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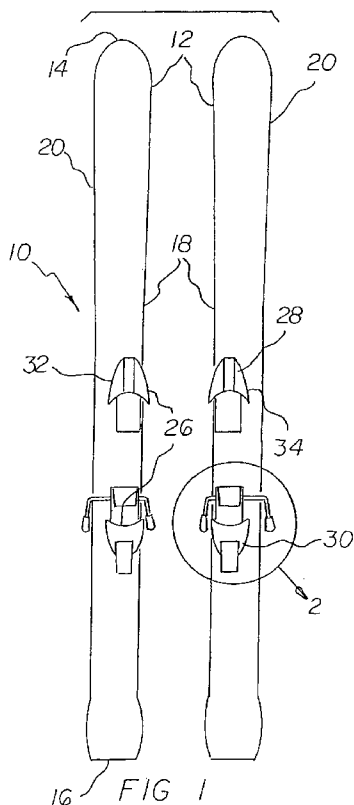
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(54) Title: BINDING/SKI BRAKE SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A brake assembly (36) is positioned on the upper surface (22) of a ski (12). The brake assembly includes a fixed plate (38) and a movable plate (46). Pairs of forward and rearward fingers (54, 56) couple the plates. The forward fingers have upper ends (58) pivotably coupled to the movable plate. The forward fingers have lower ends (60) with outwardly extending arms pivotable with respect to the fixed plate. The outwardly extending arms include a short arm (62) extending a first distance to an inside edge (18) of a ski. The outwardly extending arms include a long arm (64) extending a second distance greater than the first distance to the outside edge (20) of a ski. The arms terminate with at least one rearwardly extending braking leg (66, 68) adapted to extend rearwardly when the movable plate is in the lowered inoperative position and to extend rearwardly and downwardly when the movable plate is in the raised operative position.

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1 BINDING/SKI BRAKE SYSTEM

2 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

3 Field of the Invention

4 The present invention relates to a binding/ski brake
5 system and more particularly pertains to positioning ski
6 bindings laterally offset, closer to the inner edges of
7 skis than to the outer edges, for maximizing control while
8 configuring brakes to accommodate such binding
9 positioning, all in a safe, convenient and economical
10 manner.

11 Description of the Prior Art

12 The use of ski brake systems of known designs and
13 configurations is known in the prior art. More
14 specifically, ski brake systems of known designs and
15 configurations previously devised and utilized for the
16 purpose of configuring ski braking systems though known
17 methods and apparatuses are known to consist basically of
18 familiar, expected, and obvious structural configurations,
19 notwithstanding the myriad of designs encompassed by the
20 crowded prior art which has been developed for the
21 fulfillment of countless objectives and requirements.

22 By way of example, U.S. Patent Number 4,012,057
23 issued March 15, 1977 to Courvoisier relates to a Ski
24 Brake and U.S. Patent Number 6,390,491 issued May 21, 2002
25 to Hunter relates to a Downhill Ski with Integrated
26 Binding/Traction Device.

27 While these devices fulfill their respective,
28 particular objectives and requirements, the aforementioned
29 patents do not describe a binding/ski brake system that
30 allows for positioning ski bindings laterally offset,
31 closer to the inner edges of skis than to the outer edges,
32 for maximizing control while configuring brakes to

1 accommodate such binding positioning, all in a safe,
2 convenient and economical manner.

3 In this respect, the binding/ski brake system
4 according to the present invention substantially departs
5 from the conventional concepts and designs of the prior
6 art, and in doing so provides an apparatus primarily
7 developed for the purpose of positioning ski bindings
8 laterally offset, closer to the inner edges of skis than
9 to the outer edges, for maximizing control while
10 configuring brakes to accommodate such binding
11 positioning, all in a safe, convenient and economical
12 manner.

13 Therefore, it can be appreciated that there exists a
14 continuing need for a new and improved binding/ski brake
15 system which can be used for positioning ski bindings
16 laterally offset, closer to the inner edges of skis than
17 to the outer edges, for maximizing control while
18 configuring brakes to accommodate such binding
19 positioning, all in a safe, convenient and economical
20 manner. In this regard, the present invention
21 substantially fulfills this need.

22 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

23 In view of the foregoing disadvantages inherent in
24 the known types of ski brake systems of known designs and
25 configurations now present in the prior art, the present
26 invention provides an improved binding/ski brake system.
27 As such, the general purpose of the present invention,
28 which will be described subsequently in greater detail, is
29 to provide a new and improved binding/ski brake system and
30 method which has all the advantages of the prior art and
31 none of the disadvantages.

32 To attain this, the present invention essentially
33 comprises a binding/ski brake system. First provided is a
34 pair of skis. Each ski has a forward end. Each ski has a
35 longitudinally spaced rearward end. A length is defined

1 between the forward and rearward ends. The length is
2 between 130 cm and 205 cm. Each ski has an inside edge.
3 Each ski has a laterally spaced outside edge. A width is
4 defined between the inside and outside edges. The width
5 is between 63 mm and 130 mm. Each ski has an upper
6 surface 22. Each ski has a lower surface. Each ski has a
7 longitudinal major centerline. The centerline is provided
8 essentially midway between and parallel with the inside
9 and outside edges.

10 A binding assembly is provided. The binding assembly
11 is positioned on the upper surface of each ski. Each
12 binding assembly has a toe piece. Each binding assembly
13 has a longitudinally spaced a heel piece. Each of the
14 pieces has an inside edge. Each of the pieces has a
15 laterally spaced outside edge. Each binding assembly has
16 a longitudinal minor centerline. The minor centerline
17 extends through the toe and heel pieces. Each minor
18 centerline is spaced from and parallel with the major
19 centerline of its associated ski.

20 Provided next is a brake assembly. The brake
21 assembly is positioned on the upper surface of an
22 associated ski adjacent to the heel piece. Each brake
23 assembly has a fixed plate. The fixed plate is secured to
24 the upper surface of its associated ski forwardly of its
25 associated heel piece. Each fixed plate has an upper
26 surface. Each fixed plate has a lower surface. Each
27 fixed plate has side surfaces. Each brake assembly has a
28 movable plate. The movable plate has an upper surface.
29 The movable plate has a lower surface. The movable plate
30 further has side surfaces.

31 Further provided is a pair of widely spaced forward
32 fingers. A pair of narrowly spaced rearward fingers is
33 also provided. The fingers couple the movable plate to
34 the fixed plate. In this manner the movable plate may be
35 moved between an inoperative position and an operative

1 position. In the inoperative position, the movable plate
2 is on the upper surface of its associate ski forwardly of
3 the fixed plate. In the operative position the movable
4 plate is above the fixed plate. The forward fingers have
5 upper ends. The upper ends are in an inverted U-shaped
6 configuration. The upper ends are pivotably coupled to
7 the movable plate. The forward fingers have lower ends.
8 The forward fingers have outwardly extending arms. The
9 outwardly extending arms are pivotable with respect to the
10 fixed plate. The outwardly extending arms include a short
11 arm. The short arm extends to the inside edge. The
12 outwardly extending arms include a long arm. The long arm
13 extends to the outside edge. One outwardly extending arm
14 is a short arm extending a first distance to the inside
15 edge of a ski. The other arm is a long arm extending a
16 second distance, greater than the first distance, to the
17 outside edge of a ski. The second distance is between 50
18 percent greater and 150 percent greater than the first
19 distance. The arms terminate with rearwardly extending
20 braking legs.

21 The rearward fingers terminate with spring fingers.
22 The spring fingers are adapted to be compressed when the
23 movable plate is lowered by the force of a skier's boot on
24 the movable plate and to expand to raise the movable plate
25 when the skier's boot is removed from the movable plate.
26 The fingers are fabricated of resilient metal. Plastic
27 covers are provided. The plastic covers are positioned
28 over the outside ends of the legs.

29 The braking legs are adapted to extend directly
30 rearwardly when the movable plate is in the lowered
31 inoperative position being depressed by a users foot and
32 boot. The braking legs are then adapted to extend
33 rearwardly and downwardly when the movable plate is in the
34 raised operative position in response to a skier's foot
35 and boot becoming separated from its associated binding

1 assembly and ski. In this manner the braking legs will
2 function to preclude excessive movement of the separated
3 ski from the ski boot and skier.

4 There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the
5 more important features of the invention in order that the
6 detailed description thereof that follows may be better
7 understood and in order that the present contribution to
8 the art may be better appreciated. There are, of course,
9 additional features of the invention that will be
10 described hereinafter and which will form the subject
11 matter of the claims attached.

12 In this respect, before explaining at least one
13 embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be
14 understood that the invention is not limited in its
15 application to the details of construction and to the
16 arrangements of the components set forth in the following
17 description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention
18 is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and
19 carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood
20 that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are
21 for the purpose of descriptions and should not be regarded
22 as limiting.

23 As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate
24 that the conception, upon which this disclosure is based,
25 may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing of
26 other structures, methods and systems for carrying out the
27 several purposes of the present invention.

28 It is therefore an object of the present invention to
29 provide a new and improved binding/ski brake system which
30 has all of the advantages of the prior art ski brake
31 systems of known designs and configurations.

32 It is another object of the present invention to
33 provide a new and improved binding/ski brake system which
34 may be easily and efficiently manufactured and marketed.

1 It is further object of the present invention to
2 provide a new and improved binding/ski brake system which
3 is of durable and reliable constructions.

4 An even further object of the present invention is to
5 provide a new and improved binding/ski brake system which
6 is susceptible of a low cost of manufacture with regard to
7 both materials and labor, and which accordingly is then
8 susceptible of low prices of sale to the consuming public,
9 thereby making such binding/ski brake system economically
10 available to the buying public.

11 The primary object of the present invention is to
12 provide a binding/ski brake system for positioning ski
13 bindings laterally offset, closer to the inner edges of
14 skis than to the outer edges, for maximizing control while
15 configuring brakes to accomodate such binding positioning,
16 all in a safe, convenient and economical manner.

17 Lastly, it is an object of the present invention to
18 provide a new and improved binding/ski brake system. A
19 brake assembly is positioned on the upper surface of a
20 ski. The brake assembly includes a fixed plate and a
21 movable plate. Pairs of forward and rearward fingers
22 couple the plates. The forward fingers have upper ends
23 pivotably coupled to the movable plate. The forward
24 fingers have lower ends with outwardly extending arms
25 pivotable with respect to the fixed plate. The outwardly
26 extending arms include a short arm extending a first
27 distance to an inside edge of a ski. The outwardly
28 extending arms include a long arm extending a second
29 distance greater than the first distance to the outside
30 edge of a ski. The arms terminate with at least one
31 rearwardly extending braking leg. The braking leg is
32 adapted to extend rearwardly when the movable plate is in
33 the lowered inoperative position. The braking leg is
34 adapted to extend rearwardly and downwardly when the
35 movable plate is in the raised operative position.

1 These together with other objects of the invention,
2 along with the various features of novelty which
3 characterize the invention, are pointed out with
4 particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part
5 of this disclosure. For a better understanding of the
6 invention, its operating advantages and the specific
7 objects attained by its uses, reference should be had to
8 the accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which
9 there is illustrated preferred embodiments of the
10 invention.

11 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

12 The invention will be better understood and objects
13 other than those set forth above will become apparent when
14 consideration is given to the following detailed
15 description thereof. Such description makes reference to
16 the annexed drawings wherein:

17 Figure 1 is a plan view of a binding/ski brake system
18 constructed in accordance with the principles of the
19 present invention.

20 Figure 2 is an enlarged plan view of the system taken
21 at Circle 2 of Figure 1.

22 Figure 3 is a cross sectional view taken along line
23 3-3 of Figure 2.

24 Figure 4 is a side elevational view taken along line
25 4-4 of Figure 3.

26 Figure 5 is a side elevational view similar to Figure
27 4 but illustrating an alternate embodiment of the
28 invention.

29 Figure 6 is a cross sectional view taken along line
30 6-6 of Figure 5.

31 The same reference numerals refer to the same parts
32 throughout the various Figures.

33 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

34 With reference now to the drawings, and in particular
35 to Figure 1 thereof, the preferred embodiment of the new

1 and improved binding/ski brake system embodying the
2 principles and concepts of the present invention and
3 generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be
4 described.

5 The present invention, the binding/ski brake system
6 10 is comprised of a plurality of components. Such
7 components in their broadest context include a brake
8 assembly, a pair of forward fingers and a pair of rearward
9 fingers. Such components are individually configured and
10 correlated with respect to each other so as to attain the
11 desired objective.

12 First provided is a pair of skis 12. Each ski has a
13 forward end 14. Each ski has a longitudinally spaced
14 rearward end 16. A length is defined between the forward
15 and rearward ends. The length is between 130 cm and 205
16 cm. Each ski has an inside edge 18. Each ski has a
17 laterally spaced outside edge 20. A width is defined
18 between the inside and outside edges. The width is
19 between 63 mm and 130 mm. Each ski has an upper surface
20 22. Each ski has a lower surface 24. Each ski has a
21 longitudinal major centerline. The centerline is provided
22 essentially midway between and parallel with the inside
23 and outside edges.

24 A binding assembly 26 is provided. The binding
25 assembly is positioned on the upper surface of each ski.
26 Each binding assembly has a toe piece 28. Each binding
27 assembly has a longitudinally spaced a heel piece 30.
28 Each of the pieces has an inside edge 32. Because of the
29 placement, the inside edge of the skier's boot is thus
30 located over the inside edge of the ski. Each of the
31 pieces has a laterally spaced outside edge 34. Each
32 binding assembly has a longitudinal minor centerline. The
33 minor centerline extends through the toe and heel pieces.
34 Each minor centerline is spaced from and parallel with the
35 major centerline of its associated ski.

1 Provided next is a brake assembly 36. The brake
2 assembly is positioned on the upper surface of an
3 associated ski adjacent to the heel piece. Each brake
4 assembly has a fixed plate 38. The fixed plate is secured
5 to the upper surface of its associated ski forwardly of
6 its associated heel piece. In an alternate embodiment,
7 the fixed plate is attached to the forward area of the
8 heel piece. Each fixed plate has an upper surface 40.
9 Each fixed plate has a lower surface 42. Each fixed plate
10 has side surfaces 44. Each brake assembly has a movable
11 plate 46. The movable plate has an upper surface 48. The
12 movable plate has a lower surface 50. The movable plate
13 further has side surfaces 52.

14 Further provided is a pair of widely spaced forward
15 fingers 54. A pair of narrowly spaced rearward fingers 56
16 is also usually provided. The fingers couple the movable
17 plate to the fixed plate. In this manner the movable
18 plate may be moved between an inoperative position and an
19 operative position. In the inoperative position, the
20 movable plate is on the upper surface of its associate ski
21 forwardly of the fixed plate. In the operative position
22 the movable plate is above the fixed plate. The forward
23 fingers have upper ends 58. The upper ends are in an
24 inverted U-shaped configuration. The upper ends are
25 pivotably coupled to the movable plate. The forward
26 fingers have lower ends 60. The forward fingers have
27 outwardly extending arms 62, 64. The outwardly extending
28 arms are pivotable with respect to the fixed plate. The
29 outwardly extending arms include a short arm 62. The
30 short arm extends to the inside edge. The outwardly
31 extending arms include a long arm 64. The long arm
32 extends to the outside edge. One outwardly extending arm
33 is a short arm extending a first distance to the inside
34 edge of a ski. The other arm is a long arm extending a
35 second distance greater than the first distance to the

1 outside edge of a ski. The arms terminate with rearwardly
2 extending braking legs 66, 68. In an alternate
3 embodiment, a single braking leg is utilized. The present
4 invention contemplates a pair of skis, a left and a right,
5 one of the brakes being the mirror image of the other.

6 The rearward fingers terminate with spring fingers
7 70. The spring fingers are adapted to be compressed when
8 the movable plate is lowered by the force of a skier's
9 boot on the movable plate and to expand to raise the
10 movable plate when the skier's boot is removed from the
11 movable plate. The fingers are fabricated of resilient
12 metal. Plastic covers 72 are provided. The plastic
13 covers are positioned over the outside ends of the legs.

14 The braking legs are adapted to extend directly
15 rearwardly when the movable plate is in the lowered
16 inoperative position being depressed by a users foot and
17 boot. The braking legs are then adapted to extend
18 rearwardly and downwardly when the movable plate is in the
19 raised operative position in response to a skier's foot
20 and boot becoming separated from its associated binding
21 assembly and ski. In this manner the braking legs will
22 function to preclude excessive movement of the separated
23 ski from the ski boot and skier.

24 An alternate embodiment of the invention 100 is shown
25 in Figures 5 and 6. In this embodiment, the fingers are
26 formed of a single, resilient wire 102 is a W-shaped
27 configuration coupling the fixed plate 104 and the movable
28 plate 106. The wire has a short arm 110 and a long a4m
29 112 with upper bends 1216 contacting the moveable plate
30 between the arms and with a lower bend 118 contacting a
31 ski between the upper bends. The upper and lower bends
32 function as a spring urging the upper plate upwardly. The
33 arms are bent with legs 120 terminating in free ends.
34 Covers are provided over the free ends.

1 Narrow skis, 63 - 68 mm at the waist, have dominated
2 the ski industry since the beginning. This width performs
3 best on groomed runs, and especially on hard snow and ice.
4 Because of the precise edge control and grip on ice, World
5 Cup racers typically use skis that are 67 or 68 mm wide.
6 The problem with narrow skis is that they lack flotation
7 and are more difficult and tiring to use in soft snow
8 conditions.

9 Mid-Fat skis, from around 70 mm at waist to around 88
10 mm at waist, are currently the ski of choice for the all
11 mountain skier. These are a compromise in all dimensions,
12 but will give better performance in soft snow than a
13 narrow ski without sacrificing too much edge grip and
14 precision on hard snow.

15 Wide skis, around 80 mm to over 130 mm at waist, are
16 the best tool for soft snow and deep powder. The wider
17 the skis are, the more flotation they deliver, and they
18 make skiing powder easier for everyone. The problem here
19 is that the wider the ski, the more difficult it is to get
20 on edge and control edge angle, making them difficult and
21 tiring to use on hard snow conditions.

22 For the last few years, the ski industry has been
23 selling skis based on the percentage of time one spends on
24 groomed runs vs. ungroomed runs, recommending "mid fat"
25 skis for most skiers. This is a compromise in performance
26 under most snow conditions. For example, a skier who
27 spends approximately 75 percent of his time on groomed
28 runs should opt for a ski in the narrow range of the "mid-
29 fat" category, while a skier who spends 75 percent of his
30 time skiing the back bowls should select something wider.
31 Narrow skis and wide skis are now largely considered to be
32 specialized equipment and are used by the purist seeking
33 optimal performance in one particular type of snow
34 conditions. Many times these skis are used by skiers who
35 own more than one pair of skis.

1 The off-center mounting on the present invention
2 eliminates the compromise. It gives the skier the edge
3 grip and precision of a narrow ski on hard snow, and the
4 flotation and ease of a wide ski in soft snow. This is
5 done by using a ski from the "wide" category and mounting
6 the bindings off-center to position the inside edges of
7 the ski boots over the inside edges of the skis. The
8 reason that this works is because when skiing hard snow,
9 90 percent of a skiers edging power comes from the
10 downhill
11 ski--the inside edge. Mounting the bindings in this
12 manner allows the skier to edge the skis easily and
13 precisely on hard snow and ice--they ski and feel just
14 like narrow skis. Yet, when skiing powder, they float and
15 feel just like wide skis, because they are side skis! No
16 compromises.

17 As to the manner of usage and operation of the
18 present invention, the same should be apparent from the
19 above description. Accordingly, no further discussion
20 relating to the manner of usage and operation will be
21 provided.

22 With respect to the above description then, it is to
23 be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for
24 the parts of the invention, to include variations in size,
25 materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation,
26 assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious
27 to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent
28 relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and
29 described in the specification are intended to be
30 encompassed by the present invention.

31 Therefore, the foregoing is considered as
32 illustrative only of the principles of the invention.
33 Further, since numerous modifications and changes will
34 readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not
35 desired to limit the invention to the exact construction

1 and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all
2 suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to,
3 falling within the scope of the invention.

1 CLAIMS

2 What is claimed is:

1 1. A binding/ski brake system comprising:
2 a brake assembly positioned on the upper surface of
3 an associated ski and including a fixed plate and a
4 movable plate; and
5 fingers coupling the movable plate to the fixed
6 plate, the fingers having upper ends pivotably coupled to
7 the movable plate and lower ends with outwardly extending
8 arms pivotable with respect to the fixed plate, the
9 outwardly extending arms including a short arm extending a
10 first distance to an inside edge of a ski and a long arm
11 extending a second distance greater than the first
12 distance to the outside edge of a ski, the arms
13 terminating with at least one rearwardly extending braking
14 leg;
15 the braking leg adapted to extend directly rearwardly
16 when the movable plate is in the lowered inoperative
17 position, the braking leg then adapted to extend
18 rearwardly and downwardly when the movable plate is in the
19 raised operative position.

1 2. The system as set forth in claim 1 and further
2 including:
3 a pair of skis, each ski having a forward end and a
4 longitudinally spaced rearward end defining a length
5 between 130 cm and 205 cm with an inside edge and a
6 laterally spaced outside edge defining a width of between
7 63 mm and 130 mm, each ski having an upper surface and a
8 lower surface, each ski having a longitudinal major
9 centerline essentially midway between and parallel with
10 the inside and outside edges; and
11 a binding assembly positioned on the upper surface of
12 each ski, each binding assembly having a toe piece and

13 longitudinally spaced a heel piece with each of the pieces
14 having an inside edge and a laterally spaced outside edge,
15 each binding assembly having a longitudinal minor
16 centerline extending through the toe and heel pieces with
17 each minor centerline being spaced from and parallel with
18 the major centerline of its associated ski.

1 3. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the
2 second distance is between 50 percent greater and 150
3 percent greater than the first distance.

1 4. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the
2 fingers include a pair of widely spaced forward fingers
3 and a pair of narrowly spaced rearward fingers coupling
4 the movable plate to the fixed plate for movement of the
5 movable plate between an inoperative position on the upper
6 surface of its associate ski forwardly of the fixed plate
7 and an operative position above the fixed plate.

1 5. The system as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the
2 fingers are formed of a single resilient wire in a W-
3 shaped configuration coupling the fixed plate and the
4 moveable plate, the wire having a short arm and a long arm
5 with upper bends between the arms and with a lower bend
6 contacting a ski between the upper bends, the upper band
7 lower bends functioning as a spring urging the upper plate
8 upwardly, the arms bent with legs terminating in free ends
9 and covers over the free ends.

1 6. A binding/ski brake system for positioning ski
2 bindings closer to the inner edges of skis than to the
3 outer edges for maximizing control while configuring
4 brakes to accommodate such binding positioning, all in a
5 safe, convenient and economic manner comprising, in
6 combination:

7 a pair of skis, each ski having a forward end and a
8 longitudinally spaced rearward end defining a length of
9 between 130 cm and 205 cm with an inside edge and a
10 laterally spaced outside edge defining a width of between
11 63 mm and 130 mm, each ski having an upper surface and a
12 lower surface, each ski having a longitudinal major
13 centerline essentially midway between and parallel with
14 the inside and outside edges;

15 a binding assembly positioned on the upper surface of
16 each ski, each binding assembly having a toe piece and
17 longitudinally spaced a heel piece with each of the pieces
18 having an inside edge and a laterally spaced outside edge,
19 each binding assembly having a longitudinal minor
20 centerline extending through the toe and heel pieces with
21 each minor centerline being spaced from and parallel with
22 the major centerline of its associated ski, the second
23 distance being between 50 percent greater and 150 percent
24 greater than the first distance;

25 a brake assembly positioned on the upper surface of
26 an associated ski adjacent to the heel piece, each brake
27 assembly having a fixed plate secured to the upper surface
28 of its associated ski forwardly of its associated heel
29 piece, each fixed plate having an upper surface and a
30 lower surface with side surfaces, each brake assembly
31 having a movable plate having an upper surface and a lower
32 surface with side surfaces; and

33 a pair of widely spaced forward fingers and a pair of
34 narrowly spaced rearward fingers coupling the movable
35 plate to the fixed plate for movement of the movable plate
36 between an inoperative position on the upper surface of
37 its associate ski forwardly of the fixed plate and an
38 operative position above the fixed plate, the forward
39 fingers having laterally spaced portions with upper ends
40 in an inverted U-shaped configuration pivotably coupled to
41 the movable plate and lower ends with outwardly extending

42 arms pivotable with respect to the fixed plate, the
43 outwardly extending arms including a short arm extending
44 to the inside edge and a long arm extending to the outside
45 edge, the arms terminating with rearwardly extending
46 braking legs, the rearward fingers terminating with spring
47 fingers adapted to be compressed when the movable plate is
48 lowered by the force of a skier's boot on the movable
49 plate and to expand to raise the movable plate when the
50 skier's boot is removed from the movable plate, the
51 fingers being fabricated of resilient metal with plastic
52 covers removably positioned over the outside ends of the
53 legs;

54 the braking legs adapted to extend directly
55 rearwardly when the movable plate is in the lowered
56 inoperative position being depressed by a users foot and
57 boot, the braking legs then adapted to extend rearwardly
58 and downwardly when the movable plate is in the raised
59 operative position in response to a skier's foot and boot
60 becoming separated from its associated binding assembly
61 and ski whereby the braking legs will function to preclude
62 excessive movement of the separated ski from the ski boot
63 and skier.

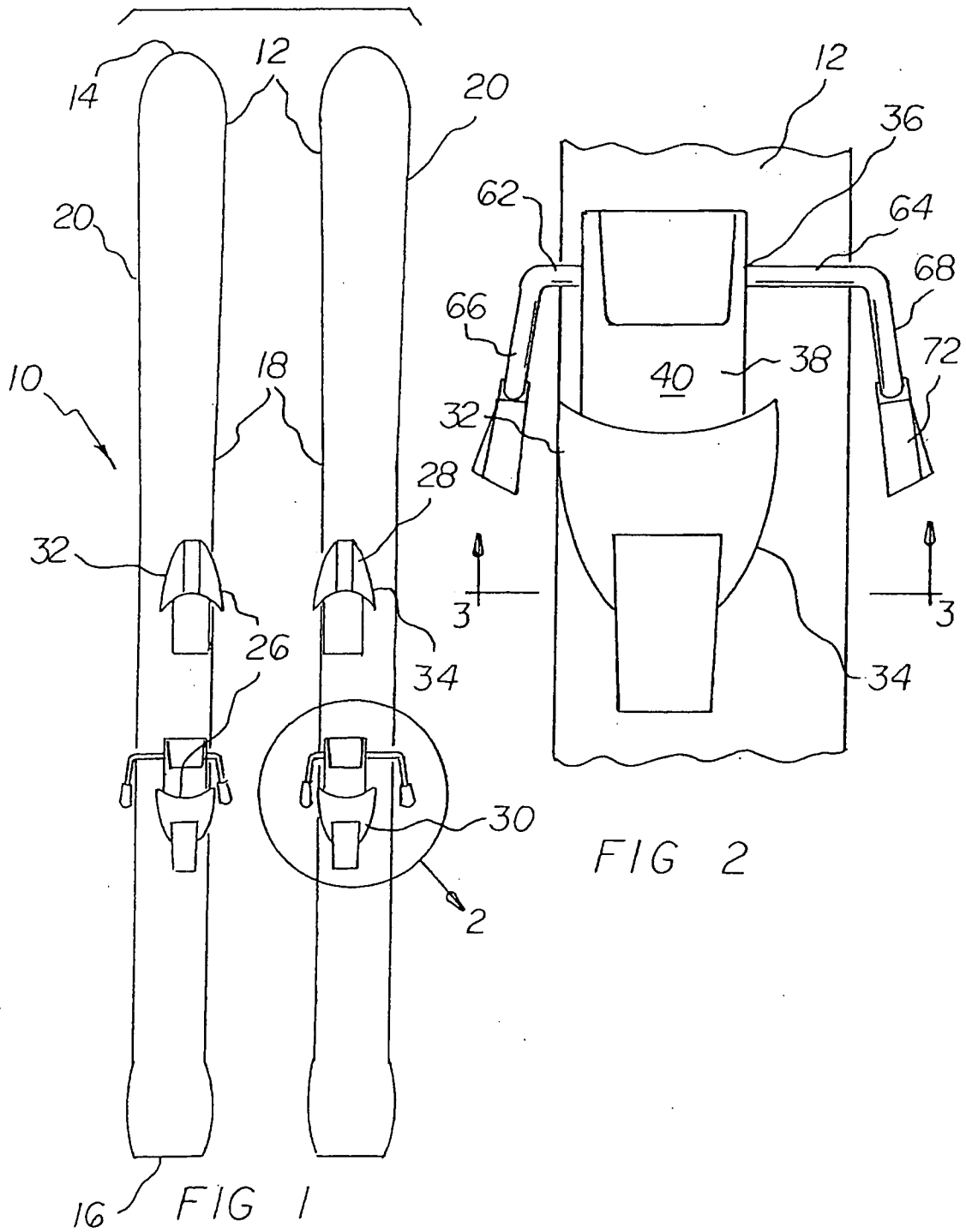


FIG 3

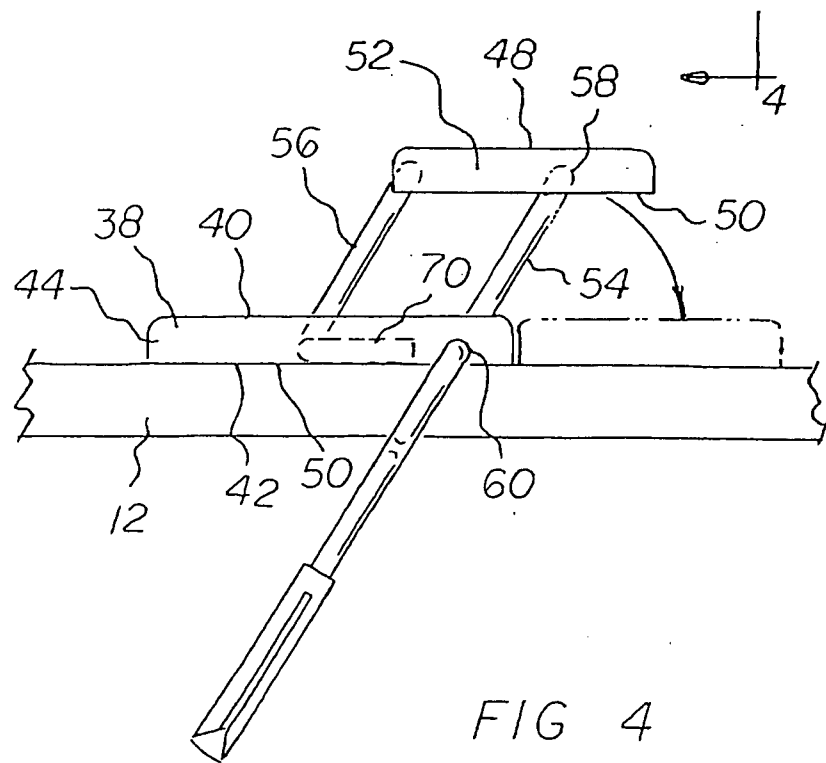
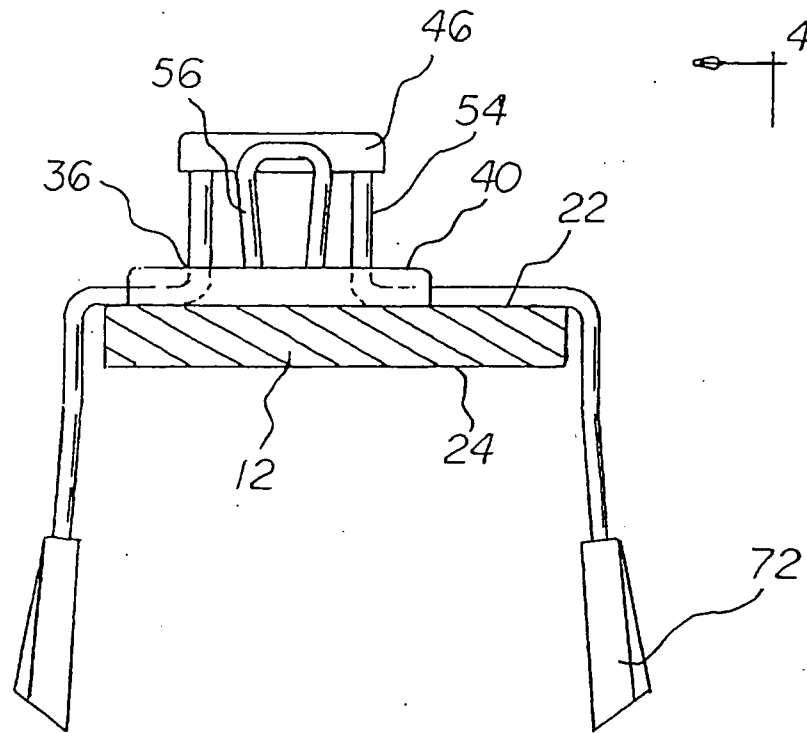


FIG 4

FIG 5

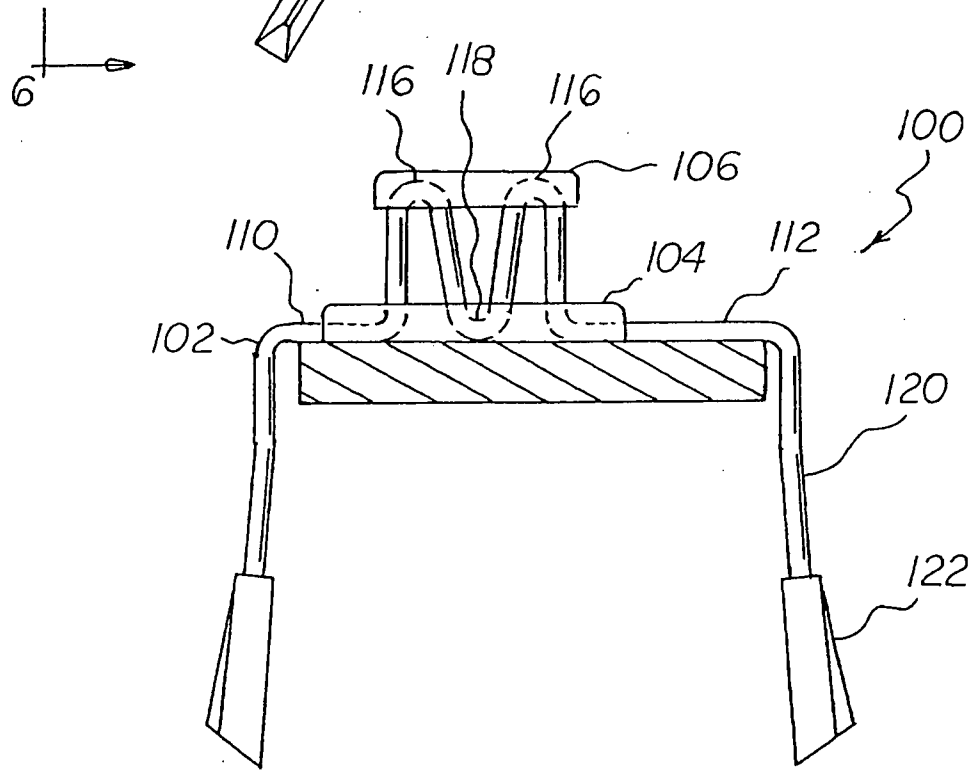
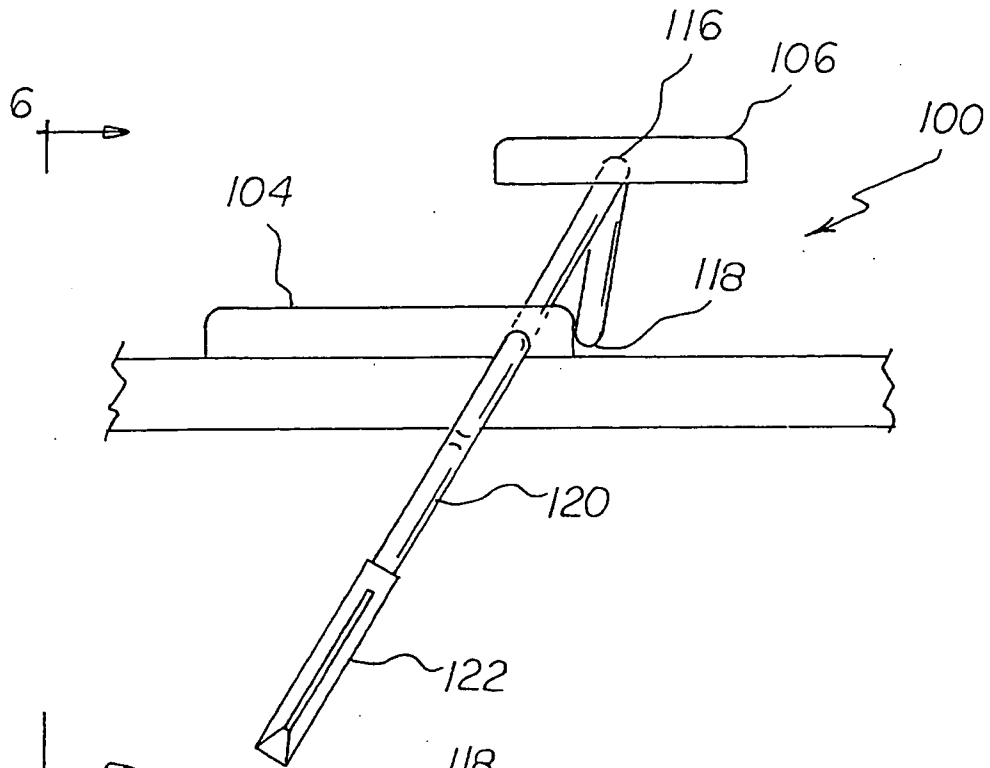


FIG 6