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(54) **STEREOTACTIC DRIVE SYSTEM**

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Lubowitz, "Thermal chondroplasty using the Smith & Nephew Dyonics Glider Articular Cartilage Probe," [https://www.smith-nephew.com/global/surgicaltechniques/sports%20med/dyonics-lider\\_pre-shapedprobe\\_tg\\_10600072a.pdf](https://www.smith-nephew.com/global/surgicaltechniques/sports%20med/dyonics-lider_pre-shapedprobe_tg_10600072a.pdf), Jul. 2006, pp. 1-8.

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(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Fox Rothschild LLP

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CPC ..... **A61B 34/20** (2016.02); **A61B 90/11**  
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None  
See application file for complete search history.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A drive system for controlling movement of an elongate member includes a base unit having a first rotatable knob and a second rotatable knob, a follower assembly including a follower slidably coupled to a guide rail, a longitudinal movement wire, and a rotational movement wire. The follower includes a longitudinal movement pulley, a rotational movement pulley, and an alignment element structured to receive an elongate member such that the elongate member is attachable thereto. The longitudinal movement wire operably couples the first rotatable knob to the longitudinal movement pulley such that rotation of the first knob drives the follower in a longitudinal direction along the guide rail. The rotational movement wire operably couples the second rotatable knob to the rotational movement pulley such that rotation of the second knob rotates the alignment element and attached elongate member.

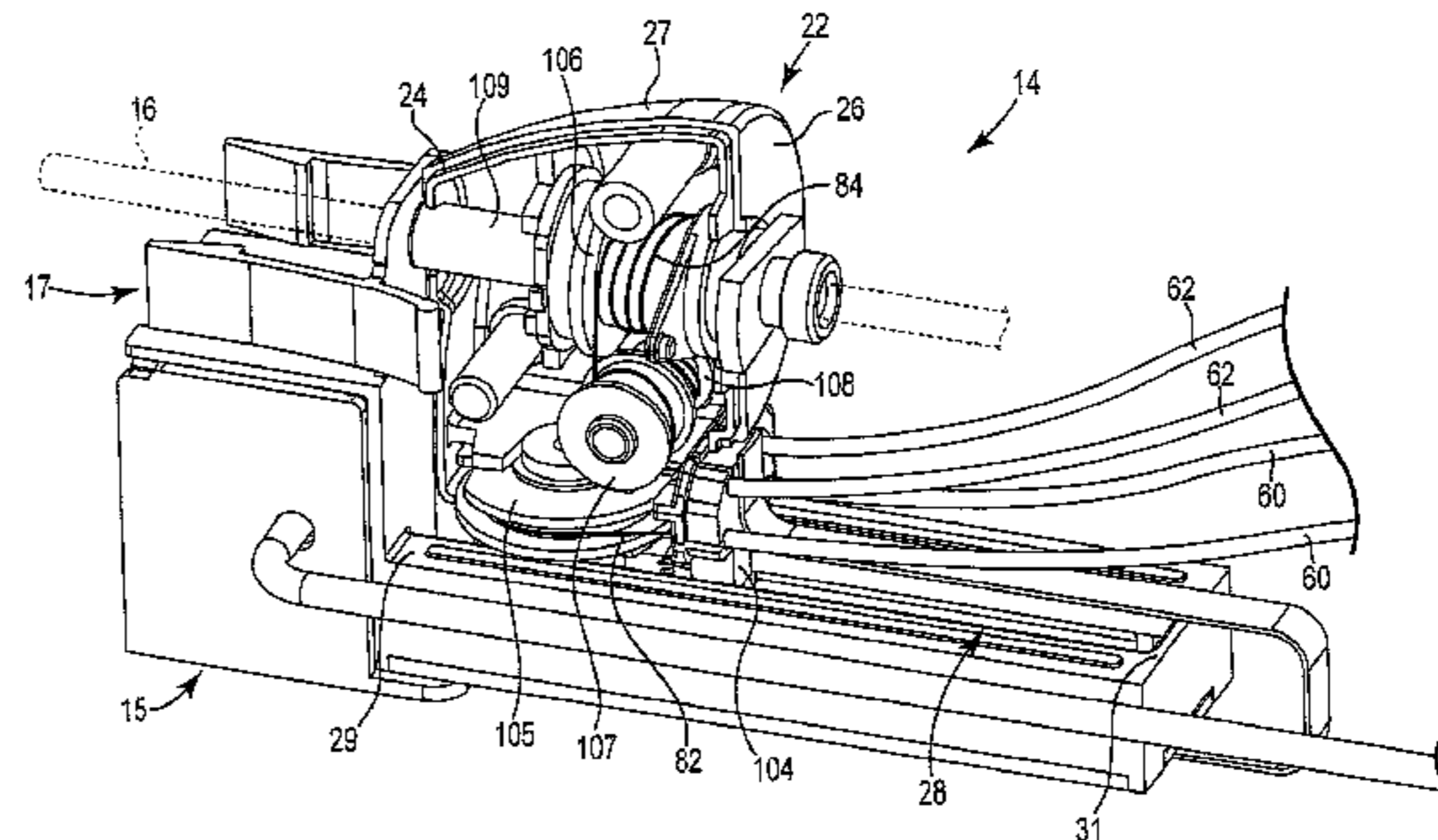
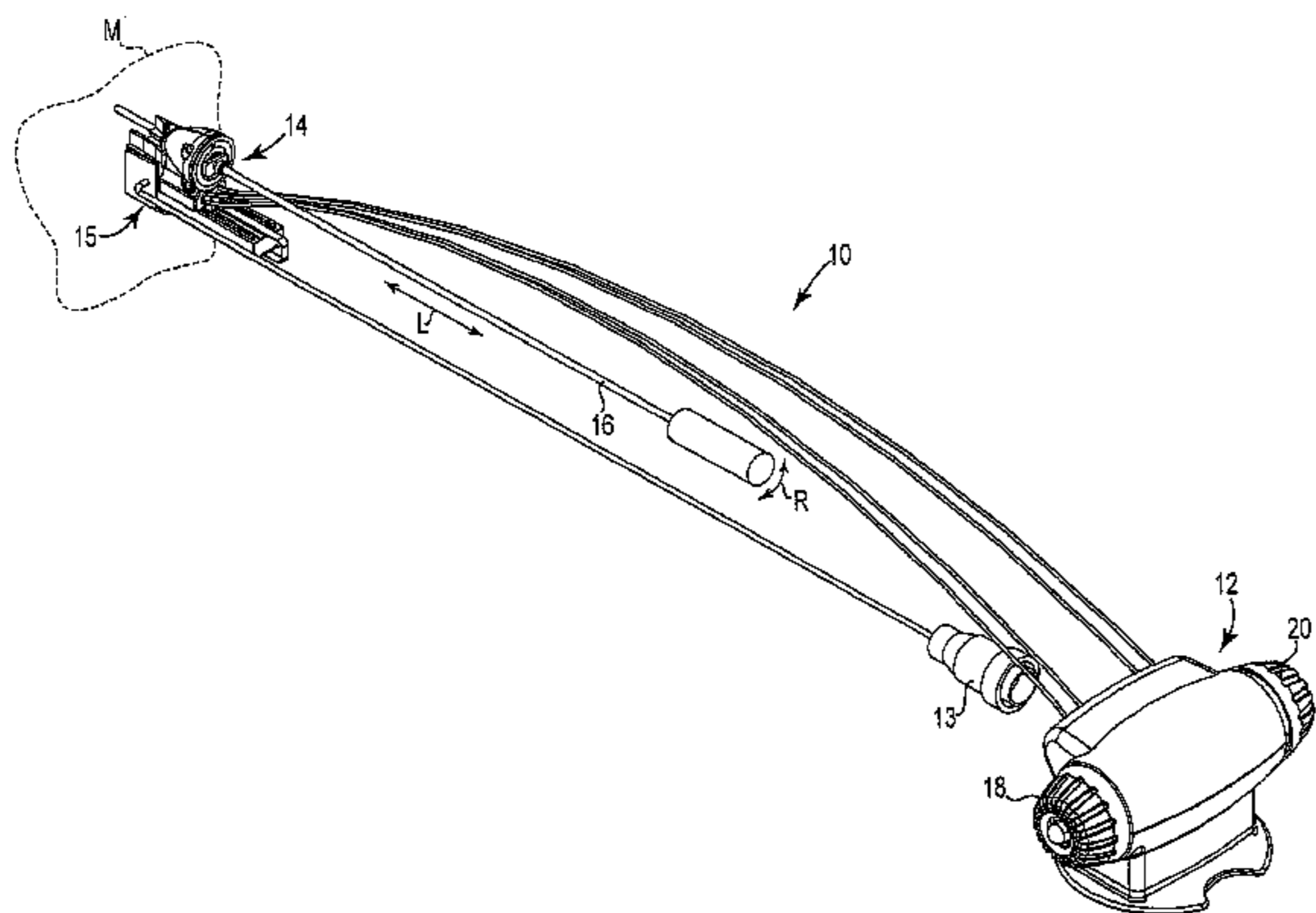
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**27 Claims, 15 Drawing Sheets**



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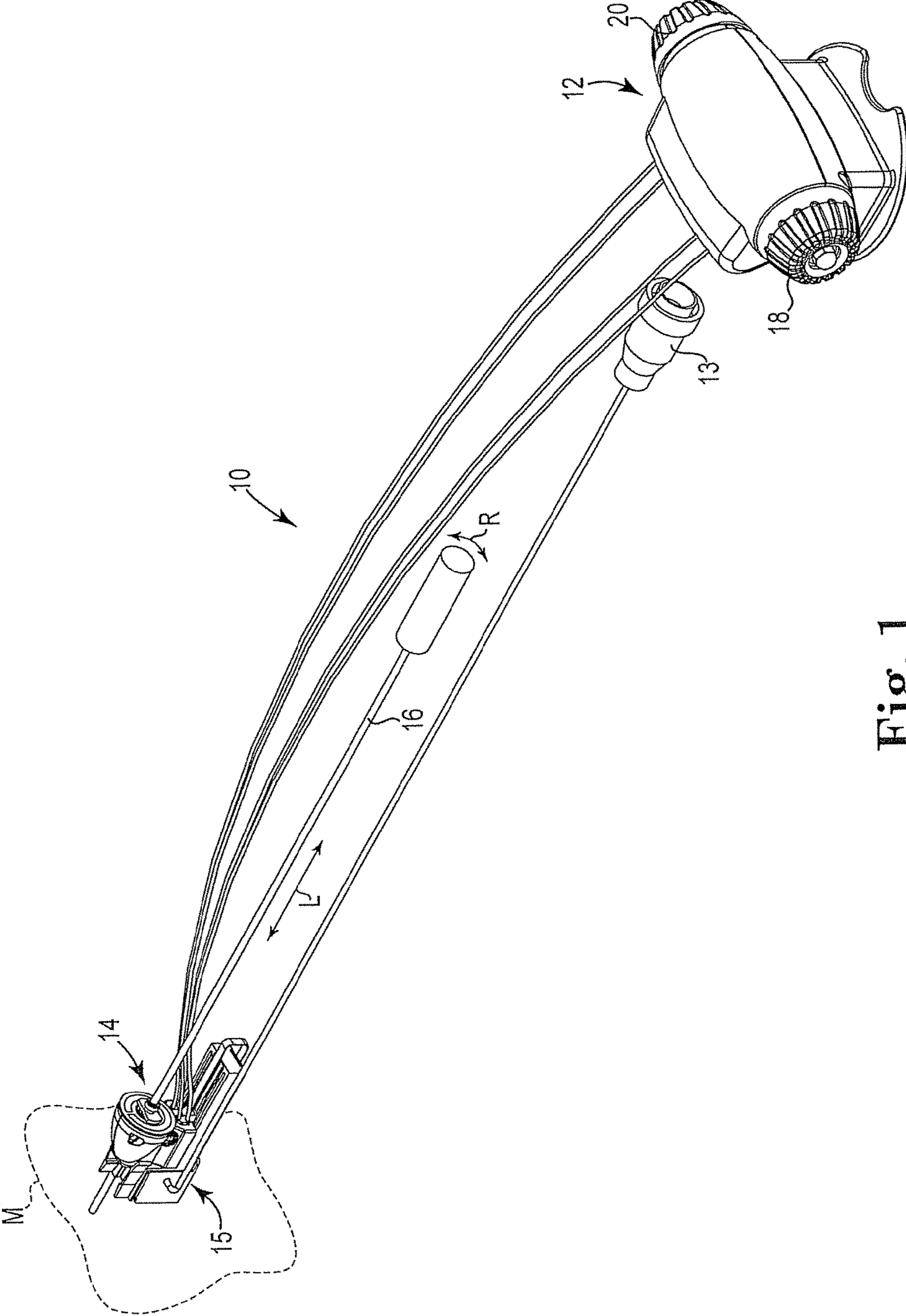


Fig. 1

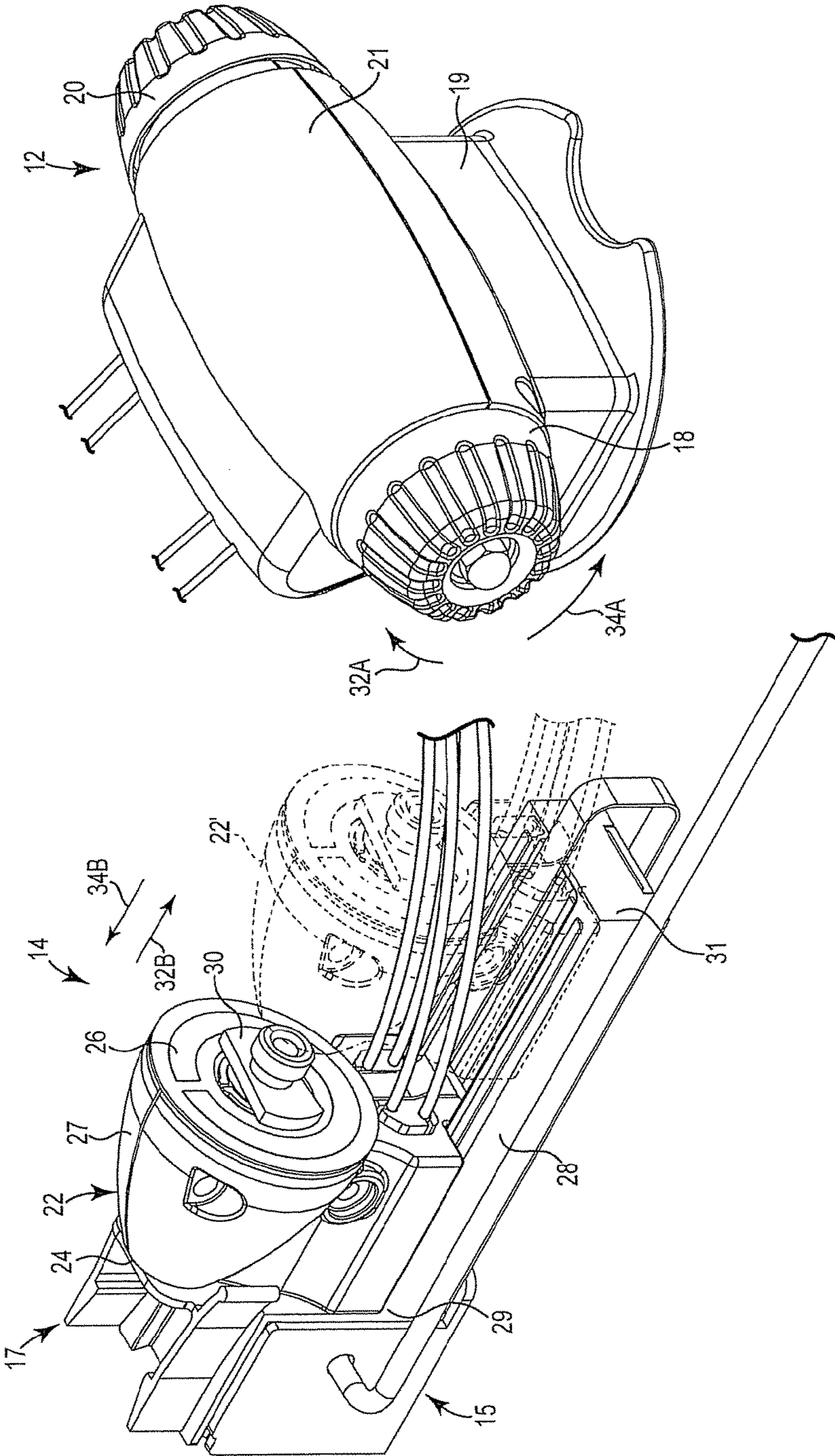
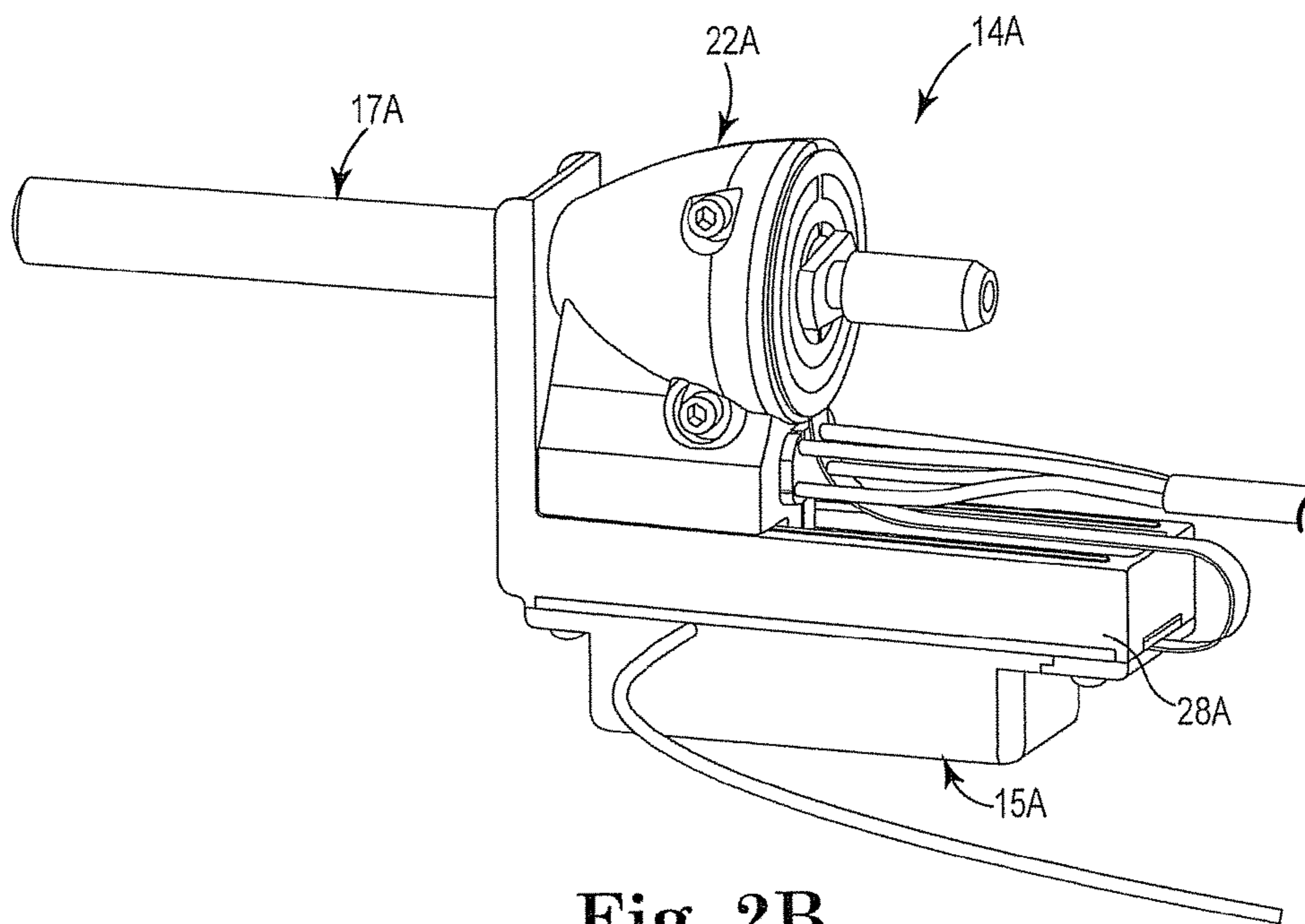


Fig. 2A



**Fig. 2B**

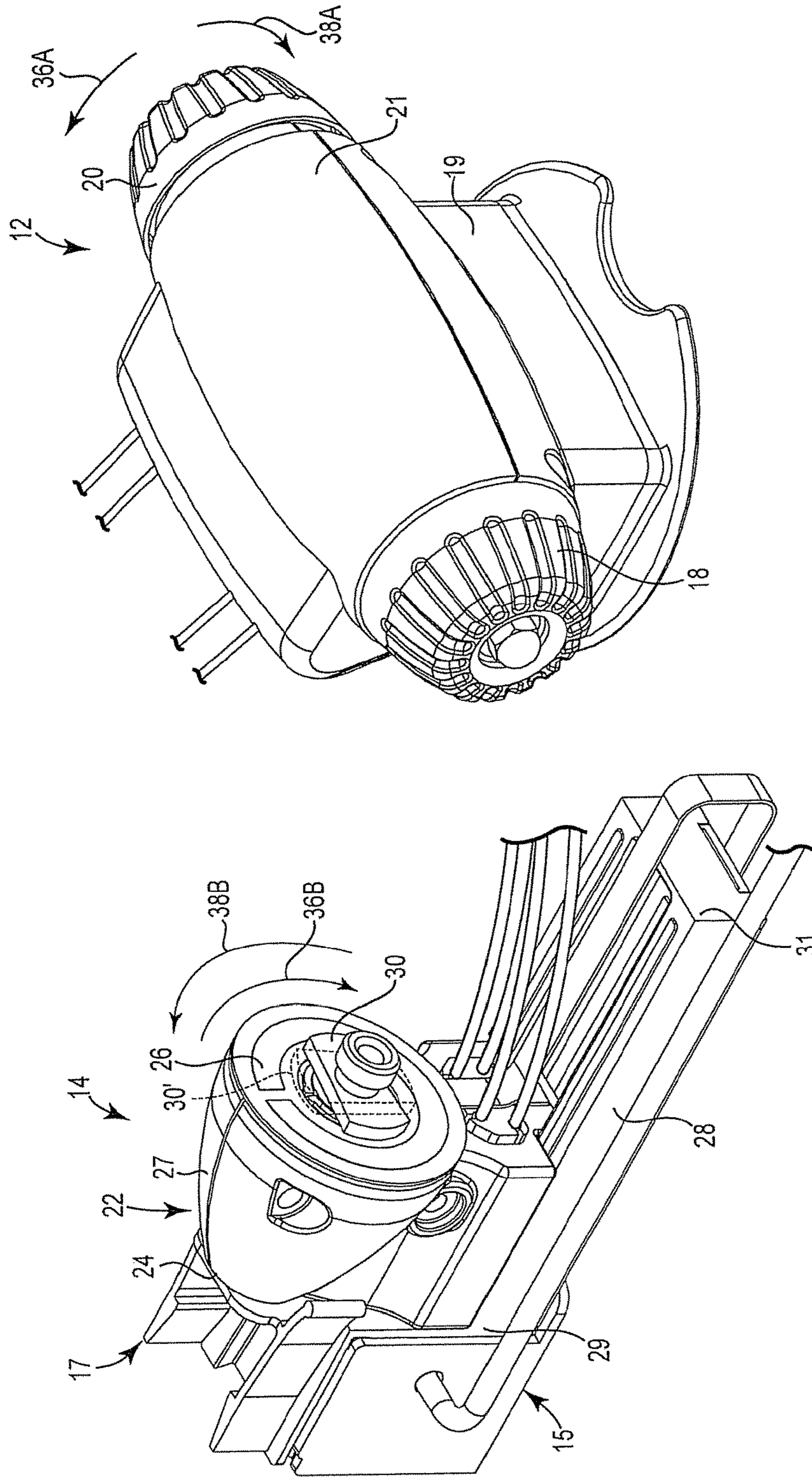


Fig. 3



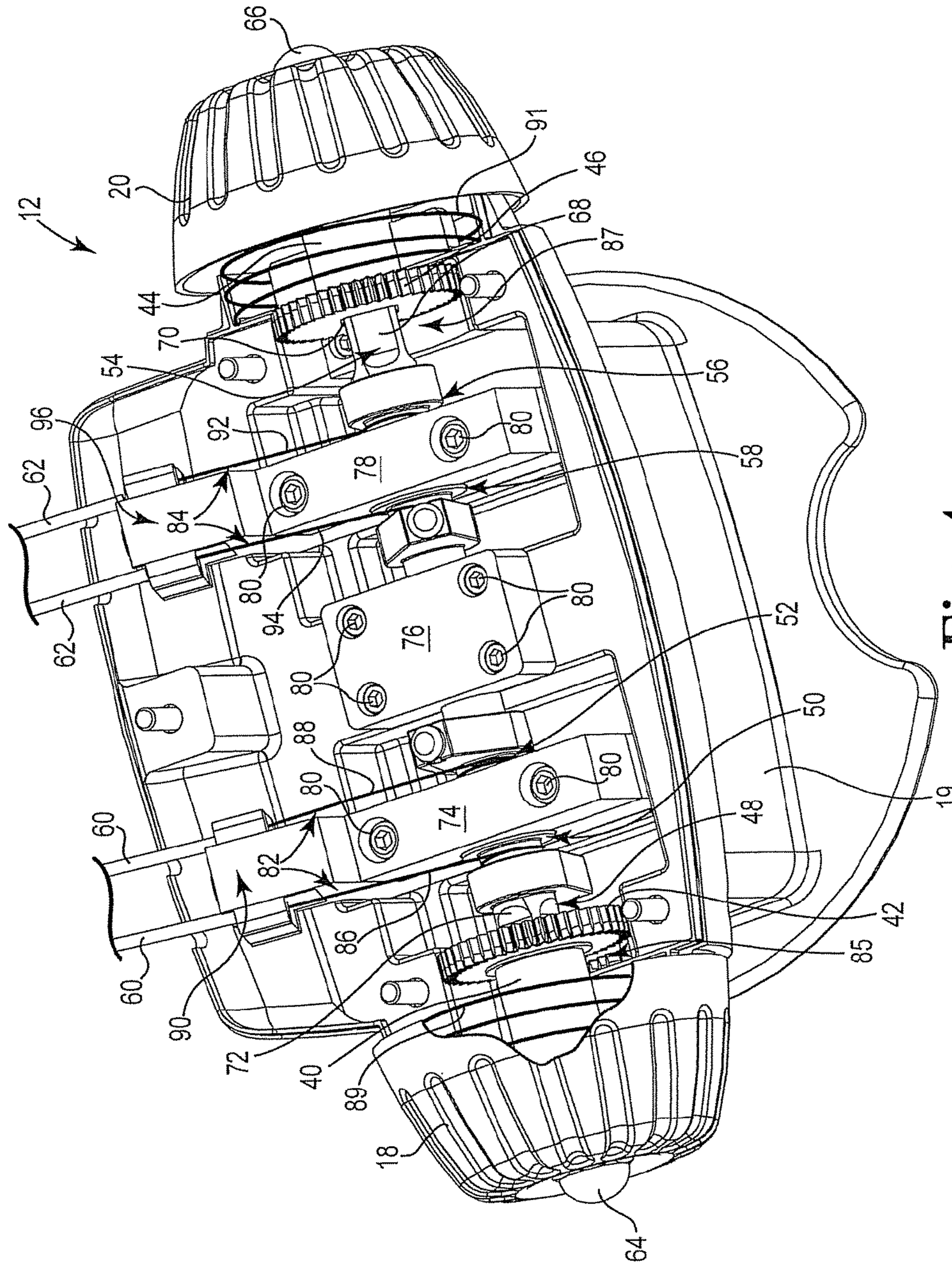


Fig. 4

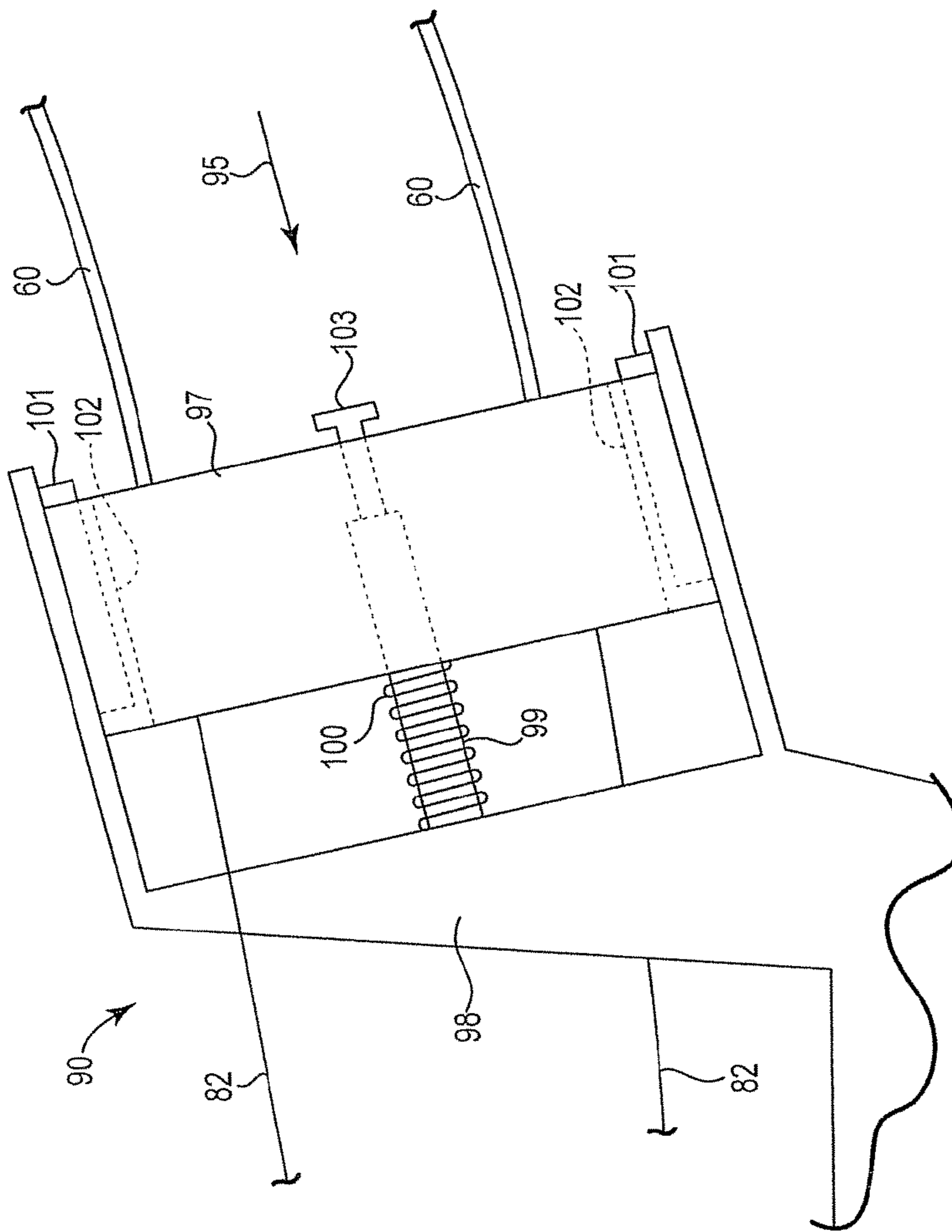


Fig. 5

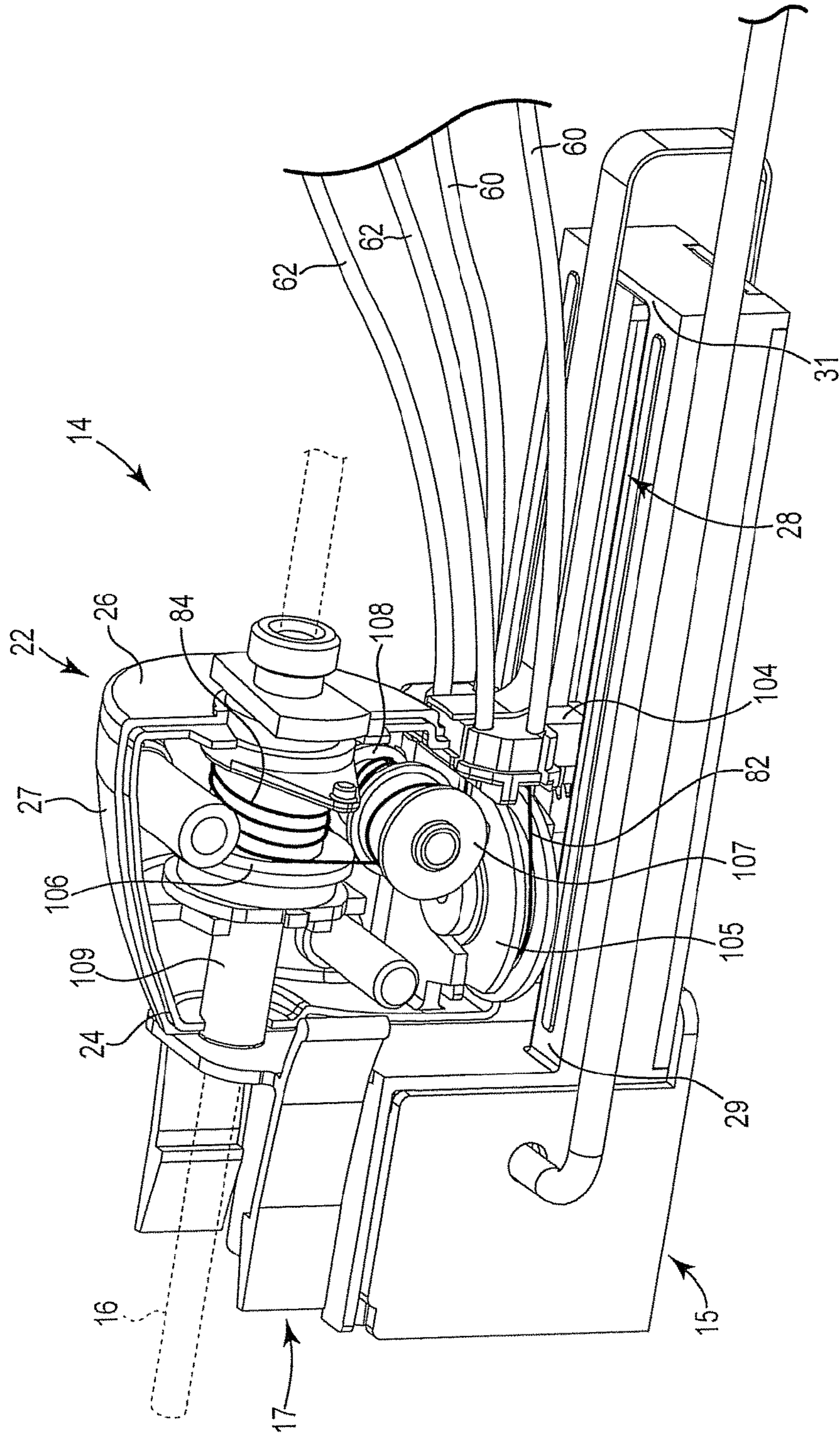


Fig. 6

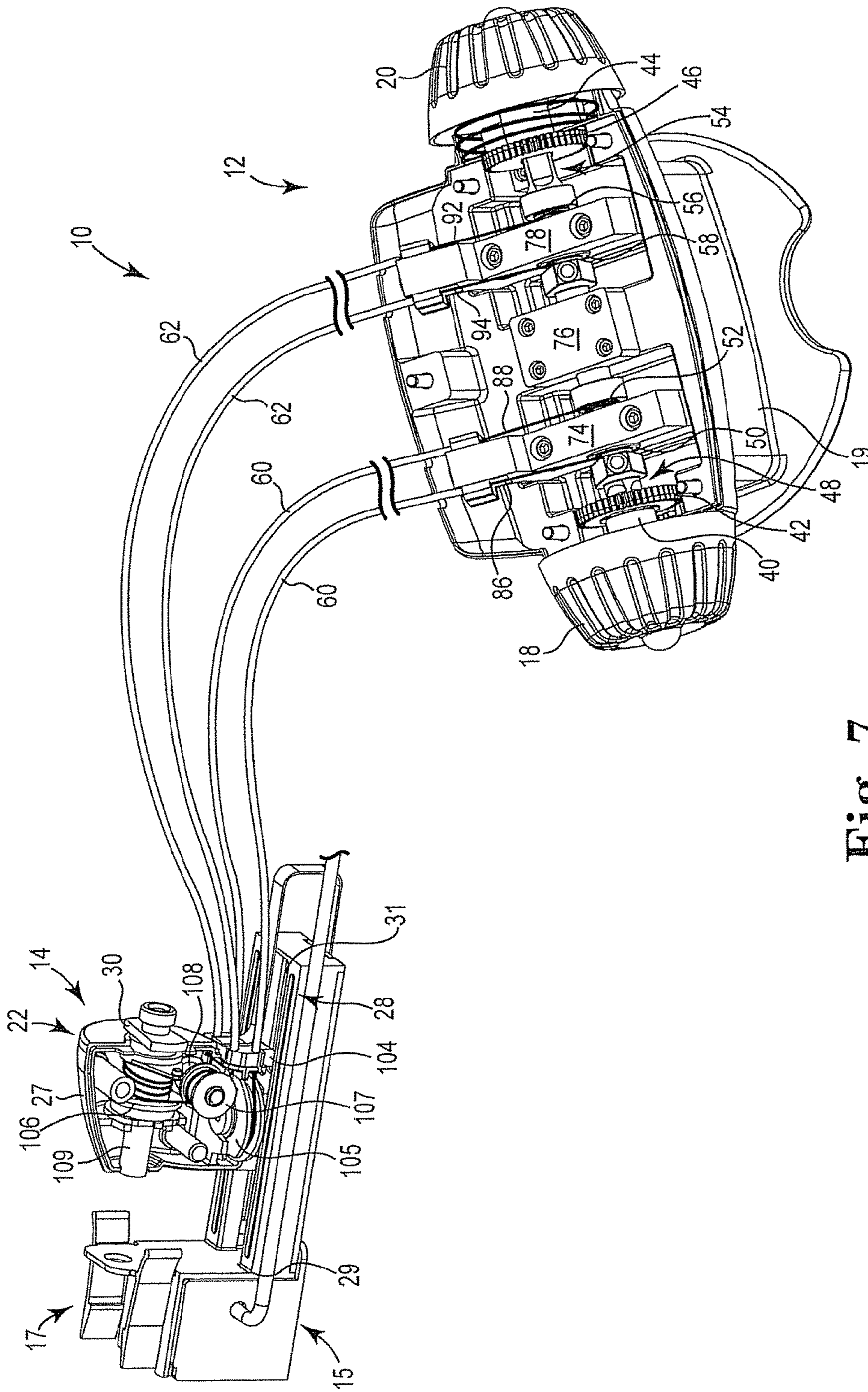


Fig. 7

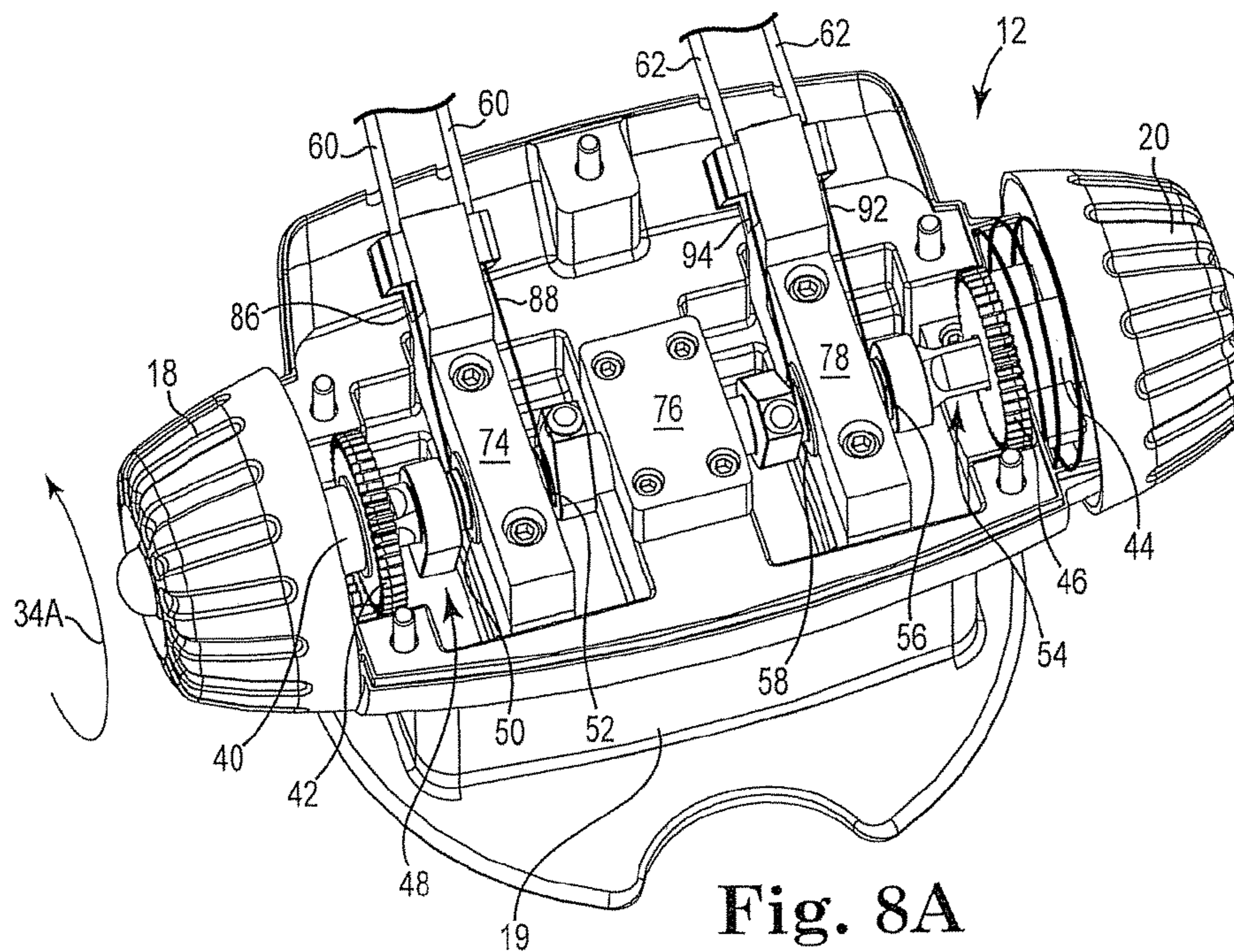
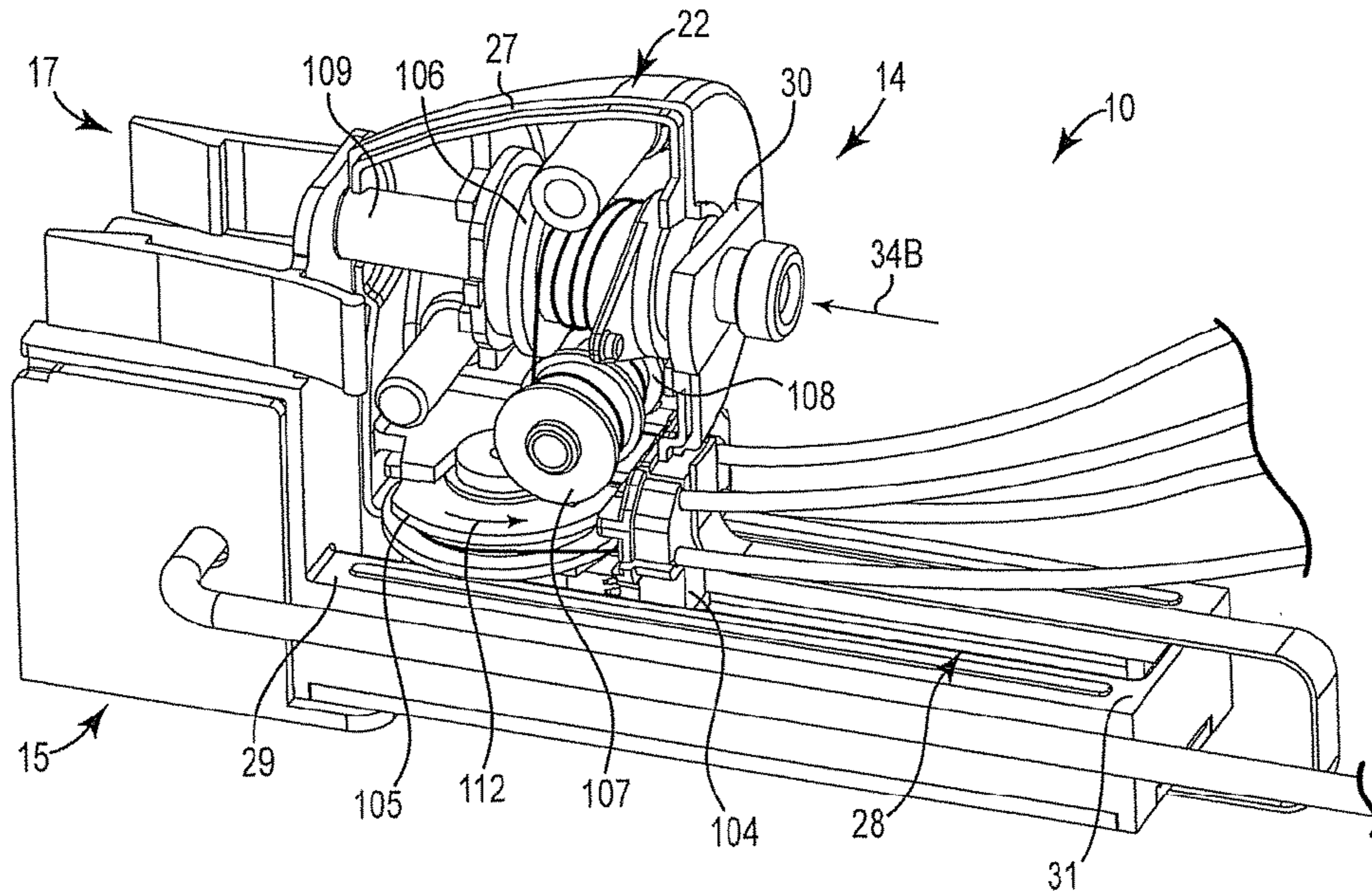


Fig. 8A

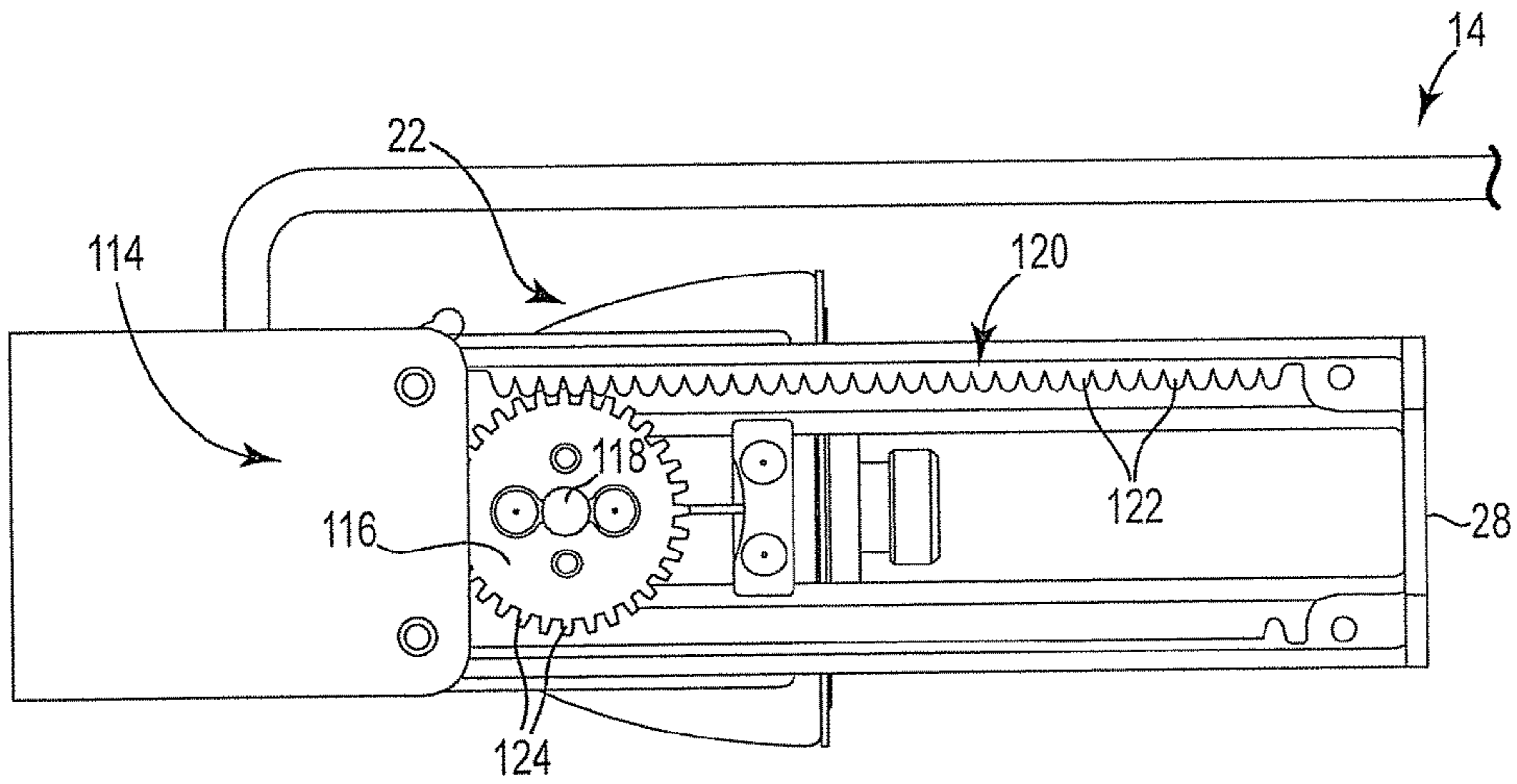


Fig. 8B

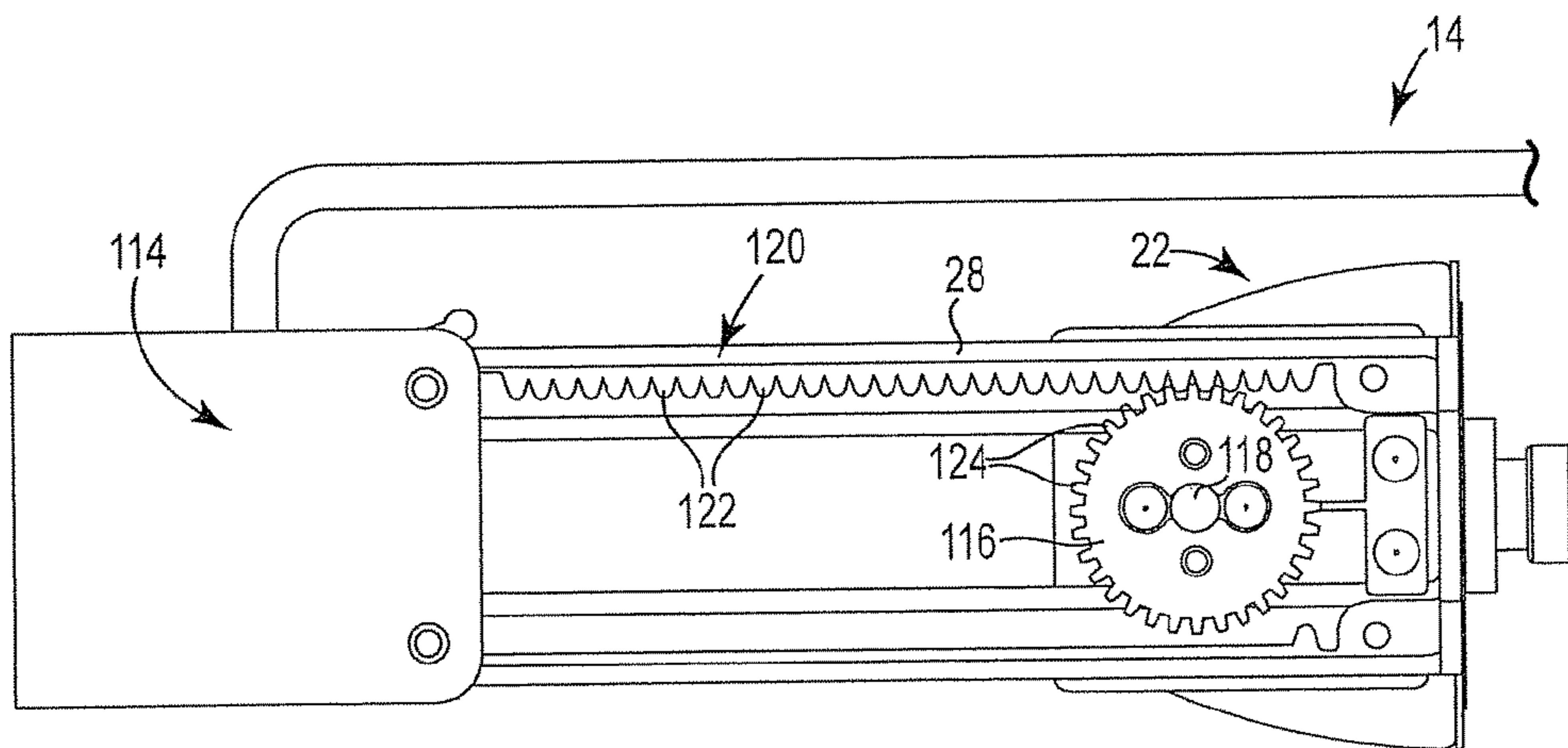


Fig. 9B

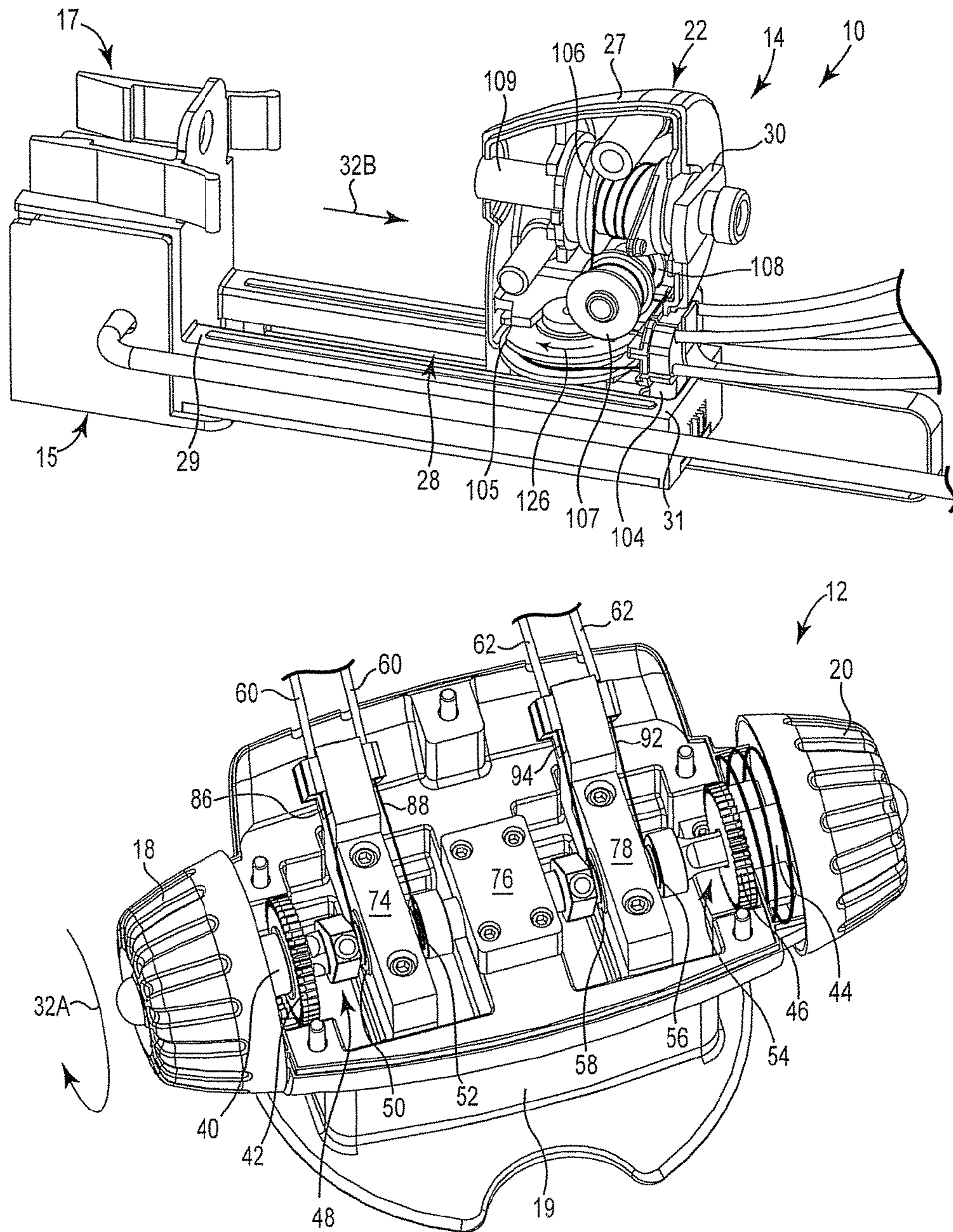


Fig. 9A

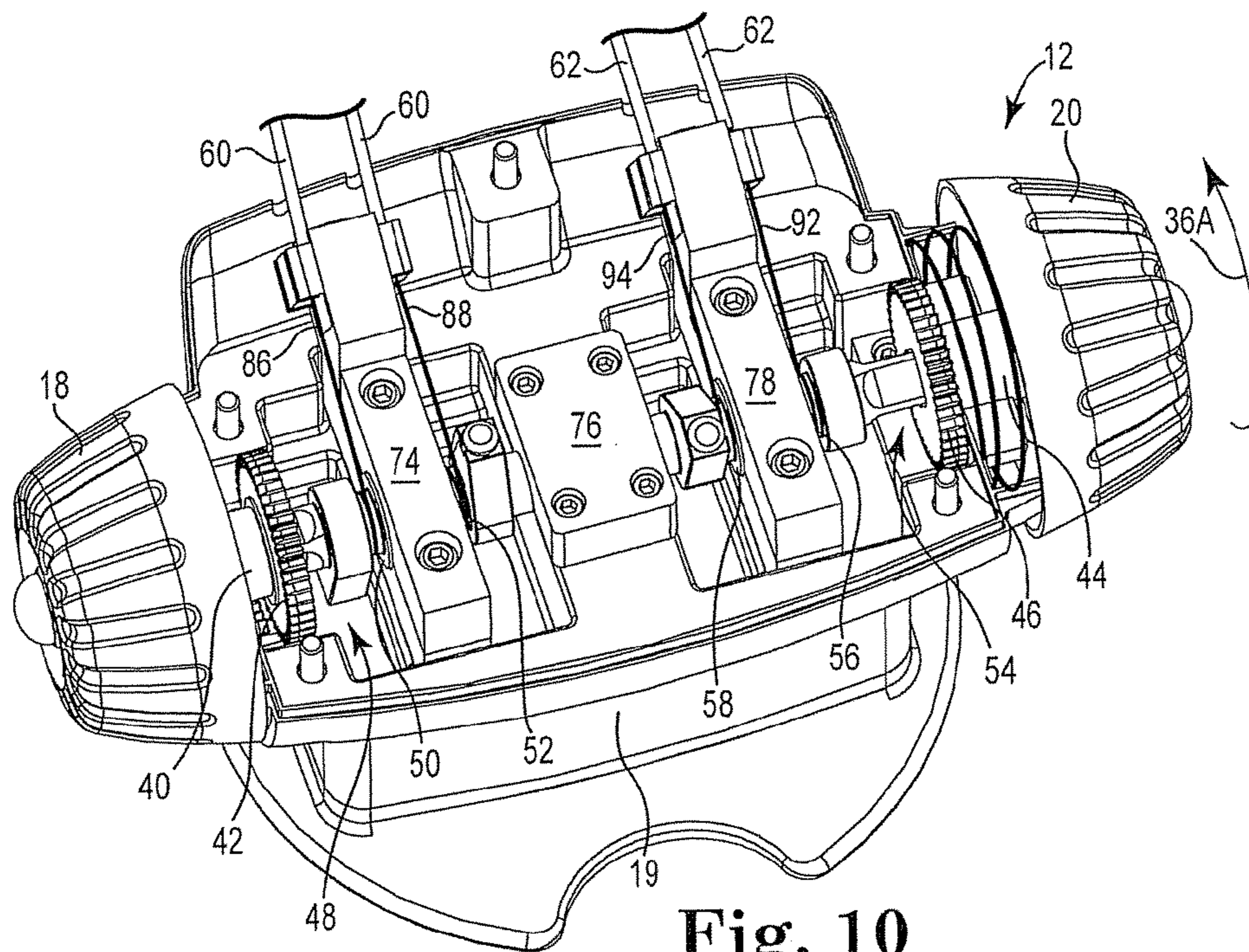
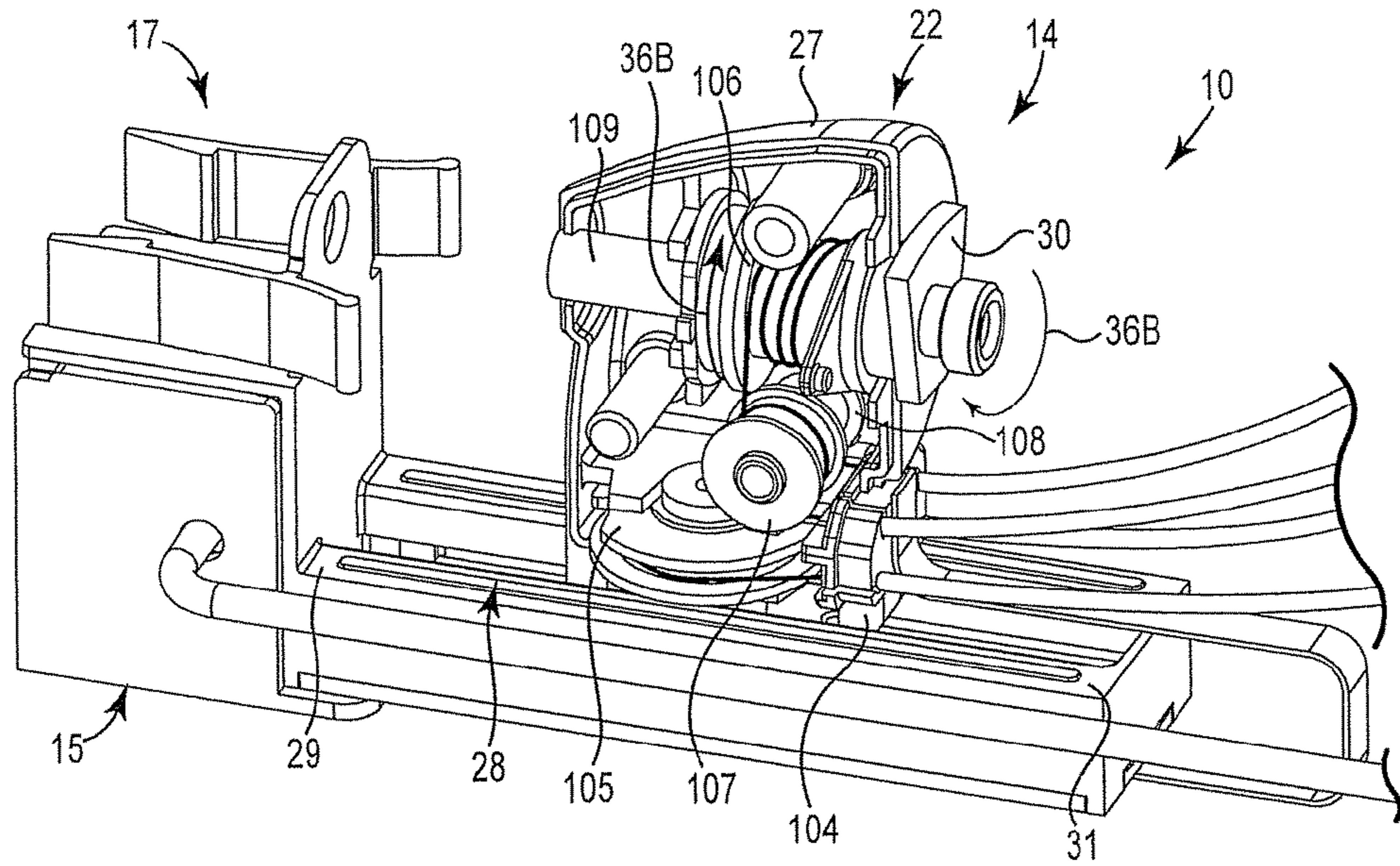


Fig. 10



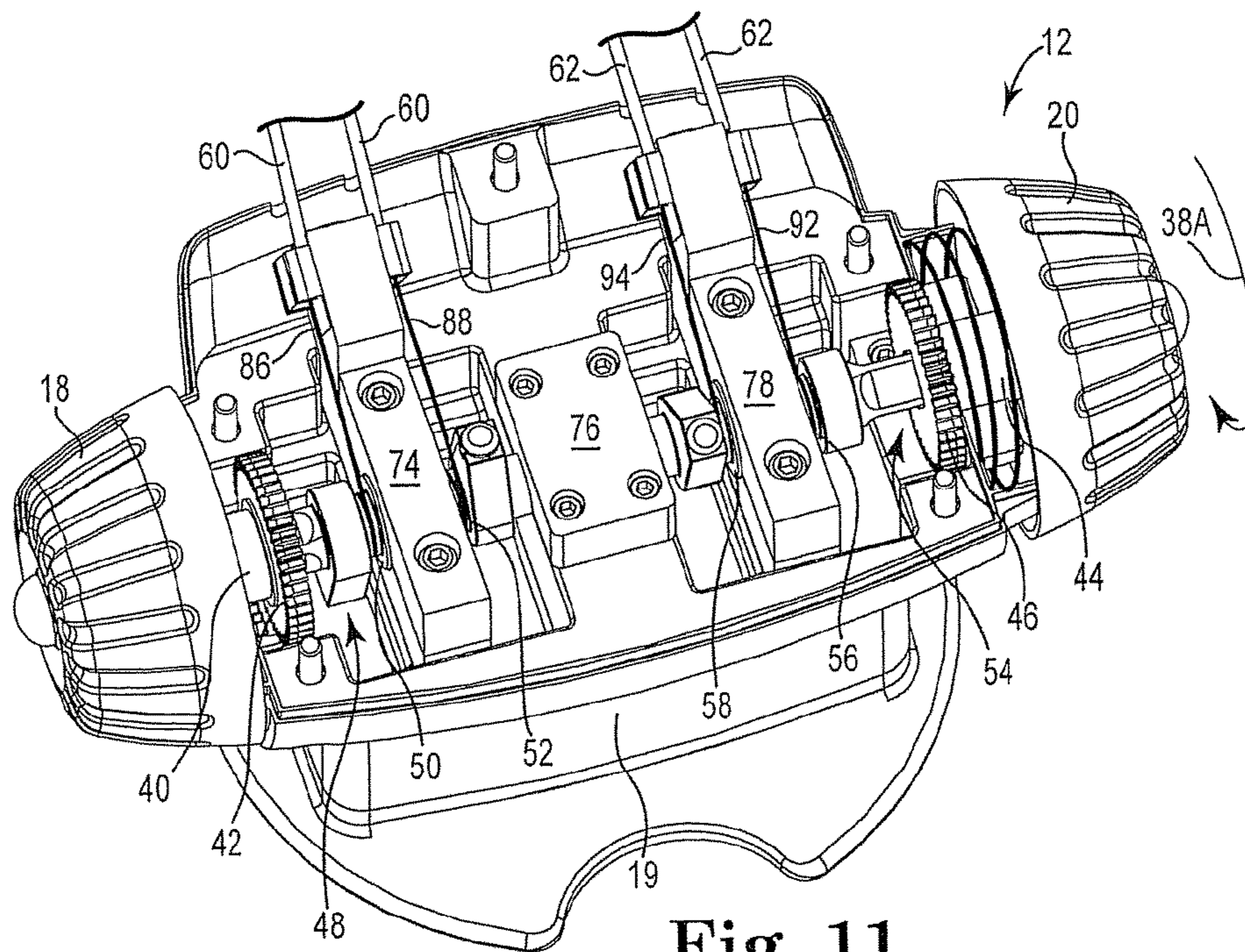
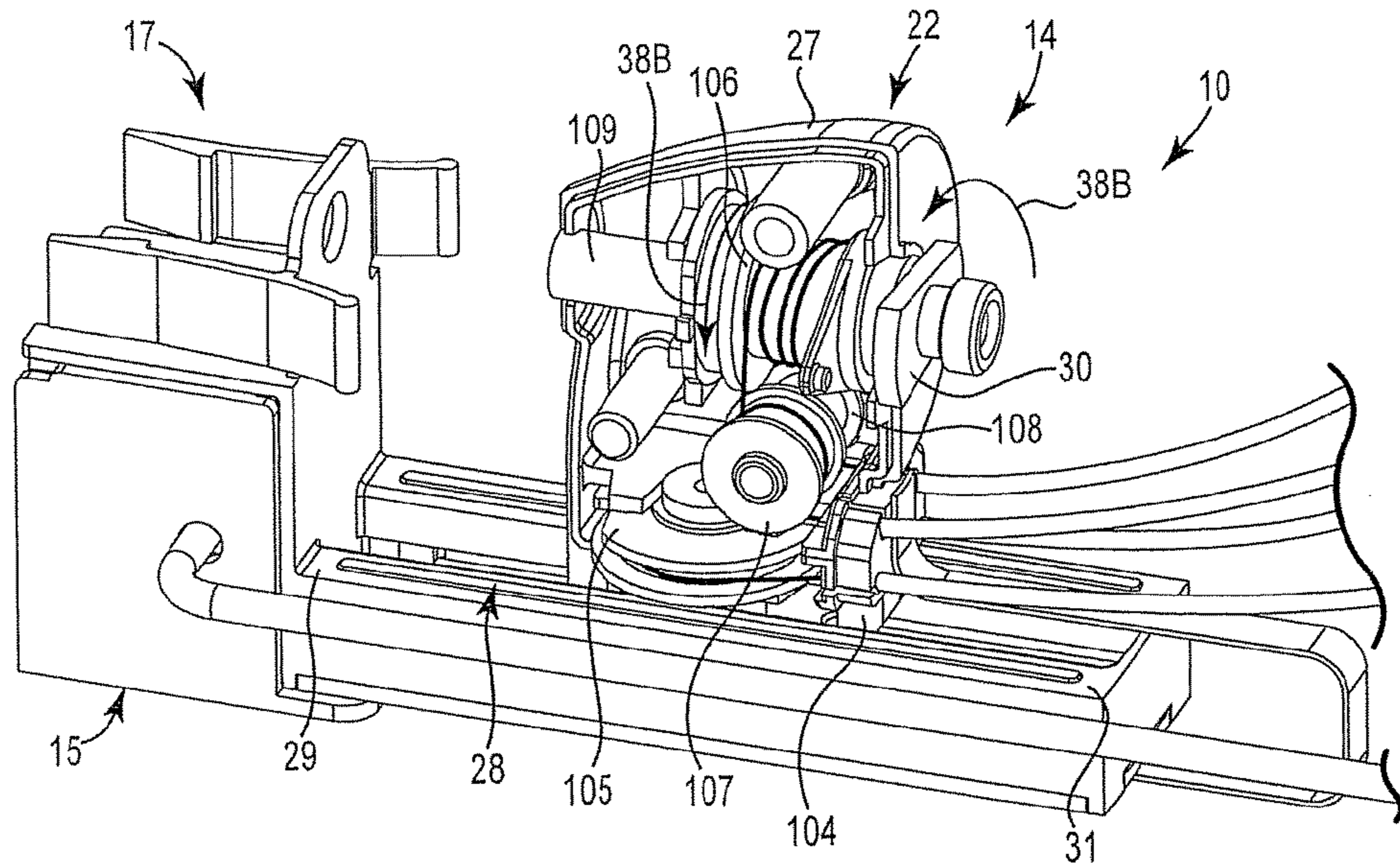
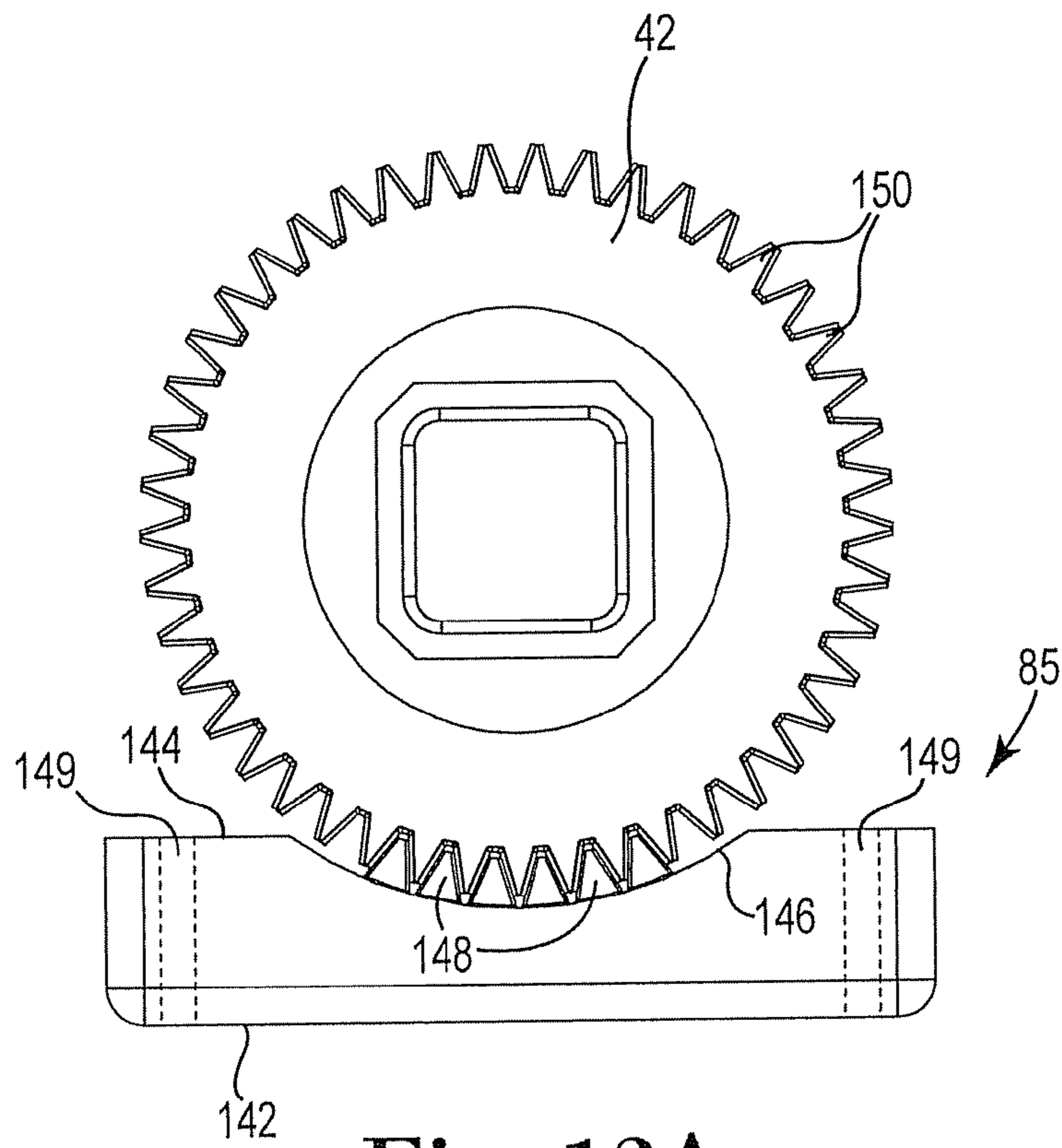


Fig. 11



**Fig. 12A**

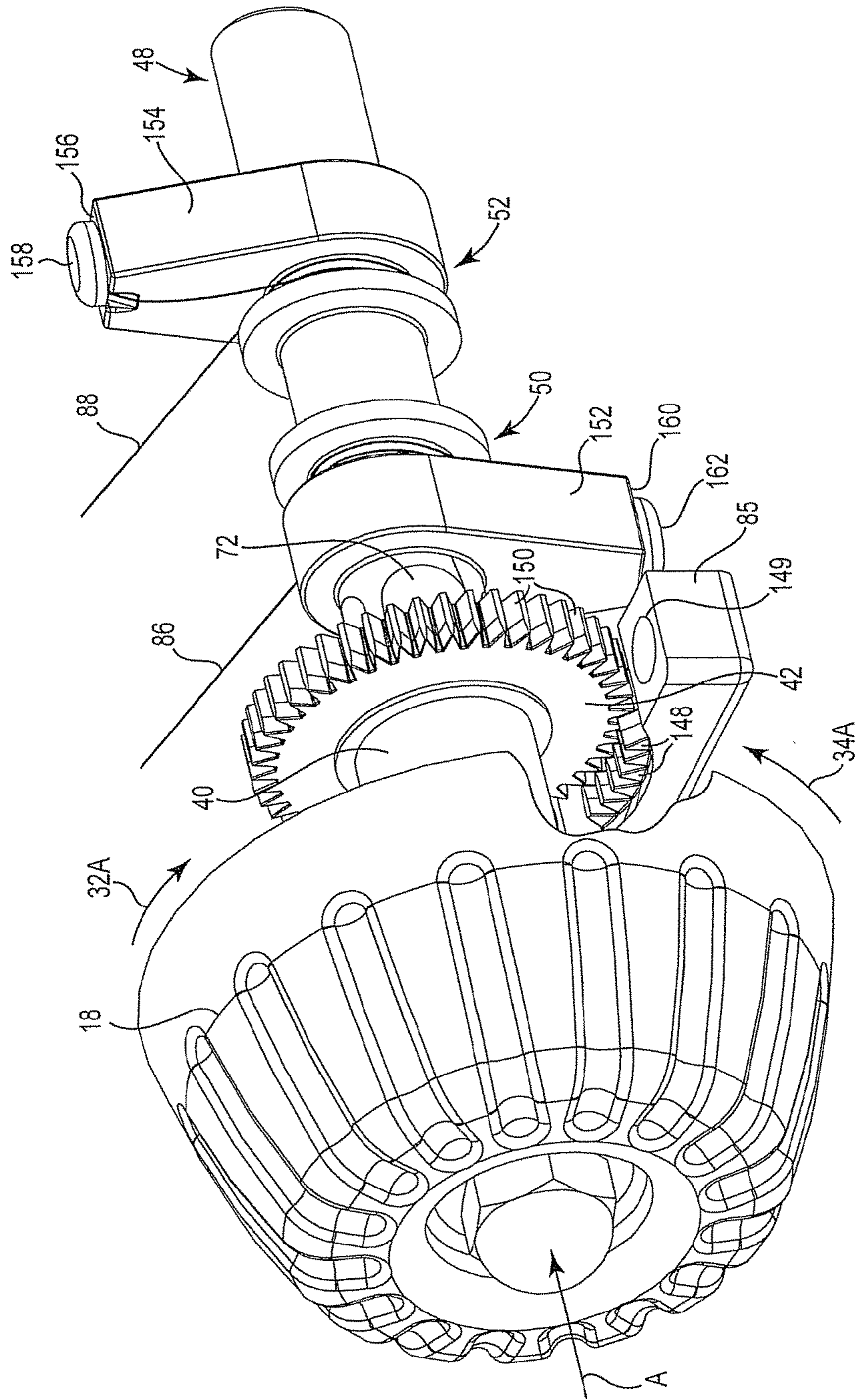


Fig. 12B

## STEREOTACTIC DRIVE SYSTEM

**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.**

## CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

This application is a Reissue application of U.S. Pat. No. 8,728,092, which issued on May 20, 2014, and claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 61/088,969, filed Aug. 14, 2008, the entirety of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to control systems. More specifically, the present invention relates to a drive system for controlling the longitudinal movement and rotational position of an elongate member.

Each year roughly 200,000 patients are diagnosed with brain tumors in the United States. Roughly 17,000 of these tumors are “benign,” meaning that the tumor mass is not cancerous. However, the other roughly 183,000 of these tumors are “malignant” (i.e., cancerous), meaning that they are capable of causing or contributing to patient death. Approximately 10% of cancerous brain tumors are “primary” tumors, meaning that the tumors originate in the brain. The primary tumors typically consist of brain tissue with mutated DNA that aggressively grows and displaces or replaces normal brain tissue. The most common of the primary tumors are known as gliomas, which indicate cancer of the glial cells of the brain. In most instances, primary tumors appear as single masses. However, these single masses can often be quite large, irregularly-shaped, multi-lobed and/or infiltrated into surrounding brain tissue.

Primary tumors are generally not diagnosed until the patient experiences symptoms, such as headaches, altered behavior, sensory impairment, or the like. However, by the time the symptoms develop the tumor may already be large and aggressive.

One well known treatment for cancerous brain tumors is surgery. In particular, surgery involves a craniotomy (i.e., removal of a portion of the skull), dissection, and total or partial tumor resection. The objectives of surgery include removal or lessening of the number of active malignant cells within the brain, and a reduction in the pain or functional impairment due to the effect of the tumor on adjacent brain structures. However, by its very nature, surgery is highly invasive and risky. Furthermore, for some tumors surgery is often only partially effective. In other tumors, the surgery itself may not be feasible, it may risk impairment to the patient, it may not be tolerable by the patient, and/or it may involve significant cost and recovery.

Another well known treatment for cancerous brain tumors is stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS). In particular, SRS is a treatment method by which multiple intersecting beams of radiation are directed at the tumor such that the point of intersection of the beams receives a lethal dose of radiation, while tissue in the path of any single beam remains unharmed. SRS is non-invasive and is typically performed as a single outpatient procedure. However, confirmation that

the tumor has been killed or neutralized is often not possible for several months post-treatment. Furthermore, in situations where high doses of radiation may be required to kill a tumor, such as in the case of multiple or recurring tumors, it is common for the patient to reach the “toxic threshold” prior to killing all of the tumors, where further radiation is inadvisable.

More recently, the treatment of tumors by “heat” (also referred to as hyperthermia or thermal therapy) has been developed. In particular, it is known that above 57° C. all living tissue is almost immediately and irreparably damaged and killed through a process called coagulation necrosis or ablation. Malignant tumors, because of their high vascularization and altered DNA, are more susceptible to heat-induced damage than normal tissue. Various types of energy sources may be used, such as laser, microwave, radiofrequency, electric, and ultrasound sources. Depending upon the application and the technology, the heat source may be extracorporeal (i.e., outside the body), extrastitial (i.e., outside the tumor), or interstitial (i.e., inside the tumor).

Interstitial thermal therapy (ITT) is a process designed to heat and destroy a tumor from within the tumor. One advantage of this type of therapy is that the energy is applied directly to the tumor rather than passing through surrounding normal tissue. Another advantage of the type of therapy is that the energy deposition is more likely to be extended throughout the entire tumor.

One exemplary ITT process begins by inserting an optical fiber into the tumor, wherein the [tumor] optical fiber has an element at its “inserted” end that redirects laser light from an exterior source in a direction generally at right angles to the length of the fiber. The energy from the laser thus extends into the tissue surrounding the end or tip and effects heating. The energy is directed in a beam confined to a relatively shallow angle so that, as the fiber is rotated, the beam also rotates around the axis of the fiber to effect heating of different parts of the tumor at positions around the fiber. The fiber can thus be moved longitudinally and rotated to effect heating of the tumor over the full volume of the tumor with the intention of heating the tumor to the required temperature without significantly affecting the surrounding tissue.

The fiber used in the ITT process may be controlled and manipulated by a surgeon with little or no guidance apart from the surgeon’s knowledge of the anatomy of the patient and the location of the tumor. Therefore, it is difficult for the surgeon to effect a controlled heating which heats the entire tumor to a required level while also minimizing damage to the surrounding tissue.

It is known that the location of tumors and other lesions to be excised can be determined using a magnetic resonance imaging system. Although these imaging systems have been helpful to assist the surgeon in determining a location of the tumor to be excised, use of the imaging systems ended once the location of the tumor was mapped out for the surgeon. In particular, previous excision procedures required the removal of the patient from the imaging system prior to commencing treatment. However, movement of the patient, together with the partial excision or coagulation of some of the tissue, can significantly change the location of the tumor to be excised. As a result, any possibility of providing controlled accuracy in the excision is eliminated.

It is also known that magnetic resonance imaging systems can be used by modification of the imaging sequences to determine the temperature of tissue within the image and to determine changes in that temperature over time.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,914,608 (LeBiahan) assigned to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued Apr. 3, 1990, discloses a method for determining temperature in tissue.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,284,144 (Delannoy) also assigned to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and issued Feb. 8, 1994, discloses an apparatus for hyperthermia treatment of cancer in which an external, non-invasive heating system is mounted within the coil of a magnetic resonance imaging system. The disclosure is speculative and relates to initial experimentation concerning the viability of MRI measurement of temperature in conjunction with an external heating system. The disclosure of the patent has not led to a commercially viable hyperthermic treatment system.

U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,368,031 and 5,291,890 assigned to General Electric relate to an MRI controlled heating system in which a point source of heat generates a predetermined heat distribution which is then monitored to ensure that the actual heat distribution follows the predicted heat distribution to obtain an overall heating of the area to be heated. Again this patented arrangement has not led to a commercially viable hyperthermia surgical system.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,671,254 (Fair) assigned to Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases and issued Jun. 9, 1987, discloses a method for the non surgical treatment of tumors in which the tumor is subjected to shock waves. This type of treatment does not incorporate a monitoring system to monitor and control the effect of the shock waves.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,823,941 (Shaunnessey), not assigned, and issued Oct. 20, 1998, discloses a specially modified endoscope designed to support an optical fiber. The optical fiber emits light energy and may be moved longitudinally and rotated angularly about its axis to direct the energy. The device is used for excising tumors, and the energy is arranged to be sufficient to effect vaporization of the tissue to be excised. The gas formed during the process is removed by suction through the endoscope. An image of the tumor is obtained by MRI, which is thereafter used to program a path of movement of the fiber to be taken during the operation. Again, there is no feedback during the procedure to control the movement of the optical fiber, and the operation is wholly dependent upon the initial analysis. This arrangement has not achieved commercial or medical success.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,454,807 (Lennox) assigned to Boston Scientific Corporation and issued Oct. 3, 1995, discloses a device for use in irradiating a tumor with light energy from an optical fiber. A cooling fluid is supplied through a conduit within the fiber to apply surface cooling and to prevent surface damage while allowing increased levels of energy to be applied to deeper tissues. Once again, this arrangement does not provide feedback control of the heating effect.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,785,704 (Bille) assigned to MRC Systems GmbH and issued Jul. 28, 1996, also discloses a particular arrangement of a laser beam and lens for use in irradiation of brain tumors. In particular, this arrangement uses high speed pulsed laser energy for a photo-disruption effect, but does not disclose methods of feedback control of the energy.

Kahn, et al. in *Journal of Computer Assisted Tomography* 18(4):519-532, July/August 1994; Kahn, et al. in *Journal of Magnetic Resonance Imaging* 8: 160-164, 1998; and Vogl, et al. in *Radiology* 209: 381-385, 1998, all disclose a method of application of heat energy from a laser through a fiber to a tumor where the temperature at the periphery of the tumor is monitored during the application of the energy by MRI. McNichols, R J et al. in *Lasers in Surgery and Medicine*, 34:48-55, 2005, disclose energy control by an MRI feedback monitoring arrangement in a paper entitled "MR Thermom-

etry-Based Feedback Control of LITT at 980 nm." Additionally, the paper of Vogl discloses a cooling system supplied commercially by Somatex of Berlin, Germany for cooling the tissues at the probe end. The system is formed by an inner tube containing the fiber mounted within an outer tube. Cooling fluid is passed between the two tubes and inside the inner tube in a continuous stream.

While highly effective in certain applications, the use of ITT to treat brain tumors has been limited by the inability to focus the energy exclusively and precisely on the tumor so as to avoid damage to surrounding normal brain tissue. This is complicated by the fact that many brain tumors are highly irregular in shape.

Focused laser interstitial thermal therapy (f-LITT) is the next general refinement of laser-based thermal therapy technologies. In particular, f-LITT enables precise control over the deposition of heat energy, thereby enabling the physician to contain cell damage exclusively to within a tumor mass of virtually any size and shape. However, as with other ITT treatment systems, there is a need for an apparatus that allows a surgeon to precisely control the position of the treatment device within the tumor mass.

Therefore, a heretofore unaddressed need exists to establish a drive system for an elongate member that is capable of precisely controlling both the longitudinal and rotational positions of the elongate member with respect to a target, such as a tumor mass. Furthermore, what is needed is a drive system for an elongate member that is simple to use and that yields accurate and predictable results. The drive system should preferably be structured for use with any elongate medical device including, but not limited to, laser probes, catheters, endoscopes, and the like. The drive system should also preferably be manufactured from materials that make the system MRI-compatible.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention solves the foregoing problems by providing a drive system for controlling movement of an elongate member including a base unit having a first rotatable knob and a second rotatable knob, a follower assembly including a follower slidably coupled to a guide rail, a longitudinal movement wire, and a rotational movement wire. The follower includes a longitudinal movement pulley, a rotational movement pulley, and an alignment element structured to receive an elongate member such that the elongate member is attachable thereto. The longitudinal movement wire operably couples the first rotatable knob to the longitudinal movement pulley such that rotation of the first knob drives the follower in a longitudinal direction along the guide rail. The rotational movement wire operably couples the second rotatable knob to the rotational movement pulley such that rotation of the second knob rotates the alignment element and attached elongate member.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of one exemplary drive system in accordance with the present invention that includes a commander unit, a follower assembly, and an elongate member coupled to the follower assembly.

FIG. 2A is a perspective view of the commander unit and follower assembly of FIG. 1 illustrating rotation of a first knob to cause longitudinal movement of a follower device.

FIG. 2B is a perspective view of one exemplary alternative follower assembly in accordance with the present invention.

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FIG. 3 is a perspective view of the commander unit and follower assembly of FIG. 1 illustrating rotation of a second knob to cause rotational movement of an alignment device on a proximal end of the follower device.

FIG. 4 is an enlarged perspective view of the commander unit with a commander cover removed to illustrate the internal components of the commander unit.

FIG. 5 is a diagram illustrating a side view of a first tension block assembly within the commander unit.

FIG. 6 is an enlarged perspective view of the follower assembly with a portion of the follower device housing removed in order to illustrate the internal components of the follower device.

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of the drive system in accordance with the present invention wherein the follower device is shown in a "neutral" starting position.

FIG. 8A is a perspective view of the drive system illustrating operation of the commander unit to drive the follower device longitudinally and in a distal direction.

FIG. 8B is a diagram of an underside of the follower assembly illustrating movement of the follower device longitudinally and in the distal direction shown in FIG. 8A.

FIG. 9A is a perspective view of the drive system illustrating operation of commander unit to drive the follower device longitudinally and in a proximal direction.

FIG. 9B is a diagram of the underside of the follower assembly illustrating movement of the follower device longitudinally and in the proximal direction shown in FIG. 9A.

FIG. 10 is a perspective view of the drive system illustrating operation of the commander unit to rotate the alignment device in a clockwise direction as viewed from a proximal end of the follower device.

FIG. 11 is a perspective view of the drive system illustrating operation of the commander unit to rotate the alignment device in a counterclockwise direction as viewed from the proximal end of the follower device.

FIG. 12A is a diagram illustrating the structure of a first locking device coupled to the commander unit.

FIG. 12B is a perspective view of the first locking device illustrating the first knob in an unlocked position.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention involves a drive system for stereotactic positioning of an elongate member. The elongate member may include, for example, elongate probes, catheters, endoscopes, and the like. However, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the drive system of the present invention may be used in conjunction with any elongate member requiring precise control in a longitudinal and/or rotational direction.

In one exemplary embodiment, the drive system in accordance with the present invention may be used to control the precise movement of a laser probe insertable into the skull of a patient for the treatment of tumors. In particular, and as will be evident to one skilled in the art based upon the following disclosure and corresponding figures, the drive system may be operated to position a distal end of a probe at precise locations within the tumor through both controlled longitudinal and rotational movement of the probe.

Referring now to FIG. 1, there is shown a perspective view of one exemplary drive system 10 including commander or base unit 12, follower assembly 14, potentiometer assembly 15 having connector 13, and elongate member 16

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structured for causing longitudinal movement of elongate member 16 as indicated by arrow L, and a second knob 20 structured for causing rotational movement of elongate member 16 as indicated by arrow R. Thus, as those skilled in the art will appreciate, drive system 10 may be utilized to control the precise longitudinal and angular position of elongate member 16 relative to or within a particular location or element, such as generic mass M shown in broken lines proximate to follower assembly 14.

Potentiometer assembly 15 may be operably coupled to follower assembly 14 and configured to provide feedback regarding the longitudinal and angular position of elongate member 16 to a computer system or other processing means through connector 13. An external display may be operably coupled to the computer system or processing means in order to display longitudinal and rotational movement of elongate member 16 during operation of drive system 10. A display may alternatively be provided on commander unit 12 instead of (or in addition to) the external display as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art. In one exemplary embodiment, the longitudinal movement of elongate member 16 may be displayed as a numerical value (relative to a "zero" reference point) having any suitable unit, such as in millimeters. Furthermore, the rotational movement of elongate member 16 may be displayed in any suitable manner, such as by a number in a range between about +180 degrees and about -180 degrees surrounding a "zero" reference point. However, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the longitudinal and rotational movement of elongate member 16 may be displayed in numerous other ways and within numerous other ranges without departing from the intended scope of the present invention.

FIG. 2A is a perspective view of commander unit 12 and follower assembly 14 illustrating rotation of first knob 18 and the corresponding longitudinal movement of follower assembly 14. In particular, commander unit 12 includes a commander base 19 and a commander cover 21. Follower assembly 14 includes follower device 22 having a distal end 24 and a proximal end 26. Follower device 22 is encased by follower housing 27 and is operably coupled to guide rail 28 such that follower device 22 may be driven between a distal end 29 and a proximal end 31 of guide rail 28. Potentiometer assembly 15 is positioned at distal end 29 of guide rail 28, and adjacent to potentiometer assembly 15 is attachment means 17 for attaching follower assembly 14 to any suitable mount or support, such as an adjustable trajectory setting mount. As illustrated in FIG. 2A, attachment means 17 includes a "clip" type fastener structured to allow the attachment means to clip to a mount or support, although any suitable attachment means may be used.

Although follower assembly 14 is illustrated in FIG. 2A as including a potentiometer assembly adjacent a distal end of a guide rail and attachment means that includes a "clip" type fastener, modifications may be made without departing from the intended scope of the present invention. For example, follower assembly 14A illustrated in FIG. 2B is one exemplary alternative embodiment of a follower assembly in accordance with the present invention. Particularly, follower assembly 14A includes components generally similar to those in follower assembly 14. However, potentiometer assembly 15A is located on a side of guide rail 28A opposite follower device 22A instead of at a distal end of guide rail 28A. Additionally, attachment means 17 has been replaced by an alternative attachment means 17A having a generally tubular member that may be structured to be received within a mount or support, such as an adjustable trajectory setting mount as discussed above. Thus, numerous

alternative configurations of the follower assembly are contemplated as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art.

Turning again to follower assembly **14** of FIG. **2A**, proximal end **26** of follower device **22** includes a rotatable alignment device **30** coupled thereto and structured to receive elongate member **16**. Elongate member **16** has been omitted in FIG. **2A** to provide a clearer view of the operation of commander unit **12** and follower assembly **14**. However, as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, elongate member **16** may be fixed within rotatable alignment device **30** such that longitudinal movement of follower device **22** and rotational movement of alignment device **30** is translated directly to elongate member **16** in order to control the longitudinal and rotational position of elongate member **16**.

As generally illustrated in FIG. **2A**, rotating first knob **18** in the direction indicated by arrow **32A** may result in follower device **22** being driven longitudinally along guide rail **28** in the direction indicated by arrow **32B**. This longitudinal movement is illustrated by follower device **22'** shown in broken lines. Similarly, rotating first knob **18** in the direction indicated by arrow **34A** may result in follower device **22** being driven longitudinally along guide rail **28** in the direction indicated by arrow **34B**. Thus, the user may control the precise longitudinal position of follower device **22** along guide rail **28** based upon the amount that first knob **18** is rotated as well as the direction in which it is rotated.

FIG. **3** is a perspective view of commander unit **12** and follower assembly **14** illustrating rotation of second knob **20** and the corresponding rotational movement of alignment device **30** on proximal end **26** of follower device **22**. As stated above, because elongate member **16** is insertable through alignment device **30** and may be fixed thereto, rotational movement of alignment device **30** may cause elongate member **16** to rotate by a similar amount to control the rotational position and orientation of elongate member **16**.

As generally illustrated in FIG. **3**, rotating second knob **20** in the direction indicated by arrow **36A** may result in alignment device **30** being rotated with respect to follower device **22** in the direction indicated by arrow **36B**. This rotational movement is illustrated by alignment device **30'** shown in broken lines. Similarly, rotating second knob **20** in the direction indicated by arrow **38A** may result in alignment device **30** being rotated with respect to follower device **22** in the direction indicated by arrow **38B**. Thus, the user may control the precise rotational position of alignment device **30** with respect to follower device **22** based upon the amount that second knob **20** is rotated as well as the direction in which it is rotated.

FIG. **4** is an enlarged perspective view of commander unit **12** with commander cover **21** removed to illustrate the internal components of commander unit **12**. In particular, commander unit **12** includes first internal knob **40** having first knob gear **42**, second internal knob **44** having second knob gear **46**, first drive spool shaft **48** having first spool **50** and second spool **52**, second drive spool shaft **54** having first spool **56** and second spool **58**, a pair of wire sheaths **60** associated with first drive spool shaft **48**, and a pair of wire sheaths **62** associated with second drive spool shaft **54**. First internal knob **40** may be coupled to first knob **18** via bolt **64** inserted through an aperture in first knob **18** and into a threaded recess in an end of first internal knob **40**. Similarly, second internal knob **44** may be coupled to second knob **20** via bolt **66** inserted through an aperture in second knob **20** and into a threaded recess in an end of second internal knob **44**.

As shown in FIG. **4**, second drive spool shaft **54** may include a generally square in cross-section end portion **68** that is structured to be received by and mate with a generally square aperture **70** in second knob gear **46** of second internal knob **44**. The phrase “generally square” is intended to include embodiments that have both “sharp” and “rounded” corners, as illustrated in FIG. **4**. In one exemplary embodiment, square aperture **70** may have approximately similar dimensions as end portion **68** such that a substantially tight connection is formed between second knob gear **46** and end portion **68**. The combination of end portion **68** of second drive spool shaft **54** and square aperture **70** allows rotation of second knob **20** by the user to be transferred to second drive spool shaft **54**. Similarly, first drive spool shaft **48** includes a generally square in cross-section end portion **72** that is structured to be received by and mate with a generally square aperture (not shown) in first knob gear **42** of first internal knob **40**. Once again, the square aperture may have approximately similar dimensions as end portion **72** such that a substantially tight connection is formed between first knob gear **42** and end portion **72**.

Although first and second drive spool shafts **48** and **54** have been described as including generally square end portions **72** and **68**, respectively, that are configured to mate with generally square apertures, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the drive spool shafts may alternatively include end portions having numerous other cross-sectional shapes including, for example, triangles, rectangles, hexagons, and the like. Thus, any shape combination that will allow rotational movement to be transferred from a knob gear to a drive spool shaft is contemplated and within the intended scope of the present invention.

In addition to the connection to first knob gear **42** described above, first drive spool shaft **48** may be contained within commander unit **12** by first spool shaft top carrier **74** and drive shaft retainer **76**. Similarly, in addition to the connection to second knob gear **46** described above, second drive spool shaft **54** may be contained within commander unit **12** by second spool shaft top carrier **78** and drive shaft retainer **76**. As will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, first spool shaft top carrier **74**, second spool shaft top carrier **78**, and drive shaft retainer **76** function together with commander base **19** to form bushings for containing first and second drive spool shafts **48** and **54** and allowing rotation of the shafts. Once first and second drive spool shafts **48** and **54** are properly positioned within commander unit **12** during assembly, both first and second spool shaft top carriers **74** and **78**, along with drive shaft retainer **76**, may be fastened to commander base **19**. In one exemplary embodiment, first spool shaft top carrier **74**, second spool shaft top carrier **78**, and drive shaft retainer **76** are fastened to commander base **19** with screws **80**, although any suitable fastening means may be used as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art such as bolts or an adhesive. Those skilled in the art will also appreciate that first and second drive spool shafts **48** and **54** may be sufficiently contained by the bushings formed with first and second spool shaft top carriers **74** and **78** such that the use of drive shaft retainer **76** is not necessary. Thus, in an alternative embodiment drive shaft retainer **76** may be removed from commander unit **12** without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

As illustrated in FIG. **4**, drive system **10** further includes longitudinal movement wire **82** operably attached to first drive spool shaft **48** and rotational movement wire **84** operably attached to second drive spool shaft **54**. In particular, a first end **86** of longitudinal movement wire **82** extends out of one of the wire sheaths **60** associated with first drive

spool shaft **48** and wraps around first spool **50**, while a second end **88** of longitudinal movement wire **82** extends out of the other one of the wire sheaths **60** and wraps around second spool **52**. As further illustrated in FIG. 4, a first end **92** of rotational movement wire **84** extends out of one of the wire sheaths **62** associated with second drive spool shaft **54** and wraps around first spool **56**, while a second end **94** of rotational movement wire **84** extends out of the other one of the wire sheaths **62** and wraps around second spool **58**.

In order to prevent first and second knobs **18** and **20** from being rotated unintentionally and to lock them into place when not in use, drive system **10** also includes first and second locking devices **85** and **87**. In particular, first locking device **85** is structured to engage first knob gear **42** in order to lock first knob **18**, while second locking device **87** is structured to engage second knob gear **46** in order to lock second knob **20**. Thus, first and second locking devices **85** and **87** serve as “safety” devices that minimize the possibility that the longitudinal and rotational positions of elongate member **16** may be unintentionally altered. As will be discussed in further detail to follow, an axial force must be applied to first knob **18** against the force of a first spring **89** disposed between first knob **18** and commander base **19** in order to disengage first locking device **85** and allow first knob **18** to be rotated, and thus allow the user to manipulate the longitudinal position of elongate member **16**. Similarly, an axial force must also be applied to second knob **20** against the force of a second spring **91** disposed between second knob **20** and commander base **19** in order to disengage second locking device **87** and allow second knob **20** to be rotated, and thus allow the user to manipulate the rotational position of elongate member **16**.

Optionally, as shown in FIG. 4, the pair of wire sheaths **60** associated with first drive spool shaft **48** may be coupled to first tension block assembly **90**, while the pair of wire sheaths **62** associated with second drive spool shaft **54** may be coupled to second tension block assembly **96**. Particularly, although first and second tension block assemblies **90** and **96** are not necessary components of the present invention, the tension block assemblies function to relieve tension placed on longitudinal and rotational movement wires **82** and **84**, respectively, when the wires are wound onto and unwound from their respective drive spool shafts. One exemplary embodiment of a tension block assembly will be described below in reference to FIG. 5.

In particular, FIG. 5 is a diagram illustrating a side view of first tension block assembly **90**. First tension block assembly **90** generally includes sheath connector block **97**, sheath connector block holder **98**, post member **99** structured to be inserted into an aperture through sheath connector block **97**, and spring **100**. Sheath connector block holder **98** includes a pair of flanges **101** structured to be received by a pair of slots **102** in sheath connector block **97**. A fastener **103** couples sheath connector block **97** to post member **99** in order to limit the movement of sheath connector block **97** and prevent flanges **101** from being removed from slots **102**. During operation of drive system **10**, sheath connector block **97** may move in the direction indicated by arrow **95** as necessary in order to relieve tension placed on longitudinal movement wire **82** when the wire is being wound onto and unwound from first drive spool shaft **48**. Thus, sheath connector block **97** is structured to travel in a direction that substantially coincides with the direction in which longitudinal movement wire **82** travels into and out of the commander unit **12**. This minimizes the possibility that longitudinal movement wire **82** will break during operation of the drive system and provides for smoother rotation of first knob

**18**. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the above discussion focused on first tension block assembly **90** merely for purposes of example and not limitation, and that second tension block assembly **96** may be designed in a similar manner.

Numerous alternative tension block assemblies may also be incorporated into commander unit **12** as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art. For example, in one alternative tension block assembly, the sheath connector block may be designed such that rather than traveling in a direction that substantially coincides with the direction of movement of longitudinal movement wire **82**, the sheath connector block instead travels in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to the direction of movement of longitudinal movement wire **82**. Thus, as longitudinal movement wire **82** “rides” on and is guided by the sheath connector block, the post and spring operably coupled to the sheath connector block allow the block to travel in a direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of travel of longitudinal movement wire **82** in order to minimize the tension placed on longitudinal movement wire **82** as the wire travels into and out of the commander unit **12**.

FIG. 6 is an enlarged perspective view of follower assembly **14** with a portion of follower housing **27** removed in order to illustrate the internal components of follower device **22**. In particular, follower device **22** includes rail follower member **104**, longitudinal movement pulley **105**, rotational movement pulley **106**, first idler pulley **107**, second idler pulley **108**, and tubular member **109** for receiving elongate member **16**. As illustrated in FIG. 6, rail follower member **104** is structured to be received by and ride within guide rail **28** as follower device **22** is being moved longitudinally along the rail. Longitudinal movement pulley **105** may be positioned adjacent the pair of wire sheaths **60** containing longitudinal movement wire **82**. Longitudinal movement wire **82** extends out of a first one of the wire sheaths **60**, wraps around longitudinal movement pulley **105**, and once again enters a second one of the wire sheaths **60** where it returns to commander unit **12**.

Rotational movement pulley **106** is coupled to or formed integral with tubular member **109** and alignment device **30**. Thus, as rotational movement pulley **106** is rotated by rotational movement wire **84**, the rotational movement is transferred to tubular member **109** and alignment device **30**. First idler pulley **107** may be positioned adjacent a first one of the wire sheaths **62**, while second idler pulley **108** may be positioned adjacent a second one of the wire sheaths **62**. Rotational movement wire **84** extends out of the first one of the wire sheaths **62** and wraps around first idler pulley **107** prior to reaching and wrapping around rotational movement pulley **106**. Rotational movement wire **84** then extends to and wraps around second idler pulley **108** prior to once again entering the second one of the wire sheaths **62** where it returns to commander unit **12**.

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of drive system **10** with follower device **22** of follower assembly **14** shown in a “neutral” starting position. This neutral starting position of follower device **22**, which is about midway between distal end **29** and proximal end **31** of guide rail **28**, is defined merely for purposes of example and not limitation. Thus, operation of drive system **10** will be hereinafter described with reference to the neutral starting position illustrated in FIG. 7. However, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the starting position may be defined as some other location along guide rail **28** without departing from the intended scope of the present invention.



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FIG. 8A is a perspective view of drive system 10 illustrating operation of commander unit 12 to drive follower device 22 longitudinally toward distal end 29 of guide rail 28. In particular, as shown in FIG. 8A, rotating first knob 18 in the direction indicated by arrow 34A drives follower device 22 longitudinally in the direction indicated by arrow 34B from the neutral starting position illustrated in FIG. 7 to a new position adjacent distal end 29 of guide rail 28. With reference to FIG. 1, the effect of driving follower device 22 longitudinally in the direction indicated by arrow 34B is to drive elongate member 16 into mass M (or further into mass M if elongate member 16 was already positioned within the mass).

As first knob 18 is rotated in the direction indicated by arrow 34A, first drive spool shaft 48 is also rotated in a similar direction due to the connection between end portion 72 of first drive spool shaft 48 and first knob gear 42 of first internal knob 40 as previously discussed in reference to FIG. 4. As a result, first end 86 of longitudinal movement wire 82 is further wound around first spool 50 of first drive spool shaft 48, while second end 88 of longitudinal movement wire 82 is further unwound from second spool 52. While first end 86 and second end 88 of longitudinal movement wire 82 are being correspondingly wound onto and unwound from first and second spools 50 and 52, respectively, longitudinal movement pulley 105 rotates in the direction indicated by arrow 112 in FIG. 8A as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art. As will be discussed in further detail in reference to FIG. 8B, the rotation of longitudinal movement pulley 105 in the direction indicated by arrow 112 causes follower device 22 to be driven longitudinally to the distal position shown in FIG. 8A.

FIG. 8B is a diagram illustrating an underside 114 of follower assembly 14. As shown in FIG. 8B, follower assembly 14 further includes a follower gear 116 operably coupled to longitudinal movement pulley 105 via a suitable connecting means 118. Connecting means 118 is structured to couple the movement of longitudinal movement pulley 105 described in reference to FIG. 8A to follower gear 116. Thus, for example, as longitudinal movement pulley 105 is being rotated in the direction indicated by arrow 112 in FIG. 8A, follower gear 116 is also correspondingly being rotated in direction 112 due to follower gear 116 being operably coupled to longitudinal movement pulley 105 via connecting means 118.

The underside 114 of follower assembly 14 illustrates a gear track portion 120 of guide rail 28 having a plurality of teeth 122 structured to mate with a corresponding plurality of teeth 124 on follower gear 116. Thus, as follower gear 116 is being rotated by longitudinal movement pulley 105, teeth 124 on follower gear 116 engage teeth 122 on gear track 120 in order to drive follower gear 116, and thus follower device 22, longitudinally along gear track 120.

FIG. 9A is a perspective view of drive system 10 illustrating operation of commander unit 12 to drive follower device 22 longitudinally toward proximal end 31 of guide rail 28. In particular, as shown in FIG. 9A, rotating first knob 18 in the direction indicated by arrow 32A drives follower device 22 longitudinally in the direction indicated by arrow 32B from the neutral starting position illustrated in FIG. 7 (or from, for example, the position illustrated in FIG. 8A) to a new position adjacent proximal end 31 of guide rail 28. With reference to FIG. 1, the effect of driving follower device 22 longitudinally in the direction indicated by arrow 32B may be to withdraw elongate member 16 from mass M.

Once again, rotating first knob 18 in the direction indicated by arrow 32A causes first drive spool shaft 48 to be

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rotated in a similar direction. As a result, second end 88 of longitudinal movement wire 82 is further wound around second spool 52 of first drive spool shaft 48, while first end 86 of longitudinal movement wire 82 is further unwound from first spool 50. While first end 86 and second end 88 of longitudinal movement wire 82 are being correspondingly unwound from and wound onto first and second spools 50 and 52, respectively, longitudinal movement pulley 105 rotates in the direction indicated by arrow 126 in FIG. 9A as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art. The rotation of longitudinal movement pulley 105 in the direction indicated by arrow 126 causes follower device 22 to be driven longitudinally to the proximal position shown in FIG. 9A.

FIG. 9B is a diagram illustrating underside 114 of guide rail portion 28 of follower assembly 14 after follower device 22 has been driven to proximal end 31 of guide rail 28. Because connecting means 118 couples the movement of longitudinal movement pulley 105 to follower gear 116, rotating pulley 105 in the direction indicated by arrow 126 causes a corresponding rotation of follower gear 116 in a similar direction. In particular, as follower gear 116 is being rotated by longitudinal movement pulley 105, teeth 124 on follower gear 116 engage teeth 122 on gear track 120 in order to drive follower gear 116, and thus follower device 22, longitudinally along gear track 120 to the proximal position illustrated in FIG. 9B.

FIG. 10 is a perspective view of drive system 10 illustrating operation of commander unit 12 to rotate alignment device 30 in a clockwise direction as viewed from proximal end 26 of follower device 22. In particular, as shown in FIG. 10, rotating second knob 20 in the direction indicated by arrow 36A rotates alignment device 30 in the direction indicated by arrow 36B from the neutral starting position illustrated in FIG. 7. With reference to FIG. 1, the effect of rotating alignment device 30 in the direction indicated by arrow 36B is to rotate the attached elongate member 16 relative to mass M, which is stationary. As shown in FIG. 10, alignment device 30 has been rotated in a clockwise direction by approximately 90 degrees. However, one skilled in the art will appreciate that alignment device 30 may be rotated by any amount between about zero and 360 degrees.

As second knob 20 is rotated in the direction indicated by arrow 36A, second drive spool shaft 54 is also rotated in a similar direction due to the connection between end portion 68 of second drive spool shaft 54 and second knob gear 46 of second internal knob 44 as previously discussed in reference to FIG. 4. As a result, first end 92 of rotational movement wire 84 is further wound around first spool 56 of second drive spool shaft 54, while second end 94 of rotational movement wire 84 is further unwound from second spool 58. While first end 92 and second end 94 of rotational movement wire 84 are being correspondingly wound onto and unwound from first and second spools 56 and 58, respectively, rotational movement pulley 106 rotates in the direction indicated by arrow 36B in FIG. 10 as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art. Because rotational movement pulley 106 is coupled to or formed integral with alignment device 30, alignment device 30 is also rotated in the direction indicated by arrow 36B.

FIG. 11 is a perspective view of drive system 10 illustrating operation of commander unit 12 to rotate alignment device 30 in a counterclockwise direction as viewed from proximal end 26 of follower device 22. In particular, as illustrated in FIG. 11, rotating second knob 20 in the direction indicated by arrow 38A rotates alignment device 30 in the direction indicated by arrow 38B from the position shown in FIG. 10 back to the starting position shown in FIG.

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7. Although alignment device 30 is illustrated as being rotated counterclockwise by approximately 90 degrees, one skilled in the art will appreciate that second knob 20 may be manipulated such that alignment device 30 is rotated by a different amount without departing from the intended scope of the present invention.

Once again, rotating second knob 20 in the direction indicated by arrow 38A causes second drive spool shaft 54 to be rotated in a similar direction. As a result, second end 94 of rotational movement wire 84 is further wound around second spool 58 of second drive spool shaft 54, while first end 92 of rotational movement wire 84 is further unwound from first spool 56. While first end 92 and second end 94 of rotational movement wire 84 are being correspondingly unwound from and wound onto first and second spools 56 and 58, respectively, rotational movement pulley 106 rotates in the direction indicated by arrow 38B in FIG. 11 as will be appreciated by those skilled in the art. Alignment device 30 is also rotated in the direction indicated by arrow 38B due to its attachment to rotational movement pulley 106.

FIG. 12A is a diagram illustrating first locking device 85 introduced above in reference to FIG. 4 and structured to operate with first knob 18. Although commander unit 12 also includes second locking device 87 structured to operate with second knob 20, both first and second locking devices 85 and 87 operate substantially the same. Thus, while first locking device 85 is illustrated and described in detail, the discussion applies equally to second locking device 87 as well.

As illustrated in FIG. 12A, first locking device 85 includes bottom surface 142 structured to engage an inner surface of commander base 19 and a top surface 144 having a curved portion 146 with a plurality of locking teeth 148. Locking device 85 may be coupled to commander base 19 by any suitable means, such as with fasteners inserted through apertures 149. In another exemplary embodiment, locking device 85 may be formed integral with commander base 19 or coupled to commander base 19 with an adhesive. Locking teeth 148 are structured to engage a plurality of knob gear teeth 150 on first knob gear 42 when first knob 18 is in a "locked" position. In particular, first knob 18 is normally biased in the locked position by first spring 89, and must be moved against the spring force of first spring 89 to an "unlocked" position as illustrated in FIG. 12B prior to adjusting the longitudinal position of elongate member 16 in the manner previously described.

FIG. 12B is a perspective view of first knob 18 and first locking device 85 illustrating first knob 18 in the unlocked position. In particular, prior to rotating first knob 18 in either the direction indicated by arrow 32A or the direction indicated by arrow 34A as previously described in reference to FIGS. 2A, 8A, and 9A, first knob 18 must be moved to the unlocked position. First knob 18 may be moved from the locked position shown in FIG. 12A to the unlocked position shown in FIG. 12B by applying an axial force A to first knob 18, thereby disengaging knob gear teeth 150 on first knob gear 42 from locking teeth 148 on first locking device 85. Once knob gear teeth 150 are disengaged from locking teeth 148, the user may freely rotate first knob 18 in the directions indicated by arrows 32A and 34A as long as the axial force A is maintained. When further manipulation of the longitudinal position of elongate member 16 is no longer necessary, the user may simply discontinue applying the axial force A, and first spring member 89 will force knob gear teeth 150 back into engagement with locking teeth 148, thereby preventing further rotation of first knob 18. As one skilled in the art will appreciate, the longitudinal position of elongate

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member 16 may be manipulated further by once again applying axial force A to first knob 18 and rotating the knob.

As further illustrated in FIG. 12B, first drive spool shaft 48 may include first shaft flange 152 adjacent first spool 50 and second shaft flange 154 adjacent second spool 52. In particular, second end 88 of longitudinal movement wire 82 may extend along second shaft flange 154 and be fastened to an end portion 156 thereof with fastening means 158. Similarly, although not visible in FIG. 12B, first end 86 of longitudinal movement wire 82 may extend along first shaft flange 152 and be fastened to and end portion 160 thereof with fastening means 162.

Workers skilled in the art will appreciate that although drive system 10 has been described with reference to rotational movements of first and second knobs 18 and 20 that result in longitudinal and rotational movements in specific directions, the drive system may be modified such that rotation of the knobs instead result in movement in the opposite direction without departing from the intended scope of the present invention. Thus, the specific direction in which elongate member 16 moves as a result of manipulating knobs 18 and 20 is not an essential component of the present invention.

Although the present invention has been described with reference to preferred embodiments, workers skilled in the art will recognize that changes may be made in form and detail without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A drive system comprising:

a base unit including first and second [spools] *drive spool shafts* to spool, respectively, first and second wires; and an assembly extending in a longitudinal direction and coupled to the base unit by the first and second wires, the assembly including a mount coupled to the assembly, and the mount including a rotatable portion and first and second wire supports that support, respectively, the first and second wires, wherein[:]

the rotatable portion is rotatable about an axis of rotation that extends in the longitudinal direction, and is structured to hold and rotate an elongated member about the axis of rotation,

the first wire support is coupled to the mount and the assembly such that a movement of the first wire along the first wire support causes the mount to move along the assembly in the longitudinal direction, [and]

the second wire support is coupled to the mount and the rotatable portion such that a movement of the second wire along the second wire support causes the rotatable portion to rotate about the axis of rotation of the rotatable portion, [and wherein:]

the base unit includes first and second [spool shafts] *spools* for each of the first and second [spools] *drive spool shafts*, such that rotational movements of the first and second [spools] *drive spool shafts* cause rotations of *each of the respective* first and second [spool shafts:] *spools*,

opposing ends of the first wire are connected to the first and second spools [shafts] for the first [spool] *drive spool shaft*, such that the rotational movement of the first [spool] *drive spool shaft* causes, concurrently, both the first and second [spool shafts] *spools* for the first [spool] *drive spool shaft* to rotate, causing the first and second [spool shafts] *spools* for the first [spool] *drive spool shaft* to respectively wind and unwind the first wire[:], and

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opposing ends of the second wire are connected to the first and second spools [shafts] for the second [spool] drive spool shaft, such that the rotational movement of the second [spool] drive spool shaft causes, concurrently, both the first and second [spool shafts] spools for the second [spool] drive spool shaft to rotate, causing the first and second [spool shafts] spools for the second [spool] drive spool shaft to respectively wind and unwind the second wire.

2. The drive system of claim 1, wherein:

the first wire support includes a first pulley [and], wherein the assembly includes a guide rail that includes a track that extends in the longitudinal direction and that is coupled to the first pulley[;], and

the first wire winds around the first pulley such that winding and unwinding of the first wire causes the first pulley to rotate and move the mount in the longitudinal direction along the track of the guide rail.

3. The drive system of claim 2, wherein the first pulley has an axis of rotation that is perpendicular to the rotational axis of the rotatable portion and that is rotatably connected to a housing of the mount.

4. The drive system of claim 1, wherein:

the second wire support includes a second pulley that surrounds a portion of the rotatable portion such that the second pulley has an axis of rotation that is the same as the axis of rotation of the rotatable portion; and

the mount includes an idler support[; and], wherein the second wire enters the mount, winds around the idler support, and then winds around the second pulley, such that winding and unwinding of the second wire causes the second pulley to rotate and move the rotatable portion in a rotational direction about the rotational axis of the rotatable portion.

5. The drive system of claim 4, wherein the idler support includes an idler pulley that has an axis of rotation that is perpendicular to the rotational axis of the rotatable portion and that is rotatably connected to a housing of the mount.

6. The drive system of claim 1, wherein:

the first wire support includes a gear and the assembly includes a gear track to engage with the gear of the first wire support[;], wherein

the first wire winds around the first wire support such that winding and unwinding of the first wire causes the gear to rotate and move the mount in the longitudinal direction along the gear track;

the second wire support includes a guide shaft that surrounds a portion of the rotatable portion such that the guide shaft has an axis of rotation that is the same as the axis of rotation of the rotatable portion; and

the mount includes an idler support; [and] wherein the second wire enters the mount, winds around the idler support, and then winds around the guide shaft, such that winding and unwinding of the second wire causes the guide shaft to rotate and move the rotatable portion in a rotational direction about the rotational axis of the rotatable portion.

7. The drive system of claim 1, further comprising:

wire sheaths that cover the first and second wires for at least portions of the first and second wires that extend between the base unit and the assembly, wherein the wire sheaths are flexible conduits that allow the first and second wires to travel therein, and that are fixedly secured to the base unit and the assembly.

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8. The drive system of claim 7, wherein:

the base unit includes first and second tension blocks for the first and second wires[;], each of the first and second tension blocks including a respective sheath connector block, wherein

respective sheath connector blocks of the first and second tension blocks are attached to respective wire sheaths of the first and second wires[;], the sheath connector blocks are elastically secured to the first and second tension blocks[;], and

the first and second tension blocks relieve tension placed on the first and second wires, during movements thereof, by allowing travel between the wire sheaths and the first and second tension blocks, via the sheath connector blocks.

9. The drive system of claim 7, wherein the base unit and the assembly are flexibly directly connected to each other by only the first and second wires and the wire sheaths.

10. The drive system of claim 1, wherein:

the base unit further includes a gear coupled to each of the first and second [spools] drive spool shafts, [and] wherein

the gear for each of the first and second [spools] drive spool shafts is configured to releasably engage respective gear teeth to respectively control respective rotational movement of the first and second [spools] drive spool shafts.

11. The drive system of claim 10, wherein a knob coupled to each of the first and second [spools are] drive spool shafts is axially moveable to engage and disengage the gear teeth.

12. The drive system of claim 1, wherein the assembly includes an alignment guide that includes an alignment hole that is coaxial with the rotatable portion of the mount.

13. The drive system of claim 1, wherein the assembly includes a potentiometer assembly that includes an electrical connector to provide feedback regarding a longitudinal and angular position of the [elongate] elongated member.

14. The drive system of claim 1, further comprising the elongated member.

15. The drive system of claim 1, wherein the first and second [spools] drive spool shafts include respective rotatable knobs that rotate about respective first and second axes.

16. The drive system of claim 15, wherein the first and second axes coincide and the first and second drive spool shafts are separated.

17. The drive system of claim 1, wherein:

the rotational movement of the first drive spool shaft causes only the longitudinal movement of the mount and the rotatable portion in the longitudinal direction; and

the rotational movement of the second drive spool shaft causes only the rotational movement of the rotatable portion.

18. The drive system of claim 1, wherein:

the rotational movement of the first drive spool shaft causes the longitudinal movement of the mount and the rotatable portion in the longitudinal direction in one of opposing forward and backward directions coinciding with the longitudinal direction based on a direction of the rotational movement of the first drive spool shaft; and

the rotational movement of the second drive spool shaft causes the rotational movement of the rotatable portion in one of opposing clockwise and counter-clockwise directions about the rotational axis of the rotatable portion based on a direction of the rotational movement of the second drive spool shaft.

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19. The drive system of claim 1, wherein the assembly is magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) compatible.

20. The drive system of claim 1, wherein the coupling of the first and second wires between the base unit and the assembly provides a structure in which the base unit can be physically displaced, relative to the assembly, without causing the longitudinal movement of the mount and the rotatable portion in the longitudinal direction, and without causing the rotational movement of the rotatable portion.

21. A method for a drive system, the drive system comprising: a base unit including

first and second [spools] *drive spool shafts* to spool, respectively,

first and second wires, and

first and second [spool shafts] *spools* for each of the first and second [spools] *drive spool shafts*, such that rotational movements of the first and second [spools] *drive spool shafts* cause rotations of *each of the respective first and second [spool shafts] spools*, wherein

opposing ends of the first wire are connected to the first and second spools [shafts] for the first [spool] *drive spool shaft*, such that the rotational movement of the first [spool] *drive spool shaft* causes, concurrently, both the first and second [spool shafts] *spools* for the first [spool] *drive spool shaft* to rotate, causing the first and second [spool shafts] *spools* for the first [spool] *drive spool shaft* to respectively wind and unwind the first wire[:], and

opposing ends of the second wire are connected to the first and second spools [shafts] for the second [spool] *drive spool shaft*, such that the rotational movement of the second [spool] *drive spool shaft* causes, concurrently, both the first and second [spool shafts] *spools* for the second [spool] *drive spool shaft* to rotate, causing the first and second [spool shafts] *spools* for the second [spool] *drive spool shaft* to respectively wind and unwind the second wire; and

an assembly extending in a longitudinal direction and coupled to the base unit by the first and second wires, the assembly including

a mount coupled to the assembly, [and] the mount including

a rotatable portion, and

first and second wire supports that support, respectively, the first and second wires, wherein[:]

the rotatable portion is rotatable about an axis of rotation that extends in the longitudinal direction, and is structured to hold and rotate an elongated member about the axis of rotation,

the first wire support is coupled to the mount and the assembly such that a movement of the first wire along the first wire support causes the mount to move along the assembly in the longitudinal direction, and

the second wire support is coupled to the mount and the rotatable portion such that a movement of the second wire along the second wire support causes

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the rotatable portion to rotate about the axis of rotation of the rotatable portion; and

the method comprising:

rotating the first [spool] *drive spool shaft* to drive the mount in one of opposing forward and backward directions coinciding with the longitudinal direction based on a direction of the rotating of the first [spool] *drive spool shaft*; and

rotating the second *drive spool shaft* to rotate the rotatable portion in one of opposing clockwise and counter-clockwise directions about the rotational axis of the rotatable portion based on a direction of the rotating of the second [spool] *drive spool shaft*.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein:

the base unit further includes a gear coupled to each of the first and second [spools] *drive spool shafts*, [and] wherein

the gear for each of the first and second [spools] *drive spool shafts* is configured to releasably engage respective gear teeth to control rotational movement of, respectively, the first and second [spools] *drive spool shafts*; and the method further [comprising:] comprises

axially displacing one of the first and second [spools] *drive spool shafts* to disengage the one of the first and second spools from the respective gear teeth to allow rotating of the one of the first and second [spools] *drive spool shafts*.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein:

the drive system includes the elongated member[:];

the rotating the first [spool] *drive spool shaft* drives the elongated member in the one of opposing forward and backward directions coinciding with the longitudinal direction based on the direction of the rotating of the first [spool:] *drive spool shaft*; and

the rotating the second [spool] *drive spool shaft* rotates the elongated member in the one of opposing clockwise and counter-clockwise directions about the rotational axis of the rotatable portion based on the direction of the rotating of the second [spool] *drive spool shaft*.

24. The drive system of claim 1 further comprising:

a display provided on the base unit that displays longitudinal positioning of the elongated member extending in the longitudinal direction.

25. The drive system of claim 24, further comprising:

a potentiometer assembly attached to the elongated member extending in the longitudinal direction and configured to provide feedback regarding the longitudinal positioning of the elongated member extending in the longitudinal direction.

26. The drive system of claim 25, further comprising:

a processing means connected to the potentiometer assembly, wherein the processing means processes the feedback regarding the longitudinal positioning.

27. The drive system of claim 26, wherein:

the feedback regarding the longitudinal positioning of the elongated member extending in the longitudinal direction is displayed as a numerical value relative to a longitudinal zero reference point.

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