



(51) International Patent Classification:  
A47B 37/00 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2011/000308

(22) International Filing Date:  
18 February 2011 (18.02.2011)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
61/305,661 18 February 2010 (18.02.2010) US

(72) Inventors; and

(71) Applicants : BAUGH, Gene, W. [US/US]; 10947  
Lamplight Way, Shreveport, LA 71106 (US). BAUGH,  
Jayne, A. [US/US]; 10947 Lamplight Way, Shreveport,  
LA 71106 (US).

(74) Agent: SCHULTZ, George, R.; Schultz & Associates,  
P.C., 5400 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1200, Dallas, TX 75240  
(US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,

AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ,  
CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO,  
DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT,  
HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP,  
KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD,  
ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI,  
NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD,  
SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR,  
TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every  
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,  
GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG,  
ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ,  
TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK,  
EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU,  
LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK,  
SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,  
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) Title: CONVERTIBLE HEADBOARD TABLE APPARATUS

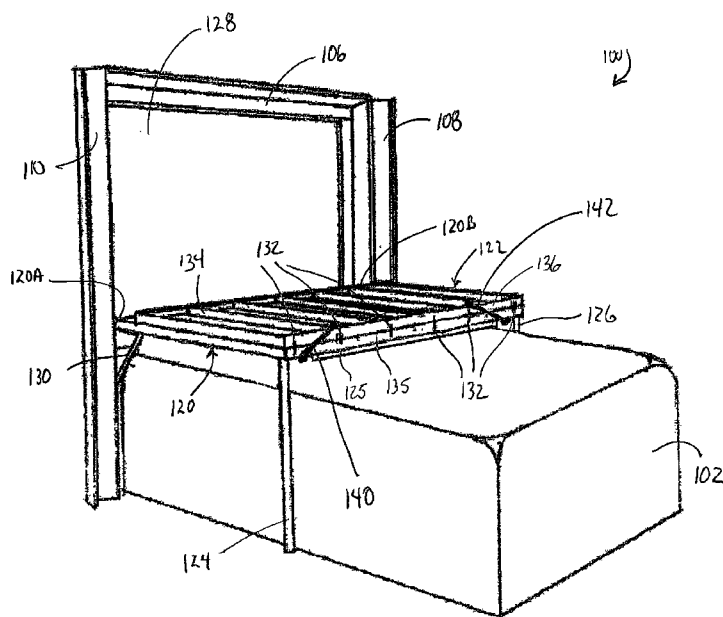


Figure 2

(57) Abstract: A wall mounted headboard capable of storing and deploying a spring loaded table. The apparatus is comprised of a headboard pivotally connected to a first table section and assisted by a plurality of gas springs. The first table section is pivotally hinged to a second table section. The hinges between the table sections are hidden thus the table surface is free from anything disturbing a smooth surface. The weight of the second table section is offset by a plurality of torsion spring assemblies. The torsion spring assemblies are comprised of a torsion spring slidingly engaged in brackets mounted to each table section. The torsion spring assemblies allow a single user to move the second table section easily with minimal effort whether deploying or storing the table. The operation of storing or deploying the table can be performed from either side of the bed without walking around to the opposite side.

## **CONVERTIBLE HEADBOARD TABLE APPARATUS**

### **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

**[0001]** The present invention relates to convertible furniture. In particular, the invention relates to a wall mounted or free standing headboard having a spring loaded table apparatus which is easily lowered from a concealed position within the headboard to a functional position over a bed.

### **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

**[0002]** As a result of today's economy, many people are looking to downsize the footprint of their living spaces. A reality of smaller sized houses and or apartments is that there is less room for furniture. Large tables are often one of the first pieces of furniture to be sacrificed to space saving efforts. Convertible furniture is an efficient way to save floor space and maintain functionality. The temporary need for the large surface that a table provides either for meal time or project time is one example of where space saving features of convertible furniture could be efficiently utilized. It is desirable to have a large table that does not require to be stored in a closet.

**[0003]** U.S. Patent No. 7,017,200 to *Reppas, et al.* discloses a convertible furniture assembly having a bed frame pivotally coupled to a frame assembly. The assembly contains a bed surface and a table surface and is counterweighted to enable operation by a single user. However, the bedding surface needs to be removed in order to function as a table and the table working surface is smaller than the bedding surface therefore not maximizing efficiency and losing functionality.

**[0004]** U.S. Patent No. 6,691,342 to *Sherman* discloses a convertible furniture unit

having a base and a pivotally connected bed platform. Once the bed platform moves to a stored position, a table panel pivotally connected to the underside of the bed platform is propped into place by a spring loaded or linear actuated extension. While the furniture piece may be operated by a single user, the bedding surface must be prepped for stowage and the resulting work surface of the table is significantly smaller than the bedding surface it replaces. Additionally, the bedding surface is custom to this particular piece of furniture and cannot be utilized elsewhere.

**[0005]** U.S. Patent No. 2,566,256 to *Snyder* discloses a two section, folding cabinet table top. The resulting table top is capable being deployed by a single user, but the table top takes up more floor space than the cabinet alone and the table surface is hindered by hinges thus is limited in functionality.

**[0006]** U.S. Patent No. 845,117 to *Peters* discloses a combination bed and table apparatus. The apparatus cannot accommodate a standard bed frame, the bedding material must be removed and stored separately, and the crank used to position the table surface in place does not significantly offset the weight of the table surface.

**[0007]** There is a need for convertible furniture that can be easily operated by one user, does not require any prepping of the converted area, does not require any rearrangement of the current furniture, is compatible with existing furniture, provides a surface that maximizes the space where the furniture sits, is completely functional whatever formation is being utilized, and does not require extra storage space.

### **SUMMARY OF INVENTION**

[0008] The preferred embodiment combines a bed headboard capable of accepting a standard bedframe and mattress that converts to a sturdy, completely unencumbered work surface that utilizes the entire space provided by the sleeping surface without the need for rearranging or removing bedding. The preferred embodiment is operable by a single user with minimal effort and is also aesthetically pleasing.

[0009] Accordingly, an embodiment of the apparatus includes a headboard connected to a standard bed frame and mattress in a conventional manner. A folded table surface is pivotally connected to the headboard and, when not in use, completely stored therein out of sight behind a panel and a pair of wing doors. A pair of gas springs enables a single user to lower the folded table surface out of the stored position from within the headboard with minimal effort. The table surface is comprised of two table sections pivotally connected to each other. Each table section includes a pair of connected table legs. A torsion spring assembly connected to each table section allows a single user to separate the table sections and unfold to form the complete table surface. The table surface is unencumbered by connecting hardware and thus provides a completely smooth and uninterrupted work or eating surface. The table surface is also larger than the bedding surface and thus there is room to comfortably stand next to the table surface. The torsion springs offset the weight of the table section and therefore also assist in the stowing of the table surface. The complete setting up of the table surface and the stowing of the table surface can be performed by a single user and completely from one side of the bed.

[0010] In alternate embodiments, the gas springs can be replaced by linear actuators for powered operation.

[0011] Those skilled in the art will appreciate the above-mentioned features and advantages of the invention together with other important aspects thereof upon reading the

detailed description that follows in conjunction with the drawings provided.

### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

[0012] In the detailed description of the preferred embodiments presented below, reference is made to the accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in the specification hereof by reference, wherein:

[0013] Figure 1 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment where the table apparatus is stored.

[0014] Figure 2 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment where the table apparatus is partially deployed.

[0015] Figure 3 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment where the table apparatus is fully deployed.

[0016] Figure 4a is a partial plan view of a preferred embodiment of the table sections stored in the headboard showing the wing door open.

[0017] Figure 4b is a partial plan view of a preferred embodiment of the table sections stored in the headboard showing the wing door closed.

[0018] Figure 5 is a plan view of a preferred embodiment of the torsion spring.

[0019] Figure 6 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the torsion spring.

[0020] Figure 7 is a bottom view of a preferred embodiment of the torsion spring mounting bracket with leg extended.

[0021] Figure 8 is a first plan view of a preferred embodiment of the torsion spring mounting bracket with leg extended.

[0022] Figure 9 is a second plan view of a preferred embodiment of the torsion spring mounting bracket with leg extended.

[0023] Figure 10 is a partial plan view of a preferred embodiment of the torsion spring

mounting bracket

**[0024]** Figure 11 is a first partial plan view of a preferred embodiment of the two table sections adjacent each other before deployment.

**[0025]** Figure 12 is a first partial plan view of a preferred embodiment of the two table sections during deployment.

**[0026]** Figure 13 is a first partial plan view of a preferred embodiment of the two table sections fully deployed.

**[0027]** Figure 14 is a second partial plan view of a preferred embodiment of the two table sections adjacent each other before deployment

**[0028]** Figure 15 is a second partial plan view of a preferred embodiment of the two table sections during deployment

**[0029]** Figure 16 is a second partial plan view of a preferred embodiment of the two table sections fully deployed.

**[0030]** Figure 17 is a plan view of an alternate preferred embodiment.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

**[0031]** In the descriptions that follow, like parts are marked throughout the specification and drawings with the same numerals, respectively. The drawing figures are not necessarily drawn to scale and certain figures may be shown in exaggerated or generalized form in the interest of clarity and conciseness.

**[0032]** Referring to Figures 1-4, headboard/table apparatus **100** is comprised of headboard **101** mounted to a wall and bed **102** secured to headboard **101** in a manner that is common in the art. Headboard/table apparatus is preferably made of decorative wood but could also be formed from injection molded plastic or polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Headboard **101** is comprised of two columns configured with wing doors **108** and **110** connected by backboard **128**. Wing doors **108** and **110** each pivot about a vertical axis through the use of piano hinges or other hinges equivalent in the art. Headboard **101** further includes frame **106** which is fixed to backboard **128**. In an alternate embodiment, backboard **128** is not necessary and frame **106** connects wing doors **108** and **110**. Panel **104** is affixed to the underside of first table section **120** and when headboard/table apparatus **100** is in a stored position, panel **104** hides the table sections from sight. Panel **104** is slightly less wide than first table section **120** which allows access to supporting legs. Panel **104** includes lip **125** which extends through the full width of the upper edge of panel **104**. Frame **106** surrounds and frames panel **104** on all four sides. The face of panel **104** is decorative and can include any design, wood finish, or padding that is desirable. Wing doors **108** and **110** are releasably latched to frame **106** through the use of magnets or plastic catch pins or an equivalent method common in the art.

**[0033]** In the stored position, sandwiched in between backboard **128** and panel **104** are first table section **120** and second table section **122**. First table section **120** is pivotally mounted

to headboard **101** at mount points **120A** and **120B** using pivot bolts or equivalent pivoting hardware common in the art. Second table section **122** is hinged to first table section **120** with a plurality of hinges **132**. Gas spring **130** connects first table section **120** to headboard **101** and is located near pivot point **120A**. An identical gas spring connects first table section **120** to headboard **101** near pivot point **120B**. The gas springs help to offset the weight of the table sections during deployment. In the preferred embodiment, the gas springs are capable of providing approximately 100 to 140 lbs. of force with the preferred being 120 lbs. of force each when compressed. An example is part no. GGS24-120-K available from H.A. Guden Co., Inc. In an alternate embodiment, the gas springs could be replaced by coil springs or in an additional alternate embodiment linear actuators could be incorporated for a completely powered deployment. First table section **120** further includes legs **124** and **126**. Legs **124** and **126** are connected together by bar **138** so that moving one leg moves the other leg simultaneously. Bar **138** is rotationally mounted in mounting brackets at end **135**. Spring loaded pins **137** pass through each mounting bracket and each leg to secure each leg in the extended position. In an alternate embodiment, only one spring pin is used only through leg **124**. Second table section **122** further includes legs **144** and **146**. Legs **144** and **146** are also connected by a bar at end **136** so that moving one also moves the other simultaneously. Legs **144** and **146** are also secured in place by one or a pair of spring loaded pins in an identical fashion as legs **124** and **126**. Additionally, torsion spring assemblies **140** and **142** are mounted to both first table section **120** and second table section **122**. Torsion spring assemblies **140** and **142** are identical in shape and function. As depicted, torsion spring assemblies **140** and **142** are mirror images of each other but would perform equally well if both were oriented in identical manners. In alternate embodiments, the use of one torsion spring assembly would suffice as would the use of more

than two.

[0034] Referring now to Figures 5-9, each torsion spring assembly is comprised of one torsion spring **500** and a pair of mounting brackets **520**. In the preferred embodiment, torsion spring **500** is comprised of spring wire between about .1 inch to .3 inch having a circular cross-section and a spring constant of about 1.0 in. lbs./degree to about 6.0 in. lbs./degree with the preferred diameter being about .25 inches with a preferred spring consistency being about 3.8 in. lbs./degree. In alternate embodiments, the cross-section of torsion spring **500** could be any variant of polygonal shapes and could be smaller or larger depending on desired use and spring constant required. In the preferred embodiment each torsion spring provides force according to the following table:

| <u>Degrees of Deployment</u> | <u>Torsion Force</u> |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| -90°                         | 346 in. lbs./degree  |
| 0°                           | 0 in. lbs./degree    |
| +90°                         | 346 in. lbs./degree  |

[0035] Each torsion spring **500** is comprised of three sections. First end section **502** is generally perpendicular to middle section **504** forming a generally 90° angle in a first plane. Second end section **506** is also generally perpendicular to middle section **504** also forming a generally 90° angle but in a second plane. The first plane is generally perpendicular to the second plane. In the preferred embodiment, first and second end sections **502** and **506** are approximately five inches in length while middle section **504** should be at least twice as long as each end section. Dimensions of the torsion springs can be varied as will be apparent to those of skill in the art. In an alternate embodiment, the torsion spring could be replaced with a coil

spring.

[0036] Mounting bracket **520** is comprised of braces **522** and **524** integrally formed or welded together at a generally perpendicular orientation. Brace **522** includes integrally formed receiving cylinder **526** on one edge and in the preferred embodiment, has a length of approximately three to three and a half inches. Receiving cylinder **526** runs the full length of the edge of brace **522** and includes passage **528** so that receiving cylinder **526** is generally hollow along its length. Brace **522** further includes a circular opening **150** for receiving bar **138** to which bar **138** is rotationally seated within. A plurality of mounting holes **530** are located through both braces **522** and **524** in order to mount the braces to ribs **134** and ends **135** and **136**. In a preferred embodiment, mounting bracket **520** is constructed of 11-gauge steel and is attached by screws, bolts, or a suitable adhesive as known in the art.

[0037] Figure 10 shows a cross-section of receiving cylinder **526**. Receiving cylinder **526** and correspondingly passage **528** has an ellipsoidal cross sectional shape. Passage **528** has a height that corresponds with the diameter of torsion spring **500** and a width of approximately twice the height which allows torsion spring **500** to slide laterally during operation of headboard/table apparatus **100**. Torsion spring **500** is shown in shadow as it moves from position **A** (table sections folded adjacent to one another) to position **B** (table sections approximately perpendicular to each other during deployment) to position **C** (table sections fully deployed).

[0038] In use, headboard/table apparatus **100** is most naturally found in two states, a table stored state or a table fully deployed state. In the table stored state, as depicted in Figure 1, the table is completely out of sight and stored in the headboard while the bed is available for use. Panel **104** is decorative and discreetly hides the folded away table sections. In the table fully

deployed state, as depicted in Figure 4, the table comfortably straddles the bed without any accommodation or need to move or store parts of the bed and provides a smooth table top free of hinges or connecting hardware.

[0039] Figures 11-16 show the torsion spring assemblies mounted to the table sections and how torsion spring **500** operates during the deployment of the table.

[0040] Figures 11 and 14 show two plan views of torsion spring assembly **520A** mounted to first table section **120** and spring assembly **520B** mounted to second table section **122** where first table section **120** is adjacent to second table section **122**. This is the position of the table sections relative to each other when they are in the stored state as in Figure 1 and as depicted in Figure 2. End section **502** is slidably seated in the passage of mounting bracket **520A**. End section **506** is slidably seated in the passage of mounting bracket **520B**. End sections **502** and **506** extend through mounting brackets **520A** and **520B** approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch to an inch and self locking retaining rings **510** are affixed to each to prevent torsion spring **500** from backing out of the mounting brackets. Torsion spring **500** is under a torsional force which tends to separate the table sections and pivot second table section **122** away from first table section **120** about the pivoting axes of hinges **132**. This torsional force also helps a user to lift and separate second table section **122** from first table section **120**. In addition to self locking retaining rings **510**, the resultant friction between the inside surface of the receiving cylinders and the outer surface of end sections **502** and **506** prohibits torsion spring **500** from backing out of the respective torsion spring assemblies.

[0041] Figures 12 and 15 show two plan views of torsion spring assembly **520A** mounted to first table section **120** and spring assembly **520B** mounted to second table section **122** where first table section **120** is generally perpendicular to second table section **122**. In this position,

torsion spring **500** has returned to a generally “at rest” state. Self locking retaining rings **510** prevent torsion spring **500** from backing out of the mounting brackets.

[0042] Figures 13 and 16 show two plan views of mounting bracket **520A** mounted to first table section **120** and mounting bracket **520B** mounted to second table section **122**. This is the position of the table sections relative to each other when they are in the fully deployed state as depicted in Figure 3. Second table section **122** is lowered into place, pivoted about hinges **132** to a position where first table section **120** and second table section **122** are adjacent and on the same plane providing a smooth table top. The torsion spring both translates and rotates during this motion. The torsion spring translates through an angle of between about 15° and about 25° measured from the base of table section **120** as indicated by angle  $\alpha$ . The torsion spring rotates about its long axis through an angle of about 180° as indicated by  $\beta$ . A torsional force builds in torsion spring **500** as second table section **122** is lowered into position. This torsional force helps offset the weight of second table section **122**. Additionally, self locking retaining rings **510** and the resultant friction between the receiving cylinders of mounting brackets **520A** and **520B** and end sections **502** and **506** respectively prevent torsion spring **500** from backing out of the mounting brackets.

[0043] Changing headboard/table apparatus **100** between the stored state and the fully deployed state requires only one user. The weight of the table sections is always supported by either gas springs **130**, a plurality of torsion springs **500**, or a combination of both. In the preferred embodiment, second table section **122** weighs approximately 35 to 40 lbs. and with torsion spring **500** in place, the resultant lifting weight is approximately five lbs. or less. The first step in moving from the stored state to the fully deployed state is opening wing doors **108** and **110**. Once the wing doors are pivoted open about their respective piano hinges, first table

section **120** and second table section **122** are lowered together from a vertical position to a generally horizontal position. Gas springs **130** help support the combined weight of the table sections as they are lowered. Once in the generally horizontal position, legs **124** and **126** are pivoted from underneath first table section **120** and locked into place via pins **127**. Legs **124** and **126** are positioned generally perpendicular to the floor and to first table section **120**. Since legs **124** and **126** are actuated together, this operation can take place on one side of the bed without having to switch sides mid-operation. Next, second table section **122** is lifted off of first table section **120** and pivoted about hinges **132**. Torsion spring assemblies **140** and **142** assist in the lifting of second table section **122** by offsetting the weight of the table section thereby requiring a minimal force to lift the table section. Once second table section **122** moves past a vertical position, torsion spring assemblies **140** and **142** assist in lowering second table section into place by once again offsetting the weight of second table section **122** so that a minimal force is required. When second table section **122** is in a generally horizontal position, legs **144** and **146** are pivoted from underneath second table section **122** and locked into place via spring loaded pins in an identical manner as legs **124** and **126**. Legs **144** and **146** are positioned generally perpendicular to the floor and to second table section **122**. Since legs **144** and **146** are also actuated together, this operation can take place on the same side of the bed as the lowering of legs **124** and **126**. The apparatus is now in the fully deployed state and the smooth table top is ready for use.

[0044] An alternate embodiment of headboard/table apparatus **100** is shown in Figure 17. Headboard **101** is mounted to the bed frame of bed **102** instead of mounted directly to the wall. Braces **202** and **204** extend from the bottom edge of headboard **101** and are mounted to bed **102** via a pair of L-brackets **210** and **212**.

**[0045]** It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that changes could be made to the embodiments described above without departing from the broad inventive concept thereof. It is understood, therefore, that this invention is not limited to the particular embodiments disclosed, but it is intended to cover modifications within the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims.

**CLAIMS:**

1. A retractable table apparatus concealable within a bed headboard and extendable over a bed comprising:
  - a frame having a vertically oriented recess;
  - a first table section pivotally attached to the frame and adapted to fit within the vertically oriented recess;
  - a second table section pivotally attached to the first table section and adapted to fit within the vertically oriented recess;
  - a first rotatable leg support pivotally attached the first table section adjacent the second table section;
  - the first rotatable leg support having a first stored position within the first table section and a first deployed position supporting the first table section;
  - a second rotatable leg support pivotally attached to the second table section;
  - the second rotatable leg support having a second stored position within the second table section and a second deployed position supporting the second table section;
  - a first spring biased between the first table section and the frame;
  - a second spring biased between the first table section and the second table section;
  - whereby the first table section and the second table section are extendable to a flat position over the bed by biasing the first spring and the second spring when the first rotatable leg support is in the first deployed position and the second rotatable leg support is in the second deployed position; and,
  - whereby the first table section and the second table section are retractable into a retracted position in the recess by unbiasing the first spring and unbiasing the second spring when the first

rotatable leg support is in the first stored position and the second leg support is in the second stored position.

2. The retractable table apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second spring comprises a torsion spring.
3. The retractable table apparatus of claim 2 wherein the torsion spring is negatively biased when the first table section and the second table section are in the retracted position and positively biased when the first table section and the second table section are in the flat position.
4. The retractable table apparatus of claim 2 wherein the torsion spring rotates through a first angle of about  $180^{\circ}$  and translates through a second angle of about  $20^{\circ}$  as the first table section and second table section are extended from the retracted position to the flat position.
5. The retractable table apparatus of claim 4 wherein the torsion spring has a spring constant of between about 1 in. lbs. per degree of rotation and about 5 in. lbs. per degree of rotation.
6. The retractable table apparatus of claim 4 wherein the torsion spring has a first linear section slidably attached to the first table section, a second linear section slidably attached to the second table section, and a third linear section connecting the first linear section and the second linear section.

7. The retractable table apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first spring comprises a gas cylinder.
8. The retractable table apparatus of claim 7 wherein the first spring has a spring constant of between about 100 lbs. and about 140 lbs.
9. The retractable table apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a concealing door, attached to the frame and having an open position allowing the first table section and the second table section to be extended and having a closed position preventing the first table section and the second table section from being extended.
10. The retractable table apparatus of claim 1 wherein the frame is supported by a wall adjacent the bed.
11. The retractable table apparatus of claim 1 wherein the frame is supported by a bed frame.
12. A headboard concealable table comprising:
  - a fixed headboard having a set of movable doors and a storage cavity;
  - a hinged table, having a first section hinged to a second section, pivotally mounted to the fixed headboard;
  - a set of movable supports, attached to the hinged table, for supporting the hinged table in an unfolded position;

a first biasing means, attached between the hinged table and the fixed headboard, for offsetting a first deployment weight of the hinged table;

a second biasing means, attached between the first section and the second section for offsetting a second deployment weight of the second section; and,

the set of movable doors, attached to the fixed headboard, for the concealing at least a portion of the hinged table.

13. The retractable table apparatus of claim 12 wherein the first biasing means is a linear gas spring.
14. The retractable table apparatus of claim 12 wherein the second biasing means is a torsion spring.
15. The retractable table apparatus of claim 14 wherein the torsion spring is a linear torsion spring.
16. The retractable table apparatus of claim 15 wherein the linear torsion spring rotates through an angle  $\beta$  and translates through an angle  $\alpha$  as the first section hinges with respect to the second section.
17. The retractable table apparatus of claim 16 wherein the angle  $\beta$  is between about  $-90^\circ$  and about  $90^\circ$  and the angle  $\alpha$  is between about  $0^\circ$  and about  $20^\circ$ .

18. The retractable table apparatus of claim 12 wherein the first section includes a concealing faceboard adjacent the set of movable doors.
19. The retractable table apparatus of claim 12 wherein the set of movable supports further comprises a first pair of retractable supports pivotally connected to the first section and a second pair of retractable supports pivotally connected to the second section.
20. The retractable table apparatus of claim 19 wherein the first pair of retractable supports includes a first leg independently rotatable from a second leg.
21. The retractable table apparatus of claim 12 wherein the second biasing means further comprises:
- a first bracket comprising a first slip collar, attached to the first section;
  - a second bracket comprising a second slip collar, attached to the second section;
  - a torsion spring member, having a first linear section, a second linear section connected to the first linear section at a generally right angle, and a third linear section connected to the first linear section at a generally right angle and connected to the second linear section a generally right angle;
  - the first linear section residing in the first slip collar; and,
  - the second linear section residing in the second slip collar.
22. A method for storing a concealable table in a headboard comprising the steps of:

rotating a first table section toward a second table section while decompressing a linear torsion spring;

rotating the first table section toward the second table section while compressing the linear torsion spring;

rotating a first leg set into a first stored position in the first table section;

rotating the first table section and the second table section toward the headboard while decompressing a compression spring;

rotating a second leg set into a second stored position in the second table section; and,

concealing a portion of the second table section with a cover door.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the step of decompressing the linear torsion spring comprises the further steps of:

rotating the linear torsion spring; and,

translating the linear torsion spring.

24. The method of claim 22 wherein the step of rotating the first leg set includes the step of unlocking the first leg set from a fixed position.

25. The method of claim 22 wherein the step of rotating the first table section while decompressing the linear torsion spring comprises exerting less than five pounds of force.

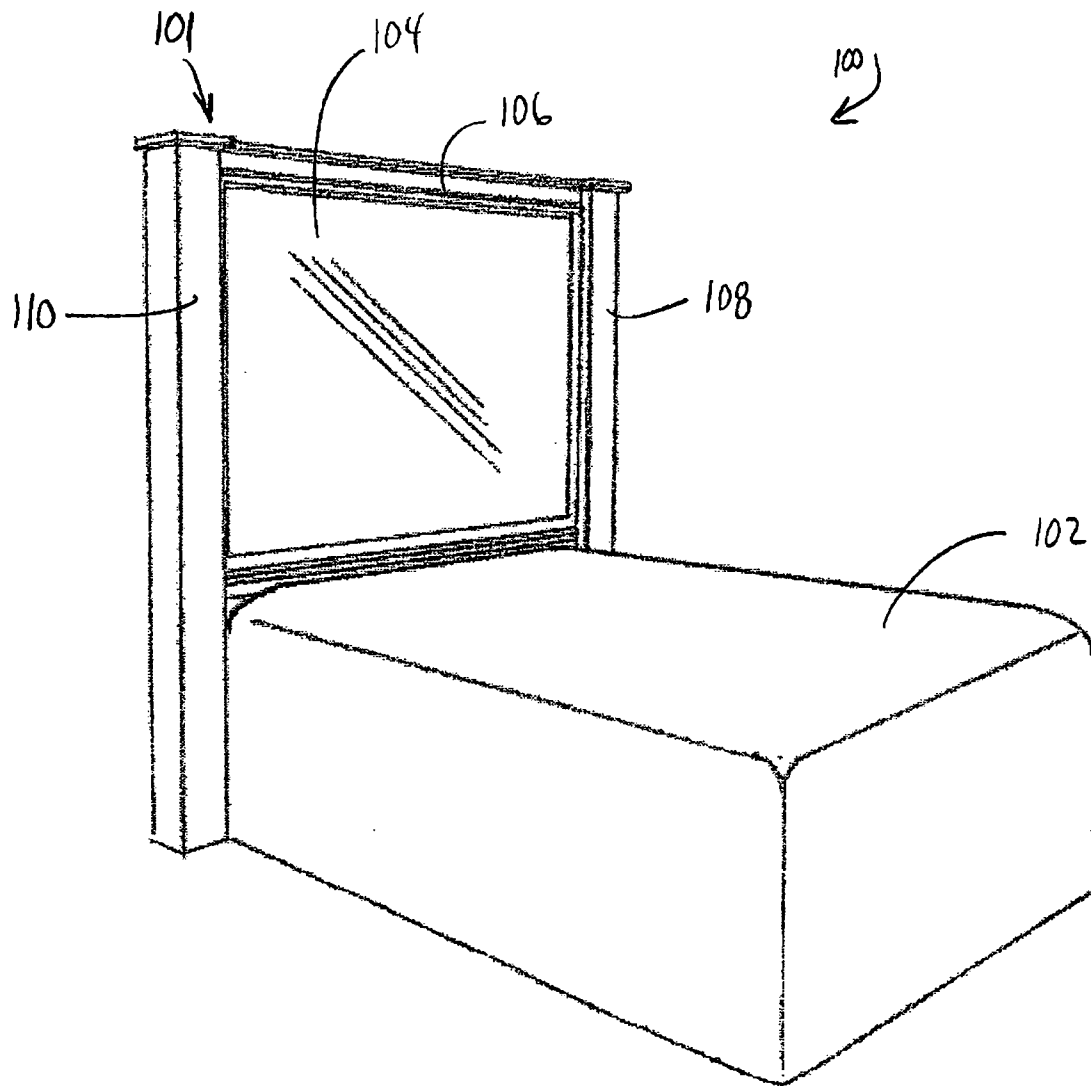


Figure 1

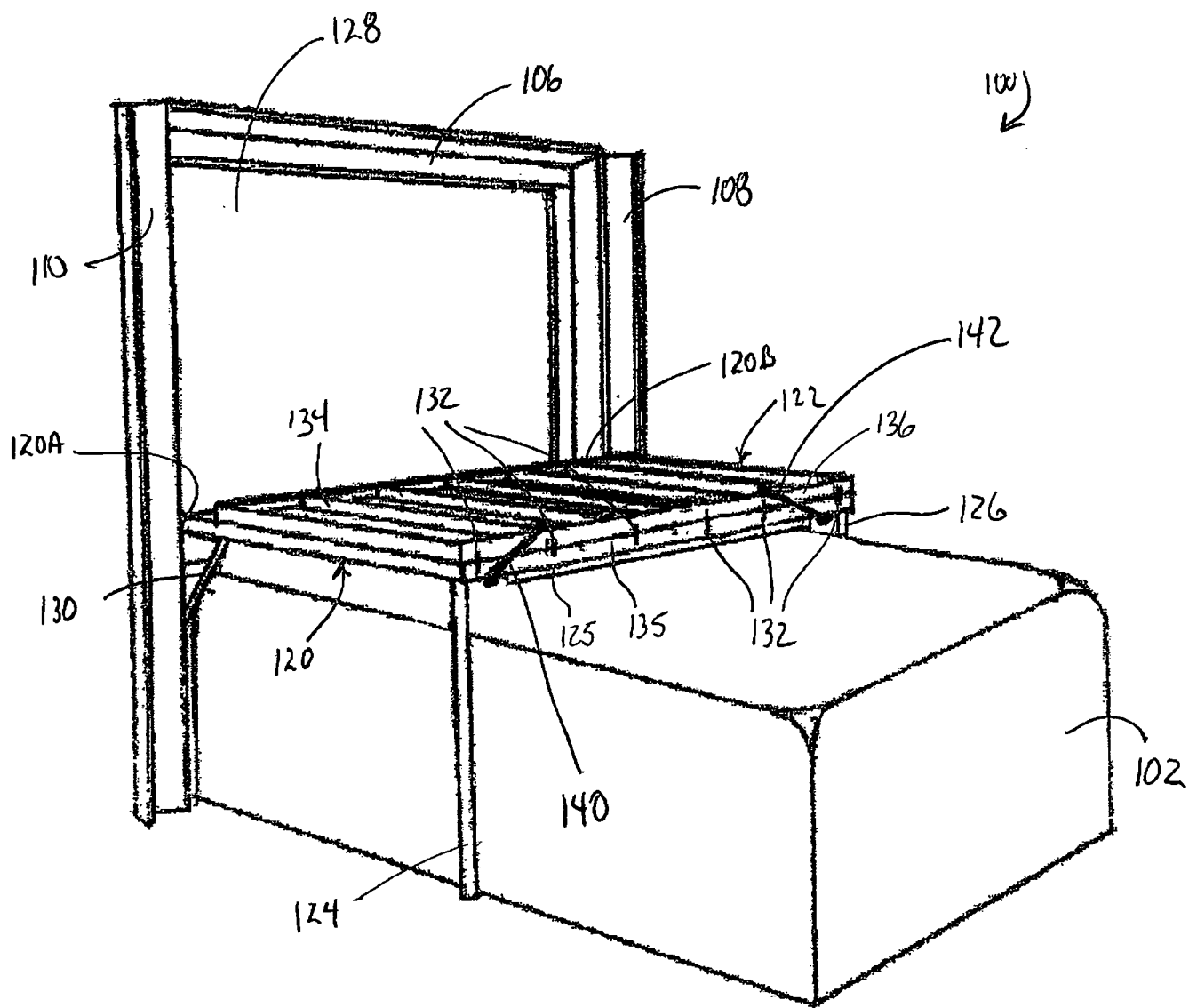


Figure 2

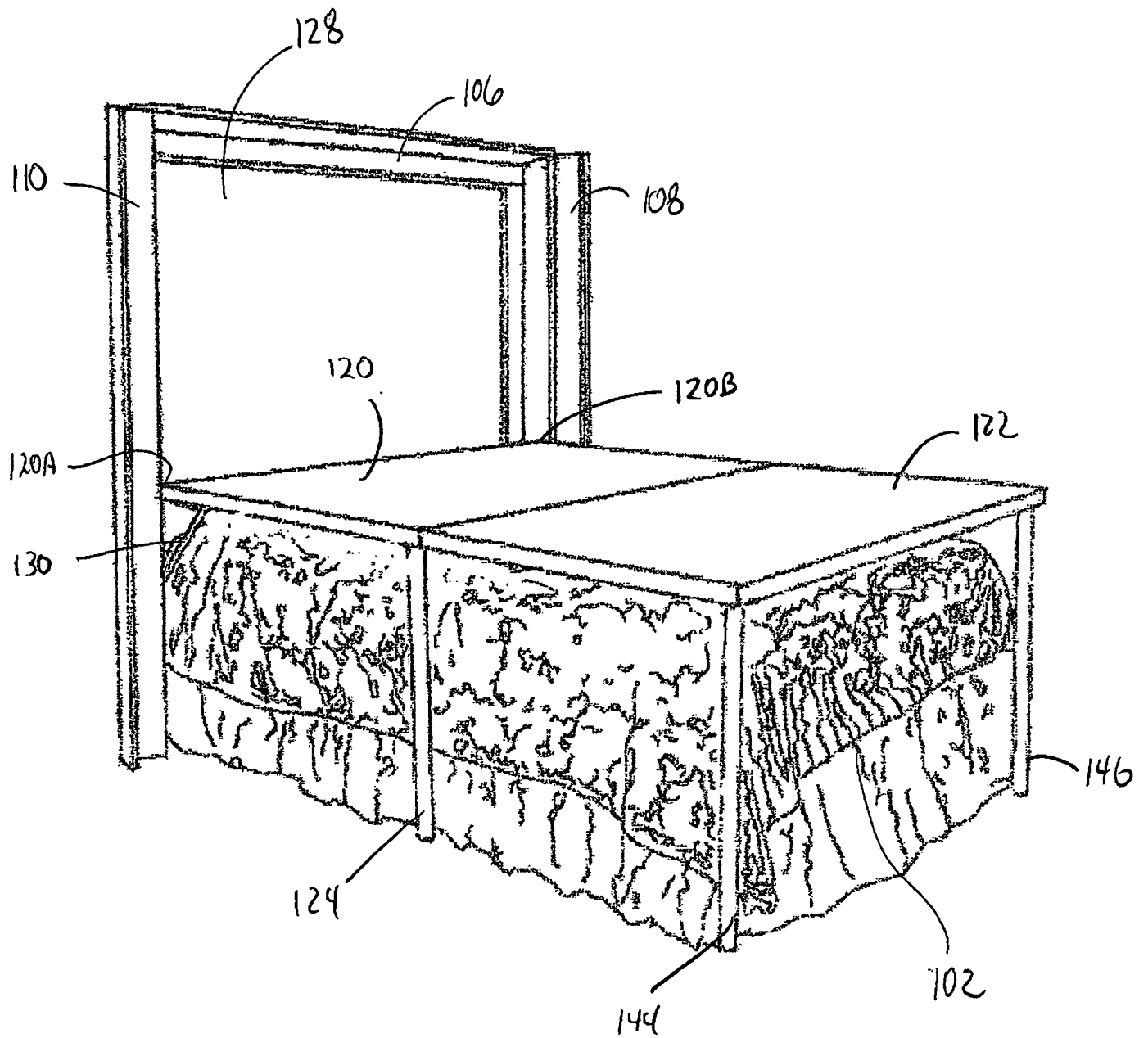


Figure 3

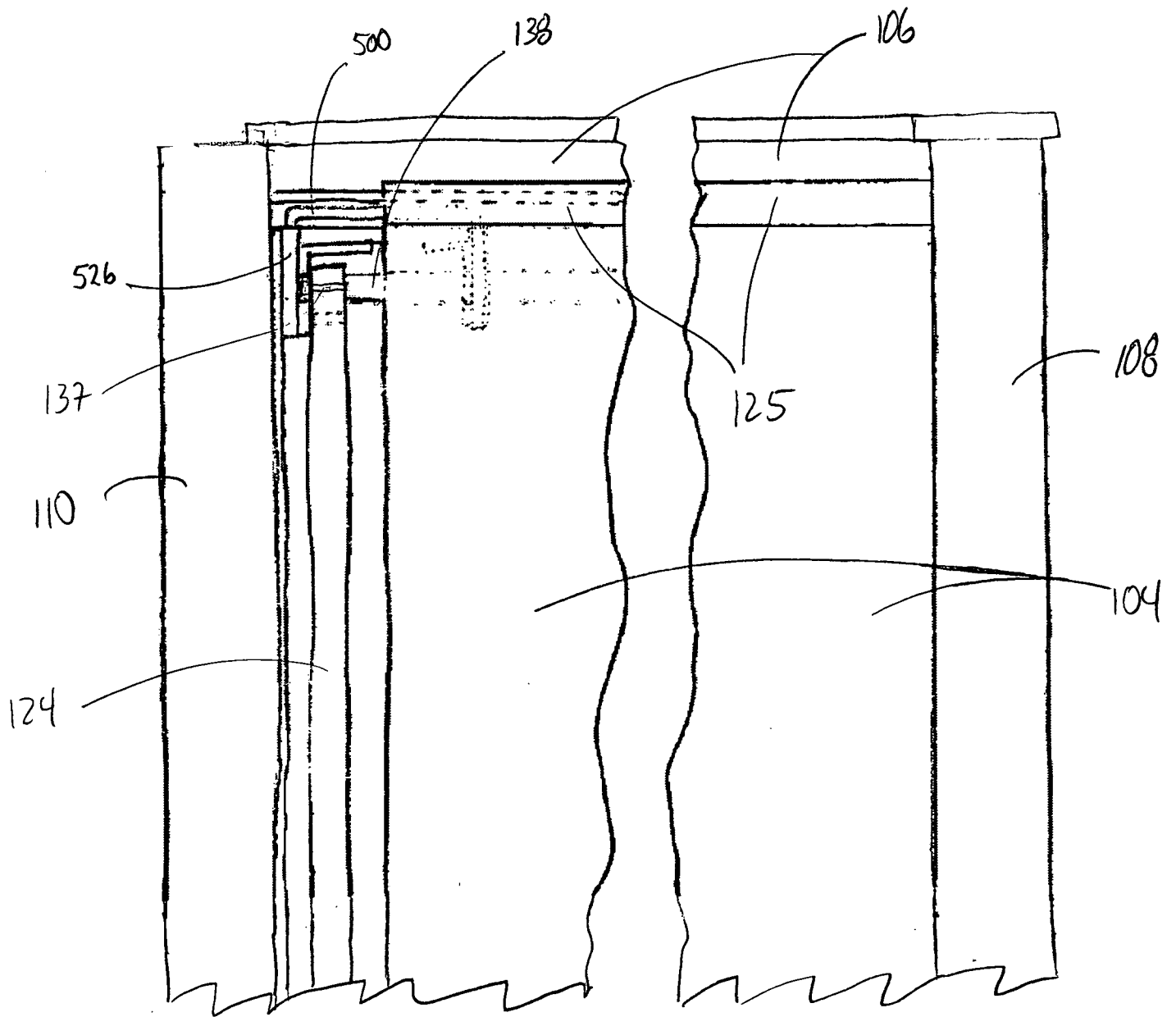


Figure 4a

Figure 4b

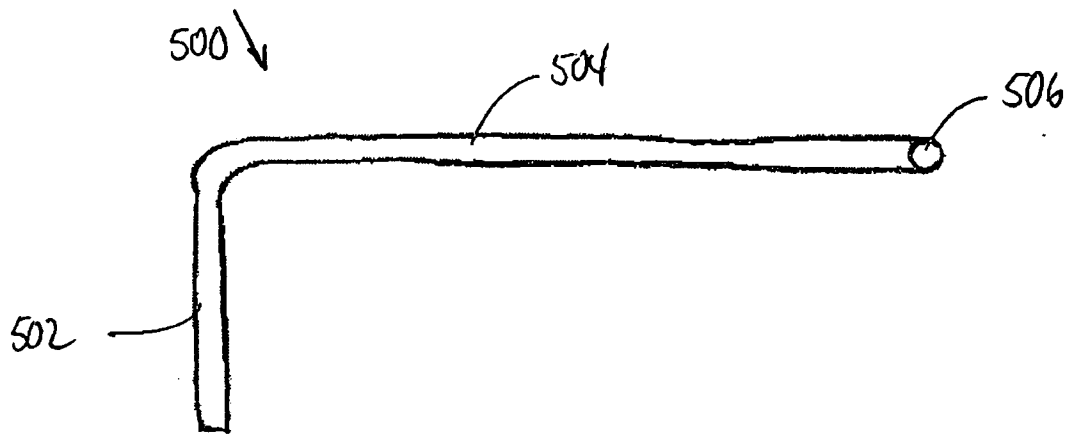


Figure 5

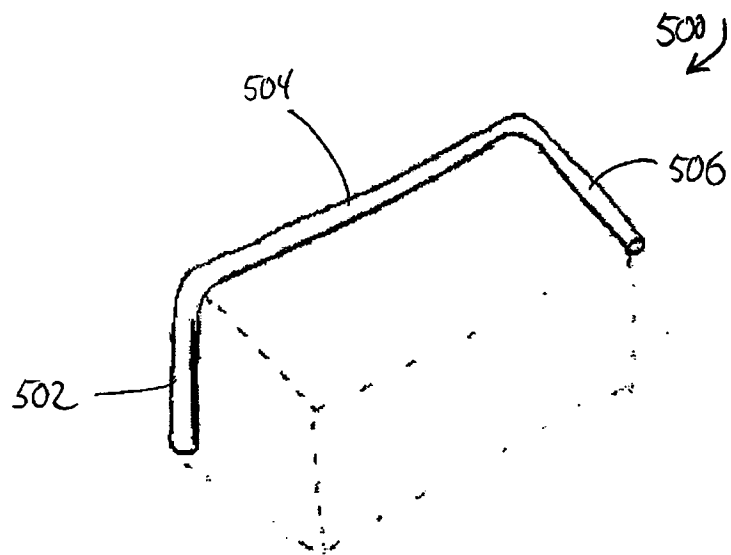


Figure 6

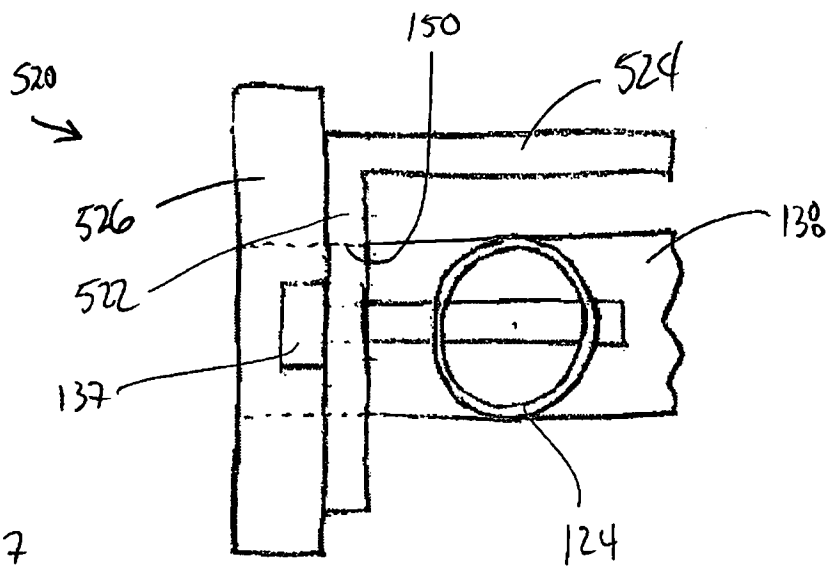


Figure 7

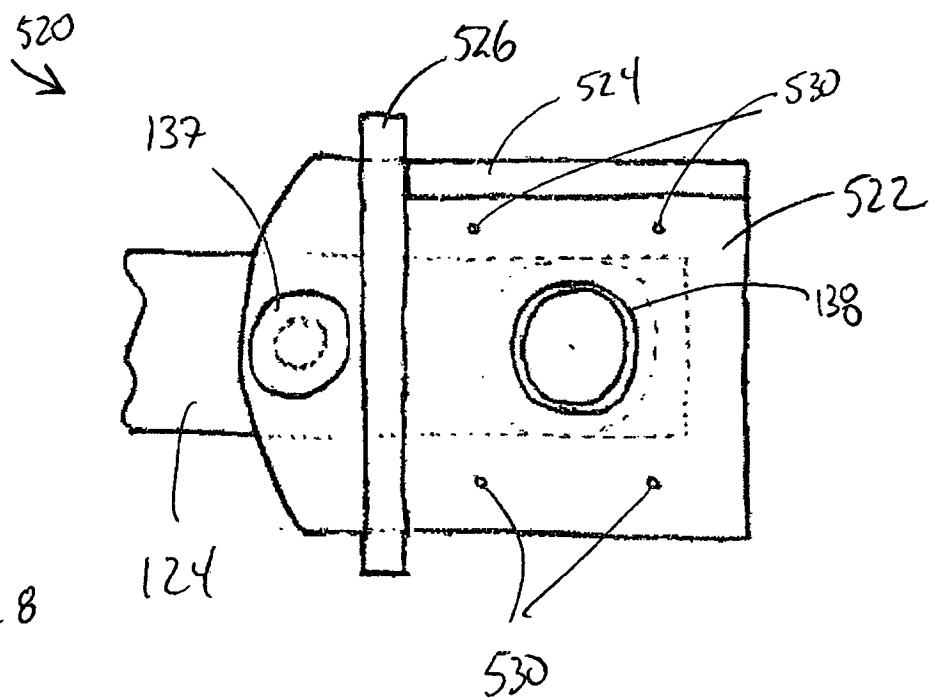


Figure 8

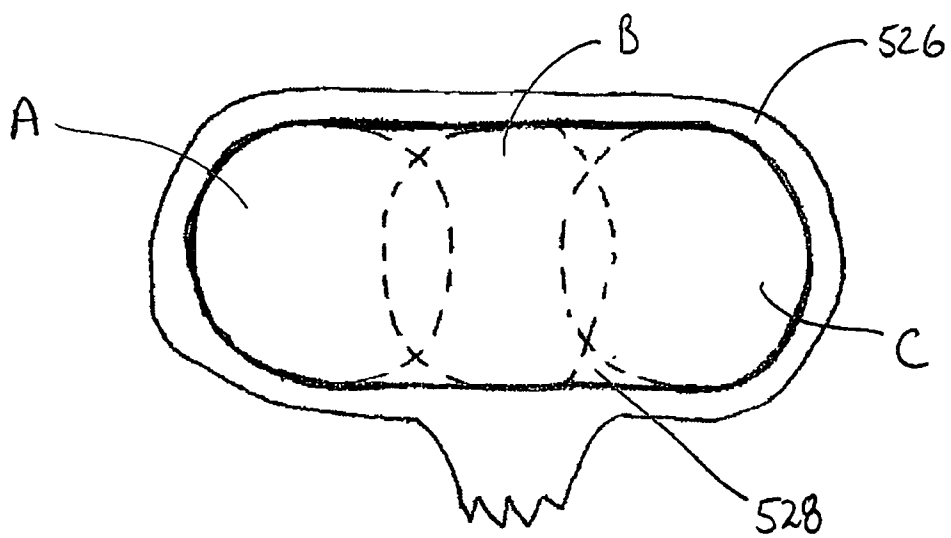
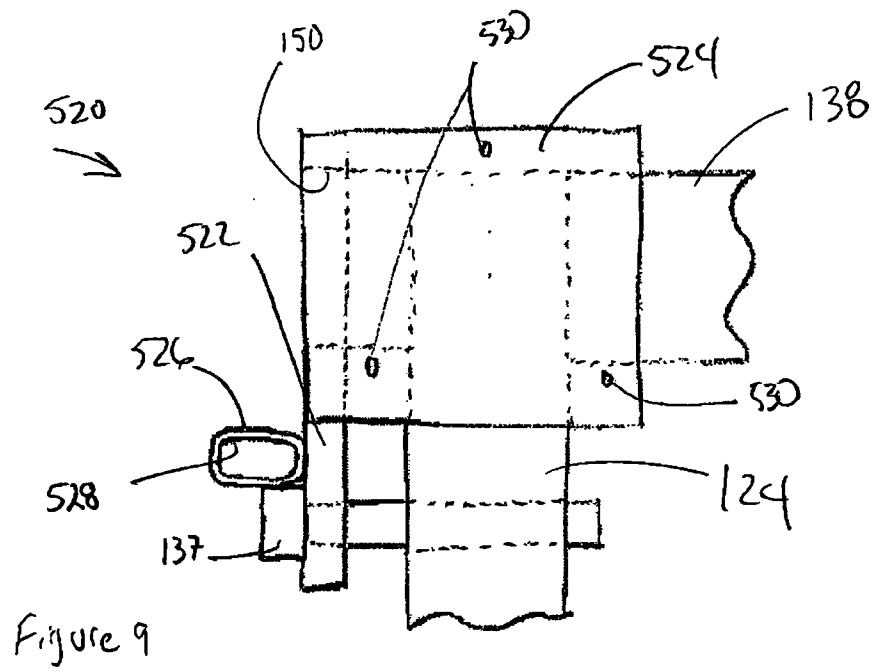


Figure 11

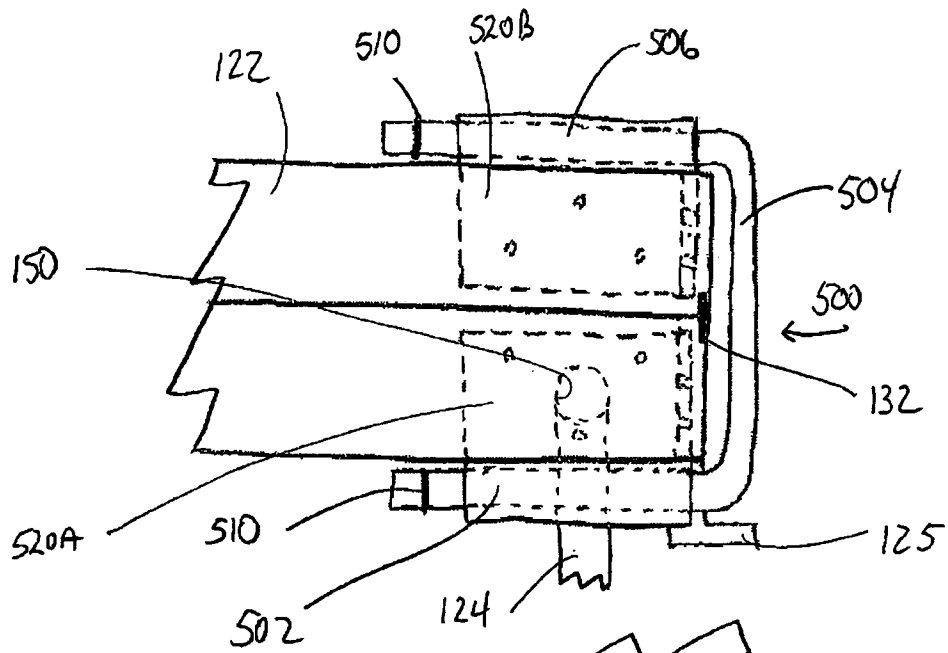


Figure 12

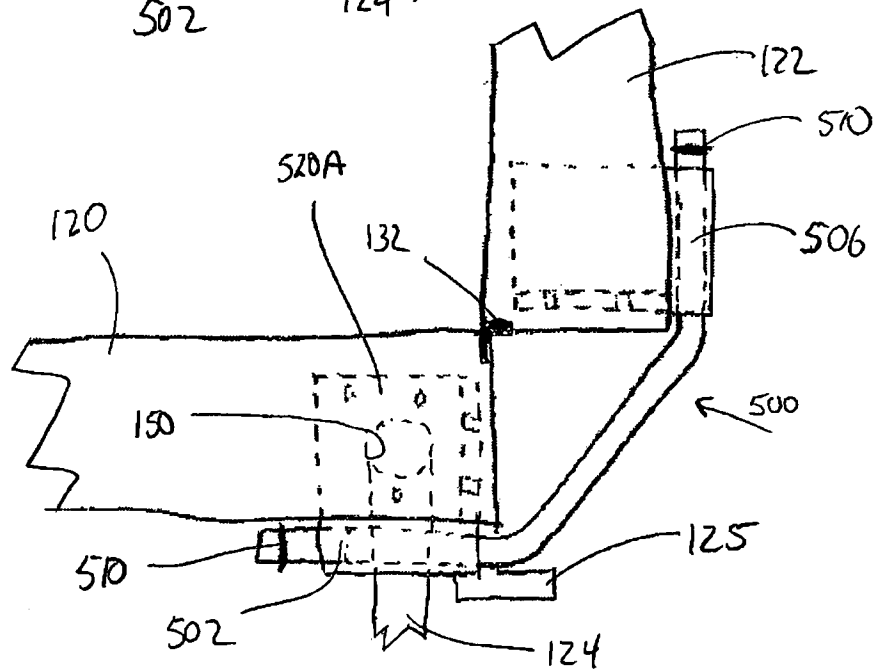


Figure 13

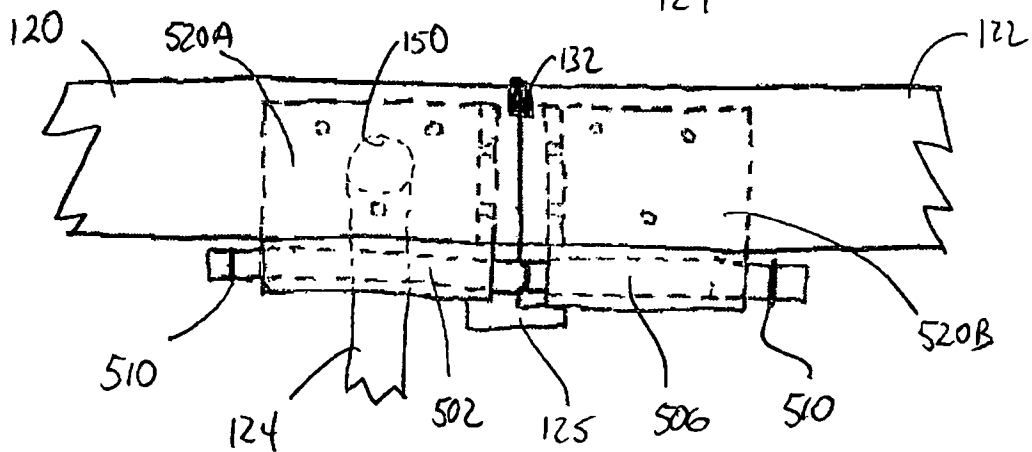


Figure 14

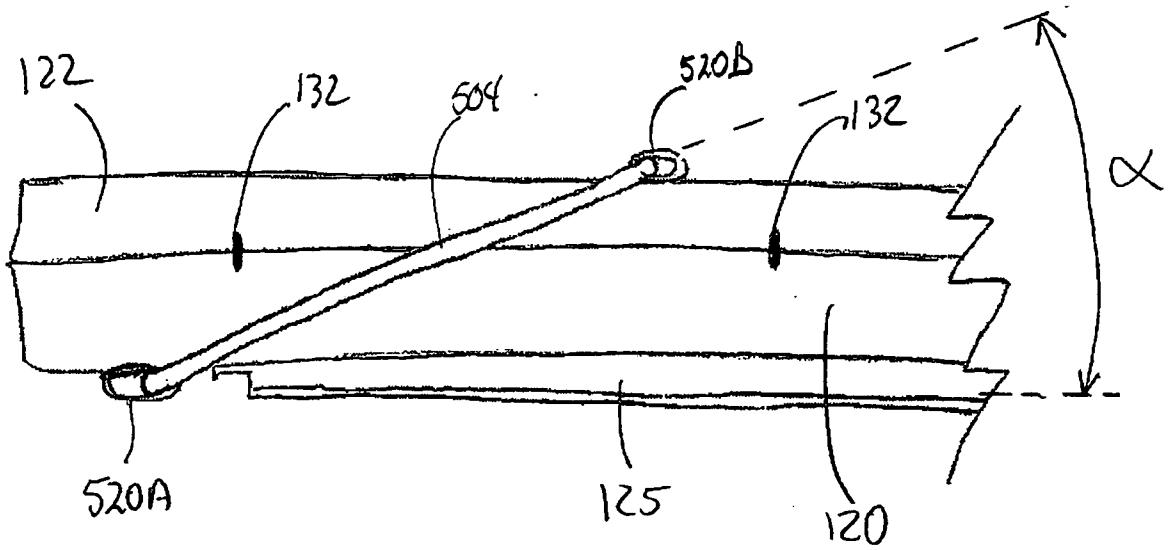


Figure 15

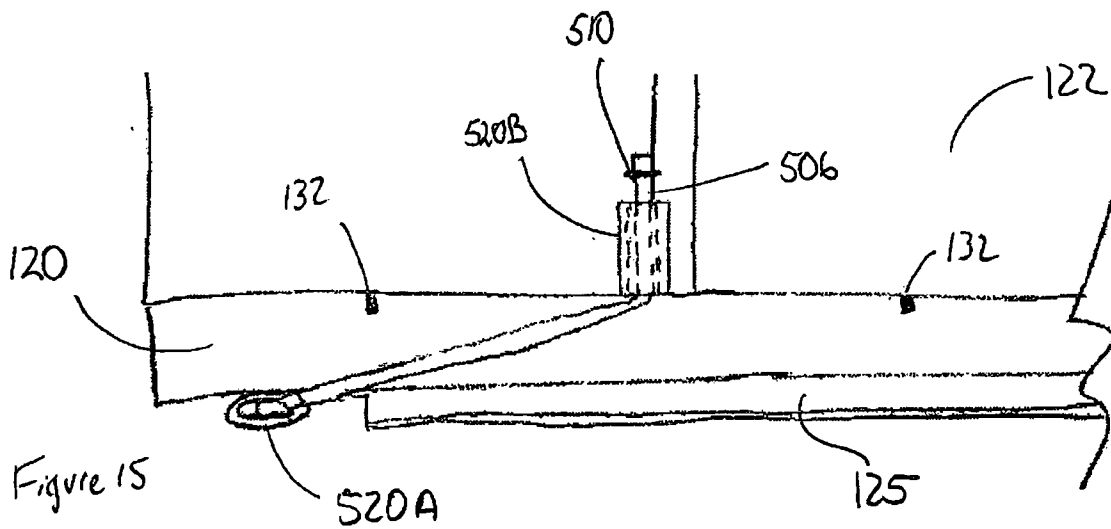
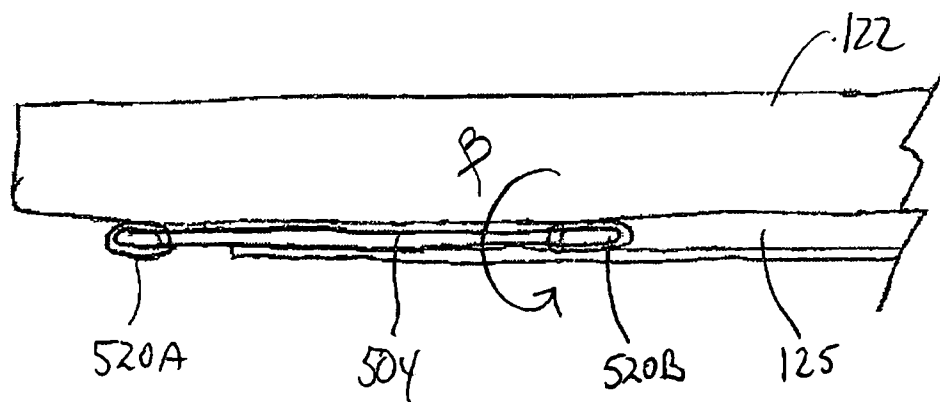


Figure 16



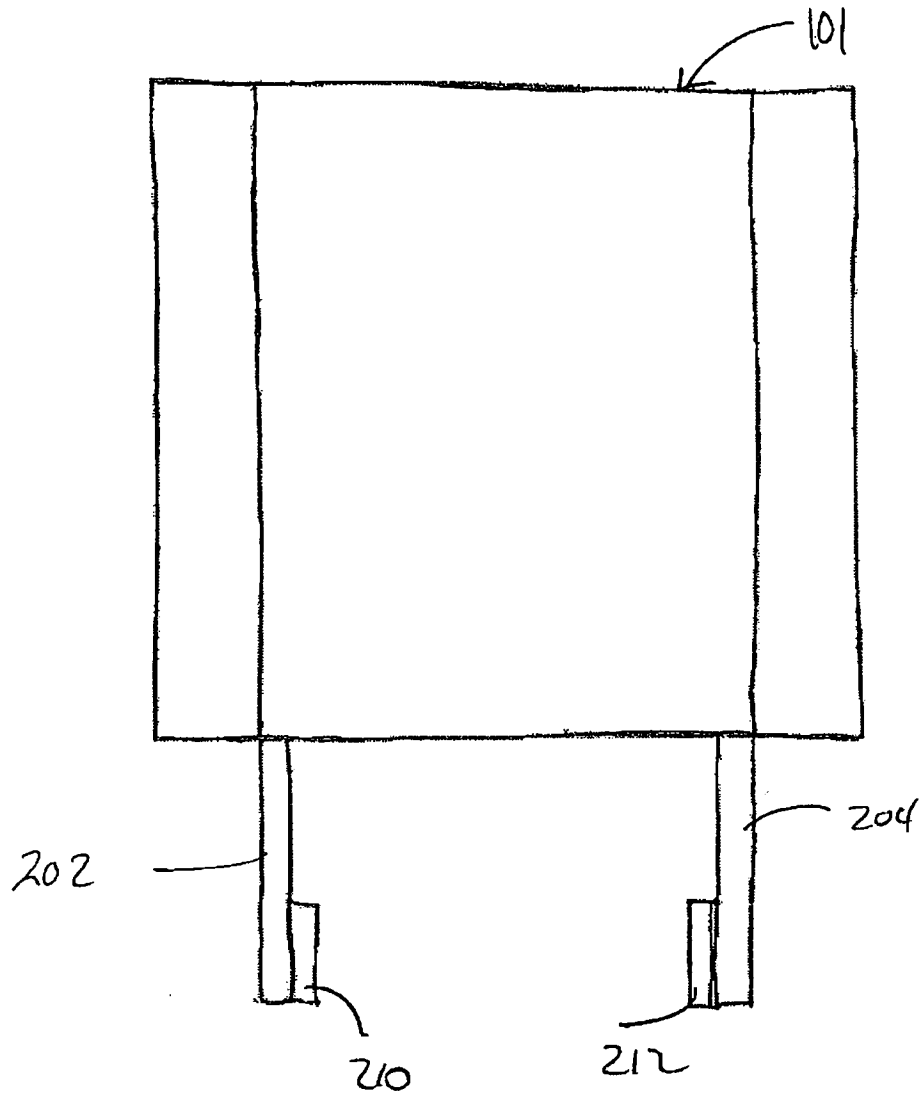


Figure 17

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 11/00308

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A47B 37/00 (2011.01)

USPC - 108/50.14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC(8): A47B 37/00 (2011.01)

USPC: 108/50.14

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched  
 additional USPC: 108/1, 108/2, 108/3, 108/6, 108/7, 108/11, 108/12, 108/13, 108/14, 108/15, 108/42, 108/47, 108/48, 108/49, 108/50.11, 108/50.14, 108/64, 108/86, 108/162, 108/166, 108/167, 108/176, 108/178, 108/115 - term limited -

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

PubWEST(PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB); Google Patents, Google

Search terms used: hidden hinge, torsion spring, combination, convertible, retractable, table, bed, headboard, furniture, unfolded, folded, folding, foldable, deployed, rotate, pivot, second spring, second section, section, opening, recess, frame, leafs, wall, extendable, etc

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages                                                  | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Y         | US 3,133,510 A (Maraventano) 19 May 1964 (19.05.1964)<br>Figs 2, 3, 6; col 2, ln 18-69                                              | 1-25                  |
| Y         | US 2,257,425 A (Mezzetti et al.) 30 September 1941 (30.09.1941)<br>Fig 1; p 1, ln 44-54                                             | 1-11                  |
| Y         | US 2008/0052824 A1 (Stoltzfus) 6 March 2008 (06.03.2008)<br>Figs 1, 5; para [0056]; para [0060-0063]; para [0074-0075]; para [0078] | 2-8, 11-25            |
| Y         | US 808,818 A (Davies) 2 January 1906 (02.01.1906)<br>p 1, ln 55-82, Fig 1                                                           | 1                     |
| Y         | US 845,117 A (Peters) 26 February 1907 (26.02.1907)<br>Fig 1, p. 1, ln 61-104                                                       | 1                     |
| Y         | US 1,282,391 A (Donnell) 22 October 1918 (22.10.1918)<br>Fig 1, p 1, ln 15-25                                                       | 1                     |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&amp;" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 April 2011 (13.04.2011)

Date of mailing of the international search report

27 APR 2011

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. 571-273-3201

Authorized officer:

Lee W. Young

PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300

PCT OSP: 571-272-7774

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 11/00308

| C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT |                                                                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Category*                                             | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages  | Relevant to claim No. |
| Y                                                     | US 1,448,788 A (Campbell) 20 March 1923 (20.03.1923)<br>Fig 2; p 1 ln 55-105        | 1, 12                 |
| Y                                                     | US 2,566,256 A (Snyder et al.) 28 August 1951 (28.08.1951)<br>Fig 1; col 3, ln 5-53 | 1, 12                 |
| Y                                                     | US 3,055,018 A (Flak) 25 September 1962 (25.09.1962)<br>col 2, ln 50-70             | 1, 12                 |
| Y                                                     | US 4,005,898 A (Way) 1 February 1977 (01.02.1977)<br>Fig 1                          | 1, 12                 |
| Y                                                     | US 4,047,488 A (Gutridge et al.) 13 September 1977 (13.09.1977)<br>col 2, ln 15-50  | 1, 12                 |
| Y                                                     | US 4,793,011 A (Eve) 27 December 1988 (27.12.1988)<br>col 3, ln 1-37                | 1, 12                 |
| Y                                                     | US 6,691,342 B2 (Sherman) 17 February 2004 (17.02.2004)<br>Fig 3; col 3, ln 1-63    | 1, 12                 |