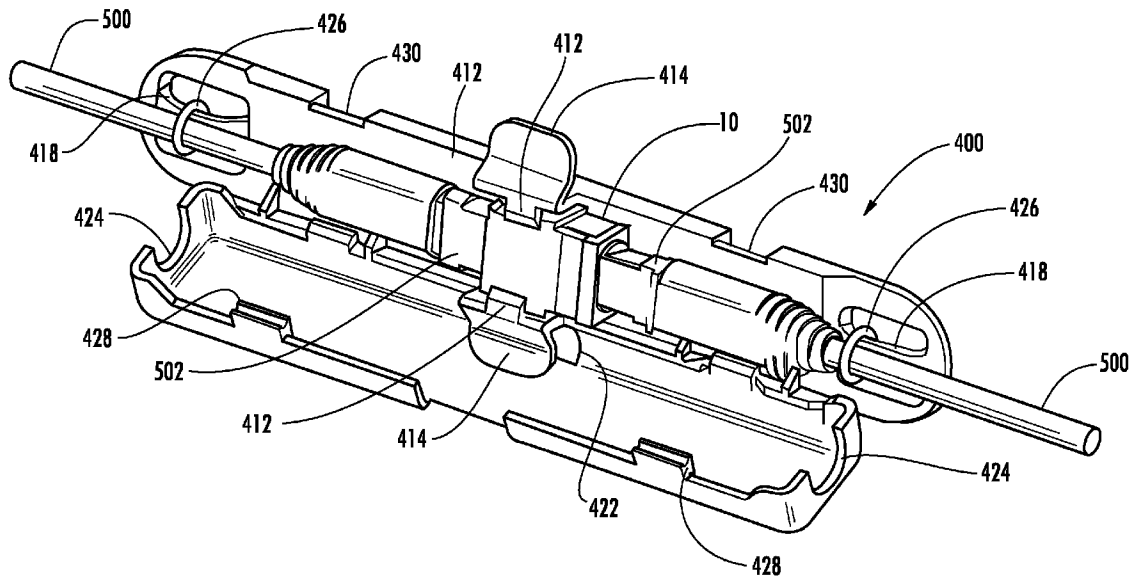




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(54) Title: FIBER OPTIC ADAPTER MOUNT



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

A fiber optic adapter mount is disclosed. The fiber optic adapter mount has receiving area for receiving an adapter (10), a retention feature (412, 414) and a mounting feature. The retention feature is configured to releasably retain the adapter in the receiving area. The mounting feature is for mounti the adapter mount to a surface.

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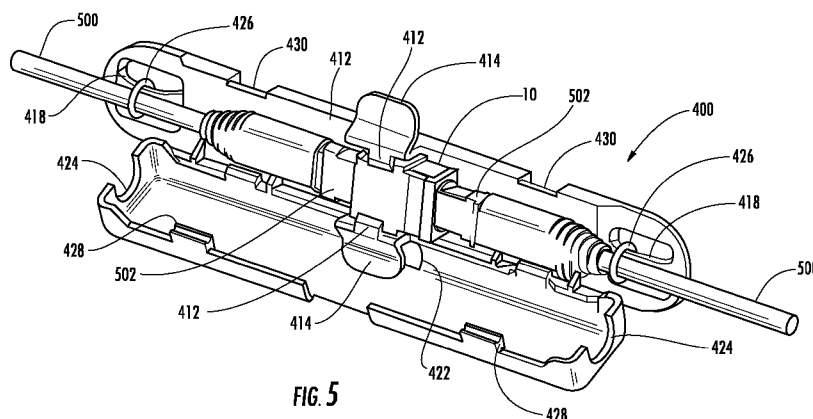


FIG. 5

(57) Abstract: A fiber optic adapter mount is disclosed. The fiber optic adapter mount has receiving area for receiving an adapter (10), a retention feature (412, 414) and a mounting feature. The retention feature is configured to releasably retain the adapter in the receiving area. The mounting feature is for mounting the adapter mount to a surface.

FIBER OPTIC ADAPTER MOUNT

BACKGROUND

Field of the Disclosure

[0002] The technology of the disclosure relates to mounts for single fiber and multiple fiber adapters to allow for the interconnection of connectorized fiber optic cables without requiring a fiber distribution terminal, and which may be positioned on a wall, in a channel, in a ceiling or beneath molding to facilitate routing of fiber optic cables to subscriber premises particularly in multiple dwelling units.

Technical Background

[0003] In the world of the ever-increasing need for broadband bandwidth optical cables have become the main part of telecommunication networks. Optical cables can transmit voice signals, data signals and video signals for very long distances with very high speed. Developments of optic telecommunication networks allow the connection of the end user directly to the optical fiber. This kind of network technology known as FTTH technology (fiber to the home) requires extending an "all optical" communication network closer to the subscribers. As a result such telecommunication networks include large number distribution points from a distribution cable to an end user or subscriber.

[0004] One of the key parts of the FTTH network is the last mile connection which often is an indoor installation. Different kind of buildings like multiple dwelling units and blocks of apartments require complicated cabling systems which might mean that there are many separated cables, each one to connect one subscriber premises.

Installation of many cables which provide the connection between a main distribution point (which usually is located in the basement or in another place of the building) and the end user may cause many problems with routing through the wall or levels of the building. As a result, such installations consume a lot of time and costs.

SUMMARY OF THE DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0005] Embodiments disclosed in the detailed description include a fiber optic adapter mount having a receiving area for receiving an adapter, a retention feature and a mounting feature. The retention feature is configured to releasably retain the adapter in the receiving area. The mounting feature is for mounting the adapter mount to a surface. One or more resilient walls which may flex to allow the adapter to be received in and/or removed from the receiving area. The retention feature may have at least one tab, which may extend from one of the one or more resilient walls.

[0006] The receiving area may be located in the enclosure. The enclosure may have a base and a cover and the cover may be attached to the base. The cover may be hingedly attached to the base allowing the cover to mate with the base and provide an open position and a closed position, and/or a partially open position. Access may be provided to an interior of the enclosure when the cover is in the open position. The enclosure may have a connecting feature allowing the fiber optic adapter to be connected to another fiber optic adapter. The connecting feature may include a protrusion and /or a groove. The protrusion and groove may be complementary such that the protrusion of the fiber optic adapter inserts into the groove of another fiber optic adapter to releasably connect the fiber optic adapter to the another fiber optic adapter.

[0007] Other embodiments in the detailed description include a fiber optic adapter mount having an enclosure with an interior, a receiving area, a retention feature and a mounting feature. The receiving area is in the interior of the enclosure receiving an adapter. The receiving area may have resilient walls. The retention feature may extend from the resilient walls and be configured to releasably retain the adapter in the receiving area. The mounting feature may be for mounting the adapter mount to a surface. The enclosure may include a base and a cover, and the cover may be hingedly movable with the base from an open position to a closed position. An actuator may

extend from one of the resilient walls. Pressure applied to the actuator may force the resilient wall away from another resilient wall allowing the adapter to be removed from the receiving area. One or more tie down lance may be formed in the base and configured to receive a restraining device for restraining fiber optic cable.

[0008] Other embodiments in the detailed description include an array of fiber optic adapter mounts including a plurality of fiber optic adapters mounts. Each fiber optic adapter mount in the array may include an enclosure, a receiving area, and a connecting feature. The enclosure may have an interior, a first section and a second section. The receiving area may be for receiving a fiber optic adapter in the interior. The connecting feature may allow the fiber optic adapter mounts to be releasably connected to each other. The first section or the second section of the enclosure of at least one of the fiber optic adapters may be removable to allow access to an interior of the enclosure of the fiber optic adapter without disconnecting the fiber optic adapter from the array.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0009] **FIG. 1** is a schematic diagram of a perspective view of an exemplary fiber optic adapter with mounting flanges incorporated into and formed as a part of the adapter body;

[0010] **FIG. 2** is a schematic diagram of a perspective view of an exemplary adapter mount in the form of a mounting clip with a fiber optic adapter removably fastened thereto;

[0011] **FIG. 3** is a schematic diagram of a perspective view of an exemplary adapter mount in the form of a mounting clip and separate snap-on cover with a fiber optic adapter removably fastened thereto;

[0012] **FIG. 4** is a schematic diagram of a perspective view of an exemplary adapter mount having a mounting clip assembly and an integrated living hinge cover, with the cover in an open position with a fiber optic adapter removably fastened to the mounting clip assembly;

[0013] **FIG. 5** is a schematic diagram of a perspective view of adapter mount of **FIG. 4** with two fiber optic cables, each connectorized with fiber optic connectors and

with the fiber optic connectors inserted into each end of the adapter to interconnect the fiber optic connectors;

[0014] **FIG. 6** is a schematic diagram of a perspective view of adapter mount of **FIG. 4** with the cover in a closed position and the fiber optic cables extending from opposite ends of the adapter mount;

[0015] **FIG. 7** is a schematic diagram of a perspective view of an exemplary fiber optic adapter mount with complementary grooves and protrusions;

[0016] **FIG. 8** is a schematic diagram of perspective views of two fiber optic adapter mounts of **FIG. 7**; and

[0017] **FIG. 9** is a schematic diagram of a perspective view of an array of fiber optic mounts of **FIG. 7**.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0018] Embodiments disclosed in the detailed description include a mount for a fiber optic adapter. The adapter may be a single fiber adapter or a multiple fiber adapter. Additionally, the mount may be integral to and formed as part of the adapter body, or, alternatively, may be a separate component to, on or in which the adapter may be removably fastened. Further, the mount may include an enclosure providing environmental protection for the adapter and connectors of the fiber optic cable connected thereto. The adapter may be configured to receive one or more fiber optic connectors attached to the ends of fiber optic cables to interconnect the optical fibers of the fiber optic cables.

[0019] The fiber optic adapter may be one that provides for multi-fiber connector to multi-fiber connector interconnection, such as, for example, an MTP connector, or OptiTIP connector, as commercially available from Corning Cable Systems LLC of Hickory, NC, or other types of multi-fiber adapters. Additionally or alternatively, the fiber optic adapter may be one that provides for single fiber connector to single fiber connector interconnection, for example an SC connector, LC connector, or OptiTAP connector, as commercially available from Corning Cable Systems LLC of Hickory, NC, or other types of single fiber adapters.

[0020] Embodiments disclosed in the detailed description include a fiber optic adapter mount having a receiving area for receiving an adapter, a retention feature and a mounting feature. The retention feature is configured to releasably retain the adapter in the receiving area. The mounting feature is for mounting the adapter mount to a surface. One or more resilient walls which may flex to allow the adapter to be received in and/or removed from the receiving area. The retention feature may have at least one tab, which may extend from one of the one or more resilient walls.

[0021] The receiving area may be located in the enclosure. The enclosure may have a base and a cover and the cover may be attached to the base. The cover may be hingedly attached to the base allowing the cover to mate with the base and provide an open position and a closed position, and/or a partially open position. Access may be provided to an interior of the enclosure when the cover is in the open position. The enclosure may have a connecting feature allowing the fiber optic adapter to be connected to another fiber optic adapter. The connecting feature may include a protrusion and /or a groove. The protrusion and groove may be complementary such that the protrusion of the fiber optic adapter inserts into the groove of another fiber optic adapter to releasably connect the fiber optic adapter to the another fiber optic adapter.

[0022] Other embodiments in the detailed description include a fiber optic adapter mount having an enclosure with an interior, a receiving area, a retention feature and a mounting feature. The receiving area is in the interior of the enclosure is receiving an adapter. The receiving area may have resilient walls. The retention feature may extend from the resilient walls and be configured to releasably retain the adapter in the receiving area. The mounting feature may be for mounting the adapter mount to a surface. The enclosure may include a base and a cover, and the cover may be hingedly movable with the base from an open position to a closed position. An actuator may extend from one of the resilient walls. Pressure applied to the actuator may force the resilient wall away from another resilient wall allowing the adapter to be removed from the receiving area. One or more tie down lances may be formed in the base and configured to receive a restraining device for restraining fiber optic cable.

[0023] Other embodiments in the detailed description include an array of fiber optic adapter mounts including a plurality of fiber optic adapters mounts. Each fiber optic adapter mount in the array may include an enclosure, a receiving area, and a

connecting feature. The enclosure may have an interior, a first section and a second section. The receiving area may be for receiving a fiber optic adapter in the interior. The connecting feature may allow the fiber optic adapter mounts to be releasably connected to each other. The first section or the second section of the enclosure of at least one of the fiber optic adapters may be removable to allow access to an interior of the enclosure of the fiber optic adapter without disconnecting the fiber optic adapter from the array.

[0024] In this regard, **FIGS. 1-6** illustrate exemplary embodiments of fiber optic adapter mount **100**, **200**, **300** and **400**. **FIG. 1** is a schematic diagram of a perspective elevation view of the exemplary adapter mount **100**. Adapter mount **100** is integral with the adapter **10** with a mounting feature **12**, which may be in the form of mounting flanges incorporated into and formed as a part of the adapter body **14**. The adapter has a first end **16** and an opposing second end **18** for receiving fiber optic connectors attached to the ends of fiber optic cables (not shown in **FIG. 1**) to interconnect the fiber optic cables. Two mounting flanges **12** with mounting apertures **20** are shown in **FIG. 1**, but it should be understood that any number of mounting flanges **12** may be included. A screw, rivet, push-pin, plunger, or any other type or form of fastener may be inserted through the mounting apertures **20** on the mounting feature **12** to attach the adapter **10** to a mounting surface, as non-limiting examples, on a wall, in a channel, in a ceiling or beneath molding.

[0025] **FIG. 2** is a schematic diagram of a front, perspective elevation view of an exemplary adapter mount **200**. In **FIG. 2**, the adapter mount **200** is the form of a mounting clip **202** with a receiving area **204** and a mounting feature **206**. The mounting feature **206**, which may be in the form of mounting flanges which may have mounting apertures **208**. The receiving area **204** may be at least partially defined by resilient walls **210**, each of such resilient walls **210** having a releasable retention feature **212** in the form of a tab **212**. Although **FIG. 2** illustrates the retention feature **212** as a tab, any suitable type of releasable retention feature may be used. When an adapter **10** is inserted into the receiving area **204** of the adapter mount **200**, the pressure of the adapter **10** on the retention tabs **212** forces the retention tabs **212** and, thereby, the resilient walls **210** to spread apart. When the retention tabs **212** and the resilient walls **210** spread apart a sufficient width, the adapter **10** is allowed to seat within the receiving area **204**. The

resiliency of the resilient walls **210** forces the resilient walls **210** back toward each other and the retention tabs **212** position over the adapter **10** removably retaining the adapter **10** in the receiving area **204** of the adapter mount **200**. To remove the adapter **10**, the adapter **10** is forced up against the retention tabs **212**. When the pressure from the adapter **10** is sufficient enough to force the resilient walls **210** apart, the retention tabs **212** separate enough to not be over the adapter **10**, the adapter may be lifted from the receiving area **204** and removed from the adapter mount **200**. A screw, rivet, push-pin, plunger, or any other type or form of fastener may be inserted through the mounting apertures **208** on the mounting feature **206** to attach the adapter **10** to a mounting surface, as non-limiting examples, on a wall, in a channel, in a ceiling or beneath molding.

[0026] **FIG. 3.** is a schematic diagram of a front, perspective elevation view of an exemplary adapter mount **300**. The adapter mount **300** has a snap-on cover **302** with mounting feature **304**, which may be in the form of mounting flanges, or the like, with mounting apertures **308**. The snap-on cover **302** has resilient walls **306** which spread apart when the cover **302** is placed over the adapter **10**, or alternatively, when the adapter **10** is inserted into the cover **10**. Once the cover **302** is over the adapter **10**, the resiliency of the resilient walls **306** applies pressure against the adapter **10** and, thereby, provides for the adapter **10** to friction-fit or pressure-fit into the cover **302**. In this manner, the adapter **20** is removably retained by the cover **302**. Alternatively or additionally, the adapter mount **300** may have one or more retention tabs similar to the retention tabs **212** described with respect to **FIG. 2**, and the adapter **10** may be removably retained in the adapter mount **300** by the retention tabs **212**. A screw, rivet, push-pin, plunger, or any other type or form of fastener may be inserted through the mounting apertures **308** on the mounting feature **304** to attach the adapter mount **300** to a mounting surface, as non-limiting examples, on a wall, in a channel, in a ceiling or beneath molding.

[0027] **FIGS 4-6** illustrate and exemplary embodiment of a adapter mount **400** having an enclosure **402** and an integrated living hinge cover **404**. In this regard a living hinge **420** may connect the cover **404** to a base **406**. Instead of a living hinge **420** some other type of hinge or fastener may be used. The cover **404** may be in an open position, a closed position or intermediate or transitioning between an open or a closed

position being in a partially open position. When the cover **404** is in an open position or a partially open position access may be provided to an interior **403** of the enclosure **402**. **FIG.4** illustrates the adapter mount **400** with the cover **404** in an open position with the fiber optic adapter **10** removably retained in the enclosure **402**. The enclosure **402** has a receiving area **408** on the base **406**. The receiving area **408** may be at least partially defined by resilient walls **410**, each of such resilient walls **410** having one or more retention tabs **412**. When an adapter **10** is inserted into the receiving area **408**, the pressure of the adapter **10** on the retention tabs **412** forces the retention tabs **412** and, thereby, the resilient walls **410** to spread apart. When the retention tabs **412** and the resilient walls **410** spread apart a sufficient width, the adapter **10** is allowed to seat within the receiving area **408**. The resiliency of the resilient walls **410** forces the resilient walls **410** back toward each other and the retention tabs **412** position over the adapter **10** removably retaining the adapter **10** in the receiving area **408**. To remove the adapter **10**, the adapter is forced up against the retention tabs **412**. When the pressure from the adapter **10** is sufficient enough to force the resilient walls **410** apart, the retention tabs **412** separate enough to not be over the adapter **10**, the adapter **10** may be lifted from the receiving area **408** and removed from the adapter mount **400**. Alternatively or additionally, one or more actuators **414** may extend from the resilient walls **410**. In this regard, pressure may be manually applied to the actuators **414** which acts to force apart the resilient walls **410** and, thereby, the retention tabs **412**. In this manner, the actuators **414** may be used to insert and/or remove the adapter **10** from the receiving area **408**. The base **406** may have a mounting feature **416**, which may be in the form of mounting apertures. A screw, rivet, push-pin, plunger, or any other type or form of fastener may be inserted through the mounting apertures **416** to attach the adapter mount **400** to a mounting surface, as non-limiting examples, on a wall, in a channel, in a ceiling or beneath molding.

[0028] Continuing with reference to **FIG. 4** and, also, now to **FIG. 5**, the adapter mount **400** is illustrated with two fiber optic cables **500** having connectors **502** installed in the adapter mount **400** with the connectors **502** received by the adapter **10** at each end thereof. The base **406** has one or more tie down lances **418** formed therein and configured to receive a restraining device for the fiber optic cable. Restraining devices such as tie wraps **426** or other types of restraining device may inserted around the tie

down lances **418** may be used to restrain fiber optic cable **500** to the base **406** and to provide strain relief for the cables **500**. The cover **404** pivots on one or more the living hinges **420** to close on the base **406** (see **FIG. 6**). The cover **404** has actuator cutouts **422** aligned with the actuators **414** such that when the cover **404** is closed onto the base **406** the actuators **414** fit through the actuator cutouts **422**. Additionally, the cover **404** has a cable cutout **424** at each end that aligns with the fiber optic cables **500** extending from the adapter mount **400** and, thereby, allows for the ingress and egress of the cables when the cover **404** is closed on the base **406**. One or more fastening tabs **428** on the cover **404** mate with slots **430** on the base **406** when the cover **404** is closed.

[0029] **FIG. 6** illustrates the adapter mount **400** with the cover **404** in the closed position and with the fiber optic cables **500** extending from opposite ends of the adapter mount **400** through the cable cutouts **424**. The cover **404** is joined to the base **406** with the fastening tabs **428** inserted into the respective slots **430** to releasably retain the cover **404** in the closed position. The actuators **414** are shown extending through the actuator cutouts **422**. The fastening tabs **428** are sufficiently resilient such that when pressure is applied to the cover **404** the fastening tabs **428** to release from the slots **430** allowing the cover **404** to pivot on the living hinges **420** and move to the open position.

[0030] **FIGS. 7, 8 and 9** illustrate embodiments of an adapter mount **600**. In **FIG. 7** a single adapter mount **600** is shown having an enclosure **601** defined by a first section **602** and a second section **604**. The first section **602** may be movably and/or removably mounted to the second section **604**. Either the first section **602** or the second section **604** may act as a base or a cover. The first section **602** and a second section **604** are shown mated such that the enclosure **601** of the adapter mount **600** is in a closed state. Fiber optic cables **500** extend from the enclosure **601** with the connector boot **504** external to the enclosure **601** of the adapter mount **600**. The adapter mount **600** has a first end **606** and a second end **608**. Connecting feature **609** allows for the adapter mount **600** to be releasably connected to another adapter mount **600**. In **FIG. 7**, the connecting feature is shown as protrusions **610** located on opposite sides of the adapter mount **600** at the first end **606**, and grooves **612** are located on either side of the adapter mount **600** the second end **608**. The protrusion **610** and the groove **612** are sized to be complementary. In this manner, a protrusion **610** on one adapter mount **600** fits into the groove **612** of another adapter mount **600**.

[0031] In this regard, **FIG. 8** illustrates two adapter mounts **600(1)** and **600(2)**. In **FIG. 8**, the first end **606** of adapter mount **600(1)** is shown aligned with the second end **608** of the adapter mount **600(2)**. Accordingly, then, the second end **608** of adapter mount **600(1)** is shown aligned with the first end **606** of the adapter mount **600(2)**. In this manner, the protrusion **610** of the adapter mount **600(1)** positions near and may be inserted into the groove **612** of the adapter mount **600(2)**. Additionally, the protrusion **610** of the adapter mount **600(2)** positions near and may be inserted into the groove **612** of the adapter mount **600(1)**. This allows multiple adapter mounts **600** to be releasably connected together.

[0032] **FIG. 9** shows a plurality of adapter mounts **600** releasably connected together in an array **614**. The protrusions **610** of one adapter mount **600** are positioned into the grooves **612** of the adjacent adapter mount **600** in the array **614**. In this manner, adapter mounts **600** may be added to or removed from the array **614**. Additionally, the array **614** may be mounted or positioned as desired to provide access to the adapter mounts **600**. Further, as shown in **FIG. 9**, one of the adapter mounts **600** in the array **614** is shown with one of the first section **602** or the second section **604** removed to be able to view the interior of the enclosure **601**. Additionally or alternatively, the first section **602** and the second section **604** may connect as a base and a cover. In such a case, the first section **602** or the second section **604** may open to provide access to the interior of the enclosure **601** without disconnecting the fiber optic adapter mount **600** from the array **614**. An adapter **10** is shown mounted in the adapter mount **600** with connectors **502** of the fiber optic cables **500** connected to either end of the adapter **10**.

[0033] Many modifications and other embodiments set forth herein will come to mind to one skilled in the art to which the embodiments pertain having the benefit of the teachings presented in the foregoing descriptions and the associated drawings. Therefore, it is to be understood that the description and claims are not to be limited to the specific embodiments disclosed and that modifications and other embodiments are intended to be included within the scope of the appended claims. It is intended that the embodiments cover the modifications and variations of the embodiments provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents. Although specific terms are employed herein, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation.

What is claimed is:

1. A fiber optic adapter mount, comprising:
 - an enclosure comprising a base and a cover;
 - a receiving area located in the enclosure for directly receiving a fiber optic adapter;
 - one or more resilient walls, wherein the one or more resilient walls flex to allow the fiber optic adapter to be received in the receiving area;
 - a retention feature, wherein the retention feature is configured to releasably retain the fiber optic adapter in the receiving area; and
 - a mounting feature for mounting the fiber optic adapter mount to a surface, wherein the enclosure further comprises a connecting feature allowing the fiber optic adapter mount to be connected to another fiber optic adapter mount.
2. The fiber optic adapter mount of claim 1, wherein the one or more resilient walls flex to allow the fiber optic adapter to be removed from the receiving area.
3. The fiber optic adapter mount of claim 1, wherein the retention feature comprises at least one tab.
4. The fiber optic adapter mount of claim 3, wherein the at least one tab extends from one of the one or more resilient walls.
5. The fiber optic adapter mount of claim 1, wherein the cover is attached to the base.
6. The fiber optic adapter mount of claim 5, wherein the cover is hingedly attached to the base allowing the cover to mate with the base and provide an open position and a closed position.

7. The fiber optic adapter mount of claim 6, wherein the cover provides a partially open position.
8. The fiber optic adapter mount of claim 7, wherein access is provided to an interior of the enclosure when the cover is in the open position.
9. The fiber optic adapter mount of claim 1, wherein the connecting feature comprises a protrusion.
10. The fiber optic adapter mount of claim 1, wherein the connecting feature comprises a groove.
11. The fiber optic adapter of claim 1, wherein the connecting feature comprises at least one protrusion and at least one complementary groove such that the at least one protrusion of the fiber optic adapter mount inserts into a groove of the another fiber optic adapter mount to releasably connect the fiber optic adapter mount to the another fiber optic adapter mount.
12. A fiber optic adapter mount, comprising:
 - an enclosure having an interior, wherein the enclosure comprises a base and a cover, and wherein the cover is hingedly movable with the base from an open position to a closed position;
 - a receiving area in the interior of the enclosure for directly receiving a fiber optic adapter, the receiving area comprising resilient walls;
 - a retention feature extending from the resilient walls, wherein the retention feature is configured to releasably retain the fiber optic adapter in the receiving area;
 - a mounting feature for mounting the adapter mount to a surface; and
 - an actuator extending from one of the resilient walls, and wherein pressure applied to the actuator forces the resilient wall away from another resilient wall allowing the fiber optic adapter to be removed from the receiving area.

13. The fiber optic adapter mount of claim 12, further comprising one or more tie down lances formed in the base, wherein the one or more tie down lances are configured to receive a restraining device for restraining fiber optic cable.

14. An array of fiber optic adapter mounts, comprising:
a plurality of fiber optic adapter mounts, wherein each fiber optic adapter mount in the array comprises:

an enclosure having an interior, a first section and a second section;

a receiving area for directly receiving a fiber optic adapter in the interior; and

a connecting feature, wherein the connecting feature allows the fiber optic adapter mounts to be directly and releasably connected to each other,

wherein one of the first section and the second section of at least one of the fiber optic adapter mounts is removable to allow access to an interior of the enclosure of the fiber optic adapter mount without disconnecting the fiber optic adapter mount from the array.

15. The fiber optic adapter mount of claim 1, wherein the fiber optic adapter mount is integral to and formed as part of a body of the fiber optic adapter.

16. A fiber optic adapter mount, comprising:

an enclosure comprising a base and a cover;

a receiving area located in the enclosure for directly receiving a fiber optic adapter;

one or more resilient walls, wherein the one or more resilient walls flex to allow the fiber optic adapter to be received in the receiving area;

a retention feature, wherein the retention feature is configured to releasably retain the fiber optic adapter in the receiving area; and

a mounting feature for mounting the fiber optic adapter mount to a surface,

wherein the fiber optic adapter mount is integral to and formed as part of a body of the fiber optic adapter.

1/7

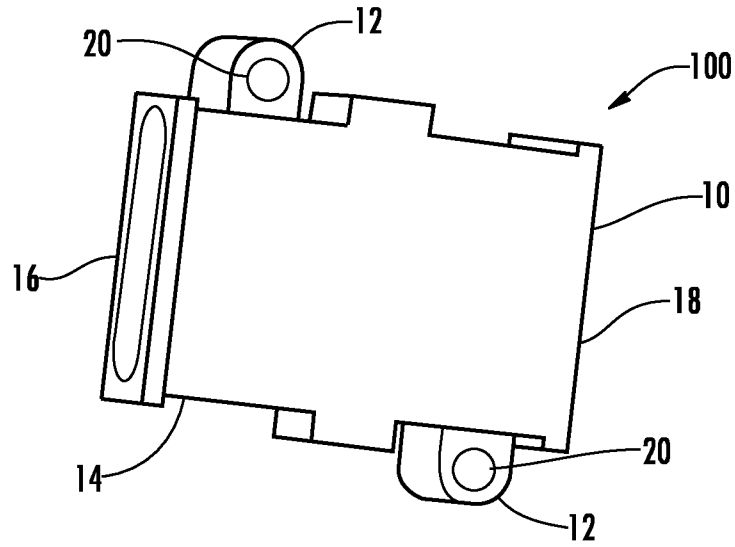


FIG. 1

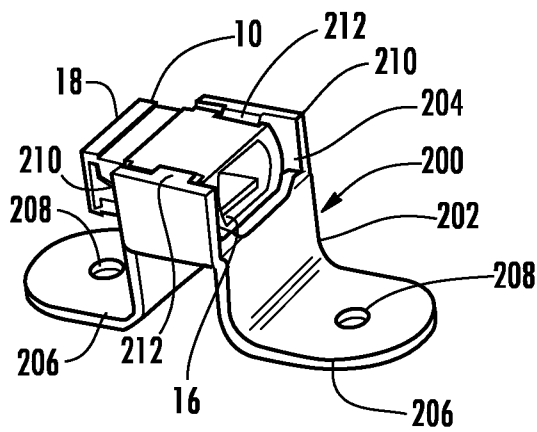


FIG. 2

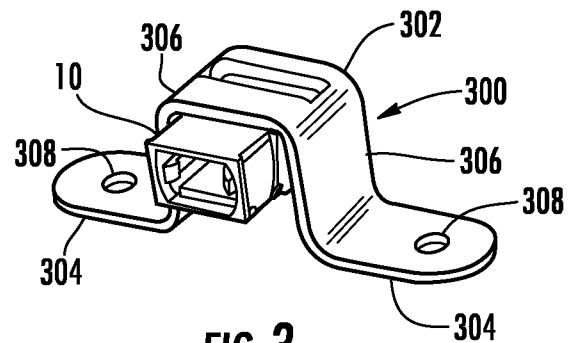


FIG. 3

2/7

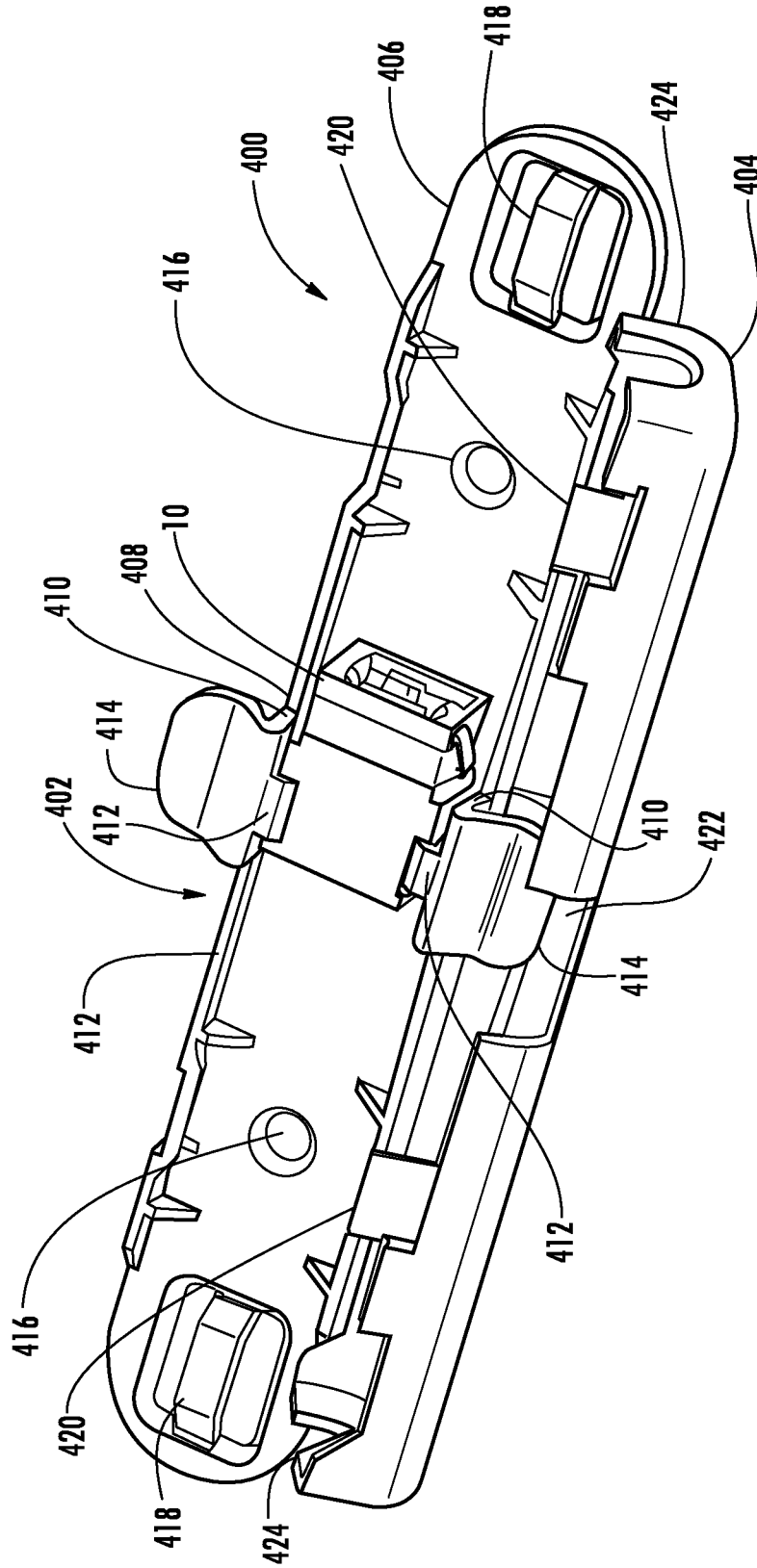


FIG. 4

3/7

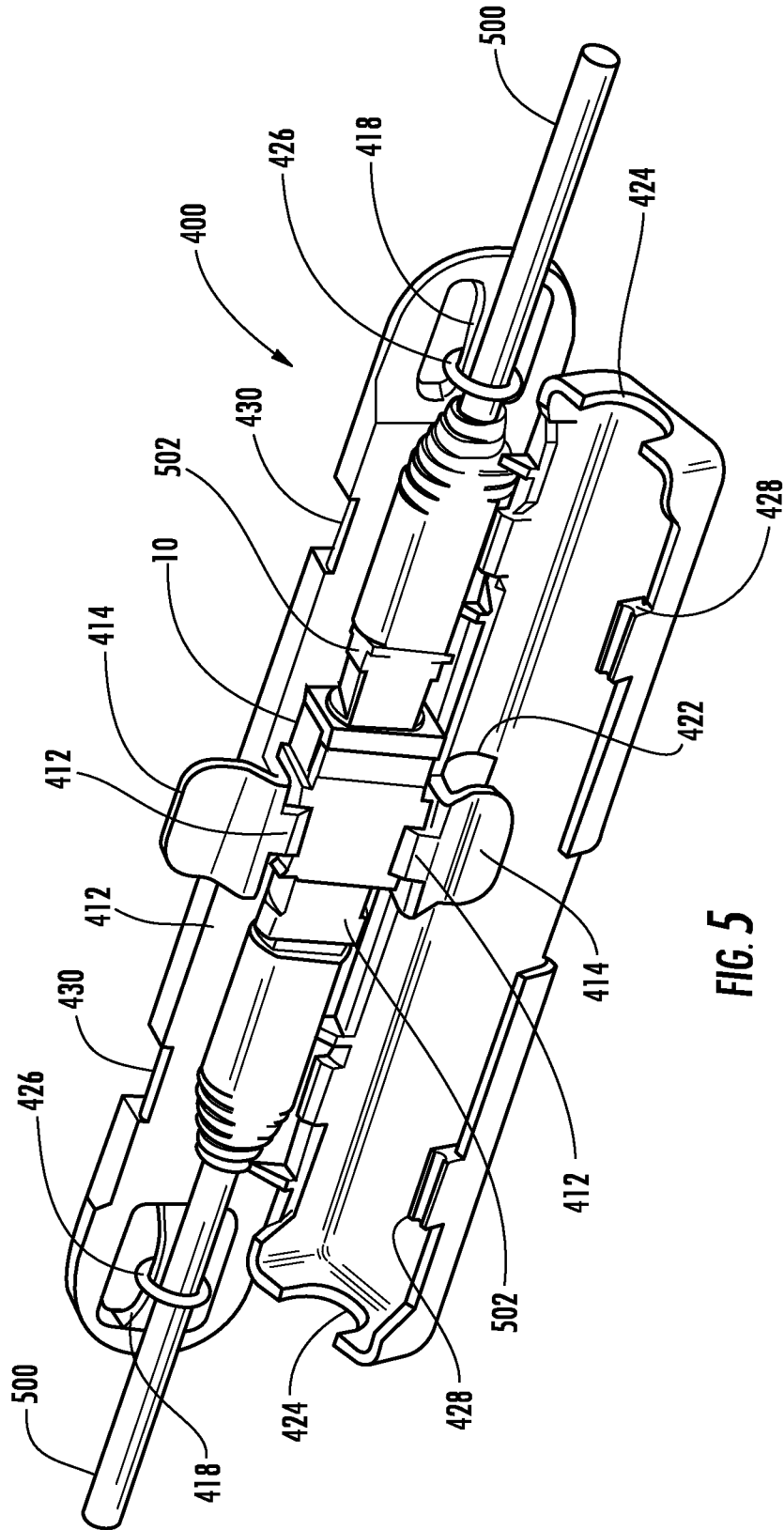


FIG. 5

4/7

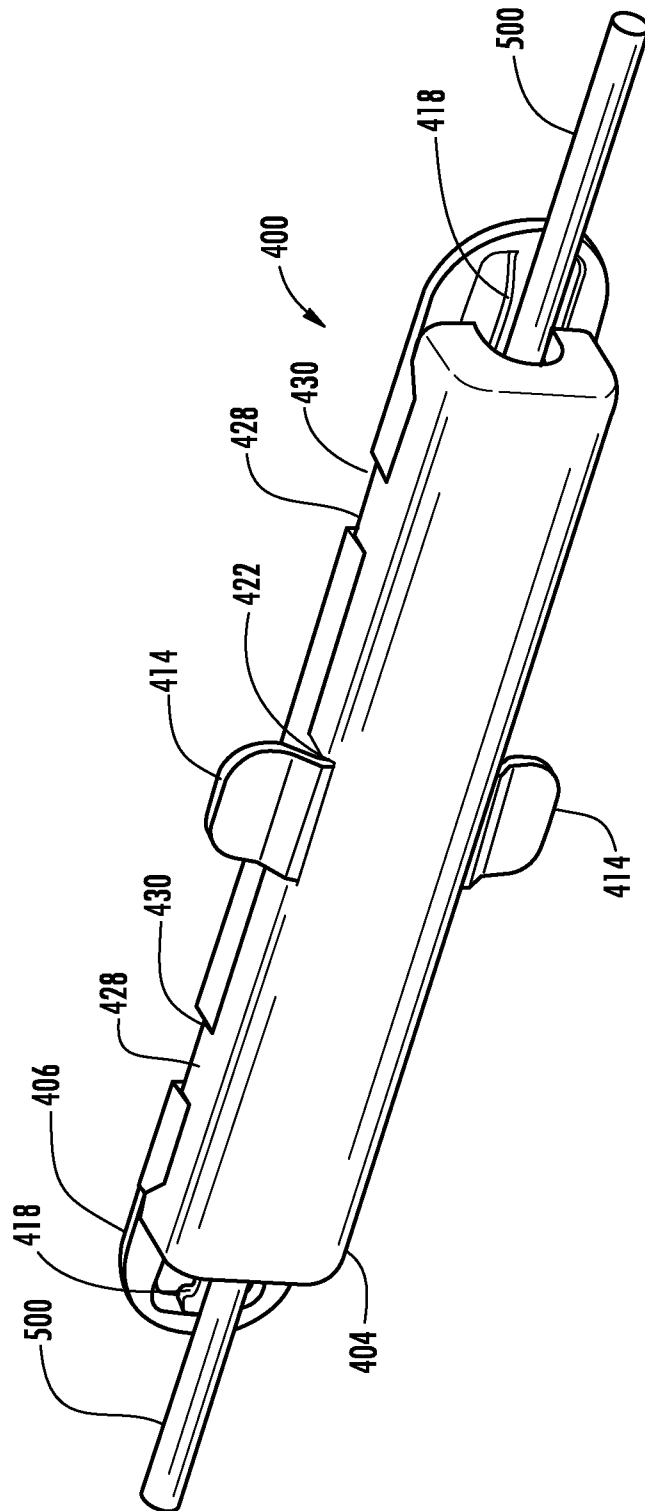
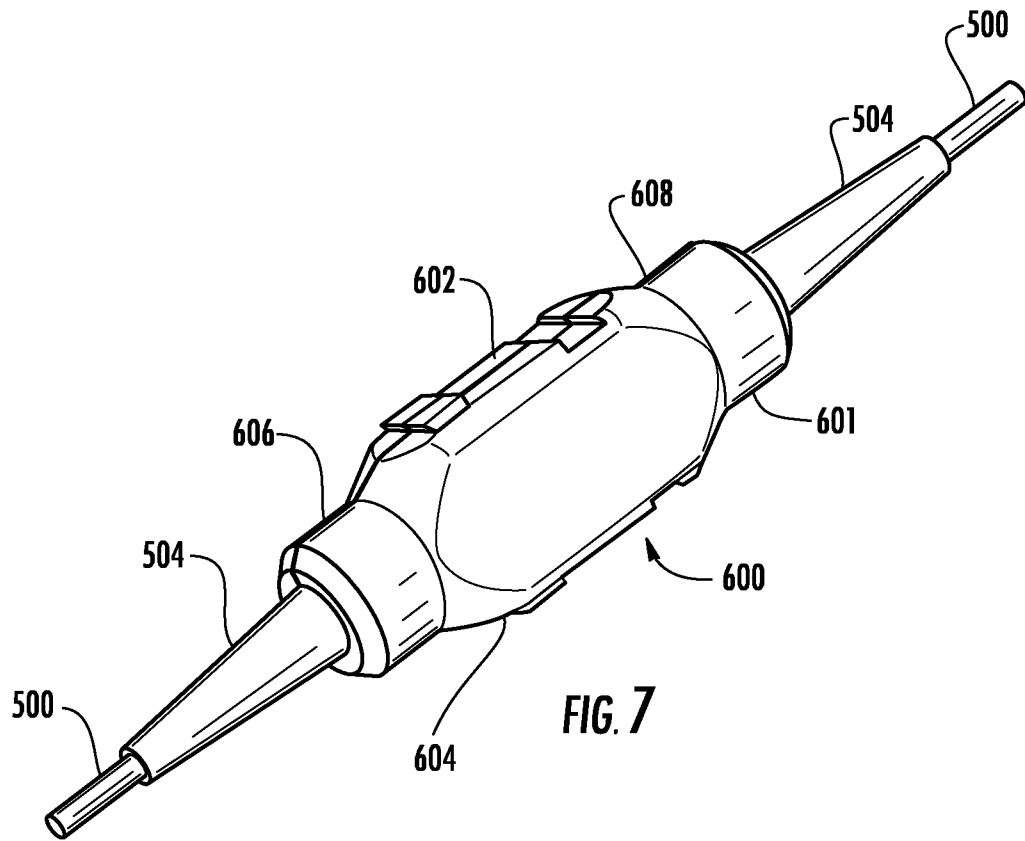


FIG. 6

5/7



6/7

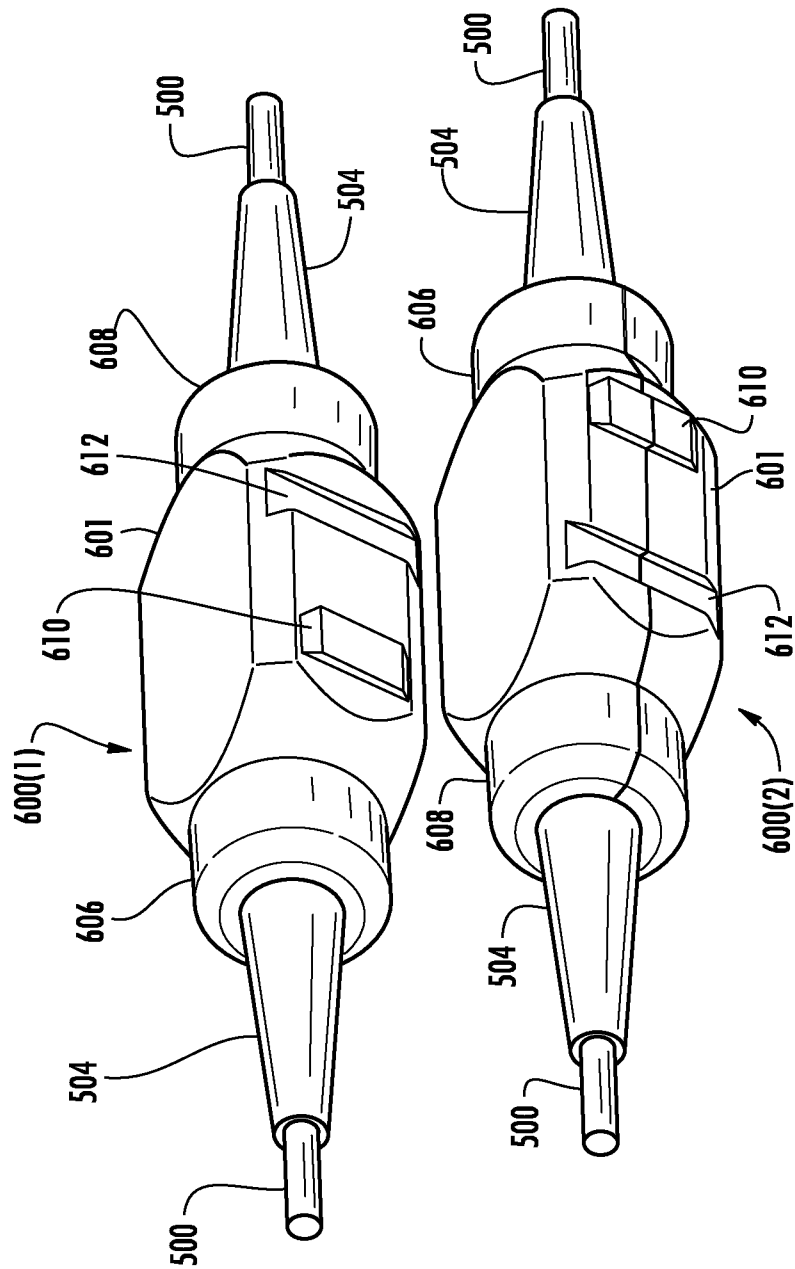


FIG. 8

7/7

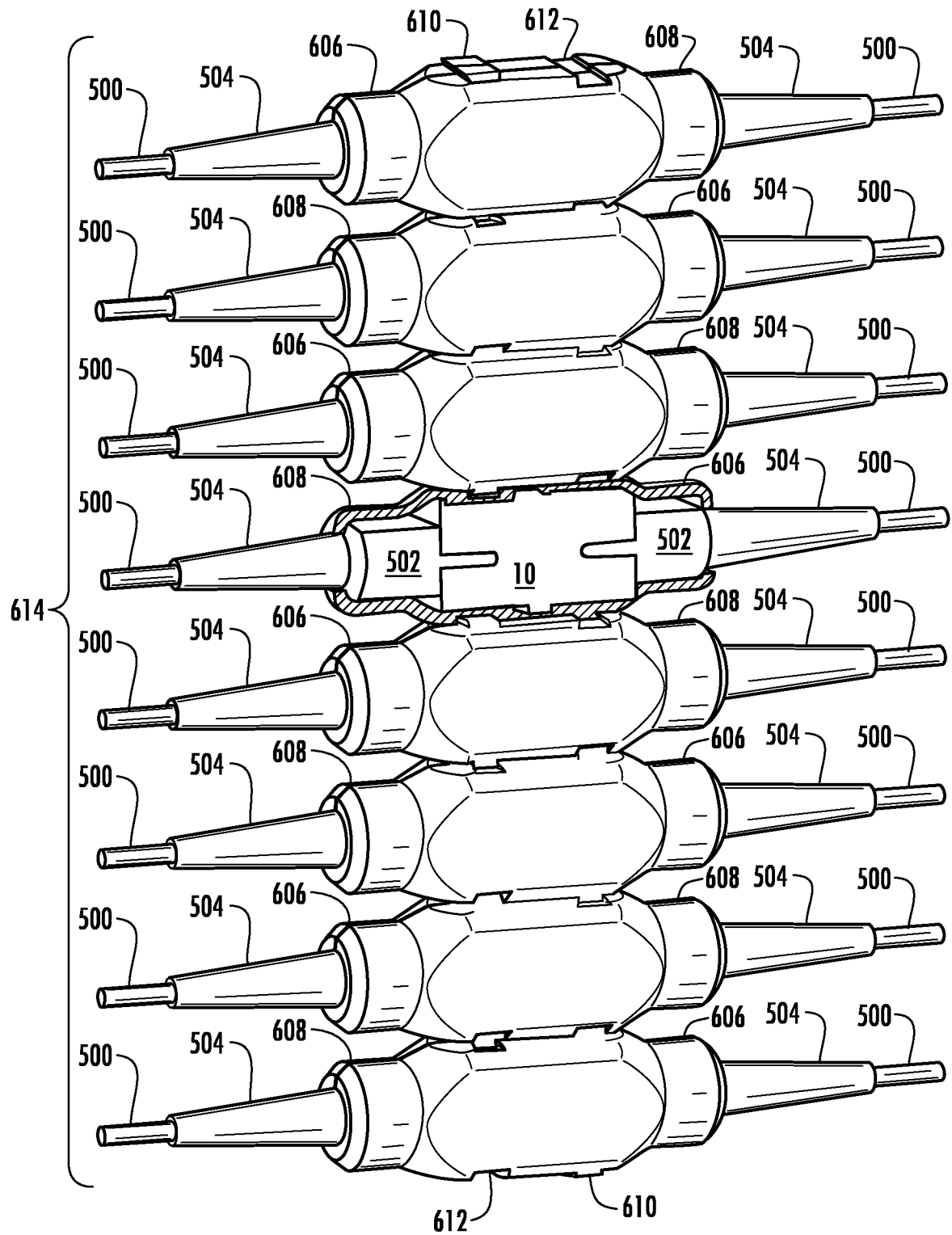


FIG. 9

