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(54) **ARMOR PLATE CARRIER**

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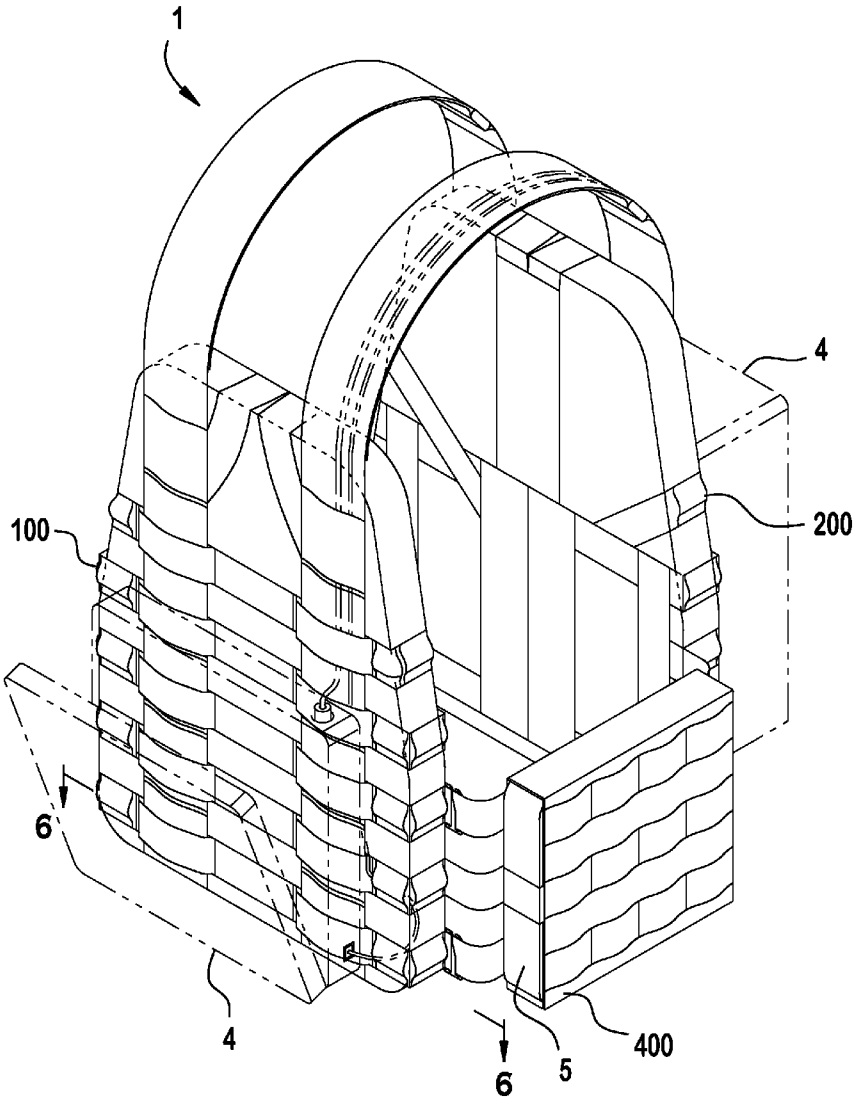
(57) **ABSTRACT**

An armor plate carrier is provided to receive and adapt to different sized armor. The armor plate carrier includes a rear article, a first side connector, a second side connector, a front article, and a plurality of fasteners. The rear article includes a rear member receiving space, and the first side connector extends from a first side of the rear article. The second side connector extends from a second side of the rear article and attaches to the first side connector. The front article includes a front member receiving space and a front support section connecting to the rear article. The plurality of fasteners are positioned along opposite ends of the front article and connect to the first side connector and the second side connector respectively.



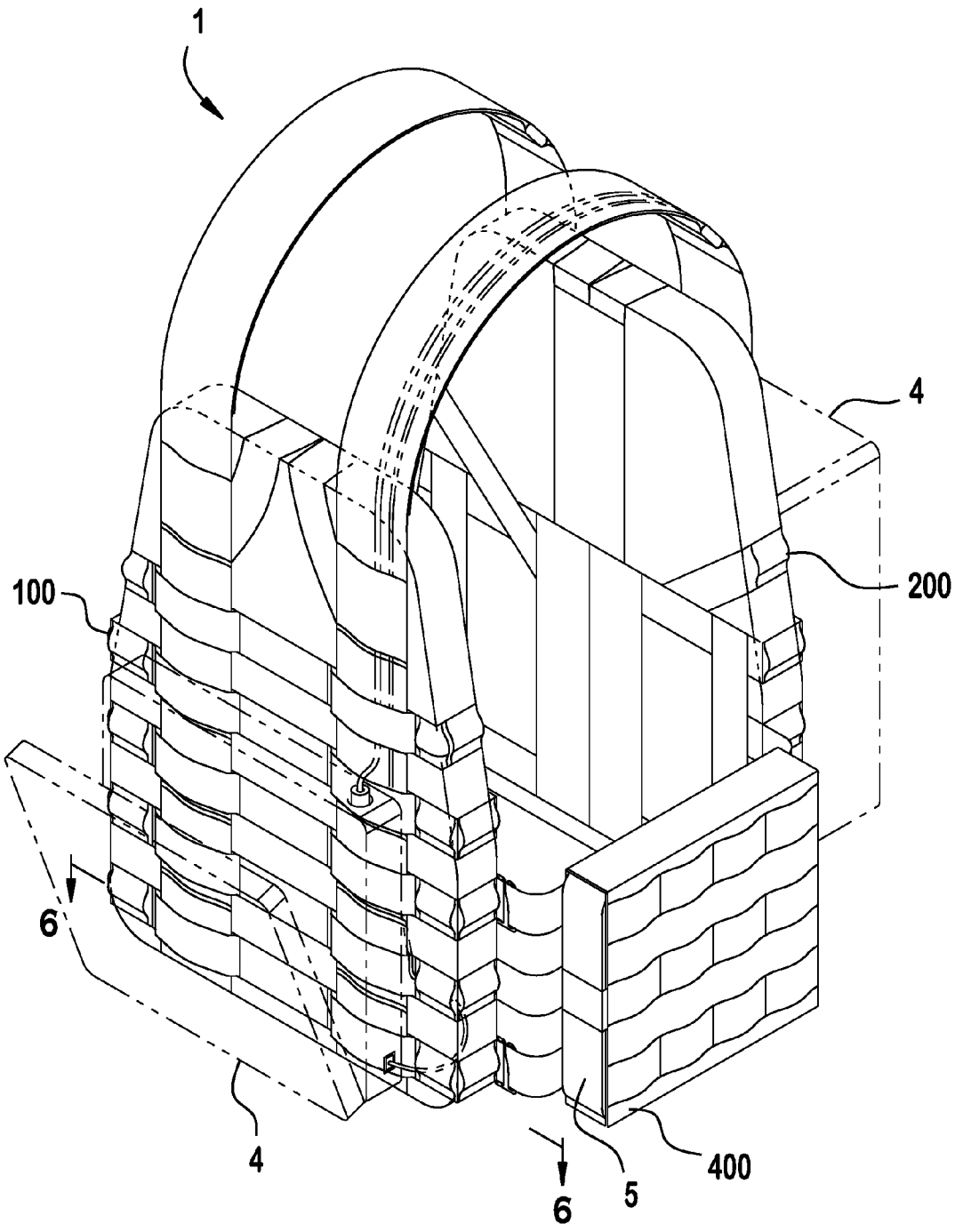
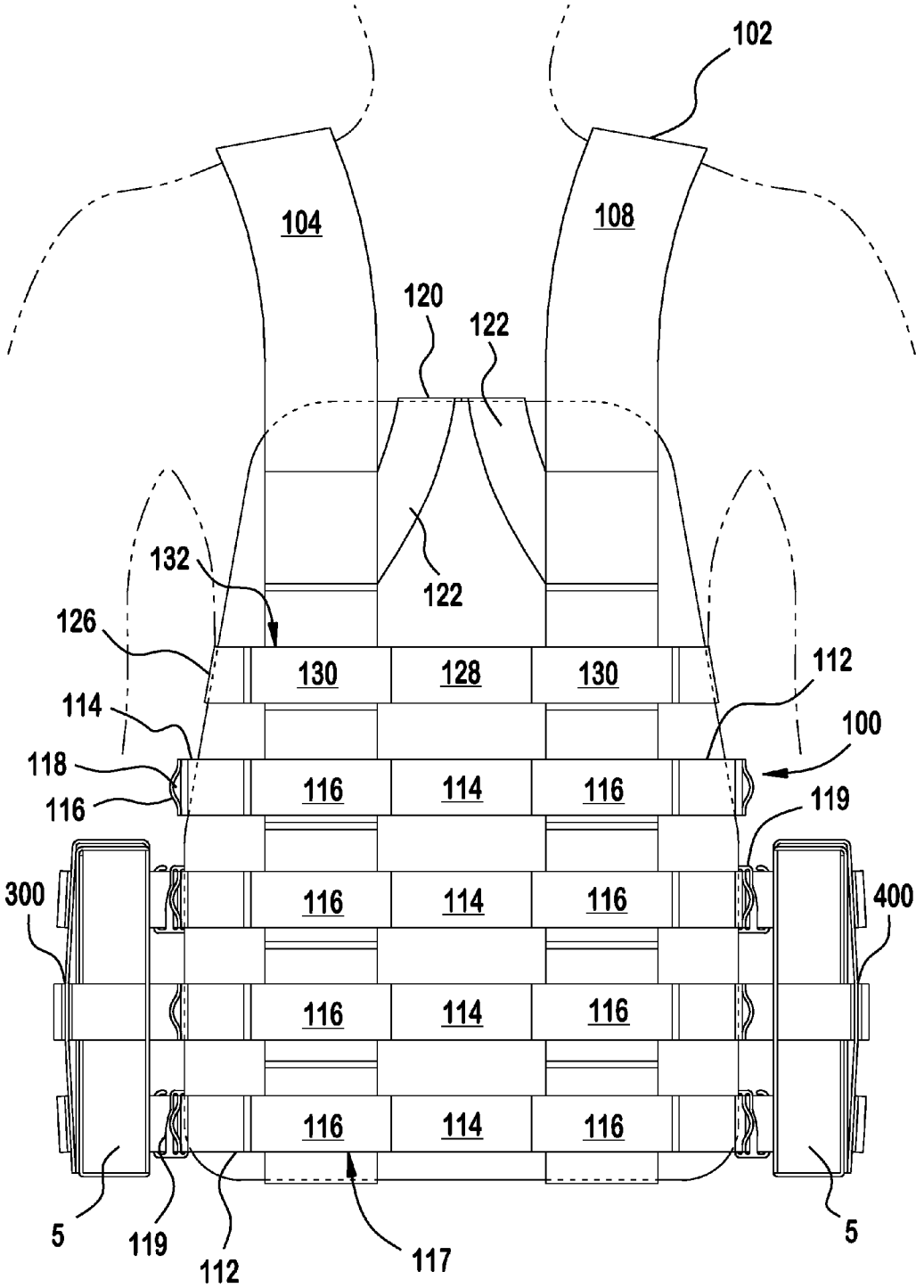


FIG. 1

FIG. 2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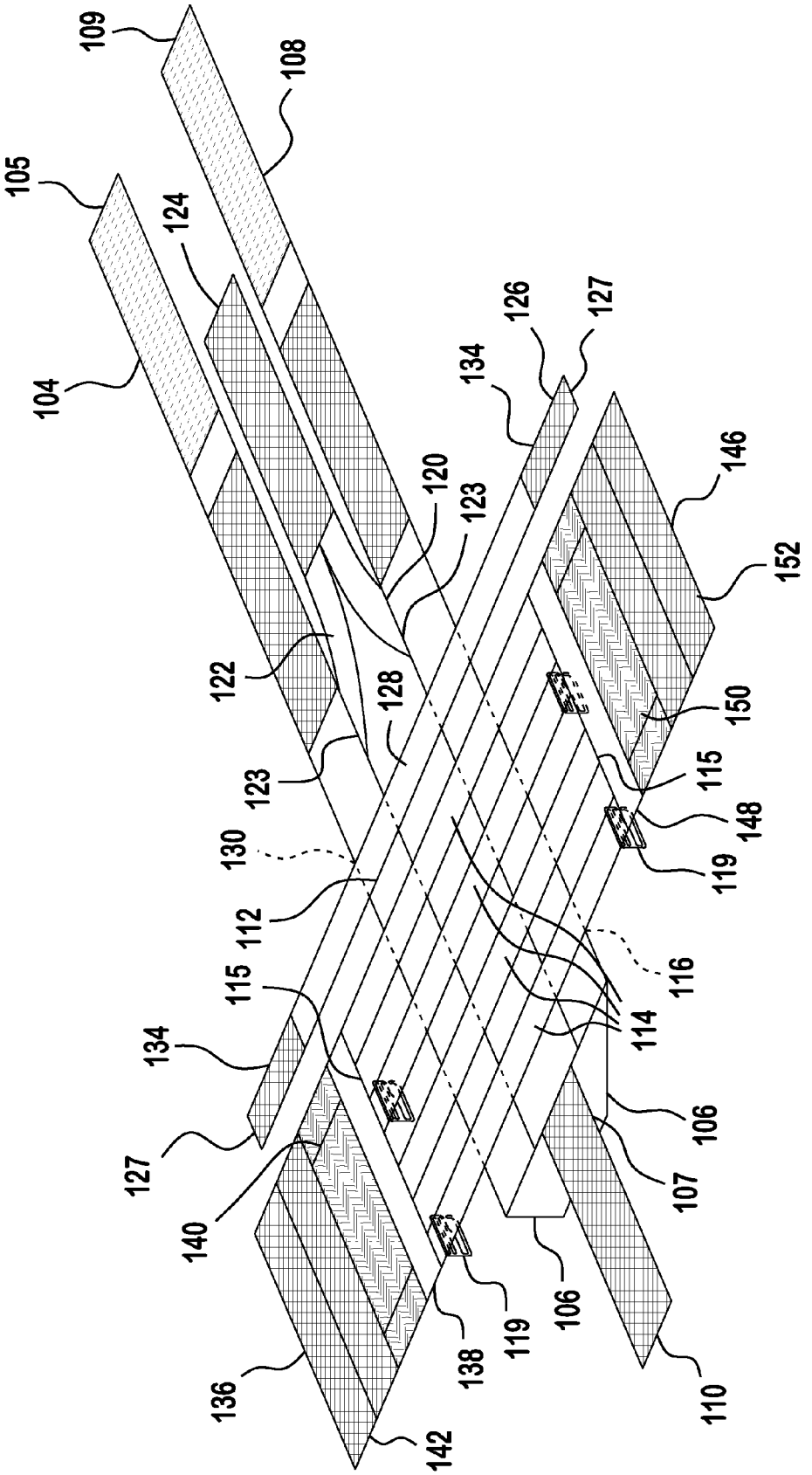
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FIG. 3

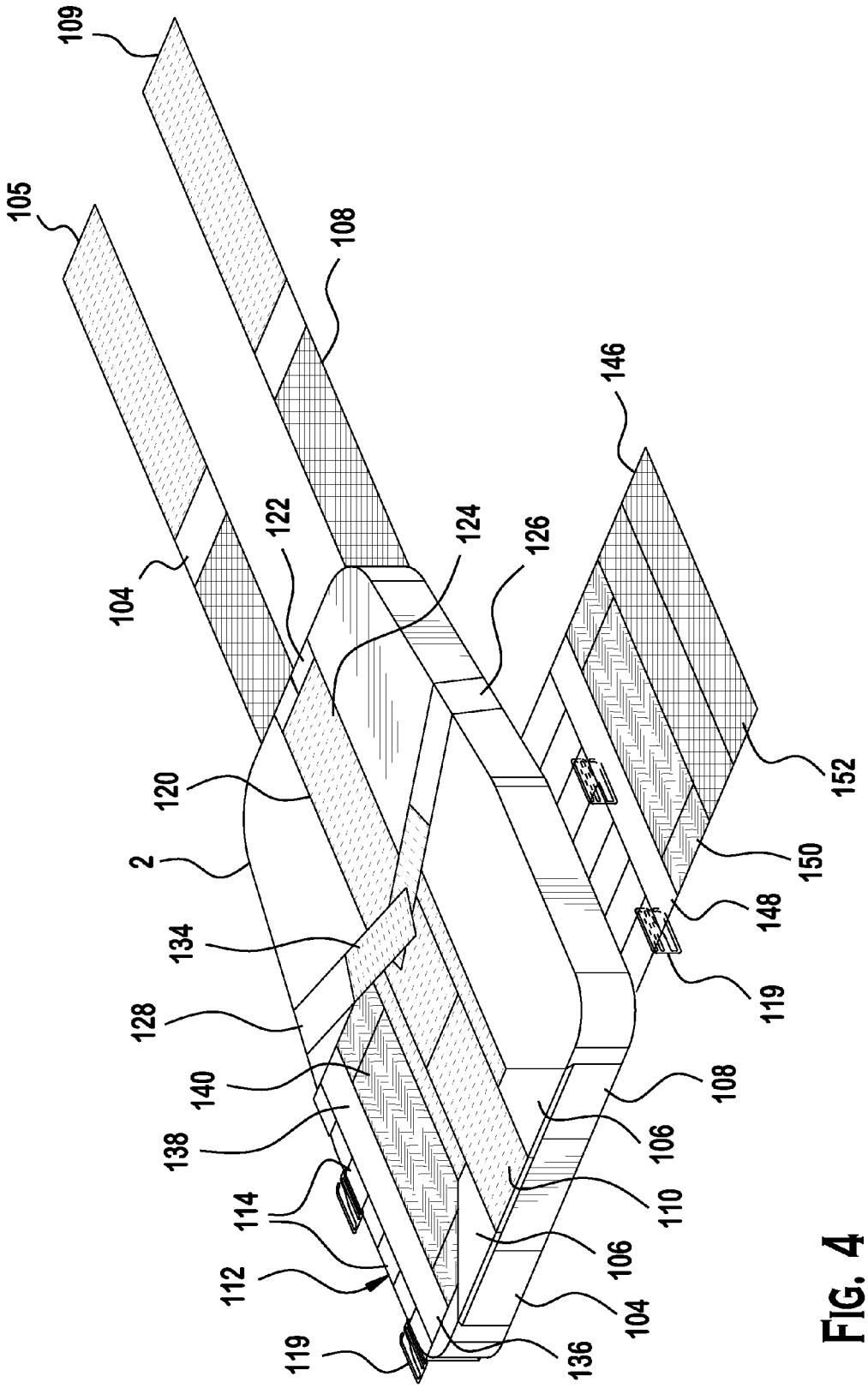
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FIG. 4

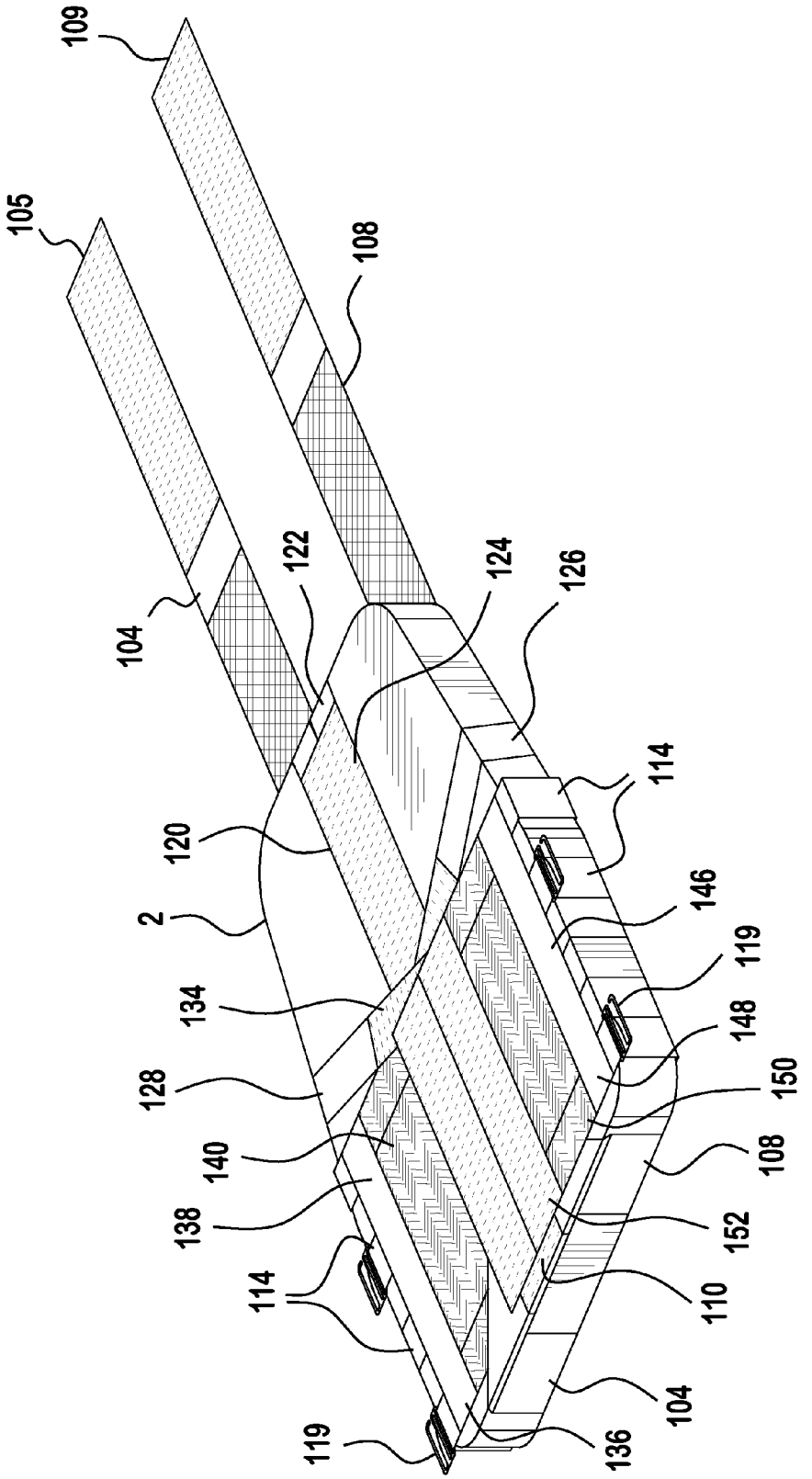
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FIG. 5

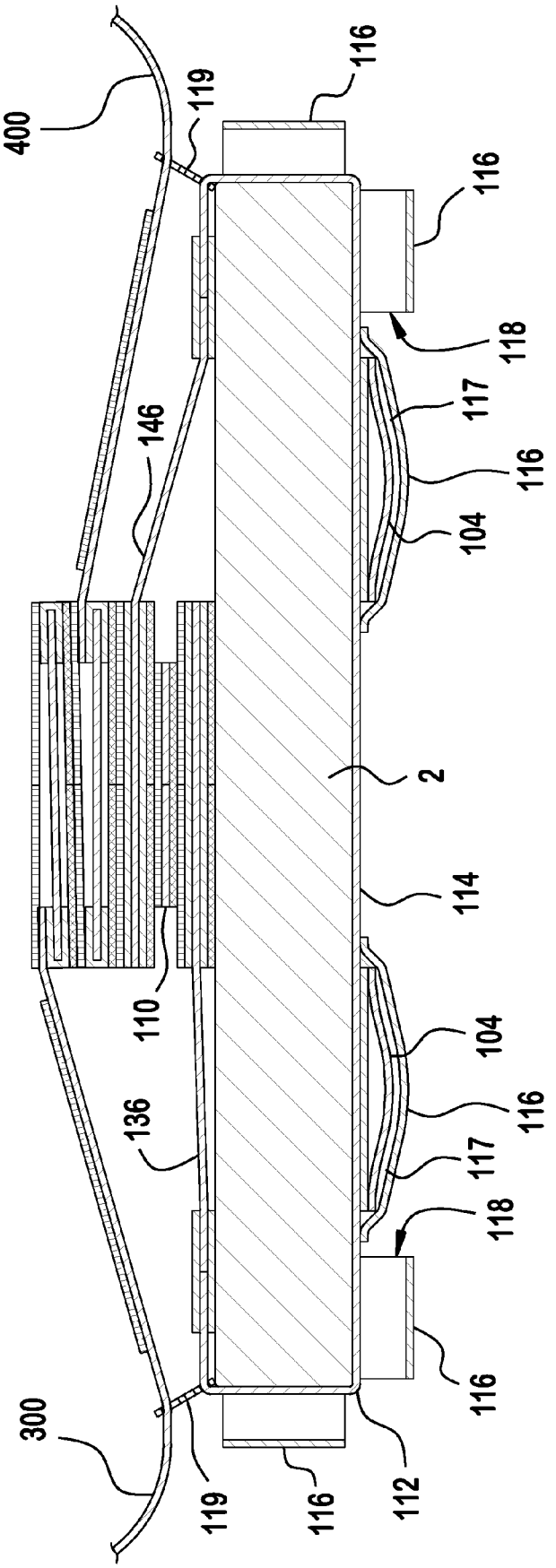
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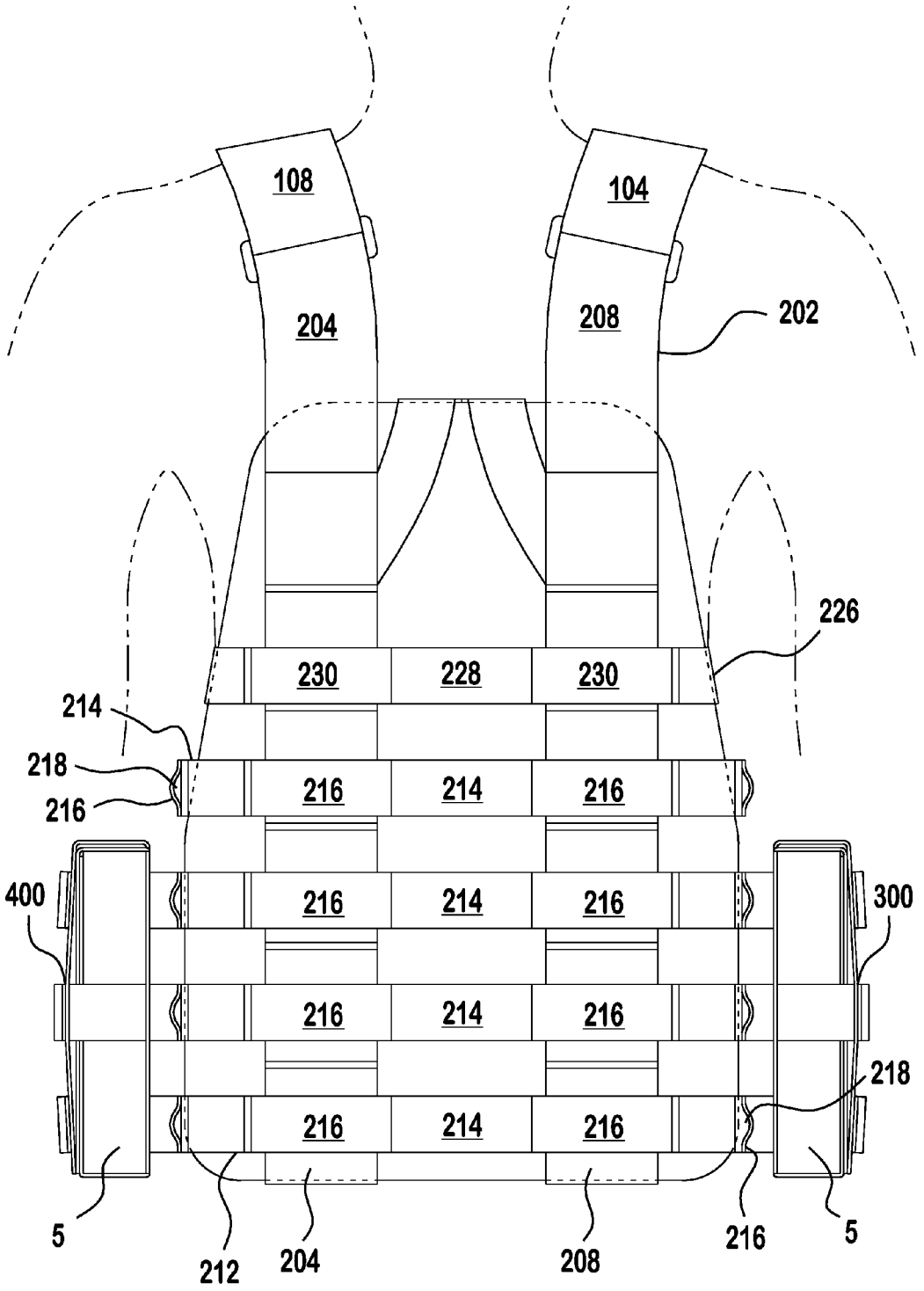
FIG. 6

FIG. 7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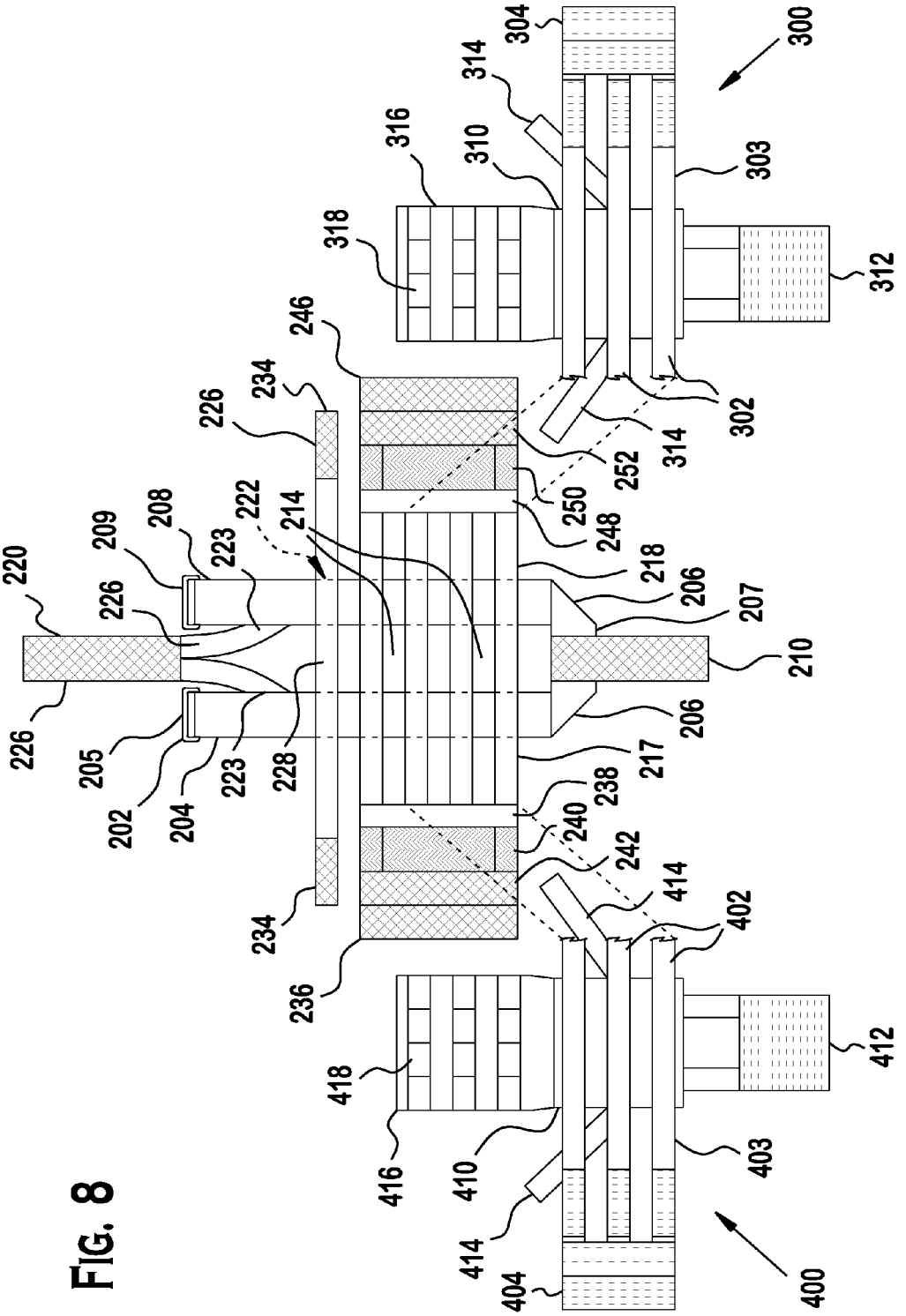
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FIG. 8

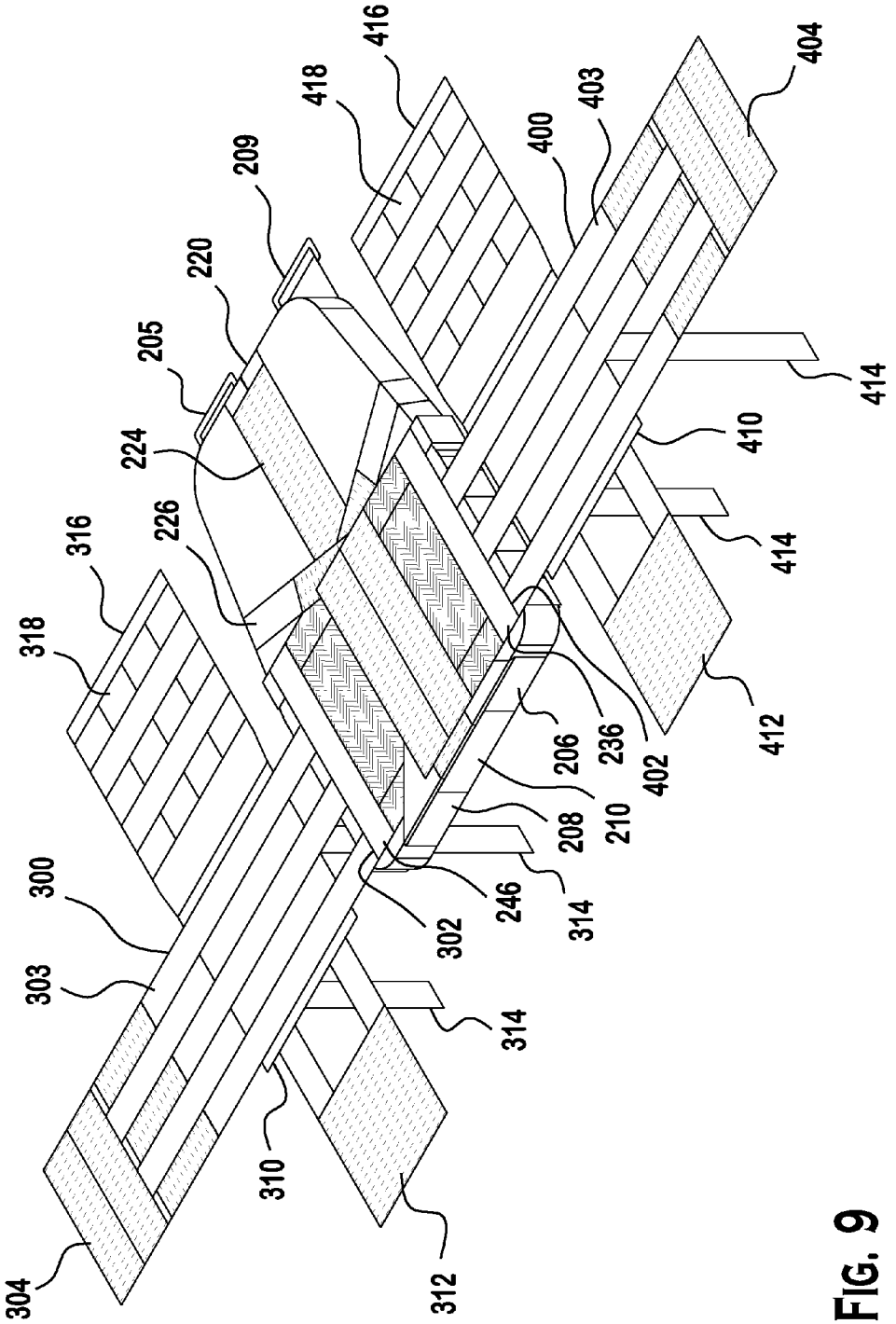
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FIG. 9

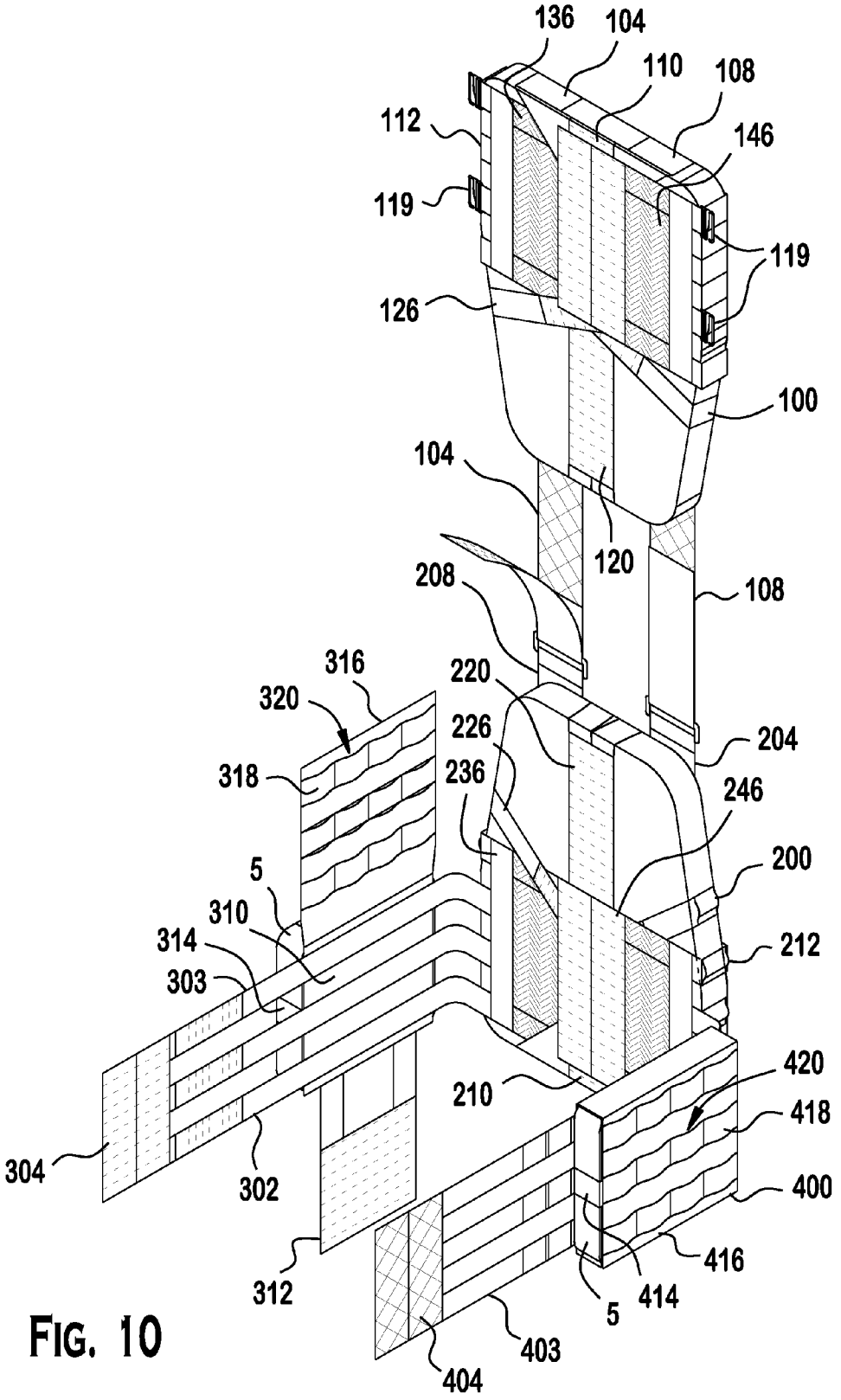
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FIG. 10

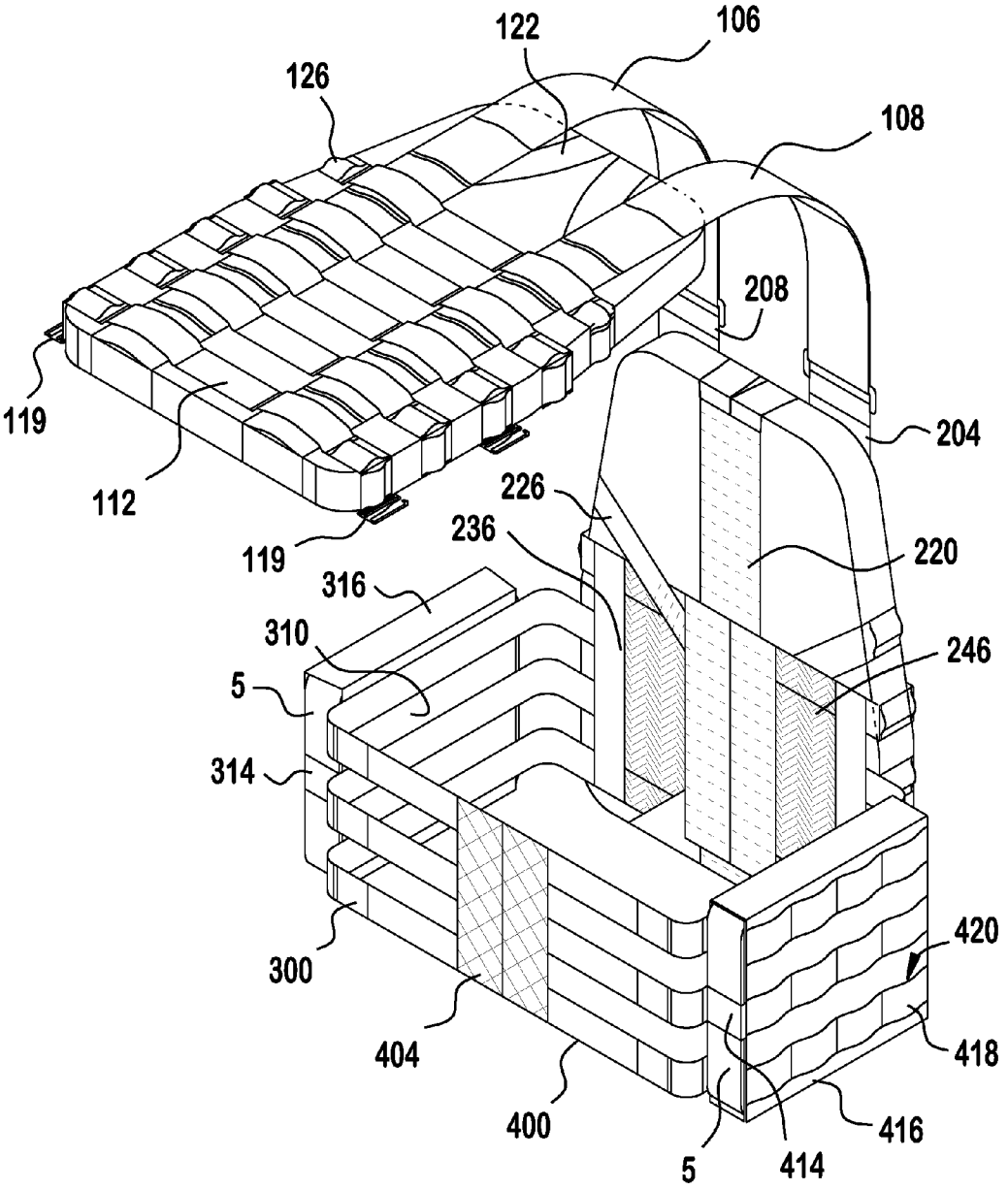
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FIG. 11

ARMOR PLATE CARRIER

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The invention is relates to an armor plate carrier and, in particular, to an armor plate carrier vest having an adjustable armor receiving section.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Ballistic vests are well-known and used to hold personal armor that helps absorb the impact from firearm-fired projectiles and from explosion shrapnel. Generally, known ballistic vests are worn around the torso. They are made from many layers of woven or laminated fibers in order to promote flexibility and breathability, while minimizing the weight of the vest.

[0003] These known ballistic vests are used by the military, domestic police agents, and private industry. Known ballistic vests generally have a sleeve to receive the armor, which is typically sized for different sized persons. Additionally, ballistics vests may contain more or less armor depending on requirements of a particular situation, so the thickness of the armor may change depending on such requirements. As a result, the type and size of armor is variable, requiring different sized and styles of ballistic vests to accommodate different types and sizes of armor. Known ballistic vests have a problem, in that they are not adaptable to different types or sizes of armor to be securely held therein.

[0004] Furthermore, advancements in technology have provided more and more accessories or modules for use with the known ballistic vest. For instance, computer and monitor modules may be attached to the ballistic vest. A cable is required to electrically connect these modules and may problematically dangle from the known ballistic vest causing obstruction. Additionally it may be cumbersome to route wire through vias in the known ballistic vest. This may present a problem for the user that may compromise the user's ability to focus on or execute an assignment.

SUMMARY

[0005] In light of the shortcomings of the prior art, and long felt need for an adjustable device, the invention provides an armor plate carrier that adapts to a user.

[0006] The armor plate carrier includes a rear article, a first side connector, a second side connector, a front article, and a plurality of fasteners. The rear article includes a rear member receiving space, and the first side connector extends from a first side of the rear article. The second side connector extends from a second side of the rear article and attaches to the first side connector. The front article includes a front member receiving space and a front support section connecting to the rear article. The plurality of fasteners are positioned along opposite ends of the front article and connect to the first side connector and the second side connector respectively.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] The invention will be explained in greater detail with reference to embodiments, referring to the appended drawings, in which:

[0008] FIG. **1** is a perspective view of an armor plate carrier according to the invention, shown assembled with attached modules;

[0009] FIG. **2** is a front view of the armor plate carrier according to the invention, showing a front article securing a first piece of armor;

[0010] FIG. **3** is a rear perspective view of the front article of the armor plate carrier according to the invention, shown unassembled;

[0011] FIG. **4** is another rear perspective view of the front article of the armor plate carrier according to the invention, showing the first piece of armor partially secured by the front article;

[0012] FIG. **5** is another rear perspective view of the front article of the armor plate carrier according to the invention, showing the first piece of armor fully secured by the front article;

[0013] FIG. **6** is a sectional view of the armor plate carrier according to the invention, taken along line **6-6** in FIG. **1**, showing a lower portion of the front article;

[0014] FIG. **7** is a rear view of the armor plate carrier according to the invention, showing a rear article assembled and connected to the front article;

[0015] FIG. **8** is a front view of the rear article of the armor plate carrier according to the invention, with the first side connection piece and the second side connection piece exploded from the rear article;

[0016] FIG. **9** is a rear perspective view of the rear article of the armor plate carrier according to the invention, showing the rear article assembled with a second piece of armor;

[0017] FIG. **10** is front perspective view of the armor plate carrier according to the invention, showing the front article connecting to the rear article; and

[0018] FIG. **11** is another front perspective view of the armor plate carrier according to the invention, showing the first side connection piece and the second side connection piece connected to each other.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENT(S)

[0019] Referring first to FIG. **1**, an armor plate carrier **1** according to the invention is shown and includes the following major components: a front article **100**, a rear article **200**, a first side connector **300**, and a second side connector **400**.

[0020] The front article **100** consists of a front support section **102**, a bottom support **110**, a front body **112**, a top attachment **120**, a moveable front attachment piece **126**, a first side fastener **136**, and a second side fastener **146**. Each will now be described in greater detail.

[0021] As shown in FIGS. **2** and **3**, the front support section **102** consists of a first support section **104** and a second support section **108**. In the shown embodiment, the first support section **104** extends along a length thereof to a fold **106**, then through a front support connector **107** extending essentially perpendicular to the first length to a second fold **106** into a second length. The second support section **108** extends essentially parallel to the first length and essentially perpendicular to the front support connector **107**. The first support section **104** runs substantially parallel to the second support section **108**. Additionally, the first support section **104** and the second support section **108** are separated from each other by a distance a. However, it is possible that the first support section **104** and the second support section **108** extend incongruent to each other, for instance, in a v-shaped.

[0022] The front support section **102** may be made of a webbing material having a flat fabric webbing with a solid weave and a selected width. As used throughout this detailed

description, it should be understood that reference to webbing material includes traditional webbing material and other materials and textiles such as meshes, animal textiles, plant textiles, synthetic textiles, or composite textiles. Additionally, in other embodiments, the front support section **102** may be a single piece of sheet material or more than a pair of material strips. It should be understood by those reasonably skilled in the art that the various designs and combinations of webbing material might be used.

[0023] At each of the distal ends **105**, **109** of the first and second support sections **104**, **108** is a fastener element, such as hook and loop fasteners, removable adhesives, slides, buttons, buckles, etc. It should be understood by those reasonably skilled in the art that the fastener element may take other forms such as adhesives or fasteners, including hook and loop fasteners, snaps, latches, removable adhesives, slides, buttons, buckles, etc

[0024] Now with reference to FIG. **3**, the bottom support **110** is positioned along the front support connector **107**. The bottom support **110** extends generally perpendicular from the front support connector **107**. In the shown embodiment, the bottom support **110** is a single strip of webbing material extending from the front support section **102**, and in particular, where the first support section **104** and the second support section **108** meet. In other embodiments, the bottom support **110** connects the first support section **104** and the second support section **108**, if they are separate pieces of material. The bottom support **110** includes a fastener element along a major surface thereof. However, it should be understood, that the bottom support **110**, in this exemplary embodiment includes fastener elements along both its major surfaces. In an alternative embodiment, the bottom support **110** may be two sections of fastener element that have been connected together, without use of the webbing material there between.

[0025] Now with reference to FIGS. **1-3**, the front body **112** consists of a plurality of cross strips **114**, each extending generally parallel to each other and generally perpendicular to the first and second front support sections **104**, **108**. Like the first and second front support sections **104**, **108**, the plurality of cross strips **114** are made of a webbing material, and likewise have a selected width which may be different from that of the first and second support sections **104**, **108**.

[0026] A plurality of backing strips **116** are attached to each of the cross strips **114** to form support section receiving openings **117** there between. Each backing strip is a strip of webbing material having the same width as the plurality of cross strips **114**, in the embodiment shown. Each of the cross strips **114** has a distal end **115** extending outward from the support section receiving openings **117**. Proximate each distal end **115** are additional backing strips **116** applied to form cable receiving openings **118**, which in this embodiment, happen to be perpendicular to the support section receiving openings **117**. It should be understood by those reasonably skilled in the art that backing strips **116** may be applied at selected locations along the cross strips **114** to create openings in desired directions or quantities.

[0027] Fasteners **119** are disposed at selected distal ends of the cross strips **114**. These fasteners **119** may be standard slide fasteners and may be attached to the distal ends **115** by looping the cross strips **114** there around. In particular, each fastener **119** may also include a hook connected to the slide, as shown. In the shown embodiment, a pair of fasteners **119** are disposed along the distal ends **115** and can be any type of attachment means including an adhesive, a snap, a hook, a latch, buckle, a hook and loop fastener, or other fastener known to the art.

[0028] Now with reference to FIGS. **2** and **3**, the top attachment **120** is shown and extends from each of the first and second support sections **104**, **108** and is located between them. The top attachment **120** includes a top fastener **124** and a pair of support strips **122**. The top fastener **124** is a strip of webbing material and includes a fastener element on both of its major surfaces. However, in an alternative embodiment, the top fastener **124** may be sections of fastener elements that have been connected together, without use of the webbing material there between. The pair of support strips **122** extends from the top fastener **124** to respective ones of the first and second support sections **104**, **108**. Each support strip **122** is a strip of webbing material. In the embodiments shown, the first support strip **122** extends away from the top fastener **124** toward the front body **112** and the first support section **104**, while the second support strip **122** extends away from the top fastener **124** toward the front body **112** and the second support section **108**.

[0029] Now with reference to FIGS. **1-3**, the moveable front attachment piece **126** is shown and positioned between the front body **112** and the top attachment **120**. The moveable front attachment piece **126** includes a supplemental support strip **128** and a plurality of backing strips **130**. The supplemental support strip **128** extends generally parallel to the cross strips **114** between distal ends **127** thereof. The backing strips **130** are applied to the supplemental support strip **128** at selected locations to define support section receiving openings **132**. Located at each of the distal ends **127** is an attachment section **134**. Each attachment section **134** includes fastener material applied to its major surfaces. The moveable front attachment piece **126**, like the cross strips **114**, is formed of a webbing material having a selected width. Positioned at selected locations along the moveable front attachment piece **126** are the plurality of backing strips **130** attached thereto.

[0030] Now with reference to FIG. **3**, the first side fastener **136** extends outward from the distal end **115** of the plurality of cross strips **114** and includes a connective support section **138**, an adjustment section **140** and a fastener section **142**. The connective support section **138** is located adjacent to the cross strips **114** and is formed of a webbing material. The webbing material extends substantially orthogonal to the cross strip **114** in the shown embodiment. The adjustment section **140** extends outward from the connective support section **138** and is formed of a stretch material, such as a synthetic fabric having elastic fibers that stretches. The fastener section **142** extends outward from the adjustment section **140**, is formed of a fabric, and has a fastener element applied on a major inner surface thereof.

[0031] Now with reference to FIG. **3**, the second side fastener **146** extends outward from the distal end **115** of the plurality of cross strips **114** opposite the first side fastener **136** and similarly includes a connective support section **148**, an adjustment section **150** and a fastener section **152**. The connective support section **148** is located adjacent to the cross strips **114** and is formed of a webbing material. The adjustment section **150** extends outward from the connective support section **148** and, like the adjustment section **150**, is made from a stretch material. The fastener section **152** extends outward from the adjustment section **150**, is formed of a fabric, and has a fastener element applied on a major outer surface thereof.

[0032] Now with reference to FIGS. **7-9**, the rear article **200** will be described in greater detail. The rear article **200** consists of a bottom support **210**, a rear body **212**, a top attachment **220**, a moveable rear attachment piece **226**, a first side fastener **236**, and a second side fastener **246**.

[0033] As shown in FIGS. **8** and **9**, the rear support section **202** consists of a first support section **204** and a second support section **208**. In the shown embodiment, the first support section **204** extends along the length thereof to a fold **206**, then through a rear support connector **207** extending essentially perpendicular to the first length to a second fold **206** into a second length, the second support section **208**. The second support section **208** extends essentially parallel to the first length and essentially perpendicular to the rear support connector **207**. The first support section **204** runs substantially parallel and congruent with the second support section **208**. However, it is possible that the first support section **204** and the second support section **208** extend incongruent to each other, for instance, in a v-shaped. Additionally, the first support section **204** and the second support section **208** are separated from each other by a distance a.

[0034] The rear support section **202** may be made of a webbing material having a flat fabric webbing with solid weave and a selected width. Additionally, in other embodiments, the rear support section **202** may be a single piece of sheet material or more than a pair of material strips. It should be understood by those reasonably skilled in the art that the various designs and combinations of webbing material might be used.

[0035] At each of the distal ends **205**, **209** of the first and second support sections **204**, **208** is a fastener element. It should be understood by those reasonably skilled in the art that the fastener element might take other forms such as adhesives or fasteners, including hook and loop fasteners, snaps, latches, removable adhesives, slides, buttons, buckles, etc.

[0036] Now with reference to FIG. **8**, the bottom support **210** is positioned along the rear support connector **207**. The bottom support **210** extends generally perpendicular from the rear support connector **207**. In the shown embodiment, the bottom support **210** is a single strip of webbing material extending from the rear support section **202**, and in particular, where the first support section **204** and the second support section **208** meet. In other embodiments, the bottom support **210** connects the first support section **204** and the second support section **208**, if they are separate pieces of material. The bottom support **210** includes a fastener element along a major surface thereof. However, it should be understood, that the bottom support **210**, in this exemplary embodiment includes fastener elements along both its major surfaces.

[0037] Now with reference to FIGS. **7-9**, the rear body **212** consists of a plurality of cross strips **214** each extending generally parallel to each other and generally perpendicular to the first and second support sections **204**, **208**. Like the first and second support sections **204**, **208**, the plurality of cross strips **214** are made of a webbing material, and likewise have a selected width, which may be different from that of the first and second support sections **204**, **208**.

[0038] A plurality of backing strips **216** are attached to each of the cross strips **214** to form support section receiving openings **217** there between. Each backing strip is a strip of webbing material having the same width as the plurality of cross strips **214**, in the embodiment shown. Each of the cross strips **214** has a distal end **215** extending outward from the support section receiving openings **217**. Proximate each distal end **215** are additional backing strips **216** applied to form cable receiving openings **218**, which in this embodiment, happened to be perpendicular to the support section receiving openings **217**. It should be understood by those reasonably skilled in the art that backing strips **216** may be applied at selected locations along the cross strips **214** to create openings in desired directions or quantities.

[0039] Connectors **219** are disposed at selected distal ends of the cross strips **214**. These connectors **219** may be standard slide fasteners and may be attached to the distal ends. In particular, each connector **219** may also include a hook connected to the slide, as shown. In the shown embodiment, a pair of connectors **219** are disposed along the distal ends **215** and can be any type of attachment means including an adhesive, a snap, a hook, a latch, buckle, a hook and loop fastener, or other fastener known to the art.

[0040] Now with reference to FIGS. **7** and **8**, the top attachment **220** extends from each of the first and second support sections **204**, **208** and is located between them. The top attachment **220** includes a top fastener **224** and a pair of support strips **222**. The top fastener **224** is a strip of webbing material and includes a fastener element on both of its major surfaces. The pair of support strips **222** extends from the top fastener **224** to respective ones of the first and second support sections **204**, **208**. Each support strip **222** is a strip of webbing material. In the embodiments shown, the first support strip **222** extends away from the top fastener **224** toward the rear body **212** and the first support section **204**, while the second support strip **222** extends away from the top fastener **124** toward the rear body **212** and the second support section **208**.

[0041] Now with reference to FIGS. **7-9**, the moveable rear attachment piece **226** is shown and positioned between the rear body **212** and the top attachment **220**. The moveable rear attachment piece **226** includes a supplemental support strip **228** and a plurality of backing strips **230**. The supplemental support strip **228** extends generally parallel to the cross strips **214**. The backing strips **230** are applied to the supplemental support strip **228** at selected locations to define support section receiving openings **232**. Located at each of the distal ends **227** is an attachment section **234**. Each attachment section **234** includes fastener material applied to its major surfaces. The moveable rear attachment piece **226**, like the cross strips **214**, is formed of a webbing material having a selected width. Positioned at selected locations along the moveable rear attachment piece **226** are the plurality of backing strips **230** attached thereto.

[0042] Now with reference to FIG. **8**, the first side fastener **236** extends outward from the distal end **215** of the plurality of cross strips **214** and includes a connective support section **238**, an adjustment section **240** and a fastener section **242**. The connective support section **238** is located adjacent to the cross strips **214** and is formed of a webbing material. The webbing material extends substantially orthogonal to the cross strip **214** in the shown embodiment. The adjustment section **240** extends outward from the connective support section **238** and is formed of a stretch material, such as a synthetic fabric having elastic fibers that stretches. The fastener section **242** extends outward from the adjustment section **240**, is formed of a fabric, and has a fastener element applied on a major outer surface thereof.

[0043] Also shown in FIG. **8**, the second side fastener **246** extends outward from the distal end **215** of the plurality of cross strips **214** opposite the first side fastener **236** and simi-

larly includes a connective support section **248**, an adjustment section **250** and a fastener section **252**. The connective support section **248** is located adjacent to the cross strips **214** and is formed of a webbing material. The adjustment section **250** extends outward from the connective support section **248** and, like the adjustment section **240**, is made from a stretch material. The fastener section **252** extends outward from the adjustment section **250**, is formed of a fabric, and has a fastener element applied on a major outer surface thereof.

[0044] Next, with reference to FIGS. **8** through **10**, a first side connector **300** of the armor plate carrier **1** according to the invention will be described.

[0045] As shown, the first side connector **300** includes a rear article attachment section **302**, a front connection section **304**, and a side armor securing section **308**.

[0046] The rear article attachment section **302** is a plurality of webbing materials extending from the rear article **200**. In particular, in the embodiment shown, the rear article attachment section **302** extends from one of the distal ends **215** of the plurality of cross strips **214**. The rear article attachment section **302** includes a plurality of fitting strips **303** that extend orthogonal to the rear article **200** and, in particular, the rear support section **202**. In the embodiment shown, the plurality of fitting strips **303**, like the cross strips **214**, are made of webbing material.

[0047] As shown, the front connection section **304** extends from a free end of the rear article attachment section **302**. In the shown embodiment, the front connection section **304** is a wide strip of webbing material with a length that runs substantially orthogonal to a length of the plurality of fitting strips **303**. The front connection section **304** includes a fastener element along one major surface side thereof. However, one skilled in the art would appreciate that a fastener element could be disposed along both major surface sides thereof. In another embodiment, the front connection section **304** would also include a strip of stretch material positioned between the webbing material and the plurality of fitting strips **303**.

[0048] Additionally, as shown in FIGS. **8-10**, the rear article attachment section **302** may include a plurality of backing strips **306** attached to each of the fitting strips **303** to form cable receiving openings **307** there between. Each backing strip **306** is a strip of webbing material having the same width as the plurality of fitting strips **303**, in the embodiment shown. It should be understood by those reasonably skilled in the art that backing strips **306** might be applied at selected locations along the fitting strips **303** to create openings in desired directions or quantities.

[0049] As shown in FIGS. **8-10**, the side armor securing section **308** includes a body **310**, a bottom section **312**, a pair of side straps **314**, and a top section **316**.

[0050] The body **310** is a section of material, such as webbing material, extending from a front surface of the rear article attachment section **302**. The bottom section **312** is a strip of webbing material extending from a lower surface of body **310** and having a fastener material disposed along an outer surface thereof. Each of the pair of side straps **314** is a material strip extending from opposite side surfaces of body **310**, respectively. Each side strap **314** includes a fastener element disposed along one or both major surfaces, near distal ends thereof. The top section **316** is a section of webbing material extending from an upper surface of body **310** and having a fastener element disposed along an inner surface thereof. The top section **316** may include a plurality of backing strips **318** disposed along an outer surface thereof, to form cable receiving openings **320** there between. Each backing strip **318** is a strip of webbing material having free ends connected to the top section **316**. It should be understood by those reasonably skilled in the art that backing strips **306** may be applied at selected locations along the fitting strips **303** to create openings in desired directions or quantities.

[0051] Next, with reference to FIGS. **8** through **10**, a second side connector **400** of the armor plate carrier **1** according to the invention will be described.

[0052] As shown, the second side connector **400** includes a rear article attachment section **402**, a front connection section **404**, and a side armor securing section **408**.

[0053] The rear article attachment section **402** is a plurality of webbing material extending from the rear article **200**. In particular, in the embodiment shown, the rear article attachment section **402** extends from another the distal end **215** of the plurality of cross strips **214**, with respect to the first side connector **300**. The rear article attachment section **402** includes a plurality of fitting strips **403** that extend generally orthogonal to the rear article **200** and, in particular, the rear support section **202**. In the embodiment shown, the plurality of fitting strips **403**, like the cross strips **214**, are strips of webbing material.

[0054] As shown, the front connection section **404** extends from a free end of the rear article attachment section **402**. In the shown embodiment, the front connection section **404** is a wide strip of webbing material with a length that runs substantially orthogonal to a length of the plurality of fitting strips **403**. The front connection section **404** includes a fastener element along one major surface thereof. However, one skilled in the art would appreciate that a fastener element could be disposed along both major surfaces thereof. In another embodiment, the front connection section **404** may also include a strip of stretch material positioned between the webbing material and the plurality of fitting strips **403**.

[0055] Additionally, as shown in FIGS. **8-10**, the rear article attachment section **402** may include a plurality of backing strips **406** attached to each of the fitting strips **403** to form cable receiving openings **407** there between. Each backing strip **406** is a strip of webbing material having the same width as the plurality of fitting strips **403**, in the embodiment shown. It should be understood by those reasonably skilled in the art that backing strips **406** may be applied at selected locations along the fitting strips **403** to create openings in desired directions or quantities.

[0056] As shown in FIGS. **8-10**, the side armor securing section **408** includes a body **410**, a bottom section **412**, a pair of side straps **414**, and a top section **416**.

[0057] The body **410** is a section of material, such as webbing material, extending from a front surface of the rear article attachment section **402**. The bottom section **412** is a strip of webbing material extending from a lower surface of body **410** and having a fasteners material disposed along an outer surface thereof. Each of the pair of side straps **414** is a material strip extending from opposite side surfaces of body **410**, respectively. Each side strap **414** includes a fastener element disposed along one or both major surfaces, such as distal ends thereof. The top section **416** is a section of webbing material extending from an upper surface of body **410** and having a fastener element disposed along an inner surface thereof. The top section **416** may include a plurality of backing strips **418** disposed along an outer surface thereof, to form cable receiving openings **420** there between. Each backing strip **418** is a strip of webbing material having free ends

connected to the top section **416**. It should be understood by those reasonably skilled in the art that backing strips **406** may be applied at selected locations along the fitting strips **403** to create openings in desired directions or quantities.

[0058] Now with reference to the drawings, assembly of the armor plate carrier **1** will be described in greater detail.

[0059] First, as shown in FIG. **3**, the webbing material is laid from the distal end **105** to form the first support section **104**. The fold **106** is sewn into the first support section **104** at an end of the front support connector **107**. Likewise, the second fold **106** is sewn into the second support section **108** at an opposite end of the front support connector **107**. The webbing material is laid to the distal end **109**, in order to form the second support section **108**. The fastener element is then applied, for example by sewing, on at least one major surface, at each of the distal ends **105**, **109**.

[0060] One end of the bottom support **110** is sewn to the front support connector **107** proximate to a middle of the front support connector **107**. The fastener element is then applied, for example by sewing, on both major surfaces thereof.

[0061] Next, the plurality of cross strips **114** are laid apart and substantially parallel to each other to form the front body **112**, The cross strips **114** are looped around the fasteners **119**, and the distal ends **115** are sewn to the connective support sections **138**, **148**. The connective support sections **138**, **148** are then sewn to the adjustment section **140**, **150**, which is then sewn to the fastener section **142**, **152**. The fastener element is then applied to the fastener section **142**, **152**, for example by sewing, and along the major inner and outer surfaces thereof. The distal end **115** of the backing strips **116** are sewn to the cross strip **114** at selective positions to form the cable receiving openings **118**.

[0062] In order to form the moveable front attachment piece **126**, the webbing material is laid along a length to form the supplemental support strip **128** and the attachment section **134** is then sewn to each of the distal ends **127**.

[0063] The top fastener **124** is formed by sewing fastener element on both of major surfaces thereof of the webbing material. The first and second support strips **122** are then sewn to a trailing end of the top fastener **124**, thus forming the top attachment **120**. Next, the distal ends of the first and second support strips **122** are then sewn to the first and second support sections **104**, **108**, respectively.

[0064] The supplemental support strip **128** is laid to extend substantially perpendicular to the first and second support sections **104**, **108**. The backing strips **130** are then sewn to the supplemental support strip **128** and the first and second support sections **104** are received through the support section receiving openings **132**.

[0065] The plurality of cross strips **114** are then laid substantially perpendicular to the first and second support sections **104**, **108**, and the backing strips **116** are sewn to the each of the cross strips **114**, such that the first and second support sections **104** are received through the support section receiving openings **117**.

[0066] Now with reference to FIG. **8**, assembly of the rear article **200** will be described in greater detail.

[0067] In order to form the rear support section **202**, the webbing material is laid from the distal end **205** to form the first support section **204**. The fold **206** is sewn to the first support section **204** at an end of the rear support connector **207**. Likewise, the second fold **206** is sewn to the second support section **208** at an opposite end of the rear support connector **207**, and the webbing material is laid to the distal end **209**, in order to form the second support section **208**. The fastener element is then applied, for example by sewing, on at least one major surface, at each of the distal ends **205**, **209**.

[0068] One end of the bottom support **210** is sewn to the rear support connector **207** proximate to a middle of the rear support connector **207**. The fastener element is then applied, for example by sewing, on both major surfaces thereof.

[0069] In order to form the rear body **212**, the plurality of cross strips **214** are laid apart and substantially parallel to each other. The cross strips **214** are looped around the connectors **219**, and the distal ends **215** are sewn to the connective support sections **238**, **248**. The connective support sections **238**, **248** are then sewn to the adjustment section **240**, **250**, which then is sewn to the fastener section **242**, **252**. The fastener element is then applied to the fastener section **242**, **252**, for example by sewing, and along the major inner and outer surfaces thereof.

[0070] The distal end **215** of the backing strips **216** are sewn to the cross strip **214** to form the cable receiving openings **218**.

[0071] In order to form the moveable rear attachment piece **226**, the webbing material is laid along a length to form the supplemental support strip **228** and the attachment section **234** is then sewn to each of the distal ends **227**.

[0072] The top fastener **224** is formed by sewing fastener element on both of major surfaces thereof of the webbing material. The first and second support strips **222** are then sewn to a trailing end of the top fastener **224**, thus forming the top attachment **220**. The distal ends of the first and second support strips **222** are then sewn to the first and second support sections **204**, **208**, respectively, to connect the top attachment **220** to the rear support section **202**.

[0073] The supplemental support strip **228** is laid to extend substantially perpendicular to the first and second support sections **204**, **208**. Next, the backing strips **230** are sewn to the supplemental support strip **228** and the first and second support sections **204** are received through the support section receiving openings **232**.

[0074] The plurality of cross strips **214** are then laid substantially perpendicular to the first and second support sections **204**, **208**, and the backing strips **216** are sewn to the each of the cross strips **214** and the first and second support sections **204** are received through the support section receiving openings **217**.

[0075] As shown in FIG. **9**, assembly of the first side connector **300** will be described.

[0076] First, the plurality of fitting strips **303** are laid out apart and running a length substantially parallel to each other to form the rear article attachment section **302**. The front connection section **304** is sewn to the free end of the rear article attachment section **302**. Next, the backing strips **306** are sewn to each of the fitting strips **303** to form cable receiving openings **307** there between.

[0077] The side armor securing section is formed when the bottom section **312**, the pair of side straps **314**, and the top section **316** are sewn to each side of the body **310**. The plurality of backing strips **318** are then sewn to the outer surface of the body to form cable receiving openings **320** there between. The body **310** is sewn to the rear article attachment section **302**, thus forming the first side connector **300**.

[0078] Now with reference to FIG. **9**, an assembly of the second side connector **400** will be described.

[0079] First, the plurality of fitting strips **403** are laid out apart and running a length substantially parallel to each other

to form the rear article attachment section **402**. The front connection section **404** is sewn to the free end of the rear article attachment section **402**. Next, the backing strips **406** are sewn to each of the fitting strips **403** to form cable receiving openings **407** there between.

[0080] The side armor securing section is formed when the bottom section **412**, the pair of side straps **414**, and the top section **416** are sewn to each side of the body **410**. The plurality of backing strips **418** are then sewn to the outer surface of the body to form cable receiving openings **420** there between. The body **410** is sewn to the rear article attachment section **402**, thus forming the second side connector **400**.

[0081] As shown in FIG. **9**, the first and second side connectors **300**, **400** are then sewn to the rear body **212** along opposite distal ends **215** thereof. However, in other embodiments, the first and second side connectors **300**, **400** may be sewn to the first and second side fasteners **236**, **246**, respectively.

[0082] Now with reference to the FIGS. **4**, **5**, and **6**, assembly of armor with the front article **100**, the rear article **200**, the first side connector **300**, and the second side connector **400** will be discussed.

[0083] A first piece of armor **2** is positioned along a rear surface of the front body **112**. The distance between each cross strip **114** can be adapted to correspond with first piece of armor **2**. This is performed by adjusting the front body **112** and, in particular, the cross strip **114** along the first support section **104** and second support section **108**, using the support section receiving openings **117**.

[0084] Next, the first side fastener **136** is folded over on side of the first piece of armor **2** to lie across a front thereof. Since the first side fastener **136** includes the adjustment section **140**, which is elastic, the first side fastener **136** is adaptable to the width of the first piece of armor **2**. The fastener section **242** of the first side fastener **136** connects with the bottom support **110** and the top attachment **120**.

[0085] In the embodiment shown, portions of the front support section **102** are folded over a lower wall of the first piece of armor **2**. The front support section **102** wraps around the first piece of armor **2**, and the fastener element of the bottom support **110** attaches to the fastener section **142** of the first side fastener **136**. As a result, the first piece of armor **2** is now secured from sliding downward from a first member receiving space **160**.

[0086] Likewise, the top attachment **120** folds over an upper wall of the first piece of armor **2**, and attaches to the fastener section **142**. In particular, the pair of support strips **122** wraps around the upper wall and the fastener section **142**. Now, the first piece of armor **2** is secure from sliding upward from the first member receiving space **160**.

[0087] Next, as shown, the moveable front attachment piece **126** is adjusted along the front support section **102** so that the moveable front attachment piece **126** adapts to the dimensions of the first piece of armor **2**. Distal ends **127** of the supplemental support strip **128** wrap around opposite sides of the first piece of armor **2** and connect to the first side fastener **136**. Since the moveable front attachment piece **126** is adjustable along the front support section **102**, between the top attachment **120** and front body **112**, the moveable front attachment piece **126** can further secure the first piece of armor **2** in the first member receiving space **160**.

[0088] In order to fully secure all sides of the first piece of armor **2** in the first member receiving space **160**, the second side fastener **146** is folded over an opposite side of the first piece of armor **2** with respect to the side secured by the first side fastener **136**, such that the second side fastener **146** lays across a point of contact between the bottom support **110**, the top attachment **120** and the moveable front attachment piece **126** with the first side fastener **136**. Since the second side fastener **146** includes the adjustment section **150**, which is elastic, the second side fastener **146** is adaptable to the width of the first piece of armor **2** and provides a snug fit around the first piece of armor **2**, securing it in the first member receiving space **160**.

[0089] Since the front article **100** includes components parts that can slide or stretch, the front article **100** is adaptable to the dimensions of the first piece of armor **2** to firmly secure the first piece of armor within the first member receiving space **160**.

[0090] As shown in FIG. **9**, the second piece of armor **3** is positioned along a rear surface of the rear body **212**. The distance between each cross strip **214** can be adapted to correspond with first piece of armor **2**, as well as along the rear support section **202** with respect to the user's chest. This is performed by adjusting the rear body **212** and, in particular, the cross strip **214** along the first support section **204** and second support section **208**, using the support section receiving openings **217**.

[0091] Next, the first side fastener **236** is folded over one side of the first piece of armor **2** to lie across a rear thereof. Since the first side fastener **236** includes the adjustment section **240**, which is elastic, the first side fastener **236** is adaptable to the width of the first piece of armor **2**.

[0092] In the embodiment shown, portions of the rear support section **202** that connect with the bottom support **210** are folded over a lower wall of the first piece of armor **2**. The rear support section **202** wraps around the first piece of armor **2**, and the fastener element of the bottom support **210** attaches to the fastener section **242** of the first side fastener **236**. As a result, the first piece of armor **2** is now secure from sliding downward from a second member receiving space **260**.

[0093] Likewise, the top attachment **220** folds over an upper wall of the first piece of armor **2**. In particular, the pair of support strips **222** wraps around the upper wall and the top fastener **224** attaches to the fastener section **242**. Now, the first piece of armor **2** is secure from sliding upward from the second member receiving space **260**.

[0094] Next, as shown, the moveable rear attachment piece **226** is adjusted along the rear support section **202** so that the moveable rear attachment piece **226** adapts to the dimensions of the first piece of armor **2**. The distal ends **227** of the supplemental support strip **228** wrap around opposite sides of the first piece of armor **2** and the attachment sections **234** connect to the first rear fastener section **242**. Since the moveable rear attachment piece **226** is adjustable along the rear support section **202**, between the top attachment **220** and rear body **212**, the moveable rear attachment piece **226** can further secure the first piece of armor **2** in the second member receiving space **260**.

[0095] In order to fully secure all sides of the first piece of armor **2** in the second member receiving space **260**, the second side fastener **246** is folded over an opposite side of the first piece of armor **2** with respect to the side secured by the first side fastener section **236**, such that the fastener section **252** lays across a contact point of the bottom support **210**, the top attachment **220** and the moveable rear attachment piece **226** with the fastener section **242**. Since the second side

fastener **246** includes the adjustment section **250**, which is elastic, the second side fastener **246** is adaptable to the width of the first piece of armor **2** and provides a snug fit around the first piece of armor **2**, securing it in the second member receiving space **260**.

[0096] In the shown embodiment, the rear article **200** is adaptable to the dimensions of the second piece of armor **3** to firmly secure the second piece of armor **3** within the second member receiving space **260**. Considering that rear article **200** includes components parts that can slide or stretch, the rear article **200** not only adapts to dimensions of the first piece of armor **2**, but also positions the first piece of armor **2** with respect to the user's chest.

[0097] As shown in FIG. **10**, a piece of side armor **5** is positioned along an inner surface of body **310**, and the bottom section **308** is folded up and positioned on a surface of the piece of side armor **5**. Next, the pair of side straps **314** are folded over and fastener elements of the side straps **314** connect with the fastener elements of the bottom section **308**. The top section **309** is then folded down, and the fastener elements of the top section **309** attach to the bottom section **308** and the side straps **314** to secure the piece of side armor **5** in the side member receiving space **330**.

[0098] Likewise, a side member receiving space **412** is assembled, when the fasteners material of the bottom section **408**, the pair of side straps **414**, and the top section **409** securely connect to each other. The side member receiving space **412** that can be sized to accommodate and secure a piece of side armor **5**. In the shown embodiment, the piece of side armor **5** is positioned along an inner surface of body **410**, and the bottom section **412** is folded up and positioned on a surface of the piece of side armor **5**. Next, the pair of side straps **414** are folded over to connect with the bottom section **412**. The top section **409** is then folded down to securely hold the piece of side armor **5** in the side member receiving space **412**.

[0099] Now with reference to the FIGS. **4** through **6**, assembly of armor with the front article **100**, the rear article **200**, the first side connector **300**, and the second side connector **400** will be discussed.

[0100] Once the first piece of armor **2**, the second piece of armor **3**, and pieces of side armor **5** are secured, as described above, the front article **100** and the rear article **200** removably attach to each other using the fastener element positioned along both distal ends thereof. In particular, the front support section **102** and the rear support section **202** attach to each other using webbing slides and hook and loop fasteners, in order to adjust the length thereof. However, it is possible that one skilled in the art could use a variety of known methods or mechanisms to attach the front support section **102** and the rear support section **202**.

[0101] In use, the front article **100** and rear article **200** are positioned over the user's chest, shoulders and back, and then adjusted according to the user size and body features, using the fastener elements that adjust the components described above. This allows the user to better position the first piece of armor **2** and the second piece of armor **3** with respect to the size and body features of the user.

[0102] Next, the first side connector **300** and the second side connector **400** wrap around the user's torso, from the back to the front, and connect using the fastener elements disposed along the front connection sections **304**, **404**, respectively. When connected, the first side connector **300** and the second side connector **400** secure the rear article **200** along the user's back. The first side connector **300** and the second side connector **400** fit snugly around the user's torso.

[0103] Next, the front article **100** attaches to the first side connector **300** and the second side connector **400** using the plurality of fasteners **119**. As a result, the armor plate carrier **1** includes a first fit using the first side connector **300** and the second side connector **400** and then a second fit that secures the front article **100** with the first side connector **300** and the second side connector **400**. This provides a better customized fit for the user.

[0104] It should be understood that any of the described connecting component parts using fastener elements or the like, include connection of mating male and female connecting parts. For instance, in the shown embodiment, hook and loop fasteners are used. Therefore, one skilled in the art should appreciate that various connecting parts may be used and the connecting component parts should be made compatible. For instance, one component surface may include a section of hooks that catch the loops along the connecting component surface.

[0105] While an exemplary embodiment shows an assembly of sewn component parts, it should be understood by one skilled in the art that other connecting means are available, including fasteners, adhesives, and mechanical joints.

[0106] Additionally, an assembly of the armor plate carrier **1** may include more, or less components than that which is described, or may be assembled in a different order that which has been described.

[0107] The foregoing illustrates some of the possibilities for practicing the invention. Many other embodiments are possible within the scope and spirit of the invention. It is, therefore, intended that the foregoing description be regarded as illustrative rather than limiting, and that the scope of the invention is given by the appended claims together with their full range of equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. An armor plate carrier, comprising:

a rear article having a rear member receiving space;

a first side connector extending from a first side of the rear article;

a second side connector extending from a second side of the rear article and attaching to the first side connector; and

a front article having a front member receiving space, a front support section connecting to the rear article, and a plurality of fasteners positioned along opposite ends thereof and connecting to the first side connector and the second side connector respectively.

2. The armor plate carrier according to claim **1**, wherein the front support section includes a first support section and a second support section extending from a bottom portion thereof.

3. The armor plate carrier according to claim **2**, wherein the first support section and the second support section are a pair of strips extending substantially parallel to each other.

4. The armor plate carrier according to claim **3**, wherein the front article includes a front body having a material strip extending transverse to and receiving the first support section and the second support section respectively.

5. The armor plate carrier according to claim **3**, wherein front body includes a plurality of cross strips extending orthogonal to the front support section and a plurality of support section receiving openings adapted to receive the front support section.

6. The armor plate carrier according to claim **5**, wherein the plurality of cross strips are webbing material having a solid weave.

7. The armor plate carrier according to claim **6**, wherein the plurality of support section receiving openings are formed from a plurality of backing strips connecting to one of the plurality of cross strips.

8. The armor plate carrier according to claim **7**, further comprising an additional backing strip applied to one of the plurality of cross strips along a first distal end thereof to form a cable receiving opening.

9. The armor plate carrier according to claim **8**, wherein the cable receiving opening opens substantially perpendicular to the plurality of support section receiving openings.

10. The armor plate carrier according to claim **4**, further comprising:

a first side fastener extending from a first side of the front body;

a bottom support extending from the front support section and connectable with the first side fastener; and

a second side fastener extending from a second side of the front body and connectable with the first side fastener.

11. The armor plate carrier according to claim **10**, wherein the first side fastener includes a connective support section connecting to the front body.

12. The armor plate carrier according to claim **11**, wherein the first side fastener further includes a fastener section disposed along a free end of the first side fastener.

13. The armor plate carrier according to claim **12**, wherein the first side fastener further includes an adjustment section connecting the connective support section and the fastener section.

14. The armor plate carrier according to claim **13**, wherein the connective support section is a strip of fabric webbing connecting to the front body.

15. The armor plate carrier according to claim **14**, wherein the adjustment section includes a section of elastic material capable of elastic deformation.

16. The armor plate carrier according to claim **13**, wherein the second side fastener connects to the front body opposite a side where the first side fastener connects.

17. The armor plate carrier according to claim **16**, wherein the second side fastener includes another connective support section connecting to the front body, another fastener section disposed along a free end of the second side fastener, and another adjustment section connecting the other connective support section and the other fastener section.

18. The armor plate carrier according to claim **10**, wherein the bottom support extends from the front support section and includes a fastener element disposed along both surface sides thereof.

19. The armor plate carrier according to claim **18**, wherein the bottom support connects the first support section and the second support section together.

20. The armor plate carrier according to claim **10**, further comprising a top attachment extends from the front body and includes fastener element connectable with the first side fastener.

21. The armor plate carrier according to claim **20**, wherein the top attachment includes a pair of support strips connecting to the first support section and the second support section respectively, and a fastener section having a fastener element disposed along both surface sides thereof.

22. The armor plate carrier according to claim **20**, further comprising a moveable front attachment piece disposed along the front support section and positioned between the front body and the top attachment.

23. The armor plate carrier according to claim **22**, wherein the moveable front attachment piece includes a supplemental support strip extending across the front support section and a support section receiving opening disposed along the supplemental support strip for receiving the front support section.

24. The armor plate carrier according to claim **23**, wherein the support section receiving opening includes a backing strip that is secured to the supplemental support strip to form a loop section.

25. The armor plate carrier according to claim **24**, wherein the rear article includes a rear support section having a first rear support section and a second rear support section extending from a bottom surface thereof and connecting to the front support section and the second support section of the front article.

26. The armor plate carrier according to claim **25**, wherein the rear article includes a slide to receive fastener elements disposed along distal ends of the front support section and the second support section.

27. The armor plate carrier according to claim **26**, wherein the rear article includes a rear body having a material strip extending transverse to and receiving the first rear support section and the second rear support section respectively.

28. The armor plate carrier according to claim **27**, wherein the rear body includes a plurality of rear cross strips and a plurality of backing strips connecting to the plurality of rear cross strips to form a plurality of rear support section receiving openings.

29. The armor plate carrier according to claim **28**, wherein each of the plurality of rear support section receiving openings is a front support section receiving channel.

30. The armor plate carrier according to claim **27**, further comprising:

a first rear side fastener extending from a first side of the rear body;

a rear bottom support extending from a lower side of the rear support section and connectable with the first rear side fastener; and

a second rear side fastener extending from a second side of the rear body and connectable with the first rear side fastener.

31. The armor plate carrier according to claim **30**, wherein the first rear side fastener includes a connective support section connecting to the rear body.

32. The armor plate carrier according to claim **31**, wherein the first rear side fastener further includes a fastener section disposed along a free end of the first rear side fastener, and an adjustment section connecting the connective support section and the fastener section.

33. The armor plate carrier according to claim **32**, wherein the adjustment section is a section of elastic material capable of reversible deformation.

34. The armor plate carrier according to claim **32**, wherein the second rear side fastener includes another connective support section connecting to the rear body along an opposite side thereof with respect to the first rear side fastener.

35. The armor plate carrier according to claim **32**, wherein the rear bottom support extends from the rear support section and includes a fastener element disposed along both surface sides thereof.

36. The armor plate carrier according to claim **31**, further comprising a rear top attachment extending from an upper side of the rear support section and connectable with the first rear side fastener.

37. The armor plate carrier according to claim **36**, wherein the rear top attachment includes a plurality of support strips rigidly attached to the first support section and the second support section respectively, and a fastener section having a fastener element disposed along both surface sides thereof.

38. The armor plate carrier according to claim **37**, further comprising a moveable rear attachment piece disposed on the rear support section and positioned between the rear body and the rear top attachment.

39. The armor plate carrier according to claim **38**, wherein the moveable rear attachment piece includes a rear supplemental support strip extending extends across the rear support section and a plurality of rear supplemental support receiving sections disposed along the rear supplemental support strip for receiving the rear support section.

40. The armor plate carrier according to claim **39**, wherein the plurality of rear supplemental support receiving sections receive a pair of material strips of the rear support section.

41. The armor plate carrier according to claim **40**, wherein each of the plurality of rear supplemental support receiving sections is a material strip having two free ends that connect to the rear supplemental support strip to form a loop section.

42. The armor plate carrier according to claim **40**, wherein the first side connector includes a rear article attachment section connected to the rear article and a front connection section extending from the rear article attachment section and having a fastener to connect with the second side connector.

43. The armor plate carrier according to claim **42**, wherein the first side connector further includes a side armor securing section having:

a body connected to the rear article attachment section;

a bottom section extending from a lower surface of the body and having a fastener element disposed along a major surface thereof;

a top section extending from an upper surface of the body and having a fastener element disposed along a major surface thereof to connect with the bottom section; and

a pair of side straps extending from opposite side of the body and connectable to the bottom section.

44. An armor plate carrier, comprising:

a front support section having a first support section and a second support section extending from a bottom portion thereof;

a front body extending transverse to and receiving the first support section and the second support section respectively;

a first side fastener extending from a first side of the front body;

a bottom support extending from a lower side of the front body and connectable with the first side fastener; and

a second side fastener extending from a second side of the front body and connectable with the first side fastener.

45. The armor plate carrier according to claim **44**, wherein the first support section and the second support section are a pair of material webbing strips extending substantially parallel to each other.

46. The armor plate carrier according to claim **44**, wherein the front body includes a plurality of cross strips extending orthogonal to the front support section and a plurality of support section receiving openings adapted to the plurality of cross strips.

47. The armor plate carrier according to claim **46**, wherein the plurality of support section receiving openings include a plurality of backing strips connecting to the plurality of cross strips to provide a channel to receive the front support section.

48. The armor plate carrier according to claim **47**, wherein the first side fastener includes a connective support section connecting to the front body, a fastener section disposed along a free end of the first side fastener, and adjustment section connecting the connective support section and the fastener section.

49. The armor plate carrier according to claim **48**, wherein the adjustment section is a section of elastic material capable of reversible deformation and having a first side thereof connected to the connective support section and a second side thereof connected to the fastener section.

50. The armor plate carrier according to claim **49**, wherein the fastener section includes fastener elements disposed along both surface sides thereof.

51. The armor plate carrier according to claim **47**, wherein the second side fastener includes another connective support section connecting to the front body along an opposite side, another fastener section disposed along a free end of the second side fastener, and another adjustment section connecting the other connective support section and the other fastener section.

52. The armor plate carrier according to claim **44**, further comprising a top attachment extending from an upper side of the front support section and connectable with the first side fastener.

53. The armor plate carrier according to claim **52**, further comprising a moveable front attachment piece disposed on the front support section and positioned between the front body and the top attachment.

54. The armor plate carrier according to claim **53**, wherein the moveable front attachment piece includes a supplemental support strip extending extends substantially orthogonal to the front support section and a plurality of supplemental support receiving sections attached to the supplemental support strip.

55. The armor plate carrier according to claim **54**, wherein the plurality of supplemental support receiving sections receive the first support section and the second support section respectively.

56. The armor plate carrier according to claim **55**, wherein each of the plurality of supplemental support receiving sections includes a backing strip having two free ends that connect to the supplemental support strip to form a loop section.

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