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(54) Title: VEHICLE CHARGING PAD HAVING REDUCED THICKNESS

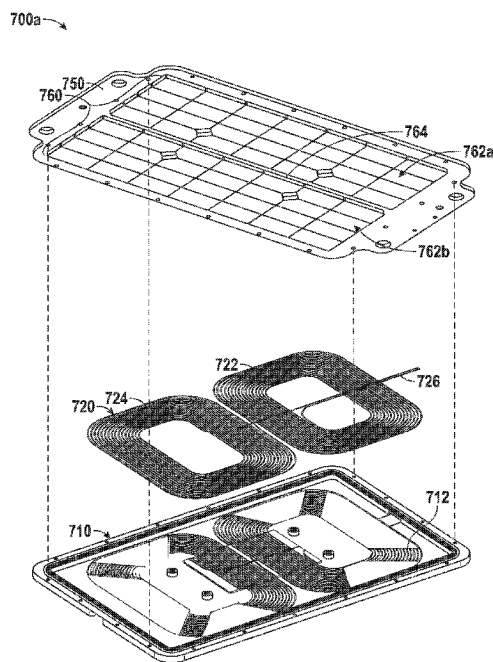


FIG. 12A

(57) Abstract: This disclosure provides systems, methods and apparatus for charging pads for use with wireless power systems. In one aspect a vehicle charging pad having a reduced thickness is provided. A charging pad may include multiple wire coils and a ferrite block backing. By forming a longitudinally extending slot in the ferrite block, a portion of the wires extending from the coils can be routed through the slot in the ferrite block to decrease the overall thickness of the charging pad.

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VEHICLE CHARGING PAD HAVING REDUCED THICKNESS

FIELD

[0001] The present disclosure relates generally to wireless power transfer, and more specifically to devices, systems, and methods related to wireless power transfer to remote systems such as vehicles including batteries, and in particular to charging pads, such as vehicle charging pads, having a reduced thickness

.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Remote systems, such as vehicles, have been introduced that include locomotion power derived from electricity received from an energy storage device such as a battery. For example, hybrid electric vehicles include on-board chargers that use power from vehicle braking and traditional motors to charge the vehicles. Vehicles that are solely electric generally receive the electricity for charging the batteries from other sources. Battery electric vehicles (electric vehicles) are often proposed to be charged through some type of wired alternating current (AC) such as household or commercial AC supply sources. The wired charging connections require cables or other similar connectors that are physically connected to a power supply. Cables and similar connectors may sometimes be inconvenient or cumbersome and have other drawbacks. Wireless charging systems that are capable of transferring power in free space (e.g., via a wireless field) to be used to charge electric vehicles may overcome some of the deficiencies of wired charging solutions. As such, wireless charging systems and methods that efficiently and safely transfer power for charging electric vehicles.

SUMMARY

[0003] Various implementations of systems, methods and devices within the scope of the appended claims each have several aspects, no single one of which is solely responsible for the desirable attributes described herein. Without limiting the scope of the appended claims, some prominent features are described herein.

[0004] Details of one or more implementations of the subject matter described in this specification are set forth in the accompanying drawings and the description below. Other features, aspects, and advantages will become apparent from the description, the drawings, and the claims. Note that the relative dimensions of the following figures may not be drawn to scale.

[0005] One aspect of the disclosure provides a charging pad, including a first coil structure, the first coil structure including a first coil section wound in a first direction, and a second coil section coplanar with the first coil section and wound in a second direction opposite the first direction, a second coil structure, and a ferrite block structure, the ferrite block structure including two ferrite block sections separated by a longitudinally extending slot, and at least one wire extending from the first coil structure and at least one wire extending from the second coil structure extending through a portion of the longitudinally extending slot in the ferrite block structure.

[0006] The first coil section can be wound about a first pole and the second coil section can be wound around about a second pole, and the longitudinally extending slot can be substantially parallel to a geometric line extending between the first and second poles. The flux from the first and second poles can be in opposite directions.

[0007] The second coil structure can be wound about a first pole, and the longitudinally extending slot can substantially intersect the first pole. The second coil structure can interact with a vertical magnetic flux.

[0008] The longitudinally extending slot in the ferrite block structure can pass over the centers of the first and second coil sections of the first coil structure, and can pass over the center of the second coil structure.

[0009] The ferrite block structure can be located on the opposite side of the second coil structure from the first coil structure. The ferrite block structure can be a modular ferrite block assembly including a plurality of ferrite tiles. Each of the corners of the ferrite tiles can include at least a slight chamfer. The ferrite tiles can include a plurality of substantially rectangular ferrite tiles, and plurality of ferrite tiles having at least one chamfered corner, where four of the plurality of ferrite tiles are positioned such that the chamfered corners are located adjacent one another to form an aperture extending through the ferrite block assembly.

[0010] The pad can also include a base plate supporting the ferrite block structure, and a pad cover supporting the first coil structure, where the base plate is secured to the pad cover with the first coil structure, the second coil structure, and the ferrite block structure disposed therebetween.

[0011] The first coil structure can include a first wire extending from the first coil section and a second wire extending from the second coil section, and the second coil structure can include a third wire extending from an interior of the second coil structure

and a fourth wire extending from an exterior of the second coil structure, where at least the first, second and third wires extend through a portion of the longitudinally extending slot in the ferrite block structure. The first and second wires can pass through the center of the second coil structure and pass over the second coil structure on the opposite side of the second coil structure from the first and second coil portions of the first coil structure.

[0012] The pad can additionally include a support plate supporting the second coil structure. The support plate can additionally include a first plurality of groove segments located on the interior of the second coil structure, and a second plurality of groove segments located on the exterior of the second coil structure and cooperating with the first plurality of groove segments to define at least three wire paths extending over the second coil structure, where the first, second and third wires are retained within the at least three wire paths.

[0013] One aspect of the disclosure provides a ferrite block structure for use in a charging pad, the structure including a base plate a first ferrite block section supported by the base plate, and a second ferrite block section supported by the base plate and separated from the first ferrite block section by a longitudinally extending slot.

[0014] The dimensions of first ferrite block section can be equal to the dimensions of the second ferrite block section. The structure of claim 18, where the longitudinally extending slot can be aligned with a longitudinally extending centerline of the base plate. The structure of claim 18, where the first and second ferrite block sections can be secured to the base plate by an adhesive.

[0015] The ferrite block structure can be a modular ferrite block assembly including a plurality of ferrite tiles. Each of the corners of the ferrite tiles can include at least a slight chamfer. The ferrite tiles can include a plurality of substantially rectangular ferrite tiles, and a plurality of ferrite tiles having at least one chamfered corner, where four of the plurality of ferrite tiles are positioned such that the chamfered corners are located adjacent one another to form an aperture extending through the ferrite block assembly.

[0016] One aspect of the disclosure provides a charging pad, including first means for extracting power from a horizontal component of a magnetic field intercepted by the charging pad, second means for extracting power from a vertical component of the magnetic field intercepted by the charging pad, means for enhancing coupling between

the first and second power extracting means and a wireless charging system, and means for permitting passage between sections of the coupling enhancing means of at least one wire extending from the first power extracting means and at least one wire extending from the second power extracting means.

[0017] The first power extracting means can include a first coil structure including a first coil section wound in a first direction, and a second coil section coplanar with the first coil section and wound in a second direction opposite the first direction, where the first coil section is wound about a first pole and the second coil section is wound around about a second pole, and where the means for permitting passage between sections of the coupling enhancing means extends substantially parallel to a geometric line extending between the first and second poles. The flux from the first and second poles can be in opposite directions.

[0018] The second power extracting means can include a second coil structure wound about a first pole, and where the means for permitting passage between sections of the coupling enhancing means substantially intersects the first pole. The second coil structure can interact with a vertical magnetic flux.

[0019] The first power extracting means can include a first coil structure including a first coil section wound in a first direction, and a second coil section coplanar with the first coil section and wound in a second direction opposite the first direction, the coupling enhancing means can include a ferrite block structure including two ferrite block sections, the means for permitting passage between sections of the coupling enhancing means can include a longitudinally extending slot between the two ferrite block sections, and the longitudinally extending slot in the ferrite block structure can pass over the centers of the first and second coil sections of the first coil structure, and can pass over the center of the second coil structure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0020] FIG. 1 is a diagram of an exemplary wireless power transfer system for charging an electric vehicle, in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

[0021] FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of exemplary core components of the wireless power transfer system of FIG. 1.

[0022] FIG. 3 is another functional block diagram showing exemplary core and ancillary components of the wireless power transfer system of FIG. 1.

[0023] FIG. 4 is a functional block diagram showing a replaceable contactless battery disposed in an electric vehicle, in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the invention.

[0024] FIGS. 5A, 5B, 5C, and 5D are diagrams of exemplary configurations for the placement of an induction coil and ferrite material relative to a battery, in accordance with exemplary embodiments of the invention.

[0025] FIG. 6A is an exploded view of a vehicle pad cover and a DD coil structure.

[0026] FIG. 6B is a perspective view of the assembled vehicle pad cover and DD coil of FIG. 6A.

[0027] FIG. 7A is an exploded view of a quadrature coil and support plate shown relative to the vehicle pad cover and DD coil of FIG. 6B.

[0028] FIG. 7B is a perspective view of the assembled components of FIG. 7A.

[0029] FIG. 7C is a top plan view of the assembled components of FIG. 7B.

[0030] FIG. 8 is a partially exploded perspective view of a base plate for a vehicle charging pad and a modular ferrite block assembly supported thereon.

[0031] FIG. 9A is a cross-section of an assembled vehicle charging pad.

[0032] FIG. 9B is a detail view of section B of FIG. 9A.

[0033] FIG. 9C is a detail view of section C of FIG. 9A.

[0034] FIG. 10 is a partially exploded perspective view of the base plate and modular ferrite block assembly of FIG. 8 schematically depicting the flux generated by a DD coil structure.

[0035] FIG. 11 is a partially exploded perspective view of the base plate and modular ferrite block assembly of FIG. 8 schematically depicting the flux generated by a quadrature coil.

[0036] FIG. 12A is a partially exploded perspective view of another vehicle pad including a single coil structure which includes two multi-turn loops.

[0037] **FIG. 12B** is a partially exploded perspective view of a vehicle pad including a single coil structure which includes a single multi-turn loop.

[0038] The various features illustrated in the drawings may not be drawn to scale. Accordingly, the dimensions of the various features may be arbitrarily expanded or reduced for clarity. In addition, some of the drawings may not depict all of the components of a given system, method or device. Finally, like reference numerals may be used to denote like features throughout the specification and figures.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0039] The detailed description set forth below in connection with the appended drawings is intended as a description of exemplary embodiments of the invention and is not intended to represent the only embodiments in which the invention may be practiced. The term “exemplary” used throughout this description means “serving as an example, instance, or illustration,” and should not necessarily be construed as preferred or advantageous over other exemplary embodiments. The detailed description includes specific details for the purpose of providing a thorough understanding of the exemplary embodiments of the invention. In some instances, some devices are shown in block diagram form.

[0040] Wirelessly transferring power may refer to transferring any form of energy associated with electric fields, magnetic fields, electromagnetic fields, or otherwise from a transmitter to a receiver without the use of physical electrical conductors (e.g., power may be transferred through free space). The power output into a wireless field (e.g., a magnetic field) may be received, captured by, or coupled by a “receiving coil” to achieve power transfer.

[0041] An electric vehicle is used herein to describe a remote system, an example of which is a vehicle that includes, as part of its locomotion capabilities, electrical power derived from a chargeable energy storage device (e.g., one or more rechargeable electrochemical cells or other type of battery). As non-limiting examples, some electric vehicles may be hybrid electric vehicles that include besides electric motors, a traditional combustion engine for direct locomotion or to charge the vehicle’s battery. Other electric vehicles may draw all locomotion ability from electrical power. An electric vehicle is not limited to an automobile and may include motorcycles, carts, scooters, and the like. By way of example and not limitation, a remote system is

described herein in the form of an electric vehicle (EV). Furthermore, other remote systems that may be at least partially powered using a chargeable energy storage device are also contemplated (e.g., electronic devices such as personal computing devices and the like).

[0042] FIG. 1 is a diagram of an exemplary wireless power transfer system 100 for charging an electric vehicle 112, in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the invention. The wireless power transfer system 100 enables charging of an electric vehicle 112 while the electric vehicle 112 is parked near a base wireless charging system 102a. Spaces for two electric vehicles are illustrated in a parking area to be parked over corresponding base wireless charging system 102a and 102b. In some embodiments, a local distribution center 130 may be connected to a power backbone 132 and configured to provide an alternating current (AC) or a direct current (DC) supply through a power link 110 to the base wireless charging system 102a. The base wireless charging system 102a also includes a base system induction coil 104a for wirelessly transferring or receiving power. An electric vehicle 112 may include a battery unit 118, an electric vehicle induction coil 116, and an electric vehicle wireless charging system 114. The electric vehicle induction coil 116 may interact with the base system induction coil 104a for example, via a region of the electromagnetic field generated by the base system induction coil 104a.

[0043] In some exemplary embodiments, the electric vehicle induction coil 116 may receive power when the electric vehicle induction coil 116 is located in an energy field produced by the base system induction coil 104a. The field corresponds to a region where energy output by the base system induction coil 104a may be captured by an electric vehicle induction coil 116. For example, the energy output by the base system induction coil 104a may be at a level sufficient to charge or power the electric vehicle 112. In some cases, the field may correspond to the “near field” of the base system induction coil 104a. The near-field may correspond to a region in which there are strong reactive fields resulting from the currents and charges in the base system induction coil 104a that do not radiate power away from the base system induction coil 104a. In some cases the near-field may correspond to a region that is within about $1/2\pi$ of wavelength of the base system induction coil 104a (and vice versa for the electric vehicle induction coil 116) as will be further described below.

[0044] Local distribution **130** may be configured to communicate with external sources (e.g., a power grid) via a communication backhaul **134**, and with the base wireless charging system **102a** via a communication link **108**.

[0045] In some embodiments the electric vehicle induction coil **116** may be aligned with the base system induction coil **104a** and, therefore, disposed within a near-field region simply by the driver positioning the electric vehicle **112** correctly relative to the base system induction coil **104a**. In other embodiments, the driver may be given visual feedback, auditory feedback, or combinations thereof to determine when the electric vehicle **112** is properly placed for wireless power transfer. In yet other embodiments, the electric vehicle **112** may be positioned by an autopilot system, which may move the electric vehicle **112** back and forth (e.g., in zig-zag movements) until an alignment error has reached a tolerable value. This may be performed automatically and autonomously by the electric vehicle **112** without or with only minimal driver intervention provided that the electric vehicle **112** is equipped with a servo steering wheel, ultrasonic sensors, and intelligence to adjust the vehicle. In still other embodiments, the electric vehicle induction coil **116**, the base system induction coil **104a**, or a combination thereof may have functionality for displacing and moving the induction coils **116** and **104a** relative to each other to more accurately orient them and develop more efficient coupling therebetween.

[0046] The base wireless charging system **102a** may be located in a variety of locations. As non-limiting examples, some suitable locations include a parking area at a home of the electric vehicle **112** owner, parking areas reserved for electric vehicle wireless charging modeled after conventional petroleum-based filling stations, and parking lots at other locations such as shopping centers and places of employment.

[0047] Charging electric vehicles wirelessly may provide numerous benefits. For example, charging may be performed automatically, virtually without driver intervention and manipulations thereby improving convenience to a user. There may also be no exposed electrical contacts and no mechanical wear out, thereby improving reliability of the wireless power transfer system **100**. Manipulations with cables and connectors may not be needed, and there may be no cables, plugs, or sockets that may be exposed to moisture and water in an outdoor environment, thereby improving safety. There may also be no sockets, cables, and plugs visible or accessible, thereby reducing potential vandalism of power charging devices. Further, since an electric vehicle **112**

may be used as distributed storage devices to stabilize a power grid, a docking-to-grid solution may be used to increase availability of vehicles for Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) operation.

[0048] A wireless power transfer system **100** as described with reference to **FIG. 1** may also provide aesthetical and non-impedimental advantages. For example, there may be no charge columns and cables that may be impedimental for vehicles and/or pedestrians.

[0049] As a further explanation of the vehicle-to-grid capability, the wireless power transmit and receive capabilities may be configured to be reciprocal such that the base wireless charging system **102a** transfers power to the electric vehicle **112** and the electric vehicle **112** transfers power to the base wireless charging system **102a** e.g., in times of energy shortfall. This capability may be useful to stabilize the power distribution grid by allowing electric vehicles to contribute power to the overall distribution system in times of energy shortfall caused by over demand or shortfall in renewable energy production (e.g., wind or solar).

[0050] **FIG. 2** is a schematic diagram of exemplary core components of the wireless power transfer system **100** of **FIG. 1**. As shown in **FIG. 2**, the wireless power transfer system **200** may include a base system transmit circuit **206** including a base system induction coil **204** having an inductance L_1 . The wireless power transfer system **200** further includes an electric vehicle receive circuit **222** including an electric vehicle induction coil **216** having an inductance L_2 . Embodiments described herein may use capacitively loaded wire loops (i.e., multi-turn coils) forming a resonant structure that is capable of efficiently coupling energy from a primary structure (transmitter) to a secondary structure (receiver) via a magnetic or electromagnetic near field if both primary and secondary are tuned to a common resonant frequency. The coils may be used for the electric vehicle induction coil **216** and the base system induction coil **204**. Using resonant structures for coupling energy may be referred to “magnetic coupled resonance,” “electromagnetic coupled resonance,” and/or “resonant induction.” The operation of the wireless power transfer system **200** will be described based on power transfer from a base wireless power charging system **202** to an electric vehicle **112**, but is not limited thereto. For example, as discussed above, the electric vehicle **112** may transfer power to the base wireless charging system **102a**.

[0051] With reference to **FIG. 2**, a power supply **208** (e.g., AC or DC) supplies power P_{SDC} to the base wireless power charging system **202** to transfer energy to an electric vehicle **112**. The base wireless power charging system **202** includes a base charging system power converter **236**. The base charging system power converter **236** may include circuitry such as an AC/DC converter configured to convert power from standard mains AC to DC power at a suitable voltage level, and a DC/low frequency (LF) converter configured to convert DC power to power at an operating frequency suitable for wireless high power transfer. The base charging system power converter **236** supplies power P_1 to the base system transmit circuit **206** including the capacitor C_1 in series with the base system induction coil **204** to emit an electromagnetic field at a desired frequency. The capacitor C_1 may be provided to form a resonant circuit with the base system induction coil **204** that resonates at a desired frequency. The base system induction coil **204** receives the power P_1 and wirelessly transmits power at a level sufficient to charge or power the electric vehicle **112**. For example, the power level provided wirelessly by the base system induction coil **204** may be on the order of kilowatts (kW) (e.g., anywhere from 1 kW to 110 kW or higher or lower).

[0052] The base system transmit circuit **206** including the base system induction coil **204** and electric vehicle receive circuit **222** including the electric vehicle induction coil **216** may be tuned to substantially the same frequencies and may be positioned within the near-field of an electromagnetic field transmitted by one of the base system induction coil **204** and the electric vehicle induction coil **116**. In this case, the base system induction coil **204** and electric vehicle induction coil **116** may become coupled to one another such that power may be transferred to the electric vehicle receive circuit **222** including capacitor C_2 and electric vehicle induction coil **116**. The capacitor C_2 may be provided to form a resonant circuit with the electric vehicle induction coil **216** that resonates at a desired frequency. Element $k(d)$ represents the mutual coupling coefficient resulting at coil separation. Equivalent resistances $R_{eq,1}$ and $R_{eq,2}$ represent the losses that may be inherent to the induction coils **204** and **216** and the anti-reactance capacitors C_1 and C_2 . The electric vehicle receive circuit **222** including the electric vehicle induction coil **216** and capacitor C_2 receives power P_2 and provides the power P_2 to an electric vehicle power converter **238** of an electric vehicle charging system **214**.

[0053] The electric vehicle power converter **238** may include, among other things, a LF/DC converter configured to convert power at an operating frequency back to DC

power at a voltage level matched to the voltage level of an electric vehicle battery unit **218**. The electric vehicle power converter **238** may provide the converted power P_{LDC} to charge the electric vehicle battery unit **218**. The power supply **208**, base charging system power converter **236**, and base system induction coil **204** may be stationary and located at a variety of locations as discussed above. The battery unit **218**, electric vehicle power converter **238**, and electric vehicle induction coil **216** may be included in an electric vehicle charging system **214** that is part of electric vehicle **112** or part of the battery pack (not shown). The electric vehicle charging system **214** may also be configured to provide power wirelessly through the electric vehicle induction coil **216** to the base wireless power charging system **202** to feed power back to the grid. Each of the electric vehicle induction coil **216** and the base system induction coil **204** may act as transmit or receive induction coils based on the mode of operation.

[0054] While not shown, the wireless power transfer system **200** may include a load disconnect unit (LDU) to safely disconnect the electric vehicle battery unit **218** or the power supply **208** from the wireless power transfer system **200**. For example, in case of an emergency or system failure, the LDU may be triggered to disconnect the load from the wireless power transfer system **200**. The LDU may be provided in addition to a battery management system for managing charging to a battery, or it may be part of the battery management system.

[0055] Further, the electric vehicle charging system **214** may include switching circuitry (not shown) for selectively connecting and disconnecting the electric vehicle induction coil **216** to the electric vehicle power converter **238**. Disconnecting the electric vehicle induction coil **216** may suspend charging and also may adjust the “load” as “seen” by the base wireless charging system **102a** (acting as a transmitter), which may be used to “cloak” the electric vehicle charging system **114** (acting as the receiver) from the base wireless charging system **102a**. The load changes may be detected if the transmitter includes the load sensing circuit. Accordingly, the transmitter, such as a base wireless charging system **202**, may have a mechanism for determining when receivers, such as an electric vehicle charging system **114**, are present in the near-field of the base system induction coil **204**.

[0056] As described above, in operation, assuming energy transfer towards the vehicle or battery, input power is provided from the power supply **208** such that the base system induction coil **204** generates a field for providing the energy transfer. The

electric vehicle induction coil **216** couples to the radiated field and generates output power for storage or consumption by the electric vehicle **112**. As described above, in some embodiments, the base system induction coil **204** and electric vehicle induction coil **116** are configured according to a mutual resonant relationship such that when the resonant frequency of the electric vehicle induction coil **116** and the resonant frequency of the base system induction coil **204** are very close or substantially the same. Transmission losses between the base wireless power charging system **202** and electric vehicle charging system **214** are minimal when the electric vehicle induction coil **216** is located in the near-field of the base system induction coil **204**.

[0057] As stated, an efficient energy transfer occurs by coupling a large portion of the energy in the near field of a transmitting induction coil to a receiving induction coil rather than propagating most of the energy in an electromagnetic wave to the far-field. When in the near field, a coupling mode may be established between the transmit induction coil and the receive induction coil. The area around the induction coils where this near field coupling may occur is referred to herein as a near field coupling mode region.

[0058] While not shown, the base charging system power converter **236** and the electric vehicle power converter **238** may both include an oscillator, a driver circuit such as a power amplifier, a filter, and a matching circuit for efficient coupling with the wireless power induction coil. The oscillator may be configured to generate a desired frequency, which may be adjusted in response to an adjustment signal. The oscillator signal may be amplified by a power amplifier with an amplification amount responsive to control signals. The filter and matching circuit may be included to filter out harmonics or other unwanted frequencies and match the impedance of the power conversion module to the wireless power induction coil. The power converters **236** and **238** may also include a rectifier and switching circuitry to generate a suitable power output to charge the battery.

[0059] The electric vehicle induction coil **216** and base system induction coil **204** as described throughout the disclosed embodiments may be referred to or configured as “loop” antennas, and more specifically, multi-turn loop antennas. The induction coils **204** and **216** may also be referred to herein or be configured as “magnetic” antennas. The term “coil” generally refers to a component that may wirelessly output or receive energy for coupling to another “coil.” The coil may also be referred to as an “antenna”

of a type that is configured to wirelessly output or receive power. As used herein, coils **204** and **216** are examples of “power transfer components” of a type that are configured to wirelessly output, wirelessly receive, and/or wirelessly relay power. Loop (e.g., multi-turn loop) antennas may be configured to include an air core or a physical core such as a ferrite core. An air core loop antenna may allow the placement of other components within the core area. Physical core antennas including ferromagnetic or ferromagnetic materials may allow development of a stronger electromagnetic field and improved coupling.

[0060] As discussed above, efficient transfer of energy between a transmitter and receiver occurs during matched or nearly matched resonance between a transmitter and a receiver. However, even when resonance between a transmitter and receiver are not matched, energy may be transferred at a lower efficiency. Transfer of energy occurs by coupling energy from the near field of the transmitting induction coil to the receiving induction coil residing within a region (e.g., within a predetermined frequency range of the resonant frequency, or within a predetermined distance of the near-field region) where this near field is established rather than propagating the energy from the transmitting induction coil into free space.

[0061] A resonant frequency may be based on the inductance and capacitance of a transmit circuit including an induction coil (e.g., the base system induction coil **204**) as described above. As shown in **FIG. 2**, inductance may generally be the inductance of the induction coil, whereas, capacitance may be added to the induction coil to create a resonant structure at a desired resonant frequency. As a non limiting example, as shown in **FIG. 2**, a capacitor may be added in series with the induction coil to create a resonant circuit (e.g., the base system transmit circuit **206**) that generates an electromagnetic field. Accordingly, for larger diameter induction coils, the value of capacitance needed to induce resonance may decrease as the diameter or inductance of the coil increases. Inductance may also depend on a number of turns of an induction coil. Furthermore, as the diameter of the induction coil increases, the efficient energy transfer area of the near field may increase. Other resonant circuits are possible. As another non limiting example, a capacitor may be placed in parallel between the two terminals of the induction coil (e.g., a parallel resonant circuit). Furthermore an induction coil may be designed to have a high quality (Q) factor to improve the resonance of the induction coil. For example, the Q factor may be **300** or greater.

[0062] As described above, according to some embodiments, coupling power between two induction coils that are in the near field of one another is disclosed. As described above, the near field may correspond to a region around the induction coil in which electromagnetic fields exist but may not propagate or radiate away from the induction coil. Near-field coupling-mode regions may correspond to a volume that is near the physical volume of the induction coil, typically within a small fraction of the wavelength. According to some embodiments, electromagnetic induction coils, such as single and multi turn loop antennas, are used for both transmitting and receiving since magnetic near field amplitudes in practical embodiments tend to be higher for magnetic type coils in comparison to the electric near fields of an electric type antenna (e.g., a small dipole). This allows for potentially higher coupling between the pair. Furthermore, “electric” antennas (e.g., dipoles and monopoles) or a combination of magnetic and electric antennas may be used.

[0063] FIG. 3 is another functional block diagram showing exemplary core and ancillary components of the wireless power transfer system 300 of FIG. 1. The wireless power transfer system 300 illustrates a communication link 376, a guidance link 366, and alignment systems 352, 354 for the base system induction coil 304 and electric vehicle induction coil 316. As described above with reference to FIG. 2, and assuming energy flow towards the electric vehicle 112, in FIG. 3 a base charging system power interface 354 may be configured to provide power to a charging system power converter 336 from a power source, such as an AC or DC power supply 126. The base charging system power converter 336 may receive AC or DC power from the base charging system power interface 354 to excite the base system induction coil 304 at or near its resonant frequency. The electric vehicle induction coil 316, when in the near field coupling-mode region, may receive energy from the near field coupling mode region to oscillate at or near the resonant frequency. The electric vehicle power converter 338 converts the oscillating signal from the electric vehicle induction coil 316 to a power signal suitable for charging a battery via the electric vehicle power interface.

[0064] The base wireless charging system 302 includes a base charging system controller 342 and the electric vehicle charging system 314 includes an electric vehicle controller 344. The base charging system controller 342 may include a base charging system communication interface 162 to other systems (not shown) such as, for example, a computer, and a power distribution center, or a smart power grid. The electric vehicle

controller **344** may include an electric vehicle communication interface to other systems (not shown) such as, for example, an on-board computer on the vehicle, other battery charging controller, other electronic systems within the vehicles, and remote electronic systems.

[0065] The base charging system controller **342** and electric vehicle controller **344** may include subsystems or modules for specific application with separate communication channels. These communications channels may be separate physical channels or separate logical channels. As non-limiting examples, a base charging alignment system **352** may communicate with an electric vehicle alignment system **354** through a communication link **376** to provide a feedback mechanism for more closely aligning the base system induction coil **304** and electric vehicle induction coil **316**, either autonomously or with operator assistance. Similarly, a base charging guidance system **362** may communicate with an electric vehicle guidance system **364** through a guidance link to provide a feedback mechanism to guide an operator in aligning the base system induction coil **304** and electric vehicle induction coil **316**. In addition, there may be separate general-purpose communication links (e.g., channels) supported by base charging communication system **372** and electric vehicle communication system **374** for communicating other information between the base wireless power charging system **302** and the electric vehicle charging system **314**. This information may include information about electric vehicle characteristics, battery characteristics, charging status, and power capabilities of both the base wireless power charging system **302** and the electric vehicle charging system **314**, as well as maintenance and diagnostic data for the electric vehicle **112**. These communication channels may be separate physical communication channels such as, for example, Bluetooth, zigbee, cellular, etc.

[0066] Electric vehicle controller **344** may also include a battery management system (BMS) (not shown) that manages charge and discharge of the electric vehicle principal battery, a parking assistance system based on microwave or ultrasonic radar principles, a brake system configured to perform a semi-automatic parking operation, and a steering wheel servo system configured to assist with a largely automated parking ‘park by wire’ that may provide higher parking accuracy, thus reducing the need for mechanical horizontal induction coil alignment in any of the base wireless charging system **102a** and the electric vehicle charging system **114**. Further, electric vehicle controller **344** may be configured to communicate with electronics of the electric

vehicle **112**. For example, electric vehicle controller **344** may be configured to communicate with visual output devices (e.g., a dashboard display), acoustic/audio output devices (e.g., buzzer, speakers), mechanical input devices (e.g., keyboard, touch screen, and pointing devices such as joystick, trackball, etc.), and audio input devices (e.g., microphone with electronic voice recognition).

[0067] Furthermore, the wireless power transfer system **300** may include detection and sensor systems. For example, the wireless power transfer system **300** may include sensors for use with systems to properly guide the driver or the vehicle to the charging spot, sensors to mutually align the induction coils with the required separation/coupling, sensors to detect objects that may obstruct the electric vehicle induction coil **316** from moving to a particular height and/or position to achieve coupling, and safety sensors for use with systems to perform a reliable, damage free, and safe operation of the system. For example, a safety sensor may include a sensor for detection of presence of animals or children approaching the wireless power induction coils **104a**, **116** beyond a safety radius, detection of metal objects near the base system induction coil **304** that may be heated up (induction heating), detection of hazardous events such as incandescent objects on the base system induction coil **304**, and temperature monitoring of the base wireless power charging system **302** and electric vehicle charging system **314** components.

[0068] The wireless power transfer system **300** may also support plug-in charging via a wired connection. A wired charge port may integrate the outputs of the two different chargers prior to transferring power to or from the electric vehicle **112**. Switching circuits may provide the functionality as needed to support both wireless charging and charging via a wired charge port.

[0069] To communicate between a base wireless charging system **302** and an electric vehicle charging system **314**, the wireless power transfer system **300** may use both in-band signaling and an RF data modem (e.g., Ethernet over radio in an unlicensed band). The out-of-band communication may provide sufficient bandwidth for the allocation of value-add services to the vehicle user/owner. A low depth amplitude or phase modulation of the wireless power carrier may serve as an in-band signaling system with minimal interference.

[0070] In addition, some communication may be performed via the wireless power link without using specific communications antennas. For example, the wireless power

induction coils **304** and **316** may also be configured to act as wireless communication transmitters. Thus, some embodiments of the base wireless power charging system **302** may include a controller (not shown) for enabling keying type protocol on the wireless power path. By keying the transmit power level (amplitude shift keying) at predefined intervals with a predefined protocol, the receiver may detect a serial communication from the transmitter. The base charging system power converter **336** may include a load sensing circuit (not shown) for detecting the presence or absence of active electric vehicle receivers in the vicinity of the near field generated by the base system induction coil **304**. By way of example, a load sensing circuit monitors the current flowing to the power amplifier, which is affected by the presence or absence of active receivers in the vicinity of the near field generated by base system induction coil **104a**. Detection of changes to the loading on the power amplifier may be monitored by the base charging system controller **342** for use in determining whether to enable the oscillator for transmitting energy, to communicate with an active receiver, or a combination thereof.

[0071] To enable wireless high power transfer, some embodiments may be configured to transfer power at a frequency in the range from 10 – 60 kHz. This low frequency coupling may allow highly efficient power conversion that may be achieved using solid state devices. In addition, there may be less coexistence issues with radio systems compared to other bands.

[0072] The wireless power transfer system **100** described may be used with a variety of electric vehicles **102** including rechargeable or replaceable batteries. **FIG. 4** is a functional block diagram showing a replaceable contactless battery disposed in an electric vehicle **412**, in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the invention. In this embodiment, the low battery position may be useful for an electric vehicle battery unit that integrates a wireless power interface (e.g., a charger-to-battery cordless interface **426**) and that may receive power from a charger (not shown) embedded in the ground. In **FIG. 4**, the electric vehicle battery unit may be a rechargeable battery unit, and may be accommodated in a battery compartment **424**. The electric vehicle battery unit also provides a wireless power interface **426**, which may integrate the entire electric vehicle wireless power subsystem including a resonant induction coil, power conversion circuitry, and other control and communications functions as needed for efficient and safe wireless energy transfer between a ground-based wireless charging unit and the electric vehicle battery unit.

[0073] It may be useful for the electric vehicle induction coil to be integrated flush with a bottom side of electric vehicle battery unit or the vehicle body so that there are no protrusive parts and so that the specified ground-to-vehicle body clearance may be maintained. This configuration may require some room in the electric vehicle battery unit dedicated to the electric vehicle wireless power subsystem. The electric vehicle battery unit **422** may also include a battery-to-EV cordless interface **422**, and a charger-to-battery cordless interface **426** that provides contactless power and communication between the electric vehicle **412** and a base wireless charging system **102a** as shown in **FIG. 1**.

[0074] In some embodiments, and with reference to **FIG. 1**, the base system induction coil **104a** and the electric vehicle induction coil **116** may be in a fixed position and the induction coils are brought within a near-field coupling region by overall placement of the electric vehicle induction coil **116** relative to the base wireless charging system **102a**. However, in order to perform energy transfer rapidly, efficiently, and safely, the distance between the base system induction coil **104a** and the electric vehicle induction coil **116** may need to be reduced to improve coupling. Thus, in some embodiments, the base system induction coil **104a** and/or the electric vehicle induction coil **116** may be deployable and/or moveable to bring them into better alignment.

[0075] **FIGS. 5A, 5B, 5C, and 5D** are diagrams of exemplary configurations for the placement of an induction coil and ferrite material relative to a battery, in accordance with exemplary embodiments of the invention. **FIG. 5A** shows a fully ferrite embedded induction coil **536a**. The wireless power induction coil may include a ferrite material **538a** and a coil **536a** wound about the ferrite material **538a**. The coil **536a** itself may be made of stranded Litz wire. A conductive shield **532a** may be provided to protect passengers of the vehicle from excessive EMF transmission. Conductive shielding may be particularly useful in vehicles made of plastic or composites.

[0076] **FIG. 5B** shows an optimally dimensioned ferrite plate (i.e., ferrite backing) to enhance coupling and to reduce eddy currents (heat dissipation) in the conductive shield **532b**. The ferrite material **538b** may provide, among other things, means for enhancing coupling between a coil **536b** and a wireless charging system. In particular, the ferrite material **538b** may provide means for enhancing coupling between the coil **536b** and a base system induction coil, such as base system induction coil **104a** (see

FIG. 1) of a wireless charging system. The coil **536b** may be fully embedded in a non-conducting non-magnetic (e.g., plastic) material. For example, as illustrated in **FIGS. 5A-5D**, the coil **536b** may be embedded in a protective housing **534b**. There may be a separation between the coil **536b** and the ferrite material **538b** as the result of a trade-off between magnetic coupling and ferrite hysteresis losses.

[0077] **FIG. 5C** illustrates another embodiment where the coil **536c** (e.g., a copper Litz wire multi-turn coil) may be movable in a lateral (“X”) direction. **FIG. 5D** illustrates another embodiment where the induction coil module is deployed in a downward direction. In some embodiments, the battery unit includes one of a deployable and non-deployable electric vehicle induction coil module **540d** as part of the wireless power interface. To prevent magnetic fields from penetrating into the battery space **530d** and into the interior of the vehicle, there may be a conductive shield **532d** (e.g., a copper sheet) between the battery space **530d** and the vehicle. Furthermore, a non-conductive (e.g., plastic) protective layer **534d** may be used to protect the conductive shield **532d**, the coil **536d**, and the ferrite material **5d38** from environmental impacts (e.g., mechanical damage, oxidization, etc.). Furthermore, the coil **536d** may be movable in lateral X and/or Y directions. **FIG. 5D** illustrates an embodiment wherein the electric vehicle induction coil module **540d** is deployed in a downward Z direction relative to a battery unit body.

[0078] The design of this deployable electric vehicle induction coil module **542b** is similar to that of **FIG. 5B** except there is no conductive shielding at the electric vehicle induction coil module **542d**. The conductive shield **532d** stays with the battery unit body. The protective layer **534d** (e.g., plastic layer) is provided between the conductive shield **532d** and the electric vehicle induction coil module **542d** when the electric vehicle induction coil module **542d** is not in a deployed state. The physical separation of the electric vehicle induction coil module **542d** from the battery unit body may have a positive effect on the induction coil’s performance.

[0079] As discussed above, the electric vehicle induction coil module **542d** that is deployed may contain only the coil **536d** (e.g., Litz wire) and ferrite material **538d**. Ferrite backing may be provided to enhance coupling and to prevent from excessive eddy current losses in a vehicle’s underbody or in the conductive shield **532d**. Moreover, the electric vehicle induction coil module **542d** may include a flexible wire connection to power conversion electronics and sensor electronics. This wire bundle

may be integrated into the mechanical gear for deploying the electric vehicle induction coil module **542d**.

[0080] With reference to **FIG. 1**, the charging systems described above may be used in a variety of locations for charging an electric vehicle **112**, or transferring power back to a power grid. For example, the transfer of power may occur in a parking lot environment. It is noted that a “parking area” may also be referred to herein as a “parking space.” To enhance the efficiency of a vehicle wireless power transfer system **100**, an electric vehicle **112** may be aligned along an X direction and a Y direction to enable an electric vehicle induction coil **116** within the electric vehicle **112** to be adequately aligned with a base wireless charging system **102a** within an associated parking area.

[0081] Furthermore, the disclosed embodiments are applicable to parking lots having one or more parking spaces or parking areas, wherein at least one parking space within a parking lot may comprise a base wireless charging system **102a**. Guidance systems (not shown) may be used to assist a vehicle operator in positioning an electric vehicle **112** in a parking area to align an electric vehicle induction coil **116** within the electric vehicle **112** with a base wireless charging system **102a**. Guidance systems may include electronic based approaches (e.g., radio positioning, direction finding principles, and/or optical, quasi-optical and/or ultrasonic sensing methods) or mechanical-based approaches (e.g., vehicle wheel guides, tracks or stops), or any combination thereof, for assisting an electric vehicle operator in positioning an electric vehicle **112** to enable an induction coil **116** within the electric vehicle **112** to be adequately aligned with a charging induction coil within a charging base (e.g., base wireless charging system **102a**).

[0082] As discussed above, the electric vehicle charging system **114** may be placed on the underside of the electric vehicle **112** for transmitting and receiving power from a base wireless charging system **102a**. For example, an electric vehicle induction coil **116** may be integrated into the vehicles underbody preferably near a center position providing maximum safety distance in regards to EM exposure and permitting forward and reverse parking of the electric vehicle.

[0083] In an electric vehicle IPT system **300**, tolerance in the longitudinal (i.e., forwards / backwards relative to the vehicle **112**) direction and the transverse (i.e., side-to-side) direction is desirable. In different situations, it may be beneficial to have a

greater degree of tolerance to misalignment in the longitudinal or transverse direction. It is therefore desirable for an electric vehicle IPT system **300** to have flexibility in tolerance to suit the requirements of a particular situation.

[0084] In accordance with an embodiment, an IPT system may include a base coil arrangement, typically positioned on the ground that includes two separate co-planar coils positioned above a core formed from a material of high magnetic permeability, such as ferrite. Furthermore, there may be a conductive back plate below the magnetic core acting as a shield and an additional flux shaper. In this arrangement, there is no straight path through the core that passes through the coils. As such, if particularly driven with currents in opposite sense, this coil arrangement, referred to as a 'Double D' arrangement, produces two distinct magnetic pole areas and lines of magnetic flux arc between them in the form of a "flux pipe" above the coils, a zone of high flux concentration called the functional space of the IPT system. The magnetic moment that is generated by this structure is substantially horizontal as opposed to that of a planar single coil structure called a 'Circular' pad, which is substantially vertical.

[0085] In accordance with various embodiments described herein, three or more coils or loops may also be used in the coil arrangement of the receiver (pick-up) device or base device. The receiver device is also referred to herein as a vehicle pad. The first two coils or loops of the three or more coils or loops may be separate co-planar loops of a single coil structure forming a 'Double D' as in the base coil arrangement. During energy transfer, this 'Double D' is aligned with the 'Double D' in the transmitter (base) device. The third coil, referred to herein as a 'Quadrature' coil, is positioned above the 'Double D' on the same side of the magnetically permeable core. The 'Quadrature' coil allows power to be extracted from the vertical component of the magnetic field intercepted by the receiver device in addition to the horizontal component, which is extracted by the 'Double D.' As for a solenoid coil structure, the 'Double D' has tolerance to misalignment between the transmitter and receiver devices in the direction perpendicular to their magnetic moment but less tolerance to misalignment in the direction parallel to their magnetic moment. The triple coil arrangement built of a 'Double D' (DD) and a 'Quadrature' (Q) in the vehicle pad may improve the tolerance of the IPT system in the parallel direction, thus increasing the overall tolerance of the system to misalignment in any direction. In other embodiments, however, the coil arrangement may include only a single coil structure, as discussed in greater detail

below. Thus, the DD coil may provide means for extracting power from a horizontal component of a magnetic field intercepted by the receiving device (such as a charging pad), and the quadrature coil may provide means for extracting power from a vertical component of a magnetic field intercepted by the receiving device.

[0086] One aspect of embodiments described herein are directed to coil structures that improve the ability to achieve low emission levels (e.g., EMF exposure levels below ICNIRP'98 reference levels or radio frequency interference levels e.g., below limits as defined by European Norm EN 300330 or FCC part 15) while performing charging of electric vehicles. For example, certain embodiments may achieve low emission levels, even where a vehicle underbody is metallic and/or includes a metallic shield and/or if ground structure includes electrically well conducting materials e.g., ferrous bars in a ferroconcrete ground.

[0087] Horizontal planar conductive structures above the vehicle pad and below the base pad generally may not substantially suppress magnetic fields at some positions where people may be located in normal use cases. In contrast, they may act as a magnetic flux channel increasing the magnetic flux density at these locations, if compared to a system operated in absence of such conductive structures.

[0088] As opposed to a 'circular' single coil pad, the conductive back plate and any extension thereof that may surround the magnetic structure of the pad or other conductive surface such as the vehicle steel underbody or any other additional underbody shielding or conductive ground structure may not help to suppress emission levels at critical locations except in the vehicles interior (passenger compartment). This may related to the magnetic field boundary conditions. Magnetic field components perpendicular to a well conductive surface do not substantially exist. They are cancelled by the induced eddy currents (Lenz law).

[0089] **FIG. 6A** is an exploded view of a vehicle pad cover and a DD coil structure. The vehicle pad cover **610** is generally rectangular and substantially planar in shape. In the illustrated implementation, the dimensions of the vehicle pad cover **610** are greatest in a direction referred to herein as the "longitudinal" or front-to-back direction, somewhat smaller in a direction referred to herein as the "lateral" or side-to-side direction, and much smaller in a direction referred to herein as the "transverse" or top-to-bottom direction. The longitudinal, lateral, and transverse axes and/or directions depicted in FIG. 6A and used with respect to FIG. 6A and associated figures are being

used to describe to a charging pad and the components thereof. The use of these terms is not intended to imply any specific mounting arrangement of the charging pad relative to a vehicle or other device to which the charging pad is attached. While in some implementations a charging pad may be mounted on a vehicle such that the longitudinal axis of the charging pad extends from front-to-back of the vehicle, other mounting arrangements can be used as well.

[0090] A generally rectangular depression is formed in one side of the vehicle pad cover **610** and surrounded by a lip **618** extending around the periphery of the vehicle pad cover. A plurality of concentric grooves **612** are formed in rounded rectangular depressions **613** in the base of the depression and shaped and dimensioned to receive the coils of DD coil structure **620**. The grooves **612** in the illustrated implementation include sections of two adjacent groups of concentric rounded rectangles which are shaped and dimensioned to maintain DD coil structure **620** in a desired shape.

[0091] Portions of the grooves **612** pass through a raised rectangular structure **615** in the center of the depression, along with a transitional groove **617** connecting the two groups of concentric rounded rectangles and a longitudinally extending groove **619** which is generally perpendicular to several of the grooves **612** and the transitional groove **617**. Although the raised section **615** is depicted and described herein as generally rectangular, other shapes and/or dimensions may also be used. The vehicle pad cover **610** also includes at least one aperture **614** extending through a shorter sidewall of the vehicle pad cover **610**. Four pegs **616** extend outward from the surface of the vehicle pad cover **610** in which the groove **612** is formed, two pegs **616** inside each of the two loops of the groove **612**.

[0092] The DD coil structure **620** is formed from a single wire which is shaped to form a first multi-turn loop or coil **622** and a second multi-turn loop or coil **624** which is coplanar with the first coil **622**. In some implementations the wire is a uni-filar Litz wire. In the illustrated implementation, the first coil **622** is located proximal the ends **626** of the wire and the first coil **622** is wound about a first pole **602** from the inside out, while the second coil **624** is located distal the wire ends **626** and the second coil **624** is wound about a second pole **604** from the outside in. Because the first coil **622** is wound in the opposite direction as the second coil **626**, the two coils can be driven in opposite sense, as discussed above, to produce two distinct magnetic pole areas and lines of

magnetic flux between them, and the flux from the first coil **622** and the second coil **624** will be in opposite directions

[0093] **FIG. 6B** is a perspective view of the assembled vehicle pad cover and DD coil of **FIG. 6A**. The ends **626** of the wire forming the DD coil structure **620** are located on the opposite side of the first and second coils **622**, **624** as the groove **612** in the vehicle pad cover **610**, and pass through the aperture **614** in the vehicle pad cover **610**. One end **626** of the wire forming the DD coil structure **620** passes through the longitudinally extending groove **619** (see **FIG. 6A**) formed in the raised rectangular section **615** of the cover **610** where it connects to the inside loop of coil **624**. The end **626** that connects to the inside loop of coil **624** passes over or under a portion of the transition section **623** of the wire forming the DD coil structure **620** that passes through the transitional groove **617** (see **FIG. 6A**) in the raised rectangular section **615** of the cover **610** and connects the outer loop of coil **622** to the outer loop of coil **624**.

[0094] **FIG. 7A** is an exploded view of a quadrature coil and support plate shown relative to the vehicle pad cover and DD coil of **FIG. 6B**. The quadrature support plate **630** includes a central aperture **632** dimensioned to receive the raised rectangular section **615** of cover plate **610**. The quadrature support plate **630** also includes four apertures **634** located outward of the central aperture **632** and dimensioned to receive the pegs **616** of the cover plate **610**. The quadrature support plate **630** supports a quadrature coil **640** formed of two parallel wires looped around a pole **606** extending through the central aperture **632** of the quadrature support plate **630**. The quadrature coil **640** will interact with a vertical magnetic flux which flows along the pole **606**.

[0095] The quadrature coil **640** includes a first end **642a** where the parallel wires extend from the outer edge of the quadrature coil **640** and a second end **642b** where the parallel wires extend from the inner edge of the quadrature coil **640** and pass over the loops of the quadrature coil **640** on the opposite side of the quadrature coil **640** as the quadrature support plate **630**. The quadrature support plate **630** also includes groove segments **636** located on either side of a section of the loops of the quadrature coil **640** and defining four wire paths passing over the loops of the quadrature coil **640**. The wires in second end **642b** of the quadrature coil **640** are seated in two of the four wire paths defined by the groove segments **636**.

[0096] **FIG. 7B** is a perspective view of the assembled components of **FIG. 7A**. In particular, it can be seen that the pegs **616** of the vehicle pad cover **610** have been

inserted through the corresponding apertures **634** in the quadrature support plate **630**, such that the DD coil structure **620** is located between the vehicle pad cover **610** and the quadrature support plate **630**. The ends **626** of the DD coil structure **620** have been passed through the central aperture **632** in the quadrature support plate **630** and seated within the other two wire paths formed by the groove segments **636** on either side of the loops of the quadrature coil **640**. The wire ends **626** of the DD coil structure **620** and the second end **642b** of the quadrature coil **640** are thus seated in one of the three wire paths defined by the groove segments **636** and extend generally parallel to one another over the loops of the quadrature coil **640**. On the outside of the loops of the quadrature coil **640**, the first end **642a** of the quadrature coil **640** extends parallel to the wire ends **626** of the DD coil structure **620** and the second end **640b** of the quadrature coil **640** and through the aperture **614** in the vehicle pad cover **610**.

[0097] FIG. 7C is a top plan view of the assembled components of FIG. 7B. The transition section **623** between the first coil **622** and the second coil **624** of the DD coil structure **620** is visible through the aperture **632** in the quadrature support plate **630**. It can also be seen that the DD coil structure includes a first ramp section **621** extending from the first coil **622** and passing upwards through the aperture **632** in the quadrature support plate **630**, and a second ramp section **625** extending from the second coil **625** which also passes upwards through the aperture **632** in the quadrature support plate **630**. The ramp sections connect with the wire ends **626** seated in the groove sections **636** which pass over the coils of the quadrature coil **640**.

[0098] FIG. 8 is a partially exploded perspective view of a base plate for a vehicle charging pad and a modular ferrite block assembly supported thereon. The base plate **650** is generally rectangular planar structure which includes two longitudinally extending tabs **652** extending from each of the shorter sides of the rectangular structure. The base plate **650** includes a plurality of peripheral apertures **654** arranged in a rectangular shape near the periphery of the base plate **650** and four internal apertures **656** located in an interior region of the base plate **650**. The rectangular arrangement of the peripheral apertures **654** corresponds to the shape of the lip **618** of the vehicle pad cover **610**, and can be used to secure the vehicle pad cover **610** to the base plate **650**. Similarly, the positions of the four internal apertures **656** correspond to the locations of the pegs **616** in the vehicle pad cover **610** and can also be used to secure the vehicle pad cover **610** to the base plate **650**. Any suitable fastener or other component can be used

in conjunction with the peripheral apertures **654** or internal apertures **656** to provide means for securing the vehicle pad cover **610** to the base plate **650**, including but not limited to bolts, screws, rivets, clamps, nails, and snap-fit components, as well as welding or similar methods of joining two materials together. In some implementations no apertures may be pre-formed in the base plate **650**.

[0099] Mounting apertures **658** formed near the corners of the longitudinally extending tabs **652** of the base plate **650** can be used in conjunction with fasteners such as those discussed above or any other suitable component to secure an assembled charging pad in place. In an implementation in which the charging pad serves as a vehicle charging pad, the charging pad may be secured to the undercarriage or frame of the vehicle to position the vehicle charging pad underneath the vehicle as discussed above.

[0100] A modular ferrite block assembly **660** including a plurality of ferrite tiles **670** and **672** is secured to a surface of the base plate using adhesive. In the illustrated implementation, a plurality of adhesive pads **666** dimensioned to be substantially the same size and shape as the overlying ferrite tiles **670** or **672** are used, although in other implementations a single sheet of adhesive or region of applied adhesive may alternately be used. In the illustrated implementation, the adhesive may be a bonding tape such as the bonding tapes sold under the trademark VHB by 3M.

[0101] In the illustrated implementation, the ferrite tiles **670** and **672** are 5 mm thick, 75 mm long at their longest point, and 35 mm wide at their longest point, and are arranged with their largest dimension extending longitudinally as shown. The ferrite tiles **670** and **672** are arranged in two separate 7 tiles by 4 tiles arrays as shown to form two ferrite block sections **662a** and **662b** separated by a longitudinally extending slot **664** therebetween. The longitudinally extending slot **664** is aligned with a longitudinally extending centerline of the base plate **650**.

[0102] The depicted ferrite block sections **662a** and **662b** provide substantially contiguous ferrite sections with a length or longitudinal dimension of roughly 525 mm, a width or lateral dimension of roughly 140 mm, and a thickness or transverse dimension of roughly 5 mm. Although specific dimensions have been provided for the illustrated implementation, the above tile numbers and tile dimensions are merely exemplary, and any appropriate number of ferrite tiles of any desired size may be used to form a modular ferrite block assembly **660** of a desired overall shape and size. For

example, in some implementations, the length of a substantially contiguous section of ferrite blocks can range from 100 mm to 3 m, the width can range from 50 mm to 3 m, and the thickness can range from 1 mm to 50 mm. The appropriate dimensions of the substantially contiguous arrangement of ferrite blocks may vary based on the usage of the charging pad. For vehicular applications, the size of the charging pad may be much larger than the size of the charging pad for an electronic device. For example, the width and/or length of the charging pad may be determined based on the size of the vehicle on which the charging pad is to be mounted. In some embodiments, for example, the width of the charging pad may be any dimension equal to or less than the width of the vehicle, and the length of the charging pad may be any dimension equal to or less than the distance between vehicle tires located forward of the charging pad and tires located rearward of the charging pad. Other dimensions and/or configurations of the charging pad relative to vehicle components may also be used to determining appropriate dimensions for the vehicle charging pad.

[0103] The modular ferrite block assembly 660 includes at least two different shapes of ferrite tiles, referred to herein as ferrite tiles 670 and ferrite tiles 672. In particular, the modular ferrite block assembly 660 includes 40 substantially rectangular ferrite tiles 670 and 16 chamfered ferrite tiles 672 which include a 16 mm corner chamfer 674 at one corner of the chamfered ferrite tiles 672. By arranging the chamfered ferrite blocks 672 around the internal apertures 656 of the base plate 650 and oriented with each chamfer 674 posited proximal the internal apertures 656, the chamfers 674 cooperate to form apertures 668 in the ferrite block sections 662a and 662b. These internal apertures 676 allow securement internal to the modular ferrite block assembly 660 to increase the rigidity of the assembled vehicle charging pad.

[0104] In the illustrated implementation, the corners of the substantially rectangular ferrite blocks 670 and the three corners of the chamfered ferrite blocks 672 which do not include chamfers 674 may also include a slight chamfer to facilitate tighter assembly of the ferrite block structure. Air gaps between the individual ferrite tiles 670 and 672 may significantly impact inductance and Q-factor of a ferrite-backed coil in an assembled charging pad. By at least slightly chamfering all corners of the substantially rectangular ferrite blocks 670 and the chamfered ferrite blocks 672, small size variations resulting from manufacturing tolerance can be better accommodated, enabling almost gapless assembly of ferrite block structures from ferrite tiles 670 and 672. In the

absence of these small chamfers, even slight variations in size would cause corner conflicts that could result in air gaps between tiles. Magnetic simulations have shown that slight chamfers have an insignificant impact on the performance of a ferrite-backed coil.

[0105] By providing two groups of closely packed ferrite tiles **670** and **672**, the ferrite block assembly **660** can include two substantially contiguous ferrite block sections **662a** and **662b**. Despite the presence of apertures **668** and small gaps or chamfers between the individual ferrite tiles **670** and **672**, the magnetic performance of the substantially contiguous ferrite block sections **662a** and **662b** will be substantially the same as the magnetic performance of a pair of similarly dimensioned solid ferrite sections when used in conjunction with the coil structures described herein.

[0106] **FIG. 9A** is a cross-section of an assembled vehicle charging pad. **FIG. 9B** is a detail view of section **B** of **FIG. 9A**, and **FIG. 9C** is a detail view of section **C** of **FIG. 9A**. The vehicle charging pad **600** of **FIG. 9A** has been assembled by securing the base plate **650** to the vehicle pad cover **610**, securing the modular ferrite block assembly **660**, the quadrature coil **640**, the quadrature support plate **630**, and the DD coil structure **620** therebetween. As can be seen in **FIG. 9B**, an insulating layer **682** may also be provided between the modular ferrite block assembly **660** and the quadrature coil **640**. Mounting structures **686** engage the mounting apertures **658** formed near the corners of the longitudinally extending tabs **652** of the base plate **650** (see **FIG. 8**) and allow securement of the vehicle charging pad **600** to an overlying vehicle (not shown). In contrast to solenoidal structures, in which wire coils are wrapped around a ferrite core, the coils are generally disposed on a single side of the ferrite block assembly **660** with a small portion of the wire passing through the slot between ferrite block assembly **660**, in the non-solenoidal arrangement of the coils and ferrite structure of the vehicle charging pad **600**.

[0107] Because the first end **642b** of the quadrature coil **640** and the wire ends **626** of the DD coil structure **620** extend generally parallel to one another and along the centerline of the vehicle pad **610** as they pass over the loops of the quadrature coil **640** (see **FIG. 7B**), these upwardly extending wire sections can be aligned with the longitudinally extending slot **664** between ferrite block sections **662a** and **662b** (see **FIG. 8**). As can be seen in **FIG. 9C**, the upwardly extending section **684** of a wire end **626** of the DD coil extends into the space occupied by the modular ferrite block

assembly **660**, reducing the overall thickness of the vehicle charging pad **600** by at least the thickness of the first end **642b** of the quadrature coil **640** and the wire ends **626** of the DD coil structure **620**. The longitudinally extending slot **664** thus provides means for permitting passage between the ferrite block sections **662a** and **662b** of at least one wire (such as first end **642b**) extending from the quadrature coil **640** and at least one wire (such as wire ends **626**) of the DD coil structure **620**.

[0108] FIG. 10 is a partially exploded perspective view of the base plate and modular ferrite block assembly of FIG. 8 schematically depicting the flux generated by a DD coil structure. FIG. 11 is a partially exploded perspective view of the base plate and modular ferrite block assembly of FIG. 8 schematically depicting the flux generated by a quadrature coil. Due to the placement of the slot **664** in the modular ferrite block assembly **660**, the overall thickness of an assembled vehicle charging pad **600** (see FIG. 9A) can be reduced without significantly impacting the magnetic performance of the assembled vehicle charging pad.

[0109] Because the slot **664** extends in a longitudinal direction, it passes over or very close to the center of both the first coil **622** and the second coil **624** of the DD coil structure **620** (see, for example, FIGS. 6A and 6B). In particular, the slot **664** will substantially intersect the first pole **602** about which the first coil **622** is wound and the second pole **604** about which the second coil **624** is wound. As can be seen in FIG. 10, the magnetic flux **692** generated by the DD coil structure **620** is generally parallel to the direction of the longitudinally extending slot **664**. Because the slot is generally aligned with the magnetic flux **692** generated by the DD coil structure, there will be almost no increase in the magnetic resistance (alternately referred to as reluctance) of the magnetic flux path of the DD coil structure.

[0110] Similarly, because the slot **664** extends in a longitudinal direction, the slot **664** extends over the center of the quadrature coil **640** (see, for example, FIGS. 7A and 7B). As can be seen in FIG. 11, the slot **664** is again at a location where it has a minimal impact on the magnetic flux **694** generated by the quadrature coil **640**, as the magnetic flux **694** is either essentially parallel to or vertically escaping from the modular ferrite block assembly **660**, so that again there is little increase in the magnetic resistance of the magnetic path of the quadrature coil **640**. Magnetic simulations have shown that the inclusion of the slot **664** exerts a minor impact on the performance of both the DD coil structure **620** and the quadrature coil **640** in terms of both inductance

and losses in the ferrite and conductive back plate due to the inducement of eddy currents.

[0111] As discussed briefly above, the use of a ferrite structure including a longitudinally extending groove or slot is not limited to three-loop arrangements with multiple coil structures as shown above. In other implementations, the inclusion of a groove or slot may enable reduced dimensions of any charging pad which includes a coil with at least one wire section passing over another coil section, such as a wire section extending from the interior of a multi-turn loop.

[0112] FIG. 12A is a partially exploded perspective view of a vehicle pad including a single coil structure which includes two multi-turn loops. The vehicle pad 700a includes a base plate 750 supporting a ferrite structure 760, which includes two ferrite sections 762a and 762b separated by a longitudinally extending slot 764 therebetween. The vehicle pad 700a also includes a single coil structure 726 in the form of a DD coil structure 720, and a vehicle pad cover 710 which may include grooves 712 dimensioned to retain the DD coil structure 720.

[0113] The DD coil structure 720 includes a first multi-turn loop or coil 722 and a second multi-turn loop or coil 724 which is coplanar with the first coil 722. As discussed above with respect to the DD coil structure 622 (see FIG. 6A), the first coil 722 is located proximal the ends 726 of the wire and the first coil 722 and is wound from the inside out, while the second coil 724 is located distal the wire ends 726 and is wound from the outside in. In such an arrangement, the wire ends 726 extending from the interiors of the first and second coils 722 and 724 must pass over or under portions of the first and second coils 722 and 724, increasing the thickness of the DD coil structure 720.

[0114] However, as discussed above, the inclusion of the longitudinally extending slot 764 between the two ferrite sections 762a and 762b of the ferrite structure 760 allows for the wire ends 726 to be routed through the slot, so that the increase in thickness of the DD coil structure 720 resulting from the wire ends 726 passing over the coils 722 and 724 does not result in an increase in the overall thickness of the assembled charging pad 700a.

[0115] FIG. 12B is a partially exploded perspective view of a vehicle pad including a single coil structure which includes a single multi-turn loop. The vehicle pad 700b includes a base plate 750 supporting a ferrite structure 760, which includes two ferrite

sections **762a** and **762b** separated by a longitudinally extending slot **764** therebetween. The vehicle pad **700b** also includes a single coil structure **740** in the form of a single multi-turn loop, and a vehicle pad cover **710** which may include grooves **711** dimensioned to retain the coil structure **420**.

[0116] The single coil structure **740** may in some embodiments be a coil structure formed from two parallel wires, like the quadrature coil **640** of **FIG. 7A**. The wire end or ends **742** extending from the interior of the multi-turn loop of coil structure **740** and passing over or under a section of the single coil structure **740** increases the thickness of the coil structure **740** but does not increase the thickness of the assembled vehicle charging pad **700b** as the wire end or ends **742** can pass through the longitudinally extending slot **764**. Although the embodiments of **FIGS. 12A** and **12B** are described with respect to specific coil structures, the inclusion of a longitudinally extending slot or groove between ferrite sections can enable reduced dimensions of any charging pad arrangement in which a portion of one or more coil structures passes over or under another portion of the one or more coil structures to increase the thickness of the one or more coil structures.

[0117] Although certain features of the illustrated implementations have been discussed above, not all of those features are necessary features of alternate implementations unless specifically identified as such. In implementation in which the manufacturing tolerance for the ferrite tiles is sufficiently precise, the small chamfers on the corners of the tiles may be eliminated. In some implementations, such as for smaller charging pads, the internal securement provided by the pegs and apertures passing near the center of the device may be omitted.

[0118] Although the ferrite block is described in certain embodiments herein as being a modular assembly formed from a plurality of ferrite tiles, the ferrite block may in other implementations be, for example, two contiguous ferrite blocks separated by a slot. In implementations in which the ferrite block is thicker than the wires, a depression may be formed in a contiguous ferrite block, rather than a slot which separates two distinct ferrite block sections. In other implementations where the ferrite block is thicker than the wires, at least some of the wires passing through the slot or groove may not be positioned side by side as shown, but may instead be transversely offset from other wires to allow for a thinner groove or slot. In another alternate

limitation, a slot may extend only a portion of the way through a contiguous ferrite block, and may or may not extend to the edge of the ferrite block.

[0119] Information and signals may be represented using any of a variety of different technologies and techniques. For example, data, instructions, commands, information, signals, bits, symbols, and chips that may be referenced throughout the above description may be represented by voltages, currents, electromagnetic waves, magnetic fields or particles, optical fields or particles, or any combination thereof.

[0120] The various illustrative logical blocks, modules, circuits, and algorithm steps described in connection with the embodiments disclosed herein may be implemented as electronic hardware, computer software, or combinations of both. To clearly illustrate this interchangeability of hardware and software, various illustrative components, blocks, modules, circuits, and steps have been described above generally in terms of their functionality. Whether such functionality is implemented as hardware or software depends upon the particular application and design constraints imposed on the overall system. The described functionality may be implemented in varying ways for each particular application, but such implementation decisions should not be interpreted as causing a departure from the scope of the embodiments of the invention.

[0121] The various illustrative blocks, modules, and circuits described in connection with the embodiments disclosed herein may be implemented or performed with a general purpose processor, a Digital Signal Processor (DSP), an Application Specific Integrated Circuit (ASIC), a Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) or other programmable logic device, discrete gate or transistor logic, discrete hardware components, or any combination thereof designed to perform the functions described herein. A general purpose processor may be a microprocessor, but in the alternative, the processor may be any conventional processor, controller, microcontroller, or state machine. A processor may also be implemented as a combination of computing devices, e.g., a combination of a DSP and a microprocessor, a plurality of microprocessors, one or more microprocessors in conjunction with a DSP core, or any other such configuration.

[0122] The steps of a method or algorithm and functions described in connection with the embodiments disclosed herein may be embodied directly in hardware, in a software module executed by a processor, or in a combination of the two. If implemented in software, the functions may be stored on or transmitted over as one or

more instructions or code on a tangible, non-transitory computer-readable medium. A software module may reside in Random Access Memory (RAM), flash memory, Read Only Memory (ROM), Electrically Programmable ROM (EPROM), Electrically Erasable Programmable ROM (EEPROM), registers, hard disk, a removable disk, a CD ROM, or any other form of storage medium known in the art. A storage medium is coupled to the processor such that the processor can read information from, and write information to, the storage medium. In the alternative, the storage medium may be integral to the processor. Disk and disc, as used herein, includes compact disc (CD), laser disc, optical disc, digital versatile disc (DVD), floppy disk and blu ray disc where disks usually reproduce data magnetically, while discs reproduce data optically with lasers. Combinations of the above should also be included within the scope of computer readable media. The processor and the storage medium may reside in an ASIC. The ASIC may reside in a user terminal. In the alternative, the processor and the storage medium may reside as discrete components in a user terminal.

[0123] For purposes of summarizing the disclosure, certain aspects, advantages and novel features of the inventions have been described herein. It is to be understood that not necessarily all such advantages may be achieved in accordance with any particular embodiment of the invention. Thus, the invention may be embodied or carried out in a manner that achieves or optimizes one advantage or group of advantages as taught herein without necessarily achieving other advantages as may be taught or suggested herein.

[0124] Various modifications of the above described embodiments will be readily apparent, and the generic principles defined herein may be applied to other embodiments without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Thus, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the embodiments shown herein but is to be accorded the widest scope consistent with the principles and novel features disclosed herein.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A charging pad, comprising:
a first coil structure, the first coil structure including:
a first coil section wound in a first direction; and
a second coil section coplanar with the first coil section and wound in a second direction opposite the first direction;
a second coil structure; and
a ferrite block structure, the ferrite block structure including two ferrite block sections separated by a longitudinally extending slot, and at least one wire extending from the first coil structure and at least one wire extending from the second coil structure extending through a portion of the longitudinally extending slot in the ferrite block structure.
2. The pad of claim 1, wherein the first coil section is wound about a first pole and the second coil section is wound around about a second pole, and wherein the longitudinally extending slot is substantially parallel to a geometric line extending between the first and second poles.
3. The pad of claim 2, wherein the flux from the first and second poles are in opposite directions.
4. The pad of claim 1, wherein the second coil structure is wound about a first pole, and wherein the longitudinally extending slot substantially intersects the first pole.
5. The pad of claim 4, wherein the second coil structure interacts with a vertical magnetic flux.
6. The pad of claim 1, wherein the longitudinally extending slot in the ferrite block structure passes over the centers of the first and second coil sections of the first coil structure, and passes over the center of the second coil structure.
7. The pad of claim 1, wherein the ferrite block structure is located on the opposite side of the second coil structure from the first coil structure.
8. The pad of claim 1, wherein the ferrite block structure is a modular ferrite block assembly including a plurality of ferrite tiles.
9. The pad of claim 2, wherein each of the corners of the ferrite tiles include at least a slight chamfer.
10. The pad of claim 2, wherein the ferrite tiles include:

a plurality of substantially rectangular ferrite tiles; and

plurality of ferrite tiles having at least one chamfered corner, wherein four of the plurality of ferrite tiles are positioned such that the chamfered corners are located adjacent one another to form an aperture extending through the ferrite block assembly.

11. The pad of claim 1, additionally including:

a base plate supporting the ferrite block structure; and

a pad cover supporting the first coil structure, wherein the base plate is secured to the pad cover with the first coil structure, the second coil structure, and the ferrite block structure disposed therebetween.

12. The pad of claim 1, wherein:

the first coil structure includes a first wire extending from the first coil section and a second wire extending from the second coil section; and

the second coil structure includes a third wire extending from an interior of the second coil structure and a fourth wire extending from an exterior of the second coil structure, wherein at least the first, second and third wires extend through a portion of the longitudinally extending slot in the ferrite block structure.

13. The pad of claim 12, wherein the first and second wires pass through the center of the second coil structure and pass over the second coil structure on the opposite side of the second coil structure from the first and second coil portions of the first coil structure.

14. The pad of claim 13, additionally including a support plate supporting the second coil structure.

15. The pad of claim 14, wherein the support plate includes:

a first plurality of groove segments located on the interior of the second coil structure; and

a second plurality of groove segments located on the exterior of the second coil structure and cooperating with the first plurality of groove segments to define at least three wire paths extending over the second coil structure, wherein the first, second and third wires are retained within the at least three wire paths.

16. The pad of claim 1, wherein each of the two ferrite block sections is a substantially contiguous assembly of a plurality of ferrite blocks.

17. The pad of claim 1, wherein the first and second coil structures are disposed primarily on a single side of the ferrite block structure.

18. A ferrite block structure for use in a charging pad, the structure comprising:

a base plate

a first ferrite block section supported by the base plate; and

a second ferrite block section supported by the base plate and separated from the first ferrite block section by a longitudinally extending slot.

19. The structure of claim 18, wherein the dimensions of first ferrite block section are equal to the dimensions of the second ferrite block section.

20. The structure of claim 18, wherein the longitudinally extending slot is aligned with a longitudinally extending centerline of the base plate.

21. The structure of claim 18, wherein the first and second ferrite block sections are secured to the base plate by an adhesive.

22. The structure of claim 18, wherein the ferrite block structure is a modular ferrite block assembly including a plurality of ferrite tiles.

23. The structure of claim 22, wherein each of the corners of the ferrite tiles include at least a slight chamfer.

24. The structure of claim 22, wherein the ferrite tiles include:

a plurality of substantially rectangular ferrite tiles; and

a plurality of ferrite tiles having at least one chamfered corner, wherein four of the plurality of ferrite tiles are positioned such that the chamfered corners are located adjacent one another to form an aperture extending through the ferrite block assembly.

25. A charging pad, comprising:

first means for extracting power from a horizontal component of a magnetic field intercepted by the charging pad;

second means for extracting power from a vertical component of the magnetic field intercepted by the charging pad;

means for enhancing coupling between the first and second power extracting means and a wireless charging system; and

means for permitting passage between sections of the coupling enhancing means of at least one wire extending from the first power extracting means and at least one wire extending from the second power extracting means.

26. The pad of claim 25, wherein the first power extracting means includes a first coil structure, the first coil structure including:

a first coil section wound in a first direction; and

a second coil section coplanar with the first coil section and wound in a second direction opposite the first direction, wherein the first coil section is wound about a first pole and the second coil section is wound around about a second pole, and wherein the means for permitting passage between sections of the coupling enhancing means extends substantially parallel to a geometric line extending between the first and second poles.

27. The pad of claim 26, wherein the flux from the first and second poles are in opposite directions.

28. The pad of claim 25, wherein the second power extracting means includes a second coil structure wound about a first pole, and wherein the means for permitting passage between sections of the coupling enhancing means substantially intersects the first pole.

29. The pad of claim 28, wherein the second coil structure interacts with a vertical magnetic flux.

30. The pad of claim 25, wherein:

the first power extracting means includes a first coil structure, the first coil structure including:

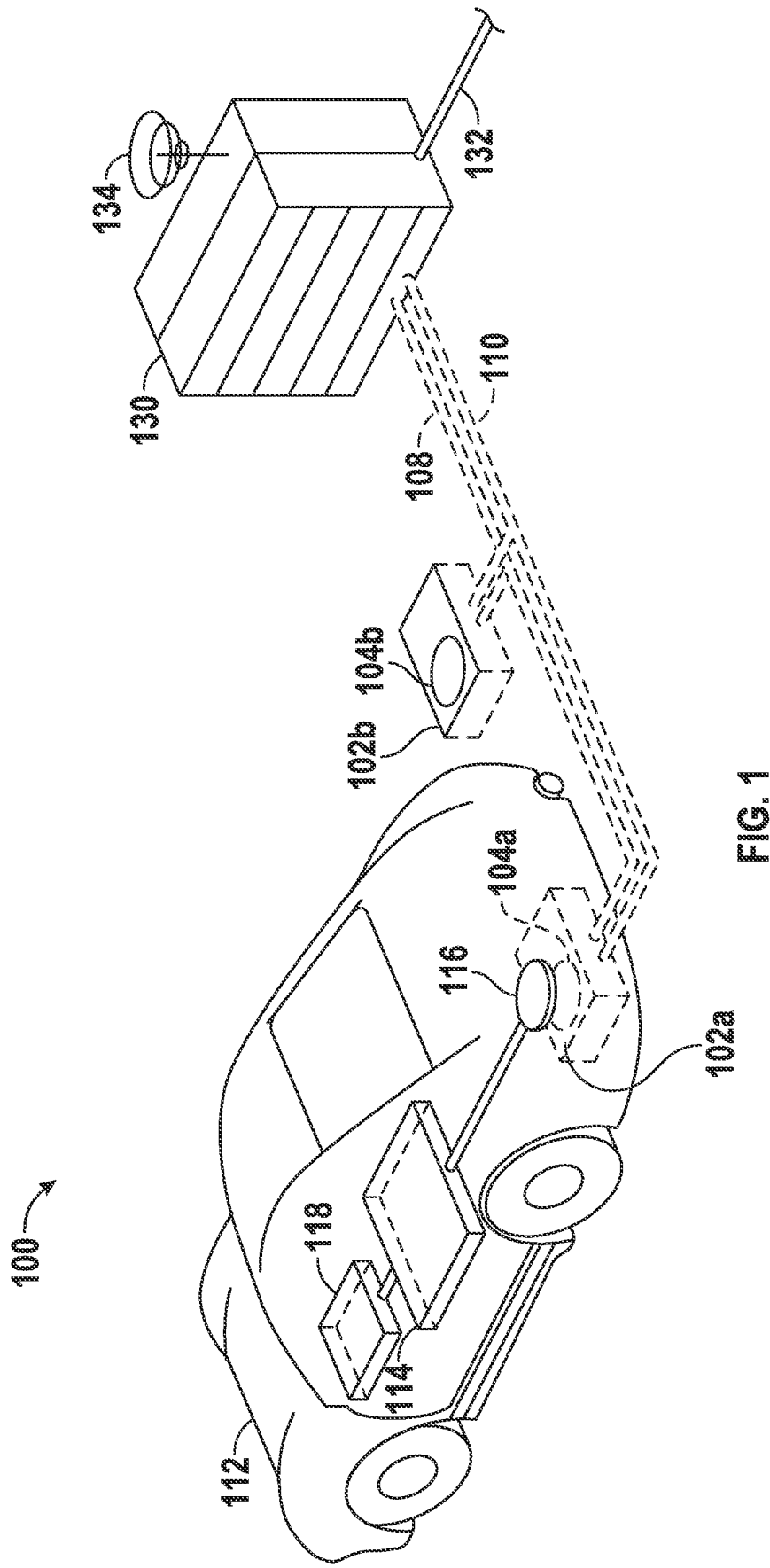
a first coil section wound in a first direction; and

a second coil section coplanar with the first coil section and wound in a second direction opposite the first direction;

the coupling enhancing means includes a ferrite block structure including two ferrite block sections;

the means for permitting passage between sections of the coupling enhancing means includes a longitudinally extending slot between the two ferrite block sections; and

the longitudinally extending slot in the ferrite block structure passes over the centers of the first and second coil sections of the first coil structure, and passes over the center of the second coil structure.



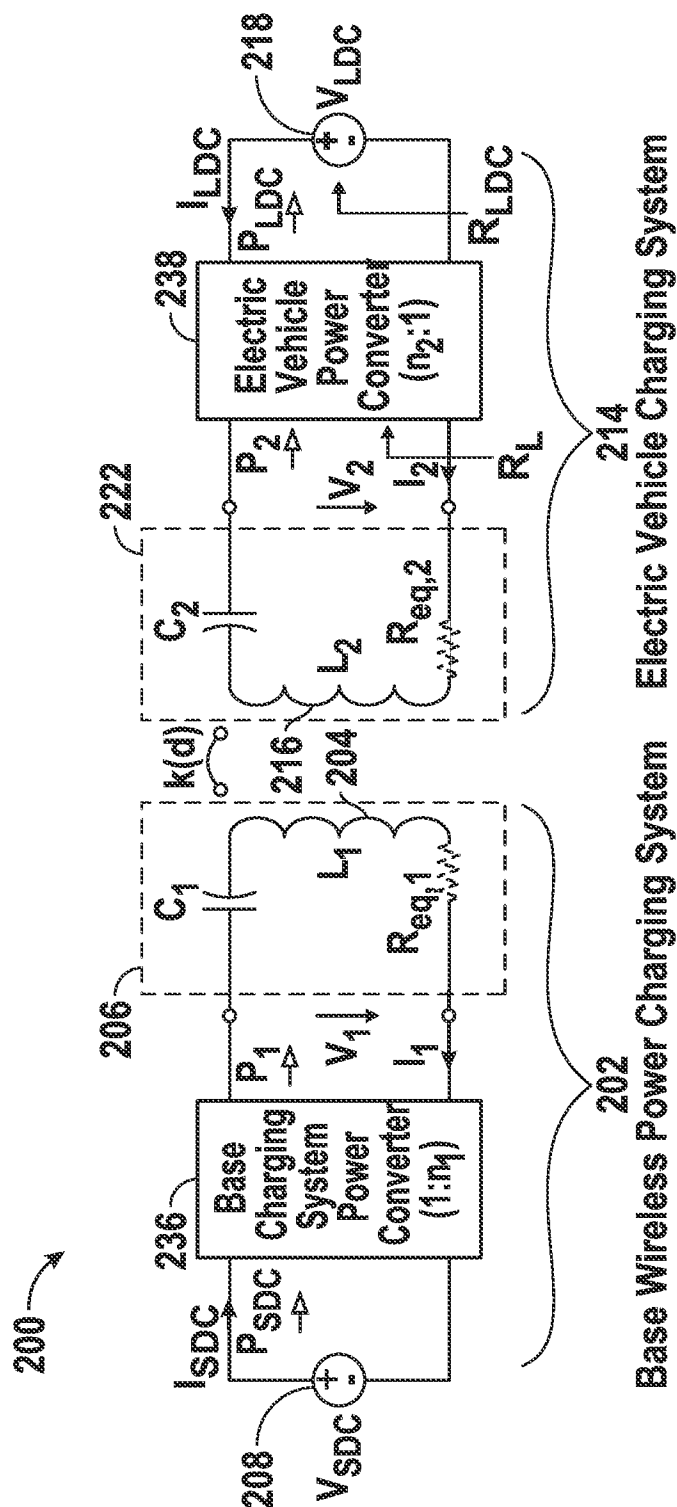


FIG. 2

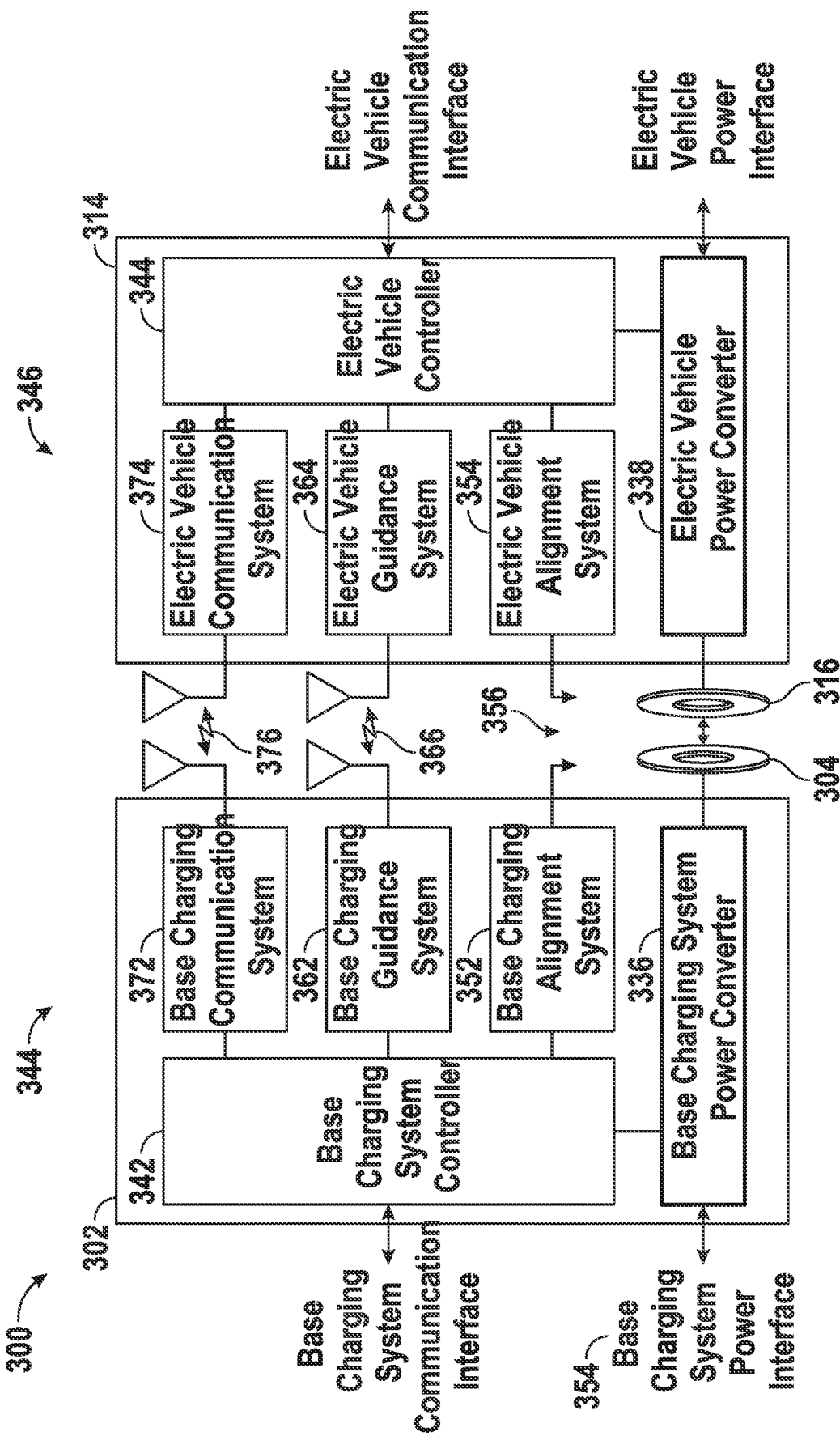


FIG. 3

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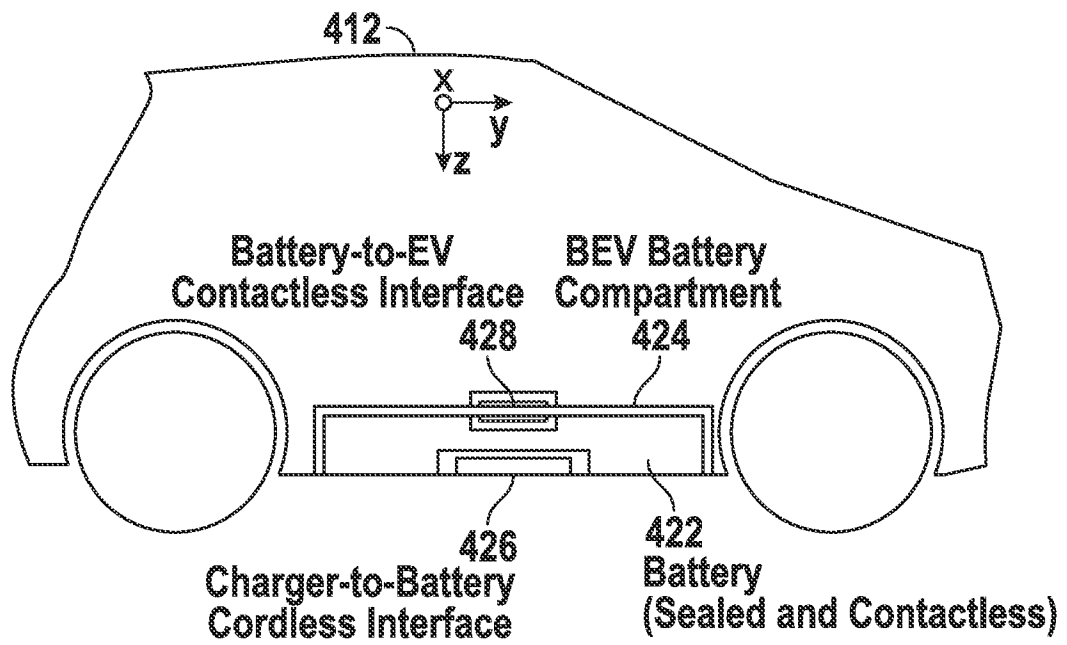


FIG. 4

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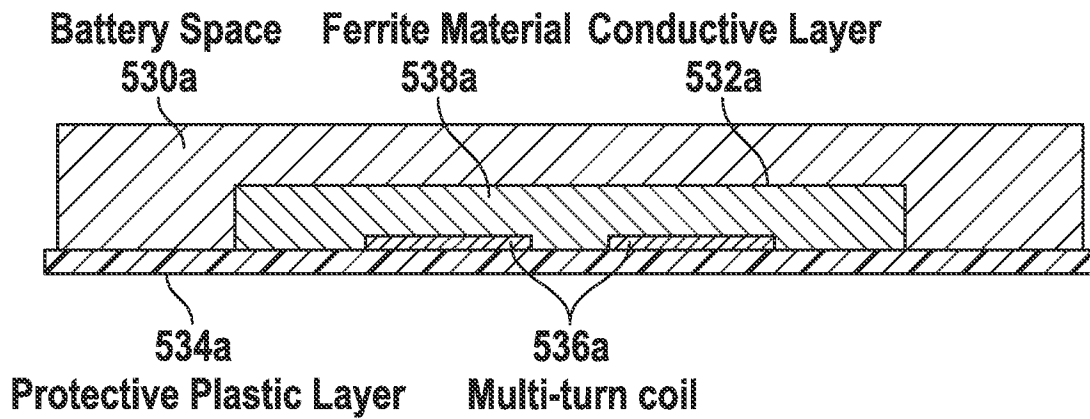


FIG. 5A

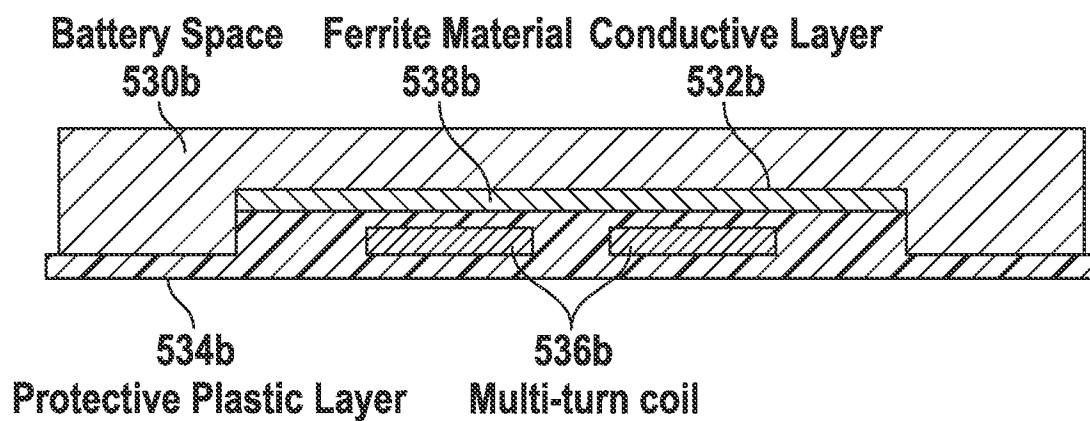


FIG. 5B

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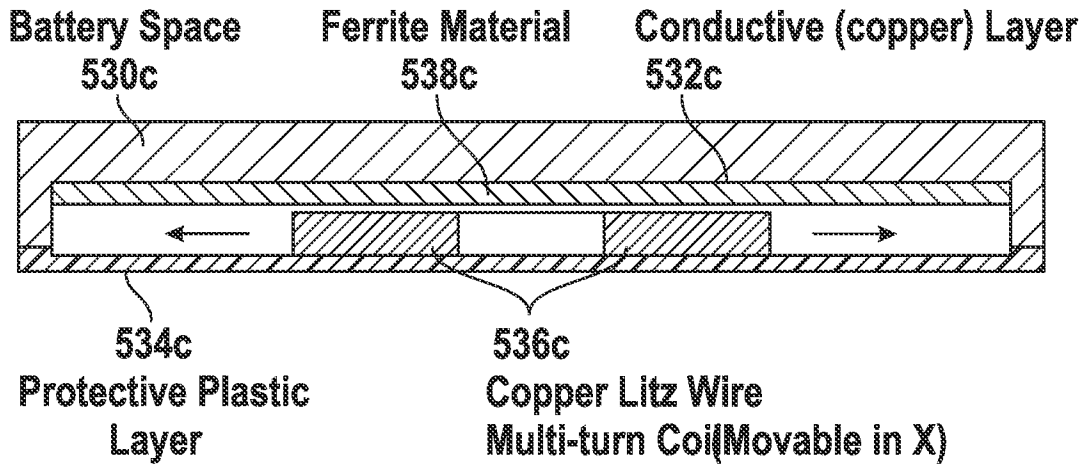


FIG. 5C

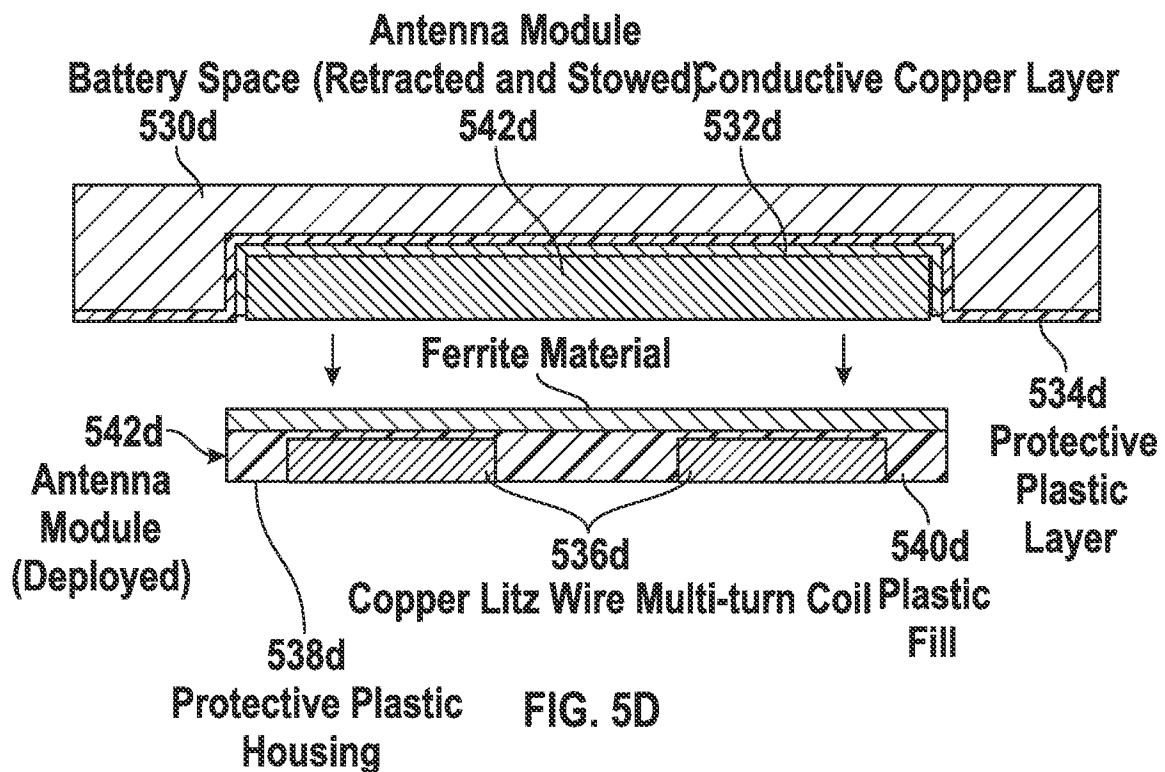


FIG. 5D

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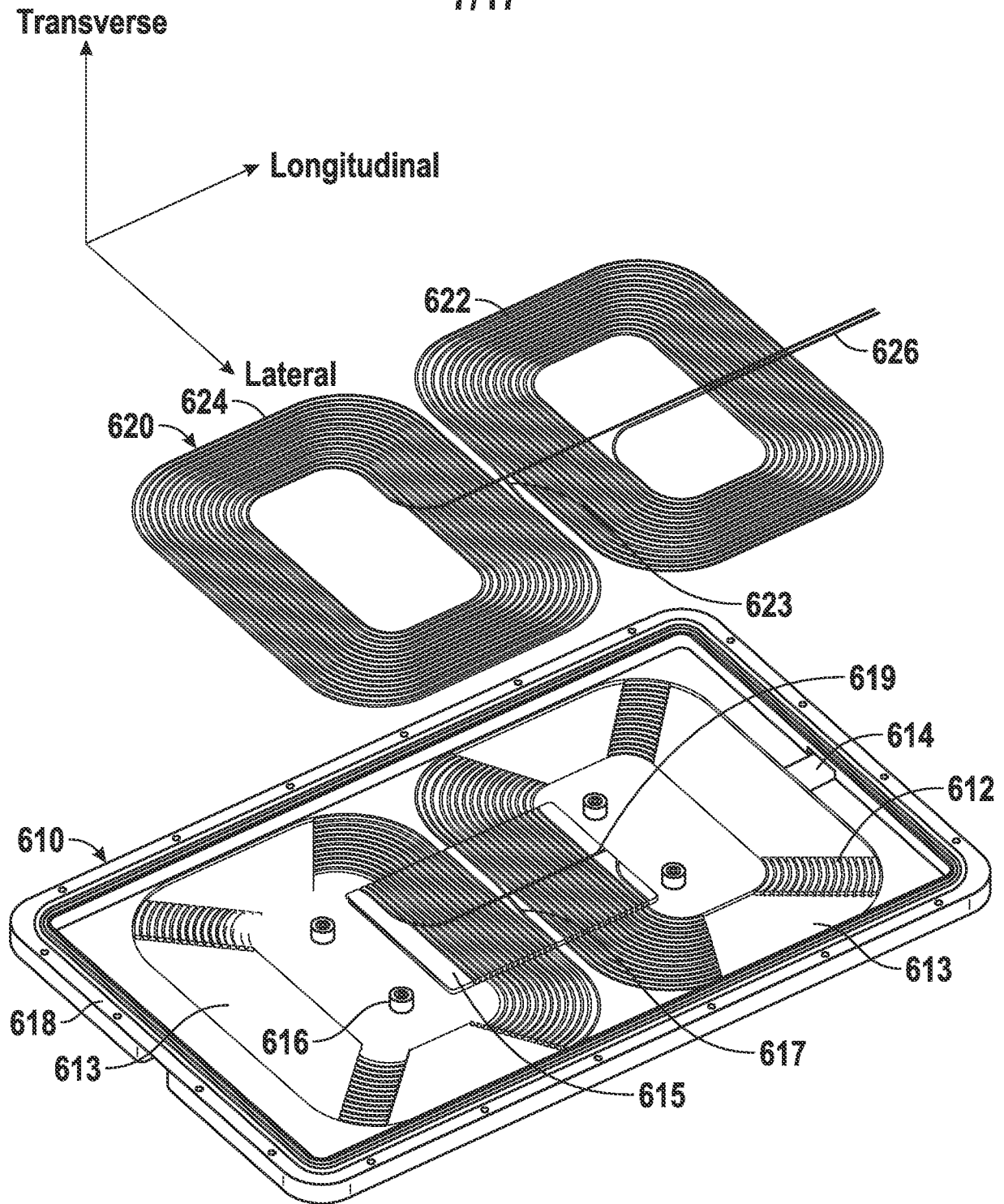


FIG. 6A

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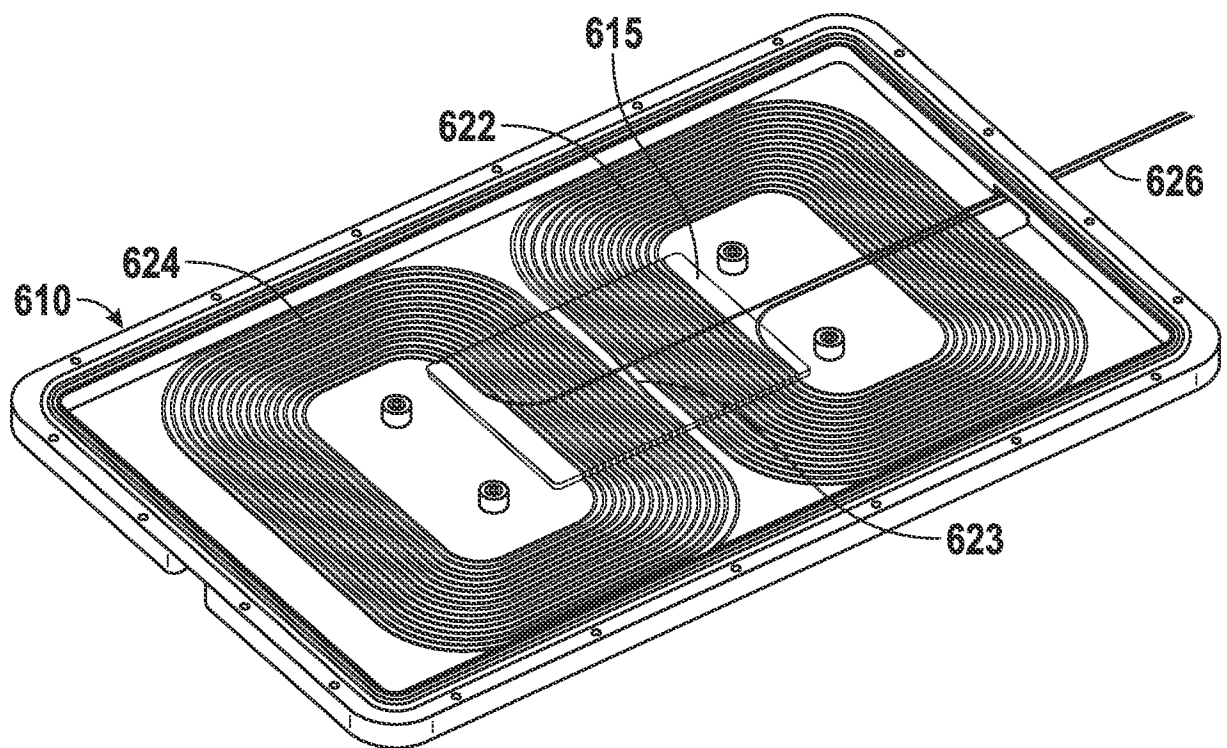


FIG. 6B

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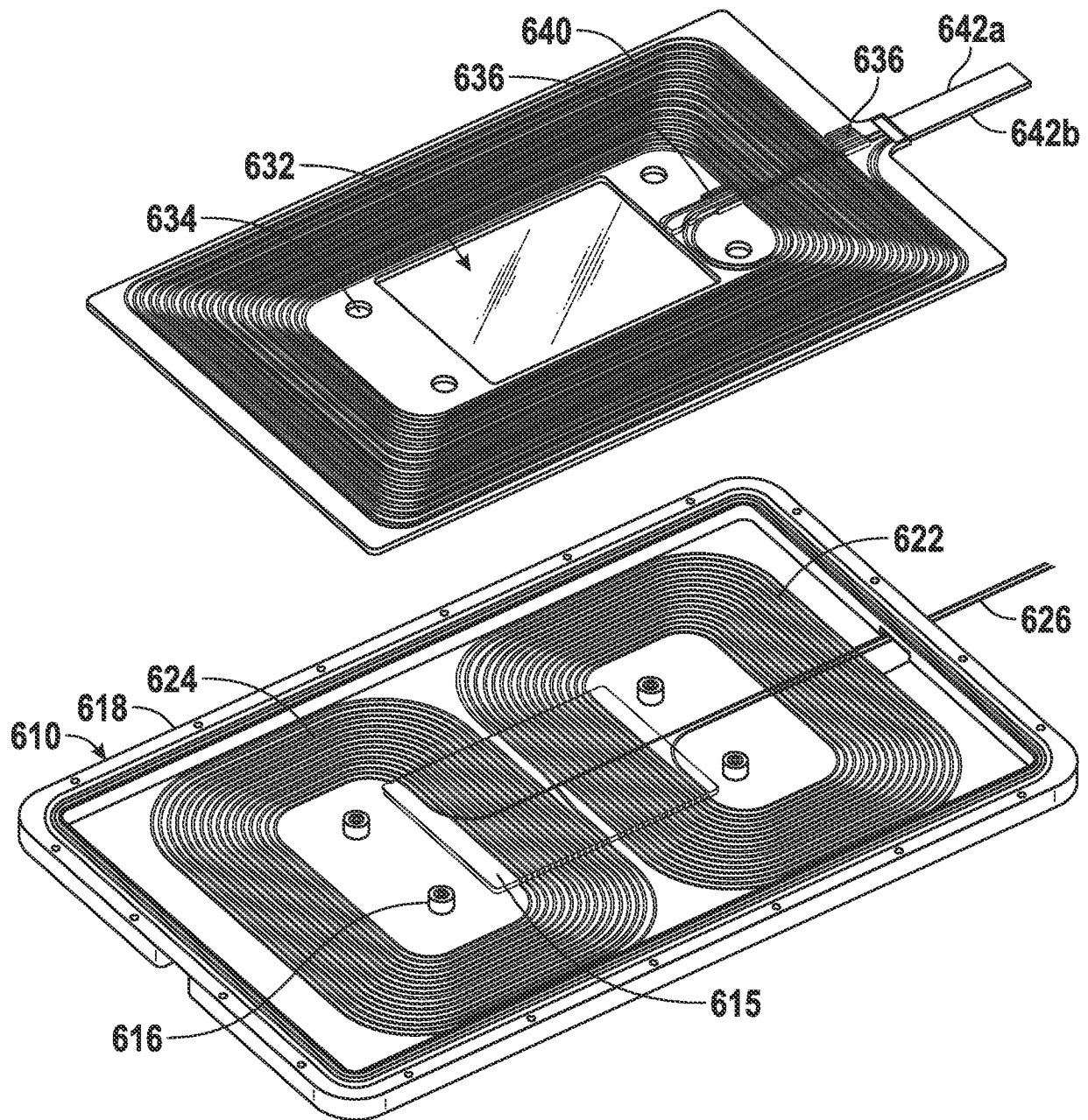


FIG. 7A

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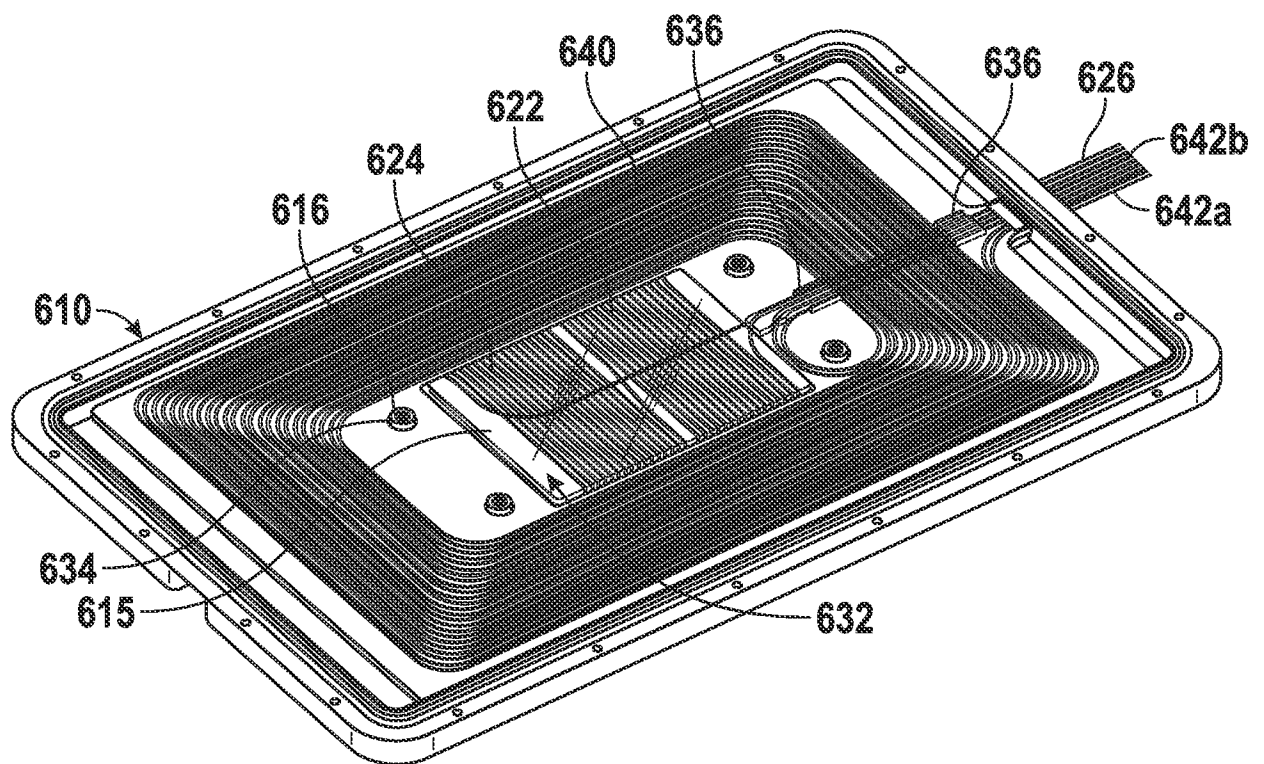


FIG. 7B

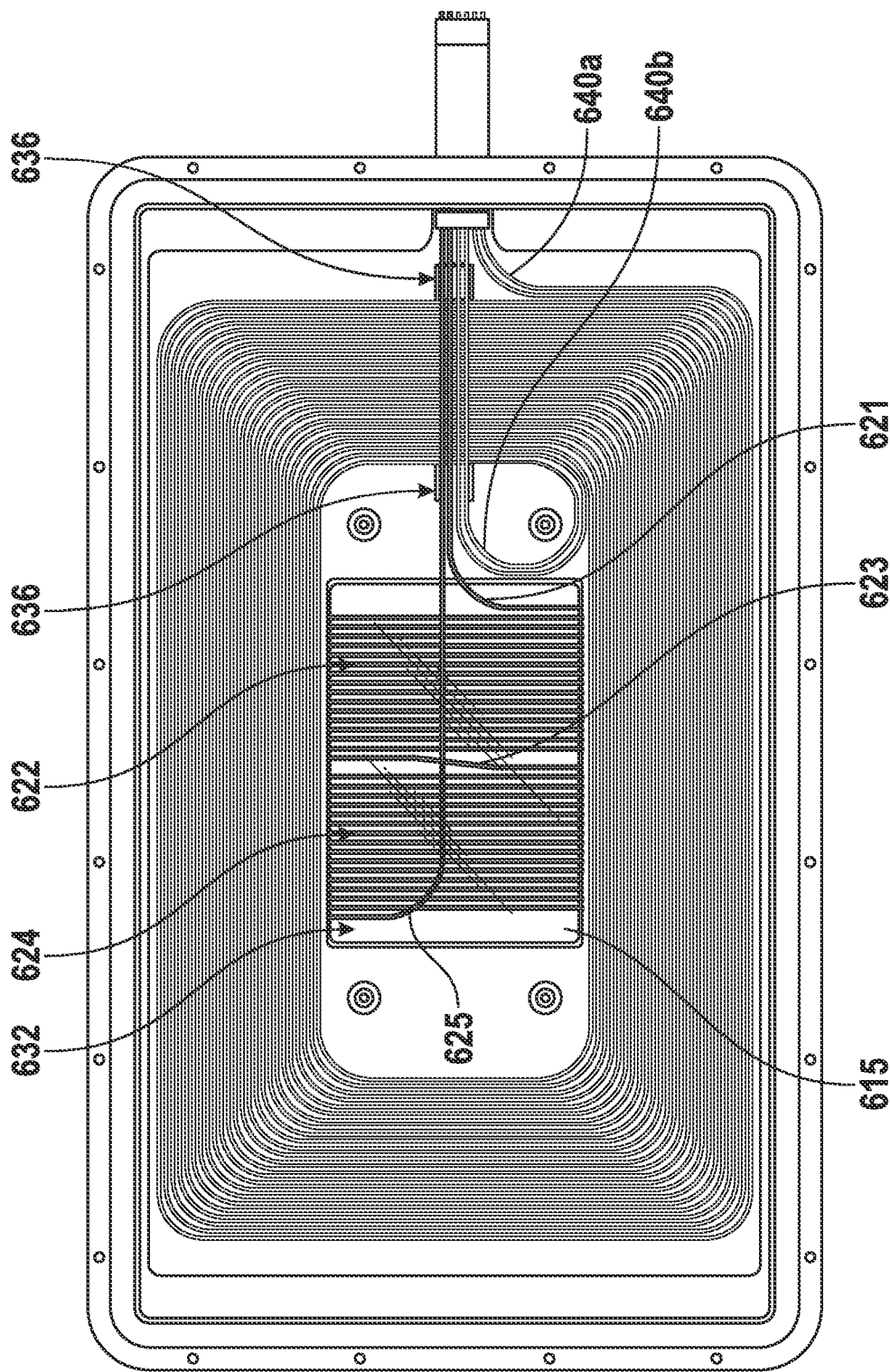


FIG. 7C

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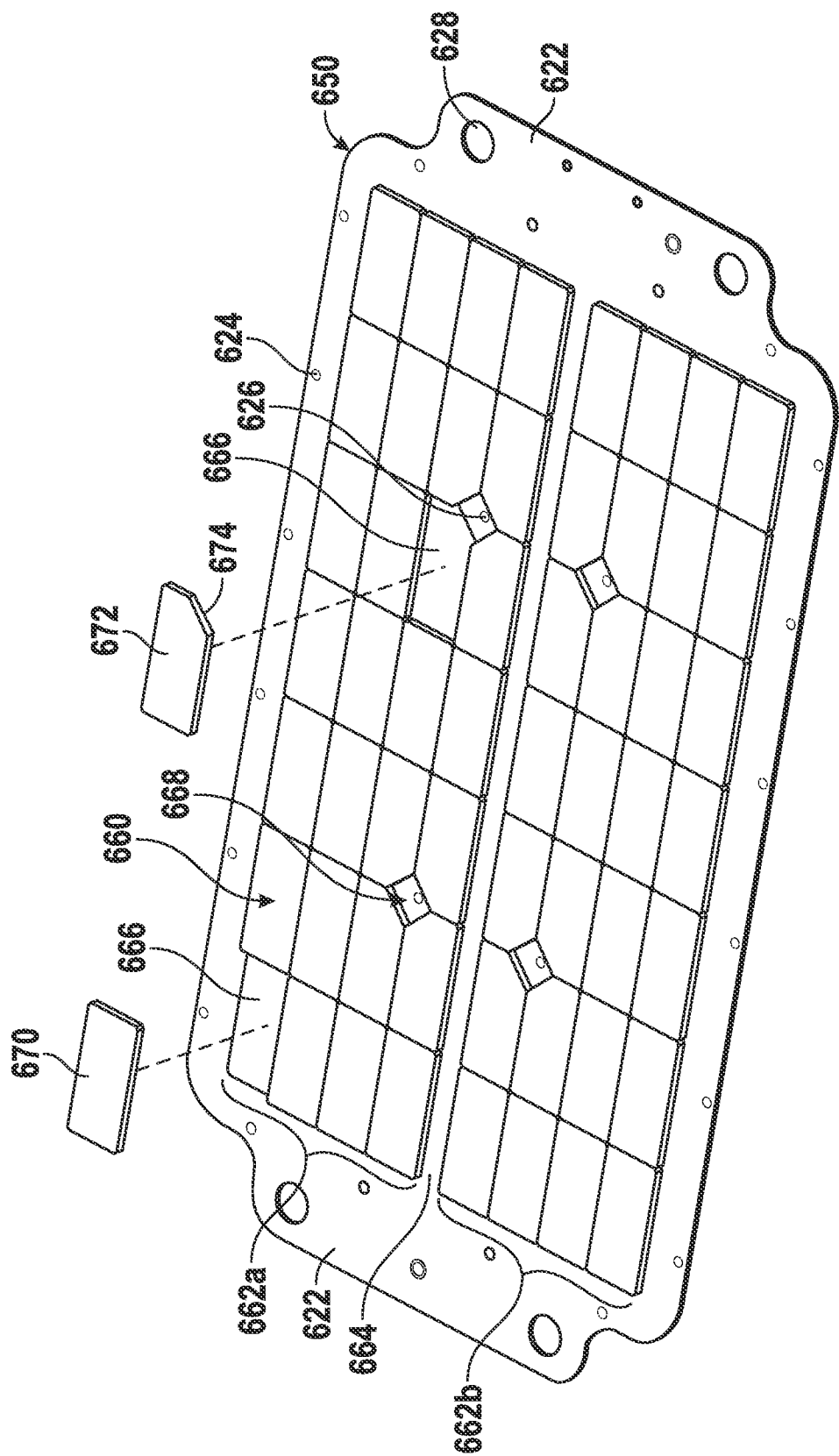


FIG. 8

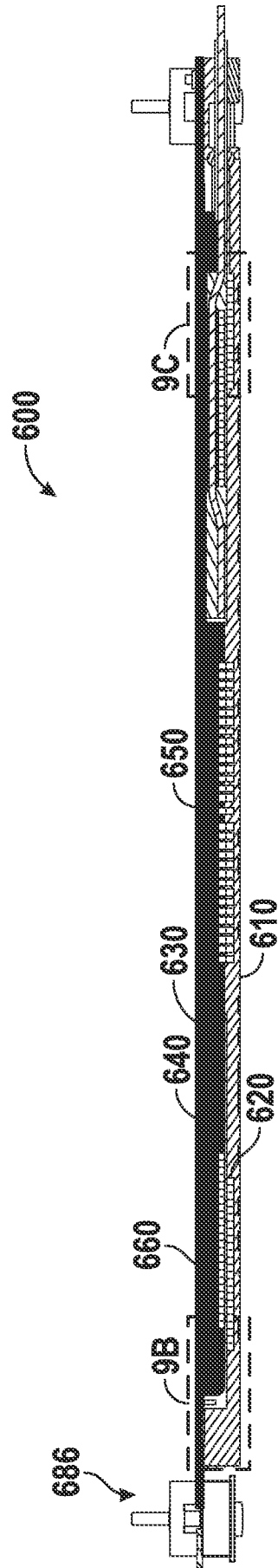


FIG. 9A

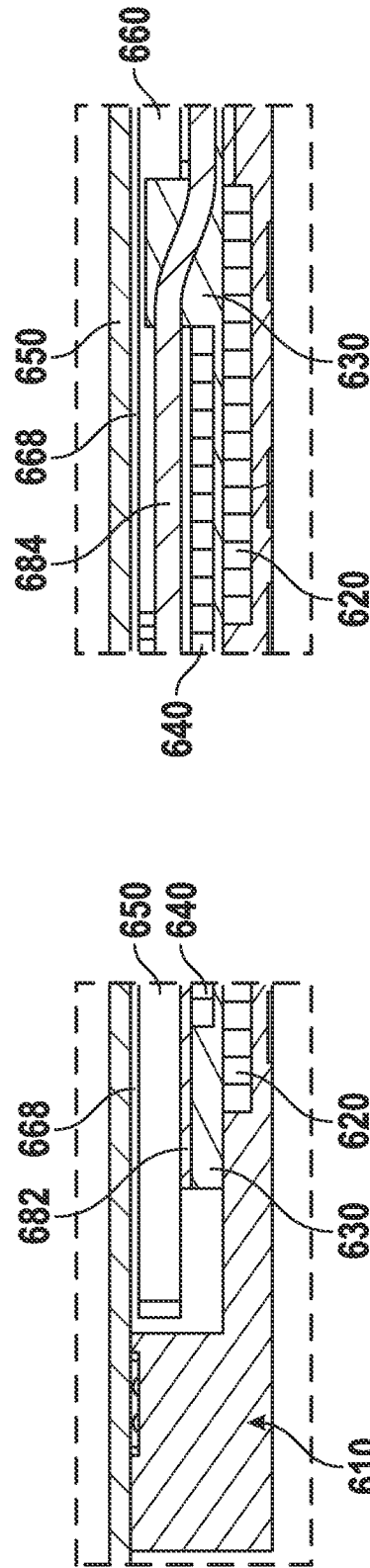


FIG. 9C

FIG. 9B

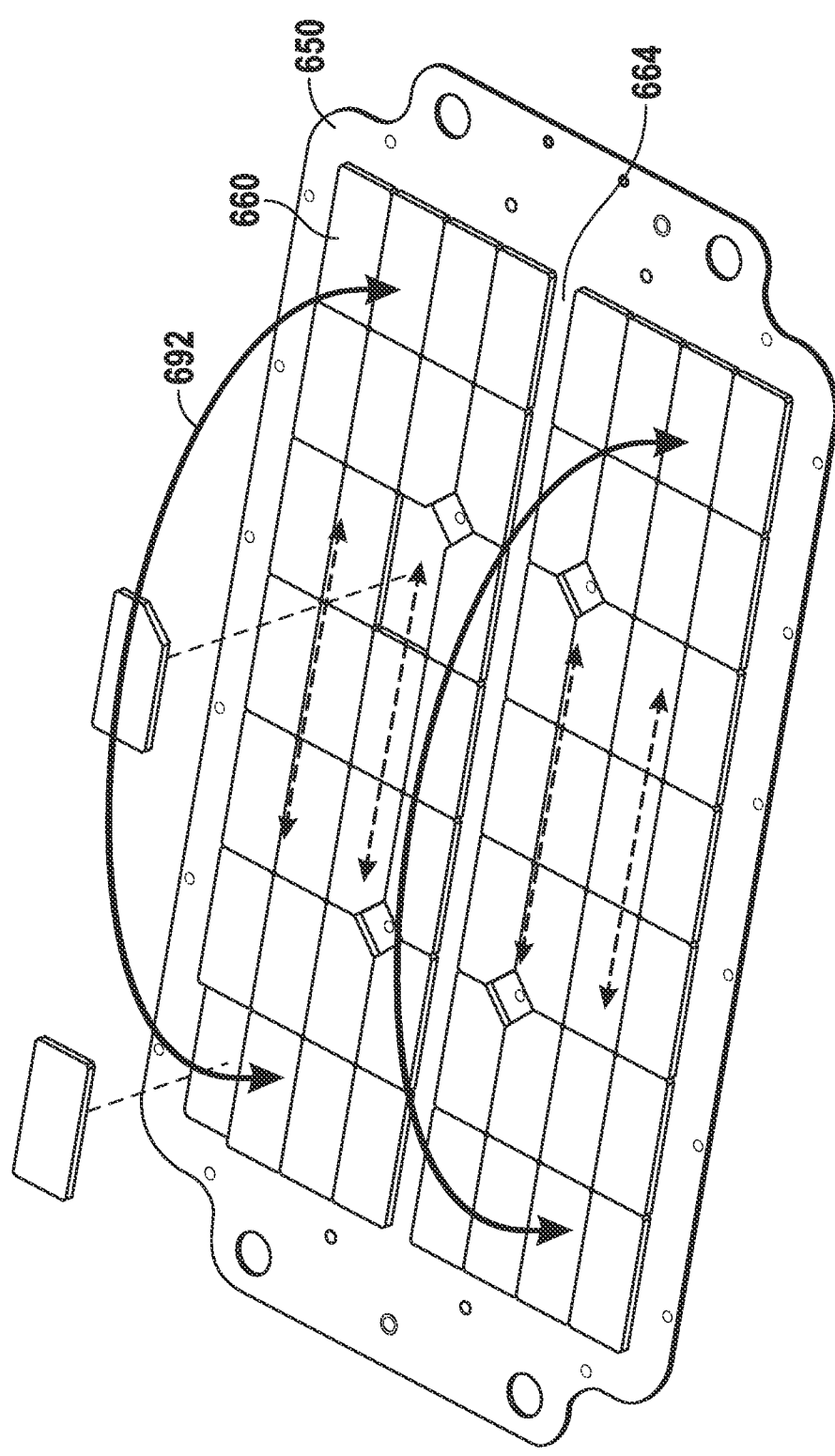


FIG. 10

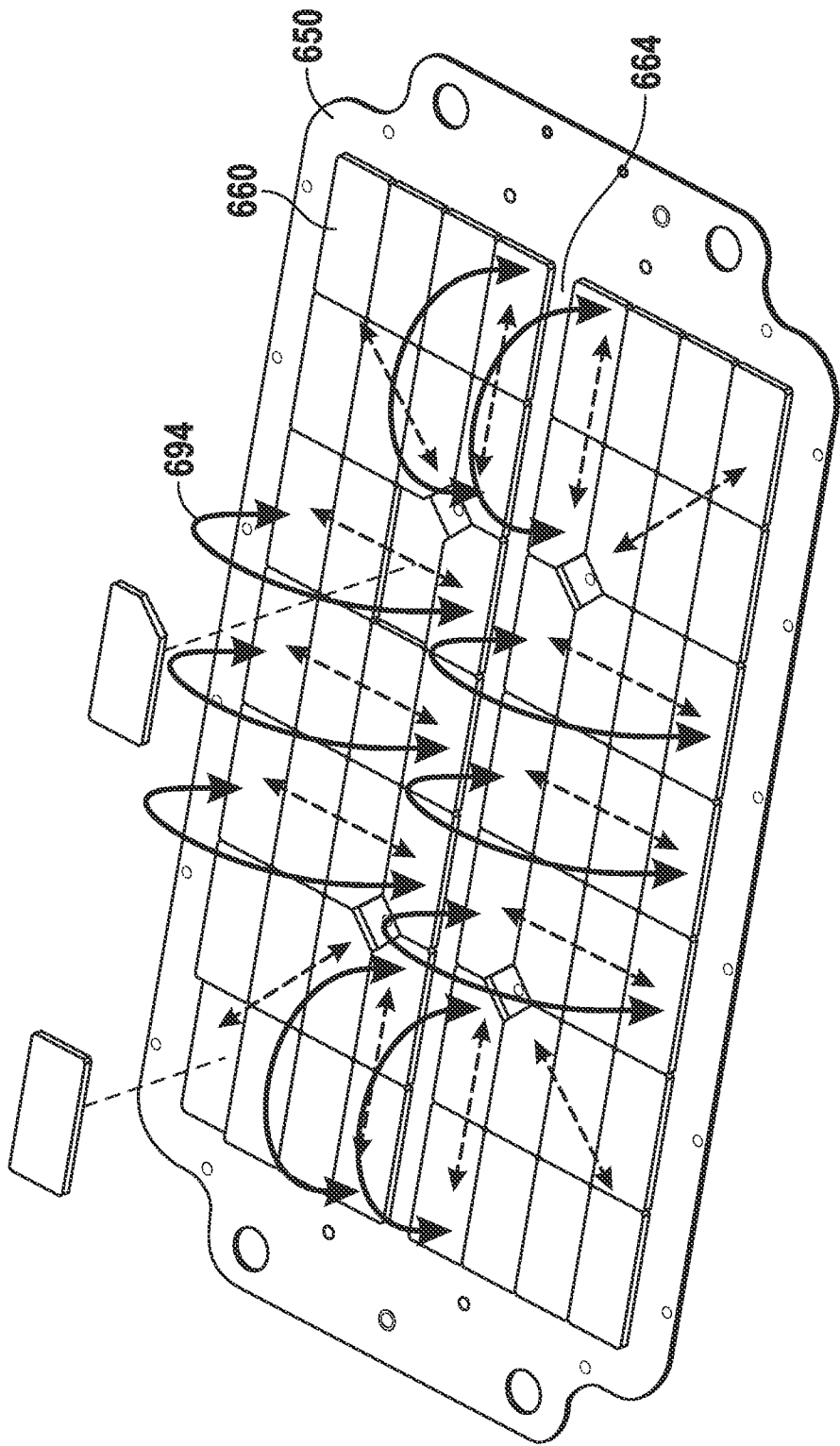


FIG. 11

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700a

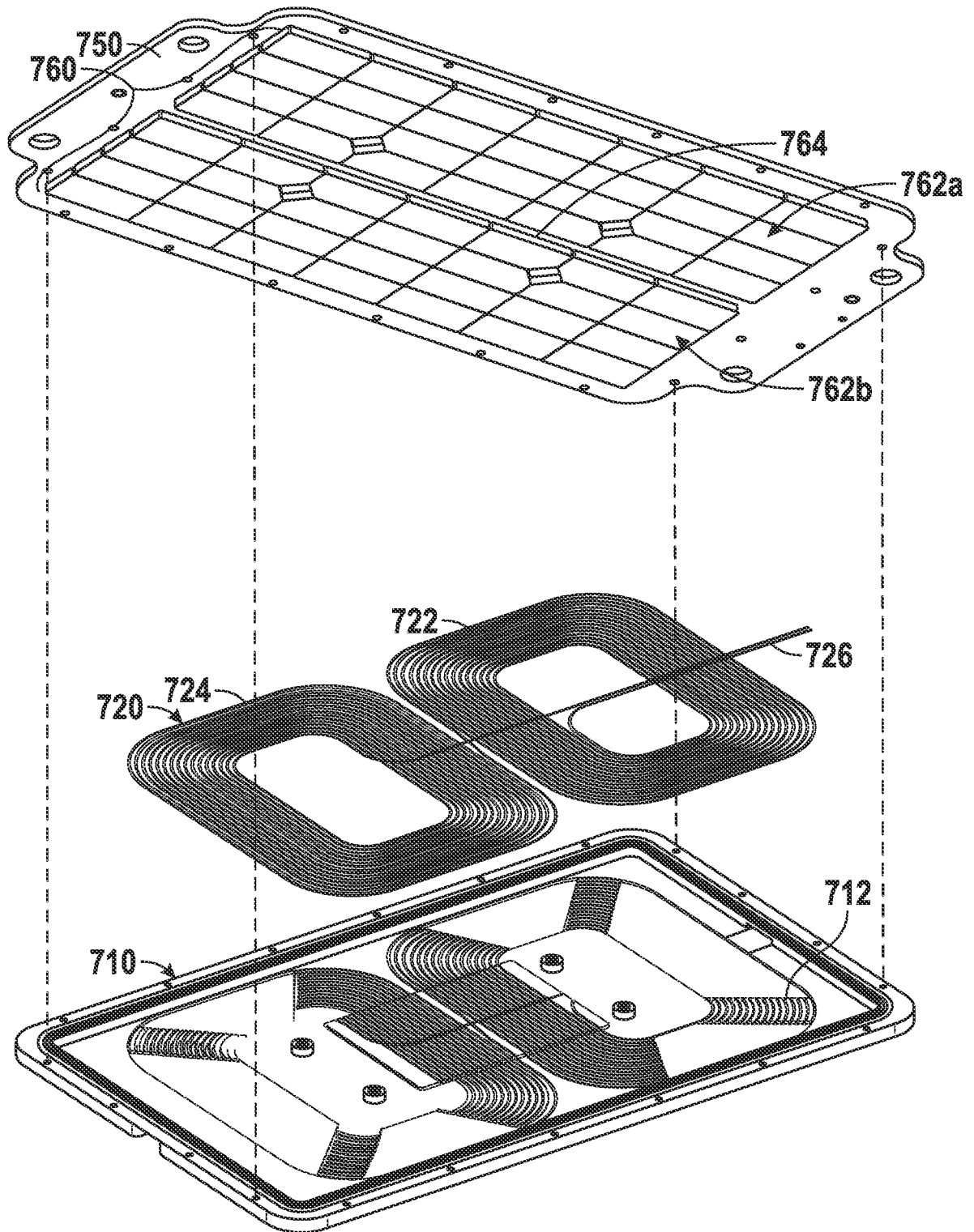


FIG. 12A

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700b

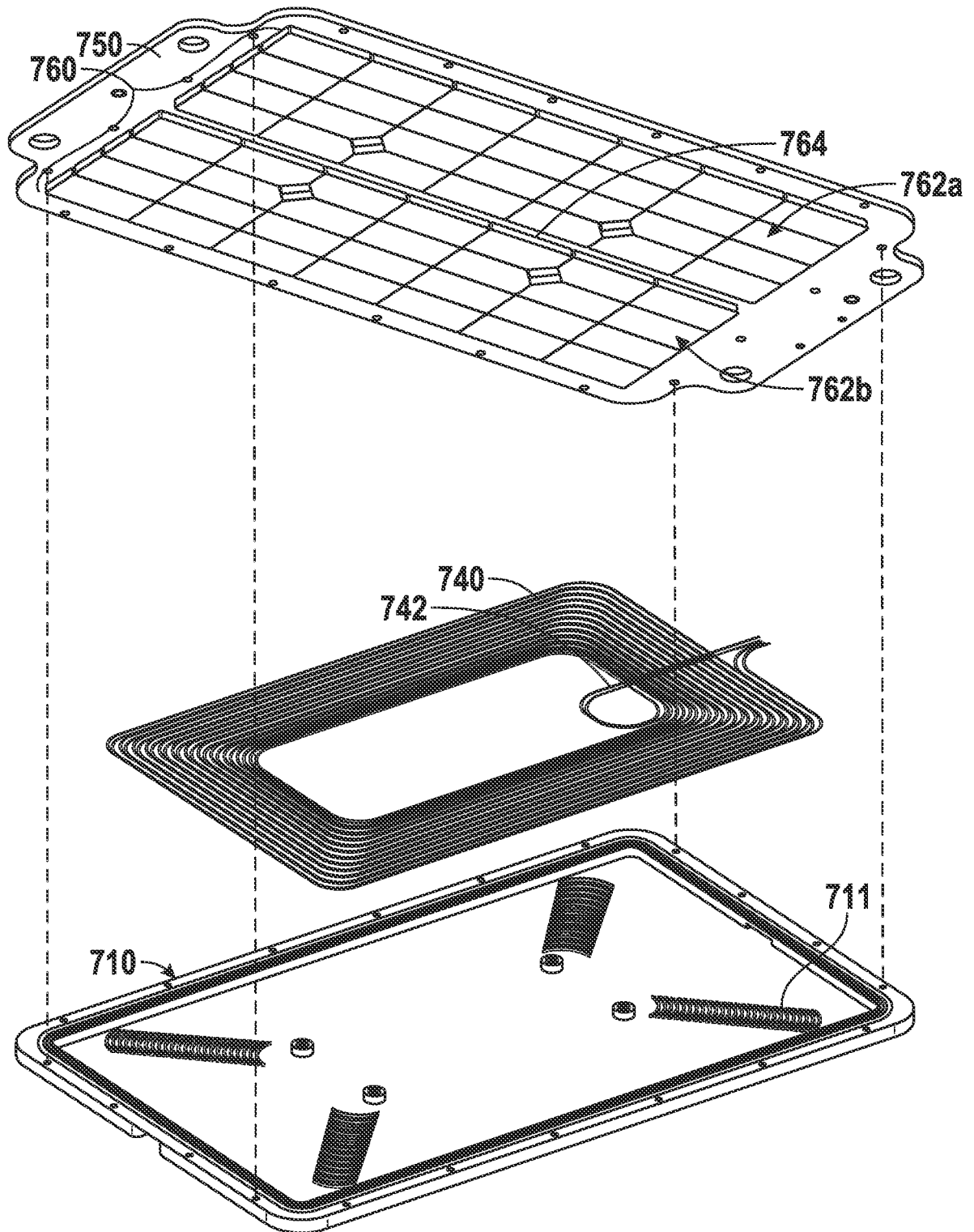


FIG. 12B

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2014/035884

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. H01F38/14

ADD.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

H01F

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

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

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2012/248892 A1 (COVIC GRANT ANTHONY [NZ] ET AL) 4 October 2012 (2012-10-04) figures 1-3 paragraph [0042] paragraph [0043] paragraph [0045]	1-30
A	----- US 2011/210617 A1 (RANDALL MITCH [US]) 1 September 2011 (2011-09-01) figure 18 paragraph [0069] paragraph [0084] paragraph [0074] paragraph [0030] ----- -/--	1-17, 21-30

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

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