

(19) **DANMARK**



Patent- og
Varemærkestyrelsen

(12)

Oversættelse af europæisk patentskrift

(10) **DK/EP 3245468 T3**

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- (51) Int.Cl.: *F 28 F 1/16 (2006.01)* *F 28 D 1/04 (2006.01)* *F 28 D 7/00 (2006.01)*
F 28 D 7/08 (2006.01) *F 28 D 7/12 (2006.01)* *F 28 F 1/20 (2006.01)*
F 28 F 1/30 (2006.01) *F 28 F 1/40 (2006.01)* *F 28 F 1/42 (2006.01)*
- (45) Oversættelsen bekendtgjort den: **2021-12-06**
- (80) Dato for Den Europæiske Patentmyndigheds
bekendtgørelse om meddelelse af patentet: **2021-09-08**
- (86) Europæisk ansøgning nr.: **16737606.0**
- (86) Europæisk indleveringsdag: **2016-01-15**
- (87) Den europæiske ansøgnings publiceringsdag: **2017-11-22**
- (86) International ansøgning nr.: **NO2016050005**
- (87) Internationalt publikationsnr.: **WO2016114673**
- (30) Prioritet: **2015-01-15 NO 20150073**
- (84) Designerede stater: **AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV
MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR**
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- (54) Benævnelse: **VARMEVEKSLER**
- (56) Fremdragne publikationer:
WO-A1-97/00786
CN-Y- 2 867 257
CN-Y- 201 184 767
DE-A1- 1 401 684
DE-A1- 2 615 168
GB-A- 637 235
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DESCRIPTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a heat exchanger for transferring heat between two flowing fluids with different temperature, according to claim 1.

TECHNICAL BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] In general, heat exchangers are devices that transfer thermal energy between two fluids without direct contact between the two fluids. A primary fluid is typically directed through a fluid core of the heat exchanger while a secondary cooling or heating fluid is brought into external contact with the fluid core. In this manner, thermal energy may be transferred between the primary and secondary fluids through the walls of the fluid core.

[0003] The ability of the heat exchanger to transfer thermal energy between the primary and secondary fluids depends on, amongst other things, the surface available for the heat transfer and the thermal properties of the exchanger materials.

[0004] A vast number of various types of heat exchangers exist in the field. One of these is disclosed in US 20090084520. This publication shows a heat exchanger comprising a plurality of hexagonal elongate elements, each of the elements having a central channel for a flow of a first fluid. Around the central channel, the elements comprise a metal foam, which can be of an open cell structure or a combination of an open cell structure and a closed cell structure. A second fluid flows through the metal foam.

[0005] A major disadvantage of this heat exchanger is that the metal foam provides a very high flow resistance to the flow of the second fluid.

[0006] Another heat exchanger is known from DE 1401684. This publication discloses a coolant for cooling of pulverulent or granular materials in fluidized bed with heat transferring members disposed in the coolant for cooling/heat the granulates. The heat transferring members are however spaced apart and do not provide an efficient transfer of heat throughout the heat exchanger. This document shows the features of the preamble.

[0007] Another known heat exchanger is GB 637235. This publication shows heat exchanger with heat exchanger elements that transfers heat between two fluids. The heat exchanger elements having ribs that extends radially outwardly from the core. Every second fin is divided into two ribs. The heat exchangers are put together so that the fins produce a honeycomb formation where a fluid can flow. The shape of the ribs and fins do not transfer the heat efficiently between the two fluids. The heat exchanger is equal and only shaped to fit a

juxtaposed heat exchanger element. The shape is not fitted to the outer casing surrounding the heat exchanger element. There is some empty space between the casing and ribs/fins of the heat exchanger element which results in uneven heating or cooling of the fluid. The honeycomb formation is also less efficient to transfer heat since there is a large space between the fins and ribs.

[0008] The publication CN201229141 shows a heat exchanger element with ribs that divides into two radially extending fins, but the ribs and fins in this publication are not extending continuously in parallel with the core along the whole length of the core, instead they are helically arranged around the core. This will reduce the flow of the fluid through the heat exchanger element and require more energy to transport the fluid through the heat exchanger. The ribs are also arranged with some space between the ribs which also do not increase the efficiency of the heating or cooling.

[0009] None of the publications disclose a heat exchanger element where the inlet port and outlet port are arranged at the same end of the core, which provides a better heat transmission between the fluids.

[0010] Other known heat exchangers are shown in DE2742877, BE673093, IT7848277, US3595310, US2729433, US20090107853, EP305702, AU7943132, GB1413913, US20140000845, WO201091178, JPS 52135452 and DE2615168. However, common to these is that the flow of one of the fluids is restricted by elements of the heat exchanger. These restrictions increase the need of energy (pressure) to ensure a sufficient flow of the fluid.

[0011] Heat sinks are used in electronic system to cool for instance central processing units or graphic processors by dissipating heat into the surrounding medium. Heat sinks having fins that extend from its base and increase the area of heat transfer. The base and fins are in direct contact with the heat source for cooling of the electrical unit.

[0012] The heat exchanger according to the invention are not equivalent and not suitable for use in heat sinks for cooling central processing unit or similar electrical units. The heat sinks are much smaller to fit in the electronic device than the heat exchanger according to the invention. In the heat exchanger according to the invention, the heat is transferred from a fluid to another fluid to be used as a heating or cooling of a surrounding gas or a liquid.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0013] Consequently, there is a need to provide a heat exchanger that ensures a high flow with a minimum of energy consumption to provide the flow. It is also a need to provide a heat exchanger where there is a minimum of loss of pressure difference with an increased flow rate.

[0014] Another advantage of the heat exchanger according to the invention is that the surface area of the heat-exchanging element is higher, which results in a more efficient heat transfer.

The ribs and fins of the heat exchanger element is adapted to fill the entire cross-sectional area of the heat exchanger so that there are no voids between the heat exchanger elements or the casing and the heat exchanger elements. The heat exchanger elements have a compact structure where the heat transferring area is as great as possible. The heat could thereby be transferred evenly from the first fluid to the second fluid throughout the whole heat exchanger.

[0015] A pipe with an inclined opening at the free end will provide better heat transfer to the inner surface of the core. The inclined surface results in a cavitation at the pipe outlet which will lead to turbulence in the fluid towards the inner surface of the core. The turbulence will result in better and more efficient heat transfer from the fluid to the core.

[0016] The fins and the ribs have substantially the same thickness in along the radial distance from the core. This provides a better and also more even heat transfer from the ribs/fins to the second fluid throughout the whole heat exchanger.

[0017] The material of the heat exchanger causes less incrustation. The exchanger elements are also easier to clean because it can be done by a high-pressure washer. A smooth surface of the ribs/fins is also advantageous in that the fluid can flow through the heat exchanger with a minimum of obstacles. The element could also be made by extrusion. This provides easier production of the elements.

[0018] The heat exchanger can be construed by one heat exchanger element or several heat exchanger elements assembled together. This makes the heat exchanger flexible in various use.

[0019] The heat exchanger could also have ribs arranged on the inner surface of the core. This provides a greater heat transfer surface to/from the fluid in the core to the surface of the core.

[0020] The objective of the invention is achieved by a heat exchanger for transferring heat between two flowing fluids with different temperatures. The heat exchanger comprises a first heat exchange element, said first heat exchange element having at least one core extending longitudinally through the heat exchange element, said at least one core defining a core cavity, said cavity being configured with an inlet port and an outlet port to receive a first fluid flowing there through, said heat exchange element having ribs extending continuously substantially in parallel with the at least one core along the whole length of said core, said ribs extending radially outwardly from the core and being exposed to contact with a second fluid, flowing along said ribs, said inlet port and said outlet port being coupled to said core cavity at the same end of the core cavity.

[0021] The heat exchanger is distinctive in that each said rib is divided into at least two radially extending fins, at a radial distance from the core, each said fin extends to a proximity of an outer casing surrounding said first heat exchanger element or to a proximity of fins of an

additional heat exchanger element, arranged adjacent to said first heat exchanger element.

[0022] Preferable embodiments of the heat exchanger are defined in the dependent claims, to which reference is made.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0023]

Figure 1 shows a principle drawing of one embodiment of a heat exchanger according to the invention.

Figure 2 shows in elevated view the main parts part of the heat exchanger shown in fig 1 shown in an exploded view.

Figure 3-Figure 4 shows the assembled heat exchange elements from the embodiment from fig 1, viewed from opposite end portions of the heat exchange element.

Figure 5-7 shows the heat exchange elements without the casing. Figure 6 and 7 are viewed from opposite end portions.

Figure 8-9 shows an elevated view of the heating element without pipes or tubes.

Figure 10 shows an elevated view of the heat exchange elements and the first plugs and fluid supply arrangement.

Figure 11 shows an elevated view of a first plug with inlet and outlet adapter and guiding pipe.

Figure 12 shows a cross section of the core of the heat exchange element with plugs arranged at both ends of the core and a threaded rod extending between the plug.

Figure 13 shows an elevated view of the external heat exchange elements and the centre heat exchange element.

Figure 14 shows a principle drawing of one single external heat exchange element.

Figure 15a and 15b shows a detailed view of different embodiments of the ribs and fins of the external heat exchange element from Figure 14.

Figure 16-17 shows a detailed view of different embodiments of the centre heat exchange element.

Figure 18 shows a detailed view of another embodiment of the centre heat exchange element with a separate inner core element with ribs.

Figures 19-20 shows different embodiments of inner core elements with ribs.

Figures 21-29 shows different possible constructions or assemblies of heat exchange elements

forming the heat exchanger.

Figures 30-31 shows different embodiments of the arrangement of the supply of fluid in the heat exchanger and between the heating or cooling elements.

Figures 32-34 shows detailed views of different embodiments of a heat exchanger which only have one centre heat exchange element and no surrounding external heat exchange elements according to the invention.

Figures 35-50 show different embodiments of the invention where the heat exchanger view in Figure 32-34 is arranged inside a duct for transferring heat between two fluids.

Figure 35-37 shows the embodiment with a centre exchange element not restricted by a cylindrical outer element attached to the centre exchange element, the centre heat elements as described in figure 16-18 may be used in this embodiment of the invention.

Figure 38-39 shows the centre heat exchange element with a cylindrical outer element fixedly connected to the centre heat exchanger. In figure 39 the heat exchange element form an integrated part of the outer cylinder. I

Figure 40-46 shows an embodiment of the present invention where the centre heat exchange element of Figure 38-39 is arranged in a duct.

Figures 47-50 show another embodiment of the heat exchanger where the heat exchanger comprising a centre heat exchanger element and a plurality of external heat exchange element. The heat exchanger is arranged inside a duct adapted to transfer heat between two fluids.

Figure 51 shows another use of the heat exchanger according to the invention where the heat exchanger is used to heat air that is led trough the heat exchanger by a fan.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0024] Figure 1 illustrates a heat exchanger 1. It facilitates transfer of thermal energy between two or more fluids. The fluids may include liquid, gasses or any combination of liquid and gases. For example, the fluids may include air, exhaust, oil, coolant, water or any other fluid known in the art. The heat exchanger may be used to transfer thermal energy in any fluid systems, such as for example, an exhaust and /or air-cooling system, a radiator system, an oil cooling system, a condenser system or any other type of fluid system known in the art.

[0025] Figure 2 shows a partially exploded, elevated view of the heat exchanger according to one embodiment of the invention. The heat exchanger 1 comprising a housing 3. This housing 3 is shown cylindrically shaped but it could also have other shapes, like a rectangular shape.

[0026] A heat exchanger 2 according to the embodiment of the invention is arranged within the housing 3. At both ends of the housing 3, there are arranged lattices 4, 5 to provide protection for the heat exchanger.

[0027] Figure 3 discloses the heat exchanger 2 according to the invention in greater detail. The heating element 2 comprises a plurality of heat exchange elements 10, 11. Each heat exchange element 10, 11 has a core defining a core cavity 20, 21 in the centre of each of the heat exchange elements 10, 11. The core cavity 20, 21 extends in the longitudinal direction of the heating element 2 with opening in both ends of the core cavity 20, 21. The ends are further defined as a first end 20a, 21a (see also figure 10) of the core and a second end 20b, 21b of the core cavity 20, 21. The cores 20, 21 are sealed with a first plug 22 in the first end 20a, 21a and a second plug 13 at a second end of each of the respective cores 20, 21. The cores 20, 21 are adapted to be filled with heating agent or alternatively a coolant depending on the purpose of the heat exchanger.

[0028] Figure 3 further shows a centre heat exchange element 10 defining the centre of the heat exchanger 2 and a plurality of external heat exchange element 11 located adjacent or in proximity of the centre heat exchange element 10.

[0029] At least one ring 15 is extending around the heat exchange elements to lock the heat exchange elements 10, 11 together. The ring 15 is best shown in Figures 5-9. In these figures, there are illustrated two rings 15 extending around the heat exchange elements at each end of the heating element 2.

[0030] There is also shown a casing 16 extending around the periphery of the heat exchange elements 11.

[0031] Figure 4 discloses the heating elements 2, viewed from the opposite side than Figure 3. There is a plurality of pipes or tubes 12a, 12b, 12c arranged between the cores 20, 21 in order to establish a fluid communication between the cores 20, 21. The pipe or tubes 12a, 12b, 12c could also be arranged so that the cores are coupled in parallel configuration instead of the serial configuration shown. This will be described later.

[0032] An inlet pipe or tube 12a forms the link between the supply source (not shown) of the heating fluid and the inlet of the first end 21a of the centre core cavity 21 in the centre heat exchange element 10. The free end of the pipe or tube 12a preferably has a male sleeve coupling 17a for quick and easy connection with the supply source. This connection is preferably drip-free.

[0033] The connection could be a quick release coupling both to the supply tube or supply pipe and to the discharge tube or discharge pipe.

[0034] There is another pipe or tube 12b extending between a first end 21a of the centre core cavity 21 and a first end 20a of the external core cavity 20. In addition, there are similar pipe or

tubes 12b extending between two lateral external cores 20 of the external heat exchange elements 11 as shown in Figure 4.

[0035] Different configurations for the connection between the heat exchange elements 10,11 are shown in Figures 25-31. It is also possible to make the heat exchanger 2 in one element with several core cavities 20, 21. This is described below.

[0036] The outlet pipe or tube 12c is in one end coupled to the first end 20a of an external core cavity 20 and the other end is adapted to be connected to a device for receiving the fluid flowing through the core cavity and which is to be heated or cooled.

[0037] The free ends of the outlet pipe or tubes are adapted to be connected to arrangements for supply of fluid and discharge of fluid from the core. For instance, the free ends of the outlet pipes of tubes 12a, 12c could be provided with quick release coupling for connecting with pipes or tubes attached to the supply/discharge arrangement. Other connection arrangement is also possible.

[0038] The inlet pipe 12a could optionally be arranged in connection with one of the external core cavities 20 and the outlet pipe 12c could optionally be arranged in connection with the centre core cavity 21. Different arrangements of the Inlet and outlet pipe or tube to any of the external core cavity 20 or to the centre core cavity 21 are possible embodiments of the invention. The figure 4 shows just one possible arrangement.

[0039] Another possible embodiment of the arrangement of the pipes 12a, 12c is that there is separate inlet pipes or tubes 12a and separate outlet pipes or tubes 12c to cores 20, 21 and that there is no fluid connection as pipe or tube 12b between the cores 20, 21. This is illustrated in Figure 31.

[0040] Figure 5, 6 and 7 shows the heating element 2 without the casing 16. The position of the rings 15 extending around the periphery of the external heat exchange elements 11 are shown in greater detail in this figure.

[0041] The heat exchanger is in Figure 5 and 6 viewed from the second, or front, side, i.e. the opposite side of the heating or cooling fluid inlet and outlet.

[0042] The core cavities 20, 21 are in this second end sealed with second plugs 13 and screws 14. The second plug 13 has packer element 13a (see figure 12) that provide a sealing closure between the core cavity 20, 21 and the plug 13.

[0043] In Figure 7 the heating element is viewed from the first end, i.e. the inlet and outlet side of the heating or cooling fluid.

[0044] Figure 8 shows an elevated view of the heating element 2 where the pipes or tubes 12a, 12b, 12c are removed.

[0045] Figure 9 and 10 shows the heating element without the pipe or tubes 12a, 12b, 12c. At the first ends of the core cavities 20, 21 there are arranged first plugs 22, each with a sealing packer element 23 (see figure 10 and 11). The first plug 22 has similar configuration as the second plug 13 and is arranged in each of the core cavities 20, 21 at the first end 20a and the second end 20b to provide a seal tight connection between the core surface 20c, 21c and the first plug 22 and the second plug 13.

[0046] The first plug 22 comprises two openings or holes 22a, 22b, hereinafter referred to as an inlet port 22a and an outlet port 22b. The openings or ports are extending through the first plug 22. The ports 22a, 22b are arranged next to each other. In connection with the respective ports 22a, 22b there is arranged an inlet adapter 24 and an outlet adapter 25 at the outside of the first plug 22. The inlet and outlet adapters 24, 25 connects the respective inlet pipe or tube 12a (Figure 4) and outlet pipe or tube 12c (Figure 4) together with the first plug 22 and consequently there is a fluid communication established between the pipe or tubes 12a, 12b, 12c and the core cavity 20, 21 through the ports 22a, 22b.

[0047] At the inside of one inlet port 22a, at the inside of the first plug 22, there is arranged a small pipe 26 which can be screwed into the inlet port 22a for instance in connection to the inlet adaptor 24 of the first plug 22. This pipe 26 is extending towards the second plug 13 at the inside of the core cavity 20, 21 in order to provide circulation of the heating fluid in the core cavity 20, 21. This will be described in further detail below. The first plug 22 and the components attached to the plug 22 is shown in greater detail, in elevated view in Figure 11 and 12.

[0048] A threaded rod 27 extends through the core cavity 20, 21 and is attached to the first plug 22 in a first end. A second end is extending through an opening or hole 13b in the second plug 13 (shown in Figure 12). A nut 50 and washer 51 (Figure 12) is arranged at the second end of the rod 27 to secure the second plug 13 to the core cavity 20, 21 via the rod 27. The threaded rod 27 is securing the first plug 22 and the second plug 13 (Figure 6, 12) together at both ends of the core 20a, 20b, 21a, 21b. This is shown in Figure 12.

[0049] Figure 13 shows an exploded elevated view of the external heat exchange element 11 and the centre heat exchange elements 10.

[0050] The centre heat exchange element 10 is in this embodiment surrounded by external heat exchange element 11 in a circle around the periphery of the centre heat exchange element 10. The surface of the external heat exchange element 11 has at the side facing the centre heat exchange element 10, a curved shape which is complementary to the shape of the outer surface of the centre heat exchange element 10.

[0051] Other embodiments of the invention could have other shapes as shown in the accompanying drawings, as seen particularly in Figure 25-26 where there is no centre heat exchange element 10. The outer periphery of the external heat exchange element 11 could

also have different shapes depending on the shape of the casing surrounding the external heat exchange element 11, such as in particular shown in Figures 21-29.

[0052] Figure 14 shows a principle drawing of a single external heat exchange element 11 with a core cavity 20 extending from a first 20a end to a second end 20b. The core cavity 20 is at the ends delimited by the first plug 22 and the second plug 13. The core cavity 20, 21 has a cylindrical shape, but other shapes are also possible, for instance cubical. This applies both for the centre heat exchange element 10 and the external heat exchange element 11.

[0053] The external heat exchange element 11 as well as the centre heat exchange element 10 comprises a plurality of longitudinal ribs 30. Each rib 30, 31 is extending substantially in parallel with the core cavity 20, 21 and radially outwardly from a surface defining the core cavity 20, 21.

[0054] Figure 15a and 15b shows different embodiments of the ribs 30 and fins 33, 34 of the external heat exchange element 11.

[0055] Figures 16-17 and Figure 38-39 shows detailed view of different embodiments of the centre heat exchange element 10.

[0056] The surface defining the core cavity 20, 21 is shown as a core surface 20c. The ribs 30, 31 are extending radially outwardly from the core surface 20c. The ribs 30 are preferably made of metal or with a smooth surface so as to provide low surface friction, enabling the heated or cooled fluid to pass through the heat exchange element with a minimum of resistance from the ribs 30.

[0057] At a radial distance from the core surface 20c the rib is preferably split into two or more fins 33 and 34 to increase the surface area and thus the area that can transfer heat. Figure 15 shows a first fin 33 and a second fin 34 that are extending substantially parallel to each other radially outwardly towards an adjacent or heat exchange element 10, 11 or an outer casing 11. The shape of the ribs 30, 31 and fins 33, 34, 35, 36 could be different in different configurations of the heat exchangers 2 and are also depending on the use of the heat exchanger 2, 100.

[0058] For instance, if the viscosity of fluid, flowing through the gaps between the ribs 30, 31, is high, it is more suitable to have a greater distance between the fins 33, 34, 35, 36 and/or the ribs 30, 31, than if the viscosity of the fluid is lower.

[0059] The ribs 30, 31 and fins 33, 34, 35, 36 are preferably extending along the whole length of the core surface 20c. The radial extent of the ribs 30, 31 and the fins 33, 34, 35, 36 could also be different in different configurations of the heat exchanger 2, 100 to match with the different configurations of the surrounding elements.

[0060] The ribs have preferably a thickness D of 0,5-1,5 mm but other thicknesses are also

possible embodiments of the invention.

[0061] The fins could have a thickness d of 0,5-1,5 mm but other thicknesses are also possible embodiments of the invention.

[0062] The ribs 30, 31 and fins 33, 34, 35, 36 are in the figure 15a equally disposed around the outer surface 20c of the core with a minimum space between the ribs 30, 31 and fins 33, 34, 35, 36.

[0063] The shape of each extending ribs 30, 31 and fins 33, 34, 35, 36 is arranged so that there is a minimum of gap between each of the heat exchanger elements 10, 11 or between the casing 16 and the heat exchanger element 10, 11 to provide a uniform transmission of heat between the fluids in the heat exchanger.

[0064] The fins 33, 34, 35, 36 could preferably have the same thickness d in the whole radial distance from the core surface 20c. The ribs 30, 31 could similarly have the same thickness in the radial distance from the core surface 20c. The ribs 30, 31 and the fins 33, 34, 35, 36 could have the same thickness or the thickness of the rib 30, 31 could be different from the fins 33, 34. The two fins 33, 34, 35, 36 extending from one rib 30, 31 could be arranged parallel in the radial direction from the core cavity as shown in the figure 15a. The two fins 33, 34 attached to one rib 30 having equal distance M in the radial distance from the core surface 20c. The fins of one rib are parallel.

[0065] The fins 33, 34, 35, 36 could also be arranged so that there is equal distance P between two neighboring fins 33, 34, 35, 36 which means that the two fins 33, 34, 35, 36 extending from one rib 30, 31 is arranged with an angular distance S which are the same between the fins of one rib. The two neighboring fins of two different ribs are therefore parallel. This is illustrated in Fig 15b.

[0066] Another possibility is that all the fins are disposed with the same angular distance between each of the fins (not shown).

[0067] The angular distance A between two ribs 30, 31 arranged on the surface of the core 20c could also be equal disposed around the whole surface of the core cavity 20, 21.

[0068] There could also be more than two fins 33, 34, 35, 36 extending from each rib 30, 31.

[0069] The centre heat exchange element 10 could have similar configuration with ribs 31 and fins 35, 36 as the external heat exchange element 11 described above. Figure 16-17 shows one embodiment of the ribs 31 and fins 35, 36 with similar shape as described in Fig 15a.

[0070] Each of the fins 33, 34, 35, 36 of the centre or the external heat exchanger element 10, 11 that are facing the casing 16 are extending to a proximity of the outer casing 16. The remaining fins 33, 34, 35, 36 are extending to a proximity of the fins 33, 34, 35, 36 of an

adjacent or nearby heat exchanger element 10, 11. Each of the fins has thus a shape so that there is a uniform distribution of fins throughout the whole heat exchanger and that there is no voids between the casing 16 and the different heat exchanger elements 10, 11 or between the juxtaposed heat exchanger elements 10, 11. This is illustrated in the figures 2-10 and Figure 21-30.

[0071] The inside surface of both the centre heat exchange element 10 and the external heat exchange element 11 could also have different embodiments.

[0072] In figure 16-20 there are shown examples with inner ribs 37 extending radially inwards from the inner core surface 20c' illustrated on a centre heat exchange element 10. The external heat exchange element 10 could as an option have ribs 37 of different shapes extending radially inwards from the inner core surface 20c' similar to the embodiments of the centre heat exchange elements 10 shown the Figure 16-18.

[0073] In a further embodiment of the invention, each of the inner ribs 37 could be split into two radially extending fins 38, 39 as shown in Figure 17.

[0074] The inner ribs 37 could optionally be arranged in a separate inner core element 40 that may be press fit into the centre heat exchange element 10 at the inside of the core surface 21c'. This is shown in Figure 18. This separate inner core 40 shown in Figure 19-20 could also be suitable for use in external heat exchange element 11.

[0075] Figures 19 and 20 show the inner core element 40 separated from the centre heat exchange element 10 with different configurations of the inner ribs 37.

[0076] The inner core surface 21c' of the centre heat exchange element 10 could also be smooth as shown in the external heat exchange element 11 as shown for instance in fig 15a and 15b, this being a possible embodiment of the invention.

[0077] The centre and external heat exchange elements 10, 11, and also the inner core element 40 can be extruded, so that the core surface 20c, 21c and ribs 30, 31 with fins 33, 34, 35, 36 are made in one piece and of one material. Suitable material for the heat exchange elements 10, 11 and inner core element 40 are materials with high thermal conductivity, such as metal, for instance aluminium or copper. Other metals that have good heat conductivity and are suitable for extruding, may also be used.

[0078] The heat exchanger could also be extruded in one piece with a plurality of cores to a shape as for instance as shown in Figure 21 or 22.

[0079] The plurality of ribs and fins are then extending between two cores and integrally arranged with the core surface at both ends of the ribs or fins.

[0080] The heat exchange elements 10, 11 could also possible be made from 3D printing of

the heat exchange elements 10, 11 or core element 40. The development of 3D printing is fast, and this may prove to be a feasible method in the near future, especially for producing smaller sized heat exchangers 2.

[0081] Figures 21-29 show different designs of the heat exchange elements 10, 11 and gives examples of different assembly configurations that are possible for the heat exchanger with several heat exchanger elements.

[0082] In Figure 21 the centre heat exchanger element is cylindrical and eight external heat exchange elements 11 are arranged in on the outside of the centre heat exchange element 10 forming a cylindrical ring surrounding the centre heat exchange element 10. This heating element has nine core cavities 20, 21 adapted for the supply of the heating agent or coolant.

[0083] In Figure 22 the centre heat exchange element 10 has a similar cylindrical shape, but there are only four external heat exchange elements 11 on the outside of the centre heat exchange element 10 surrounding the centre heat exchange element 10. The heating element 2 thus having five cores 20, 21 for supply of the heating agent or coolant. The fins extending radially outwardly from the core are also longer than in the embodiment described in Figure 22. The gap between the ribs 30 at their outer portions will therefore be larger.

[0084] Figure 23 shows yet another embodiment of the invention with different shape of the heat exchanger. This results in a different shape of the external heat exchange elements 11. In this embodiment, the heat exchanger has a cubic shape. The outer surfaces of the external heat exchange elements 11 are straight and perpendicular to each other. The centre heat exchange elements 10 is cylindrical, resulting in that the surface of the external heat exchange elements 11 is concave and has a corresponding curved shape as the outer surface of the centre heat exchange element 10.

[0085] Figure 24 shows yet another possible embodiment of the invention, where a plurality of the heat exchange elements shown in Figure 24 are assembled to form a heat exchanger with a plurality of centre heat exchange elements 10 and a plurality of external heat exchange elements 11.

[0086] Figures 25-26 show another embodiment of the invention where the heat exchanger is composed of four external heat exchanger elements 11. In this embodiment, there is no centre heat exchange element 10.

[0087] Figure 27 shows the same embodiment of the invention as shown in Figure 21 with tubes or pipes 12b arranged between the cores

[0088] In Figures 28 and 29 there is an additional layer of external exchange elements 111 arranged in a circle around the initial layer of external exchange elements 11.

[0089] The number of external heat exchange elements 11 is not limited to the embodiments

of the drawings. Other numbers of external heat exchange elements 11, 111 suitable for the invention is also possible.

[0090] Each of the heat exchange element 10, 11, 111 forming the heat exchanger in the figure 21-29 could be assembled by separate heat exchanger elements that are adjoining each other in a preferred shape so that the heat exchanger elements creates a heat exchanger where the ribs and fins are extending in the whole cross-sectional area of the heat exchanger and that there is no voids.

[0091] It is also possible within the invention to make a heat exchanger element 10 with a plurality of cores 20, 21 integrated in one heat exchange element, like for instance a shape similar to the shape in Figure 21.

[0092] Figures 26-30 also show a possible fluid communication between the different heat exchange elements 10, 11. There is shown a transfer of fluid from the core cavity 20, 21 of one heat exchange element 10, 11 to the core cavity 20, 21 of the adjacent heat exchange element 20, 21. The fluid is transferred through pipes or tubes 12b and openings 24 as shown in Figure 4 and 9-10.

[0093] The fluid could be supplied to the centre heat exchanger 10 and thereafter through all of the external heat exchangers 11, 111 before the fluid is discharged from the heat exchanger 2. The fluid could optionally be supplied to one of the external heat exchange elements 11, 111 and thereafter through all of the external exchanger element 11, 111 before it is discharged from the centre heat exchange element 10 or from one of the other external exchange elements if there are no centre exchange element 10 as in Figure 26.

[0094] Figure 31 shows another configuration of the supply of fluid to and the return of fluid from the heat exchanger 2. In this Figure, there is no pipes or tubes 12b, i.e. no fluid connection, between the cores cavities 20, 21 of the heat exchange elements 10, 11. The heat exchange elements 10, 11 have each a supply of fluid from a separate supply tube or pipe 12a and a separate outlet pipe or tube 12c for the return of fluid from the core cavity 20, 21. The supply pipes 12a and the outlet pipes 12c are coupled to a common delivery and return pipe through a respective manifold. Consequently, the fluid systems are arranged in parallel.

[0095] Another arrangement of the supply and distribution of the fluid between the cores 20, 21 could be that the inlet and outlet ports 24, 25 are arranged at opposite ends. This means that the supply tube or pipe 12a, outlet tube or pipe 12c and the pipes or tubes 12b between the heat exchange elements are arranged at both ends of the heat exchanger elements 10, 11.

[0096] Figures 32-34 show yet another embodiment of the invention. In this embodiment, the structure of the heat exchanger 100 is similar to the centre heat exchange element 10 as described in in previous drawings. The core cavity 21 has plugs 13, 22 arranged at both ends, the first plug 22 has openings with an inlet port 24 and an outlet 25, adapted to let the heating

medium or coolant flow into and out of the core cavity 21. A threaded rod 27 is attached at both ends to the first plug 22 and second plug 13 to secure the plugs 13, 24 at the core ends 21a, 21b, preferably along a centre axis of the core cavity 20, 21. The figures also show the pipe 26 extending from the inlet port 22a towards the second plug 13 to provide circulation of fluid along the full length of the core cavity 21. The pipe 26 has a free end arranged at the proximity or a suitable distance from the second plug 13. This second end 26a has an inclined opening as shown in the figure 34. The inclined opening is preferably oriented towards the inner core surface 20c' but could as an option have other orientations.

[0097] The pipe 26 is arranged offset of the centre axis of the core cavity 20. This arrangement of the pipe 26 gives a better heat transfer through the core cavity 21 because the pipe outlet shape creates cavitation at the end which results in a turbulence in the fluid towards the inner surface of the inner core surface 21c'. This will result in a better heat transfer.

[0098] The principle is shown in relation to the centre heat exchange element, but the arrangement with an inclined end pipe 26a is also possible in the external heat exchanger 11 (not shown).

[0099] The heat exchange element 100 has also ribs 31 and fins 35, 36 extending radially outwardly from the core cavity 21.

[0100] In Figure 33 there is also shown an embodiment with the inner ribs 37 as described in figure 16-18 but the heat exchanger element 100 could also function without the inner ribs 37.

[0101] Figures 33 and 34 show both ribs 37 that are attached to the inner core surface 20c and separate inner core element 40 that is arranged at the inside of the core.

[0102] Figures 35-51 show different use of heat exchange according to the invention.

[0103] Figures 35-37 shows an embodiment of the heat exchanger where the heat exchanger 100, as described in Fig 33-34, is arranged within a duct 41. The heating medium or coolant is supplied and discharged via pipelines 12a, 12c connected to couplings that extends through openings in the walls of the duct 41. This arrangement is particularly suitable for heat exchanging liquid, such as cooling of oil. The duct 41 is liquid tight and the liquid to be heated or cooled down flows through the duct 41 in the longitudinal direction thereof.

[0104] Figure 38-39 shows another embodiment of a centre heat exchange element 10'. In this embodiment there is a cylinder 50 attached on the outside of the centre heat exchange element 10'. The ribs 31 with fins 35, 36 are extending from the inner core to the outer cylinder 50. This is different from the embodiment of the heat exchange element 10 from Figure 16-18 where the centre heat exchange element 10 do not have this outer cylinder 50.

[0105] The centre heat exchange element 10' could have inner ribs 37 extending radially inwards from the core surface 21c as shown in Figure 39 or a smooth inner surface as shown

in Figure 38. The inner ribs 37 will increase the inner surface area of the core 21c and hence increase the heat transfer. This embodiment is particularly suitable for use as a terrestrial heat exchanger.

[0106] Figures 40- 46 shows a heat exchanger using the centre heat exchange elements 10' from Figure 38-39. The centre heat exchange element 10' with the outer cylindrical plate 50 cylindrical part forms a cylindrical part that could in both ends be connected to pipelines 102 by for instance a pipe fitting 101. This differs from the embodiment of Figure 36-38 where the centre heat exchange element 10 is arranged within the duct 41 and not forming part of the outer surface of the pipeline. The centre heat exchange element 10' do not have an additional outer cylinder fixedly attached to the fins 35, 36, the outer cylinder forms part of the heat exchanger 10.

[0107] Figures 42-43 show the second plug 13 and a cap 14 in greater detail. The second plug 13 has arrangement for bleeding or aeration of the core cavity 20, 21. The core cavity 20, 21 is normally filled with a heating agent or coolant but there could also be air bubbles together with the coolant or heating agent in the core cavity 20, 21.

[0108] These bubbles could be removed from the core cavity 20, 21 through a clearance between an opening 13b in the second plug 13 and the threaded rod 27 that extends through the opening in the second plug as shown in Figure 42-43. To release the air, it is possible to loosen the cap 14 that is screwed onto the threaded rod 27. This is shown in detail in Figure 12.

[0109] The heat exchanger 100 could be secured to the pipe fittings 101 in different ways as shown in Figures 45-46. In Figure 46 the first plug 22 and second plug 13 are arranged in mountings 42 that are fixed to the inner walls of the fittings 101.

[0110] Figures 47-51 show another embodiment of the heat exchanger according to the invention, which is arranged within a duct 43. In this embodiment, the heat exchanger 2 comprises a centre heat exchange element 10 and a plurality of external heat exchange element 11 as described in figure 3-10. This arrangement is also suitable for heat exchanging liquids but could also heat or cool air.

[0111] In yet another embodiment of the heat exchanger according to the invention, there is arranged an electrical heating coil within the core of the heat exchange element 10, 11 to heat the fluid in the core 20, 21 instead of supplying warm fluid externally through pipes or tubes 12a, 12b, 12c as shown in the previous drawings. This is particularly useful in smaller scale as a heating element or where there is not possible to heat the fluid by an external heating source. This could be applied in system for heating gases or system for heating liquid as described in the embodiments above.

[0112] Figure 51 shows another example of use of the heat exchanger. The heat exchanger is in this embodiment arranged in connection with a fan or other type of blower 30 for blowing air

through the heat exchanger, and hence blowing heated air into e.g. a building. This illustrates just an example of the use. There are other possibilities of use, being embodiments of the invention

[0113] Based on the accompanying drawing and the description of the different parts, a functional explanation of the invention is described hereinafter.

[0114] A heating agent or coolant is supplied to the core 20, 21 from the supply source to the core 20, 21. The heating agent or coolant is supplied via the inlet pipe or tube 12a, through the inlet opening 22a of the first plug 22 and through the pipe 26 so that the heating agent or coolant is led to the opposite end of the core 20, 21, i.e. towards the second plug 13 (as shown in different figures for instance Fig 42). The heating agent or coolant that enters the core 20, 21 will push the heating agent or the coolant already present in the core 20, 21 towards the outlet opening 22b and it will flow out of the core 20, 21 towards another core 20, 21 or through the outlet pipe of tube 12c.

[0115] Optionally the heating agent or coolant could be warmed or cooled by a heating coil or cooling arrangement arranged within the core 20, 21.

[0116] The heating agent or coolant could be either a gas or a liquid. The inside of the core 20, 21 preferably have smooth walls to reduce friction.

[0117] In an optional embodiment inner ribs 37 are formed on the inside of the core surface 20c or a removable inner core element 40. This can be done for instance by milling. The ribs 37 increase the surface area and thereby transmission of heat from the heating fluid.

[0118] A fluid to be heated or cooled is conducted lengthwise of the ribs 30 through the heat exchange elements 10, 11 from a first or second end of the heating element towards the opposite end of the heating element 2, 100.

[0119] The fluid is heated or cooled by the transmission of energy through the surface of the core 20c, the ribs and the fins.

[0120] There is described both a transmission of heat from a heating fluid in the core to a heated fluid throughout the description as well as a cooling process where a coolant is supplied to the core and a fluid to be heated is conducted along the ribs.

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

Cited references

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Patentkrav

1. En varmeveksler til at overføre varme mellem to strømmende fluider med forskellig temperatur, nævnte varmeveksler omfatter et første varmevekslerelement (10, 11), nævnte første varmevekslerelement (10, 11) har mindst én kerne (20, 21) der strækker sig på langs gennem varmevekslerelementet, nævnte mindst ene kerne definerer et kernehulrum (20, 21), nævnte hulrum (20, 21) er konfigureret med en indløbsport (22a) og en udløbsport (22b) til at modtage en første fluid som strømmer derigennem, nævnte varmevekslerelement (10, 11) har ribber (30) der strækker sig kontinuerligt væsentligt parallelt med den mindst ene kerne (20, 21) langs hele længden af kernen (20, 21), nævnte ribber (30) strækker sig radiale udad fra kernen (20, 21) og er udsat for kontakt med et andet fluid, der strømmer langs nævnte ribber (30), nævnte indløbsport (22a) og nævnte udløbsport (22b) er koblet til nævnte kernehulrum (20, 21) i samme ende af kernehulrummet (20a, 21a),
- kendetegnet ved**, at hver førnævnte ribbe (30, 31) er opdelt i mindst to radiale forløbende finner (33, 34, 35, 36) i en radial afstand fra kernen (20, 21), hver nævnte finne (33, 34, 35, 36) strækker sig til en nærhed af et ydre hylster (16) der omgiver nævnte første varmevekslerelement (10, 11) eller til en nærhed af finner (33, 34, 35, 36) af et yderligere varmevekslerelement (10, 11) anbragt ved siden af nævnte første varme vekslererlement (10, 11).
2. Varmeveksleren ifølge krav 1, hvor kernen (20, 21) yderligere omfatter et rør (26) der strækker sig fra nævnte indløbsport (22a) mod den modsatte ende af kernen (20, 21), røret (26) har en fri ende med en skrå åbning.
3. Varmeveksleren ifølge krav 2, hvor røret (26) er anbragt forskudt fra kernehulrummets (20, 21) langsgående centerakse.
4. Varmeveksleren ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-3, hvor hver ribbe (30, 31) har den samme tykkelse over hele den radiale længde af ribberne (30, 31).
5. Varmeveksleren ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-4, hvor hver finne (33, 34, 35, 36) har den samme tykkelse over hele den radiale længde af finnerne (33, 34, 35, 36).

- 6.** Varmeveksleren ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-5, hvor vinkelafstanden mellem to sidestående ribber (30, 31) er den samme gennem hele varmeveksler-elementet (10, 11).
- 5 **7.** Varmeveksleren ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-6, hvor hver finne (33, 34, 35, 36) der strækker sig fra den samme ribbe (30, 31) er parallelle.
- 10 **8.** Varmeveksleren ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-7, hvor vinkelafstanden mellem to sidestående finner (33, 34, 35, 36) er den samme gennem hele varmevekslerelementet (10, 11).
- 15 **9.** Varmeveksleren ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-8, hvor varmeveksler-elementet (10, 11) er fremstillet ved ekstrudering.
- 20 **10.** Varmeveksleren ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-9, hvor ribberne (30, 31) har en glat overflade.
- 25 **11.** Varmeveksleren ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-10, hvor varmeveksleren omfatter et centralt varmevekslerelement (10) og ydre varmevekslerelementer (11), nævnte ydre varmevekslerelementer (11) er anbragt omkring den ydre periferi af centerelementet (10).
- 30 **12.** Varmeveksleren ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 1-11, hvor varmeveksleren omfatter et varmevekslerelement (10, 11) anbragt inden i et hylser (16).
- 35 **13.** Varmeveksleren ifølge et hvilket som helst af de foregående krav, hvor den mindst ene kerneflade (20c', 21c'), på en indre overflade der vender mod nævnte hulrum er forsynet med ribber (37) der strækker sig i længderetningen og radialt med kernehulrummet.
- 14.** Varmeveksleren ifølge et hvilket som helst af de foregående krav, hvor den første fluid modtaget af det mindst ene kernehulrum (20, 21), opvarmes af en ydre varmekilde.
- 15.** Varmeveksleren ifølge et hvilket som helst af de foregående krav 1-13, hvor en varmespiral er anbragt inden i det mindst ene kernehulrum (20, 21) for at opvarme det første fluid mens nævnte første fluid strømmer inden i det mindst ene kernehulrum (20, 21).

DRAWINGS

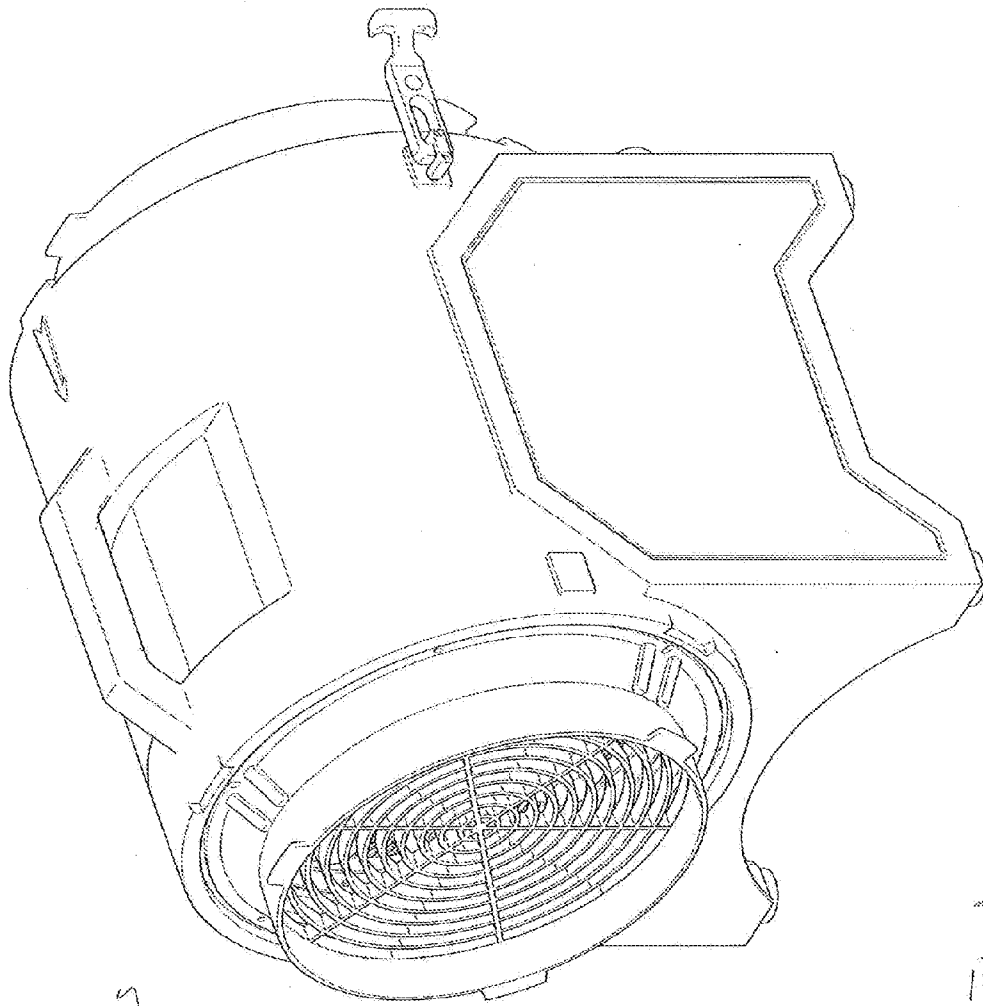
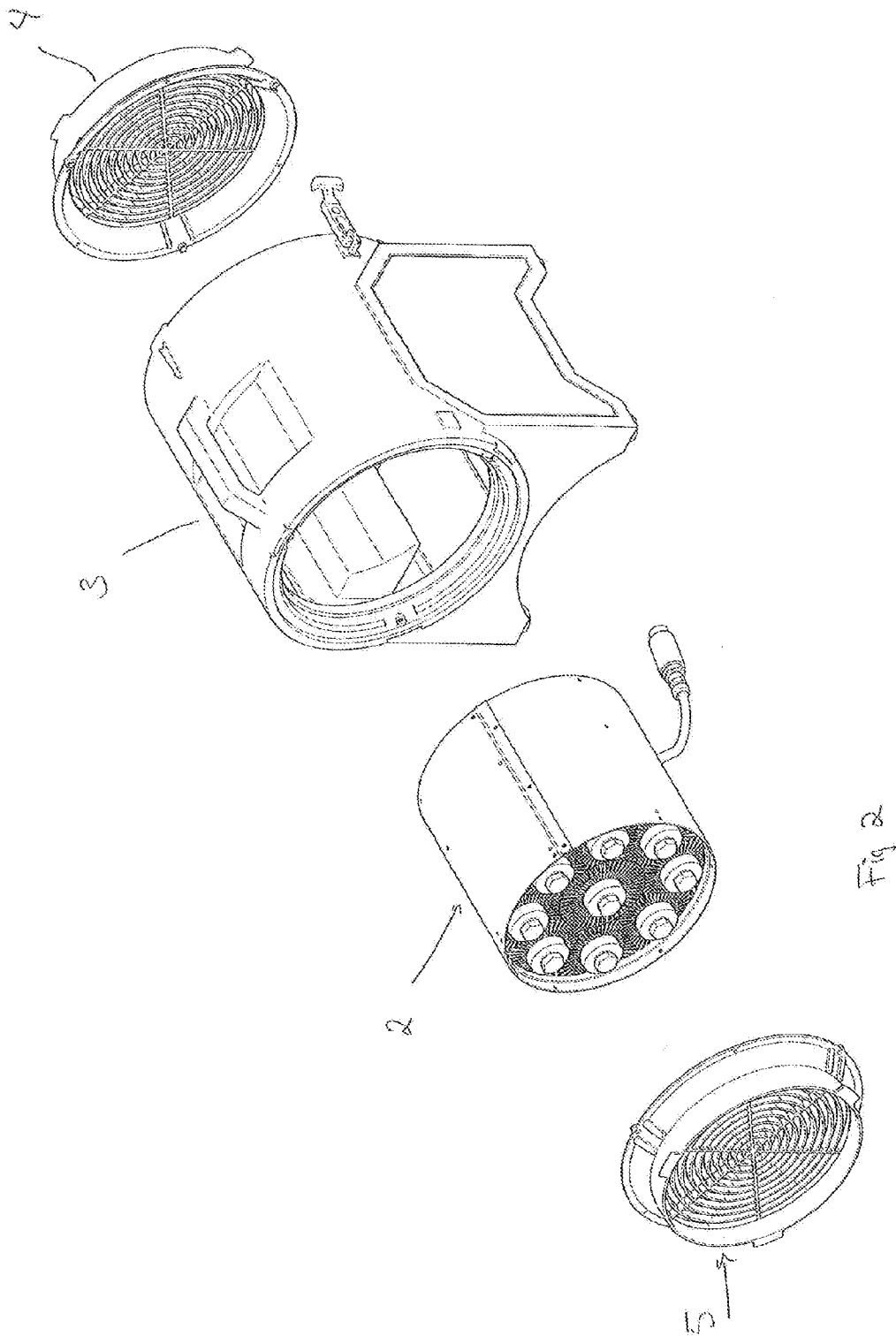


Fig. 1



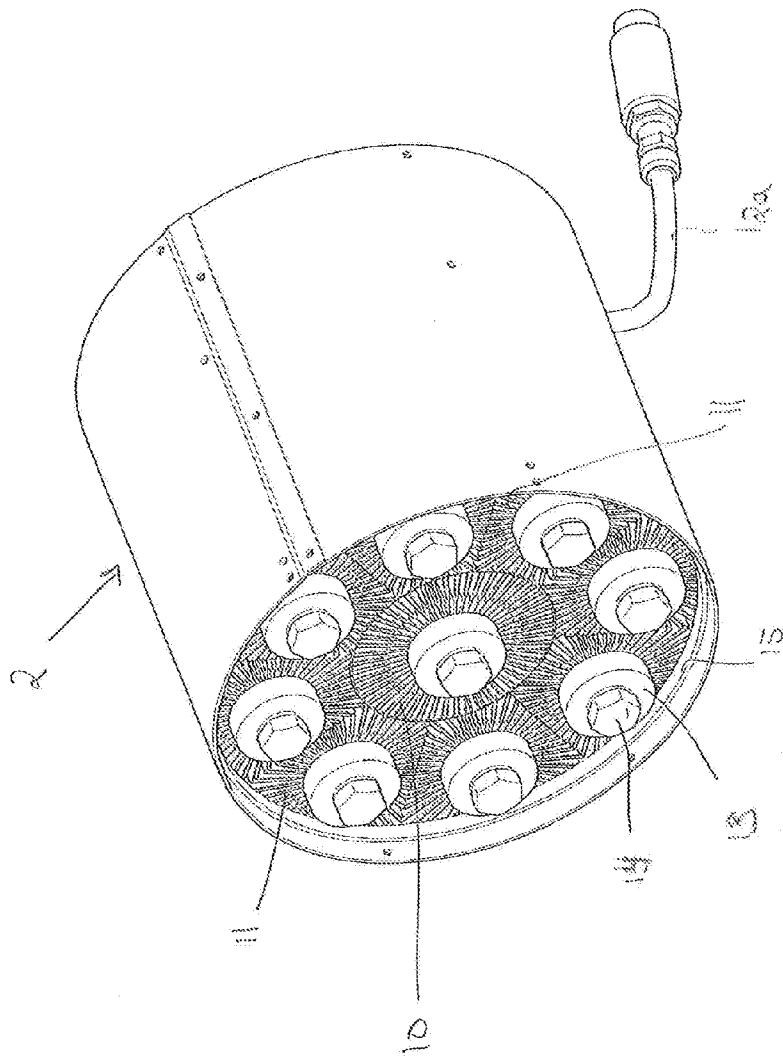


Fig 3.

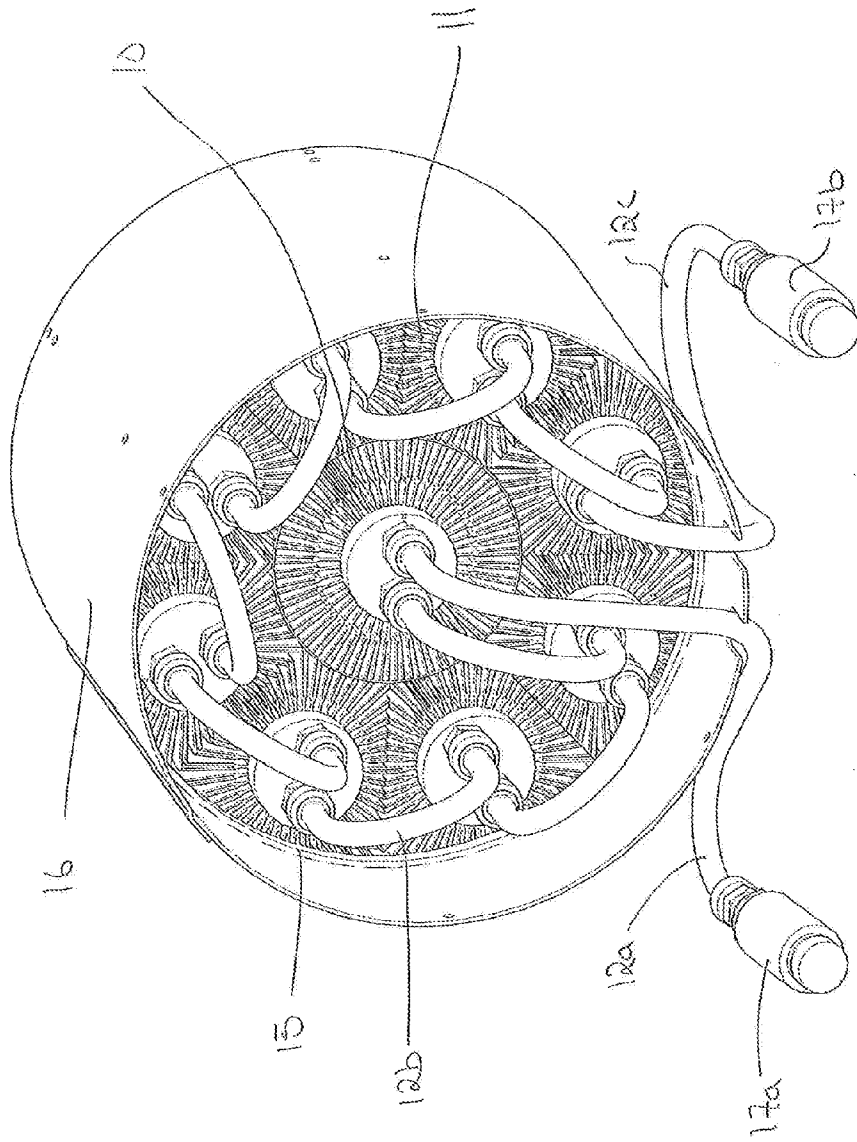


Fig 4

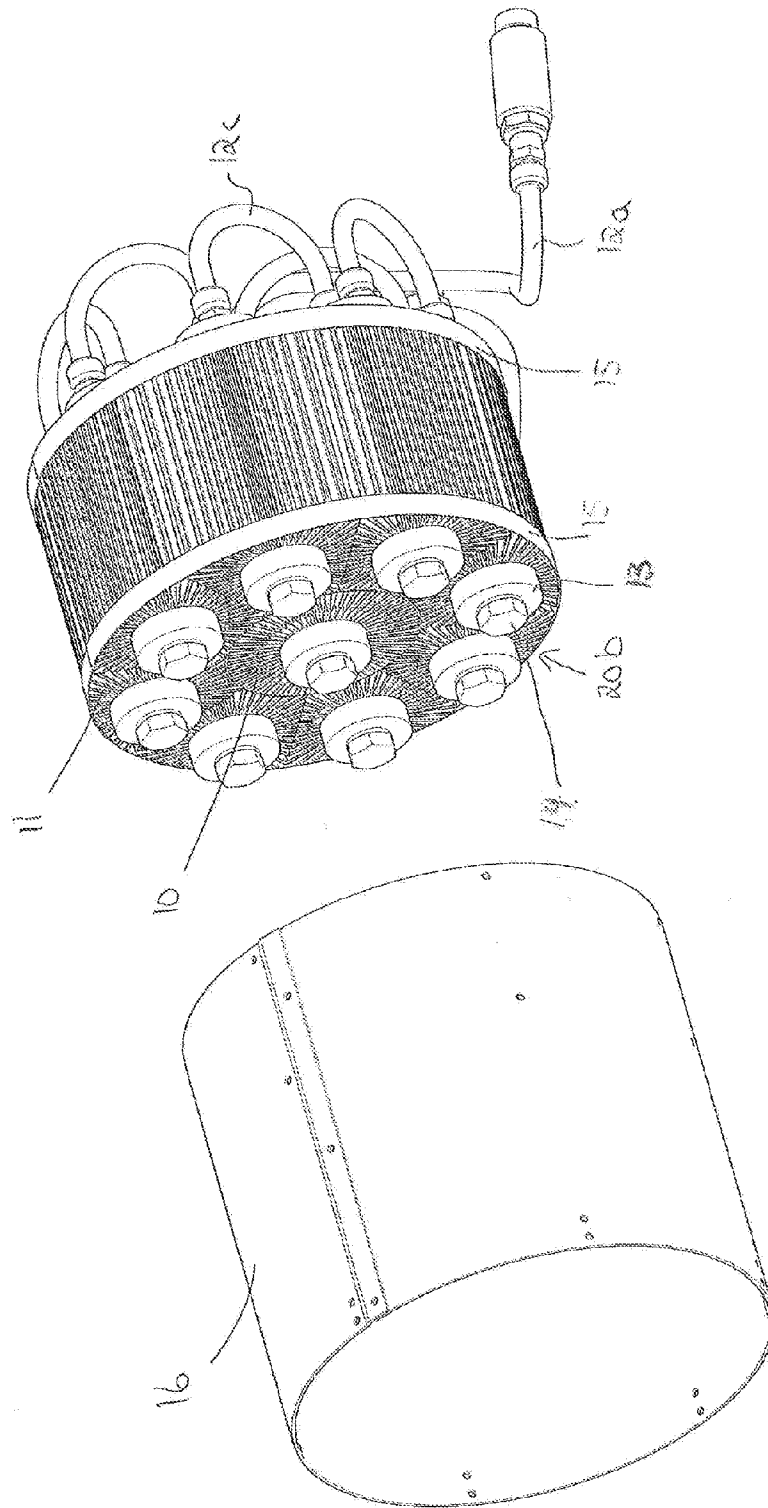
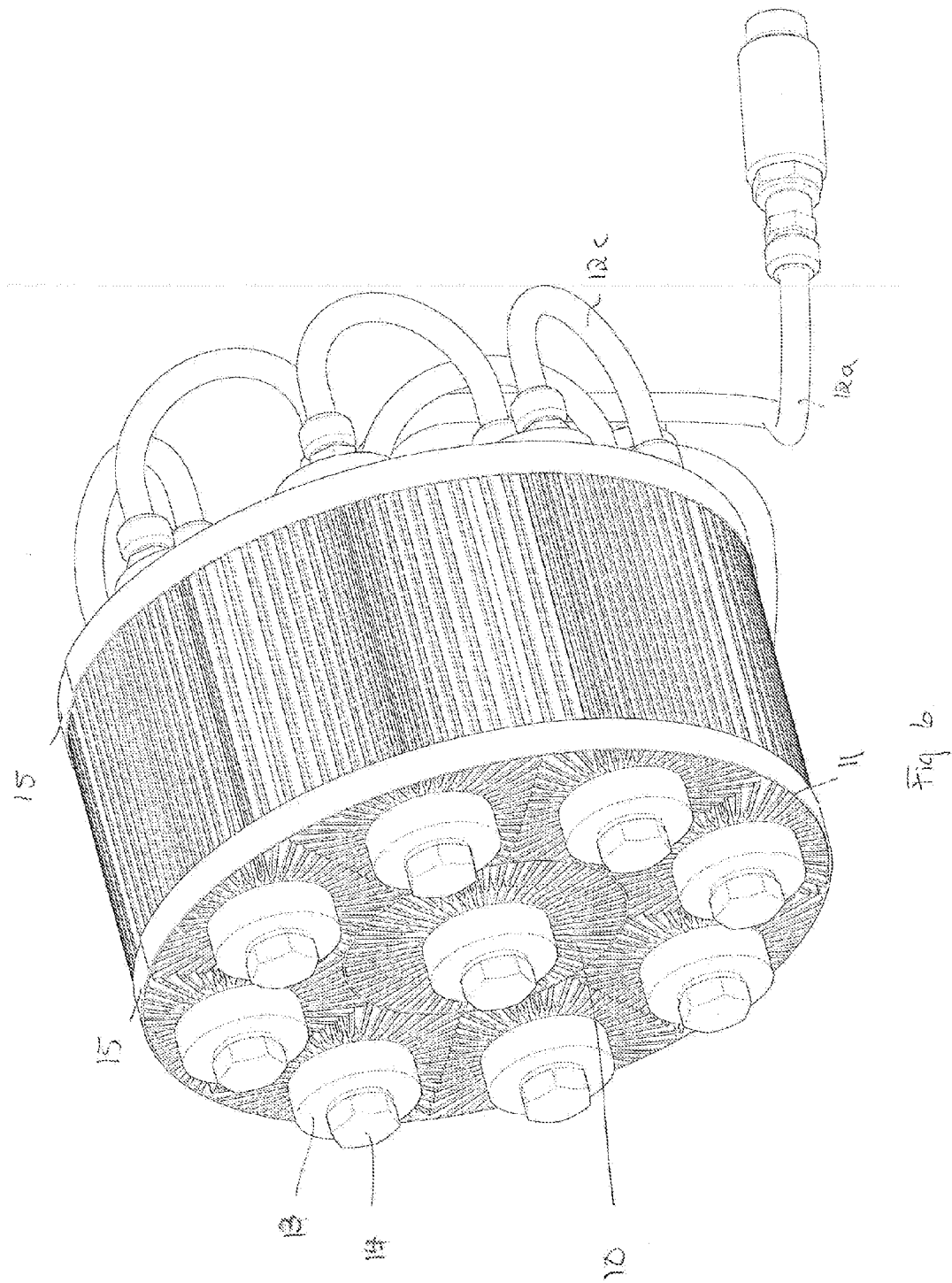
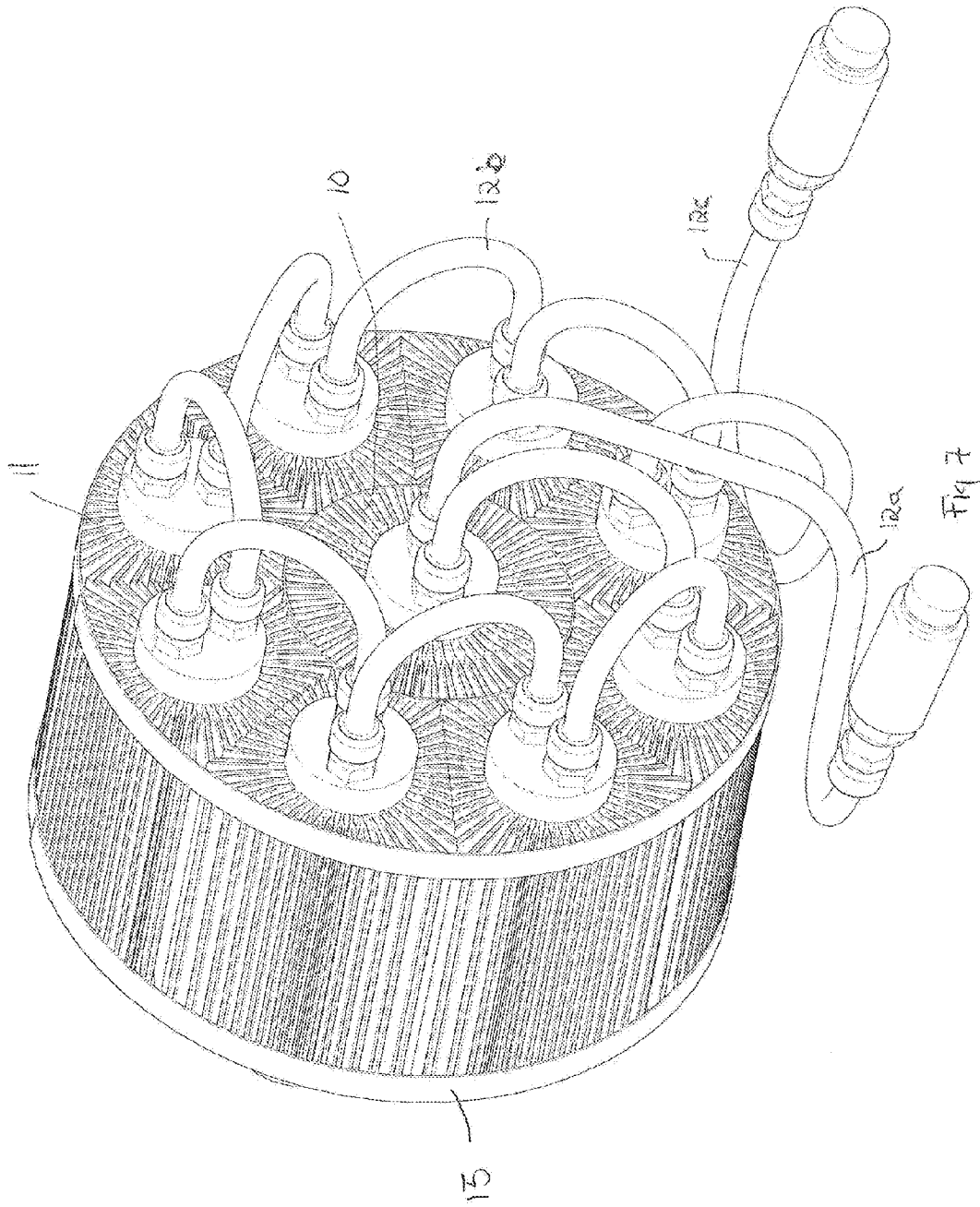


Fig 5





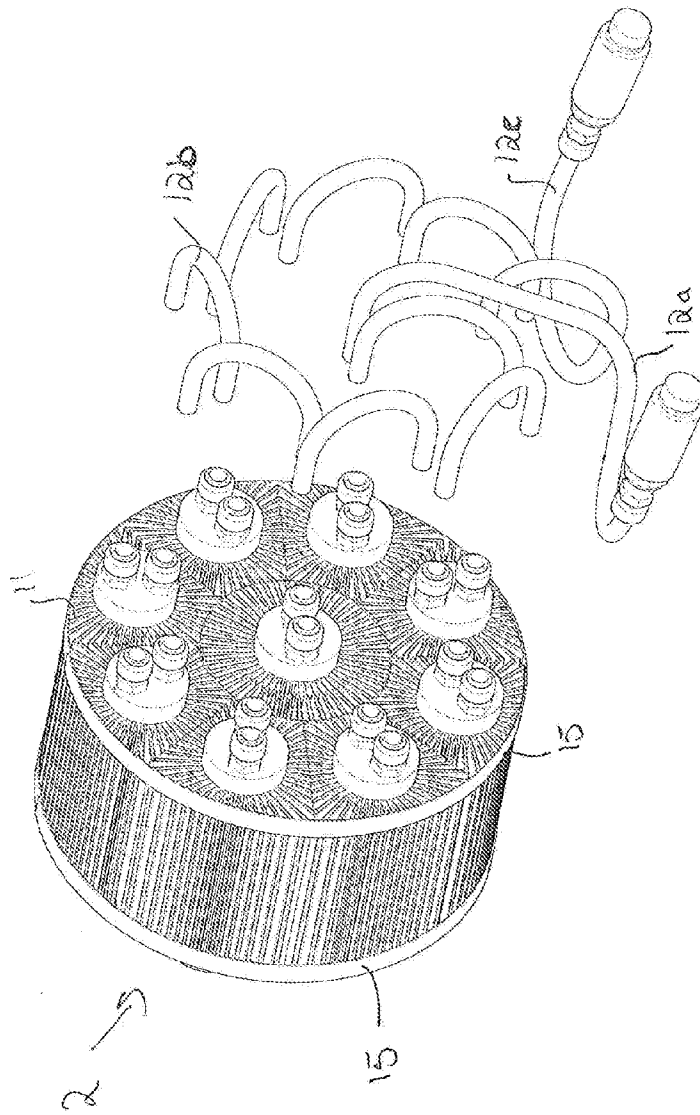
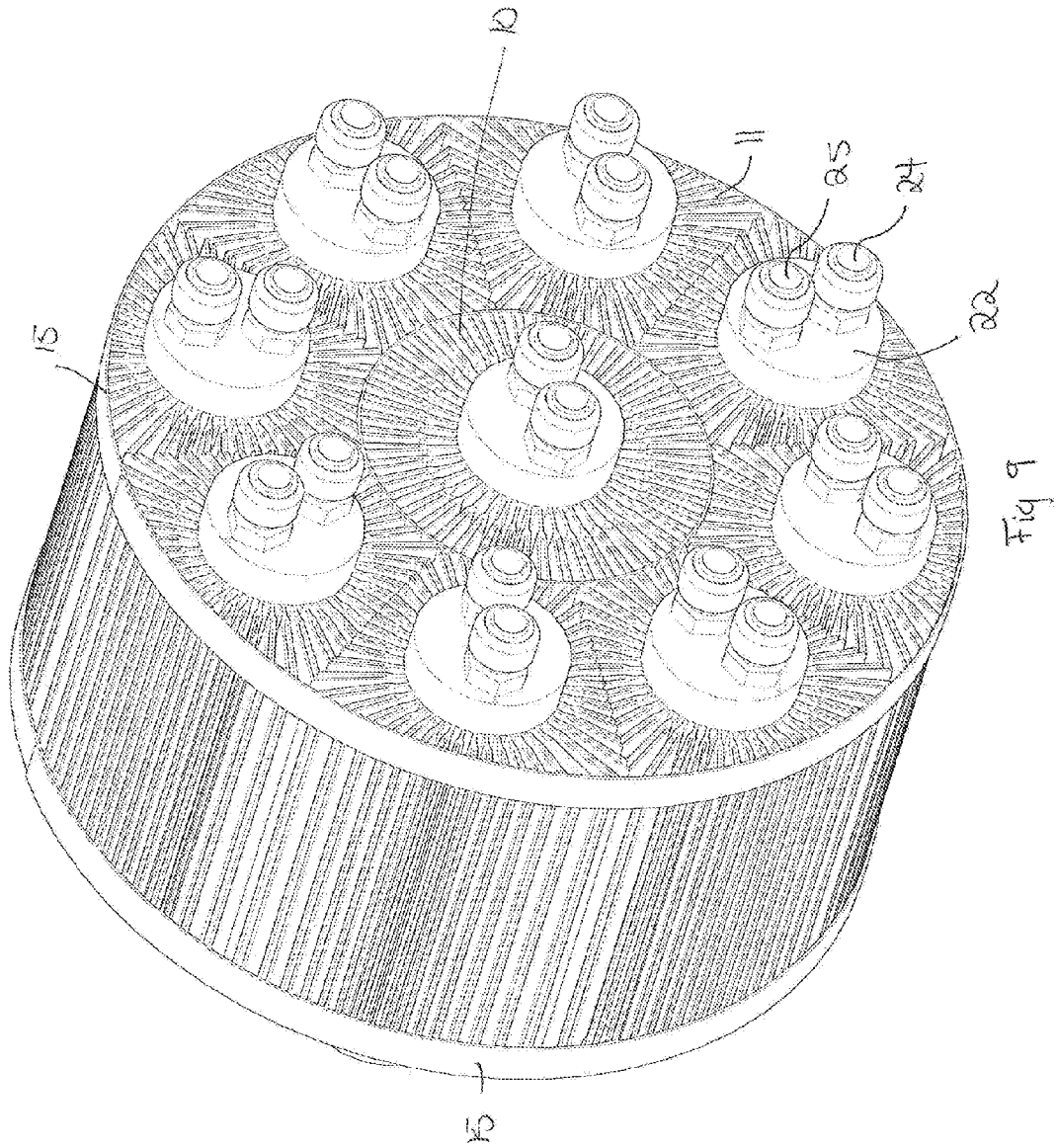
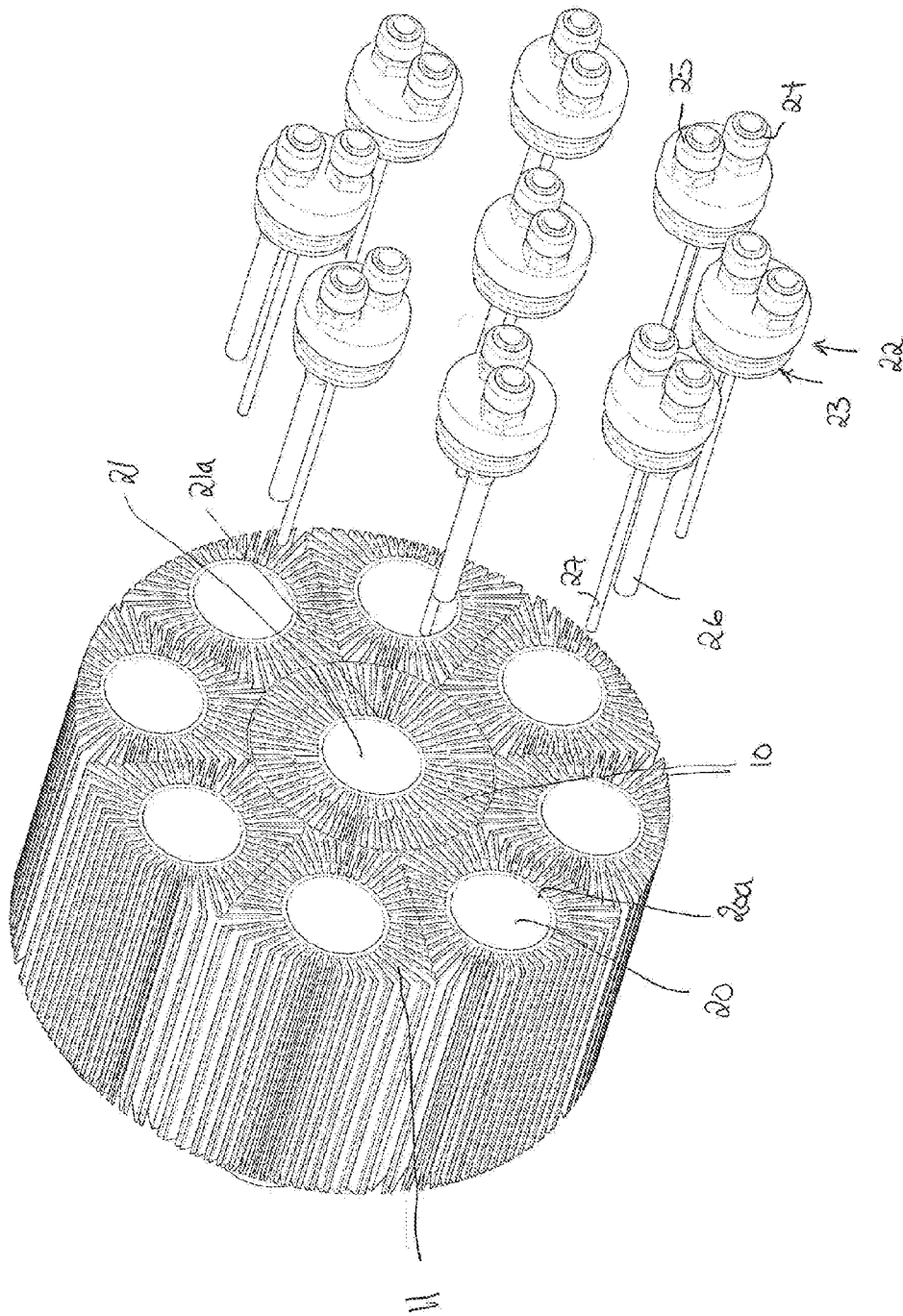


Fig 8





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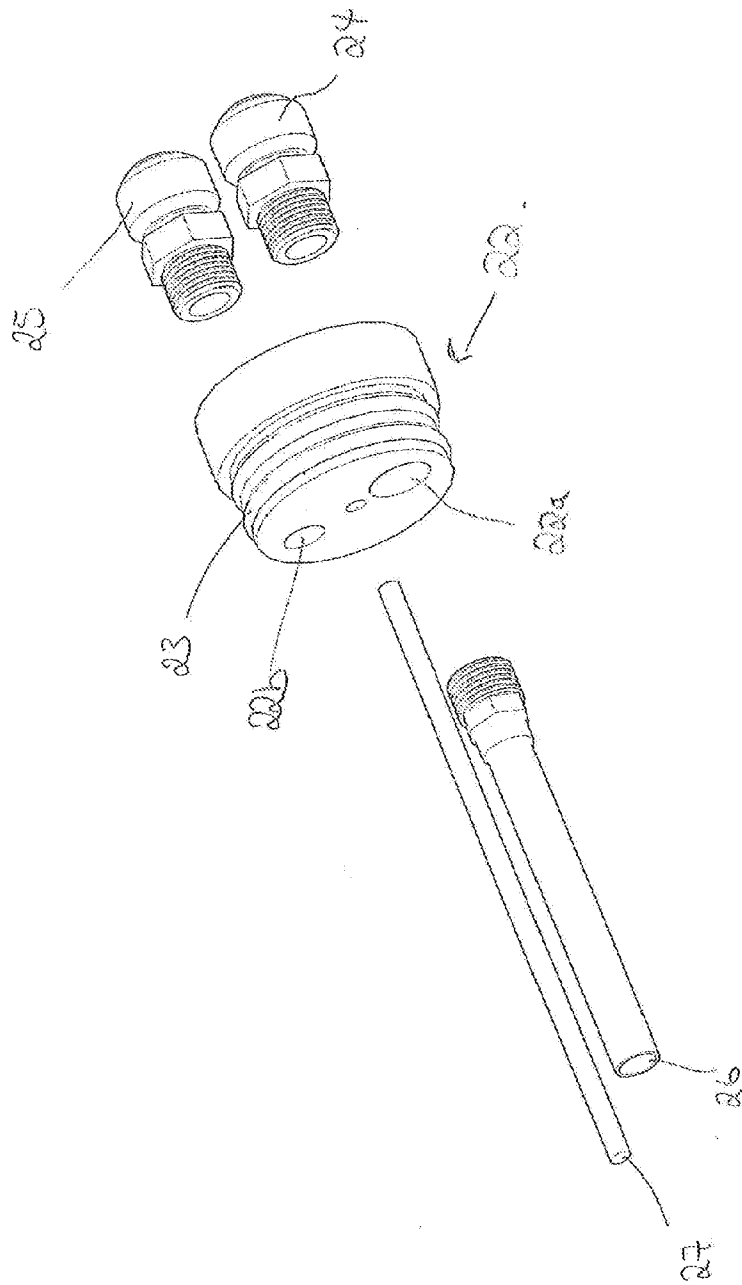
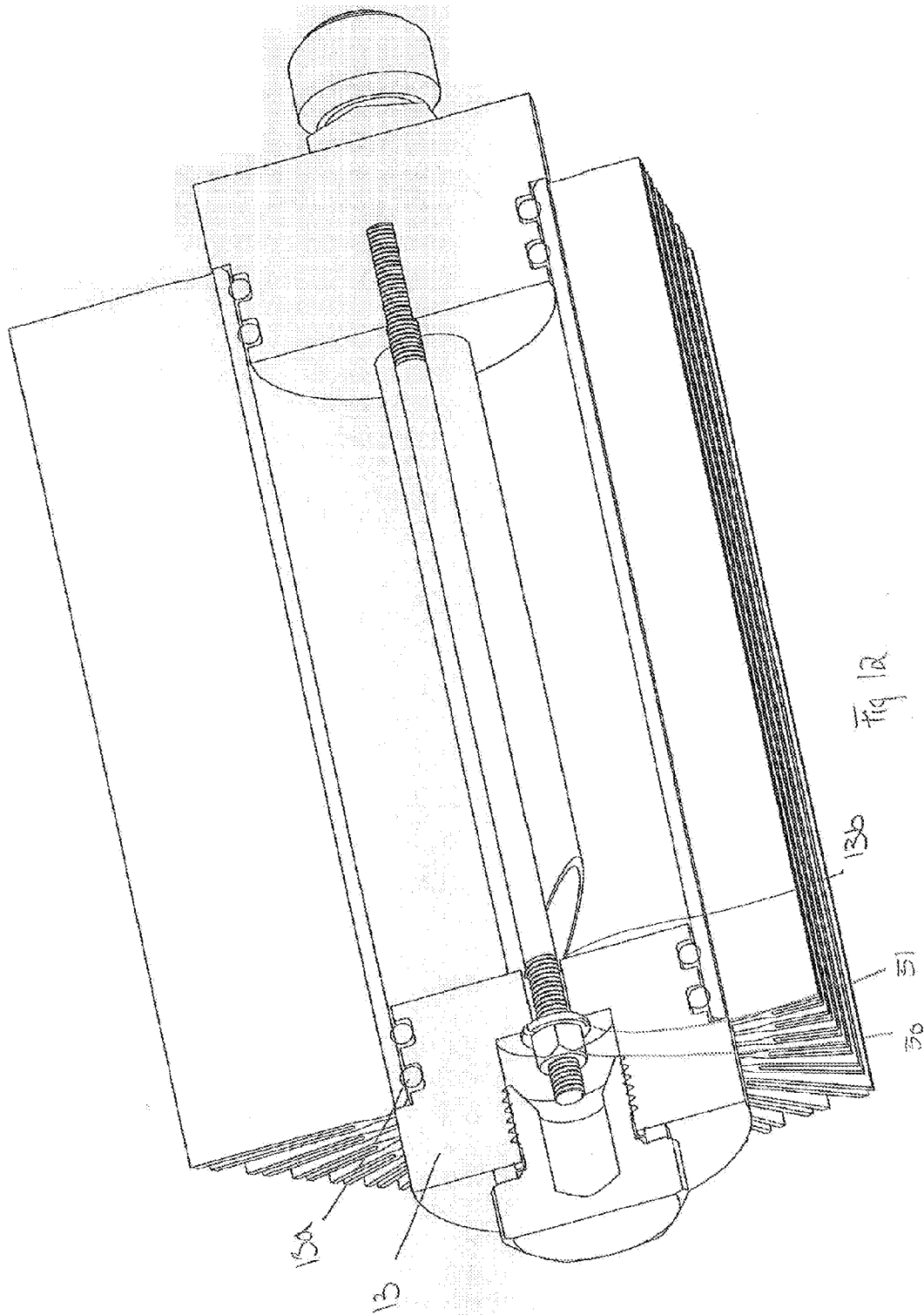


Fig. 11



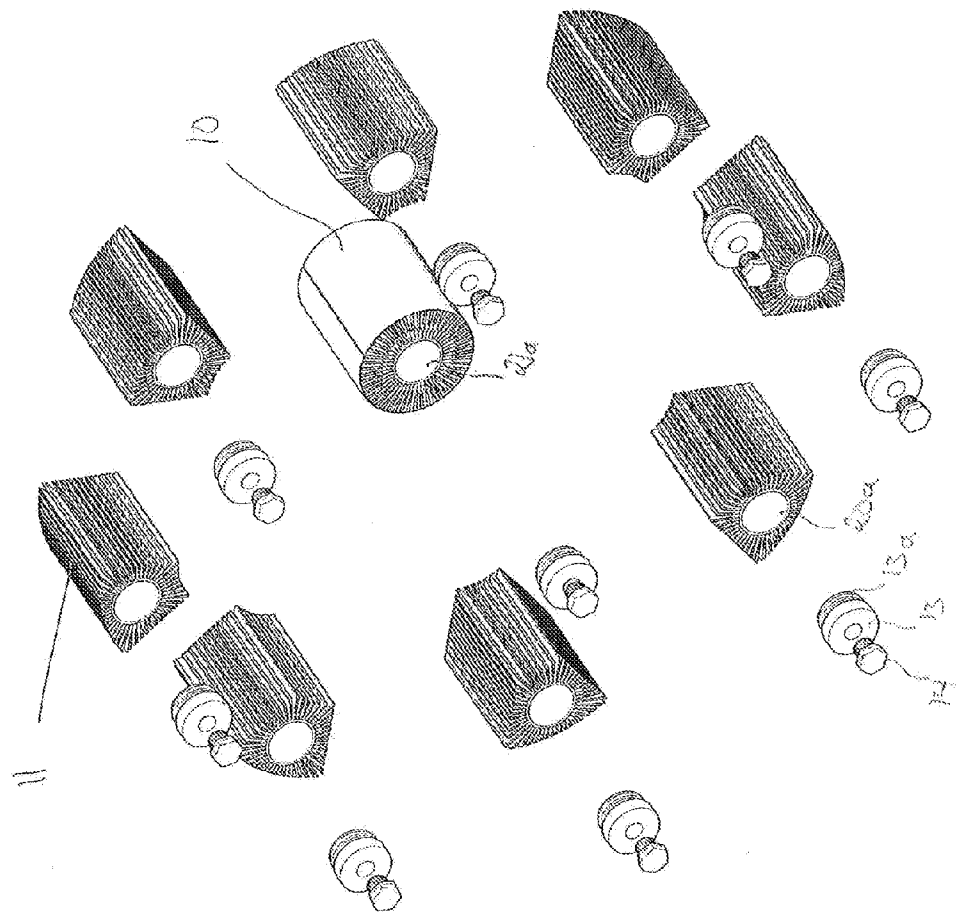


Fig 13

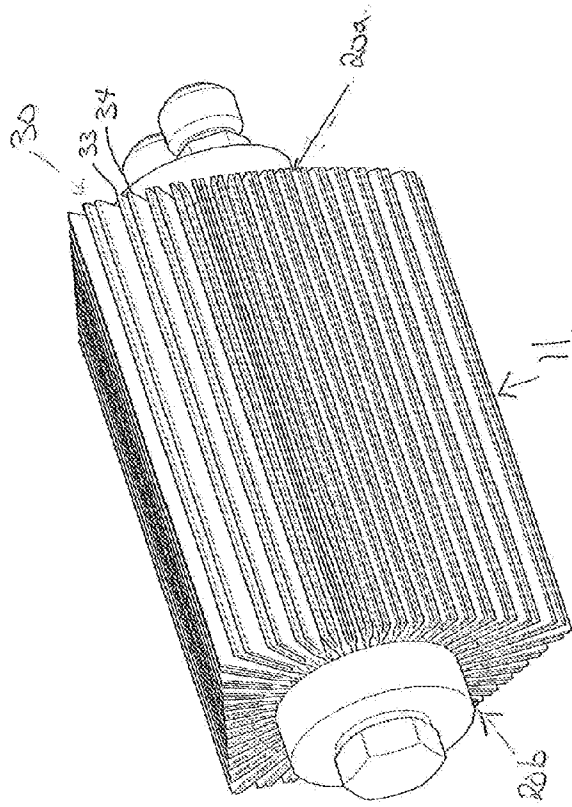


Fig 14

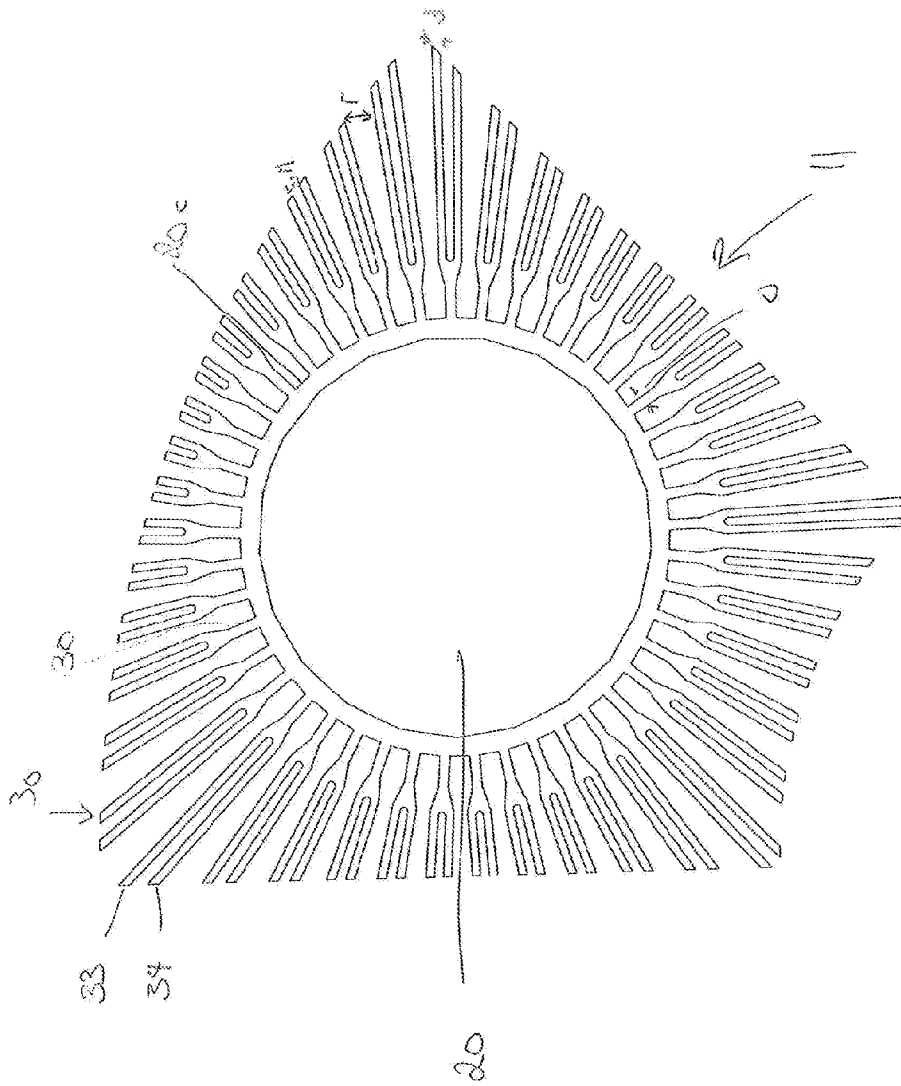


Fig 15a

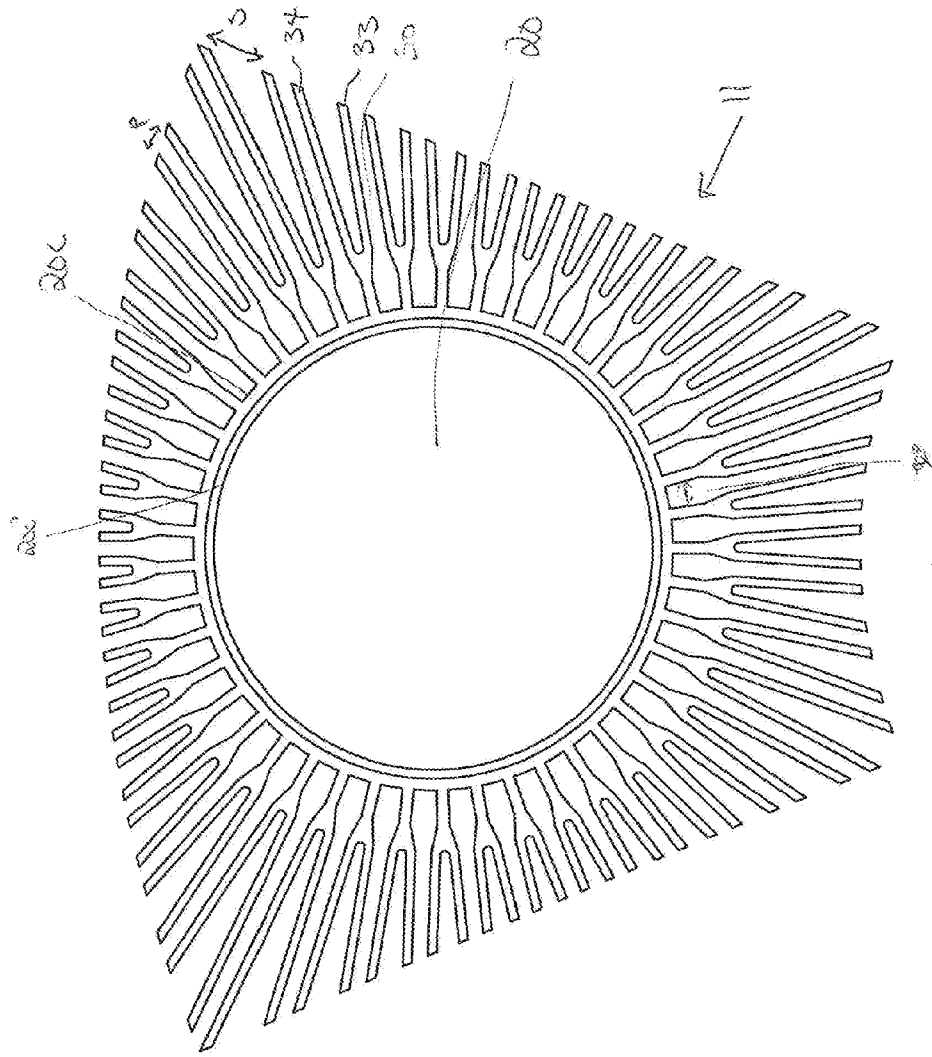


Fig 15b

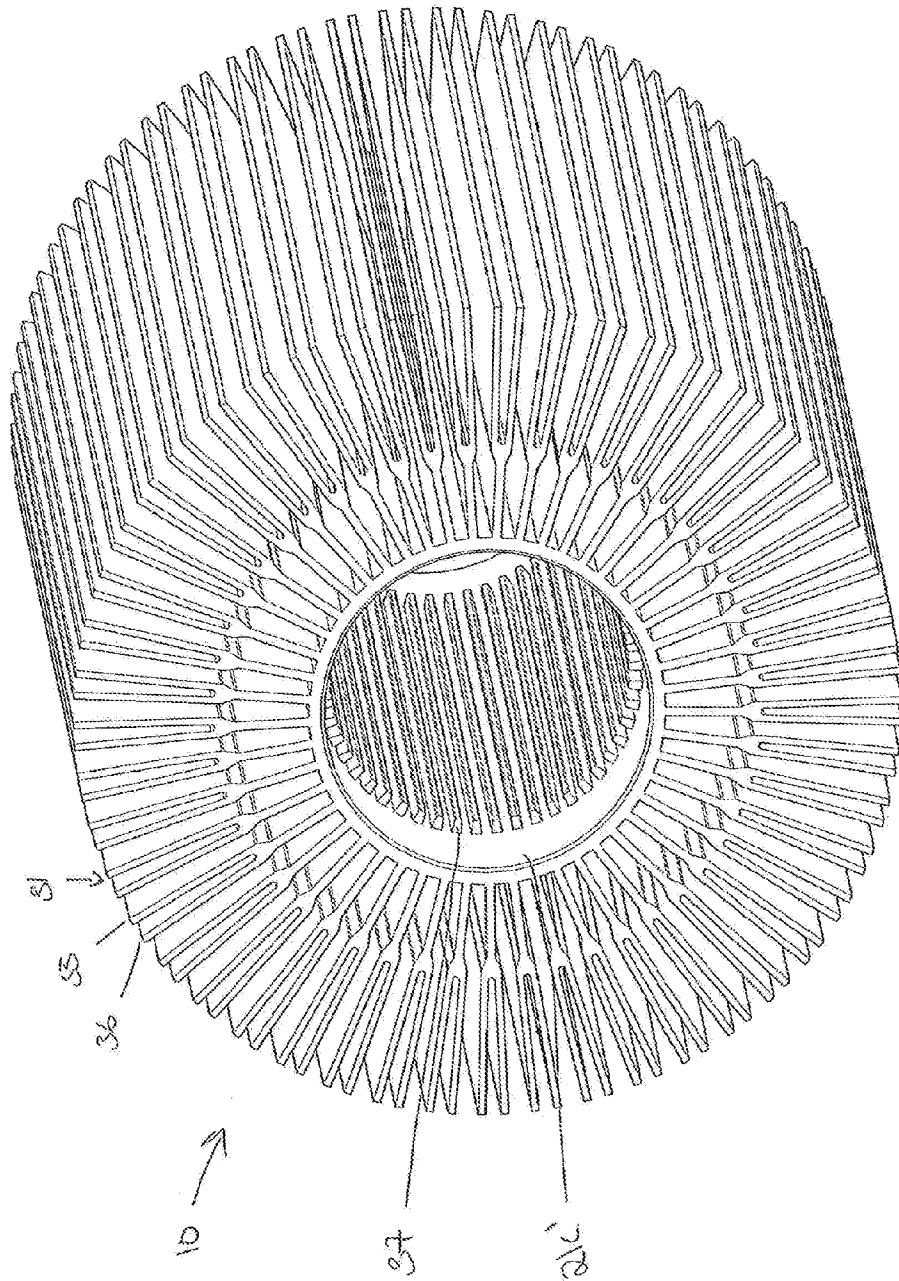
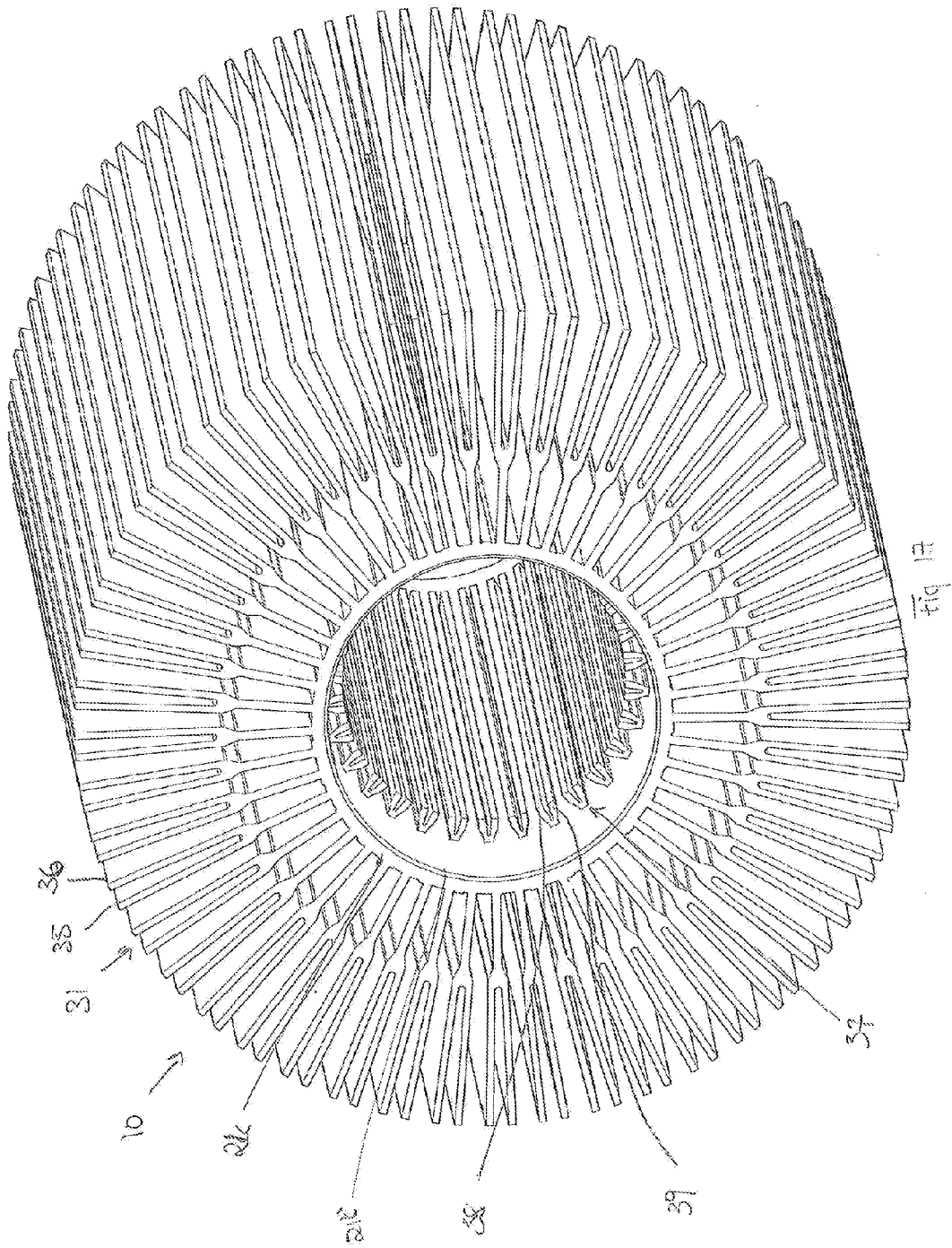


Fig. 16



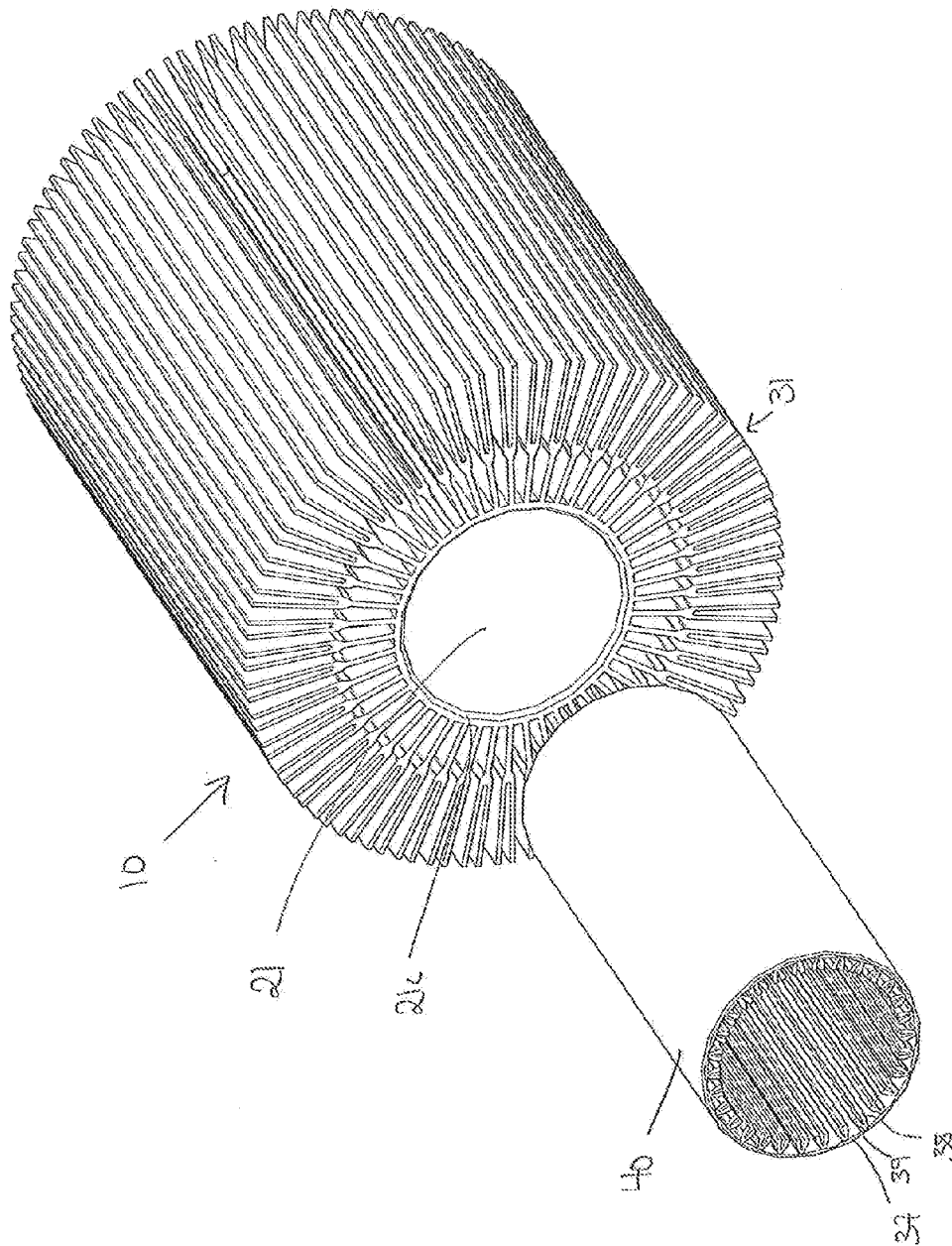


Fig. 18

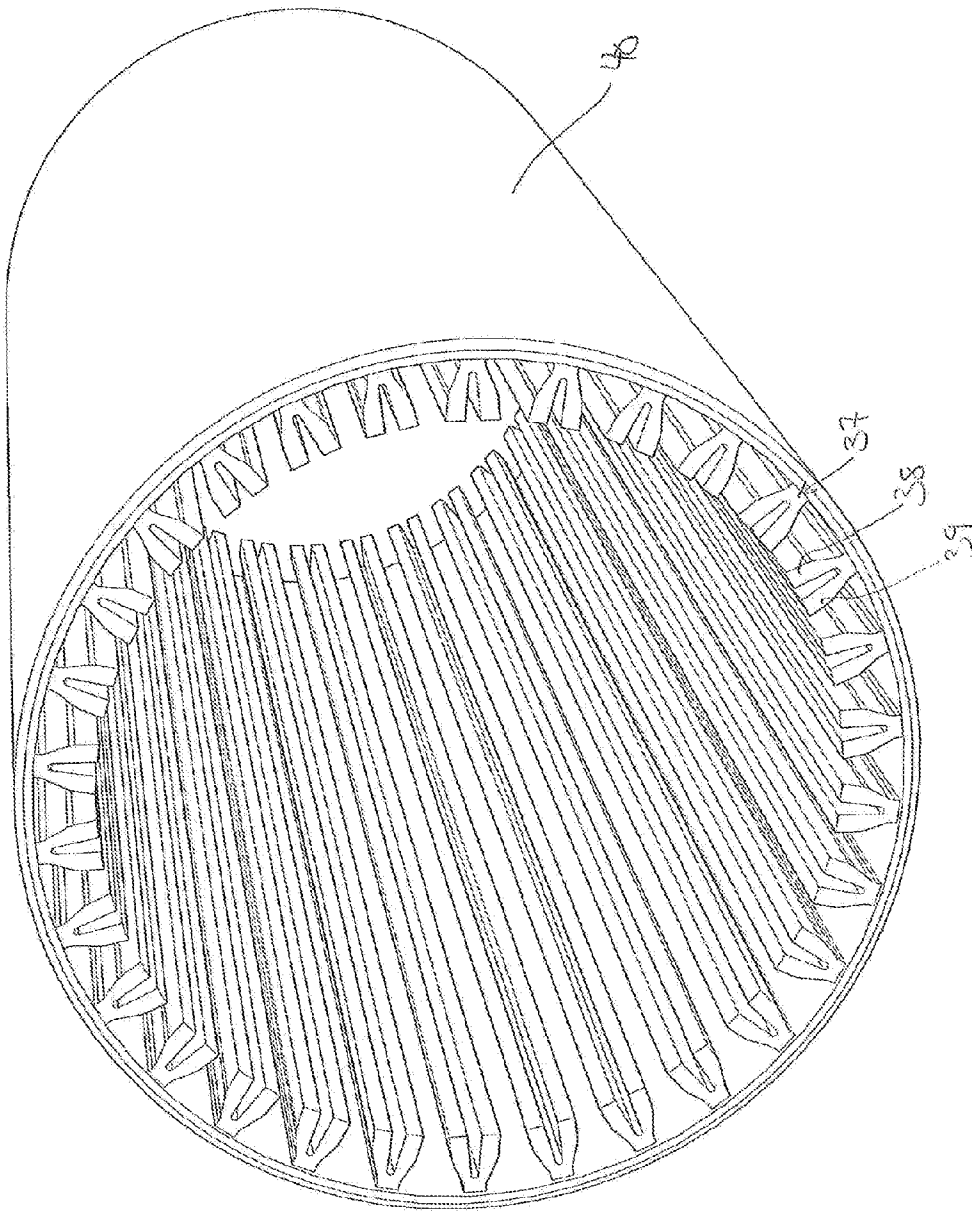


Fig 19

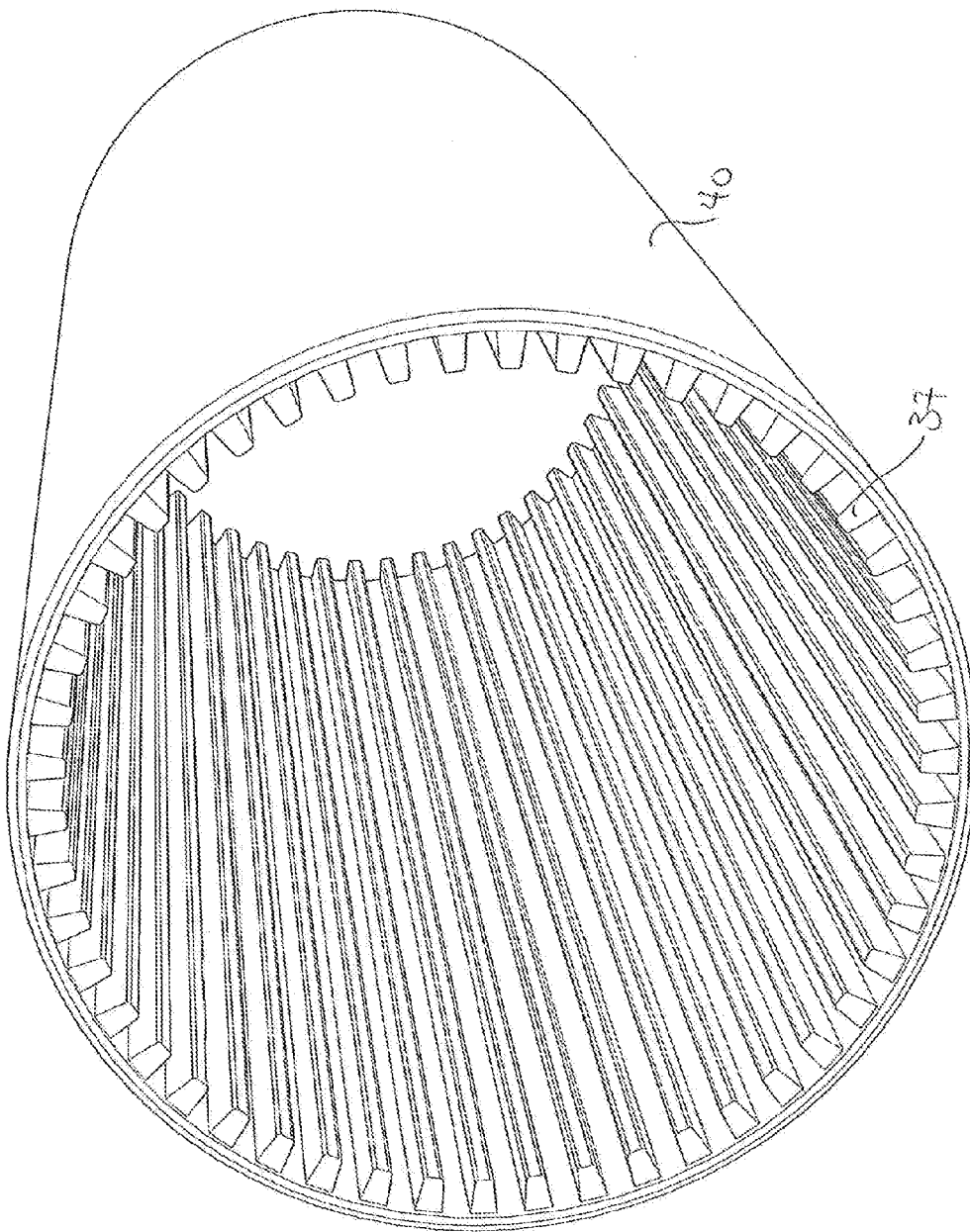


Fig. 20

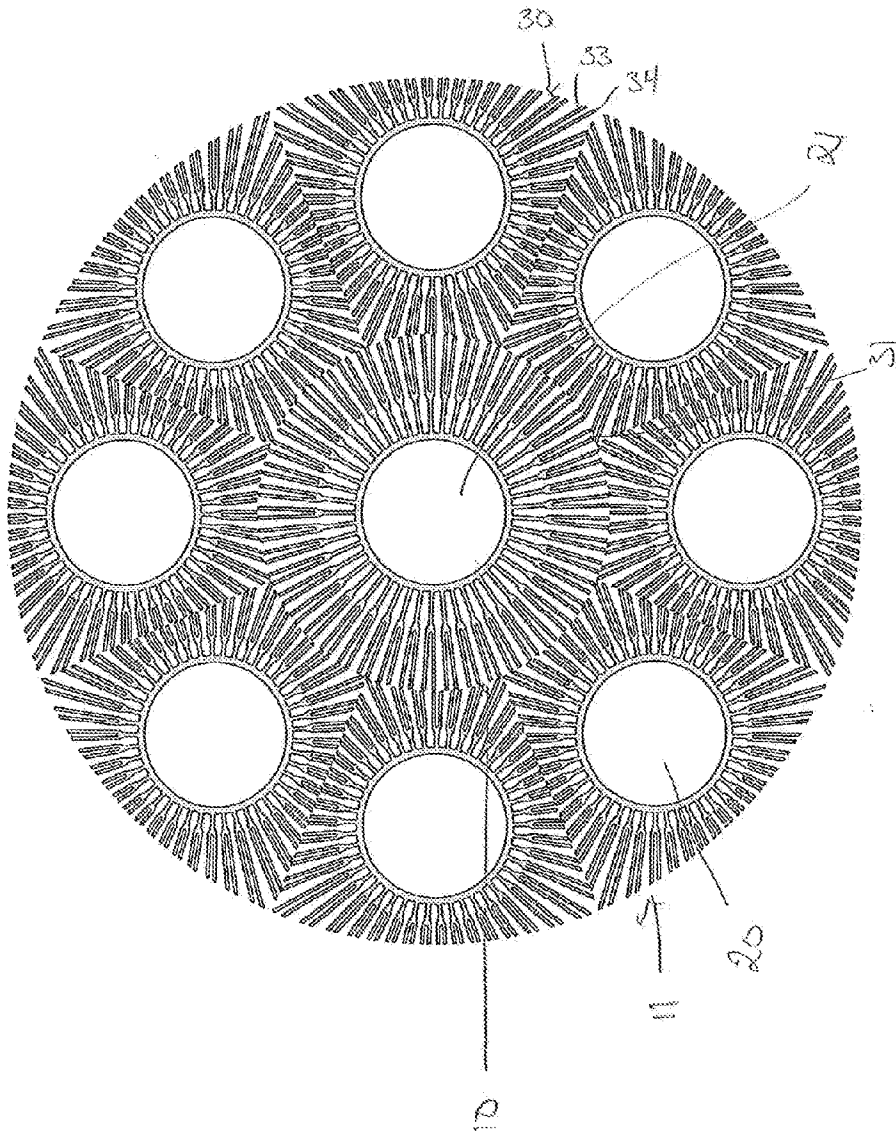


Fig. 21

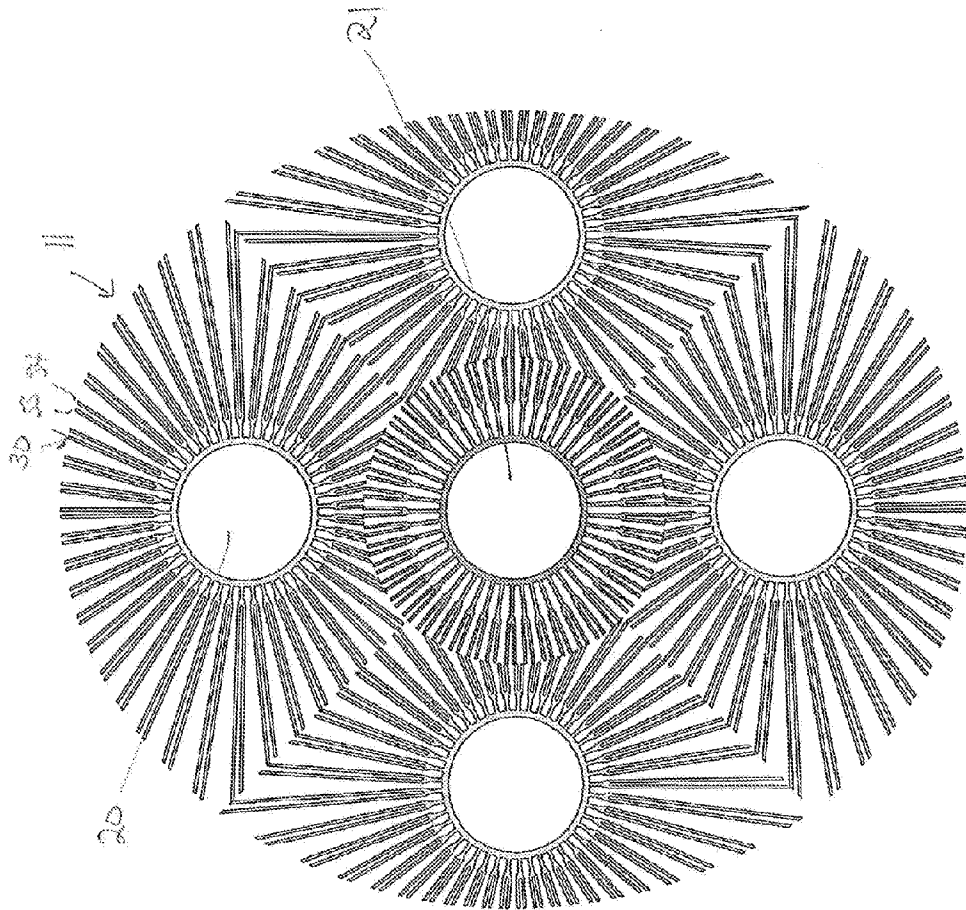


Fig. 22

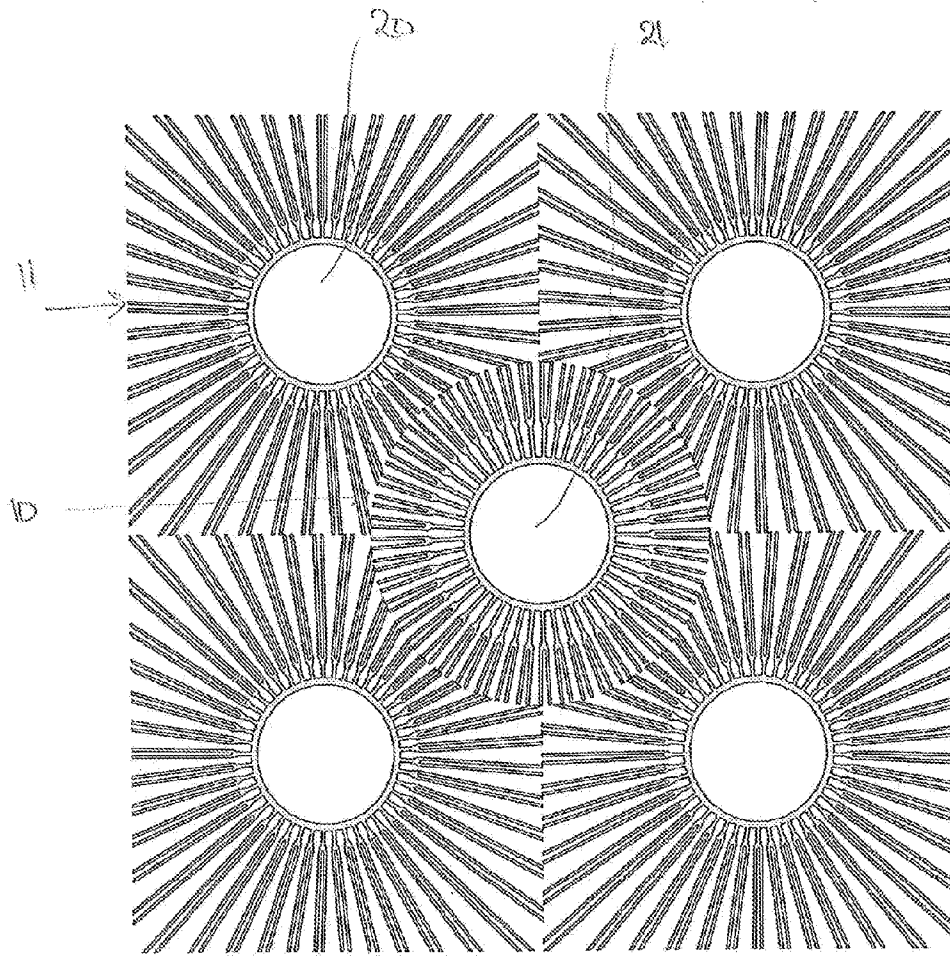
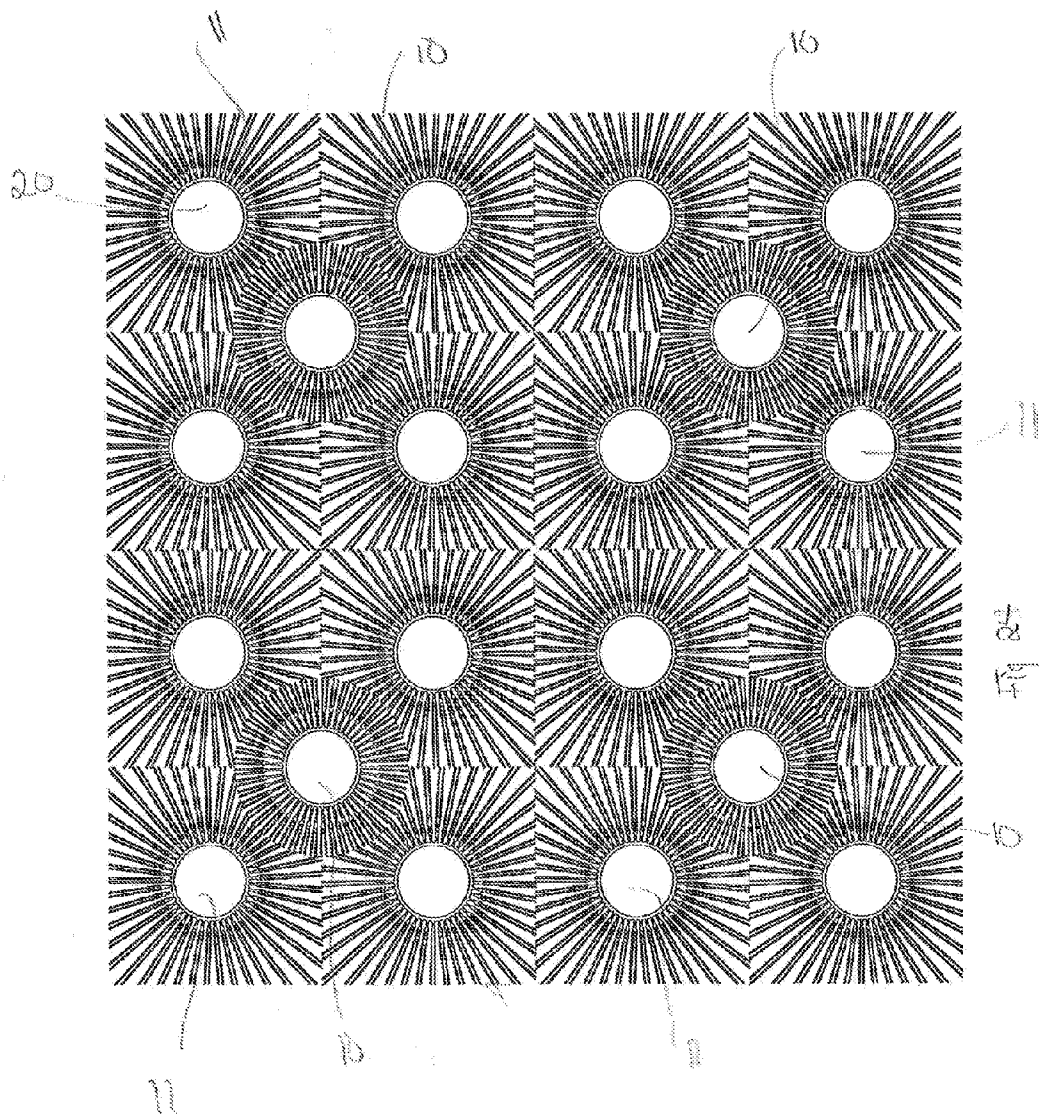
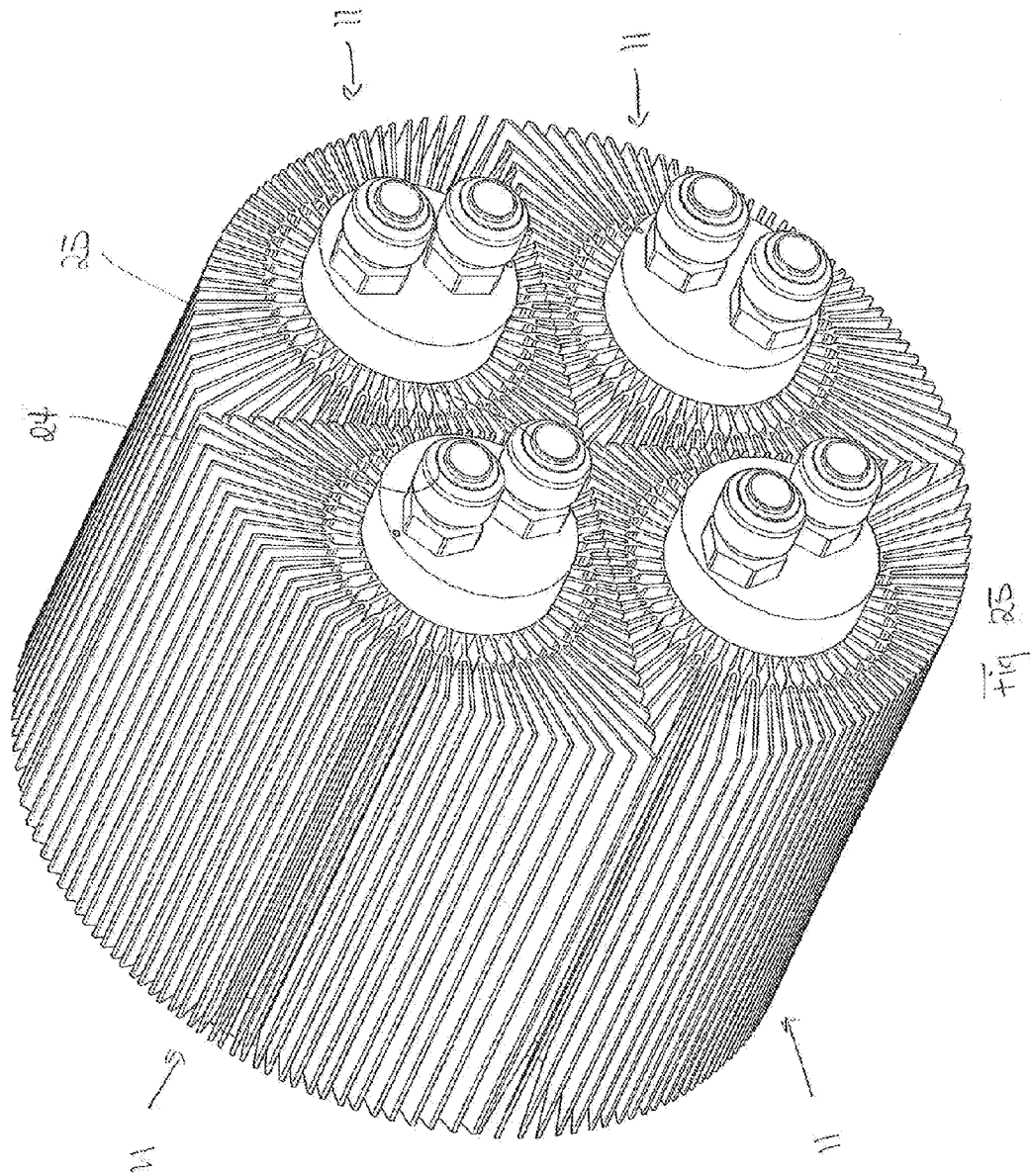


Fig. 23





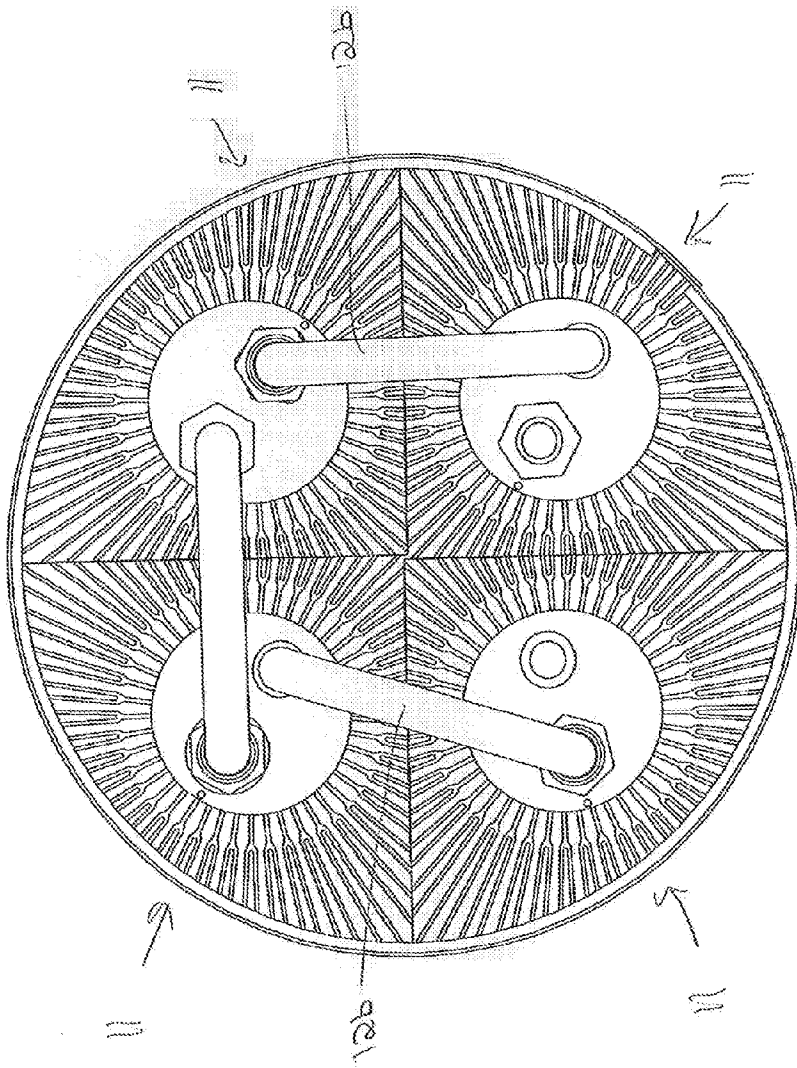


Fig 26

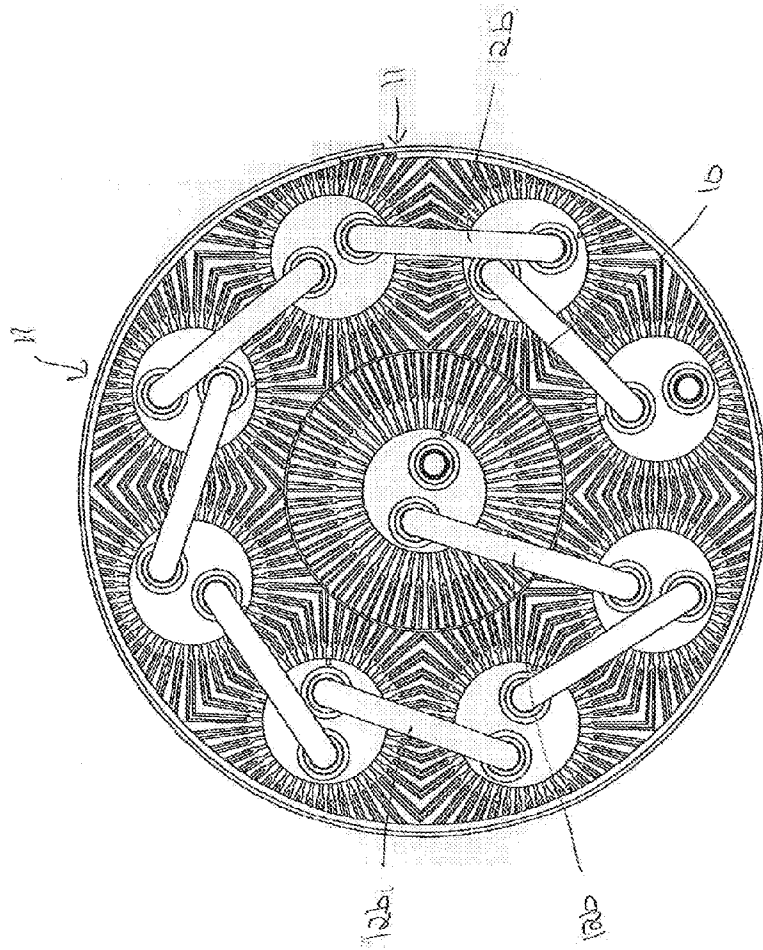
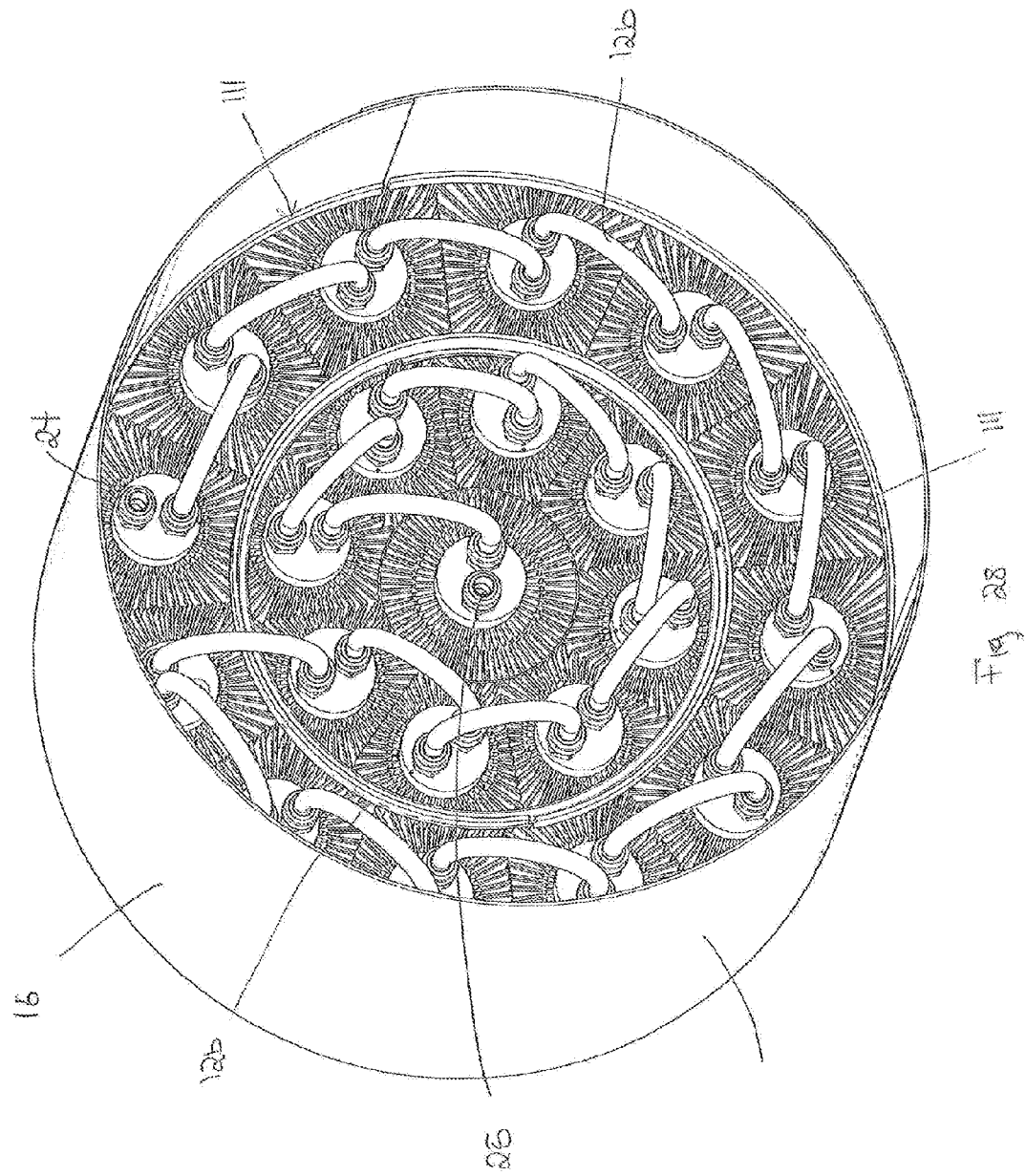


Fig. 27



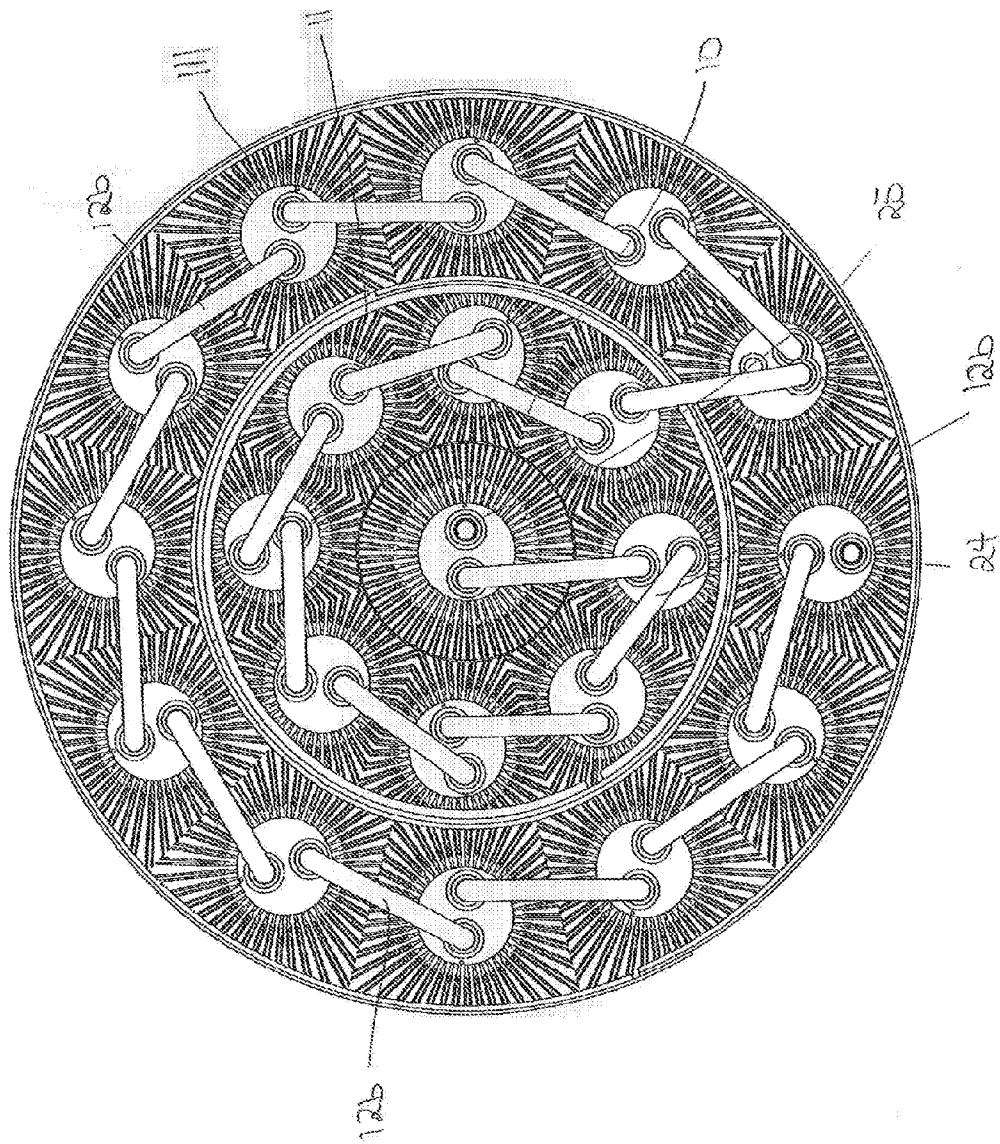


Fig 29

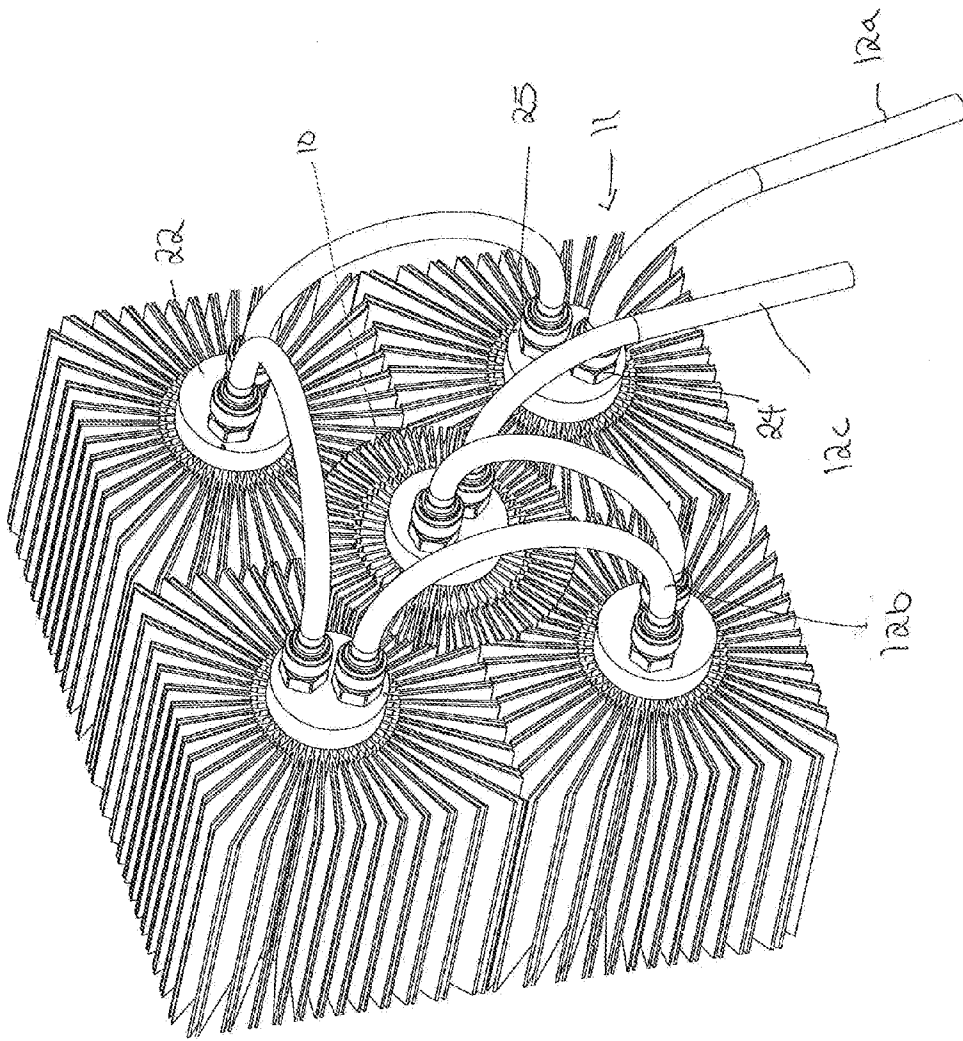


Fig 30

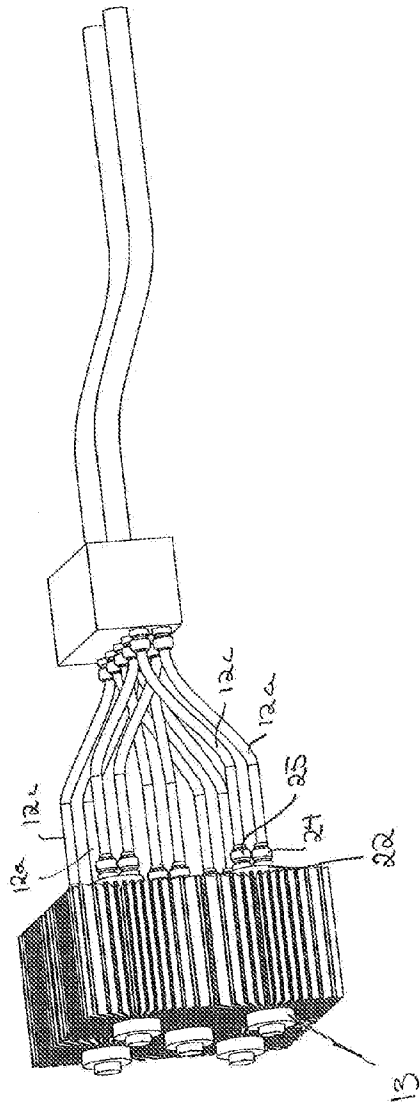
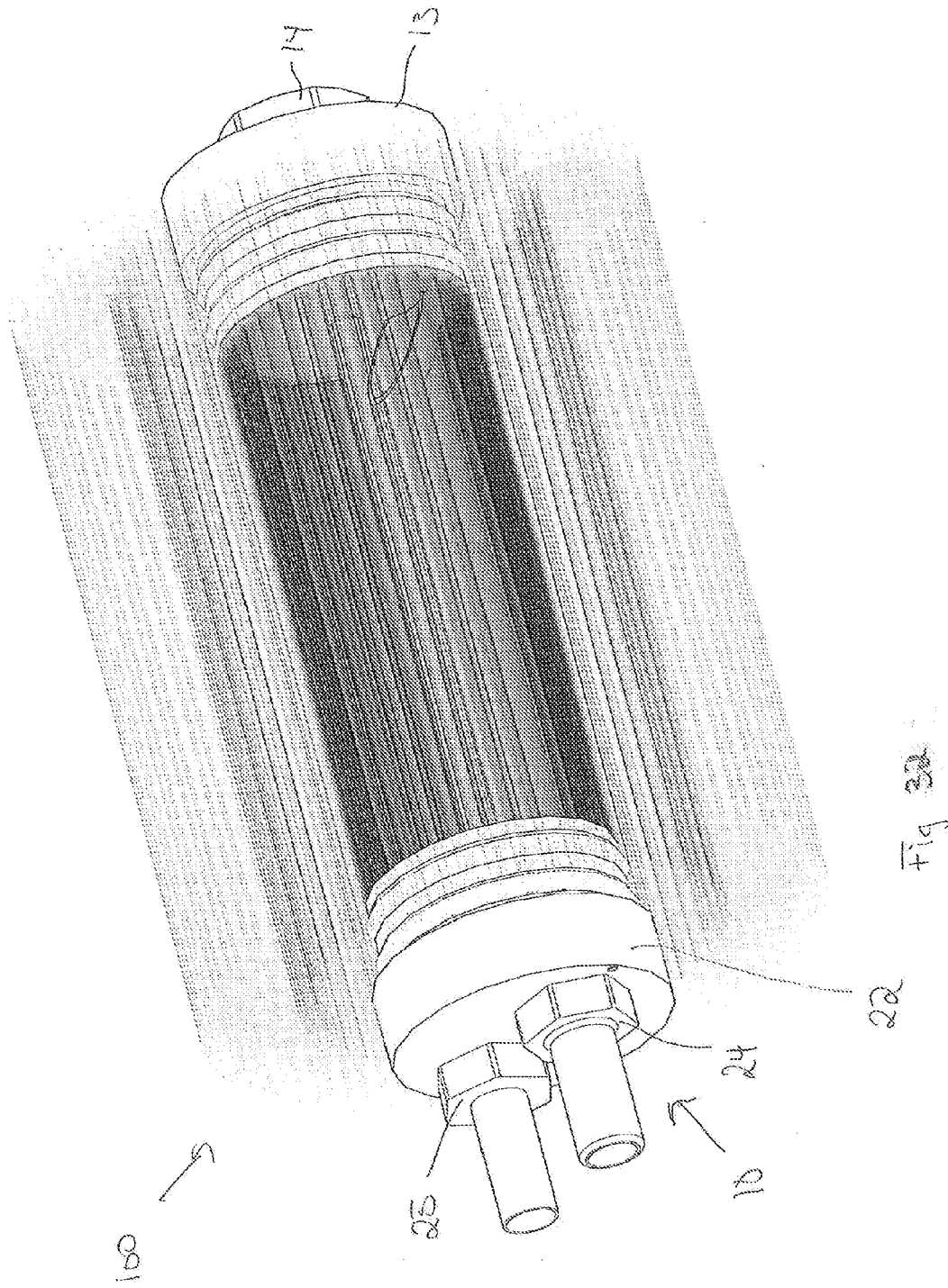


Fig. 31.



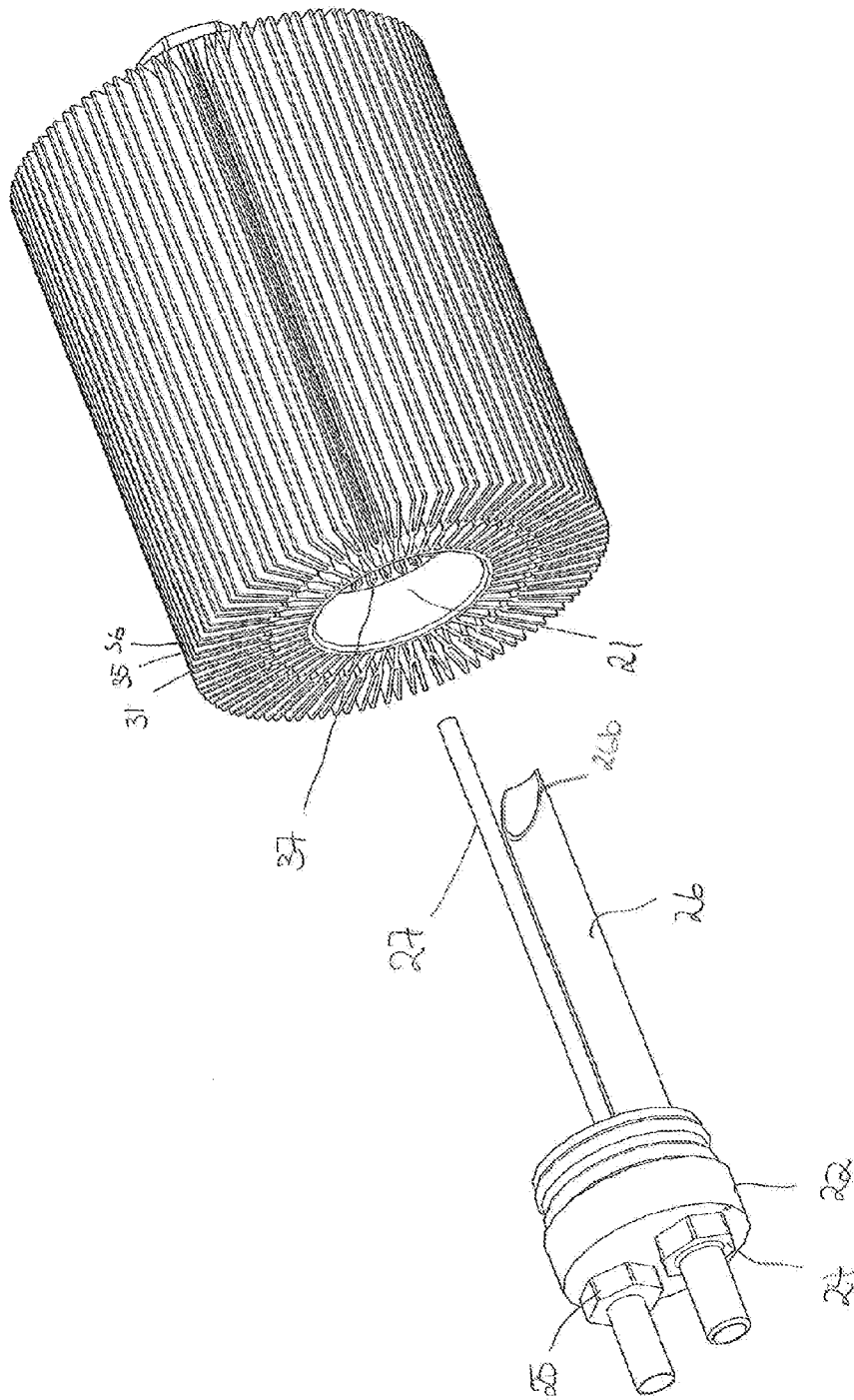


Fig. 33

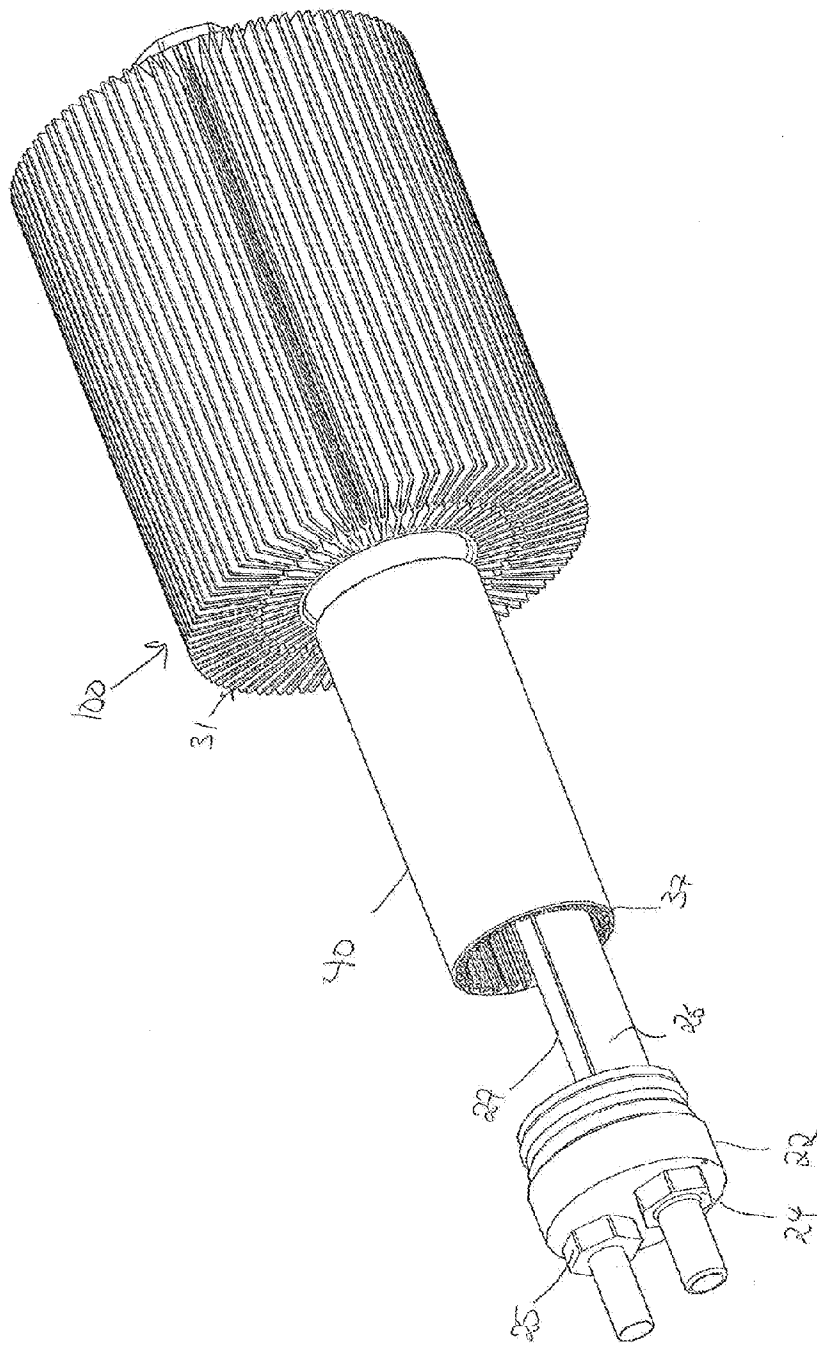


Fig. 24

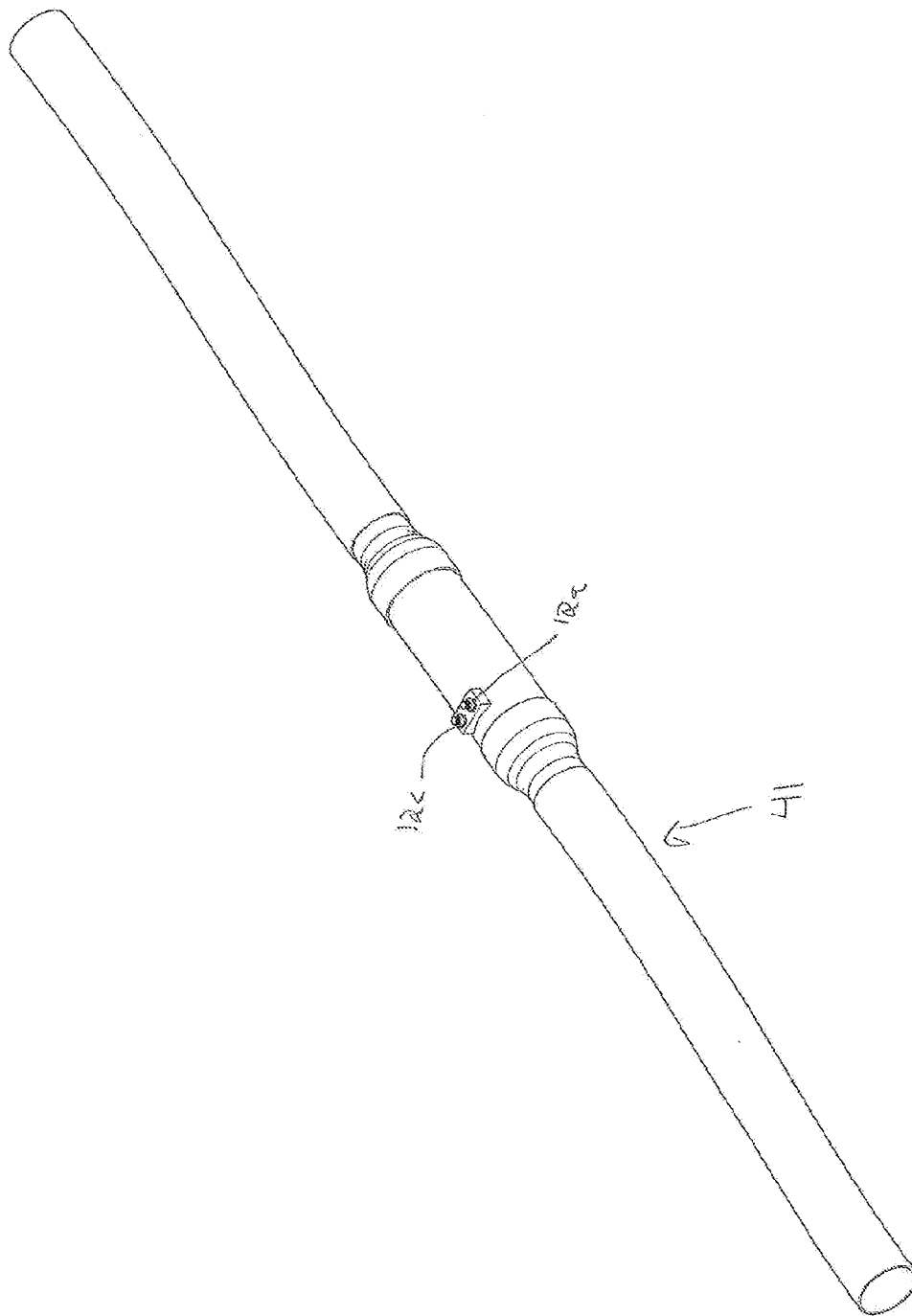


Fig 85

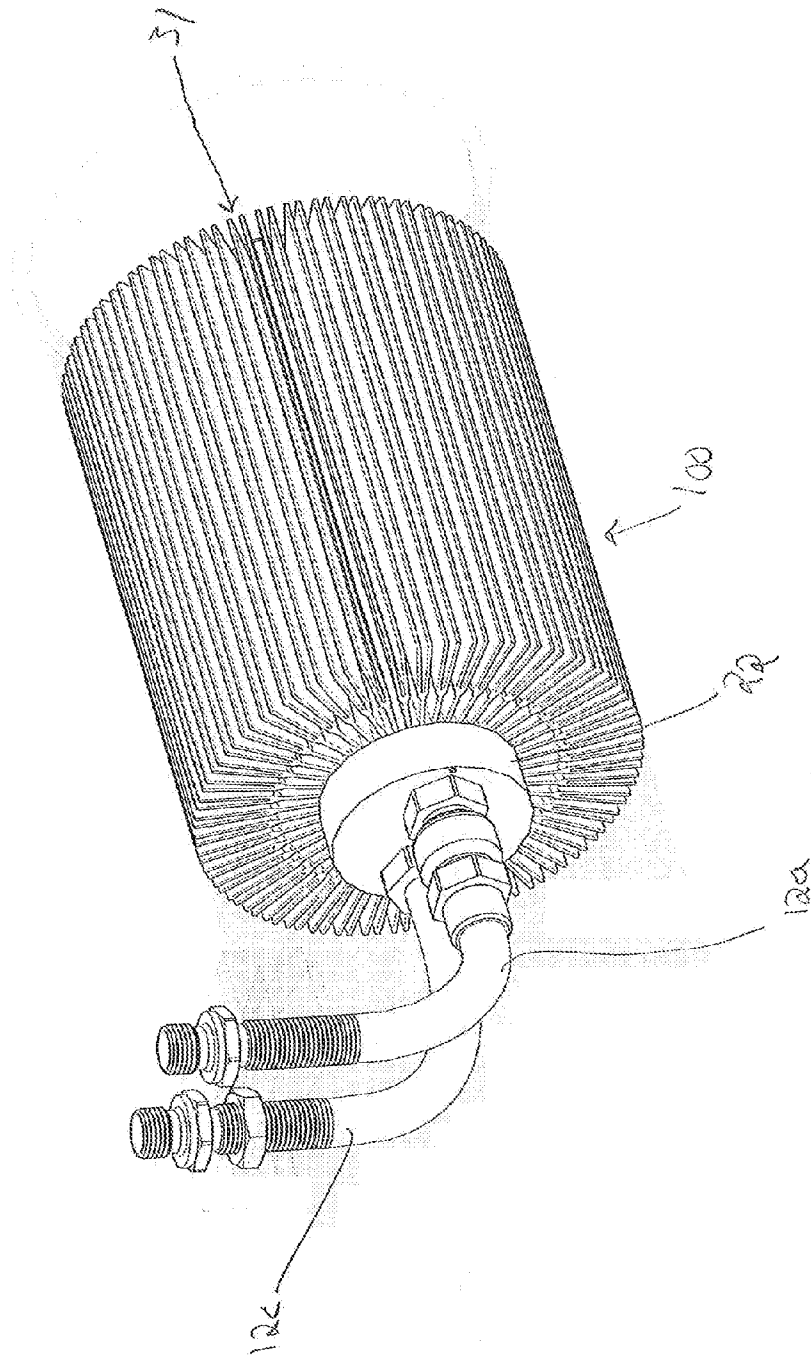


Fig 3b

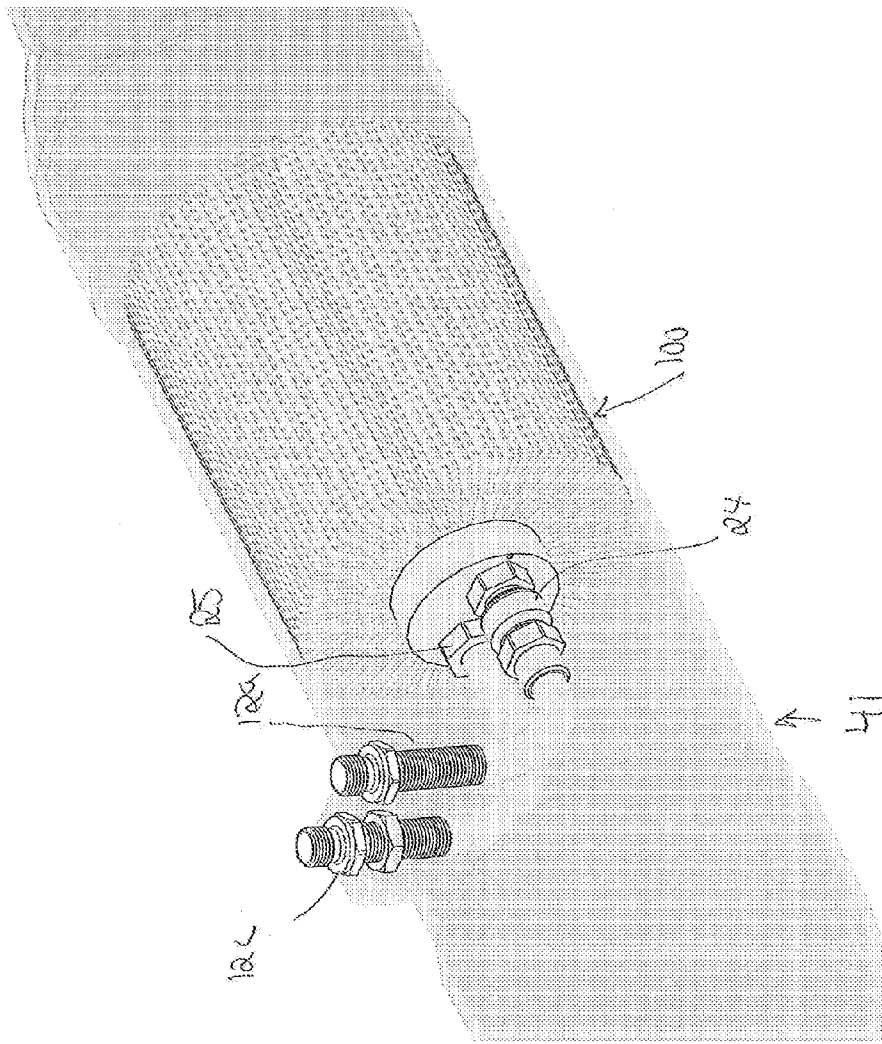
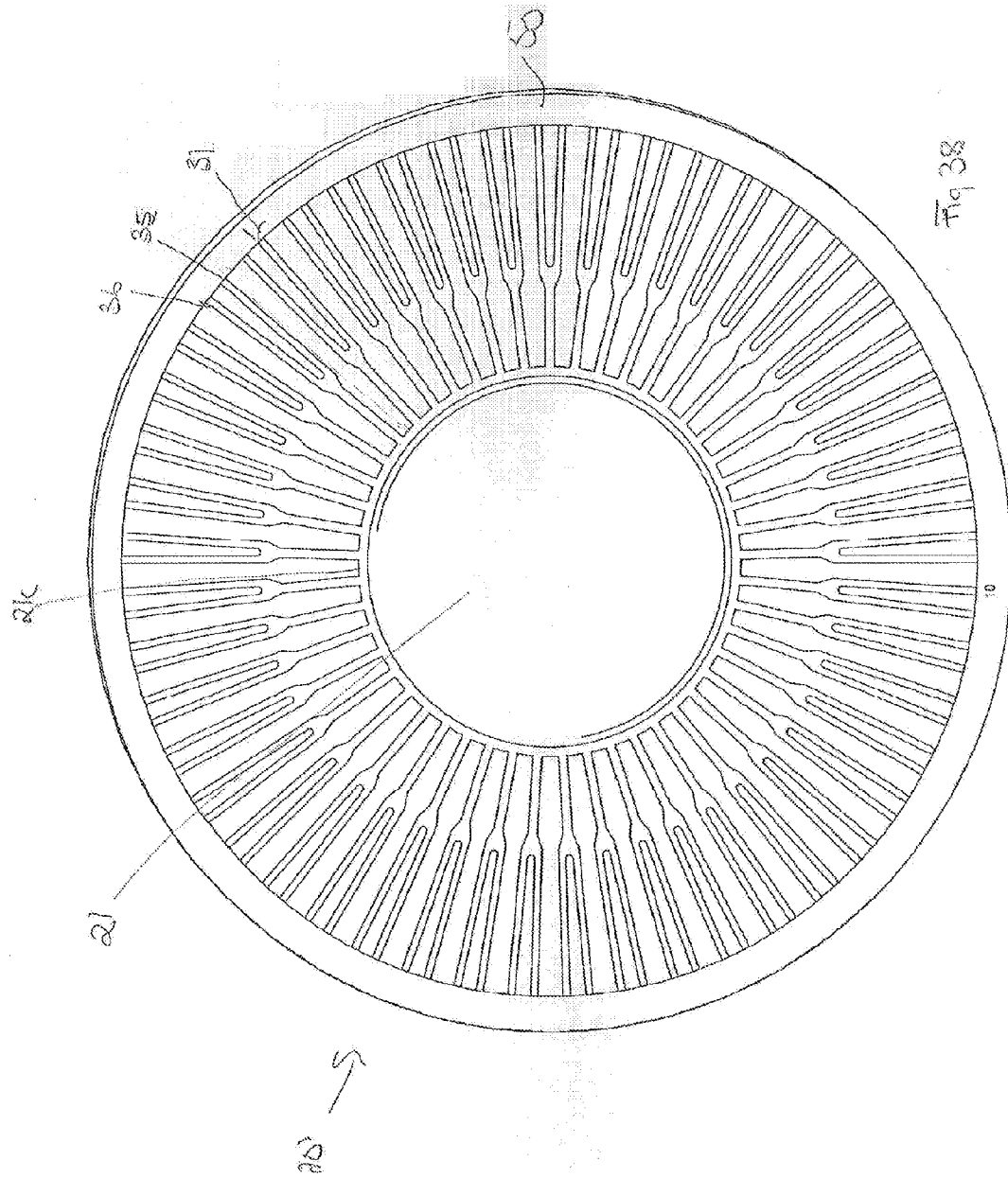
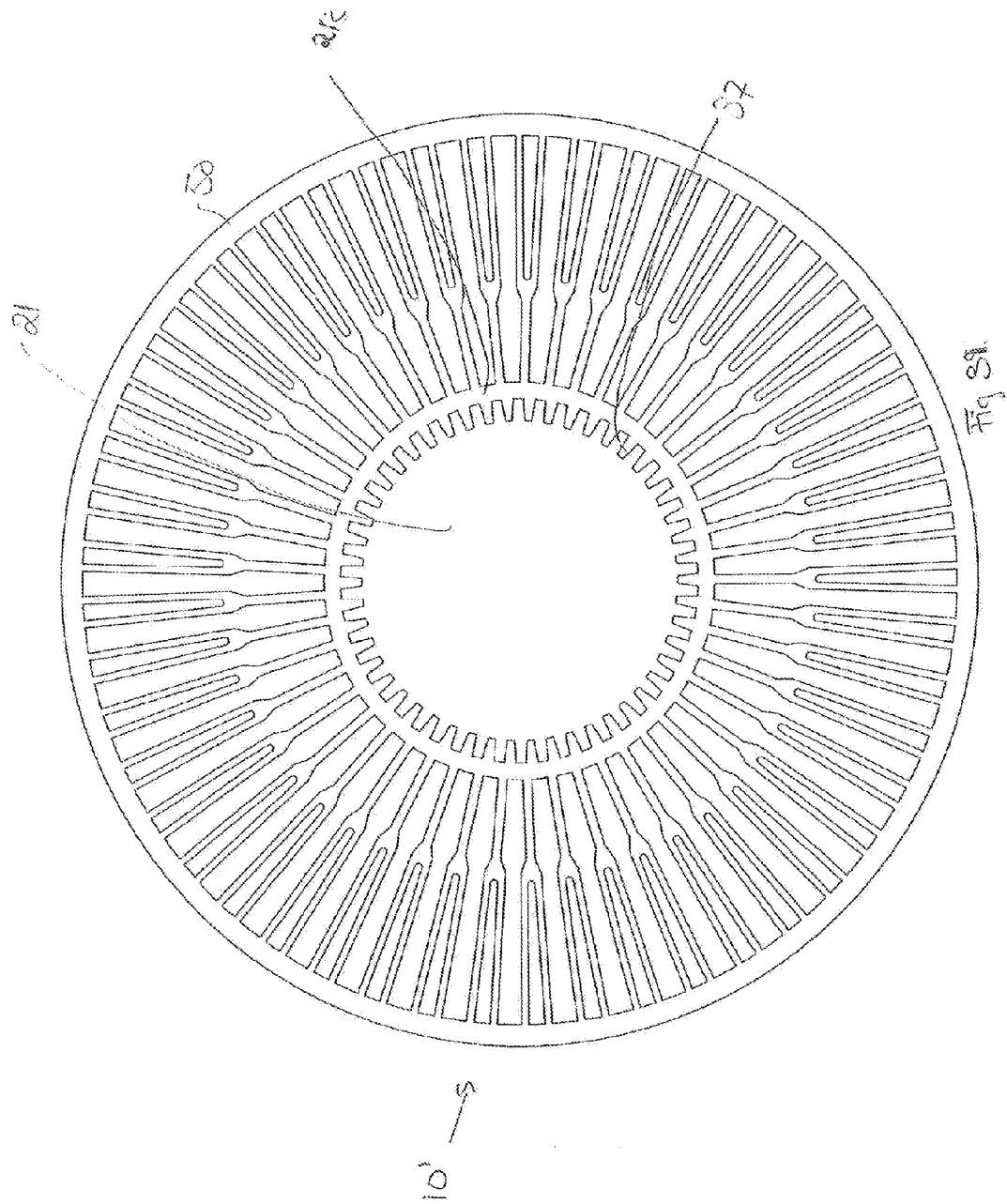


Fig 37





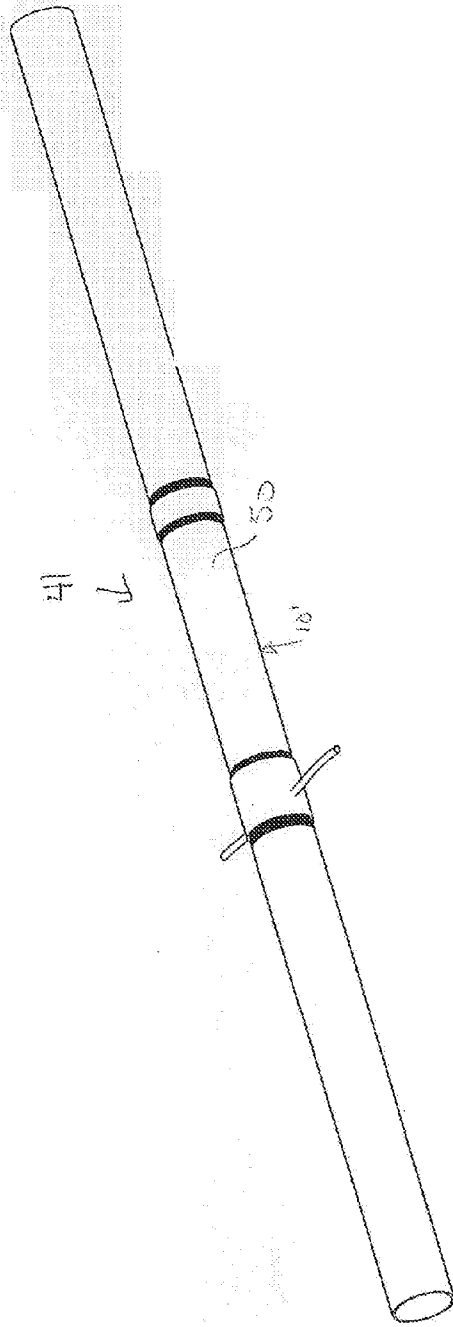


Fig 40

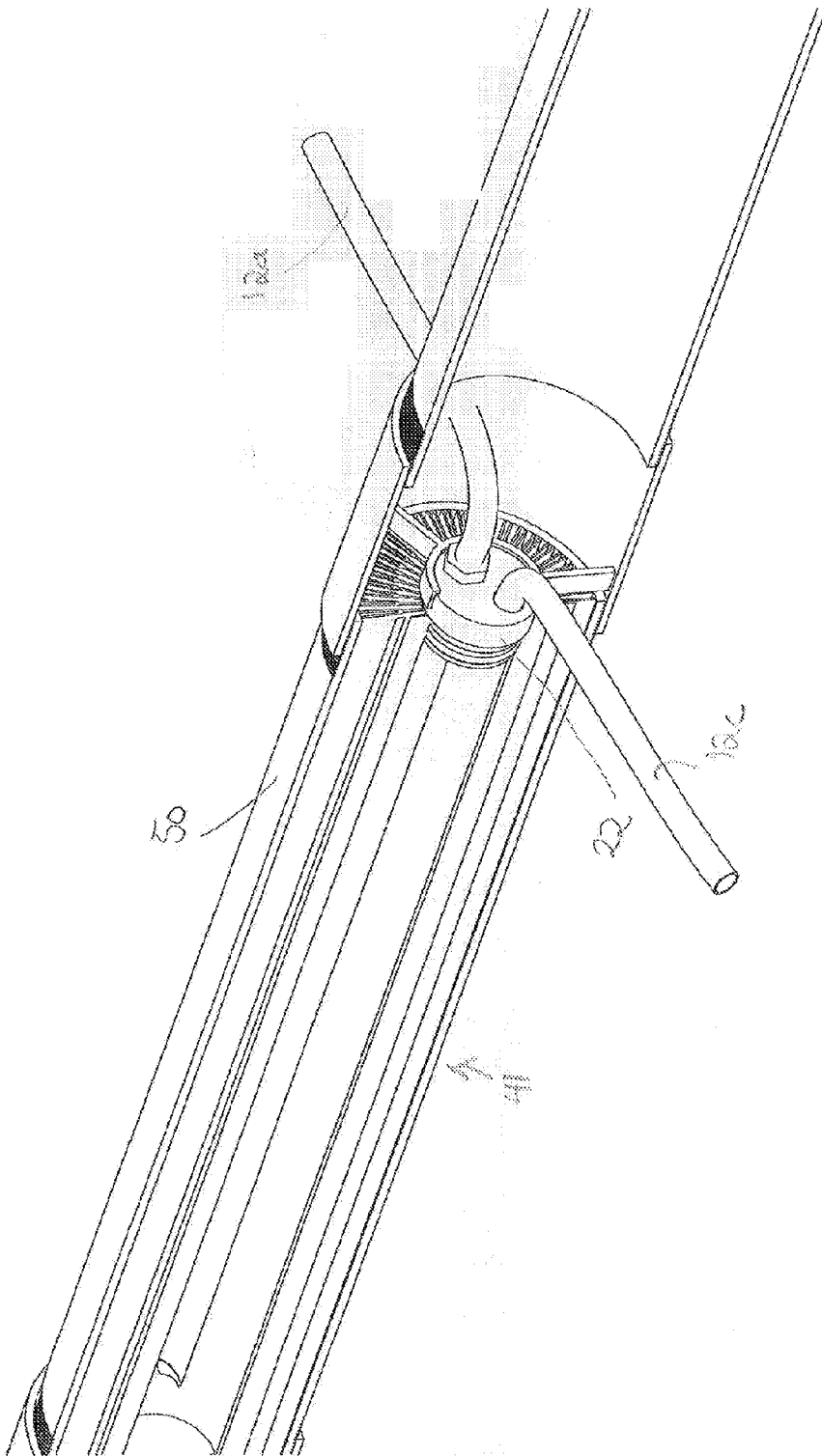


Fig. 4

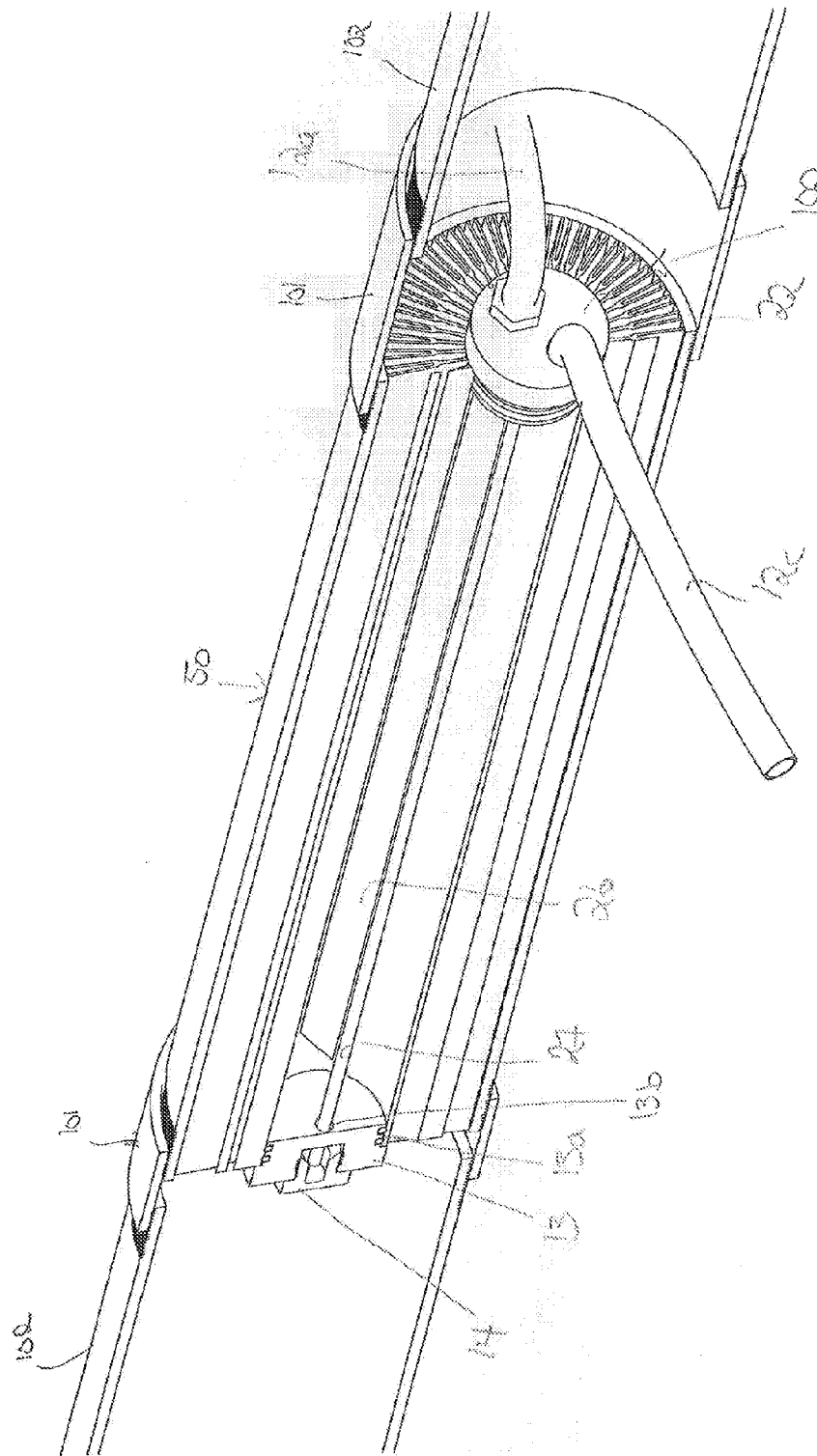
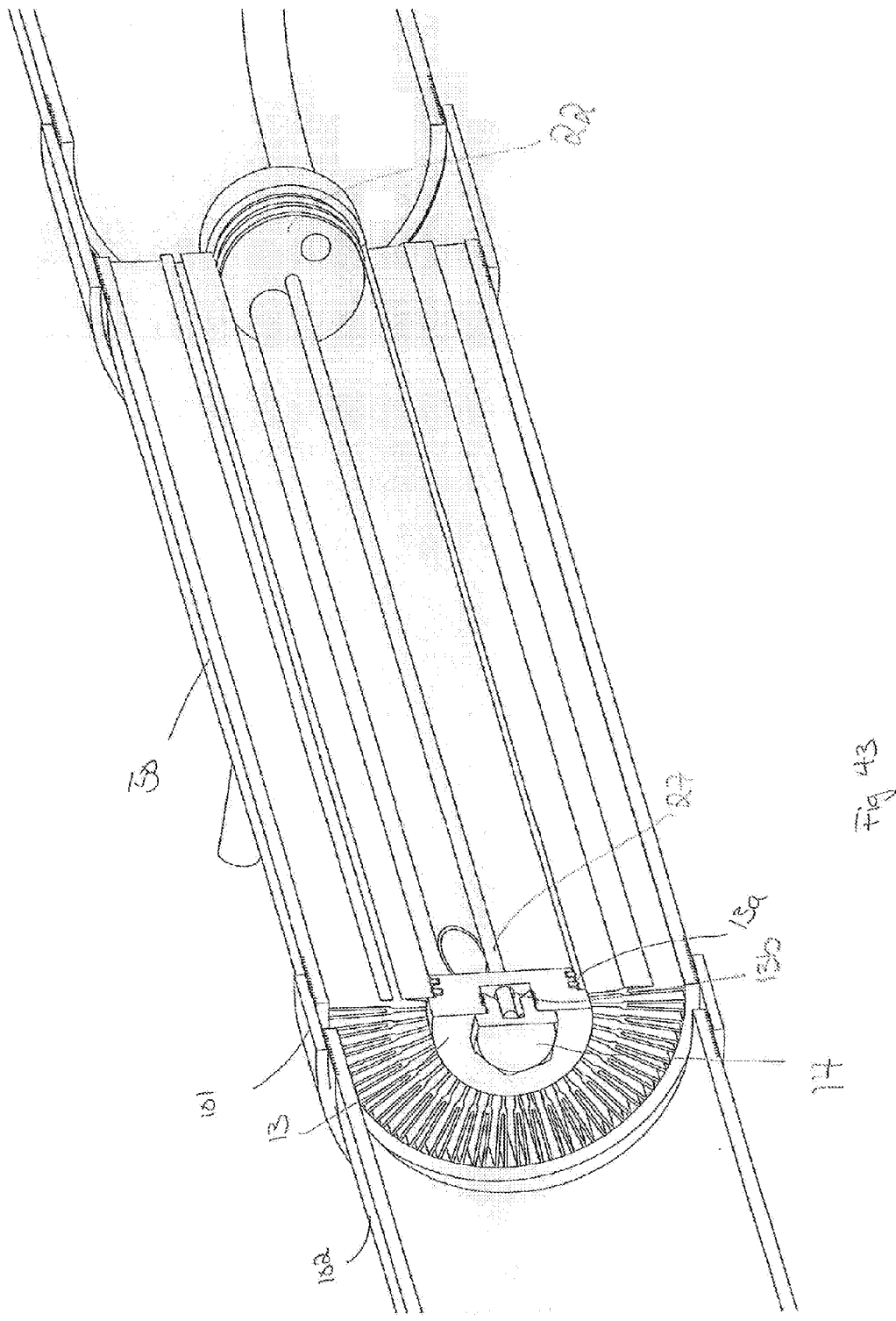


Fig 2



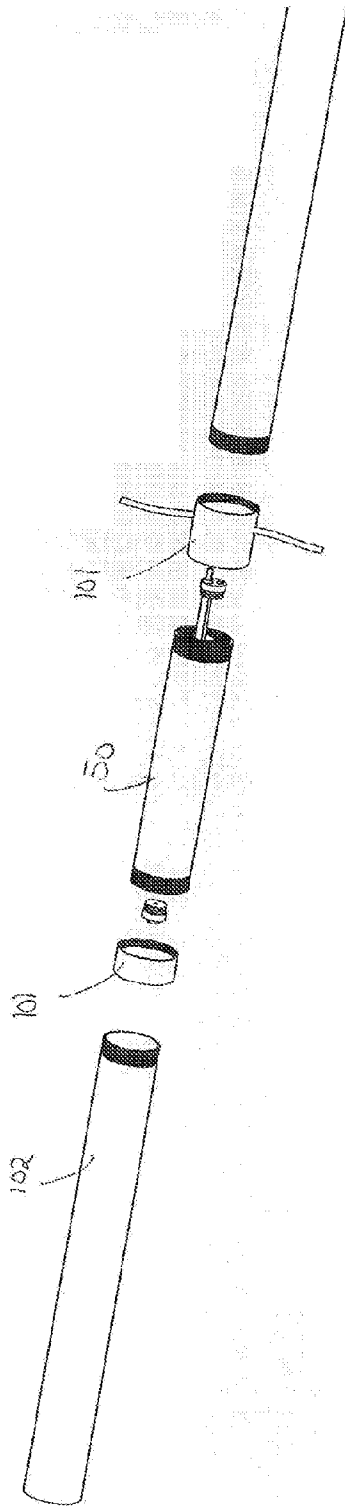
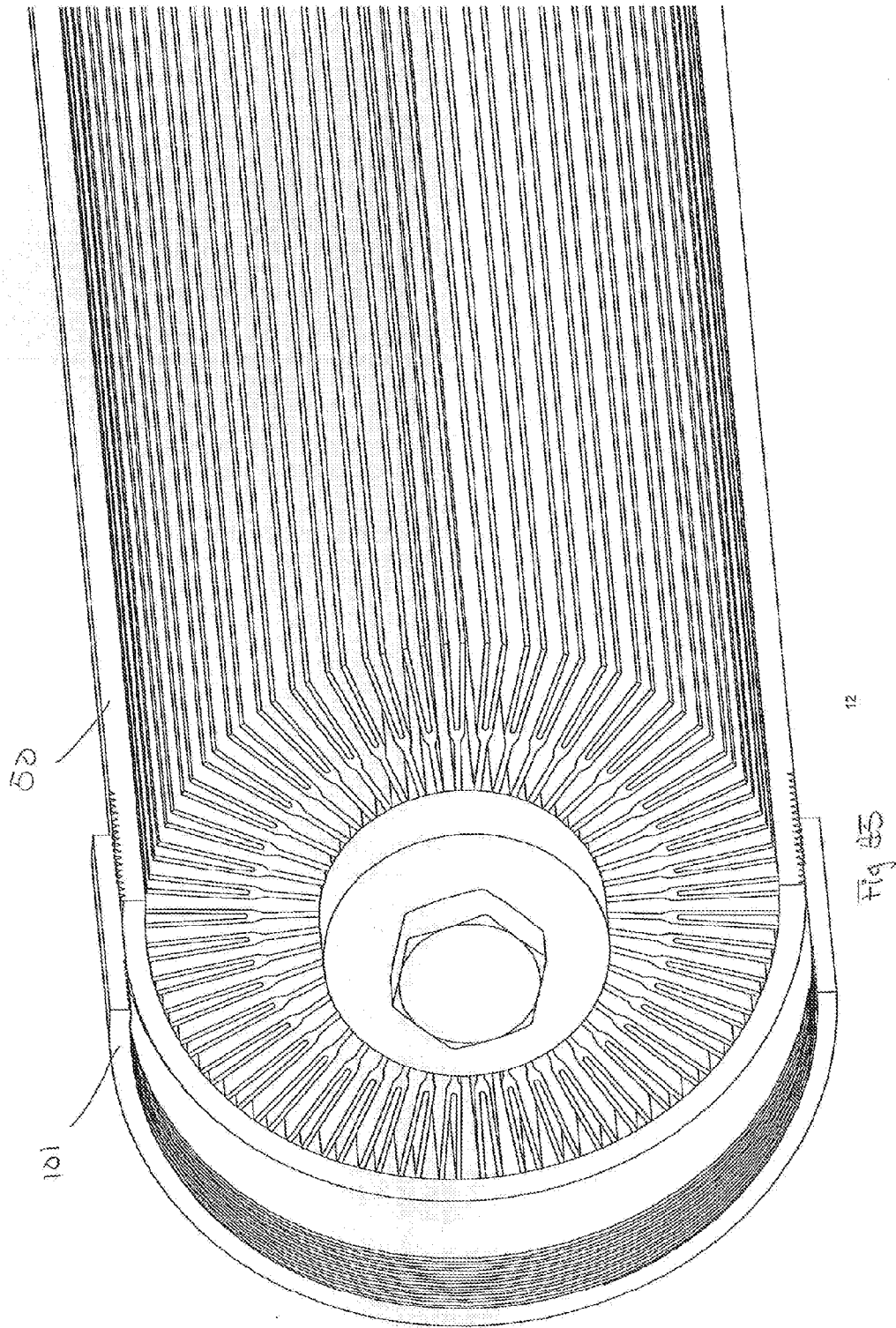
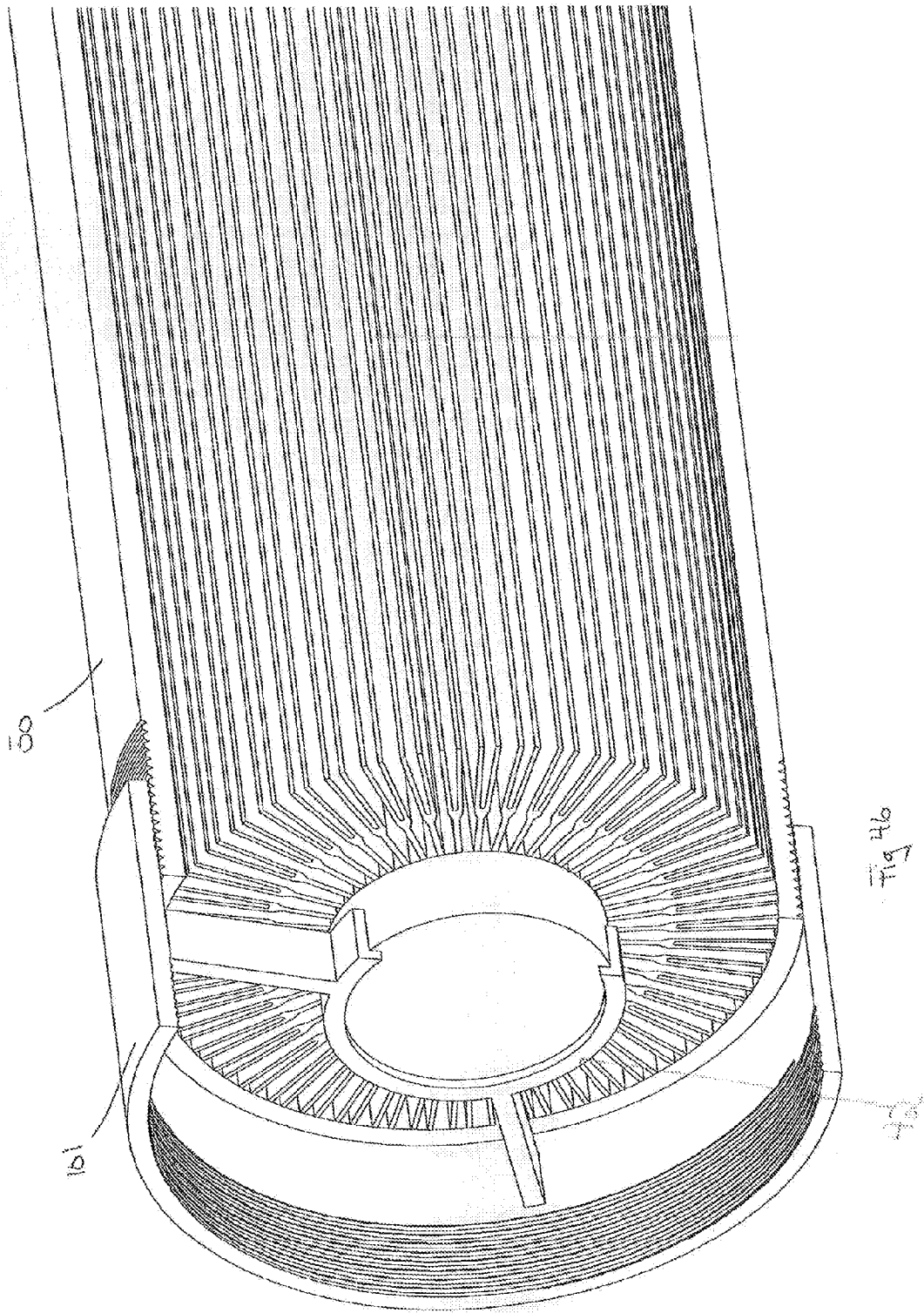


Fig 4





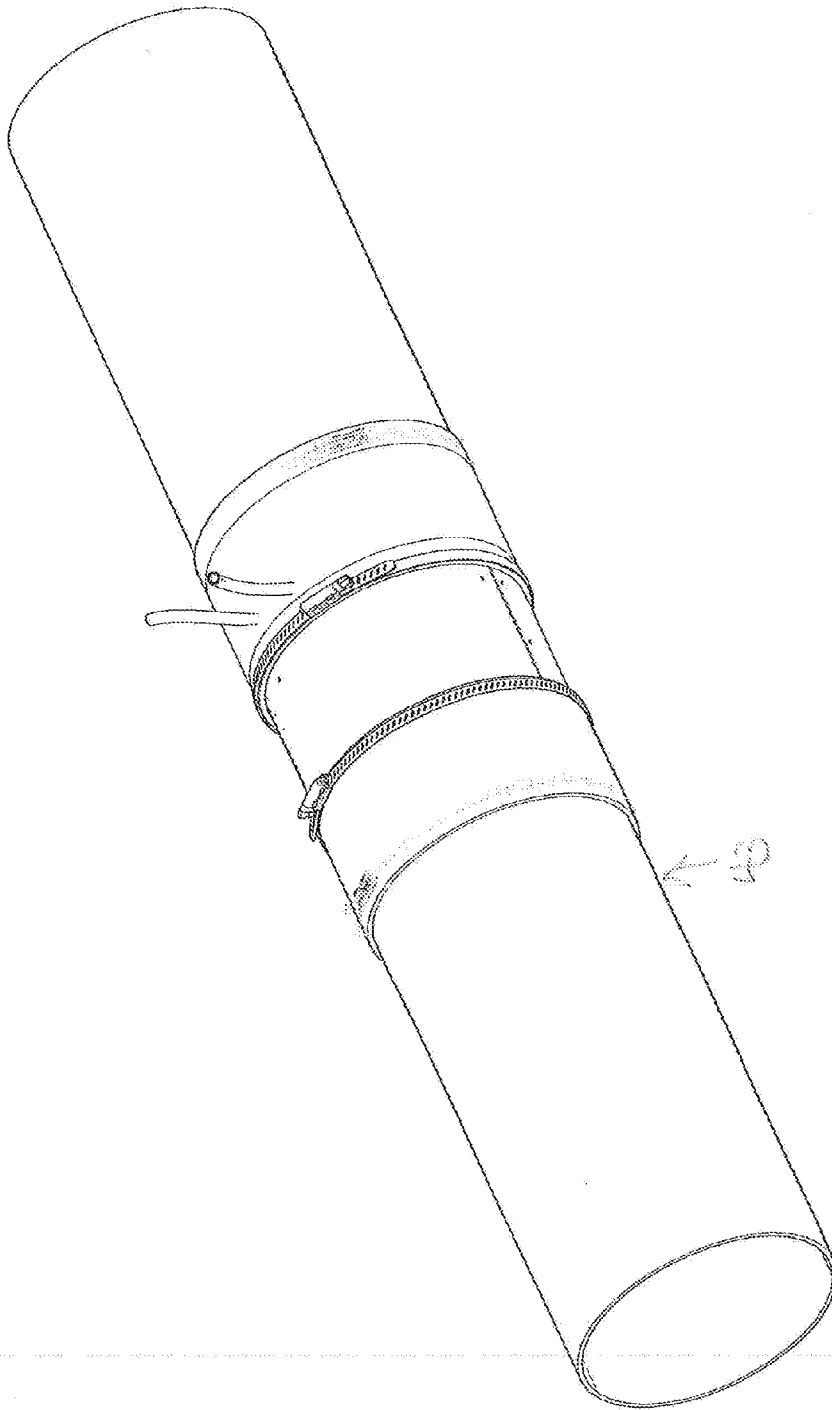


Fig. 3

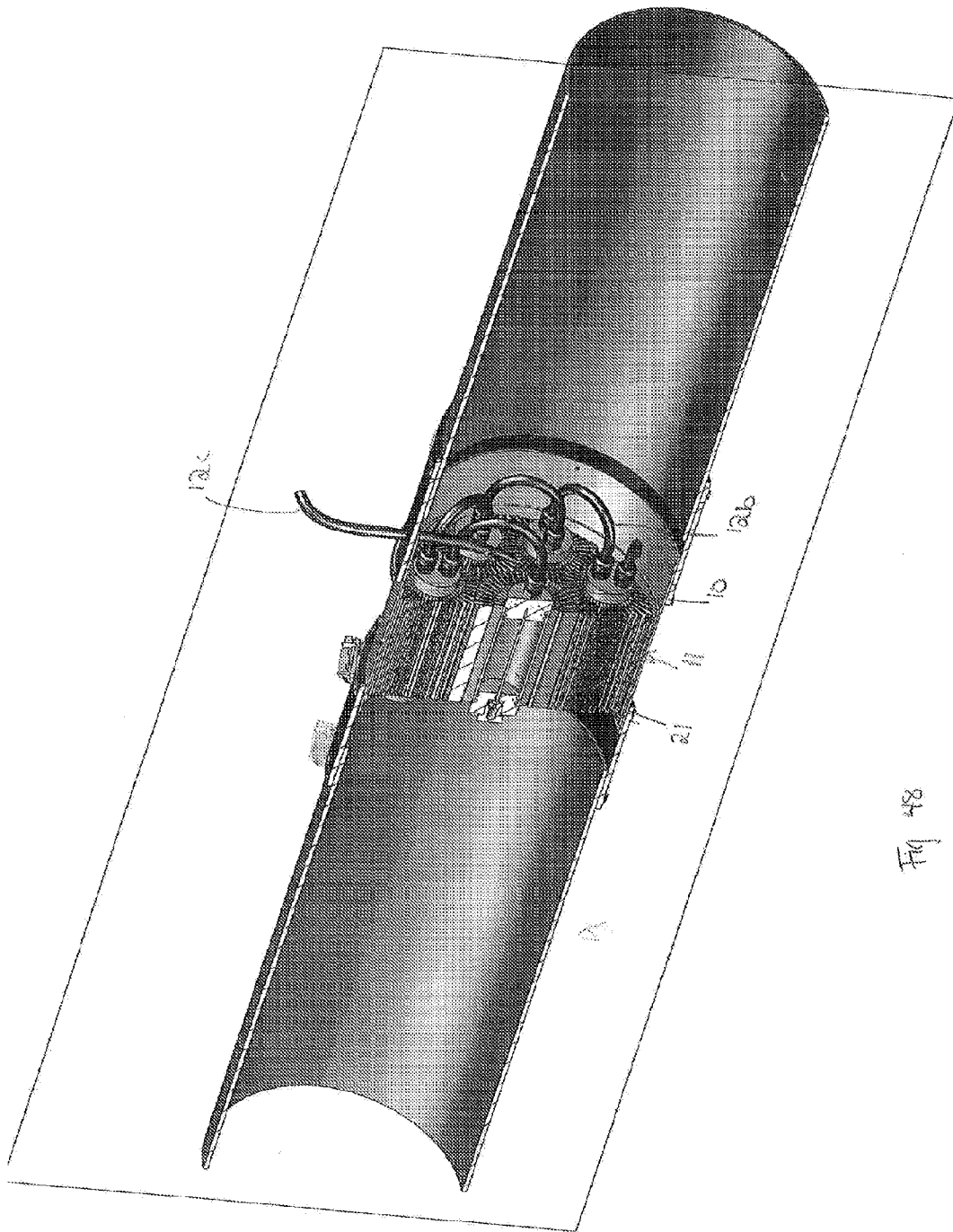


Fig 48

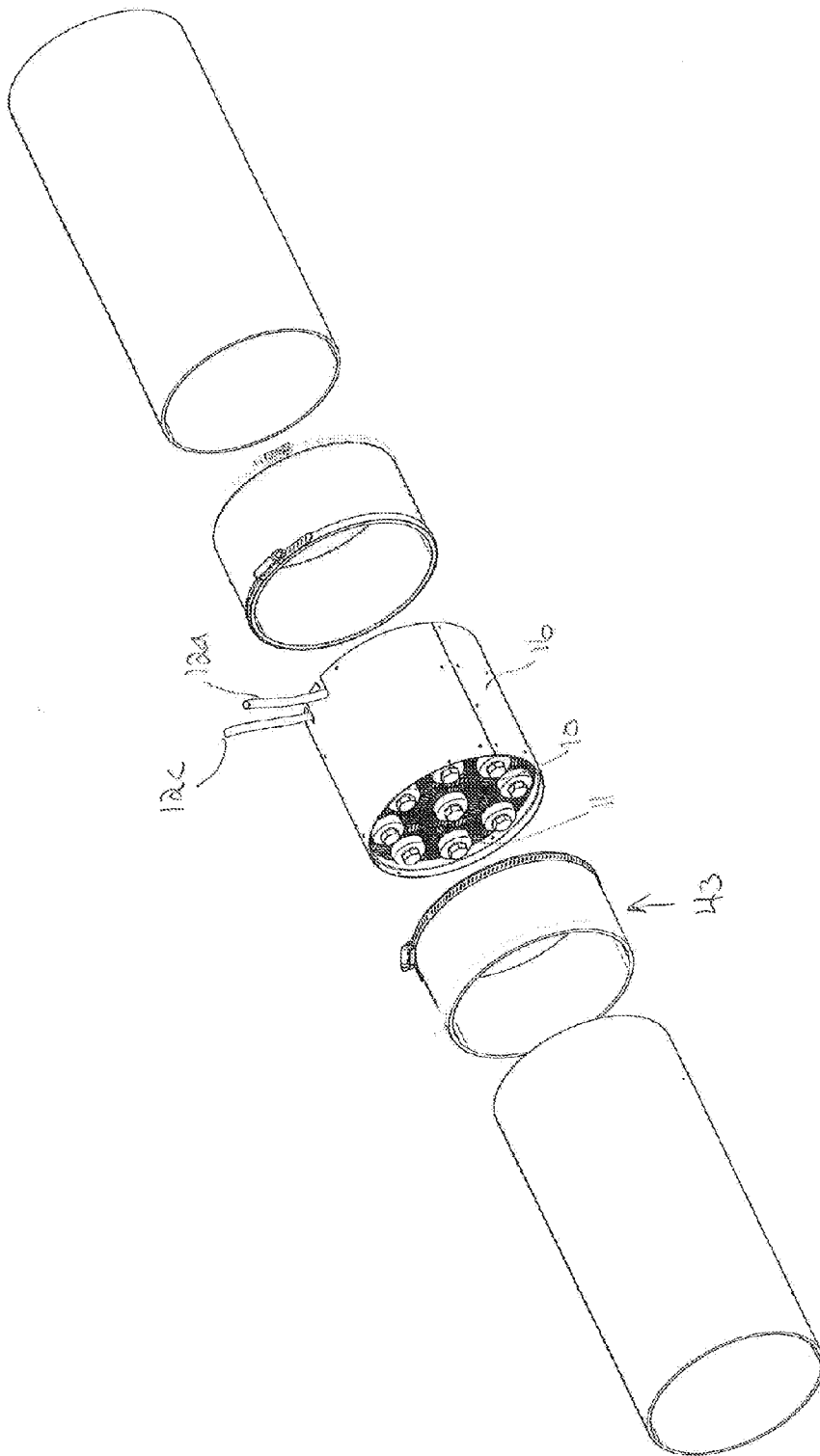
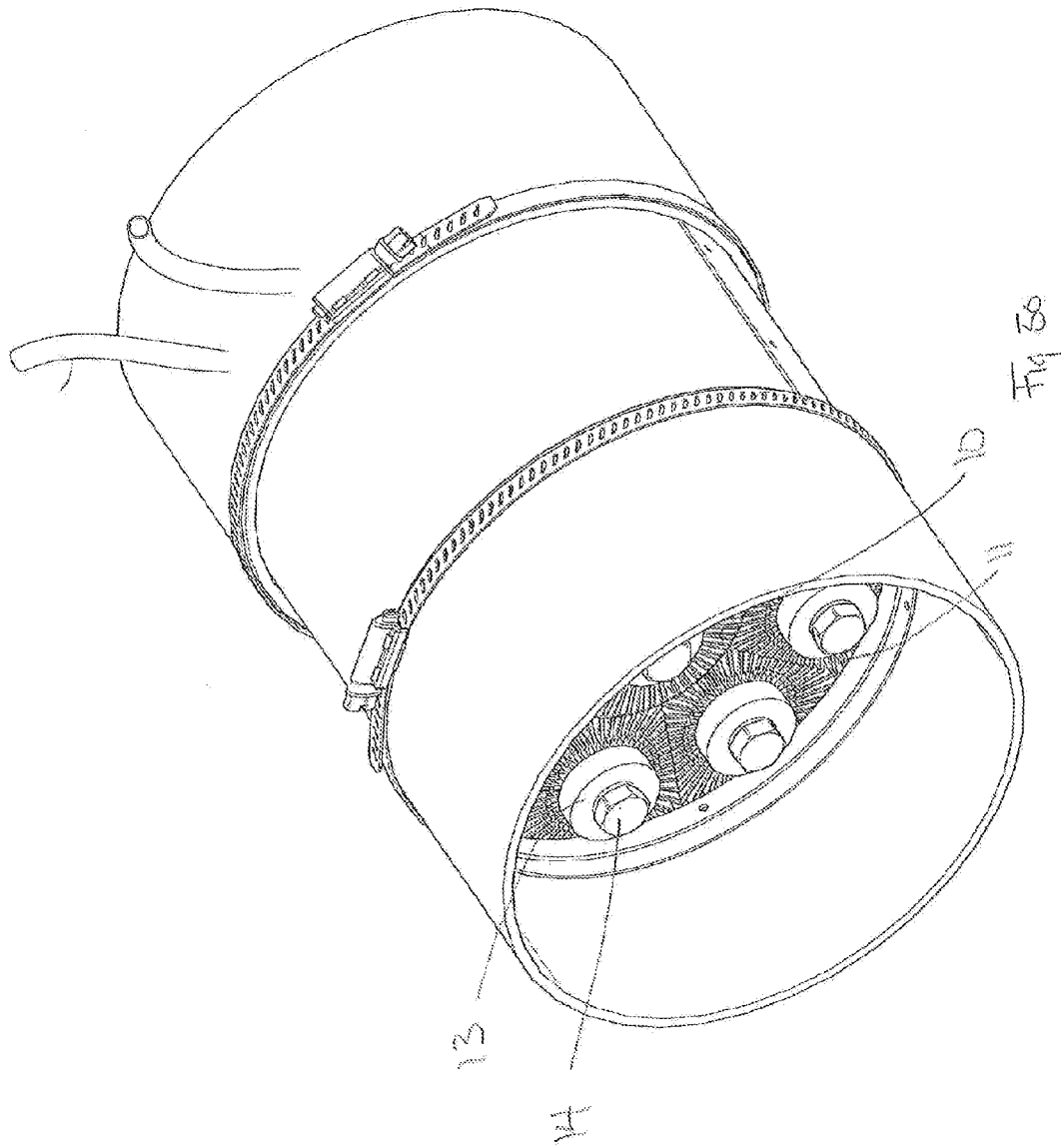


Fig 49



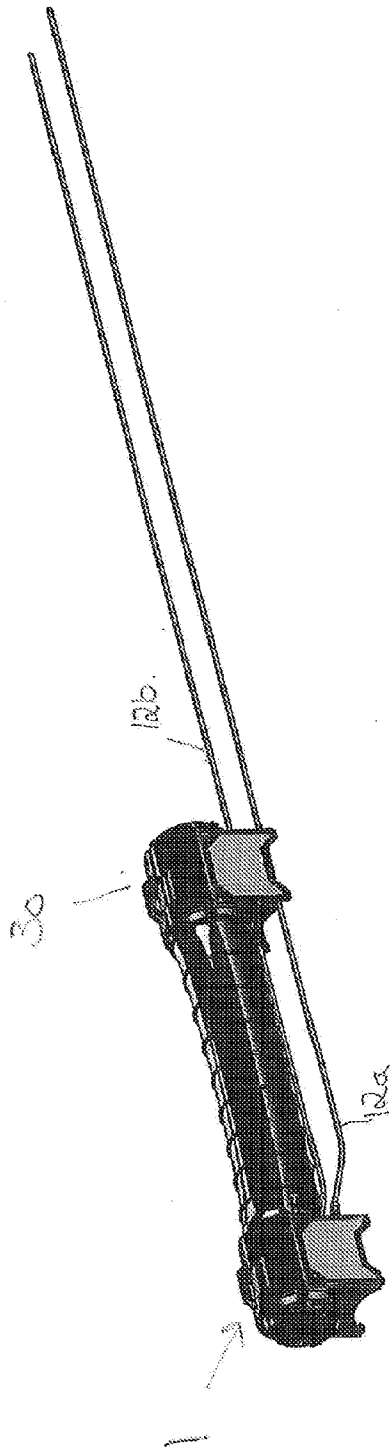


Fig 51