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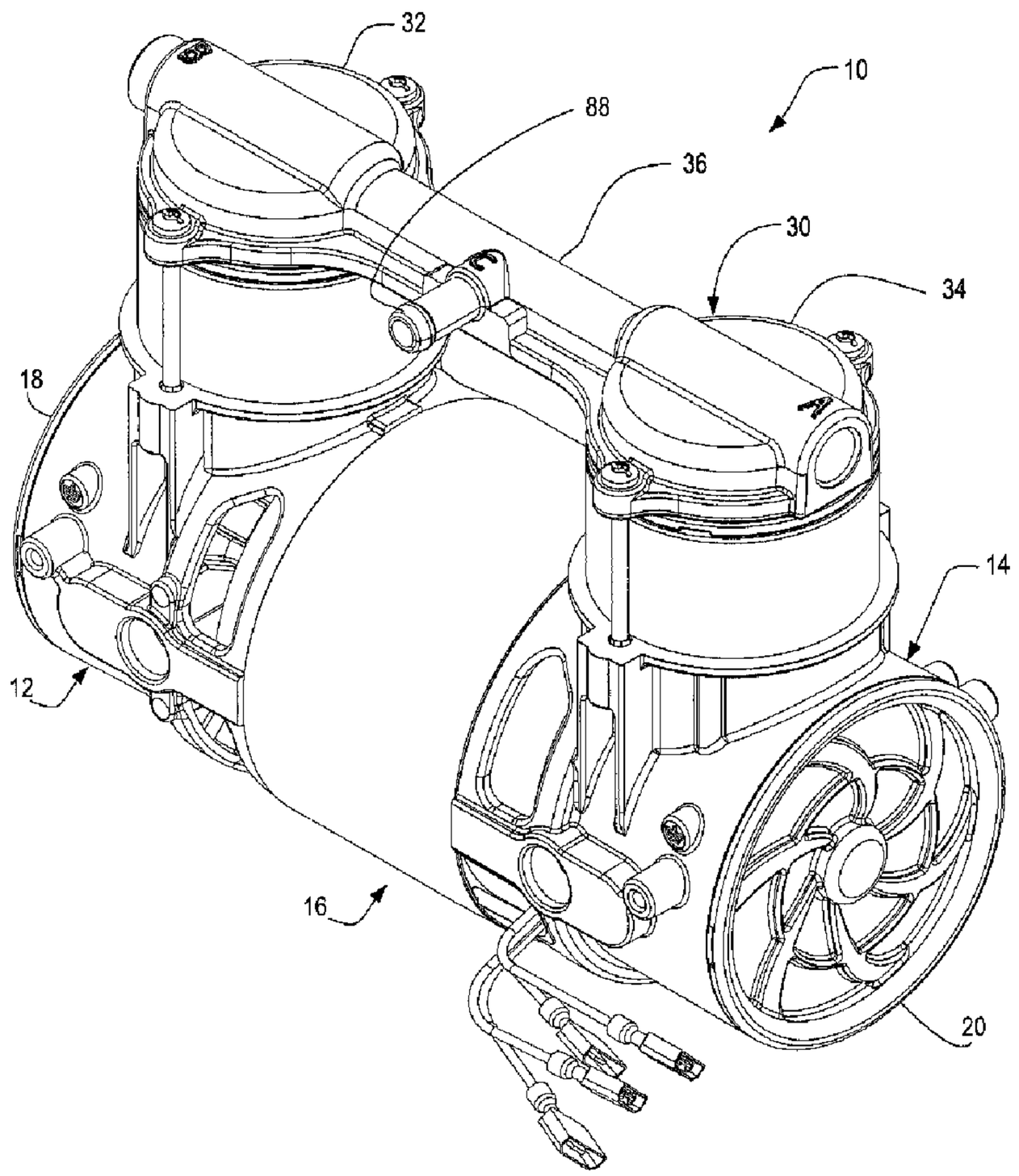
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(54) Title: PUMP IMPROVEMENTS



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:
A pump has a boltless cover that is held on the end of a housing of the pump by only a compressed ring between the cover and the housing. The pump has a flangeless valve plate, meaning that the valve plate has no flange through which bolts that secure the

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(57) Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):
head to the pump extend. The pump has eccentrics and pistons that all have holes in them so that the pistons at opposite ends of the pump can be assembled to the shaft of the motor 180° out of phase. The pump further has a monolithic head that includes the two head members of the pump and the tube that connects them also has an integrally formed port. The pump is supported by elastomeric tubular members from its ports. The pump has a push-in fitting that can be pushed into a hole in a member such as the head, the housing or the base so that once pushed in, a ring around the fitting expands outwardly behind an edge of the body to trap the fitting in the opening.

ABSTRACT

A pump has a boltless cover that is held on the end of a housing of the pump by only a compressed ring between the cover and the housing. The pump has a flangeless valve plate, meaning that the valve plate has no flange through which bolts that secure the head to the pump extend. The pump has eccentrics and pistons that all have holes in them so that the pistons at opposite ends of the pump can be assembled to the shaft of the motor 180° out of phase. The pump further has a monolithic head that includes the two head members of the pump and the tube that connects them also has an integrally formed port. The pump is supported by elastomeric tubular members from its ports. The pump has a push-in fitting that can be pushed into a hole in a member such as the head, the housing or the base so that once pushed in, a ring around the fitting expands outwardly behind an edge of the body to trap the fitting in the opening.

PUMP IMPROVEMENTS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to pumps, both compressors and vacuum pumps, and in particular to improvements to improve the assembly and manufacture of pumps.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Pumps of the general type described herein are well known. Such pumps may have one, two, or more pumping chambers and generally have a piston (e.g., a wobble piston, an articulated head piston or a diaphragm piston) reciprocating in the pumping chamber that is driven by a motor. If there are two pumping chambers with parallel axes, the motor is typically between two housings that define the crankcases of the pump and join the motor to the pumping chambers, with the motor shaft axis perpendicular to the pumping chamber axis. In a useful form, a monolithic head spans the two pumping chambers, for example as in U. S. Patent No. 6,056,521, which is hereby incorporated by reference .

The ends of the housings opposite from the motor have typically been closed off at least partially with a fan guard that lets air through or a cover of some kind that required additional fasteners to hold the cover on. This required additional assembly and additional parts. In addition, the valve plate, which, if separate from the head, is typically provided right below the head, typically had flanges through which the tie rods would extend that hold the head on the housing, with the cylinder and possibly other parts in between. These flanges could create

problems in assembly by requiring orientation of the valve plate to register with the bolt holes of the head and also in some cases could result in leakage, for example if the head flange would interfere with the flange of the valve plate. In other structures, the valve plate required separate fasteners apart from the fasteners that held the head on, to hold the valve plate on.

In addition, each piston is assembled to the drive shaft and formerly this was typically done with flats on the motor shaft, the flat on one end being 180° out of phase with the flat on the other end so that the pistons were out of phase also. The set screw against a flat introduces errors in assembly in that they do not necessarily result in the pistons being 180° out of phase. For single-ended pumps, the phase is not an issue, but for double-ended pumps, a reliable method is needed to assure that the pistons are 180° out of phase, while not making assembly difficult.

In addition, these pumps can find many different applications. For that reason, it is useful to have different port arrangements possible for these pump configurations.

Pumps of this type also can be provided with different removable or separate port arrangements. For this purpose, it would be useful to have an easy way to add a port or a plug to the pump.

Also as is well known, pumps of this type can produce significant noise and vibration. Isolation is a major design goal in most applications. A solution is needed in this area as well which results in good performance at low cost and easy assembly.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect, the invention provides a pump with a boltless cover that is held on the end of a housing of the pump by only a compressed ring between the cover and the housing. The hole in the housing has a chamfer that compresses the ring when the cover is inserted into the hole and the ring seats against the hole to hold the cover to the housing. The cover has a flange that stops excessive insertion of the cover into the housing. The cover can be provided

with a port, and can be subjected to a vacuum force by the crankcase, particularly if intake of the pump is through the crankcase.

In another aspect the pump has a flangeless valve plate, meaning that the valve plate has no flange through which bolts that secure the head to the pump extend. Elimination of the flange helps cure a leak problem between the valve plate and the head that can be caused by the flanges. With the flange gone, other features may be provided on the valve plate and the head so as to angularly orient the valve plate relative to the head. Angular orientation is preferred in some applications to prevent interference with the valve or valves on the valve plate.

In another aspect, the pump has eccentrics and pistons that all have holes in them so that the pistons at opposite ends of the pump can be assembled to the shaft of the motor 180° out of phase.

In another aspect, a monolithic head that includes the two head members of the pump and the tube that connects them also has an integrally formed port that provides a passageway into the tube, between the two head members. In the preferred form, the port is halfway between the two head members.

In another aspect, the pump is supported by elastomeric tubular members from its ports. Elastomeric tubular members may extend between a base and the ports of the pump, and the ports may be the inlet ports, the outlet ports, or both. In this aspect, the elastomeric mounting

could be such that it is stiffer when the pump is operating so that when the pump is not operating the pump is rested on a hard mount, as may be useful during shipping.

In another aspect, the pump has a push-in fitting that can be pushed into a hole in a member such as the head, the housing or the base so that once pushed in, a ring around the fitting expands outwardly behind an edge of the body to trap the fitting in the opening. A sealing ring can also be provided around the fitting that seals between the fitting and the body.

These and other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the detailed description and drawings.

The foregoing and other objects and advantages of the invention will appear in the detailed description which follows. In the description, reference is made to the accompanying drawings which illustrate a preferred embodiment of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a pump incorporating the invention;

Fig. 2 is a top exploded perspective view of the pump of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a bottom exploded perspective view of the pump of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional perspective view of the pump of Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged portion of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6A is a cross-sectional plan view taken along the longitudinal axis of the pump;

Fig. 6B is an enlarged portion of Fig. 6A;

Fig. 7 is an enlarged portion of Fig. 6B;

Fig. 8A is an enlarged perspective view of the top portion of the pump, as viewed from the top;

Fig. 8B is an enlarged perspective view of the top portion of the pump, as viewed from the bottom;

Fig. 8C is an enlarged portion of Fig. 6B;

Fig. 9 is an enlarged exploded perspective view of the pistons, eccentrics and associated parts of the pump;

Fig. 10 is a front plan view of a tool for aligning the pistons and the eccentrics when assembling the pistons to the motor shaft;

Fig. 11 is a side plan view of the tool of Fig. 10;

Fig. 12 is a schematic perspective view illustrating a mount of the invention using two mounting points;

Fig. 13 is a view like Fig. 12 but illustrating an alternative using three mounting points;

Fig. 14 is a detail view of one of the mounts;

Fig. 15 is a cross sectional view taken from the longitudinal axis of a generally cylindrical push-in port fitting; and

Figs. 16-21 are front, rear, right end, top, left end and bottom plan views of the pump of Fig. 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring to Figs. 1-4, a pump 10 of the invention includes two housings 12 and 14 which are identical to one another, a motor 16 between the housings, covers 18 and 20 on the ends of the housings opposite from the motor 16, which are also identical to one another, identical cylinders 22 and 24, identical valve plates 26 and 28, and a monolithic head 30 including two head members 32 and 34 joined integrally by a tube 36, and fasteners and seals that hold and seal all the parts together. The head 30 is bolted by bolts 40 at each end to the respective housings 12 and 14, which clamps the valve plates 26 and 28 and the cylinders 22 and 24 to the housings 12 and 14, respectively.

Referring particularly to Figs. 4 - 7, the pump 10 draws its intake air through ports 42 and 44 in the bottom of the respective housings 12 and 14. The intake flapper valves 46a, 48a to the pumping chamber are provided in the piston head 46 or 48 (Fig. 2) and through these flapper valves the air enters the respective pumping chamber 200, 201 defined by the respective cylinder 22, 24, piston 25, 27, and valve plate 26 or 28. The air can be exhausted through valves 28a, 26a, through tube 36 and out port 38. The head 30 could of course be made to include integrally the valve plates 26 and 28, in which case the covers of the head could be formed as separate pieces, the covers being formed integrally in the head 30 as illustrated.

The covers 18 and 20 are plastic molded components, and do not have any openings through them, although they could have an opening through them, for example, a port, and a filter such as a HEPA filter or a felt filter could be provided on the inside of the cover to filter the incoming or exiting air. As illustrated, the covers need not have any holes through them, since the intake is through the bottoms of the housings. The covers could also be fan guards that would let air through them, if a fan blade was provided on the motor shaft.

Only cover 20 is described in detail, since cover 18 is identical. The cover 20 is held onto the housing 14 by being of a circular shape and fitting into a circular hole 50 that is machined in the end of the housing 14, which may be a cast aluminum alloy material or another hard, strong material. Referring to Fig. 7, the circular hole 50 has a cylindrical portion 52 and a frusto-conical portion 54 that opens to the outside and tapers in the inward direction. The housing 14 has end face 56 that abuts flange 58 of cover 20 to stop further insertion of the cover 20 into the hole 50. The hole 50 may also have a shoulder 66 at its inner end which serves to stop insertion of the cover 20. Chamfer 54 guides the cover 20 into the cylindrical portion 52 as the extending portion 60 of the cover 20 is of generally the same diameter as the portion 52, although slightly smaller. Extending portion 60 also includes an o-ring groove 62 in which sealing ring 64 resides which is a compressible elastomeric o-ring. A standard o-ring fit

between the cover 20 and the housing 14 is acceptable. The ring 64 is compressed between the cover 20 and the housing 14 and serves to provide the only force to hold the cover 20 and fix the cover 20 to the housing 14 both when the pump is operating and when it is not operating.

When operating, the cover 20 is subjected to a cyclic vacuum force from the reciprocation of the piston in the cylinder, when the piston is drawing air into the pumping chamber through the bottom of the housing 14. This vacuum also helps hold the cover 20 in the hole 50. The ring 64 provides the only constant force that holds cover 20 in the hole 60 secured to the housing 14 and therefore the cover may be referred to as "fastenerless", which enables easy push-in assembly of the cover 20 to the housing 14. A screwdriver slot or recess 57 may be provided in the edge of the shoulder 58 to create a space to allow prying the cover 20 out of the hole 50 for disassembly

The o-ring 64 also provides a seal to keep air, dirt, liquids, and other debris from entering the housing 14 through the interface between the cover 20 and the housing 14. The sealing ring 64 could be an elastomeric o-ring, as illustrated, or could be any of a number of other types of sealing rings, such as a quad ring, a square cross-section or other shaped crosssection of an o-ring, or a standard o-ring. The material of the o-ring may, for example, be silicone, which is a standard material for an o-ring. If the interface between the cover 20 and the housing 14 did not need to be sealed, for example if the cover 20 was a fan guard, the ring 64 could be a split ring, for example of plastic or metal, which is capable of creating a friction force against the hole 50 to retain the cover 20. In addition, a groove or shoulder could be formed in the hole 50 for the ring 64 to seat in, so as to provide a form fit as well as a friction fit, to increase the holding force.

It is also noted that subjecting the cover to a vacuum, which a ring 64 that seals facilitates, stresses the cover which tends to stiffen it and reduce noise that may otherwise emanate from the cover.

Referring to Figs. 8A - C, the valve plates 26 and 28 are fastened in the assembly of the pump by only the clamping force provided by the bolts 40 which pass through apertures (34a, 34b, 32a, 32b) and along side valve plates 28, 26. No fasteners extend through the valve plates 26 and 28, as is apparent in the drawings. Formerly, in prior art typical for this type of pump, the valve plates 26 and 28 had separate fasteners holding them in the assembly or had a flange, similar to the bolt flange of the head 30, through which the bolts 40 would extend. It has been found that the elimination of this flange reduces leaking problems that can occur between the valve plate and the head 30. Elimination of separate fasteners also facilitates assembly.

Using flanges or separate fasteners in prior art valves had the effect of providing an orientation of the valve plate, which is desirable so that the fastener that holds the flapper on the valve plate does not interfere with formations on the underside of the head, such as the ejector pin lands. When the flange and separate fasteners of the valve plates are eliminated, the valve plates can be assembled in any orientation unless some other means is provided to limit the orientation. For this purpose, the upper side of each valve plate 26, 28 is provided with a kidney shaped recess 72 (Fig. 8A). In addition, the underside of the head 36 is provided with two pins 74 (Fig. 8B) at each end that fit into the recesses 72 so as to position the fastener 76 of the flapper valve in the valve plate 26, 28 away from the ejector pin lands 78.

The valve plates 26 and 28 are shaped so as to have an extending portion 82 that extends down into the top of the respective cylinder 22 or 24. The extending portion 82 has a sealing ring groove 80 in which a sealing ring 84 is positioned to seal against the inside surface of the respective cylinder 22 or 24. The sealing ring may be a standard o-ring, a square cross section o-ring, a quad ring, or any other kind of sealing ring. The inside of the respective cylinder 22 or 24 provides an especially preferred surface for sealing against, as its roundness is superior to that of the exterior surface of the cylinder, and it is anodized for a good smooth

surface to seal against. Also, the sealing ring slides into the cylinder better than it slides on the outside surface of the cylinder.

The part of the valve plate 28 that is near the top of the valve plate and extends radial outwardly from the extending portion 82 is referred to herein as portion 86. The portion 86 may be formed with one or more recesses 87 to allow prying the valve plate out of the cylinder with a flat blade screw driver.

Referring to Figs. 1-3, the tube 36 of the head 30 has a port 88 that is formed integral with the tube 36 and the inside of the port 88 communicates directly with the inside of the tube 36, which, of course, provides communication to the interior of both of the head members 32 and 34. Providing a port formed integrally with the tube 36 between the head members 32 and 34 provides for connection applications that are broader in scope than merely providing ports in the head members 32 and 34. Also, providing a port at this location permits providing for a three-point mounting as described below with reference to Fig. 14. Also, casting all of the parts of the head 30 in one piece, i.e. both head members 32 and 34, the tube 36, and the port 88 in one piece, provides for excellent structural rigidity of the head 30 so that the head 30 can be used as a handle, and it can also be used to support the weight, or at least part of the weight of the pump, as in the side mounting application of Fig. 14.

Referring particularly to Fig. 9, each piston assembly 25 and 27 includes a piston 92 that has the piston head 46, 48 formed integrally with the connecting rod, as the pump 10 is a wobble piston-type pump. Other types of pistons include diaphragm pistons or articulated head pistons. The term "piston" as used herein is intended to include types of pistons. As is well known, the piston heads of the pistons 92 have a retainer that holds on a cup seal that forms a sliding seal with the respective cylinders 22 and 24.

Referring to Fig. 9, each piston assembly_25, 27 also includes an eccentric 94, for example, made of steel, that has a counterweight portion 96 and a stub portion 98 (Fig. 6B). The piston assemblies

25, 27 are secured to opposite ends of motor shaft 100 via their respective eccentrics 94. For that purpose, each eccentric 94 has a hole sized to receive the end of the shaft 100 and a threaded fastener 93, e.g. a set screw, that can be tightened against the shaft to secure the eccentric and the piston assembly on the shaft. The shaft axis 104 is spaced apart from and is parallel to the stub axis 106 such that when the shaft 100 is turned, the piston 92 reciprocates. The stub 98 is journalled to the piston 92 by a bearing 108, which may be, for example, a ball bearing or other type of bearing.

The two pistons 92 at opposite ends of the pump 10 are assembled 180° out of phase from each other so that when one of the pistons is at top dead center, the other piston is at bottom dead center. To accomplish this, each piston 92 is provided with two holes 110 and 112. The two holes 110 and 112 are 180° apart from one another about axis 106 and have centers on a line that intersects their centers and intersects the axis 106 of the stub 98. Each eccentric 94 is also provided with a hole 114 that is 180° away from the axis 106 about axis 104, on a line that extends through the axis 106, the axis 104, and the center of the hole 114. All of the longitudinal axes of the holes 110, 112, and 114 are all parallel to the axes 104 and 106. Thus, when the hole 114 is lined up with the hole 110, as shown in Fig. 6, the piston is at its bottom dead center position, and when the hole 114 is lined up with the hole 112, the piston is at its top dead center position.

A magnetic pin fixture 115 as shown in Figs. 10 and 11 can be used to align the holes, which is a magnetic disk 117 about the size of the round lower part of the piston 92 that has two pins 119 sticking out of it axially spaced apart to enter the holes 110 and 112, the pins being long enough to also extend through the hole 114. The magnetic disk holds the fixture against the stub 98 or bearing 108 while the set screw 93 is tightened against the shaft 100. At one end, this is done with the piston 92 at the bottom dead center position, and while leaving the fixture in that position, holding the bottom dead center position, the other end of the pump is assembled with the piston 92 at the top dead center position, using a similar

fixture 115. When both set screws 93 are tightened, thus fixing the positions of the pistons on the shaft 100, the magnetic fixtures can be removed Note that the set screws 93 are accessible through the intake holes 42, 44.

A pump 10 like that described above would typically be mounted from the housing using some form of mounting bracket , which mounting bracket may include vibration isolators, such as elastomeric components. Tubing would then be run from the inlet and outlet ports to make connections to the pump, and typically the tubing would have excess slack in it so that the vibrations of the pump are not transmitted through the tubing to other parts of the machine.

Fig. 12 illustrates a mount of the invention in which tubing 132 mounts the pump 10 to a base 136. The tubing 132 is preferably made of an elastomeric material, as soft as possible, but still capable of supporting the pump 10. The tubing 132 also provides the passageway for air to enter inlet ports 138 of the pump, which are screwed into the holes 42, 44 in the bottom of the pump. The base 136 is an intake manifold or other manifold for the pump 10 containing passageways to direct the flow either to the pump 10 if the tubes 132 are connected to intake ports, or to the flow from the pump 10 if the base 136 is connected to the outlet port(s).

Fig. 13 illustrates an alternate embodiment in which the pump 10 is mounted on its side. Intake ports 140 are provided in the side of each of the housings, rather than in the bottom, and tube mounts like the mounts 132 of Fig. 12 are provided for each of the inlet ports 140 and also the outlet port 88 to provide a three-point mount for the pump 10. Tube mounts connected to the ports 140 would provide air into the pump 10 and the tube mount from the port 88 would provide a passageway for air from the pump 10. All three ports could be connected to the same base, which could provide a manifold for both the inlet air and the outlet air.

Fig. 14 illustrates a more detailed configuration for a tube mount 152, which may be used in place of mount 32. Port 138 is connected to port 150 of the base 136 by the tube mount 152 that has flanges molded into it at each end. Gussets may also be provided between the central portion of the tube mount and the flanges. A fitting stop 154 may be molded as part of the tube mount or may be provided separately between the ends of the ports 138 and 150 or may be left out if the tube mount is stiff enough to support the pump. A compression spring 156 may also be provided between the flanges of the tube mount 152 for additional support for the pump 10. The tube mount 152 is preferably molded of an elastomeric material that is as soft as possible so as to absorb as much vibration as possible at the lowest frequency, and still support or help support the pump 10 while providing flow to or from the pump.

Fig. 15 illustrates how a fitting like the ports 138, 140, 150, or the plug 160 (Fig. 2) may be provided in a body such as the base 136, the housing 12 or 14, or the head 30 to create a connection between the body. In Fig. 16, the body is identified by reference number 164. The fitting 166, as illustrated in Fig. 16, is a port. The body 164 has a circular opening 168 having a chamfered portion 170 that tapers in the direction toward the interior of the body 164 and a cylindrical portion 172 inward of the chamfer 170. The fitting 166 has a forward portion 174 that defines on its outer surface a seal groove 176 and a retaining ring groove 178. A sealing ring 180, which may be a standard o-ring, a quad ring, a square section o-ring, or any other kind of sealing ring, encircles the forward portion 174 in the seal groove 176. A retaining ring 182 is received in the retaining groove 178 and may be an elastomeric ring that is either a standard 0-ring, a quad ring, a square section o-ring, or any other kind of compressible and expandable ring, which may be elastomeric, plastic, or metal, and may be either split or not. The seal ring 180 seals against the surface 172 in conventional fashion. However, the retaining ring 182, upon insertion of the fitting 166 into the hole 168, is initially compressed by the chamfer 170 and slides through the opening 172 until it clears the inner edge 184 of the opening 172, at which point it expands out to interfere with the inner edge 184

of the opening to retain the fitting 166 in the opening 168. This provides easy push-in assembly of the fitting 166 to the body 164 and a secure connection of the fitting 166 to the body 164.

Although a port has been described, the fitting 166 could be a plug, pressure relief valve, a portion of a filter, muffler, attenuator , or gauge, or another device or pump component requiring coupling to an aperture.

A preferred embodiment of the invention has been described in considerable detail. Many modifications and variations to the preferred embodiment described will be apparent to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, the invention should not be limited to the embodiment described, but should be defined by the claims which follow.

We Claim:

1. In a pump (10) having a pumping chamber (200), a motor (16), a housing (14) joining the pumping chamber to the motor at one end of the housing so as to define a crank chamber (205) within the housing and a cover (20) at an end of the housing (14) opposite from the motor (16), the improvement wherein

the cover (20) fits into an opening in the end of the housing (14) that is slightly larger than the cover, and a resistant deformable member (64) resides between the cover and the housing and is deformed therein to provide the only constant force holding the cover to the housing.

2. The improvement of claim 1, wherein the opening at the end of the housing has a chamfer (54) at its outer side that tapers toward the inside of the housing.

3. The improvement of claim 1, wherein the cover has a shoulder (57) that stops insertion of the cover into the opening.

4. The improvement of claim, wherein the deformable member (64) is a ring 64 that seats against a machined surface 52 of the housing.

5. The improvement of claim 1, wherein the cover is subjected to at least intermittent vacuum in operation of the pump.

6. The improvement of claim 1, wherein the cover has one or more holes in it

7. The improvement of claim 1, wherein the cover has a filter incorporated into it.

8. In a pump (10) having a cylinder 24, a housing, a valve plate (28) assembled to the cylinder (24) and a head member (34), and at least two extending apertures (34a, 34b) in a flange of the head member securing the head member to the housing so as to clamp the valve plate and cylinder between the head and the housing, the improvement wherein fasteners (40) extend through apertures (34a, 34b) and alongside the valve plate and not through the valve plate (28).

9. The improvement of claim 8, wherein the valve plate extends into the cylinder (24) and a sealing ring (84) is provided around the extension (80) of the valve plate into the cylinder (24).

10. The improvement of claim 1, wherein the valve plate includes at least one feature (72) to angularly orient the valve plate relative to the head member.

11. The improvement of claim 10, wherein the feature (72) is in an axially facing side of the valve plate.

12. The improvement of claim 11, wherein the feature (72) is a recess and the head member has a projection (74) that fits into the recess.

14. In a pump comprising at least two separate pumping chambers, each pumping chamber (200, 201) having an axis, the axes being parallel and spaced apart, and a pair of head members (32, 34), each head member being associated with a different one of the pumping chambers and at least one tube (36) spanning the head members wherein the tube provides fluid communication between the head members and is formed integral at each end of the tube with one of the head members so that the head members and the tube form a single, monolithically-formed head which is common to both pumping chambers and is a single piece of continuous material that includes the head members and the tube so that the tube is joined to each head member with a fluid-tight and fixed rigid connection provided by the material of the monolithic head continuously joining the tube to each head member, the improvement wherein the tube includes an integral port (88) that provides a passageway into the tube, said integral port between the two head members.

15. The pump of claim 14, wherein the port is approximately halfway between the two head members.

16. The pump of claim 14, wherein the port is an outlet port of the pump.

17. The pump of claim 16, wherein the pump intake is through pistons of the pump.

18. In a pump assembly having first and second piston assemblies (25, 27)

coupled to opposite ends of a shaft (100) of a motor (16), each piston assembly (25, 27) including a piston (92); an eccentric (94) having a counterweight portion (96) and a stub portion (98), said stub portion having a first axis (106); the eccentric having a hole with a second axis (104) parallel to the first axis and spaced from the first axis, the end of the motor shaft is received in the hole; and a fastener (93) for fixing the eccentric to the motor shaft wherein , the stub portion (98) is journalled to the piston (92) for rotation relative to the piston about the first axis, the improvement wherein the piston (92) of the first piston assembly (27) has at least a first alignment hole (110 or 112) having its axis parallel to the first and second axes, , and the eccentric (94) of said first piston assembly (27) has an alignment hole (114) that can be aligned with the first alignment hole (110 or 112), wherein when the eccentric alignment hole is aligned with the first alignment hole the piston is in one of a top dead center position or a bottom dead center position.

19. The pump assembly of claim 18 further comprising a second alignment hole (110) in said piston of the first piston assembly (27), wherein when the eccentric alignment hole (114) is aligned with the first alignment hole (112) the piston is in a top dead center position, and when said eccentric alignment hole (114) is aligned with said second alignment hole (110) the piston is in the bottom dead center position.

20. The pump assembly of claim 18 further comprising a first alignment hole (110 or 112) in the piston (92) of the second piston assembly (25), and an alignment hole in the eccentric of said second piston assembly, wherein when said first alignment hole (110 or 112) in said piston (92) of said second piston assembly (29) is aligned with said eccentric alignment hole (114) of said second piston assembly (25) and wherein when said first alignment hole (110 or 112) of said piston (92) of said first piston assembly (27) is aligned with said eccentric alignment hole (114) of said first piston assembly (27), said pistons (92) are 180° out of phase.

21. The improvement of claim 19, further comprising a magnetic fixture (115) having two pins (119) which are extendable simultaneously through the first, second and eccentric alignment hole.

22. A pump having ports (138), wherein the pump is mounted to a base (136) with one or more elastomer tubular members (132 or 152) that define at least one passage for communication of a gaseous fluid to the port, the elastomer members being connected at one end to the port and at the other end to the base.

23. A pump as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the one or more elastomer bodies are relaxed when the pump is not operating so as to rest the pump on a mount and when operating the bodies are subjected to pressure or vacuum that lifts the pump off the mount to support the pump with vibration isolation.

24. A pump as in Claim 22, wherein the tubular bodies provide vibration isolation to the pump.

25. In a pump having a port (168), the improvement comprising a pump component (138, 140, 150, 160 or 166) having at least a portion which forms an insert (174), said insert insertable into the port, the insert having a deformable ring (182) at least partially around it that can be compressed between the insert (174) and the port when the insert (174) is inserted into the port and wherein when the ring (182) clears the port (168) with sufficient depth of insertion the ring expands outwardly to inhibit removal of the insert.

26. The improvement of Claim 25, further comprising a second ring that is a sealing ring between the insert and the pump.

27. The improvement of Claim 25, wherein the component is a port.

28. The improvement of Claim 25, wherein the component is a plug.

29. The improvement of Claim 25, wherein the component is a pressure relief valve.

30. The improvement of Claim 29, wherein the resilient deformable portion is an

elastomeric ring, a metal split ring, or a plastic split ring.

31. A pump component (166) with an end (174) insertable into a pump port (168), said insertable end (174) comprising:

- an resilient deformable portion (182)

- a portion more rigid than said deformable portion (178) at least partially surrounded by said deformable portion (182).

- an initial insert configuration wherein said deformable portion is deformed between an interior port surface and said more rigid material.

- a final insert position wherein said deformable portion has a configuration different from when in said initial insert configuration, an abutment (184) within said port blocking said deformable portion (182) to inhibit removal of said insertable end.

Fig. 1

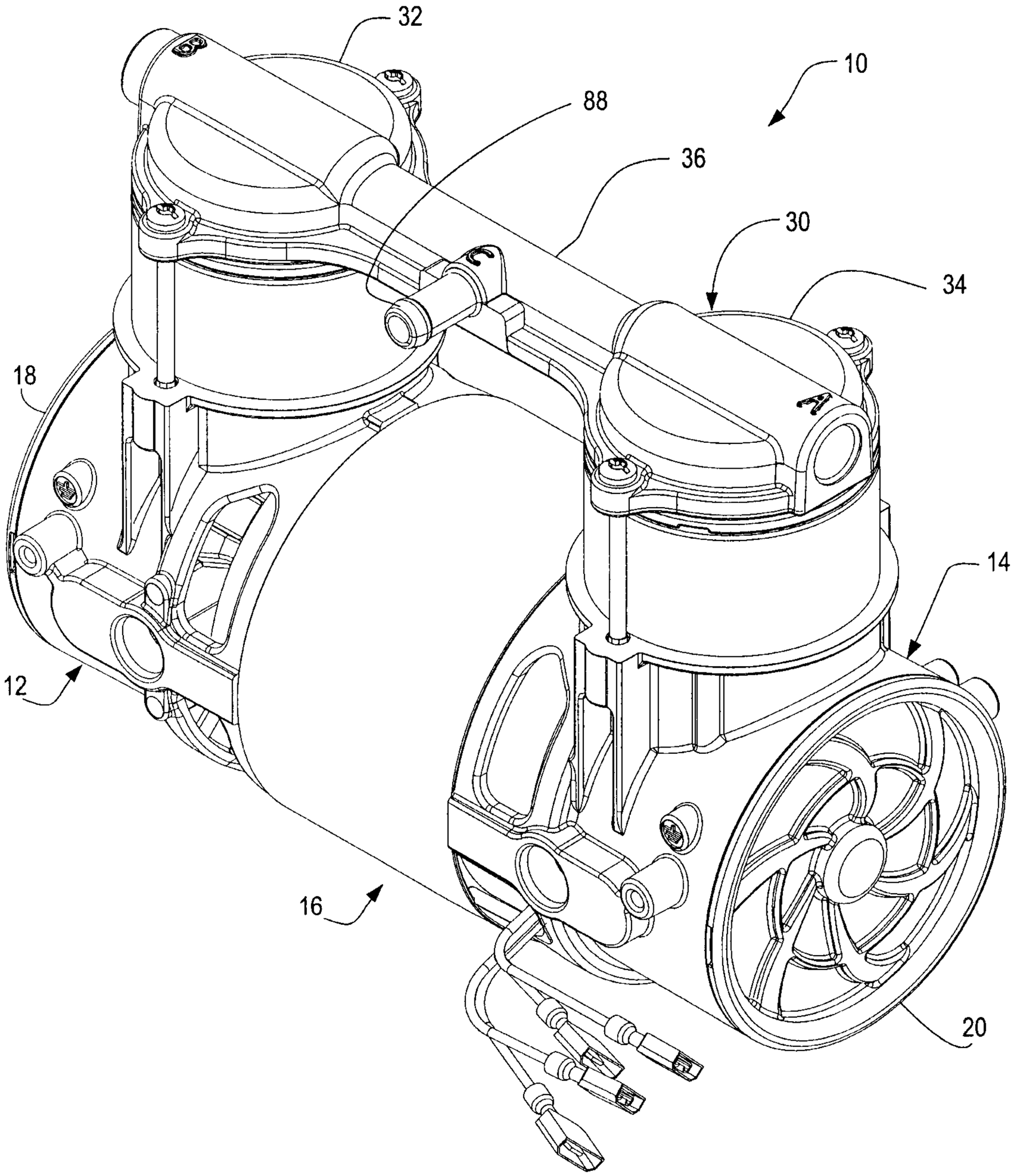


Fig. 2

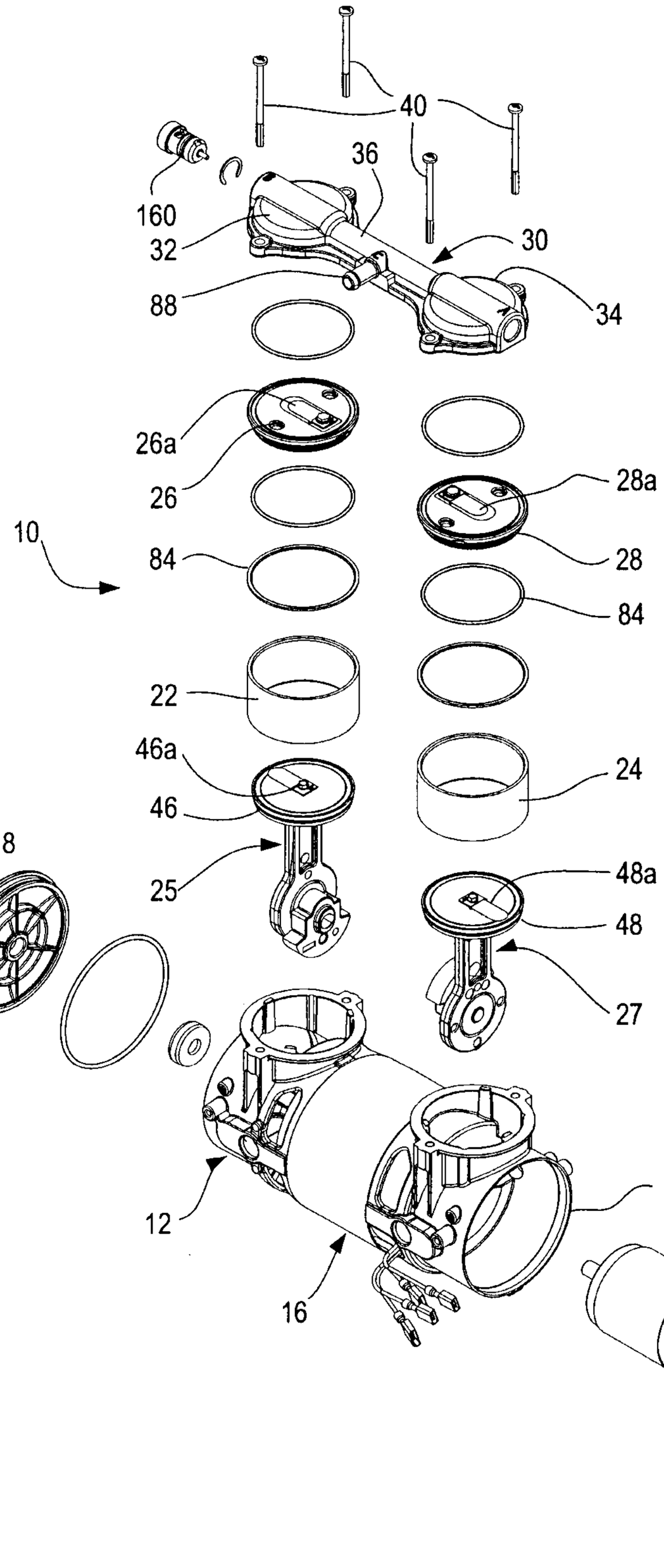

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Fig. 3

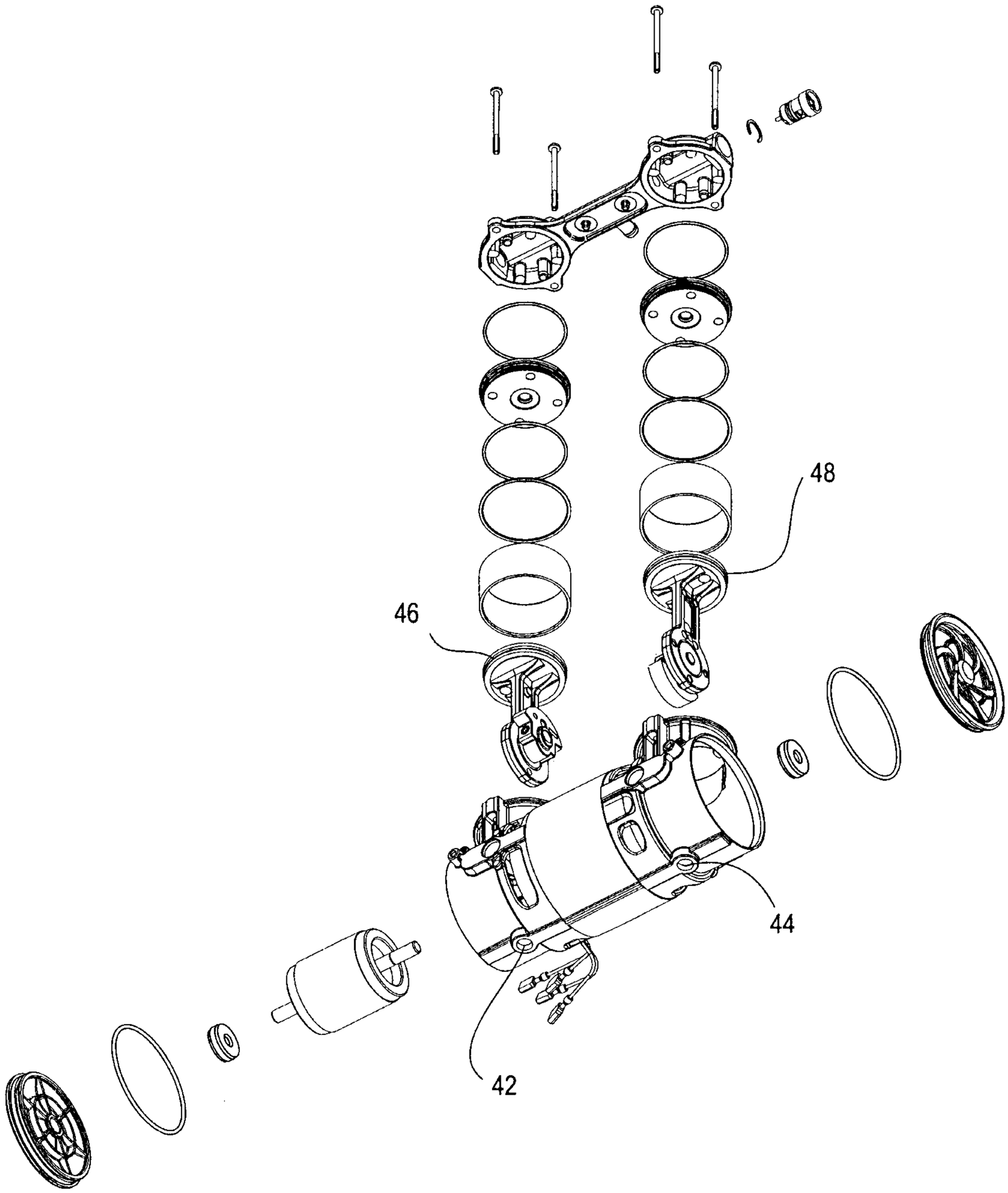


Fig. 4

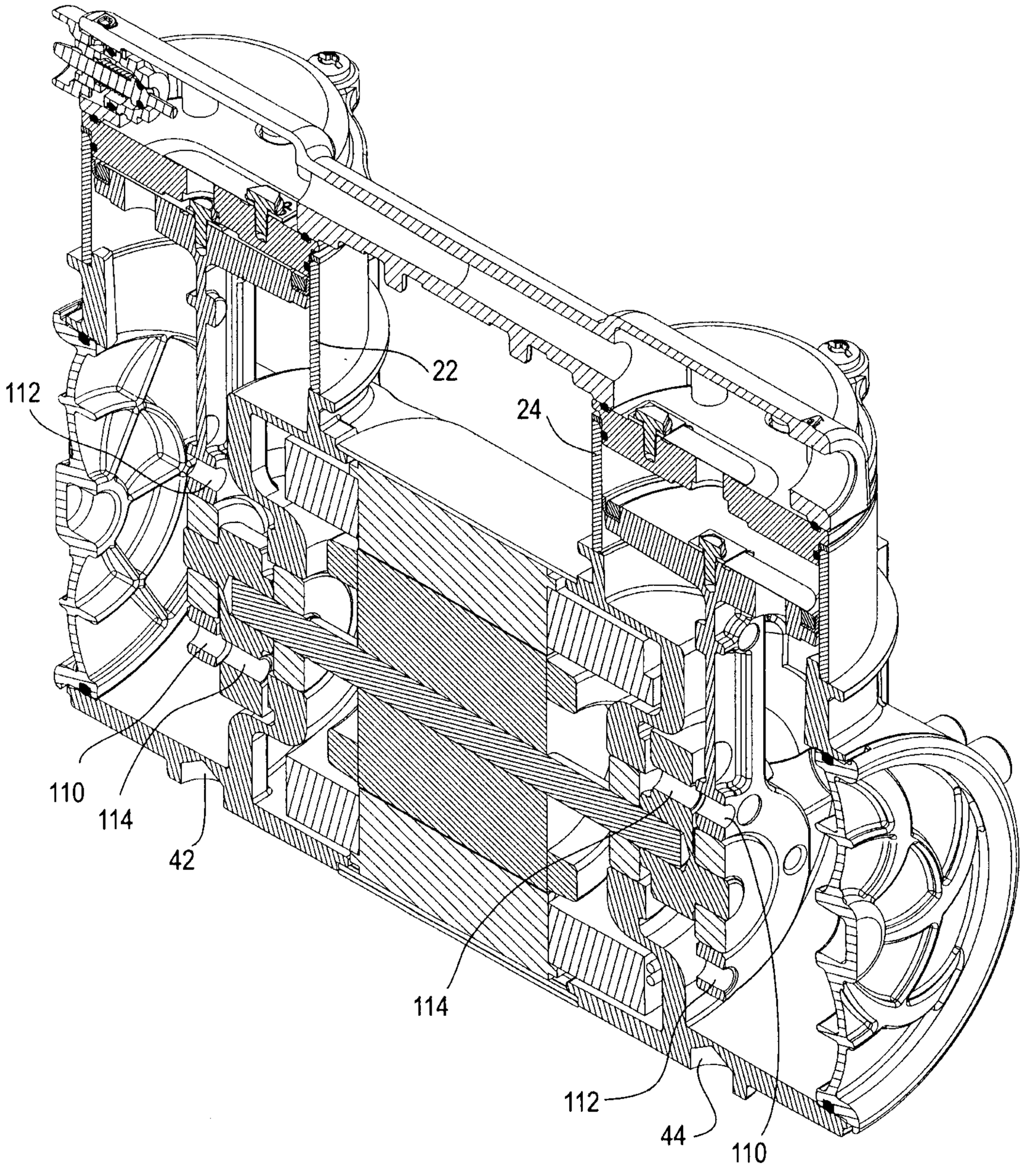


Fig. 5

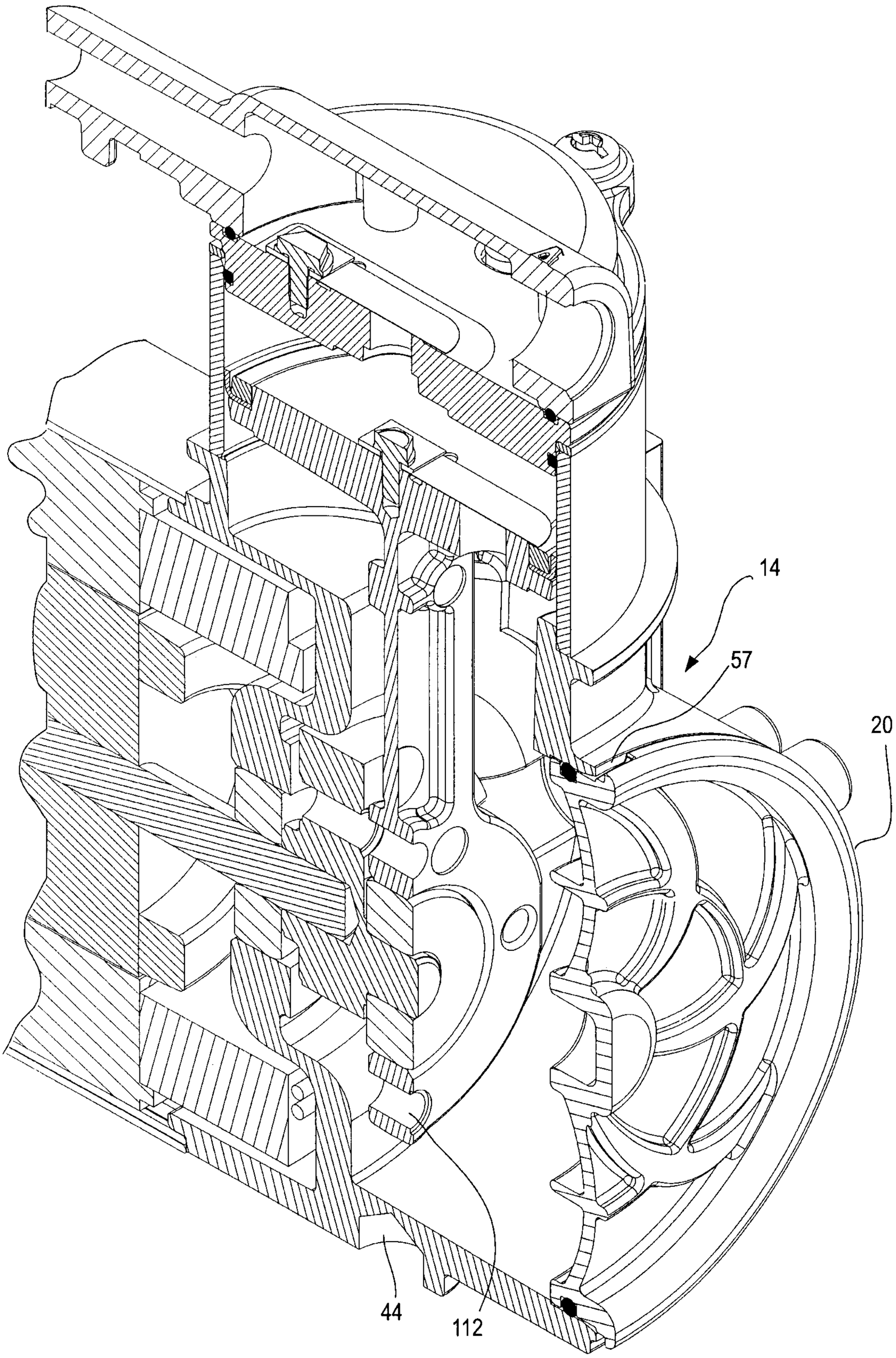


Fig. 6A

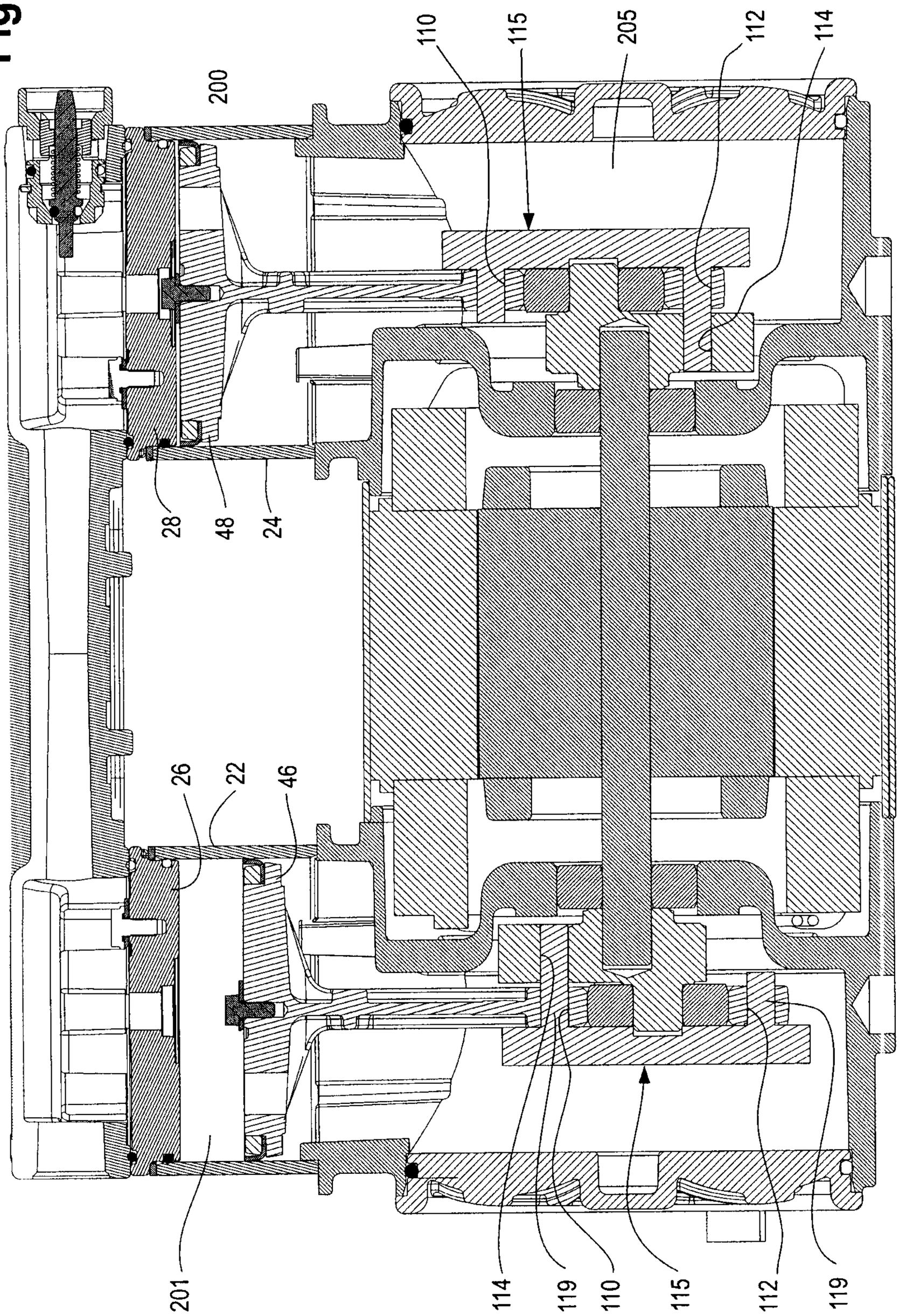

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Fig. 6B

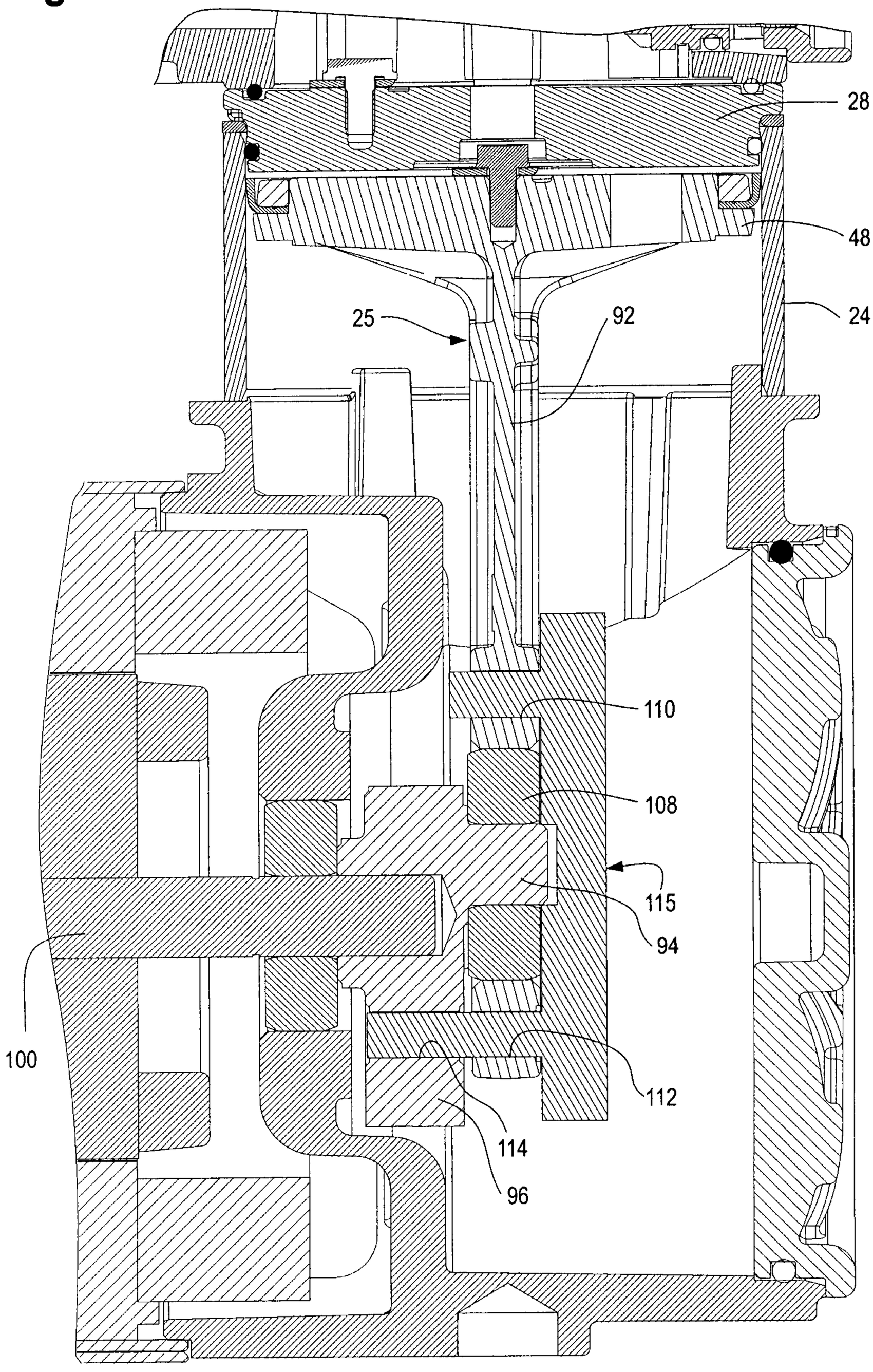


Fig. 7

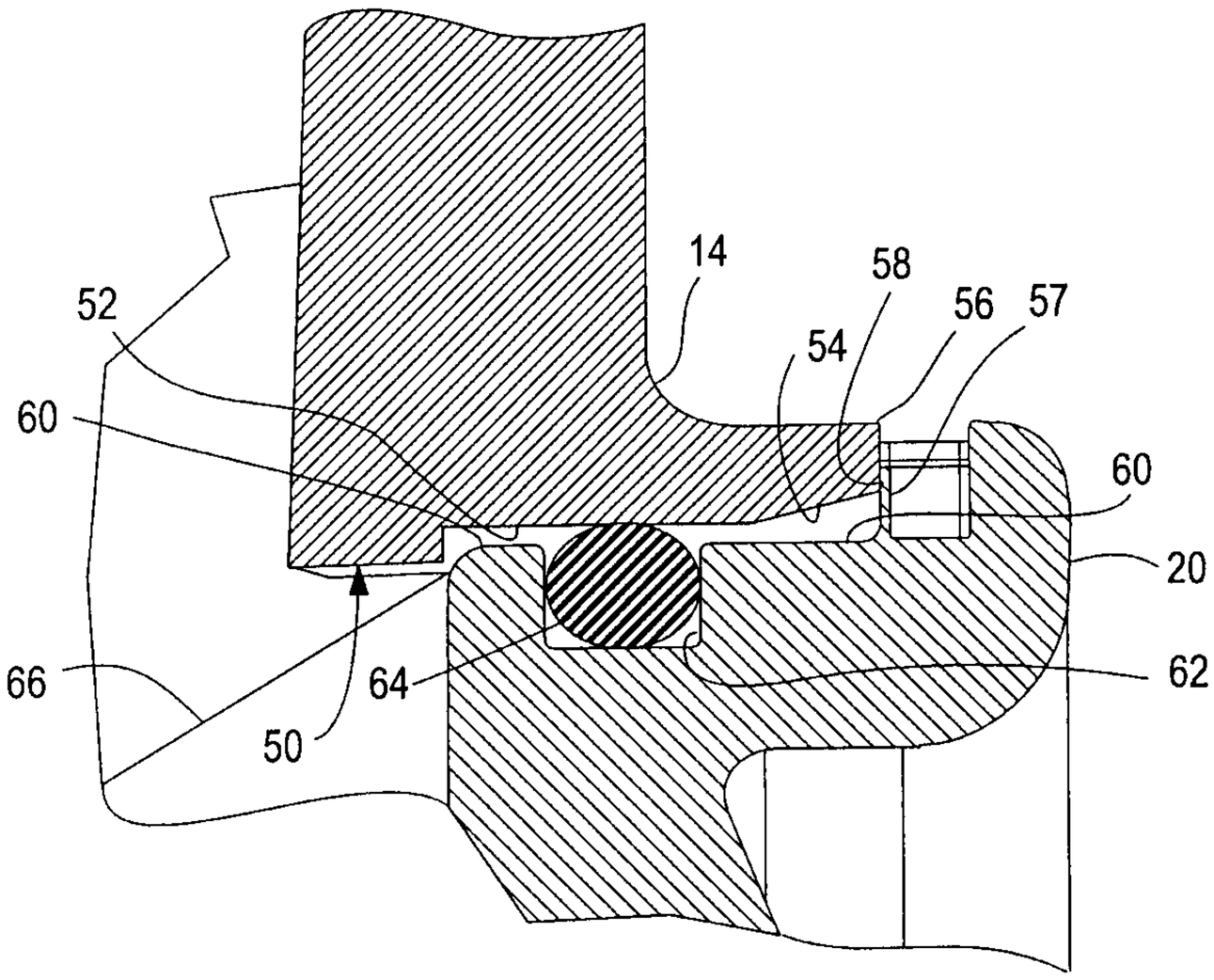


Fig. 8A

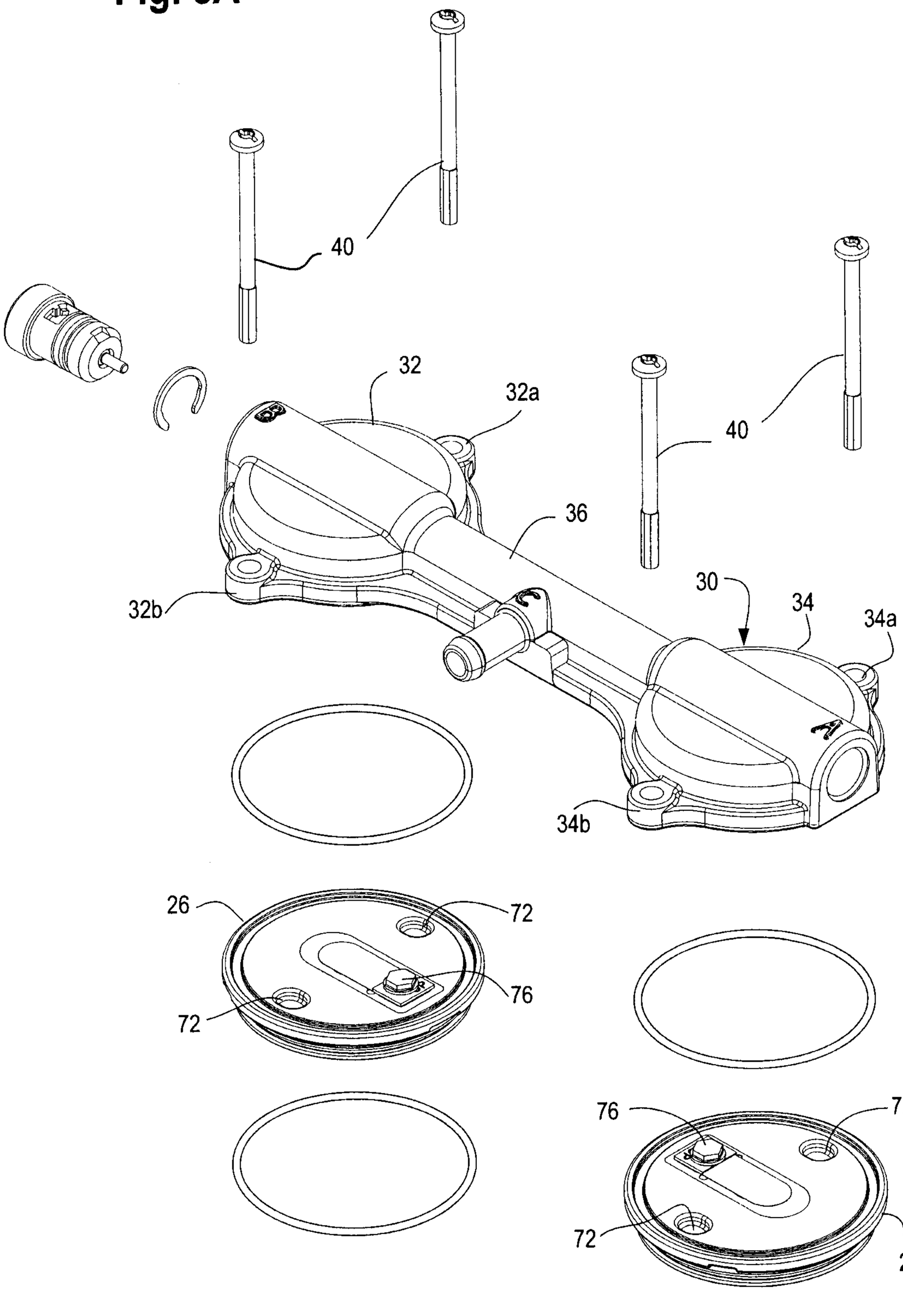


Fig. 8B

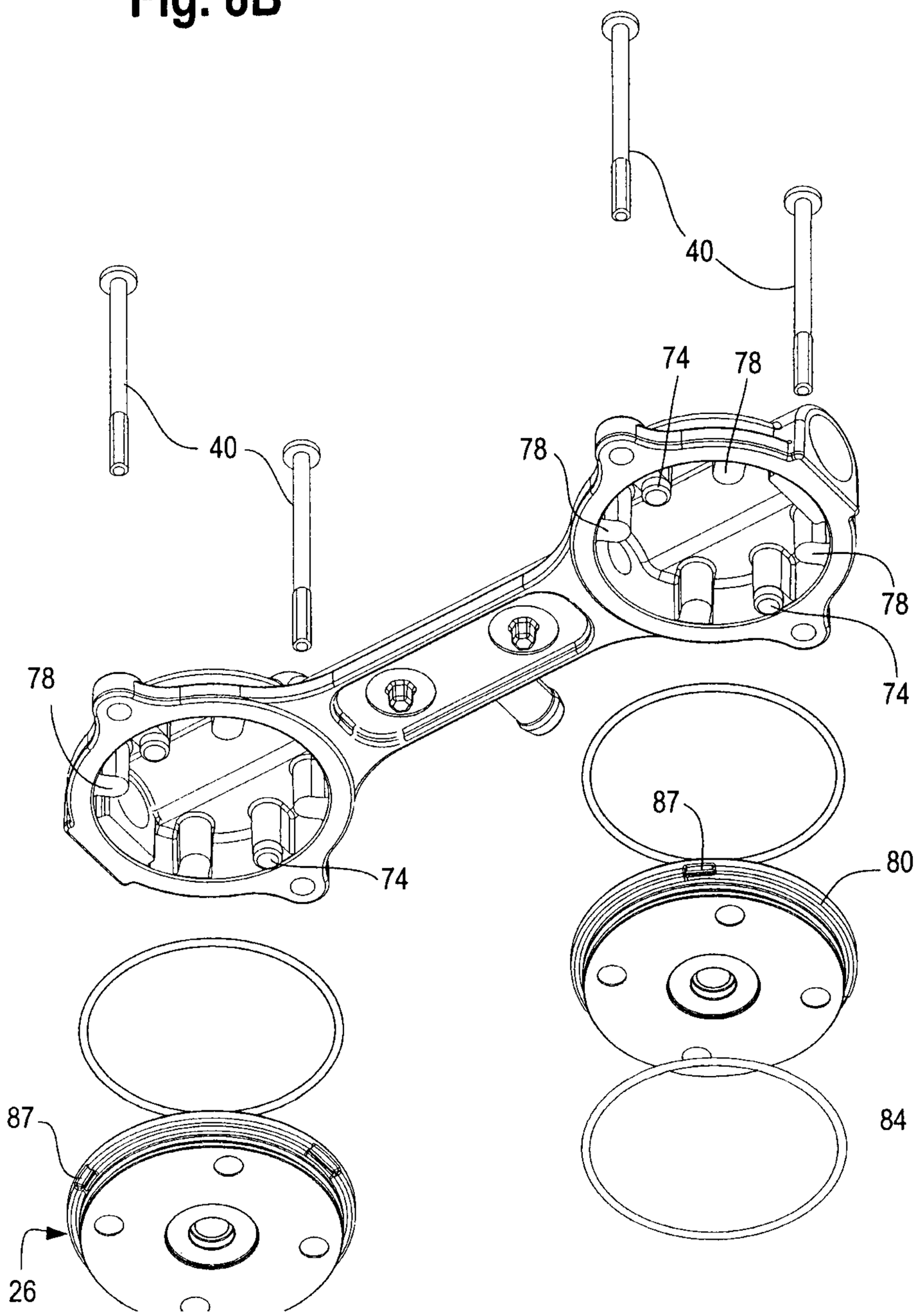


Fig. 8C

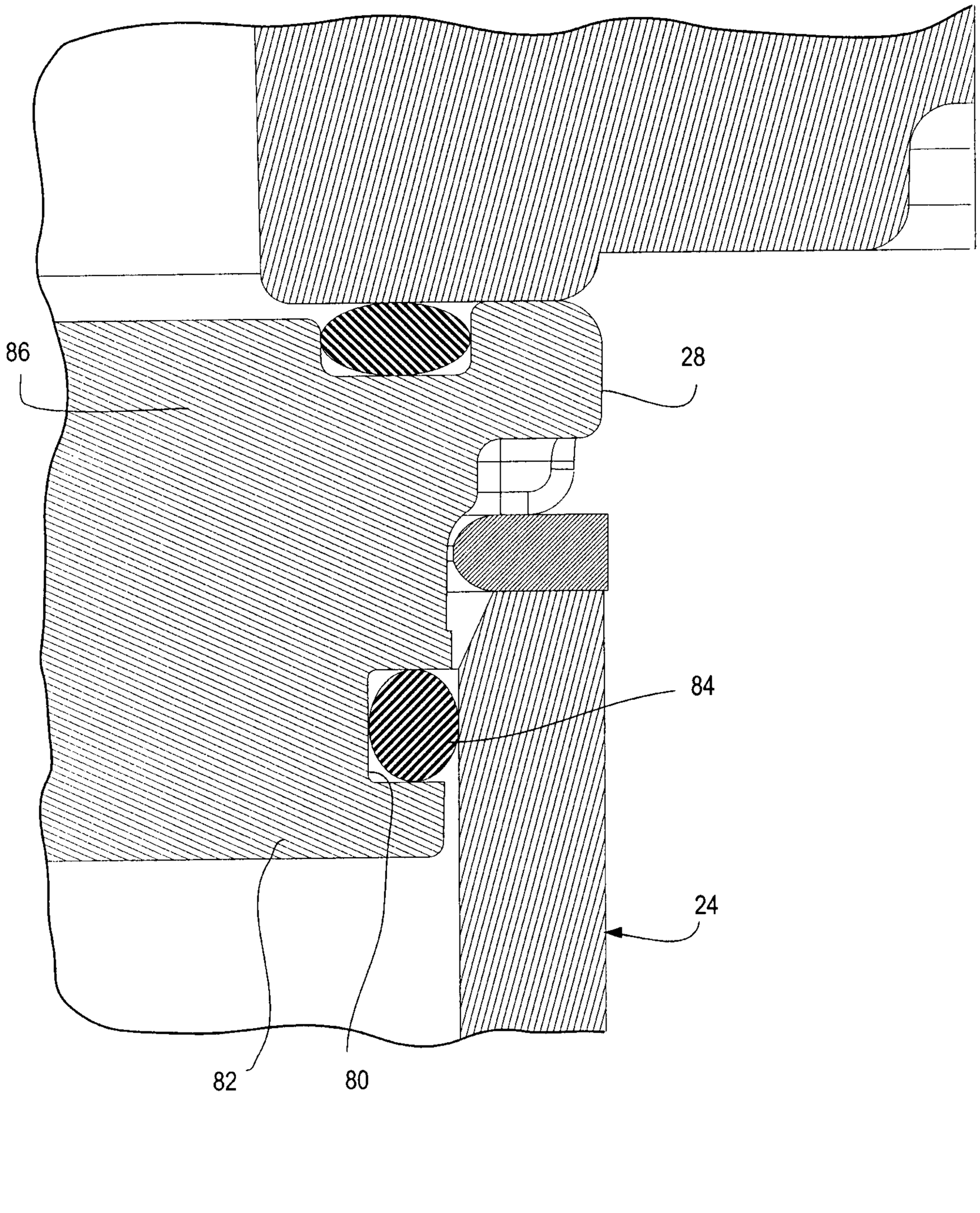


Fig. 9

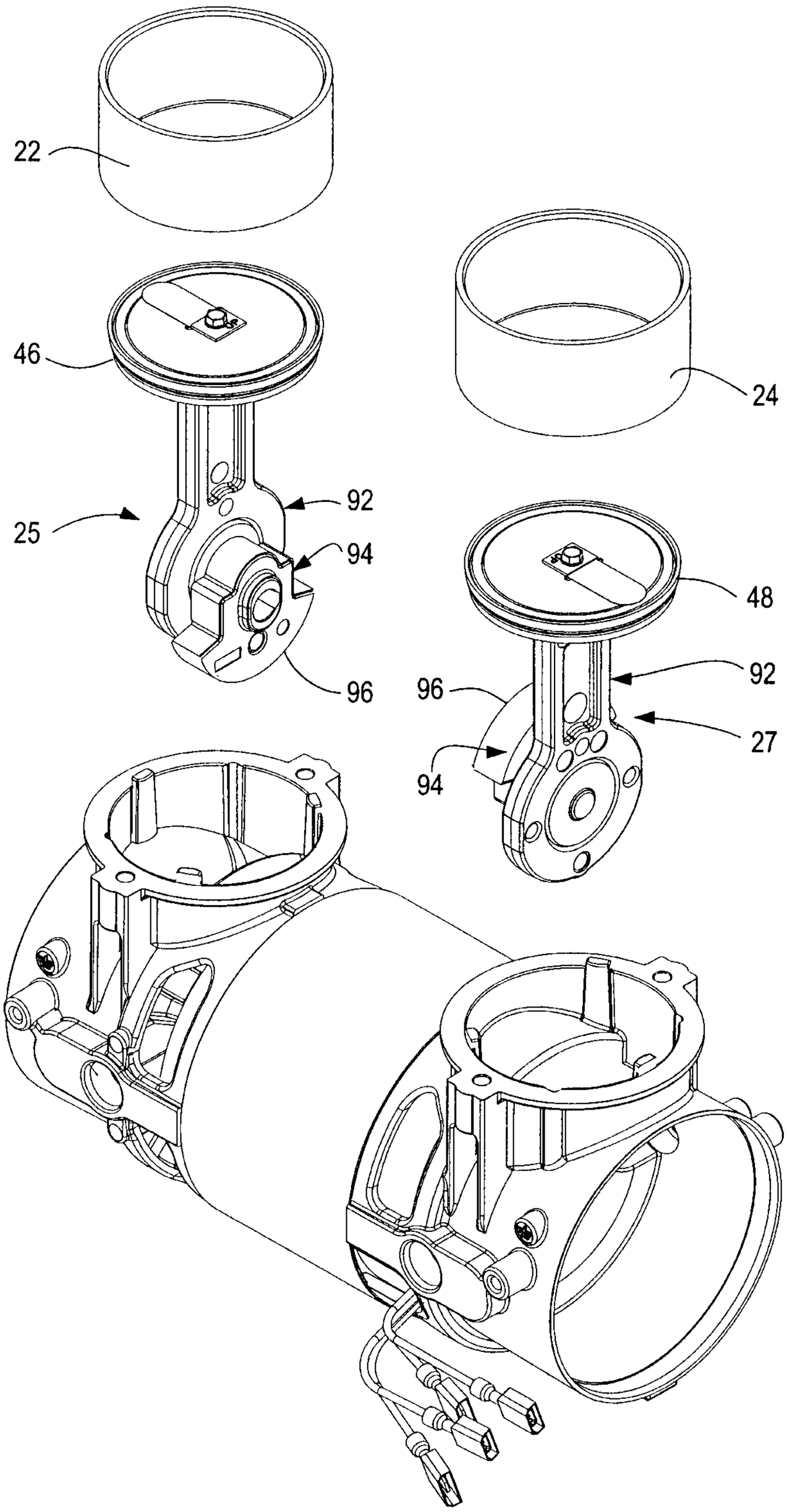


Fig. 10

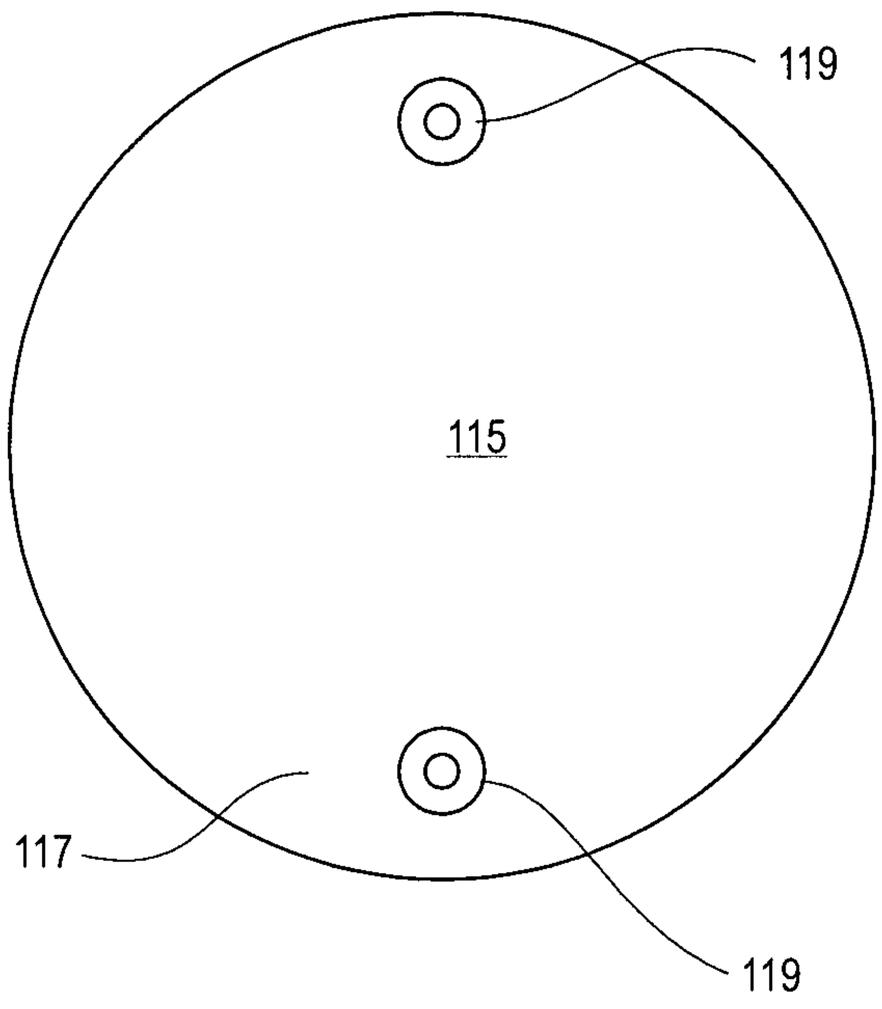


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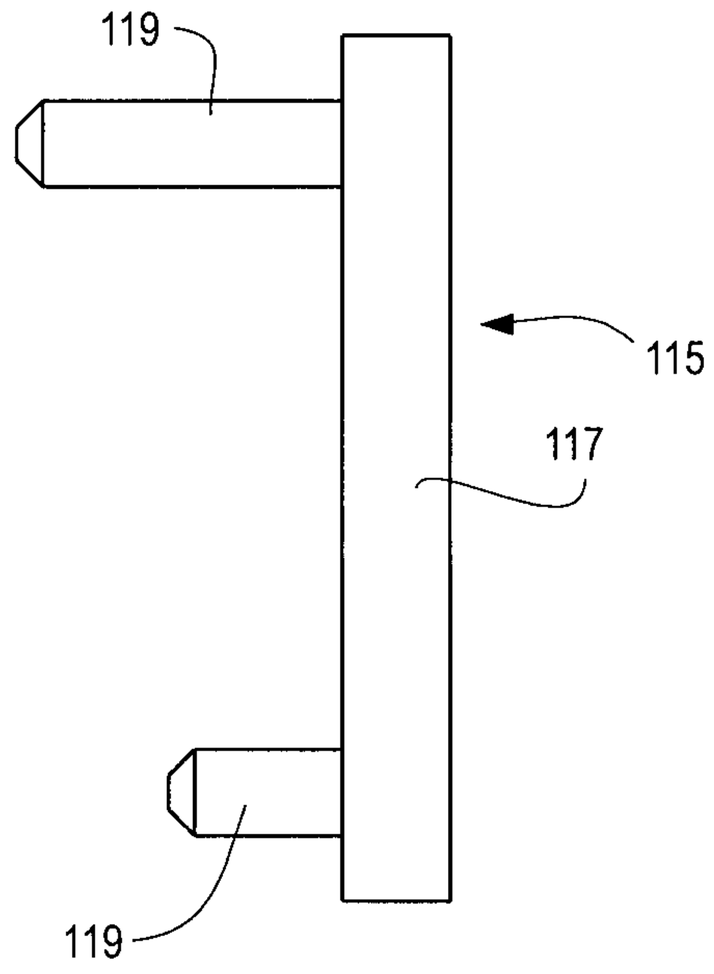
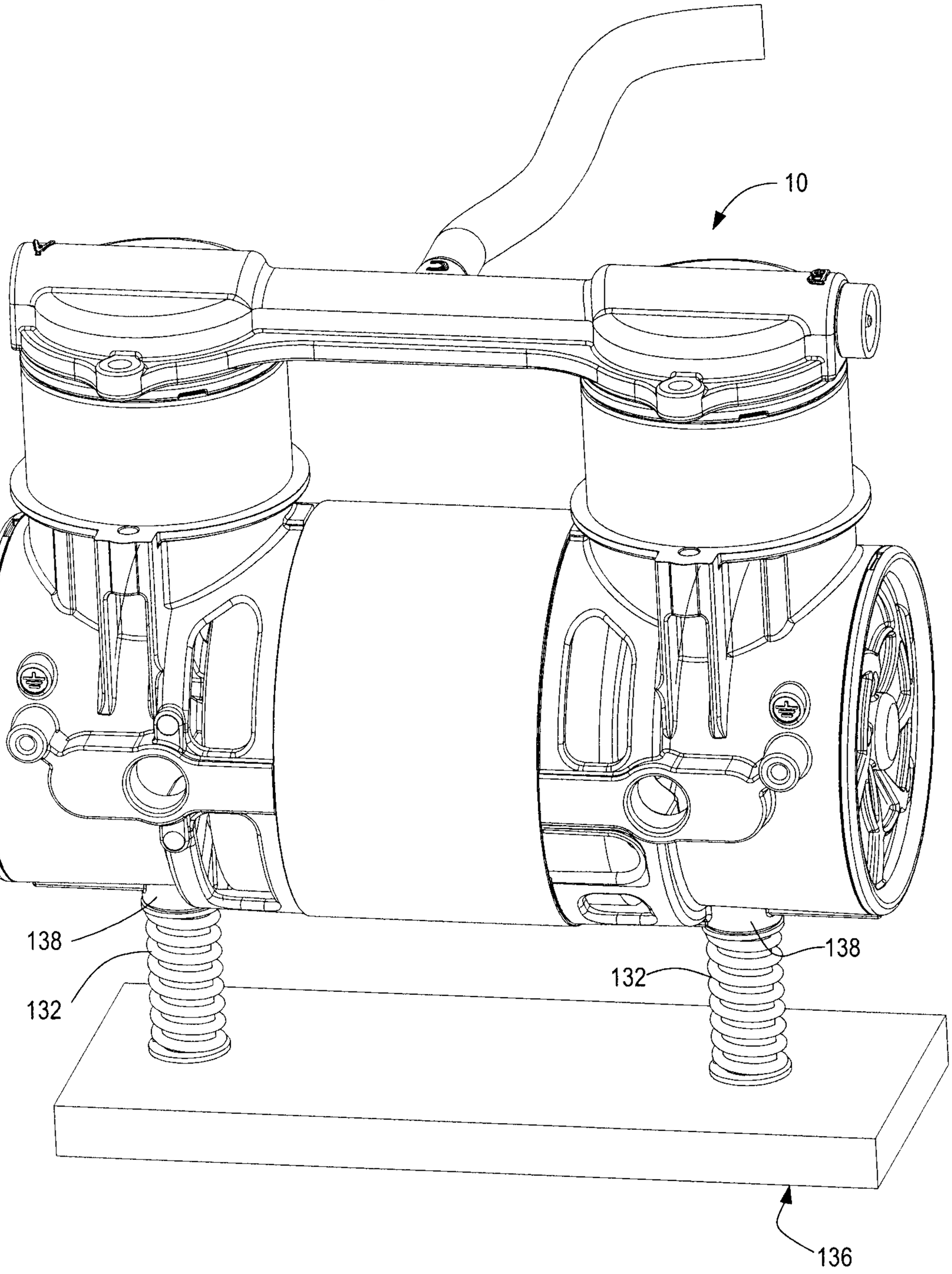


Fig. 12



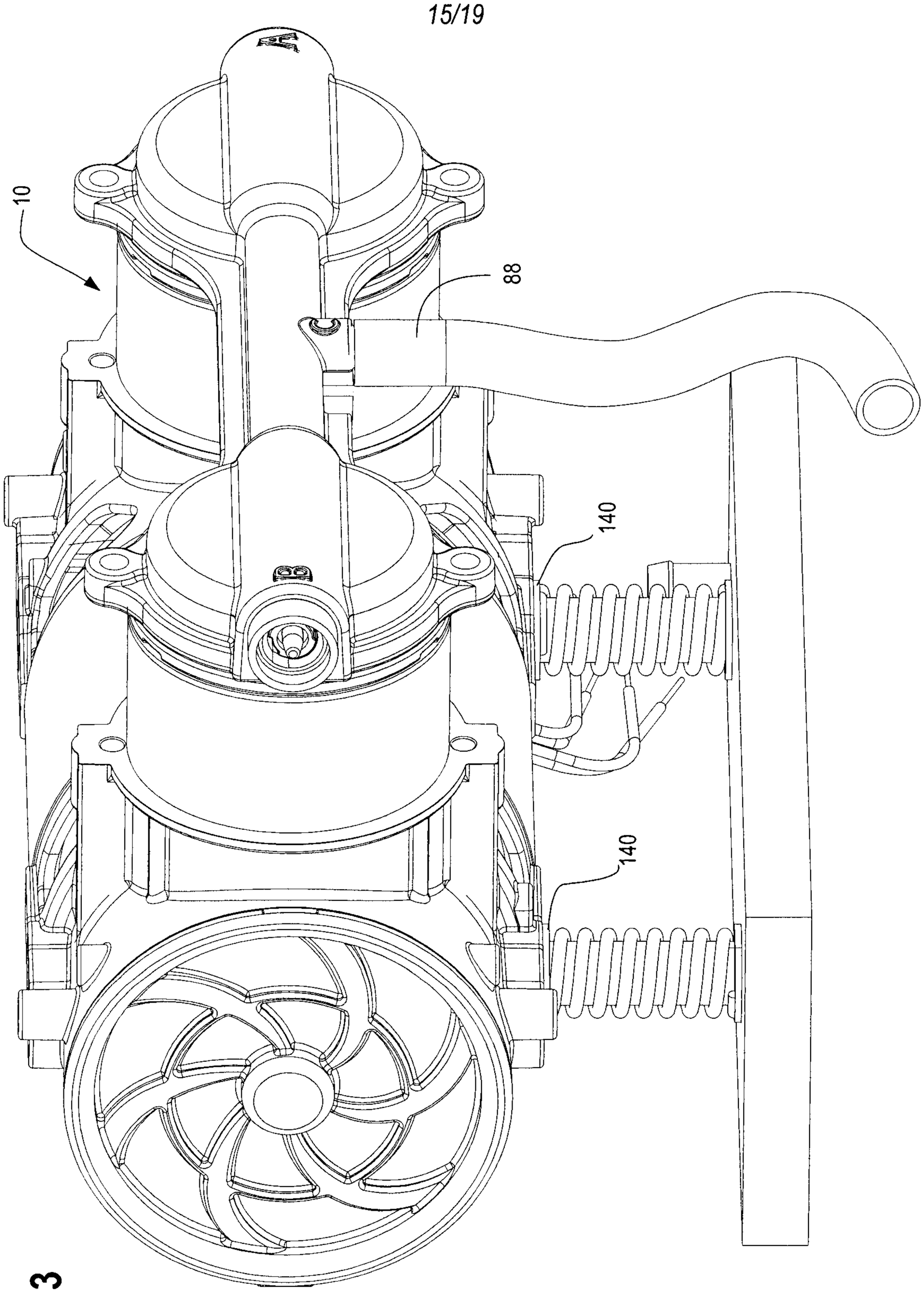


Fig. 13

Fig. 14

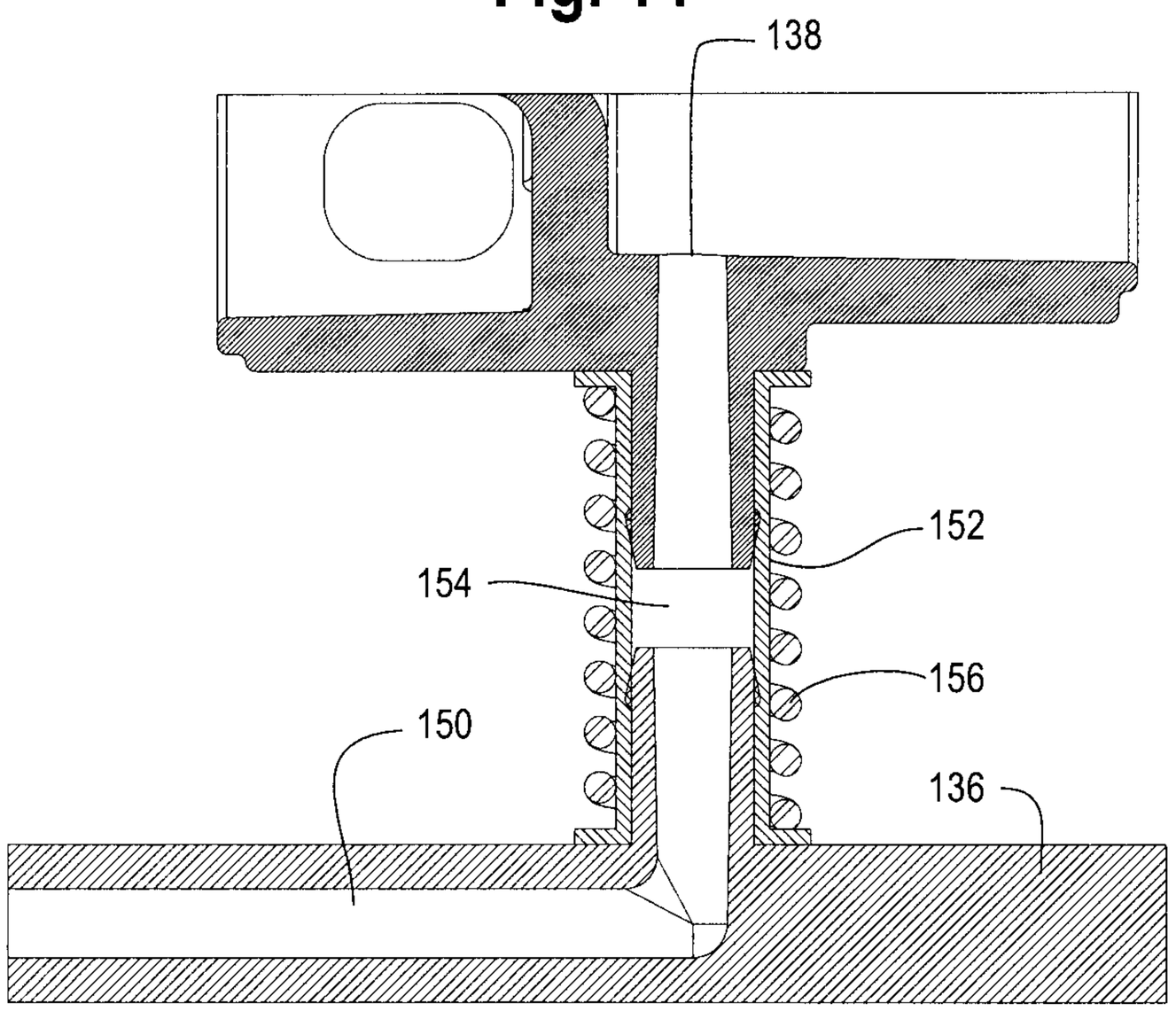

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Fig. 15

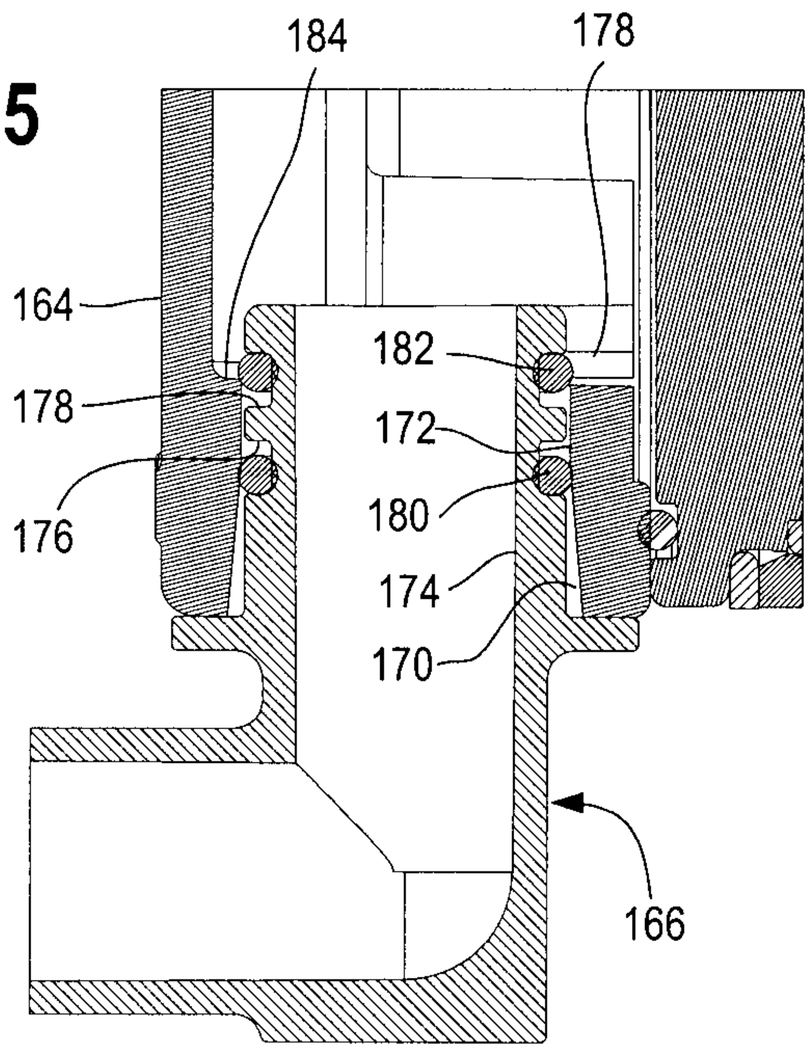

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Fig. 16

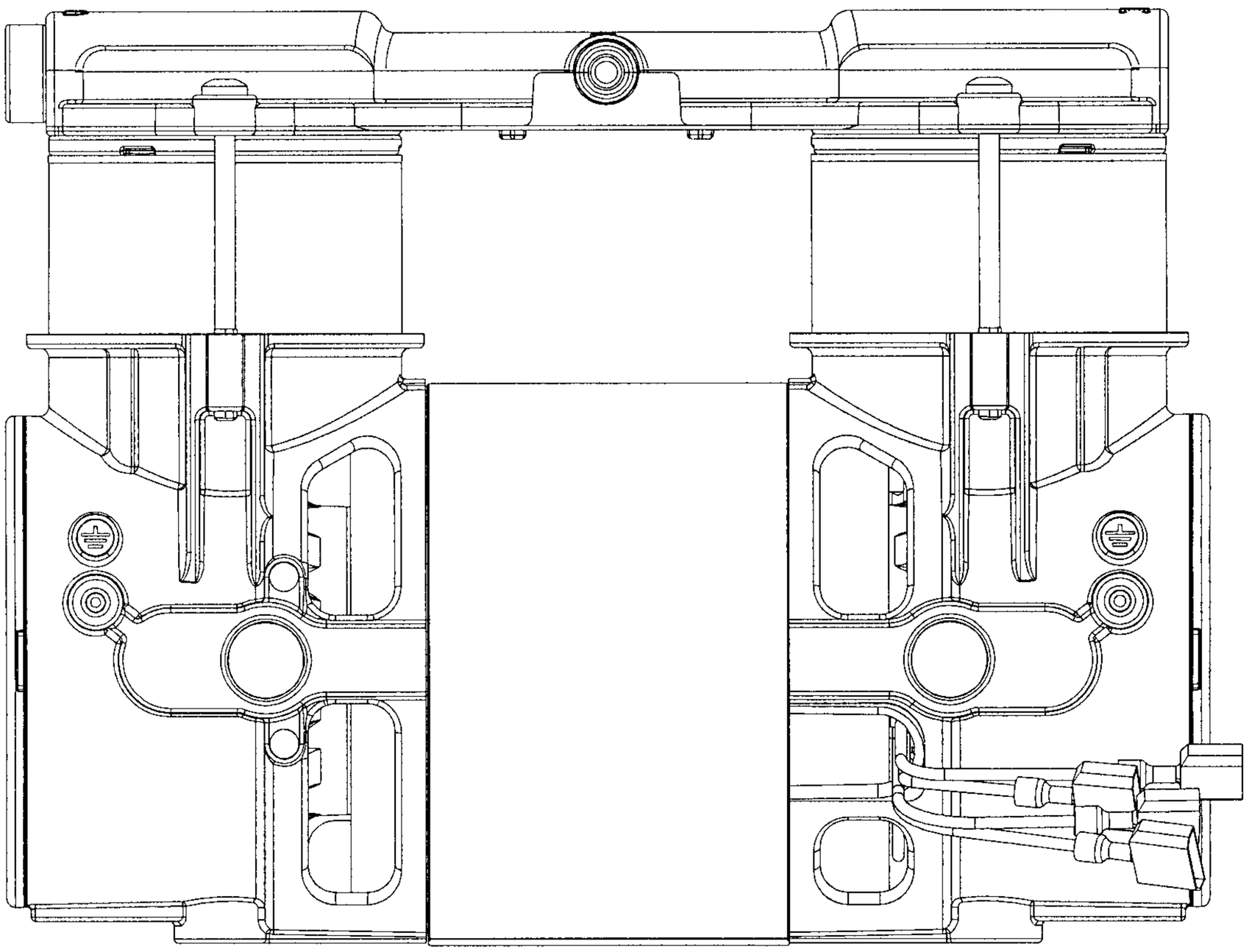


Fig. 17

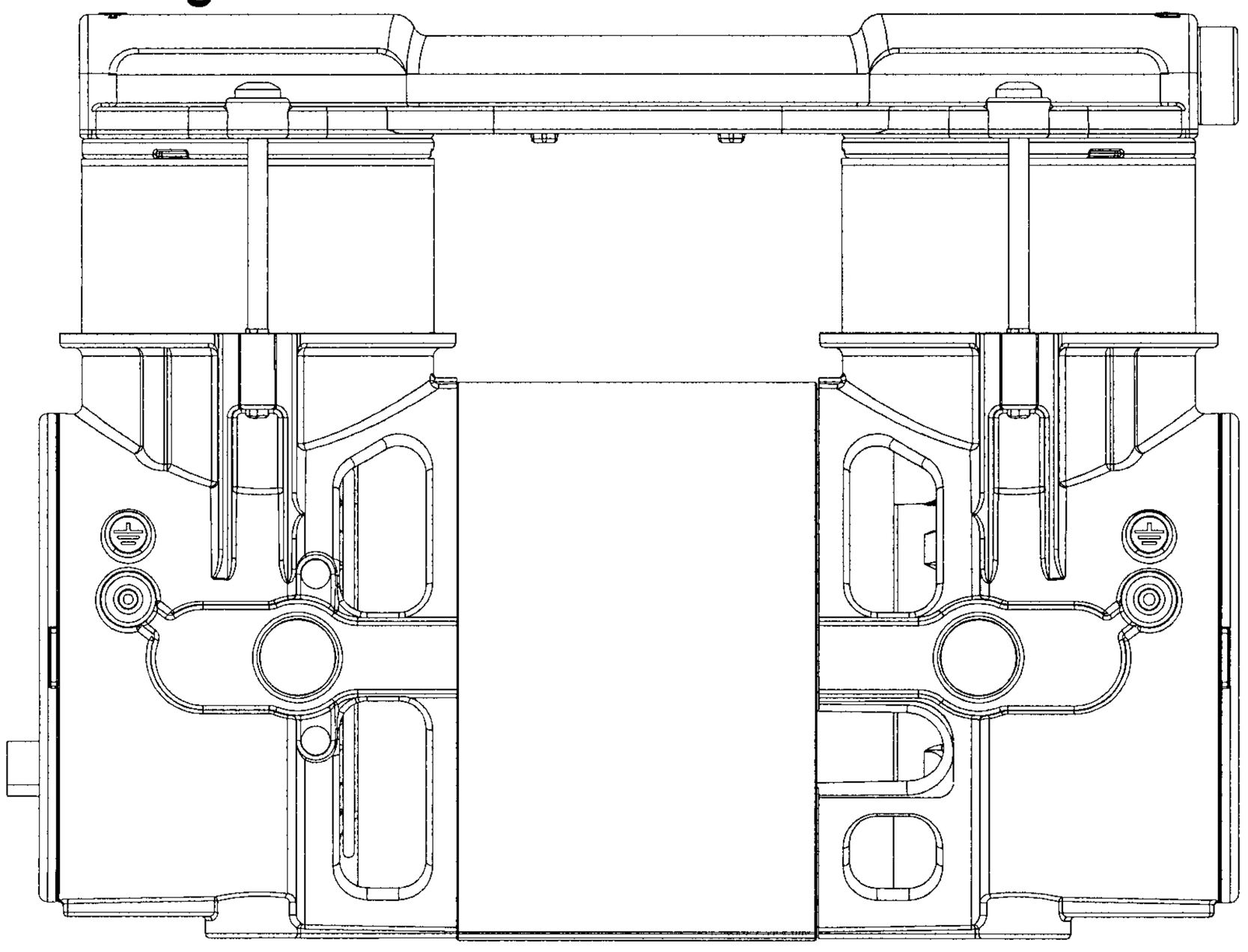


Fig. 18

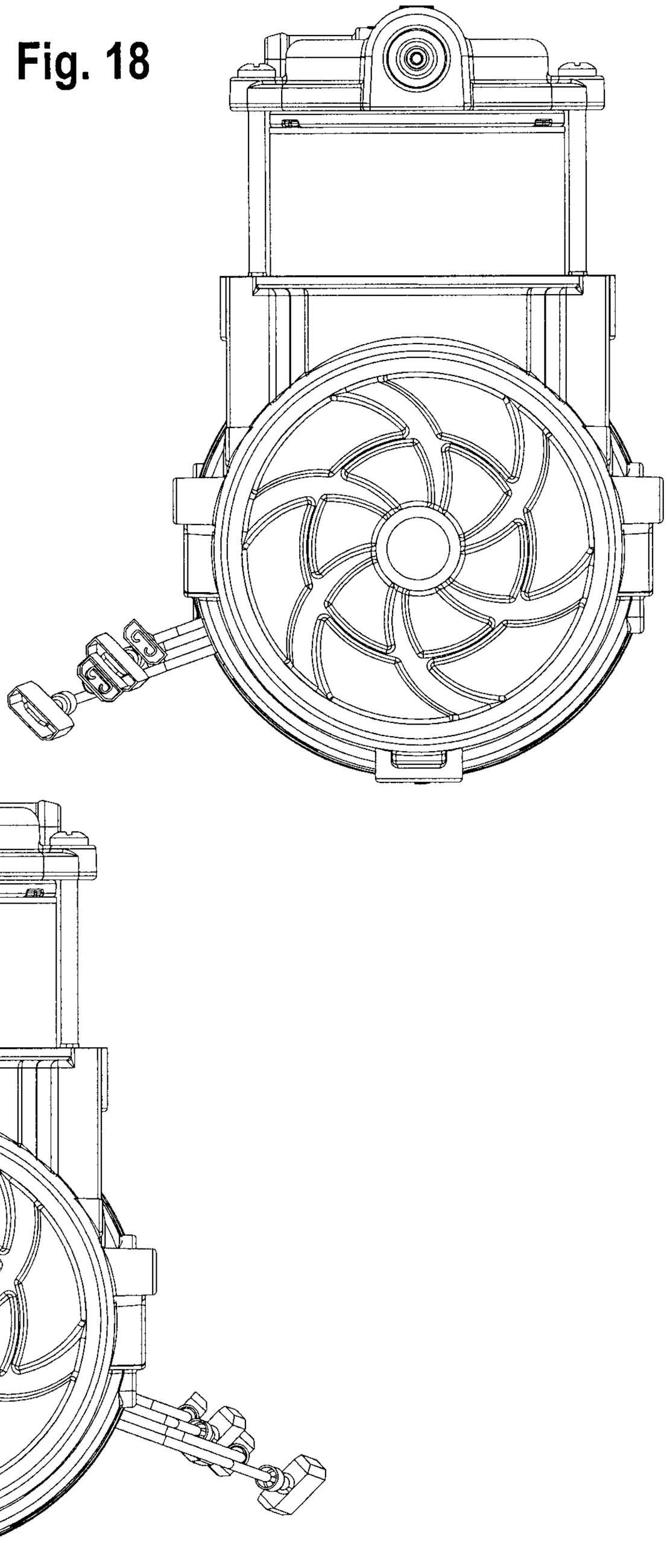


Fig. 19

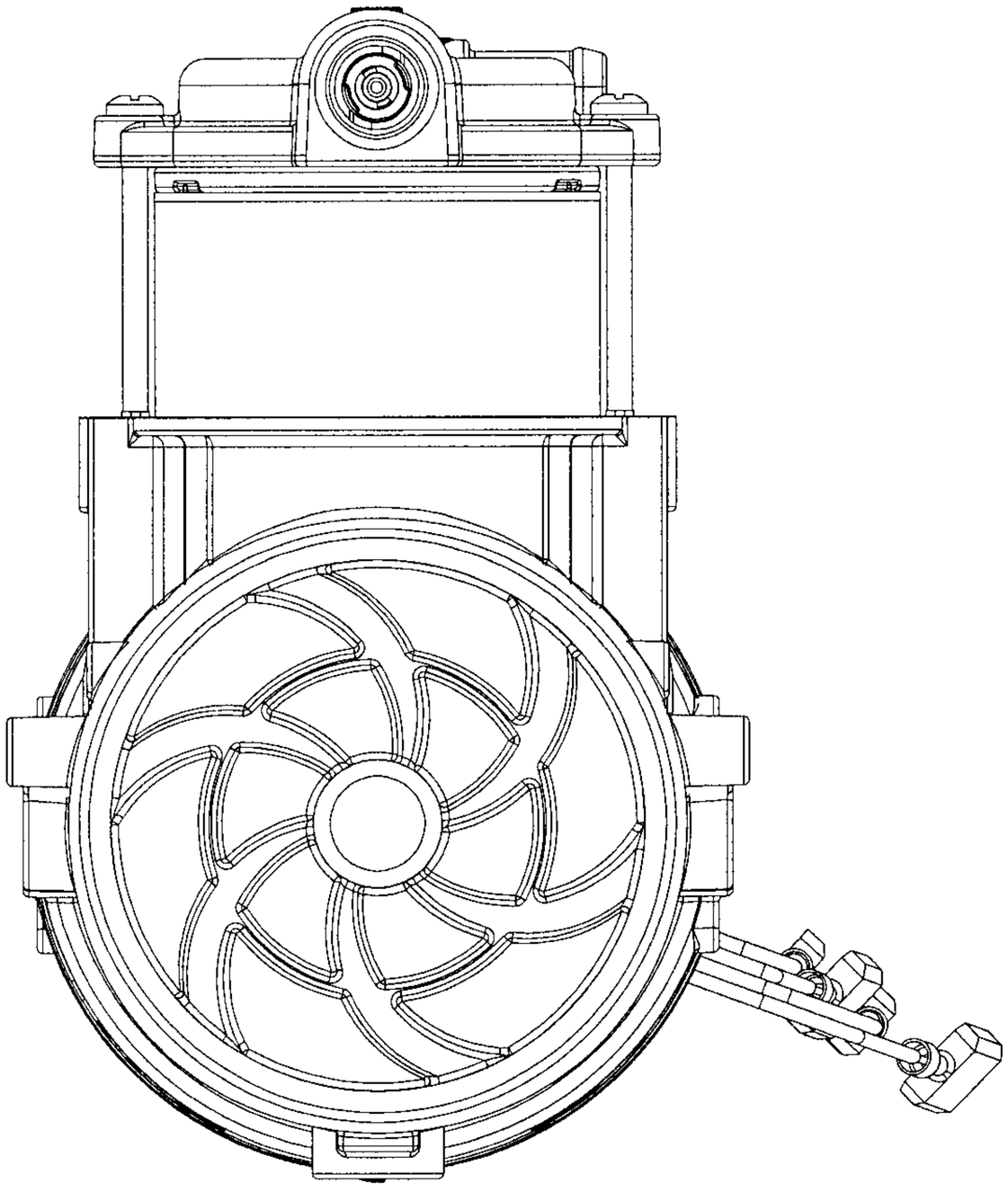


Fig. 20

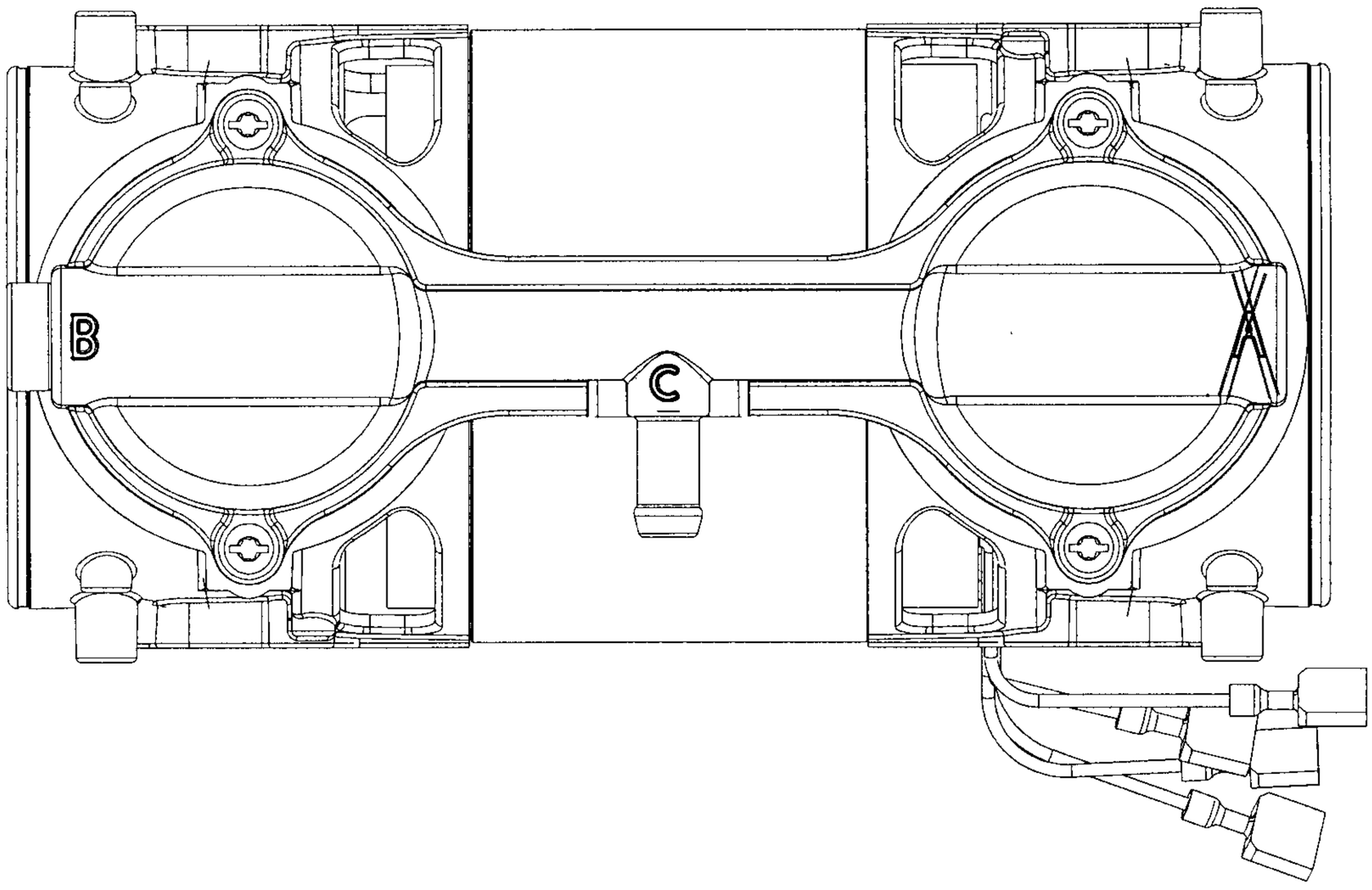
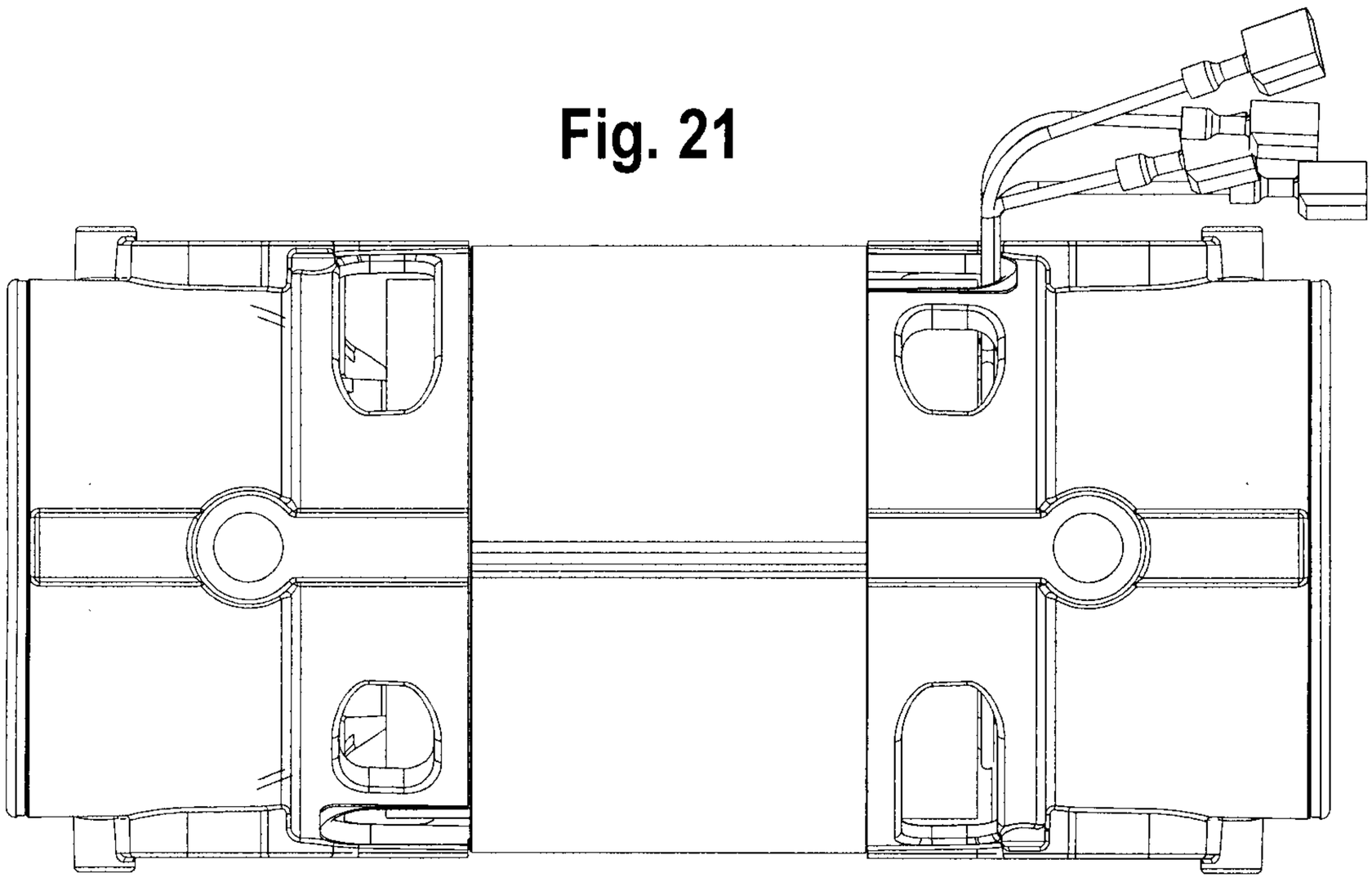
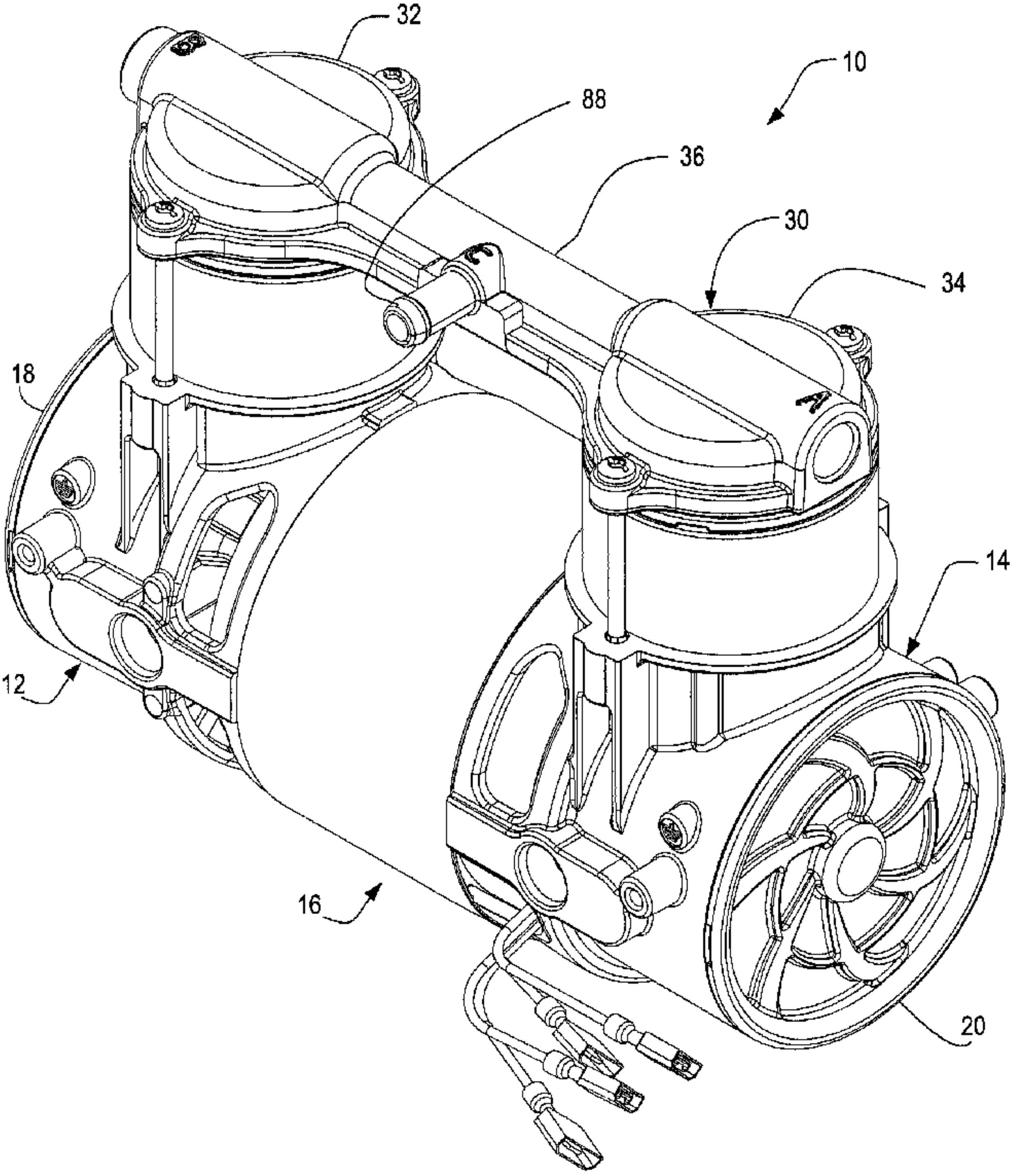


Fig. 21




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