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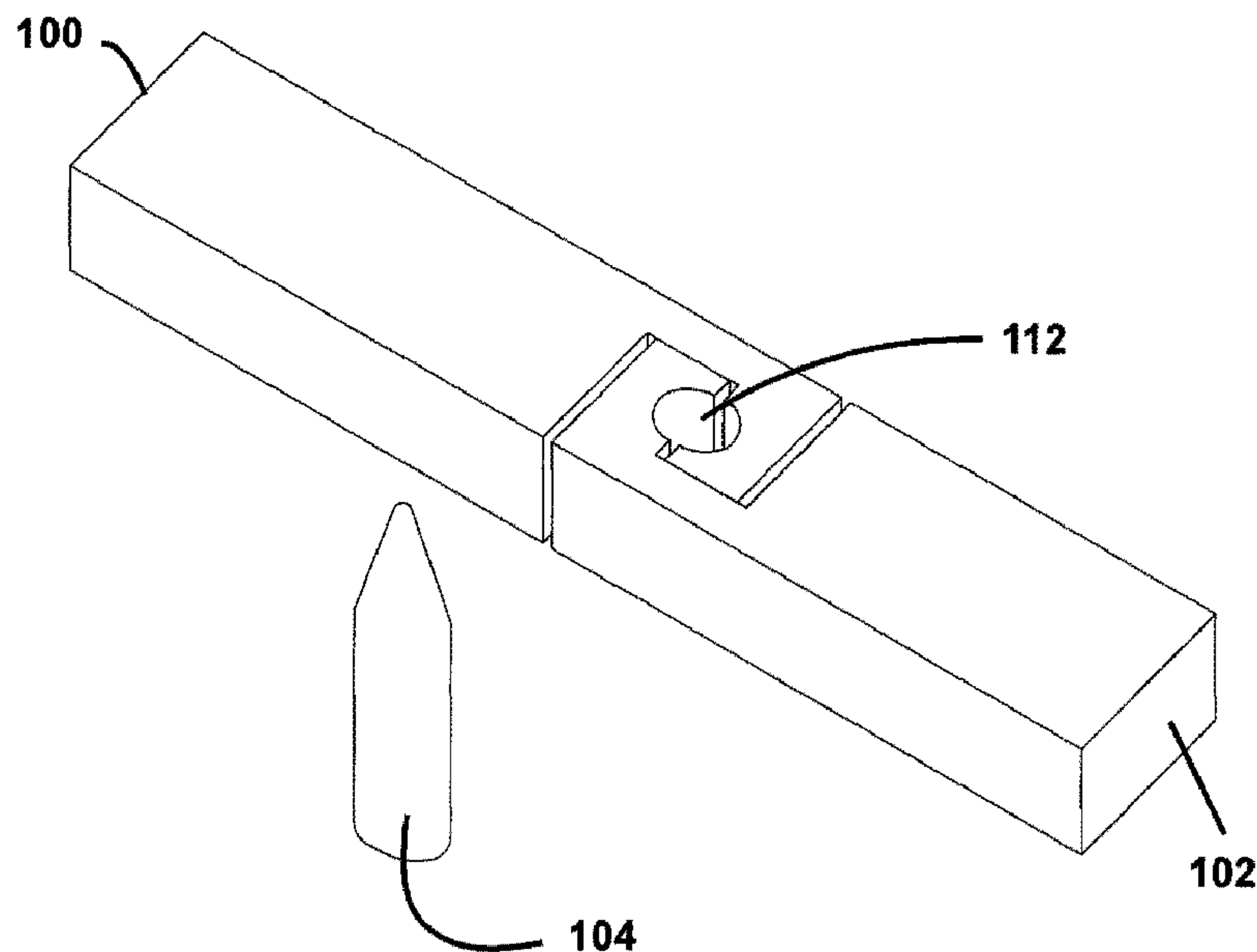


Fig.2b

(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

A connection assembly comprises a first and second components having respective first and second engagement portions, and a third component. The first and second components are adapted to be engaged together via the first and second engagement



(57) **Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):**

portions such as to define a space therebetween. The third component is adapted to be longitudinally introduced in the space and to forcibly displace the first and second engagement portions outwardly, thereby connecting the first and second components together. Furthermore, a method comprises assembling the components and longitudinally introducing the third component in the space to forcibly displace the first and second engagement portions outwardly, thereby connecting the first and second components together.

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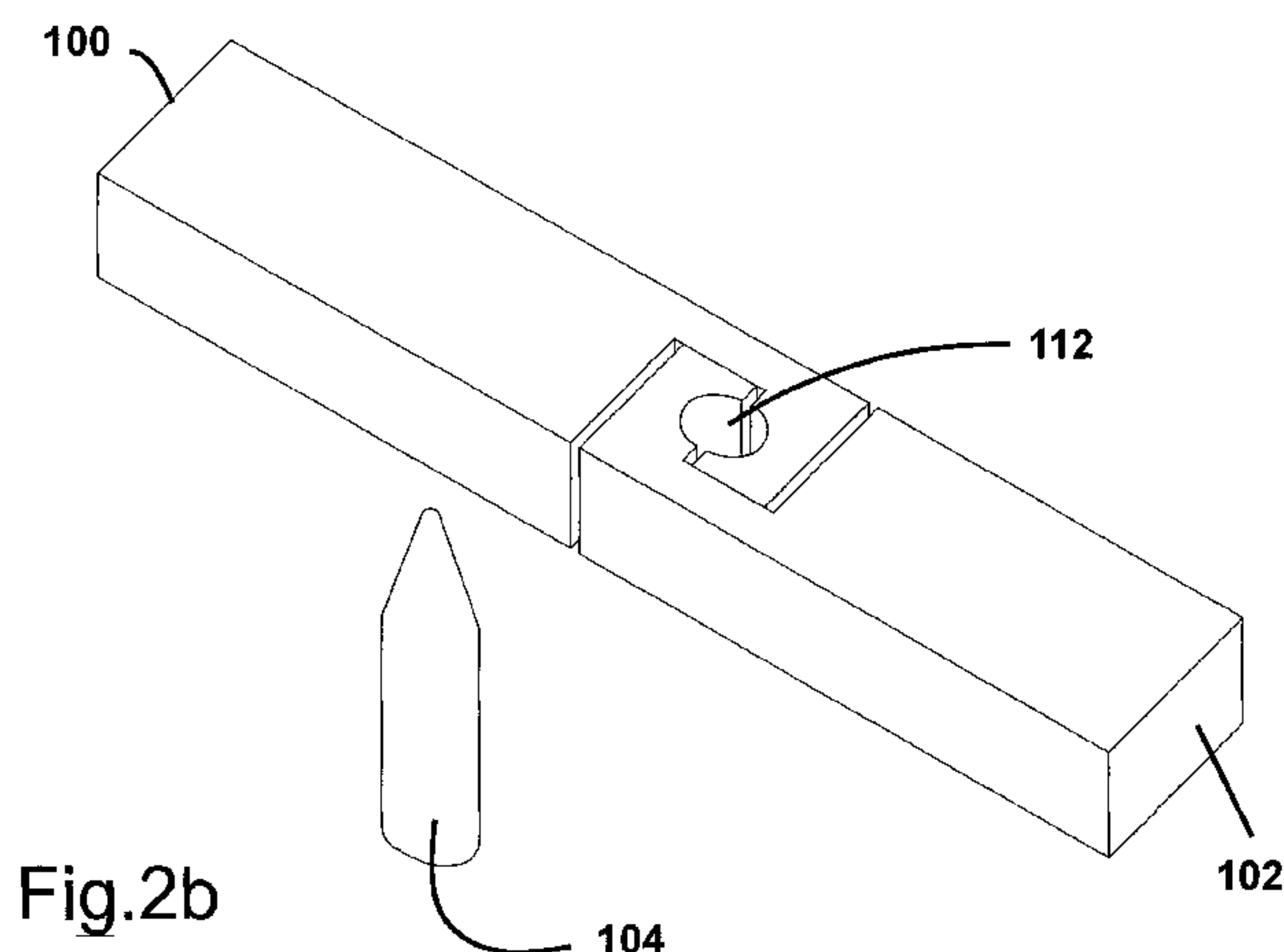
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(54) Title: CONNECTION ASSEMBLY BETWEEN TWO COMPONENTS



(57) **Abstract:** A connection assembly comprises a first and second components having respective first and second engagement portions, and a third component. The first and second components are adapted to be engaged together via the first and second engagement portions such as to define a space therebetween. The third component is adapted to be longitudinally introduced in the space and to forcibly displace the first and second engagement portions outwardly, thereby connecting the first and second components together. Furthermore, a method comprises assembling the components and longitudinally introducing the third component in the space to forcibly displace the first and second engagement portions outwardly, thereby connecting the first and second components together.

WO 2016/095014 A4

TITLE

CONNECTION ASSEMBLY BETWEEN TWO COMPONENTS

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This Application claims priority on U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/094,940, now pending, filed on December 19, 2014, which is herein incorporated by reference.

FIELD

[0002] The subject matter of the present disclosure relates to the connection of components and, more particularly, to devices and methods for mechanically connecting together a pair of components, such as wooden, metallic or plastics components for use in various industries, for example, construction, furniture, toys, etc.

BACKGROUND

[0003] In various industries, for example in the construction and furniture industries, it is required to connect various components together to build different structures. For instance, elongated components, e.g. made of wood, can be connected together in an axial relationship such as to make a beam or pillar, or in a transverse relationship such as to construct a framework or the like. In the furniture art, two components can be mounted together at right angles to form a leg of a table and a tabletop or a framework to support a tabletop.

[0004] Various devices have been developed to assemble such components together, including (a) glue, screws and nails for wooden

components, (b) screws, rivets and welds for metallic components, and (c) glue and screws for plastic components.

[0005] Wooden construction components can also be mounted together using nail plates, and the like. Mating configurations provided on one and the other of the two components are also used to attach these components together, such as tongue-and-groove joints, mortise and tenon joints, wedged spliced joints, etc. Dowels are also used for instance for joining wooden or plastic parts. Metallic cam lock (cam screw) and nut arrangements are also used to assemble furniture components, for instance in IkeaTM furniture, as are metallic bolt and barrel nut arrangements.

[0006] Notwithstanding the above, there remains a need for new types of connections that are suited to particular circumstances and that may be more economical, easier to install, stronger, etc., than known connections.

SUMMARY

[0007] It would thus be desirable to be provided with a system, a device or a method that is adapted for connecting two components together.

[0008] According to an embodiment, there is provided a connection assembly comprising a first and second components having respective first and second engagement portions, and a third component. The first and second components are adapted to be engaged together via the first and second engagement portions such as to define a space therebetween. The third component is adapted to be longitudinally introduced in the space and to forcibly displace the first and second engagement portions outwardly, thereby connecting

the first and second components together.

[0009] According to another embodiment, there is provided a method of connecting components in an assembly. The method comprises assembling a first and second components having respectively a first and second engagement portions to define a space therebetween. The method further comprises longitudinally introducing a third component in the space to forcibly displace the first and second engagement portions outwardly, thereby connecting the first and second components together.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] For a better understanding of the embodiments described herein and to show more clearly how they may be carried into effect, reference will now be made, by way of example only, to the accompanying drawings which show at least one exemplary embodiment, and in which:

[0011] Fig. 1a is a schematic cross-sectional view showing a pair of components prior to being assembled together according to one of various exemplary embodiments;

[0012] Fig. 1b is a schematic cross-sectional view showing the pair of components of Fig. 1a in an assembled position, via a key according to one of various exemplary embodiments;

[0013] Figs. 2a to 2d are sequential schematic perspective views illustrating a pair of further components and an associated key according to one of various exemplary embodiments; wherein Fig. 2a shows the three parts

unassembled, Fig. 2b shows the pair of components in a mating arrangement, and Figs. 2c and 2d show the pair of components in an assembled position via the key engaged thereto;

[0014] Fig. 3 is a schematic cross-section view showing a pair of components assembled together via an associated key engaged thereto according to an exemplary embodiment;

[0015] Fig. 4 is a schematic cross-section view showing four (4) components assembled together via an associated key engaged thereto according to an exemplary embodiment;

[0016] Figs. 6 to 8 are various schematic cross-sectional views each showing a pair of components assembled together via an associated pair of keys engaged thereto according to one of various exemplary embodiments;

[0017] Fig. 9 is a schematic cross-section view showing four (4) components assembled to one central component, wherein each of the four (4) components is assembled via an associated pair of keys engaged thereto according to an exemplary embodiment;

[0018] Figs. 10 to 12 are a perspective view, a front view and a side view of one component to be assembled to up to four (4) other components according to an exemplary embodiment;

[0019] Figs. 13 to 15 are a front, top and side views of a component to be assembled to the component of Figs. 10 to 12;

[0020] Figs. 16 to 18 are front, top and side views of a component housing a plurality of keys to be used in combination with components of Figs. 10 to 15;

[0021] Figs. 19 and 20 are front and side views of an alternative component as the one illustrated in Figs. 16 to 18;

[0022] Fig. 21 is a perspective view of a component used in relation with components of Figs. 10 to 20 for releasing the engagement therebetween;

[0023] Figs. 22 and 23 are perspective exploded and assembled views of a portion of an exemplary furniture piece comprising components of Figs. 10 to 18.

DESCRIPTION OF VARIOUS EMBODIMENTS

[0024] It will be appreciated that, for simplicity and clarity of illustration, where considered appropriate, reference numerals may be repeated among the figures to indicate corresponding or analogous elements or steps. In addition, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the exemplary embodiments described herein. However, it will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art that the embodiments described herein may be practiced without these specific details. In other instances, well-known methods, procedures and components have not been described in detail so as not to obscure the embodiments described herein. Furthermore, this description is not to be considered as limiting the scope of the embodiments described herein in any way but rather as merely describing the implementation of the various embodiments described herein.

[0025] In accordance with various exemplary embodiments, the present system includes basically a combination of a hook connection with a tongue component using a shimming (or key). The present technique modifies the shimming concept (a thin packing strip or washer often used with a number of similar washers or strips to adjust a clearance) by providing a custom built geometry that imposes force components in multiple directions of a given plane (not just the axial forces provided by typical shims), and using the present 2D shim within a hook, between the connection surface formed by the hook and the other component (thereby two structural members), to engage them into a rigid connection. The present shimming proposed works under compression, not only when the two components are pulled away from each other, but also when the connection is subject to a moment (rotational force). This allows to design the contact surfaces between the two components (the connection's cross sectional geometry) with more flexibility. This technique is possible due to precise manufacturing techniques of rigid materials.

[0026] Throughout the present description, the terms structure and component or any equivalent expression will be used interchangeably. For their parts, the terms engagement portions, tongue, groove, male, female or any other expression known in the art are also interchangeable to refer to the portion of a structure involved in a connection or engagement. The terms combination or assembly are also intended to be interchangeable, as the terms geometry and shape. For their parts, the terms wall, wall sections, contact portions, engagement portions are intended to refer to a surface not necessary even where two structures enters in contact. The terms space, engagement-free and contact-free are interchangeable and intended to refer to wall sections of one structure that is not in contact with another structure.

[0027] With reference to Figs. 1a and 1b, which illustrate the present system used with two structural members **A** and **B** of similar geometries and a key **K** having irregular configurations to demonstrate how the present principle functions. It has to be noted that with the first embodiment, the structural member **A** and the structural member **B** are permutable in relation with the function they accomplish.

[0028] The principle is to lock the two structural members **A** and **B** into a rigid connection through the longitudinal insertion of the key **K** perpendicularly to the *xy* plane that depicts the expected end rotation (i.e. along the *z* axis). The key **K** will be forcedly engaged, i.e. placed into location with a compression force in the *z* direction and will be transferring the forces in the *xy* plane, while there is negligible to no force component on the *z* axis to compromise the connection's rigidity. The natural forces acting on the assembly will ensure that this key **K** maintains its position unless intentionally removed through the exertion of force along the *z* axis.

[0029] In Fig. 1a, the engagement portions of the two structural members **A** and **B** are loosely engaged together with communicating spaces **30a**, **30b** and **30c** being defined therebetween, whereas Fig. 1b illustrates the engagement portions of the two structural members **A** and **B** in an assembled position (a.k.a. rigid connection) thereof. The space **30a** is provided between hook portions **32** and **34** that are part of the two structural members **A** and **B**, respectively.

[0030] The assembly of the two structural members **A** and **B** results from the third component, the key **K**, having been longitudinally introduced in the space **30a** thereby forcibly displacing the hook portions **32** and **34** outwardly, away

from one another, into outward engagement with walls sections **36** and **38** of the engagement portions of the structural members **B** and **A**, respectively. The key **K** typically has transverse dimensions at a leading portion thereof, which are smaller than a trailing portion thereof, thereby facilitating the introduction of the key **K** in the space **30a**. For instance, the key **K** can be tapered from a trailing end thereof towards a leading end thereof, can be pointy at the leading end, etc. Reference **J** depicts contact areas (a.k.a. engagement wall sections): these are wall sections between the hook portions **32** and **34** with the walls sections **36** and **38**, whereas reference **H** depicts other contact areas: the wall sections between the key **K** and the hook portions **32** and **34** of the two structural members **A** and **B**. Thereby, each hook portions **32** and **34** (a.k.a. engagement portions) of the structural members **A** and **B** are both forced into an outward engagement with the complementary walls sections **38** and **36** while the key **K** is forced into engagement with both the complementary structural members **B** and **A**, and the hook portions **34** and **32** respectively of its own structural member **A** and **B** respectively.

[0031] All dimensions, general shape, geometry, or three-dimensional variations, should be designed and engineered to meet the requirements of specific applications. It is suggested, in order to achieve better performances, that the contact areas **J** and **H** (on all three implicated components) should have the highest surface friction coefficient possible, and that these contact areas should be designed accordingly for instance by maximizing them as much as possible or using peaks and material characteristics to generate partial penetration of one structure into another when forcibly engaged.

[0032] The two structural members **A** and **B** can be extrusions, depending on their materials.

[0033] The key **K** should be sized as a tight fit within the cavity or space **30a** shown between the engagement portions of the two structural members **A** and **B**, and should have a narrower distal (leading) extremity or end along the *z* axis in order to ease its insertion when the two structural member **A** and **B** are in Position 1 (Fig. 1a).

[0034] Depending on the application and the loads implicated, the key **K** could be inserted, hammered, screwed, or put into position using any other linear insertion method. Once in position, the key **K** could be removed, releasing the two structural members **A** and **B** from one another. This could be done through the exertion of force on the key **K** along the *z* axis (by pushing, hammering out, pulling, unscrewing, or any other appropriate method).

[0035] A clearance **C**, on the *xy* plane (see Position 1 in Fig. 1a), is provided to allow easy insertion or sliding of the engagement portion of one structural member **A** or **B** into the engagement portion of the other **B** or **A**, respectively. The insertion of the key **K** will exert forces on the structural members **A** and **B** with an *X* component that will transfer this clearance distance from in the vicinity of the contact areas **J** and **H** into smaller pockets **40** defining engagement-free wall sections between the contact areas **J** and **H**, as seen at Position 2 in Fig. 1b.

[0036] Regarding the contact areas **J** between the hook portions **32** and **34** with the walls **36** and **38**, it is noted that once the key **K** is inserted, the two structural members **A** and **B** will be pulled together and will be engaged with each other at the contact areas **J**, wherein, as discussed above, the contacting surfaces of the structural members **A** and **B** should correspond as much as possible. The contact areas **J** between the structural members **A** and **B** is an important variable

in the optimization of the connection and should be designed in accordance with the specific application.

[0037] Turning to the contact areas **H** between the key **K** and the hook portions **32** and **34** of the two structural members **A** and **B**, the location of these contact areas **H** is to be detailed in such a way as to allow a negative X (-X) force component on the structural member **B**, and a positive X (+X) force component on the structural member **A**, with the contacting surfaces of the key **K** with the structural members **A** and **B** corresponding as much as possible. Inserting the key **K** will push on the two structural members **A** and **B** at this location to force the structural members **A** and **B** closer together until they are engaged along the **J** borderline or contact areas, thereby resulting in a rigid connection between the two structural members **A** and **B**.

[0038] The contact areas **H** between the key **K** and the hook portions **32** and **34** of the two structural members **A** and **B** further comprise Y force components, complementing the Y force components applicable on hook portions **32** and **34** by the walls **36** and **38**. The Y force component prevent displacement of the structural members **A** and **B** according to the y axis. Thereby, the key **K** imposes force components in multiple directions of the given xy plane.

[0039] Now referring to Figs. 2a to 2d, there is shown thereat another example and variation of the arrangement of Figs. 1a and 1b with identical structural members. In the embodiment of Figs. 2a to 2d, the two structural members are shown at **100** and **102**, whereas the key is referenced as **104**, in the form of a pin. The structural members **100** and **102** each define an enlarged distal end **106** and a proximal notch **108**. The proximal transversal surface of each enlarged distal end 106 defines a semi-circular groove **110**, each groove **110**

being thus located at a distal end of its respective notch **108**.

[0040] In Fig. 2a, the engagement portions of the structural members **100** and **102** are loosely engaged, with the proximal transversal surface of the enlarged distal ends **106** being located closely adjacent to one another such that the semi-circular grooves **110** face each other and define a substantially circular hole **112**.

[0041] Fig. 2c, The key **104** is forcibly inserted in the hole **112** thereby pushing the enlarged distal ends **106** away from one another, until distal transversal surfaces of the enlarged distal ends **106** are engaged with proximal transversal surfaces of the notches **108**. The resulting assembly is illustrated in Figs. 2c and 2d.

[0042] It has to be noted that, due to the geometry of the pin, the key **104** once again imposes force components in multiple directions of the given xy plane in addition to the force component pushing the distal ends **106** away from one another.

[0043] Figs. 3, 4 and 6 to 8 illustrate other examples and variations of the principle shown in the arrangement of Figs. 1a and 1b. In the embodiments of Figs. 3, 4 and 6 to 8, the two structural members are shown at **300/302**, **400/402**, **600/602**, **700/702** and **800/802**, respectively. Keys, operating alone, are referenced as **304** and **404**. Keys, operating in combination, are referenced as **604/604'**, **704/704'** and **804/804'**. Spaces between the components appear on each of Figs. 3 and 4 as a pair of areas longitudinally spacing the components, with the spaces being referenced **306** and **406**. In Fig. 6, spaces **606** are separated transversally the components **600** and **602**. In Figs. 7 and 8, spaces

706, 708, 806 and 808 are separating the components **700/800** from **702/802** both longitudinally and transversally. Fig. 5 illustrated an arrangement with four (4) components **500, 502, 504 and 506** connected using a single key **508**.

[0044] Fig. 9 illustrates an embodiment describing the use of a single first component **900** to engage a plurality of second components **902a, 902b, 902c** and **902d**. In this case, a similar double-key solution is used as illustrated in Fig. 8. A set of eight (8) keys **904a-h** are forcibly inserted in order to engage the components **902a-d** with the component **900**. As with other embodiments, the insertion of the keys **904a-h** forcibly displaces the first and second engagement portions of the first and second components **900** and **902a-d** outwardly, thereby generating spaces **906/908** opposed to engagement walls **910/912/914/916/918**.

[0045] As illustrated through particularly through Figs. 1 to 9, embodiments of the present connection assemblies may involve distinct geometries for the engaging portions of the components. The engaging portion geometry may take the shape of a hook (Fig. 1), a notch with a circular groove (Figs. 2 to 4) and an enclosed double hook (Figs. 6, 7, 8 and 9) with the shape of the complementary engaging portion being designed accordingly. All of these geometries provide engagement portions such as the contact surface engaging with the third component (a.k.a. the key) generate force components in multiple directions in the given xy plane.

[0046] Similarly, the inserting components features different geometries, with a portion engaging in the notch of the receiving component (a.k.a. a tongue) featuring a complementary shape to the notch geometry to maximize contact areas.

[0047] Complementarily, the geometry of the third component, the key, may be of a pin (Figs. 2 to 9) or of a generic shape (Fig. 1) or other shapes such as a rectangular shape (not illustrated). Furthermore, as illustrated in Fig. 3 for instance, the engagement portion of one of the component (component **300**) may perform a female connection function while the engagement portion of the other (component **302**) performs a male connection function. Other examples, see Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 4 may demonstrate that the engagement portions of both components perform both a female connection function and a male connection function at the same time.

[0048] Now referring to Figs. 13 to 15, schematic illustrations of a component involved in a piece of furniture, a wall piece **1300**, featuring an engagement portion **1302** having a notch shaped as two hooks similar to the one of Fig. 9.

[0049] Figs 10 to 12 illustrate the complementary component, the corner piece **1000** through a schematic illustration and a perspective view. The corner piece consists in an extruded structure of a generally square shape, with an engagement portion **1002a-d** on each of the four (4) faces **1004a-d**, consisting of a double-hook shaped notch longitudinally passing through the corner piece **1000**. Accordingly, assembly of the wall piece **1300** and the corner piece **1000** is performed by inserting the engagement portion **1302** of the wall piece **1300** from any of the two ends of the corner piece **1000** and sliding the wall piece **1300** into position.

[0050] Figs. 16 to 20 illustrate a two realizations of a third component, a locking piece **1600/1900**, permitting to rigidly connect the wall piece **1300** into the corner piece **1000**. To lock the wall piece **1300** in place in the corner piece **1000**,

the wall piece **1300** must be in place and longitudinally immobilized. Then, the locking piece **1600/1900** is forcibly engaged at the end of the corner piece **1000**, forcing the eight (8) pins **1602/1902/1904** into the four (4) notches **1002a-d** of the corner piece **1000**. In the notches **1002** having an engagement portion **1302** of the wall piece(s) **1300** inserted therein, the pins **1602/1902/1904** are pushing outwardly the engagement portions **1302** of the wall piece(s) **1300**. Since the pins **1602/1902/1904** are of a circular shape with substantially similar shapes for the engaging walls of the engagement portions **1002/1302** of the wall piece(s) **1300** and the corner piece **1000**, force components in multiple directions of the given xy plane (perpendicular to insertion axis of the pins **1602**) are applied. Furthermore, through the rigid structure of the engagement portions **1002/1302**, only a portion of the length of the pins **1602/1902/1904** may be required to be inserted between the engagement portions **1002/1302** to forces the whole length of an engagement portion **1002/1302** to engage with the complementary engaging portion **1302/1002**. Figs. 19 and 20 show a locking piece **1900** having two (2) sets of pins **1902/1904** located on opposed ends. Accordingly, the locking piece **1900** is able at the same time to secure wall pieces **1300** in two distinct corner pieces **1000** and while rigidly linking these assemblages.

[0051] To provide alignment, the above-described connection may feature a wall piece **1300** and a corner piece **1000** having the same length. As illustrated, the engagement portion **1302** of the wall piece **1300** may be present on portions of its length (see Fig. 22 for example with the engagement portion divided into four sections), normally at least two, being close to the two longitudinal ends. The corner piece **1000**, for its part, usually feature its engagement portion **1002a-d** on all its length. When assembled, the wall piece **1300** and corner piece **1000** are placed so as to have their ends even. Then, two locking pieces **1600** are used, one on each end to force engagement of the wall piece(s) **1300** and the corner piece **1000**. When more than one wall piece **1300** has to be engagement with a

corner piece **1000** , all wall pieces **1300** are sled in before using the locking pieces **1600** to simultaneously engage all wall pieces **1300** to the corner piece **1000**.

[0052] Fig. 21 illustrates through a perspective view an embodiment of a releasing tool **2100** used to release the locking piece **1600** from the corner piece **1000**. The releasing tool **2100** features an oval-shaped head **2102** with a shoulder portion **2104** at a distal end of a handling end **2106**. To release the pins **1602/1902**, the head **2102** of the releasing tool **2100** is inserted into the hole **1604** of the locking piece **1600** at an angle permitting to the end **2102** to penetrate the hole **1604** such that the shoulder portion **2104** is located beyond a shoulder portion **1608** (see Fig. 16) defined in the locking piece **1600** by the hole **1604**. A leading end **2108** of the releasing tool **2100** also pushes against the corner piece **1000** to allow the releasing tool **2100** to pull the key **1600/1900** away from the assembly. Once inserted, the releasing tool **2100** is rotated and slightly pulled to press the shoulders portions **2104** and **1608** against each other. By pulling the releasing tool **2100**, a pulling force is applied on the locking piece **1600** retrieving the pins **1602** from between engagement portions **1002/1302** of the wall piece(s) **1300** and the corner piece **1000**. When the locking piece **1600/1900** is pulled out, the engagement portions **1002/1302** of the corner pieces **1000** and of the wall piece(s) **1300** reach a loosely engaged state permitting to slide out the wall piece(s) **1300** from the corner piece **1000** thereby permitting a modified configuration.

[0053] Returning to Figs. 13 to 15, the wall piece **1300** is featured with additional engagement portions **1312a-d** intended for engagement with other components than the corner piece **1000**. These additional engagement portions **1312a-d** may be involved in engagement functions similar to the ones above described, or to other functions.

[0054] Figs. 22 and 23 illustrate a combination of pieces, including wall pieces, a corner piece and locking pieces involved in the building of a furniture piece. Fig. 22 presents an exploded view while Fig. 23 provides an assembled view of the same components with the same references as in the previous figures. As illustrated, that solution allows to engage the pieces in different configuration, release them from these configurations and arrange them into other configurations as desired.

[0055] The present principle could be considered as an option to replace or to be combined with: bolting, welding, screwing, nailing, and adhesives in between substantially all types of structural members at substantially every scale.

[0056] In manufacturing and industrial design, the present principle could be used for connecting various rigid items in product assemblies.

[0057] In the construction industry, the present principle could be used for joining structural steel members on site – post and beam systems; for joining prefabricated items to a structure (façade elements, structural elements, slabs, stairs, etc.); for the fixing of secondary structural elements (railing, hand rail, etc.); etc. This system could also be used to replace welding, bolting, and other rigid connections when time is of the essence. It could also be used for temporary structures that will require dismantling, and for connecting modules for home or building construction.

[0058] In the furniture industry, the present system could be used for joining furniture pieces in factory, without using screws, nails, or glue; as well as for joining furniture pieces on location (home built furniture, such as Ikea™

products, and the like).

[0059] With respect to the toy industry, the present system could be used for factory built toy structures, and for toys that are to be assembled at home.

[0060] As to the transportation industry, the present connection could be used in the loading and unloading effort due to its simple dismantling potential; for joining large containers together during transportation to reduce vibrations and movements; and for fixing structural items in vehicles (e.g. seats, prefabricated finishes, etc.).

[0061] In home and lifestyle applications, the present system could be used for joining framing members, eyeglasses frames, etc.

[0062] Finally, while the above description provides examples of the embodiments, it will be appreciated that some features and/or functions of the described embodiments are susceptible to modification without departing from the spirit and principles of operation of the described embodiments. Accordingly, what has been described above has been intended to be illustrative of the embodiments and non-limiting, and it will be understood by persons skilled in the art that other variants and modifications may be made without departing from the scope of the embodiments as defined in the claims appended hereto.

AMENDED CLAIMS

received by the International Bureau on 20 June 2016 (20.06.2016)

CLAIMS

1. A connection assembly, comprising:

first and second components having respective first and second engagement portions;

a third component;

said first and second components being adapted to be engaged together via the first and second engagement portions such as to define a space therebetween;

the third component being adapted to be longitudinally introduced in the space and to forcibly displace the first and second engagement portions outwardly, thereby connecting the first and second components together.

2. The connection assembly of claim 1, wherein the third component is made of rigid material.

3. The connection assembly of claim 1, wherein the third component generates force components in multiple directions on the first component portion and the second component portion according to a *xy* plane perpendicular to the longitudinal insertion orientation of the third component.

4. The connection assembly of claim 1, further comprising a connection component comprising the third component and having a head, wherein the head is engagement-free from the first component portion and the second component portion.

5. The connection assembly of claim 1, wherein the third component has an engagement wall having a geometry similar to a wall section of the first component portion to be engaged to.

6. The connection assembly of claim 1, wherein the first component portion has a first length, the second component portion has a second length, and the third component has a third length, and wherein the first length and the second length are greater than the third length.
7. The connection assembly of claim 1, wherein the first engagement portion and the second engagement portion have an identical geometry.
8. The connection assembly of claim 1, wherein the first engagement portion provides a female connection function and the second engagement portion provides a male connection function, whereby, when the first and second components are engaged together, the second portion is inserted into the first portion.
9. The connection assembly of claim 1, wherein one of the first engagement portion and the second engagement portion has a hook shape.
10. The connection assembly of claim 1, wherein the first engagement portion has a first wall section and a second wall section, and wherein, when the third component is inserted into the space, the first wall section is engaged with the second engagement portion and the second wall section is engaged with the third component.
11. The connection assembly of claim 10, wherein the first engagement portion comprises a third wall section located between the first wall section and the second wall section, and wherein, when the third component is inserted into the space, the third wall section is engagement-free.

12. The connection assembly of claim 1, wherein the first engagement portion includes a groove adapted to be engaged with the third component.

13. The connection assembly of claim 1, further comprising:

a third-prime component and a fourth component having a fourth engagement portion, with the first component further comprising a first-prime engagement portion distinct from the first engagement portion,

wherein the first component and fourth component are adapted to be engaged together via the first-prime engagement portion and the fourth engagement portion when the third-prime component is introduced therebetween and forcibly displaces the first-prime and fourth engagement portions outwardly.

14. The connection assembly of claim 13, wherein the first engagement portion and the first-prime engagement portion have identical geometries.

15. The connection assembly of claim 13, wherein the first component has first and first-prime faces and wherein the first and first-prime engagement portions are disposed with respect to the first and first-prime faces respectively.

16. The connection assembly of claim 13, further comprising a connection component comprising the third component, the third-prime component and a head, wherein the connection component is adapted so that the third component is adapted to be introduced between the first component portion and the second component portion and the third-prime component to be introduced between the first-prime component portion and the fourth component portion.

17. The connection assembly of claim 16, wherein the connection component comprises a hole with a first shoulder, the connection assembly further comprising a releasing component having a second shoulder,

wherein the releasing component is adapted to be introduced in the hole and to release engagement of the first and second components when the first and second shoulders are engaged as to apply a longitudinal pulling force away from the first and second engagement portions.

18. The connection assembly of claim 16, wherein the first engagement portion has a double-hook shape and wherein the connection component is adapted so that the third and third-prime components are adapted to be introduced between the first component portion and the second component portion with respect to a first hook-shape portion and a second hook-shape portion of the first engagement portion.

19. The connection assembly of claim 1, wherein the first, second and third components are parts of a furniture article.

20. A method of connecting components into an assembly, comprising:

assembling a first and a second components having respectively a first and second engagement portions such as to engage together the first and the second engagement portions to define a space therebetween; and

longitudinally introducing a third component in the space to forcibly displace the first and second engagement portions outwardly, thereby connecting the first component and the second component together.

21. The method of connection components into an assembly of claim 20, further comprising before the step of introducing the third component:

assembling the first component and a fourth component having respectively a first-prime and fourth engagement portions such as to engage together the first and fourth engagement portions to define a second space,

wherein, when longitudinally introducing the third component, a third-prime

component structurally combined with the third component is longitudinally introduced in the second space to forcibly displace the first-prime and fourth engagement portions outwardly, thereby connecting the first-prime component and the fourth component together.

22. A connection assembly, comprising:

first and second components having respective first and second engagement portions;

a third component;

said first and second components being adapted to be engaged together via the first and second engagement portions such as to define a space therebetween;

the third component being adapted to be longitudinally introduced in the space and to forcibly displace the first and second engagement portions outwardly, thereby connecting the first and second components together.

23. The connection assembly of claim 22, wherein the third component is made of rigid material.

24. The connection assembly of any one of claims 22 and 23, wherein the third component generates force components in multiple directions on the first component and the second component according to a xy plane substantially perpendicularly to a longitudinal insertion orientation of the third component.

25. The connection assembly of any one of claims 22 to 24, further comprising a connection component comprising the third component and having a head, wherein the head is engagement-free from the first component and the second component.

26. The connection assembly of any one of claims 22 to 25, wherein the third component has an engagement wall having a geometry substantially complimentary to a wall section of the first component to be engaged therewith.

27. The connection assembly of any one of claims 22 to 26, wherein the first component has a first length, the second component has a second length, and the third component has a third length, and wherein the first length and the second length are greater than the third length.

28. The connection assembly of any one of claims 22 to 27, wherein the first engagement portion and the second engagement portion have one of substantially identical geometries and substantially mirror-like geometries.

29. The connection assembly of any one of claims 22 to 28, wherein the first engagement portion provides a female connection function and the second engagement portion provides a male connection function, whereby, when the first and second components are engaged together, the second portion is inserted into the first portion.

30. The connection assembly of any one of claims 22 to 29, wherein at least one of the first engagement portion and the second engagement portion has a hook shape.

31. The connection assembly of any one of claims 22 to 30, wherein the first engagement portion has a first wall section and a second wall section, and wherein, when the third component is inserted into the space, the first wall section is engaged with the second engagement portion and the second wall section is engaged with the third component.

32. The connection assembly of claim 31, wherein the first engagement portion comprises a third wall section located between the first wall section and the second wall section, and wherein, when the third component is inserted into the space, the third wall section is engagement-free.

33. The connection assembly of any one of claims 22 to 32, wherein the first engagement portion includes a groove adapted to be engaged with the third component.

34. The connection assembly of any one of claims 22 to 33, further comprising:
a third-prime component and a fourth component having a fourth engagement portion, with the first component further comprising a first-prime engagement portion distinct from the first engagement portion,
wherein the first component and fourth component are adapted to be engaged together via the first-prime engagement portion and the fourth engagement portion when the third-prime component is introduced therebetween and forcibly displaces the first-prime and fourth engagement portions outwardly.

35. The connection assembly of claim 34, wherein the first engagement portion and the first-prime engagement portion have substantially identical geometries.

36. The connection assembly of any one of claims 34 to 35, wherein the first component has first and first-prime faces and wherein the first and first-prime engagement portions are disposed with respect to the first and first-prime faces respectively.

37. The connection assembly of any one of claims 34 to 36, further comprising a connection component comprising the third component, the third-prime component

and a head, wherein the connection component is adapted so that the third component is adapted to be introduced between the first component and the second component and the third-prime component is introduced between the first-prime component and the fourth component.

38. The connection assembly of claim 37, wherein the connection component comprises a hole with a first shoulder, the connection assembly further comprising a releasing component having a second shoulder,

wherein the releasing component is adapted to be introduced in the hole and to release engagement of the first and second components when the first and second shoulders are engaged as to apply a longitudinal pulling force away from the first and second engagement portions.

39. The connection assembly of claim 37, wherein the first engagement portion has a double-hook shape and wherein the connection component is adapted so that the third and third-prime components are adapted to be introduced between the first component portion and the second component portion with respect to a first hook-shape portion and a second hook-shape portion of the first engagement portion.

40. The connection assembly of any one of claims 22 to 39, wherein the first, second and third components are parts of a furniture article.

41. The connection assembly of any one of claims 22 to 40, wherein the first component includes four of the first engagement portion, the four first engagement portions being opposed in pairs, each adjacent pair of first engagement portions being adapted to be connected to the second engagement portion of a respective second component via the third component.

42. The connection assembly of claim 41, wherein the first component defines a corner assembly for use in connecting thereto one or more second components, in the form of panels, for instance to construct a furniture piece or part thereof.

43. The connection assembly of any one of claims 41 to 42, wherein each adjacent pair of first engagement portions defines a first connection set.

44. The connection assembly of any one of claims 41 to 43, wherein a pair of second components are adapted to be mounted substantially perpendicularly with respect to one another by securing, via respective third components, the pair of second components to two adjacent first connection sets.

45. The connection assembly of any one of claims 41 to 44, wherein each adjacent pair of first connection sets are disposed perpendicularly to one another.

46. The connection assembly of any one of claims 41 to 45, wherein a finishing component is provided for attachment to each unused first connection set.

47. A method of connecting components into an assembly, comprising:

assembling first and second components having respectively first and second engagement portions such as to engage together the first and the second engagement portions to define a space therebetween; and

longitudinally introducing a third component in the space to forcibly displace the first and second engagement portions outwardly, thereby connecting the first and second components together.

48. The method of connection components into an assembly of claim 47, further comprising before the step of introducing the third component:

assembling the first component and a fourth component having respectively

a first-prime and fourth engagement portions such as to engage together the first and fourth engagement portions to define a second space, wherein, when longitudinally introducing the third component, a third-prime component structurally combined with the third component is longitudinally introduced in the second space to forcibly displace the first-prime and fourth engagement portions outwardly, thereby connecting the first-prime component and the fourth component together.

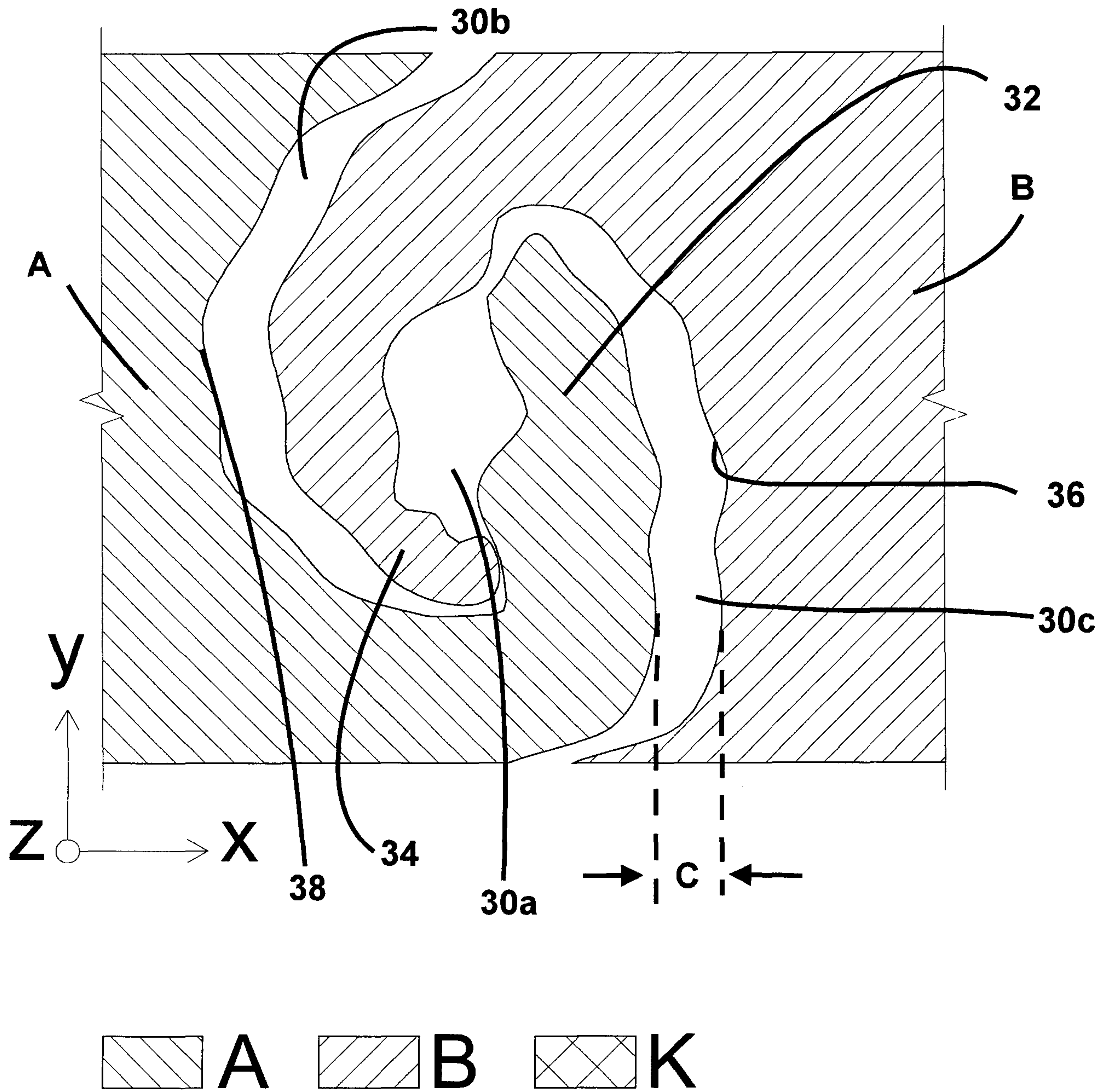


Fig.1a

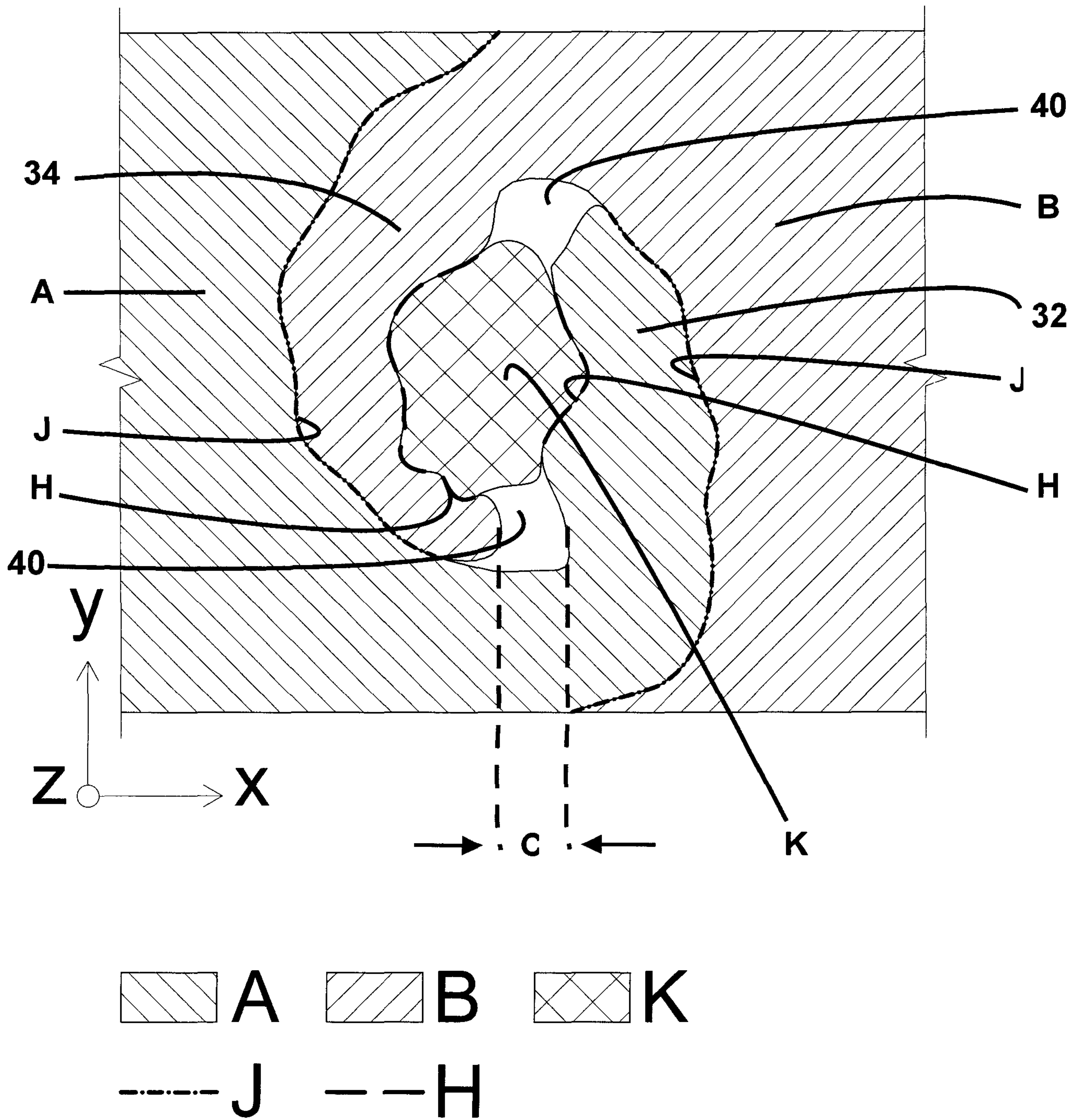


Fig. 1b

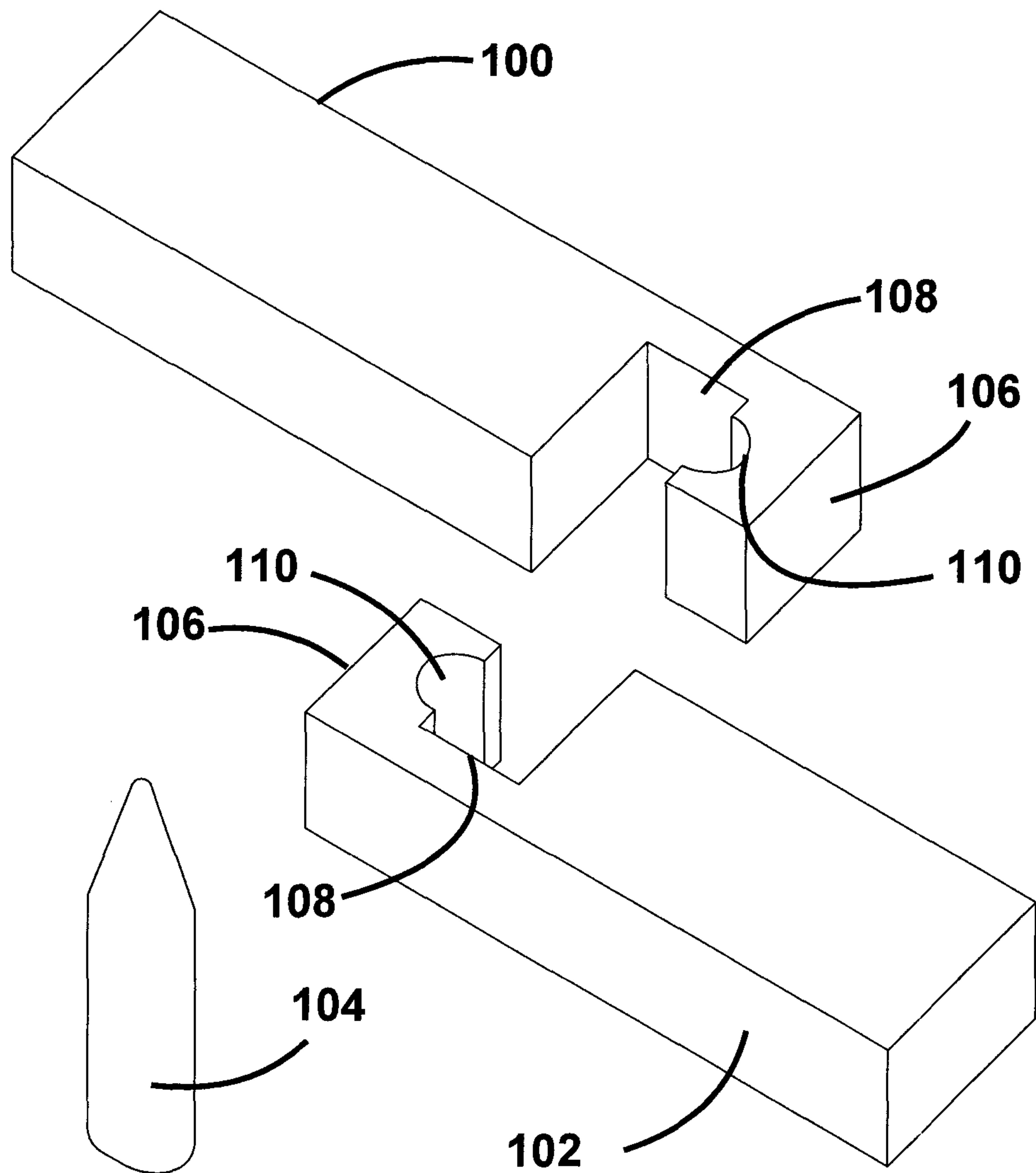


Fig.2a

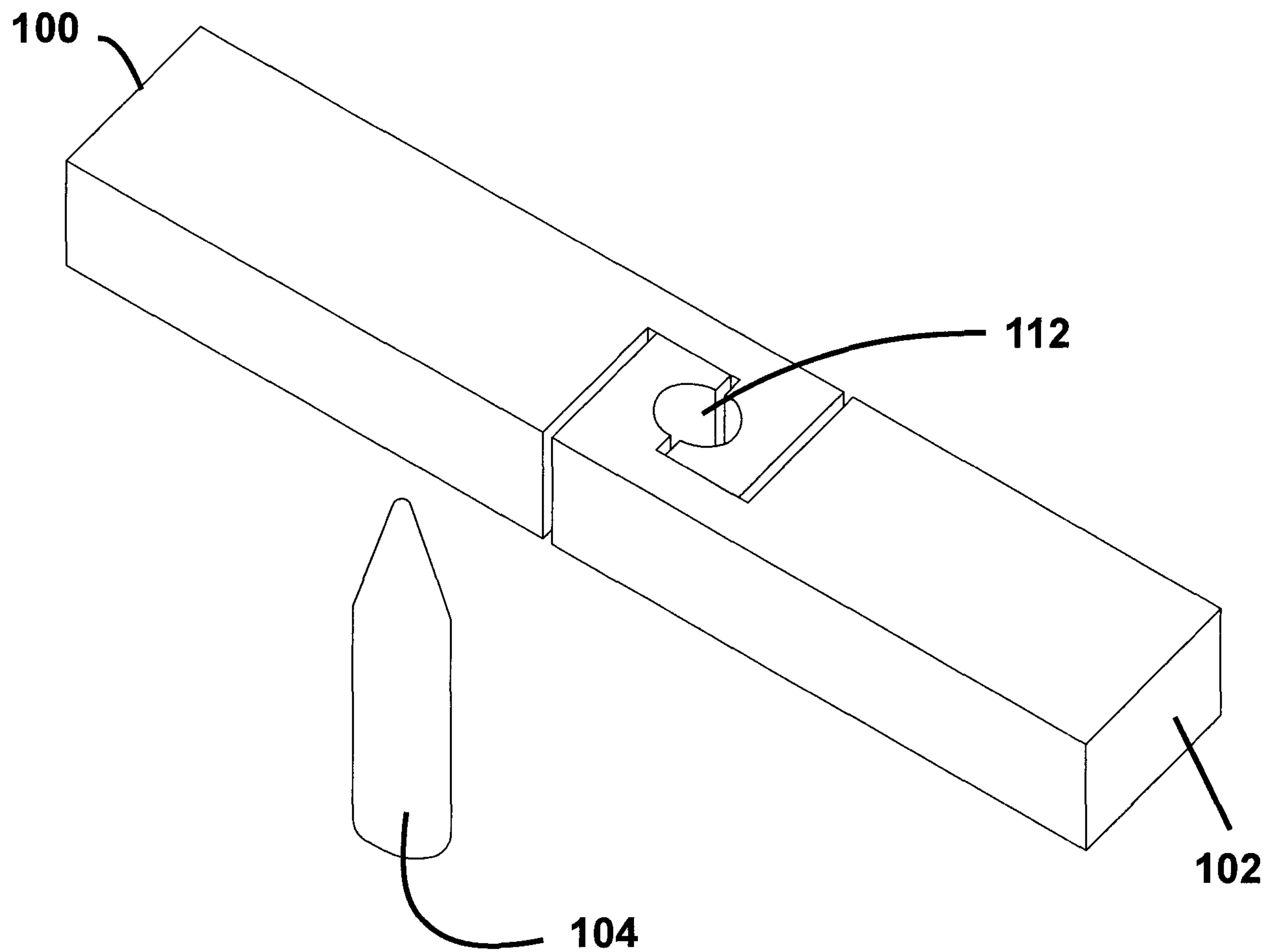


Fig.2b

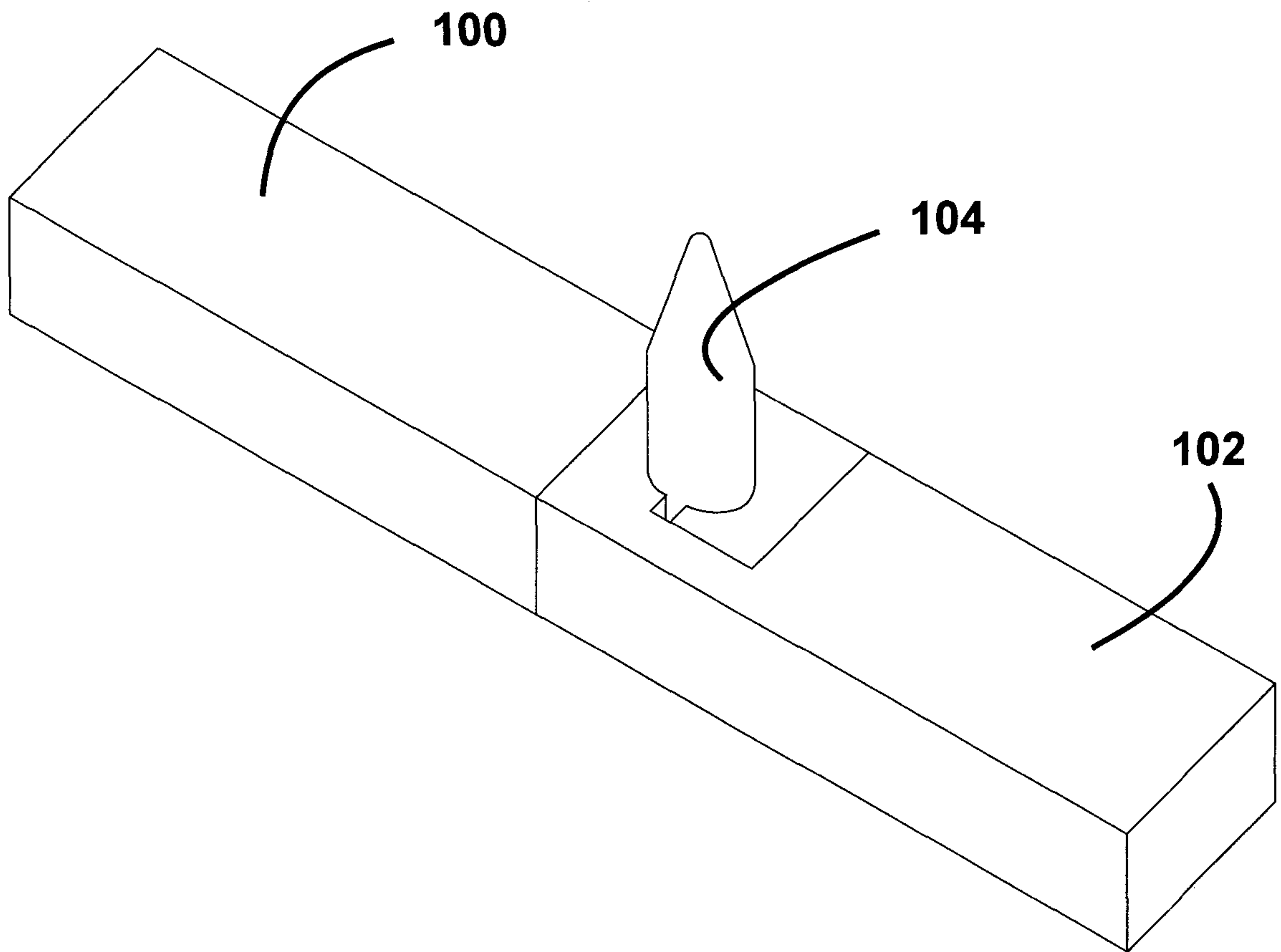


Fig.2c

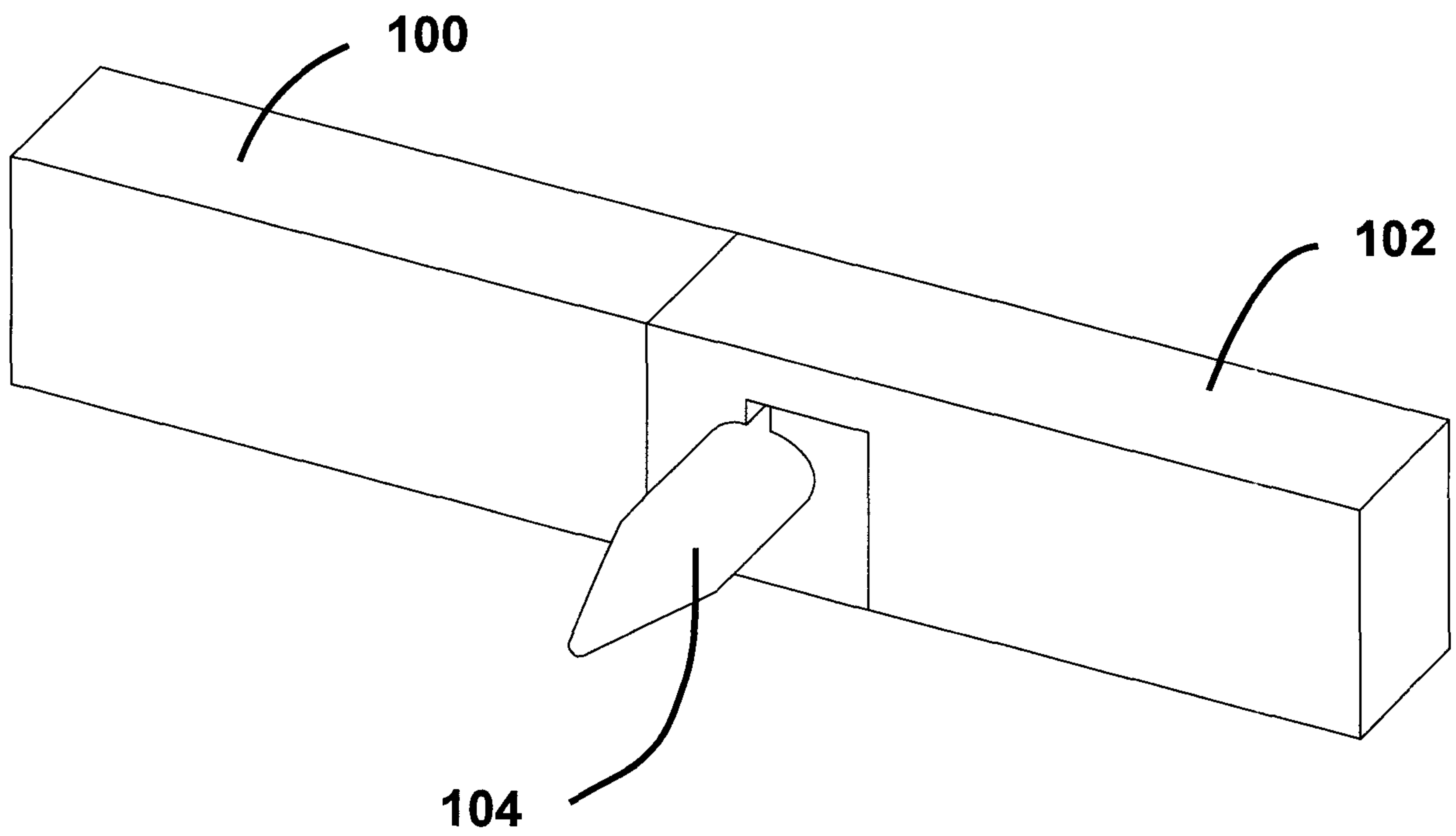


Fig.2d

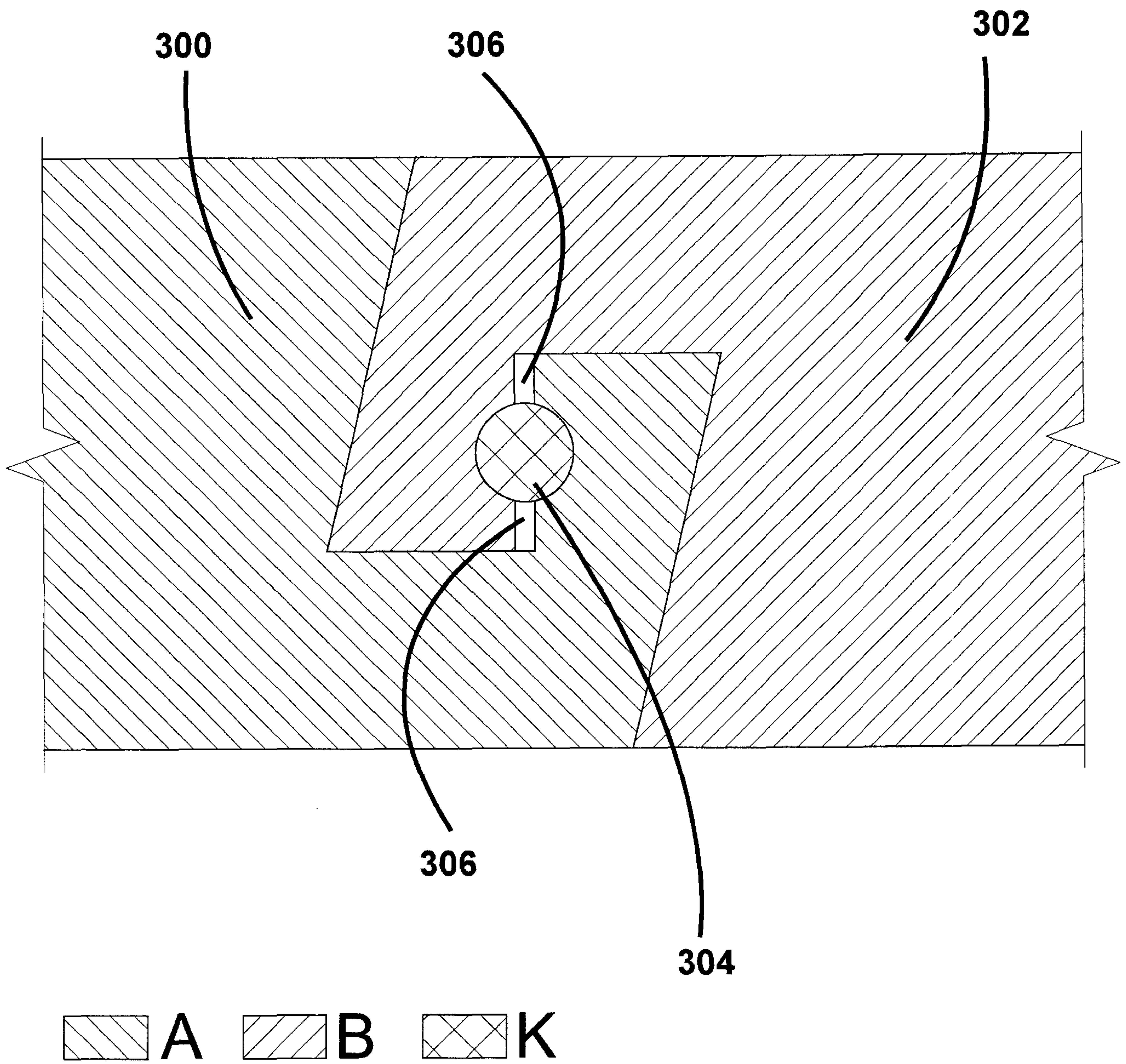


Fig.3

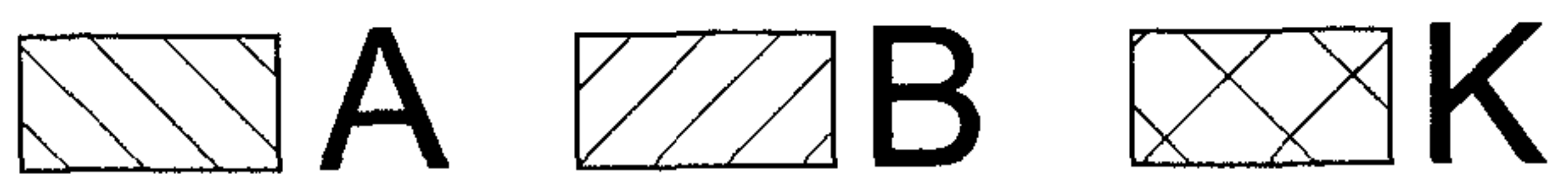
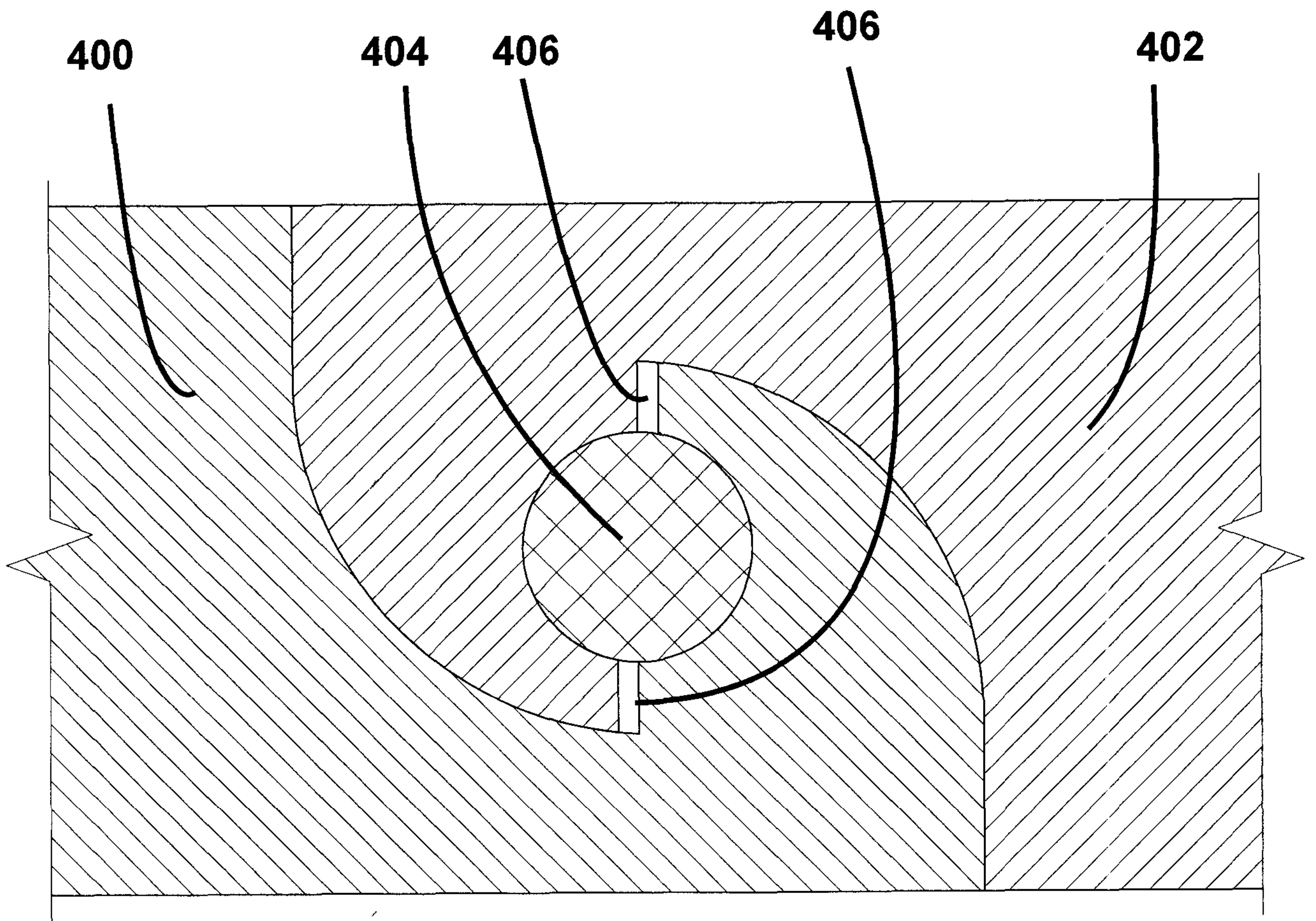
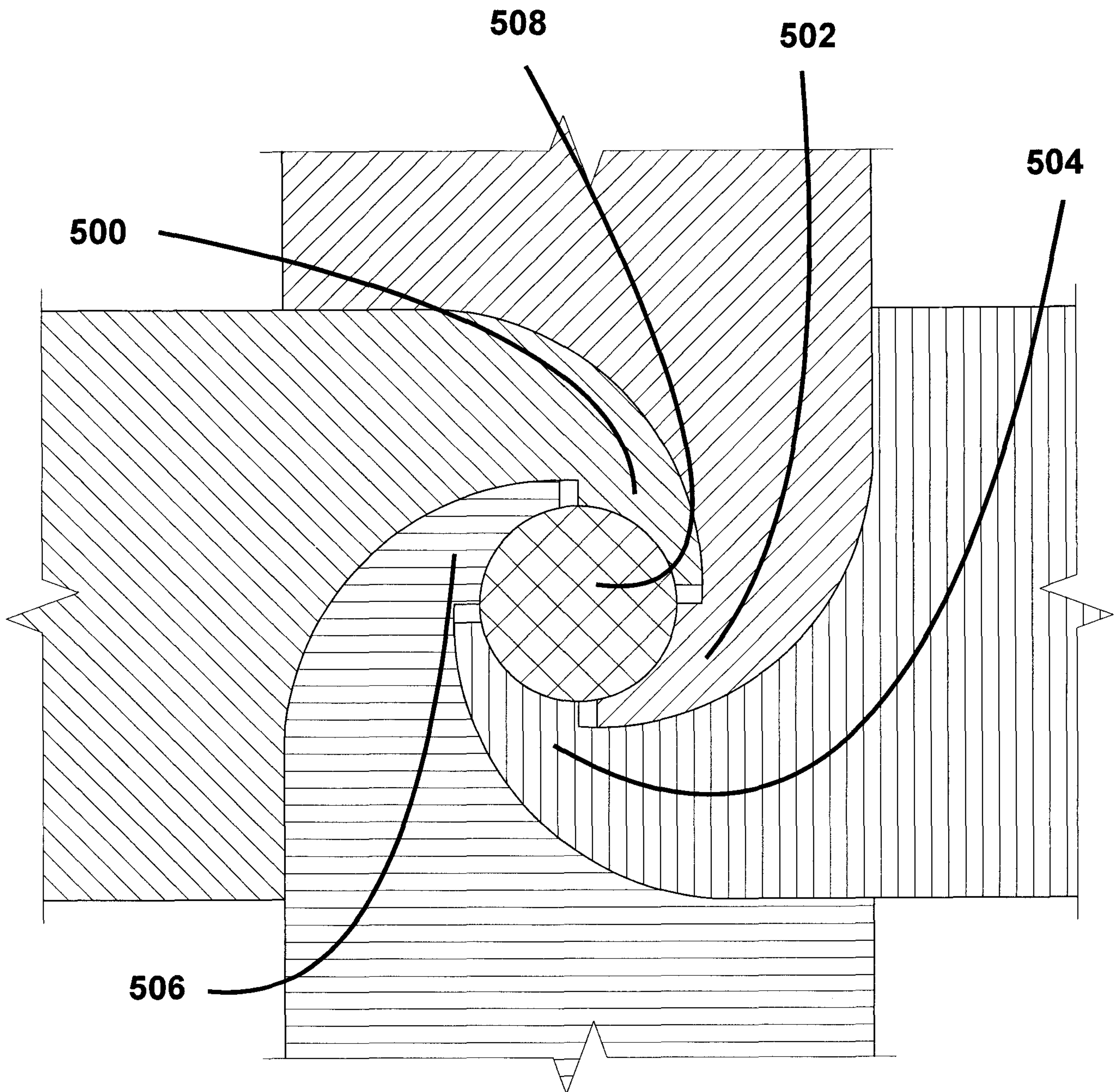


Fig.4



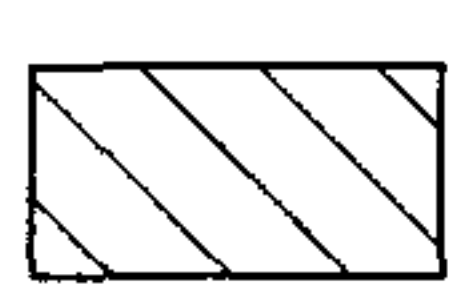
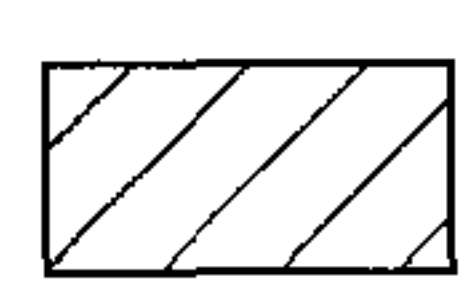
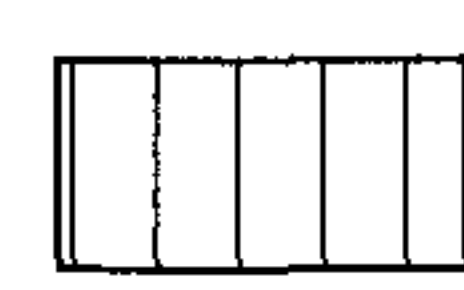
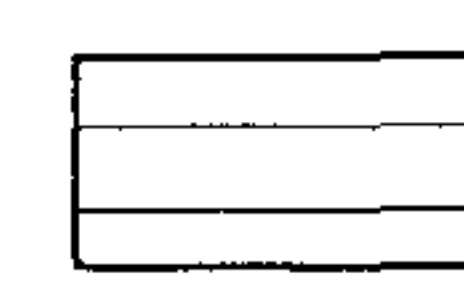
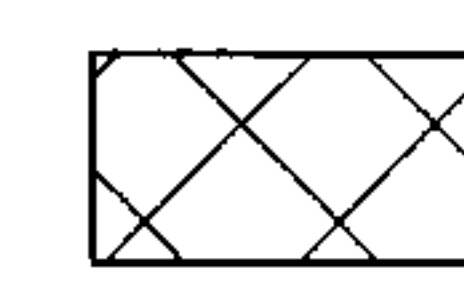
 A  B  A'  B'  K

Fig.5

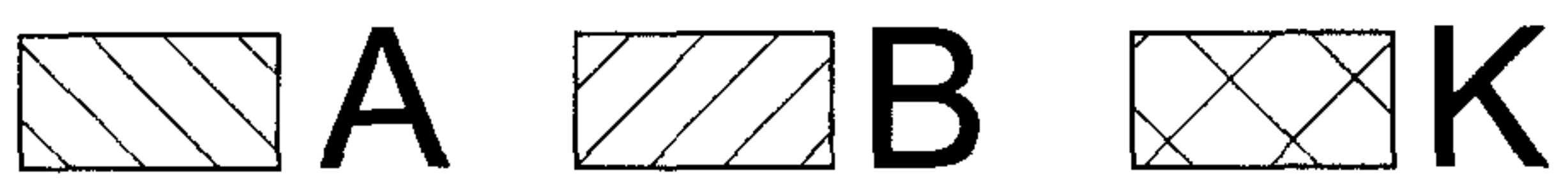
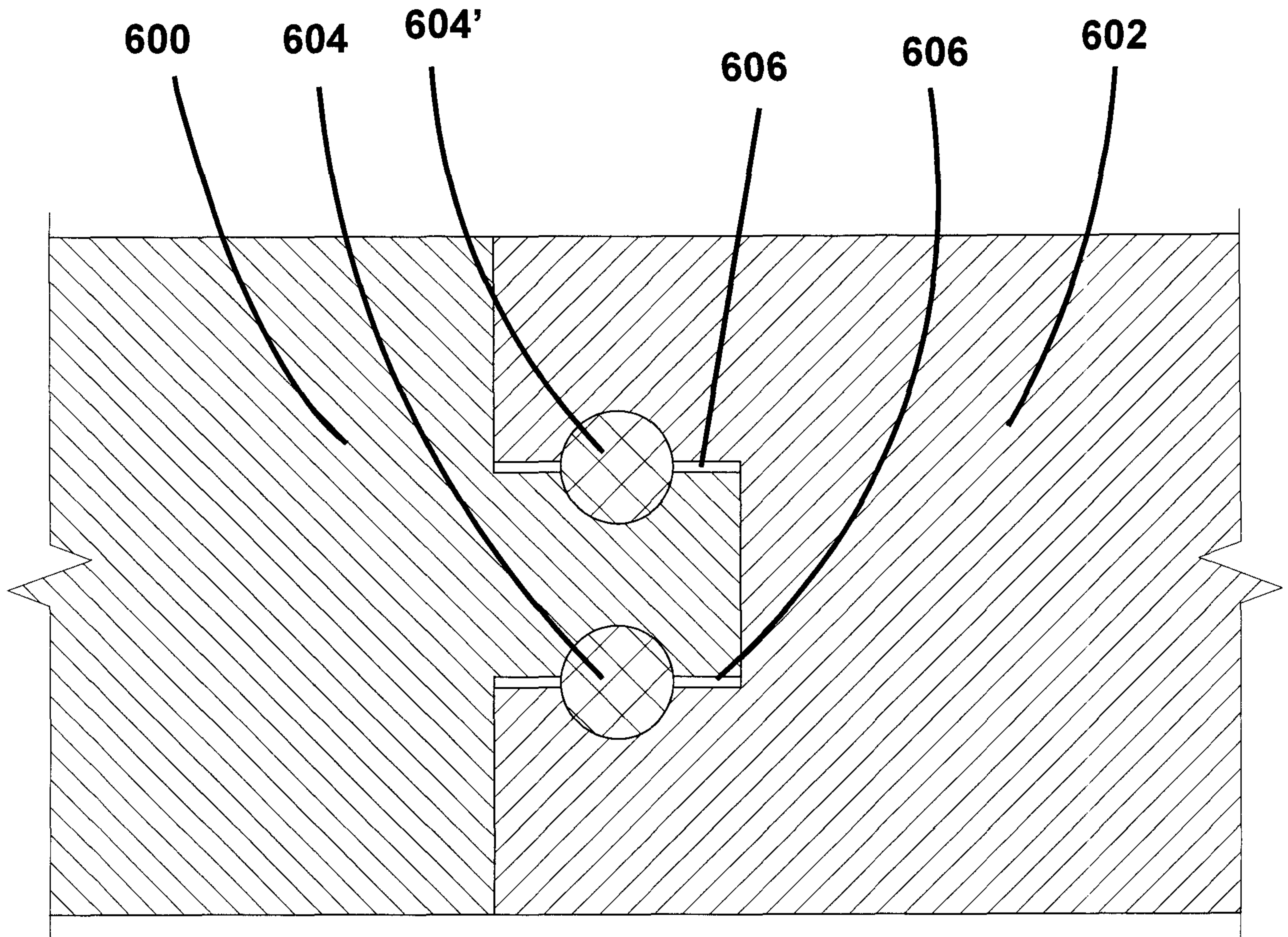


Fig.6

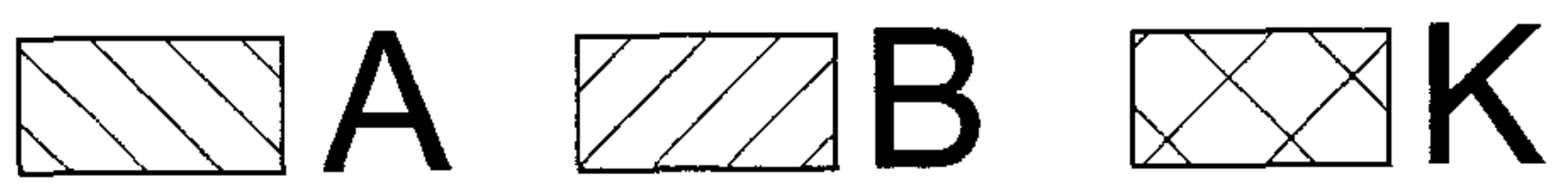
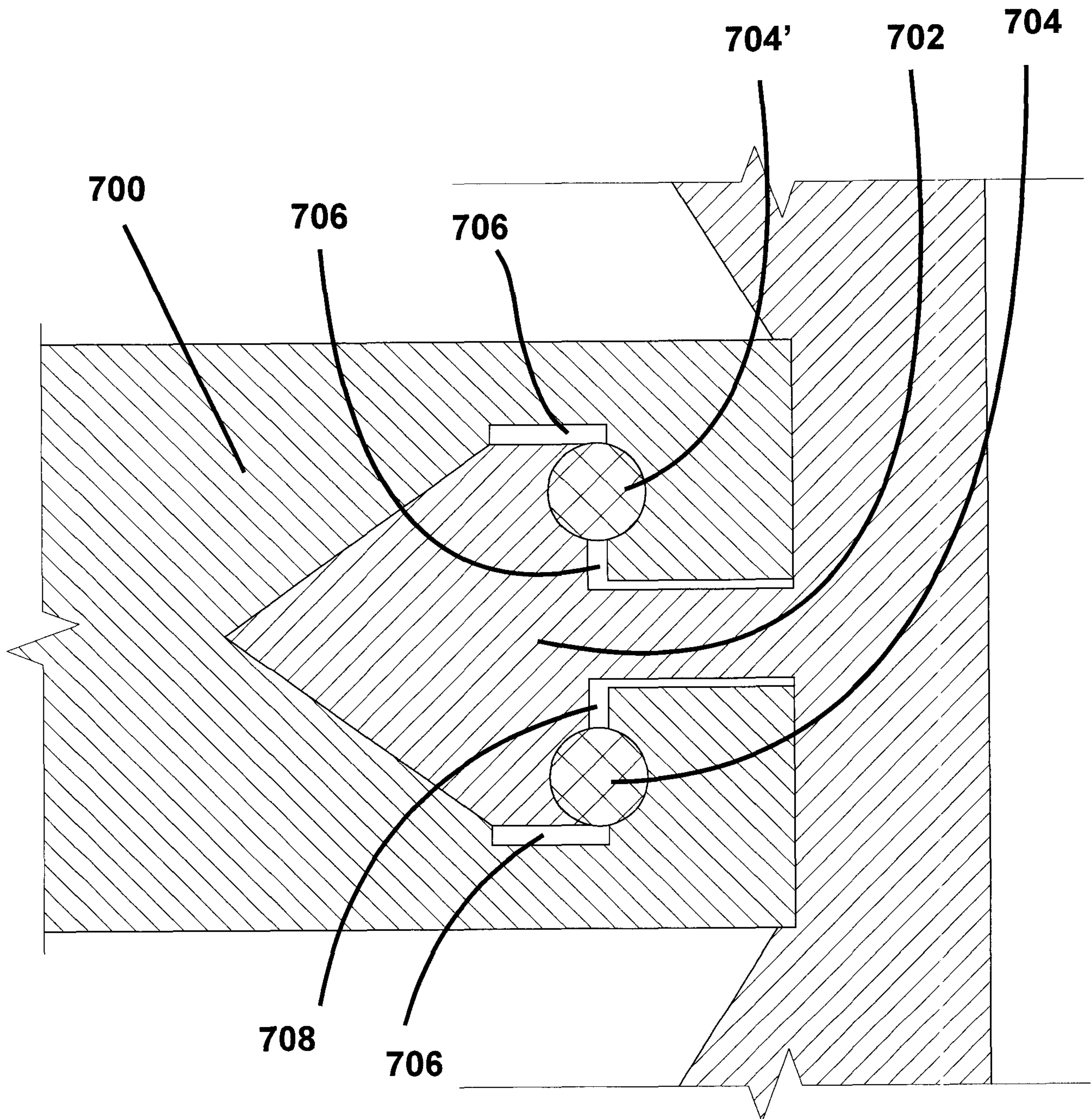


Fig.7

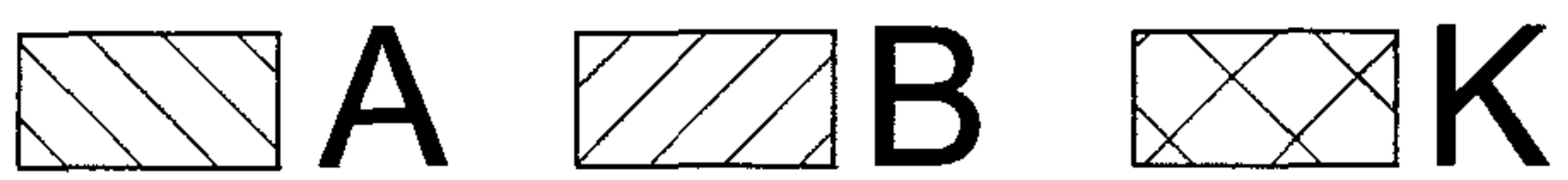
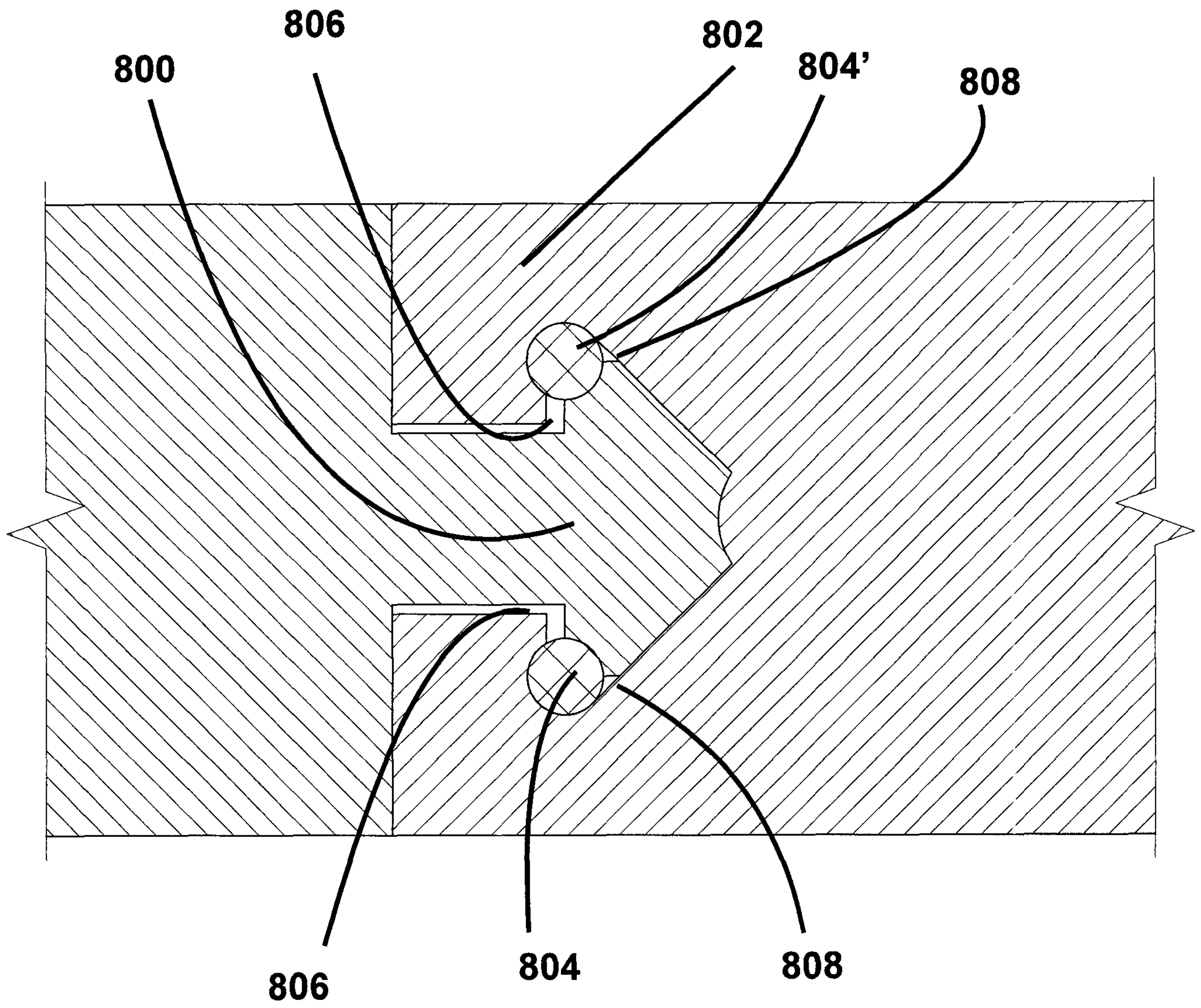


Fig.8

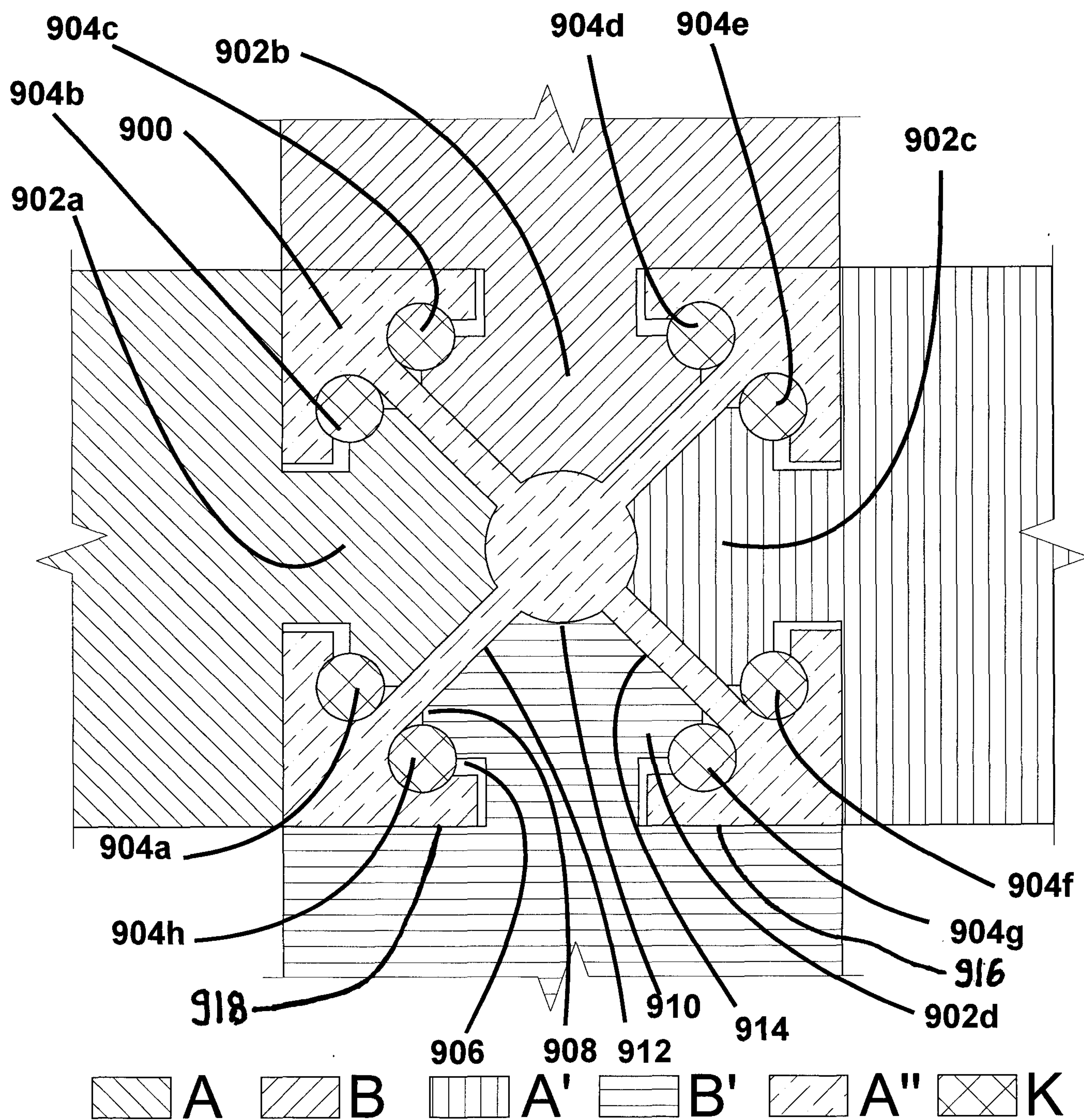
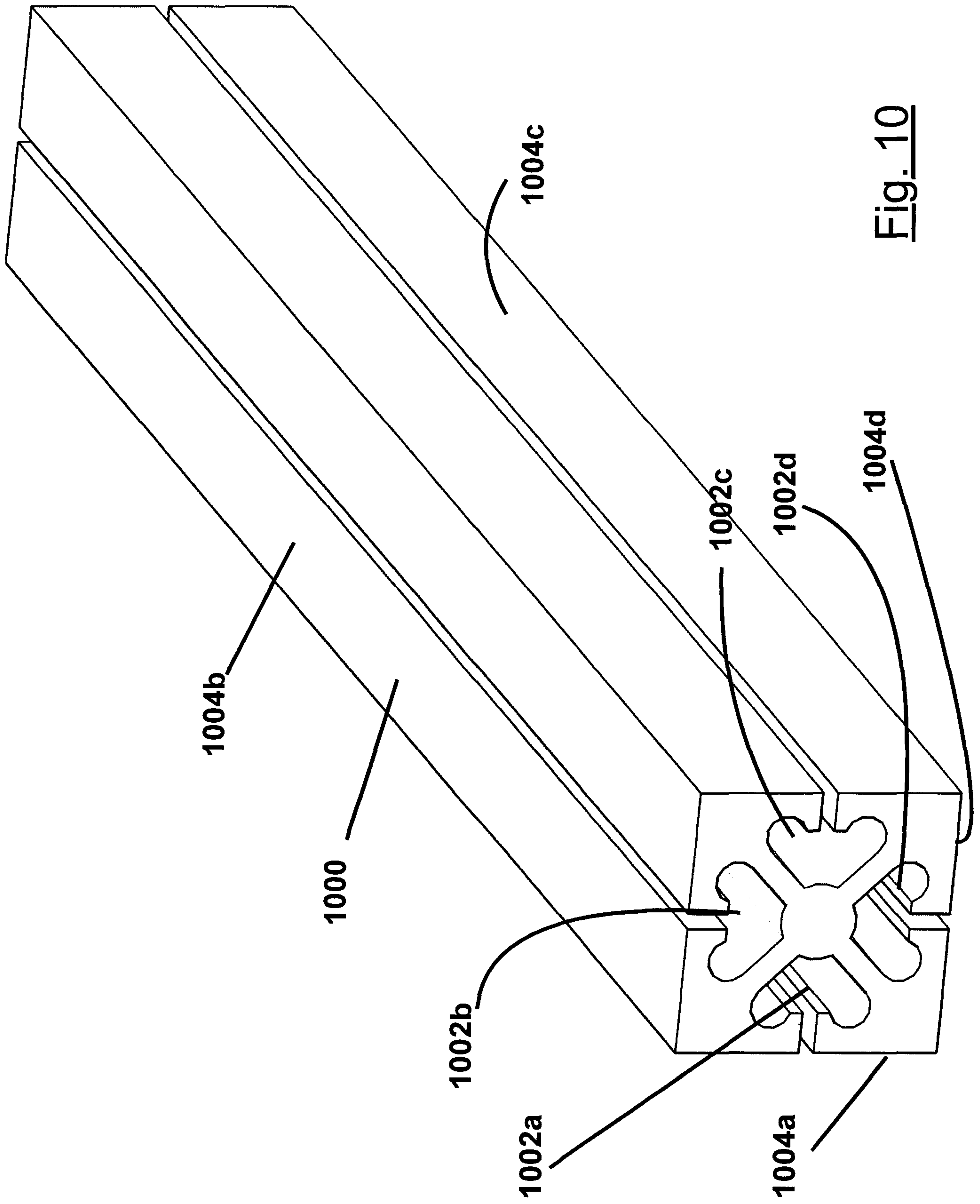
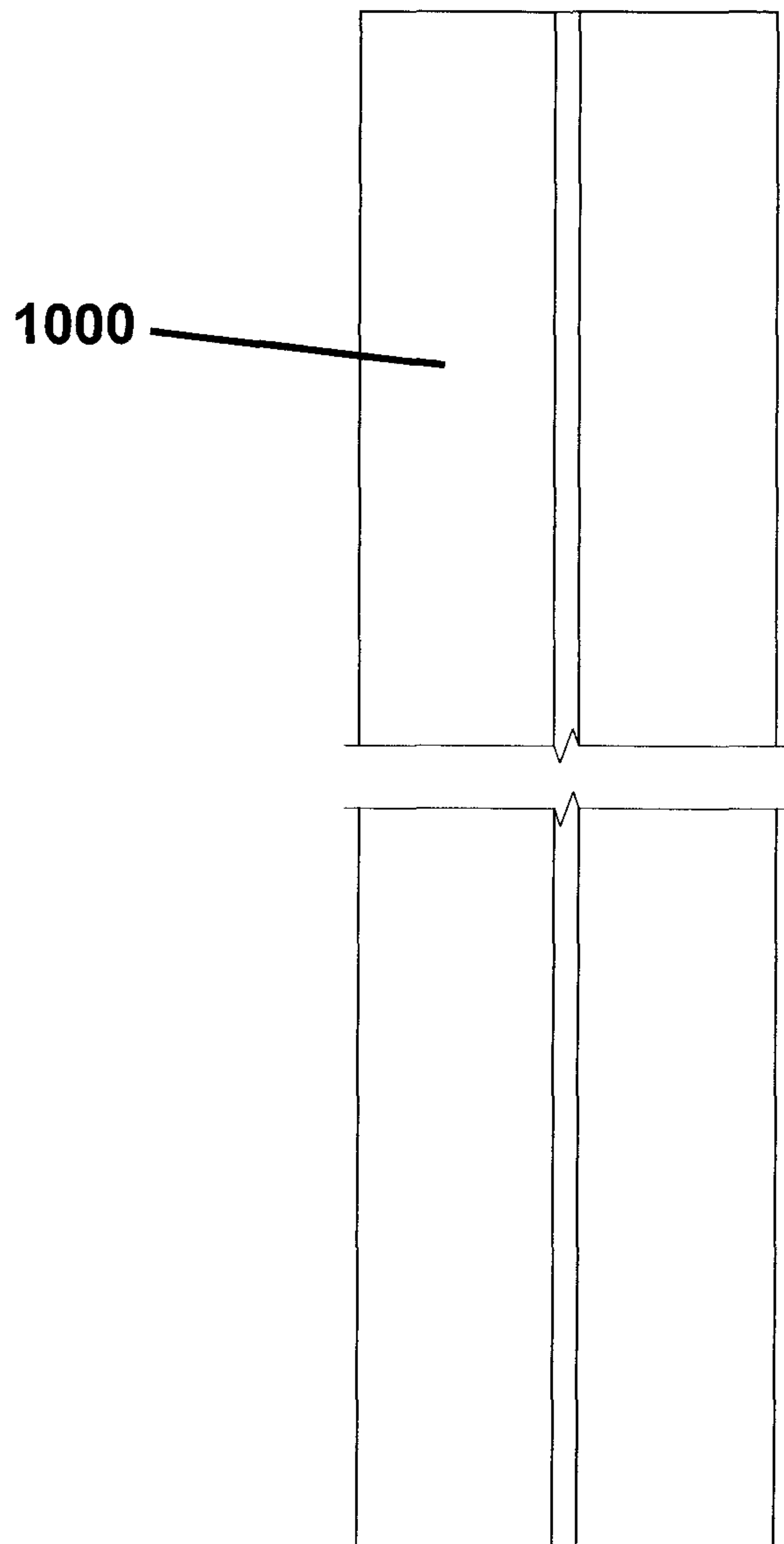
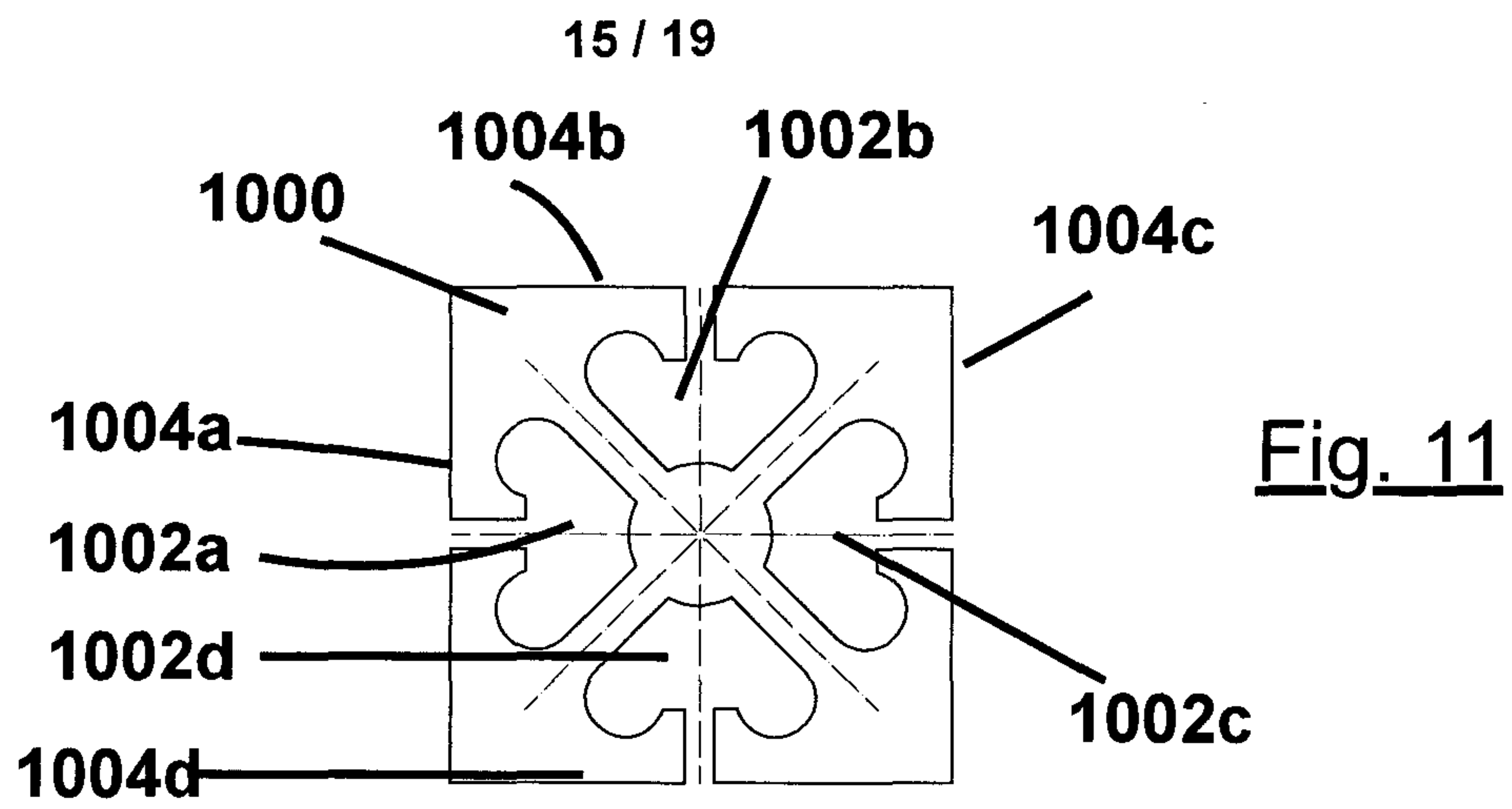
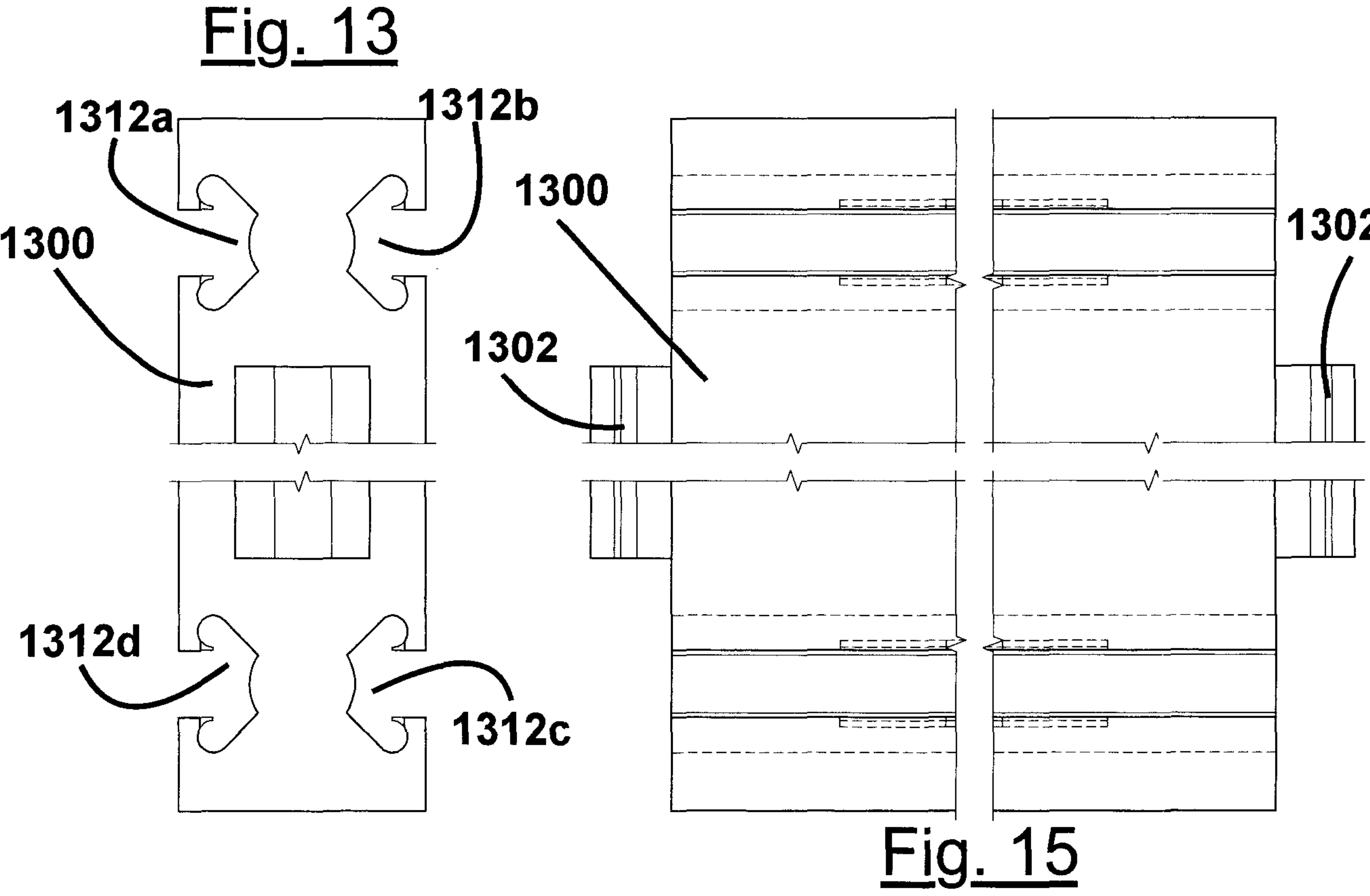
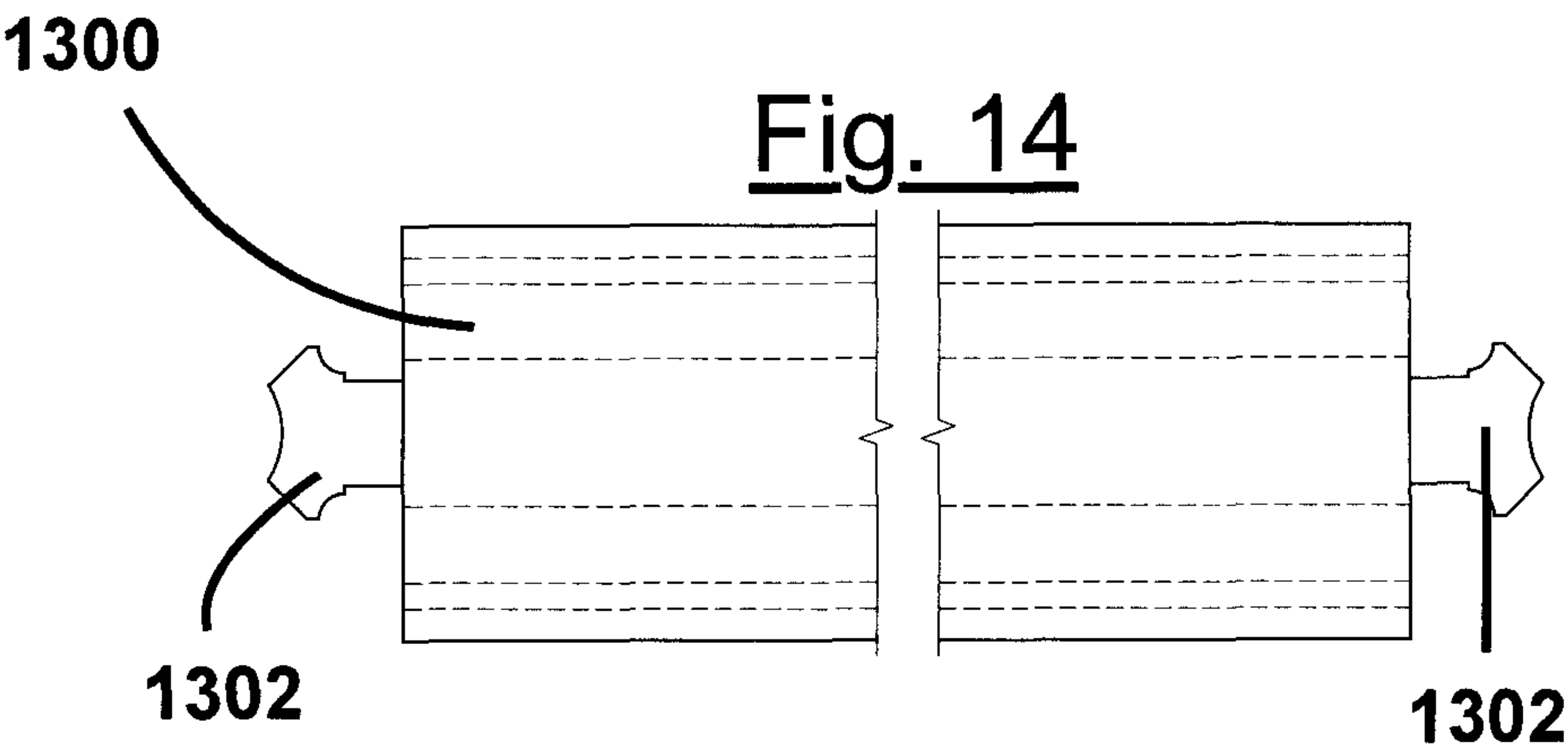
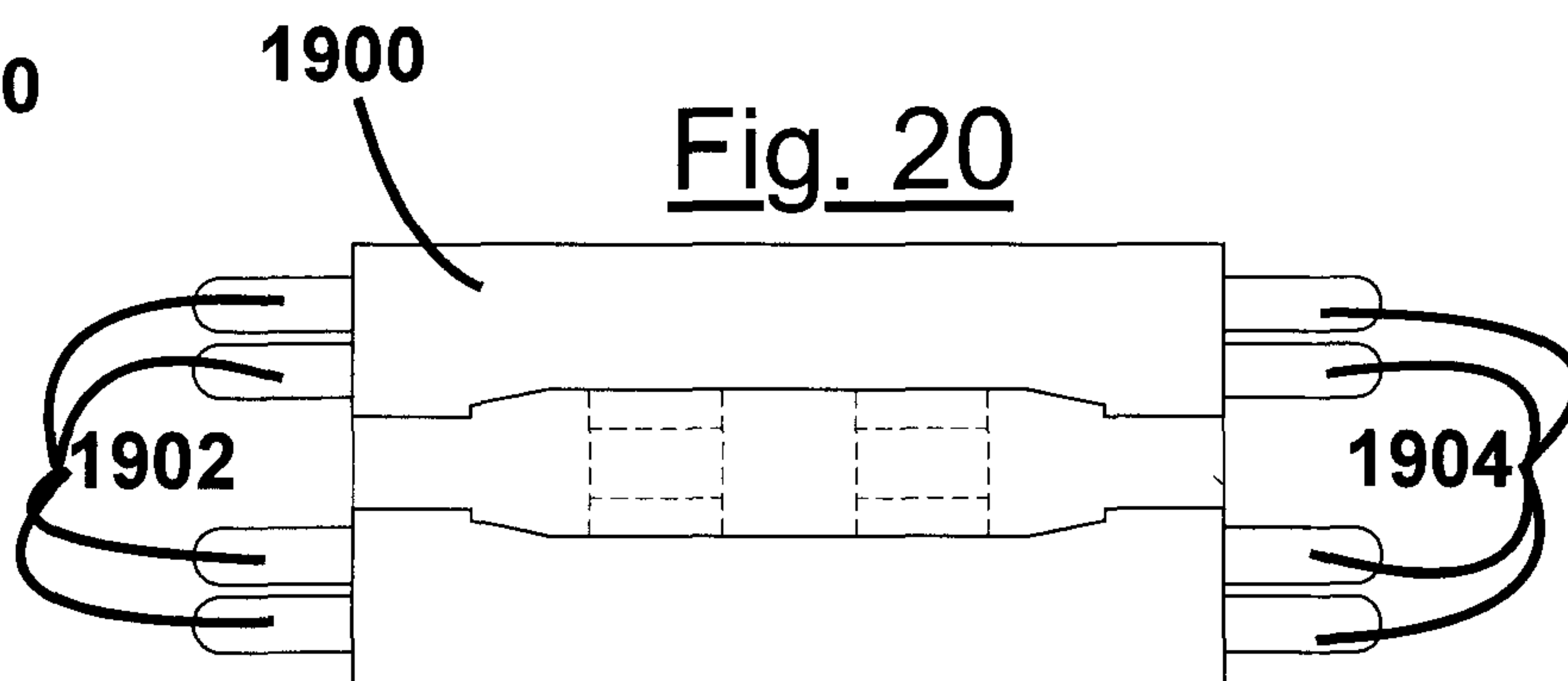
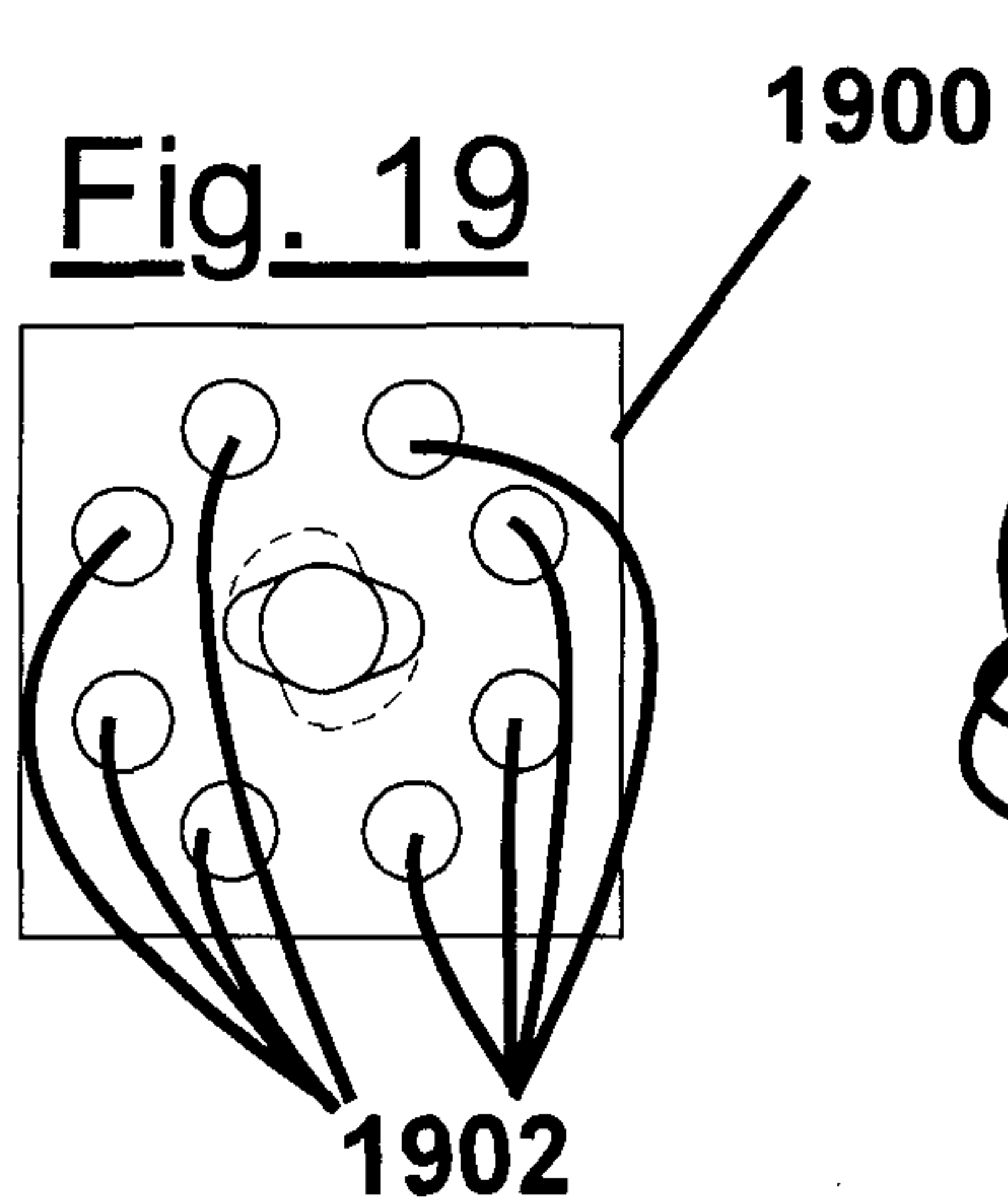
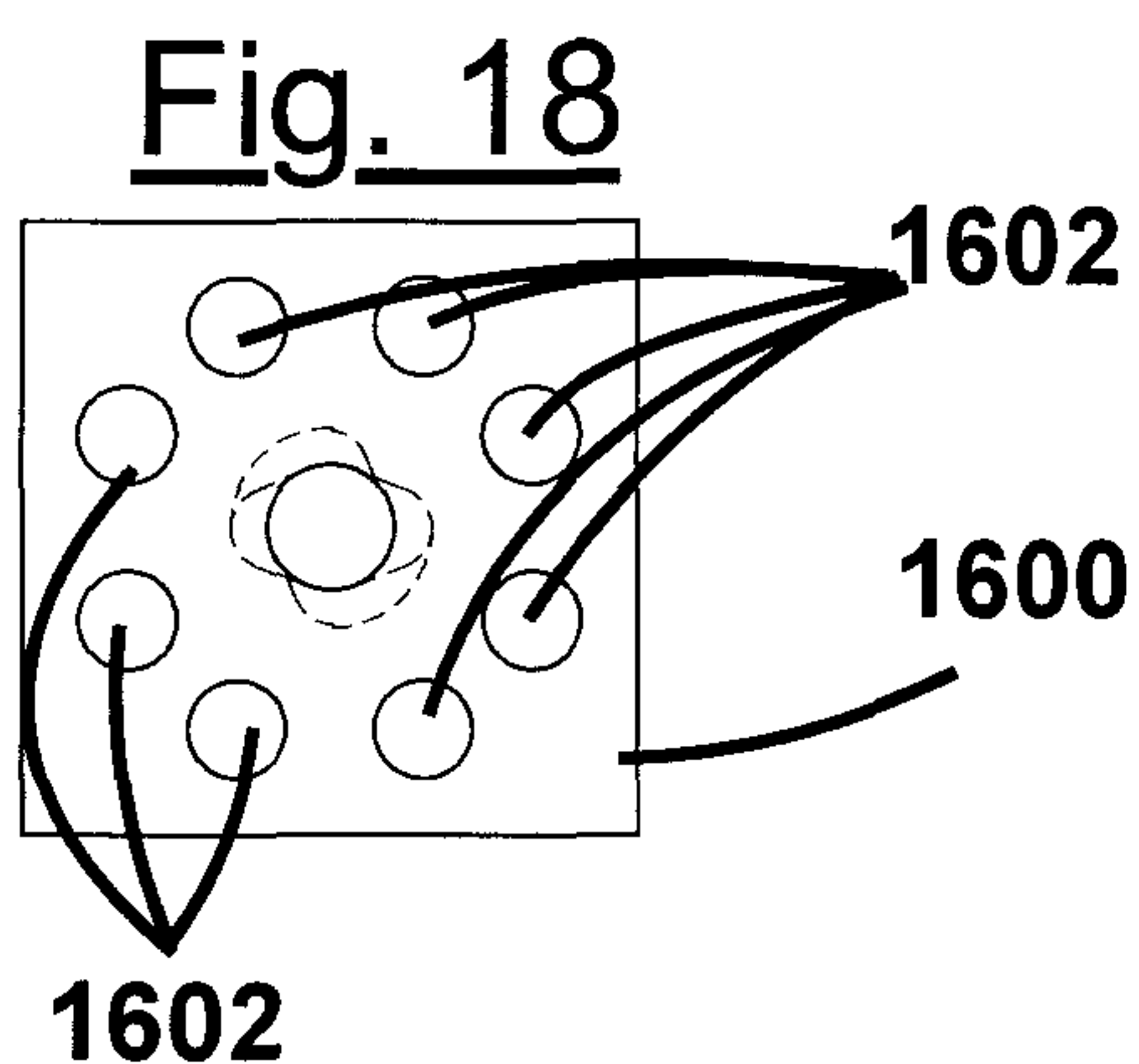
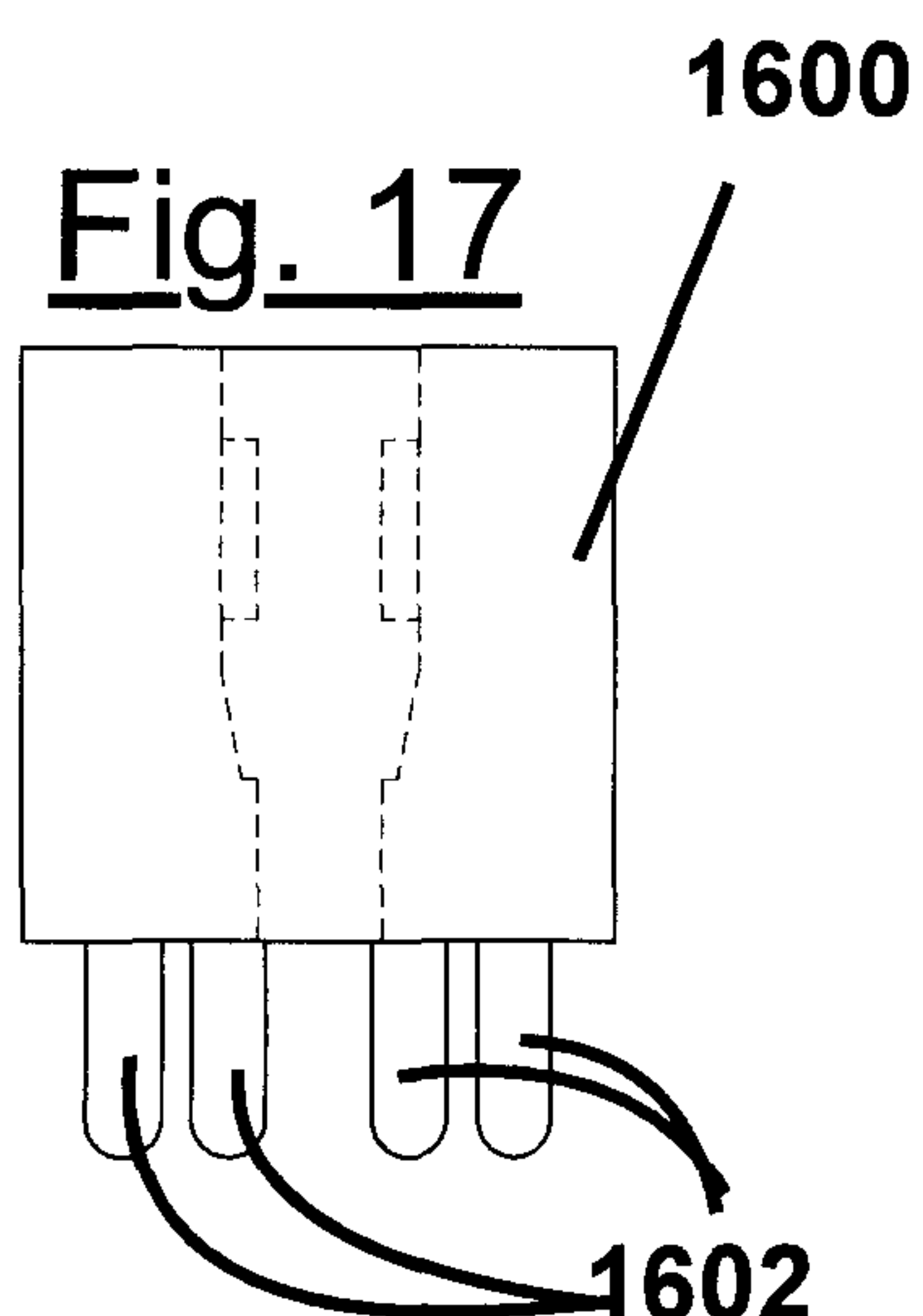
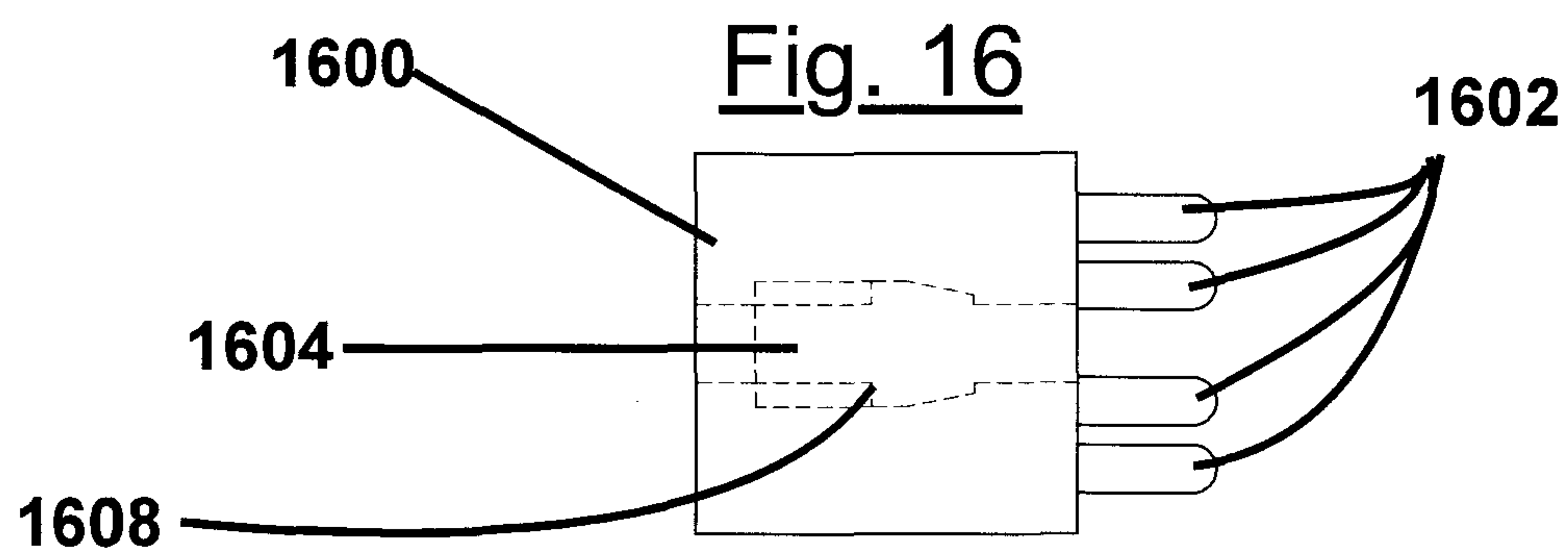


Fig.9









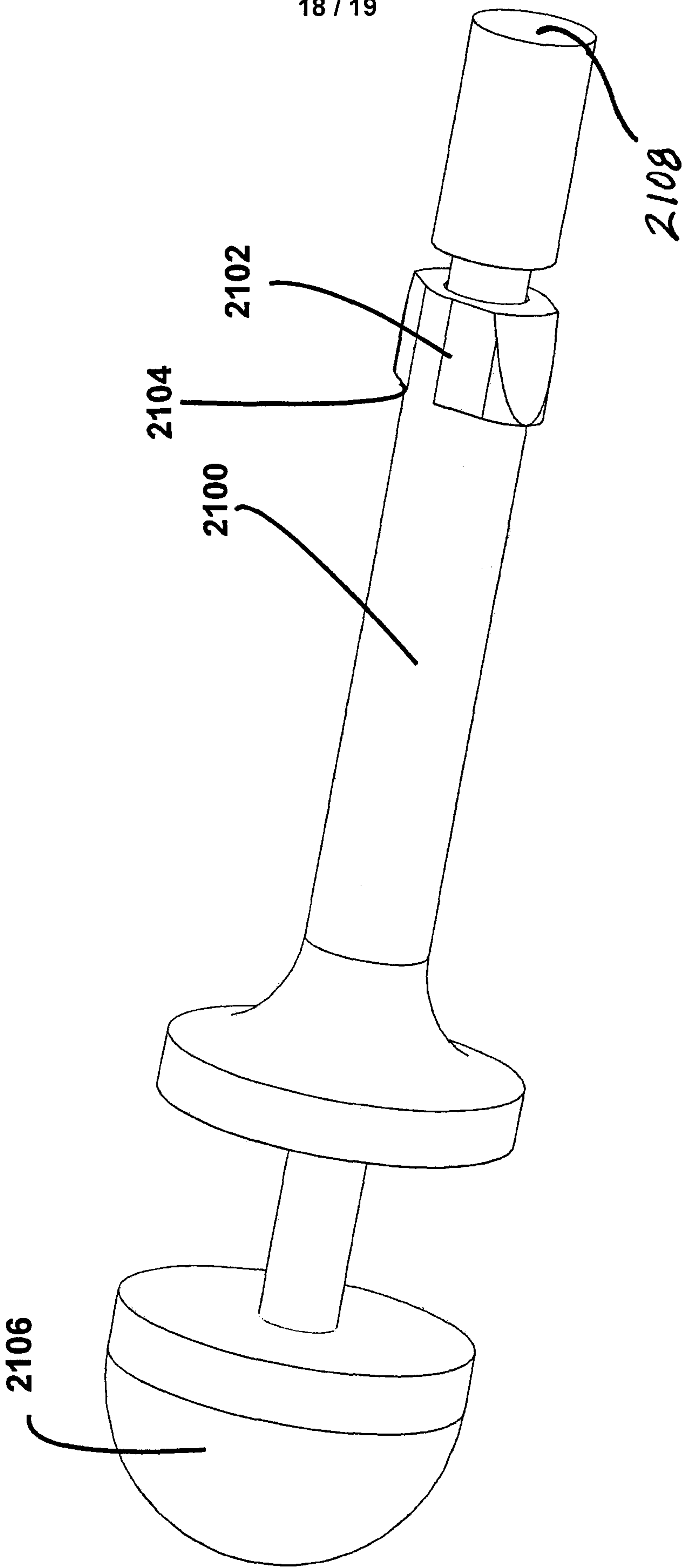


Fig. 21

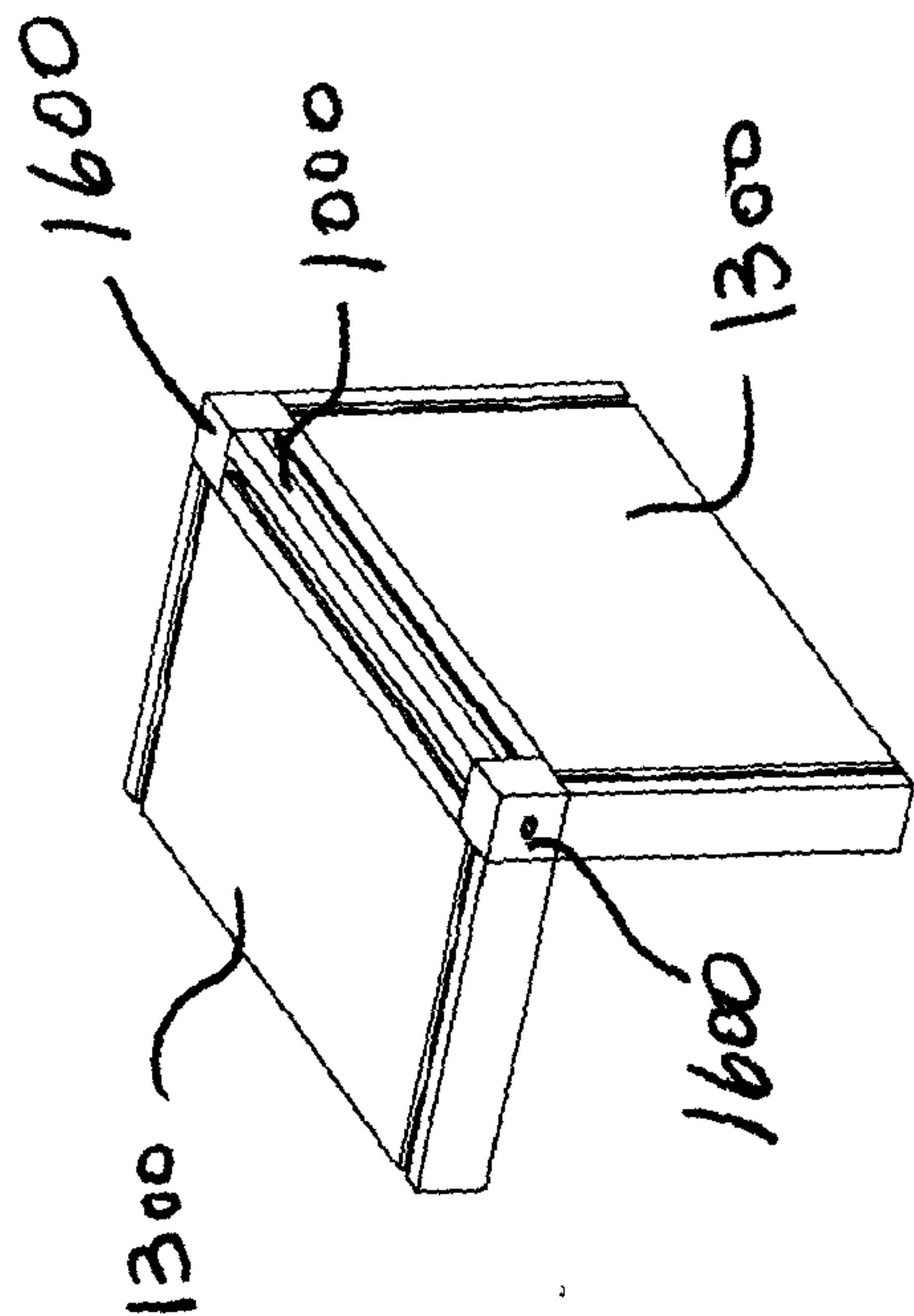


Fig. 23

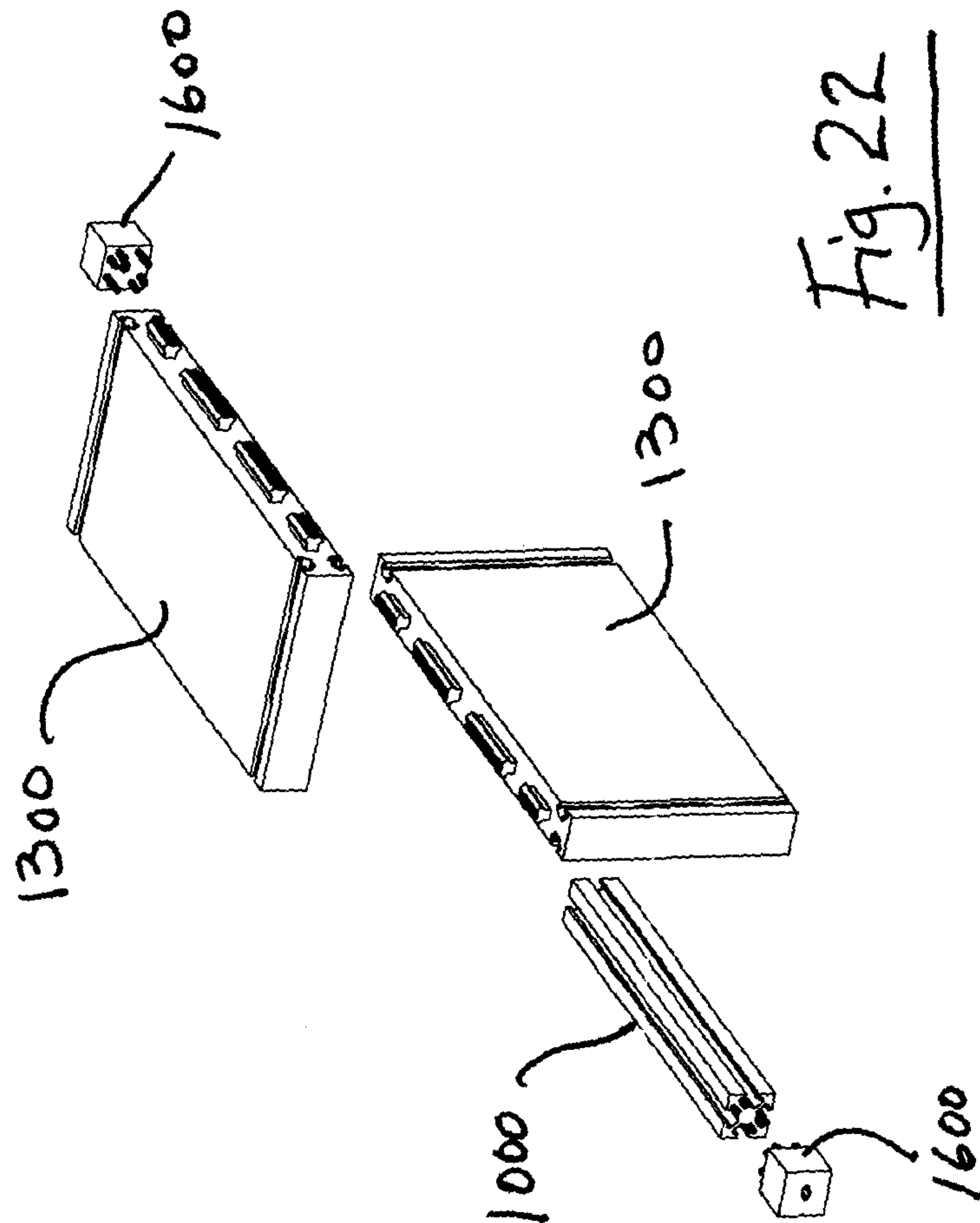


Fig. 22

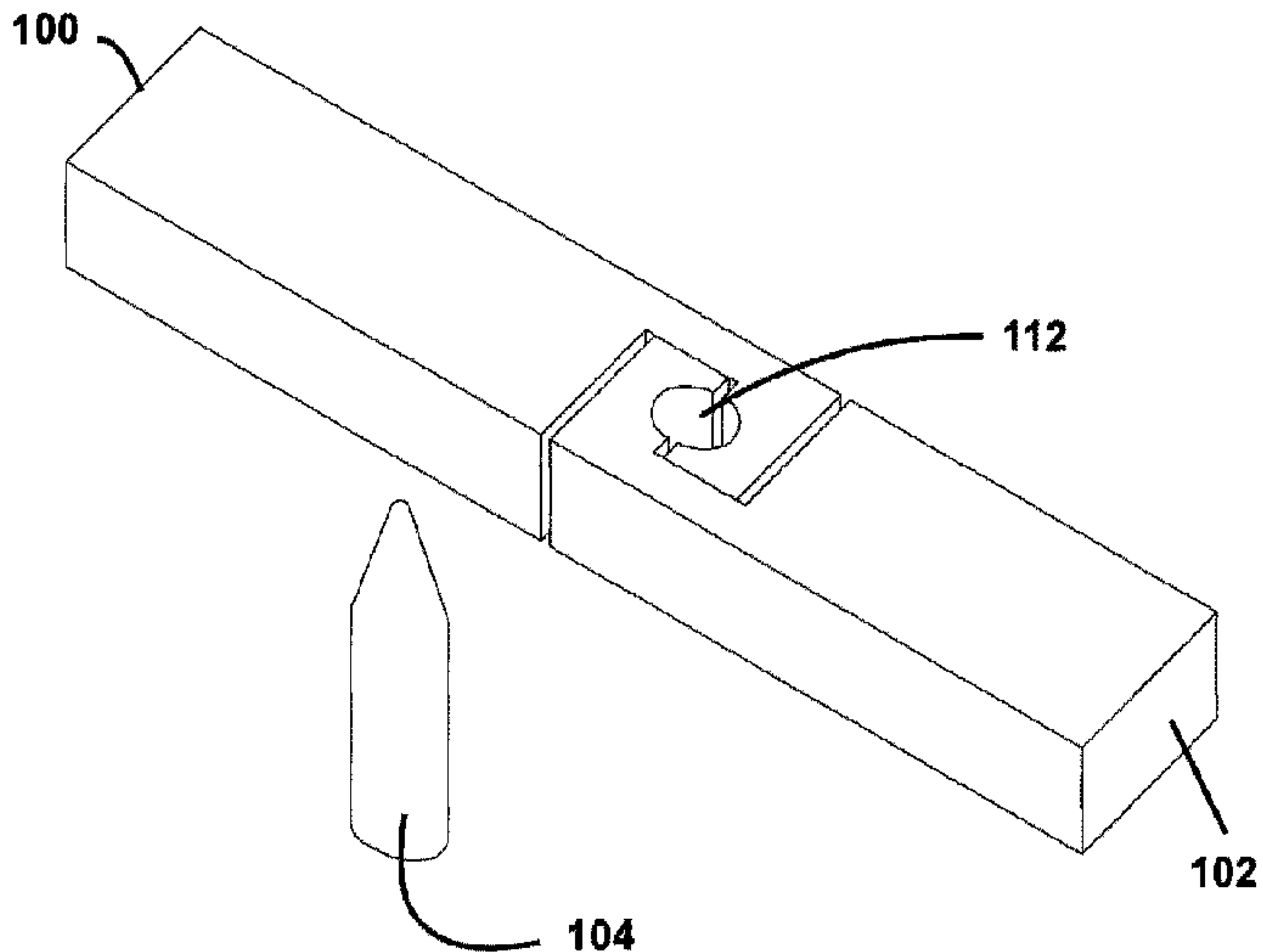


Fig.2b