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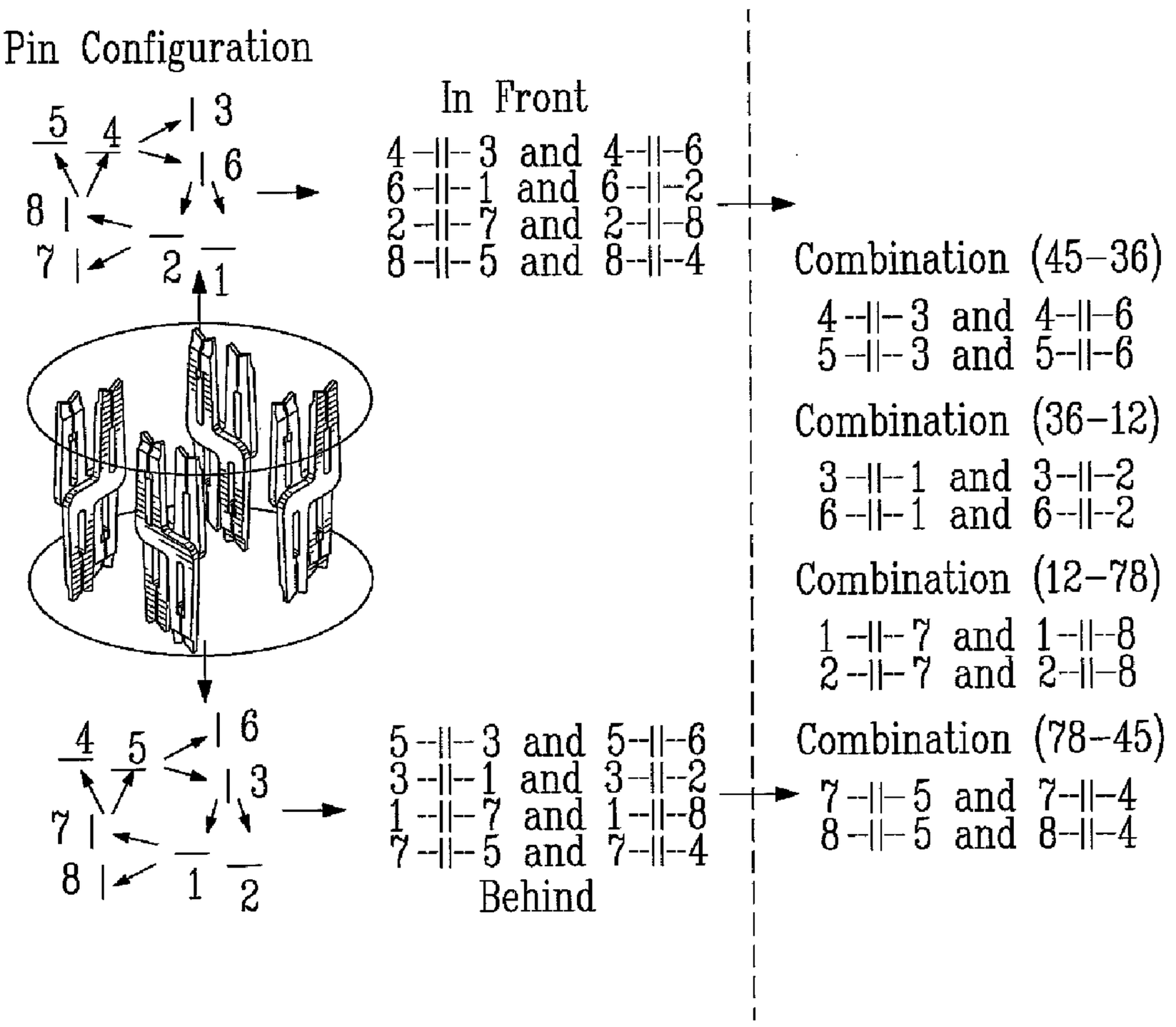

(57) Abrégé/Abstract:
There is disclosed a balanced interconnector comprising first and second like connecting elements, each of the connecting elements comprising an elongate centre section and a pair of parallel IDCs opening in substantially opposite directions, the IDCs

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(57) Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):
attached substantially at right angles to and at opposite ends of the elongate centre sections, each of the connecting elements lying in different parallel plains. The first and second connecting elements are arranged such that the elongate centre sections are opposite one another and the IDCs of the first connecting element are not opposite the IDCs of the second connecting element. In a particular embodiment the connepting elements of adjacent pairs of connecting elements are at right angles.

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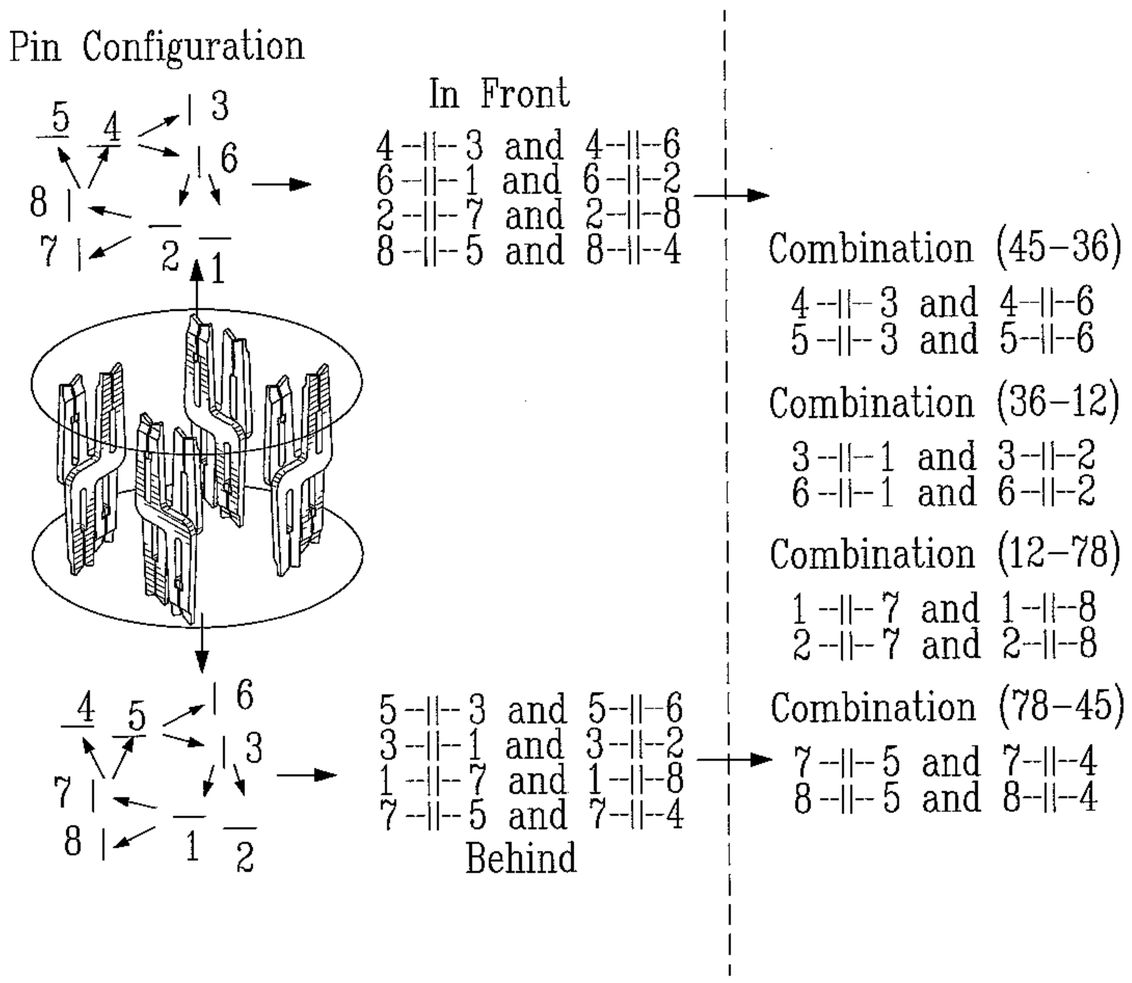

(57) **Abstract:** There is disclosed a balanced interconnector comprising first and second like connecting elements, each of the connecting elements comprising an elongate centre section and a pair of parallel IDCs opening in substantially opposite directions, the IDCs attached substantially at right angles to and at opposite ends of the elongate centre sections, each of the connecting elements lying in different parallel plains. The first and second connecting elements are arranged such that the elongate centre sections are opposite one another and the IDCs of the first connecting element are not opposite the IDCs of the second connecting element. In a particular embodiment the connepting elements of adjacent pairs of connecting elements are at right angles.

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

BALANCED INTERCONNECTOR

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[001] The present invention relates to a balanced interconnector. In particular, the present invention relates to an interconnector used for interconnecting cables comprised of twisted pairs of conductors.

BACKGROUND

[002] In data transmission networks, cross-connect connectors (such as BIX, 110, 210, etc.) are commonly used in telecommunication rooms to interconnect the ends of telecommunications cables, thereby facilitating network maintenance. For example, the prior art reveals cross connectors comprised of a series of isolated flat straight conductors each comprised of a pair of reversed Insulation Displacement Contact (IDC) connectors connected end to end for interconnecting a conductor of a first cable with the conductors of a second cable.

[003] As known in the art, all conductors transmitting signals act as antennas and radiate the signal they are carrying into their general vicinity. Other receiving conductors will receive the radiated signals as crosstalk. Cross talk typically adversely affects signals being carried by the receiving conductor and must be dealt with if the strength of the received crosstalk exceeds certain predetermined minimum values. The strength of received cross talk is dependant on the capacitive coupling between the transmitting conductor and the receiving conductor which is influenced by a number of mechanical factors, such as conductor geometry and spacing between the conductors, as well the frequency of the signals being carried by the conductors, shielding of the conductors, etc. As signal frequency increases, the influence of even quite

small values of capacitive coupling can give rise to significant cross talk having a deleterious effect on signal transmission.

[004] Systems designed for the transmission of high frequency signals, such as the ubiquitous four twisted pair cables conforming to ANSI/EIA 568, take advantage of a variety of mechanisms to minimise the capacitive coupling between conductors both within and between cables. One problem with such systems is that, although coupling, and therefore crosstalk, is reduced within the cable runs, conductors within the cables must inevitably be terminated, for example at device or cross connector. These terminations introduce irregularities into the system where coupling, and therefore cross talk, is increased. With the introduction of Category 6 and Augmented Category 6 standards and the 10GBase-T transmission protocol, the allowable levels for all kinds of internal and external crosstalk, including Near End Crosstalk (NEXT), Far End Crosstalk (FEXT) and Alien Crosstalk, have been lowered. As a result, the prior art connectors and interconnectors are generally no longer able to meet the allowable levels for cross talk.

[005] Additionally, although long cable elements such as the twisted pairs of conductors achieve good crosstalk characteristics through appropriate twisting and spacing of the pairs of conductors, when viewed as a whole, the cable is subject to additional crosstalk at every irregularity. Such irregularities occur primarily at connectors or interconnectors and typically lead to an aggressive generation of crosstalk between neighbouring pairs of conductors which in turn degrades the high frequency bandwidth and limits data throughput over the conductors. As the transmission frequencies continue to increase, each additional irregularity at local level, although small, adds to a collective irregularity which may have a considerable impact on the transmission performance of the cable. In particular, unravelling the ends of the twisted pairs of conductors in order to introduce them into an IDC type connections introduces capacitive coupling between the twisted pairs.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[006] In order to address the above and other drawbacks, there is provided a connector for terminating two pairs of conductors. The connector comprises first and second pairs of elongate terminals, each of the terminal pairs terminating a respective one of the pairs of conductors, each of the first pair of terminals arranged substantially in parallel to and substantially equidistant from a first plane and each of the second pair of terminals arranged substantially in parallel to and substantially equidistant from a second plane at right angles to the first plane, the first plane intersecting the second plane substantially at right angles along a line of intersection substantially in parallel to each of the first and second terminal pairs. When viewed transversely, a first distance between a first terminal of the first terminal pair and a first terminal of the second terminal pair is less than a second distance between the first terminal of the first terminal pair and a second terminal of the second terminal pair and a third distance between a second terminal of the first terminal pair and the first terminal of the second terminal pair is less than a fourth distance between the second terminal of the first terminal pair and the second terminal of the second terminal pair.

[007] There is also provided an interconnector for interconnecting a first set of two pairs of conductors with a second set of two pairs of conductors. The interconnector comprises a non conductive housing comprising a first outer surface and a second outer surface, and at least two pairs of like conducting elements, each element of each of the pairs comprising an elongate terminal at opposite first and second ends thereof, the terminals generally parallel and non-collinear, the terminals at the first ends for receiving a respective one of the first set of conductors and the terminals at the second ends for receiving a respective one of the second set of conductors. The elements of a first of the pairs lie on either side of a first plane and are arranged opposite one another as a reverse mirror image, wherein the elements of a second of the pairs lie on either side of a second plane and are arranged opposite one another as a

reverse mirror image and wherein the first plane intersects the second plane at right angles along a first line of intersection which is parallel to the elongate terminals. At least a portion of each of the terminals at the first element ends are exposed on the first surface and at least a portion of each of the terminals at the second element ends are exposed on the second surface.

[008] Furthermore, there is provided an interconnector for interconnecting a first cable comprising four twisted pairs of conductors with a second cable comprising four twisted pairs of conductors. The interconnector comprises a non conductive housing comprising a first outer surface and a second outer surface, and first, second, third and fourth pairs of like conducting connecting elements, each element of a given one of the pairs of elements comprising an elongate terminal at opposite first and second ends thereof, the terminals substantially parallel and non-collinear and adapted to receive a respective one of the conductors wherein each element of the given pair lies in a different plane and wherein a first element of the given pair is arranged opposite a second element of the given pair as a reverse mirror image. A first element of the first pair and a first element of the second pair lie in a first plane, a second element of the first pair and a second element of the second pair lie in a second plane, a first element of the third pair and a first element of the fourth pair lie in a third plane and a second element of the third pair and a second element of the fourth pair lie in a fourth plane and further wherein at least a portion of each of the terminals at the first ends is exposed on the first outer surface and at least a portion of each of the terminals at the second ends is exposed on the second outer surface.

[009] Additionally, there is provided an interconnection between a first set of two pairs of conductors and a second set of two pairs of conductors. The interconnection comprises first and second pairs of like elongate connecting elements, a first end of each of the first pair of elements connected to a respective one of a first pair of the first set of pairs of conductors, a second end of each of the first pair of elements connected to a respective one of a first pair

of the second set of pairs of conductors, a first end of each of the second pair of elements connected to a respective one of a second pair of the first set of pairs of conductors, and a second end of each of the second pair of elements connected to a respective one of a second pair of the second set of pairs of conductors, and a first capacitor connected between a first element of the first pair and a first element of the second pair, a second capacitor connected between a first element of the first pair and a second element of the second pair, a third capacitor connected between a second element of the first pair and a first element of the second pair, and a fourth capacitor connected between a second element of the first pair and a second element of the second pair. The capacitors have a capacitive value which is substantially equal.

[010] Also, there is provided a method of interconnecting first and second conductors of a first pair of conductors respectively with first and second conductors of a second pair of conductors and first and second conductors of a third pair of conductors respectively with first and second conductors of fourth second pair of conductors, the second conductor of the first pair of conductors coupled by a first parasitic capacitance to the first conductor of the third pair of conductors and the first conductor of the second pair of conductors coupled by a second parasitic capacitance to the second conductor of the fourth pair of conductors, wherein the first and second parasitic capacitances are substantially the same. The method comprises providing first and second interconnecting elements, providing a first capacitor having a capacitive value substantially the same as the parasitic capacitances, coupling the first and second elements with the first capacitor, interconnecting the first element between the first conductor of the first pair of conductors and the first conductor of the second pair of conductors and the second element between the first conductor of the third pair of conductors and the first conductor of the fourth pair of conductors, providing third and fourth interconnecting elements, providing a second capacitor having a capacitive value substantially the same as the parasitic capacitances, coupling the third and fourth elements with the second capacitor, interconnecting the third element between the second

conductor of the first pair of conductors and the second conductor of the second pair of conductors and the fourth element between the second conductor of the third pair of conductors and the second conductor of the fourth pair of conductors.

[011] Additionally, there is disclosed an interconnector for interconnecting first and second conductors of a first pair of conductors with first and second conductors of a second pair of conductors and first and second conductors of a third twisted pair of conductors with first and second conductors of a fourth twisted pair of conductors, the second conductor of the first pair of conductors coupled by a first parasitic capacitance to the first conductor of the third pair of conductors and the first conductor of the second pair of conductors coupled by a second parasitic capacitance to the second conductor of the fourth pair of conductors, wherein the first and second parasitic capacitances are substantially the same. The interconnector comprises first and second Tip elements, the first Tip element interconnected between the first conductor of the first pair of conductors and the first conductor of the second pair of conductors and the second Tip element interconnected between the first conductor of the third pair of conductors and the first conductor of the fourth pair of conductors, first and second Ring elements, the first Ring element interconnected between the second conductor of the first pair of conductors and the second conductor of the second pair of conductors and the second Ring element interconnected between the second conductor of the third pair of conductors and the second conductor of the fourth pair of conductors, and first and second capacitors between respectively the first and second Tip elements and the first and second Ring elements. Each of the capacitors is substantially equal to the first and second parasitic capacitances.

[012] There is also provided an interconnection panel for interconnecting a first plurality of cables with a second plurality of cables, each of the cables comprising at least two pairs of conductors. The panel comprises a plurality of interconnectors arranged in a row, each of the interconnectors adapted to

interconnect a respective cable of the first plurality of cables with a respective cable of the second plurality of cables. Each of the interconnectors comprises a non conductive housing comprising a first outer surface and a second outer surface, and at least two pairs of like conducting elements, each element of each of the pairs comprising an elongate terminal at opposite first and second ends thereof, the terminals generally parallel and non-collinear, the terminals at the first ends for receiving a respective one of the conductors of the respective one of the first plurality of cables and the terminals at the second ends for receiving a respective one of the conductors of the respective one of the second plurality of cables. The elements of a first of the pairs lie on either side of a first plane arranged opposite one another as a reverse mirror image, wherein the elements of a second of the pairs lie on either side of a second plane arranged opposite one another as a reverse mirror image and wherein the first plane intersects the second plane at right angles along a first line of intersection which is parallel to the elongate terminals. At least a portion of each of the terminals at the first element ends are exposed on the first surface and at least a portion of each of the terminals at the second element ends are exposed on the second surface.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[013] Figure 1 is a side plan view of a balanced interconnector in accordance with an illustrative embodiment of the present invention;

[014] Figure 2 is a right raised perspective view of a balanced interconnector in accordance with an illustrative embodiment of the present invention;

[015] Figure 3 is a sectional view of a balanced interconnector taken along line 3-3 in Figure 2;

[016] Figure 4 is an exploded view of a balanced interconnector in accordance with an illustrative embodiment of the present invention;

[017] Figure 5 is a partially disassembled right front perspective view of a balanced interconnector in accordance with an alternative illustrative embodiment of the present invention;

[018] Figure 6 is right lowered perspective view of two pairs of connecting elements in accordance with an illustrative embodiment of the present invention;

[019] Figure 7 is a top plan view of four pairs of connecting elements in accordance with an illustrative embodiment of the present invention;

[020] Figure 8 is a side plane view of a pair of adjacent connecting elements in accordance with an illustrative embodiment of the present invention;

[021] Figure 9 is a schematic diagram of the coupling effect in accordance with an illustrative embodiment of the present invention;

[022] Figure 10 is an exploded view of a balanced interconnector in accordance with an alternative illustrative embodiment of the present invention;

[023] Figure 11 is a top plan view of two pairs of connecting elements in accordance with an alternative illustrative embodiment of the present invention;

[024] Figure 12(a) is a left raised perspective view of two pairs of interconnectors in accordance with an alternative illustrative embodiment of the present invention;

[025] Figure 12(b) is a schematic diagram of the parasitic capacitances arising with the connecting elements of Figure 12(a);

[026] Figure 12(c) is a schematic diagram of the parasitic capacitances arising

between all the connecting elements within an interconnector in accordance with an alternative illustrative embodiment of the present invention;

[027] Figure 13(a) is a top plan view of the two pairs of interconnectors of Figure 12(a) detailing the inherent capacitances;

[028] Figure 13(b) is a schematic diagram of the inherent capacitances of Figure 13(a);

[029] Figure 14(a) is a raised perspective view of a plurality of balanced interconnectors and support frame in accordance with an alternative illustrative embodiment of the present invention; and

[030] Figure 14(b) is a top plan view detailing the relative placement of the connecting elements of adjacent interconnectors in accordance with an alternative illustrative embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS

[031] Referring now to Figures 1 and 2, a balanced interconnector, generally referred to using the reference numeral 10, will now be described. The interconnector 10 comprises an insulating housing 12 comprising a first outer surface 14 into which a first set of turrets as in 16 are moulded and a second outer surface 18 into which a second set of turrets as in 20 are moulded. Note that although first outer surface 14 and the second outer surface 18 are shown as being relatively flat and opposed, in a particular embodiment the surfaces could be at an angle to one another, or could be of uneven height such that the turrets as in 16, 20 have different relative heights.

[032] Referring now to Figures 3 and 4 in addition to Figures 1 and 2, a series of connecting elements as in 22 which extend from one of the first set of turrets as in 16 to a corresponding one of the second set of turrets as in 20 are

imbedded in the housing 12. In this regard, the housing 12 is typically manufactured in first and second interconnecting parts 24, 26 thereby providing a simple means for assembling the connecting elements as in 22 within the housing 12. Each connecting element 22 is comprised of a pair of opposed terminals 28, 30, Illustratively elongate with each terminal arranged along parallel non-collinear axes. The terminals 28, 30 are illustratively bifurcated Insulation Displacement Connectors (IDCs), interconnected by an elongate connecting portion 32 at an angle to the terminals as in 28, 30. Illustratively, the angle between the terminals 28, 30 and the elongate connecting portion 32 is shown as being a right angle.

[033] As known in the art, the IDCs as in 28, 30 are each comprised of a pair of opposed insulation displacing blades as in 34. Each connecting element 22 is illustratively stamped from a flat conducting material such as nickel plated steel, although in a particular embodiment the connecting element 22 could be formed in a number of ways, for example as an etched trace on a Printed Circuit Board (PCB) or the like.

[034] Still referring to Figures 1 through 4, the first set of turrets as in 16 and the second set of turrets as in 20 are each arranged in two parallel rows of turrets defining a cable end receiving region 36 there between for receiving a cable end 38. The insulated conductors as in 40 (typically arranged in twisted pairs of conductors) exit the cable end 38 and are received by conductor receiving slots 38 moulded in each of the turrets as in 16 or 20. As known in the art, the insulated conductors as in 40 are inserted into their respective slots as in 42 using a special “punch down” tool (not shown) which simultaneously forces the conductor as in 40 between the bifurcated IDC, thereby interconnecting the conductive centre 44 of the insulated conductor 34 with the IDC as in 24, 26, while cutting the end of the conductor 40 (typically flush with the outer edge of the turret in question).

[035] As known in the art, the insulated conductors as in 40 are typically

arranged into colour coded twisted pairs of conductors, and often referred to as Tip and Ring. In twisted pair wiring, the non-inverting wire of each pair is often referrred to as the Ring and comprises an outer insulation having a solid colour, while the inverting wire is often referred to as the Tip and comprises a white outer insulation including a coloured stripe.

[036] Note that although the first set of turrets 16 and the second set of turrets as in 20 in the above illustrative embodiment are each shown as being arranged in two (2) parallel rows of turrets, in a particular embodiment the first set of turrets 16 and the second set of turrets as in 20 could be arranged in a single row, alternatively also together with others, to form the inline cross connector as illustrated in Figure 5. Additionally, systems other than IDCs could be used for interconnecting the insulated conductors as in 40 with their respective connecting elements as in 22.

[037] Referring now to Figures 2 and 4, in a particular embodiment a wire lead guide as in 46, comprised of a plurality of conductor guiding channels as in 48 moulded therein and adapted to fit snugly into the cable end receiving regions as in 36, can be interposed between the cable end 38 and the conductor receiving slots 42 moulded in each of the turrets as in 16 or 20.

[038] Referring now to Figures 2 and 6, as discussed above the first set of turrets as in 16 and the second set of turrets as in 20 are each arranged in two parallel rows of turrets. As a result, four (4) connecting elements as in 22 are illustratively arranged on each side of the cable end receiving region 36, each comprising two (2) pairs of interconnectors. Illustratively, on a first side of the cable end receiving region 36 four (4) connecting elements 22_4, 22_8 and 22_5, 22_7 each terminate a respective conductor as in 44 (illustratively the interconnectors are indicated as terminating conductors 4, 8, 5 and 7 of the twisted pairs of conductors).

[039] Referring now to Figure 7, the "Tip" connecting elements 22_4, 22_8 of

each interconnector pair lie in a first plane "I" and the "Ring" connecting elements 22_5, 22_7 lie in a second plane "II". Similarly, the "Tip" connecting elements 22_1, 22_3 each lie in a third plane "III" and the "Ring" connecting elements 22_2, 22_6 lie in a fourth plane "IV" parallel to yet displaced from the first plain. All planes are parallel and displaced from one another. Note that, notwithstanding the above designation of certain connecting elements as in 22 being Tip elements and others being Rings elements, a person of skill in the art will understand that a Tip element of a Tip and Ring pair could be used to terminate either a Ring or Tip of a conductor pair with the Ring element of the Tip and Ring pair terminating the other.

[040] Referring back to Figure 6 in addition to Figure 7, the direction of the elongate connecting portions 32_4, 32_8 of the first pair of connecting elements 22_4, 22_8 is opposite to that of the elongate connecting portion 32_5, 32_7 of the second pair of connecting elements 22_5, 22_7 such that the Tip and Ring connecting elements terminating a given twisted pair are arranged opposite one another as a reverse mirror image.

[041] Still Referring to Figures 6 and 7, although the connecting elements as in 22 are not interconnected directly with one another, given the relative proximity of adjacent connecting elements as in 22 to one another, unravelling the ends of the cables 38 in order to insert the conductors as in 40 into their respective IDCs as in 28, 30 gives rise to a parasitic coupling (illustrated by capacitive elements C_{P1} and C_{P2}) between the conductors as in 40, with the effect being the greatest for those which are closest (illustratively conductors marked 4-7 and conductors marked 5-8). As known in the art, especially at high frequencies such coupling, although small, can have a large detrimental effect on a transmitted signal. In particular, in the illustrated case differential signals travelling on the pair of conductors marked 7-8 give rise to differential signals on the pair of conductors marked 4-5 and *vice versa*. The is effect is counteracted by the positioning of the interconnectors in the manner shown which gives rise to an inherent coupling (illustrated by first and second

capacitive elements C_{I1} and C_{I2}) between connecting elements as in 22 lying in the same plane. Indeed, referring to the first capacitive element C_{I1}, for example, an outer edge 50 of connecting element 22_4 provides a first electrode of the first capacitive element C_{I1}, an outer edge 52 of connecting element 22_8 provides a second electrode of the first capacitive element C_{I1} and air in between the two electrodes 50, 52 provides the dielectric material of the first capacitive element C_{I1}.

[042] The inherent capacitances C_{I1} and C_{I2} effectively cancel the differential mode signals that would otherwise be induced in the pair of conductors 40_4 and 40_5 by the pair of conductors 40_7 and 40_8 and *vice versa*.

[043] This effect is illustrated in the capacitive network as shown in Figure 9, where both components of the differential signal on the conductors 40_7 and 40_8 is coupled into each of the conductors 40_4 and 40_5, thereby effectively cancelling out the differential signal. In this manner, the inherent capacitors cancel crosstalk introduced into the conductors 40_4, 40_5, 40_7 and 40_8 terminated by, referring to Figure 6 in addition to Figure 9, the connecting elements as in 22 by the necessary unravelling of the twisted pairs of conductors 40 in order to insert their ends into the bifurcated IDCs 28, 30.

[044] Referring now to Figure 10, in an alternative illustrative embodiment of the present invention, the cross connector 10 is comprised of a housing 12 manufactured in first and second interconnecting parts 54, 56. The first interconnecting part 54 further comprises a series of turrets as in 58 illustratively arranged at the corners of the outer surface 60 of the first interconnecting part 54. Similarly, the second interconnecting part 56 also comprises a series of turrets as in 62 illustratively arranged at the corners of the outer surface 64 of the second interconnecting part 54. The substantially flat connecting elements as in 22 are arranged in pairs such that adjacent connecting elements as in 22 have their flat sides at right angles to one another. In other aspects, the alternative illustrative embodiment is similar to

the first illustrative embodiment as described in detail hereinabove.

[045] Referring now to Figure 11, a first pair "A" of substantially flat connecting elements 22 are arranged on either side and parallel to a plane "I". Additionally, a second pair "B" of substantially flat connecting elements 22 are arranged on either side and parallel to a plane "II" which intersects plane "I" at right angles. Preferably plane "II" intersects plane "I" along a line which is coincident with the centres of the first pair A of connecting elements 22, although in a particular embodiment the line of intersection could be coincident with another point other than the centre. This configuration is repeated for all four (4) pairs of connecting elements as in 22, that is each pair of connecting elements as in 22 is positioned at right angles to the adjacent pairs of connecting elements as in 22. As a result, each pair of connecting elements lies on either side of a plane which intersects that of an adjacent pair of connecting elements as in 22 and is in turn intersected by that of the other adjacent pair of connecting elements as in 22.

[046] Referring now to Figure 12(a), unravelling the twisted pairs of conductors 40 such that they may be inserted between the blades as in 34 of the bifurcated IDCs 28, 30 gives rise to a parasitic coupling, illustrated by capacitive elements C_{P4-7}, C_{P4-8}, C_{P5-7} and C_{P5-8}, between the conductors as in 40 (again, illustratively the connecting elements as in 22 are indicated as terminating conductors 40_4, 40_5, 40_7 and 40_8 of the twisted pairs of conductors 40). Referring to Figure 12(b) in addition to Figure 12(a), due to the configuration of the parasitic capacitances C_{P4-7}, C_{P4-8}, C_{P5-7} and C_{P5-8}, the resultant network inherently cancels differential mode to differential mode cross talk and differential mode to common mode cross talk.

[047] As will now be apparent to a person of ordinary skill in the art, a differential signal travelling on conductors 40_4 and 40_5 will appear as equal and opposite signals on both conductors 40_7 and 40_8 which effectively cancel each other. Indeed, the positive phase of the differential signal carried on conductor

40_4 is coupled by C_{P4-7} and C_{P4-8} onto both conductors 40_7 and 40_8. Similarly, the negative phase of the differential signal carried on conductor 40_5 is coupled by C_{P5-8} and C_{P5-7} onto both conductors 40_7 and 40_8. As the parasitic capacitances are substantially equal and the lengths of the connecting elements as in 22 much less than the wavelength of the signal being transmitted (illustratively signals of 650MHz having a wavelength of circa 0.46 meters), thereby resulting in only minimal shifts in phase, the differential signals coupled onto conductors 40_7 and 40_8 by the parasitic capacitances as cross talk will effectively cancel each other out.

[048] Referring now to Figure 12(c), given the geometric positioning of the connecting elements as in 22 relative to one another, the above parasitic coupling is repeated for all pairs of conductors terminated at the connecting elements as in 22. As a result, balancing is provided for all pairs of conductors interconnected via the four (4) pairs of connecting elements as in 22. Of note is that the balancing is provided regardless of the orientation of the conductors 40 in their interconnection with the connecting elements as in 22. That is, for example, the conductor designated 4 which as discussed above is generally referred as the Tip and conductor designated 5 which as discussed above is generally referred to as the Ring of that pair may be interchanged with one another (that is, terminated by the other connecting elements as in 22) without effecting the balancing. This applies equally to all pairs of conductors, that is as illustrated pairs 1-2, 3-6, 4-5 and 7-8.

[049] Referring now to Figure 13(a), positioning of the connecting elements as in 22 also gives rise to an inherent capacitive coupling between connecting elements as in 22, illustrated by capacitive elements C_{I4-7}, C_{I4-8}, C_{I5-7} and C_{I5-8}. Referring to Figure 13(b) in addition to Figure 13(a), provided distance D_C between the centres of adjacent connecting elements as in 22 is substantially greater than the distance D_S separating interconnectors terminating a particular pair of conductors (illustratively the distance D is about 10 times greater), these inherent capacitances are substantially equal and as a result form a capacitive

network which inherently cancels differential mode to differential mode cross talk and differential mode to common mode cross talk. Of note is that the capacitive network formed by the inherent capacitances is essentially the same as that of the parasitic capacitances as discussed above in reference to figures 12(a) through 12(c) and there the above discussion in reference to the parasitic capacitances can be applied to the inherent capacitances. Again, given the geometric interrelation between the connecting elements as in 22 of different pairs, a similar network of inherent capacitances is formed, depending on orientation, between adjacent pairs of connecting elements as in 22.

[050] Referring now to Figure 14(a), the cross connector 10 is illustratively modular and adapted for mounting, typically along with one or more like cross connectors as in 10, in a receptacle machined or otherwise formed in supporting frame 66, such as a patch bay panel or the like. In this regard, once the cross connectors as in 10 are mounted on the supporting frame, one set of turrets is exposed on each side of the supporting frame 66.

[051] Referring now to Figure 14(b) in addition to Figure 14(a), provided the spacing between adjacent cross connectors as in 10 is chosen such the separation S_A between pairs of connecting elements as in 22 of adjacent cross connectors as in 10 is at least the same as the separation S_I between pairs of connecting elements as in 22 within a cross connector as in 10, the relative geometry between adjacent pairs of connecting elements as in 22 can be maintained between adjacent cross connector as in 10 such that the cross talk cancelling effect is achieved.

[052] A person of skill in the art will understand that the present invention could also be used together with shielded conductors and cables, for example with the provision of a shielding cover (not shown) on the cross connector 10 manufactured for example from a conductive material and interconnected with the shielding material surrounding the conductors/cables.

[053] Although the present invention has been described hereinabove by way of an illustrative embodiment thereof, this embodiment can be modified at will without departing from the spirit and nature of the subject invention.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A connector for terminating two pairs of conductors, the connector comprising:

first and second pairs of elongate terminals, each of said terminal pairs terminating a respective one of the pairs of conductors, each of said first pair of terminals arranged substantially in parallel to and substantially equidistant from a first plane and each of said second pair of terminals arranged substantially in parallel to and substantially equidistant from a second plane at right angles to said first plane, said first plane intersecting said second plane substantially at right angles along a line of intersection substantially in parallel to each of said first and second terminal pairs;

wherein when viewed transversely, a first distance between a first terminal of said first terminal pair and a first terminal of said second terminal pair is less than a second distance between said first terminal of said first terminal pair and a second terminal of said second terminal pair and a third distance between a second terminal of said first terminal pair and said first terminal of said second terminal pair is less than a fourth distance between said second terminal of said first terminal pair and said second terminal of said second terminal pair.

2. The connector of Claim 1, wherein said first pair of terminals is a first pair of substantially flat IDCs and said second pair of terminals is a second pair of substantially flat IDCs, each said first pair of IDCs substantially in parallel to and equidistant from said first plane and each said second pair of IDCs comprising a surface substantially in parallel to and equidistant from said second plane.

3. The connector of Claim 1, wherein said first plane intersects said

second plane along a line of intersection in parallel to and equidistant from each of said second terminal pair.

4. The connector of Claim 1, wherein a distance between each of said first terminal pair is substantially the same as a distance between each of said second terminal pair.

5. The connector of Claim 1, wherein said first distance is substantially the same as said fourth distance.

6. An interconnector for interconnecting a first set of two pairs of conductors with a second set of two pairs of conductors, the interconnector comprising:

a non conductive housing comprising a first outer surface and a second outer surface; and

at least two pairs of like conducting elements, each element of each of said pairs comprising an elongate terminal at opposite first and second ends thereof, said terminals generally parallel and non-collinear, said terminals at said first ends for receiving a respective one of the first set of conductors and said terminals at said second ends for receiving a respective one of the second set of conductors;

wherein said elements of a first of said pairs lie on either side of a first plane and are arranged opposite one another as a reverse mirror image, wherein said elements of a second of said pairs lie on either side of a second plane and are arranged opposite one another as a reverse mirror image and wherein said first plane intersects said second plane at right angles along a first line of intersection which is parallel to said elongate terminals;

wherein at least a portion of each of said terminals at said first element ends are exposed on said first outer surface and at least a portion of each of said terminals at said second element ends are

exposed on said second outer surface.

7. The interconnector of Claim 6, wherein said second outer surface is on an opposite side of said housing from said first outer surface and wherein said first surface and said second surface are substantially parallel.

8. The interconnector of Claim 6, wherein a distance D_s separating centres of said first pair of elements is less than about 20% of a distance D_c separating said first pair centres and said second plane.

9. The interconnector of Claim 8, wherein said distance D_s is less than about 10% of said distance D_c.

10. The interconnector of Claim 6, wherein said terminals are IDCs.

11. The interconnector of Claim 6, wherein each of said elements comprises an elongate connecting portion between said terminals, said connecting portion arranged substantially at right angles to said terminals.

12. The interconnector of Claim 6, wherein said first line of intersection is substantially in a centre of said second connector pair.

13. The interconnector of Claim 12, wherein said elements of a third of said pairs lie on either side of a third plane and are arranged opposite one another as a reverse mirror image, wherein said elements of a fourth of said pairs lie on either side of a fourth plane and are arranged opposite one another as a reverse mirror image, wherein said second plane intersects said third plane at right angles along a second line of intersection which is parallel to said elongate terminals and substantially in a centre of said third connector pair, wherein said third plane intersects said fourth plane at right angles along a third line of intersection which is parallel to said elongate terminals and substantially in a centre of said fourth pair and wherein said fourth plane intersects said first

plane at right angles along a line of intersection which is parallel to said elongate terminals and substantially in a centre of said first pair.

14. The interconnector of Claim 6, wherein the pairs of conductors are twisted pairs of conductors.

15. The interconnector of Claim 6, wherein the first set of two pairs of conductors are encased within a first cable jacket and the second set of two pairs of conductors are encased within a second cable jacket.

16. An interconnector for interconnecting a first cable comprising four twisted pairs of conductors with a second cable comprising four twisted pairs of conductors, the interconnector comprising:

a non conductive housing comprising a first outer surface and a second outer surface; and

first, second, third and fourth pairs of like conducting connecting elements, each element of a given one of said pairs of elements comprising an elongate terminal at opposite first and second ends thereof, said terminals substantially parallel and non-collinear and adapted to receive a respective one of the conductors wherein each element of said given pair lies in a different plane and wherein a first element of said given pair is arranged opposite a second element of said given pair as a reverse mirror image;

wherein a first element of said first pair and a first element of said second pair lie in a first plane, a second element of said first pair and a second element of said second pair lie in a second plane, a first element of said third pair and a first element of said fourth pair lie in a third plane and a second element of said third pair and a second element of said fourth pair lie in a fourth plane and further wherein at least a portion of each of said terminals at said first ends is exposed on said first outer surface and at least a portion of each of said terminals at said second ends is exposed

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on said second outer surface.

17. The interconnector of Claim 16, wherein said second outer surface is on an opposite side of said housing from said first outer surface and wherein said first surface and said second surface are substantially parallel.

18. The interconnector of Claim 16, wherein said first outer surface and said second outer surface are substantially flat.

19. The interconnector of Claim 16, wherein said terminals are IDCs.

20. The interconnector of Claim 16, wherein each of said connecting elements comprises an elongate connecting portion between said terminals, said connecting portion arranged substantially at right angles to said terminals.

21. An interconnection between a first set of two twisted pairs of conductors and a second set of two twisted pairs of conductors, the interconnection comprising:

first and second pairs of like elongate connecting elements, a first end of each of said first pair of elements comprising an IDC connected to a respective one of a first pair of the first set of twisted pairs of conductors, a second end of each of said first pair of elements comprising an IDC connected to a respective one of a first pair of the second set of twisted pairs of conductors, a first end of each of said second pair of elements comprising an IDC connected to a respective one of a second pair of the first set of twisted pairs of conductors, and a second end of each of said second pair of elements comprising an IDC connected to a respective one of a second pair of the second set of twisted pairs of conductors; and

a first capacitor connected between a first element of said first pair and a first element of said second pair, a second capacitor connected between a first element of said first pair and a second element of

said second pair, a third capacitor connected between a second element of said first pair and a first element of said second pair, and a fourth capacitor connected between a second element of said first pair and a second element of said second pair;

wherein said capacitors have a capacitive value which is substantially equal.

22. The interconnection of Claim 21, wherein each of said IDCs is arranged along parallel non-collinear axes.

23. The interconnection of Claim 22, wherein each of said elements comprises an elongate connecting portion between said IDCs, said connecting portion arranged substantially at right angles to said IDCs.

24. The interconnection of Claim 22, wherein each pair of the pairs of conductors comprises a Ring and a Tip, wherein each pair of elements is comprised of a Tip element and a Ring element, each of said Tip elements interconnecting a respective Tip of said first set of conductors with a respective Tip of said second set of conductors and each of said Ring elements interconnecting a respective Ring of said first set of conductors with a respective Ring of said second set of conductors and further wherein each of said Tip elements lie in a first plane and each of said Ring elements lie in a second plane displaced from said first plane.

25. The interconnection of Claim 24, wherein for each pair of elements, said Tip element is arranged opposite said Ring element as a reverse mirror image.

26. The interconnection of Claim 21, wherein each pair of the pairs of conductors comprises a Ring and a Tip, wherein each pair of elements is comprised of a Tip element and a Ring element, each of said Tip elements interconnecting a respective Tip of said first set of conductors with a respective

Tip of said second set of conductors and each of said Ring elements interconnecting a respective Ring of said first set of conductors with a respective Ring of said second set of conductors.

27. The interconnection of Claim 26, wherein said first capacitive coupling is between said Ring element of said first pair of elements and said Tip element of said second pair of elements, said second capacitive coupling is between said Ring element of said second pair of elements and said Tip element of said first pair of elements, said third capacitive coupling is between said Tip element of said first pair of elements and said Tip element of said second pair of elements, and said fourth capacitive coupling is between said Ring element of said first pair of elements and said Ring element of said second pair of elements.

28. A method of interconnecting first and second conductors of a first twisted pair of conductors respectively with first and second conductors of a second twisted pair of conductors and first and second conductors of a third twisted pair of conductors respectively with first and second conductors of a fourth twisted pair of conductors, the second conductor of the first pair of conductors coupled by a first parasitic capacitance to the first conductor of the third pair of conductors and the first conductor of the second pair of conductors coupled by a second parasitic capacitance to the second conductor of the fourth pair of conductors, wherein the first and second parasitic capacitances are substantially the same, the method comprising:

providing first and second interconnecting elements, each of said elements comprising a first IDC at a first end thereof and a second IDC at a second end thereof;

providing a first capacitor having a capacitive value substantially the same as the parasitic capacitances;

coupling said first and second elements with said first capacitor;

inserting the first conductor of the first pair of conductors in said first IDC of said first element, inserting the first conductor of the second

pair of conductors in said second IDC of said first element, inserting the first conductor of the third pair of conductors in said first IDC of said second element, and inserting the first conductor of the fourth pair of conductors in said second IDC of said second element;

providing third and fourth interconnecting elements, each of said elements comprising a first IDC at a first end thereof and a second IDC at a second end thereof;

providing a second capacitor having a capacitive value substantially the same as the parasitic capacitances;

coupling said third and fourth elements with said second capacitor;

inserting the second conductor of the first pair of conductors in said first IDC of said third element, inserting the second conductor of the second pair of conductors in said second IDC of said third element, inserting the second conductor of the third pair of conductors in said first IDC of said fourth element, and inserting the second conductor of the fourth pair of conductors in said second IDC of said fourth element.

29. The method of Claim 28, wherein said first and second elements are Tip elements and wherein said third and fourth elements are Ring elements.

30. The method of Claim 28, wherein said first capacitor providing act comprises positioning said first and second elements relative to one another such that an outer edge of said first element acts as a first electrode of said first capacitor, an outer edge of said second element acts as a second electrode of said first capacitor and air in between said first element outer edge and said second element outer edge acts as a dielectric of said first capacitor.

31. The method of Claim 28, wherein said second capacitor providing act comprises positioning said third and fourth elements relative to one another

such that an outer edge of said third element acts as a first electrode of said second capacitor, an outer edge of said fourth element acts as a second electrode of said second capacitor and air in between said third element outer edge and said fourth element outer edge acts as a dielectric of said second capacitor.

32. The method of Claim 28, wherein each of the first conductors is a Tip conductor and each of the second conductors is a Ring conductor.

33. An interconnector for interconnecting first and second conductors of a first pair of conductors with first and second conductors of a second pair of conductors and first and second conductors of a third twisted pair of conductors with first and second conductors of a fourth twisted pair of conductors, the second conductor of the first pair of conductors coupled by a first parasitic capacitance to the first conductor of the third pair of conductors and the first conductor of the second pair of conductors coupled by a second parasitic capacitance to the second conductor of the fourth pair of conductors, wherein the first and second parasitic capacitances are substantially the same, the interconnector comprising:

first and second Tip elements, said first Tip element comprising a first IDC at a first end thereof connected to the first conductor of the first pair of conductors and a second IDC at a second end thereof connected to the first conductor of the second pair of conductors and said second Tip element comprising a first IDC at a first end thereof connected to the first conductor of the third pair of conductors and a second IDC at a second end thereof connected to the first conductor of the fourth pair of conductors;

first and second Ring elements, said first Ring element comprising a first IDC at a first end thereof connected to the second conductor of the first pair of conductors and a second IDC at a second end thereof connected to the second conductor of the second pair of conductors and said second Ring element comprising a first IDC

at a first end thereof connected to the second conductor of the third pair of conductors and a second IDC at a second end thereof connected to the second conductor of the fourth pair of conductors; and

first and second capacitors between respectively said first and second Tip elements and said first and second Ring elements;

wherein each of said capacitors is substantially equal to the first and second parasitic capacitances.

34. The interconnector of Claim 33, wherein each of said IDCs is arranged along parallel non-collinear axes.

35. The interconnector of Claim 34, wherein each of said elements comprises an elongate connecting portion between said IDCs, said connecting portion arranged substantially at right angles to said IDCs.

36. The interconnector of Claim 35, wherein each of said elements comprises an elongate connecting portion between said IDCs, said connecting portion arranged substantially at right angles to said IDCs, wherein a substantially flat end of said connecting portion of a first of said Tip elements facing a second of said Tip elements and a substantially flat end of said connecting portion of a said second Tip element facing said first Tip element are arranged opposite one another and in parallel and wherein a substantially flat end of said connecting portion of a first of said Ring elements facing a second of said Ring elements and a substantially flat end of said connecting portion of a said second Ring element facing said first Ring element are arranged opposite one another and in parallel.

37. The interconnector of Claim 33, wherein for each pair of elements, said Tip element is arranged opposite said Ring element as a reverse mirror image.

38. The interconnector of Claim 33, wherein said first capacitive coupling is between said Ring element of said first pair of elements and said Tip element of said second pair of elements, said second capacitive coupling is between said Ring element of said second pair of elements and said Tip element of said first pair of elements, said third capacitive coupling is between said Tip element of said first pair of elements and said Tip element of said second pair of elements, and said fourth capacitive coupling is between said Ring element of said first pair of elements and said Ring element of said second pair of elements.

39. The interconnector of Claim 33, wherein an outer edge of said first Tip element forms a first electrode of said first capacitor, an outer edge of said second Tip element forms a second electrode of said first capacitor and air in between said first Tip element outer edge and said second Tip element outer edge forms a dielectric of said first capacitor.

40. The interconnector of Claim 33, wherein an outer edge of said first Ring element forms a first electrode of said second capacitor, an outer edge of said second Ring element forms a second electrode of said second capacitor and air in between said first Ring element outer edge and said second Ring element outer edge forms a dielectric of said second capacitor.

41. The interconnector of Claim 33, wherein each of the first conductors is a Tip and each of the second conductors is a Ring.

42. An interconnection panel for interconnecting a first plurality of cables with a second plurality of cables, each of said cables comprising at least two pairs of conductors, the panel comprising:

a plurality of interconnectors arranged in a row, each of said interconnectors adapted to interconnect a respective cable of the first plurality of cables with a respective cable of the second plurality of cables, each of said interconnectors comprising:

a non conductive housing comprising a first outer surface and a second outer surface; and

at least two pairs of like conducting elements, each element of each of said pairs comprising an elongate terminal at opposite first and second ends thereof, said terminals generally parallel and non-collinear, said terminals at said first ends for receiving a respective one of the conductors of the respective one of the first plurality of cables and said terminals at said second ends for receiving a respective one of the conductors of the respective one of the second plurality of cables;

wherein said elements of a first of said pairs lie on either side of a first plane arranged opposite one another as a reverse mirror image, wherein said elements of a second of said pairs lie on either side of a second plane arranged opposite one another as a reverse mirror image and wherein said first plane intersects said second plane at right angles along a first line of intersection which is parallel to said elongate terminals;

wherein at least a portion of each of said terminals at said first element ends are exposed on said first surface and at least a portion of each of said terminals at said second element ends are exposed on said second surface.

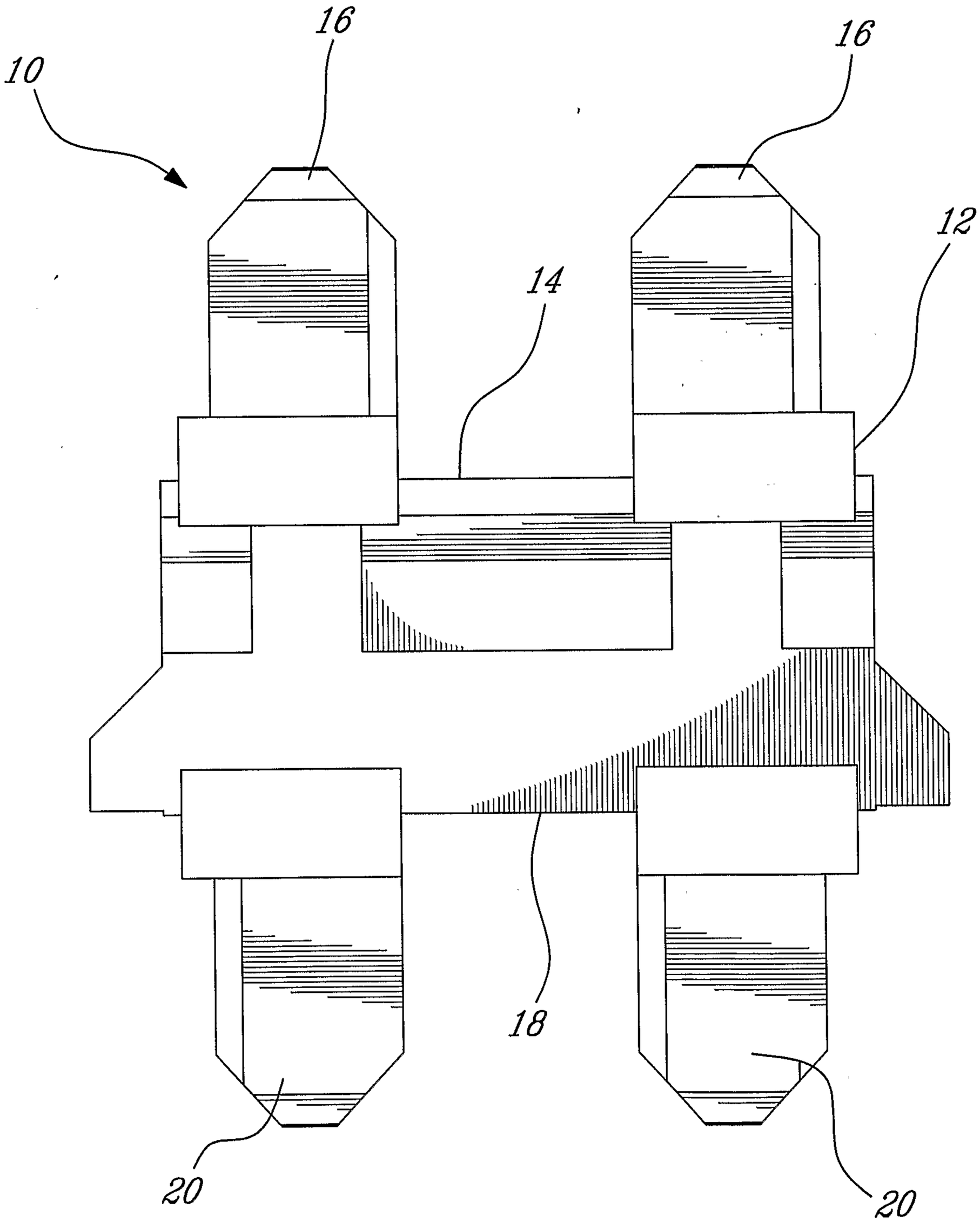


FIG. 1

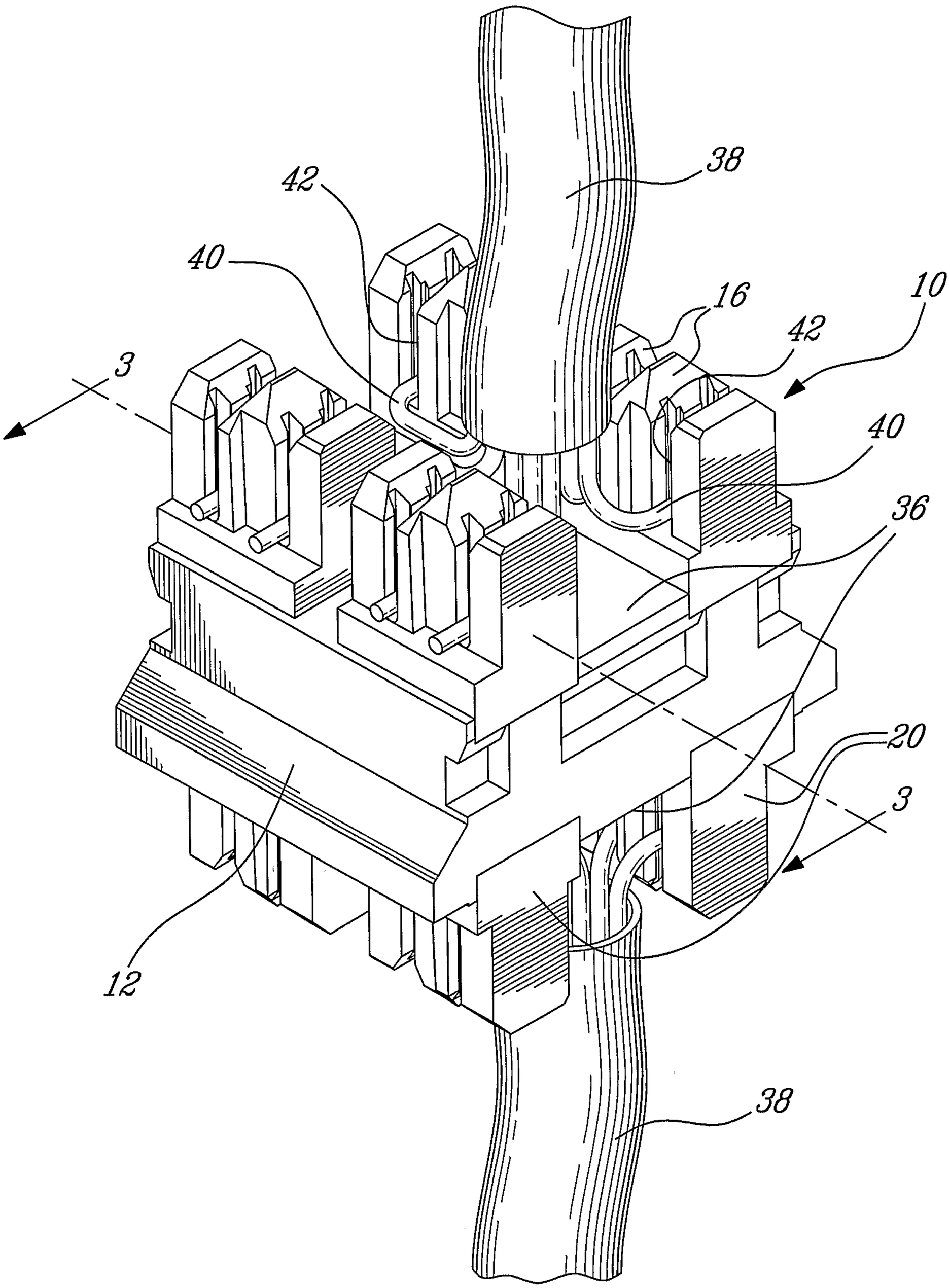


Fig-2

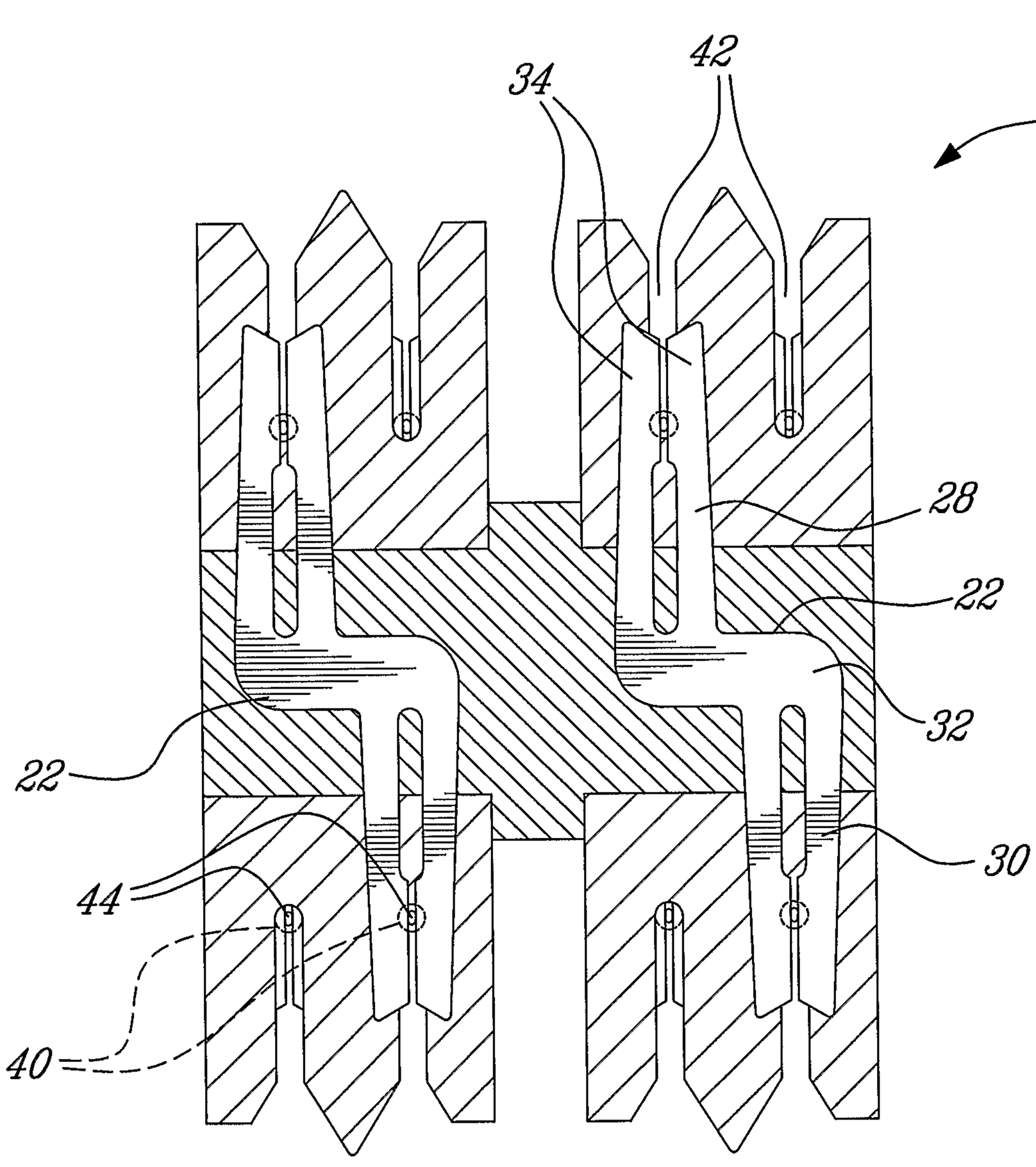


Fig. 3

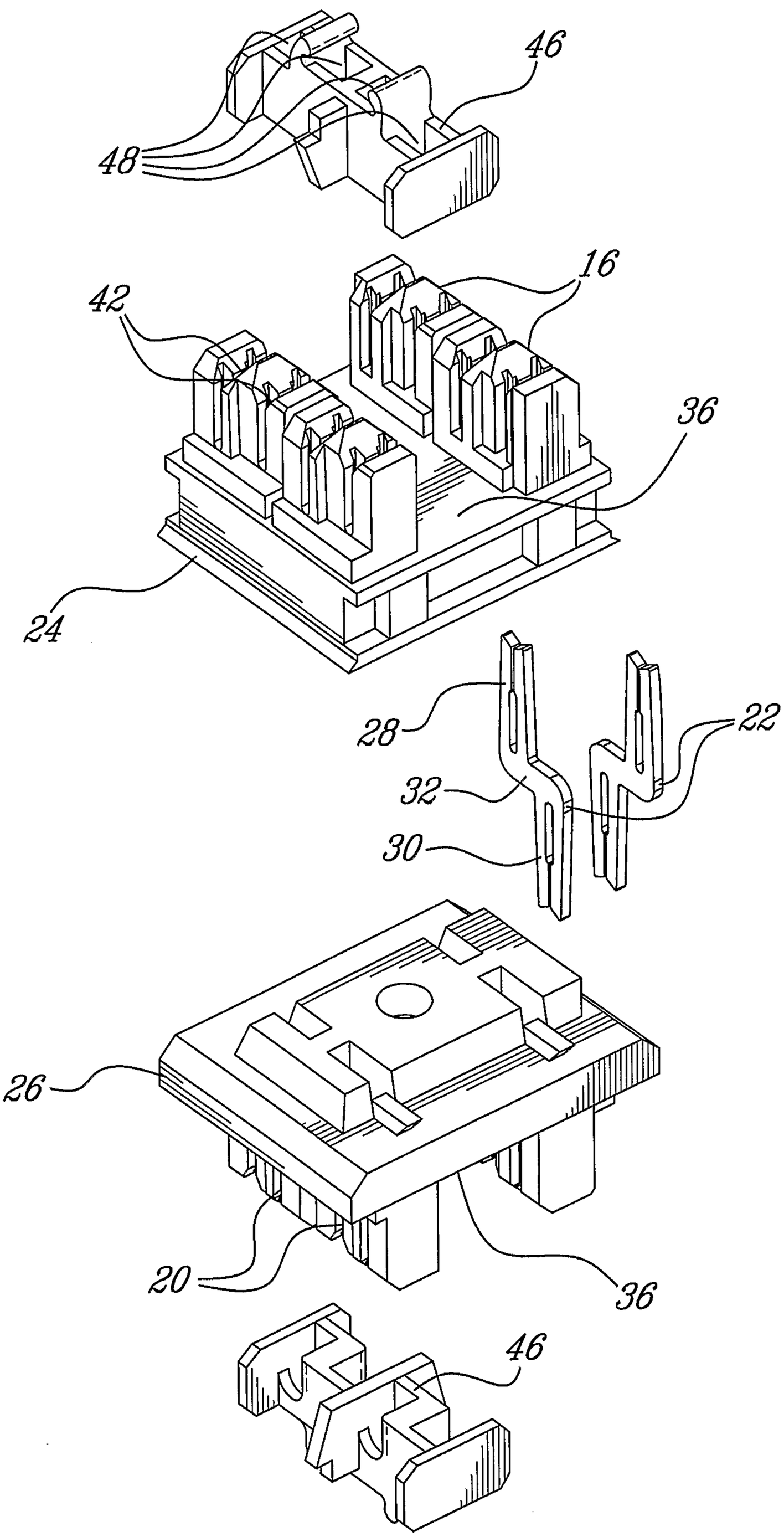


Fig-4

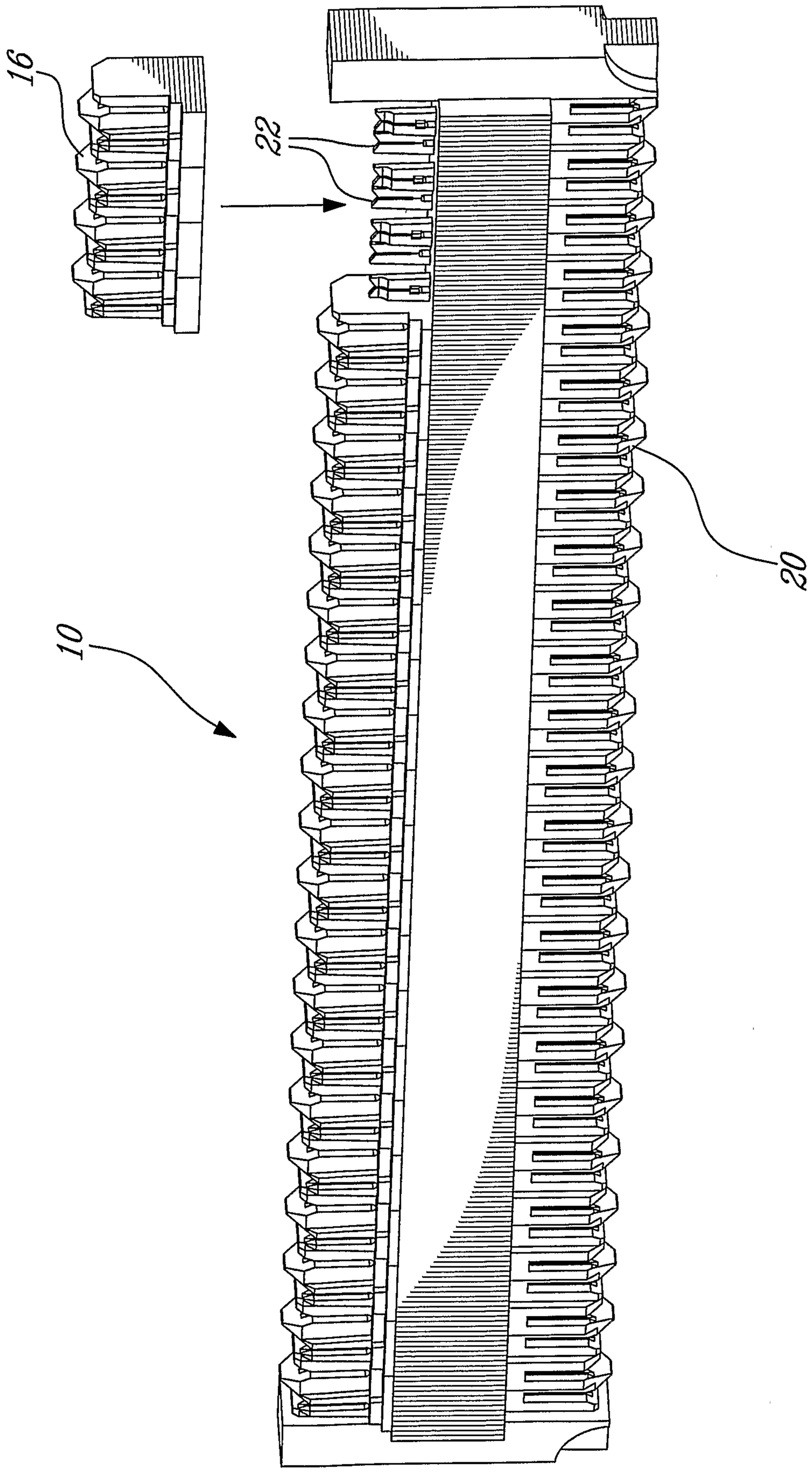
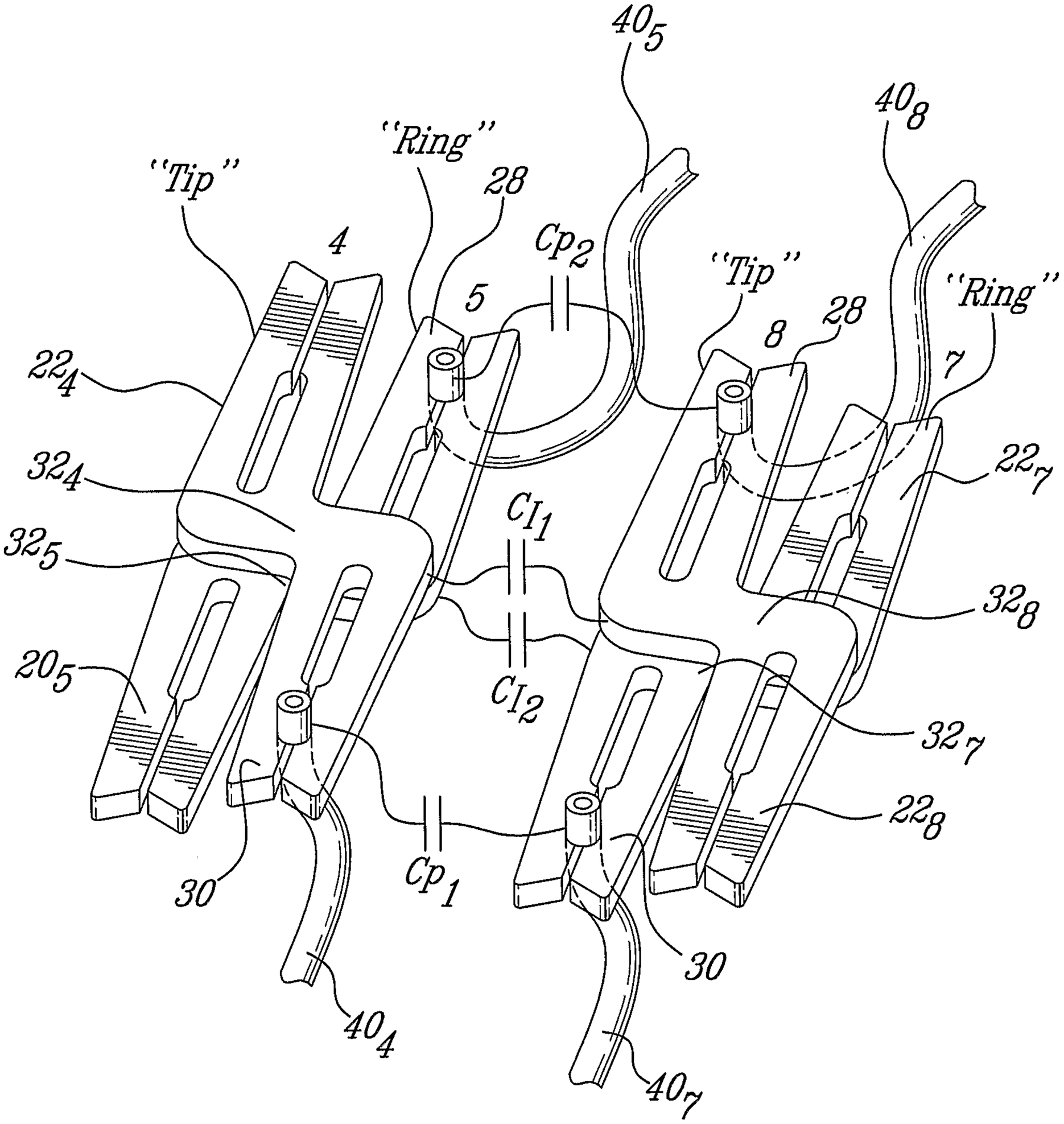


Fig-5


"Tip"
"Ring"
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4
5
Cp_2
"Tip"
8
28
"Ring"
7
22_4
32_4
32_5
20_5
C_{I_1}
C_{I_2}
22_7
32_8
32_7
22_8
30
Cp_1
30
40_4
40_7

Fig. 6

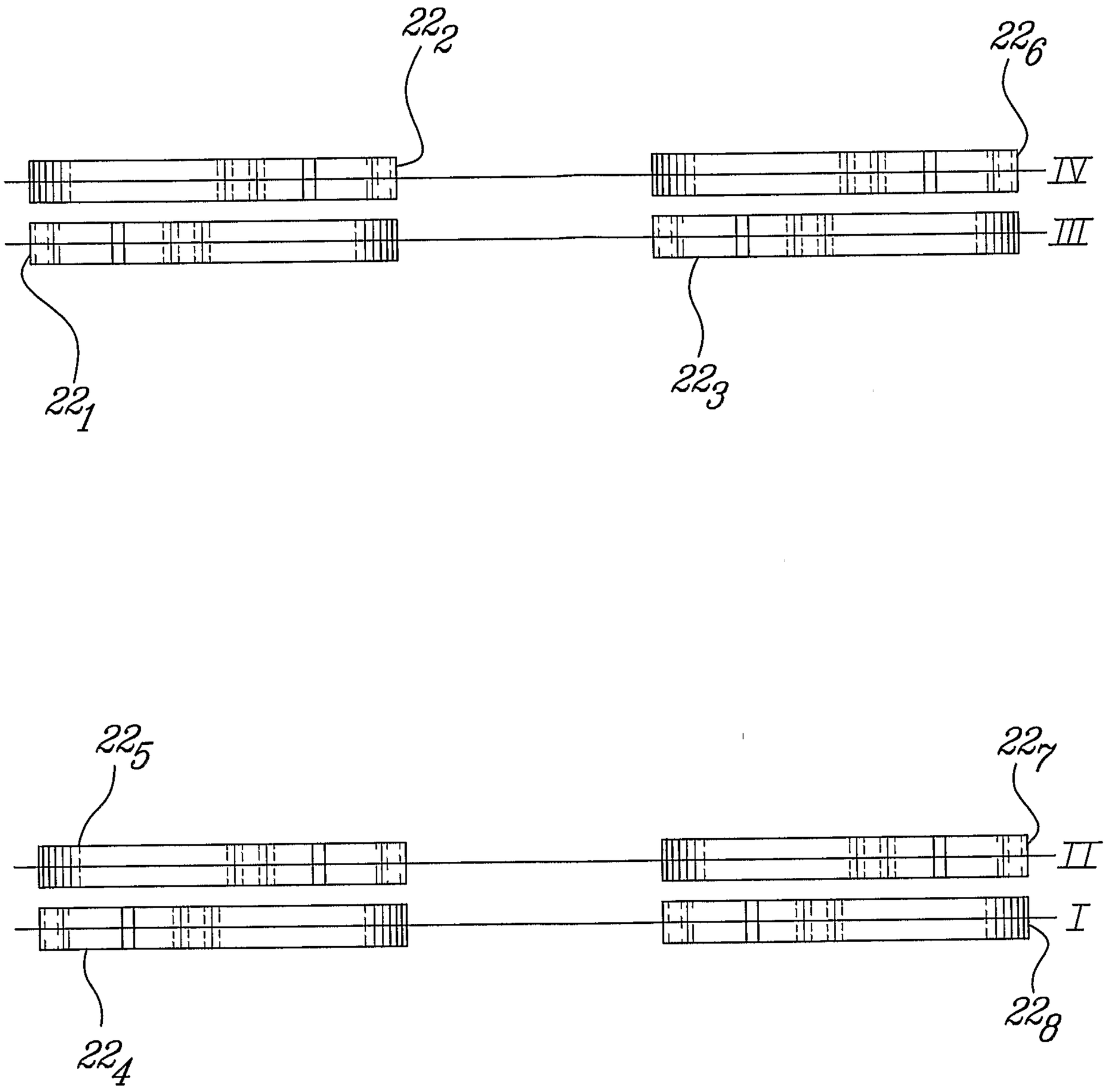


Fig. 7

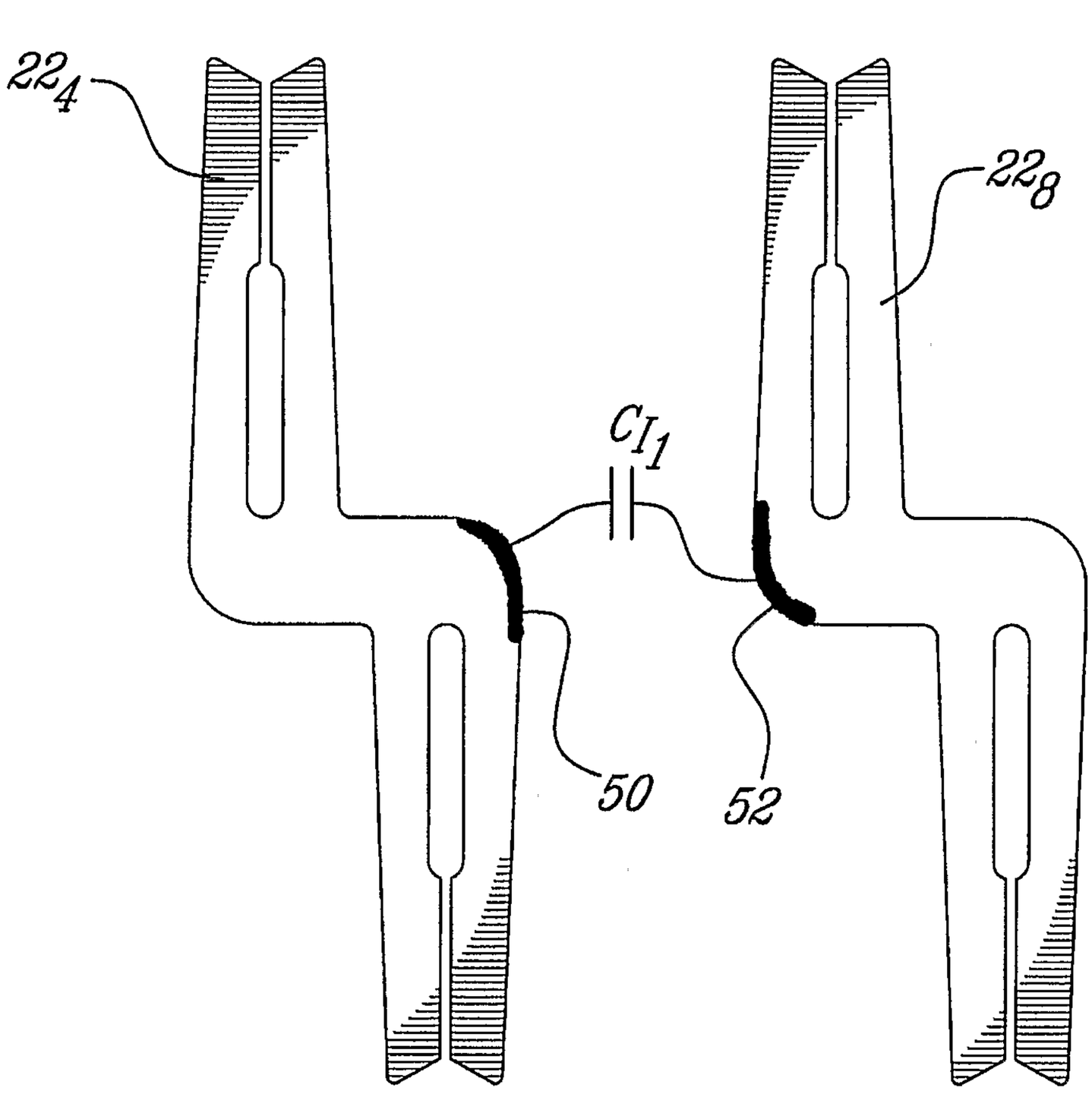


Fig. 8

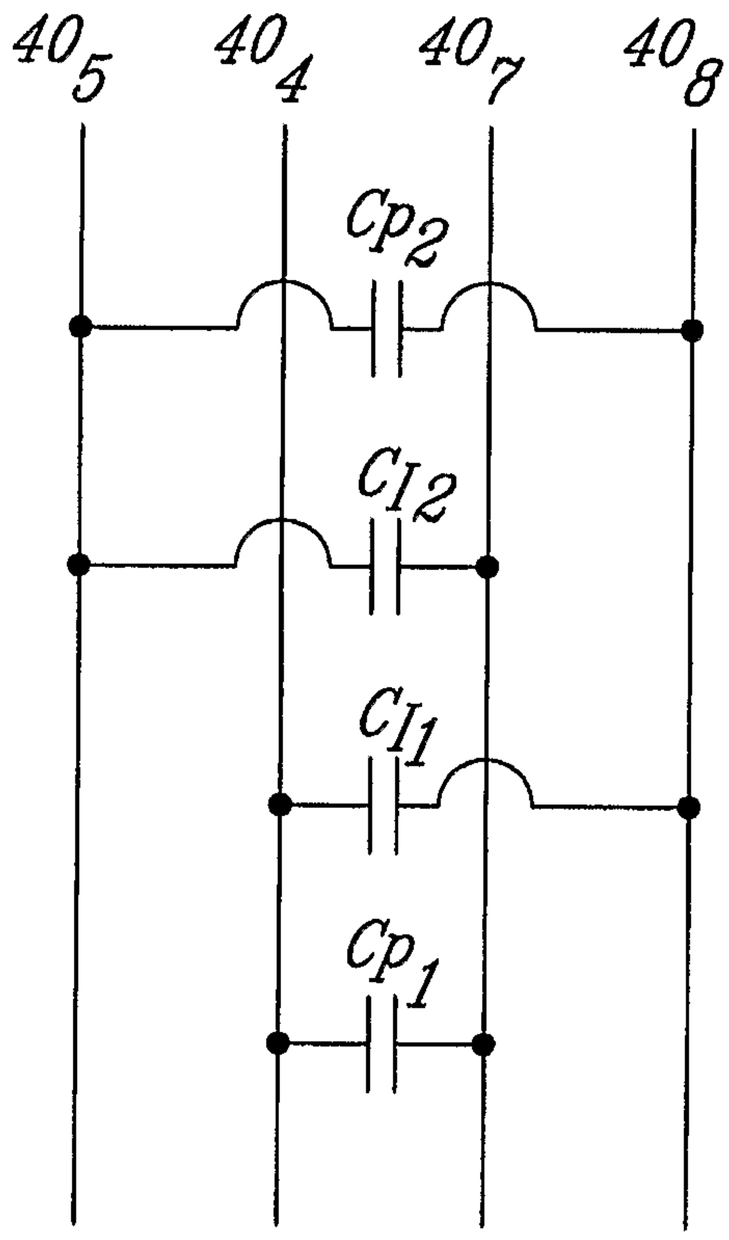


Fig. 9

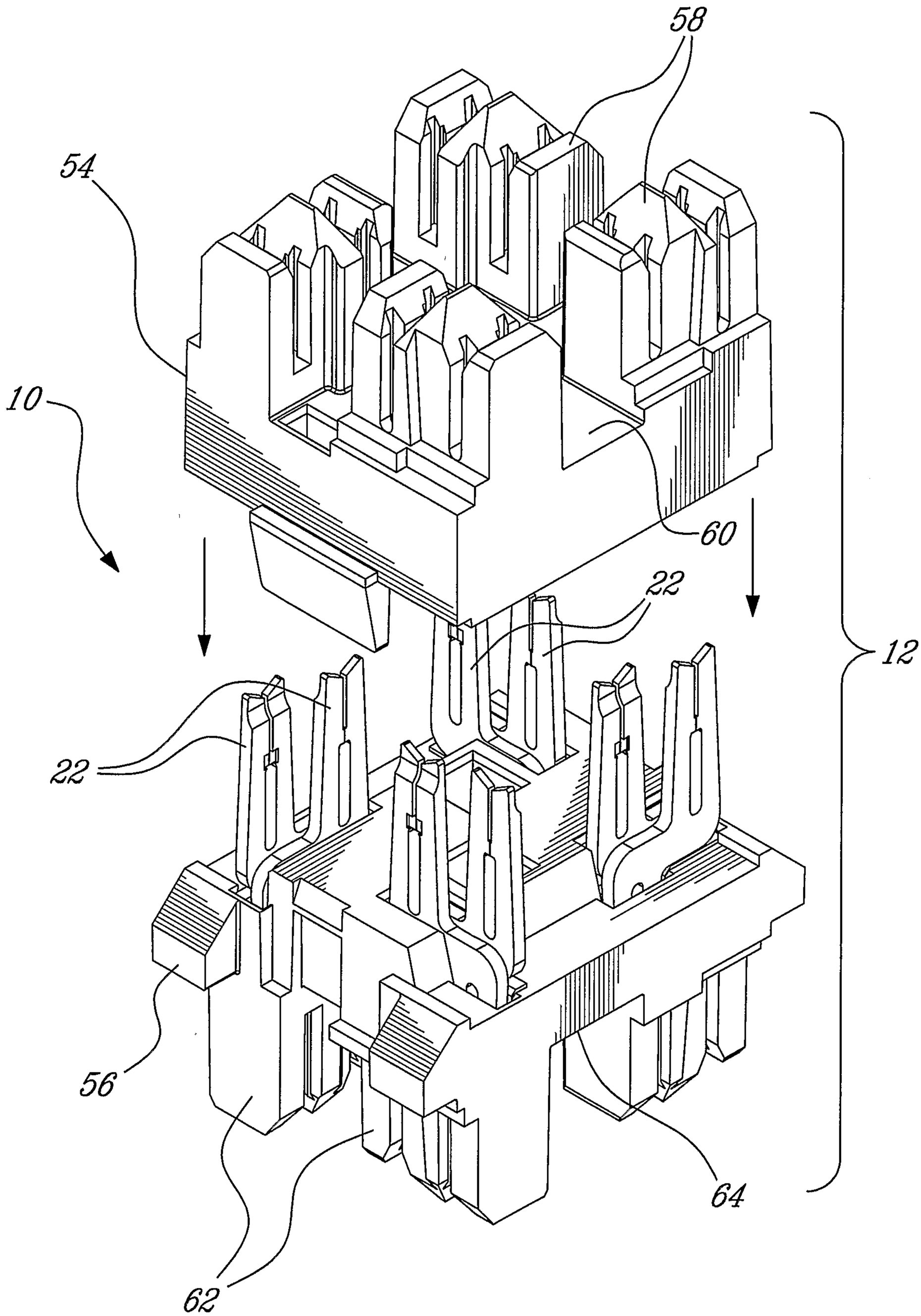


Fig. 10

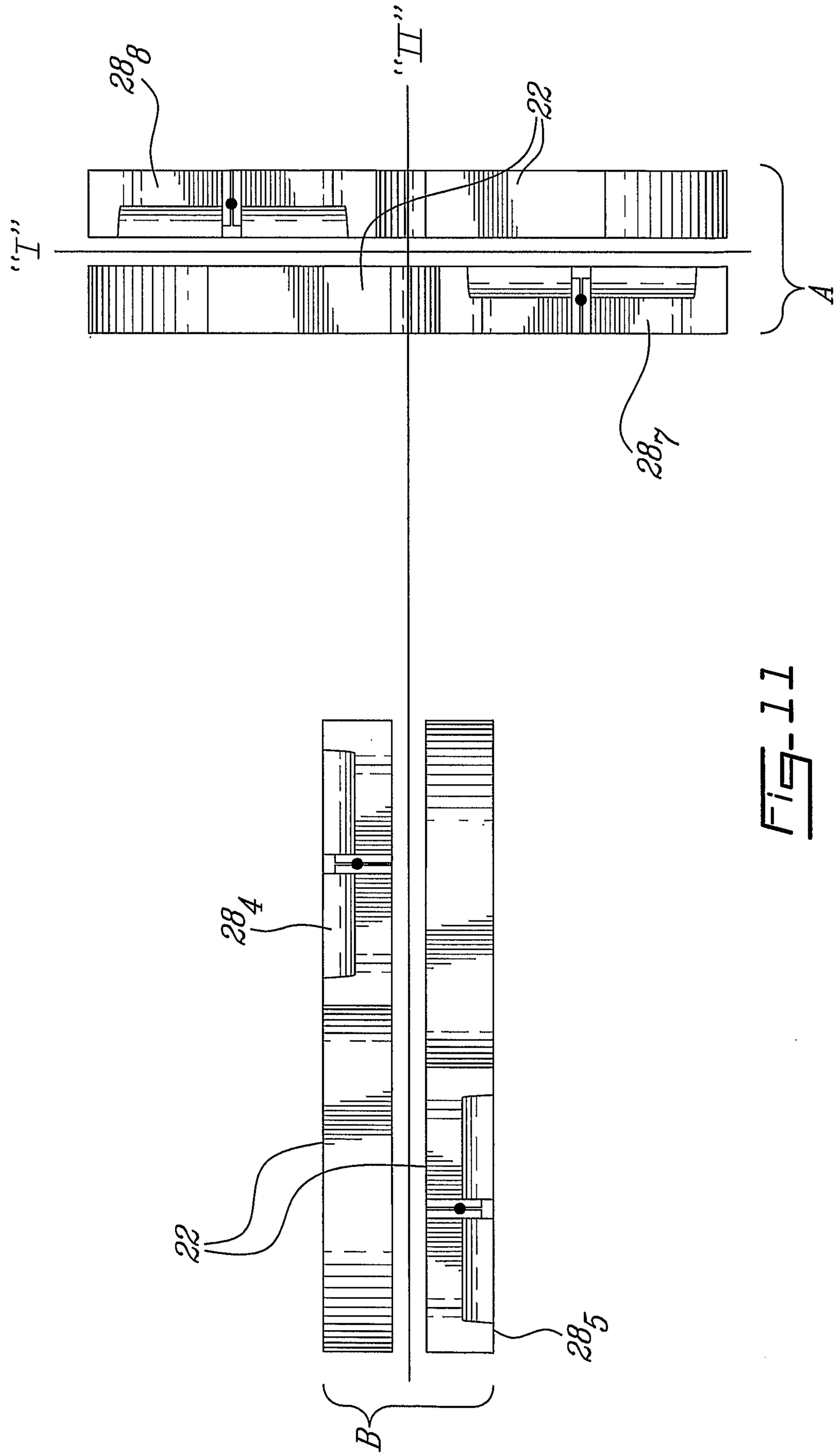
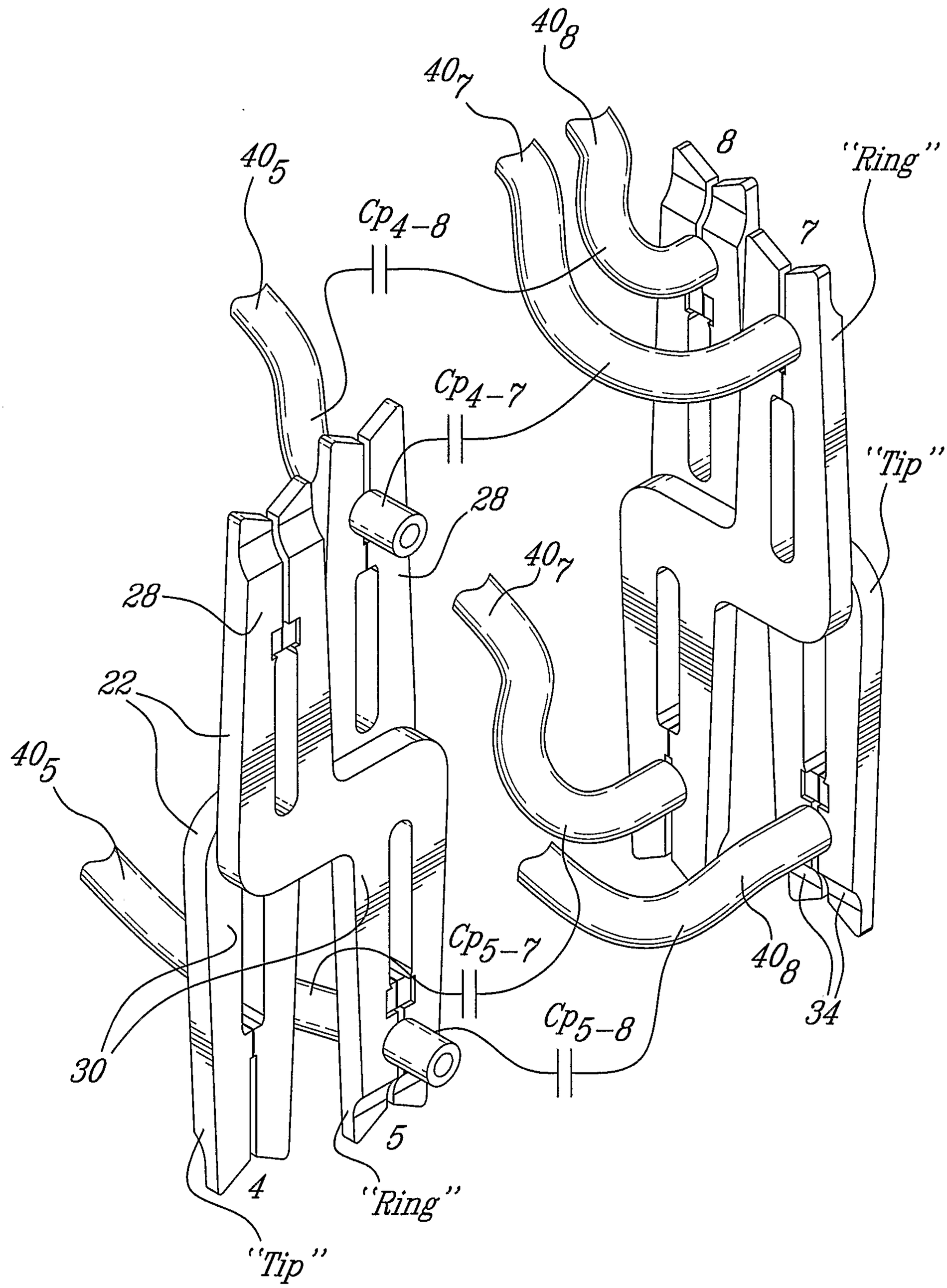


Fig-11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40₇
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40₅
Cp₄₋₈
7
Cp₄₋₇
"Tip"
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40₇
28
22
40₅
Cp₅₋₇
40₈
34
Cp₅₋₈
30
5
4
"Ring"
"Tip"

Fig. 12a

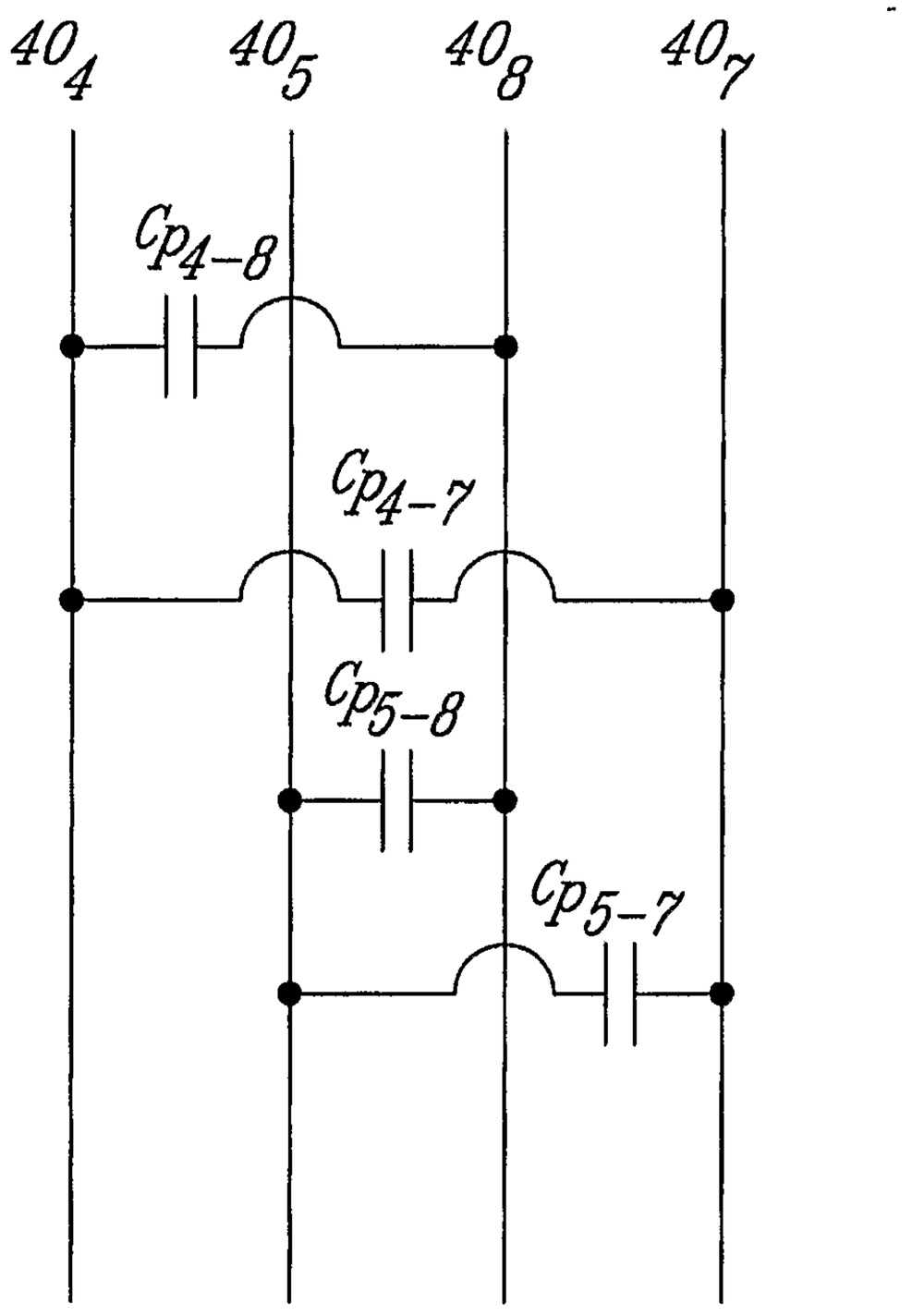
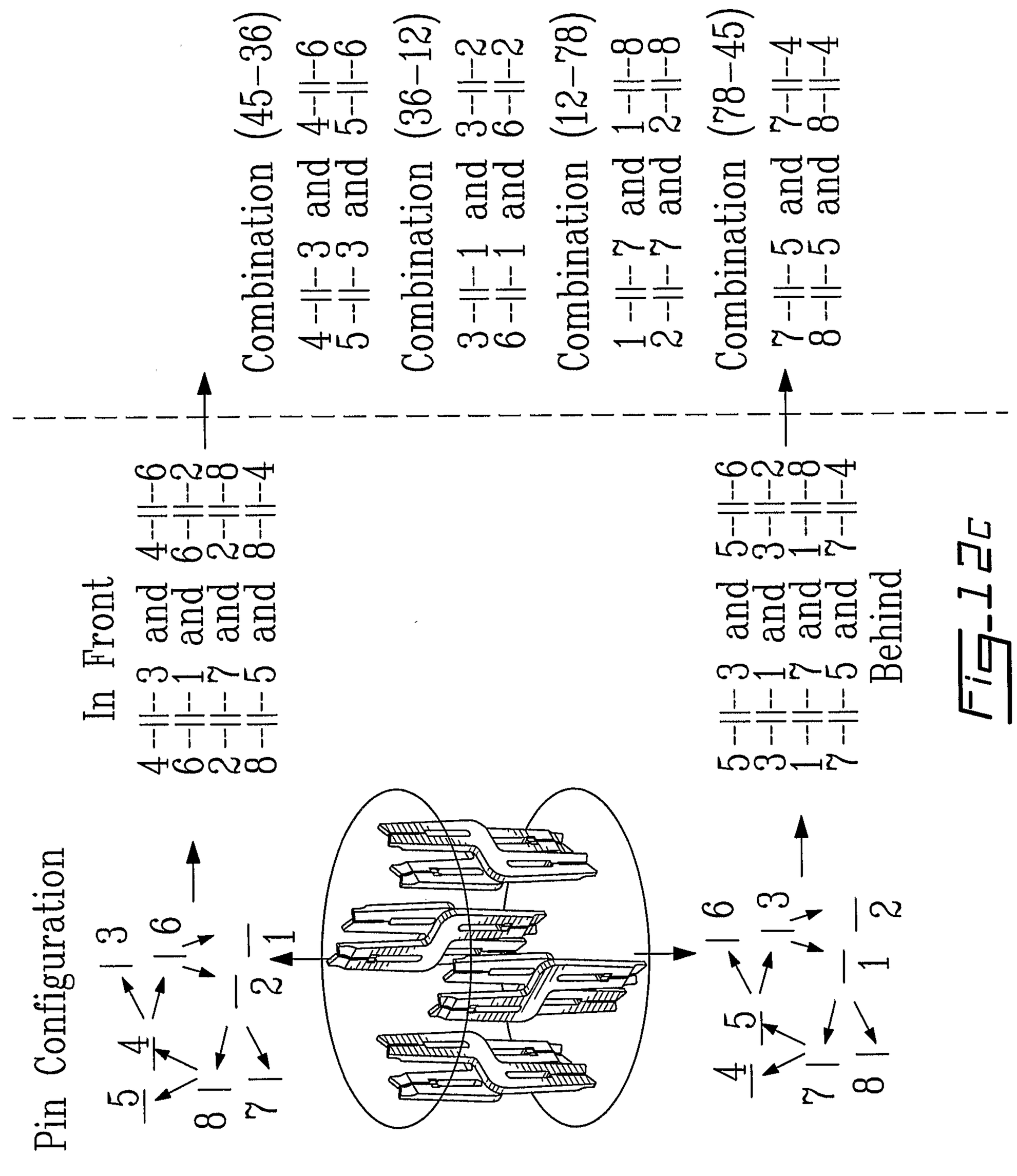


Fig_12b


(45–36)
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5--||--6
(36–12)
3--||--2
6--||--2
(12–78)
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(78–45)
7--||--4
8--||--4
Combination
4--||--3 and
5--||--3 and
Combination
3--||--1 and
6--||--1 and
Combination
1--||--7 and
2--||--7 and
Combination
7--||--5 and
8--||--5 and
In Front
4--||--6
6--||--2
2--||--8
8--||--4
3 and
1 and
7 and
5 and
Behind
5--||--6
3--||--2
1--||--8
7--||--4
3 and
1 and
7 and
5 and
Plan View in Configuration
4
6
2
8
5
3
1
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4
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3
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7
8

Fig-12c

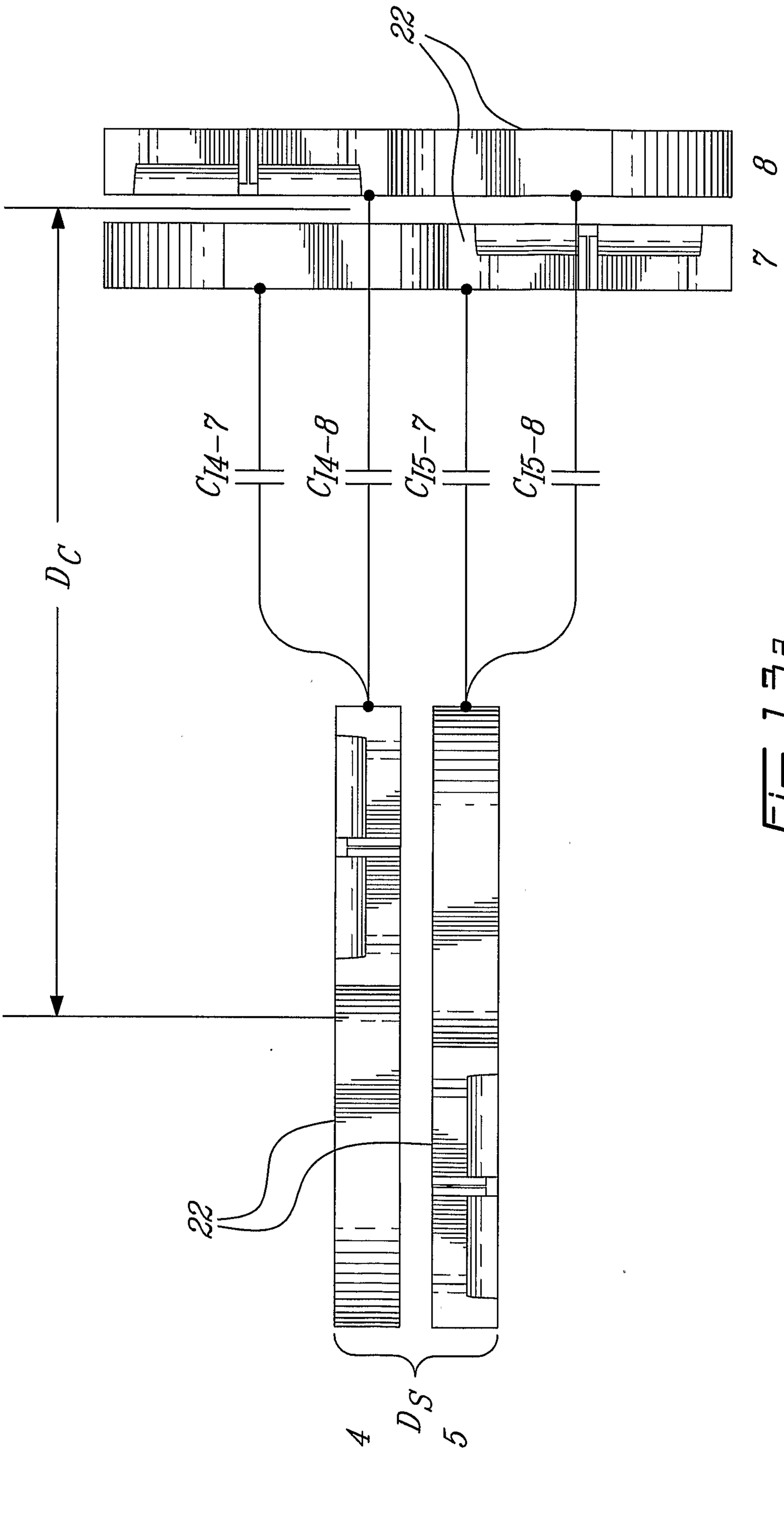


Fig-13a

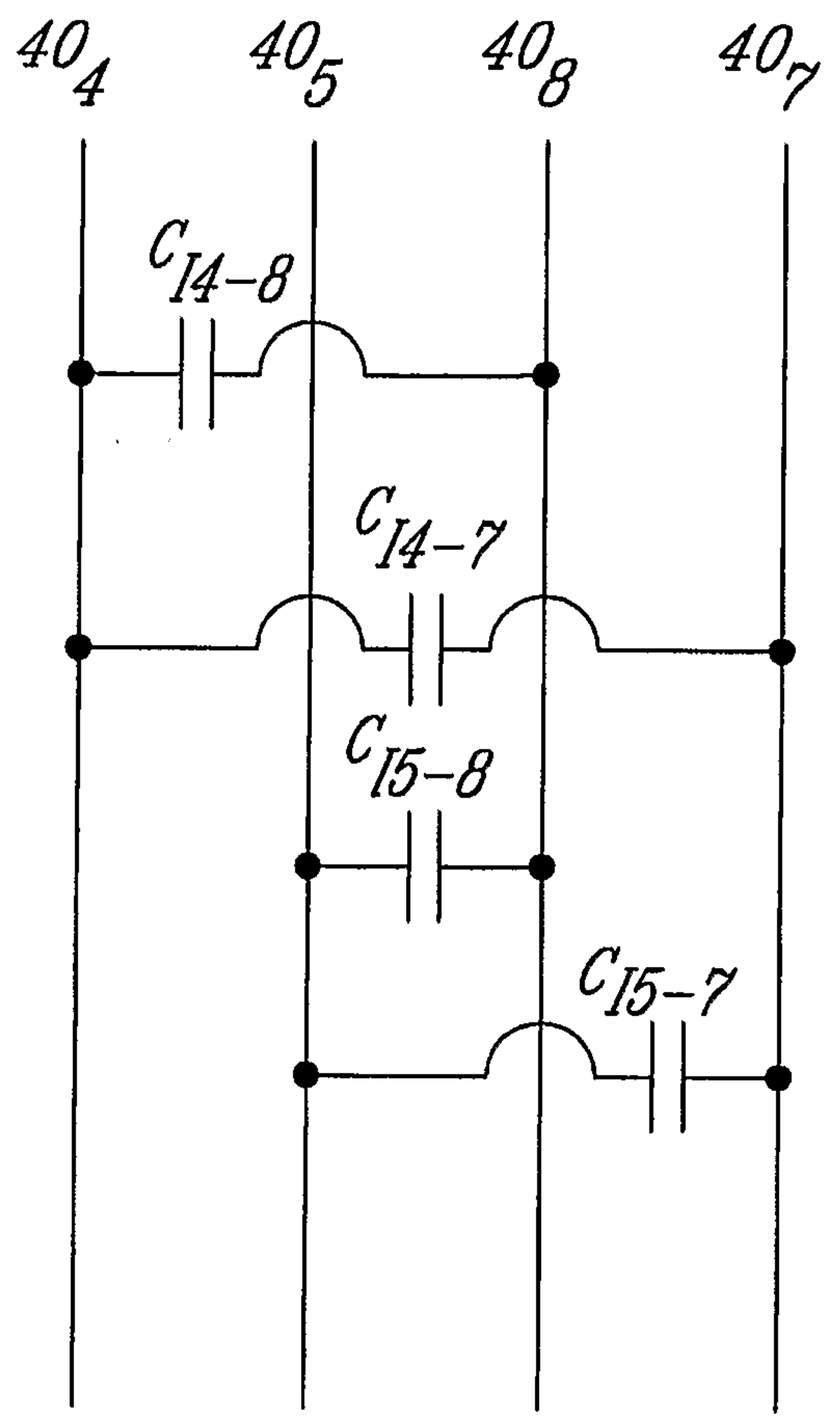


Fig_13b

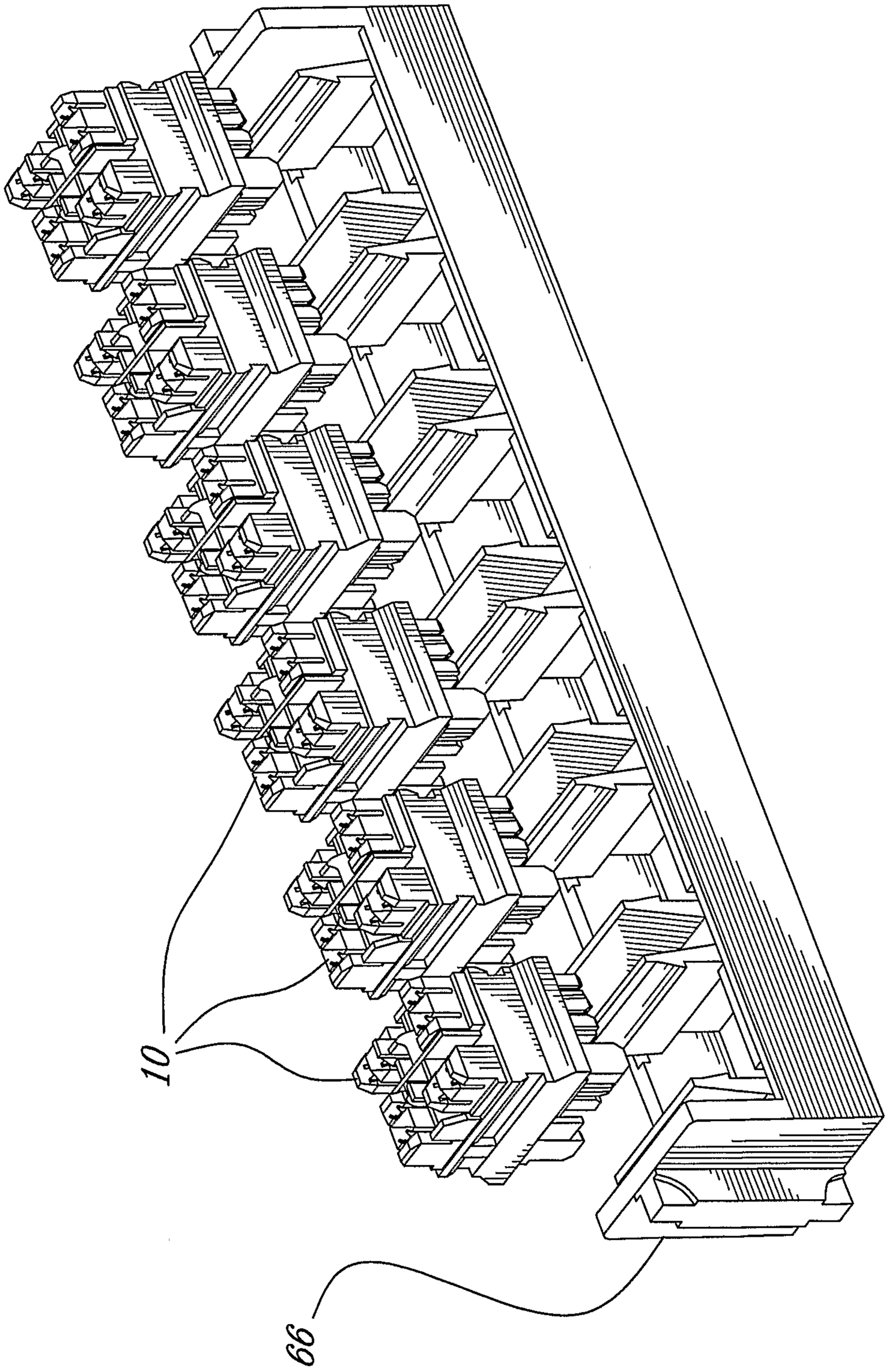


Fig-14a

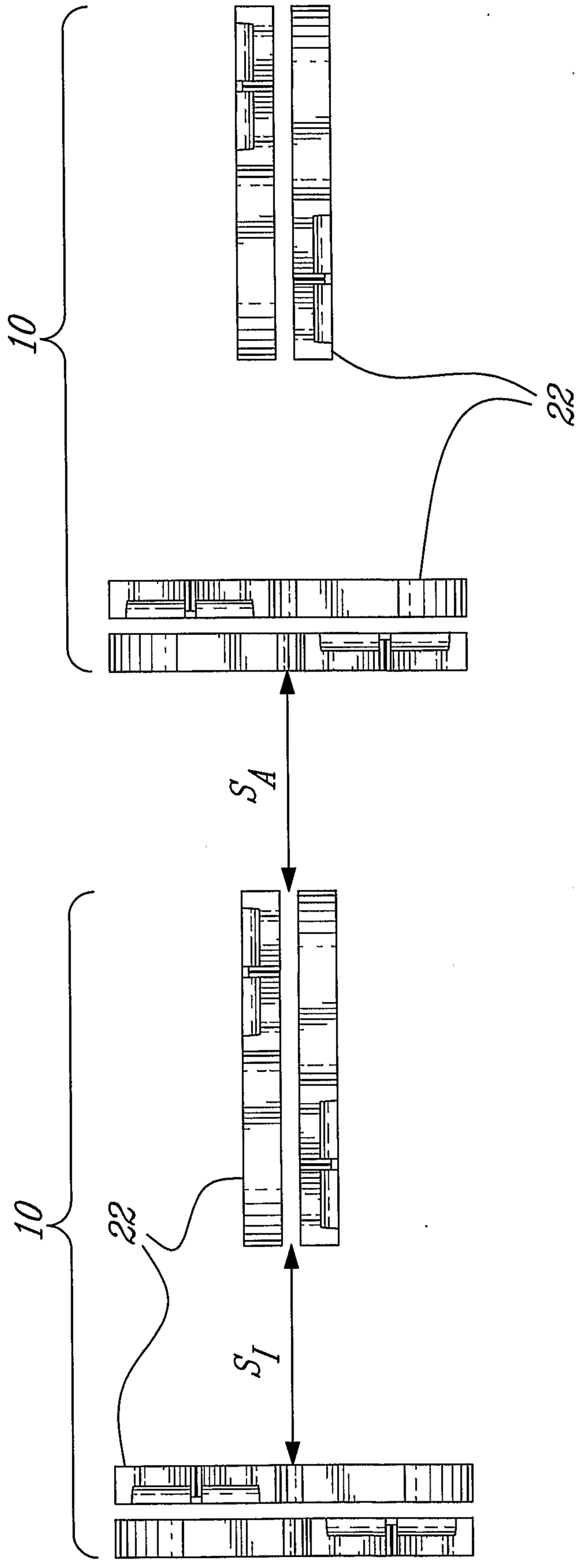
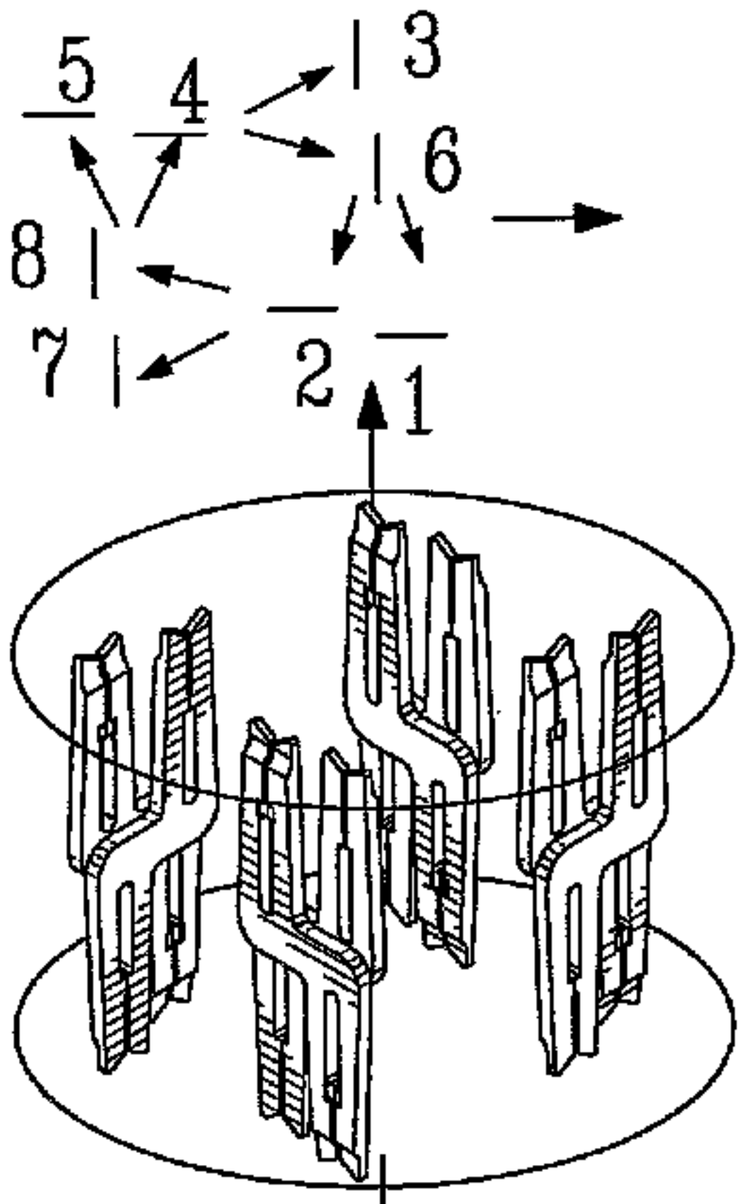


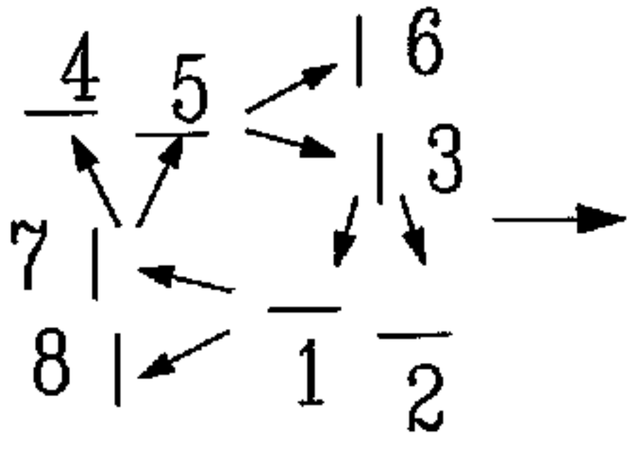
Fig. 14b

Pin Configuration



In Front

4 --||-- 3 and 4 --||-- 6
6 --||-- 1 and 6 --||-- 2
2 --||-- 7 and 2 --||-- 8
8 --||-- 5 and 8 --||-- 4



5 --||-- 3 and 5 --||-- 6
3 --||-- 1 and 3 --||-- 2
1 --||-- 7 and 1 --||-- 8
7 --||-- 5 and 7 --||-- 4

Behind

Combination (45–36)

4 --||-- 3 and 4 --||-- 6
5 --||-- 3 and 5 --||-- 6

Combination (36–12)

3 --||-- 1 and 3 --||-- 2
6 --||-- 1 and 6 --||-- 2

Combination (12–78)

1 --||-- 7 and 1 --||-- 8
2 --||-- 7 and 2 --||-- 8

Combination (78–45)

7 --||-- 5 and 7 --||-- 4
8 --||-- 5 and 8 --||-- 4