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(54) **METHOD OF MANUFACTURING TOY FINGER BOARD WITH REMOVABLY ATTACHABLE FINGER SHOES**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**

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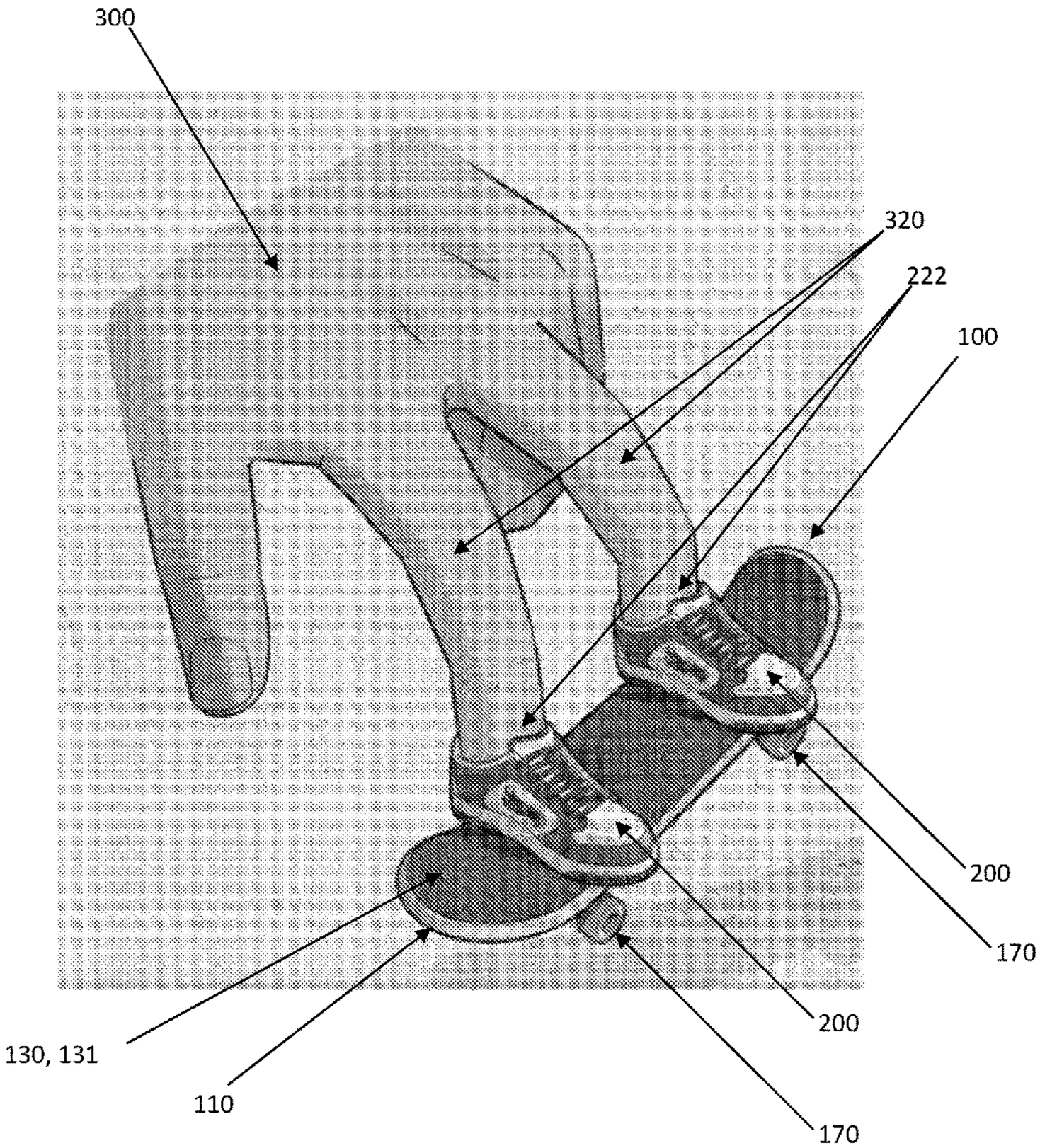
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method of manufacturing a toy finger skateboard may include inserting a flange portion of a toy finger skateboard truck into a flange receiver of a toy finger skateboard deck. The toy finger skateboard truck is moved such that a column portion of the toy finger skateboard truck is received by a through hole of the toy finger skateboard deck, and then, the method involves interacting with a top end of the column portion of the toy finger skateboard truck to affix the toy finger skateboard truck to the toy finger skateboard deck. A portion of the top end of the column portion may be cylindrical. The top end of the column portion of the toy finger skateboard truck may be welded to a seat portion of the toy finger skateboard deck, and the welding may include spin welding.



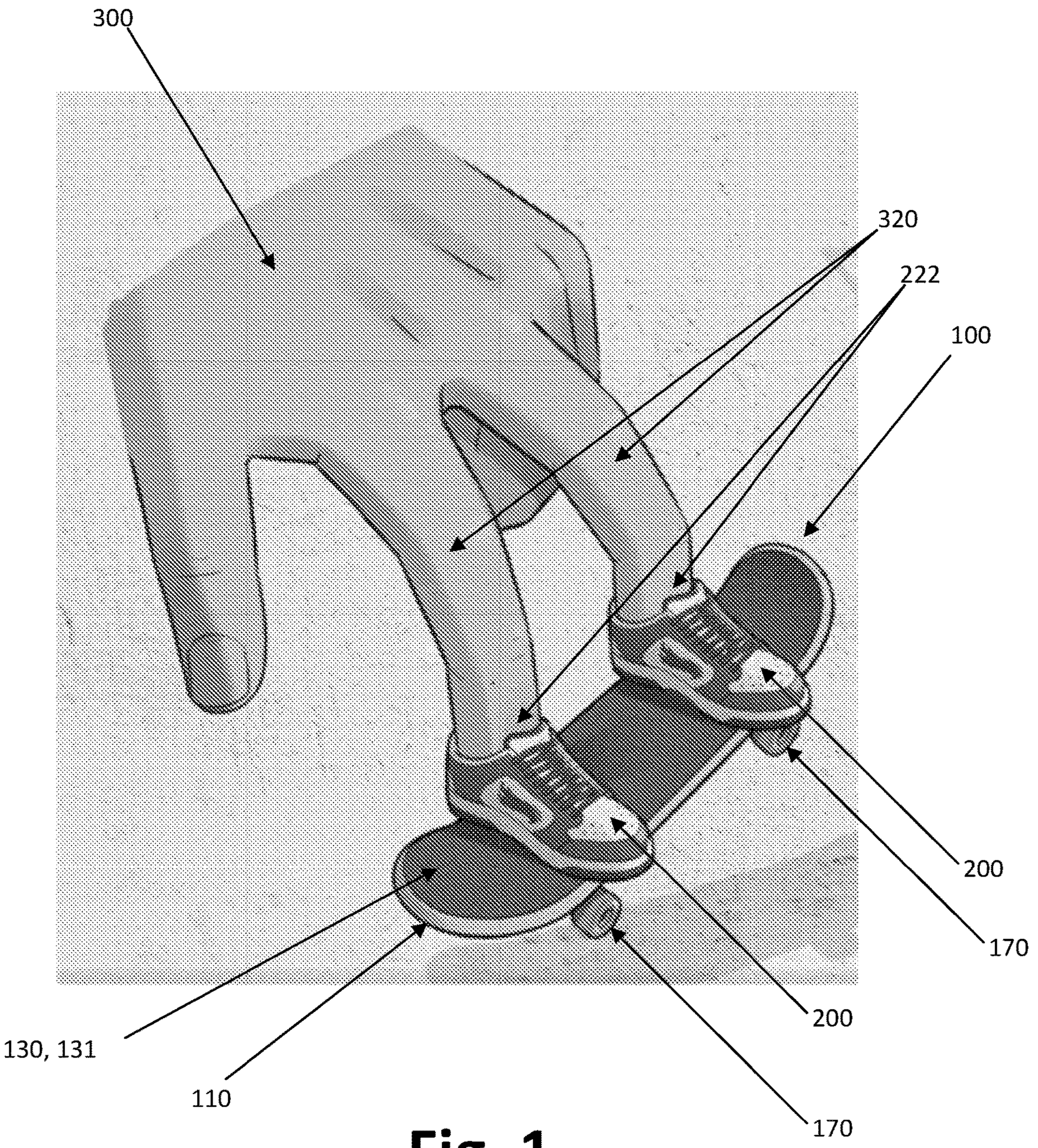


Fig. 1

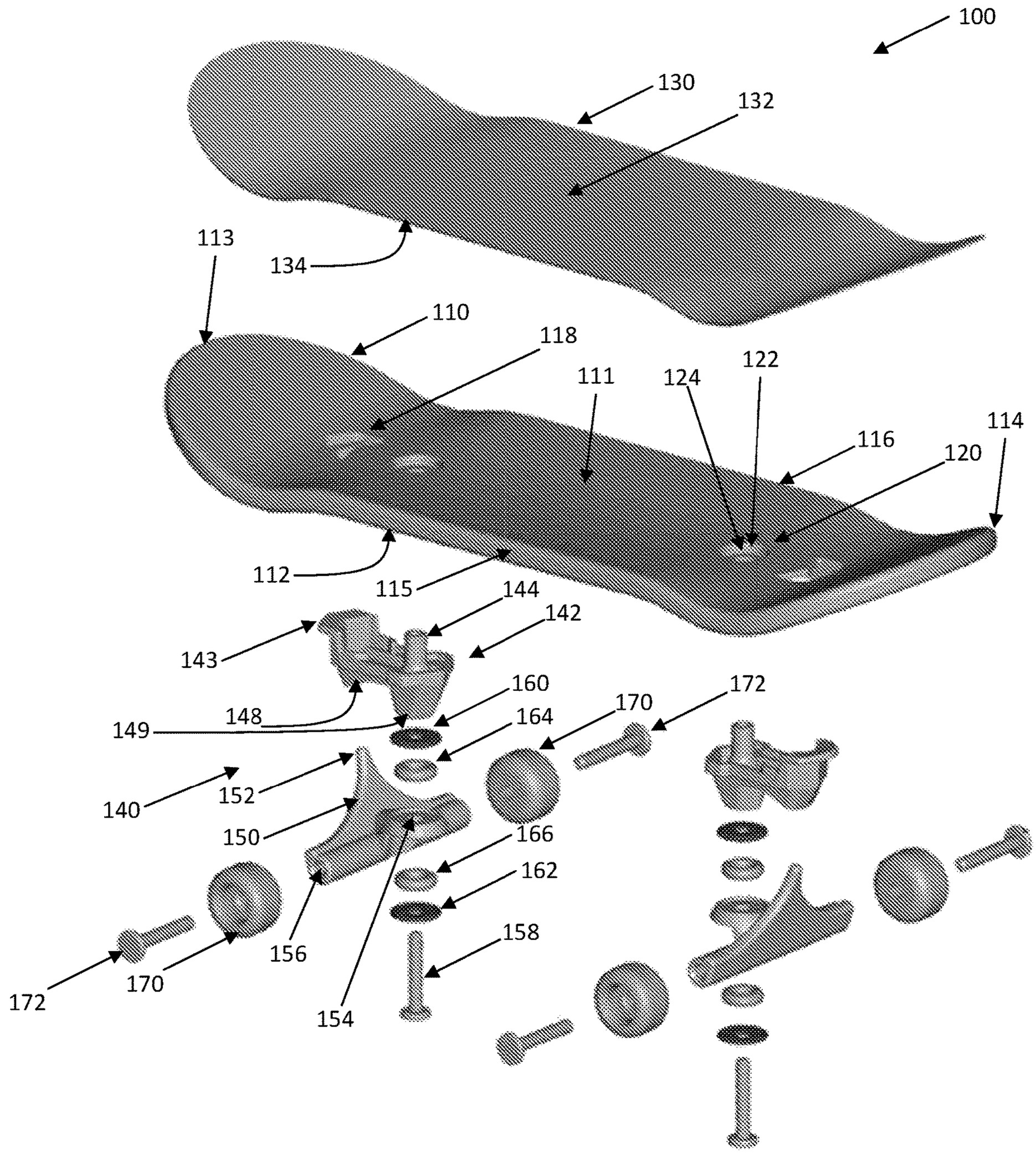

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Fig. 2

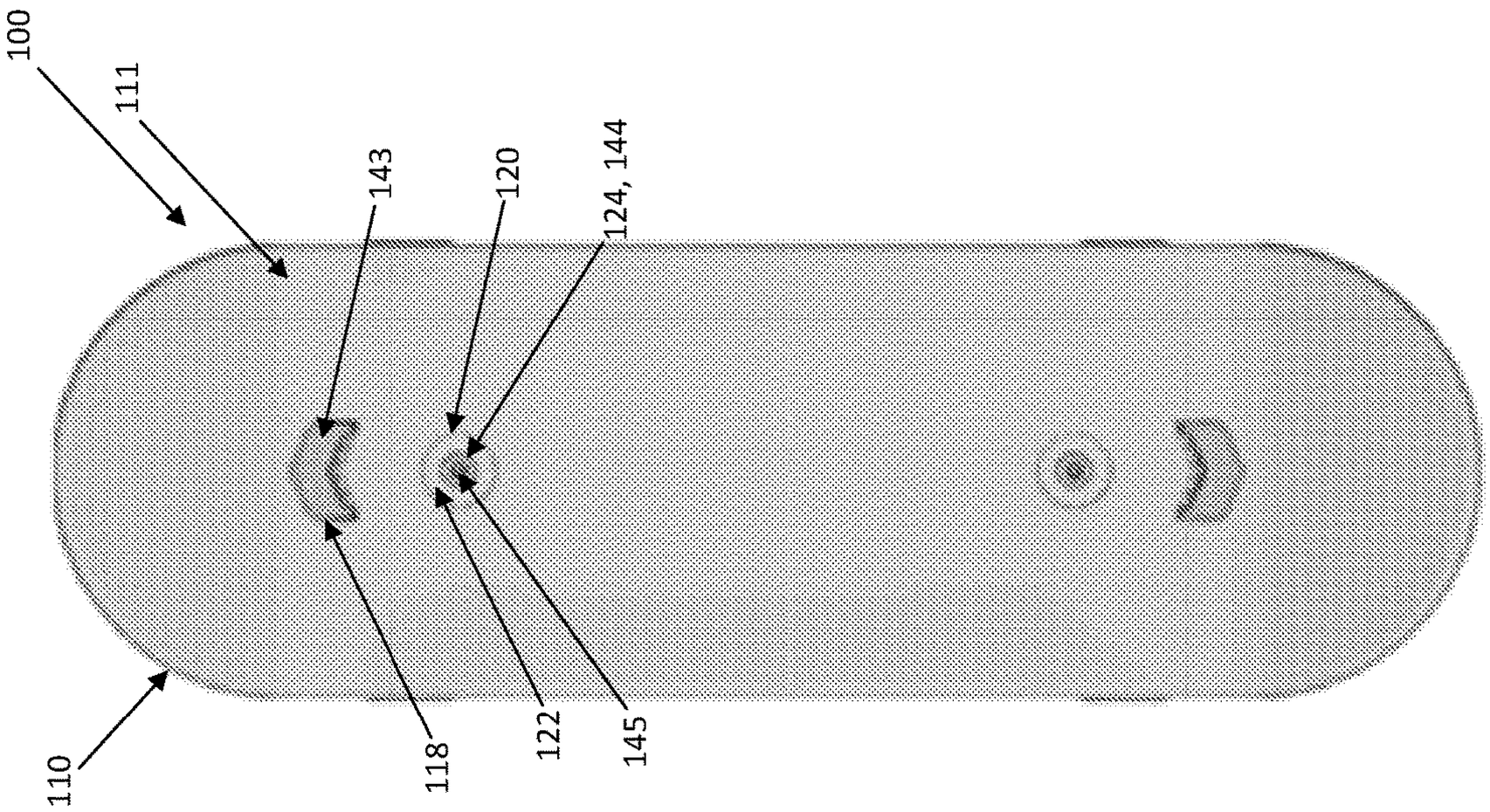
100
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Fig. 3B

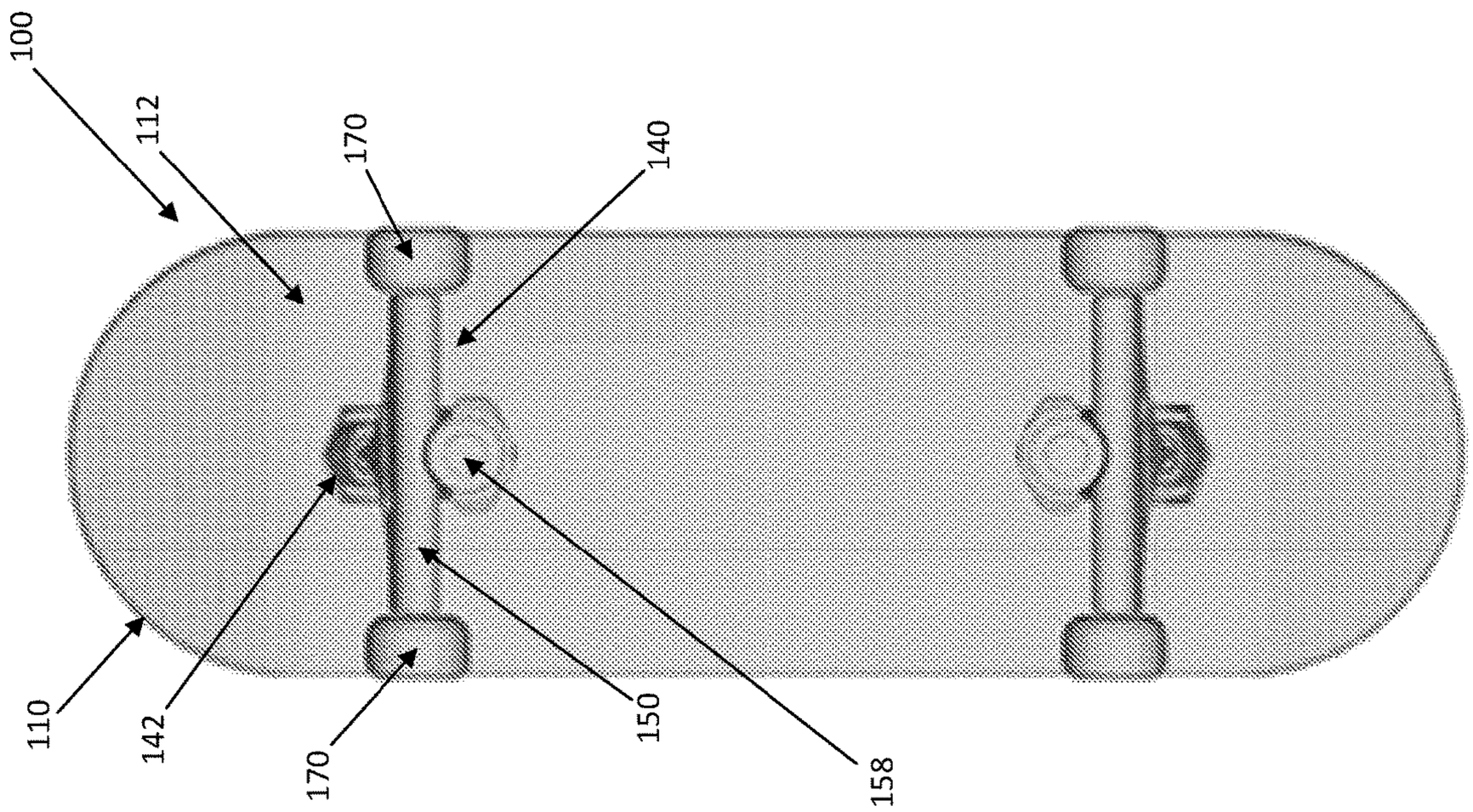
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Fig. 3A

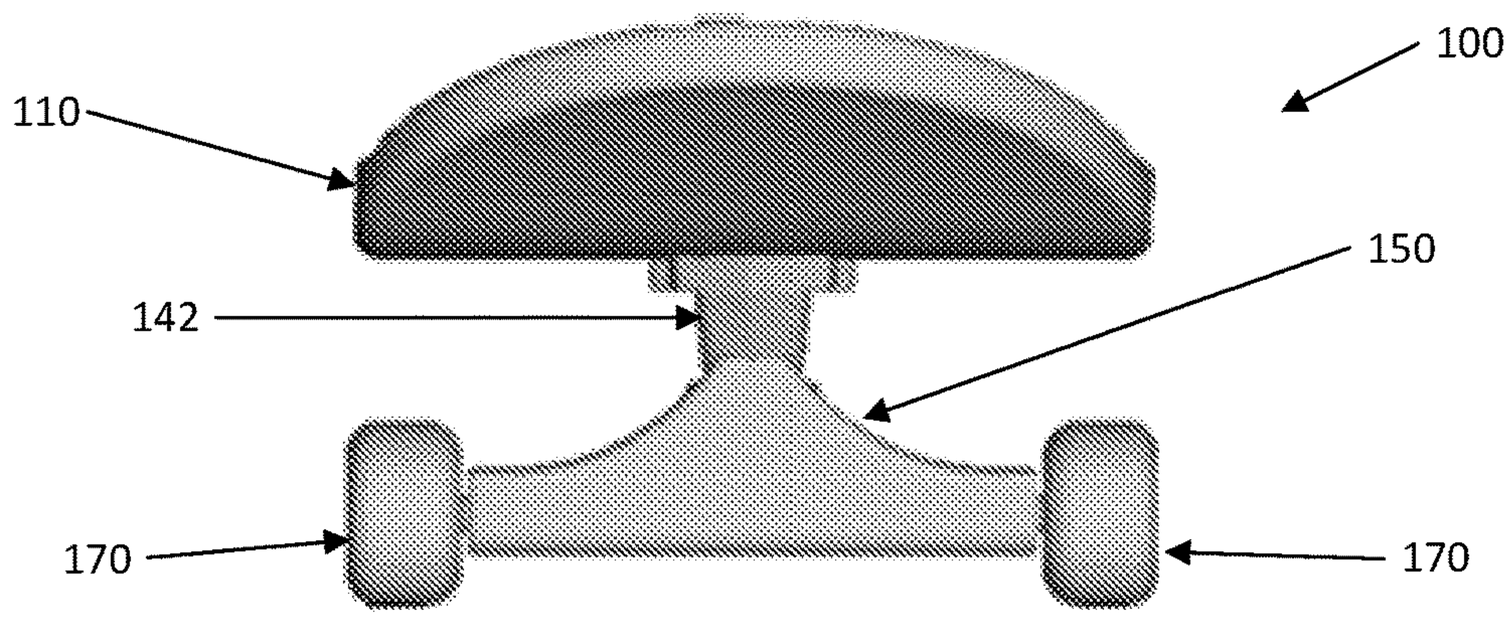

Fig. 3C

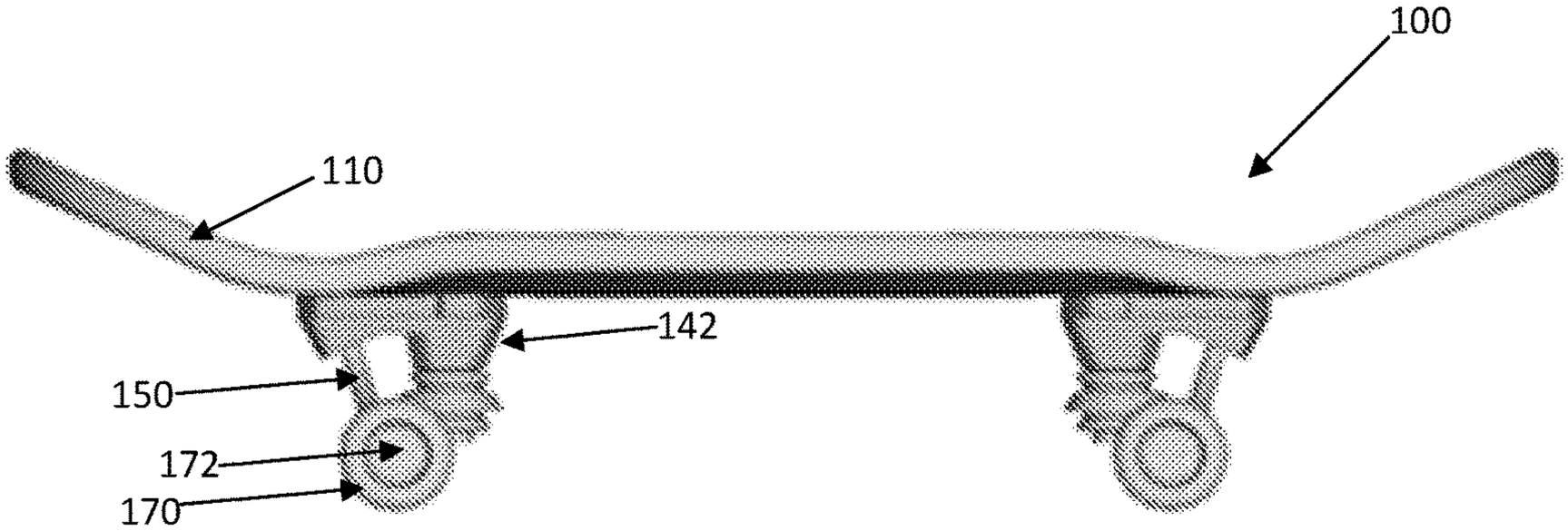

Fig. 3D

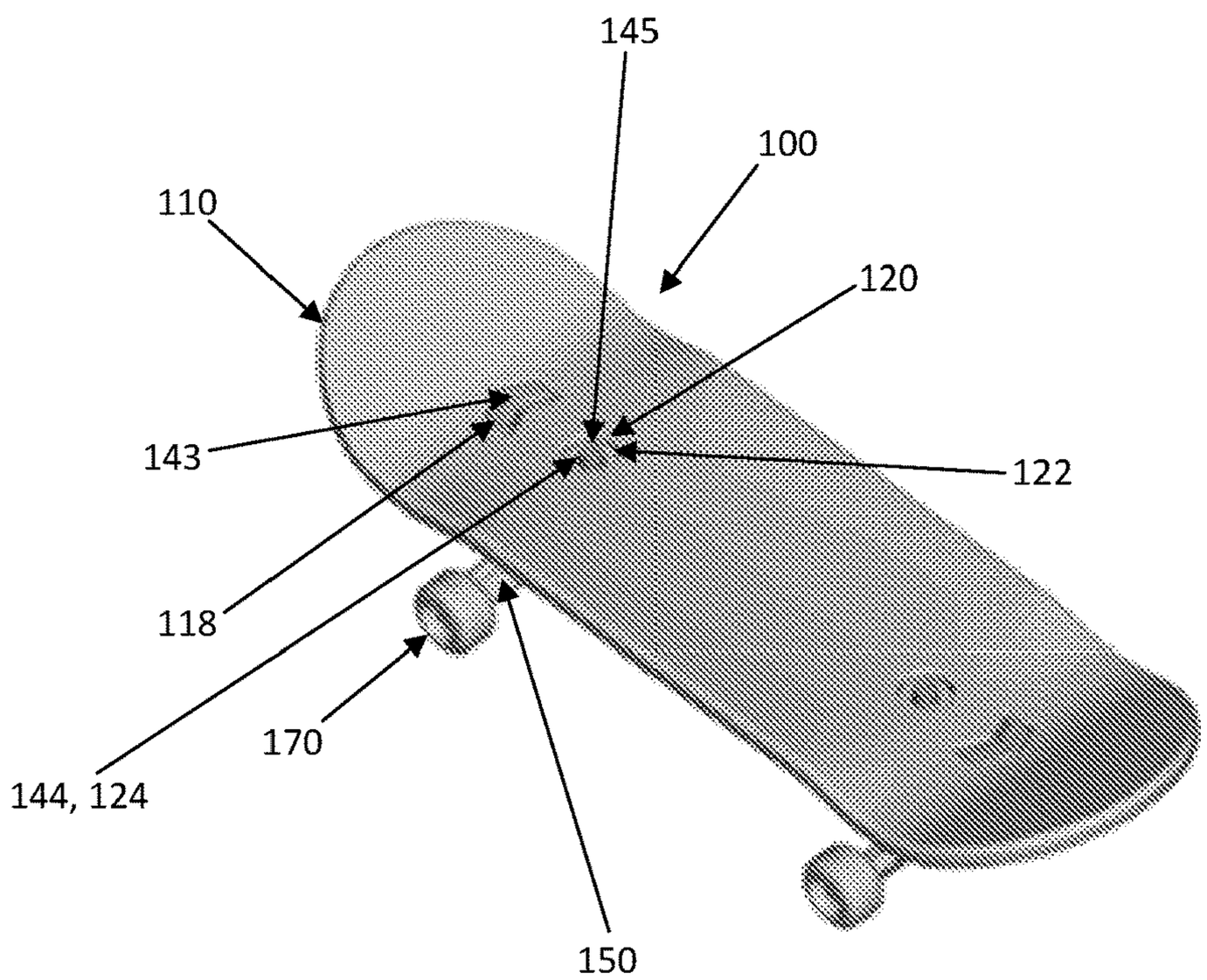

Fig. 3E

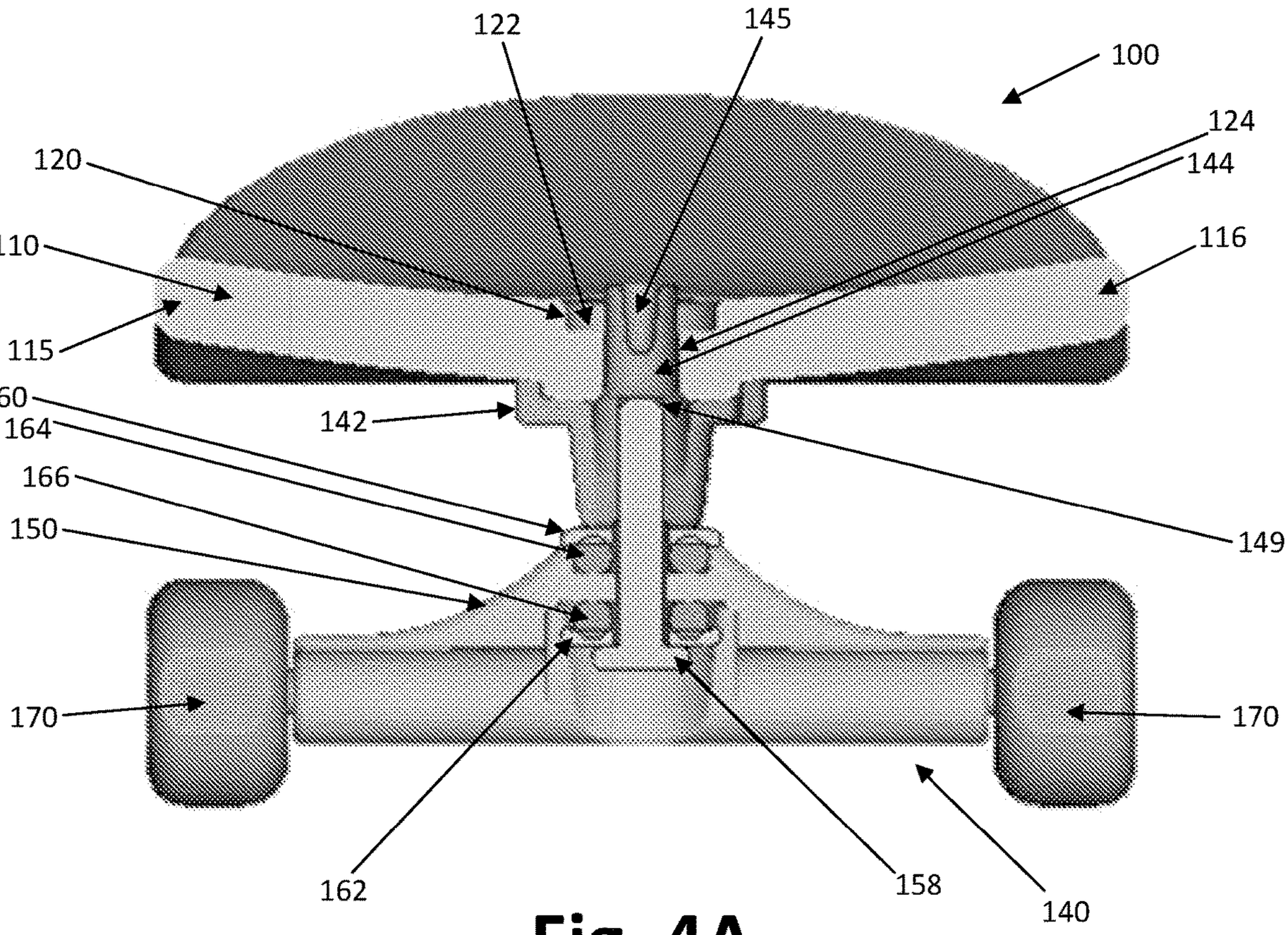
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Fig. 4A

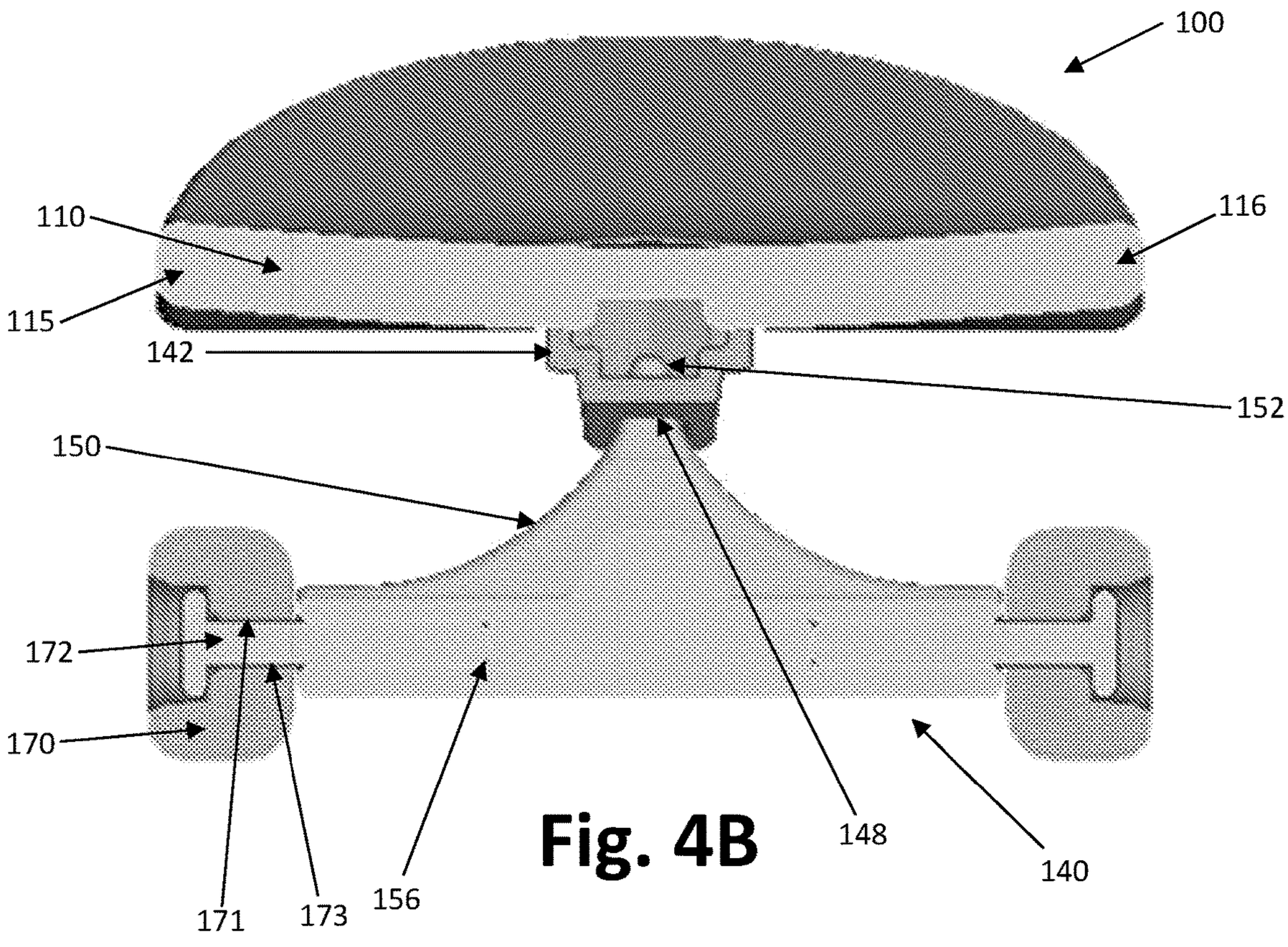
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Fig. 4B

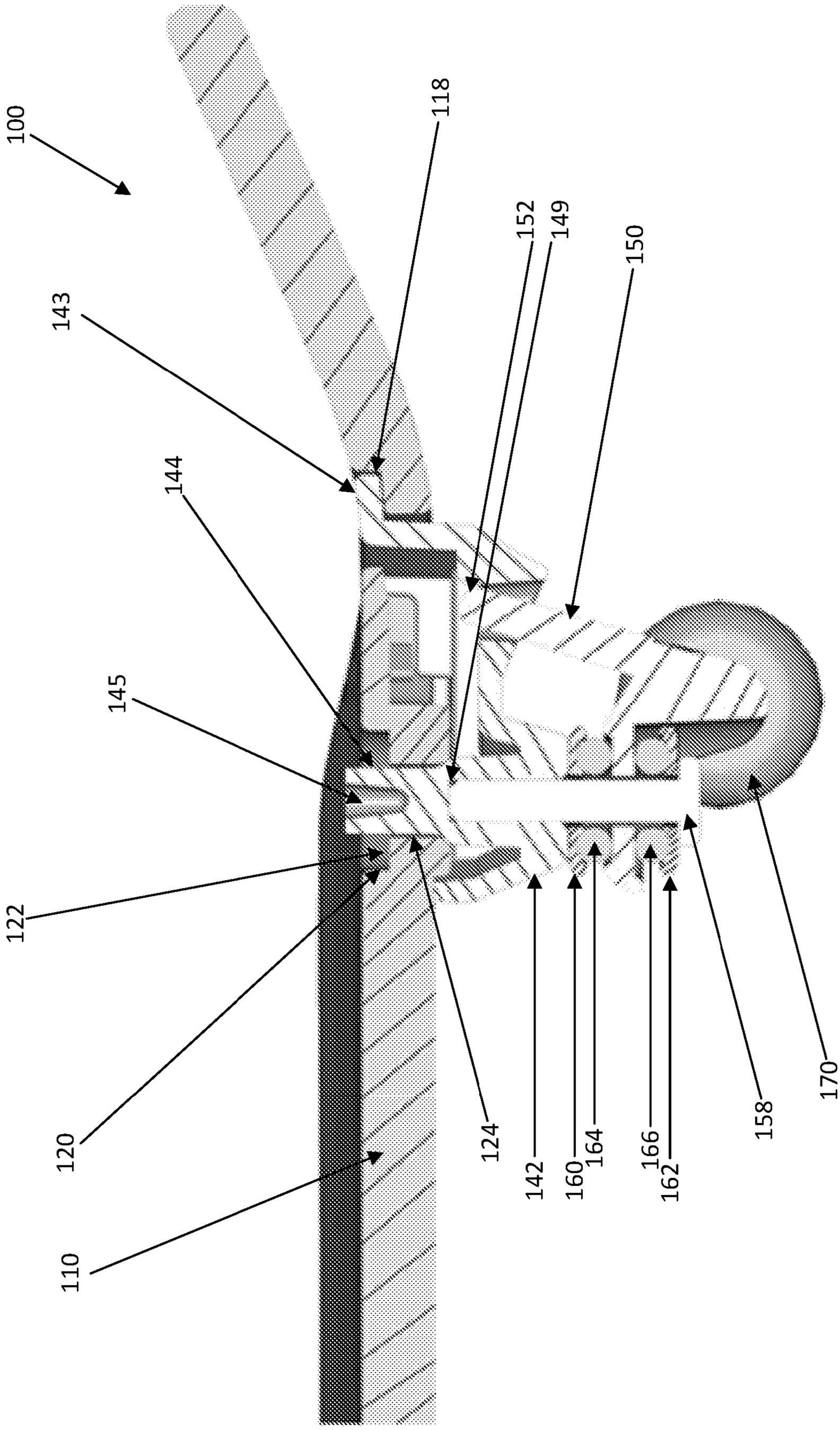
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Fig. 4C

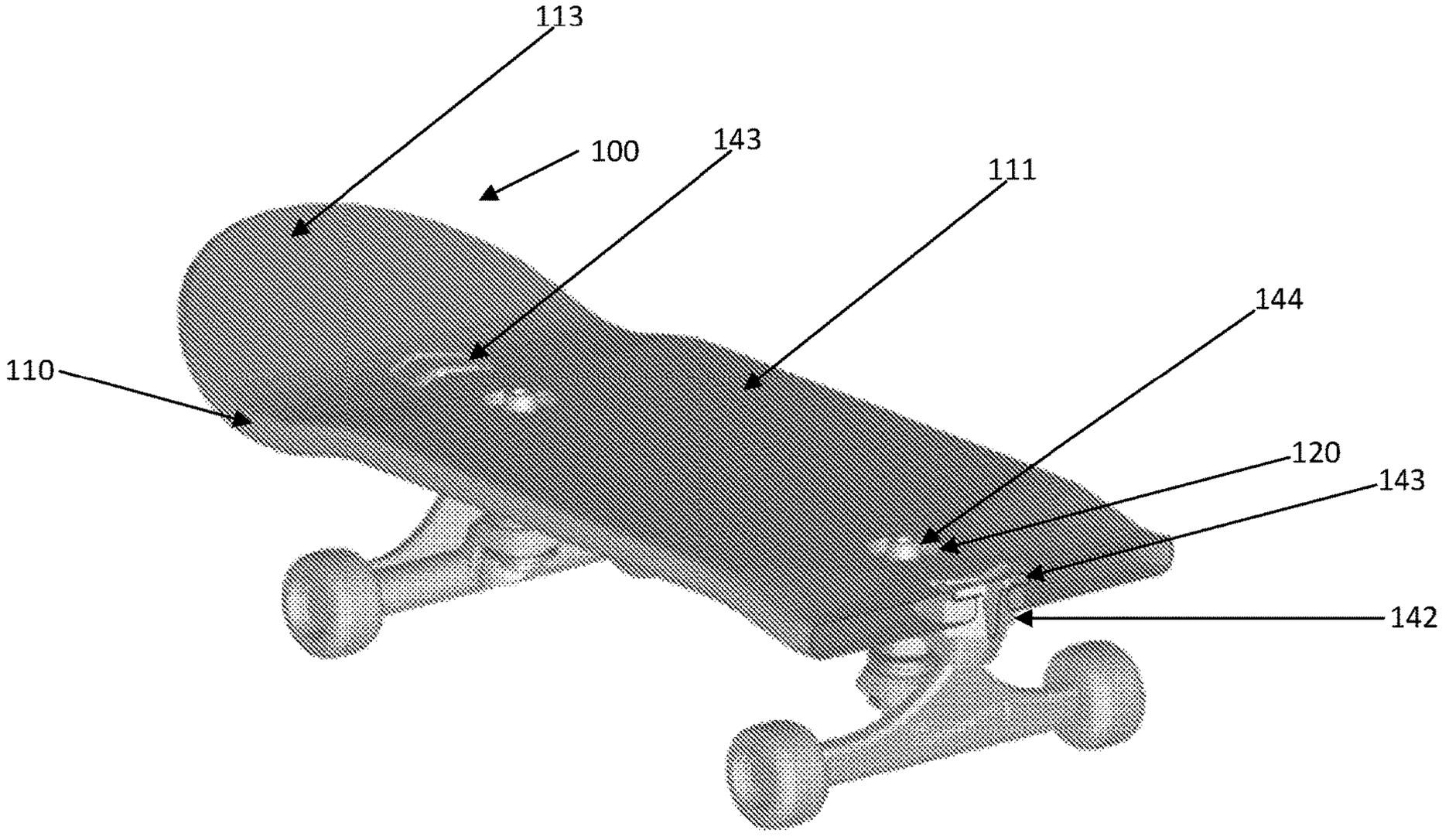

Fig. 4D

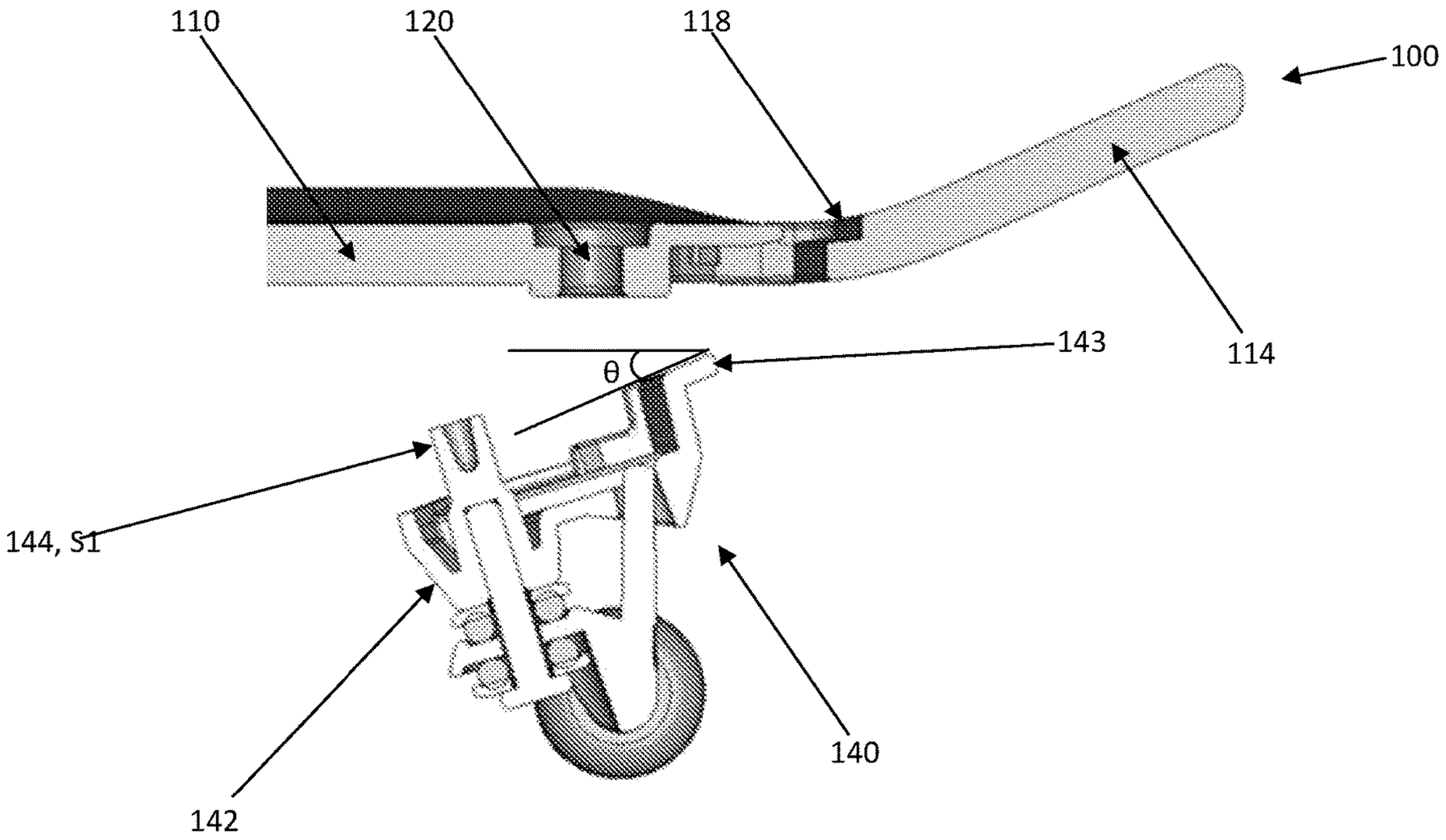
110
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Fig. 5A

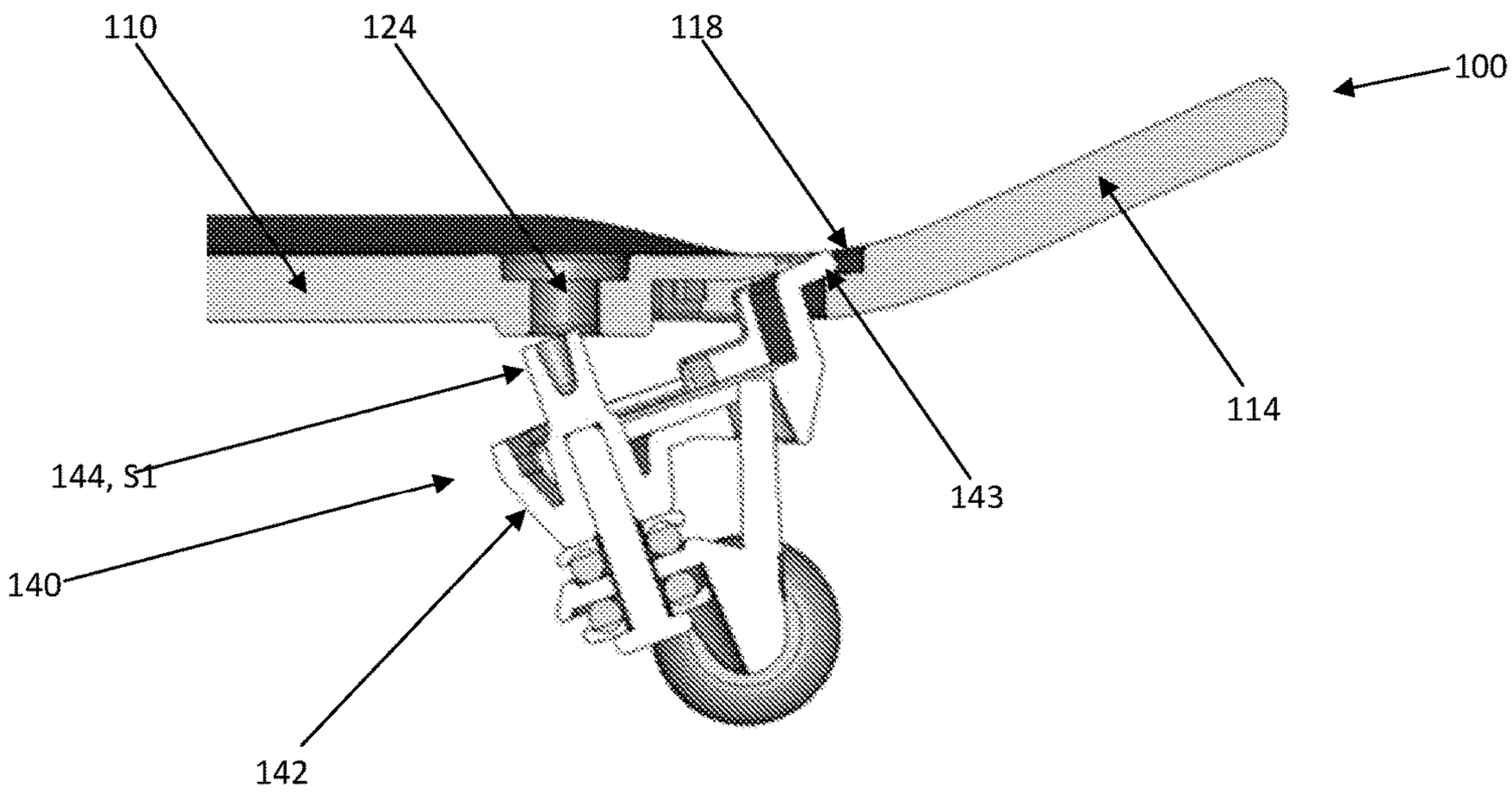
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Fig. 5B

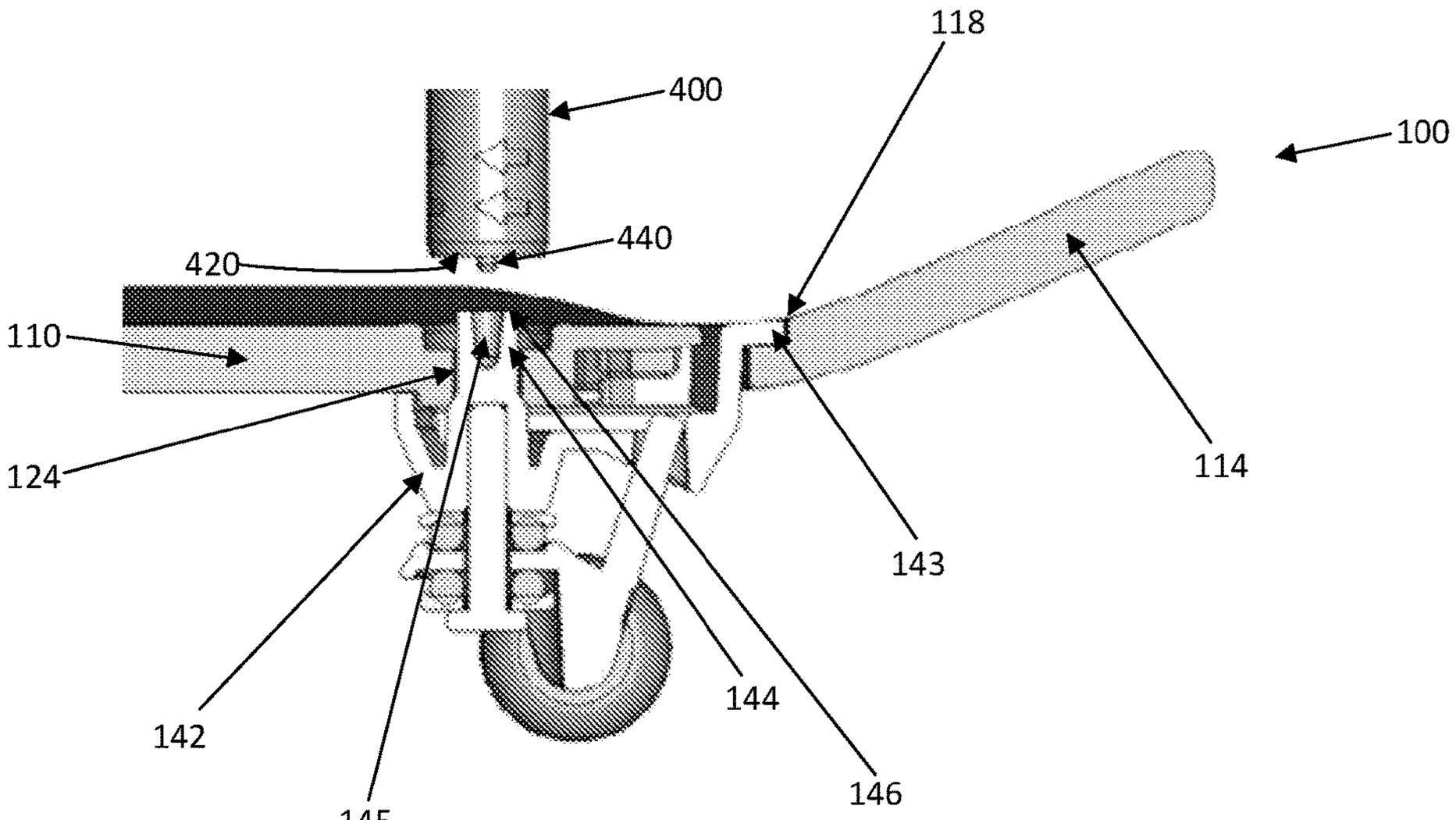
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Fig. 5C

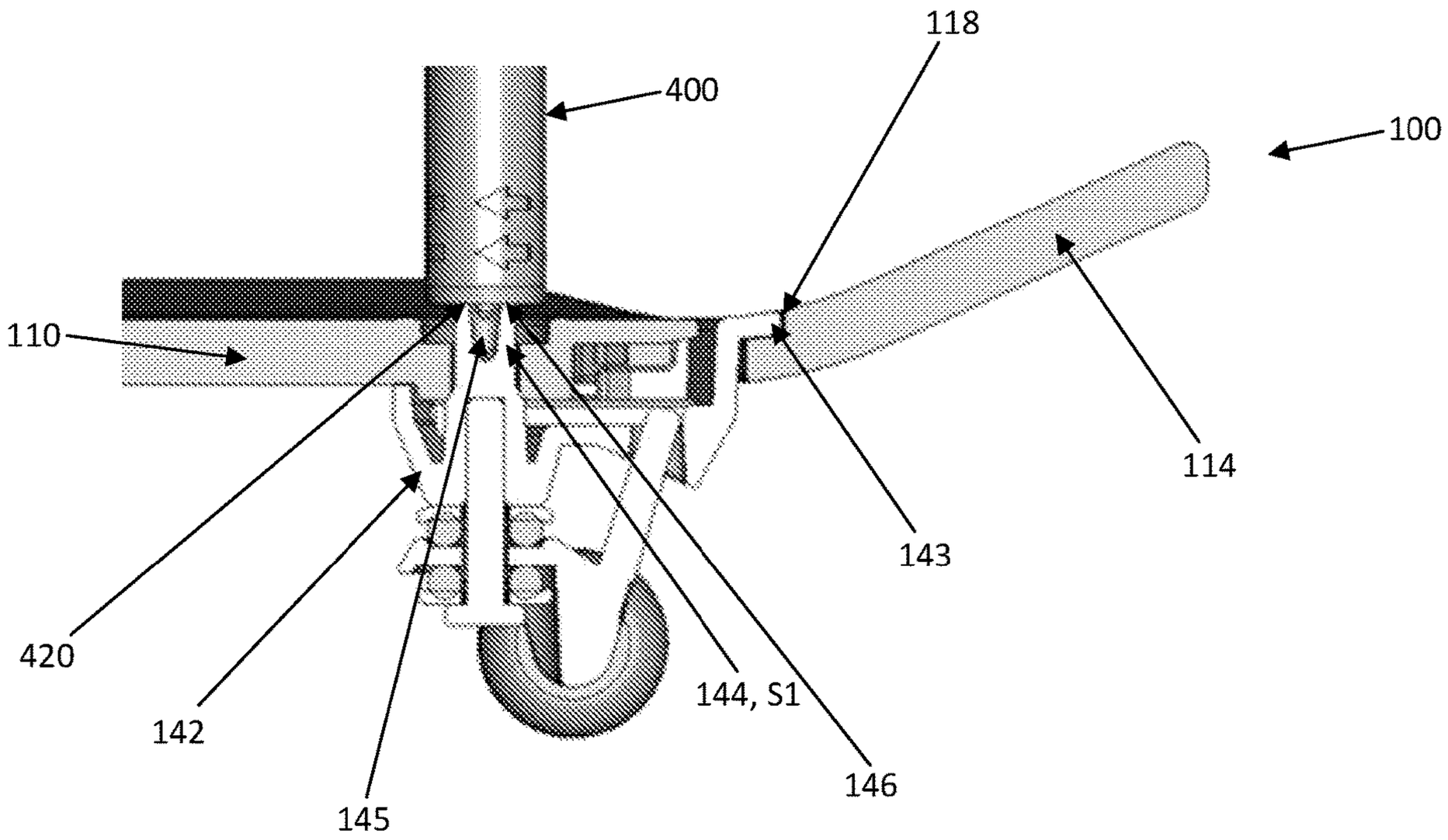
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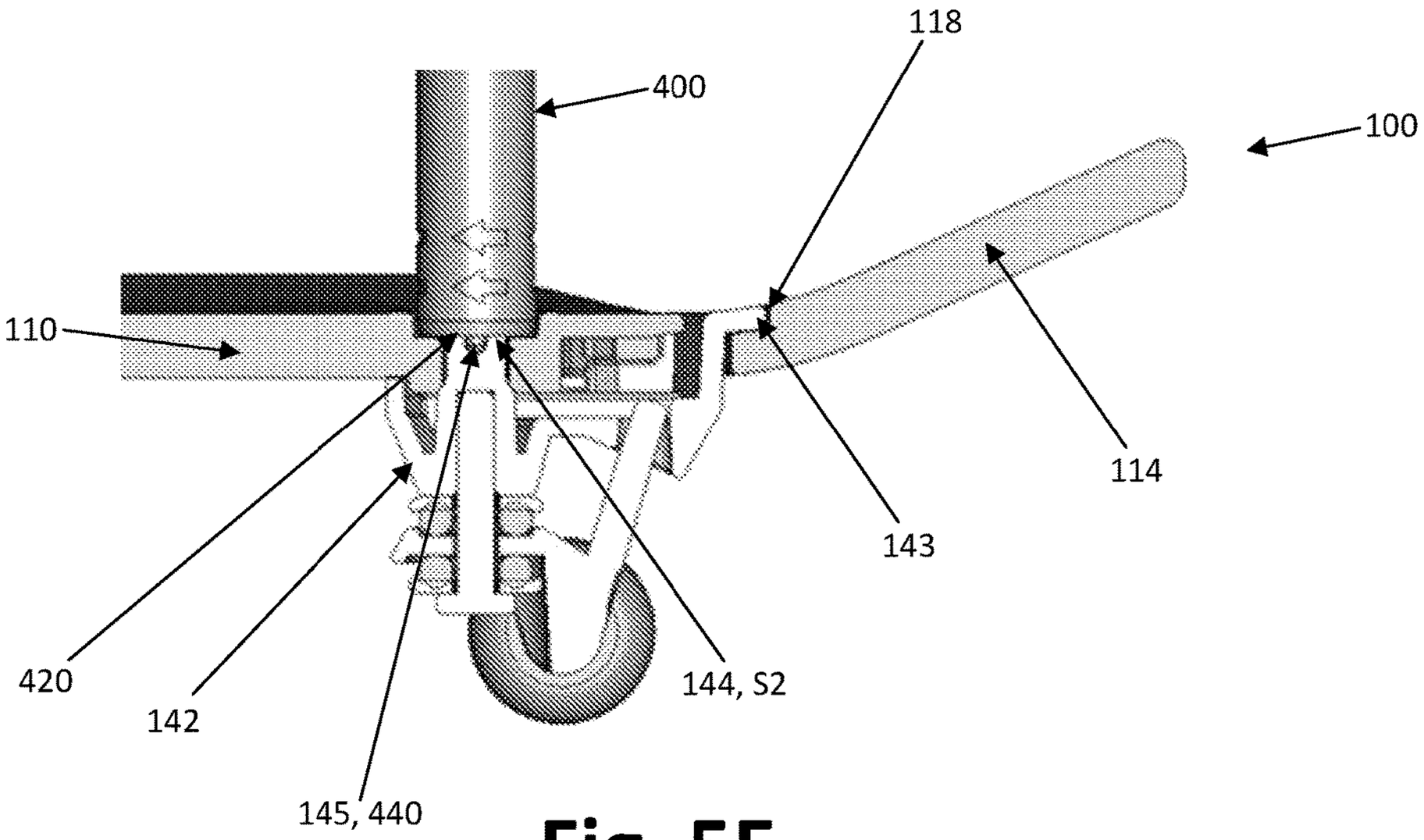
Fig. 5D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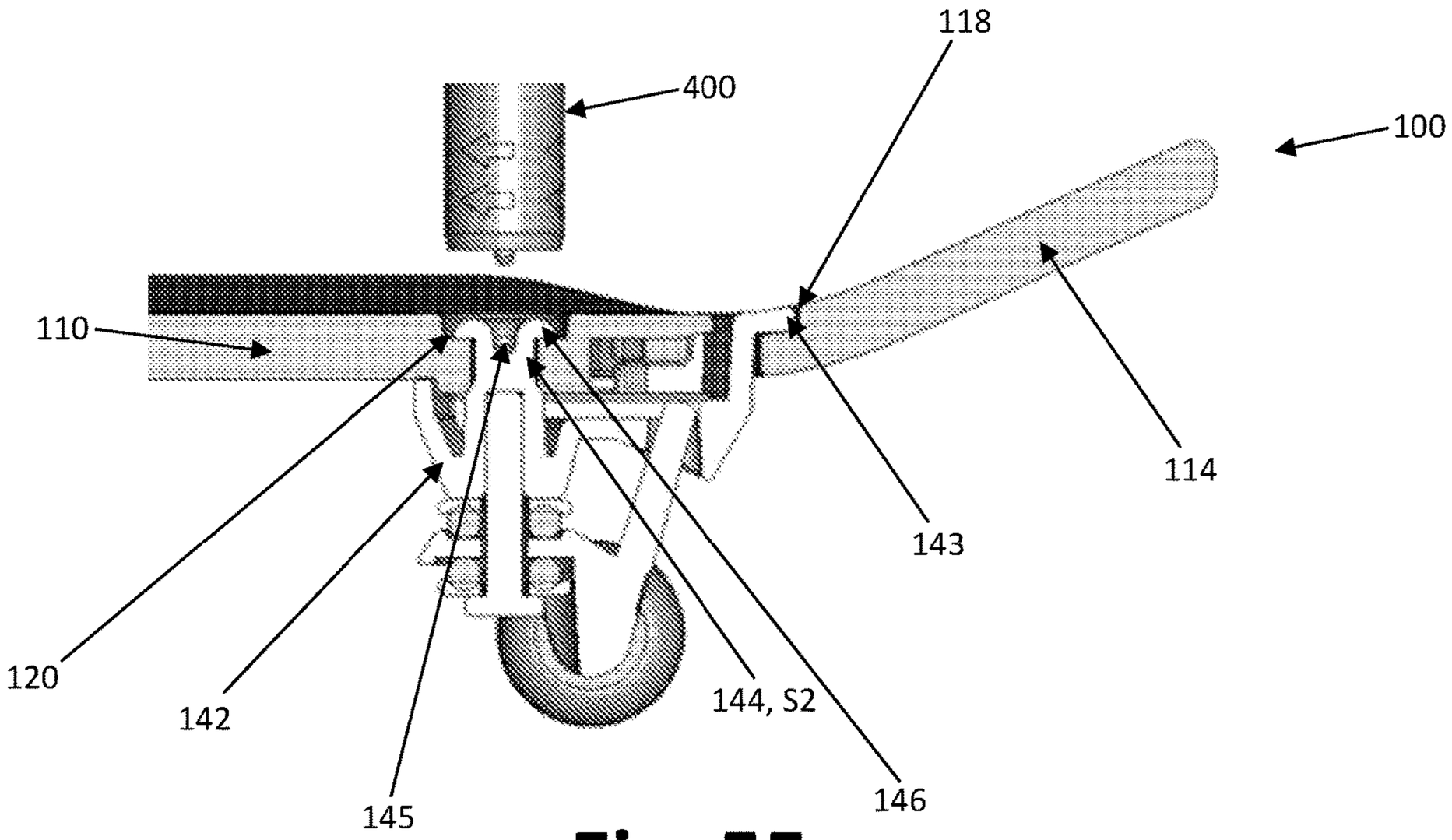
144, S2
145, 440

Fig. 5E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144, S2
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Fig. 5F

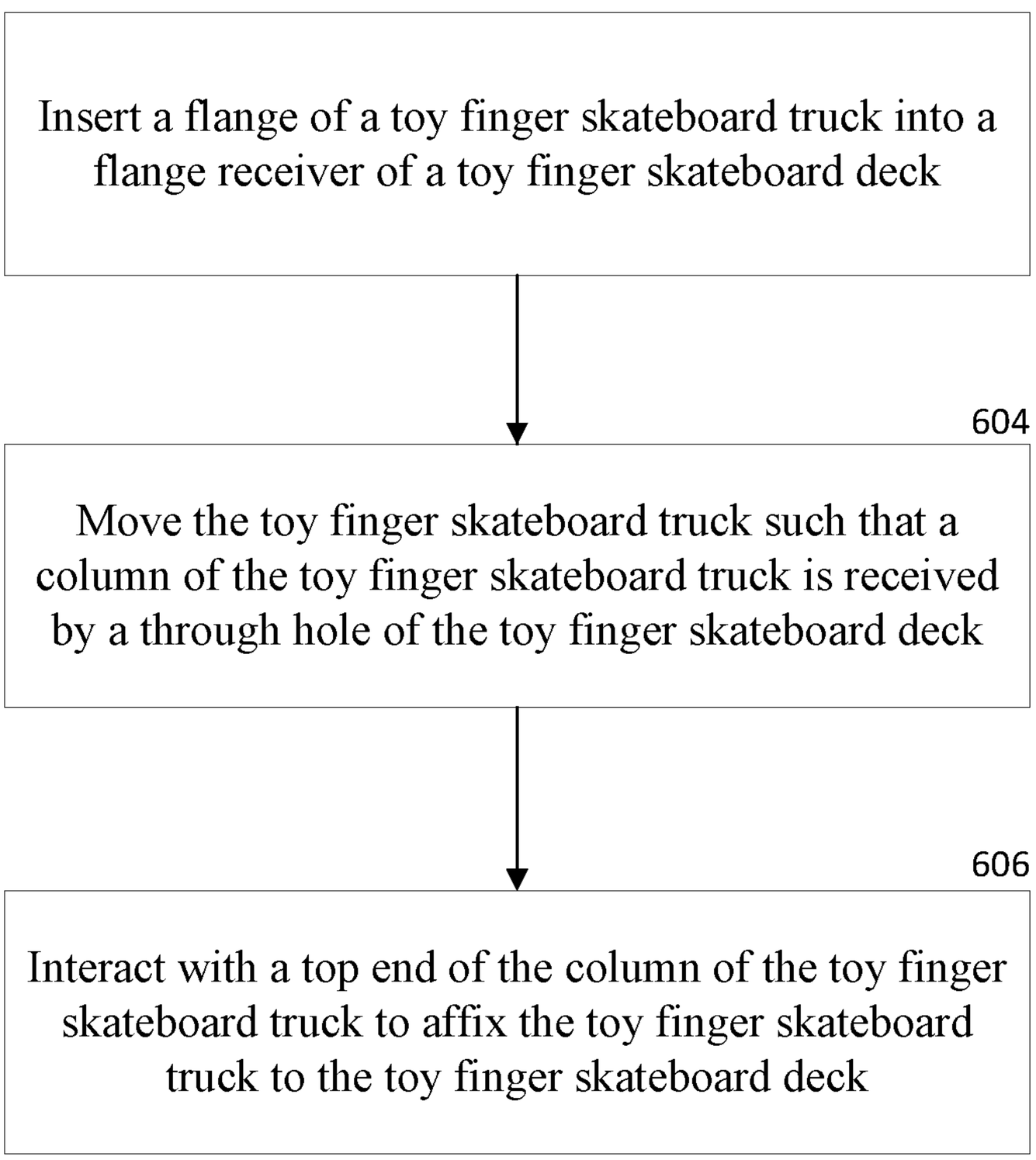
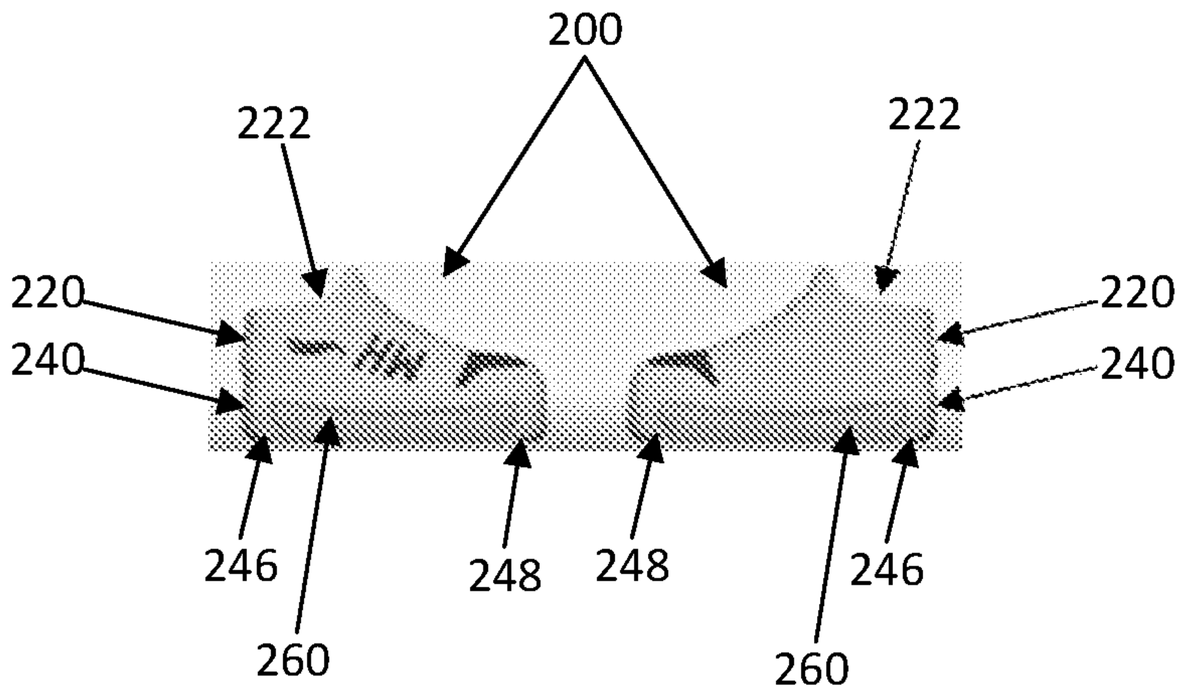

600
602
Insert a flange of a toy finger skateboard truck into a flange receiver of a toy finger skateboard deck
604
Move the toy finger skateboard truck such that a column of the toy finger skateboard truck is received by a through hole of the toy finger skateboard deck
606
Interact with a top end of the column of the toy finger skateboard truck to affix the toy finger skateboard truck to the toy finger skateboard deck

Fig. 6


200
222
222
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260
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Fig. 7A

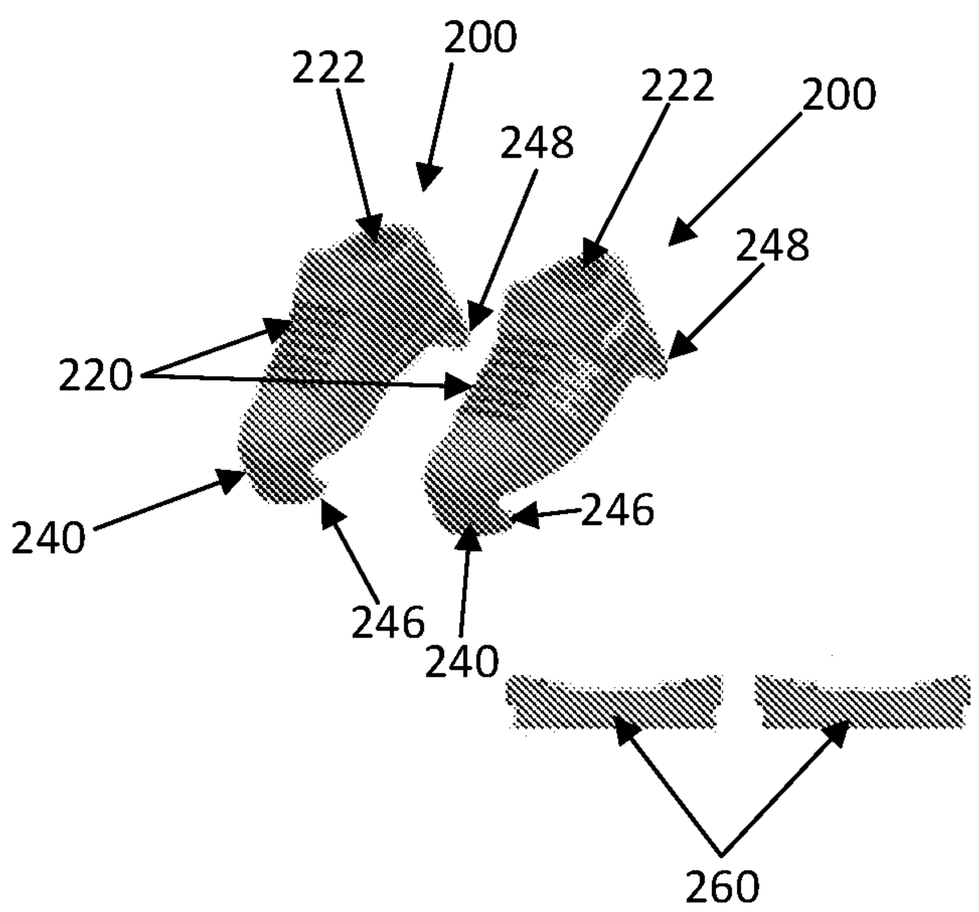
222
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Fig. 7B

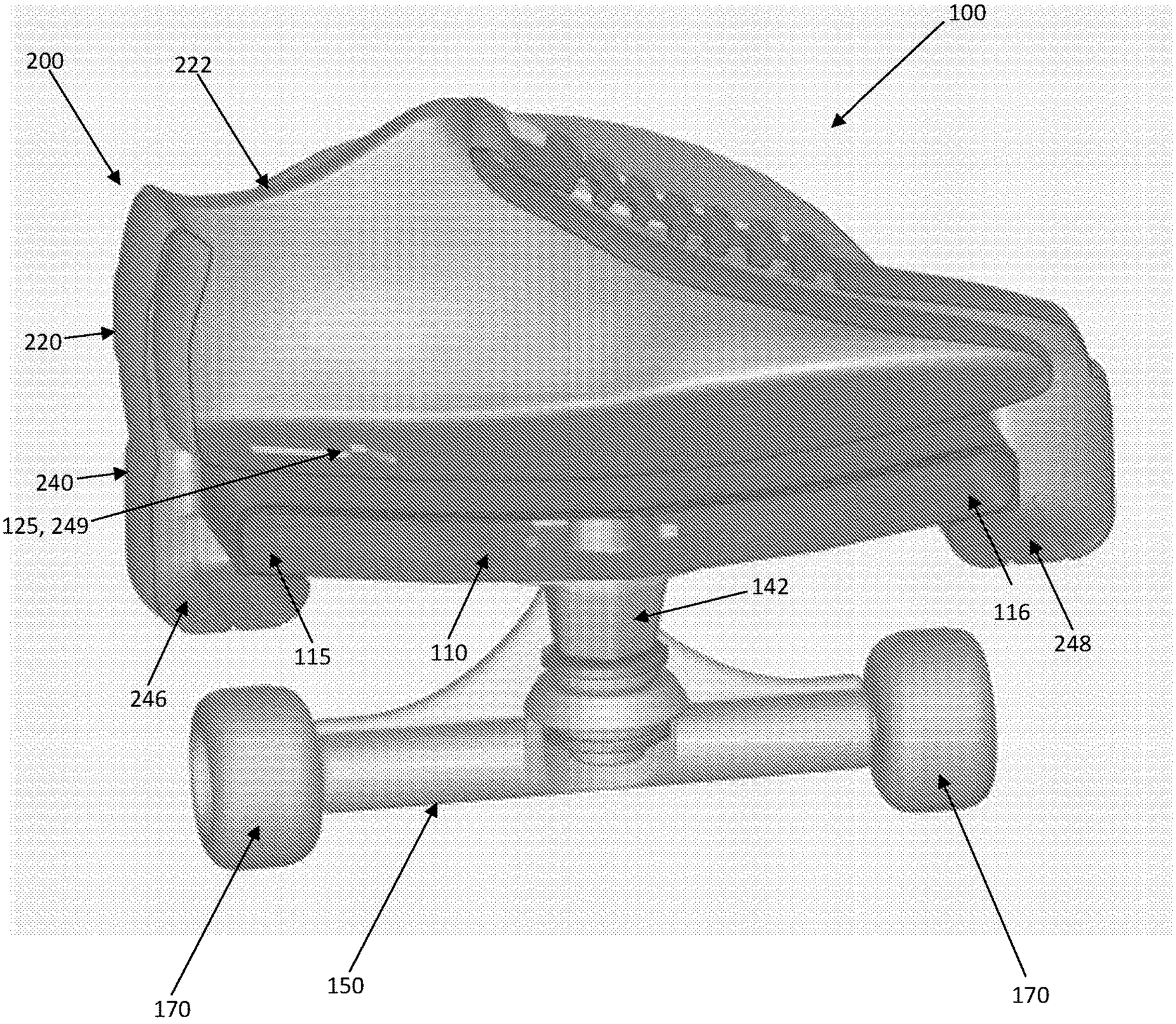

Fig. 8

METHOD OF MANUFACTURING TOY FINGER BOARD WITH REMOVABLY ATTACHABLE FINGER SHOES

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] The present application is a divisional of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/582,558 entitled "TOY FINGER BOARD WITH REMOVABLY ATTACHABLE FINGER SHOES AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME," filed on Jan. 24, 2022. The contents of this application are incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates generally to toy finger boards, and more specifically to toy finger boards associated with finger shoes, which are configured to be removably attached to the finger boards. Furthermore, the present invention also relates to a method of manufacturing a toy finger skateboard.

BACKGROUND

[0003] In the toy industry, toy finger boards have become an extremely popular and well-known play option for both children and adults. Directed largely to children and collectors, these toy finger boards typically resemble and have features similar to the life-sized boards used for the corresponding sport. Some of the most popular toy finger boards are toy finger skateboards, however, other toy finger boards such as toy finger snowboards, surfboards, wakeboards, and wakeskate boards have been made. However, while the appearances and physical size, as well as other design properties, have been stressed and improved upon to provide greater cohesiveness with the corresponding life-size boards, the functionality and manufacture of toy finger boards has remained relatively unchanged and, thus, is in need of constant enhancement and improvement.

[0004] The functionality of existing toy finger skateboards is limited because the existing toy finger skateboards are not configured to be removably attachable to the user's finger tips. In this regard, a user playing with an existing toy finger skateboard may only be limited to performing tricks on a flat surface such as a floor, desk, or table. Tricks performed with toy finger skateboards on flat surfaces are often referred to as flat ground tricks and are generally difficult to perform using toy finger skateboards, especially for children. Further, it is even more difficult to perform aerial tricks using existing toy finger skateboards, i.e., without the user grabbing the toy finger skateboard with the user's fingertips, which would obviate the preferred manner of play in which the user uses only two fingers to imaginatively replicate the legs of a life-size skateboarder. Therefore, existing toy finger skateboards limit the play modes with which the toy finger skateboard can be used. Accordingly, it is desirable to provide a toy finger skateboard with additional enhancements and play modes.

[0005] Additionally, the existing processes by which toy finger skateboards are manufactured are in need of constant enhancement and improvement. Toy finger skateboards are typically manufactured such that the constituent elements of the toy finger skateboards largely correspond to the constituent elements of life-size skateboards. For example, existing toy finger skateboards often use miniature nuts and bolts to connect miniature trucks to a miniature deck of the toy finger skateboard in a similar way that nuts and bolts are used to connect the trucks to the deck of a life-sized skateboard. The many components used to manufacture and assemble existing toy finger skateboards frequently complicates the manufacturing process because several different machines and processes are often required to manufacture and assemble the many individual components.

[0006] Further, in instances in which existing toy finger skateboards are packaged and sold in a disassembled manner, packaging is more complicated due to the individual components, and the small components may be cumbersome to assemble for the user with poor eyesight or a user that is not particularly dexterous, which may be the case for many children. These small components may also be easily lost or misplaced. If one or more of the small components are lost or misplaced, the structural integrity of the toy finger skateboard may be compromised or the toy finger skateboard may be rendered inoperative. Accordingly, it is desirable to provide a method of manufacturing a toy finger skateboard that reliably secures the miniature trucks to the miniature deck in a cost effective manner and/or in a manner that avoids the use of small removable structural components that are hard to see, hard to use, and easy to lose.

SUMMARY

[0007] According to one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a method of manufacturing a toy finger skateboard may comprise: inserting a flange portion of a toy finger skateboard truck into a flange receiver of a toy finger skateboard deck; moving the toy finger skateboard truck such that a column portion of the toy finger skateboard truck is received by a through hole of the toy finger skateboard deck; and interacting with a top end of the column portion of the toy finger skateboard truck to affix the toy finger skateboard truck to the toy finger skateboard deck.

[0008] In some of these embodiments, the portion of the top end of the column portion may be cylindrical. However, the entire column portion or a portion of the column portion may be any suitable shape. Additionally or alternatively, the top end of the column portion of the toy finger skateboard truck may be welded to a seat portion of the toy finger skateboard deck. For example, the welding of the top end of the column portion of the toy finger skateboard truck to the seat portion of the toy finger skateboard deck may be accomplished by spin welding. Additionally or alternatively, the welding of the top end of the column portion of the toy finger skateboard truck to the seat portion of the toy finger skateboard deck may be accomplished by deforming the top end of the column portion to create a seat flange within the seat portion.

[0009] In some embodiments, the seat portion of the toy finger skateboard deck may be below a top surface of the toy finger skateboard deck. Additionally or alternatively, a grip layer may be affixed to the top surface of the deck. Thus, in some instances, the grip layer may cover the seat portion of the deck.

[0010] The toy finger skateboard deck may be removably attachable to at least one shoe. Each shoe may include a finger hole in an upper of the at least one shoe and at least one bracket on a sole of the shoe. The bracket may be configured to removably attach the at least one shoe to the toy finger skateboard deck.

[0011] In some of these embodiments, a shoe may have a length that is longer than a width of the toy finger skateboard deck. Additionally or alternatively, there may be a first bracket attached to a front end of the sole and a second bracket attached to a back end of the sole. For example, the first bracket may be configured to wrap around a first side edge of the toy finger skateboard deck, and the second bracket may be configured to wrap around a second side edge of the toy finger skateboard deck, wherein the first side edge and the second side edge are on opposing sides of the toy finger skateboard deck. Additionally or alternatively, the first bracket may be configured to contact a first side edge of the toy finger skateboard deck, and the second bracket may be configured to contact a second side edge of the toy finger skateboard deck, wherein the first side edge and the second side edge are on opposing sides of the toy finger skateboard deck.

[0012] In some embodiments where at least one shoe includes two brackets, the at least one shoe may comprise a deformable material and be configured to attach to the toy finger skateboard deck by placing the first bracket on the first side edge of the board and deforming the at least one shoe such that the second bracket wraps around the second side edge of the toy finger skateboard deck. The deformable material of the shoe may be an elastic material that returns to its original shape after deformation, and the deformable material may be a resilient deformable material. Alternatively, the at least one shoe may comprise a rigid material. Regardless of the material of the shoe, the shoe may be configured to slide onto the toy finger skateboard deck from a front end or a back end of the board.

[0013] Still further, in some embodiments, there may be an insert configured to be inserted into the sole of the at least one shoe between the first bracket and the second bracket. In some of these embodiments, when the insert is inserted into the bracket assembly, a bottom surface of the shoe has a continuous surface. Additionally or alternatively, the toy finger skateboard, the at least one shoe, and associated method(s) of manufacturing such components may include any of the features, and realize any of the advantages of, any embodiments discussed herein.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014] FIG. **1** shows an exemplary toy finger skateboard that is being controlled by a user's finger-tips inserted into toy finger shoes in accordance with an embodiment of the present application.

[0015] FIG. **2** shows an exploded view of a toy finger skateboard assembly in accordance with aspects of the present application.

[0016] FIGS. **3**A, **3**B, **3**C, **3**D, and **3**E respectively show bottom, top, front, side, and isometric perspective views of a toy finger skateboard in accordance with aspects of the present application.

[0017] FIG. **4**A, shows a front perspective, cross-sectional view with a cross section through the centers of a kingpin and column of a base body of a truck assembly, in accordance with aspects of the present application.

[0018] FIG. **4**B shows a front perspective, cross-sectional view with a cross section through the centers of two wheels and two wheel pins, in accordance with aspects of the present application.

[0019] FIG. **4**C shows a side perspective, cross-sectional view with a cross section through the centers of the kingpin and the column of the base body of the truck assembly, in accordance with aspects of the present application.

[0020] FIG. **4**D shows an isometric perspective, cross-sectional view with a cross section through a flange of the base body of the truck assembly, in accordance with aspects of the present application.

[0021] FIGS. **5**A through **5**F show progressive positions of the truck assembly and a deck during an exemplary method of attaching the truck assembly to the deck of the toy finger skateboard assembly, in accordance with aspects of the present application.

[0022] FIG. **6** is a flowchart of an exemplary method of attaching the truck assembly to the deck of the toy finger skateboard assembly, in accordance with aspects of the present application.

[0023] FIG. **7**A shows opposing side perspective views of a toy finger shoe with an insert inserted into the toy finger shoe in accordance with aspects of the present application.

[0024] FIG. **7**B shows an isometric perspective views of two toy finger shoes, which have had their associated inserts removed, and further shows a side perspective view of the inserts, which have been separated from the associated shoes in which they are configured to be inserted, in accordance with aspects of the present application.

[0025] FIG. **8** shows a front perspective, cross-sectional view of a toy finger shoe attached to a toy finger skateboard assembly, which has a cross section through a flange portion of the base body portion of the skateboard truck within the board assembly in accordance with aspects of the present application.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0026] Referring generally to FIGS. **1-8**, a toy finger board **100** is configured to be controlled by fingers **320** of a user's hand **300**. According to an exemplary embodiment, the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** may be used with or without toy finger shoes **200**. Further, the toy finger shoes **200** may or may not be attached to the toy finger skateboard assembly **100**. In one embodiment, finger holes **222** of toy finger shoes **200** are configured to accept the finger-tips (not shown) of the user's fingers **320** such that the user wears each finger shoe **200** on a distal end of the user's finger. In the embodiment shown in FIG. **1**, toy finger board **100** is a toy finger skateboard assembly. However, in other embodiments, the toy finger board **100** may be a toy finger snowboard, surfboard, wakeboard, or wakeskate board, and may have a corresponding structure, appearance, and/or ornamentation to resemble the same. Similarly, in the embodiment shown in FIG. **1**, toy finger shoes **200** are skateboard shoes. However, in other embodiments, the toy finger shoes **200** may be any type of shoes or boots such as, e.g., water shoes, wakeskating shoes, tennis shoes, basketball shoes, sandals, dress shoes, heels, cowboy boots, or snowboard boots that may or may not have corresponding bindings (which may be removably attachable thereto). As such, the toy finger shoes **200** may have a corresponding structure, appearance, and/or ornamentation to resemble any desirable shoes that may be used with any toy finger board **100**.

[0027] As illustrated in FIG. **1**, the toy finger board **100** is a toy finger skateboard assembly that includes, inter alia, a toy finger skateboard deck **110** connected to wheels **170** configured to roll on a variety of surfaces such as, e.g., a surface of a desk, table, counter, or floor.

[0028] A grip layer **130** may be attached to a top surface **111** (see FIG. **2**) of the toy finger skateboard deck **110**. A bottom surface **134** (see FIG. **2**) of the grip layer **130** may include an adhesive configured to bond the bottom surface of the grip layer **130** to the top surface **111** of the deck **110**. Alternatively, an adhesive may be applied to a top surface **111** of the deck **110** to secure the grip layer **130** to the top surface **111** of the deck **110**. A top surface **132** of the grip layer **130** may have a gritty or rough surface and may be composed of, e.g., sandpaper, a sandpaper-like material, silicon carbide, aluminum oxide, or the like. The grip layer **130** of the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** may serve the aesthetic purpose of resembling a grip tape of a life-size skateboard. Further, the grip layer **130** may be functional and provide resistance and friction between the deck **110** and the shoes **200**, particularly when the inserts **260** are within the soles **240** of the shoes **200**, which are further described below with reference to FIGS. **6**A and **6**B. In an alternative embodiment, the grip layer **130** is not included in the toy finger skateboard assembly **100**; instead, the top surface **111** of the toy finger skateboard deck **110**, in and of itself, have a gritty or rough surface.

[0029] As noted above, the toy finger board **100** is not necessarily limited to a toy finger skateboard. Accordingly, instead of a toy finger skateboard deck **110**, the toy finger board **100** may be a snowboard, surfboard, wakeboard, or wakeskate board. In this regard, the top surface **132** of the grip layer **130** may not resemble grip tape of a life-size skateboard and may not include a gritty or rough surface. For example, the grip layer **130** may be composed of, e.g., a soft, high-traction, water-resistant foam material. Such foam material may comprise, e.g., ethylene-vinyl acetate (EVA), poly ethylene-vinyl acetate (PEVA), or a polyethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer. In the case of a toy finger surfboard, the grip layer **130** may resemble a life-size surfboard's traction pad, also known as a stomp pad, and may be affixed to a portion of a back end of a top surface **111** of the toy finger surfboard. In the case of a toy finger wakeskate board, the grip layer **130** may be similar in composition and appear as a grip layer of a life-size wakeboard. In the case of a toy finger snowboard or wakeboard, there may not be a grip layer **130** as the user's fingers might be attached to the toy finger snowboard or wakeboard via bindings.

[0030] Referring now to FIG. **2**, an exploded view of the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** is shown. The toy finger skateboard assembly **100** generally includes a deck **110**, two truck assemblies **140**, and an optional grip layer **130**.

[0031] The deck **110** may generally include a top surface **111**, a bottom surface **112**, a first end **113**, a second end **114**, a first side **115**, and a second side **116**. The top surface **111** and bottom surface **112**; the first end **113** and second end **114**; and the first side **115** and second side **116** are generally on respectively opposing sides of the deck **110**. That is, the deck **110** may extend from the top surface **111** to the bottom surface **112** (e.g., in a height or y-direction); from the first end **113** to the second end **114** (e.g., in a length or x-direction); and from the first side **115** to the second side **116** (e.g., in a width or z-direction).

[0032] The deck **110** may have curves along the length and the width of the board, which may resemble the curves of a life-sized classic skateboard. With respect to the curve along the length of the board, on the distal ends of the first end **113** and the second end **114**, there may be "tails" that curve upward from the center of the top surface **111**. These tails may be used to "kick" the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** into the air, e.g., to perform an "ollie" or other ground tricks. With respect to the curve along the width of the board, there may a slight concave curve from the first side **115** to the second side **116**. This curve along the width of the board may be useful when performing "flip tricks" with the toy finger skateboard assembly **100**. For example, a user may perform the aerobatic maneuver of a "kickflip" with the toy finger skateboard assembly by first using the tail to "kick" the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** into the air, and while the board is in the air, using a finger to apply pressure to either the first side **115** or the second side **116** such that the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** performs a spiral while rolling once about its longitudinal axis. The concave curve along the lateral axis is further described below with reference to FIGS. **7-8** in relation to the shape of the inserts **260** and shoes **200**.

[0033] While the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** shown in FIGS. **1-5** has a shape that resembles the shape of a classic skateboard, which is symmetrical about vertical planes through the longitudinal and lateral centers of the board, the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** is not necessarily limited to such a configuration. The toy finger skateboard assembly **100** may instead resemble, e.g., an "old-school" skateboard that only has one tail and a curved, pointed nose; a penny skateboard; a slalom longboard skateboard; a technical sliding longboard skateboard; a cruiser skateboard; a carving longboard skateboard; a "freerider" longboard skateboard; a cruising longboard skateboard; a long distance longboard skateboard; a "speedboard" skateboard; a boardwalking longboard skateboard; a surf style longboard skateboard; or any style skateboard.

[0034] The deck **110** may further include at least one flange receiver **118** and at least one through hole **120**. The through hole **120** may include a seat **122** and a throat **124**. A flange receiver **118** may be associated with a through hole **120** (i.e., positioned in relatively close proximity) and may be configured to accept a truck assembly **140**, as further described below. In the embodiment shown in FIG. **2**, there is a first flange receiver **118** associated with a first through hole **120** which are collectively configured to accept a first truck assembly **140**; and there is a second flange receiver **118** associated with a second through hole **120** which are collectively configured to accept a second truck assembly **140**. However, in other embodiments, there may be any number of flange receivers **118** and/or through holes **120**. For example, a finger board might include only a single truck assembly (alone or in combination with features suitable to attach a conventional truck to the deck **110** in a conventional manner).

[0035] Each truck assembly **140** generally includes a base body **142** and a hanger **150**, washers **160** and **162**, bushings **164** and **166**, and a kingpin **158**. The hanger **150** includes a pivot point **152**, a through hole **154**, and two wheel pin cavities **156**. The pivot point **152** is configured to be accepted by a pivot point receiver **148** of the base body **142**. As shown in FIG. **2**, an upper bushing **164** may be placed on the upper side of the through hole **154** is and a lower bushing **166** may be placed on the lower side of the through hole **154**. The upper bushing **164** and lower bushing **166** may be deformable annular (e.g., donut-shaped) rings made out of materials, e.g., rubber, that are configured to deform when the pivot point **152** pivots within the pivot point receiver

148, such as when an assembled toy finger skateboard assembly **100** turns. An upper washer **160** may be placed on the upper side of the upper bushing **164**, and a lower washer **162** may be placed on the lower side of the lower bushing **166**. The upper washer **160** and lower washer **162** may be, e.g., flat disk-shaped components that each have a through hole.

[0036] The hanger **150** is configured to be attached the base body **142**. In particular, the kingpin **158** may be configured to be placed through the through hole of the bottom washer **162**, the center of the annular bottom bushing **166**, the through hole **154** of the hanger **150**, the center of the annular upper bushing **164**, the through hole of the upper washer **160**, and finally into the kingpin receiver **149** of the base body **142**. In this regard, the kingpin **158** is configured to secure the hanger **150** to the base body **142** of the truck assembly **140**.

[0037] Each truck assembly **140** is further configured to be connected to two wheels **170** via wheel pins **172**, which are configured to be inserted through the centers of the wheels **170** and into a respective wheel pin cavity **156**. Each wheel **170** may be configured to spin about the respective wheel pin **172**, and there may be bearings (not shown) between the wheels and the wheel pins. While the truck assembly **140** shown in FIG. **2** includes wheel pin cavities **156**, which are configured to accept wheel pins **172**, an alternate embodiment may not include wheel pin cavities **156** and/or wheel pins **172**; instead laterally extending axles (not shown) may be unitarily formed with the hangers **150**. In this alternate embodiment, the axles may be configured to be placed through the centers of the wheels, the wheels may be secured to the axles via axle nuts, and the wheels may be configured to spin about the axles.

[0038] The base body **142** of the truck assembly **140** may be configured to attach to a bottom surface **112** of the deck **110**. A method of attaching the base body **142** to the deck **110** is further described below with reference to FIG. **8**. In addition to the pivot point receiver **148** and the kingpin receiver **149**, which are respectively configured to accept the pivot point **152** of the hanger **150** and the kingpin **158**, the base body **142** further includes a flange **143** and a column **144**. The flange **143** and the column **144** of the base body **142** are respectively configured to be inserted into the flange receiver **118** of the deck **110** and the throat **124** of the through hole **120** of the deck **110**.

[0039] As mentioned, the grip layer **130** includes a top surface **132** and a bottom surface **134**, which is configured to attach to a top surface **11***l* of the deck **110**. Thus, the grip layer **130** may be configured to cover the flange receiver **118** and the through hole **120** in order to make for a substantially smooth and aesthetically pleasing surface top surface of the assembled toy finger skateboard assembly **100**.

[0040] FIGS. **3**A-**3**E show a partially assembled toy finger skateboard assembly **100**. In particular, FIGS. **3**A-**3**E show a toy finger skateboard assembly **100** that has assembled truck assemblies **140**, which have been placed within the deck **110**, but have not yet been secured to the deck **110**. Further detail of an exemplary process by which a truck assembly **140** may be inserted into and welded to the deck **110** is described below with reference to FIGS. **5**A-**5**F.

[0041] FIG. **3**A shows a bottom view including the bottom surface **112** of the deck **110** to which the truck assemblies **140** are attached. The truck assemblies **140** include, among other components, the hanger **150**, the base body **142**, and the kingpin **158**. FIG. **3**B shows a top view of the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** prior to or without attachment of the grip layer **130**. The top view shows the top surface **111** of the deck **110**, which includes a flange receiver **118** and a through hole **120**. As shown, the through hole **120** includes a seat **122** and a throat **124** that can receive the column **144** of the base body **142** (of a truck assembly **140**). Specifically, the flange **143** can be inserted into the flange receiver **118** and the column **144** can be inserted through the throat **124** of the through hole **120** of the deck **110**.

[0042] FIG. **3**C shows a front view of the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** including the deck **110**, the base body **142**, the hanger **150**, and two wheels **170**. FIG. **3**D shows a side view of the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** including the deck **110**, two truck assemblies **140**, each of which include a base body **142** and a hanger **150**, which are attached to wheels **170** via wheel pins **172**. FIG. **3**E shows an isometric view of the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** and shows the components noted-above in FIG. **3**B and further shows wheels **170** and hangers **150**.

[0043] FIGS. **4**A-**4**C show various cross-sectional views of the partially assembled toy finger skateboard assembly **100** shown in FIGS. **3**A-**3**E. First, FIG. **4**A shows a front view of the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** with a cross section through the centers of the kingpin **158** and the column **144** of the base body **142**. As illustrated, the through hole **120** of the deck **110** includes a seat **122** and a throat **124** within which the column **144** of the base body **142** is disposed. In the embodiment shown, the throat **124** and seat **122** are hollow cylindrical sections of the through hole **120**, with the seat **122** having a diameter larger than the throat **124**. However, the shapes of the through hole **120**, seat **122**, and/or throat **124** are not necessarily cylindrical and may have any suitable shape(s) or dimension(s). Similarly, the column **144** may be cylindrical or may have any suitable shape(s).

[0044] Moreover, in the depicted embodiment, the column **144** of the base body **142** includes a cavity **145** that has a cone-shaped cavity having a curved bottom. However, other embodiments can include a cavity of any shape or need not include a cavity. In any case, a height of the column **144** may be greater than a height of the through hole **120**. In one embodiment, the column **144** is configured to be deformed from an original state S1, which is the state shown in FIG. **4**A, to a deformed state S2, in which state the base body **142** of the truck assembly **140** is secured to the deck **110**. As noted above, when assembled, the truck assembly **140** includes a kingpin **158** that is placed through the through hole of the bottom washer **162**, the center of the donut-shaped bottom bushing **166**, the through hole **154** of the hanger **150**, the center of the donut-shaped upper bushing **164**, the through hole of the upper washer **160**, and finally into the kingpin receiver **149** of the base body **142**. In the depicted embodiment, none of these components extend into the through hole **120**. However, the depicted embodiment is just an example and the truck assembly **140** and/or the through hole **120** is/are not limited to this particular configuration of components, and may be assembled with additional and/or alternative components and/or methods now known or later developed, for example, so that at least some of the aforementioned components are secured with through hole **120** during installation of the truck assembly **140** onto deck **110**.

[0045] Second, FIG. **4**B shows a front view of the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** with a cross section through the centers of the wheels **170** and the wheel pins **172**. In the illustrated embodiment, the wheels **170** are attached to the hanger **150** via wheel pins **172**, which are inserted into and attached to wheel pin cavities **156**. In one embodiment, the inner surfaces **171** of the wheels **170** and outer surfaces **173** of the wheel pins **172** adjacent to the wheels **170** have smooth surfaces to minimize friction therebetween. As such, bearings (not shown) are not necessary and may save cost by minimizing the number of components and simplifying the manufacturing process. However, one or more bearings may be included between each wheel and the wheel pin or the axle to reduce friction and enable the wheel(s) to roll faster. The pivot point **152** of the hanger **150** may be placed within the pivot point receiver **148** of the base body **142**.

[0046] When the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** is completely assembled and performs a turning motion, the first side **115** of the deck **110** may be moved closer to the wheel beneath the first side **115** and the second side **116** may be moved further from the wheel beneath the second side **116**. That is, the deck **110** may tilt towards side **115**. Further, the substantially rigid kingpin **158** may not deform, but instead the pivot point **152** of the hanger **150** may pivot within the pivot point receiver **148** of the base body **142**; and the deformable upper bushing **164** and the deformable lower bushing **166** may compress their shape on the side of the hanger **150** closer to the wheel beneath the first side **115** of the deck **110**.

[0047] When turning the opposite direction, the second side **116** of the deck **110** may be moved closer to the wheel beneath the second side **116** and the first side **115** may be moved further from the wheel beneath the first side **115**. That is, the deck **110** may tilt towards side **116**. Similarly, while the substantially rigid kingpin **158** does not substantially deform, the pivot point **152** of the hanger **150** may pivot within the pivot point receiver **148** of the base body **142**; and the deformable upper bushing **164** and the deformable lower bushing **166** may compress their shape on the side of the hanger **150** closer to the wheel beneath the second side **116** of the deck **110**.

[0048] Third, FIG. **4**C shows a side view of the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** with a cross section through the centers of the kingpin **158** and the column **144** of the base body **142** (i.e., along a center of the width of deck **110**). In the illustrated embodiment, the flange **143** of the base body **142** is disposed within the flange receiver **118** of the deck **110**, and the column **144** of the base body **142** is disposed within the throat **124** of the through hole **120** of the deck **110**. As is shown in FIG. **2** and FIG. **5**C, in at least some embodiments, the flange **143** includes a substantially vertically extending portion; and the flange **143** further includes a substantially horizontally extending portion attached to a top or distal end side of the substantially vertically extending portion. In these embodiments, the flange receiver **118** may include a through hole that further includes a stepped portion. A top surface of the stepped portion of the through hole of the flange receiver **118** is configured to be in contact with a bottom surface of the substantially horizontally extending portion of the flange **143**. The remaining components shown in FIG. **4**C are consistent with the above-noted description, and discussion of the same is omitted.

[0049] FIG. **4**D shows an isometric view of the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** with a cross section through the flange **143** of the base body **142** of the truck assembly **140** that is closer to the second end **114** (not shown in FIG. **4**D), which is opposite to the first end **113** of the deck **110**. In this embodiment, the columns **144** of the base bodies **142**, which are in their original state S1, protrude above the top surface **111** of the deck **110** because the height of the column **144** is greater than the height of the through hole **120** of the deck **110**.

[0050] FIGS. **5**A-**5**F show, sequential cross-sectional side views of the truck assembly **140** being attached to the deck **110**. In particular, FIG. **5**A shows the truck assembly **140** initially detached from the deck **110**. Then, from FIG. **5**A to FIG. **5**B, the truck assembly **140** is brought into contact with the deck **110**. First, as is shown in FIGS. **5**A and **5**B, the flange **143** of the base body **142** is partially inserted into the flange receiver **118** of the deck **110**. In one embodiment, the truck assembly **140** is tilted to a predetermined angle θ, then lifted upward and toward the distal end of the deck **110** (in this embodiment, toward the second end **114** of the deck **110**) such that the flange **143** is inserted into the flange receiver **118** of the deck **110**.

[0051] FIG. **5**B shows the flange **143** of the base body **142** partially inserted into the flange receiver **118** of the deck. Between FIG. **5**B and FIG. **5**C, the base body **142** is rotated (in the embodiment shown, in a clockwise direction about an axis extending horizontally in a direction parallel to the width of the deck **110**) such that the column **144** is inserted into the through hole **120** of the deck **110**. The column **144** is particularly configured to be inserted into and through the throat **124** of the through hole **120** of the deck **110**. The column **144** shown in FIG. **5**A through FIG. **5**C is the column **144** in its original state S1.

[0052] FIG. **5**C shows the column **144** having been rotated and inserted into the throat **124** of the through hole **120** of the deck **110**. FIG. **5**C further shows a welder **400** in a first position. The welder **400** may be, e.g., any welder capable of softening and deforming a material of the column **144**, such as a friction stir spot welding machine, a spin welding machine, etc., and may include a pin **440**, which may have a shape corresponding to the bottom surface of the cavity **145** of the column **144**. In one embodiment, the welder **400** is a spin welder, which generates heat by rotational friction to deform the column **144**. In this regard, the welder **400** may execute rotational motion to heat and deform the column **144**, which may consist of thermoplastic material. In an alternative embodiment, if predetermined portions of the deck **110** and truck assembly **140** are composed of metal, the top end **146** of the truck assembly **140** may be affixed to the seat **122** of the deck **110** via welding, e.g., gas metal arc welding, gas tungsten arc welding, shielded metal arc welding, and/or flux-cored arc welding. Further, the welder **400** may affix the column **144** to the deck **110** via any method of attaching components now known or later developed. Accordingly, the welder **400** does not necessarily rotate.

[0053] In the embodiment shown, between FIG. **5**C and FIG. **5**D, the welder **400** and the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** are moved relative to one another such that a bottom surface **420** of the welder **400** comes into contact with a top end **146** of the column **144**. In one embodiment, in addition to being configured for rotational motion, the welder **400** is configured to move up and down. In an alternative embodiment, the welder **400** performs rotational motion in a fixed vertical position, and a grip or platform on which the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** is affixed

moves up and down such that the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** is brought toward and away from the welder **400**. In yet another embodiment, both the welder **400** and the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** are configured to may move vertically/longitudinally. For simplicity, the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** in FIG. **5**C through FIG. **5**F remains in a fixed spatial position, and the welder **400** moves vertically relative to the toy finger skateboard assembly **100**. Thus, from FIG. **5**C to FIG. **5**E, the welder **400** spins and moves downward; and from FIG. **5**E to FIG. **5**F, the welder **400** moves upward (with or without spinning).

[0054] FIG. **5**D shows the welder **400** in a second position in which the bottom surface **420** of the welder **400** is in contact with the top end **146** of the column **144**. In the illustrated embodiment, the welder **400** is a spin welder in the process of rotating, and the truck assembly **140** is generally held in a fixed position such that the truck assembly **140** does not execute rotational motion as a result of its contact with the welder **400**. When the bottom surface **420** of the welder **400** contacts the top end **146** of the column **144**, (1) heat is generated by the rotational friction therebetween and (2) the pin **440** of the welder **400** is moved toward bottom surface of the cavity **145** of the column **144**, i.e., the welder **400** is moved downward such that the column **144** is deformed via spin welding. From FIG. **5**D to FIG. **5**E, the column **144** is deformed from the original state S1 to the deformed state S2.

[0055] FIG. **5**E shows the welder **400** in a third position in which the nose **440** of the welder **400** has been moved to (or substantially adjacent to) the bottom surface of the cavity **145** of the column **144**. In this embodiment, the welder **400** will have moved to its lowest position such that the column **144** has been deformed to the deformed state S2 via spin welding of the welder **400**. As noted above, from FIG. **5**E to FIG. **5**F in the embodiment shown, the welder **400** lifts upward away from the deck **110**.

[0056] FIG. **5**F shows the welder **400** in a fourth position in which the welder **400** is no longer in contact with the column **144** of the base body **142**. In FIG. **5**F, the truck assembly **140** has been attached to the deck **110**. Specifically, the column **144** has been deformed to the deformed state S2 such that the top end **146** of the column **144** has been deformed to contact the seat **122** of the through hole **120** of the deck **110**, i.e., the column **144** is deformed into a seat flange. In this regard, the combination of the flange **143** and the deformed column **144** in the form of a seat flange prevent the truck assembly from moving in any direction, i.e., forward, backward, left, right, upward, and downward, relative to the deck **110**. That is, this combination of couplings eliminates all degrees of freedom between the main body **142** of a truck assembly **140** and the deck **110**. While this process of attaching the truck assembly **140** to the deck **110** is illustrated with respect to the truck assembly **140** closer to the second end **114**, the same process may be repeated with the other truck assembly **140** closer to the first end **113**. In the alternative, there may be two welders **400** that simultaneously perform the above-noted welding process on the truck assemblies associated with the first side **115** and the second side **116**.

[0057] The above-noted method of attaching the truck assembly **140** to the deck **110** is advantageous in that such method obviates the need for separate components (e.g., screws, nuts, and other such components) to attach the truck assembly **140** to the deck **110**. Because these additional components are no longer necessary, the manufacturing process is more efficient and can lead to decreased manufacturing costs. Further, because these additional components, e.g., nuts, bolts, etc., are necessarily small and thus easy to lose, the end user or customer of the toy finger skateboard is not susceptible to losing such small components, therefore ultimately increasing user satisfaction.

[0058] In the embodiment shown in FIG. **5**F, the column **144** is deformed such that the column **144** in the deformed state S2 no longer protrudes above the top surface **111** of the deck **110**. Accordingly, the grip layer **130** may be attached to the top surface **11** of the deck **110** to cover the through hole **120**, the flange **143**, and the flange receiver **118**. The result is an aesthetically pleasing appearance and a functional grip layer **130** on which the user can place his or her toy finger shoes **200**, which are discussed in further detail below with respect to FIGS. **7-9**.

[0059] FIG. **6** is a flowchart of a method **600** of manufacturing a toy finger skateboard, in accordance with aspects of the present application. The method **600** begins at step **602**. At step **602**, a flange portion of a toy finger skateboard truck is inserted into a flange receiver of a toy finger skateboard deck. At step **604**, the toy finger skateboard truck is moved such that a column portion of the toy finger skateboard truck is received by a through hole of the toy finger skateboard deck. At step **606**, there is interaction with a top end of the column portion of the toy finger skateboard truck such that the toy finger skateboard truck is affixed or attached to the toy finger skateboard deck. This interaction may be welding the top end of the column portion of the toy finger skateboard truck to a seat portion of the toy finger skateboard deck. At least a portion of the top end of the column portion, in some embodiments, is cylindrical. However, the column portion may be any suitable shape. The interaction may be, deforming the top end of the column portion to create a seat flange and/or the welding may be spin welding. Still further, the seat portion of the toy finger skateboard deck may be below a top surface of the toy finger skateboard, a grip layer may be affixed to the top surface of the deck, and the grip layer may cover the seat portion of the deck. As noted above, a user may play with the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** in combination with one or more toy finger shoes **200**. A user, however, may play with the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** without any toy finger shoes **200**, e.g., using his or her fingers alone.

[0060] Turning now to FIG. **7**A through **7**B, a toy finger skateboard shoe **200** is shown. In particular, a side view from a first side (showing an "outside" of the shoe) is shown on the left, and a side view from a second side (showing an "inside" of the shoe) is shown on the right. As shown in FIG. **7**A, the shoe(s) **200** may generally include an upper **220**, a sole **240**, and an insert **260**. The upper **220** may further include a finger hole **222**, which is configured to accept a finger of an end user or customer. The sole **240** may further include a first bracket **246** and a second bracket **248**, which are described in further detail below.

[0061] FIG. **7**B is an isometric view of a pair of toy finger shoes **200** with their respective inserts **260** removed from the toy finger shoes **200**. Further, the removed inserts **260** are shown in side views. The toy finger shoes **200** may be used with the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** with the inserts **260** inserted into the shoes **200** or with the inserts **260** removed. In one embodiment, the shoes **200** are configured such that when the inserts **260** are removed, the shoes **200**

are attachable and detachable from the toy finger skateboard assembly **100**. As shown in FIGS. **7**A and **7**B, the shape of the inserts **260** correspond to the shape of the first bracket **246** and second bracket **248**. Further, the shape of the bottom surfaces of the soles **240** and the top surfaces of the inserts **260** further correspond to a shape of the deck **110** of the toy finger skateboard assembly **100**, to which the shoes **200** are configured to attach. Specifically, in the embodiment shown in FIGS. **7**A and **7**B, the bottom surface of the sole **240** in each shoe **200** between the first bracket **246** and the second bracket **248** is convex, which corresponds with the concave curve between the first side **115** and second side **116** of the deck **110**.

[0062] When the insert **260** is inserted into the sole **240** of the shoe **200**, the user may still wear the toy finger shoe **200** on the user's fingertip. Further, when the insert **260** is inserted into the sole **240** of the shoe **200**, the bottom surface of the shoe is substantially continuous between the first bracket **246** and the second bracket **248**. This continuous bottom surface of the sole **240**, which has the insert **260** inserted, is not necessarily limited to any shape and may be flat, planar, or convex. In other words, when the insert **260** is inserted into the sole **240** of the shoe **200**, there is not a substantial gap extending from the bottom surface of the first bracket **246** to the bottom surface of the second bracket **248**. In this regard, while shoes **200** are detached from the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** and the inserts **260** are inserted into the soles **240** of the shoes **200**, the user may still be able to "walk" on a surface with the shoes **200** or perform ground tricks with the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** with the shoes **200** attached to his or her fingertips **320**. Since the toy finger skateboard kit enables a user to use the shoes both while attached and detached from the toy finger skateboard assembly **100**, the toy finger skateboard kit offers enhanced versatility and thus provides for a more diverse user experience than traditional toy finger skateboards.

[0063] FIG. **8** shows a substantially front perspective view of a shoe **200** attached to a toy finger skateboard assembly **100** with a cross section through the center of the shoe **200** placed on the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** on a distal end side of one truck assembly **140**. As shown, the width of the shoe **200** is wider than the width of the deck **110**. Further, the sole **240** of the shoe **200** includes the first bracket **246** and the second bracket **248**, both of which generally include a vertical portion that is configured to contact a side edge of the deck **110** to which the shoe **200** is attached. On lower end sides of the vertical portions of the first bracket **246** and the second bracket **248**, the first bracket **246** and the second bracket **248** further include horizontal portions that are configured to contact a portion of the bottom surface **112** of the deck **110**. The first bracket **246** and the second bracket **248** may have reflectional symmetry about a plane that vertically divides the toy finger skateboard deck **110** along its longitudinal center.

[0064] As shown in FIG. **8**, the toy finger skateboard deck **110** may have a slight concave curve between the first side **115** and the second side **116**, and the bottom surface of the sole **240** between the first bracket **246** and the second bracket **248** may have a slight convex curve corresponding to the lateral concave curve of the toy finger skateboard deck **110**. FIG. **8** further illustrates the toy finger skateboard deck **110** may have a shoe bracket **125** located on and protruding above the top surface **111** of the deck **110** and/or the top surface **132** of the grip layer **130**. The bottom surface of the sole **240** between the first bracket **246** and the second bracket **248** may further include a bracket receiver **249**, which is a recessed portion configured to accept the shoe bracket **125**. When the bracket receiver **249** of the shoe **200** accepts the shoe bracket **125**, which is attached to the deck **110**, the shoe is generally prevented from moving laterally, i.e., from moving toward or away from the first end **113** or the second end **114**.

[0065] There may be at least two methods of attaching a shoe **200** to a toy finger skateboard assembly **100**. In either method, however, the first step of attaching the shoe **200** to the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** is to remove the insert **260** of each shoe **200** from the shoe **200**. This may be accomplished by pressing laterally on a side of the insert **260** such that the insert **260** slides out of the first bracket **246** and the second bracket **248**,

[0066] According to a first method of attachment, the main body of the shoe **200**, which includes the upper **220** and the sole **240**, may consist of a deformable material such that the shoe **200** is configured to bend or deform and subsequently return to its original shape. The deformable material of the shoe **200** may be an elastic material that returns to its original shape after deformation, and the deformable material may be a resilient deformable material. Alternatively, the shoe **200** may comprise a rigid material.

[0067] Thus, the first bracket **246** of the shoe **200** may be placed on the first side **115** at a location such that the bracket receiver **249** is in a position to accept the shoe bracket **125**. Subsequently, the shoe **200** may be wrapped around the top surface of the deck **110** such that the bottom surface of the sole **240** between the first bracket **246** and the second bracket **248** contacts the top surface **111** of the deck and/or the top surface **132** of the grip layer **130**.

[0068] Finally, the second bracket **248** can be wrapped around the second side **116** of the deck **110**. In one embodiment, the shoe **200** makes a snapping noise when the second bracket **248** is attached to the second side **116** of the deck **110**. Either way, both the first bracket **246** and the second bracket **248** hug the sides of the deck **110**. In the alternative, a user may begin by attaching the second bracket **248** to the second side **116** of the deck **110** and wrap the shoe around the deck and finish by wrapping the first bracket **246** around the first side **115** of the deck. Similarly, the shoe **200** may make a snapping noise when the first bracket **246** is attached to the first side **115** of the deck **110**.

[0069] In either case, to remove the shoe **200**, a user may apply pressure to the inside of the first bracket **246** such that the first bracket **246** is pushed away from the first side **115** of the deck **110**. Alternatively, the shoe **200** may be removed by applying pressure to the inside of the second bracket **248** such that the second bracket **248** is pushed away from the second side **116** of the deck **110**. Once the first bracket **246** or the second bracket **248** is removed from the respective side of the deck **110**, the shoe may be released from the shoe **200**.

[0070] According to a second method of attachment, the material of the shoes **200** is not limited to a deformable material, but may be a deformable or rigid material. In this second method of attaching the toy finger shoes **200** to the toy finger skateboard assembly **100**, each shoe **200** may slide laterally onto the board from either the first end **113** or the second end **114** of the deck **110**. To facilitate this movement, the shoe bracket **125** may be movable.

[0071] For example, the shoe bracket **125** may be attached to a spring (not shown) and a button or lever (not shown). When the button or lever is activated, the shoe bracket **125** may be pulled to a location beneath the surface of the deck **110**; and when the button or level is released, the spring connected to the shoe bracket **125** may push the shoe bracket **125** to its original position protruding above the surface of the top surface **111** of the deck **110** or the top surface **132** of the grip layer **130**. Thus, when the user is sliding a shoe **200** onto the deck **110**, the user may activate the button or level to move the shoe bracket **125** out of the way of the sliding shoe **200**, and when the shoe **200** is at a position where the bracket receiver **249** is above the recessed shoe bracket **125**, the user may release the button or lever such that the bracket receiver **249** accepts the shoe bracket **125** as the shoe bracket **125** returns to its original position protruding above the top surface **111** of the deck **110**. When a user desires to remove a shoe **200** from the toy finger skateboard assembly **100**, the user may hold down the button or lever such that the shoe bracket **125** releases the shoe **200**, and the shoe **200** may then be slid off the toy finger skateboard assembly **100**.

[0072] After attaching a first shoe **200**, the process of attaching the shoe **200** may be repeated with the other shoe **200** such that both shoes **200** are attached to the toy finger skateboard assembly **100**. Regardless of the method of attachment, after both shoes **200** are attached to the toy finger skateboard assembly **100**, the user may place his or her fingers in the finger holes **222** of the shoes **200** and perform tricks with the toy finger skateboard assembly **100**. At least because of the attachment between the shoes **200** and the toy finger skateboard assembly **100**, the tricks may include tricks that the user would not otherwise be able to perform.

[0073] For example, the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** with attached toy finger shoes **200** enables the user to perform, e.g., aerial tricks without the user needing to grabbing the toy finger skateboard with the user's thumb or fingers of the other hand. This enables a user to perform enhanced tricks while playing with the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** in a preferred manner, i.e., where the user only uses two fingers to imaginatively replicate the legs of a life-size skateboarder. Consequently, the toy finger skateboard kit according to the present application provides additional enhancements and play modes through the addition of removably attachable finger-tips shoes that selectively attach the toy finger skateboard. As noted above, however, the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** may be played with or used by the user without the shoes **200**. Omitting the shoes **200** may be desirable, for example, to minimize the amount of components included in the toy finger skateboard kit.

[0074] While the shoe **200** may be slid or snapped onto the deck **110**, the shoe **200** method or mechanism by which the shoe **200** attaches to the deck **100** is not limited to any particular method or mechanism and may use additional or alternative methods now known or later developed.

[0075] In one alternative embodiment, the deck **110** may include one or more holes or cavities (not shown) that are configured to accept one or more components, e.g., posts, that protrude downward from the bottom surface of the sole **240** of the shoe **200**. These one or more protruding posts may be unitarily formed in sole **240** of the shoe **200** and configured to mate with the one or more corresponding cavities in the top surface **111** of the deck **110**. The cavities may be located at one or more locations in the top surface **111** of the deck **110** where a toy finger shoe **200** would typically contact the deck **110**. For example, the cavity or cavities may be located on the top surface **111** of the deck **110** at location(s) above the truck assembly **140**. In another embodiment, the cavity or cavities may be on the deck **110** at positions inward from above the truck assembly with respect to the first end **113** and the second end **114** of the deck **110** such that the shoes **200**, when attached, appear similar to the positioning of the shoes shown in FIG. **1**. The location(s) of the cavity or cavities, however, is not limited and may be at any location(s) on the top surface **111** of the deck **110**.

[0076] A configuration that includes posts in the shoes **200** and corresponding cavities in the deck **10** may or may not include attachable/detachable insert(s) **260**. In one embodiment, the shoes **200** do not have include the first bracket **246** or the second bracket **248**, and the inserts **240** take a different shape than that shown in FIGS. **7**A and **7**B. In particular, the inserts **240** may have the same length and width of the sole **240**, may have cavities, which are used to attach to inserts to the posts of the shoe **200**. In another embodiment, there are no inserts **240** and the bottom surface of the soles **240** include the protruding posts.

[0077] While there may be one cavity and one corresponding post per shoe **200**, the number of cavities and number of corresponding posts per shoe is not necessarily limited. For example, two posts on the bottom of each shoe **200** may mate with two corresponding cavities on either side of the deck **110**. Alternatively, there may be any number of cavities and corresponding posts on each shoe **200**. Further, the number of cavities on each side of the deck **110** may not be equal to the number of posts on each shoe. For example, each shoe **200** may include only one post, but there may be a plurality of cavities on each side of the deck **110** such that the user may position the shoe **200** in varying positions or locations on the top surface **111** of the deck **110** by mating the post of the shoe **200** with one of the plurality of cavities on the top surface **111** of the deck **110**. Therefore, there may any number of cavities in the deck **110** and any number of posts on the bottom surface of the shoe(s) **200**.

[0078] In yet another embodiment, the deck **110** may have posts that mate with cavities within the shoes **200**. Specifically, the deck **110** may include one or more components, e.g., post(s) (not shown), that protrude from the top surface **111** of the deck **110**. The one or more posts on the deck **110** may be configured to mate with one or more corresponding cavities (not shown) in the bottom surface of the sole **240** of the shoe **200**. The post(s) may protrude from the top surface **111** of the deck **110** at one or more locations where the toy finger shoe(s) **200** would typically contact the toy finger skateboard. For example, the post(s) may protrude from the top surface **111** of the deck **110** at location(s) above the truck assemblies **140**. In another embodiment, the posts may be on the deck **110** at positions inward from above truck assemblies **140** with respect to the first end **113** and the second end **114** of the deck **110**. The location(s) of the post(s) on the deck **110**, however, are not limited and may be at any location(s) on the top surface **111** of the deck **110**.

[0079] A configuration that includes post(s) on the deck **110** and corresponding hole(s) in the sole(s) **240** of the shoe(s) **200** may or may not include attachable/detachable insert(s) **260**. The sole(s) **240** of the shoe(s) **200** may be unitarily formed.

[0080] While there may only be one cavity in each shoe **200** that corresponds to a corresponding cavity in the deck **110**, the number of posts and number of corresponding cavities per shoe is not necessarily limited. For example, two posts on each side of the deck **110** may mate with two corresponding cavities in each shoe **200**. Alternatively, there may be any number of posts and corresponding cavities in each shoe **200**. Further, the number of posts on each side of the deck **110** may not be equal to the number of cavities in each shoe. For example, the deck **110** may include only one post corresponding to one shoe **200**, and each shoe **200** may include a plurality of cavities in the sole **240** such that the user may position the shoe **200** in varying positions or locations on the top surface **111** of the deck **110** by mating the post with one of the plurality of cavities in the bottom surface of the sole **240** of the shoe **200**. Therefore, there may any number of posts and any number of cavities in each sole **240**.

[0081] While the posts and corresponding cavities may be cylindrical, the shape of a post and a corresponding cavity is not limited and may take any suitable shape.

[0082] In yet another embodiment, the shoes **200** may attach to the deck **110** in a manner similar to the manner in which a track assembly **140** may attach to the deck **110**. Specifically, each shoe **200** may have one or more flange portions (not shown), which are configured to be accepted by cavities, e.g., flange receiving portions, in the top surface **111** of the deck **110**. In one embodiment, the deck **110** may have two different types of flange receiving portions; a first type of flange receiving portion may receive the flange **143** of the truck main body **142** in the manner described above, and a second type of flange receiving portion may receive a flange of a shoe **200**.

[0083] The flange of the shoe **200** may be on a front portion and/or a back portion of the bottom surface of the shoe **200**. After the second type of flange receiving portion in the deck **110** accepts the flange of the shoe **200**, the shoe **200** may further connect to the deck **110** via a post and cavity method, similar to that described above; and the post or cavity may be located on the bottom surface of the shoe **200** on a side of the shoe **200** opposite to the flange. In another embodiment, after the second type of flange receiving portion in the deck **110** accepts the flange of the shoe **200**, the shoe **200** may further connect to the deck **110** via a bracket located on a side of the shoe **200** opposite to the flange. In one embodiment, the flange is located on a front portion of the shoe **200**, and a bracket is located on a back portion of the shoe resembles the second flange **248** shown in FIGS. **7**A and **7**B. In another embodiment, the flange is located on the back portion of the shoe **200**, and the bracket is located on the front portion of the shoe and resembles the first flange **246** shown in FIGS. **7**A and **7**B.

[0084] In still yet another embodiment, attached to the board assembly **100**, there may be bindings (not shown), which are configured to accept the shoes **100**. In this embodiment, the bindings may resemble the bindings of a life-sized snowboard or wakeboard. Further, in this embodiment, the board assembly may not resemble a life-sized skateboard. Instead, the board assembly **100** may instead resemble a life-sized snowboard, and the "shoes" **100** may resemble life-sized snowboard boots. In a boots and binding embodiment which resembles that of a life-sized snowboard, the truck assemblies and wheels may be omitted. The bindings may be components separate from the deck **110**. The bindings and the deck **110** may be configured such that they may be affixed to one another using the flange and welding method disclosed above with respect to the attachment of a truck assembly **140** and the deck **110**. However, the bindings and the deck **110** may be attached an any other suitable manner now known or later developed. Further, the bindings may be unitarily formed with the deck **110**.

[0085] Generally referring to FIGS. **1-8**, the toy finger skateboard assembly **100** and/or shoes **200** may be fabricated from any suitable material, or combination of materials, such as metal, plastic, foamed plastic, wood, cardboard, pressed paper, metal, supple natural or synthetic materials including, but not limited to, cotton, elastomers, polyester, plastic, rubber, derivatives thereof, and combinations thereof. Suitable plastics may include high-density polyethylene (HDPE), low-density polyethylene (LDPE), polystyrene, acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), polycarbonate, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), polypropylene, ethylene-vinyl acetate (EVA), or the like. Suitable foamed plastics may include expanded or extruded polystyrene, expanded or extruded polypropylene, EVA foam, derivatives thereof, and combinations thereof.

[0086] Additionally, it is to be understood that terms such as "left," "right," "top," "bottom," "front," "rear," "side," "height," "length," "width," "upper," "lower," "interior," "exterior," "inner," "outer" and the like as may be used herein, merely describe points or portions of reference and do not limit the present invention to any particular orientation or configuration. Further, the term "exemplary" is used herein to describe an example or illustration. Any embodiment described herein as exemplary is not to be construed as a preferred or advantageous embodiment, but rather as one example or illustration of a possible embodiment of the invention.

[0087] Although the disclosed inventions are illustrated and described herein as embodied in one or more specific examples, it is nevertheless not intended to be limited to the details shown, since various modifications and structural changes may be made therein without departing from the scope of the inventions and within the scope and range of equivalents of the claims. In addition, various features from one of the embodiments may be incorporated into another of the embodiments. Accordingly, it is appropriate that the appended claims be construed broadly and in a manner consistent with the scope of the disclosure as set forth in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of manufacturing a toy finger skateboard comprising:

inserting a flange portion of a toy finger skateboard truck into a flange receiver of a toy finger skateboard deck;

moving the toy finger skateboard truck such that a column portion of the toy finger skateboard truck is received by a through hole of the toy finger skateboard deck; and

interacting with a top end of the column portion of the toy finger skateboard truck to affix the toy finger skateboard truck to the toy finger skateboard deck.

2. The method of claim **1**, wherein:

at least a portion of the top end of the column portion is cylindrical.

3. The method of claim **1**, wherein the interacting with the top end of the column portion to affix the toy finger skateboard truck to the toy finger skateboard deck comprises:

welding the top end of the column portion of the toy finger skateboard truck to a seat portion of the toy finger skateboard deck.

4. The method of claim **3**, wherein:

the welding comprises spin welding.

5. The method of claim **3**, wherein welding the top end of the column portion of the toy finger skateboard truck to the seat portion of the toy finger skateboard deck comprises:

deforming the top end of the column portion to create a seat flange.

6. The method of claim **3**, wherein:

the seat portion of the toy finger skateboard deck is below a top surface of the toy finger skateboard deck.

7. The method of claim **6**, further comprising:

affixing a grip layer to the top surface of the toy finger skateboard deck.

8. The method of claim **7**, wherein:

the grip layer covers the seat portion of the toy finger skateboard deck.

9. The method of claim **1**, further comprising:

providing at least one shoe that comprises a finger hole in an upper of the at least one shoe and at least one bracket on a sole of the at least one shoe; and

removably attaching the at least one shoe to the toy finger skateboard with the at least one bracket is configured to removably attach the at least one shoe to the toy finger skateboard.

10. The method of claim **9**, wherein the at least one shoe has a length that is longer than a width of the toy finger skateboard deck.

11. The method of claim **9**, wherein the at least one bracket comprises a first bracket attached to a front end of the sole and a second bracket attached to a back end of the sole.

12. The method of claim **11**, wherein:

the first bracket is configured to contact a first side edge of the toy finger skateboard deck, and

the second bracket is configured to contact a second side edge of the toy finger skateboard deck, wherein the first side edge and the second side edge are on opposing sides of the toy finger skateboard deck.

13. The method of claim **12**, wherein:

the first bracket is further configured to wrap around the first side edge of the toy finger skateboard deck, and

the second bracket is further configured to wrap around the second side edge of the toy finger skateboard deck.

14. The method of claim **11**, wherein:

the at least one shoe comprises a rigid material, and

the at least one shoe is configured to slide onto the toy finger skateboard deck from a front end or a back end of the toy finger skateboard deck.

15. The method of claim **11**, wherein:

the at least one shoe comprises a deformable material, and

the at least one shoe is configured to attach to the toy finger skateboard deck by placing the first bracket on a first side edge of the toy finger skateboard deck and deforming the at least one shoe such that the second bracket wraps around a second side edge of the toy finger skateboard deck.

16. The method of claim **11**, wherein the shoe further comprises:

an insert that is configured to be inserted into the sole of the at least one shoe between the first bracket and the second bracket.

17. The method of claim **16**, wherein, when the insert is inserted into the sole of the shoe, a bottom surface of the shoe has a continuous surface.

18. A method of manufacturing a toy finger skateboard comprising:

removably coupling a flange portion of a toy finger skateboard truck to a flange receiver of a toy finger skateboard deck;

removably coupling a column portion of the toy finger skateboard truck to a through hole of the toy finger skateboard deck; and

affixing the column portion of the toy finger skateboard truck to the toy finger skateboard deck to fixedly couple the toy finger skateboard truck to the toy finger skateboard deck.

19. The method of claim **18**, wherein the affixing comprises welding a top end of the column portion of the toy finger skateboard truck to a seat portion of the toy finger skateboard deck.

20. The method of claim **19**, wherein the seat portion of the toy finger skateboard deck is below a top surface of the toy finger skateboard deck.

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