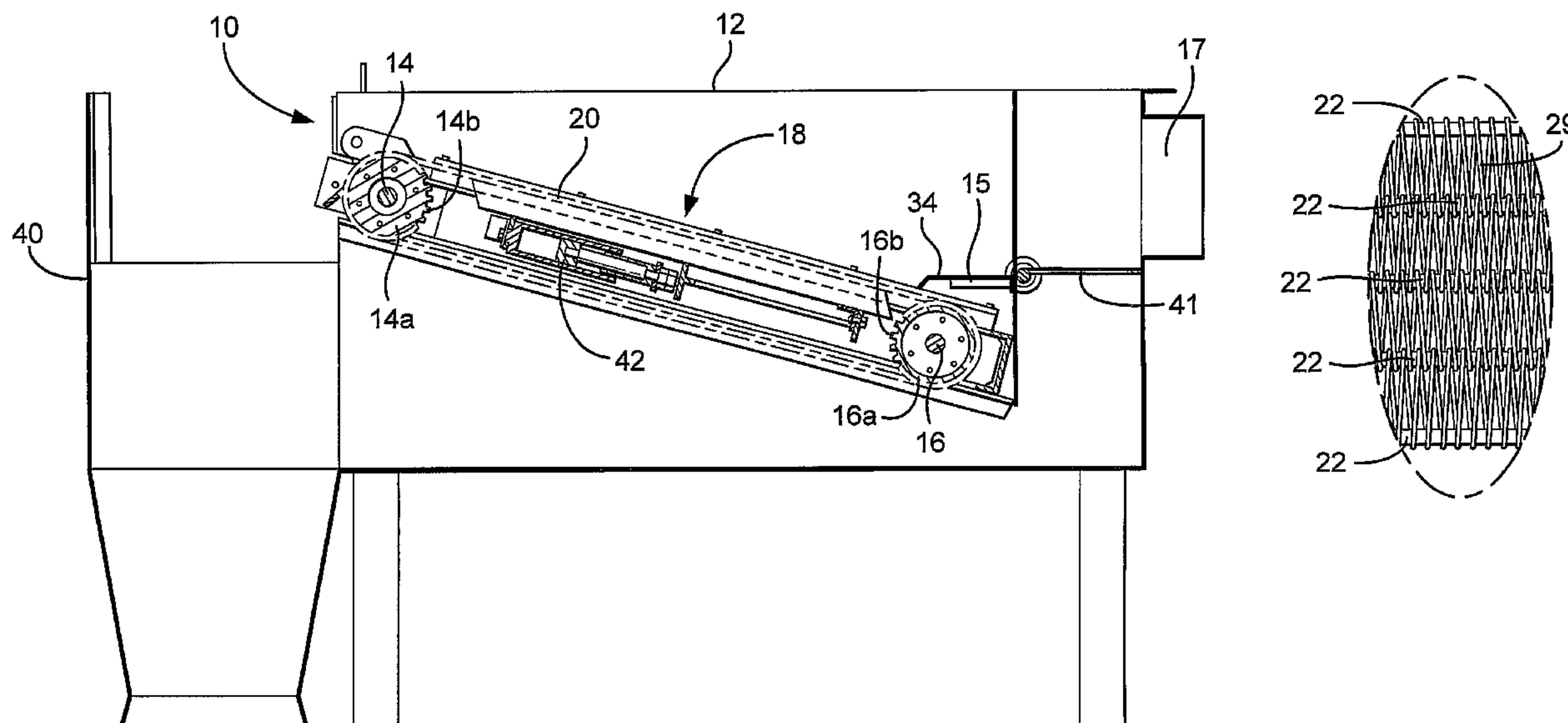




(86) Date de dépôt PCT/PCT Filing Date: 2003/06/16
 (87) Date publication PCT/PCT Publication Date: 2004/02/12
 (45) Date de délivrance/Issue Date: 2011/05/03
 (85) Entrée phase nationale/National Entry: 2005/01/28
 (86) N° demande PCT/PCT Application No.: GB 2003/002571
 (87) N° publication PCT/PCT Publication No.: 2004/012845
 (30) Priorité/Priority: 2002/08/02 (US10/211,256)

(51) Cl.Int./Int.Cl. *B01D 33/056* (2006.01),
B01D 33/048 (2006.01)
 (72) Inventeur/Inventor:
SEYFFERT, KENNETH WAYNE, US
 (73) Propriétaire/Owner:
VARCO I/P, INC., US
 (74) Agent: MCFADDEN, FINCHAM

(54) Titre : SEPARATEUR D'ARGILE COLLANTE ET PROCEDE DE SEPARATION DE L'ARGILE COLLANTE D'UN FLUIDE DE FORAGE CONTENANT DE L'ARGILE COLLANTE
 (54) Title: GUMBO SEPARATOR AND METHOD FOR SEPARATING GUMBO FROM A GUMBO LADEN DRILLING FLUID



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

A gumbo separator for separating gumbo from a gumbo laden drilling fluid, said gumbo separator comprising a screen conveyor (20) arranged in a cartridge (18) removably arranged in a housing (12), said screen conveyor comprising a plurality of spaced-apart rods (22) and a plurality of wires (29), at least one wire of the plurality of wires wrapped around at least one rod (22) of the plurality of rods (22), such that said wires (29) are movable about said rods (22), portions of said rods (22) and portions of said wires (29) defining openings through which the fluid is passable and through which at least a substantial portion of said gumbo is not passable.

ABSTRACTA GUMBO SEPARATOR FOR SEPARATING GUMBO FROM A
GUMBO LADEN DRILLING FLUID

A gumbo separator for separating gumbo from a gumbo laden drilling fluid, said gumbo separator comprising a screen conveyor (20) arranged in a cartridge (18) removably arranged in a housing (12), said screen conveyor comprising a plurality of spaced-apart rods (22) and a plurality of wires (29), at least one wire of the plurality of wires wrapped around at least one rod (22) of the plurality of rods (22), such that said wires (29) are movable about said rods (22), portions of said rods (22) and portions of said wires (29) defining openings through which the fluid is passable and through which at least a substantial portion of said gumbo is not passable.

GUMBO SEPARATOR AND METHOD FOR SEPARATING GUMBO FROM A
GUMBO LADEN DRILLING FLUID

The present invention relates to a gumbo separator for separating gumbo from a gumbo laden drilling fluid. Clay materials obtained from recyclable drilling fluid are often referred to as "gumbo".

The separation of solid particles from fluid streams by passing a fluid through a screening device having perforations sized so that solid particles are retained on the screen surface instead of passing through it is well-known in the prior art. Some fluid streams contain additional materials that cause solid particles to agglomerate or to adhere to each other or to a screen surface, resulting in bridging of the screen openings and blinding of the screen. Such a problem is frequently encountered in the drilling of wells during which a drilling fluid or "mud" is circulated into the wellbore.

Drilling mud is continuously circulated between the bore hole and the surface to remove drilled cuttings, also called drilled solids, from the drill bit during drilling operations. Cuttings are carried in the drilling fluid to the surface where they are separated from the fluid which is then recirculated to the drilling operation. The drilling mud is kept as clean and free of contamination by cuttings and foreign materials as possible. Drilling mud is typically cleaned by several types of equipment sequentially, including vibratory screening machines commonly referred to as "shale shakers".

During the drilling of a wellbore material of a gummy clay formation can make the separation of drilling cuttings from the drilling mud by screening operations very difficult. Gummy hydrated clay or "gumbo" adheres to the surfaces of screens and screening machines causing a build-up which can blind the screens so that the drilling mud, rather than passing through the screen where it can be recirculated, passes over and off the end of the screen where it is unrecoverable. This hydrated clay or gumbo has non-Newtonian rheological properties which contribute

to these problems; e.g., it generally displays the properties of a fluid that has an increase in its viscosity with time under the influence of a suddenly applied constant shear stress and it tends to form into a cohesive mass or "gumbo patty" on screening equipment that resists separation by vibratory screening equipment because it does not readily pass through the screen openings and cannot be conveyed off the screen to a waste stream because its viscosity increases as additional energy is applied by the screening machine in an attempt to transport it off the screen. This increase in viscosity results in the gumbo becoming more resistant to conveying as more energy is applied to transport it off the screen and the gumbo then tends to reduce the capacity of mud cleaning equipment to separate cuttings from drilling mud by clogging the screens and reducing their open area.

As more gumbo is removed from drilling mud during drilling, it can accumulate in screening equipment, thus the screening equipment's ability to clean the drilling mud and, in some circumstances, such an accumulation can reduce the effectiveness of or prevents the cleaning of the recirculating mud, reducing the drilling rate and increase drilling costs.

Contamination of drilling fluid can increase drilling costs significantly and reducing the capacity of mud cleaning equipment can limit the rate at which a well can be drilled, increasing the time required for drilling and increasing drilling expense. Drilling mud with gumbo in it can increase the viscosity of the mud, reducing the drilling rate and increasing costs.

Some prior art methods for dealing with gumbo during drilling have employed chemical additives to change the properties of the drilling mud, which adds cost to an already substantial drilling expense. Some prior art mechanical efforts, such as increasing the vibrational amplitude of separator devices and adding various types of water sprays have been ineffective when the gumbo forms a

new steady state gumbo patty at the new operating conditions. Some attempted solutions to the gumbo problem have included applying specialized coatings to screens, e.g., as described in U.S. Patent No. 3,963,605, but such
5 coatings can add cost to the screening equipment, and may be quickly worn off the screens by abrasive cuttings.

U.S. Patent No. 5,921,399, discloses a gumbo separator comprising a vessel which is roughly rectangular, having side plates, a back plate, and an open
10 base upon which the vessel rests. The vessel has a fluid inlet through which a fluid solution passes, a fluid outlet through which cleaned fluid passes, and a solids discharge outlet through which separated solids pass to disposal. The gumbo separator has a continuous, inclined,
15 moving screen belt riding on and supported by a perforated backing plate to remove solids from the fluid solution and, in one embodiment, to clean expensive drilling mud. The screen belt and perforated backing plate are constructed of materials which in combination have low
20 sliding friction and are wear resistant. A variable speed drive assembly moves the belt at a rate for removing gummy materials from drilling fluid before it can clog equipment used to remove drilling cuttings from the mud. The gumbo separator can be activated only when gumbo is encountered.

25 Accordingly, there remains a need in the art for apparatus to effectively remove gumbo from recirculating drilling mud. There has long been a need, recognized by the present inventor, for an efficient and effective method to separate hydrated clay from drilling fluid.

30 In accordance with the present invention, there is provided a gumbo separator for separating gumbo from a gumbo laden drilling fluid, said gumbo separator comprising a cartridge in a housing, the cartridge having a screen conveyor comprising a plurality of spaced-apart
35 rods and a plurality of wires, at least one wire of the plurality of wires wrapped around at least one rod of the

plurality of rods, such that said wires are movable about said rods, portions of said rods and portions of said wires defining openings through which the fluid is passable and through which at least a substantial portion of said gumbo is not passable.

The gumbo may also comprise, cement, debris, swarf, and drilled cuttings,

Preferably, each of the plurality of wires is single-wrapped around each rod of a pair of adjacent rods of the plurality of spaced-apart rods.

Advantageously, each of the plurality of wires is double-wrapped around each rod of a pair of adjacent rods of the plurality of spaced-apart rods.

Preferably, at least one wire of the plurality of wires is at an angle to the perpendicular of each rod of the plurality of spaced-apart rods. Advantageously, the angle ranges between five and thirty degrees.

Preferably, the wires of the plurality of spaced-apart wires are coated. Advantageously, the coating is from the group consisting of plastic, fiberglass, epoxy, and polytetrafluoroethylene.

Preferably, the screen conveyor further comprises a plurality of end pieces, ends of each pair of rods of the plurality of spaced-apart rods connected by an end piece of the plurality of end pieces. The end pieces are particularly, but not exclusively useful in providing a linkage to driving means, for conveying the conveyor screen. The driving means may be an electric, hydraulic or pneumatic motor.

Preferably, the rods of the plurality of spaced-apart rods are between 14 to 16 gauge (1.29mm to 1.63mm) in outer diameter. Advantageously, the wires of the plurality of wires are made from material from the group consisting of steel, stainless steel, aluminum, aluminum alloy, bronze, brass, zinc, zinc alloy, composite material, or fiberglass.

Advantageously, portions of the wires of the plurality of wires define openings of the screen conveyor

which are about 2.5cm (1 inch) long. Preferably, each rod of the plurality of spaced-apart rods has about sixty spaced-apart wraps of wire of the plurality of wires per 30.5cm (foot) of rod.

5 Preferably, portions of wires of the plurality of wires define openings of the screen conveyor which are substantially parallel to each other.

Preferably, the apparatus further comprises movement apparatus connected to the screen conveyor for moving the
10 screen conveyor.

Advantageously, the screen conveyor is an endless screen conveyor.

Preferably, the apparatus further comprises a tensioning device for tensioning the screen conveyor.

15 Advantageously, the tensioning device comprises a movable piston.

Advantageously, the screen conveyor is mounted in a cartridge. Preferably, the cartridge is removably mounted in a frame.

20 Preferably, the screen conveyor further comprises two spaced-apart rotatable toothed wheels for moving the screen conveyor, the screen conveyor mounted on the two spaced-apart movable toothed wheels and having open end pieces for receiving teeth of the two spaced-apart movable
25 toothed wheels.

The present invention also provides a method of separating gumbo from gumbo laden drilling fluid, the method comprising the steps of introducing gumbo laden drilling fluid to a gumbo separator, the gumbo separator
30 comprising cartridge in a housing, the cartridge having a screen conveyor having screen apparatus with a plurality of spaced-apart rods, a plurality of wires, a wire of the plurality of wires wrapped around each rod of pairs of adjacent rods of the plurality of spaced-apart rods, the
35 wires pivotable with respect to the rods, and portions of the rods and portions of the wires defining openings through which the drilling fluid is passable and through which the gumbo is not passable so that the screen

conveyor can separate the gumbo from the drilling fluid, and separating the gumbo from the drilling fluid with the gumbo separator, the method further comprising the step of replacing the cartridge.

5 For a better understanding of the invention, reference will now be made, by way of example, to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1A is a top plan view and Figure 1B is a side cross-section view of an apparatus in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2A is a perspective view of part of a screen conveyor of the apparatus shown in Figure 1A; Figure 2B is a top view of part of a screen conveyor of the apparatus of Figure 1A; Figure 2C is an enlarged view of a portion of the screen conveyor shown in Figure 2B;

Figures 2D to 2F are top views of "single-wrap" screen for use with screen conveyors and apparatus in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2G is a side view of a piece of "single-wrap" wire used on a screen for use in methods in accordance with the present invention; Figure 2H is a side view showing the wire of Figure 2G on adjacent rods of a screen; Figure 2I is a side view showing two pieces of wire like that of Figure 2I on adjacent rods of a screen;

Figure 3A is a perspective view of a cartridge of the apparatus shown in Figure 1A; Figure 3B is a side view of the cartridge shown in Figure 3A; Figure 3C is a top view of part of the cartridge of Figure 3A; Figure 3D is a cross-section view of the cartridge taken along line 3D-3D of Figure 3A; Figure 3E is a cross-section view along line 3E-3E of Figure 3D;

Figure 4 is a top view of an apparatus in accordance with the present invention.

Figures 1A and 1B show a system 10 in accordance with the present invention for separating materials. In one aspect such a system 10 is used to separate hydrated clay or gumbo from drilling fluid or mud during an earth wellbore drilling operation. Such a system may also be

used for removing large masses or pieces from a fluid or slurry, e.g., but not limited to, large cuttings from drilling fluid, swarf from drilling fluid, pieces of cement from drilling fluid, debris from drilling fluid, or
5 for removing gravel, ore, and/or rock from a quarry or mine slurry.

The system 10 has a housing 12 in which are mounted two rotatable shafts 14 and 16, each with two corresponding toothed wheels 14a and 16a (only one shown,
10 Figure 1B), respectively. Teeth 14b and 16b of the wheels 14a, 16a, respectively, project into spaces between parts of a cartridge 18 with a screen conveyor 20 which moves when one (or both) of the shafts 14, 16 and/or one or both of the wheels 14a, 16a are driven (rotated) by a
15 motor/drive apparatus 30. As shown in Figures 1A and 1B, the motor apparatus 30 drives the shaft 14 which rotates the wheels 14a resulting in movement of the screen conveyor 20 (in a counterclockwise direction as viewed in Figure 1B). A hinged diverter plate 41, when pivoted to
20 an upright position, diverts fluid so that it bypasses the screen conveyor 20. A screen tensioner apparatus 42 with a movable piston provides for selective adjustment of the tension of the screen conveyor 20.

As shown (partially) in Figures 2A to 2C, the
25 conveyor 20 has a series of spaced-apart rods or shafts 22 which are interconnected by end pieces 24. Each rod end 22 projects through holes 25 of two end pieces 24 interconnecting the end pieces. End members or caps 27 (removable or permanently installed) prevent the rods from
30 escaping from the end pieces 24 once they are positioned in place. Any screen disclosed herein may have its rods or shafts connected by end pieces.

A wire or wires 29 wrap around adjacent rod pairs to form a mesh for the screen conveyor 20. The teeth 14b,
35 16b of the wheels 14a, 16a are releasably received in openings 24a defined by portions of the end pieces 24. As shown in Figure 2C, wires 29 "double wrap" the rods 22. The rod ends 22a provide shafts on which the end pieces 24

can pivot and the rod bodies provide shafts on which portions of the wires 29 can pivot, thus rendering the screen conveyor flexible so that it can be moved around and with respect to the wheels 14, 16. The wires 29
5 extend between the rods 22 on two sides thereof due to the "double wrap" configuration so that, as viewed from the side there are wire portions on both the top and on the bottom of the rods 22.

In the system 10, Figures 1A and 1B, with a screen
10 conveyor 20 with screen as in Figures 2A - 2C, material to be treated (e.g., but not limited to, drilling mud with debris, gumbo, etc., therein) flows through an inlet 17, over a plate 15, and onto the moving screen conveyor 20. Optionally, a piece of flexible material 34 (see Figure
15 3A, e.g. rubber, fiberglass, or plastic) extends from the plate 15 to a point above the screen conveyor 20 to prevent material from falling down beneath the plate 15. Separated solids move off the upper end of the screen conveyor 20 into a collection hopper 40 from which they
20 may be transported or fed to storage, disposal, or additional processing.

In one particular embodiment, the wires 29 of the screen conveyor 20 are stainless steel wire between 14 to 16 gauge in cross-sectional diameter and each shaft 22 has
25 about 60 spaced-apart wraps of wire per foot of shaft length. This produces openings between adjacent wire portions that are approximately 0.4cm (5/32") wide and about 2.54cm (1") long. Any desired length and width may be used. Multiple openings formed by successive wire
30 wraps around the shaft and defined by portions of wire 29 and portions of rod 22 are substantially parallel to each other and substantially quadrangular. As shown, e.g. in Figures 2A to 2C, the wires are at an angle to the shafts 22. According to certain embodiments of the present
35 invention this angle may range between five and thirty degrees. In certain embodiments the wires and/or rods or shafts of screens in accordance with the present invention are made of steel, stainless steel, aluminum, aluminum

alloy, bronze, brass, zinc, zinc alloy, composite material, or fiberglass.

5 Figures 3A to 3E show a cartridge 50 (like the cartridge 18, Figure 1A) with a screen conveyor 20 in accordance with the present invention.

The cartridge 50 mounted to a frame 60 which can be inserted into a housing (e.g. like the housing 12, Figure 1A) and then removed for repair or replacement. A splash plate 32 removably bolted to frame 60 at an exit end of the cartridge 50 facilitates discharge of separated solids into a collection area or hopper. Side guards 63 removably bolted to the frame 60 prevent separated solids from falling down around the sides of the screen conveyor 20. The plate 32 and the sideguards 63 may be made of any suitable metal, plastic or other material and, in one aspect, are made of polyurethane. An end guard 65 at a material introduction end of the cartridge 50 facilitates movement of material onto the screen conveyor 20 and prevents material from falling down past the end of the screen conveyor 20. In one aspect the end guard 65 is flexible to permit access to the end of the screen conveyor 20 and the adjacent area. A tensioner 61 (like the apparatus 42 of Figure 1B) provides selective tensioning of the screen conveyor 20.

25 Figure 4 shows a dual cartridge system 10a which is like the system 10, Figure 1A (and like numerals indicate like parts). The system 10a has two cartridges 50a and 50b (like the cartridge 50, Figure 3A) each with a screen conveyor 20a and 20b, respectively (like the conveyor 20 described above).

35 Figures 2D to 2F show embodiments of screens 71, 72 and 73, respectively, which may be used on screen conveyors in accordance with the present invention instead of the "double wrap" screen of Figures 2A to 2C. Each of the screens 71, 72 and 73 is a "single wrap" screen, i.e., the wires 71a, 72a, and 73a respectively, of the screens wrap around shafts 71b, 72b and 73b, respectively, so that the wire portions extending between the rods are only on

one side thereof and, in one embodiment, that side is the top of the screen of a screen conveyor. The screen 71 has spacers 71d around shafts 71b between wires 71a to maintain desired spacing between wires (and such spacers may be used in any screen disclosed herein). Such spacers are made, e.g., of hollow metal, plastic, composite, fiberglass, steel, stainless steel or of masses of such material emplaced around portions of the wire shafts or rods. The ends of wires 72a are wrapped slightly more than completely around its shafts 72b which provides spacing between adjacent wires and also provides a strong attachment of the wires to the shafts 72b. Any wire piece for any screen herein may have an end that is wrapped completely around a rod or shaft once, twice, thrice or more times.

Figure 2G shows a typical piece of wire 74 useful in "single wrap" screens for use in embodiments of the present invention. Figure 2H shows the wire 74 in place with respect to two screen shafts 75. Figure 2I shows two wires 74 in place with respect to three shafts 75. Any wire or screen disclosed herein may be coated with polytetrafluoroethylene.

The present invention, therefore, in at least certain embodiments, provides a separator system for separating materials, and, in one aspect for separating gumbo from drilling fluid, the materials introducible to the separator system, the separator system having a movable screen conveyor having screen apparatus with a plurality of spaced-apart rods, a plurality of wires, a wire of the plurality of wires wrapped around each rod of pairs of adjacent rods of the plurality of spaced-apart rods, the wires pivotable with respect to the rods, and portions of the rods and portions of the wires defining openings through which the drilling fluid is passable and through which the material is not passable so that the movable screen conveyor can separate the material from the drilling fluid. Such a system may have one or some, in any possible combination, of the following: movement

apparatus connected to the movable screen conveyor for moving the movable screen conveyor; wherein each of the plurality of wires is single-wrapped or double-wrapped around rods of a pair of adjacent rods of the plurality of spaced-apart rods; wherein the screen conveyor is mounted in a cartridge, the cartridge removably mounted in the separator system; wherein the wires of the plurality of wires are at an angle to the rods of the plurality of spaced-apart rods; wherein the angle ranges between five and thirty degrees; wherein the material includes material that is from the group consisting of gumbo, gravel, ore, rock, cement, debris, swarf, and drilled cuttings; wherein the wires of the plurality of spaced-apart wires are coated; wherein the coating is from the group consisting of plastic, fiberglass, epoxy, and polytetrafluoroethylene; two spaced-apart movable toothed wheels for moving the screen conveyor, the screen conveyor mounted on the two spaced-apart movable toothed wheels and having open end pieces for receiving teeth of the two spaced-apart movable toothed wheels; a plurality of end pieces, ends of each pair of rods of the plurality of spaced-apart rods connected by an end piece of the plurality of end pieces; wherein the rods of the plurality of spaced-apart rods are between 14 to 16 gauge (1.29mm to 1.63mm) in outer diameter; wherein portions of the wires of the plurality of wires define openings of the screen conveyor which are about 1" (25.4mm) long; wherein each rod of the plurality of spaced-apart rods has about sixty spaced-apart wraps of wire of the plurality of wires per foot of rod; wherein portions of wires of the plurality of wires define openings of the screen conveyor which are substantially parallel to each other; and/or wherein the wires of the plurality of wires are made from material from the group consisting of steel, stainless steel, aluminum, aluminum alloy, bronze, brass, zinc, zinc alloy, composite material, or fiberglass.

The present invention, therefore, provides in at least certain embodiments, a separator system for

separating material from drilling fluid, the separator system having a movable screen conveyor having screen apparatus with a plurality of spaced-apart rods; a plurality of wires, a wire of the plurality of wires wrapped around each rod of pairs of adjacent rods of the plurality of spaced-apart rods, the wires pivotable with respect to the rods; portions of the rods and portions of the wires defining openings through which the drilling fluid is passable and through which the material is not passable so that the movable screen conveyor can separate the material from the drilling fluid; movement apparatus connected to the movable screen conveyor for moving the movable screen conveyor; wherein the screen conveyor is mounted in a cartridge, the cartridge removably mountable in the separator system; wherein the wires of the plurality of wires are at an angle to the rods of the plurality of spaced-apart rods; wherein the angle ranges between five and thirty degrees; a plurality of end pieces, ends of each pair of rods of the plurality of spaced-apart rods connected by an end piece of the plurality of end pieces; wherein portions of wires of the plurality of wires define openings of the screen conveyor which are substantially parallel to each other; and wherein the wires of the plurality of wires are made from material from the group consisting of steel, stainless steel, aluminum, aluminum alloy, bronze, brass, zinc, zinc alloy, composite material, or fiberglass.

The present invention, therefore, provides a method for separating material from drilling fluid, the method including introducing drilling fluid with the material therein to a separator system in accordance with the present invention as disclosed herein, and separating the material from the drilling fluid with the separator system.

CLAIMS

1. A gumbo separator for separating gumbo from a gumbo laden drilling fluid, said gumbo separator comprising a cartridge in a housing, the cartridge having a screen conveyor comprising a plurality of spaced-apart rods and a plurality of wires, at least one wire of the plurality of wires wrapped around at least one rod of the plurality of rods, such that said wires are movable about said rods, portions of said rods and portions of said wires defining openings through which the fluid is passable and through which at least a substantial portion of said gumbo is not passable.
2. A gumbo separator as claimed in Claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of wires is single-wrapped around each rod of a pair of adjacent rods of the plurality of spaced-apart rods.
3. A gumbo separator as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein each of the plurality of wires is double-wrapped around each rod of a pair of adjacent rods of the plurality of spaced-apart rods.
4. A gumbo separator as claimed in Claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein at least one wire of the plurality of wires is at an angle to the perpendicular of each rod of the plurality of spaced-apart rods.
5. A gumbo separator as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said angle ranges between five and thirty degrees.
6. A gumbo separator as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said wires of the plurality of spaced-apart wires are coated.
7. A gumbo separator as claimed in Claim 6, wherein said coating is from the group consisting of plastic, fiberglass, epoxy, and polytetrafluoroethylene.
8. A gumbo separator as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 7, further comprising a plurality of end pieces, ends of each pair of rods of the plurality of spaced-apart rods connected by an end piece of the plurality of end pieces.

9. A gumbo separator as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 8, wherein said rods of the plurality of spaced-apart rods are between 14 to 16 gauge (1.29mm to 1.63mm) in outer diameter.

10. A gumbo separator as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein portions of said wires of the plurality of wires define openings of said screen conveyor which are 2.5cm (1 inch) long.

11. A gumbo separator as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 10, wherein each rod of the plurality of spaced-apart rods has sixty spaced-apart wraps of wire of the plurality of wires per 30.5cm (foot) of rod.

12. A gumbo separator as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 11, wherein portions of wires of the plurality of wires define openings of said screen conveyor which are substantially parallel to each other.

13. A gumbo separator as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 12, wherein said wires of the plurality of wires are made from material from the group consisting of steel, stainless steel, aluminium, aluminium alloy, bronze, brass, zinc, zinc alloy, composite material, or fiberglass.

14. A gumbo separator as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 13, further comprising movement apparatus connected to said screen conveyor for moving said screen conveyor.

15. A gumbo separator as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 14, wherein said screen conveyor is an endless screen conveyor.

16. A gumbo separator as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 15, further comprising a tensioning device for tensioning said screen conveyor.

17. A gumbo separator as claimed in Claim 16, wherein said tensioning device comprises a movable piston.

18. A gumbo separator as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 17, wherein said cartridge is removably mounted in a

frame.

19. A gumbo separator as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 18, further comprising two spaced-apart rotatable toothed wheels for moving said screen conveyor, said screen conveyor mounted on the two spaced-apart movable toothed wheels and having open end pieces for receiving teeth of the two spaced-apart movable toothed wheels.

20. A gumbo separator as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 19, wherein said housing comprises a fluid inlet and a collection hopper for collecting gumbo.

21. A gumbo separator as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 20, wherein said screen conveyor is inclined.

22. A method of separating gumbo from gumbo laden drilling fluid, the method comprising the steps of introducing gumbo laden drilling fluid to a gumbo separator, the gumbo separator comprising cartridge in a housing, the cartridge having a screen conveyor having screen apparatus with a plurality of spaced-apart rods, a plurality of wires, a wire of the plurality of wires wrapped around each rod of pairs of adjacent rods of the plurality of spaced-apart rods, the wires pivotable with respect to the rods, and portions of the rods and portions of the wires defining openings through which the drilling fluid is passable and through which the gumbo is not passable so that the screen conveyor can separate the gumbo from the drilling fluid, and separating the gumbo from the drilling fluid with the gumbo separator, the method further comprising the step of replacing the cartridge.

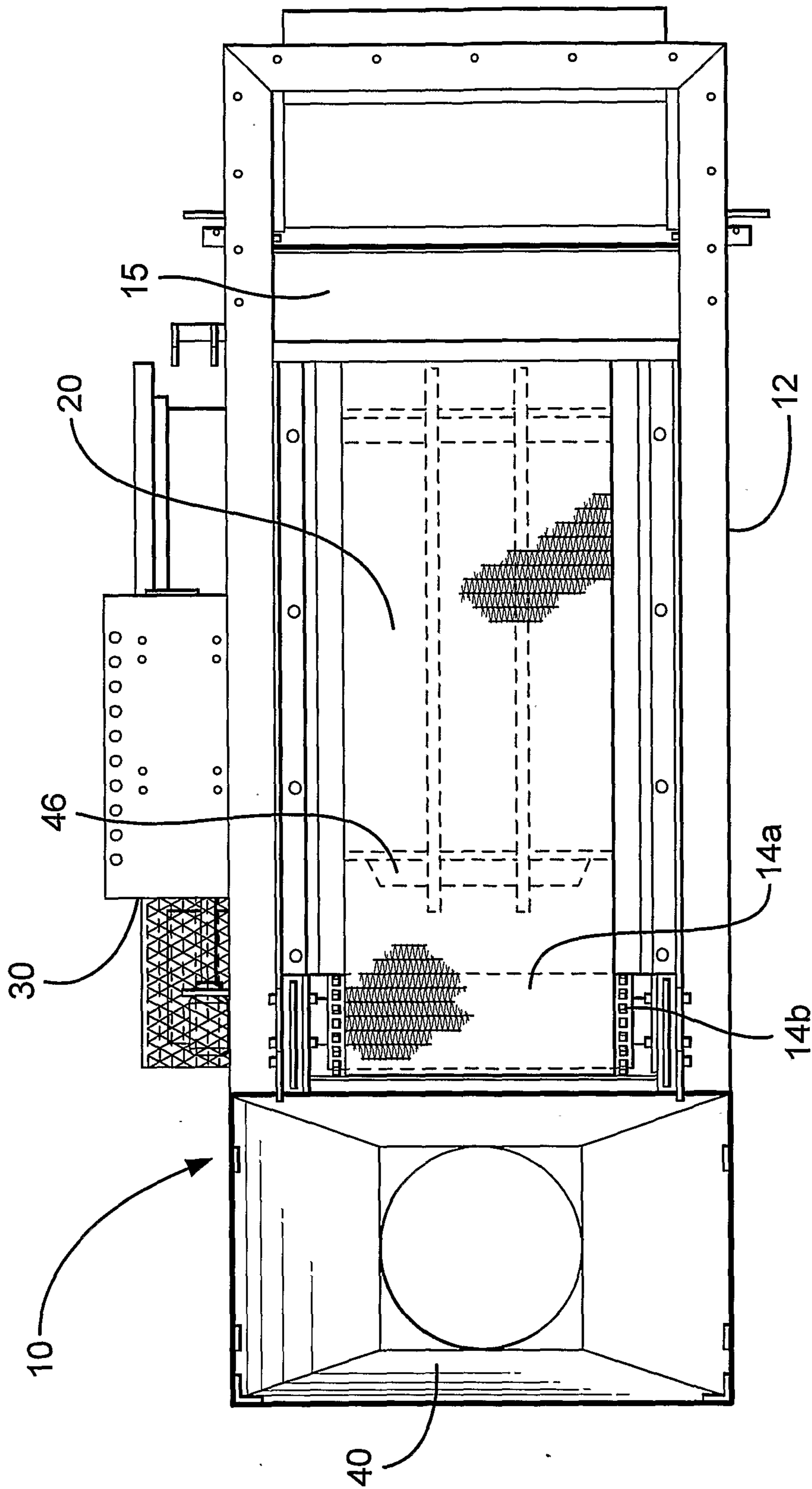


Fig. 1A

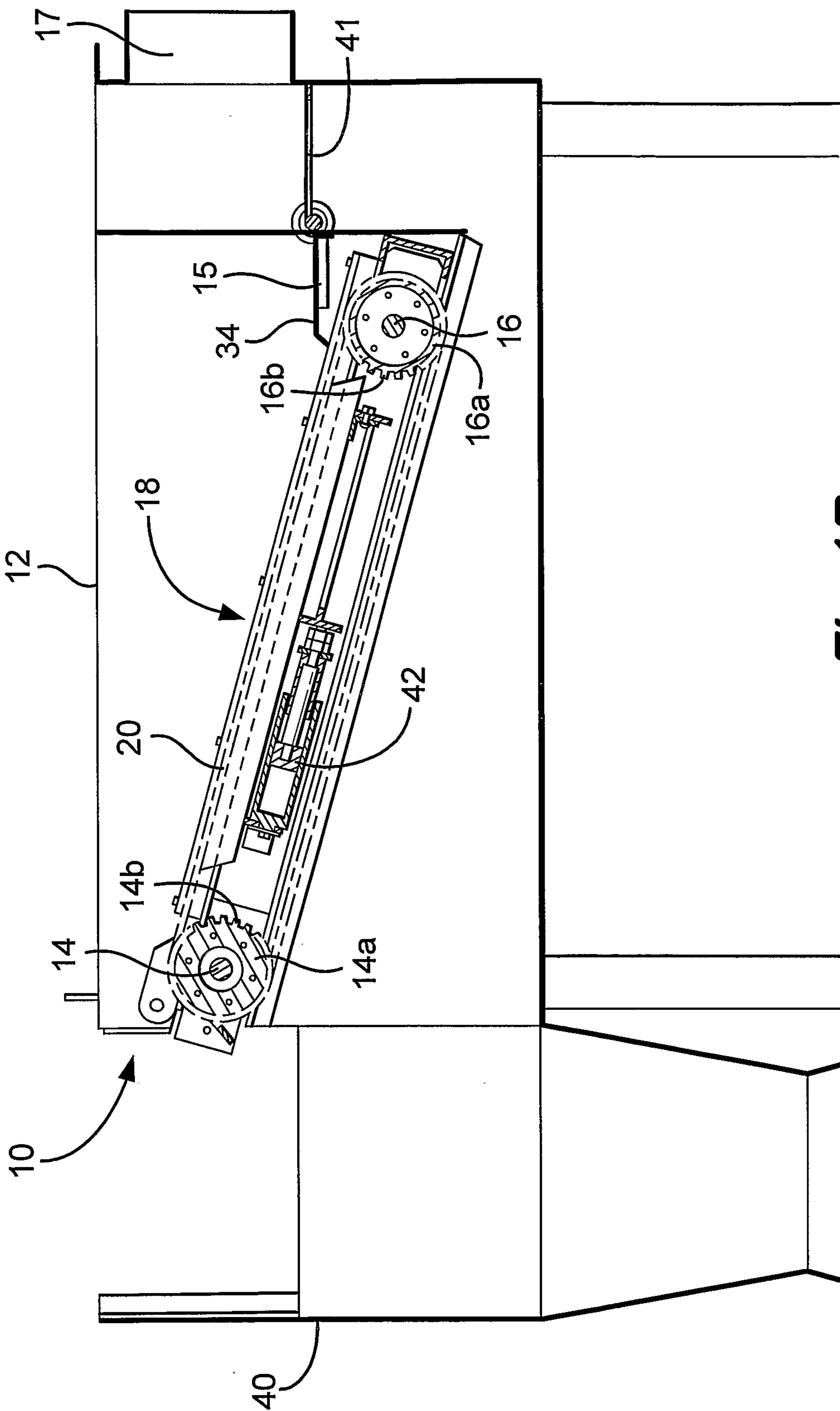


Fig. 1B

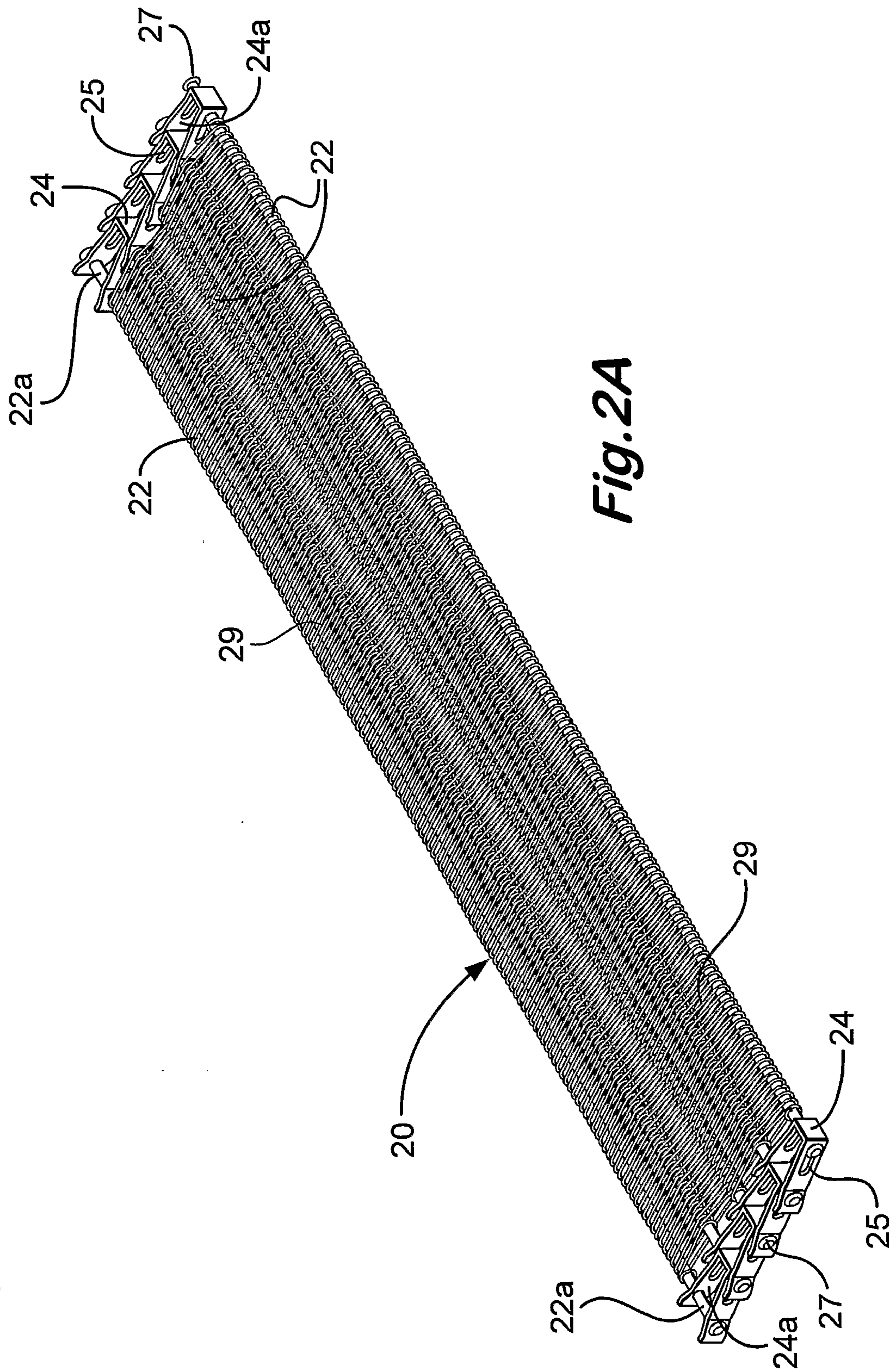


Fig. 2A

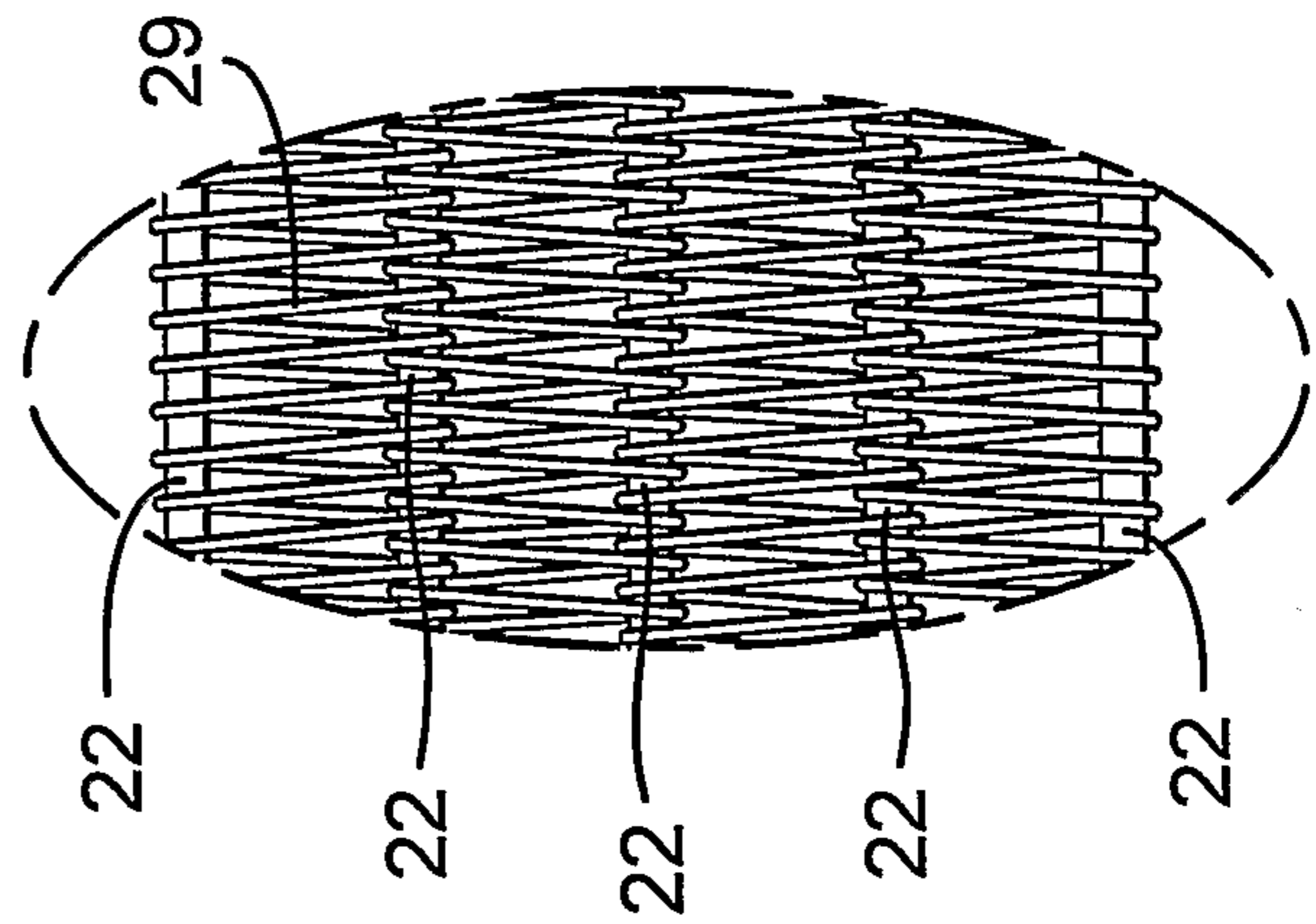
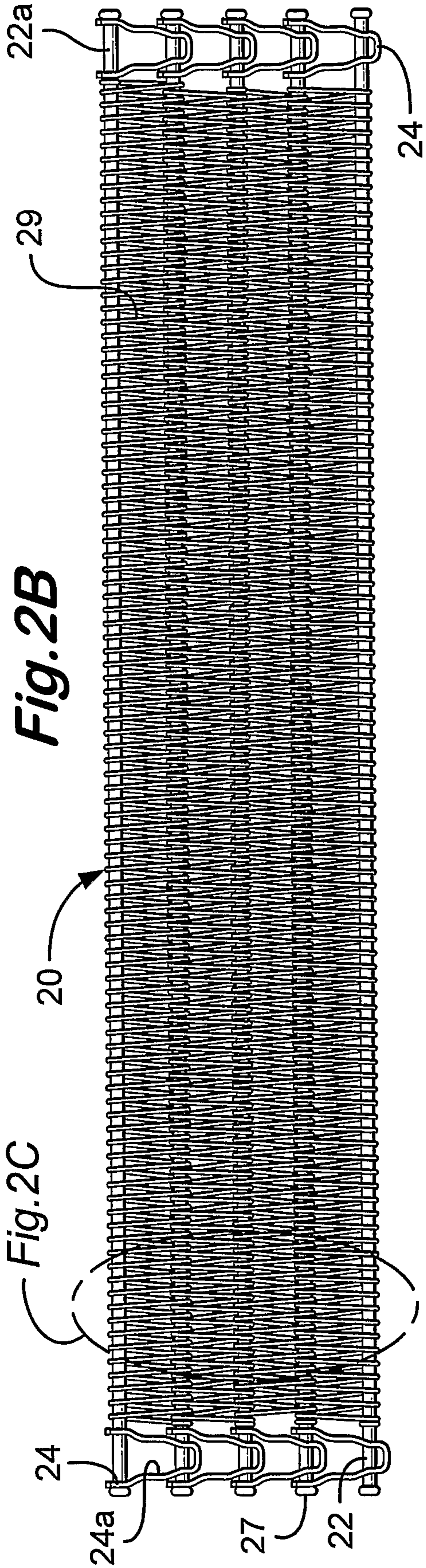


Fig. 2C

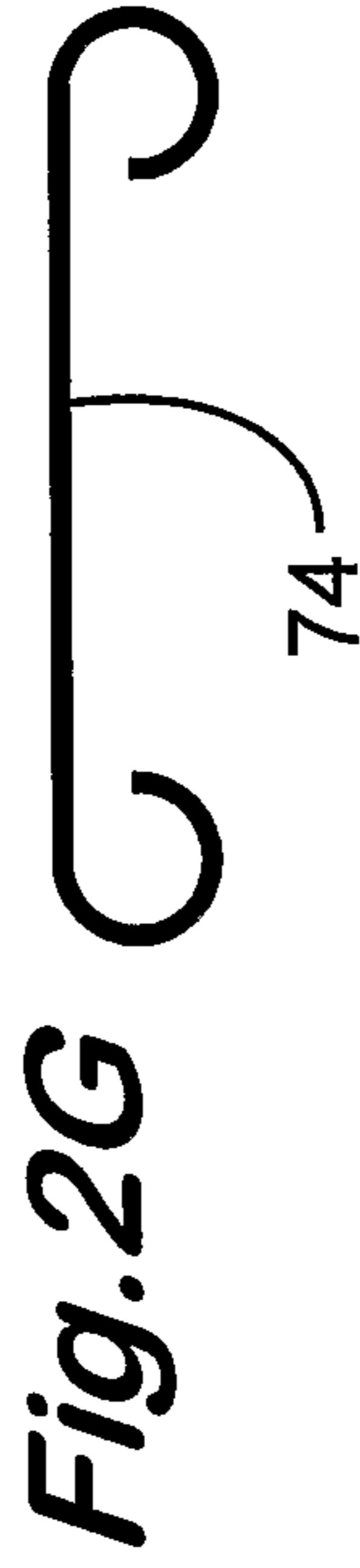


Fig. 2G

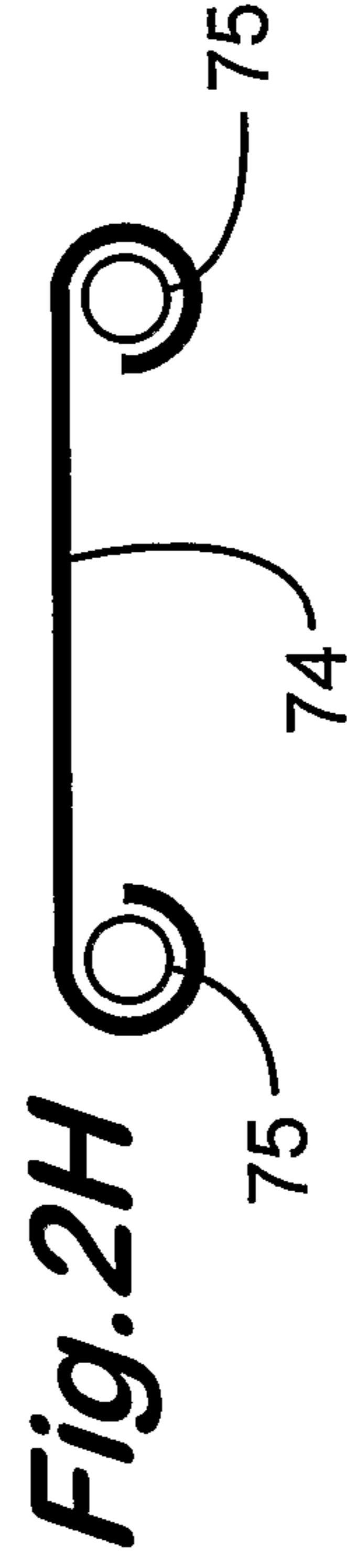


Fig. 2H

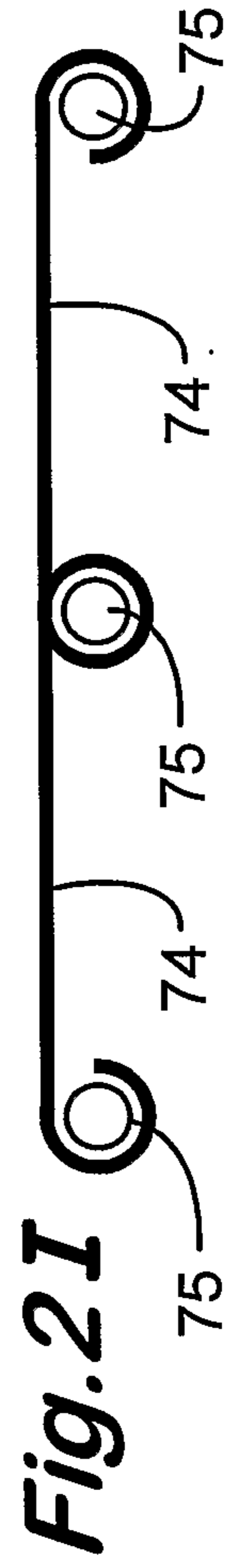


Fig. 2I

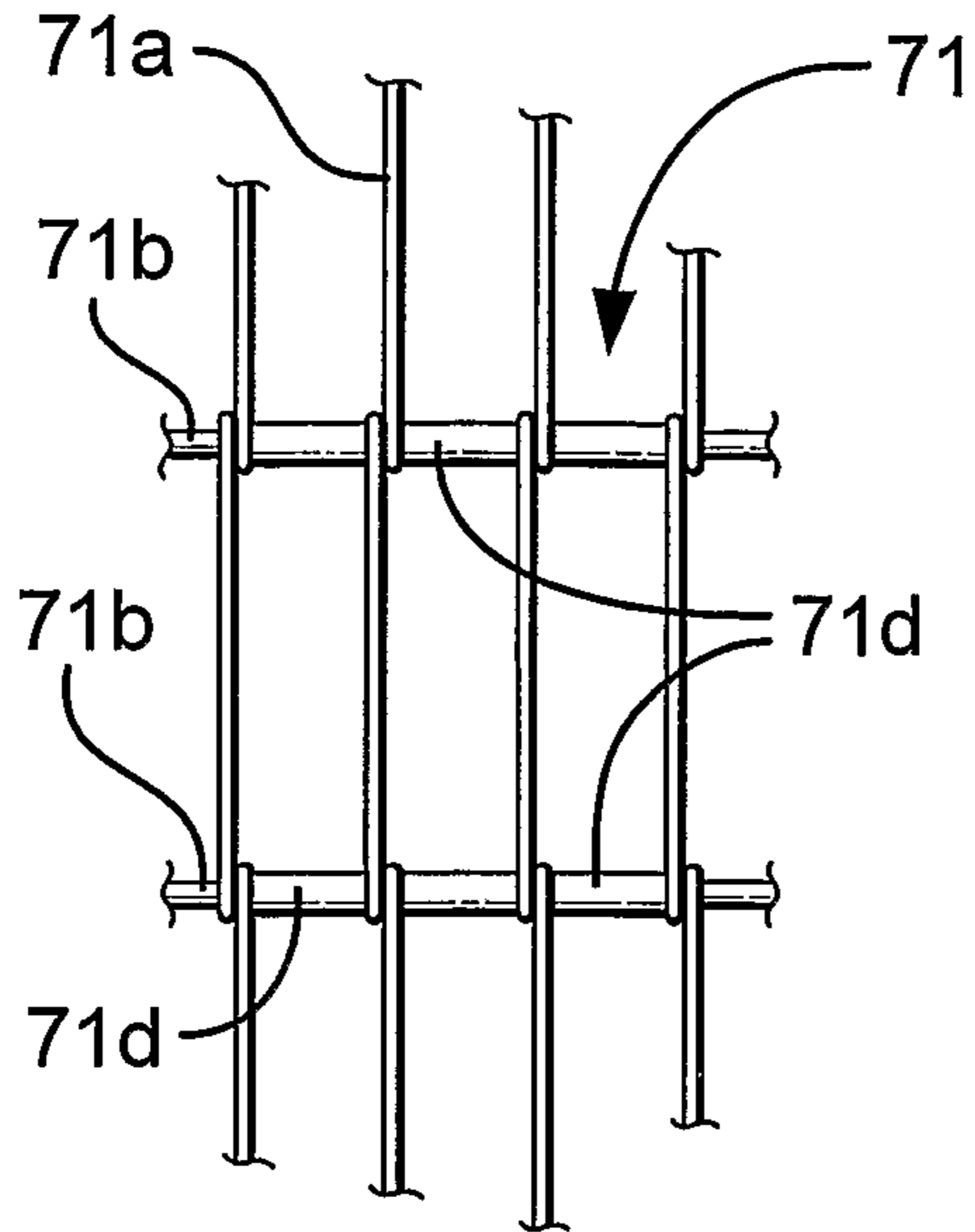


Fig. 2D

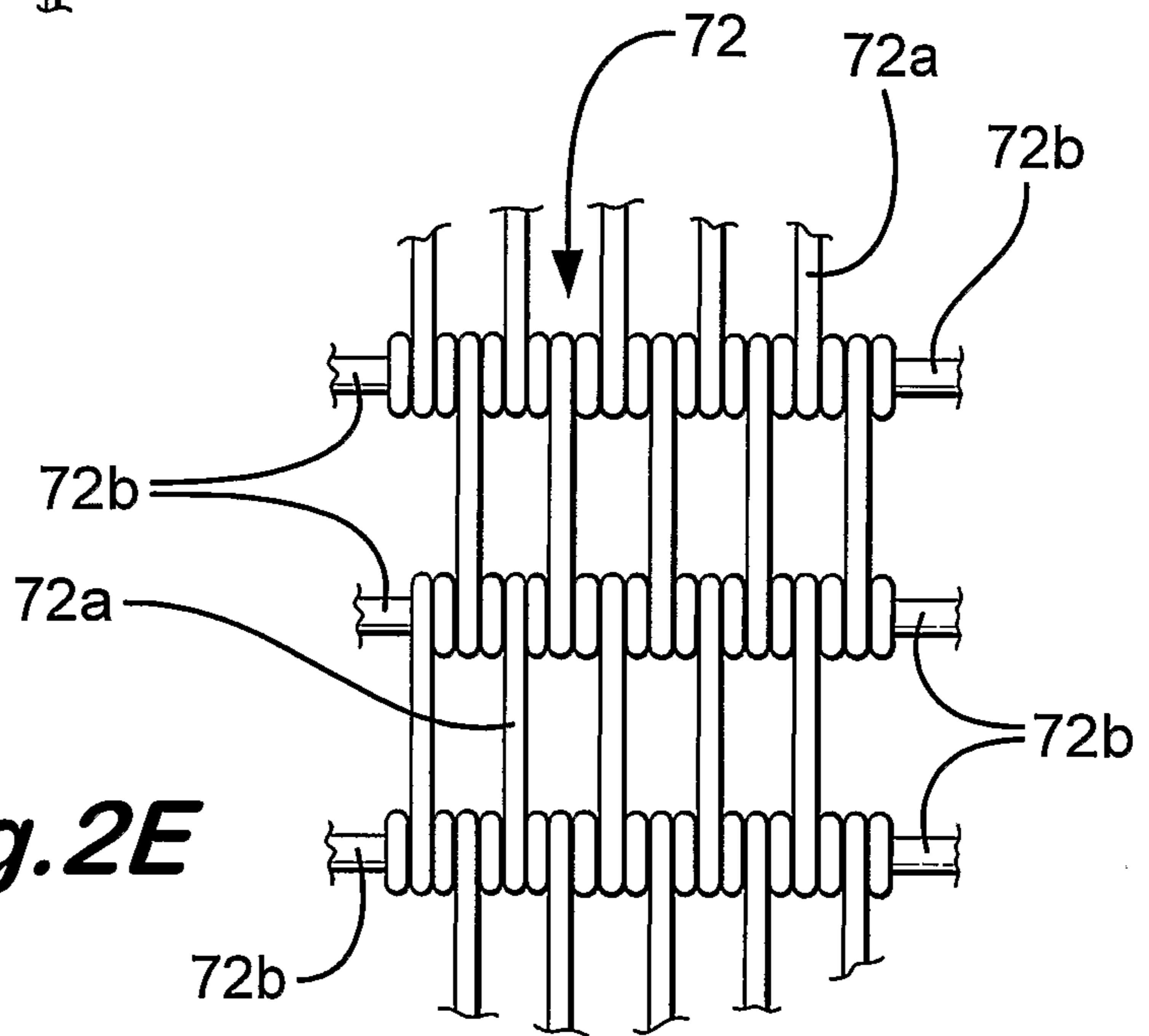


Fig. 2E

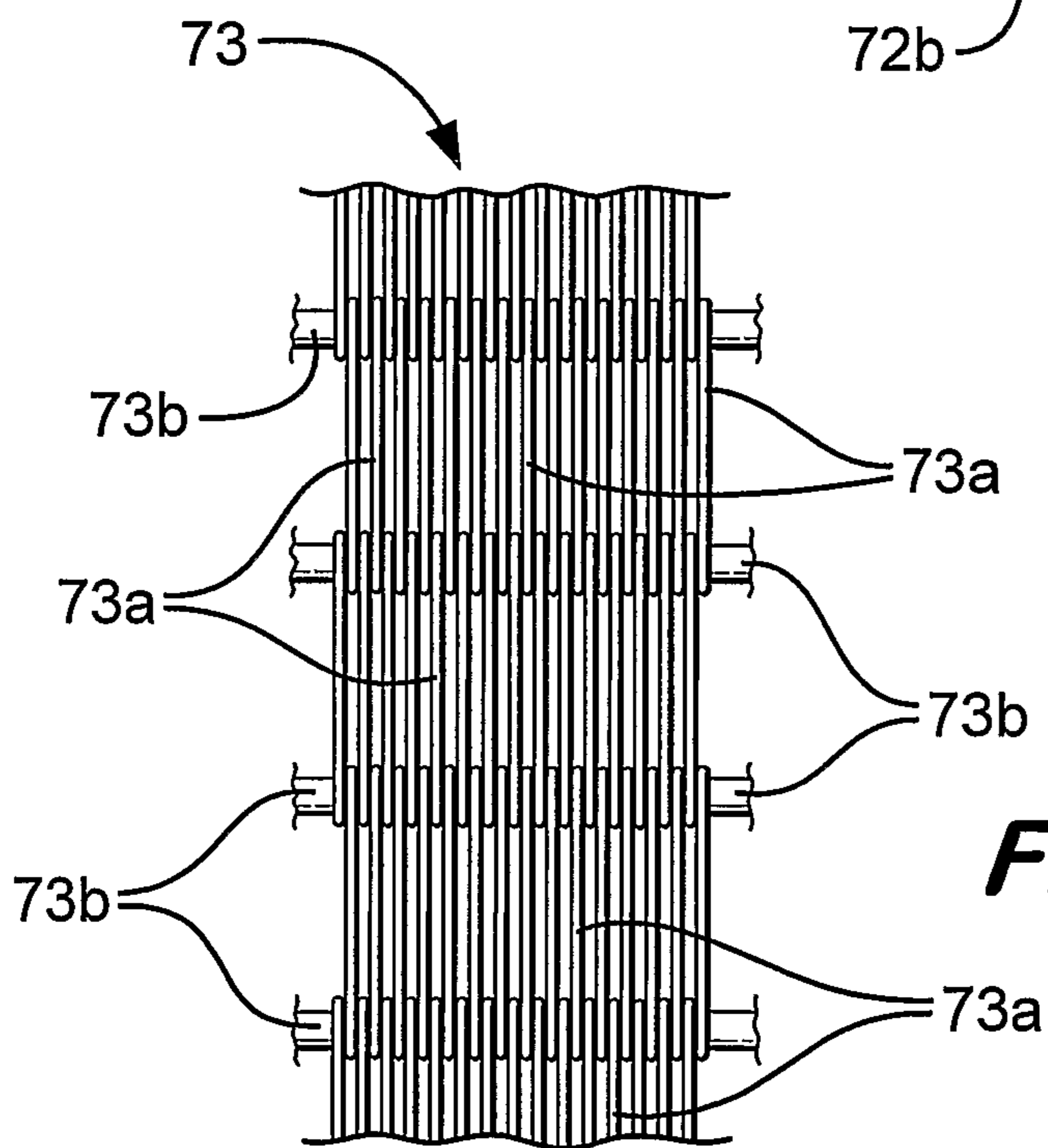


Fig. 2F

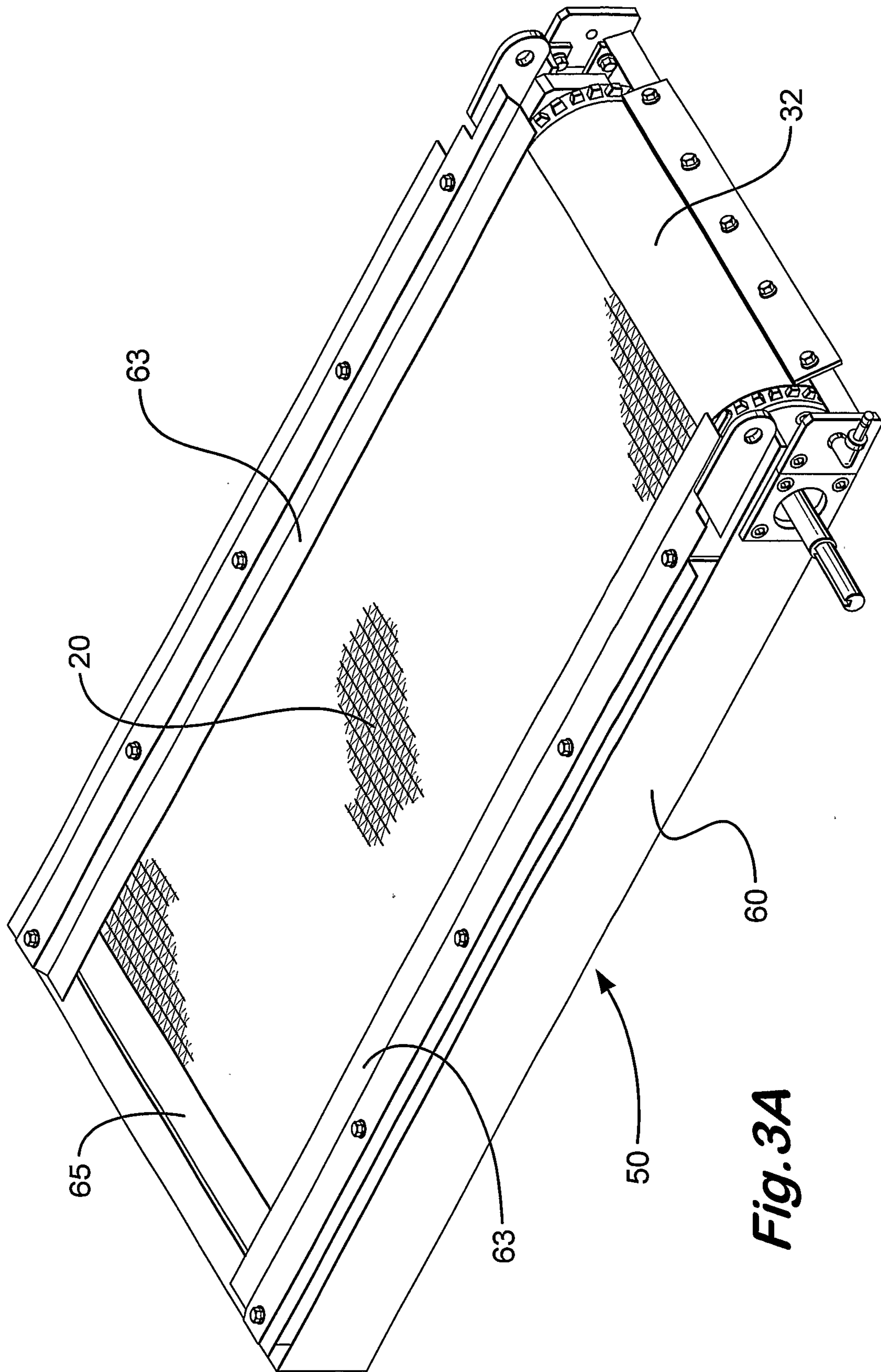
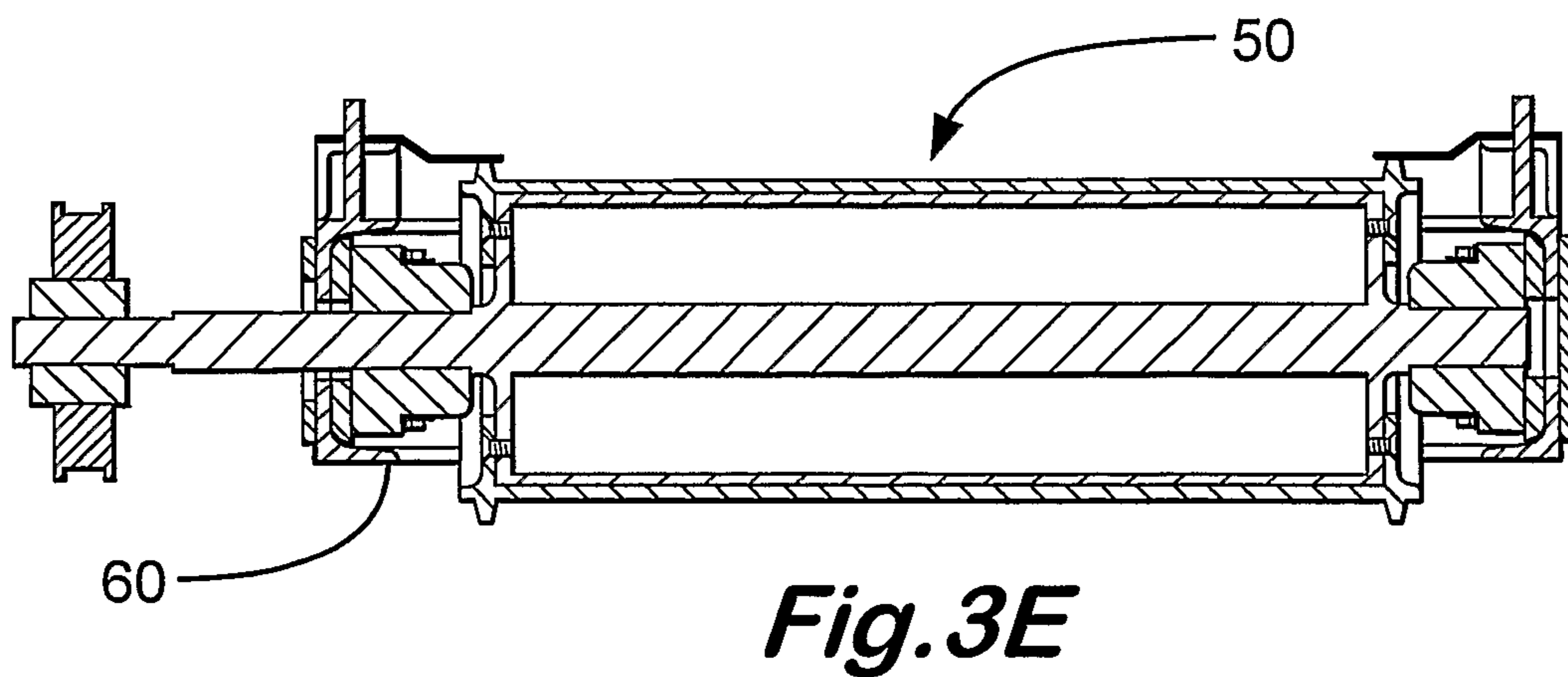
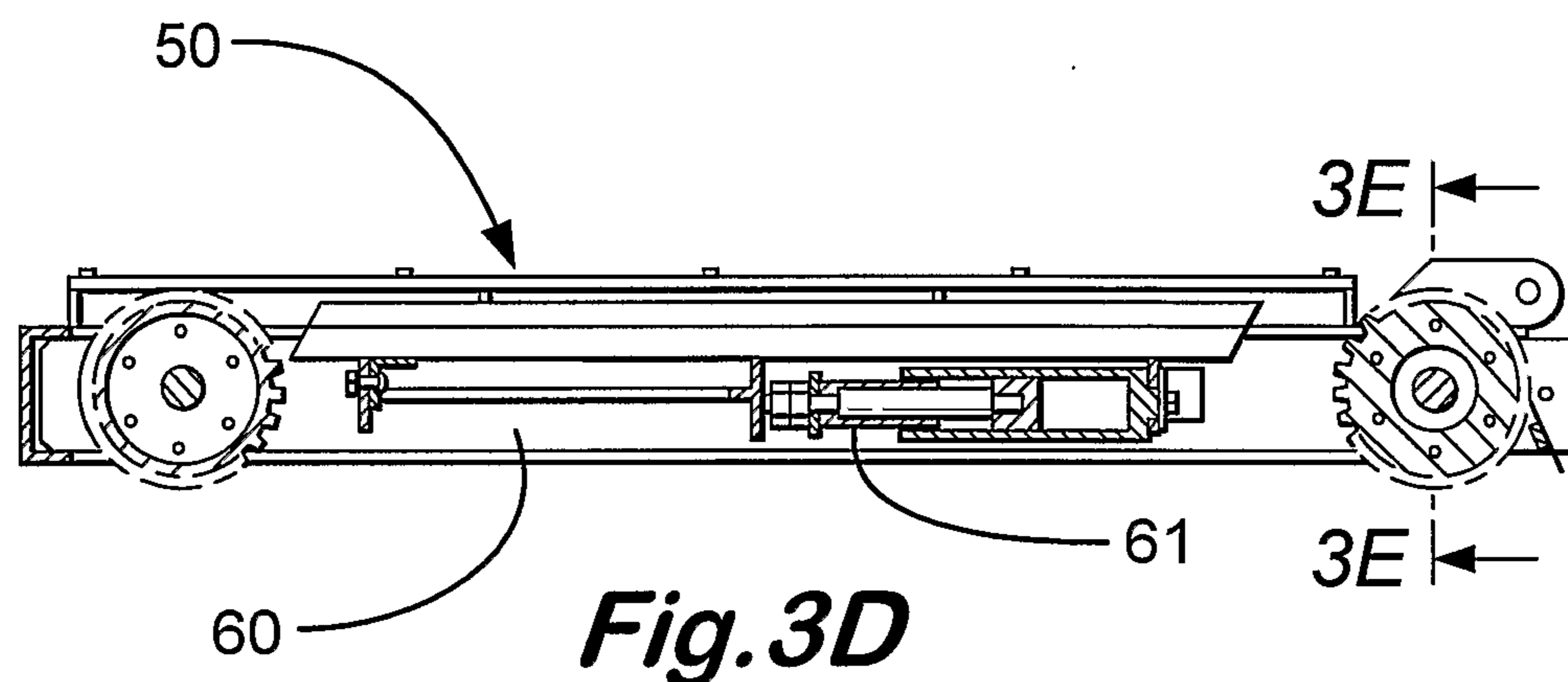
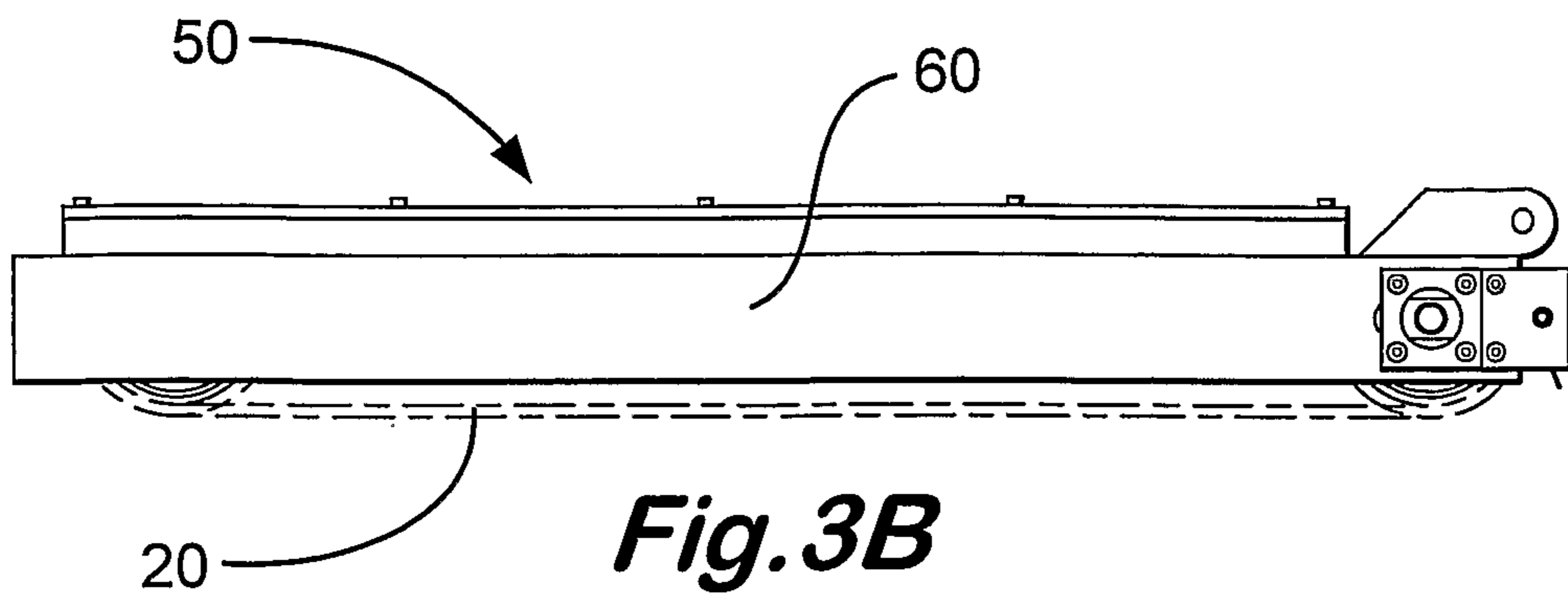


Fig. 3A

7/9



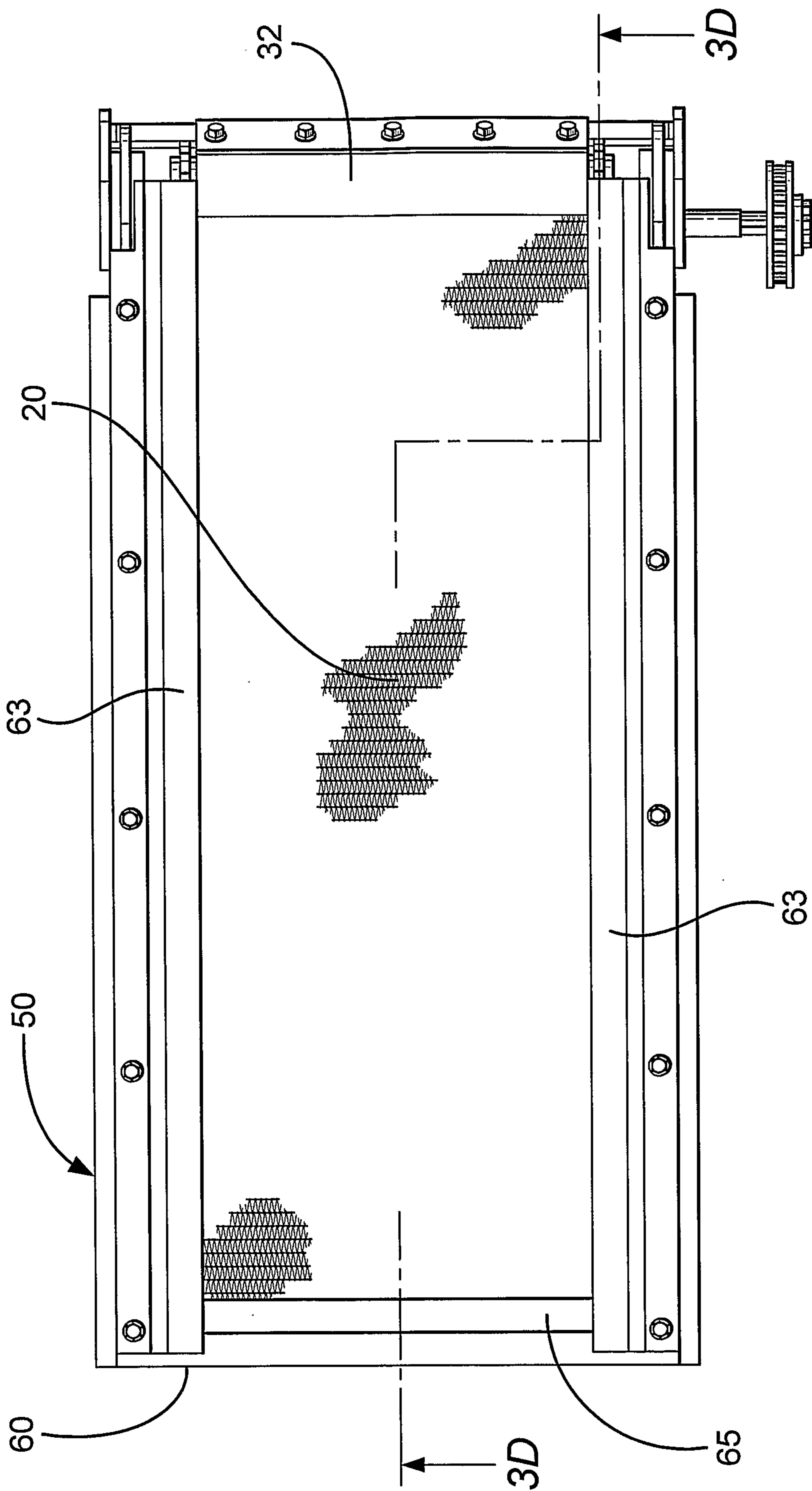


Fig.3C

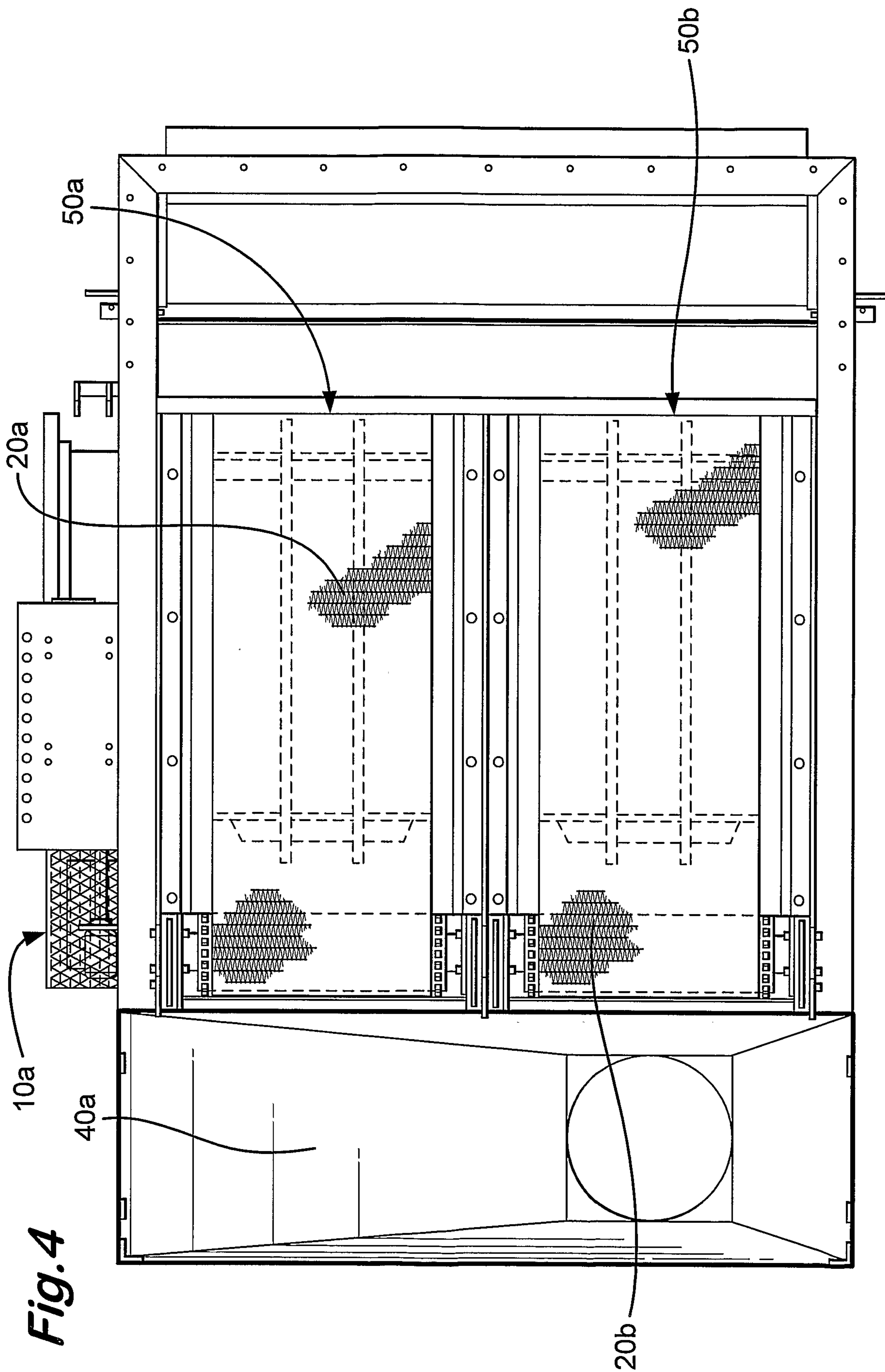


Fig. 4

