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(54) **FLOATATION DEVICE**

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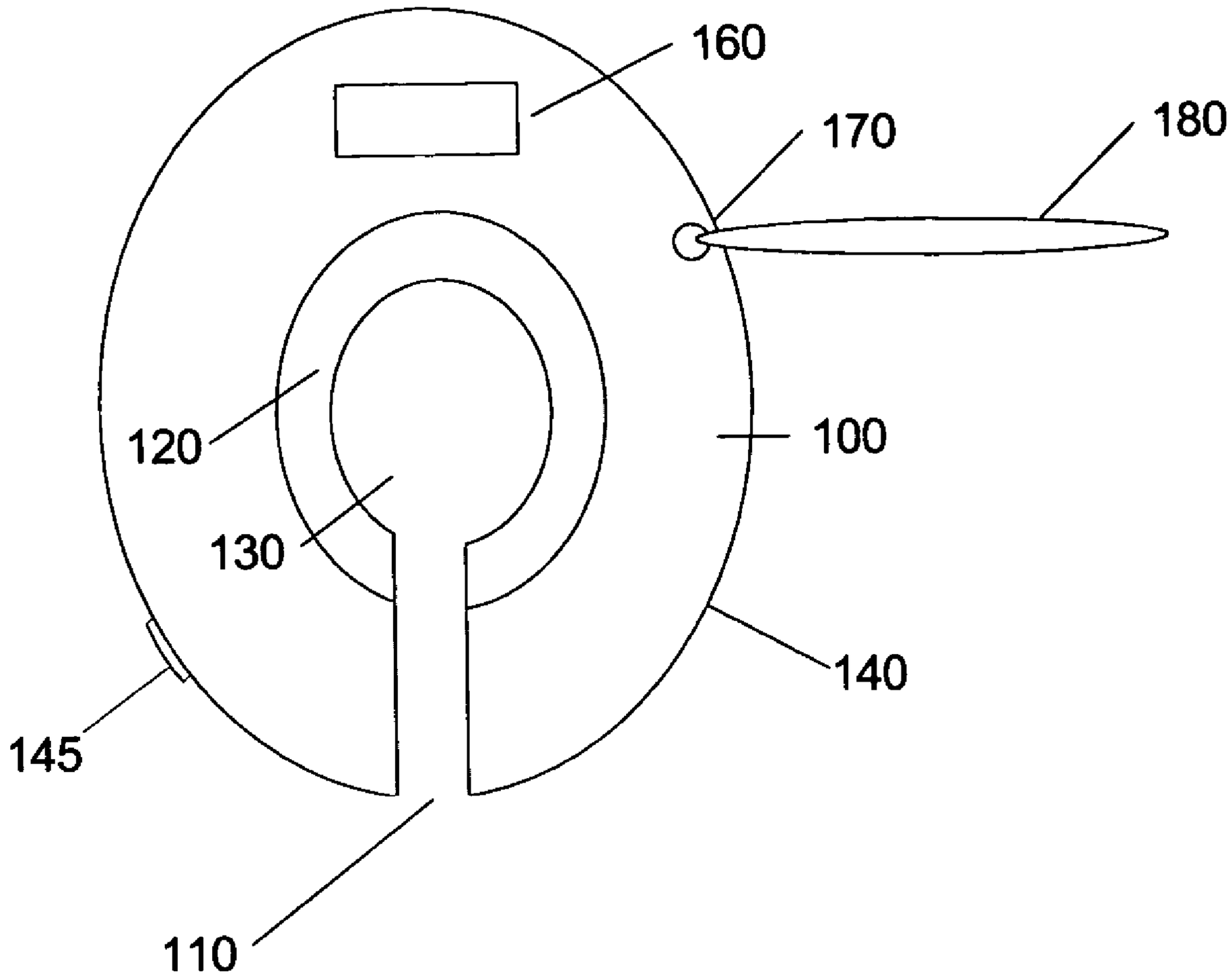
(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates generally to a slot and hole combination incorporated in a device to keep containers from tipping over. In one embodiment the slot and hole combination is incorporated into a flotation device for use in lakes, pools, hot tubs, spas, etc. for floating containers filled with beverages.



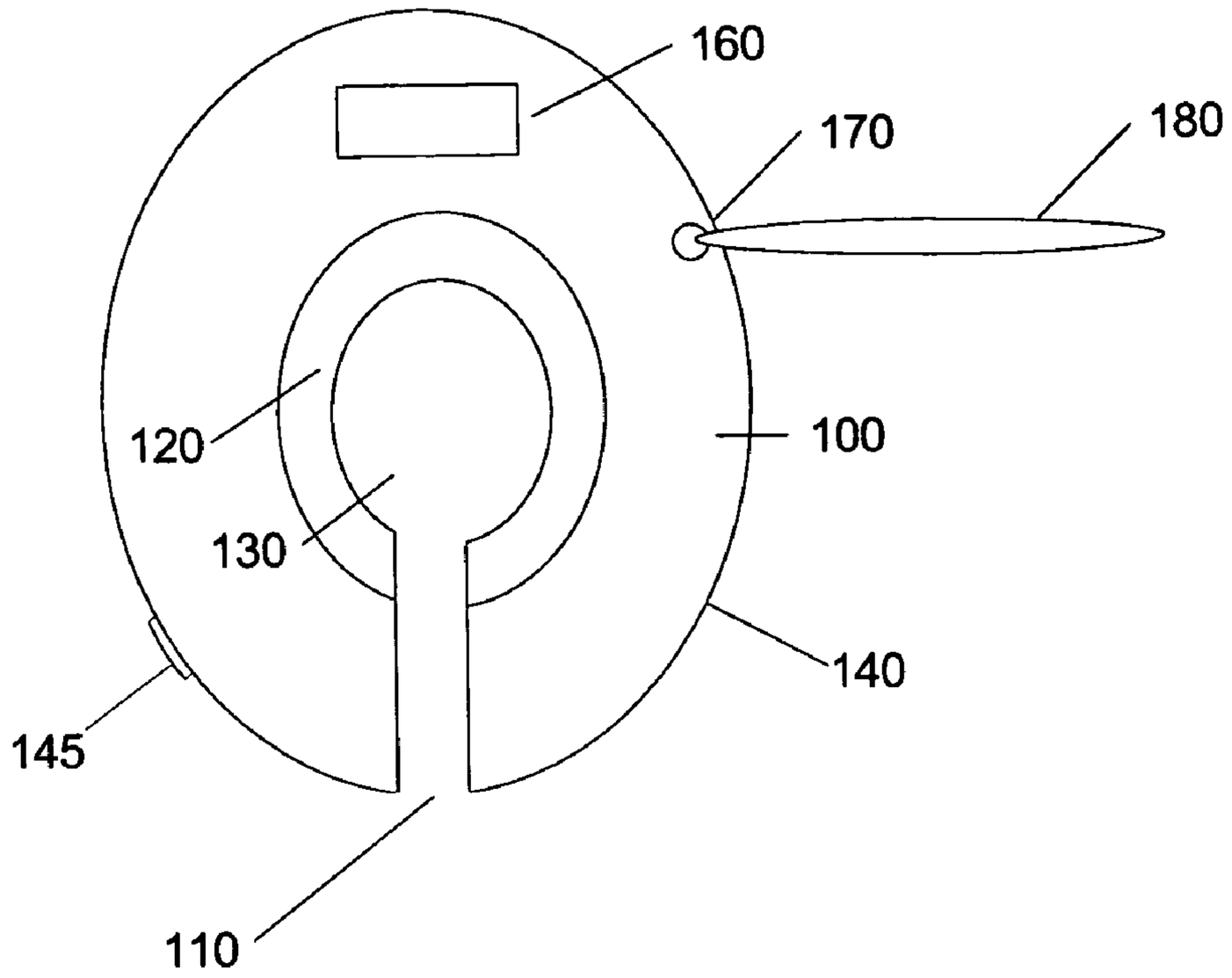


FIG. 1A

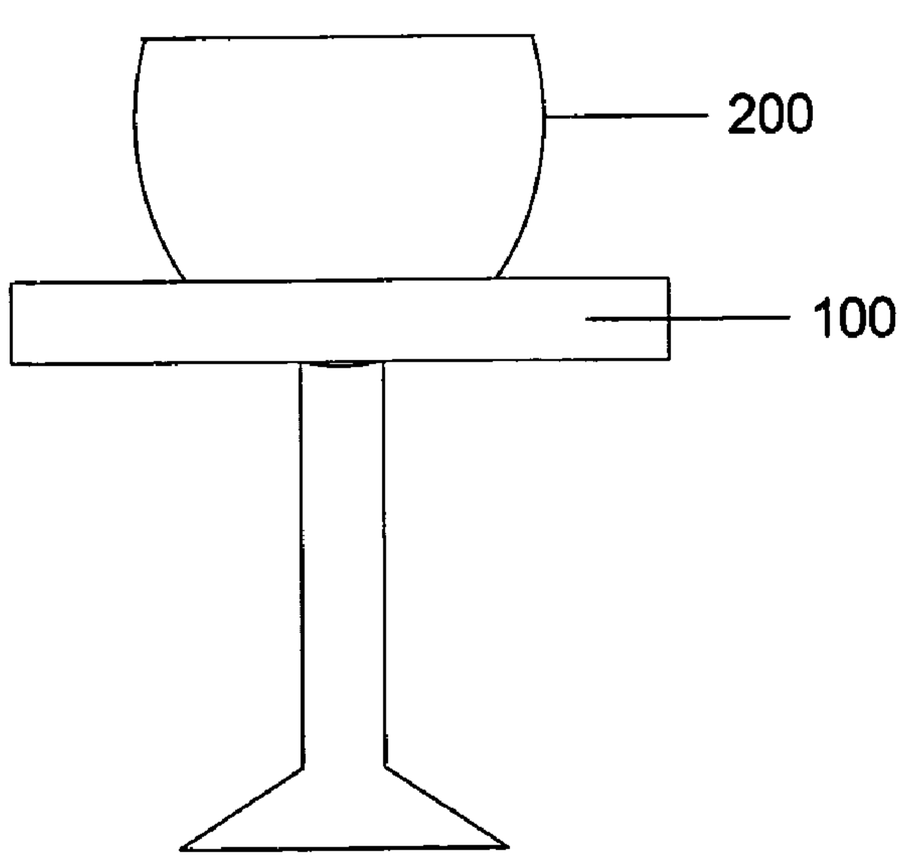


FIG. 1B

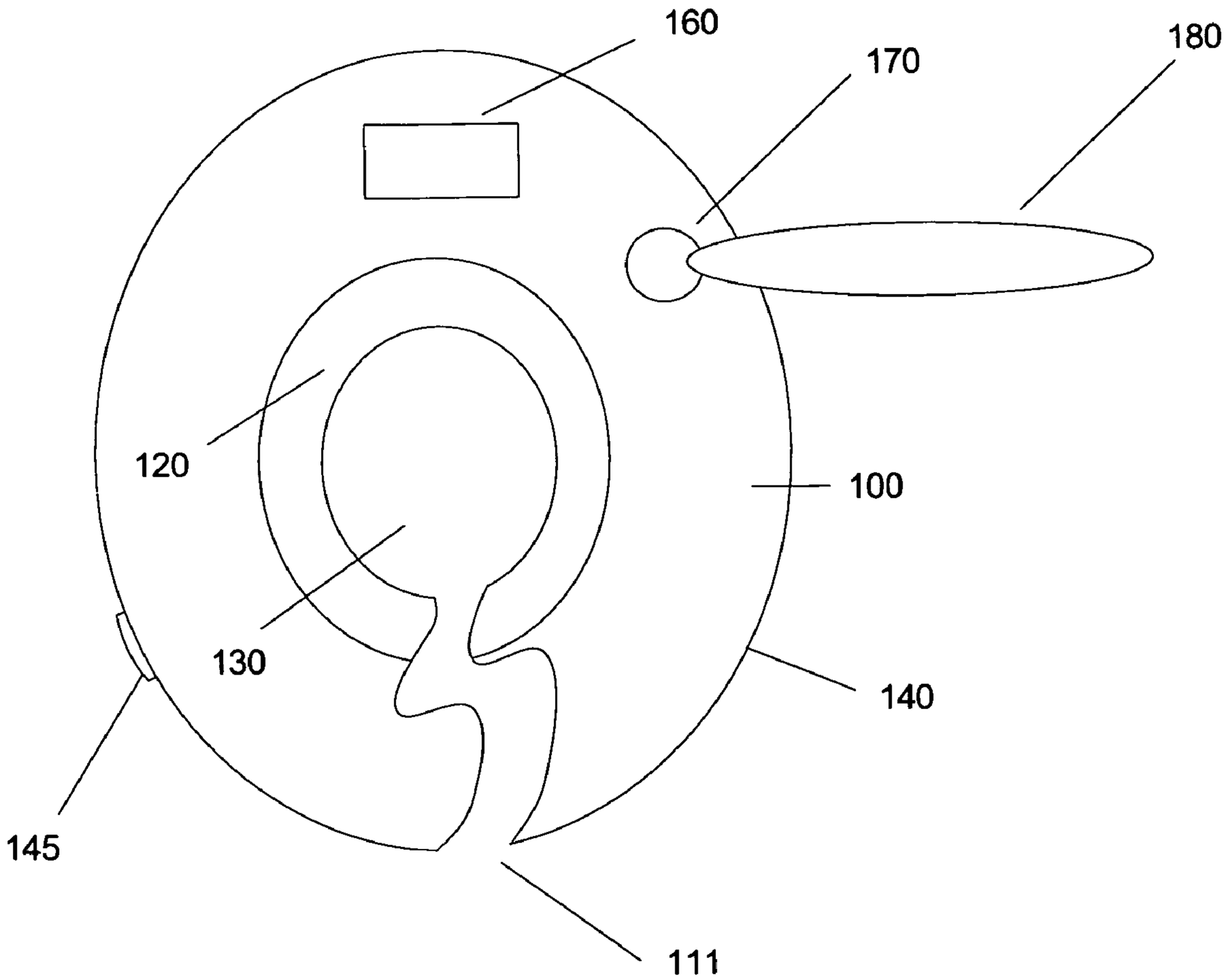


FIG. 1C

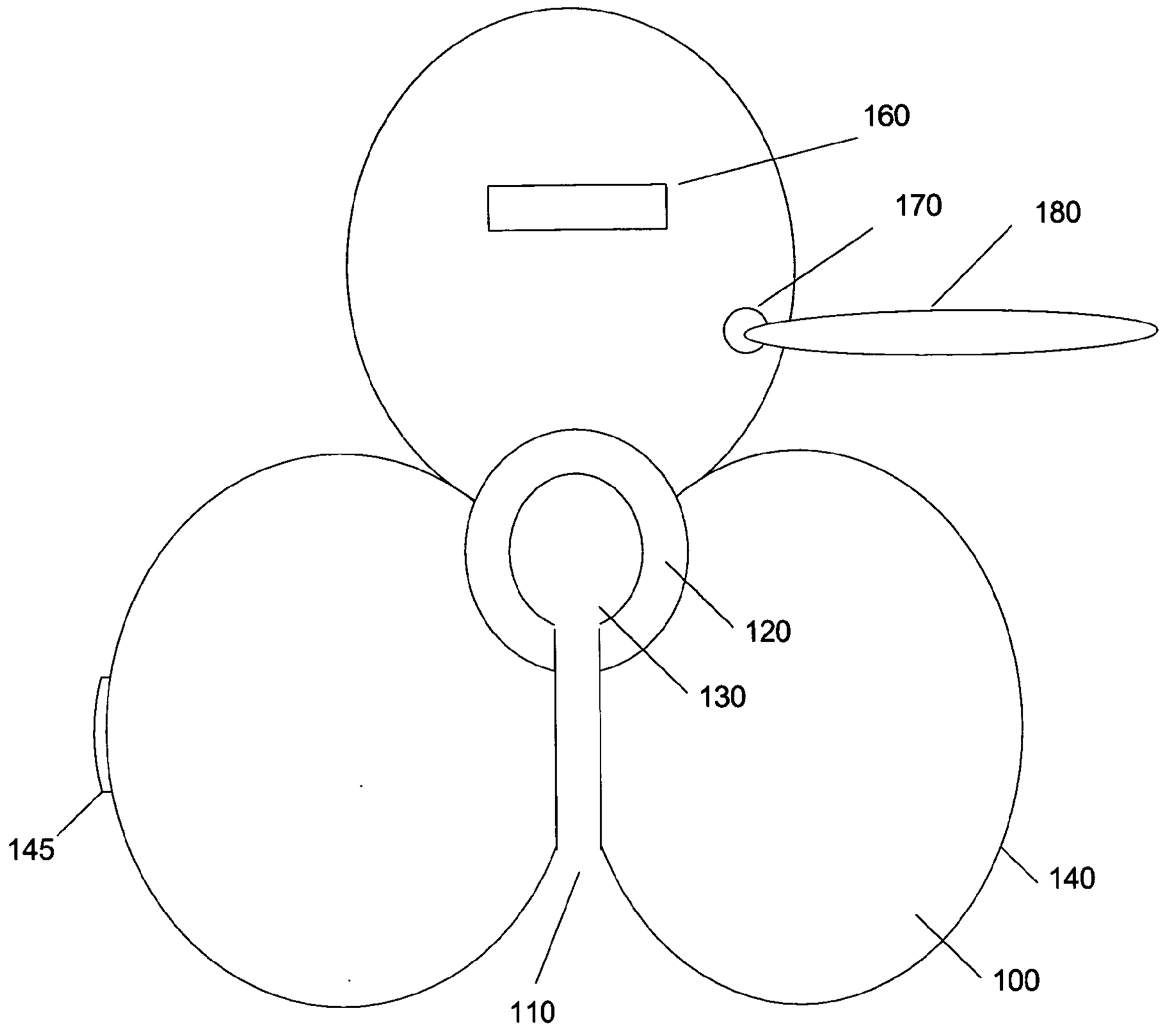


FIG. 1D

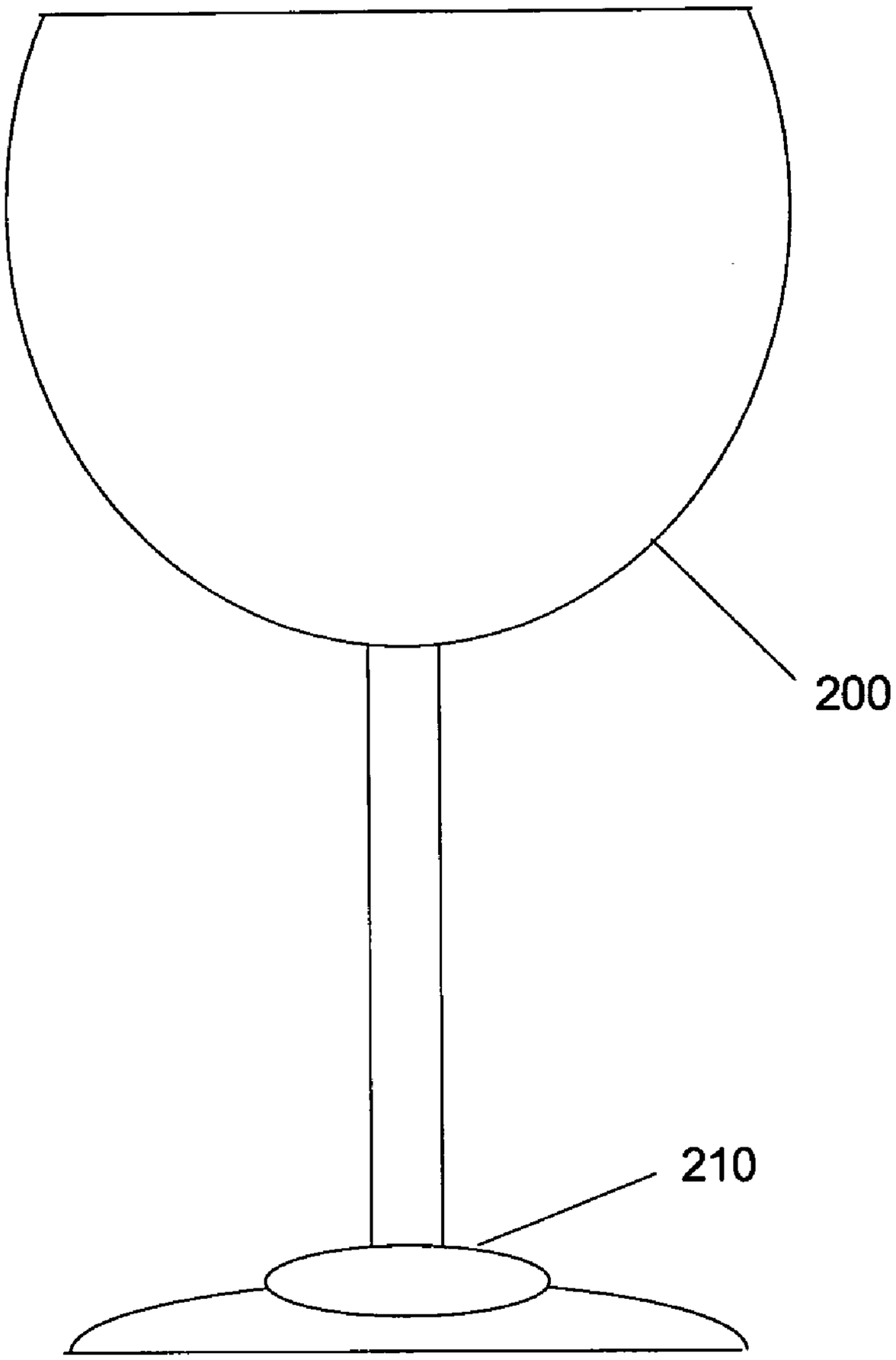


FIG. 2

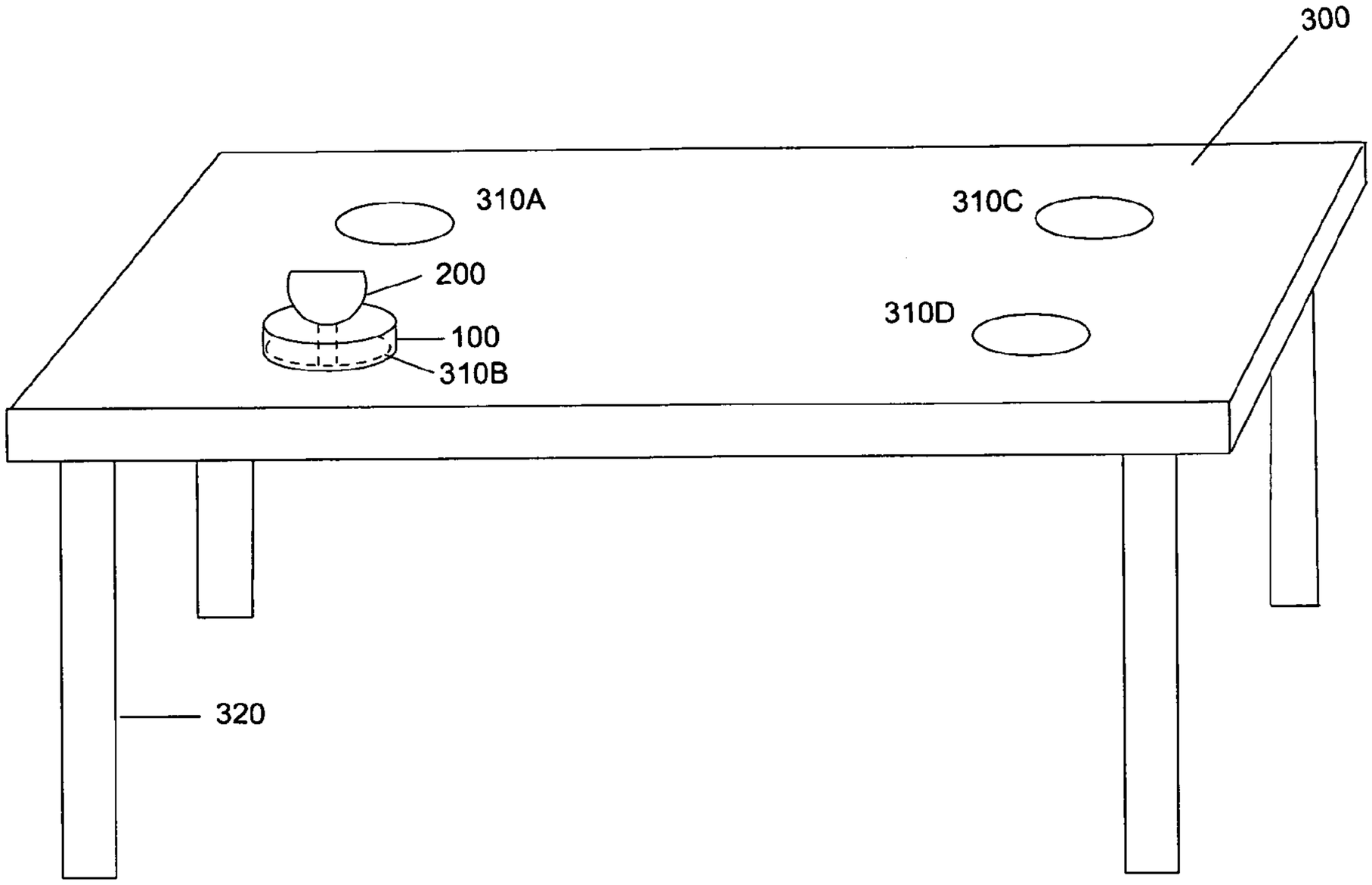


FIG. 3

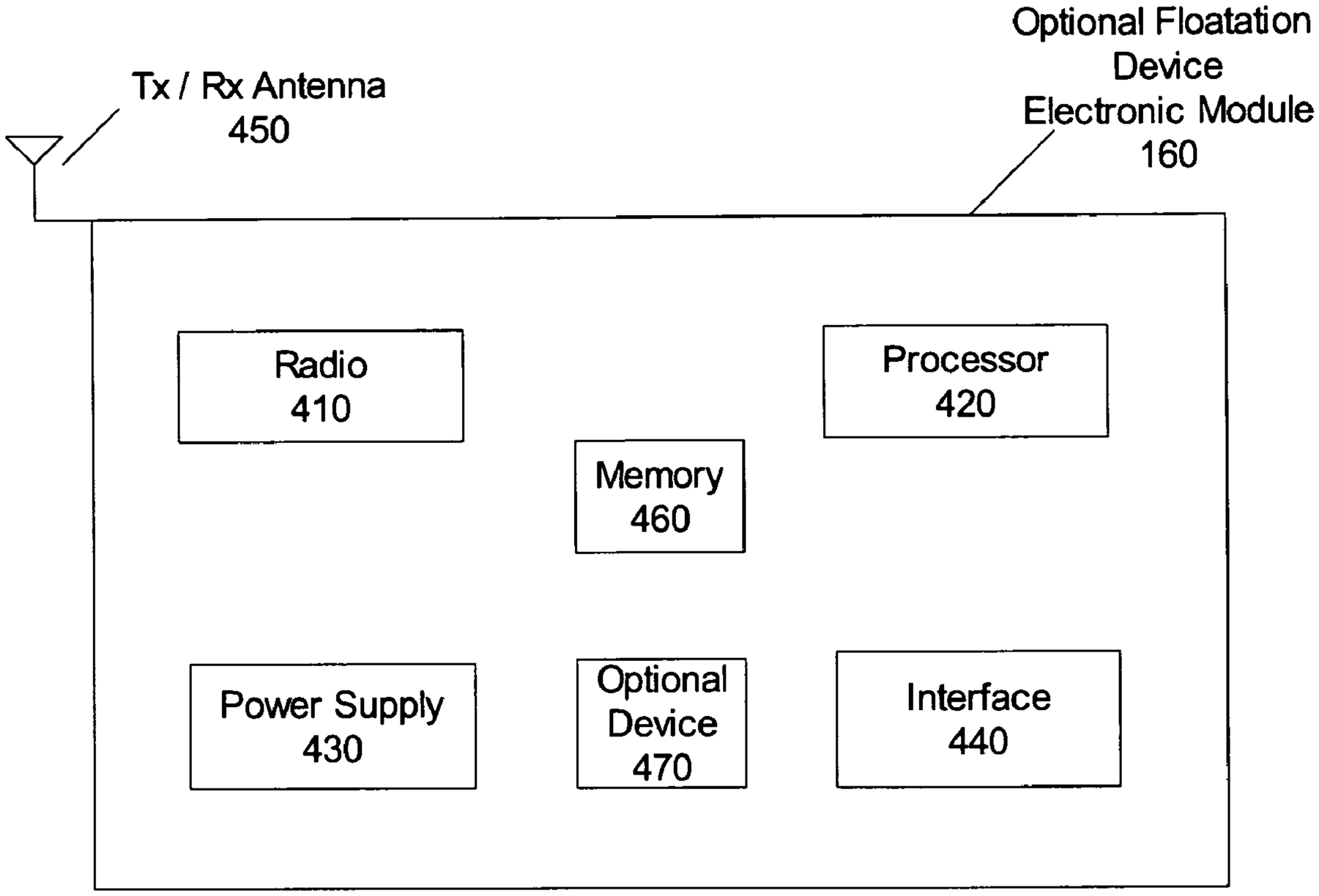

Optional Floatation Device Electronic Module 160
Tx / Rx Antenna 450
Radio 410
Processor 420
Memory 460
Power Supply 430
Optional Device 470
Interface 440

FIG. 4A

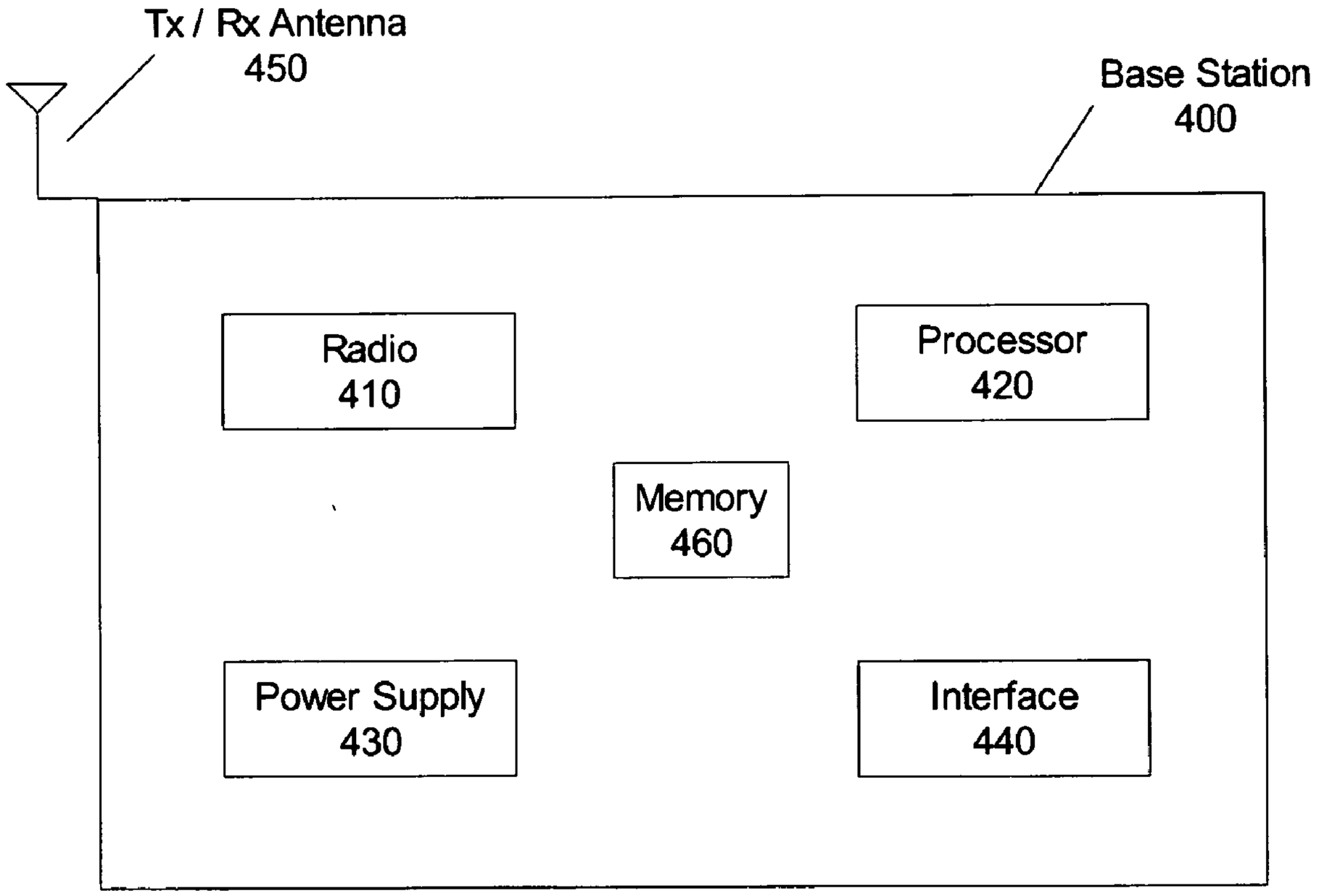

Tx / Rx Antenna
450
Base Station
400
Radio
410
Processor
420
Memory
460
Power Supply
430
Interface
440

FIG. 4B

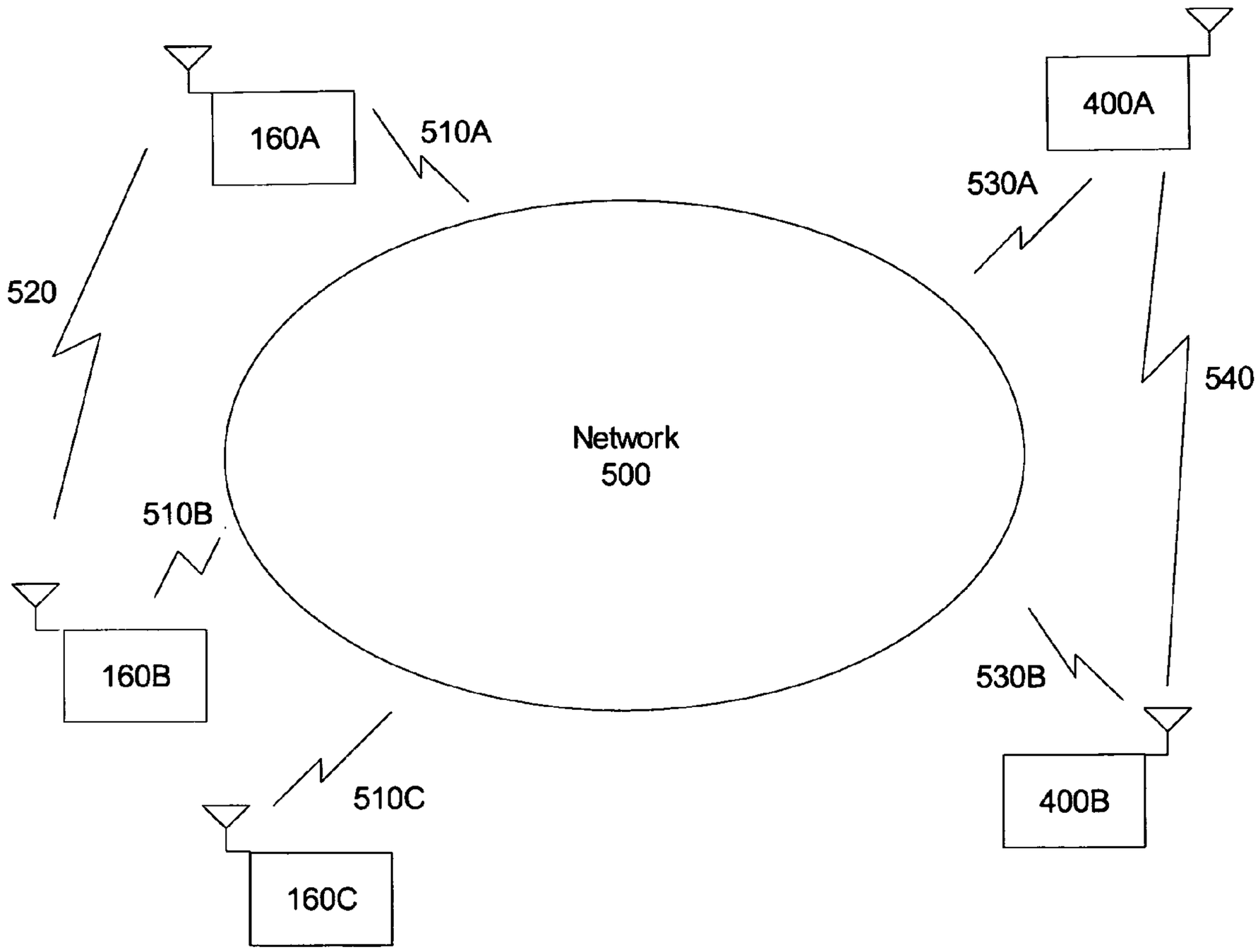

160A
510A
400A
530A
520
540
Network
500
510B
160B
530B
510C
400B
160C

FIG. 5

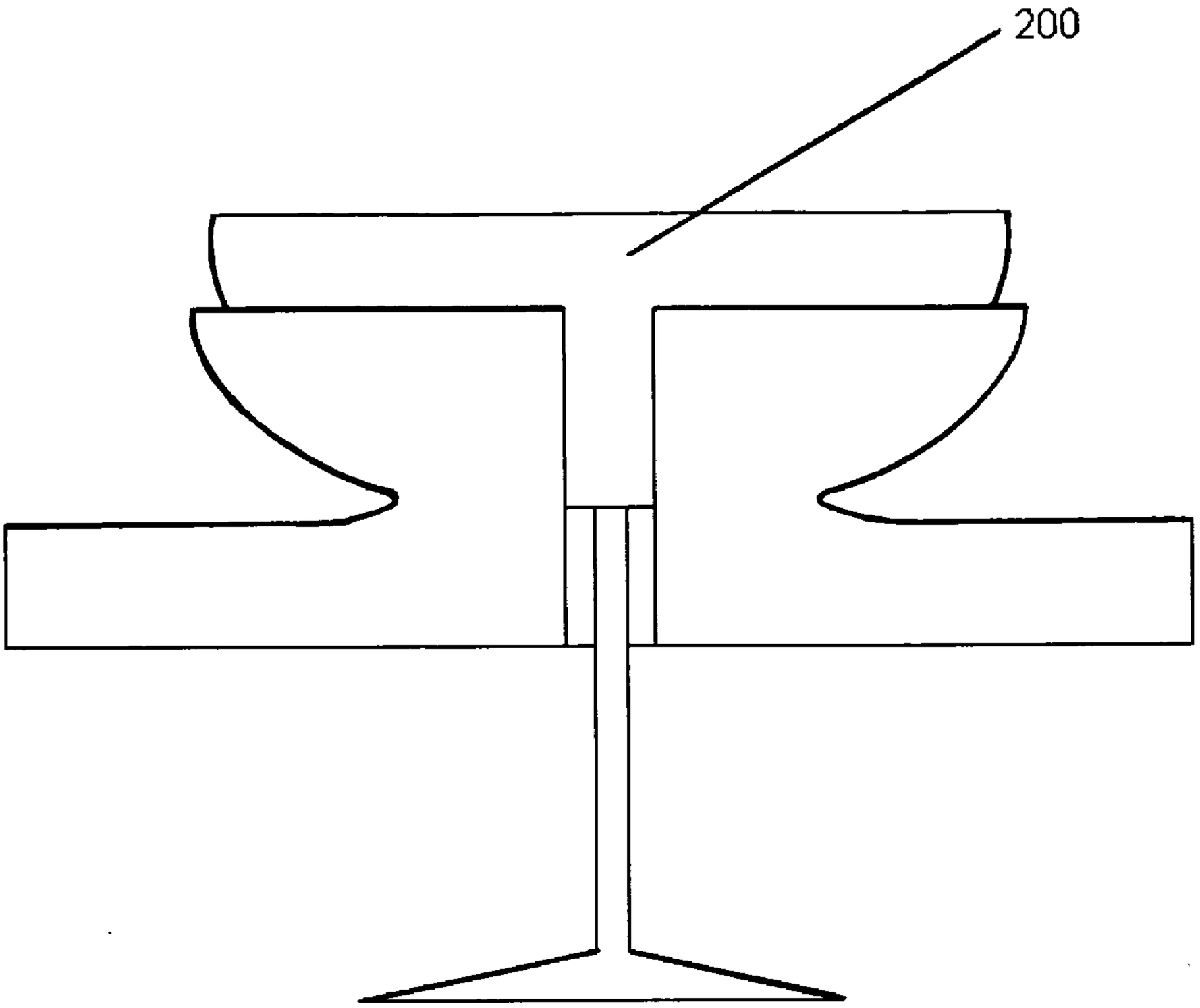


Fig. 6

FLOATATION DEVICE

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application is a conversion of and claims priority to prior U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/197,229 which is entitled Floatation Device and is herein incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention

[0003] The present invention relates generally to a slot and hole combination incorporated in a device to keep containers from tipping over. In one embodiment the slot and hole combination is incorporated into a flotation device for use in lakes, pools, hot tubs, spas, etc. for floating beverage containers.

[0004] 2. Problems in the Art

[0005] U.S. Pat. No. 6,607,090 to Doerr, describes a device that includes a pocket attached to a floatation device to buoy a container. This device is designed to hold a can, but is not suitable for easy removal of a container such as, but not limited to stemware including a wine glass, brandy snifter, champagne flute, cocktail glass, margarita glass or champagne coupe; cone shaped glasses such as a shot glass, collins glass, or an old-fashioned glass; beer glasses such as a pilsner glass, pint glass, or wheat beer glass, etc

[0006] U.S. Pat. No. 6,616,493 to Powell, et al, describes a device that is designed to hold a can in place using friction. This device requires a hole of a particular size in order to float a can, and therefore is not suitable for use with containers of varying size such as, but not limited to stemware including a wine glass, brandy snifter, champagne flute, cocktail glass, margarita glass or champagne coupe; cone shaped glasses such as a shot glass, collins glass, or an old-fashioned glass; beer glasses such as a pilsner glass, pint glass, or wheat beer glass, etc.

[0007] U.S. Pat. No. 6,029,846 to Mueller, describes a device that is designed with provisions to hold more than one can, where the multiple provisions are required by the specification and claims. Furthermore, this device is not suitable for easy removal of a single container such as, but not limited to stemware including a wine glass, brandy snifter, champagne flute, cocktail glass, margarita glass or champagne coupe; cone shaped glasses such as a shot glass, collins glass, or an old-fashioned glass; beer glasses such as a pilsner glass, pint glass, or wheat beer glass, etc

[0008] U.S. Pat. No. 5,088,948 to Scheurer describes a complicated, multi-piece container that is designed to float, not a device that is designed to buoy separate containers such as, but not limited to stemware including a wine glass, brandy snifter, champagne flute, cocktail glass, margarita glass or champagne coupe; cone shaped glasses such as a shot glass, collins glass, or an old-fashioned glass; beer glasses such as a pilsner glass, pint glass, or wheat beer glass, etc.

[0009] U.S. Pat. No. 4,571,194 to Kiss, et al, describes a device that is large and requires inflation in order to buoy a container.

[0010] U.S. Pat. No. 4,887,716 to Abraham, describes a device that is designed with provisions to hold more than one container, where the multiple provisions are required by the specification and claims.

[0011] U.S. Pat. No. 6,991,505 to Wells, describes a beverage floatation device that requires the use of a vertical stabilizer.

[0012] United States Patent Application 20080078788 to Degges, et al, describes a complicated, multi-piece floatation device that requires the use of a counter weight.

[0013] United States Patent Application 20040040968 to Visser, describes a complicated, multi-piece floatation device that requires the use of a sealable container.

[0014] United States Patent Application 20060098672 to Oakes, describes a device that requires the container to be supported by friction.

[0015] United States Patent Application 20050133510 to Lake, describes a device that includes a pocket to receive the container. Furthermore, this device is not suitable for easy removal of a container such as, but not limited to stemware including a wine glass, brandy snifter, champagne flute, cocktail glass, margarita glass or champagne coupe; cone shaped glasses such as a shot glass, collins glass, or an old-fashioned glass; beer glasses such as a pilsner glass, pint glass, or wheat beer glass, etc.

[0016] United States Patent Application 20070034632 to Luther, describes a device that is placed within a can to create buoyancy. This device is not suitable for the floatation of an open top container such as, but not limited to stemware including a wine glass, brandy snifter, champagne flute, cocktail glass, margarita glass or champagne coupe; cone shaped glasses such as a shot glass, collins glass, or an old-fashioned glass; beer glasses such as a pilsner glass, pint glass, or wheat beer glass, etc.

[0017] What is needed therefore, is an unfilled need for a system, method, and apparatus for a floatation device that is cost effective, easy to make, simple to use and has a wide range of uses, which solves these and other problems. This invention has as its primary objective fulfillment of this need.

Features of the Invention

[0018] A general feature of the present invention is the provision of system, method, and apparatus which includes a slot and hole combination incorporated in a device to keep containers from tipping over, which overcomes the problems found in the prior art.

[0019] Another general feature of the present invention is the provision of system, method, and apparatus which includes a slot and hole combination incorporated in a flotation device for use in lakes, pools, hot tubs, spas, etc. for floating beverage containers and to keep them from tipping over, which overcomes the problems found in the prior art.

[0020] A more specific feature of the present invention is the provision of a slot and hole combination apparatus in a device designed to float and to prevent beverage containers from tipping over, in which the slot extends from the hole through one edge of the device.

[0021] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a combination slot and hole apparatus, in which the hole is beveled normal to the through axis of the hole.

[0022] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a slot and hole combination apparatus in a device designed to float and to prevent beverage containers from tipping over, in which the slot extends from the hole through one edge of the device, and furthermore in which the slot radiates from the hole in a straight line.

[0023] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a slot and hole combination apparatus in a device

designed to float and to prevent beverage containers from tipping over, in which the slot extends from the hole through one edge of the device, and furthermore in which the slot is radiates from the hole in a curved line.

[0024] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a combination slot and hole apparatus, in which the hole supports the beverage container using an interference fit and not friction.

[0025] Another feature of the present invention is a method of marketing in which a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, resembles a donut.

[0026] Another feature of the present invention is a method of marketing in which a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, resembles a flying disc (Frisbee™).

[0027] Another feature of the present invention is a method of marketing in which a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, resembles a rubber vehicle tire.

[0028] Another feature of the present invention is a method of marketing in which a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, resembles a bagel.

[0029] Another feature of the present invention is a method of marketing in which a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, resembles a phonograph record.

[0030] Another feature of the present invention is a method of marketing in which the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, resembles a Compact Disc (CD).

[0031] Another feature of the present invention is a method of marketing in which a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, resembles a Digital Versatile Disc (DVD).

[0032] Another feature of the present invention is a method of marketing in which a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, resembles a wheel.

[0033] Another feature of the present invention is a method of marketing in which a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, resembles a bulls-eye target.

[0034] Another feature of the present invention is a method of marketing in which a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, resembles a clock face.

[0035] Another feature of the present invention is a method of marketing in which a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, resembles a hub cap.

[0036] Another feature of the present invention is a method of marketing in which a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, resembles a flying saucer.

[0037] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is hollow, and contains a kaleidoscope.

[0038] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is hollow, and contains a liquid or combination of liquids which are prismatic.

[0039] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of a faceted, translucent material which is prismatic.

[0040] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of wood.

[0041] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of plastic.

[0042] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of vinyl.

[0043] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of PVC.

[0044] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of bamboo.

[0045] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of teak.

[0046] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of acrylic.

[0047] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of Lexan™

[0048] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of foam.

[0049] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of cork.

[0050] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of an inflatable material such as rubber.

[0051] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of latex.

[0052] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of metal.

[0053] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of steel.

[0054] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of aluminum.

[0055] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of brass.

[0056] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of bronze.

[0057] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of stainless steel.

[0058] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of pumice.

[0059] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of recycled materials.

[0060] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is made of nanofoam materials.

[0061] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore has at least one textured surface.

[0062] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore has a vinyl coated surface.

[0063] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore has a logo printed or imprinted on the surface, such as, but not limited to, a NFL team, a MLB team, a NBA team, a college football team, a NHL team, a NASCAR driver, a company, a college or university, a religious organization, a governmental agency, etc.

[0064] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, in which the horizontal plane of the device is generally circular.

[0065] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, in which the horizontal plane of the device is generally a regular polygon.

[0066] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, in which the horizontal plane of the device is generally an irregular polygon.

[0067] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, in which the horizontal plane of the device is generally an irregular polygon, which is designed to invoke the outline of a familiar image, such as, but not limited to, a flower, a heart, a shoe sole, a car, an animal head, a human head, the sun, the moon, etc.

[0068] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, in which the horizontal plane of the device is generally an irregular polygon, which is designed to invoke the outline of a familiar image, such as, but not limited to, a logo.

[0069] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, in which the horizontal plane of the device is generally an irregular polygon that is designed to fit together like a puzzle piece with other devices of the present invention.

[0070] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore has a metallic edge for the purpose of making a "clinking sound" when touched together with other devices of the present invention, such as when raising "a toast" to one another.

[0071] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, in which the material, such as, but not limited to a foam, is of at least one color.

[0072] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore has a painted surface of at least one color.

[0073] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore has an anodized surface of at least one color.

[0074] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore has a glow-in-the dark surface of at least one color.

[0075] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore incorporates an integrated lighting system with lights of at least one color.

[0076] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore incorporates an integrated lighting system with lights of at least one color, which are steady burn lights.

[0077] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore incorporates an integrated lighting system with lights of at least one color, which blink randomly.

[0078] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore incorporates an integrated lighting system with lights of at least one color, which blink sequentially.

[0079] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore incorporates waterproof RFID technology.

[0080] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore incorporates an integrated waterproof radio and speakers to play music.

[0081] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore incorporates an integrated waterproof Apple IPOD docking station.

[0082] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore incorporates an integrated waterproof restaurant paging system.

[0083] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore incorporates an integrated pocket or slot for a hotel room key.

[0084] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore incorporates an integrated waterproof, wireless remote control system for returning the present invention to the beverage owner.

[0085] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore incorporates an integrated waterproof pocket for items such as a cell phone, cigarettes, lighter, keys, glasses, sun screen, etc.

[0086] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore incorporates an integrated lanyard for hanging around a person's neck.

[0087] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore incorporates a one-dimensional barcode for identification.

[0088] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore incorporates a two-dimensional barcode for identification.

[0089] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is designed as part of a collectible series.

[0090] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is designed to be a tradeshow give away.

[0091] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates a slot and hole combination apparatus, which furthermore is designed with outriggers.

[0092] Another feature of the present invention is the provision of a device, which is designed to float that incorporates an insulated portion for maintaining the temperature of a liquid contained in a container that is being floated.

[0093] Another general feature of the present invention is the provision of a system, method, and apparatus which includes a hole incorporated into a table top to accept a beverage container using the present invention from tipping over, which overcomes the problems found in the prior art.

[0094] One or more of these and/or other objects, features or advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following specification and claims.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0095] The present invention relates generally to a device for use in lakes, pools, hot tubs, and other places with water for floating containers. More specifically, the present invention relates to a floatation device for a container such as, but not limited to stemware including a wine glass, brandy snifter, champagne flute, cocktail glass, margarita glass or champagne coupe; cone shaped glasses such as a shot glass, collins glass, or an old-fashioned glass; beer glasses such as a pilsner glass, pint glass, or wheat beer glass, etc. The containers can hold liquids such as, but not limited to a beverage, or bulk materials such as but not limited to food, candies, or items such as, but not limited to candles or flowers.

[0096] The two primary differences between the present invention and prior art are: 1) designed for use with a container, and 2) designed to hold the container by the use of an interference fit and not friction.

[0097] In addition, other differences between the present invention and prior art are: 1) the integration of an optional waterproof electronic module that can be used for 1) communications, 2) as an AM/FM radio, 3) as an interface for USB devices, 4) as an interface for an IPOD or MP3 player, 5) as a power module for a lighting system, 6) as an RFID tag, 7) as a pager in a restaurant paging system, and 8) as a remote control.

[0098] In addition, other differences between the present invention and prior art are: 1) the integration of waterproof pockets for credit cards, bank cards, hotel keys, cigarettes, cigars, lighters, etc.

[0099] A more complete understanding of the system, method, and apparatus for the floatation of beverages in lakes, pools, hot tubs, spas, etc., will be afforded to those skilled in the art, as well as a realization of the additional features and advantages thereof, by a consideration of the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment. Reference will be made to the appended drawings which will first be described briefly.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0100] FIG. **1***a* is a pictoral representation of the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

[0101] FIG. **1***b* is a pictoral representation of the preferred embodiment of the present invention being used in conjunction with container as illustrated in FIG. **2**.

[0102] FIG. **1***c* is a pictoral representation of an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

[0103] FIG. **1***d* is a pictoral representation of an alternative embodiment of the present invention.

[0104] FIG. **2** is a pictoral representation of a type of container used with the present invention.

[0105] FIG. **3** is a pictoral representation of a type of container used in conjunction with the present invention resting on a table top.

[0106] FIG. **4***a* is a pictoral representation of an optional waterproof electronic module for use in conjunction with the present invention.

[0107] FIG. **4***b* is a pictoral representation of an optional base station for use in conjunction with at least one electronic module.

[0108] FIG. **5** is a pictoral representation of a telecommunication network for use in conjunction with the present invention.

[0109] FIG. **6** is a pictoral representation of a floatation device with integrated insulated jacket.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF AN EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENT

[0110] The present invention relates generally to a device for use in lakes, pools, hot tubs, spas, etc., for floating beverages. More specifically, the present invention relates to a floatation device for a container such as, but not limited to stemware including a wine glass, brandy snifter, champagne flute, cocktail glass, margarita glass or champagne coupe; cone shaped glasses such as a shot glass, collins glass, or an old-fashioned glass; beer glasses such as a pilsner glass, pint glass, or wheat beer glass, etc. The containers can hold liquids such as, but not limited to a beverage, or bulk materials such as but not limited to food, candies, or items such as, but not limited to candles or flowers.

[0111] FIG. **1***a* is a pictoral representation of the preferred embodiment of the present invention. The present invention is a floatation device **100**, which is comprised of a combination slot **110** and hole **130** for use in buoying up container **200** as shown in FIG. **2** in places such as, but not limited to, lakes, pools, hot tubs, spas, etc. Buoyancy is the upward force on an object produced by the surrounding liquid or gas in which it is fully or partially immersed, due to the pressure difference of the fluid between the top and bottom of the object. The net upward buoyancy force is equal to the magnitude of the weight of fluid displaced by the body. This force enables the object to float. FIG. **1***a* illustrates a single floatation device **100**; alternatively two floatation devices can be used to provide additional buoyancy. Also, the second floatation device **100** (not shown) can be rotated the horizontal plane relative to one another so slots **110** (one illustrated, one not shown) aren't overlaid on top of one another to create a locking effect.

[0112] FIG. **2** is a pictoral representation of container, **200** which includes a bowl **210**, a stem **220**, and a base **230**. FIG. **2** also slows an optional weight **240** that is designed to slip around the stem **220**. Optional weight **240** is used for stability when floating containers with the present invention. A secondary purpose of optional weight **240** is that of identification such as, but not limited to, by color, or initials being printed or imprinted, etc. Typically, the optional weight **240** could be made of metal or sand bag type 'neck pillow', but could be made of any material of sufficient density.

[0113] Slot **110** as shown in FIG. **1***a* is linear and has edges that generally extend parallel to a radius that extends from the center of hole **130** to edge **140**. Slot **110** extends through edge **140** and through the circumference of hole **130**. Slot **110** may be of a size greater than the maximum cross-sectional dimension of stem **220** of container **200** as shown in FIG. **2** in order to allow container **200** to easily slide through slot **110** and rest in bevel **120** of flotation device **100**. Slot **110** may be of a size that is smaller than the maximum cross-sectional dimension of stem **220** of container **200** as shown in FIG. **2** if the material of floatation device **100** is flexible enough to allow slot **110** to be made temporarily large enough to accept stem **220** by twisting or bending flotation device **100**. If slot **110** is smaller than the maximum cross-sectional dimension of stem **220** as shown in FIG. **2** this will allow slot **110** to act as a retainer to keep container **200** from easily slipping out of the present invention, floatation device **100**. The circumference of hole **130** is smaller than the bowl **210** of container **200** as shown in FIG. **1***b*, which illustrates that container **200** is not held in place in flotation device **100** by the sole means of friction, rather container **200** is held in present invention, floatation device **100**, by means of an interference fit. Hole **130** is beveled from the bottom surface of flotation device **100** to the top surface of flotation device **100**. Bevel **120** can be straight or curved, and is meant to hold container **200** generally in an upright position by means of friction, but once again, it is important to note the friction between bevel **120** and container **200** is not the means of keeping container **200** from slipping through the hole **130** of the present invention, flotation device **100**.

[0114] FIG. **1***a* also shows an optional electronic module **160** for integration into floatation device **100**.

[0115] FIG. **1***a* also shows an optional hole **170** in floatation device **100** for use in securing a lanyard **180**. The lanyard **180** can be closed, or be able to be clasped together. The lanyard **180** can be used to hang the present invention **100** around a person's neck. Also, a clasped lanyard **180** can be unclasped and if a spring loaded clip is used as the clasp, the lanyard **180** can be attached to a stationary object, person's swimming suit, etc., in order to prevent the present invention **100** from floating away. Lanyards that are closed or clasped are well known in the art. Optionally, hole **170** could be replaced with an integrated or attached closed eye.

[0116] FIG. **1***a* also shows an optional hard surface **145** for 'clinking' together two or more floatation devices **100**, as for 'a toast', etc.

[0117] Another optional feature of the present invention is the provision of a waterproof pocket apparatus (not shown) attached or integrated to hold a hotel room key, cell phone, cigarettes, cigars, lighter, keys, glasses, sun screen, etc. Waterproof pockets are well known in the art.

[0118] Another optional feature of the present invention is the provision of an integrated or attached device (not shown), which is a wireless remote control system that includes steering, and a jet or propellers for returning the present invention to the beverage owner.

[0119] Another optional feature of the present invention is the provision a one-dimensional barcode (not shown) for purposes of identification. One-dimensional barcodes are well known in the art.

[0120] Another optional feature of the present invention is the provision a two-dimensional barcode (not shown) for purposes of identification. Two-dimensional bar codes are well known in the art.

[0121] Chart 1 below lists a wide variety of materials for use in making floatation device **100** as illustrated in FIG. **1***a*. These lists are exemplary and not meant to be exhaustive.

CHART 1

Floatation Device 100 Materials

Metals and metal alloys, such as, but not limited to, aluminum, brass, bronze, copper, nickel, pewter, steel, stainless steel, tin, zinc, etc.
Plastics from classifications, such as, but not limited to, acrylics, polyesters, silicones, polyurethanes, halogenated plastics, thermoplastics, thermosets, elastomers, structural, etc. Some common plastics from these classifications, include, but limited to, polystyrene (PS) polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polyamide (PA) also known as Nylon, synthetic rubber, polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA)as known as acrylic, polypropolene (PP), polyurethane (PU), polyethylene terephthalate (PET or PETE) also known as Dacron, polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) also known as Teflon, bioplastics, polycarbonate (PC) also known as Lexan, acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) also known as Plexiglass, and melamine formaldehyde (MF), etc.
Woods including softwoods and hardwoods, such as, but not limited to, cedar, cypress, fir, hemlock, pine, spruce, ash, balsa, birch, cherry, cottonwood, elm, mahogany, maple, oak, teak, walnut, willow, bamboo, etc.
Other materials include, but not limited to, nanofoam, foam, cork, rubber, recycled materials such as foam rubber or tires, pumice, etc.
Other material properties, such as, but not limited to, translucent materials, insulating materials, combination of materials such as, but not limited to, wood and metal, wood and plastic, metal and plastic, etc.

[0122] Chart 2 below lists a wide variety of shapes for use in making floatation device **100** as illustrated in FIG. **1***a*. These lists are exemplary and not meant to be exhaustive.

CHART 2

Flotation Device 100 Shapes

Circular or round shapes, such as, but not limited to, a donut, a Frisbee, a tire for a vehicle, a bagel, a phonograph record, a CD, a DVD, a clock face, a bulls eye target, a flying saucer, a hubcap, a planet such as the earth or moon, a ball, Christmas tree balls, various types of other balls, a Christmas wreath, various types of other holiday shapes such as a pumpkin, other fruits or vegetables, etc.
Regular polygon shapes, such as, but not limited to, triangle, square, pentagon, hexagon, heptagon, octagon, etc.
Irregular polygon shapes, such as, but not limited to, a triagon, quadragon, pentagon, hexagon, heptagon, octagon, etc.
Regular or irregular shapes that are hollow, which can encapsulate air, a liquid that is prismatic, a kaleidoscope, etc.
Regular or irregular shapes that are solid.
Regular or irregular shapes that are intended to invoke the outline of a familiar image, such as, but not limited to, a flower, a heart, a shoe sole, a car, an animal head, a human head, caricatures, etc.
Regular or irregular shapes that incorporate a logo printed or imprinted on the surface of the floatation device, such as, but not limited to, a business name, initials, or monogram, a NFL team, a MLB team, a NBA team, a college football team, a NHL team, a NASCAR driver, a company, a college or university, a religious organization, a governmental agency, etc.
Shapes that are designed as puzzle pieces and intended to fit together with other floatation devices to form a larger shape that represents a picture, etc.
Regular or irregular shapes that are intended to invoke the outline of a familiar image, such as, but not limited to, a logo.
Regular or irregular shapes that are designed as part of collectible series of floatation devices.
Regular or irregular shapes that are intended to be given away such as at tradeshows, drawings, etc.
Regular or irregular shapes that are intended to be given away at wine tastings, parties, etc.
Regular or irregular shapes that are intended to be sent in the mail as an invitation to a party, event, etc.

[0123] Chart 3 below lists a wide variety of surface options for use in making floatation device **100** as illustrated in FIG. **1***a*. These lists are exemplary and not meant to be exhaustive.

CHART 3

Floatation Device 100 Surfaces
Surfaces such as, but not limited to, a textured surface, smooth surface, combinations of smooth and textured surfaces, painted surface of at least one color, the color of the material itself, anodized surface of at least one color, glow-in-the dark surface of at least one color, psychedelic colored surfaces, stained surface, vinyl coated surface, faceted surface, combinations of smooth and faceted surfaces, combinations of texture and faceted surfaces, etc.

[0124] Chart 4 below lists a wide variety of electronic module options for integration into floatation device **100** as illustrated in FIG. **1***a*. These lists are exemplary and not meant to be exhaustive.

CHART 4

Functions of Optional Electronic Module 160
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated lighting system with lights of at least one color.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated lighting system with lights of at least one color that are steady burn.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated lighting system with lights of at least one color that blink sequentially.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated lighting system with lights of at least one color that blink randomly.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated RFID system.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated restaurant paging system.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated AM/FM radio with speakers or earphones.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated Bluetooth radio for communication.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated Wi-Fi radio for communication.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated UWB radio for communication.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated USB interface.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated docking station for IPOD, MP3 player, etc.

[0125] FIG. **1***c* is a pictoral representation of an optional embodiment of the present invention. Floatation device **100**, is comprised of a combination slot **111** and hole **130** for use in buoying up container **200** as shown in FIG. **2** in places such as, but not limited to, lakes, pools, hot tubs, spas, etc. FIG. **1***c* illustrates a single floatation device **100**; alternatively two floatation devices can be used to provide additional buoyancy. Also, the second floatation device **100** (not shown) can be rotated the horizontal plane relative to one another so slots **111** (one illustrated, one not shown) aren't overlaid on top of one another to create a locking effect.

[0126] Slot **111** as shown in FIG. **1***c* is generally curved. The curve of slot **111** may be a simple curve with a single center, alternatively it may be a complex curve with multiple centers which may be interconnected with tangents. Slot **111** has edges that generally extend parallel to a simple or complex curve that extends from center of hole **130** to edge **140**. Slot **111** extends through edge **140** and through the circumference of hole **130**. Slot **111** may be of a size greater than the maximum cross-sectional dimension of stem **220** of container **200** as shown in FIG. **2** in order to allow container **200** to easily slide through slot **111** and rest in bevel **120** of flotation device **100**, and yet act as a retainer to keep container **200** as illustrated in FIG. **1***b* from easily slipping out of curved slot **111**. Slot **111** may be of a size that is smaller than the maximum cross-sectional dimension of stem **220** as shown in FIG. **2** if the material of floatation device **100** is flexible enough to allow slot **111** to be made temporarily large enough to accept stem **220** by twisting or bending flotation device **100**. If slot **111** is smaller than the maximum cross-sectional dimension of stem **220** as shown in FIG. **2** this will allow slot **111** to act as a retainer to keep container **200** from easily slipping out of the present invention, floatation device **100**. The circumference of hole **130** is smaller than the bowl of container **200** as shown in FIG. **1***b*, which illustrates that container **200** is not held in place in flotation device **100** by the sole means of friction, rather container **200** is held in the present invention, floatation device **100**, by means of an interference fit. Hole **130** is beveled from the bottom surface of flotation device **100** to the top surface of flotation device **100**. Bevel **120** can be straight or curved, and its purpose is to hold container **200** generally in an upright position by means of friction, but once again, it is important to note the friction between bevel **120** and container **200** is not the means of keeping container **200** from slipping through the present invention, flotation device **100**.

[0127] FIG. **1***c* also shows an optional electronic module **160** for integration into floatation device **100**.

[0128] FIG. **1***c* also shows an optional hole **170** in floatation device **100** for use in securing a lanyard **180**. The lanyard **180** can be closed, or be able to be clasped together. The lanyard **180** can be used to hang the present invention around a person's neck. Also, a clasped lanyard can be unclasped and if a spring loaded clip is used as the clasp, the lanyard **180** can be attached to a stationary object, person's swimsuit, etc. in order to prevent the present invention **100** from floating away.

Lanyards that are closed or clasped are well known in the art. Optionally, hole **170** could be replaced with an integrated or attached closed eye.

[0129] Another optional feature is the provision of a waterproof pocket apparatus (not shown) attached or integrated to hold a hotel room key, cell phone, cigarettes, lighter, keys, glasses, sun screen, etc. Waterproof pockets are well known in the art.

[0130] Another optional feature is the provision of an integrated or attached device (not shown), which is a wireless remote control system that includes steering, and jet or propellers for returning the present invention to the beverage owner.

[0131] Another optional feature is the provision a one-dimensional barcode (not shown) for the purposes of identification. One-dimensional barcodes are well known in the art.

[0132] Another optional feature is the provision a two dimensional barcode (not shown) for the purposes of identification. Two-dimensional bar codes are well known in the art.

[0133] Chart 1 below lists a wide variety of materials for use in making floatation device **100** as illustrated in FIG. **1***c*. These lists are exemplary and not meant to be exhaustive.

CHART 1

Floatation Device 100 Materials
Metals and metal alloys, such as, but not limited to, aluminum, brass, bronze, copper, nickel, pewter, steel, stainless steel, tin, zinc, etc.
Plastics from classifications, such as, but not limited to, acrylics, polyesters, silicones, polyurethanes, halogenated plastics, thermoplastics, thermosets, elastomers, structural, etc.
Some common plastics from these classifications, such as, but limited to include, polystyrene (PS) polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polyamide (PA) also known as Nylon, synthetic rubber, polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA)as known as acrylic, polypropolene (PP), polyurethane (PU), polyethylene terephthalate (PET or PETE) also known as Dacron, polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) also known as Teflon, bioplastics, polycarbonate (PC) also known as Lexan, acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) also known as Plexiglass, and melamine formaldehyde (MF), etc.
Woods including softwoods and hardwoods, such as, but not limited to, cedar, cypress, fir, hemlock, pine, spruce, ash, balsa, birch, cherry, cottonwood, elm, mahogany, maple, oak, teak, walnut, willow, bamboo, etc.
Other materials include, but not limited to, nanofoam, foam, cork, rubber, recycled materials such as foam rubber or tires, pumice, etc.
Other material properties include, but not limited to, translucent materials, insulating materials, combination of materials such as, but not limited to, wood and metal, wood and plastic, metal and plastic, etc.

[0134] Chart 2 below lists a wide variety of shapes for use in making floatation device **100** as illustrated in FIG. **1***c*. These lists are exemplary and not meant to be exhaustive.

CHART 2

Floatation Device 100 Shapes
Circular or round shapes, such as, but not limited to, a donut, a Frisbee, a tire for a vehicle, a bagel, a phonograph record, a CD, a DVD, a clock face, a bulls eye target, a flying saucer, a hubcap, a planet such as the earth or moon, a ball, Christmas tree balls, various types of other balls, a Christmas wreath, various types of other holiday shapes such as a pumpkin, other fruits or vegetables, etc.
Regular polygon shapes, such as, but not limited to, triangle, square, pentagon, hexagon, heptagon, octagon, etc.
Irregular polygon shapes, such as, but not limited to, a triagon, quadragon, pentagon, hexagon, heptagon, octagon, etc.
Regular or irregular shapes that are hollow, which can encapsulate air, a liquid that is prismatic, a kaleidoscope, etc.
Regular or irregular shapes that are solid.
Regular or irregular shapes that are intended to invoke the outline of a familiar image, such as, but not limited to, a flower, a heart, a shoe sole, a car, an animal head, a human head, caricatures, etc.
Regular or irregular shapes that incorporate a logo printed or imprinted on the surface of the floatation device, such as, but not limited to, a business name, initials, or monogram, a NFL team, a MLB team, a NBA team, a college football team, a NHL team, a NASCAR driver, a company, a college or university, a religious organization, a governmental agency, etc.
Shapes that are designed as puzzle pieces and intended to fit together with other floatation devices to form a larger shape that represents a picture, etc.
Regular or irregular shapes that are intended to invoke the outline of a familiar image, such as, but not limited to, a logo.
Regular or irregular shapes that are designed as part of collectible series of floatation devices.
Regular or irregular shapes that are intended to be given away at tradeshows, drawings, etc.
Regular or irregular shapes that are intended to be given away at wine tastings, parties, etc..
Regular or irregular shapes that are intended to be sent in the mail as an invitation to a party, event, etc.

[0135] Chart 3 below lists a wide variety of surface options for use in making floatation device **100** as illustrated in FIG. **1***c*. These lists are exemplary and not meant to be exhaustive.

CHART 3

Floatation Device 100 Surfaces
Surfaces. such as, but not limited to, a textured surface, smooth surface, combinations of smooth and textured surfaces, the color of the material itself, painted surface of at least one color, anodized surface of at least one color, glow-in-the dark surface of at least one color, psychedelic colored surfaces, stained surface, vinyl coated surface, faceted surface, combinations of smooth and faceted surfaces, combinations of texture and faceted surfaces, etc.

[0136] Chart 4 below lists a wide variety of electronic module options for integration into floatation device **100** as illustrated in FIG. **1***c*. These lists are exemplary and not meant to be exhaustive.

CHART 4

Functions of Optional Electronic Module 160
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated lighting system with lights of at least one color.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated lighting system with lights of at least one color that are steady burn.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated lighting system with lights of at least one color that blink sequentially.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated lighting system with lights of at least one color that blink randomly.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated RFID system.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated restaurant paging system.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated AM/FM radio with speakers or earplugs.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated Bluetooth radio for communication.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated Wi-Fi radio for communication.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated UWB radio for communication.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated USB interface.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated docking station for IPOD, MP3 player, etc.

[0137] FIG. **1***d* is a pictoral representation of an optional embodiment of the present invention. The present invention is a floatation device **100**, which is comprised of a combination slot **110** and hole **130** for use in buoying up container **200** as shown in FIG. **2** in places such as, but not limited to, lakes, pools, hot tubs, spas, etc. The present invention as shown in FIG. **1***d* includes all the features of the floatation device **100** as illustrated in FIG. **1***a*, with the exception of a non-circular shape. FIG. **1***d* illustrates a single floatation device **100**; alternatively two floatation devices can be used to provide additional buoyancy. Also, the second floatation device **100** (not shown) can be rotated the horizontal plane relative to one another so slots **110** (one illustrated, one not shown) aren't overlaid on top of one another to create a locking effect.

[0138] Slot **110** as shown in FIG. **1***d* is linear and has edges that generally extend parallel to a radius that extends from the center of hole **130** to edge **140**. Slot **110** extends through edge **140** and through the circumference of hole **130**. Slot **130** may be of a size greater than the maximum cross-sectional dimension of stem **220** of container **200** as shown in FIG. **2** in order to allow container **200** to easily slide through slot **110** and rest in bevel **120** of flotation device **100**. Slot **110** may be of a size that is smaller than the maximum cross-sectional dimension of stem **220** as shown in FIG. **2** if the material of floatation device **100** is flexible enough to allow slot **110** to be made temporarily large enough to accept stem **220** by twisting or bending flotation device **100**. If slot **110** is smaller than the maximum cross-sectional dimension of stem **220** as shown in FIG. **2** this will allow slot **110** to act as a retainer to keep container **200** from easily slipping out of the present invention, floatation device **100**. The circumference of hole **130** is smaller than the bowl of container **200** as shown in FIG. **1***b*, which illustrates that container **200** is not held in place in flotation device **100** by the sole means of friction, rather container **200** is held in present invention, floatation device **100**, by means of an interference fit. Hole **130** is beveled from the bottom surface of flotation device **100** to the top surface of flotation device **100**. Bevel **120** can be straight or curved, and is meant to hold container **200** generally in an upright position by means of friction, but once again, it is important to note the friction between bevel **120** and container **200** is not the means of keeping container **200** from slipping through the present invention, flotation device **100**.

[0139] FIG. **1***d* also shows an optional electronic module **160** for integration into floatation device **100**.

[0140] FIG. **1***d* also shows an optional hole **170** in floatation device **100** for use in securing a lanyard **180**. The lanyard **180** can be closed, or be able to be clasped together. The lanyard **180** can be used to hang the present invention around a person's neck. Also, a clasped lanyard can be unclasped and if a spring loaded clip is used as the clasp, the lanyard **180** can be attached to a stationary object, person's swim suit, etc. in order to prevent the present invention **100** from floating away. Lanyards that are closed or clasped are well known in the art. Optionally, hole **170** could be replaced with an integrated or attached closed eye.

[0141] Another optional feature is the provision of a waterproof pocket apparatus (not shown) attached or integrated to hold a hotel room key, cell phone, cigarettes, lighter, keys, glasses, sun screen, etc. Waterproof pockets are well known in the art.

[0142] Another optional feature is the provision of an integrated or attached device (not shown), which is a wireless remote control system that includes steering, and a jet or propellers for returning the present invention to the beverage owner.

[0143] Another optional feature is the provision a one-dimensional barcode (not shown) for the purposes of identification. One-dimensional barcodes are well known in the art.

[0144] Another optional feature is the provision a two-dimensional barcode (not shown) for the purposes of identification. Two-dimensional bar codes are well known in the art.

[0145] Chart 1 below lists a wide variety of materials for use in making floatation device **100** as illustrated in FIG. **1***d*. These lists are exemplary and not meant to be exhaustive.

CHART 1

Floatation Device 100 Materials
Metals and metal alloys, such as, but not limited to, aluminum, brass, bronze, copper, nickel, pewter, steel, stainless steel, tin, zinc, etc.
Plastics from classifications, such as, but not limited to, acrylics, polyesters, silicones, polyurethanes, halogenated plastics, thermoplastics, thermosets, elastomers, structural, etc.
Some common plastics from these classifications, such as, but limited to include, polystyrene (PS) polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polyamide (PA) also known as Nylon, synthetic rubber, polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA)as known as acrylic, polypropolene (PP), polyurethane (PU), polyethylene terephthalate (PET or PETE) also known as Dacron, polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) also known as Teflon, bioplastics, polycarbonate (PC) also known as Lexan, acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) also known as Plexiglass, and melamine formaldehyde (MF), etc.
Woods including softwoods and hardwoods, such as, but not limited to, cedar, cypress, fir, hemlock, pine, spruce, ash, balsa, birch, cherry, cottonwood, elm, mahogany, maple, oak, teak, walnut, willow, bamboo, etc.
Other materials include, but are not limited to, nanofoam, foam, cork, rubber, recycled materials such as foam rubber or tires, pumice, etc.
Other material properties, include, but not limited to, translucent materials, insulating materials, combination of materials such as, but not limited to, wood and metal, wood and plastic, metal and plastic, etc.

[0146] Chart 2 below lists a wide variety of shapes for use in making floatation device **100** as illustrated in FIG. **1***d*. These lists are exemplary and not meant to be exhaustive.

CHART 2

Floatation Device 100 Shapes
Circular or round shapes, such as, but not limited to, a donut, a Frisbee, a tire for a vehicle, a bagel, a phonograph record, a CD, a DVD, a clock face, a bulls eye target, a flying saucer, a hubcap, a planet such as the earth or moon, a ball, Christmas tree balls, various types of other balls, a Christmas wreath, various types of other holiday shapes such as a pumpkin, other fruits or vegetables, etc.
Regular polygon shapes, such as, but not limited to, triangle, square, pentagon, hexagon, heptagon, octagon, etc.
Irregular polygon shapes, such as, but not limited to, a triagon, quadragon, pentagon, hexagon, heptagon, octagon, etc.
Regular or irregular shapes that are hollow, which can encapsulate air, a liquid that is prismatic, a kaleidoscope, etc.
Regular or irregular shapes that are solid.
Regular or irregular shapes that are intended to invoke the outline of a familiar image, such as, but not limited to, a flower, a heart, a shoe sole, a car, an animal head, a human head, caricatures, etc.
Regular or irregular shapes that incorporate a logo printed or imprinted on the surface of the floatation device, such as, but not limited to, a business name, initials, or monogram, a NFL team, a MLB team, a NBA team, a college football team, a NHL team, a NASCAR driver, a company, a college or university, a religious organization, a governmental agency, etc.
Shapes that are designed as puzzle pieces and intended to fit together with other floatation devices to form a larger shape that represents a picture, etc.
Regular or irregular shapes that are intended to invoke the outline of a familiar image, such as, but not limited to, a logo.
Regular or irregular shapes that are designed as part of collectible series of floatation devices.
Regular or irregular shapes that are intended to be given away at tradeshows, drawings, etc.
Regular or irregular shapes that are intended to be given away at wine tastings, parties, etc.
Regular or irregular shapes that are intended to be sent in the mail as an invitation to a party,, event, etc.

[0147] Chart 3 below lists a wide variety of surface options for use in making floatation device **100** as illustrated in FIG. **1***d*. These lists are exemplary and not meant to be exhaustive.

CHART 3

Floatation Device 100 Surfaces
Surfaces. such as, but not limited to, a textured surface, smooth surface, combinations of smooth and textured surfaces, the color of the material itself, painted surface of at least one color, anodized surface of at least one color, glow-in-the dark surface of at least one color, psychedelic colored surfaces, stained surface, vinyl coated surface, faceted surface, combinations of smooth and faceted surfaces, combinations of texture and faceted surfaces, etc.

[0148] Chart 4 below lists a wide variety of electronic module options for integration into floatation device **100** as illustrated in FIG. **1***d*. These lists are exemplary and not meant to be exhaustive.

CHART 4

Functions of Optional Electronic Module 160
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated lighting system with lights of at least one color.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated lighting system with lights of at least one color that are steady burn.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated lighting system with lights of at least one color that blink sequentially.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated lighting system with lights of at least one color that blink randomly.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated RFID system.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated restaurant paging system.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated AM/FM radio with speakers or earplugs.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated Bluetooth radio for communication.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated Wi-Fi radio for communication.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated UWB radio for communication.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated USB interface.
A waterproof electronic module that is designed to power and operate an integrated docking station for IPOD, MP3 player, etc.

[0149] FIG. **3** is a pictoral representation of container **200** used in conjunction with the present invention **100** resting on a table **300**, with four holes **310**A, **310**B, **310**C, **310**D, and table legs **320**. Holes **310**A, **310**B, **310**C, **310**D, are large enough to allow the base of container **200** to pass through, but small enough to keep floatation device **100** from passing though. Table legs **320** must be of sufficient height to keep the base of container **200** from resting on any surface.

[0150] Although a table **300** is illustrated, this concept could be incorporated into a shelf on a boat, a lap table, etc. and can be integrated or removable.

[0151] FIG. **4***a* is a pictoral representation of an optional floatation device electronic module **160** that is waterproof and integrated in the present invention as illustrated in FIGS. **1***a*, **1***c*, and **1***d*. The electronic module **160** is comprised of a radio **410**, a processor **420**, a power supply **430**, an interface **440**, an antenna **450**, memory **460**, and an optional device **470**. Radio **410** can be a radio such as, but not limited to, a Bluetooth radio, a Wi-Fi radio, an AM/FM radio, a radio frequency identification (RFID) radio, an ultra wide band radio, a GPS radio, a television receiver, a cell phone radio, near field communication (NFC) radios, restaurant pager, or a proprietary radio that transmits and receives in licensed or unlicensed FCC frequency spectrums. Radio **410** can also be a combination of any of the previously described radios. Processor **420** may be built on hardware including, but not limited to, Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGA), Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASIC), System-On-A-Chip (SoC), etc. The processor **420** can operate under the control of a program stored in memory **460** via an external data and address bus. The microprocessor **420** can use an operating system such as, but not limited to, Palm OS®, Pocket PC, Windows CE, EPOC, Linux, etc. The processor **420** can also operate under the control of a program stored in memory on the processor **420**. Power supply **430** can be supplied electrical power through means such as, but not limited to, batteries, chemical fuel cells, solar power, etc. Only one interface **440** is shown for clarity, but electronic module **160** may include additional ports. These ports may include, but are not limited to an RJ-11 jack, an RJ-45 jack, IEEE 1394 Fire Wire connection, USB, RS-232, a PCMCIA slot, etc. Only one antenna **450** is shown for clarity, for transmitting and/or receiving wireless signals, but other antennae may be included as necessary. Antenna **450** can transmit and/or receive wireless signals from base station **400**, other electronic modules **160**, or other radio sources such as, but not limited to, a Bluetooth radio, a Wi-Fi radio, an AM/FM radio, a radio frequency identification (RFID) radio, an ultra wide band radio, a GPS radio, a television receiver, a cell phone radio, near field communication (NFC) radios, or a proprietary radio that transmits and receives in licensed or un-licensed FCC frequency spectrums. Memory **460** can be of a type such as, but not limited to, DRAM, SRAM, ROM, PROM, EAROM, EPROM, EEPROM, Flash, etc. The electronic module **160** can also include an optional device **470**, which can be a device such as, but not limited to, a digital camera, a GPS receiver, a music player, a voice recorder, etc.

[0152] FIG. **4***b* is a pictoral representation of an optional base station for use in conjunction with at least one electronic module. The base station **400** is comprised of a radio **410**, a processor **420**, a power supply **430**, an interface **440**, and a transmit/receive antenna **450**, and memory **460**. Radio **410** can be a radio such as, but not limited to, a Bluetooth radio, a Wi-Fi radio, an AM/FM radio, a radio frequency identification (RFID) radio, an ultra wide band radio, a GPS radio, a television receiver, a cell phone radio, near field communication (NFC) radios, restaurant pager, or a proprietary radio that transmits and receives in licensed or un-licensed FCC frequency spectrums. Radio **410** can also be a combination of any of the previously described radios. Processor **420** may be built on hardware including, but not limited to, Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGA), Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASIC), System-On-A-Chip (SoC), etc. The processor **420** can operate under the control of a program stored in memory **460** via an external data and address bus. The processor **420** can use an operating system such as, but not limited to, Palm OS®, Pocket PC, Windows CE, EPOC, Linux, etc. The processor **420** can also operate under the control of a program stored in memory on the processor **420**. Power supply **430** can be supplied electrical power through means such as, but not limited to, a connection to building wiring with or without a transformer, batteries, chemical fuel cells, solar power, etc. Only one interface **440** is shown for clarity, but electronic module **160** may include additional ports. These ports may include, but are not limited to an RJ-11 jack, an RJ45 jack, IEEE 1394 Fire Wire connection, USB, RS-232, a PCMCIA slot, etc. Only one antenna **450** is shown for clarity for transmitting and/or receiving wireless signals, but other antennae may be included as necessary. Antenna **450** can transmit and/or receive wireless signals from electronic module **160**, other base stations **400**, or other radio sources such as, but not limited to, a Bluetooth radio, a Wi-Fi radio, an AM/FM radio, a radio frequency identification (RFID) radio, an ultra wide band radio, a GPS radio, a television receiver, a cell phone radio, near field communication (NFC) radios, or a proprietary radio that transmits and receives in licensed or un-licensed FCC frequency spectrums. Memory **460** can be of a type such as, but not limited to, DRAM, SRAM, ROM, PROM, EAROM, EPROM, EEPROM, Flash, etc. At least one base station **400** can be used to locate electronic modules **160** by means of various radio positioning time-of-arrival methods, including, but not limited to, GPS location transfer, base station triangulation using signal electronic module **160** signal strengths, and other well known location methods.

[0153] FIG. **5** is a pictoral representation of a telecommunication network for use in conjunction with the present invention. The network is comprised of electronic modules **160**A, **160**B, **160**C, and base stations **400**A, **400**B, interconnected via the network cloud **500**. Base station **400**A can communicate with the network cloud **500** via wireless connection **530**A. Base station **400** A can communicate with base station **400**B via wireless connection **540** and vice versa. Base station **400**B can communicate with electronic modules **160**A, **160**B, **160**C via the network cloud **500**. Electronic modules **160**A, **160**B, **160**C can communicate with one another via wireless connection **520**, of which one is shown for clarity. Electronic modules **160**A, **160**B, **160**C can communicate with base stations **400**A,**400**B via network cloud **500** via wireless connections **510**A, **510**B, **510**C, respectively. Network cloud **500** can also contain servers operating databases, hosting webpages, email applications, etc, and wireless access points, and hardwiring, such as but not limited to, copper and fiber optic cables.

[0154] FIG. **6** is a pictoral representation of a floatation device with integrated insulated jacket. The floatation device with integrated insulated jacket as shown in FIG. **6** is designed to keep hot liquids hot, and cold liquids cold for an extended period of time.

[0155] Following is an example of how the present invention might be used on a cruise ship. As a passenger boards a cruise ship they are provided a floatation device that includes the optional electronic module. The floatation device is lightweight, colorful, includes a logo of the cruise line, and the optional lanyard is used to put the device around the passenger's neck. The passenger's demographic information that has been pre-recorded in the ship's database is assigned to the electronic module's unique electronic identification. Immediately, the ship's base stations begin to track the passenger and provide information to the ship's personnel to assist in providing the passenger with service that is unrivaled. Passenger tracking would also be a useful tool for safety drills, emergencies, etc. The ship's base stations know if the passenger is at the pool, if they have ordered a specific beverage the previous day, how many drinks the passenger has ordered, how fast or slow the passenger has consumed their refreshments, if they are frequently in the company of the same passengers or new passengers, etc. The passenger takes a dip in the pool, and within a short time one of the ship's personnel arrives with the right drink, puts it in the floatation device, and the Wi-Fi radio in the electronic module concludes a related transaction with the ship's accounting database in the ship's network that is attached to the network of base stations located in strategic locations throughout the ship. The passenger enjoys their drink in the pool that is floating near them in the floatation device. The electronic module in the floatation device can also serve as a message board to receive messages from the ship's staff, family member, etc. Not only is the passenger's drink floating near them, but so are a cigar and lighter, money and cell phone in the convenient waterproof pocket that is integrated into the floatation device. The passenger takes a few pictures of their friends and family using the built-in digital camera in the electronic module in the floatation device. The pictures are uploaded via the base station to the ship's photo database, for viewing by the passenger on the TV in their room at their convenience. The passenger returns to their room, and as they near their door the NFC radio in the electronic module integrated into the floatation device automatically opens the door.

[0156] Having thus described a preferred embodiment and other embodiments of a system, method, and apparatus for the floatation of beverages, it should be apparent to those skilled in the art that certain advantages of the present invention have been achieved. It should also be appreciated that various modifications, adaptations, and alternatives may be made. It is of course not possible to describe every conceivable combination of components for purposes of describing the present invention. All such possible modifications are to be included within the spirit and scope of the present invention which is to be limited only by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A floatation apparatus being generally circular in shape, furthermore providing sufficient buoyancy to cause a container to float in a liquid when said container is received in said floatation apparatus, which is comprised of a substan-

tially flat material having a vertical height, a beveled hole substantially located in the center of said floatation apparatus, and said hole is oriented substantially vertically, and said hole is of a size sufficient to cause interference with said container, and a straight slot with substantially parallel sides that radiates from the center of said hole which intercepts the edge of the floatation apparatus to allow the stem of said container to pass into said beveled hole.

2. A floatation apparatus being generally circular in shape, furthermore providing sufficient buoyancy to cause a container to float in a liquid when said container is received in said floatation apparatus, which is comprised of a substantially flat material having a vertical height, a beveled hole substantially located in the center of said floatation apparatus, and said hole is oriented substantially vertically, and said hole is of a size sufficient to cause interference with said container, and a curved slot with substantially parallel sides that radiates from the center of said hole which intercepts the edge of the floatation apparatus to allow the stem of said container to pass into said beveled hole.

3. The apparatus recited in claim **1** wherein an electronic module is integrated.

4. The electronic module in claim **3** wherein the electronic module functionality is selected from the set consisting of integrated lighting system, RFID tag, AM radio, FM radio, restaurant pager, Bluetooth radio, Wi-Fi radio, UWB radio, near field communication radio, and an interface.

5. The interface in claim **4** wherein the functionality is selected from the set consisting of RJ-11 jack, an RJ-45 jack, IEEE 1394 Fire Wire connection, USB, RS-232, and a PCM-CIA slot.

6. The apparatus recited in claim **2** wherein an electronic module is integrated.

7. The electronic module in claim **6** wherein the electronic module functionality is selected from the set consisting of integrated lighting system, RFID tag, AM radio, FM radio, restaurant pager, Bluetooth radio, Wi-Fi radio, UWB radio, near field communication radio, and an interface.

8. The interface in claim **7** wherein the functionality is selected from the set consisting of RJ-11 jack, an RJ-45 jack, IEEE 1394 Fire Wire connection, USB, RS-232, and a PCM-CIA slot.

9. A floatation apparatus being irregular in shape, furthermore providing sufficient buoyancy to cause a container to float in a liquid when said container is received in said floatation apparatus, which is comprised of a substantially flat material having a vertical height, a beveled hole substantially located in the center of said floatation apparatus, and said hole is oriented substantially vertically, and said hole is of a size sufficient to cause interference with said container, and a curved slot with substantially parallel sides that radiates from the center of said hole which intercepts the edge of the floatation apparatus to allow the stem of said container to pass into said beveled hole.

10. The apparatus recited in claim **9** wherein an electronic module is integrated.

11. The electronic module in claim **10** wherein the electronic module functionality is selected from the set consisting of integrated lighting system, RFID tag, AM radio, FM radio, restaurant pager, Bluetooth radio, Wi-Fi radio, UWB radio, a near field communication radio, and an interface.

12. The interface in claim **11** wherein the functionality is selected from the set consisting of RJ-11 jack, an RJ-45 jack, IEEE 1394 Fire Wire connection, USB, RS-232, and a PCM-CIA slot

13. The apparatus recited in claim **1** wherein a metal surface is integrated for clinking together with a second floatation apparatus.

14. The apparatus recited in claim **2** wherein a metal surface is integrated for clinking together with a second floatation apparatus.

15. The apparatus recited in claim **9** wherein a metal surface is integrated for clinking together with a second floatation apparatus.

16. The apparatus recited in claim **1** wherein a plurality of apparatuses is used.

17. The apparatus recited in claim **2** wherein pluralities of apparatuses is used.

18. The apparatus recited in claim wherein a plurality of apparatuses is used.

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