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(54) STRUCTURE FOR CONNECTING WIRING CONDUCTOR

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Description

Technical Field

[0001] The present invention relates to a connection structure of a wiring conductor that electrically interconnects a plurality of wiring terminals of an electronic device.

Background Art

[0002] In a case where one wiring terminal and the other wiring terminal of an electronic device are connected, a structure typically used in the related art is to firmly fix the terminals by sandwiching the both terminals using a male screw (for example, a bolt) and a female screw (for example, a nut) so that the terminals are electrically and mechanically connected in a reliable manner. In such a structure, however, it is crucial to hold the female screw in a reliable manner when the male screw is fastened and the terminals cannot be connected satisfactorily unless the female screw is stopped from rotating and further the female screw is positioned accurately. Workability is therefore poor.

[0003] To overcome this problem, PTL 1 describes a power-supply supply terminal, an electronic component with a conductor member, and a structure body including the power-supply supply terminal. The power-supply supply terminal 2 is formed of a first terminal block 4 and a second terminal block 20. The first terminal block 4 is provided with a plurality of slits 6 to insert press-fit terminals 12 bent in the shape of a capital U and an insert-molded female screw 8. Also, a back wiring board (BWB) 44 has a conductor pattern for a supply of the power supply and a plurality of through-holes connected to the conductor pattern. The power-supply supply terminal 2 is installed to the BWB 44 by inserting press-fit pins 14 of the press-fit terminals 12 into the through-holes of the BWB 44. An outside wiring can be firmly fixed to the first terminal block 4 by screwing a male screw 16 into the female screw 8 with a press-fit terminal 18 attached to the tip end of the outside wiring sandwiched in between.

Citation List

Patent Literature

[0004] PTL 1: JP-A-2009-43730

[0005] Document US 5,997,341, December 07, 1999 relates to a terminal connecting-fixing construction for fixedly fastening at least two plate-like terminals to a mating connection portion having connection bolts corresponding respectively to the terminals.

[0006] Document FR 1226070 A, July 08, 1960 relates to a low voltage socket and switch.

[0007] Document EP 1 355 368 A2, October 22, 2003 relates to a terminal with a nut-positioning device.

Summary of Invention

Technical Problem

[0008] With the structure body in the related art including the power-supply supply terminal, positioning accuracy is required for the insert-molded female screw. Hence, there is a problem that component dimensional accuracy and attachment accuracy need to be enhanced. Further, although the female screw itself is fixed in a reliable manner, workability has a problem. The structure body in the related art therefore has another problem that operational costs are increased as working hours become longer.

[0009] The invention was devised to solve the problems discussed above, and has an object to provide a connection structure of a wiring conductor with which working hours can be shorter by making a positioning work easier when a plurality of wiring terminals are electrically interconnected.

Solution to Problem

[0010] This problem is solved by the independent claims. Advantageous embodiments are described in the dependent claims.

[0011] A connection structure of a wiring conductor of the invention is a connection structure of a wiring conductor that electrically interconnects bonding surfaces of wiring terminals of a plurality of wiring conductors using a fastening member, which is characterized in that at least one wiring terminal is provided with a hook-like protrusion in an edge of the bonding surface, and that the other wiring terminal or the fastening member is pressed and locked by the hook-like protrusion.

Advantageous Effects of Invention

[0012] According to the connection structure of the wiring conductor of the invention, by providing the hook-like protrusion to the edge of the bonding surface of at least one wiring terminal, a positioning mechanism can be simpler when the wiring terminals are interconnected. Hence, not only can assembling workability be enhanced, but also dimensional accuracy is not required for the wiring terminals. It thus becomes possible to provide the connection structure at lower costs.

Brief Description of Drawings

[0013]

[Fig. 1] Fig. 1 is a schematic perspective view showing a major portion of a connection structure of a wiring conductor according to a first embodiment of the invention.

[Fig. 2] Fig. 2 is an exploded perspective view of the connection structure of the wiring conductor of Fig. 1.

[Fig. 3] Fig. 3 is a top view with a cross section taken on the line A-A of the connection structure of the wiring conductor of Fig. 1.

[Fig. 4] Fig. 4 is a partial view of a bonding surface portion of a wiring terminal of Fig. 1.

[Fig. 5] Fig. 5 is a schematic perspective view showing a major portion of another example of the connection structure of the wiring conductor according to the first embodiment of the invention.

[Fig. 6] Fig. 6 is a schematic perspective view showing a major portion of a connection structure of a wiring conductor according to a second embodiment of the invention.

[Fig. 7] Fig. 7 is a top view with a cross section taken on the line B-B of the connection structure of the wiring conductor of Fig. 6.

[Fig. 8] Fig. 8 is a schematic perspective view showing a major portion of another example of the connection structure of the wiring conductor according to the second embodiment of the invention.

Description of Embodiments

[0014] Hereinafter, a connection structure of a wiring conductor according to embodiments of the invention will be described with reference to Fig. 1 through Fig. 8.

First Embodiment

[0015] Fig. 1 is a schematic perspective view showing a major portion of a connection structure of a wiring conductor of a first embodiment. Fig. 2 is an exploded perspective view of the connection structure of the wiring conductor. Fig. 3 is a top view with a cross section taken on the line A-A of the connection structure of the wiring conductor. Also, Fig. 4 is a partial view of a bonding surface portion of a wiring terminal.

[0016] As are shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, a connection structure 1 of a wiring conductor of the first embodiment is formed of a case 2 of an electronic device, a plate-like wiring conductor 3 (hereinafter, referred to as the wiring conductor) insert-molded in the case 2 using resins 2a and 2b, a bonding surface 3a of a wiring terminal (hereinafter, referred to as the wiring terminal surface) formed by bending a tip end of the wiring conductor 3, a concave portion 2c provided to the case 2 so as to hold and store the wiring terminal surface 3a, a hook-like protrusion 3b provided to an edge of the wiring terminal surface 3a by bending, a wiring terminal surface 4a of an outside wiring terminal 4 oppositely fixed to the wiring terminal surface 3a, a press-fit portion 4f that bonds a flexible wiring 5 to the outside wiring terminal 4, and a bolt (male screw) 6 and a nut (female screw) 7 pressed and locked by the hook-like protrusion 3b, which are a fastening member that bonds the wiring terminal surface 3a and the wiring terminal surface 4a. Also, the case 2 is provided with a concave portion 2d to store the nut 7. In the exploded view of the connection structure 1 of the wiring conductor

of Fig. 2, a major portion of the case 2 relevant to the invention alone is shown for ease of description, and other wiring conductors and structure bodies are omitted. Also, the case 2 in which is embedded the wiring conductor 3 is shown by dividing the case 2 to the resin 2a in an upper part and the resin 2b in a lower part for ease of description. However, the case 2 is actually formed in such a manner that the resins 2a and 2b wrap the wiring conductor 3 by insert-molding and the resins 2a and 2b are indistinguishable.

[0017] A function and an effect of the connection structure of the wiring conductor of the first embodiment will now be described. As is shown in the schematic perspective view of Fig. 1 and the exploded perspective view of Fig. 2, the wiring terminal surface 4a of the outside wiring terminal 4 to which is bonded the flexible wiring 5 by the press-fit portion 4f is abutted against the wiring terminal surface 3a exposed from the case 2. The bolt 6 is inserted through a bonding hole 4h of the wiring terminal surface 4a and a bonding hole 3h of the wiring terminal surface 3a and screwed into the nut 7 installed in the concave portion 2d in advance. The wiring terminal surface 4a and the wiring terminal surface 3a are thus bonded to each other. In this instance, the nut 7 is locked by being softly pressed by the hook-like protrusion 3b of the wiring terminal surface 3a. Accordingly, the nut 7 is substantially positioned and at the same time the nut 7 is prevented from rotating while the bolt 6 is screwed therein. The need to keep pressing the nut 7 during a work of bonding the wiring terminals to each other is therefore eliminated. Also, the wiring conductor 3 and the flexible wiring 5 can be electrically connected with good work efficiency. Fig. 3 shows the top view (A) and the cross section (B) taken on the line A-A when the connection is completed.

[0018] In Fig. 1 through Fig. 3, the wiring terminal surface 3a of the wiring conductor 3 is stored in the concave portion 2c of the case 2 with a clearance in between. However, the wiring terminal surface 3a may be of a structure by which the wiring terminal surface 3a is fixed by insert-molding using resin except for a portion bonded to the wiring terminal surface 4a of the outside wiring terminal 4. Also, the concave portion 2d provided to the case 2 so as to store the nut 7 therein has a clearance large enough to insert and move the nut 7. Also, as has been described above, it is sufficient that the hook-like protrusion 3b can press the nut 7 softly so that the nut 7 does not come out of the concave portion 2d and strength is not required. Hence, the hook-like protrusion 3b can be narrow and therefore can be processed easily. Further, it is necessary to position the bolt 6 with respect to the screw hole of the nut 7 when the bolt 6 is fastened by inserting the bolt 6 through the bonding hole 4h and the bonding hole 3h and screwing the bolt 6 into the screw hole of the nut 7. Herein, because the nut 7 is not fixed in the concave portion 2d and in a loose-fit state, the nut 7 can be fine-tuned so that the center thereof falls on a predetermined position when the bolt 6 is inserted. Hence, it becomes easy to insert the bolt 6 into the screw

hole of the nut 7 and positional accuracy as to where the nut 7 is installed is not required.

[0019] Also, as is shown in Fig. 4, notch portions 3k are provided to the edge of the wiring terminal surface 3a at the bottom where the hook-like protrusion 3b is formed. Owing to this configuration, there can be achieved an advantage that not only is the hook-like protrusion 3b bent easily, but also the occurrence of strain in the wiring terminal surface 3a and the hook-like protrusion 3b is prevented during the processing.

[0020] The first embodiment above has described a case where the wiring conductor is embedded in the case. However, a connection structure 10 of the wiring conductor is also applicable to a case where a wiring conductor 13 is provided on a wiring board 12 as in another example of the first embodiment shown in Fig. 5. Herein, a wiring terminal surface 13a of the wiring conductor 13 processed so as to have an air gap between the self and the wiring board 12 and the outside wiring terminal 4 are connected. As in the first embodiment above, hook-like protrusions 13b are provided to front and rear edges of the wiring terminal surface 13a (the hook-like protrusion 13b in the rear edge is hidden behind the outside wiring terminal 4), and the nut 7 is pressed softly by these hook-like protrusions 13b. Then, by fastening the bolt 6 with the nut 7 by screwing the former into the latter, the wiring conductor 13 on the wiring board 12 and the outside wiring terminal 4 are electrically connected. It is sufficient for the wiring conductor to be thick enough to self-stand and bend. Hence, this embodiment is particularly effective when applied to a wiring conductor in a power-supply system, which is thick because of a need to flow a large current.

[0021] As has been described, according to the connection structure of the wiring conductor of the first embodiment, for the connection between the wiring terminal of the wiring conductor and the outside wiring terminal to which the flexible wiring is press-fit, by providing the hook-like protrusion to the edge of the wiring terminal surface of the wiring conductor and by pressing and locking the nut, which is the fastening member, with the hook-like protrusion, the need for positioning accuracy of the nut can be eliminated when the bolt is inserted and screwed into the nut. A fastening and bonding work therefore becomes easier. Hence, there can be achieved a significant advantage that work efficiency is enhanced and component costs and operational costs can be reduced.

Second Embodiment

[0022] Fig. 6 is a schematic perspective view showing a major portion of a connection structure of a wiring conductor of a second embodiment. Fig. 7 is a top view with a cross section taken along the line B-B of the connection structure of the wiring conductor. A difference from the connection structure of the wiring conductor of the first embodiment above is that in contrast to the first embod-

iment above in which one wiring terminal is a wiring terminal provided to the case or the wiring conductor on the wiring board and the other wiring terminal is a wiring terminal of the outside wiring terminal to which the flexible wiring is connected and these wiring terminals are interconnected, wiring terminals provided to wiring conductors on two wiring boards are interconnected in the second embodiment.

[0023] As is shown in Fig. 6, in a connection structure 20 of the wiring conductor of the second embodiment, wiring conductors 23 and 33 are provided on two wiring boards 22 and 32, respectively, and wiring terminal surfaces 23a and 33a are provided by bending tip ends of the wiring conductors 23 and 33, respectively, upright. Hook-like protrusions 23b and 33b are provided to edges of the wiring terminal surfaces 23a and 33a, respectively. By engaging the hook-like protrusions 23b and 33b with each other when the wiring terminal surface 23a and the wiring terminal surface 33a are abutted against and bonded to each other, the wiring terminal surface 23a and the wiring terminal surface 33a are pressed and locked and therefore substantially positioned. Normally, when the wiring terminal surface 23a and the wiring terminal surface 33a are bonded, it is difficult to position the one with respect to the other unless a specific tool is used. However, by providing the hook-like protrusions 23b to a plurality of points in the edges of the wiring terminal surfaces 23a and suppressing movements of the other wiring terminal surface using the hook-like protrusions 23b, positioning can be performed easily. Then, the bolt 6 is inserted into the bonding hole (hidden in the drawing) of the wiring terminal surface 23a and screwed into the female screw 8 provided to the wiring terminal surface 33a by burring. The wiring terminal surface 23a and the wiring terminal surface 33a are thus bonded. Accordingly, as in the first embodiment above, it becomes possible to interconnect the wiring conductors provided on the wiring boards. The above described a case where the hook-like protrusions 23b and 33b are extended by bending from the edges of the wiring terminal surfaces 23a and 33a, respectively. It should be appreciated, however, that the hook-like protrusions may be extended from one wiring terminal surface alone.

[0024] As has been described, it becomes possible to suppress all movements of the both wiring terminal surfaces to be connected by a plurality of the hook-like protrusions. Hence, because there is no need to use tools and to perform positioning with a high degree of accuracy, the assembling workability can be enhanced.

[0025] The second embodiment has described a case where the wiring conductors are provided on the wiring boards. However, according to another example of the second embodiment shown in Fig. 8, a connection structure 40 of a wiring conductor has wiring terminal surfaces 43a and 53a formed in a convex shape by bending to be parallel to wiring conductors 43 and 53, respectively. Herein, the wiring terminal surface 43a of the wiring conductor 43 on the wiring board 42 and the wiring terminal

surface 53a of the wiring conductor 53 on the wiring board 52 are connected. Two hook-like protrusions 43b are provided to an edge of the wiring terminal surface 43a and the nut 7 is pressed softly by one hook-like protrusion 43b. Also, the wiring terminal surface 53a is pressed and locked as the other hook-like protrusion 43b and the edge of the wiring terminal surface 53a come into contact with each other. The wiring terminal surface 53a is thus substantially positioned and fixed. Then, by fastening the bolt 6 with nut 7 by screwing the former into the latter, the wiring conductor 43 on the wiring board 42 and the wiring conductor 53 on the wiring board 52 are electrically connected.

[0026] The above has described a case with reference to Fig. 8 where the wiring terminal surfaces 43a and 53a are formed in a convex shape by bending so as to be parallel to the wiring conductors 43 and 53, respectively. However, the wiring conductors can be electrically interconnected in a case where one wiring terminal surface is bent upright with respect to the wiring conductor and the wiring boards are installed perpendicularly to each other. Also, even in a case where one wiring conductor is provided to the case of the electronic device and the other wiring conductor is provided on the wiring board, it is also possible to interconnect these wiring conducts.

[0027] The female screw used in the second embodiment can be a nut as in the first embodiment above or, a method of directly applying screw-cutting to the wiring terminal surface by burring as has been described above and a method of embedding a helical-insert screw can be used as well.

[0028] As has been described, the connection structure of the wiring conductor of the second embodiment is for a case where wiring conductors provided to the case of the electronic device or on the wiring boards are interconnected, and by providing the hook-like protrusions to the edge of the wiring terminal surface of the wiring conductor, and by pressing and locking the other wiring terminal surface by the hook-like protrusions, the bolt is screwed into the nut, both of which are a fastening member. Hence, positional accuracy of the wiring terminal surfaces with respect to each other is not required, and a fastening and bonding work becomes easier. Accordingly, there can be achieved a significant advantage that work efficiency is enhanced and component costs and operational costs can be reduced.

[0029] The embodiments above have described cases where the wiring terminal surfaces are bonded and electrically connected to each other by screwing the bolt into the nut. However, the invention is not limited to the case of fastening the wiring terminal surfaces by screwing. For example, in a case where the wiring terminal surfaces are bonded by welding, the invention can be also used to temporarily fix the wiring terminal surfaces until welding is applied. Further, even in a case where the wiring terminal surfaces are connected using another component, such as a clip, the invention can be used to temporarily fix the wiring terminal surfaces as well. Further-

more, by forming the tip end of the hook-like protrusion into a fork shape divided to a plurality of branches, the hook-like protrusions can abut against the edge of the other wiring terminal surface at more points and can thereby fix the wiring terminal surface firmly.

[0030] In the respective drawings, the same reference numerals denote same or equivalent portions.

Reference Signs List

[0031]

- 1, 10, 20, and 40: connection structure of wiring conductor
- 2: case
- 3, 13, 23, 33, 43, and 53: wiring conductor
- 3a, 13a, 23a, 33a, 43a, and 53a: wiring terminal surface
- 3b, 13b, 23b, 33b, 43b: hook-like protrusion
- 3k: notch portion
- 4: outside wiring terminal
- 4a: wiring terminal surface
- 5: flexible wiring
- 6: bolt
- 7: nut
- 8: female screw provided by burring
- 12, 22, 32, 42, and 52: wiring board

Claims

1. A connection structure of a wiring conductor that electrically interconnects bonding surfaces (3a, 4a) of wiring terminals of two wiring conductors (3, 4) using a fastening member that includes a bolt (6) and a nut (7), **characterized in that:**

at least one wiring terminal (3) is provided with a hook-like protrusion (3b) in an edge of the bonding surface (3a, 4a); and
the nut is pressed and locked by the hook-like protrusion (3b),

wherein the bonding surfaces of the wiring terminals of the two wiring conductors comprise a bonding hole for inserting the bolt.

2. The connection structure of the wiring conductor according to claim 1, **characterized in that:**

at least the one wiring conductor (3) is insert-molded with a case (2) of an electronic device.

3. The connection structure of the wiring conductor according to claim 1, **characterized in that:**

at least the one wiring conductor (13) is provided on a wiring board (12).

4. The connection structure of the wiring conductor according to any one of claim 1 through claim 3, **characterized in that:**

the hook-like protrusion (3b) is formed of the edge of the bonding surface (3a) of the wiring terminal (3) by bending.

5. The connection structure of the wiring conductor according to claim 4, **characterized in that:**

a notch portion (3k) is provided to the edge of the bonding surface (3a) of the wiring terminal (3) next to the hook-like protrusion (3b).

Patentansprüche

1. Verbindungsstruktur eines Verdrahtungsleiters, der Verbundoberflächen (3a, 4a) von Verdrahtungsanschlüssen zweier Verdrahtungsleiter (3, 4) unter Verwendung eines Befestigungsteils, das eine Schraube (6) und eine Mutter (7) enthält, elektrisch verbindet, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass:**

wenigstens ein Verdrahtungsanschluss (3) mit einem hakenförmigen Vorsprung (3b) an einer Kante der Verbundoberfläche (3a, 4a) ausgestattet ist; und
die Mutter durch den hakenförmigen Vorsprung (3b) gepresst und verriegelt wird,

wobei die Verbundoberflächen der Verdrahtungsanschlüsse der zwei Verdrahtungsleiter ein Verbundloch zum Einführen der Schraube umfassen.

2. Verbindungsstruktur des Verdrahtungsleiters nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass:**

wenigstens der eine Verdrahtungsleiter (3) mit einem Gehäuse (2) eines Elektrogeräts spritzgegossen ist.

3. Verbindungsstruktur des Verdrahtungsleiters nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass:**

wenigstens der eine Verdrahtungsleiter (13) auf einer Verdrahtungsplatine (12) bereitgestellt wird.

4. Verbindungsstruktur des Verdrahtungsleiters nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass:**

der hakenförmige Vorsprung (3b) aus der Kante der Verbundoberfläche (3a) des Verdrahtungsanschlusses (3) durch Biegen ausgebildet ist.

5. Verbindungsstruktur des Verdrahtungsleiters nach Anspruch 4, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass:**

ein Kerbenabschnitt (3k) an der Kante der Verbundoberfläche (3a) des Verdrahtungsanschlusses (3) neben dem hakenförmigen Vorsprung (3b) bereitgestellt wird.

Revendications

1. Structure de connexion d'un conducteur de câblage qui interconnecte électriquement des surfaces de liaison (3a, 4a) de bornes de câblage de deux conducteurs de câblage (3, 4) en utilisant un élément de fixation qui inclut un boulon (6) et un écrou (7), **caractérisée en ce que :**

au moins une borne de câblage (3) est munie d'une protubérance semblable à un crochet (3b) dans un bord de la surface de liaison (3a, 4a) ; et l'écrou est pressé et verrouillé par la protubérance semblable à un crochet (3b),

dans laquelle les surfaces de liaison des bornes de câblage des deux conducteurs de câblage comprennent un trou de liaison pour insérer le boulon.

2. Structure de connexion du conducteur de câblage selon la revendication 1, **caractérisée en ce que :**

au moins le conducteur de câblage particulier (3) est moulé par insert avec un boîtier (2) d'un dispositif électronique.

3. Structure de connexion du conducteur de câblage selon la revendication 1, **caractérisée en ce que :**

au moins le conducteur de câblage particulier (13) est prévu sur une carte de câblage (12).

4. Structure de connexion du conducteur de câblage selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, **caractérisée en ce que :**

la protubérance semblable à un crochet (3b) est formée du bord de la surface de liaison (3a) de la borne de câblage (3) par pliage.

5. Structure de connexion du conducteur de câblage selon la revendication 4, **caractérisée en ce que :**

une partie d'encoche (3k) est prévue sur le bord de la surface de liaison (3a) de la borne de câblage (3) à côté de la protubérance semblable à un crochet (3b).

FIG. 1

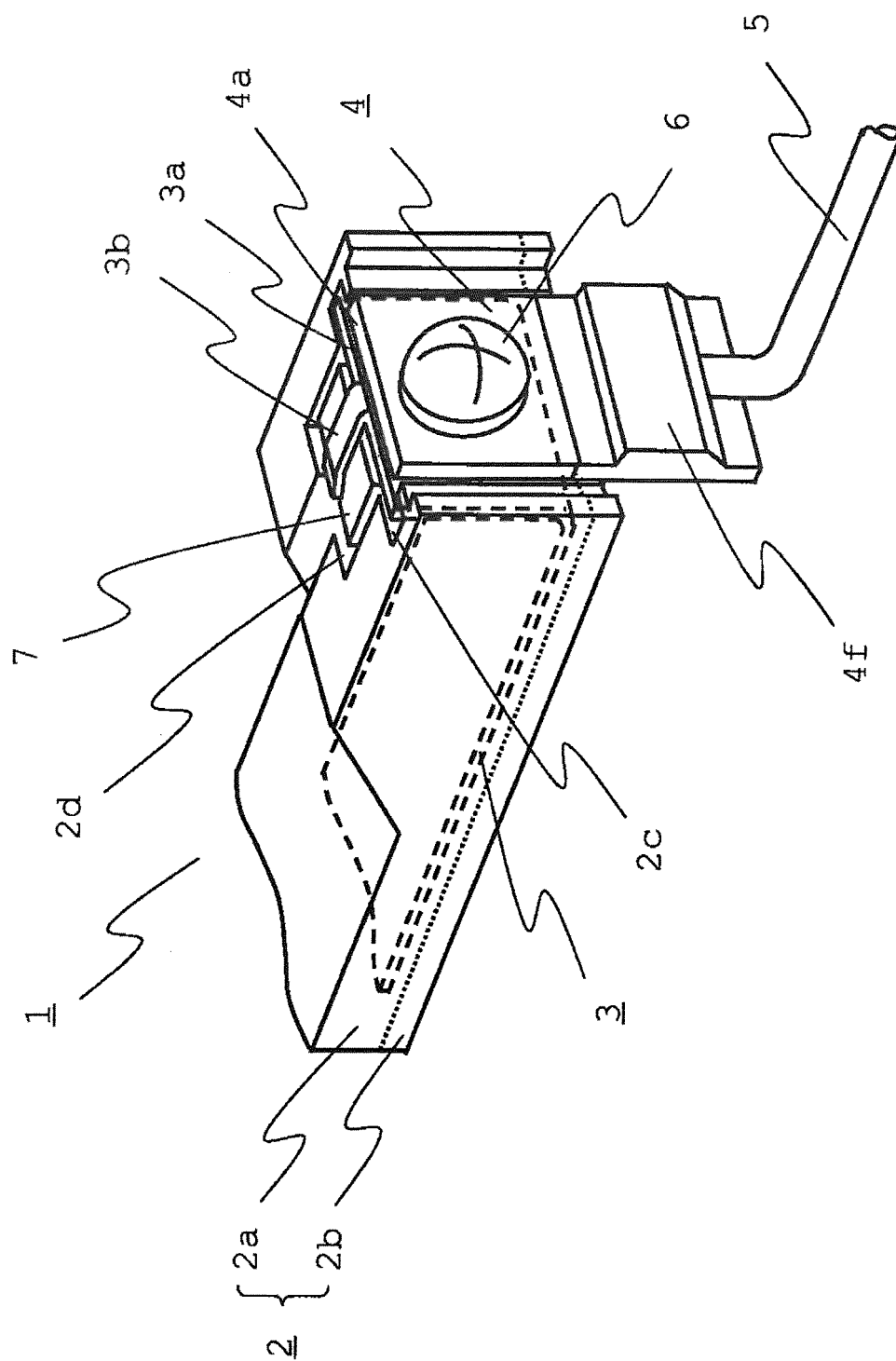


FIG. 2

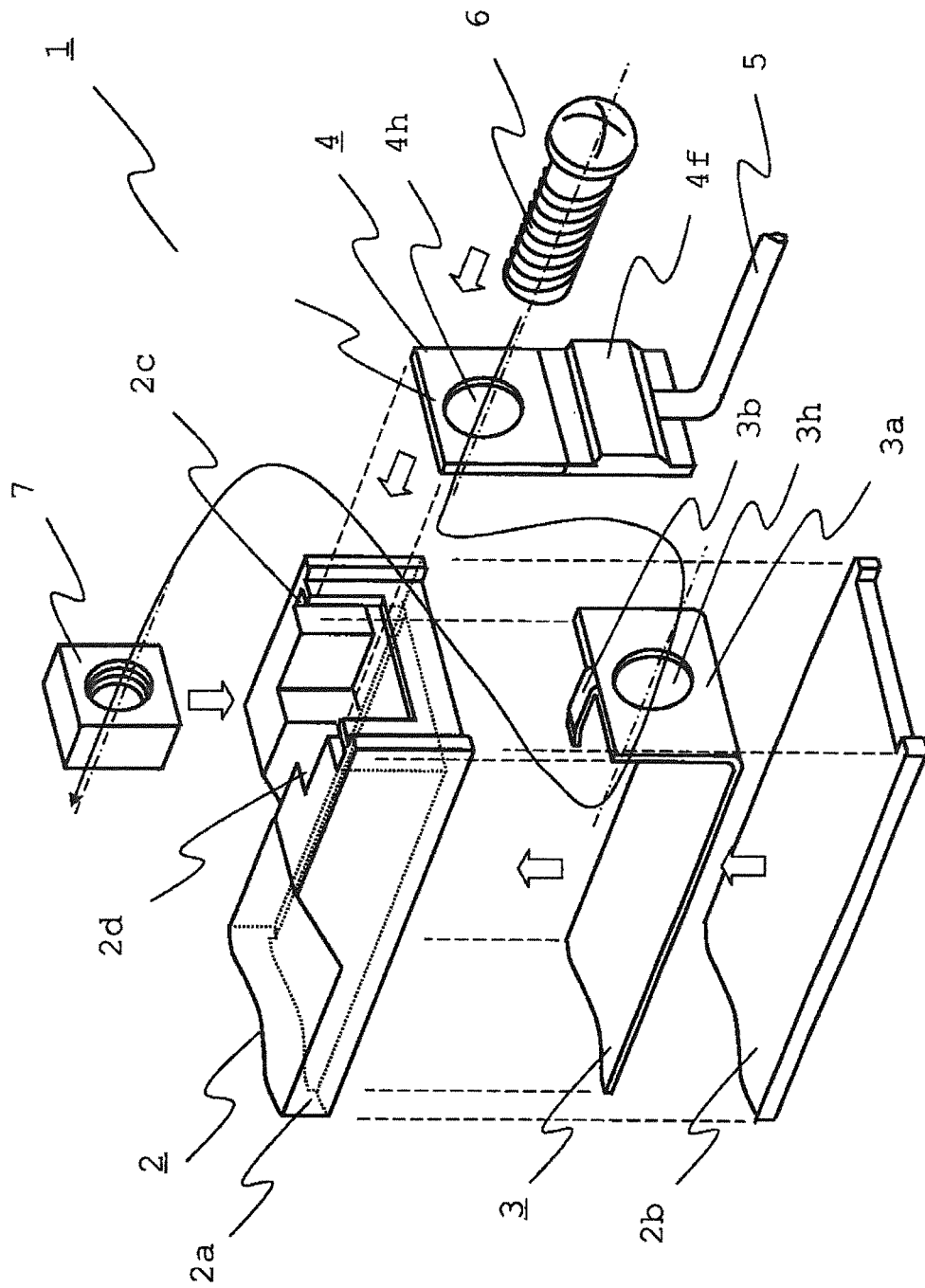


FIG. 3

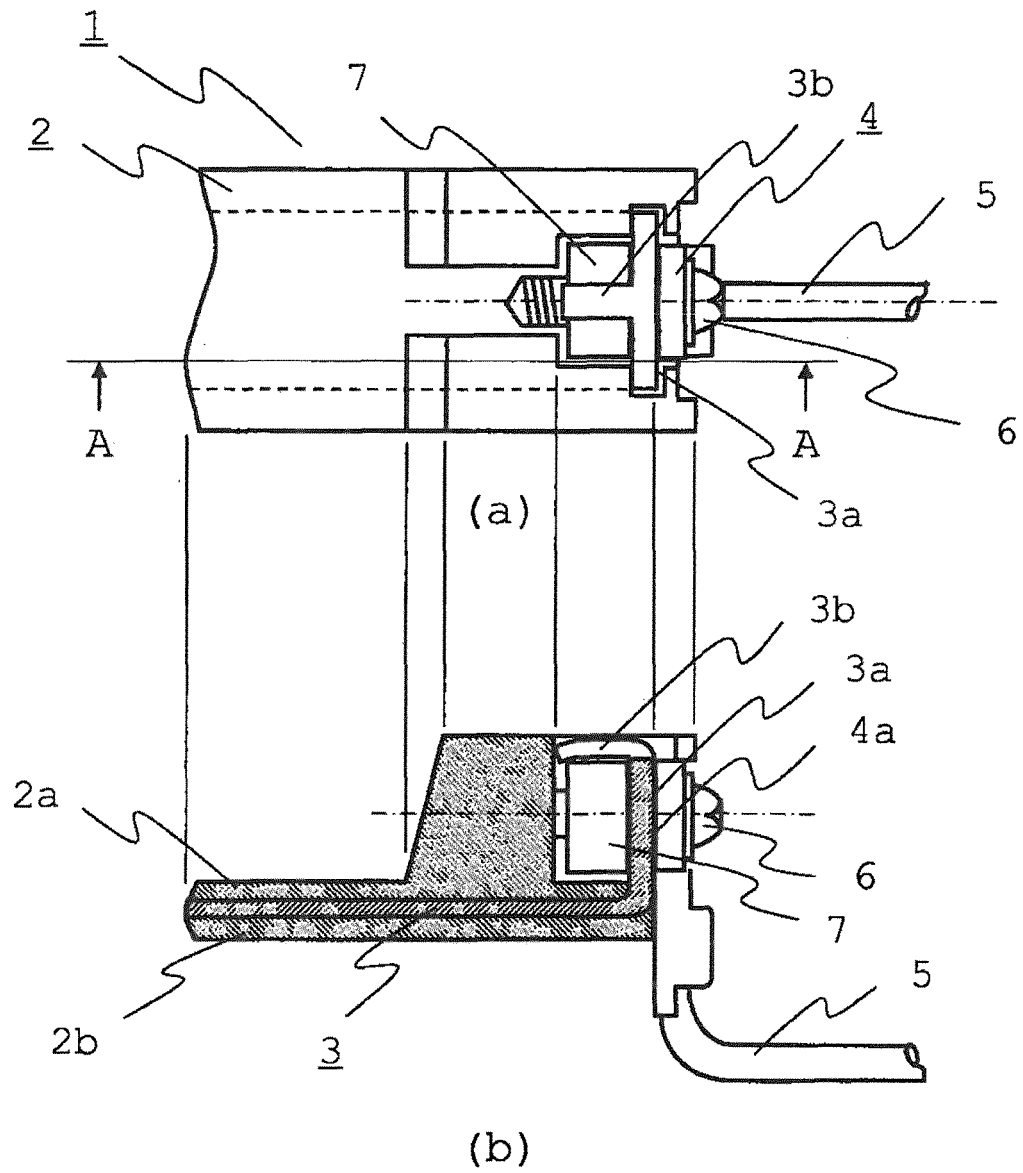


FIG. 4

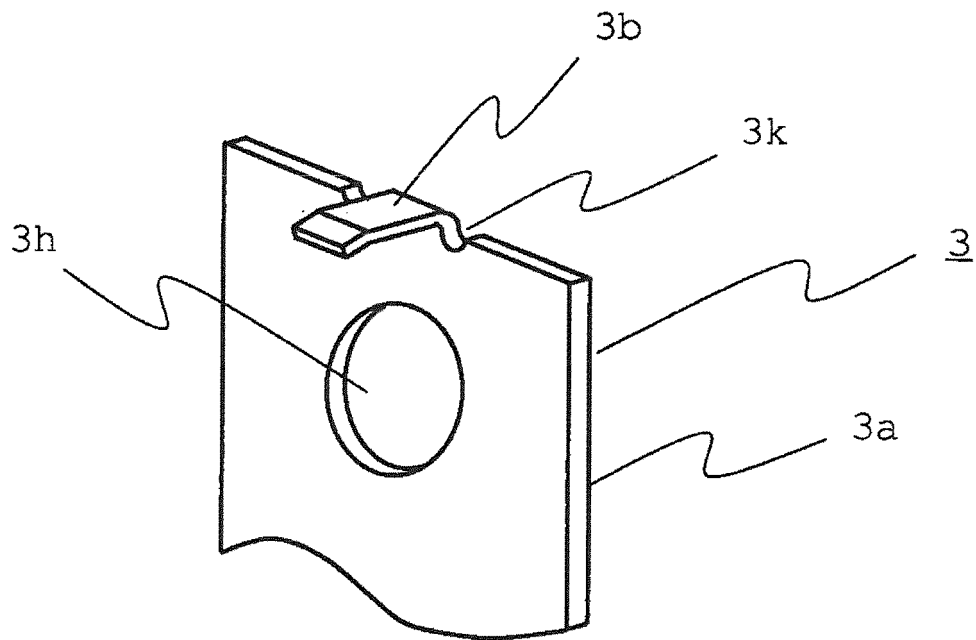


FIG. 5

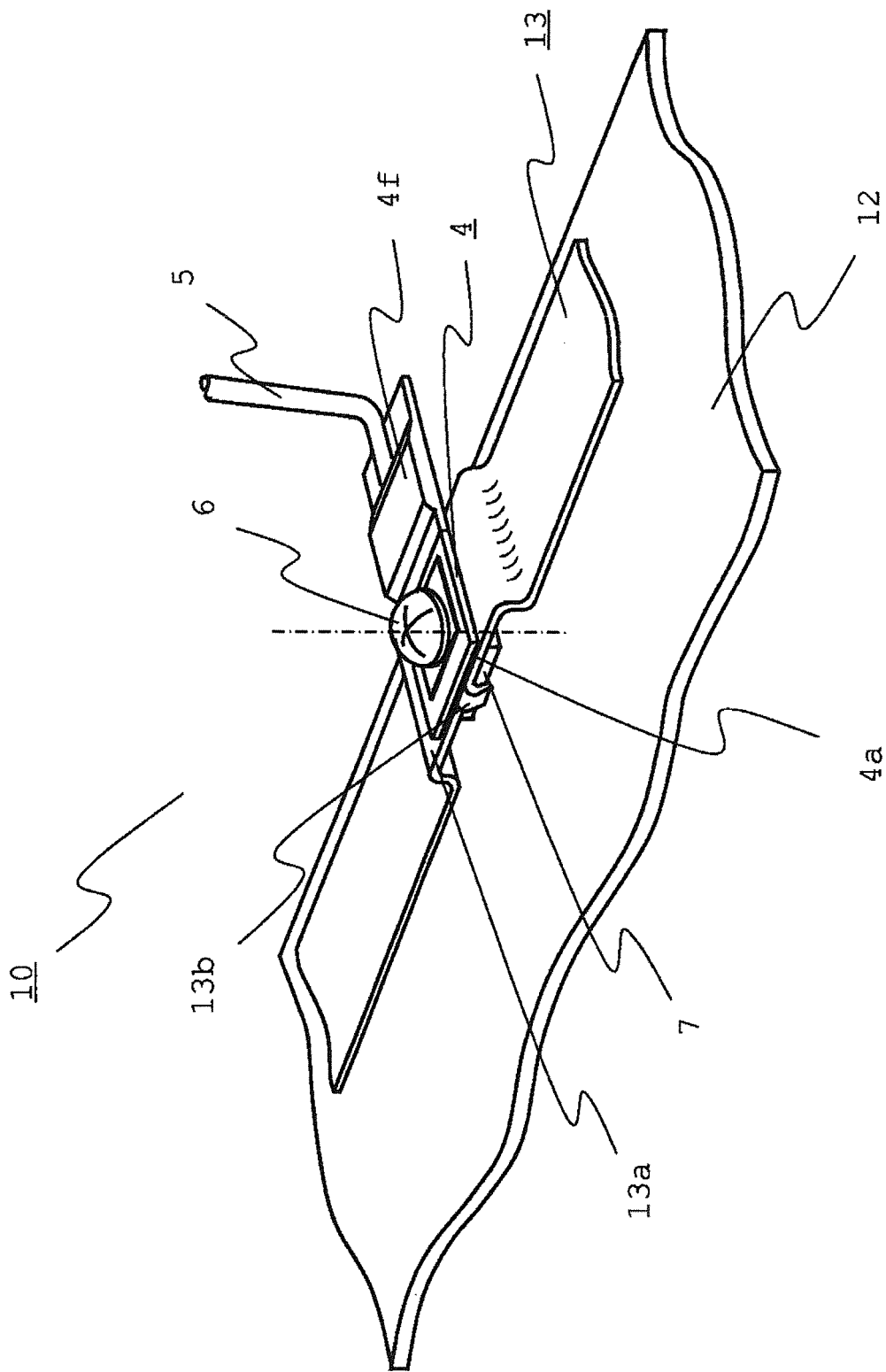


FIG. 6

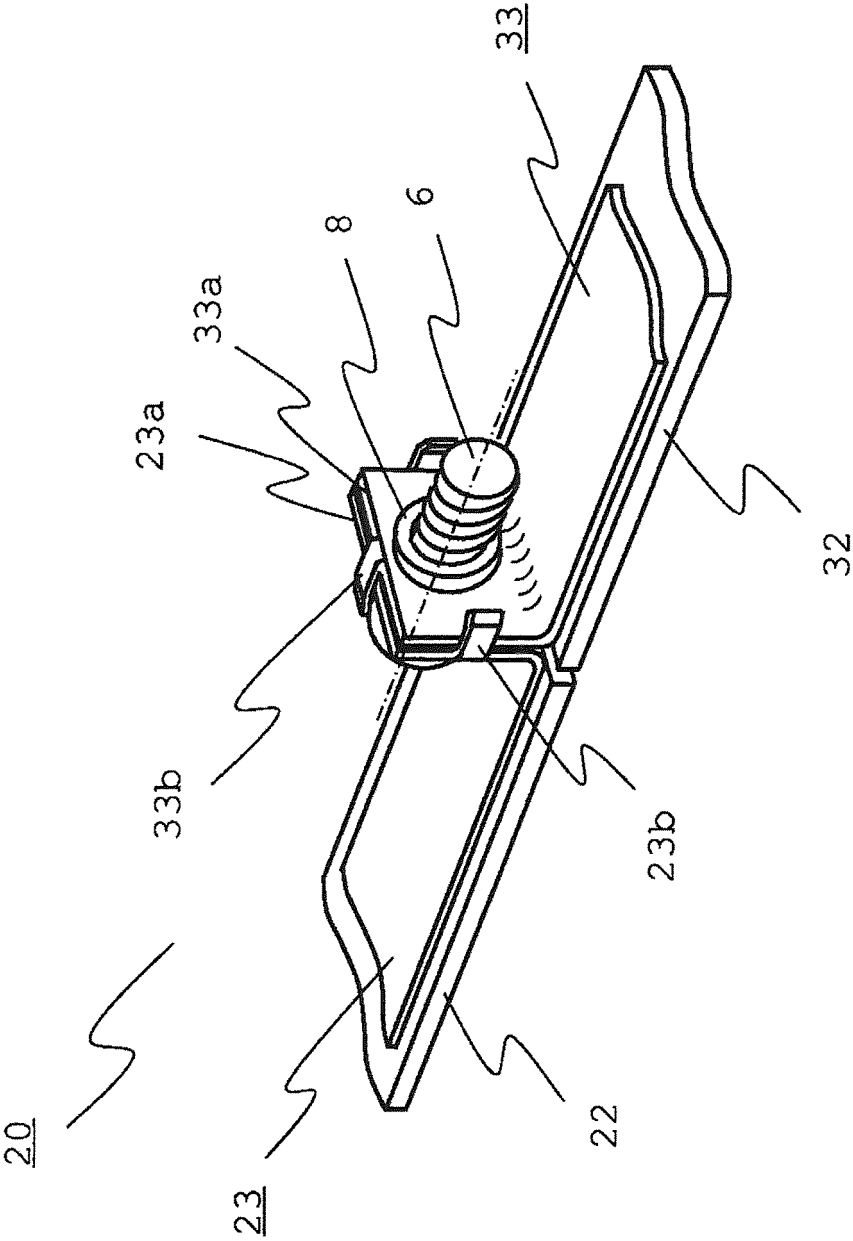
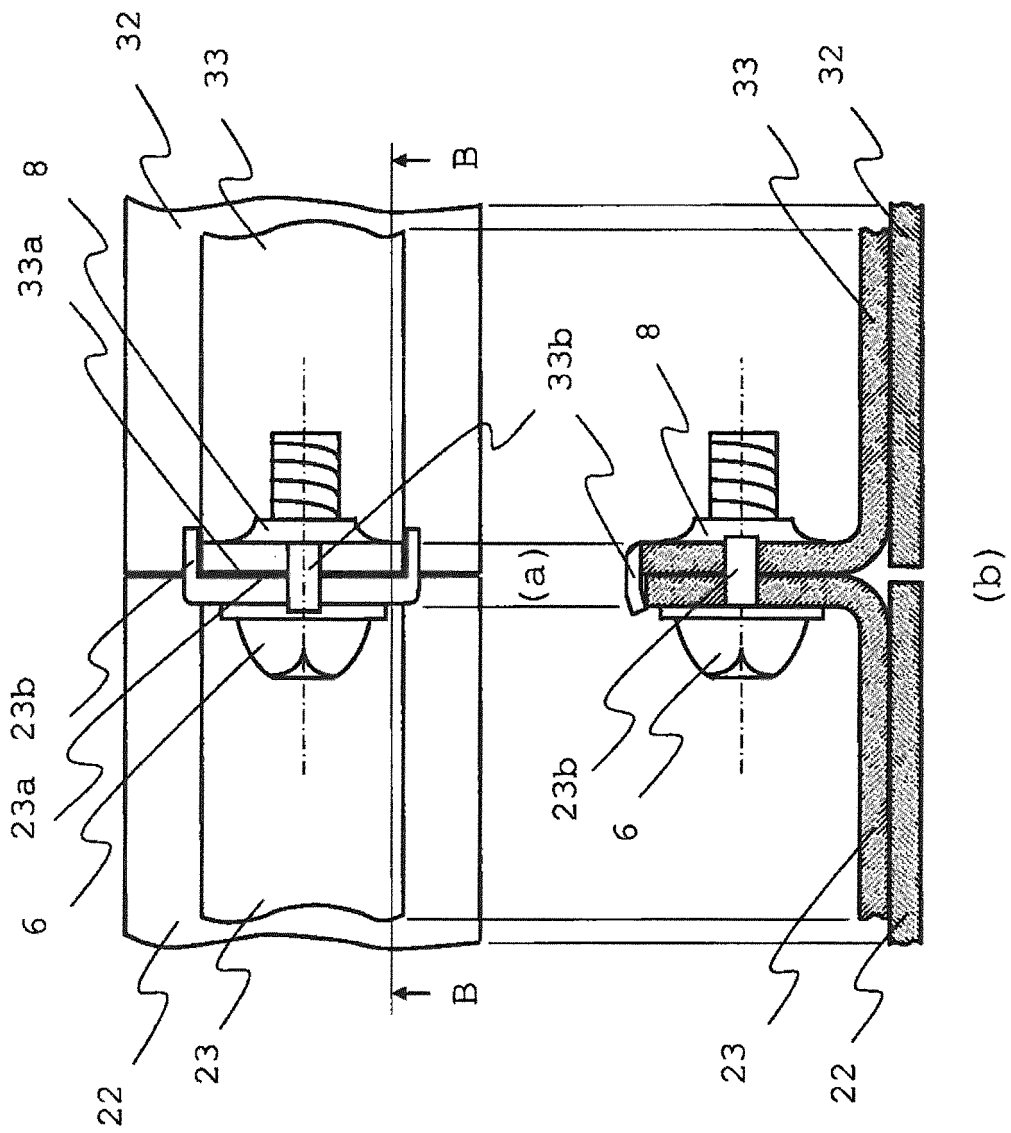


FIG. 7



REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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