(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
5 November 2015 (05.11.2015)

WIPO | PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2015/168226 A1

(51) International Patent Classification: *E21B 17/07* (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US2015/028186

(22) International Filing Date: 29 April 2015 (29.04.2015)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
61/986,871 30 April 2014 (30.04.2014) US

(71) Applicant: **TOLTEQ GROUP, LLC** [US/US]; PO Box 4207, Cedar Park, TX 78630 (US).

(72) Inventors: **DEERE, R., Paul**; 117 N Winecup Trial, Cedar Park, TX 78613 (US). **CHANDOS, David**; 14771 Spotted Horse Ln., Salado, TX 76571 (US). **MOTZING, Graham**; 1808 Piedmont Avenue, Austin, TX 78757 (US). **THOMAS, Jacob**; 2024 Mary Ella Drive, Leander, TX 78641 (US).

(72) Inventor *(for US only)*: **MENDEZ, Patrick**; 11300 West Parmer #713, Ceder Park, TX 78613 (US).

(74) Agent: **TANG, John, A.**; Strasburger & Price, LLP, Suite 2300, 909 Fannin Street, Houston, TX 77010 (US).

(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, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, 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).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*

— *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))*

[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title**: SNUBBER FOR DOWNHOLE TOOL

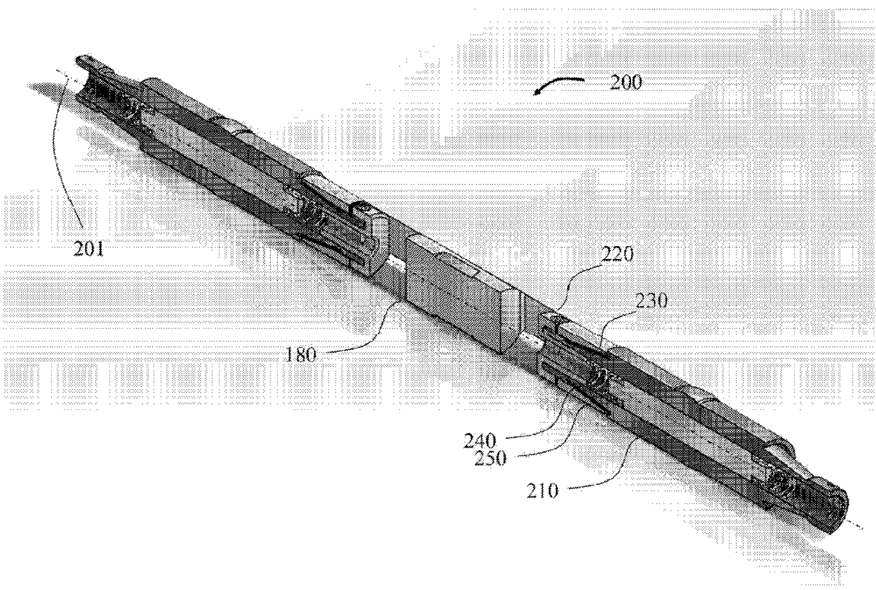


FIG. 2B

(57) **Abstract**: An apparatus for protecting sensitive electronics in a downhole tool from mechanical shock and vibration. The apparatus comprises a frustum-shaped sleeve configured to be disposed between the downhole tool and another downhole component through which a mechanical shock may travel to the downhole tool. The mechanical shocks may result in axial, radial, and/or rotations stress on the downhole tool. The frustum-shaped sleeve is disposed on one part of an interconnection pair made of a mating plug and a mating receptacle.

WO 2015/168226 A1

Published:

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

SNUBBER FOR DOWNHOLE TOOL

SPECIFICATION

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of Provisional U.S. Patent Application No. 61/986,871, filed April 30, 2014, which is hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes in its entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSURE

1. Field of the Disclosure

[0002] This disclosure relates to the field of downhole tools associated with rotary drilling in earth formations, especially to reduction of damage and wear due to mechanical shock and vibration.

2. Description of the Related Art

[0003] Rotary drilling in earth formations is used to form boreholes for obtaining materials in the formations, such as hydrocarbons. Rotary drilling involves a drill bit disposed on a drilling end of a drill string that extends from the surface. The drill string is made up of a series of tubulars that are configured to allow fluid to flow between the surface and earth formation. Above and proximate to the drill bit may be formation and/or borehole measurement tools for measurement-while-drilling. Multiple tools may be grouped together as a bottom hole assembly.

[0004] During rotation of the drill bit, downhole tools in the bottom hole assembly may be subjected to vibrations and mechanical shocks that can damage the measurement tools, communication along the drill string, or connections between downhole tools and other downhole components. The electronic and mechanical devices in tools may be particularly sensitive to mechanical shock and vibration. Damage to electronics in downhole tools may reduce reliability and life of the tool. Failure of the tool can result in costly downtime due to halted drilling operations and tool repairs before drilling may resume. To reduce damage, and thus failures due to mechanical shock and vibration, the tools may be isolated from mechanical shocks by one or more shock absorbing devices, commonly called snubbers.

[0005] A snubber is generally a component configured to reduce tool damage and wear due to stresses caused by mechanical shock and vibration. Conventional snubbers reduce the mechanical shocks being transmitted along the longitudinal axis of a drill string from the direction of the drill bit through compressibility of the snubber material. The conventional snubber may be spring or elastomeric ring configured to compress longitudinally when exposed to mechanical shocks. The shock absorbing ability of the snubber is often a function the thickness and type of snubbing material. As such, snubbers are typically disposed on the side of a downhole tool where mechanical shocks are most likely to be generated.

[0006] There is a need for a durable snubber that reduces mechanical shocks to downhole tools. There is a need for a snubber that provides protection against shocks in radial and/or rotational directions as well as the longitudinal direction. There is also a need for a snubber that provides different degrees of protection along different degrees of freedom of the downhole tool.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0007] In aspects, the present disclosure is related downhole tools associated with rotary drilling in earth formations. Specifically, the present disclosure is related to reducing damage and wear due to mechanical shock and vibration.

[0008] One embodiment includes an apparatus for reducing mechanical shock and vibration in a downhole tool configured to be disposed in a borehole, the apparatus comprising: a frustum-shaped sleeve configured to be disposed between a downhole tool and another downhole component, wherein the downhole tool and the downhole component are configured to mate with each other, and wherein the frustum-shaped sleeve comprises a mechanical shock absorbing material. One of the downhole component and the downhole tool may have a frustum-shaped mating plug with an outer surface configured to receive the frustum-shaped sleeve, and the other of the downhole component and the downhole tool may have a receptacle configured to receive the mating plug. The surface may be substantially smooth or radially corrugated. The downhole component may include one of: another downhole tool and a centralizer.

[0009] The mechanical shock absorbing material may include an elastomeric material. The elastomeric material may have a durometer value between about 10A and about 60A. In some aspects, the elastomeric material has a durometer value of between about 20A and about 40A. In some aspects, the elastomeric material has a deformation point above 260 degrees C. In some aspects, the elastomeric material retains its durometer value over a temperature range of about -50 degrees C to about 175 degrees C. The elastomeric material may include silicone.

[0010] The mechanical shock absorbing material may include a corrugated metal. The metal may be corrugated radially or longitudinally relative to an axis of the frustum-shaped sleeve. The frustum-shaped mating plug may be made of the same metal as the corrugated metal. The mechanical shock absorbing material is selected to retain its temper in a temperature range of about -50 degrees C to about 175 degrees C.

[0011] The frustum-shaped sleeve may be a conical or pyramidal in shape. The frustum-shaped sleeve may have an interior angle in a range of about 5 degrees to about 80 degrees. In some aspects, the frustum-shaped sleeve may have an interior angle in a range of about 5 degrees to about 35 degrees. In some aspects, the frustum-shaped sleeve may have an interior angle in a range of about 8 degrees to about 28 degrees.

[0012] Another embodiment according to the present disclosure is an apparatus for operating in a borehole, the apparatus comprising: a downhole tool configured to perform an electronic operation; a downhole component configured to interconnect with the downhole tool; and a frustum-shaped sleeve disposed between the downhole tool and the downhole component at the interconnection and comprising a mechanical shock absorbing material. One of the downhole tool and the downhole component may have a frustum-shaped mating plug with an outer surface configured to receive the frustum-shaped sleeve and the other may have a mating receptacle configured to receive the mating plug. The outer surface of the mating plug may be radially corrugated or substantially smooth. The inner surface of the mating receptacle may be radially corrugated or substantially smooth. The downhole component may include one of: another downhole tool and a centralizer.

[0013] The mechanical shock absorbing material may comprise an elastomeric material or a corrugated metal. The elastomeric material may have a durometer value between about 10A and about 60A. In some aspects, the elastomeric material has a durometer value of between about 20A and about 40A. In some aspects, the elastomeric material has a deformation point above 260 degrees C. In some aspects, the elastomeric material retains is durometer value over a temperature range of about -50 degrees C to about 175 degrees C. The elastomeric material may include silicone.

[0014] The mechanical shock absorbing material may include a corrugated metal. The metal may be corrugated radially or longitudinally relative to an axis of the frustum-shaped sleeve. The frustum-shaped mating plug may be made of the same metal as the corrugated metal. The mechanical shock absorbing material is selected to retain its temper in a temperature range of about -50 degrees C to about 175 degrees C.

[0015] The frustum-shaped sleeve may be a conical or pyramidal in shape. The frustum-shaped sleeve may have an interior angle in a range of about 5 degrees to about 80 degrees. In some aspects, the frustum-shaped sleeve may have an interior angle in a range of about 5 degrees to about 35 degrees. In some aspects, the frustum-shaped sleeve may have an interior angle in a range of about 8 degrees to about 28 degrees.

[0016] The frustum-shaped mating plug may be hollow and have a first opening and a second opening further comprising: a preload retainer configured to be partially inserted into the smaller of the two openings of the frustum-shaped mating plug, the preload retainer comprising: a boss dimensioned to be larger than an inner diameter of the smaller opening, and a tube with an outer diameter that is smaller than the inner diameter of the smaller opening. The frustum-shaped mating plug and the mating receptacle may be configured to slidingly engage to form the interconnection.

[0017] Examples of the more important features of the disclosure have been summarized rather broadly in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood and in order that the contributions they represent to the art may be appreciated. There are, of course, additional features of the disclosure that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject of the claims appended hereto.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0018] A better understanding of the present disclosure can be obtained with the following detailed descriptions of the various disclosed embodiments in the drawings, which are given by way of illustration only, and thus are not limiting the present disclosure, and wherein:

FIG. 1 is a diagram of a drilling system with a bottom hole assembly configured for use in a borehole that includes downhole tools according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 2A is a 3-D view of a downhole tool mated with a downhole component according to one embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 2B is a cross-sectional view along the length of the tool of **FIG. 2A**;

FIG. 2C is a 3-D view of a snubber on a mating plug according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 2D is a 3-D view of an elastomeric snubber as a hollow conical frustum according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 3A is a 3-D view of a metallic snubber as a hollow conical frustum with radial corrugations according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 3B is a 3-D view of a metallic snubber as a hollow conical frustum with longitudinal corrugations according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 3C is a 3-D view of a snubber as a hollow pyramidal frustum according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 4A is a 3-D view of the mating plug of FIG. 2C without the snubber;

FIG. 4B is a 3-D view of a mating plug with radial corrugations according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 5A is a 3-D view of the mating receptacle from **FIG. 2B**;

FIG. 5B is a 3-D view of a mating receptacle with radial corrugations according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 6A is a cross-sectional view along the length of an elastomeric snubber disposed between a corrugated mating plug and a substantially smooth mating receptacle according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 6B is a 3-D cross-sectional view along the length of an elastomeric snubber of **FIG. 2D** disposed between a substantially smooth mating plug and a corrugated mating receptacle according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 6C is a 2-D cross-sectional view along the length of an elastomeric snubber disposed between a corrugated mating plug and a corrugated mating receptacle with interlocking corrugations according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 6D is a 2-D cross-sectional view along the length of an elastomeric snubber disposed between a corrugated mating plug and a corrugated mating receptacle with opposing corrugations according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 7 is a 3-D view of a preload retainer for use with the mating plug for one embodiment according to the present disclosure;

FIG. 8 is a 2-D cross-sectional view along the length of the connection between the mating plug and the mating receptacle with a preload retainer from **FIG. 2B**;

FIG. 9 is a 3-D cross-sectional view perpendicular to the axis of the downhole tool and through the preload retainer according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 10 is a 3-D cross-sectional view perpendicular to the axis of the downhole tool of **FIG. 9** with the mating receptacle removed;

FIG. 11 is a 3-D cross-sectional view along the length of a metal snubber disposed between the mating plug and the mating receptacle according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 12A is a 3-D view of a interconnection for a downhole tool with opposing snubbers and with the a cover plate of the chassis removed according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 12B is a 3-D view of the interconnection of **FIG. 12A** with the chassis of the downhole tool closed; and

FIG. 13 is a 3-D view of snubber assembly configured for a downhole tool according to one embodiment of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0019] In aspects, the present disclosure is related to downhole drilling operations. Specifically, the present disclosure is related to protection of components of downhole tools that may be sensitive to the mechanical shock and vibration that occurs during drilling operations and may reduce the operating lifetime of the downhole tools. The present invention is susceptible to embodiments of different forms. There are shown in the drawings, and herein will be described in detail, specific embodiments with the understanding that the present invention is to be considered an exemplification of the principles and is not intended to limit the present invention to that illustrated and described herein.

[0020] **FIG. 1** shows a diagram of a drilling system **100** that includes a drilling rig **110** disposed on a surface **120** and above a borehole **130** in an earth formation **140**. Disposed in the borehole **130** is drill string **150** with a drill bit **160** at the bottom of the borehole **130**. Above the drill bit **160** is a bottom hole assembly **170** that includes one or more downhole tools **180**. The downhole tools **180** may be configured for measurement, communication, and other operations during drilling.

[0021] **FIG. 2A** and **2B** show diagrams of one of the downhole tools **180** connected to another downhole component **210** to form a set **200** of interconnected components that includes a snubber **230** between the downhole component **210** and the downhole tool **180**. **FIG. 2A** shows set **200** has an axis **201** which is shared with the downhole component **210** and the downhole tool **180**. The downhole component **210** may be another downhole tool, a centralizer, or an interconnection sub. A preload retainer **220** is disposed on the downhole tool **180** to apply pressure to a spring in the downhole component **210**. The preload retainer **220** is optional in some embodiments.

[0022] The downhole tool **180** and the downhole component **210** mate to form an interconnection. The snubber **230** is shown disposed between a mating plug **240** and a mating receptacle **250**. While **FIG. 2B** shows a cross-section of the set **200** so that the mating plug **240** on the downhole component **210** and the mating receptacle **250** on the downhole tool **180** may be viewed. The mating connection in **FIG. 2B** is illustrative and exemplary only, and, in some embodiments, the mating plug **240** may be disposed on the downhole tool **180** and the mating receptacle **250** may be disposed on the downhole component **210**.

[0023] **FIG. 2C** shows a diagram of the snubber **230** disposed on the downhole component **210**. The snubber **230** comprises a material that absorbs mechanical shocks and vibrations. The snubber **230** is substantially frustum-shaped sleeve, meaning that it has the shape of a cone or pyramid that is hollowed out and truncated by a plane that is substantially parallel with a plane forming the base of the cone or pyramid. The thickness of the sleeve may be varied based on the desired mechanical shock dampening and design requirements of the downhole tool **180**. The snubber **230** is configured to be received by another frustum-shaped component, such as frustum-shaped portion of the downhole component **210** or of the downhole tool **180**.

[0024] The snubber **230** is configured to operate in a borehole environment including an environment where hydrocarbon drilling and production occur. The snubber **230** is made of a material suitable for downhole operating conditions as would be understood by a person of ordinary skill in the art.

[0025] The snubber **230** may be an elastomeric material. The elastomeric material may have a Shore durometer value of between about 10A and 60A. In some embodiments, the elastomeric material may have a Shore durometer value of between about 20A and 40A. The elastomeric material may retain a Shore durometer value in its designed range over a range of temperatures between about -50 degrees C and about 175 degrees C. In some embodiments, the elastomeric material is silicone.

[0026] **FIG. 2D** shows a diagram of the snubber **230** as a conical frustum with a smooth surface. The snubber **230** may also be formed as a pyramidal frustum. As with any frustum, the snubber **230** will have in interior angle which is defined as the angle from the apex (if the frustum were a complete cone or pyramid) to the snubber **230** may have in interior angle in a range of about 5 degrees to 80 degrees. In some embodiments, the snubber may have in interior angle of about 5 degrees to about 35 degrees. Further, in some embodiments, the snubber may have an interior angle of about 8 degrees to about 28 degrees.

[0027] **FIGs. 3A** and **3B** shows diagrams of the snubber **310, 320** comprising a metal. The metal snubbers **310, 320** may have many of the properties of the snubber **230**, including its frustum shape, interior angles, and mechanical shock absorbing properties. The metal snubber **310, 320** may be corrugated. Herein, corrugated is used to describe any surface that has two or more uniform, alternating ridges or grooves, whether sharp (such as saw-toothed) or smooth (such as ripple). The metal snubber **310**, **320** is configured to be received by a substantially smooth surface of the frustum-shaped portion of either the downhole tool **180** or the downhole component **210**. The metal may be selected so the corrugated form remains suitable (retains its temper, etc.) for mechanical shock absorption over a temperature range of about -50 degrees C to about 175 degrees C. In **FIG. 3A**, the snubber **310** is shown with radial corrugations in relation to axis **201**. In **FIG. 3B**, the snubber **320** is shown with longitudinal corrugations in relation to axis **201**. The metal snubbers **310**, **320** may have the same frustum shape the elastomeric snubber **230**, though the metal snubbers **310**, **320** have corrugated surfaces

[0028] **FIG. 3C** shows a diagram of a snubber **330** having a hollow pyramidal frustum shape. The snubber **330** may be metal or elastomeric. While shown with 10 sides, this is not a limitation and the snubber **330** may have 4 or more sides. The snubber **330** may be configured to be received by a pyramidal frustum-shaped mating plug **240** with an identical number of sides as the snubber **330**. In this way, the pyramidal frustum shape of the snubber **330** may provide its own internal clocking to the pyramidal frustum shape of either a mating plug **240** or a mating receptacle **250**. In some embodiments, the sides will be uniform. In some embodiments, the snubber **330** may have 4 to 20 sides. As shown, the snubber **330** has a pyramidal frustum-shape on the outside **340** and the inside **350** with a substantially uniform thickness; however, this illustrative and exemplary only. In some embodiments, one of the outside **340** and the inside **350** may be pyramidal frustum-shaped while the other is conical frustum-shaped. Thus, a mating plug **240** with an exterior that is one of a conical and pyramidal frustum-shape and a mating receptacle **250** with an interior that is the other of the conical and pyramidal frustum-shape may be used together when the snubber **330** is configured with to be received by both.

[0029] **FIG. 4A** shows a diagram of a mating plug **240** configured to receive the snubber **230**. The mating plug **240** may include a section **410** with a larger outer diameter than the largest inner diameter of the snubber **230** to prevent longitudinal movement of the snubber **230** toward the component **210** or tool **180** with the mating plug **240**. The mating plug **240** may also include a boss **420** with an outer diameter larger than the smaller inner diameter of the snubber **230** to prevent longitudinal movement of the snubber **230** away from the component **210** or tool **180**. The mating plug **240** may have a smooth frustum-shaped section **430** configured to receive the elastomeric snubber **230** between the section **410** and the boss **420**.

[0030] **FIG. 4B** shows a diagram of a mating plug **240** with a corrugated frustum-shaped section **440** configured to receive an elastomeric snubber **230**. The section **440** is disposed between the section **410** and the boss **420**.

[0031] **FIG. 5A** shows a diagram of the mating receptacle **250** from **FIG. 2B**. The mating receptacle **250** may have a substantially smooth inner surface **510**. The substantially smooth inner surface **510** is suitable for receiving a mating plug **240** with a snubber **230**, **310**, **320** on the surface of the mating plug **240**.

[0032] **FIG. 5B** shows a diagram of a mating receptacle **250** with a corrugated surface **520**. The corrugated surface **520** is suitable for receiving a mating plug **240** with a snubber **230** on the surface of the mating plug **240**. The corrugated surface **520** is shown in a radial corrugation pattern; however, it is also contemplated that the mating receptacle **250** may have longitudinal corrugations.

[0033] **FIG. 6A** shows a cross-section diagram of the snubber **230** in one embodiment of a connection between the mating plug **240** and the mating receptacle **250**. The snubber **230** is disposed between the corrugated surface **440** of the mating plug **240** and the substantially smooth surface **510** of the mating receptacle **250**.

[0034] When mechanical shocks are received along the longitudinal axis **201**, the force of the shock may be partially or fully absorbed by the snubber **230**. The frustum-shape provides a larger surface area for absorption of the shock than a conventional ring snubber while still dimensioned to fit within the interior dimension of the mating receptacle **250**. By distributing the shock over a larger surface area, the snubber **230** provides more shock absorption than a ring-shaped snubber of the same material, thickness, and radius relative to longitudinal axis **201**. Thus, the frustum-shaped snubber **230** may provide similar shock dampening while thinner, or, at the same thickness of a conventional ring-shaped snubber, provide greater shock dampening and increased life expectancy. The frustum-shape also provides radial damping when lateral shocks are received and rotational damping when rotational shocks are received.

[0035] **FIG. 6B** shows a cross-section diagram of the snubber **230** in another embodiment of a connection between the mating plug **240** and the mating receptacle **250**. Here, the snubber **230** is disposed between the substantially smooth surface **430** of the mating plug **240** and the corrugated surface **520** of the mating receptacle **250**.

[0036] **FIG. 6C** shows a cross-section diagram of the snubber in another embodiment of the connection between the mating plug **240** and the mating receptacle **250**. Here, the snubber **230** is disposed between the corrugated surface **440** of the mating plug **240** and the corrugated surface **520** of the mating receptacle **250**. The corrugations of the corrugated surface **440** and the corrugated surface **520** are aligned so that the peaks and valleys of one corrugated surface are aligned with the valleys and peaks of the other corrugated surface so as to "interlock" with one another.

[0037] **FIG. 6D** shows a cross-section diagram of the snubber in another embodiment of the connection between the mating plug **240** and the mating receptacle **250**. Here, the snubber **230** is disposed between the corrugated surface **440** of the mating plug **240** and the corrugated surface **520** of the mating receptacle **250**. The corrugations of the corrugated surface **440** and the corrugated surface **520** are aligned so that the peaks and valleys of one corrugated surface are aligned with the peaks and valleys of the other corrugated surface so as to match or be "opposed" to one another.

[0038] **FIG. 7** shows a diagram of an embodiment of the preload retainer **220**. The preload retainer **220** may include a boss **710** with an outer diameter larger than the inner diameter of the boss **420** so that the preload retainer **220** cannot pass into the mating plug **240**. A saddle **720** is disposed on the boss **710** to provide a cushion between the boss **420** and the boss **710**. The saddle **720** may be comprised of an elastomeric material, which may be the same or different than the elastomeric material used for the snubber **230**. A wire access tube **730** may be disposed in an orifice of the boss **710** and configured to allow passage of wires between the mating plug **240** and the mating plug **250**. The wire access tube **730** may include an optional slot **740** to permit access to its interior. The wire access tube **730** has an outer diameter that is less than the inner diameter of the mating plug **240** and is configured for partial insertion into the mating plug **240**. The wire access tube **730** is held in position relative to boss **710** by one or more cross pins **750**.

[0039] **FIG. 8** shows a diagram of the preload retainer **220** with the wire access tube **730** inserted into the mating plug **240**. The downhole component **210** is equipped with a spring **810** and a concentric multi-pin connector **820**. The wire access tube **730** is configured to apply force to the spring **810** such that the spring **810** is compressed when the preload retainer **220** is disposed on the mating plug **240**.

[0040] **FIG. 9** shows a cross-sectional view of the preload retainer **220** while mounted to the downhole component **210**. With the mating receptacle **250** connected to the mating plug **240**, the preload retainer **220** is inserted between a pair of raised surfaces **910** of the mating receptacle **250**. The raised surfaces **910** prevent rotational movement of the preload retainer **220** when the downhole component **210** and downhole tool **180** are exposed to twisting forces. Here, the intersection of the cross pins **750** and the wire access tube **730** may be seen. The saddle **720** may provide rotational and lateral damping of mechanical shocks.

[0041] **FIG. 10** shows the cross-sectional view of **FIG. 9** where the mating plug **240** is exposed for viewing. In some embodiments, the preload retainer **220** may be formed as part of the mating plug **240** rather than inserted and secured by cross pins **250**. Since the mating receptacle **250** cannot be mated to the mating plug **240** though sliding engagement while the preload retainer **220** in place, the mating receptacle **250** may be formed of two or more pieces that may be reformed around the mating plug **240** in order to form the connection. The frustum-shape of the snubber **230** provides rotational and lateral shock dampening, which augments the dampening provided by the saddle **720**. In fact, the entire surface of the snubber **230** contributes to the damping action in addition of the saddle **720** for dampening rotational shocks.

[0042] **FIG. 11** shows an embodiment where a metal snubber **310** disposed between the mating plug **240** and the mating receptacle **250**. The metal snubber **310** is radially corrugated, and the outer surface of the mating plug **240** and the inner surface of the mating receptacle **250** are substantially smooth.

[0043] **FIGs. 12A** and **12B** show an interconnection **1200** between a downhole component **1210** and a downhole tool chassis **1250**. The downhole component **1210** is shown with a mating plug **1240** configured to be received by a cavity **1220** in the downhole tool chassis **1250**. The snubbers **1230**, **1260** are disposed on the mating plug **1240**, which includes two frustum-shaped sections (not shown) configured to receive the snubbers **1230**, **1260**. The cavity **1220** may be dimensioned so that the mating plug **1240** may be received into the chassis **1250** in a lateral direction, when a cover **1270** is removed, but may not be received or disengage through movement in an axial direction. The snubbers **1230**, **1260** have the shape of frustum-shaped sleeves, such as the snubbers **230**, **310**, **320**, **330**. The snubber **1230** may be the same or different in dimension relative to the snubber **1260**. The snubbers **1230**, **1260** substantially conform to the shape of the mating plug **1240** and are arranged so that the smaller diameter openings of the hollow frusta are adjacent. While the downhole component **1210** is shown with the mating plug **1240** and the downhole tool chassis **1250** with the cavity **1220**, this is illustrative and exemplary only. In some embodiments, the downhole tool chassis **1250** may have the mating plug **1240** and the downhole component **1210** may have the cavity **1220**.

[0044] **FIG. 13** shows a snubber assembly **1300** for use with a downhole tool **210**. A cover plate **1310** configured to be received by the downhole tool **210**. The cover plate **1310** includes a frustum-shaped base (not shown) configured to receive the snubber **1230**. The snubber **1230** is secured from axial movement by raised portions **1320**, **1330** of the base that are one either side of the snubber **1230** in the axial direction **201**. The assembly **1300** includes a mounting foot **1350** configured for attachment to another downhole component and a shaft **1340** through which shock and vibration may be transmitted the snubber **1230** for absorption. The assembly **1300** also includes an optional snubber layer **1360**, which may augment the axial shock protection provided by the snubber **1230**. The optional snubber layer **1360** may be supported by an optional support plate **1370** disposed as with its plane perpendicular to the axial direction **201**. In some embodiment, there may be multiple alternating optional snubber layers **1360** and optional support plates **1370**.

[0045] While embodiments in the present disclosure have been described in some detail, according to the preferred embodiments illustrated above, it is not meant to be limiting to modifications such as would be obvious to those skilled in the art.

[0046] The foregoing disclosure and description of the disclosure are illustrative and explanatory thereof, and various changes in the details of the illustrated apparatus and system, and the construction and the method of operation may be made without departing from the spirit of the disclosure.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is

1. An apparatus for reducing mechanical shock and vibration in a downhole tool configured to be disposed in a borehole, the apparatus comprising:

   a frustum-shaped sleeve configured to be disposed between a downhole tool and another downhole component, wherein the downhole tool and the downhole component are configured to mate with each other, and wherein the frustum-shaped sleeve comprises a mechanical shock absorbing material.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein one of the downhole component and the downhole tool has a frustum-shaped mating plug with an outer surface configured to receive the frustum-shaped sleeve, and the other of the downhole component and the downhole tool has a receptacle configured to receive the mating plug.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the surface is radially corrugated.

4. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the surface is substantially smooth.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the downhole component comprises one of: another downhole tool and a centralizer.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mechanical shock absorbing material comprises an elastomeric material.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the elastomeric material has a durometer value between about 10A and about 60A.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the elastomeric material has a durometer value of between about 20A and about 40A.

9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the elastomeric material has a deformation point above 260 degrees C.

10. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the elastomeric material retains is durometer value over a temperature range of about -50 degrees C to about 175 degrees C.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the elastomeric material is silicone.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mechanical shock absorbing material comprises a corrugated metal

13. The apparatus of claim 12, the frustum-shaped sleeve having an axis, and wherein the corrugated metal is corrugated radially relative to the axis.

14. The apparatus of claim 12, the frustum-shaped sleeve having an axis, and wherein the corrugated metal is corrugated longitudinally relative to the axis.

15. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein frustum-shaped mating plug is made of the same metal as the corrugated metal.

16. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the mechanical shock absorbing material is selected to retain its temper in a temperature range of about -50 degrees C to about 175 degrees C.

17. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the frustum-shaped sleeve has a conical frustum shape.

18. The apparatus of claim 1, the frustum-shaped sleeve having an interior angle in a range of about 5 degrees to about 80 degrees.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, the frustum-shaped sleeve having an interior angle in a range of about 5 degrees to about 35 degrees.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, the frustum-shaped sleeve having an interior angle in a range of about 8 degrees to about 28 degrees.

21. An apparatus for operating in a borehole, the apparatus comprising:

a downhole tool configured to perform an electronic operation;

a downhole component configured to interconnect with the downhole tool; and

a frustum-shaped sleeve disposed between the downhole tool and the downhole component at the interconnection and comprising a mechanical shock absorbing material.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein one of the downhole tool and the downhole component has a frustum-shaped mating plug with an outer surface configured to receive the frustum-shaped sleeve and the other has a mating receptacle configured to receive the mating plug.

23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the outer surface of the mating plug is radially corrugated.

24. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the outer surface of the mating plug is substantially smooth.

25. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the downhole component comprises one of: another downhole tool and a centralizer.

26. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the mechanical shock absorbing material comprises an elastomeric material.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the elastomeric material has a durometer value between about 10A and about 60A.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the elastomeric material has a durometer value of between about 20A and about 40A.

29. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the elastomeric material has a deformation point above 260 degrees C.

30. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the elastomeric material retains is durometer value over a temperature range of about -50 degrees C to about 175 degrees C.

31. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the elastomeric material is silicone.

32. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the mechanical shock absorbing material comprises a corrugated metal

33. The apparatus of claim 32, the frustum-shaped sleeve having an axis, and wherein the corrugated metal is corrugated radially relative to the axis.

34. The apparatus of claim 32, the frustum-shaped sleeve having an axis, and wherein the corrugated metal is corrugated longitudinally relative to the axis.

35. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein frustum-shaped mating plug is made of the same metal as the corrugated metal.

36. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the mechanical shock absorbing material is selected to retain its temper in a temperature range of about -50 degrees C to about 175 degrees C.

37. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the frustum-shaped sleeve is a conical frustum.

38. The apparatus of claim 21, the frustum-shaped sleeve having an interior angle in a range of about 5 degrees to about 80 degrees.

39. The apparatus of claim 38, the frustum-shaped sleeve having an interior angle in a range of about 5 degrees to about 35 degrees.

40. The apparatus of claim 39, the frustum-shaped sleeve having an interior angle in a range of about 8 degrees to about 28 degrees.

41. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the frustum-shaped mating plug is hollow and has a first opening and a second opening further comprising:

a preload retainer configured to be partially inserted into the smaller of the two openings of the frustum-shaped mating plug, the preload retainer comprising:

a boss dimensioned to be larger than an inner diameter of the smaller opening, and

a tube with an outer diameter that is smaller than the inner diameter of the smaller opening.

42. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the frustum-shaped mating plug and the mating receptacle are configured to slidingly engage to form the interconnection.

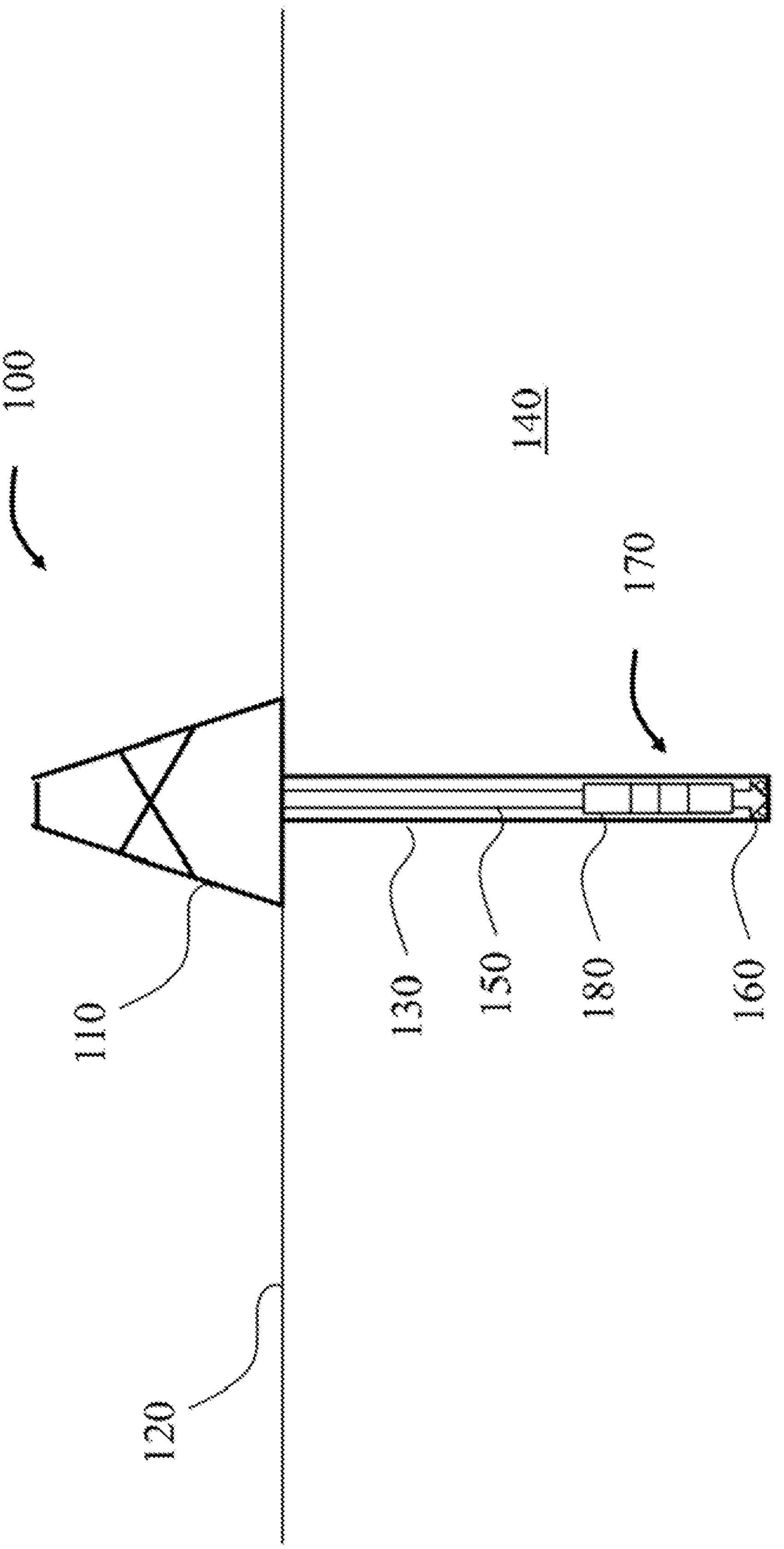


FIG. 1

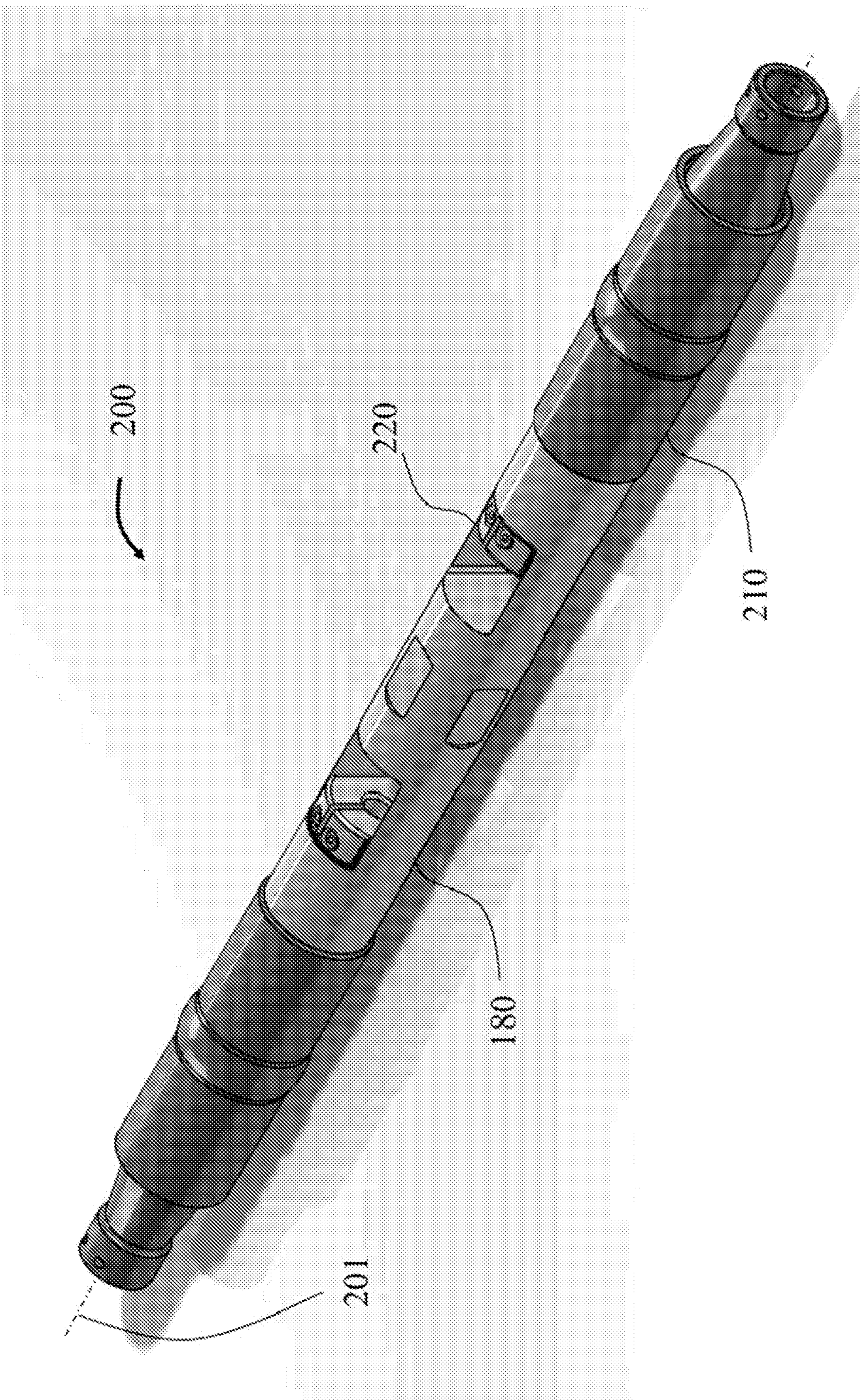


FIG. 2A

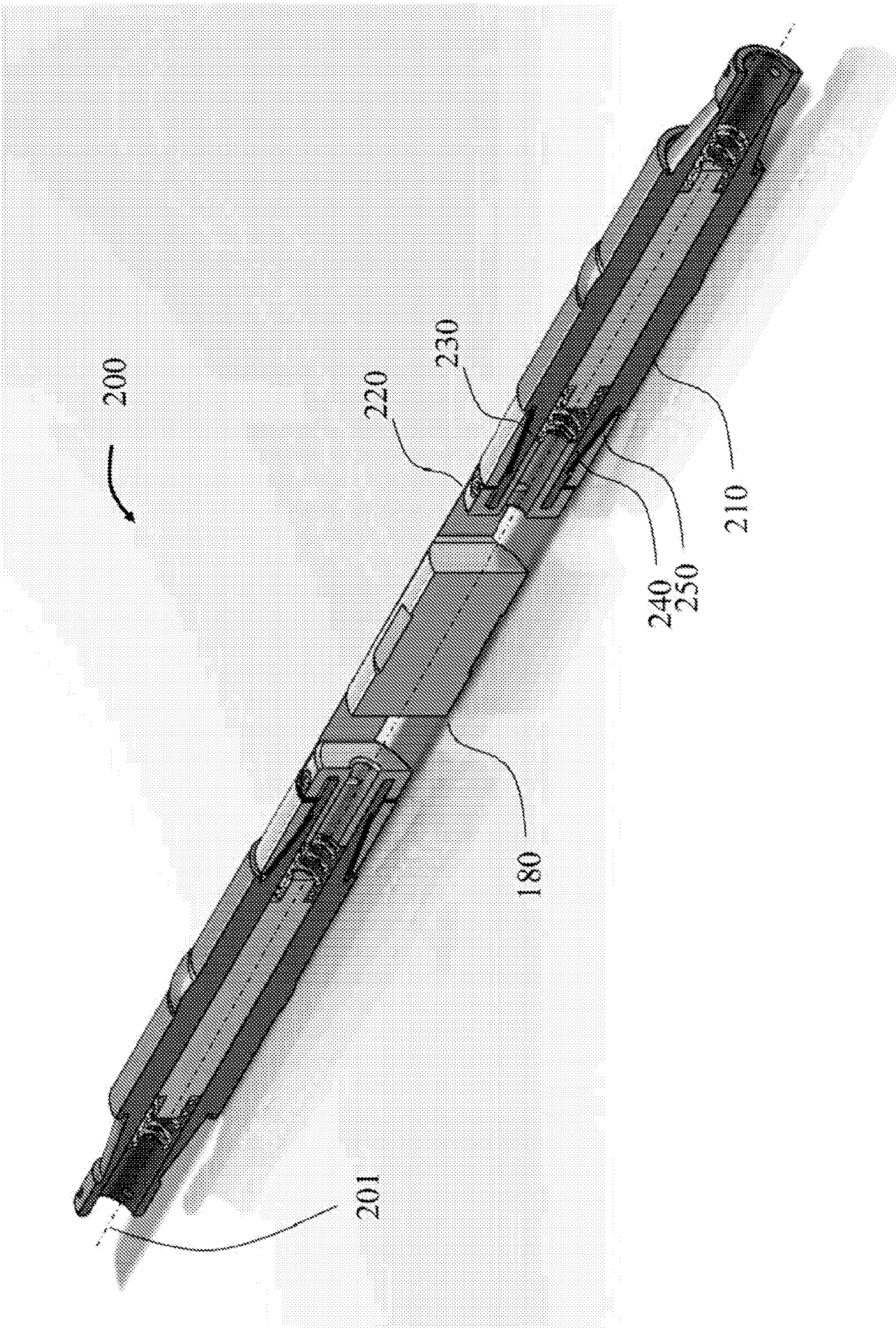


FIG. 2B

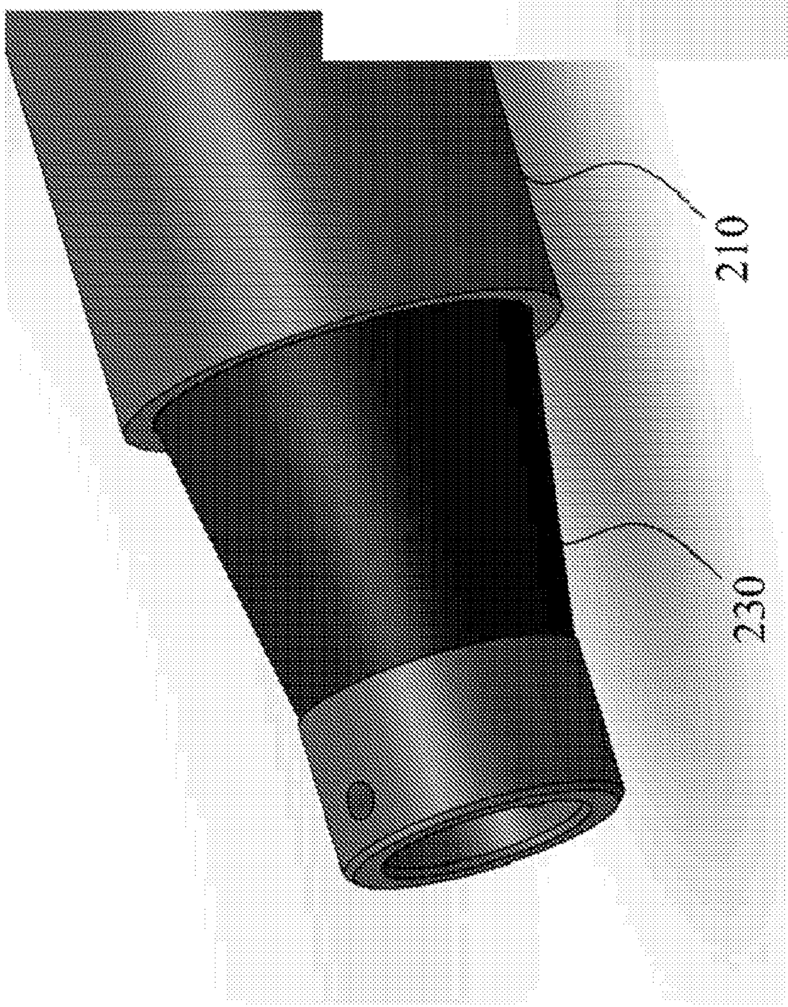


FIG. 2C

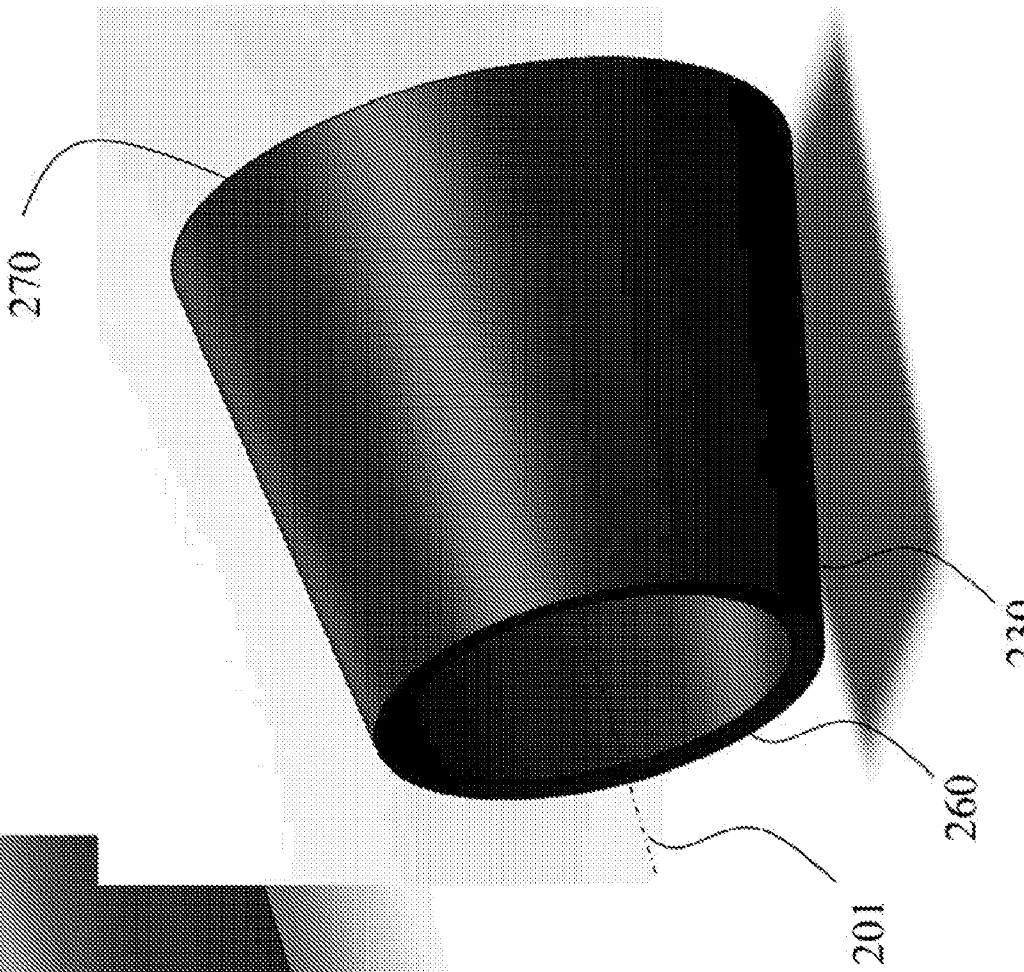


FIG. 2D

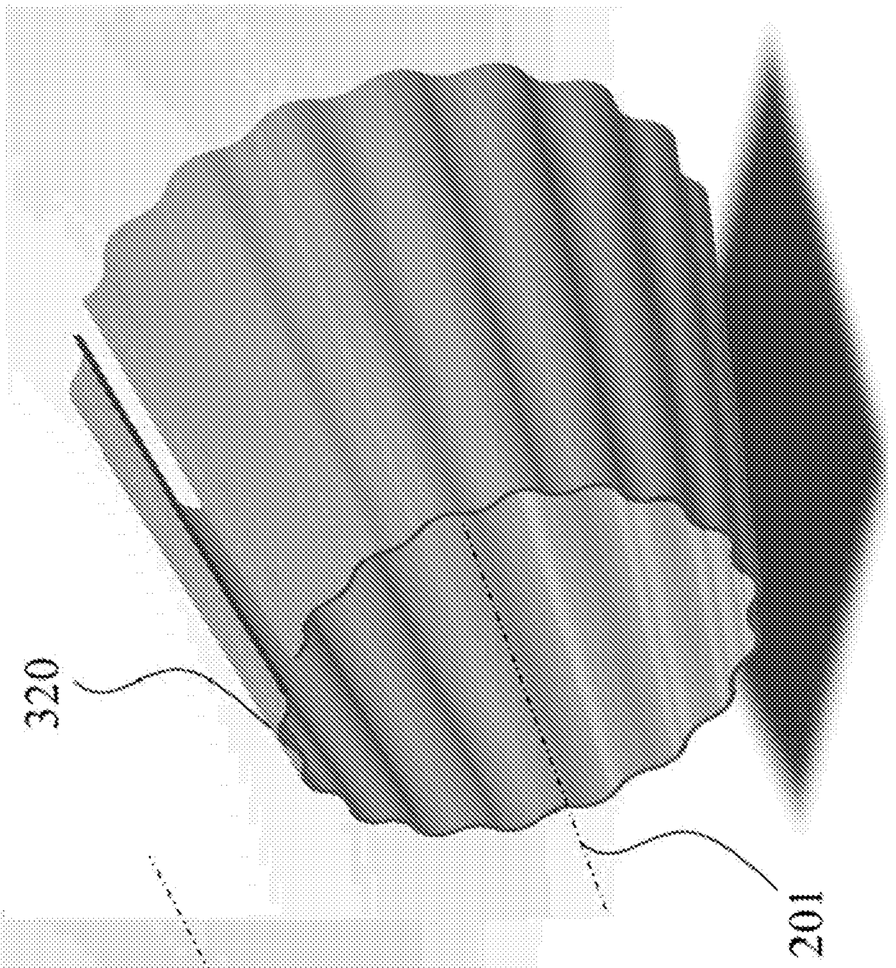


FIG. 3B

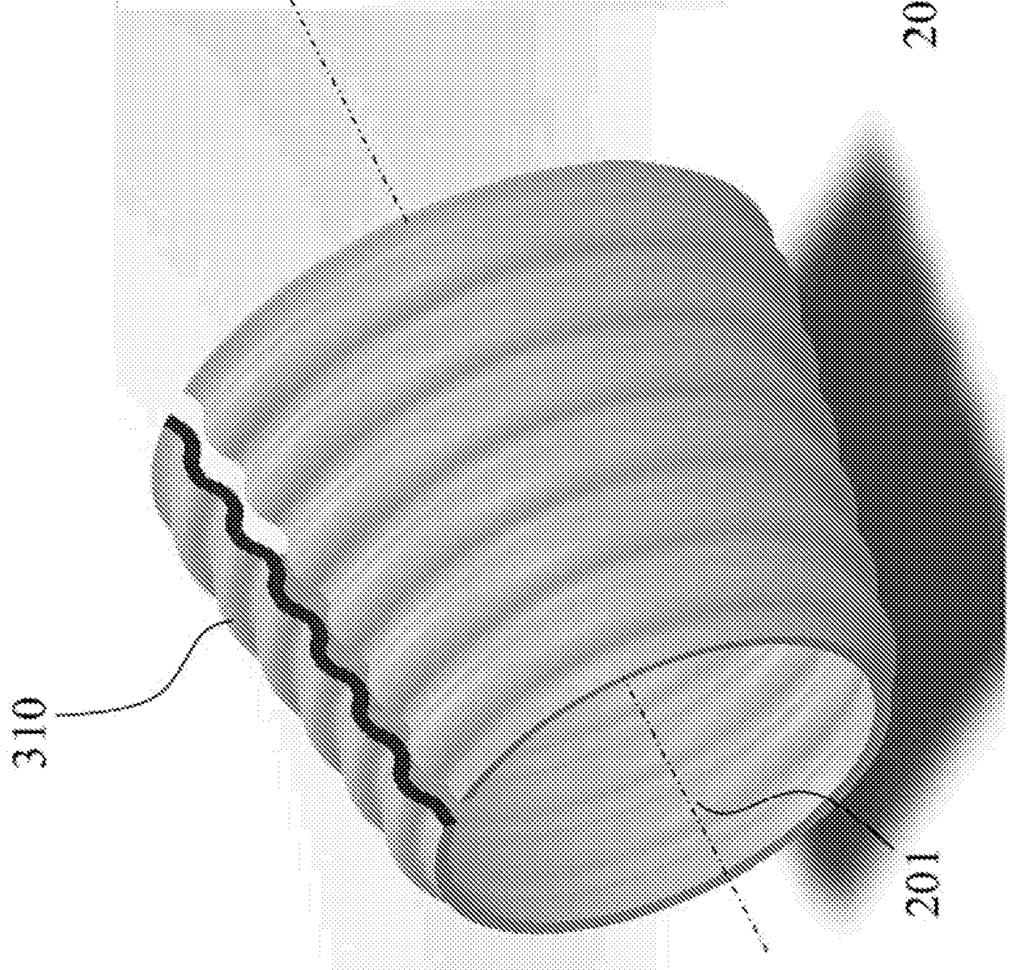


FIG. 3A

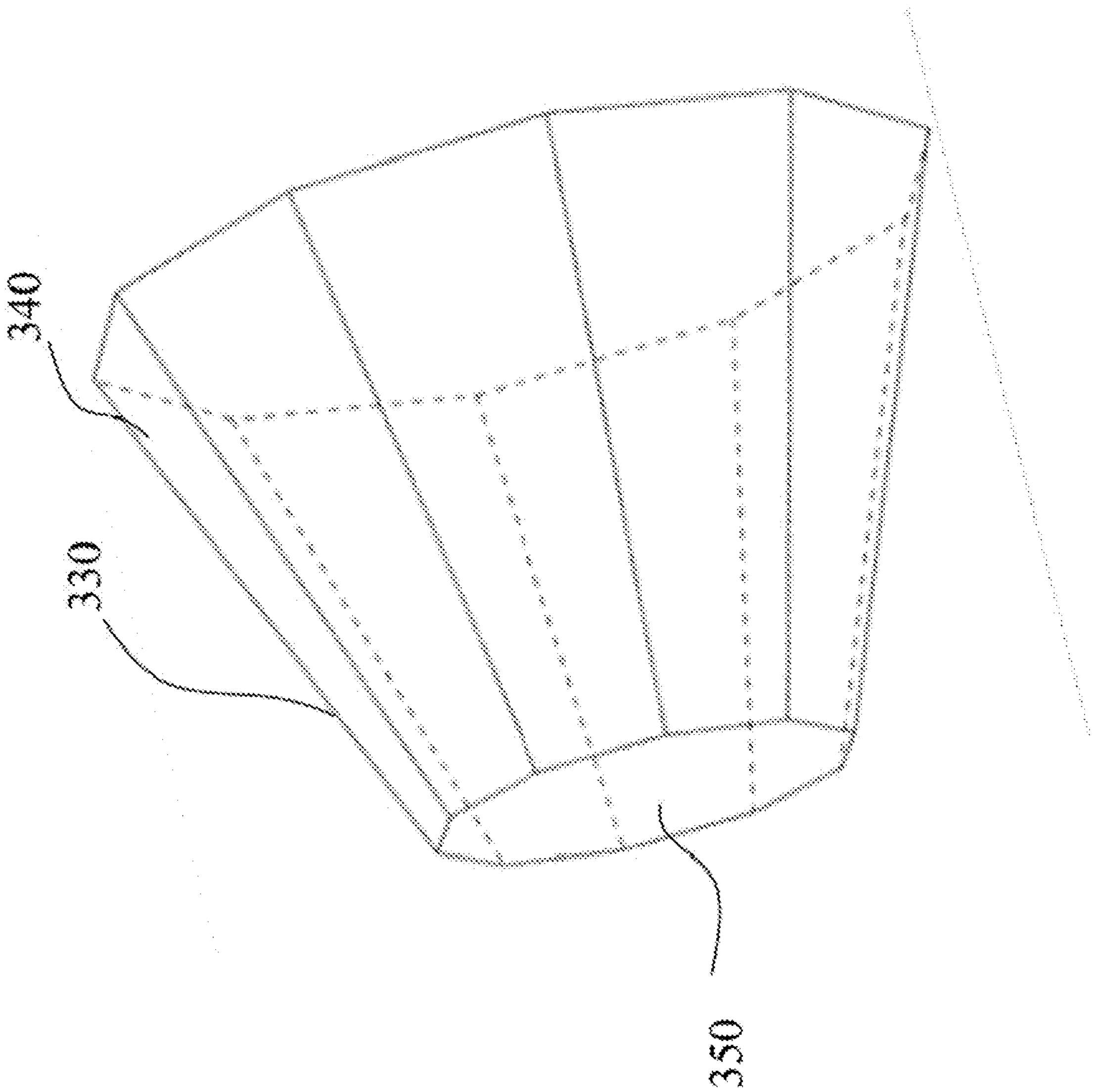


FIG. 3C

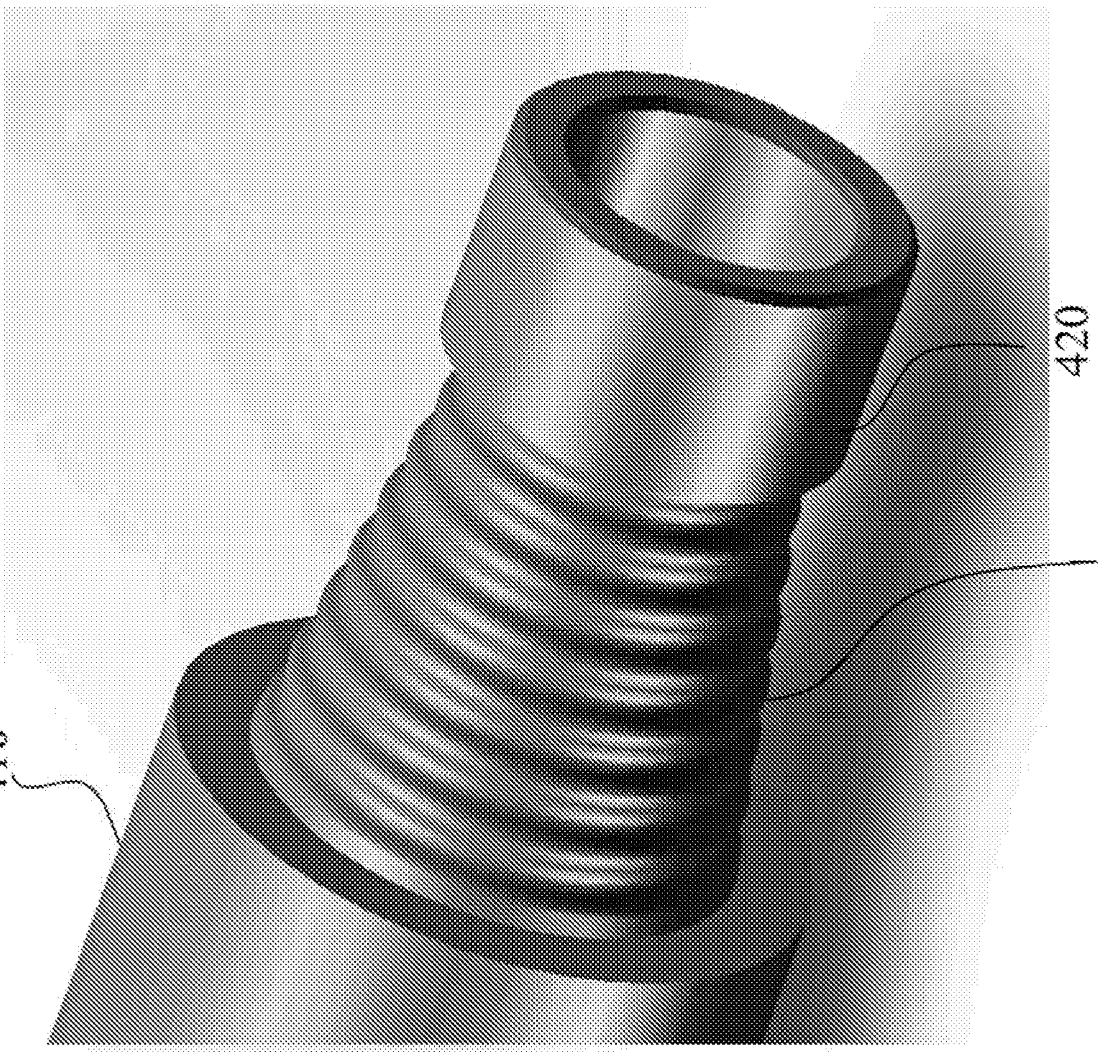


FIG. 4B

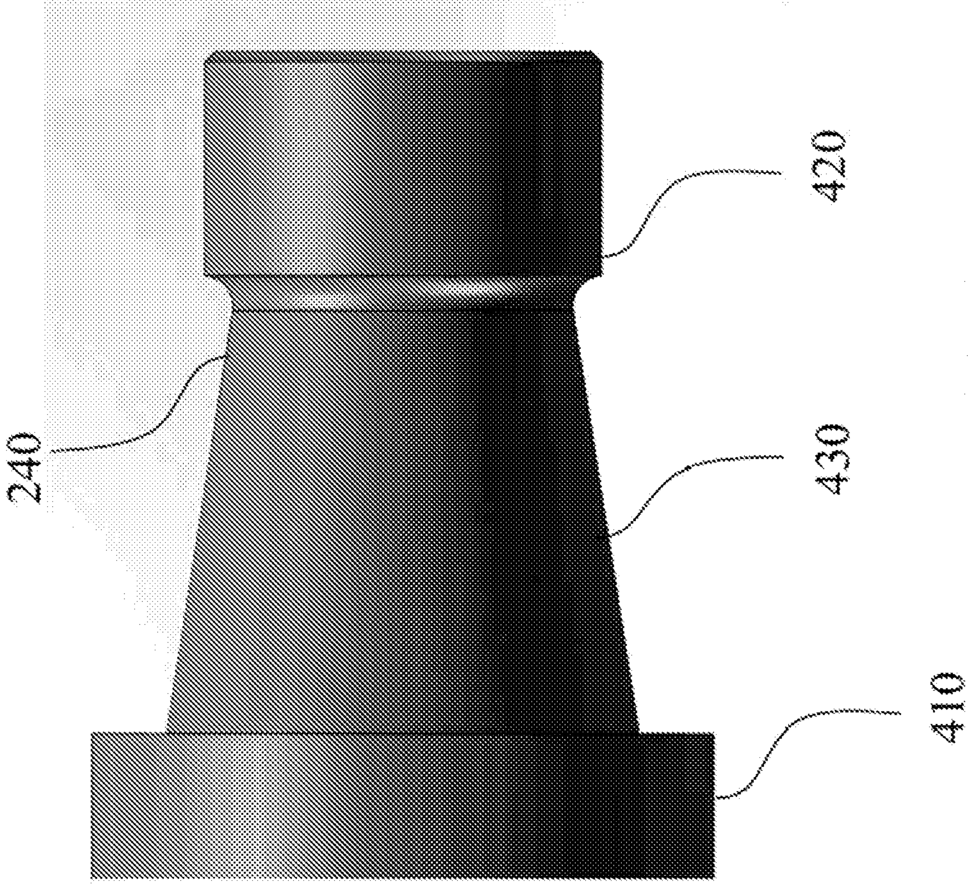


FIG. 4A

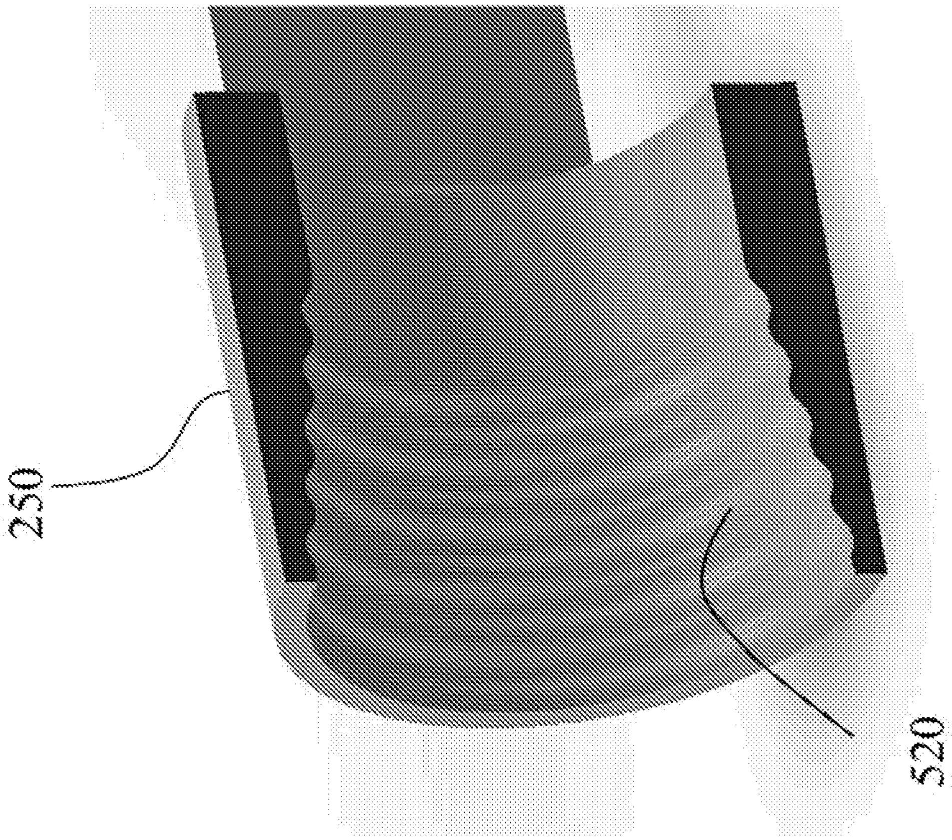


FIG. 5B

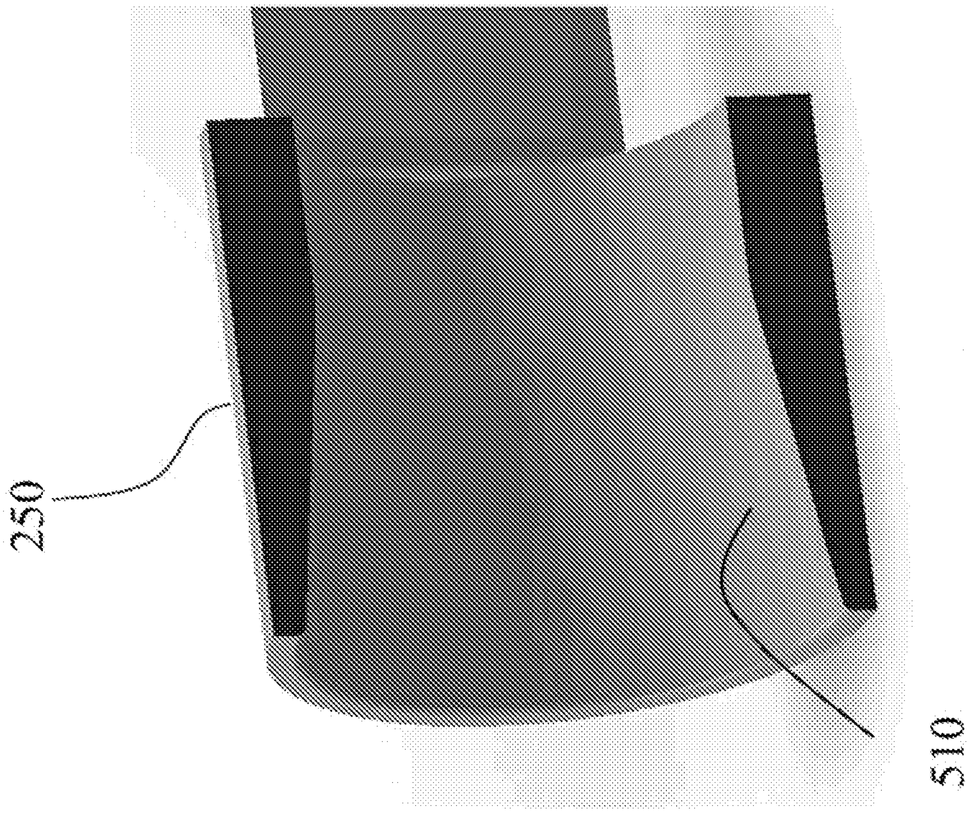


FIG. 5A

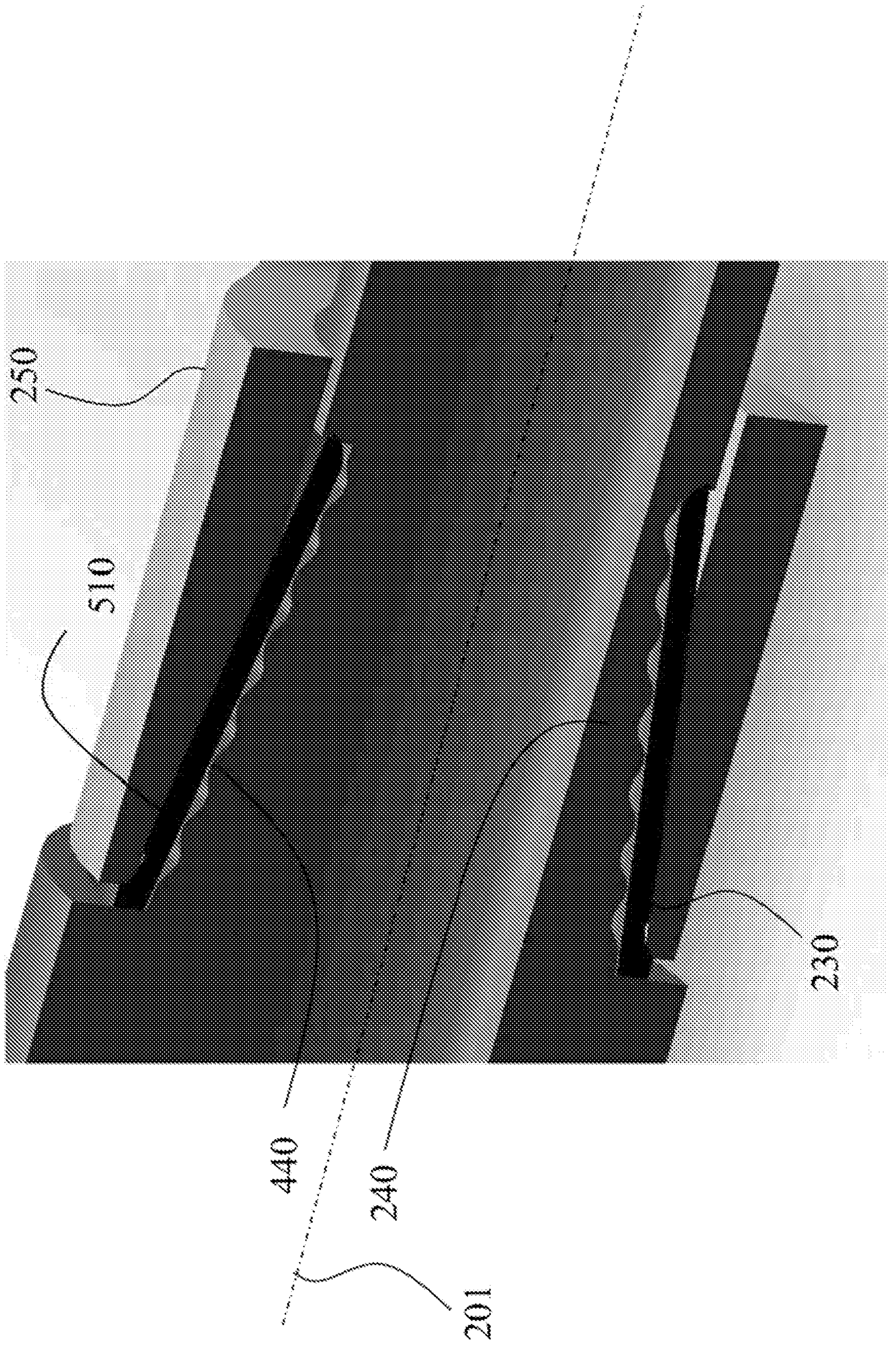
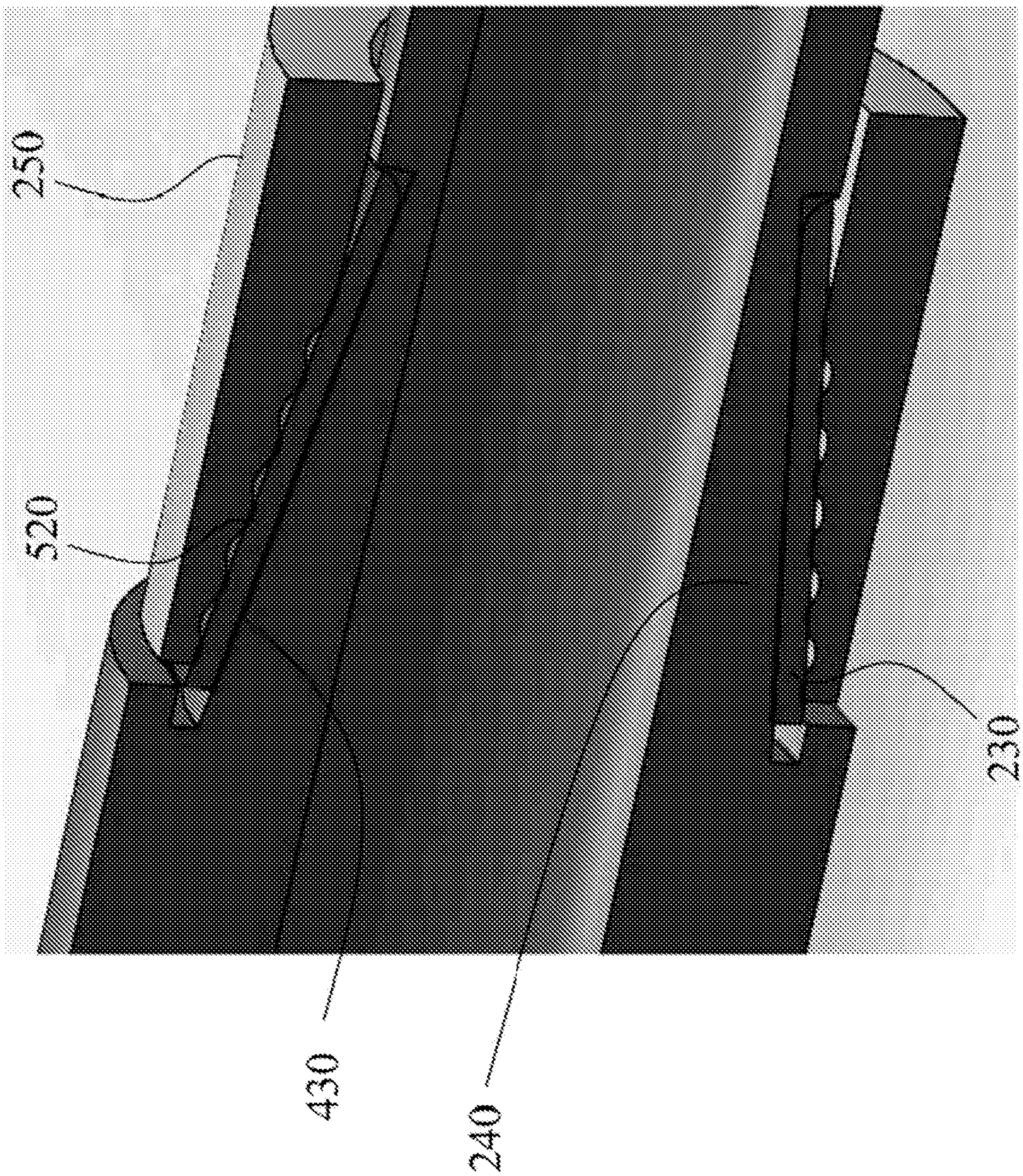


FIG. 6A

FIG. 6B



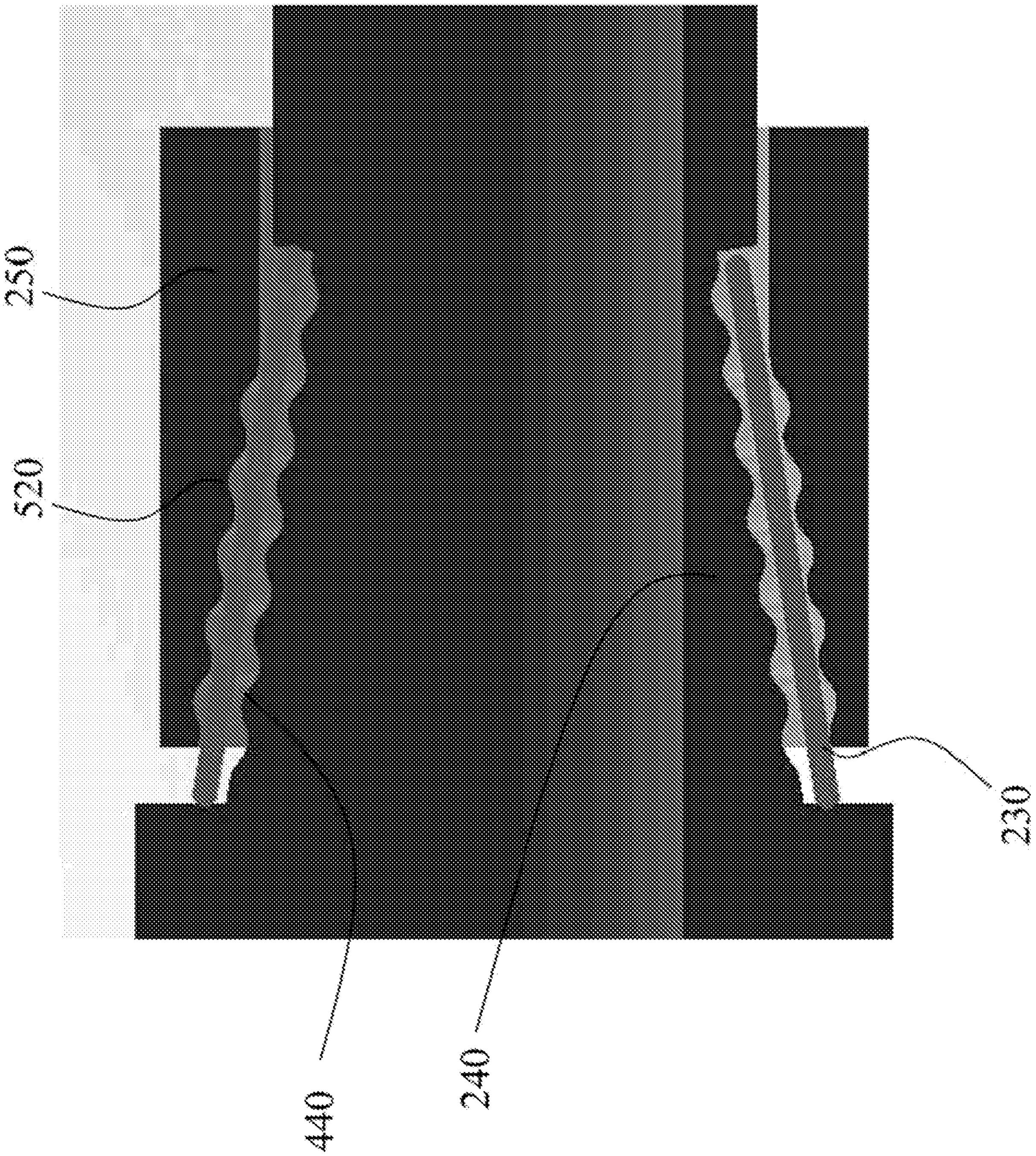


FIG. 6C

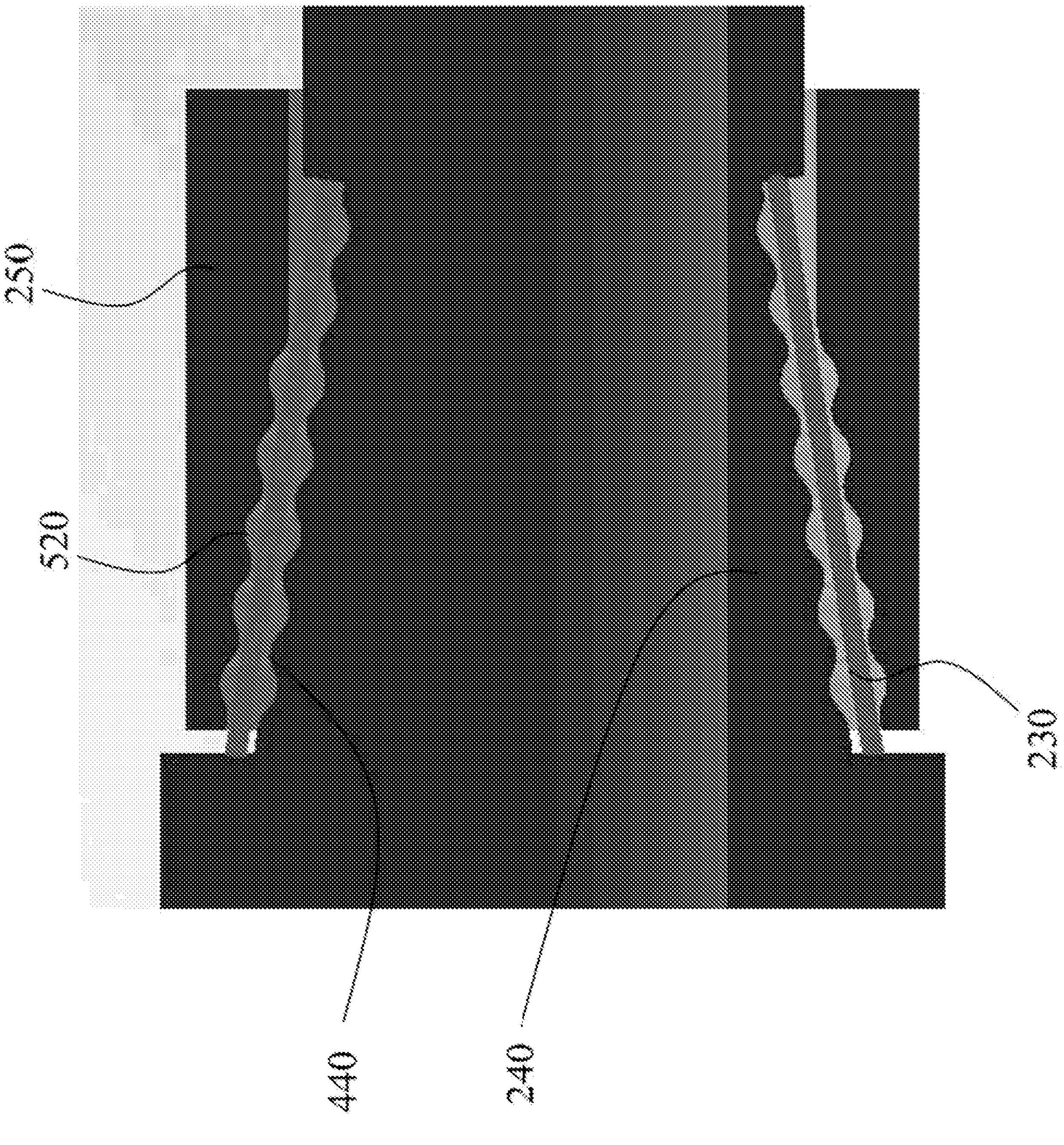


FIG. 6D

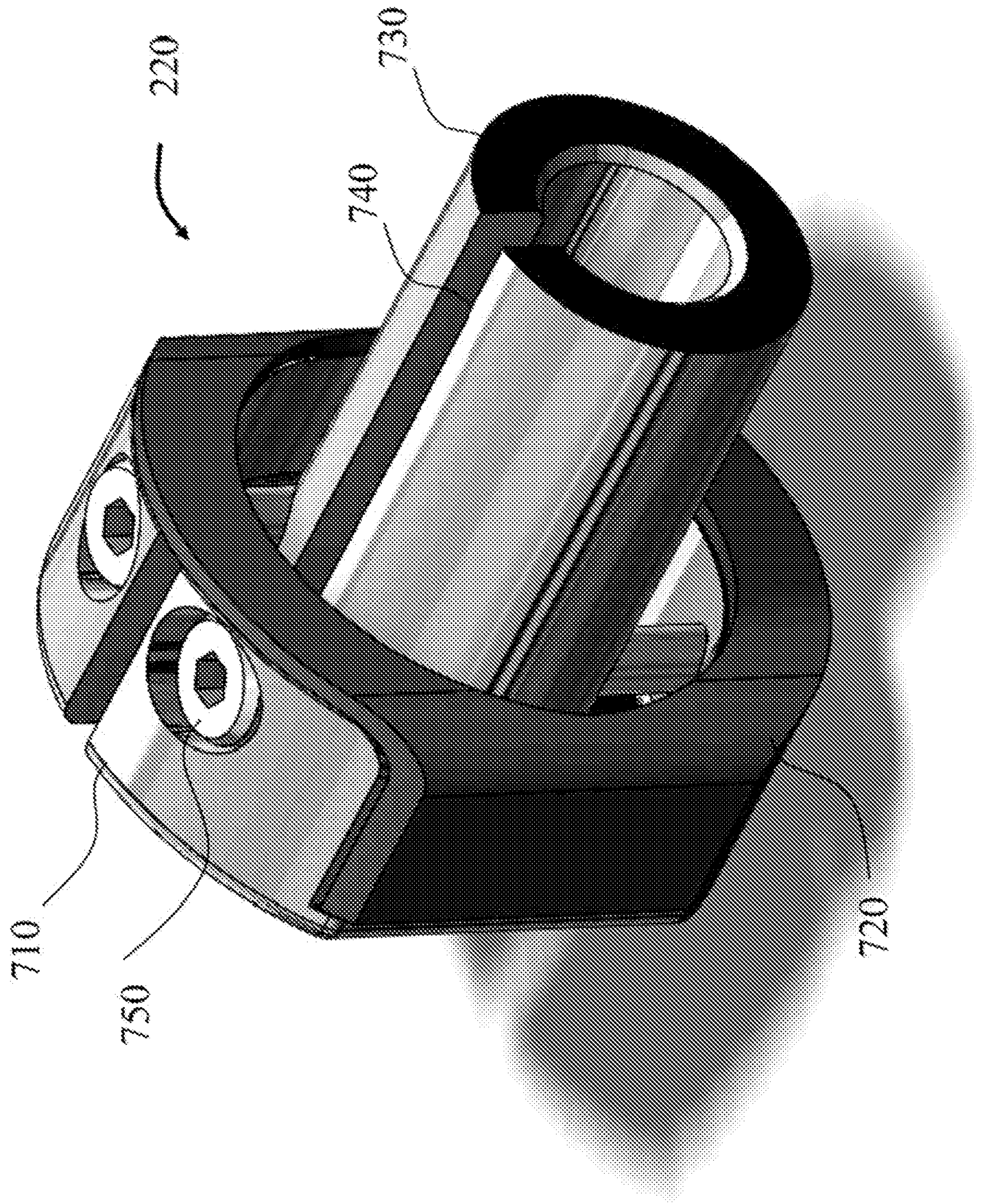


FIG. 7

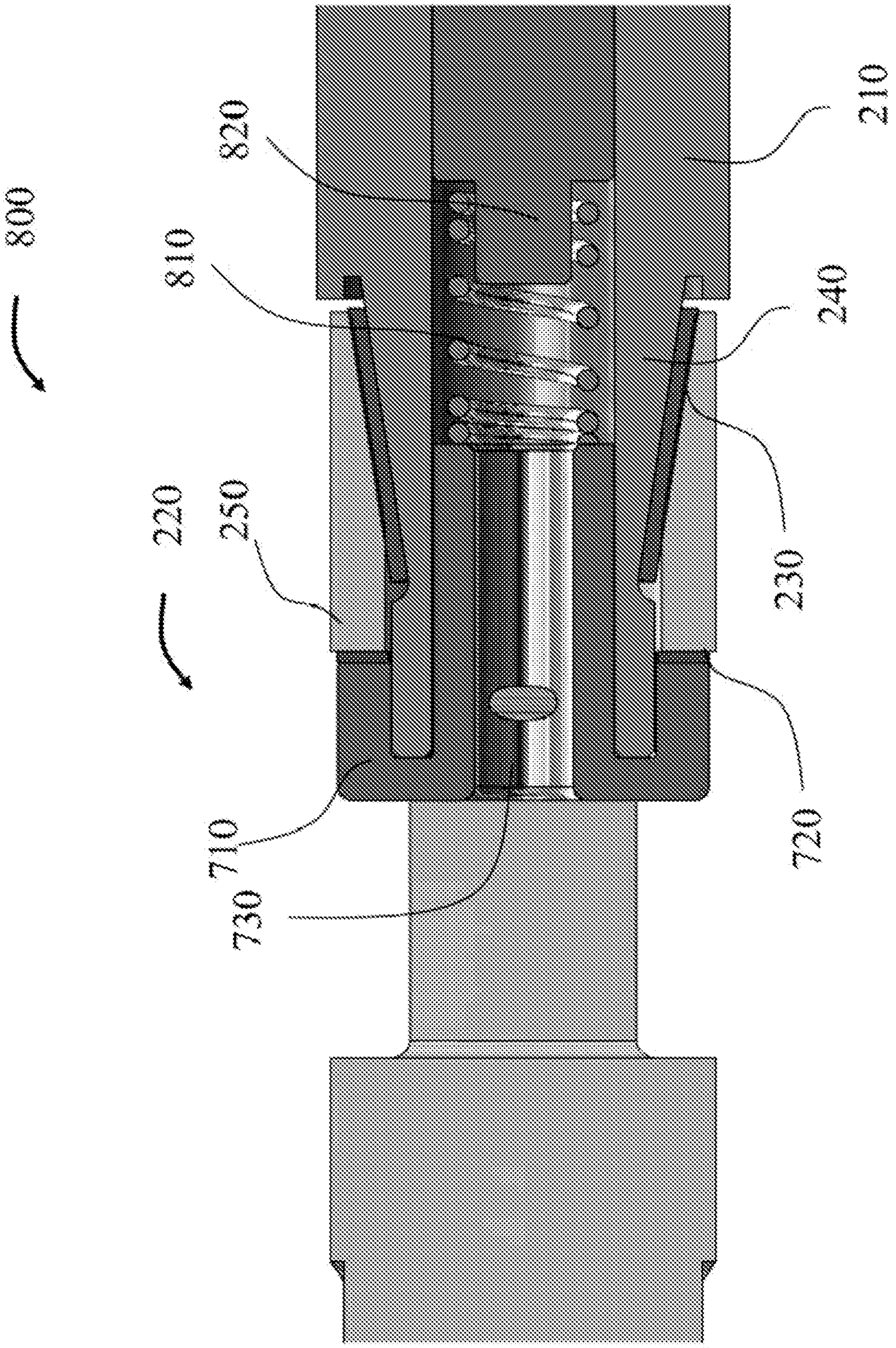


FIG. 8

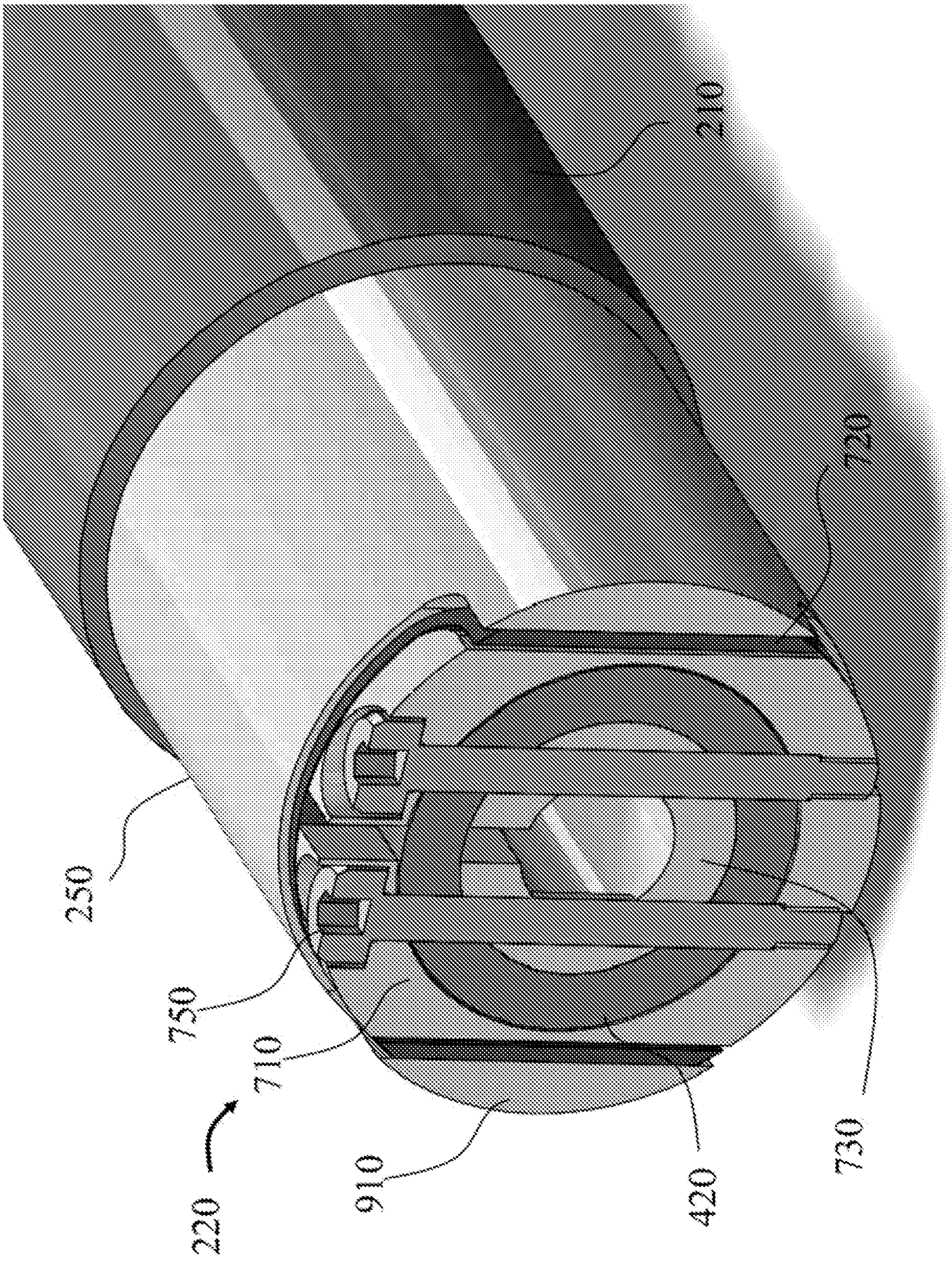


FIG.9

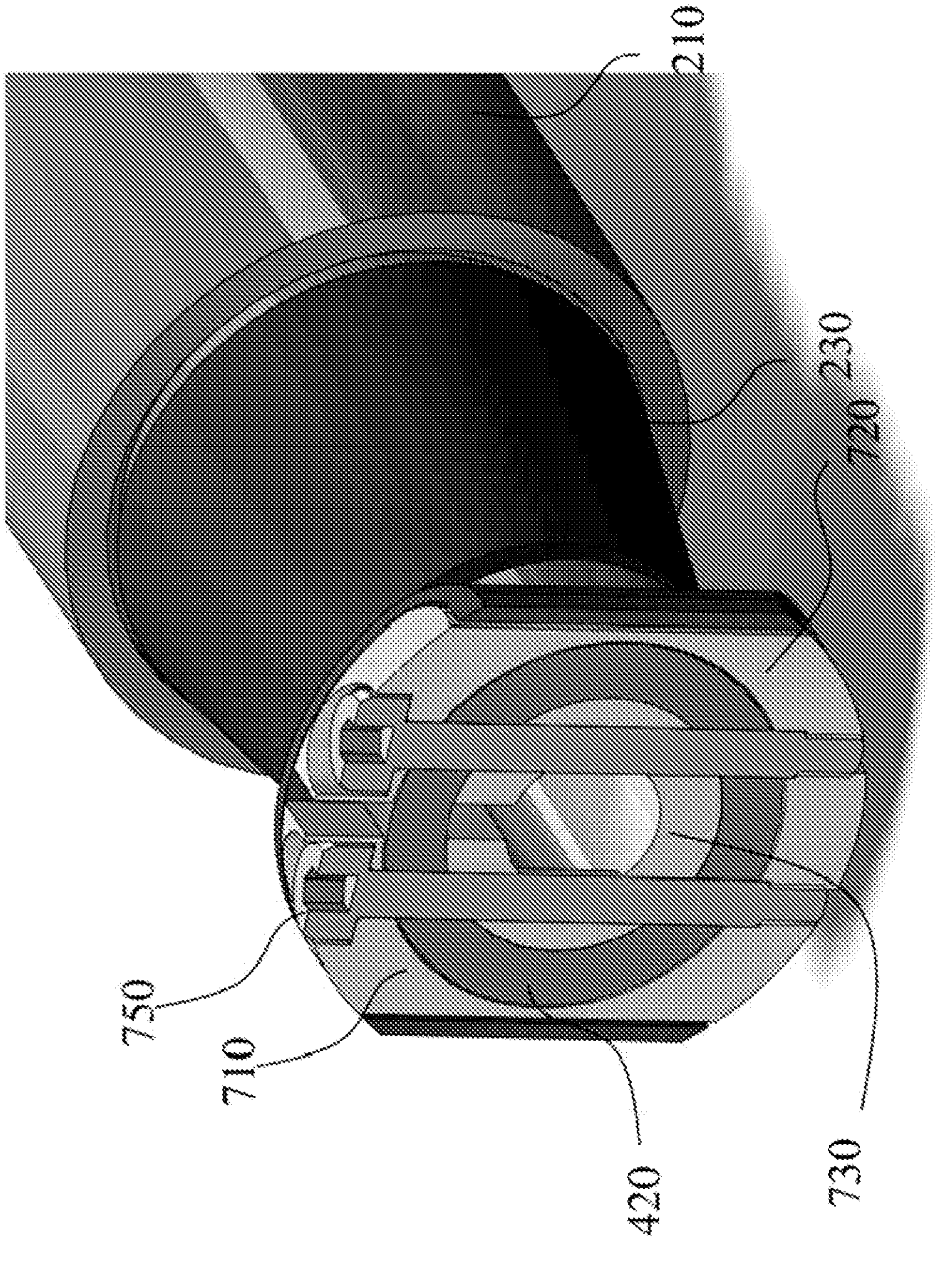


FIG. 10

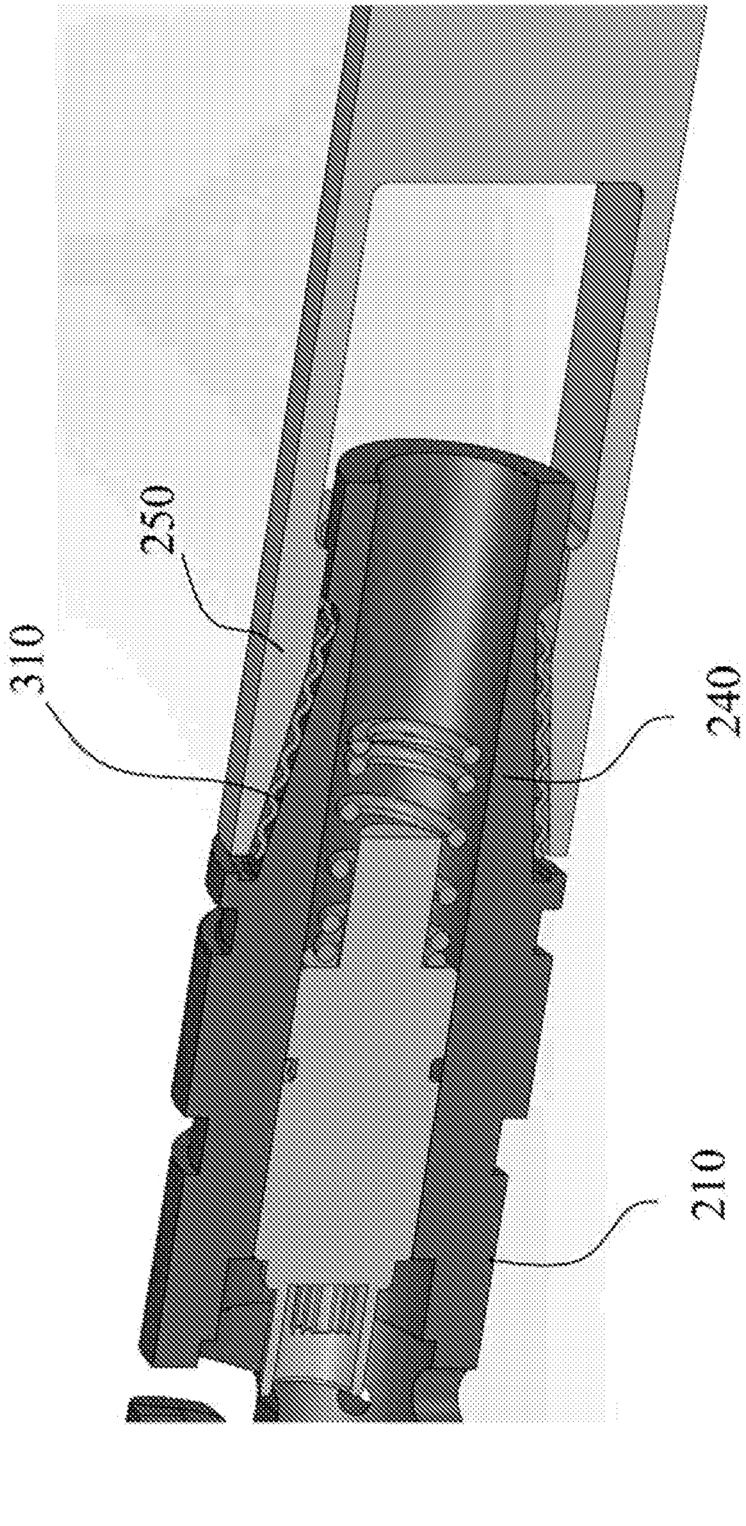


FIG.11

FIG.12A

FIG.12B

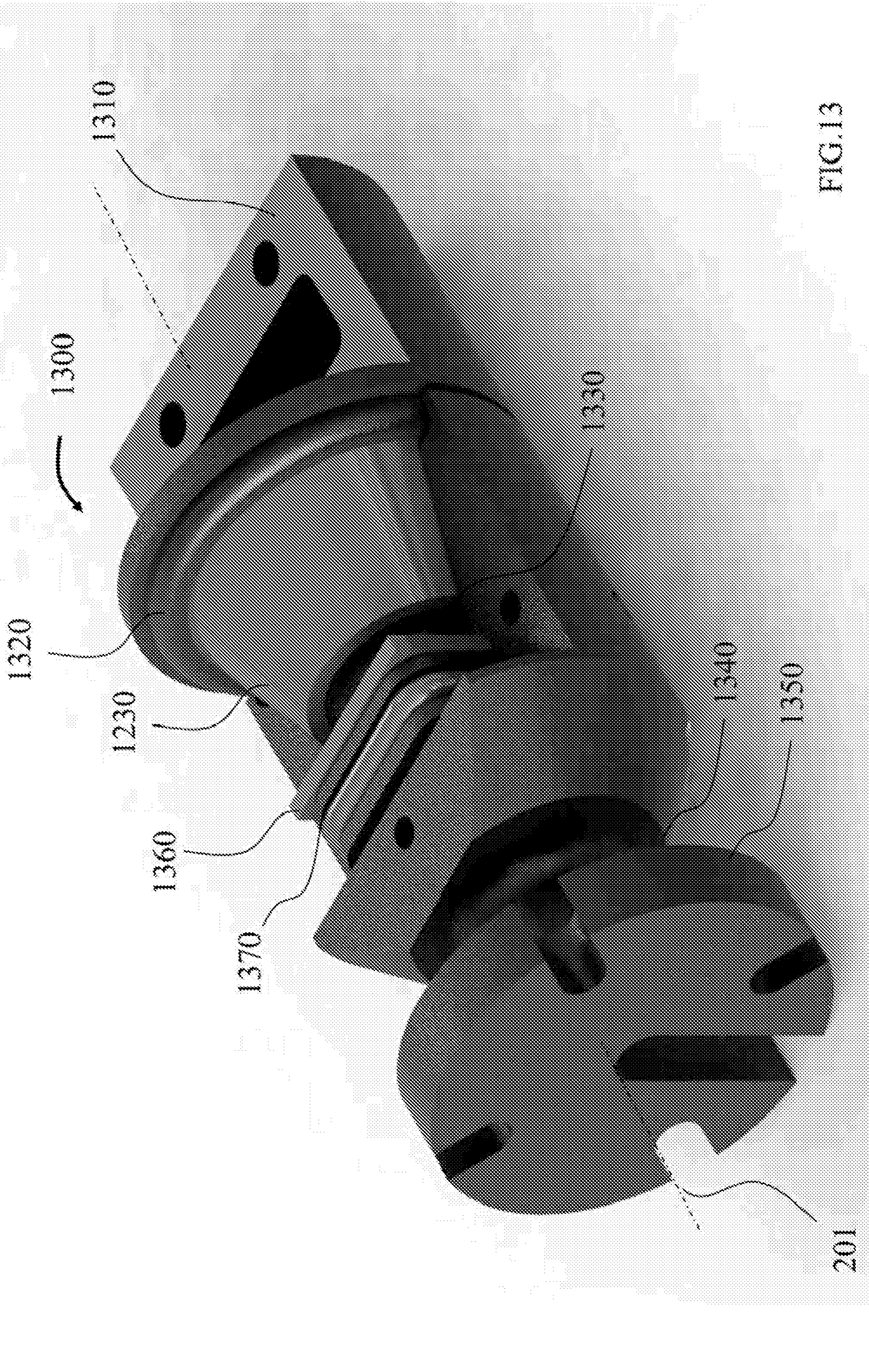


FIG.13

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2015/028186

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(8) - E21B 17/07 (2015.01)
CPC - E21B 17/07 (2015.07)
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC(8) - E21B 17/02, 17/07, 47/01 (2015.01)
CPC - E21B 17/07, 17/073, 47/01, 47/011 (2015.07) (keyword delimited)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
USPC - 166/242.7; 175/40, 320, 321, 322; 285/302; 464/18, 20, 21

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Orbit, Google Patent, Google, Google Scholar, YouTube
search terms used: shock, vibration, frustum, cone, MWD, snubber, elastomeric, downhole

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	CN 201318164 Y (BEIJING LINGRUI HIGH TECHNOLOGY, CO, LTD) 30 September 2009 (30.09.2009) see machine translation	1, 2, 6-10, 17-22, 26-30, 37-40
Y		3-5, 11, 12, 14-16, 23-25, 31, 32, 34-36, 42
Y	US 2,212,153 A (EATON et al) 20 August 1940 (20.08.1940) entire document	4, 24, 42
Y	US 5,934,378 A (TCHAKAROV) 10 August 1999 (10.08.1999) entire document	5, 25
Y	US 4,600,062 A (TENG) 15 July 1986 (15.07.1986) entire document	11, 31
Y	US 2013/0000983 A1 (HANSEN) 03 January 2013 (03.01.2013) entire document	3,12, 14-16, 23, 32, 34-36
A	US 7,011,344 B1 (BAKKE) 14 March 2006 (14.03.2006) entire document	1-42

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
03 July 2015

Date of mailing of the international search report
22 JUL 2015

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
Facsimile No. 571-273-8300

Authorized officer
Blaine Copenheaver
PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300
PCT OSP: 571-272-7774