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(54) **OVERHEAD TRACK FOR SUSPENSION OF A POCKET DOOR**

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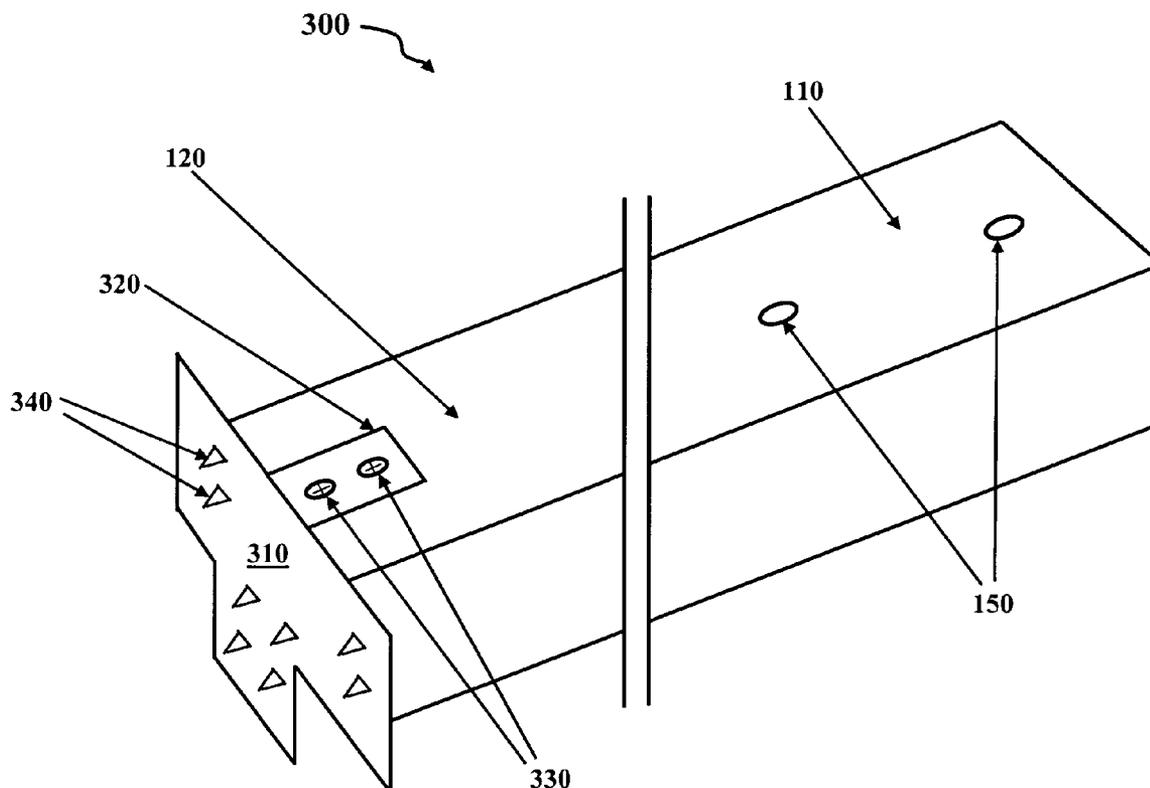
(57) **ABSTRACT**

(22) Filed: **Apr. 14, 2005**

An overhead track for suspension of a pocket door is disclosed. The overhead track has one or more troughs for hanging an pocket door by a plurality of gliders. The overhead track has a flat end for mounting at the pocket door opening and a spiked end for mounting against the door jamb within the pocket. The spiked end is forced into the door jamb within the pocket, then the flat end is screwed into the pocket door header for support and to prevent the spikes from disengaging with the door jamb within the pocket.

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(60) Provisional application No. 60/563,246, filed on Apr. 15, 2004. Provisional application No. 60/563,248,



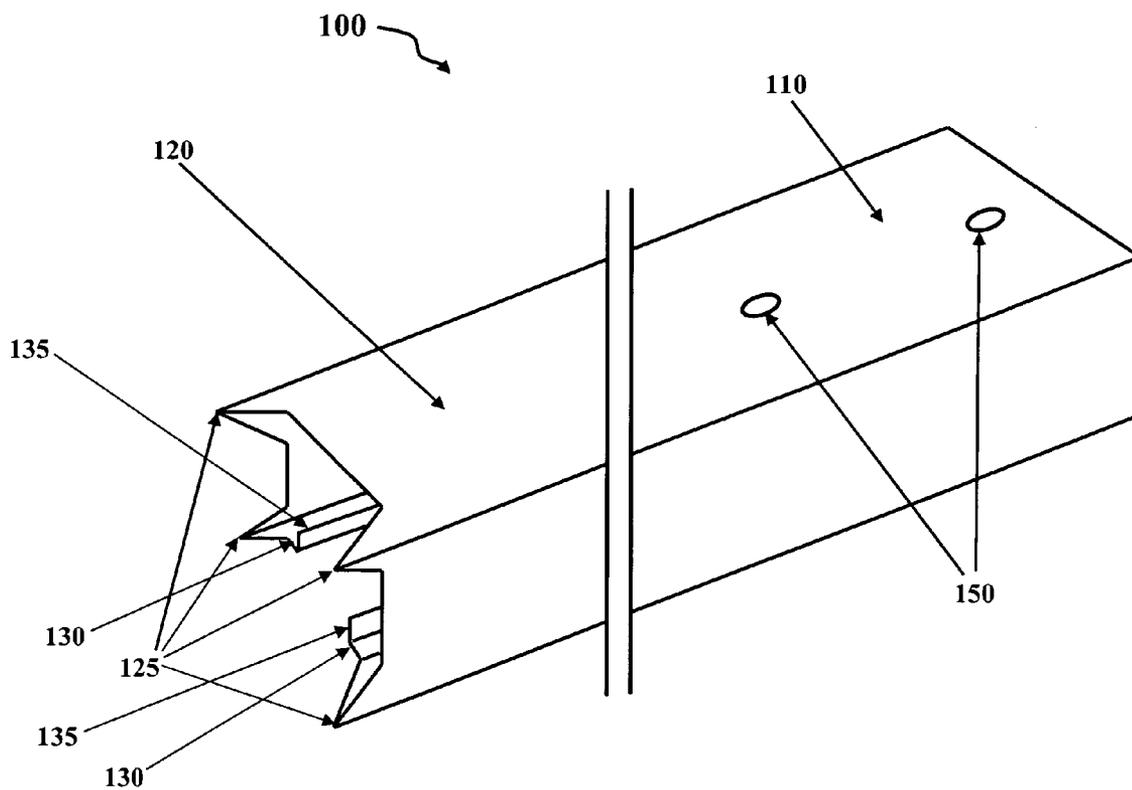


Fig.1

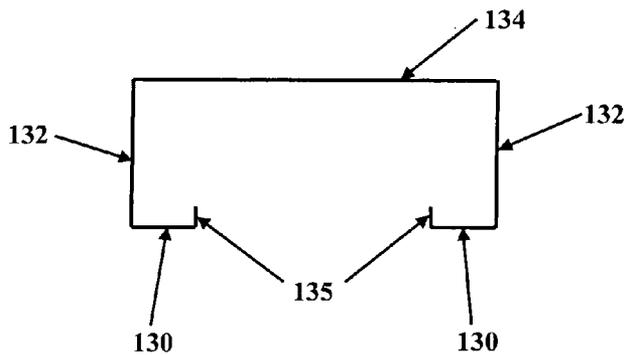


Fig.2

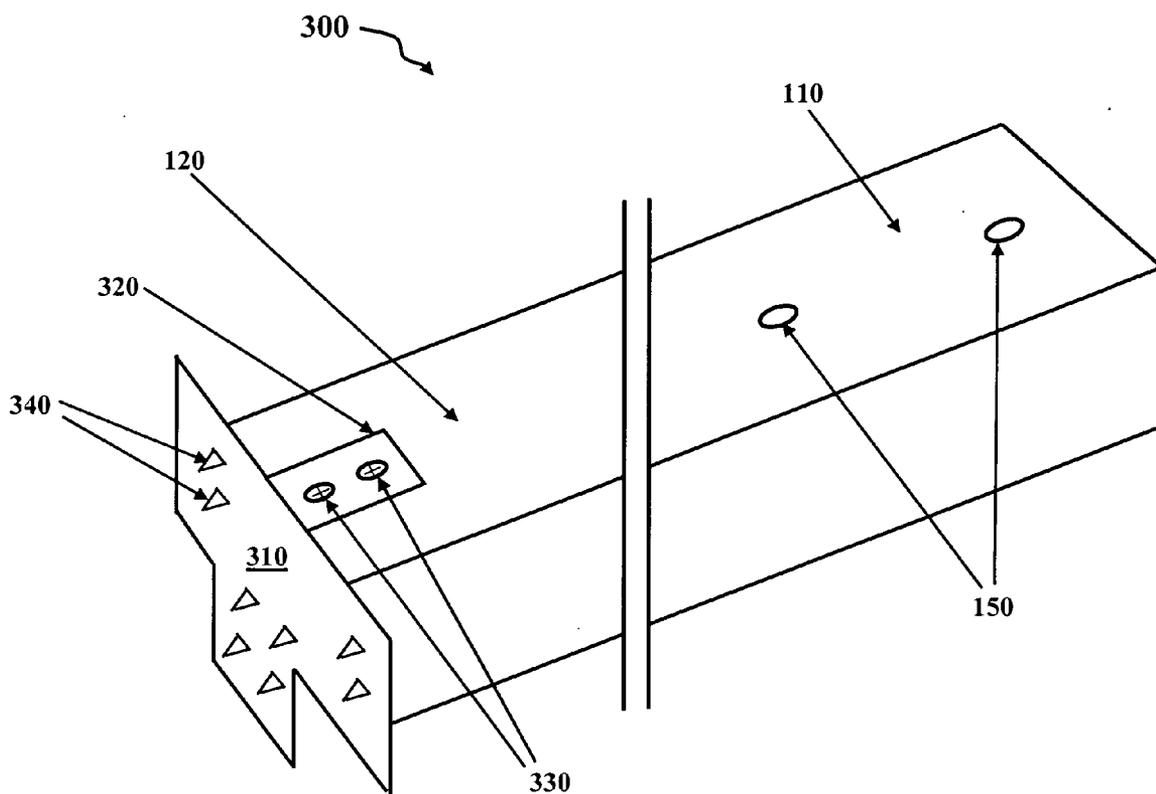


Fig.3

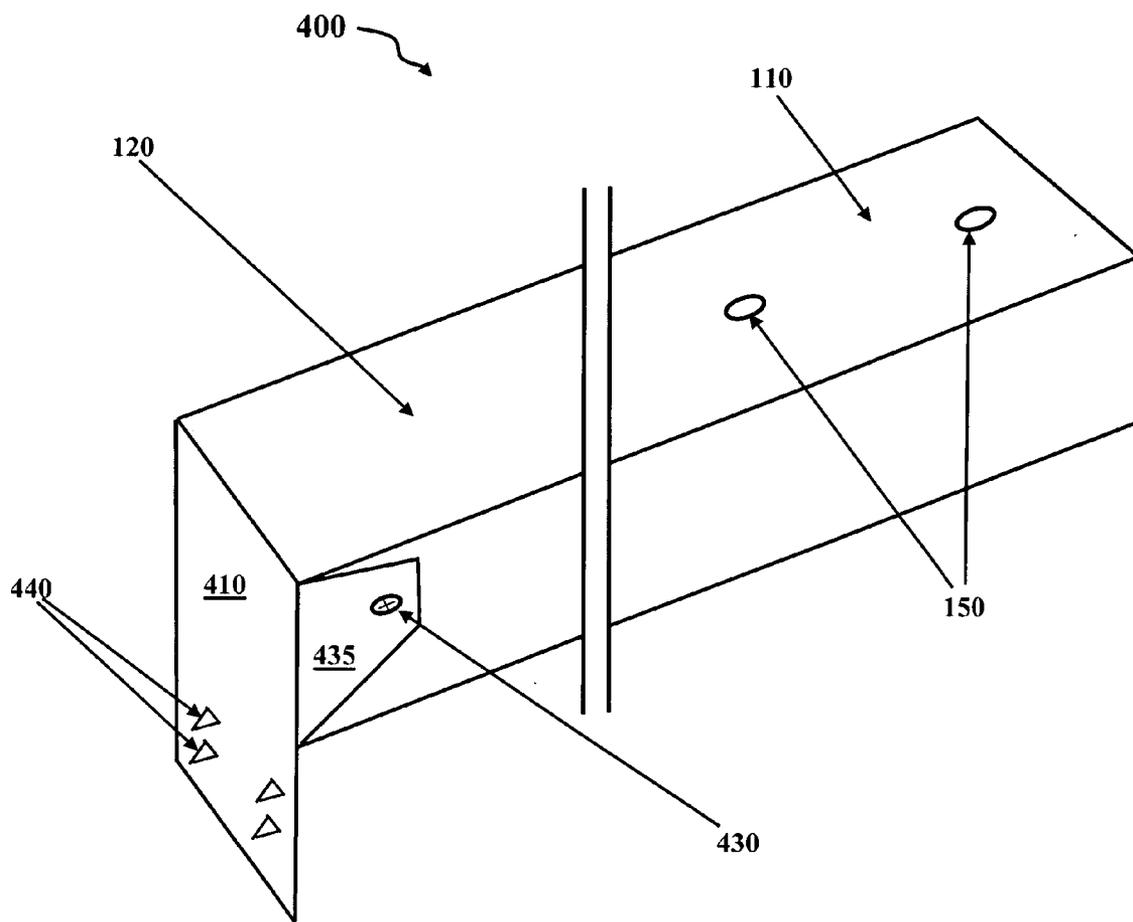
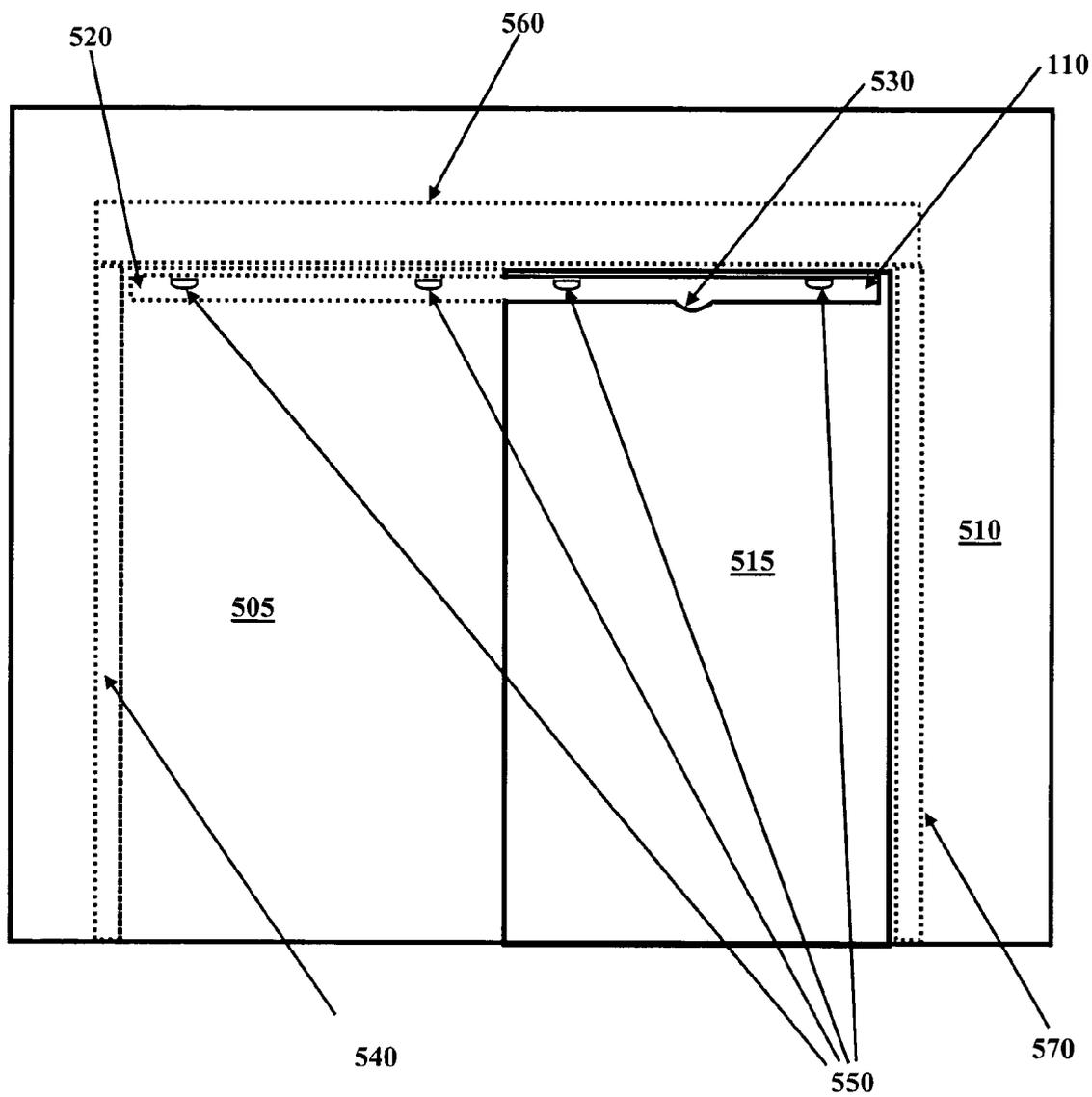


Fig.4



**Fig.5**  
(prior art)

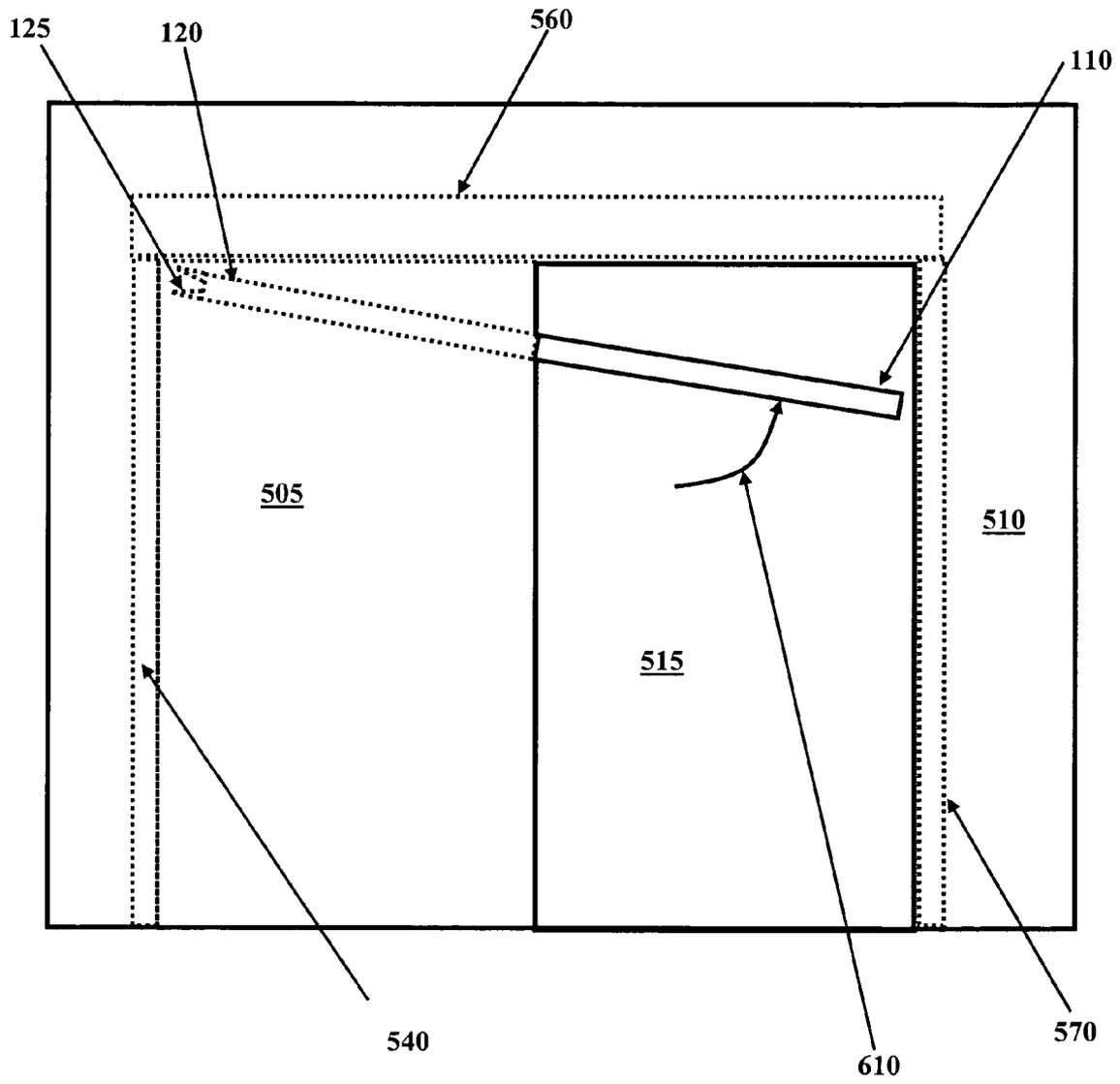


Fig.6

**OVERHEAD TRACK FOR SUSPENSION OF A POCKET DOOR**

[0001] This application is related and claims priority to U.S. provisional application No. 60/563,246, filed Apr. 15, 2004, entitled "GHOSTRACKS RETRO MODEL S", the entirety of which is incorporated by reference herein, including all of the documents referenced therein. This application is related and claims priority to U.S. provisional application No. 60/563,248, filed Apr. 15, 2004, entitled "GHOSTRACKS RETRO MODEL B", the entirety of which is incorporated by reference herein, including all of the documents referenced therein. This application is related and claims priority to U.S. provisional application No. 60/563,249, filed Apr. 15, 2004, entitled "GHOSTRACKS MODEL P", the entirety of which is incorporated by reference herein, including all of the documents referenced therein.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention

[0003] This invention relates to the field of suspending pocket doors, and in particular, a replacement track for suspension of a pocket door.

[0004] 2. Description of the Prior Art

[0005] Pocket doors are widely used where space is at a premium, in that they don't require space a traditional door to swing open. Pocket doors are sliding doors that slide into a hidden cavity in the wall and are generally suspended by an overhead track whereas the track has a trough on which a set of gliders are attached to the top of the overhead door rests, the gliders in some doors have wheels to reduce friction when moving the door in and out of the pocket. The overhead track extends into a cavity within a wall next to the door opening so that opening the door is accomplished by sliding the door into the cavity.

[0006] Unfortunately, the overhead track may be damaged, perhaps by something jarring the door while it is open or partially open, thereby causing difficulty in opening or closing the door or, in some cases, bending the overhead track enough such that the door falls off the track when its glider passes the break. Possibly the damage is due to wear or vibration, for example a screw used to hold the overhead track to the header may become loose and interfere with closing the door or perhaps causing the overhead track to sag, resulting in the door rubbing against the floor inside the pocket. When this damage occurs, the overhead track must be replaced with a new track. Unfortunately, the replacement is difficult because the pocket is usually encased in drywall or other covering material, plaster or some other covering material on both sides, preventing attachment of the overhead track to the door header. Current overhead track replacement requires the wall surrounding the pocket to be at least partially cut open to remove the old overhead track and fasten the new overhead track to the door header within the pocket, then patching or replacing the drywall or other covering material, taping and spackling, and painting. This process is very expensive, time consuming and messy.

[0007] What is needed is a overhead track that can be installed from outside the pocket without cutting into the drywall or other covering material that encases the pocket.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

[0008] In one embodiment, an overhead track for suspension of a pocket door is disclosed including an overhead

track with an end for insertion into a pocket and an end for attachment in a door opening. The overhead track has at least one trough for accepting pocket door gliders that are affixed to a pocket door. At the end of the overhead track that is inserted into a pocket, there are spikes configured to be forced into a door jamb within the pocket, thereby supporting that end of the overhead track. At the end for attachment in a door opening there are holes for fastening the overhead track to a header of the pocket door opening.

[0009] In another embodiment, a method of installing an overhead track for suspension of a pocket door is disclosed including the steps of inserting an overhead track into a pocket, the overhead track having spikes at the end that is inserted into the pocket and screw holes at the end that is outside of the pocket and angling the overhead track within the pocket so that the spikes meet with a door jamb located within the pocket. Next, forcing the overhead track towards the door jamb located within the pocket so the spikes pierce the door jamb located, thereby supporting the end of the overhead track that is inserted into the pocket, then pressing the overhead track against a pocket door header at the end of the overhead track that extends outside of the pocket and screwing the overhead track into the header at that end.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

[0010] The invention can be best understood by those having ordinary skill in the art by reference to the following detailed description when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

[0011] FIG. 1 illustrates a three-dimensional view of an embodiment of the present invention.

[0012] FIG. 2 illustrates an end-view of an embodiment of the present invention.

[0013] FIG. 3 illustrates a three-dimensional view of an embodiment of the present invention.

[0014] FIG. 4 illustrates a three-dimensional view of an embodiment of the present invention.

[0015] FIG. 5 illustrates a broken overhead track for suspension of a pocket door that needs repair.

[0016] FIG. 6 illustrates the repair of a broken overhead track for suspension of a pocket door using an overhead track of an embodiment of the present invention.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

[0017] Reference will now be made in detail to the presently preferred embodiments of the invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Throughout the following detailed description, the same reference numerals refer to the same elements in all figures. In all figures, the materials used to make the overhead track may be any sufficiently sturdy material including aluminum, steel, copper and a sturdy plastic.

[0018] Referring to FIG. 1, a three-dimensional view of the present invention is shown. The overhead track 100 for suspension of a pocket door is shown having an end 110 configured to attach to the door header 560 using screws that fasten through holes 150 in the overhead track 100 and into the pocket door header 560 at the door opening 515. The

pocket end **120** is configured to attach to the door jamb **540** that is within the pocket **505** using spikes **125** formed by cutting or molding the pocket end **120** of the overhead track **100** into a plurality of spikes **125** which can be forced into the door jamb **540** that is within the pocket during installation. The spikes may be cut into angular shapes, preferably having acute angles at the tip for piercing the door jamb **540**. For completeness, the tracks that hold the pocket door gliders or wheels are shown formed by flat surfaces **130/135**. Although, in this embodiment, the sides of the overhead track and the tracks are shown meeting at right angles, in other embodiments it is anticipated that other shapes may work equally well or better, including rounded edges.

[0019] Referring now to **FIG. 2**, a side view of the present invention is shown. In this the overhead track has a surface on which the pocket door glider can rest **130** and an edge to keep the pocket door glider from falling off **135**. Although, in this embodiment, the sides of the overhead track **132**, the top of the overhead track **134**, the track bottom **130** and the track lip **135** are shown meeting at right angles, in other embodiments it is anticipated that other shapes may work equally well or better, including rounded edges.

[0020] Referring to **FIG. 3**, a three-dimensional view of the present invention is shown. The overhead track **300** for suspension of a pocket door is shown having an end **110** configured to attach to the door header **560** using screws that fasten through holes **150** and into the pocket door header **560** at the door opening **515**. The pocket end **120** is configured to attach to the door jamb **540** within the pocket using spikes **340** that are formed from or attached to a plate **310**. Although eight spikes are shown in this example, any number may be included. The plate **310** may be fastened to the pocket end **120** of the overhead track **300** using fasteners **330** that pass through a flange **320** bent from the plate **310** and through the pocket end **120** of the overhead track **300** or, in another embodiment, the plate **310** may be welded to the pocket end **120** of the overhead track **300**. The plate may be attached to the pocket end **120** at approximately right angles to the overhead track. Any fastening means known in the industry may be used to attach the plate **310** to the pocket end **120** of the overhead track **300**. The spikes **340** can be forced into the door jamb **540** that is within the pocket **505** during installation.

[0021] Referring to **FIG. 4**, a three-dimensional view of the present invention is shown. The overhead track **400** for suspension of a pocket door is shown having an end **110** configured to attach to the door header **560** using screws that fasten through holes **150** in the overhead track **400** and into the pocket door header **560** at the door opening **515**. The pocket end **120** is configured to attach to the door jamb **540** within the pocket **505** using spikes **440** that are formed from or attached to a plate **410**. The plate **410** may be fastened to the pocket end **120** of the overhead track **400** using a fastener **430** that passes through flanges **435** bent from the plate **410** and through the pocket end **120** of the overhead track **400**. Any fastening means known in the industry may be used to attach the plate **410** to the pocket end **120** of the overhead track **400**, including sheet metal screws, bolts/nuts and rivets, but in this embodiment, it is important that the attachment means allows the plate **410** to pivot around the attachment means, thereby a rivet may be the best means. Allowing the plate **410** to pivot around the fastener **430** provides greater flexibility for the overhead track **400** to be

installed in places where there are uneven door jambs **540**. The spikes **440** can be forced into the door jamb **540** within the pocket **505** during installation. The spikes **440** may be separate components having a sharp enough edge to pierce framing materials and have a method of attaching to the plate **410**, or may be formed by punching out sharp protrusions from plate **410**, as is known in the industry. Although 4 spikes **440** are shown, any number may be used depending on the strength required.

[0022] Referring to **FIG. 5**, a broken overhead track for suspension of a pocket door that needs repair of the prior art is shown. In this example, the broken overhead track is shown with a bend **530** located at the end **110** that is within the door opening **515**, though the present invention may be used to replace any broken overhead track. The track is attached to the pocket door header **560** with a plurality of fasteners **550**, perhaps wood screws. The end **520** of the overhead track that is installed within the pocket **505** is shown as many existing tracks would appear—that is a flat end **520** that doesn't have mounting spikes. This overhead track is held in place by a series of fasteners **550**. Although the pocket door is not shown, its travel within the drywall or other covering material **510** is limited by the door jamb **540** within the pocket **505**. In present methods of repairing the overhead track, a hole is cut in the drywall or other covering material **510** surrounding the pocket **505**, screws **550** are removed, the faulty overhead track is removed, a new overhead track is inserted and screwed into place and then the drywall or other covering material **510** is replaced, repaired and painted.

[0023] Referring to **FIG. 6**, the repair of a broken overhead track for suspension of a pocket door using an overhead track of an embodiment of the present invention is shown. In this example, the faulty overhead track has already been removed, perhaps using a crowbar to pull out any screws that held it in place. In this example, the new overhead track of **FIG. 1** is shown being installed, though any other overhead track of the present invention may be installed using the same method. To start, the pocket end **120** of the new overhead track is placed inside the pocket **505** with its spikes **125** set against the door jamb **540** and the end **110** configured to be in the door opening **515** is angled down slightly to allow the overhead track to fit between the door jambs **540/570**. Next, the overhead track is moved in an upward motion **610** until the spikes **125** start to force themselves into the door jamb **540**. At this point, the overhead track may be forced in the direction of the door jamb **540** so as to force the spikes **125** to enter into the jamb **540**, perhaps by applying additional vertical force, or by prying the door opening end **110** of the overhead track against the door opening jamb **570**. Once the spikes **125** are sufficiently forced into the door jamb **540**, the door end **110** of the overhead track may be screwed into the header **560** at the door opening end **110**. The spikes will support the pocket end **120** of the overhead track so that it will function when the door is positioned inside the pocket **505**.

[0024] It is believed that the system and method of the present invention and many of its attendant advantages will be understood by the foregoing description. It is also believed that it will be apparent that various changes may be made in the form, construction and arrangement of the components thereof without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention or without sacrificing all of its material

advantages. The form herein before described being merely exemplary and explanatory embodiment thereof. It is the intention of the following claims to encompass and include such changes.

What is claimed is:

1. An overhead track for suspending a pocket door comprising:

an overhead track having an end for insertion into a pocket and an end for attachment in a pocket door opening, the overhead track having at least one trough for accepting at least one pocket door glider, the at least one pocket door glider affixed to a pocket door;

a plurality of spikes at the end for insertion, said plurality of spikes configured to be forced into a door jamb within said pocket, thereby supporting the end for insertion; and

at least one hole at the end for attachment for fastening the overhead track to a header of the pocket door opening.

2. The overhead track for suspending a pocket door of claim 1, whereas the plurality of spikes comprise sharp ends of the overhead track at the end for insertion.

3. The overhead track for suspending a pocket door of claim 1, whereas the plurality of spikes are formed on a plate and the plate is fastened approximately perpendicular to the overhead track at the end for insertion.

4. The overhead track for suspending a pocket door of claim 3, whereas the plate is fastened to the overhead track with a fastener selected from the group comprising screws and rivets.

5. The overhead track for suspending a pocket door of claim 3, whereas the plate is welded to the overhead track.

6. A method for installing an overhead track into an already existing door pocket comprising:

inserting an overhead track into a pocket, the overhead track having spikes at an end that is inserted into the pocket and screw holes at an end that is outside of the pocket;

angling the overhead track within the pocket so that the plurality of spikes meet with a door jamb located within the pocket;

forcing the overhead track towards the door jamb located within the pocket so that the plurality of spikes pierce the door jamb located within the pocket, thereby supporting the end that is inserted into the pocket;

pressing the overhead track against a pocket door header at the end of the overhead track that extends outside of the pocket; and

screwing the overhead track into the pocket door header at the end of the overhead track that extends outside of the pocket.

7. The method for installing an overhead track into an already existing door pocket of claim 6, whereas the plurality of spikes comprise sharp ends of the overhead track at the end that is inserted.

8. The method for installing an overhead track into an already existing door pocket of claim 6, whereas the plurality of spikes are formed on a plate and the plate is fastened to the overhead track at the end that is inserted.

9. The method for installing an overhead track into an already existing door pocket of claim 8, whereas the plate is fastened to the overhead track with a fastener selected from the group comprising screws and rivets.

10. The method for installing an overhead track into an already existing door pocket of claim 8, whereas the plate is welded to the overhead track at approximately a right angle.

11. The method for installing an overhead track into an already existing door pocket of claim 6, further comprising:

prying a broken overhead track from the pocket door header.

12. The method for installing an overhead track into an already existing door pocket of claim 6, whereas the forcing includes prying the overhead track against a pocket door jamb located outside of the pocket.

13. An overhead track for suspending a pocket door comprising:

an overhead track having an end for insertion into a pocket and an end for attachment in a pocket door opening, the overhead track having at least one trough for accepting at least one pocket door glider, the at least one pocket door glider affixed to a pocket door;

a plurality of spikes formed at the end for insertion, said plurality of spikes configured to be forced into a door jamb within said pocket, thereby supporting the end for insertion; and

at least one hole at the end for attachment for fastening the overhead track to a header of the pocket door opening.

14. The overhead track for suspending a pocket door of claim 13, whereas the plurality of spikes is formed by cutting the end for insertion at angles.

15. The overhead track for suspending a pocket door of claim 13, whereas the plurality of spikes is molded into the overhead track at the end for insertion.

16. The overhead track for suspending a pocket door of claim 14, whereas the angles are acute angles.

\* \* \* \* \*