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(54) **AMBIENT LIGHT COLLECTING BOW SIGHT**

(76) Inventor: **Bahram Khoshnood**, 2735 Two Rock Ct., Alpharetta, GA (US) 30004

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See application file for complete search history.

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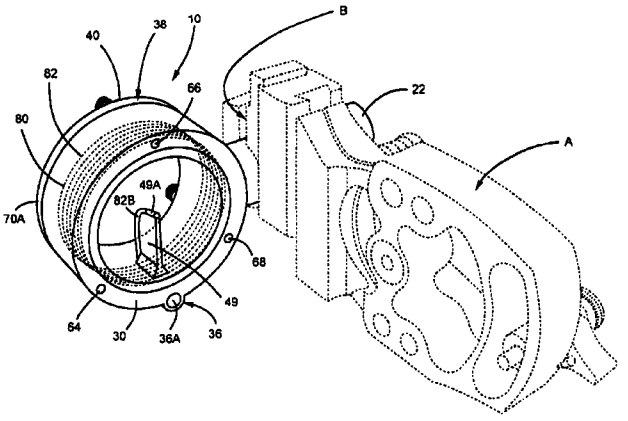
Primary Examiner—Yaritza Guadalupe-McCall
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Myers & Kaplan, LLC; Ashish D. Patel, Esq.; George Bonanto, Esq.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An ambient light collecting bow sight having a light collecting filament, wherein the light collecting filament is preferably a scintillating fiber optic filament of sufficient length to enable extensive wrapping or winding of the fiber optic filament around a preferably translucent bow sight. The multiple wrapping or winding of an extensive strand of fiber optic filament provides the filament with more surface area in which to harness ambient light passing through the translucent bow-sight. A portion of the fiber optic filament is attached to a pin or crosshair of the bow sight, thus functioning as a lit targeting pin.

21 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



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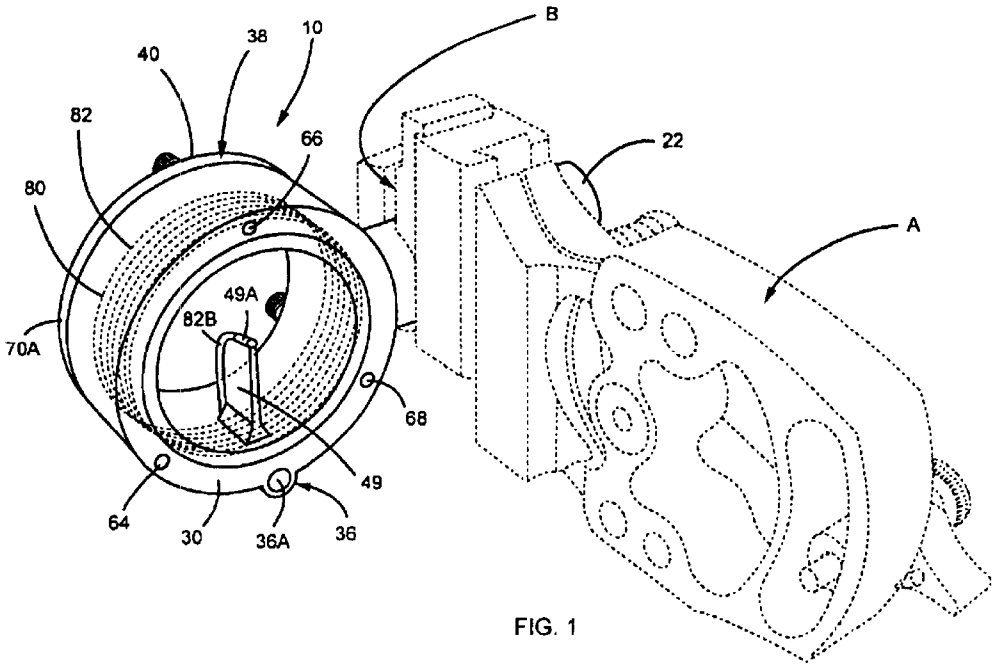
B
38
10
40
82
66
22
80
A
49A
82B
70A
68
49
64
30
36A
36

FIG. 1

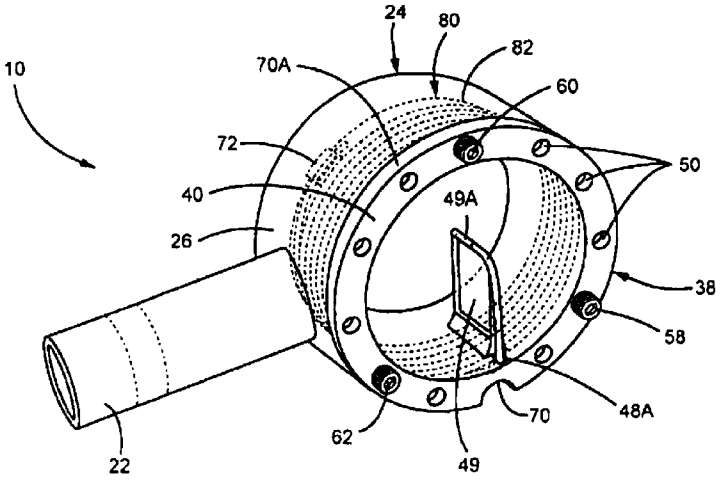
24
80
82
10
70A
60
72
50
40
49A
26
38
58
48A
70
62
49
22

FIG. 2

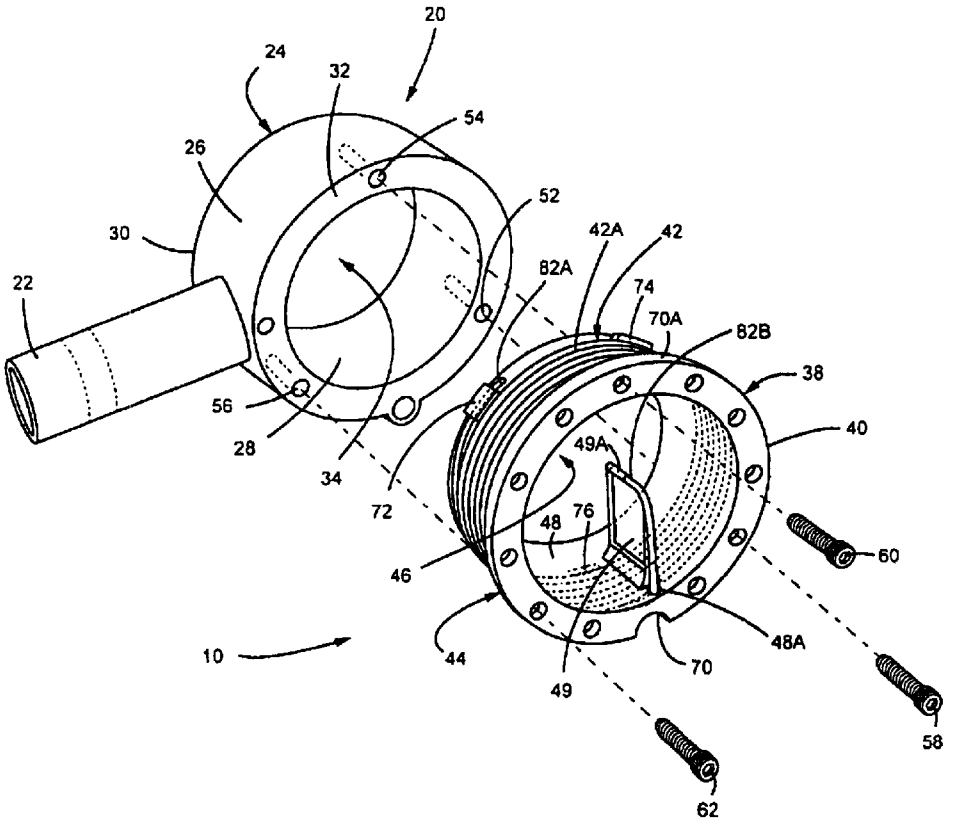
20
24
32
54
26
52
30
42A
42
82A
74
22
70A
82B
38
56
40
28
49A
34
72
48
76
60
46
44
48A
10
70
49
58
62

FIG. 3

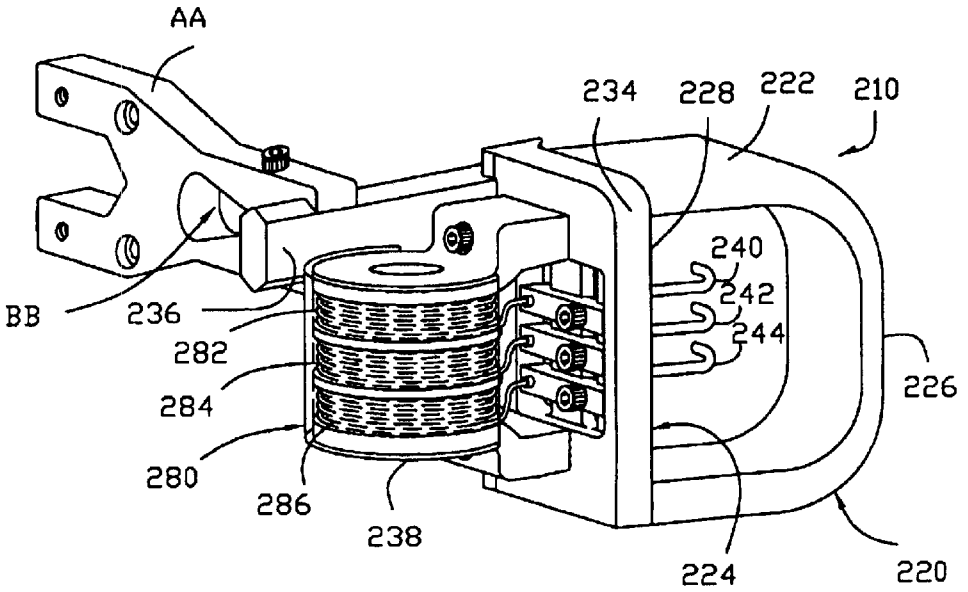
AA
234
228
222
210
240
242
244
BB
236
282
284
280
286
238
226
224
220

FIG. 4

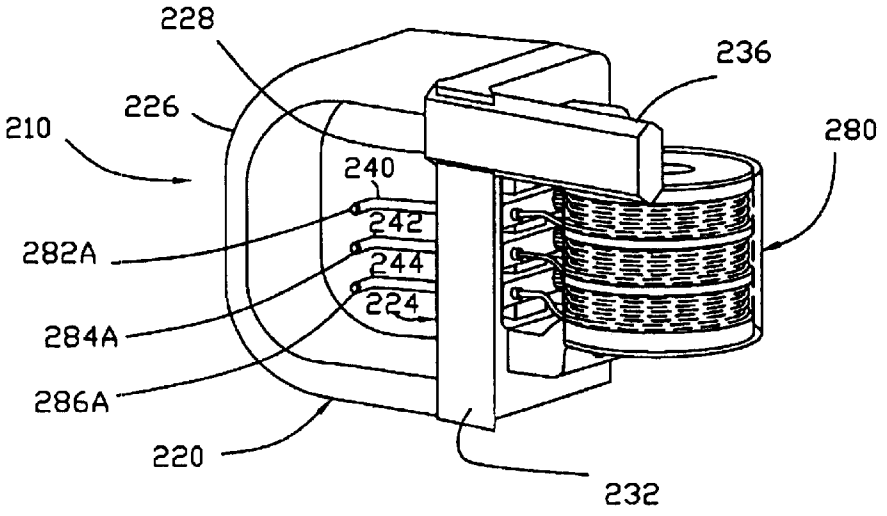
228
236
226
210
280
240
242
282A
244
224
284A
286A
220
232

FIG. 5

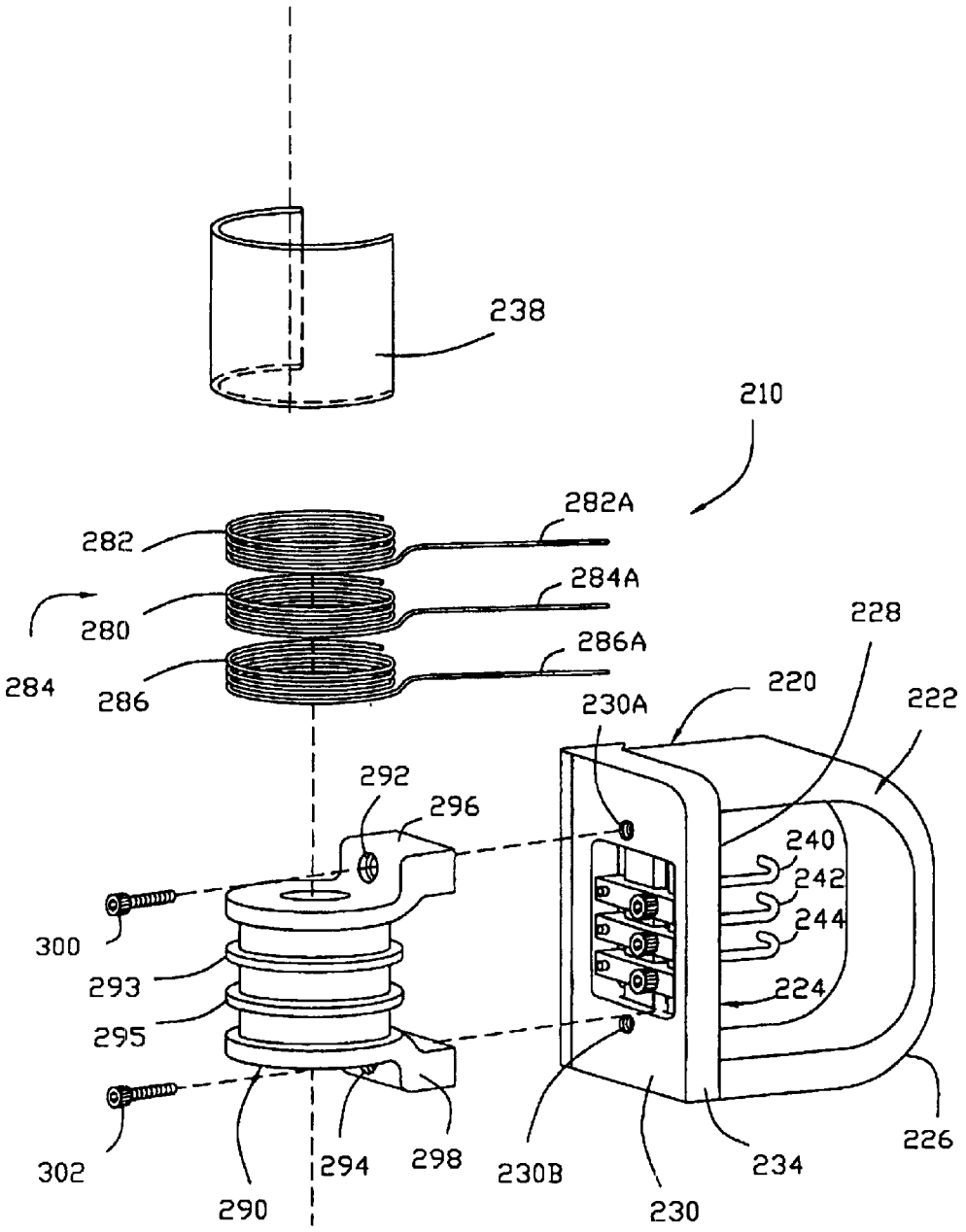
238
210
282A
282
284A
280
286A
284
286
228
220
222
230A
292
296
240
242
244
300
293
224
295
302
294
298
230B
234
226
290
230

FIG. 6

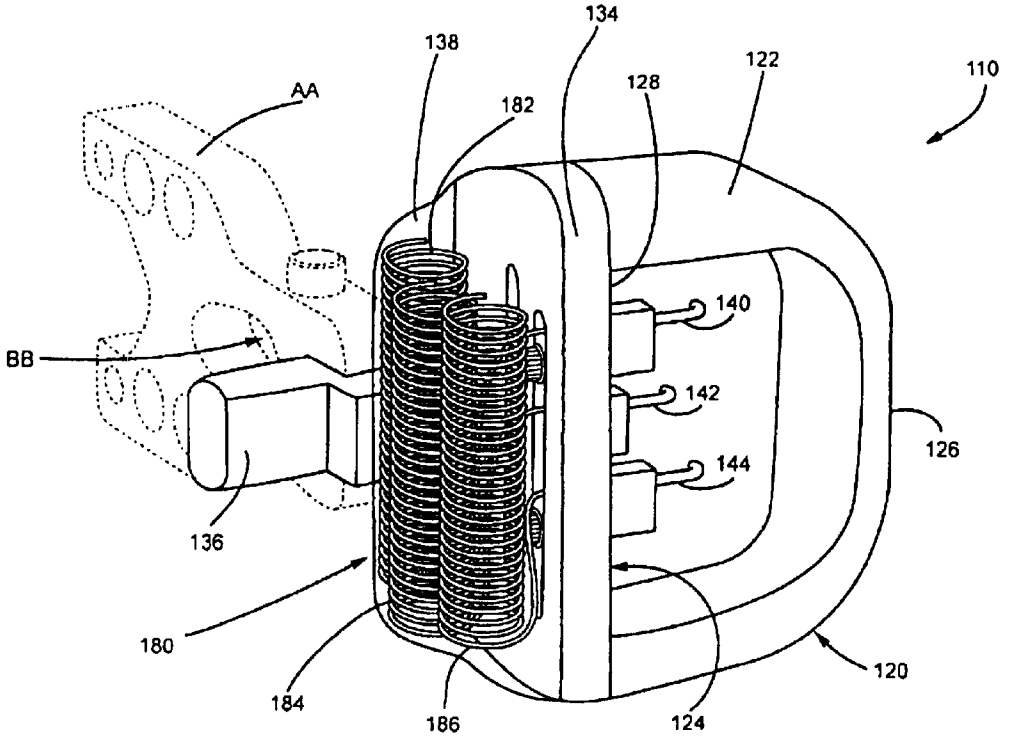
134
138
122
110
AA
182
128
140
BB
142
126
144
136
180
120
184
186
124

FIG. 7

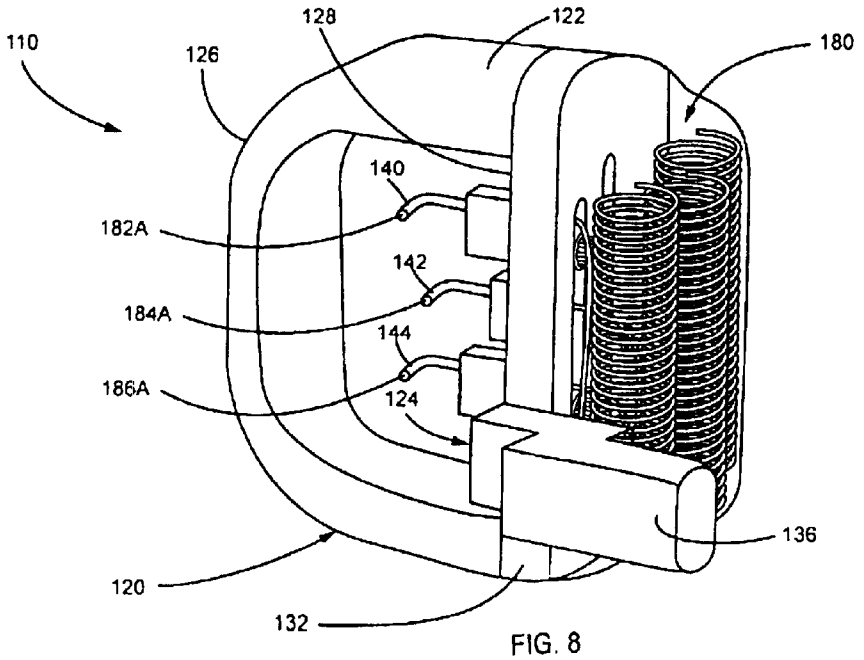
128
122
110
126
180
140
182A
142
184A
144
186A
124
136
120
132

FIG. 8

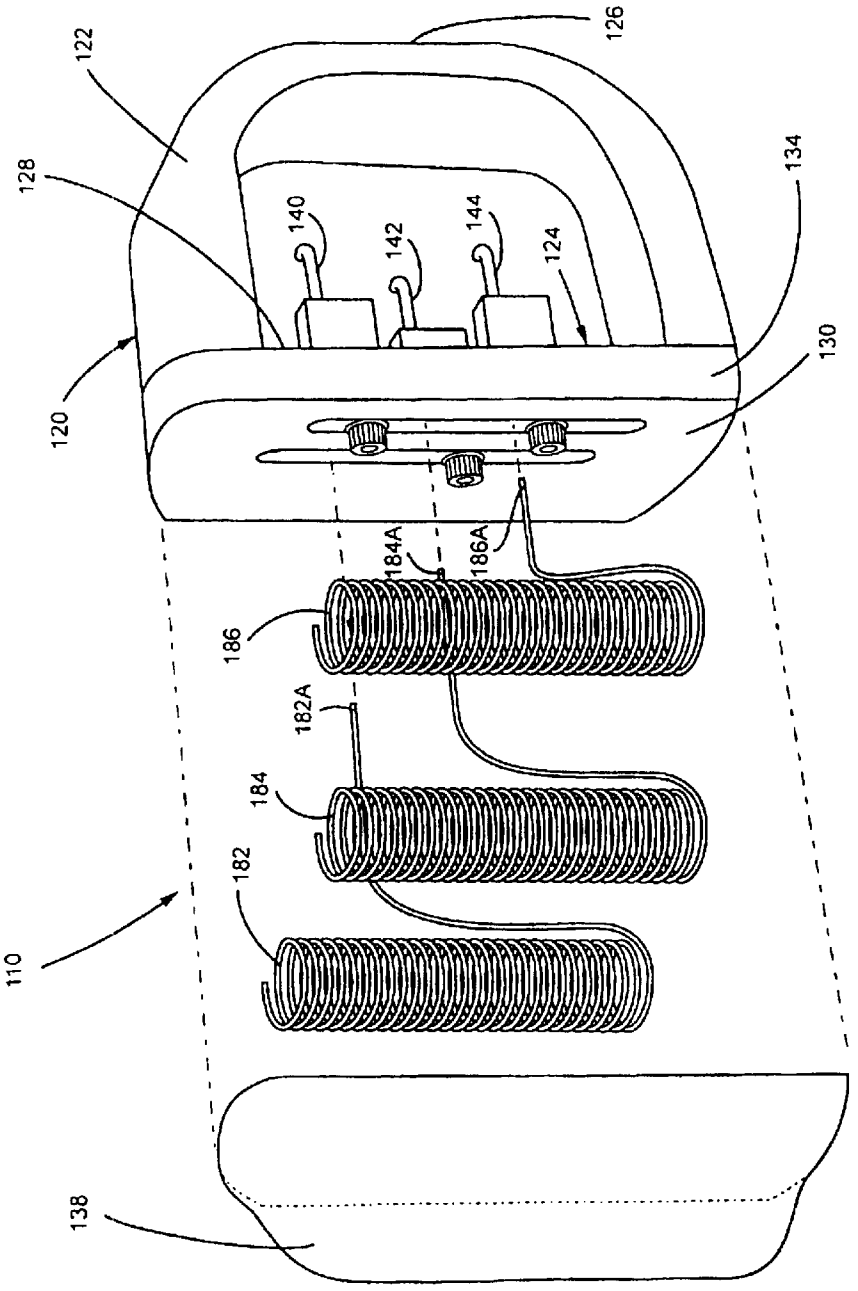
126
122
128
134
140
142
144
124
120
130
184A
186A
186
182A
184
182
110
138

FIG. 9

AMBIENT LIGHT COLLECTING BOW SIGHT

Matter enclosed in heavy brackets [ ] appears in the original patent but forms no part of this reissue specification; matter printed in italics indicates the additions made by reissue.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates generally to bow sights, and more specifically to an ambient light collecting bow sight. The present invention is particularly useful in, although not limited to, assisting hunters and/or competition shooters equipped with bows and/or firearms to target game or objects in low-light environments.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Effective and successful use of a bow is dependent upon a multitude of variables, including establishment of proper trajectory, string tension, drawback and even the weight of the bow. More importantly, however, the precision of a bowshot is largely dependent upon proper targeting or aiming and the ability to sight one's target. As such, many archers/hunters have employed the use of bow sights to assist in such targeting. Unfortunately, however, because most hunting expeditions are usually conducted in low-level light conditions/environments, such as a dense forest, most conventionally available bow sights are unable to effectively assist the hunter in sighting his target.

Although attempts have been made to cure the deficiencies and inadequacies of conventional sighting pins and/or crosshairs, simple bow sights of this sort are of limited use because they fail to provide the archer/hunter with the requisite amount of light needed to sight a target within the bow sight. Furthermore, while bow sights with small light collecting filaments are known, they too serve limited use as they are typically unable to harness enough ambient light to make use of the bow sight worthwhile.

Therefore, it is readily apparent that there is a need for an ambient light collecting bow sight, wherein the bow sight is able to effectively harness diminutive amounts of ambient light and magnify it to a useable light source capable of assisting hunters in sighting their targets in low-light environments.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Briefly described, in a preferred embodiment, the present invention overcomes the above-mentioned disadvantage, and meets the recognized need for such a device by providing an ambient light collecting bow sight, wherein the bow sight is able to effectively harness diminutive amounts of ambient light and magnify it to a useable light source capable of assisting hunters in sighting their targets in low-light environments.

According to its major aspects and broadly stated, the present invention in its preferred form is an ambient light collecting bow sight having a light collecting filament.

More specifically, the present invention is an ambient light collecting bow sight having a light collecting filament, wherein the light collecting filament is preferably a scintillating fiber optic filament of sufficient length to enable extensive wrapping or winding of the fiber optic filament around a preferably translucent bow sight. The repeated wrapping or winding of the lengthy strand of fiber optic filament configures the filament to provide increased surface area with which to harness ambient light. The translucent material from which the actual bow sight is constructed further enables ambient light to pass therethrough and thus to be harnessed by the wrapped filament. A portion of the fiber optic filament is attached to a pin or crosshair of the bow sight, thus functioning as a lit targeting pin.

A feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to provide a lit bow sight.

A feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to be used in extremely low-level light environments.

A feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to effectively harness ambient low-level light and magnify it to a useable light source.

A feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to allow the archer/hunter to sight targets in low-level light environments.

A feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to provide a large ambient light collecting surface area.

A feature and advantage of the present invention is its portability.

A feature and advantage of the present invention is its ease of use.

A feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to provide a rotatable or adjustable bow sight.

These and other objects, features and advantages of the invention will become more apparent to one skilled in the art from the following description and claims when read in light of the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be better understood by reading the Detailed Description of the Preferred and Alternate Embodiments with reference to the accompanying drawing figures, in which like reference numerals denote similar structure and refer to like elements throughout, and in which:

FIG. **1** is a front perspective view of an ambient light collecting bow sight according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **2** is a rear perspective view of an ambient light collecting bow sight according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **3** is an exploded view of an ambient light collecting bow sight according to a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **4** is a front perspective view of an ambient light collecting bow sight according to an alternate embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **5** is a rear perspective view of an ambient light collecting bow sight according to an alternate embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **6** is an exploded view of an ambient light collecting bow sight according to an alternate embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **7** is a front perspective view of an ambient light collecting bow sight according to an alternate embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **8** is a rear perspective view of an ambient light collecting bow sight according to an alternate embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **9** is an exploded view of an ambient light collecting bow sight according to an alternate embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED AND ALTERNATIVE EMBODIMENTS

In describing the preferred and alternate embodiments of the present invention, as illustrated in FIGS. **1**–**9**, specific terminology is employed for the sake of clarity. The invention, however, is not intended to be limited to the specific terminology so selected, and it is to be understood that each specific element includes all technical equivalents that operate in a similar manner to accomplish similar functions.

Referring now to FIGS. **1**–**3**, the present invention in its preferred embodiment is an ambient light collecting bow sight **10** having bow sight **20** and light collecting mechanism **80**.

Specifically, bow sight **20** has preferably cylindrical shaft **22** integrally formed to ring **24**. Although integral formation of shaft **22** is preferred, one skilled in the art would readily recognize that shaft **22** could attach to ring **24** via any attaching means known within the art, such as, for exemplary purposes only, epoxies or resins. Shaft **22** is preferably dimensioned to be received within an aperture B in bow sight support A, wherein bow sight support A is any conventional bow sight support known within the art. It is anticipated that the dimensions and/or shape of shaft **22** could be modified to enable reception by other types or configurations of bow sight supports. Bow sight **20** is preferably formed from a sturdy transparent plastic to allow light to pass therethrough to be harnessed by light collecting mechanism **80**; however, other suitable non-opaque materials can be used for bow sight **20**.

Ring **24** preferably possesses outer wall **26** and inner wall **28** joined to front wall **30** and rear wall **32**, wherein inner wall **28** defines aperture **34**. Outer wall **26** preferably possesses hump **36**, wherein hump **36** has throughhole **36**A formed therethrough for receiving a conventional bow leveler as known within the art.

Ring **24** is preferably dimensioned to receive insert **38**, wherein insert **38** preferably possesses outer ring **40** preferably integrally formed to inner ring **42** or attached thereto via any attaching means known within the art, such as, for exemplary purposes only, epoxies or resins. Inner ring **42** is preferably of reduced diameter relative to outer ring **40**, thus forming area **44**, wherein inner ring **42** is preferably dimensioned to be received within aperture **34** of ring **24**. Preferably, outer and inner rings **40** and **42**, respectively, share a common aperture **46**, defined by shared inner wall **48**, wherein inner wall **48** preferably has sighting pin **49** integrally formed thereto or attached thereto via any attaching means known within the art, such as, for exemplary purposes only, epoxies or resins.

Area **44** of outer ring **40** preferably has a plurality of throughholes **50** formed therethrough, wherein any one of the plurality of throughholes **50** preferably aligns with any one of threaded holes **52**, **54** or **56** formed on back wall **32** of ring **24**. As such, when inner ring **42** is inserted into aperture **34** of ring **24**, area **44** generally abuts and is substantially flush with back wall **32** of bow sight **20**. Rotation of insert **38** enables sighting pin **49** to be positioned at any desired angle, whereupon the selected position of insert **38** in general is preferably maintained via the insertion of each of screws **58**, **60** and **62** through one throughhole of the plurality of throughholes **50** on area **44** and thereafter into respective threaded holes **52**, **54** and **56** of back wall **32** of ring **24**. Front wall **30** of ring **24** preferably has formed thereon additional threaded holes **64**, **66** and **68** for attachment of insert **38** to front wall **30** for situations requiring a left-hand oriented bow sight **20**. Although front and back walls **30** and **32**, respectively, of ring **24** preferably each possess three threaded holes formed thereon, it is contemplated in alternate embodiments that front and back walls **30** and **32**, respectively, could define any number of threaded holes, and that holes could be limited to only one of walls **30** or **32**.

Outer ring **40** preferably defines indentation **70** defined along outer peripheral wall **70**A of outer ring **40**, wherein indentation **70** preferably enables insertion of a common bow sight leveler into throughhole **36**A of hump **36** of ring **24** when insert **38** is positioned with ring **24**.

Light collecting mechanism **80** is preferably a substantially long strand of scintillating ambient light collecting fiber optic filament **82**, preferably wrapped a plurality of times around the circumference of outer wall **42**A of inner ring **42**, wherein outer wall **42**A preferably has formed thereon generally equally spaced retention guards **72**, **74** and **76** that preferably prohibit the coiled/wrapped fiber optic filament **82** from sliding off from outer wall **42**A of inner ring **42**. Retention guard **72** preferably possesses throughhole **72**A formed therethrough for receiving and retaining first end **82**A of fiber optic filament **80**, wherein opposing second end **82**B of fiber optic filament **80** is preferably fed through throughhole **48**A formed at the base of sighting pin **49** and thereafter secured to the tip of sighting pin **49** via insertion of end **82**B through retaining throughhole **49**A formed on sighting pin **49**. Moreover, when insert **38** is brought into contact with ring **24** such that inner ring **42** of insert **38** recesses within aperture **34** of ring **24**, fiber optic filament **82** is preferably enclosed or generally encased within the confines created by outer wall **42**A of inner ring **42** butting up against inner wall **28** of ring **24**.

A generally long wrapped strand of fiber optic filament **82** is preferably utilized as light collecting mechanism **80**, wherein the plurality of coils and/or wrappings of fiber optic filament **82** around outer wall **42**A of inner ring **40** promote a greater surface area in which to capture ambient light passing through transparent ring **24**. As such, light from all directions is harnessed from all around fiber optic filament **82**, thus increasing, magnifying and generally enhancing the output of useful light from light collecting mechanism **80**. Furthermore, fiber optic filament **82** preferably emits green, yellow and/or amber light upon harnessing the ambient light, wherein different colors of fiber optic filaments are known within the art and may be utilized in alternate embodiments.

Referring now to FIGS. **4**–**6**, the present invention according to an alternate embodiment is an ambient light collecting bow sight **210** having bow sight **220** and light collecting mechanism **280**.

Specifically, bow sight **220** preferably has generally D-shaped ring **222**, wherein D-shaped ring **222** preferably has first wall **224** and curved second wall **226**, and wherein first wall **224** preferably has front surface **228**, back surface **230** and side walls **232** and **234**. Side wall **232** of first wall **224** preferably has substantially rectangular shaped shaft **236** integrally formed therewith or attached thereto via any attaching means known within the art, such as, for exemplary purposes only, epoxies or resins. Shaft **236** is preferably dimensioned to be received within an aperture BB in bow sight support AA, wherein bow sight support AA is any conventional bow sight support known within the art. Furthermore, bow sight **220** is preferably formed from a sturdy transparent plastic so as to allow light to pass there-

through to be harnessed by light collecting mechanism **280**; however, other suitable non-opaque materials can be used.

Preferably, generally barrel-shaped filament support **290**, having substantially rectangular shaped support arms **296** and **298** opposingly attached thereto, is attached to back surface **230** of first wall **224** preferably via the insertion of screws **300** and **302** through throughholes **292** and **294** of support arms **296** and **298**, respectively, and into holes **230**A and **230**B of back wall **230**, wherein filament support **290** preferably supports light collecting mechanism **280**.

Light collecting mechanism **280** preferably includes three generally long coiled strands of scintillating ambient light collecting fiber optic filaments **282**, **284** and **286**. Each of filaments **282**, **284** and **286** is preferably wound around filament support **290**, wherein generally equally spaced flanges **293** and **295** encircle filament support **290** and function to substantially separate filaments **282**, **284** and **286** from one another. Filament support **290** is preferably formed from a sturdy transparent plastic so as to allow light to pass therethrough to be harnessed by the coiled fiber optic filaments **282**, **284** and **286**; however, other suitable non-opaque materials can be used. Filaments **282**, **284** and **286** wrapped around filament support **290** are preferably substantially shielded by a semi-circular shaped encasement **238**, wherein encasement **238** is also preferably formed from a sturdy transparent plastic so as to allow light to pass therethrough to be harnessed by the coiled fiber optic filaments **282**, **284** and **286** of light collecting mechanism **280**; however, other suitable non-opaque materials can also be utilized.

Ends **282**A, **284**A and **286**A of filaments **282**, **284** and **286** preferably extend from filament support **290**, through first wall **224** and into preferably three generally hollow sighting pins **240**, **242** and **244**, respectively. As such, ends **282**A, **284**A and **286**A of fiber optic filaments **282**, **284** and **286**, respectively, are visible from the ends of hollow sighting pins **240**, **242** and **244**, respectively, and serve as lit sighting pins upon the capture of ambient light by fiber optic filaments **282**, **284** and **286**, respectively.

Generally, long coiled strands of fiber optic filaments **282**, **284** and **286** are preferably utilized as light collecting mechanism **280**, wherein the multiple coiling of fiber optic filaments **282**, **284** and **286** around filament support **290** and within encasement **238** promotes a maximized surface area in which to capture ambient light passing through transparent encasement **238** and how sight **210** in general. As such, light from all directions can be harnessed from all around fiber optic filaments **282**, **284** and **286**, thus increasing or magnifying the output of useful light therefrom. Furthermore, fiber optic filaments **282**, **284** and **286** preferably emit green, yellow and/or amber light upon harnessing the ambient light, wherein different colors of fiber optic filaments are known within the art and could be utilized in alternate embodiments.

Referring now to FIGS. **7**–**9**, the present invention according to an alternate embodiment is an ambient light collecting bow sight **110** having bow sight **120** and light collecting mechanism **180**.

Specifically, bow sight **120** preferably has generally D-shaped ring **122**, wherein D-shaped ring **122** preferably has first wall **124** and curved second wall **126**, and wherein first wall **124** preferably has front surface **128**, back surface **130** and side walls **132** and **134**. Side wall **132** of first wall **124** preferably has substantially Z-shaped shaped shaft **136** integrally formed thereto or attached thereto via any attaching means known within the art, such as, for exemplary purposes only, epoxies or resins. Shaft **136** is preferably dimensioned to be received within an aperture BB in bow sight support AA, wherein bow sight support AA is any conventional bow sight support known within the art. It is contemplated in alternate embodiments that shaft **136** can be any suitable shape and that aperture BB in bow sight support AA can be modified and dimensioned accordingly to properly receive shaft **136** of bow sight **120**. Bow sight **120** is preferably formed from a sturdy transparent plastic to enable the passage of light therethrough and to enable the light to be harnessed by light collecting mechanism **180**; however, other suitable non-opaque materials can be utilized for bow sight **120**.

Back surface **130** of first wall **124** preferably has encasement **138** attached thereto via any known attaching means, wherein encasement **138** houses light collecting mechanism **180**. Light collecting mechanism **180** preferably includes three long coiled strands of scintillating ambient light collecting fiber optic filaments **182**, **184** and **186**, wherein ends **182**A, **184**A and **186**A of filaments **182**, **184** and **186**, respectively, preferably extend from encasement **138**, through first wall **124** and into preferably three hollow sighting pins **140**, **142** and **144**, respectively. As such, ends **182**A, **184**A and **186**A of fiber optic filaments **182**, **184** and **186**, respectively, are visible from the ends of hollow sighting pins **140**, **142** and **144**, respectively, and serve as lit sighting pins upon the capture of ambient light by fiber optic filaments **182**, **184** and **186**, respectively. Moreover, encasement **138** is preferably formed from a sturdy transparent plastic so as to allow light to pass therethrough and to be harnesses by coiled fiber optic filaments **182**, **184** and **186** of light collecting mechanism **180**.

Generally, long coiled strands of fiber optic filaments **182**, **184** and **186** are preferably employed as light collecting mechanism **180**, wherein the multiple coiling of fiber optic filaments **182**, **184** and **186** within encasement **138** promote a maximized surface area in which to capture ambient light passing through transparent encasement **138** and bow sight **110**. As such, light from a plurality of directions can be harnessed by fiber optic filaments **182**, **184** and **186**, thus increasing, magnifying and enhancing the output of useful light from light collecting mechanism **180**. Furthermore, fiber optic filaments **182**, **184** and **186** preferably emit green, yellow and/or amber light upon harnessing the ambient light, wherein different colors of fiber optic filaments are known within the art and may alternatively be utilized.

In an alternate embodiment, bow sight **110** and/or bow sight **210** could possess more or less than three coiled strands of fiber optic filament and thus more or less than three hollow sighting pins.

In another alternate embodiment, bow sight **10** could possess more than one coiled/wrapped strand of fiber optic filament and thus more than one sighting pin.

In an alternate embodiment, bow sights **10**, **110** and **210** could be structured in any fashion and/or possess any type of encasement that could house multiple coils/wraps of fiber optic filaments, wherein the ends of the fiber optic filaments could then be fed through or attached to the sighting pin.

In yet another alternate embodiment, insert **38** of bow sight **10** could be rotatable via other rotating means, such as, for exemplary purposes only, ridge-and-channel mechanisms or bearings.

Having thus described exemplary embodiments of the present invention, it should be noted by those skilled in the art that the within disclosures are exemplary only, and that various other alternatives, adaptations, and modifications

may be made within the scope of the present invention. Accordingly, the present invention is not limited to the specific embodiments illustrated herein, but is limited only by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A bow sight, comprising:

a bow sight housing, said bow sight housing having at least one sight pin; and

at least one light collecting mechanism **[**carried by**]** *coiled a plurality of revolutions around* said bow sight housing, **[**wherein said at least one light collecting mechanism is coiled a plurality of revolutions**]** wherein a portion of **[**the**]** *said* light collecting mechanism is in communication with said *at least one* sight pin.

2. The bow sight of claim **1**, wherein said at least one light collecting mechanism defines a plurality of coil shapes.

3. The bow sight of claim **1**, wherein said bow sight housing encases said at least one light collecting mechanism.

4. The bow sight of claim **1**, wherein said at least one light collecting mechanism is at least one fiber optic filament.

[5. The bow sight of claim **4**, wherein said at least one fiber optic filament is carried in a coil fashion by said bow sight housing.**]**

6. The bow sight of claim **4** further comprising a support, wherein said at least one fiber optic filament is coiled a plurality of revolutions around said support, said at least one fiber optic filament is at least partially carried by said at least one sight pin, and said support is substantially encased within said bow sight housing.

7. The bow sight of claim **1**, wherein said bow sight housing further comprises at least one removable encasement.

8. The bow sight of claim **7**, wherein said at least one light collecting mechanism is at least one fiber optic filament.

9. The bow sight of claim **8**, wherein said at least one fiber optic filament is coiled a plurality of revolutions within said at least one encasement.

10. The bow sight of claim **8** further comprising a support, wherein said at least one fiber optic filament is coiled a plurality of revolutions around said support, and wherein said support is housed within said at least one encasement.

11. The bow sight of claim **1**, wherein said bow sight housing is rotatable.

12. A light collecting bow sight assembly, comprising:

a bow sight, said bow sight being rotatable and having at least one sight pin;

at least one light collector adaptable to said bow sight and coiled a plurality of revolutions wherein a portion of the light collecting mechanisms is in communication with said sight pin; and

at least one encasement for housing said at least one light collector upon adapting said at least one light collector to said bow sight.

13. The light collecting bow sight assembly of claim **12**, wherein said at least one light collector is at least one optical filament.

14. The light collecting bow sight assembly of claim **13**, wherein said at least one optical filament is coiled a plurality of revolutions within said bow sight and is at least partially carried by said at least one sight pin.

15. The light collecting bow sight assembly of claim **13**, wherein said at least one fiber optic filament is coiled a plurality of revolutions within said encasement.

16. The light collecting bow sight assembly of claim **15** further comprising a support, wherein said at least one fiber optic filament is coiled a plurality of revolutions around said support, and wherein said support is housed within said at least one encasement.

17. A method of providing an ambient light collecting bow sight, comprising the steps of:

a. obtaining a bow sight comprising an interior portion and an exterior portion, wherein at least one sight pin is carried by said interior portion;

[a**]***b.* coiling at least one fiber optic filament a plurality of revolutions *around said exterior portion of said bow sight,* wherein a portion of **[**the light collecting mechanism**]** *said at least one fiber optic filament* is in communication with said *at least one* sight pin **[**around a support; and,**]**

[b. positioning one end of said at least one fiber optic filament within a bow sight**]**.

18. The method of claim **17**, wherein said at least one fiber optic filament is a plurality of fiber optic filaments.

19. A bow sight, comprising:

a bow sight housing, said bow sight housing having at least one sight pin;

a first light collecting mechanism carried by said bow sight housing, wherein said first light collecting mechanism is coiled a plurality of revolutions wherein a portion of the light collecting mechanism is in communication with said sight pin;

a second light collecting mechanism carried by said bow sight housing, wherein said second light collecting mechanism is coiled a plurality of revolutions, and wherein said second light collecting mechanism is concentrically disposed to said first light collecting mechanism; and,

a third light collecting mechanism carried by said bow sight housing, wherein said third light collecting mechanism is coiled a plurality of revolutions, and wherein said third light collecting mechanism is concentrically disposed to said second light collecting mechanism.

20. The bow sight of claim **19**, wherein said first light collecting mechanism emits a first colored light, said second light collecting mechanism emits a second colored light, and said third light collecting mechanism emits a third colored light.

21. The bow sight of claim **19**, further comprising a cylindrical support carried by said bow sight housing, wherein said first light collecting mechanism, said second light collecting mechanism and said third light collecting mechanism are coiled a plurality of revolutions around said cylindrical support.

22. The bow sight of claim **19**, wherein said first light collecting mechanism, said second light collecting mechanism and said third light collecting mechanism are fiber optic filaments.

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