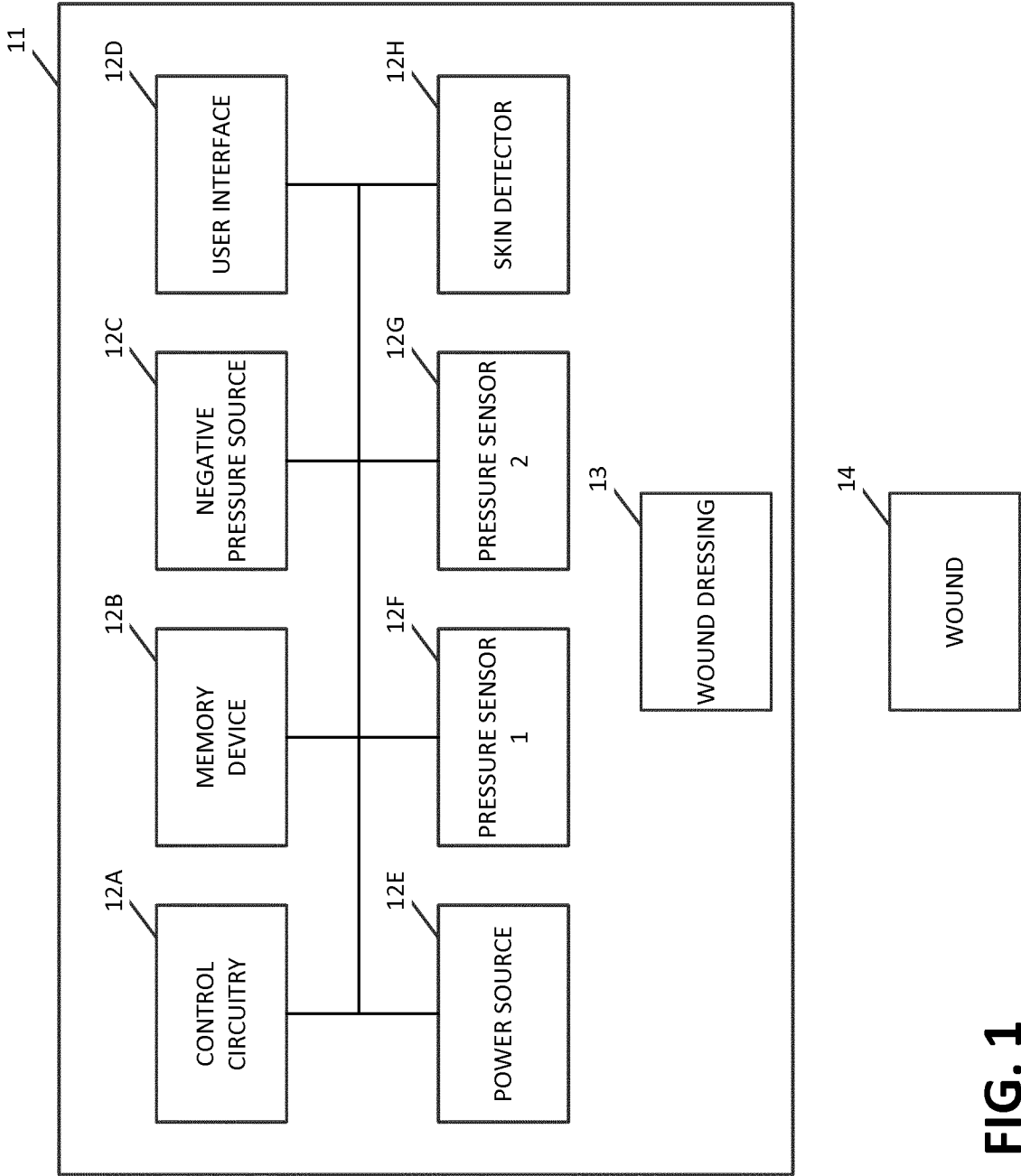


FIG. 1

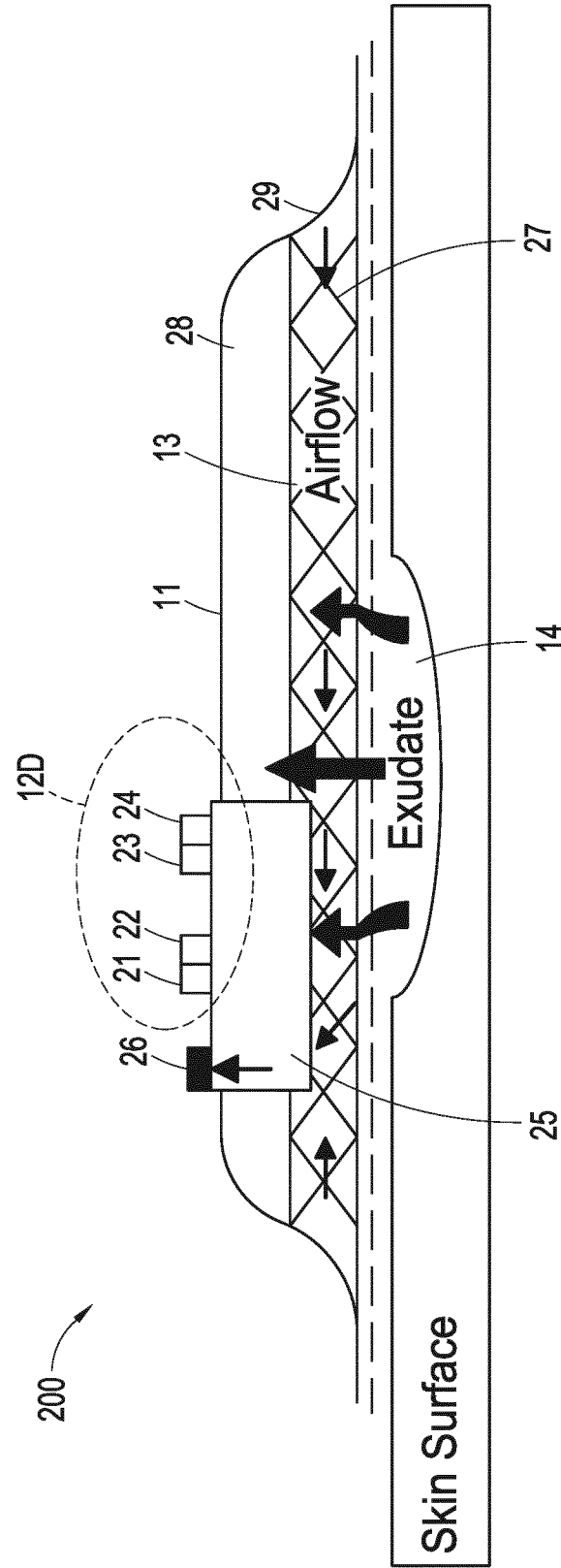


FIG. 2A

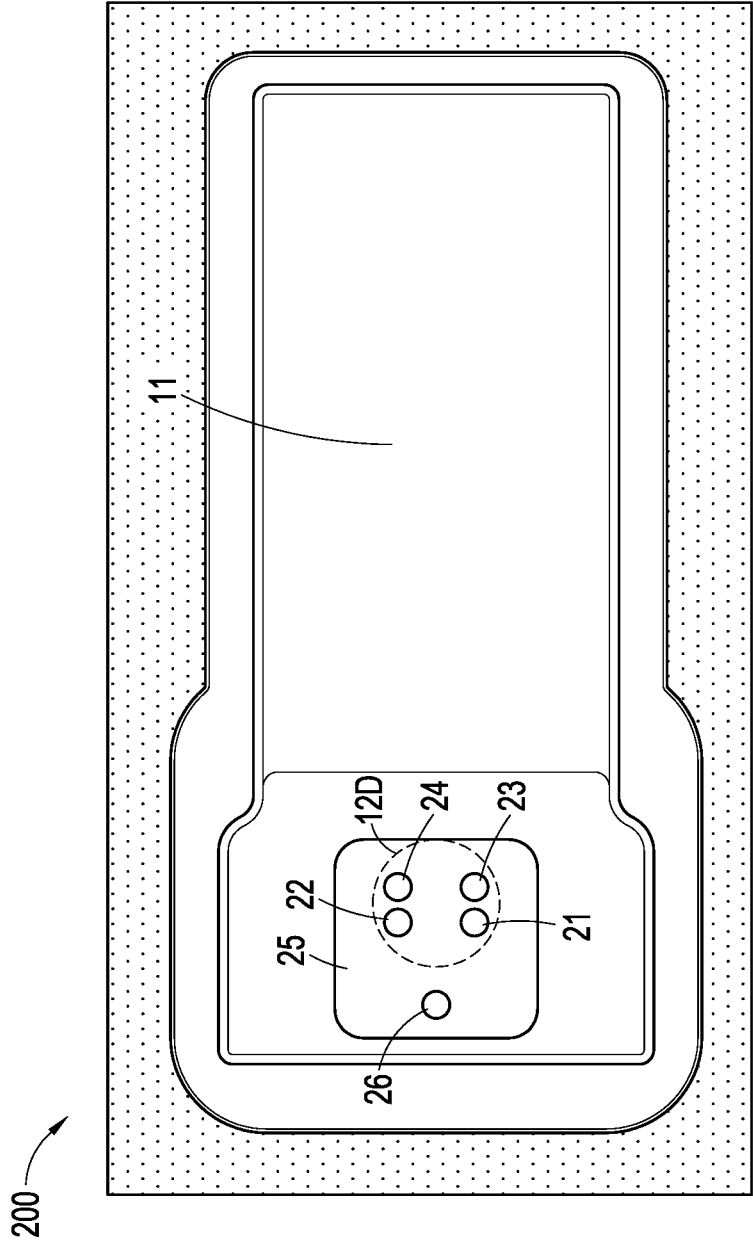


FIG. 2B

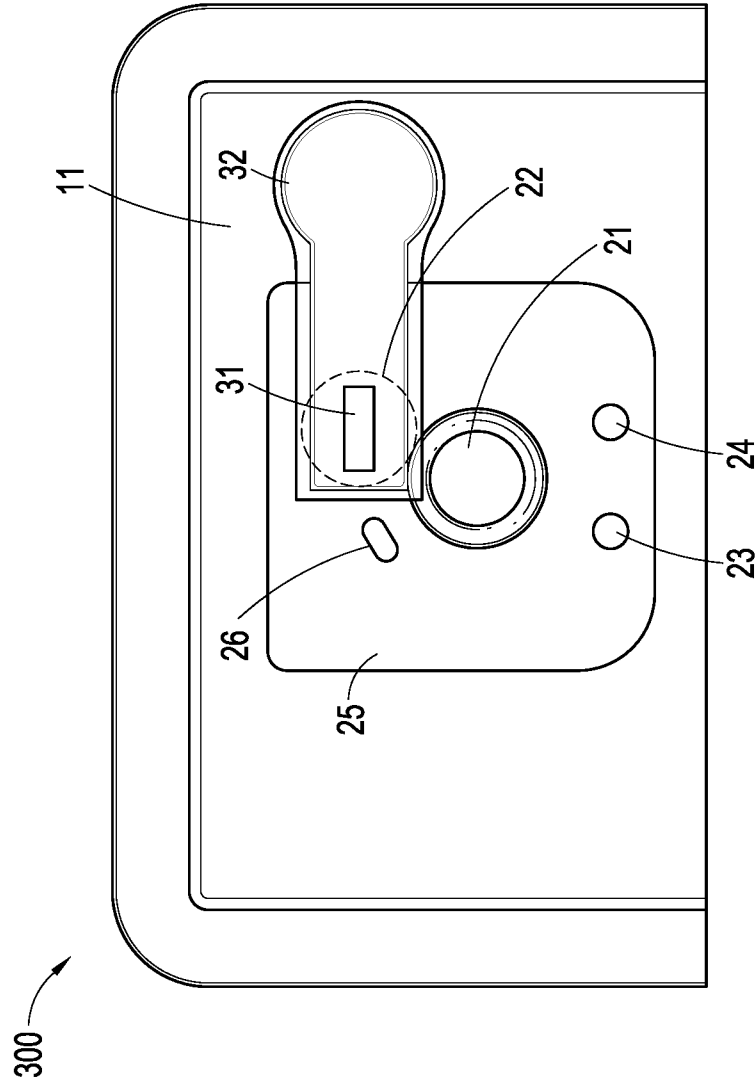


FIG. 3

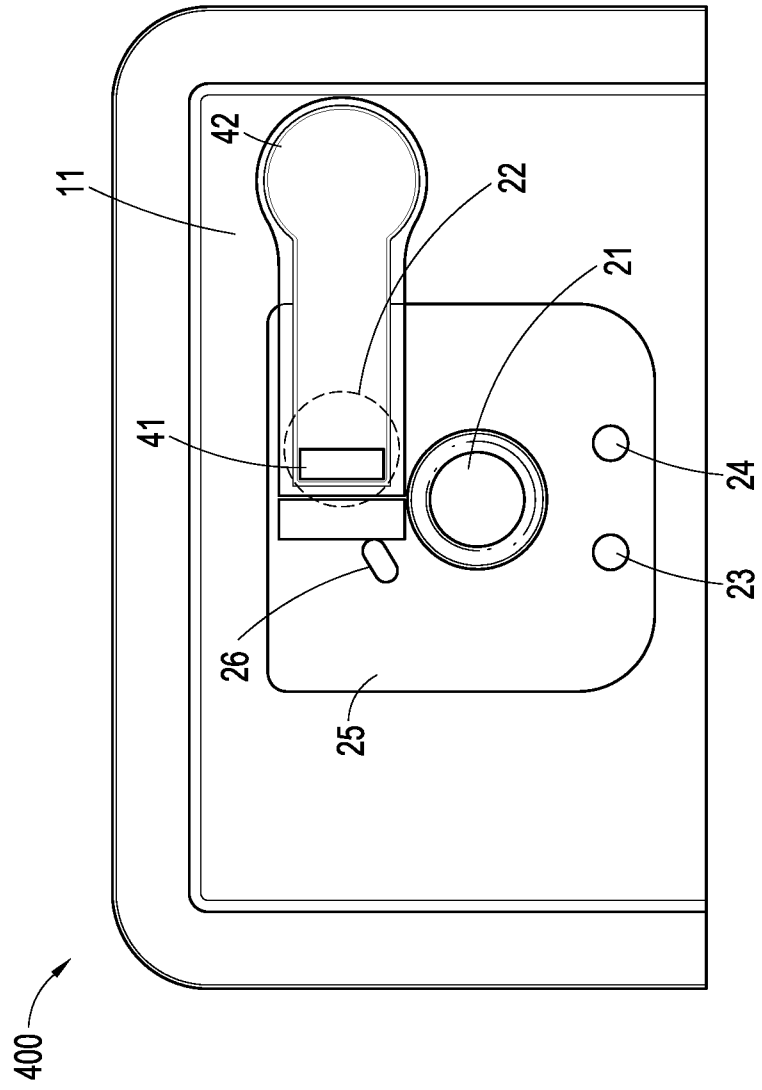


FIG. 4

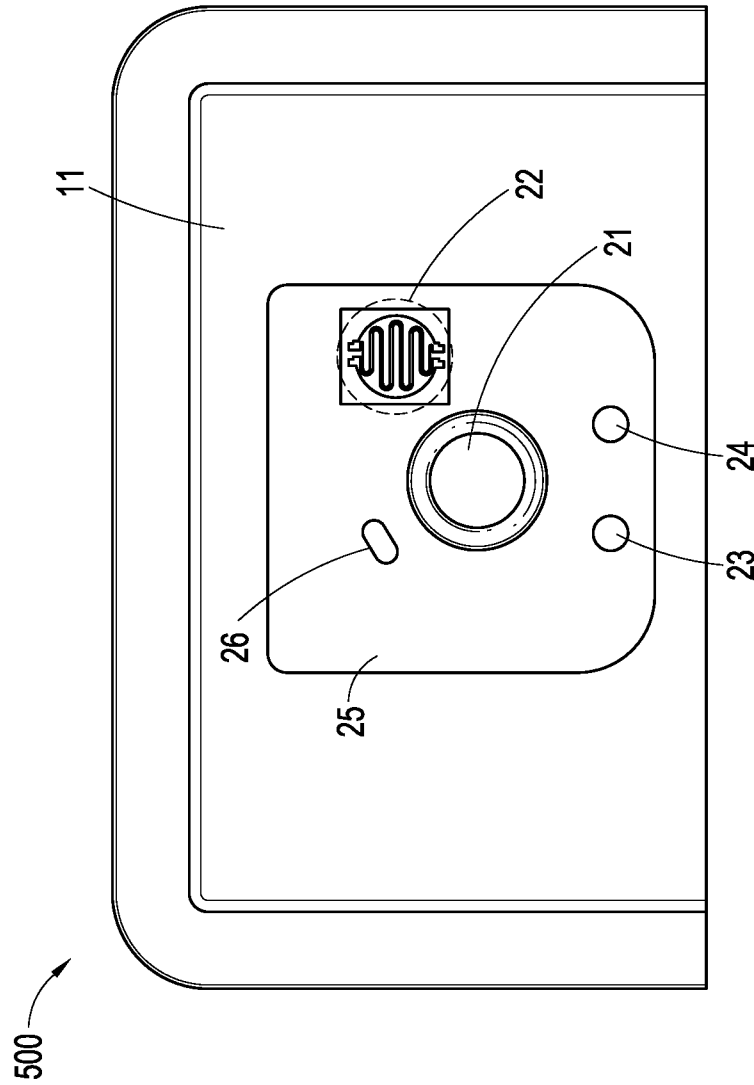


FIG. 5A

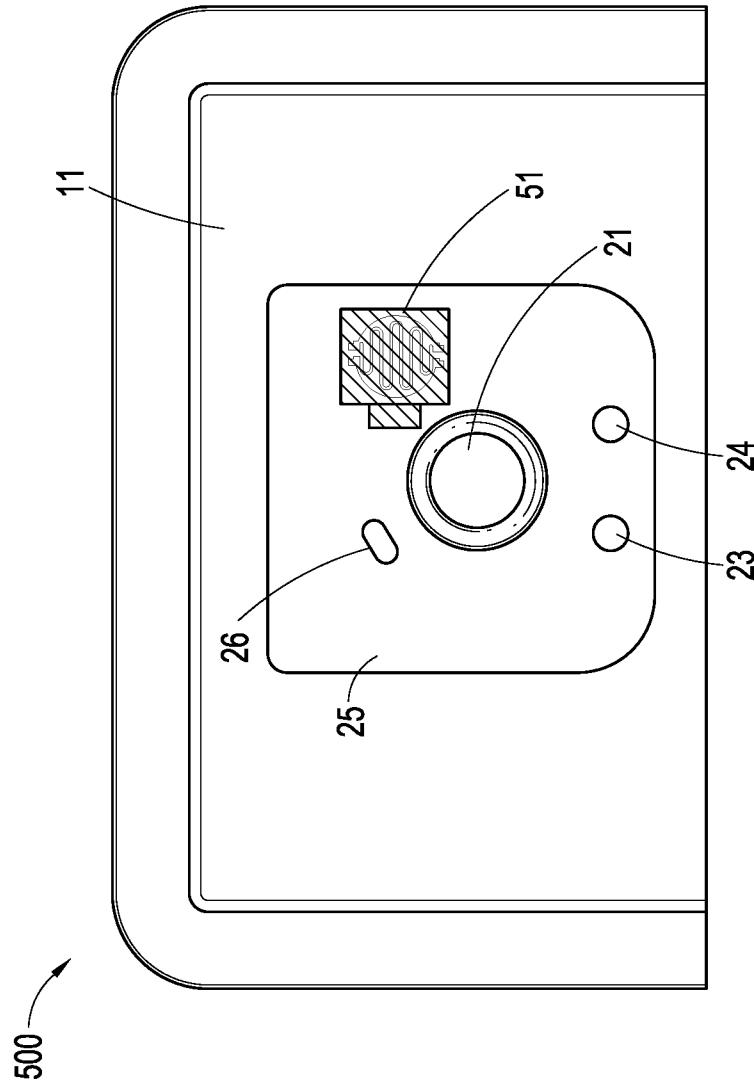
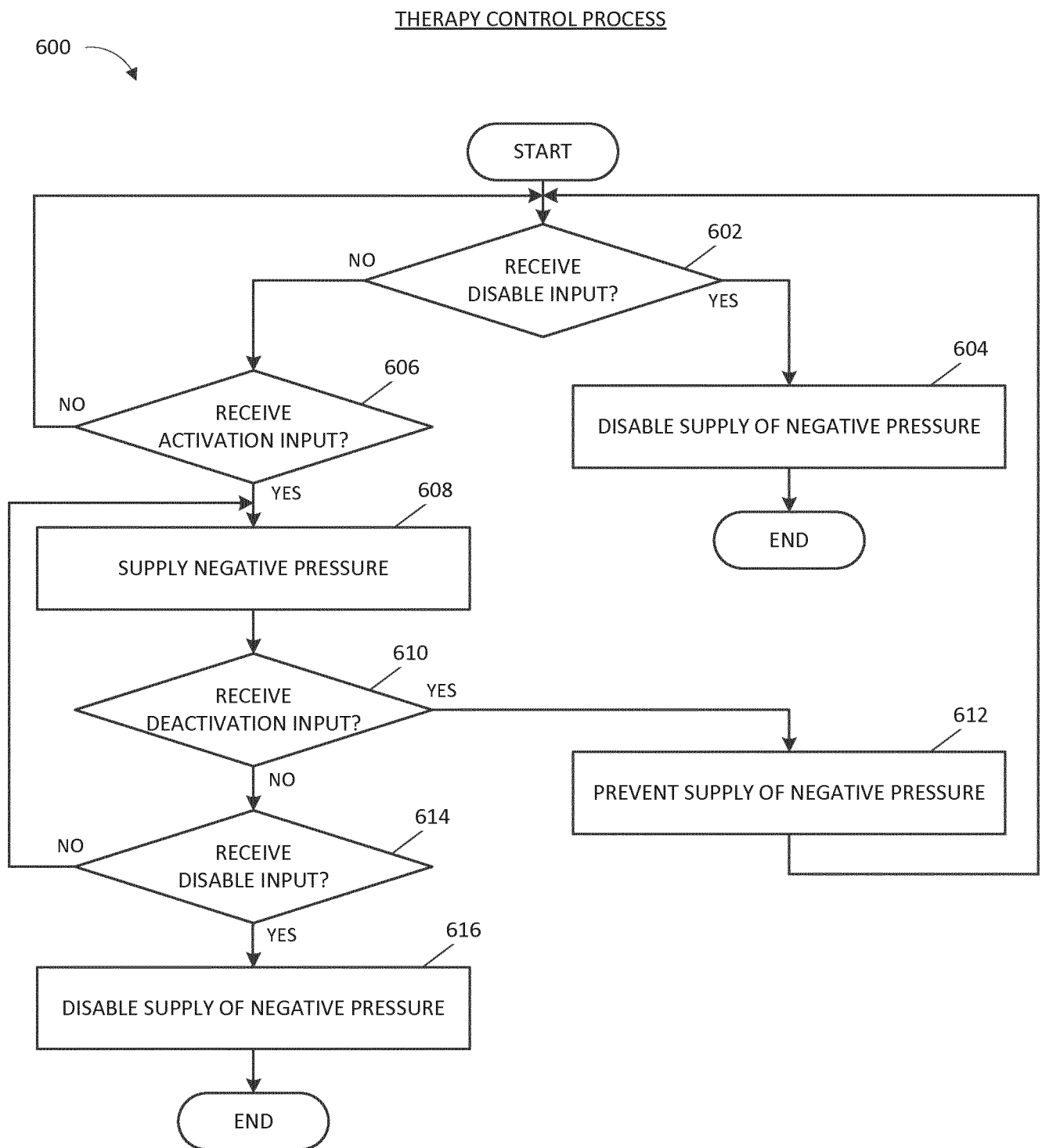
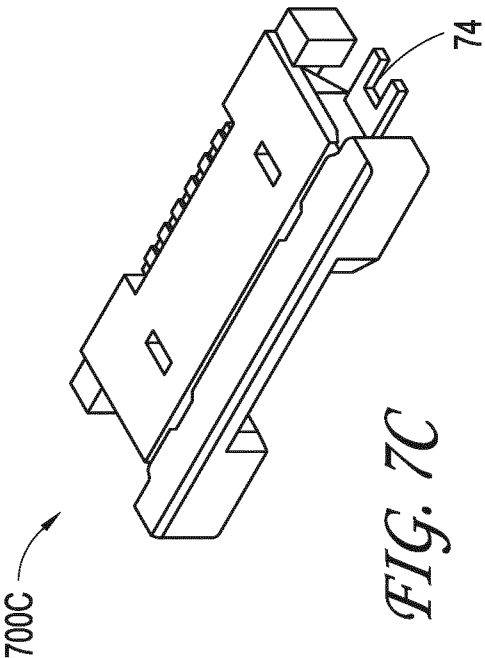
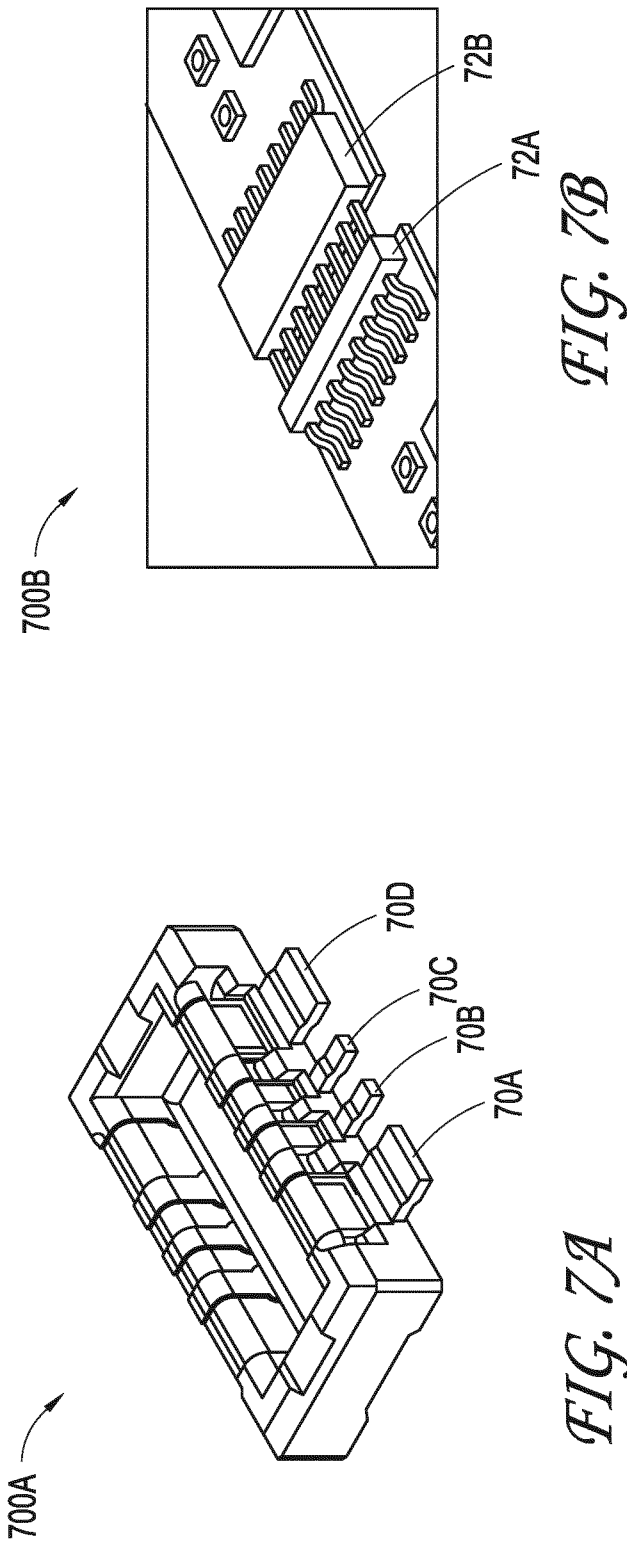


FIG. 5B

*FIG. 6*



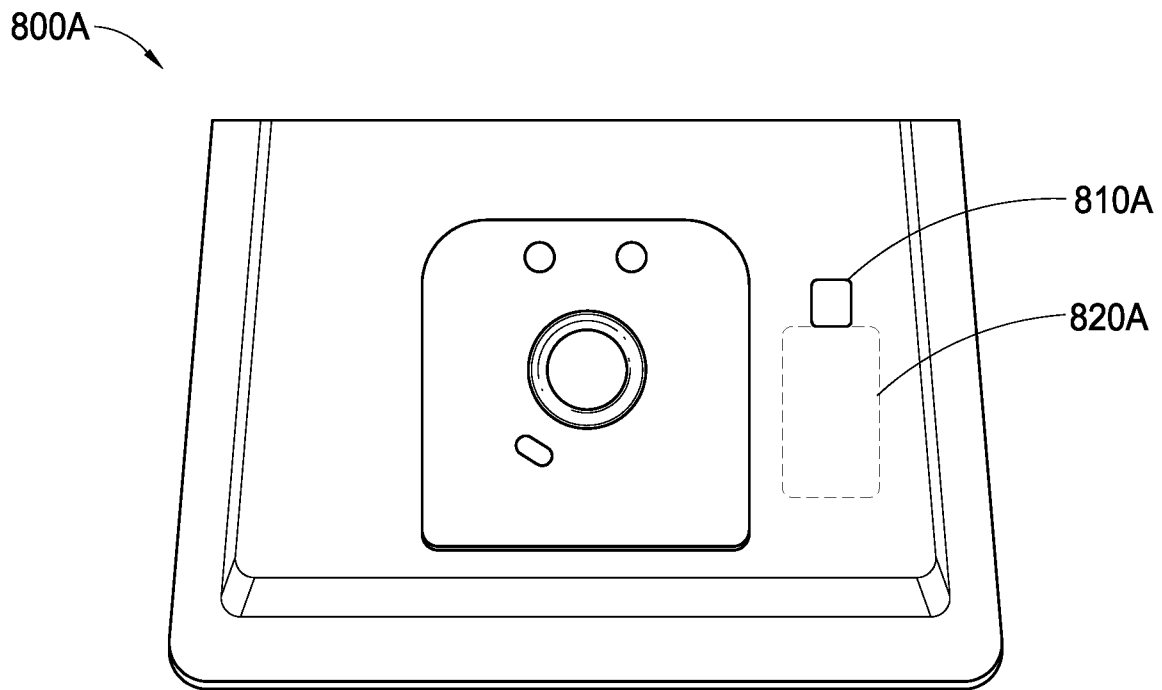


FIG. 8A

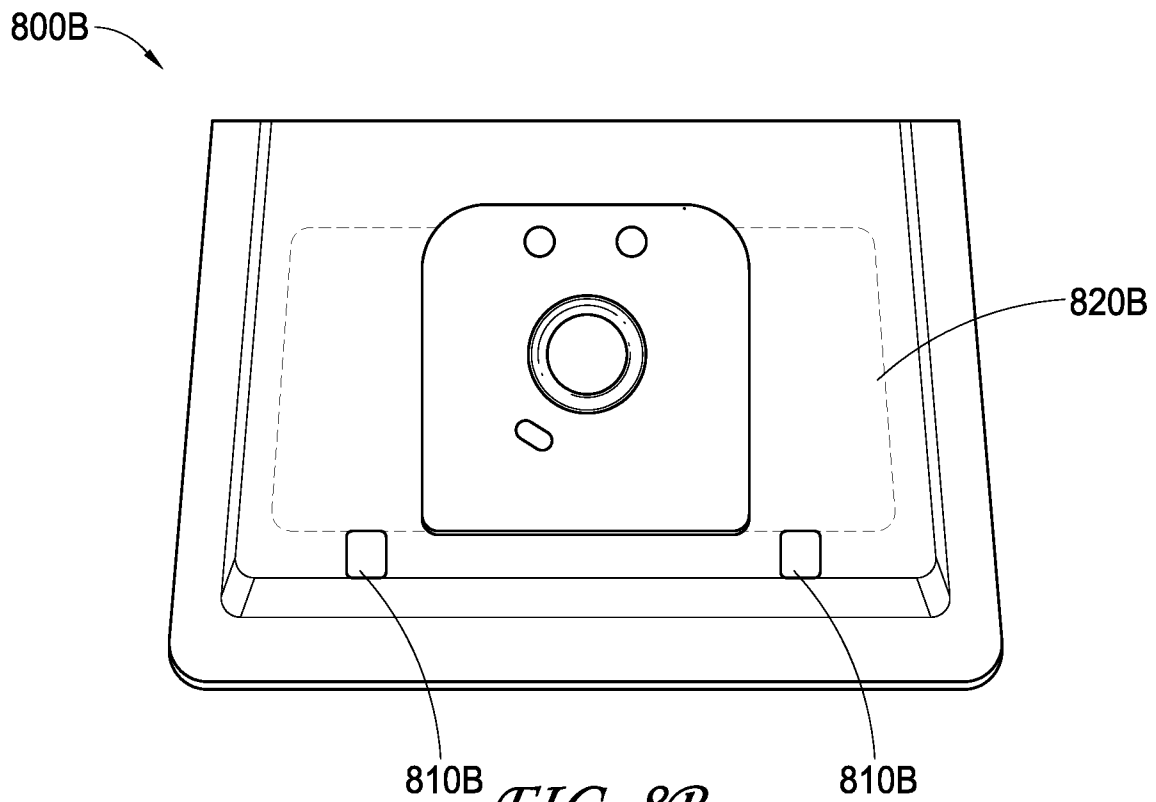


FIG. 8B

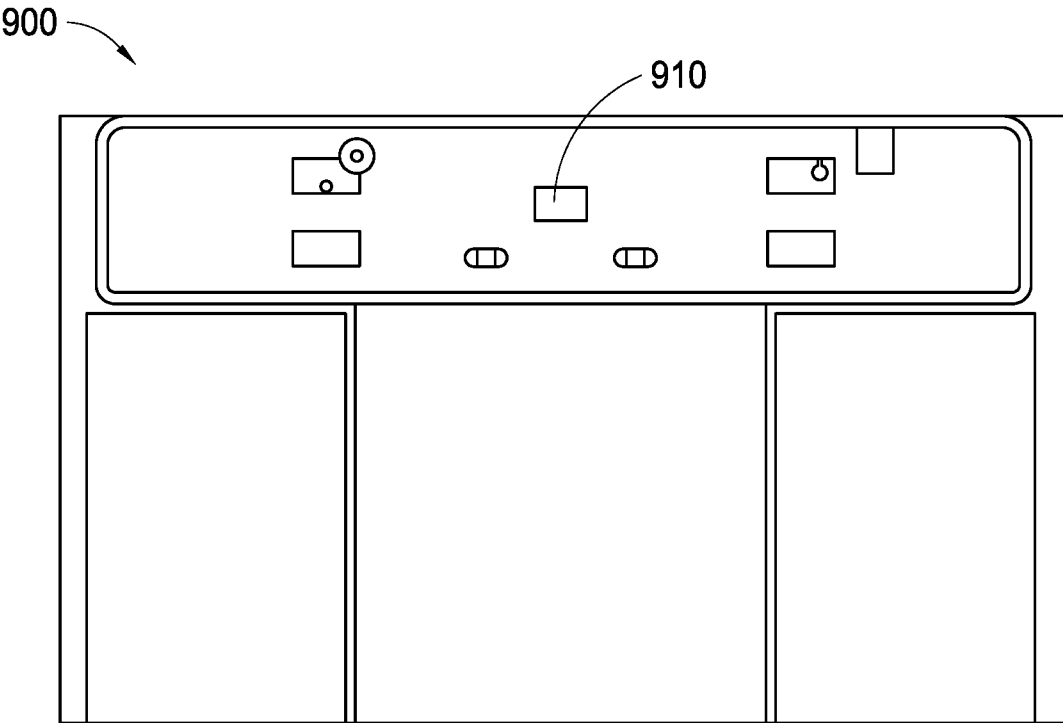


FIG. 9

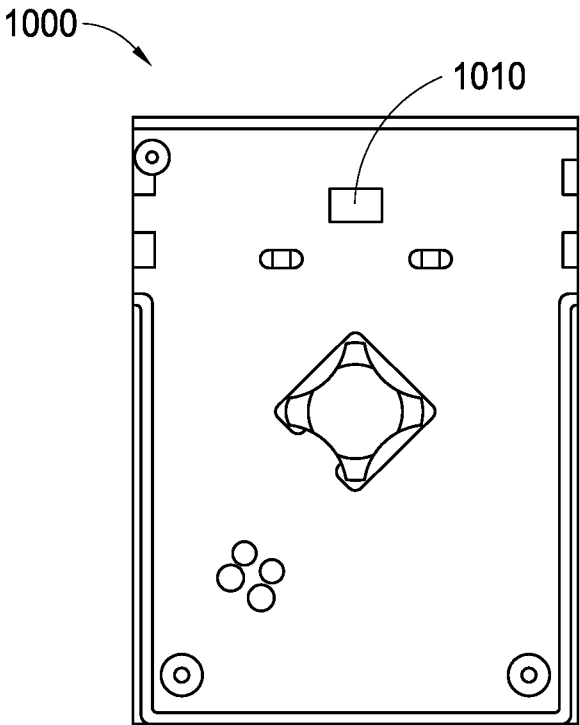


FIG. 10

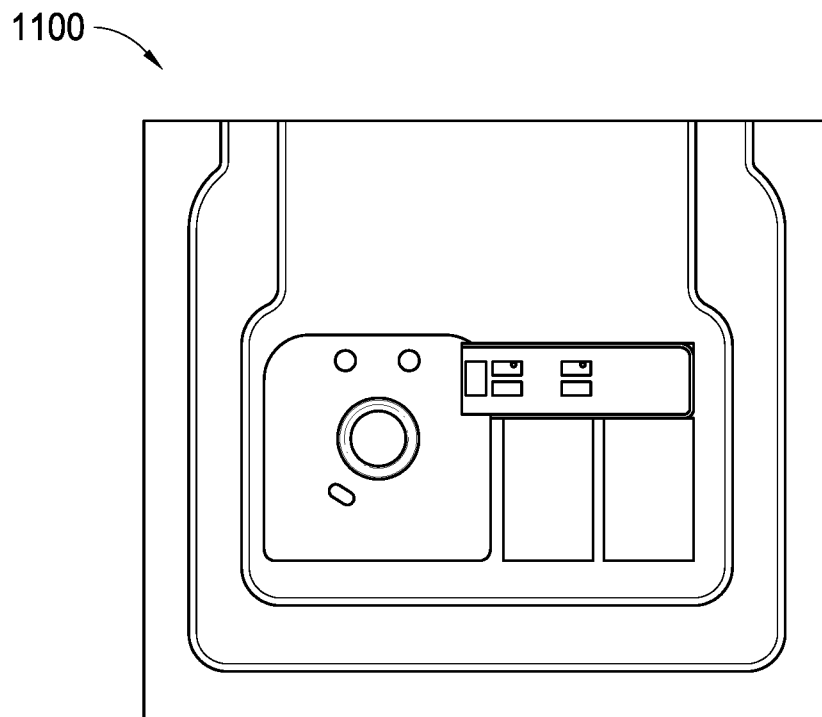


FIG. 11

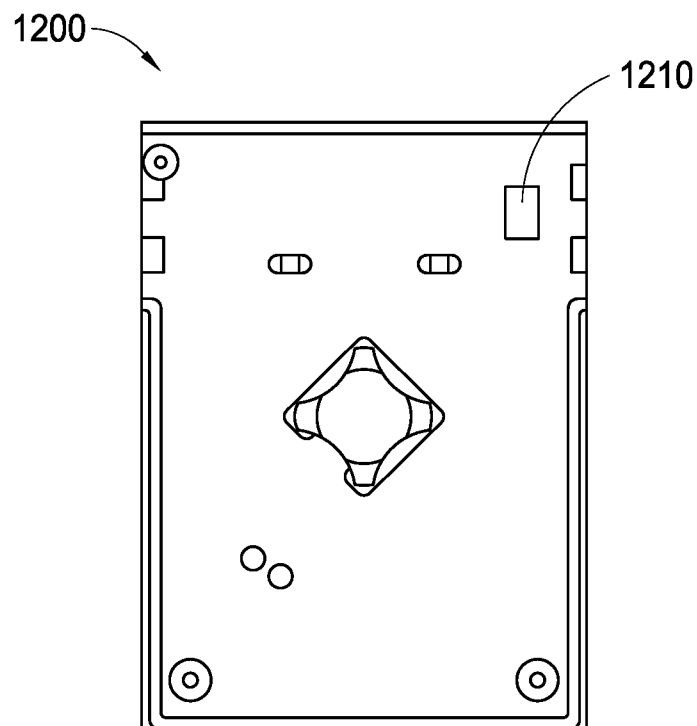


FIG. 12