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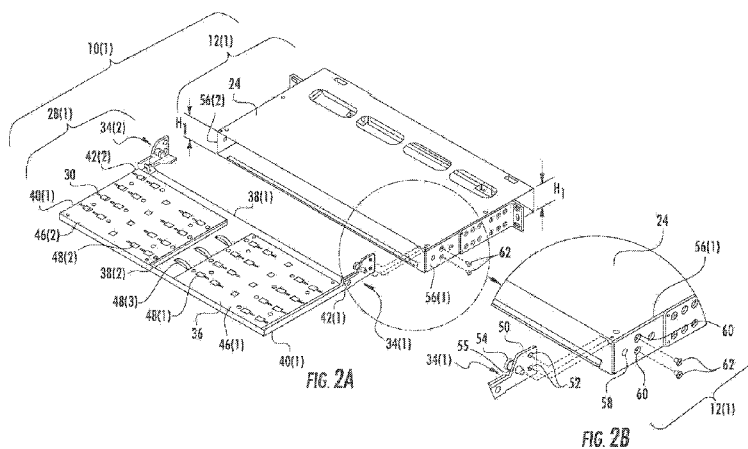
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(54) Title: ATTACHMENT MECHANISMS EMPLOYED TO ATTACH A REAR HOUSING SECTION TO A FIBER OPTIC HOUSING, AND RELATED ASSEMBLIES AND METHODS



(57) Abstract: An optical equipment assembly comprising an extension structure for a fiber optic housing is disclosed. An attachment mechanism extends from the extension structure and is adapted to removably attach the extension structure to the fiber optic housing. The attachment mechanism comprises a flange having a spring plunger extending there through and fasteners holes for receiving fasteners. The attachment mechanism inserts inside a side wall of the housing. The spring plunger releasably maintains the extension structure in a position to allow fasteners to removably attach the extension structure to the housing. The housing maintains an installed U, or vertical, rack space the housing occupied prior to the extension structure being removably attached to the housing.

ATTACHMENT MECHANISMS EMPLOYED TO ATTACH A REAR HOUSING SECTION TO A FIBER OPTIC HOUSING, AND RELATED ASSEMBLIES AND METHODS

PRIORITY APPLICATION

[0001] This application claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of U.S. Application Serial No. 13/455,646 filed on April 25, 2012 and claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 61/483,918 filed on May 9, 2011, the content of which both is relied upon and incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSURE

Field of the Disclosure

[0002] The present disclosure relates to fiber optic equipment for use in data centers and/or central offices, and more particularly to a rear housing section attached to a fiber optic chassis or housing in data centers and/or central offices.

Technical Background

[0003] Typical fiber optic telecommunication systems and networks include one or more telecommunications data centers and/or central offices. Large numbers of fiber optic and electrical cable connections that join various types of network equipment may be located in such facilities. The typical system also includes a number of outlying stations that extend the system into a network.

[0004] This network equipment is often installed within cabinets in standard-sized equipment racks. Each piece of equipment typically provides one or more adapters where fiber optic or electrical patch cables and or trunk fiber optic cables can be physically connected to the equipment. These patch cables are generally routed to other network equipment located in the same cabinet, while trunk cables are generally routed between cabinets. A common problem in telecommunications systems, and in particular with fiber optic telecommunications equipment, is space management. Current practice in telecommunications is to utilize standard electronics racks or frames that support standard-sized stationary rack-mounted housings with widths of 19 or 23 inches horizontal spacing. Vertical spacing has been divided into rack units

“U,” where 1U=1.75 inches as specified in EIA (Electronic Industries Alliance) 310-D, IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) 60297 and DIN (“German Institute for Standardization”) 41494 SC48D.

[0005] Telecommunications systems are integral to every aspect of an operation of a business. As such, the business may require new and additional programs and applications, particularly as the business grows. This growth can result in more demand on and expansion of the facility, particularly a data center. Therefore, space management in a data center becomes even more critical.

SUMMARY OF THE DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0006] Embodiments disclosed herein include attachment mechanisms configured to be employed to attach a rear housing section to a fiber optic housing, and related assemblies and methods. The rear housing section and the fiber optic housing may be part of fiber optic equipment configured to support fiber optic connections of a fiber optic network. The attachment mechanism is configured to be attached and extend from the rear housing section of the fiber optic housing. The attachment mechanism may include a spring plunger which may releasably maintain the rear housing section in a position to allow fasteners to removably attach the rear housing section to the fiber optic housing. In this manner, the rear housing section may be attached to and removed from the fiber optic housing in an efficient manner to minimize downtime for the fiber optic network.

[0007] In one embodiment, a fiber optic equipment assembly is disclosed. The fiber optic equipment assembly may include an extension tray for a fiber optic housing. The fiber optic equipment assembly may also include an attachment mechanism extending from the extension tray. The attachment mechanism may be configured to removably attach the extension tray to the fiber optic housing. The attachment mechanism may comprise at least one spring plunger that releasably maintains the extension tray in a position to allow fasteners to removably attach the extension tray to the housing. In this manner, the extension tray may be removably and efficiently attached to the fiber optic housing.

[0008] In another embodiment, a method of adding fiber optic cable strain relief to a fiber optic housing is disclosed. The method may include providing a removable extension tray including an attachment mechanism. The attachment mechanism may comprise a flange with fastener holes and a spring plunger. Next, the method may

also include fitting the extension tray to the housing by inserting the flange inside a side wall of the fiber optic housing. Next, the method may include retracting the spring plunger as the flange moves inside of the side wall. Next, the spring plunger may be extended into a spring plunger hole when the flange reaches a position where the spring plunger aligns with the spring plunger hole. In this manner, the attachment mechanism may easily align the extension tray to the fiber optic housing so that the fasteners may be efficiently installed.

[0009] In another embodiment, a method of upgrading a first rear housing section attached to a fiber optic housing is disclosed. The method may include providing a first rear housing section attached to fiber optic housing by an attachment mechanism. The attachment mechanism may extend from the first rear housing section. The attachment mechanism may comprise a flange with fastener holes and a spring plunger. Next, the method may include removing the rear housing section from the fiber optic housing by removing fasteners disposed through the side wall holes of a side wall of the fiber optic housing and fastener holes of a flange of the attachment mechanism. Next, the method may include retracting a spring plunger from a spring plunger hole of the fiber optic housing. Next, the method may include removing the flange from inside the side wall of the fiber optic housing. The method may also include attaching a second rear housing section to the fiber optic housing. In this manner, a second rear housing section having greater capacity than the first rear housing may be upgraded efficiently in the field to minimize fiber optic network downtime.

[0010] Additional features and advantages will be set forth in the detailed description which follows, and in part will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art from that description or recognized by practicing the embodiments as described herein, including the detailed description that follows, the claims, as well as the appended drawings.

[0011] It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description present embodiments, and are intended to provide an overview or framework for understanding the nature and character of the disclosure. The accompanying drawings are included to provide a further understanding, and are incorporated into and constitute a part of this specification. The drawings illustrate various embodiments, and together with the description serve to explain the principles and operation of the concepts disclosed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0012] **FIG. 1** is a front perspective view of a first exemplary embodiment of fiber optic equipment including a housing and rear housing section installed on a fiber optic equipment rack, the housing supporting independently moveable fiber optic equipment trays and modules, and the rear housing section comprising an extension tray;

[0013] **FIG. 2A** is a rear, perspective view of the extension tray of **FIG. 1** adjacent and unattached to the housing of **FIG. 1** according to one embodiment;

[0014] **FIG. 2B** is a perspective, detail view of an attachment mechanism of the extension tray of **FIG. 2A**;

[0015] **FIG. 3** is a rear, perspective partial view of the extension tray of **FIG. 2A** attached to the fiber optic housing;

[0016] **FIG. 4A** is a side view of a second embodiment of fiber optic equipment including the rear housing section of **FIG. 1** attached to a 2U-sized fiber optic housing;

[0017] **FIG. 4B** is a side view of a third embodiment of fiber optic equipment including the fiber optic housing of **FIG. 4A** attached to a second example of a rear housing section;

[0018] **FIG. 4C** is a side view of a fourth embodiment of fiber optic equipment including the fiber optic housing of **FIG. 4A** attached to a third example of a rear housing section;

[0019] **FIG. 4D** is a side view of a fifth embodiment of fiber optic equipment including the fiber optic housing of **FIG. 4A** attached to a fourth example of a rear housing section.

[0020] **FIG. 5** is an exemplary process of adding fiber optic cable strain relief to the fiber optic housing of **FIG. 2A**; and

[0021] **FIG. 6** is an exemplary process of upgrading the fiber optic equipment of **FIG. 4A** to the fiber optic equipment of **FIG. 4B**.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0022] Reference is now made in detail to the present embodiments of the disclosure, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Whenever possible, identical or similar reference numerals are used throughout the drawings to refer to identical or similar parts. It should be understood that the embodiments disclosed herein are merely examples with each one incorporating certain benefits of the present disclosure. Various modifications and alterations may be made to the following examples within the scope of the present disclosure, and aspects of the different examples may be mixed in different ways to achieve yet further examples. Accordingly, the true scope of the disclosure is to be understood from the entirety of the present disclosure in view of, but not limited to, the embodiments described herein.

[0023] Embodiments disclosed herein include an attachment mechanism employed to attach a rear housing section to a fiber optic housing, and related assemblies and methods. The rear housing section and the fiber optic housing may be part of fiber optic equipment to support fiber optic connections of a fiber optic network. The attachment mechanism may extend from the rear housing section. The attachment mechanism may include a spring plunger which may releasably maintain the rear housing section in a position to allow fasteners to removably attach the rear housing section to the housing. In this manner, the rear housing section may be attached and removed from the fiber optic housing in an efficient manner to minimize downtime for the fiber optic network.

[0024] In this regard, **FIG. 1** illustrates exemplary fiber optic equipment **10(1)**. The exemplary fiber optic equipment **10(1)** may be provided at a data distribution center or central office to support cable-to-cable fiber optic connections and to manage a plurality of fiber optic cable connections. The fiber optic equipment **10(1)** includes a fiber optic housing **12** ("chassis" or "housing **12**"). The housing **12** is shown as being installed in a fiber optic equipment rack **14**. The fiber optic equipment rack **14** contains two vertical rails **16A**, **16B** that extend vertically and include a series of apertures **18**. The apertures **18** facilitate attachment of the fiber optic equipment **10(1)** inside the fiber optic equipment rack **14**. The fiber optic equipment **10(1)** is attached and supported by the fiber optic equipment rack **14** in the form of shelves that are stacked on top of each other within the vertical rails **16A**, **16B**. As illustrated, the fiber optic equipment **10(1)** is attached to the vertical rails **16A**, **16B**. The fiber optic

equipment rack **14** may support 1U-sized shelves, any other U-size, with "U" equaling a standard 1.75 inches in height, or any other height desired.

[0025] As illustrated in **FIG. 1** and discussed in greater detail below in this description, the fiber optic housing **12** includes a fiber optic equipment drawer **20** in this embodiment supporting one or more extendable fiber optic equipment trays **22**. Providing the drawer **20** is not required. The fiber optic equipment trays **22** can be moved and extended from the fiber optic equipment drawer **20** and retracted back into the fiber optic equipment drawer **20**. Any number of fiber optic equipment trays **22** can be provided. Each fiber optic equipment tray **22** supports one or more fiber optic modules **26** that each support one or more fiber optic connections. The view of the fiber optic modules in **FIG. 1** is obstructed by a front chassis cover **24** placed in front of the fiber optic equipment drawer **20** as part of the fiber optic housing **12**. The front chassis cover **24** may be attached to a rear chassis cover (not shown) to form a cover over the fiber optic housing **12**. The fiber optic equipment drawer **20** is extendable out from the fiber optic housing **12** to access the fiber optic equipment trays **22** and the fiber optic modules **26** supported therein.

[0026] In the example of the fiber optic equipment **10(1)** in **FIG. 1**, two fiber optic equipment trays **22** are supported by the fiber optic equipment drawer **20** with each fiber optic equipment tray **22** supporting four (4) fiber optic modules **26**. Each fiber optic module **26** supports twelve (12) fiber optic connections. Thus, a total of up to ninety-six (96) fiber optic connections can be provided by the fiber optic equipment drawer **20**, although the fiber optic equipment drawer **20** is not limited to this density.

[0027] As the drawer **20** is not limited to ninety-six (96) fiber optic connections, more fiber optic connections could be added over time as a demand for additional fiber optic capacity increases. A prerequisite for adding additional fiber optic connections is to provide adequate strain relief for the additional fiber optic cables that may enter and exit the fiber optic housing **12(1)**. Otherwise, without adequate strain relief, optical fiber damage and/or signal attenuation could occur. Additional strain relief may be added to the fiber optic housing **12(1)** with an attachment of a rear housing section **28(1)**. Other examples of the rear housing sections **28(1)** are also available to customize the fiber optic housing **12(1)** for the specific fiber optic network requirements.

[0028] In this regard, **FIG. 2A** illustrates a perspective view of the rear housing section **28(1)** detached from the chassis or housing **12(1)**. The rear housing section

28(1) may be an extension tray **30**, as a non-limiting example. It should be understood that reference herein to “housing” shall mean, without limitation, chassis, enclosure and/or any type of structure that houses or encloses components, particularly optical components, optical fibers, cables and the like. The rear housing section **28(1)** may be connected to the housing **12** with at least one attachment mechanism **34(1)**, **34(2)**, as described in more detail below.

[0029] **FIG. 2B** illustrates a detail, perspective view of the attachment mechanism **34(1)** extending from the extension tray **30** used to removably attach the extension tray **30** to the housing **12(1)**. In **FIGS. 2A** and **2B**, the housing **12(1)** is shown as a 1U-sized housing **12(1)** as measured by height **H₁**. However, it should be understood that the extension tray **30** may be used with and removably attach to any U-sized housing **12(1)**. Examples of non-1U-sized housing, for example 2U-sized housing **12(2)**-**12(5)**, are shown later in **FIGS. 4A** through **4D**.

[0030] The extension tray **30** has a substantially flat, rectangular plate **36** comprising two major sides **38(1)**, **38(2)** and two minor sides **40(1)**, **40(2)**. The attachment mechanisms **34(1)**, **34(2)** in this embodiment attach to and extend from two opposite corners **42(1)**, **42(2)**, respectively, of one of the major sides **38(1)**, **38(2)** of the plate **36**. Trunk plates **46(1)**, **46(2)** of the extension tray **30** may include strain relief receivers **48(1)**, **48(2)** respectively. The trunk plates **46(1)**, **46(2)** may be positioned on the plate **36**. The plate **36** may also include strain relief receivers **48(3)**. The strain relief receivers **48(1)**-**48(3)** may be configured to receive fasteners, such as tie wraps, cable clamps and the like, which may be used to attach fiber optic cables, for example trunk cables (not shown), to at least one of the trunk plates **46(1)**, **46(2)** and to provide strain relief for the fiber optic cables.

[0031] With continuing reference to **FIG. 2B**, the attachment mechanism **34(1)** on the corner **42(1)** is shown in detail. The attachment mechanism **34(1)** provides the ability for the rear housing section **28(1)** to be easily configured in the field with a single technician. There is no need for a second technician to assist with the rear housing section **28(1)** attachment because the single technician may easily align the rear housing section **28(1)** to the fiber optic housing **12(1)** with the attachment mechanism **34(1)**, **34(2)**. The attachment mechanism **34(1)** includes a flange **50** with fastener holes **52** and spring plunger **54**. The extension tray **30** may be fitted to the housing **12(1)** by, as a non-limiting example, inserting the flange **50** inside of a side wall **56(1)** of the housing **12(1)**. The spring plunger **54** retracts as the flange **50**

moves inside of the side wall **56(1)**. When the flange **50** reaches a position **57** (see **FIG. 3**) where the spring plunger **54** aligns with the spring plunger hole **58**, the biasing force of the spring on the spring plunger **54** extends the spring plunger **54** into the spring plunger hole **58**. At this point, the fastener holes **52** align with side wall holes **60**. The spring plunger **54** releasably maintains the extension tray **30** in the position **57** to allow fasteners **62** to be inserted through the side wall holes **60** into the fastener holes **52** to removably attach the extension tray **30** to the housing **12(1)**. The fasteners **62** may further support the rear housing section **28(1)** with respect to the fiber optic housing **12(1)** and resist torsional forces that may be caused by, for example, fiber optic cable strain that may pull the rear housing section **28(1)** from the fiber optic housing **12(1)**. The fasteners **62** may be, for example, screws or other suitable fasteners. As a non-limiting example, the fasteners **62** may be #6-32 x 188 screws.

[0032] The attachment mechanism **34(2)** on the corner **42(2)** of the rear housing section **28(1)** may have similar components and, accordingly, the discussion with respect to the attachment mechanism **34(1)** at the corner **42(1)** may apply to the attachment mechanism **34(2)** at the corner **42(2)**. In this regard, as shown in **FIG. 3**, the attachment mechanism **34(2)** at the corner **42(2)** may be similarly fastened to the inside of a side wall **56(2)** of the housing **12(1)** to removably attach the extension tray **30** to the housing **12(1)**. In this manner, trunk cable strain relief parking positions may be added to or removed from a housing **12(1)**, including a different housing **12(1)** already installed or mounted to or in an equipment rack. In this manner, a user or technician may add parking at the time when additional parking is required without affecting the amount of U-space of the housing **12(1)** or requiring the housing **12(1)** to occupy any additional U-space or portion of U-space. The U-space may include a height of the fiber optic housing **12(1)** and also the width of the housing **12(1)**. A standard width associated with a U-sized fiber optic housing **12(1)** is either 19-inches or 23-inches. In other words, the housing **12(1)** maintains the installed U-space the housing occupied prior to the extension tray **30** being removably attached to the housing **12(1)**. Additionally, the user may remove the additional trunk strain relief parking if the additional parking is not required. The extension tray **30** may be easily mounted to or dismounted from the housing **12(1)** as the need requires.

[0033] Different sizes of the fiber optic housing **12(1)** may be used with the rear housing section **28(1)** and may be provided to accommodate different fiber optic

housing sizes. For example, one-hundred ninety-two (192) fiber optic connections may be made with a 2U-sized fiber optic housing and thereby provide greater capacity of the fiber optic network compared with the 1U-sized housing **12(1)** of **FIG. 2A**.

[0034] In this regard, **FIG. 4A** depicts a side view of a second embodiment of fiber optic equipment **10(2)** including the rear housing section **28(1)** attached to a second embodiment of a housing **12(2)**. The rear housing section **28(1)** may be the same as the rear housing section **28(1)** of the fiber optic equipment **10(1)** in **FIG. 2A**. The housing **12(2)** may be 2U-sized as measured by height **H₂** shown in **FIG. 4A**. Despite this larger 2U-size of the fiber optic housing **12(1)**, the rear housing section **28(1)** is an “open” design, meaning that a height of the rear housing section **12(1)** does not extend to the height **H₂** of the fiber optic housing **12(2)** as will be shown in **FIG. 4A**. The rear housing section **28(1)** may be attached to the housing **12(2)** using at least one of the attachment mechanisms **34(1)**, **34(2)** depicted in **FIGS. 2A** and **2B**.

[0035] The fiber optic equipment **10(2)** may include at least one of the attachment mechanisms **34(1)**, **34(2)** as depicted in **FIG. 2B** which may each include the spring plunger **54** and fasteners **62**, as well as aligning one of the spring plunger holes **58** and the side wall holes **60** respectively. The insertion procedure for attaching the rear housing section **28(1)** to the housing **12(2)** may be the same as the procedure used for the fiber optic equipment **10(1)**, as shown in **FIG. 2B**, because the at least one attachment mechanism **34(2)** may be the same as the at least one attachment mechanism **34(1)**. The at least one attachment mechanism **34(1)**, **34(2)** may be disposed between the side walls **56(1)**, **56(2)** of the housing **12(2)** to prevent an increase to the width of the housing **12(2)** which may prevent a smooth installation or removal of the fiber optic equipment **10(2)** onto or from the fiber optic equipment rack **14**.

[0036] **FIG. 4B** shows a side view of a third embodiment of a fiber optic equipment **10(3)** including the housing **12(2)** of **FIG. 4A** attached to a second embodiment of a rear housing section **28(2)**. The rear housing section **28(2)** may be, for example, a 2U-sized deep rear cover measured by the height **H₂**. The rear housing section **28(2)** may be attached to the housing **12(2)** using at least one of the attachment mechanisms **34(1)**, **34(2)** depicted in **FIGS. 2A** and **2B**.

[0037] The fiber optic equipment **10(3)** may include at least one of the attachment mechanisms **34(1)**, **34(2)** as depicted in **FIG. 2B** which may each include the spring plunger **54** and fasteners **62**, as well as corresponding one of the spring plunger hole

58 and the side wall holes 60 respectively. The insertion procedure for attaching the rear housing section 28(2) to the housing 12(2) may be the same as the procedure used for the fiber optic equipment 10(1) as shown in FIG. 2B because the at least one attachment mechanism 34(1), 34(2) may be the same. The at least one attachment mechanism 34(1), 34(2) may be disposed between the side walls 56(1), 56(2) of the housing 12(2) to prevent an increase to the width of the housing 12(2) which may prevent a smooth installation or removal of the fiber optic equipment 10(3) onto or from the fiber optic equipment rack 14.

[0038] FIG. 4C shows a side view of a fourth embodiment of a fiber optic equipment 10(4) including the housing 12(2) of FIG. 4A attached to a third embodiment of a rear housing section 28(3). The rear housing section 28(3) may be, for example, a 2U-sized splice rear cover measured by the height H_2 . The rear housing section 28(3) may be attached to the housing 12(2) using at least one of the attachment mechanisms 34(1), 34(2) depicted in FIGS. 2A and 2B.

[0039] The fiber optic equipment 10(4) may include at least one of the attachment mechanisms 34(1), 34(2) as depicted in FIG. 2B which may each include the spring plunger 54 and fasteners 62, as well as corresponding one of the spring plunger hole 58 and the side wall holes 60 respectively. The insertion procedure for attaching the rear housing section 28(3) to the housing 12(2) may be the same as the procedure used for the fiber optic equipment 10(1) as shown in FIG. 2B because the at least one attachment mechanism 34(1), 34(2) may be the same. The at least one attachment mechanism 34(1), 34(2) may be disposed between the side walls 56(1), 56(2) of the housing 12(2) to prevent an increase to the width of the housing 12(2) which may prevent a smooth installation or removal of the fiber optic equipment 10(4) onto or from the fiber optic equipment rack 14.

[0040] FIG. 4D shows a side view of a fifth embodiment of a fiber optic equipment 10(5) including the housing 12(2) of FIG. 4A attached to a fourth embodiment of a rear housing section 28(4). The rear housing section 28(4) may be, for example, a 2U-sized shallow rear cover measured by the height H_2 . The rear housing section 28(4) may be attached to the housing 12(2) using at least one of the attachment mechanisms 34(1), 34(2) depicted in FIGS. 2A and 2B.

[0041] The fiber optic equipment 10(5) may include at least one of the attachment mechanisms 34(1), 34(2) as depicted in FIG. 2B which may each include the spring plunger 54 and fasteners 62, as well as corresponding one of the spring plunger hole

58 and the side wall holes 60 respectively. The insertion procedure for attaching the rear housing section 28(4) to the housing 12(2) may be the same as the procedure used for the fiber optic equipment 10(1) as shown in FIG. 2B because the at least one attachment mechanism 34(1), 34(2) may be the same. The at least one attachment mechanism 34(1), 34(2) may be disposed between the side walls 56(1), 56(2) of the housing 12(2) to prevent an increase to the width of the housing 12(2) which may prevent a smooth installation or removal of the fiber optic equipment 10(5) onto or from the fiber optic equipment rack 14.

[0042] FIG. 5 is an exemplary process 64 of adding fiber optic cable strain relief receivers 48(1)-48(3) to the fiber optic housing 12(1) is disclosed in reference to the information discussed above and in reference to FIGS. 2A through 3. The process 64 in FIG. 5 will be described using the terminology and information provided above. The first step of the process 64 may comprise providing the removable rear housing section 28(1) including the at least one attachment mechanism 34(1), 34(2) (step 66 in FIG. 5). Each of the attachment mechanism 34(1), 34(2) may comprise the flange 50 with the fastener holes 52 and the spring plunger 54.

[0043] Next, the process 64 may comprise fitting the rear housing section 28(1) to the fiber optic housing 12(1) by inserting the flange 50 inside the side wall 56(1), 56(2) of the fiber optic housing 12(1) (step 68 in FIG. 5). The flange 50 is inserted in an interior of the fiber optic housing 12(1) when it is inserted inside the side wall 56(1), 56(2). Next, the process 64 may comprise retracting the spring plunger 54 as the flange 50 moves inside of the side wall 56(1), 56(2) (step 70 in FIG. 5). The process 64 may also comprise extending the spring plunger 54 into the spring plunger hole 58 when the flange 50 reaches the position 57 (see FIG. 3) where the spring plunger 54 aligns with the spring plunger hole 58 (step 72 in FIG. 5). The biasing force of the spring 55 on the spring plunger 54 extends the spring plunger 54 into the spring plunger hole 58.

[0044] Next, the process 64 may further include removably attaching the rear housing section 28(1) to the fiber optic housing 12(1) by inserting the fasteners 62 through the side wall holes 60 of at least one of the side wall 56(1), 56(2) of the fiber optic housing 12(1) and into the fastener holes 52 of the attachment mechanism 34(1), 34(2) (step 74 in FIG. 5). It is noted that the removably attaching the rear housing section 28(1) may further comprise aligning the fastener holes 52 with the side wall holes 60 while the spring plunger 54 releasably maintains the rear housing section

28(1) in the position **57** (see **FIG. 3**) to thereby allow the fasteners **62** to be inserted through the side wall holes **60** and into the fastener holes **52**.

[0045] **FIG. 6** is an exemplary second process **76** of upgrading the first rear housing section **28(1)** attached to the fiber optic housing **12(1)** also disclosed in reference to the information discussed above and in reference to **FIGS. 4A** and **4B** with reference to the detailed components in **FIGS. 2A** through **3**. The process in **FIG. 6** will be described using the terminology and information provided above. The first step of the second process **76** may include providing the first rear housing section **28(1)** (See **FIG. 4A**) (step **78** in **FIG. 6**) attached to the fiber optic housing **12(2)** by the at least one attachment mechanism **34(1)**, **34(2)**. The at least one attachment mechanism **34(1)**, **34(2)** may extend from the first rear housing section **28(1)**. The attachment mechanism **34(1)**, **34(2)** may include the flange **50** with fastener holes **52** and the spring plunger **54**.

[0046] Next, the second process **76** may include removing the first rear housing section **28(1)** from the fiber optic housing **12(2)** (step **80** in **FIG. 6**). The first rear housing section **28(1)** may be removed by removing the fasteners **62** disposed through the side wall holes **60** of the side wall **56(1)**, **56(2)** of the fiber optic housing **12(2)** and the fastener holes **52** of the flange **50** of the attachment mechanism **34(1)**, **34(2)**.

[0047] Next, the second process **76** may comprise retracting the spring plunger **54** from the spring plunger hole **58** of the fiber optic housing **12(2)** (step **82** in **FIG. 6**). The second process **76** may also include removing the flange **50** from inside the side wall **56(1)**, **56(2)** of the fiber optic housing **12(1)** (step **84** in **FIG. 6**). Then, the second process **76** may include attaching the second rear housing section **28(2)** to the fiber optic housing **12(2)**. The second rear housing section **28(2)** may be an upgrade to the first rear housing section **28(1)**.

[0048] Attaching the second rear housing section **28(2)** as part of the second process (step **78** in **FIG. 6**) may include fitting the second rear housing section **28(2)** to the fiber optic housing **12(2)** by inserting the second flange **50** of the second attachment mechanism **34(1)**, **34(2)** inside the side wall **56(1)**, **56(2)** of the fiber optic housing **12(2)** (step **86** in **FIG. 6**). The second attachment mechanism **34(1)**, **34(2)** may extend from the second rear housing section **28(2)**. Next, the second process **76** may include retracting the second spring plunger **54** of the second rear housing section **28(2)** as the second flange **50** moves inside of the side wall **56(1)**, **56(2)** (step **88** in **FIG. 6**).

[0049] Next, the second process 76 may include extending the second spring plunger 54 into the spring plunger hole 58 of the fiber optic housing 12(2) when the second flange 50 reaches the position 57 where the second spring plunger 54 aligns with the spring plunger hole 58 (step 90 in FIG. 6). The biasing force of the spring 55 on the second spring plunger 54 may extend the second spring plunger 54 into the spring plunger hole 58.

[0050] The second process 76 may also include removably attaching the second rear housing section 28(2) to the fiber optic housing 12(2) by inserting the fasteners 62 through the side wall holes 60 and into the fastener holes 52 of the second attachment mechanism 34(1), 34(2) (step 92 in FIG. 6). The fasteners 62 may be inserted with ease when the second spring plunger 54 releasably maintains the second rear housing section 28(2) in the position 57. In this position 57, the fastener holes 52 may be aligned with the side wall holes 60 thereby allowing the fasteners 62 to be inserted with ease.

[0051] As used herein, it is intended that terms “fiber optic cables” and/or “optical fibers” include all types of single mode and multi-mode light waveguides, including one or more optical fibers that may be up-coated, colored, buffered, ribbonized and/or have other organizing or protective structure in a cable such as one or more tubes, strength members, jackets or the like. The optical fibers disclosed herein can be single mode or multi-mode optical fibers. Likewise, other types of suitable optical fibers include bend-insensitive optical fibers, or any other expedient of a medium for transmitting light signals. An example of a bend-insensitive, or bend resistant, optical fiber is ClearCurve® Multimode fiber commercially available from Corning Incorporated. Suitable fibers of this type are disclosed, for example, in U.S. Patent Application Publication Nos. 2008/0166094 and 2009/0169163, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

[0052] Many modifications and other embodiments not set forth herein will come to mind to one skilled in the art to which the embodiments pertain having the benefit of the teachings presented in the foregoing descriptions and the associated drawings. Therefore, it is to be understood that the description and claims are not to be limited to the specific embodiments disclosed and that modifications and other embodiments are intended to be included within the scope of the appended claims. It is intended that the embodiments cover the modifications and variations of the embodiments provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

Although specific terms are employed herein, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation.

What is claimed is:

1. A fiber optic equipment assembly, comprising:
a rear housing section for a fiber optic housing; and
an attachment mechanism extending from the rear housing section, the attachment mechanism configured to removably attach the rear housing section to the fiber optic housing, wherein the attachment mechanism comprises at least one spring plunger configured to releasably maintain the rear housing section in a position to allow fasteners to removably attach the rear housing section to the fiber optic housing, and wherein the housing maintains an installed U-space the housing occupied prior to the rear housing section being removably attached to the housing.
2. The fiber optic equipment assembly of claim 1, wherein the attachment mechanism comprises a flange, and the spring plunger extends through the flange.
3. The fiber optic equipment assembly of claim 2, wherein the flange comprises fastener holes for receiving the fasteners.
4. The fiber optic equipment assembly of claim 1, wherein the attachment mechanism is inserted inside a side wall of the housing.
5. The fiber optic equipment assembly of claim 1, wherein the rear housing section comprises a substantially flat, rectangular plate.
6. The fiber optic equipment assembly of claim 5, wherein the plate comprises two major sides and two minor sides.
7. The fiber optic equipment assembly of claim 6, wherein the attachment mechanism attaches to and extends from opposite corners of one of the major sides.
8. The fiber optic equipment assembly of claim 5, further comprising at least one trunk plate including strain relief receivers positioned on the substantially flat, rectangular plate.

9. The fiber optic equipment assembly of claim 8, wherein the strain relief receivers are configured to receive fasteners, the fasteners being one or more of tie wraps and cable clamps, and the fasteners are used to attach fiber optic cables to the trunk plate.
10. The fiber optic equipment assembly of claim 1, wherein the rear housing section is an extension tray.
11. The fiber optic equipment assembly of claim 1, wherein the rear housing section is a 2U-sized rear cover.
12. A method of adding a housing section to a fiber optic housing, comprising:
 - providing a removable rear housing section including an attachment mechanism, the attachment mechanism comprising a flange with fastener holes and a spring plunger;
 - fitting the rear housing section to the fiber optic housing by inserting the flange inside a side wall of the fiber optic housing;
 - retracting the spring plunger as the flange moves inside of the side wall; and
 - extending the spring plunger into a spring plunger hole when the flange reaches a position where the spring plunger aligns with the spring plunger hole, wherein the housing maintains an installed U-space the housing occupied prior to the rear housing section being fitted to the housing.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein a biasing force of a spring on the spring plunger extends the spring plunger into the spring plunger hole.
14. The method of claim 12, further comprising removably attaching the rear housing section to the fiber optic housing by inserting fasteners through side wall holes of the side wall of the fiber optic housing and into the fastener holes of the attachment mechanism.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the removably attaching the rear housing section further comprises aligning the fastener holes with the side wall holes while the

spring plunger releasably maintains the rear housing section in a position allowing fasteners to be inserted through the side wall holes and into the fastener holes.

16. A method of upgrading a first rear housing section attached to a fiber optic housing, comprising:

- providing a first rear housing section attached to fiber optic housing by an attachment mechanism extending from the first rear housing section, the attachment mechanism comprising a flange with fastener holes and a spring plunger;

- removing the first rear housing section from the fiber optic housing by removing fasteners disposed through side wall holes of a side wall of the fiber optic housing and fastener holes of a flange of the attachment mechanism;

- retracting the spring plunger from a spring plunger hole of the fiber optic housing;

- removing the flange of the first rear housing section from inside the side wall of the fiber optic housing; and

- attaching a second rear housing section to the fiber optic housing.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the attaching the second rear housing section comprises:

- fitting the second rear housing section to the fiber optic housing by inserting a second flange of a second attachment mechanism inside the side wall of the fiber optic housing, the second attachment mechanism extends from the second rear housing section;

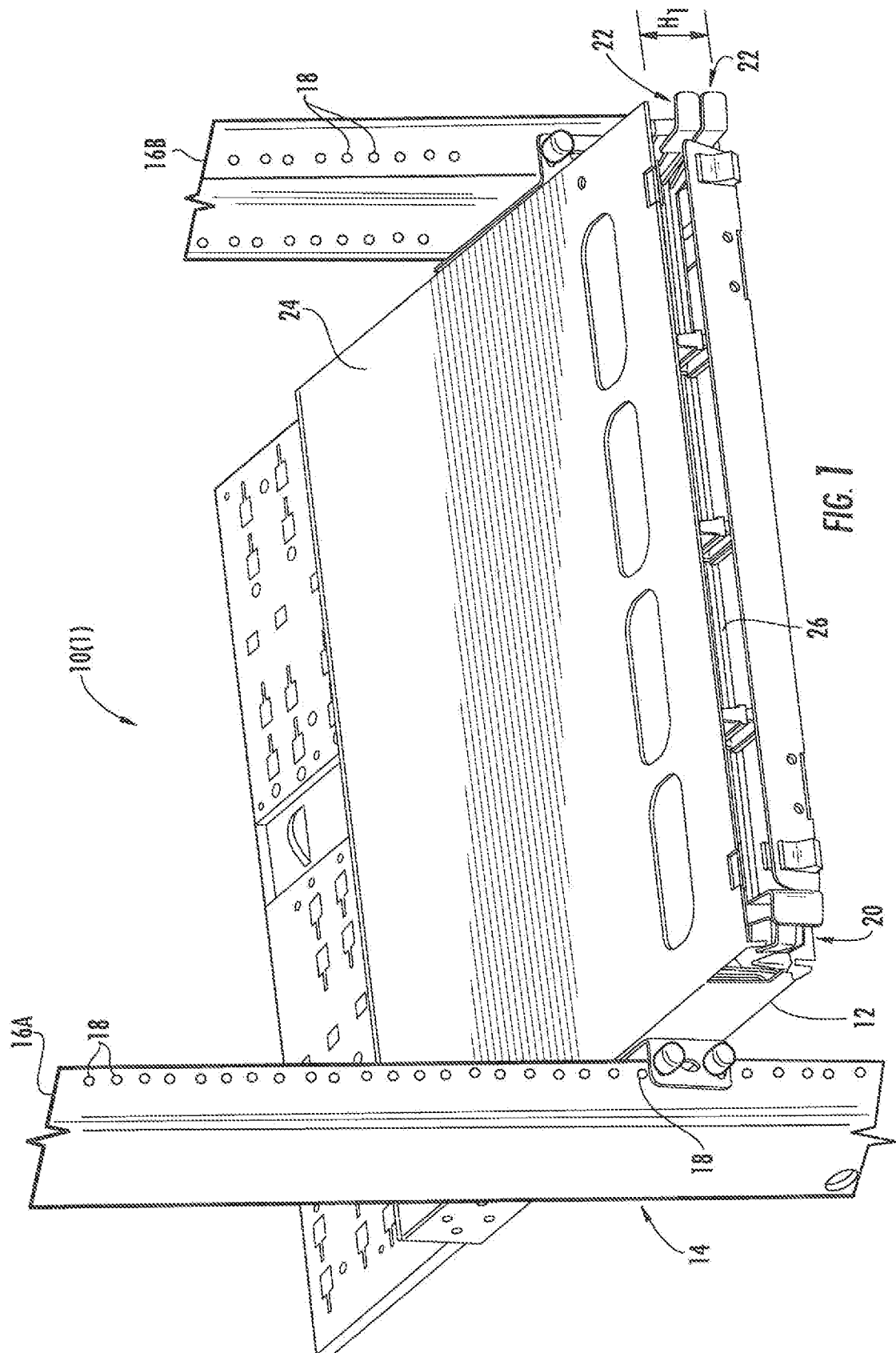
- retracting a second spring plunger of the second rear housing section as the second flange moves inside of the side wall; and

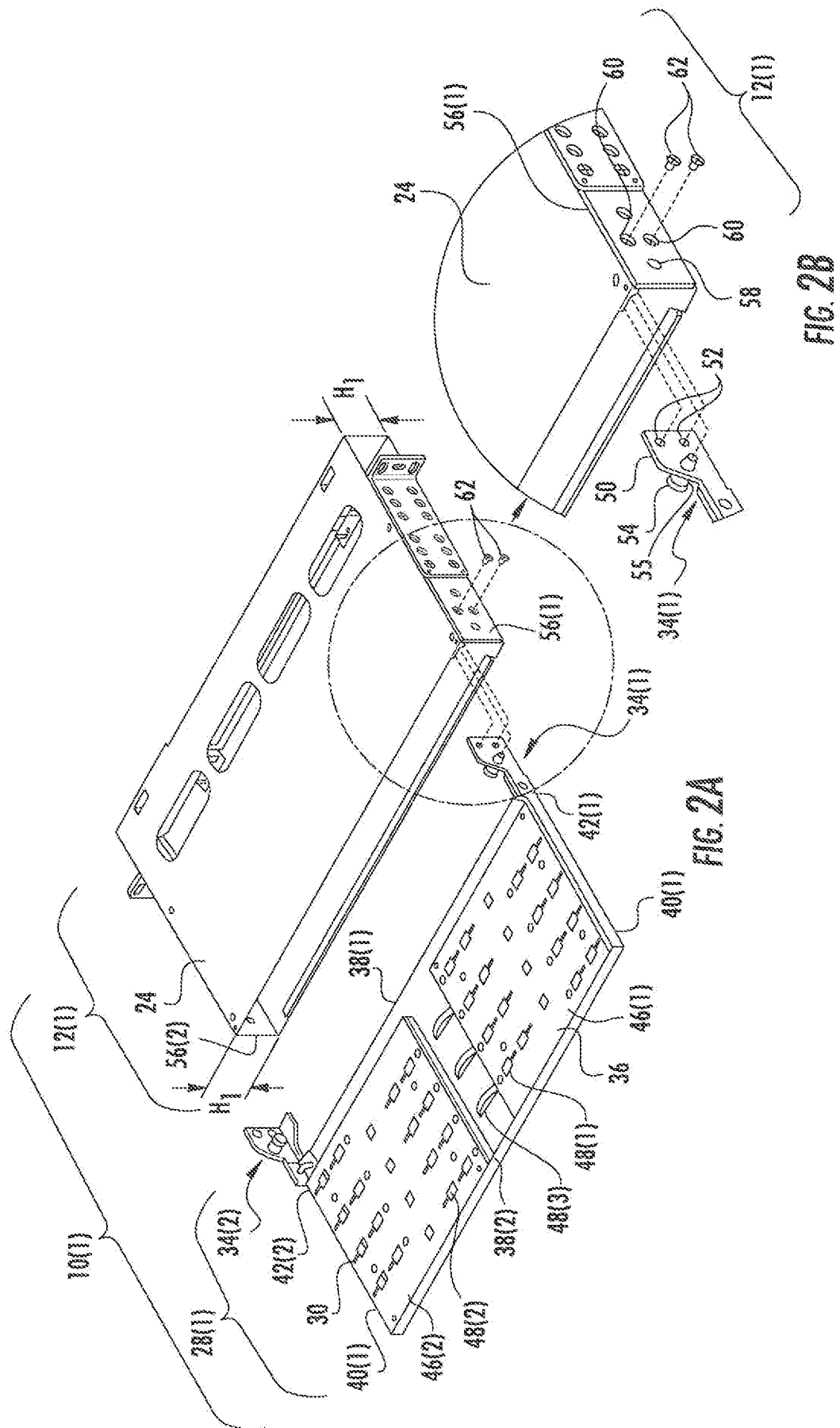
- extending the second spring plunger into the spring plunger hole when the second flange reaches a position where the second spring plunger aligns with the spring plunger hole.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein a biasing force of a spring on the second spring plunger extends the second spring plunger into the spring plunger hole.

19. The method of claim 17, further comprising removably attaching the second rear housing section to the fiber optic housing by inserting fasteners through the side wall holes and into fastener holes of the second attachment mechanism.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the removably attaching the second rear housing section further comprises aligning the fastener holes of the second attachment mechanism with the side wall holes while the second spring plunger releasably maintains the second rear housing section in a position allowing fasteners to be inserted through the side wall holes and into the fastener holes of the second attachment mechanism.





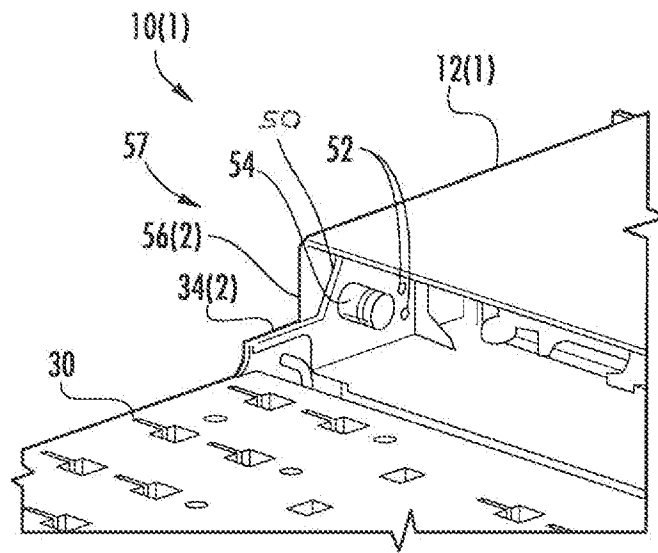
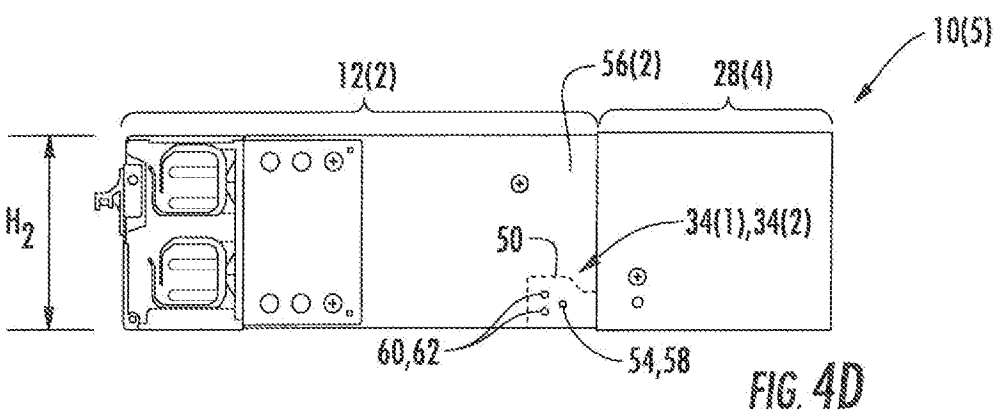
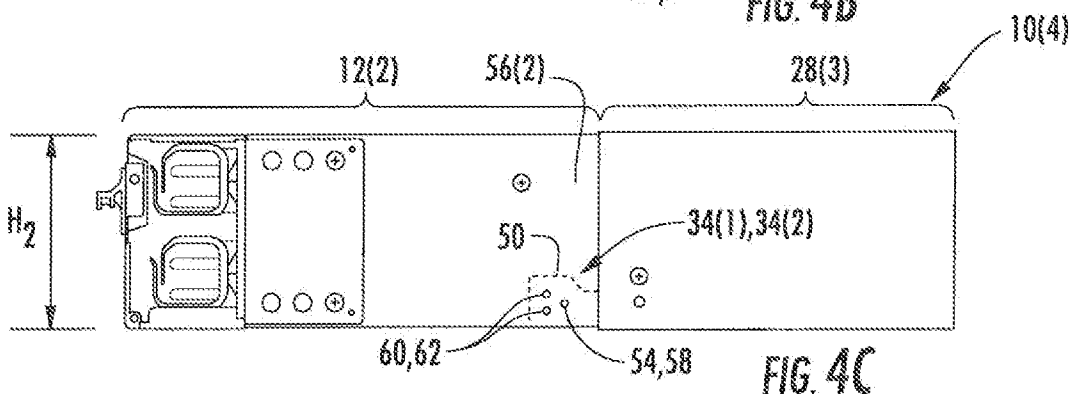
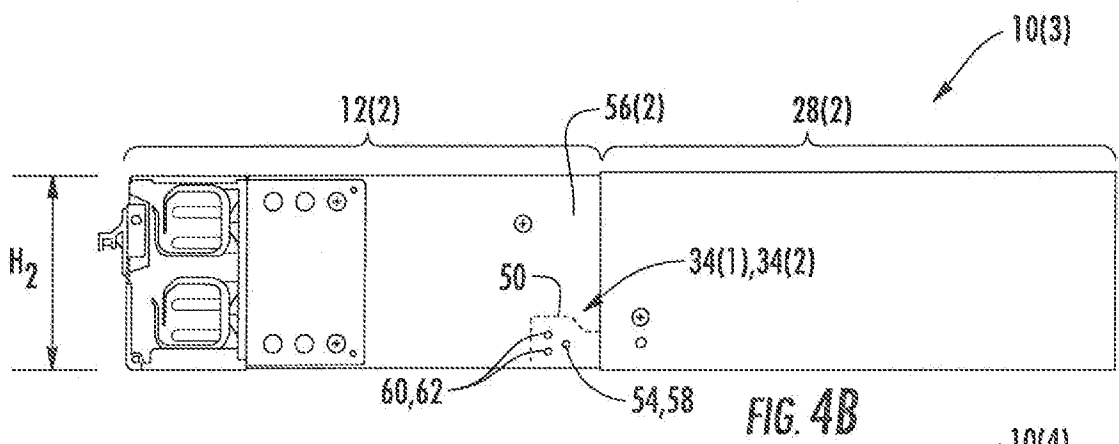
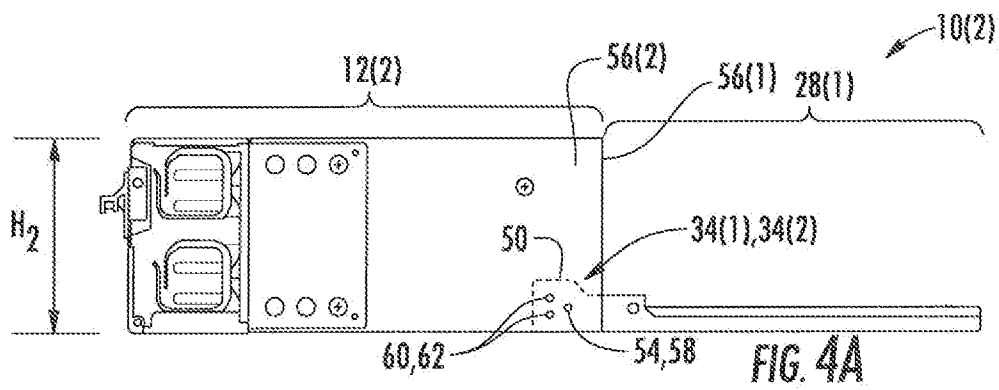


FIG. 3



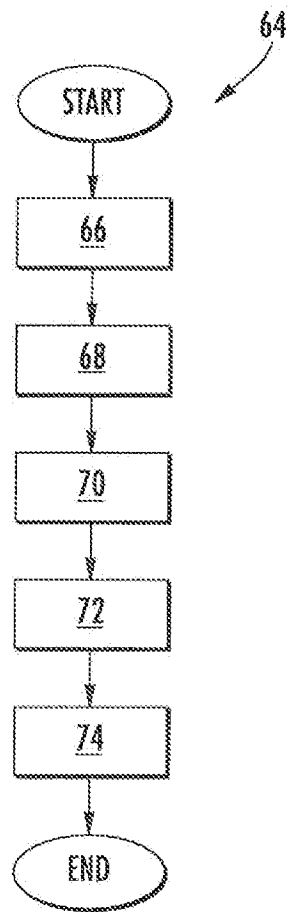


FIG. 5

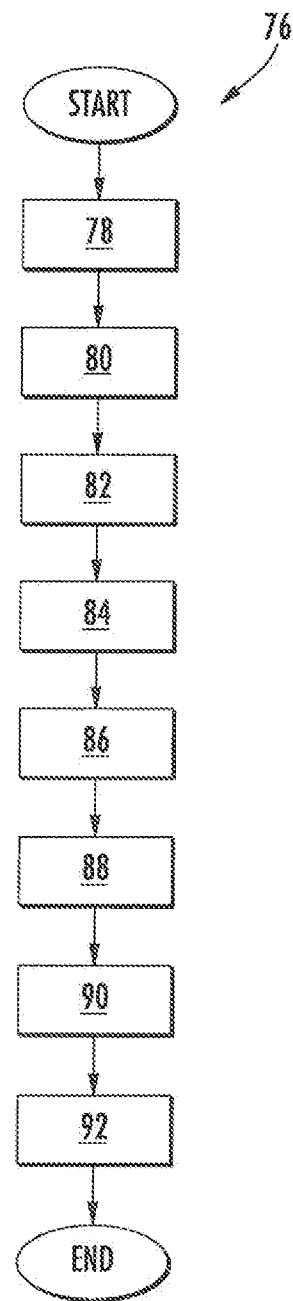


FIG. 6