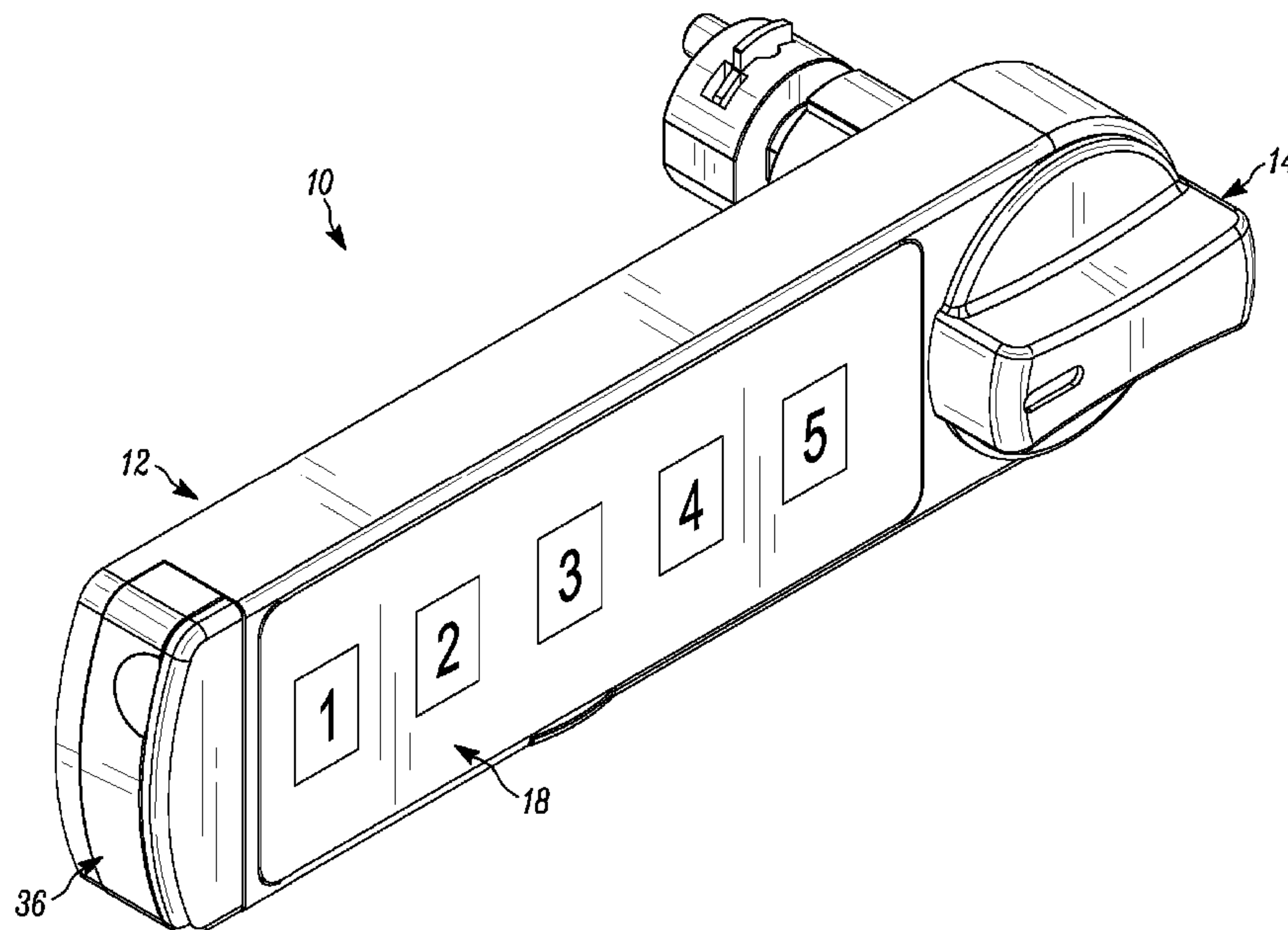




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(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

A lock including a housing assembly and a latch assembly. The housing assembly includes a latch channel and a blocker channel. The latch assembly includes a latch, a blocker, a cam and a motor. The latch is slidably movable along the latch channel. The blocker is slidably movable along the blocker channel. The cam is rotatably mounted on the motor and configured to intermittently coact with a cam profile on the blocker to slidably move the blocker between the locked and unlocked position.

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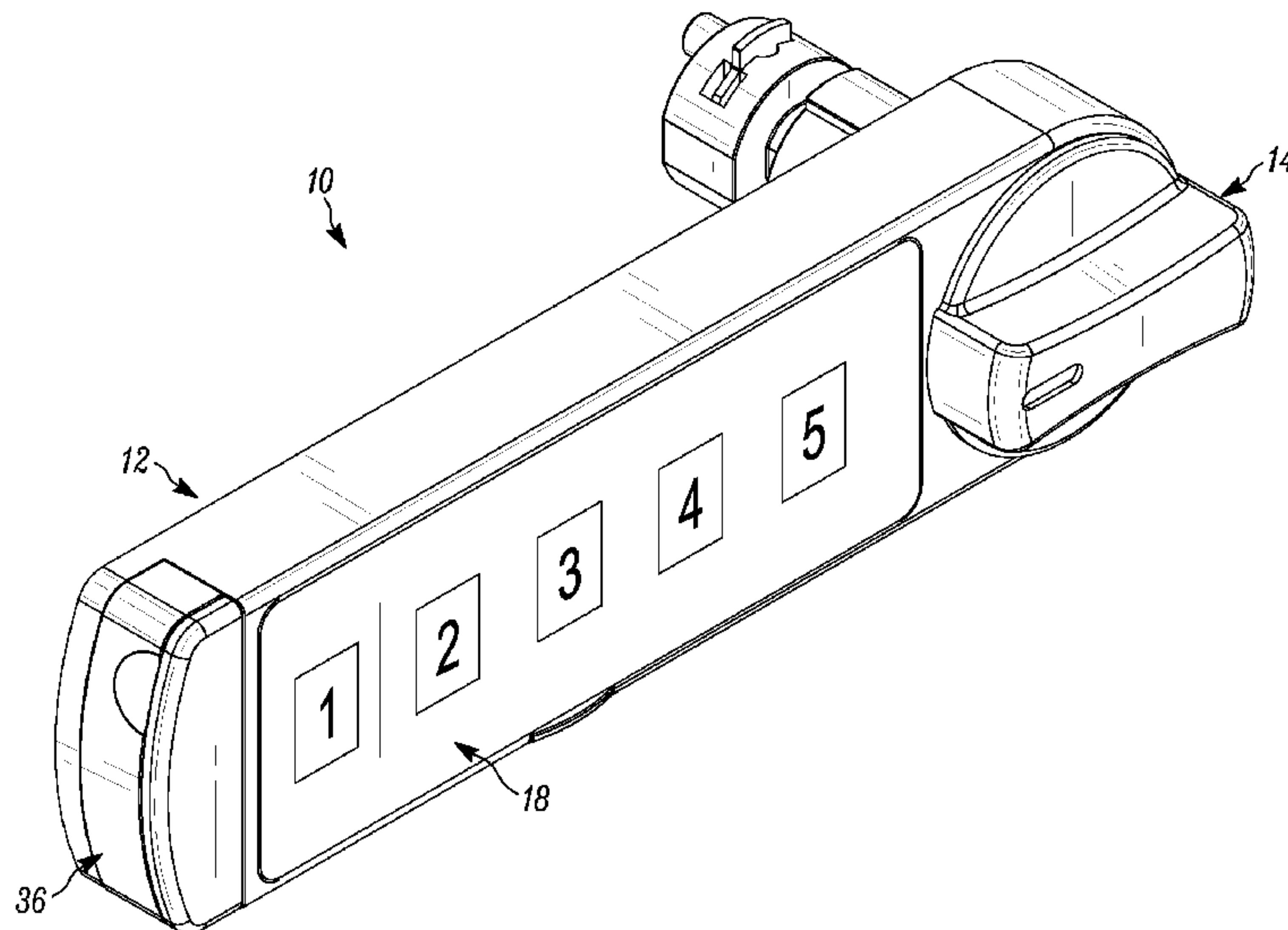


FIG. 1A

(57) Abstract: A lock including a housing assembly and a latch assembly. The housing assembly includes a latch channel and a blocker channel. The latch assembly includes a latch, a blocker, a cam and a motor. The latch is slidably movable along the latch channel. The blocker is slidably movable along the blocker channel. The cam is rotatably mounted on the motor and configured to intermittently coact with a cam profile on the blocker to slidably move the blocker between the locked and unlocked position.

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TITLE

LOCK

[0001]

5

BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0002] 1. Field of the Disclosure

[0003] The disclosure relates in general to locks, and more particularly, to a core lock that is configured to provide electronic locking and unlocking of a lock. While not
10 limited thereto, such a lock is well suited for use in association with furniture and cabinets, including as a retrofit to existing furniture and cabinets. Of course, the lock is not limited to such use or to such a field of use, and the foregoing is solely for purposes of example.

[0004] 2. Background Art

15 [0005] Many cabinets, desks, and other storage applications utilize locks that include a shell mounted on the door or cabinet, and an insertable and removable lock core that plugs into the shell. The shell not only houses the core, but also attaches to a driver for accomplishing the locking and unlocking function when rotated. The lock core acts to lock the driver in place when there is no key inserted in the lock core due to lock core
20 tumblers that protrude into the shell to restrict the lock core and driver from rotation.

[0006] When the correct key is inserted in the lock core, the protruding tumblers move with respect to the cuts in the key blade and no longer protrude into the shell and no longer restrict rotation of the lock core. As the lock core is turned by the user rotating the key, drive serves to drive a cam or locking bar to the unlocked position.

25 [0007] Such systems are ubiquitous, however, there are nevertheless drawbacks. For example, such systems typically have a vast number of different tumbler configurations, and corresponding keys associated with each such different tumbler configuration. As a result, a supplier must include a relatively large supply of spare locks, tumblers and keys to match those that are out in the field. Additionally, the removal and
30 replacement of such locks (necessitated by the changing of the duty of a piece of furniture, dismissal of an employee, loss of a set of keys, etcetera) is very time consuming

and labor intensive.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0008] The disclosure is directed to a lock. The lock comprises a housing assembly and a latching assembly. The housing assembly having a latch channel and a blocker channel. The latching assembly comprising a latch, a blocker and a motor. The latch is slidably movable along the latch channel of the housing assembly. The latch has a proximal end and a distal end. The distal end is configured to interface with an actuatable lock assembly. The latch is slidably movable away from an actuatable lock assembly in response to a force applied to the latch thereby. The blocker is slidably movable along the blocker channel between a locked position and an unlocked position. In the locked position, the latch is precluded from slidable movement into an unlocked position. In the unlocked position, the blocker is spaced apart from the latch so as to allow the latch to slidably move into an unlocked position in response to the force applied by an actuatable lock assembly. The blocker includes a cam profile. A cam is rotatably mounted within the housing assembly. The cam has a first follower configured to intermittently coact with the cam profile, to, in turn, slidably move the blocker between the locked and unlocked position. The motor is coupled to the cam. When actuated, the motor causes rotation of the cam, and, in turn, slidable movement of the blocker between the locked and unlocked position.

[0009] In a preferred embodiment, the cam rotates about a first axis of rotation, and the blocker slidably moves along a second axis. The first axis and the second axis being one of orthogonal and oblique to each other.

[0010] In some such preferred embodiments, the first axis and the second axis are substantially perpendicular to each other.

[0011] In another preferred embodiment, upon actuation of the motor, from either the locked or the unlocked position, the cam rotates through an initial arcuate distance prior to imparting a force upon the blocker to slidably move the same into the other of the locked or unlocked position.

[0012] In another preferred embodiment, the initial arcuate distance comprises approximately half of a revolution.

[0013] In yet another preferred embodiment, the arcuate distance of rotation of the cam between the locked position and the unlocked position comprises approximately one

and a half revolutions.

[0014] In another preferred embodiment, the blocker slidably moves along a first axis and the latch slidably moves along a second axis. The first axis and the second axis are substantially perpendicular to each other.

5 [0015] In another preferred embodiment, the actuatable lock assembly further comprises a knob rotatably mounted on the housing assembly and rotatable by a user through the application of a rotational force. The knob has an outer surface and a depending skirt. The depending skirt including an axial notch, wherein the distal end of the latch is configured to extend into the axial notch in the locked position. In the
10 unlocked position, rotation of the knob imparts slidable movement of the latch, and in turn, directs the latch out of the axial notch.

[0016] In another preferred embodiment, the axial notch further comprises a first surface and a second surface each extending inwardly from the dependent skirt and meeting at a vertex.

15 [0017] In another preferred embodiment, the first and second surfaces of the axial notch are outwardly convex and shape matingly engage the distal end of the latch.

[0018] In another preferred embodiment, the motor draws three distinct current loads: a first current load between the locked position, and the application of force to slidably move the blocker toward the unlocked position, a second current load while the
20 cam slidably moves the blocker toward the unlocked position, and a third current load when the cam reaches the end of the first follower, and further rotation of the cam is precluded.

[0019] In a preferred embodiment, the first current load has an increasing slope, the second current load has an increasing slope of a magnitude less than the first current
25 load, and the third current load is substantially flatlined.

[0020] In another preferred embodiment, the lock further includes an electronic control assembly electrically coupled to the motor, configured to control the same, and an input device positioned on a top of the housing assembly. The input device allows a user to provide an authorizing signal to the electronic control assembly to direct the motor to
30 initiate rotation thereof.

[0021] In another preferred embodiment, the lock includes a latch position sensor associated with the electronic control assembly. The latch includes a position flange

positioned such that the latch position sensor can determine the position of the latch based upon the position flange.

[0022] In another aspect of the disclosure, the disclosure is directed to a lock comprising a housing assembly and a latching assembly. The latching assembly includes a latch, a blocker, a cam and a motor. The latch is movably positioned with the housing assembly. The latch has a proximal end and a distal end, with the distal end configured to interface with an actuatable lock assembly. The latch is disengageable from an actuatable lock assembly in response to a force applied to the latch thereby. The blocker is slidably movable within the housing assembly between a locked position and an unlocked position. In the locked position, the latch is precluded from disengagement from an actuatable lock assembly. In the unlocked position, the blocker is spaced apart from the latch so as to allow the latch to disengage from an actuatable lock assembly in response to the force applied by an actuatable lock assembly. The blocker includes a cam profile. The cam is rotatably mounted within the housing assembly. The cam has a first follower configured to intermittently coact with the cam profile, to, in turn, slidably move the blocker between the locked and unlocked position. The motor is coupled to the cam. Actuation of the motor causes rotation of the cam, and, in turn, slidable movement of the blocker between the locked and unlocked position.

[0023] In a preferred embodiment, the latch is pivotably mounted to the housing assembly. Such pivoting may occur through an arcuate distance of less than a full revolution, or may occur through an arcuate distance of greater than a full revolution (i.e., rotatably mounted).

[0024] In another preferred embodiment, the latch is slidably mounted within the housing assembly.

[0025] In yet another aspect of the disclosure, the disclosure is directed to a lock being coupled to a bushing held by a cabinet or enclosure. The lock includes an actuatable lock assembly and a latching assembly. The actuatable lock assembly is configured to be at least one of connected and disconnected from the bushing. At least a portion of the actuatable lock assembly is within the cabinet or enclosure. A portion of the actuatable lock assembly is outside of the cabinet or enclosure, when coupled to the bushing. The latching assembly is positioned within a housing assembly. The housing assembly extends along the outside of the cabinet or enclosure. The latching assembly comprises an

latch interfaceable with the actuatable lock assembly. A cam is in intermittent association with the latch, to effectuate movement of the same relative to the housing assembly. A motor is coupled to the cam to effectuate rotation thereof.

5 [0026] In a preferred embodiment, the actuatable lock assembly includes a longitudinal axis. The housing assembly includes a longitudinal axis. The longitudinal axis of the actuatable lock assembly is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the housing assembly.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 [0027] The disclosure will now be described with reference to the drawings wherein:

[0028] Figure 1A of the drawings is a front perspective view of the lock of the present disclosure;

[0029] Figure 1B of the drawings is a back perspective view of the lock of the present disclosure;

15 [0030] Figure 2 of the drawings is a front perspective view of components of the housing assembly of the present disclosure;

[0031] Figure 3 of the drawings is a top plan view of components of the housing assembly of the present disclosure;

20 [0032] Figure 4 of the drawings is a bottom plan view of components of the housing assembly of the present disclosure;

[0033] Figure 5 of the drawings is a top perspective view of the battery housing of the housing assembly of the present disclosure, showing, in particular, the cap in an open position providing access to a fastener which secures the battery housing to the housing assembly at the flange;

25 [0034] Figure 6 of the drawings is a bottom perspective view of the battery housing of the housing assembly of the present disclosure, showing, in particular, the cap in an open position providing access to a fastener which secures the battery housing to the housing assembly at the flange;

30 [0035] Figure 7 of the drawings is a perspective view of the actuatable lock assembly of the present disclosure;

[0036] Figure 7A of the drawings is a perspective view of the lock driver, showing, in particular, the insertion of the attachment tool which can be used to move the

master tumbler to allow for insertion into the bushing;

[0037] Figure 7B of the drawings is a cross-sectional view of the lock driver, showing, in particular, the insertion of the attachment tool which can be used to move the master tumbler to allow for insertion into the bushing;

5 [0038] Figure 8 of the drawings is a perspective view of an existing furniture lock bushing that may be installed on furniture, or other structures which incorporate a lock;

[0039] Figure 9 of the drawings is a front perspective view of the knob of the actuatable lock assembly of the present disclosure;

10 [0040] Figure 10 of the drawings is a back perspective view of the knob of the actuatable lock assembly of the present disclosure;

[0041] Figure 10B of the drawings is a back perspective view of an alternate configuration of the knob of the actuatable lock assembly of the present disclosure, showing, in particular, a plurality of axial notches that are spaced apart from each other.

15 [0042] Figure 11 of the drawings is a bottom plan view of the knob of the actuatable lock assembly of the present disclosure;

[0043] Figure 12A of the drawings is cross-sectional view of the lock showing, in particular, the latching assembly as mounted within the housing assembly and interfacing with the knob of the actuatable lock assembly of the present disclosure, showing the lock in a locked position;

20 [0044] Figure 12B of the drawings is a perspective view of components of the latching assembly and the knob of the actuatable lock assembly in the locked position;

[0045] Figure 13A of the drawings is a cross-sectional view of the lock showing, in particular, the latching assembly as mounted within the housing assembly and interfacing with the knob of the actuatable lock assembly of the present disclosure, showing the lock in an unlocked position;

25 [0046] Figure 13B of the drawings is a perspective view of components of the latching assembly and the knob of the actuatable lock assembly in the unlocked position;

[0047] Figure 14 of the drawings is a side elevational view of the latch of the present disclosure, shown with the biasing member extending around a portion thereof;

30 [0048] Figure 15 of the drawings comprises a front perspective view of the blocker of the present disclosure;

[0049] Figure 16 of the drawings comprises a back perspective view of the

blocker of the present disclosure;

[0050] Figure 17 of the drawings comprises a front perspective view of the cam of the present disclosure;

5 [0051] Figure 18 of the drawings comprises a back perspective view of the cam of the present disclosure;

[0052] Figures 19A through 19E comprise sequential perspective views of the blocker, the cam and the motor as the cam and blocker move from the locked position to the unlocked position;

10 [0053] Figure 20 of the drawings comprises a front perspective view of the electronic control assembly of the present disclosure;

[0054] Figure 21 of the drawings comprises a front perspective view of the PC board of the control assembly of the present disclosure;

15 [0055] Figure 22A through 22D of the drawings are top plan views of the lock of the present disclosure in four different orientations, a vertically upward orientation, a vertically downward orientation, a horizontal orientation in a first direction and a horizontal orientation in a second direction;

[0056] Figure 23 of the drawings is a perspective view of an alternate embodiment of the lock, showing, in particular, an actuatable lock member having a mechanical key over-ride;

20 [0057] Figure 24 of the drawings is a perspective view of an alternate embodiment of the actuatable lock member of the type shown in Figure 27A with a key inserted therein;

[0058] Figure 25 of the drawings is a graphical representation of the current by the motor as measured through the unlocking cycle;

25 [0059] Figure 26 of the drawings is a graphical representation of the current draw by the motor as measured through the locking cycle;

[0060] Figure 27A of the drawings is an alternate embodiment of the latch assembly and the knob of the actuatable lock assembly of the present disclosure, in the locked position;

30 [0061] Figure 27B of the drawings is an alternate embodiment of the latch assembly and the knob of the actuatable lock assembly of the present disclosure, that is shown in Figure 27A, in the unlocked position;

[0062] Figure 28A of the drawings is an alternate embodiment of the latch assembly of the present disclosure, in the locked position;

[0063] Figure 28B of the drawings is an alternate embodiment of the latch assembly of the present disclosure, that is shown in Figure 28A, in the unlocked position;

5 [0064] Figure 29A of the drawings is an alternate embodiment of the latch assembly of the present disclosure, in the locked position;

[0065] Figure 29B of the drawings is an alternate embodiment of the latch assembly of the present disclosure, that is shown in Figure 29A, in the unlocked position; and

10 [0066] Figure 29C of the drawings is an alternate embodiment of the latch assembly of the present disclosure, that is shown in Figure 29A, in the unlocked position, with the knob rotated relative to the knob position in Figure 29B.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DISCLOSURE

15 [0067] While this invention is susceptible of embodiment in many different forms, there is shown in the drawings and described herein in detail a specific embodiment with the understanding that the present disclosure is to be considered as an exemplification and is not intended to be limited to the embodiment illustrated.

[0068] It will be understood that like or analogous elements and/or components, referred to herein, may be identified throughout the drawings by like reference characters. 20 In addition, it will be understood that the drawings are merely schematic representations of the invention, and some of the components may have been distorted from actual scale for purposes of pictorial clarity.

[0069] Referring now to the drawings and in particular to Figures 1 and 1A, the lock of the present invention is shown generally at 10. The lock 10 may be utilized in a number of different environments and in association with a number of different installations, including but not limited to, doors, drawers, cabinets, pantries, desks, etc. 25 One particular use of the lock is in the office furniture application (i.e., desks, credenzas, cabinets, wardrobes, etc), wherein it is contemplated that the lock can be a drop in replacement for the commonly installed office furniture locks. Of course, the disclosure is not limited to use in association with such applications. 30

[0070] Referring again to Figures 1A and 1B, the lock 10 is shown as including housing assembly 12, actuatable lock assembly 14, latching assembly 16 (Figure 12A)

and electronic control assembly 18. With reference to Figures 2, 3 and 4, the housing assembly 12 comprises a body with first end 20, second end 22, first side 24 and second side 26, top 28 and bottom 30. The housing assembly is shown as comprising a single cast member, although other configurations are contemplated. The single cast member may
5 comprise a metal or alloy thereof, or may comprise a composite or polymer material.

[0071] As set forth above, it is contemplated that the lock of the present embodiment be suitable for use in association with furniture. Traditionally, the portion of the furniture that includes a lock has generally a dimension (either a length or a width, typically) that is only slightly larger than the lock body and necessary opening therefore.
10 Generally, such a dimension is on the order of one inch or the like. Thus, it is preferred that the lock have a housing assembly that is one inch or less in width (or length when mounted in another direction) so as to be mountable on such a surface without a portion thereof overhanging the surface. As such, the lock of the present disclosure is sized so as to fit into most of the cabinets and furniture presently manufactured, without requiring
15 any changes or redesign of the cabinet or furniture. Additionally, such a design allows for the retrofitting of existing cabinets and furniture. It will be understood that the lock is not limited to use in association with cabinets or furniture, and that such use is merely utilized for purposes of illustration. It is further contemplated, that to achieve the one inch dimension, the diameter of the cavity 32 is 0.93 inches, the diameter of the knob is 0.97
20 inches, with the thickness of the housing assembly being 0.39 inches and the thickness including the knob is 0.70 inches. Additionally, it is contemplated that the motor is 0.61 inches in length and 0.32 inches in width. Furthermore, it is contemplated that the battery have a diameter of 0.79 inches and a thickness of 0.13 inches.

[0072] The top 28 includes a recessed portion 31 which is configured to receive a
25 keypad or other input device thereon. In one embodiment, the input device may comprise a number pad having a plurality of discrete numbers thereon. The number pad may include an outer perimeter and a thickness that is well suited for fitting into the recessed portion. In the embodiment shown, the recessed portion extends over much of the top 28 between the first side and the second side. The recessed portion may include an opening
30 which provides for the passage of wiring or other electrical connectors that provides electrical communication between the input device and the rest of the electronic control assembly.

[0073] At or near the first end 20 of the housing assembly 12, the actuatable lock region 32 is positioned. The actuatable lock region 32 comprises an annular cavity having a base 50 and an upstand wall 52. The base 50 includes a central opening 37 and may include other structures and openings therearound. The central opening 37 is configured for the passage of the portions of the actuatable lock assembly 14 and to link structures thereof on either side of the base 50. For example, in the embodiment shown, four generally round chamfered openings (configured to receive fasteners) are disposed about the central opening in a generally uniformly spaced apart orientation. Additionally, four slot like openings are positioned in the space therebetween.

[0074] The upstanding wall 52 is a generally annular wall having a latch opening 54 extending therein providing communication between the cavity of the actuatable lock region with the main body cavity 34. In addition, wall surface variations or indentations may be presented to match with the four slot like openings that are defined in the base. These may comprise detents that cooperate with spring loaded balls or the like incorporated into the knob 70 (Figure 10 and 11) to form local positions of stable equilibrium wherein the knob can rest in such a position. It is contemplated that with the four different locations between two and four positions are defined (depending on the rotation of the knob). In other embodiments, a fewer or greater number of detents may be disposed on the upstanding wall 52 to cooperate with spring loaded balls incorporated into the knob. In still other embodiments, structures other than spring loaded balls, such as biasing leaves may be utilized.

[0075] In the embodiment shown, the upstanding wall extends from the base 50 to the top 28, and is generally perpendicular to the top 28 as well as the base 50 of the actuatable lock region 32. Additionally, the second end 22 of the housing assembly 12 may have a configuration that generally matches the upstand wall 52.

[0076] Referring now to Figure 4, extending across much of the housing assembly is the main body cavity 34 which opens toward the bottom 30. In the embodiment shown, the main body cavity is on the opposite side of the top from the recessed region 31. The main body cavity 34 includes a latch channel 40, a blocker channel 42, a motor retaining region 44 and a battery opening 46 (Figure 2). The latch channel 40 extends away from the latch opening 54 of the upstand wall 52 and intersects with the blocker channel 42. The latch opening is generally tangent to the upstand wall 52 and extends longitudinally

along the main body cavity, with the blocker channel 42 being substantially perpendicular thereto. Of course, other angular relationships are contemplated between the components and it is not necessarily that the components are tangent and perpendicular to each other, or that they align with the outer configuration of the housing assembly, including oblique relationships. The motor retaining region 44 is positioned adjacent to the blocker channel, and is configured to receive and maintain the motor in the proper orientation. A cover 47 can be provided to extend over the main body cavity 34, and may be secured thereto through a plurality of fasteners. The cover or the housing can be coupled to an outside surface through fasteners at either end thereof, and/or through an adhesive (such as double stick tape) that can be applied to the cover 47.

[0077] The battery opening 46 is positioned at the second end 22 of the housing assembly and provides ingress to the main body cavity 34. In the embodiment shown, the opening generally has a rectangular cross-sectional configuration that substantially matches the cross-sectional configuration of the main body opening. A flange may extend from the battery opening at the bottom 30 of the housing assembly. The flange includes a plurality of openings that are configured for the receipt of pins or fasteners and the like.

[0078] With reference to Figures 5 and 6, the housing assembly 12 further includes a battery housing 36 and an outer cap 38. The battery housing 36 is configured to receive a battery (generally a 3V lithium battery, such as a CR2032 or the like) and to allow for the proper positioning thereof in operation, as well as removal from the housing assembly for purposes of battery replacement. More particularly, the battery housing includes battery cradle 60 and outer region 62. The battery cradle 60 is configured to retain the battery in a stable orientation for coupling to leads that are in electrical communication with electronic control assembly.

[0079] The outer region 62 includes a body configuration that fits over the flange and substantially matches the shape of the housing assembly 12 at the first end 20 thereof. The outer region includes an opening which corresponds to one of the openings on the flange 48 so as to allow coupling of the two components with a fastener such as a screw or nut. The removable cap 38 may be positioned over the top of the outer region so as to cover the fastener. In this manner, one must first remove the removable cap to have access to the fastener for disconnecting of the battery housing 36 and, in turn, the battery, from the housing assembly 12, toward removal thereof.

[0080] The configuration of the battery housing has a number of functions and advantages. In particular, the battery housing grips and holds the battery, aligns the battery as the battery is inserted into the lock enclosure and insures that the battery makes a proper and secure connection to the contacts of the electronic control assembly. The battery housing additionally helps secure the battery position into the enclosure as it is seated into the enclosure. The battery housing provides means for gripping and withdrawing the battery from the lock enclosure when the changing of the battery is necessary. Advantageously, with the battery housing shown, such a replacement can be achieved without the use of a tool (i.e., tweezers and the like). Furthermore, the battery housing allows for a surface for securing the battery into the lock enclosure with a fastener, and the cap provides a cover for the fastener.

[0081] Referring now to Figure 7 and Figure 8, the actuatable lock assembly includes knob 70, lock driver 72 and lock spacer 74. These components are coupled to furniture bushing 77. It will be understood that furniture bushing 77 may comprise existing components of an existing furniture lock that has been mounted to the furniture. Advantageously, the present disclosure is directed to an actuatable lock assembly that is configured to fit within the existing furniture bushing 77. Of course, in other embodiments, lock flange and furniture bushing 77 may be provided with the lock. In addition, other configurations that do not utilize the bushing are contemplated.

[0082] Referring now to Figure 9 through 11, the knob 70 comprises a substantially cylindrical element having an outside surface 80 and dependent skirt 82. As will be explained below the knob 70 is positioned within the cavity defined by the actuatable lock region 32 of the housing assembly 12. The outside surface 80 is configured to facilitate the grasping and rotating thereof by a user, while the knob is in the cavity of the actuatable lock region. In the embodiment shown, the outside surface includes thumb turn regions which are configured to be grasped by the fingers of a user. Of course, a number of different surface configurations are contemplated to accommodate a particular design or a particular application. In another embodiment, in place of a knob, a detachable and reattachable tool can be utilized that plugs into the lock driver when needed. In other embodiments, in place of rotating, the knob can translate in an up and down or right and left configuration. In still other embodiments, the knob may comprise a movement inward and outward (wherein the knob may be biased into an outward

position). In each of these embodiments, the movement of the knob (i.e., rotating, translating, moving inward and outward) can be selectively permitted by the positioning of the blocker into the unlocked position.

[0083] The dependent skirt 82 extends annularly around the knob 70 below the outside surface 80. The dependent skirt 82 includes axial notch 84 which extends radially inward from the surface of the dependent skirt. The axial notch, as will be explained, is sized so as to receive the distal end of the latch of the latching assembly. The axial notch 84 is defined by two inwardly sloped surfaces, namely, first surface 83 and second surface 85, which meet at vertex 86. In the embodiment shown, the two sloped surfaces are angled relative to each other, defining an angle therebetween. While a number of variations are contemplated, at the dependent skirt, the axial notch defines an approximately 48° arc along the dependent skirt. The vertex 86, in the embodiment shown, comprises a line that is parallel to the axis of rotation of the knob 70 within the cavity of the housing assembly. The surfaces 83, 85 are generally convex surfaces that are configured to shape matingly engage with the distal end of the latch, so that when the knob is turned, the surfaces 83 and/or 85 urge the latch out of the axial notch.

[0084] Of course, other configurations are contemplated for the axial notch, which may be paired with a latch having a particular configuration for the distal end thereof. Additionally, it will be understood that even with a configuration like that which is shown in the preferred embodiment, the angle and the length of the axial notch can be varied to achieve a different imparting of force against the distal end of the latch. It will be understood that the knob can be, depending on the embodiment, rotated clockwise or counterclockwise differing degrees of rotation to complete the operation. For example, it may be desirable to have the knob turn 90° or 180° in either the clockwise or counterclockwise direction to achieve the desired operation, however other degrees of rotation are likewise contemplated. Additionally, it is contemplated that the knob includes a plurality of axial notches, such as, for example, two axial notches that are spaced apart (i.e., 90° from each other). In such an embodiment, the blocker can operate in either position of the knob. In one example, such as for a locker application, when the door is unlocked and the knob is moved to the open position, the latch can enter the second axial notch and then the blocker can be moved to a locked configuration. As such, the lock is essentially locked in the unlocked configuration. This provides locking ability in more

than one configuration of the knob (and, the associated actuatable lock assembly). One example of such a knob 70 is shown in Figure 10B, with the axial notch 84 and the second axial notch 84' being shown on the knob 70. Of course, a greater number of axial notches, including, but not limited to three and four axial notches, is likewise contemplated.

[0085] The knob 70 may be coupled to the lock driver 72 (Figure 7) through an interference fit, coupled with a set screw. In particular, the knob 70 includes an axially centered cavity 87 which is configured to engagingly receive the first end of the lock driver. In the embodiment shown, the cavity has a square cross-sectional configuration, such that when the correspondingly shaped first end of the lock driver is inserted, the two structures rotate together. A set screw, or pair of set screws can be extended through the dependent skirt 82 and into the cavity to engage the lock driver and to lock the lock driver in the installed position. Advantageously, access to the set screw is provided by way of a corresponding opening 89 (Figure 2) on the second end of the housing assembly. It will be understood that the opening of the housing assembly lines up with each one of the set screws on the dependent skirt 82 of the knob 70 when the knob is in a position other than the locked position (that is, the opening can be moved along the second end as long as when locked, the set screw does not match up with the opening). When in the locked position, each of the set screw is offset relative to the opening such that the set screw remains inaccessible. It will further be understood that the set screws provide a means by which to change the effective length of the lock driver. That is, the opening in the knob for receiving the lock driver allows for the lock driver to be inserted and retained by the set screws, at different depths within the opening. As a result, the single structure can accommodate variations in the overall lock depth caused by the application or design.

[0086] The lock driver 72 is shown in greater detail in Figures 7A and 7B as comprising master tumbler 231 which is slidably mounted in a channel that extends perpendicular to the axis of rotation of the lock driver in operation. A tool 233 is configured to be directable through a slot 235 in the lock driver so as to extend through opening 237 in the master tumbler 231. The master tumbler 231 is biased by a spring (or other biasing member) so as to have an end stick out beyond the lock driver 72. As such, when the lock driver 72 is inserted into the bushing, the tool can be utilized to overcome the biasing member and to pull the master tumbler into the lock driver 72. Once in the

driver, the lock driver can be inserted into the bushing. Once inserted, the tool 233 can be removed, and the spring will return the master tumbler to an orientation that extends out of the lock driver and interfaces with an axial channel in the bushing, which maintains the lock driver in engagement with the bushing so that it can rotate about its axis without being able to move axially. The tool can be reinserted to move the master tumbler so as to have the end thereof exit the axial channel of the bushing, so as to remove the lock driver from the bushing. In other embodiments, the lock driver 72 can be manipulated or tilted for installation purposes.

[0087] The lock spacer 74 is positionable along the lock driver and couples to the furniture bushing 77 while allowing adjustment to compensate for slight variations in the depth of the furniture bushing. The lock spacer includes a tumbler flange which is configured to engage the furniture bushing to allow relative rotative movement while precluding axial movement of the lock relative to the furniture bushing. More particularly, the spacer flange serves to fit into the grooves in the bushing that will interlock into the flange and into the grooves in the housing. With such a configuration, in the event that someone applies a force to the external housing, the force will be transferred from the housing to the spacer and to the furniture bushing, but not to the lock driver, therefore maintaining the security of the lock. This is due to the free rotation of the spacer around the driver. Additionally, the spacer precludes radial movement.

[0088] Referring now to Figures 12A, 12B, 13A and 13B, the latching assembly 16 is shown as comprising latch 102, blocker 104, cam 106 and motor 108. It will be understood that Figures 12A and 12B show the blocker in the locked position, and, the Figures 13A and 13B show the blocker in the unlocked position. The latch 102 includes proximal end 110 and distal end 112. The latch 102 is positioned within the latch channel 40 and is slidably movable therewithin. In the locked position, which is shown in Figures 12A and 12B, and as will be explained, the distal end 112 of the latch 102 extends into the axial notch 84 of the knob 70. The proximal end 110 is configured to interface with the blocker 104. With further reference to Figure 14 a biasing member, in the form of a compression spring 114 extends between the latch and the housing assembly so as to bias the distal end of the latch toward and into the knob 70. Additionally, a flag or flange 115 extends transversely from the latch. As will be explained, the flag 115 interfaces with a position sensor and provides to the position sensor the orientation and position of the

latch. In other embodiments, other mechanism may be utilized for monitoring the position of the latch and/or knob, such as, for example, detecting directly the position of the knob.

[0089] With reference to Figures 15 and 16, the blocker 104 is shown as comprising first cam profile 120, second cam profile 122, latch engagement body 124.

5 The latch engagement body 124 is positioned at a second end 128 of the blocker 104. The first cam profile 120 extends between the first end 126 and the latch engagement body 124. Similarly the second cam profile 122 extends between the first end 126 and the latch engagement body 124 in a generally parallel and spaced apart orientation from the first cam profile. The spaced apart orientation of the two cam profiles defines a longitudinal channel therebetween. It will be understood that the cam body rotatably extends through the longitudinal channel as the followers thereof interact with the first and second cam profiles.

[0090] The first cam profile 120 includes first slot 150, second slot 152, and third slot 154. A first ridge 151 is defined between the first slot 150 and the second slot 152. A second ridge 153 is defined between the second slot 152 and the third slot 154. In the embodiment shown, the first slot 150 is formed on the outside of the first ridge 151, however, provides a single sided slot function. The second cam profile 122 includes first ramp 156, second ramp 158 and peak 159 positioned therebetween.

[0091] In the embodiment shown, the blocker comprises a metal member, such as zinc or the like. Of course, other materials are contemplated. It will be understood that the blocker is the component that precludes latch movement in the event that the knob is attempted to be rotated in the locked position so as to defeat the lock. As such, the latch engagement body 124 may comprise a solid member that provides the necessary strength to overcome the forces that may be exerted against the knob and, in turn, the latch.

20 [0092] With reference to Figures 17 and 18, the cam 106 includes a body having a first side 136 and a second side 138, and, an axis of rotation 134. The first side includes first follower 130 and the second side includes second follower 132. With reference to Figures 12B and 13B, the cam is rotatably coupled to the motor 108 about axle 142. It will be understood that the motor is positioned within the motor retaining region with the axle extending into the blocker channel. With continued reference to Figures 12A, 12B, 13A and 13B, the cam 106 is positioned so that the body is within the longitudinal channel between the first and second cam profiles, the first follower 130 is configured to

interface with the first cam profile 120 and the second follower 132 is configured to interface with the second cam profile 122. As can be seen in Figures 19A through 19E, sequentially, and as will be explained below in greater detail, as the motor rotates the cam 106, the cam 106 intermittently connects the first follower with the first cam profile, to, in turn, translate the blocker within the blocker channel.

[0093] It is contemplated that other cam profiles and other cam follower configurations may be utilized to achieve the intermittent interaction therebetween, to, translate the blocker along the blocker channel between a blocking position and a released position. It is further contemplated that the position of the two cam profiles can be swapped. Additionally, the blocker may have alternate configurations for the first cam profile or the second cam profile. For example, additional slots may be presented, and corresponding ridges to increase the stroke of the blocker movement through additional rotation and interaction with the cam, if necessary.

[0094] Referring now to Figures 20 and 21, the electronic control assembly 18 includes electronic PC board 170, input device 172, and latch position sensor 174. The PC board 170 includes the logic necessary to understand and process the signals coming from the input device 172 and the latch position sensor 174, so as to appropriately direct the actuation and direction of the motor 108. The configuration and design of such PC boards to achieve the desired functions set forth below are known to those of skill in the art. The input device 172 may comprise a keypad having a plurality of keys (in the embodiment shown, a total of five sequentially numbered keys). The input device 172 further includes a receiver for receipt of wireless signals (i.e., IR, RF, Bluetooth, zigbee, among others). More specifically, the keypad comprises an outer surface that has a thin-film metallic and polyester or polycarbonate surface configuration to resist damage and wear over the course of millions of cycles, and to provide resistance to solvents and chemicals, as well as to deter static charges (due to the relatively high dielectric strength). The combination of metallic and polyester properties on the outer surface can be provided by application of a metallic silver mirror ink on a polyester film to provide a low gloss look, textured surface with resistance to impact, scratching, scuffing, dents, ultraviolet light, and fingerprinting. Since the metallic surface is relatively thin (i.e., 150-200 micron) it may be applied by a printing process, and thus the keypad and the lock would be light-weight. The application of the metallic ink can be in a brushed or grain look

running north-south or east-west. Below the outer surface a plurality of metallic conductive domes and conductive pads are provided to create the switch function.

[0095] The latch position sensor 174 is positioned in an orientation that is in a close relationship with position flange 115 (Fig 12B) such that the sensor can determine the orientation and position of the latch relative to the housing assembly (and, as such, the knob). It is contemplated that the sensor is positioned on the PC board. The PC board is configured to reside within the main body cavity of the housing assembly.

[0096] It will further be understood that a position sensor can be configured to sense the position of the latch, which in turn, provides indirect feedback to detect at least two positions of the knob. Alternatively, a sensor can also detect one or more flags directly on the knob to detect at least two positions on the knob. The position sensor, it is contemplated may be of the optical type. To prolong the life of the battery, it is contemplated that the sensor intermittently detects the position and a change in position (i.e., a few milli-seconds every 1-2 second period). Of course, the sensor can be configured for a different intermittent interval, or may be configured for a continuous or generally continuous sensing.

[0097] In operation of the preferred embodiment, the lock is disposed in an operational environment, such as, for example, a desk. The housing assembly may be coupled to the furniture through any number of different means. It is contemplated that a double stick tape may be utilized on the cover 47 or fasteners may be extended through the furniture (or other structure in a different use) and into a corresponding bore of the housing assembly. In other embodiments, both double stick tape and threaded fasteners may be utilized. In addition, other means by which to couple the lock are contemplated. It will further be understood that the housing assembly can be mounted in any number of different orientations relative to the furniture bushing. For example, and as is shown in Figures 22A through 22D, the housing assembly may extend to the right or left, or vertically upward or downwardly. Other orientations (i.e., angular) are likewise contemplated.

[0098] Initially, with reference to Figure 12A and 12B, portions of the lock are shown in the locked configuration. In such a configuration, the blocker is in the blocking position, at the locked end of the blocker channel. The latch 102 is positioned within the latch channel with the distal end 112 of the latch 102 biased by the biasing member 114

into the axial notch 84 of the knob 70. The latch is precluded from slidable movement within the latch channel 40, as the blocker is positioned so as to extend through the latch channel and limiting the slidable movement of the latch within the latch channel. In some embodiments, the proximal end 110 of the latch 102 abuts the latch engagement body 124. In other embodiments, the biasing member 114 maintains a small separation between the latch and the blocker. Regardless of the interface, the blocker precludes the movement of the latch so that the distal end of the latch remains within the axial notch 84.

[0099] Additionally, in the locked configuration, the cam 106 is rotated such that the first follower 130 engages the first cam profile at the first slot 150. At the same time, the second follower engages the first ramp 156. Such a configuration is also shown at Fig. 19A with respect to the motor, cam and blocker. As will be explained below, the sequence of moving the blocker from a locked position to an unlocked position is achieved through rotation of the cam through approximately one and one half revolutions (although variations are contemplated which require lesser or greater revolutions of the cam and the motor.

[0100] To unlock the lock so that the locking flange 76 can be rotated, the user must direct the PC board to initiate an unlocking procedure. In one embodiment, a particular code or combination of keys is depressed in a particular combination to provide the necessary authorization to the electronic control assembly. In other embodiments, a wireless signal may be sent to the PC board via the input device 172. Regardless of the method of communicating the proper combination or code for initiating the unlocking procedure, once the procedure is initiated, the position of the latch is determined through sensor 174, and the motor is actuated.

[0101] When the motor is actuated in a first direction, the cam 106 rotates in a first direction disengaging the first follower 130 from the first slot 150 (Figures 19A and 19B), the motor continues to rotate, and the first follower 130 eventually enters into the second slot 152 (Figure 19B). Eventually, the continued rotation of the cam 106 with the first follower 130 positioned in the second slot 152 begins to translate the blocker 104 along the blocker channel 42 (Figures 19C and 19D). It will be understood that, advantageously, the cam 106 rotates through an arcuate distance prior to engaging the first cam profile with force being directed upon the blocker in a translating direction. In the embodiment shown, the cam 106 rotates through about a half turn prior to initiating

the translation of the blocker. Advantageously, the motor is allowed to initiate rotation without load, such that momentum can be built up, which momentum is sufficient to initiate translation of the blocker. Such a momentum building, relatively load free, initiating step removes the need to utilize a gear train to reduce the speed of the cam or to increase the torque applied by the cam. Rather, a direct drive of the cam by the motor (which greatly simplifies the construction) can be utilized.

[0102] As the rotation of the cam 106 continues, eventually, the blocker continues to translate due to the interaction of the first follower 130 within the second slot 152 of the first cam profile. Eventually, the first follower 130 reaches a point, as does the blocker 104 wherein the first follower 130 no longer exerts a force on the blocker 104 to translate further (Figure 19D). Shortly thereafter, the first follower 130 exits from the second slot 152 and continued rotation directs the first follower 130 into the second slot. When the first follower 130 is fully inserted into the second slot, further movement is precluded (Figure 19E). The PC board senses that the first follower is in such a position (i.e., through a sensing of the draw of the motor, or through other means, such as a sensor or the like). The PC board then directs the motor to cease rotation. In another embodiment, a timer can trigger the motor circuit to de-energize the motor. It will also be understood that the cam follower 132 interacts with the second cam profile, and the ramps in order to retain the blocker in proper alignment with slots 152, 154, when the follower is outside of the slots 152, 154, and also prior to entry into these slots.

[0103] The blocker is now in the unlocked orientation shown in Figures 13A and 13B. That is, the blocker is moved out of the path of the latch channel, and the latch can be slidably moved within the latch channel. The engagement of the cam 106 with the third slot 154 and the interaction of the second follower 132 with the second cam profile, maintains the blocker in the unlocked configuration.

[0104] In such a configuration, and with reference to Figure 13A?, the user can initiate rotation of the knob 70 to move the locking flange into an unlocked position. As the user initiates rotation of the knob 70, the first surface 83 or the second surface 85 (depending on the direction of rotation being clockwise or counterclockwise) imparts a force on the distal end 112 of the latch 102. The two surfaces are angled such that the imparting of force includes a force component in the longitudinal direction of the latch 102. In turn, the continued rotation of the knob pushes the latch 102 out of the axial

notch, overcoming the biasing means. There is no blocker to preclude the slidable movement of the latch, and, as such, the knob can force the latch out of the way so that the latch does not preclude movement of the knob. As the knob is further turned, unimpeded, the locking flange can be moved into an unlocked position.

5 [0105] Due to the biasing member 114, the distal end 112 of the latch 102 is directed toward the knob. In the unlocked condition, the distal end of the latch remains in contact with the dependent skirt 82 of the knob 70. At the same time, the blocker 104 is maintained by the cam 106 in the unlocked position to preclude interference with or impeding of the latch.

10 [0106] To relock the lock, the user turns the knob back so as to direct the lock flange 76 into the locked position. Eventually, the knob is returned to an orientation wherein the axial notch 84 of the knob aligns with the latch 102, and the distal end of the latch extends into the axial notch 84. In the embodiment shown, the position sensor 174 (Figure 24) in cooperation with position flange 115 senses the position of the latch within
15 the axial notch. In such an orientation, the latch has travelled toward the knob such that the distal end thereof is outside of the blocker channel 42.

[0107] Next, the motor is activated again, by the electronic control 18, in the opposite direction from the direction of rotation during unlocking. The steps shown in Figures 19A through 19E are carried out in reverse. Namely, the cam 106 is rotated by the
20 motor, and the first follower 130 exits the third slot, extends over the second ridge 153 and enters the second slot 152 (Figure 19E and 19D). Continued rotation imparts a force upon the blocker having a component in the direction of the locked position and the blocker slidably moves toward the locked position along the blocker channel (Figures 19C). Eventually, the blocker reaches a translated position wherein the cam 106 no longer
25 slidably moves the blocker (Figure 19B). In such a position, further rotation of the cam 106 directs the first follower 130 to exit the second slot, traverse over the first ridge 153 and returns to first slot 150 (Figure 19A).

[0108] Similar to that which was explained above with respect to the unlocking procedure, during the locking procedure, the cam 106 rotates an arcuate distance without
30 the first follower 130 imparting a force on the first cam profile of the blocker. As such, the cam can gather speed, and in turn, momentum, such that when the cam enters the second slot 152, the cam has sufficient force to impart onto the blocker to translate the

blocker. Such an intermittent contact with the first cam profile, and intermittent application of a translational force allows for the use of a directly driven cam, and a motor smaller than would otherwise be required. Furthermore, the consumption of power from the battery is reduced for each cycle as compared to a rack and pinion with constant engagement and application of force therebetween.

[0109] Once in the first slot 150, the cam 106 is precluded from rotation as the blocker has reached the locked position (i.e., the end of travel of the blocker along the blocking channel). Thus, while rotation is precluded, the motor continues to impart a rotational force on the cam 106, thereby increasing the power draw. The electronic control 18 realizes the increased power draw by the motor as a signal that the blocker has returned to the locked position. In turn, the power to the motor ceases.

[0110] In this position, the blocker 104 is in a position that precludes slidable movement of the latch sufficient to move the latch out of the axial notch 84 to allow rotation of the knob 70. Any rotation of the knob by the user will translate to translative movement of the latch into contact with the blocker which will stop the movement of the latch while the distal end remains in the axial notch 84.

[0111] It will be understood that the electronic control 18 may be programmed in any number of different manners. In addition to the operation above, other operation configurations are contemplated. For example, in a setting such as a locker room, it is desirable for each user of a locker to be able to input his or her own code for each use. As such, while the mechanical locking and unlocking steps are the same as disclosed above, the blocker movement is initiated by differing conditions.

[0112] More particularly, initially, the locker may be closed and the lock flange may be in the locked configuration. However, the blocker may be in the unlocked position, thereby allowing the rotation of the knob 70. Once the knob 70 is rotated and the lock flange 76 is in the unlocked position, the latch is driven out of the axial notch and the position sensor 174 senses that the latch has been moved out of the axial notch. At such time, the operation may direct the user to input a new unlocking key sequence on the keypad of the input device. This input sets the code for the operation of the lock through the next cycle. Once the code is input, the electronic control is programmed to execute the locking procedure the next time that the knob is rotated into a locked position and the latch is biased into the axial notch 84. More specifically, the motor is activated and

through the cam 106, the blocker is translated into the locked position.

[0113] To re-unlock the lock, the user must provide the authorization through an unlock code (or another code to over-ride the communication to the electronic control). Once the code is provided, the motor is activated in the other direction, translating the blocker to the unlocked position. At the same time, the electronic control is ready for another cycle. That is, the electronic control is ready to receive a new code from the user through the input device. As such, a new code is applied each time the lock cycles between the locked and unlocked configuration.

[0114] It may, from time to time, be necessary to service the lock. To service the lock the knob is first removed from the housing assembly. As explained above, a set screw or multiple set screws, maintain the engagement of the knob 70 and the lock driver 72. The set screw is accessible through the opening on the second end of the housing, but only when the knob 70 is in a particular rotative position to line up the set screw with the opening. It will be understood that, to preclude access to the set screw, except when the blocker is in the unlocked position, the opening and the set screw are not in alignment when the knob is in the locked condition.

[0115] As can be seen in the figures, the lock is configured to extend through a bushing (also referred to as a shell) held by a cabinet or enclosure (not shown). The actuatable lock assembly is configured can be connected and disconnected from the bushing. Advantageously, a portion of the actuatable lock assembly is within the cabinet or enclosure with a portion of the actuatable lock assembly outside of the cabinet or enclosure, when coupled to the bushing. The latching assembly as discussed above is positioned within a housing assembly. The housing assembly extends along the outside of the cabinet or enclosure.

[0116] The actuatable lock assembly includes a longitudinal axis that generally corresponds to the axis of rotation thereof (although not required). The housing assembly likewise includes a longitudinal axis. The longitudinal axis of the actuatable lock assembly is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the housing assembly.

[0117] In the embodiment shown in Figures 23 and 24, a key override can be provided to over-ride the electronic locking function. In such an embodiment, a lock core controlled by a mechanical key can be integrated into the actuatable lock assembly 14. Such a configuration allows the lock to be unlocked even if the blocker is in the locked

position, precluding slidable movement of the latch along the latch channel. Insertion and turning of the mechanical key in the lock core allows the tumblers in the lock core to retract and allow the core to rotate. The lock flange rotates with the key while the knob remains in its locked configuration, due to the latch and blocker position. In a related embodiment, the rotating of the lock core causes movement to the blocker so that the latch can be freely moved out of the axial notch of the knob to allow functional rotation of the knob. It is also contemplated that a mechanical key over-ride mechanism could be rotated in order to move the latch relative to the channel, and/or out of engagement with the knob, or to move the blocker out of the channel of the latch.

[0118] Referring now to Figures 25 and 26, a graph is shown of the current waveform of the motor 108 during operation. In particular, Figure 25 shows the current waveform to accomplish the translation of the blocker from the locked position to the unlocked position. The current waveform has multiple slopes of increasing and decreasing current through the translation of the blocker. First, when the motor is initiated, there is an inrush of current, to overcome the inertia and to begin rotation. Next, the current decreases as the cam 106 continues to rotate and accelerate from a resting position to a position where the first follower reaches the second slot 152. As the continued rotation initiates translation of the blocker, the current decreases abruptly. The current begins another increasing slope as the blocker translates across to the unlocked position. As the rotation of the cam continues, the first follower 130 exits the second ramp, causing a quick drop in current draw, with the current draw entering another increasing slope as the speed of the cam increases without resistance toward and into the third slot 154. Finally, as the first follower reaches the end of the third slot 154, the current drops to a steady draw in an effort to cause further rotation (i.e., substantially flatlines). It is the sensing of this relatively steady current draw that signals to the electronic control assembly that the blocker has reached the unlocked configuration.

[0119] The opposite is shown in Figure 26, wherein a waveform for the motor is shown for a locking operation. In particular, the waveform is inverted, and transitions through the same regions (although, as the motor operates in the opposite direction, the current is in the opposite direction). Again, when the end of travel is reached, the current reaches a substantially steady draw which triggers the electronic control assembly to cease rotation of the motor, as the blocker has reached the locked configuration. The two

Figures 25 and 26 show the intermittent nature of the contact between the blocker and the cam, thereby showing how the overall use of power is not continuous, but that it varies throughout the cycle. While variations in the actual current draw will be seen depending on a number of variables, the general configuration of a spike when movement of the cam is initiated, followed by a sloped change of increased current draw during rotation of the cam without coacting with the blocker to effectuate translation of the blocker, followed by a drop in current draw when contact is made with the blocker and force is imparted upon the blocker to translate across the blocker channel, followed by another drop in current draw when the blocker reaches the end of translation, and the first follower is free to rotate without imparting force upon the blocker, followed by an increase in current draw as the cam accelerates, finally followed by a drop and a flatline when the end of rotation of the cam is reached with the first follower positioned at the end of the final slot (slot 150 when reaching the locked orientation and slot 154 when reaching the unlocked configuration).

[0120] It will be understood that variations to the structure of the latching assembly are contemplated. For example, and with reference to Figures 27A and 27B, a variation is contemplated wherein the operation of the blocker remains the same in that the blocker translates within a blocker channel. However, the latch rotates about an axis of rotation that is positioned between the proximal and distal ends. The axis of rotation is further substantially parallel to the blocker channel, and spaced apart therefrom. The knob in such an embodiment has a downwardly opening notch in the dependent skirt which interfaces with the distal end of the latch.

[0121] In the locked configuration, the latch is biased so that the distal end is rotated about the axis of rotation into the downwardly opening notch. The blocker extends over the proximal end of the latch precluding rotation about the axis of rotation, thereby maintaining the latch in the downwardly opening notch. When the blocker is moved to an unlocked position, the blocker is spaced apart from the latch, and the latch is free to be rotated about the axis of rotation. Thus, when the knob is rotated, the shape of the downwardly opening notch imparts a downward force upon the latch driving the latch out of the notch and allowing free rotation of the knob. The opposite sequence is performed to again return the blocker to the locked position.

[0122] With the embodiment of Figures 28A and 28B, a rotationally movable

blocker is contemplated. In such an embodiment, the rotational blocker includes a first cam profile within a cavity of the blocker, and a lobe extending on an outer surface thereof. The lobe interfaces with the proximal end of the latch. The cam 106 is positioned within the cavity of the blocker so that rotation of the motor interfaces the first follower of the cam with the first cam profile of the blocker. As such, when rotated in a first direction, the first cam follower freely rotates relative to the blocker until the first stop is reached. At such time, continued rotation of the first cam follower rotates the blocker, as shown in Figure 28B. The rotation of the blocker, eventually moves the blocker out of the way of the latch. The latch is then free to slidably move within a latch channel.

[0123] To return the device to the locked orientation, the cam 106 is rotated in the opposite direction relative to the blocker until the second stop is reached. When the second stop is reached, the continued rotation of the cam by the motor rotates the blocker, returning the blocker into a position that interfaces with the proximal end of the latch. As such, the blocker precludes slidable movement, which, in turn, precludes rotation of the knob that interfaces with the distal end of the latch.

[0124] In yet another embodiment, shown in Figures 29A through 29C, the blocker function and the latch function can be integrated into a single element. That is, the distal end of the latch can be configured to include the first cam profile and the second cam profile that was on the blocker. The cam profiles are in the direction of translation of the latch, as opposed to being perpendicular thereto in the other embodiments. The cam and the motor are rotated so that the cam can interface with the first and second cam profiles. In turn, actuation of the motor directly moves the latch..

[0125] The foregoing description merely explains and illustrates the invention and the invention is not limited thereto except insofar as the appended claims are so limited, as those skilled in the art who have the disclosure before them will be able to make modifications without departing from the scope of the invention.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A lock comprising:

- a housing assembly having a latch channel and a blocker channel;

- a latching assembly comprising:

5 - a latch slidably movable along the latch channel of the housing assembly, the latch having a proximal end and a distal end, with the distal end configured to interface with an actuatable lock assembly, with the latch slidably movable away from an actuatable lock assembly in response to a force applied to the latch thereby;

10 - a blocker slidably movable along the blocker channel between a locked position and an unlocked position, wherein, in the locked position, the latch is precluded from slidable movement into an unlocked position, and wherein in the unlocked position, the blocker is spaced apart from the latch so as to allow the latch to slidably move into an unlocked position in response to the force applied by an actuatable lock assembly, the blocker including a cam profile;

15 - a cam rotatably mounted within the housing assembly, the cam having a first follower configured to intermittently coact with the cam profile, to, in turn, slidably move the blocker between the locked and unlocked position; and

20 - a motor coupled to the cam, whereupon actuation of the motor causes rotation of the cam, and, in turn, slidable movement of the blocker between the locked and unlocked position.

2. The lock of claim 1 wherein the cam rotates about a first axis of rotation, and the blocker slidably moves along a second axis, with the first axis and the second axis being one of orthogonal and oblique to each other.

25 3. The lock of claim 2 wherein the first axis and the second axis are substantially perpendicular to each other.

4. The lock of claim 1 wherein upon actuation of the motor, from either the locked or the unlocked position, the cam rotates through an initial arcuate distance prior to imparting a force upon the blocker to slidably move the same into the other of the locked or unlocked position.

30 5. The lock of claim 1 wherein the initial arcuate distance comprises approximately half of a revolution.

6. The lock of claim 1 wherein the arcuate distance of rotation of the cam between

the locked position and the unlocked position comprises approximately a single full revolution.

7. The lock of claim 1 wherein the blocker slidably moves along a first axis and the latch slidably moves along a second axis, wherein the first axis and the second axis are substantially perpendicular to each other.

8. The lock of claim 1 wherein the actuatable lock assembly further comprises a knob rotatably mounted on the housing assembly and rotatable by a user through the application of a rotational force, the knob having an outer surface and a depending skirt, the depending skirt including an axial notch, wherein the distal end of the latch being configured to extend into the axial notch in the locked position, and wherein in the unlocked position, rotation of the knob imparts slidable movement of the latch, and in turn, directs the latch out of the axial notch.

9. The lock of claim 1 wherein the axial notch further comprises a first surface and a second surface each extending inwardly from the dependent skirt and meeting at a vertex.

10. The lock of claim 9 wherein the first and second surfaces of the axial notch are outwardly convex and shape matingly engage the distal end of the latch.

11. The lock of claim 1 wherein the motor draws three distinct current loads, a first current load between the locked position, and the application of force to slidably move the blocker toward the unlocked position, a second current load while the cam slidably moves the blocker toward the unlocked position, and a third current load when the cam reaches the end of the first follower, and further rotation of the cam is precluded.

12. The lock of claim 11 wherein the first current load has an increasing slope, the second current load has an increasing slope of a magnitude less than the first current load, and the third current load is substantially flatlined.

13. The lock of claim 1 further comprising an electronic control assembly electrically coupled to the motor, configured to control the same, and an input device positioned on a top of the housing assembly, the input device allowing a user to provide an authorizing signal to the electronic control assembly to direct the motor to initiate rotation thereof.

14. The lock of claim 13 further comprising a latch position sensor associated with the electronic control assembly wherein the latch includes a position flange positioned such that the latch position sensor can determine the position of the latch based upon the position flange.

15. A lock comprising:

- a housing assembly;

- a latching assembly comprising:

- a latch movably positioned within the housing assembly, the latch having a proximal end and a distal end, with the distal end configured to interface with an actuatable lock assembly, with the latch disengageable from an actuatable lock assembly in response to a force applied to the latch thereby;

- a blocker slidably movable within the housing assembly between a locked position and an unlocked position, wherein, in the locked position, the latch is precluded from disengagement from an actuatable lock assembly, and wherein in the unlocked position, the blocker is spaced apart from the latch so as to allow the latch disengage from an actuatable lock assembly in response to the force applied by an actuatable lock assembly, the blocker including a cam profile;

- a cam rotatably mounted within the housing assembly, the cam having a first follower configured to intermittently coact with the cam profile, to, in turn, slidably move the blocker between the locked and unlocked position; and

- a motor coupled to the cam, whereupon actuation of the motor causes rotation of the cam, and, in turn, slidable movement of the blocker between the locked and unlocked position.

16. The lock of claim 15 wherein the latch is pivotably mounted to the housing assembly.

17. The lock of claim 15 wherein the latch is slidably mounted within the housing assembly.

18. A lock being coupled to a bushing configured to be held by a cabinet or enclosure, comprising:

- an actuatable lock assembly configured to be at least one of connected and disconnected from the bushing wherein at least a portion of the actuatable lock assembly is positionable within the cabinet or enclosure, and wherein a portion of the actuatable lock assembly is positionable outside of the cabinet or enclosure, when coupled to the bushing; and

- an latching assembly positioned within a housing assembly, the housing assembly positioned to be extending along the outside of the cabinet or enclosure, the

latching assembly comprising an latch interfaceable with the actuatable lock assembly, a cam that is in intermittent association with the latch, to effectuate movement of the same relative to the housing assembly, and a motor having an axle, wherein the cam is rotatably coupled to the motor about the axle to effectuate rotation thereof.

5 19. The lock of claim 18 wherein the actuatable lock assembly includes a longitudinal axis, and the housing assembly includes a longitudinal axis, with the longitudinal axis of the actuatable lock assembly being substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the housing assembly.

10 20. A lock comprising:
 - a housing assembly defining a cavity;
 - an actuatable lock assembly associated with the housing, the actuatable lock assembly being positionable in at least a closed orientation and an open orientation;
 - a latching assembly further comprising:
 - a latch positioned within the cavity of the housing assembly, the latch
15 movable between a locked position and an unlocked position, wherein, in the locked position, the actuatable lock assembly is maintained in the closed orientation, and in the unlocked position, the actuatable lock assembly is positionable into an open orientation, with the latch having a cam profile;
 - a cam rotatably mounted within the cavity of the housing assembly, the
20 cam having a first follower configured to intermittently coact with the cam profile of the latch, to, in turn, move the latch between the locked position and the unlocked position;
 - a motor coupled to the cam, whereupon actuation of the motor causes rotation of the cam, and, in turn, movement of the latch between the locked and unlocked position.

25 21. The lock of claim 20 wherein the actuatable lock assembly further includes a knob movable relative to the housing assembly.

 22. The lock of claim 21 wherein the knob is positionable between an open orientation and a closed orientation through at least one of rotating about an axis, translating in an up and down or right and left configuration, and movement inward and
30 outward.

 23. The lock of claim 22 wherein the knob rotates about an axis spaced apart from the latch.

24. The lock of claim 20 wherein the actuatable lock assembly further includes a notch positioned therealong, the latch including a portion selectively insertable into the notch when the latch is positioned in the locked position, thereby precluding movement of the actuatable lock assembly into the unlocked position.
25. The lock of claim 20 wherein the actuatable lock assembly further includes at least one ball and a biasing member, interfacing with the actuatable lock assembly, the at least one ball and biasing member facilitating alignment of the actuatable lock assembly relative to the housing assembly.
26. The lock of claim 25 wherein the ball is associated with the actuatable lock assembly, with the spring biasing the ball against the actuatable lock assembly and interfacing with the housing.
27. The lock of claim 20 wherein the latch is one of slidably and rotatable movable relative to the housing between a locked and unlocked position.
28. The lock of claim 27 wherein the latch is slidably movable relative to the housing along an axis that is perpendicular to an axis of rotation of the cam.
29. The lock of claim 20 wherein rotation of the motor in a first direction directs the latch toward the unlocked position, and rotation of the motor in a second direction directs the latch toward the locked position.
30. The lock of claim 20 wherein the latch further includes a second cam profile disposed thereon, and the cam further includes a second follower configured to engage the second cam profile.
31. The lock of claim 30 wherein the cam profile and the second cam profile are each substantially parallel to each other so as to define a longitudinal channel therebetween, the cam further including a body having a first side and a second side, the first follower extending from the first side of the body, and the second follower extending from the second side of the body, wherein the first follower interfaces with the cam profile, and the second follower interfaces with the second cam profile, with the body of the cam positioned at least partially within the longitudinal channel.
32. The lock of claim 31 wherein the longitudinal channel defines an axis of slidable movement of the latch between the locked position and the unlocked position.

33. The lock of claim 30 wherein the cam profile includes a first slot, a second slot and a third slot, with a first ridge defined between the first slot and the second slot, and a second ridge defined between the second slot and the third slot.
- 5 34. The lock of claim 33 wherein a width of the second slot is at least as wide as the first follower, such that when the follower engages the second slot, further rotation thereof slidably moves the latch.
35. The lock of claim 33 wherein the second follower further includes a first ramp and a second ramp, with a peak positioned therebetween, with the peak of the second follower substantially corresponding to the second slot of the first cam profile.
- 10 36. The lock of claim 20 wherein the housing assembly is attachable to one of the group consisting of doors, drawers, cabinets, pantries, desks, credenzas, cabinets and wardrobes.
- 15 37. The lock of claim 20 wherein upon actuation of the motor, from either the locked or the unlocked position, the cam rotates through an initial arcuate distance prior to imparting a force upon the cam follower to move the latch toward the other of the locked or unlocked position.
- 20 38. The lock of claim 20 further comprising an electronic control assembly electrically coupled to the motor, configured to control the same, and an input device associated with the housing assembly, the input device allowing a user to provide an authorizing signal to the electronic control assembly to direct the motor to initiate rotation thereof.
39. The lock of claim 38 further comprising a latch position sensor associated with the electronic control assembly wherein the latch position sensor determines the position of the latch in at least one of the locked position and unlocked position.

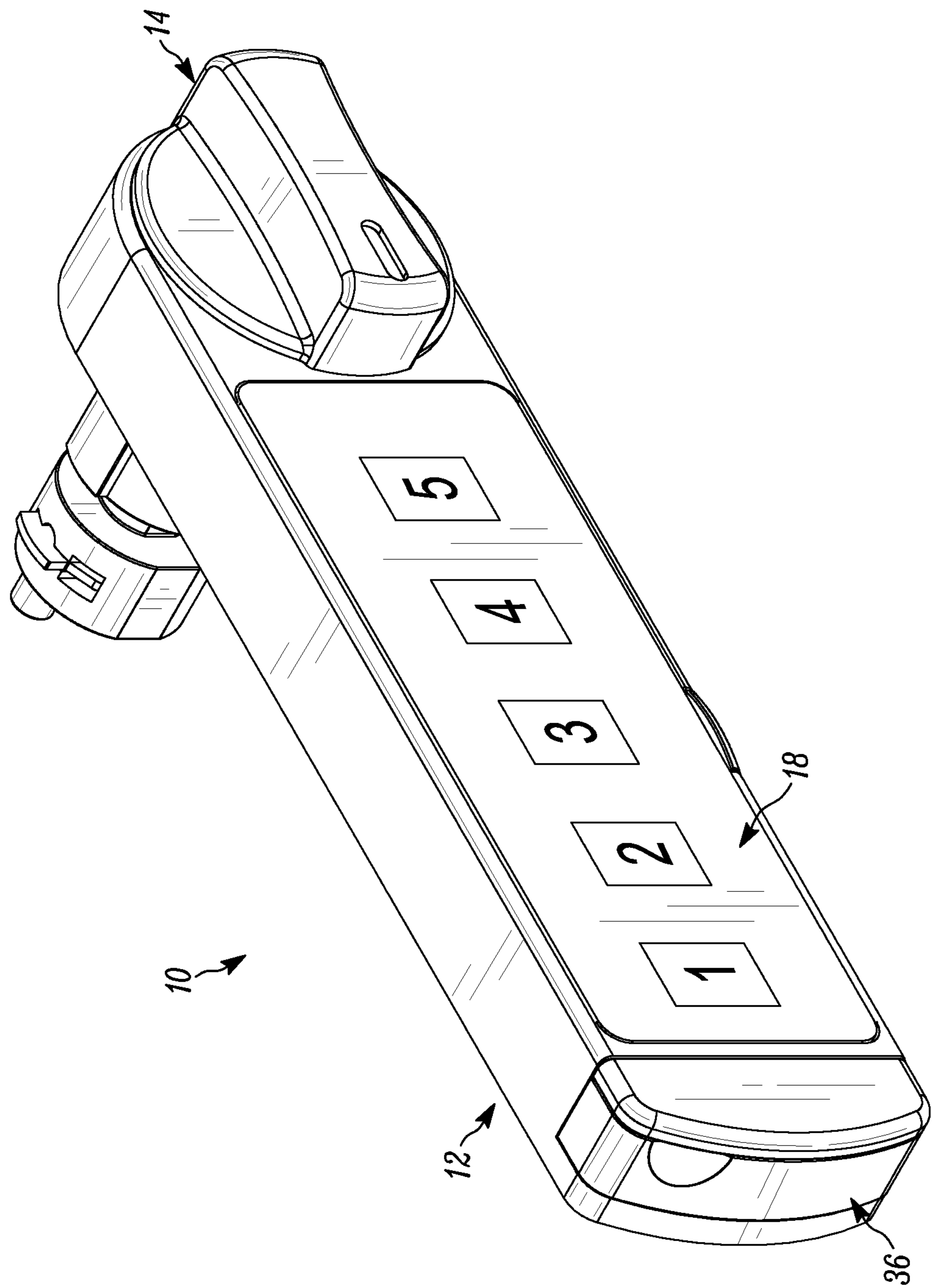


FIG. 1A

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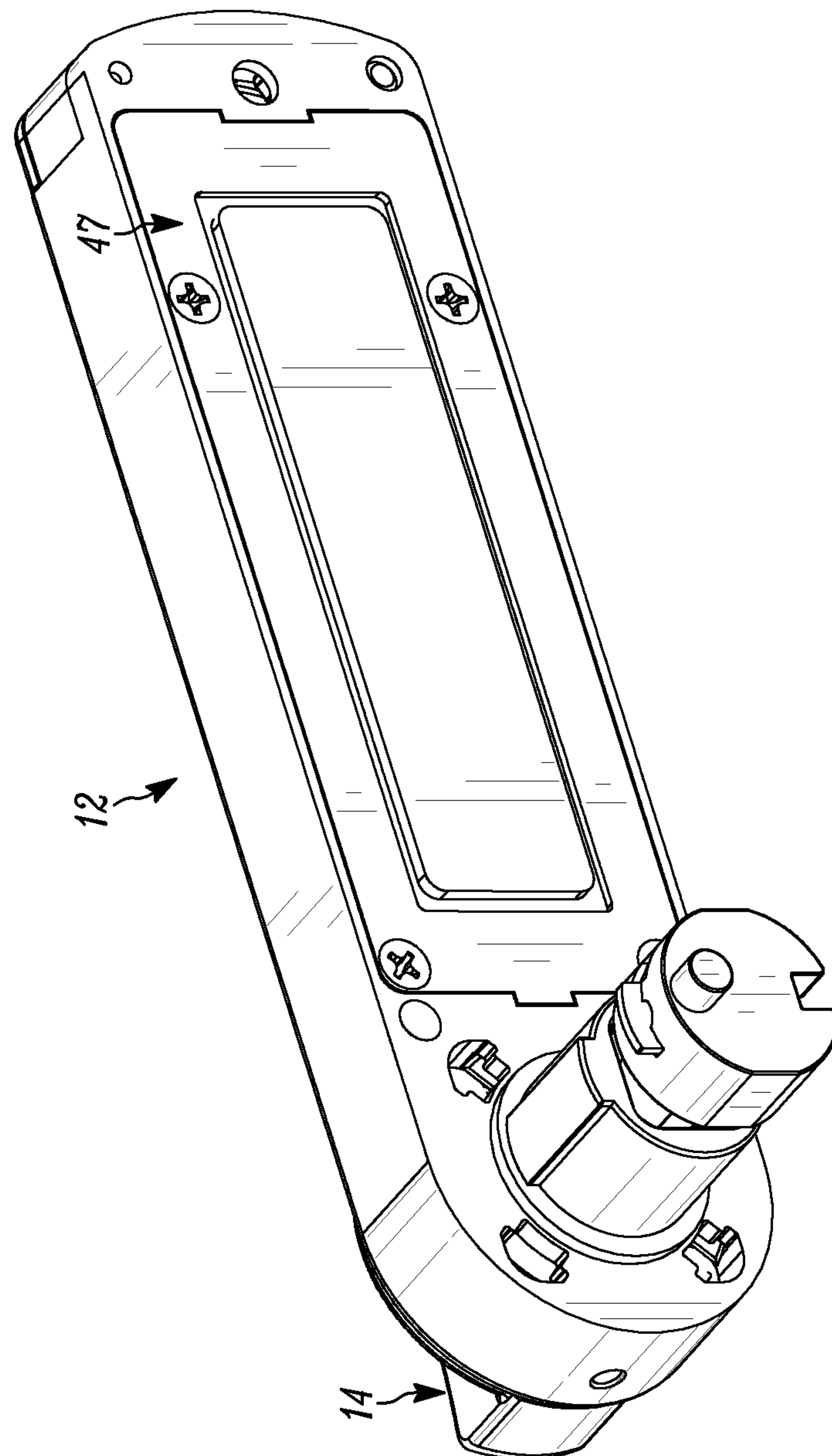


FIG. 1B

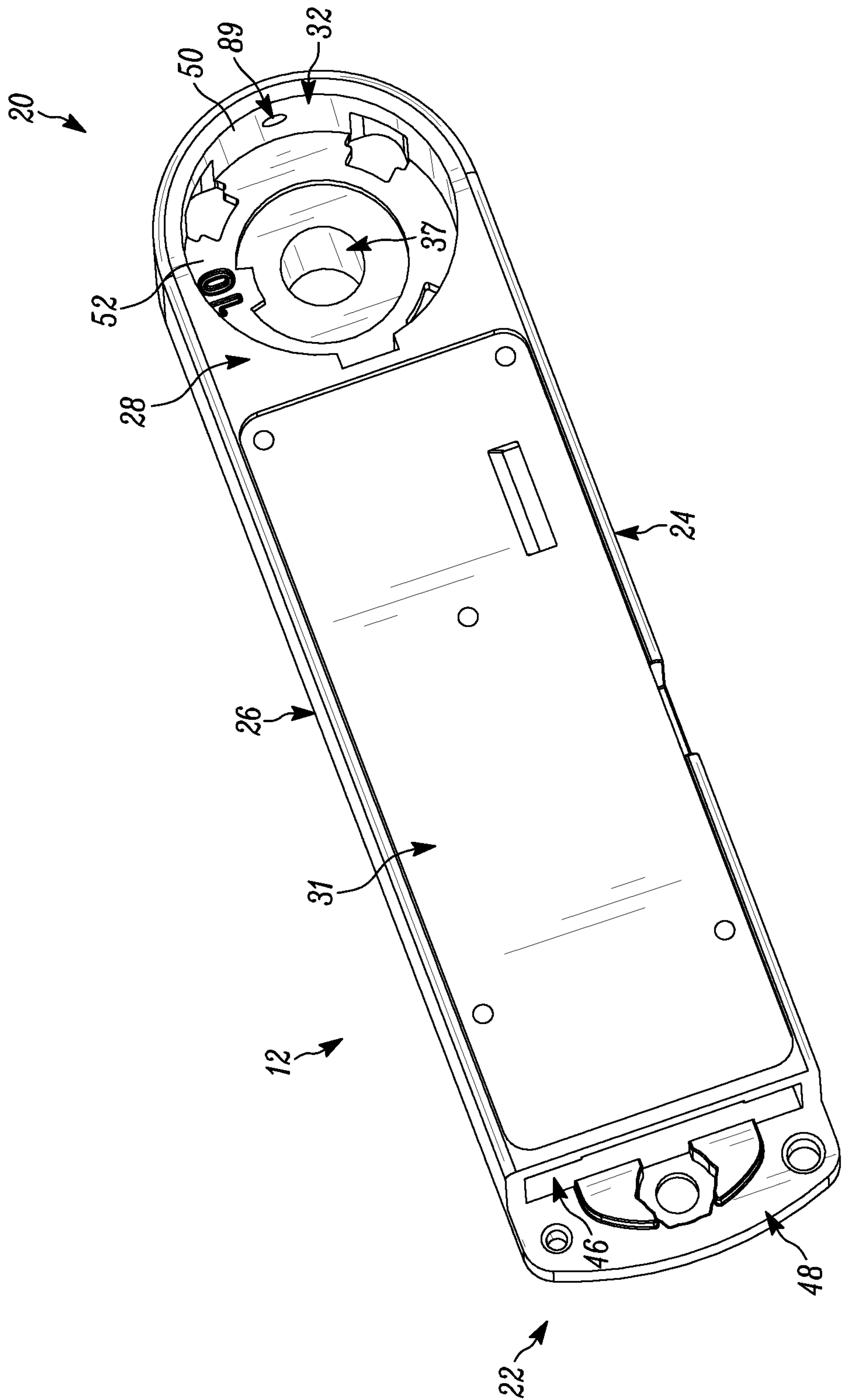


FIG. 2

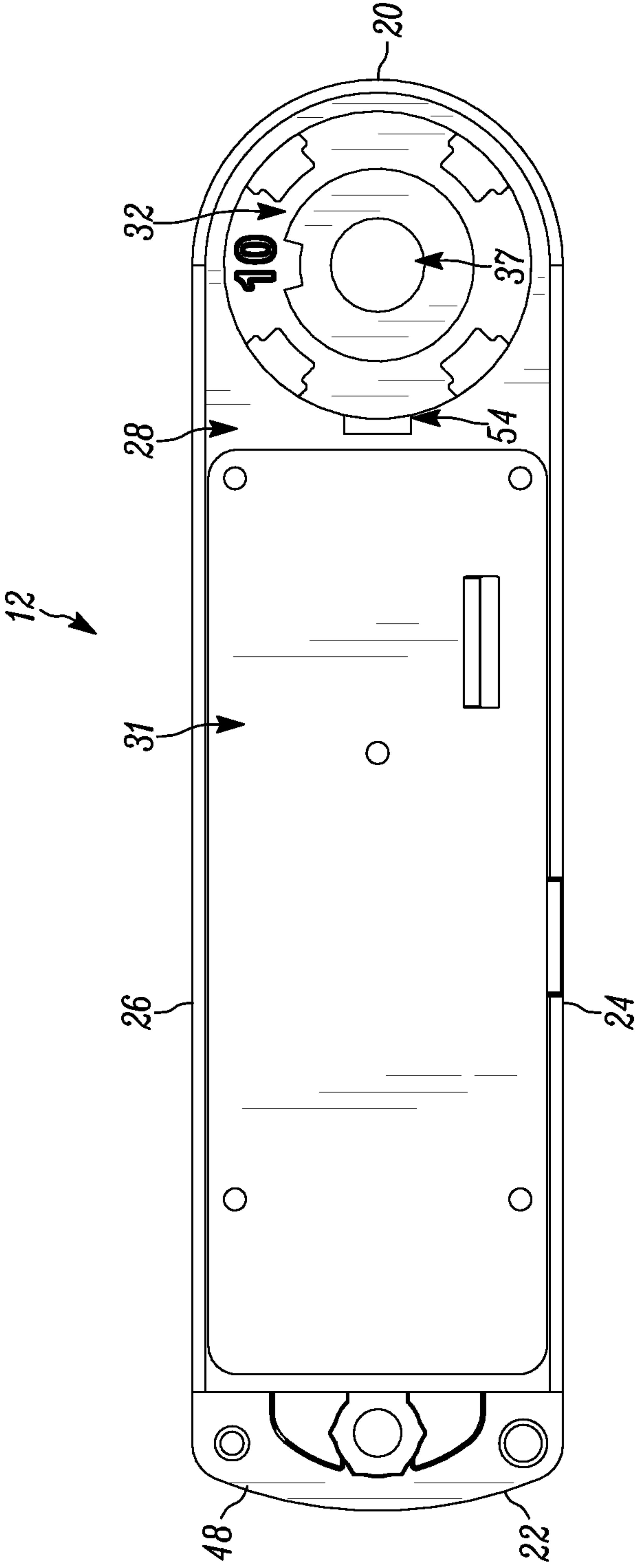


FIG. 3

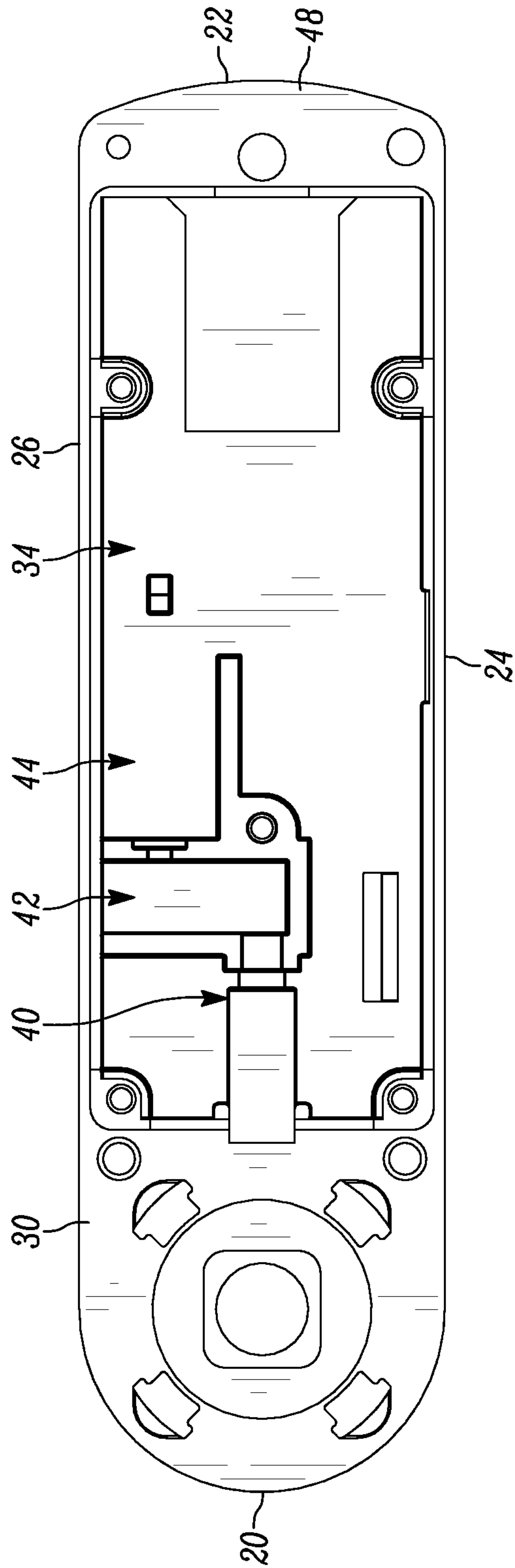
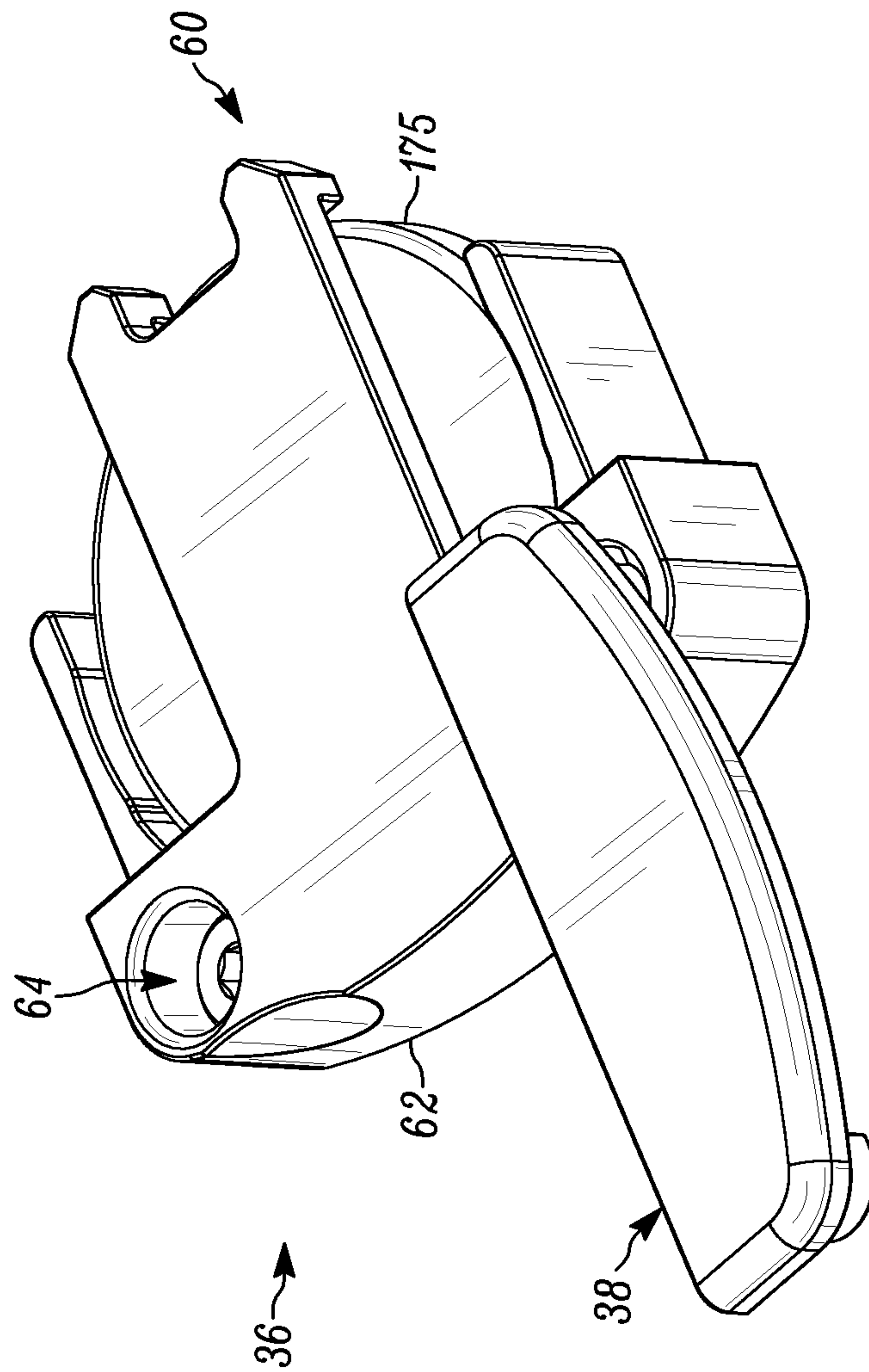


FIG. 4

6/43**FIG. 5**

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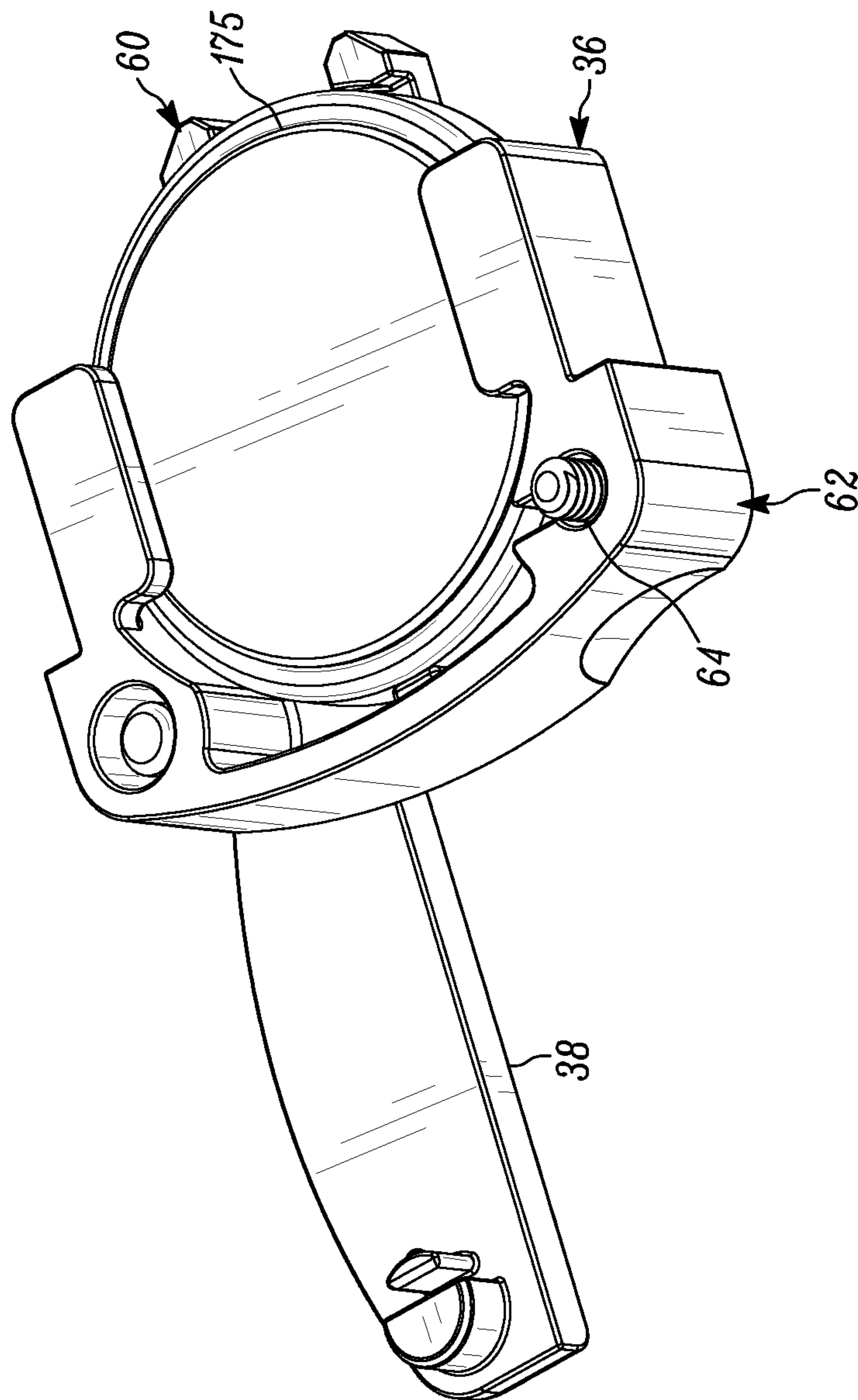
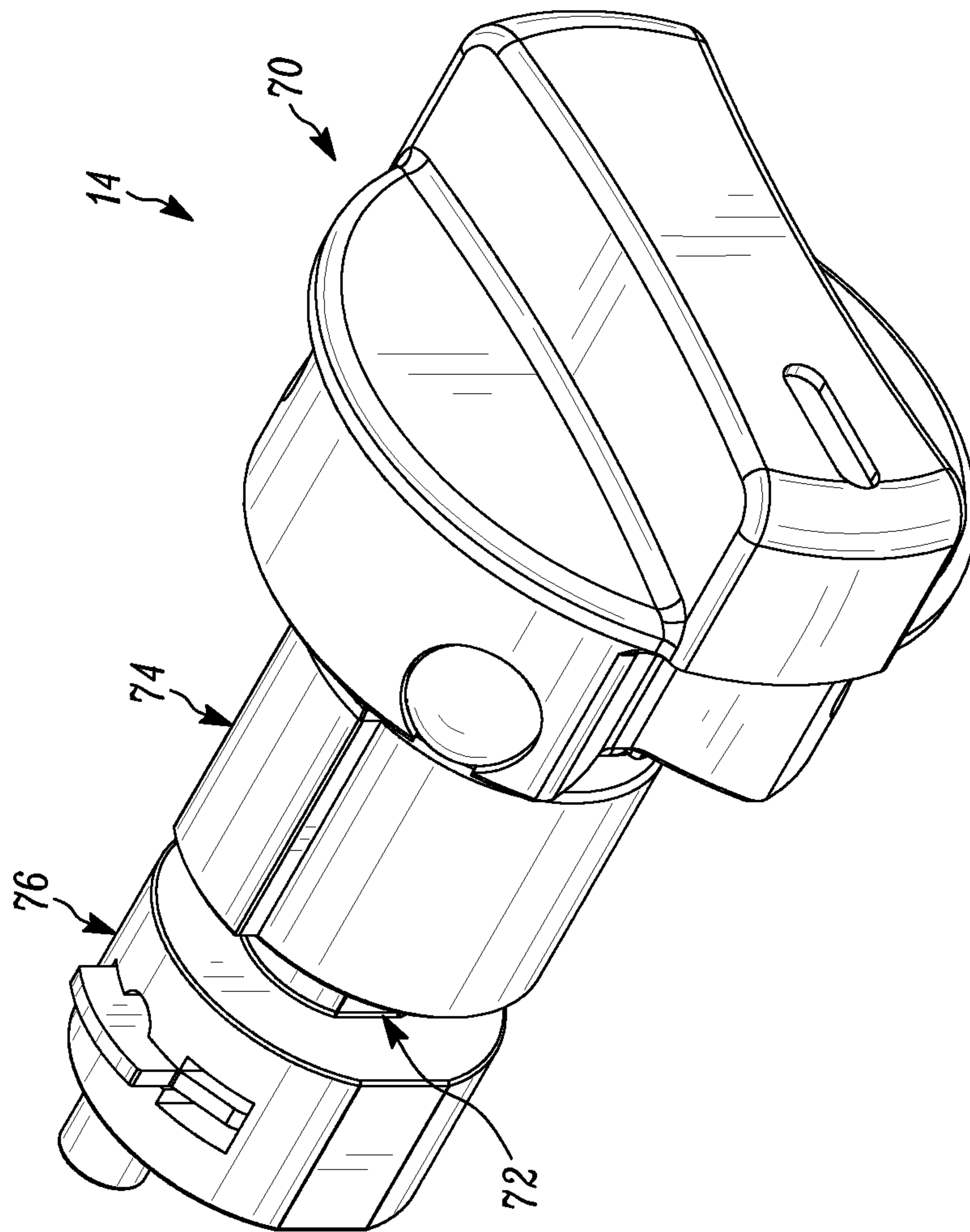
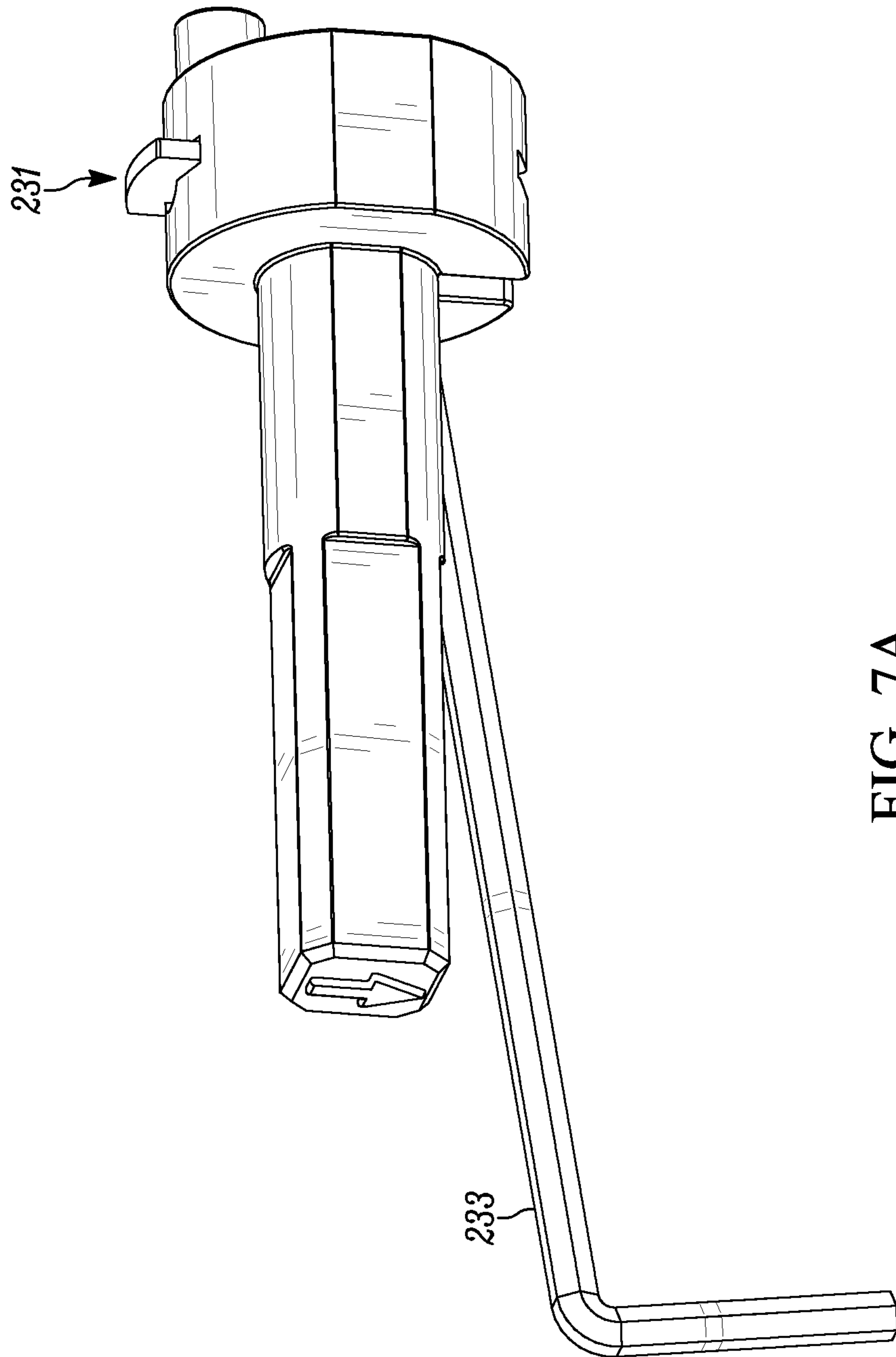
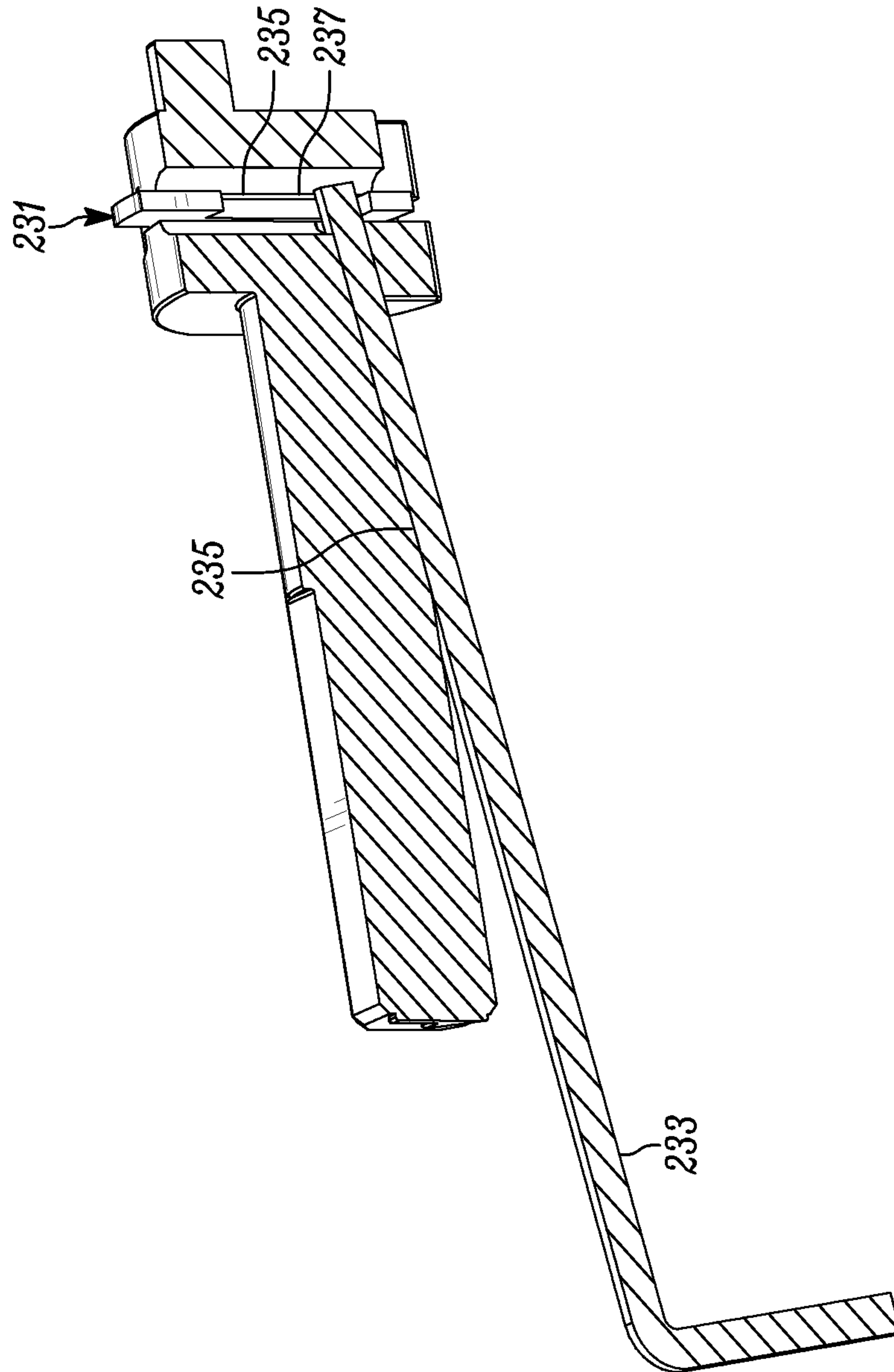
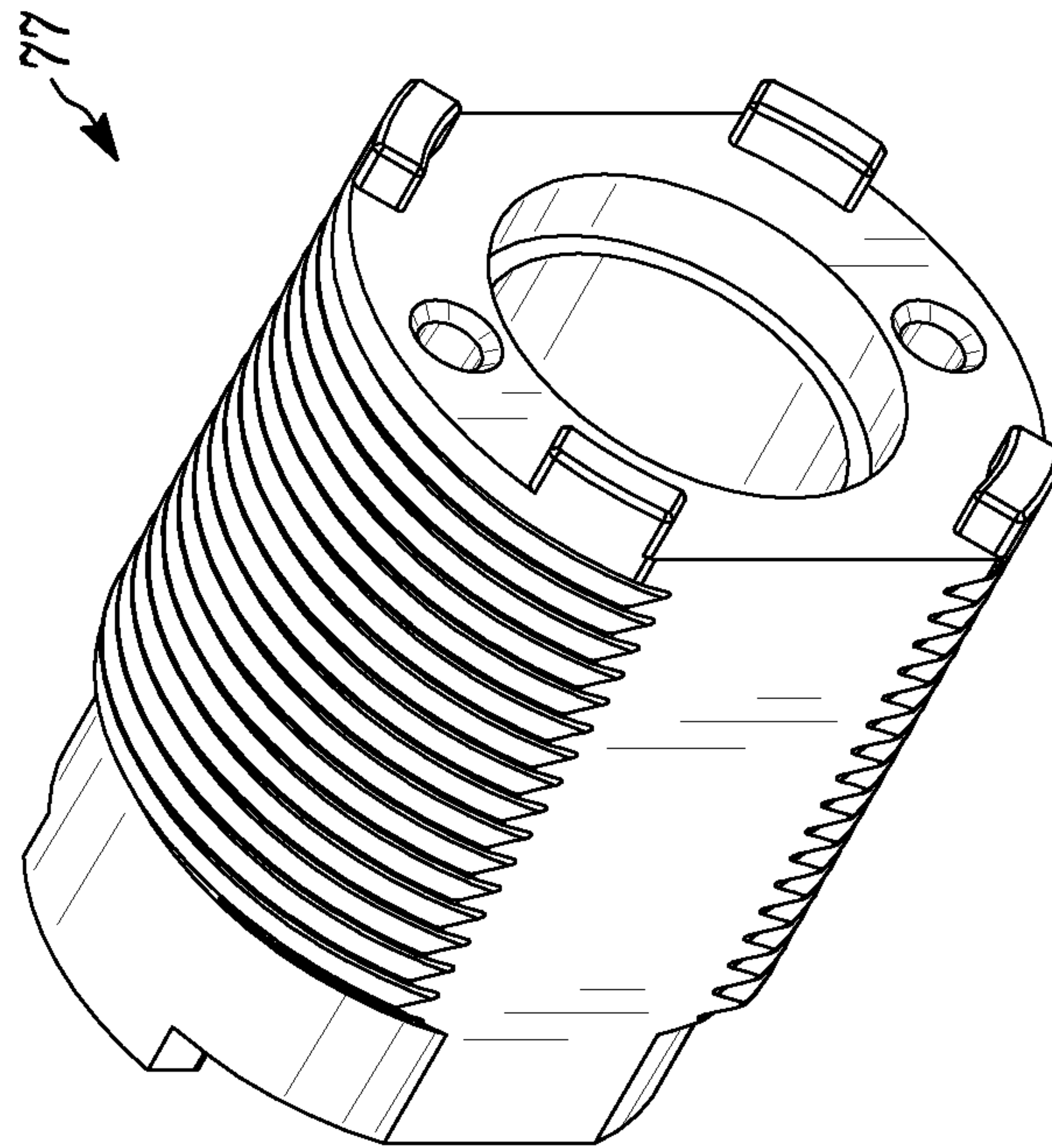


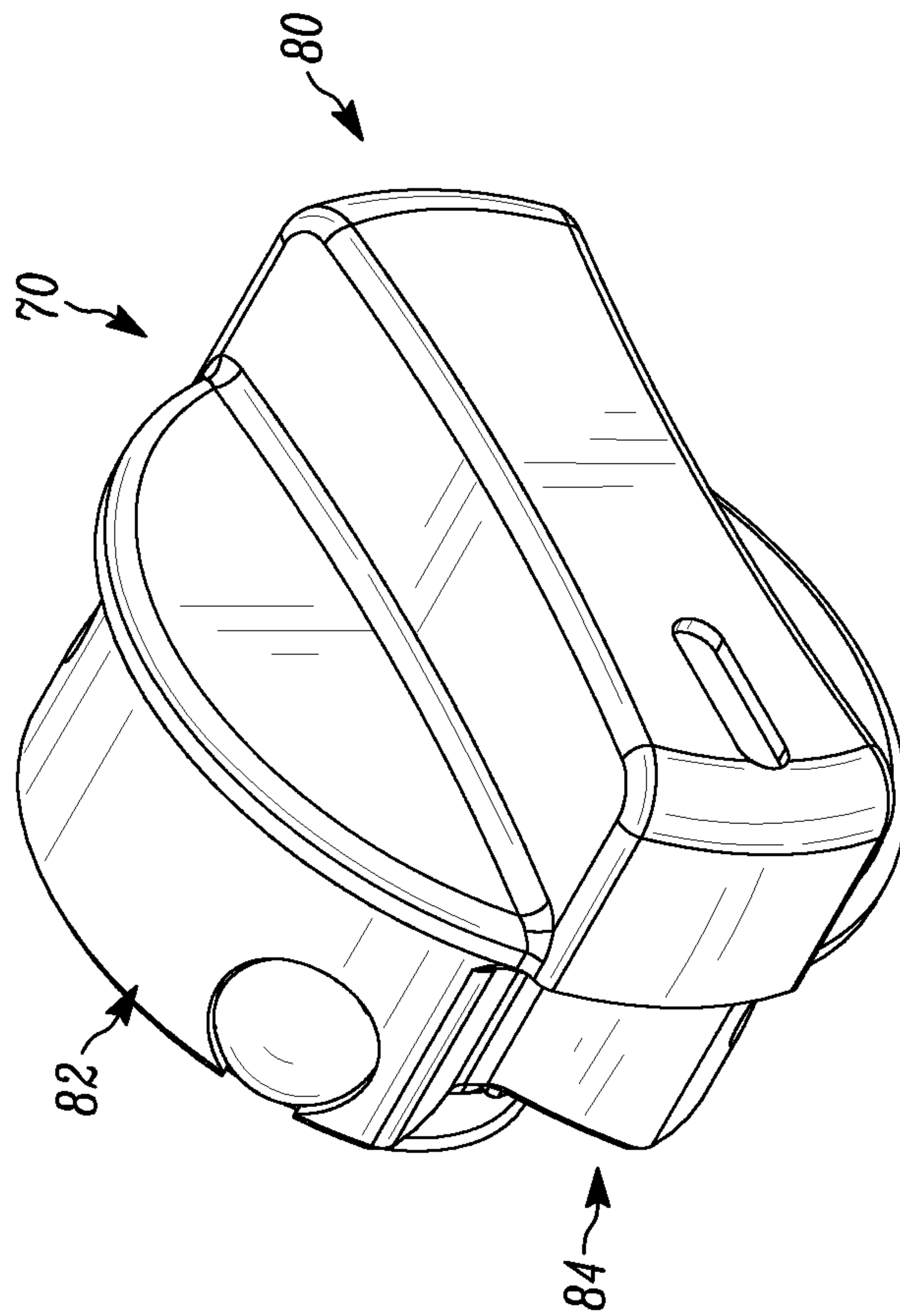
FIG. 6

8/43**FIG. 7**

9/43**FIG. 7A**

10/43**FIG. 7B**

11/43**FIG. 8**

12/43**FIG. 9**

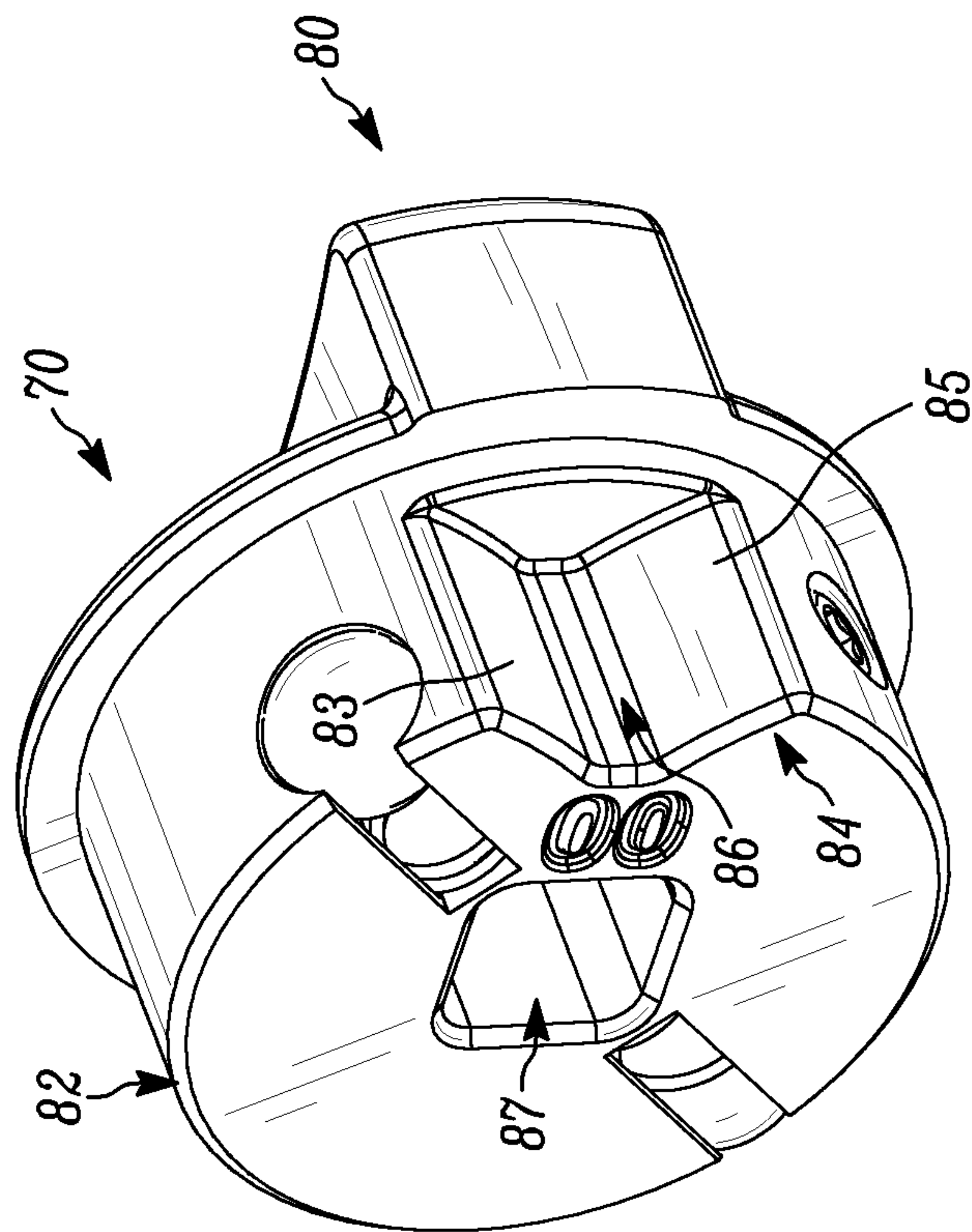
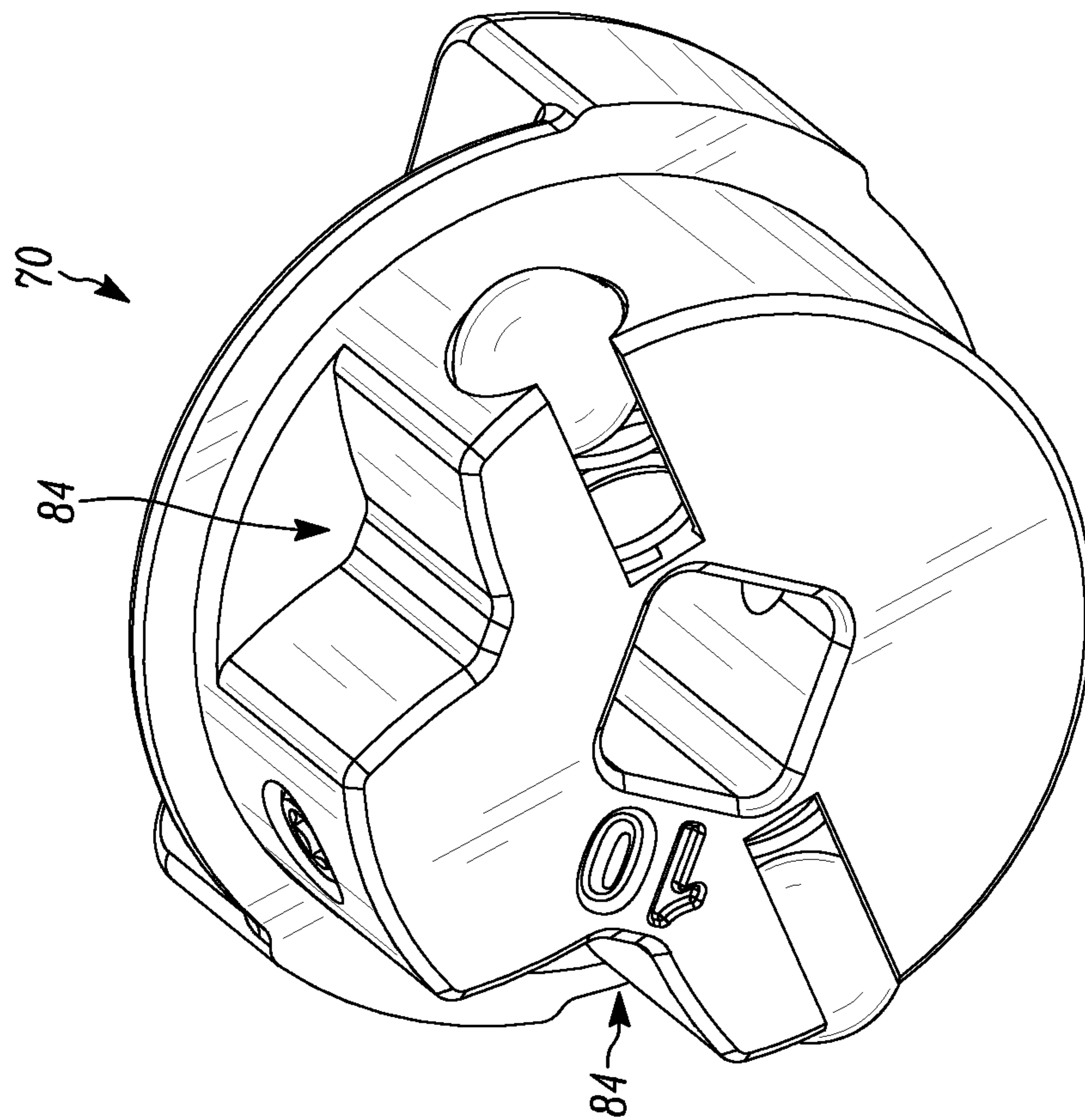
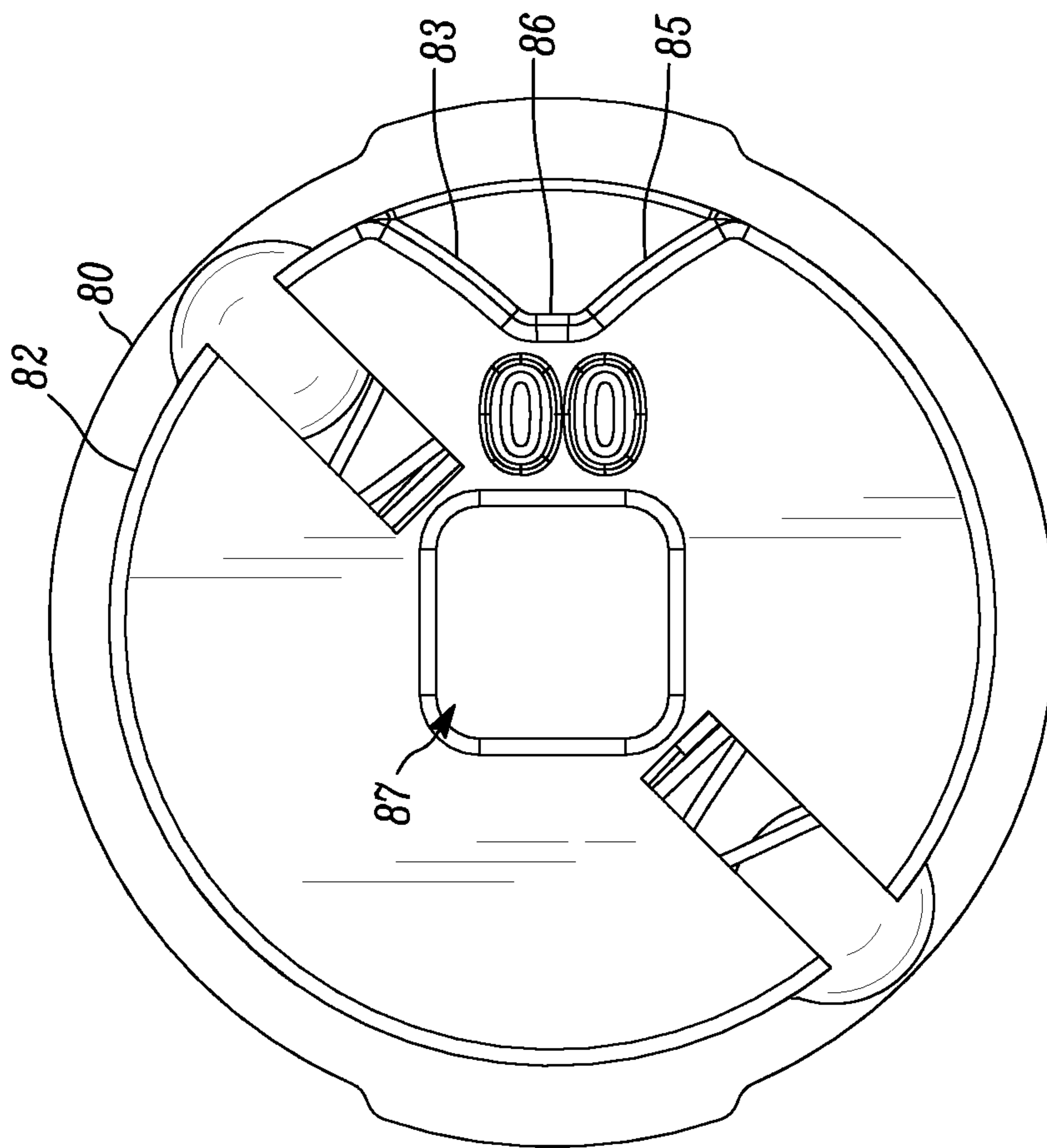


FIG. 10

14/ 43**FIG. 10B**

15/43**FIG. 11**

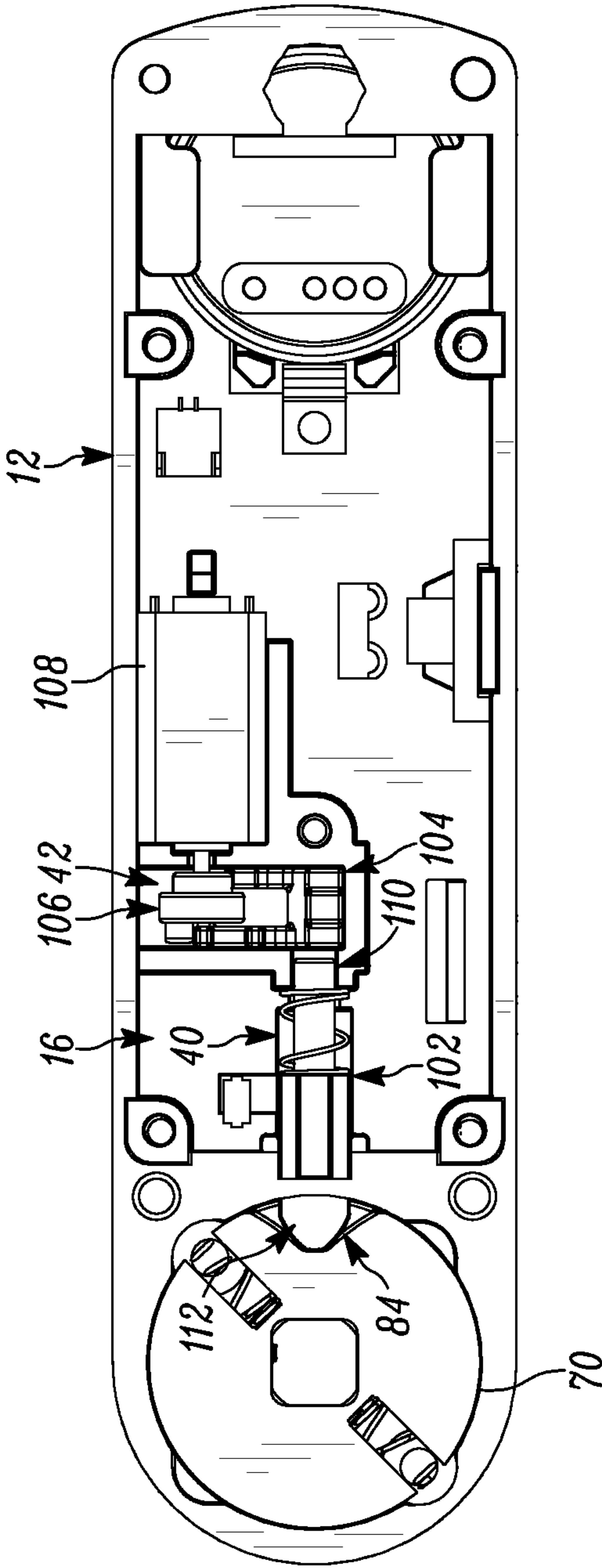
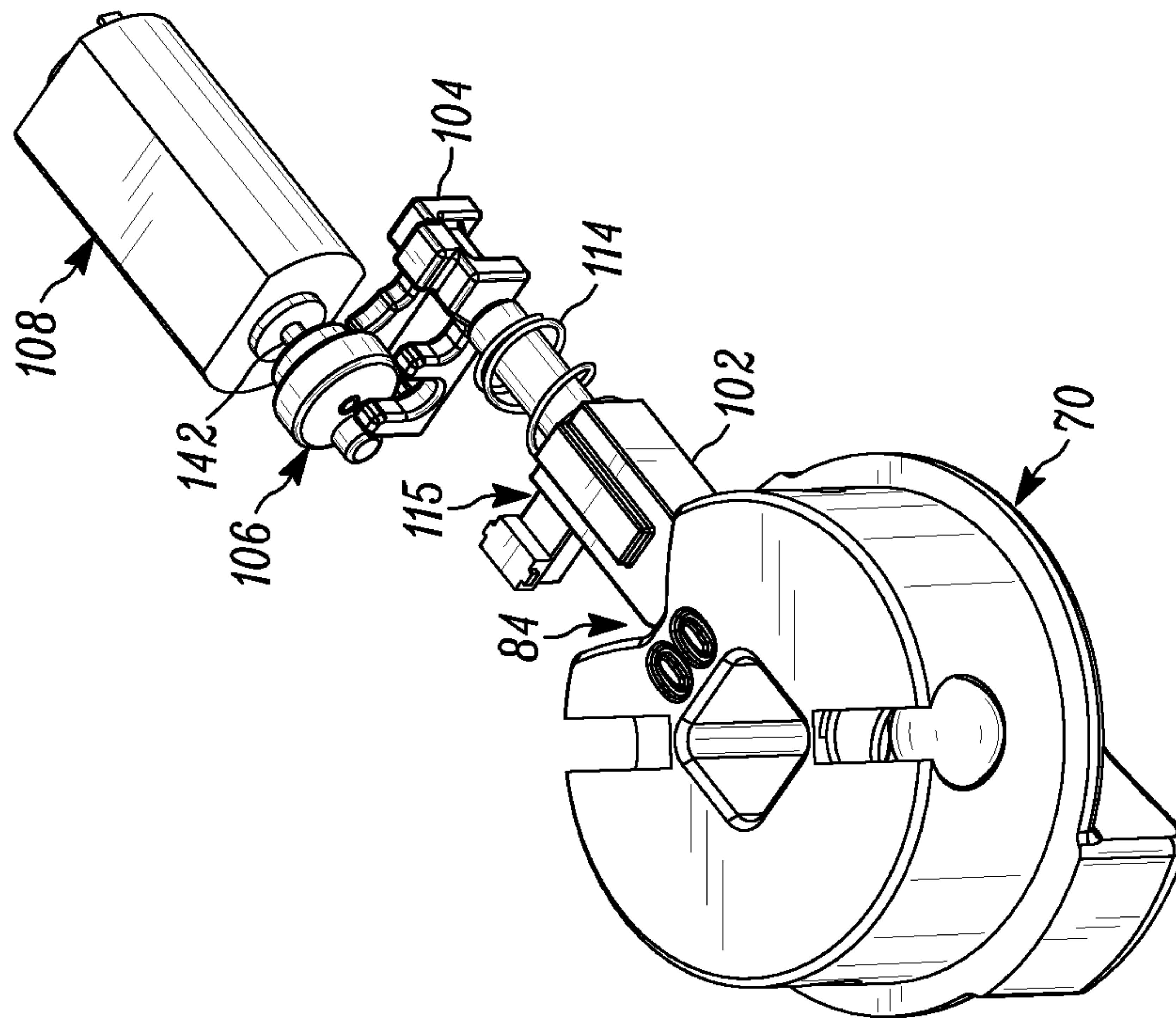


FIG. 12A

17/43**FIG. 12B**

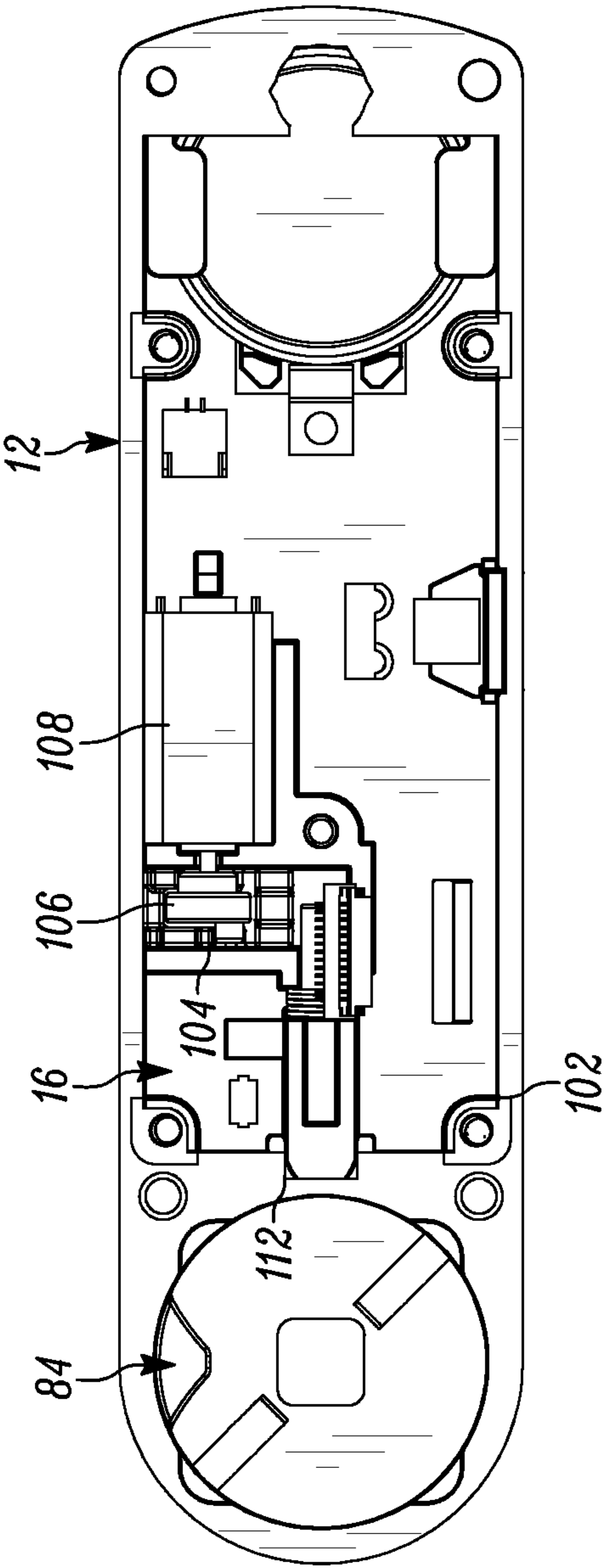
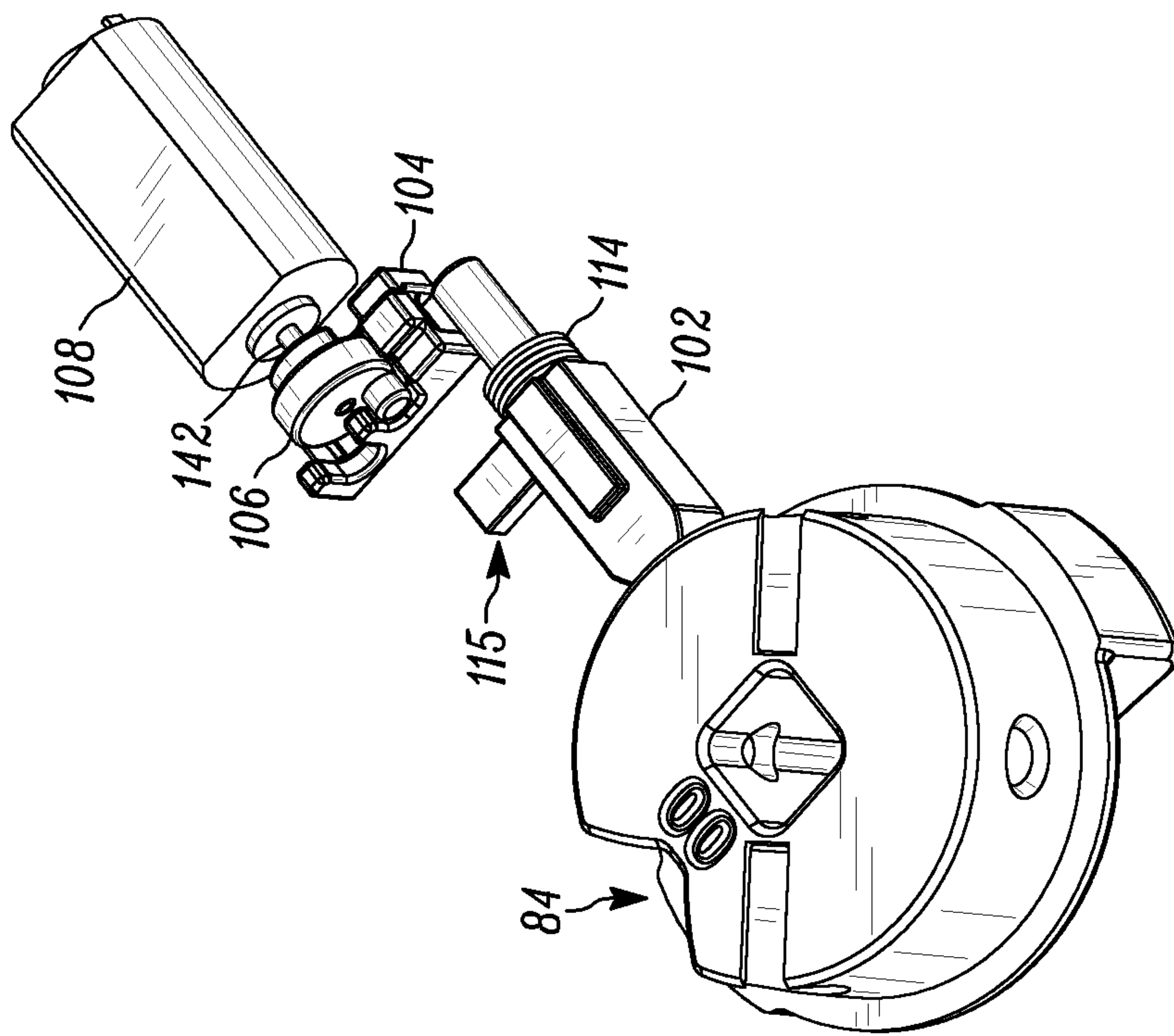


FIG. 13A

19/43**FIG. 13B**

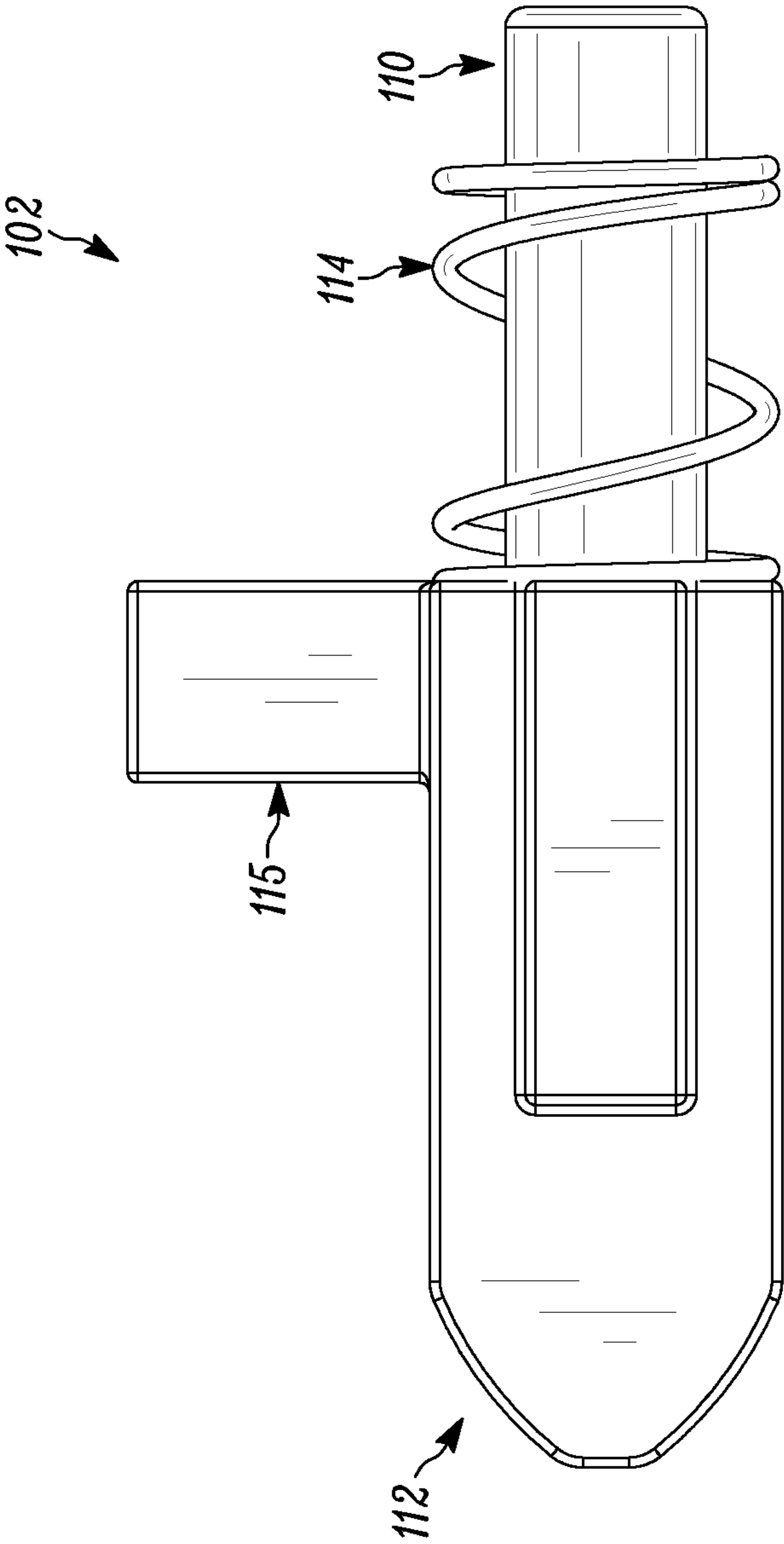


FIG. 14

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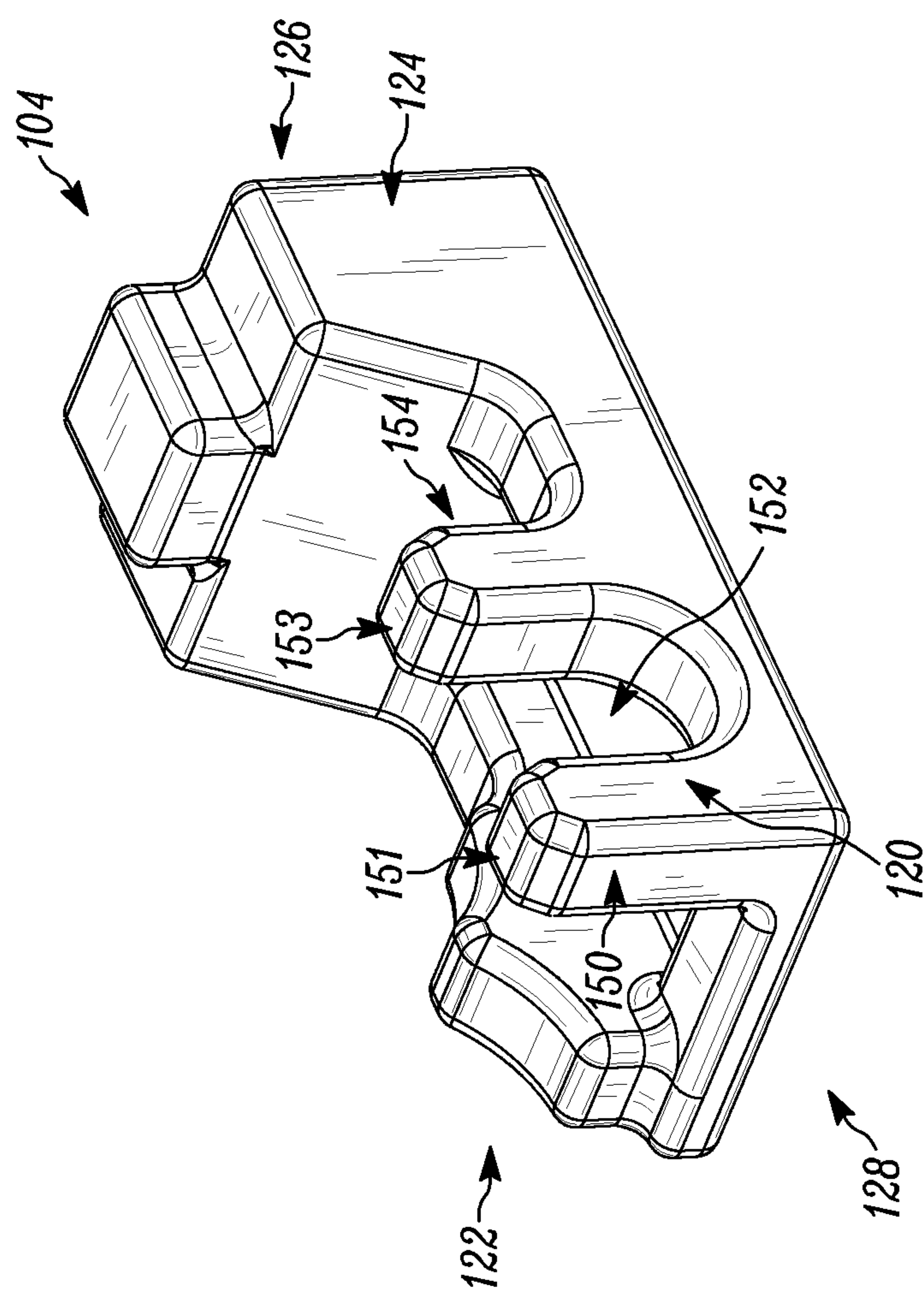


FIG. 15

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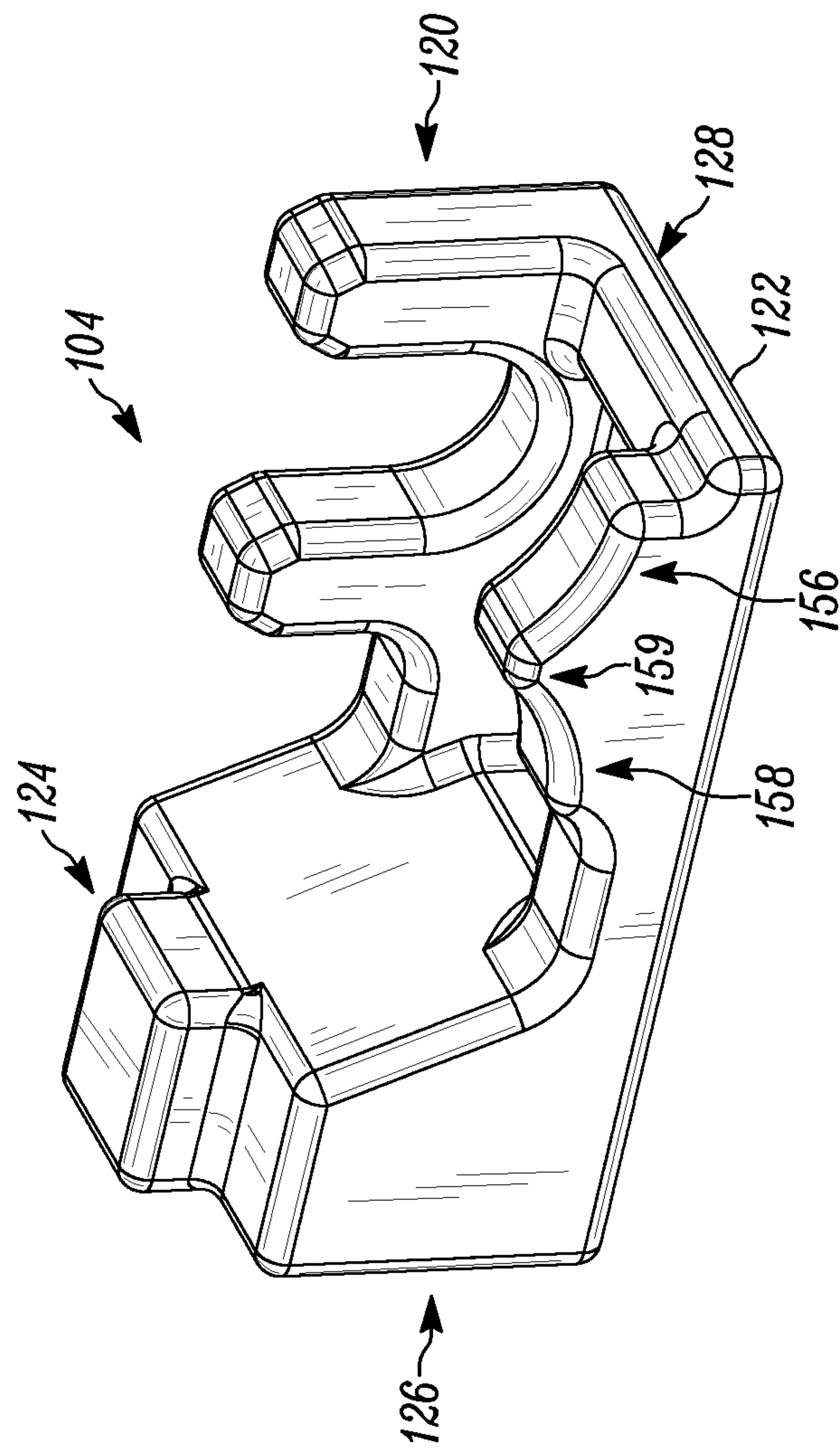
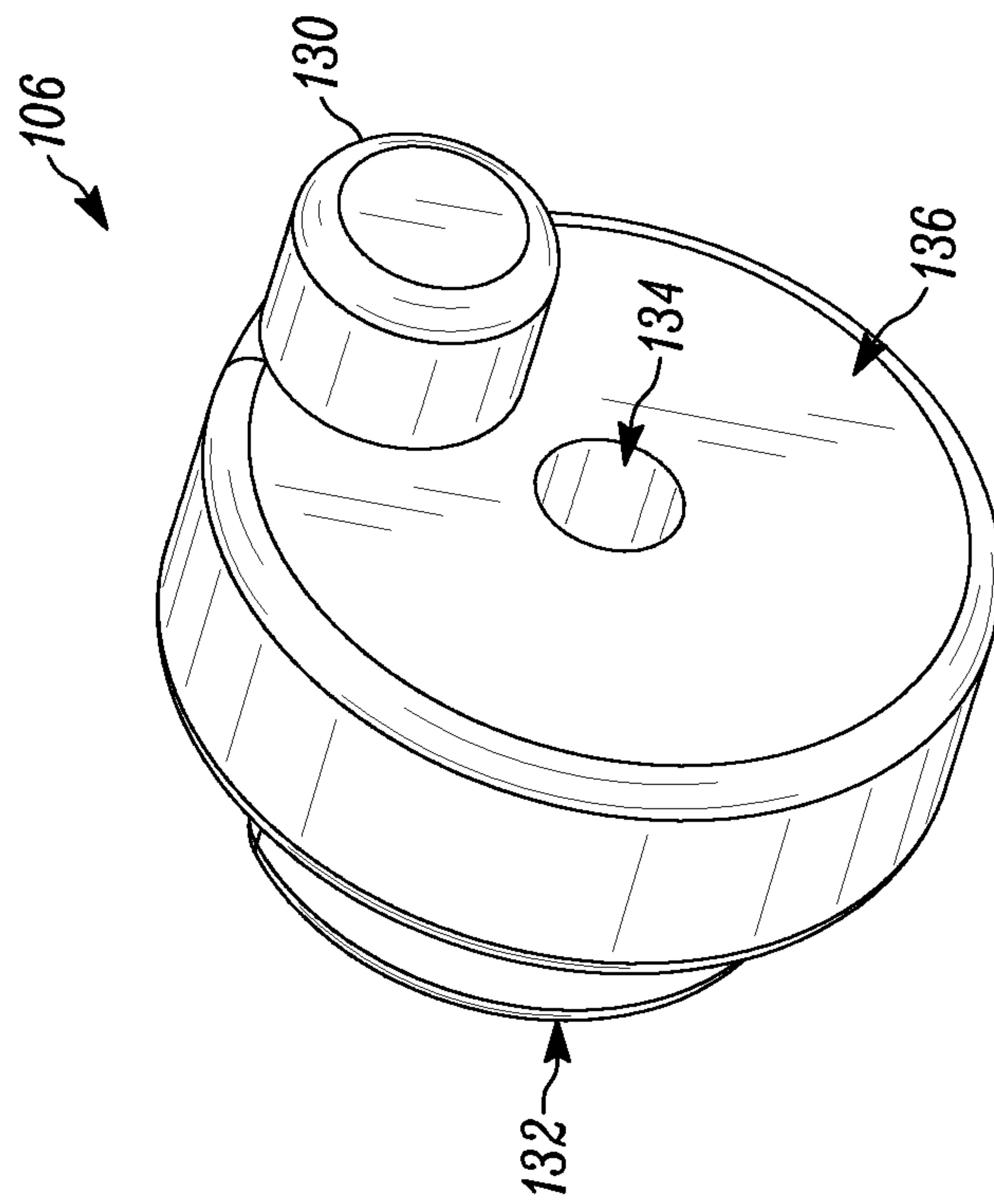
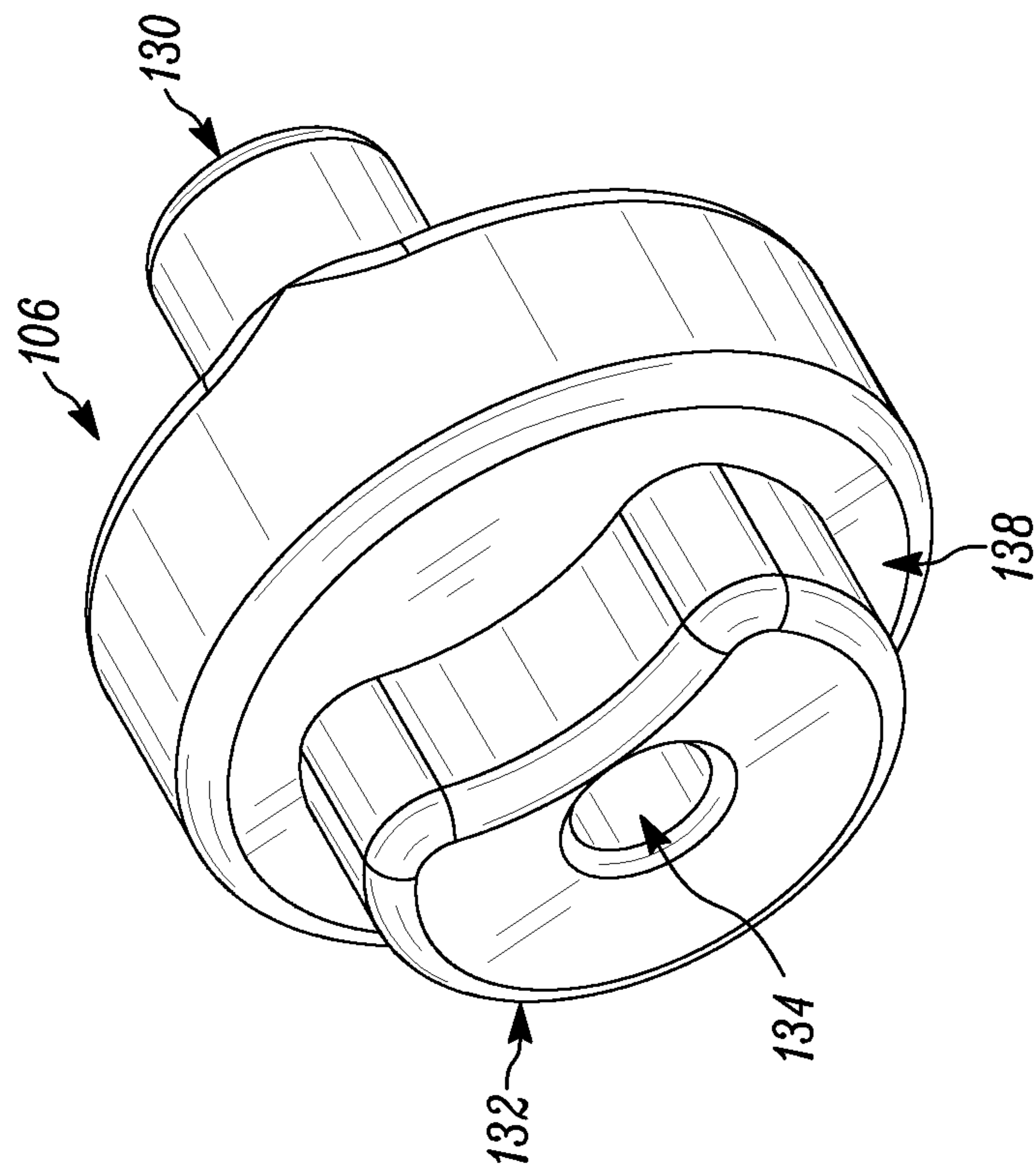
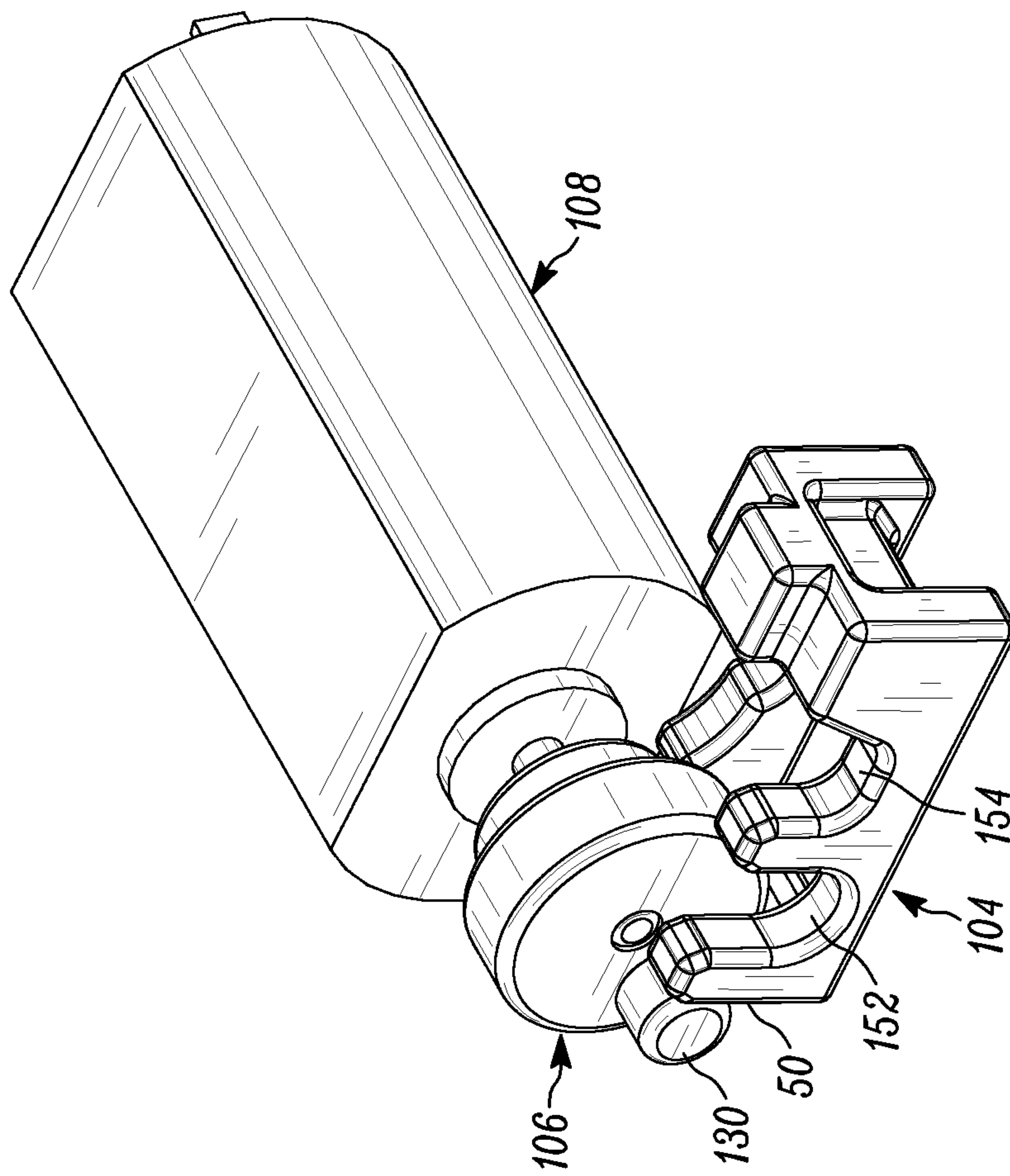
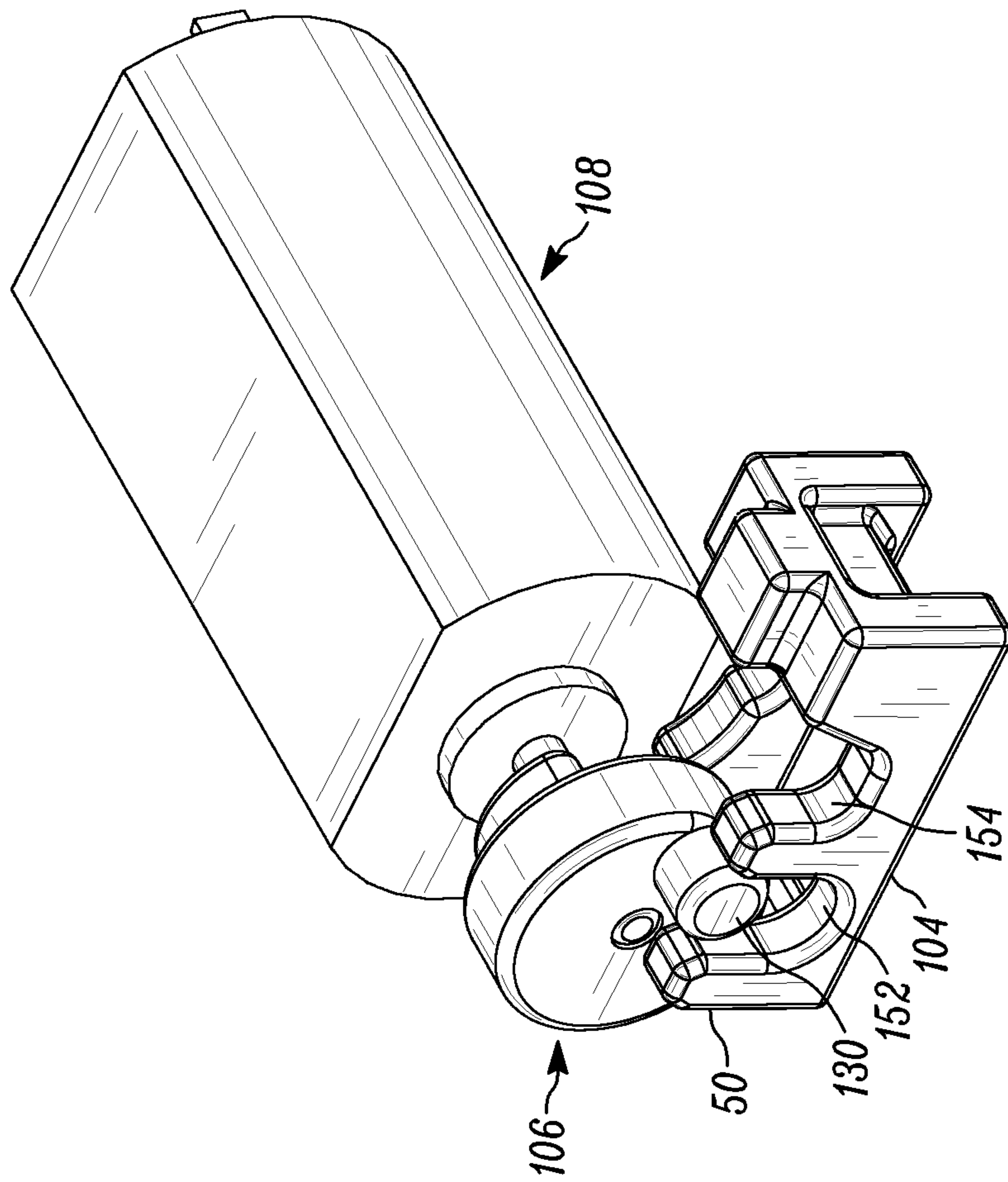


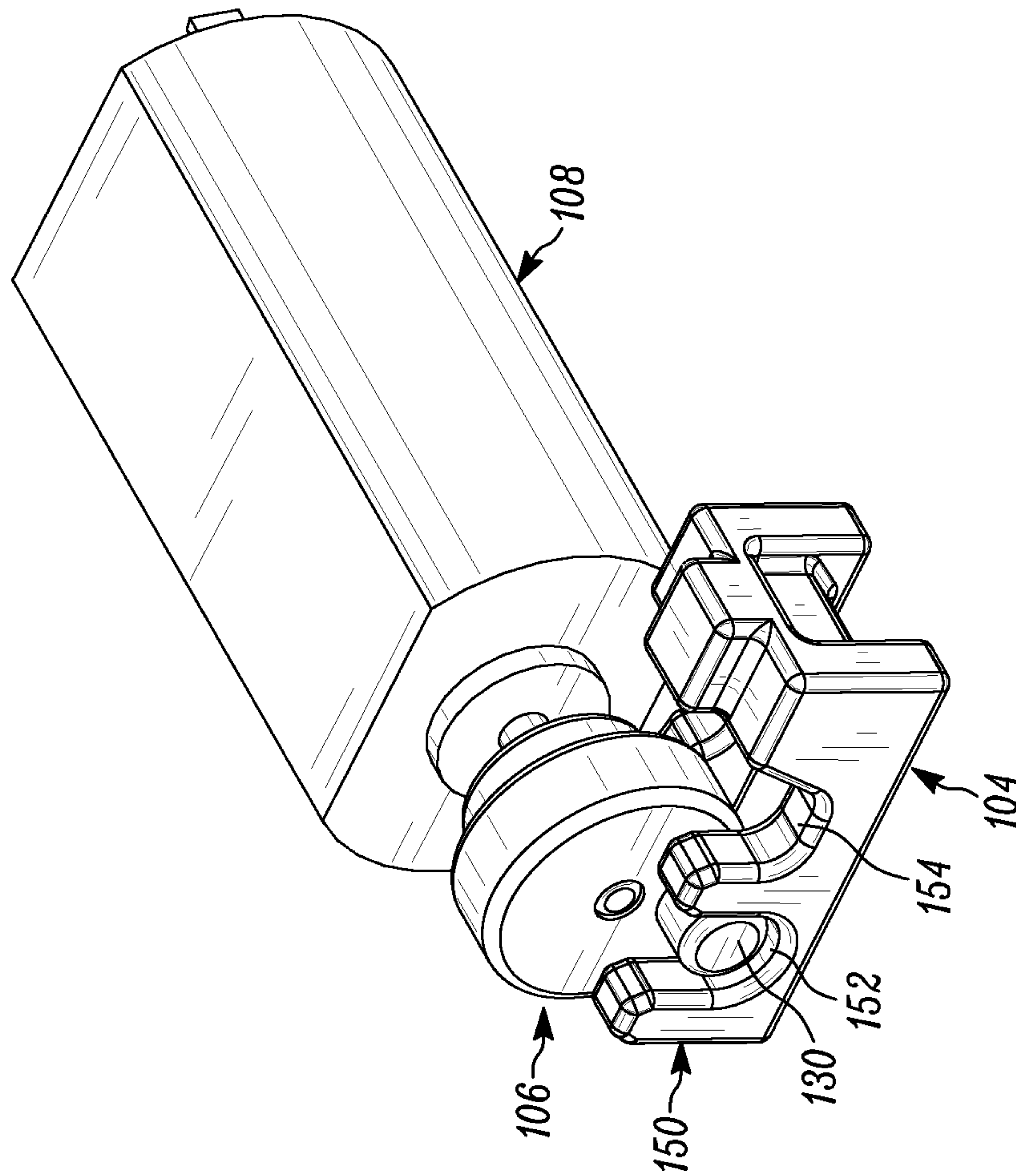
FIG. 16

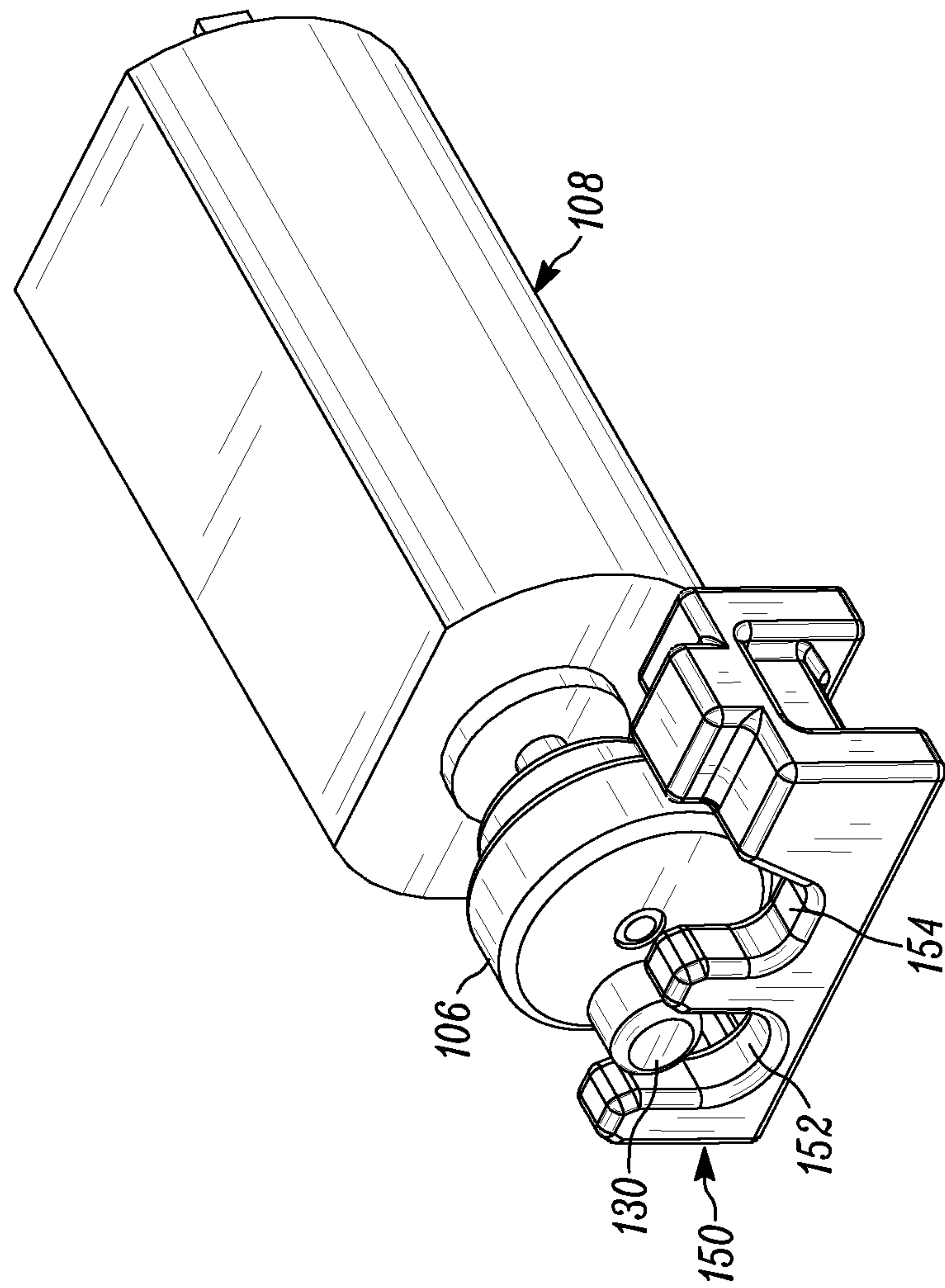
23/ 43**FIG. 17**

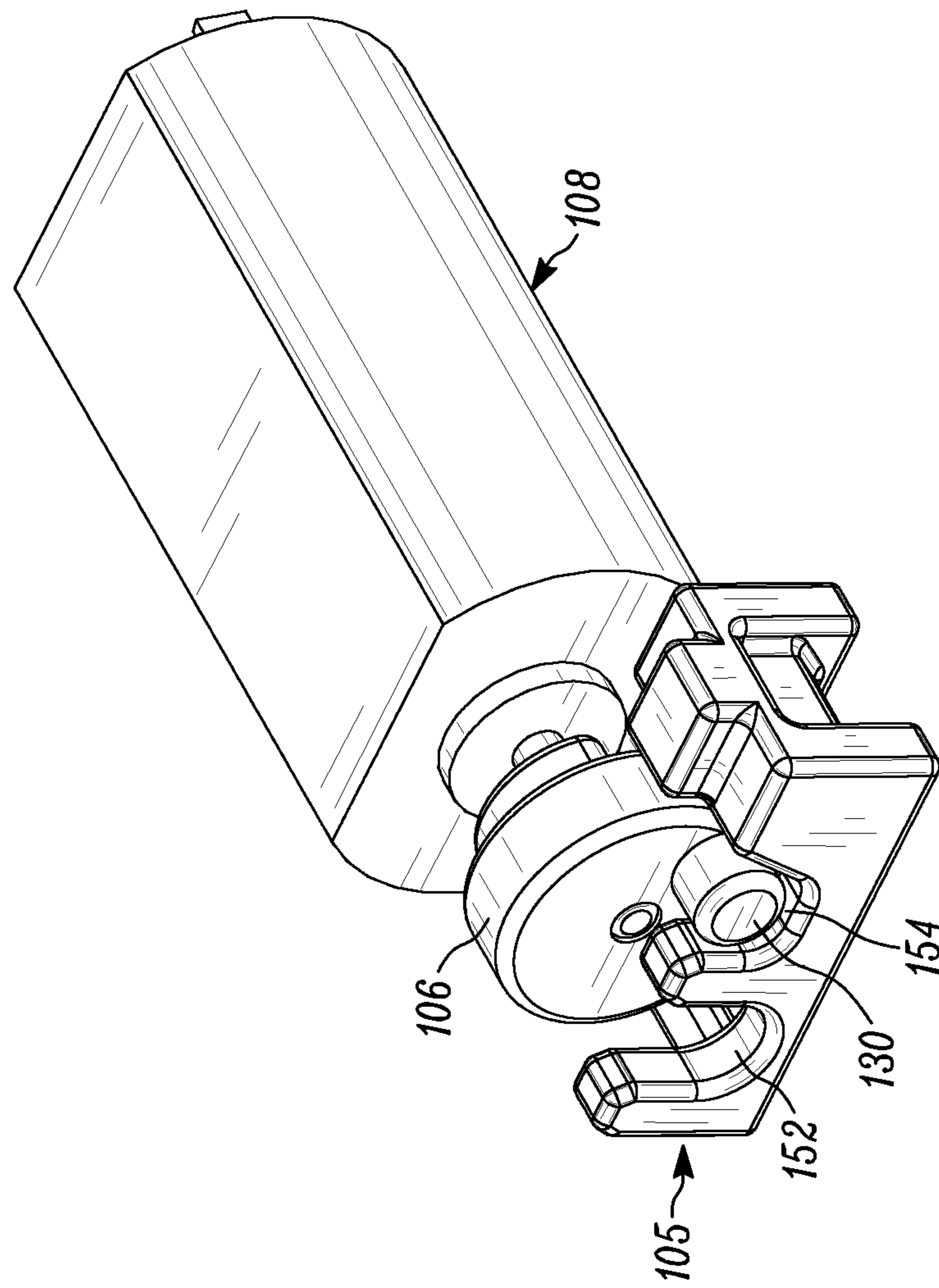
24/ 43**FIG. 18**

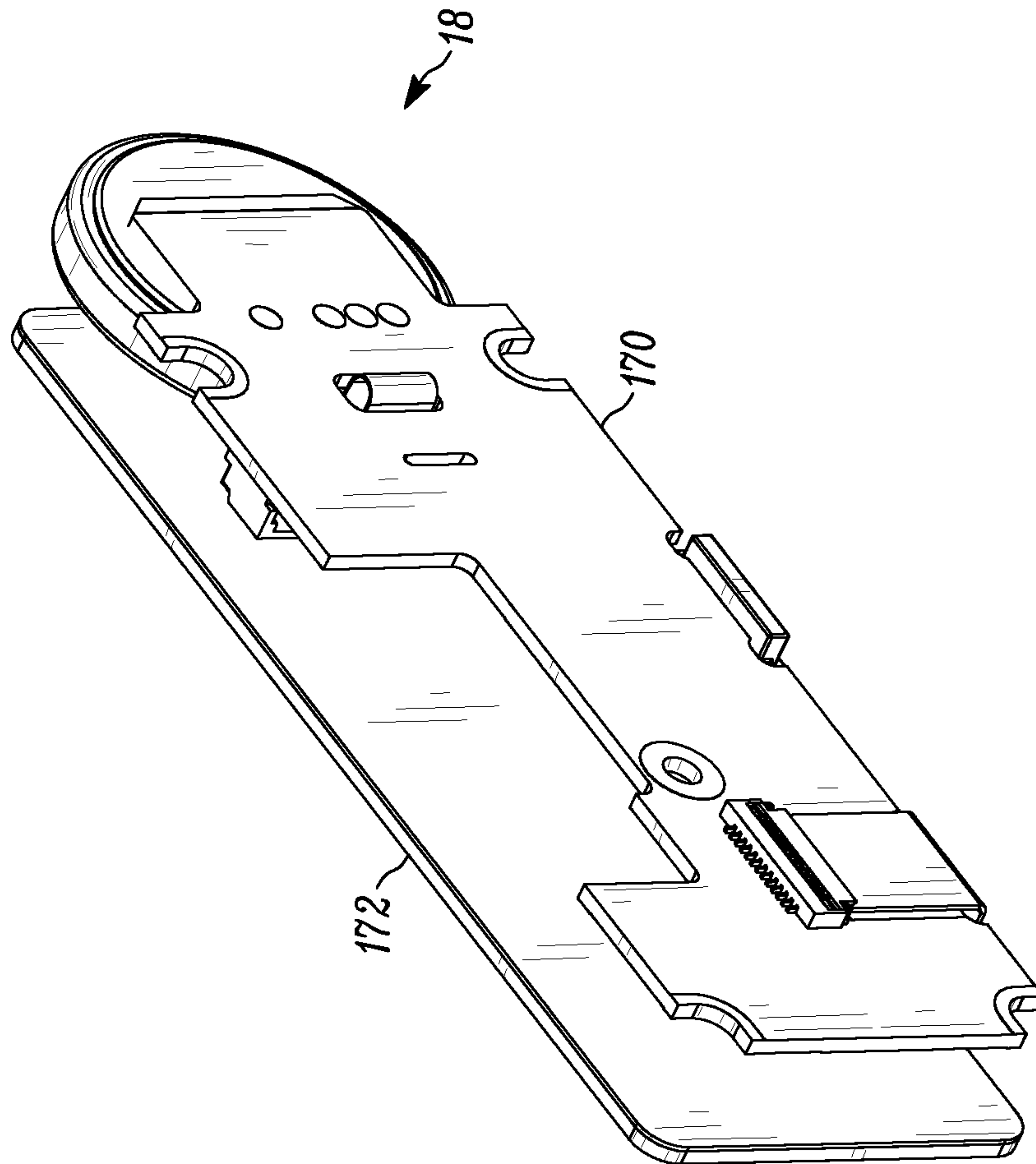
25 / 43**FIG. 19A**

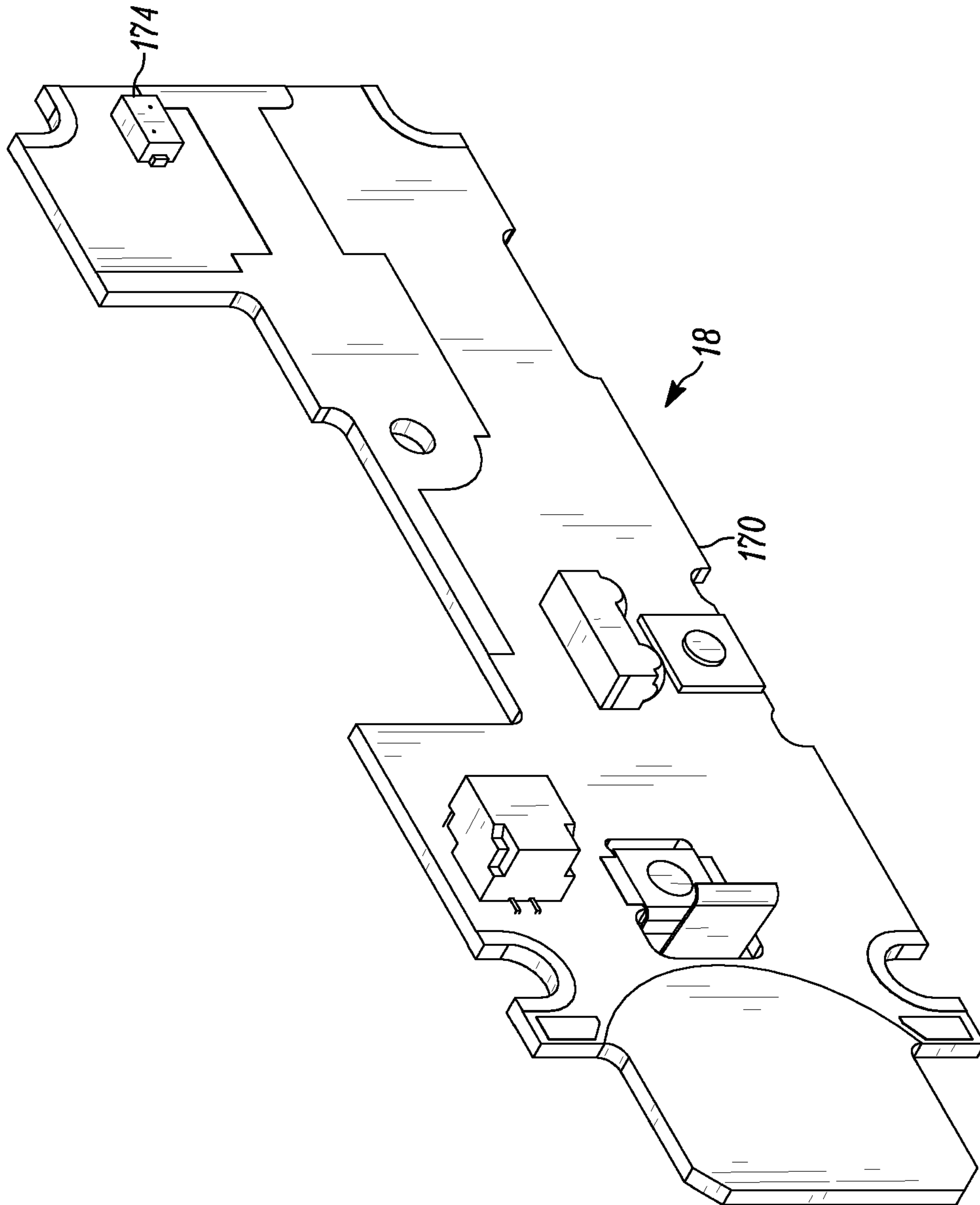
26 / 43**FIG. 19B**

27 / 43**FIG. 19C**

28/43**FIG. 19D**

29/43**FIG. 19E**

30/43**FIG. 20**

31/43**FIG. 21**

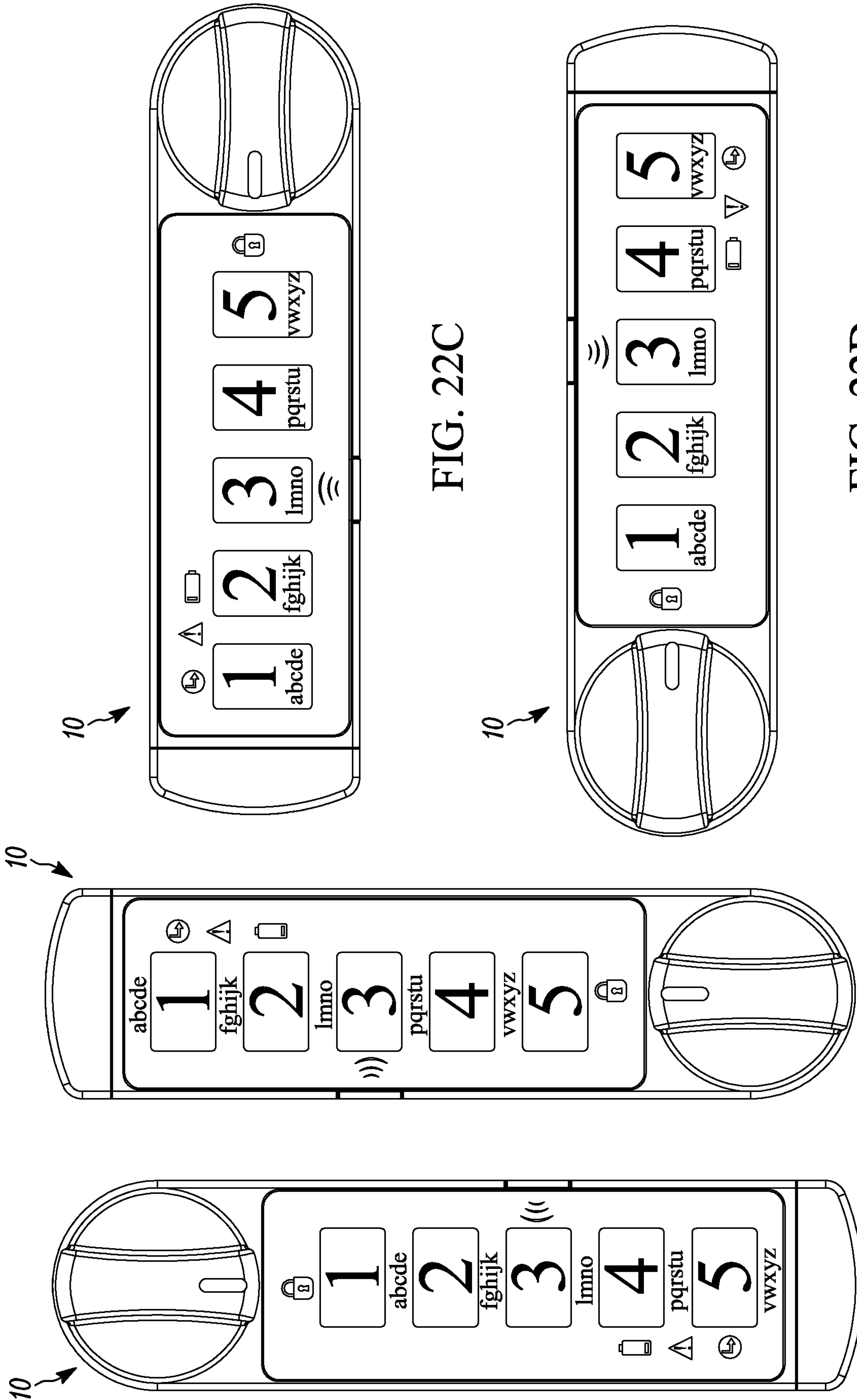
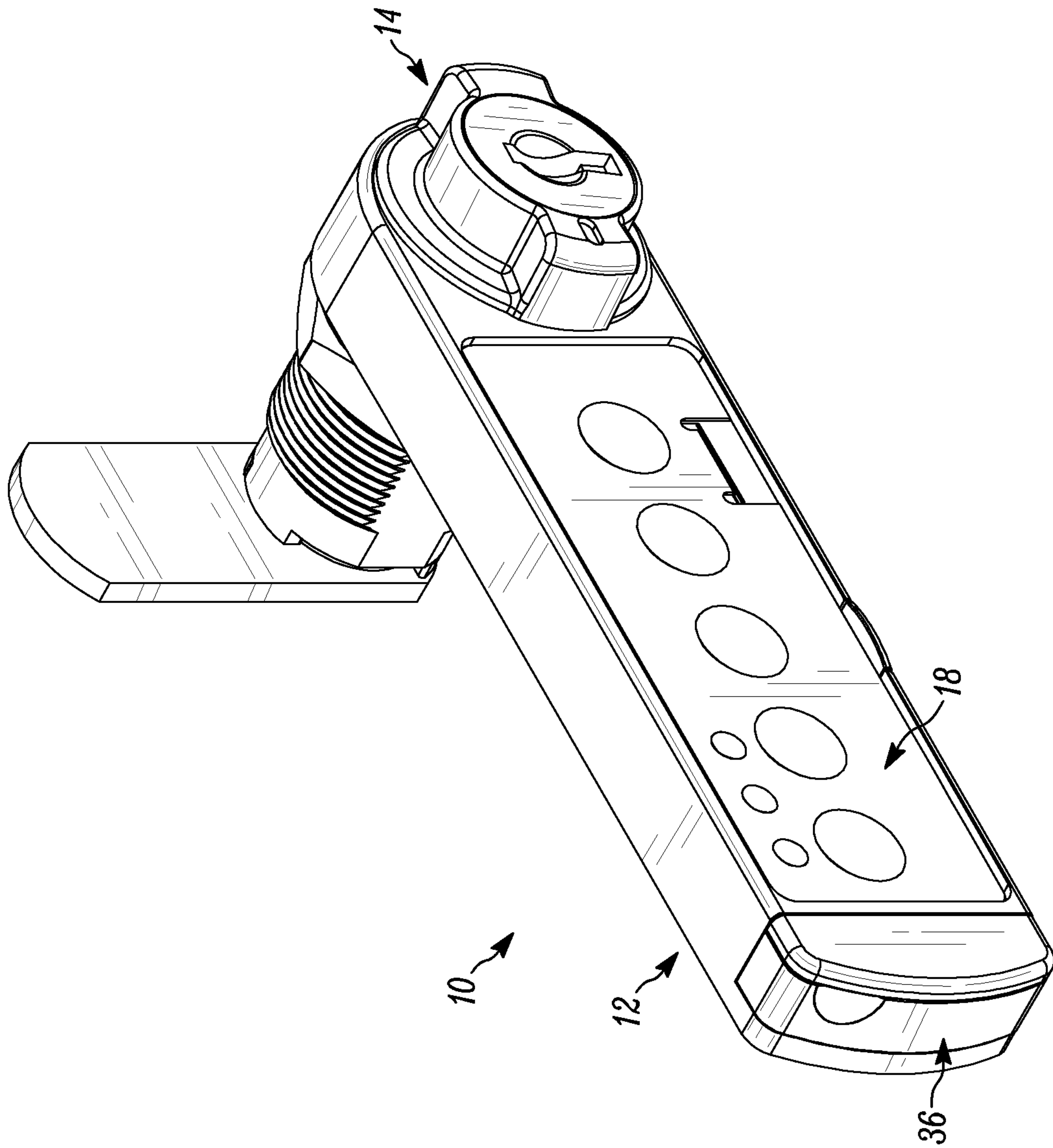


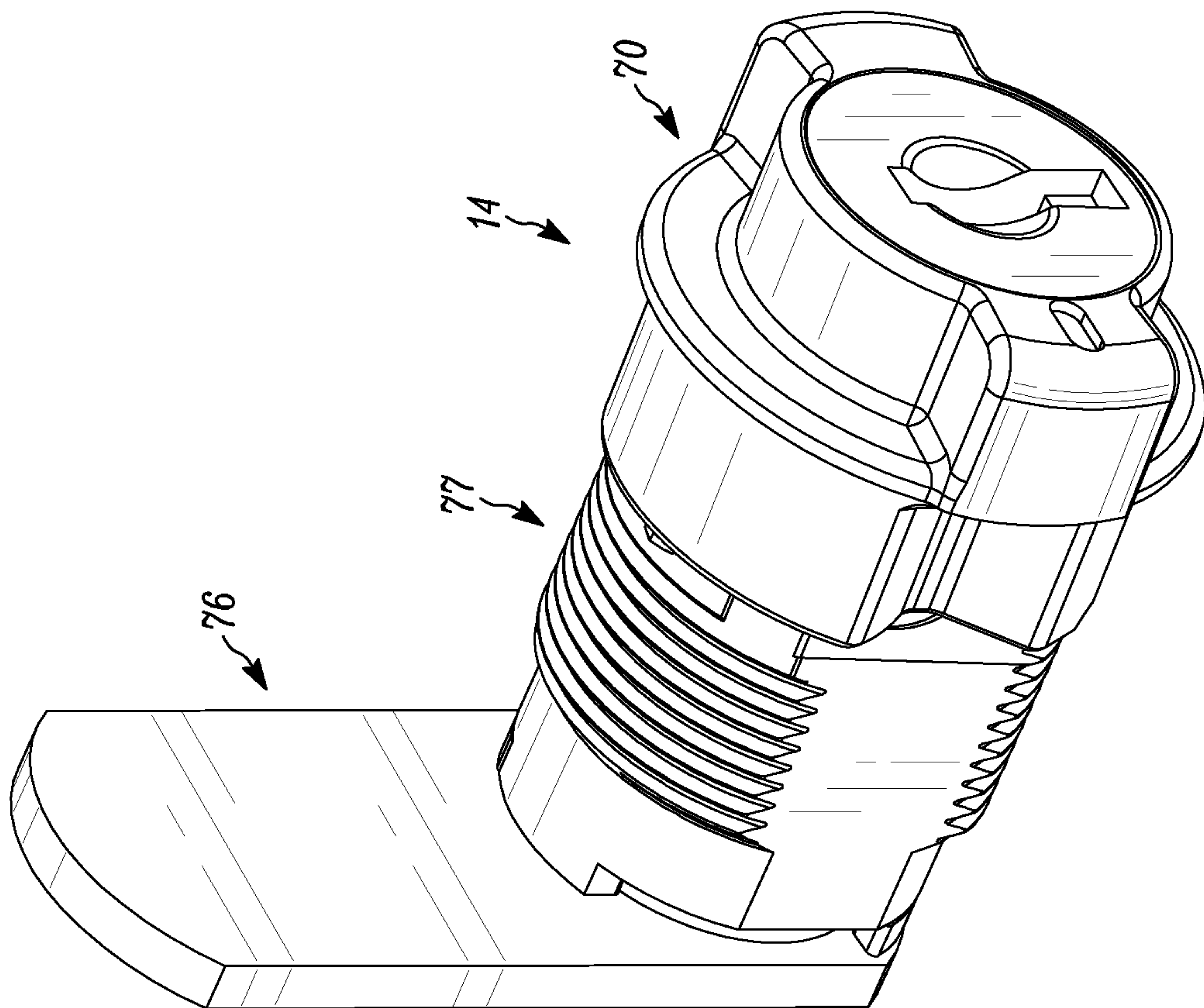
FIG. 22C

FIG. 22D

FIG. 22B

FIG. 22A

33/43**FIG. 23**

34/ 43**FIG. 24**

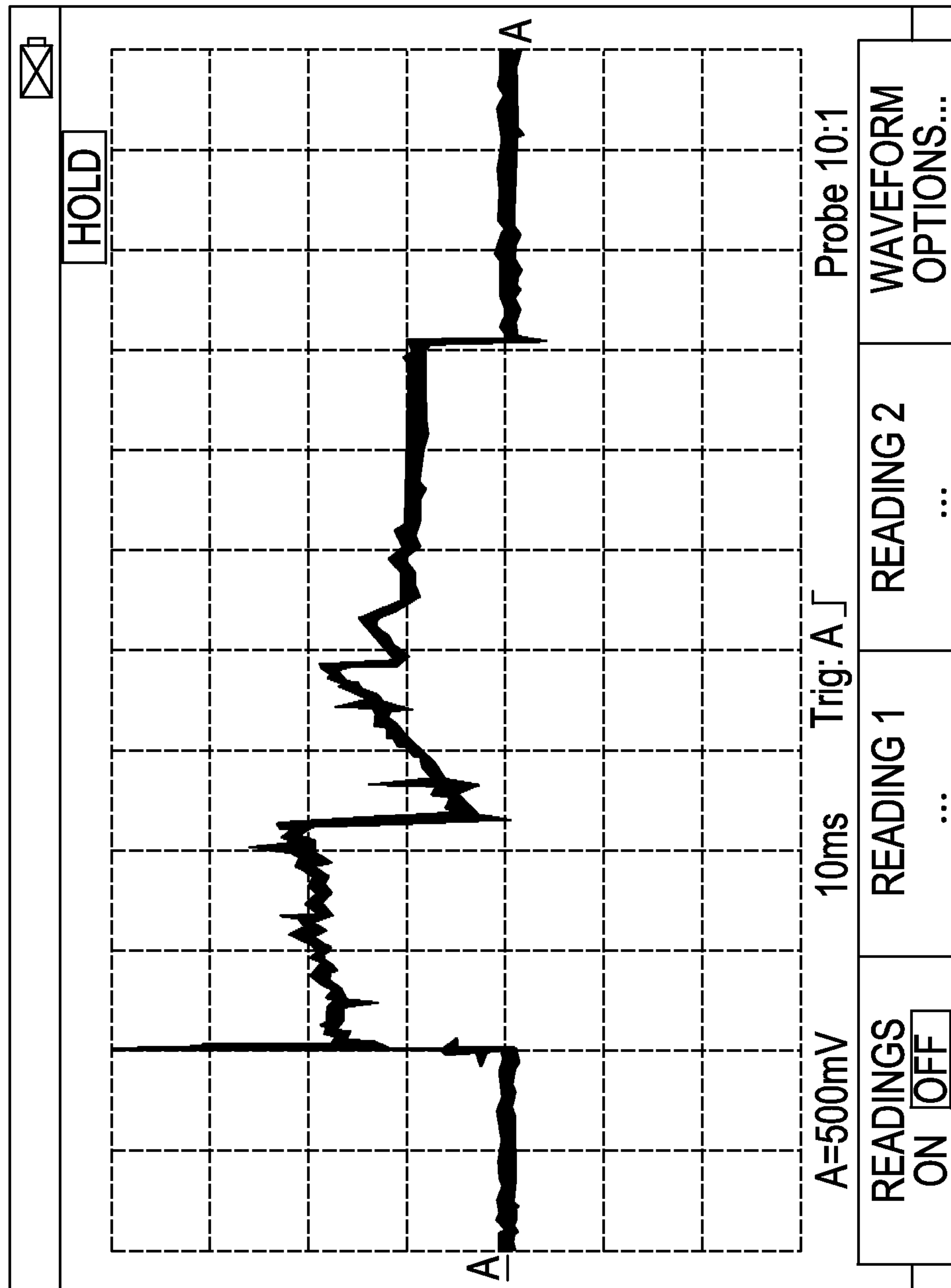


FIG. 25

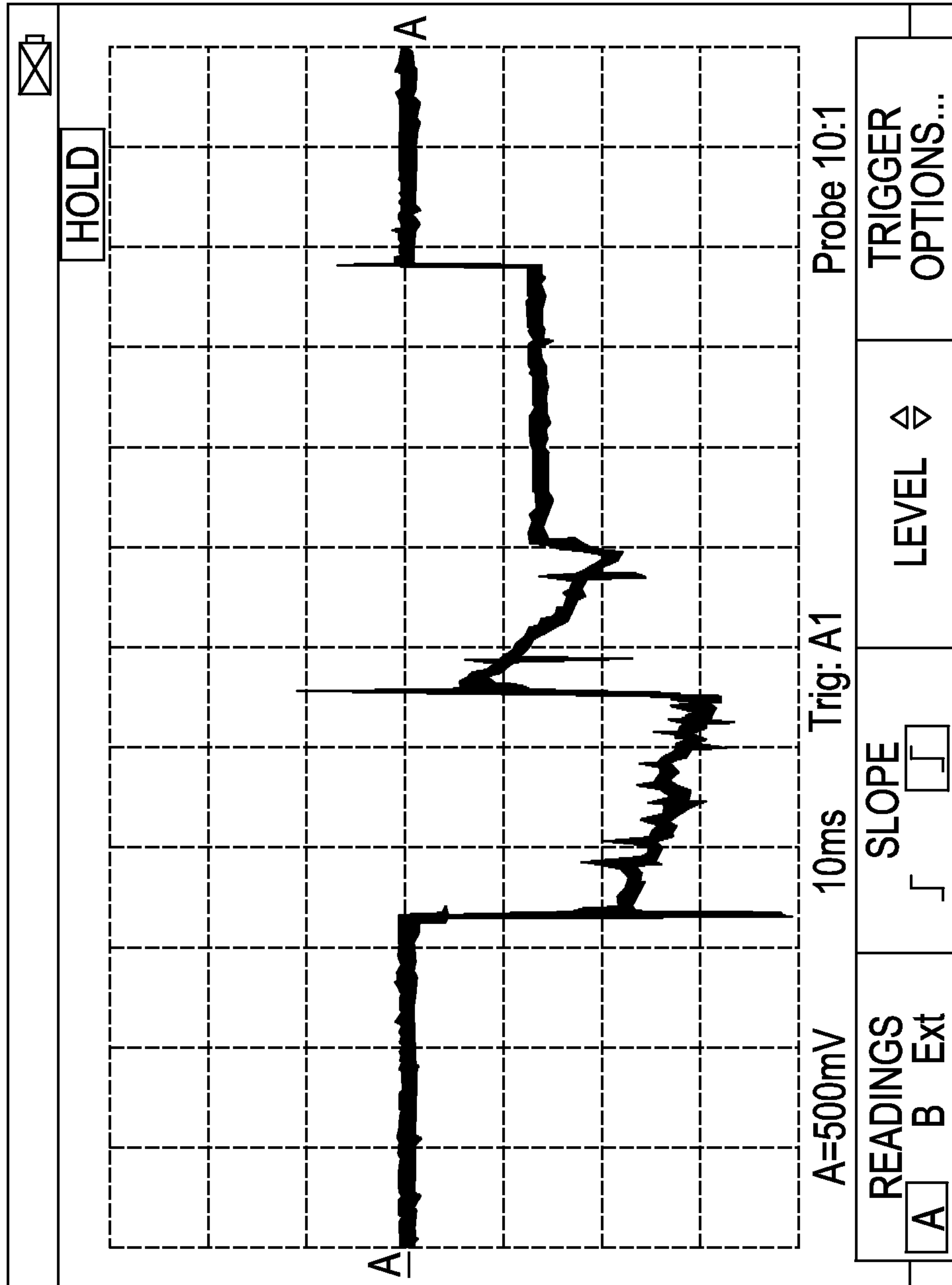


FIG. 26

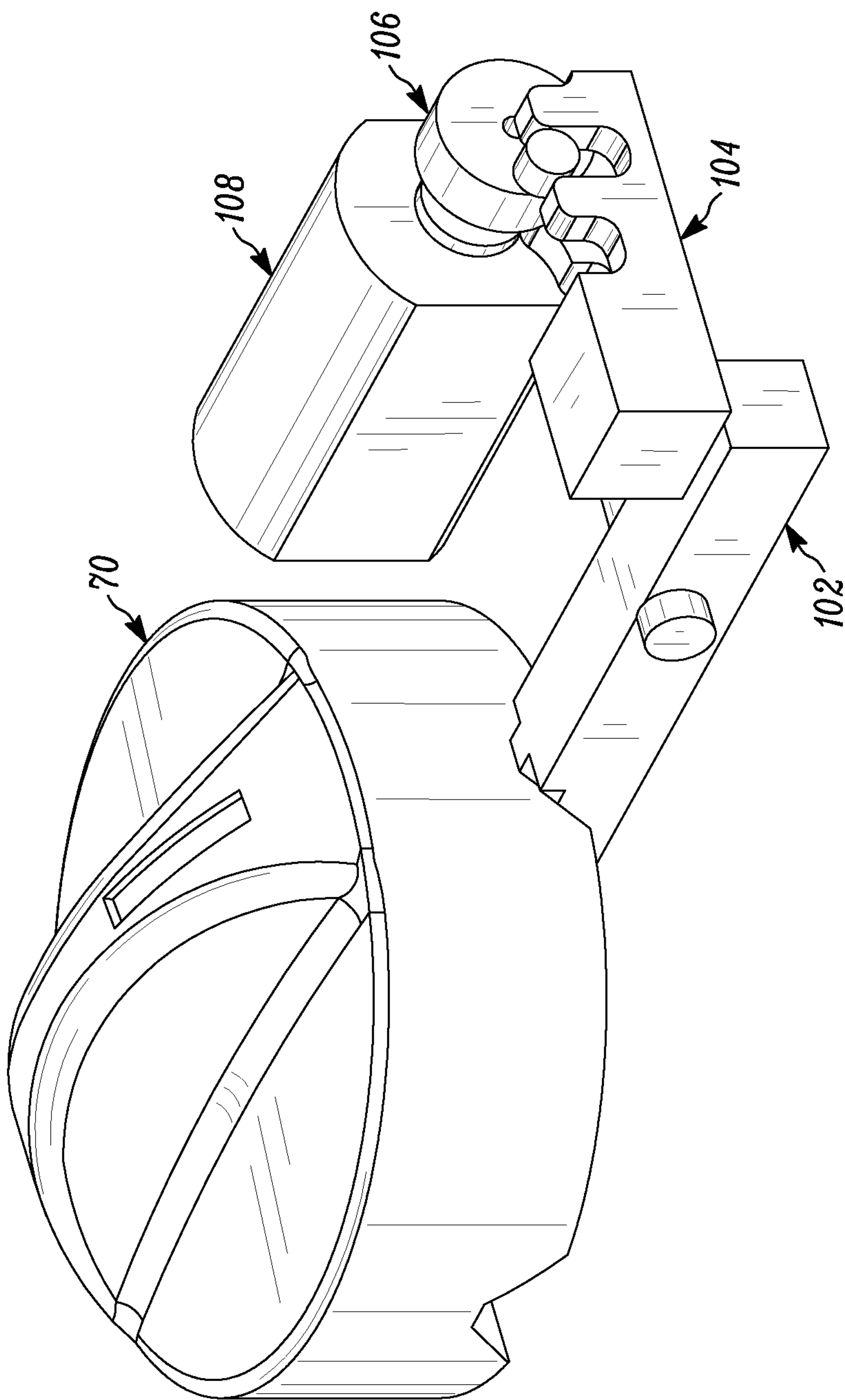


FIG. 27A

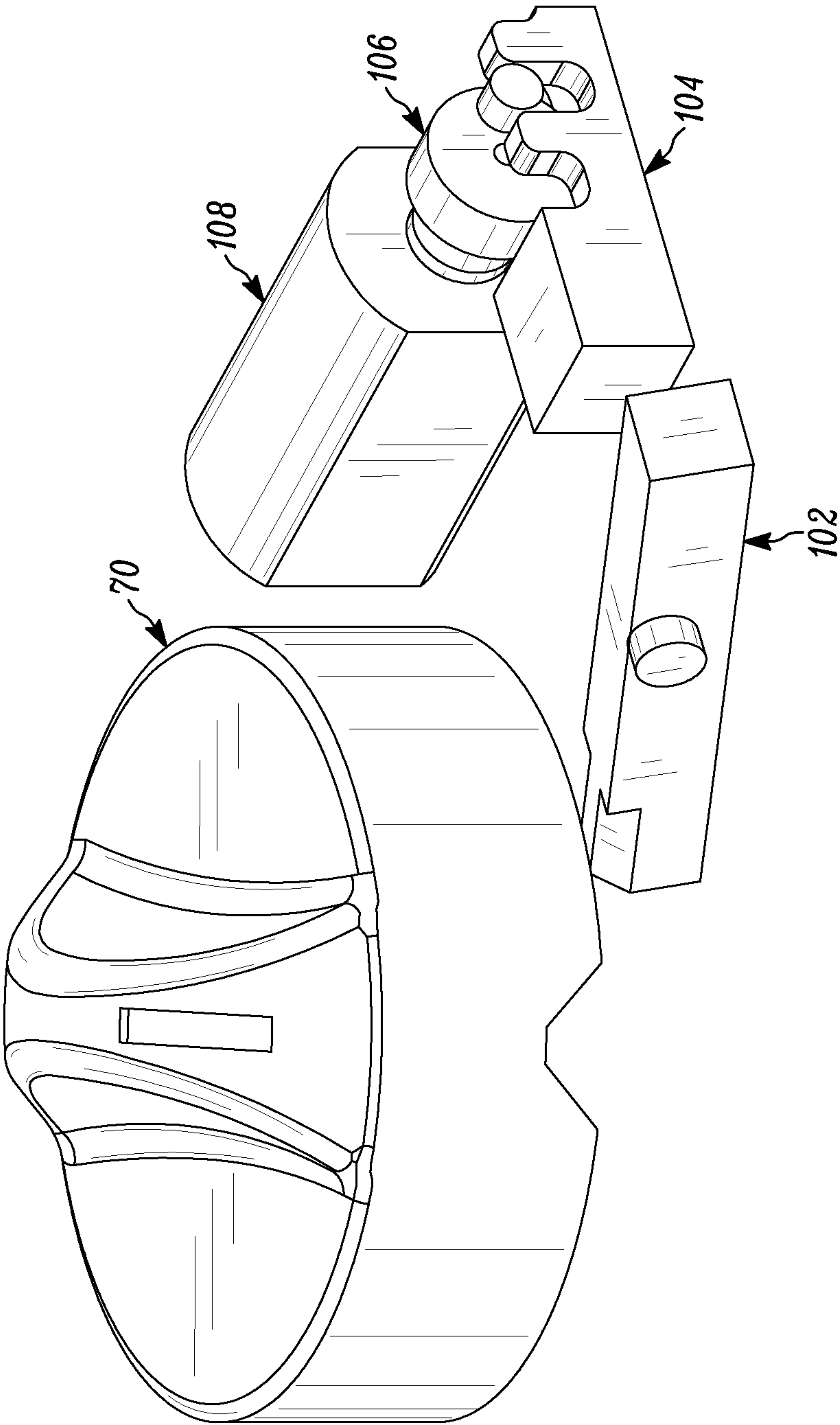
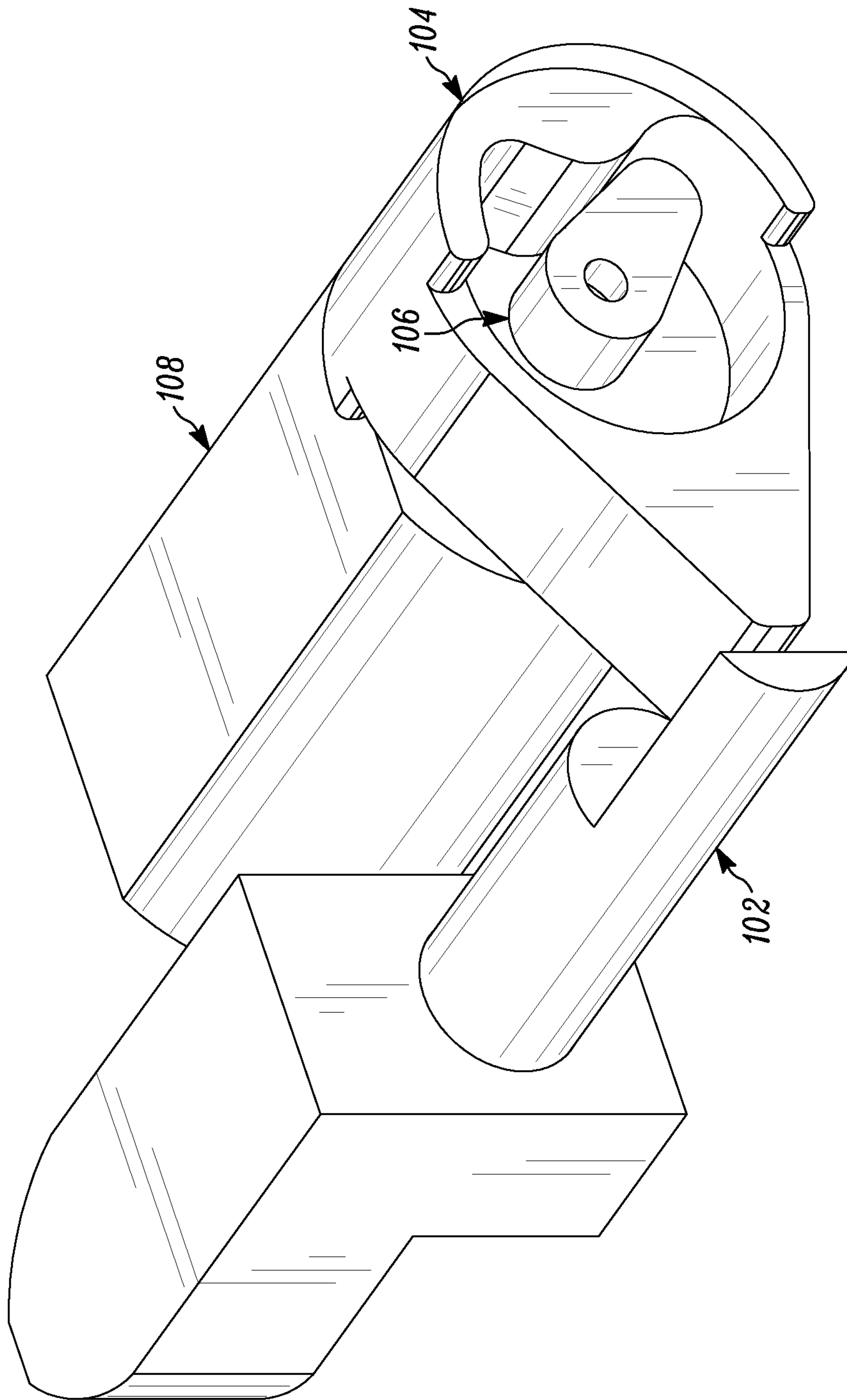
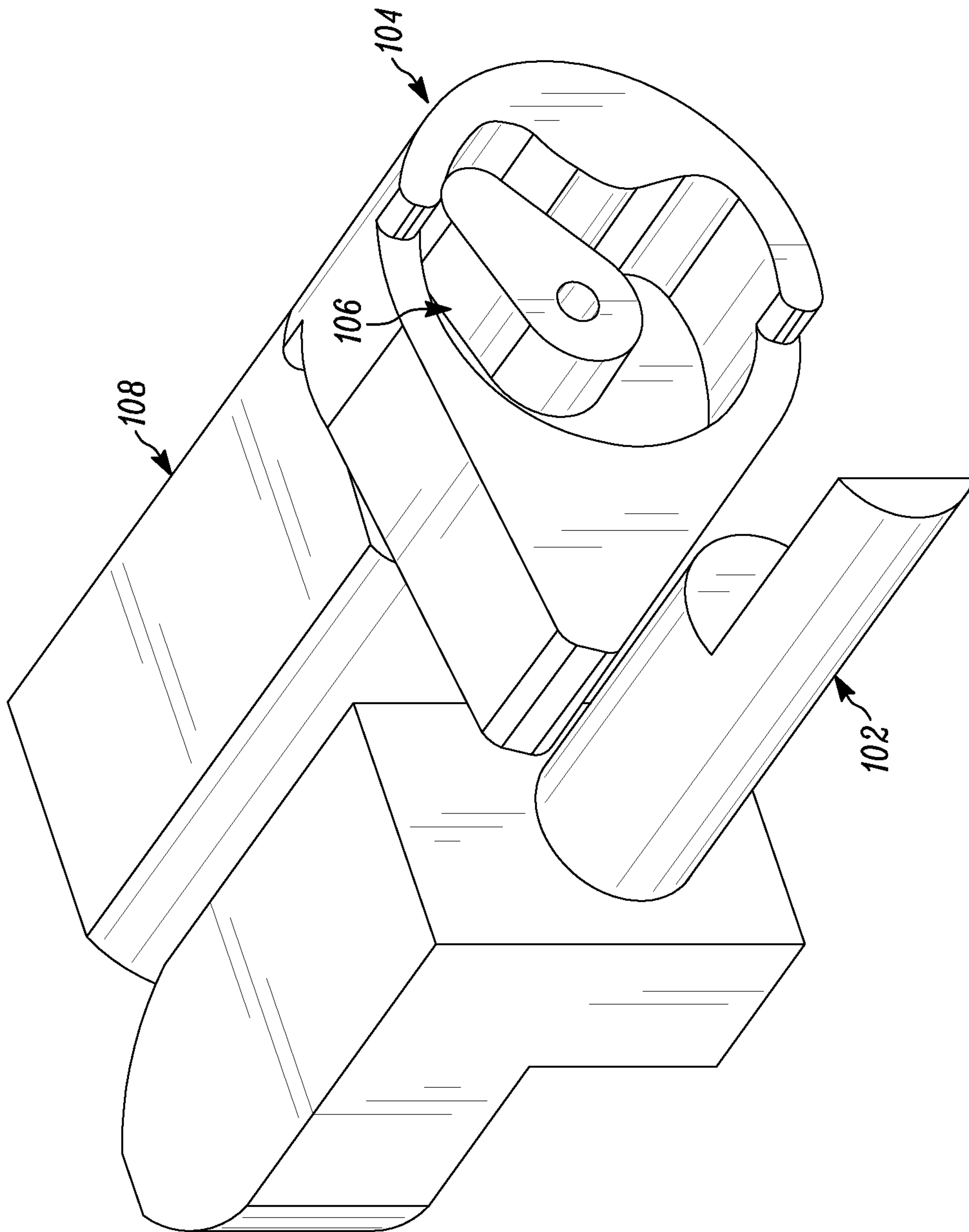
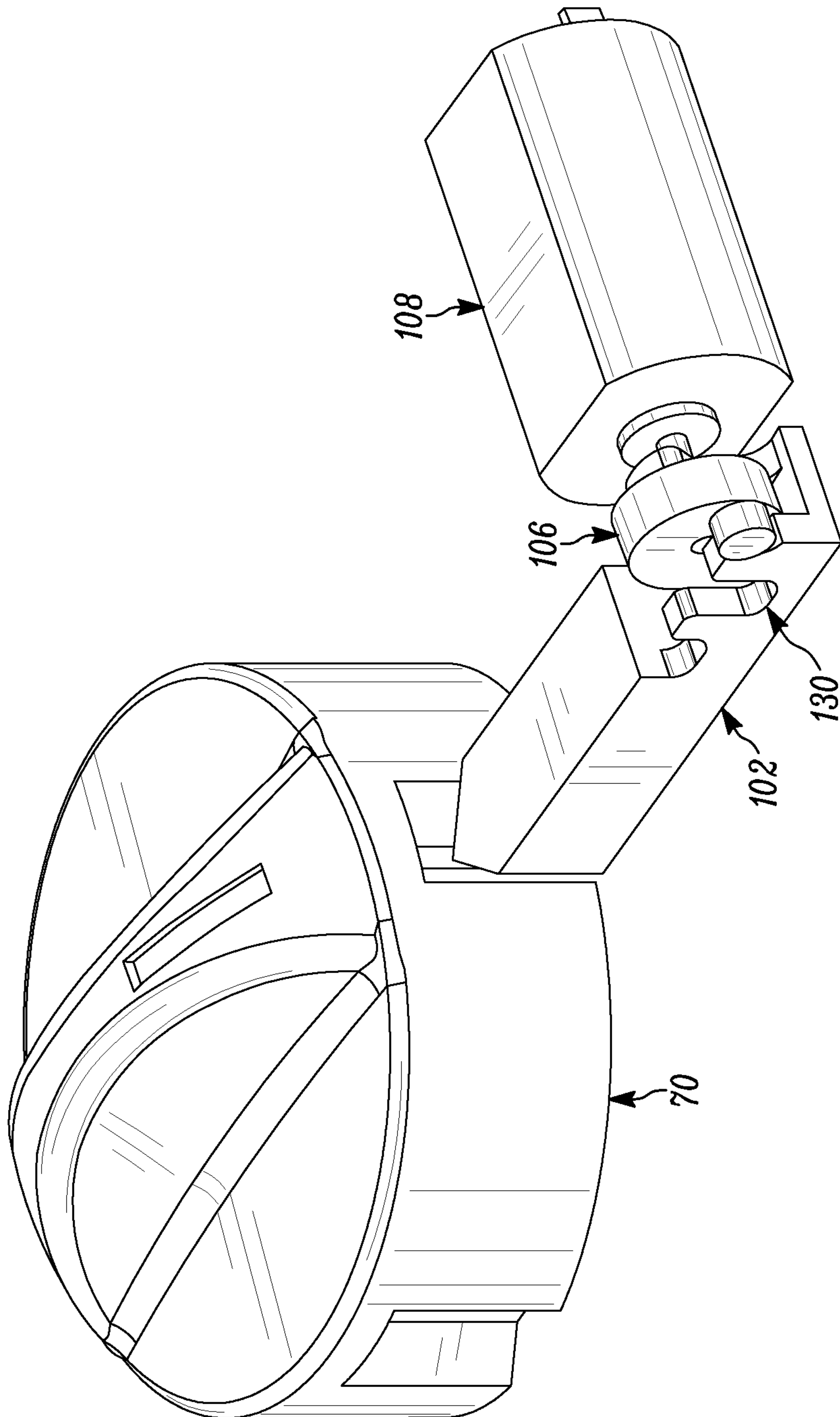


FIG. 27B

39/43**FIG. 28A**

40/ 43**FIG. 28B**

41/43**FIG. 29A**

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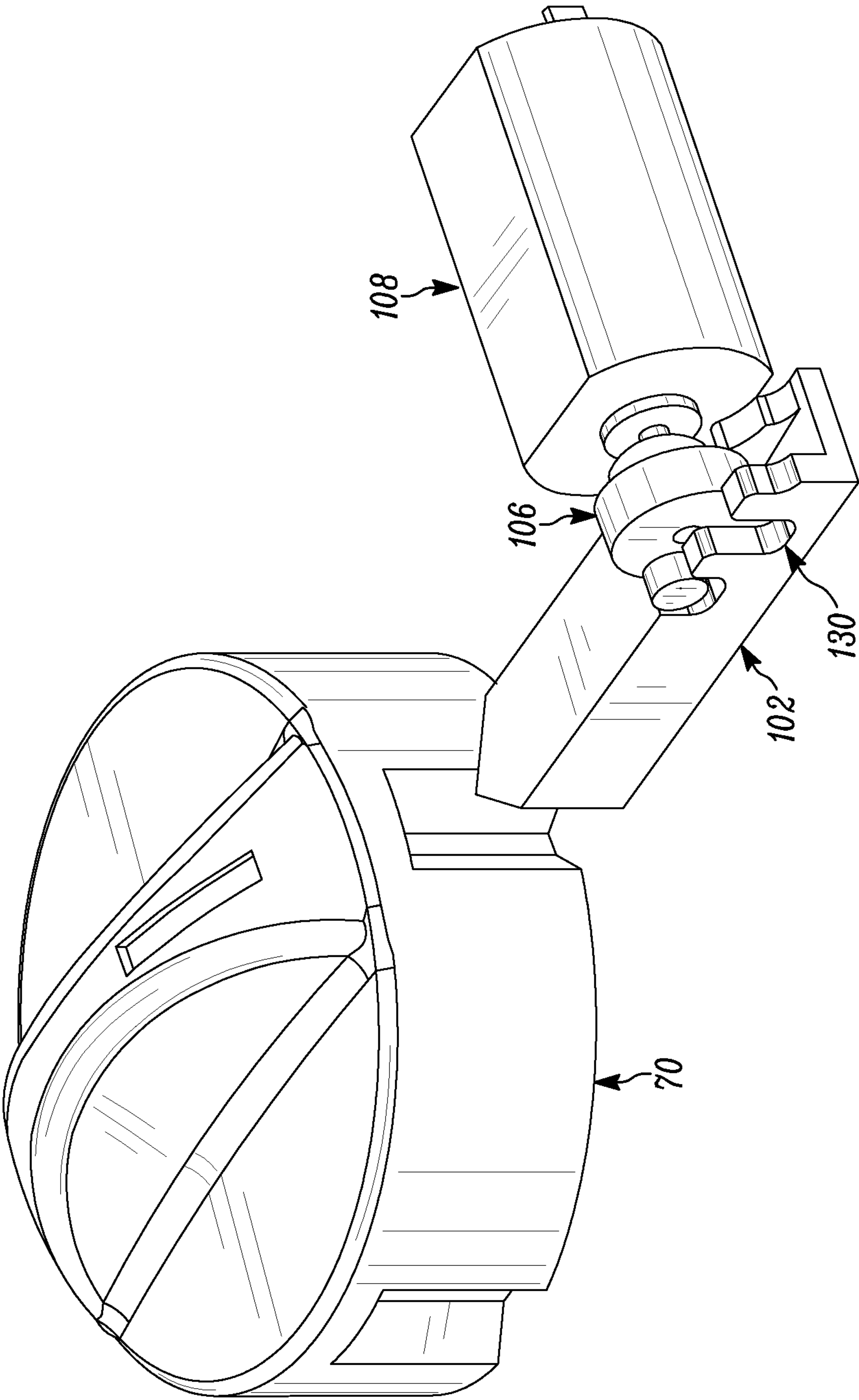
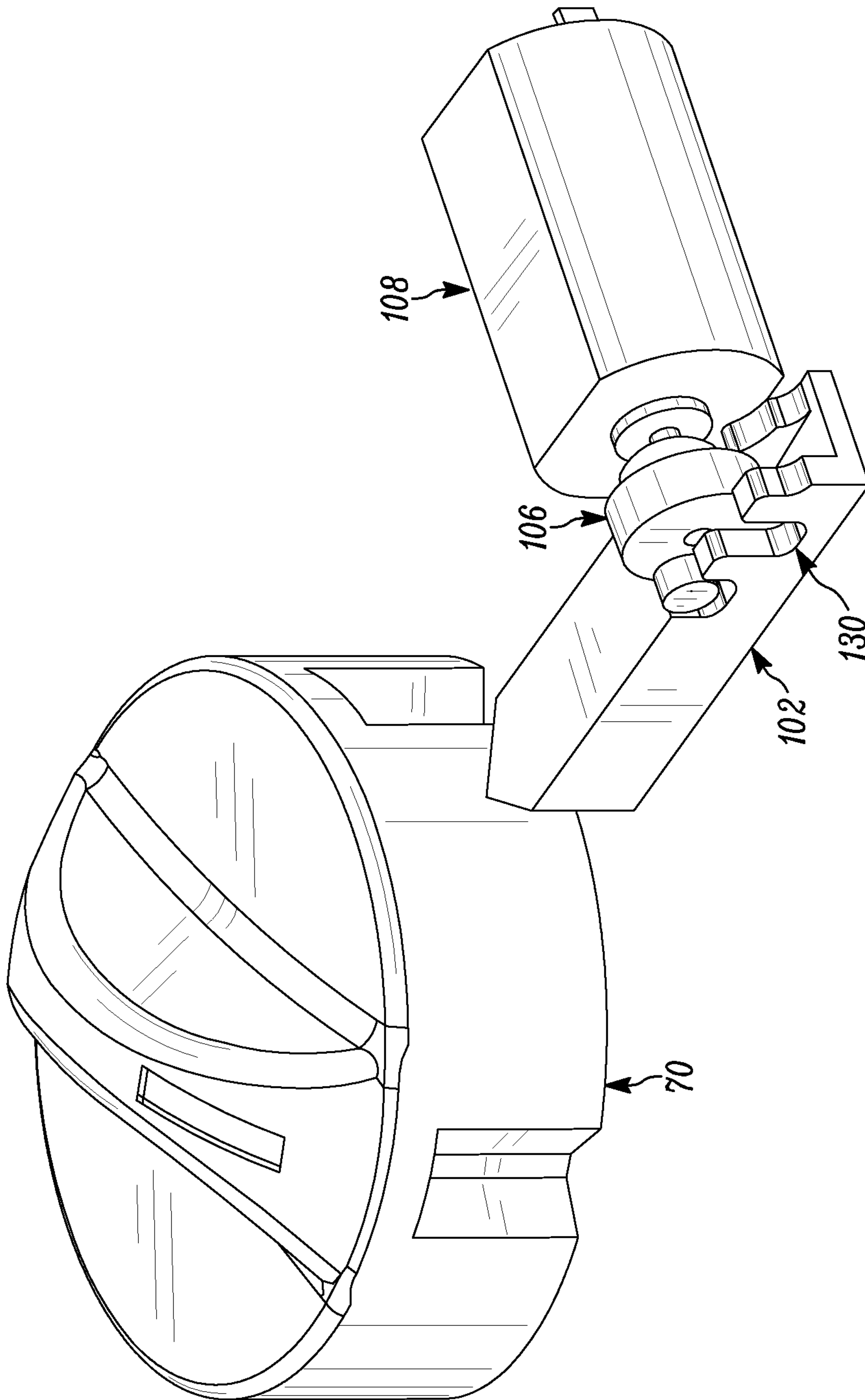


FIG. 29B

43/ 43**FIG. 29C**

