



US011207192B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Suddaby

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 11,207,192 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Dec. 28, 2021**

(54) **STAND-ALONE EXPANDABLE INTERBODY SPINAL FUSION DEVICE WITH INTEGRATED FIXATION MECHANISM**

(71) Applicant: **Loubert S. Suddaby**, Orchard Park, NY (US)

(72) Inventor: **Loubert S. Suddaby**, Orchard Park, NY (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 1032 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **15/416,270**

(22) Filed: **Jan. 26, 2017**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2018/0206999 A1 Jul. 26, 2018

(51) **Int. Cl.**

A61F 2/44 (2006.01)

A61F 2/30 (2006.01)

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

CPC *A61F 2/447* (2013.01); *A61F 2/4455* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/3085* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/30471* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/30523* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/30525* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/30528* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/30538* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/30556* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/30579* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/30593* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/30601* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/30845* (2013.01); *A61F 2002/30863* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC *A61F 2/4455*; *A61F 2/446*; *A61F 2/4465*; *A61F 2/447*; *A61F 2/4611*

USPC 623/17.15, 17.16
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,505,732 A	4/1996	Michelson
5,653,762 A	8/1997	Pisharodi
5,665,122 A	9/1997	Kambin
5,683,463 A	11/1997	Godefroy et al.
5,827,328 A	10/1998	Buttermann
6,176,881 B1	1/2001	Schär et al.
6,190,414 B1	2/2001	Young et al.
6,395,034 B1	5/2002	Suddaby

(Continued)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Sahara AI Expandable Stabilization System; Advertisement flyer; Available from K2M, Inc. Leesburg, Virginia; Published as early as Oct. 20, 2015.

(Continued)

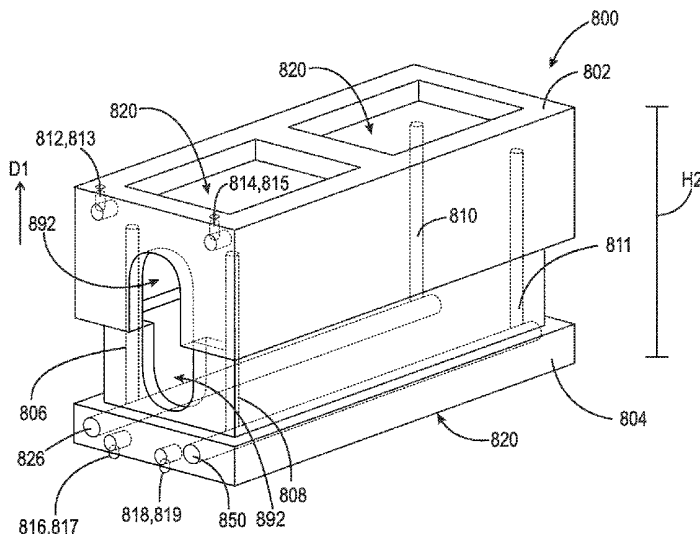
Primary Examiner — Si Ming Ku

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Simpson & Simpson, PLLC

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device including a superior component, an inferior component, an expansion mechanism arranged to displace the superior component in a first direction relative to the inferior component, and a self-piercing screw mechanism arranged within the superior component or inferior component. When torque is applied to the expansion mechanism, torque is transferred 90 degrees thereby displacing a threaded rod or toothed shaft in a first direction thereby displacing the superior component in a first direction relative to the inferior component. When torque is applied to the self-piercing screw mechanism, torque is transferred 90 degrees thereby displacing a self-piercing screw body in a first direction to engage an anchor layer and the bone material of vertebrae thereby holding the interbody spinal fusion device in place within a disc space.

27 Claims, 39 Drawing Sheets



(56)

References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

6,524,341 B2 2/2003 Lång et al.
 6,837,850 B2 1/2005 Suddaby
 6,958,077 B2 10/2005 Suddaby
 6,969,405 B2 11/2005 Suddaby
 6,991,653 B2 1/2006 White et al.
 7,309,358 B2 12/2007 Berry et al.
 7,597,714 B2 10/2009 Suddaby
 7,615,078 B2 11/2009 White et al.
 7,628,800 B2 12/2009 Sherman et al.
 7,648,529 B2 1/2010 An et al.
 7,731,752 B2 6/2010 Edie et al.
 8,007,535 B2 8/2011 Hudgins et al.
 8,057,549 B2 11/2011 Butterman et al.
 8,187,328 B2 5/2012 Melkent
 8,246,630 B2 8/2012 Manzi et al.
 8,273,126 B2 9/2012 Lindner
 8,303,663 B2 11/2012 Jimenez et al.
 8,435,296 B2 5/2013 Kadaba et al.
 8,480,738 B2 7/2013 Edie et al.
 8,512,406 B2 8/2013 White et al.
 8,568,481 B2 10/2013 Olmos et al.
 8,696,751 B2 4/2014 Ashley et al.
 8,900,312 B2 12/2014 McLean et al.
 8,932,302 B2 1/2015 Jimenez et al.
 8,956,413 B2 2/2015 Ashley et al.
 8,992,620 B2 3/2015 Ashley et al.
 9,011,499 B1 4/2015 Kiester
 9,066,760 B2 6/2015 Taber et al.
 9,078,767 B1 7/2015 McLean
 9,084,686 B1 7/2015 McLean et al.
 9,889,019 B2 2/2018 Rogers et al.
 2003/0191531 A1 10/2003 Berry et al.
 2005/0049590 A1 3/2005 Alleyne et al.
 2006/0149385 A1 7/2006 McKay
 2006/0241621 A1 10/2006 Moskowitz et al.
 2007/0049943 A1 3/2007 Moskowitz et al.

2007/0250172 A1 10/2007 Moskowitz et al.
 2008/0058930 A1 3/2008 Edie et al.
 2008/0140207 A1 6/2008 Olmos et al.
 2008/0215153 A1 9/2008 Butterman et al.
 2010/0004752 A1 1/2010 White et al.
 2010/0057204 A1 3/2010 Kadaba et al.
 2010/0076559 A1 3/2010 Bagga et al.
 2010/0198352 A1 8/2010 Edie et al.
 2011/0054616 A1 3/2011 Kamran et al.
 2011/0130835 A1 6/2011 Ashley et al.
 2011/0138948 A1 * 6/2011 Jimenez A61B 17/7065
 74/424.82
 2012/0059479 A1 3/2012 Buttermann et al.
 2012/0116518 A1 5/2012 Grotz et al.
 2013/0131808 A1 5/2013 Suh et al.
 2013/0231747 A1 9/2013 Olmos et al.
 2013/0253650 A1 9/2013 Ashley et al.
 2013/0261748 A1 10/2013 Ashley et al.
 2014/0012383 A1 1/2014 Triplett et al.
 2014/0207236 A1 7/2014 Prevost et al.
 2014/0277471 A1 9/2014 Gray et al.
 2014/0277476 A1 9/2014 McLean et al.
 2014/0277480 A1 9/2014 Prevost et al.
 2015/0012098 A1 1/2015 Eastlack et al.
 2015/0081022 A1 3/2015 McLean et al.
 2015/0148907 A1 5/2015 Kleiner et al.
 2015/0190242 A1 * 7/2015 Blain A61F 2/4455
 623/17.12
 2016/0100951 A1 4/2016 Suddaby et al.
 2017/0165082 A1 6/2017 Faulhaber
 2018/0116818 A1 5/2018 Rogers et al.
 2018/0303626 A1 10/2018 Rogers et al.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Loubert S. Suddaby; Unpublished U.S. Appl. No. 15/273,032; Expandable Intervertebral Fusion Implant; filed Sep. 22, 2016.

* cited by examiner

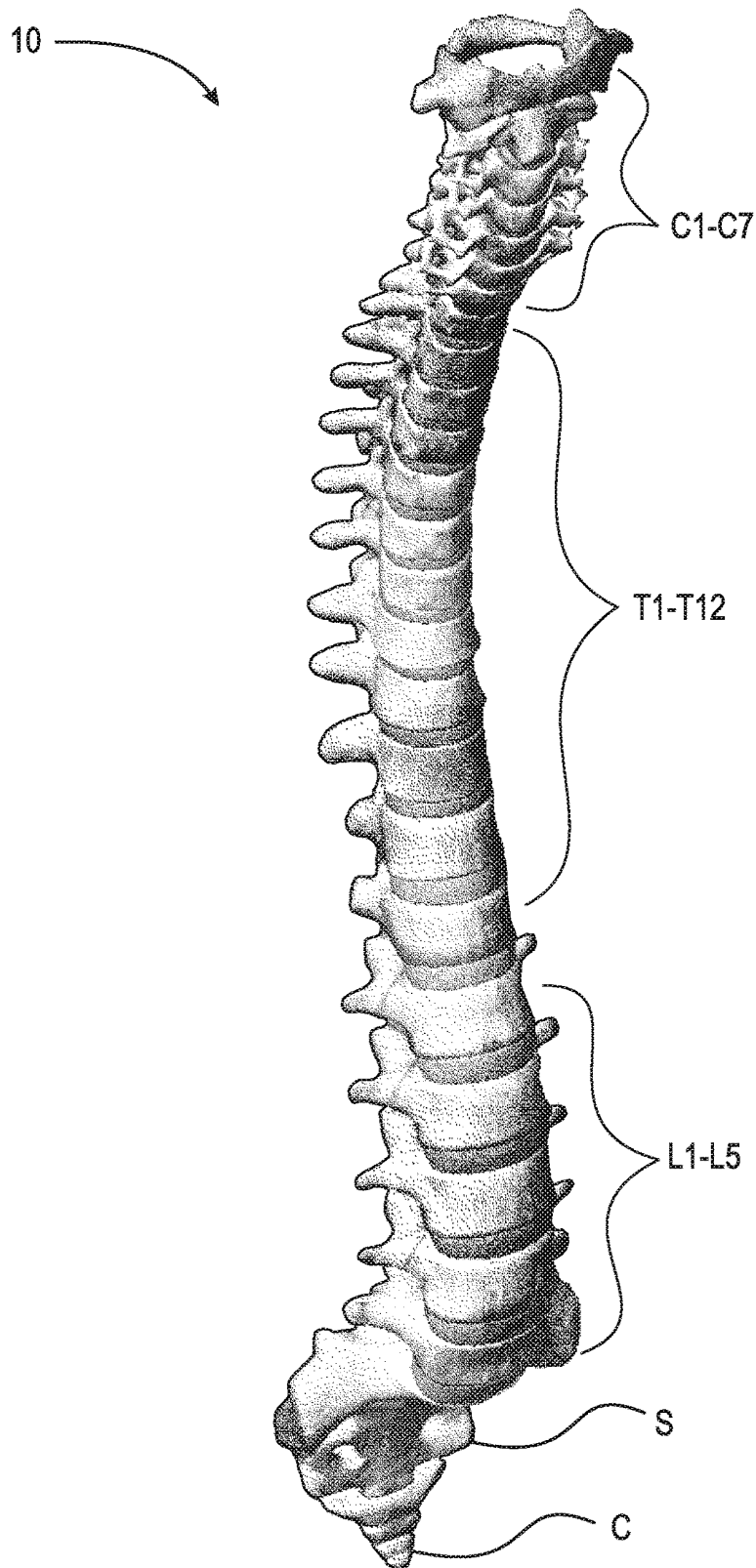


Fig. 1

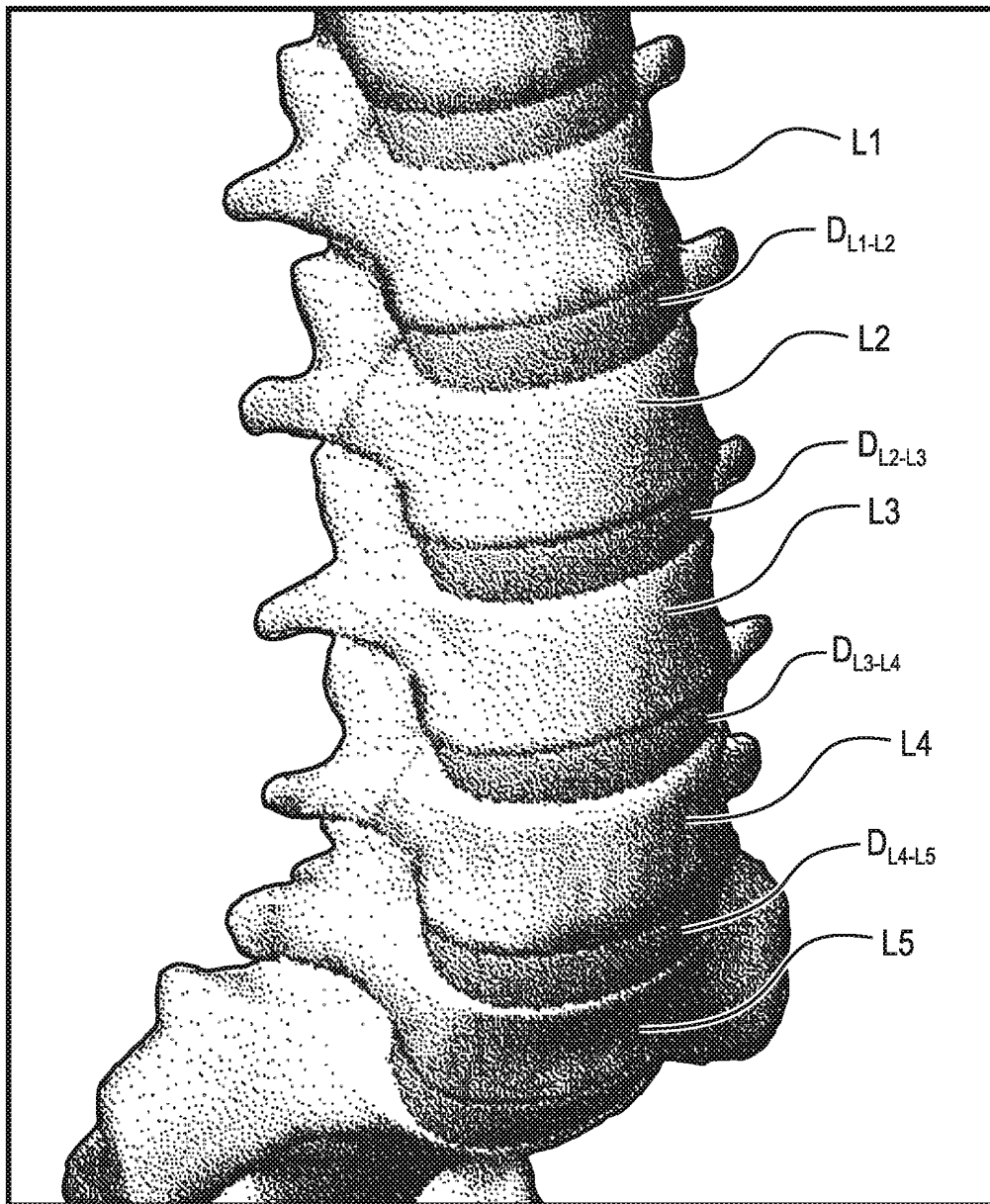


Fig. 2

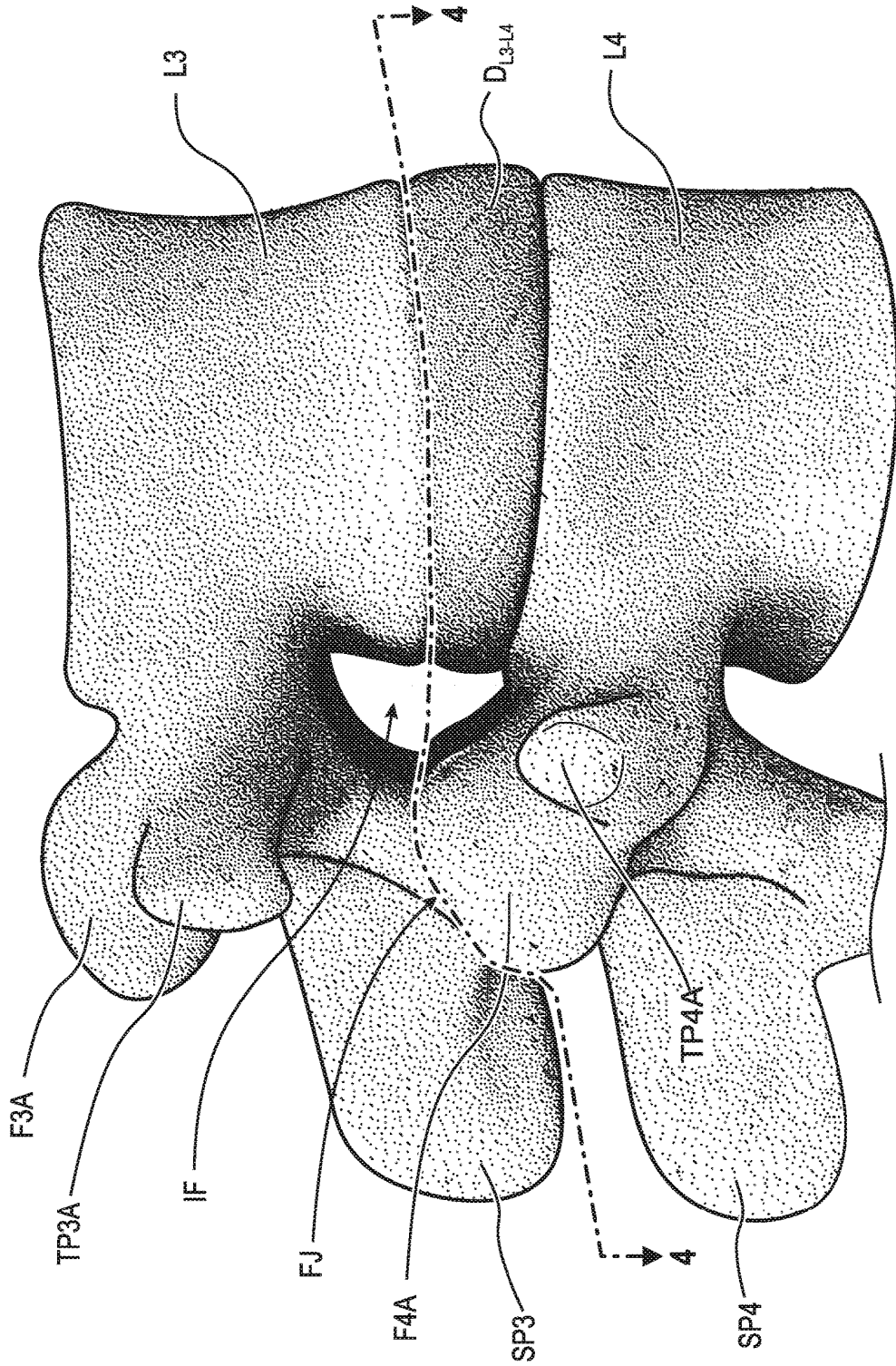


Fig. 3

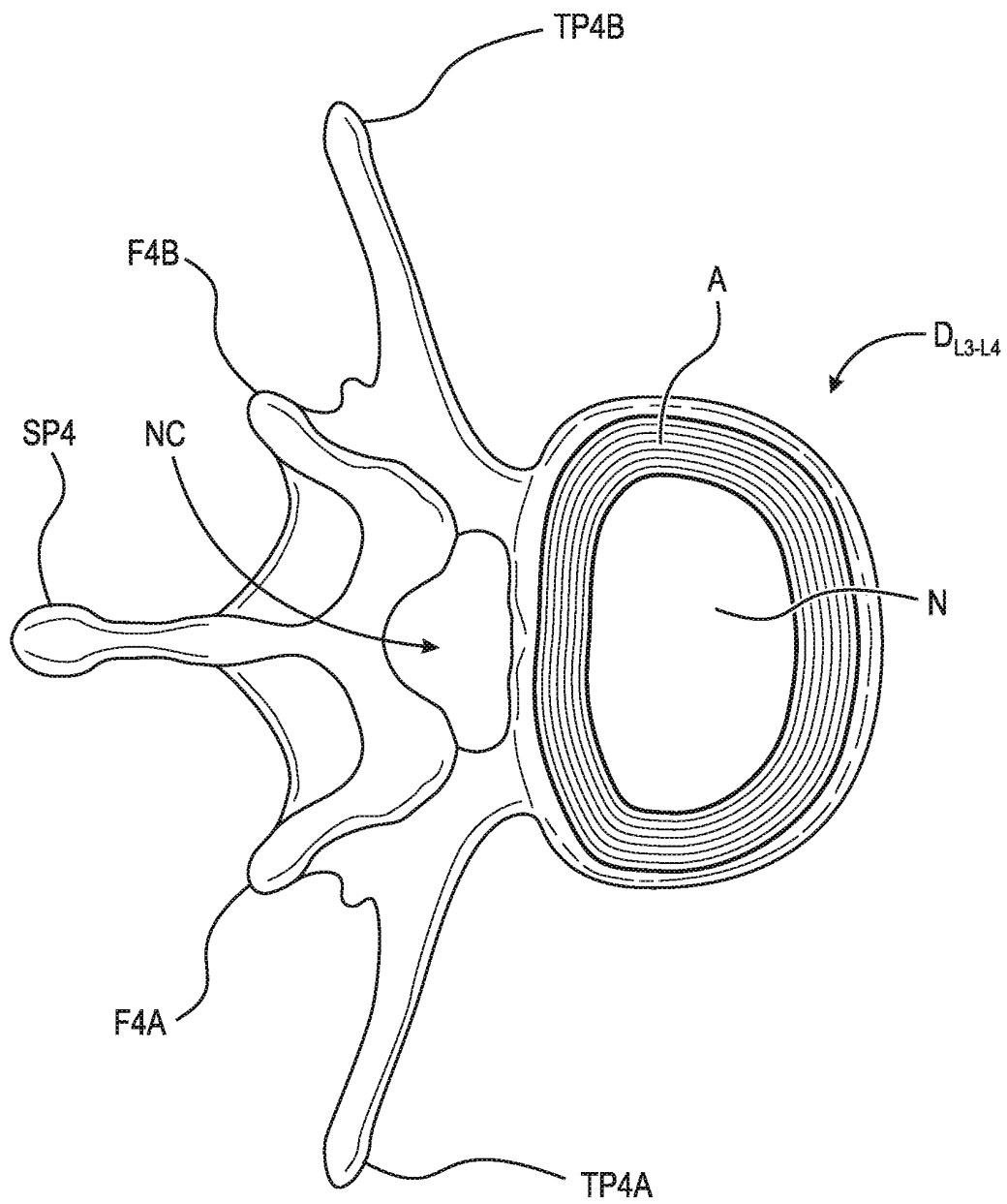


Fig. 4

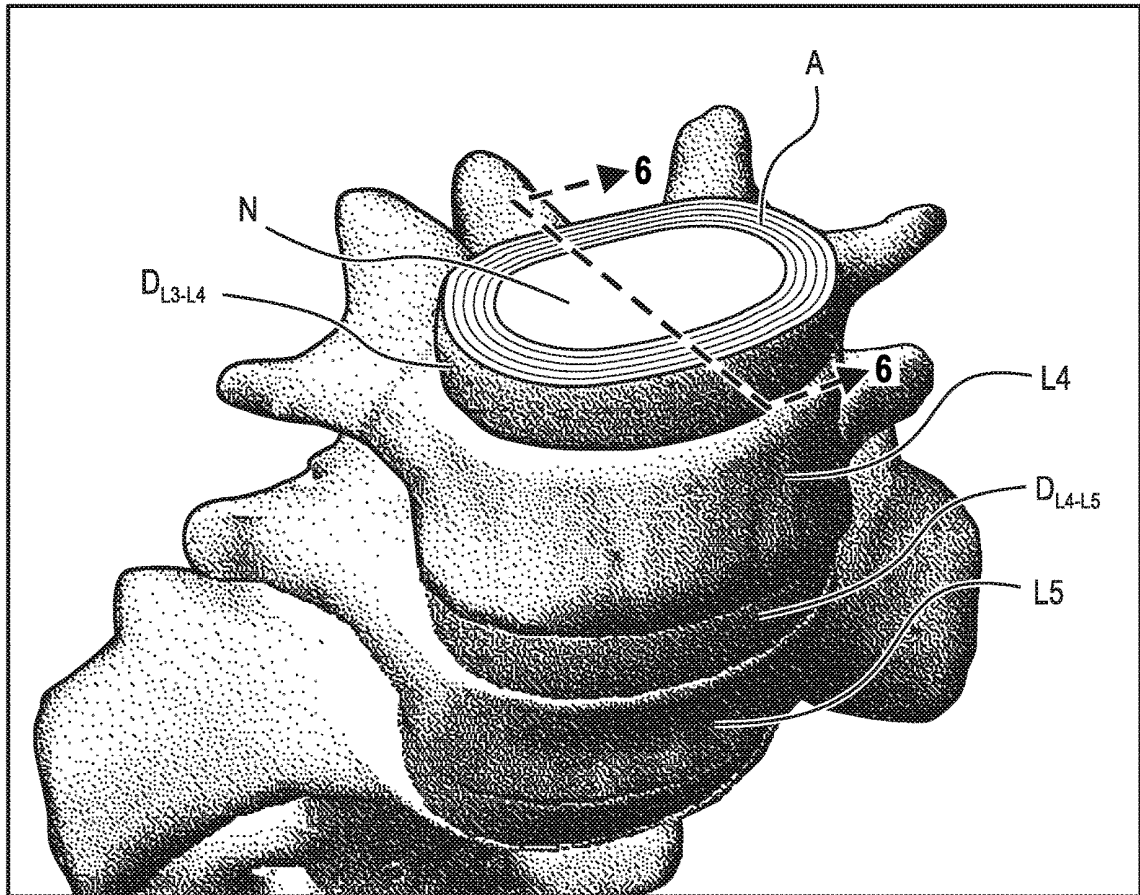


Fig. 5

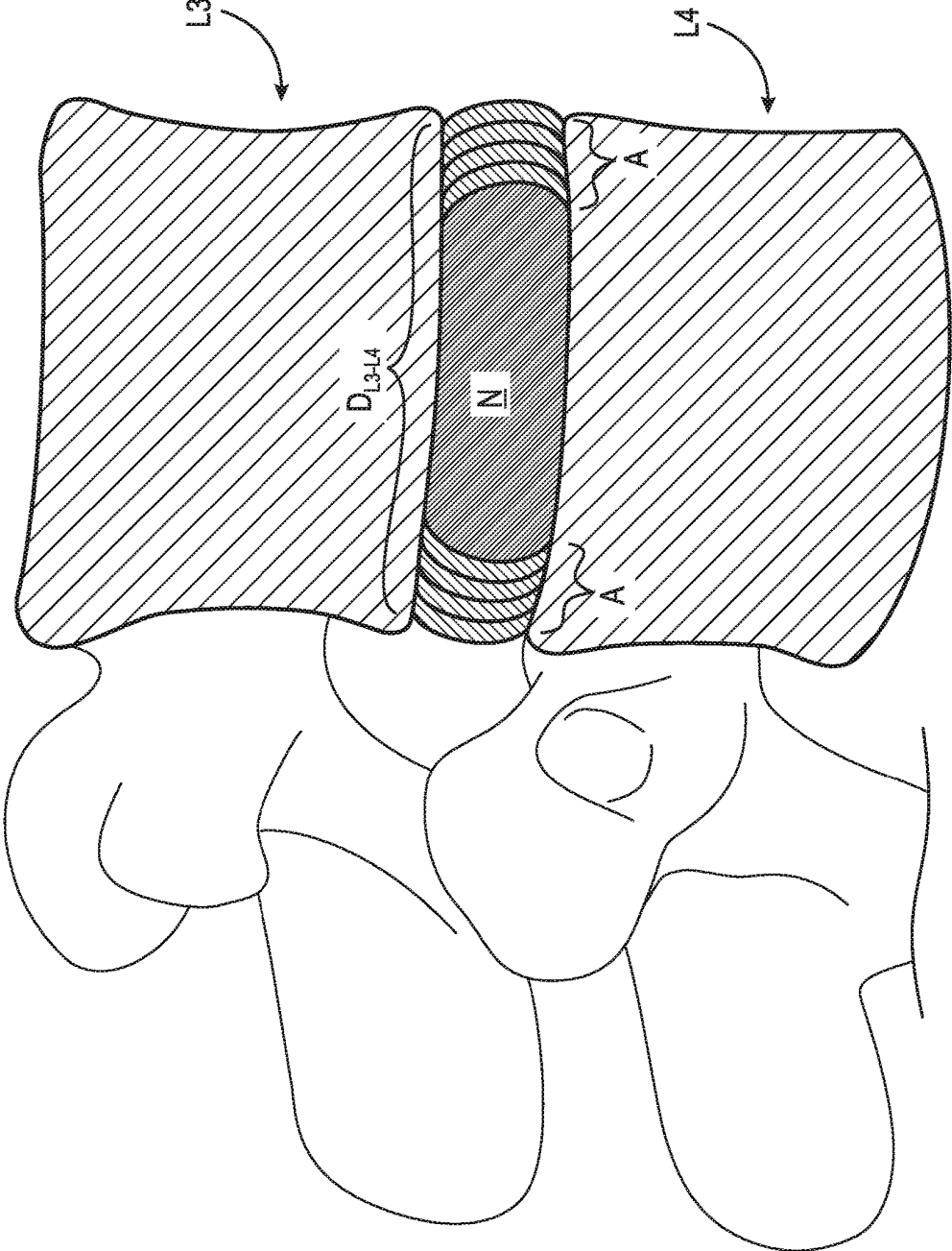


Fig. 6

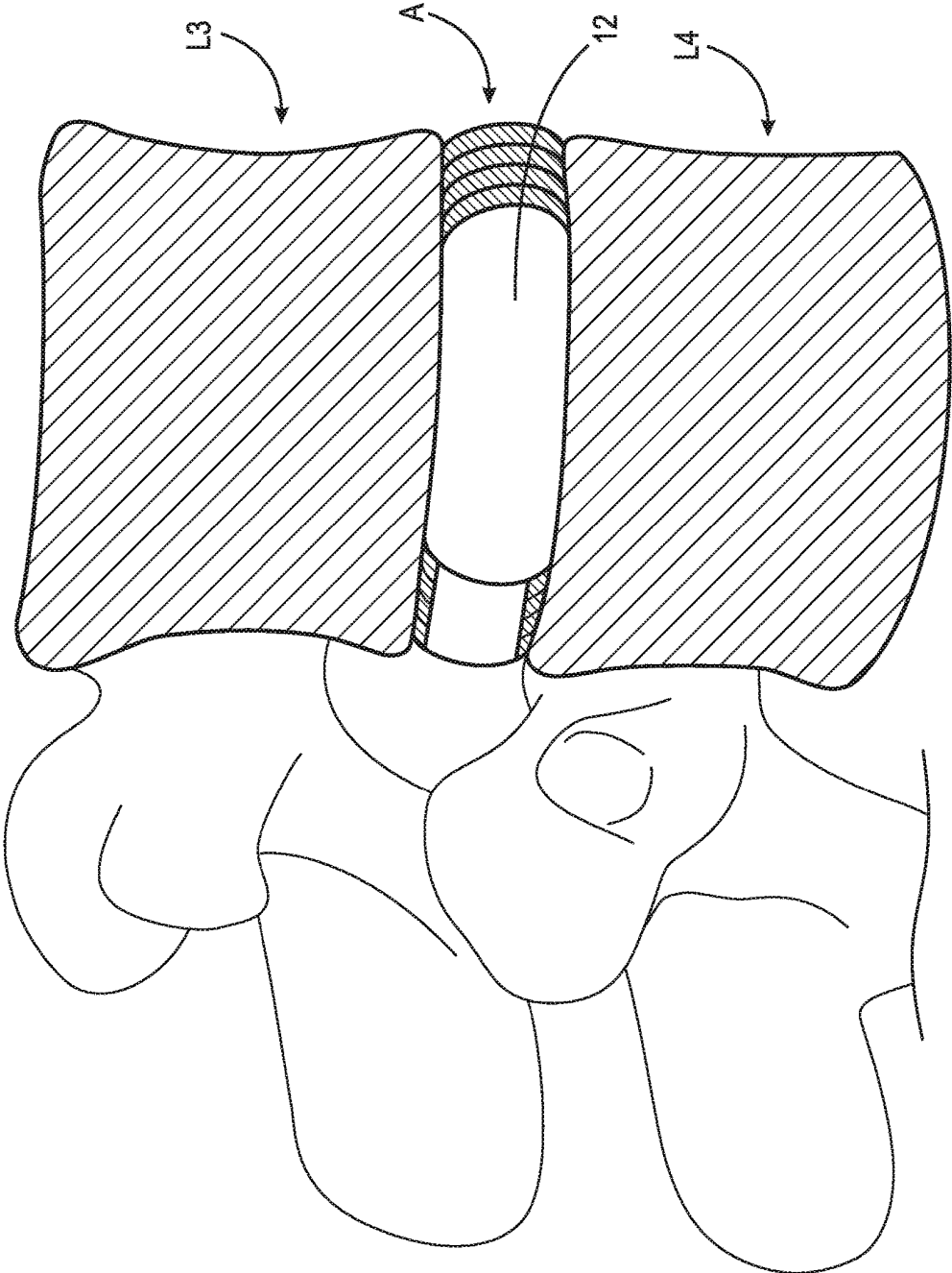


Fig. 7

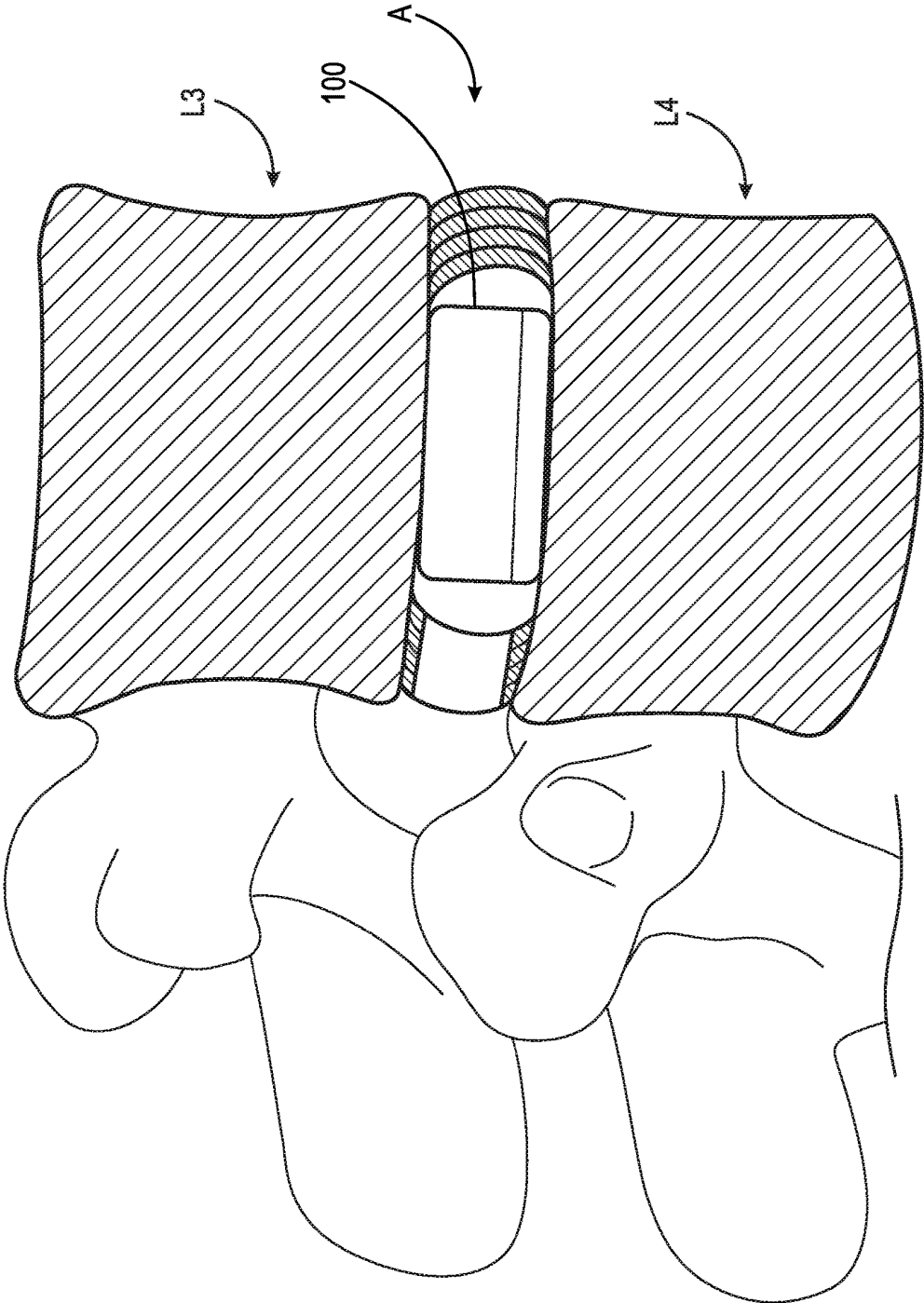


Fig. 8

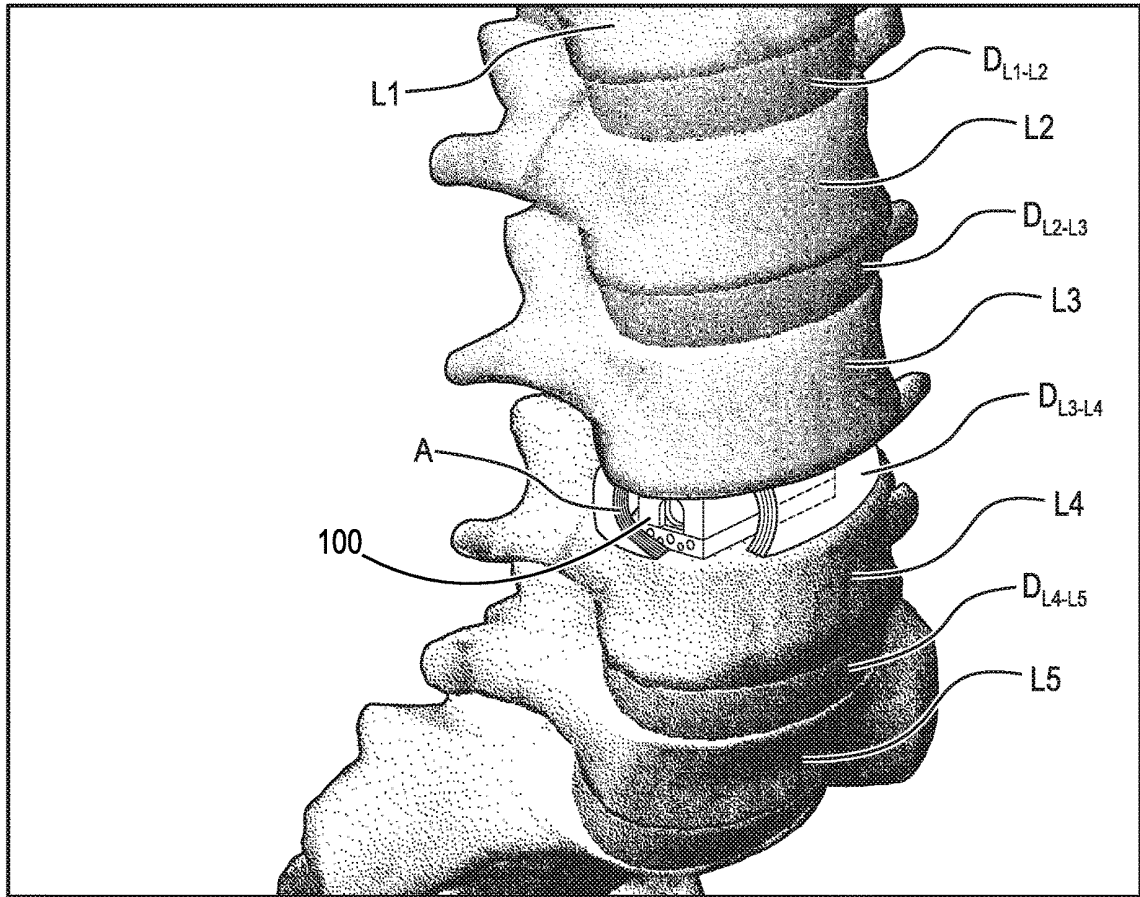
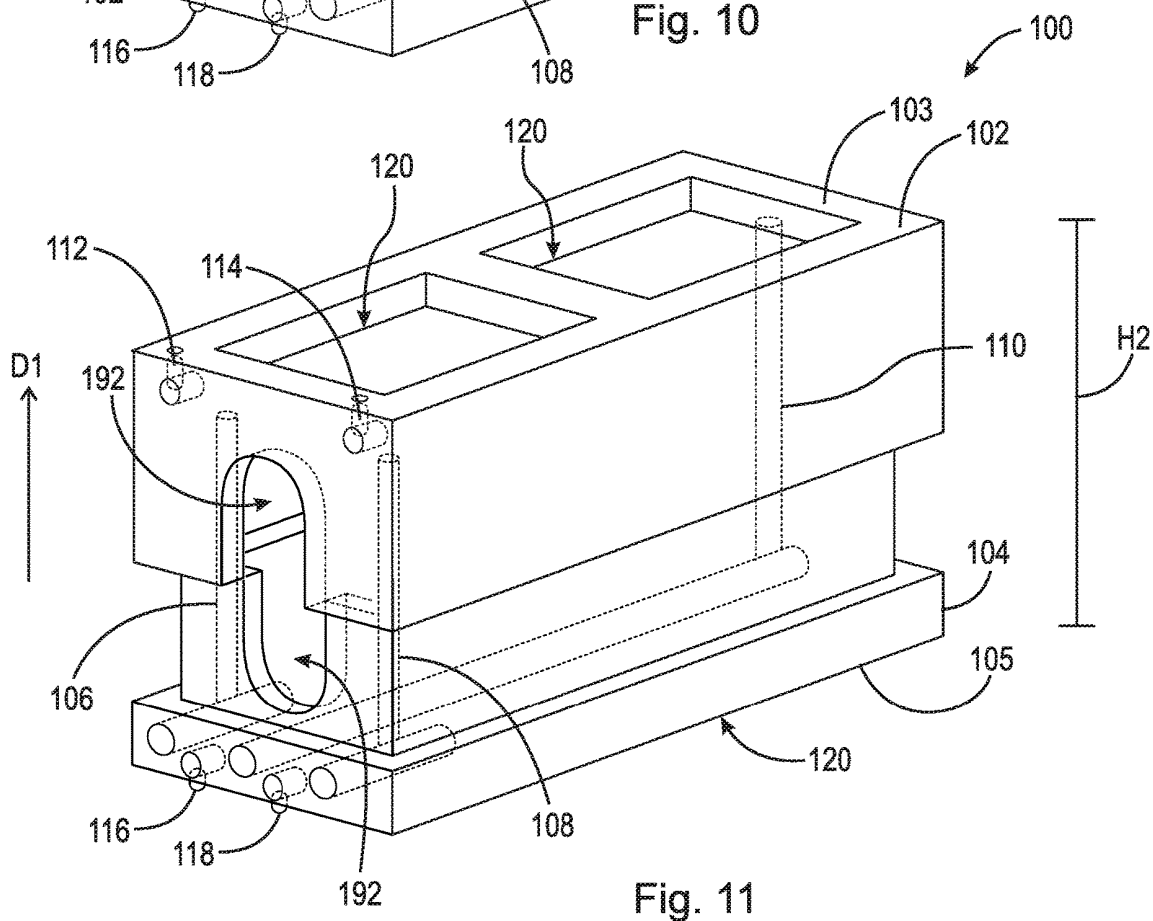
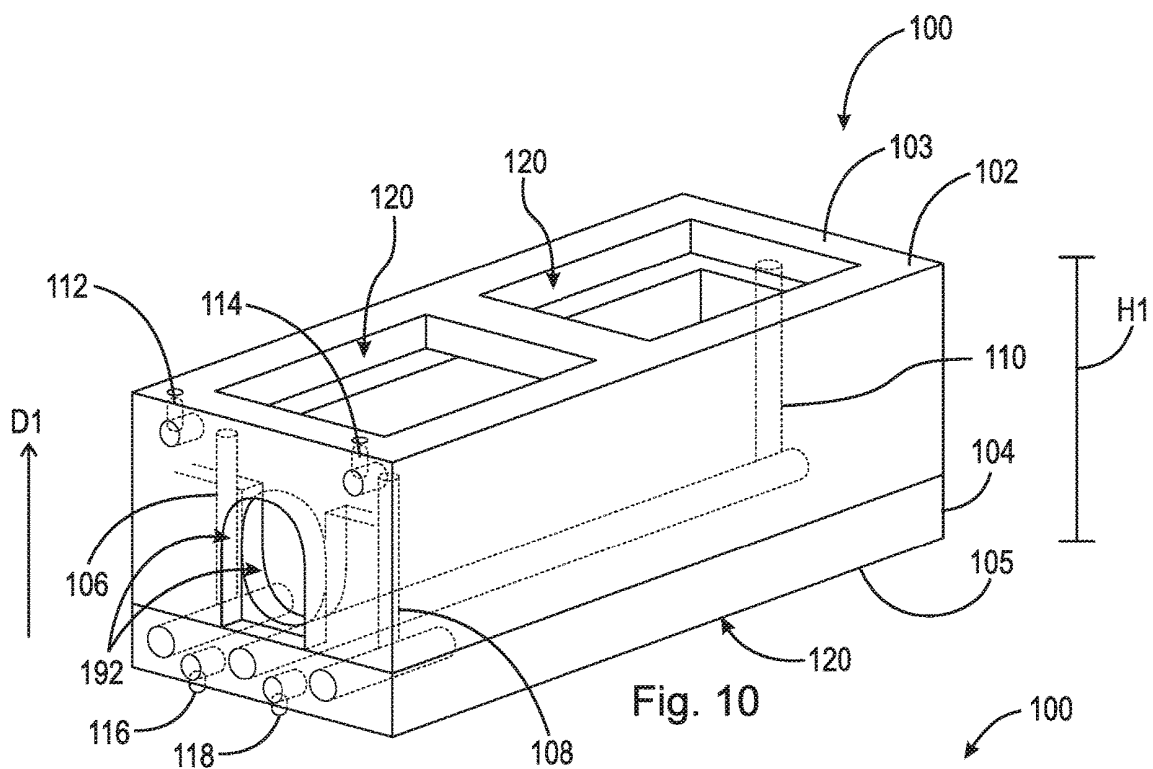


Fig. 9



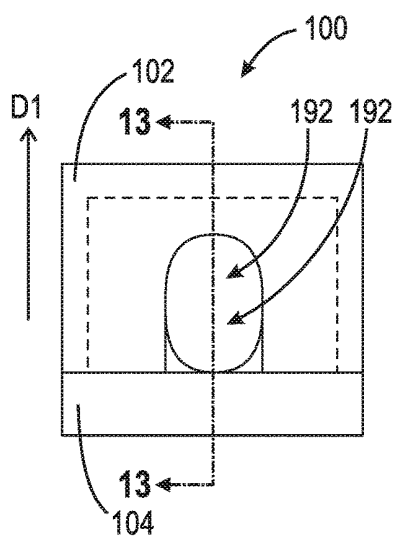


Fig. 12

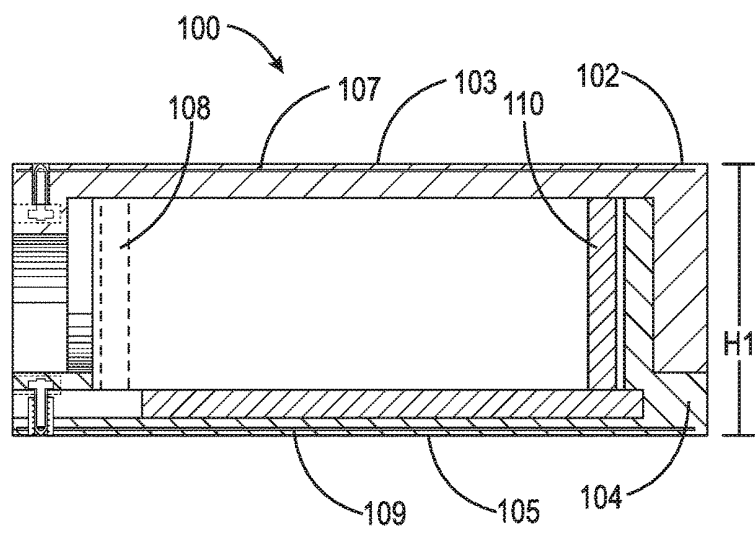


Fig. 13

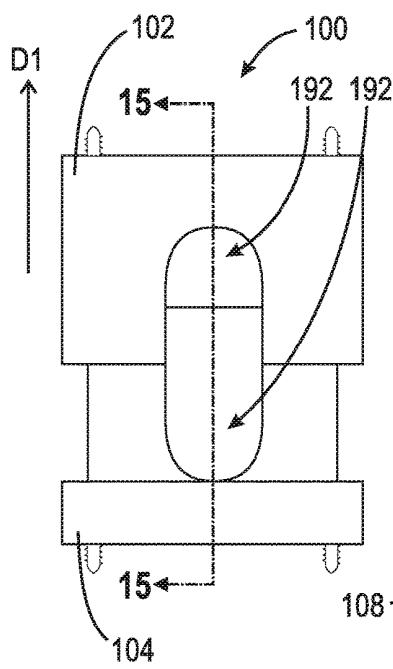


Fig. 14

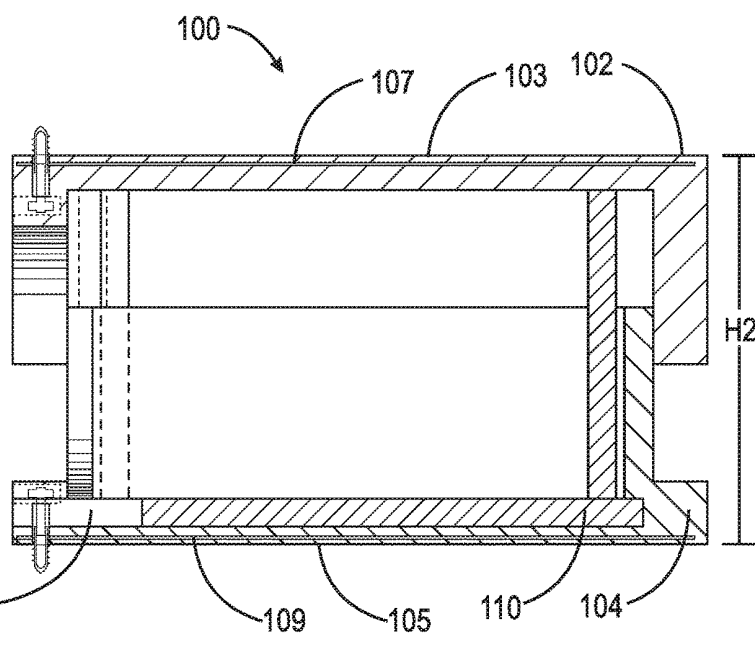


Fig. 15

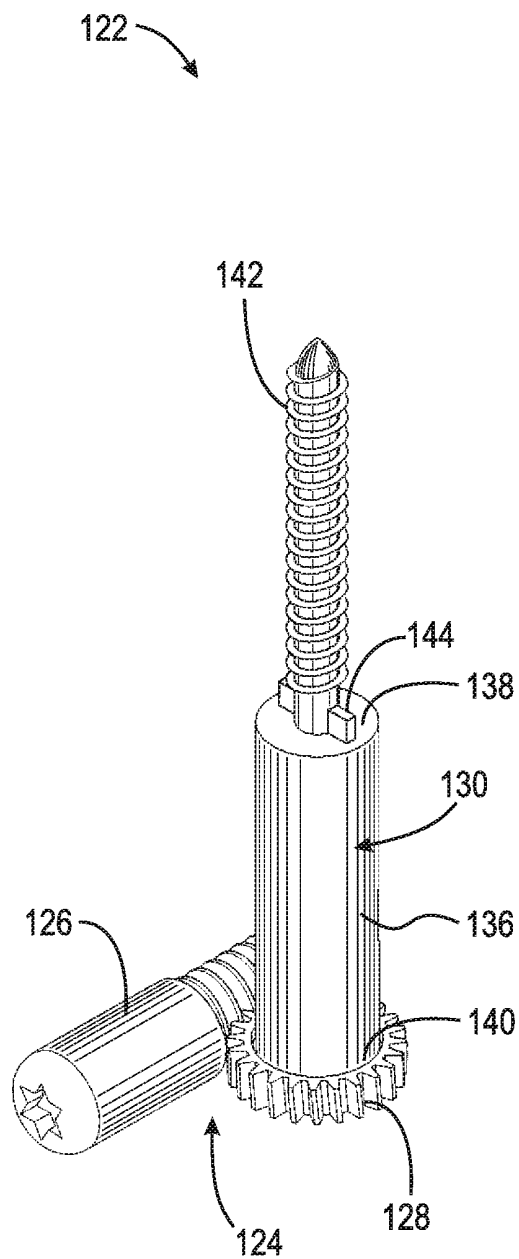


Fig. 16

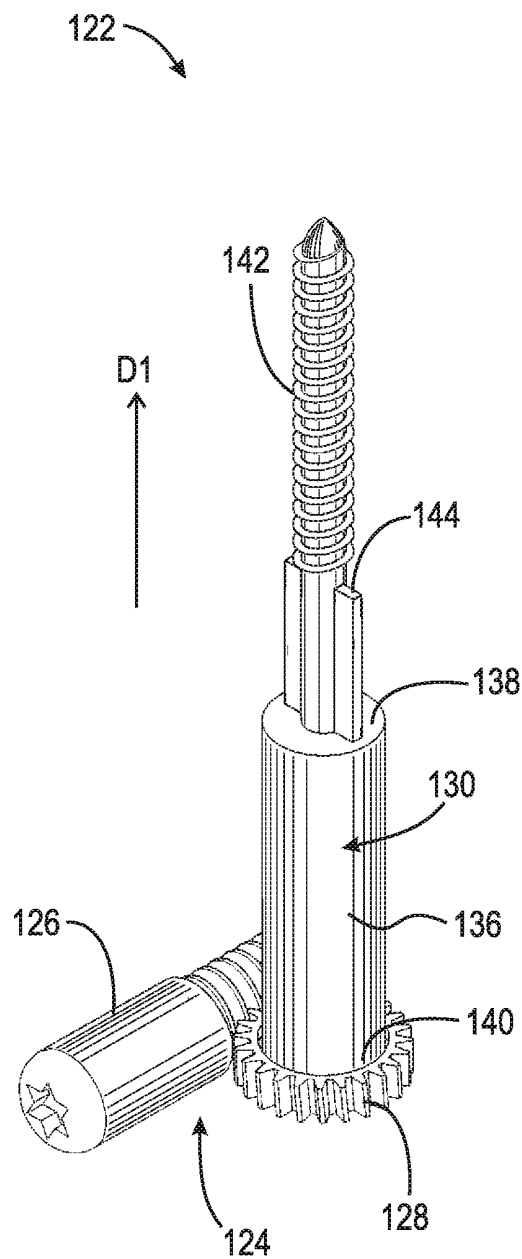


Fig. 17

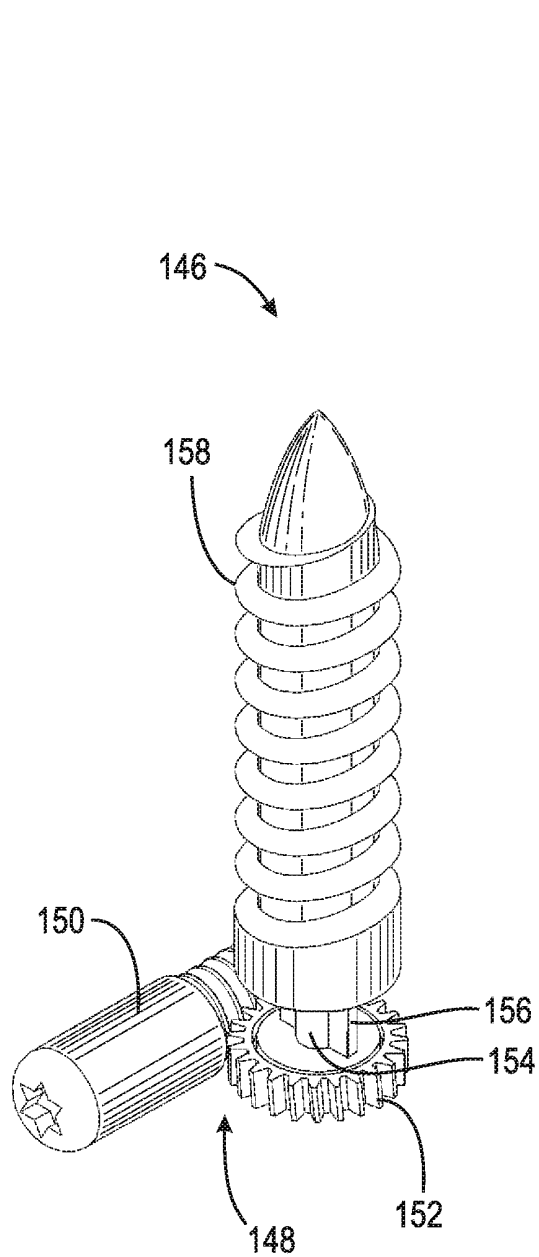


Fig. 18

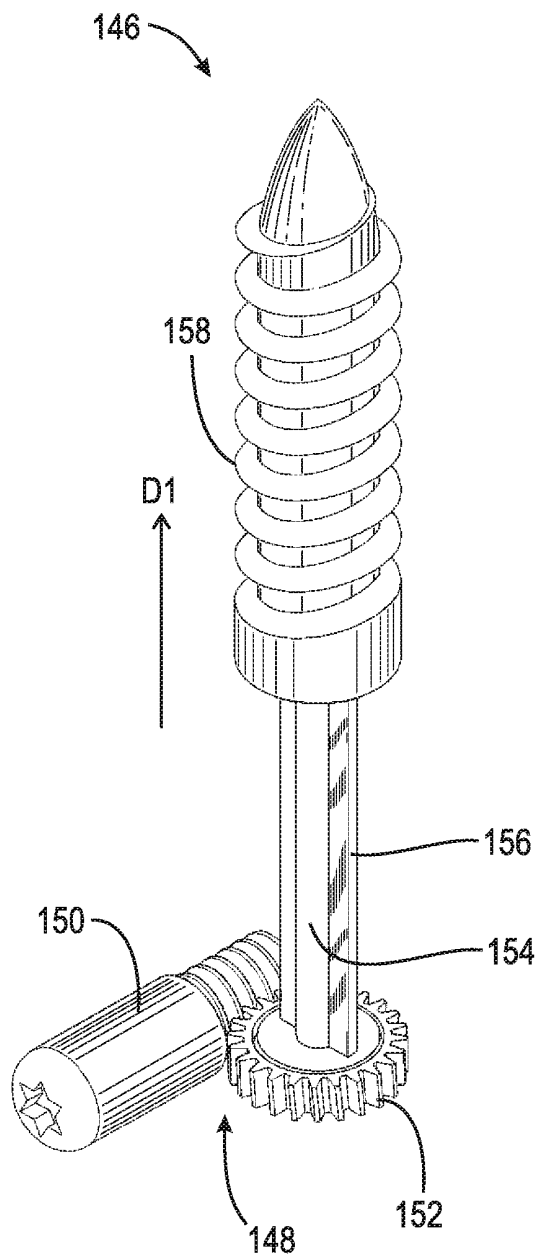


Fig. 19

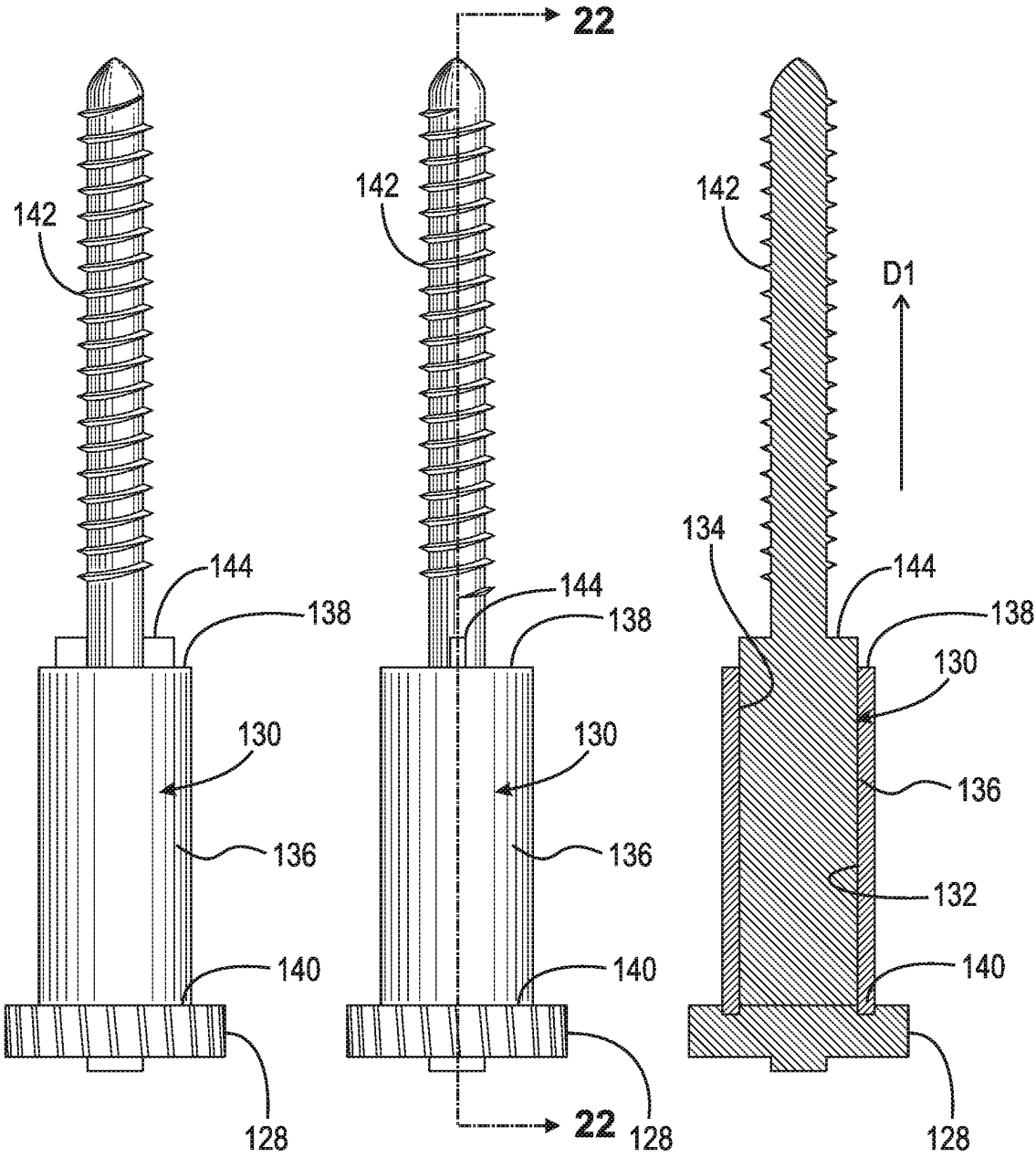


Fig. 20

Fig. 21

Fig. 22

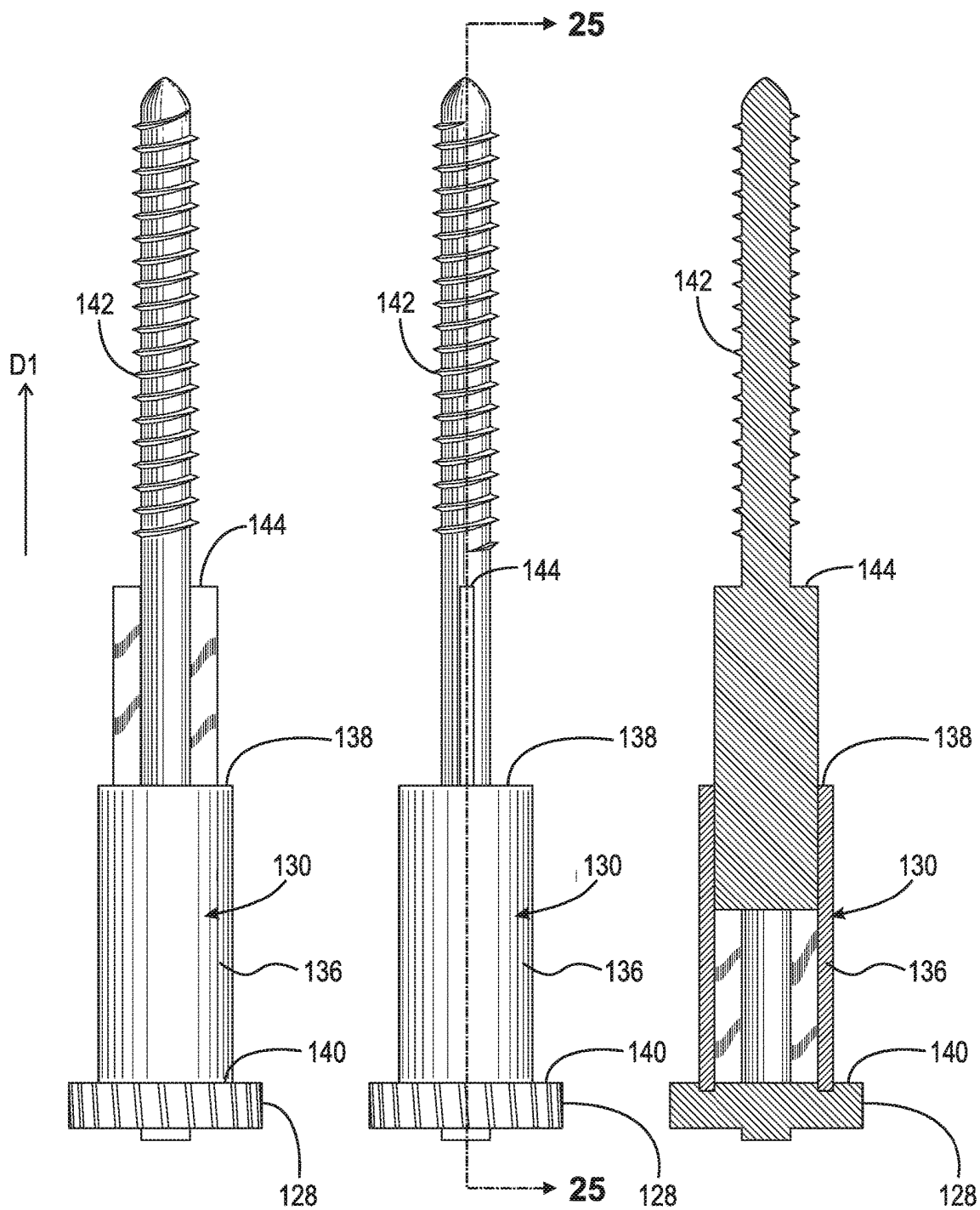


Fig. 23

Fig. 24

Fig. 25

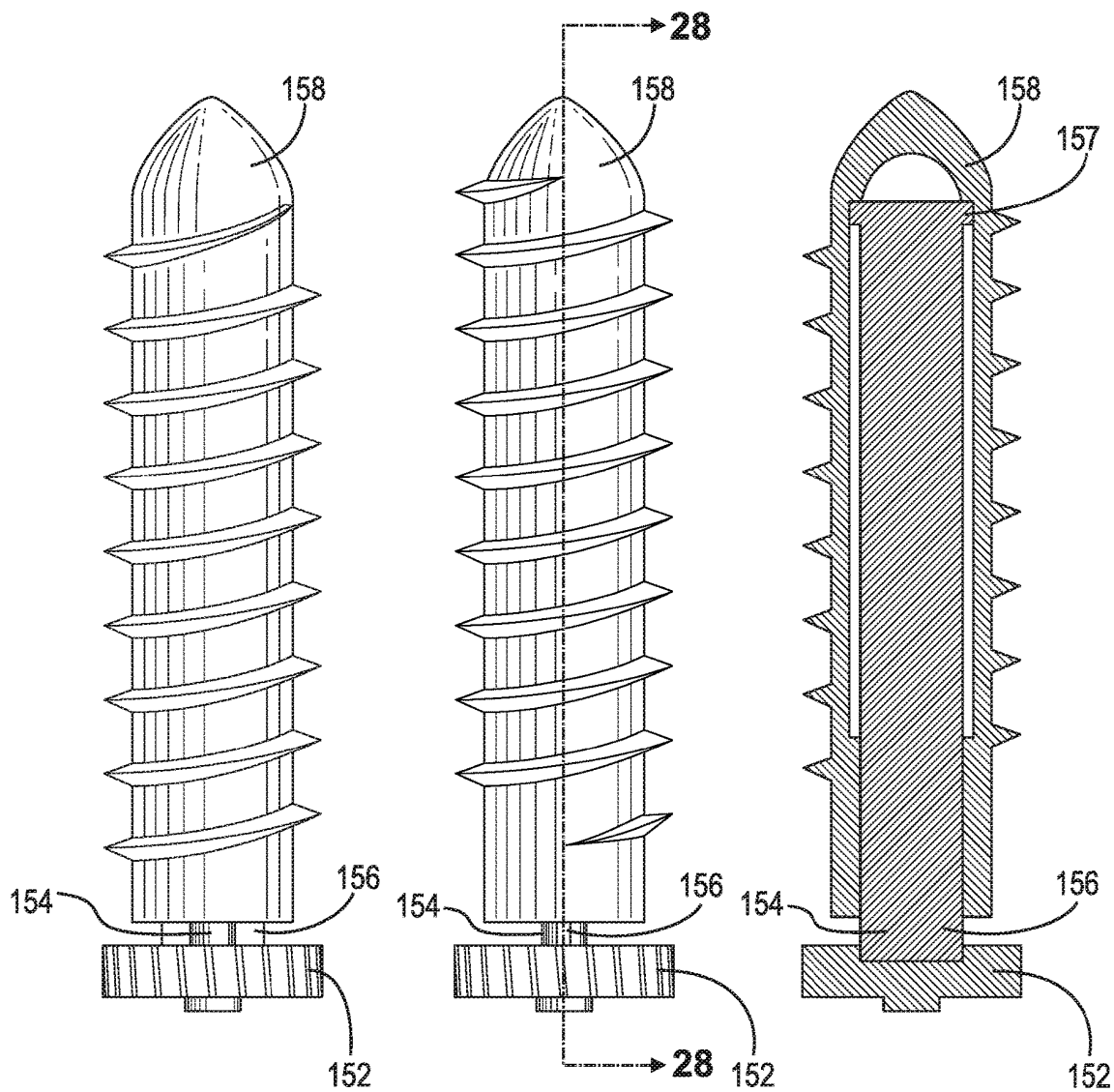
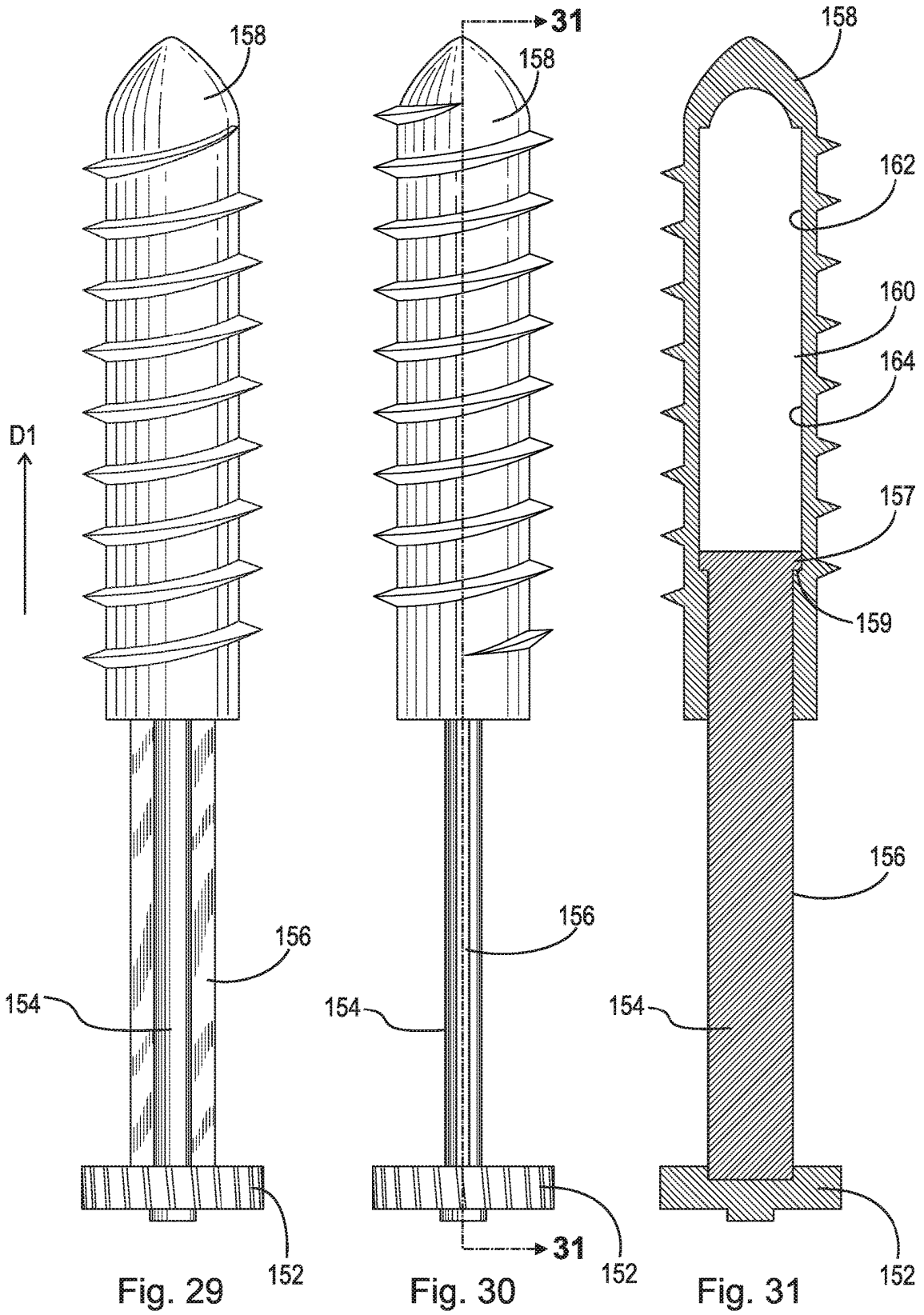


Fig. 26

Fig. 27

Fig. 28



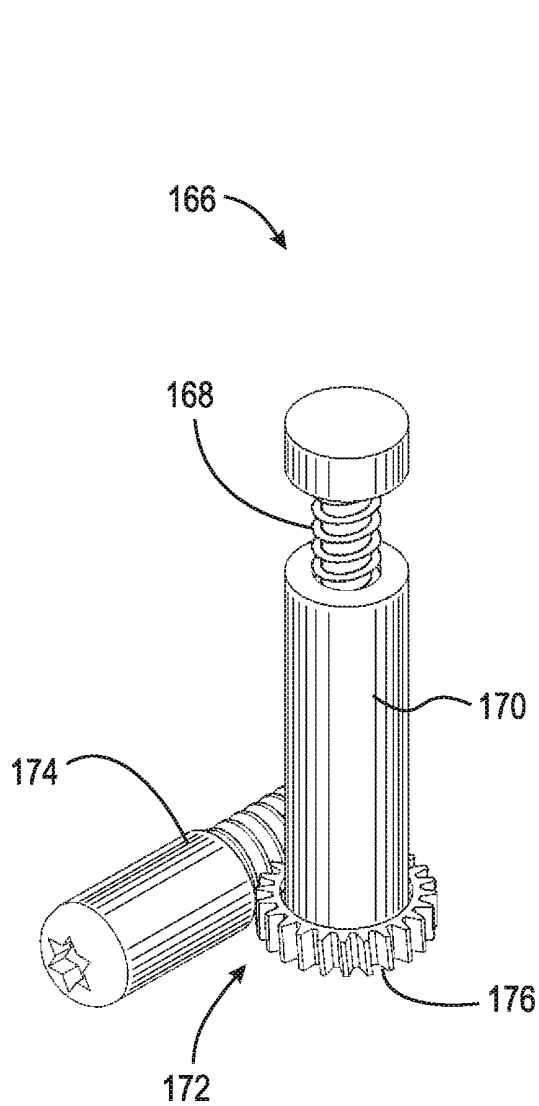


Fig. 32

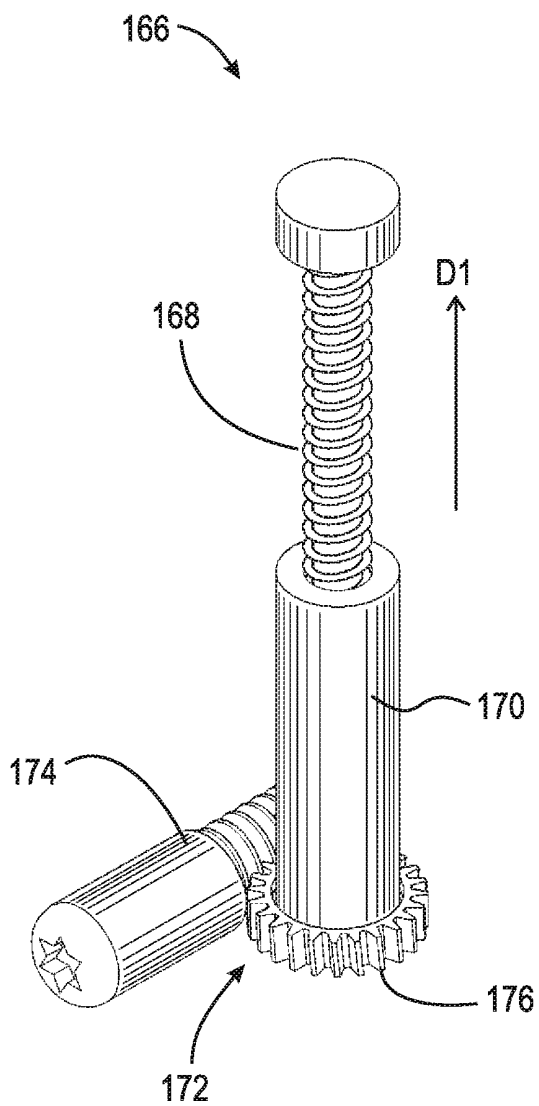


Fig. 33

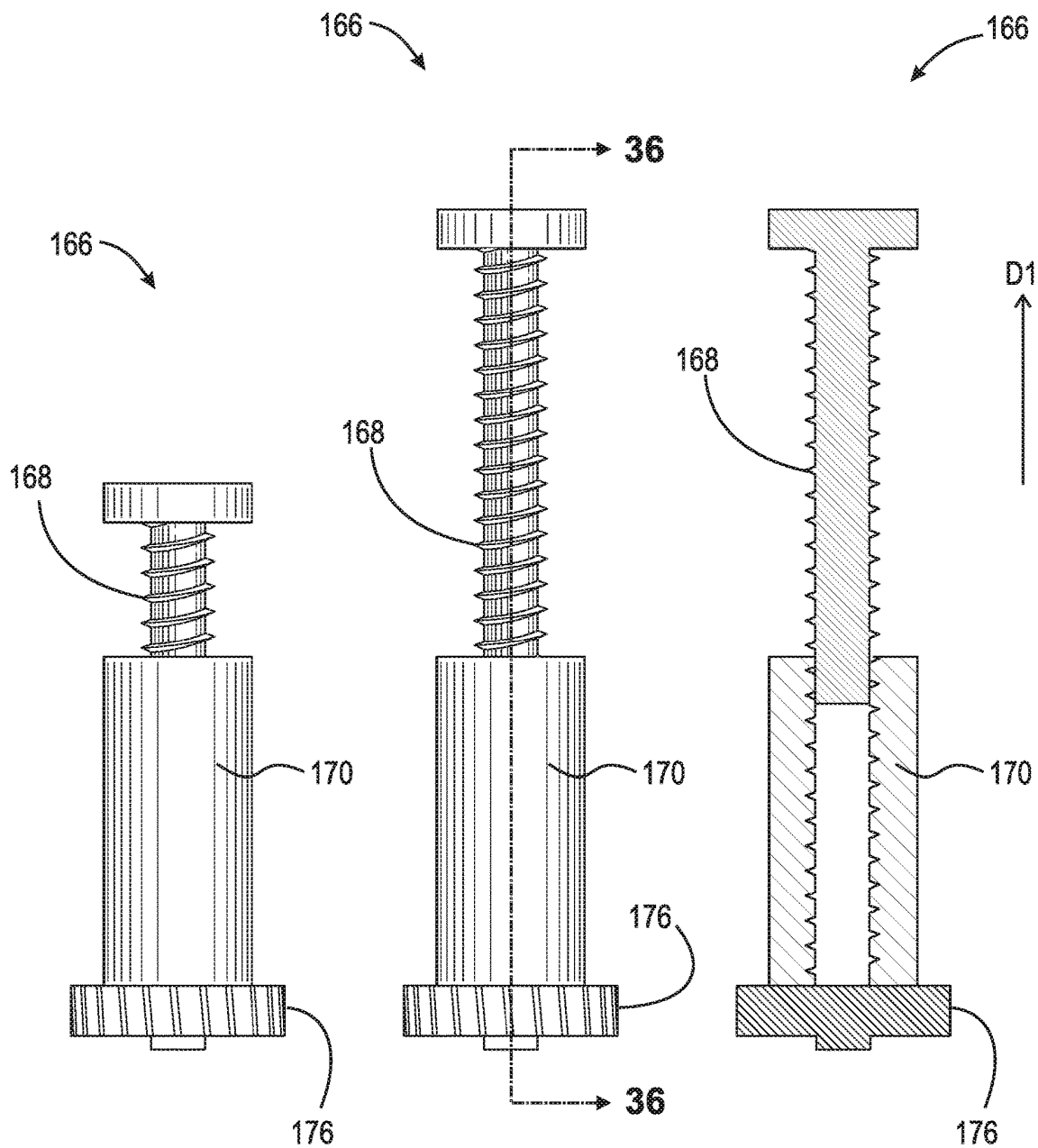


Fig. 34

Fig. 35

Fig. 36

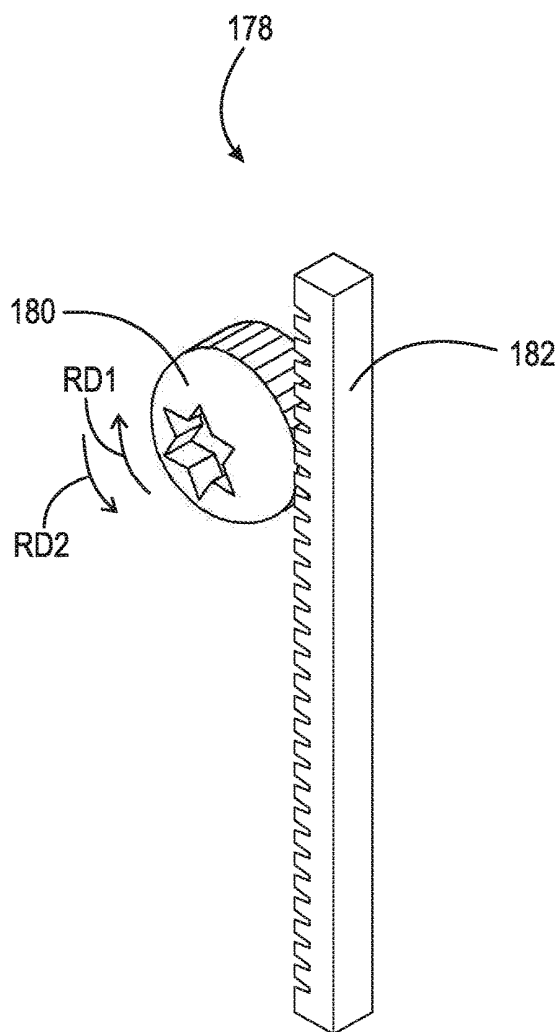


Fig. 37

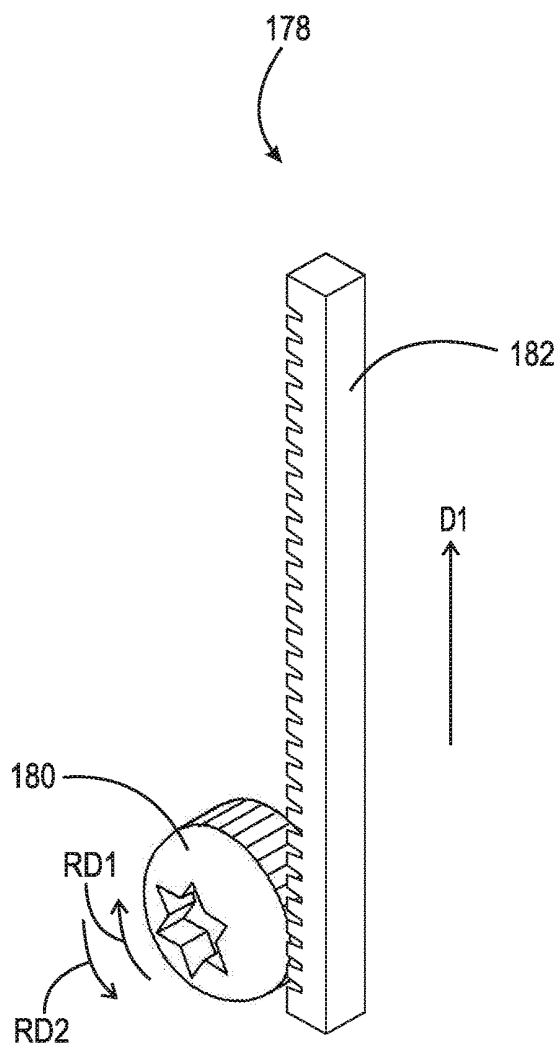


Fig. 38

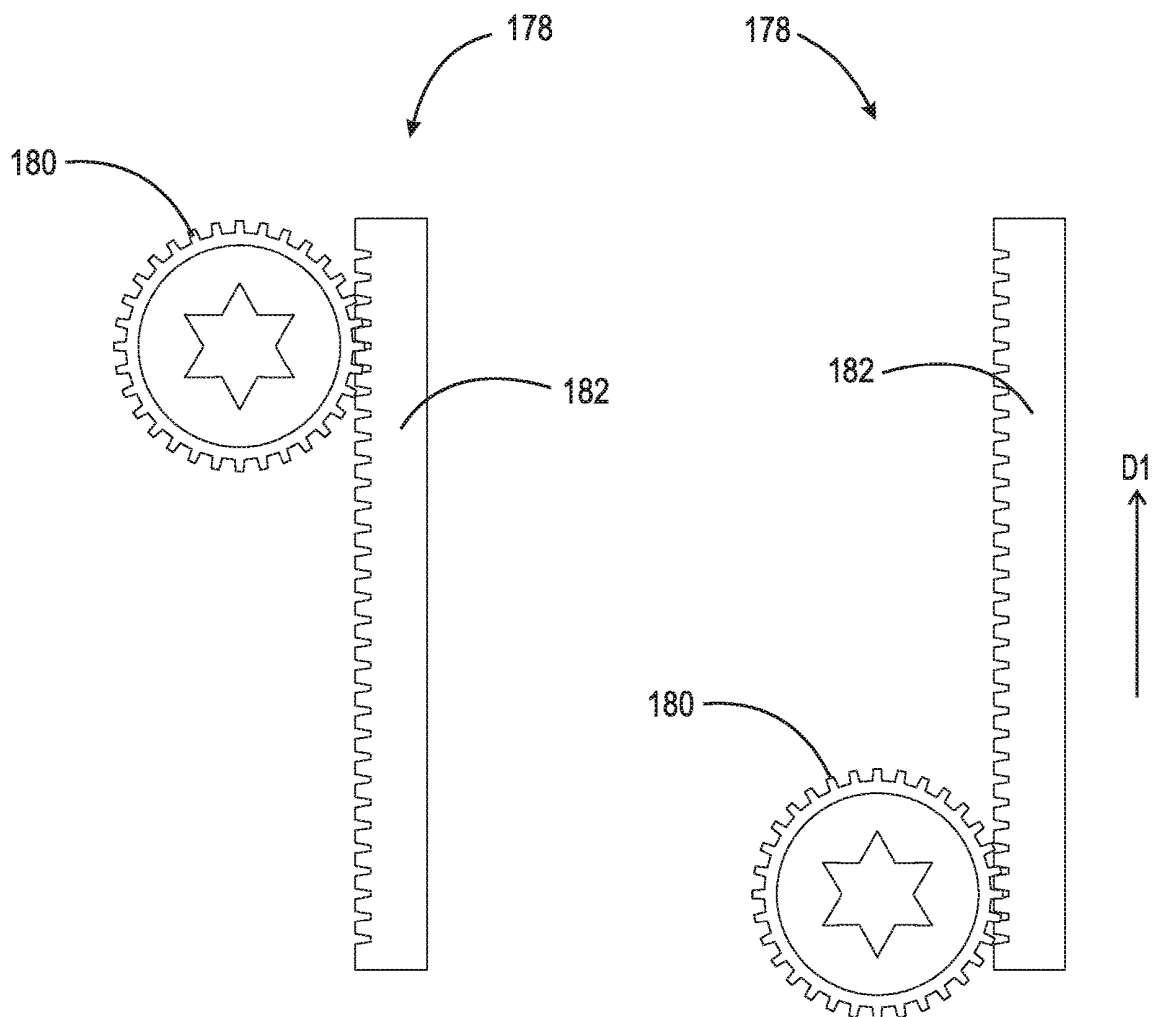
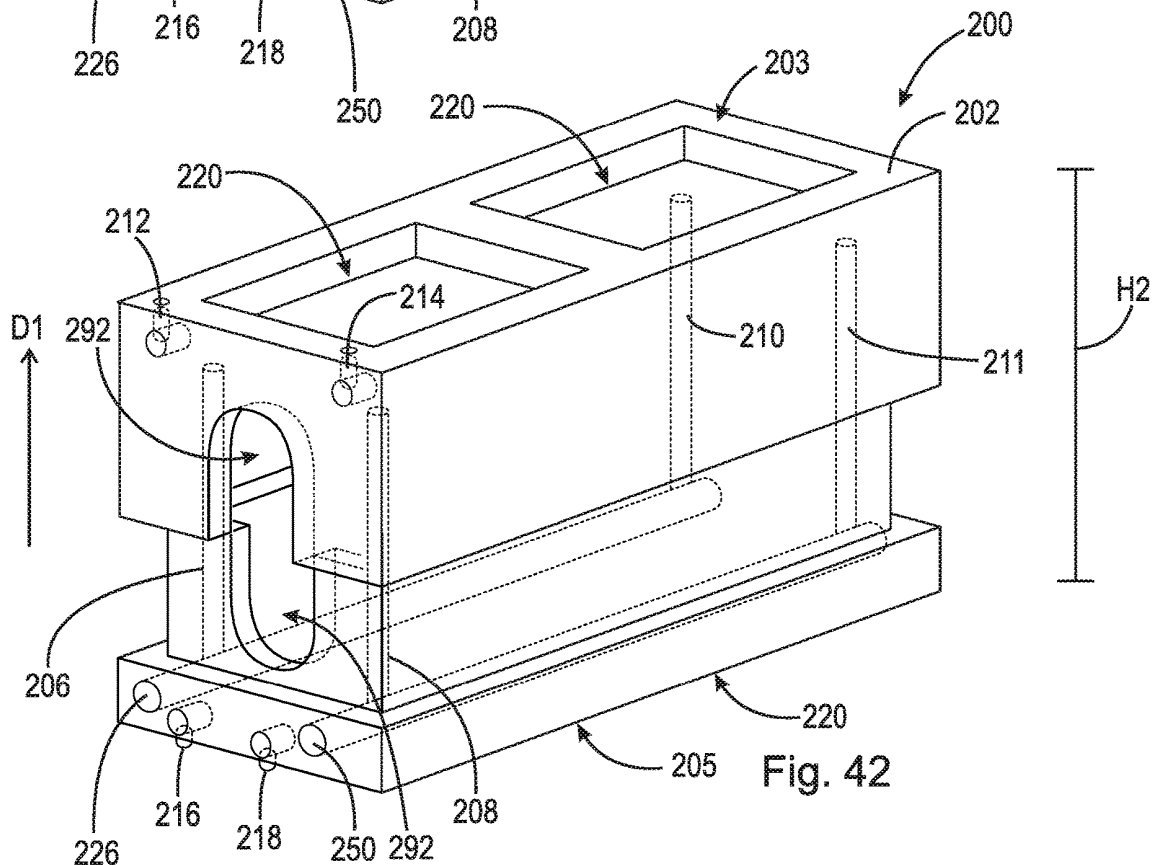
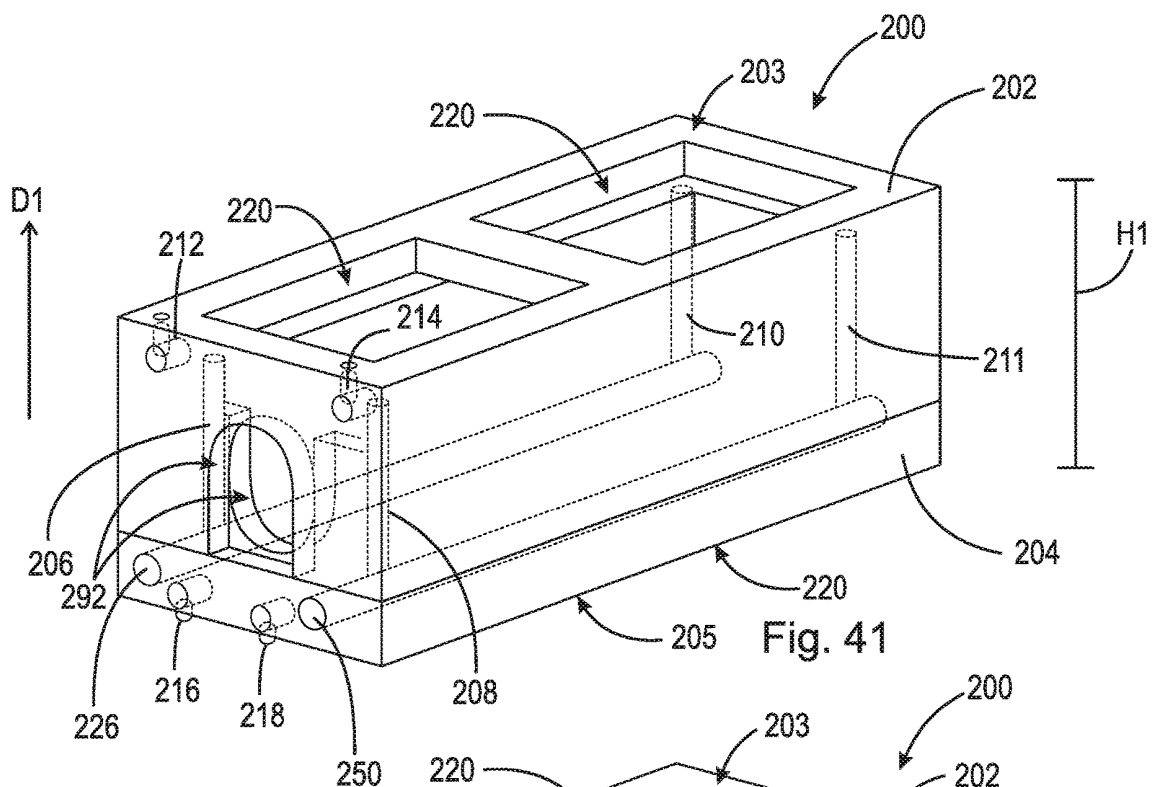
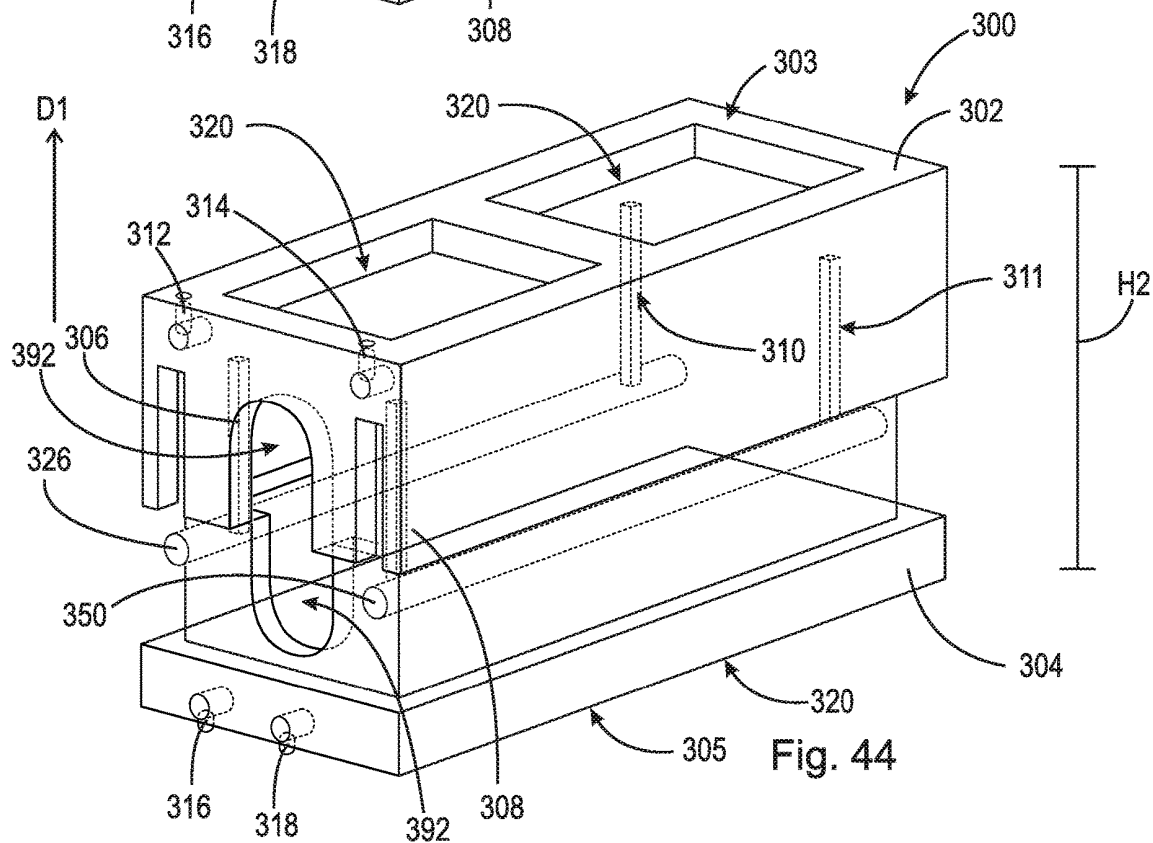
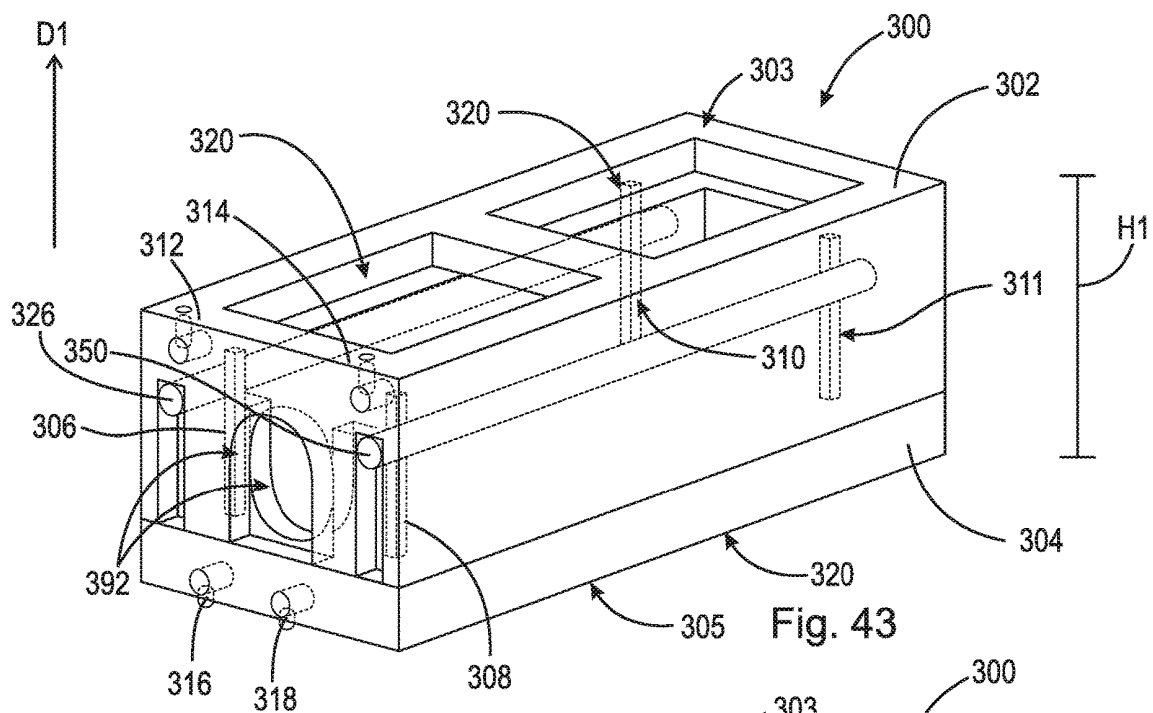


Fig. 39

Fig. 40





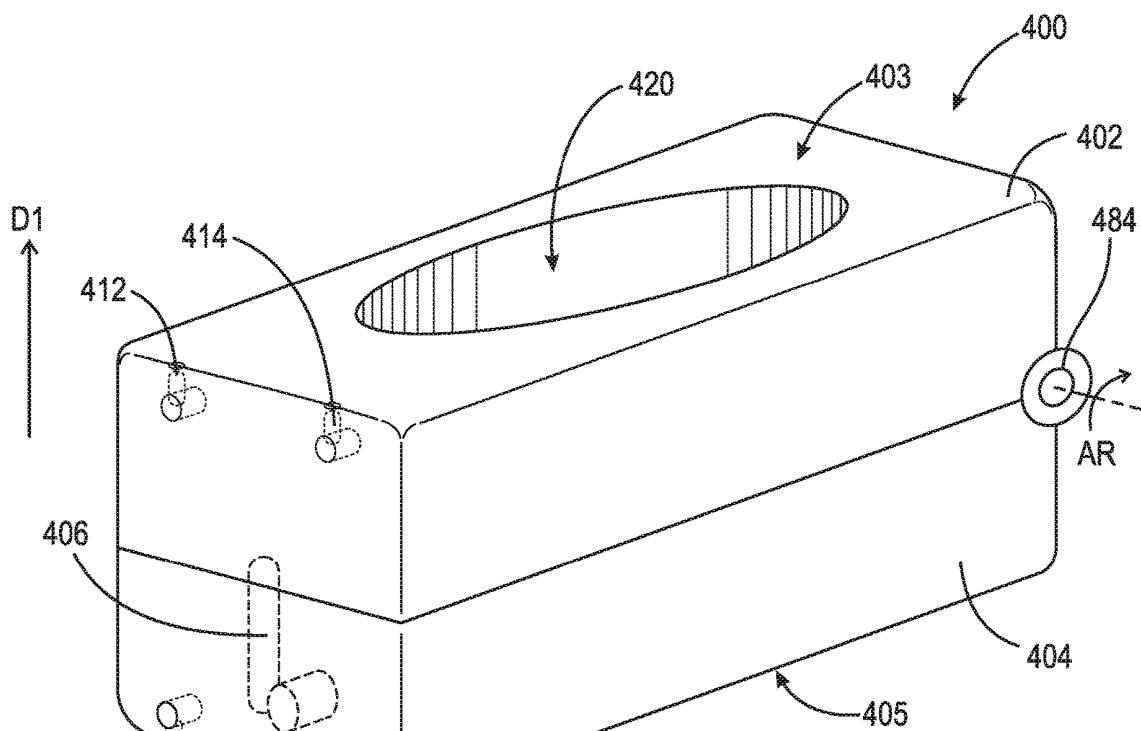


Fig. 45

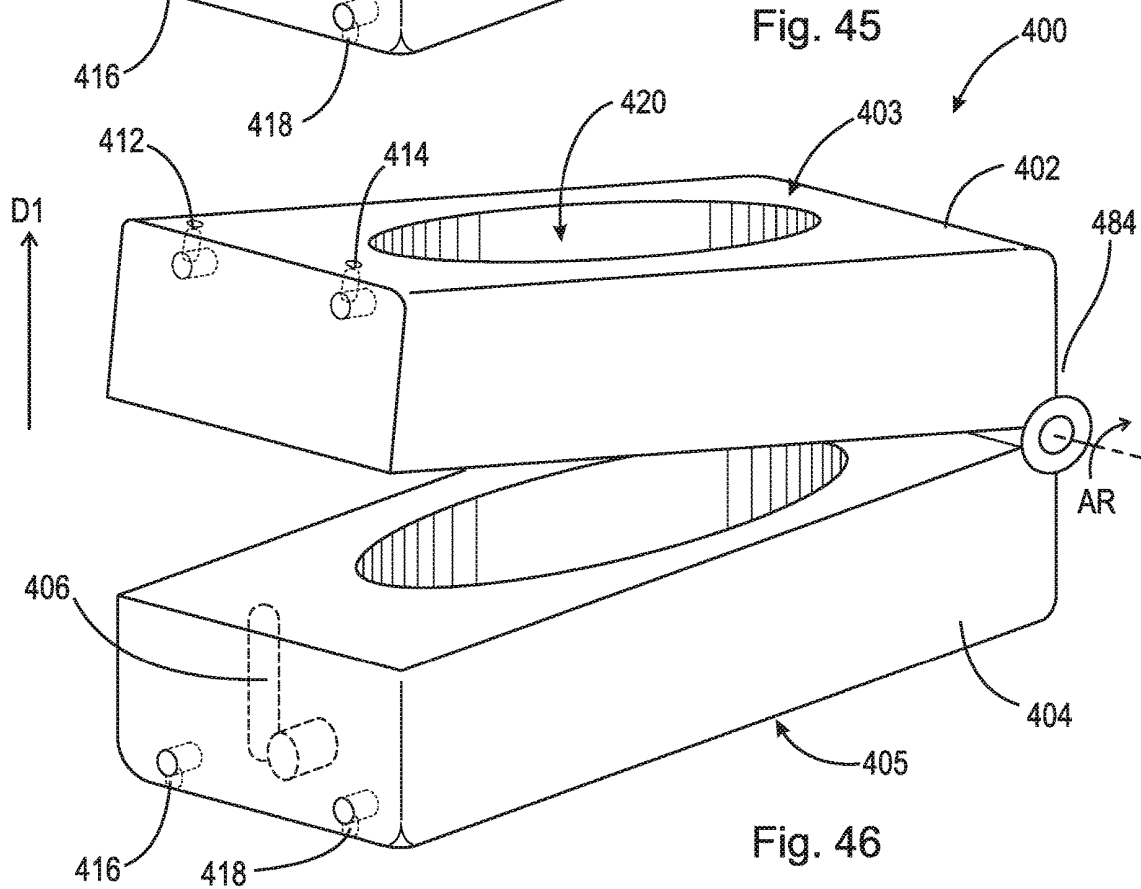


Fig. 46

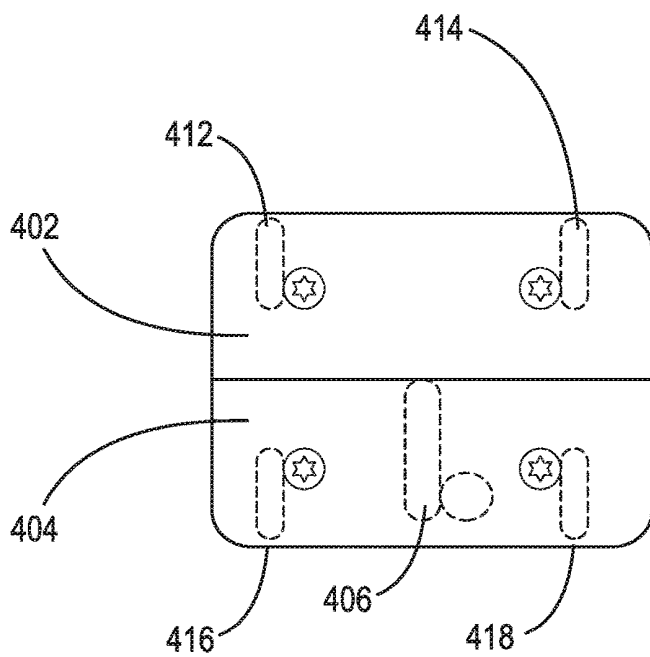


Fig. 47

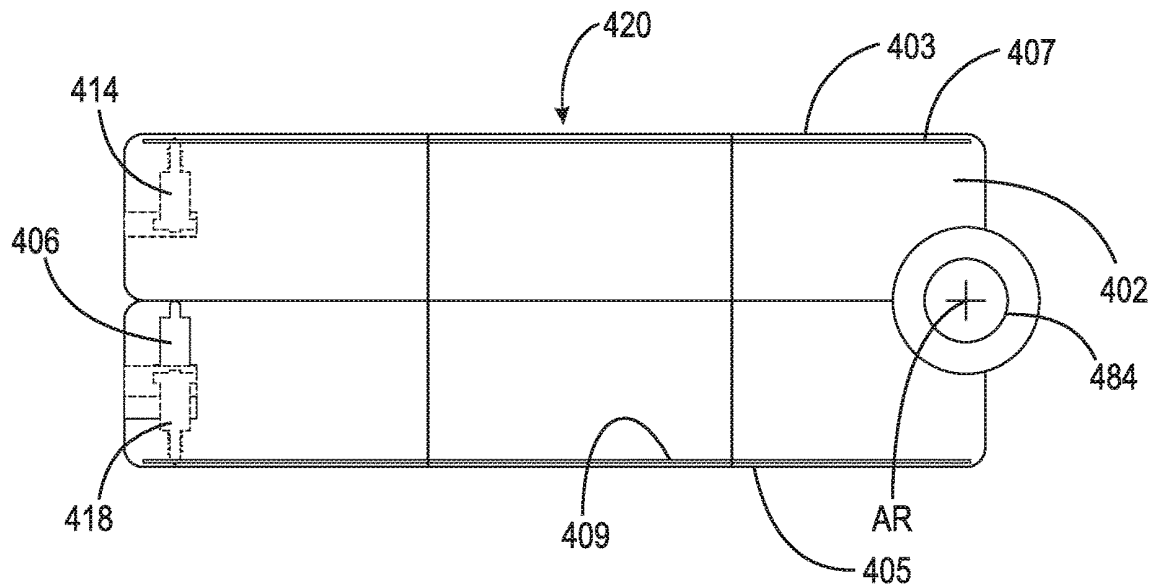


Fig. 48

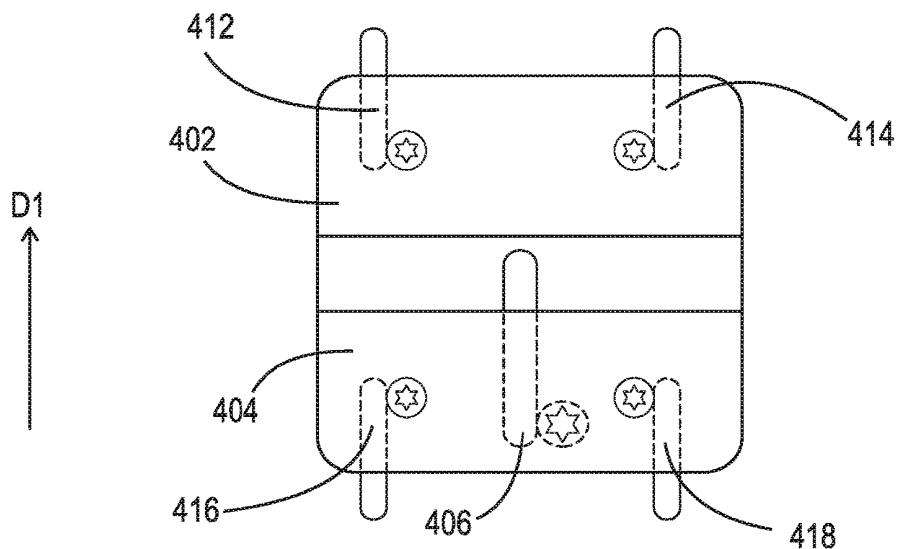


Fig. 49

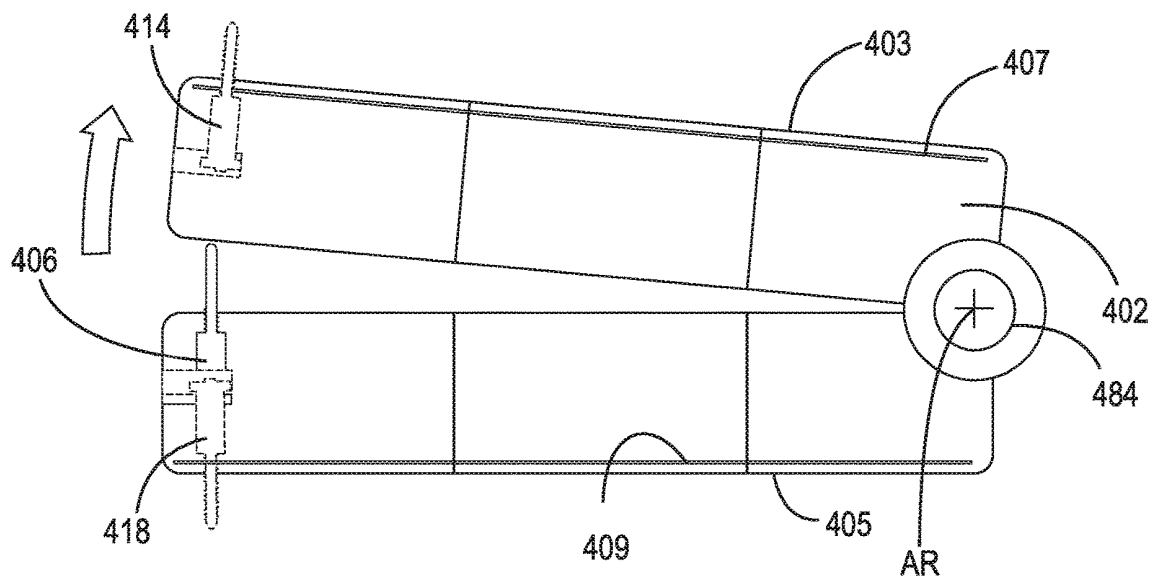


Fig. 50

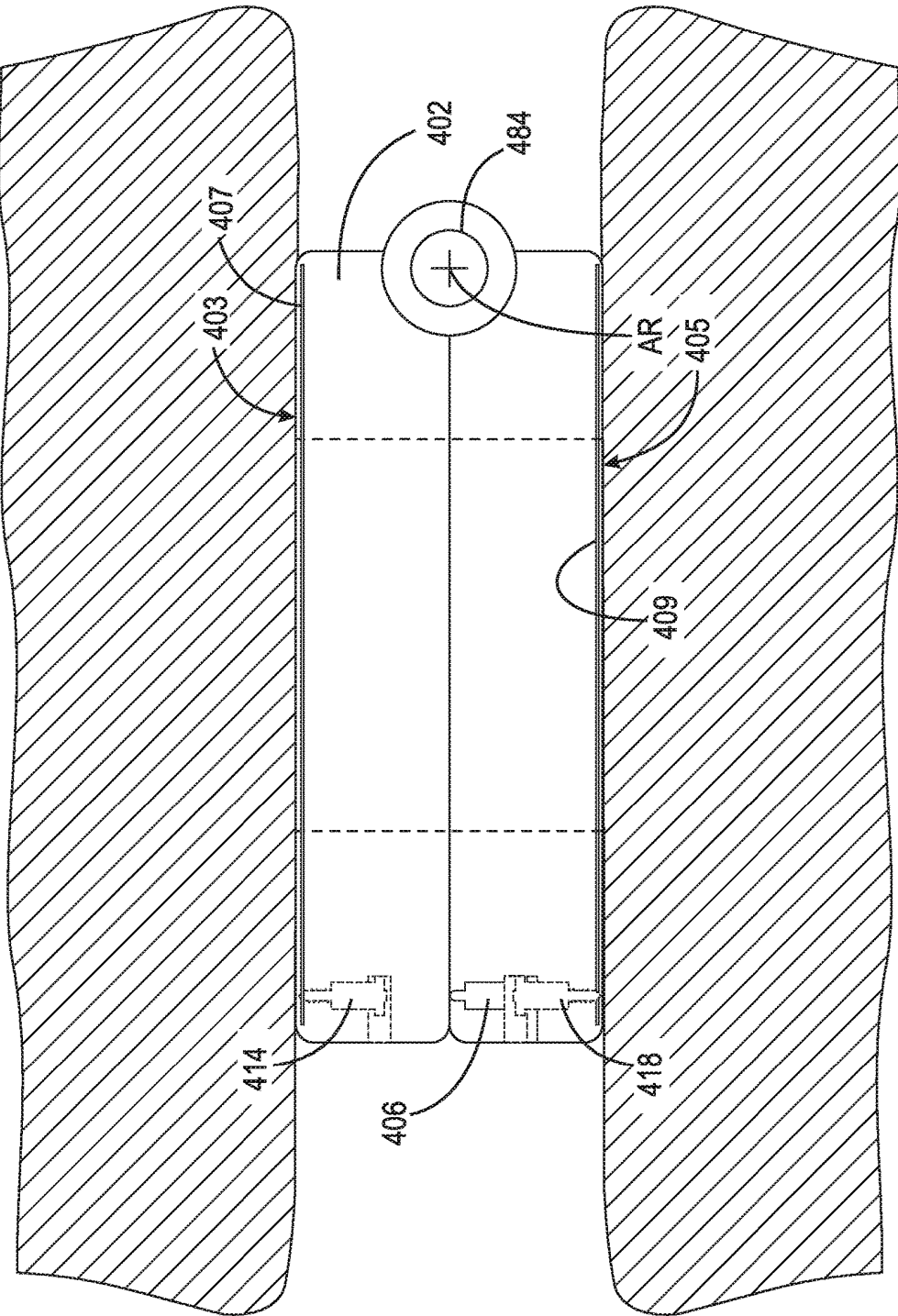


Fig. 51

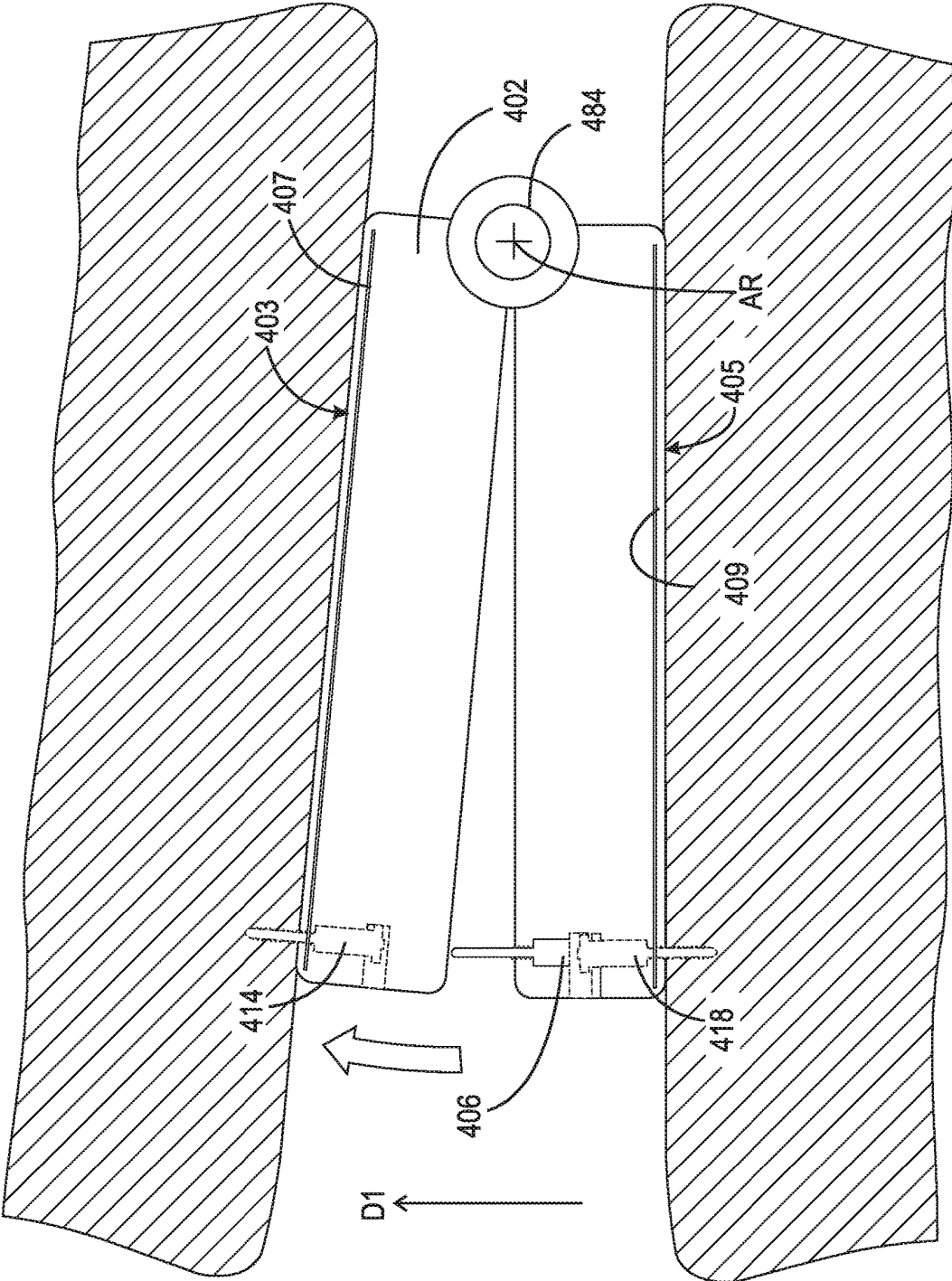


Fig. 52

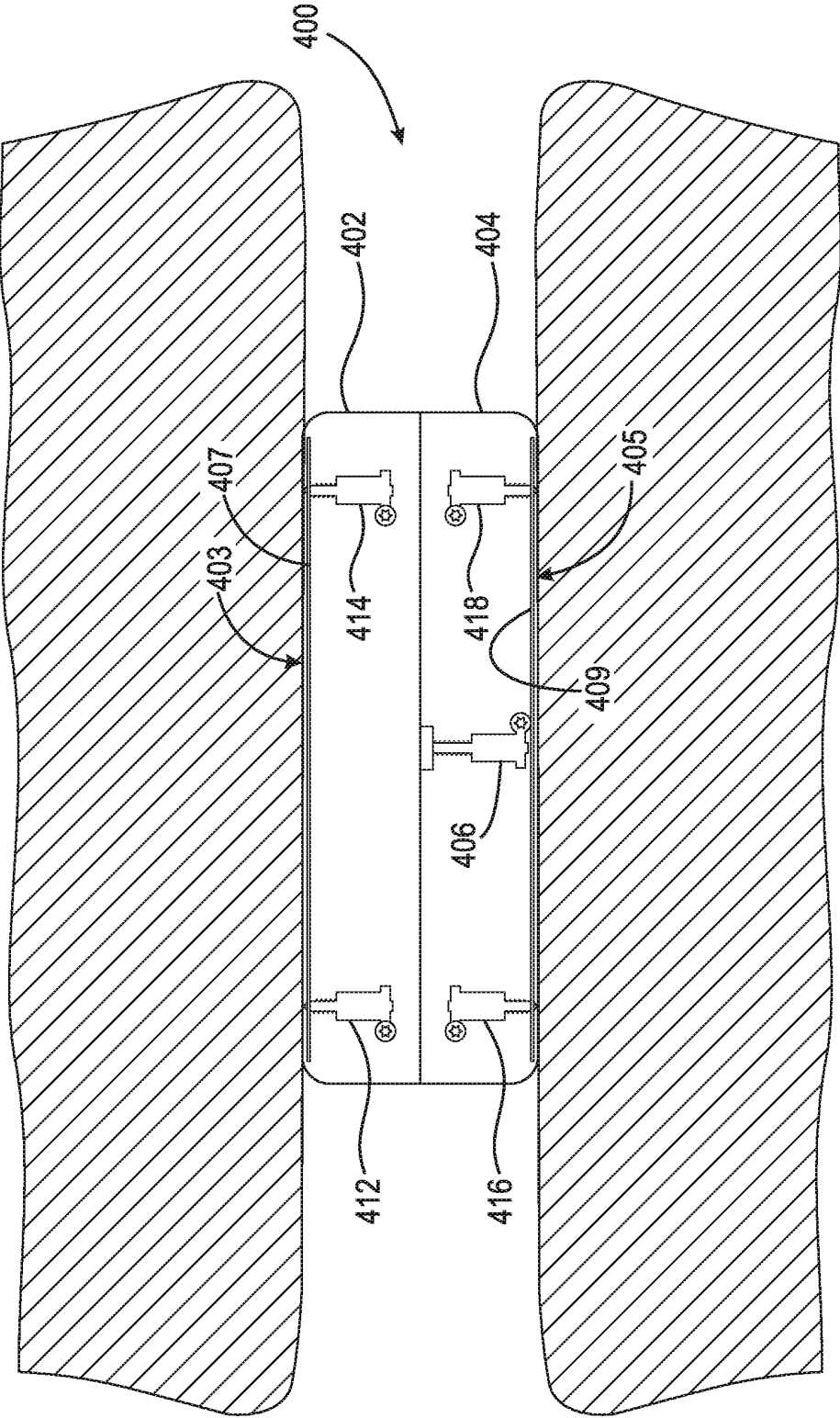


Fig. 53

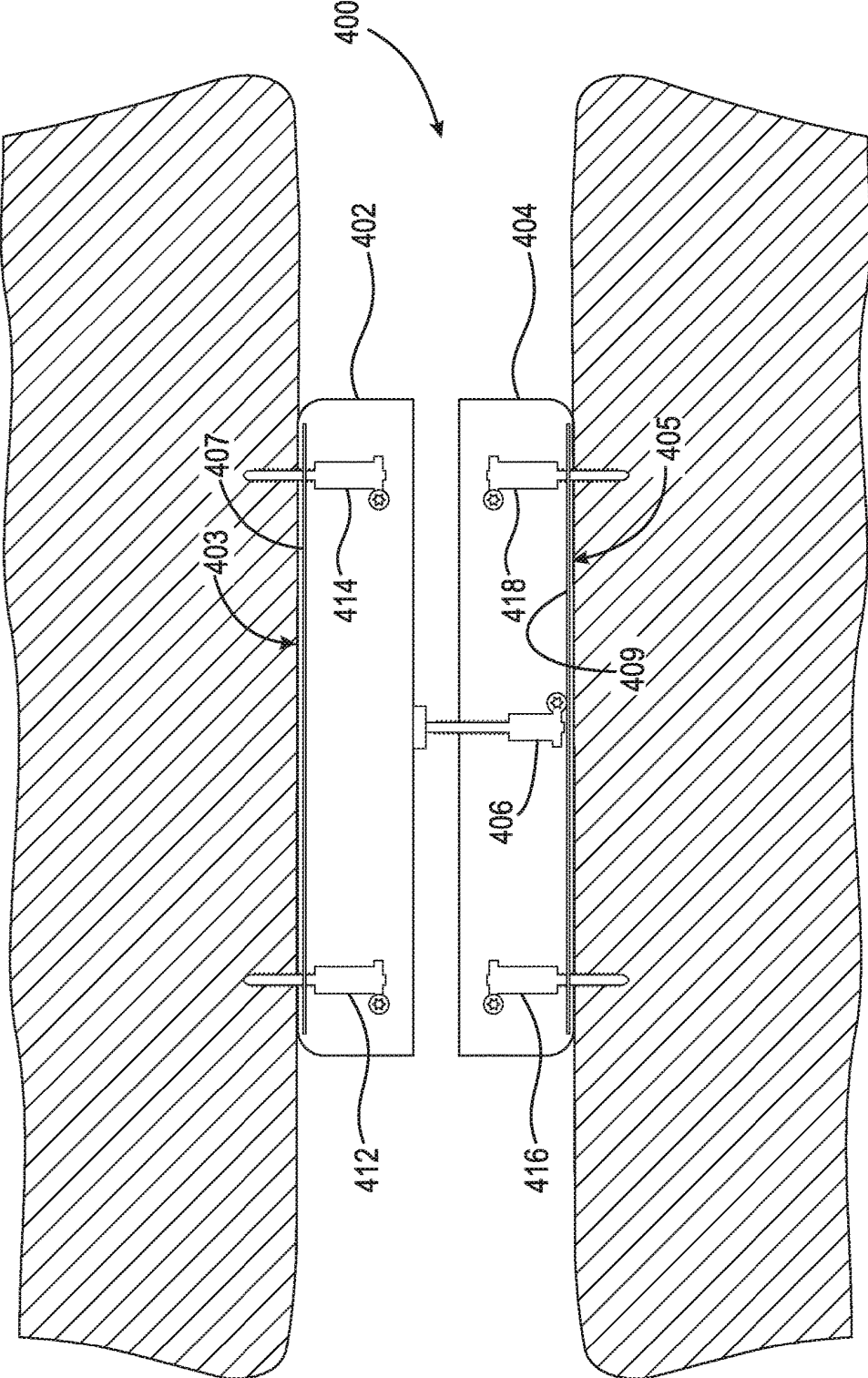


Fig. 54

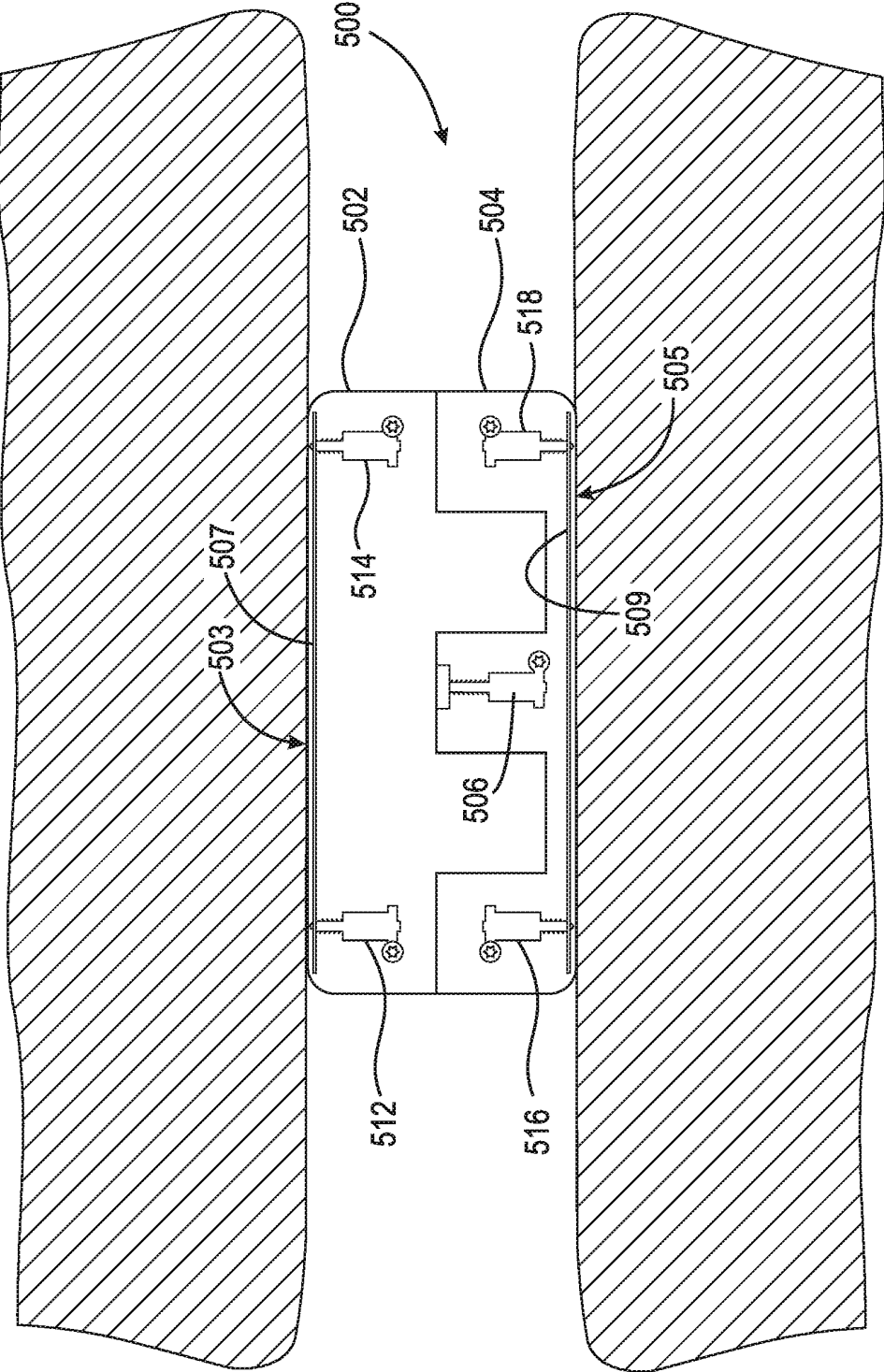


Fig. 55

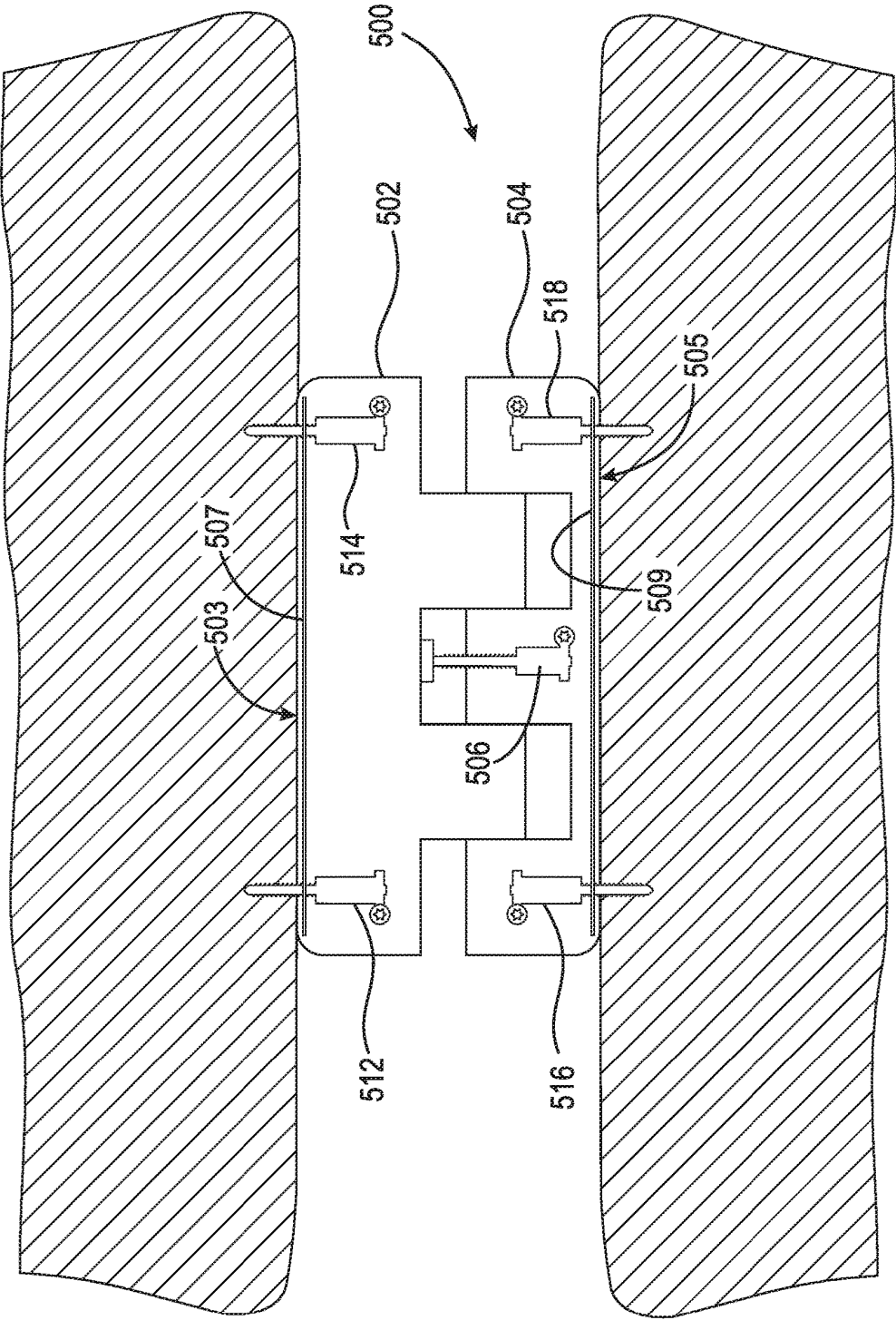


Fig. 56

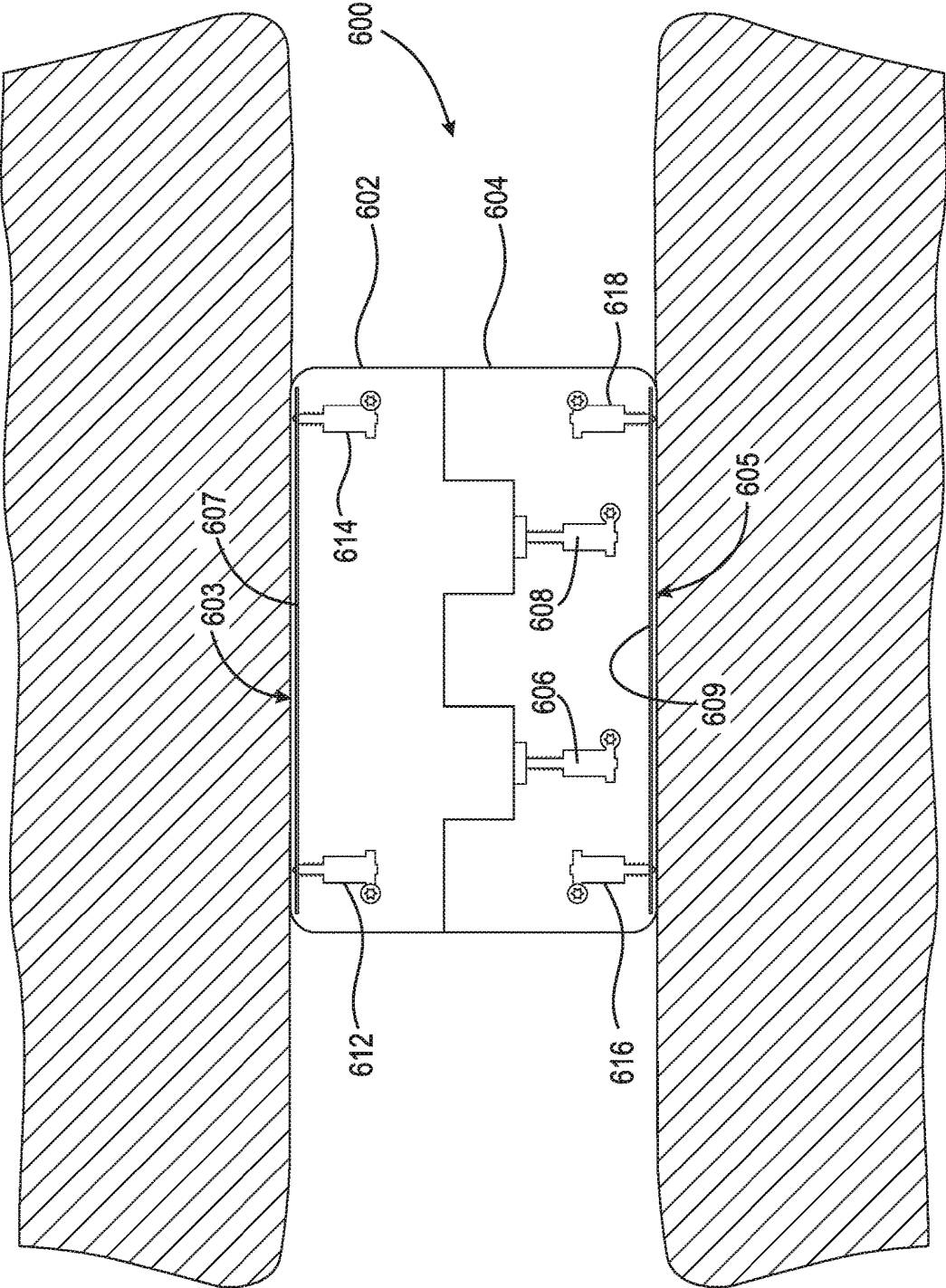


Fig. 57

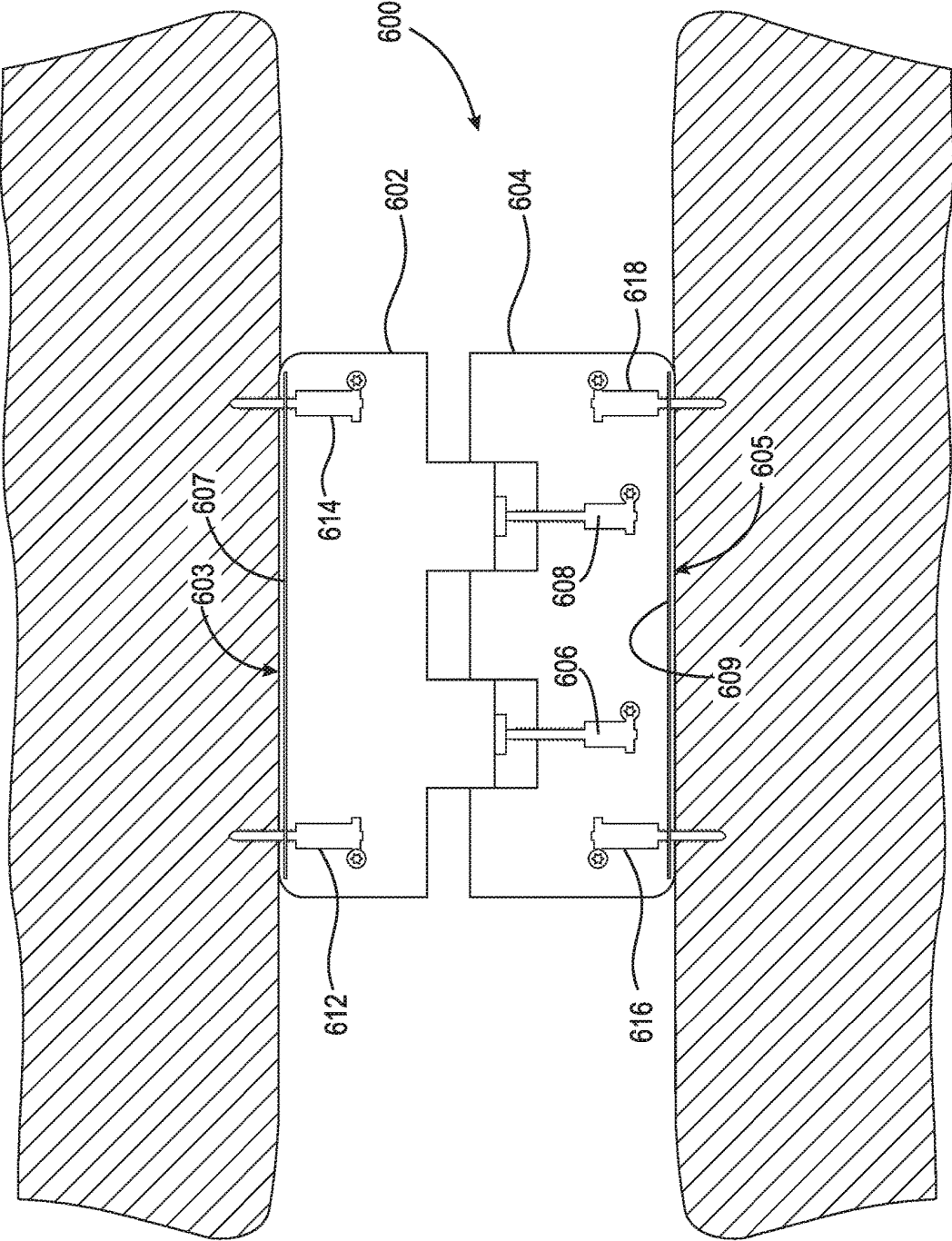


Fig. 58

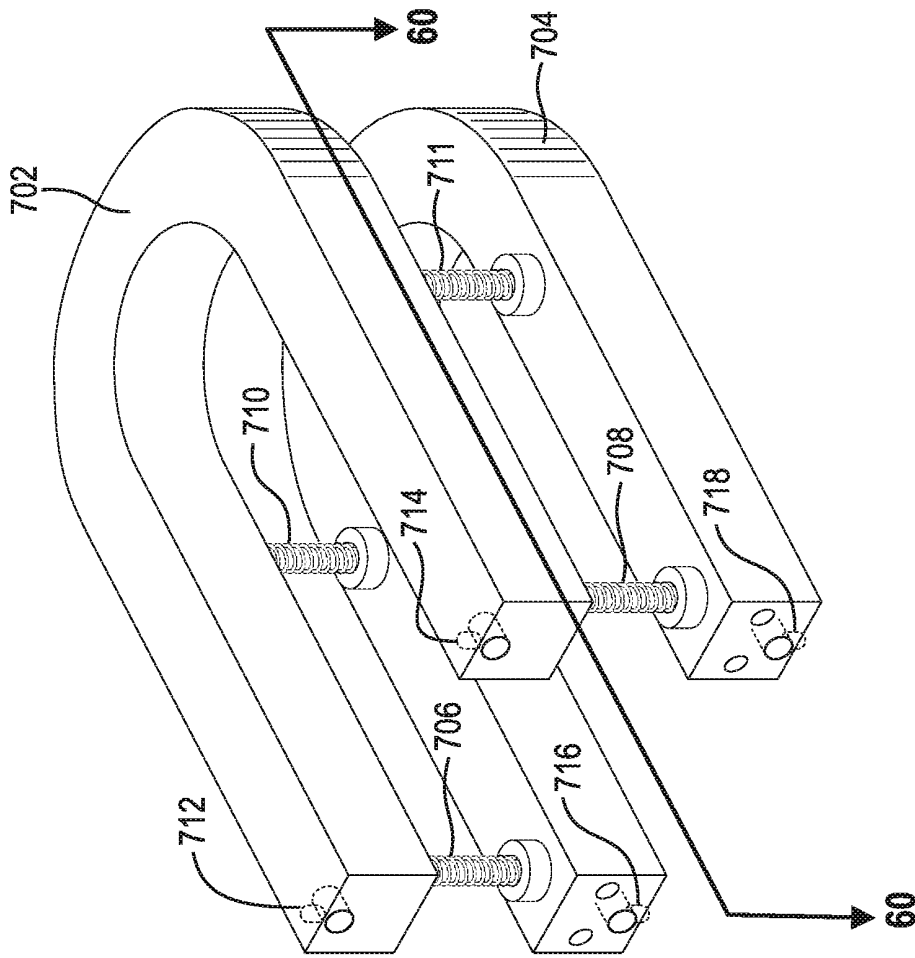


Fig. 59

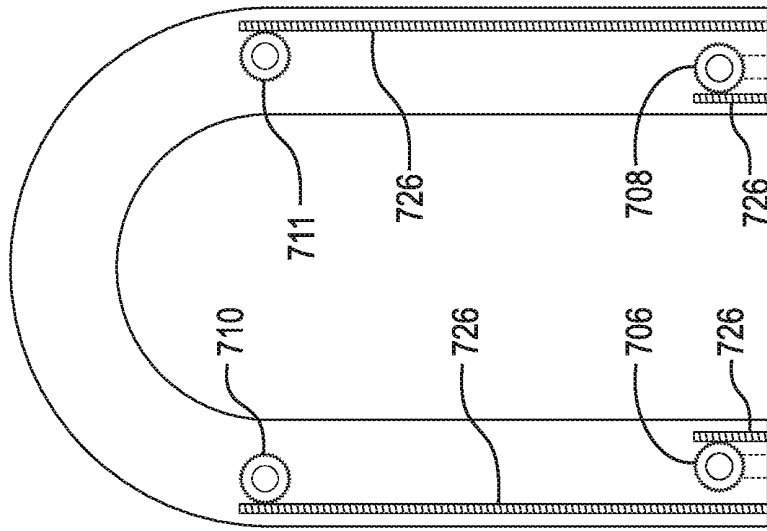
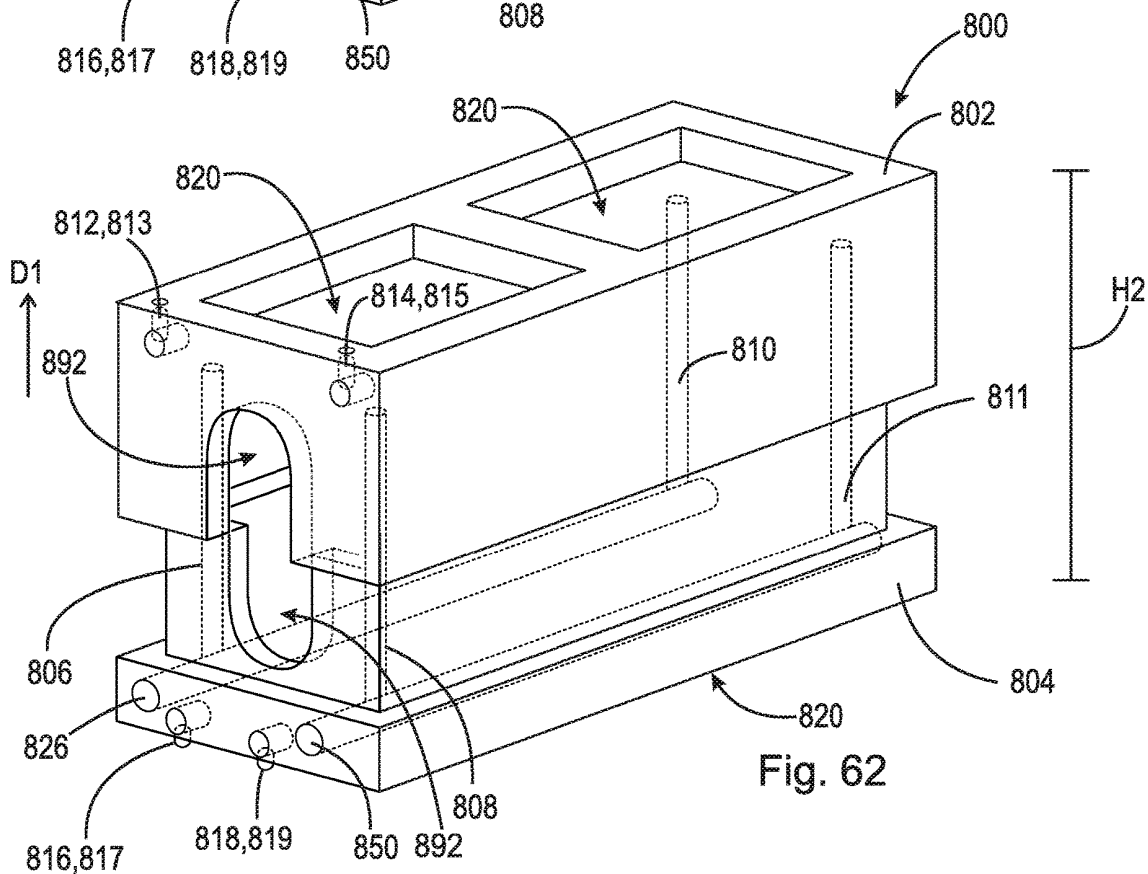
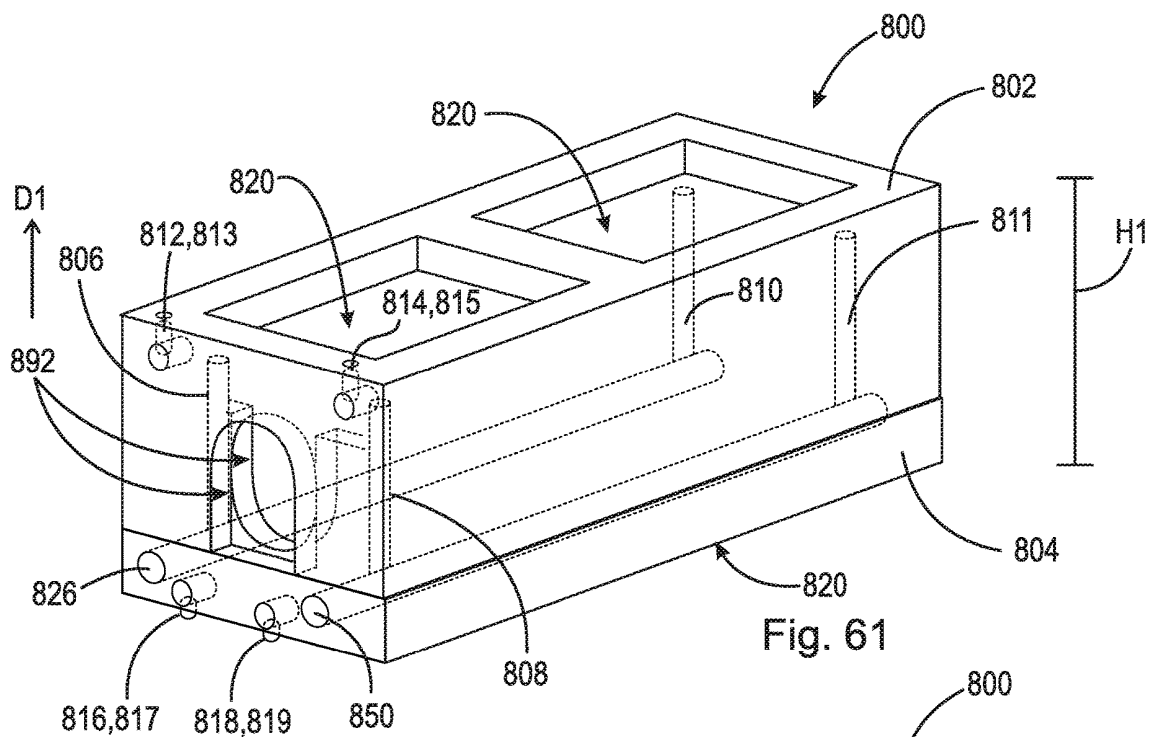


Fig. 60



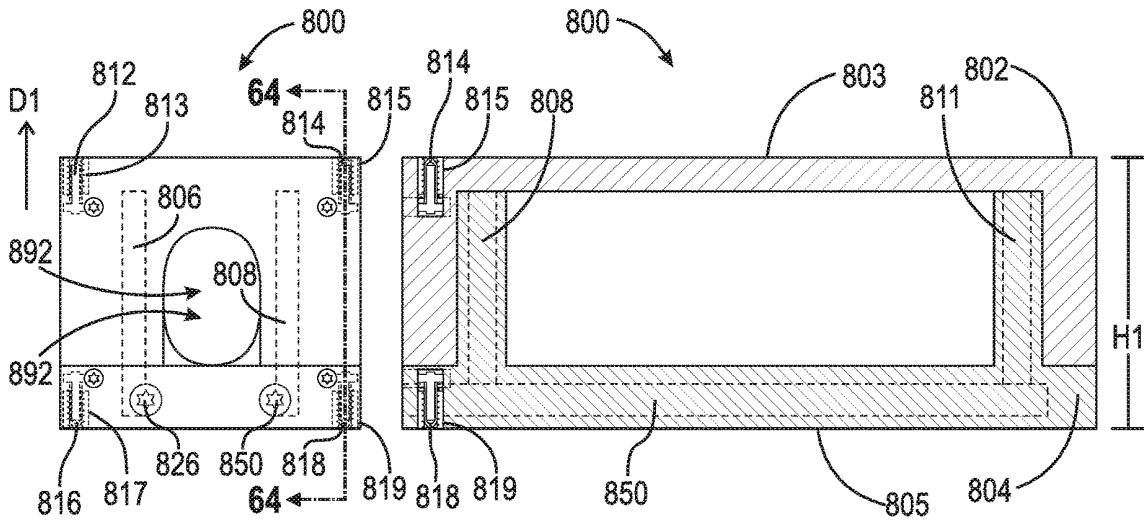


Fig. 63

Fig. 64

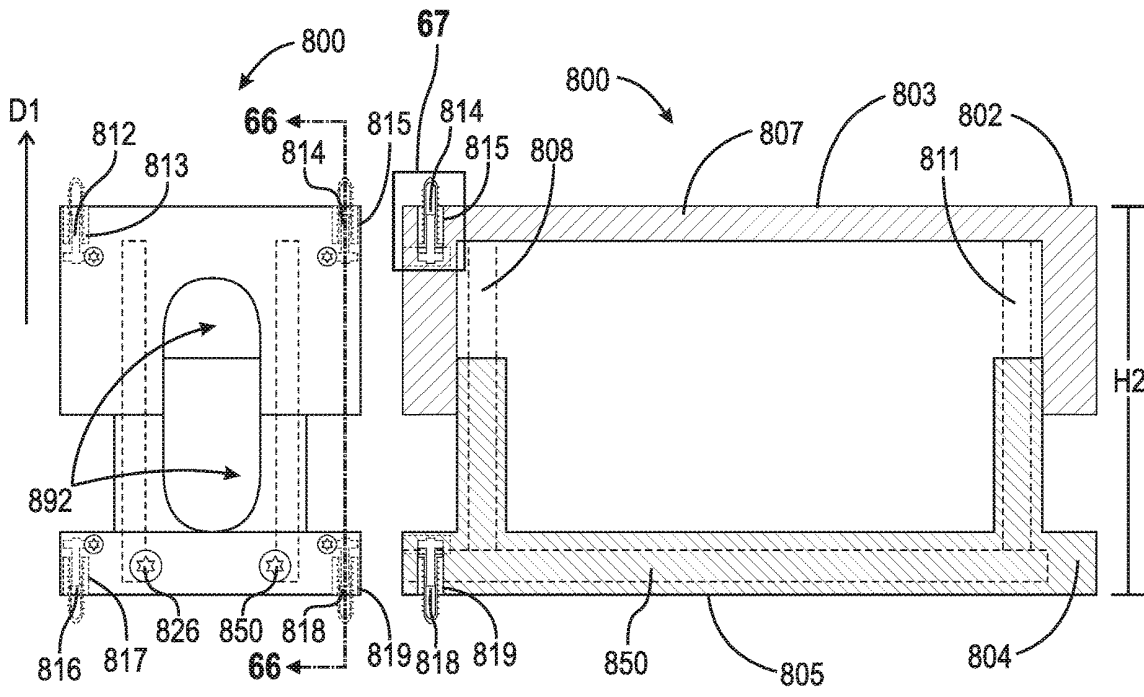


Fig. 65

Fig. 66

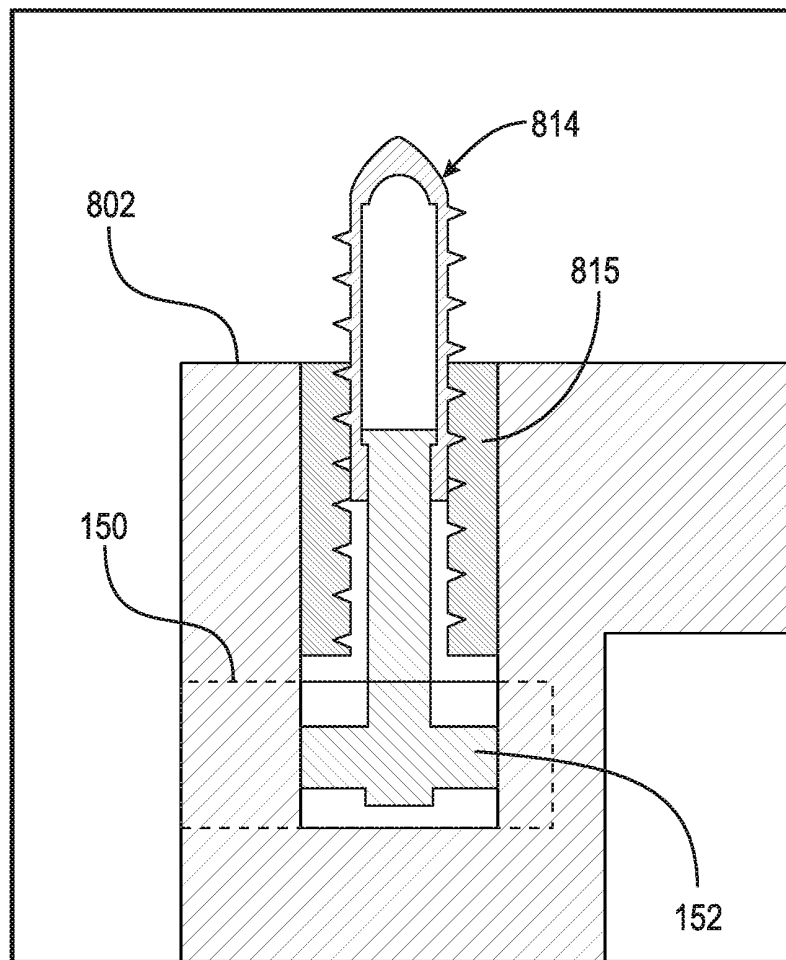


Fig. 67

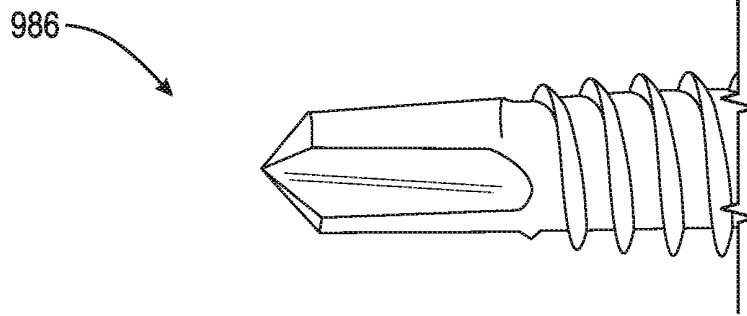


Fig. 68

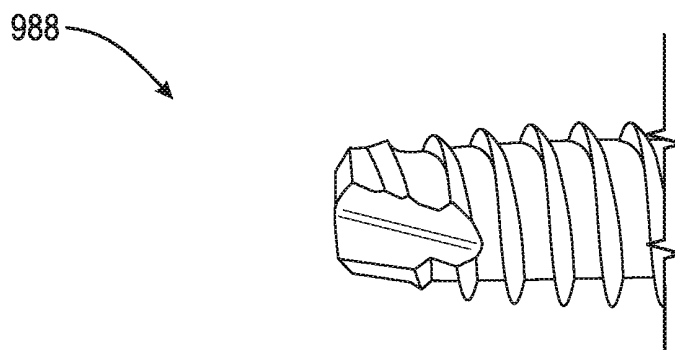


Fig. 69

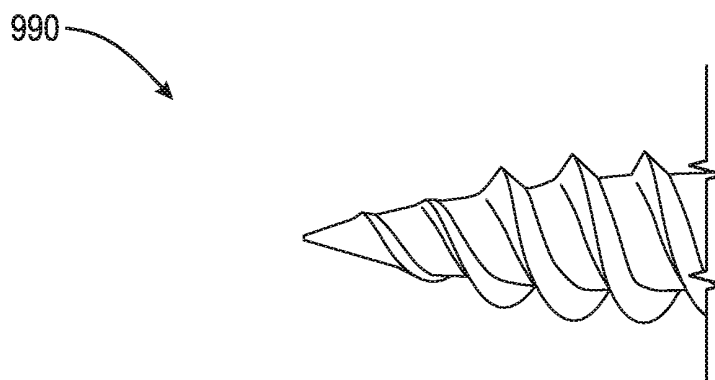


Fig. 70

**STAND-ALONE EXPANDABLE INTERBODY
SPINAL FUSION DEVICE WITH
INTEGRATED FIXATION MECHANISM**

FIELD

The invention relates to spinal surgery, more particularly to intervertebral prosthesis, and, even more specifically, to a stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device with integrated fixation mechanism.

BACKGROUND

The spinal column, or backbone, is one of the most important parts of the body. It provides the main support, allowing us to stand upright, bend, and twist. As shown in FIG. 1, thirty three (33) individual bones interlock with each other to form the spinal column. The vertebrae are numbered and divided into regions. The cervical vertebrae (C1-C7) form the neck, support the head and neck, and allow nodding and shaking of the head. The thoracic vertebrae (T1-T12) join with the ribs to form the rib cage. The five lumbar vertebrae (L1-L5) carry most of the weight of the upper body and provide a stable center of gravity when a person moves. Five vertebrae of the sacrum S and four of the coccyx C are fused. This comprises the back wall of the pelvis. Intervertebral discs are located between each of the mobile vertebra. Intervertebral discs comprise a thick outer layer with a crisscrossing fibrous structure annulus A that surrounds a soft gel-like center, the nucleus N. Discs function like shock-absorbing springs. The annulus pulls the vertebral bodies together against the elastic resistance of the gel-filled nucleus. When we bend, the nucleus acts like a ball bearing, allowing the vertebral bodies to roll over the incompressible gel. Each disc works in concert with two facet joints, forming a spinal motion segment. The biomechanical function of each pair of facet joints is to guide and limit the movement of the spinal motion segment. The surfaces of the joint are coated with cartilage that helps each joint move smoothly. Directly behind the discs, the ring-like vertebral bodies create a vertical tunnel called the spinal canal, or neuro canal. The spinal cord and spinal nerves pass through the spinal canal, which protects them from injury. The spinal cord is the major column of nerve tissue that is connected to the brain and serves as an information super-highway between the brain and the body. The nerves in the spinal cord branch off to form pairs of nerve roots that travel through the small openings between the vertebrae and the intervertebral foramens.

The repetitive forces which act on these intervertebral discs during repetitive day-to-day activities of bending, lifting and twisting cause them to break down or degenerate over time. Overt trauma, or covert trauma occurring in the course of repetitive activities disproportionately affect the more highly mobile areas of the spine. Disruption of a disc's internal architecture leads to bulging, herniation or protrusion of pieces of the disc and eventual disc space collapse. Resulting mechanical and chemical irritation of surrounding neural elements cause pain, attended by varying degrees of disability. In addition, loss of disc space height relaxes tension on the longitudinal ligaments, thereby contributing to varying degrees of spinal instability such as spinal curvature.

Neural irritation and instability resulting from severe disc damage has been treated by removing the damaged disc and fusing adjacent vertebral elements. Removal of the disc relieves the mechanical and chemical irritation of neural

elements, while osseous union solves the problem of instability. For example, in one surgical procedure, known as a discectomy (or diskectomy) with interbody fusion, the surgeon removes the nucleus of the disk and replaces it with an implant. As shown in FIG. 2, it may be necessary, for example, for the surgeon to remove the nucleus of the disc between the L3 and L4 vertebrae. Disc D_{L3-L4} is shown in an enlarged view in FIG. 3. This figure also shows various anatomical structures of the spine, including facets F3A and F4A, facet joint FJ, spinous processes SP3 and SP4, transverse processes TP3A and TP4A, and intervertebral foramen IF. FIG. 4 is a top view of the section of the spinal column shown in FIG. 3, with the L3 vertebra removed to expose annulus A and nucleus N of disc D_{L3-L4} . Neural canal NC is also shown. FIG. 5 is an anterior perspective view of the section of the spinal column shown in FIG. 4. FIG. 6 is a partial cross-sectional view of the section of the spinal column shown in FIG. 5, but with vertebra L3 in place atop disc D_{L3-L4} .

While cancellous bone appears ideal to provide the biologic components necessary for osseous union to occur, it does not initially have the strength to resist the tremendous forces that may occur in the intervertebral disc space, nor does it have the capacity to adequately stabilize the spine until long term bony union occurs. For these reasons, many spinal surgeons have found that interbody fusion using bone alone has an unacceptably high rate of bone graft migration or even expulsion or nonunion due to structural failure of the bone or residual degrees of motion that retard or prohibit bony union.

Intervertebral prosthesis in various forms have therefore been used to provide immediate stability and to protect and preserve an environment that fosters growth of grafted bone such that a structurally significant bony fusion can occur.

Limitations of most present day intervertebral implants is their tendency to migrate after implantation, necessitating the use of supplemental fixation such as an anterior or lateral plating system or posterior pedicle screw or lateral mass fixation to prevent unexpected device dislodgement.

Other interbody devices have been designed with orifices through which screws, blades, or other metallic fixation devices are placed after device insertion to mitigate unwanted slippage of the device after implementation. In addition, these devices may require additional placement of hardware anteriorly or laterally at the time of surgery, or, require a second surgery so that hardware such as pedicle screws can be added posteriorly so that the device is held securely.

Thus, there is a long-felt need for a stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device with integrated fixation mechanism that would obviate the need for supplemental fixation such that the device could be simply implanted between vertebral bodies and fixated using the insertion device such that it is easily inserted and could function in a stand-alone capacity.

SUMMARY

According to aspects illustrated herein, there is provided a stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device with an integrated fixation mechanism including a superior component, an inferior component, an expansion mechanism operatively arranged to displace the superior component in a first direction relative to the inferior component, and a first screw mechanism arranged within the superior component or inferior component.

According to aspects illustrated herein, there is provided a stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device with integrated fixation mechanism including a body having a proximate end and a distal end, the body further includes a superior component, an inferior component, a first gear shaft operatively arranged to engage a first plurality of expansion mechanisms, where the first plurality of expansion mechanisms are operatively arranged to displace the superior component in a first direction relative to the inferior component, a first screw mechanism operatively arranged within the proximate end of the superior component, a second screw mechanism operatively arranged within the proximate end of the inferior component, and a first aperture operatively arranged on the superior or inferior components.

According to aspects illustrated herein, there is provided a stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device with integrated fixation mechanism including a superior component, an inferior component, and a first screw mechanism arranged within the superior component or inferior component, where the superior component is operatively arranged to be displaced in a first direction relative to the inferior component.

These, and other objects and advantages, will be readily appreciable from the following description of preferred embodiments and from the accompanying drawings and claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

The nature and mode of operation of the present disclosure will now be more fully described in the following detailed description of the embodiments taken with the accompanying figures, in which:

FIG. 1 is an anterior perspective view of spinal column 10;

FIG. 2 is an anterior perspective view of the lumbar section of spinal column 10;

FIG. 3 is a lateral perspective view of L3, L4 vertebrae and disc D_{L3-L4} and related spinal anatomy;

FIG. 4 is a top view of a section of the spinal column, taken generally along line 4-4 in FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is an enlarged anterior perspective view of the spinal column shown in FIG. 2, except with vertebra L3 and all other structure above L3 removed;

FIG. 6 is a partial cross-sectional view of the L4 vertebra and D_{L3-L4} disc shown in FIG. 5, including L3 in cross-section;

FIG. 7 is a partial cross-sectional view of the L4 vertebra and D_{L3-L4} disc shown in FIG. 5, showing the removal of the disc nucleus post-discectomy;

FIG. 8 illustrates the introduction of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device into the disc space in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 9 is an anterior perspective view of spinal column 10 including the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 10 is a perspective view of a first embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 11 is a perspective view of a first embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an expanded state;

FIG. 12 is a front view of a first embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 13 is a cross-sectional view of a first embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an unexpanded state, taken generally along line 13-13 in FIG. 12;

FIG. 14 is a front view of a first embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an expanded state;

FIG. 15 is a cross-sectional view of a first embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an expanded state, taken generally along line 15-15 in FIG. 14;

FIG. 16 is a perspective view of a first embodiment of a self-piercing screw mechanism in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 17 is a perspective view of a first embodiment of a self-piercing screw mechanism in an expanded state;

FIG. 18 is a perspective view of a second embodiment of a self-piercing screw mechanism in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 19 is a perspective view of a second embodiment of a self-piercing screw mechanism in an expanded state;

FIG. 20 is a side view of a first embodiment of a self-piercing screw mechanism in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 21 is a side view of a first embodiment of a self-piercing screw mechanism in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 22 is a cross-sectional view of a first embodiment of a self-piercing screw mechanism in an unexpanded state, taken generally along line 22-22 in FIG. 21;

FIG. 23 is a side view of a first embodiment of a self-piercing screw mechanism in an expanded state;

FIG. 24 is a side view of a first embodiment of a self-piercing screw mechanism in an expanded state;

FIG. 25 is a cross-sectional view of a first embodiment of a self-piercing screw mechanism in an expanded state, taken generally along line 25-25 in FIG. 24;

FIG. 26 is a side view of a second embodiment of a self-piercing screw mechanism in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 27 is a side view of a second embodiment of a self-piercing screw mechanism in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 28 is a cross-sectional view of a second embodiment of a self-piercing screw mechanism in an unexpanded state, taken generally along line 28-28 in FIG. 27;

FIG. 29 is a side view of a second embodiment of a self-piercing screw mechanism in an expanded state;

FIG. 30 is a side view of a second embodiment of a self-piercing screw mechanism in an expanded state;

FIG. 31 is a cross-sectional view of a second embodiment of a self-piercing screw mechanism in an expanded state, taken generally along line 31-31 in FIG. 30;

FIG. 32 is a perspective view of a first embodiment of an expansion mechanism in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 33 is a perspective view of a first embodiment of an expansion mechanism in an expanded state;

FIG. 34 is a side view of a first embodiment of an expansion mechanism in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 35 is a side view of a first embodiment of an expansion mechanism in an expanded state;

FIG. 36 is a cross-sectional view of a first embodiment of an expansion mechanism in an expanded state taken generally along line 36-36 in FIG. 35.

FIG. 37 is a perspective view of a second embodiment of an expansion mechanism in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 38 is a perspective view of a second embodiment of an expansion mechanism in an expanded state;

FIG. 39 is a side view of a second embodiment of an expansion mechanism in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 40 is a side view of a second embodiment of an expansion mechanism in an expanded state;

5

FIG. 41 is a perspective view of a second embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 42 is a perspective view of a second embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an expanded state;

FIG. 43 is a perspective view of a third embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 44 is a perspective view of a third embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an expanded state;

FIG. 45 is a perspective view of a fourth embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 46 is a perspective view of a fourth embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an expanded state;

FIG. 47 is a front view of a fourth embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 48 is a side view of a fourth embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 49 is a front view of a fourth embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an expanded state;

FIG. 50 is a side view of a fourth embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an expanded state;

FIG. 51 is a partial cross-sectional view of a fourth embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 52 is a partial cross-sectional view of a fourth embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an expanded state;

FIG. 53 is a partial cross-sectional front view of a fourth embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 54 is a partial cross-sectional front view of a fourth embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an expanded state;

FIG. 55 is a partial cross-sectional front view of a fifth embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 56 is a partial cross-sectional front view of a fifth embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an expanded state;

FIG. 57 is a partial cross-sectional front view of a sixth embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 58 is a partial cross-sectional front view of a sixth embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an expanded state;

FIG. 59 is a perspective view of a seventh embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an expanded state;

FIG. 60 is a cross-sectional view of a seventh embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an expanded state taken along line 60-60 in FIG. 59;

FIG. 61 is a perspective view of an eighth embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 62 is a perspective view of an eighth embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an expanded state;

6

FIG. 63 is a front view of an eighth embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an unexpanded state;

FIG. 64 is a cross-sectional view of an eighth embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an unexpanded state taken generally along line 64-64 in FIG. 63;

FIG. 65 is a front view of an eighth embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an expanded state;

FIG. 66 is a cross-sectional view of an eighth embodiment of the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, in an expanded state taken generally along line 66-66 in FIG. 65;

FIG. 67 is an enlarged view of area 67 in FIG. 66;

FIG. 68 is a side view of a self-drilling screw body tip;

FIG. 69 is a side view of a self-tapping screw body tip;

FIG. 70 is a side view of a self-piercing screw body tip.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

At the outset, it should be appreciated that like drawing numbers on different drawing views identify identical, or functionally similar, structural elements. While the embodiments are described with respect to what is presently considered to be the preferred aspects, it is to be understood that the invention as claimed is not limited to the disclosed aspect. The present invention is intended to include various modifications and equivalent arrangements within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

The term "Superior Component" as used in the present disclosure is intended to mean the component of the body of the implant located in the highest position relative to the other components in the first direction D1.

The term "Inferior Component" as used in the present disclosure is intended to mean the component of the body of the implant located in the lowest position relative to the other components in the first direction D1.

The term "screw body" as used in the present disclosure is intended to mean a sharp-pointed metal pin with a raised helical thread running around it (either left-handed or right-handed threads can be used) and can be used to join objects together by being rotated so that it pierces the surface of the material (e.g., wood, bone, or any other material less dense than the screw body material). The pitch of threading could be varied to allow for changes in bone density and the thread could be various threads known in the art such as V-thread, American, British, Square, Buttress, Knuckle, or any suitable threading that would engage with bone material. It should also be appreciated that, throughout this disclosure, a self-piercing screw is illustrated as a non-limiting example, and in the alternative a self-drilling, or a self-tapping screw could be used.

The term "gear shaft" as used in the present disclosure is intended to mean any gear currently understood in the art that has been elongated such that it is substantially cylindrical in shape.

The term "anchor layer" as used in the present disclosure is intended to mean a thin layer of material fixed within or on the superior and inferior components and creates a fixed point for a screw body to engage with and achieve the required leverage to engage the bone material of the adjacent vertebra. It should be appreciated that the anchor layer could be made out of ceramic, carbon fiber, high density plastic, polymer, or any suitable metal more dense than the metal of the screw body, such as titanium.

Furthermore, it is understood that this disclosure is not limited to the particular methodology, materials and modifications described and, as such, may, of course, vary. It is also understood that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular aspects only, and is not intended to limit the scope of the present invention, which is limited only by the appended claims.

Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood to one of ordinary skill in the art to which this invention belongs. Although any methods, devices or materials similar or equivalent to those described herein can be used in the practice or testing of the invention, the preferred methods, devices, and materials are now described.

Adverting now to the Figures, and as described previously, FIGS. 1-6 depict various parts and sections of spinal anatomy. FIG. 7 illustrates a partial cross-sectional view of the L3 and L4 vertebra with disc D_{L3-L4} removed (post discectomy) able to receive stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 100.

FIG. 8 illustrates a partial cross-sectional view of the L3 and L4 vertebra with stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 100 in place within disc space 12 in an unexpanded state.

FIG. 9 is an anterior perspective view of spinal column 10 including stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 100.

FIG. 10 is a perspective view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 100, in an unexpanded state. Device 100 comprises superior component 102, inferior component 104, and expansion mechanisms 106, 108, and 110 arranged to displace superior component 102 in a first direction D1 relative to inferior component 104 giving device 100 an expanded height H_2 greater than unexpanded height H_1 , and self-piercing screw mechanisms 112, 114, 116, and 118, arranged to engage the bone material of the surrounding vertebra (i.e., L3 and L4). Superior component 102 and inferior component 104 further comprise at least one first aperture 120 arranged to allow fusion between bone fusing material and the adjacent vertebra, and a second aperture 192 located on the front face of device 100 and arranged to allow the introduction of bone fusing material into device 100. Second aperture 192 is illustrated as an arched slot as a non-limiting example, however, it should be appreciated that second aperture 192 could be any suitable aperture that would allow for the introduction of bone fusing material into device 100. Superior component 102 has a first surface 103 and inferior component 104 has a first surface 105. Embedded within the superior component, beneath surface 103, or above surface 103 (not depicted in FIG. 10), there is an anchor layer 107 (depicted in FIGS. 13 and 15). Embedded within the inferior component, beneath surface 105, or above surface 105 (not depicted in FIG. 10), there is an anchor layer 109 (depicted in FIGS. 13 and 15). Self-piercing screw mechanisms 112, 114, 116, and 118 can comprise the embodiment of either self-piercing screw mechanism 122 (as described infra) or self-piercing screw mechanism 146 (as described infra). Expansion mechanisms 106, 108, and 110 can comprise the embodiment of either expansion mechanism 166 or 178 (as described infra).

FIG. 11 is a perspective view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 100, in an expanded state. During surgery and after device 100 is implanted in disc space 12, a surgeon can apply torque to expansion mechanisms 106, 108, and 110 via any device that imparts rotational force upon expansion mechanisms 106, 108, and 110 (e.g., a screw driver or impact driver). This rotational force

causes expansion mechanisms 106, 108, and 110, to displace superior component 102 in direction D1 relative to inferior component 104 giving device 100 an expanded height H_2 , greater than H_1 . It should be appreciated that expansion mechanisms 106, 108, and 110, can be expanded to any height between unexpanded height H_1 and expanded height H_2 .

FIG. 12 is a front view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 100, in an unexpanded state having an unexpanded height H_1 . FIG. 13 is a cross-sectional view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 100, in an unexpanded state having an unexpanded height H_1 . FIG. 14 is a front view stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 100, in an expanded state having an expanded height H_2 , greater than H_1 . FIG. 15 is a cross-sectional view stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 100, in an expanded state having an expanded height H_2 , greater than H_1 .

FIG. 16 is a perspective view of a self-piercing screw mechanism 122 in an unexpanded state. Self-piercing screw mechanism 122 comprises a worm drive 124 having a worm 126 and a gear 128; a drive casing 130 having an inner radial surface 132 that has a keyed shaft 134 (not shown in this figure), an outer radial surface 136, a first end 138, and a second end 140; and, self-piercing screw body 142 having tab 144. The second end 140 is fixedly secured to gear 128. During surgery and after device 100 is implanted in disc space 12, a surgeon can apply torque to worm drive 124 via any device that imparts rotational force upon worm 126 (e.g., a screw driver or impact driver). Torque is transferred 90 degrees through worm drive 124, via worm 126 and gear 128. Rotation of gear 128 causes drive casing 130 to rotate. As drive casing 130 rotates, keyed shaft 134 engages tab 144 and imparts rotational force to self-piercing screw body 142. It should be appreciated that worm drive 124 could be arranged to transfer torque in other arrangements, i.e., 180 degrees, 270 degrees, or any desirable angle required by the arrangement of worm 126 and gear 128. It should further be appreciated that, although gear 128 is depicted in the figures as a spur gear, other suitable gears may be selected, i.e., a bevel gear, a hypoid gear, a spiral gear, or a face gear. Additionally, self-piercing screw body 142 may have more than one tab 144.

FIG. 17 is a perspective view of self-piercing screw mechanism 122 in an expanded state. As discussed above, as drive casing 130 rotates, keyed shaft 134 engages tab 144 and imparts rotational force to self-piercing screw body 142. Self-piercing screw body 142 rotates it engages with either anchor layer 107, if self-piercing screw body 142 is embedded within superior component 102; or, anchor layer 109, if self-piercing screw body 142 is embedded within inferior component 104. As self-piercing screw body 142 engages either anchor layer 107 or anchor layer 109, the self-piercing screw body further engages the bone material of the adjacent vertebra (e.g., L3 or L4). As self-piercing screw body 142 engages bone material, tab 144 continues to transfer torque to the screw body and slides along keyed shaft 134. When the screw body is at its maximum expansion, tab 144 abuts either anchor layer 107 or anchor layer 109 and can no longer screw deeper into the bone material of the adjacent vertebra.

FIG. 18 is a perspective view of self-piercing screw mechanism 146 in an unexpanded state. Self-piercing screw mechanism 146 comprises a worm drive 148 having a worm 150 and a gear 152. Gear 152 is fixedly secured to rod 154. Rod 154 has a tab 156 and a flange 157 (not shown in FIG. 18). Self-piercing screw mechanism 146 further comprises a

self-piercing screw body **158** having a partial through bore **160** with an inner radial surface **162** that has a keyed shaft **164** (not depicted in FIG. **18**), arranged to slidably engage tab **156**, and a retention shoulder **159** (not depicted in FIG. **18**). During surgery and after device **100** is implanted in disc space **12**, a surgeon can apply torque to worm drive **148** via any device that imparts rotational force upon worm **150** (e.g., a screw driver or impact driver). Torque is transferred 90 degrees through worm drive **148**, via worm **150** and gear **152**. Rotation of gear **152** causes rod **154** to rotate. As rod **154** rotates, tab **156** engages keyed shaft **164** within the partial through bore **160** of self-piercing screw body **158** and imparts rotational force to self-piercing screw body **158**. It should be appreciated that worm drive **148** could be arranged to transfer torque in other arrangements, i.e., 180 degrees, 270 degrees, or any desirable angle required by the arrangement of worm **150** and gear **152**. It should further be appreciated that although a gear **158** is depicted in the figures as a spur gear, other suitable gears may be selected, i.e., a bevel gear, a hypoid gear, a spiral gear, or a face gear.

FIG. **19** is a perspective view of self-piercing screw mechanism **146** in an expanded state. As discussed above, as rod **154** rotates, tab **156** engages keyed shaft **164** within the partial through bore **160** (depicted in FIG. **31**) of self-piercing screw body **158** and imparts rotational force to self-piercing screw body **158**. As self-piercing screw body **158** rotates it engages with either anchor layer **107**, if self-piercing screw body **158** is embedded within superior component **102**; or, anchor layer **109**, if self-piercing screw body **158** is embedded within inferior component **104**. As self-piercing screw body **158** engages either anchor layer **107** or anchor layer **109**, the self-piercing screw body is drawn deeper into, and further engages, the bone material of the adjacent vertebra (e.g., L3 or L4). As self-piercing screw body **158** engages bone material, tab **156** continues to transfer torque to the screw body and slides along keyed shaft **164** with inner radial surface **162** of partial through bore **160**. When the screw body is at its maximum expansion flange **157** abuts retention shoulder **159** preventing the screw body from moving deeper into the bone material of the adjacent vertebra.

FIG. **20** is a side view self-piercing screw mechanism **122** in an unexpanded state. FIG. **21** is a side view of self-piercing screw mechanism **122** in an unexpanded state rotated 90 degrees. FIG. **22** is a cross-sectional view of self-piercing screw mechanism **122** in an unexpanded state, taken generally along line **22-22** in FIG. **21**.

FIG. **23** is a side view self-piercing screw mechanism **122** in an expanded state. FIG. **24** is a side view of self-piercing screw mechanism **122** in an expanded state rotated 90 degrees. FIG. **25** is a cross-sectional view of self-piercing screw mechanism **122** in an expanded state, taken generally along line **25-25** in FIG. **24**.

FIG. **26** is a side view self-piercing screw mechanism **146** in an unexpanded state. FIG. **27** is a side view of self-piercing screw mechanism **146** in an unexpanded state rotated 90 degrees. FIG. **28** is a cross-sectional view of self-piercing screw mechanism **146** in an unexpanded state, taken generally along line **28-28** in FIG. **27**.

FIG. **29** is a side view self-piercing screw mechanism **146** in an expanded state. FIG. **30** is a side view of self-piercing screw mechanism **146** in an expanded state rotated 90 degrees. FIG. **31** is a cross-sectional view of self-piercing screw mechanism **146** in an expanded state, taken generally along line **31-31** in FIG. **30**.

FIG. **32** is a perspective view of an expansion mechanism **166** in an unexpanded state. Expansion mechanism **166**

comprises threaded rod **168**, threaded sleeve **170**, a worm drive **172** having a worm **174** and a gear **176**. A portion of threaded rod **168** can be embedded within superior component **102** such that it is rotationally fixed. It should be appreciated that although expansion mechanism **166** is depicted within inferior component **104**, expansion mechanism could be arranged within superior component **102**. During surgery and after device **100** is implanted in disc space **12**, a surgeon can apply torque to worm drive **172** via any device that imparts rotational force upon worm **174** (e.g., a screw driver or impact driver). Torque is transferred 90 degrees through worm drive **172**, via worm **174** and gear **176**. Rotation of gear **176** causes threaded sleeve **170** to rotate. As threaded sleeve **170** rotates, threaded rod remains rotationally locked due to the portion embedded within superior component **102**. As threaded sleeve **170** rotates, the threads of the rotationally locked threaded rod **168** ride upward along the threads within threaded sleeve **170**, this displaces threaded rod, and subsequently superior component **102** in direction D1. Threaded rod **168** includes a stopping feature to prevent threaded rod **168** from being ejected from threaded sleeve **170**. For example, the lower portion of threaded rod **168** could be threadless (shown in FIG. **36**), and therefore prevent threaded rod **168** from being ejected from threaded sleeve **170**. When threaded rod **168** reaches its maximum expansion, the unthreaded portion of rod **168** remains within threaded sleeve **170**, preventing threaded rod **168** from being pushed out of threaded sleeve **170**. Alternatively, the stopping feature could be a flange on the recessed portion of threaded rod **168** arranged to engage with a retention shoulder within threaded sleeve **170** in a fully expanded state (not shown in the Figures). It should be appreciated that worm drive **172** could be arranged to transfer torque in other arrangements, i.e., 180 degrees, 270 degrees, or any desirable angle required by the arrangement of worm **174** and gear **176**. It should further be appreciated that although a gear **176** is depicted in the figures as a spur gear, other suitable gears may be selected, i.e., a bevel gear, a hypoid gear, a spiral gear, or a face gear. FIG. **33** is a perspective view of an expansion mechanism **166** in an expanded state.

FIG. **34** is a side view of expansion mechanism **166** in an unexpanded state. FIG. **35** is a side view of expansion mechanism **166** rotated 90 degrees in an expanded state. FIG. **36** is a cross-sectional view of expansion mechanism **166**, taken generally along line **36-36** in FIG. **35**.

FIG. **37** is a perspective view of expansion mechanism **178** in an unexpanded state. Expansion mechanism **178** comprises a gear **180** and a toothed shaft **182**. Gear **180** and toothed shaft **182** are arranged within inferior component **104**; however, they could be arranged within superior component **102** (not shown). During surgery and after device **100** is implanted in disc space **12**, a surgeon can apply torque to gear **180** via any device that imparts rotational force (e.g., a screw driver or impact driver). Torque is transferred 90 degrees through gear **180** to toothed shaft **182**. When gear **180** is rotated in rotational direction RD2 opposite RD1, superior component **102** is displaced in direction D1. FIG. **38** is a perspective view of expansion mechanism **178** in an expanded state after rotation of gear **180** in direction RD2. It should be appreciated that although a gear **180** is depicted in the figures as a spur gear, other suitable gears may be selected, i.e., a bevel gear, a hypoid gear, a spiral gear, or a face gear. FIG. **39** is a side view of expansion mechanism **178** in an unexpanded state. FIG. **40** is a side view of expansion mechanism **178** in an expanded state.

FIG. 41 is a perspective view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 200 in an unexpanded state. Device 200 comprises superior component 202, inferior component 204, and expansion mechanisms 206, 208, 210, and 211, arranged to displace superior component 202 in a first direction D1 relative to inferior component 204 giving device 200 an expanded height H_2 greater than unexpanded height H_1 , self-piercing screw mechanisms 212, 214, 216, and 218, arranged to engage the bone material of the surrounding vertebra (i.e., L3 and L4). Superior component 202 and inferior component 204 further comprise at least one first aperture 220 arranged to allow fusion between bone fusing material and the adjacent vertebra, and a second aperture 292 located on the front face of device 200 arranged to allow the introduction of bone fusing material into device 200. Second aperture 292 is illustrated as an arched slot as a non-limiting example, however, it should be appreciated that second aperture 292 could be any suitable aperture that would allow for the introduction of bone fusing material into device 200. Superior component 202 has a first surface 203 and inferior component 204 has a first surface 205. Embedded within the superior component, beneath surface 203, or above surface 203 (not depicted in FIG. 41), there is an anchor layer 207. Embedded within the inferior component, beneath surface 205, or above surface 205 (not depicted in FIG. 41), there is an anchor layer 209. Self-piercing screw mechanisms 212, 214, 216, and 218 can comprise the embodiment of either self-piercing screw mechanism 122 (as described supra) or self-piercing screw mechanism 146 (as described supra). Expansion mechanisms 206, 208, 210, and 211 can comprise the embodiment of either expansion mechanism 166 or 178 (as described infra).

FIG. 42 is a perspective view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 200, in an expanded state. During surgery and after device 200 is implanted into disc space 12, a surgeon can apply torque to expansion mechanisms 206, 208, 210 and 211 via any device that imparts rotational force (e.g., a screw driver or impact driver). The rotational force causes expansion mechanisms 206, 208, 210 and 211 to displace superior component 202 in direction D1 relative to inferior component 204, giving device 200 an expanded height H_2 greater than H_1 . This embodiment of the implant differs from stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 100, as illustrated in FIGS. 10 and 11, in that it has an additional expansion mechanism, and there are two gear shafts 226 and 250 in place of individual worms 126 or 150. Gear shaft 226 is arranged to engage expansion mechanisms 206 and 210, and gear shaft 250 is arranged to engage expansion mechanisms 208 and 211. Although not shown in FIG. 41 or 42 it is possible to vary the thread ratio of each expansion mechanism allowing for an uneven expansion of superior component 202.

FIG. 43 is a perspective view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 300 in an unexpanded state. Device 300 comprises superior component 302, inferior component 304, and expansion mechanisms 306, 308, 310, and 311, arranged to displace superior component 302 in a first direction D1 relative to inferior component 304 giving device 300 an expanded height H_2 greater than unexpanded height H_1 , self-piercing screw mechanisms 312, 314, 316, and 318, arranged to engage the bone material of the surrounding vertebra (i.e., L3 and L4). Superior component 302 and inferior component 304 comprise at least one first aperture 320 arranged to allow fusion between bone fusing material and the adjacent vertebra, and a second aperture 392 located on the front face of device 300 and arranged to allow the introduction of bone fusing material into device

300. Second aperture 392 is illustrated as an arched slot as a non-limiting example, however, it should be appreciated that second aperture 392 could be any suitable aperture that would allow for the introduction of bone fusing material into device 300. Superior component 302 has a first surface 303 and inferior component 304 has a first surface 305. Embedded within the superior component, beneath surface 303, or above surface 303 (not depicted in FIG. 43), there is an anchor layer 307. Embedded within the inferior component, beneath surface 305, or above surface 305 (not depicted in FIG. 43), there is an anchor layer 309. Self-piercing screw mechanisms 312, 314, 316, and 318 can comprise the embodiment of either self-piercing screw mechanism 122 (as described supra) or self-piercing screw mechanism 146 (as described supra).

FIG. 44 is a perspective view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 300, in an expanded state. Expansion mechanisms 306, 308, 310 and 311, are fully extended giving device 300 an expanded height H_2 , greater than H_1 . This embodiment of the implant differs from stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 200, as illustrated in FIGS. 41 and 42, in that expansion mechanisms 306, 308, 310, and 311, comprise the embodiment of expansion mechanism 178 illustrated in FIGS. 37-40. Additionally gear shaft 326 is arranged to engage expansion mechanisms 306 and 310, and gear shaft 350 is arranged to engage expansion mechanisms 308 and 311. Due to the gear shafts needing to start in a position closer to superior component 302, as illustrated in previous embodiments, cutouts are shown on the proximate surface of superior component 302, so that the gears of the expansion mechanisms can be accessed when device 300 is in an unexpanded state.

FIG. 45 is a perspective view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 400 in an unexpanded state. Device 400 comprises superior component 402, inferior component 404, expansion mechanism 406 arranged to displace superior component 402 in a first direction D1 relative to inferior component 404, self-piercing screw mechanisms 412, 414, 416, and 418, arranged to engage the bone material of the surrounding vertebra (i.e., L3 and L4). Superior component 402 and inferior component 404 further comprise at least one first aperture 420 arranged to allow fusion between bone fusing material and the adjacent vertebra. Superior component 402 has a first surface 403 and inferior component 404 has a first surface 405. Embedded within the superior component, beneath surface 403, or above surface 403 (not depicted in FIG. 45), there is an anchor layer 407. Embedded within the inferior component, beneath surface 405, or above surface 405 (not depicted in FIG. 45), there is an anchor layer 409. Although not illustrated in FIG. 45, it should be appreciated that threaded inserts such as threaded inserts 813, 815, 817, and 819 described infra, can be used in place of anchor layers 407 and 409 to provide sufficient leverage for the screw mechanisms to pierce the bone material of adjacent vertebra. Self-piercing screw mechanisms 412, 414, 416, and 418 can comprise the embodiment of either self-piercing screw mechanism 122 (as described supra) or self-piercing screw mechanism 146 (as described supra). Device 400 further comprises hinge 484 fixedly secured to superior component 402 and inferior component 404 and arranged to rotatably displace the superior component about axis of rotation AR. Expansion mechanism 406 is preferably expansion mechanism 166 described supra.

FIG. 46 is a perspective view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 400 in an expanded state. As

discussed above, expansion mechanism 406 is arranged to displace superior component in a first direction D1. In this embodiment expansion mechanism 406 is not partially embedded within superior component 402. Instead, expansion mechanism 406 is illustrated with a rounded tip, such that during expansion the rounded tip can slide along the inner surface of the superior component. This allows expansion mechanism 406 to fully expand in direction D1 without binding due to the angular displacement of superior component 402.

FIG. 47 is a front view stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 400, in an unexpanded state. FIG. 48 is a side view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 400, in an unexpanded state. FIG. 49 is a front view stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 400, in an expanded state. FIG. 50 is a side view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 400, in an expanded state.

FIG. 51 is a partial cross-sectional view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 400, in an unexpanded state. The self-piercing screw mechanisms 412, 414, 416, and 418, are engaged first to secure device 400 from shifting in disc space 12. Once self-piercing screw mechanisms 412, 414, 416, and 418 are engaged. Expansion mechanism 406 is utilized to displace superior component 402 in direction D1 and expand device 400.

FIG. 52 is a partial cross-sectional view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 400, in an expanded state. FIG. 53 is a partial cross-sectional front view stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 400, in an unexpanded state. FIG. 54 is a partial cross-sectional front view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 400, in an expanded state.

FIG. 55 is a partial cross-sectional front view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 500, in an unexpanded state. Device 500 is comprised of the same elements as device 400. Device 500 comprises superior component 502 and inferior component 504, and expansion mechanism 506. Superior component 502 and inferior component 504 further comprise at least one first aperture 520 (not shown in FIG. 55) arranged to allow fusion between bone fusing material and the adjacent vertebra. Device 500 further comprises self-piercing screw mechanisms 512, 514, 516, and 518. Superior component 502 has a first surface 503 and inferior component 504 has a first surface 505. Embedded within the superior component, beneath surface 503, or above surface 503 (not depicted in FIG. 55), there is an anchor layer 507. Embedded within the inferior component, beneath surface 505, or above surface 505 (not depicted in FIG. 55), there is an anchor layer 509. Although not illustrated in FIG. 55, it should be appreciated that threaded inserts such as threaded inserts 813, 815, 817, and 819 described infra, can be used in place of anchor layers 507 and 509 to provide sufficient leverage for the screw mechanisms to pierce the bone material of adjacent vertebra. Self-piercing screw mechanisms 512, 514, 516, and 518 can comprise the embodiment of either self-piercing screw mechanism 122 (as described supra) or self-piercing screw mechanism 146 (as described supra). Device 500 further comprises hinge 584 (not shown in FIG. 55) fixedly secured to superior component 502 and inferior component 504 and arranged to rotatably displace the superior component about axis of rotation AR. Device 500 differs from device 400 in that the superior component 502 and inferior component 504 each have a sinusoidal cross-section, inversely arranged with respect to each other such that in the unexpanded state, superior component 502 and inferior component

504 slidably engage each other. FIG. 56 is a partial cross-sectional front view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 500, in an expanded state.

FIG. 57 is a partial cross-sectional front view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 600, in an unexpanded state. Device 600 differs from device 500 as illustrated in FIGS. 55 and 56, in that it has two distinct expansion mechanisms 606, and 608, arranged to displace superior component 602 in direction D1 relative to inferior component 604. Superior component 602 and inferior component 604 further comprise at least one first aperture 620 (not shown in FIG. 57) arranged to allow fusion between bone fusing material and the adjacent vertebra. Device 600 further comprises self-piercing screw mechanisms 612, 614, 616, and 618. Superior component 602 has a first surface 603 and inferior component 604 has a first surface 605. Embedded within the superior component, beneath surface 603, or above surface 603 (not depicted in FIG. 57), there is an anchor layer 607. Embedded within the inferior component, beneath surface 605, or above surface 605 (not depicted in FIG. 57), there is an anchor layer 609. Although not illustrated in FIG. 57 it should be appreciated that threaded inserts such as threaded inserts 813, 815, 817, and 819 described infra, can be used in place of anchor layers 607 and 609 to provide sufficient leverage for the screw mechanisms to pierce the bone material of adjacent vertebra. Self-piercing screw mechanisms 612, 614, 616, and 618 can comprise the embodiment of either self-piercing screw mechanism 122 (as described supra) or self-piercing screw mechanism 146 (as described supra). FIG. 58 is a partial cross-sectional front view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 600, in an expanded state;

FIG. 59 is a perspective view of a stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 700, in an expanded state. Device 700 comprises expansion mechanisms 706, 708, 710 and 711 each having a worm 726 and arranged to displace superior component 702 in direction D1 relative to inferior component 704. Device 700 differs from previous embodiments in that the superior component 702 and inferior component 704 are formed in the shape of a horseshoe. Device 700 further comprises self-piercing screw mechanisms 712, 714, 716, and 718. Superior component 702 has a first surface 703 and inferior component 704 has a first surface 705. Embedded within the superior component, beneath surface 703, or above surface 704 (not depicted in FIG. 59), there is an anchor layer 707 (not shown in FIG. 59). Embedded within the inferior component, beneath surface 705, or above surface 705 (not depicted in FIG. 59), there is an anchor layer 709 (not shown in FIG. 59). Although not illustrated in FIG. 59, it should be appreciated that threaded inserts such as threaded inserts 813, 815, 817, and 819 described infra, can be used in place of anchor layers 707 and 709 to provide sufficient leverage for the screw mechanisms to pierce the bone material of adjacent vertebra. Self-piercing screw mechanisms 712, 714, 716, and 718 can comprise the embodiment of either self-piercing screw mechanism 122 (as described supra) or self-piercing screw mechanism 146 (as described supra). FIG. 60 is a cross-sectional view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 700, in an expanded state taken along line 60-60 in FIG. 59.

FIG. 61 is a perspective view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device 800 in an unexpanded state. Device 800 comprises superior component 802, inferior component 804, expansion mechanisms 806, 808, 810, and 811, arranged to displace superior component 802 in a first direction D1 relative to inferior component 804 giving

device **800** an expanded height H_2 greater than unexpanded height H_1 , self-piercing screw mechanisms **812**, **814**, **816**, and **818**, arranged to engage the bone material of the surrounding vertebra (i.e., **L3** and **L4**). Superior component **802** has a first surface **803** and inferior component **804** has a first surface **805** (shown in FIGS. **64** and **66**). Superior component **802** and inferior component **804** further comprise at least one first aperture **820** arranged to allow fusion between bone fusing material and the adjacent vertebra, and a second aperture **892** located on the front face of device **800** and arranged to allow the introduction of bone fusing material into device **800**. Second aperture **892** is illustrated as an arched slot as a non-limiting example, however, it should be appreciated that second aperture **892** could be any suitable aperture that would allow for the introduction of bone fusing material into device **800**. Superior component **802** further comprises threaded inserts **813**, **815**, **817**, and **819**. Threaded inserts **813**, and **815** are fixedly secured within superior component **802**, and threaded inserts **817** and **819** are fixedly secured within inferior component **804**. Self-piercing screw mechanisms **812**, **814**, **816**, and **818** engage with the threads of the threaded inserts giving the self-piercing screw bodies the needed leverage to engage with the bone material of the adjacent vertebra. Threaded inserts **813**, **815**, **817**, and **819** can be made of titanium or other suitable material that is more dense than the metal used in the threading of the self-piercing screws. Self-piercing screw mechanisms **812**, **814**, **816**, and **818** can comprise the embodiment of either self-piercing screw mechanism **122** (as described supra) or self-piercing screw mechanism **146** (as described supra).

FIG. **62** is a perspective view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device **800**, in an expanded state. During surgery and after device **800** is implanted into disc space **12**, a surgeon can apply torque to expansion mechanisms expansion mechanisms **806**, **808**, **810** and **811** via any device that imparts rotational force (e.g., a screw driver or impact driver). The rotational force causes expansion mechanisms **806**, **808**, **810** and **811** to displace superior component **802** in direction **D1** relative to inferior component **804** giving device **200** an expanded height H_2 greater than H_1 . This embodiment of the implant differs from stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device **200**, as illustrated in FIGS. **41** and **42**, in that instead of anchor layers **207** and **209**, each screw mechanism threads itself through threaded inserts **813**, **815**, **817**, and **819**. Although not shown in FIG. **61** or **62** it is possible to vary the thread ratio of each expansion mechanism allowing for an uneven expansion of superior component **802**.

FIG. **63** is a front view of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device **800**, in an unexpanded state having an unexpanded height H_1 . FIG. **64** is a side view stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device **800**, in an unexpanded state having an unexpanded height H_1 . FIG. **64** illustrates the cross section along line **64-64** in FIG. **63**. FIG. **64** shows the cross section through self-piercing screw mechanism **814** fixedly secured within superior component **802**, and self-piercing screw mechanism **818** fixedly secured within inferior component **804**. Further, FIG. **64** illustrates the cross section of threaded inserts **815** operatively arranged to engage self-piercing screw mechanism **814**, and threaded insert **819** operatively arranged to engage self-piercing screw mechanism **818**.

FIG. **65** is a front view stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device **800**, in an expanded state having an expanded height H_2 , greater than H_1 . FIG. **66** is a front view stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device **800**,

in an expanded state having an expanded height H_2 , greater than H_1 . As torque is transferred through self-piercing screw mechanisms **814** and **818**, the threads of the self-piercing screw mechanisms engage with the threads on the inner radial surface of threaded inserts **815** and **819**. This engagement provides the self-piercing screw bodies the necessary leverage to engage with the adjacent vertebra.

FIG. **67** is an expanded view of area **67** in FIG. **66**. FIG. **67** shows self-piercing screw mechanism **814** within superior component **802**, of stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device **800**. Threaded insert **815** is shown fixedly secured within superior component **802**, and arranged to engage with the threads of self-piercing screw mechanism **814**. Threaded insert **815** acts as a leverage point for self-piercing screw mechanism **814**, providing the force necessary for self-piercing screw mechanism **814** to engage with adjacent vertebra.

FIG. **68** illustrates a non-limiting example of self-driving screw body tip **986** that can be used as the tip of the various screw mechanisms illustrated in this disclosure. FIG. **69** illustrates a non-limiting example of self-tapping screw body tip **988** that can be used as the tip of the various screw mechanisms illustrated in this disclosure. FIG. **70** illustrates a non-limiting example of self-piercing body tip **990** that can be used as the tip of the various screw mechanisms illustrated in this disclosure.

Thus it is seen that the objects of the invention are efficiently obtained, although changes and modifications to the invention should be readily apparent to those having ordinary skill in the art, which changes would not depart from the spirit and scope of the invention as claimed.

LIST OF REFERENCE NUMBERS

35	10 Spinal column
	C1-C7 Cervical vertebrae
	T1-T9 Thoracic vertebrae
	L1-L5 Lumbar vertebrae
	S Sacrum
40	C Coccyx
	D1 Direction
	D_{L1-L2} Disc
	D_{L2-L3} Disc
	D_{L3-L4} Disc
45	D_{L4-L5} Disc
	F Facet
	FJ Facet joint
	h_1 Collapsed height
	h_2 Expanded height
50	SP Spinous process
	TP Transverse process
	IF Intervertebral foramen
	A Annulus
	AR Axis of rotation
55	N Nucleus
	NC Neural canal
	H_1 Unexpanded height
	H_2 Expanded height
	RD1 Rotational direction 1
60	RD2 Rotational direction 2
	12 Disc space
	100 Stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device
	102 Superior component
	103 Superior component surface
65	104 Inferior component
	105 Inferior component surface
	106 First expansion mechanism

107 Anchor layer
 108 Second expansion mechanism
 109 Anchor layer
 110 Third expansion mechanism
 112 First self-piercing screw mechanism
 114 Second self-piercing screw mechanism
 116 Third self-piercing screw mechanism
 118 Fourth self-piercing screw mechanism
 120 First aperture
 122 Self-piercing screw—first embodiment
 124 Worm drive
 126 Worm
 128 Gear
 130 Drive casing
 132 Inner radial surface
 134 Keyed shaft
 136 Outer radial surface
 138 First end
 140 Second end
 142 Self-piercing screw body
 144 Tab
 146 Self-piercing screw—second embodiment
 148 Worm Drive
 150 Worm
 152 Gear
 154 Rod
 156 Tab
 157 Flange
 158 Self-piercing screw body
 159 Retention shoulder
 160 Partial through bore
 162 Inner radial surface
 164 Keyed shaft
 166 Expansion mechanism—first embodiment
 168 Threaded Rod
 170 Threaded Sleeve
 172 Worm Drive
 174 Worm
 176 Gear
 178 Expansion mechanism—second embodiment
 180 Gear
 182 Toothed Shaft
 192 Second aperture
 200 Stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device
 202 Superior component
 203 Superior component surface
 204 Inferior component
 205 Inferior component surface
 206 First expansion mechanism
 207 Anchor layer
 208 Second expansion mechanism
 209 Anchor layer
 210 Third expansion mechanism
 211 Fourth expansion mechanism
 212 First self-piercing screw mechanism
 214 Second self-piercing screw mechanism
 216 Third self-piercing screw mechanism
 218 Fourth self-piercing screw mechanism
 220 First aperture
 226 Gear shaft
 250 Gear shaft
 292 Second Aperture
 300 Stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device
 302 Superior component
 303 Superior component surface
 304 Inferior component
 305 Inferior component surface

306 First expansion mechanism
 307 Anchor layer
 308 Second expansion mechanism
 309 Anchor layer
 5 310 Third expansion mechanism
 311 Fourth expansion mechanism
 312 First self-piercing screw mechanism
 314 Second self-piercing screw mechanism
 316 Third self-piercing screw mechanism
 10 318 Fourth self-piercing screw mechanism
 320 First aperture
 326 Gear shaft
 350 Gear shaft
 392 Second aperture
 15 400 Stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device
 402 Superior component
 403 Superior component surface
 404 Inferior component
 405 Inferior component surface
 20 406 First expansion mechanism
 407 Anchor layer
 409 Anchor layer
 412 First self-piercing screw mechanism
 414 Second self-piercing screw mechanism
 25 416 Third self-piercing screw mechanism
 418 Fourth self-piercing screw mechanism
 420 First aperture
 484 Hinge
 492 Second aperture
 30 500 Stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device
 502 Superior component
 503 Superior component surface
 504 Inferior component
 505 Inferior component surface
 35 506 First expansion mechanism
 507 Anchor layer
 509 Anchor layer
 512 First self-piercing screw mechanism
 514 Second self-piercing screw mechanism
 40 516 Third self-piercing screw mechanism
 518 Fourth self-piercing screw mechanism
 520 First aperture
 584 Hinge
 592 Second aperture
 45 600 Stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device
 602 Superior component
 603 Superior component surface
 604 Inferior component
 605 Inferior component surface
 50 606 First expansion mechanism
 607 Anchor layer
 609 Anchor layer
 612 First self-piercing screw mechanism
 614 Second self-piercing screw mechanism
 55 616 Third self-piercing screw mechanism
 618 Fourth self-piercing screw mechanism
 620 First aperture
 684 Hinge
 692 Second aperture
 60 700 Stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device
 702 Superior component
 703 Superior component surface
 704 Inferior component
 705 Inferior component surface
 65 706 First expansion mechanism
 708 Second expansion mechanism
 710 Third expansion mechanism

- 711 Fourth expansion mechanism
- 712 First self-piercing screw mechanism
- 714 Second self-piercing screw mechanism
- 716 Third self-piercing screw mechanism
- 718 Fourth self-piercing screw mechanism
- 726 Gear shaft
- 800 Stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device
- 802 Superior component
- 804 Inferior component
- 806 First expansion mechanism
- 808 Second expansion mechanism
- 810 Third expansion mechanism
- 811 Fourth expansion mechanism
- 812 First self-piercing screw mechanism
- 813 First threaded insert
- 814 Second self-piercing screw mechanism
- 815 Second threaded insert
- 816 Third self-piercing screw mechanism
- 817 Third threaded insert
- 818 Fourth self-piercing screw mechanism
- 819 Fourth threaded insert
- 820 First aperture
- 826 Gear shaft
- 850 Gear shaft
- 892 Second aperture
- 986 Self-drilling screw body tip
- 988 Self-tapping screw body tip
- 990 Self-piercing screw body tip

What is claimed is:

1. A stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device, comprising:
 - a superior component;
 - an inferior component;
 - an expansion mechanism operatively arranged to displace the superior component in a first direction relative to the inferior component; and,
 - a first screw mechanism arranged within the superior component or the inferior component, the first screw mechanism operatively arranged to fixedly secure the stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device to an adjacent vertebra of a spine.
2. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device of claim 1, further comprising a second screw mechanism arranged with the superior component or the inferior component.
3. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device of claim 2, wherein the second screw mechanism comprises a self-tapping, self-piercing or self-drilling screw body.
4. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device of claim 2, wherein the superior component or the inferior component further comprises:
 - a first threaded insert fixedly secured within the superior component or the inferior component and operatively arranged to receive the screw body of the first screw mechanism; and,
 - a second threaded insert fixedly secured within the superior component or the inferior component and operatively arranged to receive the screw body of the second screw mechanism.
5. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device of claim 1, wherein the first screw mechanism further comprises:
 - a screw body; and,

- a worm drive having a worm and a gear wherein the worm is operatively arranged to transmit torque to the gear and the gear is operatively arranged to transmit torque to the screw body.
- 6. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device of claim 5, wherein the first screw mechanism further comprises:
 - a tab arranged on the screw body; and,
 - a drive casing comprising:
 - an inner radial surface having a keyed shaft;
 - an outer radial surface;
 - a first end; and,
 - a second end, wherein the keyed shaft of the inner radial surface is operatively arranged to slidingly engage the tab, and the first end is fixedly secured to the gear.
- 7. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device of claim 5, wherein the second screw mechanism further comprises:
 - a screw body further comprising:
 - a partial through bore;
 - an inner radial surface within the partial through bore, the inner radial surface having a keyed shaft and a retention shoulder; and,
 - a rod, fixedly secured to the gear, the rod having a tab and a flange, wherein the tab is operatively arranged to slidingly engage the keyed shaft and the flange is operatively arranged to abut the retention shoulder when the screw body is in a maximally extended position relative to the inferior component.
- 8. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device of claim 1, wherein the expansion mechanism further comprises:
 - a threaded rod;
 - a threaded sleeve; and,
 - a worm drive having a worm and a gear, wherein the worm is operatively arranged to transmit torque to the gear, the gear is fixedly secured to the threaded sleeve, and the threaded sleeve is operatively arranged to transmit torque to the threaded rod.
- 9. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device of claim 1, wherein the expansion mechanism further comprises a toothed shaft operatively arranged to receive torque from a gear.
- 10. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device of claim 2, wherein the first screw mechanism further comprises:
 - a screw body; and,
 - a worm drive having a worm and a gear, wherein the worm is operatively arranged to transmit torque to the gear and the gear is operatively arranged to transmit torque to the screw body.
- 11. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device of claim 10, wherein the first screw mechanism further comprises:
 - a tab arranged on the screw body; and,
 - a drive casing comprising:
 - an inner radial surface having a keyed shaft;
 - an outer radial surface;
 - a first end; and,
 - a second end, wherein the keyed shaft of the inner radial surface is operatively arranged to slidingly engage the tab, and the first end is fixedly secured to the gear.
- 12. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion device of claim 10, wherein the first screw mechanism further comprises:

a screw body further comprising:
 a partial through bore;
 an inner radial surface within the partial through bore,
 the inner radial surface having a keyed shaft and a
 retention shoulder; and,
 a rod, fixedly secured to the gear, the rod having a tab
 and a flange, wherein the tab is operatively arranged
 to slidingly engage the keyed shaft and the flange is
 operatively arranged to abut the retention shoulder
 when the screw body is in a maximally extended
 position relative to the inferior component.

13. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion
 device of claim 1, wherein the superior component or the
 inferior component further comprises:
 a first surface; and,
 an anchor layer, wherein the anchor layer is arranged on
 the first surface of the superior and inferior components
 and operatively arranged to receive the screw body of
 the first screw mechanism.

14. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion
 device of claim 13, wherein the anchor layer is made of
 titanium, ceramic, carbon fiber, high density plastic, or
 polymer plastic.

15. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion
 device of claim 1, further comprising a first aperture within
 the superior component and inferior component.

16. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion
 device of claim 15, further comprising a second aperture
 within the superior component and inferior component.

17. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion
 device of claim 1, wherein the first screw mechanism
 comprises a self-tapping, self-piercing, or self-drilling screw
 body.

18. A stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion
 device, comprising:
 a body including a proximate end and a distal end,
 wherein the body further comprises:
 a superior component;
 an inferior component;
 a first gear shaft operatively arranged to engage a first
 plurality of expansion mechanisms wherein the first
 plurality of expansion mechanisms are operatively
 arranged to displace the superior component in a first
 direction relative to the inferior component;
 a first screw mechanism operatively arranged within
 the proximate end of the superior component, the
 first screw mechanism operatively arranged to pro-
 trude through an outer surface of the superior com-
 ponent;
 a second screw mechanism operatively arranged within
 the proximate end of the inferior component; and,
 a first aperture operatively arranged on the superior
 component or the inferior component.

19. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion
 device of claim 18, further comprising a second gear shaft
 operatively arranged to engage a second plurality of expan-
 sion mechanisms wherein the second plurality of expansion
 mechanisms are operatively arranged to displace the supe-
 rior component in the first direction.

20. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion
 device of claim 18, further comprising a second aperture
 operatively arranged on the superior component or the
 inferior component.

21. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion
 device of claim 18, wherein the first and second screw
 mechanisms further comprise:

a tab arranged on a screw body; and,
 a drive casing comprising:
 an inner radial surface having a keyed shaft;
 an outer radial surface;
 a first end; and,
 a second end, wherein the keyed shaft of the inner
 radial surface is operatively arranged to slidingly
 engage the tab, and the first end is fixedly secured to
 the gear.

22. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion
 device of claim 19, wherein each expansion mechanism of
 the first plurality of the expansion mechanisms and each
 expansion mechanism of the second plurality of expansion
 mechanisms further comprise:
 a threaded rod;
 a threaded sleeve; and,
 a worm drive having a worm and a gear, wherein the
 worm is operatively arranged to transmit torque to the
 gear, the gear is fixedly secured to the threaded sleeve,
 and the threaded sleeve is operatively arranged to
 transmit torque to the threaded rod.

23. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion
 device of claim 18, wherein the first and second screw
 mechanisms comprises a self-tapping, self-piercing or self-
 drilling screw body.

24. A stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion
 device, comprising:
 a superior component;
 an inferior component; and,
 a first screw mechanism arranged within the superior
 component or the inferior component, wherein:
 the first screw mechanism is operatively arranged to
 fixedly secure the stand-alone expandable interbody
 spinal fusion device to an adjacent vertebra of a
 spine; and,
 the superior component is operatively arranged be
 displaced in a first direction relative to the inferior
 component.

25. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion
 device of claim 24, wherein the first screw mechanism
 further comprises:
 a screw body further comprising:
 a partial through bore;
 an inner radial surface within the partial through bore,
 the inner radial surface having a keyed shaft and a
 retention shoulder; and,
 a rod, fixedly secured to a worm drive having a worm
 and a gear, the rod having a tab and a flange, wherein
 the tab is operatively arranged to slidingly engage
 the keyed shaft and the flange is operatively arranged
 to abut the retention shoulder when the screw body
 is in a maximally extended position relative to the
 inferior component.

26. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion
 device of claim 24, wherein the first screw mechanism
 comprises a self-tapping, self-piercing, or self-drilling screw
 body.

27. The stand-alone expandable interbody spinal fusion
 device of claim 1, further comprising a hinge fixedly secured
 between the superior and inferior components and opera-
 tively arranged to rotatably displace the superior component
 relative to the inferior component.