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(54) **BAG RACK AND DISPENSING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PACKAGING AND DISPENSING ITEMS**

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B65D 33/06	(2006.01)
B65D 33/16	(2006.01)
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See application file for complete search history.

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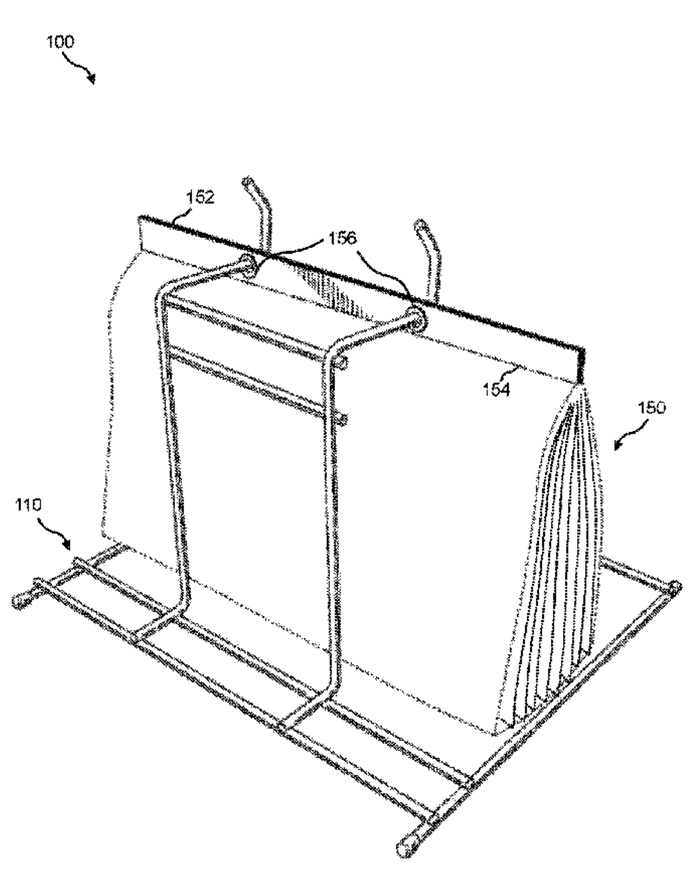
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A bag rack and dispensing system and method of packaging and dispensing items, such as food. The bag rack and dispensing system includes a rack that is formed of a base assembly and a hanger assembly on which multiple storage bags can be hung. A method of using the bag rack and dispensing system for packaging and dispensing food items includes, but is not limited to, the steps of hanging the storage bags on the rack of the bag rack and dispensing system, opening the frontmost storage bag, holding open or propping open the storage bag using a hooking device, placing the food item(s) or any other types of item(s) into the storage bag, removing the hooking device, if used, closing the storage bag, and removing the filled storage bag from the rack of the bag rack and dispensing system.

18 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets



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B65B 5/04	(2006.01)

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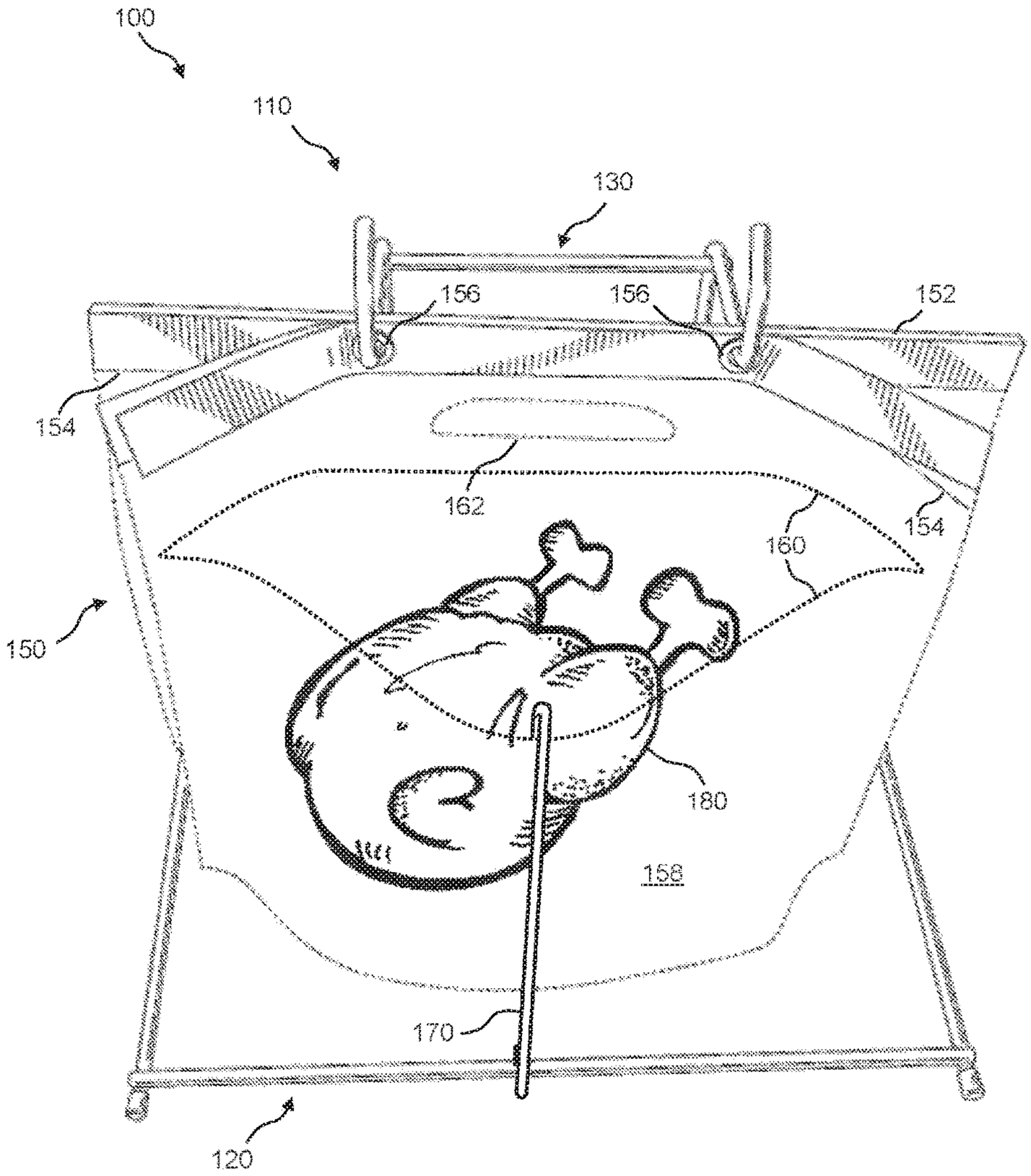

FIG. 1

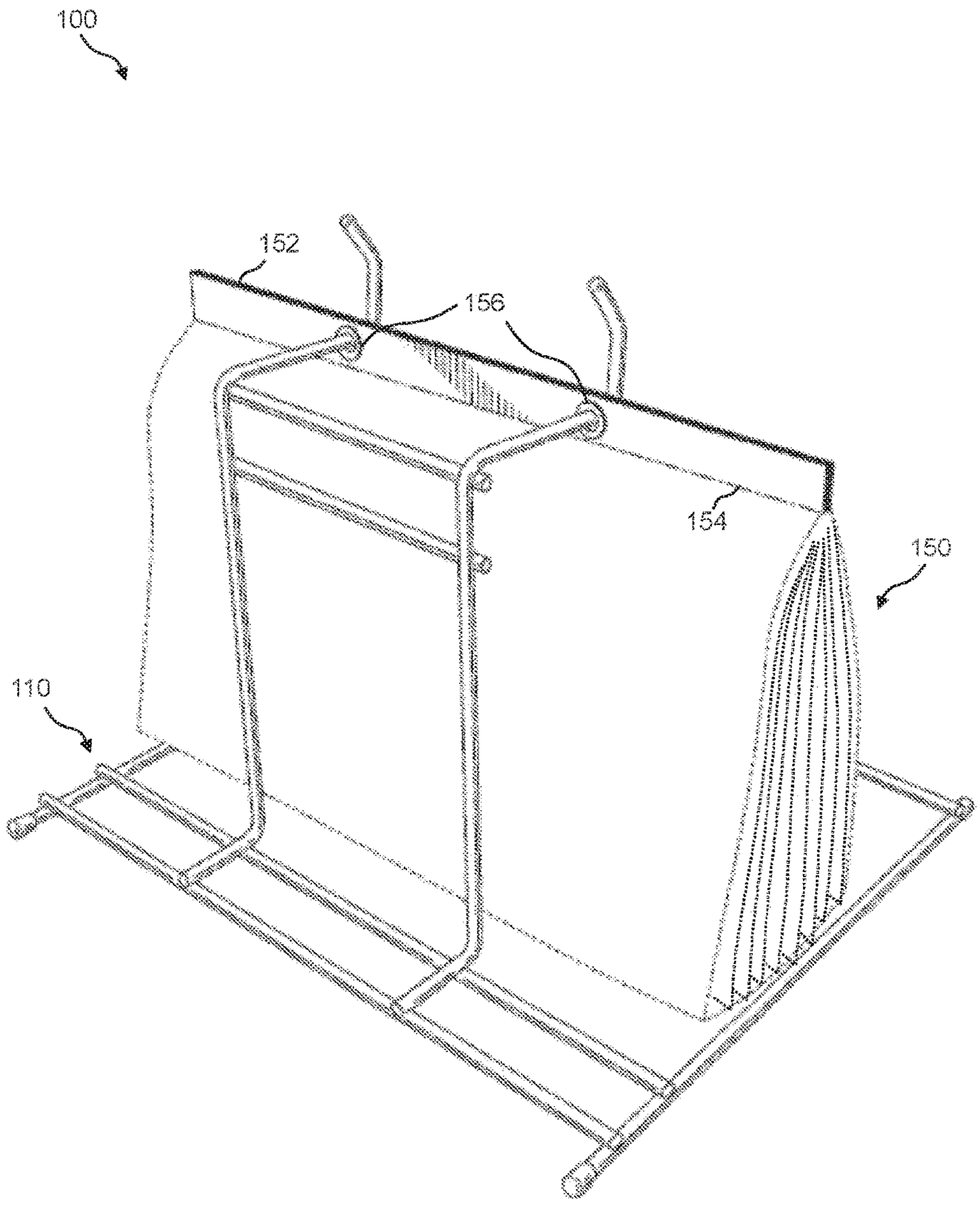

FIG. 2

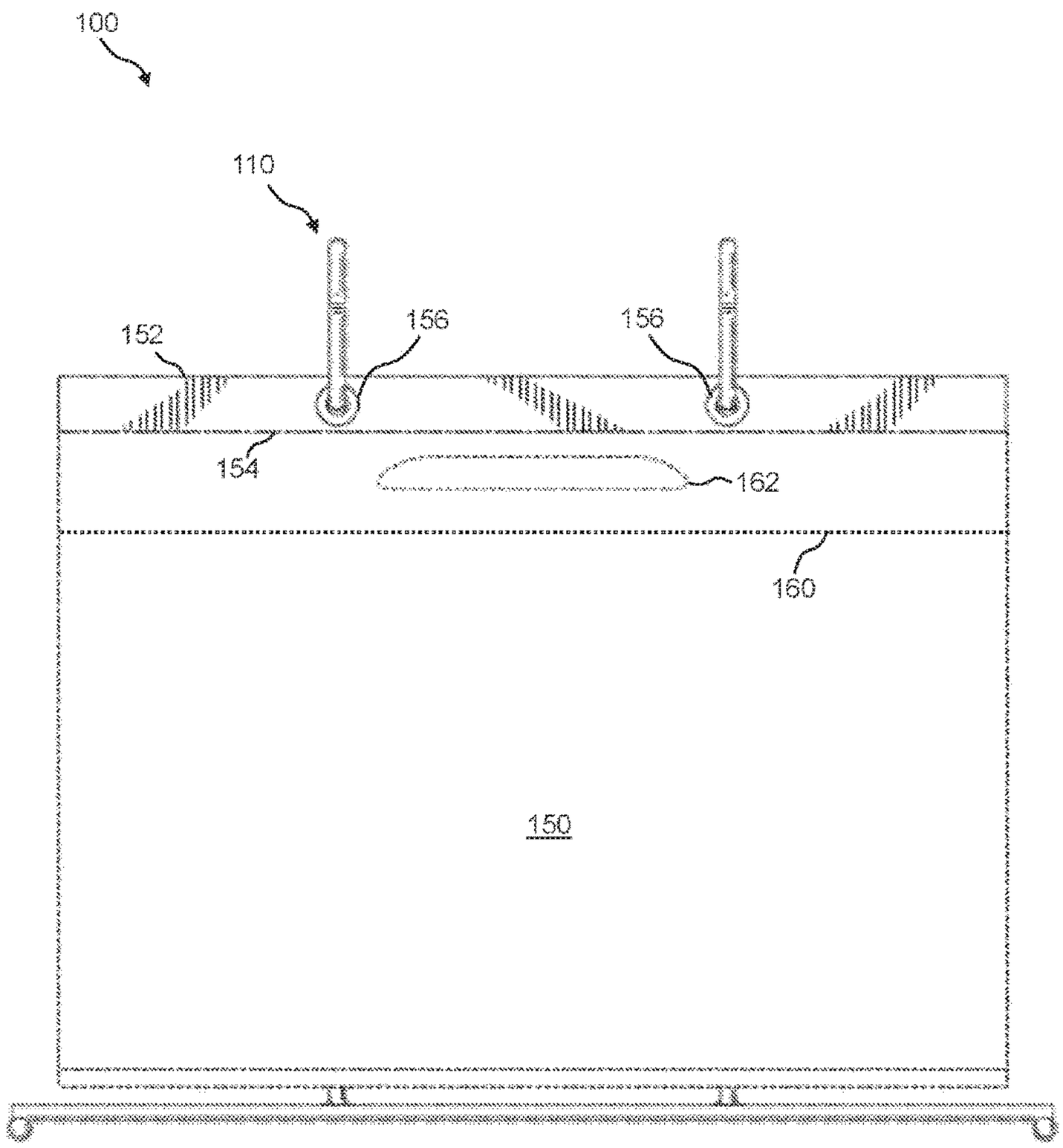

FIG. 3

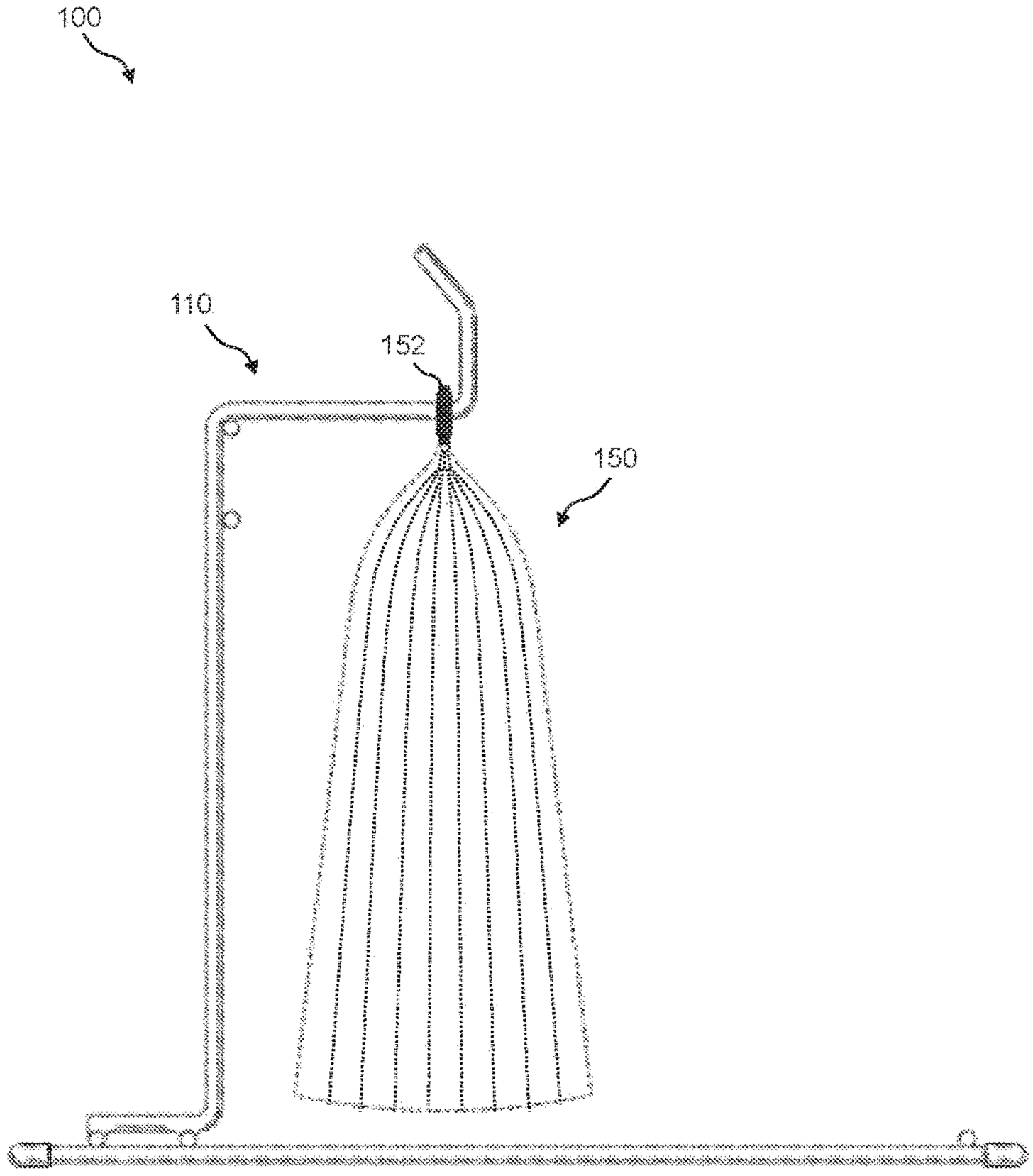

FIG. 4

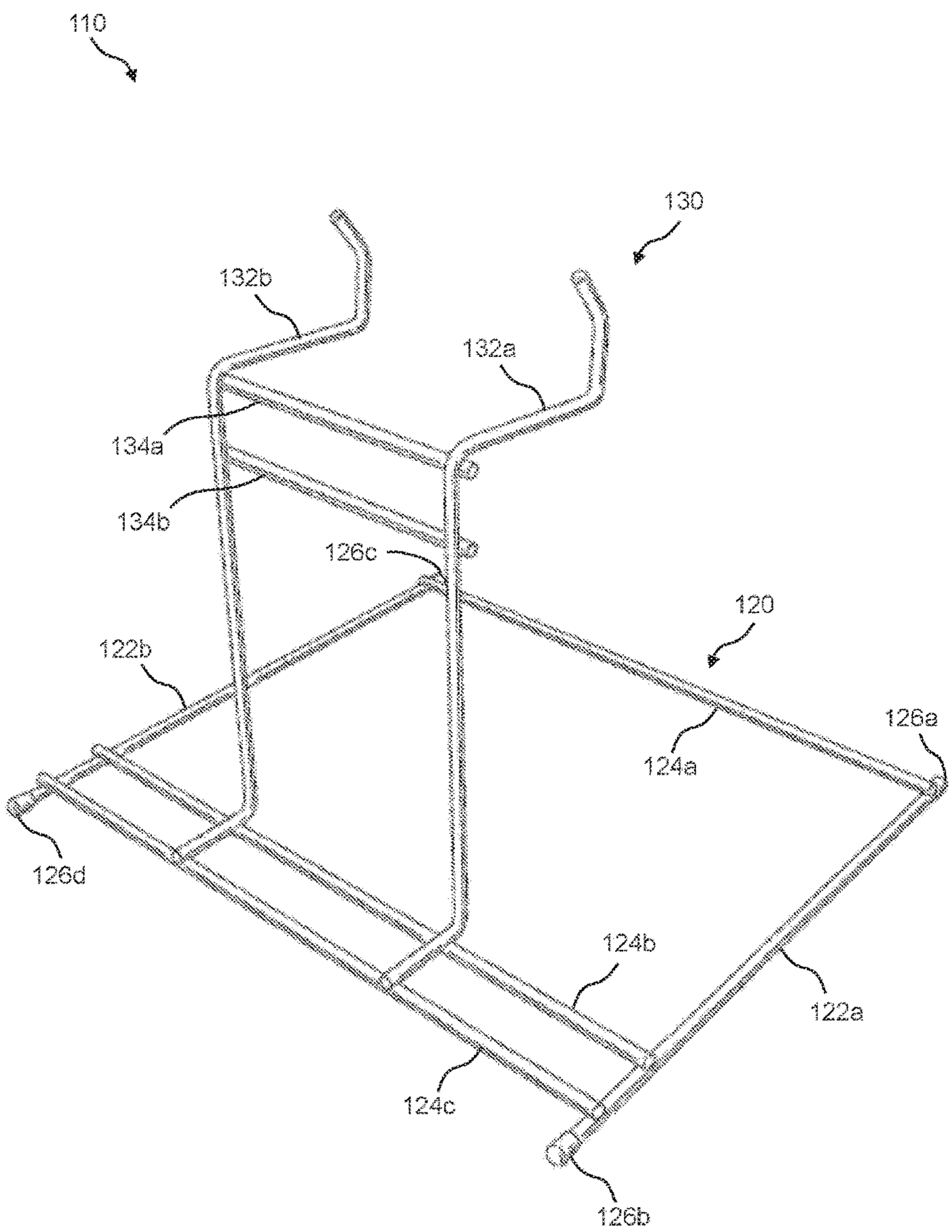
110
130
132b
132a
134a
134b
126c
120
122b
126a
124a
126d
124b
122a
124c
126b

FIG. 5

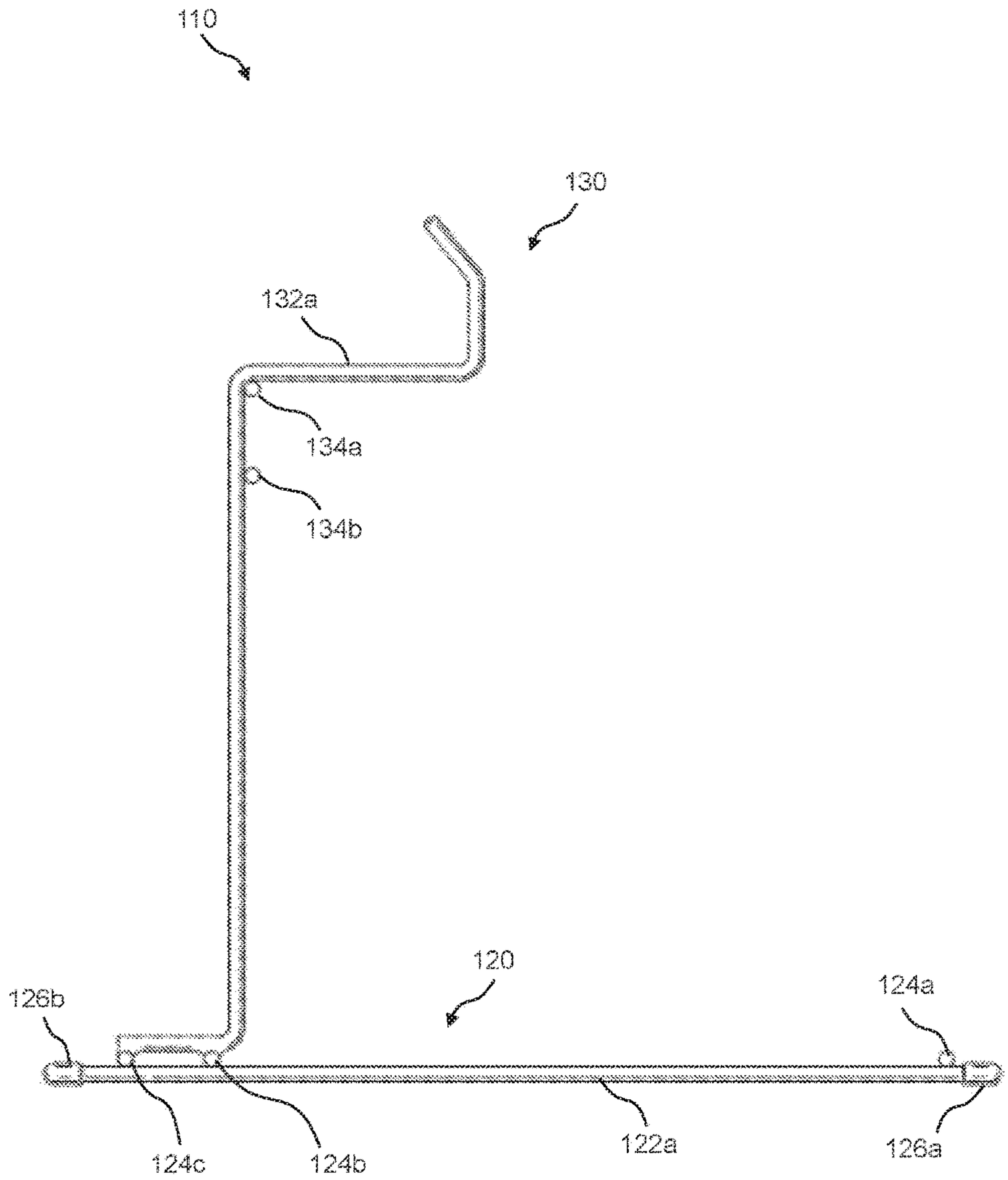

FIG. 6

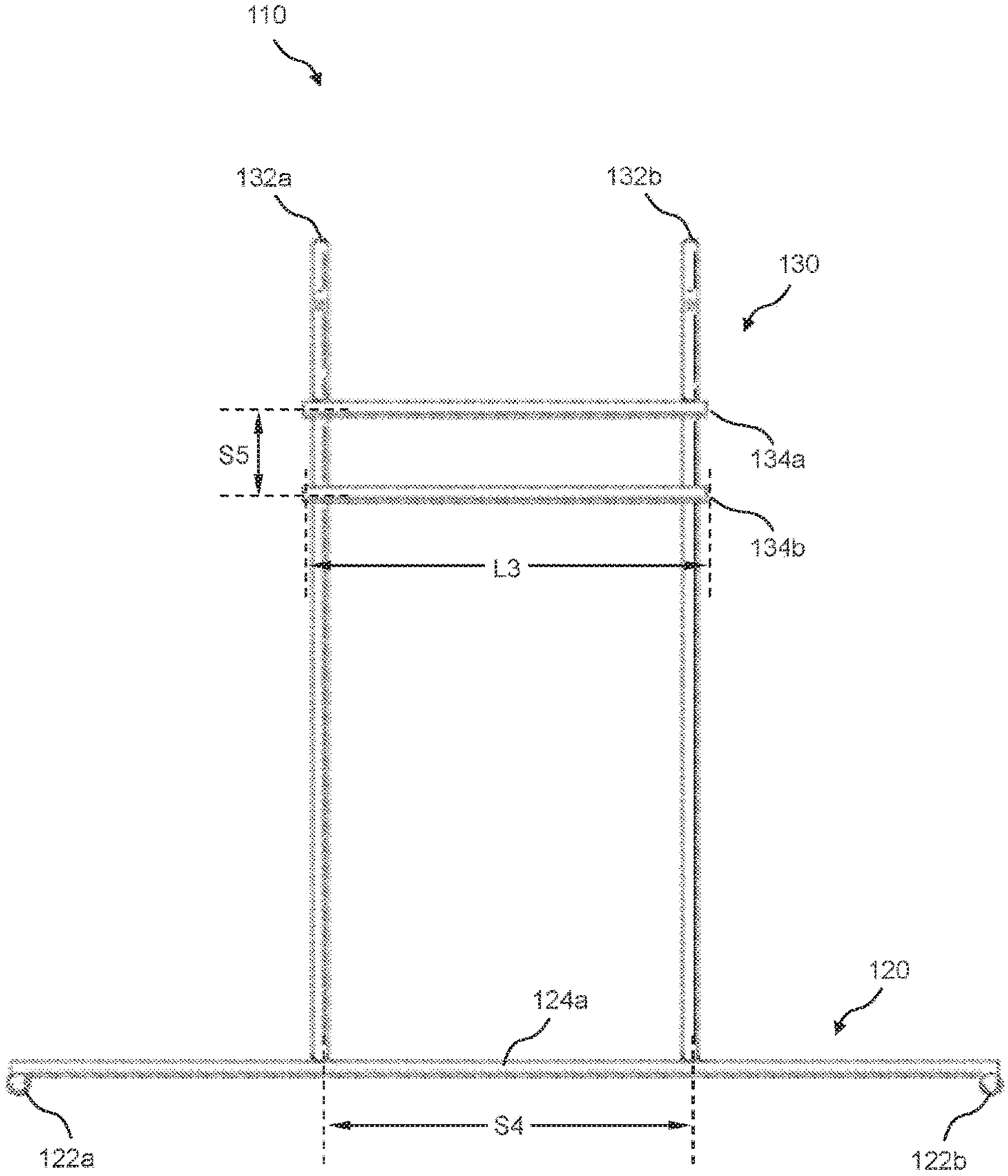

FIG. 7

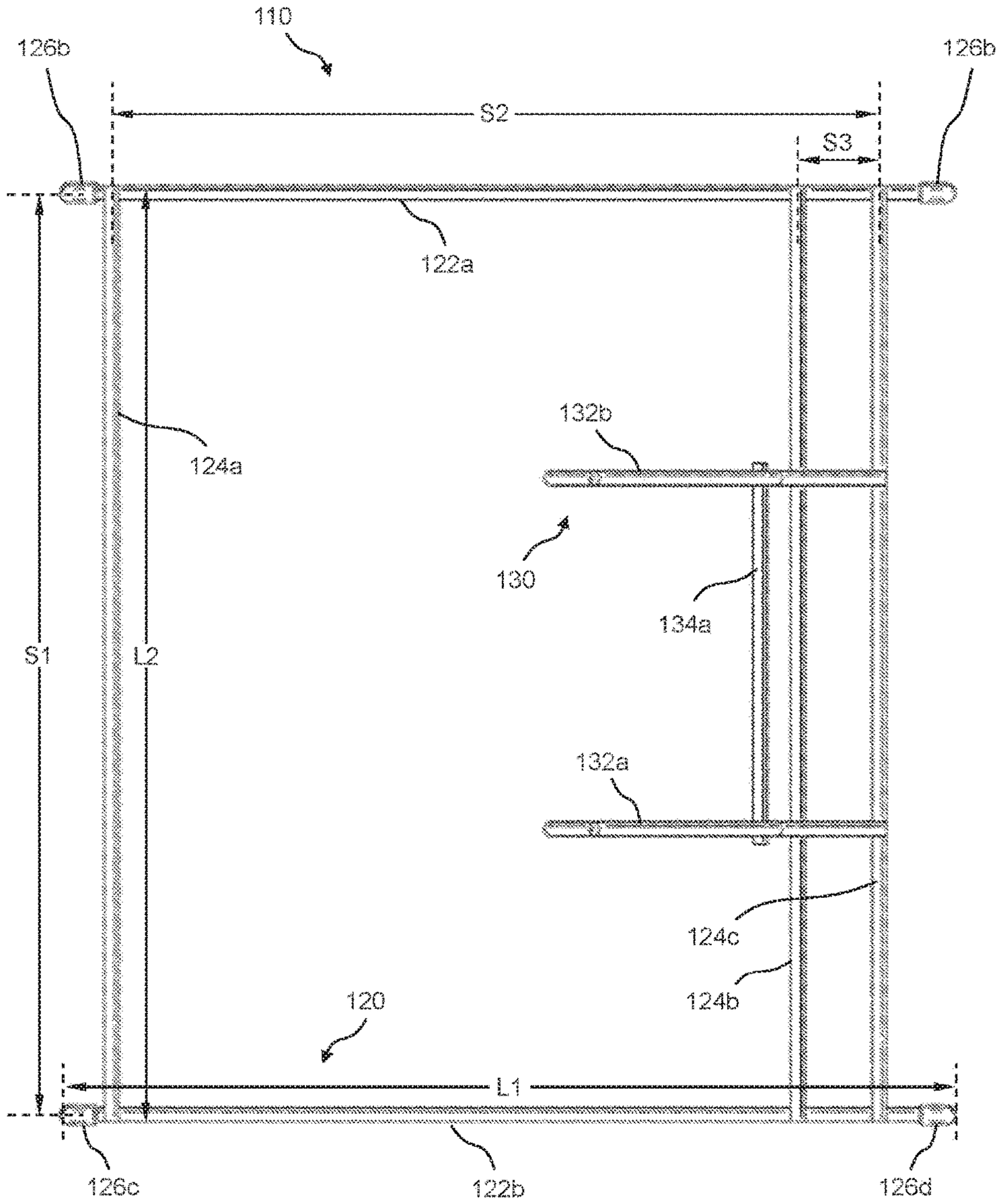
110
126b
126b
S2
S3
122a
124a
132b
130
134a
S1
L2
132a
124c
124b
120
L1
126c
122b
126d

FIG. 8

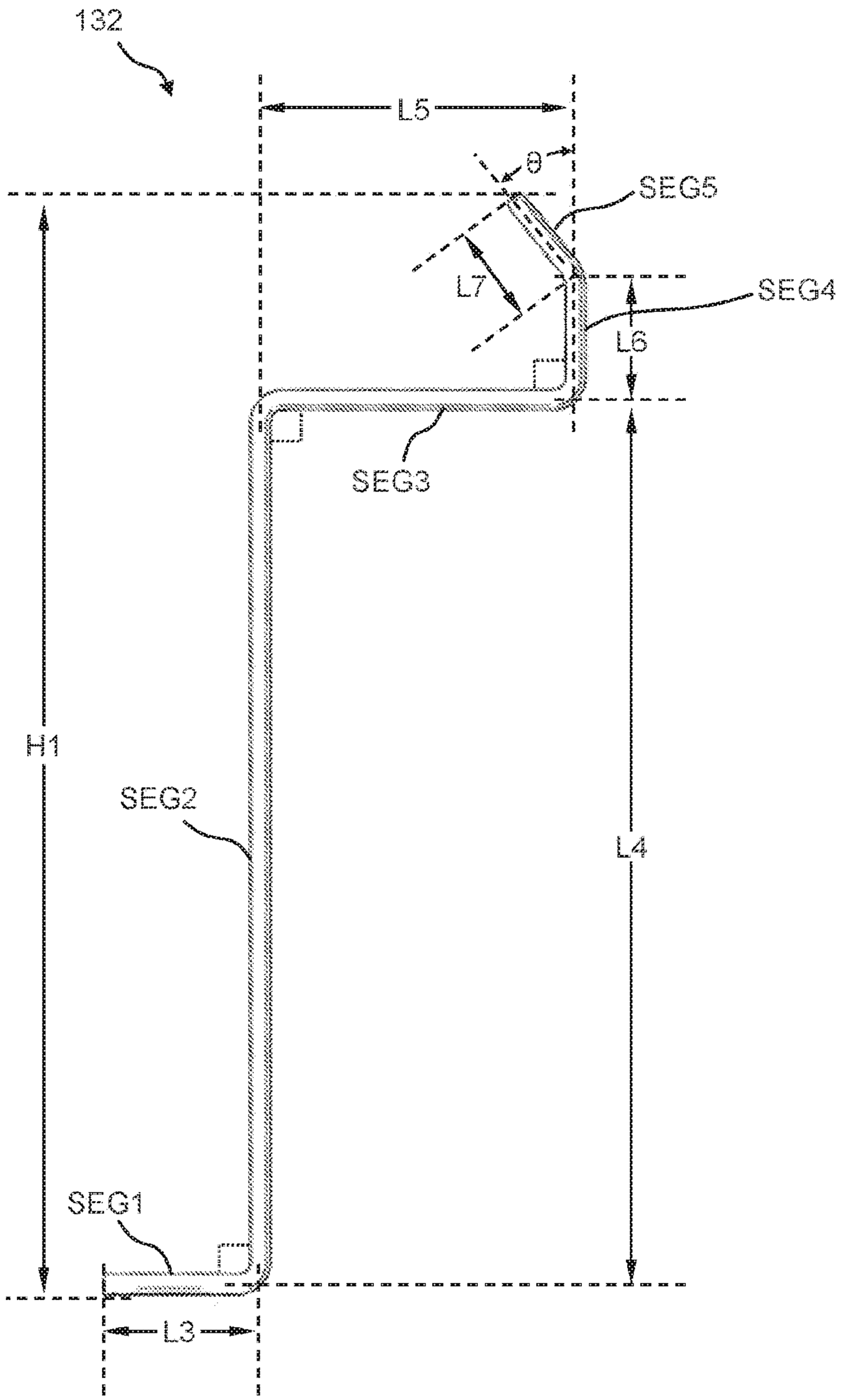

FIG. 9

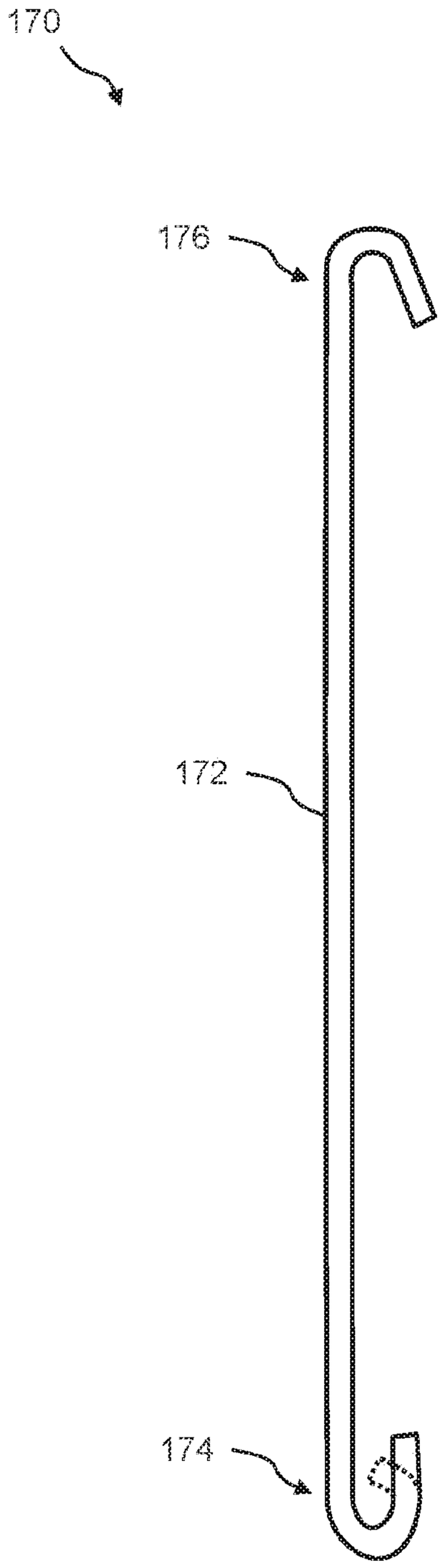

FIG. 10

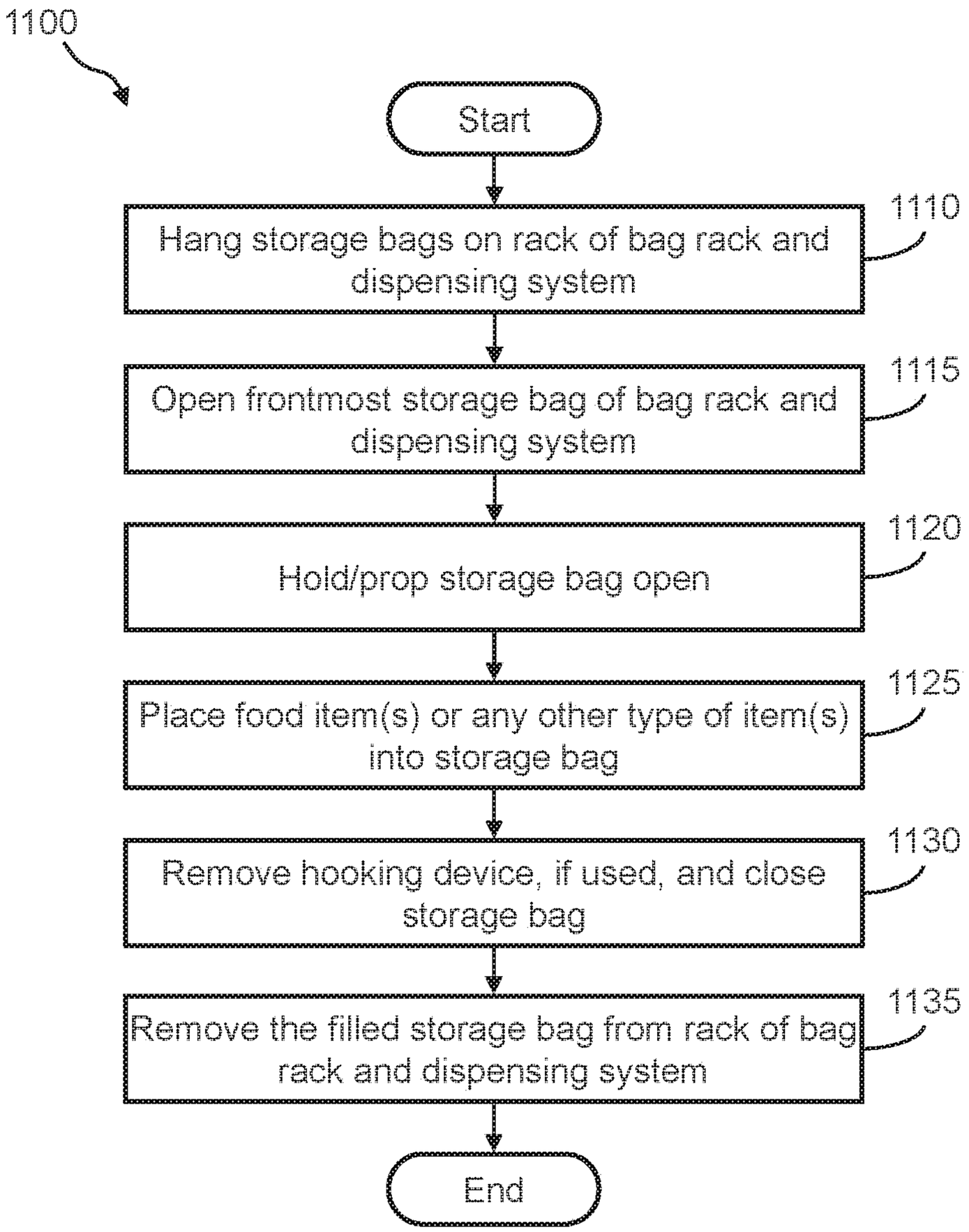
1100
Start
Hang storage bags on rack of bag rack and dispensing system
1110
Open frontmost storage bag of bag rack and dispensing system
1115
Hold/prop storage bag open
1120
Place food item(s) or any other type of item(s) into storage bag
1125
Remove hooking device, if used, and close storage bag
1130
Remove the filled storage bag from rack of bag rack and dispensing system
1135
End

FIG. 11

BAG RACK AND DISPENSING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PACKAGING AND DISPENSING ITEMS

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; a claim printed with strikethrough indicates that the claim was canceled, disclaimed, or held invalid by a prior post-patent action or proceeding.

RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation of and claims priority to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/870,258, entitled "Bag Rack and Dispensing System and Method for Packaging and Dispensing Items," filed on Apr. 25, 2013 the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates generally to packaging and more particularly to a bag rack and dispensing system and method for packaging and dispensing food items.

BACKGROUND

In, for example, a grocery or food deli application in which food is preprocessed, precooked, or otherwise prepared sale, there may be certain inefficiencies in packaging the prepared food items. For example, for a somewhat large food item, such as a precooked rotisserie chicken, it may be difficult for one person to hold open a storage bag and at the same time load the food item into the bag. Consequently, it may require two people to package the food item; namely, one person to hold open the storage bag while another person places the food item in the bag. Therefore, more efficient approaches are needed packaging food items that are preprocessed, precooked, or otherwise prepared sale.

SUMMARY

In one aspect a bag rack and dispensing system is provided. The bag rack and dispensing system may include a rack, the rack may include, a base assembly and a hanger assembly mounted to the base assembly; and a plurality of storage bags removably engaged with the hanger assembly. The system may further include a hooking device, wherein the hooking device may include a bar with a hook formed at one or both ends thereof and configured to assist in holding open at least one of the plurality of storage bags. The hooking device may be coupled to the base assembly, in either a permanent or removable fashion. The base assembly may include side bars and crossbars and the side bars and crossbars may be arranged to form a substantially boxed-shaped structure. The side bars may be arranged substantially parallel with one another and the crossbars may be arranged substantially parallel with one another and the side bars may be arranged substantially perpendicular with the crossbars. The base assembly may include two side bars and three crossbars, wherein the three crossbars may span a distance spaced between the two side bars. The one or more of the crossbars may be arranged to support the hanger assembly, wherein the hanger assembly may be affixed to one or more of the crossbars. The hanger assembly may include hanger bars and one or more hanger crossbars. The hanger bars may be arranged substantially parallel with one another. The two or more hanger bars each may include a multi-segmented rod. One segment at a proximal end of each of the hanger bars may be configured to engage with the base assembly to support the hanger bars thereon, and wherein another segment at a distil end of each of the hanger bars may be configured to engage with the plurality of storage bags to support the plurality of storage bags thereon. The plurality of storage bags may include a top portion and a detachable bottom portion, wherein the top portion may include an engagement mechanism for engaging with the hanger assembly, and the detachable bottom portion may include a storage pouch and a resealable opening providing access to the storage pouch. The engagement mechanism for engaging with the hanger assembly may include holes for engaging hanger bars of the hanger assembly. The bottom portion may be detachable from the top portion by a perforation spanning a bottom edge of the top portion. The storage bags may further include a handle. The plurality of storage bags may be bound together at the top portion. The plurality of storage bags may be bound together at the top portion via grommets. The plurality of storage bags may be configured to store food items.

In another aspect a method of packaging and dispensing items, using a bag rack dispensing system is provided. The method may include, hanging a plurality of storage bags on a rack, the rack comprising, a base assembly and a hanger assembly; opening a frontmost storage bag of the plurality of storage bags via a resealable opening; holding open a front edge of the resealable opening at the frontmost storage bag; placing an item to be stored into the opened frontmost storage bag; resealing the resealable opening of the frontmost storage bag with the item placed therein; and removing the frontmost storage back from the plurality of storage bags and the rack.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The features and advantages of the present invention will be more clearly understood from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. **1** illustrates a front perspective view of an example of a bag rack and dispensing system;

FIG. **2**, FIG. **3**, and FIG. **4** illustrate a rear perspective view, a front view, and a side view, respectively, of the bag rack and dispensing system;

FIG. **5**, FIG. **6**, FIG. **7**, and FIG. **8** illustrate a rear perspective view, a side view, a front view, and a top down view, respectively, of a rack of the bag rack and dispensing system;

FIG. **9** illustrates a side view of the hanger bar portion of the rack of the bag rack and dispensing system;

FIG. **10** illustrates a side view of a hooking device of the bag rack and dispensing system; and

FIG. **11** illustrates a flow diagram of an example of a method of using the bag rack and dispensing system.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A bag rack and dispensing system and method for packaging and dispensing items, such as food, is provided. The bag rack and dispensing system includes a rack for holding multiple storage bags in preparation for packaging items, such as food, therein. Namely, in using the bag rack and dispensing system, the storage frontmost bag can be held open in a manner that is convenient of packing food items

therein. Once packed, the frontmost storage bag is sealed and then easily removed from the rack, exposing the next storage bag to be packed. Further, the bag rack and dispensing system allows the storage bag to be easily packed by one person, whereas conventional methods may require one person to hold open the storage bag while a second person places the food items in the bag.

While the bag rack and dispensing system and method are described herein below in the context of packaging food items, the invention is not limited to packaging food items only. The bag rack and dispensing system and method can be used for packaging any types of items.

FIG. **1**, FIG. **2**, FIG. **3**, and FIG. **4** illustrate a front perspective view, a rear perspective view, a front view, and a side view, respectively, of a bag rack and dispensing system **100** for packaging and dispensing food items. In this example, bag rack and dispensing system **100** includes a rack **110** that is formed of a base assembly **120** and a hanger assembly **130** . Namely, hanger assembly **130** is mounted atop base assembly **120** . More details of rack **110** are described with reference to FIG. **5** through FIG. **9**. Bag rack and dispensing system **100** may also include a set of storage bags **150** that can be hung on hanger assembly **130** of rack **110** in preparation for packaging food items therein. Storage bags **150** may, for example, be plastic resealable storage bags.

In one example, multiple storage bags **150** may be provided as a single unit in a bound fashion. For example, the top portion **152** of multiple storage bags **150** may be gathered together and bound via grommets **156**. A perforation **154** is provided in each of the storage bags at a bottom edge of top portion **152**, which allows each of the storage bags **150** to be removed from top portion **152** individually. Top portion **152** may include, for example, two holes that are reinforced with grommets **156**, wherein grommets **156** of top portion **152** can be slid onto hanger assembly **130** of rack **110**, as shown.

Each of the storage bags **150** includes a storage pouch **158** for holding, for example, food items. A resealable opening **160** in each of the storage bags **150** provides access to storage pouch **158**. In one example, resealable opening **160** is a Ziploc® type of resealable opening. By way of example, FIG. **1** shows a food item **180** (e.g., a rotisserie chicken) inside storage pouch **158** of the frontmost storage bag **150**. Each of the storage bags **150** also may include a carry handle **162** for carrying storage bag **150** once torn away from top portion **152** and removed from bag rack and dispensing system **100**.

Bag rack and dispensing system **100** may optionally include a hooking device **170** for holding the frontmost storage bag **150** open in a manner that is convenient of packing food items therein. More details of hooking device **170** are described with reference to FIG. **10**. Once packed, hooking device **170** is removed from the frontmost storage bag **150**. Then, the frontmost storage bag **150** is sealed and easily removed from hanger assembly **130** of rack **110**, exposing the next storage bag **150** to be packed. Base assembly **120** of rack **110** is designed to safely balance storage bags **150** during the packaging process.

The physical size of rack **110** of bag rack and dispensing system **100** can be scaled to handle storage bags **150** of any capacity (by volume or weight). In one example, rack **110** can be sized to handle 2-quart capacity storage bags **150**. In another example, rack **110** can be sized to handle 1-gallon capacity storage bags **150**, and so on. Additionally, the size of hooking device **170** can be scaled accordingly.

FIG. **5** through FIG. **8** show more details of rack **110** of bag rack and dispensing system **100** shown in FIG. **1** through FIG. **4**. Namely, FIG. **5** illustrates a rear perspective view of rack **110**, FIG. **6** illustrates a side view of rack **110**, FIG. **7** illustrates a front view of rack **110**, and FIG. **8** illustrates a top down view of rack **110**.

Referring to FIG. **5** through FIG. **8**, base assembly **120** of rack **110** includes a pair of side bars **122** and multiple crossbars **124**. For example, base assembly **120** includes a side bar **122**a and a side bar **122**b, which are arranged substantially parallel to each other. Spanning side bars **122**a and **122**b are, for example, three crossbars **124** (e.g., crossbars **124**a, **124**b, and **124**c), as shown. In particular, the combination of side bars **122**a and **122**b and crossbars **124**a and **124**c form a substantially boxed-shaped base assembly **120**. Crossbar **124**b is preferably provided in combination with crossbar **124**c for support of hanger assembly **130**. Namely, hanger assembly **130** may be affixed to crossbars **124**b and **124**c, as shown. Referring to FIG. **8**, side bars **122**a and **122**b have an on-center spacing S**1**, crossbars **124**a and **124**c have an on-center spacing S**2** , and crossbars **124**b and **124**c have an on-center spacing S**2** . Additionally, side bars **122** have a length L**1** and crossbars **124** have a length L**2**.

Further, a set of plastic or rubber caps **126** may be installed on the ends of side bars **122**. For example, caps **126**a and **126**b may be installed on the ends of side bar **122**a. Caps **126**c and **126**d may be installed on the ends of side bar **122**b. The caps **126** are provided for aesthetic purposes, as well as to protect the user from any roughness at the ends of side bars **122**.

Hanger assembly **130** of rack **110** is arranged substantially orthogonal with respect to base assembly **120** of rack **110**, as shown. Referring again to FIG. **5** through FIG. **8**, hanger assembly **130** of rack **110** includes a pair of hanger bars **132** and one or more hanger crossbars **134**. For example, hanger assembly **130** may include a hanger bar **132**a and a hanger bar **132**b, which may be arranged substantially parallel to each other. Spanning hanger bars **132**a and **132**b may, for example, be two hanger crossbars **134** (e.g., hanger crossbars **134**a and **134**b), as shown. Referring to FIG. **7**, hanger bars **132**a and **132**b have an on-center spacing S**4** and hanger crossbars **134**a and **134**c have an on-center spacing S**5** . Additionally, hanger crossbars **134** have a length L**3**.

Side bars **122** and crossbars **124** of base assembly **120**, as well as hanger bars **132** and hanger crossbars **134** of hanger assembly **130** are preferably rigid rods that can be formed of any material that is suitably strong to support storage bags **150** and any content thereof. The cross-sectional diameters of the rods can vary depending on the material. In one example, side bars **122** and crossbars **124** of base assembly **120** and hanger bars **132** and hanger crossbars **134** of hanger assembly **130** may be metal rods, such as stainless steel or aluminum rods. In another example, side bars **122** and crossbars **124** of base assembly **120** and hanger bars **132** and hanger crossbars **134** of hanger assembly **130** may be plastic rods.

More details of hanger bars **132** are now described with reference to FIG. **9**, which illustrates a side view of one hanger bar **132** of hanger assembly **130** of rack **110**. For example, each hanger bar **132** is a rod that may include multiple segments, for example, five segments. Namely, each hanger bar **132** may be formed, in order, of segments SEG**1**, SEG**2**, SEG**3**, SEG**4**, and SEG**5**. For example, segment SEG**1** may be designed to be mounted across and upon crossbars **124**b and **124**c of base assembly **120** of rack **110**. Segment SEG**1** has a length L**3** . Next, segment SEG**2** continues substantially orthogonal from one end of segment

SEG1, as shown. Segment SEG2 has a length L4 . Next, segment SEG3 continues substantially orthogonal from the other end of segment SEG2, as shown. Segment SEG3 is substantially parallel to segment SEG1. Segment SEG3 has a length L5. Next, segment SEG4 continues substantially orthogonal from the other end of segment SEG3, as shown. Segment SEG4 is substantially parallel to segment SEG2. Segment SEG4 has a length L6 . Next, segment SEG5 continues at an angle θ from the other end of segment SEG4, as shown. Segment SEG5 has a length L7. Additionally, each hanger bar **132** has an overall height H1. While the above example is illustrated as having five segments, it is contemplated that each hanger bar **132** may have more or less segments, and the above is just an example of one embodiment.

In rack **110**, segments SEG1 of hanger bars **132**a and **132**b of hanger assembly **130** are affixed to crossbars **124**b and **124**c of base assembly **120**. For example, hanger assembly **130** can be affixed to base assembly **120** via welding, adhesive (e.g., epoxy adhesive), or other suitable means.

Further and referring now to FIG. **1** through FIG. **9**, side bars **122** and crossbars **124** of base assembly **120** of rack **110**, as well as hanger bars **132** and hanger crossbars **134** of hanger assembly **130** of rack **110** have a cross-sectional diameter D1. The cross-sectional diameter D1 of all of these components can be the same or can be different. Further, the cross-sectional diameter D1 can vary depending on the type of material of which side bars **122** and crossbars **124** of base assembly **120** and hanger bars **132** and hanger crossbars **134** of hanger assembly **130** are formed.

FIG. **10** illustrates a side view of optional hooking device **170** of bag rack and dispensing system **100**. Hooking device **170** is preferably a bar with hooks on one or both ends. Hooking device **170** can be formed, for example, of metal, plastic, or other suitable material. For example, hooking device **170** includes a bar **172** that has a hook **174** at one end and a hook **176** at the opposite end, as shown. Bar **172** may have a cross-sectional diameter D2. Hook **174** of hooking device **170** is designed to engage crossbar **124**a of base assembly **120** of rack **110** , while hook **176** is designed to hook onto the edge of resealable opening **160** of storage bags **150**, as shown in FIG. **1**. Hook **174** may be formed by bending bar **172** back on itself. In one example, hook **174** is open enough to engage with crossbar **124**a when in use, and then disengage from crossbar **124**a when not in use. In another example, hook **174** wraps around crossbar **124**a in a manner that hooking device **170** is permanently coupled to crossbar **124**a in a sliding (side-to-side) and pivoting fashion. The inside bend radius of hook **174** is slightly greater than cross-sectional diameter D1 of crossbar **124**a. Hook **176** may be formed by bending bar **172** back on itself. Hook **176** is preferably set at an angle sufficient for easily engaging with the edge of resealable opening **160** of a storage bag **150**.

Table 1 below shows example specifications of rack **110** of bag rack and dispensing system **100**. Note the dimensions listed in Table 1 below are non-limiting examples only, and other dimensions are contemplated and within the scope of the invention.

Specification	Example
Spacing S1 of side bars 122a and 122b	in the range of about 13 inches
Spacing S2 of crossbars 124a and 124c	in the range of about 10¾ inches
Spacing S3 of crossbars 124b and 124c	in the range of about 1¼ inches
Spacing S4 of hanger bars 132a and 132b	in the range of about 5 inches
Spacing S5 of hanger crossbars 134a and 134c	in the range of about 1 inch
Length L1 of side bars 122	in the range of about 12½ inches
Length L2 of crossbars 124	in the range of about 13¼ inches
Length L3 of segment SEG1 of hanger bar 132	in the range of about 2 inches
Length L4 of segment SEG2 of hanger bar 132	in the range of about 9 inches
Length 15 of segment SEQ3 of hanger bar 132	in the range of about 3¼ inches
Length L6 of segment SEG4 of hanger bar 132	in the range of about 1 inch
Length L7 of segment SEG5 of hanger bar 132	in the range of about 1 inch
Height H1 of segment SEQ5 of hanger bar 132	in the range of about 10¾ inches
Angle θ of hanger bar 132	in the range of about 45° degrees
Cross-sectional diameter D1	in the range of about ¼ inches

FIG. **11** illustrates a flow diagram of an example of a method **1100** of using bag rack and dispensing system **100** for packaging and dispensing food items. Method **1100** includes, but is not limited to, the following steps.

At a step **1110**, one or more storage bags **150** are hung on rack **110** of bag rack and dispensing system **100**. For example, one or more storage bags **150** are hung on rack **110** of bag rack and dispensing system **100** by sliding the grommets **156** onto the hanger bars **132** of hanger assembly **130** of rack **110**.

At a step **1115**, the frontmost storage bag **150** of bag rack and dispensing system **100** is opened. For example, the user opens resealable opening **160** of the frontmost storage bag **150**.

At a step **1120**, the storage bag **150** is held open by hand or propped open using hooking device **170**. For example, hook **174** of hooking device **170** is engaged with crossbar **124**a. Then, the edge of resealable opening **160** is pulled forward and hook **176** is engaged with the front edge of resealable opening **160**, as shown in FIG. **1**.

At a step **1125**, food item(s) or any other types of item(s) are placed into storage bag **150**. The placement of the item(s) into storage bag **150** is made easy because by pulling the edge of resealable opening **160** forward the design of rack **110**, in particular the location of the holes with grommets **156** and hanger bars **132**, the outer edges of top portion **152** are allowed to bend forward as the edge of resealable opening **160** is pulled forward, allowing for a wider opening and greater access to storage pouch **158** of storage bags **150**, thus making loading storage bag **150** easier and more efficient. Loading storage bag **150** may also be facilitated by holding the resealable opening **160** wide open via optional hooking device **170**.

At a step **1130**, if used, hooking device **170** may be removed from engagement with resealable opening **160** of storage bag **150**. Then, resealable opening **160** of storage bag **150** is closed, thereby securing the contents of storage bag **150**.

At a step **1135**, the filled storage bag **150** is removed from rack **110** of bag, rack and dispensing system **100**. Namely, via perforation **154** in the filled storage bag **150**, the user

tears the filled storage bag **150** away from top portion **152**. In so doing, the filled storage bag **150** is removed from rack **110**.

Referring again to FIG. **1** through FIG. **11**, an example application for using bag rack and dispensing system **100** and method **1100** is a grocery store deli or any food deli. For example, in the grocery store deli, multiple rotisserie chickens are being cooked and prepared for sale. In this example, multiple bag rack and dispensing systems **100** may be set up with the frontmost storage bag **150** propped open in a similar manner as described in step **1120** of method **1100**. Once the multiple rotisserie chickens are finished cooking, one at a time, the cooked rotisserie chickens can be dropped or placed into the storage bags **150** of successive bag rack and dispensing systems **100**. The storage bags **150** are then closed and removed from rack **110** and the rotisserie chickens (in the storage bags **150**) are placed on display for sale. During the next cooking cycle, the multiple bag rack and dispensing systems **100** can be readied for filling another set of storage bags **150**. Further, bag rack and dispensing system **100** and method **1100** allow the storage bags **150** to be easily packed by one person, whereas conventional methods may require one person to hold open the storage bag while a second person places the food items in the bag.

The foregoing detailed description of embodiments refers to the accompanying drawings, which illustrate specific embodiments of the invention. Other embodiments having different structures and operations do not depart from the scope of the present invention. The term "the invention" or the like is used with reference to certain specific examples of the many alternative aspects or embodiments of the applicant's invention set forth in this specification, and neither its use nor its absence is intended to limit the scope of the applicant's invention or the scope of the claims. This specification is divided into sections for the convenience of the reader only. Headings should not be construed as limiting of the scope of the invention. It will be understood that various details of the present invention may be changed without departing from the scope of the present invention. Furthermore, the foregoing description is for the purpose of illustration only, and not for the purpose of limitation, as the present invention is defined by the claims as set forth hereinafter. The various dimensions and measurements referred to herein and the drawings are merely exemplarily and should not limit the present invention, as varying dimensions and measurements are contemplated by the invention and one of skill in the art would recognize so.

What is claimed is:

1. A bag rack and dispensing system, comprising:

a. a base assembly comprising one or more side bars and one or more crossbars coupled to the side bar, wherein at least one of the one or more crossbars is located at a front portion of the base assembly; and

b. a hanger assembly mounted to the base assembly, the hanger assembly comprising *a pair of opposing* hanger bars*, each of the opposing hanger bars* comprising:

i. a first portion *having a proximal end and a distal end, the first portion* coupled to one or more of the one or more crossbars to support the hanger assembly on the base assembly;

ii. a second portion extending at is proximal end from the *distal end of the* first portion in a generally vertical direction;

iii. a third portion extending at its proximal end from a distal end of the second portion in a generally horizontal direction *and in an opposite direction of that of the proximal end of the first portion*; and

iv. a fourth portion extending at its proximal end from a distal end of the third portion in a generally vertical direction; and

wherein, the *pair of opposing* hanger bars are configured to support a plurality of storage bags in a removable manner thereon*, and wherein the respective first portion, second portion, third portion, and fourth portion of each of the hanger bars are substantially coplanar*.

2. The system of claim **1** further comprising a hooking device, wherein the hooking device comprises a bar having a first end coupled to the at least one of the one or more crossbars located at the front portion of the base assembly and a second end configured to assist in holding open at least one of the plurality of storage bags.

3. The system of claim **2** wherein the bar of the hooking device comprises a hook formed on at least one of the first end and second end.

4. The system of claim **1** wherein the base assembly is configured to form a substantially boxed-shaped structure.

5. The system of claim **4** wherein the side bars are arranged substantially parallel with one another and the crossbars are arranged substantially parallel with one another and wherein the side bars are arranged substantially perpendicular with the crossbars.

6. The system of claim **4** wherein the base assembly comprises two of the side bars and three of the crossbars, wherein the three crossbars span a distance spaced between the two side bars.

7. The system of claim **1** wherein the hanger assembly further comprises one or more hanger crossbars coupled to the hanger bars, wherein the hanger bars are spaced apart a distance substantially equal to a length of the one or more hanger crossbars.

8. The system of claim **1** wherein the hanger bars are arranged substantially parallel with one another.

9. The system of claim **1** wherein the fourth portion of the hanger bars further comprises an angled portion extending from a distal end of the fourth portion.

10. The system of claim **1** further comprising a plurality of storage bags, wherein each of the plurality of storage bags comprise a top portion and a detachable bottom portion, wherein the top portion comprises an engagement mechanism for engaging with the hanger assembly, and the detachable bottom portion comprises a storage pouch.

11. The system of claim **10** wherein the engagement mechanism for engaging with the hanger assembly comprises holes for engaging the hanger bars of the hanger assembly.

12. The system of claim **10** wherein the bottom portion is detachable from the top portion by a perforation spanning a bottom edge of the top portion.

13. The system of claim **10** wherein each of the plurality of storage bags further comprises a handle.

14. The system of claim **10** wherein the plurality of storage bags are bound together at the top portion.

15. The system of claim **14** wherein the plurality of storage bags are bound together at the top portion via grommets.

16. The system of claim **10** wherein the detachable bottom portion further comprises a resealable opening providing access to the storage pouch.

17. The system of claim **[1]** *10* wherein the plurality of storage bags are configured to store food items.

18. A method of packaging and dispensing items, using a bag rack dispensing system, the method comprising:

a. hanging a plurality of storage bags on a bag rack, the bag rack comprising:

i. a base assembly comprising one or more side bars and one or more crossbars configured in a horizontal plane to form a base assembly support structure, wherein at least one of the one or more crossbars is located at a front portion of the base assembly; and

ii. a hanger assembly mounted to the base assembly, the hanger assembly comprising *a pair of opposing* hanger bars, *each of the opposing hanger bars* comprising:

1. a first portion *having a proximal end and a distal end, the first portion* coupled to one or more of the one or more crossbars;
2. a second portion extending at is proximal end from the first portion in a generally vertical direction;
3. a third portion extending at its proximal end from a distal end of the second portion in a generally horizontal direction *and in an opposite direction of that of the proximal end of the first portion*; and
4. a fourth portion extending at its proximal end from a distal end of the third portion in a generally vertical direction; and wherein, the *pair of opposing* hanger **[**assembly is**]** *bars are* configured to support a plurality of storage bags in a removable manner thereon, *and wherein the respective first portion, second portion, third portion, and fourth portion of each of the hanger bars are substantially coplanar*;

b. opening a frontmost storage bag of the plurality of storage bags via a resealable opening;

c. holding open a front edge of the resealable opening of the frontmost storage bag;

d. placing an item to be stored into the opened frontmost storage bag;

e. resealing the resealable opening of the frontmost storage bag with the item placed therein; and

f. removing the frontmost storage back from the plurality of storage bags and the rack.

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