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Keller

[11] E

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[54] **SEAT ATTACHMENT APPARATUS**

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Related U.S. Patent Documents

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U.S. Applications:

[63] Continuation-in-part of application No. 08/226,027, Apr. 11, 1994, abandoned.

[51] **Int. Cl.⁷** **B62J 1/04**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **403/235; 403/389; 403/396; 297/215.15; 280/226.1**

[58] **Field of Search** **403/391, 390, 403/389, 396, 235, 241; 280/220, 226.1, 283, 287; 248/219.2; 297/215.15, 215.14**

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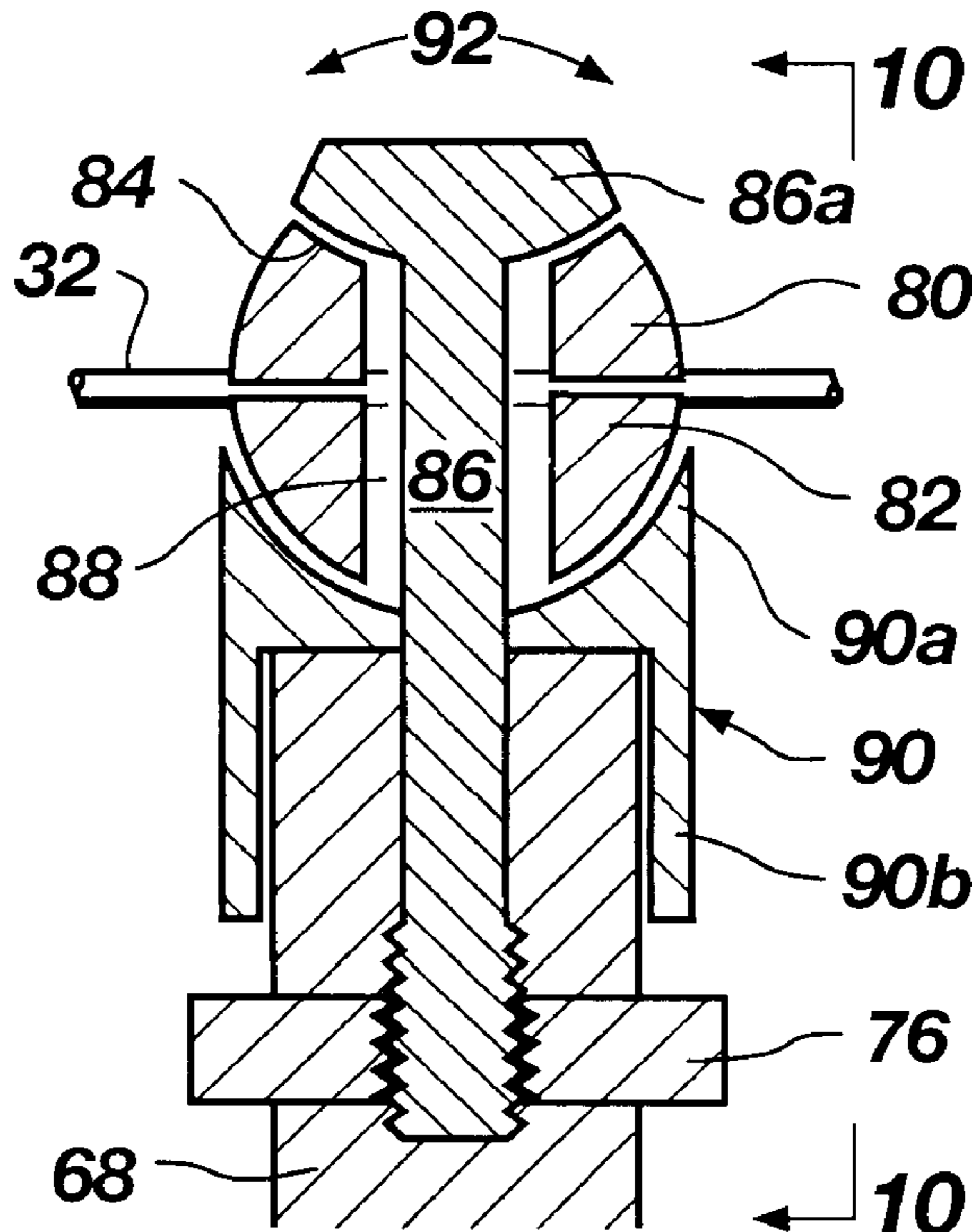
Primary Examiner—Anthony Knight

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Morriss, Bateman, O'Bryant & Compagni

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An apparatus for attaching a seat to a seat post comprises a cylindrical housing with oppositely oriented openings on the side of the housing. Top and bottom clamping pieces are positioned through the openings. Mating grooves on the ends of the clamps are adapted for placement and securing of a pair of rails affixed to the underside of the seat. A bottom block is disposed beneath the clamps and adapted for abutment against the clamps. The interior bottom portion of the housing is threaded, and the exterior top portion of the seat post is threaded for engagement with the threads of the housing, so that the seat post itself is tightened against the bottom piece, thus securing the seat rails within the clamps without need for tools or small components.

57 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



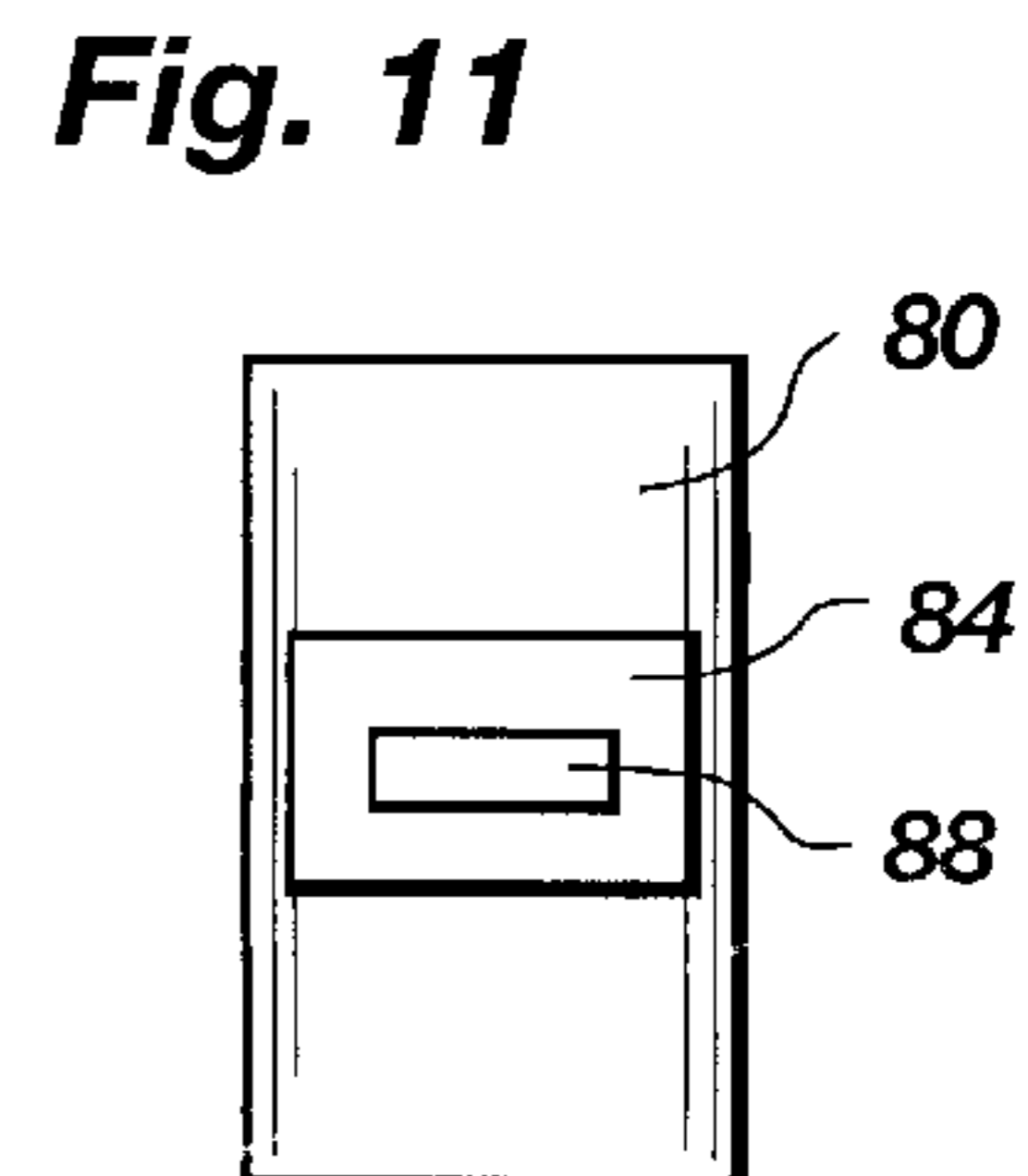
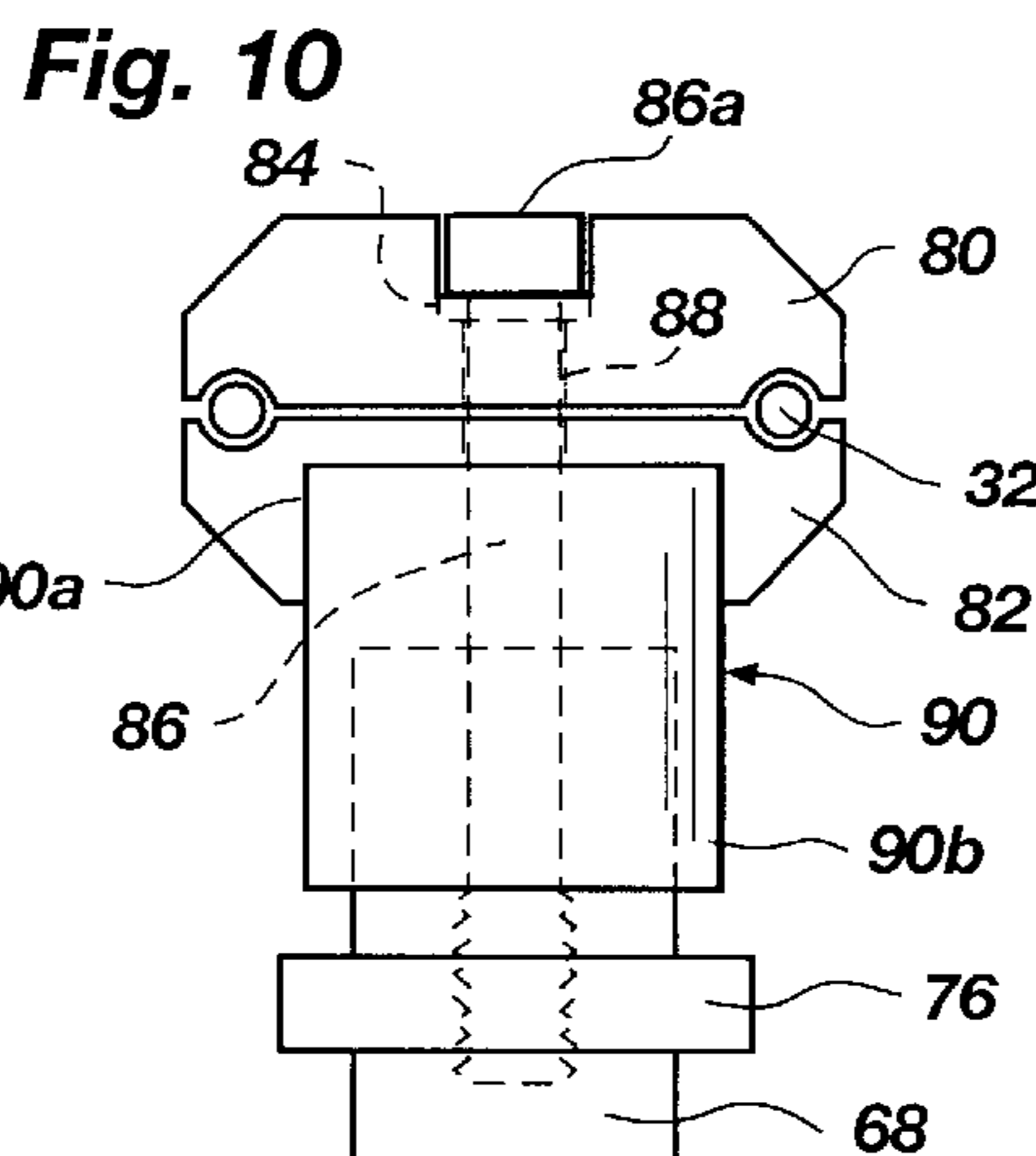
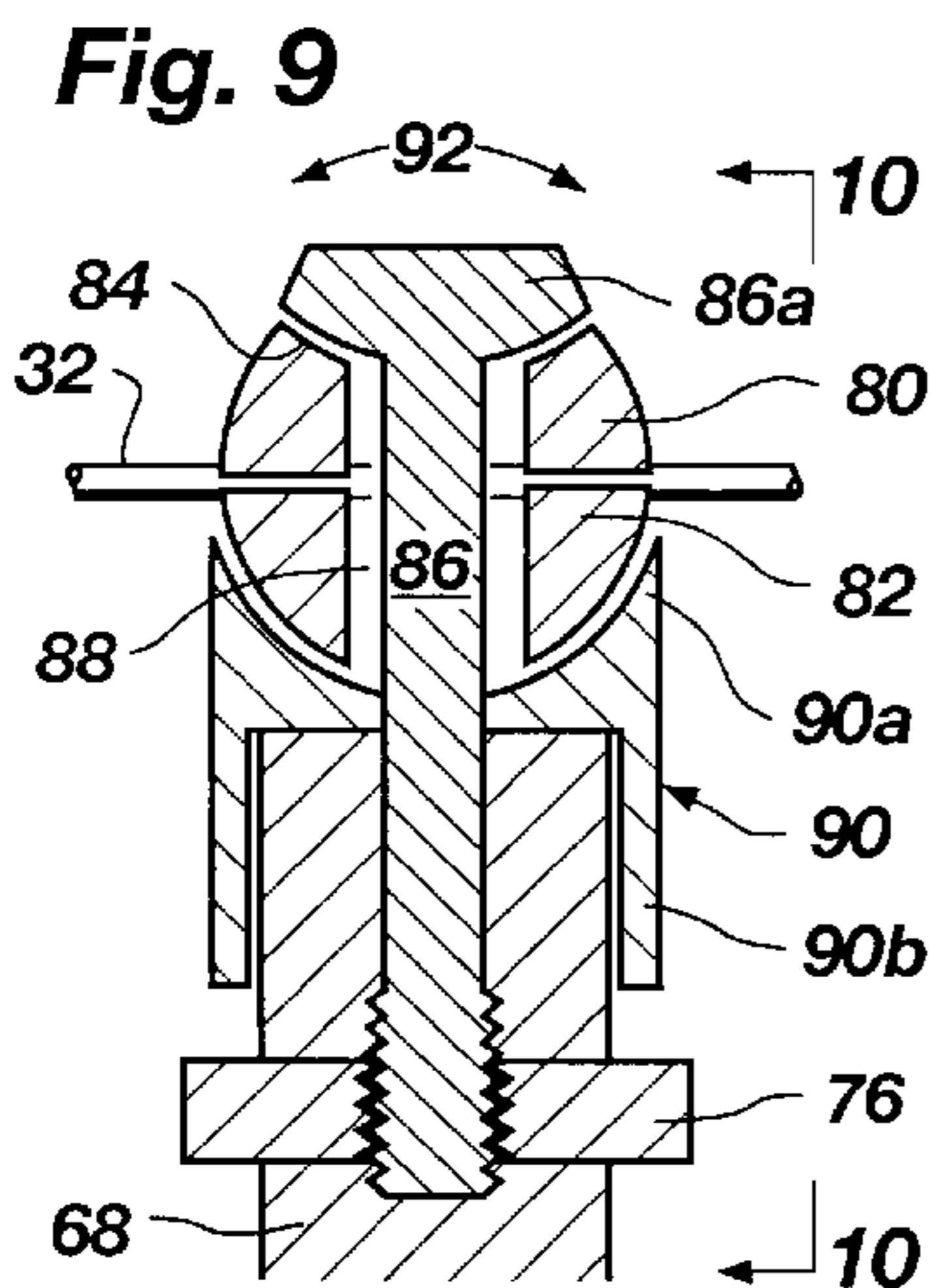
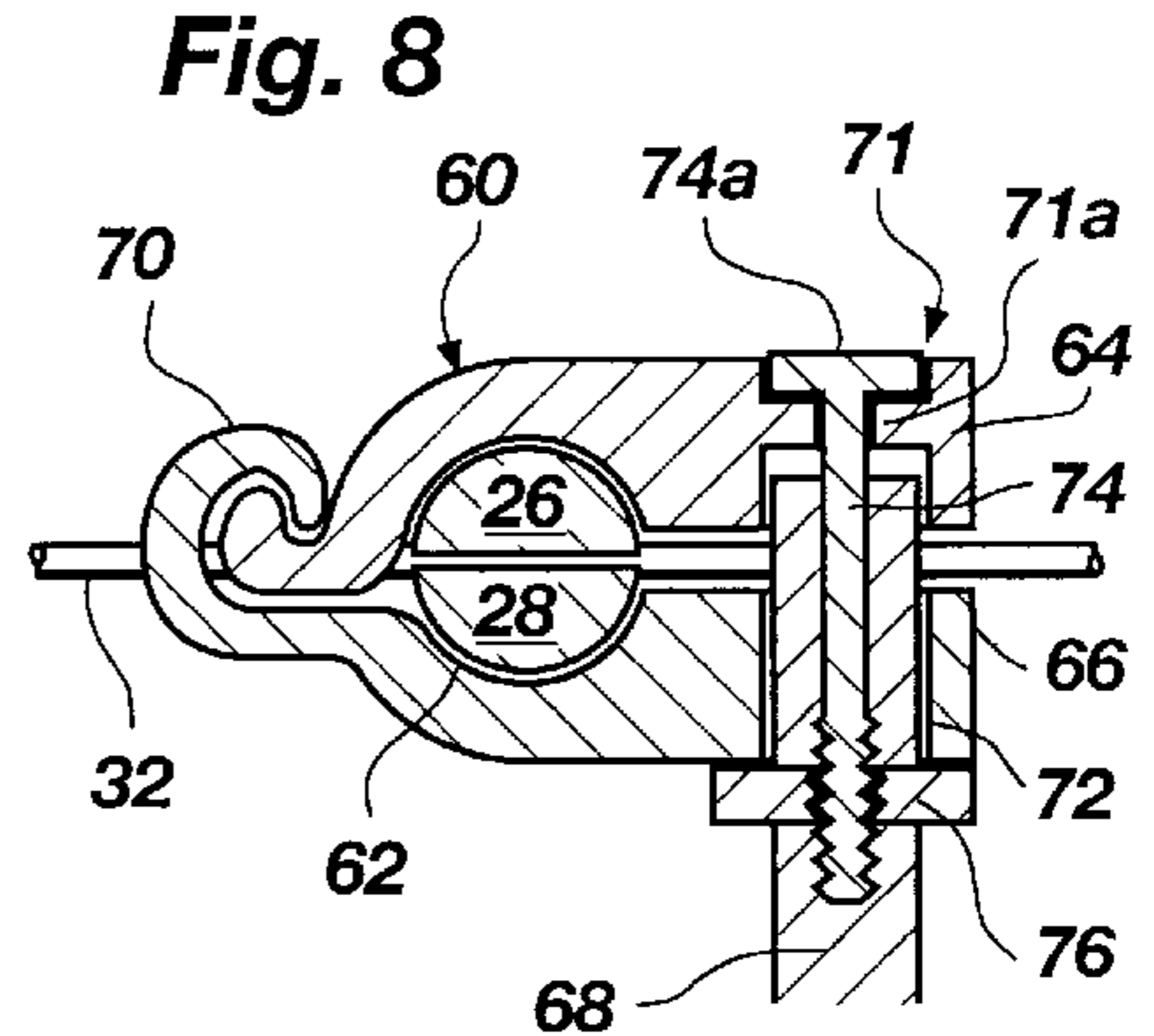
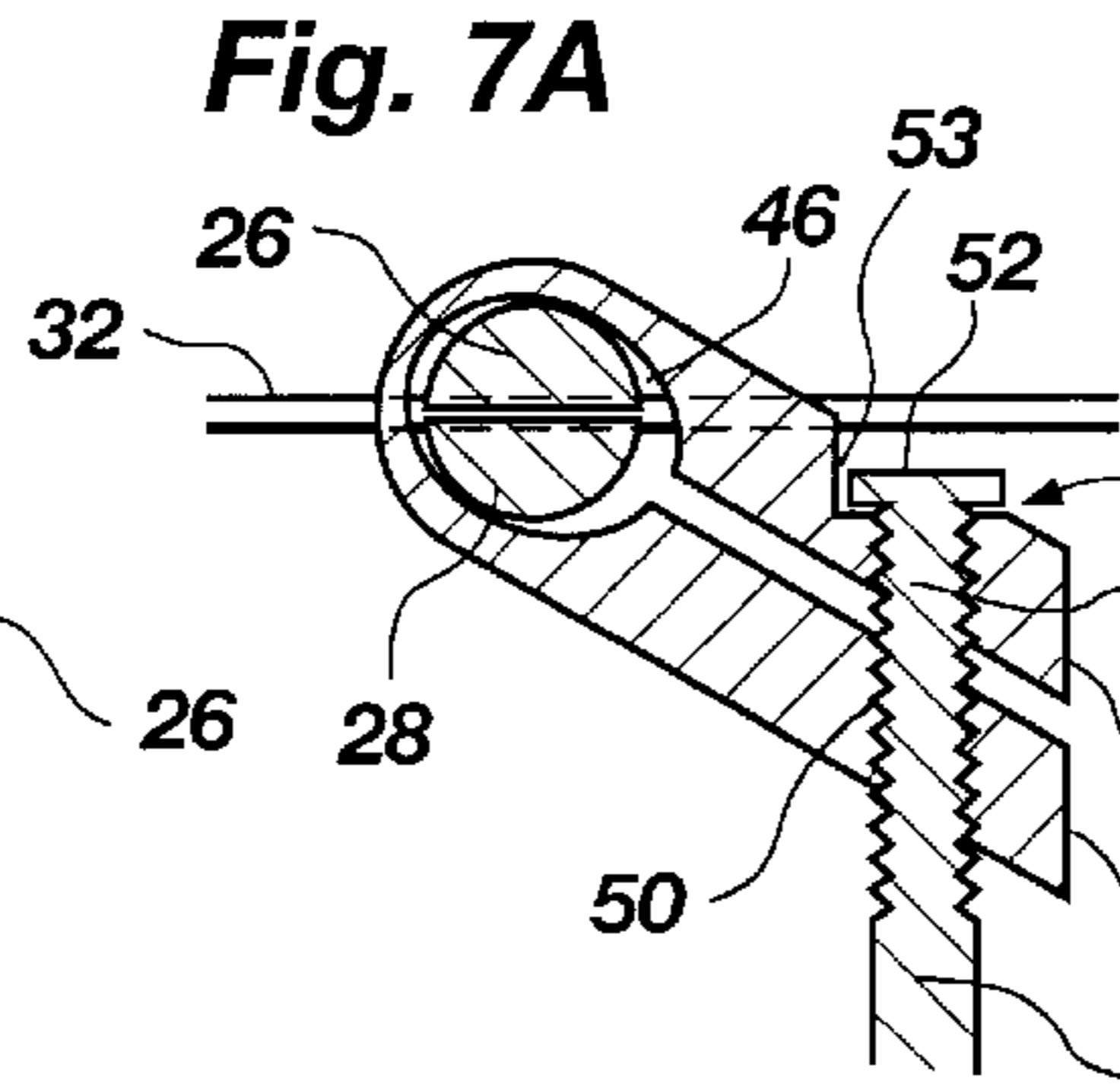
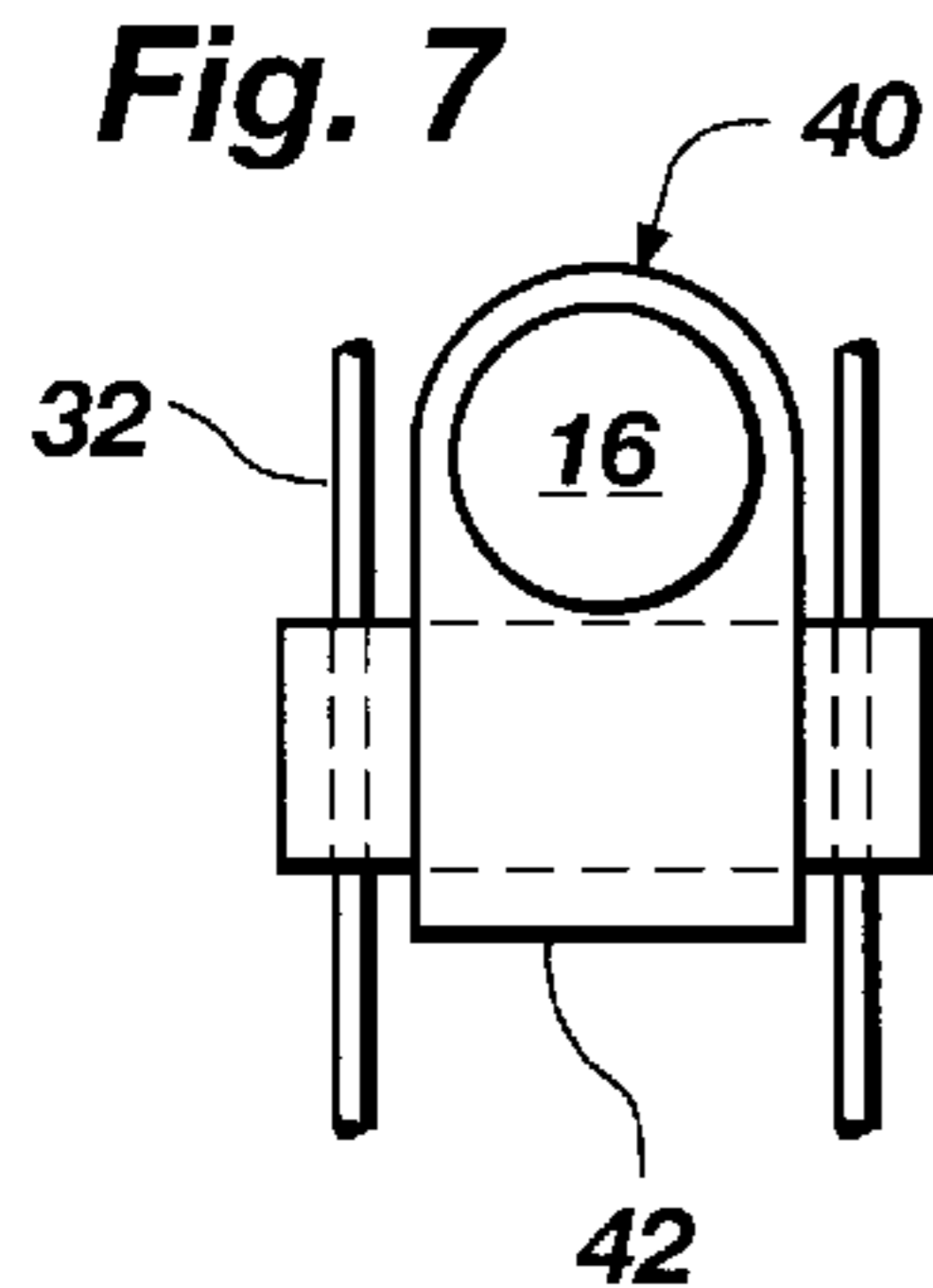
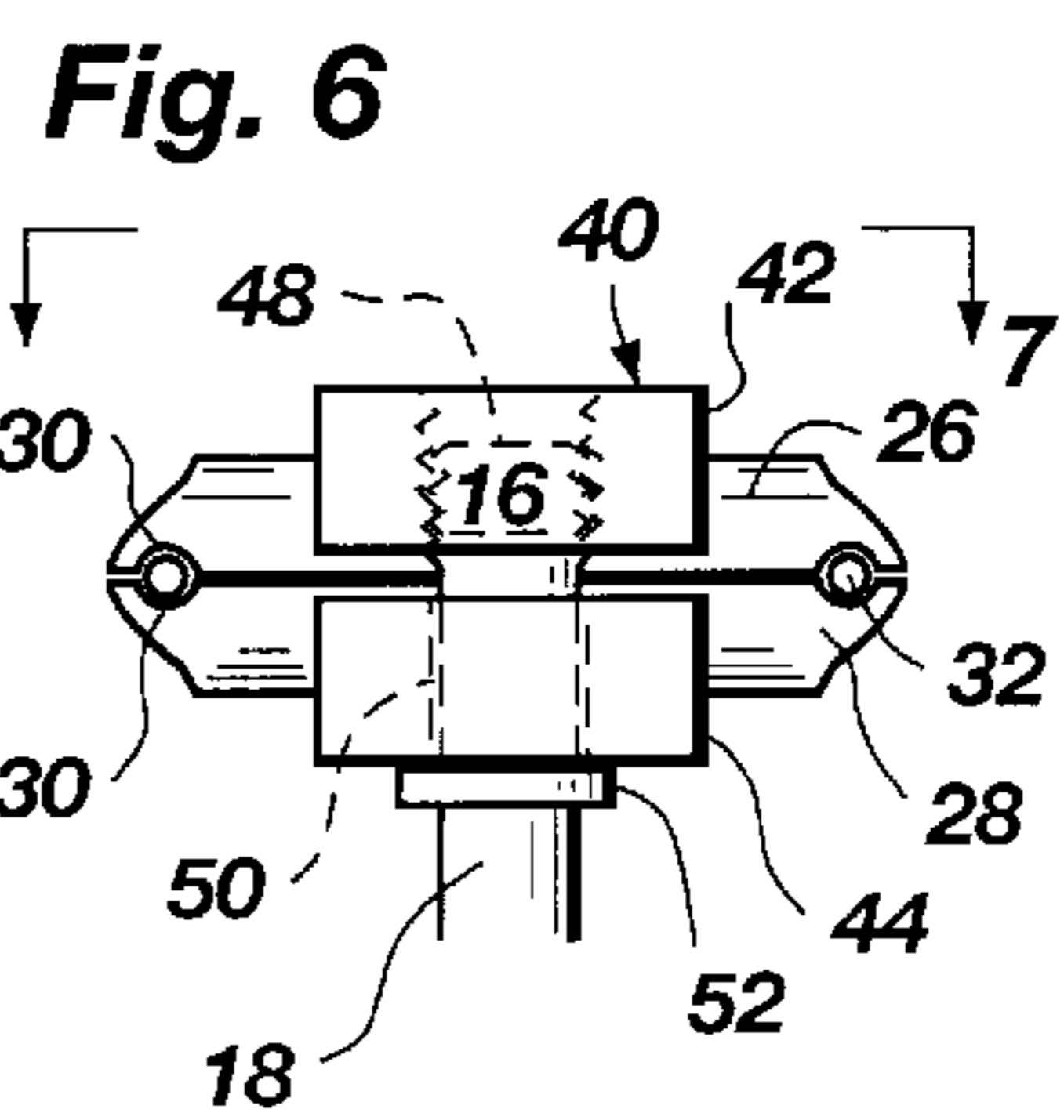
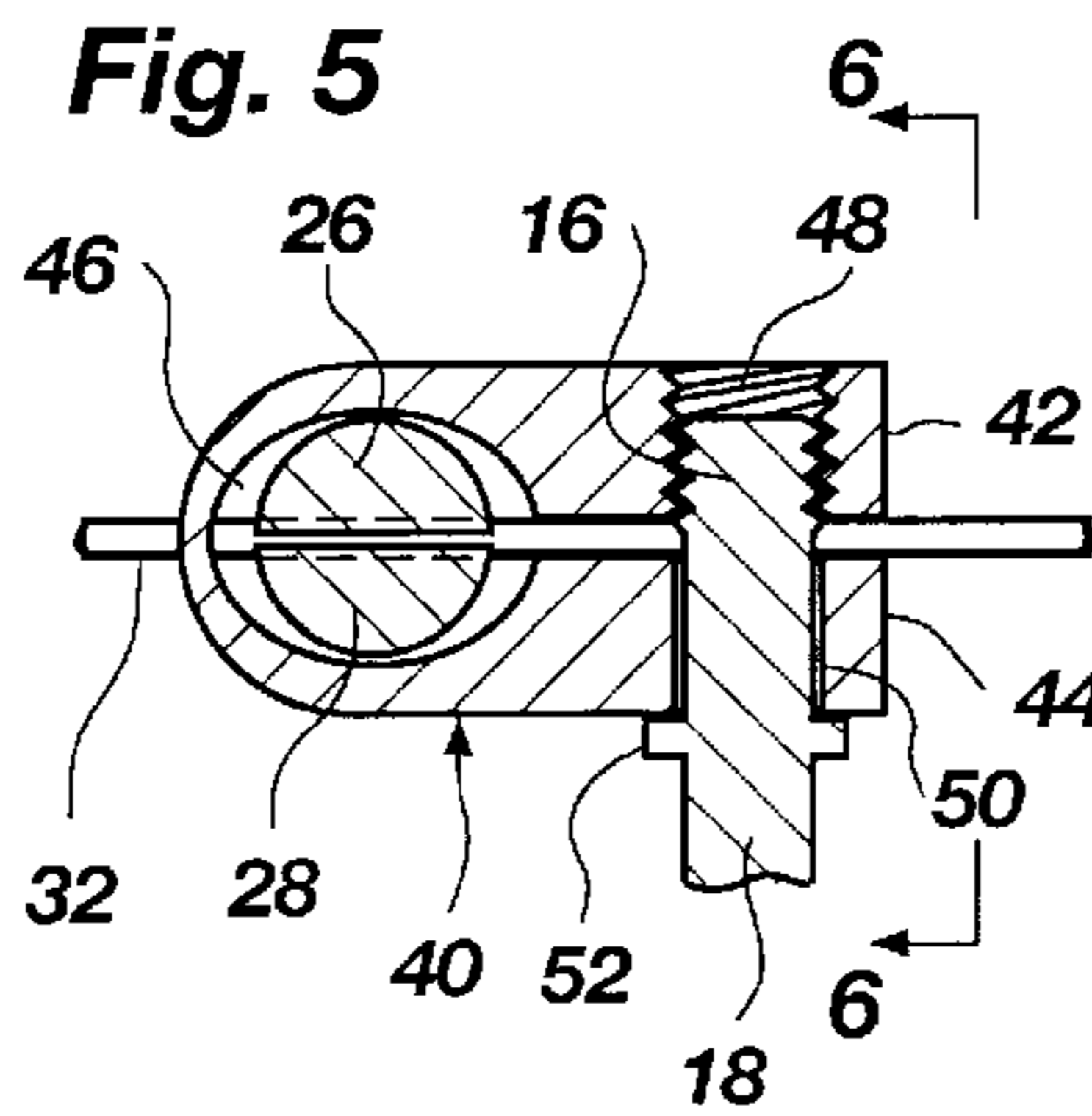
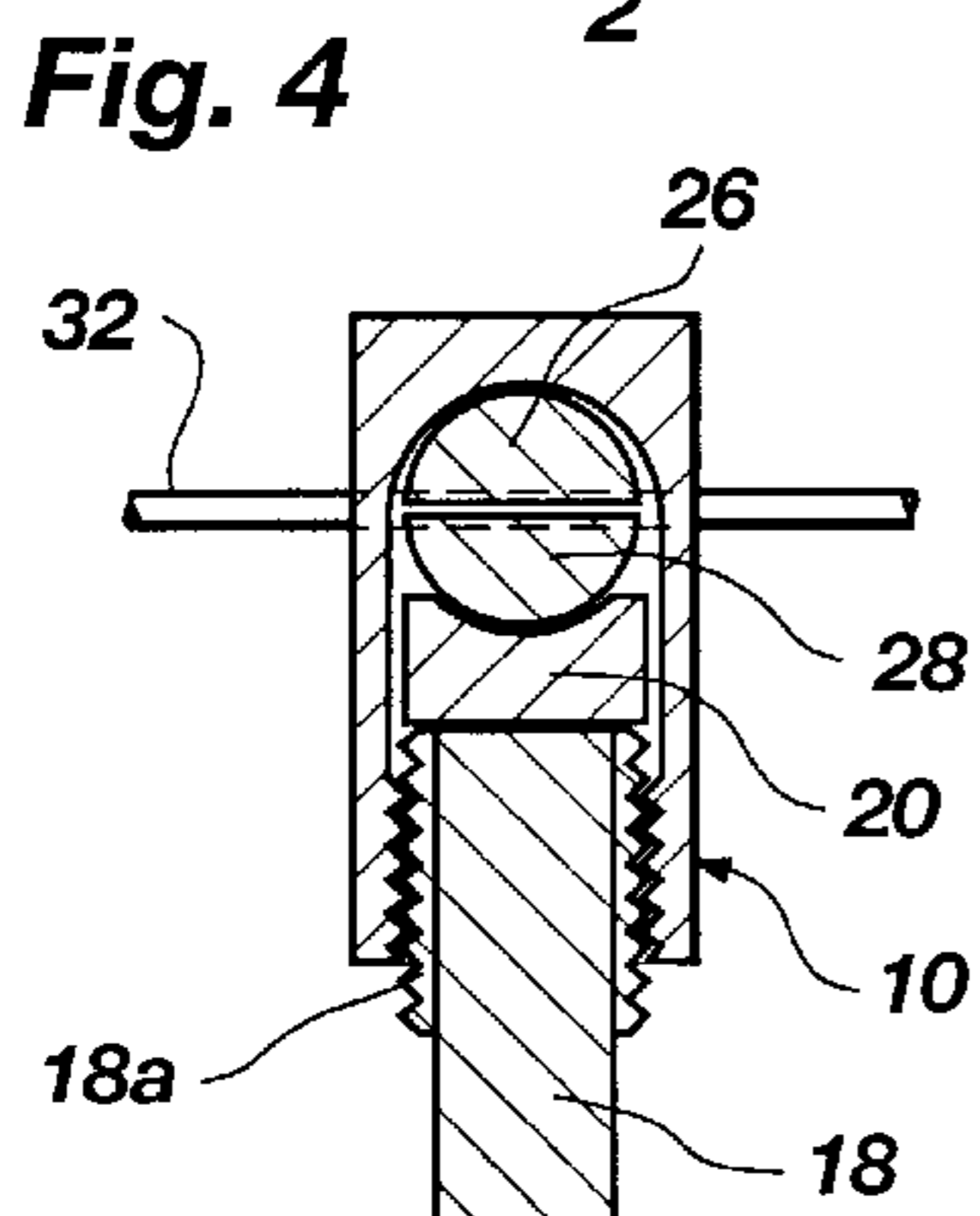
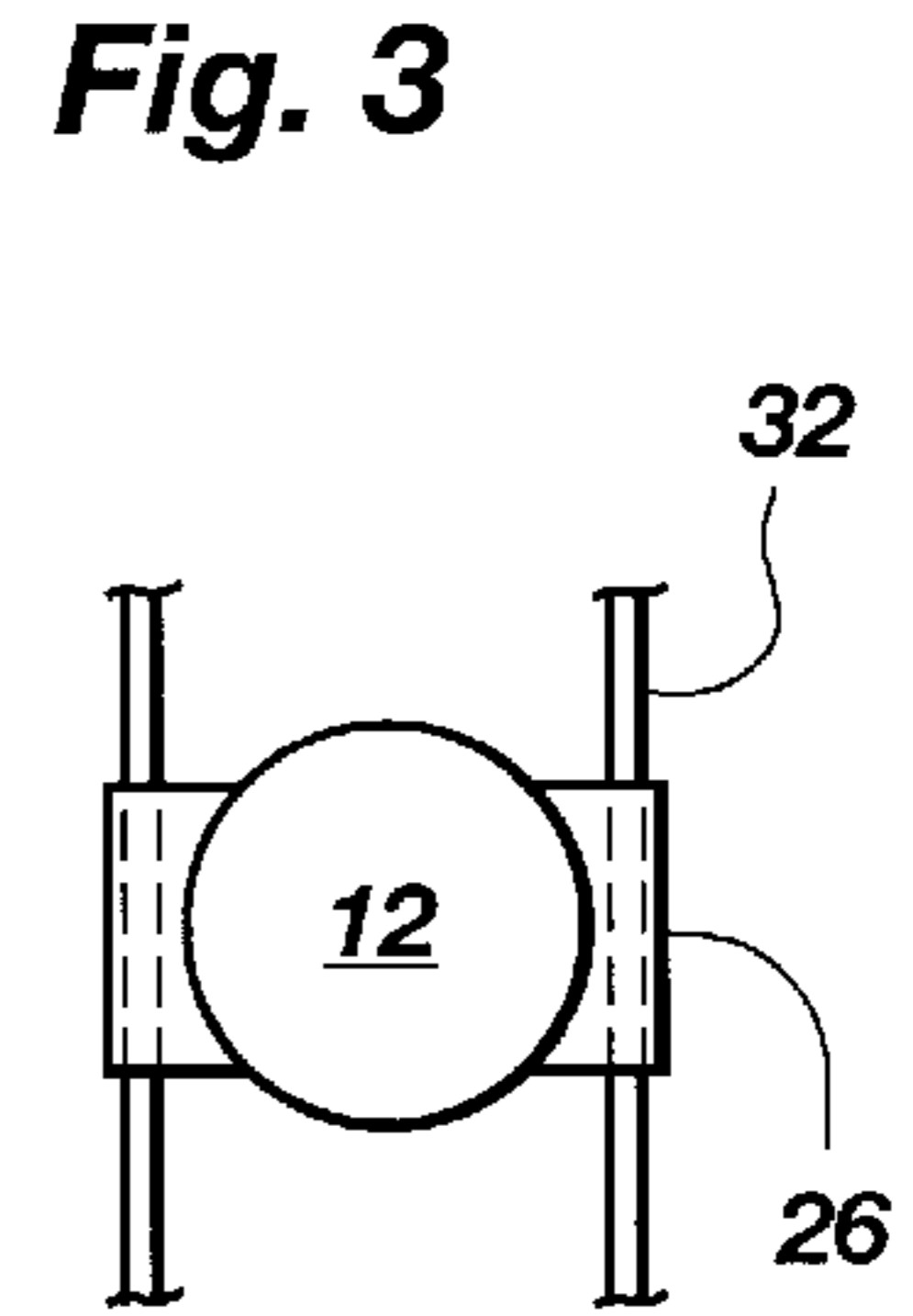
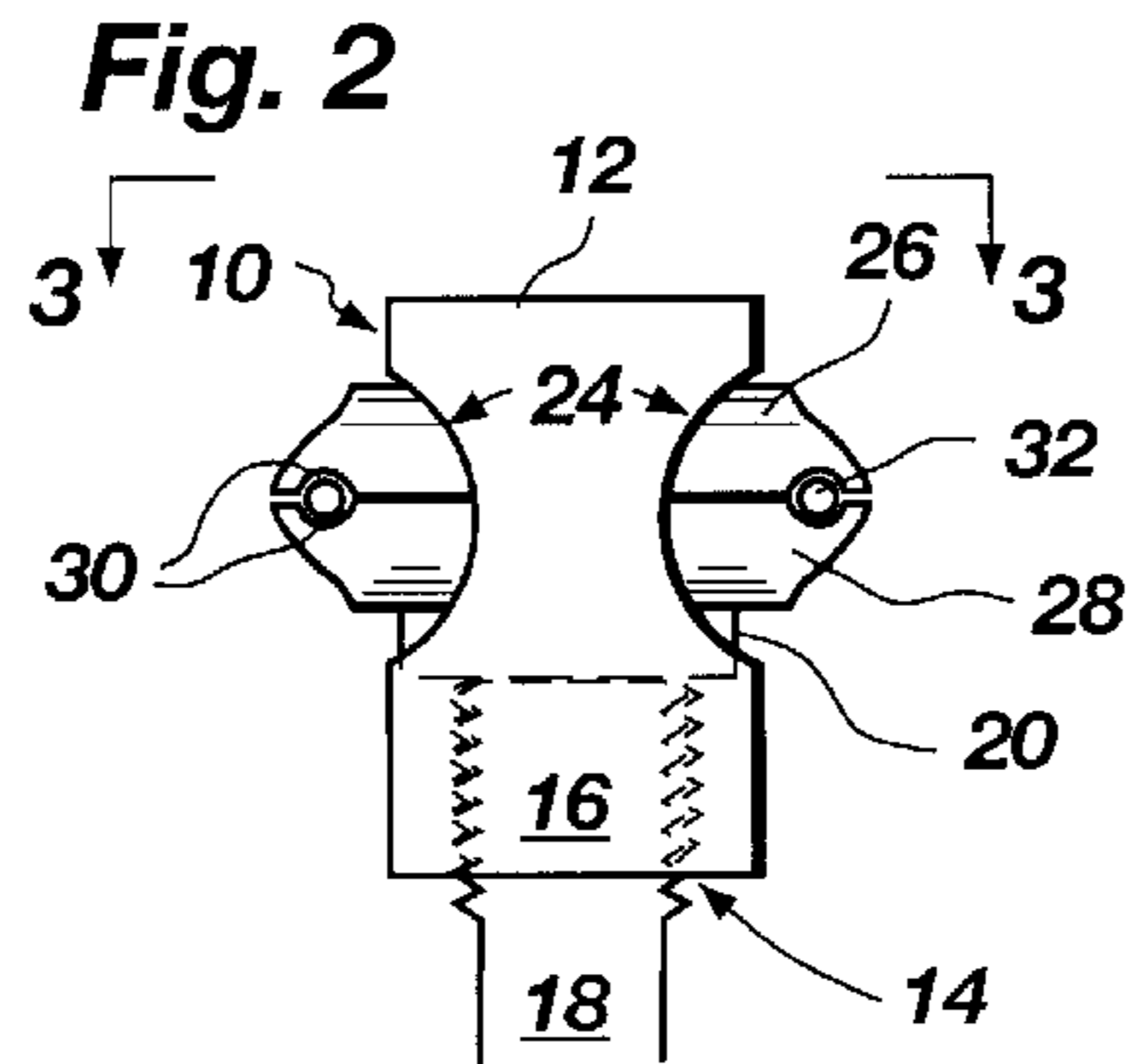
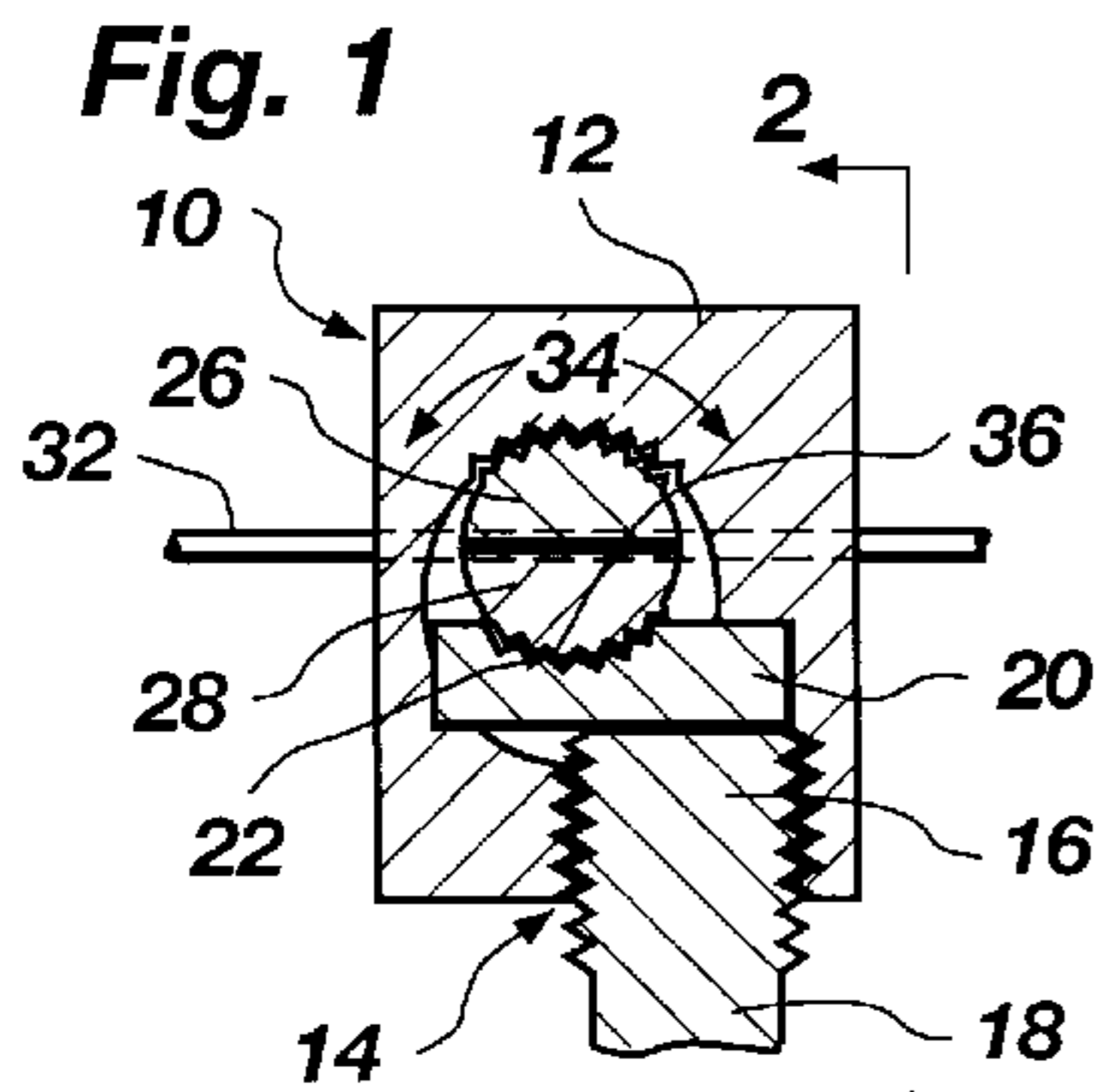


Fig. 12

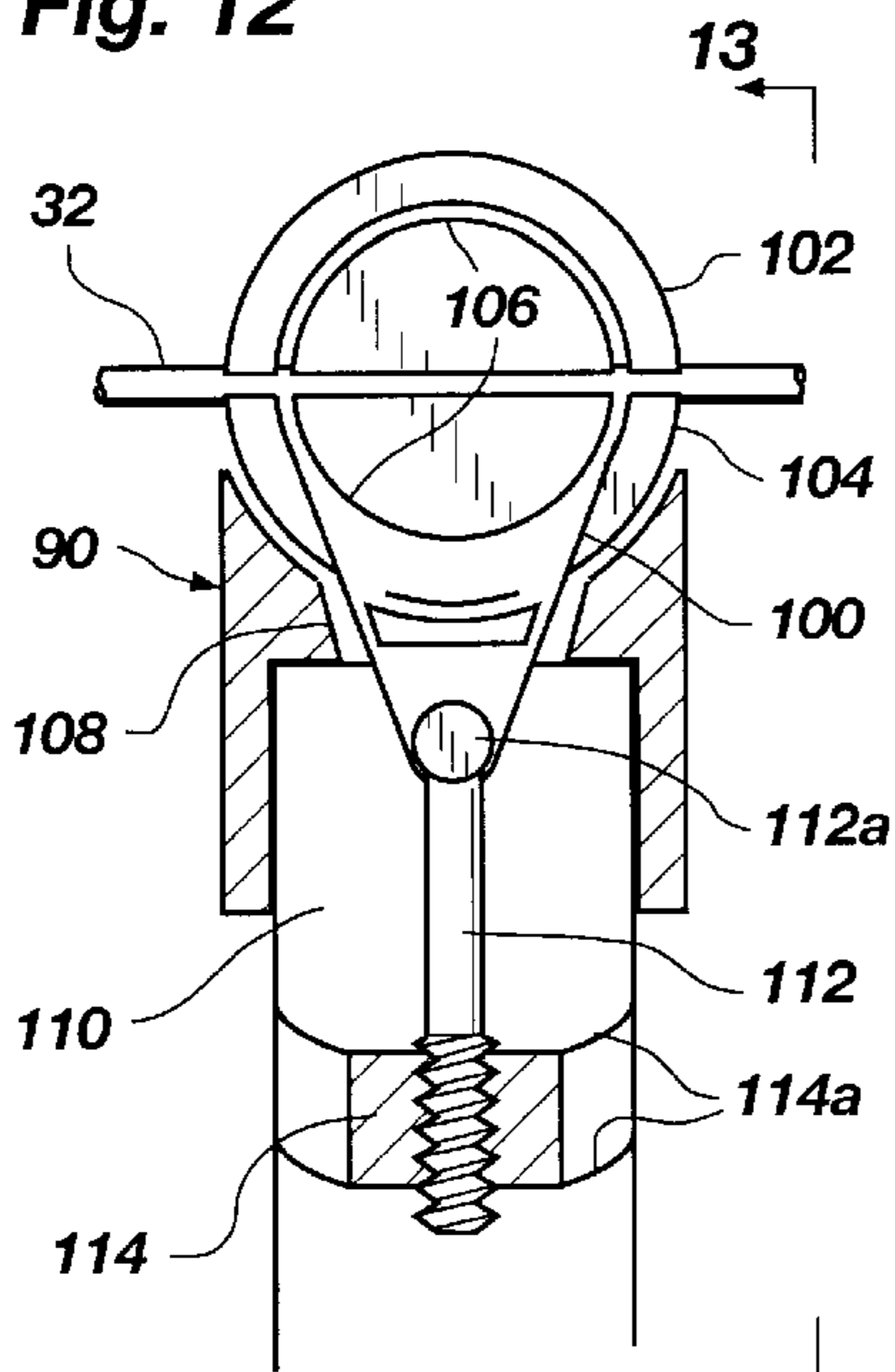


Fig. 13

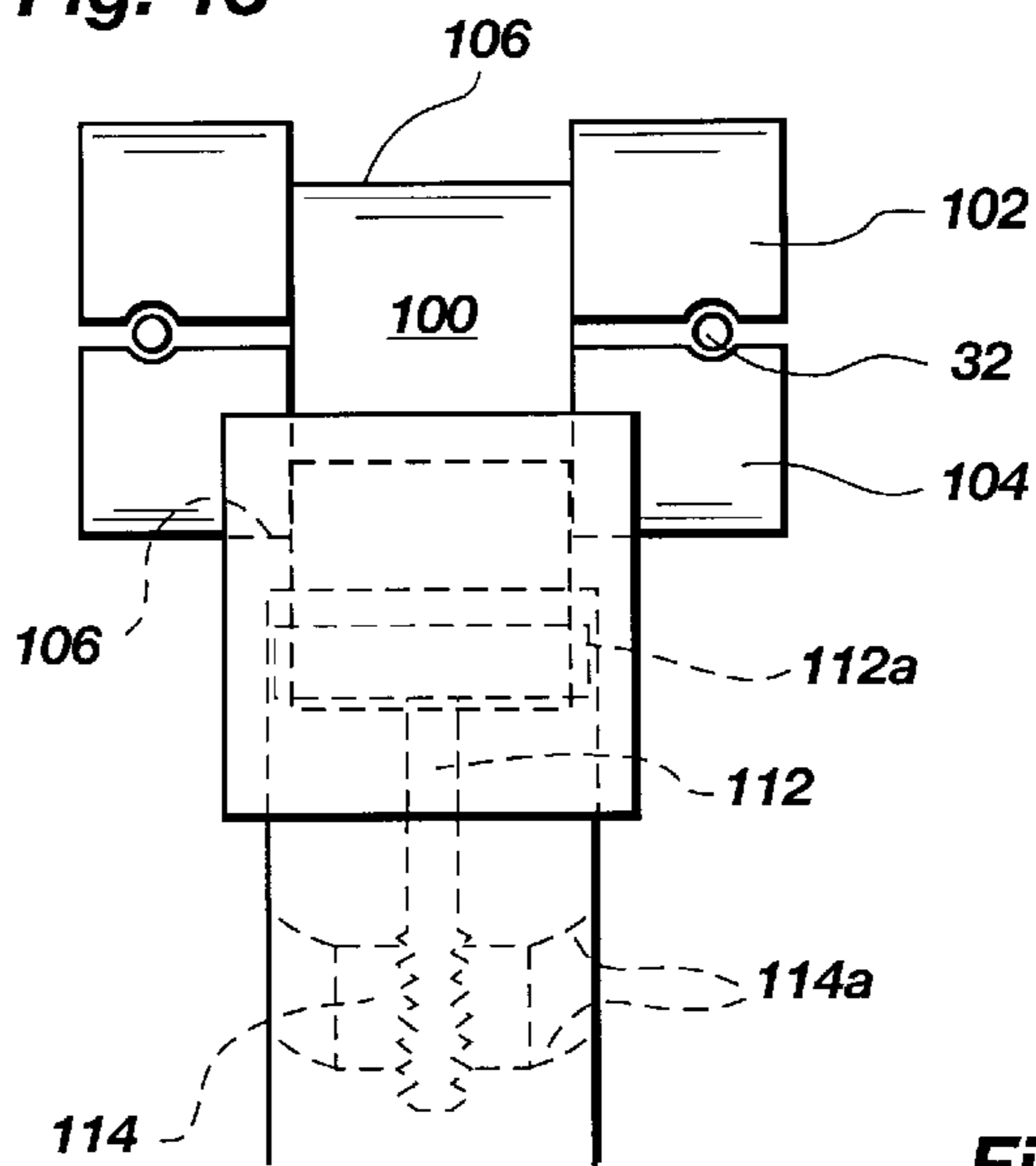


Fig. 14

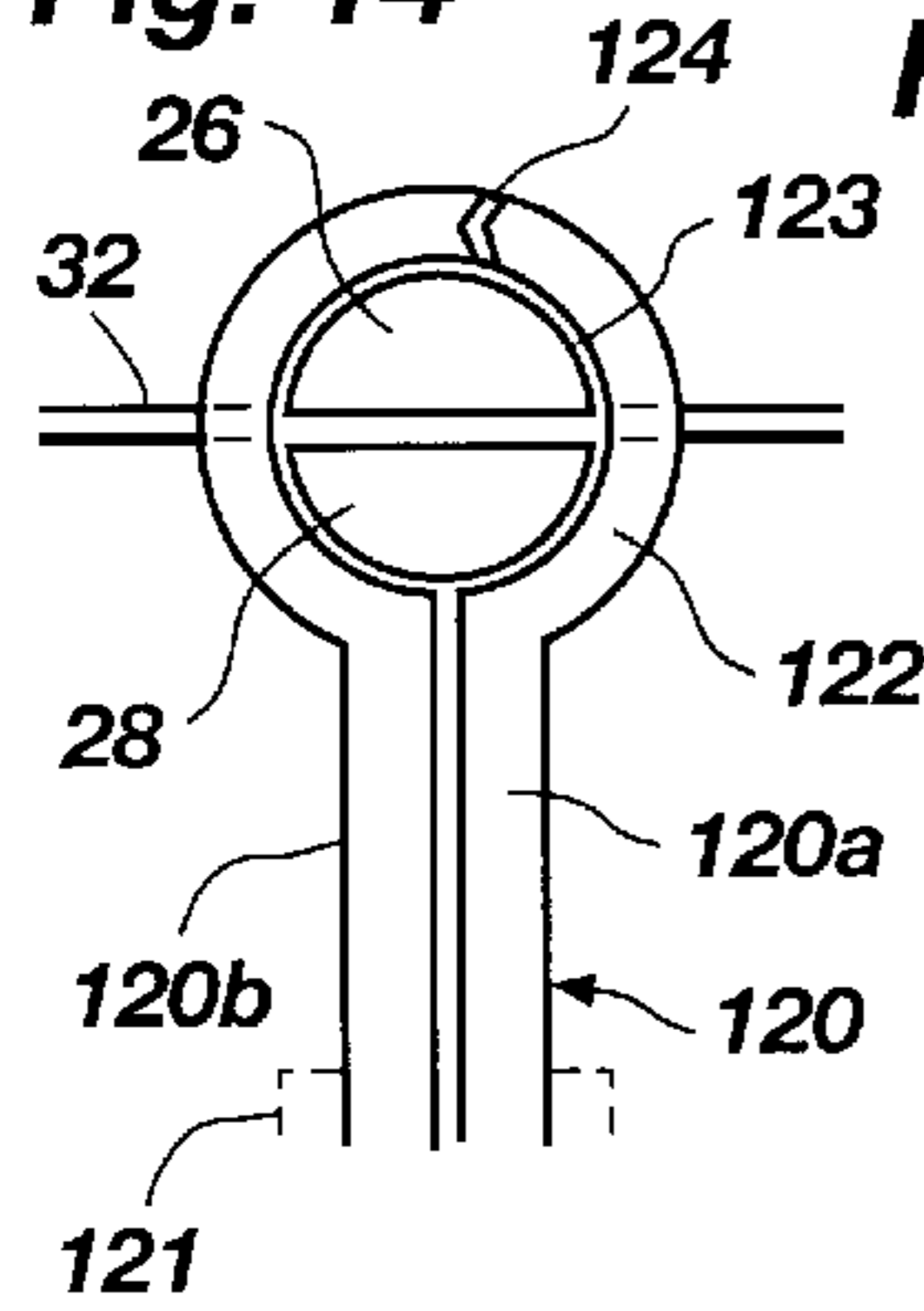


Fig. 15

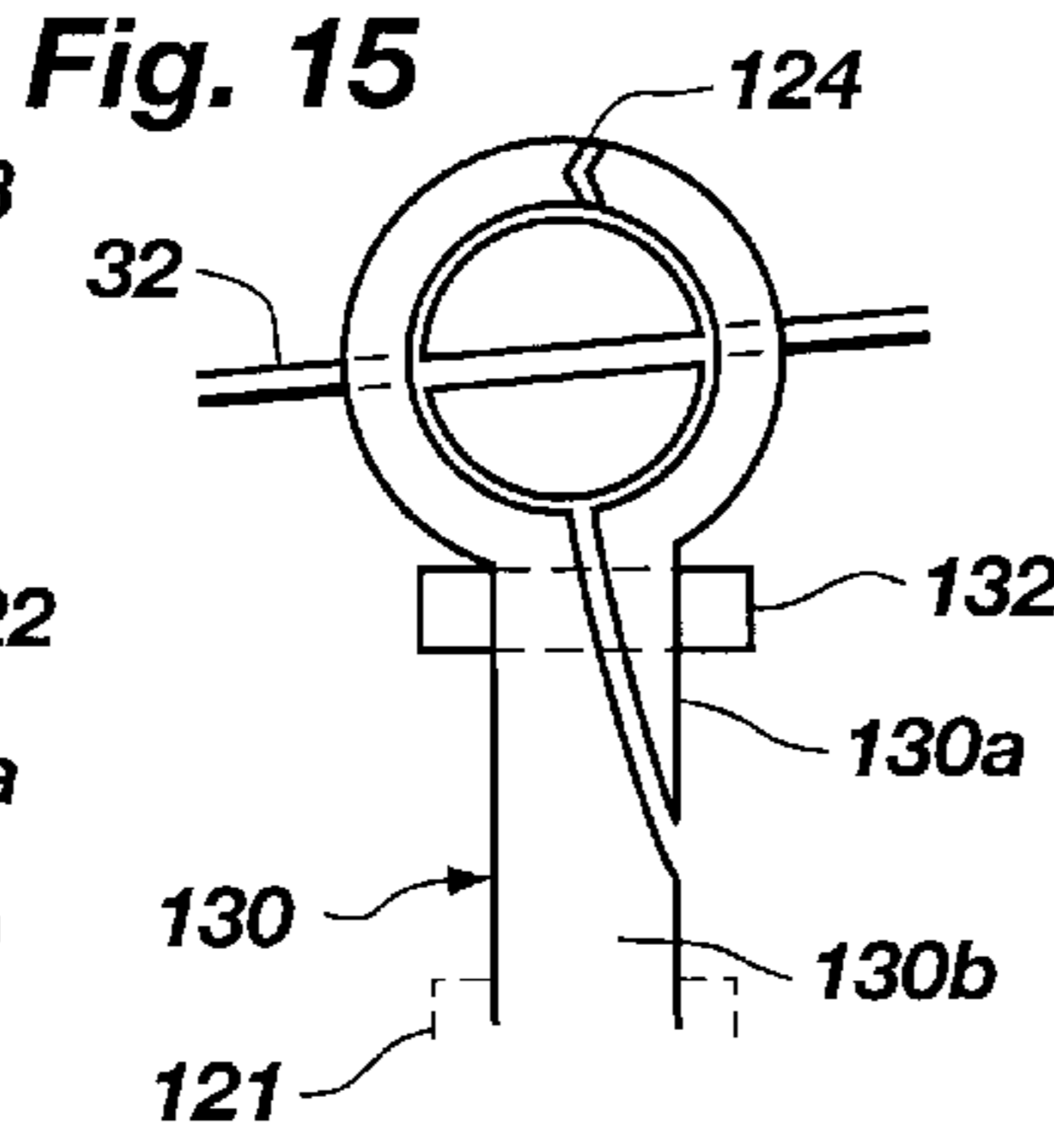


Fig. 16

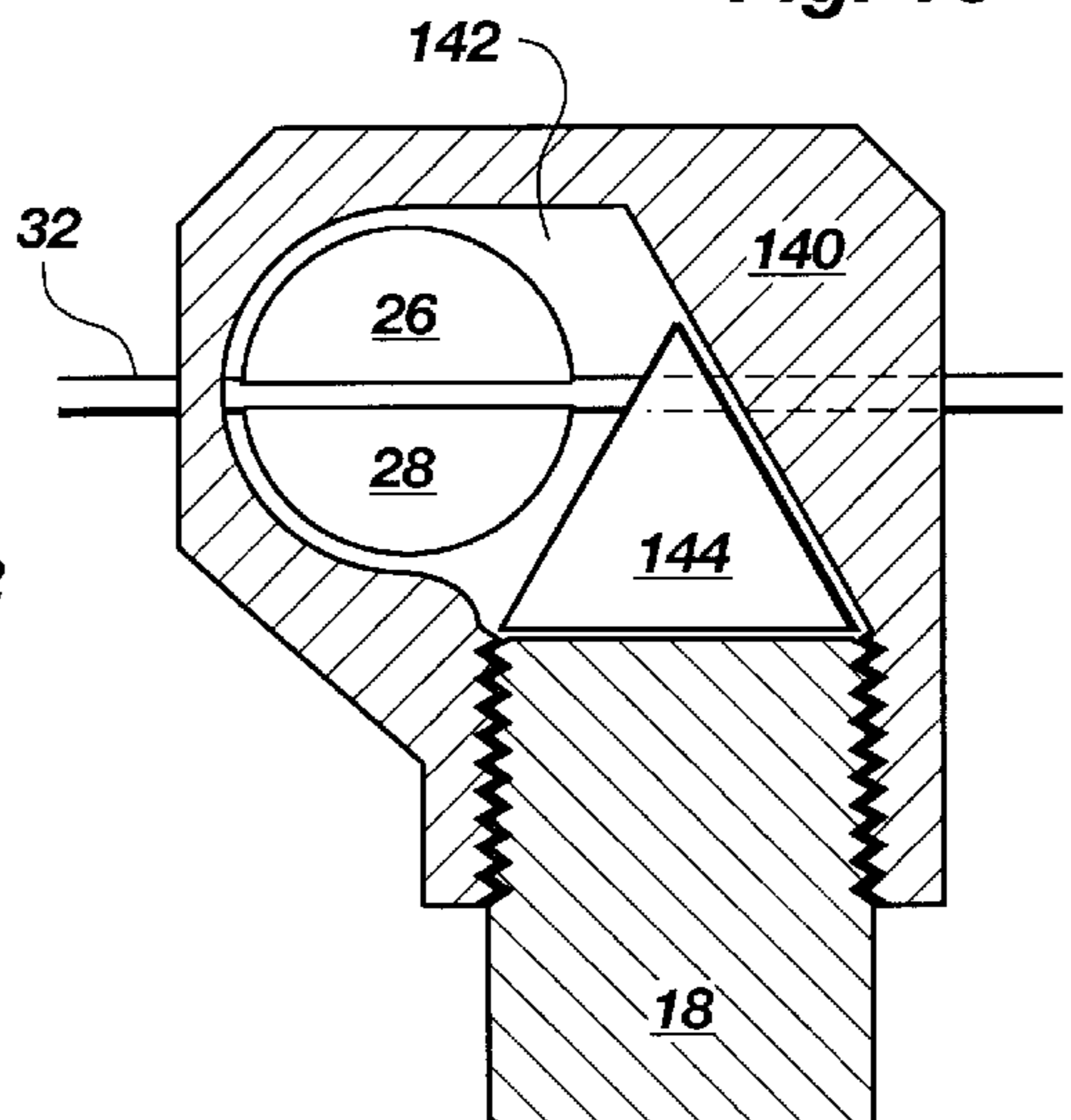


Fig. 17

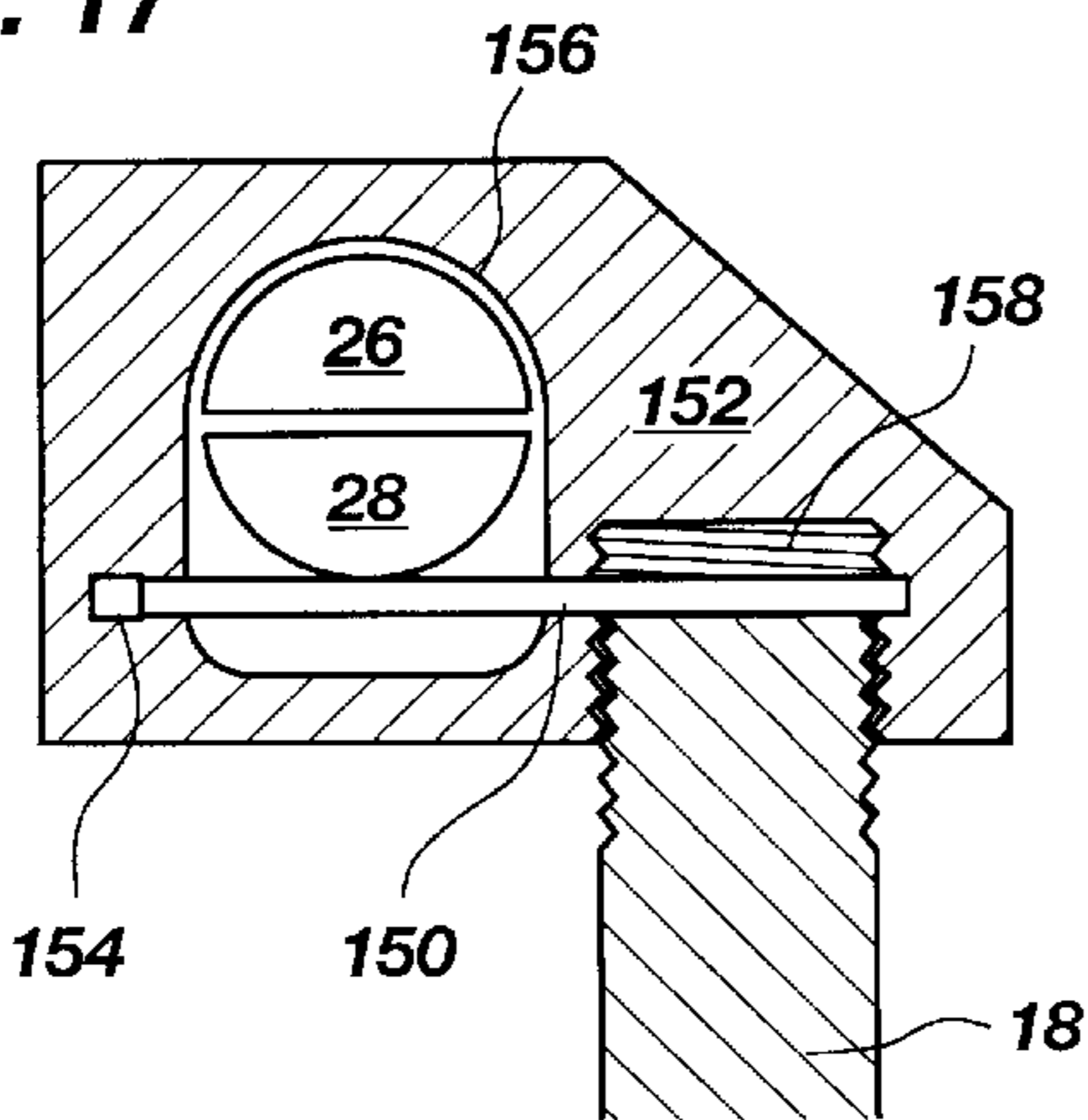


Fig. 18

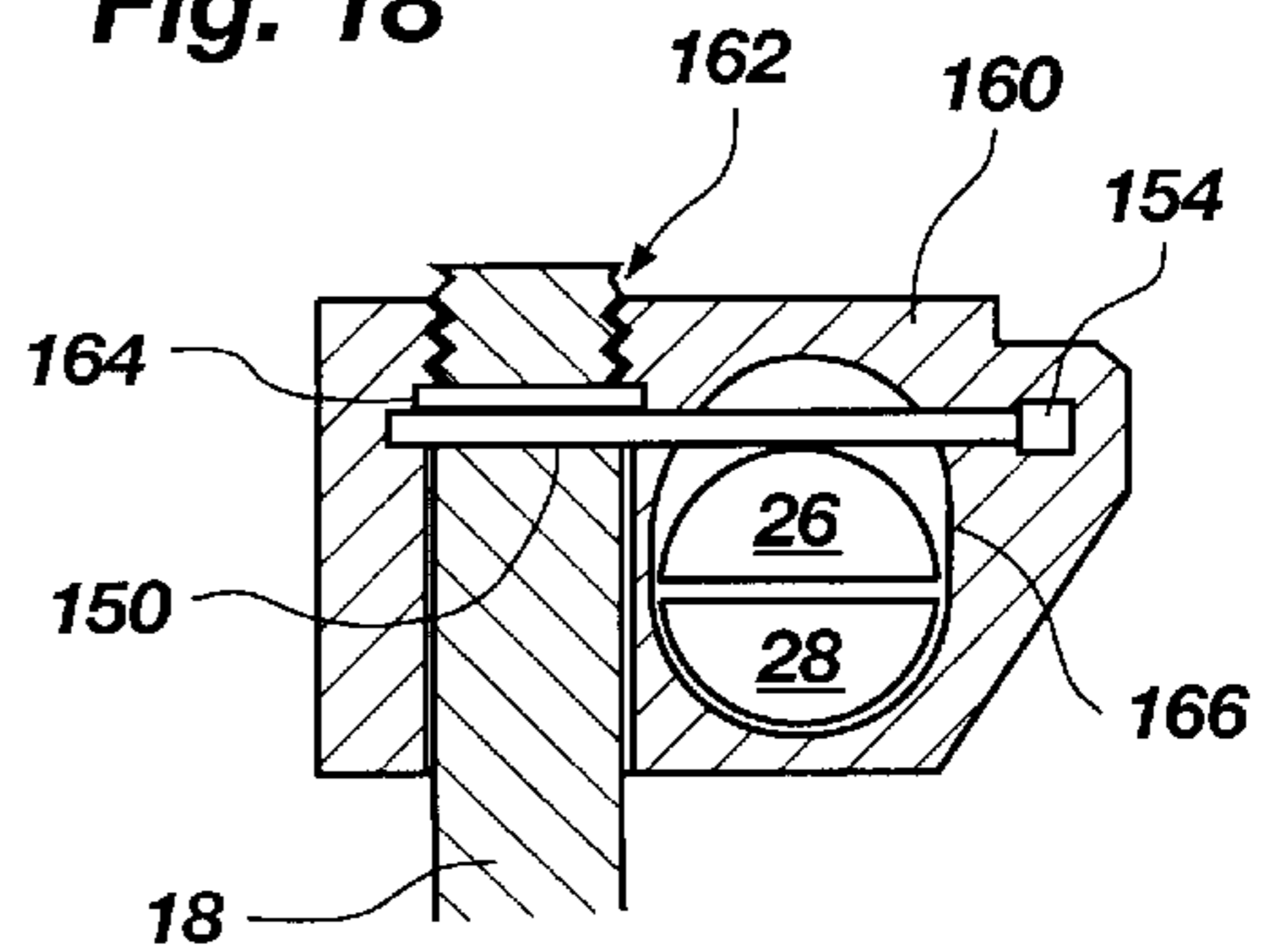


Fig. 19

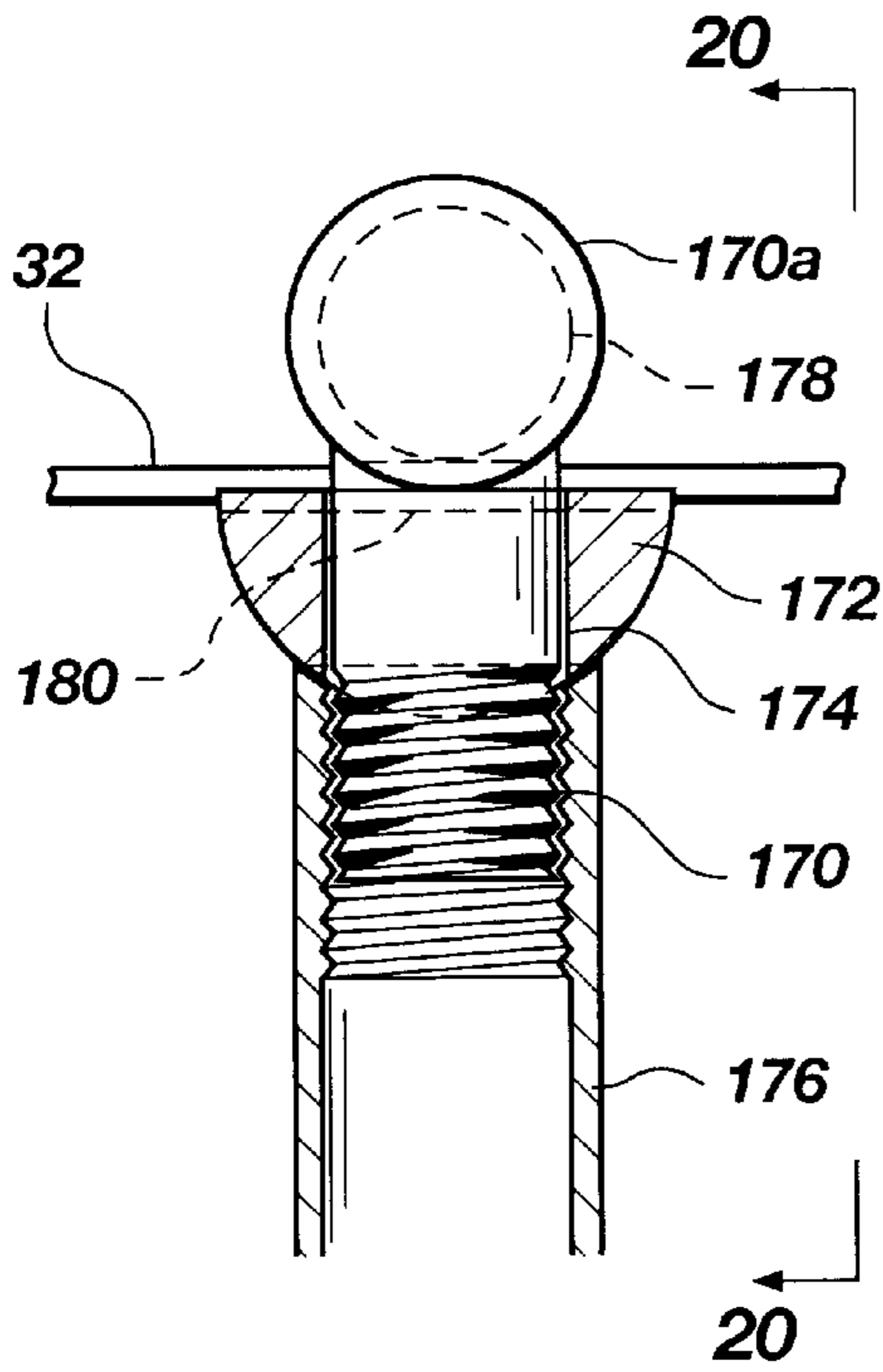


Fig. 20

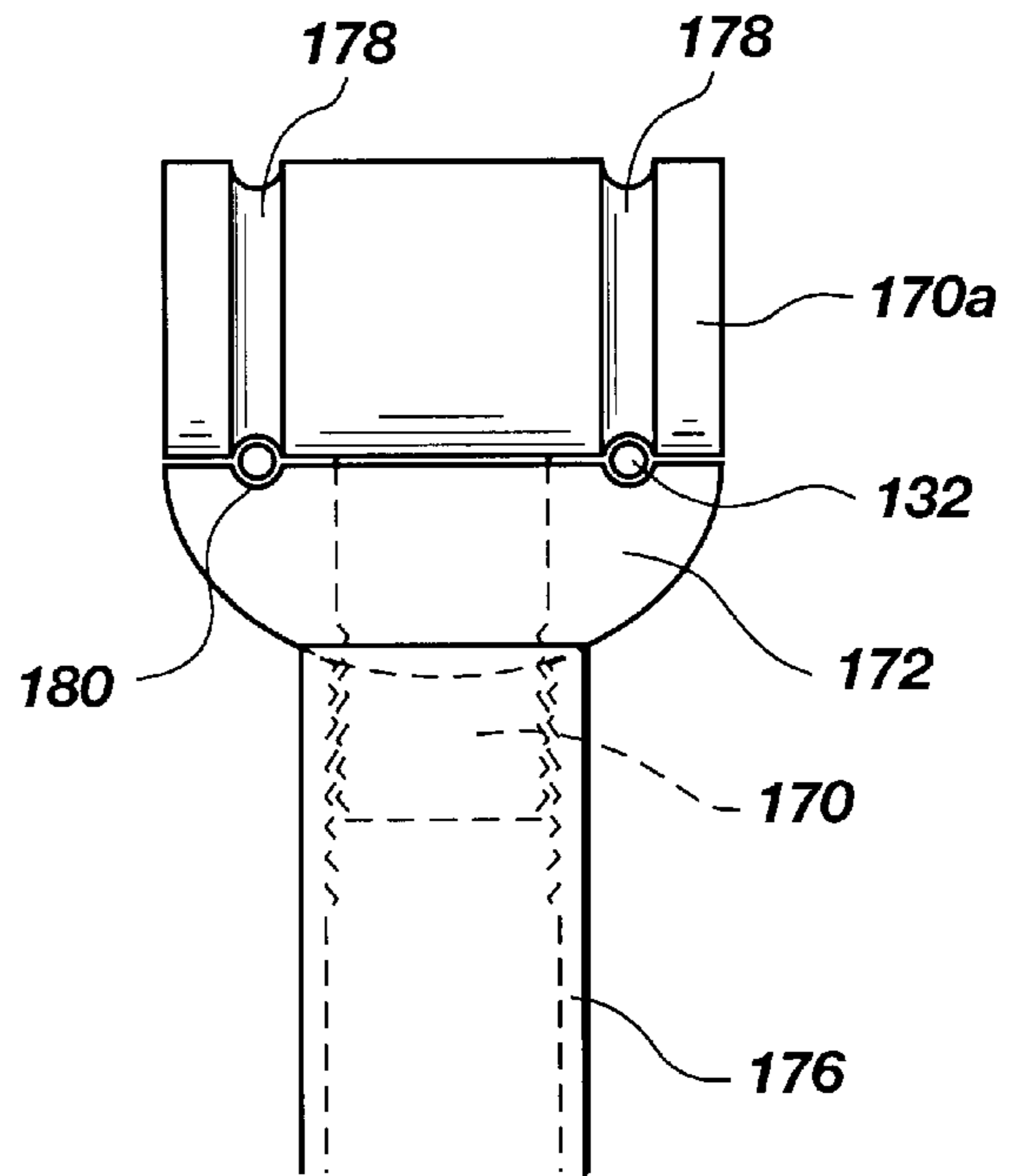


Fig. 21

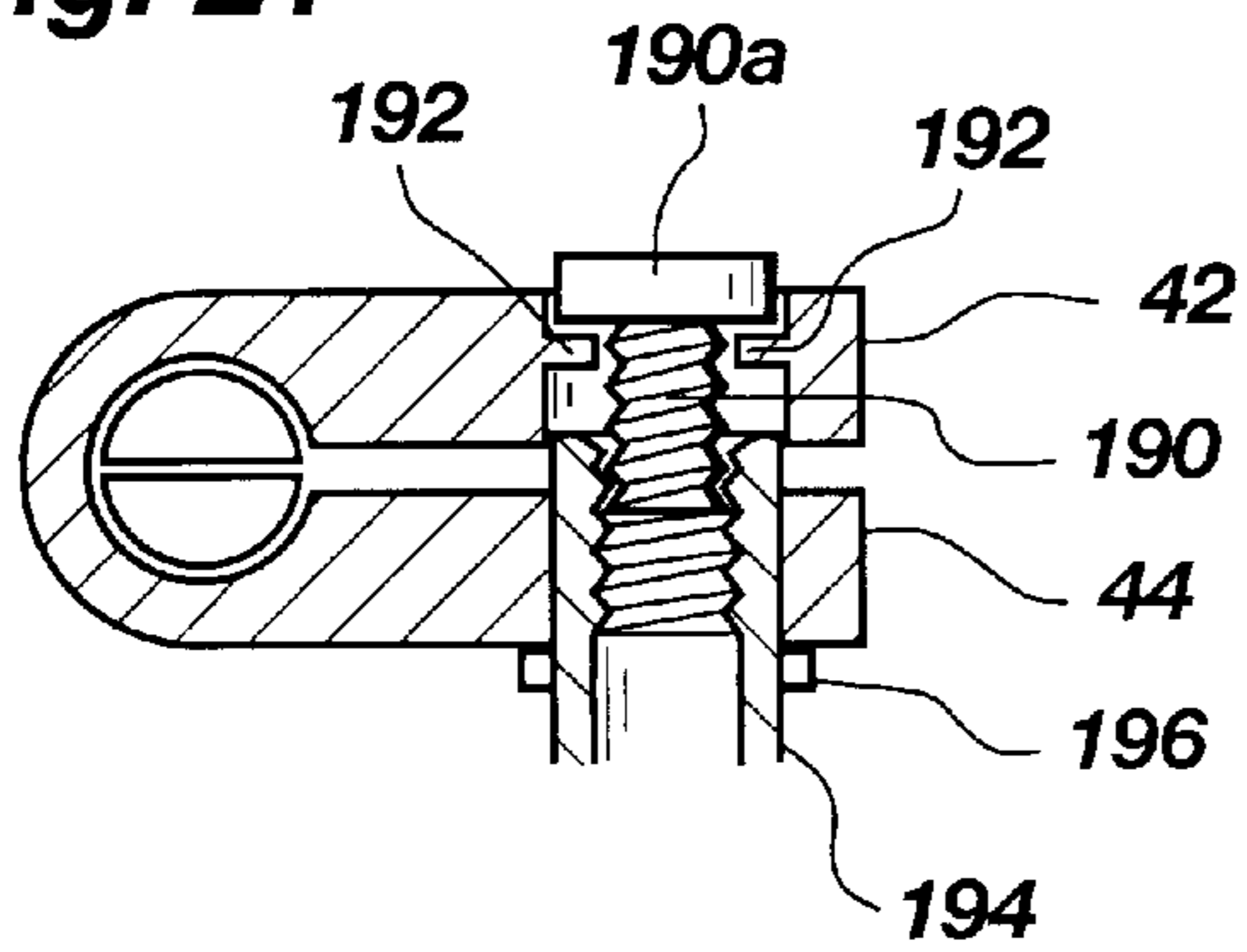


Fig. 22

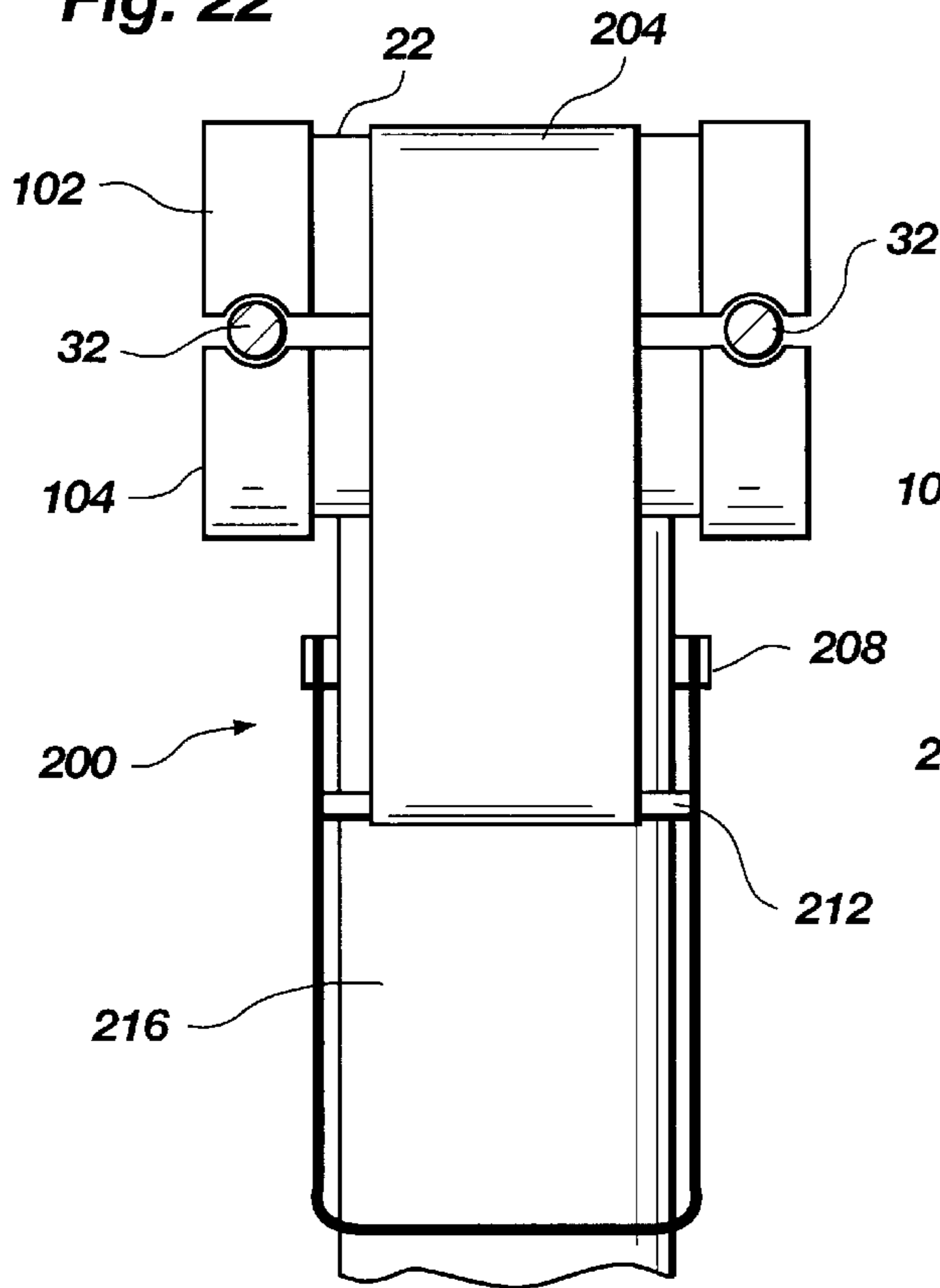


Fig. 22A

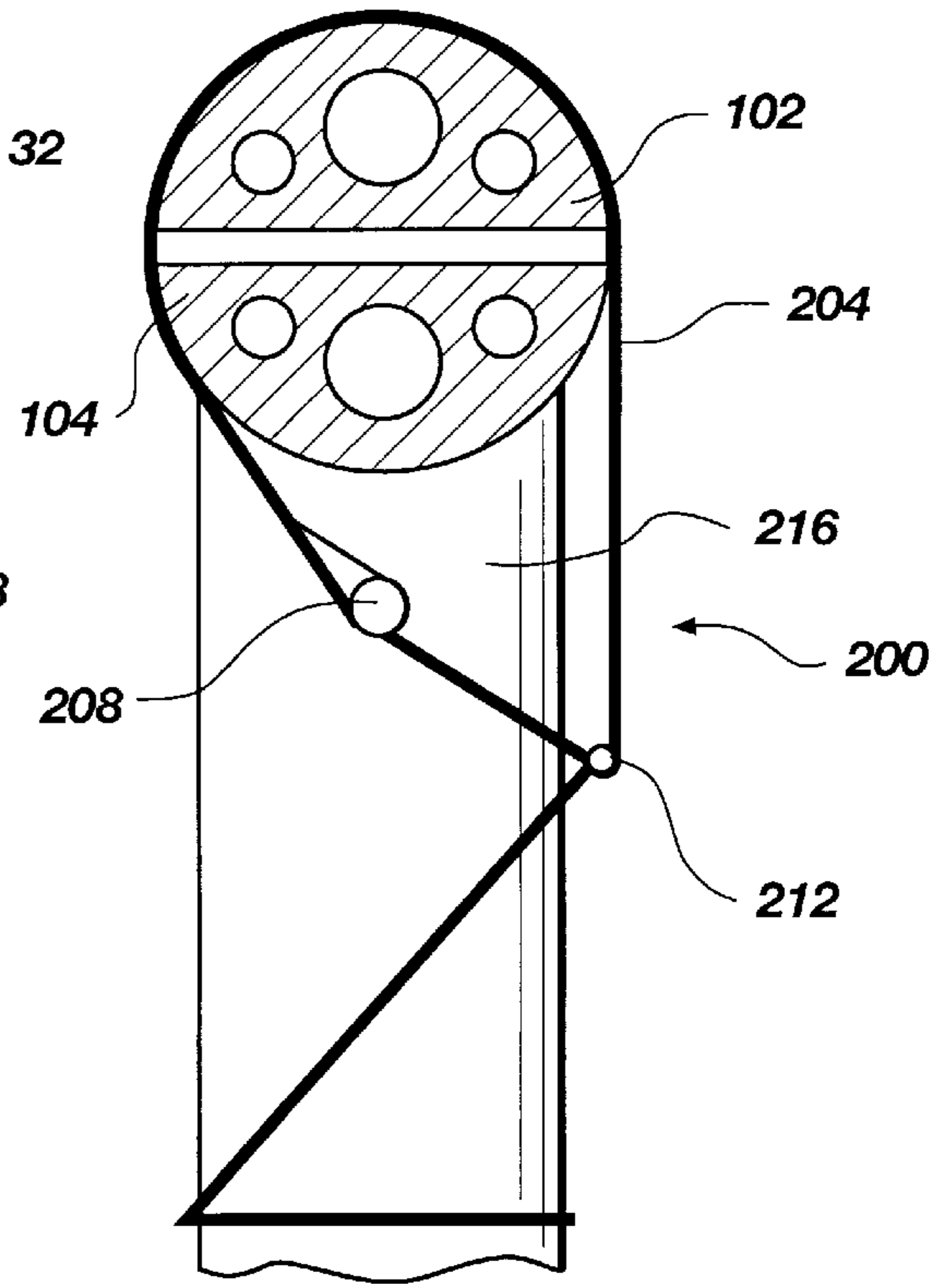


Fig. 22B

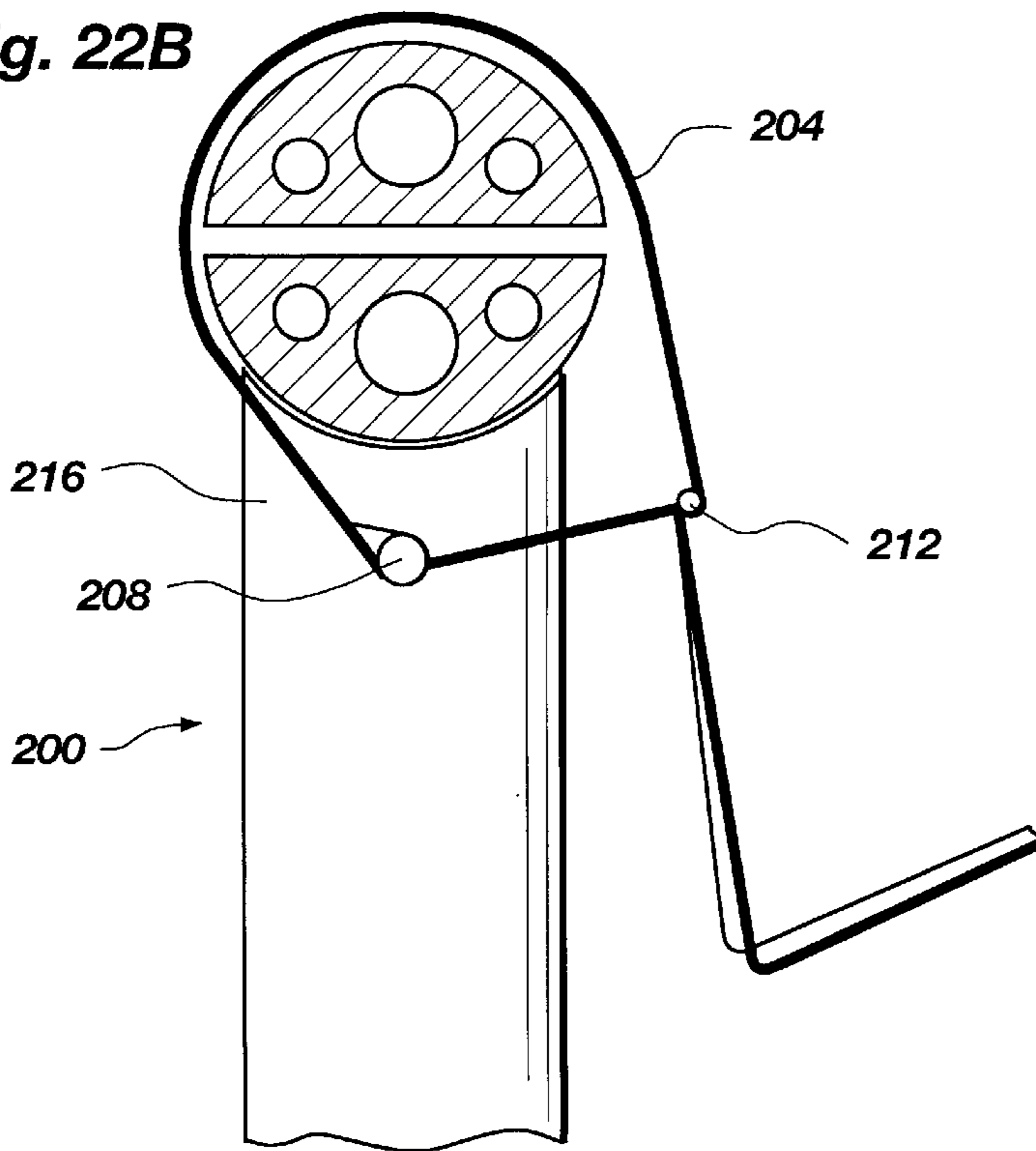


Fig. 23

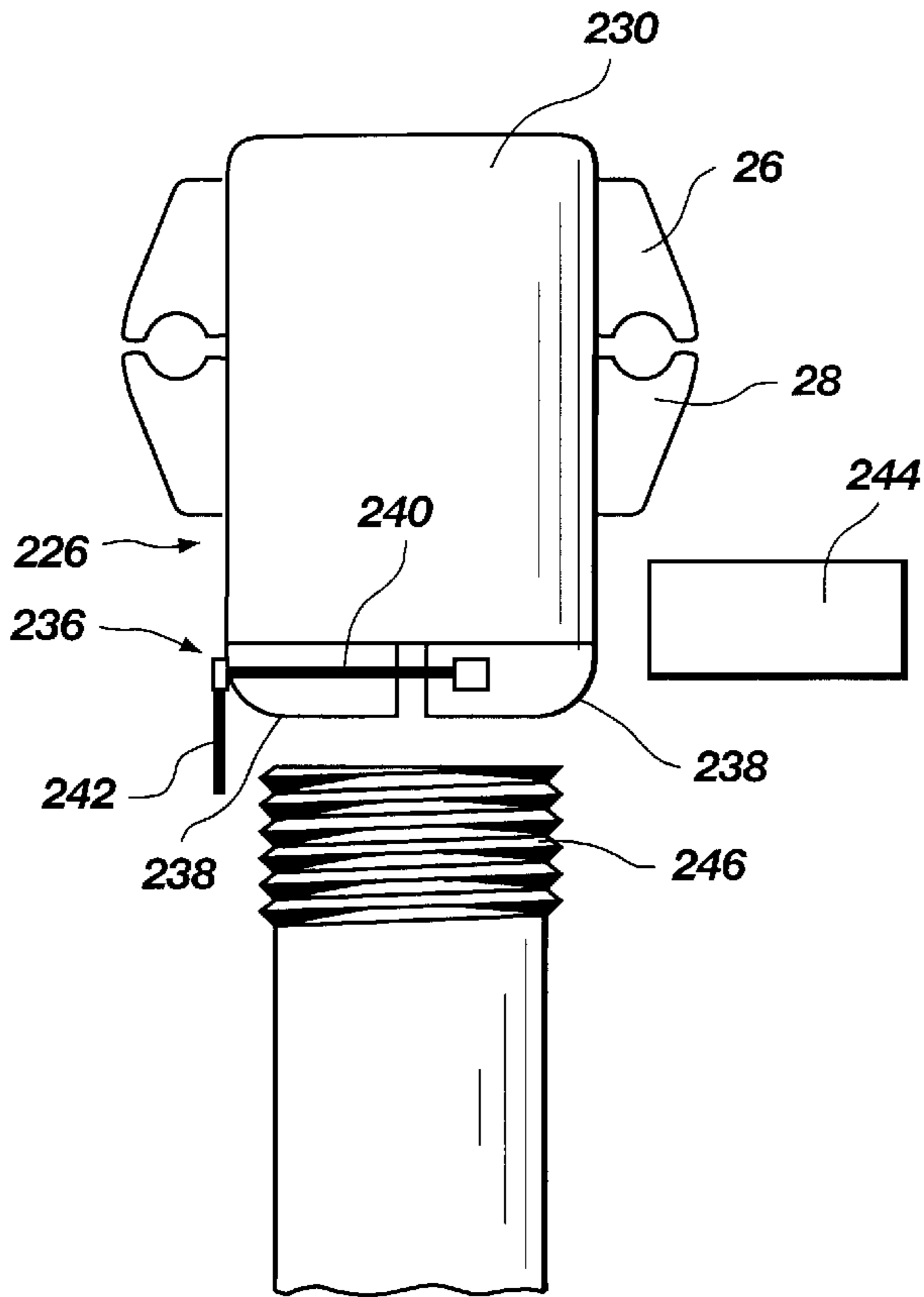


Fig. 23A

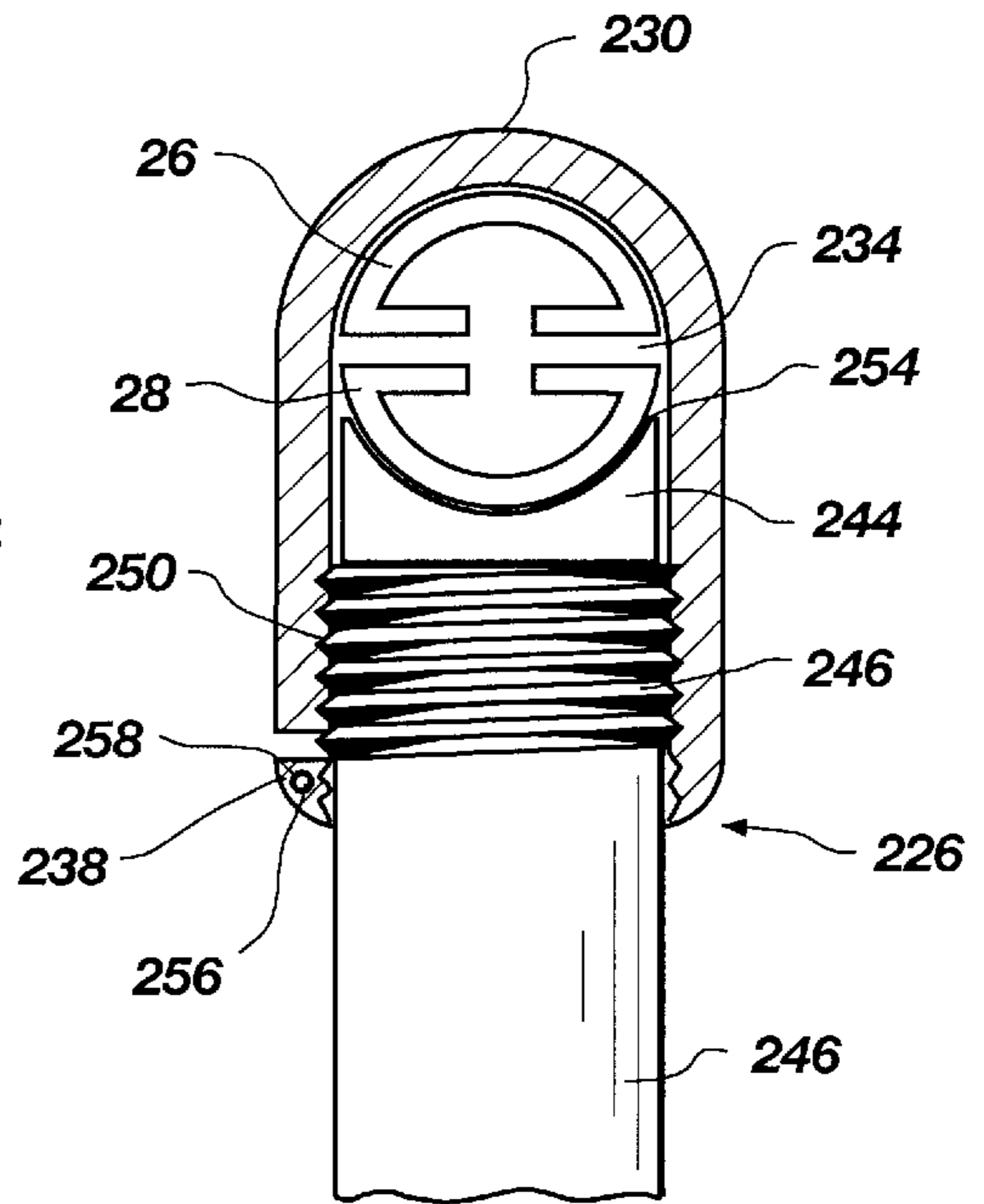


Fig. 24

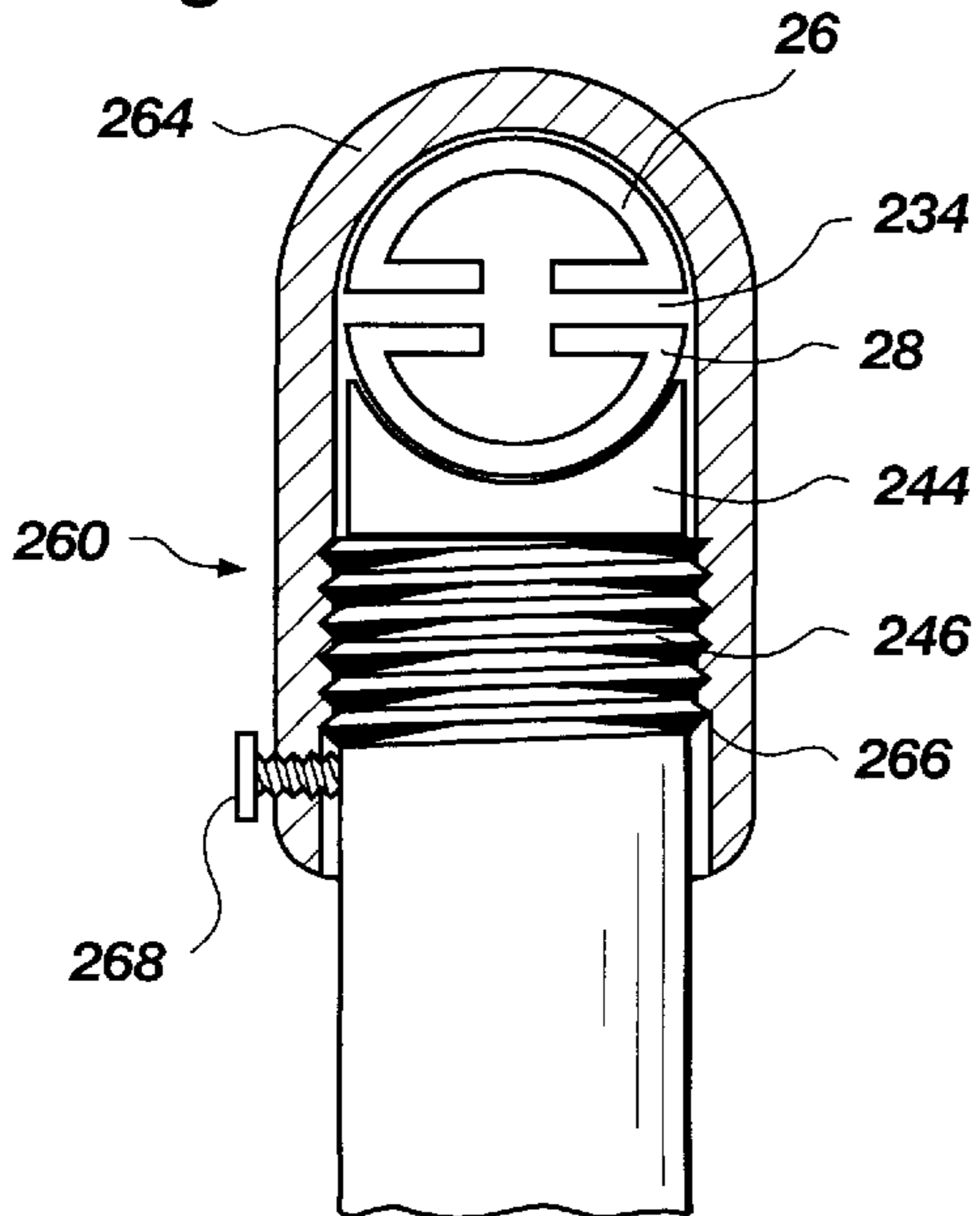


Fig. 25

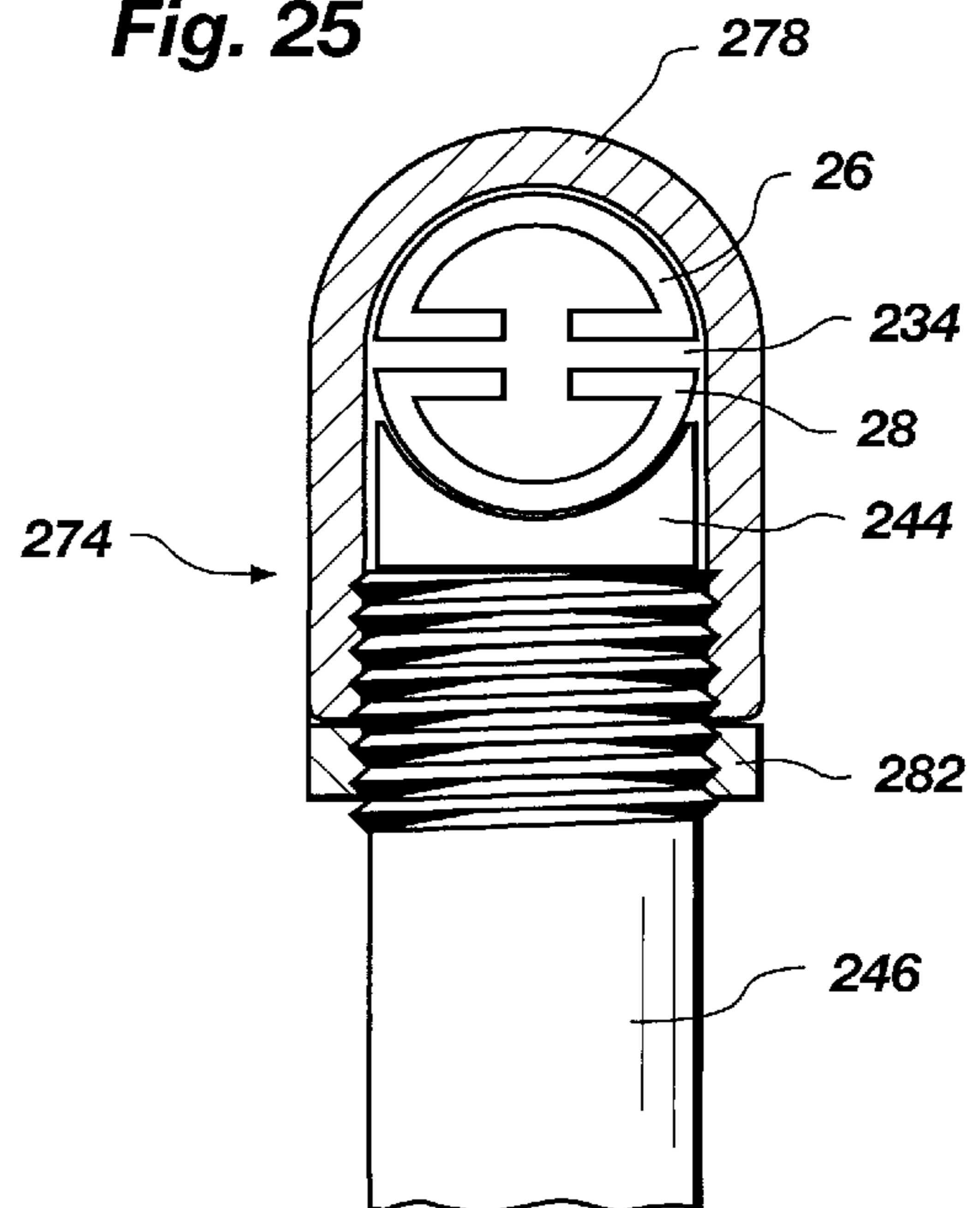
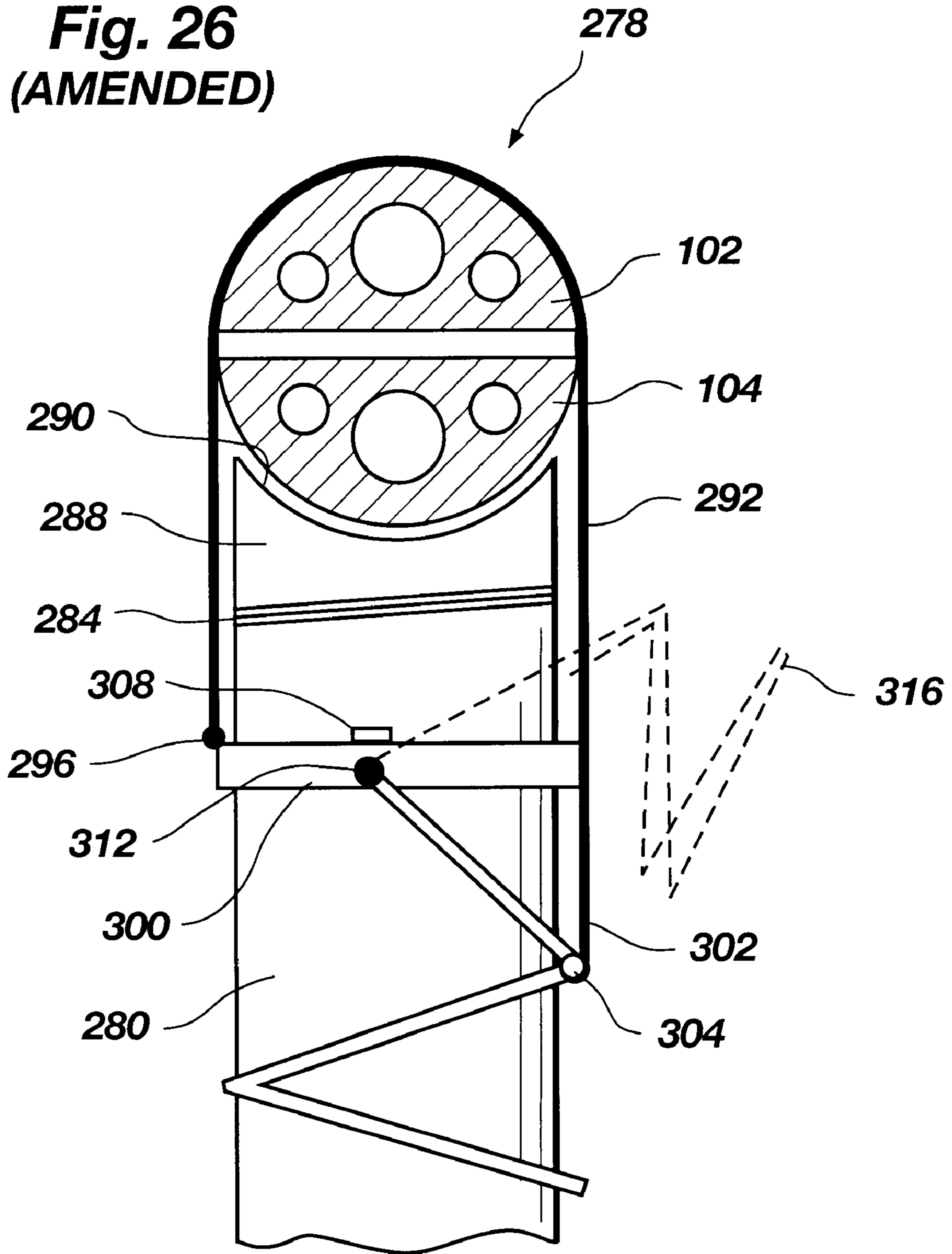


Fig. 26
(AMENDED)



SEAT ATTACHMENT APPARATUS

Matter enclosed in heavy brackets [] appears in the original patent but forms no part of this reissue specification; matter printed in italics indicates the additions made by reissue.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 08/226,027 filed on Apr. 11, 1994 now abandoned.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to an apparatus for attaching a seat to a seat post or frame, particularly bicycle seat posts and frames.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Most bicycle seat assemblies have two rails extending underneath the seat from back to front, to which the post attaches and tightens by means of variously shaped housings and tightening bolts. The post in turn is placed in the bicycle frame, and adjusted vertically by sliding the post up or down within the frame. It is adjusted forwardly and rearwardly by loosening the attachment of the post to the rails and moving the rails through the post attachment forwardly or rearwardly as desired.

Prior art seat/post attachments, especially those with tilting capability, often employ numerous small parts which constitute a weakness in construction. Besides making the apparatus more complex and thus expensive, small parts such as bolts can and often do fail due to improper assembly, e.g. overtightening, poor maintenance, or simply fatigue induced through work hardening. The use of bicycles in the mountains and on other types of rugged terrain puts increased stress on these bolts and other components of the seat/post connection apparatus.

Another problem with seat/post attachment apparatus is complexity of adjustment. Retailers attempting to adjust a bicycle's seat position for a customer must often fiddle with numerous pieces at one time and use a correctly sized Allen wrench or similar tool. Since the seat/post attachments are difficult to adjust, many customers take delivery of bicycles that are not correctly adjusted for their physiques, resulting in inefficient and uncomfortable riding, and this increases the likelihood of fatigue and failure of small parts.

An additional concern with seat post apparatus arises as a result of some newly enacted safety standards in some countries for the devices. In particular, these standards require that the seat post connection withstand a certain force applied to either end of the seat without the connection rotating.

Thus, there is a need for a seat/post connection which minimizes the number of parts, and is easily adjustable.

OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the invention to provide a seat/post attachment apparatus whose construction is relatively simple and which is relatively quick and easy to adjust.

It is another object of the invention to provide a seat/post attachment apparatus which uses relatively few components.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a seat/post attachment apparatus which minimizes or eliminates the

need for small bolts or other hardware for securing the attachment apparatus to the seat.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a seat/post attachment apparatus which is less likely to break or otherwise fail.

It is an additional object of the invention to provide a seat/post attachment apparatus which minimizes or eliminates the need to use tools for position adjustment.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a seat/post attachment apparatus which is relatively lightweight.

It is still another object of the invention to provide a seat/post attachment apparatus which minimizes or eliminates the risk of accidental rotation while the seat is in use.

In accordance with one aspect of the invention, a seat attachment apparatus, adapted for use with a seat including an attachment member, includes a housing, an elongate seat post having first and second ends, the first end being engaged with and adapted for rotational movement within the housing, such that rotation of the seat post causes the seat post to move into or out of the housing, a clamp assembly, adapted for selective engagement of the attachment member, disposed within the housing, and a connector selectively connecting the seat post to the clamp assembly such that the movement of the seat post relative to the housing causes the clamp assembly selectively to engage and disengage the attachment member.

In accordance with another aspect of the invention, a locking device may be provided to limit the relative rotation of the seat post and the housing. In accordance with yet another aspect of the invention, a quick release mechanism is provided to obviate the need of rotating the seat post.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other objects, aspects, and embodiments of the present invention will be described below with reference to the attached drawing figures, of which:

FIG. 1 is a side elevational view in cross section of an example of a bicycle seat/post attachment apparatus according to the invention;

FIG. 2 is a view along line 2—2 in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a view along line 3—3 in FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a side elevational view in cross section of an example of a bicycle seat/post attachment apparatus according to the present invention with a modified seat post;

FIG. 5 is a side elevational view in cross section of an example of a bicycle seat/post attachment apparatus according to the present invention with the clamps offset from the seat post in a pinch-type housing;

FIG. 6 is a view along line 6—6 in FIG. 5;

FIG. 7 is a view along line 7—7 in FIG. 6;

FIG. 7A is a side elevational view in cross section of a bicycle seat/post attachment apparatus similar to that of FIG. 5 but with/a tilted housing and with the lower arm of the housing threaded and with a collar on the upper arm;

FIG. 8 is a side elevational view in cross section of a bicycle seat/post attachment apparatus using a joined two-piece housing and a nut/bolt post attachment assembly;

FIG. 9 is a side elevational view in cross section of a bicycle seat/post attachment apparatus without a housing;

FIG. 10 is a view along line 10—10 in FIG. 9;

FIG. 11 is a top plan view of the upper clamp in FIG. 9;

FIG. 12 is a side elevational view in cross section of a bicycle seat/post attachment apparatus using a band and bolt for engagement of the clamps;

FIG. 13 is a view along line 13—13 in FIG. 12;

FIG. 14 is a side elevational view in cross section of a bicycle seat/post attachment apparatus using a split seat post;

FIG. 15 is a side elevational view in cross section of another example of a bicycle seat/post attachment apparatus using a split seat post;

FIG. 16 is a side elevational view in cross section of a bicycle seat/post attachment apparatus using a wedge on top of the seat post;

FIG. 17 is a side elevational view in cross section of a bicycle seat/post attachment apparatus using a lever to connect the seat post with the clamps;

FIG. 18 is a side elevational view in cross section of another example of a bicycle seat/post attachment apparatus using a lever;

FIG. 19 is a side elevational view in cross section of another example of a bicycle seat/post attachment apparatus using a grooved bolt head and a male threaded bolt body;

FIG. 20 is a view along line 20—20 in FIG. 19; and

FIG. 21 is a side elevational view in cross-section of an embodiment using an interiorly threaded seat post in conjunction with an exteriorly threaded bolt;

FIG. 22 is a elevational view of a quick release embodiment for adjusting the position and angle of the seat;

FIG. 22A is a side elevational view of the embodiment shown in FIG. 22, and showing a partial cross-section of the clamp means along the line 22 in FIG. 22;

FIG. 22B is a side elevational view, in partial cross-section, of the embodiment shown in FIG. 22A, showing the embodiment in an open position;

FIG. 23 is a partially exploded view of an embodiment in which the housing may be locked about the threaded stem to prevent rotation of the housing once the desired seat position has been obtained;

FIG. 23A is a side elevational view in cross-section of the embodiment shown in FIG. 23;

FIG. 24 is a side elevational view in cross-section of another embodiment in which the housing includes a set screw for selectively limiting relative rotation between the housing and the seat post;

FIG. 25 is a side elevational view in cross-section of yet another embodiment of a housing/nut combination for selectively limiting rotation of the housing once a desired position has been achieved;

FIG. 26 is a side elevational view of another embodiment of a seat/post attachment apparatus using a quick release system similar to that shown in FIG. 22.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

FIGS. 1 through 3 show an example of a bicycle seat/post attachment apparatus according to the invention which comprises a hollow cylindrical housing 10 with a closed top 12 and an open bottom 14. The housing need not necessarily be cylindrical, although a cylindrical shape is preferred for placement between seat rails. The housing top 12 can be open, if desired. The interior lower portion of the housing 10 is threaded in order to engage the threaded top portion 16 of a seat post 18 which can be screwed into or out of the housing 10. A generally cylindrical block or connector or contact piece 20, having a curved depression 22 at its top, is adapted for placement, depression side up, within the housing 10 on top of the seat post 18. The block may be

constructed of metal alloy or other conventional material, but alternatively may be constructed of other materials such as thermoplastics, or [composites]composites.

Two openings 24 are disposed opposite each other in the sides of the housing. Two clamps 26 and 28 are placed in the housing on top of the block 20 and through the openings 24. Each clamp 26 and 28 has a generally half-cylindrical shape with a curved side and a flat side so as to form an approximate cylinder when flat sides are placed together. This cylinder is positioned approximately perpendicular to the cylindrical housing 10 and through the openings 24 when the clamps 26 and 28 are positioned inside the housing.

Grooves 30 are provided on the flat side, near the ends, and perpendicular to each clamp 26 and 28 so as to be disposed outside the housing cylinder when the clamps are in place. The grooves accommodate the seat rails 32 when the seat post is attached to the seat. The seat rails 32 are tightened, i.e., squeeze gripped or engaged, between the clamps 26 and 28 by screwing the seat post 18 into the housing 10. As the seat post 18 is screwed in a direction into the housing it urges the block 20 against the bottom clamp 28, the block 20 thus operationally connecting the clamp 28 to the seat post 18. As the top clamp 26 abuts the top 12 of the housing, the clamps are forced together, engaging the seat rails 32 and securing them against movement between the clamps. The top 12 of the housing acts as an opposer to the force and movement of the seat post, forcing the clamps together therebetween.

As shown in embodiments described below, the seat post may be operationally connected to the clamps in various ways, e.g., it is not necessary to have the seat post directly beneath or adjacent the clamps. The clamps may be attached or keyed together or to the housing to minimize lengthwise sliding movement, if desired.

As can be seen from the above description, the present invention provides for securing of the seat rails between the clamps of the attachment apparatus by means of rotating the seat post itself relative to the seat rails and thus the seat, instead of rotating a smaller bolt which requires a tool and which has a greater risk of breaking or failing. As a practical matter, it is contemplated that the operator will rotate the seat instead of the post while the latter is locked into the bicycle frame, correspondingly rotating the seat rails, and tightening or loosening the clamps. The relative rotational motion between the rails and the post remains the same whichever one is rotated. If the seat is not positioned at a desired angle when the apparatus is tightened, i.e., straight forward relative to the frame, the post may be loosened within the frame and rotated together with the seat to adjust the latter's position.

The seat may be adjusted forwardly or rearwardly by unscrewing the seat post 18 out of the housing 10 slightly and thus allowing the rails to slide forward or rearward by loosening the clamps 26 and 28. The seat post 18 is then again tightened against the block 20. The seat also has tilting adjustment capability by unscrewing the seat post slightly to allow rotational motion of the clamps inside the housing, so shown by the arrows 34 in FIG. 1. The rotational motion of the clamps causes the seat to tilt up or down, as desired, after which the seat post 18 is again screwed into the housing 10 to tighten the clamps into position.

As shown in FIG. 1, serrations 36 may be formed on the interior of the top of the housing 12, the curved top 22 of the block, and on the curved sides of the clamps 26 and 28 to help maintain the rotational position of the clamps when tightened. Alternatively, one or more of the surfaces may be

roughened, etched or constructed of hardened rubber or other high friction, gripping material. Some shock dampening would occur with the use of rubber in this context, as well as between the clamp grooves 30. A screen grit paper alternatively could be placed between the clamps and their abutting surfaces for increased friction. These alternative designs have the advantage of allowing for infinite rotational positions of the clamps and reduction of cost as well as elimination of serration wear.

In the preferred embodiment, the apparatus components generally are constructed of carbon [composites]composites, aluminum, titanium, steel, or a similar metal or alloy except for possible high friction surface materials. However, other materials and composites may be used.

The use of clamps of a modified design from those described herein will be apparent to those skilled in the art in light of this disclosure. If tilting adjustment capability is not desired, for example, the clamps can be rectangular or other shape in cross section, and one clamp may be attached or made unitary with the housing itself, effectively creating a single clamp operating together with the housing.

Referring to FIG. 4, a preferred alternative of the construction of the seat post is shown. Instead of threading the seat post 18 itself (shown in FIGS. 1-3), a hollow cylindrical threaded sleeve 18a is placed over and bonded, welded, press fitted, or otherwise secured to the top portion 16 of the seat post. By this means the seat post itself may be constructed of a lighter and/or thinner-walled aluminum alloy composites, titanium or similar material while constructing the sleeve 18a of a heavier material such as steel which can streamline tooling and machining and therefore cost less. In addition, steel threads will be less likely to gall or otherwise fail, though in practice galling threads may be beneficial in acting as a locking mechanism. The sleeve may include a collar for abutment against the housing for use in certain embodiments of the invention described below. Another method would be to roll threads into the end of the seat post 18 in a manner known to those skilled in the art.

The seat post is slightly offset from the housing 10 (FIGS. 1-3) or the seat post may be centered directly into the housing 10 (FIG. 4).

Referring now to FIGS. 5 through 7, another embodiment is shown which differs principally from the embodiments shown in FIGS. 1-4 in that the seat post is completely offset from the clamps and tightens them around the seat rails in a different way. A housing 40 is C-shaped with arms 42 and 44 and a hollow 46 at the juncture of the arms for the positioning of the clamps 26 and 28 therein. The arms 42 and 44 are relatively thick in a preferred embodiment, but may be of any appropriate thickness.

The hollow 46 is horizontally oriented and generally cylindrical with an oval cross section. The clamps 26 and 28 are positioned within the hollow 46 in the same orientation as in FIGS. 1-4, and the seat rails 32 run through the grooves 30 formed in the clamps.

The hollow 46 is shaped ovaly to enable movement of the clamps therein when they are loosened for accommodation of the seat rails 32 when the seat rails are adjusted or installed. An oval cross-sectional hollow shape is not critical to operation of the invention. Other means of allowing the clamps to spread apart adequately to install or adjust the seat rails can be used, as will be apparent to those skilled in the art in light of this disclosure. For example, the hollow may have a curvilinear shape on one side, where the clamps abut the housing, and a rectilinear shape on the other, where a block or other device may be placed after installation or adjustment to keep the clamps in position.

As the arms 42 and 44 of the housing are urged together, the hollow 46 closes in on the clamps 26 and 28, urging them together and tightening the seat rails 32 between them, securing the seat in position.

Each arm 42 and 44 has a vertically-oriented cylindrical hole 48 and 50, respectively, running therethrough for the positioning of the seat post 18 therein. The hole 48 in the upper arm 42 is threaded for engagement with threads on the upper portion 16 of the seat post, while the hole 50 in the lower arm 44 is not threaded and is slightly larger in diameter than the seat post 18 such that the latter may slidably move therein. A flange or collar 52 is bonded or otherwise secured to the seat post 18 below the upper portion 16 such that it abuts the bottom surface of the lower arm 44 when the upper portion 16 of the seat post is threadedly engaged in the hole 48. As mentioned above, the collar may be part of a sleeve placed around the top portion of the seat post.

The collar 52 can be a snap ring or other removable abutting apparatus to enable entry of the post in the housing through the top arm 42. Preferably, the portion of the post passing through the hole 50 closely approximates the diameter of the hole for a tight fit. A sleeve may be placed over the post to thicken it in the hole 50, if needed.

As the upper portion 16 of the seat post is screwed into the hollow 48, the collar 52 abuts the lower arm 44 and forces the arms 42 and 44 together, urging the clamps 26 and 28 together and tightening the seat rails 32 between them.

To adjust the seat forwardly or rearwardly the seat post is unscrewed from the housing 40 slightly and the seat rails 32 are moved forwardly or rearwardly through the grooves 30. To tilt the seat the seat post is unscrewed slightly from the housing 40 and the clamps 26 and 28 are rotated within the hollow 46. The clamps and adjacent surfaces may be serrated or otherwise constructed to prevent rotation when tightened.

The clamps 26 and 28 are offset from the seat post 18 in part to enable the housing 40 to be rotated around the seat post 18 such that the clamps 26 and 28 are forward or rearward of the seat post for corresponding position changes of the seat. In certain riding conditions, a rider sometimes needs the seat to be adjusted substantially forward or backward. Since adjustment of the described apparatus does not require tools, adjustments may be made relatively easily even during a ride of condition changes require it.

It can be seen that the arms 42 and 44 of the housing serve to operationally connect the movement of the seat post to the clamps, which in turn responsively tighten upon or loosen the seat rails. If no tilting adjustment capability is desired, the clamps may be modified and/or attached to the housing itself.

FIG. 7A shows a variation on the embodiment shown in FIGS. 5 through 7. In this embodiment, the holes 48 and 50 extend through the arms 42 and 44 at an angle and causes the connection of the seat post to the housing to be under instead of between the seat rails, allowing more room for the use of larger and/or thicker components to increase strength. The hole 50 in the lower arm is threaded for engagement with the threaded top portion of the seat post 18, and the hole 48 in the upper arm is slightly larger in diameter than the seat post for sliding engagement therewith. A collar or flange 52 is disposed on the top of the seat post and abuts the top of the upper arm 42 in a leveled portion 53. When the seat post is threaded downwardly through the lower arm 44, the collar 52 presses against the top arm 42 and urges the arms together, tightening the clamps 26 and 28 in the hollow 46

and against the seat rails **32**. When the seat post is threaded upwardly, the clamps are loosened. The collar **52** may be made part of a threaded sleeve fitting over the seat post itself (basically a reversal of the function of holes **48** and **50** in FIGS. **5-7**).

It can be seen in FIG. **7A** that the oblong shape of the hollow **46**, if oriented parallel to the arms, may cause the clamps to slide relative to each other instead of gripping the seat rails. This effect can be obviated by orienting the hollow in a different direction, or placing a block therein after installation or adjustment of the seat rails to guard against undesired movement.

FIG. **8** shows another example of the invention. The housing **60** is similar to the housing **40** in FIGS. **5** through **7**, except that the hollow **62** for positioning of the clamps **26** and **28** is cylindrical or nearly so, not ovally shaped, and the housing **60** is not a unitary piece. Rather, the arms **64** and **66** are separate pieces which engage each other by a hinge **70** on the side of the hollow **62** opposite the seat post **68**. An oval-shaped hollow is not needed to give the clamps room to move during adjustment or assembly since the arms **64** and **66** may be moved apart as much as is needed to accommodate movement of the clamps when they are spread or separated for assembly or installation of the seat rails. Instead of a hinge, the arms **64** and **66** may be attached by screws or other suitable means, if desired.

The holes **71** and **72** through the arms **64** and **66**, respectively, are similar to the holes **48** and **50** in FIGS. **5** through **7A** except that neither hole is threaded. Additionally, housing abutments **71a** extend into the hole **71**. A bolt **74** extends through the top of the seat post's hollow interior. In a preferred embodiment, the bolt's head **74a**, disposed on top of the arm **64** against the abutments **71a**, is of a rectangular or hexagonal shape with the top of the hole **71** having a similar shape to key in the bolt head **74a** to guard against rotational movement when the bolt is in place or, the bolt head can be pinned to maintain position. The top of the seat post is disposed below the abutments **71a** oppositely the bolt head **74a**. A cylindrical rod **76** runs laterally through a corresponding hole in the seat post **68**, positioned such that it abuts the bottom surface of the arm **66** when the seat post is tightened against the arms. The bolt **74** is threaded and screws through a correspondingly threaded hole in the rod **76**, causing the latter to act as a nut in a fixed position with the post.

With the bolt **74** threaded through the rod **76** and keyed into position at the top of the arm **64**, the seat post **68** can be rotated causing the bolt **74** to screw down into the rod or nut **76** and urging the arms together by the pressure of the bolt head **74a** and the rod **76** against the upper arm **64** and the lower arm **66**, respectively. This action urges the clamps **26** and **28** together, gripping or tightening the seat rails **32** between them. Rotation of the seat post in the opposite direction causes the clamps to loosen. This bolt and nut system could be used in other embodiments, e.g., the embodiment shown in FIGS. **5** through **7**.

FIGS. **9** and **11** show another example of a bicycle seat/post attachment apparatus. Clamps **80** and **82** are oriented as are the clamps **26** and **28** in previously described embodiment, but differ in that a curved depression **84** is formed in the top clamp **80**, into which depression fits the head **86a** of a bolt **86**. The bolt head **86a** has a curved bottom surface which corresponds to the curvature of the depression **84**, enabling sliding movement therebetween. The body of the bolt **86** extends through a slot **88** formed through both clamps **80** and **82** into the seat post **68**. A cradle **90** is

disposed between the clamp **82** and the top of the seat post **68**. The cradle has a curved top portion **90a** corresponding to the curvature of the bottom clamp **82**, allowing for sliding movement therebetween, and a recess **90b** at its bottom into which the top of the seat post **68** extends. The recess **90b** provides only for rotational movement of the seat post within the cradle **90**, and serves to prevent the clamps from slipping off the top of the post. A rod **76** is disposed through the seat post **68** in threaded engagement with the bolt **86**. To tighten the clamps **80** and **82** against the seat rails **32**, the seat or seat post is rotated, causing the bolt **86** to screw into the rod **76** and urging the clamps **80** and **82** together between the bolt head **86a** and the cradle **90**, tightening the seat rails **32** therebetween. To adjust the seat rails longitudinally, the seat post is rotated the opposite direction, loosening the clamps and allowing the seat rails to slide forwardly or backwardly. To tilt the seat, the seat post is rotated in the loosening direction and the clamps are rotated in the direction of either arrow **92** shown in FIG. **9**. The curved interfaces between the bolt head **86a** and the top clamp **80** and between the top portion **90a** of the cradle and the bottom clamp **82** allow the rotational movement, while the slot **88** allows for the corresponding lateral movement of the body of the bolt **86**. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the rotational movement limit of the clamps will be the length of the slot, since rotational movement will be prevented when the bolt reaches the end of the slot.

The bolt head **86a** acts as an opposer to the movement of the seat post **68** with the fixed rod nut **76**, the seat post and rod and bolt head serving to tighten or loosen the clamps therebetween.

Referring now to FIGS. **12** and **13**, another example of an apparatus according to the invention is shown which uses a flat, elongate flexible band **100** to tighten the clamps **102** and **104** together. The band, constructed of suitable flexible and strong material such as stainless steel is disposed within a groove **106** disposed around the clamps **102** and **104**, through apertures **108** in the cradle **90**, and into the open top end of the seat post **110**. Alternatively, the apertures **108** may be replaced by a simple hole large enough to accommodate the band. The ends of the band **100** overlap each other in the seat post **110**, each end of the band having a hole disposed therein for the passage therethrough of a T-bolt **112**. The threaded lower end of the T-bolt **112** engaged a star washer nut **114** secured within the seat post **110**. The nut **114** has flanges **114a** extending from the body of the nut which secure it in position within the seat post.

To secure the seat rails **32** between the clamps **102** and **104**, the seat post is rotated, causing the T bolt **112** to screw into the star washer **114** and tightening the band **100** around the clamps **102** and **104**, urging them together and against the cradle **90**. To adjust the seat rails **32**, the seat post is rotated in the opposing direction to loosen the band and clamps, after which the seat rails are slid to the desired position. To tilt the seat, the clamps are again loosened and rotated in the desired direction, after which they are again tightened.

Referring now to FIG. **14**, another embodiment is shown in which the seat post **120** is split generally longitudinally into two halves or arms **120a** and **120b**. While the seat post is in position the arms are maintained together by the bicycle frame **121**. The arms culminate in a generally cylindrical top section **122** defining a hollow or cavity **123** in which the clamps **26** and **28** are positioned. The arms may be hinged by a hinge **124** at their top or otherwise be constructed such that they can be taken out of the bicycle frame **121** and spread far enough apart to allow the clamps **26** and **28** to loosen enough to install and adjust the seat rails **32** therein.

After the seat rails **32** are placed between the clamps, the arms **120a** and **120b** of the seat post are brought together, tightening the seat rails between the clamps, and the seat post is inserted into the bicycle frame **121**. To adjust the seat, the seat post is taken out of the bicycle frame **121** and the arms **120a** and **120b** are spread apart, loosening the clamps and allowing the seat rails to be moved forwardly or backwardly or allowing the clamps to be rotated to tilt the seat. The seat post is then reinserted into the bicycle frame **121**.

An alternative method of splitting the seat post is shown in FIG. **15**, which shows a seat post **130** split diagonally down its length, resulting in a short arm **130a** and a longer arm **130b**. The arms are maintained together not by insertion into the bicycle frame but by a collar **132** which is removed for spreading of the arms to adjust the seat and reinstalled to tighten the seat rails between the clamps. The collar may be of a quick-release type, if desired. Thus the need to remove and insert the entire seat post into the bicycle frame **121** as in FIG. **14** is eliminated.

Referring now to FIG. **16**, another embodiment is shown which comprises a unitary housing piece **140** which contains a chamber **142** for placement of clamps **26** and **28**. A seat post **18** threads into the bottom of the housing **140** in an offset position from the clamps, and a wedge **144** is disposed on top of the seat post **18** and adjacent the side of the clamps. The wedge may be conical or multi-faceted, as desired. To tighten the seat rails **32** between the clamps **26** and **28**, the seat post **18** is screwed into the housing **140**, urging the wedge **144** up and to the side and consequently urging the clamps together. To adjust the seat, the seat post is screwed downwardly, the adjustment is made, and the apparatus is retightened.

Referring now to FIG. **17**, another example of an apparatus according to the invention is shown which uses a lever **150** to tighten the clamps. The lever **150** is disposed within a housing **152** and anchored at a point **154** away from the seat post **18**. Clamps **26** and **28** are disposed in a chamber **156** above the lever **150**. The seat post threadedly engages a recess **158** in the housing, the recess being offset from the chamber **156**, and the end of the lever **150** opposite the anchor point **154** extends into the recess. As the seat post **18** screws into the recess **158**, it abuts the lever and urges it against the clamps, urging them together and tightening the seat rails. The lever **150** thus operationally joins the seat post to the clamps, the movement of the former causing the latter selectively to engage and disengage the seat rails.

The lever may be straight, as shown in FIG. **17**, or curved or otherwise modified as will be apparent to those skilled in the art in light of this disclosure.

FIG. **18** shows an example of the present invention similar to that shown in FIG. **17** except that upward movement of the seat post loosens the clamps instead of tightening them. The housing **160** in FIG. **18** has a recess **166** for placement of the seat post **18**. The lever **150** is attached to an anchor point **154** away from the clamps **26** and **28** in a recess **162** in the housing. The seat post **18** is disposed in the recess **162**, and has a collar **164** below its threaded top portion.

The lever is disposed beneath the collar **164** on the seat post, whereby downward movement of the seat post causes the lever to urge the clamps together, tightening the seat rails between them. Upward movement of the seat post loosens the clamps for adjustment.

The collar **164** is not necessary if alternative means are used to press the lever, including making the threads themselves wider than the rest of the seat post.

FIGS. **19** and **20** show an embodiment using a grooved cylindrical bolt head **170a** and threaded bolt body **170**. In

this embodiment, the bolt head **170a** acts as a top clamp working together with a bottom hemispherical clamp **172** having a slot **174** disposed downwardly therethrough for accommodation of the bolt body **170**. The clamp **172** is disposed directly on top of the seat post **176** and can rotate or tilt relative thereto by reason of its hemispherical shape. The seat rails **32** are disposed in grooves **178** formed in the sides of the bolt head **170a** and which wrap around it, and grooves **180** in the flat portion of the clamp **172**. The slot **174** is wider than the bolt body **170** for accommodation of the latter when the clamp **172** is tilted. The seat post **176** is interiorly threaded and in threaded engagement with the bolt body **170**, which is exteriorly threaded. Rotation of the seat post **176** relative to the bolt **170** causes the bolt head **170a** to tighten against or loosen from the seat rails **32** and clamp **172** for adjustment of the seat rails or for tilting of the clamp. When the clamp **172** is tilted, the seat rails **32** remain within the grooves **178** of the bolt head **170a** because of the circular shape of the grooves.

The interior threading of the seat post mating with the exterior threading of the bolt can be used in other embodiments herein. For example, referring to FIG. **21**, it may be used in a modified version of the embodiment in FIG. **5**. A bolt **190** with a head **190a** is disposed through the top arm **42** of the housing and the head **190a** abuts the top arm **42** at points **192**. The bolt is exteriorly threaded for engagement with the interiorly threaded seat post **194**. A flange or collar **196** is disposed around the seat post and abuts the bottom arm **44**. In a preferred embodiment, the bolt head **190a** is keyed into the top arm **42** for prevention of rotational movement of the head **190a**. When the seat post **194** is rotated relative to the bolt **190**, the bolt head **190a** and the collar **196** are brought closer together or taken farther apart, respectively urging the arms **42** and **44** together or allowing them to go apart. The interior threading of the seat post can be beneficial when dealing with limited spaces near the seat and between the seat rails.

Referring now to FIGS. **22**, **22A** and **22B**, there is shown another embodiment of the present invention. The apparatus **200** is designed to enable quick release and securing of the clamps **102** and **104**, to thereby enable quick adjustments to the seat angle, or the position of the seat relative to the seat post. As will be apparent, the clamps **102** and **104** are analogous to the clamps **102** and **104** in the embodiment shown in FIGS. **12** and **13**, and are likewise held in a desired position by a band **204**.

The band **204** is attached to a pivot point **208** at one end, and an adjustment clip **212** at an opposing end. As with the band **100** of the embodiment described regarding FIGS. **12** and **13**, the band **204** can be made of metal or other durable materials. When the clip **212** is placed in a holding position (i.e., the clip rests against the seat post **216** as shown in FIGS. **22** and **22A**) the band **204** holds the clamps **102** and **104** in fixed relation to the seat post, enabling the clamps to properly hold the seat, via the seat rails **32**, in the position desired by the rider. FIGS. **22A** and **22B** show cross-sectional views of the clamps **102** and **104** taken along the line **22** to enable the band **204** to be seen.

By rotating the clip **212** about the pivot point **208**, so that the clip swings away from the seat post **216** (as shown in FIG. **22B**), the band **204** is loosened so that it no longer fits tightly about the clamps **102** and **104**. When the band is loosened, the seat rails **32** may be slid relative to the clamps **102** and **104** to change the location of the seat, and/or the clamps may be rotated relative to the seat post **216** to change the angle of the seat (not shown). Once the desired angle or location of the seat has been achieved, the clip **212** is rotated

about the pivot point **208** so as to be forced back against the seat post **216** (as shown in FIG. **22A**), thereby tightening the band **204** and holding the clamps **102** and **104** in place.

The rotation of the clip **212** described above allows for almost instantaneous adjustment of the angle or position of the seat. Such rapid adjustment is particularly beneficial for cyclists who change terrain often, and therefore must frequently change seat position to maintain comfort and to achieve maximum power output and balance through proper positioning of the seat; and prevent injury.

Referring now to FIG. **23**, there is shown a partially exploded view of another embodiment of the present invention. The apparatus **226** shown includes a housing **230** similar to that shown in FIG. **2**. The housing **230** may be made of any other durable, rigid material, but preferably is made of titanium, thermoplastics or aluminum alloys. The clamps **26** and **28** extend through a hollow portion **234** of the housing, as shown in FIG. **23A** and similar to the embodiment discussed in detail regarding FIGS. **1** and **2**. The base **236** of the housing **230** has two portions **238** which are spaced apart. The two portions **238** are connected by a quick release connector **240** of a type similar to those used on wheel hubs and which are well known in the art. By moving a lever **242** of the quick release connector **240**, the two portions **238** are moved between a relaxed state in which they are spaced, and a locking state in which they are pulled toward each other. When the lever **242** is rotated so that the two portions **238** are pulled together, the pinching action of the two portions prevent the housing **238** from rotating relative to the seat post **246**. When the lever **242** is rotated to release the two portions **238**, it reenables rotation of the housing **230** relative to the seat post **246**.

Also shown in FIG. **23** is a jam washer **244** and a threaded seat post **246**. Typically, the jam washer **244** and the seat post **246** will be made of aluminum or steel, but either could be made of other materials. The functioning of the jam washer **244** is discussed below.

Referring now to FIG. **23A**, there is shown an elevated side cross-sectional view of another embodiment of the apparatus **226**. The threaded seat post **246** is inserted into the housing **230** so as to mate with threads **250** in the housing. As the threaded seat post **246** is rotated to move into the housing **230**, it causes the clamps **26** and **28** to be compressed together, thereby holding seat rails (not shown) in a desired position as described in previous embodiments of the invention. If the seat (not shown) needs to be adjusted, the seat post **246** (or the housing **230**) is rotated to move the seat post **246** away from the clamps **26** and **28** until grip of the clamps on the seat rails is loose enough to move the seat.

The jam washer **244** is positioned between the seat post **246** and the clamp **28** in order to provide a more secure fit between the clamp **28** and the seat post **246**. Additionally, a concave surface **254**, of the jam washer **244** which contacts the clamp **28** is usually serrated (or provided with a rough surface) to prevent the clamp from slipping or rotating relative to the seat post. Such an arrangement also allows the user to choose a particular angle for his or her seat by rotating the clamp **28** into the desired position before tightening the apparatus **226**.

Once the apparatus **226** is in the desired position, the two portions **238** are pinched together to prevent further rotation. As shown in FIG. **23A**, this is done by rotating a threaded bolt **256** to mate with threads **258** in the two portions **238**, rather than rotating the lever **242** of the quick release connector **240** as shown in FIG. **23**. As the base **236** of the housing **230** pinches together, the threads **250** of the housing

and the threads of the seat post **246** will no longer move readily with respect to each other. If the bolt **256** is tightened sufficiently, the housing **230** and the seat post **246** are held fastly together. Thus, by tightening the lever **242** or bolt **256**, the housing **230** (and thus the seat) is held firmly in place.

Referring now to FIG. **24**, there is shown another embodiment of the present invention. The apparatus **260** includes a housing **264** substantially similar to the housing **230** shown in FIGS. **23** and **23A**. The primary difference between the housings is that housing **264** (FIG. **24**) does not have a base **236** with a slit formed therein which can be tightened by a bolt **256** or lever **242**, as is shown in FIGS. **23** and **23A**, to tighten the threads of the housing about those of the seat post **246** and thereby prevent rotation of the housing about the seat post. Instead, a set screw **268** extends through the housing **264** so as to contact to seat post **246**.

In use, the seat post **246** and housing **264** are adjusted relative to one another as was explained with respect to FIGS. **23** and **23A**. Once the desired position is obtained, the set screw **268** is rotated so that it moves toward the seat post **246** until the set screw firmly contacts the seat post. When the set screw **268** is so tightened, the housing **264** and the seat post **246** can no longer rotate relative to one another due to the friction between the set screw and the seat post. Thus, the seat (not shown) supported by the housing **264** and clamps **26** and **28** will not rotate relative to the seat post without considerable force.

Alternately, a buffer pad, preferably made of a softer or smoothed material, could be placed between the set screw **268** and the seat post **246**. Those skilled in the art will recognize that forcing the housing to turn with the set screw **268** against the seat post **246** will mar the seat post and could even lead to the seat post breaking.

Referring now to FIG. **25**, there is shown yet another embodiment of the locking aspect of the present invention. The apparatus **274** includes a housing **278** which is substantially similar to the housing **230** (FIGS. **23** and **23A**) and housing **264** (FIG. **24**). The primary difference with housing **278** is that it lacks a base **236** (FIG. **23**) which may be pinched together with a lever **240** (FIG. **23**) or a bolt **256** (FIG. **23A**), and lacks a set screw **268** (FIG. **24**). Instead, a nut **282** is positioned on the threaded seat post **246** below the housing **278**. When the housing **278** and/or the seat post **246** has been rotated so the two clamps **26** and **28** are held in the desired position, the nut **282** is rotated so that it abutts firmly against the bottom of the housing. When the nut **282** is in this position, the force between the housing **278** and the nut **282** prevent the housing and/or nut from rotating about the seat post **246**. Thus, a seat (not shown) connected to the housing **278** by the clamps **26** and **28** cannot be rotated when the nut **282** is tightened against the housing.

As was explained in the background section, it is desirable to limit rotation of the seat while a person is riding the bicycle. By using any of the methods discussed relative to the embodiments shown in FIGS. **23** through **25**, the seat (not shown) can be held so that it will withstand significant lateral force to either end without turning. This makes the seat safer for the rider. As will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, these embodiments allow the seat to be held in position while retaining the simple adjustment and minimization of parts accomplished by the present invention. Those skilled in the art will recognize that the methods for limiting rotational movement can be used on most, if not all, of the embodiments disclosed herein.

Referring now to FIG. **26**, there is shown an additional quick release embodiment incorporating the principles of the

present invention. The seat/post apparatus, generally indicated at **278**, includes a seat post **280** which has threads **284** engaged with the threads (not shown) disposed inside a rotatable jam washer **288**. Rotation of the jam washer **288** about the seat post **280** enable the height of the concave portion **290** of the jam washer **288** to be raised or lowered as the respective threads of the seat post **280** and jam washer **284** interact. A pair of clamps **102** and **104**, similar to those shown in FIG. 22, rest in the concave portion **290** of the jam washer **288**. The clamps **102** and **104** are held in place by a band **292**, which is connected at a first end **296** to a collar **300**. The band **292** is attached at a second end **302** to a clip **304** in the same was as explained relative to clip **212** in FIGS. 22–22B. The collar **300**, is rotatable about the seat post **280** so as to enable the jam washer **288**, the clamps **102** and **104**, the band **292**, and the clip **304** to rotate about the seat post. By rotating these structures in unison, the jam washer **288** will increase or decrease the height of the clamps **102** and **104**, relative to the seat post **280**, to thereby further tighten or loosen the band **292**. The collar **300** is held in place by a retention pin **308**, so that it may not move upwardly or downwardly in conjunction with the jam washer **288**.

In order to release the clamps **102** and **104**, the clip **304** is rotated about a pivot point **312** on the collar so as to swing away from the seat post **280** as represented by the dashed FIG. 316. Once the desired adjustments to the clamps **102** and **104** have been made, the clip **304** is returned to its original position where it prevents the clamps **102** and **104** firmly in place. Should additional adjustments be needed, the clip **304**, the collar **300**, the band **292**, and the clamps **102** and **104**, and the jam washer **288** are rotated about the seat post **280** so as to either raise or lower the jam washer, thereby tightening or loosening the band **292**.

I claim:

1. Seat attachment apparatus, adapted for use with a seat including an attachment member, comprising:

a housing;

an elongate seat post having first and second ends, the first end being engaged with and adapted for rotational movement within the housing;

means for moving the seat post through the housing in a direction into or out of the housing when the seat post is rotated relative to the housing;

a clamp assembly, adapted for selective engagement of the attachment member, disposed within the housing; and

a connector selectively connecting the seat post to the clamp assembly such that the movement of the seat post relative to the housing causes the clamp assembly selectively to engage and disengage the attachment member.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the seat post pushes against the clamp assembly when the seat post is moved in a first direction through the housing and whereby the seat post ceases to push against the clamp assembly when the seat post is moved in a second direction through the housing.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the connector comprises a block disposed between the first end of the seat post and the clamp assembly.

4. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the connector comprises a wedge, a first side of which is disposed adjacent the first end of the seat post and a second side of which is disposed adjacent the clamp assembly.

5. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the clamp assembly is at least partially offset from the axis of the seat post, and

wherein the connector comprises an elongate lever having a first end anchored in the housing and a second end extending adjacent the seat post, whereby the movement of the seat post through the housing selectively urges the lever against the clamp assembly.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus further comprises locking means disposed adjacent the first end of the seat post for selectively preventing rotation of the seat post relative to the housing.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the locking means is formed integrally with the housing.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the locking means further comprises a bolt connecting two spaced portions of the housing such that rotation of the bolt in one direction forces the spaced portions closer together, thereby preventing rotation of the seat post relative to the housing, and rotation of the bolt in an opposite direction forces the spaced portions of the housing further apart, thereby enabling rotation of the seat post relative to the housing.

9. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the locking means comprises a quick release connector.

10. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the locking means comprises a set screw extending at least partially through the housing so as to prevent rotation of housing about the seat post.

11. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the locking means comprises a nut disposed adjacent the housing and about the seat post.

12. Seat attachment apparatus, the seat having an attachment member, comprising:

a housing including a first arm and a second arm oriented adjacent each other, each arm having a proximal end and a distal end, the arms being joined at their proximal ends, each arm having an interior surface disposed adjacent the interior surface of the other arm and an exterior surface disposed substantially opposite the interior surface;

a clamp assembly for selective engagement of the attachment member disposed between the arms;

an elongate seat post with first and second ends, the first end extending through the arms at a location between the clamp assembly and the distal ends of the arms, the seat post being adapted for rotational movement within and relative to the arms; and

urging means, operatively connecting the seat post and the arms, for selectively urging the arms together when the seat post is rotated relative to the arms in a first direction and ceasing to urge the arms together when the seat post is rotated relative to the arms in a second direction.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the seat post is substantially cylindrical, the first end of the seat post is adapted for threaded engagement with the first arm, and the seat post is adapted for sliding engagement with the second arm, and further comprising a protrusion extending from the side of the seat post adjacent the exterior surface of the second arm when the first end of the seat post and the first arm are in threaded engagement.

14. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the seat post is substantially cylindrical, and further comprising a bolt comprising a head and a body, the head being disposed adjacent the exterior surface of the first arm and the body extending into the seat post, and a rod disposed through the seat post, substantially perpendicular to the seat post, the rod being adjacent the exterior surface of the second arm and in threaded engagement with the body of the bolt.

15. Apparatus for attachment to a seat, the seat having an attachment member, comprising:

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an elongate seat post having a first end and a second end; an opposer having a head and a body, the body being rotatably attached to the seat post and the head being spaced from the first end of the seat post;

means for decreasing the distance between the first end of the seat post and the head of the opposer when the opposer is rotated relative to the seat post in a first direction, and for increasing the distance between the first end of the seat post and the head of the opposer when the opposer is rotated relative to the seat post in a second direction;

a clamp assembly, for selective engagement of the attachment member, disposed substantially between the first end of the seat post and the head of the opposer, the clamp assembly being disposed such that rotation of the clamp assembly relative to the seat post in said first direction rotates the opposer in said first direction and rotation of the clamp assembly relative to the seat post in said second direction rotates the opposer in said second direction;

whereby the clamp assembly is tightened when the opposer is rotated relative to the seat post in said first direction and loosened when the opposer is rotated relative to the seat post in said second direction.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising locking means for selectively preventing rotation of the body about the seat post.

17. The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising a block disposed between the first end of the seat post and the clamp assembly.

18. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the seat post comprises a rod extending laterally therethrough and the opposer comprises a bolt, the body of the bolt being in threaded engagement with the rod, and the clamp assembly being disposed between the first end of the seat post and the head of the bolt.

19. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the opposer is a bolt extending into the seat post and threadedly engaged therewith.

20. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the clamp assembly comprises a hemispherical clamp disposed on the top of the seat post and adapted for tilting movement relative thereto.

21. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the clamp assembly comprises first and second clamps, each of half-cylindrical shape with a curved side and a flat side, adapted to tighten the attachment member between opposing grooves formed in the flat sides thereof, and wherein the body of the bolt extends through slots disposed through the clamps and the head of the bolt contacts the first clamp in a depression formed in the curved surface of the first clamp, and further comprising a cradle disposed between the second clamp and the first end of the seat post such that the clamps can be rotated to a predetermined extent on an axis substantially transverse to the axis of the seat post.

22. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the opposer comprises a housing disposed substantially around the clamp assembly, the seat post being threadedly engaged with a portion of the housing, the body of the housing being the portion engaged with the seat post and the head of the housing being the portion of the housing opposite the seat post, and further comprising a block disposed between the first end of the seat post and the clamp assembly, and wherein the clamp assembly is substantially cylindrical and rotatable within the housing when the clamp assembly is loosened.

23. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the head of the opposer comprises a flexible band disposed around the

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clamp assembly and the body of the opposer comprises a bolt fixedly attached to the band and threadedly engaged with the seat post.

24. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the apparatus further comprises locking means to prevent rotation of the opposer selectively.

25. Seat attachment apparatus for use with a bicycle frame, the seat including an attachment member, comprising:

a seat post comprising first and second arms, each arm having distal and proximal ends, the arms being joined at their proximal ends and defining a cavity near their proximal ends when in a closed position, the seat post being nestable in the frame of the bicycle;

clamp assembly, for selective engagement of the attachment member, disposed within said cavity;

holding means for selectively locking the arms in said closed position, the holding means being disposed between the frame of the bicycle and the clamp assembly.

26. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the holding means comprises a collar disposed around the arms in the closed position.

27. Seat attachment apparatus for use with a bicycle frame, the seat including an attachment member, comprising:

a seat post comprising first and second arms, each arm having distal and proximal ends, the arms being joined at their proximal ends and defining a cavity near their proximal ends when in a closed position, the seat post being nestable in the frame of the bicycle;

clamp assembly, for selective engagement of the attachment member, disposed within said cavity;

holding means for selectively locking the arms in said closed position, the holding means comprising the bicycle frame in which the seat post is inserted.

28. Seat attachment apparatus, adapted for use with a seat including an attachment member, comprising;

a clamp assembly, adapted for selective engagement of the attachment member,

an elongate seat post having first and second ends, the first end being disposed adjacent the clamp assembly, and pivotal clip means for selectively securing the clamp assembly adjacent to the elongate seat post so as to hold the seat in a fixed position.

29. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the clip assembly comprises a clip pivotally attached to the seat post and a band extending from the one side of the seat post, around the clamp assembly to an attachment with the clip, such that rotation of the clip downwardly toward the seat post causes the band to tighten around the clamp assembly.

30. The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising adjustment means disposed between the clamp assembly and the elongate seat post for adjusting the height of the clamp assembly relative to the elongate seat post when the elongate seat post is rotated relative to the clamp assembly.

31. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the elongate seat post comprises a plurality of threads, and wherein the adjustment means comprises a threaded jam washer disposed about the threads of the elongate seat post such that rotation of the elongate seat post within the jam washer causes a change in the position of the jam washer relative to the elongate seat post.

32. The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising a collar rotatable about the elongate seat post, the pivotal clip means being pivotally attached to the collar so as to enable rotation of the pivotal clip means about the elongate seat post.

33. Seat attachment apparatus, adapted for use with a seat including an attachment member, the apparatus comprising:
 moveable clamp means for selectively holding the attachment member of the seat so as to hold the seat in a set position;
 housing means disposed at least partially about the movable clamp means and having an interior portion for holding the clamp means such that selectively forcing the clamp means into contact with the interior portion of the housing prevents the clamp means from moving; and
 rotatable adjustment means for selectively forcing the movable clamp into contact with an interior portion of the housing so as to prevent movement of the clamp, said rotatable adjustment means comprising a seat post.

34. The seat attachment apparatus of claim 33, further comprising an elongate seat post rotatably coupled to said housing.

35. The seat attachment apparatus of claim 33, further comprising a contact block disposed at least partially within the housing adjacent the clamp means for preventing movements of the clamp means.

36. The seat attachment apparatus of claim 35, wherein the contact block is moved into forceful contact with the clamp means by rotation of the adjustment means.

37. The seat attachment apparatus of claim 33, wherein the interior portion of the housing has a plurality of grooves for limiting movement of the clamp.

38. Seat attachment apparatus for attaching a seat to a seat post, adapted for use with a seat including an attachment member, the apparatus comprising:
 moveable clamp means disposed adjacent the seat post for selectively holding the attachment member of the seat so as to hold the seat in a set position;
 housing means disposed at least partially about the movable clamp means and having an interior portion for holding the clamp means such that selectively forcing the clamp means into contact with the interior portion of the housing prevents the clamp means from moving; and
 rotatable adjustment means for selectively forcing the movable clamp into contact with an interior portion of the housing so as to prevent movement of the clamp, the adjustment means comprising a collar rotatable about the seat post.

39. The seat attachment apparatus of claim 38, wherein the seat post is coupled to said housing.

40. The seat attachment apparatus of claim 38, further comprising a contact block disposed at least partially within the housing adjacent the clamp means for preventing movement of the clamp means.

41. Apparatus for attachment to a seat, the seat having an attachment member, comprising:
 an elongate seat post having a first end and a second end;
 a rotatable opposer having a head spaced from the first end of the seat post;
 adjustment means for decreasing the distance between the first end of the seat post and the head of the opposer when the opposer is rotated relative to the seat post in a first direction, and for increasing the distance between the first end of the seat post and the head of the opposer when the opposer is rotated relative to the seat post in a second direction;
 a rotatable clamp assembly, for selective engagement of

the first end of the seat post and the head of the opposer, the clamp assembly being disposed such that rotation of the clamp assembly relative to the seat post in said first direction rotates the opposer in said first direction and rotation of the clamp assembly relative to the seat post in said second direction rotates the opposer in said second direction;

whereby the clamp assembly is tightened when the opposer is rotated relative to the seat post in said first direction and loosened when the opposer is rotated relative to the seat post in said second direction.

42. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the seat post is threaded, and wherein the opposer is threaded and engages the threads of the seat post such that rotation of the clamp assembly in the first direction moves the opposer along the threads of the seat post so as to move the head of the opposer away from the first end of the seat post.

43. The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the threads of the opposer and the threads of the seat post comprises the adjustment means.

44. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the adjustment means comprises a threaded bolt body extending from the head of the opposer to the first end of the seat post.

45. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the clamp assembly has a depression, and wherein the head of the opposer nests within the depression of the clamp assembly.

46. Seat post attachment apparatus for use with a bicycle seat having a pair of rails, the seat post attachment apparatus comprising:

a tiltable clamp assembly for selectively holding the rails of a bicycle seat;

a seat post having a first and second end;

a rotatable cradle disposed between the seat post and the clamp assembly, the cradle having a curved top portion for receiving the clamp assembly and a bottom portion for resting on the first end of the seat post;

a rotatable adjustment means for selectively holding the clamp assembly to the cradle and for holding the cradle to the seat post, the rotatable adjustment means being rotatable in a first direction so as to prevent tilting of the clamp assembly with respect to the cradle, and rotatable in a second direction to enable tilting of the clamp assembly with respect to the cradle, and rotation of the cradle and clamp assembly with respect to the seat post.

47. The seat post attachment apparatus of claim 46, wherein the rotatable adjustment means comprises an opposer disposed such that rotation of the clamp assembly with respect to the seat post rotates the opposer, and an elongate threaded body for rotatably connecting the opposer to the first end of the seat post.

48. The seat post attachment apparatus of claim 47, wherein the clamp assembly has a depression formed therein, and wherein the opposer includes a head which nests therein.

49. The seat post attachment apparatus of claim 46, wherein the bottom portion of the cradle has a recess formed therein for receiving the first end of the seat post.

50. Seat attachment apparatus adapted for use with a seat including an attachment member, the apparatus comprising:

movable clamps means for selectively holding the attachment member of the seat so as to hold the seat in a set position;

cradle means disposed at least partially about the movable clamps means and having an interior portion for holding the clamp means such that selectively forcing

the clamp means into contact with the interior portion of the cradle means prevents the clamp means from moving; and

rotatable adjustment means for selectively forcing the movable clamp into contact with an interior portion of the cradle means so as to prevent movement of the clamp means, said rotatable adjustment means comprising a seat post.

51. *The seat attachment apparatus of claim 50, wherein the rotatable adjustment means further comprises an opposer having a head, and an elongate threaded body for connecting the head of the opposer to the seat post, such that rotation of the seat post in a first direction moves the head of the opposer toward the seat post and rotation of the seat post in a second direction moves the head of the opposer away from the seat post.*

52. *The seat attachment apparatus of claim 50, wherein the rotatable adjustment means further comprises an opposer having a head, and wherein the clamp assembly has a depression formed therein for receiving the head of the opposer.*

53. *The seat attachment apparatus of claim 52, wherein the head of the opposer is disposed such that rotation of the clamp assembly with respect to the seat post rotates the head of the opposer.*

54. *A seat attachment apparatus for holding a bicycle seat having a rails, the apparatus comprising:*

- a tiltable clamp assembly for holding the rails having a first member and a second member,*
- an elongate seat post having a first end and a second end;*
- and*

attachment means for selectively holding the clamp assembly to the first end of the seat post, the attachment means comprising means for engaging the seat post and for engaging the clamp assembly such that rotation of the clamp assembly in a first direction tightens the attachment means, thereby securing the clamp assembly to the seat post so as prevent tilting of the clamp assembly with respect to the seat post, and such that rotation of the clamp assembly in a second direction loosens the attachment means to thereby facilitate tilting of the clamp assembly with respect to the seat post.

55. *A method for adjusting the angle of a bicycle seat, the method comprising:*

- a) selecting a bicycle seat;*
- b) selecting a clamp assembly for holding the bicycle seat;*
- c) selecting a seat post for attachment to the clamp assembly;*
- d) attaching the clamp assembly to the seat post so that rotating of the clamp assembly in a first direction prevents tilting of the clamp assembly with respect to the seat post, and so that rotation of the clamp assembly in a second direction, opposite the first direction, permits tilting of the clamp assembly with respect to the seat post;*
- e) attaching the bicycle seat to the clamp assembly such that tilting of the clamp assembly with respect to the seat post changes the angle of the bicycle seat; and*
- f) rotating the clamp assembly in the second direction with respect to the seat post and tilting the clamp assembly with respect to the seat post to move the bicycle seat to a desired position.*

56. *The method of claim 55, wherein the method further comprises rotating the clamp assembly relative to the seat post in the first direction to hold the bicycle seat at the desired angle.*

57. *A seat post attachment apparatus for attaching a bicycle seat to a seat post, the apparatus comprising:*

- a tiltable clamp assembly having first and second clamping members for holding a bicycle seat;*
- an elongate seat post having a cavity formed therein for receiving the tiltable clamp assembly and for selectively holding the clamp assembly so as to prevent tilting of the clamp assembly when the clamp assembly is forcefully held against the seat post;*

moveable collar means disposed about the seat post for selectively securing the tiltable clamp assembly within the cavity, forcefully against the seat post, so as to prevent tilting of the clamp assembly.

* * * * *