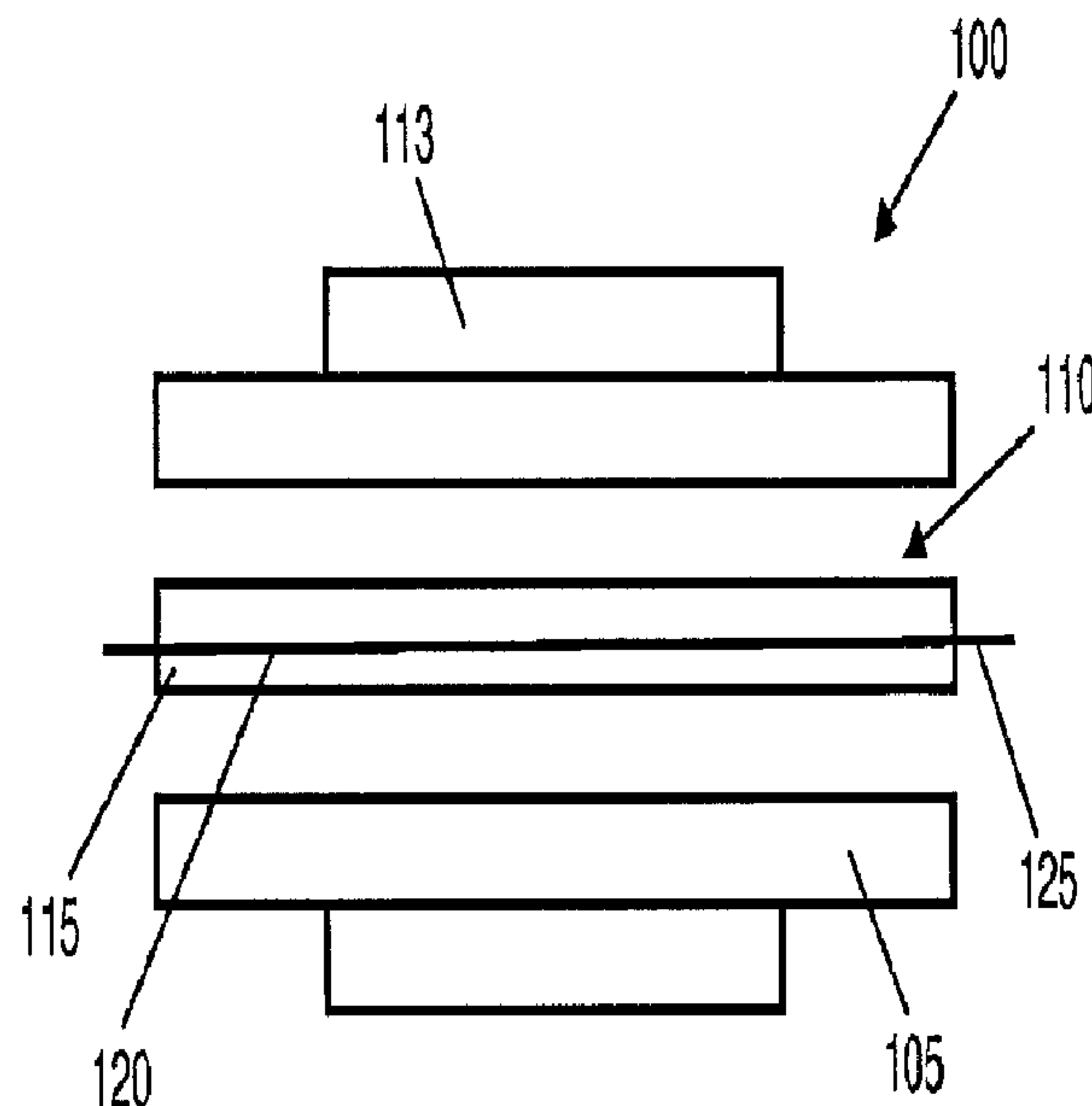




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(54) Titre : ALESOIR INTELLIGENT CABLE
(54) Title: A WIRED SMART REAMER



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

A wired reamer for use on a downhole drillstring is disclosed. In some embodiments, the reamer includes a reamer body comprising a pathway therethrough and wiring located within the pathway for transmitting at least one of power or communications. In other embodiments, the reamer includes a reamer body comprising a pathway enclosed within the reamer body, wiring located within the pathway for transmitting at least one of power or communications, a sensor and a processor located within the reamer body. The sensor is connected with the wiring for transmitting data measured by the sensor through the wiring, and the processor is connected with the wiring for receiving the data from the sensor.



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A WIRED SMART REAMER

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

5 Not applicable.

BACKGROUND

In the drilling of oil and gas wells, it is frequently necessary or desirable to "ream" a borehole that has been previously created by a drill bit or other cutting tool so as to ream out ledges, remove sloughed areas and key seats, straighten the borehole, stabilize the drill string, and enlarge the borehole. For those reasons, a reamer may be positioned behind a drill bit, or other cutting structure, on the drilling assembly so as to ream the hole after the bit has formed the borehole. It is sometimes preferred that such a reaming step be performed as the bit is being withdrawn from the borehole, that process being referred to as "backreaming." Also, it is sometimes necessary to run a reamer on a subsequent trip to straighten or clean up the borehole. In casing drilling applications, the reamer is needed to drill the primary hole before the casing string.

When drilling oil and gas wells using a rotary steerable tools, it is desirable to ream the borehole as close to the bit as possible so as to minimize the distance between the bit borehole and the reamer borehole. Because rotary steerable tools commonly need to communicate with the measurement-while-drilling (MWD) system, it is important for all tools located between the rotary steerable tool and the MWD telemetry system to allow the transmission of power and communications through the tool.

There are three main categories of reamers. Fixed blade reamers, including near bit reamers, have fixed blades that do not move or expand. A fixed blade reamer cuts a larger bore because it has a larger outer diameter than the pilot bit. The fixed blade reamer can be used to enlarge a borehole by a relatively small amount. Since the reamer blade is fixed, the borehole opening is at the surface or adjacent a larger hole section. A fixed blade reamer can be used to ream out ledges, straighten boreholes, remove key seats and remove sloughed areas. Roller reamers have roller cutters that are mounted to a main body and can be used to enlarge the bore, ream out ledges, straighten boreholes, remove key seats and sloughed areas, as well as stabilize a drilling string and reduce the overall torque of the drill string. Extendable blade or expandable reamers, including underreamers, have arms that may be extended on surface or downhole to a

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predetermined diameter to cut a larger bore. An extendable blade reamer can be used to enlarge the bore by a substantial amount, ream out ledges, straighten boreholes, and remove key seats and sloughed areas.

Conventional underreamers are typically used in conjunction with a pilot drill bit which is positioned below or downstream of the underreamer. A underreamer can be used to drill and expand the borehole below a cased section or, as in casing drilling applications, can be used to drill the well bore from the surface or below a larger cased section. In casing drilling applications, a drilling assembly including at least a bit and reamer are used to open the borehole below the casing string. The casing string is used as a replacement for the drill pipe, transferring fluid and torque down to the drilling assembly. After the borehole is completed, the underreamer arms are retracted and the drilling assembly is recovered to surface.

The underreamers usually have hinged arms with roller cones and PDC cutters attached thereto. The arms are actuated by mechanical or hydraulic forces acting on the arms, causing the arms to pivot at an end opposite the cutting end of the arms and thereby extend or retract. These arms can be forced out against the formation by a piston or driving arm. In conventional operations, the arms of the underreamer are retracted to allow the tool to pass through a smaller hole section or cased hole section. Once the tool has passed through the smaller hole or cased hole section, the underreamer arms are extended. The pilot bit drills the borehole, while at the same time, the underreamer enlarges the borehole formed by the bit. Typical examples of these types of underreamers are found in U.S. Patents 3,224,507, 3,425,500 and 4,055,226.

In casing drilling applications, the underreamer is opened on surface with a casing string connected behind the reamer. The casing string is used as a replacement for conventional drill pipe. The underreamer needs to be able to close back to a size that will allow the drilling assembly to be removed from the well bore. The drilling assembly may need to be removed if a portion of the assembly fails or if the well bore is completed.

Conventional reamers have several disadvantages. If a reamer's cutting structure experiences wear, the hole geometry may not be opened to the desired size. Also, the reamer's cutting structure may not be selected correctly to properly stabilize a drilling assembly. Moreover, a conventional underreamer may fail to deploy fully or retract fully. A conventional underreamer typically has rotary cutter pocket recesses formed in the body for storing the retracted arms and roller cone cutters when the tool is in a closed state. The pocket recesses tend to fill with debris from the drilling operation, which hinders collapsing of the arms. If the arms do not fully collapse, the drill string may easily hang up in the borehole when an attempt

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is made to remove the string from the borehole. In casing drilling applications, if the reamer arms do not collapse, the underreamer may hang up on the casing string.

The activation and deactivation method of the arms of an underreamers may also create drilling operational limitations. Some underreamers use a ball to assist with the activation and deactivation of the reamer arms. Although a ball drop can be used to lock the reamer arm position, the underreamer cannot be used below tools that have no throughbore to permit passage of the ball. In addition, there may be a limitation to the number of cycles that the reamer arms can be activated and deactivated. Moreover, some underreamers are designed to automatically expand when drilling fluid is pumped through the drill string. Underreamers that actuate in response to flow alone are very sensitive to the flow. Thus, these underreamers may open and close every time the pumps are turned on or off. The primary operational limitation may be the ability to maintain the full deployment of the reamer arms under the required flow rate needed for drilling. Many underreamers have limited or no indication provided at the surface that the underreamer is in the fully-expanded or collapsed position. Thus, in some applications, it may be desirable to control when the underreamer expands or collapses regardless of the flow, rather than rely on automatic expansion in response to the drilling fluid. It may also be desirable to vary the size of the hole being opened downhole depending on the well bore location.

Another method for enlarging a borehole below a previously cased borehole section includes using a winged reamer behind a conventional drill bit. In such an assembly, a conventional pilot drill bit is disposed at the lowermost end of the drilling assembly with a winged reamer disposed at some distance behind the drill bit. The winged reamer generally comprises a tubular body with one or more longitudinally extending "wings" or blades projecting radially outwardly from the tubular body. Once the winged reamer has passed through any cased portions of the wellbore, the pilot bit rotates about the centerline of the drilling axis to drill a lower borehole on center in the desired trajectory of the well path, while the eccentric winged reamer follows the pilot bit and engages the formation to enlarge the pilot borehole to the desired diameter.

Yet another method for enlarging a borehole below a previously cased borehole section includes using a bi-center bit, which is a one-piece drilling structure that provides a combination underreamer and pilot bit. The pilot bit is disposed on the lowermost end of the drilling assembly, and the eccentric underreamer bit is disposed slightly above the pilot bit. Once the bi-center bit has passed through any cased portions of the wellbore, the pilot bit rotates about the centerline of the drilling axis and drills a pilot borehole on center in the

Hardwired drillpipe has also been developed which allows significant amounts of data to be transferred from downhole to the surface. These systems require that the hardwire be run the length of the drillstring and communicate with the drilling BHA. Communications across connections can be problematic, and given the large number of connections in a typical drill string, these systems can be prone to reliability and maintenance issues.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a detailed description of the preferred embodiments of the invention, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings in which:

10 FIG. 1 is a representative schematic of a wired reamer with power and/or communications wiring through the reamer flowbore in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 2 shows the wired reamer of FIG. 1 with the power and/or communications wiring through the reamer body;

15 FIG. 3 is a representative schematic of a wired, adjustable blade reamer with power and/or communications wiring through the reamer flowbore in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 4 shows the wired reamer of FIG. 3 with the power and/or communications wiring through the reamer body;

20 FIG. 5 shows the wired reamer of FIG. 1 with the power and/or communications wiring to the reamer flowbore;

FIG. 6 shows the wired reamer of FIG. 2 with the power and/or communications wiring to the reamer body;

25 FIG. 7 shows the wired reamer of FIG. 1 with the power and/or communications wiring contained within the reamer flowbore;

FIG. 8 shows the wired reamer of FIG. 2 with the power and/or communications wiring contained within the reamer body;

FIG. 9 shows the wired reamer of FIG. 1 with sensors;

FIG. 10 shows the wired reamer of FIG. 2 with sensors;

30 FIG. 11 shows the wired reamer of FIG. 3 with sensors;

FIG. 12 shows the wired reamer of FIG. 4 with sensors;

FIG. 13 shows the wired reamer of FIG. 1 with wireless sensors;

FIG. 14 shows the wired reamer of FIG. 2 with wireless sensors;

FIG. 16 shows the wired reamer with sensors of FIG. 5 with sensors and access to a processor;

FIG. 17 shows the wired reamer of FIG. 7 with sensors and a processor;

FIG. 18 shows the wired reamer of FIG. 1 with controllers and actuators;

5 FIG. 19 shows the wired reamer of FIG. 2 with controller and actuators;

FIG. 20 shows the smart reamer of FIG. 15 with controllers and actuators;

FIG. 21 shows the smart reamer of FIG. 16 with controller and actuators;

FIG. 22 shows the smart reamer of FIG. 20 with controllers and actuators; and

FIG. 23 shows the smart reamer of FIG. 21 with controller and actuators.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The following discussion is directed to various embodiments of the invention. Although one or more of these embodiments may be preferred, the embodiments disclosed should not be interpreted, or otherwise used, as limiting the scope of the disclosure, including
15 the claims. In addition, one skilled in the art will understand that the following description has broad application, and the discussion of any embodiment is meant only to be exemplary of that embodiment, and not intended to intimate that the scope of the disclosure, including the claims, is limited to that embodiment.

Certain terms are used throughout the following description and claims to refer to
20 particular features or components. As one skilled in the art will appreciate, different persons may refer to the same feature or component by different names. This document does not intend to distinguish between components or features that differ in name but not function. The drawing FIGS. are not necessarily to scale. Certain features and components herein may be shown exaggerated in scale or in somewhat schematic form and some details of conventional
25 elements may not be shown in interest of clarity and conciseness.

In the following discussion and in the claims, the terms “including” and “comprising” are used in an open-ended fashion, and thus should be interpreted to mean “including, but not limited to...” Also, the term “couple” or “couples” is intended to mean either an indirect or direct connection. Thus, if a first device couples to a second device, that
30 connection may be through a direct connection, or through an indirect connection via other devices and connections.

A wired reamer permits power and/or communications through the reamer to other downhole tools, to equipment on the surface, or to the reamer itself. The ability to pass

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reamer having communications through or to the reamer, the processor may be located at the surface, on another downhole tool, or on the reamer itself. In embodiments of the smart reamer having communications contained within the reamer, the processor is necessarily located on the reamer itself.

- 5 While preferred embodiments have been shown and described, modifications thereof can be made by one skilled in the art without departing from the scope or teachings herein. The embodiments described herein are exemplary only and are not limiting. Many variations and modifications of the system and apparatus are possible and are within the scope of the invention. For example, the relative dimensions of various parts, the materials from which the
- 10 various parts are made, and other parameters can be varied. Accordingly, the scope of protection is not limited to the embodiments described herein, but is only limited by the claims that follow, the scope of which shall include all equivalents of the subject matter of the claims.

7. The reamer of claim 1, further comprising the sensor being wirelessly connected with the wiring.

8. The reamer of claim 1, further comprising a processor connected with the wiring for
5 receiving data from the sensor.

9. The reamer of claim 8, wherein the sensor is wirelessly connected with the wiring.

10. The reamer of claim 8, wherein the processor is positioned at a location, the location
10 selected from the group consisting of: within the reamer body, at the surface, and on another downhole tool.

11. The reamer of claim 1, further comprising:
wherein the reamer is an adjustable blade reamer comprising adjustable blades;
15 an actuator operatively connected with the adjustable blades to adjust the position of
the adjustable blades; and
a controller operatively connected with the actuator for controlling the position of
the adjustable blades.

20 12. The reamer of claim 11, wherein the controller is configured to change the cutting diameter of the adjustable blades.

13. The reamer of claim 11, wherein the actuator is selected from the group consisting of: an electric actuator, a mechanical actuator, and a hydraulic actuator.

25 14. The reamer of claim 11, further comprising a processor connected with the controller for transmitting a signal to the controller, the signal directing the controller to actuate the actuator.

30 15. The reamer of claim 14, wherein the processor is positioned at a location, the location selected from the group consisting of: within the reamer body, at the surface, and on another downhole tool.

a controller operatively connected with the actuator for controlling the position of the adjustable blades.

41. The reamer of claim 40, wherein the controller is configured to change the cutting
5 diameter of the adjustable blades.
42. The reamer of claim 40, wherein the actuator is selected from the group consisting of: an electric actuator, a mechanical actuator, and a hydraulic actuator.
- 10 43. The reamer of claim 40, wherein the processor is connected with the controller for transmitting a signal to the controller, the signal directing the controller to actuate the actuator.
44. The reamer of claim 43, wherein the processor generates the signal as a function of
15 the data received from the sensor.

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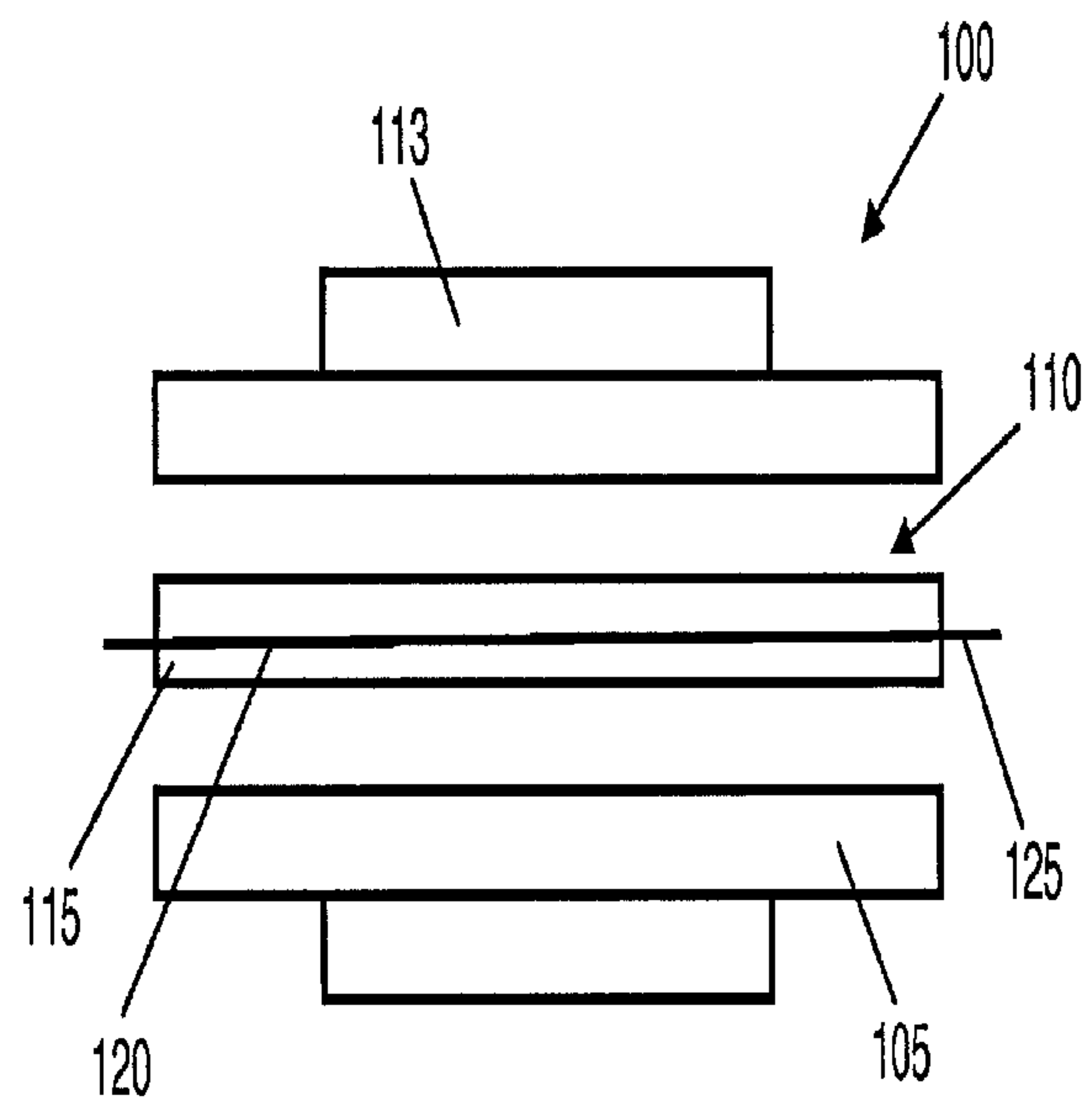


FIG. 1

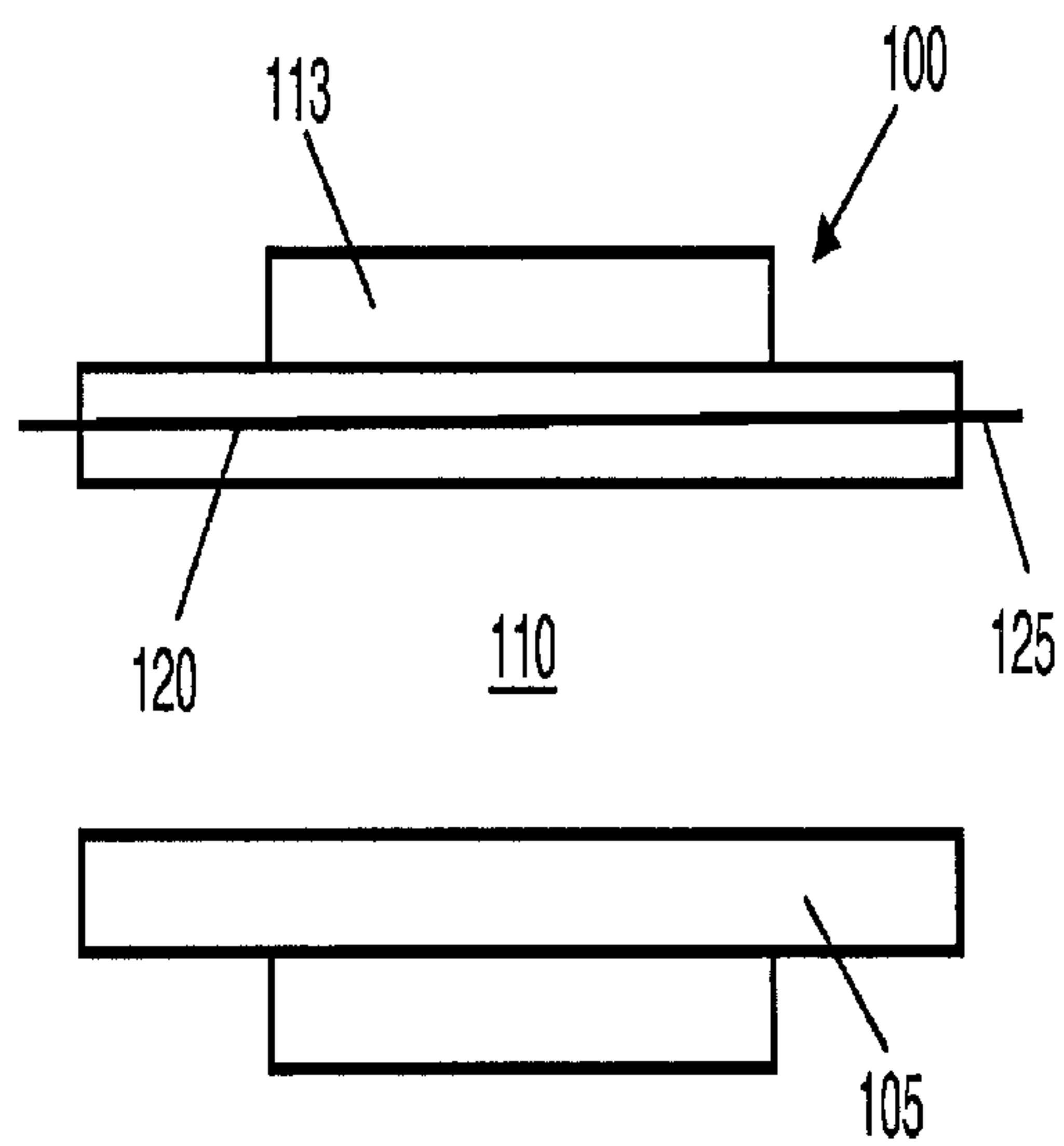


FIG. 2

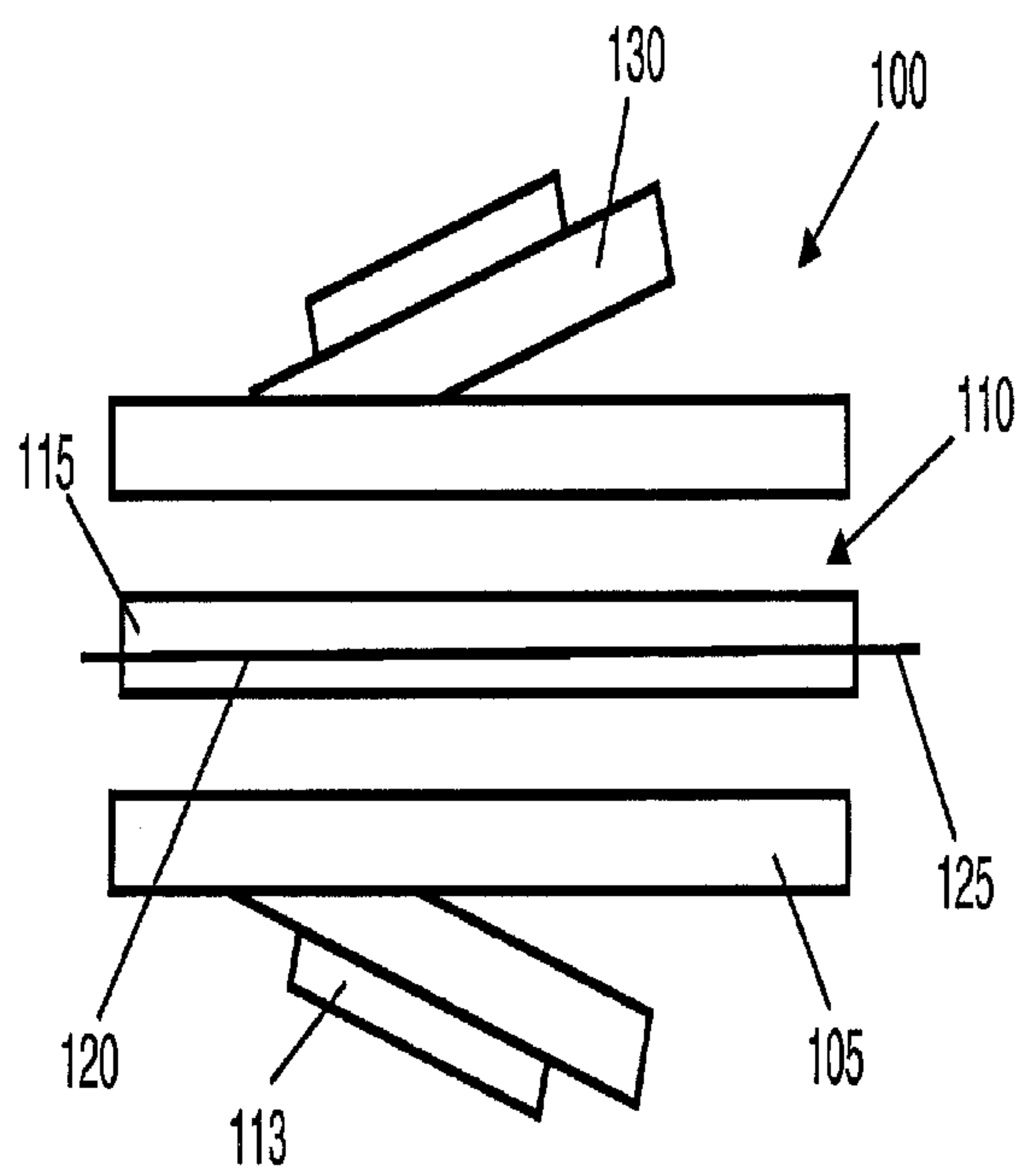


FIG. 3

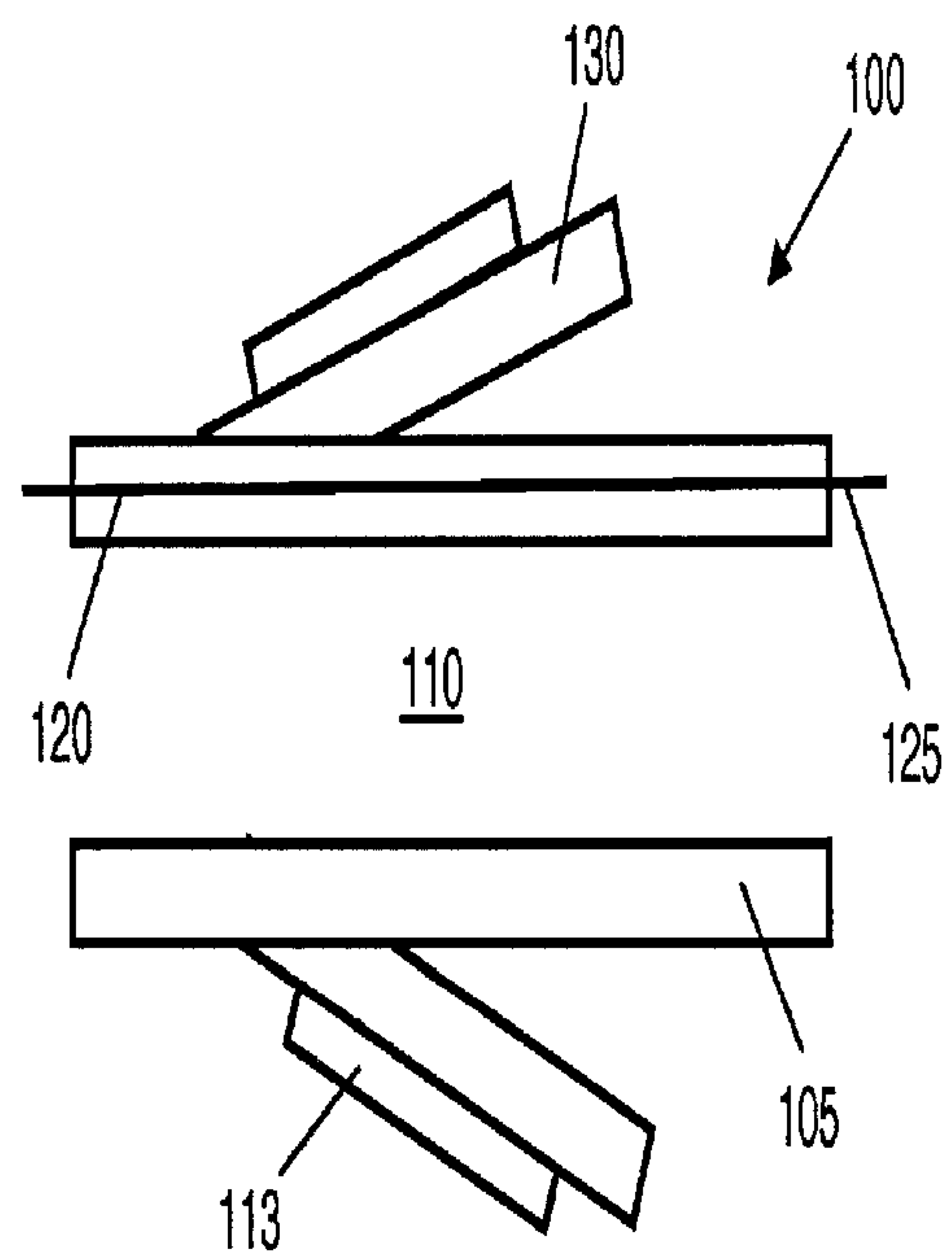


FIG. 4

