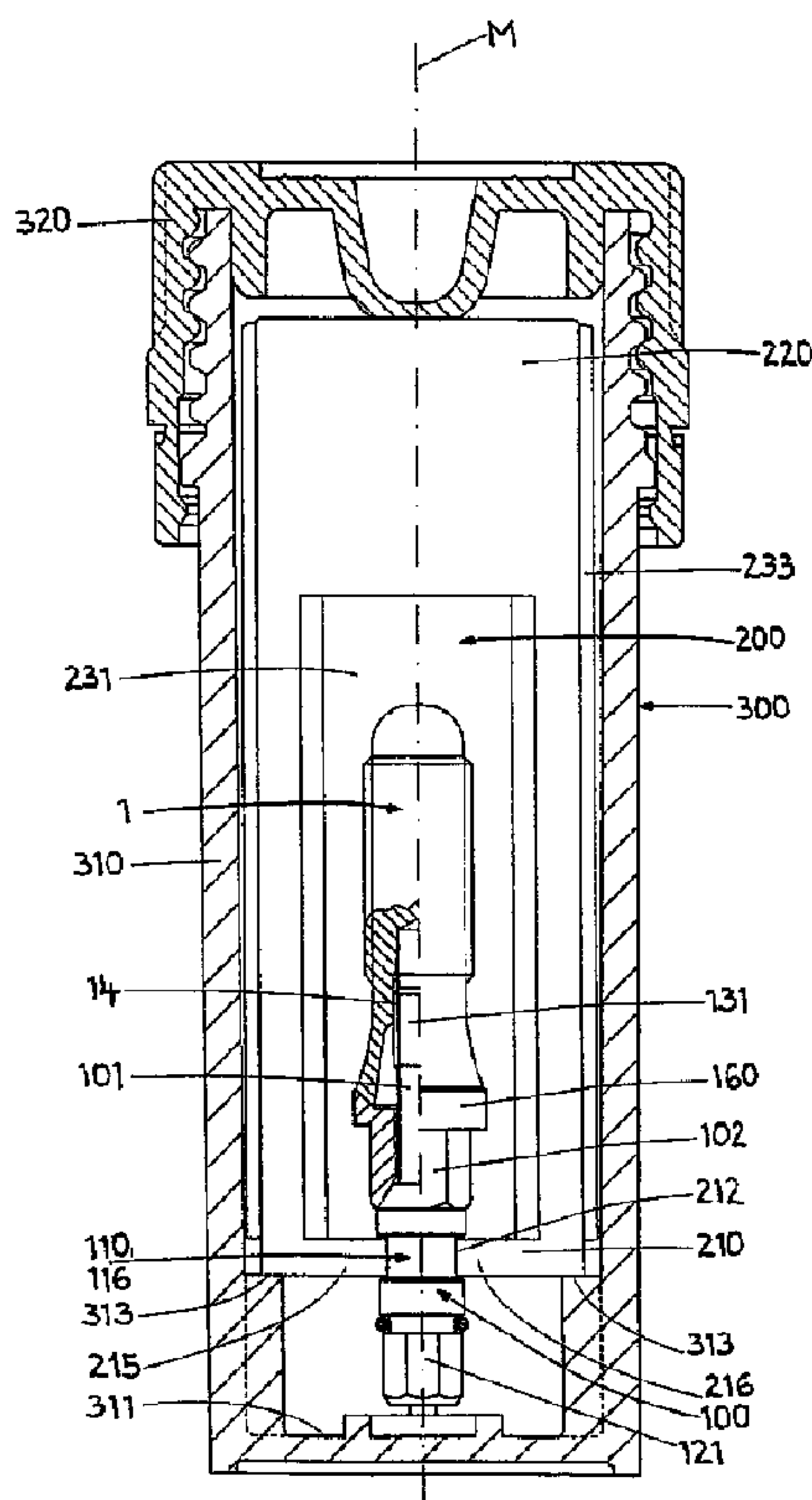




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(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

The proposal is for a holding element (100) which can be screwed into the internally threaded bore (14) of the implant (1) even during production of the latter and can thus be used to grip or hold the implant for the following production phases. Furthermore, the holding element (100) serves to fix an implant (1), which is screwed thereto, inside an ampoule (200) and for the application of a screwing-in tool for implantation. The particular feature of the ampoule (200) lies in the fact that it has a large-area, lateral cutout (231) in the casing and also a fixing part (210) for accommodating the holding element (100) in a clamped manner. The implant (1) can thus be pulled laterally out of the ampoule (200). The devices facilitate handling of the implant (1) during production and insertion into the bone.

Abstract

The proposal is for a holding element (100) which can be screwed into the inter-
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into the bone.

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(Fig. 5)

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Holding element for an implant and ampoule for storing the implant

Application area of the invention

The present invention relates to a holding element for an implant, primarily in
5 screw or cylinder form. A first type of implant which may be considered has a
bore which at least in principle emerges axially on the implant head and has an
internally threaded section. The mouth of the bore is surrounded by an implant
shoulder, which forms the upper end of the implant. The second type of implant
10 which is suitable has a segment which projects above the implant shoulder and
has an internally threaded section. The segment has a predominantly polygonal
or conical outer contour. Such implants are used, for example, in the dental
sector or in bone surgery. The implant is intended to be inserted - i.e. screwed
or pressed - into a receiving bore which has been prepared in the bone. This
15 depends on whether the receiving bore has an internal screw thread or the
implant has a self-tapping thread or the implant has no thread at all.
Furthermore, the invention relates to an ampoule in which the implant is stored.

The holding element can be employed during a number of production phases of
the implants in order to prepare them prior to the surgical intervention, and can
20 also be employed directly during implantation. The primary application area of
the invention is where the implants, for example for reasons of the sterile opera-
ting procedure required, must not be taken hold of at least directly with the
hands, and where it is important to hold the implants secure.

25 The holding element can also be used inside a special ampoule which serves to
transport and store the implant. During the surgical intervention, the implant can
be removed from the ampoule under sterile conditions using an attached tool
and then, by means of this tool, can be inserted into the receiving bore in the
bone. To ensure a sterile operating procedure, the ampoule is stored in a
30 secondary capsule until the start of the intervention.

Prior Art

The first type of implant mentioned is described, for example, in the monograph by SCHROEDER/SUTTER/BUSER/KREKELER: Oral Implantology, Georg Thieme Verlag Stuttgart and New York, 2nd Edn., 1996, pp 124-143, and in
5 WO-A-96 19947. The second type of implant, having the outer segment which projects above the implant shoulder, is shown, for example, in WO-A-91 10410 and US-A-5,538,428. Various manipulation members are used for handling these implants, the implants being taken hold of in a positively and/or non-positively locking manner.

10

The following situation exists with regard to ampoules where sterile conditions are to be maintained: in principle, the ampoules can also be divided into two types. In a first type, the implant stored in the ampoule is connected to the cover, which directly or indirectly functions at the same time as a screwing-in tool and
15 is used at least to some extent to screw in the implant. According to US-A-4,856,648, in its most simple form the cover has an extension with a non-rotationally symmetrical engagement contour which interacts with a complementary contour on the implant head. It is known from US-A-5, 312,254 and US-A-5,538,428 to introduce a connecting element between the cover and the
20 implant, which connecting element transmits the rotational screwing movement. US-A-5,062,800 has disclosed an ampoule where the cover represents the connecting element for the screwing-in tool. These ampoules are to some extent very expensive, as the tool components are generally only used once. Furthermore, handling these ampoules often requires a relatively large number
25 of operations, and in addition external screwing-in tools are also required. Finally, it is doubtful whether the implants are gripped sufficiently reliably by the screw covers or the connecting elements.

In the case of the second type, the implant arranged in the ampoule has to be
30 taken hold of and screwed in using an external tool. The present invention

relates to this type of ampoule. EP-B-0 231 730 discloses a simple variant where the implant is positioned in a sleeve and the implant head projects above and closes off one end of the sleeve. The sleeve is fused into a glass ampoule, which has constrictions and an internal spring. The implant head is supported
5 against the spring, and the sleeve is fixed inside the constrictions, one constriction at least partially closing off the bottom of the sleeve. Suitable external tools are used to grip the implant, while on the ampoule itself there are no means whatsoever which facilitate and make more reliable the removal of the implant from the ampoule and transportation to the site of implantation.

10

Such a type of ampoule with sterile conditions is also disclosed by SCHROEDER/SUTTER/BUSER/KREKELER, loc. cit., pp. 219-221. The capsule-like ampoule has a removable cover and a partition which extends perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, close to the cover. In this partition, there
15 is an axial passage in which a bearing ring rests, in which the head of the implant is positioned, while the apical part of the implant projects into the ampoule. In order to take hold of the implant, a lockable screwing-in tool is attached, the threaded mandrel of which is screwed into the axial threaded bore, which is in the form of a blind bore and is present in the implant head.
20 Having been screwed onto the screwing-in tool, the implant is then removed from the ampoule. The implant is then positioned in the hole in the bone, spanners being attached to the screwing-in tool. Finally, the lock between the implant and the screwing-in tool has to be released again, so that the screwing-in tool can be unscrewed. This handling method requires numerous operations,
25 a plurality of instruments and particular care and skill on the part of the surgeon. The instruments attached while the implants are being introduced into the bone are unsuitable as manipulating members during the overall production process of the implants; separate holders have to be used for this purpose.

Object of the invention

In view of the abovementioned drawbacks of the devices which have been used to date to grip and hold implants of the two types mentioned above, the problem underlying the invention is that of perfecting such devices. It is desired
5 to make the connection between the implant and the holding element more efficient in production terms, more widely usable, reliable and also, ultimately, able to be released without problems. In the preparatory phase of the surgical intervention and also during the intervention, it is necessary to ensure that the implants used can always be guided reliably, can in no way become loose and
10 uncontrollable and that the sterility requirements are fulfilled. The holding element should significantly facilitate removal of the implant from the ampoule using the attached screwing-in tool and insertion of the implant into the bone. With regard to the ampoule, the object is to develop it further in such a manner that the implant is held reliably therein and can be removed in an
15 uncomplicated manner and under sterile conditions using a screwing-in tool which is simple to attach. If the implant is removed from the ampoule correctly, it is intended that the risk of contact between implant and ampoule should in principle be ruled out, so as to avoid contamination or damage to the intra-ossal implant surface. It is to be envisaged that the ampoule can be inserted into a
20 conventional external capsule for storage and transportation. Moreover, it should be possible to produce the ampoule as a disposable item in a material-saving and, overall, cost-effective manner.

Overview of the invention

25 The holding element comprises a sleeve part and a rotatable screw which projects through the sleeve part and can move axially to a limited extent. The sleeve part has, at the bottom, a cylindrical shoulder part which ends with a mating shoulder which is directed downwards and is complementary to the implant shoulder. An upwardly directed external polygon segment extends
30 above the shoulder part. An axial bore allowing the passage of the shaft of the

screw runs through the sleeve part. In an advantageous refinement, the axial bore has an internally threaded section.

The screw comprises the lower screw shank, the adjacent fixing part and the upper extension, preferably with an external polygon. The screw shaft is divided up into the externally threaded part, which is present at the free end, and the attached cylindrical part. Between a first and a second cylindrical collar, the fixing part has an annular groove. If sleeve part and screw have been assembled to form the holding element, then the externally threaded part of the screw shank has firstly been screwed through the internally threaded section so that the externally threaded part projects above the mating shoulder of the sleeve part and the cylindrical part of the screw shaft then lies inside the internally threaded section. Having been assembled in this way, the sleeve part is axially displaceable between externally threaded part and the first collar which faces the latter.

When the holding element has been screwed onto an implant, the mating shoulder of the sleeve part rests in a complementary manner on the implant shoulder and the first collar rests on the external polygon segment. The externally threaded part of the screw shaft engages in the internally threaded bore in the implant head.

The external polygon of the extension of the screw serves primarily to grip the holding element, which is connected to the implant head, by means of a screwing-in tool, in order to remove the implant from the ampoule without direct contact, to transfer it to the site of use and to implant it there. The annular groove on the fixing part of the screw is intended in particular to latch into engagement with a fixing part on the ampoule, in order to retain the implant which is supported by the holding element in a releasable and suspended manner inside an ampoule. The external polygonal segment of the sleeve part is primarily

provided for the attachment of an unscrewing spanner when unlocking the holding element which has been screwed to the implant.

5 If the holding element is attached to the implant head as early as during production of the implant, the holding element offers the option of attaching manipulating members thereto for further processing of the implant. This facilitates handling of the implants even during their production.

10 In the widest ranging application and configuration, the holding element is connected to the implant as early as during the production of the latter, so that the following functions then emerge overall:

- a) gripping and holding of the implant for the following production phases; and
- b) retaining of the implant inside an ampoule; and
- c) attachment of a screwing-in tool for implanting the implant into the bone.

15

If the insertion of the implant into the bone per se has finished, the screwing-in tool used can be pulled off the extension. The sleeve part which is resting fixedly on the implant shoulder is unlocked by means of an unscrewing spanner, and then the screw is screwed out of the internally threaded bore in
20 the implant head, so that the holding element is detached from the implant.

The design features of the ampoule, which in principle is cylindrical, consist in the fact that it is open to the sides and has a fixing part in which the implant is held directly or indirectly. When removing the implant from the ampoule, it is
25 pulled out laterally. In an advantageous version, the fixing part clamps in a holding element which is connected to the implant head, so that the implant is supported by the holding element and does not come into contact with the wall of the ampoule. A screwing-in tool or an adapter for a screwing-in tool can be attached directly to a free extension of the holding element, by means of which
30 screwing-in tool or adapter the implant can be removed from the ampoule

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without contact. The ampoule can be inserted into a conventional external capsule.

The holding element of the invention simplifies handling of the generic implants during production and implantation itself. An implant can be taken hold of on the holding element and manipulating members and screwing-in tools can be attached without problems and released again. In combination with the holding element, the effect is achieved that the ampoule does not have to consist of the same material as the implant or contain a specifically protective insert made of the implant material. The risks of contamination or damage to the implant surface are considerably reduced as a result of the form of the ampoule according to the invention and the nature of suspension of the implant inside the ampoule by means of the holding element. Furthermore, when the ampoule is tipped out of the outer capsule, it quickly comes to a halt on a sterile surface on the operating table and no longer has a tendency to roll off, owing to the centre of gravity lying outside the longitudinal axis. Finally, the ampoule, together with the implant, can be laid down stably, owing to the stand part situated opposite the fixing part, so that attachment of the tools is facilitated.

According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided holding element for an implant which is to be inserted into bone and has an implant head, an implant shoulder present thereon, and an internally threaded bore, which extends at least substantially in the axial direction, in which a) the holding element comprises a sleeve part and a rotatable screw which projects through the sleeve part; b) the sleeve part has, at the bottom, a cylindrical shoulder part which ends with a mating shoulder which is directed downwards and is complementary to the implant shoulder;

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c) an upwardly directed external polygon segment extends above the shoulder part; d) an axial bore allowing the passage of the shaft of the screw runs through the sleeve part; e) an external threaded part of the screw shaft is intended to engage in the internally threaded bore in the implant; f) the screw has an extension, which projects above the sleeve part and has a non-rotationally symmetrical contour, for the attachment of a tool, characterized in that g) the holding element can be screwed to the implant even during the production of the latter and - beginning with the following phases of implant production, up to and including implantation - can be utilized with the said implant; and h) a fixing part is present between the contour and the sleeve part, which fixing part serves for the attachment of a manipulation member in a device for operating and/or transportation and/or storage purposes and/or retention inside an ampoule.

Brief description of the appended drawings

With reference to the appended drawings, there now follows a detailed description of in each case one exemplary embodiment of the holding element according to the invention for the two types of implant and of the ampoule for storing the implant. Finally, possible modifications are mentioned. In the figures:

Figure 1A - shows a sectional illustration of the first type of a generic implant in the form of a solid screw;

Figure 1B - shows a sectional illustration of the first type of a generic implant in the form of a hollow cylinder;

- Figure 1C - shows a sectional illustration of the first type of a generic implant in the form of a hollow cylinder with an angled-off implant head;
- Figure 1D - shows the second type of a generic implant in the form of a solid screw, as a perspective illustration;
- 5 Figure 2A - shows a perspective view of a holding element according to the invention having a sleeve part in a first version for the first type of implants in accordance with Figures 1A to 1C;
- Figure 2B - shows a front view, partially in section, of the holding element in accordance with Figure 2A;
- 10 Figure 2C - shows a perspective view, partially in section, of the holding element in accordance with Figure 2A;
- Figure 3A - shows a perspective view, partially in section, of the holding element in accordance with Figure 2A, connected to an implant in accordance with Figure 1A;
- 15 Figure 3B - shows a perspective view, partially in section, of the holding element having a sleeve part in a second version, connected to the second type of implants in accordance with Figure 1D;
- 20 Figure 4A - shows an ampoule according to the invention, in perspective view onto the outside of the fixing part;
- Figure 4B - shows the ampoule in accordance with Figure 4A, in perspective view onto the inside of the fixing part;
- 25 Figure 4C - shows a front view, partially in section, of the ampoule in accordance with Figure 4A;
- Figure 4D - shows the ampoule in accordance with Figure 4A, in plan view onto the outside of the fixing part;
- 30 Figure 5 - shows the ampoule in accordance with Figure 4A, with a holding element with a sleeve part in a first version in accordance with

Figure 2A and an implant of the first type in accordance with Figure 1A, surrounded by an external capsule, in longitudinal section;

5 Figure 6A - shows a perspective view, partially in section, of a ratchet adapter which is known per se;

Figure 6B - shows a front view, partially in section, of the ratchet adapter in accordance with Figure 6A;

10 Figure 7 - shows a perspective view of an unscrewing spanner which is known per se;

Figures 8A to 8J -

15 show the principal handling operations for the ampoule situated in an external capsule in accordance with Figure 5, with an implant of the first type in accordance with Figure 1A and a holding element in accordance with Figure 2A as far as insertion of the implant into the bone;

20 Figure 8A - step 1 - shows the initial situation; ampoule with implant retained by the holding element, surrounded by a closed external capsule, in longitudinal section in accordance with Figure 5;

Figure 8B - step 2 - opening of the external capsule by removing the closure cover;

Figure 8C - step 3 - tipping the ampoule out of the external capsule;

25 Figure 8D - step 4 - preparation of the particular adapter for the alternative screwing-in tools to be attached to the holding element;

Figure 8E - step 5 - removal of the implant with, attached to the holding element, either a ratchet adapter or a motor-driven, dental angle handpiece;

30 Figure 8F - step 6 - shows the ratchet adapter attached as an alternative to the holding element and insertion of the implant into the bone;

Figure 8G - step 7 - shows the screwing of the implant into the bone, alternatively by means of ratchet and guide spanner or by means of angle handpiece;

5 Figure 8H - step 8 - shows removal of the guide spanner from the ratchet adapter after the screwing-in of the implant has been completed;

Figure 8I - step 9 - shows the approach of the unscrewing spanner in accordance with Figure 7 towards the holding element for the purpose of unlocking; and

10 Figure 8J - step 10 - shows the removal of the unscrewed holding element from the implant head.

Exemplary embodiments

The following statement applies to the whole of the rest of the description. If, for the sake of clarity of the drawing, a figure contains reference numerals which are not explained in the immediately associated text of the description, reference is made to where they are mentioned in previous descriptions of figures; for the sake of clarity, repeated designation of components in following figures is generally dispensed with, as long as it can be clearly seen from the drawings that these are "recurring" components.

20

Figure 1A

The implant **1** of the first type in this figure is in the form of a solid screw and, at the top, has the implant head **10** which is widened in the form of a trumpet and at the top ends with the conical implant shoulder **11**. The implant shoulder **11** surrounds a conical bore **12** which opens out here, widens outwards and as a threaded bore **14** continues further downwards beneath the base of the bore **13**. Towards the apical end, the root part **15**, which has the external screw thread **16**, ends with the implant tip **17** and is intended to be inserted into the bone, extends beneath the implant head **10**. The threaded bore **14** serves to accommodate the threaded part of an abutment (not shown), while the conical

25

30

bore 12 accommodates the conical nose of the abutment. The implant 1 usually consists of titanium and on the outside has an implant casing 18 with a special surface structure promoting bone integration.

5 Figures 1B and 1C

The implant in accordance with Figure 1B is a hollow cylinder, the root part 15 of which is hollow and, in the implant casing 18, has a plurality of continuous, peripheral bone-integration holes 19, which allow the regenerating bone to grow through them, leading to fixed anchorage in the bone. The hollow cylinder
10 does not have an external screw thread, but also has the special surface structure on the outside of the implant casing 18. The implant 1 in accordance with Figure 1C differs from the hollow cylinder shown in Figure 1B only by the fact that the implant head 10 is angled off with respect to the root part 15.

15 Figure 1D

This single-piece implant 1' of the second type in this case is in the form, for example, of a solid screw and differs from the configuration in accordance with Figure 1A only with regard to the condition of the implant head 10'. In the second type, the conical bore 12, the bore base 13 and the threaded bore 14
20 are absent. However, analogously to the first type, the implant shoulder 11', the root part 15', the external screw thread 16', the implant tip 17' and the implant casing 18' are present. Instead of the internal configuration with the conical bore 12, the second implant type 1' has a male segment 12' which projects above the implant shoulder 11', emerges axially and centrally from the implant
25 1' and tapers conically in the direction away from the implant 1'. A non-rotationally symmetrical contour 13' in the form of an external polygon, is present on the segment 12' for the purpose of positioning further attachments. Preferably, the non-rotationally symmetrical contour 13' is situated at the transition to the implant shoulder 11'. For further implant additions, the segment
30 12' has an axial threaded bore 14'.

Figures 2A to 2C

The holding element **100** depicted is provided for the first implant type **1** having the conical bore **12**. A sleeve part **102** and a rotatable screw **101**, which projects through the sleeve part **102** and is axially movable to a limited extent, form the two constituents of the holding element **100**. At the bottom, the sleeve part **102** has a cylindrical shoulder part **160**, which ends with a downwardly directed mating shoulder **161** which is complementary to the implant shoulder **11**. An external polygonal segment **170** extends axially upwards from the shoulder part **160**. An axial bore **162** with an internally threaded section **163** allowing the passage of the shaft **130** of the screw **101** runs through the sleeve part **102**.

The screw shaft **130** is adjoined by a fixing part **110**, and the latter is adjoined in turn by the extension **120**, which ends at the top and has an external polygon **121**. The screw shaft **130** is divided into the externally threaded part **131**, which is present at the free end, and the attached cylindrical part **132**. The fixing part **110** has a first cylindrical collar **114** and a second cylindrical collar **118**, between which there lies a cylindrical section **116** of reduced diameter. The collars **114**, **118** are widened with respect to the diameter of the screw shaft **130**. At the transition between the cylindrical part **132** and the first collar **114**, a conical shoulder **113** is formed, which is intended to bear axially, in the form of a circle and in a positively locking manner against the upper conical support shoulder **171** on the external polygonal segment **170**. Annular shoulders **115**, **117** are produced at each of the transitions between the cylindrical section **116** and the first and second collars **114**, **118**. The cylindrical section **116**, together with the two adjoining annular shoulders **115**, **117**, forms the fixing part **110** of the holding element **100**. The peg-like extension **120** has the external polygon **121** as its non-rotationally symmetrical contour, onto which a tool, e.g. a screwing-in tool, can be attached. To impede the plug connection between the external polygon **121** and the adapted tool, a radial groove **123** is present

on the extension 120, between the second collar 118 and the external polygonal segment 170, in order to arrange a securing element - preferably an O-ring - therein.

5 In order to assemble the sleeve part 102 and screw 101 to form the holding element 100, the externally threaded part 131 of the screw shaft 130 has to be screwed through the internally threaded section 163, so that the externally threaded part 131 projects beyond the mating shoulder 161 of the sleeve part 102 and the cylindrical part 132 of the screw shaft 130 then lies inside the inter-
10 nally threaded section 163. Having been assembled in this way, the sleeve part 102 is axially displaceable between externally threaded part 131 and the first collar 114 which faces the latter.

Figure 3A

15 When the holding element 100 has been screwed onto an implant 1 - in this case an implant 1 of the first type and hence a corresponding holding element 100 in the first version, - the mating shoulder 161 of the shoulder part 160 of the sleeve part 102 fits on the implant shoulder 11 and the conical shoulder 113 of the first collar 114 rests on the support shoulder 171 of the external poly-
20 gonal segment 170. The externally threaded part 131 of the screw shaft 130 of the screw 101 engages in the internally threaded bore 14 in the implant head 10 and the unthreaded cylindrical part 132 of the screw shaft 130 penetrates through the internally threaded section 163 inside the sleeve part 102.

25 Figure 3B

In this figure, an implant 1' of the second type - having a male segment 12' projecting above the implant shoulder 11' - is connected to an associated holding element 100' of the second version. In order to accommodate the segment 12' inside the shoulder part 160', the latter is elevated by comparison with the first
30 version and the axial bore 162', which passes through the sleeve part 102', is

widened in the region of the shoulder part **160'**. Otherwise, this arrangement is analogous to that in accordance with Figure 3A; thus the mating shoulder **161'** of the shoulder part **160'** of the sleeve part **102'** again fits on the implant shoulder **11'** and the conical shoulder **113** of the first collar **114** rests on the support shoulder **171'** of the external polygonal segment **170'**. The externally threaded part **131** of the screw shaft **130** of the screw **101** is in engagement with the internally threaded bore **14'**, which extends from the segment **12'** into the implant head **10'**. The unthreaded cylindrical part **132** of the screw shaft **130** penetrates through the internally threaded section **163'** inside the sleeve part **102'**.

Advantageously, the holding element **100,100'** is connected to the implant **1,1'** as early as during production of the latter, so that the holding element **100,100'** even during the following production phases offers the option of attaching manipulation members to it or of being used as a support when positioning the implants in devices. The extension **120** and the fixing part **110** are suitable for the attachment of manipulation members. Since the sleeve part **102,102'** is placed upon the implant **1,1'**, the two preferably consist of the same material, e.g. titanium, while, for example, stainless steel is recommended as the material for the screw **101**.

Figures 4A to 4D

The ampoule **200**, which is in principle cylindrical, for accommodating an implant **1,1'** has a fixing part **210** on the first planar base side and a stand part **220** on the opposite, second planar base side. The cylindrical casing **230** extends between the fixing part **210** and the stand part **220**, in which casing there is a large-area cutout **231** which runs from the fixing part **210** as far as the stand part **220** and extends, for example, over a quarter to a half of the radial circumference of the ampoule **200**. The implant **1,1'** which is held in the ampoule **200** can be pulled out through this lateral cutout **231**. Thus the

cylindrical casing **230** which remains in the region of the cutout **231** is in the form of an open shell **232**, while in the stand part **220** the cylindrical casing **230** is entirely retained, where it produces, as it were, a tubular section **221**. The second planar base side is preferably open.

5

The cutout **231** extends as far as the fixing part **210**, which is in the form of a circular end plate, so that the associated first planar base side is largely closed and the cylindrical casing **230** is perpendicular to the fixing part **210**. A laterally open indent **212** is situated in the fixing part **210**, this indent **212**, together with
10 the cutout **231**, facing in the same direction. The indent **212** is in principle in the form of a slot with rounded sections **218** at the peripheral entry. In the region of the theoretical centre axis **M** the indent **212** has a constriction **213**, behind which the indent **212** widens in the manner of a semicircle. The result is two mutually opposite jaws **215,216** on the fixing part **210**. Beyond the indent **212**,
15 cutting further into the fixing part **210** towards the cylindrical casing **230**, there is an expansion groove **217**, so that when an implant **1,1'** or a holding element **100,100'** bearing the implant **1,1'** is being pressed in and out between the jaws **215,216**, the latter are better able to spread apart elastically. When the holding element **100,100'** is being pressed in, after its cross-section has overcome the
20 constriction **213**, the holding element **100,100'** latches into the indent **212** and the jaws **215,216** move closer together again.

Owing to the asymmetric distribution of material, the centre of gravity of the ampoule **200** lies outside the centre axis **M**, so that an ampoule **200** which is lying
25 horizontally and hence rolling to and fro quickly comes to a halt. In order additionally to prevent the ampoule **200** from rolling off the surface, in each case one bead **233** is provided on the outside of the cylindrical casing **230**, in an axial position and parallel to the edges of the cutout **231**. The plane which extends between the two beads **233** divides the tubular ampoule **200** into two
30 longitudinal halves. With the stand part **220** at the bottom, the ampoule **200** can

be placed vertically resting on the second planar base side. A suitable material for the ampoule **200** is a biocompatible plastic.

Figure 5

5 This Figure is described with reference to the implant **1** and the holding element **100**. Analogously, it would also be possible to use the implant **1'** of the second type in conjunction with a holding element **100'** of the second version.

10 In the finished state, the ampoule **200**, with the implant **1** held therein by the holding element **100**, is inserted into an external capsule **300**. The external capsule **300** comprises a hollow cylinder **310**, the base **311** of which is closed, and a screw-on closure cap **320**. On the inside of the cylinder **310**, parallel to and at a distance from the base **311**, there is a support shoulder **313**, which is intended to act as an axial stop for the first planar base side on the fixing part
15 **210** of the inserted ampoule **200**. In this case, the support shoulder **313** comprises four webs which are offset through 90° in each case. The closure cap **320** points towards the stand part **220** of the ampoule **200**. At most in the region of the clearance between the second planar base side on the stand part **220** and the closure cap **320**, the ampoule **200** can move on the axis **M** and
20 otherwise lies in a stable position in the external capsule **300** in the event of vibrations.

The implant **1** is held by a holding element **100** with the screw **101** and the sleeve part **102**. As has already been indicated, the externally threaded part
25 **131** of the screw **101**, which projects through the sleeve part **102**, engages in the internally threaded bore **14** on the implant **1**, while the mating shoulder **161** of the shoulder part **160** of the sleeve part **102** rests on the implant shoulder **11**. The fixing part **110** of the holding element **100** is latched into the fixing part **210** of the ampoule **200**, i.e. the cylindrical section **116** of the holding element **100** is
30 clamped in the indent **212** in the ampoule **200** and is surrounded laterally by the

two jaws **215,216**. The two annular shoulders **115,117** of the holding element **100** bear against the fixing part **210** on both sides. In this way, the implant **1** is held in line with the centre axis **M** inside the ampoule **200** without coming into contact with the ampoule **200**.

5

Figures 6A and 6B

The ratchet adapter **400** which can be attached to the extension **120** of the holding element **100,100'** comprises the head part **401** and the shank attachment **402**. The head part **401** has the outer profiling **430** which is
10 complementary to a ratchet wrench and, on the end side, has an axial blind bore **431** for accommodating the pin of an unscrewing spanner. On the inside, the shank extension **402** has an internal polygon **410** which is complementary to the external polygon **121**. On the outside, ahead of the internal polygon **410**, there is a constriction **411** which reduces the clear diameter, so that a widened
15 annular groove **412** is formed between the internal polygon **410** and the constriction **411**. The annular groove **412** serves to accommodate a securing element which rests in the radial groove **123** on the extension **120** after the said securing element has overcome the constriction **411** when the ratchet adapter **400** is attached. As a result, the ratchet adapter **400** can, as it were, be latched
20 onto the extension **120** and cannot become detached of its own accord.

Figure 7

For handling purposes, an unscrewing spanner **700** is also provided, which serves to grip the external polygonal segment **170,170'** on the sleeve part **102, 102'** of the holding element **100,100'**. At one end, the unscrewing spanner **700**
25 is designed as an angled-off open-end wrench **701**, and at the other end as a straight ring wrench **702**. A guide pin **704** is situated on the flat side **703** in the region of the ring wrench **702**. Whether the open-end wrench or the ring wrench **701,702** is employed depends on the spatial conditions and the preference of
30 the user.

Figures 8A to 8J

The step-by-step handling of the ampoule **200** is explained in connection with the following sequence of figures, using, by way of example, an implant **1** and a
5 holding element **100**.

Step 1 (Figure 8A): In the finished state, the ampoule **200** is positioned in the closed external capsule **300** comprising the cylinder **310** and the closure cap **320**. The holding element **100** holds the implant **1** and, for its part, is fixed by
10 the ampoule **200** in the indent **212**. The entire contents of the external capsule **300** are sterile.

Step 2 (Figure 8B): In order to open the external capsule **300**, the closure cap **320** is removed from the cylinder **310**.

15

Step 3 (Figure 8C): The ampoule **200**, with the implant **1** contained therein, is tipped out of the cylinder **310**, which is now open, of the external capsule **300** onto a sterile surface.

20 *Step 4* (Figure 8D): The extension **120** with the external polygon **121** projects out of the ampoule **200**. To attach screwing-in tools - namely a ratchet wrench or a dental handpiece - a ratchet adapter **400** or an adapter **450** for the dental handpiece are kept ready. At one end, the adapter **450** has a standard dental coupling **451** and, opposite to the latter, a shank attachment **452**, which is
25 likewise intended for attachment to the extension **120** and has an internal structure which is analogous to the shank extension **402** of the ratchet adapter **400**.

30 *Step 5* (Figure 8E): Depending on the screwing-in tool to be used, the ratchet adapter **400** or the adapter **450** for the dental handpiece **800** is attached to the

extension **120** and the implant **1** is removed from the ampoule **200**. The implant **1**, which is suspended from the ratchet adapter **400** or from the adapter **450** and from the handpiece **800** by means of the holding element **100** is transferred to the location of use.

5

Step 6 (Figure 8F): When using a ratchet spanner as the screwing-in instrument, the ratchet adapter **400** will first be taken hold of by hand and the implant **1** will be screwed to some extent into the bore **KB** which has been prepared in the bone **K**.

10

Step 7 (Figure 8G): To screw the implant **1** in further, a ratchet wrench **600** and an unscrewing spanner **700** are placed upon the ratchet adapter **400**. The guide pin **704** of the unscrewing spanner **700** engages in the blind bore **431**. The implant **1** can also be screwed in by means of a motor-driven dental handpiece **800**, as long as the associated adapter **450** has in advance been placed upon the holding element **100**.

15

Step 8 (Figure 8H): After screwing using a ratchet wrench **600** has been completed, the unscrewing spanner **700** is removed from the ratchet wrench **600**.

20

Step 9 (Figure 8I): Irrespective of whether the implant has been inserted using ratchet wrench **600** or by means of handpiece **800**, in order to unscrew the holding element **100**, i.e. firstly to unlock the sleeve part **102** from the implant head **10**, the unscrewing spanner **700** is attached to the external polygonal segment **170**. The open-end wrench **701** can be attached to the external polygonal segment **170** from the side. When attaching the ring wrench **702**, which is carried out from above, it would first be necessary briefly to remove the screwing-in instrument **600,800**, together with the associated adapters **400,450**, from the extension **120** of the holding element **100**. With the operating direction of the ratchet wrench **600** or handpiece **800** switched over and the unscrewing

25

30

spanner **700** attached, the holding element **100** is unlocked from the implant **1**. The unscrewing spanner **700** is then removed and the screw **101** is unscrewed until its externally threaded part **131** comes out of engagement with the internal screw thread **14** in the implant head **10**.

5

Step 10 (Figure 8J): Finally, the holding element **100** can be removed from the implant **1**, which is now in situ.

Further design variations on the devices described above are possible. Express
10 mention may be made of:

- 15 - The holding element **100,100'** can also be used for implants of different configuration. The important criterion is that the implants have an internally threaded bore **14** which is accessible from the outside in order for the externally threaded part **131** of the holding element **100** to be screwed in. Furthermore, the implants must have an implant shoulder **11** or a comparable surface for supporting the sleeve part **102**.
- 20 - Instead of the external polygon **121** on the screw **101**, a different, external, non-rotationally symmetrical contour on the extension **120,120'** is conceivable, as is an internal contour, if the tools to be attached were to have a complementary mandrel.
- The jaws **215,216** on the ampoule **200** could generally be replaced by a clamping member.
- 25 - For implants **1,1'** with a conically widening implant head **10,10'** rising beneath the implant shoulder **11,11'**, the following attachment for the holding element is provided as an alternative. In the case of the screw **101** which engages in the internally threaded bore **14,14'** in the implant **1,1'**, the screw shaft **130**, together with the externally threaded part **131** and cylindrical part **132**, could be dispensed with. Sleeve part **102,102'** and screw extension **120**
30 would then form a single part. The temporary fixing of the holding element on

the implant **1,1'** is then realized by means of an elastic snap-in element at the bottom of the sleeve part **102,102'** which, when pressed onto the implant shoulder **11,11'**, passes over the latter and then engages below it. This method of attaching the holding element is particularly expedient if the
5 implant **1'** has a polygonal segment **12'** which projects above the implant shoulder **11'**, and/or if no internally threaded bore **14,14'** is present. In this regard, reference is made to the attachment in accordance with the patent publication WO-A-97 28755 of the applicant.

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CLAIMS:

1. Holding element for an implant which is to be inserted into bone and has an implant head, an implant shoulder present thereon, and an internally threaded bore, 5 which extends at least substantially in the axial direction, in which

a) the holding element comprises a sleeve part and a rotatable screw which projects through the sleeve part;

b) the sleeve part has, at the bottom, a 10 cylindrical shoulder part which ends with a mating shoulder which is directed downwards and is complementary to the implant shoulder;

c) an upwardly directed external polygon segment extends above the shoulder part;

d) an axial bore allowing the passage of the shaft 15 of the screw runs through the sleeve part;

e) an external threaded part of the screw shaft is intended to engage in the internally threaded bore in the implant;

f) the screw has an extension, which projects 20 above the sleeve part and has a non-rotationally symmetrical contour, for the attachment of a tool, characterized in that

g) the holding element can be screwed to the implant even during the production of the latter and - 25 beginning with the following phases of implant production, up to and including implantation - can be utilized with the said implant; and

h) a fixing part is present between the contour and the sleeve part, which fixing part serves for the

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attachment of a manipulation member in a device for operating and/or transportation and/or storage purposes and/or retention inside an ampoule.

2. Holding element according to Claim 1,
5 characterized in that

a) an internally threaded section, which is complementary to the externally threaded part of the screw shaft, is present in the axial bore; and

10 b) above the externally threaded part situated at the free end, the screw shaft has a cylindrical part which can slide through the internally threaded section, so that the screw which has been screwed into the sleeve part can move axially to a limited extent.

3. Holding element according to Claim 1 or 2,
15 characterized in that

a) the fixing part is formed by two collars which are spaced apart from one another and a cylindrical section which lies between these two collars and has a reduced diameter by comparison with the collars; with the result
20 that

b) an annular shoulder is formed at each of the transitions from the cylindrical section to the collars;

c) the non-rotationally symmetrical contour on the extension of the screw is an external polygon;

25 a radial groove for accommodating a securing element is provided between the external polygon and the adjoining collar; and

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d) the collar which faces towards the sleeve part has a conical shoulder which comes to bear against a complementary support shoulder on the sleeve part.

4. Ampoule for transporting, storing and providing an implant directly before its insertion into the bone, in which case the implant is held by the holding element according to Claim 1 and the ampoule has an outer casing and can be inserted into an external capsule, characterized in that the ampoule has:

10 a) a fixing part, into which the implant can be inserted directly or indirectly; and

b) a lateral, large-area cutout in the casing, through which cutout the implant, which is held inside the ampoule, can be removed together with the holding element.

15 5. Ampoule according to Claim 4, characterized in that

a) the fixing part forms a planar base side of the cylindrical ampoule; and

20 b) a laterally open indent, for the direct or indirect clamping accommodation of the implant, is situated in the fixing part, which indent faces in the same direction as the cutout.

6. Ampoule according to Claim 4 or 5, characterized in that the indent has the following:

25 a) outwardly facing rounded sections;

b) a constriction, behind which the indent widens again, in the region of the theoretical centre axis of the ampoule; and

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c) an expansion groove, which extends the indent towards the cylindrical casing.

7. Ampoule according to Claim 4 or 5, characterized in that

5 a) a stand part, for standing the ampoule vertically, lies opposite the fixing part, which is situated at one end of the ampoule, at the other end; and

b) the cutout ends before the stand part, with the result that the casing forms a radially continuous tubular
10 section.

8. Ampoule according to Claim 4, characterized in that,

a) owing to an asymmetric distribution of material, the centre of gravity of the ampoule lies outside
15 the centre axis, in order rapidly to decelerate a rolling movement of the ampoule; and

b) two beads, which extend axially on either side of the cutout and serve as an additional protection against the ampoule rolling away, are provided outside the
20 cylindrical casing.

9. Ampoule according to Claim 4 for an implant which is to be inserted into bone and has an implant head, an implant shoulder present thereon, and an internally threaded bore which extends at least substantially in the axial
25 direction, in which

a) a holding element is provided, which comprises a sleeve part and a rotatable screw which projects through the sleeve part;

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b) the sleeve part has, at the bottom, a cylindrical shoulder part which ends with a mating shoulder which is directed downwards and is complementary to the implant shoulder;

5 c) an upwardly directed external polygon segment extends above the shoulder part;

d) an axial bore allowing the passage of the shaft of the screw runs through the sleeve part;

10 e) an external threaded part of the screw shaft is intended to engage in the internally threaded bore in the implant;

f) the screw has an extension, which projects above the sleeve part and has a non-rotationally symmetrical contour, for the attachment of a tool, characterized in that

15 g) a fixing part, which projects above the sleeve part and serves for retaining purposes inside an ampoule, is present beneath the contour;

h) the fixing part of the holding element can be latched into the fixing part of the ampoule, so that

20 i) the holding element, which has been fixed in the ampoule, holds the implant, which is screwed to the said holding element, in line with the centre axis inside the ampoule.

10. Ampoule according to Claim 9, characterized in
25 that

a) the fixing part of the holding element comprises two collars, which are spaced apart from one another, and a cylindrical section which lies between the said collars and is of reduced diameter;

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b) in each case one annular shoulder is present at the transitions between the collars and the cylindrical section; and

c) in the completed arrangement, with the implant
5 inserted into the ampoule, the cylindrical section being clamped into the indent in the fixing part of the ampoule, the annular shoulders in each case bear against one side of the fixing part of the ampoule.

11. Ampoule according to Claim 4, characterized in
10 that the axial retention of the ampoule, which has been inserted into the external capsule, is achieved by means of a closure cap, which belongs to the external capsule, and a support shoulder, which is arranged inside the external capsule, in the region of the base of the latter, and on
15 which the end side of the fixing part of the ampoule is supported.

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PATENT AGENTS

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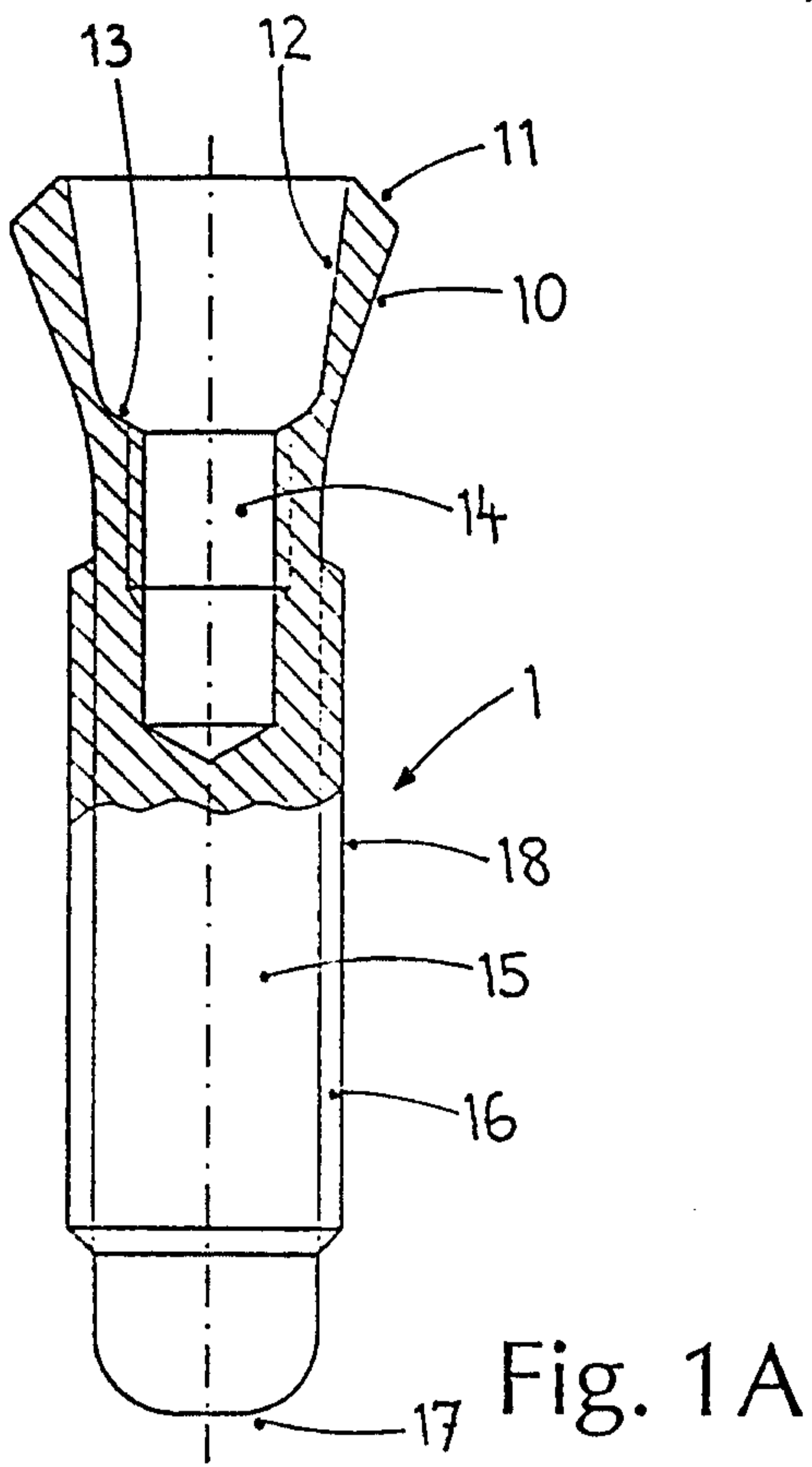


Fig. 1B

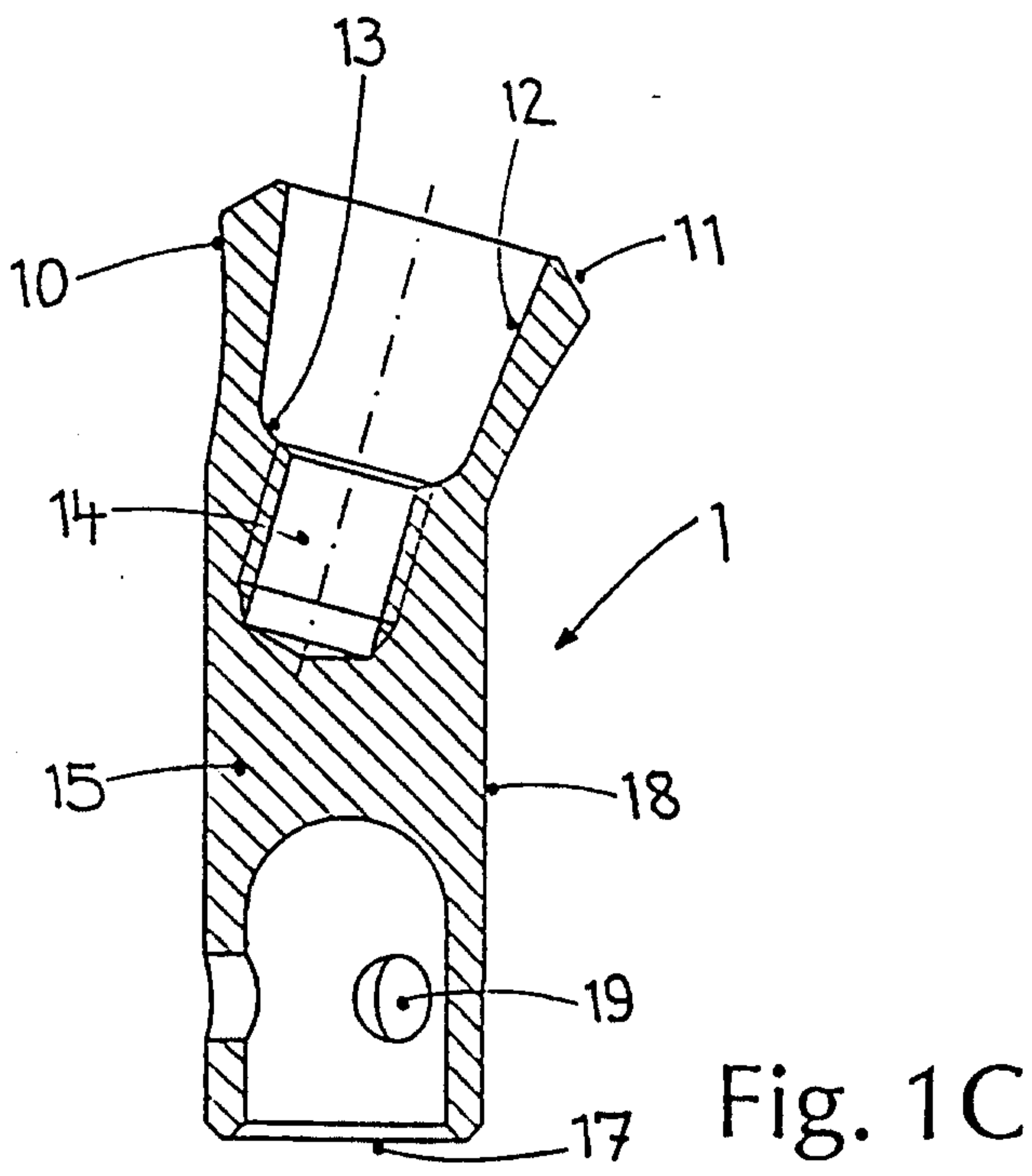
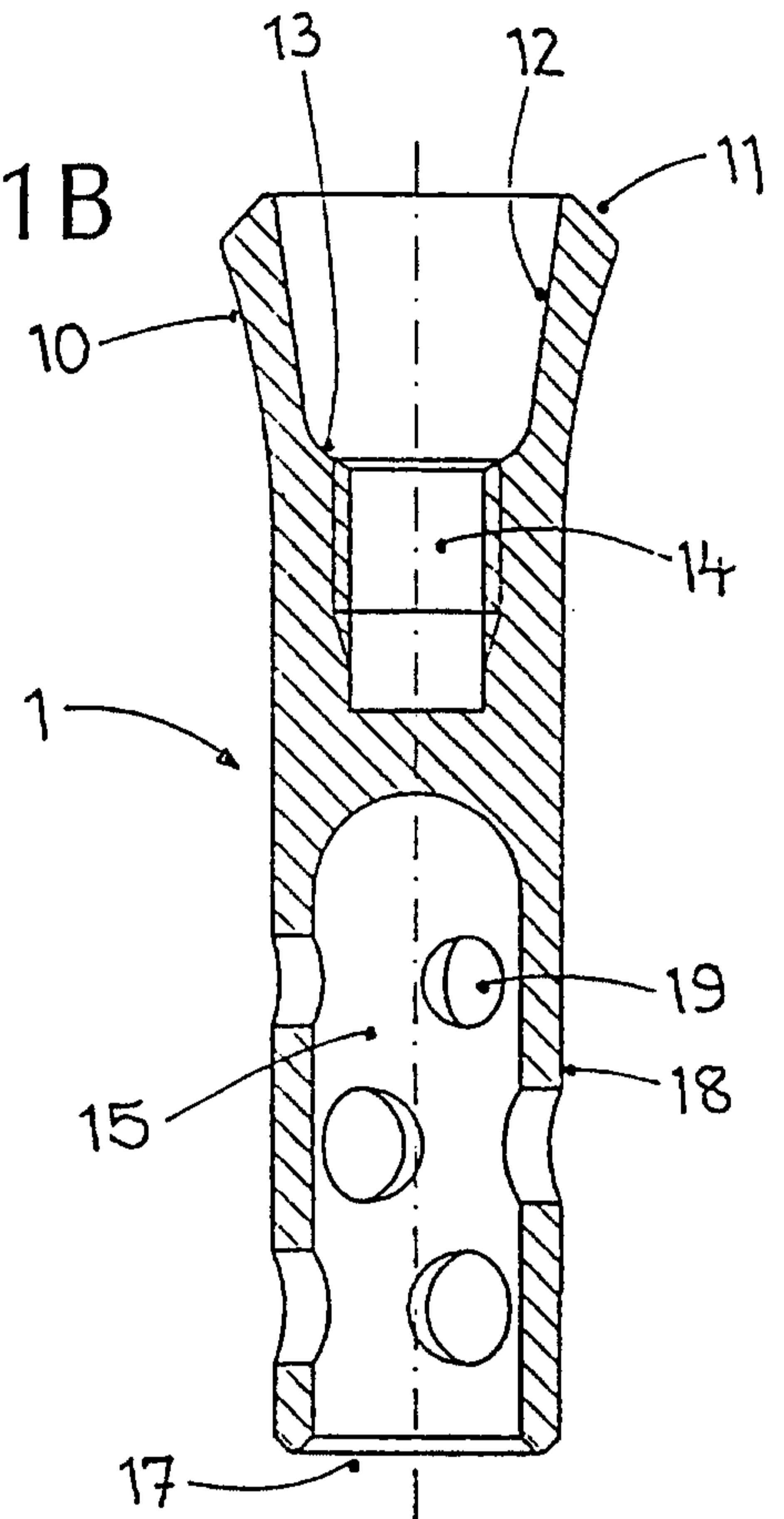
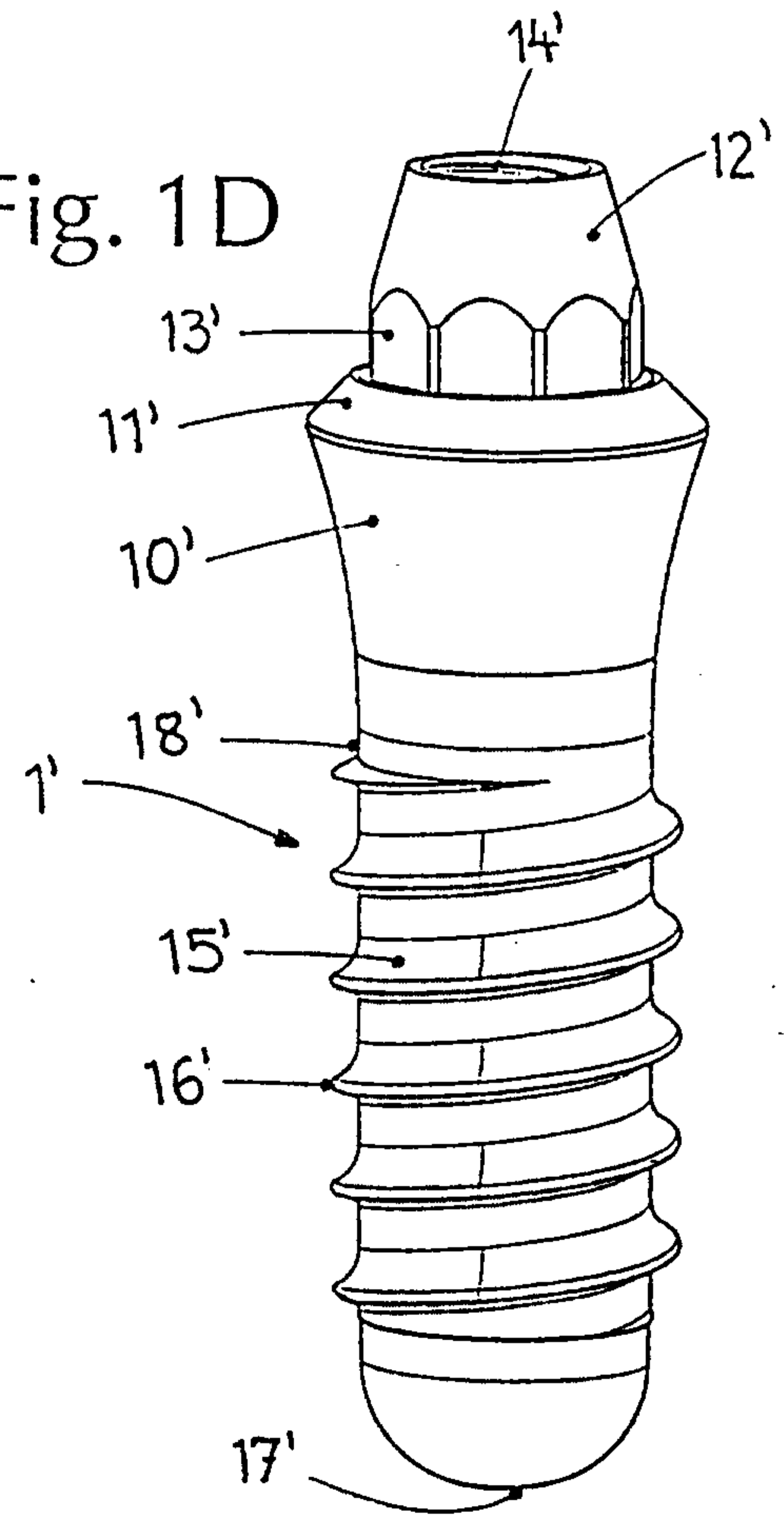


Fig. 1D



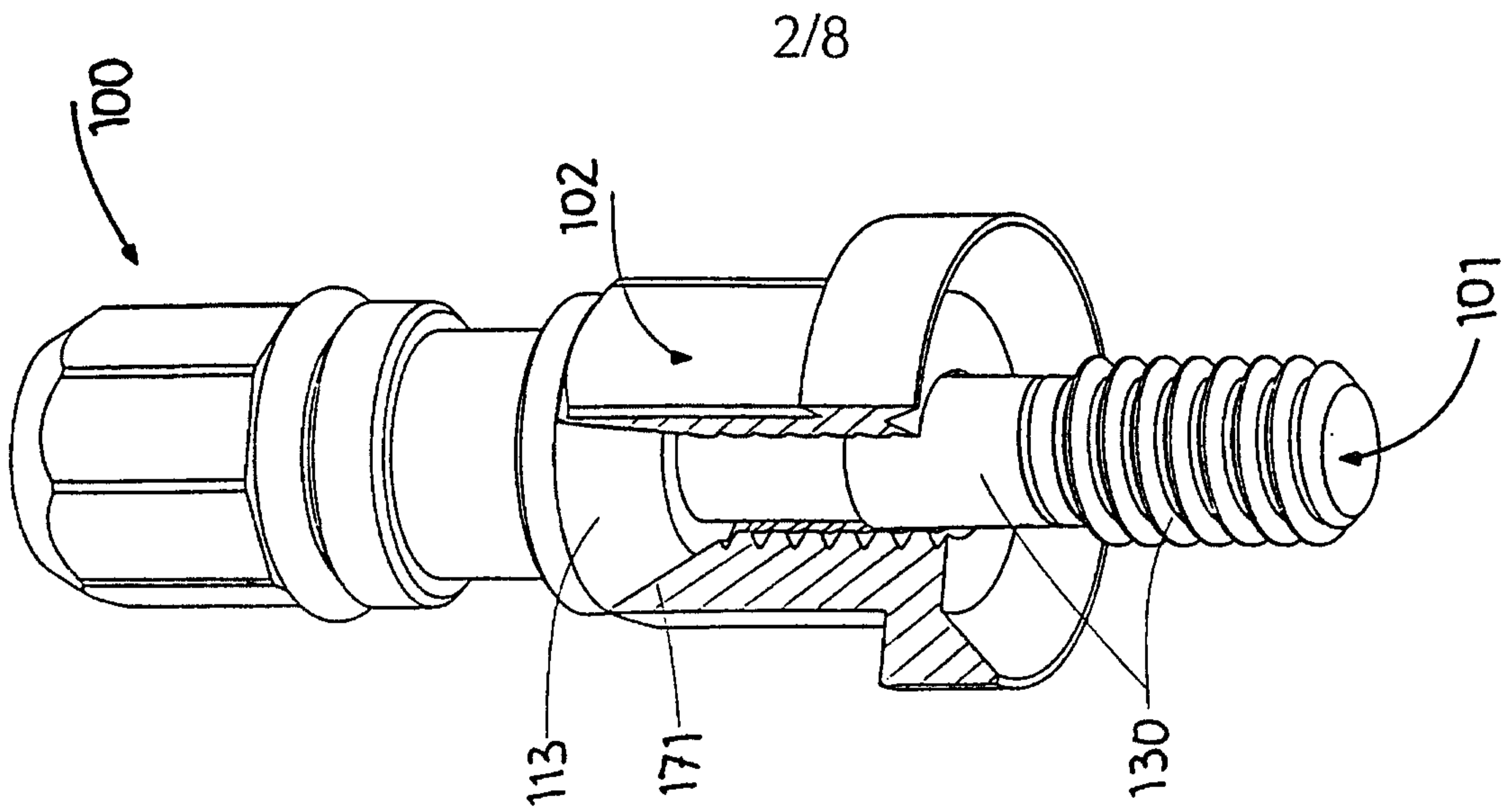


Fig. 2C

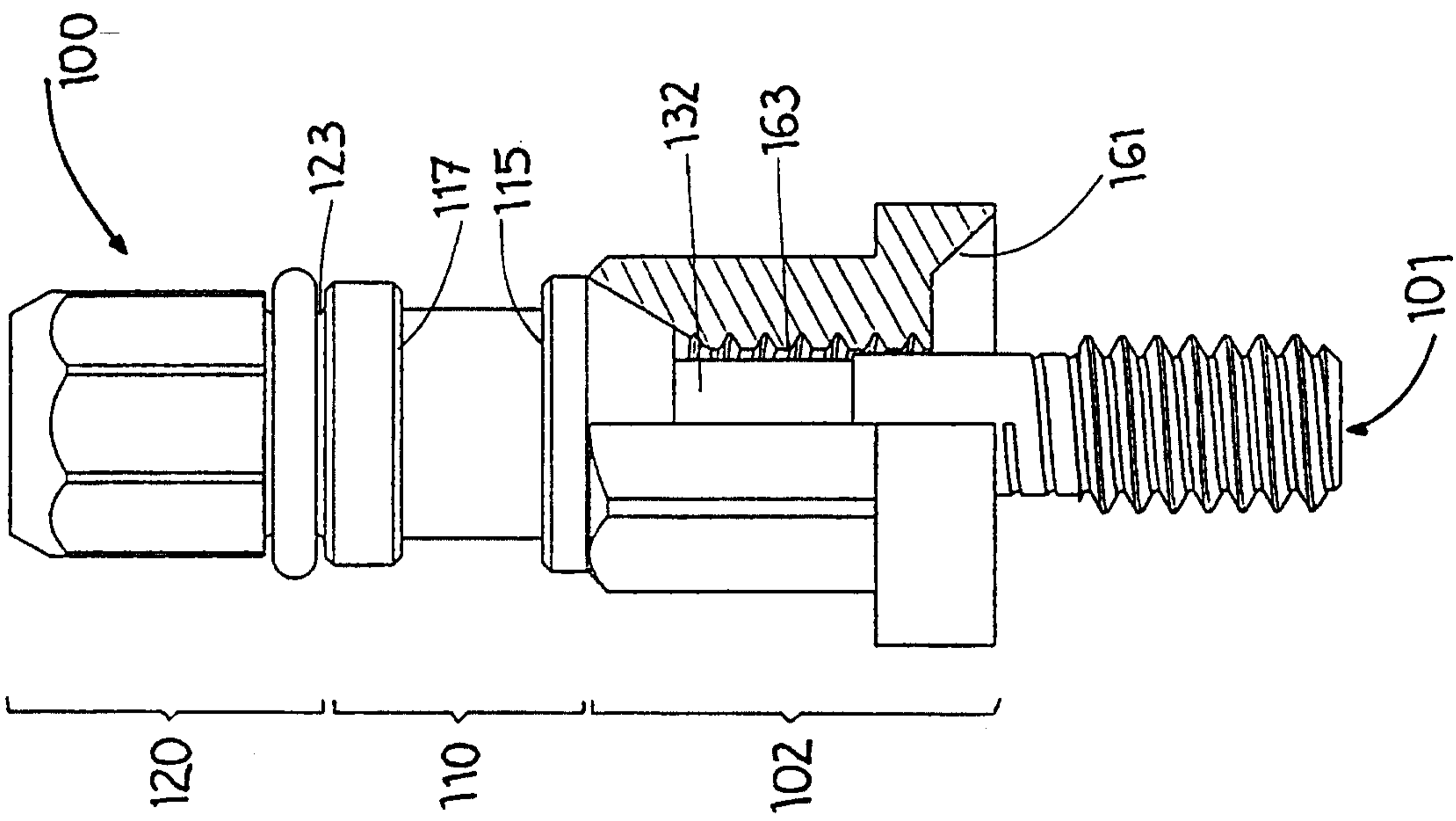


Fig. 2B

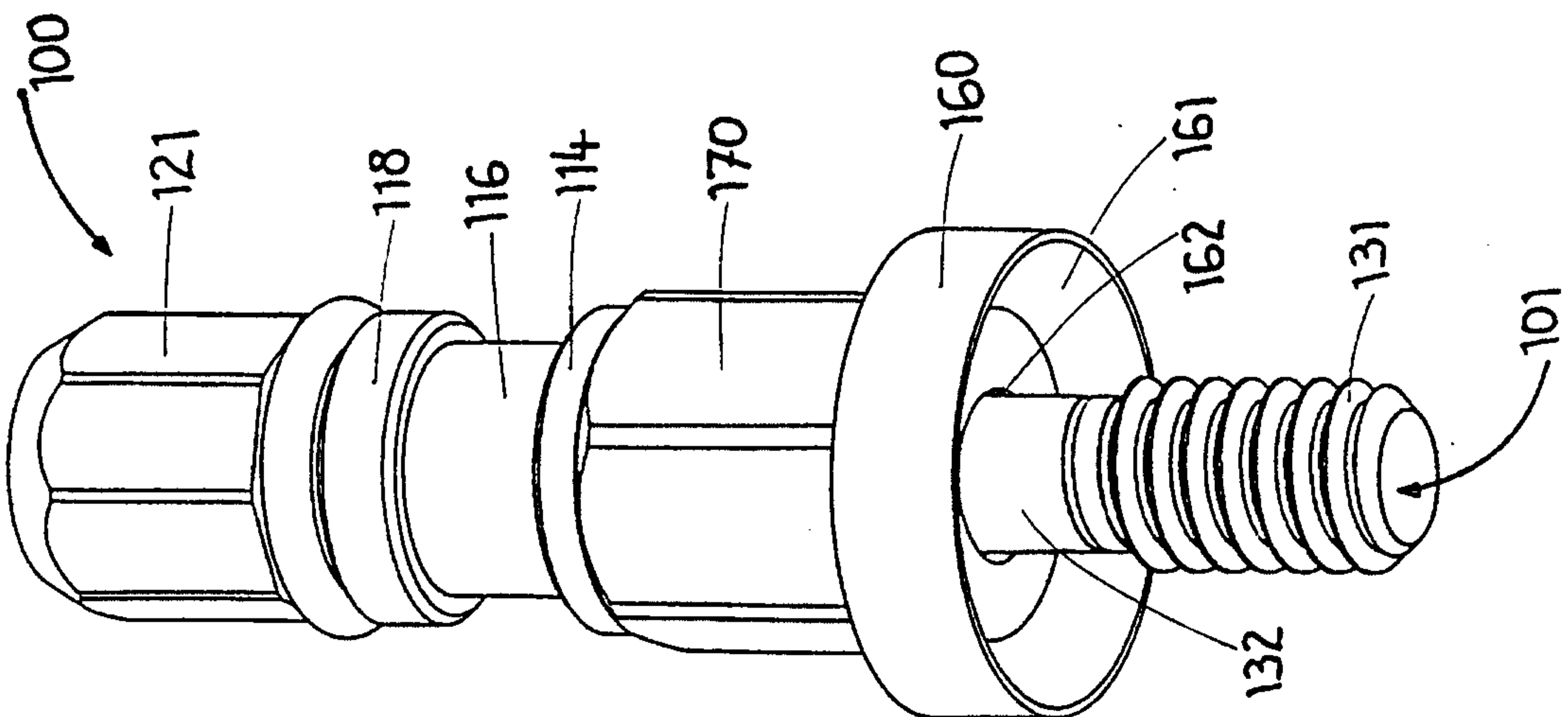


Fig. 2A

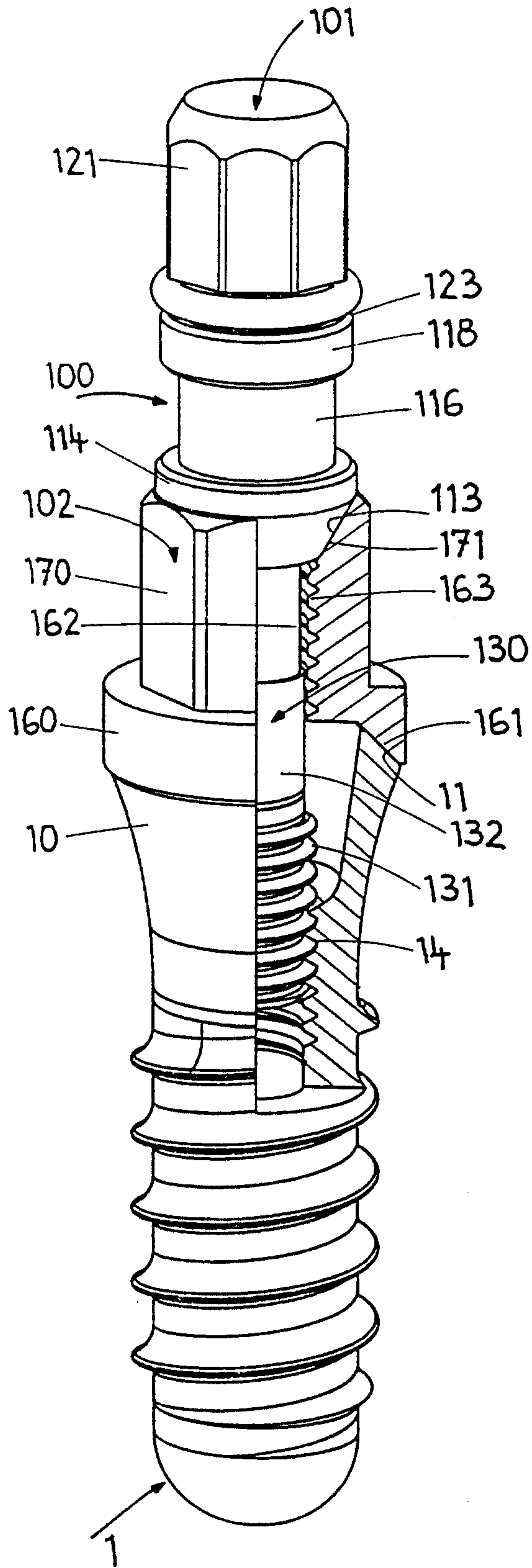


Fig. 3A

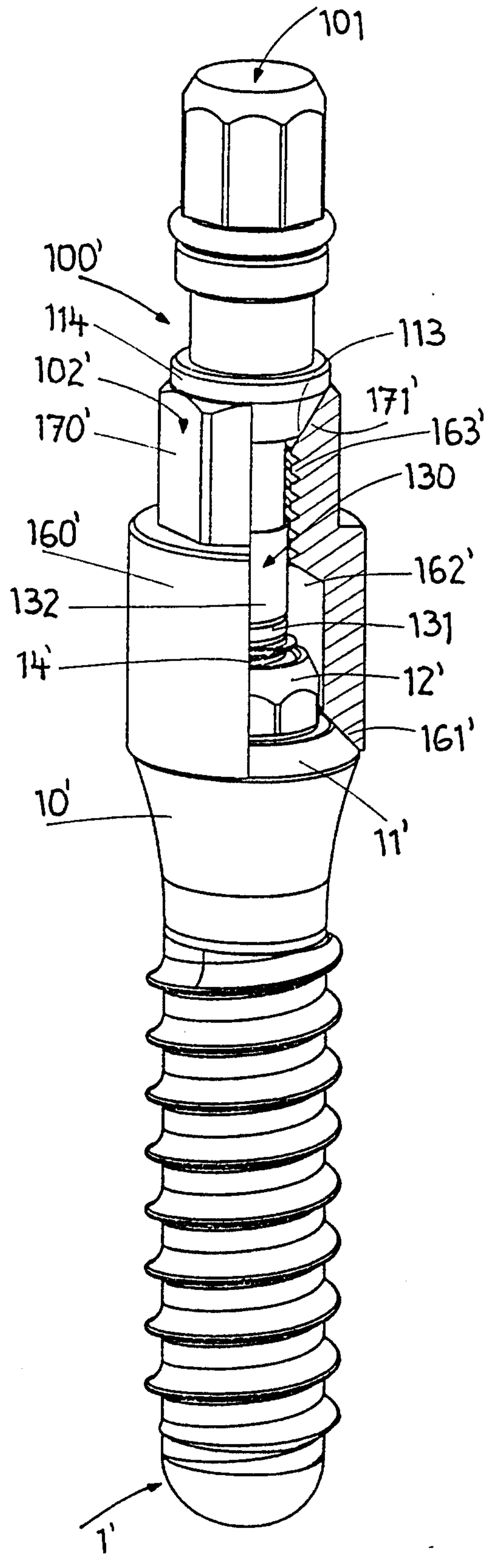
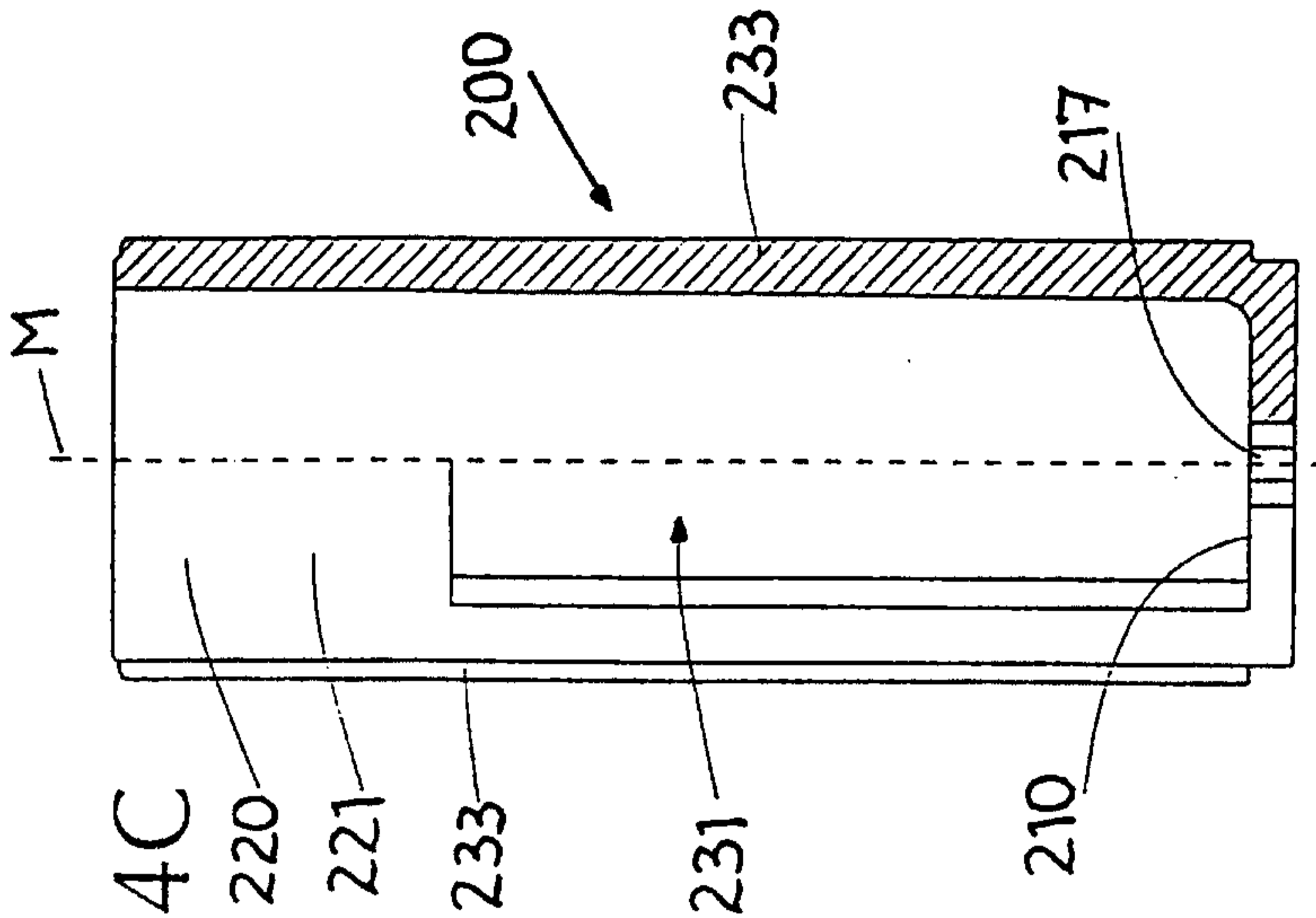
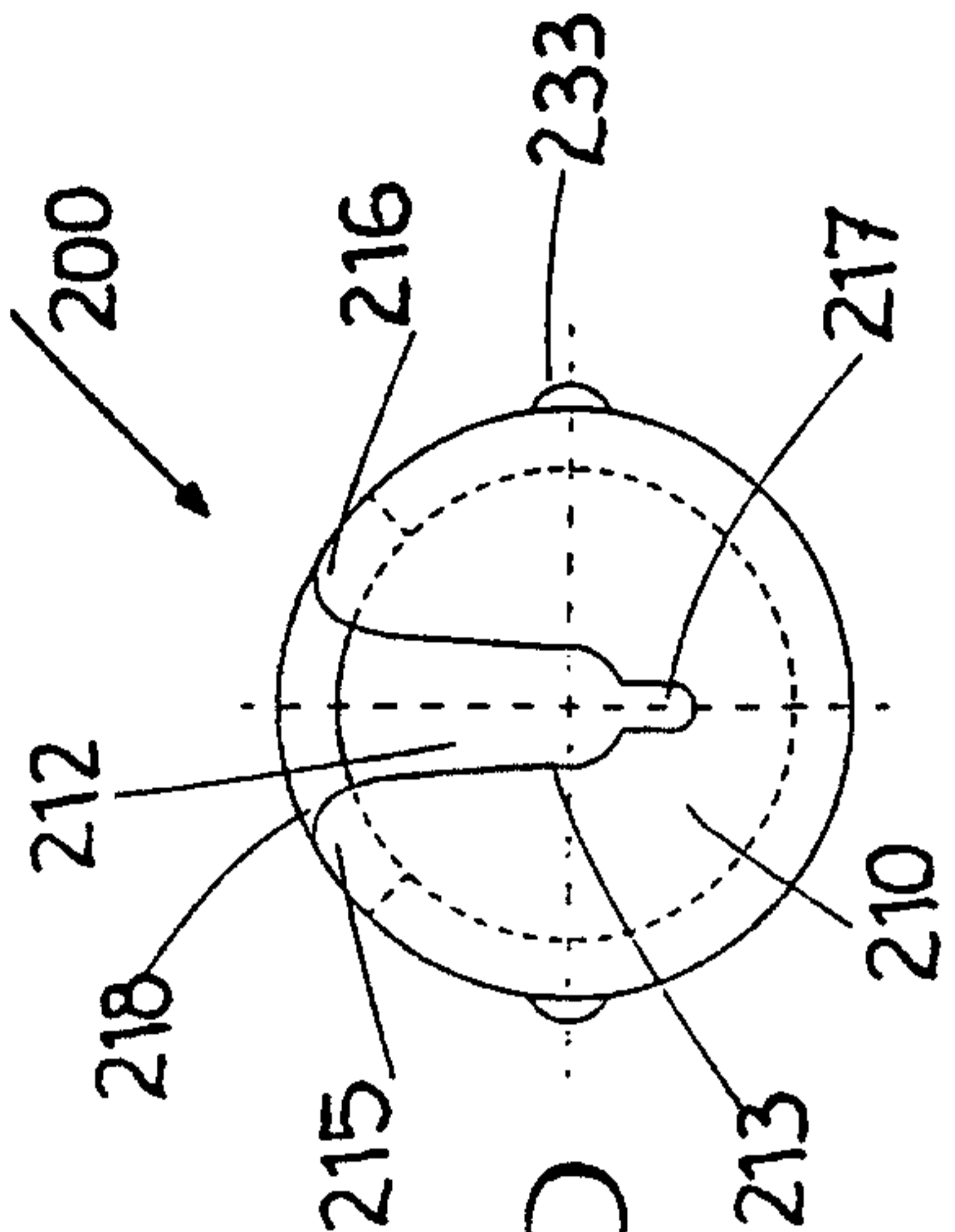
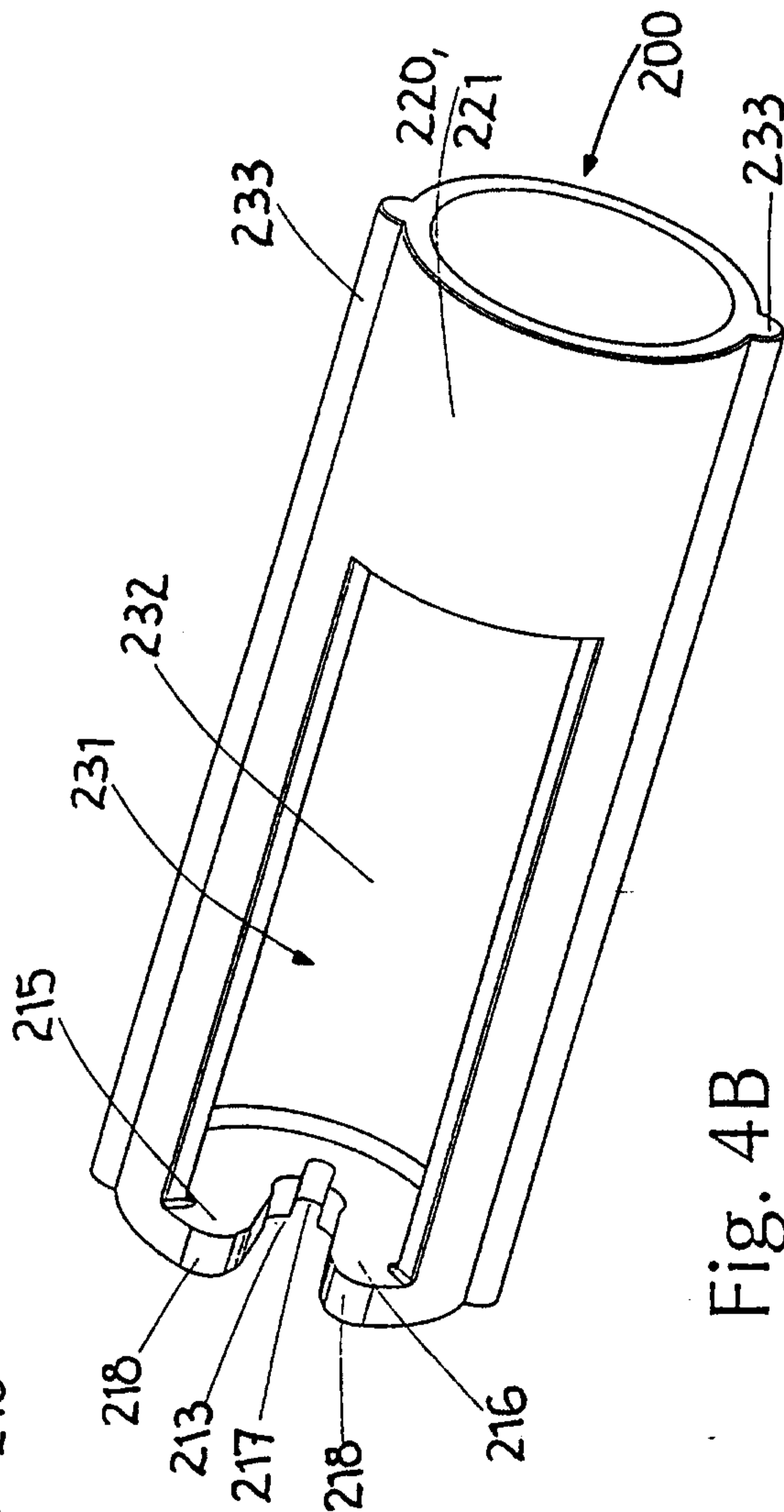
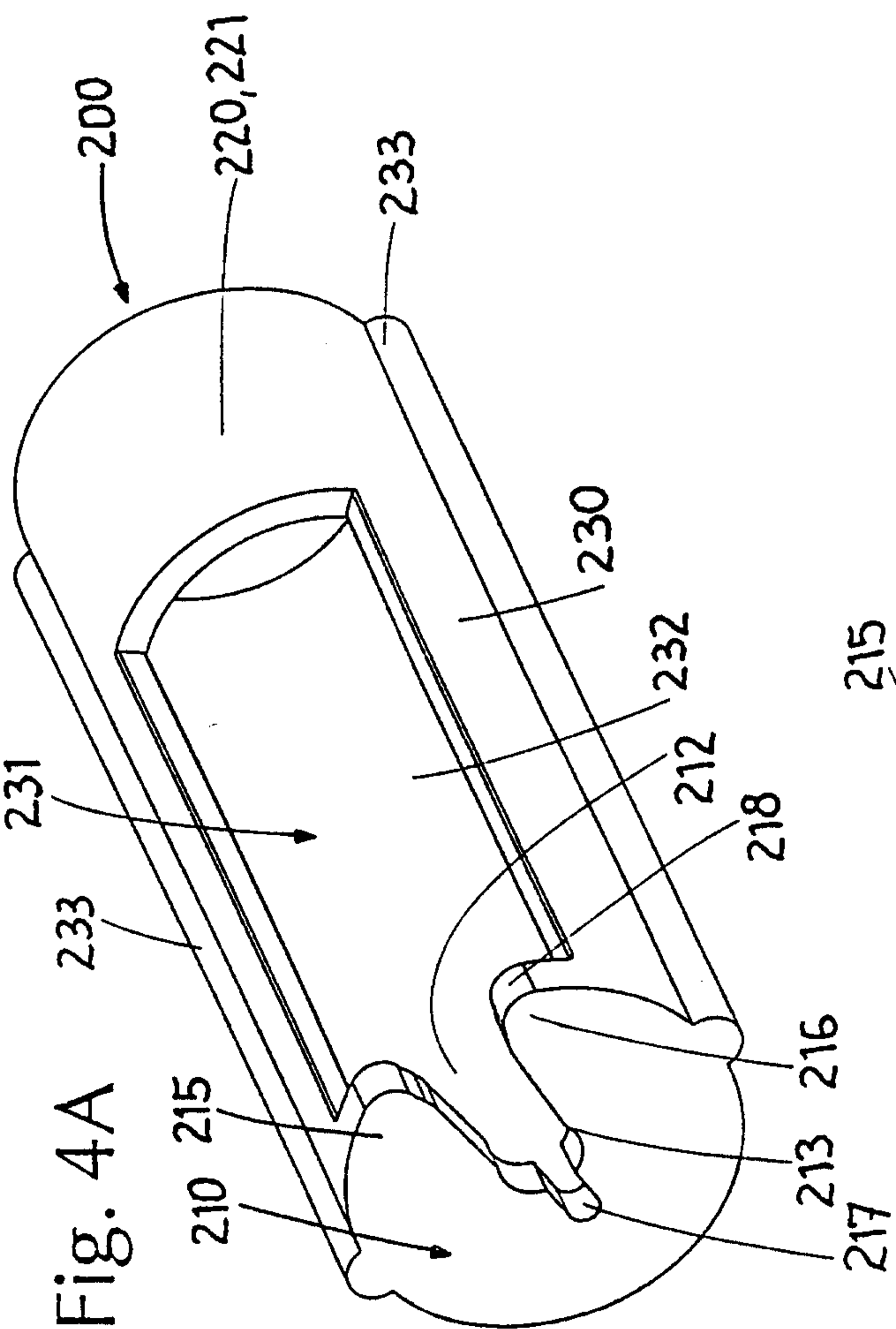


Fig. 3B



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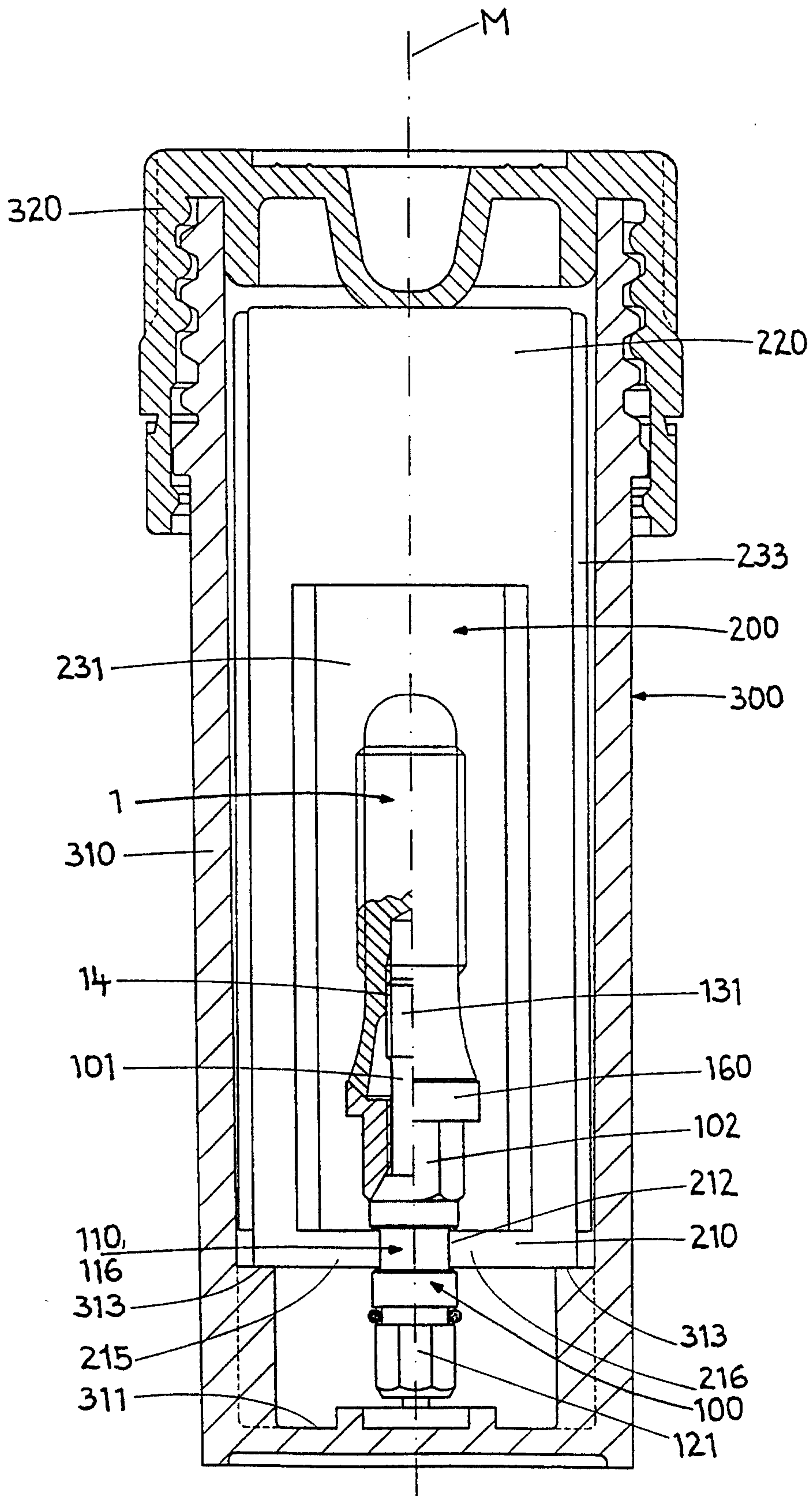


Fig. 5

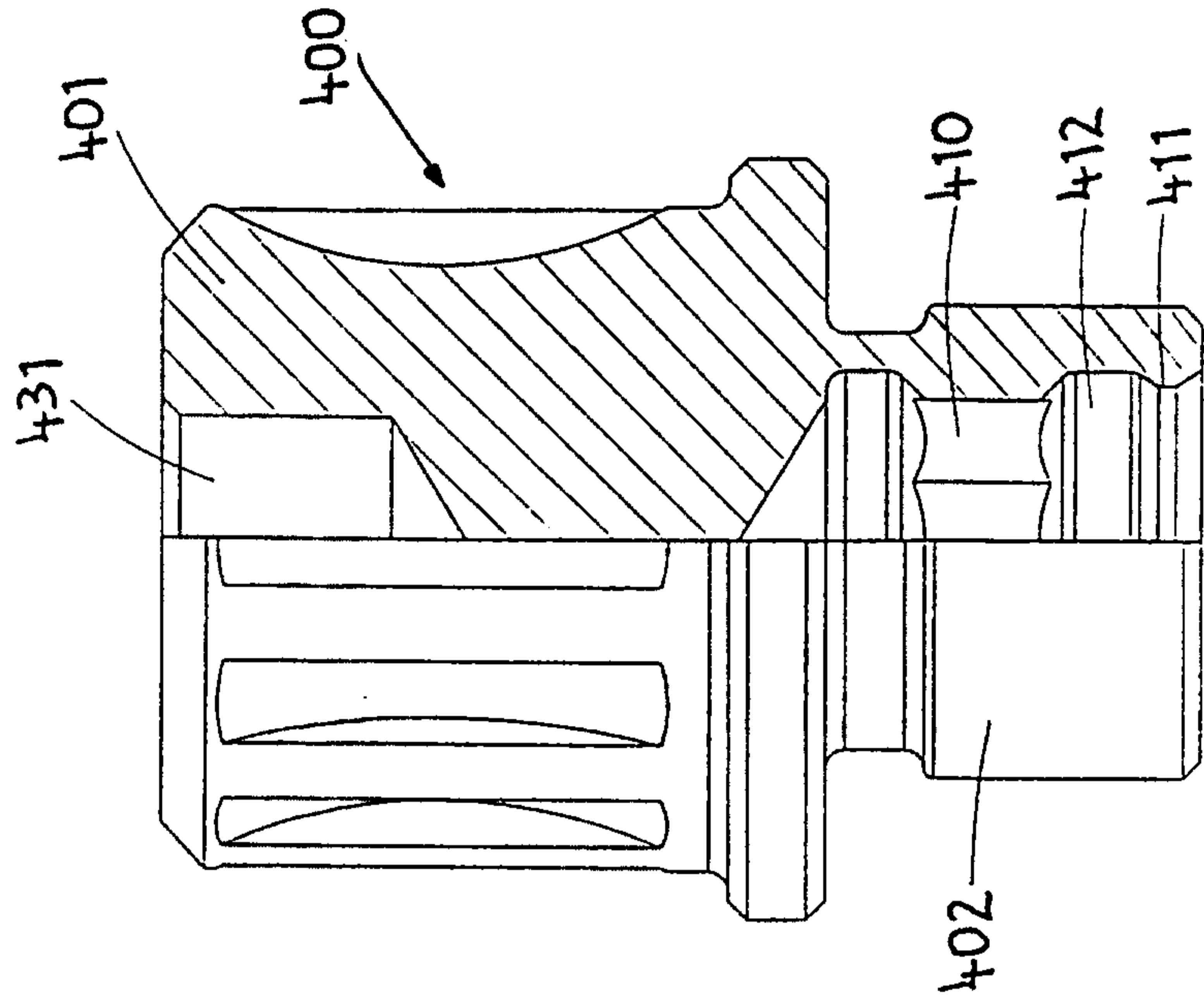
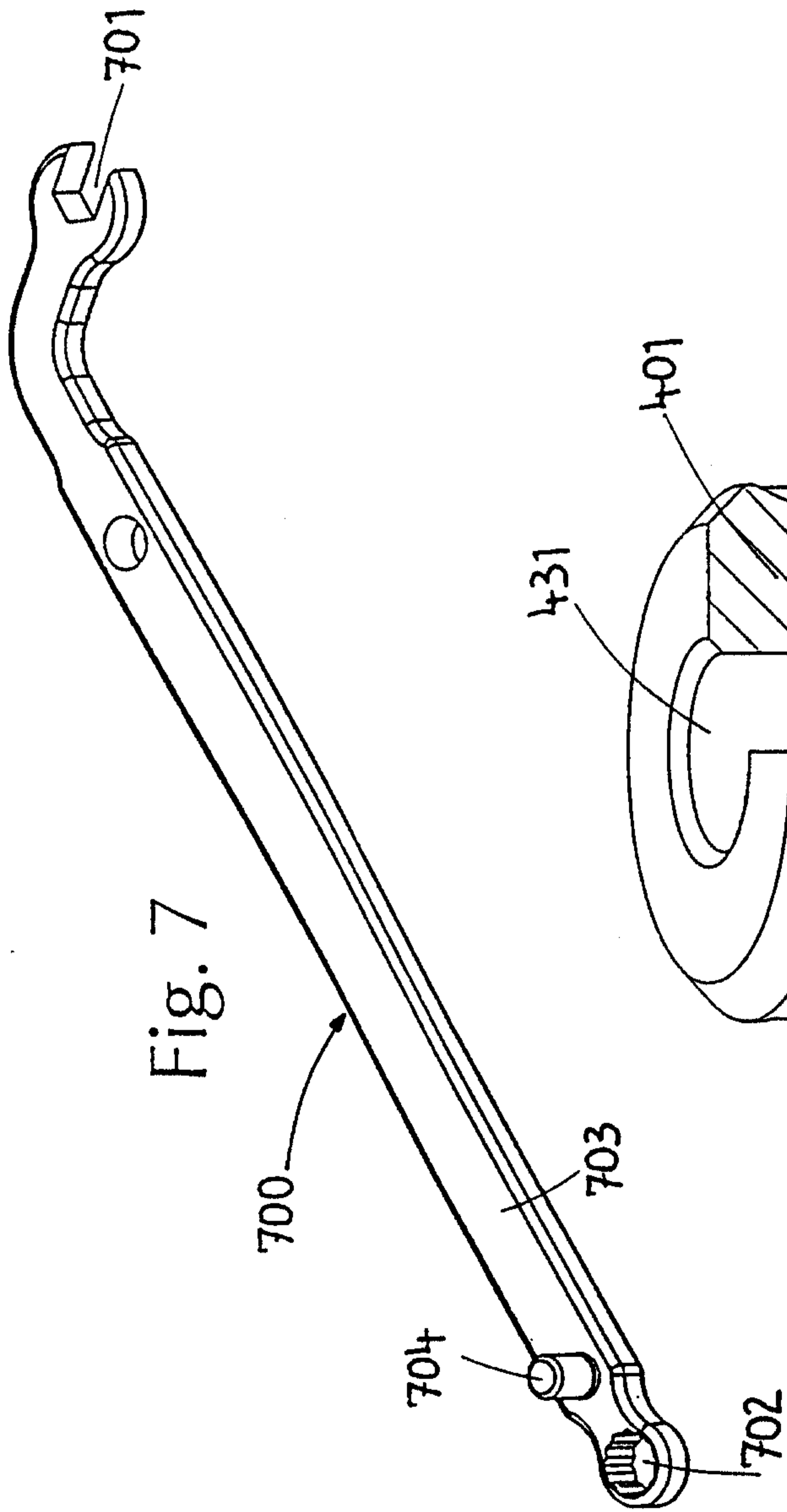


Fig. 6B

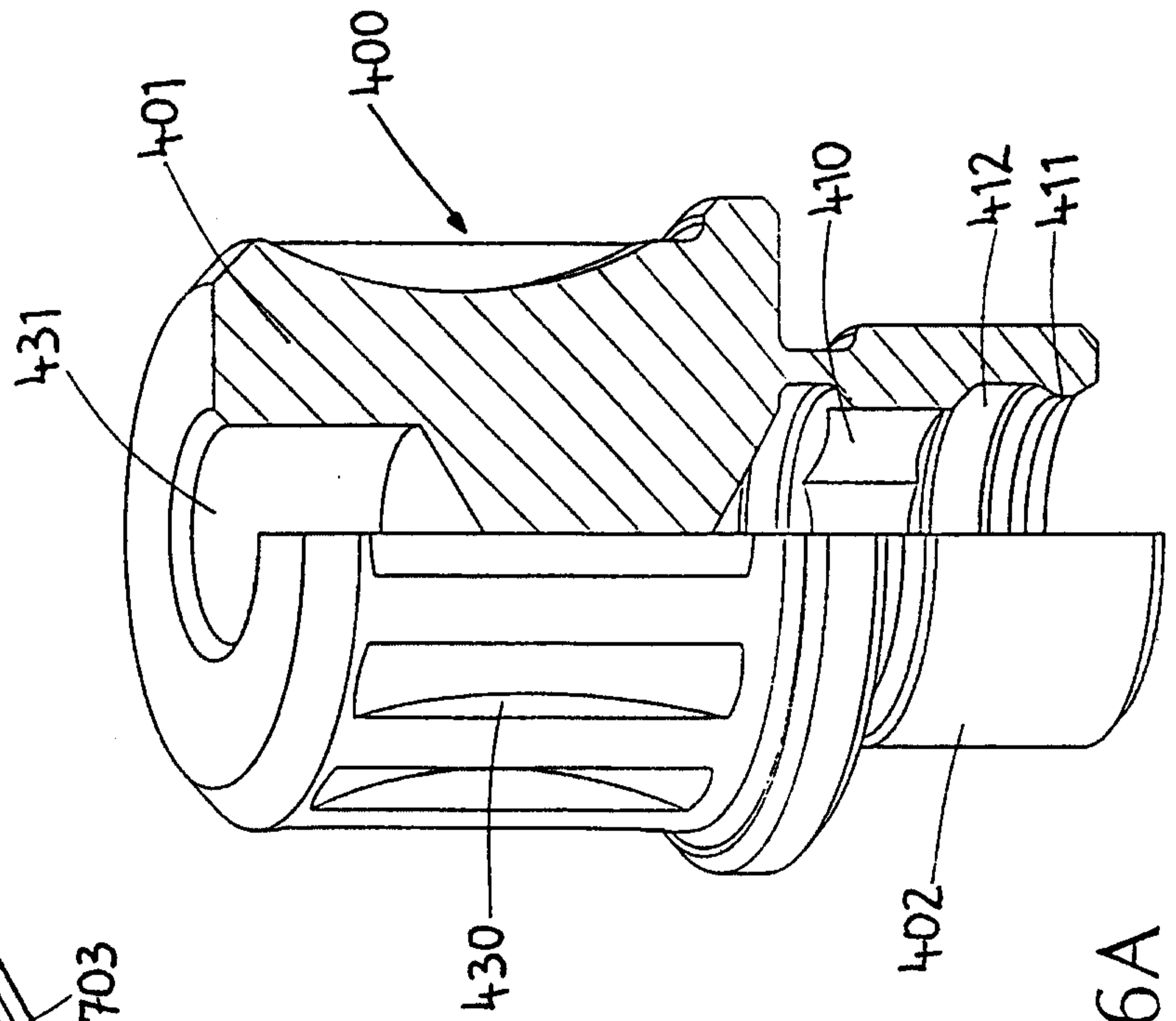


Fig. 6A

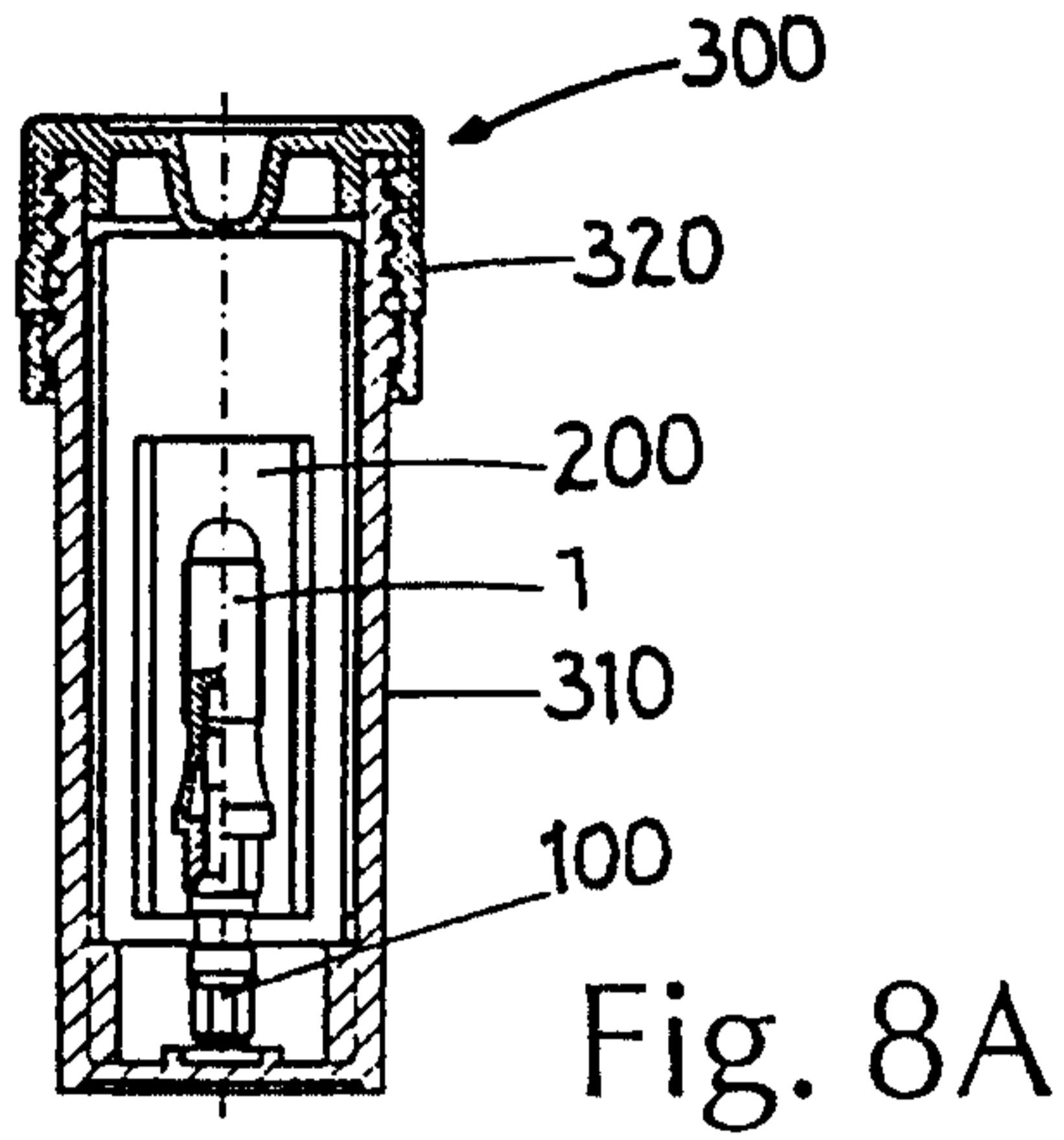


Fig. 8A

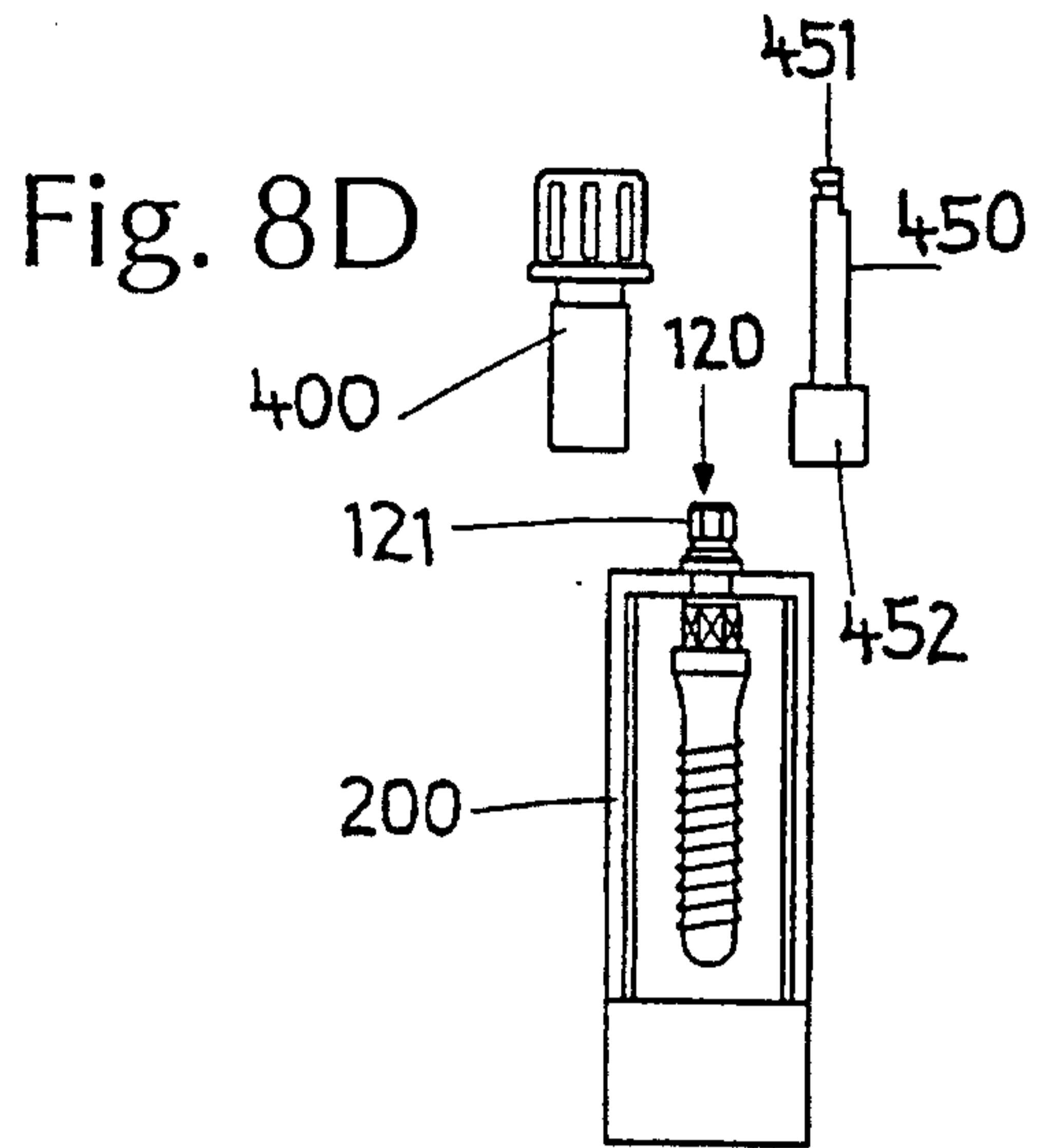


Fig. 8D

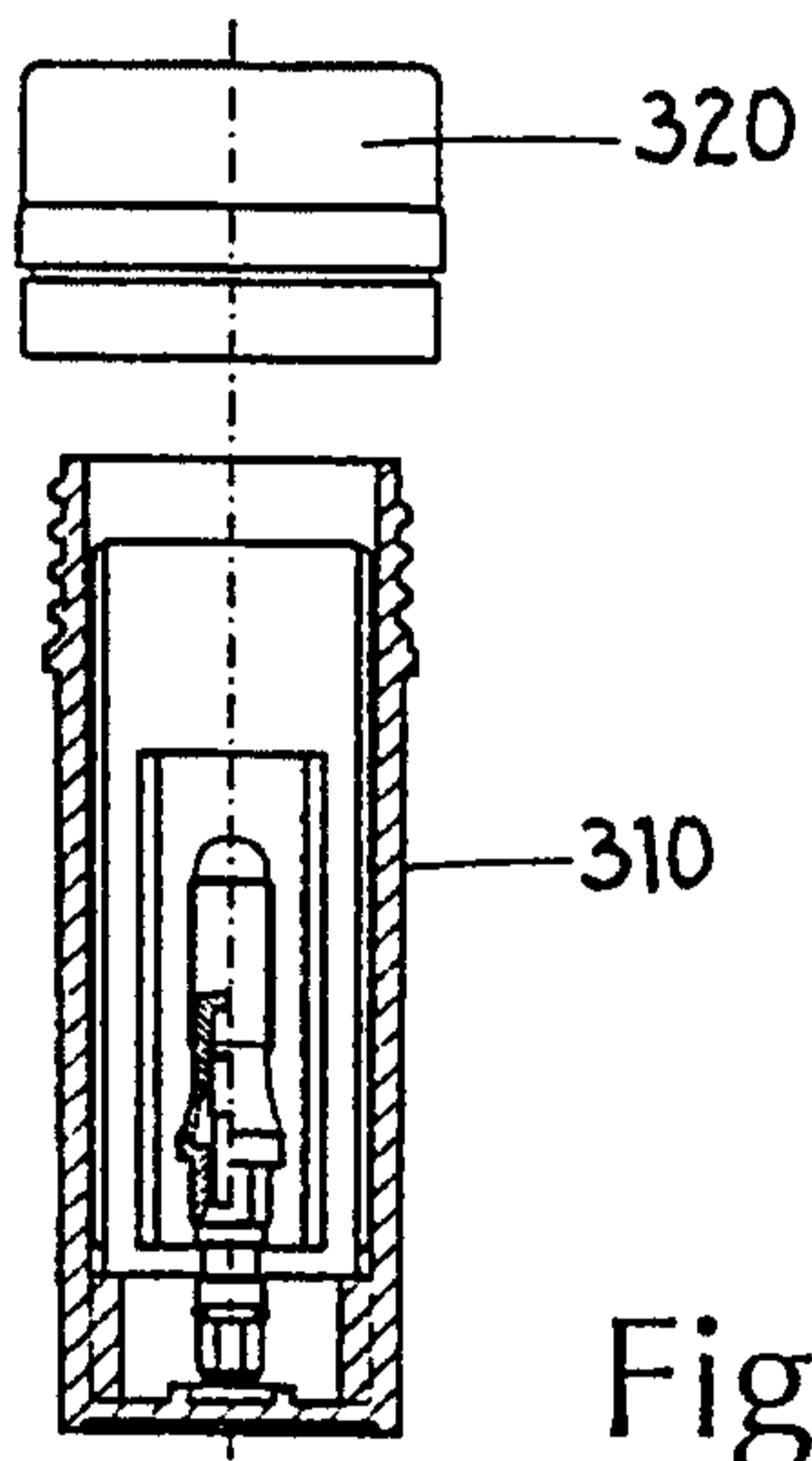


Fig. 8B

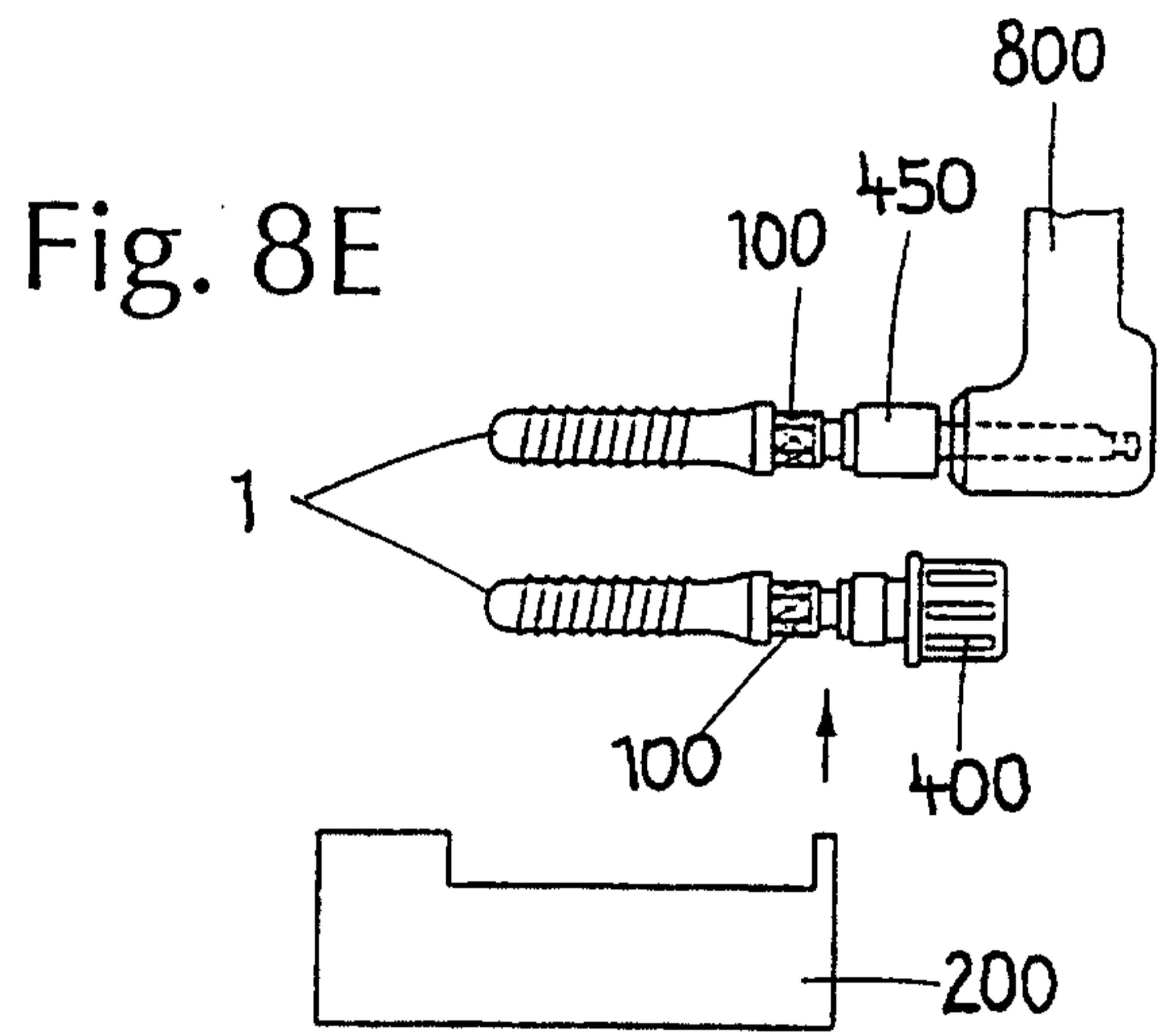


Fig. 8E

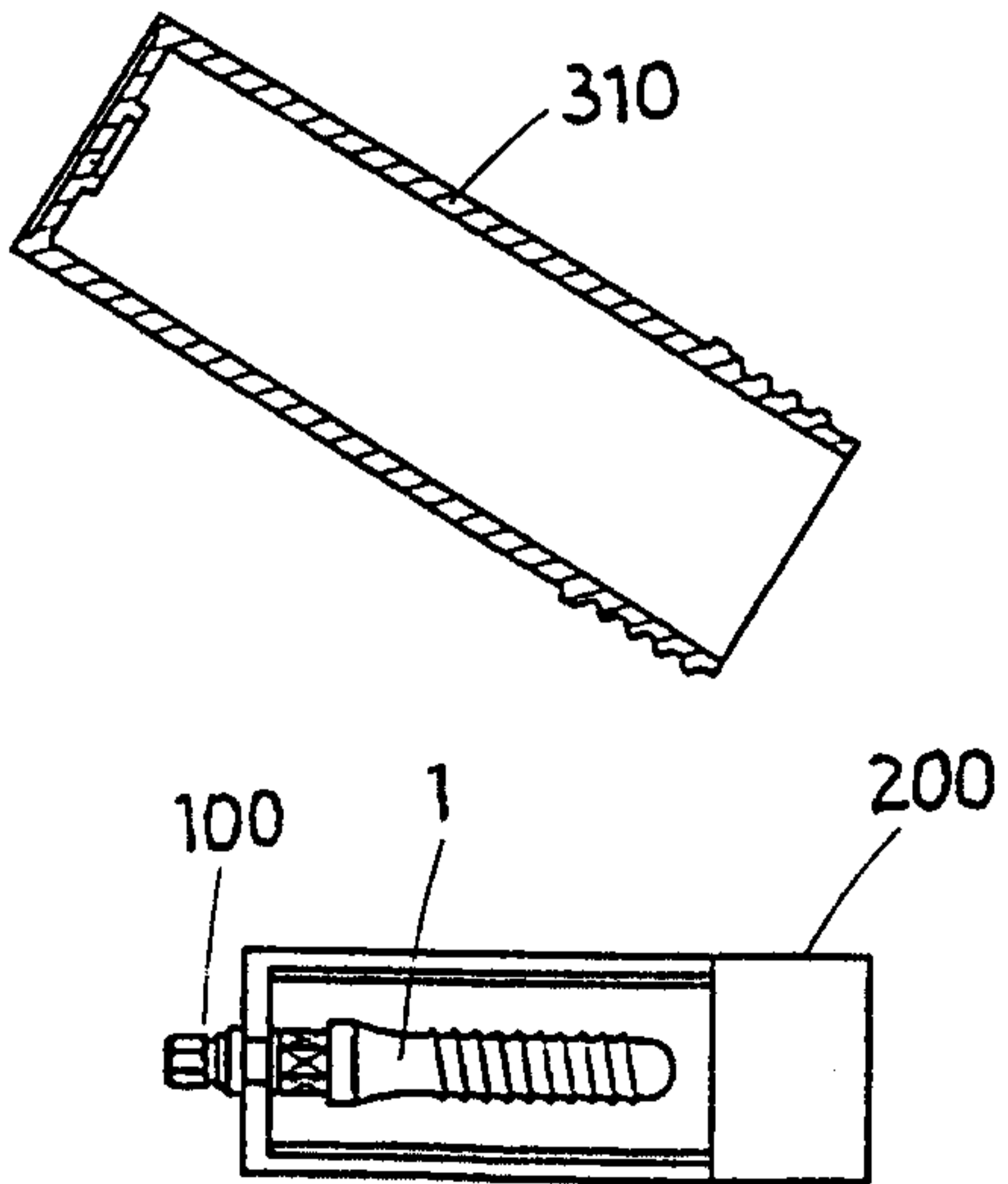


Fig. 8C

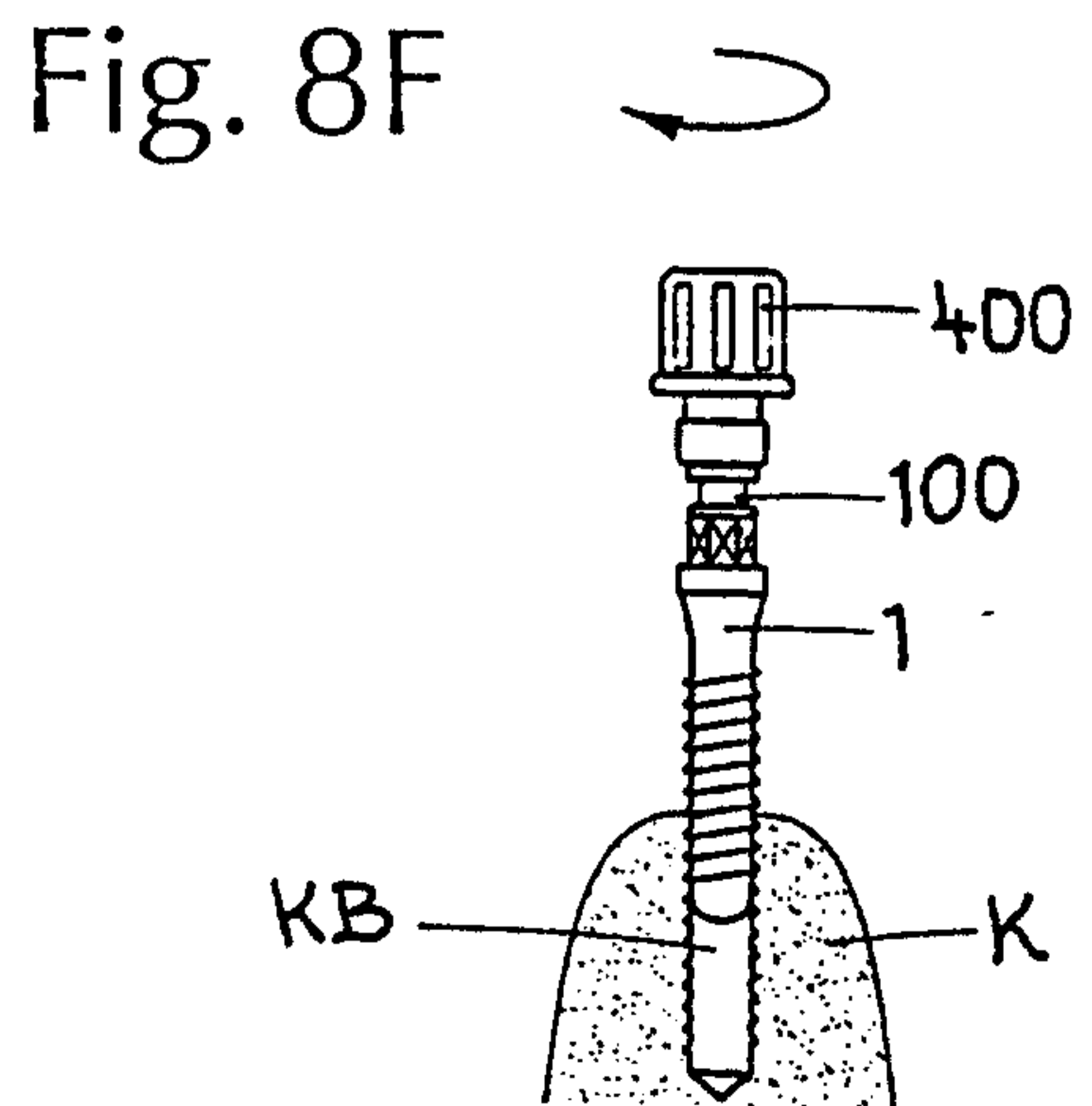


Fig. 8F

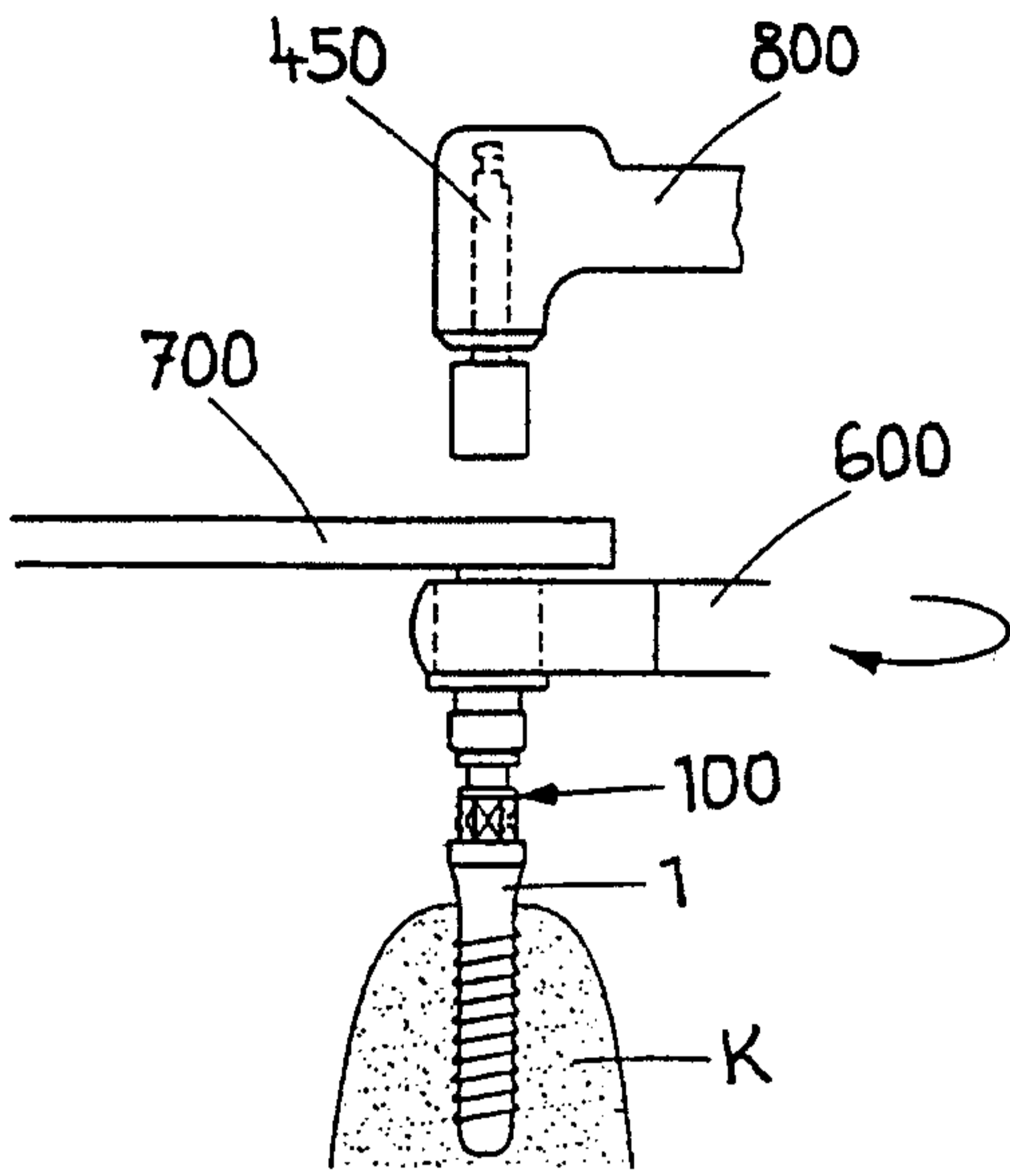


Fig. 8G

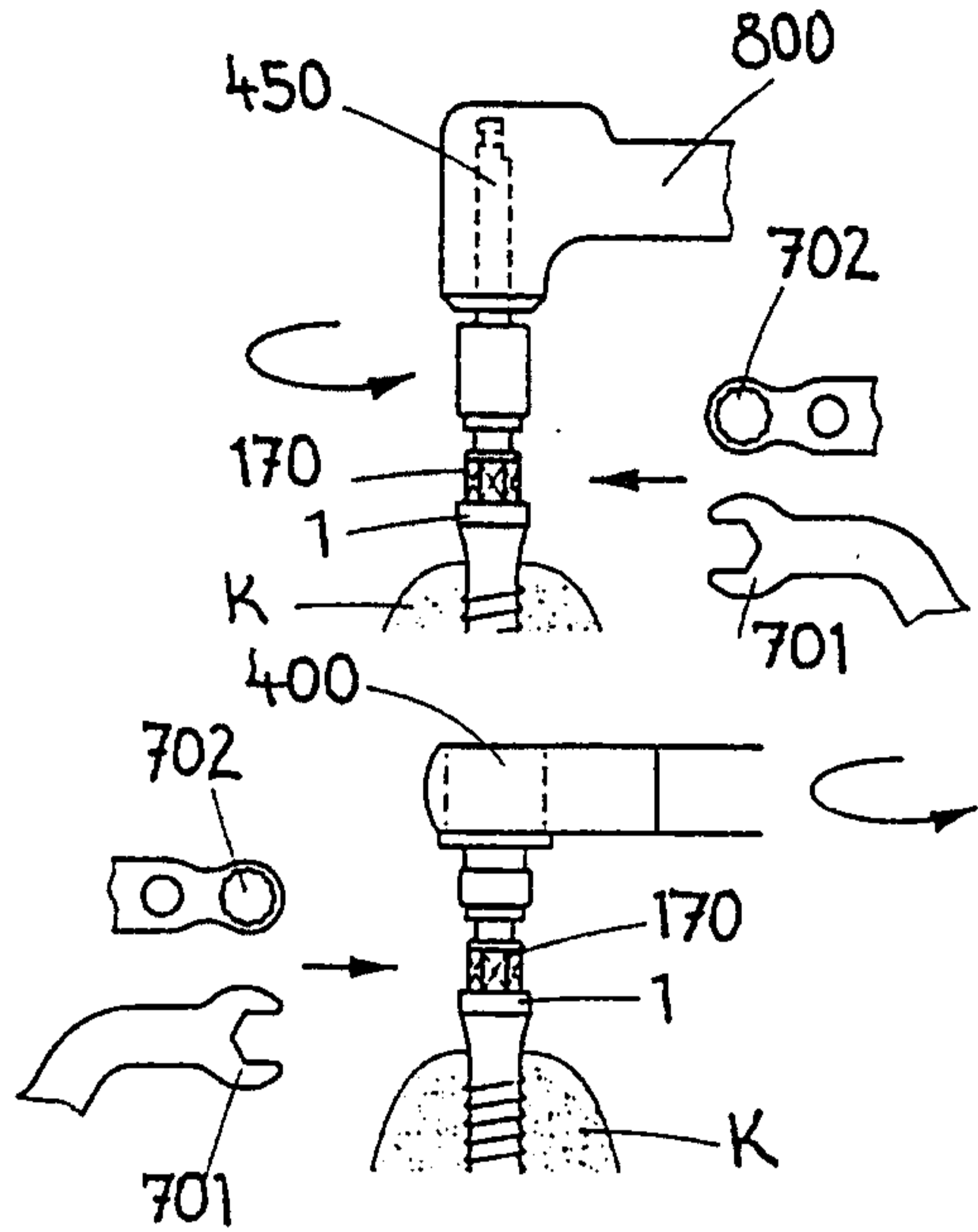


Fig. 8I

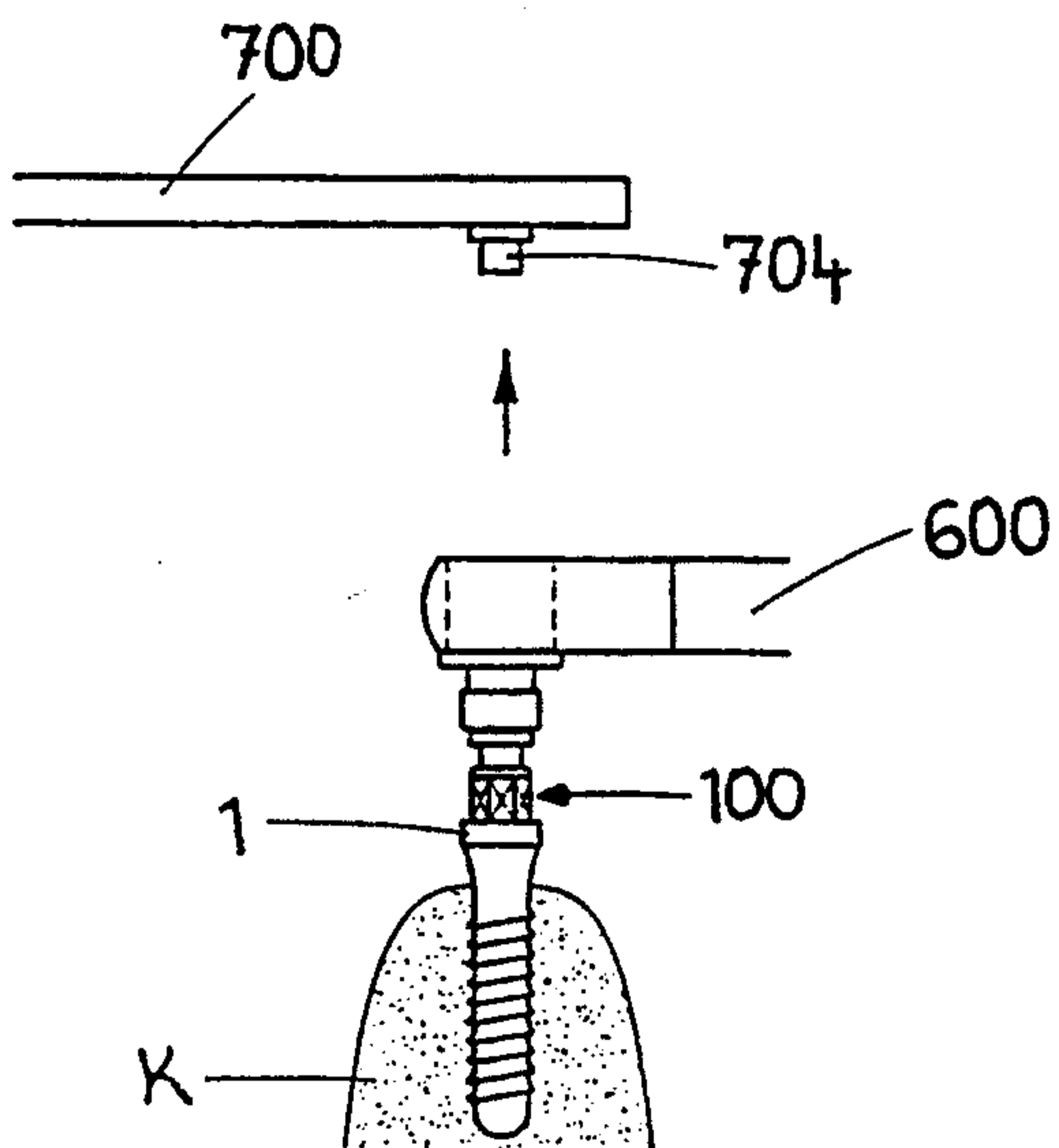


Fig. 8H

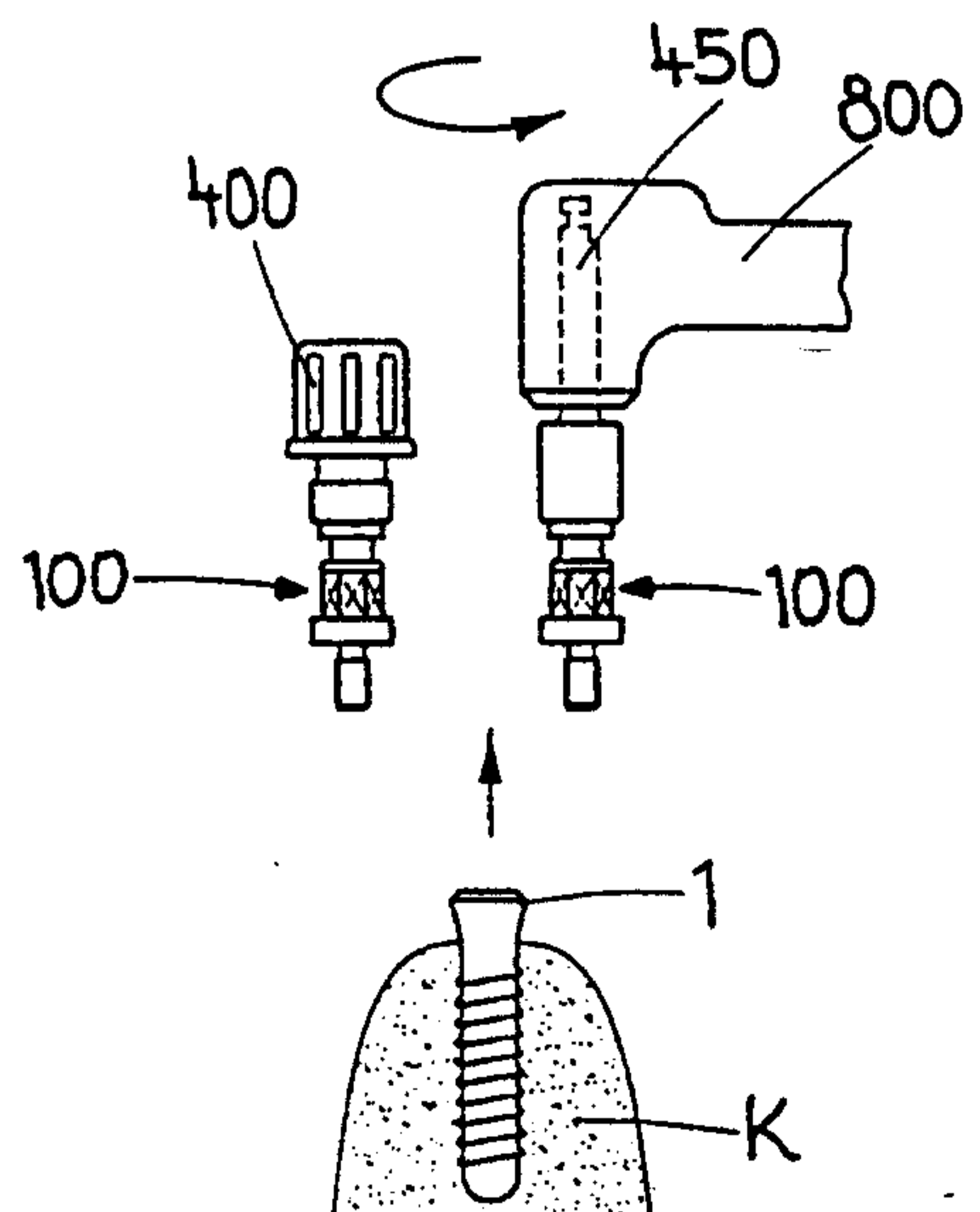


Fig. 8J

