

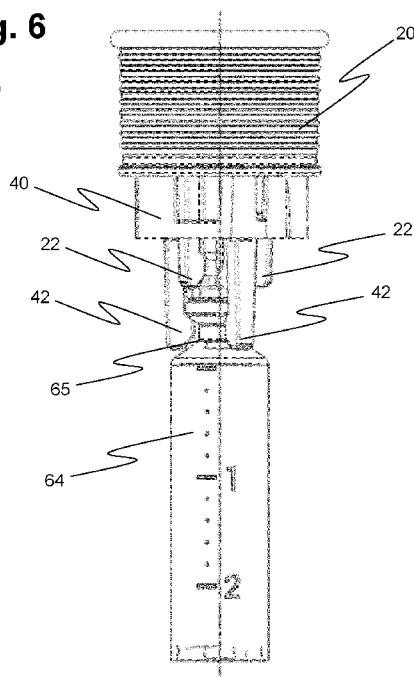


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Fig. 6

(a)



(57) Abstract: A connector device (10) for fluidly connecting two septum sealed containers (60, 64) comprises a first member (20) and a second member (40) that are slidably displaceable in regard to each other along an axis (12) between a first and a second position. The first member (20) comprises a hollow transfer needle (24) with two pointed ends (25, 25'), arranged parallel to said axis in such a way that a septum (62) of a first one (60) of the containers is penetrated by one end (25) of the needle when said first container is introduced into a receptacle (21) of the first member. The second member comprises means (42) for releasably coupling to the second one (64) of the two containers. The other end (25') of the needle does not come into contact with a septum (66) of the second container (64) coupled to the second member when the members are in the first position. Said other needle end (25') penetrates the septum of the second container when the members are in the second position; thereby establishing a fluid connection between the two containers. The first member (20) comprises means (22) for releasably coupling to the second container (64) coupled to the second member. The first member (20) comprises means (22) for releasably coupling to the second container (64) coupled to the second member (40), wherein said coupling means (22) of the first member can couple to said second container when the two members are in the second position, and cannot couple to said second container when the two members are in the first position.

Connector Device

Field of the invention

The present invention is related to a connector device for establishing fluid communication between two septum sealed containers, a septum sealed container, a kit with such a connector device, and a method for transferring liquid between two septum sealed containers, according to the preamble of the independent claim.

Background of the invention

In the medical field, there is always a need to transfer liquid medicaments or other medical related liquids from one container to another. For example, medical personnel routinely draw liquid medicaments from vials into syringes in order to inject said medicament to a patient.

In cases where users without professional training have to carry out such tasks, there is even a more pronounced need for such a liquid medicament transfer process to be easy, quick, inexpensive, and most importantly safe. This is for example the case in the field of diabetes therapy by continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion, where a person with diabetes carries an insulin infusion pump device continuously night and day. Such a device is for example known from EP 143895 A1.

In a common type of such ambulatory infusion pump devices, a disposable reservoir container is provided that holds the liquid medicament required for some days. These disposable reservoir containers typically comprise a cylinder and a piston that is slidably arranged in said cylinder. Such containers are available prefilled by the manufacturer. Alternatively they are provided empty, and are filled by the user with content from another supply container, such as a vial or an injection pen cartridge.

A well known technique to transfer liquid medicament is by the use of a syringe, where the liquid is first transferred from the septum sealed supply container to the syringe, and subsequently transferred from the syringe to the disposable reservoir container. A common type of disposable reservoir container for infusion pump devices comprises a male luer connector for connecting the cylinder to the infusion line, which can also be connected to a needle for filling purposes. Thus with a removable piston shaft and a disposable needle attached to the luer connector, such containers can be directly manually filled like a syringe, without the need for an additional syringe.

The filling procedure is generally carried out by an untrained person, such as the patient or a relative. The proper use of syringes and needles requires certain manual skills. Many patients with motor difficulties, such as diabetics with neuropathy or the elderly, have problems with the safe handling of syringes. In addition, accidental needle injuries, safe disposal of used needles, air free filling, and transferring the proper amount of medication without unnecessary waste are always a concern. Another problem is cross-contamination of medications between containers.

To avoid the use of a syringe with a needle for filling the disposable reservoir container, DE102005006771 A1 discloses a connector device with a protected transfer needle. A first member of the connector device is intended to be releasably attached to a septum sealed supply container, e.g. a vial or an injection pen cartridge, containing the liquid medicament. A second member is slideably arranged in the first member and comprises a female luer connector that can be connected to a corresponding male luer connector of a disposable reservoir container. Furthermore it comprises a hollow transfer needle for penetrating the septum of the supply container. Prior to use, the members are in a first position, with the transfer needle of the second member being protected by the first member. After attaching the first member to the supply container, and the second member to the disposable reservoir container, the second member is pushed toward the supply container. The transfer needle penetrates the septum of the supply container, and a fluid connection between disposable reservoir container and supply container is established.

For several reasons, such as for example reusability and maintenance of sterility, the use of disposable reservoir containers that are provided sealingly closed by a septum is preferable over containers with luer connectors.

5 A variant of the above-mentioned connector device that allows the transfer of liquid between two septum sealed containers is known from US 6852103, intended to allow dissolving a solid medicament provided in a vial with liquid from an infusion bag and transferring said liquid with the reconstituted medicament back into the infusion bag.

A first cylindrically shaped member is slidably mounted in a second cylindrically shaped member, and comprises a receptacle for releasably connecting to the neck of a septum sealed infusion bag.
10 A transfer needle with two pointed ends is mounted on the first member. One half of the needle is located in the receptacle of the first member, while the second half of the transfer needle is located inside of the second member. The second member comprises locking means for permanently attaching a septum sealed vial, and sealing means that enclose the second end of the needle and also sealingly enclose the septum of the vial when connected to the second member.

15 When the first container is releasably inserted into the first member, the first end of the needle penetrates the septum of the container. A fluid connection between infusion bag and transfer needle is established. After the second container has been permanently attached to the second member, the two members are rotated around their axis, thereby going from an deactivated state, where the members cannot be shifted, to an activated state of the connector device, where the
20 members can be shifted in regard to each other. The first member can now be pushed into the second member, and the second end of the needle penetrates first the sealing means of the second member and then the septum of the second container. A fluid connection between the two containers is established, and liquid can be transferred from the first container to the second container, and back.

25 There is a general need for improvement in this field.

Objects of the Invention

It is an object of this invention to provide a connector device for fluidly connecting two septum sealed containers that is advantageous over the prior art.

Such a connector device should be releasably connectable to at least one septum-sealed container without having its seal penetrated. After use it should be easily removable.

A connector device according to the invention should allow simple and safe handling also for untrained users.

It should be reliable and producible at low cost, and should have a long shelf-time.

These and other objects are achieved by a connector device, a septum sealed container, a kit, and a method according to the independent claims. In addition, further advantageous embodiments follow from the dependent claims and the description.

Summary of the invention

The present invention may comprise one or more of the features recited in the attached claims, and/or one or more of the following features and combinations thereof.

A connector device according to the invention for fluidly connecting two septum sealed containers comprises two members that are slidably displaceable in regard to each other along an axis between a first and a second position. A first member comprises a hollow transfer needle with two pointed ends, arranged parallel to said axis in such a way that a septum of a first one of the two containers is penetrated by one end of the needle when said first container is introduced into a receptacle of the first member. A second member comprises means for releasably coupling to the second one of the two containers. The other end of the needle does not come into contact with a septum of the second container coupled to the second member when the members are in the first position. Said other needle end penetrates the septum of the second container when the

members are in the second position, thereby establishing a fluid connection between the two containers. The first member comprises means for releasably coupling to the second container that is coupled to the second member, wherein said coupling means of the first member can couple to said second container when the two members are in the second position, and cannot
5 couple to said second container when the two members are in the first position.

One advantage of such a connector device according to the invention over the prior art is the fact that in the second position, where a fluid communication between the two containers is established and the user may have to carry out manual operations steps, there is a stable lock between the connector device and the disposable cartridge. There is further no need for locking the
10 two members in regard to each other in the second position, since the two members are locked indirectly via the cartridge. This allows a simpler construction of the connector device, and also eases assembling and disassembling of the connector device.

Advantageously such a connector device is made from a material that provides certain flexibility. Suitable materials are e.g. thermoplastic polymers. The connector devices can be manufactured
15 by injection molding.

In an advantageous embodiment of such a connector device the coupling means of the second member comprise a multitude of pawls that are able to engage with a neck of the second container.

In another advantageous embodiment of such a connector device the coupling means of the first
20 member comprises at least one pawl that is able to engage with a neck of the second container. Advantageously the coupling means of the first member comprises a multitude of pawls that are able to engage with a neck of the second container.

In a further advantageous embodiment of such a connector device both the coupling means of the first member and the coupling means of the second member comprise a multitude of pawls
25 that are able to engage with a neck of the second container.

In a particularly advantageous variant the pawls of the first member run in slots provided on the second member.

In yet another variant of such a connector device, the first member comprises a guiding structure, and the second member comprises a guiding structure. Said two guiding structures abut on each other.

One of the guiding structures of the two members can comprise a handle or grip area, for safely holding the device during operation.

The guiding structure of one of the two members of a connector device according to the invention advantageously comprises one or more guiding ribs that run in guiding slots of the guiding structure of the other one of the two members.

In yet a further variant of a connector device according to the invention, the guiding structure of one of the two members is provided with one or more cams that run in grooves on the guiding structure of the other one of the two members.

Advantageously in such an embodiment a stopper is provided in the one or more grooves, which is able to restrict the movement of the cam in the groove in one or two directions.

A particularly advantageous embodiment of a connector device according to the invention comprises a septum sealed container coupled to the second member of the connector device, wherein the two members are in the first position.

A septum sealed container according to the invention comprises a connector device according to the invention. Such a container can be used for storing a liquid a solid or a semi-liquid substance, depending on the application.

In an advantageous embodiment of such a container, the two members of the connector device are in the first position, and the second member of the connector device is coupled to the container.

A kit according to the invention comprises one or more connector devices according to the invention, and one or more septum sealed containers. The coupling means of the two members are adapted to be coupled to the septum sealed containers.

In a method for transferring liquid between two septum sealed containers according to the invention, a connector device according to the invention is provided, the two members of the connector device being in the first position. The first member of the connector device is attached to a first container, thereby penetrating the septum seal of the first container with the hollow transfer needle of the first member and establishing a fluid connection between first container and hollow transfer needle. A second container is coupled to the second member of the connector device. The two members are shifted in regard to each other from the first position to the second position, thereby penetrating the septum seal of the second container with the hollow transfer needle of the first member and establishing a fluid connection between second container and hollow transfer needle.

In a variant of such a method, the containers are attached in reversed order. Thus a connector device according to the invention is provided, the two members of the connector device being in the first position. A second container is coupled to the second member of the connector device. The first member of the connector device is attached to a first container, thereby penetrating the septum seal of the first container with the hollow transfer needle of the first member and establishing a fluid connection between first container and hollow transfer needle. The two members are shifted in regard to each other from the first position to the second position, thereby penetrating the septum seal of the second container with the hollow transfer needle of the first member and establishing a fluid connection between second container and hollow transfer needle.

In another variant of such a method, a connector device according to the invention is provided, the two members of the connector device being in the first position. A second container is coupled to the second member of the connector device. The first member of the connector device is attached to a first container, and at the same time the second container is pushed toward the first member. As a result the two members are shifted in regard to each other from the first position to the second position, thereby penetrating the septum seal of the second container with the hollow transfer needle of the first member and establishing a fluid connection between second container and hollow transfer needle, while at the same time the hollow transfer needle of the first member penetrates the septum seal of the first container and establishes a fluid connection between first container and hollow transfer needle.

Brief description of the drawings

In order to facilitate a fuller understanding of the present invention, reference is now made to the appended drawings. These references should not be construed as limiting the present invention, but are intended to be exemplary only.

Figure 1 schematically shows an exemplary embodiment of a connector device according to the invention in a cross-sectional view, (a) in a first, initial position prior to use, (b) in the first position with the second member being connected to a septum-sealed disposable reservoir container, (c) in a second position, where both the first member and the second member are connected to the disposable reservoir container, and (d) with the connector device being connected to a second septum-sealed supply container.

Figure 2 shows the first member of an advantageous embodiment of an connector device, (a) in a perspective view from below, (b) in a cross-sectional view along A-A, (c) in a bottom view, and (d) in a top view.

Figure 3 shows the second member of the same connector device, (a) in a perspective view from below, (b) in a side view, (c) in a bottom view, and (d) in a top view.

Figure 4 shows the assembled connector device of Figures 2 and 3 in the first position, (a) in a perspective view from below, (b) in a side view, (c) in a cross-sectional view along B—B, (d) in a cross-sectional view along C—C, (e) in a bottom view, and (f) in a top view.

Figure 5 shows the assembled connector device of Figures 2 and 3 in the second position, (a) in a perspective view from below, (b) in a perspective view from the top, and (c) in a cross-sectional view similar to Figure 4(c). The bottom view and the top view are the same as in Figures 4(e) and (f).

Figure 6 shows the connector device of Figures 2 and 3 in a first position prior to filling, the second member being coupled to a septum-sealed disposable reservoir cartridge, (a) in a side view, and (b) in a cross-sectional view.

Figure 7 shows the connector device of Figures 2 and 3 in a second position, where also the first member is coupled to the disposable reservoir cartridge, and the hollow transfer needle penetrates the septum of the cartridge, (a) in a side view, and (b) in a cross-sectional view.

Description of embodiments of the invention

The basic function of a connector device according to the invention can be understood when looking at Figure 1, where an exemplary embodiment of such a connector device 10 is shown during different phases of normal operation.

The connector device 10 according to the invention in an initial first position, prior to use, is depicted in Figure 1(a). A first member 20 and a second member 40 are arranged in regard to each other in such away that they are displaceable along a common axis 12. The two members are

engaged to limit both off-axis movement, and rotational movement. For that purpose, interacting guiding means are provided on the two members.

A hollow transfer needle 24 with two tips 25, 25' is mounted in the center of a supporting structure 34 of the first member 20 of the device. The guiding structure 27 of the first member 20 provides protection against damage of a first end 25 of the needle and accidental needle injuries. The other, second end 25' of the needle 24 is arranged in a central opening 50 of the second member 40 of the device. Three pawls 42, of which one is visible in the cross section, are circumferentially arranged around the central opening of the second member 40. These pawls are able to engage with the neck of a disposable reservoir container, thereby providing a releasable connection to the container. Similarly three pawls 22 (of which one is visible in the cross section) are circumferentially arranged on the first member 20, and protrude through openings 44 in the supporting structure of the second member.

In a first step, a disposable reservoir container, namely an empty cartridge 64 sealingly closed by a septum 66, is coupled to the connector device 10, as shown in Figure 1(b). For that purpose the neck 65 of the container is pushed into the center of the resilient pawls of the second member 40. The multitude of pawls 42 of the second member 40 snap into the groove of the neck 65, thereby releasably locking the container 64 to the second member. The connector device 10 is still in its first position, in which the septum 66 remains unpunctured by the hollow transfer needle 24, and the pawls of the first member cannot lock to the cartridge 64.

The disposable empty cartridge 64, intended to be filled with a liquid such as a liquid medication from a supply container 60, is either coupled to the connector device 10 by the user himself, prior to the filling procedure, or is provided preassembled by the manufacturer, with an already mounted connector device. The latter variant is particularly advantageous for various reasons, for example improved handling, since the omission of a manual assembling step reduces the risk of operating errors and injuries. Furthermore the disposable reservoir container 64 and the connector 10 can be provided already preassembled, for example in a sterilized blister pack-

aging. Since the septum is not penetrated during the storage after manufacture, its ability to sealingly close around the transfer needle during operation is not compromised by long-term deformation of the elastomeric septum. As a result the shelf-time of the disposable container is not negatively affected.

- 5 When a disposable reservoir container 64 is to be filled with liquid medicament, the container 64 has to be fluidly connected to the transfer needle. The container, together with the coupled second member 40, is manually pushed toward the first member 20 of the connector device along axis 12. The second member 40 is positively locked to the container 64. The device is in the first position.
- 10 Pushing the cartridge 64 further along axis 12, the second member 40 slides into the first member 20, and the resilient pawls 22 of the first member 20 snap into the groove of the neck 65, thereby positively locking the container 64 also to the first member 20. At the same time the second tip 25' of the hollow needle 24 penetrates the septum 66 of the container 64, establishing a fluid connection between the hollow needle and the inside of the container. The connector
- 15 device 10 is now temporarily locked in the second position, as shown in Figure 1(c). The linear motion of the two members and the cartridge during the connection step prevents the needle from exerting a shear force on the seal, potentially damaging the septum seal.

In a subsequent third step, the connector device can now be coupled to the supply container 60, sealingly closed by a septum 62, by attaching the first member 20 to the top end of said container. For that purpose the connector device, particularly the first member, is advantageously

20 provided with guiding and/or coupling means. The first tip 25 of the needle penetrates the septum 62, and a fluid connection between container 60 and needle 24 is established, as can be seen in Figure 1(d). The two containers 60, 64 are now fluidly connected via the transfer needle 24, and liquid can be transferred between the containers. In the case of an initial empty cartridge 64, liquid, e.g. liquid medicament such as insulin, is transferred from a supply container

25 such as a vial or an injection pen cartridge 60 to the disposable cartridge 64.

After the disposable cartridge 64 has been filled, the supply container 60 is removed from the connector device 10. Then the disposable cartridge 64 is removed from the connector device 10, by pulling it off. The disposable cartridge 64 can now be used in an infusion pump device, and the connector device 10 can be disposed.

- 5 Although normally the disposable cartridge 64 will be fully filled before the supply container 60 is empty, it may occur that the supply container is emptied first, particularly if small injection pen cartridges are used as a supply container. In such a case the supply container has to be disconnected and replaced while the partially filled disposable cartridge remains connected. After a new container 60 has been connected to the device, the filling process of the disposable cartridge can be continued.
- 10

Instead of connecting the disposable cartridge to the connector device first, it is also possible to connect in a first step the supply container to the first member, and in a second step the disposable cartridge to the second member.

- In yet another advantageous variant, the two containers are connected to the corresponding members of the connector device while the two members are still disassembled. Thus in a next step the two members are first assembled to the first position, before the members are changed to the second position and a fluid communication is established.
- 15

- Preferably the connector device according to the invention is constructed such that the connector device first changes back into its first position before it releases the disposable cartridge attached to the second member. When a user pulls apart the connector device and the cartridge 64, first the pawls 22 of the first member 20 will release the neck of the cartridge. The two members then can slide along axis 12 from the second to the first position, before finally the pawls 42 of the second member 40 release the neck 65 of the cartridge. Such an embodiment has the advantage that during the disconnection process there is no shear force on the septum 66 of the disposable cartridge 64, since the needle 24 is pulled out of the septum perpendicular to the septum surface.
- 20
- 25

After removal of the disposable cartridge 64, the connector device is back in its first position. The second needle tip 25' is again safely located inside the second member, and the connector device can be safely disposed.

If, alternatively, the connector device is constructed such that the pawls of both members release the cartridge at the same time, the device remains in the second position after the disconnection of the cartridge 64. However, also in this second position the second needle tip 25' is not accessible, since the pawls 42 cover the needle, and the device can also be safely disposed.

Another, particularly advantageous embodiment of a connector device 10 according to the invention is depicted in Figures 2 to 5. The shown connector device 10 has two members 20, 40. The first member 20 comprises a cylindrical wall structure 27, acting as a guiding means for the second member 40 and as a handle for the user. The outer surface of the cylinder is provided with a grooved area 26, for a better grip. On one longitudinal end of the cylinder structure, a radial supporting structure 33 with a central portion 32 and three bridges 33 is arranged. A hollow transfer needle 24 with two pointed ends 25, 25' is mounted in the central portion, aligned with a longitudinal axis 12 of the member 20. On each of the three bridges 33 a pawl 22 with a flexible, resilient arm 23 is mounted.

On the inner wall of the cylindrical guiding structure 27, three guiding ribs 29 are arranged parallel to the axis 12, intended to interact with corresponding slots 49 of the second member 40. Three resilient structures 28 are mounted on the guiding ribs 29, having a bent end with a holding edge 31 and a ramp 30. When the neck 63 of a first container is introduced into the receptacle 21 of the first member, the ramps 30 interact with the edge of the bottle neck 63, and the structures 28 are bent outwards, until finally the holding edges 31 grip the neck 63 on its circumference. Thus the three structures 28 center the container 60 in regard to the transfer needle, and also act as holding means for releasably coupling the first container 60 to the connector device 10, by clamping the neck of the container. A further advantage of the shown embodiment is that the connector can be used with differently sized supply containers, for example standard

liquid medicament vials, or injection pen cartridges, since the spring-biased holding edges can adapt to different diameters of the container neck 63.

The second member 40 comprises guiding structures 48, 48' in the form of segments of a cylinder wall, to be slidably arranged in the cylinder structure 27 of the first member. Between the segments 48, 48' small guiding slots 49 are arranged, in which run the guiding ribs 29 of the first member. Due to these guiding means 29, 49 the two members are rotationally engaged, which prevents tilting and jamming during operation, and coring of the penetrated septums. Broader gaps 47 between the segments 48, 48' give room for the resilient structures to bend when a vial with its large neck is introduced.

The guiding structures 48, 48' are mounted on a supporting structure 52 of the second member 40, having a central opening 50 and three adjoining slots 44. Three pawls 42 parallel to the axis 12 are mounted on the side of the supporting structure 52 opposite to the first member. The three pawls 22 of the first member are arranged in the three pawl slots 44, which thus also act as guiding means for rotationally engaging the two members. The central portion 32 of the first member is arranged in the central opening 50.

On the inner side of the cylindrical structure 27, three cams 35 are provided that in the assembled state are located in corresponding grooves 56 on the outer side of the guiding structures 48. In one direction along axis 12 a stopper 53 restricts the movement of the cam in the groove 56, and thus of the displacement of the first member 20 in regard to the second member 40.

Another three cams 36 are provided on the inner side of cylindrical structure 27, which in the assembled state are located in grooves 57 of the guiding structures 48'. Again a stopper 59 restricts the movement of the cam in the groove 57, and thus of the displacement of the first member 20 in regard to the second member 40.

The positions of the cams 35, 36 and the stoppers 53, 59 are chosen in such a way that in the first position of the device the cams 35 abut the ramp 55 of the stopper 53, and the cams 36 are

abut the ramp 58 of the stopper 59. Thus the two members are loosely fixed in the first position, but may be repeatedly disassembled and reassembled without effort.

To change from the first position to the second position the resilient force on the stopper 53 has to be overcome, by sliding the cam 35 over the ramp 55. Similarly the cam 36, when engaging
5 with the ramp 58 of the stopper 59, provides a resilient force that prevents the assembled device according to the invention to be disassembled inadvertently.

In the second position the displacement of the members along axis 12 is stopped when the supporting structures 33, 52 of the two members collide, which defines the second position. For a fine tuning of said second position, distance elements 51 can be provided, as in the given exam-
10 ple.

For assembling the two members 20, 40 to the connector device 10, the members are properly aligned, and the guiding structures 48, 48' of the second member 40 are introduced into the corresponding gaps between the central portion 32, the cylinder wall 27, and the bridges 33 of the first member 20. Ramp 55 of the stopper 56 allows the cam 35 to jump over the stopper 53
15 during introduction of the second member.

In a first position of the connector device 10, as shown in Figure 4, the three pawls 22 of the first member are retracted into the device, in regard to the second member with its three pawls 42. When the second member 40 is pushed into the first member 20, eventually arriving at the second position as shown in Figure 5, the pawls 22 protrude toward the other pawls 42, until the
20 heads of the two sets of pawls 22, 42 are on the same height. At the same time the central portion 32 with the needle protrudes out of the central opening 50.

Figure 6 shows the discussed connector device in a first position, already coupled to an empty reservoir cartridge 64, but the septum 66 of the cartridge not yet being punctured. The three pawls 42 of the second member 40 engage behind the neck 65 of the cartridge, positively lock-
25 ing the cartridge to the second member. Advantageously the dimensions of the pawls are

adapted to a certain type of cartridge, as in the depicted example, where the pawls tightly lock the container in both directions of the axis 12.

To connect the cartridge 64 with the needle 24, the user pushes the cartridge toward the first member. The second member glides into the first member, until the pawls 22 of the first member
5 snap in and engage behind the neck of the cartridge, thus stopping the movement. During this process the needle 24 has penetrated the septum 66 perpendicular to the septum surface. Container and connector device are now fluidly connected, and the connector device is in its second position, as is shown in Figure 7. The device is now ready for being connected to the supply container.

10 Instead of three and three pawls as used in the above-mentioned embodiment, also other variants are possible, for example two and two pawls, or two opposite pawls on the first member, and four pawls on the second member, etc.

The present invention is not to be limited in scope by the specific embodiments described herein. Indeed, various modifications of the present invention, in addition to those described herein, will
15 be apparent to those skilled in the art from the foregoing description and accompanying drawings. Thus, such modifications are intended to fall within the scope of the appended claims. Additionally, various references are cited throughout the specification, the disclosures of which are each incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

List of Reference Numerals

	10	connector device
	12	axis
	20	first member
5	21	receptacle
	22	pawl element
	23	pawl arm
	24	hollow transfer needle
	25, 25'	pointed needle tip
10	26	gripping area
	27	guiding structure
	28	centering and holding means
	29	guiding ribs
	30	ramp
15	31	holding edge
	32	central portion
	33	supporting structure
	34	bridge
	35	cam
20	36	cam
	40	second member
	42	pawl element
	43	pawl arm
	44	pawl slot
25	47	gap
	48, 48'	guiding structure
	49	guiding slot
	50	central opening
	51	distance element
30	52	supporting structure
	53	stopper
	54	flat ramp
	55	steep ramp
	56	groove
35	57	groove
	58	ramp
	59	stopper
	60	first container
	62	septum
40	64	second container
	65	neck
	66	septum
	67	piston

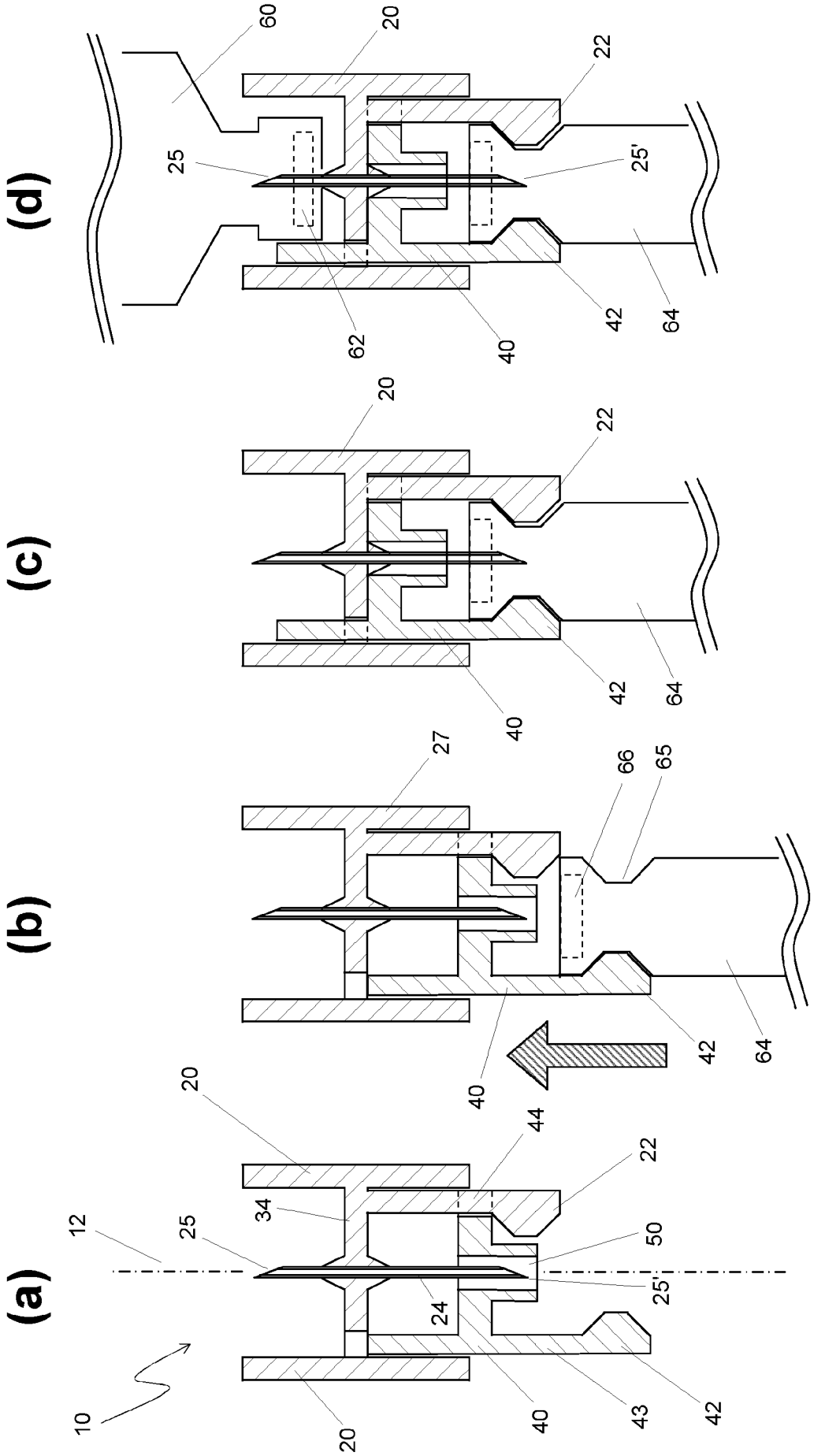
Claims

1. A connector device (10) for fluidly connecting two septum sealed containers (60, 64), with two members (20, 40) that are slidably displaceable in regard to each other along an axis (12) between a first and a second position; wherein a first member (20) comprises a hollow transfer needle (24) with two pointed ends (25, 25'), arranged parallel to said axis in such a way that a septum (62) of a first one (60) of the two containers is penetrated by one end (25) of the needle when said first container is introduced into a receptacle (21) of the first member; wherein a second member (40) comprises means (42) for releasably coupling to a second one (64) of the two containers; and wherein the other end (25') of the needle does not come into contact with a septum (66) of the second container (64) coupled to the second member when the members are in the first position, and said other needle end (25') penetrates the septum of the second container when the members are in the second position; thereby establishing a fluid connection between the two containers, characterized in that the first member (20) comprises means (22) for releasably coupling to the second container (64) that is coupled to the second member (40), wherein said coupling means (22) of the first member can couple to said second container when the two members are in the second position, and cannot couple to said second container when the two members are in the first position.
2. The connector device according to claim 1, characterized in that at least the coupling means of the second member (40) and/or the coupling means of the first member (20) comprise a multitude of pawls (42, 22) that are able to engage with a neck (65) of the second container (64).
3. The connector device according to claim 1, characterized in that the coupling means of the second member (40) and the coupling means of the first member (20) comprise a multitude of pawls (42, 22) that are able to engage with a neck (65) of the second container (64).

4. The connector device according to claim 2 or 3, characterized in that the pawls (22) of the first member (20) run in slots (44) provided on the second member (40).
5. The connector device according to any of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the first member (20) comprises a guiding structure (27), and the second member comprises a guiding structure (48, 48'), wherein said two guiding structures abut on each other.
6. The connector device according to claim 5, characterized in that one of the guiding structures (27, 48, 48') of the two members (20, 40) comprises a handle or grip area (26).
7. The connector device according to claim 5 or 6, characterized in that the guiding structure (27, 48, 48') of one of the two members (20, 40) comprises one or more guiding ribs (29) that run in guiding slots (49) of the guiding structure (48, 48', 29) of the other one of the two members (40, 20).
8. The connector device according to any of claims 5 to 7, characterized in that the guiding structure (27, 48, 48') of one of the two members (20, 40) is provided with one or more cams (35, 36) that run in grooves (56, 57) on the guiding structure (48, 48', 29) of the other one of the two members (40, 20).
9. The connector device according to claim 8, characterized in that a stopper (53, 59) is provided in the one or more grooves (56, 57), which is able to restrict the movement of the cam (35, 36) in the groove in one or two directions.
10. The connector device according to any of the preceding claims, characterized by a septum sealed container (64) coupled to the second member (40) of the connector device (10), wherein the two members (20, 40) are in the first position.
11. A septum sealed container (64), characterized by a connector device (10) according to any of claims 1 to 10.

12. The container according to claim 11, characterized in that the two members (20, 40) of the connector device (10) are in the first position, and the second member (40) is coupled to the container (64).
13. A kit comprising one or more connector devices according to any of claims 1 to 10, and
5 one or more septum sealed containers (64), wherein the coupling means (22, 42) of the two members (20, 40) are adapted to be coupled to the septum sealed containers (64).
14. A method for transferring liquid between two septum sealed containers (60, 64), comprising
10 providing a connector device (10) according to any of claims 1 to 10, the two members (20, 40) of the connector device being in the first position;
attaching the first member (20) of the connector device (10) to a first container (60), thereby penetrating the septum seal (62) of the first container with the hollow transfer needle (24, 25) of the first member and establishing a fluid connection between first container and hollow transfer needle;
15 coupling a second container (64) to the second member (40) of the connector device (10);
and
shifting the two members (20, 40) in regard to each other from the first position to the second position, thereby penetrating the septum seal (66) of the second container (64) with the hollow transfer needle (24, 25') of the first member and establishing a fluid connection between second container and hollow transfer needle.
20
15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the last two steps are reversed.

Fig. 1



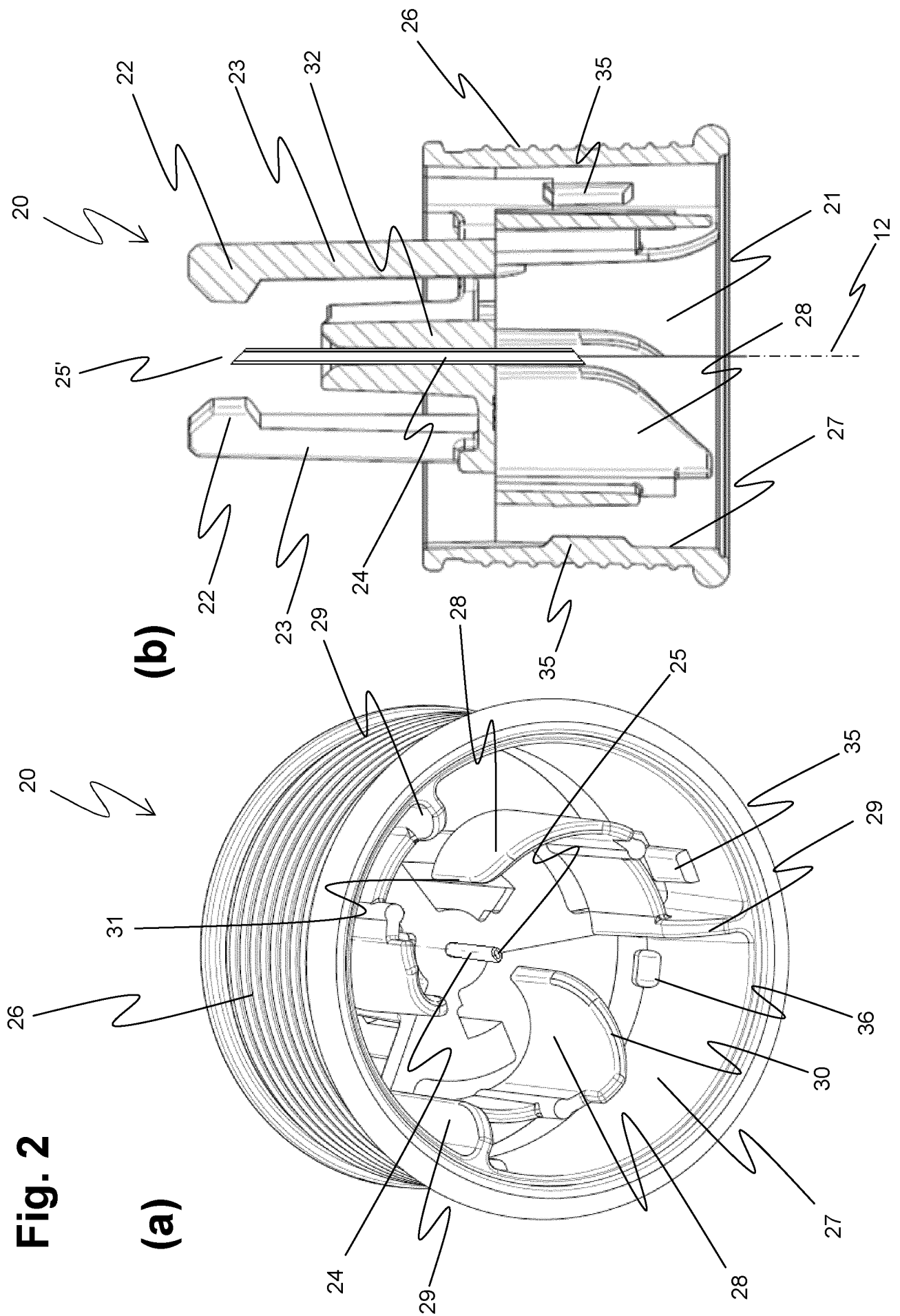


Fig. 2

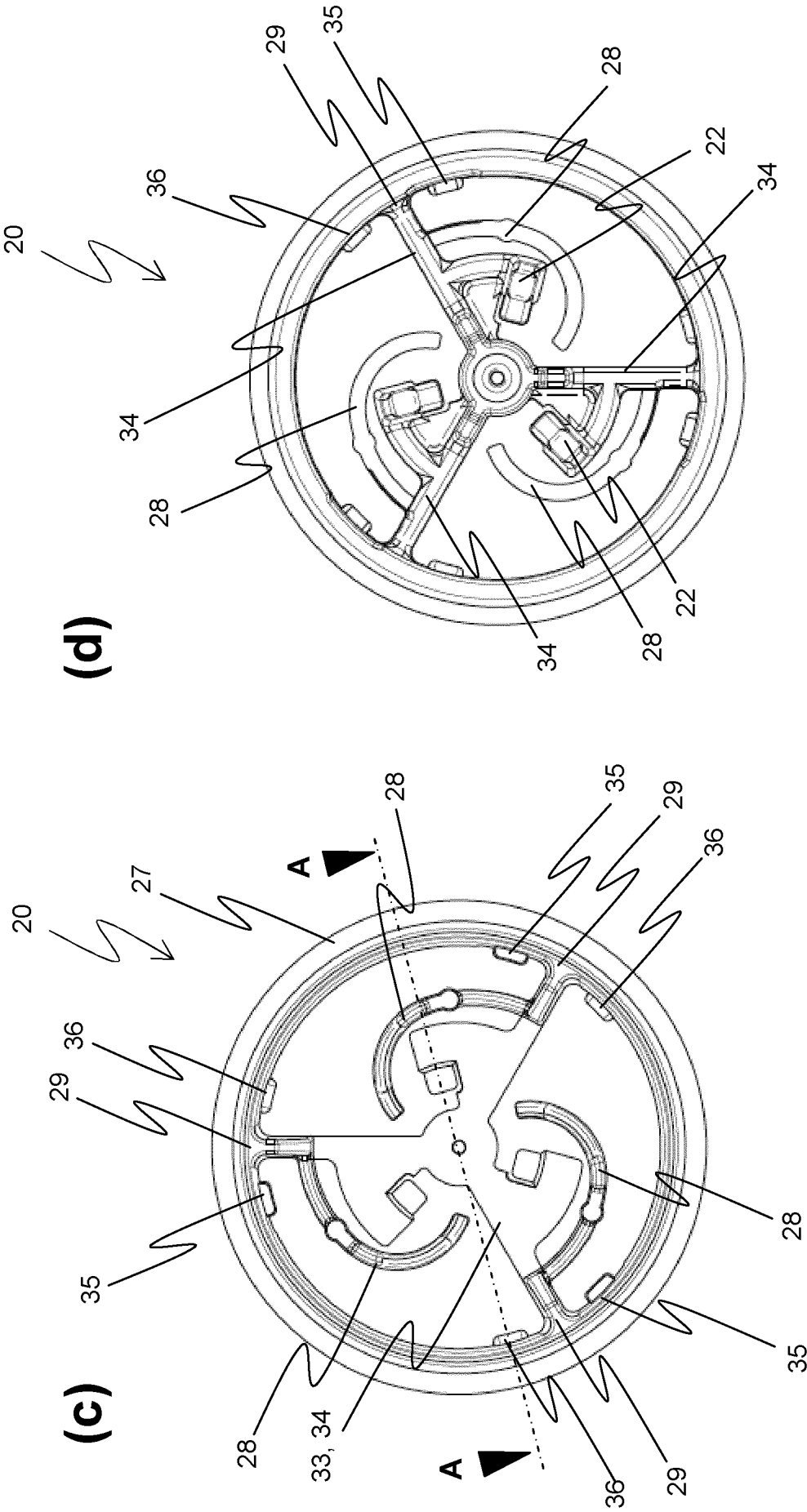


Fig. 3

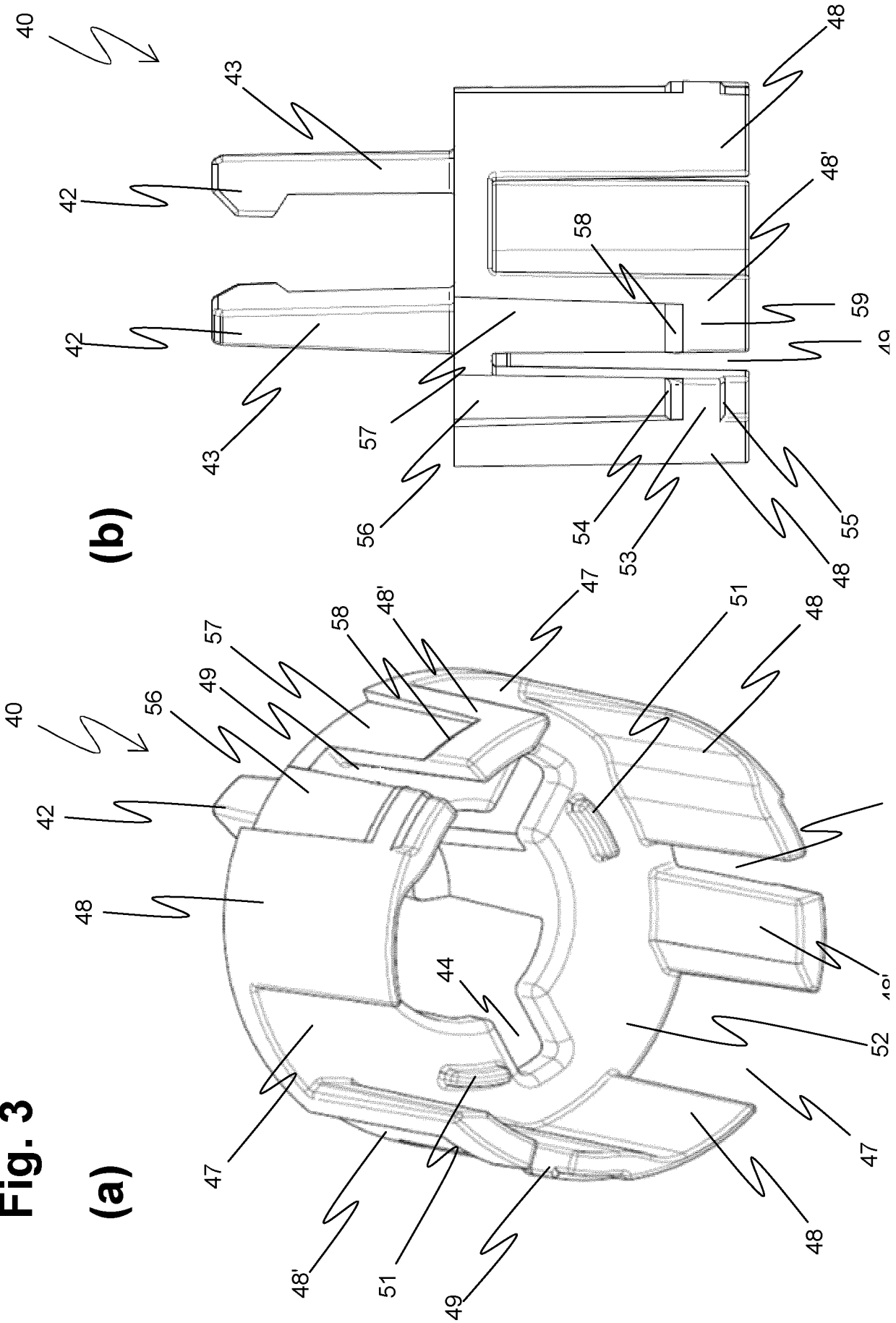


Fig. 3

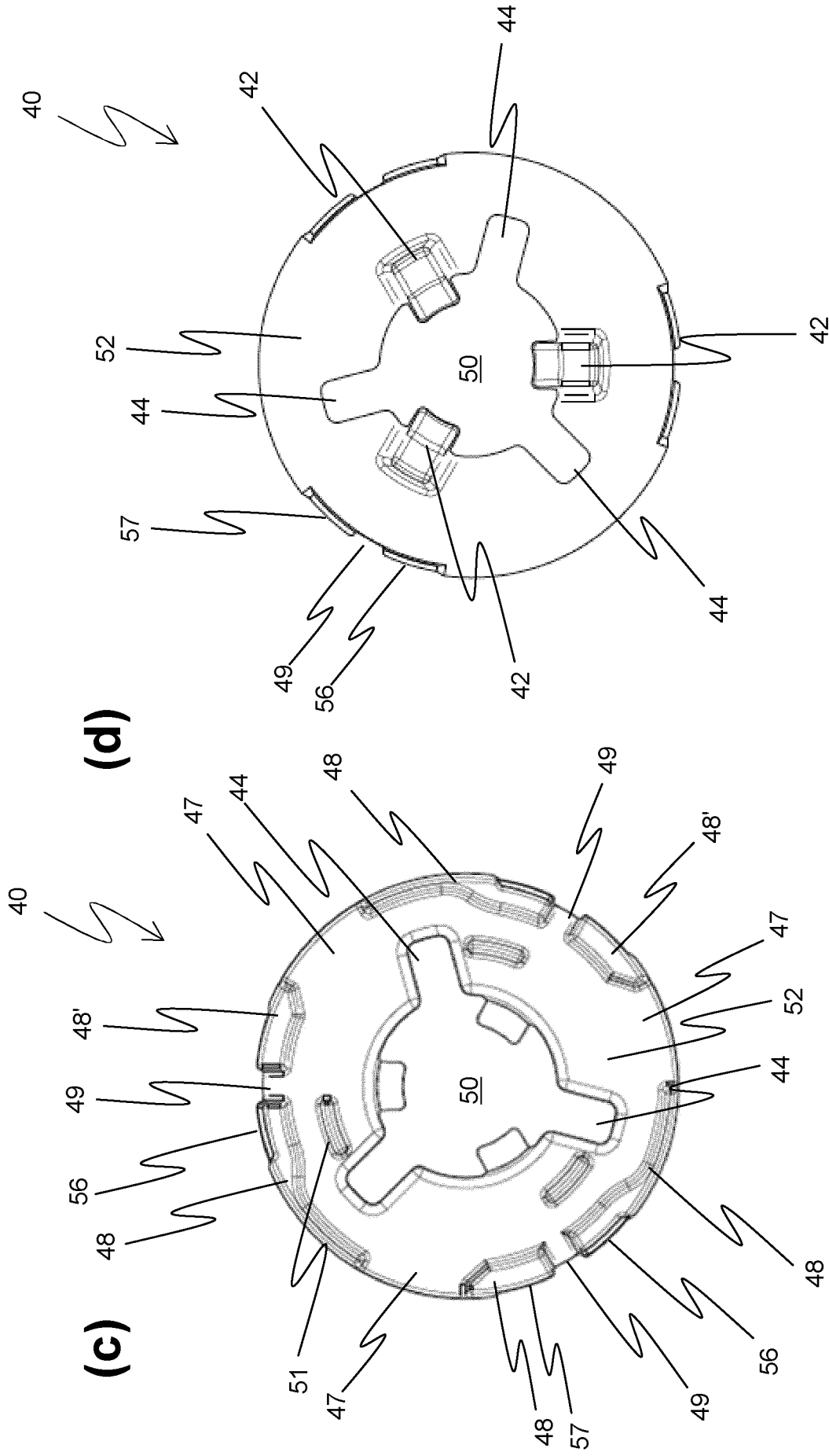


Fig. 4

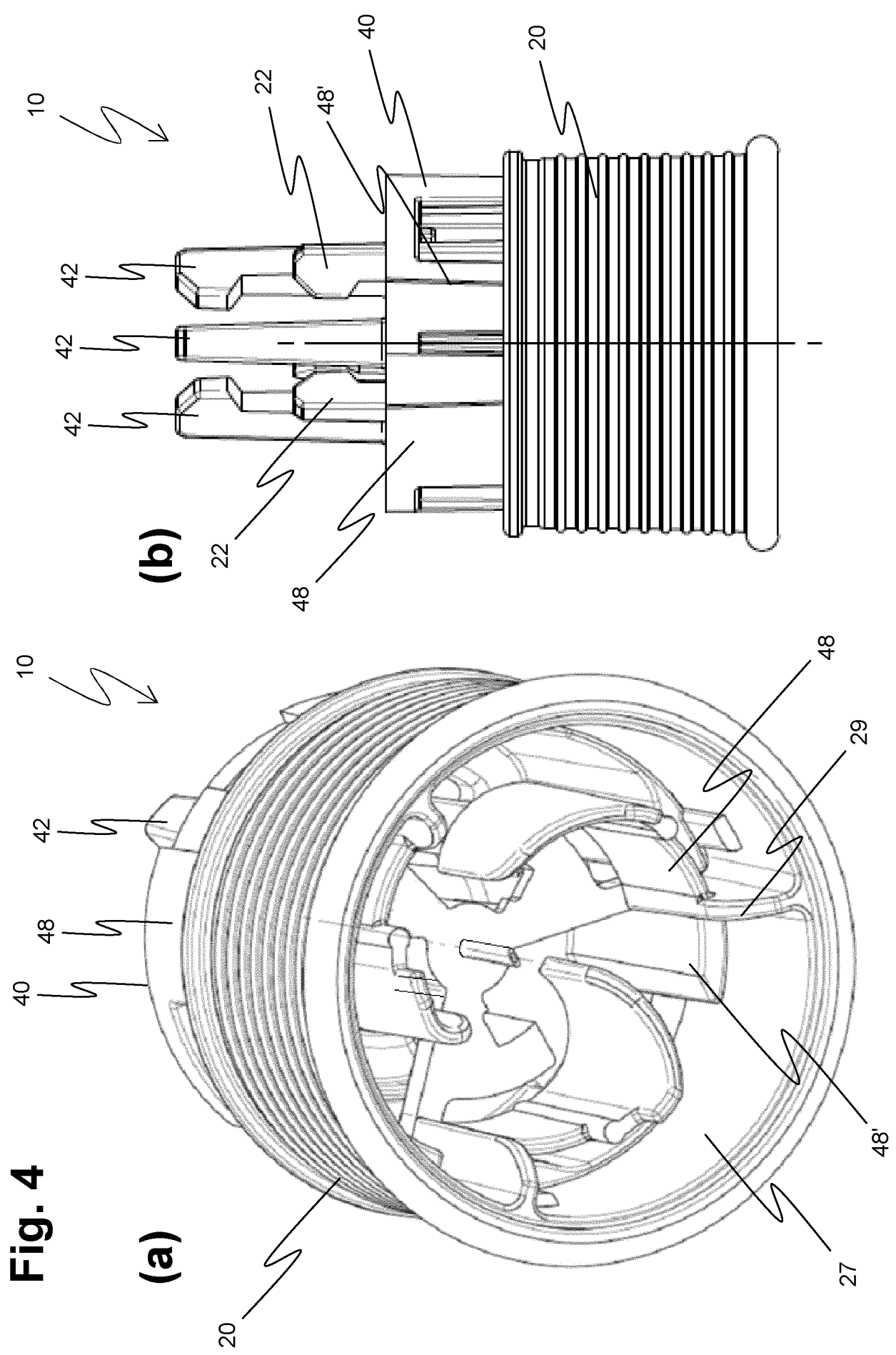


Fig. 4

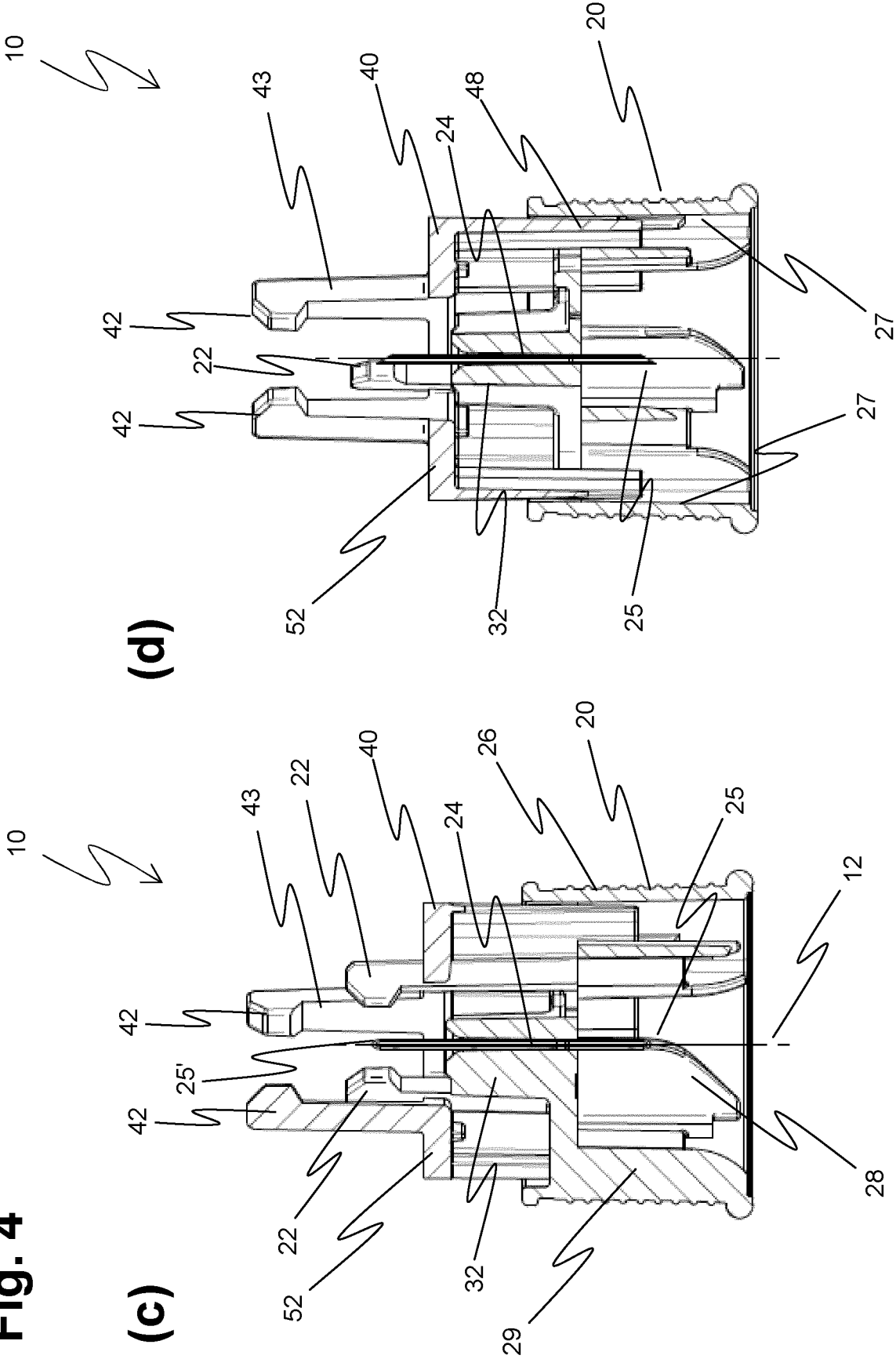
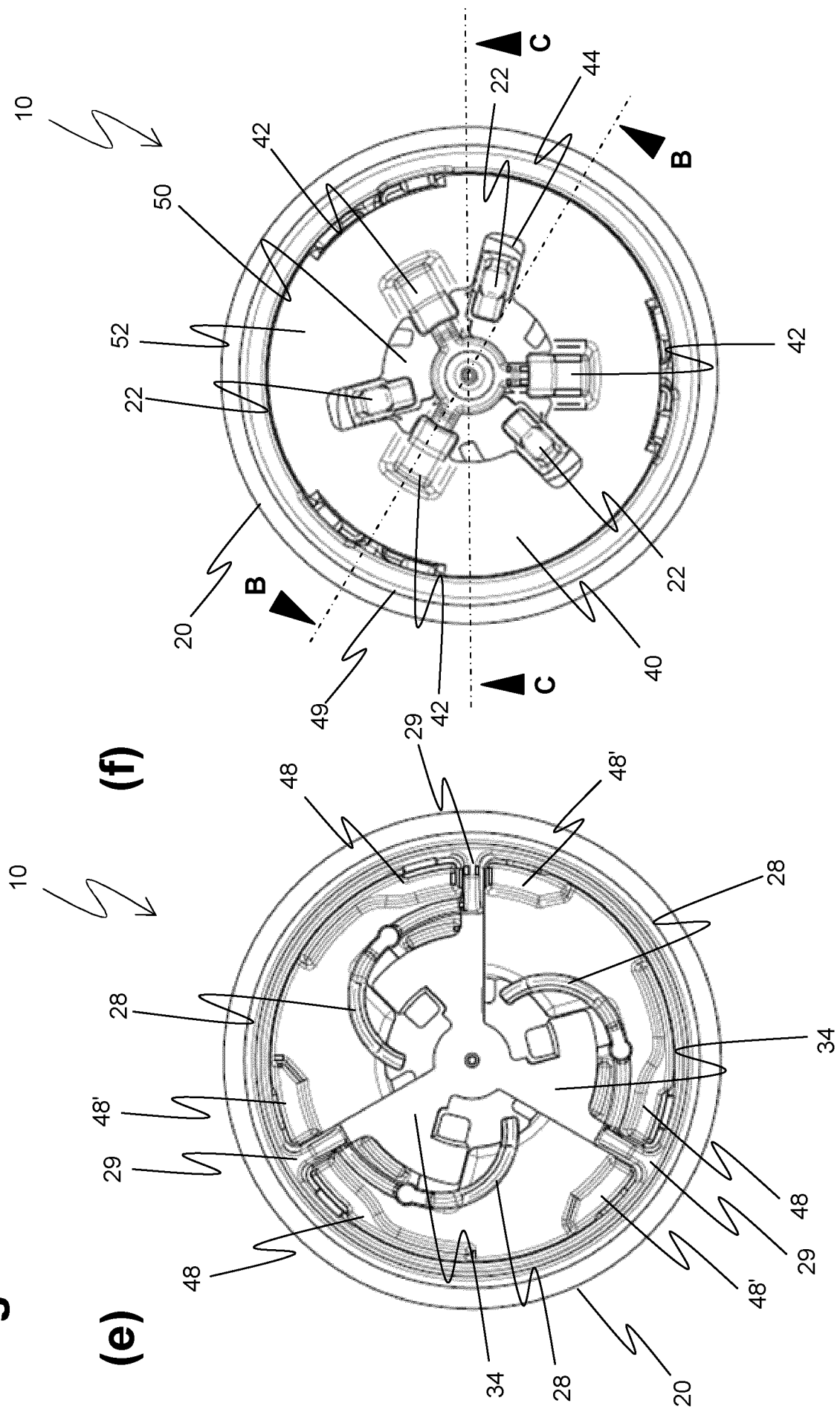


Fig. 4



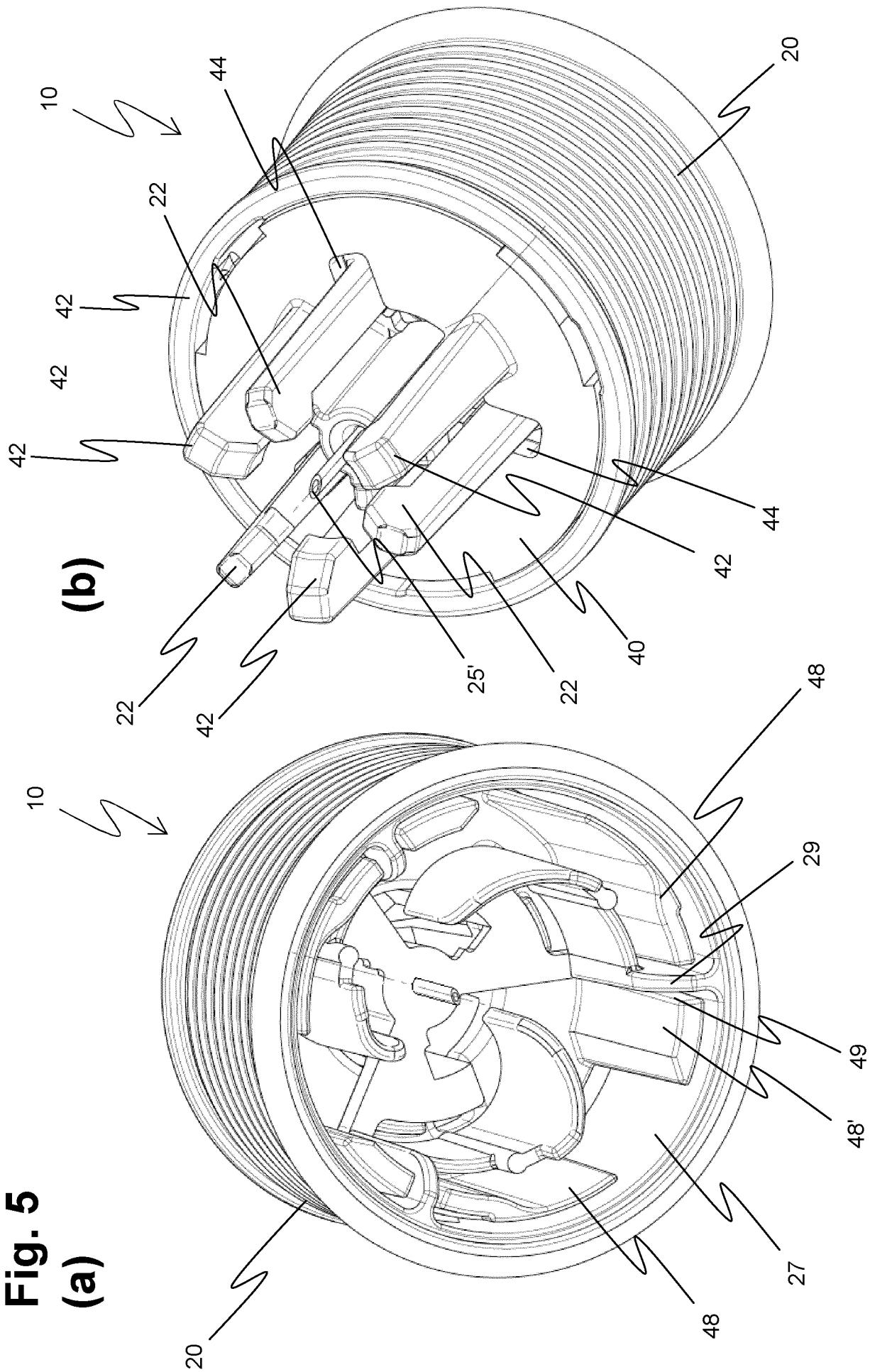


Fig. 5

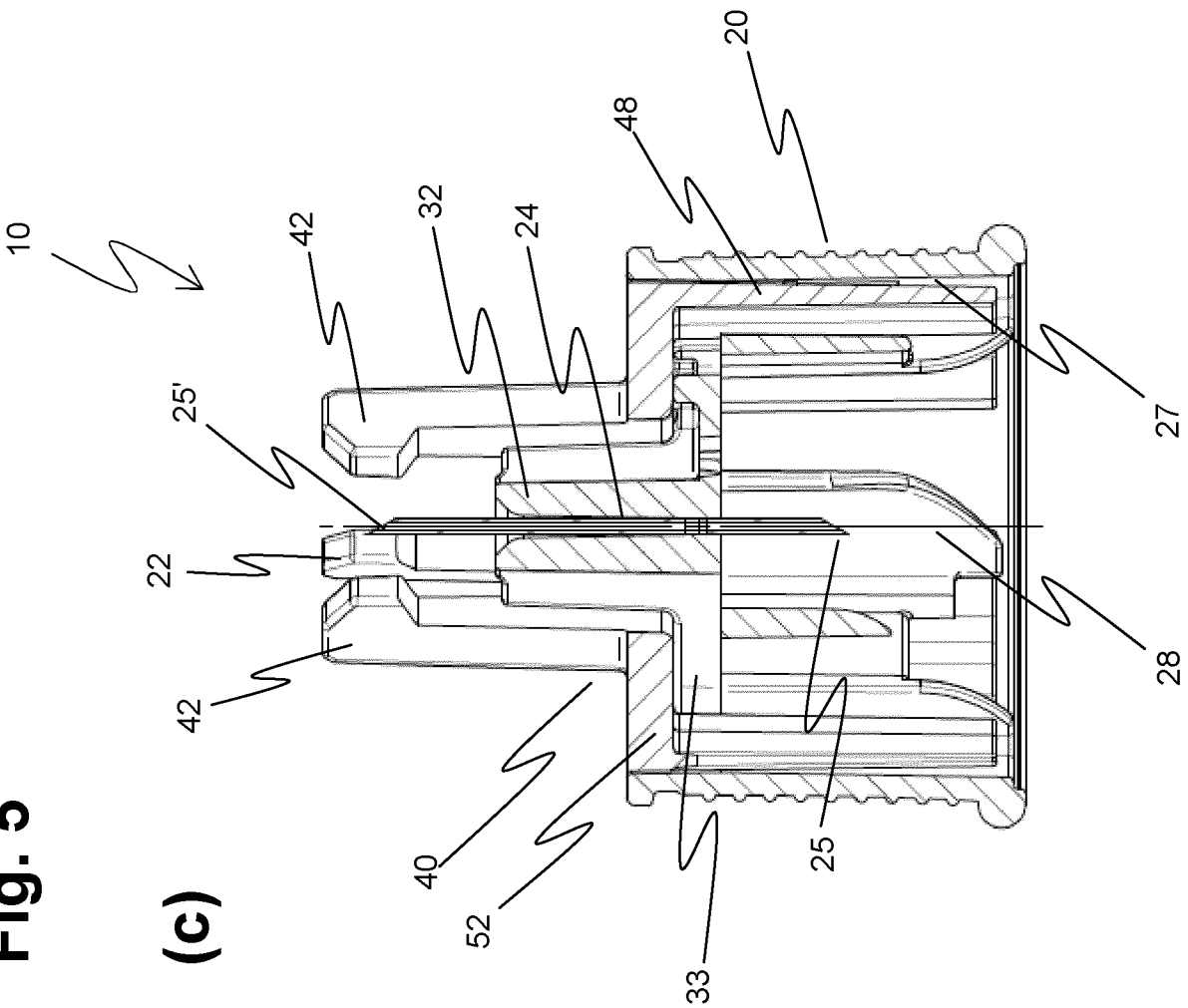
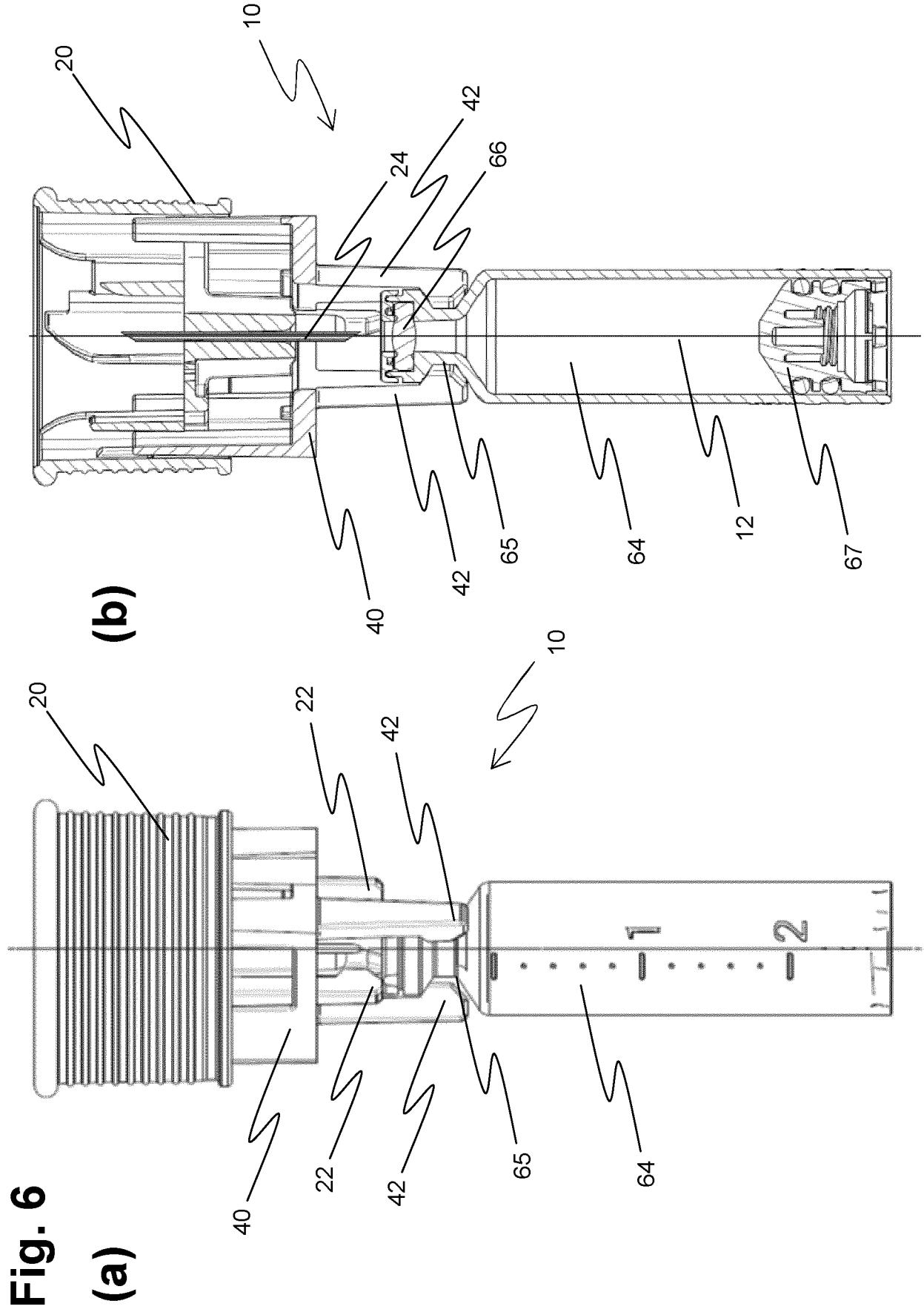
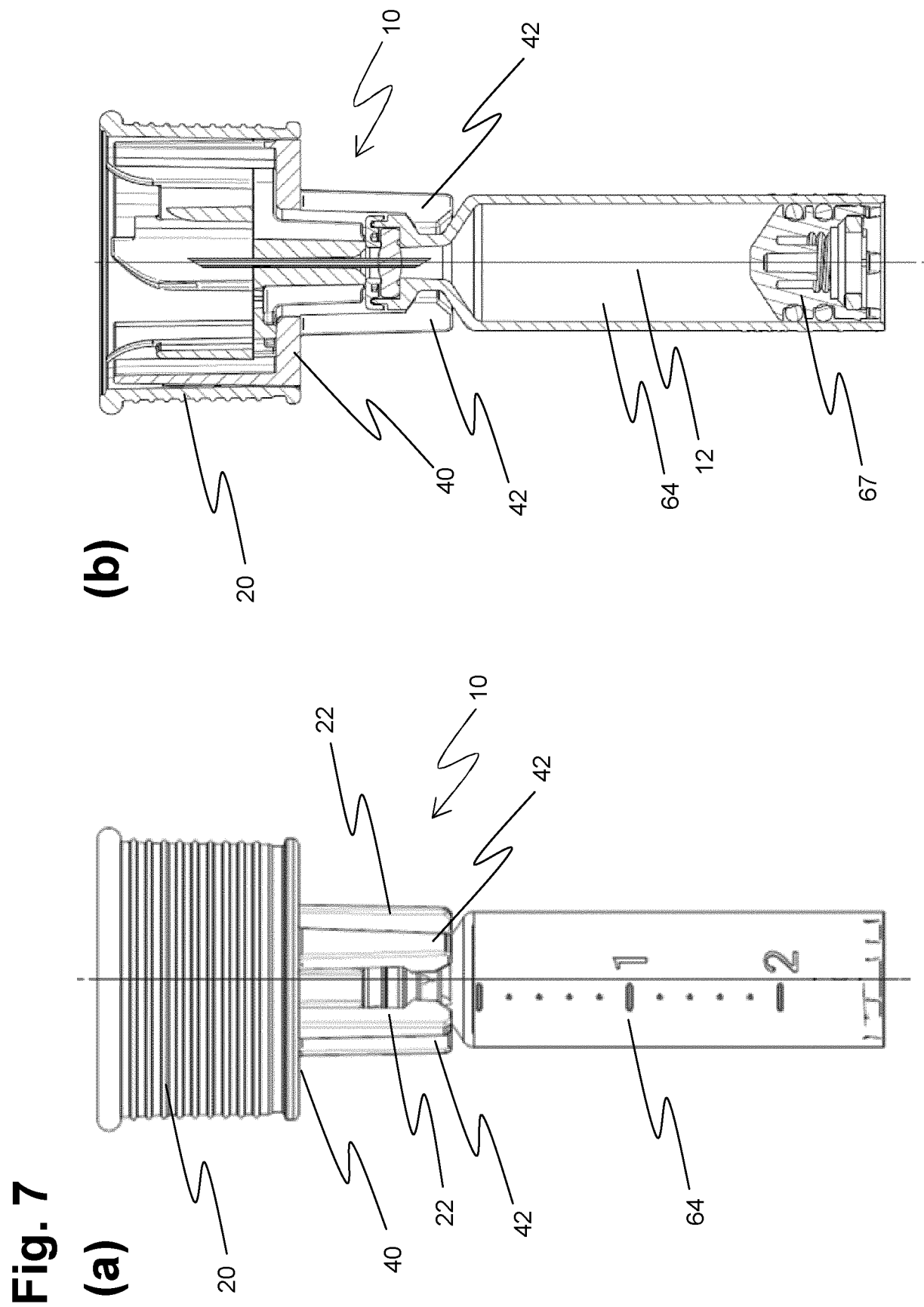


Fig. 6





INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/EP2012/053579

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. A61J1/20

ADD.

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)

A61J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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A	WO 03/070147 A2 (BIODOME [FR]; ANEAS ANTOINE [FR]) 28 August 2003 (2003-08-28) the whole document	1-15



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

31 May 2012

Date of mailing of the international search report

08/06/2012

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/EP2012/053579

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