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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A beam supporter has an upper outer cylinder (1), a lower outer cylinder (2), a gearbox (3) connecting these cylinders up and down to each other, and drive and driven bevels (4,5) mating one another within the gearbox. A sleeve (7) built in the gearbox (3) has an outer periphery integral with the driven bevel (5), a female-threaded inner periphery (6), and a threaded rod (8) is in mesh with the female thread and extends through the inner periphery. A horizontal shaft (4a) of the drive bevel (4) protrudes from the gearbox to provide an operable protrusion (4b). A sliding inner cylinder (9) is secured to the rod (8) up and down, so that an upper end of this cylinder slidably protrudes from an upper opening of the upper cylinder (1). A ring-shaped bearing (26) may be disposed around the threaded rod (8) and vertically slidable above the gearbox. A cap (20) is attached to the threaded rod (8), so that guide sticks (27) depending through the cap hold the bearing freely slidable up and down but always on or above the feet of the guide sticks. Upper ends of the guide sticks have a stopper (27a) above an upper face of the cap (20) so that the sticks are prevented from dropping off the cap.

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION
STANDARD PATENT

Applicant(s):

SHINKO CORPORATION

Invention Title:

BEAM SUPPORTER

The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to me/us:

BEAM SUPPORTER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a pole-shaped beam supporter for use in construction works to build ferro-concrete houses or steel-frame buildings, wherein the supporter will temporarily hold in position the steel frame
10 of an upper floor, any horizontal beam forming a temporary skeleton, a concrete mold or the like for the upper floor.

Prior Art

Such beam supporters have usually been set up on an
15 already formed lower floor in order to support the upper floor skeleton or support the horizontal beam of the concrete mold for the upper floor, until subsequent removal upon finishing the latter.

The prior art beam supporters have each at an upper
20 end thereof a single screw jack, or have each at both the upper and lower ends respective screw jacks. These jacks will be operated at their drives to extend or contract the supporters when the latter are fixed in position or removed from between the floors. Each drive is however forced to
25 spin about the supporter's vertical axis, as a handle protruding radially and sideways from the drive is rotated with both the hands of a worker. Operation of such beam supporters have necessitated two persons, one of them just holding the supporter upright while the other driving its
30 screw jack or jacks, thus bringing about a noticeable inefficiency in construction works.



SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to a first aspect of the invention there is provided a beam supporter having:

- 5 an upper outer cylinder,
 a lower outer cylinder coaxial with the upper outer cylinder,
 a gearbox fixing the upper outer cylinder on the lower outer cylinder,
10 a sliding inner cylinder having a lower end secured to an upper end of a threaded rod that is driven by the gearbox, so that an upper end of the sliding inner cylinder can slidably protrude a variable distance upwards from an upper opening of the upper outer cylinder,
15 a drive bevel gear having a horizontal shaft and a driven bevel gear having a vertical shaft, the gears being installed in the gearbox so as to engage with each other, the horizontal shaft of the drive bevel gear extending sideways and outwardly from the gearbox so as to provide a
20 protrusion operable to rotate the drive bevel gear,
 an operating means for rotating the protrusion,
 a sleeve built in the gearbox and in parallel with the upper and lower cylinders, the sleeve having an outer periphery whose intermediate portion is integral with the
25 driven bevel gear, the sleeve further having a fully female-threaded inner periphery so that the threaded rod is kept in mesh with and extending through the inner periphery, wherein the sliding inner cylinder has a lower end secured to the upper end of the threaded rod so that
30 the position of the inner cylinder can be slidably adjusted by means of the operating means,

 wherein at least one vertical groove is formed in the inner periphery of the upper outer cylinder of a



non-round cross section, and a transverse pin protruding from the sliding inner cylinder has at least one end exposed and engaging with the at least one vertical groove, whereby the sliding inner cylinder is inhibited from
5 rotating relative to the upper outer cylinder.

Preferably the gearbox and the members installed therein are made of a light metal, and the protrusion is enclosed with a cover of another metal harder than the light metal.
10

Thus, a beam supporter is provided with a compact structure such that a single worker can hold and simultaneously operate the drive portion of the beam supporter.

15 According to a second aspect of the invention there is provided a beam supporter having:
an upper outer cylinder,
a lower outer cylinder coaxial with the upper outer cylinder,

20 a gearbox fixing the upper outer cylinder on the lower outer cylinder,
a sliding inner cylinder having a lower end secured to an upper end of a threaded rod that is driven by the gearbox, so that an upper end of the inner cylinder can
25 slidably protrude a variable distance upwards from an upper opening of the upper outer cylinder,

a drive bevel gear having a horizontal shaft and a driven bevel gear having a vertical shaft, the gears being installed in the gearbox so as to engage with each other,
30 the horizontal shaft of the drive bevel gear extending sideways and outwardly from the gearbox so as to provide a protrusion operable to rotate the drive bevel gear,
an operating means for rotating the protrusion,



a sleeve built in the gearbox and in parallel with the upper and lower cylinders, the sleeve having an outer periphery whose intermediate portion is integral with the driven bevel gear, the sleeve further having a fully
5 female-threaded inner periphery so that the threaded rod is kept in mesh with and extending through the inner periphery, wherein the sliding inner cylinder has a lower end secured to the upper end of the threaded rod so that the position of the inner cylinder can be slidably adjusted
10 by means of the operating means,

a ring-shaped annular plain bearing disposed around the threaded rod and capable of vertically sliding above the gearbox,

guide sticks, each having a lower stopping means at
15 the foot of the guide stick on which the ring-shaped bearing can rest,

a cap secured to the upper end of the threaded rod, wherein the guide sticks depend through the cap, the ring-shaped bearing can slide along the guide
20 sticks between the lower stopping means and the cap, and the upper ends of the guide sticks form a stopper disposed above an upper face of the cap so that the guide sticks are prevented from dropping off the cap.

25 Thus, the beam supporter is protected from bending sideways between its upper end and the gearbox, even when the supporter extends to a maximum limit.

Preferably the operating means is a handle.

30



BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In order that the present invention be more clearly ascertained, an embodiment will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a vertical cross section of the principal part of a beam supporter provided in a first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the beam supporter shown partly in cross section, with a sliding inner cylinder thereof taking its uppermost position;

Fig. 3 is a vertical cross section of a gearbox included in the beam supporter;

Fig. 4 is a front elevation of the beam supporter shown in its entirety but partly in cross section, with the sliding inner cylinder taking its lowermost position;

Fig. 5 is also a front elevation similar to Fig. 4 but showing the sliding inner cylinder at its uppermost position;

Fig. 6 is a cross section taken along the line C-C in Fig. 1;

Fig. 7 is a front elevation of a beam supporter provided in a second embodiment and shown in its entirety, with its sliding inner cylinder taking a lowermost position;

Fig. 8 is an enlarged vertical cross section of a principal part of the beam supporter shown in Fig. 7;

Fig. 9 also is an enlarged vertical cross section of the principal part, with its sliding inner cylinder taking an uppermost position;

Fig. 10 is a front elevation of the beam supporter of the second embodiment shown in its entirety, with its sliding inner cylinder taking the uppermost position;

Fig. 11 is a perspective view of a ring-shaped bearing and relevant



parts included in the second embodiment; and

Fig. 12 is a perspective view of a modified ring-shaped bearing and relevant parts also included in the second embodiment.

5

THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Some preferable embodiments of the present invention will now be described referring to the drawings.

FIRST EMBODIMENT

10 Figs. 1 to 6 show a beam supporter provided in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention. The reference numeral 3 denotes a gearbox that connects an upper outer cylinder 1 to a lower outer cylinder 2, so that those cylinders disposed above and below the gearbox are thus made integral and coaxial with each other.

15 Installed in the gearbox 3 are a drive bevel gear 4 having a horizontal shaft and as well as a driven bevel gear 5 having a vertical shaft and always kept in mesh with the drive bevel gear. A sleeve 7 having a threaded inner periphery 6 has an outer periphery on which the driven bevel wheel is formed integral therewith. Thus, the sleeve serves as the vertical shaft of the driven bevel gear. A vertical hole defined with the inner periphery
20 extends from top to bottom of said sleeve so as to receive and engage with an elongate threaded rod 8. The horizontal shaft 4a of the drive bevel gear 4 protrudes outwards from the gearbox 3, thereby providing an operable protrusion 4b rotatable around a horizontal axis of the drive bevel gear. A handle 15 may detachably be attached to the operable protrusion 4b in
25 order to cause the threaded rod 8 to ascend or descend. In the illustrated example, a distal end of the handle will fit in an aperture 4c formed transversely through the protrusion 4b. Instead of such an aperture, the pro-

trusion of the shaft 4a may be of a square or any irregular shape other than a round shape in cross section, or alternatively an end face of the shaft may have a recess also removably mating with the handle.

5 A sliding inner cylinder 9 is secured to a top of the threaded rod 8 in such a state that an upper portion of the inner cylinder does slidably protrude from an upper opening of the upper outer cylinder 1. An upper end of the sliding cylinder 9 is fixed to a top plate 13 on one hand, and a lower end of the lower outer cylinder 2 is fixed on a base plate 14, whereby this beam supporter can bear a load in a stable manner.

10 An inner periphery of the upper outer cylinder 1 is of such a profiled cross section that two or more longitudinal grooves 1a present therein are symmetrical with each other. Opposite protruding ends 10a of a transverse pin 10 connecting the sliding cylinder 9 to the threaded rod 8 slidably fit in two of the grooves 1a located diametrically. This structure will inhibit
15 the sliding cylinder 9 from rotating relative to the outer cylinder 1 and will force the former to move only in a longitudinal direction in and along the latter. Freely rotatable small rollers 10b that may be attached to the pin's opposite ends will reduce friction thereof in the grooves 1a and thus facilitate the sliding displacement of the inner cylinder 9.

20 A stopper 12 secured to the upper end of the upper outer cylinder 1 will stop the pin's protruding opposite ends 10a or the small rollers 10b at an upper limit of the sliding motion. In other words, the sliding cylinder 9 is prevented from ascending beyond the upper limit and slipping off the outer cylinder 1.

25 In order to render the beam supporter lighter in weight as a whole, any of appropriate light metals such as aluminum alloys may be employed to form some parts and members such as the gearbox 3, bevel gears 4 and 5

accommodated therein, the sleeve 7 and the threaded rod 8. In this case, an outer surface of the operable protrusion 4b jutting from the gearbox 3 will preferably be covered with a cover 11 made of a harder metal such as iron. The reference numerals 16 and 17 denote collars and slip rings, respectively.

The beam supporter of the described structure may be used in a manner as illustrated in Fig. 5. This supporter in its extended state stands on a finished lower floor 'B' so as to support a beam or the like 'A' used to form an upper floor. This beam may be a portion of an iron skeleton, a temporary frame of the upper floor, or a horizontal square bar of a concrete mold. A single worker can hold the supporter upright with his or her one hand while he or she is turning the handle 15 with his or her other hand so as to drive the threaded rod 8 to raise or lower the sliding inner cylinder 9. Engagement of the drive bevel 4 with the driven bevel 5 enables that a smaller torque for rotating the drive bevel suffices well to impart a stronger thrust to the threaded rod 8 being raised or lowered, whereby the worker can now easily and reliably set the beam supporter at any desired location.

SECOND EMBODIMENT

In a second embodiment shown in Figs. 7 to 12, a cap 20 intervenes between the top of threaded rod 8 and the sliding inner cylinder 9 connected thereto.

The stopper 12 secured to the top of the upper outer cylinder 1 will in this case abut against a flange 20a of the cap 20, also preventing the inner cylinder 9 from rising beyond an upper limit and slipping off the outer cylinder 1.

A ring-shaped annular plain bearing 26 is disposed around the threaded rod 8 and capable of vertically sliding above the gearbox 3. Guide sticks

27 each of a predetermined length and depending through apertures 20b of the cap 20 secured to the upper end of the threaded rod 8 may hold the ring-shaped bearing 26. This bearing 26 is allowed to freely slide up and down, but always resting on nuts 28 serving as the lower stopping means
 5 disposed at downwardly protruding or exposed feet of the guide sticks 27 inserted in and through respective apertures 26a. Upper ends of those guide sticks inserted upwards and slidable up and down through the apertures 20b do comprise a common stopper 27a that is formed integral with the sticks and disposed on (and usually above) the upper face of the cap 20,
 10 lest those sticks 27 should drop off the cap.

Figs. 7 and 8 show the sliding cylinder 9 fully lowered together with the threaded rod 8. At such a lowermost position, the guide sticks 27 have their feet resting on an upper face of the gearbox 3, with the ring-shaped annular plain bearing 26 also taking their lowest position adjacent to
 15 said feet of the sticks. If the handle 15 is turned to raise the sliding cylinder 9 connected to the threaded rod 8, then the beam supporter will be forced to stretch itself between the lower floor 'B' and the upper floor's beam or the like 'A' so as to support the latter on the former. As will be seen in Fig. 9, such an ascending rod 8 will in turn cause lower portions of
 20 the guide sticks 27 to lift the ring-shaped bearing 26. As a result, the threaded rod's free intermediate portion located between the cap 20 and the gearbox 3 will be born in position within the upper outer cylinder 1. A distance thus reduced between the rod's adjacent born positions will reinforce said rod in axial direction. The predetermined length of each guide
 25 stick 27 may desirably be such that the ring-shaped bearing 26 will be placed exactly at the middle point between the cap 20 and the gearbox 3 when the rod 3 takes its highest position.

The ring-shaped bearing 26 discussed above may be modified in a fashion as shown in Fig. 12. According to this modification, one pair of shorter guide sticks 27 are combined with another pair of longer one 27 in the illustrated manner. The distance spanning the two adjacent bearing points for the threaded rod 8 will be rendered still smaller, to thereby further improve the axial tenacity thereof.

As it will now be apparent, the second embodiment detailed above is advantageous in that the ring-shaped bearing engaging with the lower portions of the guide sticks will follow these sticks rising simultaneously with the threaded rod in such a manner that at least one intermediate bearing point is added to those present in the first embodiment. Consequently, the rod will automatically be protected from bending sideways when the beam supporter is stretched in use.

The two embodiments are discussed above only by way of examples, to which the present invention is not delimited. There may be many modifications such as one in which only one of the opposite ends of the transverse pin 10 protrudes outwardly from the sliding cylinder 9 and fits in one inner longitudinal groove 1a of the upper outer cylinder 1. This is because such fashions of modification would not depart from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

In summary, the beam supporter provided herein can now be set up by only one worker so that beams will be assembled or disassembled more efficiently, although a slight torque need be imparted to the gear train composed of drive and driven bevels when forcibly setting up the beam supporter to take its stable position.

For the purposes of this specification it will be clearly understood that the word "comprising" means "including but not limited to", and that the word "comprises" has a corresponding meaning.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A beam supporter having:
an upper outer cylinder,
5 a lower outer cylinder coaxial with the upper outer cylinder,
a gearbox fixing the upper outer cylinder on the lower outer cylinder,
a sliding inner cylinder having a lower end secured
10 to an upper end of a threaded rod that is driven by the gearbox, so that an upper end of the sliding inner cylinder can slidably protrude a variable distance upwards from an upper opening of the upper outer cylinder,
a drive bevel gear having a horizontal shaft and a
15 driven bevel gear having a vertical shaft, the gears being installed in the gearbox so as to engage with each other, the horizontal shaft of the drive bevel gear extending sideways and outwardly from the gearbox so as to provide a protrusion operable to rotate the drive bevel gear,
20 an operating means for rotating the protrusion,
a sleeve built in the gearbox and in parallel with the upper and lower cylinders, the sleeve having an outer periphery whose intermediate portion is integral with the driven bevel gear, the sleeve further having a fully
25 female-threaded inner periphery so that the threaded rod is kept in mesh with and extending through the inner periphery, wherein the sliding inner cylinder has a lower end secured to the upper end of the threaded rod so that the position of the inner cylinder can be slidably adjusted
30 by means of the operating means,
wherein at least one vertical groove is formed in the inner periphery of the upper outer cylinder of a non-round cross section, and a transverse pin protruding



from the sliding inner cylinder has at least one end exposed and engaging with the at least one vertical groove, whereby the sliding inner cylinder is inhibited from rotating relative to the upper outer cylinder.

5

2. A beam supporter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gearbox and the members installed therein are made of a light metal, and the protrusion is enclosed with a cover of another metal harder than the light metal.

10

3. A beam supporter having:
an upper outer cylinder,
a lower outer cylinder coaxial with the upper outer cylinder,

15

a gearbox fixing the upper outer cylinder on the lower outer cylinder,

20

a sliding inner cylinder having a lower end secured to an upper end of a threaded rod that is driven by the gearbox, so that an upper end of the inner cylinder can slidably protrude a variable distance upwards from an upper opening of the upper outer cylinder,

25

a drive bevel gear having a horizontal shaft and a driven bevel gear having a vertical shaft, the gears being installed in the gearbox so as to engage with each other, the horizontal shaft of the drive bevel gear extending sideways and outwardly from the gearbox so as to provide a protrusion operable to rotate the drive bevel gear,

an operating means for rotating the protrusion,

30

a sleeve built in the gearbox and in parallel with the upper and lower cylinders, the sleeve having an outer periphery whose intermediate portion is integral with the driven bevel gear, the sleeve further having a fully female-threaded inner periphery so that the threaded rod is



kept in mesh with and extending through the inner
periphery, wherein the sliding inner cylinder has a lower
end secured to the upper end of the threaded rod so that
the position of the inner cylinder can be slidably adjusted
5 by means of the operating means,

a ring-shaped annular plain bearing disposed around
the threaded rod and capable of vertically sliding above
the gearbox,

10 guide sticks, each having a lower stopping means at
the foot of the guide stick on which the ring-shaped
bearing can rest,

a cap secured to the upper end of the threaded rod,
wherein the guide sticks depend through the cap,
the ring-shaped bearing can slide along the guide
15 sticks between the lower stopping means and the cap, and
the upper ends of the guide sticks form a stopper
disposed above an upper face of the cap so that the guide
sticks are prevented from dropping off the cap.

20 4. A bearing support as claimed in any one of the
preceding claims, wherein the operating means is a handle.

5. A bearing support substantially as herein described
with reference to figures 1 to 10 or to figures 11 and 12
25 of the accompanying drawings.

Dated this 27th day of December 2002

SHINKO CORPORATION

By their Patent Attorneys

30 GRIFFITH HACK

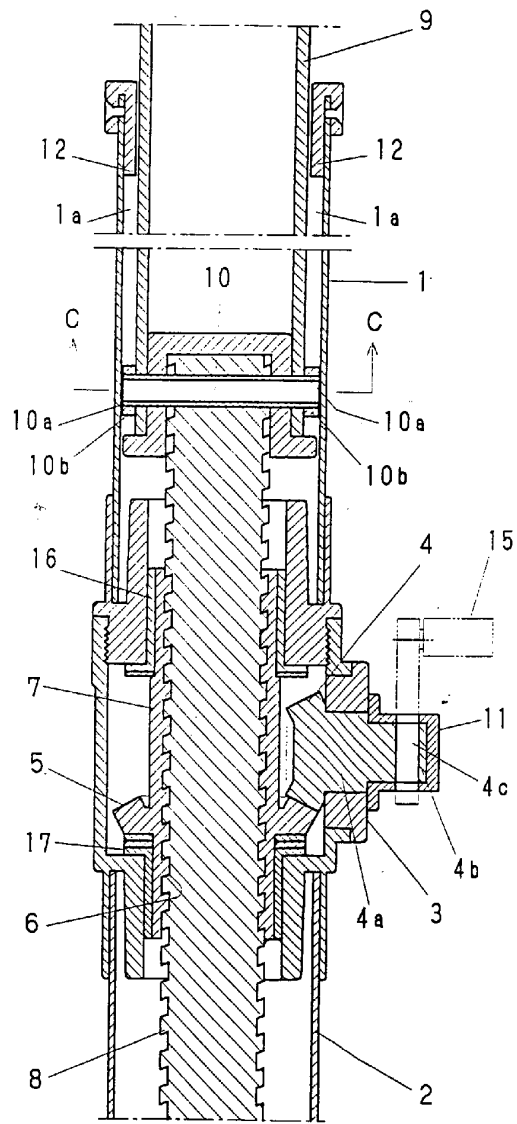
Fellows Institute of Patent and

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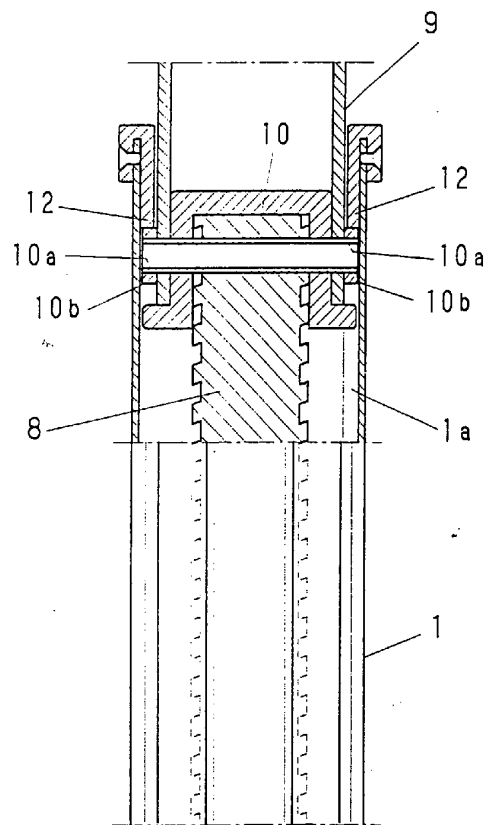
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FIG. 1



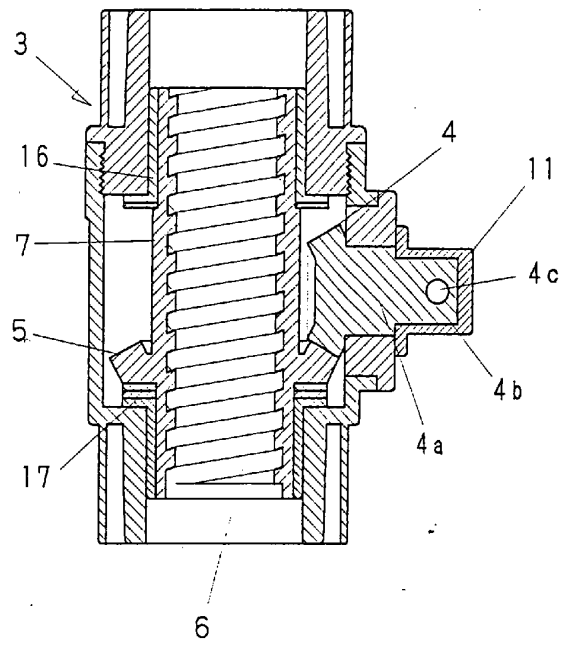
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FIG. 2



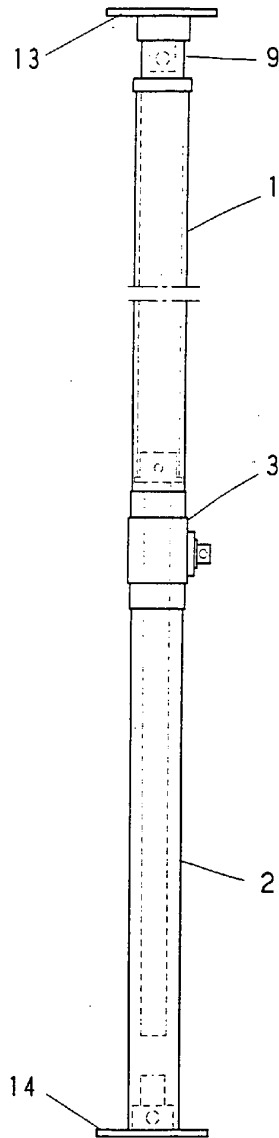
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FIG. 3



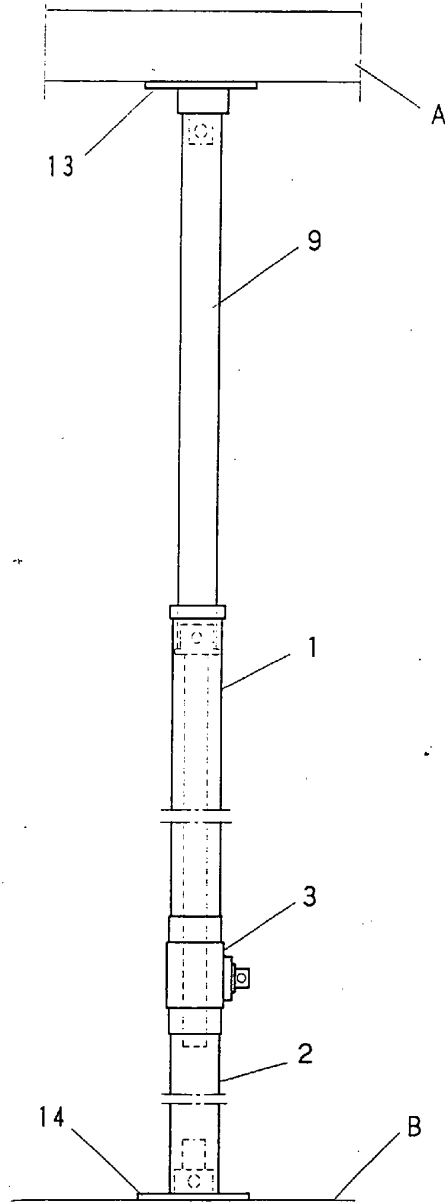
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FIG. 4



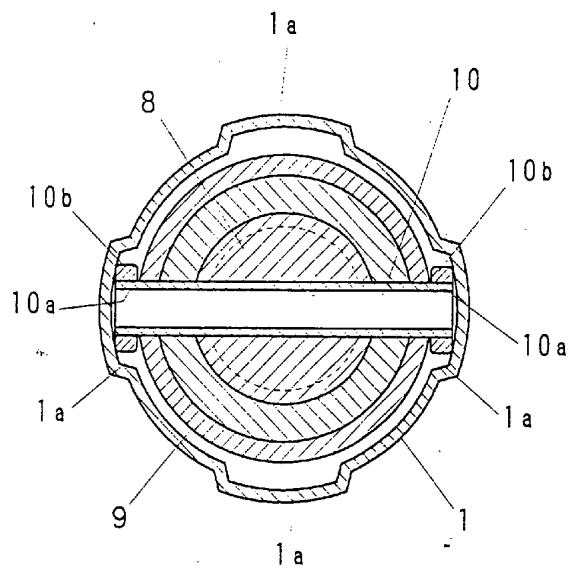
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FIG. 5



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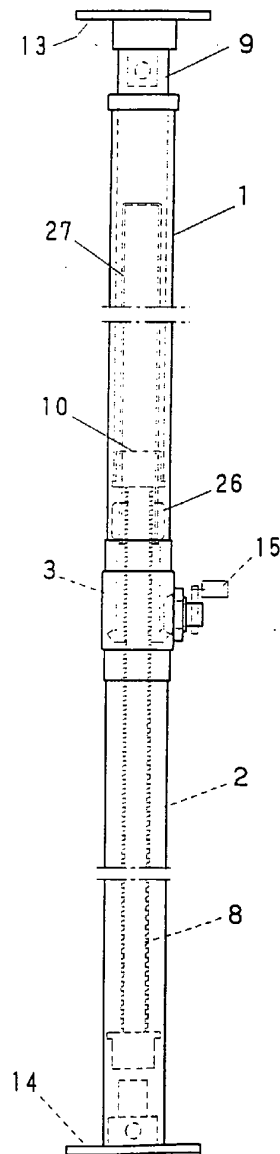
FIG. 6



5
5
3
3
2

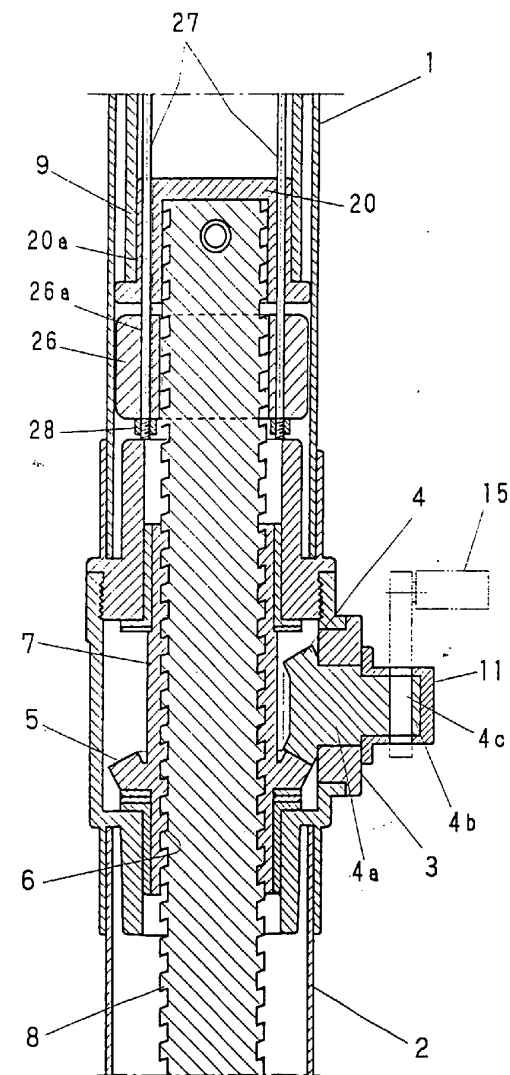
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FIG. 7



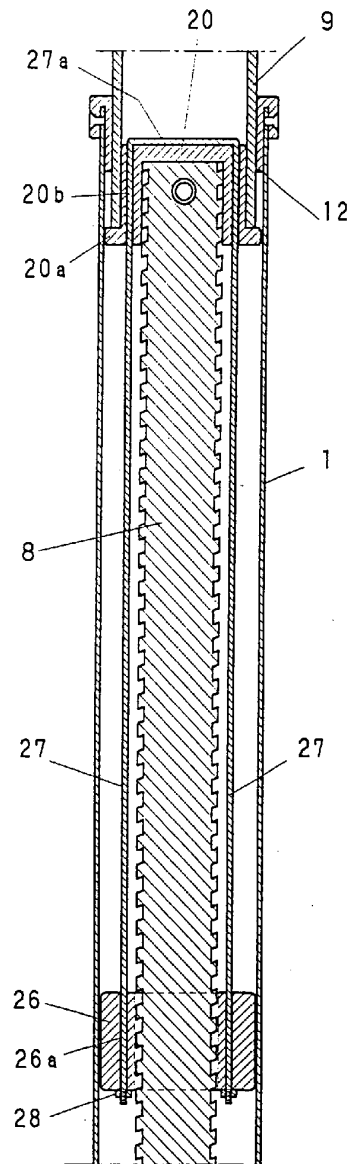
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FIG. 8



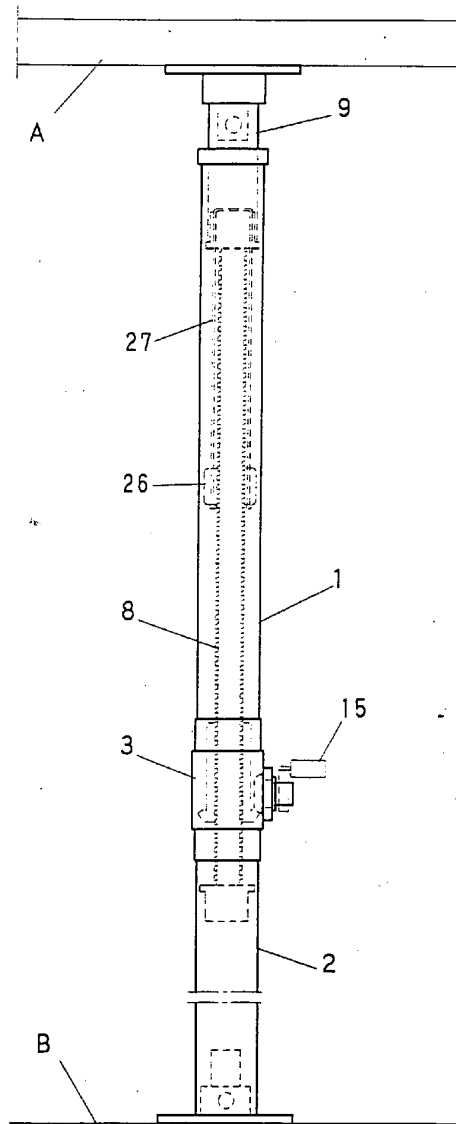
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FIG. 9



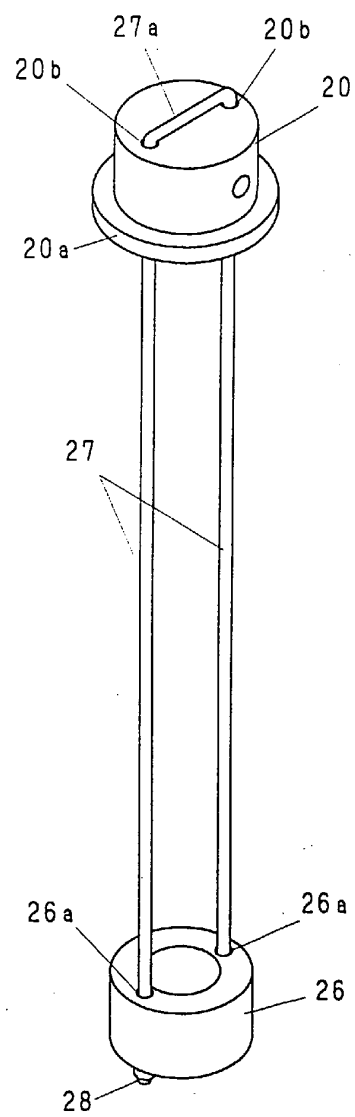
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FIG. 10



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FIG. 11



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FIG. 12

