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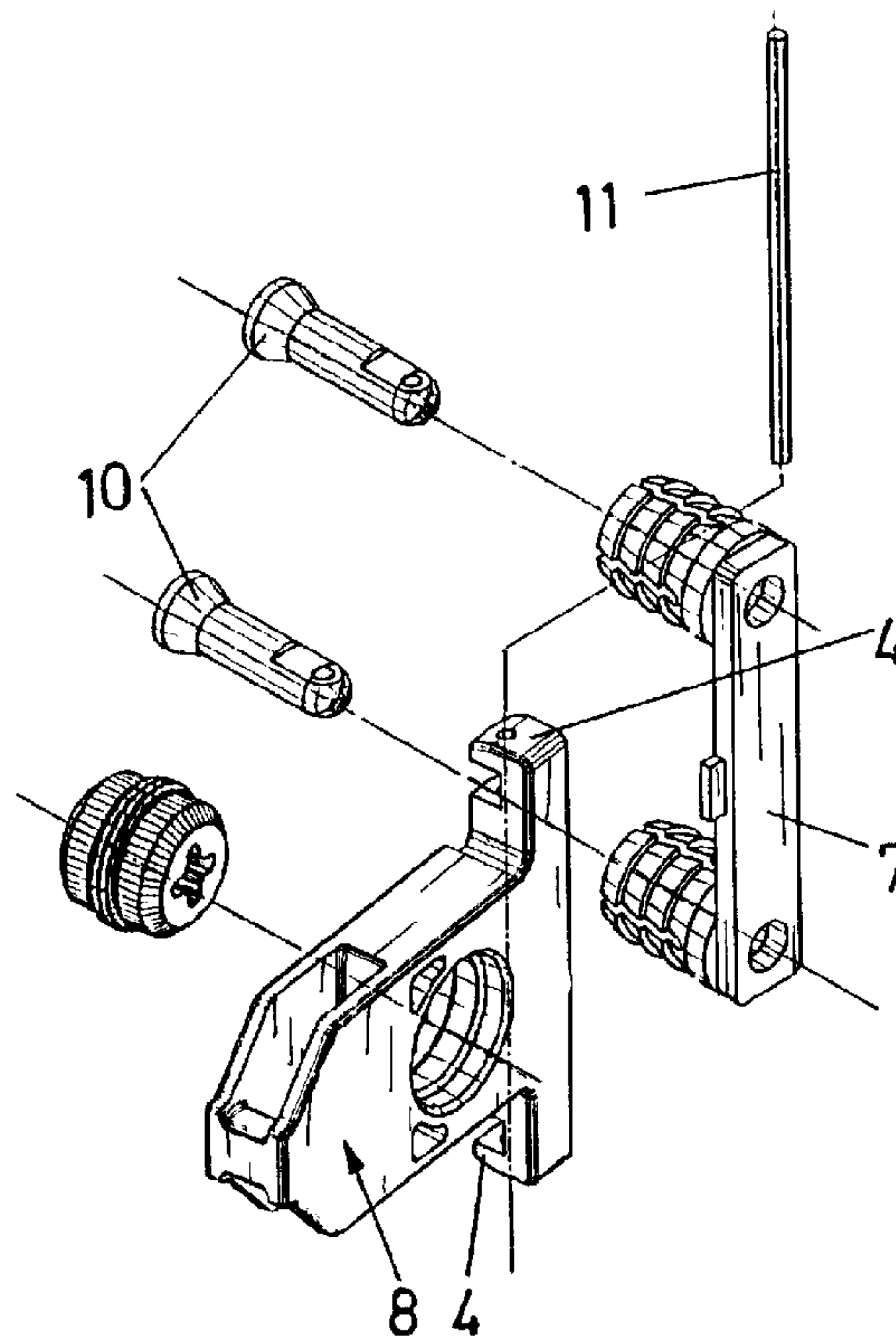
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(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

A furniture fitting for connecting parts of an article of furniture includes a dowel to be inserted into a hole in one furniture part and an expansion member movable relative to the dowel between a relaxed position, enabling the dowel to be inserted into the hole, and an expanded position, enabling the dowel to be locked in the hole. A holding member is mounted with respect to the expansion member for rotatable movement relative to the dowel to actuate the expansion member to move to or from the expanded position thereof upon such rotatable movement relative to the dowel. The holding member is to be connected to another furniture part.



Abstract

A furniture fitting for connecting parts of an article of furniture includes a dowel to be inserted into a hole in one furniture part and an expansion member movable relative to the dowel between a relaxed position, enabling the dowel to be inserted into the hole, and an expanded position, enabling the dowel to be locked in the hole. A holding member is mounted with respect to the expansion member for rotatable movement relative to the dowel to actuate the expansion member to move to or from the expanded position thereof upon such rotatable movement relative to the dowel. The holding member is to be connected to another furniture part.

Furniture Fitting

The invention relates to a furniture fitting for connecting parts of an article of furniture. The fitting includes a dowel to be inserted into a hole in one furniture part, an expansion member movable relative to the dowel between a relaxed position, enabling the dowel to be inserted into the hole, and an expanded position, enabling the dowel to be locked in the hole, and a holding member to
10 be connected to another furniture part.

AT-PS 391 409 and AT-PS 391 987 show furniture fittings for mounting a front plate of a drawer to drawer side walls. These fittings comprise a holding member mounted on the front plate and a holding member mounted on the drawer side wall, such holding members being connectable. AT-PS 391 063 shows a furniture fitting for fastening a rail of a drawer to the drawer front plate.

It is an object of the invention to provide a furniture fitting for connecting two furniture parts, e.g.
20 the front plate of a drawer and a drawer side wall or the front plate of a drawer and a drawer rail, which fitting can be mounted in at least one of the furniture parts without the use of a tool. The furniture fitting is to be of simple construction.

Accordingly, the present invention relates to a furniture fitting for connecting parts of an article of furniture. The fitting comprises dowel means for insertion into a recess in one furniture part, an expansion member positioned within the dowel means, and a holding member
30 connectable to another furniture part. The expansion member has an expansion surface and is movable axially relative to the dowel means between a relaxed position enabling the dowel means to be inserted into the recess and

an expanded position, whereat the expansion surface expands the dowel means, enabling the dowel means to be locked in the recess. The holding member is pivotably connected to an end of the expansion member. The holding member has a cam surface for abutment with a surface fixed relative to the dowel means, whereby pivotal movement of the holding member causes the cam surface to abut the surface fixed relative to the dowel means, and causes the holding member to move the expansion member axially of the dowel means to
10 move to or from the expanded position thereof.

By another aspect a furniture fitting for connecting parts of an article of furniture comprises a plurality of dowels for insertion into respective recesses in one furniture part. Each dowel has positioned therein a respective expansion member. Each expansion member has an expansion surface, and is movable axially relative to the respective dowel between a relaxed position enabling the respective dowel to be inserted into the respective recess and an expanded position, whereat the respective expansion
20 surface expands the respective dowel, enabling the respective dowel to be locked in the respective recess. Each expansion member has an end. A holding member is connectable to another furniture part, and is connected to the ends of the expansion members for pivotal movement relative thereto to actuate the expansion members to move to or from the expanded position thereof.

The invention will be described in greater detail with reference to the accompanying drawings, which illustrate preferred embodiments of the invention, wherein:

30 FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a piece of furniture with a drawer having a front plate connected to side walls by a furniture fitting according to the invention;

FIG. 1a is an enlarged perspective view of a detail of FIG. 1;

FIG. 2 is an exploded perspective view of a furniture fitting according to the invention including a holding member for a front plate of a drawer;

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of such furniture fitting in a position in which dowels are insertable into holes in a furniture part;

10 FIG. 4 is a perspective view of such furniture fitting in a locked position;

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of a part of a front plate of a drawer showing two embodiments of fittings according to the invention in positions in which the fitting are insertable into holes in the front plate;

FIG. 6 is a view similar to FIG. 5 but with the furniture fittings shown in locked positions;

FIG. 7 is a sectional view of a front plate and a dowel of a fitting according to the invention;

FIG. 7a is an enlarged section of a detail of FIG. 7;

20 FIG. 8 is a sectional view similar to FIG. 7, but with the fitting in a locked position;

FIG. 8a is an enlarged section of a detail of FIG. 8;

FIGS. 9 to 12 are views of a furniture fitting including a holding member for a drawer rail;

FIG. 13 is an exploded perspective view of a further embodiment of a fitting according to the invention;

FIG. 14 is a perspective view of such fitting in a position in which it is mountable on a piece of furniture;

30 FIG. 15 is a perspective view of the same fitting in a locked position;

FIG. 16 is an exploded perspective view of a further embodiment of an inventive fitting;

FIG. 17 is a perspective view of such fitting in a position in which it is mountable on a furniture part;

FIG. 18 is an exploded perspective view of a further embodiment of a fitting according to the invention;

FIG. 19 is a perspective view of this embodiment in a position in which it is mountable on a furniture part; and

FIG. 20 is a perspective view of this furniture fitting in its locked position.

FIG. 1 shows a cabinet 1 with drawers 2, each drawer
 10 having a front plate 3 and drawer side walls 5. The front plate 3 is connected to each drawer side wall 5 by means of a coupling member (not shown) situated in the drawer side wall 5 and a fitting according to the invention. The fitting includes a holding member 8 and dowels 6 which are insertable in two holes on the front plate 3. When the front plate 3 is fixed to the side walls 5 the holding members 8 are held by the coupling members within the drawer side walls 5.

Each fitting is provided with two dowels 6 which are
 20 connected by means of a plate. The dowels 6 and the plate 7 are made in one piece and are preferably molded of plastic material. Within each dowel 6 is an expansion member 10 having an inner end having truncated conical shape. The expansion members 10 are connected to flanges 4 of the holding member 8 by respective axles 11. Each flange 4 has a cam surface 9. The holding member 8 is mounted on the front plate 3 when the dowels 6 are inserted into the holes 22 in the front plate 3.

When holding member 8 is in an inclined or tilted
 30 position shown in FIG. 3, then the expansion members 10 are in a relaxed position, that is a position in which the dowels 6 can be inserted into the holes 22 in the front plate 3 or can be removed from holes 22. If the holding

member 8 is turned or tilted into the position shown in FIG. 4, the expansion members 10 are moved into their locked positions and the dowels 6 are expanded within holes 22 such that the furniture fitting is fixed to the front plate 3. Thereafter, the front plate 3 can be connected to the corresponding coupling member which is mounted in the drawer side wall 5 by means of the holding members 8. The holding member 8 is also provided with an adjustment screw for adjusting the lateral position of the front plate 3
10 with respect to the drawer side walls 5.

The embodiment shown in FIGS. 13 to 14 has the same function as the embodiment shown in FIGS. 2 to 4. While the holding member 8 according to the embodiment of FIGS. 2 to 4 is made of plastic material or die casting, the holding member 8 according to the embodiment of FIGS. 13 to 14 is made of sheet metal.

A drawer rail 26 can be mounted to the front plate 3 by a furniture fitting comprising a holding member 28 and a dowel 6. The dowel 6 is inserted into a hole in the front
20 plate 3 while the holding member 28 is situated behind of front plate 3 as seen from the front of the drawer. Within the dowel 6 there is an expansion member 27 like the expansion member 10 of the embodiments described above and having an inner end in the form of a truncated cone. The expansion member 27 is connected to the holding member 28 by means of an axle 29. The holding member 28 has flanges 30 provided with cam surfaces which rest on the dowel 6. If the drawer rail 26 together with the holding member 28 is in the position shown in FIG. 5 the expansion member 27
30 is in its relaxed position inside the dowel 6 and the dowel 6 can be inserted into the hole 22, the front plate 3 or can be removed from this hole. By turning or tilting the drawer rail 26 and the holding member 28 about axle 29 into

the position shown in FIG. 6, the expansion member 27 is moved within the dowel 6 into the locked position and the dowel 6 is expanded thereby clamping the wall of the hole 22 into which it is inserted. In this way the holding member 28 is fastened to the front plate 3.

In the embodiment of FIGS. 16 and 17, each of a pair of expansion members 15 has an angular configuration including a first arm 15' positioned in a recess 12 of each dowel 6 and a second arm 15" to be acted on by an eccentric 14 of the holding member 8. Dowels 6 are connected by a plate 7 whereby the dowels 6 and the plate 7 are made in one piece. The external recesses 12 of the dowels 6 face in opposite directions. The arms 15' are situated within the recesses 12 of the dowels 6. The arms 15' of the angular expansion members 15 extend through holes in the plate 7 so that the arms 15" are situated on the side of the plate 7 which is opposed to the dowels 6. The arms 15" can be situated within a recess in the plate 7.

The holding member 8 in this embodiment is provided with a cover plate 13 having spaced hooks 39. When the cover plate 13 and the holding member 8 are in a locked position the hooks 39 hook over respective end portions 32 of the plate 7. In the middle of the cover plate 13 is eccentric 14 and a pin 24. The pin 24 is insertable into a hole 25 in the plate 7. In the position in which the dowels 6 are insertable into holes in a furniture part, the holding member 8 and the cover plate 13 extend at an angle of 90° with respect to the plate 7. This position is shown in FIG. 17. The eccentric 14 is situated between the front ends 33 of the arms 15" of the expansion members 15. By rotating the holding member 8 around the pin 24 so that the cover plate 13 is brought to a position in which it covers the plate 7, the expansion members 15 are moved away from

each other by means of the eccentric 14. By this movement the arms 15' are pressed to the walls of the holes 22, thereby locking the dowels 6 within the holes 22 and securing the fitting to the front plate 3.

In the embodiment of FIGS. 18 to 20 the plate 7 is provided with one dowel 6 and a positioning pin 34. An expansion member 21 is situated within the dowel 6. The expansion member 21 is provided at its end with a cam 35. The expansion member 21 is rigidly connected to cover plate 10 13 of the holding member 8. A shaft 37 of the expansion member 21 has an end with a non-circular circumference that is with a flattening 38. This end is held in a corresponding hole 36 in the cover plate 13. The cover plate 13 has one end provided with a hook 39 which in the locked position of the holding member 8 hooks over the respective end portion 32 of the plate 7.

In the position of the holding member 8 shown in FIG. 19, the dowel 6 can be inserted into the hole 22 in the front plate 3. By rotation of the holding member 8 into 20 the position shown in FIG. 20, the cam 35 is rotated in such a way that flanges of the dowel 6 are expanded and pressed to the wall of the hole 22. In this way the holding member 8 and the plate 7 are secured to the front plate 3 by the dowel 6.

Although all of the embodiments of the furniture fitting of the invention have been described and illustrated with respect to connecting a drawer side wall or a drawer rail to a drawer front wall, it is contemplated that the furniture fitting of the present invention equally 30 could be employed for connecting together other parts of an article of furniture. For example, it is contemplated that the furniture fitting of the present invention could be incorporated into a hinge mounting a door to an article of

furniture. Further, the furniture fitting of the present invention could be employed to mount a rear wall of a drawer to a side wall thereof or to a drawer rail thereof. Yet further, it is contemplated that the furniture fitting of the present invention could be employed to connect together two abutting walls of an article of furniture. Other modifications and uses will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art from a consideration of the present disclosure.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A furniture fitting for connecting parts of an article of furniture, said fitting comprising:
dowel means for insertion into a hole in one furniture part;
an expansion member positioned within said dowel means, said expansion member having an expansion surface and being movable axially relative to said dowel means between a relaxed position enabling said dowel means to be inserted into the hole and an expanded position, whereat said expansion surface expands said dowel means, enabling said dowel means to be locked in the hole; and
a holding member connectable to another furniture part, said holding member being pivotably connected to an end of said expansion member, said holding member having a cam surface for abutment with a surface fixed relative to said dowel means, whereby pivotal movement of said holding member causes said cam surface to abut said surface fixed relative to said dowel means, and causes said holding member to move said expansion member axially of said dowel means to move to or from said expanded position thereof.

2. The furniture fitting as claimed in claim 1, wherein said cam surface abuts said dowel means.

3. The furniture fitting as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said holding member comprises a member to be

connected to a side wall of a drawer for mounting thereon a drawer front wall.

4. The furniture fitting as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said holding member comprises a member to be connected to a drawer rail for mounting thereof on a drawer front wall.

5. A furniture fitting for connecting parts of an article of furniture, said fitting comprising:
a plurality of dowels for insertion into respective holes in one furniture part;
each said dowel having positioned therein a respective expansion member, each said expansion member having an expansion surface and being movable axially relative to the respective dowel between a relaxed position enabling said respective dowel to be inserted into the respective hole and an expanded position, whereat the respective expansion surface expands said respective dowel, enabling said respective dowel to be locked in the respective hole, each said expansion member having an end; and
a holding member connectable to another furniture part, said holding member being connected to said ends of said expansion members for pivotal movement relative thereto to actuate said expansion members to move to or from said expanded position thereof.

6. The furniture fitting as claimed in claim 5, wherein said plurality of dowels are mounted on a plate.

7. The furniture fitting as claimed in claim 6, wherein said holding member has at least one cam surface for abutment with said plate, such that pivotal movement of said holding member causes said cam surface to abut said plate and said holding member to move said expansion members axially of said dowels.

8. The furniture fitting as claimed in claim 7, wherein said pivotal movement is about a shaft connecting at least one of said ends to said holding member.

9. The furniture fitting as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 8, wherein said holding member comprises a member to be connected to a side wall of a drawer for mounting thereon a drawer front wall.

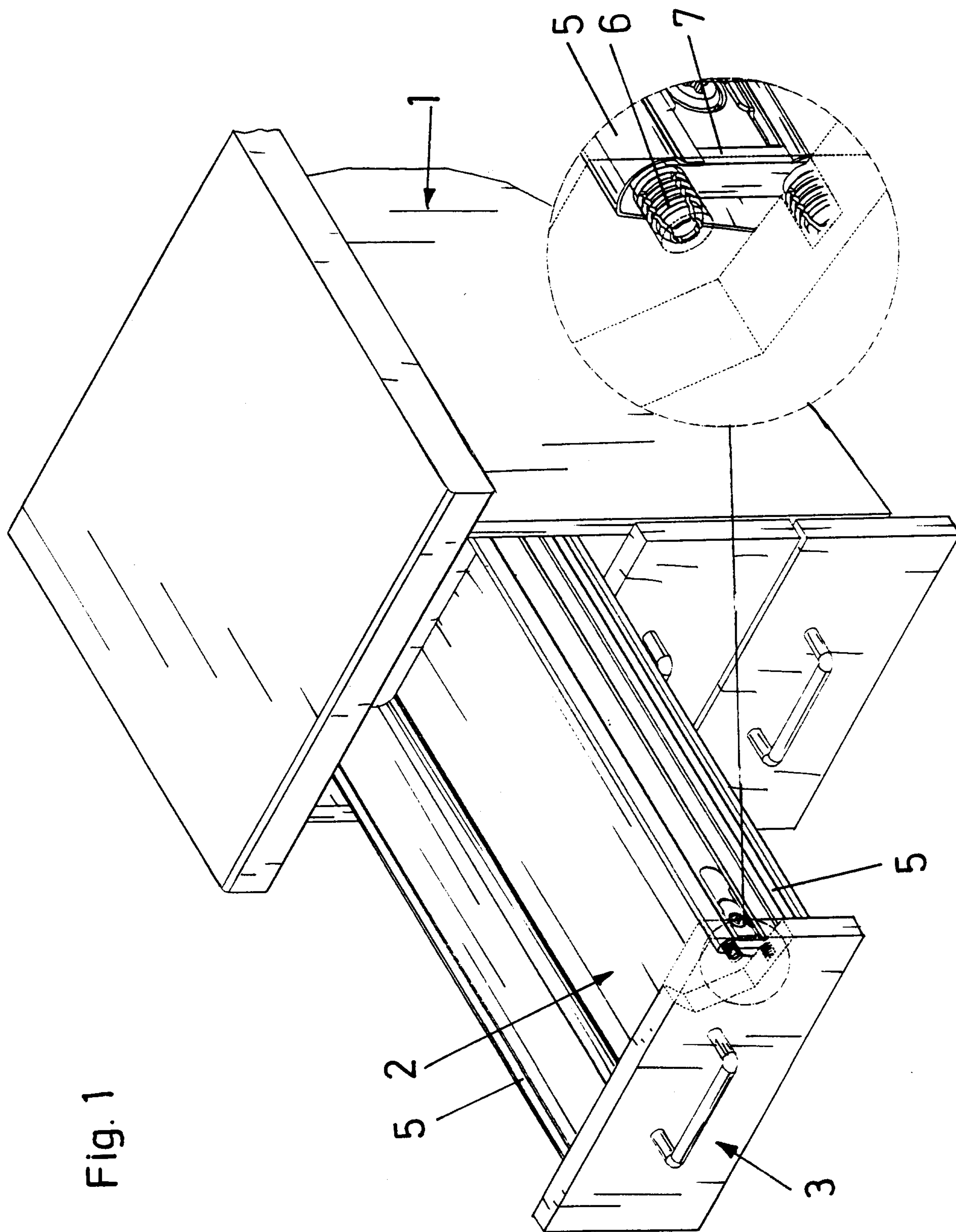


Fig. 3

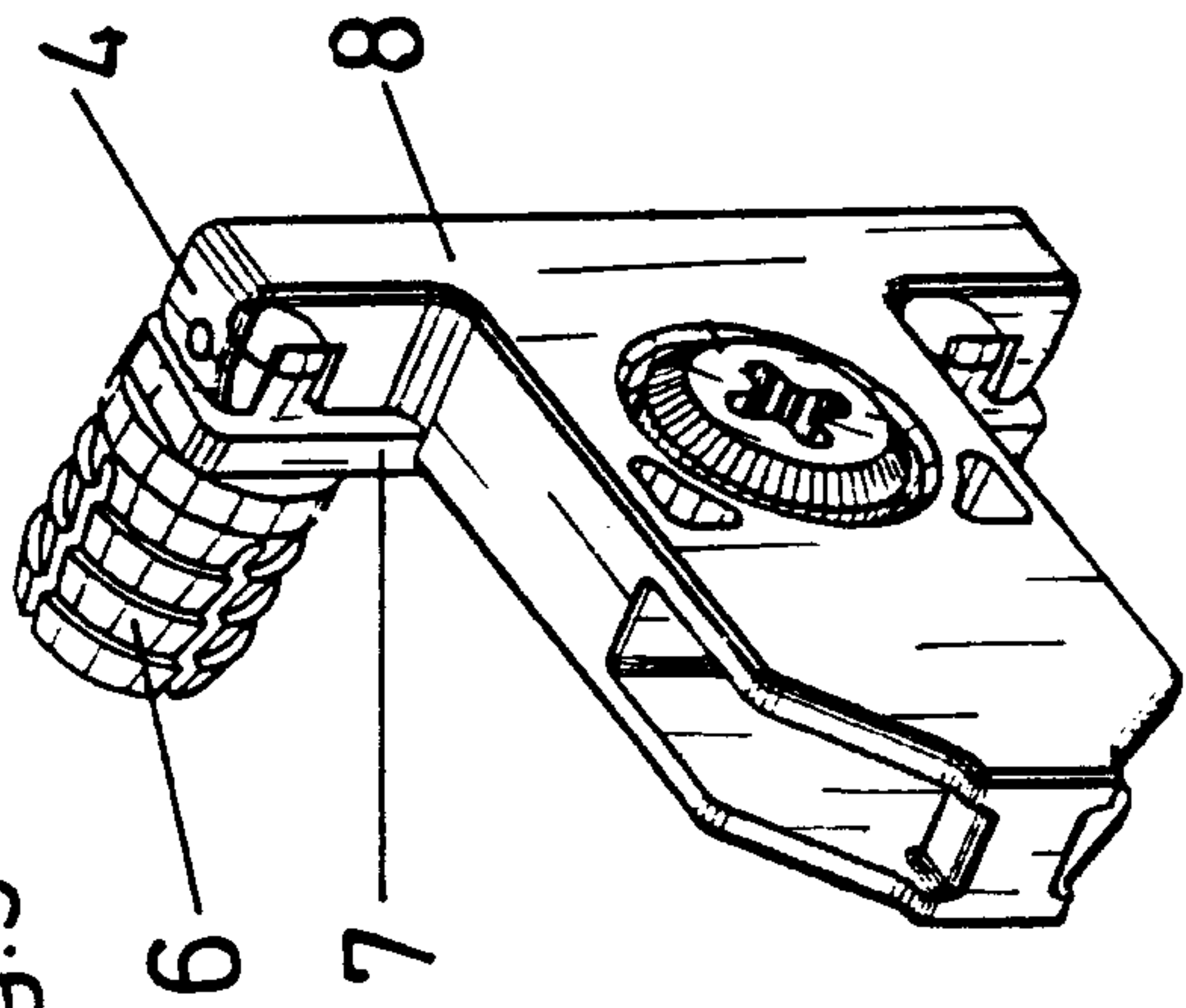


Fig. 4

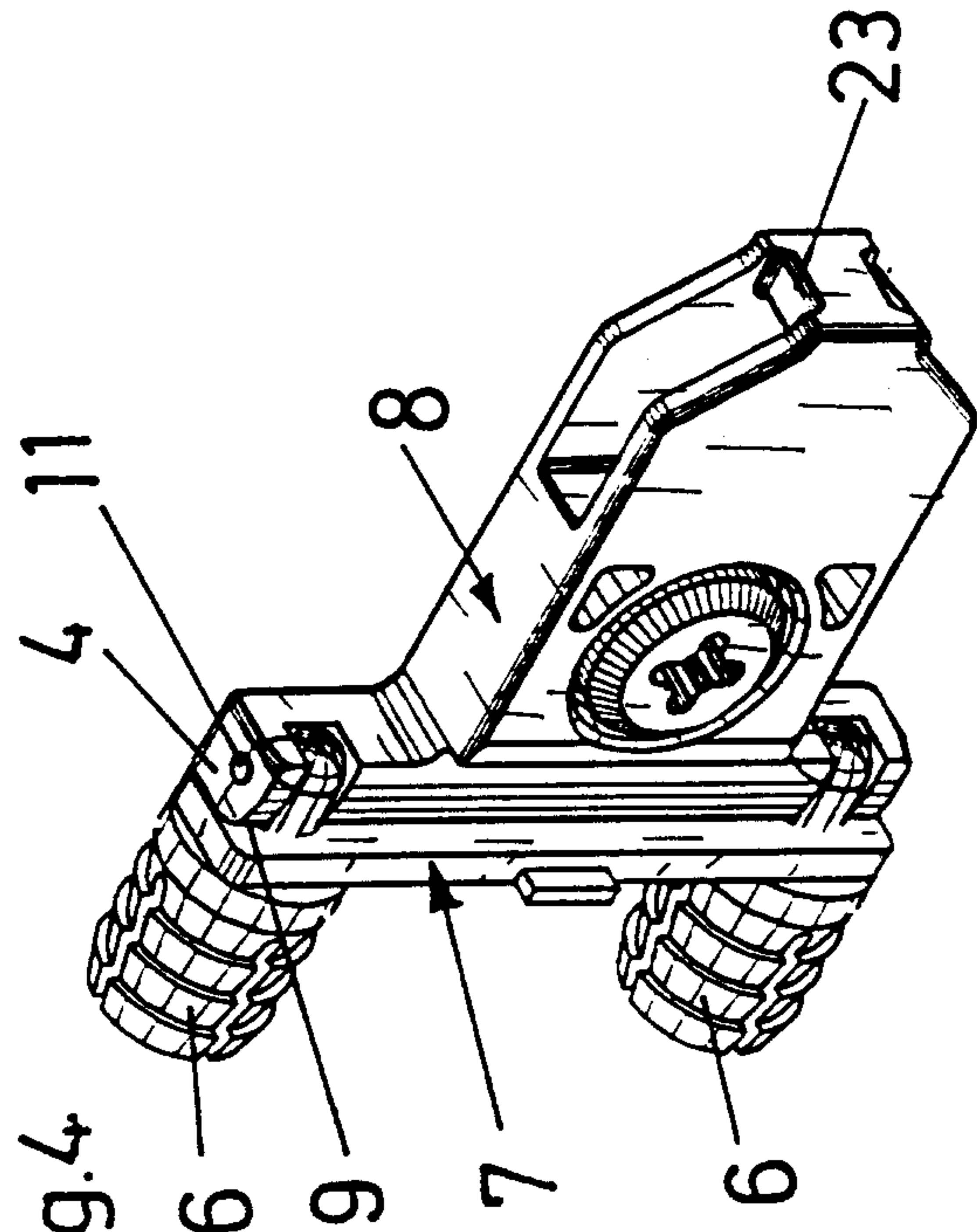
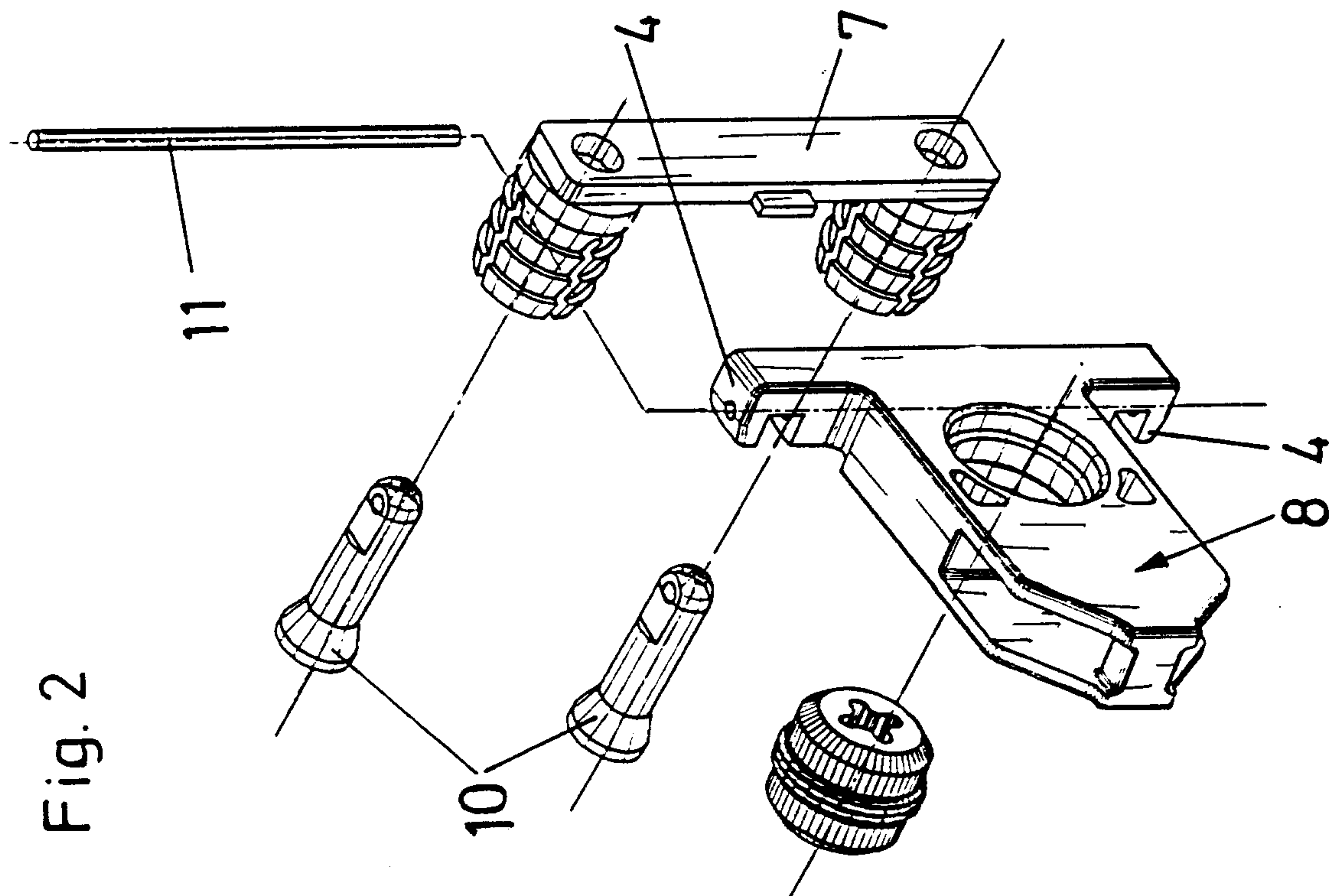
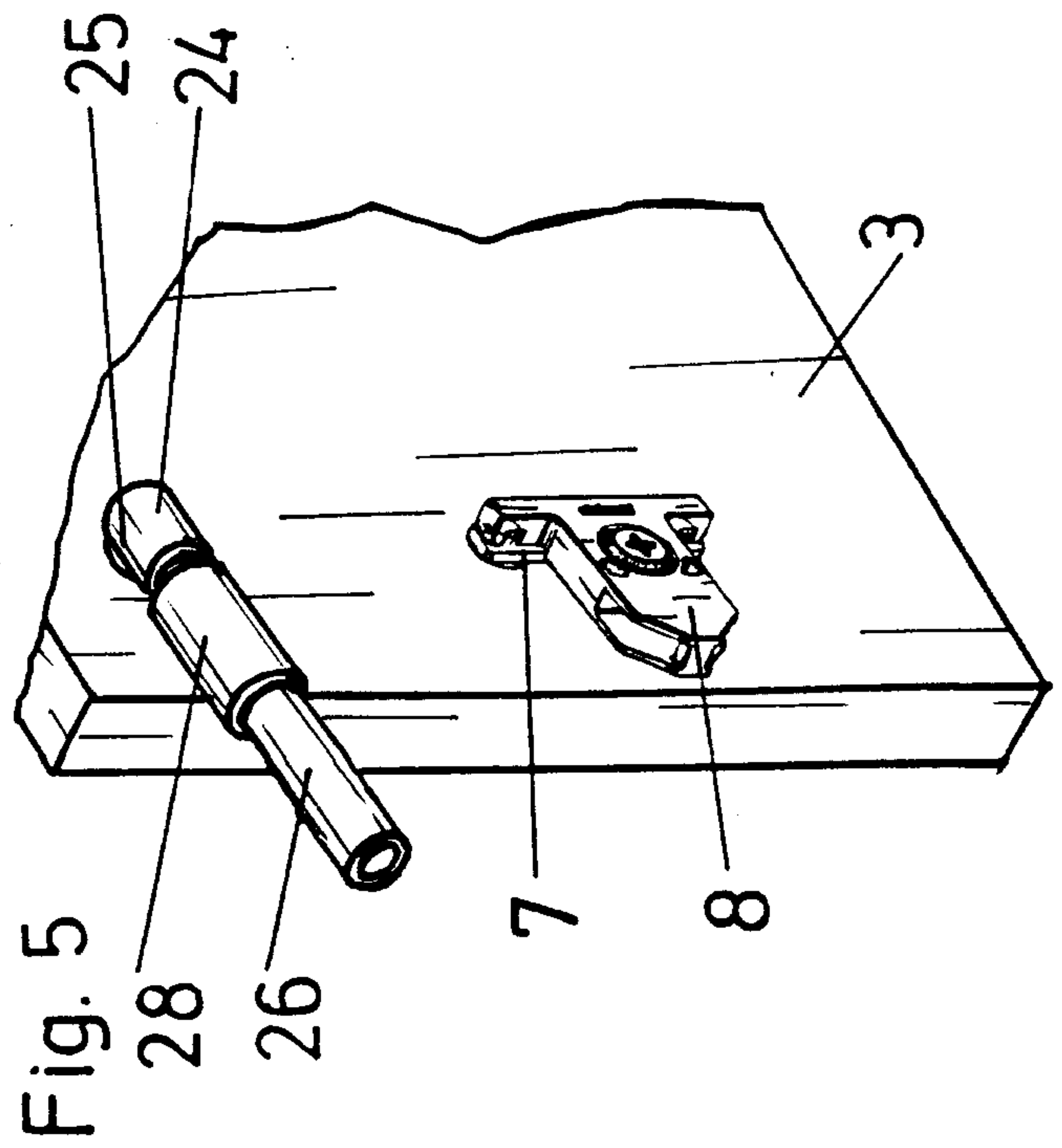
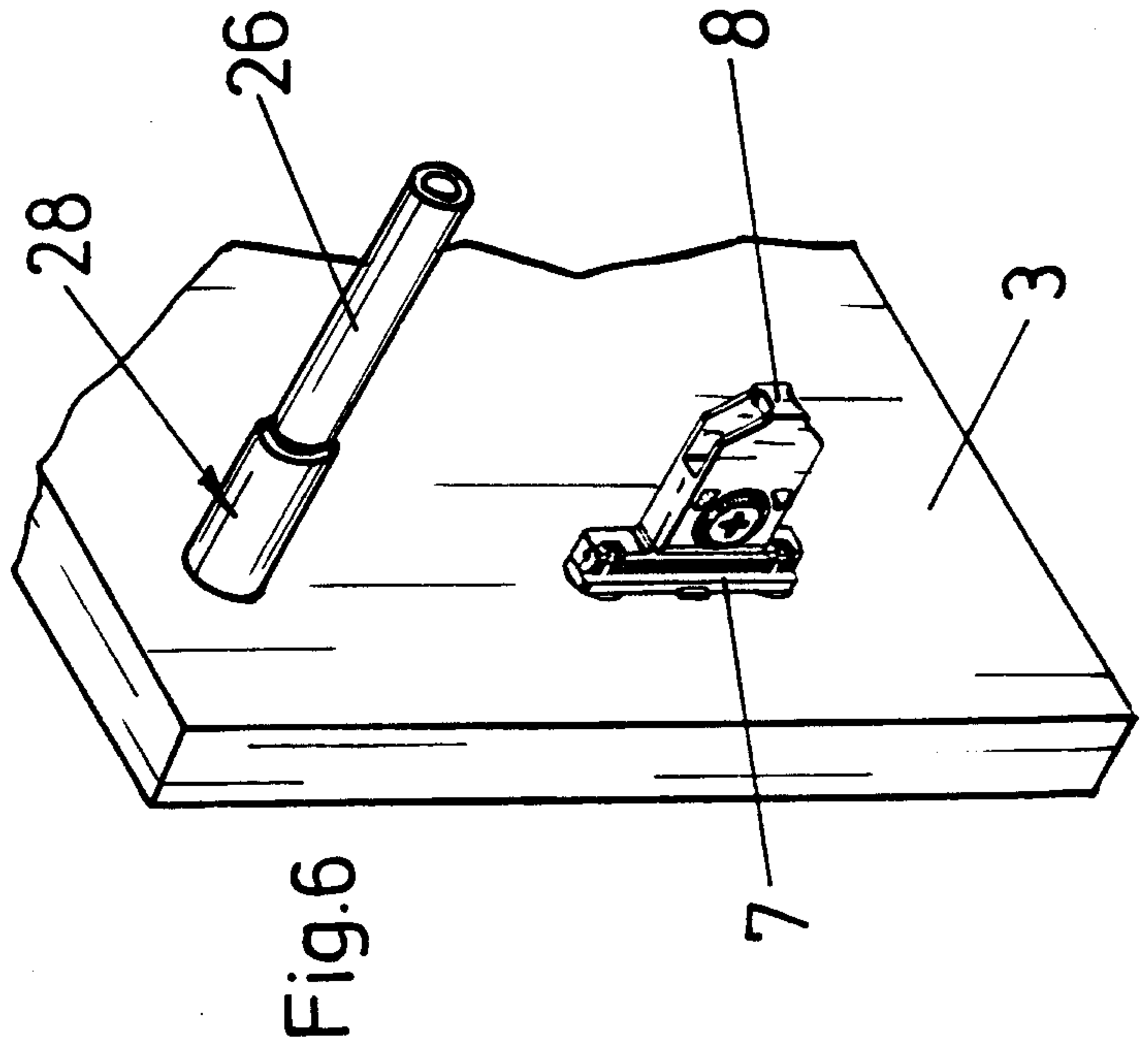
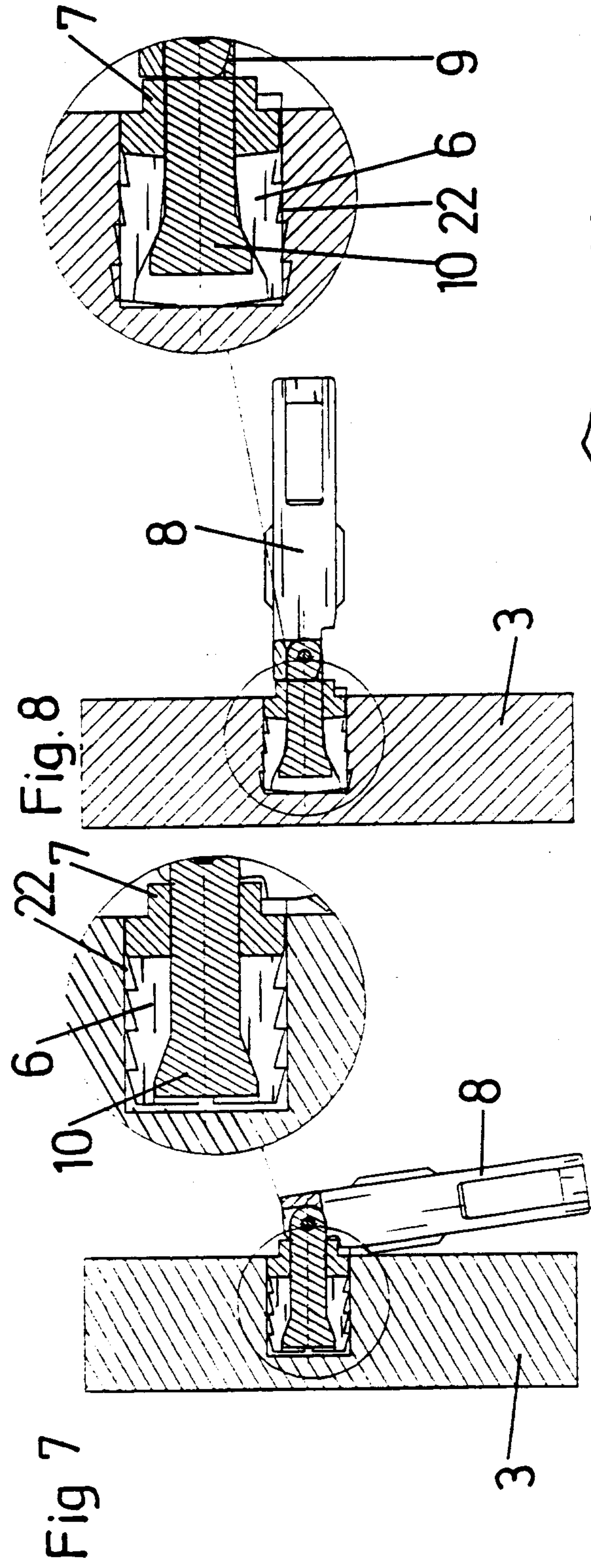
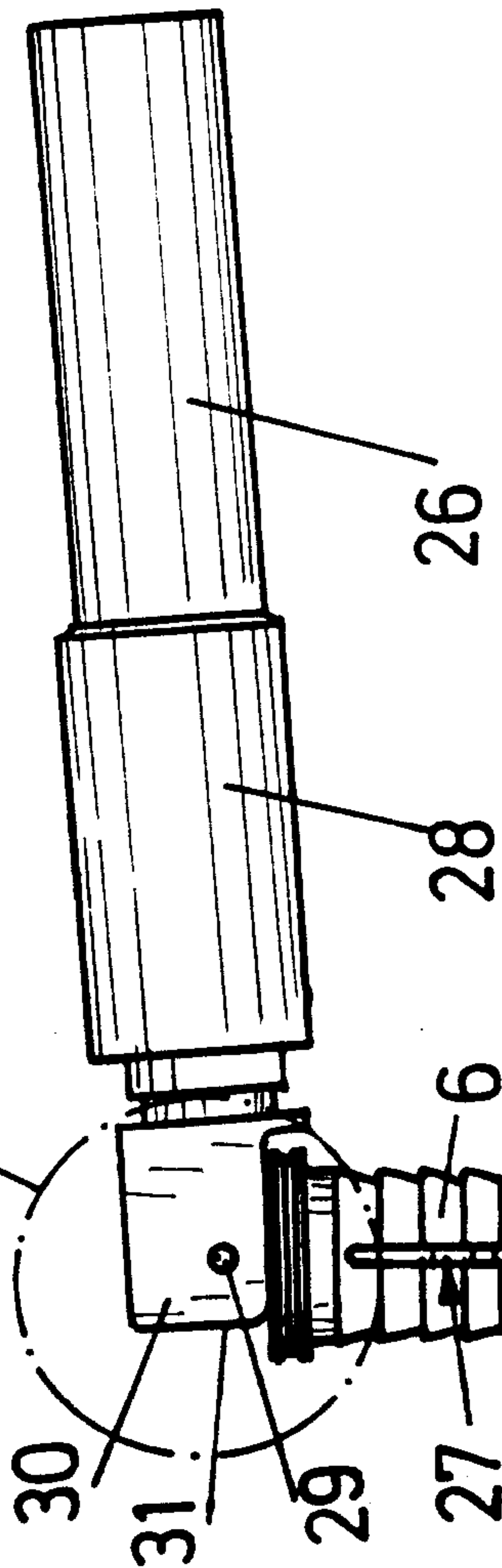
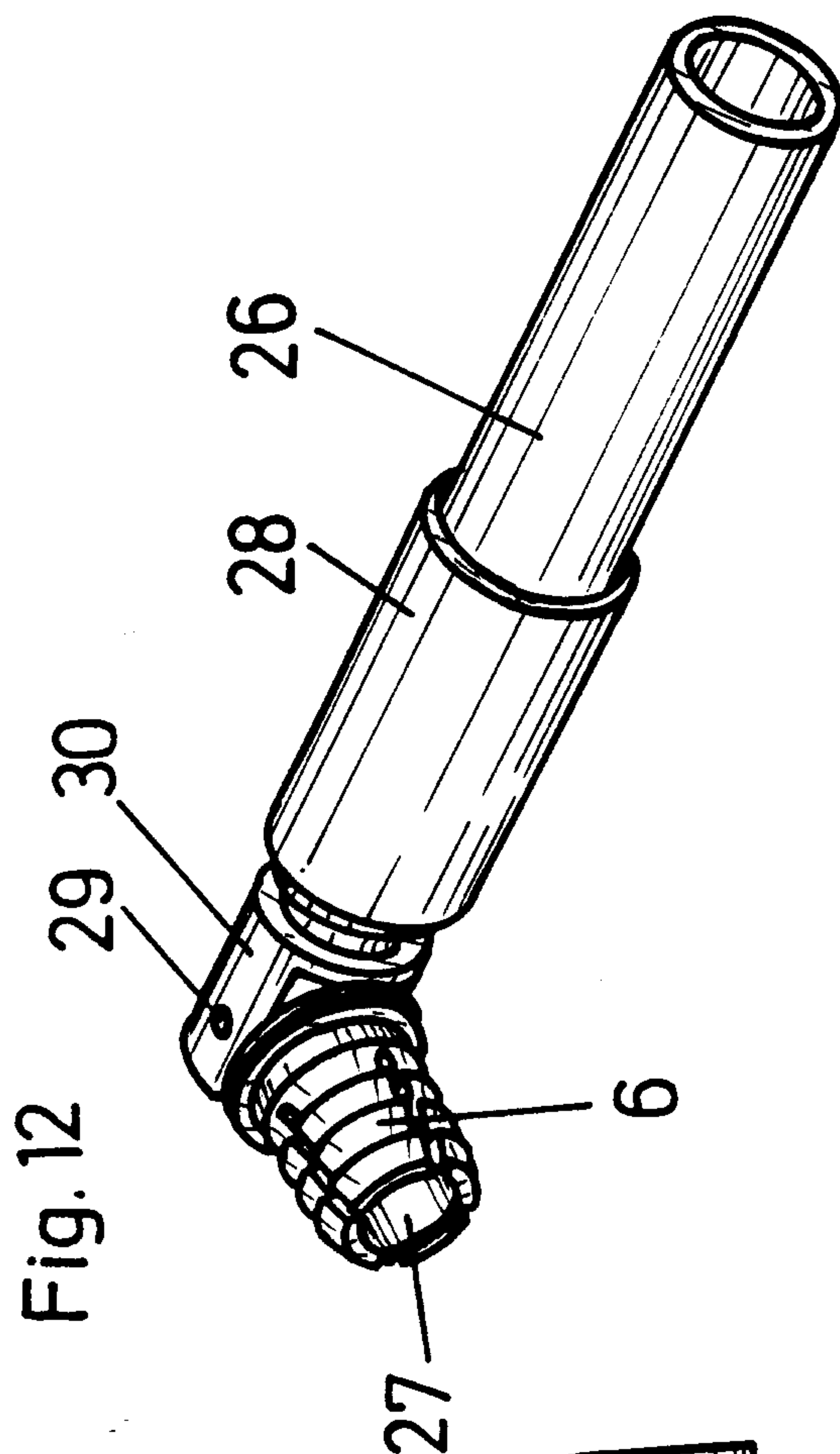
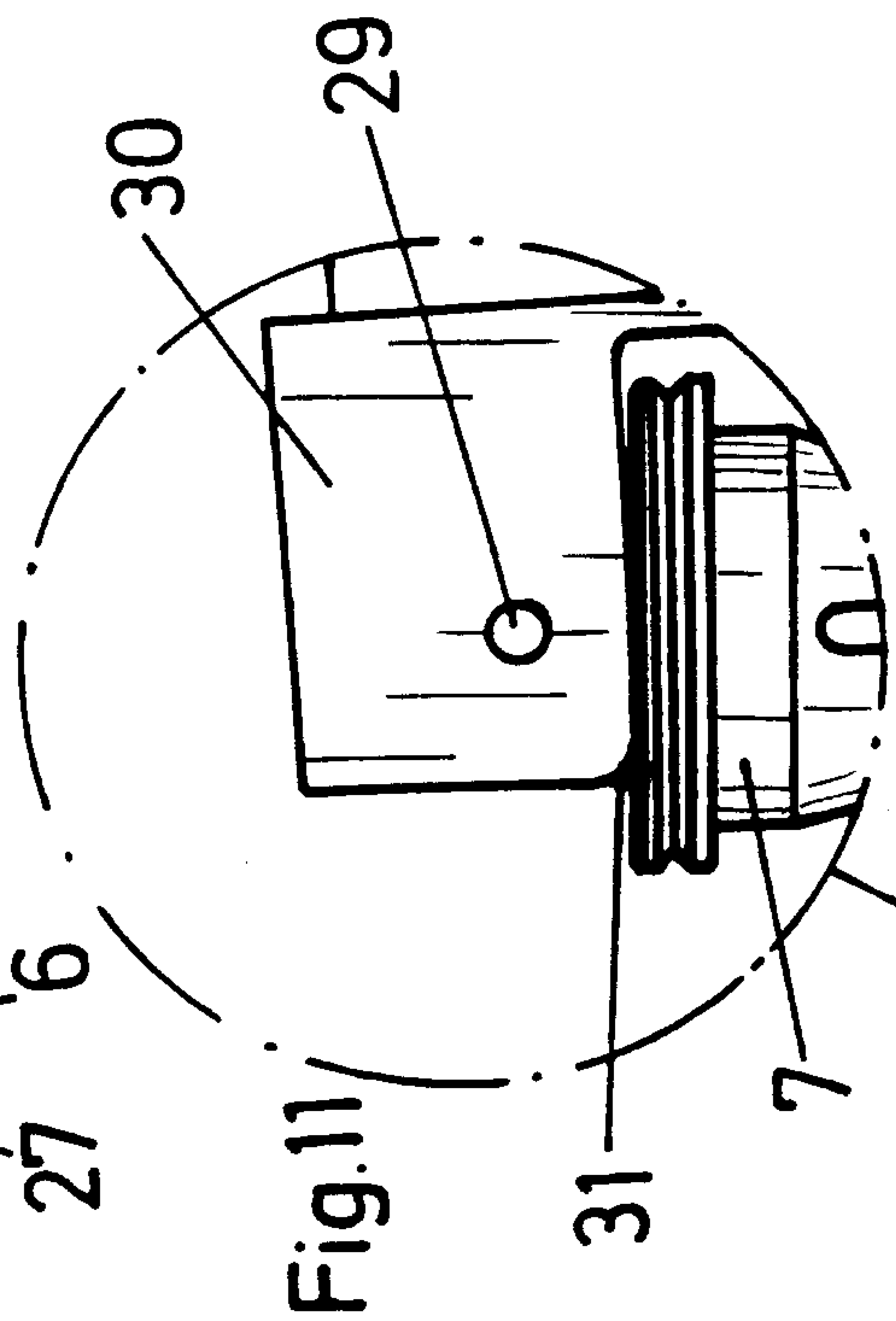
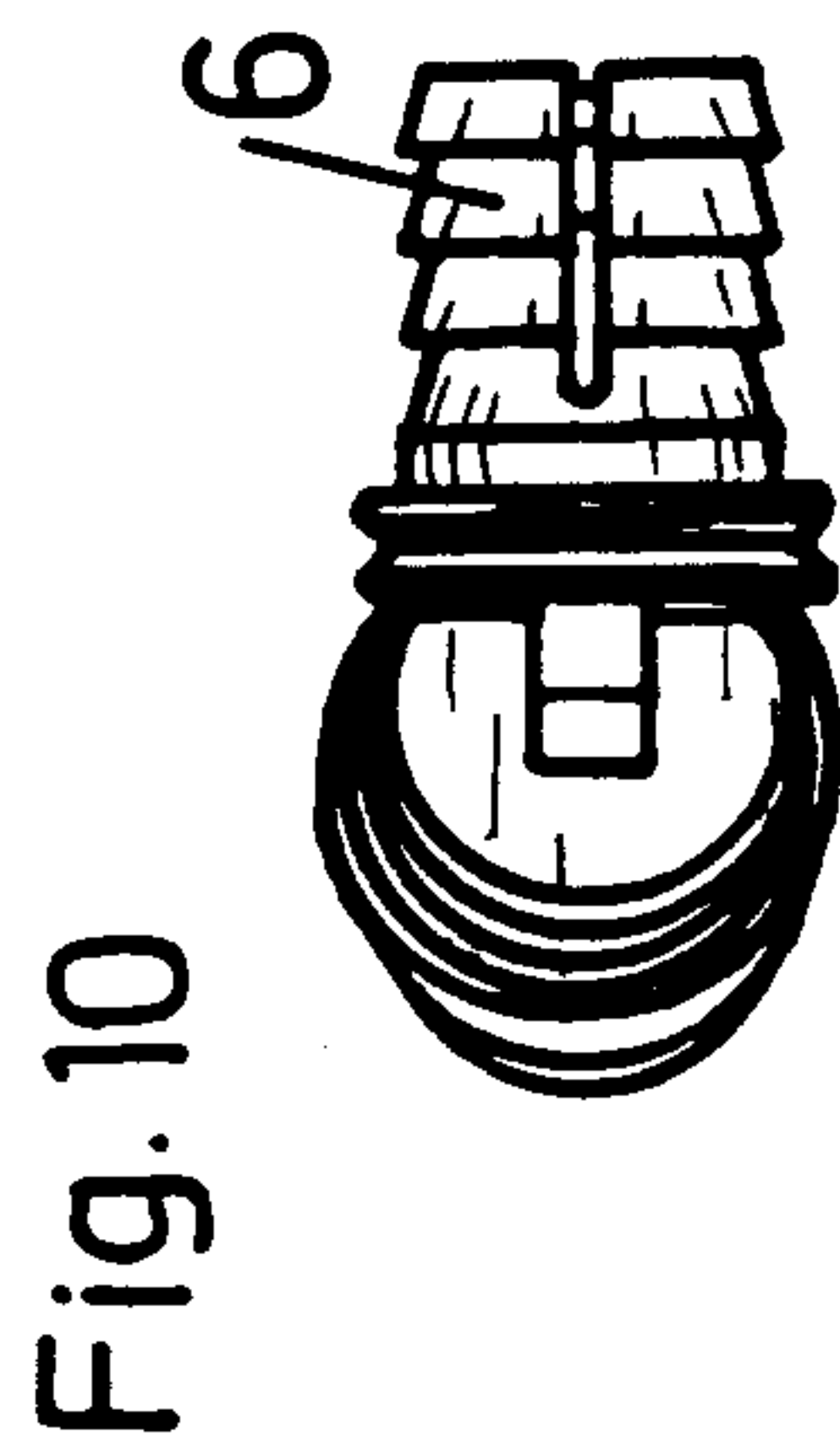
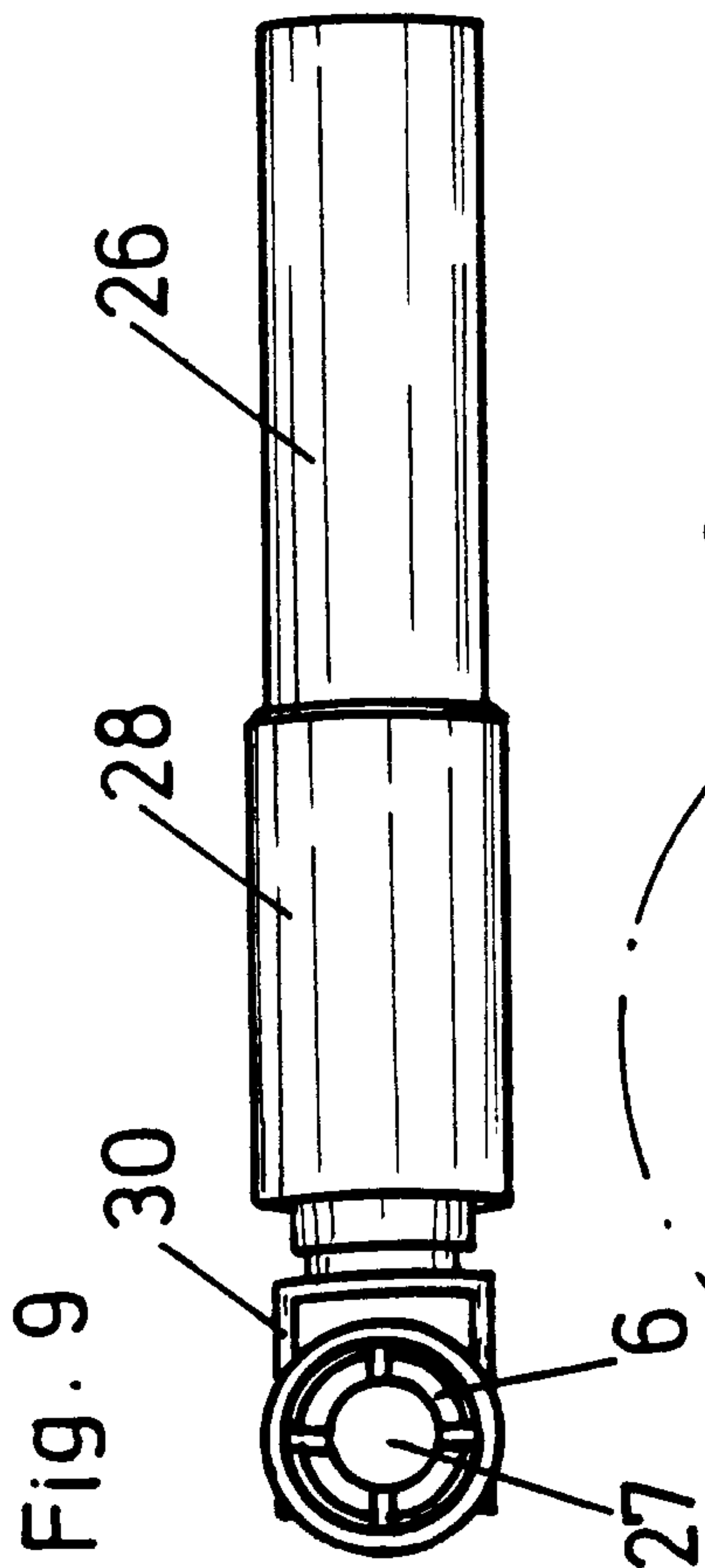


Fig. 2







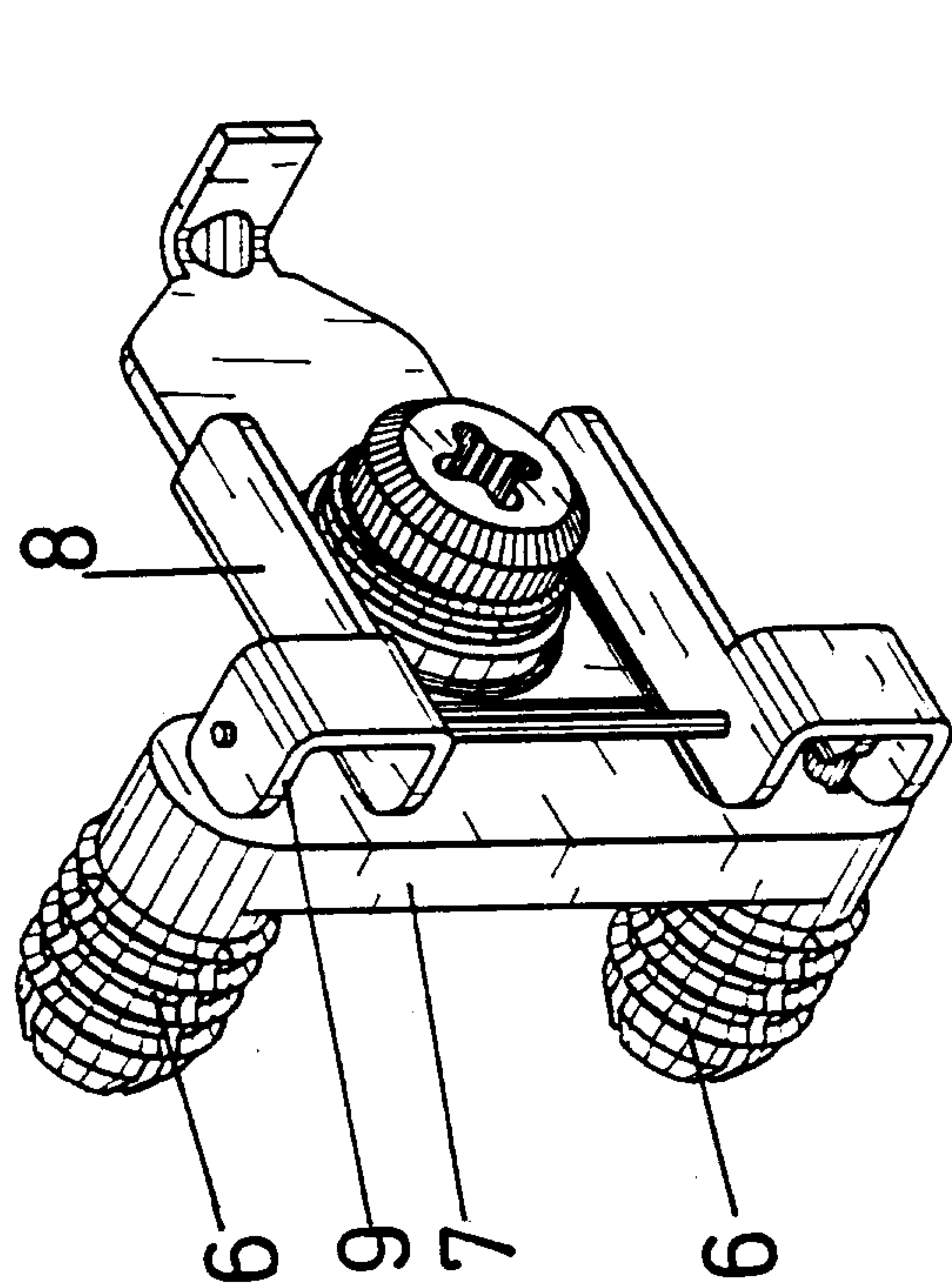


Fig. 14

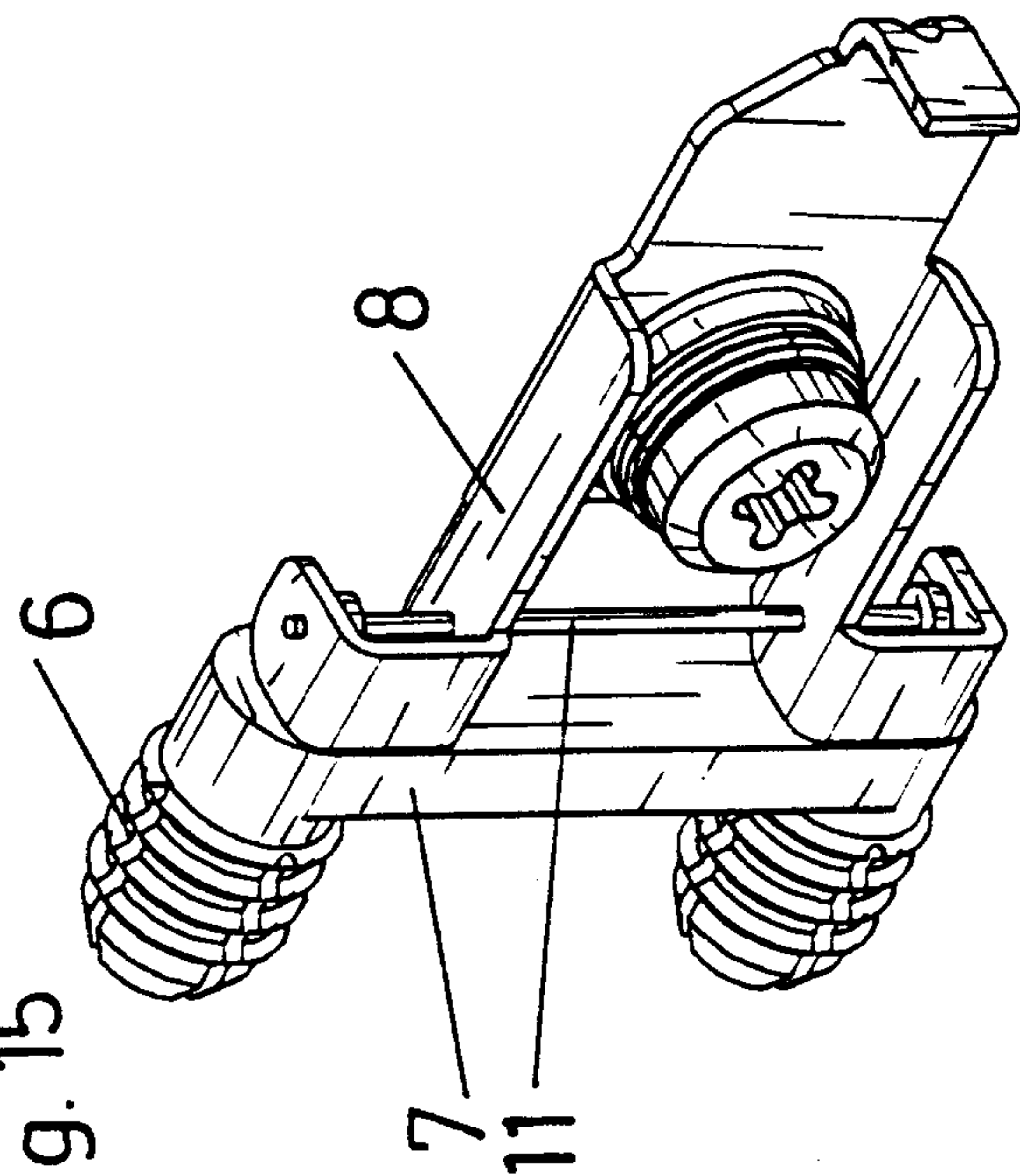


Fig. 15

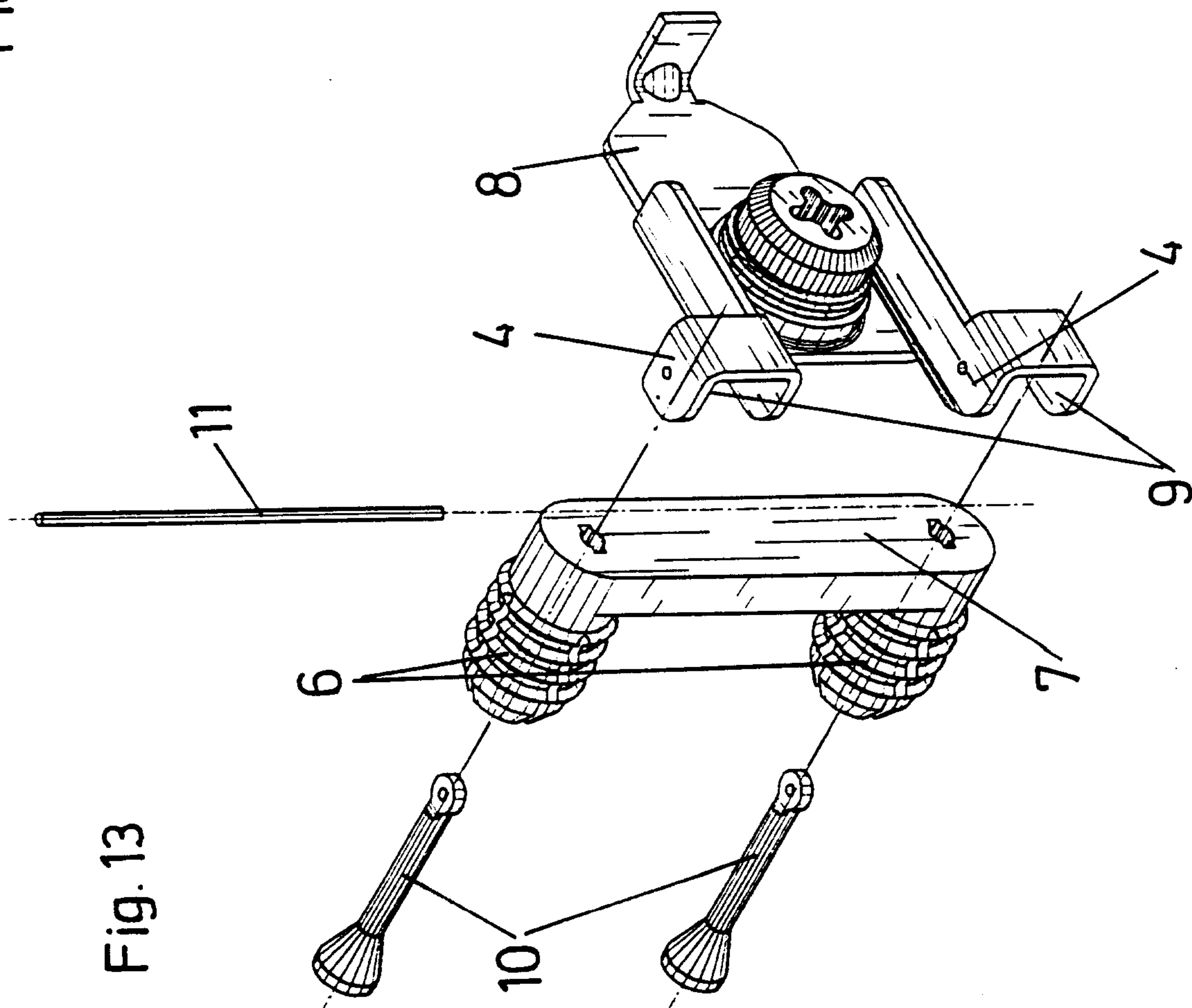


Fig. 13

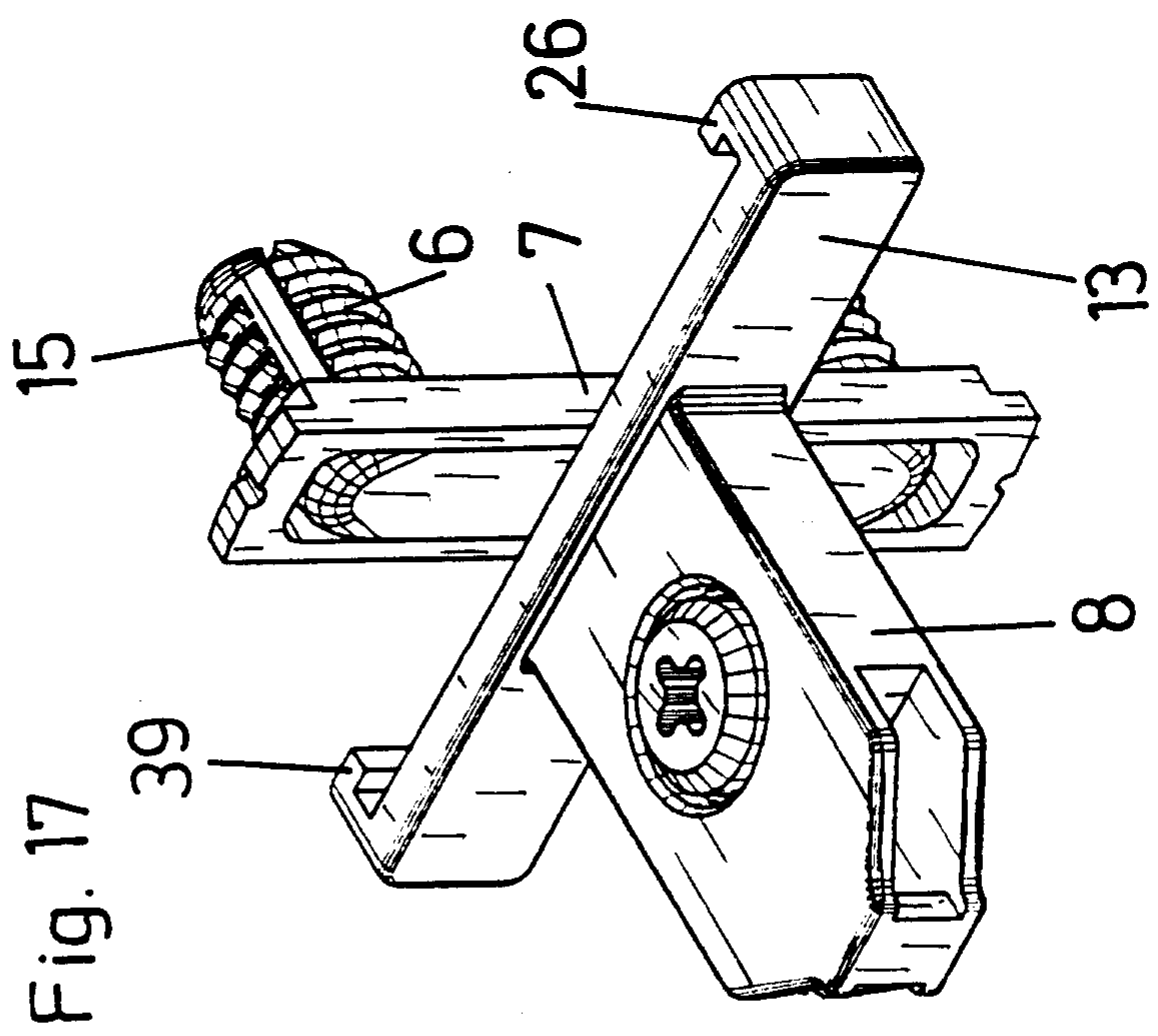


Fig. 17

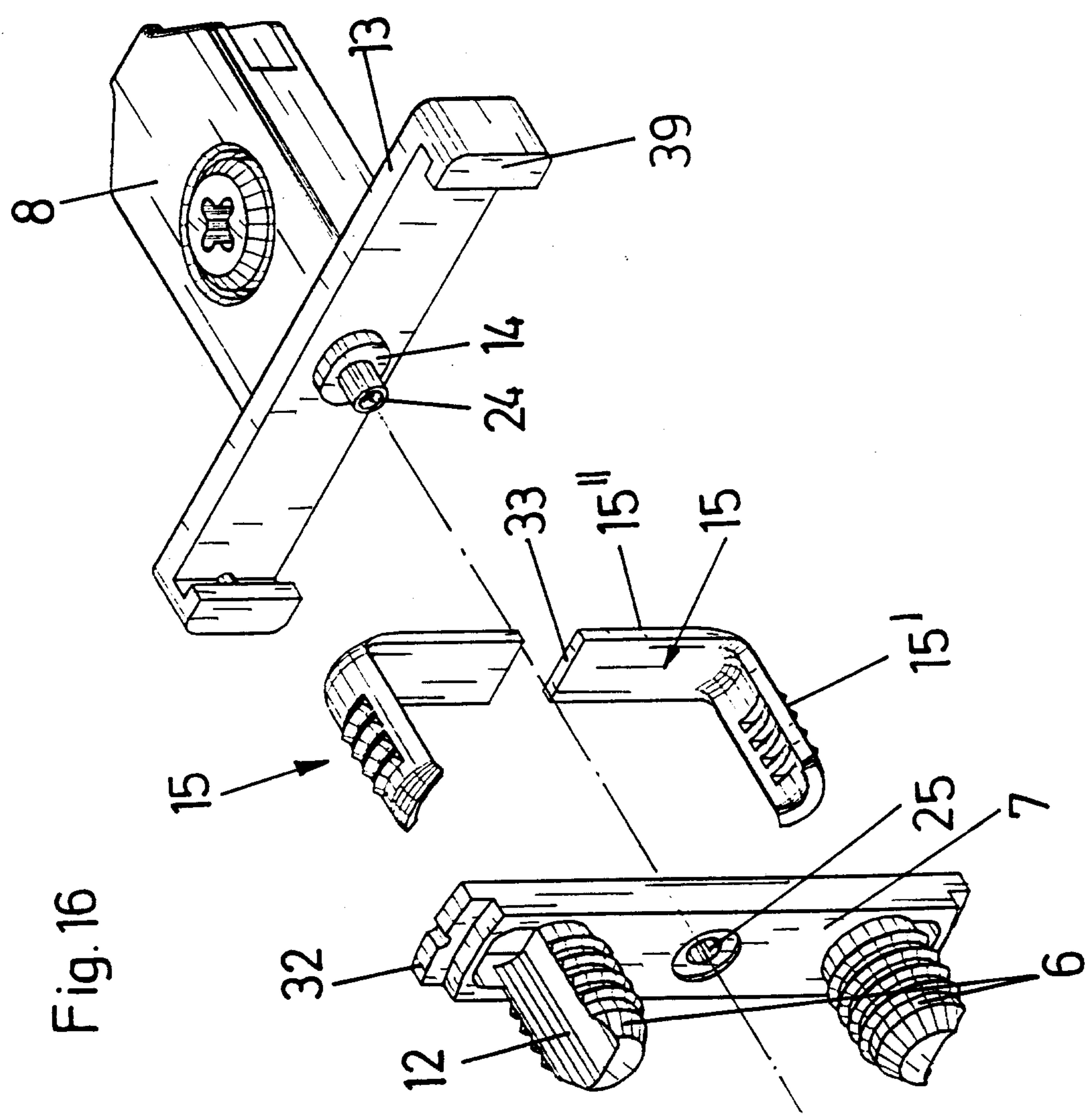


Fig. 16

