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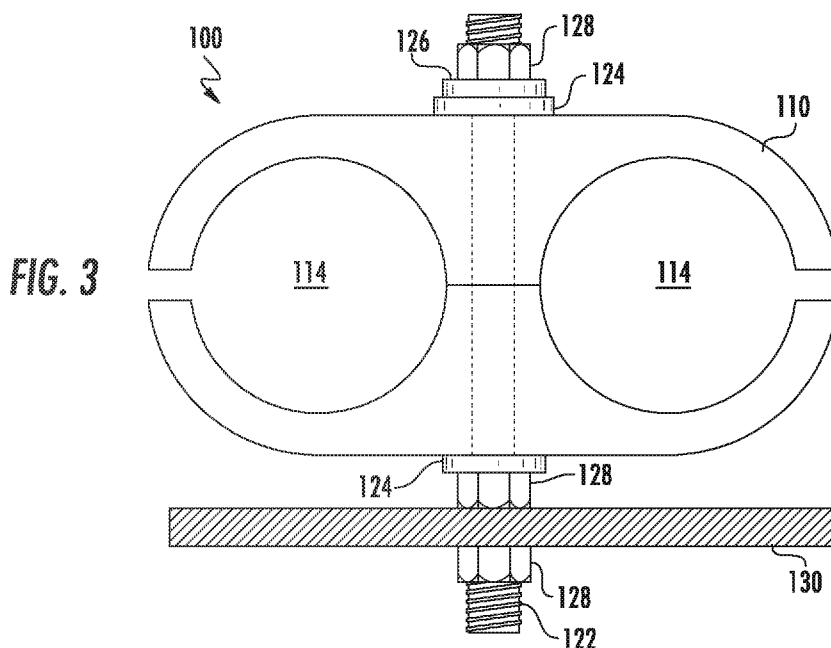
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(54) Title: CABLE HANGER ASSEMBLIES



(57) Abstract: The present disclosure describes a cable hanger assembly. The cable hanger assembly comprises a support structure, a cable hanger, and a mounting assembly. The cable hanger comprises a front shell half that mates with a rear shell half. The front shell half and the rear shell half have a front shell half inner surface and a rear shell half inner surface that cooperate with each other to secure a cable within a cable receptacle. The cable hanger further comprises a front shell bolt aperture through the front shell half and a rear shell half bolt aperture through the rear shell half where the front shell half bolt aperture aligns with the rear shell half bolt aperture when the front shell half is mated to the rear shell half. The mounting assembly comprises a threaded bolt, a plurality of flat washers formed of a non-metallic material, and a plurality of nuts formed of a non-metallic material. The mounting assembly may optional comprise a lock washer formed of a non-metallic material. The threaded bolt extends through the front and rear shell half bolt apertures



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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,
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CABLE HANGER ASSEMBLIES

STATEMENT OF PRIORITY

[0001] The present application claims priority from and the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/703,930, filed July 27, 2018, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The invention relates to cable hanger assemblies.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Currently, there a variety of metallic (*e.g.*, stainless steel) components that are used to secure cables to telecommunications towers (*e.g.*, cable hangers). However, the use of metal components near an antenna on cell sites can be a source of unwanted passive intermodulation (PIM) in the modern radio frequency (RF) environment. In near antenna environments, it is critical that metal-to-metal junctions be under high compressive pressure. For example, nuts and washers used to attach cable hangers to a telecommunications tower must be under high compression to be low-PIM junctions.

[0004] In recent years, cable hangers formed from polymers have become popular to help reduce PIM. However, over time, the polymer cable hangers can creep (*i.e.*, dimensionally change) in response to the load applied by the washers and/or nuts. This creep can serve to relieve the compressive load on all components in the system. It follows that the compression of the metal-to-metal junctions of the nuts, flat washers, and lock washers will be reduced. This may lead to return trips by a technician to find and repair the assembly to return the PIM to lower levels. Thus, there may be a need for non-metallic, non-magnetic components for cable hanger assemblies that reduce costs and allow for easy installation, while alleviating technical performance concerns, such as, PIM.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] A first aspect of the present invention is directed to a cable hanger assembly. The cable hanger assembly may comprise a support structure, a cable hanger, and a mounting assembly. The cable hanger may comprise a front shell half that mates with a rear shell half. The front shell half and the rear shell half may have a front shell half inner surface and a rear

shell half inner surface that cooperate with each other to secure a cable within a cable receptacle. The cable hanger may further comprise a front shell bolt aperture through the front shell half and a rear shell half bolt aperture through the rear shell half where the front shell half bolt aperture aligns with the rear shell half bolt aperture when the front shell half is mated to the rear shell half. The mounting assembly may comprise a threaded bolt, a plurality of flat washers formed of a non-metallic material, a lock washer formed of a non-metallic material, and a plurality of nuts formed of a non-metallic material. The threaded bolt may extend through the front and rear shell half bolt apertures and may be secured with the plurality of flat washers, lock washers and nuts to retain the cable hanger to the support structure.

[0006] Another aspect of the present invention is directed to a cable hanger assembly. The cable hanger assembly may comprise a support structure, a cable hanger, and a mounting assembly. The cable hanger may comprise a front shell half that mates with a rear shell half. The front shell half and the rear shell half may have a front shell half inner surface and a rear shell half inner surface that cooperate with each other to secure a cable within a cable receptacle. The cable hanger may further comprise a front shell bolt aperture through the front shell half and a rear shell half bolt aperture through the rear shell half where the front shell half bolt aperture aligns with the rear shell half bolt aperture when the front shell half is mated to the rear shell half. The mounting assembly may comprise a threaded bolt, a plurality of washers that may have a concave cross-section, a lock washer formed of a non-metallic material, and a plurality of nuts. The threaded bolt may extend through the front and rear shell half bolt apertures and may be secured with the plurality of washers, lock washer and nuts to retain the cable hanger to the support structure.

[0007] A further aspect of the present invention is directed to a cable hanger assembly. The cable hanger assembly may comprise a support structure, a cable hanger, and a mounting assembly. The cable hanger may comprise a front shell half that mates with a rear shell half. The front shell half and the rear shell half may have a front shell half inner surface and a rear shell half inner surface that cooperate with each other to secure a cable within a cable receptacle. The cable hanger may further comprise a front shell bolt aperture through the front shell half and a rear shell half bolt aperture through the rear shell half where the front shell half bolt aperture aligns with the rear shell half bolt aperture when the front shell half is mated to the rear shell half. The mounting assembly may comprise a threaded bolt, a plurality of washers that may have a concave cross-section, and a plurality of nuts. The threaded bolt may extend through the front and rear shell half bolt apertures and may be

secured with the plurality of washers and nuts to retain the cable hanger to the support structure.

[0008] It is noted that aspects of the invention described with respect to one embodiment, may be incorporated in a different embodiment although not specifically described relative thereto. That is, all embodiments and/or features of any embodiment can be combined in any way and/or combination. Applicant reserves the right to change any originally filed claim and/or file any new claim accordingly, including the right to be able to amend any originally filed claim to depend from and/or incorporate any feature of any other claim or claims although not originally claimed in that manner. These and other objects and/or aspects of the present invention are explained in detail in the specification set forth below. Further features, advantages and details of the present invention will be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art from a reading of the figures and the detailed description of the preferred embodiments that follow, such description being merely illustrative of the present invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] **FIG. 1** is a top view of a cable hanger according to embodiments of the present invention.

[0010] **FIG. 2** is a side view of a mounting assembly according to embodiments of the present invention.

[0011] **FIG. 3** is a top view of a cable hanger assembly according to embodiments of the present invention.

[0012] **FIG. 4** is a top view of a cable hanger assembly according to further embodiments of the present invention.

[0013] **FIG. 5** is a front view of the cable hanger assembly of **FIG. 3** in combination with cables.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0014] The present invention now is described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which embodiments of the invention are shown. This invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein; rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the scope of the invention to those skilled in the art.

[0015] In the figures, certain layers, components or features may be exaggerated for clarity, and broken lines illustrate optional features or operations unless specified otherwise. This invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein; rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the scope of the invention to those skilled in the art.

[0016] It will be understood that, although the terms first, second, etc. may be used herein to describe various elements, components, regions, layers and/or sections, these elements, components, regions, layers and/or sections should not be limited by these terms. These terms are only used to distinguish one element, component, region, layer or section from another region, layer or section. Thus, a first element, component, region, layer or section discussed below could be termed a second element, component, region, layer or section without departing from the teachings of the present invention. The sequence of operations (or steps) is not limited to the order presented in the claims or figures unless specifically indicated otherwise.

[0017] Unless otherwise defined, all terms (including technical and scientific terms) used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this invention belongs. It will be further understood that terms, such as those defined in commonly used dictionaries, should be interpreted as having a meaning that is consistent with their meaning in the context of the specification and relevant art and should not be interpreted in an idealized or overly formal sense unless expressly so defined herein. Well-known functions or constructions may not be described in detail for brevity and/or clarity.

[0018] The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting of the invention. As used herein, the singular forms "a", "an" and "the" are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. It will be further understood that the terms "comprises" and/or "comprising", when used in this specification, specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps, operations, elements, and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, operations, elements, components, and/or groups thereof. As used herein, the term "and/or" includes any and all combinations of one or more of the associated listed items.

[0019] As used herein, phrases such as "between X and Y" and "between about X and Y" should be interpreted to include X and Y. As used herein, phrases such as "between about X

and Y" mean "between about X and about Y." As used herein, phrases such as "from about X to Y" mean "from about X to about Y."

[0020] Referring now to the figures, a cable hanger assembly **100** according to embodiments of the present invention is illustrated in **FIGS. 1-5**. The cable hanger assembly **100** comprises a cable hanger **110**, a mounting assembly **120**, and a support structure **130** (e.g., an antenna tower).

[0021] As shown in **FIG. 1**, a cable hanger **110** of the present invention may comprise a front shell half **110a** that mates with a rear shell half **110b**. The front shell half **110a** and rear shell half **110b** may be each formed of a polymeric material. The front shell half **110a** and the rear shell half **110b** each may have a respective front shell half inner surface **112a** and rear shell half inner surface **112b**. The front shell half inner surface **112a** and the rear shell half inner surface **112b** can cooperate with each other to secure a cable **150** within a cable receptacle **114** (see, e.g., **FIG. 5**).

[0022] In some embodiments, the front shell half inner surface **112a** and the rear shell half inner surface **112b** of a cable hanger **110** of the present invention may cooperate with each other form more than one cable receptacle **114**, thereby being able to secure more than one cable **150** within the cable hanger **110**.

[0023] A cable hanger **110** of the present invention may further comprise a front shell bolt aperture **116a** through the front shell half **112a** and a rear shell bolt aperture **116b** through the rear shell half **112b**. The front shell bolt aperture **116a** aligns with the rear shell bolt aperture **116b** when the front shell half **112a** is mated with the rear shell half **112b**. The front shell bolt aperture **116a** and the rear shell bolt aperture **116b** are sized to fit a threaded bolt **122**. In some embodiments, the front shell bolt aperture **116a** and the rear shell bolt aperture **116b** are sized to fit a threaded bolt **122** having a diameter of 6 mm to about 12 mm.

[0024] Referring to **FIG. 2**, a mounting assembly **120** of the present invention may comprise a threaded bolt **122**, a plurality of flat washers **124** and a plurality of nuts **128**. A mounting assembly **120** of the present invention may optionally comprise a lock washer **126**. The threaded bolt **122** may extend through the front and rear shell half bolt apertures (**116a**, **116b**) and be secured with the plurality of flat washers **124**, plurality of nuts **128**, and optional lock washer **126**, thereby retaining the cable hanger **110** to a support structure **130** (see, e.g., **FIG. 3** and **FIG. 4**). In some embodiments, multiple cable hangers **110** can be stacked (e.g., single, double or triple stacked) and secured to a support structure **130**. Exemplary cable hangers are further shown in U.S. Patent No. 7,175,138 to Low et al. which is incorporated by reference in its entirety herein.

[0025] The plurality of flat washers **124**, lock washer **126** and plurality of nuts **128** may be sized to fit a threaded bolt **122** having a diameter of about 6 mm to about 12 mm. In some embodiments, the plurality of flat washers **124**, lock washer **126** and plurality of nuts **128** may have a diameter of about 6 mm to about 12 mm.

[0026] In some embodiments, the plurality of flat washers **124** and/or the lock washer **126** may have a concave cross-section (*see, e.g., FIG. 4*). Utilizing flat washers **124** and/or a lock washer **126** having a concave cross-section may store compressive energy which can help reduce (or calibrate) the compressive load on the cable hanger **110**. The concave cross-section may also help accommodate any creep that may occur, thereby maintaining the high compression for any metal-to-metal junctions within the cable hanger assembly **100**.

[0027] The plurality of flat washers **124**, lock washer **126**, and plurality of nuts **128** may be formed of a non-metallic material. In some embodiments, the non-metallic material forming the plurality of flat washers **124**, lock washer **126**, and plurality of nuts **128** may comprise a polymeric material. In some embodiments, the polymeric material may comprise nylon, acetal, or polypropylene. For example, in some embodiments, the polymeric material forming the flat washers **124** may comprise nylon, acetal, or polypropylene. In some embodiments, the polymeric material forming the lock washer **126** may comprise nylon, acetal, or polypropylene. In some embodiments, the polymeric material forming the plurality of nuts **128** may comprise nylon, acetal, or polypropylene.

[0028] In some embodiments, the threaded bolt **122** may be formed of a polymeric material. For example, in some embodiments, the polymeric material forming the threaded bolt **122** may comprise nylon, acetal, or polypropylene.

[0029] The present invention reduces the number of metal-to-metal junctions in the near antenna environment by replacing the metal-to-metal junctions with polymer-to-metal and/or polymer-to-polymer junctions. Thus, the present invention may alleviate technical performance concerns, such as, PIM.

[0030] The foregoing is illustrative of the present invention and is not to be construed as limiting thereof. Although a few exemplary embodiments of this invention have been described, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that many modifications are possible in the exemplary embodiments without materially departing from the novel teachings and advantages of this invention. Accordingly, all such modifications are intended to be included within the scope of this invention as defined in the claims. The invention is defined by the following claims, with equivalents of the claims to be included therein.

That which is claimed is:

1. A cable hanger assembly, the cable hanger assembly comprising:
 - a support structure;
 - a cable hanger, the cable hanger comprising:
 - a front shell half that mates with a rear shell half, the front shell half and the rear shell half having a front shell half inner surface and a rear shell half inner surface that cooperate with each other to secure a cable within a cable receptacle;
 - a front shell bolt aperture through the front shell half and a rear shell half bolt aperture through the rear shell half, wherein the front shell half bolt aperture aligns with the rear shell half bolt aperture when the front shell half is mated to the rear shell half;
 - a mounting assembly, the mounting assembly comprising:
 - a threaded bolt;
 - a plurality of flat washers formed of a non-metallic material;
 - a lock washer formed of a non-metallic material; and
 - a plurality of nuts formed of a non-metallic material,
 - wherein the threaded bolt extends through the front and rear shell half bolt apertures and is secured with the plurality of flat washers, lock washer and plurality of nuts to retain the cable hanger to the support structure.
2. The cable hanger assembly of Claim 1, wherein the cable hanger comprises more than one cable receptacle.
3. The cable hanger assembly of Claim 2, in combination with a plurality of discrete cables, wherein each of the plurality of discrete cables resides within a respective one of the cable receptacles of the cable hanger.
4. The cable hanger assembly of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the non-metallic material forming the plurality of flat washers, the lock washer, and the plurality of nuts comprises a polymeric material.
5. The cable hanger assembly of Claim 4, wherein the polymeric material forming the plurality of flat washers comprises nylon, acetal, or polypropylene.

6. The cable hanger assembly of any one of Claims 4 or 5, wherein the polymeric material forming the lock washer comprises nylon, acetal, or polypropylene.
7. The cable hanger assembly of any one of Claims 4-6, wherein the polymeric material forming the plurality of nuts comprises nylon, acetal, or polypropylene.
8. The cable hanger assembly of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the threaded bolt is formed of a polymeric material.
9. The cable hanger assembly of Claim 8, wherein the polymeric material forming the threaded bolt comprises nylon, acetal, or polypropylene.
10. The cable hanger assembly of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the plurality of flat washers and/or the lock washer have a diameter of 6 mm to about 12 mm.
11. The cable hanger assembly of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the plurality of flat washers and/or the lock washer have a concave cross-section.
12. A cable hanger assembly, the cable hanger assembly comprising:
 - a support structure;
 - a cable hanger, the cable hanger comprising:
 - a front shell half that mates with a rear shell half, the front shell half and the rear shell half having a front shell half inner surface and a rear shell half inner surface that cooperate with each other to secure a cable within a cable receptacle;
 - a front shell bolt aperture through the front shell half and a rear shell half bolt aperture through the rear shell half, wherein the front shell half bolt aperture aligns with the rear shell half bolt aperture when the front shell half is mated to the rear shell half;
 - a mounting assembly, the mounting assembly comprising:
 - a threaded bolt;
 - a plurality of washers, wherein the plurality of washers have a concave cross-section;
 - a lock washer formed of a non-metallic material; and
 - a plurality of nuts,

wherein the threaded bolt extends through the front and rear shell half bolt apertures and is secured with the plurality of washers, lock washer and nuts to retain the cable hanger to the support structure.

13. The cable hanger assembly of Claim 12, wherein the cable hanger comprises more than one cable receptacle.

14. The cable hanger assembly of Claim 13, in combination with a plurality of discrete cables, wherein each of the plurality of discrete cables resides within a respective one of the cable receptacles of the cable hanger.

15. The cable hanger assembly of any one of Claims 12-14, wherein the non-metallic material forming the lock washer comprises a polymeric material.

16. The cable hanger assembly of Claim 15, wherein the polymeric material forming the lock washer comprises nylon, acetal, or polypropylene.

17. The cable hanger assembly of any one of Claims 12-16, wherein the threaded bolt, the plurality of washers and/or the plurality of nuts are formed of a non-metallic material.

18. The cable hanger assembly of Claim 17, wherein the non-metallic material forming the threaded bolt, the plurality of washers and/or the plurality of nuts comprises a polymeric material.

19. The cable hanger assembly of Claim 18, wherein the polymeric material forming the plurality of washers comprises nylon, acetal, or polypropylene.

20. The cable hanger assembly of any one of Claims 18 or 19, wherein the polymeric material forming the plurality of nuts comprises nylon, acetal, or polypropylene.

21. The cable hanger assembly of any one of Claims 18-20, wherein the polymeric material forming the threaded bolt comprises nylon, acetal, or polypropylene.

22. The cable hanger assembly of any one of Claims 12-21, wherein the plurality of washers and/or the lock washer have a diameter of 6 mm to about 12 mm.

23. The cable hanger assembly of any one of Claims 12-22, wherein the lock washer have a concave cross-section.

24. A cable hanger assembly, the cable hanger assembly comprising:
a support structure;
a cable hanger, the cable hanger comprising:
a front shell half that mates with a rear shell half, the front shell half and the rear shell half having a front shell half inner surface and a rear shell half inner surface that cooperate with each other to secure a cable within a cable receptacle;
a front shell bolt aperture through the front shell half and a rear shell half bolt aperture through the rear shell half, wherein the front shell half bolt aperture aligns with the rear shell half bolt aperture when the front shell half is mated to the rear shell half;
a mounting assembly, the mounting assembly comprising:
a threaded bolt;
a plurality of washers, wherein the plurality of washers have a concave cross-section; and
a plurality of nuts,
wherein the threaded bolt extends through the front and rear shell half bolt apertures and is secured with the plurality of washers and nuts to retain the cable hanger to the support structure.

25. The cable hanger assembly of Claim 24, wherein the cable hanger comprises more than one cable receptacle.

26. The cable hanger assembly of Claim 25, in combination with a plurality of discrete cables, wherein each of the plurality of discrete cables resides within a respective one of the cable receptacles of the cable hanger.

27. The cable hanger assembly of any one of Claims 24-26, wherein the threaded bolt, the plurality of washers and/or the plurality of nuts are formed of a non-metallic material.

28. The cable hanger assembly of Claim 27, wherein the non-metallic material forming the threaded bolt, the plurality of washers and/or the plurality of nuts comprises a polymeric material.

29. The cable hanger assembly of Claim 28, wherein the polymeric material forming the threaded bolt comprises nylon, acetal, or polypropylene.

30. The cable hanger assembly of any one of Claims 28 or 29, wherein the polymeric material forming the plurality of washers comprises nylon, acetal, or polypropylene.

31. The cable hanger assembly of any one of Claims 28-30, wherein the polymeric material forming the plurality of nuts comprises nylon, acetal, or polypropylene.

32. The cable hanger assembly of any one of Claims 24-31, wherein the plurality of washers have a diameter of 6 mm to about 12 mm.

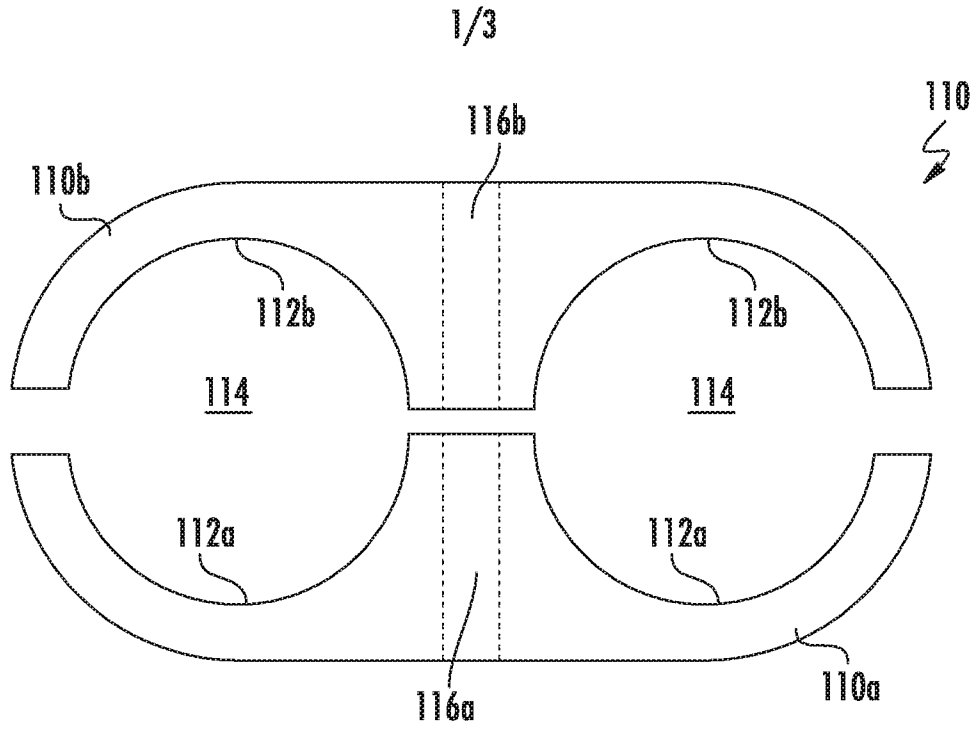


FIG. 1

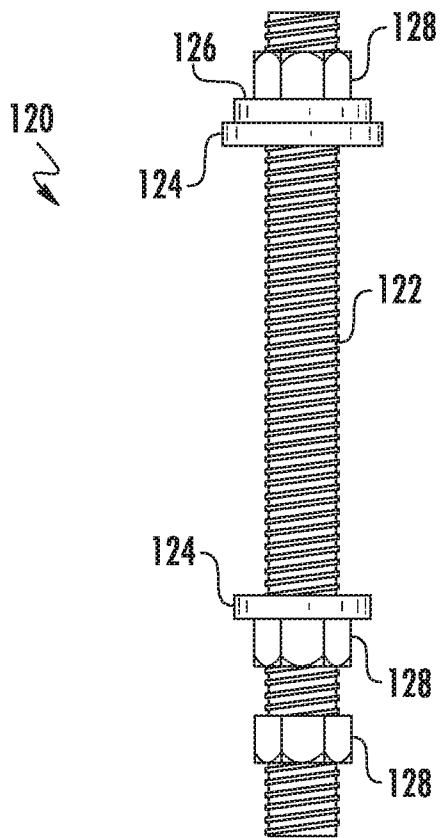


FIG. 2

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FIG. 3

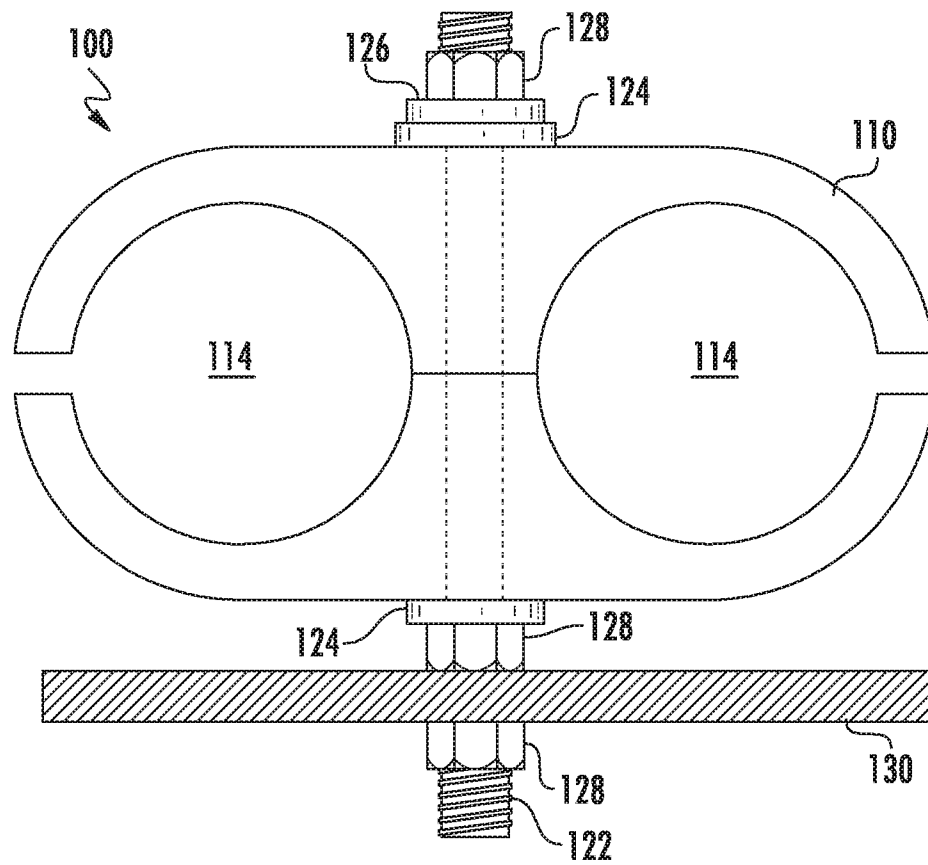
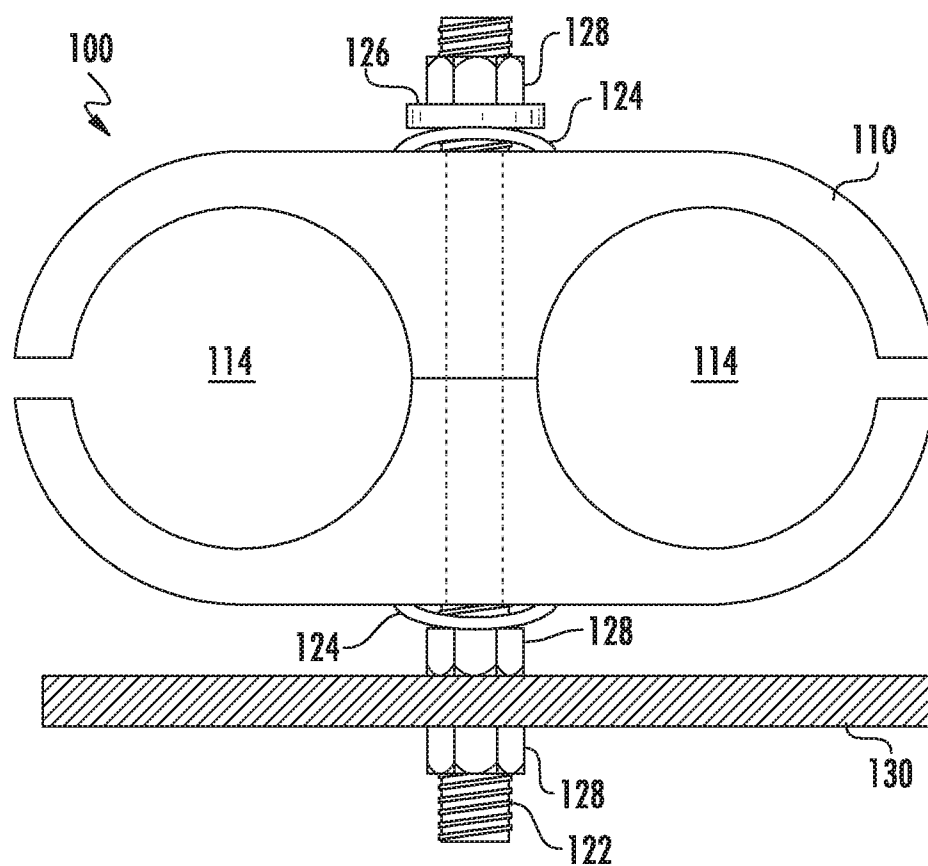


FIG. 4



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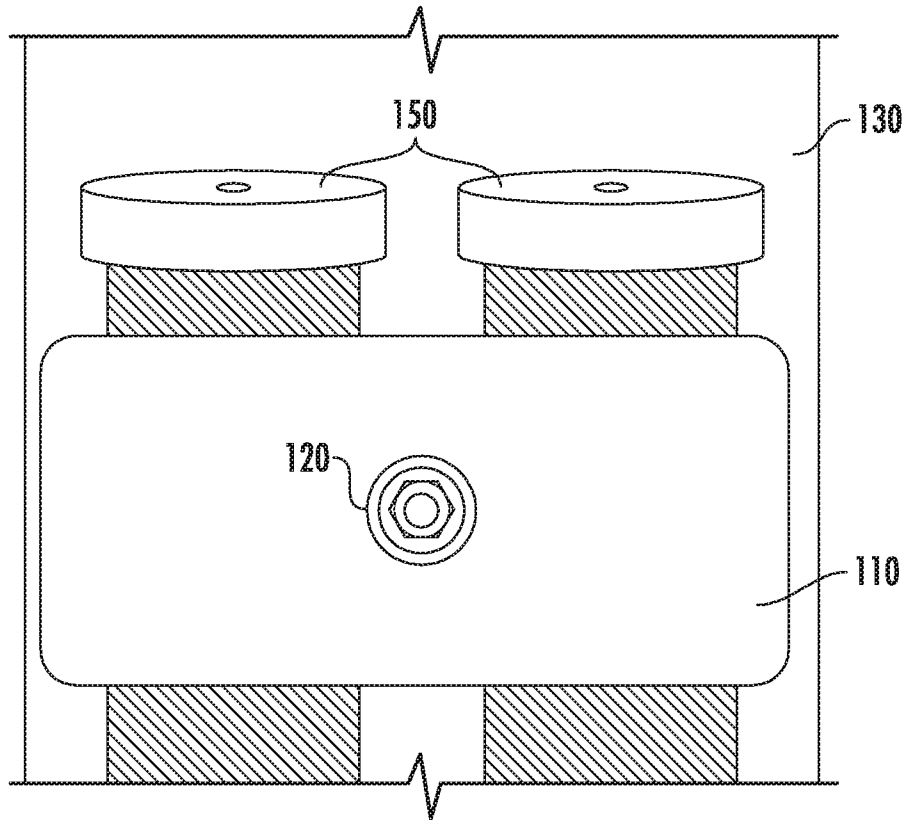


FIG. 5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2019/042111**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER****H02G 7/06(2006.01)i, F16B 5/02(2006.01)i**

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHEDMinimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
H02G 7/06; F16B 2/00; F16B 2/02; F16L 3/22; H01R 9/05; H02G 3/04; H02G 7/00; F16B 5/02Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Korean utility models and applications for utility models
Japanese utility models and applications for utility modelsElectronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) & Keywords: cable, hanger, shell, bolt, nut, washer, non-metallic**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5941483 A (FRANK T. BAGINSKI) 24 August 1999 See column 2, lines 52-67; claim 13; and figures 6, 9.	1-5, 12-16, 24-29
Y	US 2003-0234114 A1 (RALPH SUTEHALL et al.) 25 December 2003 See paragraph 24; and figure 3.	1-5, 12-16, 24-29
Y	US 2012-0088406 A1 (NOAH MONTENA et al.) 12 April 2012 See paragraph 72; and figures 1-2.	1-5, 12-16, 27-29
A	KR 10-2009-0035437 A (BURESUTO KOGYO CO., LTD.) 09 April 2009 See paragraphs 16-27; and figures 1-5.	1-5, 12-16, 24-29
A	KR 10-1325693 B1 (SAMSUNG HEAVY IND. CO., LTD.) 05 November 2013 See paragraphs 31-94; and figures 1-5.	1-5, 12-16, 24-29

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

* Special categories of cited documents:

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"D" document cited by the applicant in the international application

"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

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"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

31 October 2019 (31.10.2019)

Date of mailing of the international search report

31 October 2019 (31.10.2019)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/KR

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/US2019/042111

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