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(54) **Titre : DISPOSITIFS CHIRURGICAUX ROBOTIQUES, SYSTEMES ET PROCEDES APPARENTES**

(54) **Title: ROBOTIC SURGICAL DEVICES, SYSTEMS AND RELATED METHODS**

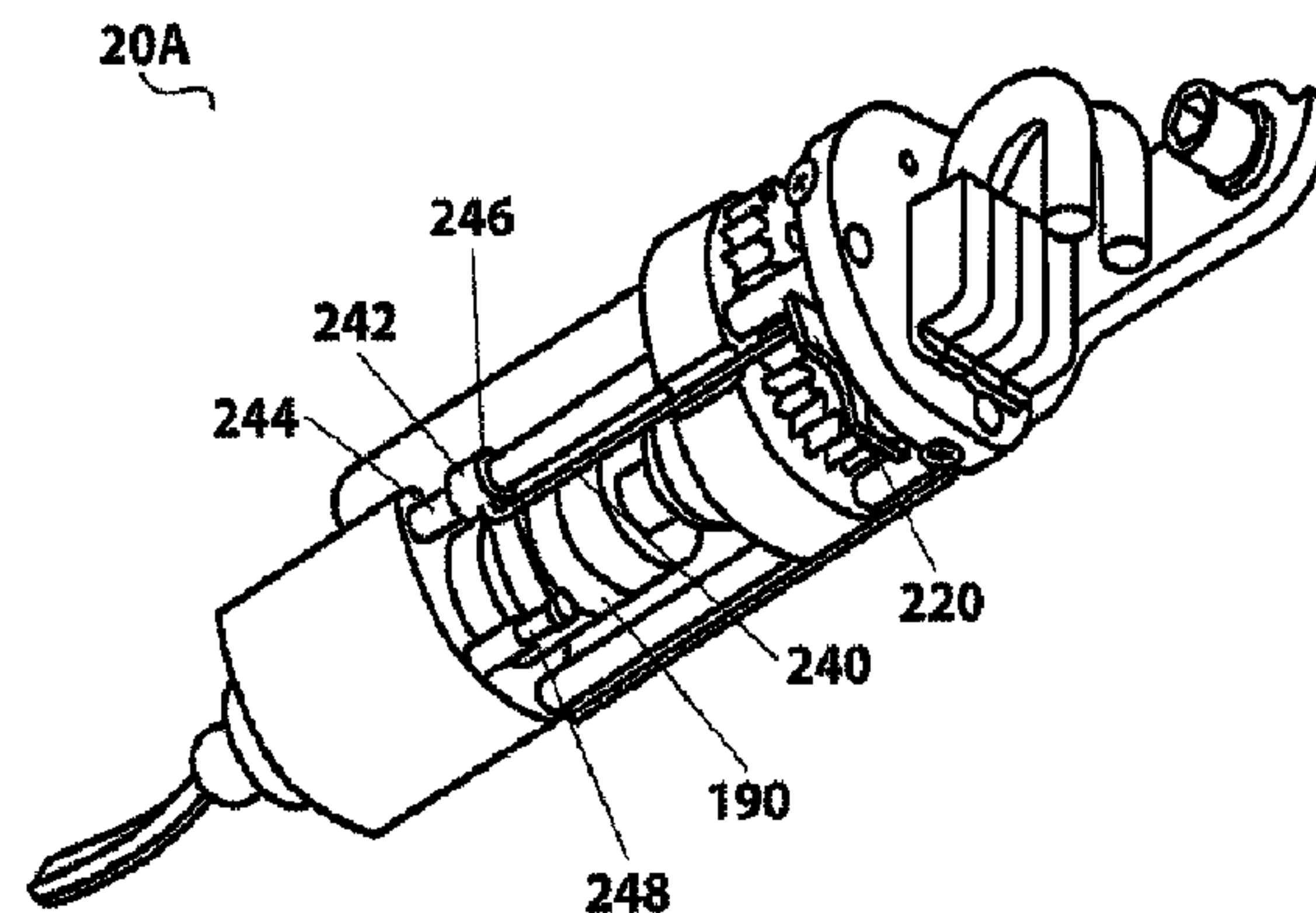


FIG. 7

(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

The various inventions relate to robotic surgical devices, consoles for operating such surgical devices, operating theaters in which the various devices can be used, insertion systems for inserting and using the surgical devices, and related methods.

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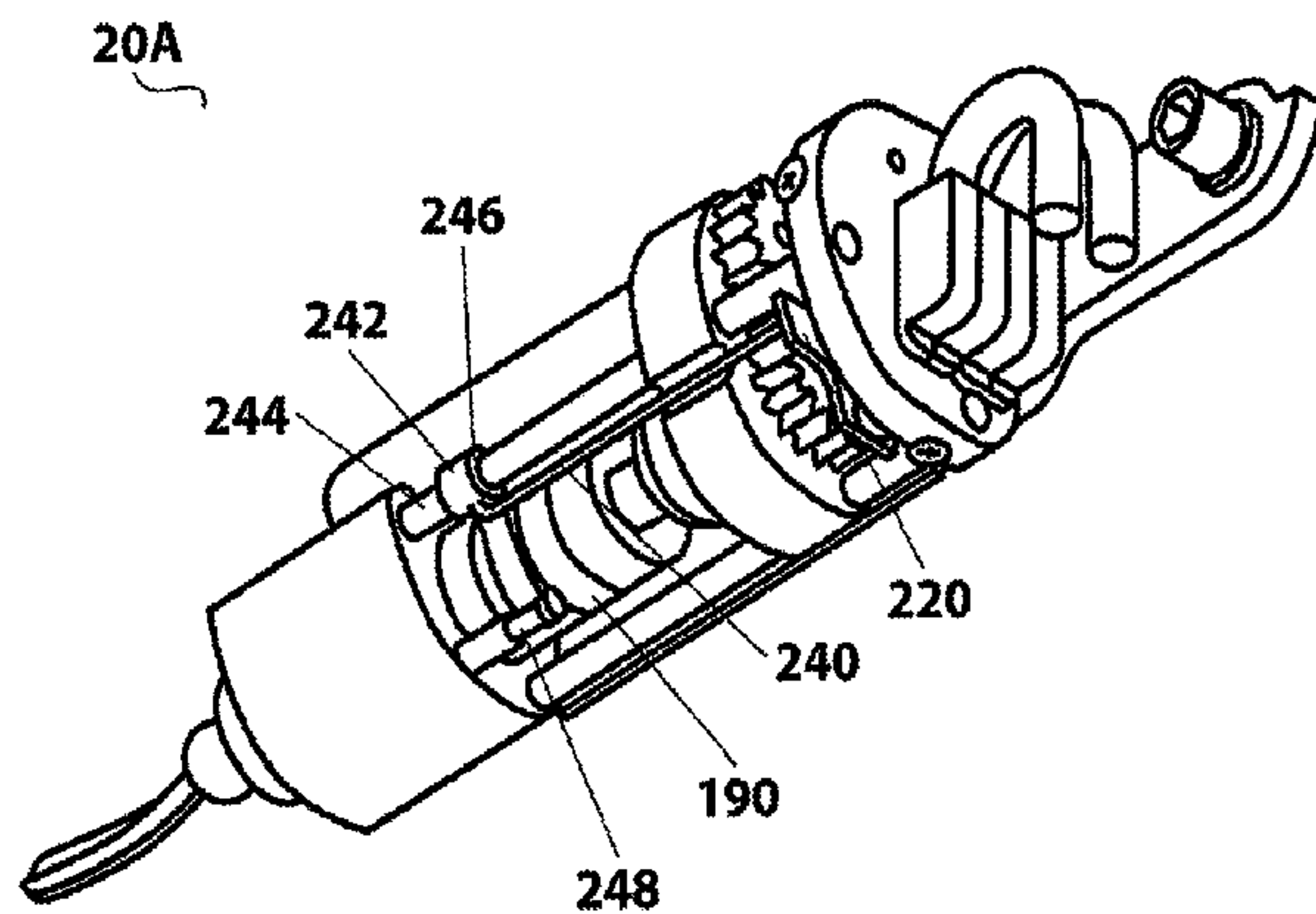
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(54) Title: ROBOTIC SURGICAL DEVICES, SYSTEMS AND RELATED METHODS



(57) Abstract: The various inventions relate to robotic surgical devices, consoles for operating such surgical devices, operating theaters in which the various devices can be used, insertion systems for inserting and using the surgical devices, and related methods.

FIG. 7

WO 2015/009949 A3

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ROBOTIC SURGICAL DEVICES, SYSTEMS AND RELATED METHODS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

[001] This application claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to U.S. Provisional Application 61/847,394, filed July 17, 2013 and entitled Robotic Surgical Devices, Systems, and Related Methods, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[002] The embodiments disclosed herein relate to various medical devices and related components, including robotic and/or in vivo medical devices and related components. Certain embodiments include various robotic medical devices, including robotic devices that are disposed within a body cavity and positioned using a support component disposed through an orifice or opening in the body cavity. Further embodiment relate to methods and devices for operating the above devices.

BACKGROUND

[003] Invasive surgical procedures are essential for addressing various medical conditions. When possible, minimally invasive procedures such as laparoscopy are preferred.

[004] However, known minimally invasive technologies such as laparoscopy are limited in scope and complexity due in part to 1) mobility restrictions resulting from using rigid tools inserted through access ports, and 2) limited visual feedback. Known robotic systems such as the *da Vinci*® Surgical System (available from Intuitive Surgical, Inc., located in Sunnyvale, CA) are also restricted by the access ports, as well as having the additional disadvantages of being very large, very expensive, unavailable in most hospitals, and having limited sensory and mobility capabilities.

[005] There is a need in the art for improved surgical methods, systems, and devices.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[006] Discussed herein are various robotic surgical systems, including certain systems having camera lumens configured to receive various camera systems. Further embodiments relate to surgical insertion devices configured to be used to insert various surgical devices into a cavity of a patient while maintaining insufflations of the cavity.

[007] In Example 1, a robotic surgical system comprises a device body, first and second shoulder joints operably coupled to the distal end of the device body, a first robotic arm operably coupled to the first shoulder joint, a second robotic arm operably coupled to the second shoulder joint, and a camera component. The device body comprises a distal end, a proximal end, and a camera lumen defined within the device body such that the camera lumen comprises a proximal lumen opening in the proximal end of the device body and a distal lumen opening in the distal end of the device body. The camera component comprises a controller body and an elongate tube operably coupled to the controller, wherein the elongate tube is configured and sized to be positionable through the camera lumen defined in the device body. The elongate tube comprises a rigid section, an optical section, and a flexible section operably coupling the optical section to the rigid section. Further, the elongate tube has a length such that the optical section is configured to extend distally from the distal lumen opening when the camera component is positioned through the camera lumen.

[008] Example 2 relates to the robotic surgical system according to Example 1, wherein the controller body comprises a controller configured to operate the camera component.

[009] Example 3 relates to the robotic surgical system according to Example 1, wherein the distal lumen opening is positioned between the first and second shoulder joints.

[010] Example 4 relates to the robotic surgical system according to Example 1, wherein the optical section is configured to be tiltable at the flexible section in relation to the rigid section, wherein the optical section has a straight configuration and a tilted configuration.

[011] Example 5 relates to the robotic surgical system according to Example 1, wherein the elongate tube is configured to be rotatable in relation to the controller body.

[012] In Example 6, a robotic surgical system comprises a device body, first and second shoulder joints operably coupled to the distal portion of the device body, a first robotic arm operably coupled to the first shoulder joint, a second robotic arm operably coupled to the second shoulder joint, and a camera system. The device body comprises a receptacle disposed at a proximal portion of the device body and a camera lumen defined within the device body such that the camera lumen comprises a proximal lumen opening in the receptacle and a distal lumen opening defined in a distal portion of the device body. The camera system comprises a system body configured to be mateably positionable within the receptacle and an elongate tube operably coupled to the system body, wherein the elongate tube is configured and sized to be positionable

through the camera lumen defined in the device body. The elongate tube has a length such that a portion of the elongate tube is configured to extend distally from the distal lumen opening when the system body is positioned within the receptacle.

[013] Example 7 relates to the robotic surgical system according to Example 6, wherein the elongate tube further comprises a substantially rigid section, an optical section, and a flexible section operably coupling the optical section to the rigid section. The optical section is configured to be tiltable at the flexible section in relation to the rigid section, wherein the optical section has a straight configuration and a tilted configuration.

[014] Example 8 relates to the robotic surgical system according to Example 6, wherein the distal lumen opening is positioned between the first and second shoulder joints.

[015] Example 9 relates to the robotic surgical system according to Example 6, wherein the elongate tube is configured to be rotatable in relation to the system body.

[016] Example 10 relates to the robotic surgical system according to Example 6, further comprising a positioning rod operably coupled to the device body.

[017] Example 11 relates to the robotic surgical system according to Example 10, wherein the positioning rod further comprises a handle operably coupled to the positioning rod.

[018] In Example 12, a surgical insertion device comprises a collapsible canister defining a lumen, a top cap coupled to a proximal end of the canister, an incision port removably coupled to a distal end of the canister, a support frame operably coupled to the canister at a point along the canister between the top cap and the incision port, and a support rod operably coupled to the top cap, the support frame, and the incision port such that the top cap and the support frame are slidable in relation to the support rod. The canister is sized to receive a surgical device in the lumen. The top cap comprising at least one lumen defined in the top cap. The incision port comprising a fluidic sealing component configured to maintain a fluidic seal between the incision port and the canister. The support frame is configured to support the canister.

[019] Example 13 relates to the surgical insertion device according to Example 12, wherein the device comprises a retracted configuration in which the top cap and support frame are positioned at a maximum distance from the incision port such that the canister is in an uncollapsed state, and a deployed configuration in which the top cap and support frame are positioned at a minimum distance from the incision port such that the canister is in a collapsed state.

[020] Example 14 relates to the surgical insertion device according to Example 13, further comprising a handle operably coupled to the top cap, wherein the handle is configured to be actuable to move the top cap between the retracted and deployed configurations.

[021] Example 15 relates to the surgical insertion device according to Example 13, further comprising a handle comprising a handle body, a lumen defined in the handle body, an actuation lever operably coupled to the handle body, and a coupling component operably coupled to the actuation lever. The lumen is configured to receive the support rod. The actuation lever is configured to be movable between an unactuated configuration and an actuated configuration. The coupling component comprises an opening configured to receive the support rod. Further, the coupling component is configured to be movable between frictional contact with the support rod when the actuation lever is in the unactuated configuration and no contact with the support rod when the actuation lever is in the actuated configuration.

[022] While multiple embodiments are disclosed, still other embodiments of the present invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the following detailed description, which shows and describes illustrative embodiments of the invention. As will be realized, the invention is capable of modifications in various obvious aspects, all without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. Accordingly, the drawings and detailed description are to be regarded as illustrative in nature and not restrictive.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[023] FIG. 1A is a side view of a robotic surgical device according to one embodiment.

[024] FIG. 1B is perspective front view of the device of FIG. 1.

[025] FIG. 1C is a perspective view of the device of FIG. 1.

[026] FIG. 1D is an end view of the device of FIG. 1.

[027] FIG. 2A is a cutaway view of the interior body and shoulder of the robotic medical device, according to one embodiment.

[028] FIG. 2B is a rotated cutaway view of the robotic medical device of FIG. 2A.

[029] FIG. 2C is a perspective cutaway view of the medical device, according to the embodiment of FIG. 2A.

[030] FIG. 2D is a further cutaway perspective view of the medical device body, according to the embodiment of FIG. 2A.

- [031] FIG. 2E is a cutaway view of the lower body and shoulder of a robotic device, according to the embodiment of FIG. 2A.
- [032] FIG. 3A is a cutaway side view of the upper arm of the robotic medical device, according to one embodiment.
- [033] FIG. 3B is a perspective view of the embodiment of FIG. 3A.
- [034] FIG. 3C is a different perspective view of the embodiment of FIG. 3A.
- [035] FIG. 3D is a reverse perspective view of the embodiment of FIG. 3A.
- [036] FIG. 3E is an alternate perspective view of medical device as depicted in FIG. 3D.
- [037] FIG. 4A is a cutaway view of the internal components of the right upper arm of a robotic device, according to one embodiment.
- [038] FIG. 4B is a rotated sideview of the embodiment of FIG. 4A.
- [039] FIG. 4C is a further rotated sideview of the embodiment of FIG. 4A.
- [040] FIG. 4D is an endlong view of the embodiment of FIG. 4A.
- [041] FIG. 4E is a further endlong view of the embodiment of FIG. 4A.
- [042] FIG. 5A is a endlong view of the lower arm of a robotic device, according to one embodiment.
- [043] FIG. 5B is cutaway sideview of the internal components of the lower arm of the embodiment of FIG. 5A along line A-A.
- [044] FIG. 5C is cutaway sideview of the internal components of the lower arm of the embodiment of FIG. 5A along line B-B.
- [045] FIG. 6A is a cross-sectional view of the end effector portion of the forearm depicting the electrical portions, according to an exemplary embodiment.
- [046] FIG. 6B is a top perspective view of external view of complimentary portion of the forearm to the embodiment of FIG. 6A.
- [047] FIG. 7 is a bottom perspective schematic of the internal components of the lower arm of a robotic device, according to one embodiment.
- [048] FIG. 8A is cutaway sideview of the internal components of the lower arm of the embodiment of FIG. 5A along line A-A, detailing further electronic components.
- [049] FIG. 8B is a close view of the section C-C of the embodiment of FIG. 8A.

- [050] FIG. 9A is a perspective view of the exterior of the forearm according to one embodiment.
- [051] FIG. 9B is an internal view perspective of the embodiment of FIG. 9A
- [052] FIG. 10A is a perspective view of one embodiment of the robotic device comprising an inner fluidic seal.
- [053] FIG. 10B is a perspective view of the embodiment of FIG. 10A further comprising further outer fluidic seal.
- [054] FIG. 11A is a side cutaway view of one embodiment of a rigid-flex PCB component within the forearm of the device.
- [055] FIG. 11B is a further perspective view of the embodiment of FIG. 11A.
- [056] FIG. 12A depicts a top view of a robotic device during insertion, according to one embodiment.
- [057] FIG. 12B is a front view of the device of FIG. 12A.
- [058] FIG. 12C is a side view of the device of FIG. 12A.
- [059] FIG. 12D is a perspective view of the device of FIG. 12A.
- [060] FIG. 13A depicts a top view of a robotic device during insertion, according to one embodiment.
- [061] FIG. 13B is a front view of the device of FIG. 13A.
- [062] FIG. 13C is a side view of the device of FIG. 13A.
- [063] FIG. 13D is a perspective view of the device of FIG. 13A.
- [064] FIG. 14A depicts a top view of a robotic device during insertion, according to one embodiment.
- [065] FIG. 14B is a front view of the device of FIG. 14A.
- [066] FIG. 14C is a side view of the device of FIG. 14A.
- [067] FIG. 14D is a perspective view of the device of FIG. 14A.
- [068] FIG. 15A depicts a top view of a robotic device during insertion, according to one embodiment.
- [069] FIG. 15B is a front view of the device of FIG. 15A.
- [070] FIG. 15C is a side view of the device of FIG. 15A.
- [071] FIG. 15D is a perspective view of the device of FIG. 15A.

- [072] FIG. 16A depicts a top view of a robotic device during insertion, according to one embodiment.
- [073] FIG. 16B is a front view of the device of FIG. 16A.
- [074] FIG. 16C is a side view of the device of FIG. 16A.
- [075] FIG. 16D is a perspective view of the device of FIG. 16A.
- [076] FIG. 17A depicts a top view of a robotic device during insertion, according to one embodiment.
- [077] FIG. 17B is a front view of the device of FIG. 17A.
- [078] FIG. 17C is a side view of the device of FIG. 17A.
- [079] FIG. 17D is a perspective view of the device of FIG. 17A.
- [080] FIG. 18A is a perspective view of one embodiment of a surgical device with a removable camera system, according to one embodiment.
- [081] FIG. 18B is another perspective view of the device of FIG. 18A, with the camera system removed from the device.
- [082] FIG. 18C is a front view of the camera system of FIG. 18A.
- [083] FIG. 18D is a side view of the camera system of FIG. 18A in which the camera is in a tilted configuration.
- [084] FIG. 18E is a side view of the camera system of FIG. 18A in which the camera is in a position between the tilted and straight configurations.
- [085] FIG. 18F is a side view of the camera system of FIG. 18A in which the camera is in the straight configuration.
- [086] FIG. 18G is a close-up view of the distal end of a camera system, according to one embodiment.
- [087] FIG. 18H is a close-up view of the distal end of another camera system, according to a further embodiment.
- [088] FIG. 19A is a side view of a surgical device with a removable camera system, according to a further embodiment.
- [089] FIG. 19B is a perspective view of the device of FIG. 19A.
- [090] FIG. 19C is another perspective view of the device of FIG. 19A.
- [091] FIG. 19D is a further perspective view of certain components of the device of FIG. 19A.

- [092] FIG. 19E is a perspective view of the camera system of FIG. 19A.
- [093] FIG. 20A is a perspective view of a surgical device with a removable camera system, according to yet another embodiment.
- [094] FIG. 20B is a perspective view of the camera system of the device of FIG. 20A.
- [095] FIG. 20C is a perspective view of certain components of the device of FIG. 20A.
- [096] FIG. 21A is a perspective view of a surgical device with a removable camera system, according to another embodiment.
- [097] FIG. 21B is a perspective view of the camera system of the device of FIG. 21A.
- [098] FIG. 21C is a perspective view of certain components of the device of FIG. 21A.
- [099] FIG. 22A is a perspective view of a surgical device with a removable camera system, according to yet another embodiment.
- [0100] FIG. 22B is a perspective view of the camera system of the device of FIG. 22A.
- [0101] FIG. 22C is a perspective view of certain components of the device of FIG. 22A.
- [0102] FIG. 23A is a perspective view of a surgical device with a removable camera system, according to yet another embodiment.
- [0103] FIG. 23B is a perspective view of the camera system of the device of FIG. 23A.
- [0104] FIG. 23C is a perspective view of certain components of the device of FIG. 23A.
- [0105] FIG. 24A is a perspective view of an arm of a surgical device, according to one embodiment.
- [0106] FIG. 24B is a perspective view of a surgical device, according to one embodiment.
- [0107] FIG. 25A depicts an operating theater in which any surgical device embodiment contemplated herein can be used, according to one embodiment.
- [0108] FIG. 25B is a close-up view of a portion of the operating theater of FIG. 25A in use.
- [0109] FIG. 26 depicts another operating theater in which any surgical device embodiment contemplated herein can be used, according to a further embodiment.

- [0110] FIG. 27A is a perspective view of an insertion system, according to one embodiment.
- [0111] FIG. 27B is an exploded view of the insertion system of FIG. 27A.
- [0112] FIG. 27C is a perspective view of a port coupled to a surgical port in the insertion system of FIG. 27A.
- [0113] FIG. 27D is an exploded view of the port and surgical port of FIG. 27C.
- [0114] FIG. 28A is a perspective view of the insertion system of FIG. 27A before insertion.
- [0115] FIG. 28B is a perspective view of the insertion system of FIG. 27A after insertion.
- [0116] FIG. 29 is a schematic view of a robotic device positioned in the insertion system of FIG. 27A.
- [0117] FIG. 30A is a perspective view of an external pressurized insertion system, according to one embodiment.
- [0118] FIG. 30B is a perspective view of the canister of the external pressurized insertion system of FIG. 30A.
- [0119] FIG. 30C is a perspective view of the port of the system of FIG. 30A.
- [0120] FIG. 30D is a perspective view of the support rod of the system of FIG. 30A.
- [0121] FIG. 30E is a side view of the handle of the system of FIG. 30A.
- [0122] FIG. 30F is a front view of the handle of the system of FIG. 30A.
- [0123] FIG. 30G is another side view of the handle of the system of FIG. 30A.
- [0124] FIG. 31A is a side view of the system of FIG. 30A in its retracted configuration.
- [0125] FIG. 31B is a side view of the system of FIG. 30A in its deployed configuration.
- [0126] FIG. 32A is a side view of the port of the system of FIG. 30A.
- [0127] FIG. 32B is a side view of a dilator for use with the system of FIG. 30A.
- [0128] FIG. 33A is a side view of the system of FIG. 30A in which the surgical device is being inserted into the cavity of the patient.
- [0129] FIG. 33B is a front view of the system as shown in FIG. 33A.
- [0130] FIG. 34A is a side view of the system of FIG. 30A in which the camera has been advanced out of the lumen and the arms of the surgical device have been bent at the elbows.
- [0131] FIG. 34B is a front view of the system as shown in FIG. 34A.

- [0132] FIG. 35A is a side view of the system of FIG. 30A in which the camera has been tilted and the arms have been spread
- [0133] FIG. 35B is a front view of the system as shown in FIG. 35A.
- [0134] FIG. 36A is a side view of the system of FIG. 30A in which the arms of the surgical device have been angled to optimize the positioning of the end effectors.
- [0135] FIG. 36B is a front view of the system as shown in FIG. 36A.
- [0136] FIG. 37A is a perspective view of a console that can be used with any of the surgical device embodiments disclosed herein, according to one embodiment.
- [0137] FIG. 37B is a perspective view of some of the components of the console of FIG. 37A.
- [0138] FIG. 37C is a perspective view of the frame of the console of FIG. 37A.
- [0139] FIG. 38A is a perspective view of another console that can be used with any of the surgical device embodiments disclosed herein, according to another embodiment.
- [0140] FIG. 38B is a perspective view of the frame of the console of FIG. 38A.
- [0141] FIG. 38C is a side view of the frame of the console of FIG. 38A.
- [0142] FIG. 39A is a perspective view of another console that can be used with any of the surgical device embodiments disclosed herein, according to a further embodiment.
- [0143] FIG. 39B is a perspective view of the frame of the console of FIG. 39A.
- [0144] FIG. 40A is a side view of yet another console that can be used with any of the surgical device embodiments disclosed herein, according to yet another embodiment.
- [0145] FIG. 40B is a front view of the console of FIG. 40A.
- [0146] FIG. 41A is a perspective view of a robotic device, according to one embodiment.
- [0147] FIG. 41B is another perspective view of the robotic device of FIG. 41A.
- [0148] FIG. 41C is a top view of the robotic device of FIG. 41A.
- [0149] FIG. 41D is a bottom view of the robotic device of FIG. 41D.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

- [0150] The various systems and devices disclosed herein relate to devices for use in medical procedures and systems. More specifically, various embodiments relate to various medical devices, including robotic devices and related methods and systems.

[0151] It is understood that the various embodiments of robotic devices and related methods and systems disclosed herein can be incorporated into or used with any other known medical devices, systems, and methods.

[0152] It is understood that the various embodiments of robotic devices and related methods and systems disclosed herein can be incorporated into or used with any other known medical devices, systems, and methods. For example, the various embodiments disclosed herein may be incorporated into or used with any of the medical devices and systems disclosed in copending U.S. Applications 11/766,683 (filed on June 21, 2007 and entitled “Magnetically Coupleable Robotic Devices and Related Methods”), 11/766,720 (filed on June 21, 2007 and entitled “Magnetically Coupleable Surgical Robotic Devices and Related Methods”), 11/966,741 (filed on December 28, 2007 and entitled “Methods, Systems, and Devices for Surgical Visualization and Device Manipulation”), 61/030,588 (filed on February 22, 2008), 12/171,413 (filed on July 11, 2008 and entitled “Methods and Systems of Actuation in Robotic Devices”), 12/192,663 (filed August 15, 2008 and entitled Medical Inflation, Attachment, and Delivery Devices and Related Methods”), 12/192,779 (filed on August 15, 2008 and entitled “Modular and Cooperative Medical Devices and Related Systems and Methods”), 12/324,364 (filed November 26, 2008 and entitled “Multifunctional Operational Component for Robotic Devices”), 61/640,879 (filed on May 1, 2012), 13/493,725 (filed June 11, 2012 and entitled “Methods, Systems, and Devices Relating to Surgical End Effectors”), 13/546,831 (filed July 11, 2012 and entitled “Robotic Surgical Devices, Systems, and Related Methods”), 61/680,809 (filed August 8, 2012), 13/573,849 (filed October 9, 2012 and entitled “Robotic Surgical Devices, Systems, and Related Methods”), 13/738,706 (filed January 10, 2013 and entitled “Methods, Systems, and Devices for Surgical Access and Insertion”), 13/833,605 (filed March 15, 2013 and entitled “Robotic Surgical Devices, Systems, and Related Methods”), 13/839,422 (filed March 15, 2013 and entitled “Single Site Robotic Devices and Related Systems and Methods”), 13/834,792 (filed March 15, 2013 and entitled “Local Control Robotic Surgical Devices and Related Methods”), 14/208,515 (filed March 13, 2014 and entitled “Methods, Systems, and Devices Relating to Robotic Surgical Devices, End Effectors, and Controllers”), 14/210,934 (filed March 14, 2014 and entitled “Methods, Systems, and Devices Relating to Force Control Surgical Systems), and 14/212,686 (filed March 14, 2014 and entitled “Robotic Surgical Devices, Systems, and Related Methods”), and U.S. Patents 7,492,116 (filed on October

31, 2007 and entitled “Robot for Surgical Applications”), 7,772,796 (filed on April 3, 2007 and entitled “Robot for Surgical Applications”), and 8,179,073 (issued May 15, 2011, and entitled “Robotic Devices with Agent Delivery Components and Related Methods”), all of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

[0153] Certain device and system implementations disclosed in the applications listed above can be positioned within a body cavity of a patient in combination with a support component similar to those disclosed herein. An “in vivo device” as used herein means any device that can be positioned, operated, or controlled at least in part by a user while being positioned within a body cavity of a patient, including any device that is coupled to a support component such as a rod or other such component that is disposed through an opening or orifice of the body cavity, also including any device positioned substantially against or adjacent to a wall of a body cavity of a patient, further including any such device that is internally actuated (having no external source of motive force), and additionally including any device that may be used laparoscopically or endoscopically during a surgical procedure. As used herein, the terms “robot,” and “robotic device” shall refer to any device that can perform a task either automatically or in response to a command.

[0154] Certain embodiments provide for insertion of the present invention into the cavity while maintaining sufficient insufflation of the cavity. Further embodiments minimize the physical contact of the surgeon or surgical users with the present invention during the insertion process. Other implementations enhance the safety of the insertion process for the patient and the present invention. For example, some embodiments provide visualization of the present invention as it is being inserted into the patient’s cavity to ensure that no damaging contact occurs between the system/device and the patient. In addition, certain embodiments allow for minimization of the incision size/length. Further implementations reduce the complexity of the access/insertion procedure and/or the steps required for the procedure. Other embodiments relate to devices that have minimal profiles, minimal size, or are generally minimal in function and appearance to enhance ease of handling and use.

[0155] Certain implementations disclosed herein relate to “combination” or “modular” medical devices that can be assembled in a variety of configurations. For purposes of this application, both “combination device” and “modular device” shall mean any medical device having modular or interchangeable components that can be arranged in a variety of different

configurations. The modular components and combination devices disclosed herein also include segmented triangular or quadrangular-shaped combination devices. These devices, which are made up of modular components (also referred to herein as “segments”) that are connected to create the triangular or quadrangular configuration, can provide leverage and/or stability during use while also providing for substantial payload space within the device that can be used for larger components or more operational components. As with the various combination devices disclosed and discussed above, according to one embodiment these triangular or quadrangular devices can be positioned inside the body cavity of a patient in the same fashion as those devices discussed and disclosed above.

[0156] As shown in FIGS. 1A, 1B, 1C, and 1D, certain exemplary embodiments relate to a device 10 having a body 12 with two arms 14A, 14B operably coupled thereto. The body 12 as shown has a casing 30. The body 12 is also referred to as a “device body.” Each arm 14A, 14B has a first coupling link 16A, 16B that couples the arm 14A, 14B to the body 12. This first coupling link 16A, 16B can also be referred to herein as a “first coupling component” or “shoulder link” and is part of the first rotatable joint 24A, 24B (also referred to herein as the “shoulder joint”). Each arm 14A, 14B has an upper arm (also referred to herein as an “inner arm,” “inner arm assembly,” “inner link,” “inner link assembly,” “upper arm assembly,” “first link,” or “first link assembly”) 18A, 18B, and a forearm (also referred to herein as an “outer arm,” “outer arm assembly,” “outer link,” “outer link assembly,” “forearm assembly,” “second link,” or “second link assembly”) 20A, 20B. The upper arms 18A, 18B are rotatably coupled to the coupling links 16A, 16B, which are rotatably coupled to the body 12. Each arm 14A, 14B has a second coupling link 22A, 22B that couples the upper arm 18A, 18B to the forearm 20A, 20B. This second coupling link 22A, 22B can also be referred to herein as a “second coupling component” or “elbow link” and is part of the second rotatable joint 26A, 26B (also referred to herein as the “elbow joint”). More specifically, in the right arm 14A, the upper arm 18A is rotatably coupled to the forearm 20A at the elbow joint 26A via the elbow link 22A, while in the left arm 14B, the upper arm 18B is rotatably coupled to the forearm 20B at the elbow joint 26B via elbow link 22B.

[0157] As shown, each of the arms 14A, 14B also has an end effector 28A, 28B operably coupled to the distal end of the forearm 20A, 20B. An end effector can also be referred to herein as an “operational component.”

[0158] In one implementation, each of the arms 14A, 14B has six degrees of freedom. That is, as explained in further detail below, each arm 14A, 14B has three degrees of freedom at the shoulder, one degree of freedom at the elbow, and two degrees of freedom at the end effector (which can be rotated – end effector roll – and opened/closed). As such, the six degrees of freedom of each arm 14A, 14B are analogous to the degrees of freedom of a human arm, which also has three degrees of freedom at the shoulder and one at the elbow. One advantage of an arm having four degrees of freedom (with an end effector having two degrees of freedom) is that the end effector can have multiple orientations at the same Cartesian point. This added dexterity allows the surgeon or other user more freedom and a more intuitive sense of control while operating the device.

[0159] FIGS. 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, and 2E according to one embodiment, depict the internal components of the body 12, which is shown in these figures without its casing 30. More specifically, these figures depict the right half of the body 12 and the internal components that control/actuate the right arm 14A. It is understood that the internal components in the left half (not shown) that operate/control/actuate the left arm 14B are substantially the same as those depicted and described herein and that the descriptions provided below apply equally to those components as well.

[0160] FIGS. 2A, 2B, and 2C include the internal structural or support components of the body 12. In one implementation, the body 12 has an internal top cap 40, an internal support rod 42, and an internal support shell 44 as shown. The support rod 42 couples the top cap 40 to the support shell 44. These components maintain the structure of the body 12 and provide structural support for the components disposed therein. According to one embodiment, the internal top cap 40 defines three partial lumens 46A, 46B, 46C as best shown in FIG. 2C. The top cap 40 couples to the body casing 30 such that each of the partial lumens 46A, 46B, 46C is formed into a full lumen defined by the coupling of the cap 40 and casing 30. As will be described in further detail below, these lumens 46A, 46B, 46C can be configured to receive various wires, cords, or other components to be inserted into or through the body 12.

[0161] In contrast to FIGS. 2A-2C, FIG. 2D depicts the internal actuation and control components of the right half of the body 12 with the internal structural or support components hidden in order to better display the internal actuation and control components. These internal

actuation and control components are configured to provide two degrees of freedom at the shoulder joint 24A.

[0162] FIG. 2E is an enlarged view of the distal end of the body 12.

[0163] In one embodiment, certain of the internal components depicted in FIGS. 2D and 2E are configured to actuate rotation at the shoulder joint 24A around axis A (as best shown in FIG. 2B), which is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the body 12. This rotation around axis A is also referred to as “yaw” or “shoulder yaw.” The rotation, in one aspect, is created as follows. An actuator 60 is provided that is, in this implementation, a motor assembly 60. The motor assembly 60 is operably coupled to the motor gear 62, which is coupled to the driven gear 64 such that rotation of the motor gear 62 causes rotation of the driven gear 64. The driven gear 64 is fixedly coupled to a transmission shaft 66, which has a transmission gear 68 at the opposite end of the shaft 66. The transmission gear 68 is coupled to a driven gear 70, which is fixedly coupled to the shaft 72. A magnet holder 76 containing a magnet is also operably coupled to the transmission gear 68. The holder 76 and magnet are operably coupled to a magnetic encoder (not shown). It is understood that the magnet holder 76, magnet, and magnetic encoder (and those similar components as discussed elsewhere herein in relation to other joints) are components of an absolute position sensor that is the same as or substantially similar to one or more of the absolute position sensors disclosed in U.S. Provisional Application 61,680,809, filed on August 8, 2012, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. The shaft 72 is fixedly coupled at its distal end to a rotatable pitch housing 74 (as best shown in FIGS. 2B and 2E) such that rotation of the driven gear 70 causes rotation of the shaft 72 and thus rotation of the housing 74 around axis A as shown in FIG. 2B.

[0164] According to one implementation, certain other internal components depicted in FIG. 2D are configured to actuate rotation at the shoulder joint 24A around axis B (as best shown in FIG. 2D), which is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the body 12. This rotation around axis B is also referred to as “pitch” or “shoulder pitch.” The rotation, in one embodiment, is created as follows. An actuator 80 is provided that is, in this implementation, a motor assembly 80. The motor assembly 80 is operably coupled to the motor gear 82, which is coupled to the driven gear 84 such that rotation of the motor gear 82 causes rotation of the driven gear 84. The driven gear 84 is fixedly coupled to a transmission shaft 86, which has a transmission gear 88 at the opposite end of the shaft 86. The transmission gear 88 is coupled to a driven gear 90, which

is fixedly coupled to the shaft 92. A magnet holder 98 containing a magnet is also operably coupled to the driven gear 90. The holder 98 and magnet are operably coupled to a magnetic encoder (not shown). As best shown in FIG. 2E, a portion of the shaft 92 is disposed within the lumen 72A of the shaft 72 described above and extends out of the distal end of the shaft 72 into the housing 74. As best shown in FIG. 2E, the distal end of the shaft 92 is coupled to a rotation gear 94 that is a bevel gear 94. The rotation gear 94 is operably coupled to link gear 96, which is also a bevel gear 96 according to one implementation. The link gear 96 is operably coupled to the shoulder link 16A (discussed above) such that rotation of the shaft 92 causes rotation of the rotation gear 94 and thereby the rotation of the link gear 96 and thus rotation of the link 16A around axis B as best shown in FIG. 2D.

[0165] In this embodiment, these two axes of rotation are coupled. That is, if solely rotation around axis A (pure yaw) is desired, then the “pitch drive train” (the motor 80 and all coupled gears and components required to achieve rotation around axis B) must match the speed of the “yaw drive train” (the motor 60 and all coupled gears and components required to achieve rotation around axis A) such that there is no relative angular displacement between the pitch housing 74 and the rotation gear 94. In contrast, if solely rotation around axis B (pure pitch) is desired, then the yaw drive train must hold position while the pitch drive train is actuated.

[0166] In one implementation as shown in FIG. 2A, the body 12 has a rigid-flex PCB 100 positioned in the body. The PCB 100 is operably coupled to and controls the motors 60, 80 and magnetic encoders (not shown).

[0167] According to another embodiment, at least one connection component is associated with the body 12. More specifically, in this implementation, a power/communication line 102 and a cautery power line 104 are coupled at their proximal ends to one or more external power sources (not shown) and extend into the device 10 through one or more of the three lumens 46A, 46B, 46C defined partially by internal top cap 40. The lines 102, 104 extend through the body 12 and exit as shown in FIG. 2B and extend to the upper arm segment.

[0168] In one embodiment, the body 12 can be coupled at its proximal end to a positioning rod (also referred to as an “insertion rod”) (not shown). It is understood that the positioning rod can be any such known component for helping to position the device 10 and/or maintain and stabilize the position of the device 10. According to one implementation, the

power/communication line 102 and/or the cautery power line 104 can extend proximally through one or more lumens in the positioning rod.

[0169] In one embodiment, any of the motors discussed and depicted herein can be brush or brushless motors. Further, the motors can be, for example, 6 mm, 8 mm, or 10 mm diameter motors. Alternatively, any known size that can be integrated into a medical device can be used. In a further alternative, the actuators can be any known actuators used in medical devices to actuate movement or action of a component. Examples of motors that could be used for the motors described herein include the EC 10 BLDC + GP10A Planetary Gearhead, EC 8 BLDC + GP8A Planetary Gearhead, or EC 6 BLDC + GP6A Planetary Gearhead, all of which are commercially available from Maxon Motors, located in Fall River, MA.

[0170] FIGS. 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D, 3E, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, and 4E according to one embodiment, depict the internal components of the right upper arm 18A, which is shown in these figures without its casing. More specifically, these figures depict the right arm 14A and the internal components therein. It is understood that the internal components in the left upper arm 18B are substantially the same as those depicted and described herein and that the descriptions provided below apply equally to those components as well.

[0171] FIGS. 3A-3E depict the internal components of the right upper arm 18A, including actuators, drive components, and electronics, with the internal structural or support components hidden in order to better display the internal components. In contrast to FIGS. 3A-3E, FIGS. 4A-4E include both the internal actuator, drive, and electronics components, but also the internal structural or support components of the right upper arm 18A.

[0172] In one embodiment, certain of the internal components depicted in FIGS. 3A-3E are configured to actuate rotation at the shoulder link 16A around axis C (as best shown in FIG. 3B), which is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the right upper arm 18A. This rotation around axis C is also referred to as “shoulder roll.” The rotation, in one aspect, is created as follows. An actuator 120 is provided that is, in this implementation, a motor assembly 120. The motor assembly 120 is operably coupled to the motor gear 122. The motor gear 122 is supported by a bearing pair 124. The motor gear 122 is coupled to the driven gear 126 such that rotation of the motor gear 122 causes rotation of the driven gear 126. The driven gear 126 is fixedly coupled to the shoulder link 16A such that rotation of the driven gear 126 causes rotation of the shoulder link 16A around axis C as shown in FIG. 3B. The driven gear 126 is supported by a bearing pair

128. A magnet holder 130 containing a magnet is also operably coupled to the driven gear 126. The holder 130 and magnet are operably coupled to a magnetic encoder 132.

[0173] The rotation of the shoulder link 16A around axis C causes the right upper arm 18A (and thus the forearm 20A) to rotate in relation to the body 12. According to one embodiment, this rotation adds an additional degree of freedom not provided in prior two-armed surgical devices.

[0174] According to one implementation, certain of the internal components depicted in FIGS. 3A-3E are configured to actuate rotation at the elbow link 22A around axis D (as best shown in FIG. 3C), which is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the right upper arm 18A. This rotation around axis D is also referred to as “elbow yaw.” The rotation, in one aspect, is created as follows. An actuator 140 is provided that is, in this implementation, a motor assembly 140. The motor assembly 140 is operably coupled to the motor gear 142, which is a beveled gear in this embodiment. The motor gear 142 is supported by a bearing 144. The motor gear 142 is coupled to the driven gear 146 such that rotation of the motor gear 142 causes rotation of the driven gear 146. The driven gear 146 is fixedly coupled to a link gear 148, which is coupled to the gear teeth 158 (as best shown in FIG. 3B) of the elbow link 22A such that rotation of the driven gear 146 causes rotation of the elbow link 22A around axis D as shown in FIG. 3C. The driven gear 146 and link gear 148 are supported by a bearing pair 150. Further, the elbow link 22A is supported by a bearing pair 152. A magnet holder 154 containing a magnet is also operably coupled to the elbow link 22A. The holder 154 and magnet are operably coupled to a magnetic encoder 156.

[0175] According to one embodiment, the additional coupling of the link gear 148 and the elbow link 22A can provide certain advantages, including an additional external reduction (because the gear 148 has fewer gear teeth than the elbow link 22A) and shortening of the upper arm 18A (thereby improving the joint range of motion).

[0176] As shown in FIG. 4B, the upper arm 18A can have a rigid-flex PCB 160 positioned therein. In one embodiment, the PCB 160 is operably coupled to and controls the motors 120, 140 and magnetic encoders 132, 156.

[0177] According to another embodiment, at least one connection component is associated with the upper arm 18A. More specifically, in this implementation, the

power/communication line 102 and the cautery power line 104 enter through a port (not shown) at the proximal end of the upper arm 18A and exit through a port (not shown) at the distal end.

[0178] FIGS. 5A-9B depict various embodiments of a right forearm 20A. The various implementations disclosed and depicted herein include the actuators, drive components, and electronics that can be used to accomplish both tool roll and tool drive (open/close action), as will be described in further detail below. As set forth below, the forearm 20A also has two electrically isolated cautery circuits, enabling both bipolar and monopolar cautery end effectors. Certain embodiments are configured to allow for easy removal and replacement of an end effector (a “quick change” configuration). Further embodiments contain sealing elements that help to prevent fluid ingress into the mechanism. According to one implementation, certain of the internal components depicted in FIGS. 5A-5C are configured to actuate rotation at the end effector 28A around axis E (as best shown in FIG. 5B), which is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the right forearm 20A. This rotation around axis E is also referred to as “tool roll.” The rotation, in one aspect, is created as follows. An actuator 180 is provided that is, in this implementation, a motor assembly 180. The motor assembly 180 is operably coupled to the motor gear 182, which is a spur gear in this embodiment. The motor gear 182 is coupled to the driven gear 184 such that rotation of the motor gear 182 causes rotation of the driven gear 184. The driven gear 184 is fixedly coupled to the roll hub 186, which is supported by a bearing 188. The roll hub 186 is fixedly coupled to the tool base interface 190, which has external threads 190A which are threadably coupled to the end effector 28A. Thus, rotation of the driven gear 184 causes rotation of the roll hub 186, which causes rotation of the tool base interface 190, which causes rotation of the end effector 28A around axis E as shown in FIG. 5B.

[0179] In one embodiment, certain of the internal components depicted in FIGS. 5A-5C are configured to actuate the end effector to open and close. This rotation of the end effector arms such that the end effector opens and closes is also called “tool drive.” The actuation, in one aspect, is created as follows. An actuator 200 is provided that is, in this implementation, a motor assembly 200. The motor assembly 200 is operably coupled to the motor gear 202, which is a spur gear in this embodiment. The motor gear 202 is coupled to the driven gear 204 such that rotation of the motor gear 202 causes rotation of the driven gear 204. The driven gear 204 is fixedly coupled to a tool drive nut 206, which is supported by bearing pair 208. The tool drive nut 206 has a threaded inner lumen 206A, and this threaded inner lumen 206A is threadably

coupled to the lead screw 210. More specifically, the outer threads of the lead screw 210 are threadably coupled to the threads on the inner lumen 206A. The lead screw 210 is rotationally coupled to the tool base interface 190 (discussed above). More specifically, the tool base interface 190 has a square-shaped inner lumen 190A, and the distal end of the lead screw 210 has a square-shaped protrusion that fits within the inner lumen 190A, thereby coupling with the tool base interface 190. The distal end of the lead screw 210 can move translationally within the lumen 190A, but cannot rotate in relation to the tool base interface 190, so the lead screw 210 can move translationally in relation to the tool base interface 190, but cannot rotate in relation thereto. The lead screw 210 also has an insulating sleeve 212 disposed to an external portion of the lead screw 210 and thereby plays a role in maintaining separate electrical cautery channels as will be described below. Further, the lead screw 210 has a threaded inner lumen 210A, which is threadably coupled to the tool pin 214. The tool pin 214 is coupled to a known linkage mechanism within the end effector 28A such that translation of the tool pin 214 causes the grasper arms or blades to open and close. As such, actuation of gear 202 causes rotation of the driven gear 204, which rotates the tool drive nut 206. The rotation of the tool drive nut 206 causes the lead screw 210 to translate as a result of the threadable coupling of the nut 206 and the screw 210. The translation of the screw 210 causes the tool pin 214 to translate, thereby causing the end effector 28A arms or blades to open and close.

[0180] In this embodiment, these two axes of rotation are coupled. That is, if pure roll is desired, then the tool drive train must match the speed of the roll train such that there is no relative angular displacement between the tool drive nut 206 and the tool base interface 190.

[0181] According to one implementation, the end effector 28A can be quickly and easily coupled to and uncoupled from the forearm 20A in the following fashion. With both the roll and drive axes fixed or held in position, the end effector 28A can be rotated, thereby coupling or uncoupling the threads 190A and 210A. That is, if the end effector 28A is rotated in one direction, the end effector 28A is coupled to the forearm 20A, and if it is rotated in the other direction, the end effector 28A is uncoupled from the forearm 20A.

[0182] In accordance with one embodiment, the forearm 20A has two independent cautery channels (referred to herein as “channel A” and “channel B”), which enables the use of either bipolar or monopolar cautery end effectors with this forearm 20A.

[0183] As shown in FIG. 6A, the channel A components are set forth in the forearm 20A as shown. A PCB 220 is electrically coupled to lead A of a cautery power line (such as cautery line 104 discussed above) that is coupled to an external power source. The PCB 220 is further electrically coupled to a pin 222, which is electrically coupled to socket 224 (defined in or coupled – electrically and mechanically – to a proximal end of the lead screw 210 discussed above) and is slidably positioned within the socket 224. The lead screw 210 is coupled electrically and mechanically to the end effector pin 214 as best shown in FIG. 5C. As such, energizing lead A in the cautery line 104 energizes channel A in the bipolar cautery end effector 28A.

[0184] As shown in FIGS. 6B and 7, the channel B components are set forth in the forearm 20A as shown. The PCB 220 discussed above is also electrically coupled to lead B of a cautery power line (such as cautery line 104 discussed above) that is coupled to an external power source. The PCB 220 is further electrically coupled to a conducting rod 240, which is electrically coupled to a wiper 242. The wiper 242 is a tensioned component that supported on one end by a mechanical strut 244. An insulating insert 246 is positioned between the wiper 242 and the mechanical strut 244. At its free end, the wiper 242 is supported by a preloader 248. Based on this configuration, the wiper 242 is loaded or urged (like a leaf spring) against tool base interface 190 (discussed above) and thus is electrically coupled to the tool base interface 190. The tool base interface 190 is mechanically coupled to the end effector 28A and electrically coupled to channel B of that end effector 28A. As such, energizing lead B in the cautery line 104 energizes channel B in the bipolar cautery end effector 28A.

[0185] In one implementation, the forearm 20A has at least one fluidic seal interface that helps to prevent fluid ingress into the forearm 20A. One such mechanism is a monolithic single-piece housing 260 as depicted in FIGS. 9A and 9B according to one embodiment. The one-piece nature of the housing 260 greatly reduces the number of interfaces that must be sealed and thus reduces the number of interfaces where fluidic leaks are more likely to occur. The housing 260 is configured to slide over the internal components of the forearm 20A. That is, the proximal end of the housing 260 defines an opening that can be positioned over the forearm 20A (or the forearm 20A is inserted into the lumen) until the housing 260 is correctly positioned over the forearm 20A. As best shown in FIG. 9B, the housing 260 can have an o-ring 262 positioned in a groove defined in the housing 260 around the hole 264 defined in the distal end of the housing

260. The hole 264 is configured to receive the end effector 28A. In one embodiment, the roll hub 186 (discussed above) is positioned through the hole 264 such that the o-ring 262 is configured to be preloaded against that roll hub 186, thereby forming a fluidic seal between the housing 260 and the external surface of the hub 186.

[0186] In a further embodiment as shown in FIG. 8A, the forearm 20A has two grooves 270, 272 defined in the external portion of the forearm housing 260 (as described above). The grooves 270, 272 can be configured to provide an attachment point for an outer barrier (such as the first barrier 300 described in further detail below) such that an elastic band defined in the opening of the sleeve of the inner barrier 300 can be positioned in the grooves 270, 272, thereby enhancing the coupling of the barrier 300 to the housing 260 and thus enhancing the fluidic seal. In one embodiment, the grooves 270, 272 encircle the entire forearm housing 260. Alternatively, the first barrier 300 can be bonded to the housing 260 via an adhesive or welding. In a further alternative, the housing 260 and the first barrier 300 can be fabricated as a single piece.

[0187] According to another implementation as shown in FIG. 8A, the forearm 20A housing 260 can have a groove 280 defined in the housing 260 around the hole 282 in the housing 260 through which the end effector 28A is positioned. The groove 280 can be configured to provide an attachment point for an outer barrier (such as the outer barrier 310 described in further detail below) such that an elastic band defined in the opening of the sleeve of the second barrier 310 can be positioned in the grooves 270, 272, thereby enhancing the coupling of the second barrier 310 to the housing 260 and thus enhancing the fluidic seal.

[0188] As shown in FIG. 8B, another fluidic seal can be provided according to another embodiment in the form of a flexible membrane 290 that is attached at one end to the lead screw 210 (discussed above) and at the other end to the tool base interface 190 (discussed above). More specifically, the membrane 290 is coupled to the lead screw 210 at the o-ring 292 and is coupled to the tool base interface 190 at the groove 292. In one embodiment, the membrane 290 is retained at the groove 292 with an attachment mechanism such as a cinch (not shown). This membrane 290 serves to provide a fluidic seal for the internal components of the forearm 20A against any external fluids. In one implementation, the seal is maintained whether the end effector 28A is coupled to the forearm 20A or not. Alternatively, the membrane 290 can be replaced with a metallic bellows.

[0189] Additional fluidic seals can be provided according to certain embodiments as depicted in FIGS. 10A and 10B. As shown in FIGS. 10A and 10B, the device 10 can have two fluidically sealed barriers protecting each of the device arms 14A, 14B. The first barrier (also referred to herein as an “inner barrier”) 300 is shown in FIG. 10A, in which it is positioned around each arm and coupled at the sleeve ends 302A, 302B to the device body 12 via elastic components 304A, 304B that urge the openings in the sleeve ends 302A, 302B, thereby enhancing the fluidic seal. In the embodiment as shown, the elastic components 304A, 304B are positioned around the forearms of the arms 14A at the distal ends of the forearms. Alternatively as described in detail above with respect to FIG. 8A, the elastic components 304A, 304B can be positioned in grooves defined in the forearms (such as grooves 270, 272 described above).

[0190] In one embodiment, the inner barrier 300 is a membrane that is permanently bonded to the device 10 and is not removed for the entire operational life of the device 10. The barrier 300 is sterilized with the device 10.

[0191] The second barrier (also referred to herein as an “outer barrier”) 310 is shown in FIG. 10B, in which is positioned around each arm 14A, 14B, over the inner barrier 300 discussed above, and coupled at the sleeve ends 312A, 312B to the device body 12 via elastic components 314A, 314B that urge the openings at the sleeve ends 312A, 312B against the arms 14A, 14B, thereby enhancing the fluid seal.

[0192] FIGS. 11A and 11B depict one embodiment of a rigid-flex PCB component 320 that can be used as the PCB component within the device embodiments as described above. It is understood that the rigid-flex assembly is a known fabrication method. In one embodiment, the PCB component 320 that has been assembled using a known fabrication method, but is custom designed and fabricated.

[0193] In use as shown in FIGS. 12-17, the device embodiments disclosed and contemplated herein are configured to have a consistent cross-section and minimal profile, thereby enhancing the ease of inserting the device through an incision and into a patient's cavity. Further, in one embodiment, the device 10 can be inserted via a specific set of steps that maintain the minimal profile and consistent cross-section in an optimal fashion. As shown in FIG. 12, the device 10 is being prepared to be inserted through the incision 330 and into the cavity 340. Note that the arms 14A, 14B of the device 10 are straight. In FIG. 13, the device 10 is inserted such that the forearms 20A, 20B are positioned in the cavity 340. As shown in FIG. 14, the forearms

20A, 20B can then be rotated as shown to maximize the amount of the device 10 that can be inserted. As the insertion continues as shown in FIG. 15, the upper arms 18A, 18B are also rotated to optimize the surgical space. At this point, the arms 14A, 14B can be moved into their operational position, first by urging them to move in opposite directions as shown in FIG. 16. Finally, the arms 14A, 14B are rotated so that the elbows are projecting outward in FIG. 17, thereby moving the arms 14A, 14B into their preferred operational position.

[0194] In one implementation, the device 10 has at least one camera that is used in conjunction with the device 10. For example, a camera (not shown) such as a camera having two degrees of freedom (a pan-and-tilt camera) having digital zoom could be used. In one embodiment, it is inserted through the camera lumen 32 defined in the proximal end of the device body 12 as best shown in FIG. 1C. According to one implementation, the camera can be controlled by the user or surgeon using a foot controller and would be easy to remove, clean, and re-insert during a procedure. In another embodiment, the camera can be a standard laparoscope inserted through the same incision, through the lumen 32, or through a different incision.

[0195] Another embodiment relates to a robotic surgical system 350 having a camera system 352 as shown in FIGS. 18A-H. As best shown in FIGS. 18A and 18B, the camera system 352 in this specific implementation is configured to be removably incorporated into a robotic device 254. More specifically, the camera system 352 is configured to be removably positioned through a lumen 358 defined in the device body 356 such that the system 352 is inserted through the proximal opening 360 in the lumen 358 and into the lumen 358 such that a distal portion of the system 352 protrudes from the distal opening 362 (as best shown in FIG. 18A).

[0196] As shown in FIGS. 18C-18F, this camera system 352 embodiment has a controller (also referred to as a “handle” or a “body”) 370 and an elongate component (also referred to herein as a “tube”) 372 operably coupled at its proximal end to the handle 370. As best shown in FIG. 18D, the tube 372 has a rigid section 372A, a flexible section 372B, and an optical section 372C.

[0197] In one embodiment, the handle 370 is configured to contain local electronics (not shown) for video transmission, along with actuators and associated mechanisms (not shown) for actuating pan and tilt functionality of the tube 273. It is understood that the local electronics, actuators, and associated mechanisms can be known, standard components. In a further implementation, the handle 370 can also contain a light engine. Alternatively, the light engine

can be a separate component, and a light cable can operably couple the light engine to the handle.

[0198] According to one implementation, the rigid section 372A of the tube 372 is substantially rigid and contains appropriate wires and optical fibers as necessary to operably couple to the optical component in the optical section 372C to the handle 370. The substantial rigidity of the rigid section 372A allows for easy manipulation of the tube 372, including easy insertion into the lumen 358.

[0199] The flexible section 372B, in accordance with one embodiment, is configured to allow for movement of the optical section 372C between a tilted configuration as shown in FIG. 18D and a straight configuration in FIG. 18F, or any position in between. The optical section 372C is substantially rigid, much like the rigid section 372A, and contains the optical element, along with appropriate local electronics, and a ring light (not shown).

[0200] In use, the camera system 352 has pan and tilt functionality that is powered and controlled by the actuators and electronics (not shown) in the handle 370. The tilt functionality relates to tilting the optical section 372C as described above. This tilting can be accomplished via a cable that is operably coupled to the flexible section 372B or the optical section 372C such that actuation of the cable causes the optical section 372C to tilt by bending the flexible section 372B as shown in FIGS. 18D or 18E. Alternatively this tilt function can be achieved by any other known mechanism or method for bending the tube 372 at the flexible section 372B.

[0201] In one specific exemplary embodiment as shown in FIG. 18G, the tilt functionality can be accomplished via the following configuration. In this embodiment, the flexible section 372B includes an elbow joint 374 and a pair of tilt cables 376A, 376B, wherein each of the tilt cables 376A, 376B is operably coupled at its distal end to the optical section 372C. The first tilt cable 376A is depicted in FIG. 18G is an active tilt cable 376A that is coupled on one side of the optical section 372C in relation to the joint 374 as shown such that urging the cable 376A proximally causes the optical section 372C to tilt upward on that side. The second tilt cable 376B is not visible in FIG. 18G, but it is a passive tilt cable 376B that is coupled on the other side of the optical section 372C in relation to the joint 374 and the first tilt cable 376A. The second tilt cable 376B is not actuated by a user. Instead, the second tilt cable 376B is maintained at a predetermined level of tension such that the cable 376B is continuously

urged in the proximal direction, thereby urging the optical section 372C into a straight configuration such as that shown in FIG. 18F.

[0202] As such, in this implementation of FIG. 18G, the default position of the optical section 372C will be the straight configuration of FIG. 18F. That is, the tensioned passive tilt cable 376B causes the optical section 372C to be in the straight configuration when no forces are being applied to the active tilt cable 376A, and a user can pull the active title cable 376A proximally to tilt the optical section 372C (and release the cable 376A to allow the section 372C to return to the straight configuration). The straight configuration of FIG. 18F makes it easy to position the camera system 352 into the lumen 358 as shown in FIG. 18B and further to remove the system 352 from the lumen 358 as well. In use, a user can urge the active cable 376A proximally to tilt the optical section 372C as desired/needed. In alternative embodiments, the system 352 can have an actuation button (or other type of user interface) (not shown) that can be configured to actuate the system 352 to move to the straight configuration of FIG. 18F, thereby facilitating easy insertion and/or removal.

[0203] Another exemplary embodiment as shown in FIG. 18H depicts another tube 372 with tilt functionality. In this implementation, the flexible section 372B includes a pair of flexible spines 377A, 377B that are operably coupled at their proximal ends to the rigid section 372A and at their distal ends to the optical section 372C and supported by a set of discs 378. The first flexible spine 377A is an articulated spine 377A that is made up of two or more cylinders 377A that are operably coupled to the discs 378. An active cable (not visible) is disposed within the cylinders 377A and is operably coupled at its distal end to the optical section 372C such that urging the cable 377A proximally causes the optical section 372C to tilt upward on that side. The second flexible spine 377B is a spring element 377B that is not actuated by a user, but instead is configured to be in an untensioned state when the spring element 377B is straight (when the optical section 372C is in a straight configuration such as that shown in FIG. 18F) and is in a tensioned state whenever the spring element 377B is bent such that the spring element 377B is urging the optical section 372C back toward the straight configuration. Thus, like the previous embodiment depicted in FIG. 18G, in this implementation of FIG. 18H, the default position of the optical section 372C will be the straight configuration of FIG. 18F. That is, the second flexible spine 377B causes the optical section 372C to be in the straight configuration when no forces are being applied to the active cable (not visible) in the articulated

spine 377A, and a user can pull the active cable proximally to tilt the optical section 372C (and release the cable to allow the section 372C to return to the straight configuration).

[0204] The pan functionality is accomplished via rotation of the tube 372 around the longitudinal axis of the tube 372 as shown by arrow A in FIG. 18C. The rigid section 372A, the flexible section 372B, and the optical section 372C of the tube 372 are coupled together such that the sections 372A, 372B, 372C cannot rotate in relation to each other. In other words, the sections 372A, 372B, 372C rotate together as a single unit. The tube 372, however, is rotatably coupled to the handle 370 such that the tube 372 can rotate as shown by arrow A in relation to the handle 370. As a result, the panning functionality is provided by positioning the optical section 372C in a tilted configuration (such as the configurations of FIG. 18D or 18E) and rotating the tube 372 in relation to the handle 370. This results in the optical component in the optical section 372C being rotated around the tube 372 axis such that it can potentially capture images up to and including 360° around the camera system 352.

[0205] It is understood that the camera system 352 can also provide for zoom and focus functionalities for the optical section 372C as well. These functionalities can be accomplished by any known mechanisms or methods. It is also understood all of the functionalities provided for the camera system 352 can be controlled from any user interface or console provided for use by the user or surgeon. Alternatively, some or all of these functions may be controlled manually via buttons or other interface mechanisms provided on the handle, such as the buttons associated with the handle shown in FIG. 19B, which are discussed in detail below.

[0206] In use, according to certain implementations, the camera system 352 is configured to be positioned into and removed from the lumen 358 (as best shown in FIGS. 18A and 18B) quickly and easily. Further, the lumen 358 is configured to have an internal fluidic seal (not shown) that provides a fluidic seal between the internal body cavity and the external air during surgery, thereby allowing for maintenance of the insufflation pressure in the cavity both when the camera system 352 is positioned in the lumen 358 and when it is not.

[0207] In accordance with one embodiment, the camera system 352 can be removed during a procedure so that it can be cleaned and/or defogged. Further, the system 352 can also be removed and used as a standard laparoscope (providing auxiliary views by being positioned through one or more auxiliary laparoscopic ports that are separate from the device port).

[0208] FIGS. 19A-19E depict another implementation of a robotic surgical system 380 having a removable camera system 382. In this embodiment, the system 380 has a device body 384 that is operably coupled at its proximal end with a receptacle 388 configured to receive the camera system 382. Further, the system 382 also has a positioning rod 386 (also referred to as a “control rod”) that is removably coupled to the proximal end of the body 384 and/or to the receptacle 388.

[0209] As best shown in FIG. 19E, like the system described above, the camera system 382 in this embodiment has a body 390 and an elongate component 392 operably coupled at its proximal end to the body 390. In this embodiment, the body 390 has an interface 394 (which is made up of a variety of buttons 394 in this embodiment) that allows a surgeon to control the system 382 via the interface 394.

[0210] According to one implementation best shown in FIG. 19D, the receptacle 388 defines an opening 396 into which the camera system 382 can be positioned. In addition, in this embodiment, a notch 400 is defined in the side of the receptacle that allows for user access to the interface 394 when the system 382 is positioned in the receptacle. Further, the opening 396 is in fluid communication with a lumen (not shown) defined in the device body 384, through which the camera system 382 can further be positioned. More specifically, the elongate component 392 of the camera 382 can be inserted through the opening 396 in the receptacle 388 and into the lumen (not shown) in the device body 384 until the distal end of the elongate component 392 is protruding out of the orifice 398 defined at the distal end of the lumen in the body 384, as best shown in FIGS. 19A and 19B.

[0211] The receptacle 388, in one implementation, can help to stabilize or strengthen the coupling of the camera system 382 with the device body 384, thereby reducing the changes that the camera system 382 will be disconnected from the rest of the system 380 during use.

[0212] Another embodiment of a robotic surgical system 420 with a removable camera system 422 is shown in FIGS. 20A-20C. As with the above embodiment, this system 420 has a receptacle 424 configured to receive the camera system 422. Further, the system 420 also has a positioning rod 426. The camera system 422 has a body 428 and an elongate component 430 operably coupled at its proximal end to the body 428. In addition, the body 428 has an interface 432.

[0213] Another embodiment of a robotic surgical system 440 with a removable camera system 442 is shown in FIGS. 21A-21C. As with the above embodiment, this system 440 has a receptacle 444 configured to receive the camera system 442. Further, the system 440 also has a positioning rod 446. In this embodiment, the positioning rod 446 also has a surgeon handle 452 operably coupled thereto. The camera system 442 has a body 448 and an elongate component 450 operably coupled at its proximal end to the body 448.

[0214] FIGS. 22A-22C depict yet another embodiment of a robotic surgical system 460 with a removable camera system 462. This embodiment is a variation of the embodiment shown in FIGS. 21A-22C, but this version does not have a surgeon handle. As such, this system 460 has a receptacle 464 configured to receive the camera system 462. Further, the system 460 also has a positioning rod 466. The camera system 462 has a body 468 and an elongate component 470 operably coupled at its proximal end to the body 468.

[0215] Another embodiment of a robotic surgical system 480 with a removable camera system 482 is shown in FIGS. 23A-23C. In this implementation, the system 480 has a male pin 484 (instead of a receptacle) that is configured to be inserted into a matching lumen (not shown) defined in the camera system 482. Further, the system 480 also has a positioning rod 486. The camera system 482 has a body 488 and an elongate component 490 operably coupled at its proximal end to the body 488. The lumen (not shown) is defined in the body 488 such that it has an opening on the underside of the body 488. As such, in use, the camera system 482 can be positioned such that the elongate component 490 is positioned through a lumen (not shown) such that the distal end protrudes as best shown in FIG. 23A. At the same time, the body 488 is positioned such that the male pin 484 is disposed into the lumen (not shown) in the body 488, thereby helping to retain the camera system 482 in position, coupled with the system 480.

[0216] In some embodiments, the various coupling embodiments described above that couple the camera system to the robotic system are sufficiently stable and/or strong that a surgeon can grasp the camera body and use it to position and otherwise manipulate the surgical device. In further alternatives, any known mechanism or component for firmly coupling a camera system to robotic surgical device can be used.

[0217] The various camera handles (or bodies) described herein, in certain implementations, are designed to have ergonomic shapes that provide comfort to the surgeon while holding onto those handles and positioning and/or manipulating the devices.

[0218] FIGS. 24A and 24B depict one embodiment of a robotic surgical system 500 with various lighting components in a unique configuration. Standard lighting configurations typically involve single-point lighting, usually from a light ring positioned around the camera or laparoscope. The deficiencies of single-point lighting include poor illumination, loss of depth perception, shadows, etc. In contrast, this system 500 has multiple lighting components in multiple locations, thereby providing better lighting that is multi-point in nature and thus eliminating the deficiencies described above, making it easier for the surgeon to see the target area within the cavity during surgery.

[0219] As shown in FIGS. 24A and 24B, the system 500 has six different lighting components, including a lighting component 502A, 502B in each robotic arm 504A, 504B and four lighting components 506A, 506B, 506C, 506D associated with the device body 508. In addition, in certain embodiments, the camera tip 510 can also have a standard light ring as well. Alternatively, the camera tip 510 has no lighting component. In a further embodiment, the system 500 has at least two lighting components. In yet another embodiment, the system 500 has at least three lighting components, with at least one on each robotic arm 504A, 504B and at least one on the device body 508. In a further alternative, any number of lighting components can be used that provide quality lighting for a surgeon during a surgical procedure.

[0220] The lighting components, in one implementation, are LED lights. Alternatively, any known lights of any form can be used.

[0221] In certain implementations, the light source is positioned or otherwise located in the handle of the camera system (such as a system described above), elsewhere in the device body 508, or in an external component positioned outside of the patient's body (such as in a controller or a separate light source, for example). In these embodiments, fiber wires are operably coupled to both the light source and to the lighting components (such that the wires run between the light source and the components), thereby allowing for transmission of light from the source to the components.

[0222] FIGS. 25A and 25B depict an operating theater 520 according to one embodiment in which any of the robotic surgical systems described above can be used. As best shown in FIG. 25A, the theater 520 has a robotic surgical system 522, a positioning rod (also referred to herein as a "robot support arm") 524, an operating table 526, a surgical chair (also referred to herein as

a “surgeon’s chair” or “surgeon chair”) 528, a controller (also referred to herein as a “console” or “surgeon console”) 530, and a cautery generator 532.

[0223] The robotic system 522 is clamped to (or otherwise coupled to) the distal end of the robot support arm 524. The proximal end of the support arm 524 is clamped or otherwise coupled to a standard support strut on the operating table 526. In this embodiment, the support arm 524 has 6 degrees of freedom, which are manually released by a single knob. In use, the user can release the support arm 524 by loosening the knob, move the robotic system 522 to a suitable position, then tighten the knob, thereby rigidizing the arm 524 and fixing the robotic system 522 in place. One example of a commercially-available support arm 524 is the Iron Intern™, made by Automated Medical Products Corp.

[0224] The operating table 526 is a standard operating table found in standard operating rooms. In this embodiment, it has a support strut (not shown) on both sides of the table 526 for clamping or attaching accessories.

[0225] The chair 528 is designed or selected with surgeon comfort and safety in mind. The chair has adjustable arm supports such that the surgeon’s arms will be comfortably supported throughout the entire procedure and thus will not tire.

[0226] As best shown with reference to both FIG. 25A and 25B, the controller 530 in this embodiment has a surgical monitor (such as a high definition monitor) 534 that displays the output of the camera associated with the surgical system 522, as well as critical system information and robotic system status. The controller 530 also has an auxiliary monitor and control pad 536. This component 536 can display non-critical system information while also provide a user interface. In one embodiment, this auxiliary monitor and pad 536 can be a touch screen interface 536. Alternatively, it can be a traditional button/switch control panel. In a further alternative, the auxiliary monitor and pad 536 can be a combination of the two. Auxiliary controls provided by the auxiliary monitor and pad 536 can include, but are not limited to, camera controls (pan, tilt, zoom, focus, lighting, etc.), controller input scaling, and a step through insertion and extraction procedure.

[0227] The console 530 also has two hand controllers (also referred to as manipulators) 538 that are used to control the robotic system 522. In this embodiment, the left controller 538 can be operated by the surgeon’s left hand and controls the left arm of the robotic system 522, while the right controller 538 can be operated by the surgeon’s right hand and controls the right

arm of the robotic system 522. In certain implementations, the controllers 538 provide haptic feedback to inform the surgeon of the state of the robot. As used herein, haptic feedback will include, but is not limited to, information about the workspace limits of the robotic system 522 and the load placed on the system 522. The controllers 538 can also have “dead man” switches which require the surgeon to grip both controllers properly in order to operate the system 522. According to one embodiment, the controllers 538 can have 7 degrees of freedom (“DOF”) each: three DOF for Cartesian coordinates X, Y, and Z, three angles for orientation, and one for controlling the opening and closing of an end effector on the robotic system 522.

[0228] According to one implementation, the console 530 can also have foot pedals 540. The foot pedals 540 can provide several functions, including, for example, control of a monopolar cautery, control of a bipolar cautery, and/or clutching.

[0229] The console 530 in certain embodiments can also be coupled to a cautery generator 532. The generator 532 can supply power for both monopolar and bipolar tools. It is electrically routed through the console 530 in this embodiment for activation and safety monitoring.

[0230] Additional console 530 components include a computer (not shown) and a power supply (not shown). The computer, in one embodiment, can run user interface software and control all high level functions of the robotic system 522. The power supply can be, for example, a known medically-certified power supply unit that distributes power to the entire system, including the robotic system 522 (and associated camera system), the computer, and any other components that require power.

[0231] FIG. 26 depicts another implementation of an operating theater 550 in which the robotic system 552 is operated in a different fashion. In this embodiment, the surgeon stands (instead of sitting as shown in the previous embodiment) at the console 554. Further, the surgeon (or another person present in the theater 550) using this configuration can manually manipulate the positioning of the robotic system 552 by hand by simply grasping the system 552.

[0232] In use, any of the robotic system embodiments discussed in detail above can be inserted into the target cavity of the patient in the following manner. As depicted in FIGS. 27A-27D, in one implementation, an insertion system 560 can be used for accessing an insufflated cavity of a patient and/or positioning surgical systems or devices into the cavity. The various insertion system embodiments disclosed and contemplated herein provide for insertion of the

surgical systems/devices into the cavity while maintaining sufficient insufflation of the cavity. That is, these insertion systems form a pressure lock with the patient's internal cavity, thereby allowing insertion, operation, extraction, and repositioning of a surgical device without loss of insufflations. Further embodiments minimize the physical contact of the surgeon or surgical users with the surgical devices/systems during the insertion process. Other implementations enhance the safety of the insertion process for the patient and the systems/devices. For example, some embodiments provide visualization of the system/device as it is being inserted into the patient's cavity to ensure that no damaging contact occurs between the system/device and the patient. In addition, certain embodiments allow for minimization of the incision size/length. Further implementations reduce the complexity of the access/insertion procedure and/or the steps required for the procedure. Other embodiments relate to devices that have minimal profiles, minimal size, or are generally minimal in function and appearance to enhance ease of handling and use.

[0233] The system 560 is an external pressurized system 560 that has a flexible and/or collapsible insertion bag or canister 562 with a compliant volume. The system 560 can enclose a robotic system during an insertion procedure while allowing for the insufflation of the patient's cavity. The insertion bag 562 is configured to be coupled at its proximal end with the proximal insertion cap (also referred to as a "top cap") 564 and at its distal end with the distal insertion cap (also referred to as a "bottom cap" or "base portion") 566 and port 568 such that a seal is established that can withstand any known insufflation pressure. The port 568 is positioned in an incision in the skin (not shown) of the patient, thereby providing access to a cavity (not shown) of the patient.

[0234] In embodiment, the canister 562 is made of a flexible material such as, for example, polyethylene plastic, latex, nylon, or silicone rubber. Alternatively, the canister 562 can be made of any known flexible or collapsible material that can be used in medical devices. It is understood that certain embodiments of the canister 562 are transparent. The transparent canister 562 allows for the user to see the surgical device (not shown) during insertion. Alternatively, the canister 562 is not transparent and the device can be inserted without being able to view the device in the canister 562.

[0235] According to one embodiment, the proximal insertion cap 564 couples to the proximal end of the canister 562 and provides the interface between the robotic system and the

bag 562. In one exemplary embodiment, the robotic device can have a groove (not shown) defined around a portion of the device body (or elsewhere on the device) around which the cap 564 can be positioned to establish a seal. The cap 564 can also contain a pressure release valve (not shown) that can reduce or prevent harmful buildup of pressure during the insertion procedure and throughout the operation.

[0236] The distal insertion cap 566 is configured to be coupled to the distal end of the insertion bag 562 and to the port 568 such that a seal is established that can withstand any known insufflation pressure. The coupling of the distal insertion cap 566 to the port 568 can be accomplished through a standard, preexisting interface. In one implementation, the distal insertion cap 566 can have a rigid insertion shaper such that when it is pressed into the retractor port 568 and abdomen, it shapes the port 568 in a form that allows for easy insertion of the robot. In one implementation, the port 568 is a retractor port 568 that is commercially available from Johnson & Johnson. In use, the port 568 is positioned in an abdominal incision created for the insertion procedure.

[0237] According to one embodiment as best shown in FIG. 27D, the port 568 can be coupled to a surgical port 570 that has a sphincter-style seal that is configured to form a fluidic seal around a human wrist of a surgeon when the surgeon is performing a hand-assisted laparoscopic surgical procedure. In one implementation, the surgical port 570 is a hand assist laparoscopic surgery (HALS) port that is commercially available from Johnson & Johnson.

[0238] In use, according to one implementation, the insertion process can be performed in the following manner. First, the robotic system 572 is placed in its insertion configuration (either automatically or manually). The robotic system 572 is then coupled with the proximal insertion cap 564 as best shown in FIG. 27A such that the cap 564 establishes a seal around a portion of the system 572, and the cap 564 is coupled to the insertion bag 562. Alternatively, the cap 564 can be couple to the bag 562 before the robotic system 572 is coupled to the cap 564. The bag 562 is also coupled to the distal insertion cap 566.

[0239] Once an incision is made in the patient that provides access to the target cavity, the bottom ring of the port 568 is inserted into the incision such that the port 568 is positioned in the incision. At this point, the distal insertion cap 566 is coupled to the port 568 such that the bag 562 and the rest of the insertion assembly is coupled to the port 568. The robotic system 572 can then be stabilized as needed prior to a surgical procedure, such as by coupling the system

572 to a positioning rod or a support arm such as described above. Once the cavity is insufflated, the robotic system 572 can be inserted into the cavity by urging the system 572 downward while the system 572 is stepped through its insertion configurations as described in further detail above. Once the system 572 is in the operating configuration, the support arm can be made rigid and the operation can begin.

[0240] In one embodiment, the insertion procedure as described herein is substantially manual in nature, with the surgeon performing the procedure by grasping the robotic system with one hand as shown in FIG. 26 while controlling the console with the other. Alternatively, one person can grasp the robotic system while another controls the console. In a further embodiment, a user could command the robotic system using an interface (such as buttons) on the robot itself while it is inserted. These commands would inform the robotic system to step through its predetermined insertion procedure.

[0241] FIGS. 28A and 28B depict the insertion components, including the insertion bag 562, and the robotic system 572 before (FIG. 28A) and after (FIG. 28B) insertion. In this implementation, the insertion bag 562 has accordion-like ribs 574. The ribs 574 help the bag 562 to maintain its circular cross section and not buckle, blow out, or otherwise deform during insertion or at any other time during the procedure. In one embodiment, the insertion components can also include a locking mechanism (not shown) configured to retain the bag 562 in the configuration shown in FIG. 28B, thereby preventing the bag 562 from re-expanding due to internal pressure. In addition, height sensors can also be provided in certain implementations to provide information to the software and/or the surgeon regarding the status of the insertion procedure. This information can be used during the insertion procedure to inform and/or control the insertion configurations of the robot.

[0242] In the embodiment depicted in FIG. 29, the distal insertion cap 566 is configured to allow the robotic system 572 to rotate about 180 degrees about its longitudinal axis while also allowing the system 572 to tilt about 15 degrees in both pitch and yaw, as depicted schematically with the representative cone of movement C. Alternatively, any other rotation and/or tilt limits can be implemented.

[0243] Alternatively, the robotic system embodiments discussed above can be inserted into the target cavity via any known methods and devices. In one implementation, the extraction

procedure can follow the same set of steps as the insertion procedure, but in reverse order.

Alternatively, any known extraction method can be used.

[0244] An alternative implementation of an external pressurized system or apparatus 600 is shown in FIGS. 30A-36B. The apparatus 600 has a flexible container, canister, or bag 602 with a top cap 604 coupled to a top portion of the flexible canister 602. In this embodiment, the container 602 has a port 606 that is coupled to the container 602 at a base portion of the container 602. In this particular implementation, the port 606 is a dilator port 606.

Alternatively, any known port can be used. The dilator port 606 is configured to be positionable in an incision in the skin of the patient, thereby providing access to a cavity of the patient. As best shown in FIGS. 30A and 31A, the apparatus 600 is configured to receive a surgical device 608 such that the device 608 can be inserted into the patient cavity through the port 606 of the apparatus 600.

[0245] As best shown in FIG. 30A, in addition to the top cap 604 coupled to the top or proximal portion of the canister 602, the system 600 in this embodiment also has a base coupling component (also referred to as a “base coupler” or “bottom cap”) 610 coupled to a bottom portion of the canister 602 (which couples to the dilator port 606) and a support frame 612 coupled along the body of the canister 602. Each of the top cap 604, base coupling component 610, and support frame 612 are also coupleable to a support rod (also referred to as a “alignment rod”) 614, as best shown in FIGS. 30A and 30D. The support frame 612 is configured to provide support to the canister 602 during compression of the canister 602, thereby preventing the buckling or deformation of the canister 602. The top cap 604 and support frame 612 are slidably coupled to the support rod 614 such that the top cap 604 and the support frame 612 can be slid in relation to the rod 614 to move the system 600 between a retracted position and a deployed position as discussed in further detail below.

[0246] As best shown in FIGS. 30A and 30C, the dilator port 606 has a distal lip 650 that defines a bottom cap coupling portion 652, a body 654, a port lumen 656, a projection 658, and a rod lumen 660 configured to receive the support rod 614. The distal lip 650 and bottom cap coupling portion 652 are configured to couple to the bottom cap 610 such that a fluidic seal is established between the bottom cap 610 and the port 606, thereby allowing for the system 600 to be used to maintain the insufflations of the patient’s cavity during insertion, operation, retraction, and repositioning of any surgical device using the system 600. In addition, according to one

embodiment, the projection 658 also has a connection rod 662 extending from the projection 658. The connection rod 662 can be used to couple the system 600 to a surgical table, an iron intern, or any other stable item that can be used to stabilize the system 600 and/or maintain the positioning thereof.

[0247] In accordance with one implementation, the body 654 of the port 606 is shaped to define the lumen 656 to have a cross-section that is substantially similar to the external cross-section of the surgical device 608 that is positionable through the port 606. This specific shape of the body 654 allows for using the smallest possible body 654 diameter and thus using the smallest possible incision in the patient. In addition, this specific embodiment has two recessed portions or notches 616A, 616B on the lip 650 that are configured to receive the bottom cap 610 projections 618A, 618B (as best shown in FIG. 30B). As such, the port 606 and bottom cap 610 can be removably coupled together by coupling the projections 618A, 618B with the notches 616A, 616B of the port 606.

[0248] The support frame 612, as best shown in FIG. 30B, is operably coupled to the canister 602. The frame 612 has a projection 622 with a support body 624. The support body 624 defines a lumen 626 configured to receive the support rod 614. In one embodiment, the support body 624 is configured to maintain space between the top cap 604, the support frame 612, and the port 606 when the system 600 is in its fully deployed configuration, as best shown in FIG. 31B.

[0249] Returning to FIGS. 30A and 30D, the support rod 614, according to one embodiment, has a hexagonal cross-section. Alternatively, the support rod 614 can have a square-shaped cross-section, triangular-shaped cross-section, or any other cross-section configuration that allow for coupling the support rod 614 to the other components (such as the dilator port 606, the support frame 612, and the top cap 604) such that the other components can be slidably coupled to the support rod 614 but cannot rotate in relation to the rod 614.

[0250] As best shown in FIGS. 30A, 30E, 30F, and 30G, certain embodiments of the system 600 include a handle 630. The handle 630 has a body 632, a base portion 634 in the body 632 that is larger than the rest of the body 632, a lumen (not shown) defined through the base portion 634 that is configured to receive the support rod 614, and an actuation lever (also referred to herein as a “trigger”) 636 pivotally coupled at a pivot 638 to the body 632 and operably coupled to a coupling component 640 such that actuation of the trigger 636 causes the

coupling component 640 to move. More specifically, in one implementation, the coupling component 640 has a lumen (not shown) that is configured to receive the support rod 614 and be coupleable with the rod 614. In addition, the handle 630 also has three distal projections 642A, 642B, 642C configured to be positionable through and coupleable with the lumen (not shown) defined in the projection 686 on the top cap 604.

[0251] When the trigger 636 is in the unactuated configuration as shown in FIGS. 30E, 30F, and 30G, the coupling component 640 is positioned in relation to the handle 630 such that the coupling component 640 is in contact with the rod 614, causing a friction coupling between the coupling component 640 and the rod 614. Thus, in the unactuated configuration, the handle 630 is frictionally fixed to the rod 614 such that the handle 630 will not slide along the rod 614, thereby retaining the handle 630 on the support rod 614 at that location. When the trigger 636 is actuated (or otherwise moved) to the actuated configuration in which the trigger 636 is positioned closer to the body 632 (not shown), the movement of the trigger 636 causes the coupling component 640 to move such that it is released from the frictional coupling to the support rod 614, thereby freeing the handle 630 to slide up or down in relation to the support rod 614, as will be described in further detail below.

[0252] According to one embodiment, the container 602 in this device 600 is made of a flexible material such as, for example, polyethylene plastic, latex, nylon, or silicone rubber. Alternatively, any known flexible material for use with a medical device can be used. Further, the specific embodiment depicted in FIGS. 30A-36B has ribs 611 (or has an “accordion-like” configuration), which facilitate compression of the container 602 without deformation thereof. Alternatively, certain embodiments do not have ribs. As such, the container 602 can be manipulated and configurable with respect to the shape of the container 602, and more specifically can be compressed longitudinally such that the height of the container 602 can be reduced during insertion of a robotic device into a patient’s cavity. This will be described in further detail herein.

[0253] As best shown in FIG. 30A, the top cap 604 has a cap body 680, an access lumen 682, smaller lumens 684 and a projection 686 that has a support rod lumen (not shown) through which the support rod 614 can be positioned. In addition, according to one embodiment, the projection 618 also has a connection rod 688 extending from the projection 618. The connection

rod 688 can be used to couple the system 600 to a surgical table, an iron intern, or any other stable item that can be used to stabilize the system 600 and/or maintain the positioning thereof.

[0254] In use, as one specific step of a larger surgical procedure (described generally below), the system 600 can be used to deploy the surgical device 608 into a body cavity of a patient in the following manner, according to one implementation as best shown in FIGS. 31A and 31B. The system 600 is positioned such that the port 606 is positioned through the incision formed in the patient's cavity wall with the surgical device 608 positioned in the retracted configuration as shown in FIG. 31A. The surgeon can then actuate the trigger 636, thereby releasing the handle 630 such that it can be moved distally along the support rod 614. In one embodiment, the top cap 604 can be advanced distally to a substantially midpoint, such as at the location along the support rod 614 where the support frame 612 is positioned. In another implementation, the top cap 604 can be advanced distally such that the system 600 is in the fully deployed configuration, as best shown in FIG. 31B.

[0255] FIGS. 32A-36B depict one set of steps for using the system 600 to perform a procedure. More specifically, these steps relates to the use of the system 600 to perform the steps described above with respect to FIGS. 12A-17D. Thus, in use, according to one embodiment, first an incision is formed in the wall 700 of the patient's cavity 702, and a dilator 704 is positioned in the incision as shown in FIG. 32B. The port 606 as shown in FIG. 32A is then coupled to the dilator 704. Then, as shown in FIGS. 33A and 33B, the surgical device 608 is positioned through the port 606 and dilator 704. Once the device 608 is positioned through the port 606, the canister 602 is coupled to the port 606 as shown in FIGS. 34A and 34B. More specifically, the bottom cap 610 of the canister 602 is coupled to the port 606 as shown.

[0256] Further, in certain implementations, as described in further detail above with respect to FIGS. 12A-17D, the arms 706A, 706B of the device 608 are actuated to bend at the elbows, and a camera 708 is extended distally from the device 608 as shown in FIGS. 34A and 34B. Further, in some embodiments, the arms of the device 608 can be further actuated to move away from each other and the camera 708 can be further actuated to bend as shown in FIGS. 35A and 35B. In addition, the forearms of the arms 706A, 706B can be actuated to move toward each other as depicted in FIGS. 36A and 36B, thereby resulting in a configuration that optimizes positioning of the end effectors on the arms 706A, 706B in a way that is not attainable using

standard laparoscopic surgical tools, which are constrained by restrictions such as port placement, etc.

[0257] FIGS. 37A-37C depict one embodiment of a console 800 that can be used with any of the robotic systems and/or surgical theater configurations described above. The console 800 can be used to control a robotic system and other devices as well as interact with information and possibly other surgeons or personnel. The console 800 has a monitor 802, a secondary monitor 804, and joysticks 806A, 806B. The surgeon can view a variety of visual information including feedback from the surgical camera on the monitor 802. The monitor 802 can also display information about the state of the robotic system, the patient, etc. The secondary monitor 804 can display further information, including, for example, several robot functions and controls. In one implementation, both monitors 802, 804 can be touch screens to allow the surgeon to select and input information. Alternatively, the console 800 can have only one monitor or three or more monitors.

[0258] The joysticks 806A, 806B allow the surgeon to control the robot. In one embodiment, the joysticks 806A, 806B provide haptic feedback and sensations based on various states of the robotic system. Alternatively, the joysticks 806A, 806B do not provide haptic feedback. According to one embodiment, the monitors 802, 804 and the joysticks 806A, 806B can be adjusted in position and angle for the comfort of the surgeon.

[0259] The console 800 has a console support structure 808 as best shown in FIG. 30C. The joysticks 806A, 806B are supported by a horizontal beam 810 that is supported by a central spine 812. The central spine 812 can also be configured to elongate or shorten (either manually or by electronic or other actuation) to raise or lower the upper portion of the console 800, thereby allowing the surgeon to interact with the console 800 either while in a sitting or standing position. In one embodiment, the spine 812 is configured to elongate and shorten such that the monitors 802, 804 and the joysticks 806A, 806B move together. Alternatively, the spine 812 can be configured to elongate and shorten such that the monitors 802, 804 move separately in relation to the joysticks 806A, 806B.

[0260] In one implementation, the console 800 has lockable wheels (not shown). The console can also have a central tray 814 at the base of the console 800 to house foot pedal(s). The console 800 also has a box or other structure 816 to house computer(s), power supply(s), and

other electronics. Various computers and other electronics may also exist throughout the console (e.g. in the displays).

[0261] Another embodiment of a console 850 is shown in FIGS. 38A-38C. While many of the components are substantially similar to those of the console 800 above, this console 850 has a spine 852 that is cylindrical, which can simply extension and retraction of the spine 852. The console 850 also has an electronics box 854 with a different configuration.

[0262] A further implementation of a console 860 is shown in FIGS. 39A and 39B. Most components are substantially similar to those of the consoles 800, 850 above, but this console 860 has open wheels 862 and an elevated electronics box 864.

[0263] FIGS. 40A and 40B depict another embodiment of a console 870 with components similar to those described above. In this embodiment, the console 870 has revolute joints 872 that allow the display 874 and joystick 876 support structures 878, 880 to both move up and down (sitting or standing) and to tilt. These motions can be independent or coupled. The sit/stand motion can also be coupled (between the upper display and lower joystick) or independent. The monitor 874 has handles 882 to allow for movement of the monitor 874. Foot pedals 884 are shown at the center of the base that also serves as the electronics box. A foot rail 886 is also shown to support the surgeon's feet as he/she uses the pedals.

[0264] FIGS. 41A-41D depict one embodiment of a robotic system 900. The system 900 has a device body 902, a right arm 904, and a left arm 906. The device body 902 has a camera 908 protruding from a lumen (not shown) in the body 902.

[0265] Although the present invention has been described with reference to preferred embodiments, persons skilled in the art will recognize that changes may be made in form and detail without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A robotic surgical system, comprising:
 - (a) a device body comprising:
 - (i) a distal end;
 - (ii) a proximal end, and
 - (iii) a camera lumen defined within the device body such that the camera lumen comprises a proximal lumen opening in the proximal end of the device body and a distal lumen opening in the distal end of the device body;
 - (b) first and second shoulder joints operably coupled to the distal end of the device body;
 - (c) a first robotic arm operably coupled to the first shoulder joint;
 - (d) a second robotic arm operably coupled to the second shoulder joint; and
 - (e) a camera component, comprising:
 - (i) a controller body;
 - (ii) an elongate tube operably coupled to the controller, wherein the rigid elongate tube is configured and sized to be positionable through the camera lumen defined in the device body, the elongate tube comprising:
 - (A) a rigid section;
 - (B) an optical section; and
 - (C) a flexible section operably coupling the optical section to the rigid section,
- wherein the elongate tube has a length such that the optical section is configured to extend distally from the distal lumen opening when the camera component is positioned through the camera lumen.

2. The robotic surgical system of claim 1, wherein the controller body comprises a controller configured to operate the camera component.
3. The robotic surgical system of claim 1, wherein the distal lumen opening is positioned between the first and second shoulder joints.
4. The robotic surgical system of claim 1, wherein the optical section is configured to be tiltable at the flexible section in relation to the rigid section, wherein the optical section has a straight configuration and a tilted configuration.
5. The robotic surgical system of claim 1, wherein the elongate tube is configured to be rotatable in relation to the controller body.
6. A robotic surgical system, comprising:
 - (a) a device body comprising:
 - (i) a receptacle disposed at a proximal portion of the device body; and
 - (ii) a camera lumen defined within the device body such that the camera lumen comprises a proximal lumen opening in the receptacle and a distal lumen opening defined in a distal portion of the device body;
 - (b) first and second shoulder joints operably coupled to the distal portion of the device body;
 - (c) a first robotic arm operably coupled to the first shoulder joint;
 - (d) a second robotic arm operably coupled to the second shoulder joint; and
 - (e) a camera system, comprising:
 - (i) a system body configured to be mateably positionable within the receptacle;
 - (ii) an elongate tube operably coupled to the system body, wherein the elongate tube is configured and sized to be positionable through the camera lumen defined in the device body,

wherein the elongate tube has a length such that a portion of the elongate tube is configured to extend distally from the distal lumen opening when the system body is positioned within the receptacle.

7. The robotic surgical system of claim 6, wherein the elongate tube further comprises:
- (a) a substantially rigid section;
 - (b) an optical section; and
 - (c) a flexible section operably coupling the optical section to the rigid section, wherein the optical section is configured to be tiltable at the flexible section in relation to the rigid section, wherein the optical section has a straight configuration and a tilted configuration.
8. The robotic surgical system of claim 6, wherein the distal lumen opening is positioned between the first and second shoulder joints.
9. The robotic surgical system of claim 6, wherein the elongate tube is configured to be rotatable in relation to the system body.
10. The robotic surgical system of claim 6, further comprising a positioning rod operably coupled to the device body.
11. The robotic surgical system of claim 10, wherein the positioning rod further comprises a handle operably coupled to the positioning rod.
12. A surgical insertion device comprising:
- (a) a collapsible canister defining a lumen, wherein the canister is sized to receive a surgical device in the lumen;
 - (b) a top cap coupled to a proximal end of the canister, the top cap comprising at least one lumen defined in the top cap;

- (c) an incision port removably coupled to a distal end of the canister, the incision port comprising a fluidic sealing component configured to maintain a fluidic seal between the incision port and the canister;
 - (d) a support frame operably coupled to the canister at a point along the canister between the top cap and the incision port, wherein the support frame is configured to support the canister; and
 - (e) a support rod operably coupled to the top cap, the support frame, and the incision port such that the top cap and the support frame are slidable in relation to the support rod.
13. The surgical insertion device of claim 12, wherein the device comprises:
- (a) a retracted configuration in which the top cap and support frame are positioned at a maximum distance from the incision port such that the canister is in an uncollapsed state; and
 - (b) a deployed configuration in which the top cap and support frame are positioned at a minimum distance from the incision port such that the canister is in a collapsed state.
14. The surgical insertion device of claim 13, further comprising a handle operably coupled to the top cap, wherein the handle is configured to be actuable to move the top cap between the retracted and deployed configurations.
15. The surgical insertion device of claim 13, further comprising a handle comprising:
- (a) a handle body;
 - (b) a lumen defined in the handle body, wherein the lumen is configured to receive the support rod;
 - (c) an actuation lever operably coupled to the handle body, wherein the actuation lever is configured to be movable between an unactuated configuration and an actuated configuration; and

- (d) a coupling component operably coupled to the actuation lever, wherein the coupling component comprises an opening configured to receive the support rod, wherein the coupling component is configured to be movable between frictional contact with the support rod when the actuation lever is in the unactuated configuration and no contact with the support rod when the actuation lever is in the actuated configuration.

1/52

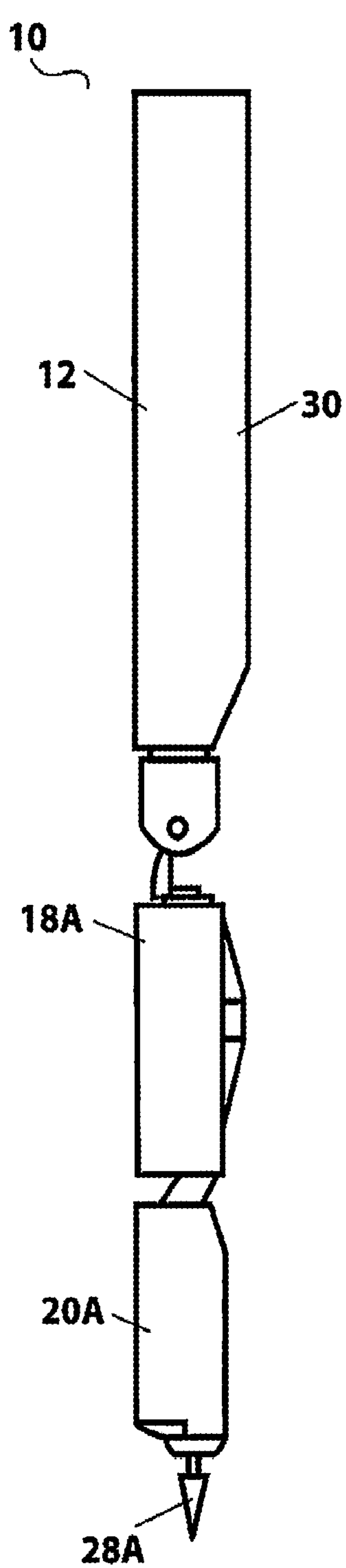


FIG. 1A

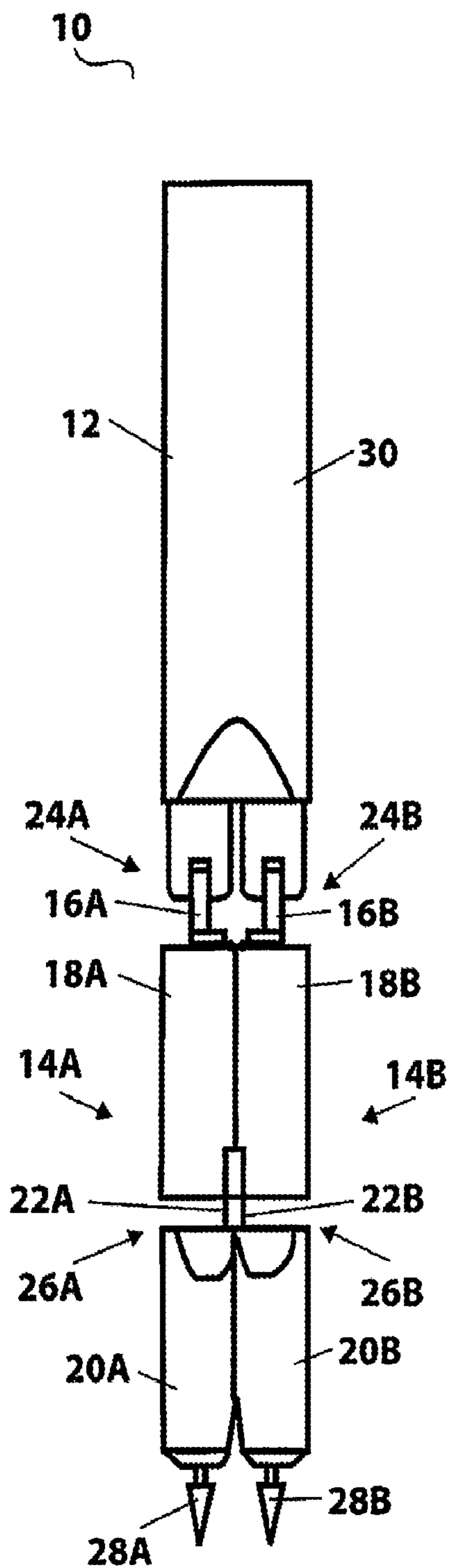


FIG. 1B

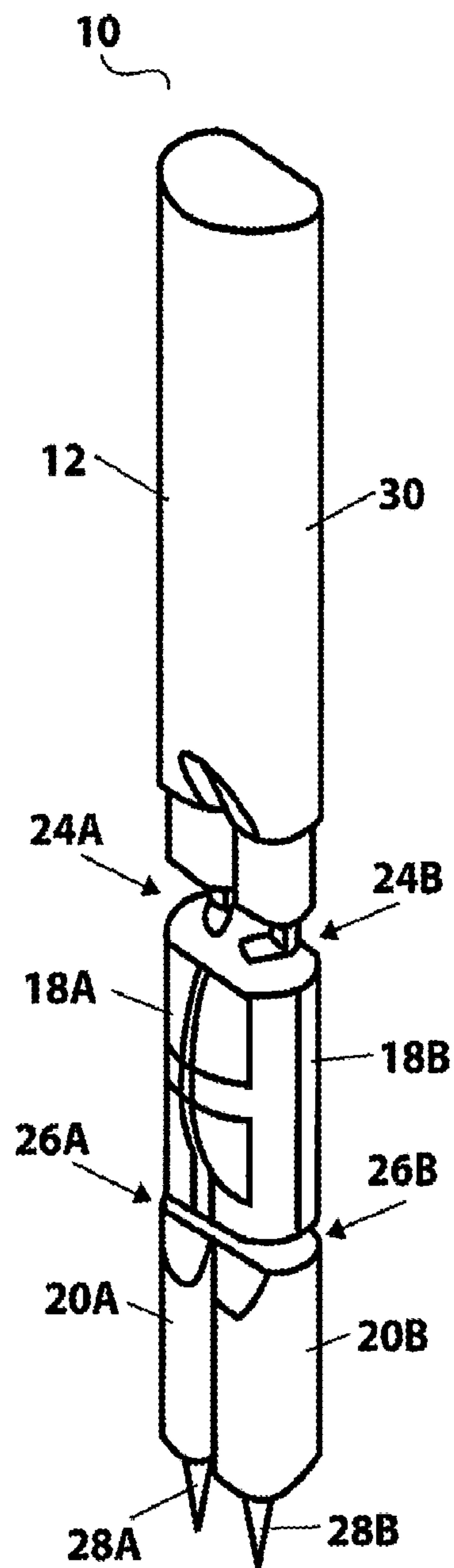


FIG. 1C

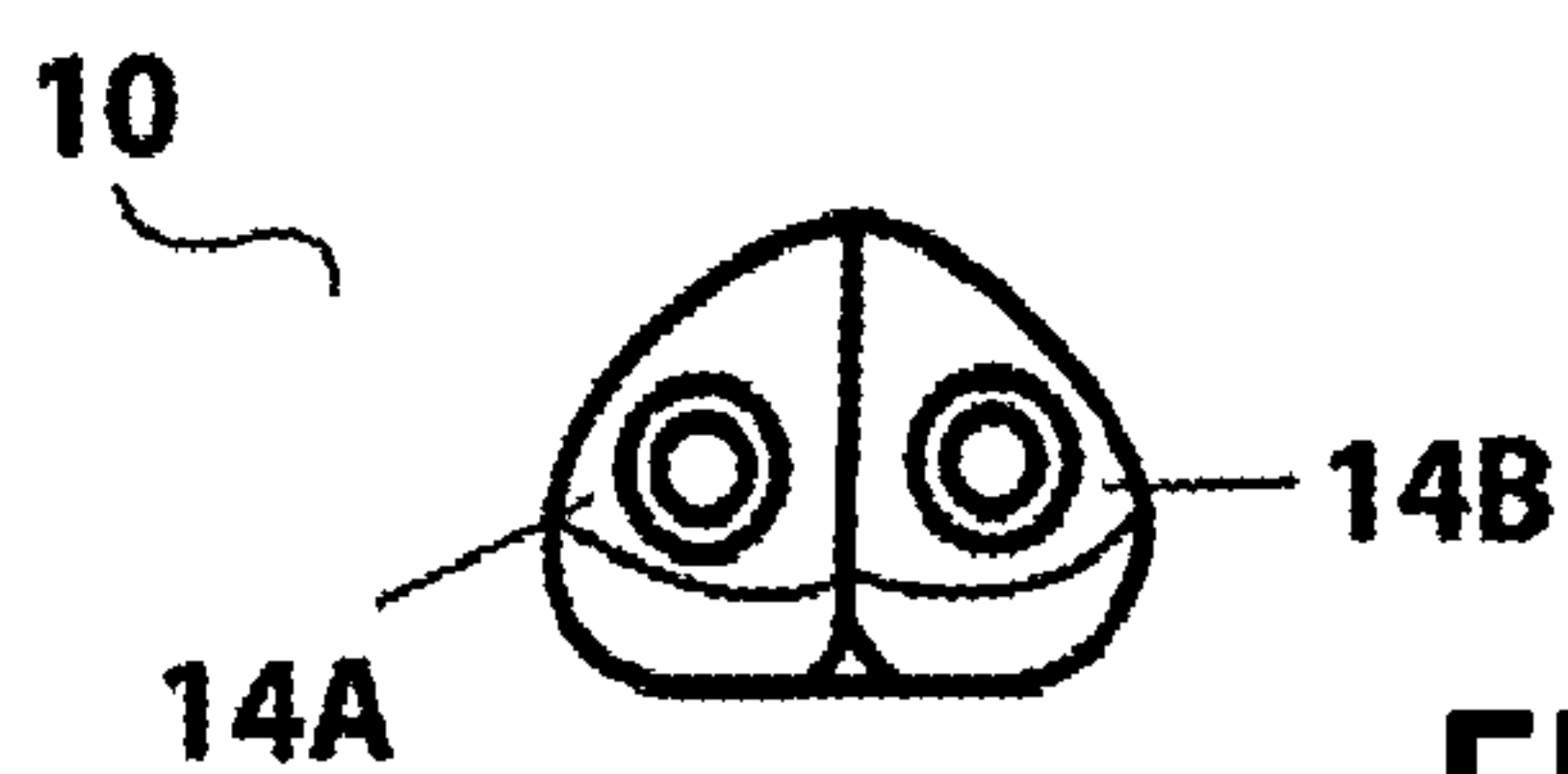


FIG. 1D

2/52

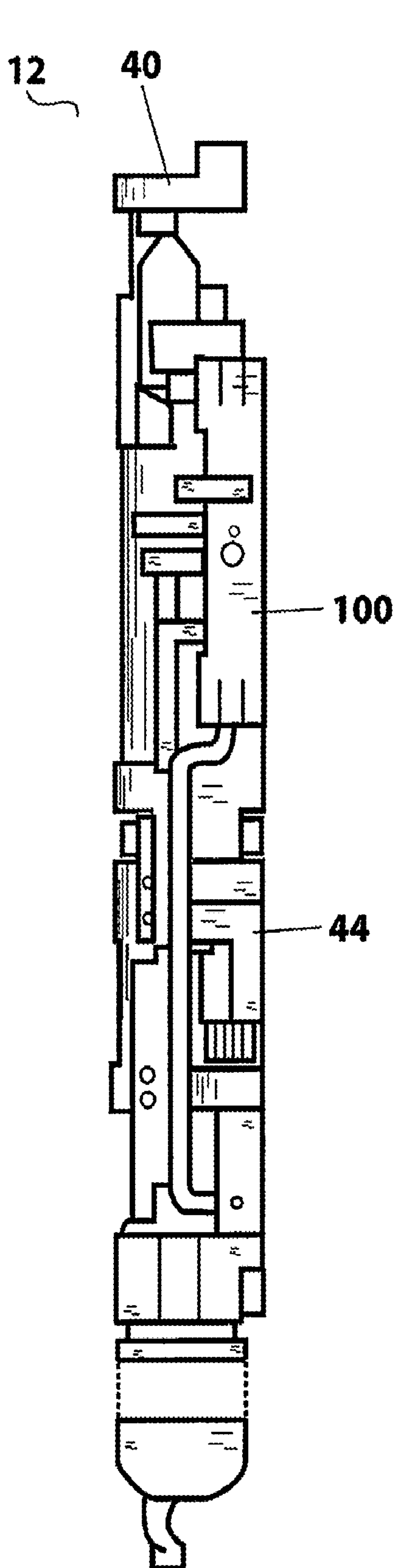


FIG. 2A

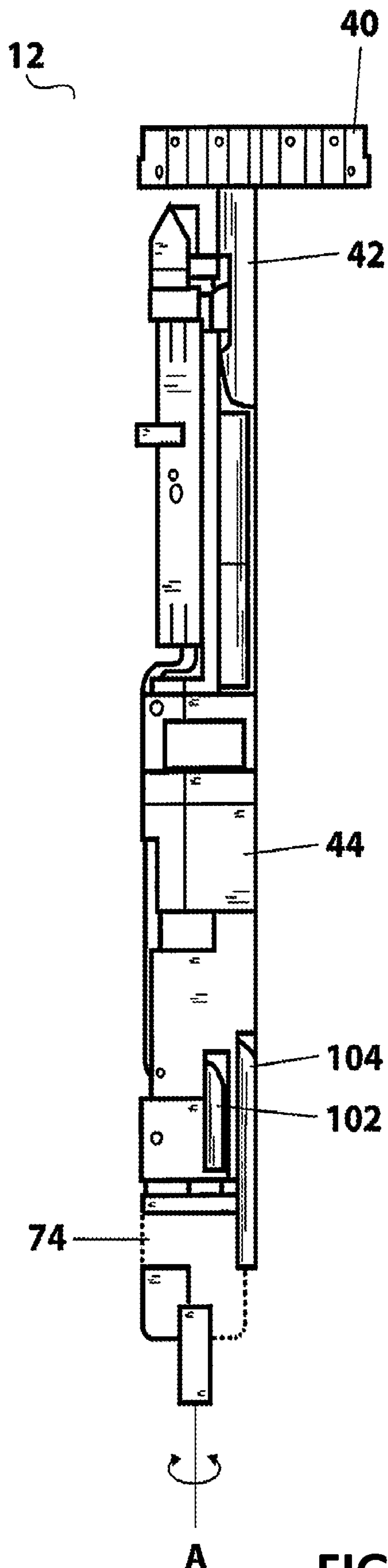


FIG. 2B

3/52

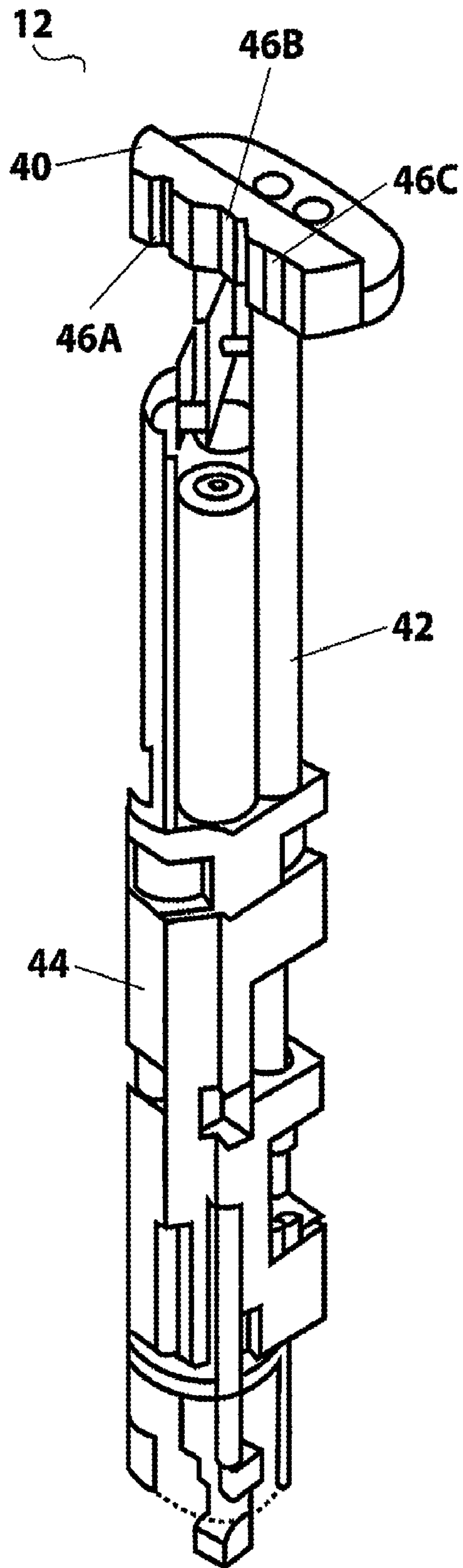


FIG. 2C

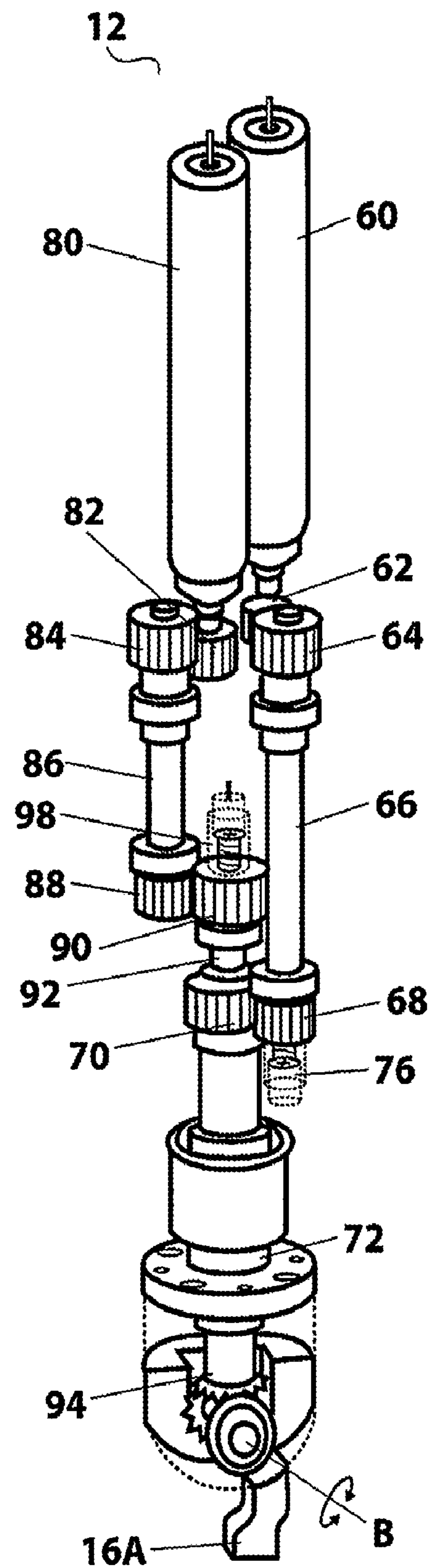


FIG. 2D

4/52

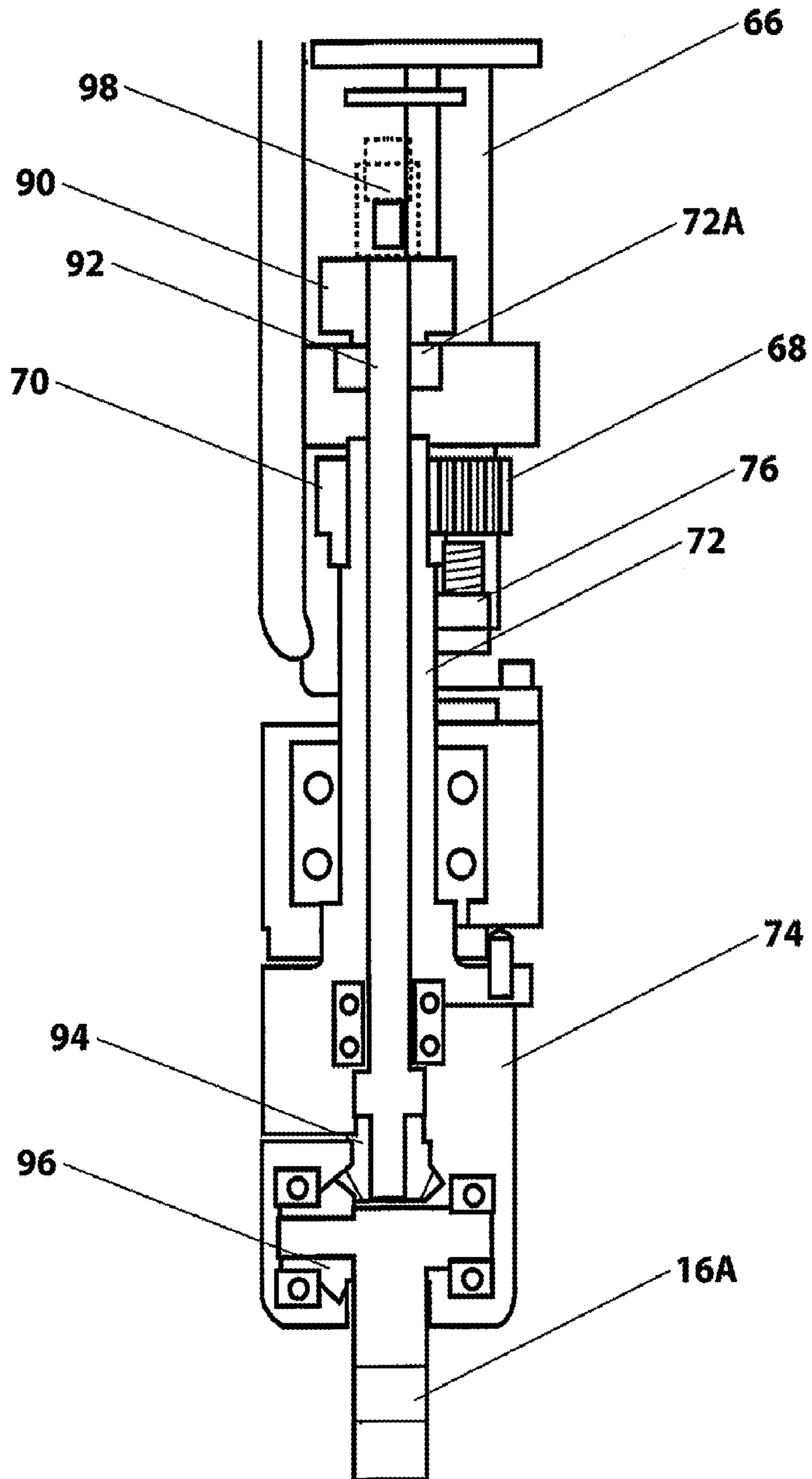


FIG. 2E

5/52

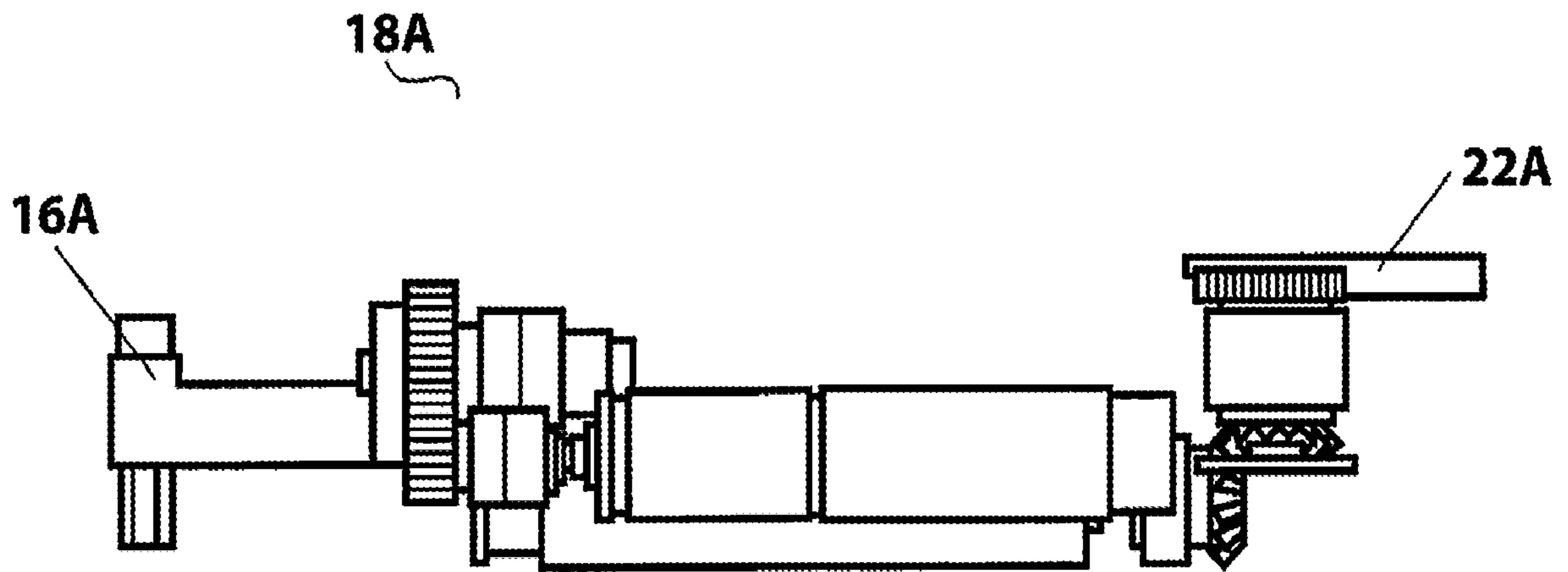


FIG. 3A

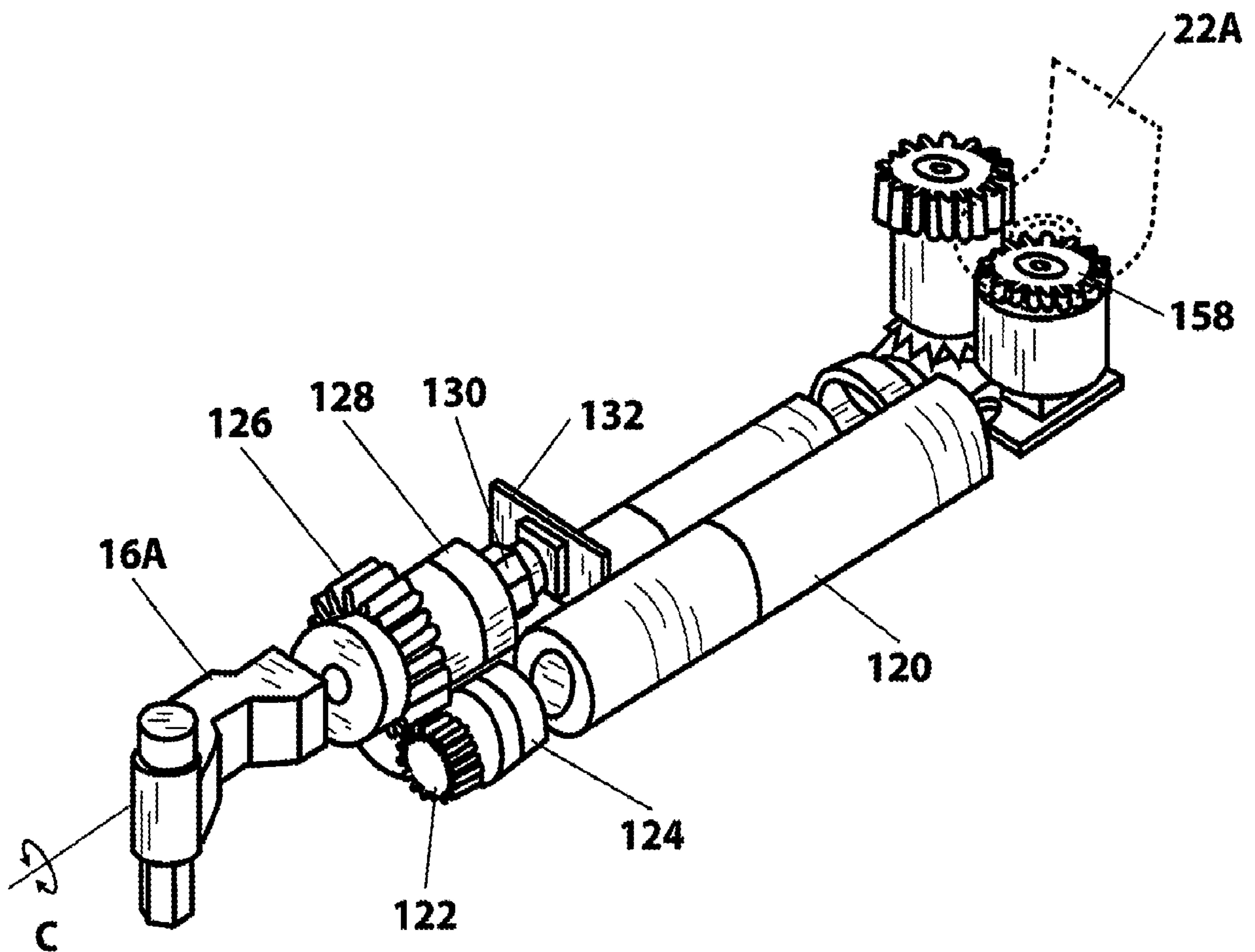


FIG. 3B

6/52

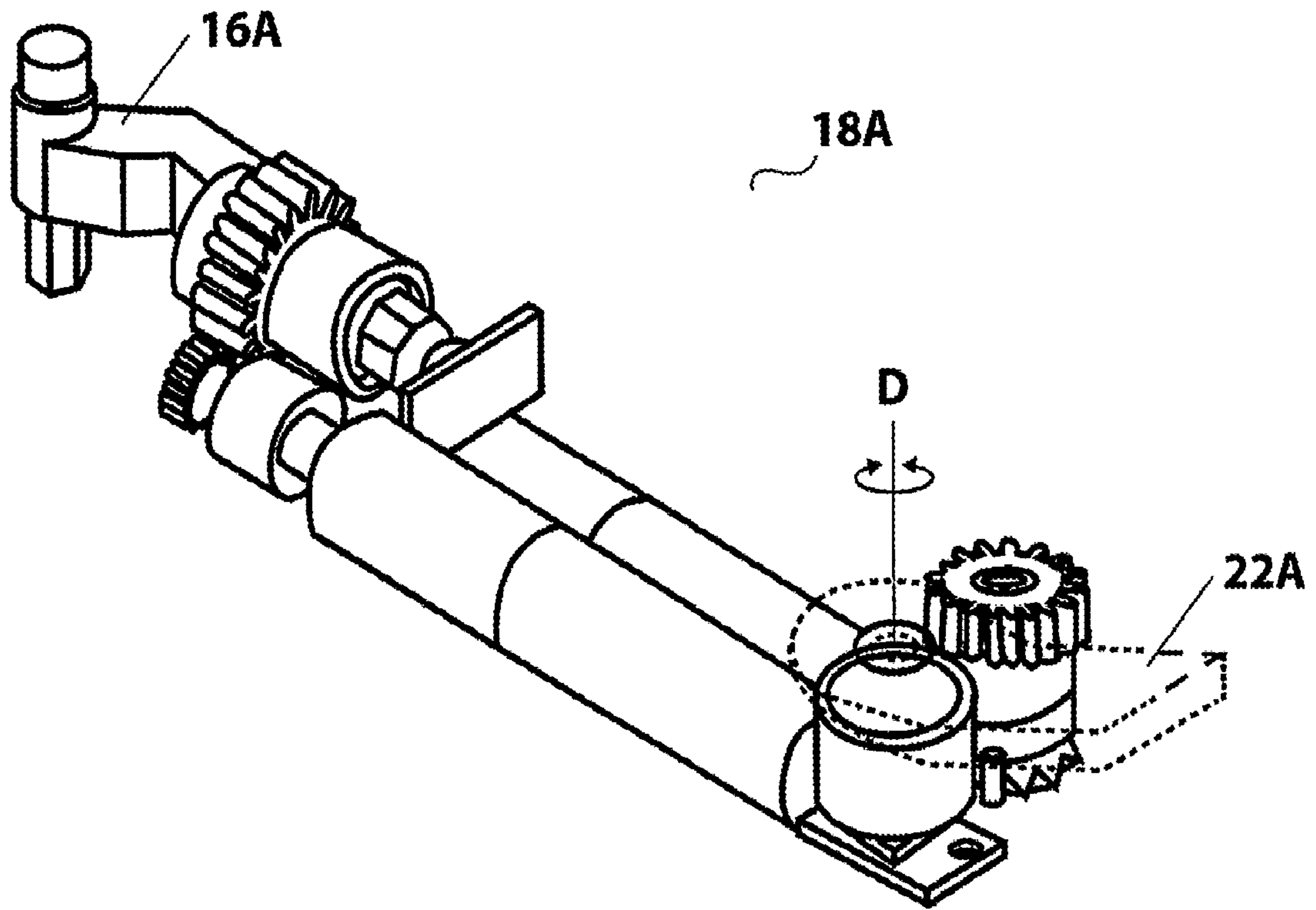


FIG. 3C

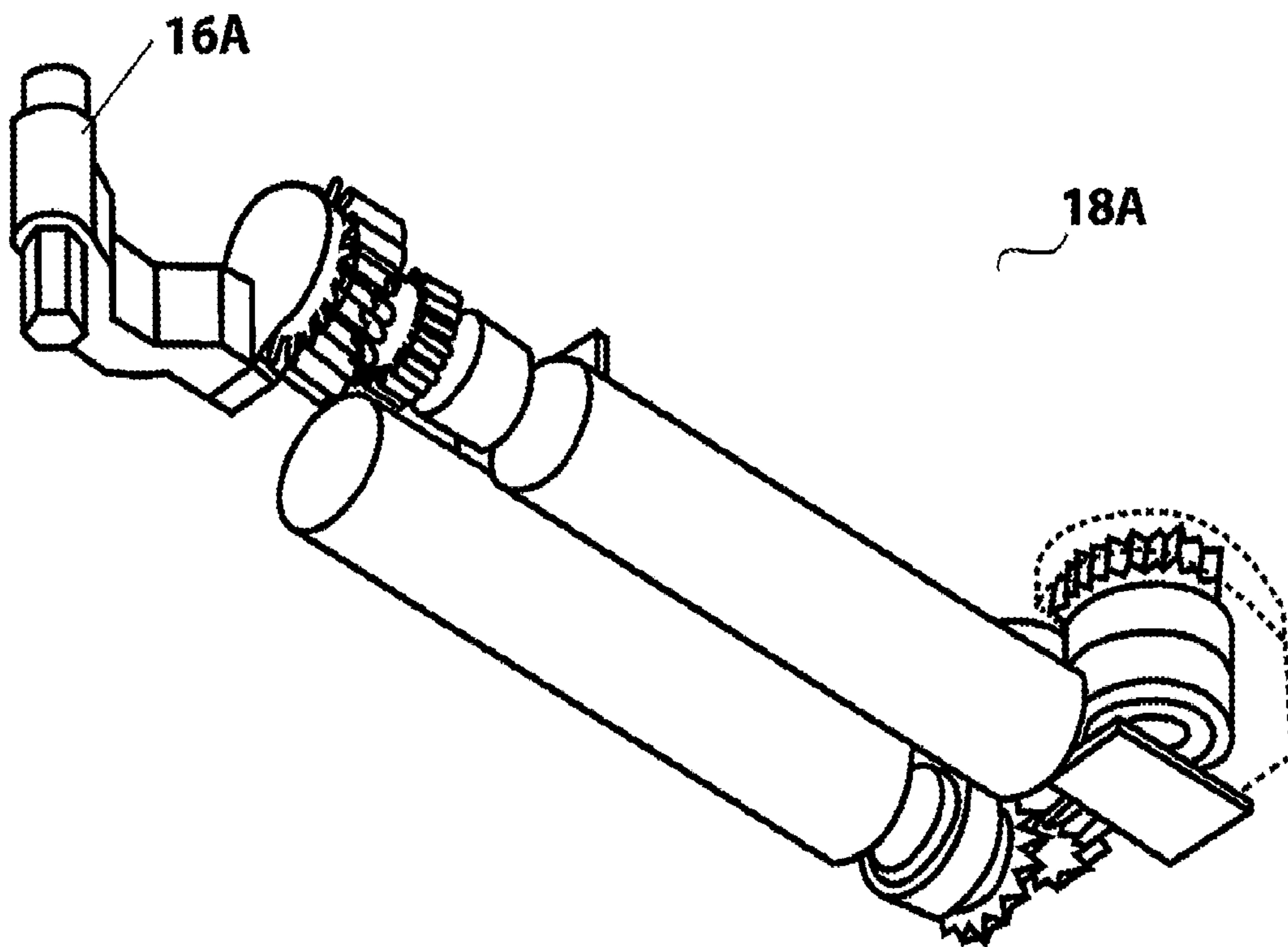
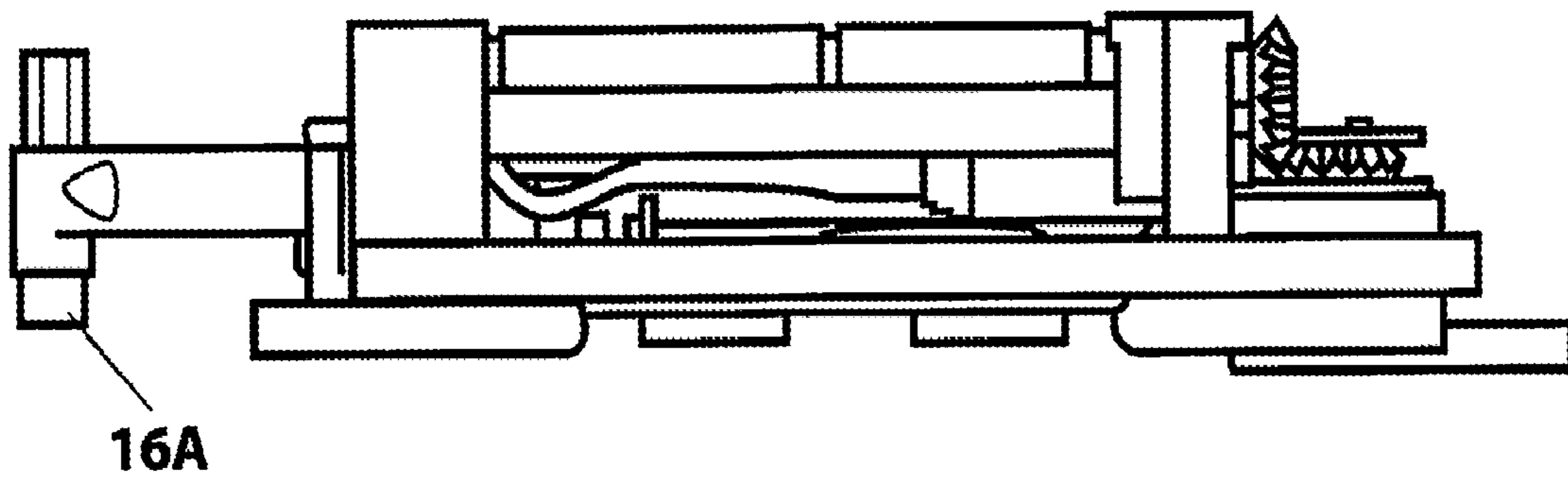
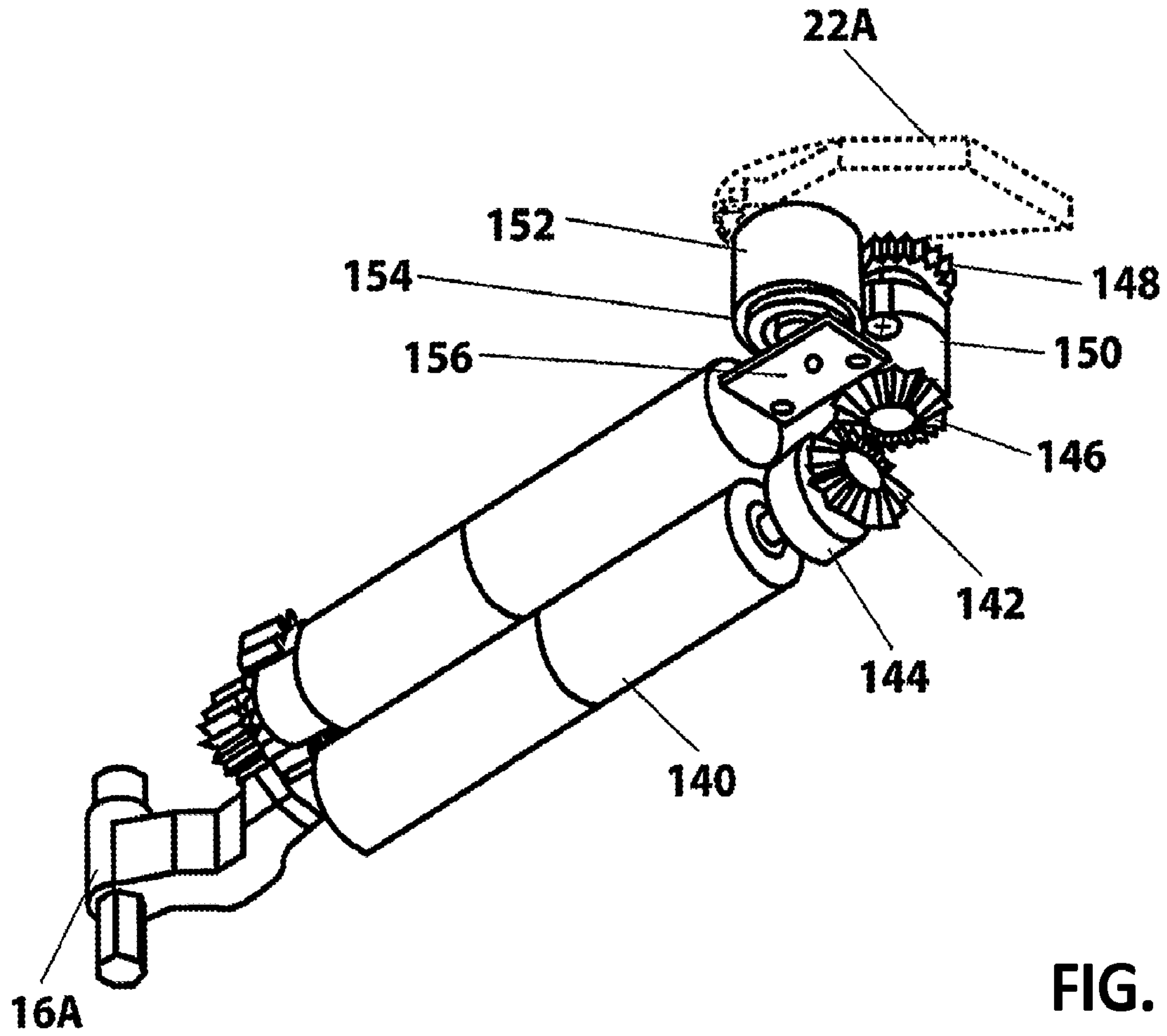


FIG. 3D

7/52



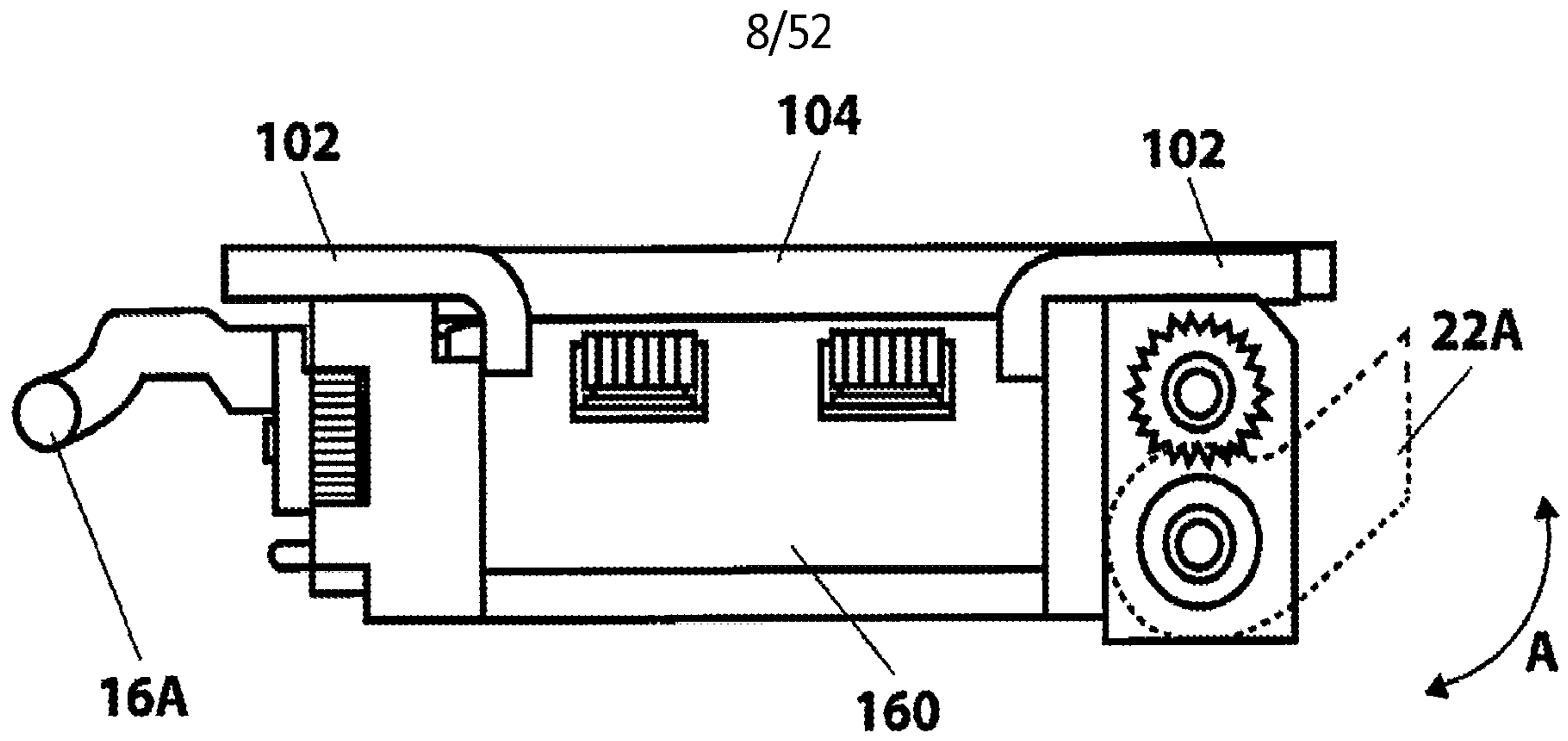


FIG. 4B

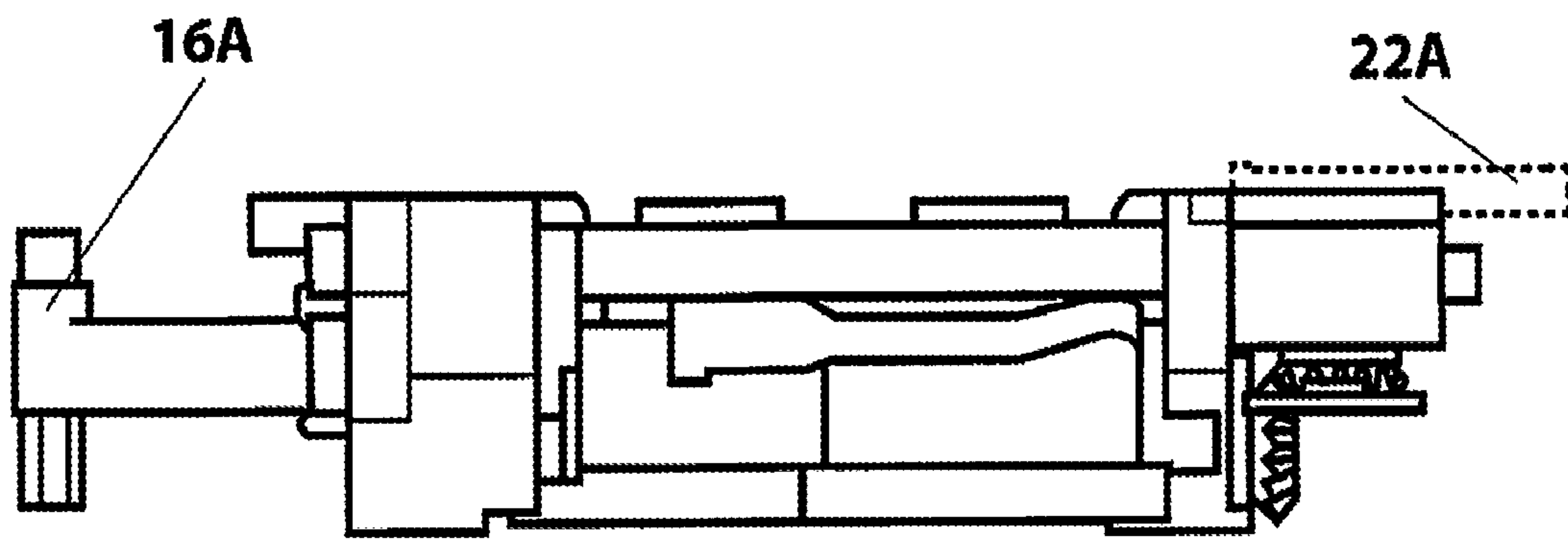


FIG. 4C

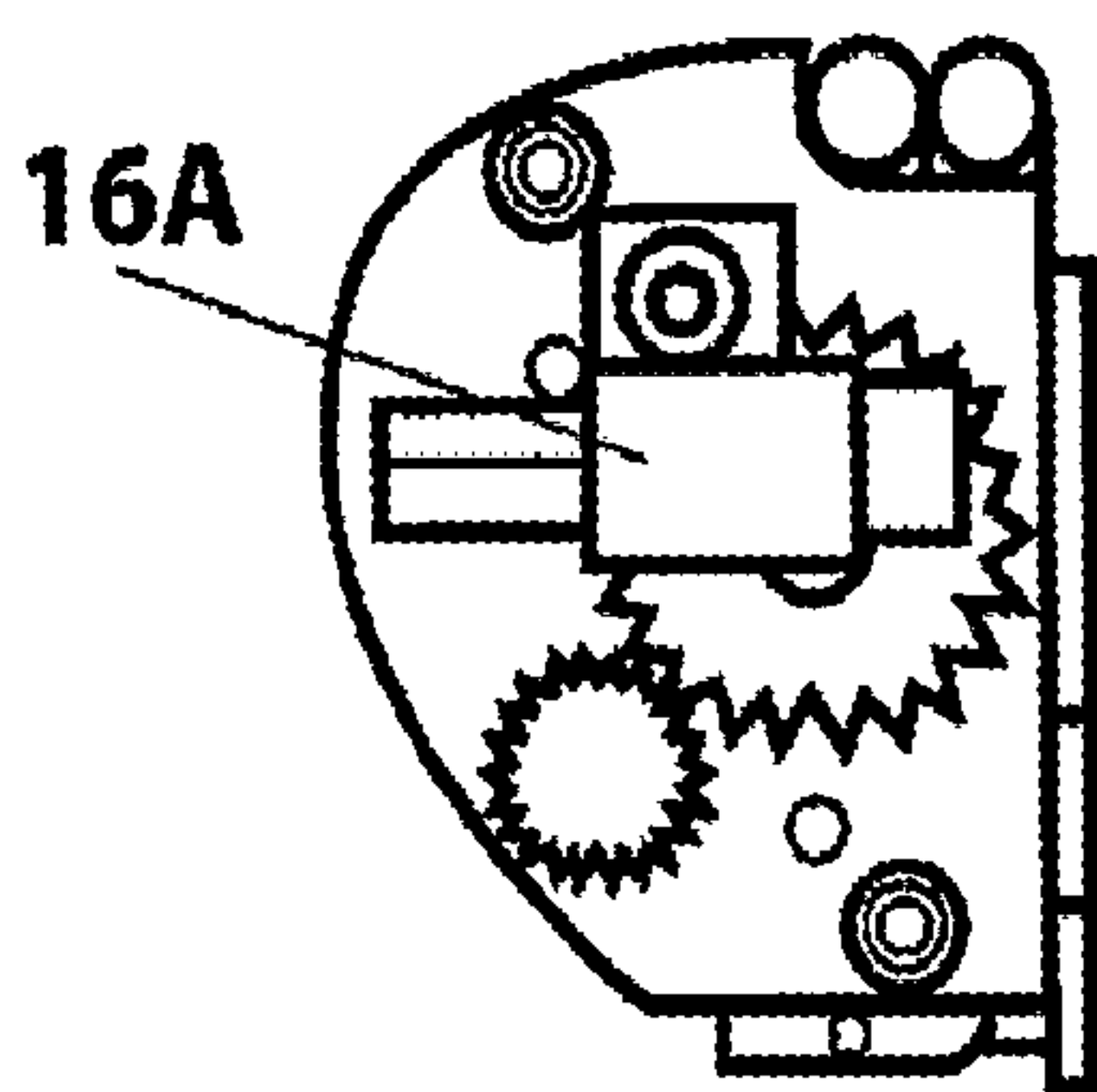


FIG. 4D

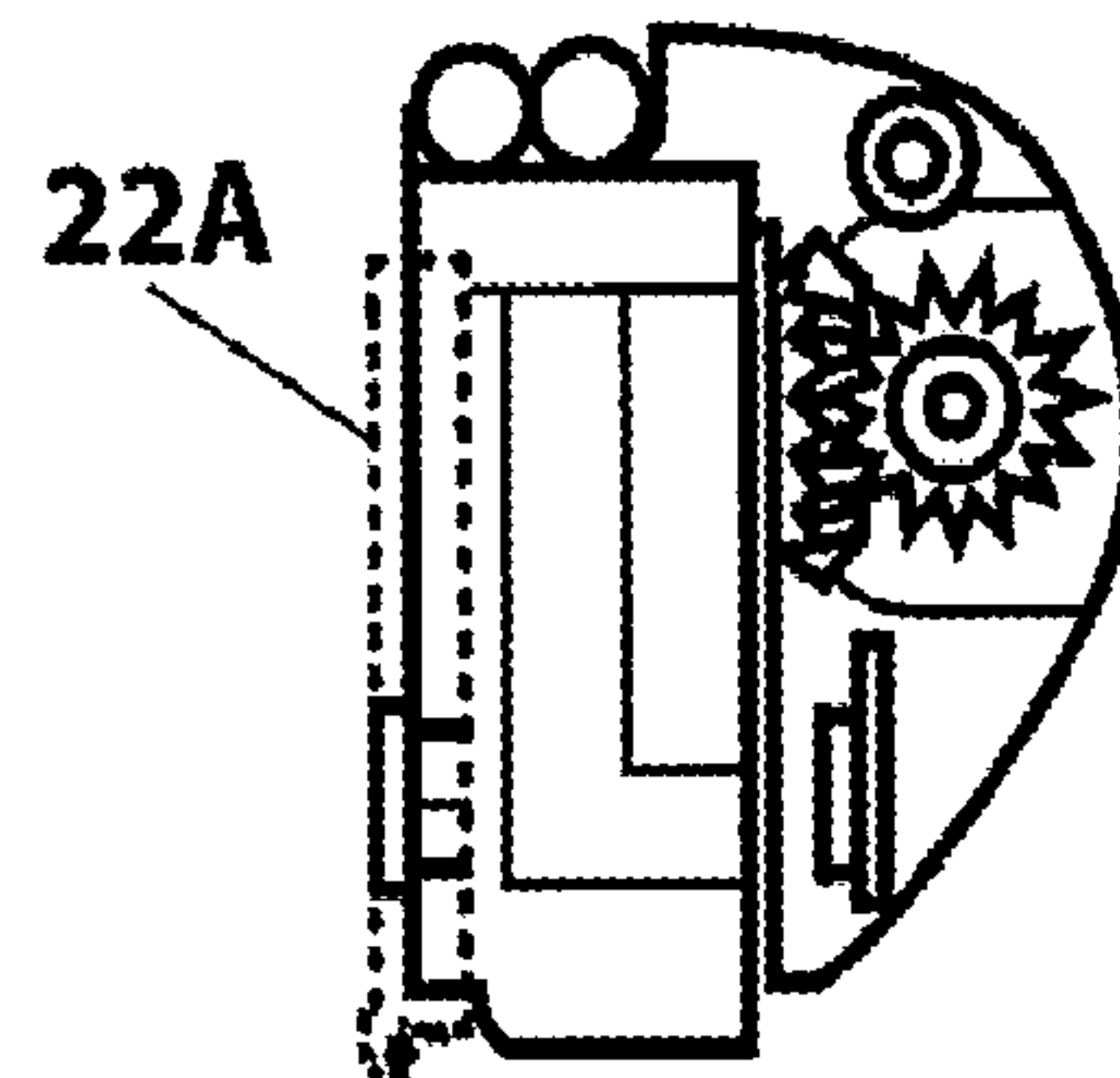


FIG. 4E

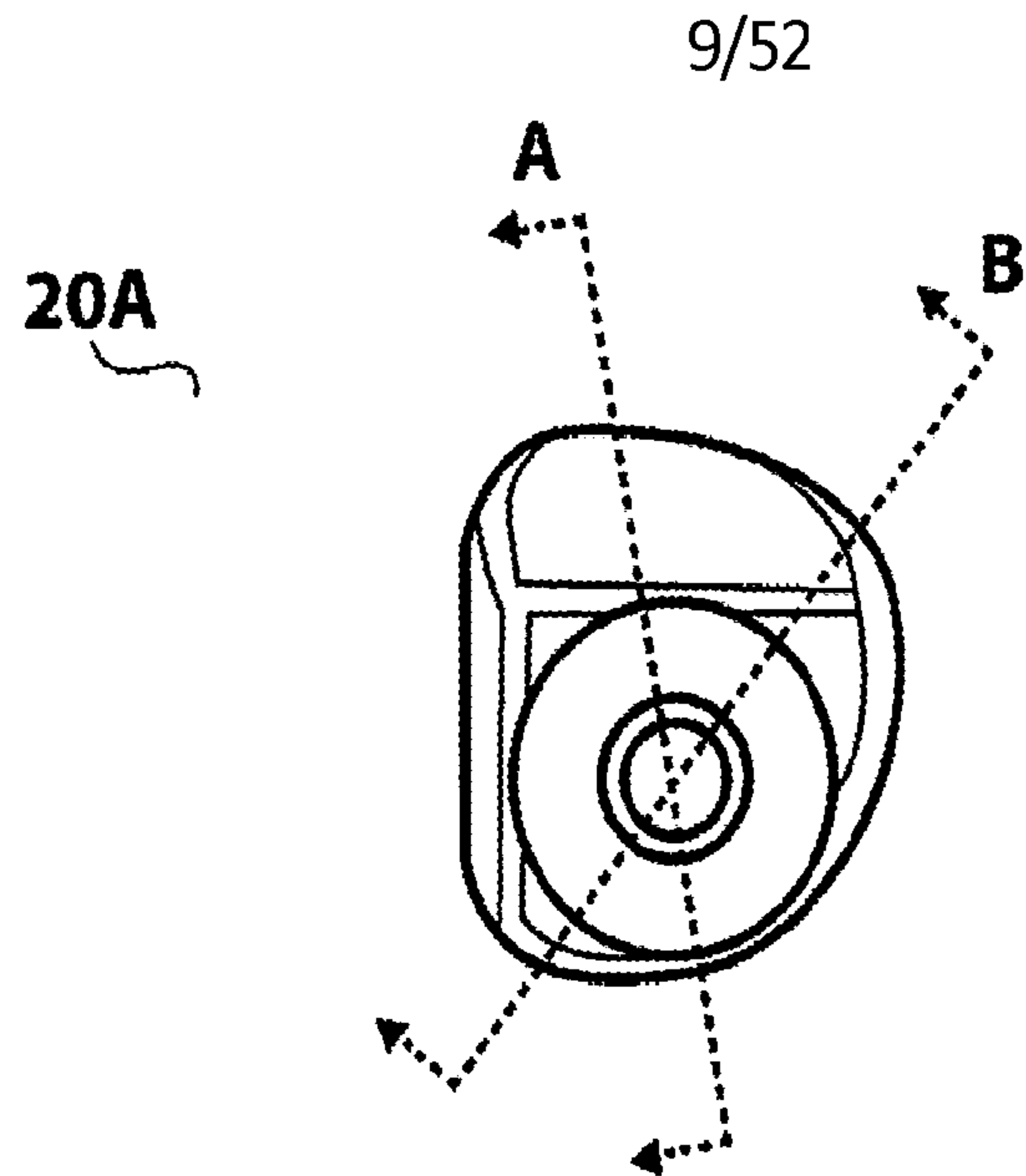


FIG. 5A

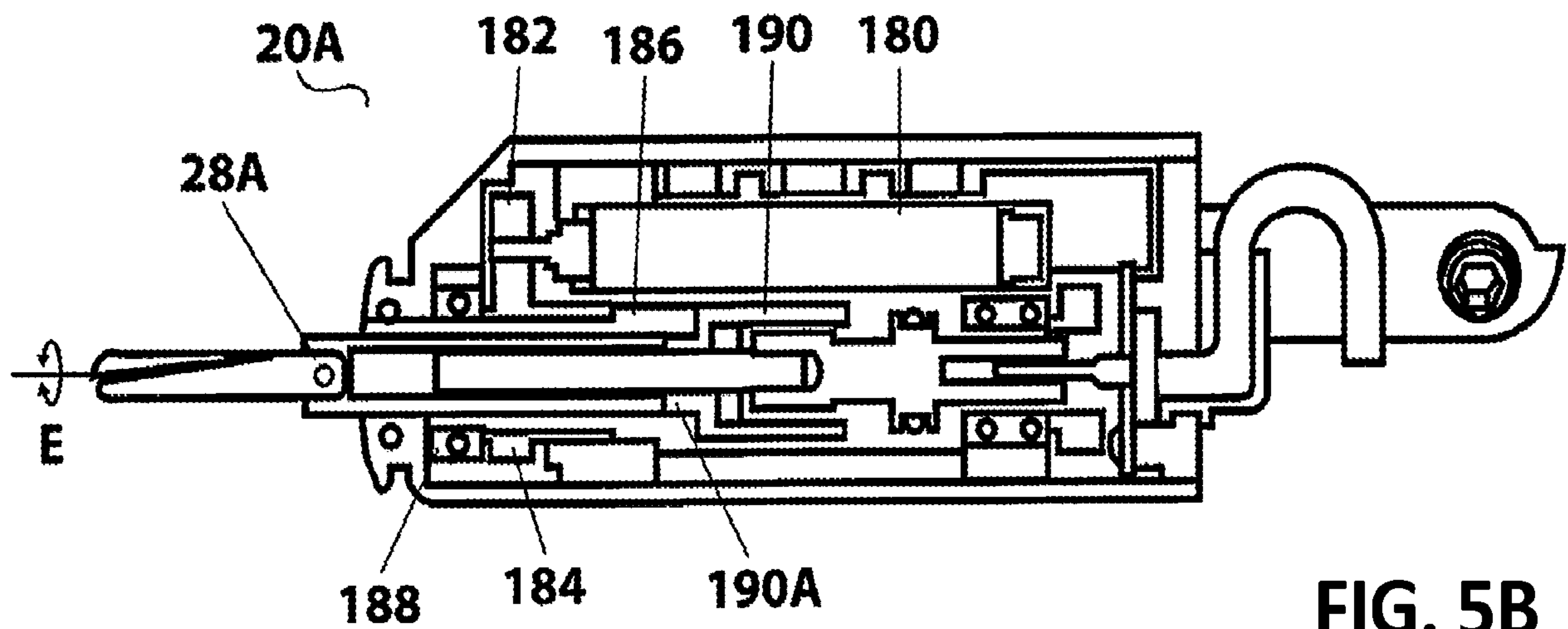


FIG. 5B

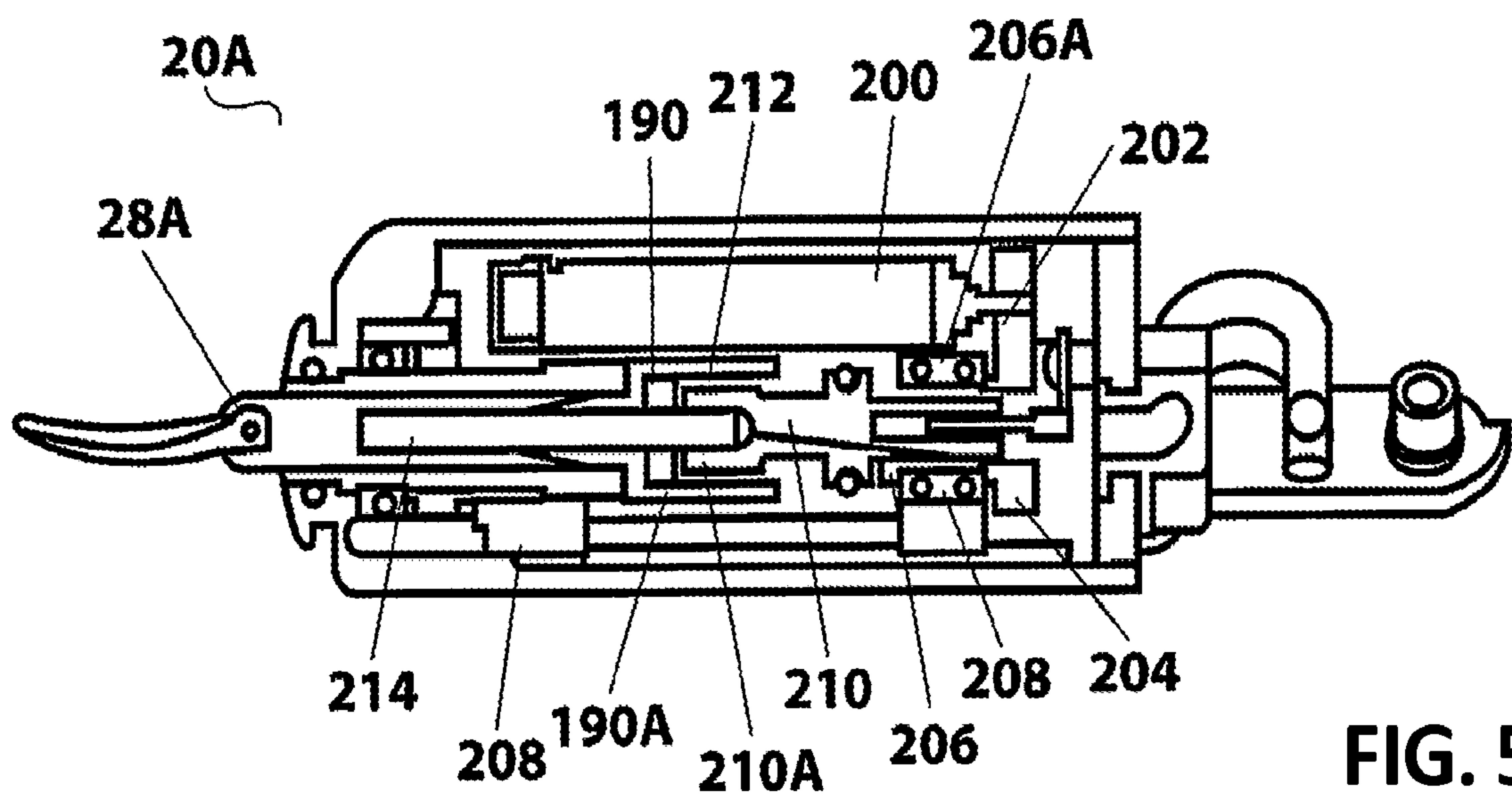


FIG. 5C

10/52

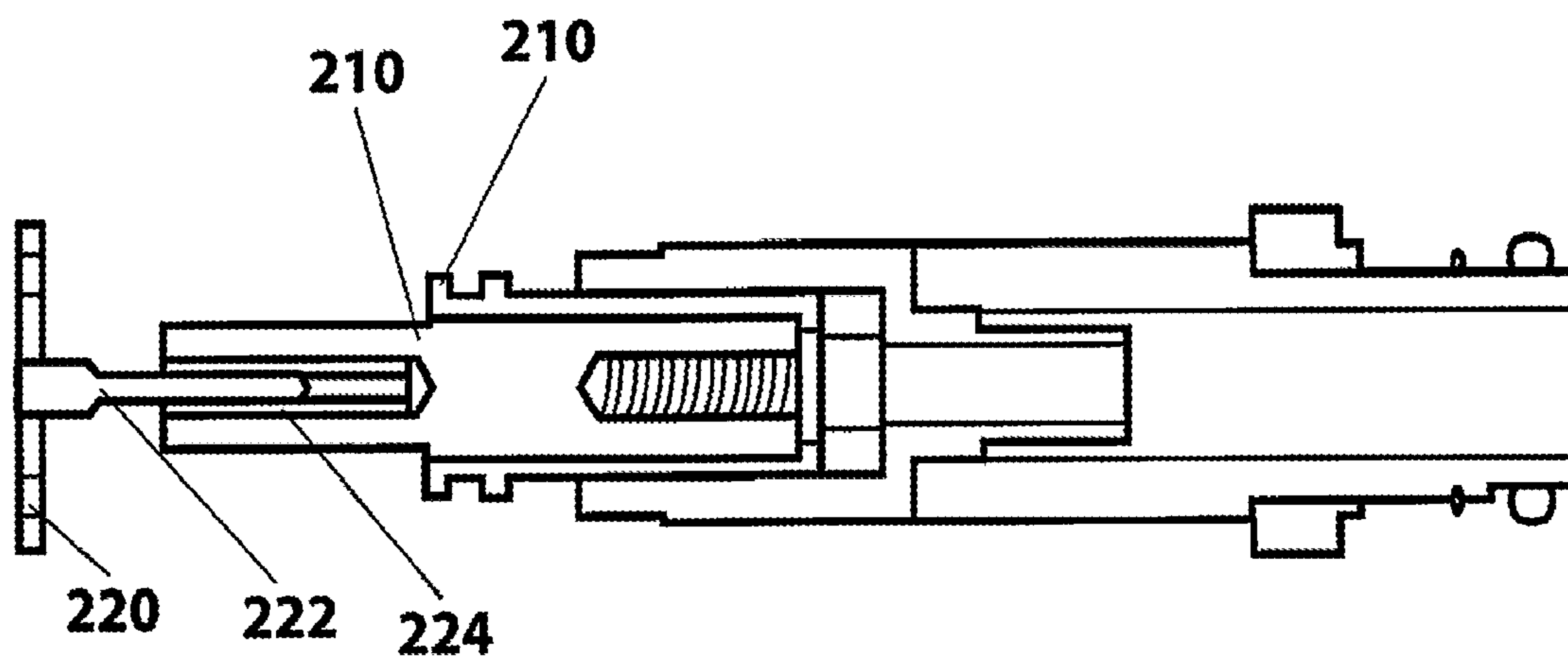


FIG. 6A

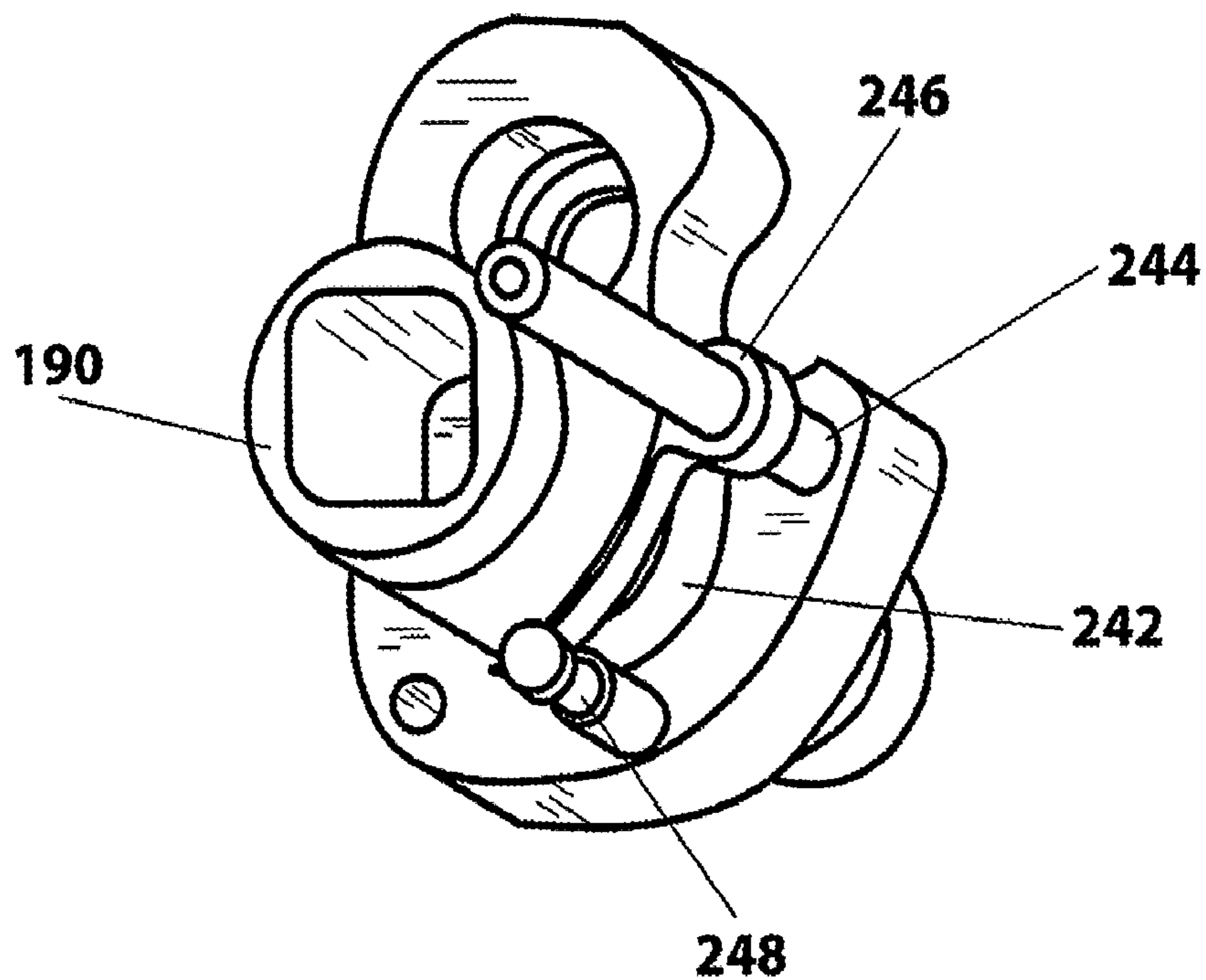


FIG. 6B

11/52

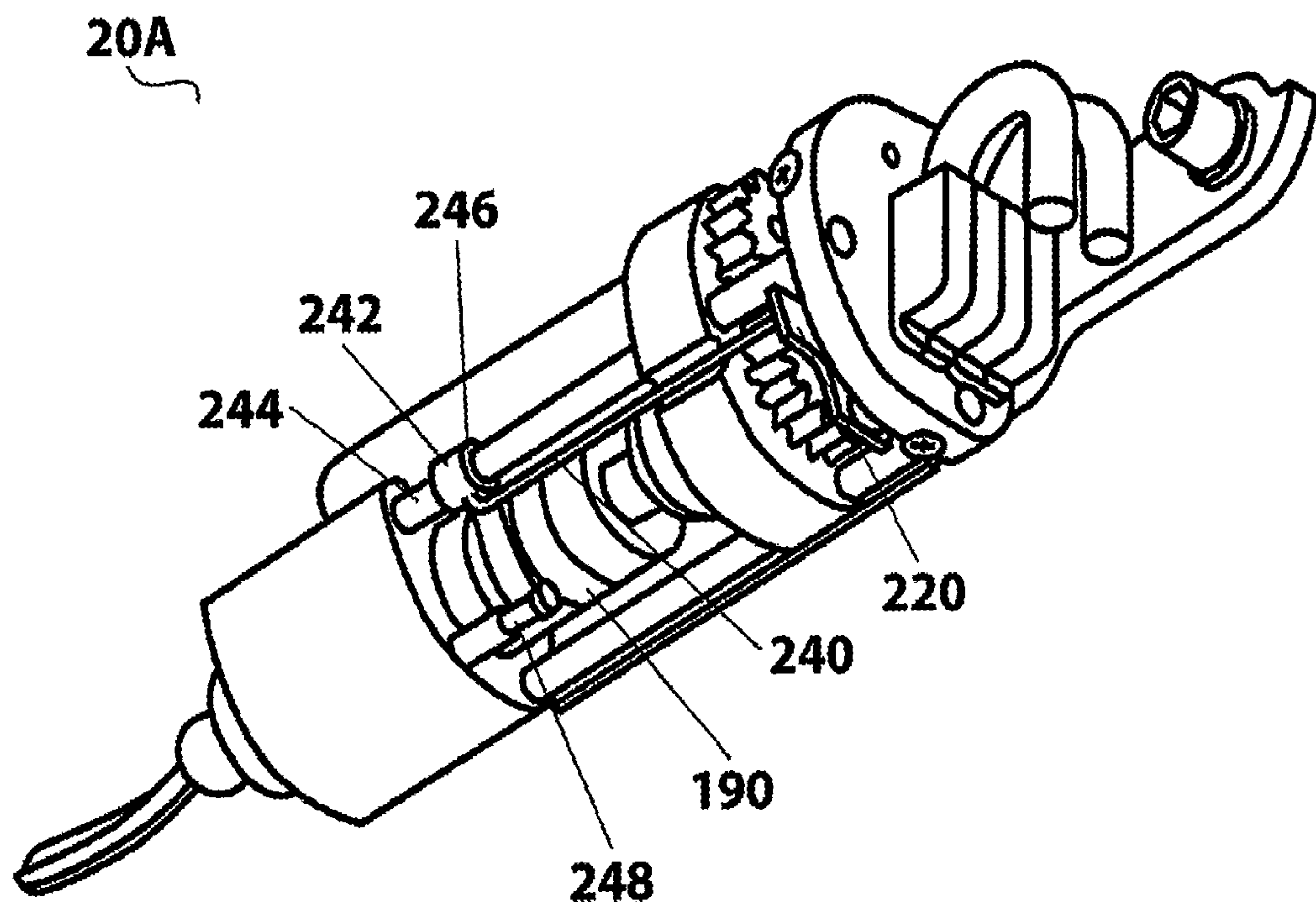


FIG. 7

12/52

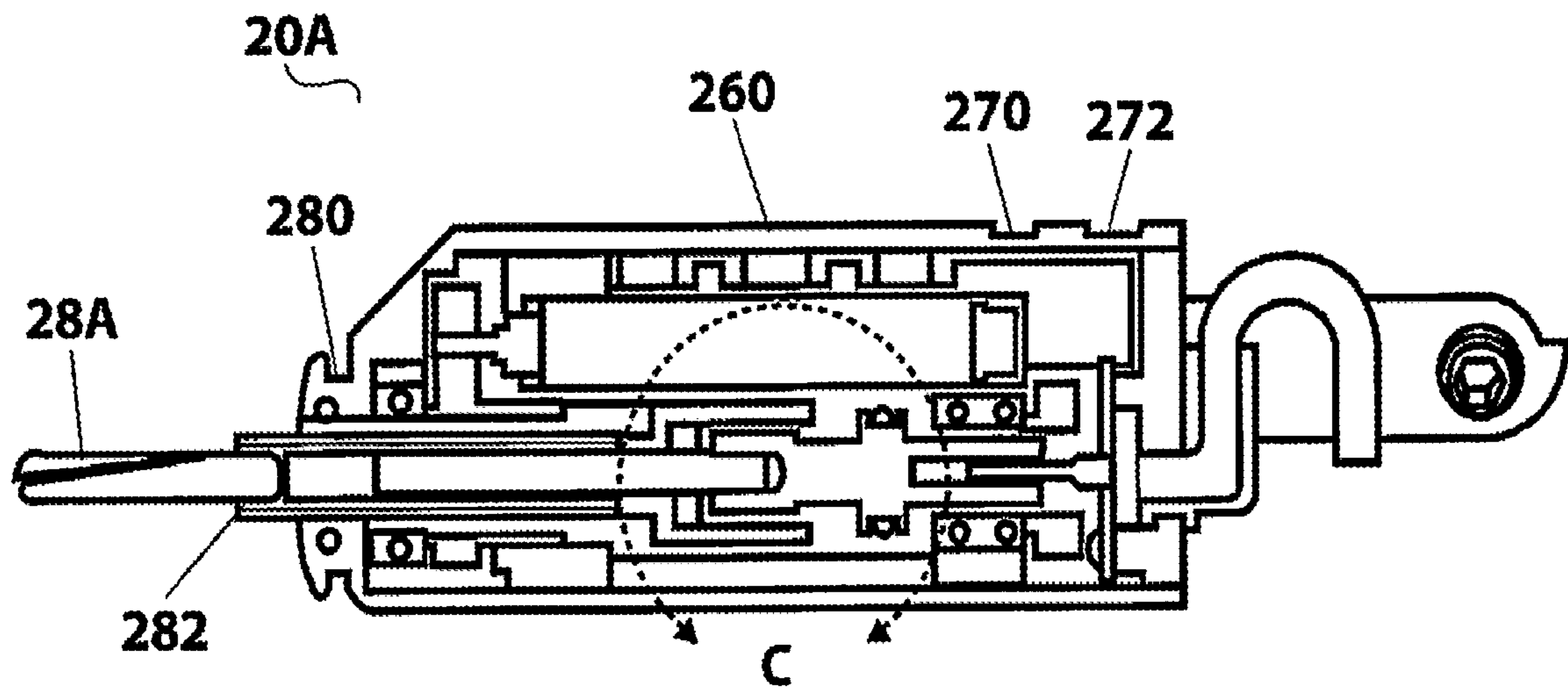


FIG. 8A

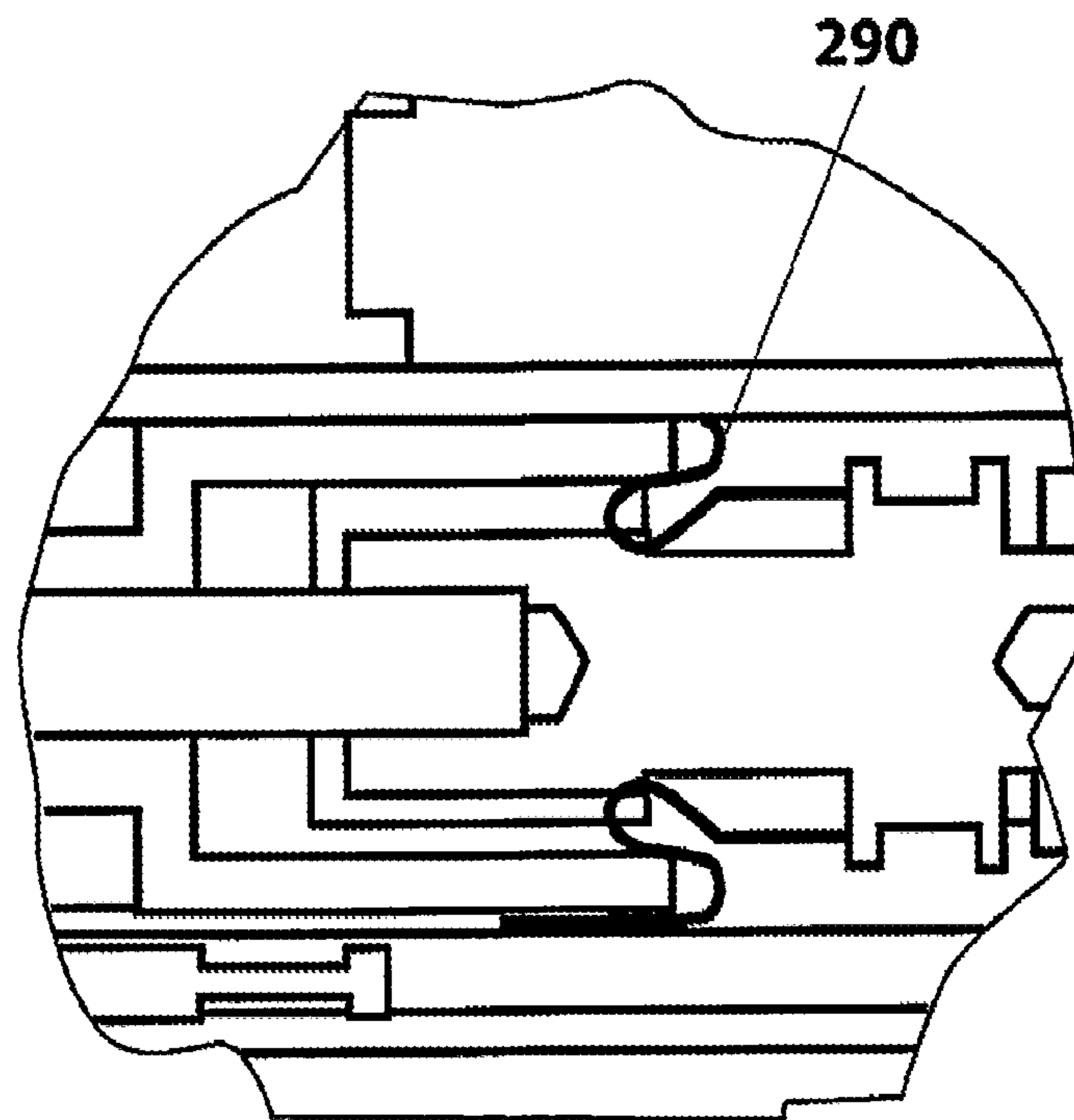
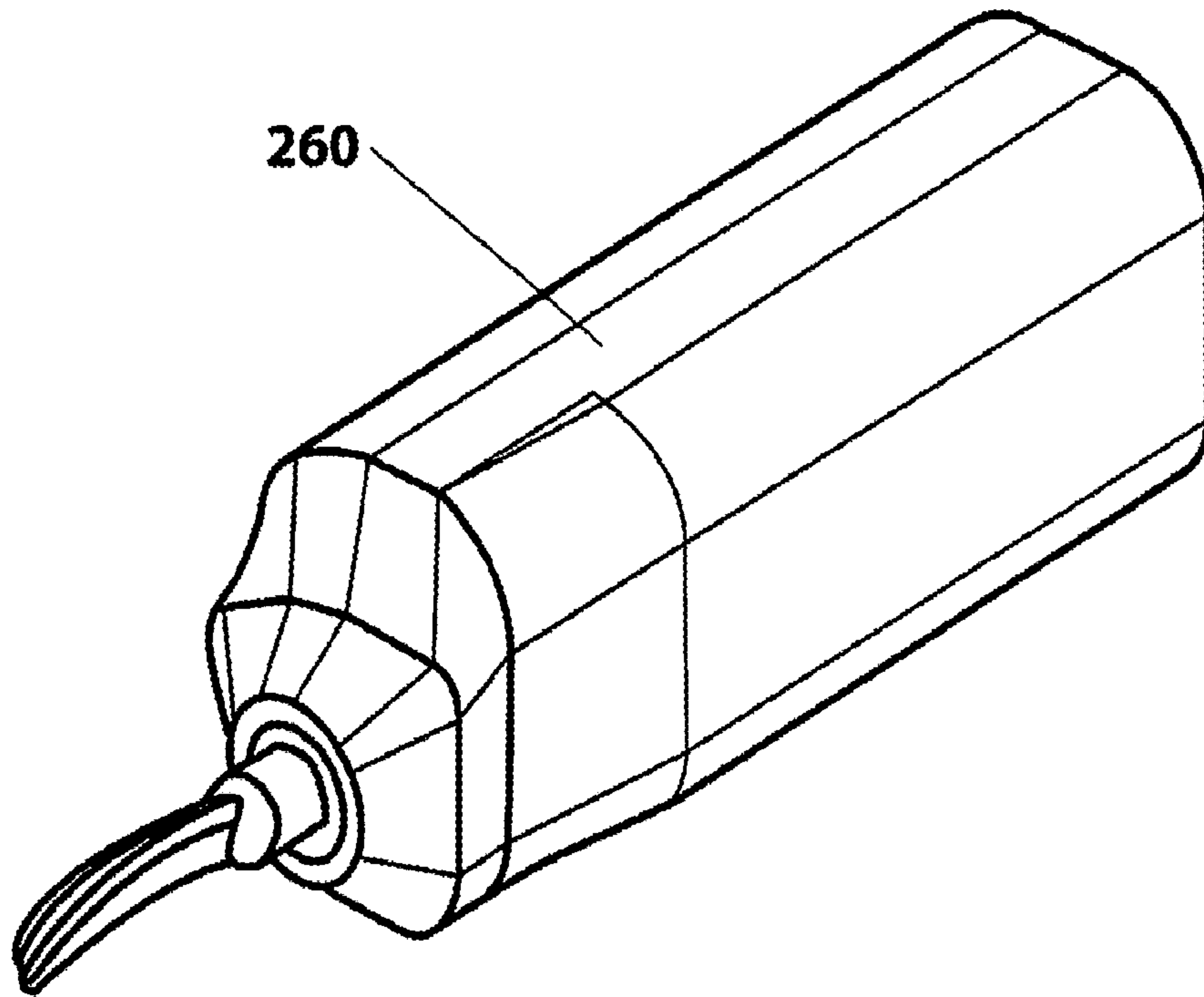
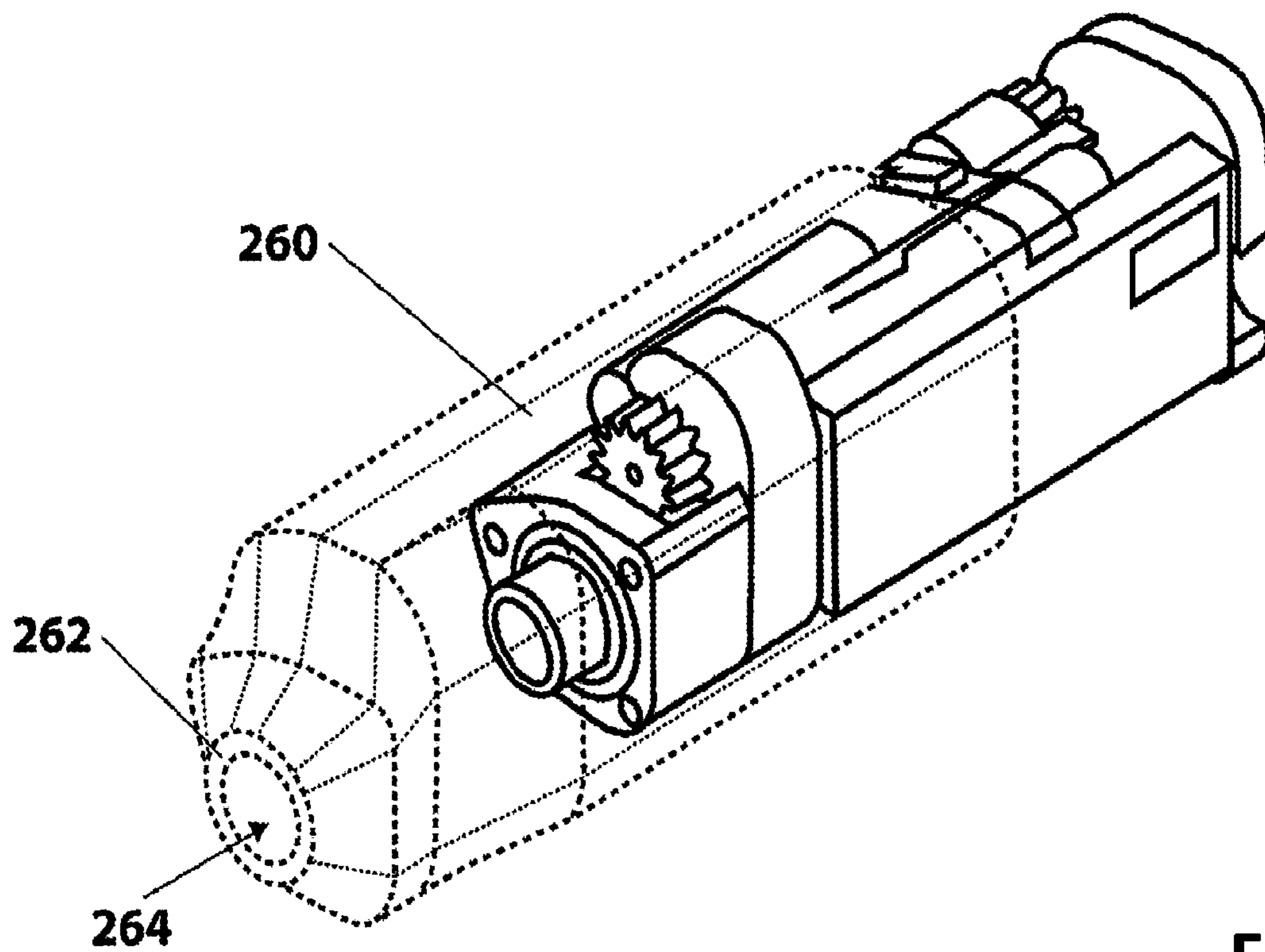


FIG. 8B

13/52

**FIG. 9A****FIG. 9B**

14/52

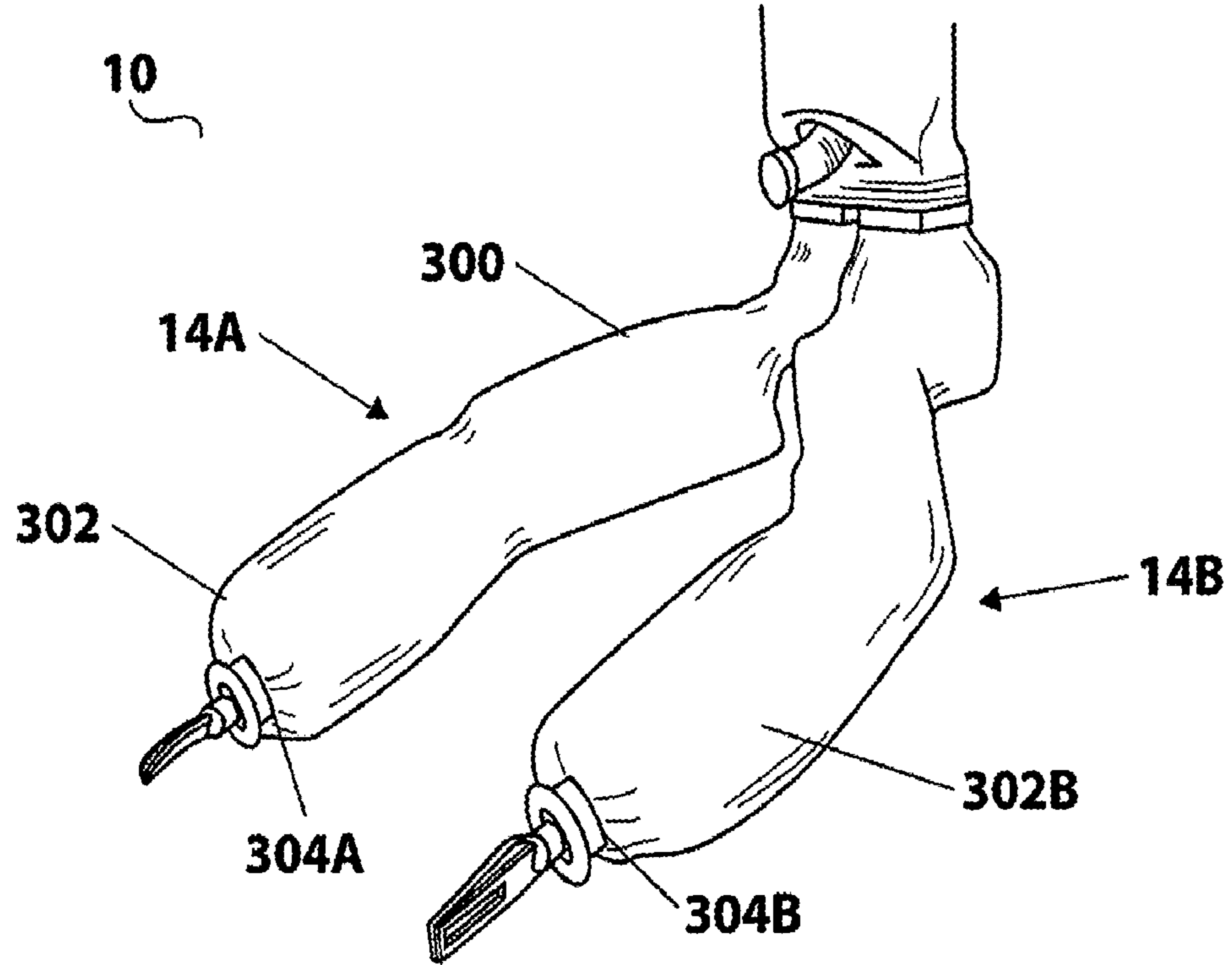


FIG. 10A

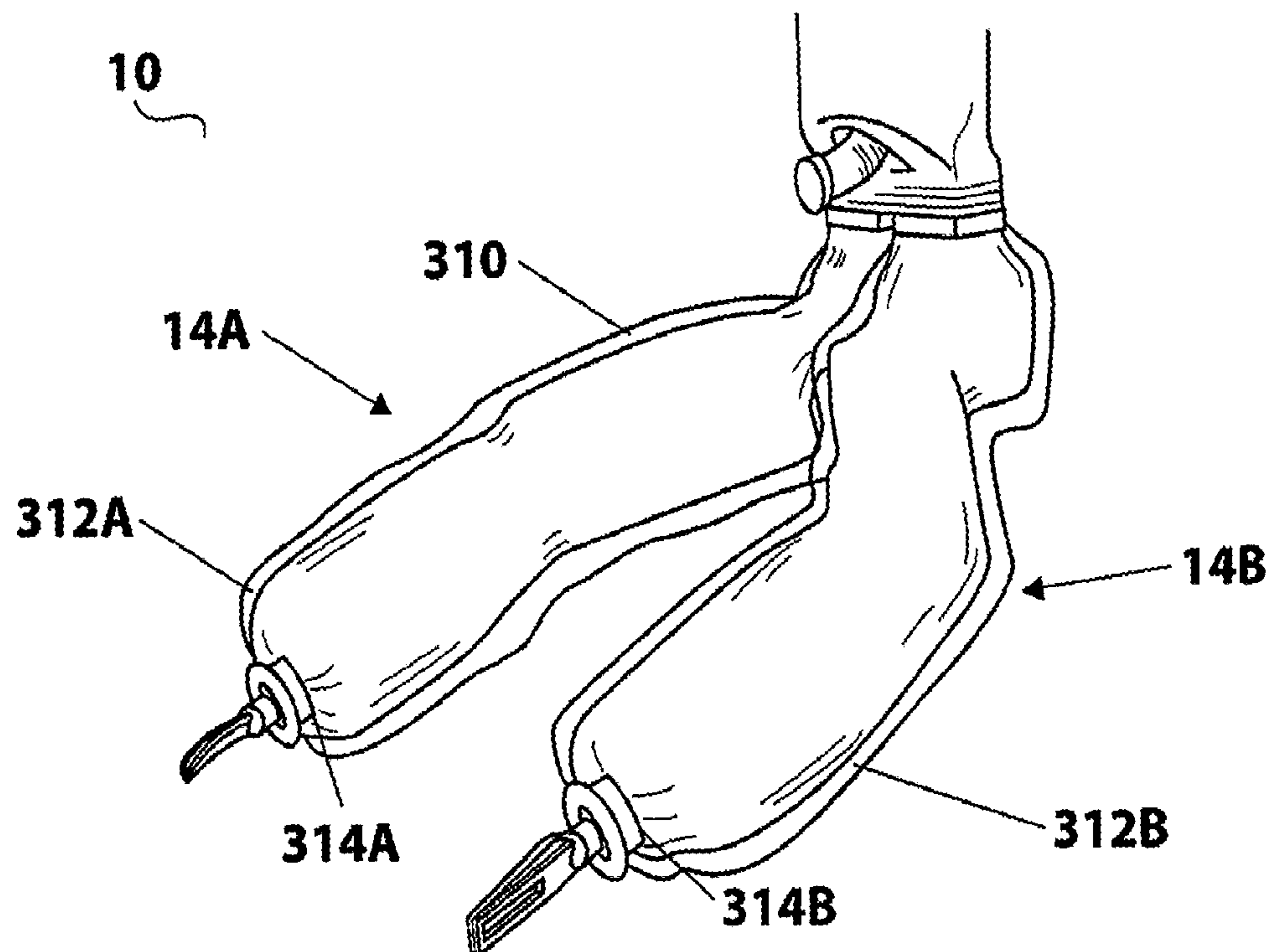
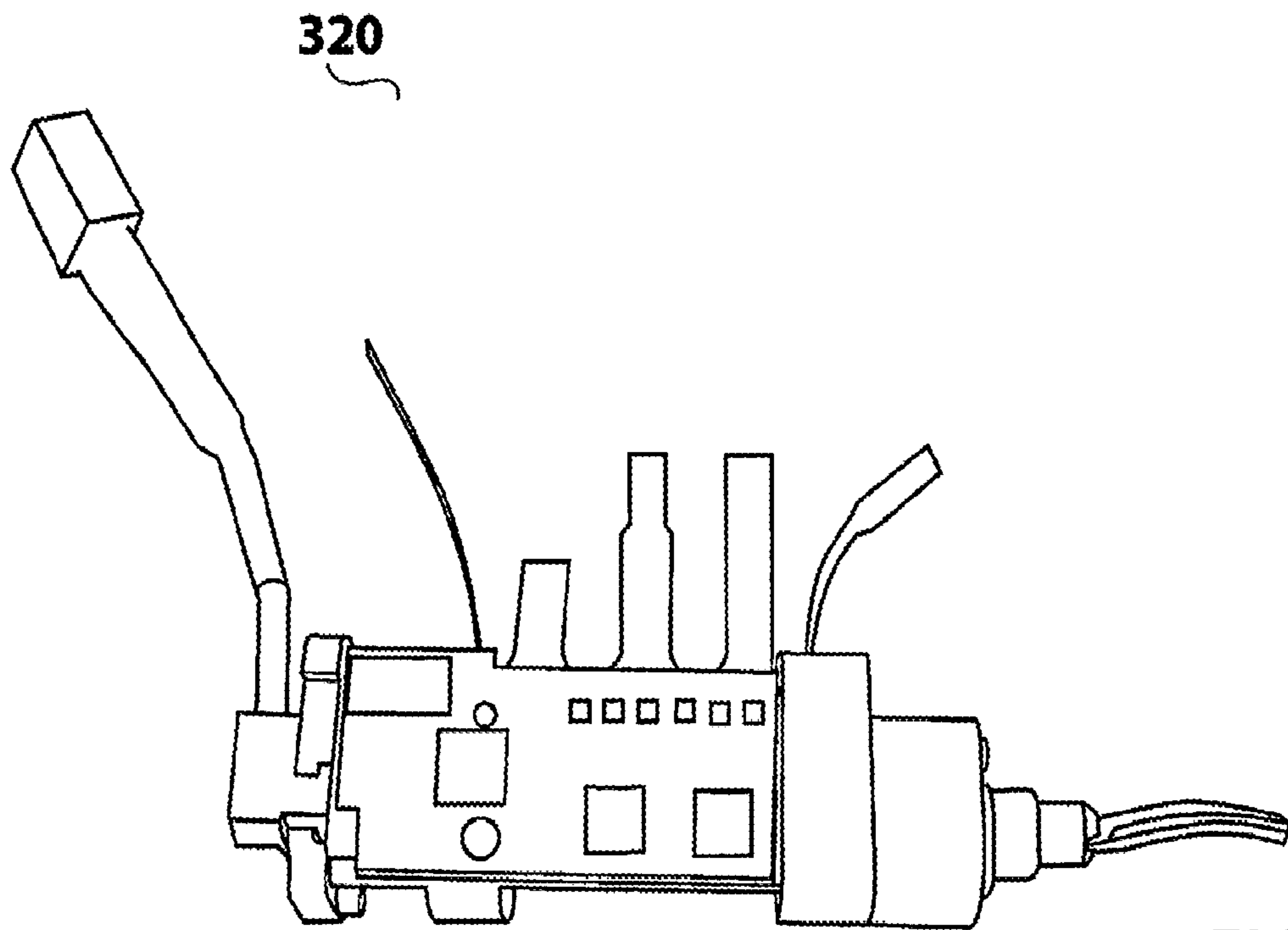
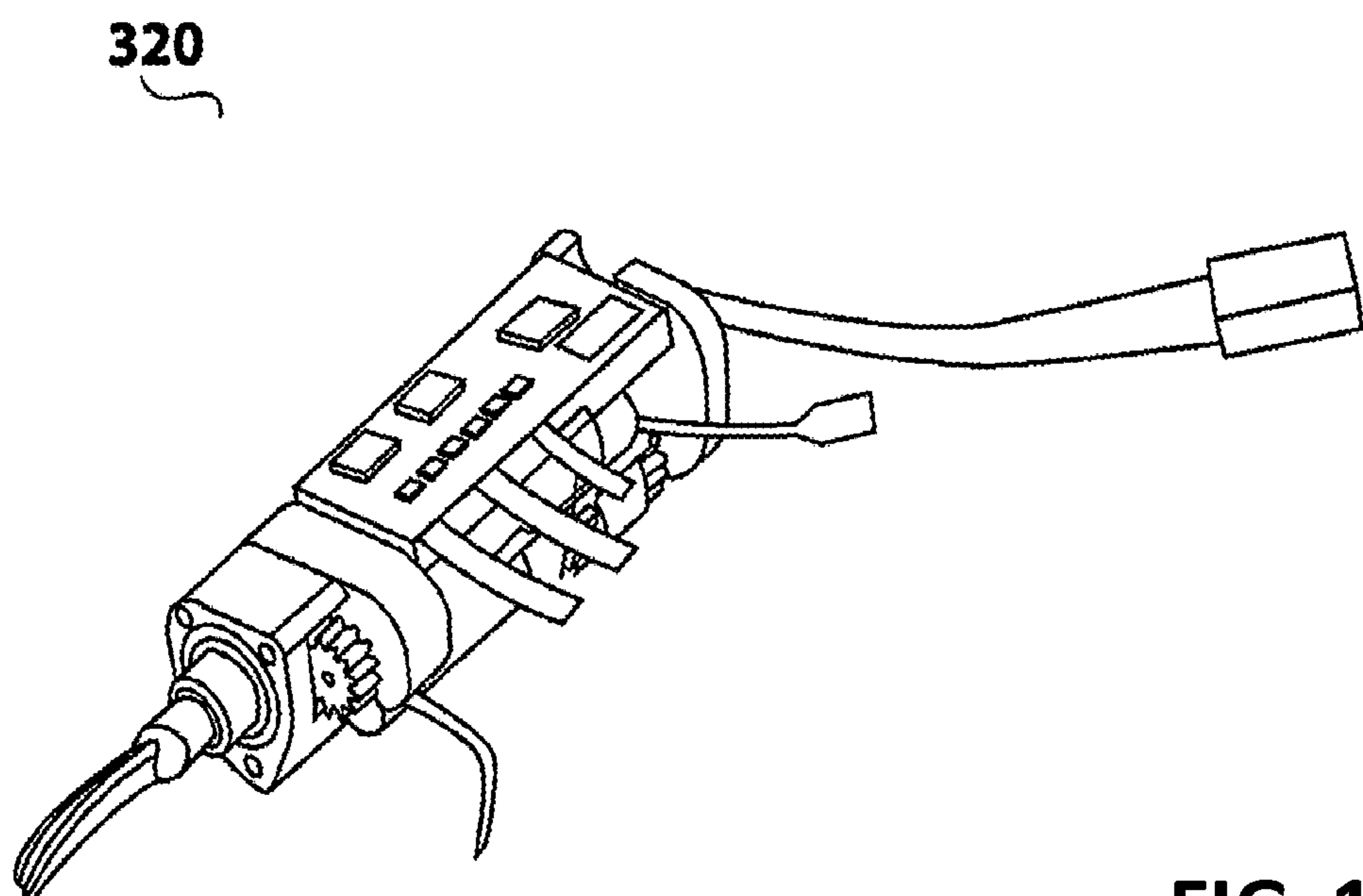


FIG. 10B

15/52

**FIG. 11A****FIG. 11B**

16/52

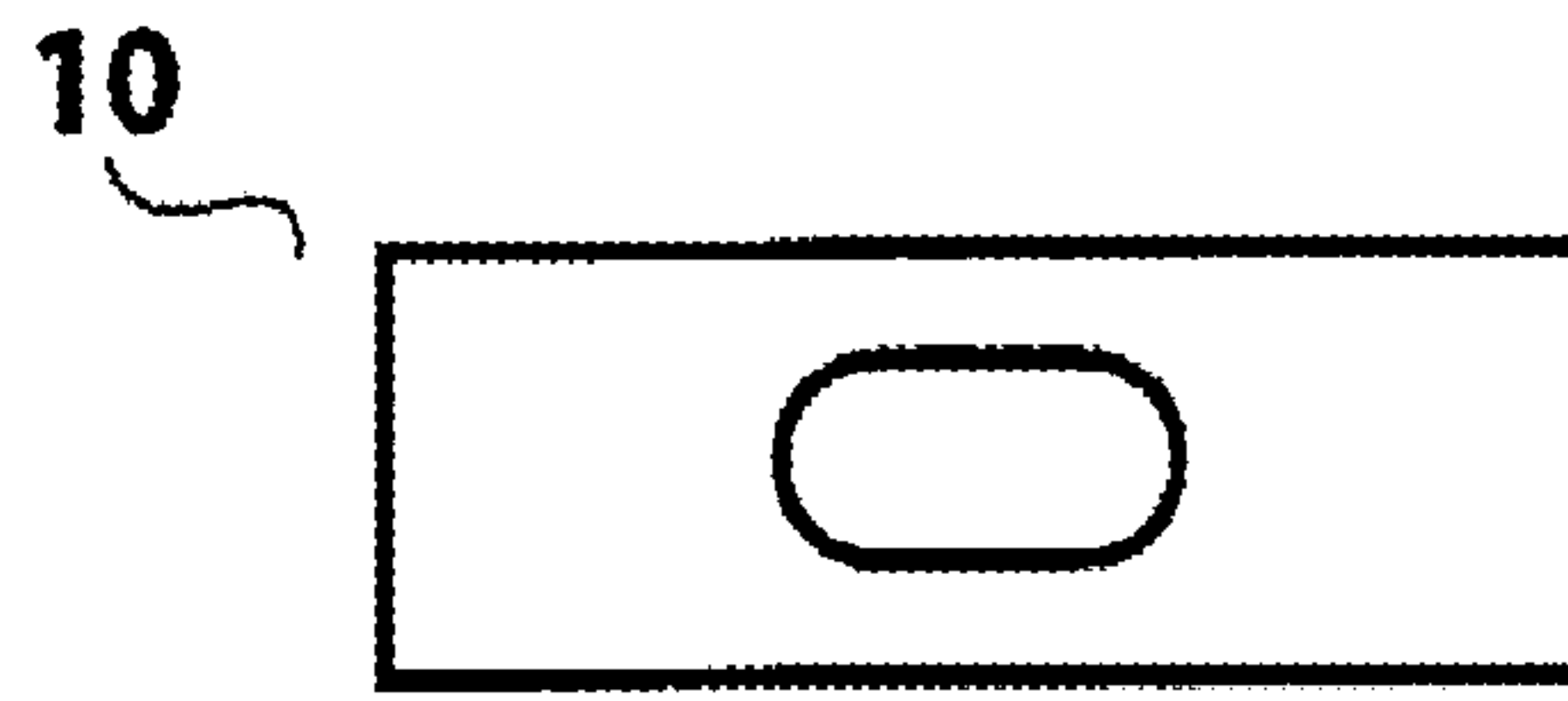


FIG. 12A

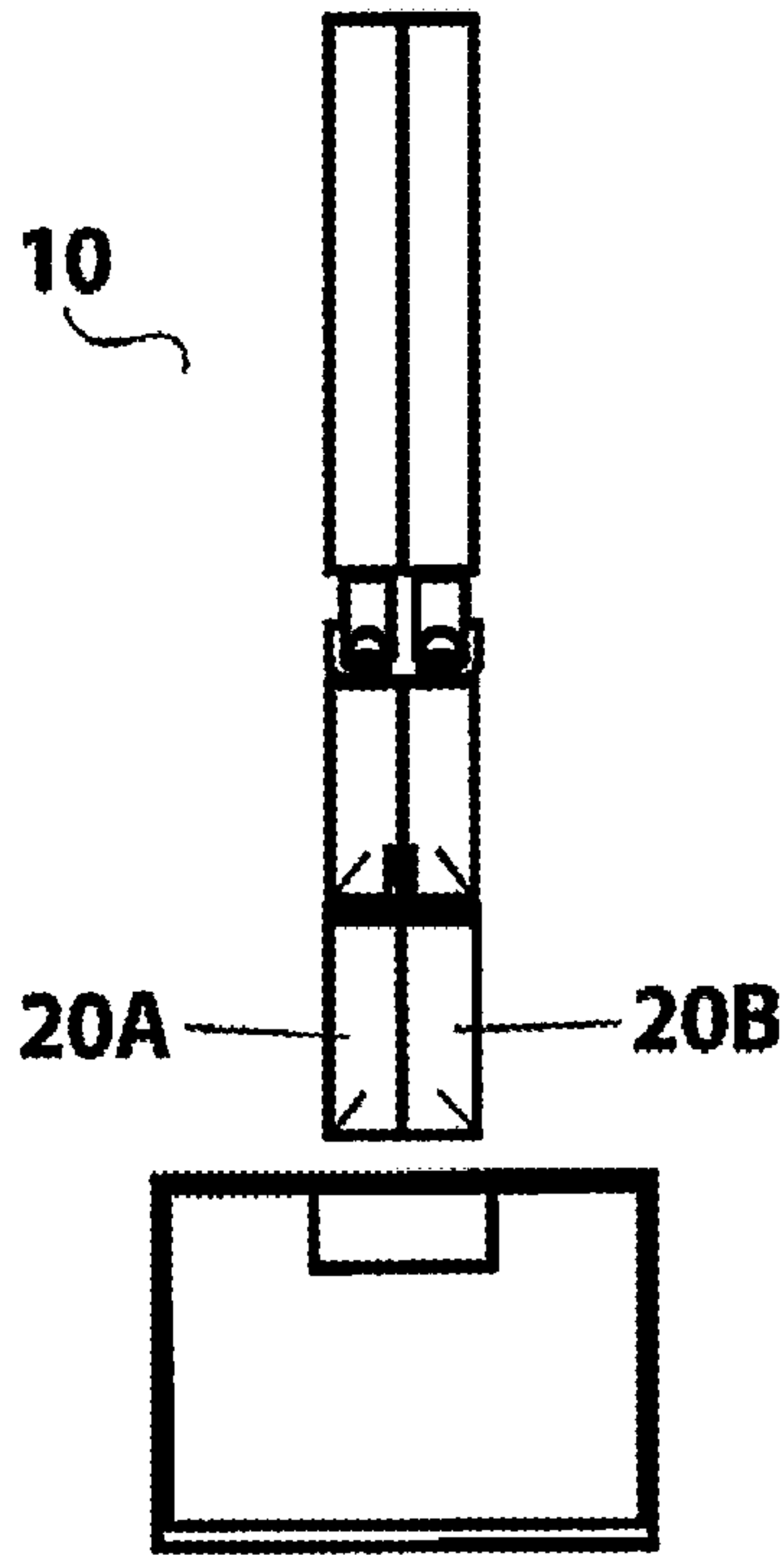


FIG. 12B

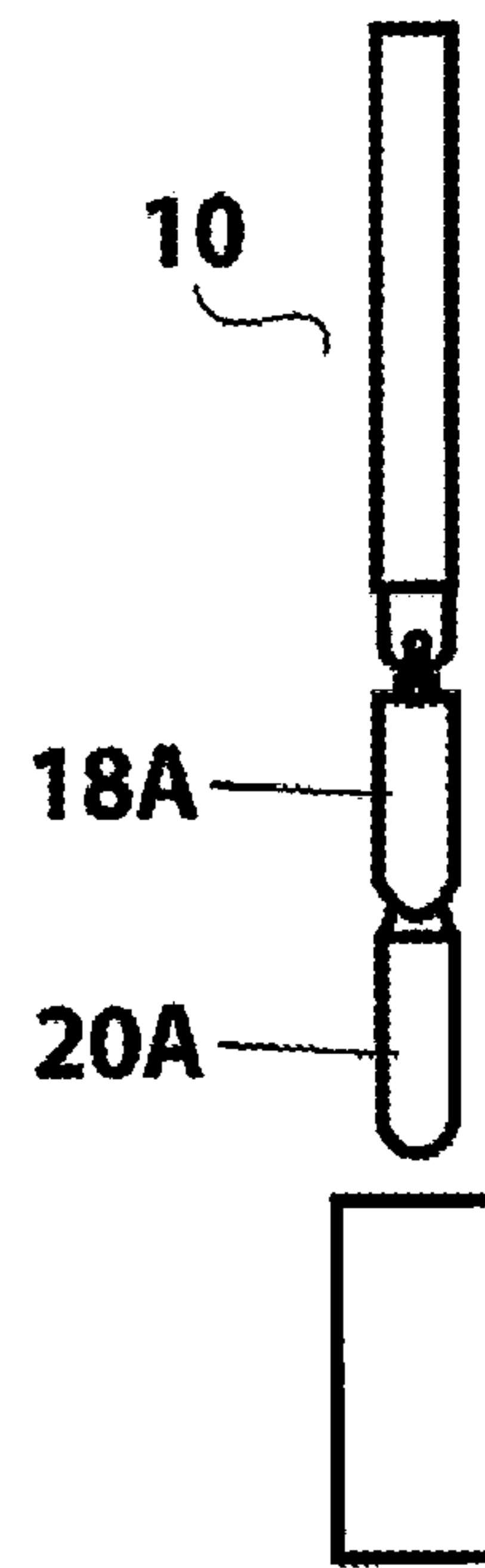


FIG. 12C

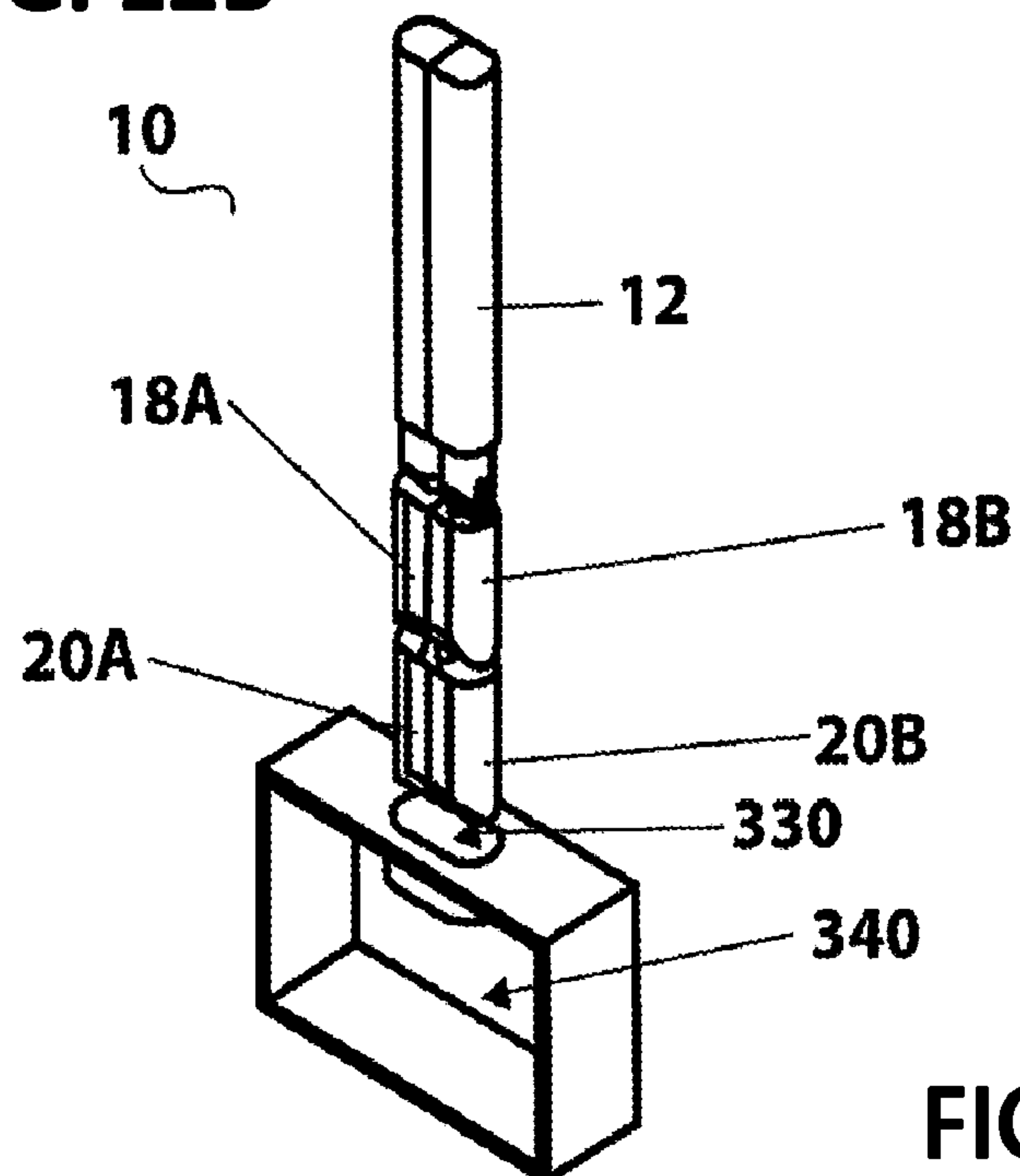


FIG. 12D

17/52

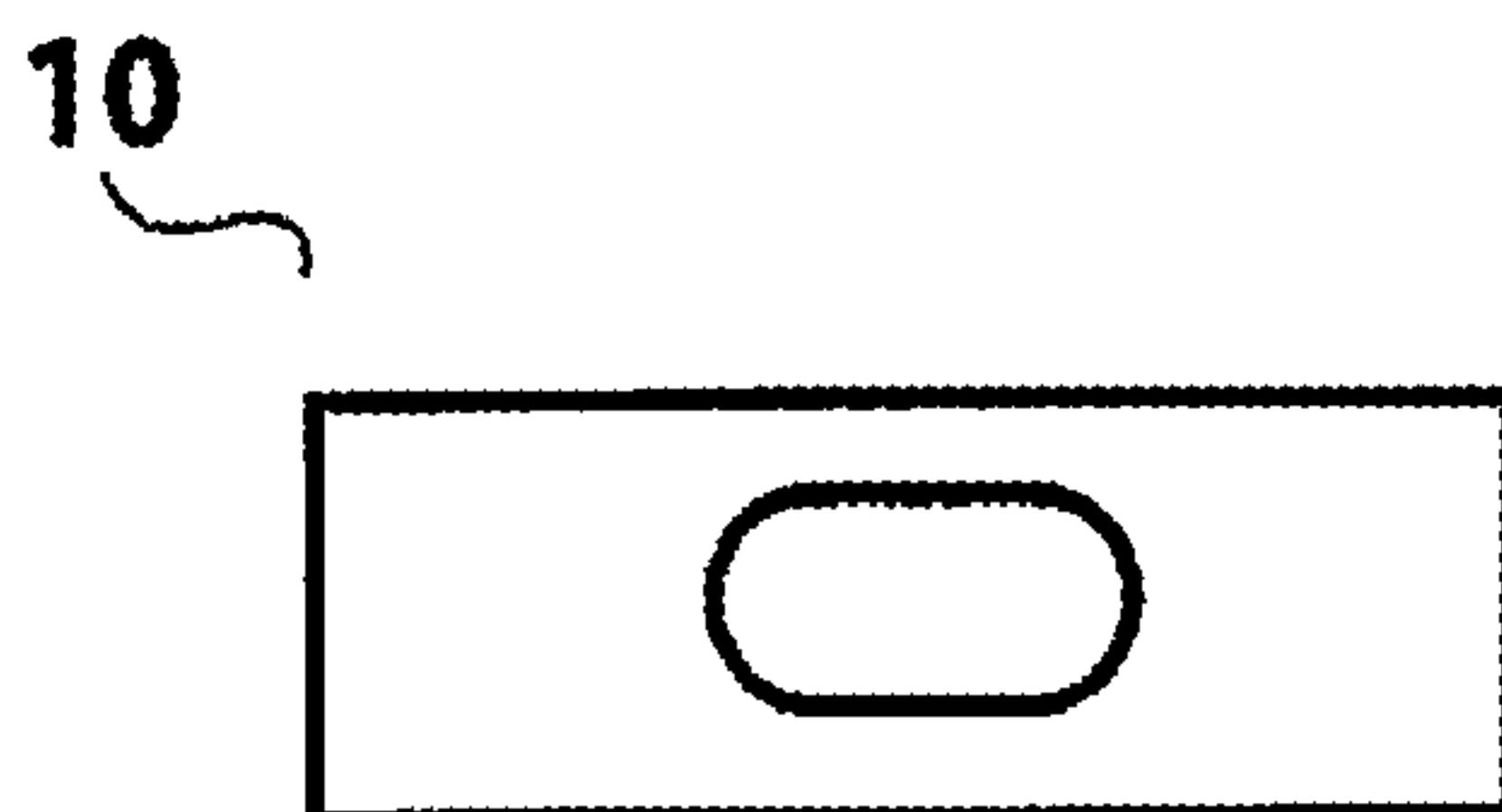


FIG. 13A

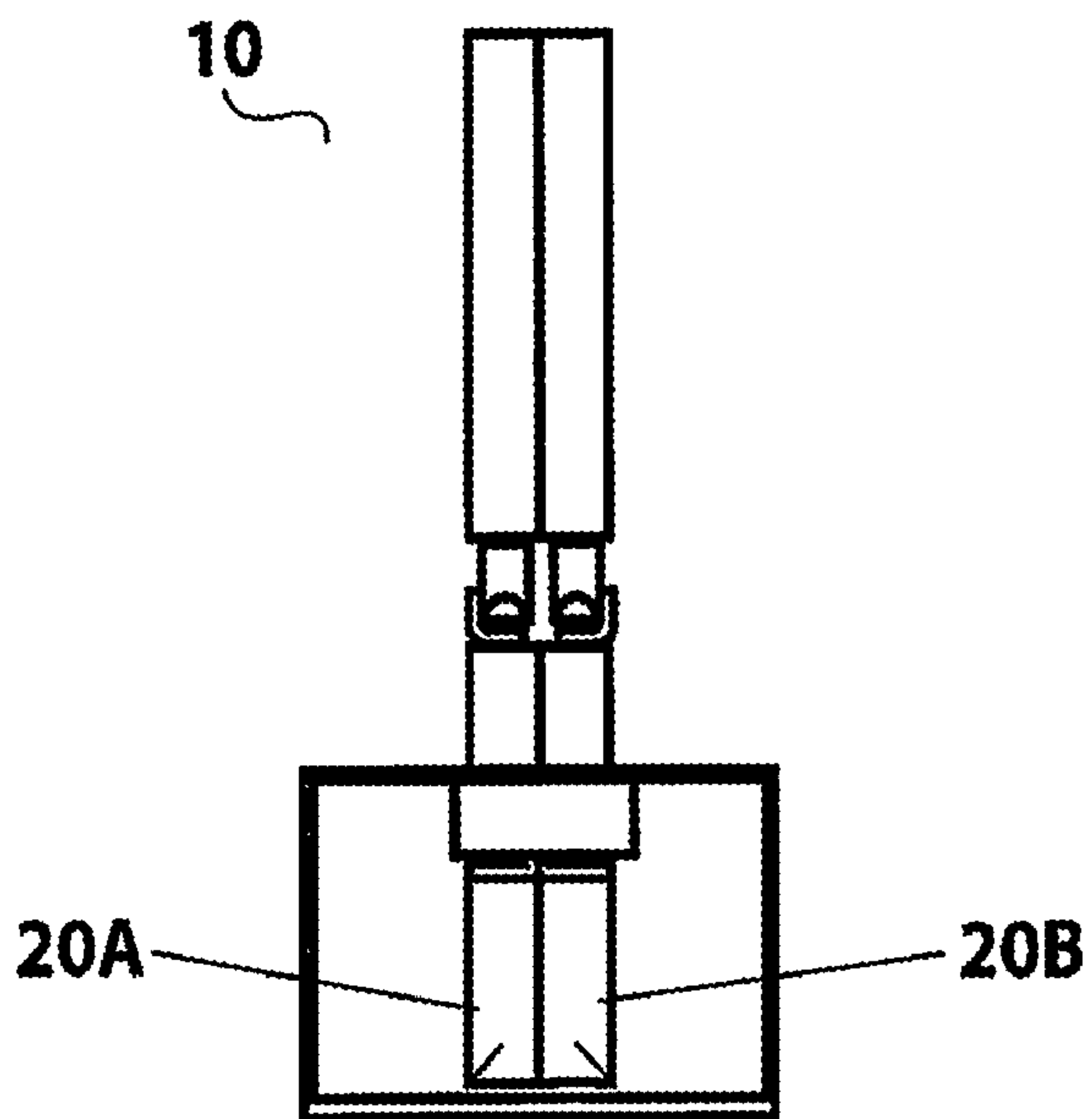


FIG. 13B

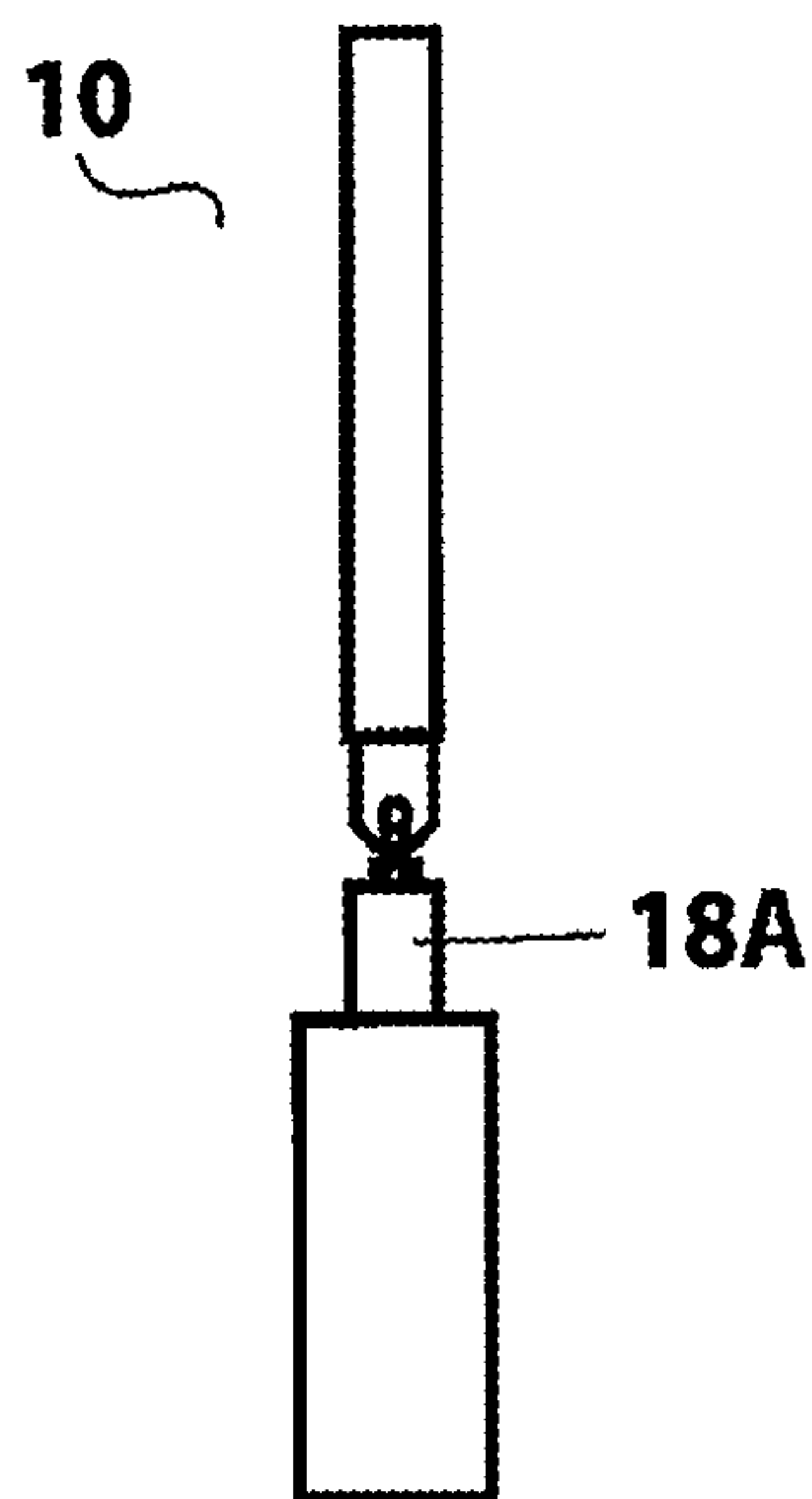


FIG. 13C

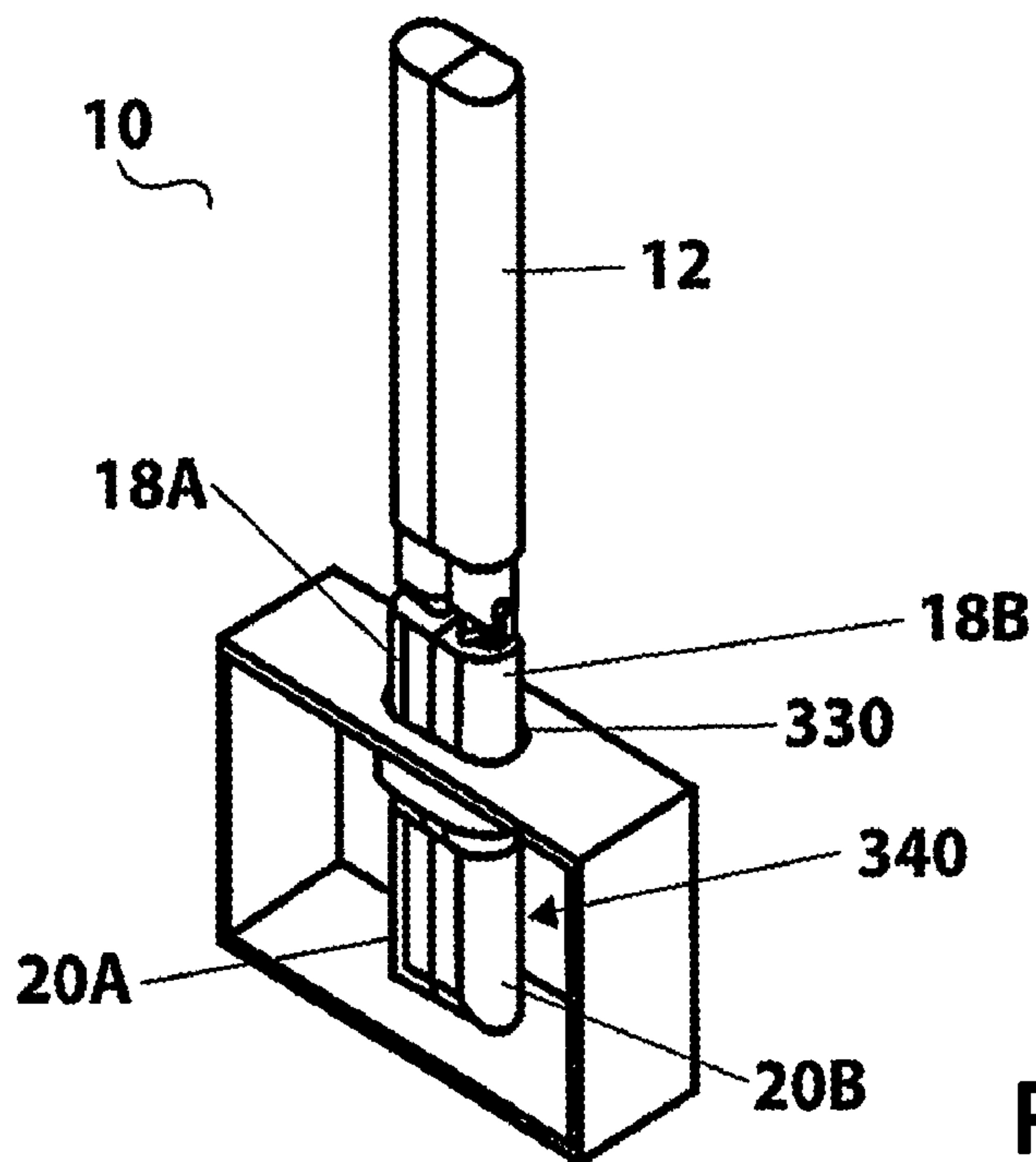


FIG. 13D

18/52

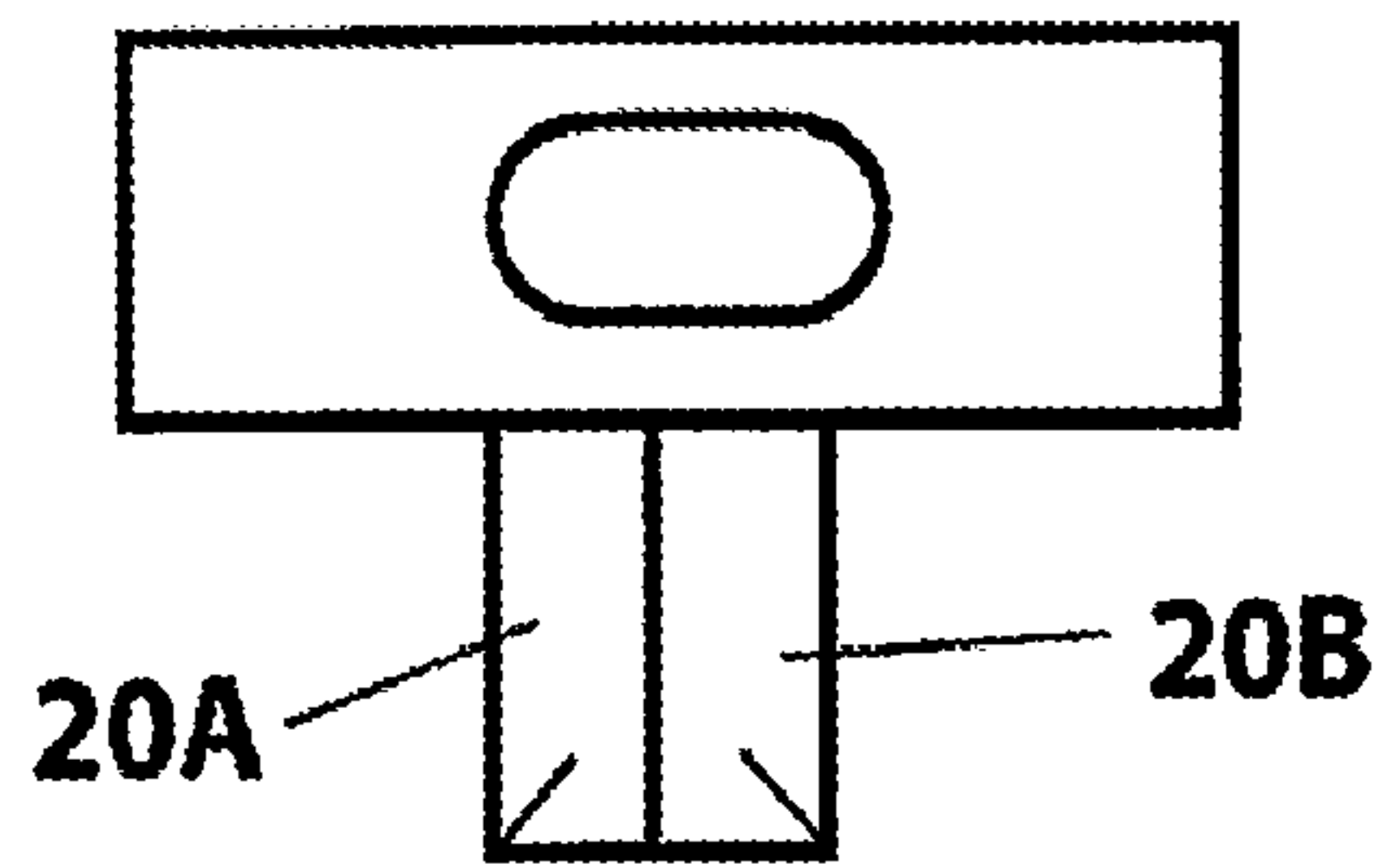


FIG. 14A

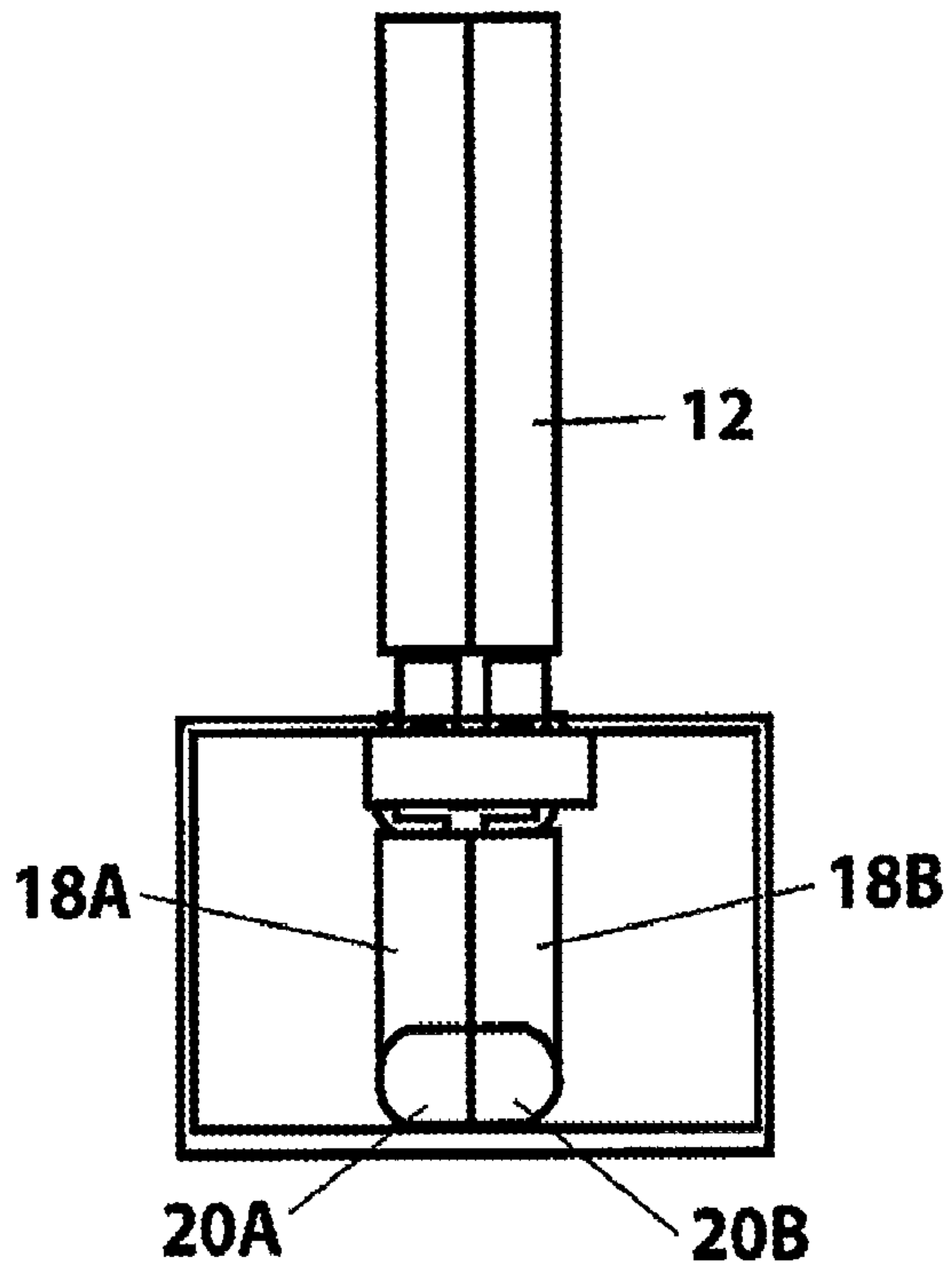


FIG. 14B

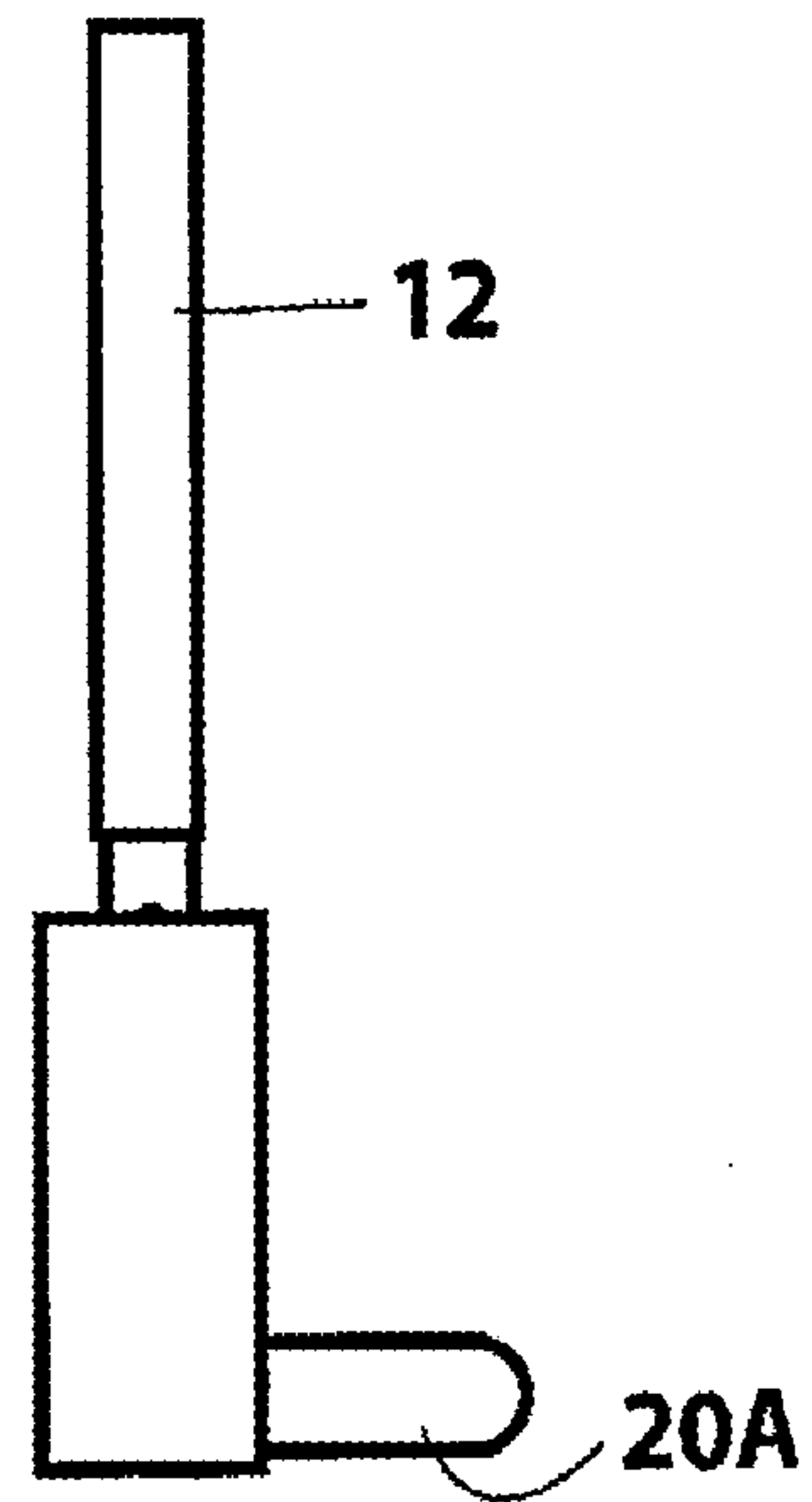


FIG. 14C

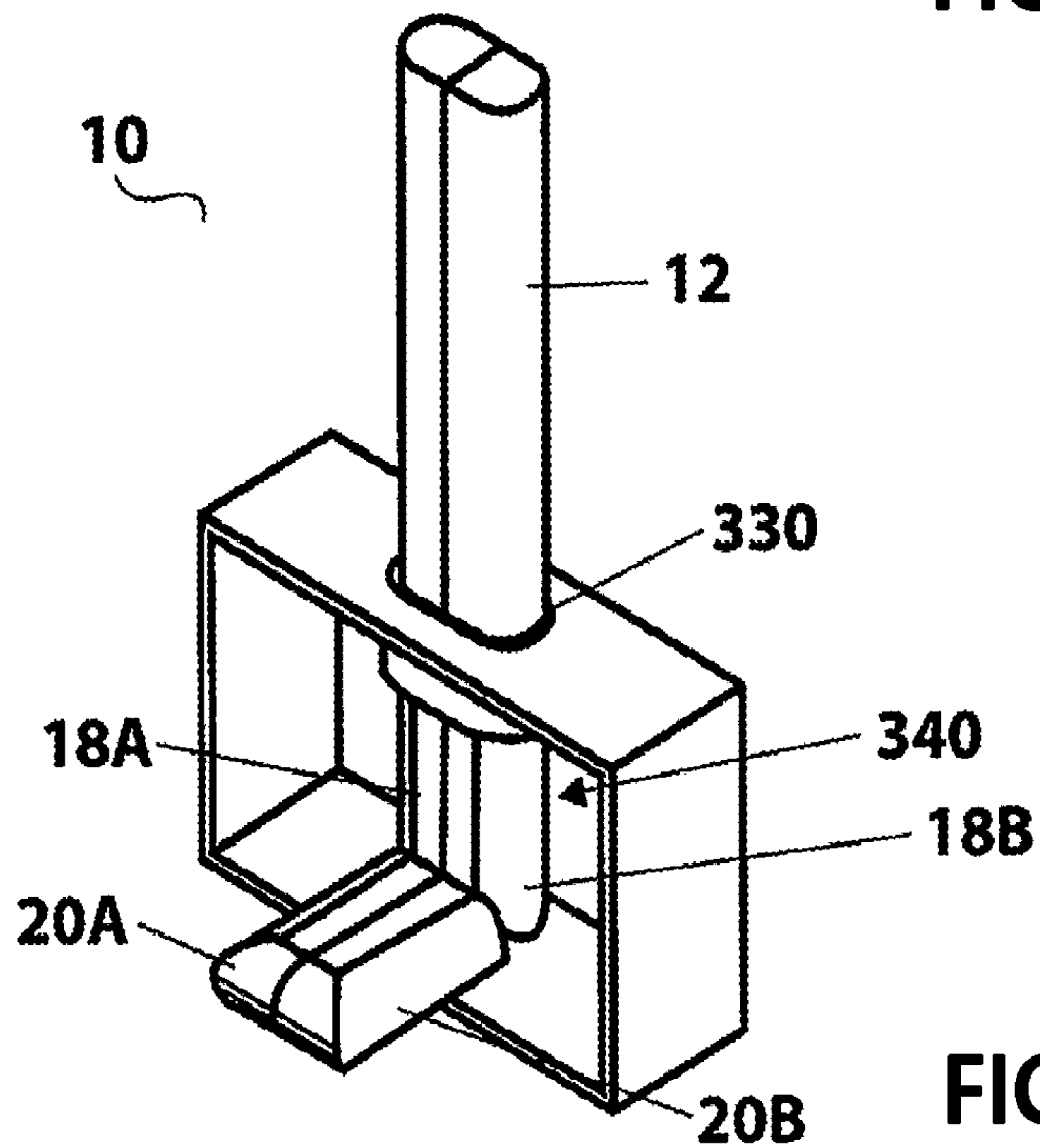


FIG. 14D

19/52

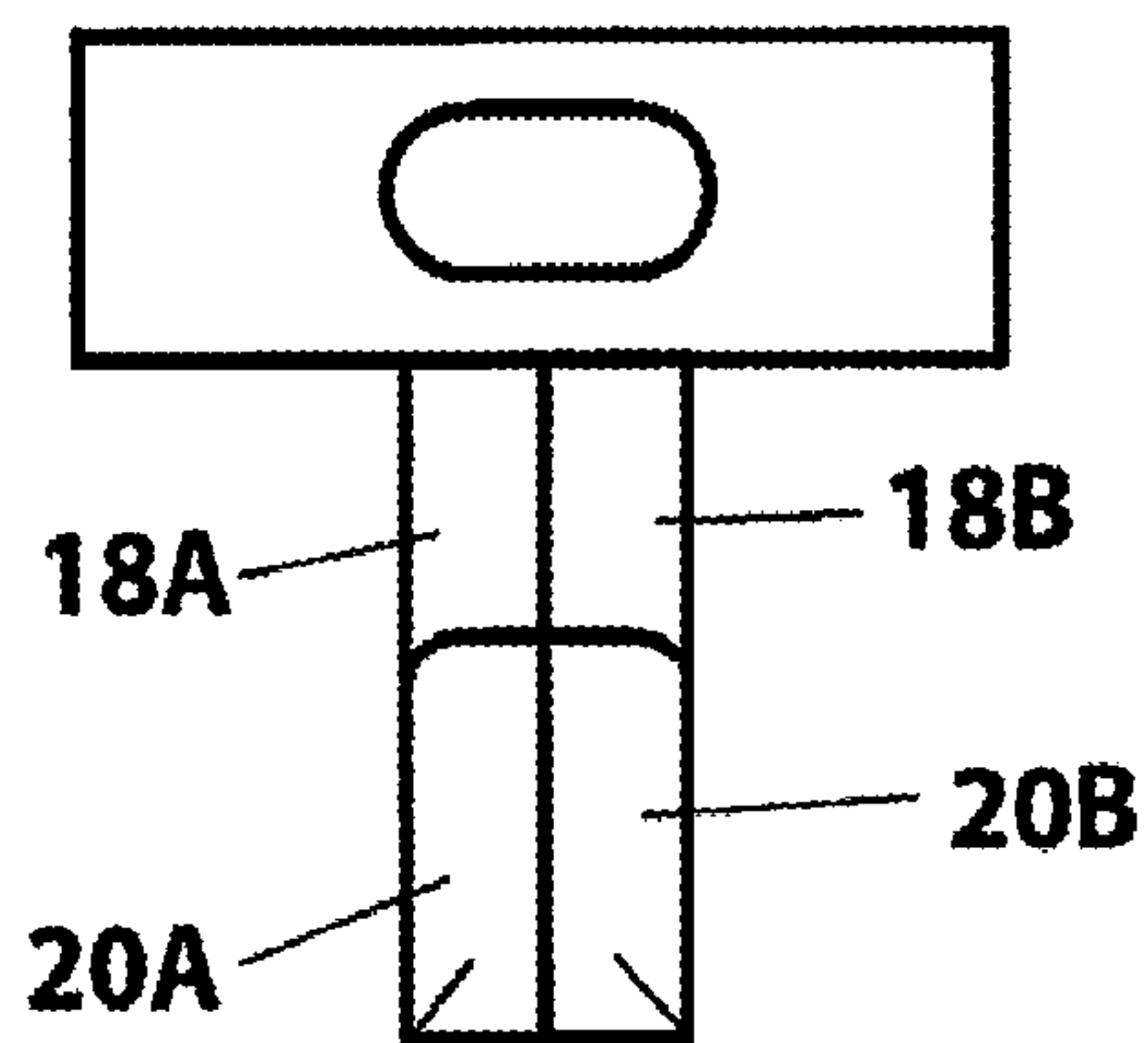


FIG. 15A

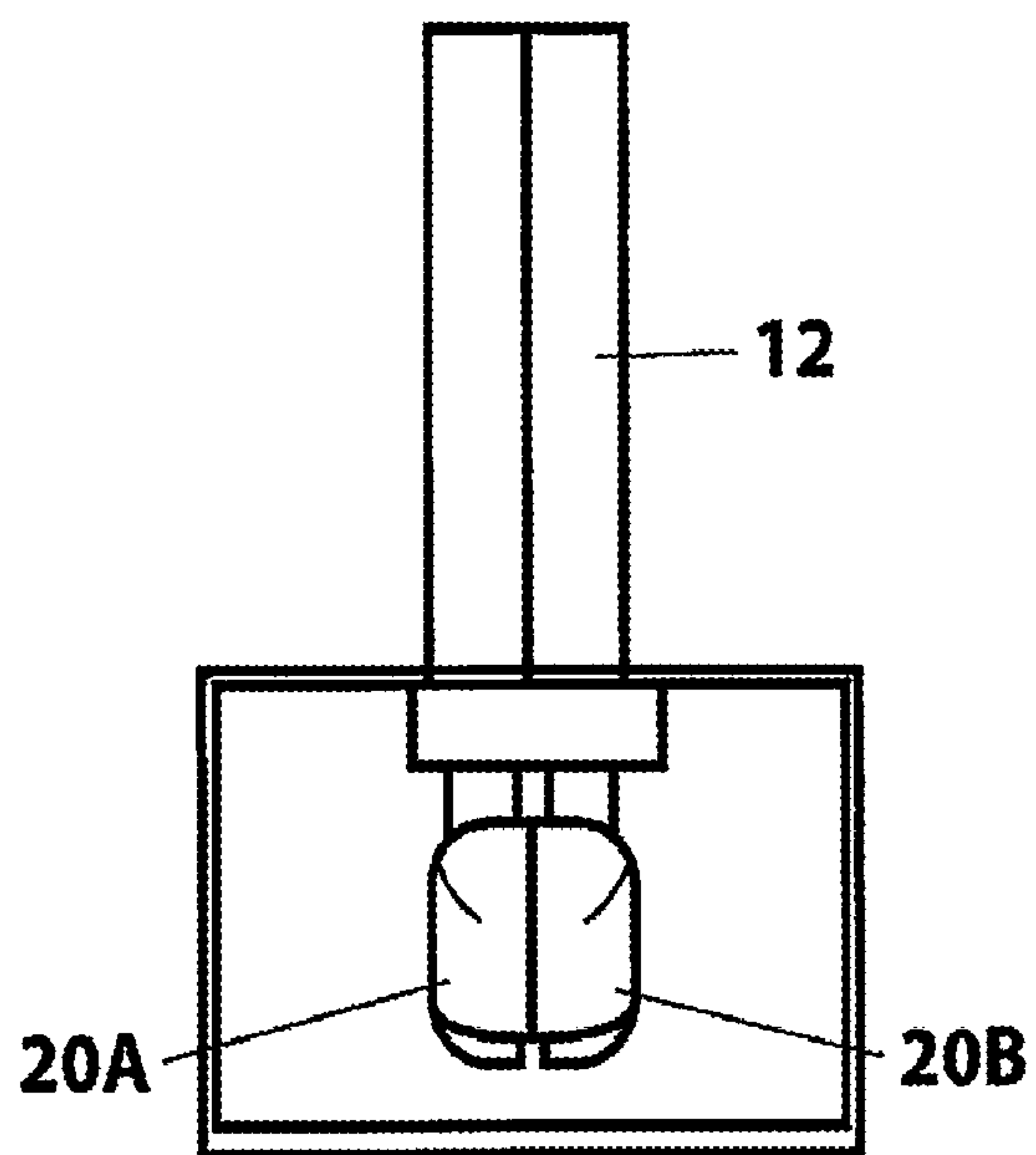


FIG. 15B

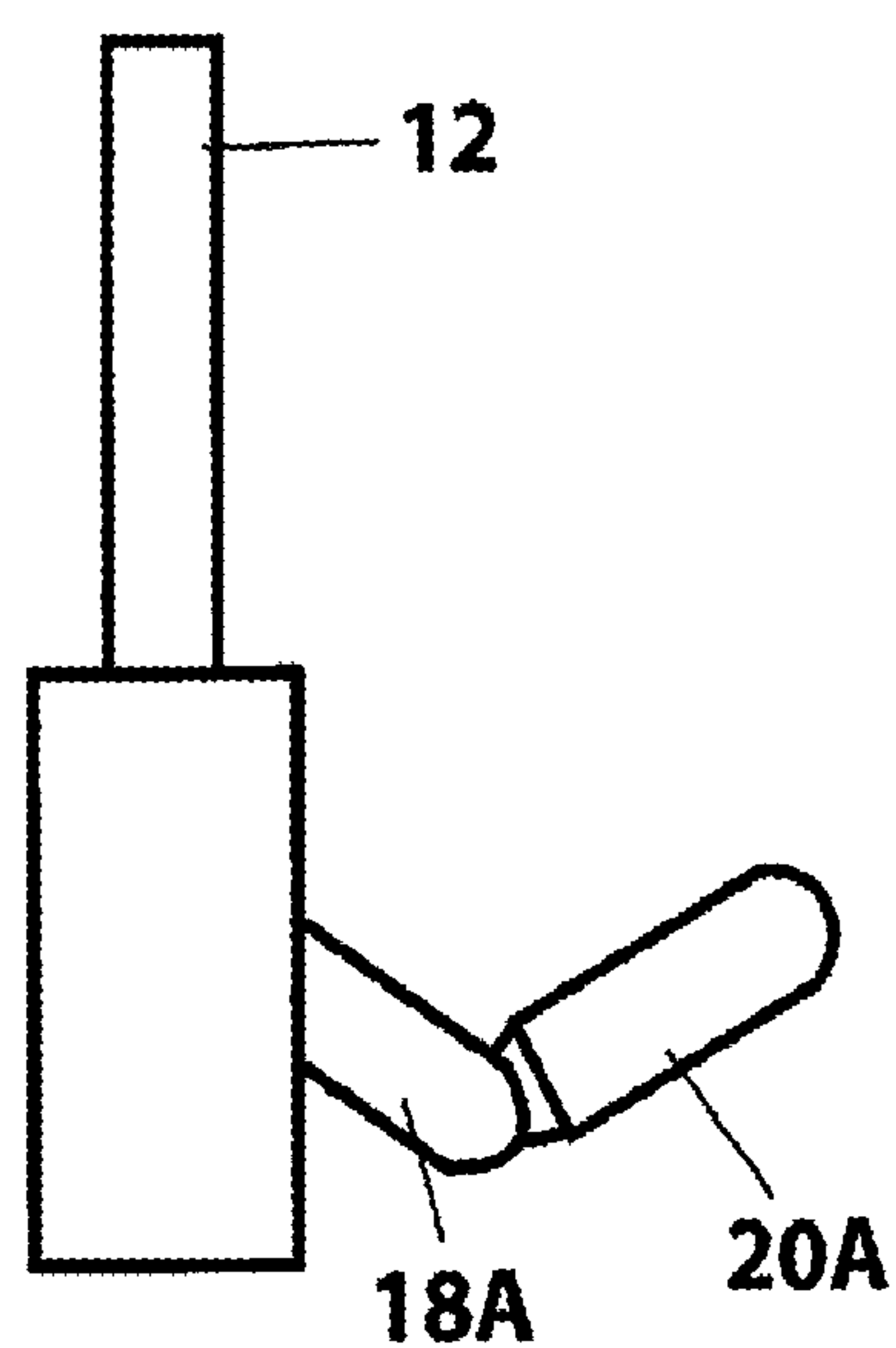


FIG. 15C

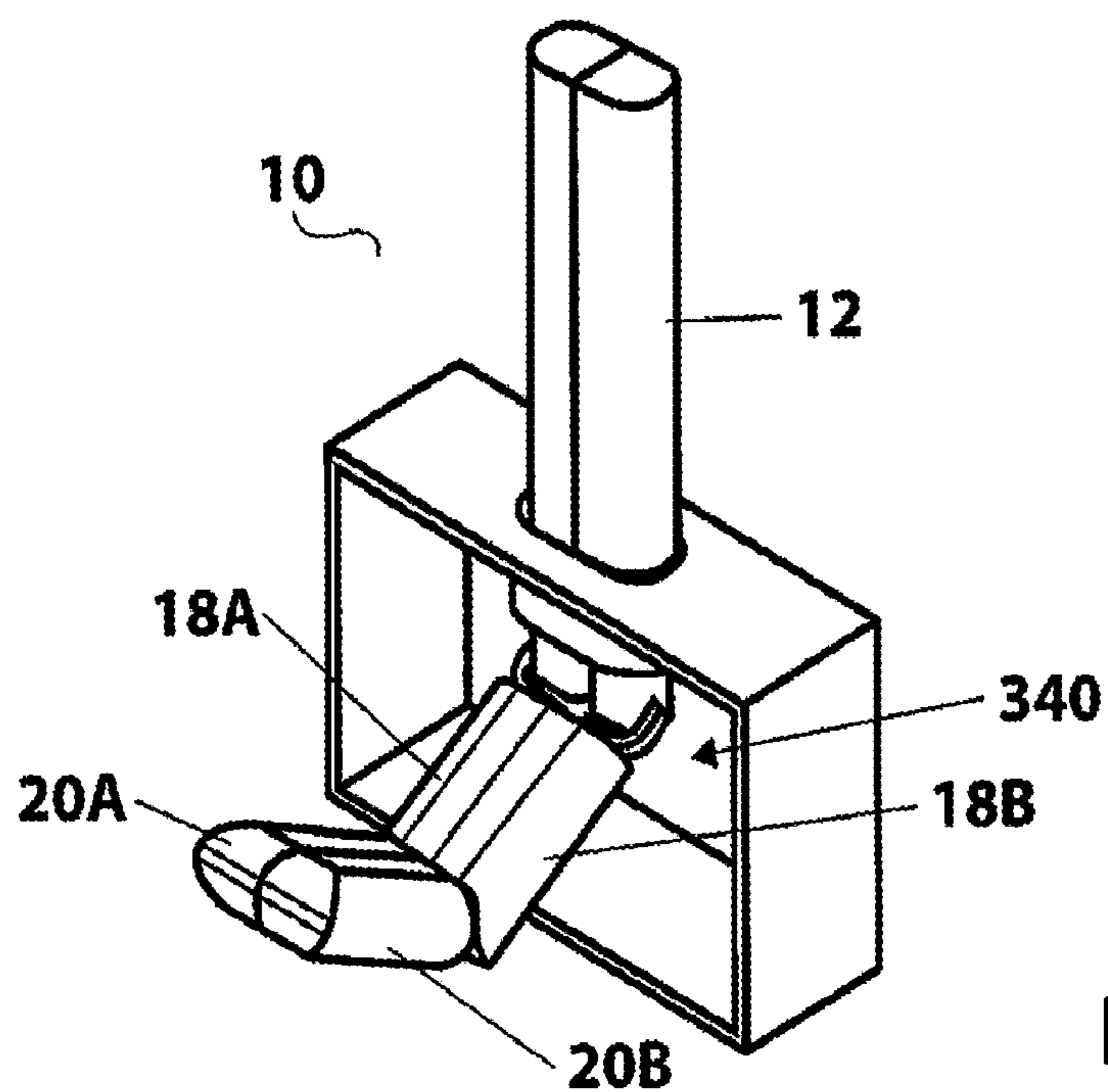


FIG. 15D

20/52

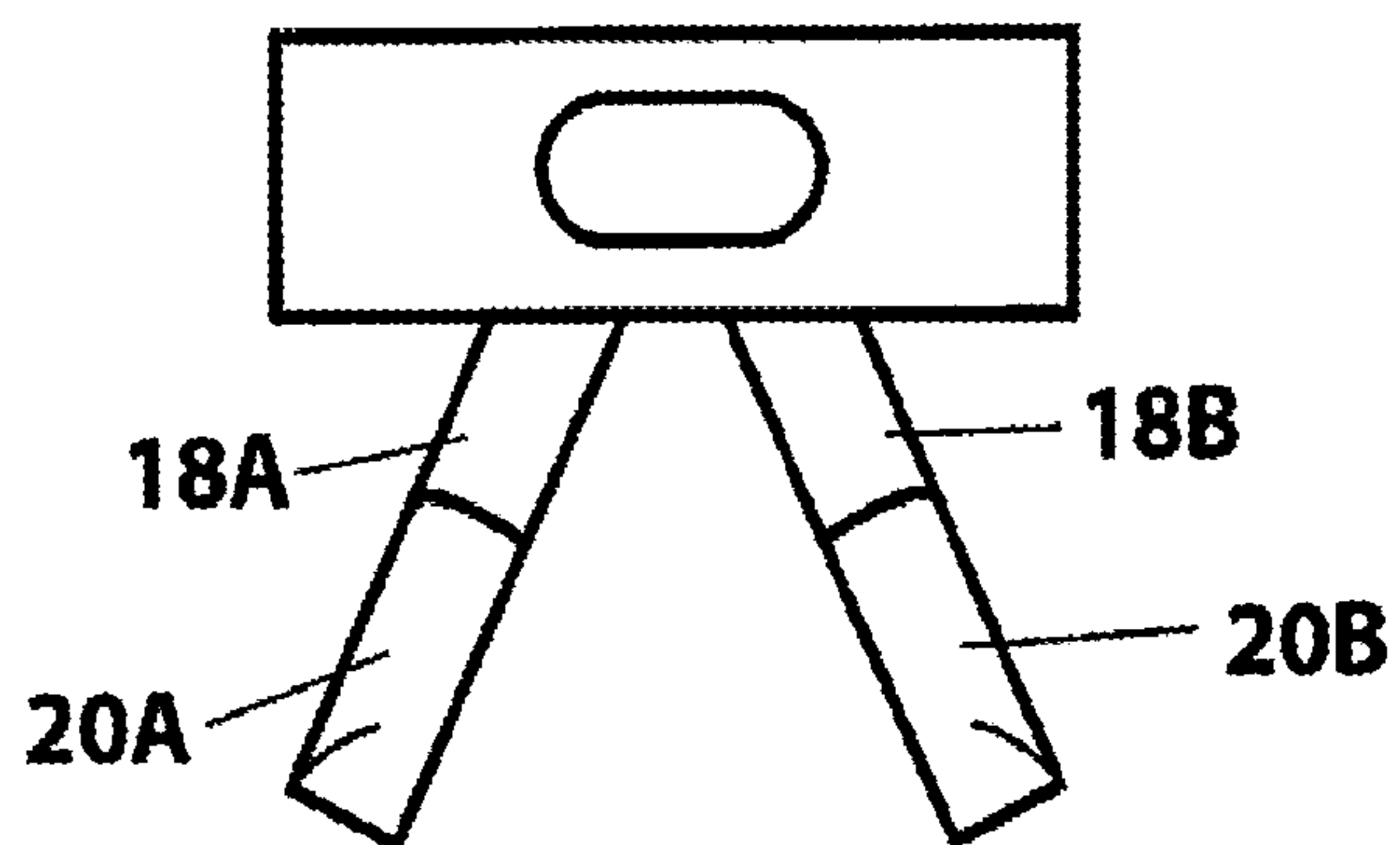


FIG. 16A

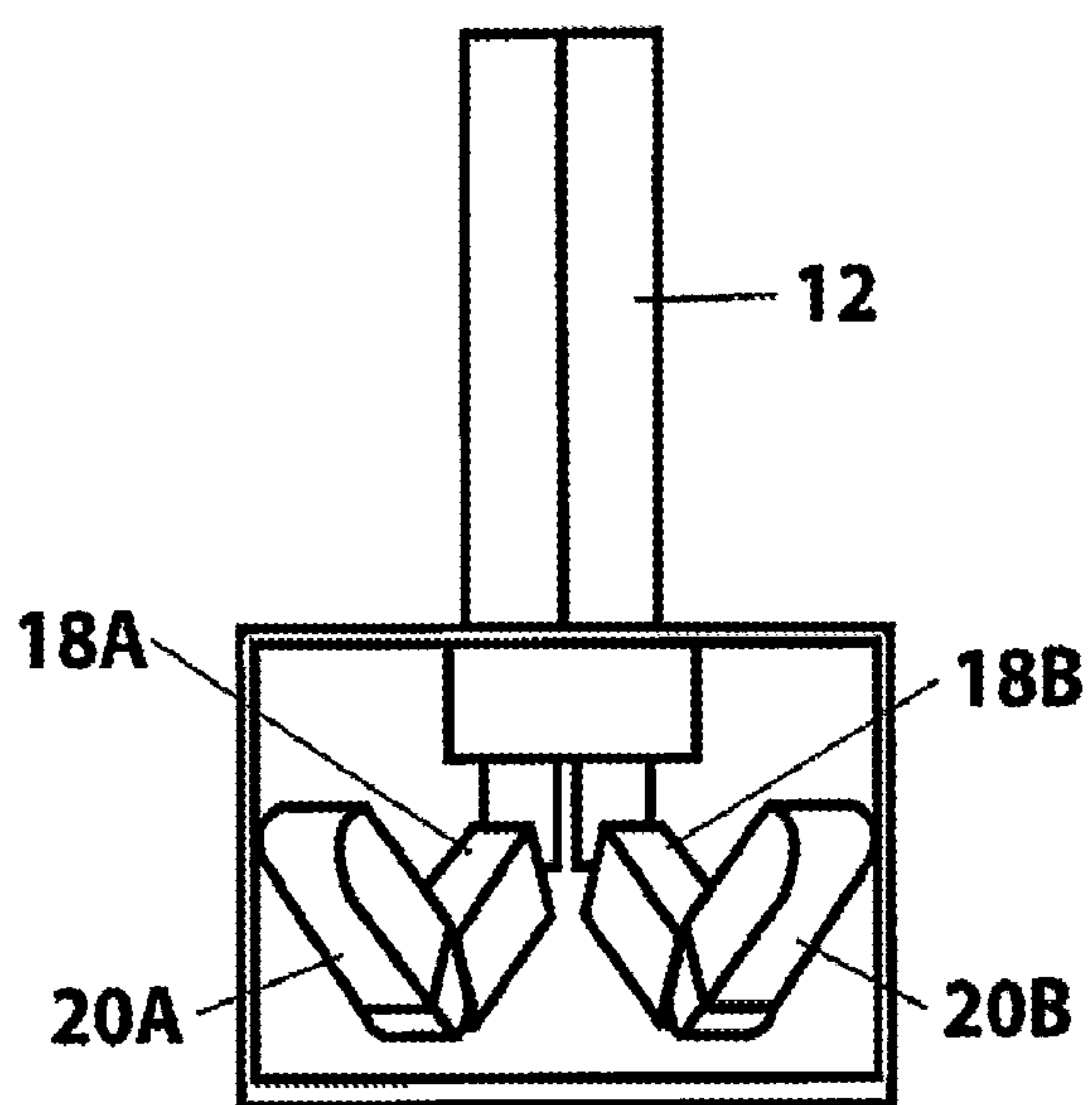


FIG. 16B

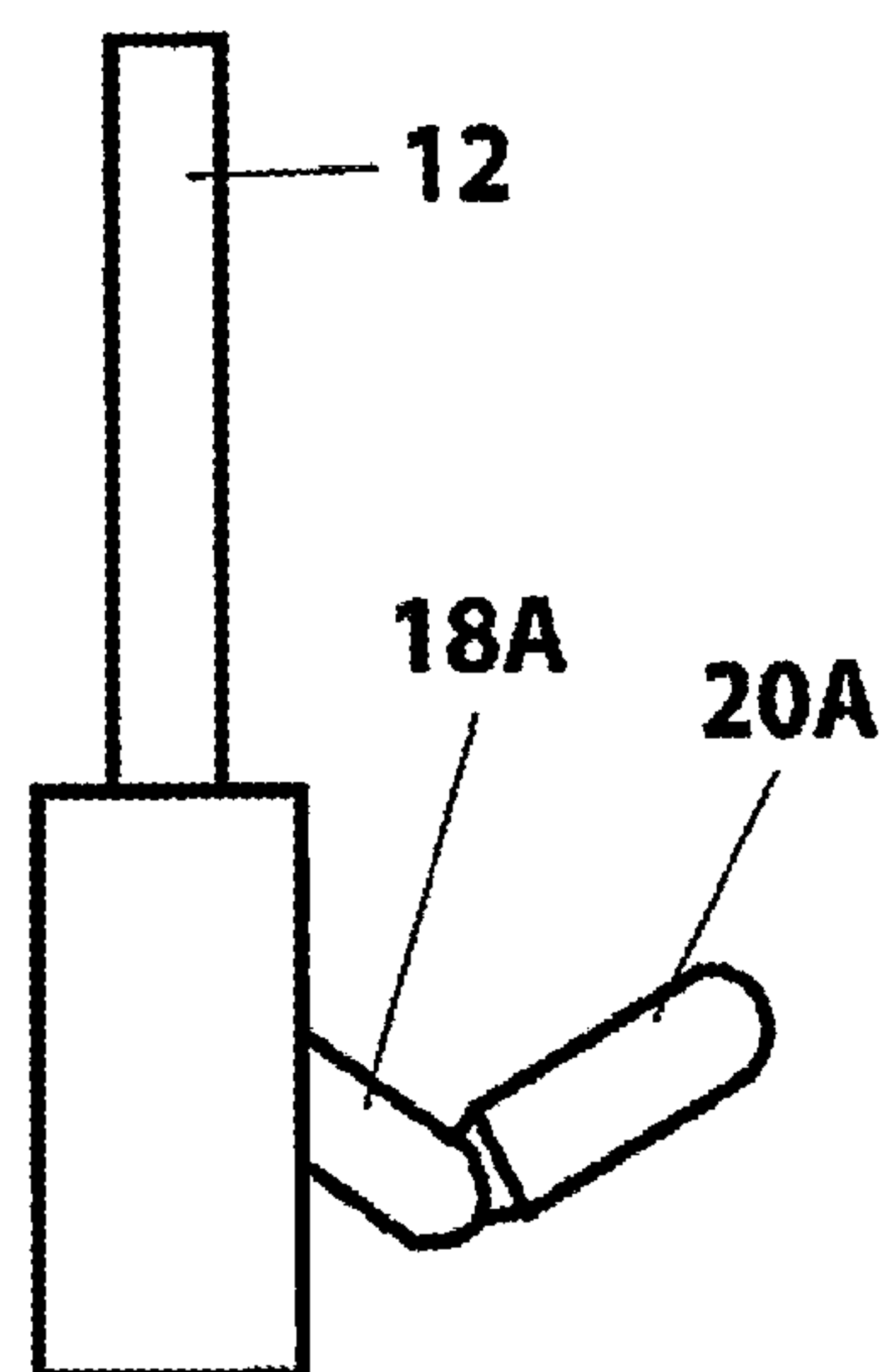


FIG. 16C

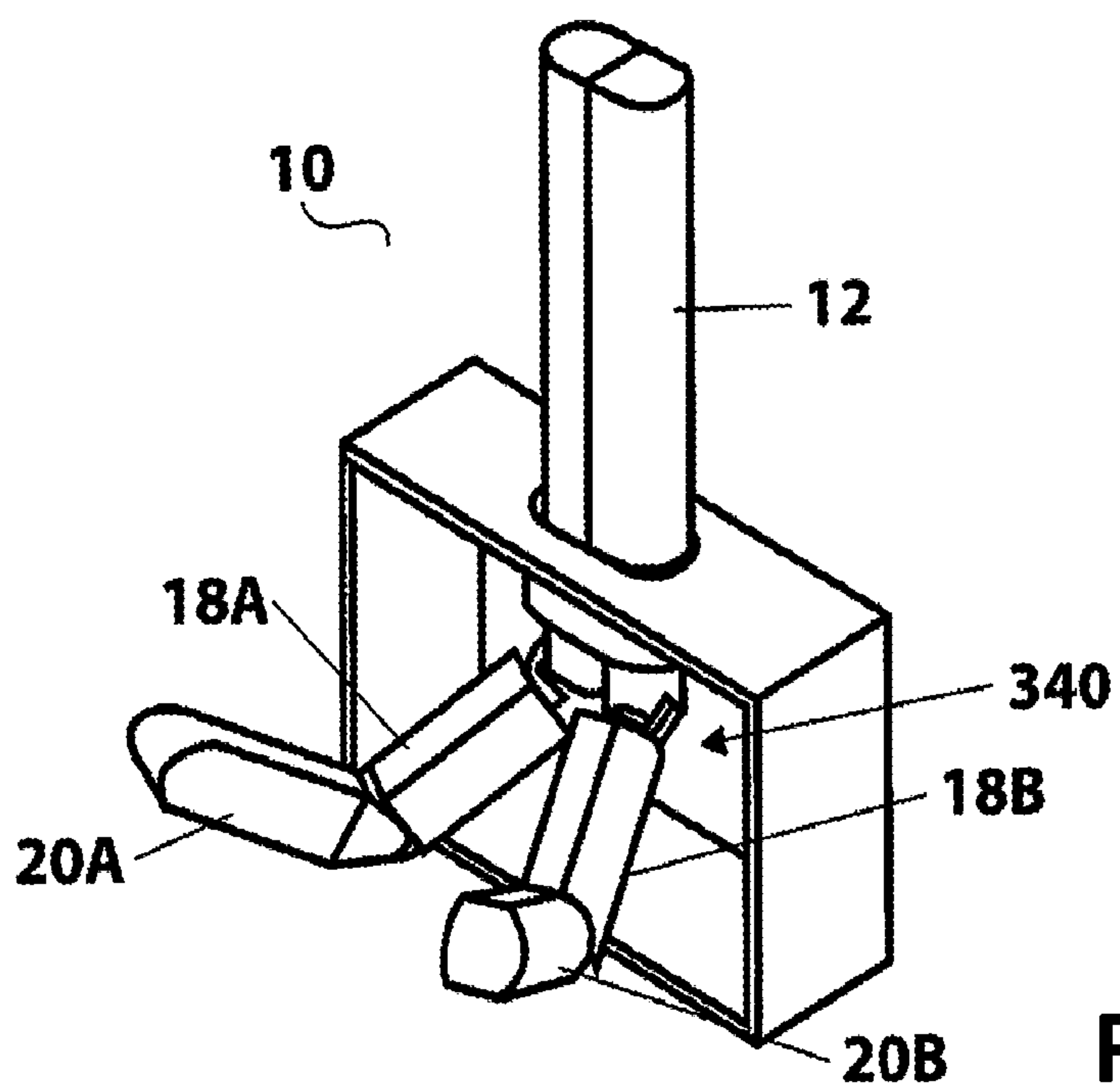


FIG. 16D

21/52

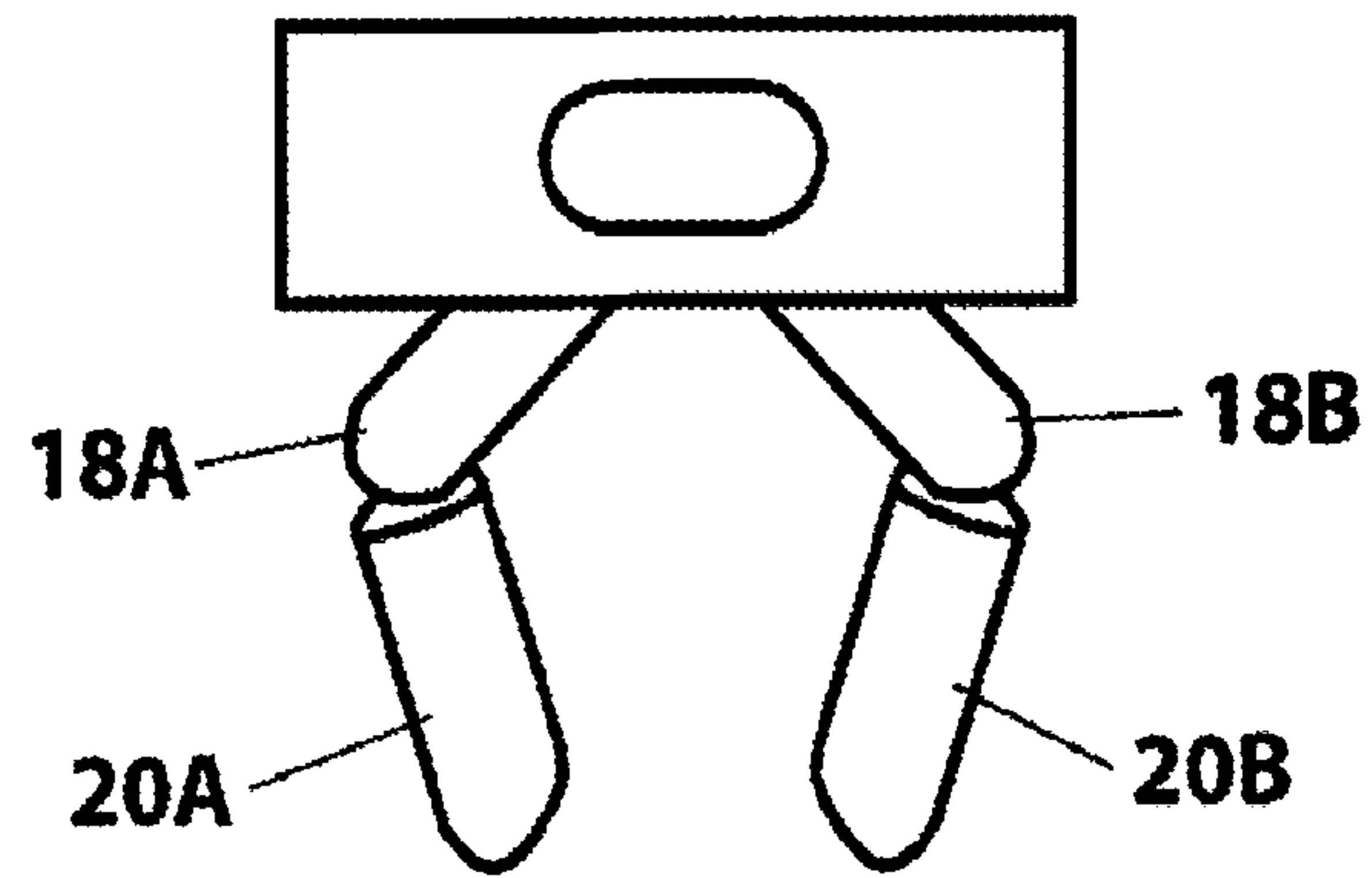


FIG. 17A

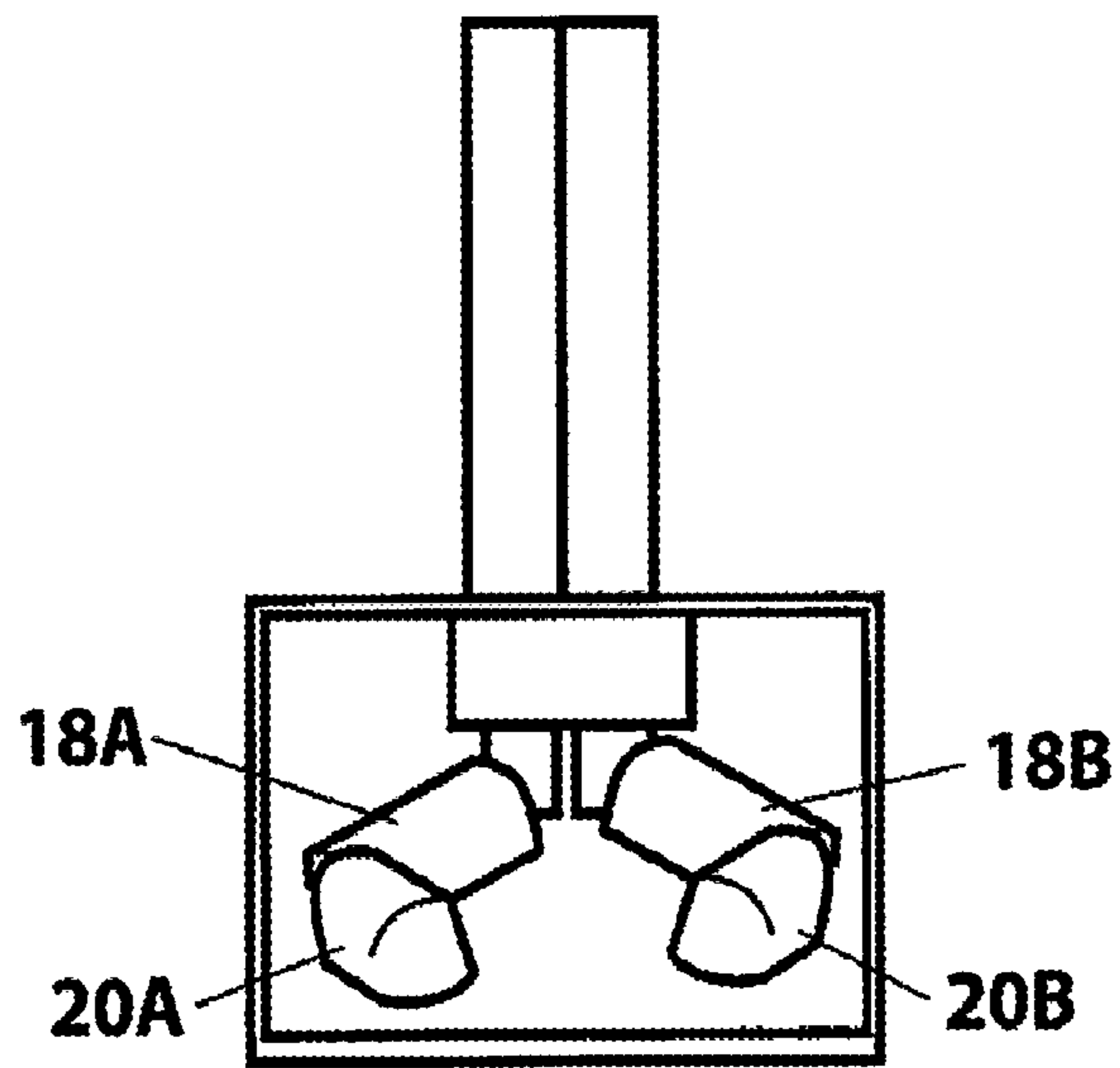


FIG. 17B

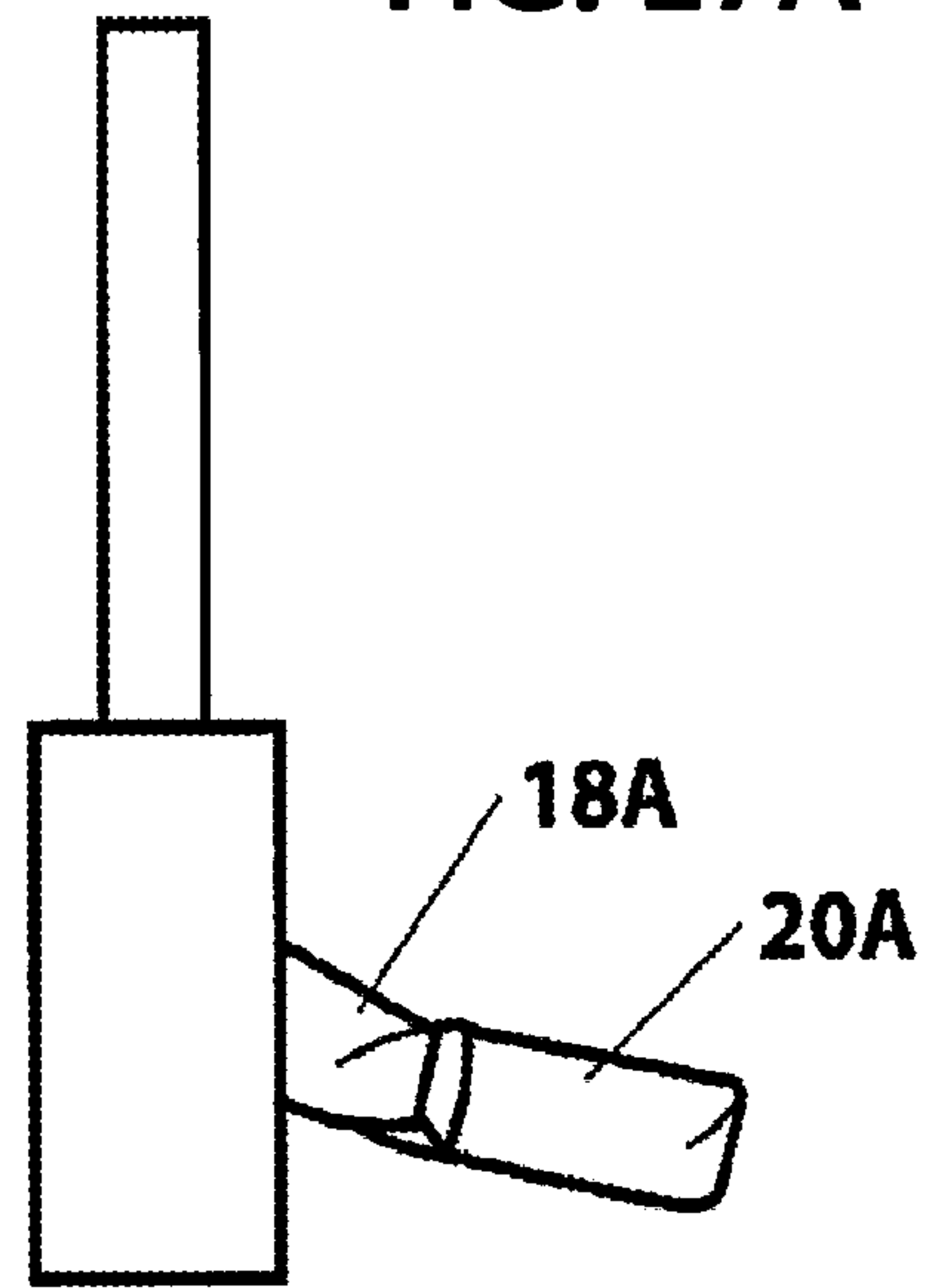


FIG. 17C

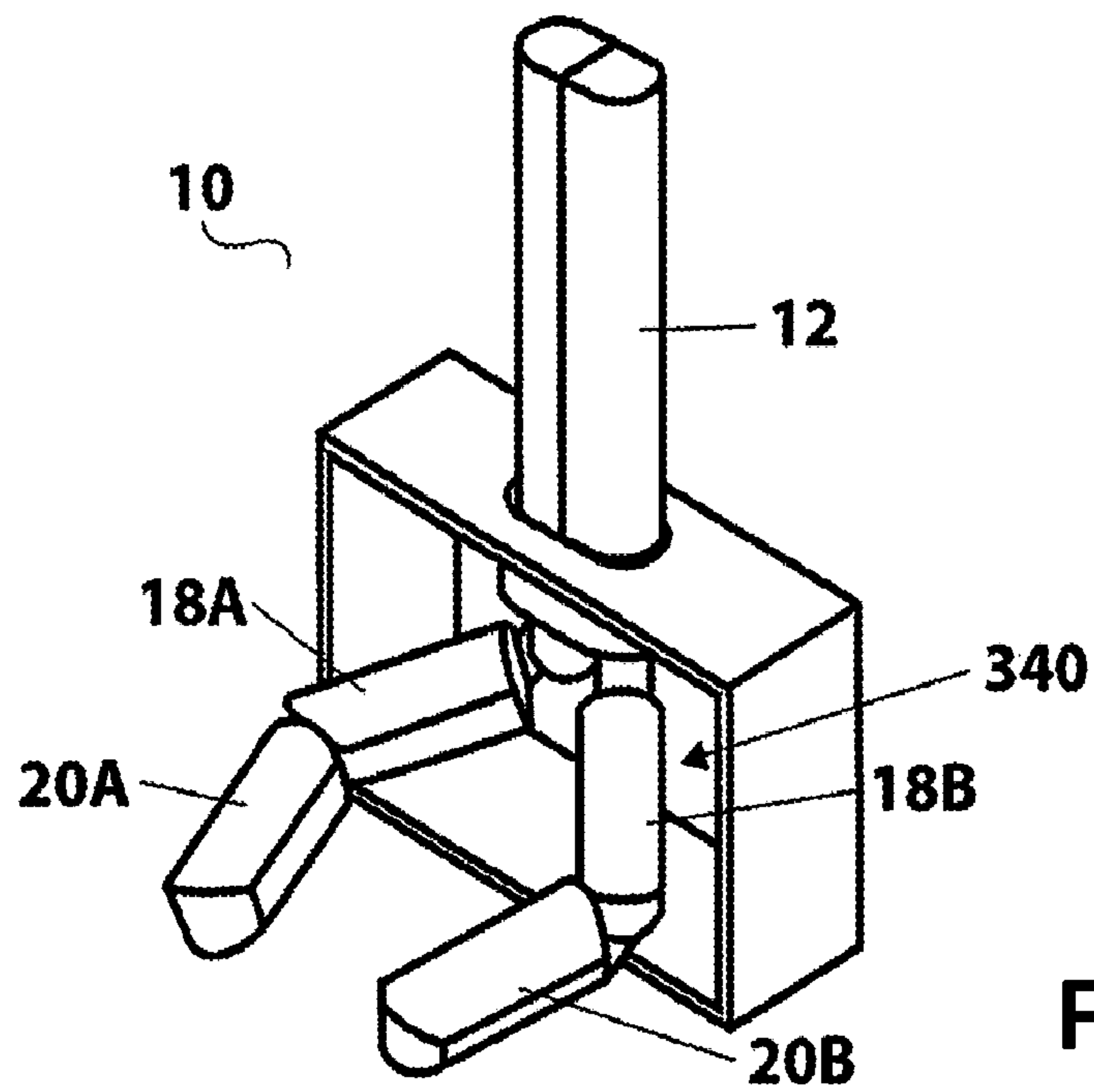
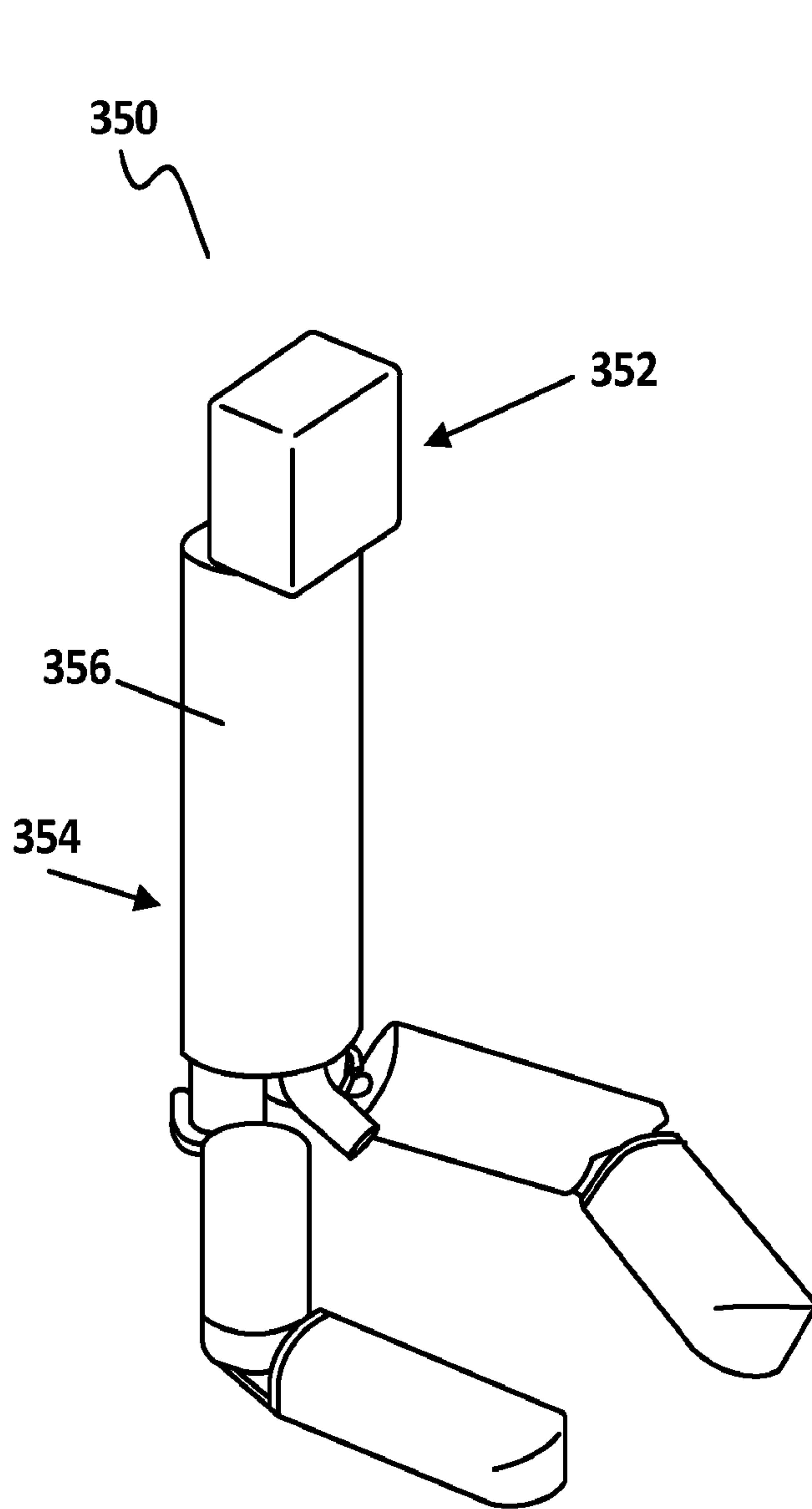
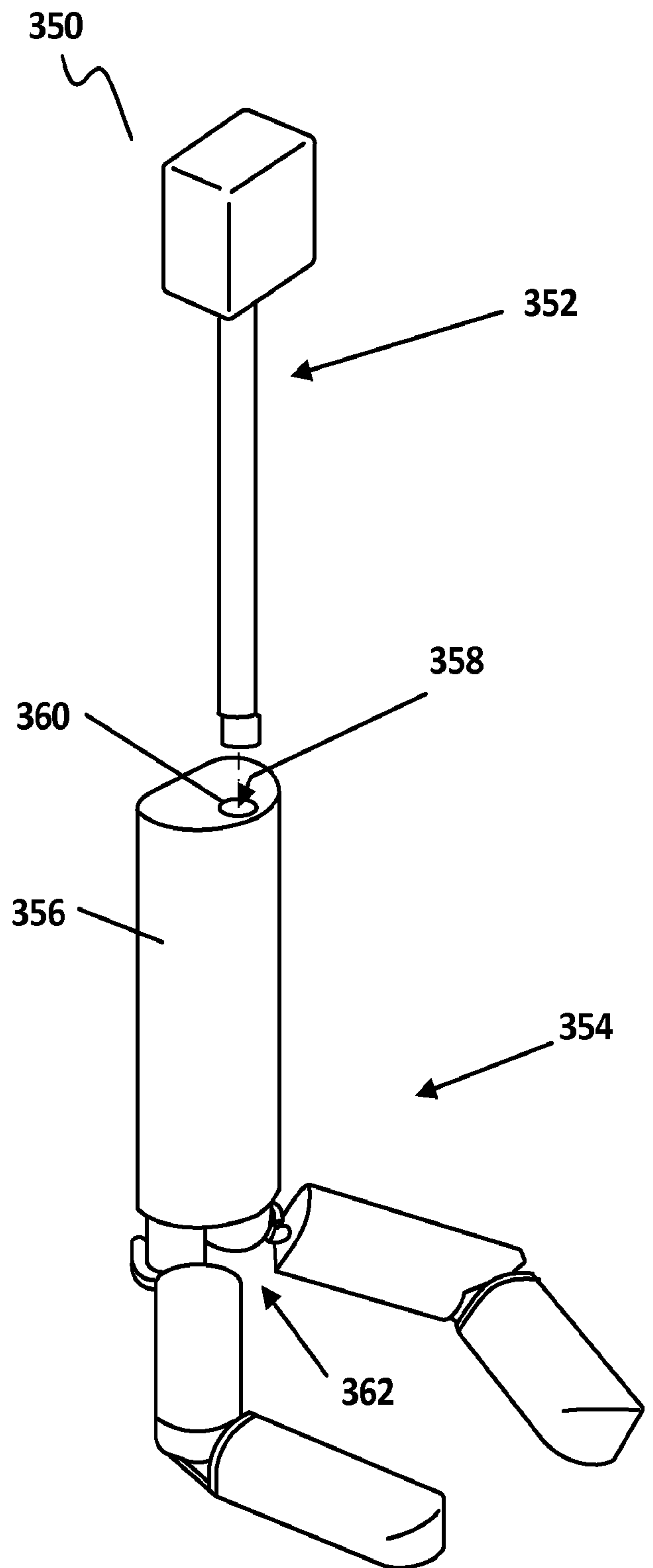
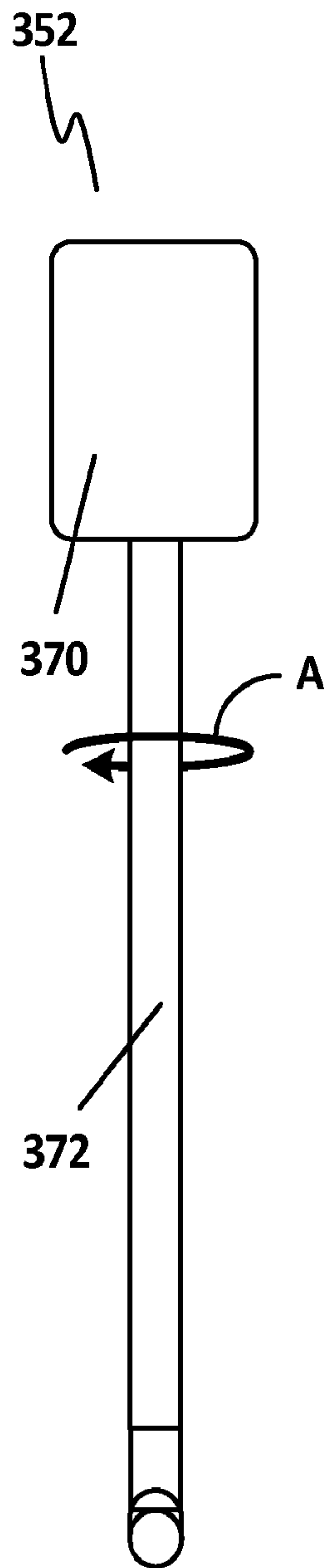
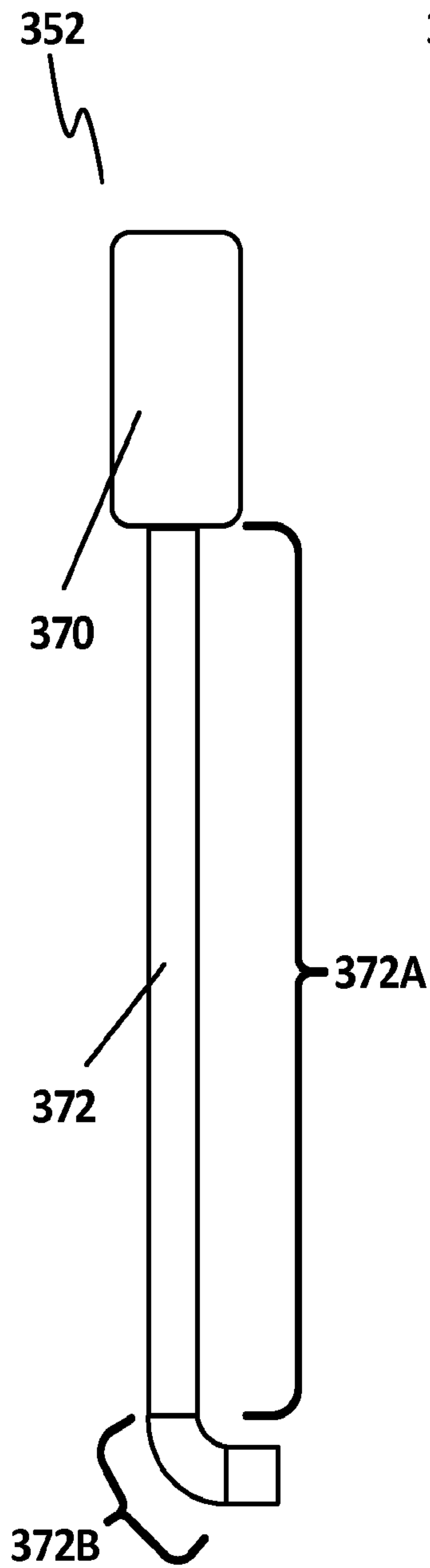
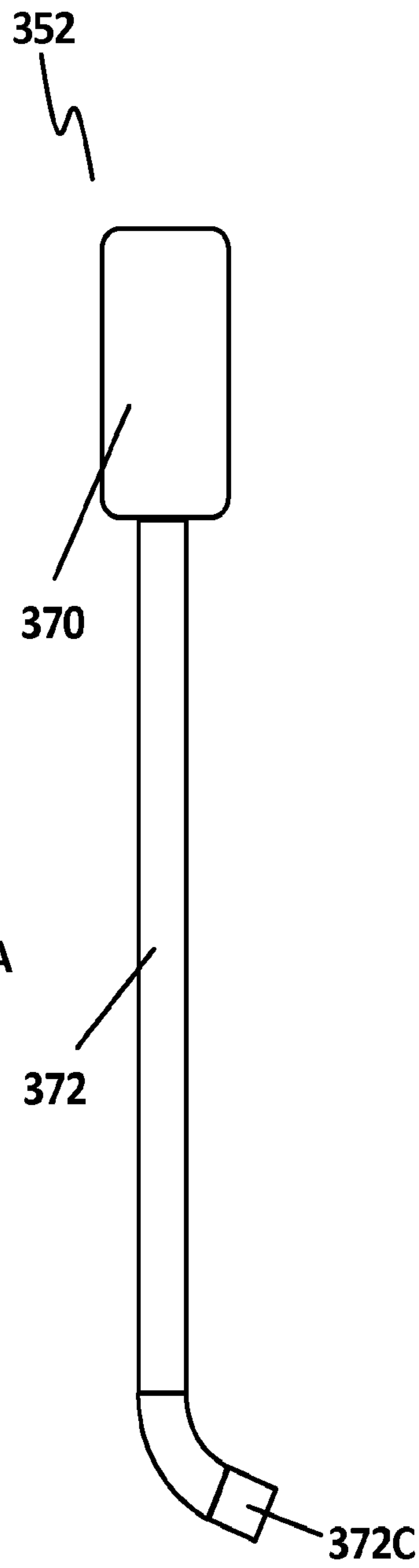
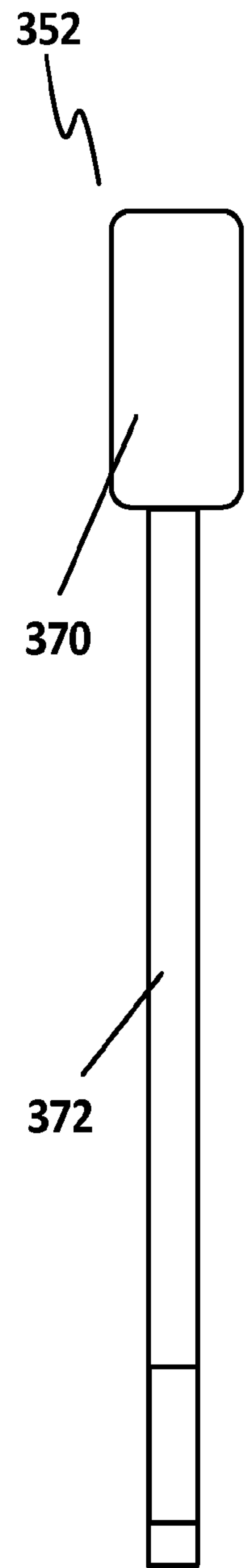


FIG. 17D

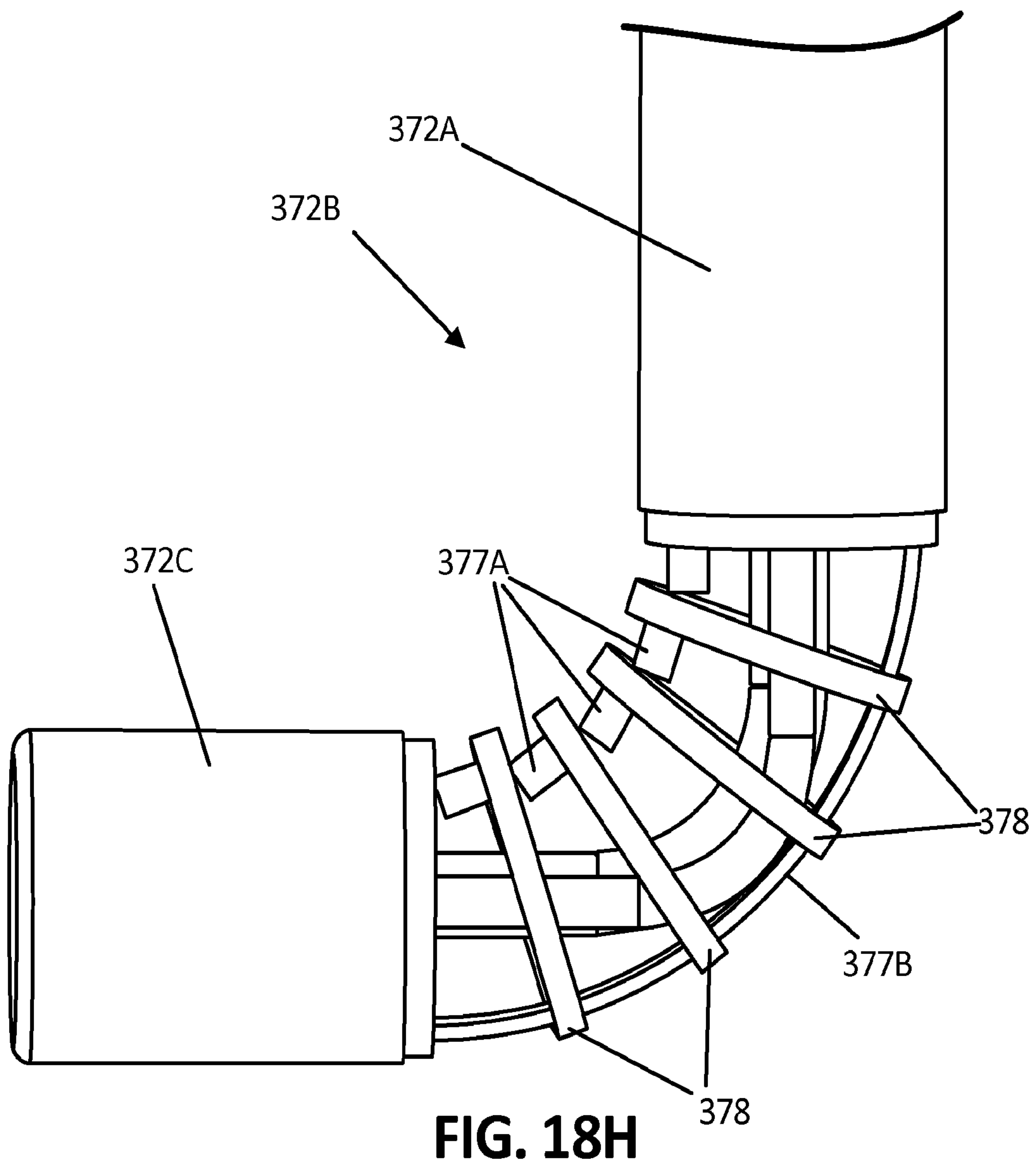
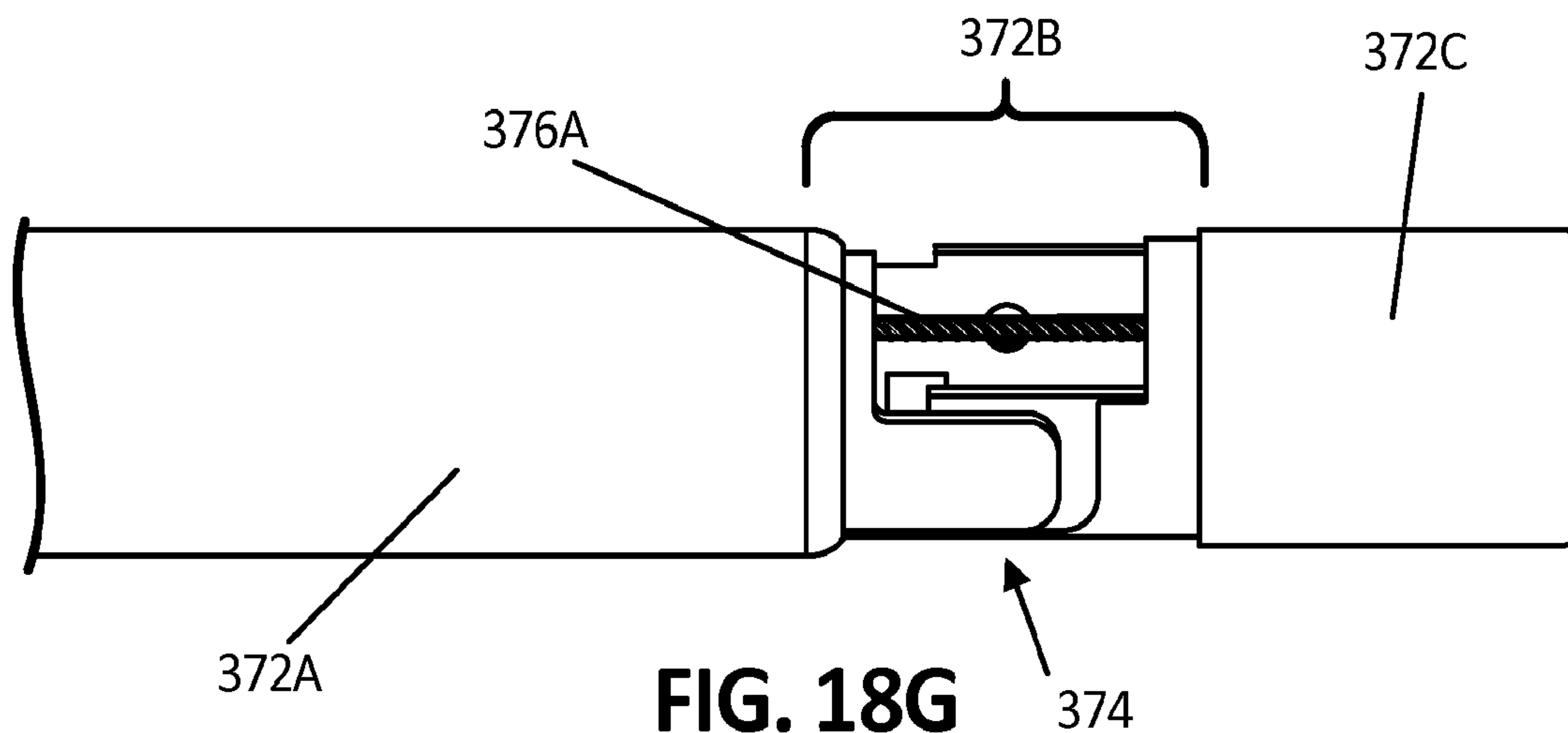
22/52

**FIG. 18A****FIG. 18B**

23/52

**FIG. 18C****FIG. 18D****FIG. 18E****FIG. 18F**

24/52



25/52

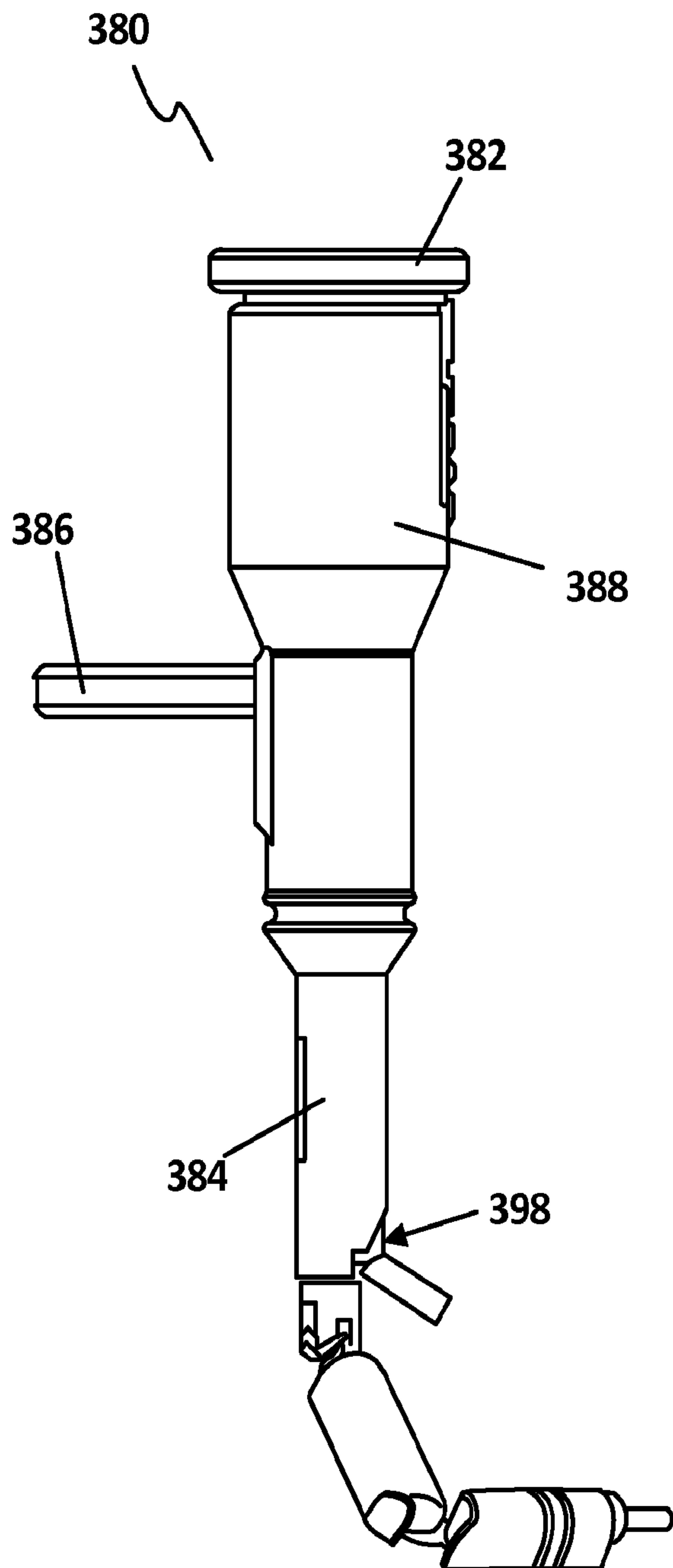


FIG. 19A

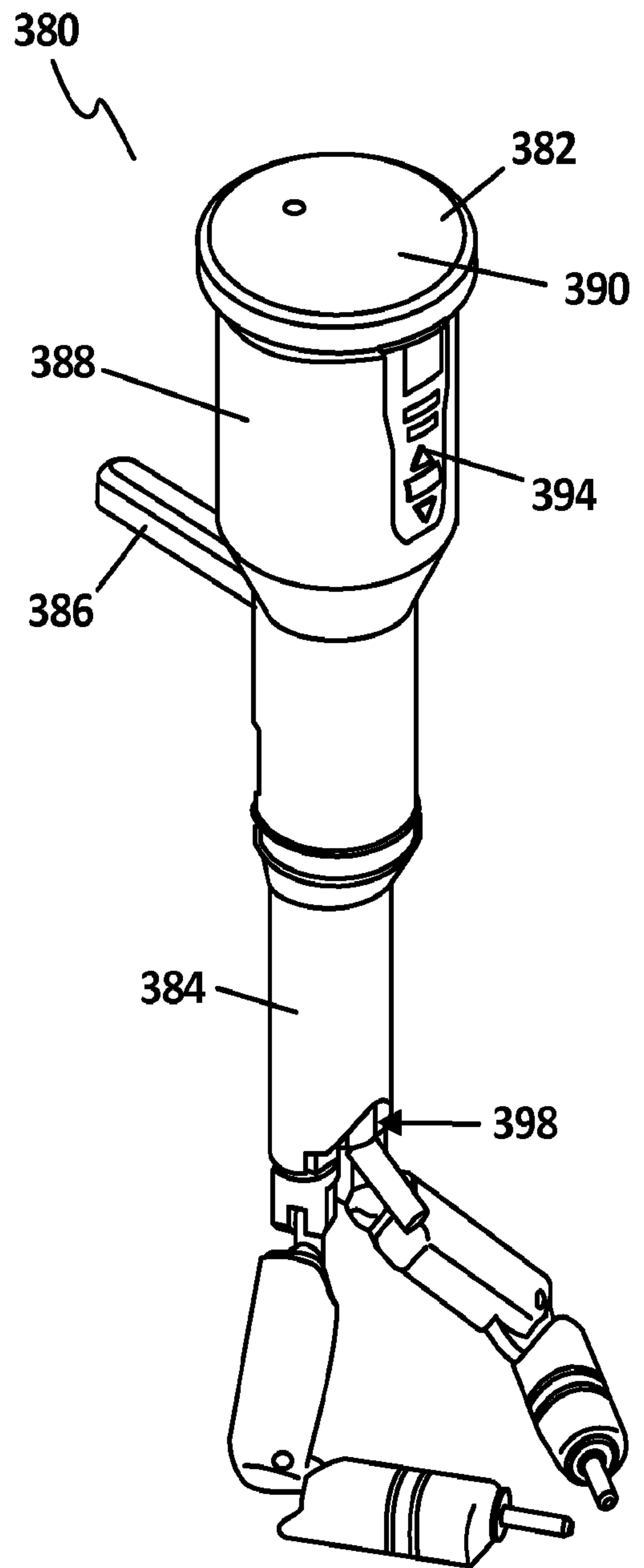


FIG. 19B

26/52

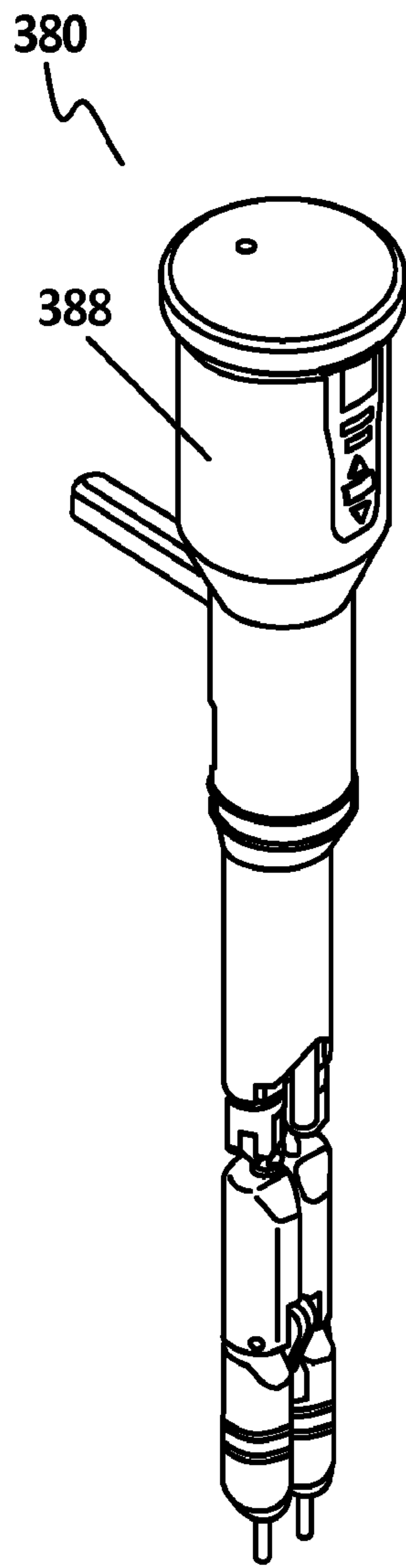


FIG. 19C

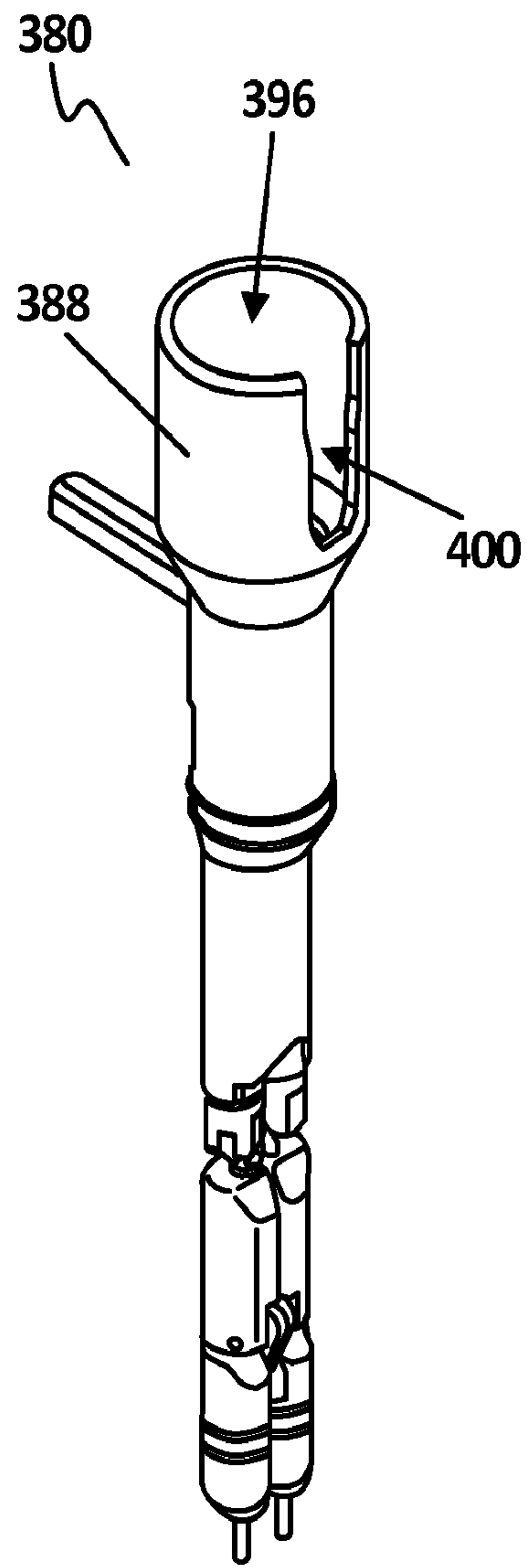


FIG. 19D

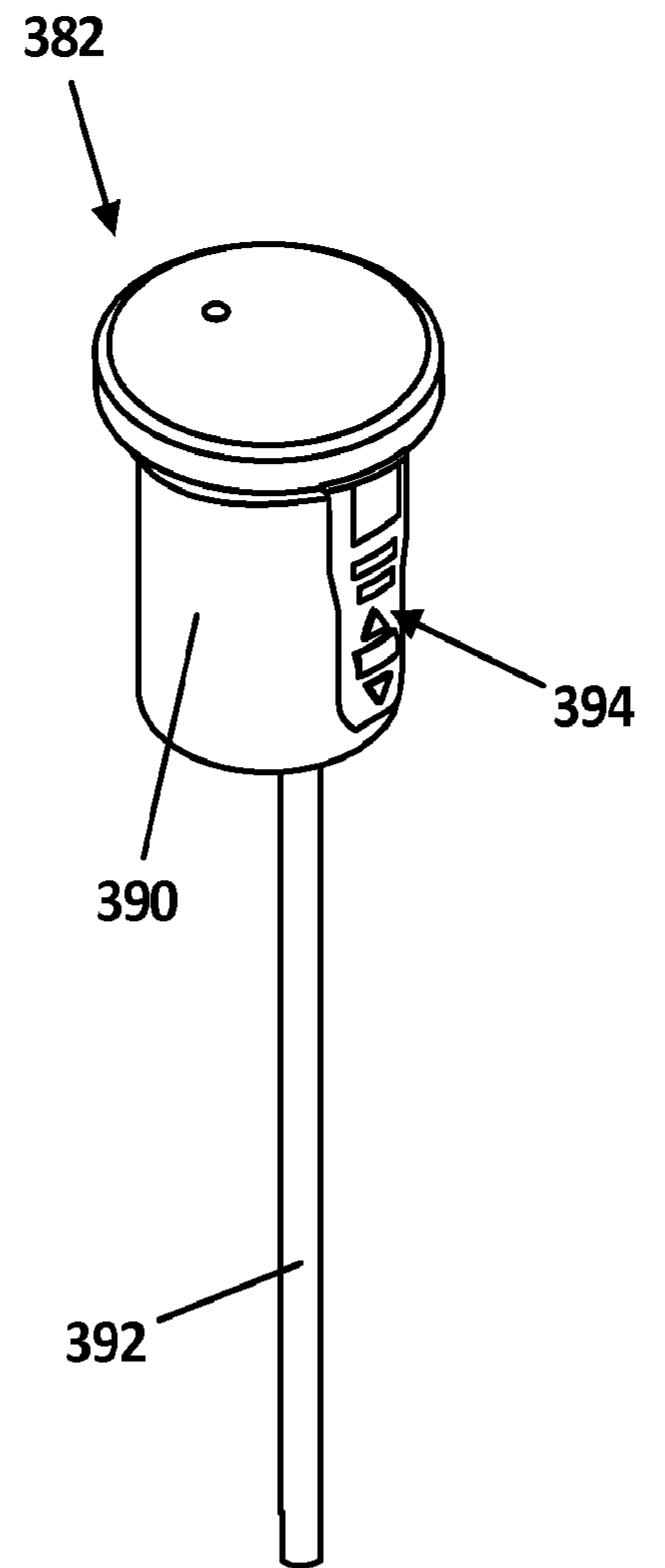


FIG. 19E

27/52

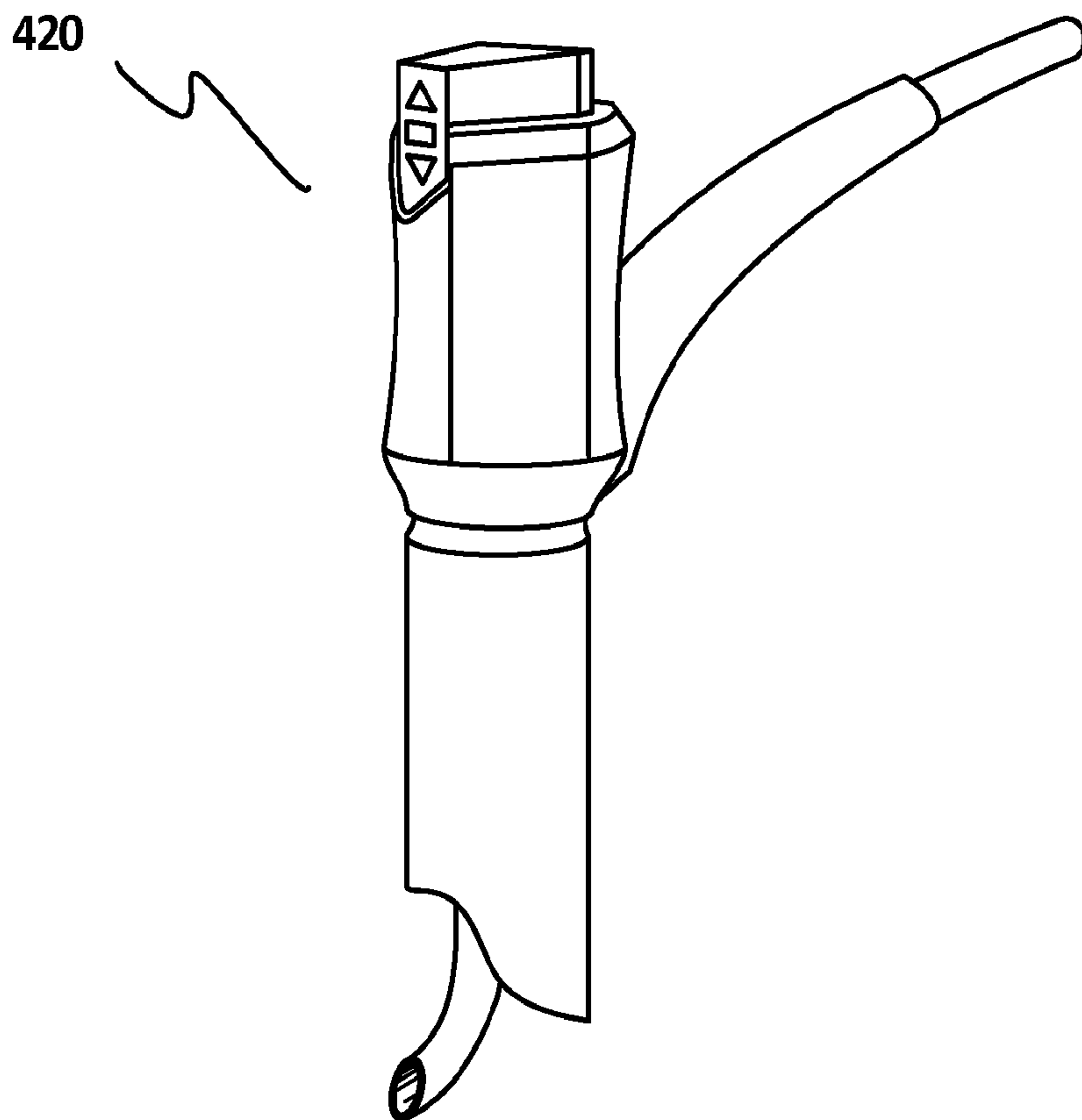


FIG. 20A

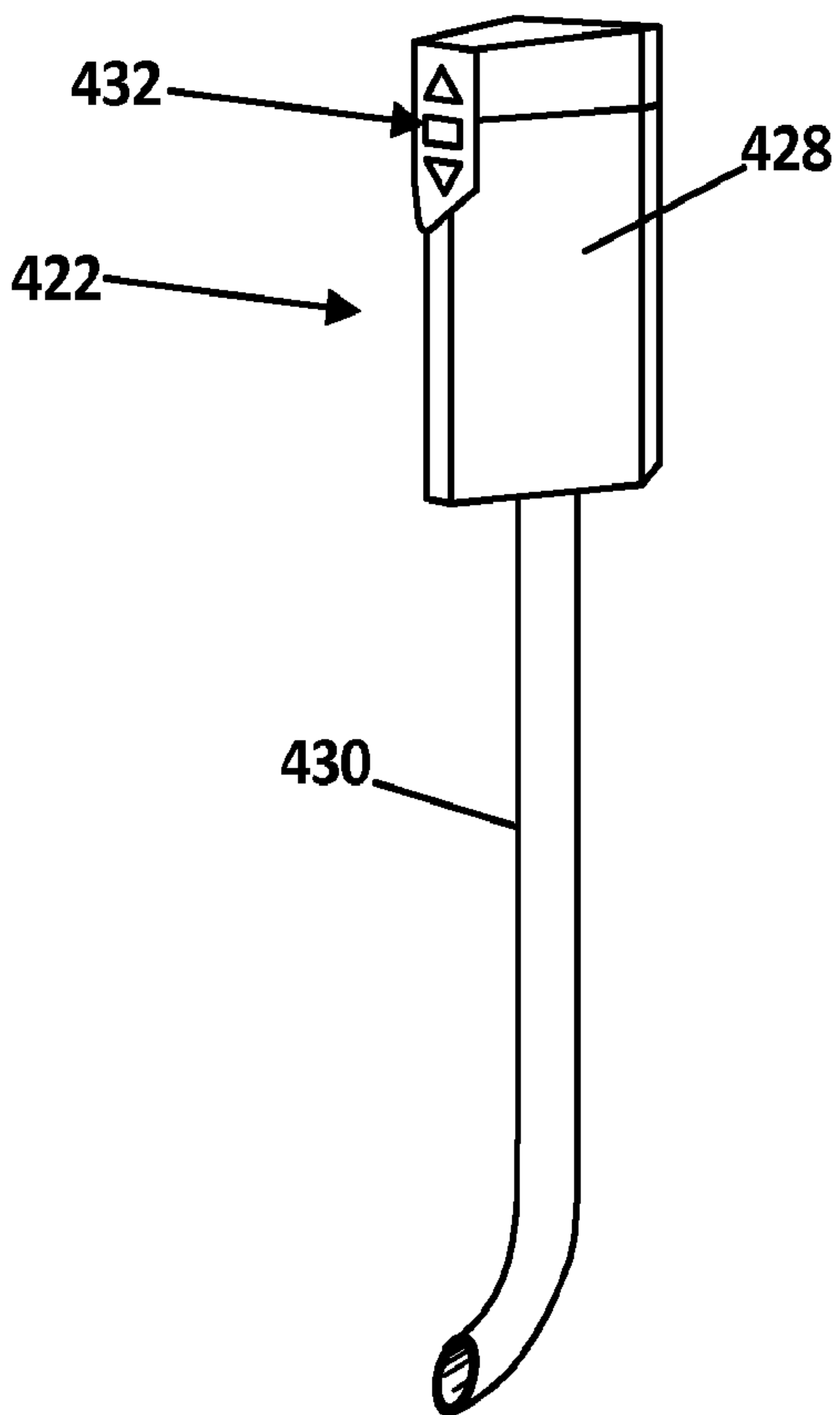


FIG. 20B

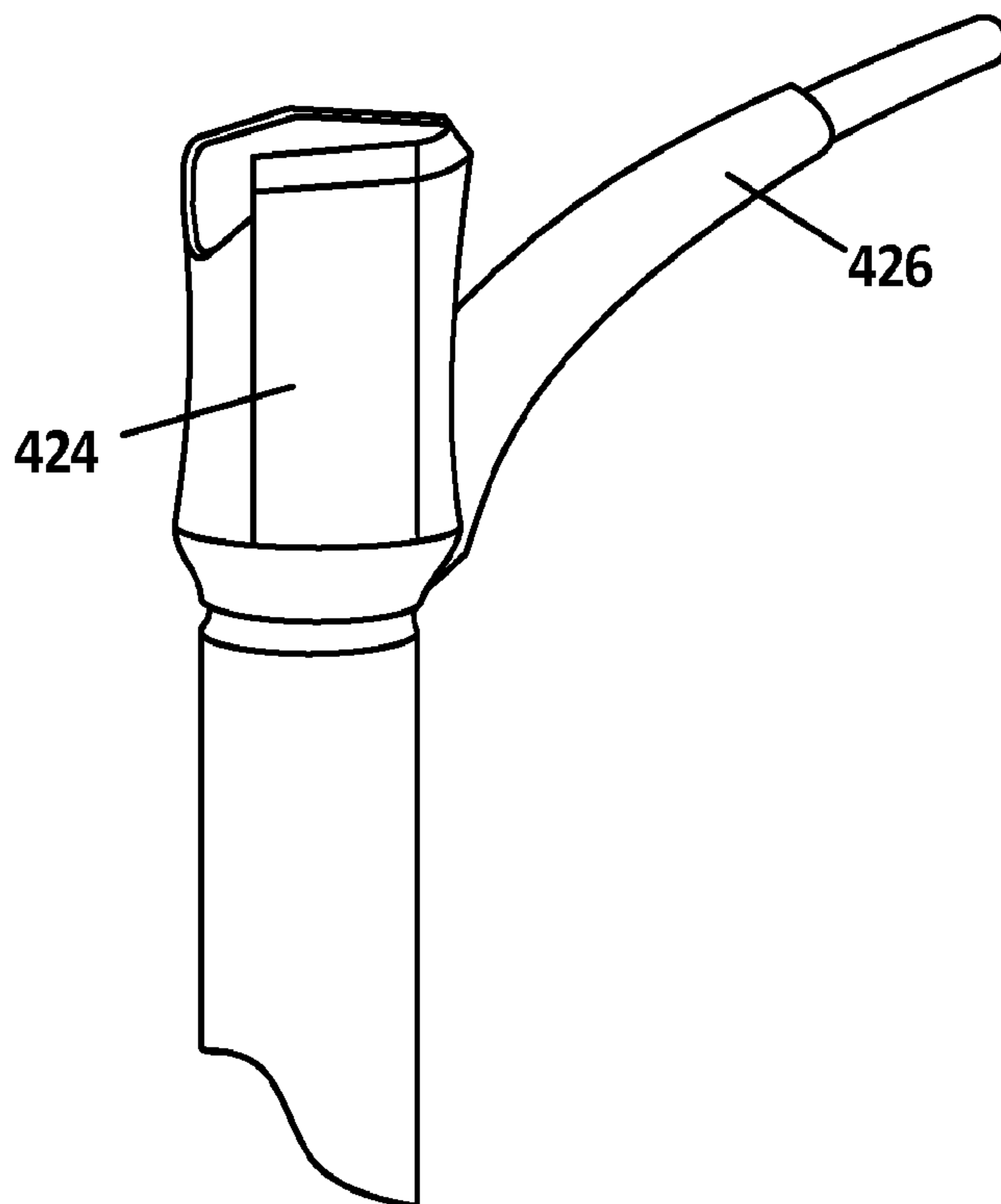
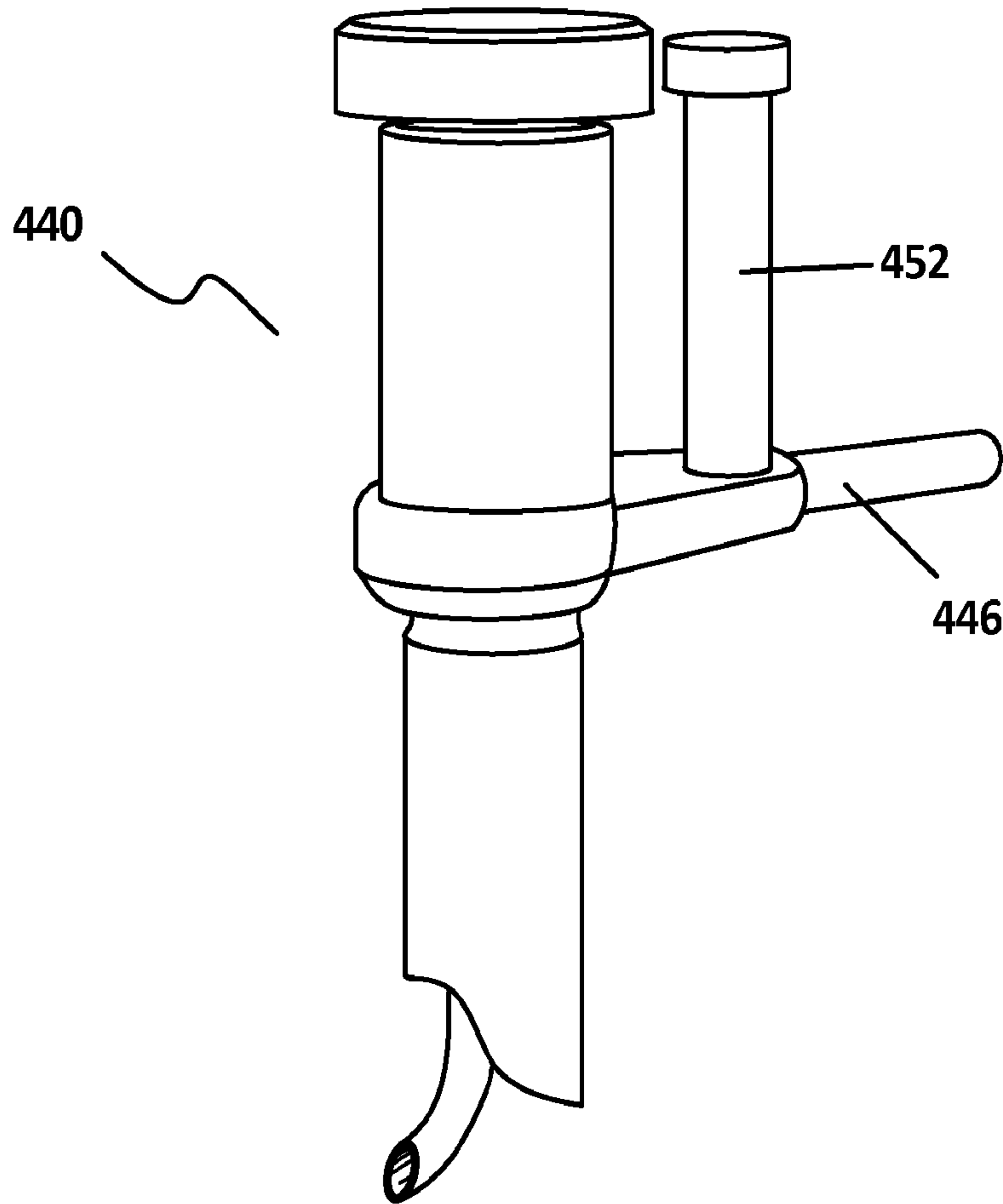
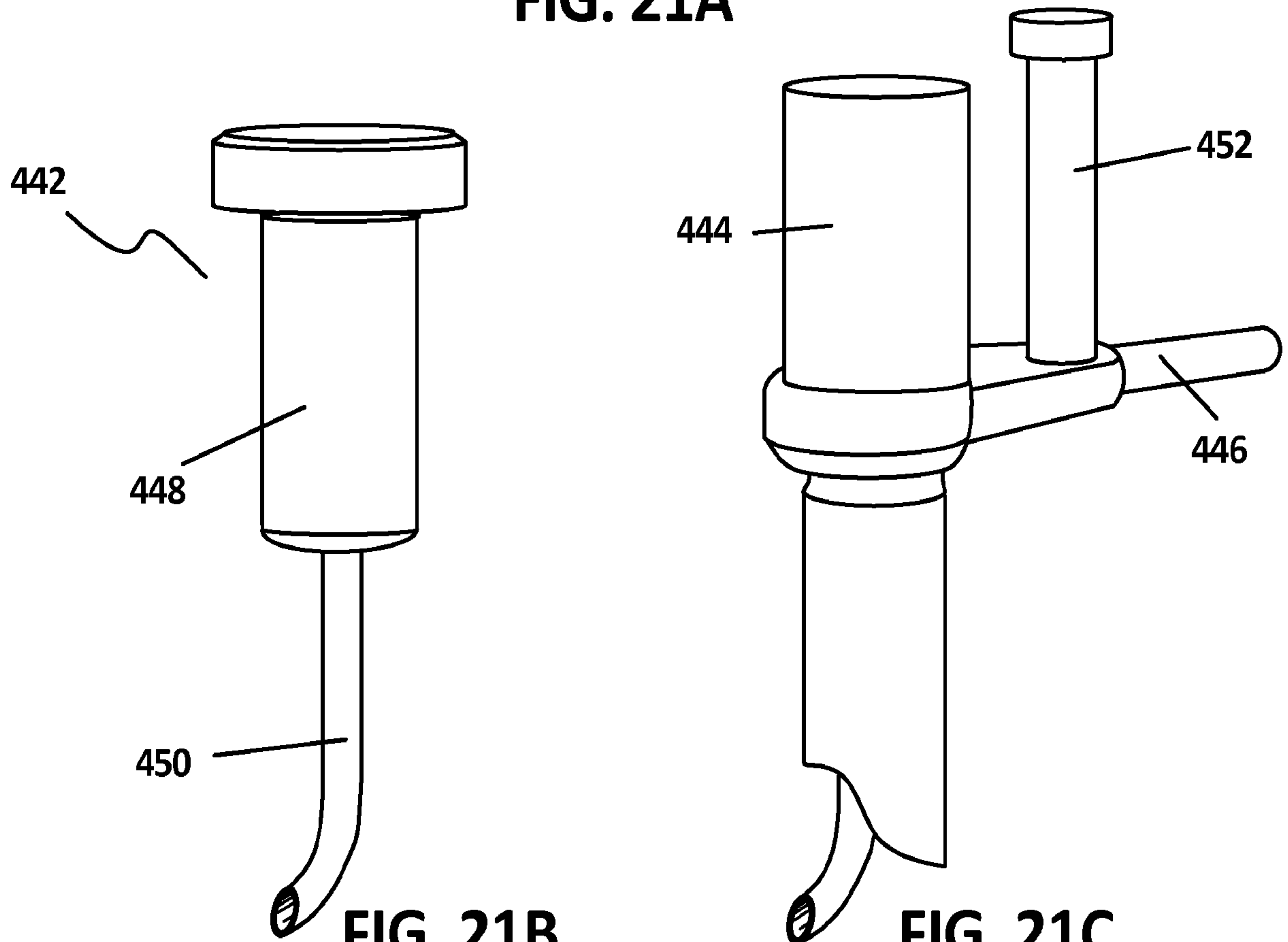


FIG. 20C

28/52

**FIG. 21A****FIG. 21B****FIG. 21C**

29/52

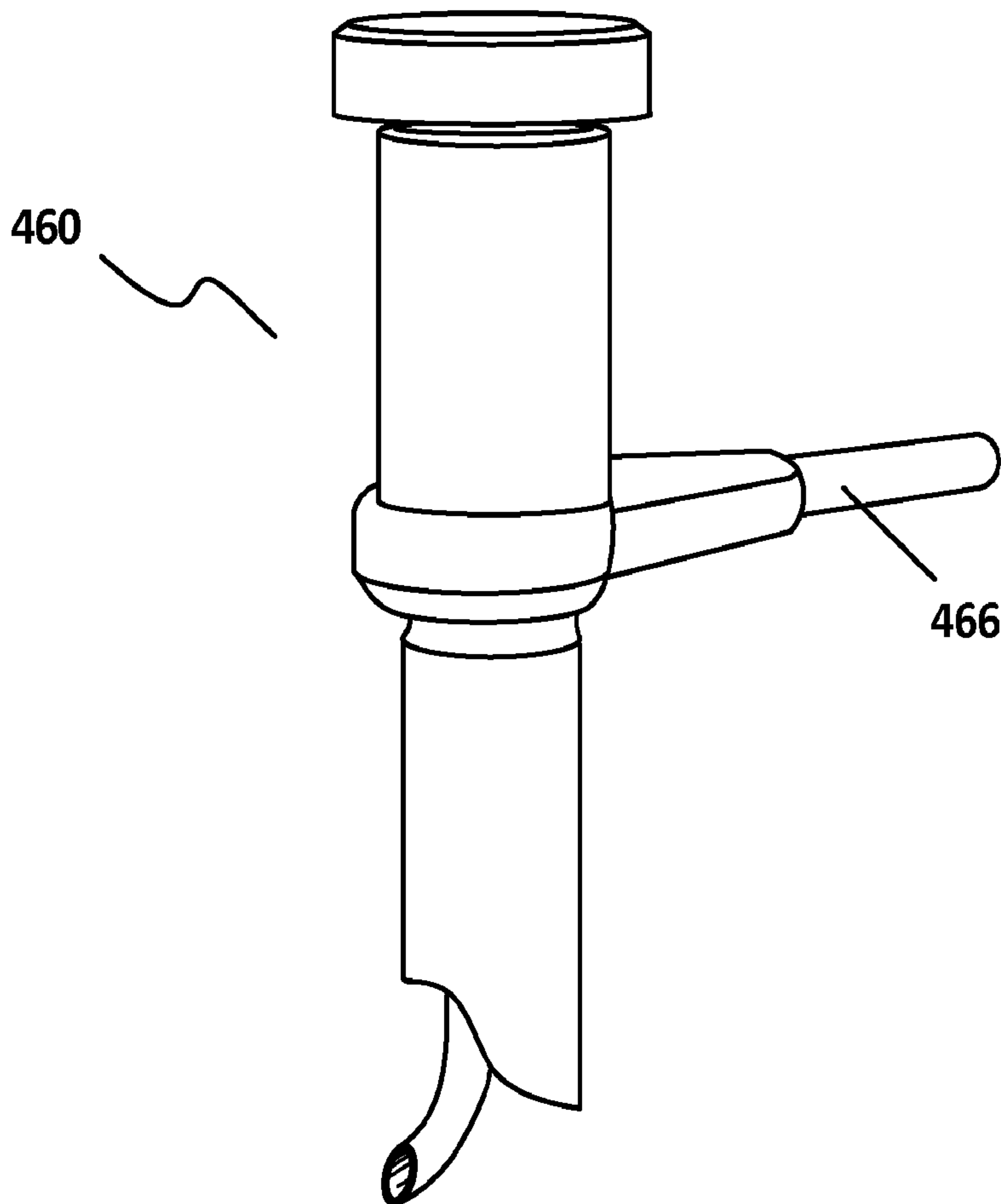


FIG. 22A

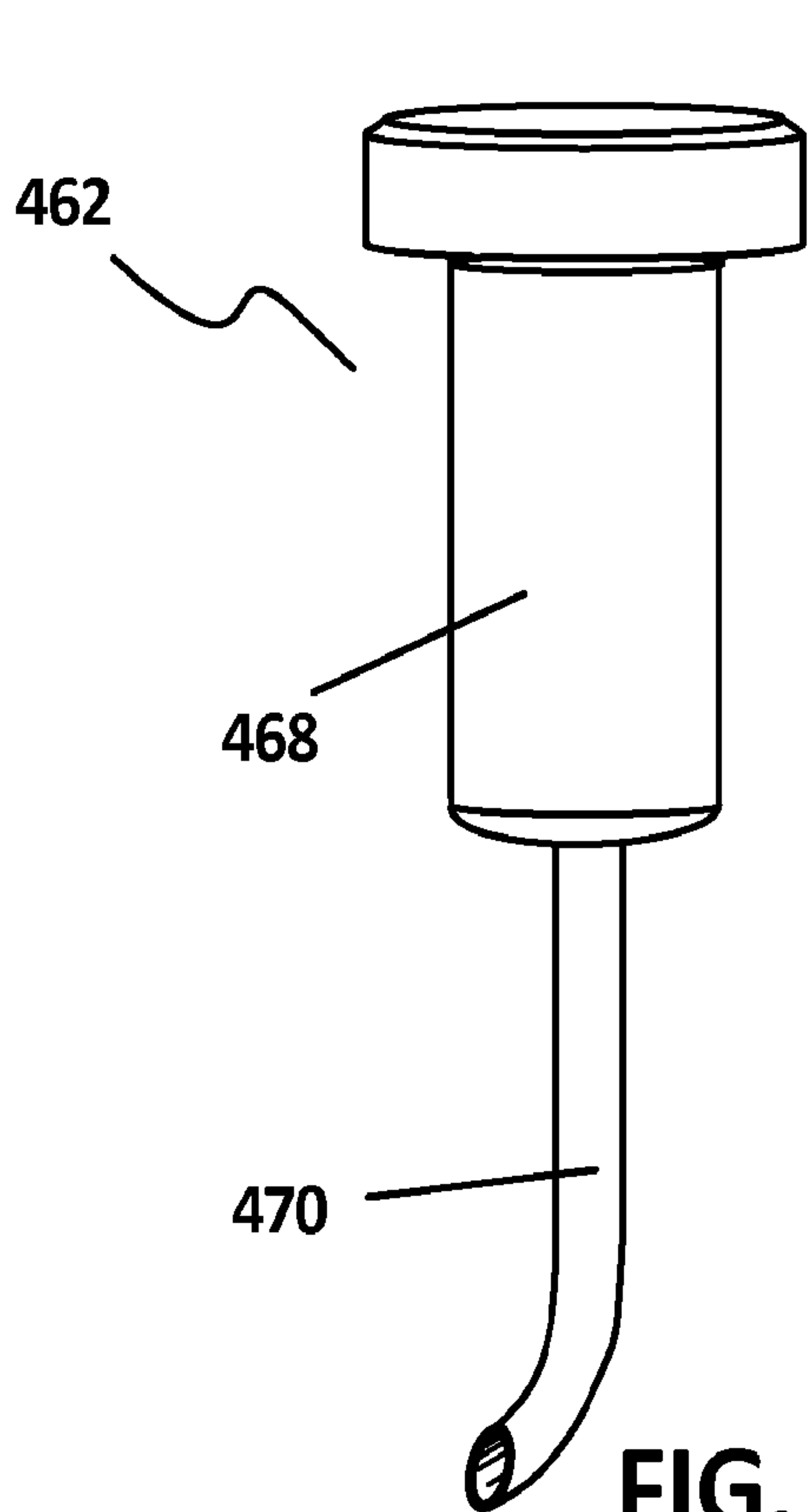


FIG. 22B

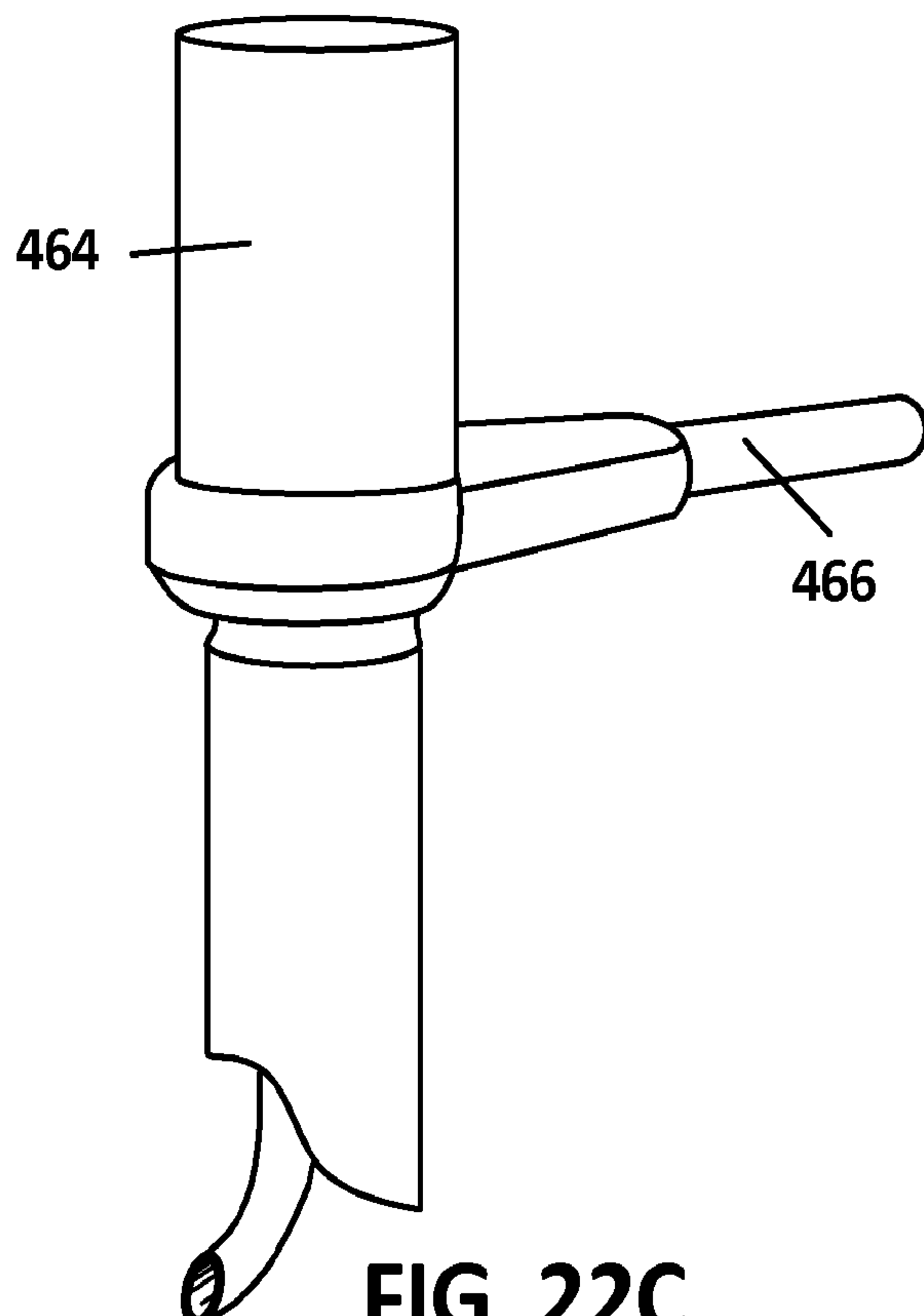
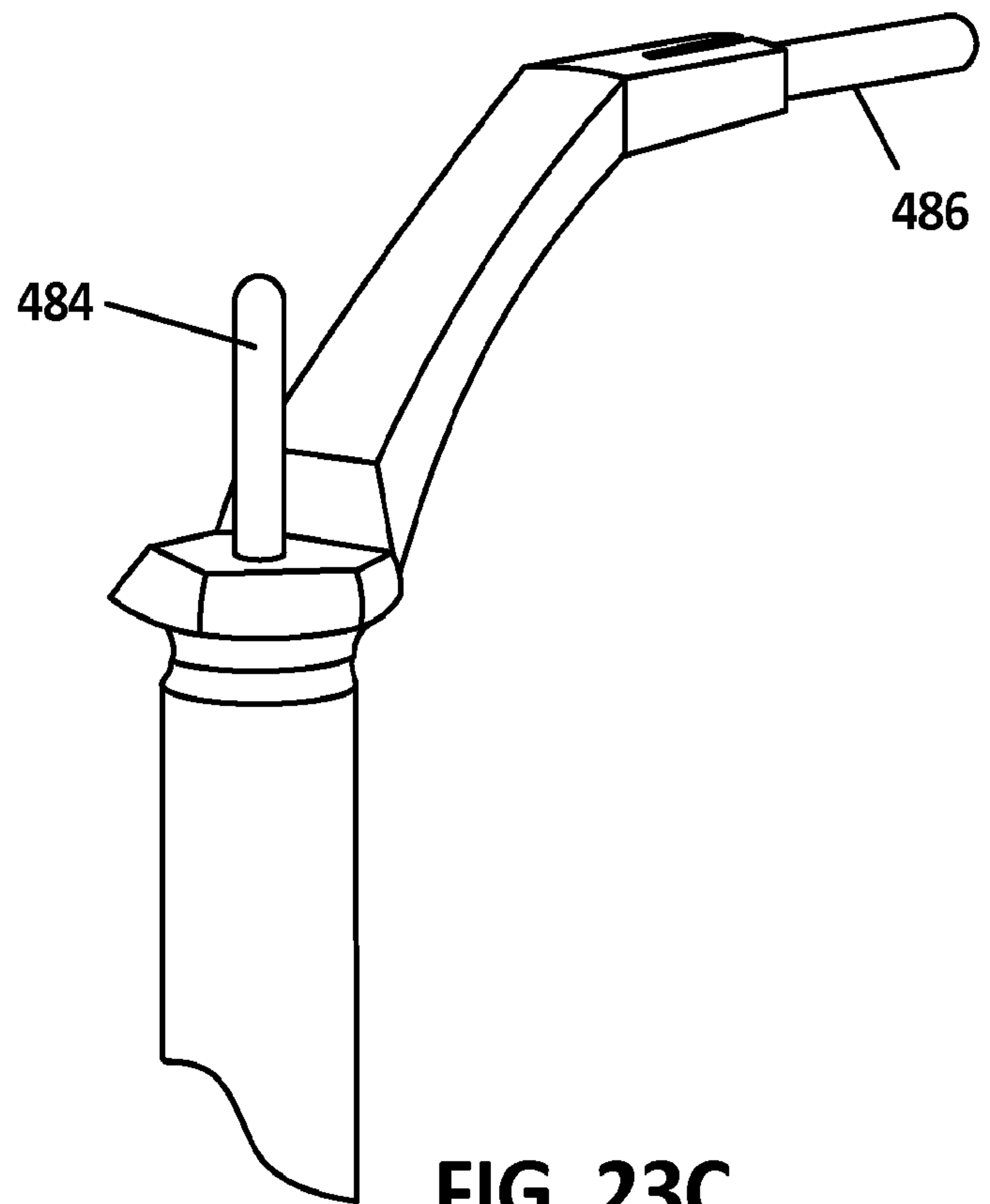
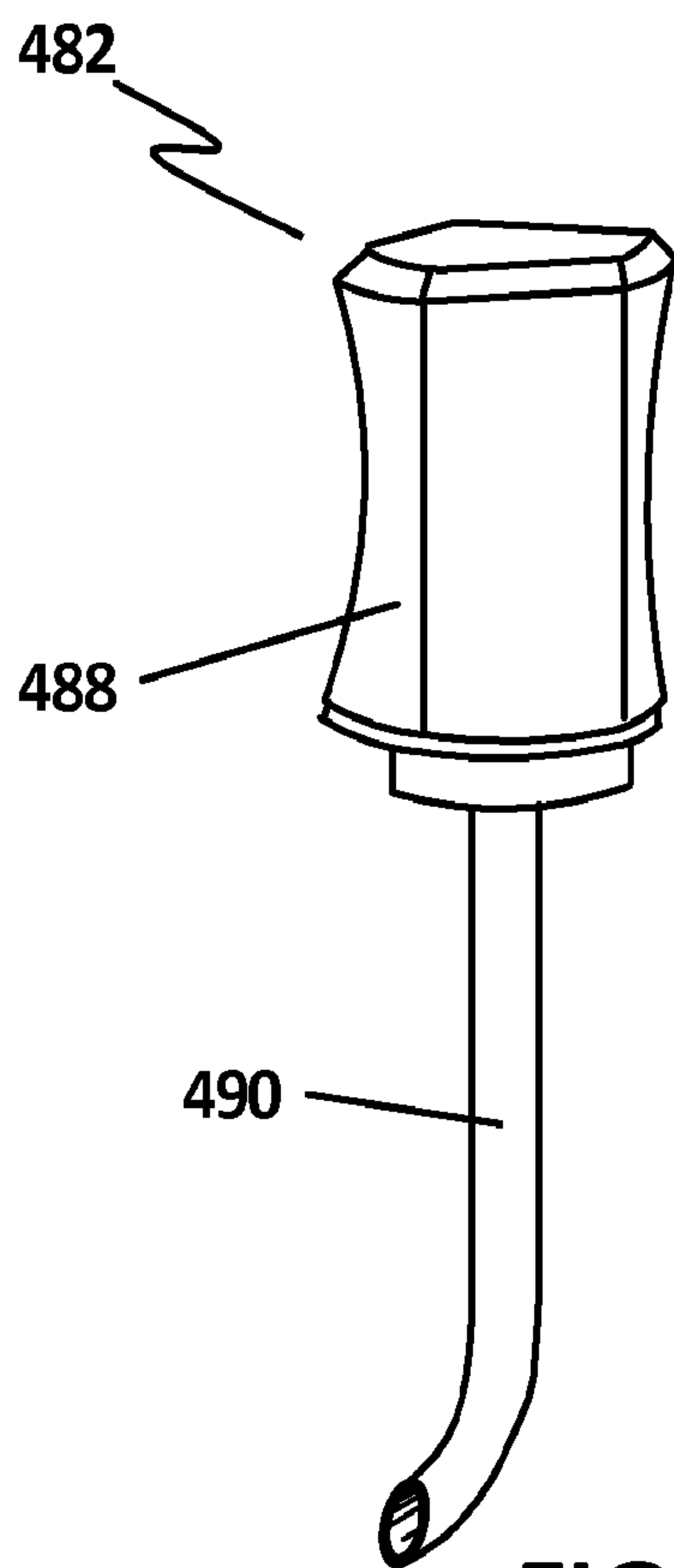
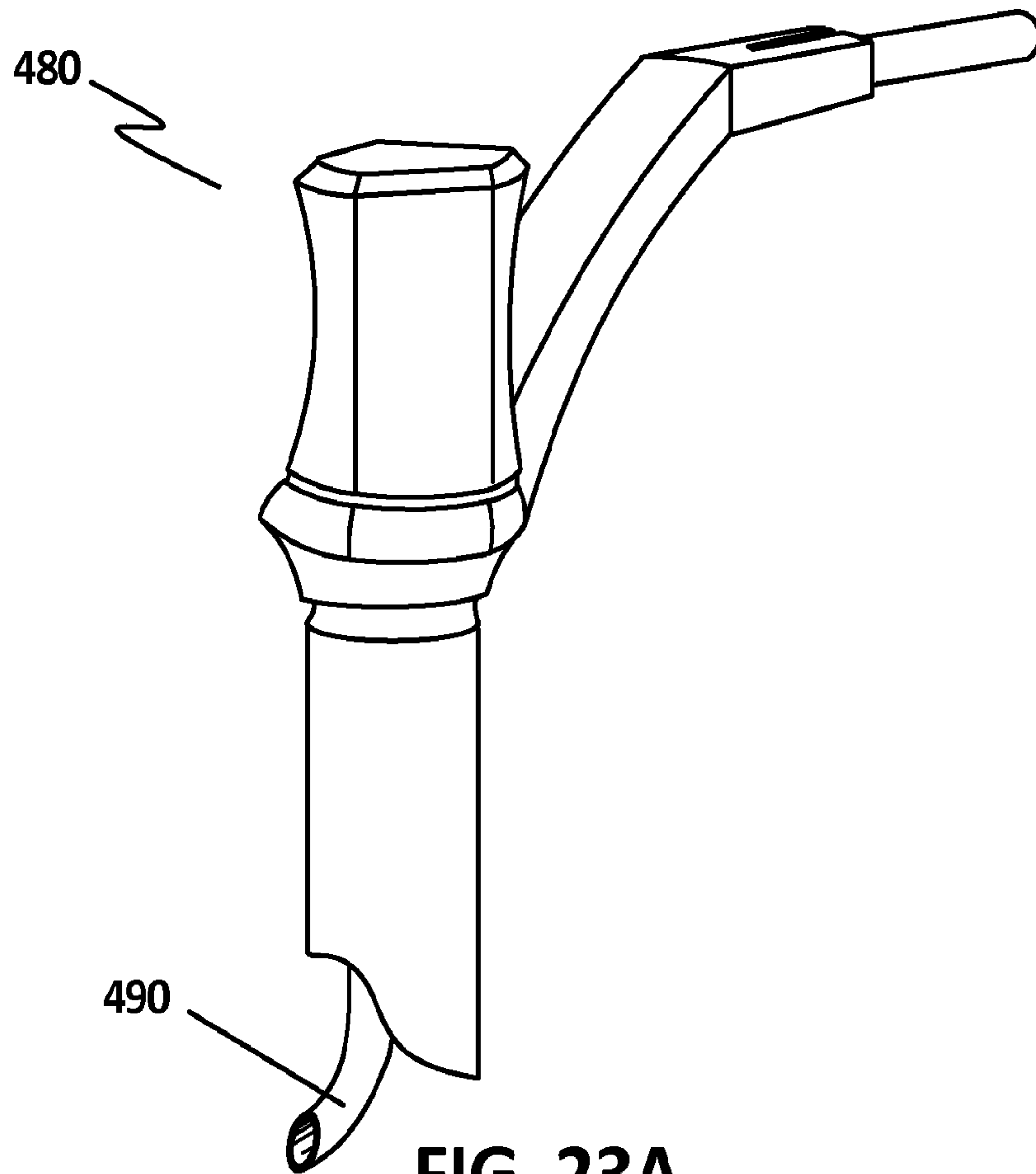
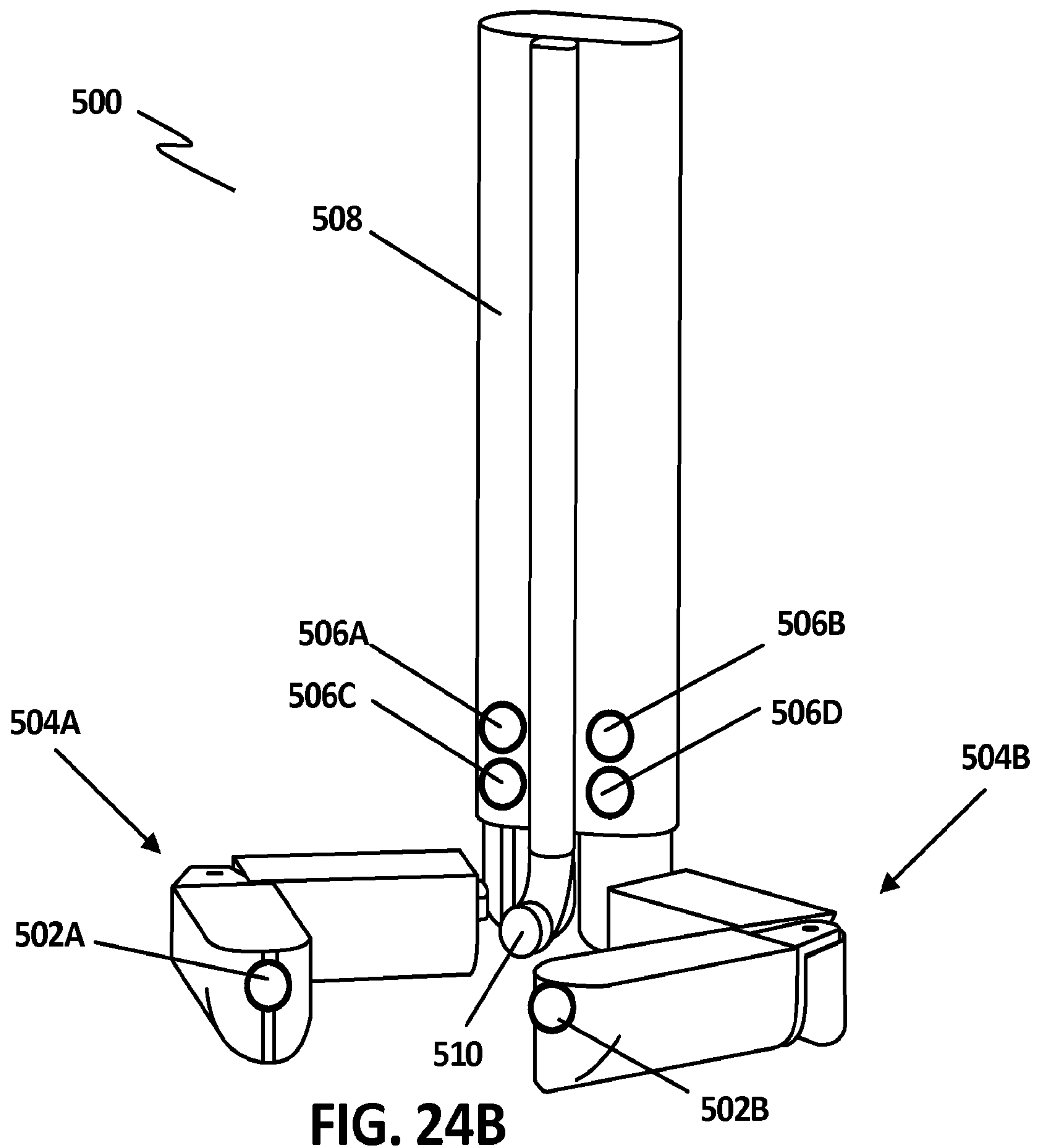
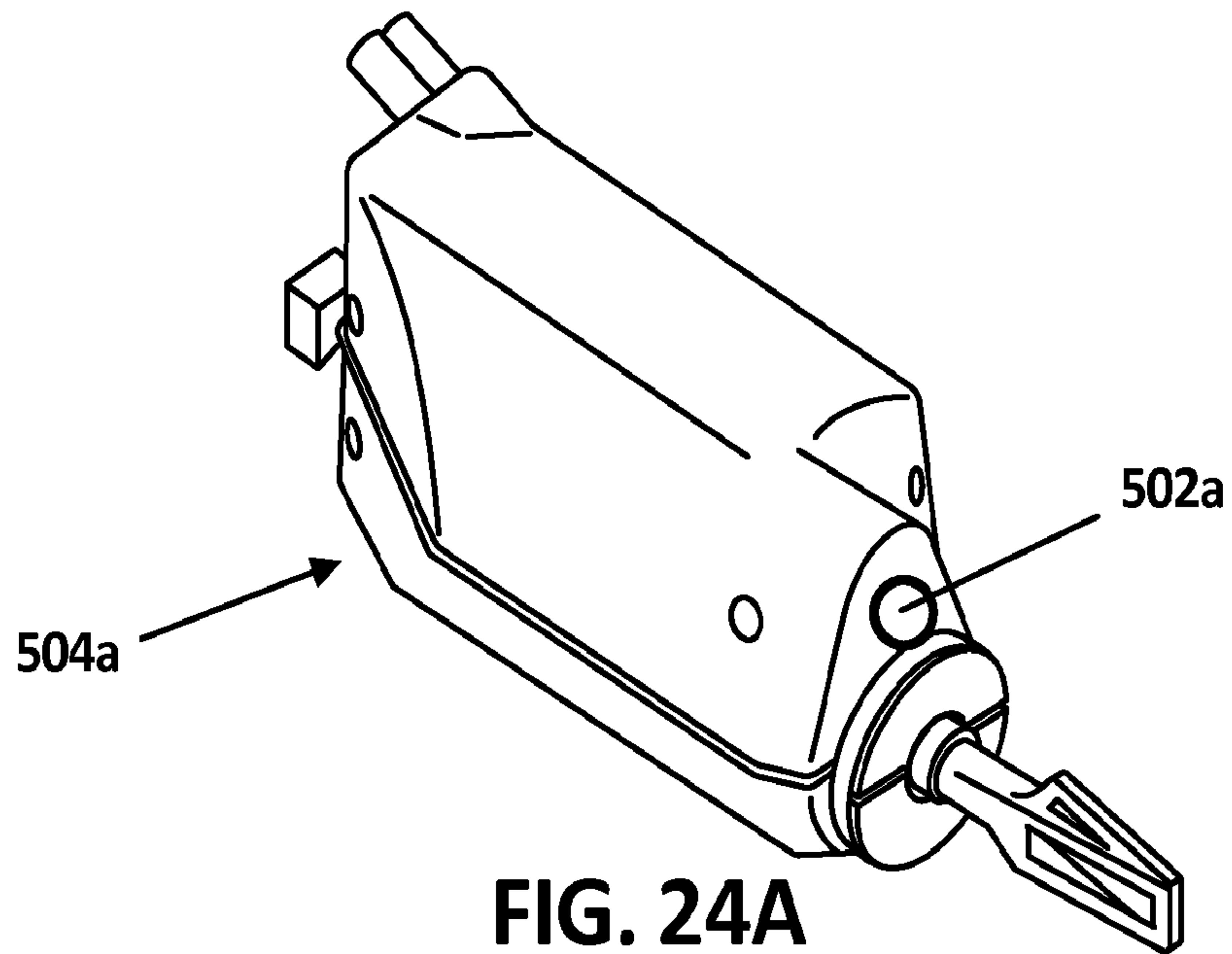


FIG. 22C

30/52



31/52



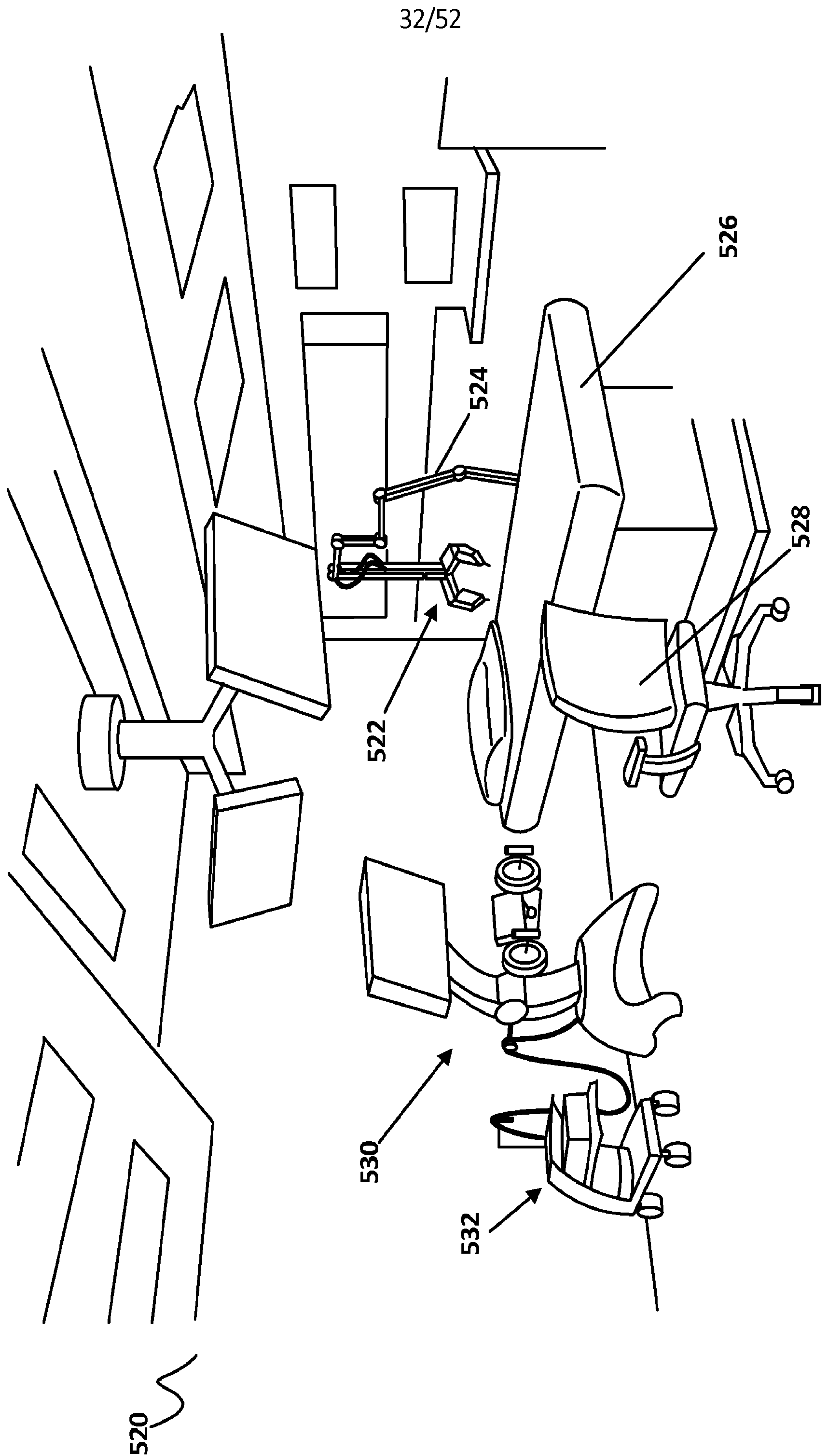


FIG. 25A

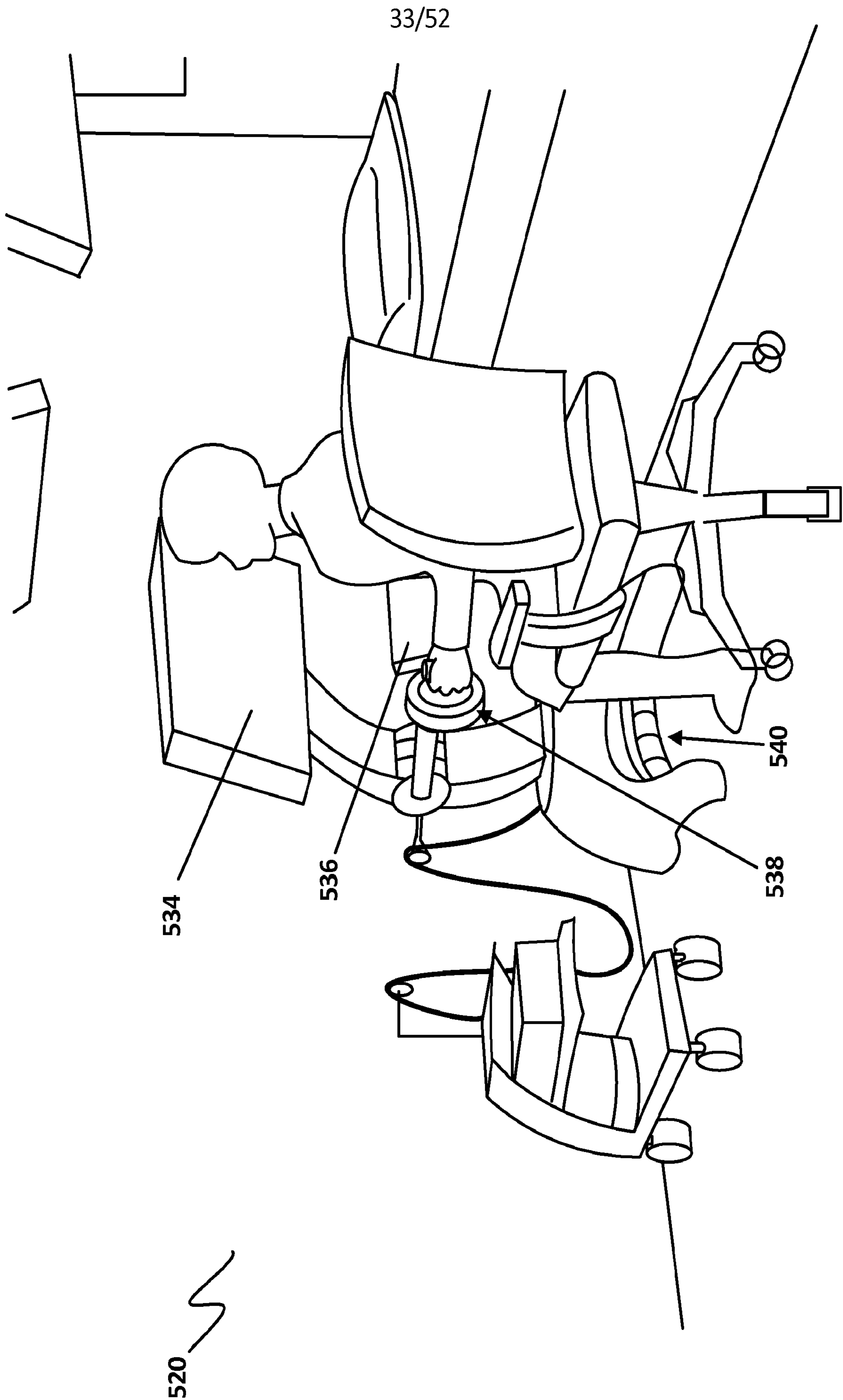


FIG. 25B

34/52

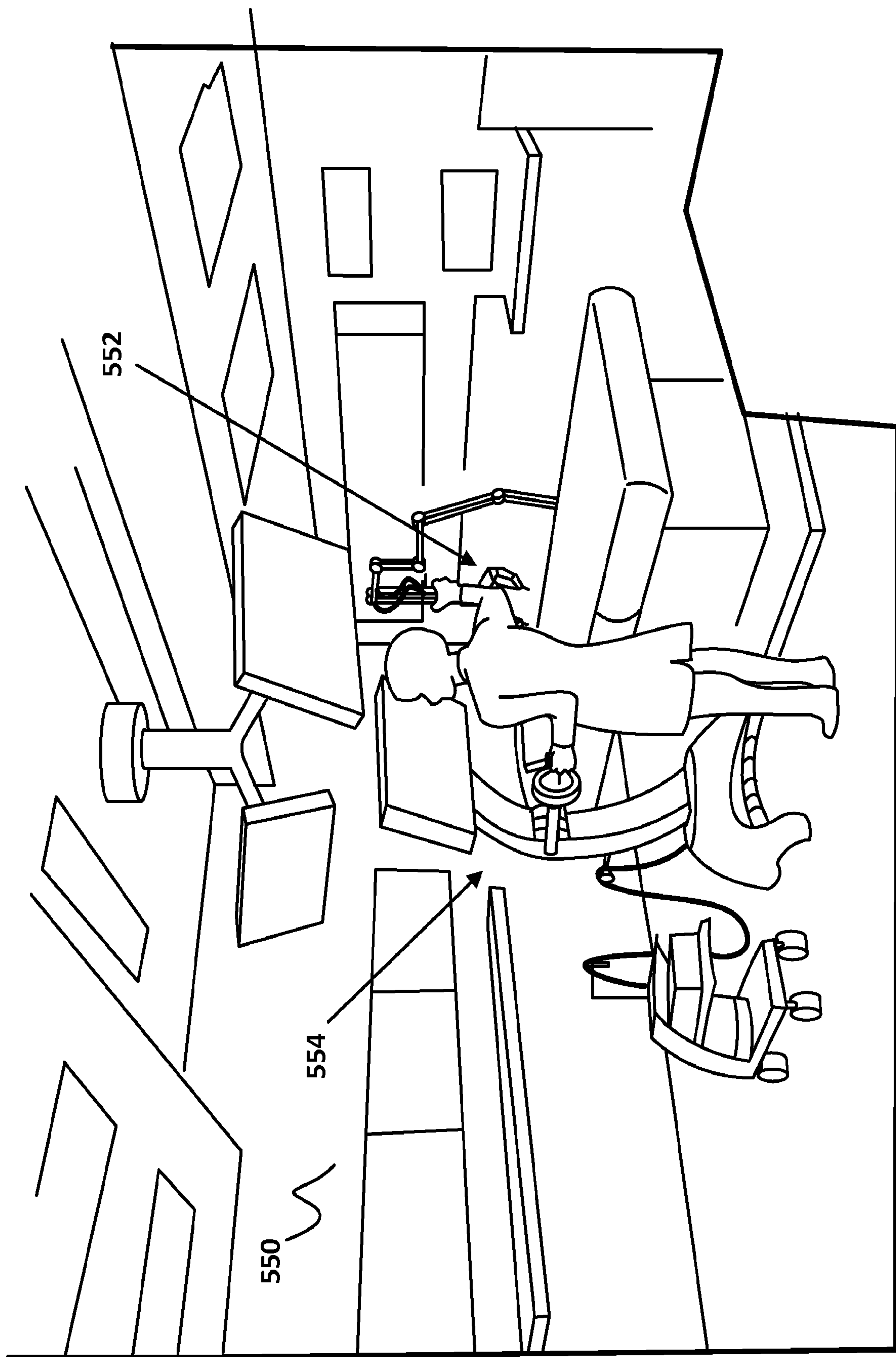


FIG. 26

35/52

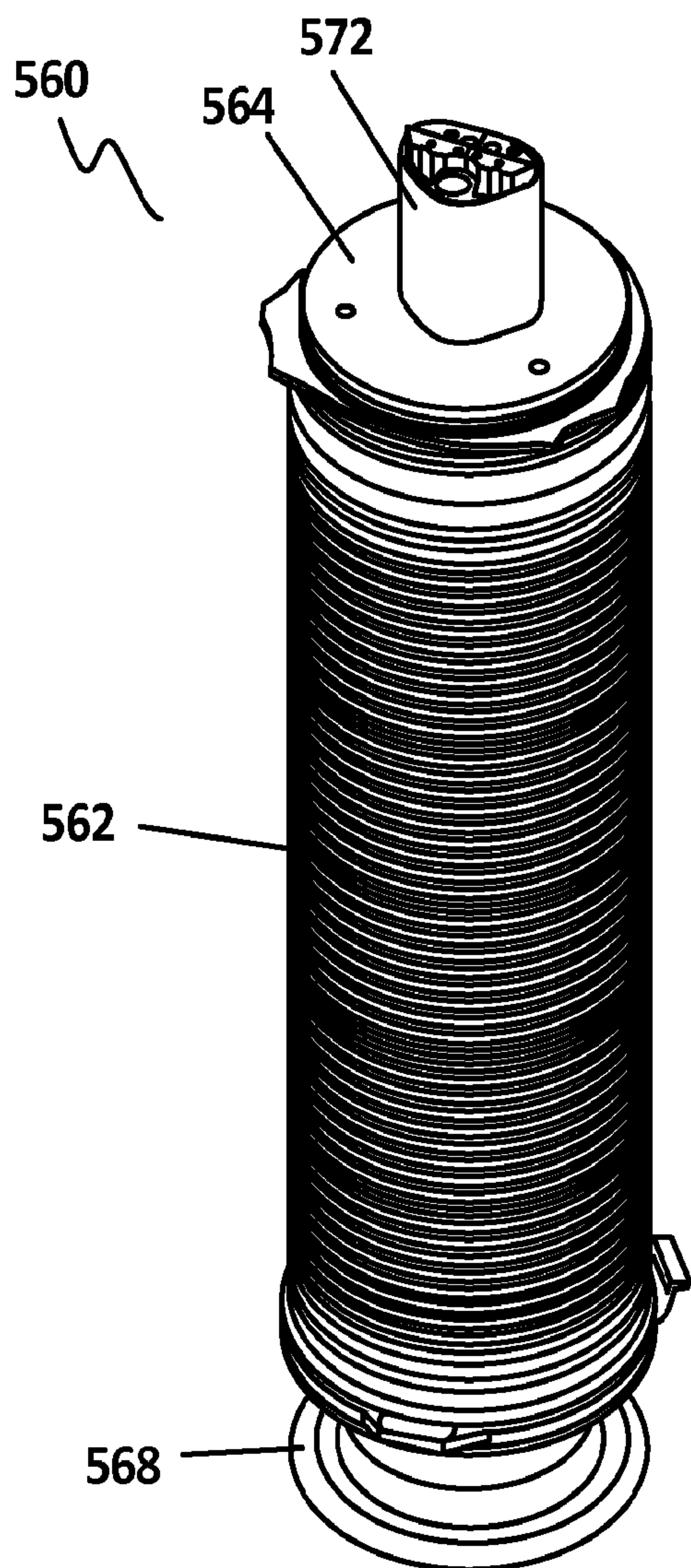


FIG. 27A

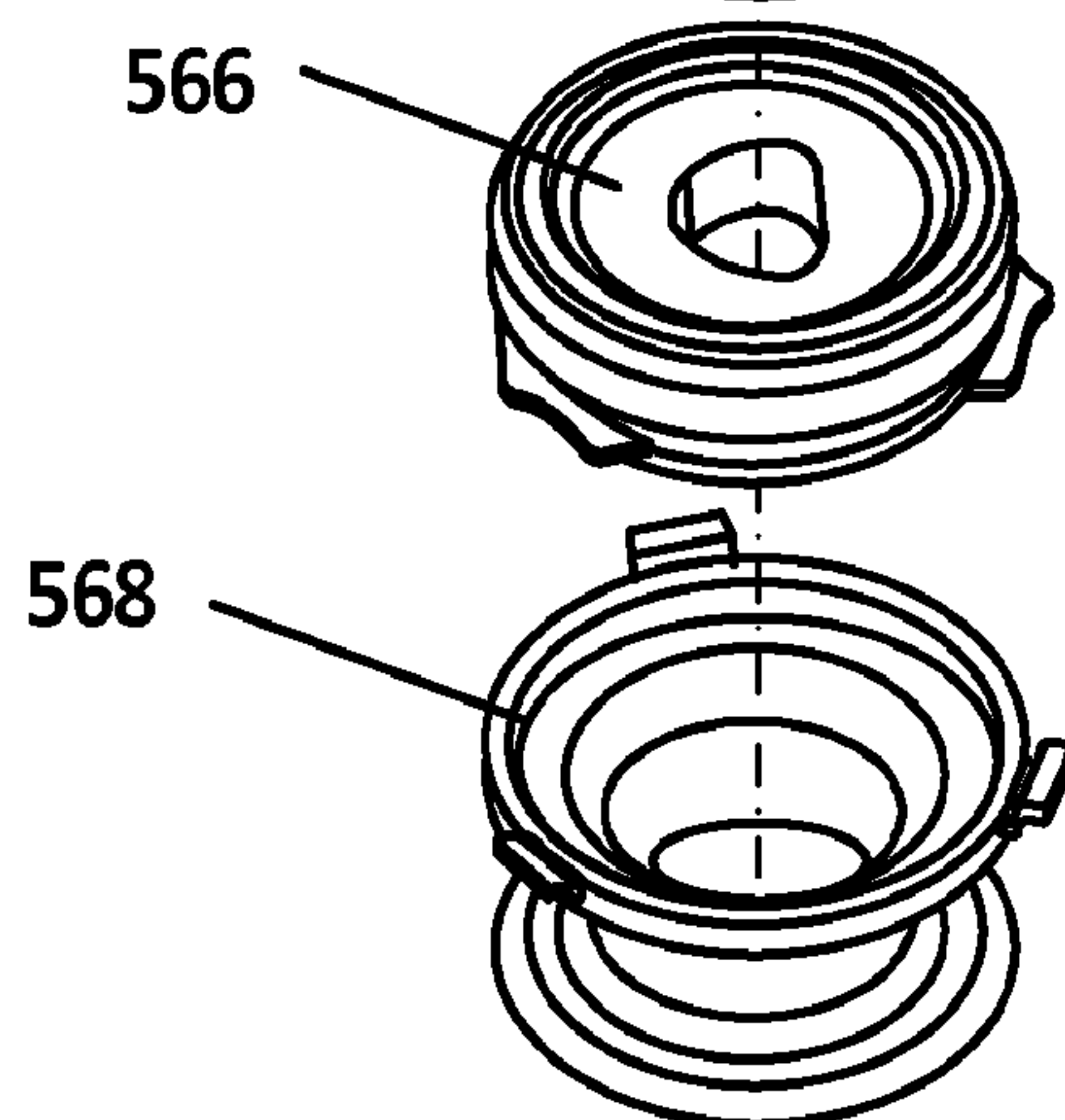
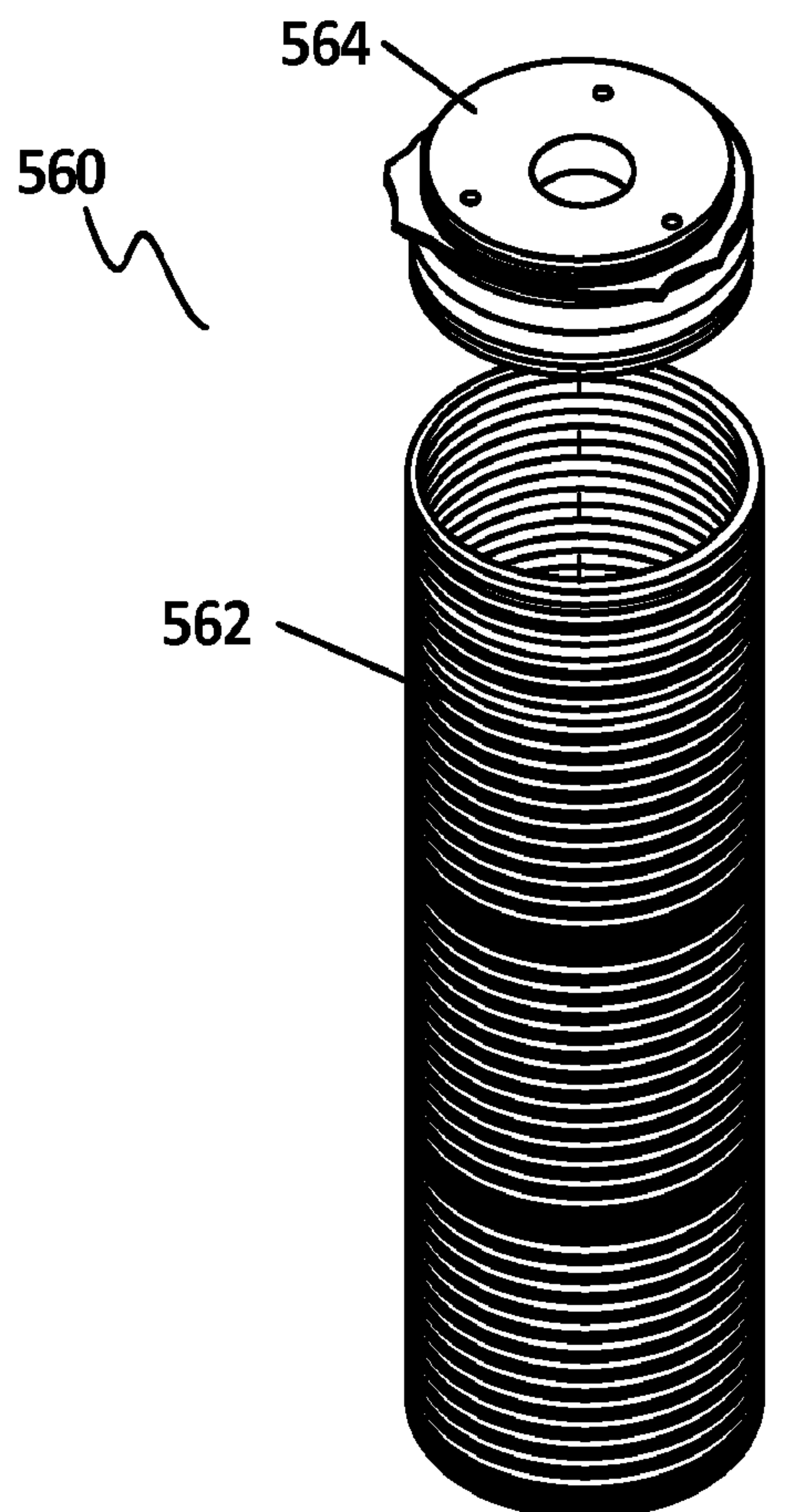


FIG. 27C

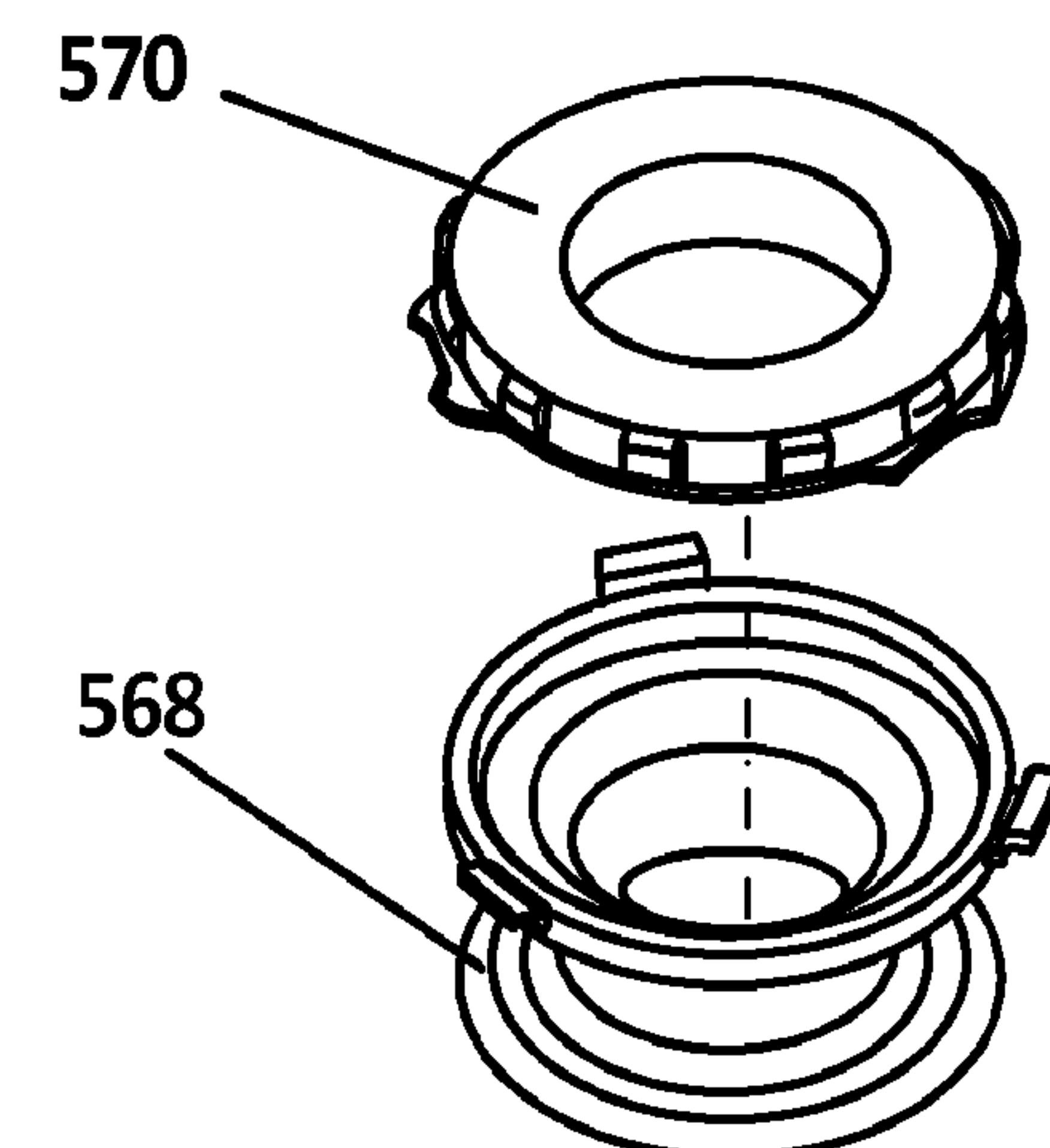


FIG. 27D

36/52

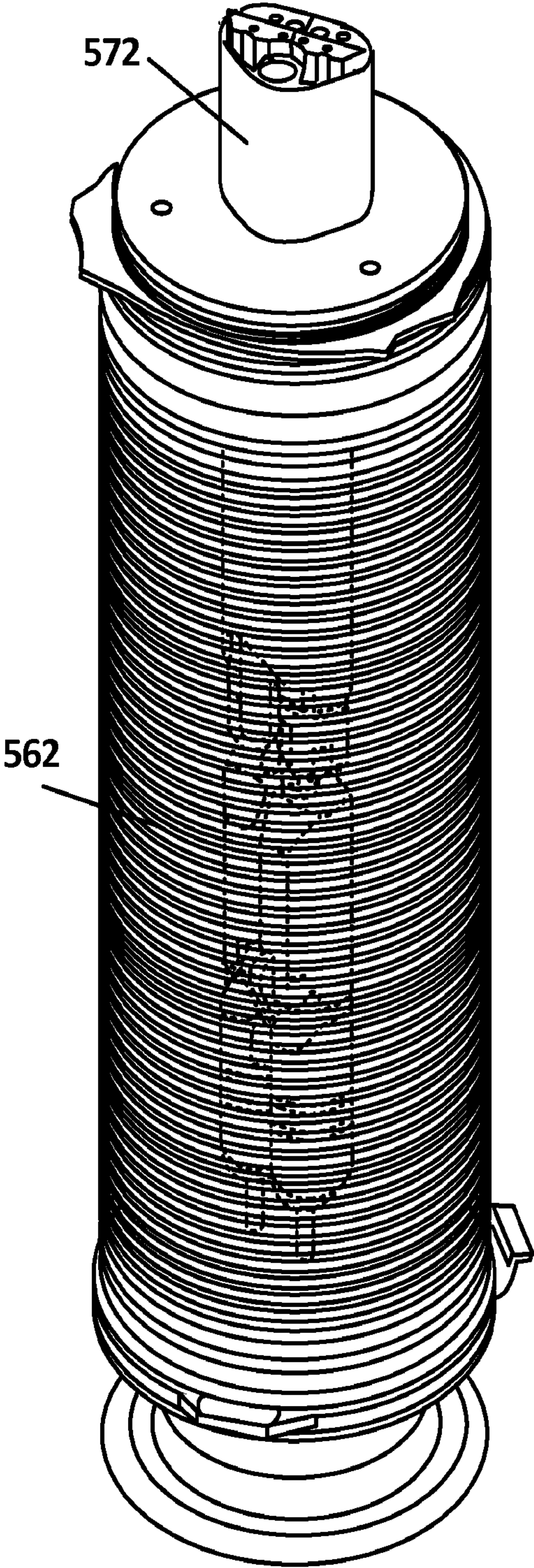


FIG. 28A

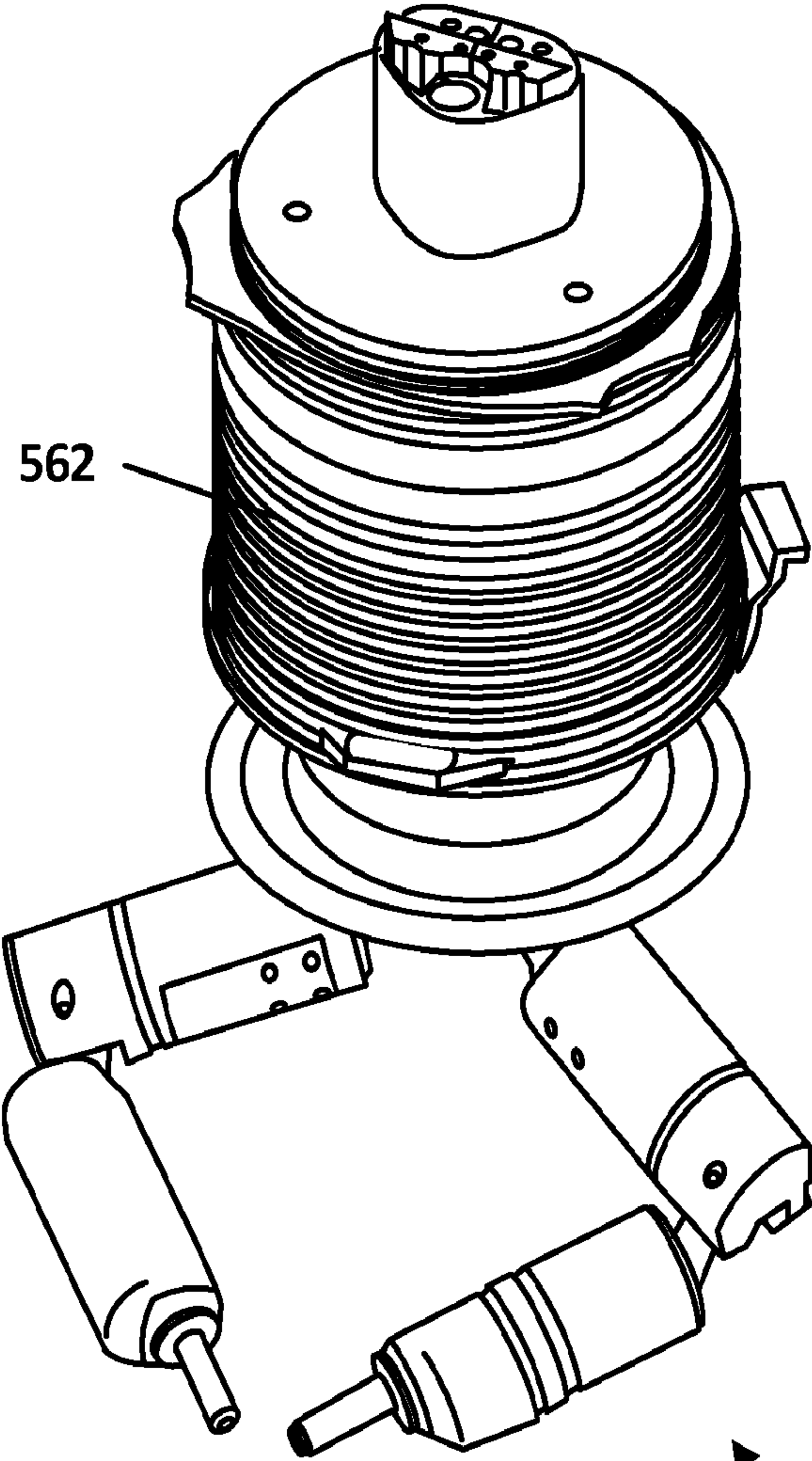
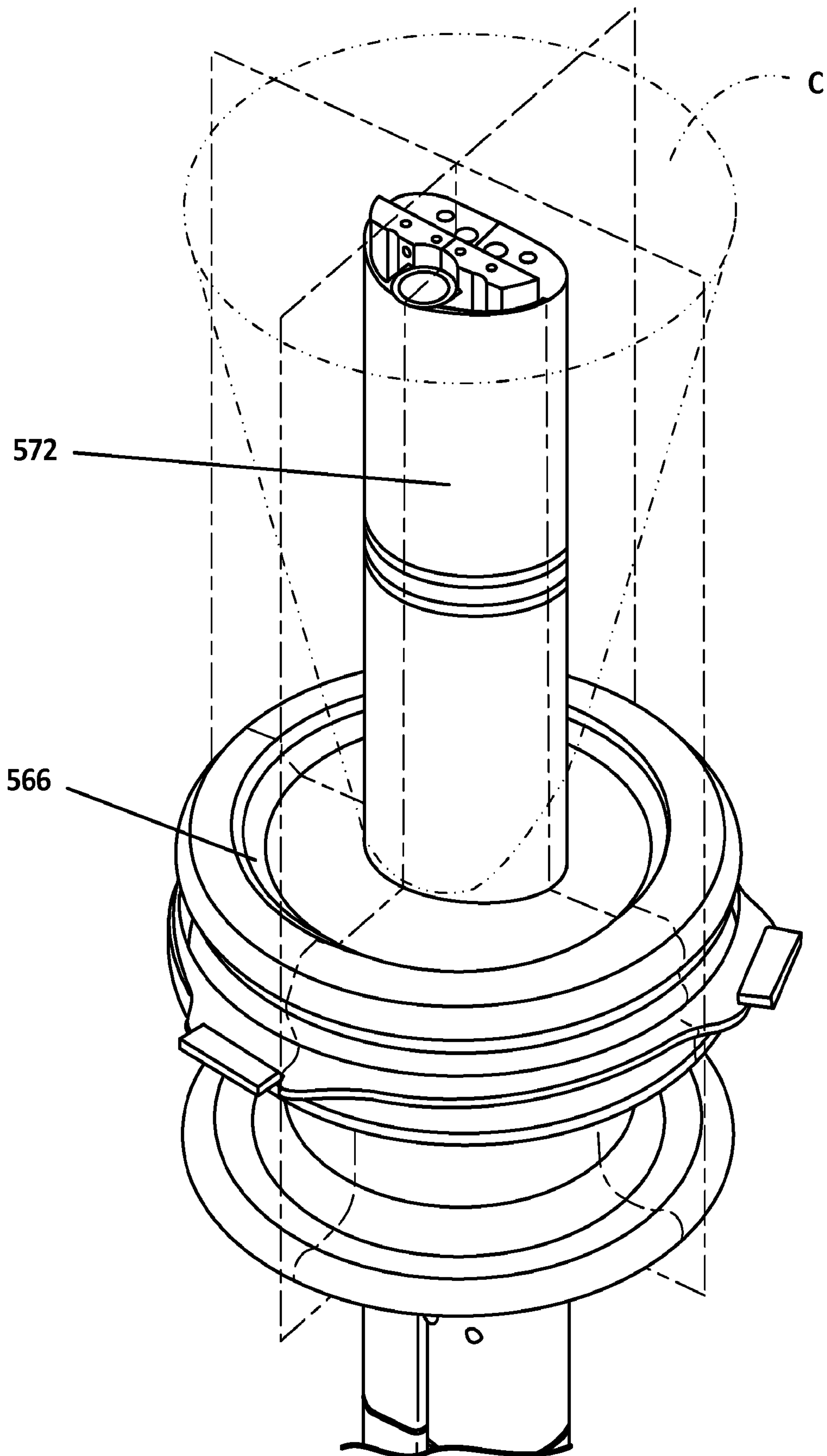


FIG. 28B

572

37/52

**FIG. 29**

39/52

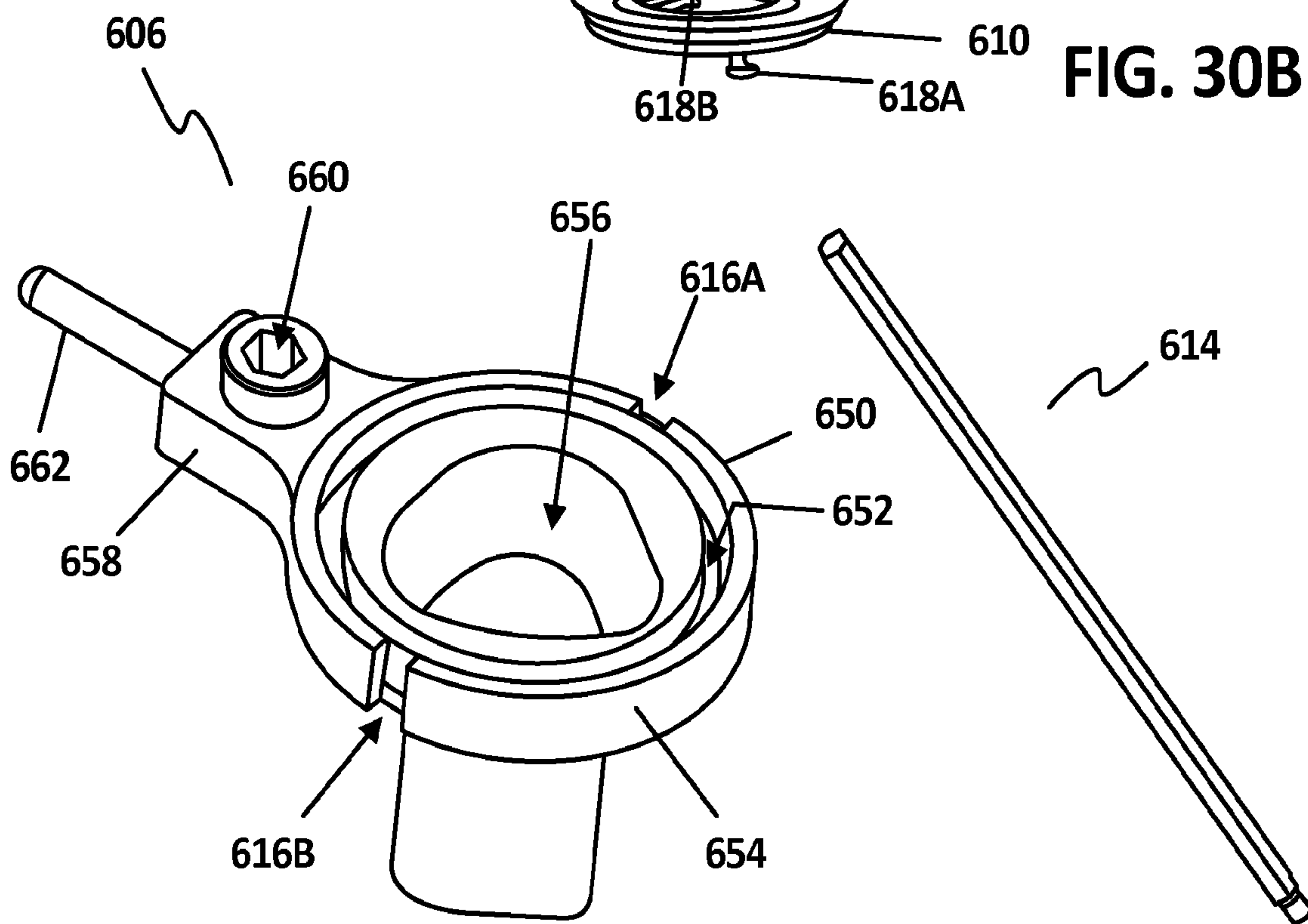
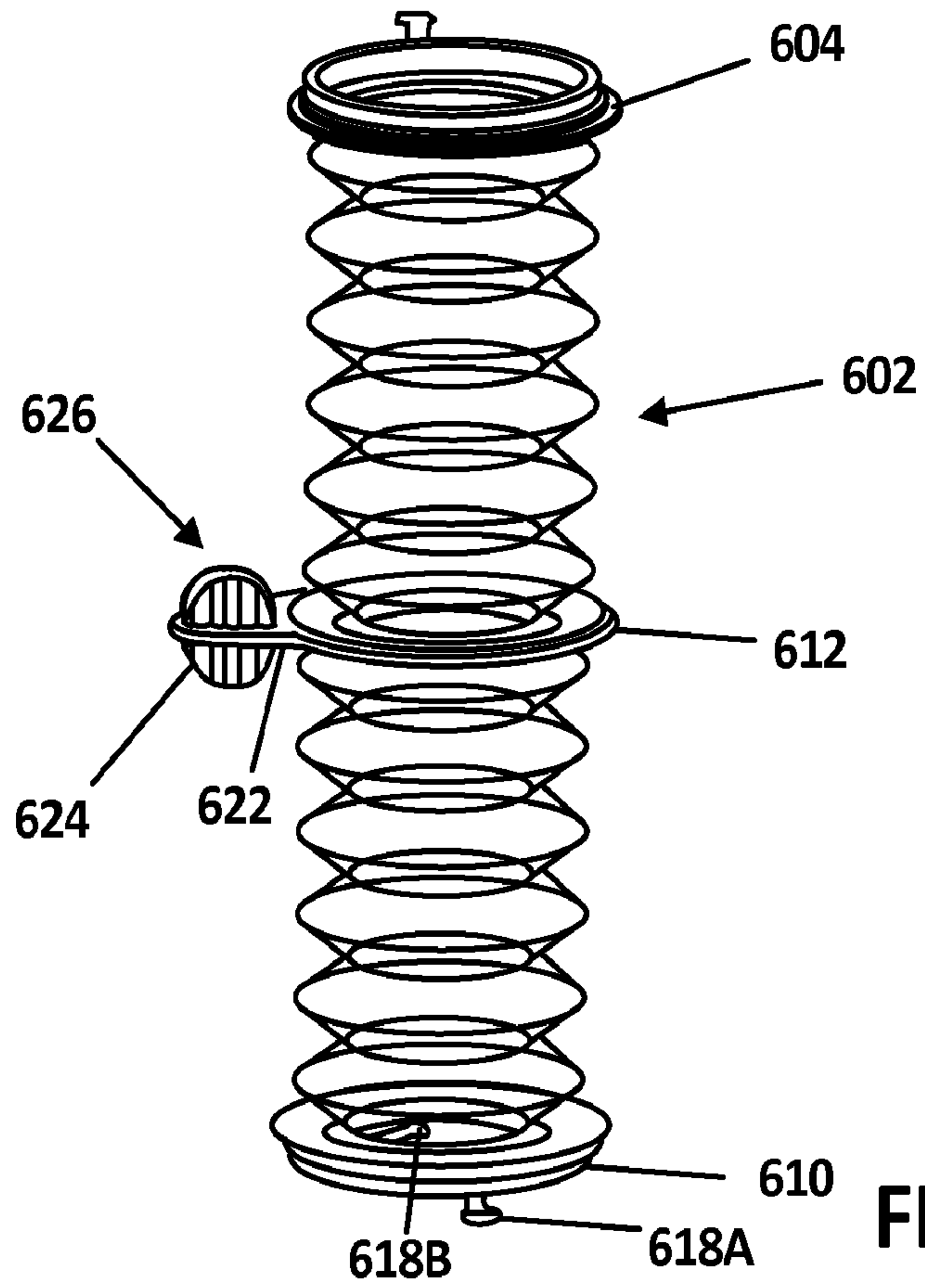


FIG. 30C

FIG. 30D

40/52

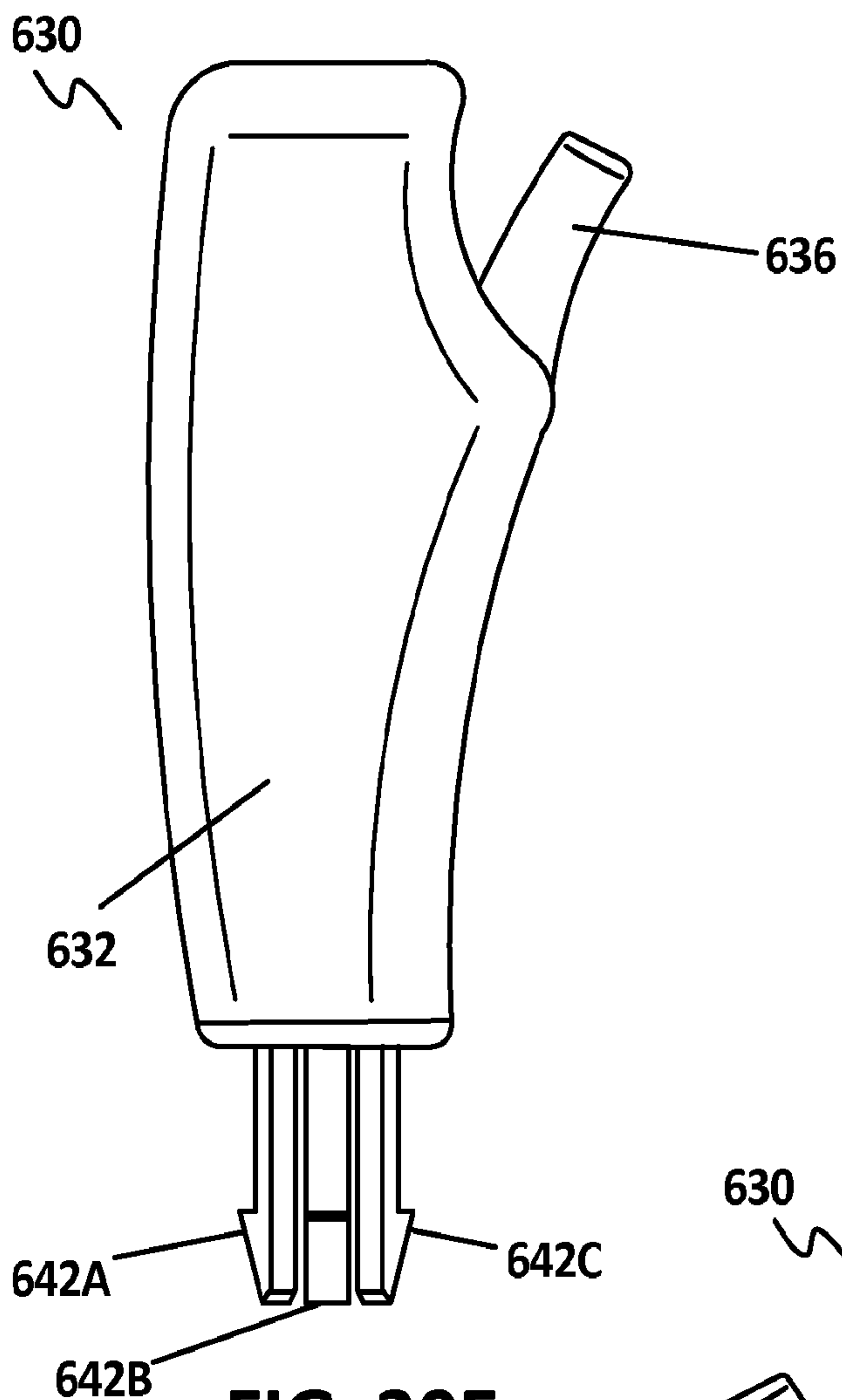


FIG. 30E

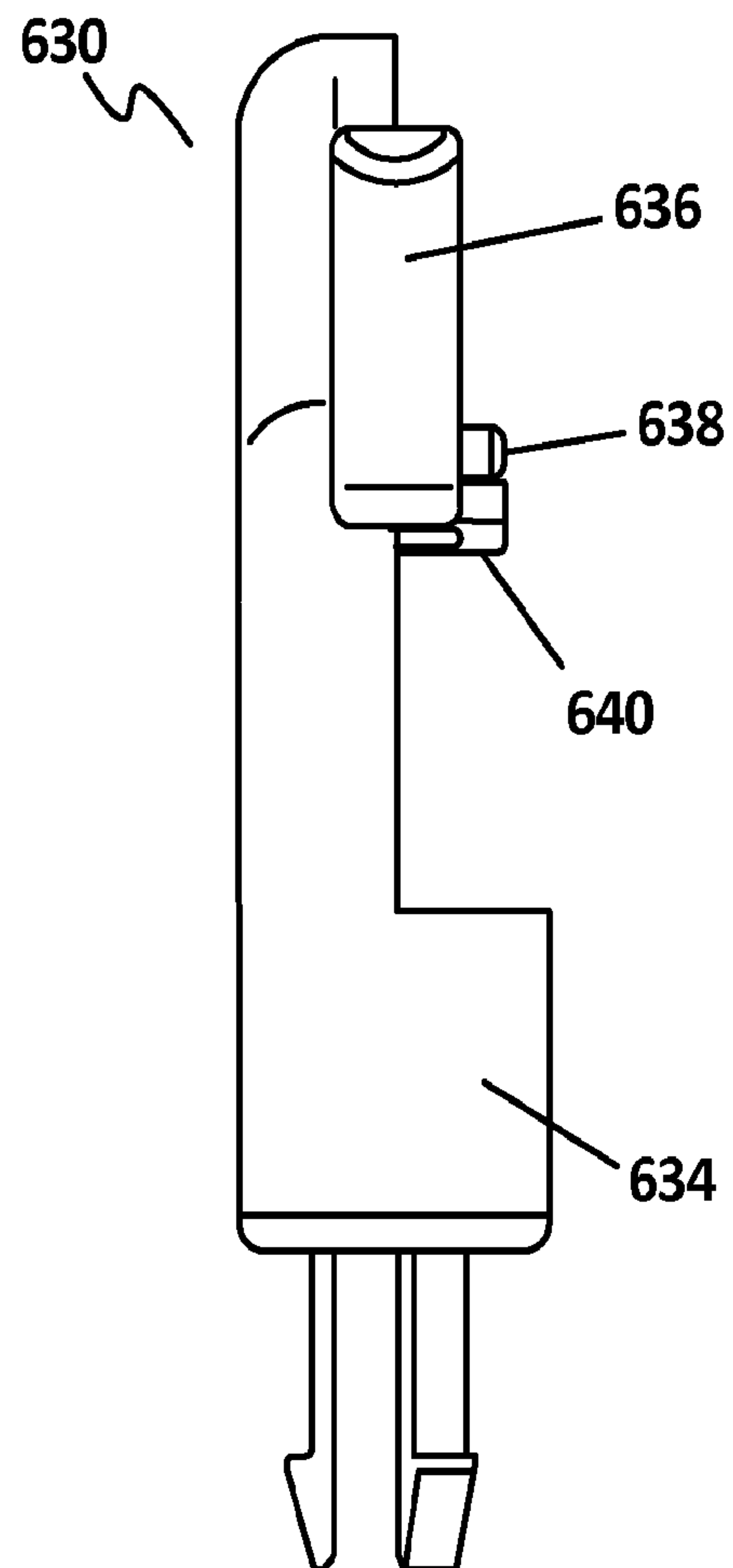


FIG. 30F

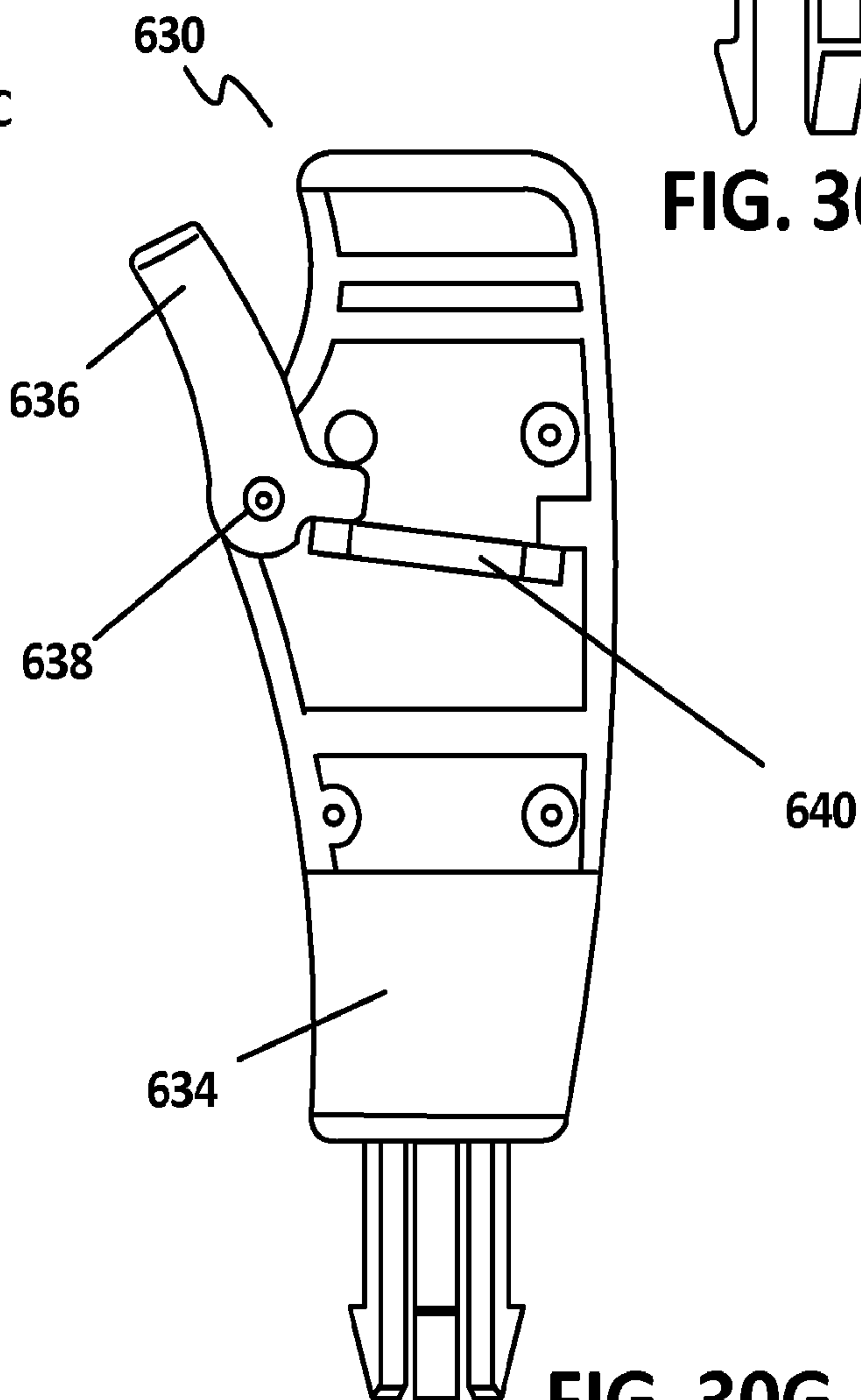


FIG. 30G

41/52

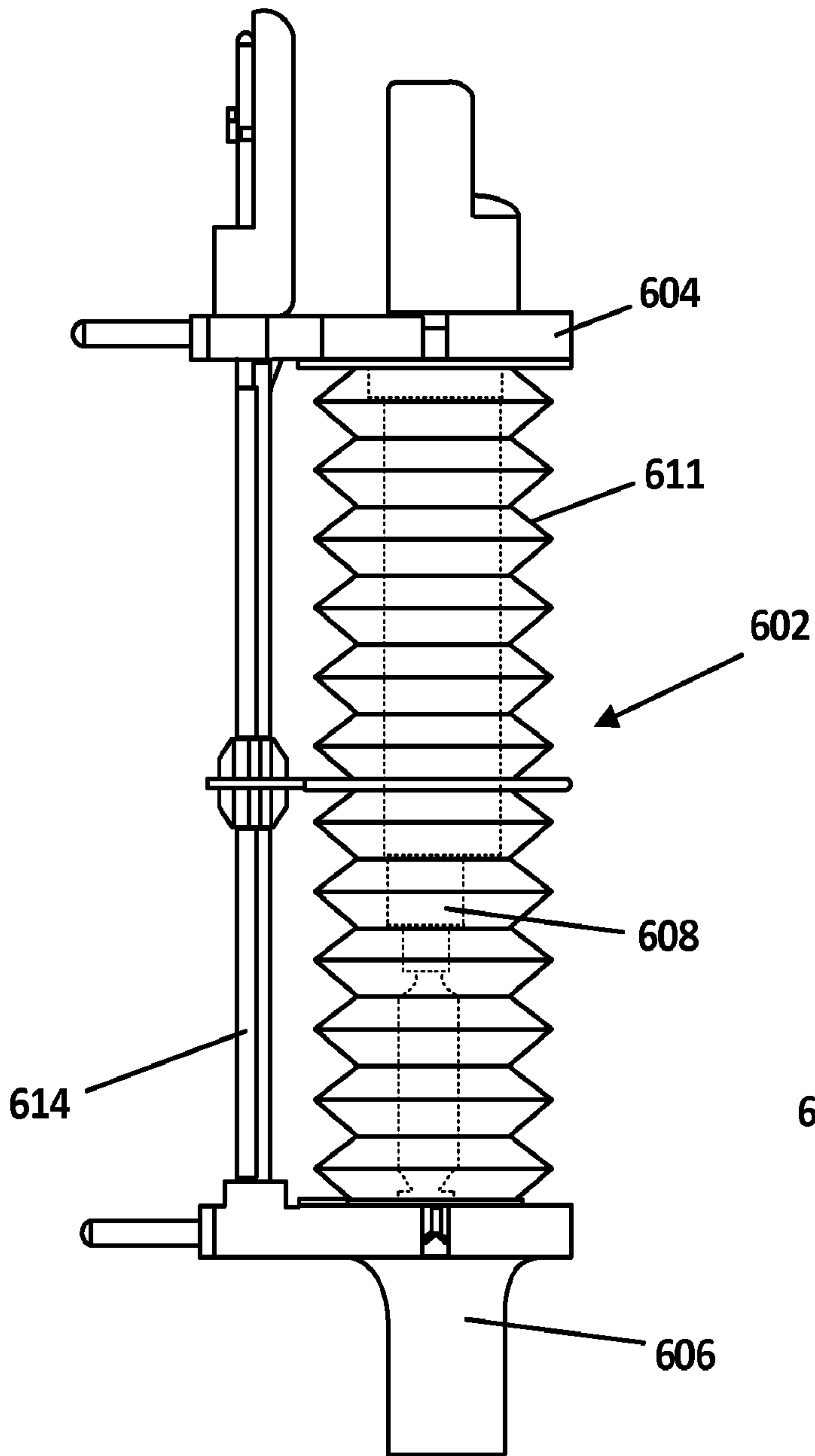


FIG. 31A

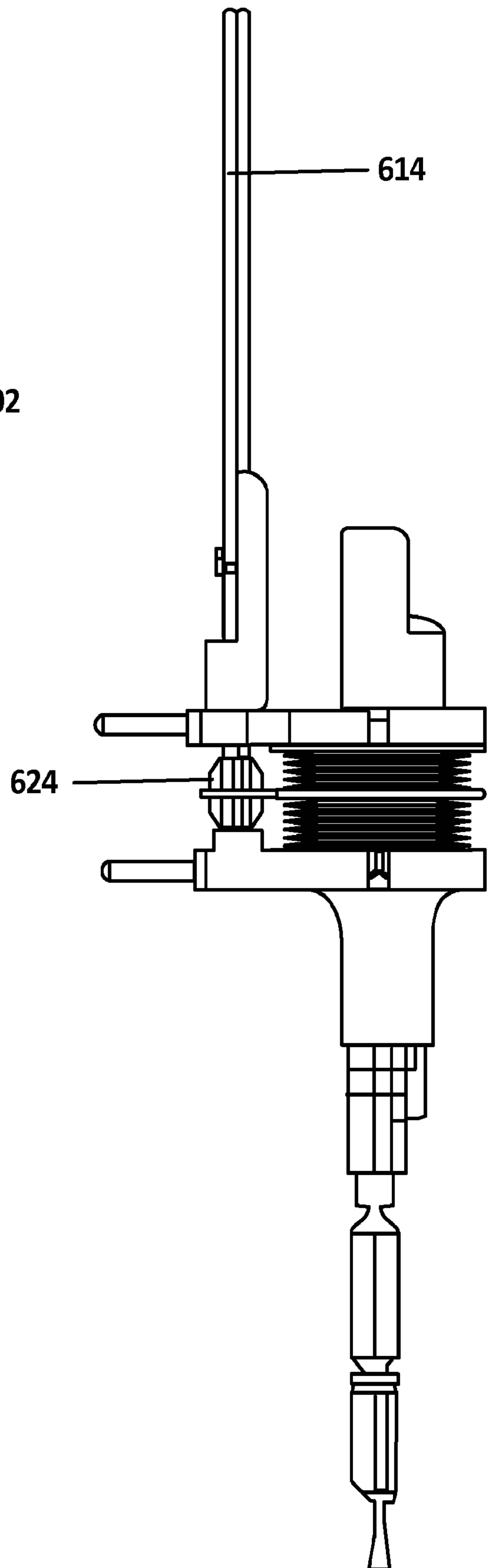
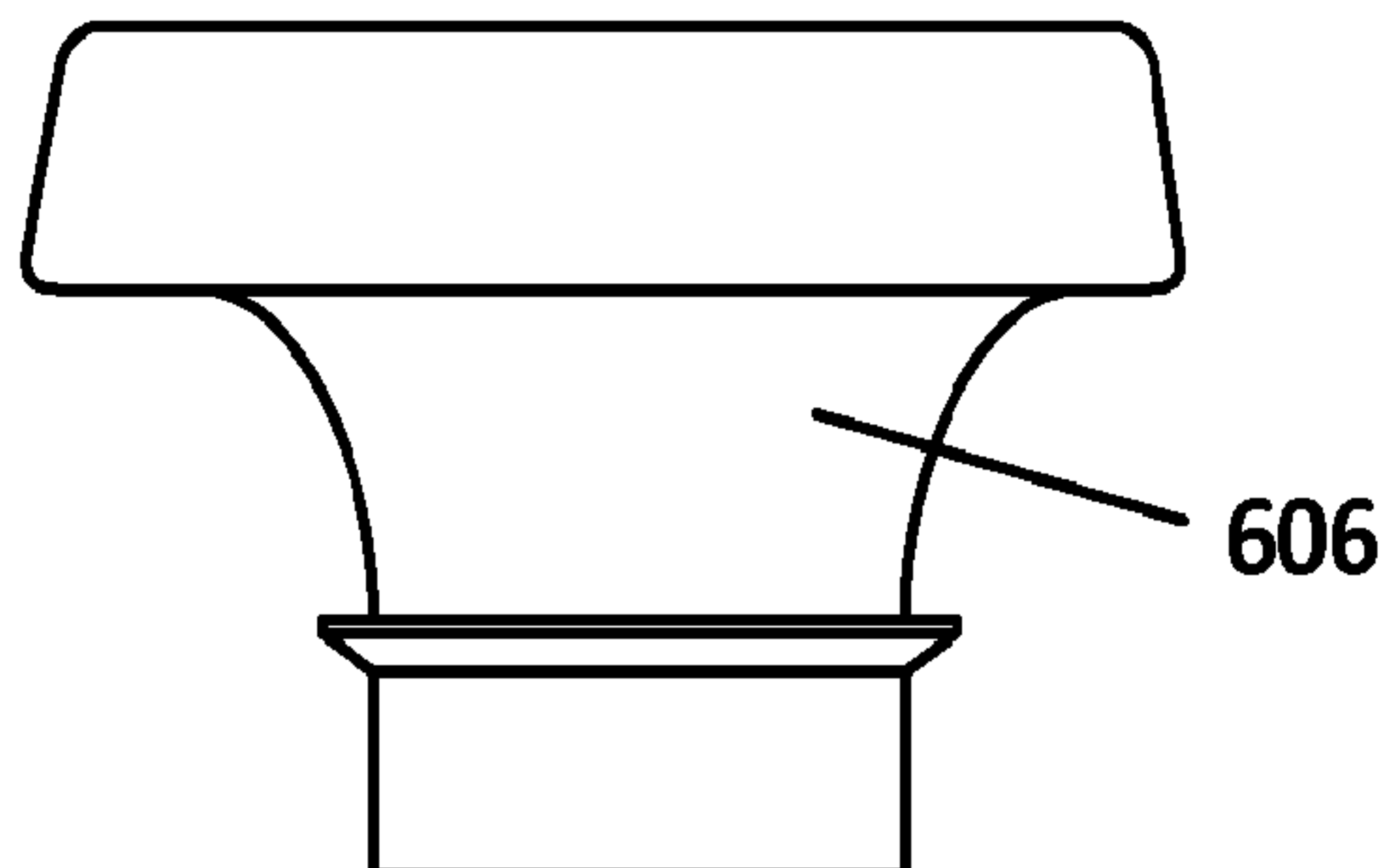
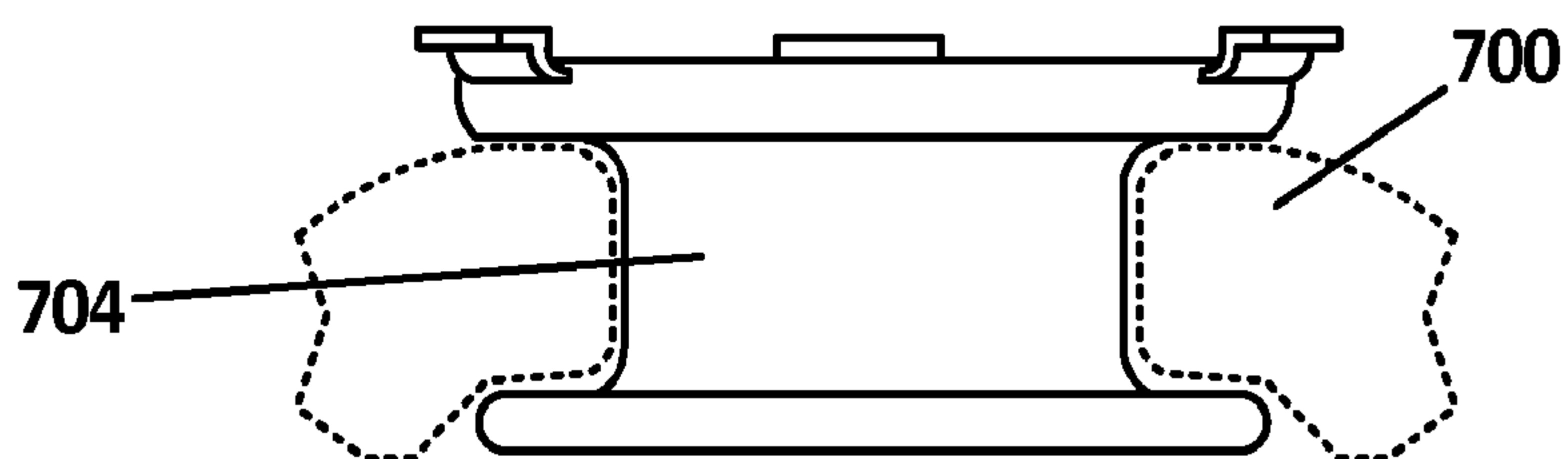
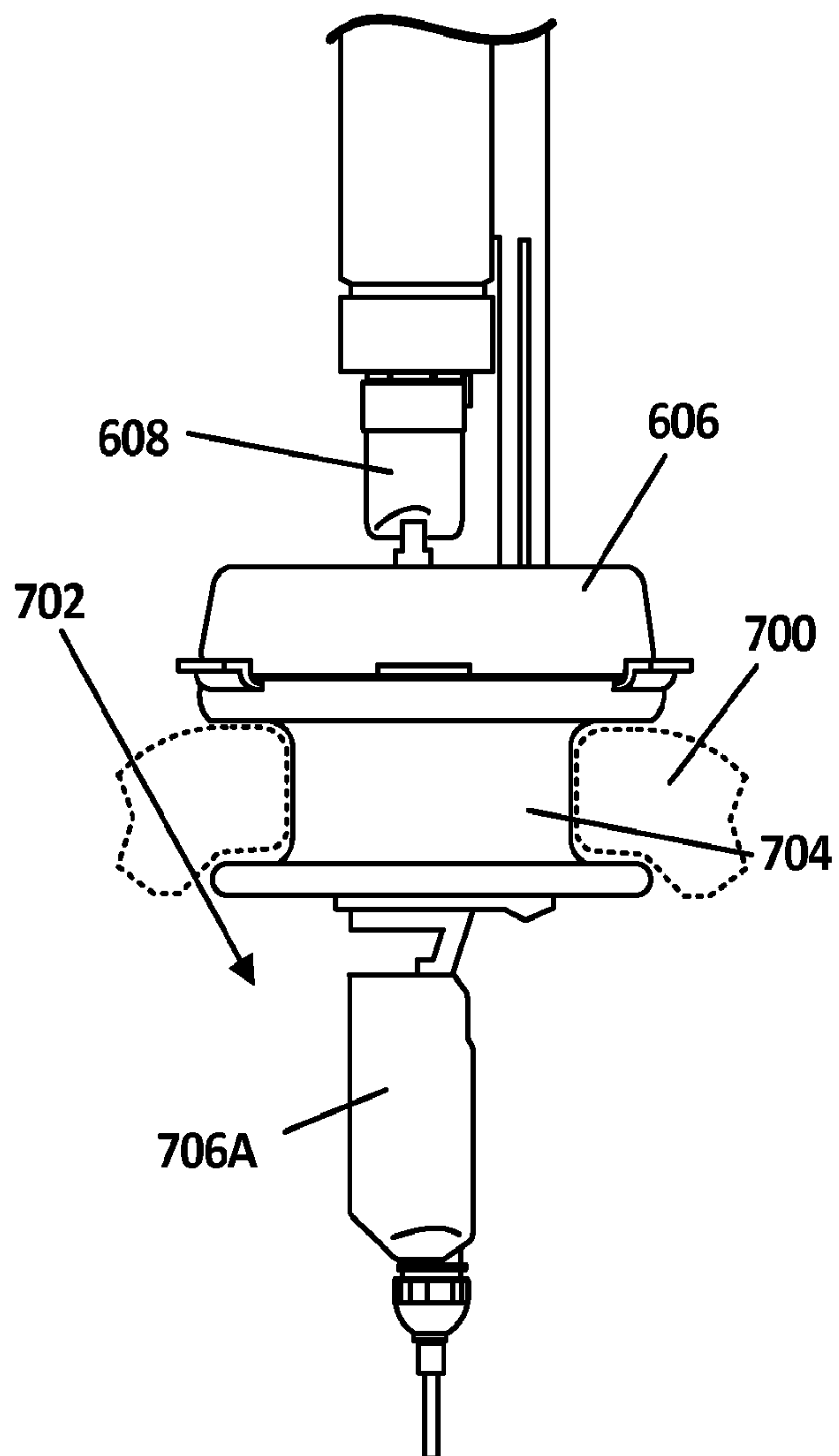
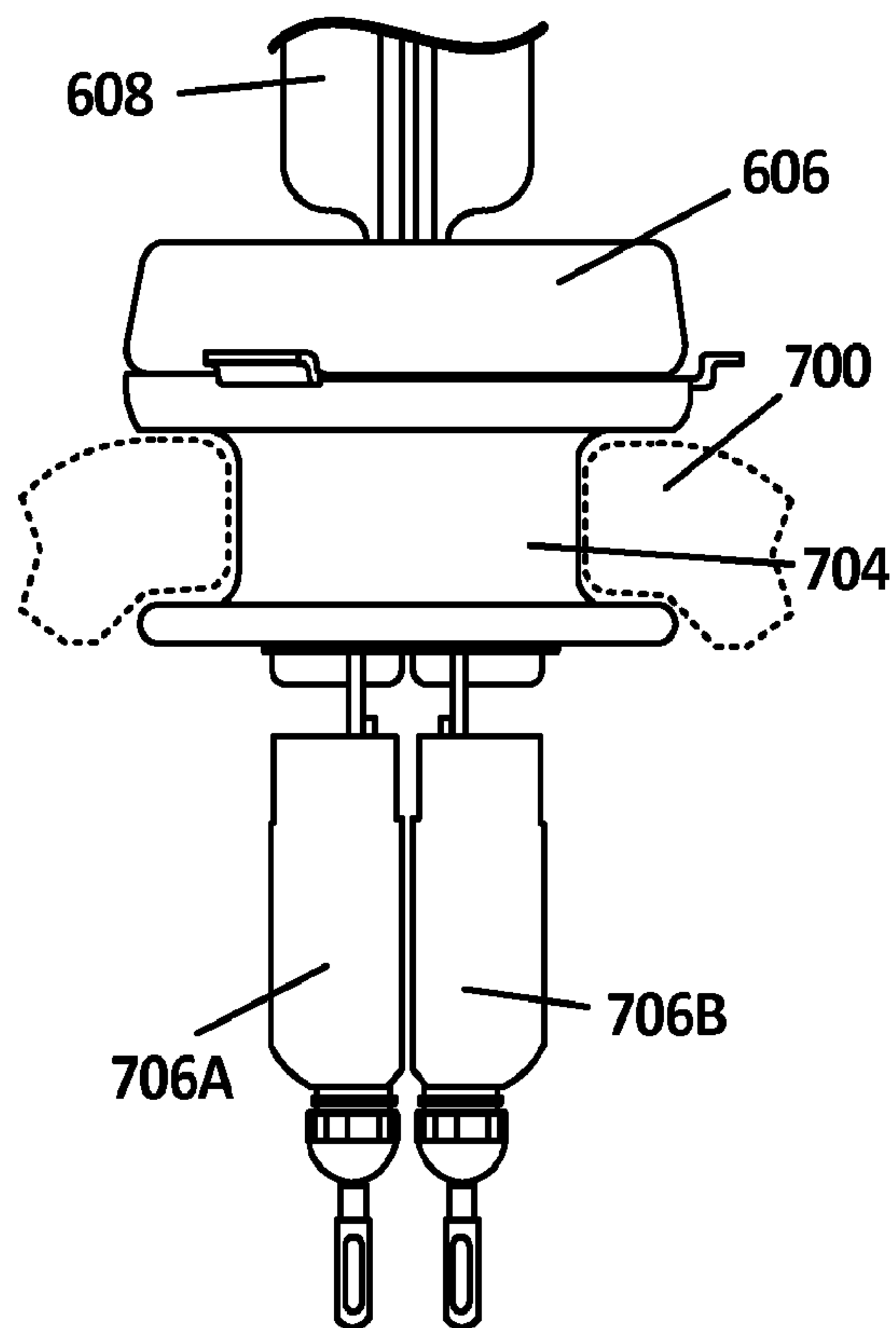
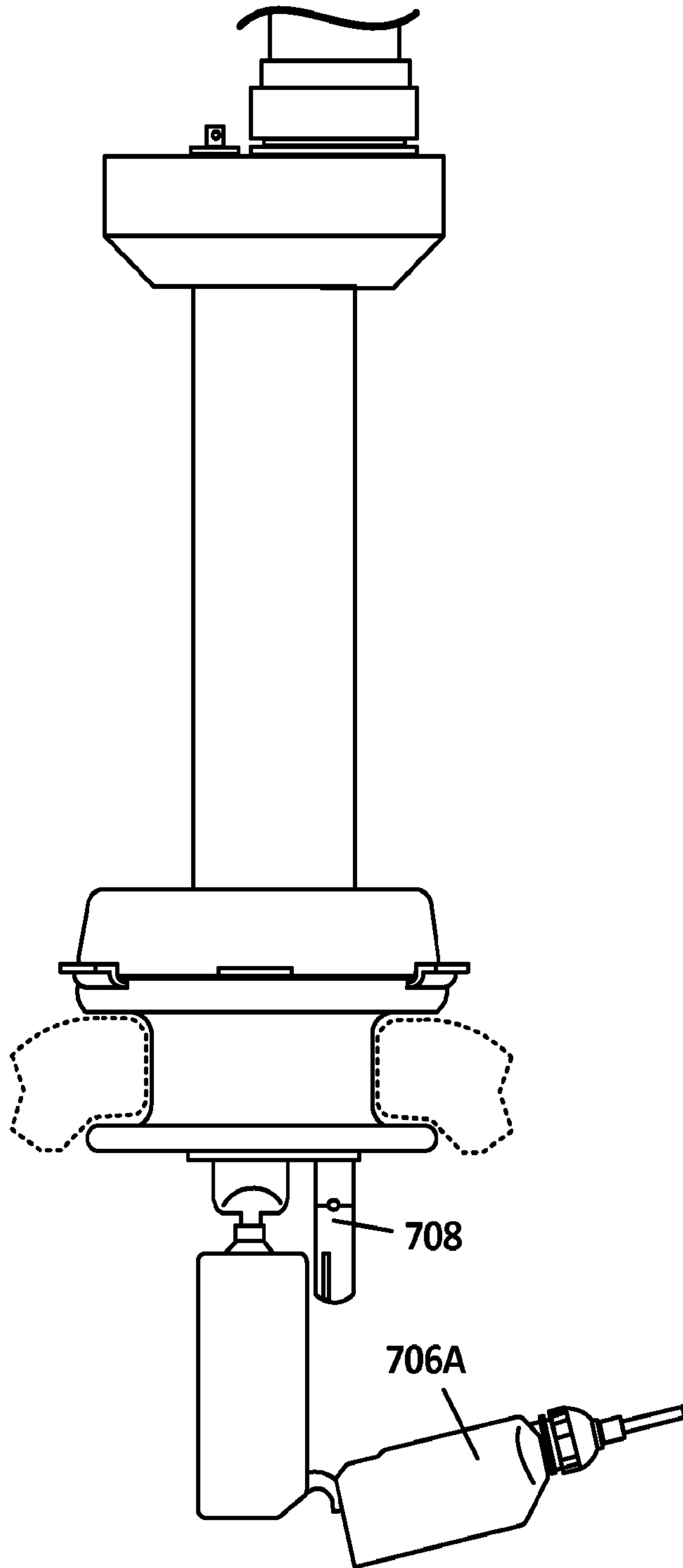
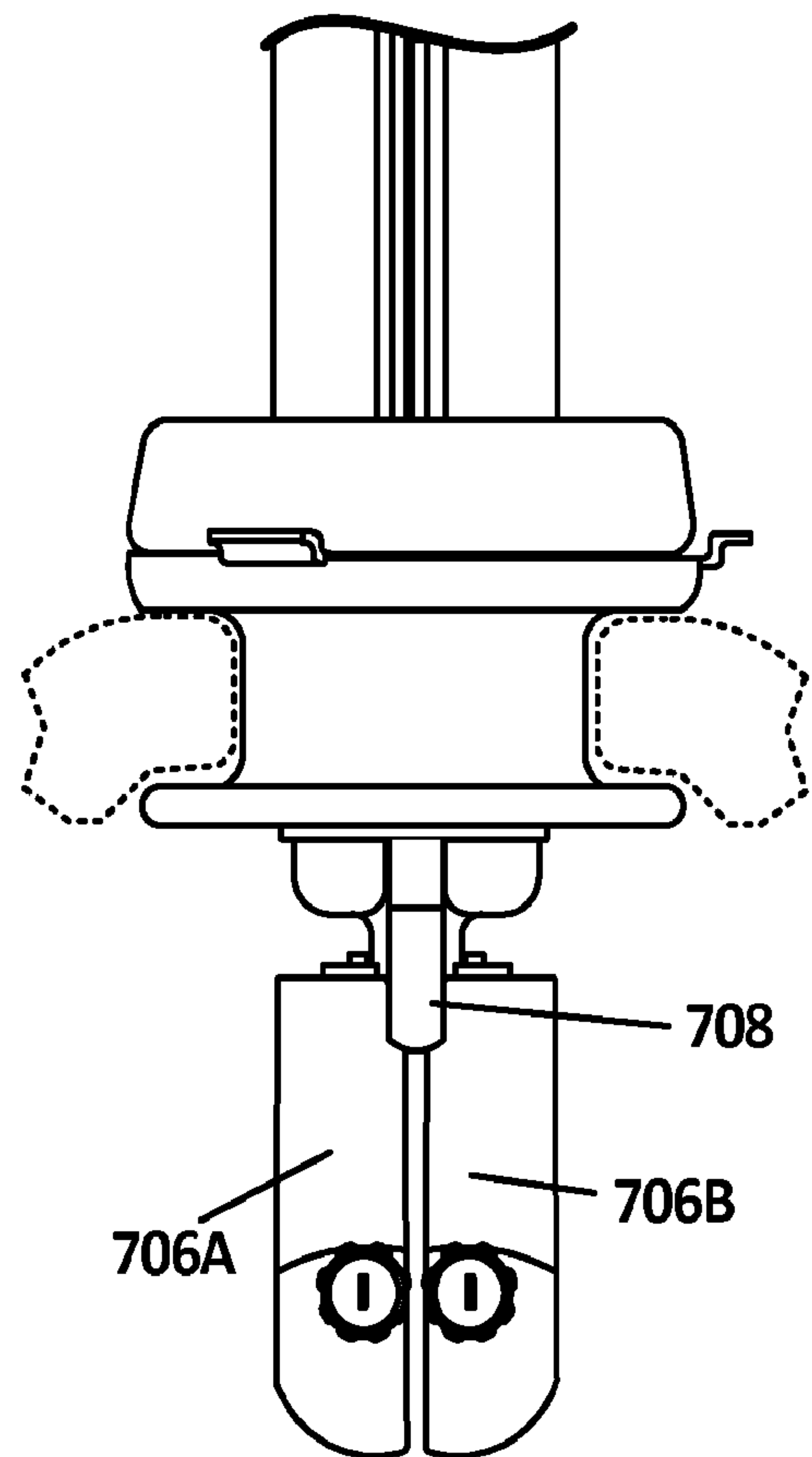


FIG. 31B

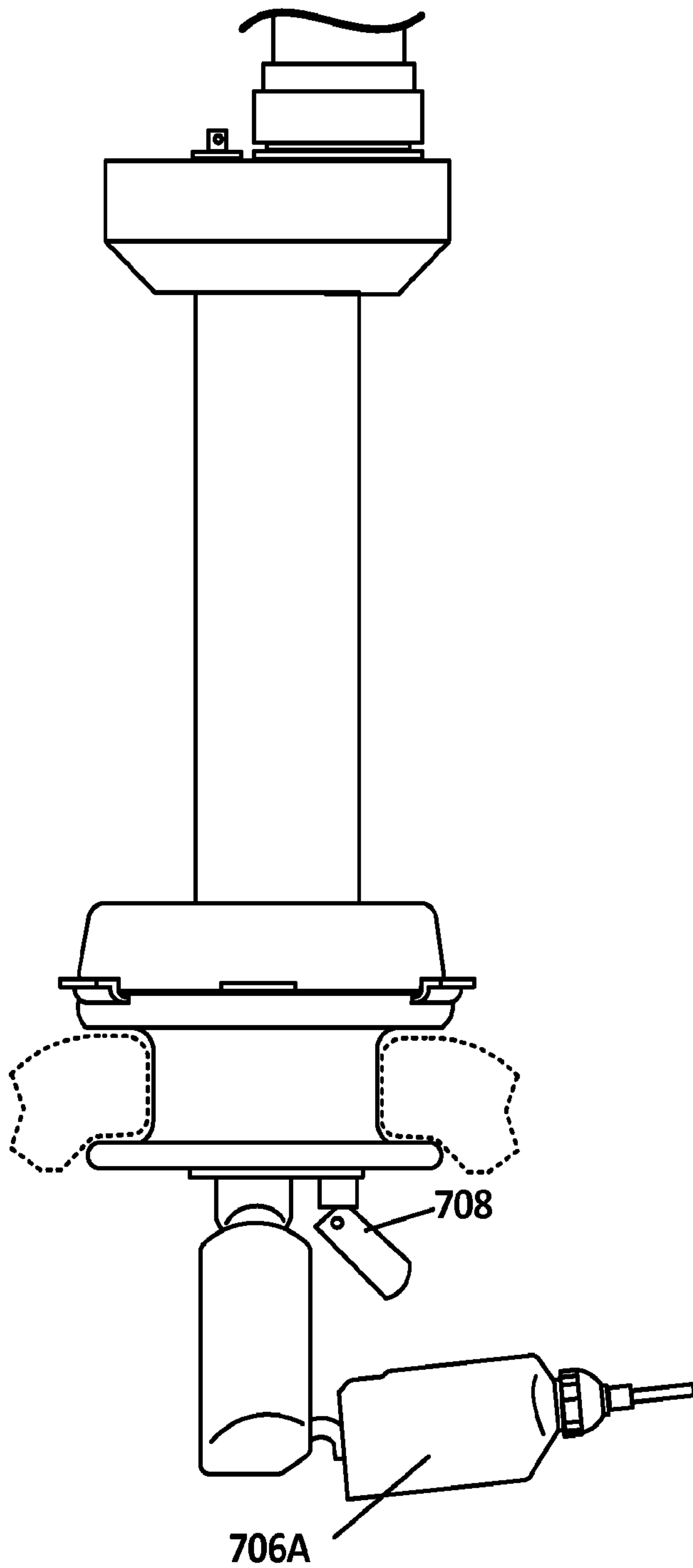
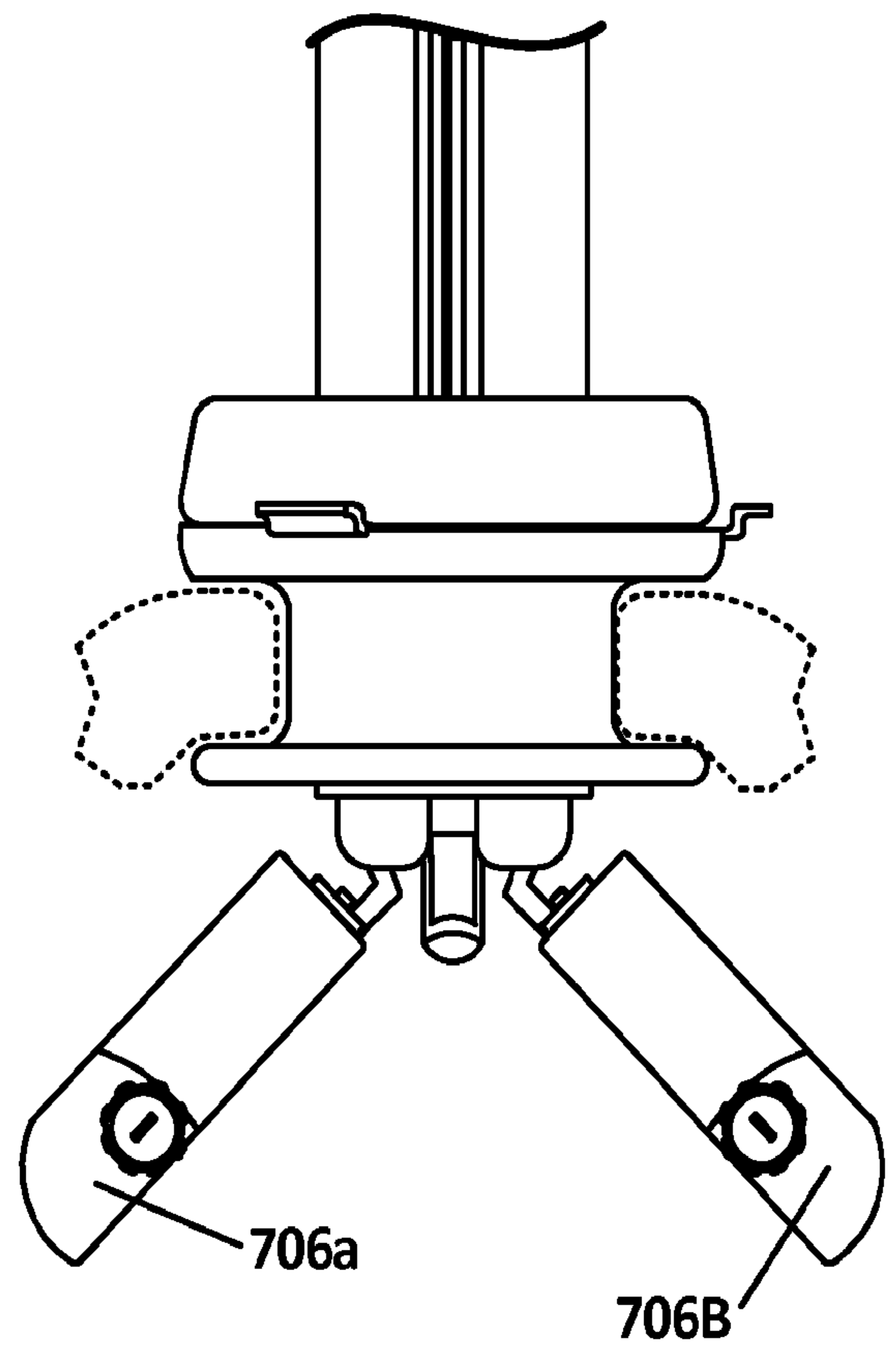
42/52

**FIG. 32A****FIG. 32B****FIG. 33A****FIG. 33B**

43/52

**FIG. 34A****FIG. 34B**

44/52

**FIG. 35A****FIG. 35B**

45/52

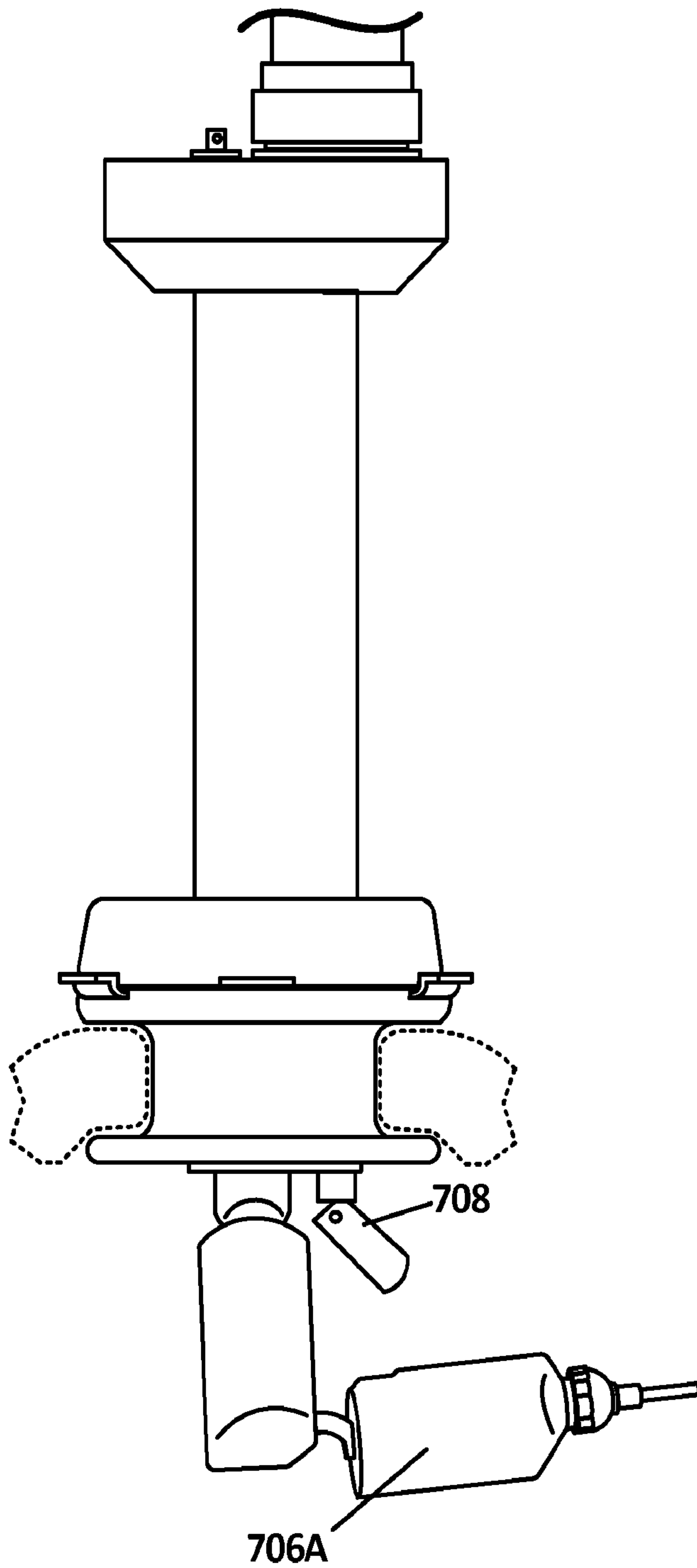


FIG. 36A

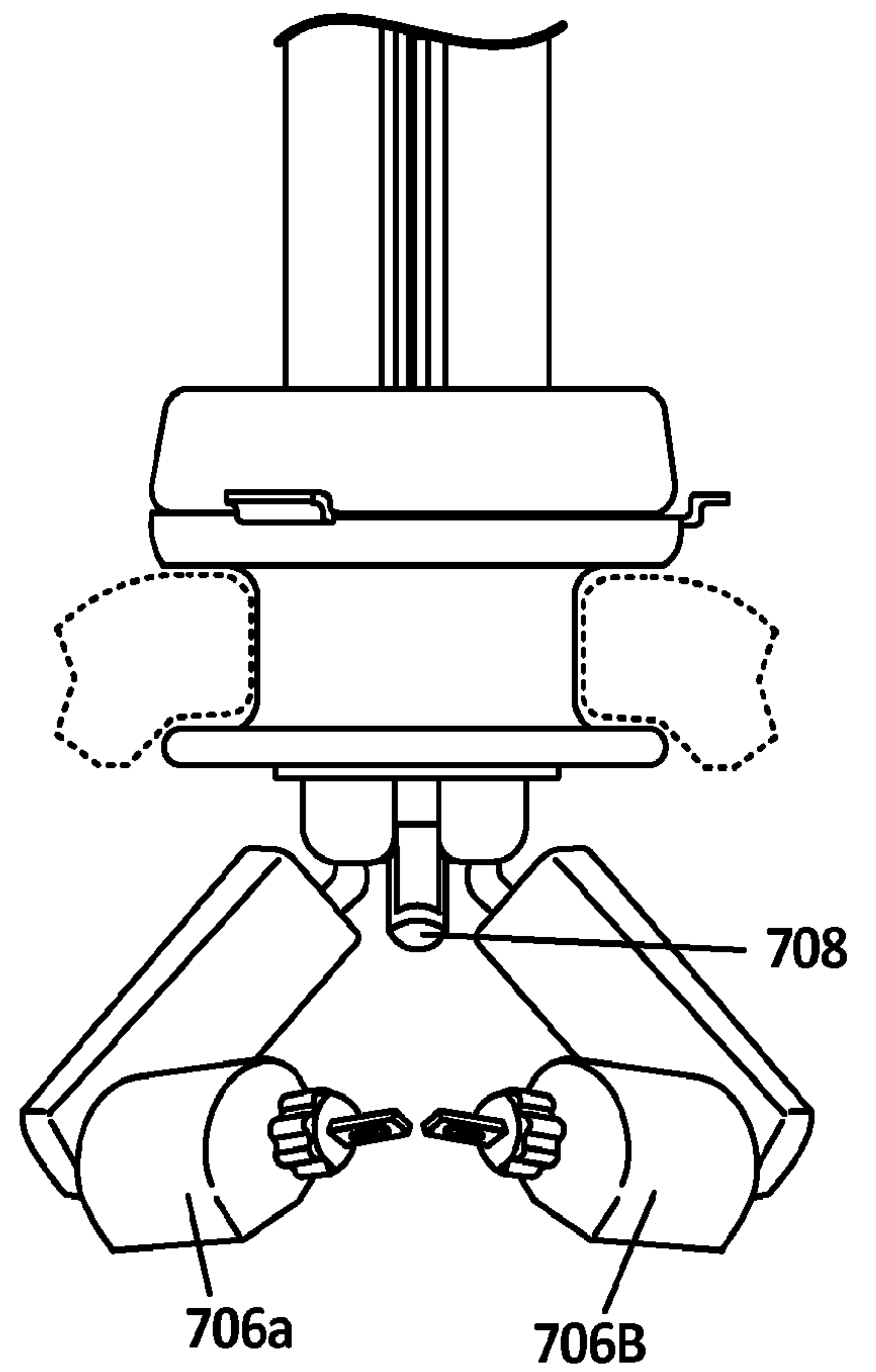
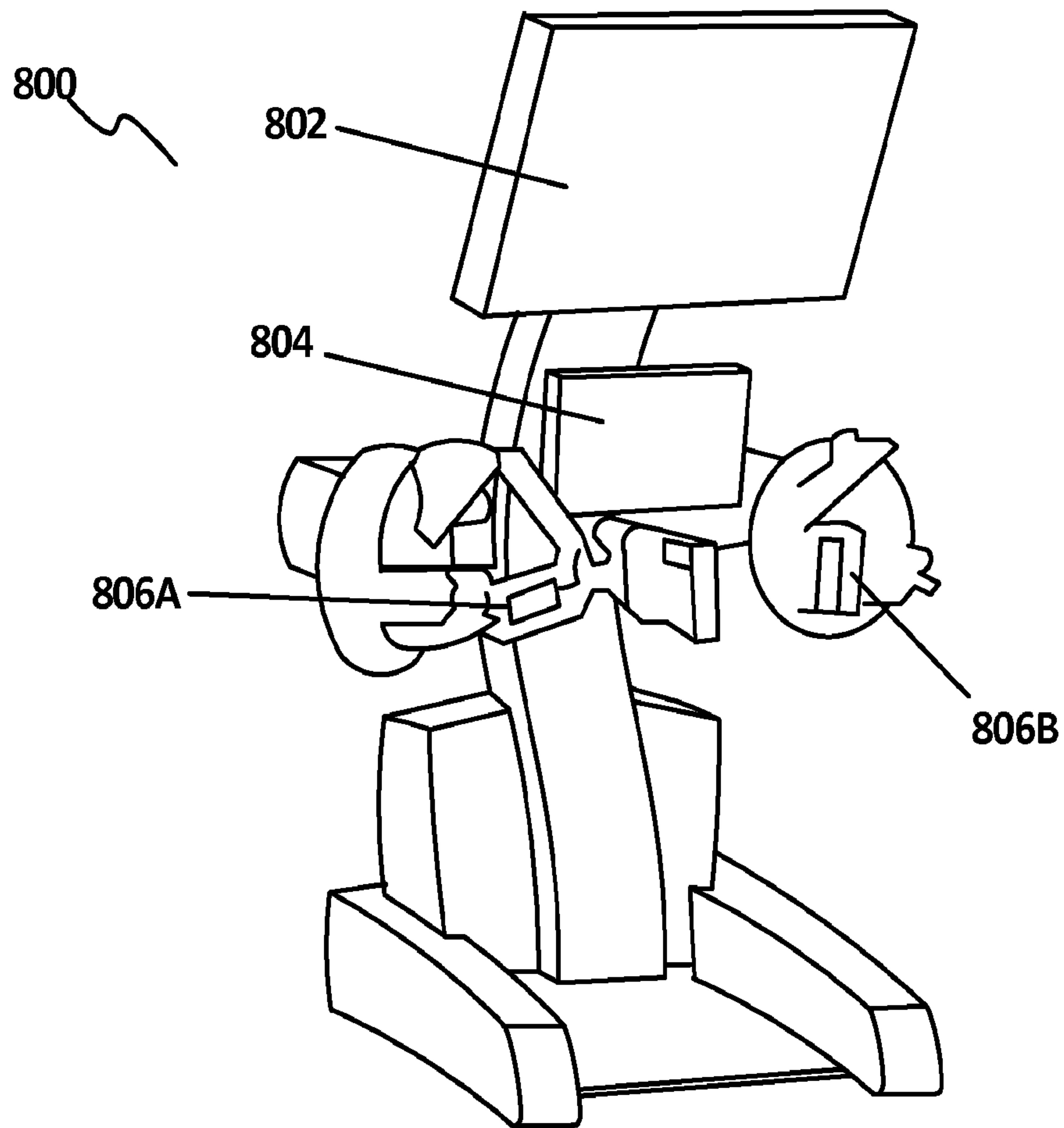
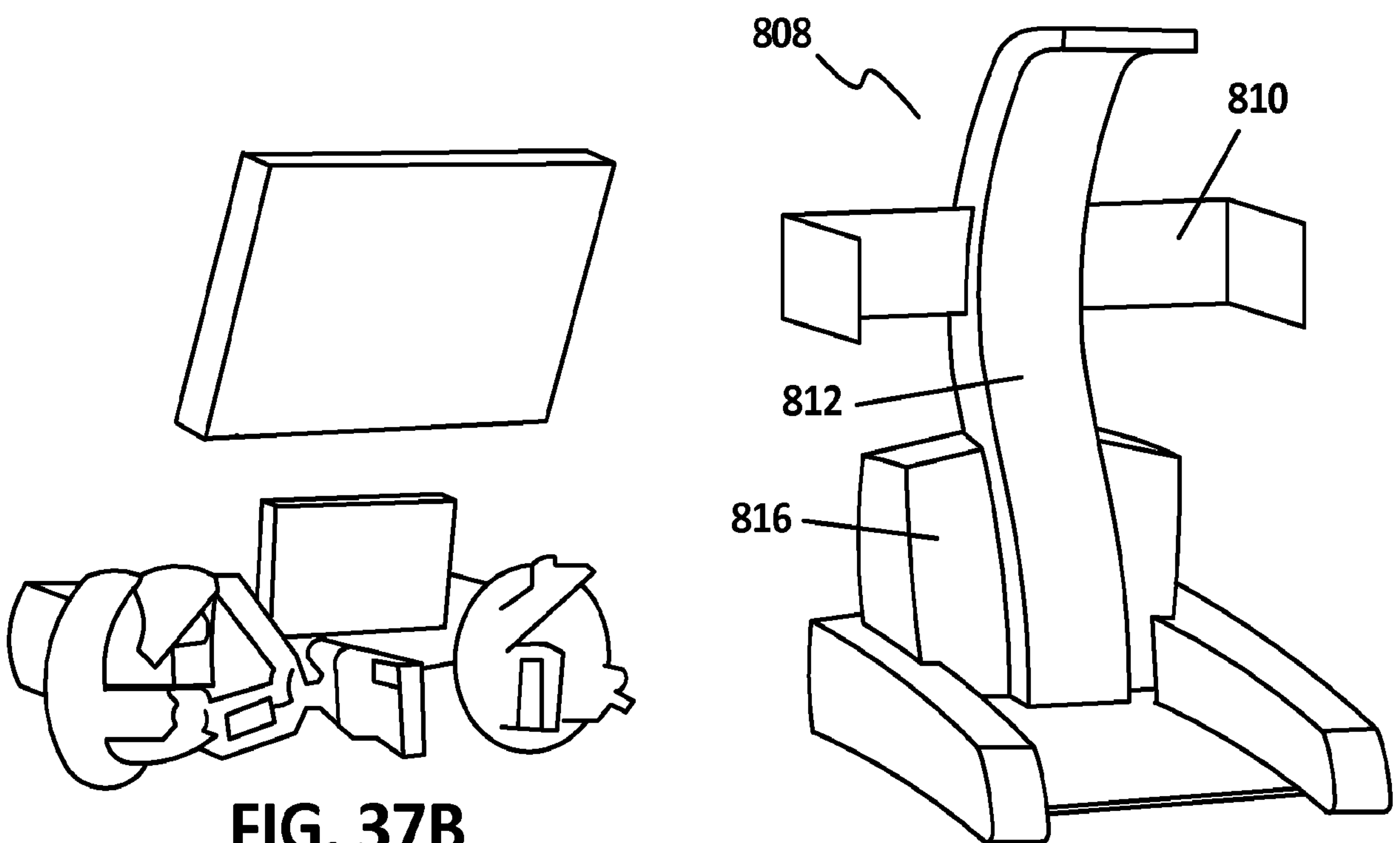
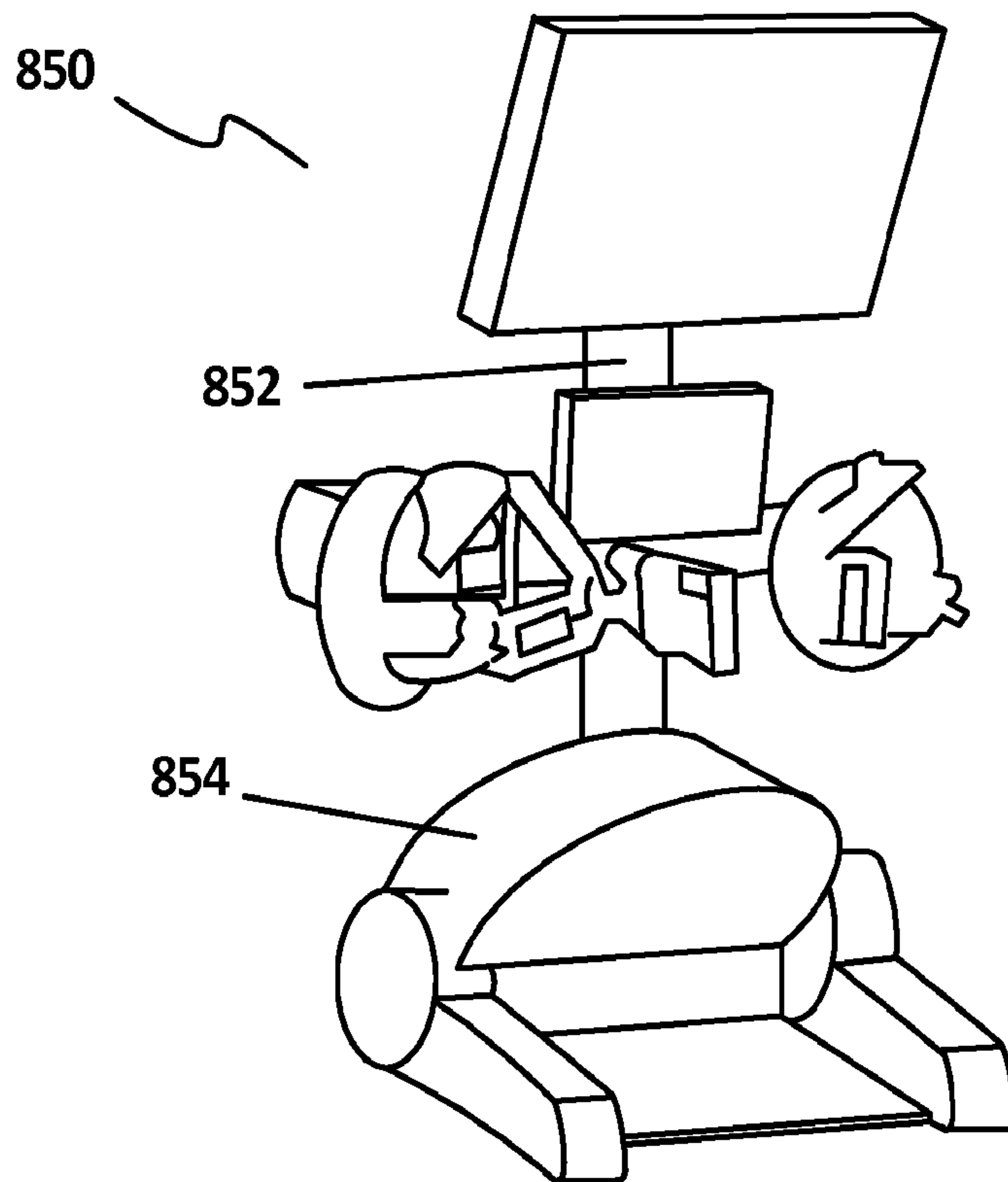
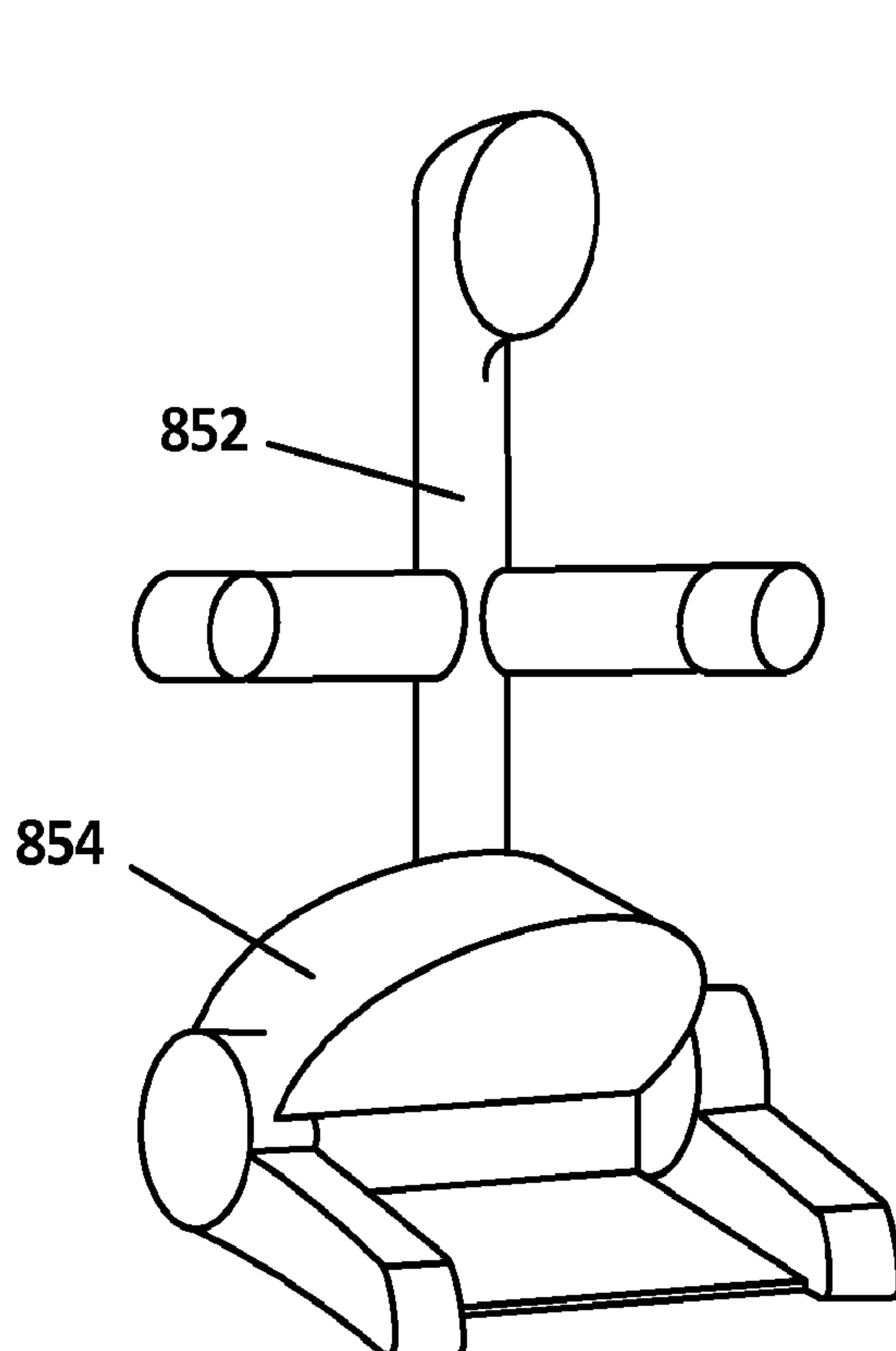
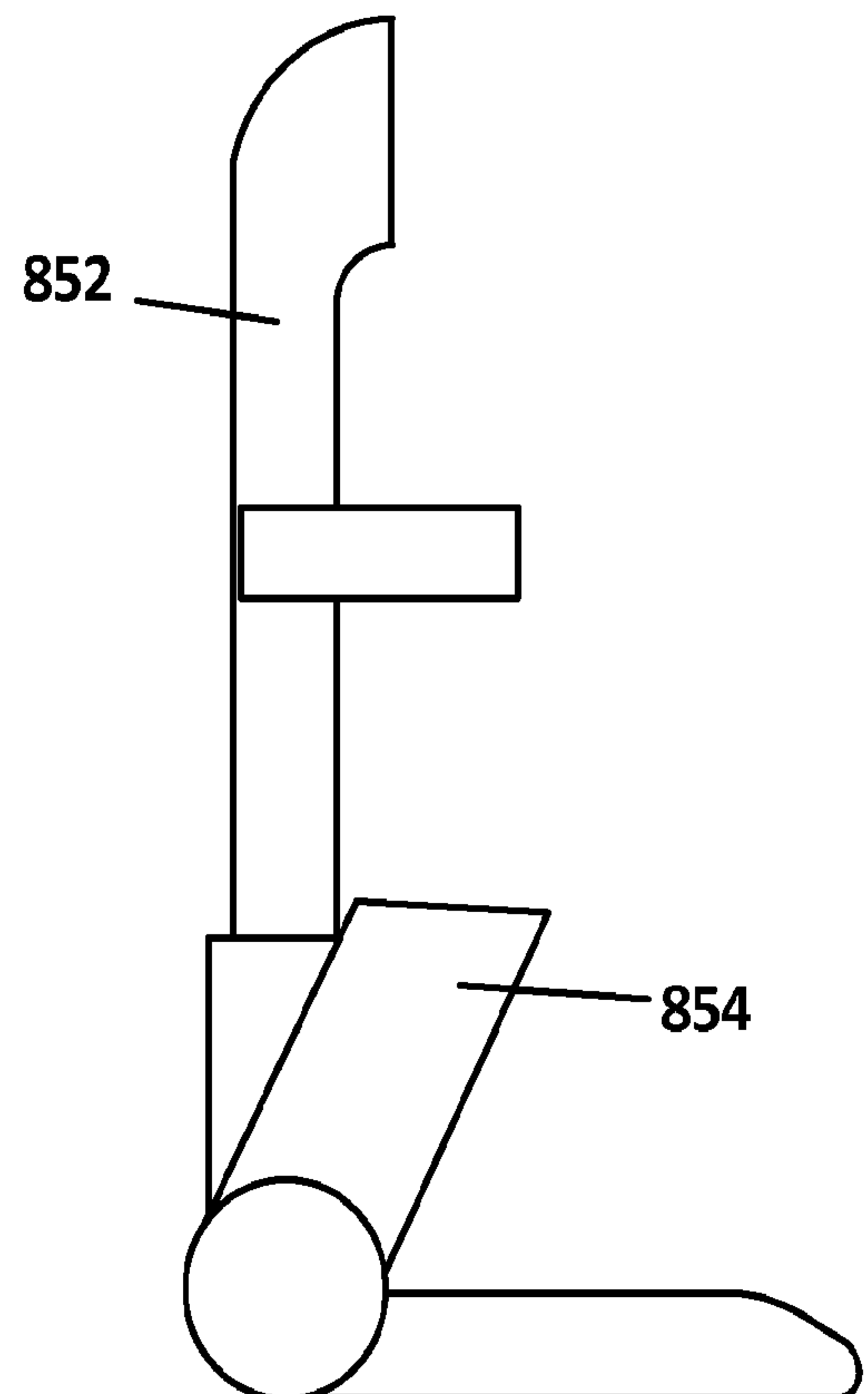


FIG. 36B

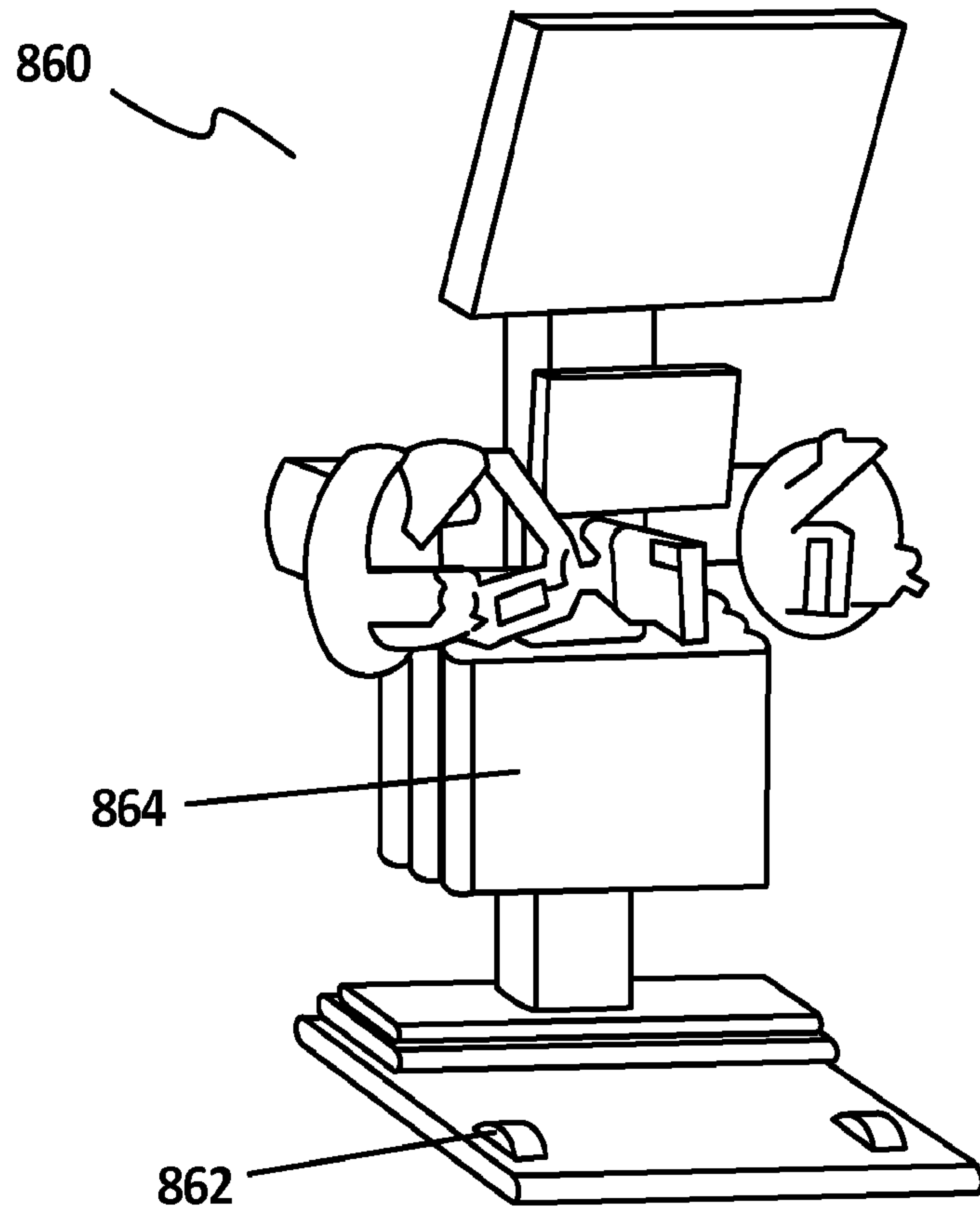
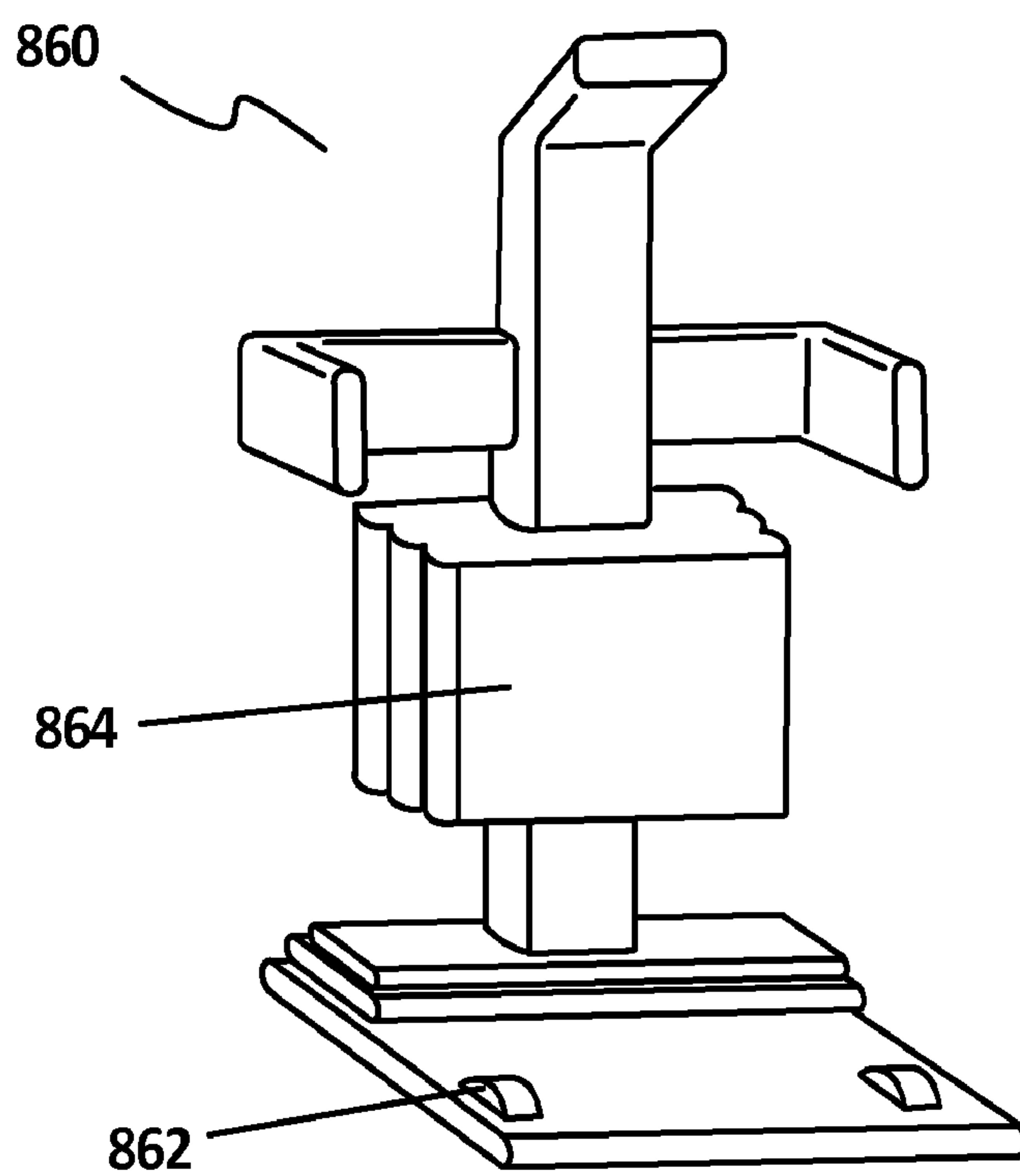
46/52

**FIG. 37A****FIG. 37B****FIG. 37C**

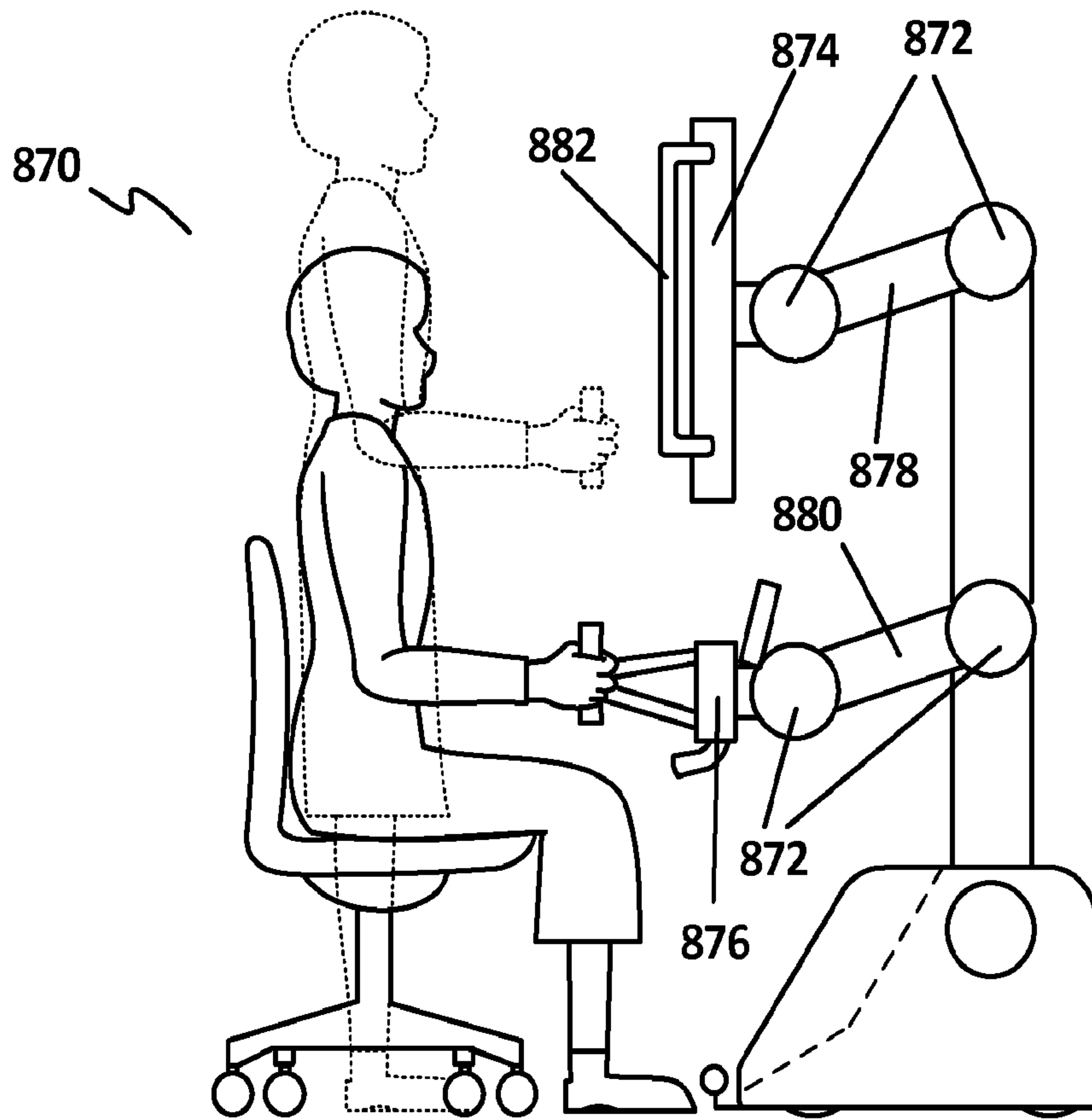
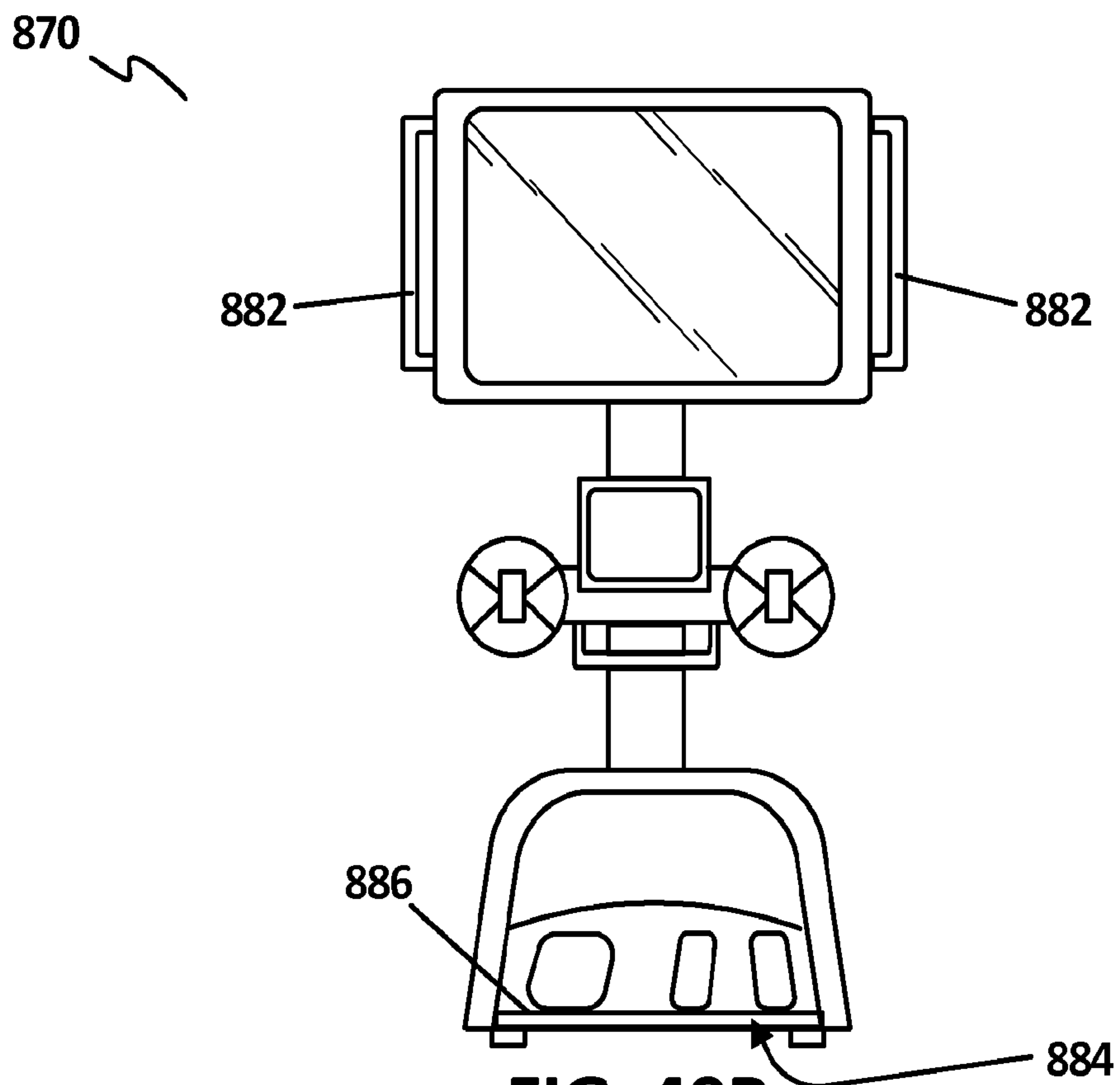
47/52

**FIG. 38A****FIG. 38B****FIG. 38C**

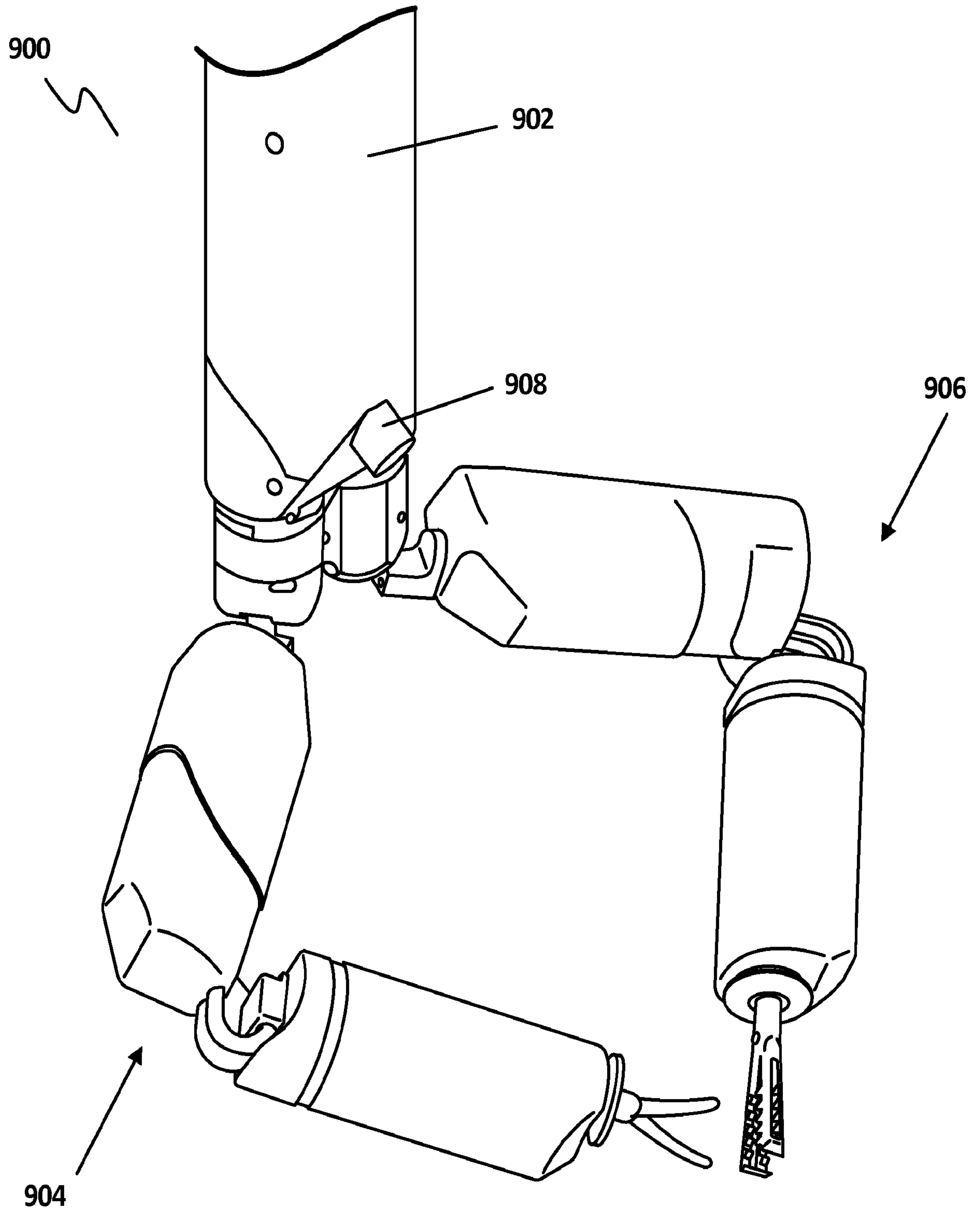
48/52

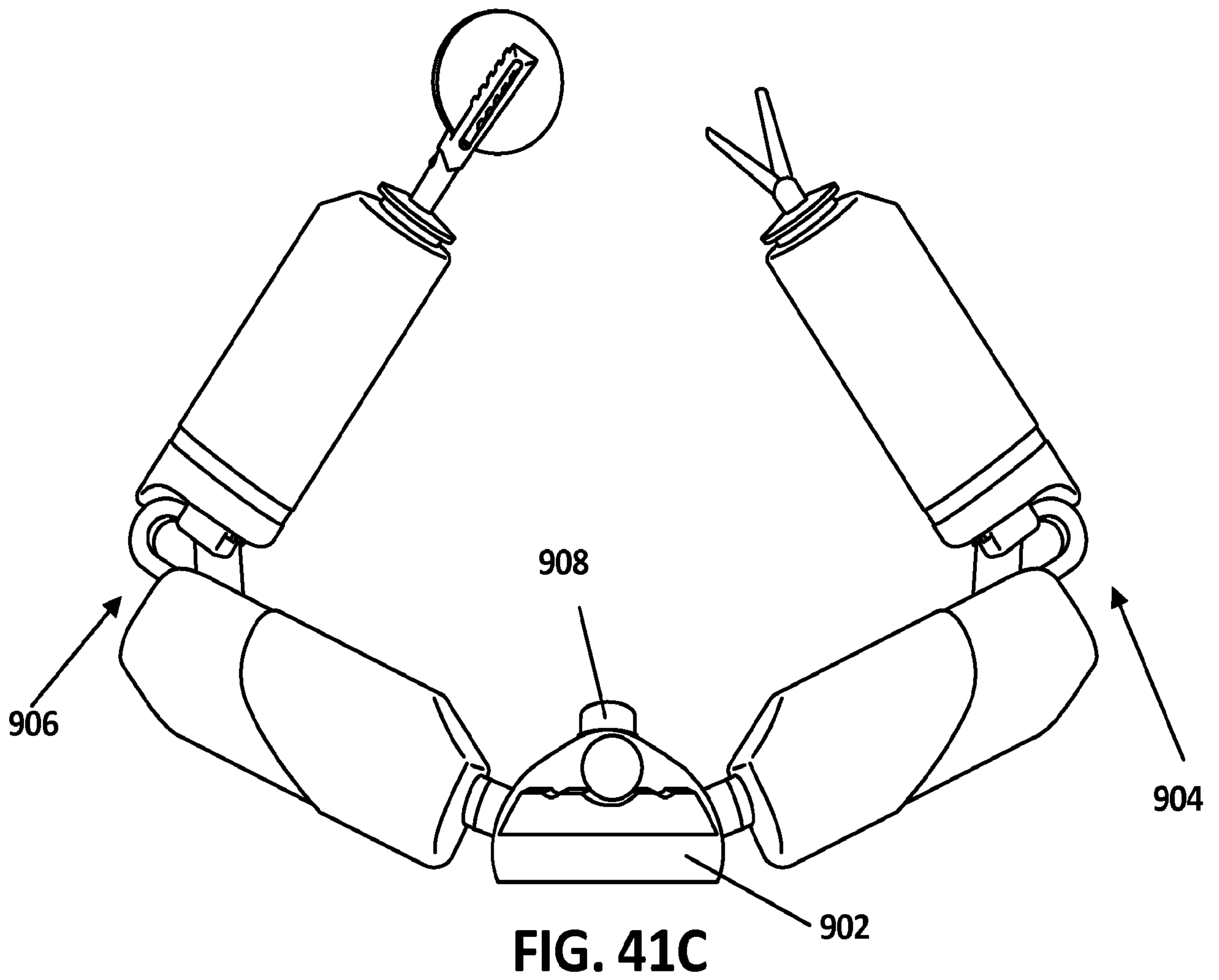
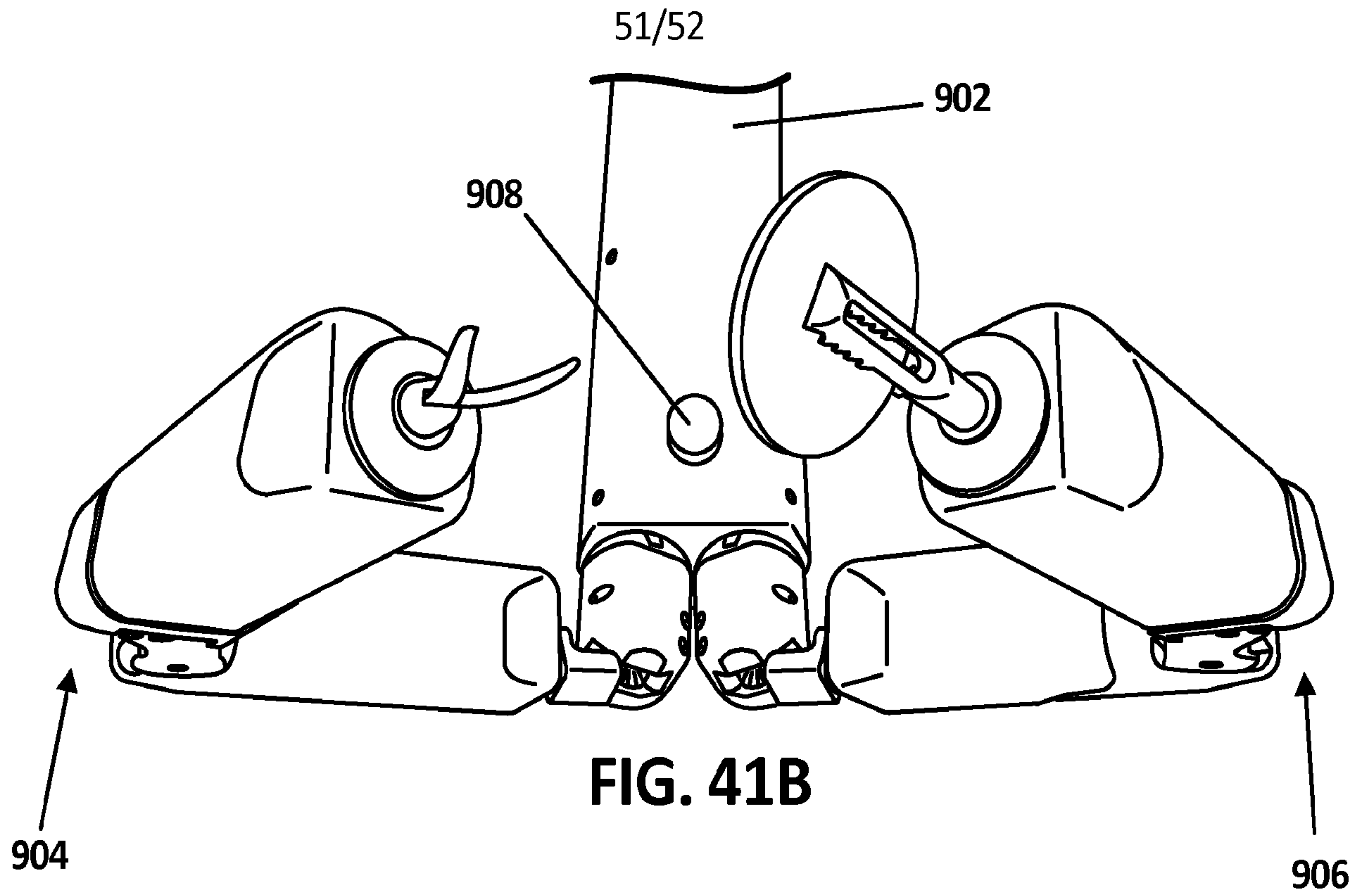
**FIG. 39A****FIG. 39B**

49/52

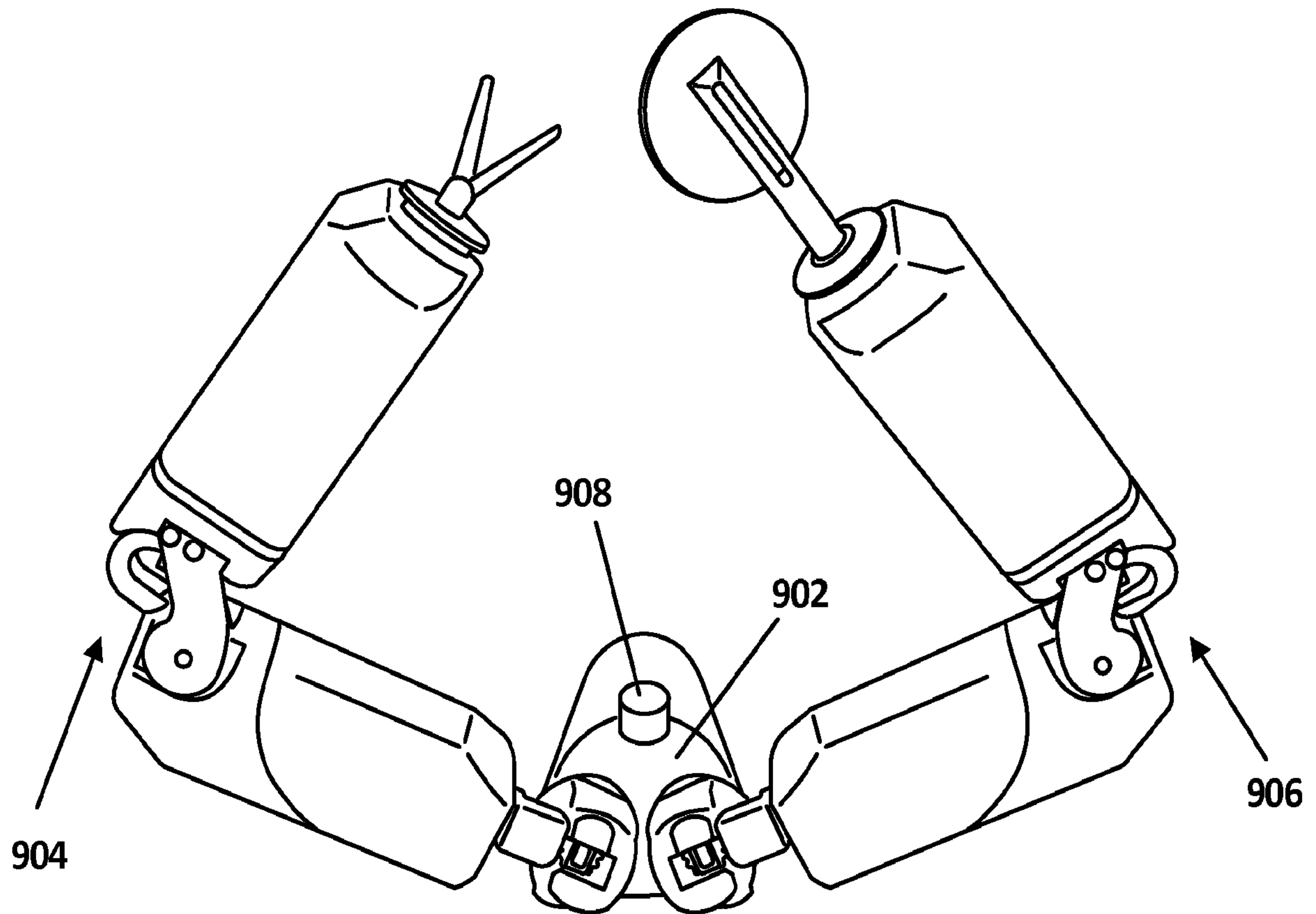
**FIG. 40A****FIG. 40B**

50/52

**FIG. 41A**



52/52

**FIG. 41D**

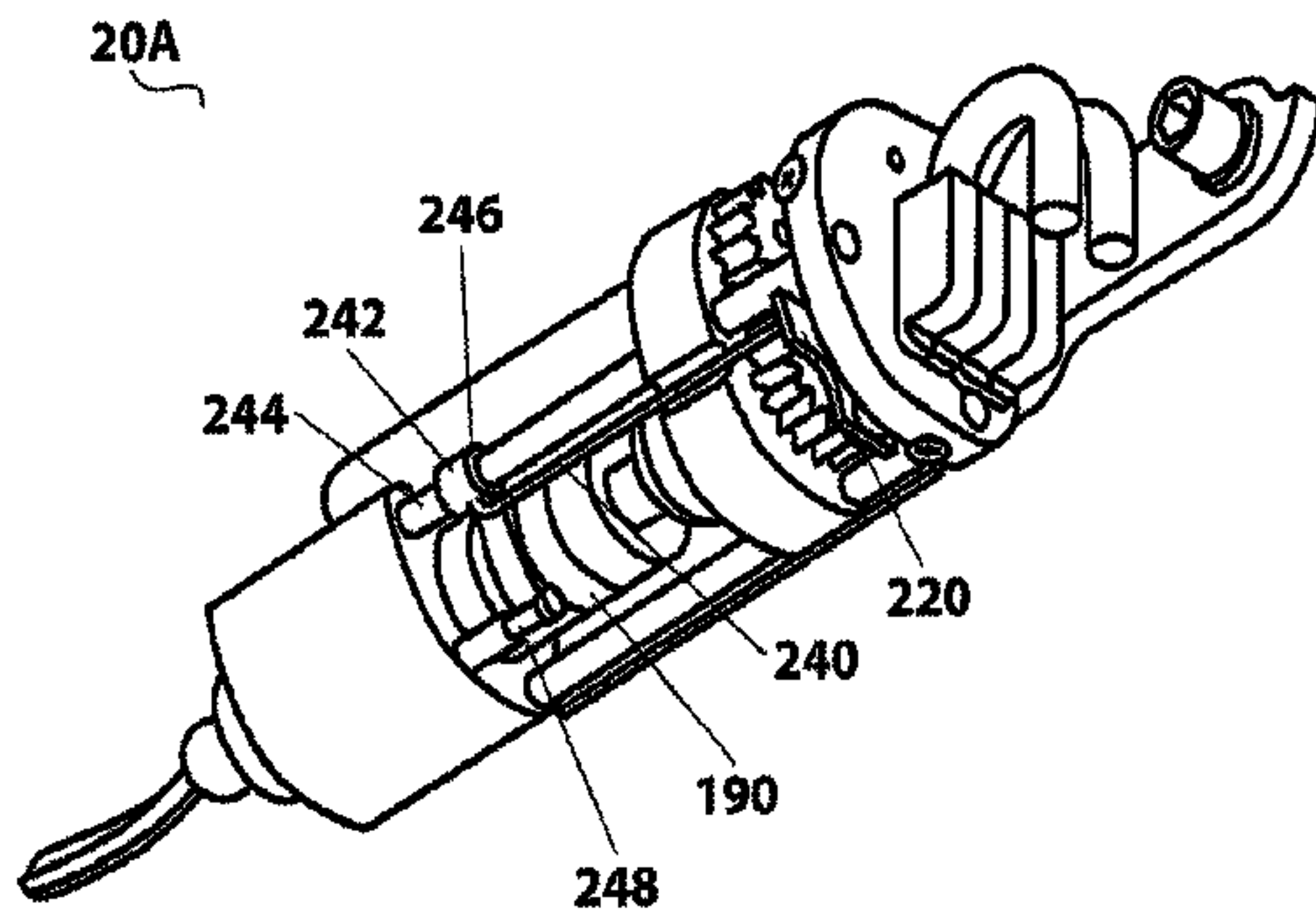


FIG. 7