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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

321 7590 01/23/2025
STINSON LLP
7700 FORSYTH BOULEVARD, SUITE 1100
ST LOUIS, MO 63105

EXAMINER

ERENCE, JAMES M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3635

DATE MAILED: 01/23/2025

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
18/492,460	10/23/2023	Steven Brekke	MLP 7708.USC6	3591

TITLE OF INVENTION: HANGER FOR FIRE SEPARATION WALL

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	UNDISCOUNTED	\$1290	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1290	04/23/2025

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the ENTITY STATUS shown above. If the ENTITY STATUS is shown as SMALL or MICRO, verify whether entitlement to that entity status still applies.

If the ENTITY STATUS is the same as shown above, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

If the ENTITY STATUS is changed from that shown above, on PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, complete section number 5 titled "Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)".

For purposes of this notice, small entity fees are 40% the amount of undiscounted fees, and micro entity fees are 20% the amount of undiscounted fees.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Maintenance fees are due in utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due. More information is available at www.uspto.gov/PatentMaintenanceFees.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), by mail or fax, or via the USPTO patent electronic filing system.

By mail, send to: Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

By fax, send to: (571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications. **Because electronic patent issuance may occur shortly after issue fee payment, any desired continuing application should preferably be filed prior to payment of this issue fee in order not to jeopardize copendency.**

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

321 7590 01/23/2025
STINSON LLP
7700 FORSYTH BOULEVARD, SUITE 1100
ST LOUIS, MO 63105

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being transmitted to the USPTO via the USPTO patent electronic filing system or by facsimile to (571) 273-2885, on the date below.

(Typed or printed name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
18/492,460	10/23/2023	Steven Brekke	MLP 7708.USC6	3591

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nonprovisional	UNDISCOUNTED	\$1290	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1290	04/23/2025

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
ERENCE, JAMES M	3635	052-708000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/AIA/122 or PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/AIA/47 or PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) The names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

(2) The name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document must have been previously recorded, or filed for recordation, as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11 and 37 CFR 3.81(a). Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. Fees submitted: ☐ Issue Fee ☐ Publication Fee (if required)

4b. Method of Payment: (Please first reapply any previously paid fee shown above)

☐ Electronic Payment via the USPTO patent electronic filing system ☐ Enclosed check ☐ Non-electronic payment by credit card (Attach form PTO-2038)

☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. _____

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

☐ Applicant certifying micro entity status. See 37 CFR 1.29

☐ Applicant asserting small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

☐ Applicant changing to regular undiscounted fee status.

NOTE: Absent a valid certification of Micro Entity Status (see forms PTO/SB/15A and 15B), issue fee payment in the micro entity amount will not be accepted at the risk of application abandonment.

NOTE: If the application was previously under micro entity status, checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to micro entity status.

NOTE: Checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to small or micro entity status, as applicable.

NOTE: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.31 and 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4 for signature requirements and certifications.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____



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STINSON LLP			FERENCE, JAMES M	
7700 FORSYTH BOULEVARD, SUITE 1100			ART UNIT	
ST LOUIS, MO 63105			PAPER NUMBER	
			3635	
DATE MAILED: 01/23/2025				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (Applications filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Office has discontinued providing a Patent Term Adjustment (PTA) calculation with the Notice of Allowance.

Section 1(h)(2) of the AIA Technical Corrections Act amended 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(3)(B)(i) to eliminate the requirement that the Office provide a patent term adjustment determination with the notice of allowance. See Revisions to Patent Term Adjustment, 78 Fed. Reg. 19416, 19417 (Apr. 1, 2013). Therefore, the Office is no longer providing an initial patent term adjustment determination with the notice of allowance. The Office will continue to provide a patent term adjustment determination with the Issue Notification Letter that is mailed to applicant approximately three weeks prior to the issue date of the patent, and will include the patent term adjustment on the patent. Any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment determination (or reinstatement of patent term adjustment) should follow the process outlined in 37 CFR 1.705.

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

OMB Clearance and PRA Burden Statement for PTOL-85 Part B

The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 requires Federal agencies to obtain Office of Management and Budget approval before requesting most types of information from the public. When OMB approves an agency request to collect information from the public, OMB (i) provides a valid OMB Control Number and expiration date for the agency to display on the instrument that will be used to collect the information and (ii) requires the agency to inform the public about the OMB Control Number's legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

The information collected by PTOL-85 Part B is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 30 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) collects the information in this record under authority of 35 U.S.C. 2. The USPTO's system of records is used to manage all applicant and owner information including name, citizenship, residence, post office address, and other information with respect to inventors and their legal representatives pertaining to the applicant's/owner's activities in connection with the invention for which a patent is sought or has been granted. The applicable Privacy Act System of Records Notice for the information collected in this form is COMMERCE/PAT-TM-7 Patent Application Files, available in the Federal Register at 78 FR 19243 (March 29, 2013).

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2013-03-29/pdf/2013-07341.pdf>

Routine uses of the information in this record may include disclosure to:

- 1) law enforcement, in the event that the system of records indicates a violation or potential violation of law;
- 2) a federal, state, local, or international agency, in response to its request;
- 3) a contractor of the USPTO having need for the information in order to perform a contract;
- 4) the Department of Justice for determination of whether the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requires disclosure of the record;
- 5) a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested the Member's assistance with respect to the subject matter of the record;
- 6) a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, in the course of presenting evidence, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations;
- 7) the Administrator, General Services Administration (GSA), or their designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906, in accordance with the GSA regulations and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive, where such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals;
- 8) another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c));
- 9) the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for personnel research purposes; and
- 10) the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for legislative coordination and clearance.

If you do not furnish the information requested on this form, the USPTO may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings, abandonment of the application, and/or expiration of the patent.

Notice of Allowability	Application No. 18/492,460	Applicant(s) Brekke et al.	
	Examiner JAMES M FERENCE	Art Unit 3635	AIA (FITF) Status Yes

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the RCE filed on 12/26/2024.
☐ A declaration(s)/affidavit(s) under **37 CFR 1.130(b)** was/were filed on _____.

2. ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

3. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 51-69 and 71-73 . As a result of the allowed claim(s), you may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information , please see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp or send an inquiry to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
Certified copies:
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
2. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 12/31/2024 (2).	6. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
3. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material _____.	7. ☐ Other _____.
4. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date. _____.	

/JAMES M FERENCE/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3635	
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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE

This Office action is a reply to the RCE filed on 12/26/2024. Claims 51-69 and 71-73 are pending. Claims 1-50 and 70 have been cancelled. New claims 72-73 have been added. No claims have been withdrawn.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/26/2024 has been entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

The two (2) IDSs filed on 12/31/2024 are being considered.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 51-69 and 71-73 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: further to the reasons for allowance in the previous Office action filed on 9/11/2024, the prior art of record does not teach or disclose, alone or in combination all the elements and features of the claimed invention as a whole. Amended independent claim 51 has been

amended to further clarify that the axis intersecting the side panel of the channel-shaped portion also intersects the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion. Amended independent claim 66 has been amended to delete duplicate limitations pertaining to the first and second extension plates each having an inner face and an outer face, and to further clarify that the first bend is formed by the first back plate and the first top plate; the second bend is formed by the first extension plate and the first back plate; the third bend is formed by the second back plate and the second top plate; the fourth bend is formed by the second extension plate and the second back plate; and the inner face of the first extension plate lies in a first inner face plane and the inner face of the second extension plate lies in a second inner face plane. The remainder of the claims depend, directly or indirectly from claims 51 or 66. It would have been beyond the level of ordinary skill in the art to combine or modify any of the cited prior art references of record to arrive at the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES M FERENCE whose telephone number is (571)270-7861. The examiner can normally be reached M-F 7-4pm.

Examiner interviews are available via telephone, in-person, and video

conferencing using a USPTO supplied web-based collaboration tool. To schedule an interview, applicant is encouraged to use the USPTO Automated Interview Request (AIR) at <http://www.uspto.gov/interviewpractice>.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Mattei can be reached on 571-270-3238. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of published or unpublished applications may be obtained from Patent Center. Unpublished application information in Patent Center is available to registered users. To file and manage patent submissions in Patent Center, visit: <https://patentcenter.uspto.gov>. Visit <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/apply/patent-center> for more information about Patent Center and <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/docx> for information about filing in DOCX format. For additional questions, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JAMES M. FERENCE
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3635

/JAMES M FERENCE/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3635

Doc code: RCEX

Doc description: Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

PTO/SB/30EFS (01-22)

Approved for use through 05/31/2024. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION(RCE)TRANSMITTAL (Submitted Only via EFS-Web)

Application Number	18492460	Filing Date	2023-10-23	Docket Number (if applicable)	3512456.150011	Art Unit	3635
First Named Inventor	Steven Brekke			Examiner Name	James Ference		

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. The Instruction Sheet for this form is located at WWW.USPTO.GOV

SUBMISSION REQUIRED UNDER 37 CFR 1.114

Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____

☐ Other _____

☒ Enclosed

☒ Amendment/Reply

☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

☐ Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)

☐ Other _____

MISCELLANEOUS

☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of months _____.
(Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

☐ Other _____

FEES

The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees, or credit any overpayments, to
Deposit Account No. 194409

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

☒ Patent Practitioner Signature

☐ Applicant Signature

Doc code: RCEX
Doc description: Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

PTO/SB/30EFS (01-22)
Approved for use through 05/31/2024. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Signature of Registered U.S. Patent Practitioner			
Signature	/Steven N. Levitt/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2024-12-26
Name	Steven N. Levitt	Registration Number	76498

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of Steven Brekke

Art Unit: 3635

Serial No. 18/492,460

Filed: October 23, 2023

Confirmation No. 3591

For: HANGER FOR FIRE SEPARATION WALL

Examiner: James M. Ference

December 26, 2024

AMENDMENT D

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,

In response to the Notice of Allowance dated September 25, 2024, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page **2** of this paper.

Remarks begin on page **9** of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-50. Cancelled

51. (Currently Amended) A fire wall hanger for connecting a structural component to a frame wall adapted to have two layers of drywall mounted thereon to form a fire separation wall, the fire wall hanger comprising:

a channel-shaped portion configured to receive the structural component, the channel-shaped portion including a base configured to receive an end portion of the structural component thereon to support the structural component, the base having an upper surface arranged to engage the structural component, the upper surface lying in a base plane, the channel-shaped portion including a side panel extending from the base;

a connection portion including a top flange arranged to engage a top surface of a top plate of the frame wall and a back flange extending from an edge of the top flange, the back flange arranged to engage a vertical face of the top plate of the frame wall, the back flange having a planar front surface lying in a back flange plane; and

an extension portion including first and second planar extension panels extending from the channel-shaped portion to the connection portion, the first and second planar extension panels spacing the channel-shaped portion from the back flange plane by a distance sized large enough to permit the two layers of drywall of the fire separation wall to be received between the channel-shaped portion and the back flange plane, the first and second planar extension panels being parallel to one another;

wherein the channel-shaped portion, the extension portion and the connection portion are rigidly fixed with respect to one another; and

wherein the side panel of the channel-shaped portion is spaced apart from the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion along an axis that is normal to the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion, the axis intersecting the side panel of

the channel-shaped portion[[,]] and intersecting the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion.

52. (Previously Presented) The fire wall hanger of claim 51, wherein the edge of the top flange the back flange extends from is a front edge of the top flange.

53. (Previously Presented) The fire wall hanger of claim 52, wherein a bend directly connects the back flange to the front edge of the top flange.

54. (Currently Amended) The fire wall hanger of claim 53, wherein each of the first and second extension panels includes a bottom edge, the channel-shaped portion and the bottom edges of the first and second extension panels bounding [[the]] a drywall space sized and shaped to receive the two layers of drywall therein, each bottom edge extending from the channel-shaped portion to the connection portion, each of the bottom edges being a free edge.

55. (Previously Presented) The fire wall hanger of claim 54, wherein the bottom edge of the first extension panel forms a first driving point, and the bottom edge of the second extension panel forms a second driving point.

56. (Currently Amended) The fire wall hanger of claim 54, wherein:
the first extension panel is directly connected to the channel-shaped portion by a first connection, the first connection having [[an]] a first upper end and a first lower end, the first connection extending from the first upper end to the first lower end in a first direction;
the second extension panel is directly connected to the channel-shaped portion by a second connection, the second connection having [[an]] a second upper end and a second lower end, the second connection extending from the second upper end to the second lower end in a second direction;
the first extension panel is directly connected to the connection portion by a third connection, the third connection having [[an]] a third upper end and a third lower end, the third connection extending from the third upper end to the third lower end in a third direction;

the second extension panel is directly connected to the connection portion by a fourth connection, the fourth connection having ~~[[an]]~~ a fourth upper end and a fourth lower end, the fourth connection extending from the fourth upper end to the fourth lower end in a fourth direction; and

the first, second, third, and fourth directions are parallel to one another, and the first, second, third, and fourth directions are perpendicular to the base plane.

57. (Currently Amended) The fire wall hanger of claim 56, wherein each of the first, second, third, and fourth ~~connection~~ connections comprises a bend, wherein:

the first extension panel and the channel-shaped portion form the bend of the first connection;

the second extension panel and the channel-shaped portion form the bend of the second connection;

the first extension panel and the connection portion form the bend of the third connection;
and

the second extension panel and the connection portion form the bend of the fourth connection.

58. (Previously Presented) The fire wall hanger of claim 56, wherein the third connection directly connects the first extension panel to the back flange, wherein the first and second extension panels each include an inner face and an outer face, the inner faces of the first and second extension panels facing one another, the inner face of the first extension panel facing in a fifth direction toward the inner face of the second extension panel and the outer face of the first extension panel facing in a sixth direction that is opposite the fifth direction, the back flange extending outward, in the sixth direction, from the third connection directly connecting the first extension panel and the back flange.

59. (Previously Presented) The fire wall hanger of claim 58, wherein the top flange extends in a direction rearwardly away from the channel-shaped portion, the top flange including a rear edge located rearwardly of the back flange.

60. (Previously Presented) The fire wall hanger of claim 59, wherein the channel-shaped portion and the first and second extension panels are formed as one-piece of sheet metal.

61. (Previously Presented) The fire wall hanger of claim 60, wherein the side panel of the channel-shaped portion is a first side panel, wherein the channel-shaped portion includes a second side panel extending from the base, wherein the base of the channel-shaped portion comprises a unitary portion of the one-piece of sheet metal, wherein the first and second side panels of the channel-shaped portion are each a unitary portion of the one-piece of sheet metal and are unitary extensions of the unitary portion of the base, and wherein the first and second extension panels are each a unitary portion of the one-piece of sheet metal and are unitary extensions of the sheet metal forming the channel-shaped portion.

62. (Previously Presented) The fire wall hanger of claim 60, wherein the channel-shaped portion, the connection portion, and the first and second extension panels are formed as one-piece of sheet metal.

63. (Previously Presented) The fire wall hanger of claim 60, wherein the drywall space has an open lower end between the channel-shaped portion and the back flange plane, the open lower end sized and shaped to permit the two layers of drywall to be inserted therethrough.

64. (Currently Amended) The fire wall hanger of claim 51, wherein the first and second planar extension panels and the channel-shaped portion bound a drywall space sized and shaped to receive the two layers of drywall therein.

65. (Currently Amended) The fire wall hanger of claim 51, wherein the axis ~~along which the side panel of the channel-shaped portion is spaced apart from the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion intersections~~ intersects the planar front surface of the back flange at a location spaced apart from a perimeter of the planar front surface.

66. (Currently Amended) A fire wall hanger for connecting a structural component to a frame wall adapted to have two layers of $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch-thick drywall mounted thereon to form a fire separation wall, the fire wall hanger consisting of:

a channel-shaped portion configured to receive the structural component, the channel-shaped portion including a base configured to receive an end portion of the structural component thereon to support the structural component, the base having an upper surface arranged to engage the structural component, the upper surface lying in a base plane, the base having a rear edge;

a first top plate shaped and arranged to engage a top surface of a top plate of the frame wall;

a first back plate shaped and arranged to engage a vertical face of the top plate of the frame wall, the first back plate being directly connected to the first top plate by a first bend, the first back plate and the first top plate forming the first bend, the first back plate having a front surface lying in a back plate plane;

a first extension plate directly connected to the first back plate by a second bend, the first extension plate and the first back plate forming the second bend, the first extension plate being perpendicular relative to the base plane, the first extension plate interconnecting the channel-shaped portion with the first top plate and the first back plate, ~~the first extension plate having an inner face and an outer face~~;

a second top plate shaped and arranged to engage the top surface of the top plate of the frame wall;

a second back plate shaped and arranged to engage the vertical face of the top plate of the frame wall, the second back plate being directly connected to the second top plate by a third bend, the second back plate and the second top plate forming the third bend;

a second extension plate directly connected to the second back plate by a fourth bend, the second extension plate and the second back plate forming the fourth bend, the second extension plate being perpendicular relative to the base plane, the second extension plate interconnecting the channel-shaped portion with the second top plate and the second back plate, ~~the second extension plate having an inner face and an outer face~~; and

a stop arranged to engage and space an end of the structural component from the back plate plane by a distance sized large enough to permit the two layers of $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch-thick drywall of

the fire separation wall to be received between the end of the structural component and the back plate plane,

the first and second extension plates being parallel to one another;

the first and second extension plates each having an inner face and an outer face, the inner faces of the first and second extension plates facing one another, the inner face of the first extension plate lying in a first inner face plane, the inner face of the second extension plate lying in a second inner face plane, the inner face of the first extension plate facing in a first direction toward the inner face of the second extension plate and the outer face of the first extension plate facing in a second direction that is opposite the first direction, the first back plate extending in the second direction from the second bend directly connecting the first back plate to the first extension plate, the first back plate and the first top plate being entirely disposed outward, in the second direction, of the first inner face plane, the second back plate extending in the first direction from the fourth bend directly connecting the second back plate to the second extension plate, the second back plate and the second top plate being entirely disposed outward, in the first direction, of the second inner face plane;

the first and second extension plates spacing the rear edge of the base of the channel-shaped portion from the back plate plane by a distance sized large enough to permit the two layers of $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch-thick drywall of the fire separation wall to be received between the rear edge of the base of the channel-shaped portion ~~from~~ and the back plate plane.

67. (Previously Presented) The fire wall hanger of claim 66, wherein the channel-shaped portion includes first and second side plates extending upward from the base of the channel-shaped portion.

68. (Previously Presented) The fire wall hanger of claim 67, wherein the stop includes first and second panels extending toward each other.

69. (Currently Amended) The fire wall hanger of claim 68, wherein the first panel of the stop is directly connected to the first extension plate by a fifth bend and the second panel of the stop is directly connected to the second extension plate by a sixth bend, the first panel and the

first extension plate forming the fifth bend, and the second panel and the second extension plate forming the sixth bend.

70. Cancelled.

71. (Previously Presented) The fire wall hanger of claim 66, wherein the fire wall hanger is formed as one-piece of sheet metal and is free of welding.

72. (New) The fire wall hanger of claim 61, wherein the axis intersects the planar front surface of the back flange at a location spaced apart from a perimeter of the planar front surface, and wherein the axis is spaced apart from the first and second extension panels of the extension portion.

73. (New) The fire wall hanger of claim 65, wherein the axis is spaced apart from the first and second extension panels of the extension portion.

REMARKS

Claims 51, 54, 56, 57, 64-66, and 69 are amended. Claim 70 is cancelled. Claims 1-50 were previously cancelled. Claims 72 and 73 are new. No new matter is added. Claims 51-69 and 71-73 will be pending upon entry of this amendment. A Request for Continued Examination is being submitted herewith.

The amendments presented herein are made from the claims as amended by the Examiner's amendments in the Notice of Allowance, dated September 25, 2024.

New Claims

Applicant requests consideration of new claims 72 and 73, which recite additional bases for patentability.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment and credit any overpayment of government fees in connection with this application to Deposit Account No. 19-4409.

Respectfully submitted,

/Steven N. Levitt/

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KFJ:SNL/krs



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

321 7590 09/25/2024
STINSON LLP
7700 FORSYTH BOULEVARD, SUITE 1100
ST LOUIS, MO 63105

EXAMINER

ERENCE, JAMES M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3635

DATE MAILED: 09/25/2024

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
18/492,460	10/23/2023	Steven Brekke	MLP 7708.USC6	3591

TITLE OF INVENTION: HANGER FOR FIRE SEPARATION WALL

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	UNDISCOUNTED	\$1200	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1200	12/26/2024

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the ENTITY STATUS shown above. If the ENTITY STATUS is shown as SMALL or MICRO, verify whether entitlement to that entity status still applies.

If the ENTITY STATUS is the same as shown above, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

If the ENTITY STATUS is changed from that shown above, on PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, complete section number 5 titled "Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)".

For purposes of this notice, small entity fees are 40% the amount of undiscounted fees, and micro entity fees are 20% the amount of undiscounted fees.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Maintenance fees are due in utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due. More information is available at www.uspto.gov/PatentMaintenanceFees.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), by mail or fax, or via the USPTO patent electronic filing system.

By mail, send to: Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

By fax, send to: (571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications. **Because electronic patent issuance may occur shortly after issue fee payment, any desired continuing application should preferably be filed prior to payment of this issue fee in order not to jeopardize copendency.**

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

321 7590 09/25/2024
STINSON LLP
7700 FORSYTH BOULEVARD, SUITE 1100
ST LOUIS, MO 63105

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being transmitted to the USPTO via the USPTO patent electronic filing system or by facsimile to (571) 273-2885, on the date below.

(Typed or printed name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
18/492,460	10/23/2023	Steven Brekke	MLP 7708.USC6	3591

TITLE OF INVENTION: HANGER FOR FIRE SEPARATION WALL

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	UNDISCOUNTED	\$1200	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1200	12/26/2024

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
ERENCE, JAMES M	3635	052-708000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/AIA/122 or PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/AIA/47 or PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) The names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

(2) The name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document must have been previously recorded, or filed for recordation, as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11 and 37 CFR 3.81(a). Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. Fees submitted: ☐ Issue Fee ☐ Publication Fee (if required)

4b. Method of Payment: (Please first reapply any previously paid fee shown above)

☐ Electronic Payment via the USPTO patent electronic filing system ☐ Enclosed check ☐ Non-electronic payment by credit card (Attach form PTO-2038)

☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. _____

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

☐ Applicant certifying micro entity status. See 37 CFR 1.29

☐ Applicant asserting small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

☐ Applicant changing to regular undiscounted fee status.

NOTE: Absent a valid certification of Micro Entity Status (see forms PTO/SB/15A and 15B), issue fee payment in the micro entity amount will not be accepted at the risk of application abandonment.

NOTE: If the application was previously under micro entity status, checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to micro entity status.

NOTE: Checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to small or micro entity status, as applicable.

NOTE: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.31 and 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4 for signature requirements and certifications.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
18/492,460	10/23/2023	Steven Brekke	MLP 7708.USC6	3591
321	7590	09/25/2024	EXAMINER	
STINSON LLP			ERENCE, JAMES M	
7700 FORSYTH BOULEVARD, SUITE 1100			ART UNIT	
ST LOUIS, MO 63105			PAPER NUMBER	
			3635	
DATE MAILED: 09/25/2024				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (Applications filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Office has discontinued providing a Patent Term Adjustment (PTA) calculation with the Notice of Allowance.

Section 1(h)(2) of the AIA Technical Corrections Act amended 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(3)(B)(i) to eliminate the requirement that the Office provide a patent term adjustment determination with the notice of allowance. See Revisions to Patent Term Adjustment, 78 Fed. Reg. 19416, 19417 (Apr. 1, 2013). Therefore, the Office is no longer providing an initial patent term adjustment determination with the notice of allowance. The Office will continue to provide a patent term adjustment determination with the Issue Notification Letter that is mailed to applicant approximately three weeks prior to the issue date of the patent, and will include the patent term adjustment on the patent. Any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment determination (or reinstatement of patent term adjustment) should follow the process outlined in 37 CFR 1.705.

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

OMB Clearance and PRA Burden Statement for PTOL-85 Part B

The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 requires Federal agencies to obtain Office of Management and Budget approval before requesting most types of information from the public. When OMB approves an agency request to collect information from the public, OMB (i) provides a valid OMB Control Number and expiration date for the agency to display on the instrument that will be used to collect the information and (ii) requires the agency to inform the public about the OMB Control Number's legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

The information collected by PTOL-85 Part B is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 30 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) collects the information in this record under authority of 35 U.S.C. 2. The USPTO's system of records is used to manage all applicant and owner information including name, citizenship, residence, post office address, and other information with respect to inventors and their legal representatives pertaining to the applicant's/owner's activities in connection with the invention for which a patent is sought or has been granted. The applicable Privacy Act System of Records Notice for the information collected in this form is COMMERCE/PAT-TM-7 Patent Application Files, available in the Federal Register at 78 FR 19243 (March 29, 2013).

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2013-03-29/pdf/2013-07341.pdf>

Routine uses of the information in this record may include disclosure to:

- 1) law enforcement, in the event that the system of records indicates a violation or potential violation of law;
- 2) a federal, state, local, or international agency, in response to its request;
- 3) a contractor of the USPTO having need for the information in order to perform a contract;
- 4) the Department of Justice for determination of whether the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requires disclosure of the record;
- 5) a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested the Member's assistance with respect to the subject matter of the record;
- 6) a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, in the course of presenting evidence, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations;
- 7) the Administrator, General Services Administration (GSA), or their designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906, in accordance with the GSA regulations and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive, where such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals;
- 8) another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c));
- 9) the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for personnel research purposes; and
- 10) the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for legislative coordination and clearance.

If you do not furnish the information requested on this form, the USPTO may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings, abandonment of the application, and/or expiration of the patent.

Notice of Allowability	Application No. 18/492,460	Applicant(s) Brekke et al.	
	Examiner JAMES M FERENCE	Art Unit 3635	AIA (FITF) Status Yes

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the IDSs filed on 9/11/2024.
☐ A declaration(s)/affidavit(s) under **37 CFR 1.130(b)** was/were filed on _____.

2. ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

3. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 51-71 . As a result of the allowed claim(s), you may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information, please see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp or send an inquiry to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
Certified copies:
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
2. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 9/11/2024 (2).	6. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
3. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material _____.	7. ☐ Other _____.
4. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date. _____.	

/JAMES M FERENCE/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3635	
--	--

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

This Office action is a reply to the Information Disclosure Statements filed on 9/11/2024. Claims 51-71 are pending. No claims have been withdrawn, cancelled or added.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

64. (Currently Amended) The fire wall hanger of claim 51 wherein the first and second planar extension panels and the channel-shaped ~~channel-shaped~~ portion bound a drywall space sized and shaped to receive the two layers of drywall therein.

65. (Currently Amended) The fire wall hanger of claim 51 wherein the axis along which the side panel of the channel-shaped portion is spaced apart from the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion intersections the planar front surface of the back flange at a location spaced apart from a perimeter of the planar front surface.

Information Disclosure Statement

The two IDSs filed on 9/11/2024 are being considered. Note that applicant's cited reference of Commins (US 4,715,372) appears to contain a number in the patent number. The attached PTO-892 cites Commins (US 4,714,372).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 51-71 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: see previous Office action filed on 9/11/2024 (page 3).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES M FERENCE whose telephone number is (571)270-7861. The examiner can normally be reached M-F 7-4pm.

Examiner interviews are available via telephone, in-person, and video conferencing using a USPTO supplied web-based collaboration tool. To schedule an

interview, applicant is encouraged to use the USPTO Automated Interview Request (AIR) at <http://www.uspto.gov/interviewpractice>.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Mattei can be reached on 571-270-3238. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of published or unpublished applications may be obtained from Patent Center. Unpublished application information in Patent Center is available to registered users. To file and manage patent submissions in Patent Center, visit: <https://patentcenter.uspto.gov>. Visit <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/apply/patent-center> for more information about Patent Center and <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/docx> for information about filing in DOCX format. For additional questions, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JAMES M. FERENCE
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3635

/JAMES M FERENCE/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3635



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
18/492,460	10/23/2023	Steven Brekke	MLP 7708.USC6	3591
321	7590	09/11/2024	EXAMINER	
STINSON LLP 7700 FORSYTH BOULEVARD, SUITE 1100 ST LOUIS, MO 63105			FERENCE, JAMES M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3635	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			09/11/2024	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

stl.uspatents@stinson.com

Corrected Notice of Allowability	Application No. 18/492,460	Applicant(s) Brekke et al.	
	Examiner JAMES M FERENCE	Art Unit 3635	AIA (FITF) Status Yes

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 8/12/2024.
☐ A declaration(s)/affidavit(s) under **37 CFR 1.130(b)** was/were filed on _____.

2. ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

3. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 51-71 . As a result of the allowed claim(s), you may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information, please see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp or send an inquiry to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

Certified copies:

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 3. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material _____ 4. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date. _____	5. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment 6. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 7. ☐ Other _____
--	--

/JAMES M FERENCE/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3635	
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

This Office action is a reply to the amendment filed on 8/12/2024, supersedes the Notice of Allowance filed on 8/28/2024 and serves to correct a typo. Currently, claims 51-71 are pending. Claims 1-50 have been cancelled. New claims 52-71 have been added.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

64. (Currently Amended) The fire wall hanger of claim 51 wherein the first and second planar extension panels and the channel-shaped ~~channel-shaped~~ portion bound a drywall space sized and shaped to receive the two layers of drywall therein.

65. (Currently Amended) The fire wall hanger of claim 51 wherein the axis along which the side panel of the channel-shaped portion is spaced apart from the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion intersections the planar front surface of the back flange at a location spaced apart from a perimeter of the planar front surface.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 51-71 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's arguments with respect to independent claim 51 are persuasive. In particular, applicant's argument that Robinson (GB 2433522 A) is unclear as to whether the back flange extends from an edge of the top flange, and as to whether the first and second planar extension panels are parallel to one another are persuasive. Independent claim 66 recites similar elements and features. The remaining claims depend from, directly or indirectly claims 51 or 66. It would have been beyond the level of ordinary skill to modify or combine Robinson with another cited prior art reference to arrive at the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES M FERENCE whose telephone number is (571)270-7861. The examiner can normally be reached M-F 7-4pm.

Examiner interviews are available via telephone, in-person, and video conferencing using a USPTO supplied web-based collaboration tool. To schedule an interview, applicant is encouraged to use the USPTO Automated Interview Request (AIR) at <http://www.uspto.gov/interviewpractice>.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Mattei can be reached on 571-270-3238. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of published or unpublished applications may be obtained from Patent Center. Unpublished application information in Patent Center is available to registered users. To file and manage patent submissions in Patent Center, visit: <https://patentcenter.uspto.gov>. Visit <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/apply/patent-center> for more information about Patent Center and <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/docx> for information about filing in DOCX format. For additional questions, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JAMES M. FERENCE
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3635

/JAMES M FERENCE/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3635

Doc code: RCEX

Doc description: Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

PTO/SB/30EFS (01-22)

Approved for use through 05/31/2024. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION(RCE)TRANSMITTAL
(Submitted Only via EFS-Web)**

Application Number	18492460	Filing Date	2023-10-23	Docket Number (if applicable)	MLP 7708.USC6	Art Unit	3635
First Named Inventor	Steven Brekke			Examiner Name	James M. Ference		

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. The Instruction Sheet for this form is located at WWW.USPTO.GOV**SUBMISSION REQUIRED UNDER 37 CFR 1.114**

Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____☐ Other _____☒ Enclosed☐ Amendment/Reply☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)☐ Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)☐ Other _____**MISCELLANEOUS**☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of months _____.
(Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)☐ Other _____**FEES****The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.**☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees, or credit any overpayments, to
Deposit Account No 194409**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**☒ Patent Practitioner Signature☐ Applicant Signature

Signature of Registered U.S. Patent Practitioner			
Signature	/Steven N. Levitt/	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2024-09-10
Name	Steven N. Levitt	Registration Number	76498

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

321 7590 08/28/2024
STINSON LLP
7700 FORSYTH BOULEVARD, SUITE 1100
ST LOUIS, MO 63105

EXAMINER

ERENCE, JAMES M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3635

DATE MAILED: 08/28/2024

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
18/492,460	10/23/2023	Steven Brekke	MLP 7708.USC6	3591

TITLE OF INVENTION: HANGER FOR FIRE SEPARATION WALL

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	UNDISCOUNTED	\$1200	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1200	11/29/2024

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the ENTITY STATUS shown above. If the ENTITY STATUS is shown as SMALL or MICRO, verify whether entitlement to that entity status still applies.

If the ENTITY STATUS is the same as shown above, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

If the ENTITY STATUS is changed from that shown above, on PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, complete section number 5 titled "Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)".

For purposes of this notice, small entity fees are 40% the amount of undiscounted fees, and micro entity fees are 20% the amount of undiscounted fees.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Maintenance fees are due in utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due. More information is available at www.uspto.gov/PatentMaintenanceFees.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), by mail or fax, or via the USPTO patent electronic filing system.

By mail, send to: Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

By fax, send to: (571)-273-2885

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications. **Because electronic patent issuance may occur shortly after issue fee payment, any desired continuing application should preferably be filed prior to payment of this issue fee in order not to jeopardize copendency.**

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

321 7590 08/28/2024
STINSON LLP
7700 FORSYTH BOULEVARD, SUITE 1100
ST LOUIS, MO 63105

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being transmitted to the USPTO via the USPTO patent electronic filing system or by facsimile to (571) 273-2885, on the date below.

(Typed or printed name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
18/492,460	10/23/2023	Steven Brekke	MLP 7708.USC6	3591

TITLE OF INVENTION: HANGER FOR FIRE SEPARATION WALL

APPLN. TYPE	ENTITY STATUS	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	UNDISCOUNTED	\$1200	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1200	11/29/2024

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
ERENCE, JAMES M	3635	052-708000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/AIA/122 or PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/AIA/47 or PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) The names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

(2) The name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document must have been previously recorded, or filed for recordation, as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11 and 37 CFR 3.81(a). Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. Fees submitted: ☐ Issue Fee ☐ Publication Fee (if required)

4b. Method of Payment: (Please first reapply any previously paid fee shown above)

☐ Electronic Payment via the USPTO patent electronic filing system ☐ Enclosed check ☐ Non-electronic payment by credit card (Attach form PTO-2038)

☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. _____

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

☐ Applicant certifying micro entity status. See 37 CFR 1.29

☐ Applicant asserting small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

☐ Applicant changing to regular undiscounted fee status.

NOTE: Absent a valid certification of Micro Entity Status (see forms PTO/SB/15A and 15B), issue fee payment in the micro entity amount will not be accepted at the risk of application abandonment.

NOTE: If the application was previously under micro entity status, checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to micro entity status.

NOTE: Checking this box will be taken to be a notification of loss of entitlement to small or micro entity status, as applicable.

NOTE: This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.31 and 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4 for signature requirements and certifications.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
18/492,460	10/23/2023	Steven Brekke	MLP 7708.USC6	3591
321	7590	08/28/2024	EXAMINER	
STINSON LLP			FERENCE, JAMES M	
7700 FORSYTH BOULEVARD, SUITE 1100			ART UNIT	
ST LOUIS, MO 63105			PAPER NUMBER	
			3635	
DATE MAILED: 08/28/2024				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (Applications filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Office has discontinued providing a Patent Term Adjustment (PTA) calculation with the Notice of Allowance.

Section 1(h)(2) of the AIA Technical Corrections Act amended 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(3)(B)(i) to eliminate the requirement that the Office provide a patent term adjustment determination with the notice of allowance. See Revisions to Patent Term Adjustment, 78 Fed. Reg. 19416, 19417 (Apr. 1, 2013). Therefore, the Office is no longer providing an initial patent term adjustment determination with the notice of allowance. The Office will continue to provide a patent term adjustment determination with the Issue Notification Letter that is mailed to applicant approximately three weeks prior to the issue date of the patent, and will include the patent term adjustment on the patent. Any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment determination (or reinstatement of patent term adjustment) should follow the process outlined in 37 CFR 1.705.

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

OMB Clearance and PRA Burden Statement for PTOL-85 Part B

The Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 requires Federal agencies to obtain Office of Management and Budget approval before requesting most types of information from the public. When OMB approves an agency request to collect information from the public, OMB (i) provides a valid OMB Control Number and expiration date for the agency to display on the instrument that will be used to collect the information and (ii) requires the agency to inform the public about the OMB Control Number's legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

The information collected by PTOL-85 Part B is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 30 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) collects the information in this record under authority of 35 U.S.C. 2. The USPTO's system of records is used to manage all applicant and owner information including name, citizenship, residence, post office address, and other information with respect to inventors and their legal representatives pertaining to the applicant's/owner's activities in connection with the invention for which a patent is sought or has been granted. The applicable Privacy Act System of Records Notice for the information collected in this form is COMMERCE/PAT-TM-7 Patent Application Files, available in the Federal Register at 78 FR 19243 (March 29, 2013).

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2013-03-29/pdf/2013-07341.pdf>

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- 7) the Administrator, General Services Administration (GSA), or their designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906, in accordance with the GSA regulations and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive, where such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals;
- 8) another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c));
- 9) the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for personnel research purposes; and
- 10) the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for legislative coordination and clearance.

If you do not furnish the information requested on this form, the USPTO may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings, abandonment of the application, and/or expiration of the patent.

Notice of Allowability	Application No. 18/492,460	Applicant(s) Brekke et al.	
	Examiner JAMES M FERENCE	Art Unit 3635	AIA (FITF) Status Yes

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 8/12/2024.
☐ A declaration(s)/affidavit(s) under **37 CFR 1.130(b)** was/were filed on _____.

2. ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on _____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.

3. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 51-71 . As a result of the allowed claim(s), you may be eligible to benefit from the **Patent Prosecution Highway** program at a participating intellectual property office for the corresponding application. For more information, please see http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp or send an inquiry to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.

4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
Certified copies:
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
2. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____.	6. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
3. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material _____.	7. ☐ Other _____.
4. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date. _____.	

/JAMES M FERENCE/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3635	
--	--

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

This Office action is a reply to the amendment filed on 8/12/2024. Currently, claims 51-71 are pending. Claims 1-50 have been cancelled. New claims 52-71 have been added.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

64. (Currently Amended) The fire wall hanger of claim 51 wherein the first and second planar extension panels and the channel-shaped ~~channel-shaped~~ portion bound a drywall space sized and shaped to receive the two layers of drywall therein.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 51-71 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's arguments with respect to independent claim 51 are persuasive. In particular, applicant's argument that Robinson (GB 2433522 A) is unclear as to whether the back flange extends from an edge of the top flange, and as to whether the first and second planar extension panels are parallel to one another are persuasive. Independent claim 66 recites similar elements and features. The remaining claims depend from,

directly or indirectly claims 51 or 66. It would have been beyond the level of ordinary skill to modify or combine Robinson with another cited prior art reference to arrive at the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES M FERENCE whose telephone number is (571)270-7861. The examiner can normally be reached M-F 7-4pm.

Examiner interviews are available via telephone, in-person, and video conferencing using a USPTO supplied web-based collaboration tool. To schedule an interview, applicant is encouraged to use the USPTO Automated Interview Request (AIR) at <http://www.uspto.gov/interviewpractice>.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Mattei can be reached on 571-270-3238. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of published or unpublished applications may be obtained from Patent Center. Unpublished application information in Patent Center is

available to registered users. To file and manage patent submissions in Patent Center, visit: <https://patentcenter.uspto.gov>. Visit <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/apply/patent-center> for more information about Patent Center and <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/docx> for information about filing in DOCX format. For additional questions, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JAMES M. FERENCE
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3635

/JAMES M FERENCE/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3635

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of Steven Brekke

Art Unit: 3635

Serial No. 18/492,460

Filed: October 23, 2023

Confirmation No. 3591

For: HANGER FOR FIRE SEPARATION WALL

Examiner: James M. Ference

August 12, 2024

AMENDMENT C

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,

In response to the Office Action dated May 10, 2024, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page **2** of this paper.

Remarks begin on page **8** of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-50. Cancelled

51. (Original) A fire wall hanger for connecting a structural component to a frame wall adapted to have two layers of drywall mounted thereon to form a fire separation wall, the fire wall hanger comprising:

a channel-shaped portion configured to receive the structural component, the channel-shaped portion including a base configured to receive an end portion of the structural component thereon to support the structural component, the base having an upper surface arranged to engage the structural component, the upper surface lying in a base plane, the channel-shaped portion including a side panel extending from the base;

a connection portion including a top flange arranged to engage a top surface of a top plate of the frame wall and a back flange extending from an edge of the top flange, the back flange arranged to engage a vertical face of the top plate of the frame wall, the back flange having a planar front surface lying in a back flange plane; and

an extension portion including first and second planar extension panels extending from the channel-shaped portion to the connection portion, the first and second planar extension panels spacing the channel-shaped portion from the back flange plane by a distance sized large enough to permit the two layers of drywall of the fire separation wall to be received between the channel-shaped portion and the back flange plane, the first and second planar extension panels being parallel to one another;

wherein the channel-shaped portion, the extension portion and the connection portion are rigidly fixed with respect to one another; and

wherein the side panel of the channel-shaped portion is spaced apart from the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion along an axis that is normal to the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion, the axis intersecting the side panel of

the channel-shaped portion, and the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion.

52. (New) The fire wall hanger of claim 51, wherein the edge of the top flange the back flange extends from is a front edge of the top flange.

53. (New) The fire wall hanger of claim 52, wherein a bend directly connects the back flange to the front edge of the top flange.

54. (New) The fire wall hanger of claim 53, wherein each of the first and second extension panels includes a bottom edge, the bottom edges of the first and second extension panels bounding the drywall space, each bottom edge extending from the channel-shaped portion to the connection portion, each of the bottom edges being a free edge.

55. (New) The fire wall hanger of claim 54, wherein the bottom edge of the first extension panel forms a first driving point, and the bottom edge of the second extension panel forms a second driving point.

56. (New) The fire wall hanger of claim 54, wherein:

the first extension panel is directly connected to the channel-shaped portion by a first connection, the first connection having an upper end and a lower end, the first connection extending from the upper end to the lower end in a first direction;

the second extension panel is directly connected to the channel-shaped portion by a second connection, the second connection having an upper end and a lower end, the second connection extending from the upper end to the lower end in a second direction;

the first extension panel is directly connected to the connection portion by a third connection, the third connection having an upper end and a lower end, the third connection extending from the upper end to the lower end in a third direction;

the second extension panel is directly connected to the connection portion by a fourth connection, the fourth connection having an upper end and a lower end, the fourth connection extending from the upper end to the lower end in a fourth direction; and

the first, second, third, and fourth directions are parallel to one another, and the first, second, third, and fourth directions are perpendicular to the base plane.

57. (New) The fire wall hanger of claim 56, wherein each of the first, second, third, and fourth connection comprises a bend.

58. (New) The fire wall hanger of claim 56, wherein the third connection directly connects the first extension panel to the back flange, wherein the first and second extension panels each include an inner face and an outer face, the inner faces of the first and second extension panels facing one another, the inner face of the first extension panel facing in a fifth direction toward the inner face of the second extension panel and the outer face of the first extension panel facing in a sixth direction that is opposite the fifth direction, the back flange extending outward, in the sixth direction, from the third connection directly connecting the first extension panel and the back flange.

59. (New) The fire wall hanger of claim 58, wherein the top flange extends in a direction rearwardly away from the channel-shaped portion, the top flange including a rear edge located rearwardly of the back flange.

60. (New) The fire wall hanger of claim 59, wherein the channel-shaped portion and the first and second extension panels are formed as one-piece of sheet metal.

61. (New) The fire wall hanger of claim 60, wherein the side panel of the channel-shaped portion is a first side panel, wherein the channel-shaped portion includes a second side panel extending from the base, wherein the base of the channel-shaped portion comprises a unitary portion of the one-piece of sheet metal, wherein the first and second side panels of the channel-shaped portion are each a unitary portion of the one-piece of sheet metal and are unitary extensions of the unitary portion of the base, and wherein the first and second extension panels are each a unitary portion of the one-piece of sheet metal and are unitary extensions of the sheet metal forming the channel-shaped portion.

62. (New) The fire wall hanger of claim 60, wherein the channel-shaped portion, the connection portion, and the first and second extension panels are formed as one-piece of sheet metal.

63. (New) The fire wall hanger of claim 60, wherein the drywall space has an open lower end between the channel-shaped portion and the back flange plane, the open lower end sized and shaped to permit the two layers of drywall to be inserted therethrough.

64. (New) The fire wall hanger of claim 51 wherein the first and second planar extension panels and the channel shaped portion bound a drywall space sized and shaped to receive the two layers of drywall therein.

65. (New) The fire wall hanger of claim 51 wherein the axis along which the side panel of the channel-shaped portion is spaced apart from the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion intersects the planar front surface of the back flange at a location spaced apart from a perimeter of the planar front surface

66. (New) A fire wall hanger for connecting a structural component to a frame wall adapted to have two layers of $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch-thick drywall mounted thereon to form a fire separation wall, the fire wall hanger consisting of:

a channel-shaped portion configured to receive the structural component, the channel-shaped portion including a base configured to receive an end portion of the structural component thereon to support the structural component, the base having an upper surface arranged to engage the structural component, the upper surface lying in a base plane, the base having a rear edge;

a first top plate shaped and arranged to engage a top surface of a top plate of the frame wall;

a first back plate shaped and arranged to engage a vertical face of the top plate of the frame wall, the first back plate being directly connected to the first top plate by a first bend, the first back plate having a front surface lying in a back plate plane;

a first extension plate directly connected to the first back plate by a second bend, the first extension plate being perpendicular relative to the base plane, the first extension plate

interconnecting the channel-shaped portion with the first top plate and the first back plate, the first extension plate having an inner face and an outer face;

a second top plate shaped and arranged to engage the top surface of the top plate of the frame wall;

a second back plate shaped and arranged to engage the vertical face of the top plate of the frame wall, the second back plate being directly connected to the second top plate by a third bend;

a second extension plate directly connected to the second back plate by a fourth bend, the second extension plate being perpendicular relative to the base plane, the second extension plate interconnecting the channel-shaped portion with the second top plate and the second back plate, the second extension plate having an inner face and an outer face; and

a stop arranged to engage and space an end of the structural component from the back plate plane by a distance sized large enough to permit the two layers of $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch-thick drywall of the fire separation wall to be received between the end of the structural component and the back plate plane,

the first and second extension plates being parallel to one another;

the first and second extension plates each having an inner face and an outer face, the inner faces of the first and second extension plates facing one another, the inner face of the first extension plate facing in a first direction toward the inner face of the second extension plate and the outer face of the first extension plate facing in a second direction that is opposite the first direction, the first back plate extending in the second direction from the second bend directly connecting the first back plate to the first extension plate, the first back plate and the first top plate being entirely disposed outward, in the second direction, of the first inner face, the second back plate extending in the first direction from the fourth bend directly connecting the second back plate to the second extension plate, the second back plate and the second top plate being entirely disposed outward, in the first direction, of the second inner face;

the first and second extension plates spacing the rear edge of the base of the channel-shaped portion from the back plate plane by a distance sized large enough to permit the two layers of $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch-thick drywall of the fire separation wall to be received between the rear edge of the base of the channel-shaped portion from the back plate plane.

67. (New) The fire wall hanger of claim 66, wherein the channel-shaped portion includes first and second side plates extending upward from the base of the channel-shaped portion.

68. (New) The fire wall hanger of claim 67, wherein the stop includes first and second panels extending toward each other.

69. (New) The fire wall hanger of claim 68, wherein the first panel of the stop is directly connected to the first extension plate by a fifth bend and the second panel of the stop is directly connected to the second extension plate by a sixth bend.

70. (New) The fire wall hanger of claim 69, wherein the stop is part of the channel-shaped portion.

71. (New) The fire wall hanger of claim 66, wherein the fire wall hanger is formed as one-piece of sheet metal and is free of welding.

REMARKS

Claims 1-50 were previously cancelled. Claims 52-71 are new. No new matter is added. Claims 51-71 will be pending upon entry of this amendment.

Summary of Examiner Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies exchanged during the telephone interview on July 5, 2024. During the interview, the rejections regarding claim 51 based on Robinson (GB 2433522) and Bundy (US 9394680) were discussed. No agreement was reached, however the remarks presented herein take into account the discussion during the interview.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102/103

Claim 51 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Robinson, and, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Robinson and Bundy. Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections in view of the amendments to claim 51 and the comments below.

Claim 51 recites:

A fire wall hanger for connecting a structural component to a frame wall adapted to have two layers of drywall mounted thereon to form a fire separation wall, the fire wall hanger comprising:

a channel-shaped portion configured to receive the structural component, the channel-shaped portion including a base configured to receive an end portion of the structural component thereon to support the structural component, the base having an upper surface arranged to engage the structural component, the upper surface lying in a base plane, the channel-shaped portion including a side panel extending from the base;

a connection portion including a top flange arranged to engage a top surface of a top plate of the frame wall and ***a back flange extending from an edge of the top flange***, the back flange arranged to engage a vertical face of the top plate of the frame wall, the back flange having a planar front surface lying in a back flange plane; and

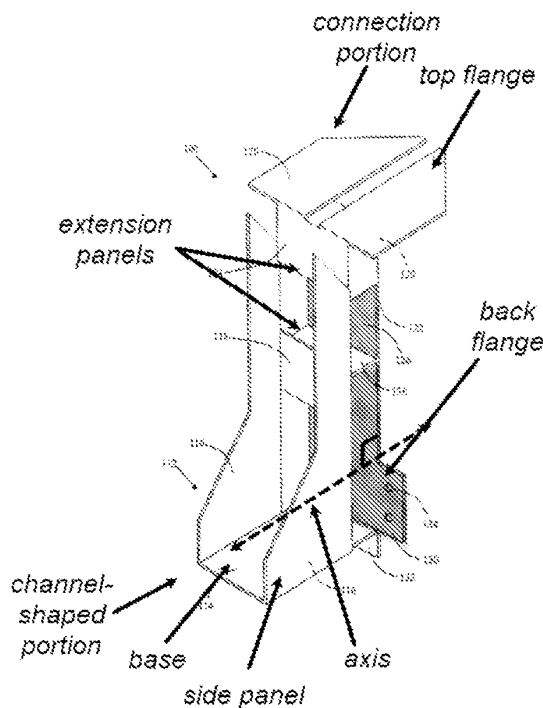
an extension portion including first and second planar extension panels extending from the channel-shaped portion to the connection portion, the first and second planar extension panels spacing the channel-shaped portion from the back flange plane by a distance sized large enough to permit the two layers of drywall of the fire separation wall to be received between the channel-shaped portion and the back flange plane, ***the first and second planar extension panels being parallel to one another***;

wherein the channel-shaped portion, the extension portion and the connection portion are rigidly fixed with respect to one another; and

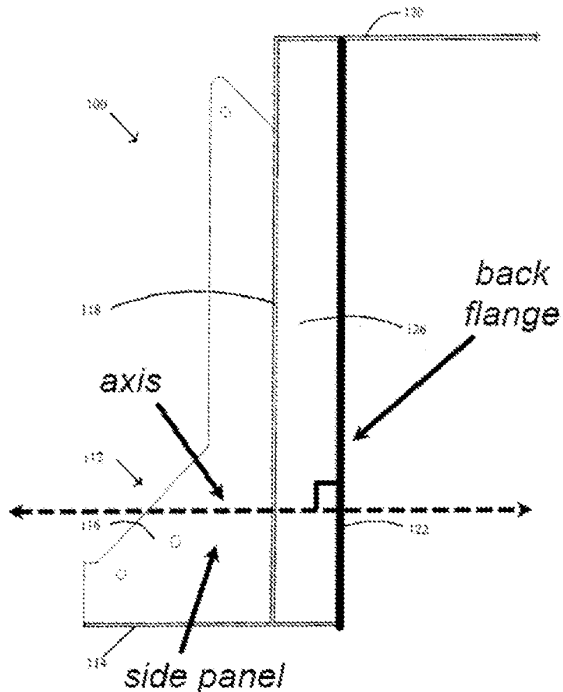
wherein the side panel of the channel-shaped portion is spaced apart from the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion along an axis that is normal to the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion, the axis intersecting the side panel of the channel-shaped portion, and the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion.

Robinson, alone or in combination with Bundy, fails to disclose or suggest (1) “a back flange extending from an edge of the top flange,” and (2) “first and second planar extension panels being parallel to one another.”

With reference to Figs. 2 and 3 of Robinson below (annotated by the Office), the Office points to the part forming Robinson’s second surface 122 as disclosing the claimed back flange. Office Action, p. 4-5 and 8-9. However, the part forming Robinson’s second surface 122 does not extend from an edge of one of the top flanges 120 (which the Office points to as the top flange). Figure 3 below appears to show, the part forming Robinson’s second surface 122 extending from a bottom face of the flange 120, not an edge of the flange. In fact, it can be seen from Fig. 3 that the *edges* of the top flange 120 are free of connection to any other structure of



Annotated Fig. 2 of Robinson (GB 2433522 A)



Annotated Fig. 3 of Robinson (GB 2433522 A)

the joist hanger and to not form the starting location from which the second surface 122 extends. The bottom surface of the top flange 22 appears, at least from Fig. 3, to be the starting location from which the second surface extends.

The actual disclosure of Robinson is far from clear. Applicant points out that Figs. 2 and 3 are inconsistent with each other. Fig. 2 shows a mount 124. However, the mount is not present in Fig. 3. No mount 124 is shown between the second surface 122 and the first surface 118. And the mount 124 as illustrated in Fig. 2 includes a top surface or wall (annotated in red below) which appears to be disposed between the flanges 120 and the part forming Robinson's second surface 122. Because of the angle of the perspective in Fig. 2, we cannot see if the part forming Robinson's second surface 122 even extends all the way up to the flanges 120.

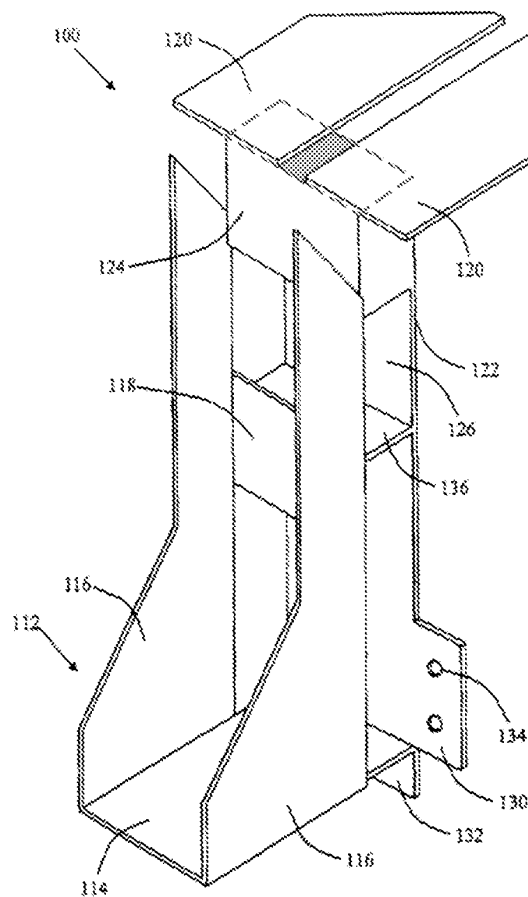


Figure 2

Simply put, Fig. 2 does not show the part forming Robinson's second surface 122 engaging either of the flanges 120 and Fig. 3 shows the part forming Robinson's second surface 122 as extending from the bottom face of the flange 120, not an edge.

Turning to the claimed "extension panels," the Office points to the mount 124 and the wall 136. Office Action, p. 5. First, as shown in Fig. 2 of Robinson above, the mount 124 is not a panel. Instead, the mount 124 is a block. Moreover, because the mount 124 is a block, the mount 124 is also then not "planar" as recited by claim 51¹ and is not parallel to the wall 136. Still further, no wall of the block 124 both extends "from the channel-shaped portion to the connection portion" and is "parallel" to the wall 136.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, claim 51 is patentable over the applied prior art. Claims 52-65 depend directly or indirectly from claim 51 and are submitted as patentable for the same reasons as claim 51.

New Claims

Applicant respectfully requests consideration of new claims 52-71, which recite additional bases for patentability.

¹ Defining "planar" as "of or relating to a plane."
<https://www.oed.com/search/dictionary/?scope=Entries&q=planar>.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment, including without limitation the charge for claims presented in excess of 20 owed here, and credit any overpayment of government fees in connection with this application to Deposit Account No. 19-4409.

Respectfully submitted,

/Steven N. Levitt/

Steven N. Levitt, Reg. No. 76,498
STINSON LLP
7700 Forsyth Boulevard, Suite 1100
St. Louis, Missouri 63105
(314) 863-0800

KFJ:SNL/krs



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
18/492,460	10/23/2023	Steven Brekke	MLP 7708.USC6	3591
321	7590	06/10/2024	EXAMINER	
STINSON LLP			FERENCE, JAMES M	
7700 FORSYTH BOULEVARD, SUITE 1100				
ST LOUIS, MO 63105				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3635	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			06/10/2024	ELECTRONIC

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The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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stl.uspatents@stinson.com

<i>Applicant-Initiated Interview Summary</i>	Application No. 18/492,460	Applicant(s) Brekke et al.		
	Examiner JAMES M FERENCE	Art Unit 3635	AIA (First Inventor to File) Status Yes	Page 1 of 1

All Participants (applicant, applicants representative, PTO personnel)	Title	Type
JAMES M FERENCE	Primary Examiner	Telephonic
Steven Levitt	Attorney of Record	

Date of Interview: 05 June 2024

Issues Discussed:

35 U.S.C. 103

Brief discussion regarding the examiner's interpretation of claim 51 under Robinson (GB 2433522) and/ or Robinson in view of Bundy et al. (US 9394680). No agreement was reached.

Proposed Amendment(s)

Brief discussion regarding ideas to further distinguish claim 51 of the instant invention from the prior art of record. No agreement was reached. Further search and consideration would be required in response to a future claim amendment.

/JAMES M FERENCE/ Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3635	
<p>Applicant is reminded that a complete written statement as to the substance of the interview must be made of record in the application file. It is the applicants responsibility to provide the written statement, unless the interview was initiated by the Examiner and the Examiner has indicated that a written summary will be provided. See MPEP 713.04</p> <p>Please further see: MPEP 713.04 Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews, paragraph (b) 37 CFR § 1.2 Business to be transacted in writing</p>	

Applicant recordation instructions: The formal written reply to the last Office action must include the substance of the interview. (See MPEP section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, applicant is given a non-extendable period of the longer of one month or thirty days from this interview date, or the mailing date of this interview summary form, whichever is later, to file a statement of the substance of the interview.

Examiner recordation instructions: Examiners must summarize the substance of any interview of record. A complete and proper recordation of the substance of an interview should include the items listed in MPEP 713.04 for complete and proper recordation including the identification of the general thrust of each argument or issue discussed, a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed regarding patentability and the general results or outcome of the interview, to include an indication as to whether or not agreement was reached on the issues raised.



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Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

stl.uspatents@stinson.com

Continuation of Attachment(s) 2) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08a and/or PTO/SB/08b)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: 10/31/2023 (7), 11/9/2023, 12/12/2023, 4/18/2024

DETAILED ACTION

This is a first Office action on the merits responsive to applicant's original disclosure filed on 10/23/2023 including the preliminary amendment filed on 12/21/2023. Currently, claim 51 is pending. Claims 1-50 have been cancelled. New claim 51 has been added.

Notice of Pre-AIA or AIA Status

The present application, filed on or after March 16, 2013, is being examined under the first inventor to file provisions of the AIA.

Response to Preliminary Amendment

Applicant's preliminary amendment filed on 12/21/2023 does not comply with 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1) because the claim is new but is not listed as such. For examination purposes, and to further promote compact prosecution, the claim will be treated as if it were listed as "(New)". Any future response filed on the record with claims that do not comply with 37 CFR 1.121 will result in the response being held as nonresponsive.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Information Disclosure Statements filed on 10/31/2023 (7), 11/9/2023, 12/12/2023 and 4/18/2024 are being considered.

Drawings

The drawings filed on 10/23/2023 are being considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent for a claimed invention may not be obtained, notwithstanding that the claimed invention is not identically disclosed as set forth in section 102, if the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art are such that the claimed invention as a whole would have been obvious before the effective filing date of the claimed invention to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the claimed invention pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned as of the effective filing date of the claimed invention(s) absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and effective filing dates of each claim that was not commonly owned as of the effective filing date of the later invention in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 102(b)(2)(C) for any potential 35 U.S.C. 102(a)(2) prior art against the later invention.

Claim(s) 51 is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a)(1) as anticipated by Robinson (GB 2433522 A) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious over Robinson (GB 2433522 A) in view of Bundy et al. (US 9394680) ('Bundy').

Claim 51, Robinson provides a fire wall hanger for connecting a structural component to a frame wall adapted to have two layers of drywall mounted thereon to form a fire separation wall (note that the structural component, the frame wall and the

two layers of drywall are not positively recited and thus not required and that the claim is drawn solely to the fire wall hanger), the fire wall hanger comprising:

a channel-shaped portion (see annotated Fig. 2 of Robinson shown below in Examiner's Notes) configured to receive the structural component (note that the structural component is not required, but that the channel-shaped portion is nonetheless suitable to receive the structural component; "for supporting a joist" page 2, line 4), the channel-shaped portion including a base (annotated Fig. 2) configured to receive an end portion of the structural component thereon to support the structural component (note that the structural component is not required, but that the base is nonetheless suitable to receive an end portion of the structural component thereon to support the structural component; "retaining in use an end of the joist spaced from a supporting structure to which the hanger is attached" page 2, lines 4-5), the base having an upper surface (upper surface of the base; annotated Fig. 2) arranged to engage the structural component (note that the structural component is not required, but that the upper surface of the base is nonetheless suitable to engage the structural component; "supporting structure" page 2, line 5), the upper surface lying in a base plane (it is understood that the base is a flat element and thus lies in a base plane), the channel-shaped portion including a side panel extending from the base (annotated Fig. 2);

a connection portion (annotated Fig. 2) including a top flange (annotated Fig. 2) arranged to engage a top surface of a top plate of the frame wall (note that a top plate and the frame wall are not positively recited and thus not required, but that the top flange is nonetheless suitable to engage a top surface of a top plate of a frame wall; "suspending the hanger from the supporting structure" page 2, lines 25-26) and a back

flange (annotated Fig. 2) extending from an edge of the top flange (annotated Fig. 2), the back flange arranged to engage a vertical face of the top plate of the frame wall (“[t]he second surface 122 extends between the platform 114 and the flange 120” and thus it is understood that the back flange meets the limitation of being arranged to engage a vertical face of the top plate of the frame wall; annotated Fig. 2), the back flange having a planar front surface lying in a back flange plane (the back flange is a flat element having a planar front surface lying in a back flange plane); and

an extension portion including first and second planar extension panels (mount 124—i.e. one extension flange, and wall 136; annotated Fig. 2) extending from the channel-shaped portion to the connection portion (annotated Fig. 2), the first and second planar extension panels spacing the channel-shaped portion from the back flange plane by a distance sized large enough to permit the two layers of drywall of the fire separation wall to be received between the channel-shaped portion and the back flange plane (note that the two layers of drywall of the fire separation wall are not positively recited and thus not required, but that the first and second planar extension panels space the channel-shaped portion from the back flange plane by a distance sized large enough to permit two layers of drywall of the fire separation wall to be received between the channel-shaped portion and the back flange plane; “to separate copper pipes carrying hot water from electrical cables, for example” and “sufficiently wide to accommodate copper pipe, for example 22mm pipe, in addition to fixing for the pipe” page 4, lines 15-19; note that the hanger may be made of metal “for example steel or stainless steel, or carbon fibre, and may be pressed, stamped, cast, bent or moulded” page 4, lines 25-26; further note that the hanger may be used in timber-to-timber

installations page 6, lines 1-5), the first and second planar extension panels being parallel to one another (annotated Fig. 2);

wherein the channel-shaped portion, the extension portion and the connection portion are rigidly fixed with respect to one another (it is understood that the channel-shaped portion, the extension portion and the connection portion are connected such that they do not move freely with respect to one another and thus are rigidly fixed with respect to one another; annotated Fig. 2; and

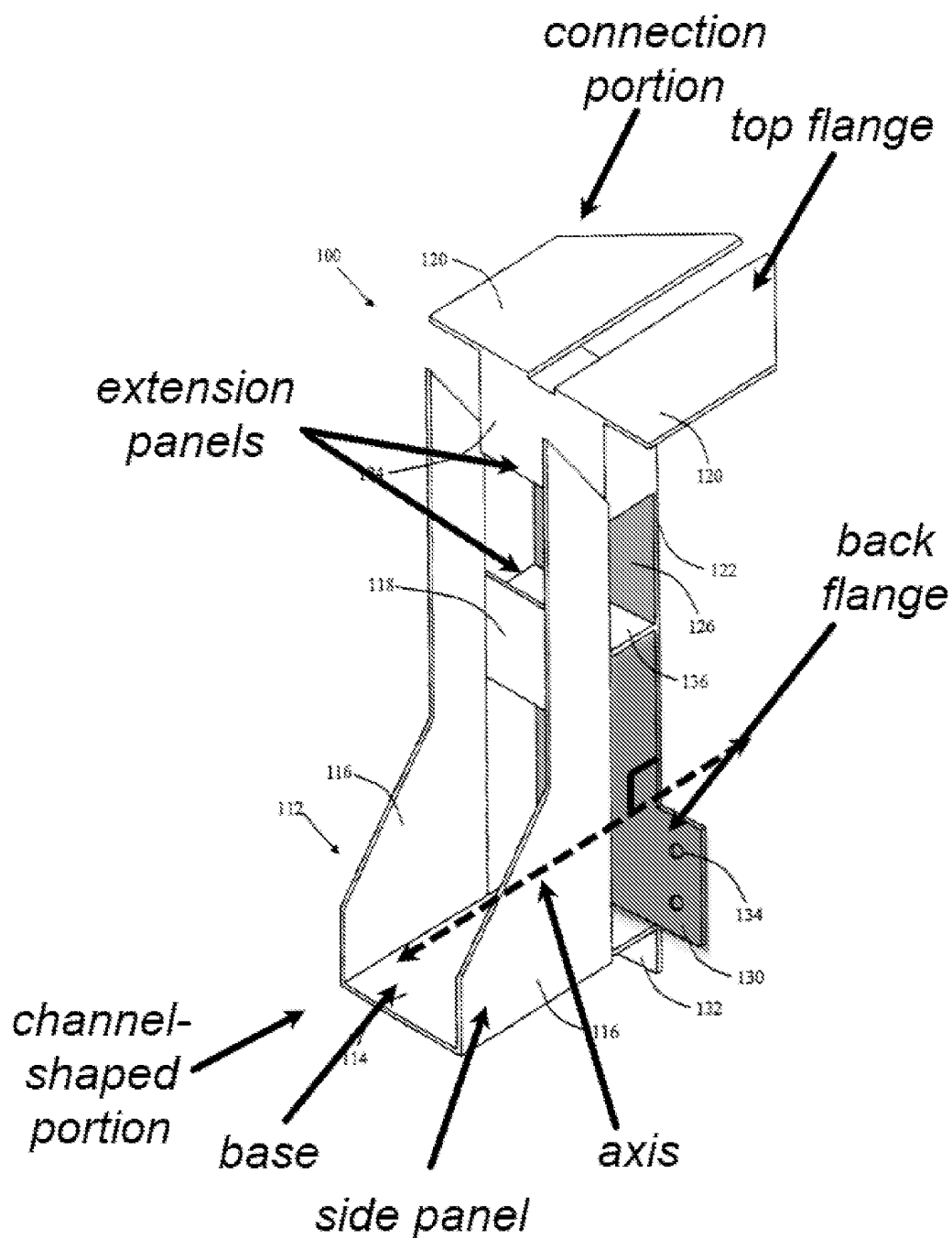
wherein the side panel of the channel-shaped portion is spaced apart from the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion along an axis ("axis" annotated Fig. 2) that is normal to the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion (see annotated Figs. 2-4 of Robinson shown below in Examiner's Notes), the axis intersecting the side panel of the channel-shaped portion and the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion (see annotated Figs. 2-4 of Robinson shown below in Examiner's Notes).

In the event that applicant disagrees that Robinson teaches the fire wall hanger being for connecting a structural component to a frame wall and adapted to have two layers of drywall mounted thereon to form a fire separation wall, the examiner takes the position that it would have been well within the level of ordinary skill in the art to permit two layers of drywall of the fire separation wall to be received between the channel-shaped portion and the back flange plane to form a fire separation wall.

Bundy teaches a known way to shield a wooden wall frame by placing sheathing in a space defined between a channel-shaped portion of a hanger and a wall frame (col. 2, lines 14-59) thereby forming a fire wall hanger (col. 5, lines 18-21; see annotated Fig.

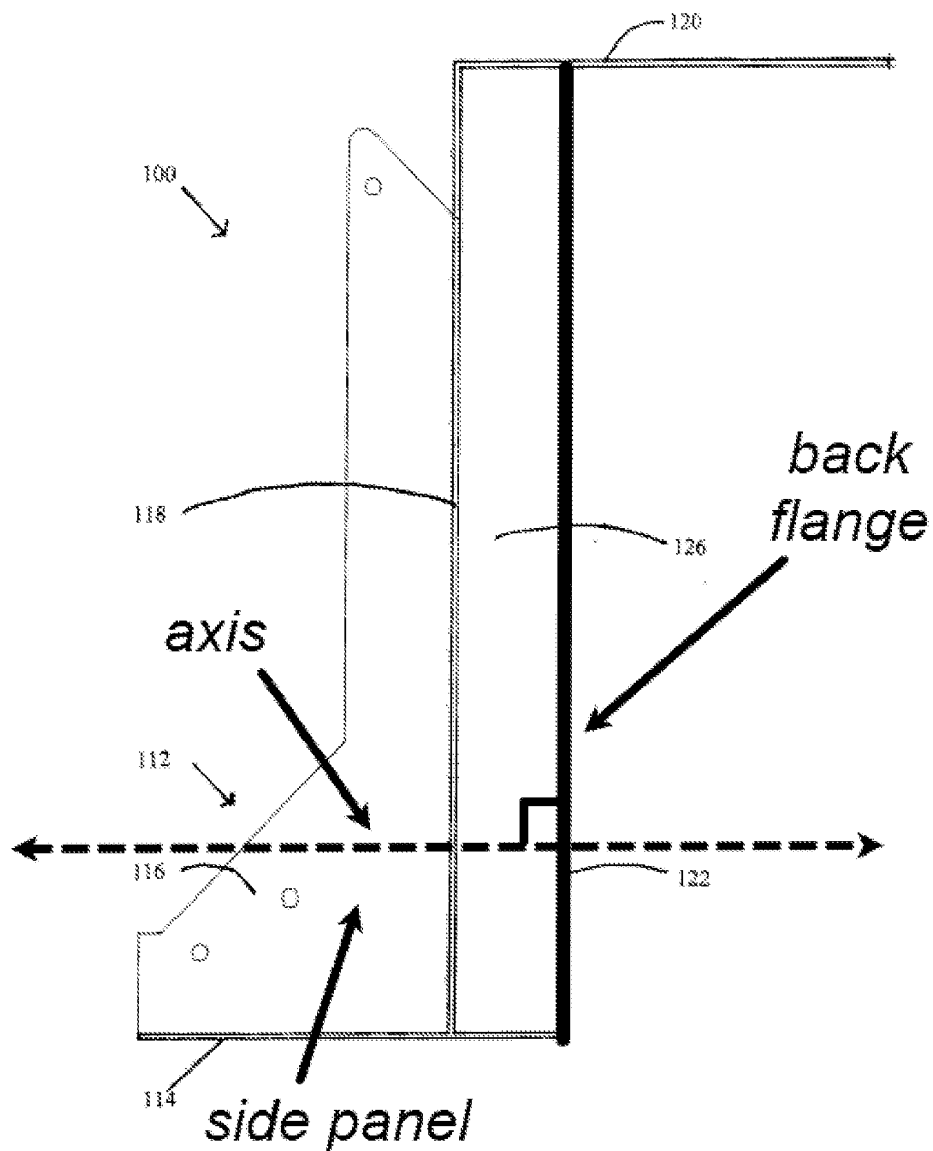
1 of Bundy shown below in Examiner's Notes). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, before the effective filing date of the invention, to try installing two layers of drywall in the space between the channel-shaped portion and the back flange, spaced by the first and second planar extension panels, with the reasonable expectation of success of shielding the framing, using a known technique as taught by Bundy (Bundy col. 5, lines 18-21).

Examiner's Notes



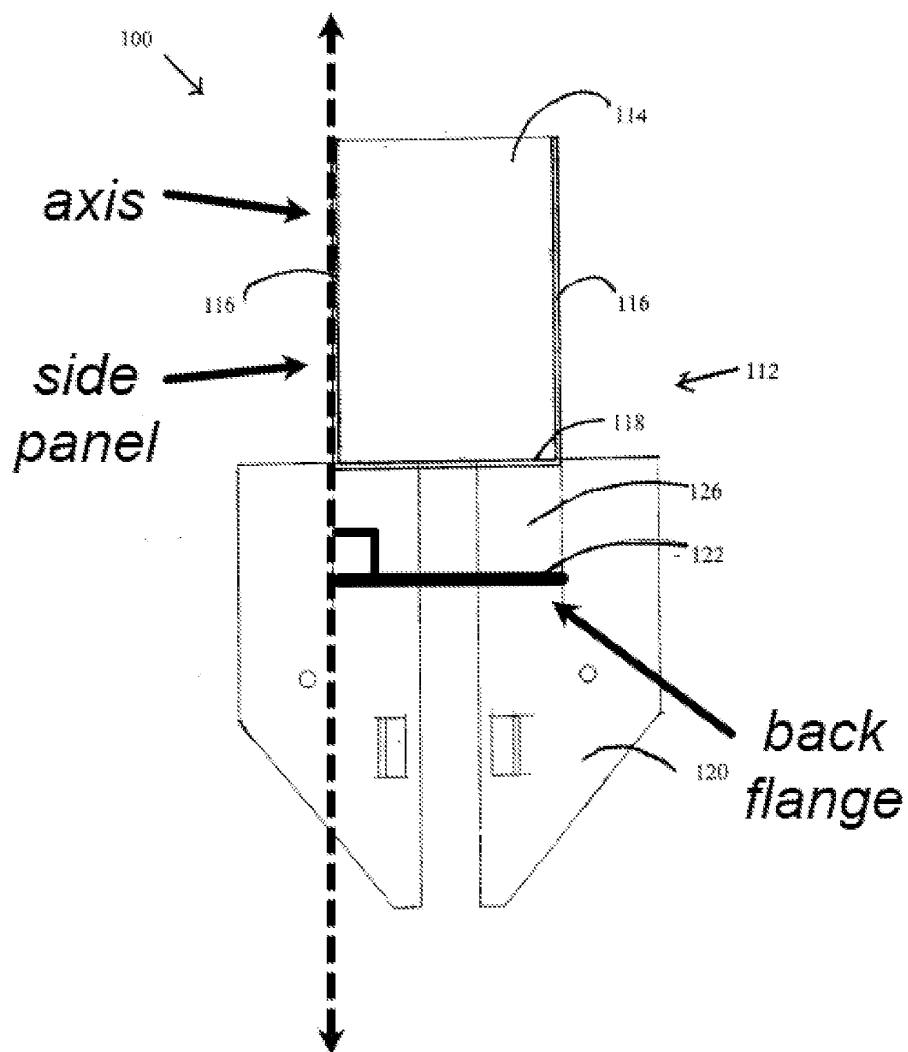
Annotated Fig. 2 of Robinson (GB 2433522 A)

Examiner's Notes (cont.)



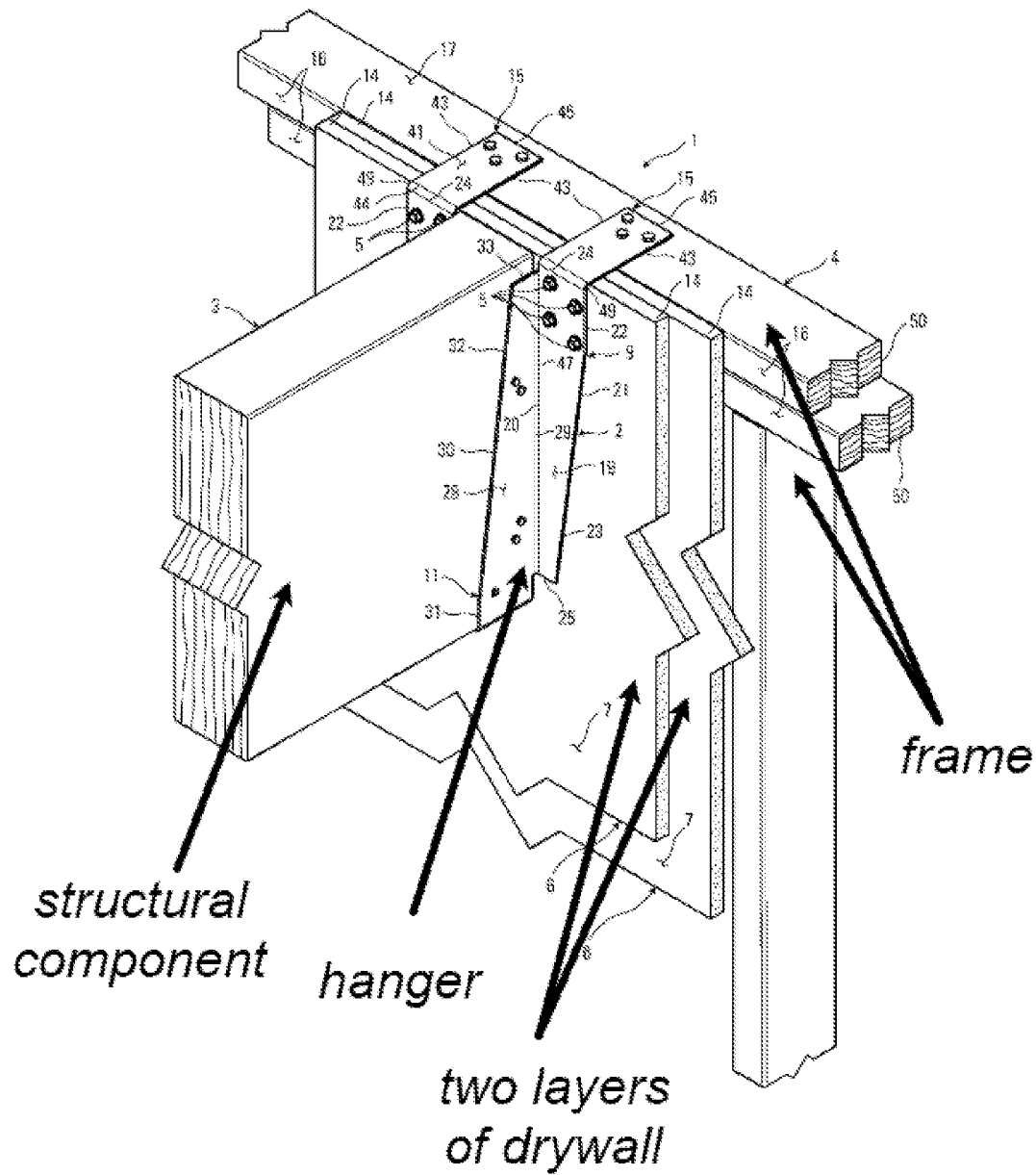
Annotated Fig. 3 of Robinson (GB 2433522 A)

Examiner's Notes (cont.)



Annotated Fig. 4 of Robinson (GB 2433522 A)

Examiner's Notes (cont.)



Annotated Fig. 1 of Bundy et al. (US 9394680) ('Bundy')

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES M FERENCE whose telephone number is (571)270-7861. The examiner can normally be reached M-F 7-4pm.

Examiner interviews are available via telephone, in-person, and video conferencing using a USPTO supplied web-based collaboration tool. To schedule an interview, applicant is encouraged to use the USPTO Automated Interview Request (AIR) at <http://www.uspto.gov/interviewpractice>.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Mattei can be reached on 571-270-3238. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JAMES M. FERENCE
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3635

/JAMES M FERENCE/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3635

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of Steven Brekke

Art Unit: OPAP

Serial No. 18/492,460

Filed: October 23, 2023

Confirmation No. 3591

For: HANGER FOR FIRE SEPARATION WALL

Examiner: TBD

December 21, 2023

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT B

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,

Please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks before examination of the above-referenced application.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page **2** of this paper.

Remarks begin on page **4** of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-50. Cancelled

51. A fire wall hanger for connecting a structural component to a frame wall adapted to have two layers of drywall mounted thereon to form a fire separation wall, the fire wall hanger comprising:

a channel-shaped portion configured to receive the structural component, the channel-shaped portion including a base configured to receive an end portion of the structural component thereon to support the structural component, the base having an upper surface arranged to engage the structural component, the upper surface lying in a base plane, the channel-shaped portion including a side panel extending from the base;

a connection portion including a top flange arranged to engage a top surface of a top plate of the frame wall and a back flange extending from an edge of the top flange, the back flange arranged to engage a vertical face of the top plate of the frame wall, the back flange having a planar front surface lying in a back flange plane; and

an extension portion including first and second planar extension panels extending from the channel-shaped portion to the connection portion, the first and second planar extension panels spacing the channel-shaped portion from the back flange plane by a distance sized large enough to permit the two layers of drywall of the fire separation wall to be received between the channel-shaped portion and the back flange plane, the first and second planar extension panels being parallel to one another;

wherein the channel-shaped portion, the extension portion and the connection portion are rigidly fixed with respect to one another; and

wherein the side panel of the channel-shaped portion is spaced apart from the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion along an axis that is normal to the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion, the axis intersecting the side panel of

the channel-shaped portion and the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion.

REMARKS

Claims 21-50 are cancelled. Claims 1-20 were previously cancelled. Claim 51 is new. No new matter is added. Claim 51 will be pending upon entry of this amendment.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment and credit any overpayment of government fees in connection with this application to Deposit Account No. 19-4409.

Respectfully submitted,

/Steven N. Levitt/

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KFJ:SNL/krs



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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING or 371(c) DATE	GRP ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO.	TOT CLAIMS	IND CLAIMS
18/492,460	10/23/2023		2820	MLP 7708.USC6	20	3

CONFIRMATION NO. 3591

FILING RECEIPT



0000000064089057

321

STINSON LLP

7700 FORSYTH BOULEVARD, SUITE 1100

ST LOUIS, MO 63105

Date Mailed: 11/08/2023

Receipt is acknowledged of this non-provisional utility patent application. The application will be taken up for examination in due course. Applicant will be notified as to the results of the examination. Any correspondence concerning the application must include the following identification information: the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF FIRST INVENTOR, and TITLE OF INVENTION. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection.

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Inventor(s)

Steven Brekke, Lakeville, MN;
Mark R. Rolf, Fredericksburg, VA;

Applicant(s)

Columbia Insurance Company, Omaha, NE;

Power of Attorney: The patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 321

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This application is a CON of 18/112,843 02/22/2023
which is a CON of 17/235,349 04/20/2021 PAT 11,649,626
which is a CON of 16/433,799 06/06/2019 PAT 11,021,867
which is a CON of 16/225,517 12/19/2018 PAT 10,316,510
which is a CON of 15/675,409 08/11/2017 PAT 10,184,242
which is a CON of 14/555,049 11/26/2014 PAT 10,024,049
which claims benefit of 61/922,531 12/31/2013

Foreign Applications for which priority is claimed (You may be eligible to benefit from the Patent Prosecution Highway program at the USPTO. Please see <http://www.uspto.gov> for more information.) - None.
Foreign application information must be provided in an Application Data Sheet in order to constitute a claim to foreign priority. See 37 CFR 1.55 and 1.76.

Permission to Access Application via Priority Document Exchange: Yes

Permission to Access Search Results: Yes

Applicant may provide or rescind an authorization for access using Form PTO/SB/39 or Form PTO/SB/69 as appropriate.

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 11/02/2023

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US 18/492,460**

Projected Publication Date: 02/15/2024

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: Yes

Title

HANGER FOR FIRE SEPARATION WALL

Preliminary Class

Statement under 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78 for AIA (First Inventor to File) Transition Applications: No

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Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process **simplifies** the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but **does not result** in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

Applicants also are advised that in the case of inventions made in the United States, the Director of the USPTO must issue a license before applicants can apply for a patent in a foreign country. The filing of a U.S. patent application serves as a request for a foreign filing license. The application's filing receipt contains further information and guidance as to the status of applicant's license for foreign filing.

Applicants may wish to consult the USPTO booklet, "General Information Concerning Patents" (specifically, the section entitled "Treaties and Foreign Patents") for more information on timeframes and deadlines for filing foreign patent applications. The guide is available either by contacting the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199, or it can be viewed on the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/doc/general/index.html>.

For information on preventing theft of your intellectual property (patents, trademarks and copyrights), you may wish to consult the U.S. Government website, <http://www.stopfakes.gov>. Part of a Department of Commerce initiative, this website includes self-help "toolkits" giving innovators guidance on how to protect intellectual property in specific

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of Steven Brekke

Art Unit: TBD

Serial No. 18/492,460

Filed: TBD

Confirmation No. 3591

For: HANGER FOR FIRE SEPARATION WALL

Examiner: TBD

October 31, 2023

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT A

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,

Please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks before examination of the above-referenced application.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page **2** of this paper.

Remarks begin on page **10** of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-20. Canceled

21. (New) A method of constructing a fire-resistive wall assembly, the method comprising:

mounting a fire wall hanger on a frame wall, the frame wall including a top plate and a plurality of studs extending down from the top plate, and the fire wall hanger including a channel-shaped portion sized and shaped to receive a structural component, a connection portion configured for attachment to the frame wall and an extension portion interconnecting the channel-shaped portion and the connection portion and spacing the channel-shaped portion from the connection portion, said step of mounting the fire wall hanger includes securing the connection portion of the fire wall hanger to the top plate of the frame wall so that the channel-shaped portion is spaced from the frame wall;

cutting an opening into an exterior edge of fire retardant sheathing, the opening extending through a front face of the fire retardant sheathing and through a rear face of the fire retardant sheathing and opening outwardly from the exterior edge of the fire retardant sheathing; and

after mounting the fire wall hanger on the frame wall and after cutting the opening into the exterior edge of the fire retardant sheathing, installing the fire retardant sheathing with respect to the frame wall so the rear face of the fire retardant sheathing faces toward the studs of the frame wall, said step of installing the fire retardant sheathing includes:

inserting the fire retardant sheathing between the channel-shaped portion of the fire wall hanger and the frame wall; and

moving the fire retardant sheathing relative to the fire wall hanger mounted on the frame wall so that an edge of the fire wall sheathing bounding the opening moves alongside the extension portion and the fire wall hanger extends through the opening in the fire retardant sheathing.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said step of mounting the fire wall hanger includes engaging a front face of the frame wall with a back flange of the connection portion of the fire wall hanger.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the step of mounting the fire wall hanger further includes engaging an upper surface of the top plate with a top flange of the connection portion of the fire wall hanger.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said step of inserting the fire retardant sheathing between the channel-shaped portion of the fire wall hanger and the frame wall includes positioning the fire retardant sheathing over and in front of a front face of the back flange of the connection portion of the fire wall hanger.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said step of installing the fire retardant sheathing includes placing the rear face of the fire retardant sheathing against the front face of the frame wall.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein said step of placing the rear face of the fire retardant sheathing against the front face of the frame wall includes engaging the rear face of the fire retardant sheathing with the top plate and the plurality of studs, the top plate and the plurality of studs forming the front face of the frame wall.

27. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said step of securing the connection portion of the fire wall hanger to the top plate of the frame wall includes driving one or more nails through the top flange of the connection portion of the fire wall hanger into the upper surface of the top plate.

28. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising positioning the structural component on an upper surface of a base of the channel-shaped portion of the fire wall hanger before said step of installing the fire retardant sheathing, said step of positioning the structural component including engaging the structural component with a stop of the fire wall hanger to

space an end of the structural component from the frame wall to permit the fire retardant sheathing to be received between the end of the structural component and the frame wall, and wherein said step of inserting the fire retardant sheathing between the channel-shaped portion of the fire wall hanger and the frame wall includes inserting the fire retardant sheathing between the end of the structural component and the frame wall.

29. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said step of cutting the opening into the exterior edge of the fire retardant sheathing includes cutting the opening to have an area less than an area of an end of the structural component facing toward the frame wall, the area of the opening being taken at and parallel to the front face of the fire retardant sheathing.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said step of cutting the opening into the exterior edge of the fire retardant sheathing includes cutting the opening to have a height less than a height of the channel-shaped portion of the fire wall hanger.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein said step of cutting the opening into the exterior edge of the fire retardant sheathing includes cutting the opening to have a width less than a width of the channel-shaped portion of the fire wall hanger.

32. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said step of cutting the opening into the exterior edge of the fire retardant sheathing includes placing a template on the fire retardant sheathing and cutting the opening using the template.

33. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said step of installing the fire retardant sheathing includes positioning the fire retardant sheathing relative to the fire wall hanger so that the edge of the fire retardant sheathing bounding the opening is in close conformance with a first exterior face of the extension portion of the fire wall hanger.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the edge of the fire retardant sheathing bounding the opening is a first vertical edge, wherein said step of installing the fire retardant sheathing relative to the fire wall hanger further includes positioning the fire retardant sheathing

so that a second exterior face of the extension portion is in close conformance with a second vertical edge of the fire retardant sheathing bounding the opening.

35. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said step of moving the fire retardant sheathing relative to the fire wall hanger includes positioning the fire retardant sheathing so that a first extension flange of the extension portion of the fire wall hanger extends through the opening in the fire retardant sheathing.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein said step of moving the fire retardant sheathing relative to the fire wall hanger includes positioning the fire retardant sheathing so that a second extension flange of the extension portion of the fire wall hanger extends through the fire retardant sheathing.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein said step of positioning the fire retardant sheathing so that the second extension flange of the fire wall hanger extends through the fire retardant sheathing includes positioning the fire retardant sheathing so that the second extension flange of the extension portion of the fire wall hanger extends through the opening in the fire retardant sheathing.

38. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said step of moving the fire retardant sheathing relative to the fire wall hanger includes positioning the fire retardant sheathing relative to the extension portion of the fire wall hanger so that only the extension portion of the fire wall hanger extends through the fire retardant sheathing.

39. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said step of moving the fire retardant sheathing relative to the fire wall hanger includes positioning the fire retardant sheathing relative to the extension portion of the fire wall hanger so that only first and second extension flanges of the extension portion of the fire wall hanger extend through the fire retardant sheathing.

40. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said step of moving the fire retardant sheathing relative to the fire wall hanger includes positioning the fire retardant sheathing relative

to the extension portion of the fire wall hanger so that only first and second planar extension panels of the extension portion of the fire wall hanger extend through the opening in the fire retardant sheathing.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein only the first and second planar extension panels of the extension portion of the fire wall hanger are disposed in the opening in the fire retardant sheathing.

42. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the first and second planar extension panels lie in parallel vertical planes.

43. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said step of installing the fire retardant sheathing comprises positioning first and second Type X gypsum panels of the fire retardant sheathing, the first and second Type X gypsum panels each being 5/8-inch-thick, the first Type X gypsum panel having a front face and an opposite rear face, the second Type X gypsum panel having a front face and an opposite rear face, the rear face of the first Type X gypsum panel forming the rear face of the fire retardant sheathing and the front face of the second Type X gypsum panel forming a front face of the fire retardant sheathing, the rear face of the second Type X panel being in contact with the front face of the first Type X gypsum panel.

44. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the connection portion and the channel-shaped portion are rigidly fixed with respect to one another, wherein the connection portion includes a back flange and a top flange, the back flange extending from an edge of the top flange, the back flange having a planar front surface, wherein the extension portion includes first and second planar extension panels extending from the channel-shaped portion to the connection portion, the first and second planar extension panels being parallel to one another, and wherein the channel-shaped portion of the fire wall hanger includes a base configured to receive an end portion of the structural component thereon to support the structural component, the channel-shaped portion of the fire wall hanger including a side panel extending upward from the base of the channel-shaped portion, the side panel being spaced apart from the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion along an axis that is normal to the planar front surface of

the back flange of the connection portion, the axis intersecting the side panel of the channel-shaped portion and the planar front surface of the back flange of the connection portion; and

wherein said step of mounting the fire wall hanger includes engaging a front face of the top plate with the back flange of the connection portion of the fire wall hanger and includes engaging an upper surface of the top plate with the top flange of the connection portion of the fire wall hanger.

45. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the connection portion and the channel-shaped portion are rigidly fixed with respect to one another, wherein the extension portion of the fire wall hanger includes first and second planar extension panels, the first and second planar extension panels being parallel to one another, each of the first and second planar extension panels including an inner face and an outer face, the inner faces of the first and second planar extension panels facing one another, the inner face of the first planar extension panel facing in a first direction toward the inner face of the second planar extension panel and the outer face of the first planar extension panel facing in a second direction that is opposite the first direction, the inner face of the first planar extension panel lying in an inner face plane, and wherein the connection portion includes a back flange and a top flange, the top flange extending from an edge of the back flange, the back flange extending from an edge the first planar extension panel in the second direction, the back flange and the top flange being entirely disposed outward, in the second direction, of the inner face plane;

wherein said step of mounting the fire wall hanger includes engaging a front face of the top plate with the back flange of the connection portion of the fire wall hanger and includes engaging an upper surface of the top plate with the top flange of the connection portion of the fire wall hanger; and

wherein said step of moving the fire retardant sheathing relative to the fire wall hanger includes positioning the fire retardant sheathing relative to the extension portion of the fire wall hanger so that only the first and second planar extension panels of the extension portion of the fire wall hanger extend through the opening in the fire retardant sheathing.

46. (New) A method of constructing a fire-resistive wall assembly, the method comprising:

mounting a fire wall hanger on a frame wall, the frame wall including a top plate and a plurality of studs extending down from the top plate, and the fire wall hanger including a channel-shaped portion sized and shaped to receive a structural component, a connection portion configured for attachment to the frame wall and an extension portion interconnecting the channel-shaped portion and the connection portion and spacing the channel-shaped portion from the connection portion, said step of mounting the fire wall hanger includes securing the connection portion of the fire wall hanger to the top plate of the frame wall so that the channel-shaped portion is spaced from the frame wall;

cutting an opening into an edge of fire retardant sheathing, the opening extending through a front face of the fire retardant sheathing and through a rear face of the fire retardant sheathing and having an open top opening outwardly from the edge of the fire retardant sheathing; and

after mounting the fire wall hanger on the frame wall and after cutting the opening into the edge of the fire retardant sheathing, installing the fire retardant sheathing with respect to the frame wall so the rear face of the fire retardant sheathing faces toward the studs of the frame wall, said step of installing the fire retardant sheathing includes:

inserting the fire retardant sheathing between the channel-shaped portion of the fire wall hanger and the frame wall; and

arranging the fire retardant sheathing relative to the fire wall hanger so that the fire wall hanger extends through the opening in the fire retardant sheathing and part of the extension portion of the fire wall hanger is received in the opening in the fire retardant sheathing.

47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein said step of arranging the fire retardant sheathing relative to the fire wall hanger includes moving the fire retardant sheathing relative to the fire wall hanger so that said part of the extension portion moves into the opening in the fire retardant sheathing via the open top of the opening in the fire retardant sheathing.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein said step of mounting the fire wall hanger includes:

engaging a front face of the frame wall with a back flange of the connection portion of the fire wall hanger; and

engaging an upper surface of the top plate with a top flange of the connection portion of the fire wall hanger.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein said step of inserting the fire retardant sheathing between the channel-shaped portion of the fire wall hanger and the frame wall includes positioning the fire retardant sheathing against a front face of the back flange of the connection portion of the fire wall hanger, and wherein said step of installing the fire retardant sheathing includes placing the rear face of the fire retardant sheathing against the front face of the frame wall.

50. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein said step of arranging the fire retardant sheathing relative to the fire wall hanger includes positioning the fire retardant sheathing so that a first extension flange of the extension portion of the fire wall hanger extends through the opening in the fire retardant sheathing and a second extension flange of the extension portion of the fire wall hanger extends through the fire retardant sheathing.

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are canceled. Claims 21-50 are new. No new matter is added. Claims 21-50 will be pending upon entry of this amendment.

Related Legal Proceedings

Four of the parent cases to the present application have matured into U.S. Pat. Nos. 10,024,049 (the '049 Patent), 10,316,510 (the '510 Patent), 11,021,867 (the '867 Patent), and 11,649,626 (the '626 Patent), respectively. The '510 Patent was the subject of Post Grant Review No. PGR2019-00063 (the '063 PGR), which is now completed.¹ The Federal Circuit appeal of the '063 PGR is also completed.² The '867 Patent is the subject of Post Grant Review No. PGR2021-00109 (the '109 PGR), which is now completed³ and is currently pending on appeal. The '626 Patent is the subject of Post Grant Review Nos. PGR2023-00047 (the '047 PGR), PGR2023-00048 (the '048 PGR), and PGR2023-00049 (the '049 PGR), which are currently pending. In addition, *Columbia Insurance Company et al. v. Simpson Strong-Tie Company Inc.*, 4:23-cv-02432 is currently pending the Northern District of California.

As part of Applicant's duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.56, Applicant is in the process of gathering and submitting documents from these legal proceedings. In an effort to assist the Examiner, the following tables provides an overview of the of the prior art references which were applied in an anticipation and/or obviousness ground in the '063 PGR, the '109 PGR, the '047 PGR, the '048 PGR, the 049 PGR, and/or district court. Applicant has made a good faith effort to describe the relevant characterizations of the prior art in these legal proceedings, but the Office is encouraged to review the documents from these proceedings themselves and draw its own conclusion regarding the relevance of the references. Moreover, the characterizations of the prior art in the tables which follow are the characterizations made by the Petitioner in these legal proceedings. Applicant does not admit that these characterizations are accurate or agree with any conclusions drawn by the Petitioner.

¹ The Board's Final Written Decision for the '063 PGR can be found at: *Simpson Strong-Tie Company Inc., v. Columbia Insurance Company*, PGR2019-00063, Paper 52 (P.T.A.B. Mar. 11, 2021).

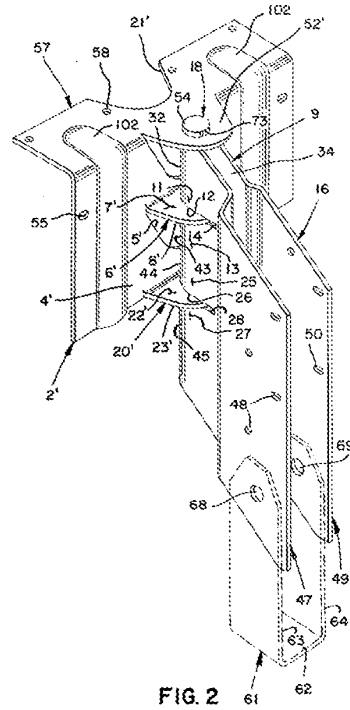
² The Federal Circuit's appeal decision for the '063 PGR can be found at: *Columbia Ins. Co. v. Simpson Strong-Tie Co. Inc.*, 2023 U.S.P.Q.2D 397 (Fed. Cir. 2023).

³ The Board's Final Written Decision for the '109 PGR can be found at: *Simpson Strong-Tie Company Inc., v. Columbia Insurance Company*, PGR2021-00109, Paper 73 (P.T.A.B. Mar. 15, 2023).

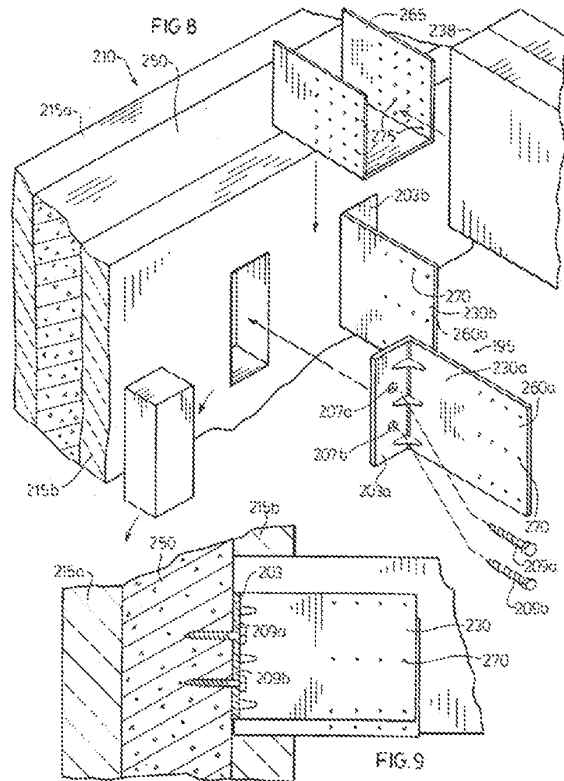
Anticipation and Base (Obviousness) Prior Art References

Patent/Publication No.	Illustrative Figure(s)
JPH3-14482 (“Tsukamoto”)	<p>第 1 図</p> <p>第 3 図</p>

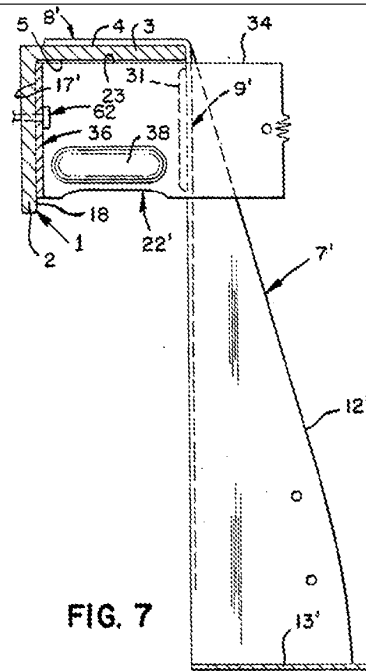
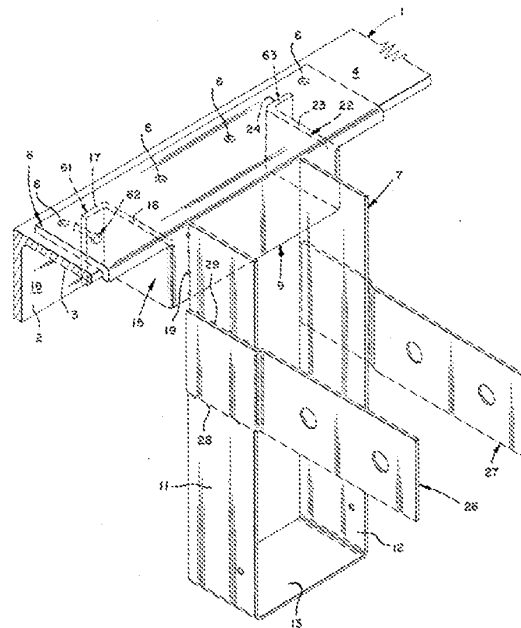
U.S. 4,261,155 ("Gilb '155")



U.S. 2005/01555307 ("Timony")



U.S. 4,422,792 ("Gilb '792")



G.B. 2,433,522 ("Robinson")

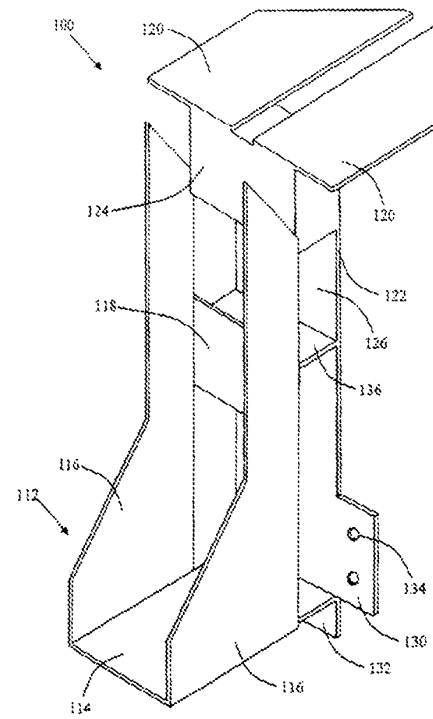
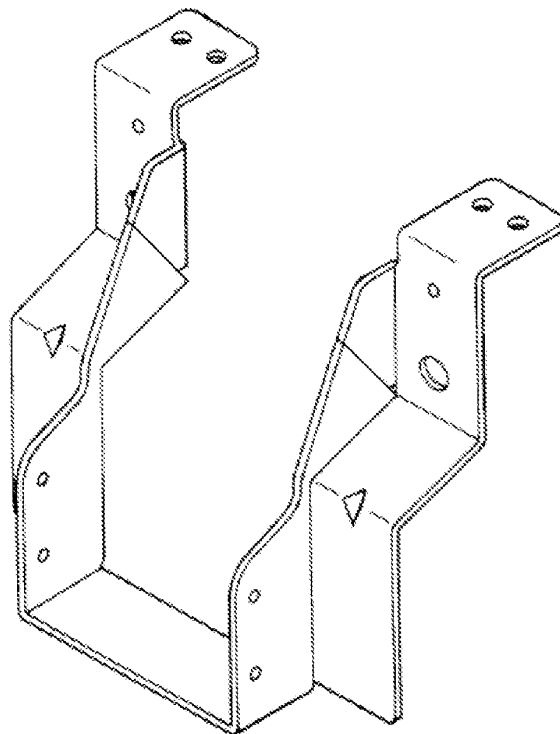


Figure 2

JP D1213894 ("Yamaguchi")



EP 0,210,744 ("Adams")

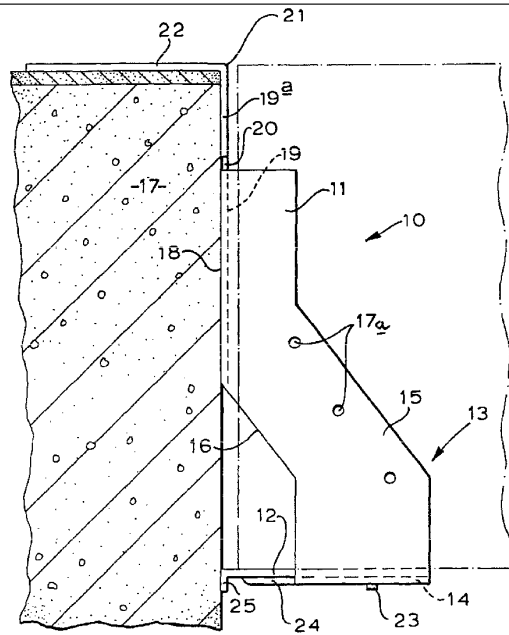


FIG 2

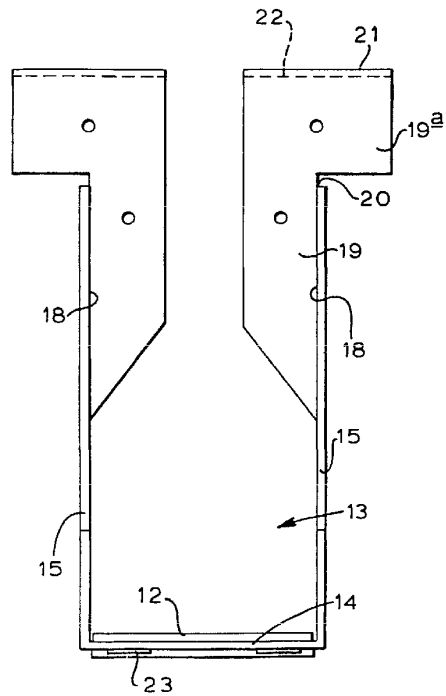


FIG 4

GB 2,451,853 ("Cullen")

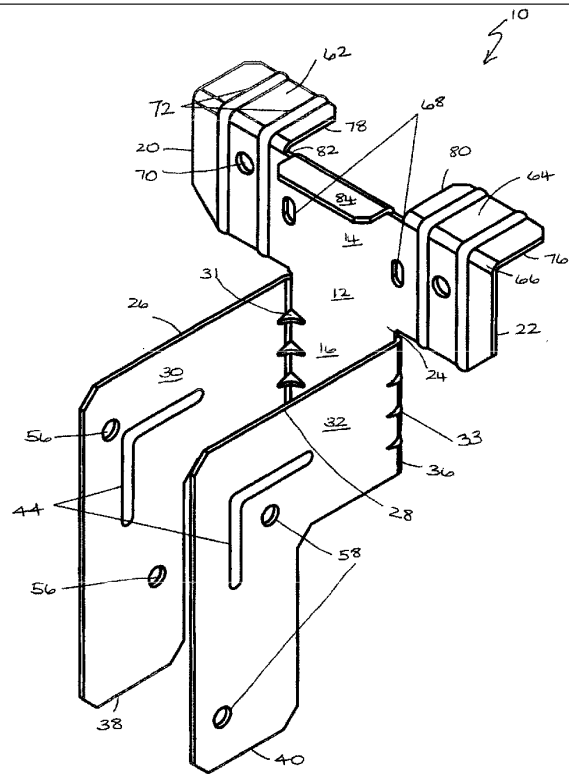
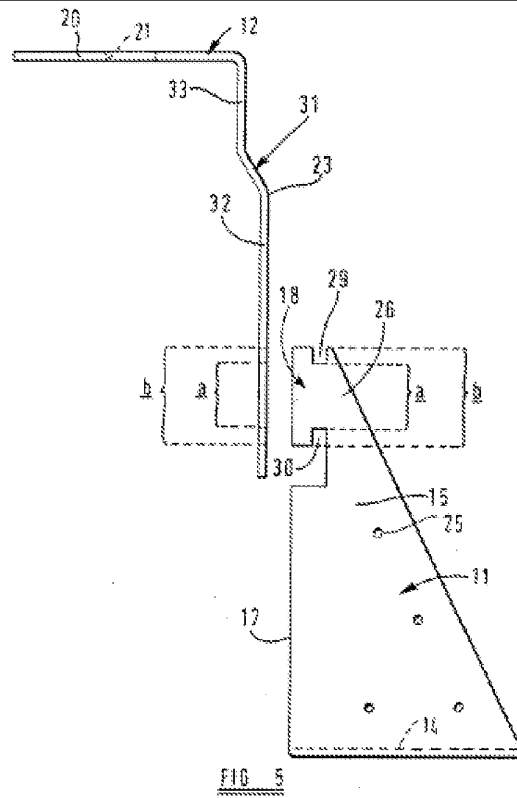
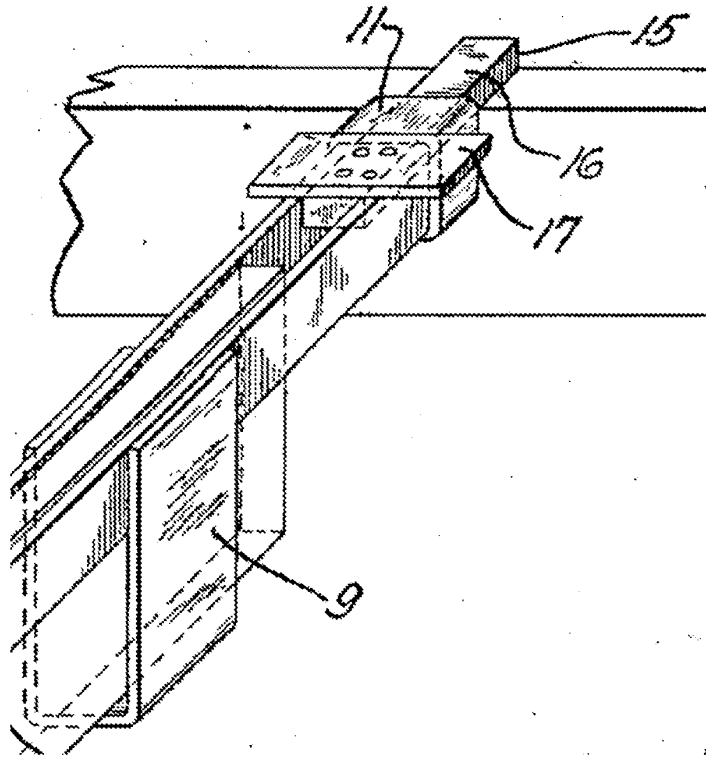


FIGURE 1

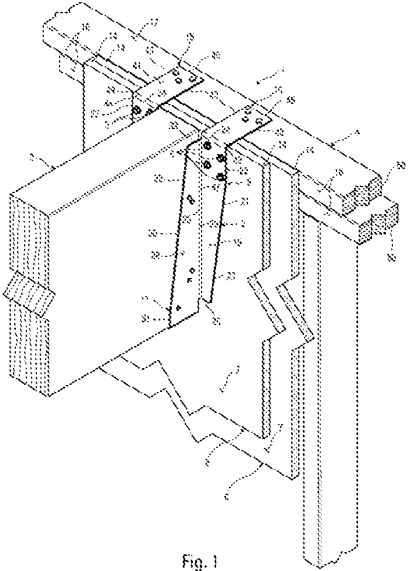
GB 2,062,058 ("Walker")



US 1,792,815 ("Chapin")

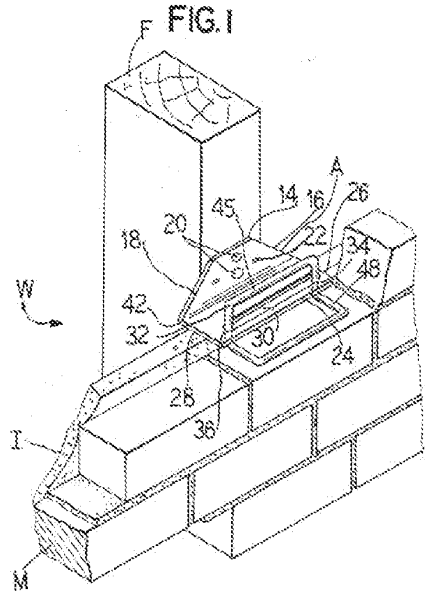


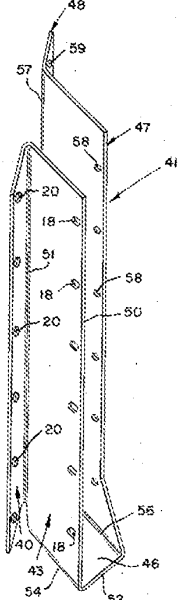
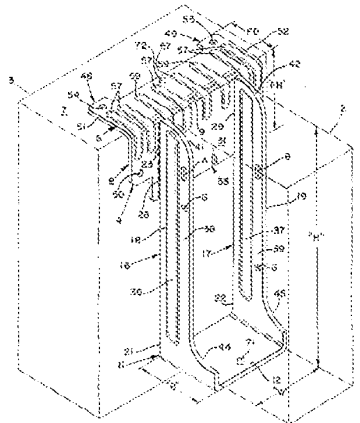
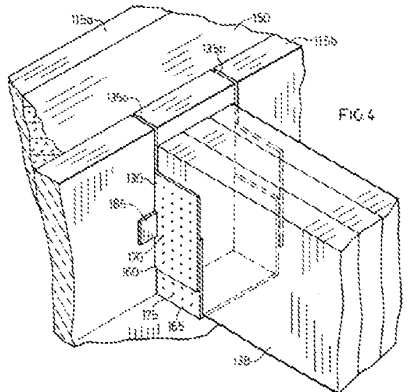
Secondary (Obviousness) Prior Art References

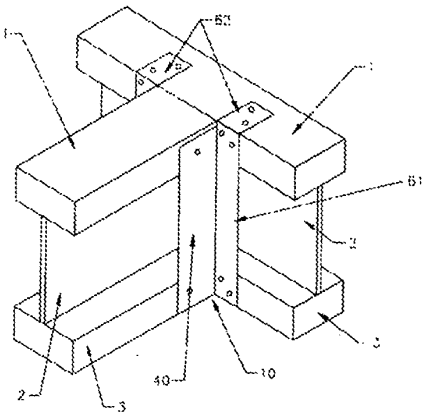
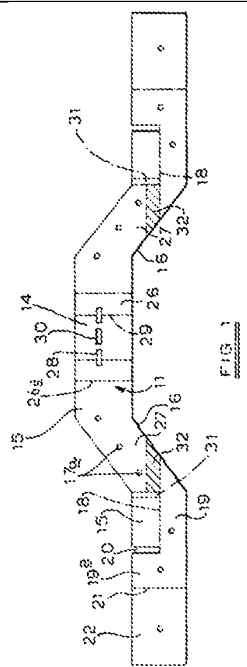
Patent/Publication No.	Alleged Secondary Teaching(s) ⁴	Illustrative Figure
U.S. 9,394,680 (“Bundy”)	<p>“[T]wo layers of 5/8 [inch] thick sheathing between the channel-shaped portion and the wall.” ‘063 PGR: Petition, page 34.</p> <p>“Bundy teaches an analogous hanger that includes a stop (back plate members 9) engaging the end of the structural component and spacing the end of the structural component from the back flange plane.” ‘063 PGR: Petition, page 59.</p> <p>“Bundy discloses the first and second back plate members 9 ‘could both be bent inward to face each other between the first and second side member 11.’ Bending back plate members 9 inward prevents a structural component from extending past the back plate members, thereby acting as a stop.” ‘047 PGR Petition, page 39.</p> <p>“[I]t would have been obvious based on the teachings of Bundy to modify the size of Gilb’155’s extension distance to receive two sheets of 5/8” sheathing.”</p>	 <p>Fig. 1</p>

⁴ These are the teachings from the secondary references as applied by the opposing party in the ‘063 PGR, the ‘109 PGR, the ‘047 PGR, the ‘048 PGR, and/or the 049 PGR. These statements do not represent the views of the Applicant.

	<p>'063 PGR: Petition, page 71.</p> <p>"A POSITA would have found it obvious to size the extension distance of Timony such that it would receive two sheets of 5/8" sheathing between Timony's rear edge plane and back flange (or back flange plane), based on the size preference described by Bundy." '063 PGR: Petition, page 103.</p> <p>"A POSITA would have appreciated that adding top flanges to Timony's hanger would help to stabilize the hanger and counteract the shear force resulting from the weight of the joist pulling on the back flange wall connect connection, as taught by Bundy." '063 PGR, Petition, page 103.</p> <p>"A POSITA would have found it obvious to receive sheathing between Gilb'792's stirrup members 11'/12' and base 36, as Bundy teaches receiving sheathing between a channel-shaped portion of a hanger and the wall." '109 PGR: Petition, page 29.</p> <p>"A POSITA would have been motivated to terminate Robinson's platform 114 at the level of the back-stop (first surface 118), as taught by Bundy,</p>	
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	thereby opening the duct below dividing wall 136 through the bottom of the hanger to receive sheathing.” ‘109PGR: Petitioner’s Opposition to Patent Owner’s Revised Contingent Motion to Amend, page 20.	
U.S. 4,827,684 (“Allan”)	“[W]hile Tsukamoto [and Gilb ‘155] does not illustrate sheathing inserted around its extension portion (connection plates 2D’/3D’/2B/3B), it would have been obvious to a POSITA to do so as taught by Allan.” ‘063 PGR: Petition, page 36, 68.	

U.S. 4,230,416 ("Gilb '416")	<p>"Gilb'416 teaches a metal connector for joining support members that intersect at an angle less than 90 degrees." '063 PGR: Petition, page 64.</p>	 <p>FIG. 1</p>
U.S. 4,005,942 ("Gilb '942")	<p>"Gilb'942, in the same field of endeavor, discloses that portions of a hanger (a channel-shaped portion 11 and a connection portion 6 in the example of Gilb'942) are formed into one piece through the process of welding." '063 PGR: Petition, page 100.</p>	 <p>FIG. 1</p>
U.S. 2005/01555307 ("Timony")	<p>"A POSITA would have found it obvious to modify Timony's outer projections 185 to be bent inward to face each other." '063 PGR: Petition, page 126.</p> <p>"A POSITA would have found it obvious to bend Timony's projections 185 inwards ... to engage the end of object 238, to space</p>	 <p>FIG. 4</p>

	the end of object 238 from retaining portion 203 by a distance sized large enough to permit the sheathing to be received between the end of the structural component and the back flange plane, using the projections as a stop as taught by Bundy.” ‘109 PGR: Petition, page 80.	
U.S. 2005/0120669 (“Harrison”)	“Harrison teaches a joist hanger 10 that ‘is formed/folded from a single piece of metal (e.g., steel).’” ‘109 PGR: Petitioner’s Opposition to Motion to Amend (Paper 50), page 14-15.	 <p>Figure 4B</p>
EP 0,210,744 (“Adams”)	“Adams teaches manufacturing a joist hanger ‘from a single sheet metal blank 11,’ shown below in Figure 1.” ‘048 PGR Petition, page 40.	 <p>FIG. 1</p>

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of the claims of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment and credit any overpayment of government fees in connection with this application to Deposit Account No. 19-4409.

Respectfully submitted,

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KFJ:SNL/dss

HANGER FOR FIRE SEPARATION WALL

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 18/112,843, filed February 22, 2023, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 17/235,349, filed April 20, 2021, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 16/433,799 filed June 6, 2019, issued as U.S. Patent No. 11,021,867 on June 21, 2021, U.S. Application No. 16/225,517 filed on December 19, 2018, issued as U.S. Patent No. 10,316,510 on June 11, 2019, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 15/675,409, filed August 11, 2017, issued as U.S. Patent No. 10,184,242 on January 22, 2019, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 14/555,049, filed November 26, 2014, issued as U.S. Patent No. 10,024,049 on July 17, 2018, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/922,531, filed December 31, 2013, the entirety of which are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention generally relates to connections for structures, and more specifically, a truss hanger for connecting a truss to a wall including fire retardant sheathing.

BACKGROUND

[0003] The use of fire separation walls in structures, such as in multifamily housing, is commonplace. Often, fire separation is required to be continuous along the walls between adjoining units to prevent fire from spreading between the adjoining units in a multifamily structure. For some types of construction, the building codes also require exterior walls to

be fire rated. Typically, gypsum board is used as a fire retardant sheathing along these walls. Floor trusses or joists are attached to or hung from the walls including the gypsum board, but cannot be hung from the gypsum board itself. The trusses or joists must therefore be attached to the wall framing. A cutout for the entire cross section of the truss leaves a large discontinuity in the fire retardant sheathing. However, building codes require that the fire separation wall maintain a certain fire resistant rating. Thus, the integrity of the fire retardant sheathing should be maintained and interruptions of the sheathing kept to a minimum.

SUMMARY

[0004] In one aspect of the present invention, a hanger for connecting a structural component to a wall having sheathing mounted thereon includes a channel-shaped portion configured to receive the structural component. The channel shaped portion includes a bottom wall, side walls extending from opposite edges of the bottom wall and a back wall. The bottom wall, side walls and back wall are sized and arranged to receive an end of the structural component for supporting the end of the structural component. A connection portion includes a top flange extending away from the back wall of the channel-shaped portion in a direction opposite to the bottom wall of the channel-shaped portion. The top flange is configured for attachment to a top surface of a top plate of the wall. The connection portion further includes a back flange extending from an edge of the top flange in a direction toward the bottom wall of the channel-shaped portion. The back flange of the connection portion faces the back wall of the channel-shaped portion and the back flange and back wall define a space sized to receive the sheathing

between the back flange and the back wall. An extension portion extends from the channel-shaped portion to the connection portion and interconnects the channel-shaped portion and the connection portion. The extension portion separates the back wall of the channel-shaped portion from the back flange of the connection portion to define the space sized to receive the sheathing.

[0005] In another aspect pf the present invention a hanger for connecting a structural component to a wall adapted to have sheathing mounted thereon generally comprises a channel-shaped portion configured to receive the structural component. An extension portion extends from the channel-shaped portion and is configured to extend through the sheathing to engage the wall at a first location. The extension portion includes extension flanges extending from the channel-shaped portion forming a bend between each extension flange and the channel-shaped portion. Each of the extension flanges is configured to extend through the sheathing. A connection portion is fixed in position relative to the channel-shaped portion such that that channel-shaped portion does not rotate relative to the connection portion. The connection portion is configured for attachment to the wall at a second location spaced from the first location. The extension flanges define planar surfaces disposed in opposed face-to-face relation between the connection portion and the channel-shaped portion.

[0006] In another aspect of the present invention, a truss hanger for connecting a truss to a wall adapted to have fire resistant sheathing mounted thereon generally comprises a channel-shaped portion configured to receive the truss. The channel-shaped portion includes a base sized and shaped for receiving a truss chord of the truss thereon, side panels

extending upward from the base, and a back panel. The back panel extends orthogonally from one of the side panels. An extension portion extends from the channel-shaped portion and is configured to extend through the fire resistant sheathing. The extension portion includes extension flanges. Each of the extension flanges extends away from the base of the channel-shaped portion. A connection portion includes a top flange extending away from the back panel of the channel-shaped portion in a direction opposite to the base of the channel-shaped portion. The top flange is configured for attachment to a top surface of a top plate of the wall. The connection portion further includes a back flange extending from an edge of the top flange in a direction toward the base of the channel-shaped portion.

[0007] A hanger for connecting a structural component to a wall having sheathing mounted thereon generally comprises a channel-shaped portion configured to receive the structural component. An extension portion is configured to be disposed at least partially in the sheathing. A connection portion is configured for attachment to the wall.

[0008] Other objects and features will be in part apparent and in part pointed out hereinafter.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] FIG. 1 is a fragmentary perspective of adjacent floor trusses connected to a wall having fire retardant sheathing by truss hangers that extend through the sheathing;

[0010] FIG. 2 is a perspective of a truss hanger according to a first embodiment of the present invention;

[0011] FIG. 2A is a rear perspective of the truss hanger;

[0012] FIG. 3 is a front elevation thereof;

[0013] FIG. 4 is a right side elevation thereof;

[0014] FIG. 5 is a left side elevation thereof;

[0015] FIG. 6 is a rear elevation thereof;

[0016] FIG. 7 is a top plan thereof;

[0017] FIG. 8 is a bottom plan thereof;

[0018] FIG. 9 is a perspective of a wall having fire retardant sheathing with a slot cut in the sheathing to receive the truss hanger;

[0019] FIG. 10 is the perspective of Fig. 9, but showing two of the truss hangers mounted thereon;

[0020] FIG. 10A is an enlarged fragmentary perspective of Fig. 10;

[0021] FIG. 11 is a top plan of Fig. 10, illustrating the truss hanger extending through the fire retardant sheathing;

[0022] FIG. 12 is a perspective similar to Fig. 10, but showing a floor truss positioned for mounting in the truss hanger;

[0023] FIG. 13 is a side elevation of Fig. 12;

[0024] FIG. 13A is an enlarged fragmentary perspective of Fig. 13 with a portion of the fire retardant sheathing broken away;

[0025] FIG. 14 is the perspective of Fig. 10, but showing floor trusses mounted in the truss hangers;

[0026] FIG. 14A is an enlarged fragmentary perspective of Fig. 14;

[0027] FIG. 15 is a top view of a stamped metal blank for forming a truss hanger according to the present invention;

[0028] FIG. 16 is a perspective of a slot template for use in cutting the slot in the sheathing to receive the truss hanger;

[0029] FIG. 17 is a rear perspective of the slot template;

[0030] FIG. 18 is a front elevation thereof;

[0031] FIG. 19 is a right side elevation thereof;

[0032] FIG. 20 is a left side elevation thereof;

[0033] FIG. 21 is a rear elevation thereof;

[0034] FIG. 22 is a top plan thereof;

[0035] FIG. 23 is a bottom plan thereof;

[0036] FIG. 24 is a front view of a stamped metal blank for forming the slot template;

[0037] FIG. 25 is a fragmentary perspective of adjacent floor trusses connected at an angle to a wall having fire retardant sheathing by truss hangers of a second embodiment that extend through the sheathing;

[0038] FIG. 26 is a perspective of one of the truss hangers of Fig. 25;

[0039] FIG. 27 is a rear perspective thereof;

[0040] FIG. 28 is a front elevation thereof;

[0041] FIG. 29 is a right side elevation thereof;

[0042] FIG. 30 is a left side elevation thereof;

[0043] FIG. 31 is a rear elevation thereof;

[0044] FIG. 32 is a top plan thereof;

[0045] FIG. 33 is a bottom plan thereof;

[0046] FIG. 34 is a perspective of a wall and the two truss hangers mounted thereon with parts broken away;

[0047] FIG. 35 is an enlarged fragmentary perspective of Fig. 34;

[0048] FIG. 36 is a top plan of Fig. 34, illustrating the truss hangers extending through the fire retardant sheathing;

[0049] FIG. 37 is a side elevation of Fig. 34;

[0050] FIG. 38 is an enlarged fragment of Fig. 37;

[0051] FIG. 39 is a top plan similar to Fig. 36, but showing a floor truss mounted in each truss hanger; and

[0052] FIG. 40 is a front view of a stamped metal blank for forming a truss hanger according to the present invention.

[0053] Corresponding reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0054] Referring to Fig. 1, a first embodiment of a connection system for a fire separation wall is shown generally at 10. Floor trusses generally indicated at 12 each include truss members (broadly, "wooden structural members") including a top chord 14, a bottom chord 16, and web members 18 joining the top and bottom chords. Each floor truss also includes end members 20 at each end joining the top and bottom chords 14, 16 (only one end of each truss is shown). The truss members can be joined by nail plates 22 or by any other suitable fastening structure. The number and orientations of the web members 18 and chords 14, 16 may vary from the illustrated embodiment without departing from the scope of the invention, as a truss hanger 26 according to the present invention is readily applicable to other truss configurations (e.g. a roof truss). Moreover, the hanger 26 may be used to connect structural components other than trusses to a wall or other part of a structure. The hanger can be used to support other wood framing members such as solid sawn or structural composite lumber.

[0055] As seen in Fig. 1, a wall 28 includes a top member or plate 30 and support members or studs 32 (only one stud may be seen in Fig. 1). As illustrated, the top plate 30 is formed by two 2x4's in stacked relation. Fire retardant sheathing 34 is mounted on both sides of the wall 28, as illustrated. In one embodiment, the fire retardant sheathing is gypsum board, such as two layers of 5/8" gypsum board mounted on each side of the

wall 28 as illustrated, although other configurations of fire retardant sheathing are within the scope of the present invention. Other wall configurations, including different wall constructions and materials, are within the scope of the present invention. For example, the truss hangers 26 can be used with any wall assembly or fire-rated wall assembly, such as a 2-hour fire-resistive wall assembly. The floor trusses 12 are mounted on the wall 28 adjacent the fire retardant sheathing 34 by the truss hangers 26. The truss hangers 26 extend through a narrow slot in the fire retardant sheathing 34 to maintain the integrity and fire retardant characteristics of the fire separation wall.

[0056] Referring to Figs. 2-8, the truss hanger 26 includes a channel-shaped portion 38, an extension portion 40, and a connection portion 42. The channel-shaped portion 38 is configured to receive the floor truss 12. The channel-shaped portion 38 includes a seat or base 44 and a pair of side panels 46 extending upward from the base. When installed, the base 44 is generally horizontal, and the side panels 46 extend generally vertical from the base. A back panel 48 extends from each of the side panels 46. Each back panel 48 is generally perpendicular to both the side panels 46 and the base 44. When installed, each back panel 48 extends generally parallel to an interior face 50 of the fire retardant sheathing 34. The base 44, side panels 46, and back panels 48 form a channel 52 configured to receive the floor truss 12.

[0057] As seen in Figs. 1 and 12-14A, the floor truss 12 is received in the channel 52 to attach the floor truss to the wall 28. The bottom chord 16 of the floor truss 12 engages and rests upon (i.e., is supported by) the base 44. The end member 20 of the floor truss 12 is positioned against the back panels 48

between the side panels 46. The truss hanger 26 includes fastening structure for attaching the floor truss 12 to the truss hanger. Fastening structure can be of any type known in the art for attaching a connector to a wooden structural member, such as nailing teeth (not shown) struck from the material of the hanger. In the illustrated embodiment, the fastening structure comprises a hole to allow for insertion of a fastening member. More specifically, in one embodiment the fastening structure comprises nail holes 54 in the side panels 46 of the truss hanger 26, and the fastening member comprises a nail 56 (see Fig. 12). In the illustrated embodiment, nail holes 54 are positioned on each of the side panels 46 so that nails 56 can be inserted into both the bottom chord 16 and the end member 20 of the floor truss 12 to attach the hanger 26 to the floor truss 12.

[0058] Referring again to Figs. 2-8, the extension portion 40 includes two extension flanges 60 configured to extend through the fire retardant sheathing 34. Each flange 60 extends from one of the back panels 48. The flanges 60 are positioned in opposed, face-to-face relation, and preferably engage each other along a juncture. Each flange 60 extends generally perpendicular from the corresponding back panel 48 and generally parallel to the side panels 46. At a bottom edge, each flange 60 includes a driving point 62. Each of the driving points 62 is generally triangular and includes a pointed tip 64. As seen in Figs. 3 and 6, the tips 64 of the driving points 62 are vertically offset from each other. As illustrated, the tip 64a of one flange 60a extends vertically below the tip 64b of the other flange 60b. In one embodiment, the tips 64 are vertically offset from each other about 1/8", although other configurations

are within the scope of the present invention, such as tips that are aligned or tips that are offset a smaller or larger amount.

[0059] A back flange 66 extends from each of the extension flanges 60. Each back flange 66 extends generally perpendicular from the extension flange 60 and is oriented generally parallel to the back panels 48. Referring to Fig. 13A, the back flanges 66 engage the wall 28 at a first location L_1 , which in the illustrated embodiment is a vertical face of the top plate 30 of the wall. The back panels 48, extension flanges 60, and back flanges 66 form a pair of sheathing channels 68. Each sheathing channel 68 is configured to receive a portion of the fire retardant sheathing 34 to secure the sheathing between the hanger 26 and the wall 28. As seen in Fig. 7, the sheathing channels 68 extend generally perpendicular to the truss-receiving channel 52.

[0060] As seen in Figs. 10A and 11, the extension flanges 60 extend through a slot 72 in the fire retardant sheathing 34. Preferably, the slot has an area less than or equal to 6 square inches, and the gap between the extension flanges 60 and the edge of the slot 72 is less than or equal to 1/8". The driving points 62 extend down into the sheathing 34 to further secure the sheathing between the hanger 26 and the wall 28. A portion of the fire retardant sheathing 34 extends into each sheathing channel 68 and is secured between the back panels 48 and the back flanges 66.

[0061] In one embodiment, the slot 72 in the fire retardant sheathing 34 can be made using a slot template 82 (Figs. 16-24). The slot template 82 includes a vertical panel 84 having a rear face 86 configured to engage the interior face 50 of the fire retardant sheathing 34 and a horizontal panel 88 having a bottom face 90 configured to engage a top face of the sheathing. The

horizontal panel 88 extends generally perpendicular from the vertical panel 84. The slot template 82 is configured to be quickly fixed in position on the sheathing 34 for use in cutting the slot 72 to receive the truss hanger 26. Portions of the slot template 82 are configured to be pressed into the sheathing 34 to locate the template on the sheathing and retain the template in position for cutting the slot 72. In the illustrated embodiment, the horizontal panel includes prongs 92 that are bent downward for insertion into the top face of the sheathing 34. Bottom corners 94 of the vertical panel 84 are bent rearward for insertion into the interior face 50 of the sheathing 34. The prongs 92 and the corners 94 are inserted into the sheathing 34 to retain the template 82 in position for cutting the slot 72. In addition, the vertical panel 84 optionally includes dimples 96 extending toward the rear face 86 of the vertical panel 84. The dimples 96 ensure the vertical panel 84 remains slightly spaced from the interior face 50 of the sheathing 34 so the template 82 can be easily removed from the sheathing after the slot 72 is cut.

[0062] The template 82 includes a guide slot 98 to guide a cutting tool in cutting the slot 72 in the sheathing 34. The guide slot 98 extends from a top edge of the vertical panel 84 to a location spaced from a bottom edge of the vertical panel. As illustrated, the guide slot 98 includes a wide, rectangular portion 98a in the horizontal panel 88 to ease insertion of a cutting tool into the guide slot. A converging portion 98b of the slot 98 in the vertical panel 84 transitions from the wide portion 98a to a narrow lower portion 98c of the slot. This facilitates entry of the cutting tool into the narrow portion 98c. The narrow portion 98c of the guide slot 98 is dimensioned to facilitate cutting the slot 72 in the sheathing 34 to a size

configured to receive the extension flanges 60 of the truss hanger 26.

[0063] As seen in Fig. 24, the template 82 described above can be formed as one piece from a metal blank 100 that is stamped from a sheet metal roll and bent into shape. In one embodiment, the template 82 is stamped from 16 gauge steel, although other thicknesses (e.g., 12-18 gauge) and other suitable materials are within the scope of the present invention.

[0064] In use, the template 82 is placed on the sheathing 34 in a selected location for a slot 72. The template can be used to cut the slot 72 in the sheathing 34 either before or after the sheathing is mounted on the wall 28. The prongs 92 and corners 94 are inserted into the sheathing 34 by tapping with a hand or striking with a hammer or other blunt instrument. Once the template 82 is secured in position on the sheathing 34, a cutting tool (e.g., a drywall cutout tool) is inserted into the guide slot 98 to cut a slot 72 in the sheathing at the location of the guide slot. In one embodiment, a drywall cutout tool with a 1/8" or 1/4" spiral bit is used to cut the slot 72, although other cutting tools are within the scope of the present invention. After the slot 72 is cut in the sheathing 34, the template 82 is removed from the sheathing. The sheathing 34 is then configured to receive the truss hanger 26.

[0065] Referring again to Figs. 2-8, the connection portion of the hanger includes a pair of connector tabs 74 extending from the back flanges 66. Each connector tab 74 extends generally perpendicular from one of the back flanges 66. The connector tabs 74 are generally horizontal when the hanger 26 is installed. The connector tabs 74 are configured to engage an upper surface of the top plate 30 of the wall 28 at a second

location L_2 spaced from the first location L_1 . The connector tabs 74 can be used to attach the truss hanger 26 to the wall, thereby hanging the floor trusses 12 from the wall. As seen in Fig. 1, the connector tabs 74 extend over a portion of the top plate 30 of the wall 28. Each connector tab 74 includes fastening structure, such as nail holes 76, for insertion of a fastening member, such as nails 78 (see Figs. 10 and 10A), to attach the hanger 26 to the wall 28. In the illustrated embodiment, each connector tab 74 includes three nail holes 76. Other configurations are within the scope of the present invention, such as a different number of nail holes, or alternate fastening structure such as nailing teeth or other appropriate structure for fastening the hanger to the wall.

[0066] The base 44 and back flanges 66 of the truss hanger 26 cooperate to stabilize the truss hanger 26 and protect the fire retardant sheathing 34 under the loads transferred from the truss 12 to the wall 28 by way of the hanger. The channel 52 that receives an end portion of the truss 12 is spaced to the interior of the wall 28 and more particularly to the interior of the second location L_2 where the connector tabs 74 are attached to an upper surface of the top plate 30. The vertically downward load of the truss 12 applied to the base 44 of the truss hanger 26 urges the truss hanger 26 to pivot so that the base would move toward the wall 28, which could damage the fire retardant sheathing 34 and pry out the nails 78 connecting the connector tabs 74 to the upper surface of the top plate 30. However, this motion is resisted by the engagement of the back flanges 66 with the interior vertical face of the top plate 30 at the first location L_1 . Thus, there is a force couple between the base 44 of the hanger 26 carrying the vertical load of the truss 12 and the back panels 48 of the hanger (via engagement of

the back flanges 66 with the top plate 30) engaging the end face of the truss. Accordingly, the truss hanger 26 and truss 12 are stable with minimal disruption of the fire retardant sheathing 34, even though the truss is held at a distance from the wall 28 by the truss hanger.

[0067] As seen in Fig. 15, a truss hanger 26 as described above can be formed as one piece from a metal blank 80 that is stamped from a sheet metal roll and bent into shape. In one embodiment, the truss hanger 26 is stamped from 12-14 gauge steel, although other suitable materials are within the scope of the present invention. The configuration of the truss hanger 26 of the present invention allows a lighter gauge metal to be used.

[0068] In use, the truss hanger 26 is positioned in the slot 72 of the fire retardant sheathing 34 mounted on the wall 28. As seen in Figs. 9-14A, one method of using the truss hanger 26 includes cutting the slot 72 in the fire retardant sheathing 34 (either before or after the sheathing is mounted on the wall). In one embodiment, the slot 72 can be cut using the slot template 82 (either before or after the sheathing 34 is mounted to the wall 28). The slot can be any suitable length, and in one embodiment is about 10 inches long. The truss hanger 26 is then positioned against the fire retardant sheathing 34 so that the extension flanges 60 extend through the slot 72. In one embodiment, the hanger 26 is slid downward into place so that the extension flanges 60 extend through the slot 72, the back flanges 66 are positioned adjacent the wall 28, and the fire retardant sheathing 34 is positioned in the sheathing channels 68 between the back flanges and the back panels 48. The hanger connector tabs 74 are fastened to the top plate 30 of the wall 28 by any suitable means, such as by inserting nail 78

through the nail holes 76. Then, a truss member, e.g. truss bottom chord 16, is positioned in the truss channel 52 of the hanger 26 (see Fig. 1), thereby securing the floor truss 12 to the wall 28. The truss hanger 26 is then fastened to the truss 12 by any suitable means, such as by inserting nails 56 through the nail holes 54 in each side panel 46 of the hanger. The hanger 26 is thus secured to both the truss 12 and the wall 28, with the fire retardant sheathing 34 secured between the hanger and the wall.

[0069] In another embodiment, the truss hangers 26 can be installed without pre-forming the slot 72 in the fire retardant sheathing 34. More particularly, each hanger 26 can be driven into the sheathing 34. The driving point 62 of the hanger 26 is positioned against a top edge of the fire retardant sheathing. The hanger 26 is then driven downward into the sheathing 34, led by the pointed tip 64. The hanger 26 continues to be driven into the gypsum boards until the connector tabs 74 engage the upper surface of the top plate 30. In this way, the hanger 26 forms the slot in the sheathing 34.

[0070] In still another embodiment, the truss hangers 26 can be installed on the wall 28 before the sheathing 34 is mounted on the wall. This simplifies construction by allowing the building to be completely framed and roofed before requiring the sheathing 34 to be installed. Trade workers (e.g., mechanical, electrical) therefore have complete access to the wall cavity to install components without interference from the sheathing 34. The truss hanger 26 is positioned against the wall 28 such that the back flanges 66 engage the wall and the connector tabs 74 engage the top plate 30. The connector tabs 74 are fastened to the top plate 30 of the wall by any suitable means, such as by inserting nails 78 through nail holes 76.

Then, a truss 12 is positioned in the truss channel 52 of the hanger 26. The truss hanger is fastened to the truss 12 by any suitable means, such as by inserting nails 56 through the nail holes 54 in each side panel 46 of the hanger 26. The floor truss 12 is thereby secured to the hanger 26 and the wall 28, and access to the wall cavity remains unhindered by sheathing. Subsequently, the sheathing 34 can be mounted on the wall 28 by moving the sheathing upward into place so that the extension flanges 60 of the hanger 26 extend through the slot 72 of the sheathing and the sheathing is positioned in the sheathing channels 68 between the back flanges 66 and the back panels 48.

[0071] Referring to Figs. 25-40, a second embodiment of a truss hanger 126 for use in mounting the floor truss 12 to the wall 28 is illustrated. The truss hanger 126 is similar to the truss hanger 26 described above, with differences as pointed out herein. Where the truss hanger 26 is configured for mounting the floor truss 12 generally orthogonal to the wall 28, the truss hanger 126 is configured for mounting the floor truss 12 in a skewed position relative to the wall.

[0072] Referring to Figs. 26-33, the truss hanger 126 includes a channel-shaped portion 138, an extension portion 140, and a connection portion 142. The channel-shaped portion 138 is configured to receive the floor truss 12. The channel-shaped portion 138 is configured to support the floor truss 12 at a non-orthogonal angle relative to the wall 28. In this skewed embodiment, the channel-shaped portion 138 is offset from the extension portion 140. The channel-shaped portion 138 includes a seat or base 144 and a pair of side panels 146 extending upward from the base. When installed, the base 144 is generally horizontal, and the side panels 146 extend generally vertical from the base. A back panel 148 extends from one of the side

panels 146a toward the opposing side panel 146b. The back panel 148 is generally perpendicular to both the side panels 146 and the base 144. When installed, the back panel 148 extends at a non-orthogonal angle (e.g., about 45 °) to the interior face 50 of the fire retardant sheathing 34. The base 144, side panels 146, and back panel 148 form a channel 152 configured to receive the floor truss 12. Other configurations are within the scope of the present invention. For example, the truss hanger 126 can be configured to support the floor truss 12 at a range of different angles with respect to the wall 28.

[0073] As seen in Figs. 25 and 39, the floor truss 12 is received in the channel 152 to attach the floor truss to the wall 28 at a skewed angle. The bottom chord 16 of the floor truss 12 engages and rests upon (i.e., is supported by) the base 144. The end member 20 of the floor truss 12 is positioned against the back panel 148 between the side panels 146. The truss hanger 126 includes fastening structure for attaching the floor truss 12 to the truss hanger. Fastening structure can be of any type known in the art for attaching a connector to a wooden structural member, such as nailing teeth (not shown) struck from the material of the hanger. In the illustrated embodiment, the fastening structure comprises a hole to allow for insertion of a fastening member. More specifically, in one embodiment the fastening structure comprises nail holes 154 in the side panels 146 of the truss hanger 126 (see, Fig. 26), and the fastening member comprises a nail 156 (see, Fig. 25). In the illustrated embodiment, nail holes 154 are positioned on each of the side panels 146 so that nails 156 can be inserted into both the bottom chord 16 and the end member 20 of the floor truss 12 to attach the hanger 126 to the floor truss.

[0074] Referring again to Figs. 26-33, the extension portion 140 includes two extension flanges 160 configured to extend through the fire retardant sheathing 34. One of the flanges 160a extends from the back panel 148. The other flange 160b extends from the side panel 146b. The flanges 160 are positioned in opposed, face-to-face relation, and preferably engage each other along a juncture. At a bottom edge, each flange 160 includes a driving point 162. Each of the driving points 162 is generally triangular and includes a pointed tip 164. As seen in Fig. 28, the tips 164 of the driving points 162 are vertically offset from each other. As illustrated, the tip 164a of one flange 160a extends vertically below the tip 164b of the other flange 160b. In one embodiment, the tips 164 are vertically offset from each other about 1/8", although other configurations are within the scope of the present invention, such as tips that are aligned or tips that are offset a smaller or larger amount.

[0075] A back flange 166 extends from the extension flange 160 generally perpendicular from the extension flange. Referring to Fig. 38, the back flange 166 engages the wall 28 at a first location L₁₀, which in the illustrated embodiment is a vertical face of the top plate 30 of the wall behind the fire retardant sheathing 34. The back flange 166 comprises a back flange portion 166a bent from the extension flange 160a and a back flange portion 166b bent from the extension flange 160b. The back panel 148, side panel 146b, extension flanges 160, and back flange 166 form a pair of sheathing channels 168 (see, Fig. 32). Each sheathing channel 168 is configured to receive a portion of the fire retardant sheathing 34.

[0076] As seen in Figs. 34-36, the extension flanges 160 extend through the slot 72 in the fire retardant sheathing 34.

Preferably, the slot has an area less than or equal to 6 square inches, and the gap between the extension flanges 60 and the edge of the slot 72 is less than or equal to 1/8". The driving points 162 extend down into the sheathing 34 to engage the sheathing and further secure the sheathing between the hanger 126 and the wall 28. A portion of the fire retardant sheathing 34 extends into each sheathing channel 168 and is secured against the back flange 166.

[0077] Referring again to Figs. 26-33, the connection portion 142 of the hanger 126 includes a pair of connector tabs 174 extending from the back flange portions 166a, 166b. Each connector tab 174 extends generally perpendicular from a respective one of the back flanges 166a, 166b. The connector tabs 174 are generally horizontal when the hanger 126 is installed. The connector tabs 174 are configured to overlies and engage an upper surface of the top plate 30 of the wall 28 at a second location L₂₀ spaced from the first location L₁₀ (see, Figs. 37 and 38). The connector tabs 174 can be used to attach the truss hanger 126 to the wall 28, thereby hanging the floor trusses 12 from the wall. As seen in Fig. 25, the connector tabs 174 extend over a portion of the top plate 30 of the wall 28. Each connector tab 174 includes fastening structure, such as nail holes 176, for insertion of a fastening member, such as nails 178 (see Figs. 34 and 35), to attach the hanger 126 to the wall 28. In the illustrated embodiment, each connector tab 174 includes three nail holes 176. Other configurations are within the scope of the present invention, such as a different number of nail holes, or alternate fastening structure such as nailing teeth or other appropriate structure for fastening the hanger to the wall.

[0078] The base 144 and back flanges 166 cooperate to stabilize the truss hanger 126 and protect the fire retardant sheathing 34 from exposure to the loads transferred from the truss 12 to the wall 28 by way of the truss hanger 126. The channel 152 that receives an end portion of the truss 12 is spaced to the interior of the wall 28 and more particularly to the interior of the second location L_{20} where the connector tabs 174 are attached to an upper surface of the top plate 30 (see Fig. 38). The vertically downward load of the truss 126 applied to the base 144 of the truss hanger 126 urges the truss hanger to pivot so that the base would move toward the wall 28, which could damage the fire retardant sheathing 34 and pry out the nails 178 connecting the connector tabs 174 to the upper surface of the top plate 30. However, this motion is resisted by the engagement of the back flanges 166 with the interior vertical face of the top plate 30 at the first location L_{10} . Thus, there is a force couple between the base 144 and back panel 148 of the hanger 126 (via engagement of the back flanges 166 with the top plate 30) engaging the end fact of the truss. Accordingly, the truss hanger 126 and truss 12 are stable with minimal disruption of the fire retardant sheathing 34, even though the truss is held at a distance from the wall 28.

[0079] As seen in Fig. 40, a truss hanger 126 as described above can be formed as one piece from a metal blank 180 that is stamped from a sheet metal roll and bent into shape. Parts of the blank 180 are labelled with reference numerals corresponding to the various parts of the formed truss hanger 126. In one embodiment, the truss hanger 126 is stamped from 12-14 gauge steel, although other suitable materials are within the scope of the present invention. The configuration of the truss hanger

126 of the present invention allows a lighter gauge metal to be used.

[0080] The truss hanger 126 is used as described above with reference to the truss hanger 26. In use, the truss hanger 126 is positioned in the slot 72 of the fire retardant sheathing 34 mounted to the wall 28. One method of using the truss hanger 126 includes cutting the slot 72 in the fire retardant sheathing 34 (either before or after the sheathing is mounted on the wall). In one embodiment, the slot 72 can be cut using the slot template 82 (either before or after the sheathing 34 is mounted to the wall 28). The slot 72 can be any suitable length, and in one embodiment is about 10 inches long. The truss hanger 126 is then positioned against the fire retardant sheathing 34 so that the extension flanges 160 extend through the slot 72. In one embodiment, the hanger 126 is slid downward into place so that the extension flanges 160 extend through the slot 72, the driving point 162 engages the fire retardant sheathing 34, the back flange 166 is positioned adjacent the wall 28, and the fire retardant sheathing is positioned in the sheathing channels 168 of the hanger. The hanger connector tabs 174 are fastened to the top plate 30 of the wall 28 by driving nails 178 through the nail holes 176 into the top plate 30. Then, a truss member, e.g. truss bottom chord 16 is positioned in the truss channel 152 of the hanger 126. Nails 156 are driven through holes 154 in the side panels 146 to secure the floor truss 12 to the wall 28. The hanger 126 is thus secured to both the truss 12 and the wall 28, with the fire retardant sheathing 34 between the hanger and the wall.

[0081] In another embodiment, the truss hangers 126 can be installed without pre-forming the slot 72 in the fire retardant sheathing 34. More particularly, each hanger 126 can be driven

into the sheathing 34. The pointed tip 164 of the driving point 162 of the hanger 126 is positioned against a top edge of the fire retardant sheathing 34. The hanger 126 is then driven downward into the sheathing 34, led by the pointed tip 164. The hanger 126 continues to be driven into the gypsum boards until the connector tabs 174 engage the upper surface of the top plate 30. In this way, the hanger 126 forms the slot in the sheathing 34.

[0082] In another embodiment, the truss hangers 126 can be installed on the wall 28 before the sheathing 34 is mounted on the wall. This simplifies construction by allowing the building to be completely framed and roofed before requiring the sheathing 34 to be installed. Trade workers (e.g., mechanical, electrical) therefore have complete access to the wall cavity to install components without interference from the sheathing 34. The truss hanger 126 is positioned against the wall 28 such that the back flange 166 engages the wall and the connector tabs 174 engage the top plate 30. The connector tabs 174 are fastened to the top plate 30 of the wall by any suitable means, such as by inserting nails 178 through nail holes 176. Then, a truss 12 is positioned in the truss channel 152 of the hanger 126. The truss hanger 126 is fastened to the truss 12 by any suitable means, such as by inserting nails 156 through the nail holes 154 in each side panel 146 of the hanger. The floor truss 12 is thereby secured to the hanger 126 and the wall 28, and access to the wall cavity remains unhindered by sheathing. Subsequently, the sheathing 34 can be mounted on the wall 28 by moving the sheathing upward into place so that the extension flanges 160 of the hanger 126 extend through the slot 72 of the sheathing and the sheathing is positioned in the sheathing channels 168 of the hanger.

[0083] The truss hanger 26, 126 permits a floor truss 12 to be secured to a wall 28 through fire retardant sheathing 34 with minimal interruption to the sheathing. Installation of the truss hanger minimally disrupts the continuity of the sheathing and therefore does not reduce the fire resistive rating of a fire rated assembly. The extension flanges 60, 160 extend through the fire retardant sheathing 34 so that the sheathing is interrupted only by the slot 72 required to receive the flanges. The back flanges 66, 166 engage the wall 28 behind the sheathing 34 to stabilize the hanger 26, 126 and protect the sheathing. The truss hanger 26, 126 can be mounted on a wall already having sheathing mounted thereon, or can be mounted on a wall before the sheathing (i.e., the sheathing does not have to be mounted on the wall before the truss hanger), thereby simplifying construction. The truss hanger 26, 126 can be formed from a metal blank 80, 180, which reduces the number of parts required to hang the floor truss 12 and simplifies the manufacturing process.

[0084] In an independent test performed by an outside firm, the truss hanger was installed as part of a wall assembly including 2x6 wood studs, 24" on center, with two layers of 5/8" Type X gypsum attached to each side. The gypsum board included a slot to accommodate the hanger. The hanger was fixed to the top plate of the wall with six 10d common nails in the connector tabs. The cavities in the wall were filled with mineral wool insulation. The testing was performed per ASTM E814 which subjected the specimen to the time/temperature curve prescribed in ASTM E119 for a period of two hours, followed by a hose stream test. As a result of this testing, the outside firm reported that when installed on one side of a maximum 2 hour fire-rated wall assembly, the penetration of the truss hanger

through the gypsum board will not reduce the fire resistive rating of the 2 hour fire resistive assembly.

[0085] Having described the invention in detail, it will be apparent that modifications and variations are possible without departing from the scope of the invention defined in the appended claims.

[0086] When introducing elements of the present invention or the preferred embodiments(s) thereof, the articles "a", "an", "the" and "said" are intended to mean that there are one or more of the elements. The terms "comprising", "including" and "having" are intended to be inclusive and mean that there may be additional elements other than the listed elements.

[0087] In view of the above, it will be seen that the several objects of the invention are achieved and other advantageous results attained.

[0088] As various changes could be made in the above products without departing from the scope of the invention, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description and shown in the accompanying drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

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Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	MLP 7708.USC6
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	HANGER FOR FIRE SEPARATION WALL		
The application data sheet is part of the provisional or nonprovisional application for which it is being submitted. The following form contains the bibliographic data arranged in a format specified by the United States Patent and Trademark Office as outlined in 37 CFR 1.76. This document may be completed electronically and submitted to the Office in electronic format using the Electronic Filing System (EFS) or the document may be printed and included in a paper filed application.			

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Title of the Invention	HANGER FOR FIRE SEPARATION WALL		
Attorney Docket Number	MLP 7708.USC6	Small Entity Status Claimed	☐
Application Type	Nonprovisional		
Subject Matter	Utility		
Total Number of Drawing Sheets (if any)	43	Suggested Figure for Publication (if any)	10

Filing By Reference:

Only complete this section when filing an application by reference under 35 U.S.C. 111(c) and 37 CFR 1.57(a). Do not complete this section if application papers including a specification and any drawings are being filed. Any domestic benefit or foreign priority information must be provided in the appropriate section(s) below (i.e., "Domestic Benefit/National Stage Information" and "Foreign Priority Information").

For the purposes of a filing date under 37 CFR 1.53(b), the description and any drawings of the present application are replaced by this reference to the previously filed application, subject to conditions and requirements of 37 CFR 1.57(a).

Application number of the previously filed application	Filing date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Intellectual Property Authority or Country

Publication Information:

☒ Request Early Publication (Fee required at time of Request 37 CFR 1.219)

☐ **Request Not to Publish.** I hereby request that the attached application not be published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b) and certify that the invention disclosed in the attached application **has not and will not be** the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication at eighteen months after filing.

Representative Information:

Representative information should be provided for all practitioners having a power of attorney in the application. Providing this information in the Application Data Sheet does not constitute a power of attorney in the application (see 37 CFR 1.32). Either enter Customer Number or complete the Representative Name section below. If both sections are completed the customer Number will be used for the Representative Information during processing.

Please Select One:	☒ Customer Number	☐ US Patent Practitioner	☐ Limited Recognition (37 CFR 11.9)
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Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	MLP 7708.USC6
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	HANGER FOR FIRE SEPARATION WALL		

Domestic Benefit/National Stage Information:

This section allows for the applicant to either claim benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121, 365(c), or 386(c) or indicate National Stage entry from a PCT application. Providing benefit claim information in the Application Data Sheet constitutes the specific reference required by 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or 120, and 37 CFR 1.78.

When referring to the current application, please leave the "Application Number" field blank.

Prior Application Status	Pending	Remove			
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)		
	Continuation of	18112843	2023-02-22		
Prior Application Status	Pending	Remove			
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)		
18112843	Continuation of	17235349	2021-04-20		
Prior Application Status	Patented	Remove			
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
17235349	Continuation of	16433799	2019-06-06	11021867	2021-06-21
Prior Application Status	Patented	Remove			
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
16433799	Continuation of	16225517	2018-12-19	10316510	2019-06-11
Prior Application Status	Patented	Remove			
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
16225517	Continuation of	15675409	2017-08-11	10184242	2019-01-22
Prior Application Status	Patented	Remove			
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
15675409	Continuation of	14555049	2014-11-26	10024049	2018-07-17
Prior Application Status	Expired	Remove			
Application Number	Continuity Type	Prior Application Number	Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD)		
14555049	Claims benefit of provisional	61922531	2013-12-31		
Additional Domestic Benefit/National Stage Data may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button. Add					

Foreign Priority Information:

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Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	MLP 7708.USC6
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	HANGER FOR FIRE SEPARATION WALL		

This section allows for the applicant to claim priority to a foreign application. Providing this information in the application data sheet constitutes the claim for priority as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b) and 37 CFR 1.55. When priority is claimed to a foreign application that is eligible for retrieval under the priority document exchange program (PDX)ⁱ the information will be used by the Office to automatically attempt retrieval pursuant to 37 CFR 1.55(i)(1) and (2). Under the PDX program, applicant bears the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that a copy of the foreign application is received by the Office from the participating foreign intellectual property office, or a certified copy of the foreign priority application is filed, within the time period specified in 37 CFR 1.55(g)(1).

Application Number	Country ⁱ	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Access Code ⁱ (if applicable)	Remove

Additional Foreign Priority Data may be generated within this form by selecting the **Add** button.

Statement under 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78 for AIA (First Inventor to File) Transition Applications

☐ This application (1) claims priority to or the benefit of an application filed before March 16, 2013 and (2) also contains, or contained at any time, a claim to a claimed invention that has an effective filing date on or after March 16, 2013.

NOTE: By providing this statement under 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78, this application, with a filing date on or after March 16, 2013, will be examined under the first inventor to file provisions of the AIA.

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	MLP 7708.USC6
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	HANGER FOR FIRE SEPARATION WALL		

Authorization or Opt-Out of Authorization to Permit Access:

When this Application Data Sheet is properly signed and filed with the application, applicant has provided written authority to permit a participating foreign intellectual property (IP) office access to the instant application-as-filed (see paragraph A in subsection 1 below) and the European Patent Office (EPO) access to any search results from the instant application (see paragraph B in subsection 1 below).

Should applicant choose not to provide an authorization identified in subsection 1 below, applicant **must opt-out** of the authorization by checking the corresponding box A or B or both in subsection 2 below.

NOTE: This section of the Application Data Sheet is **ONLY** reviewed and processed with the **INITIAL** filing of an application. After the initial filing of an application, an Application Data Sheet cannot be used to provide or rescind authorization for access by a foreign IP office(s). Instead, Form PTO/SB/39 or PTO/SB/69 must be used as appropriate.

1. Authorization to Permit Access by a Foreign Intellectual Property Office(s)

A. Priority Document Exchange (PDX) - Unless box A in subsection 2 (opt-out of authorization) is checked, the undersigned hereby **grants the USPTO authority** to provide the European Patent Office (EPO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (SIPO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and any other foreign intellectual property office participating with the USPTO in a bilateral or multilateral priority document exchange agreement in which a foreign application claiming priority to the instant patent application is filed, access to: (1) the instant patent application-as-filed and its related bibliographic data, (2) any foreign or domestic application to which priority or benefit is claimed by the instant application and its related bibliographic data, and (3) the date of filing of this Authorization. See 37 CFR 1.14(h)(1).

B. Search Results from U.S. Application to EPO - Unless box B in subsection 2 (opt-out of authorization) is checked, the undersigned hereby **grants the USPTO authority** to provide the EPO access to the bibliographic data and search results from the instant patent application when a European patent application claiming priority to the instant patent application is filed. See 37 CFR 1.14(h)(2).

The applicant is reminded that the EPO's Rule 141(1) EPC (European Patent Convention) requires applicants to submit a copy of search results from the instant application without delay in a European patent application that claims priority to the instant application.

2. Opt-Out of Authorizations to Permit Access by a Foreign Intellectual Property Office(s)

☐ A. Applicant **DOES NOT** authorize the USPTO to permit a participating foreign IP office access to the instant application-as-filed. If this box is checked, the USPTO will not be providing a participating foreign IP office with any documents and information identified in subsection 1A above.

☐ B. Applicant **DOES NOT** authorize the USPTO to transmit to the EPO any search results from the instant patent application. If this box is checked, the USPTO will not be providing the EPO with search results from the instant application.

NOTE: Once the application has published or is otherwise publicly available, the USPTO may provide access to the application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.14.

Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	MLP 7708.USC6
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	HANGER FOR FIRE SEPARATION WALL		

Applicant Information:

Providing assignment information in this section does not substitute for compliance with any requirement of part 3 of Title 37 of CFR to have an assignment recorded by the Office.			
Applicant 1			Remove
If the applicant is the inventor (or the remaining joint inventor or inventors under 37 CFR 1.45), this section should not be completed. The information to be provided in this section is the name and address of the legal representative who is the applicant under 37 CFR 1.43; or the name and address of the assignee, person to whom the inventor is under an obligation to assign the invention, or person who otherwise shows sufficient proprietary interest in the matter who is the applicant under 37 CFR 1.46. If the applicant is an applicant under 37 CFR 1.46 (assignee, person to whom the inventor is obligated to assign, or person who otherwise shows sufficient proprietary interest) together with one or more joint inventors, then the joint inventor or inventors who are also the applicant should be identified in this section.			
Clear			
☒ Assignee	☐ Legal Representative under 35 U.S.C. 117	☐ Joint Inventor	
☐ Person to whom the inventor is obligated to assign.	☐ Person who shows sufficient proprietary interest		
If applicant is the legal representative, indicate the authority to file the patent application, the inventor is:			
Name of the Deceased or Legally Incapacitated Inventor: <input type="text"/>			
If the Applicant is an Organization check here. ☒			
Organization Name	Columbia Insurance Company		
Mailing Address Information For Applicant:			
Address 1	1314 Douglas Street, Suite 1400		
Address 2			
City	Omaha	State/Province	NE
Country	US	Postal Code	68102
Phone Number		Fax Number	
Email Address			
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Assignee Information including Non-Applicant Assignee Information:

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Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	MLP 7708.USC6
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	HANGER FOR FIRE SEPARATION WALL		

Assignee 1

Complete this section if assignee information, including non-applicant assignee information, is desired to be included on the patent application publication. An assignee-applicant identified in the "Applicant Information" section will appear on the patent application publication as an applicant. For an assignee-applicant, complete this section only if identification as an assignee is also desired on the patent application publication.

[Remove](#)

If the Assignee or Non-Applicant Assignee is an Organization check here. ☐

Prefix	Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name	Suffix

Mailing Address Information For Assignee including Non-Applicant Assignee:

Address 1			
Address 2			
City		State/Province	
Country ⁱ		Postal Code	
Phone Number		Fax Number	
Email Address			

Additional Assignee or Non-Applicant Assignee Data may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button.

[Add](#)**Signature:**[Remove](#)

NOTE: This Application Data Sheet must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33(b). **However, if this Application Data Sheet is submitted with the INITIAL filing of the application and either box A or B is not checked in subsection 2 of the "Authorization or Opt-Out of Authorization to Permit Access" section, then this form must also be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.14(c).**

This Application Data Sheet **must** be signed by a patent practitioner if one or more of the applicants is a **juristic entity** (e.g., corporation or association). If the applicant is two or more joint inventors, this form must be signed by a patent practitioner, **all** joint inventors who are the applicant, or one or more joint inventor-applicants who have been given power of attorney (e.g., see USPTO Form PTO/AIA/81) on behalf of **all** joint inventor-applicants.

See 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the manner of making signatures and certifications.

Signature	/Kurt James/		Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2023-10-23	
First Name	Kurt	Last Name	James	Registration Number	33716

Additional Signature may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button.

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Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76		Attorney Docket Number	MLP 7708.USC6
		Application Number	
Title of Invention	HANGER FOR FIRE SEPARATION WALL		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.76. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 23 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application data sheet form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether the Freedom of Information Act requires disclosure of these records.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspections or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

ABSTRACT

A hanger for connecting a structural component to a wall that can have sheathing mounted thereon either before or after the hanger is connected to the wall. The hanger includes a channel-shaped portion configured to receive the structural component. An extension portion extends from the channel-shaped portion and is configured to extend through the sheathing to engage the wall at a first location. A connection portion is configured for attachment to the wall at a second location spaced from the first location.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A hanger for connecting a structural component to a wall adapted to have sheathing mounted thereon, the hanger comprising:

a channel-shaped portion configured to receive the structural component;

an extension portion extending from the channel-shaped portion and configured to extend through the sheathing to engage the wall at a first location; and

a connection portion configured for attachment to the wall at a second location spaced from the first location.

2. A hanger as set forth in claim 1, wherein the channel-shaped portion is disposed with respect to the extension portion to mount the structural component generally orthogonal to the wall.

3. A hanger as set forth in claim 1, wherein the channel-shaped portion is disposed with respect to the extension portion to mount the structural component at a non-orthogonal angle relative to the wall.

4. A hanger as set forth in claim 1, wherein the extension portion includes extension flanges extending from the channel-shaped portion, each of the extension flanges being configured to extend through the sheathing.

5. A hanger as set forth in claim 4, wherein the extension flanges are configured to engage each other along a juncture positioned within the sheathing.

6. A hanger as set forth in claim 4, wherein each of the extension flanges includes a driving point configured to be inserted into the sheathing.

7. A hanger as set forth in claim 1, wherein the connection portion includes connector tabs configured to overlie and engage a top plate of the wall.

8. A hanger as set forth in claim 1, wherein the extension portion includes back flanges configured to engage the wall at said first location.

9. A hanger as set forth in claim 1, wherein the channel-shaped portion includes a base sized and shaped for receiving the structural component thereon and side panels extending upward from the base, each of the side panels including fastening structure for use in attaching the hanger to the structural component.

10. A hanger as set forth in claim 9, wherein the channel-shaped portion further includes back panels, each of the back panels extending from a respective one of the side panels.

11. A hanger as set forth in claim 1, wherein the channel-shaped portion, the extension portion, and the connection portion are formed as one piece.

12. A hanger as set forth in claim 1 in combination with a slot template for cutting a slot in the sheathing configured to receive the extension portion of the hanger.

13. A truss hanger for connecting a truss to a wall adapted to have fire resistant sheathing mounted thereon, the truss hanger comprising:

a channel-shaped portion configured to receive the truss, the channel-shaped portion including a base sized and shaped for receiving a truss chord of the truss thereon, side panels extending upward from the base, and a back panel, the back panel extending from one of the side panels;

an extension portion extending from the channel-shaped portion and configured to extend through the fire resistant sheathing, the extension portion including extension flanges and back flanges, each of the extension flanges extending from the channel-shaped portion and each of the back flanges extending from a respective one of the extension flanges.

14. A truss hanger as set forth in claim 13, wherein each of the side panels includes fastening structure for use in attaching the truss hanger to the truss.

15. A truss hanger as set forth in claim 13, wherein each of the extension flanges is configured to extend through a slot in the fire retardant sheathing.

16. A truss hanger as set forth in claim 13, wherein the extension flanges are configured to engage each other along a juncture positioned within the fire resistant sheathing.

17. A truss hanger as set forth in claim 13, wherein each of the extension flanges includes a driving point configured to be inserted into the fire resistant sheathing.

18. A truss hanger as set forth in claim 17, wherein the driving points of the extension flanges are vertically offset from each other.

19. A truss hanger as set forth in claim 13, wherein the channel-shaped portion and the extension portion are formed as one piece of sheet metal.

20. A hanger for connecting a structural component to a wall adapted to have sheathing mounted thereon, the hanger comprising:

- a channel-shaped portion configured to receive the structural component;
- an extension portion configured to be disposed at least partially in the sheathing; and
- a connection portion configured for attachment to the wall.

FIG. 1

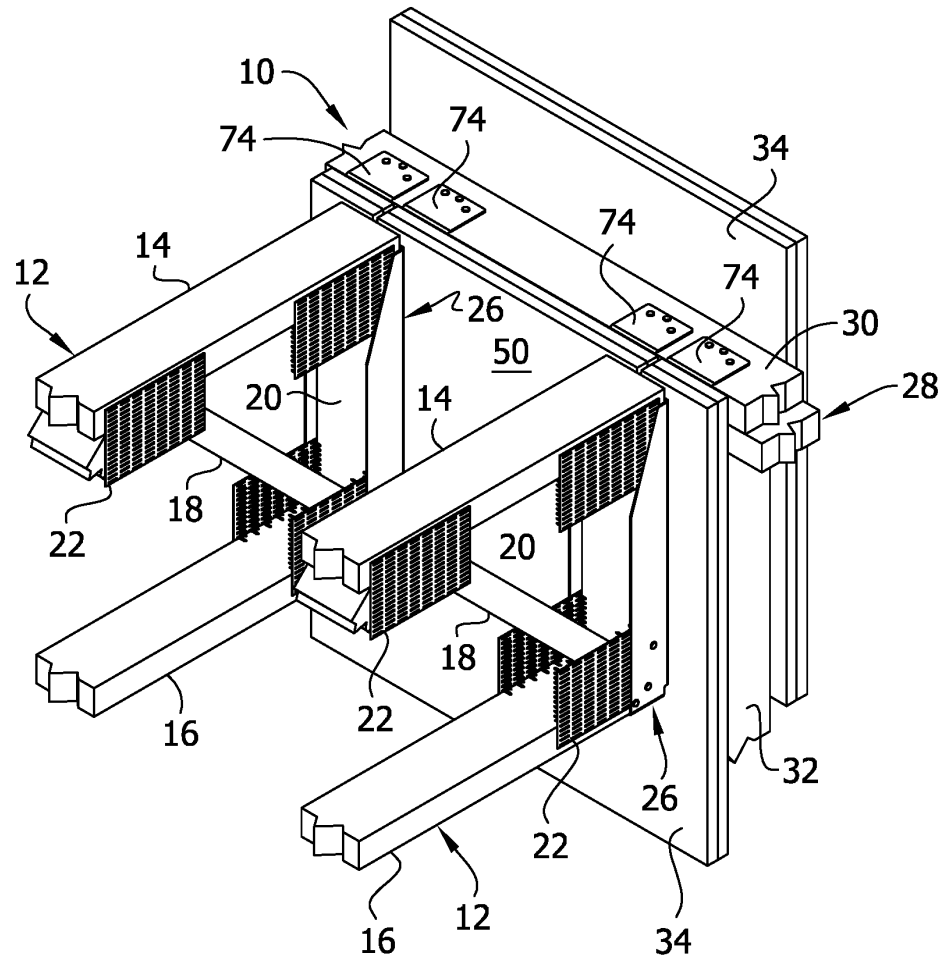


FIG. 2

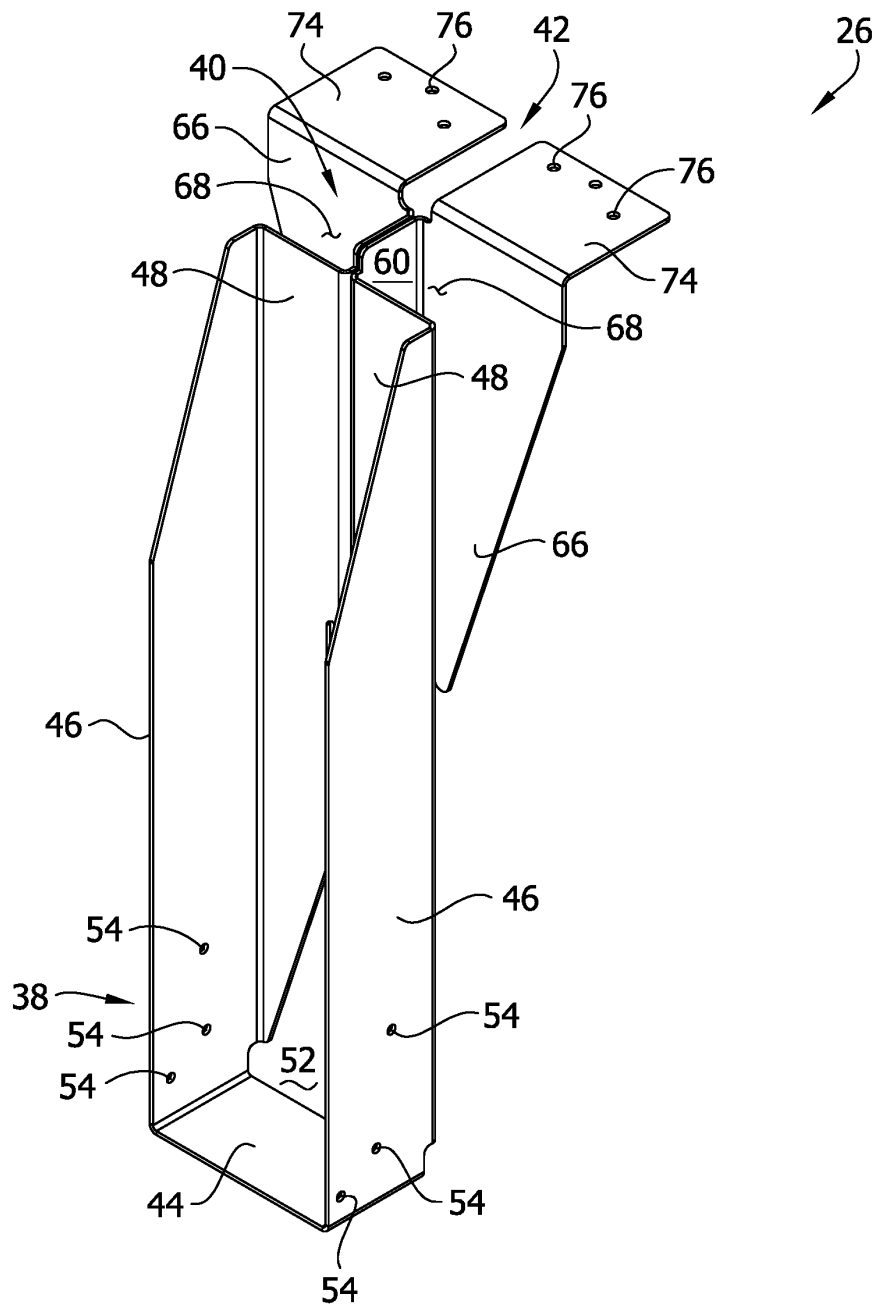


FIG. 2A

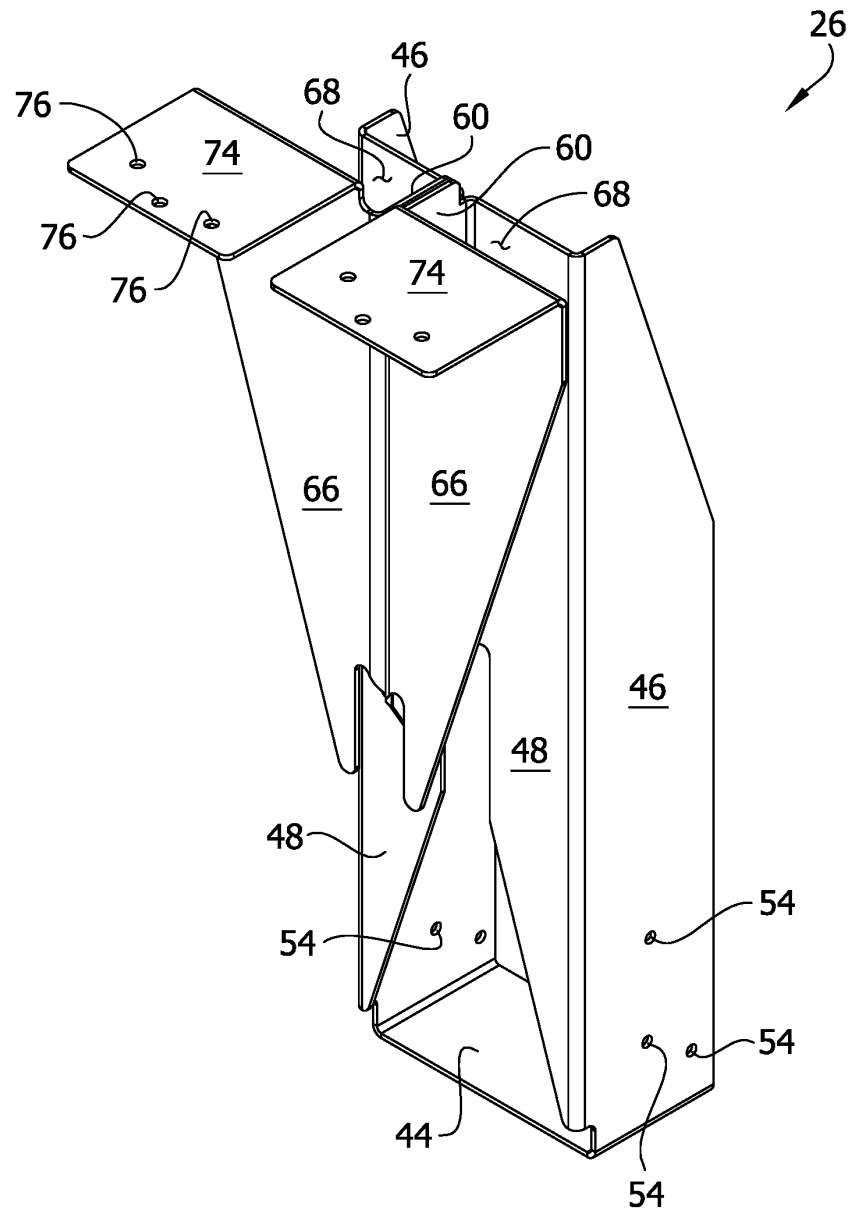


FIG. 3

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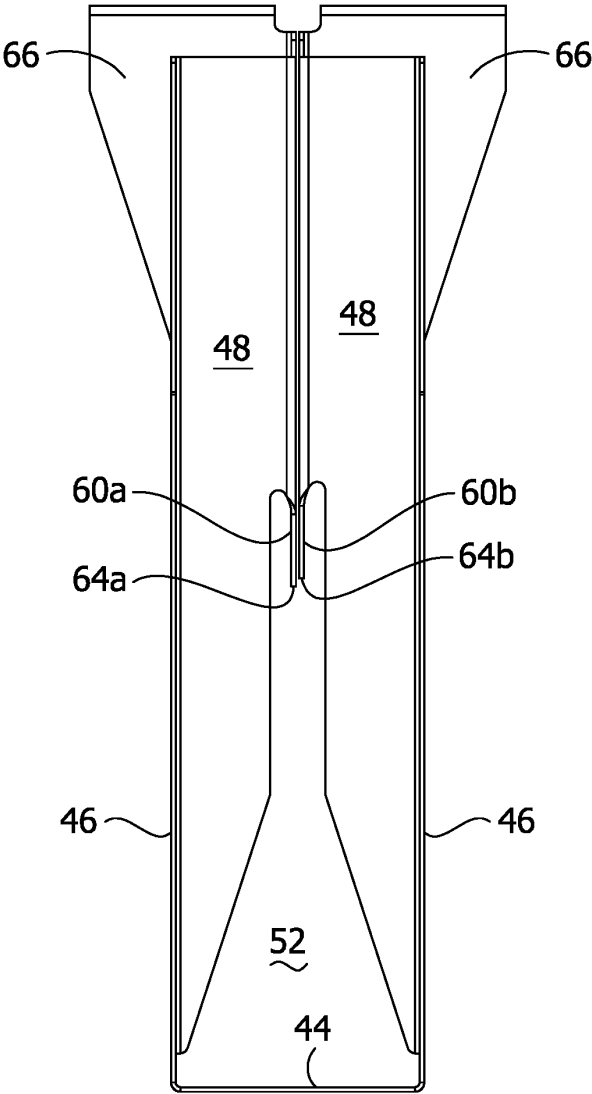


FIG. 4

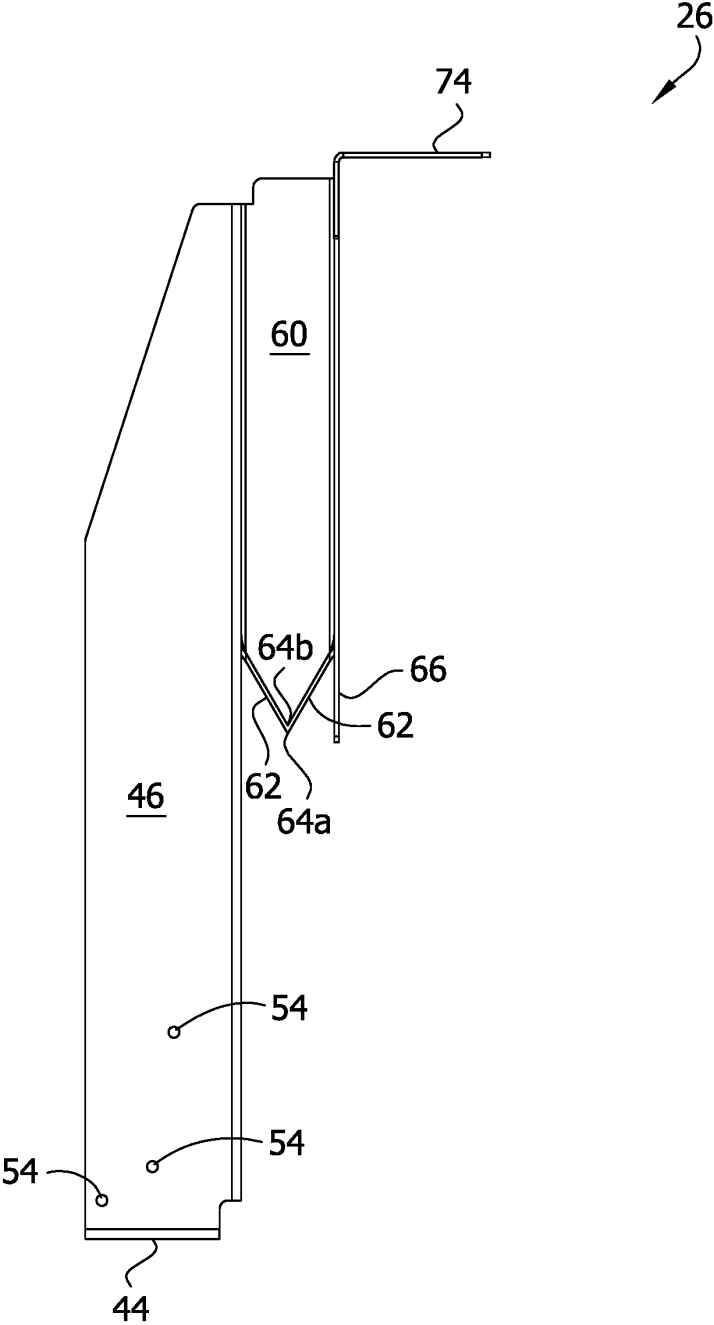


FIG. 5

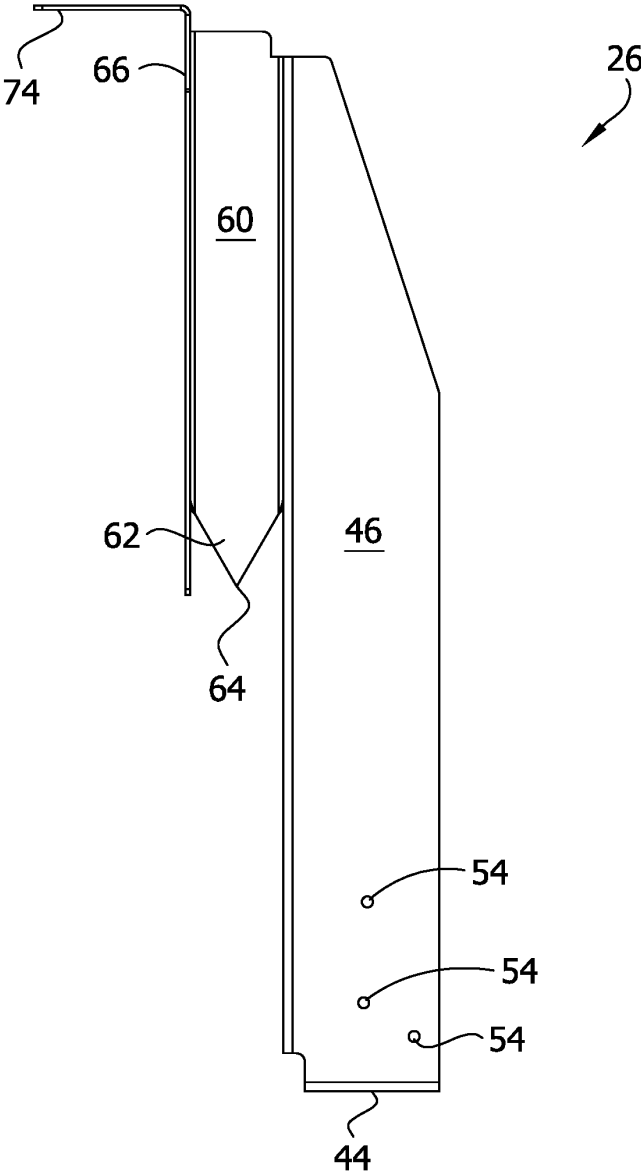


FIG. 6

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↙

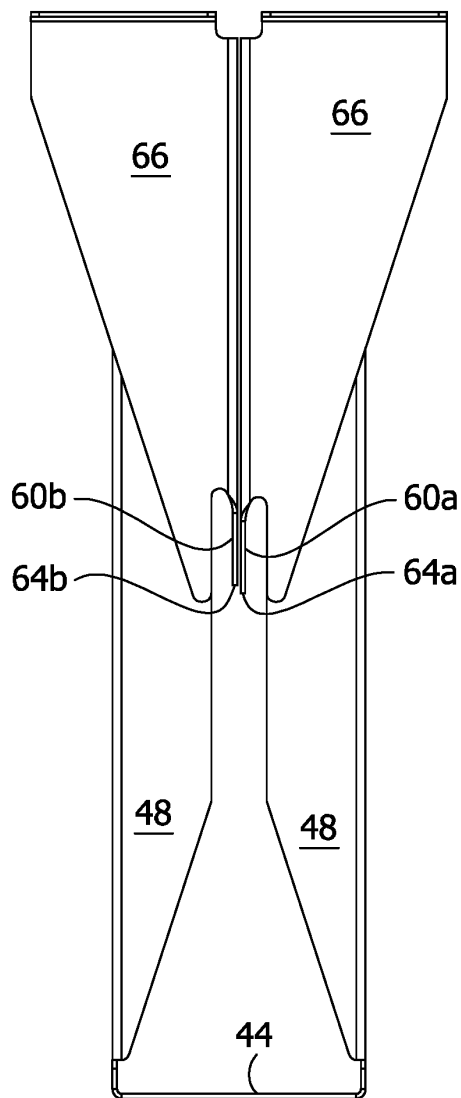


FIG. 7

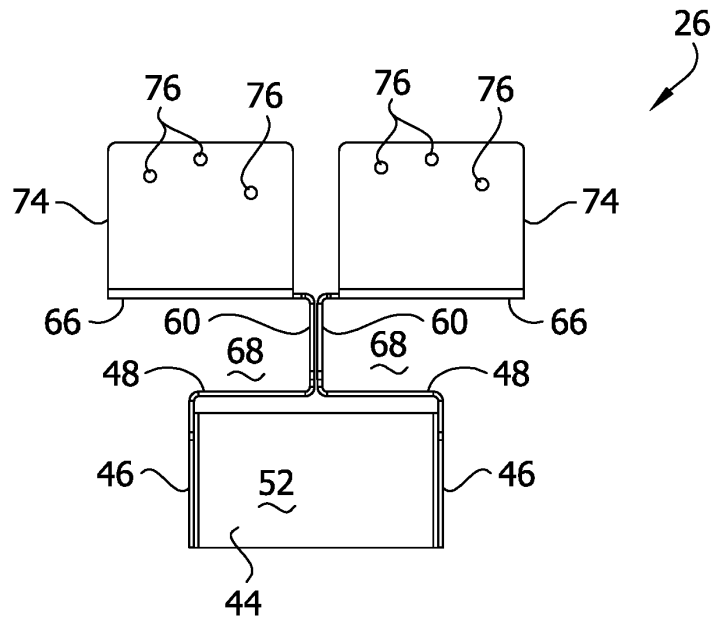


FIG. 8

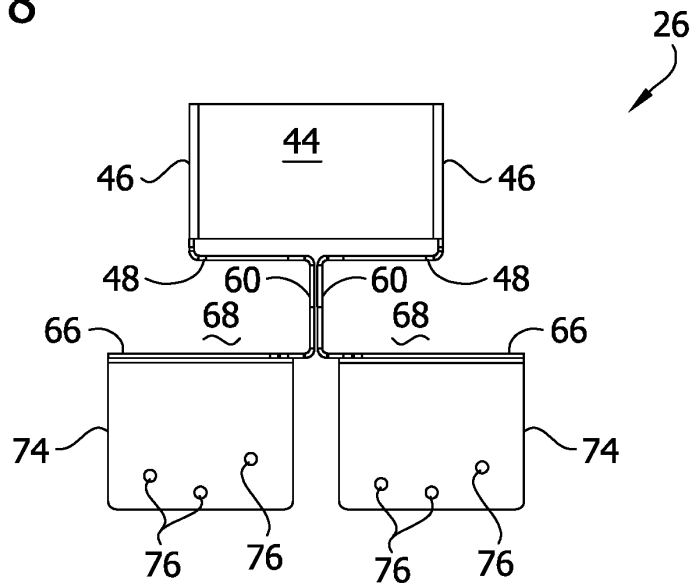
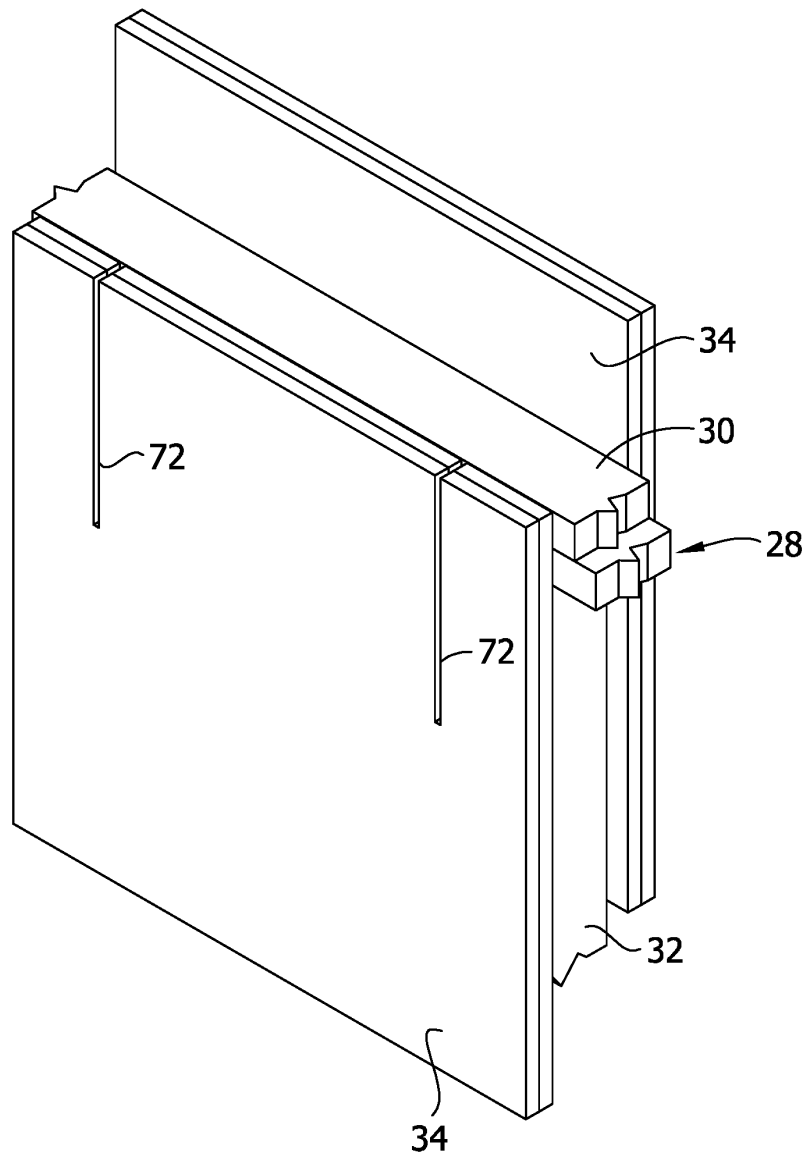


FIG. 9



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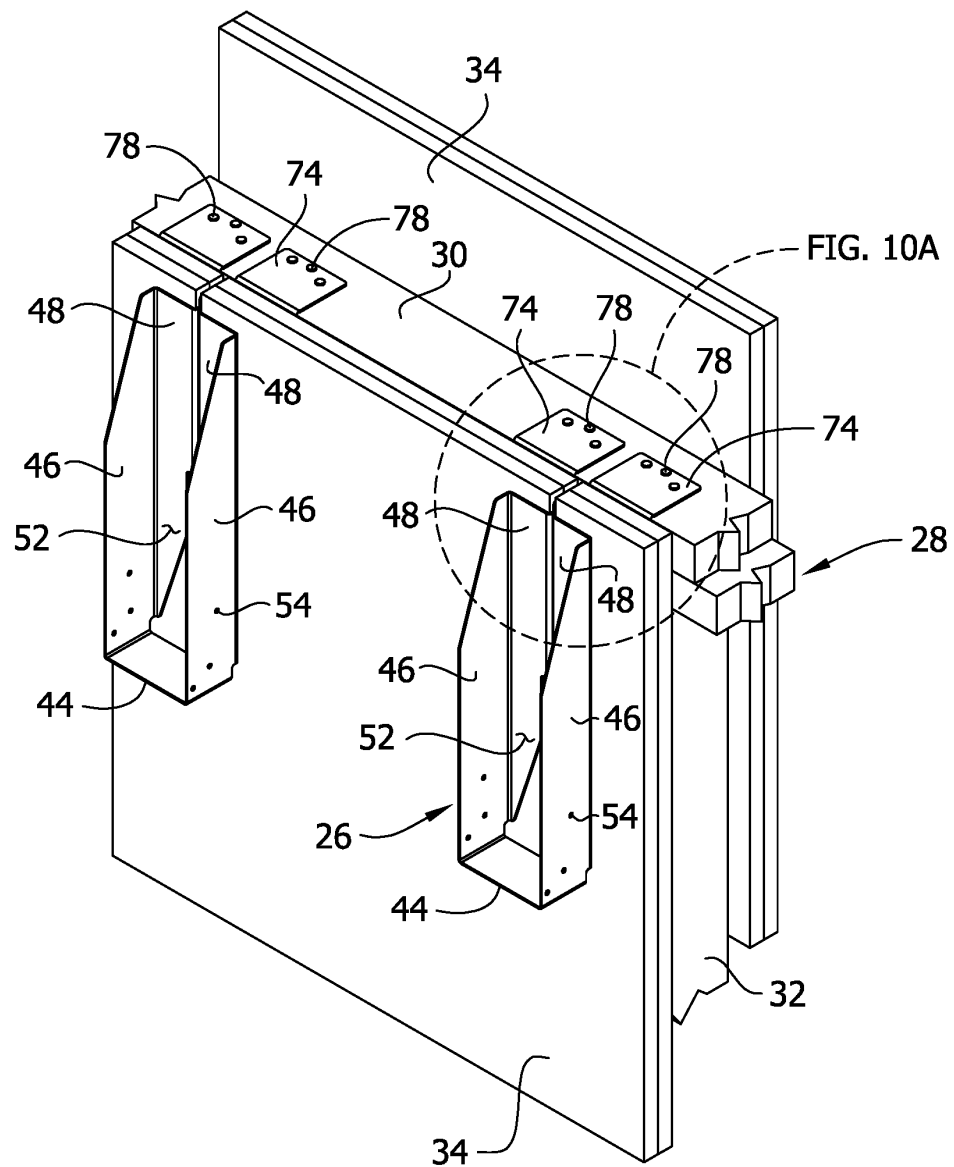


FIG. 10A

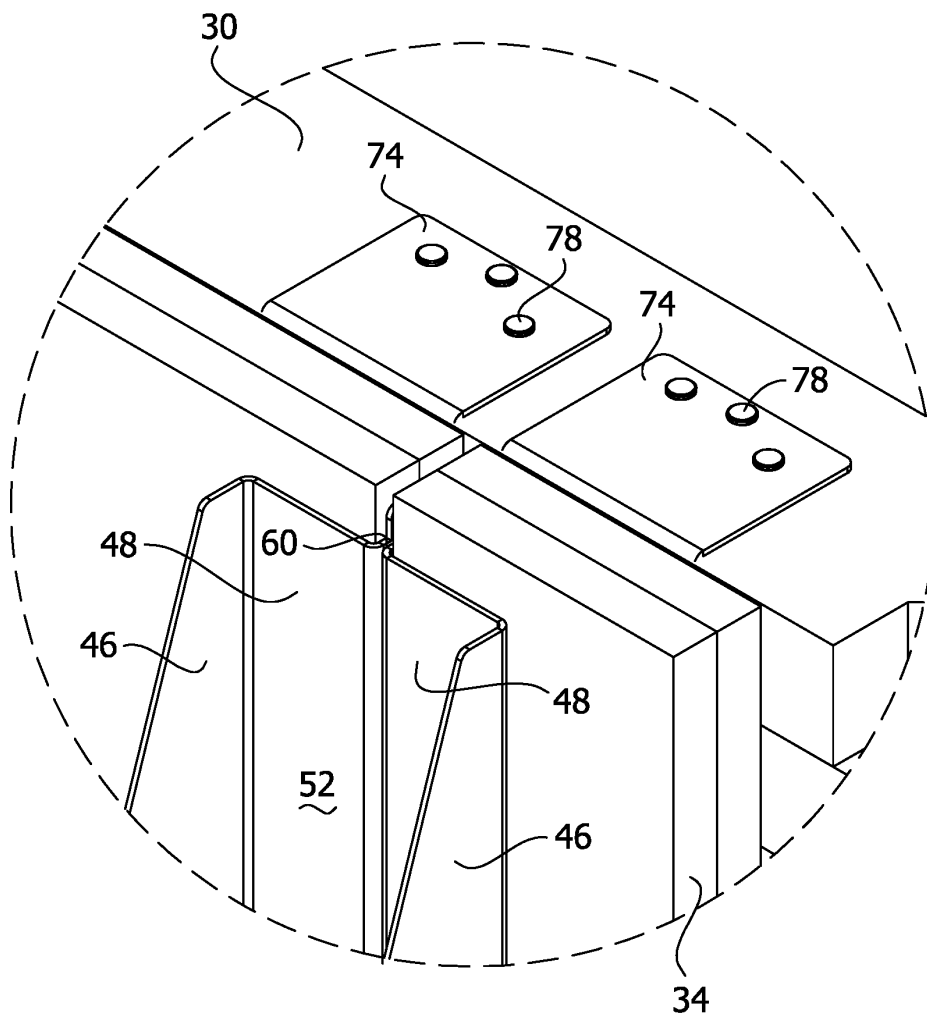


FIG. 11

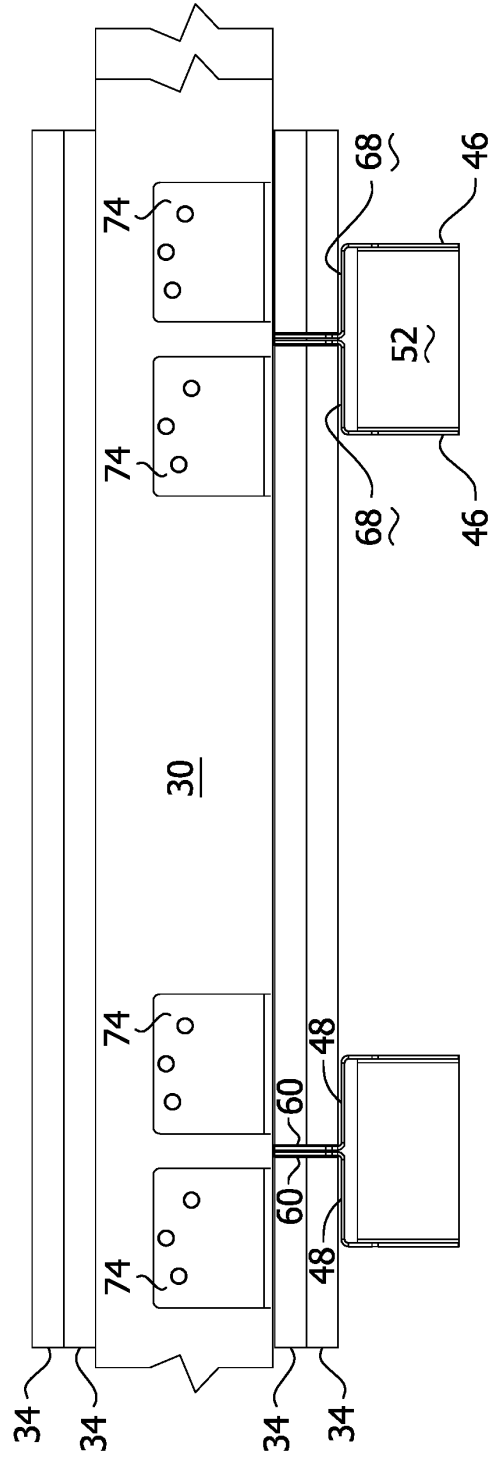
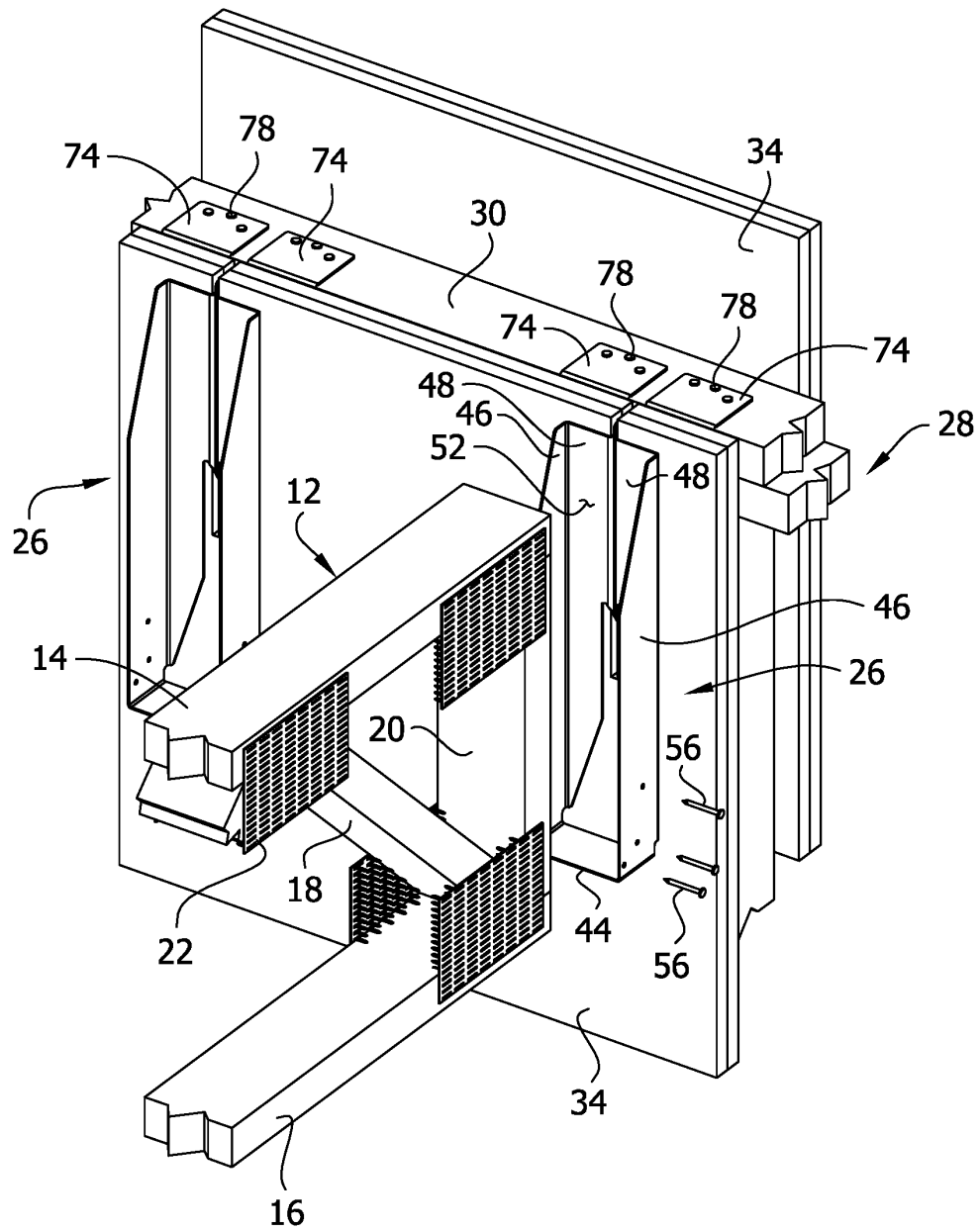


FIG. 12



[illegible]

FIG. 13A

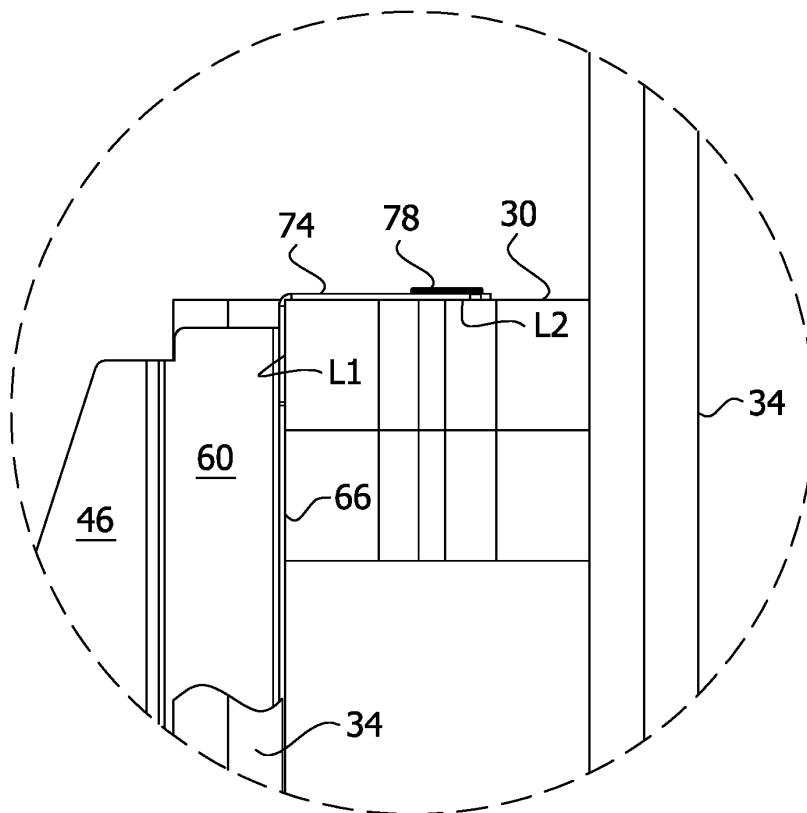


FIG. 14

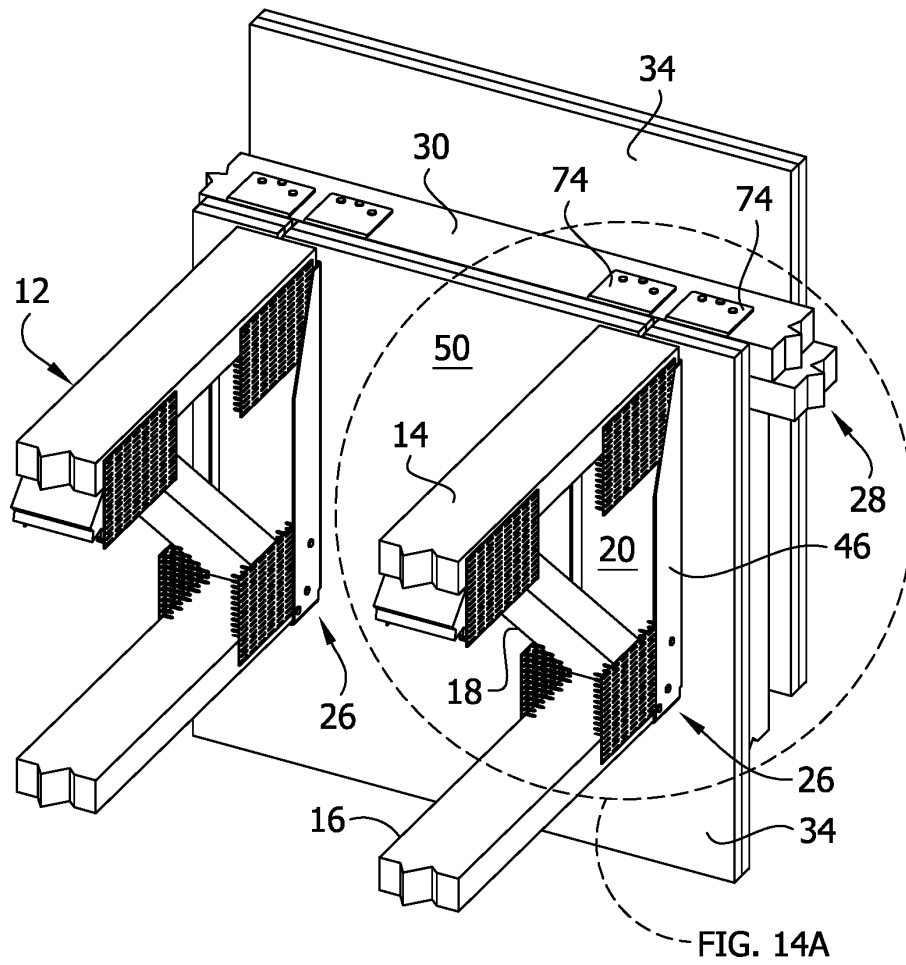


FIG. 15

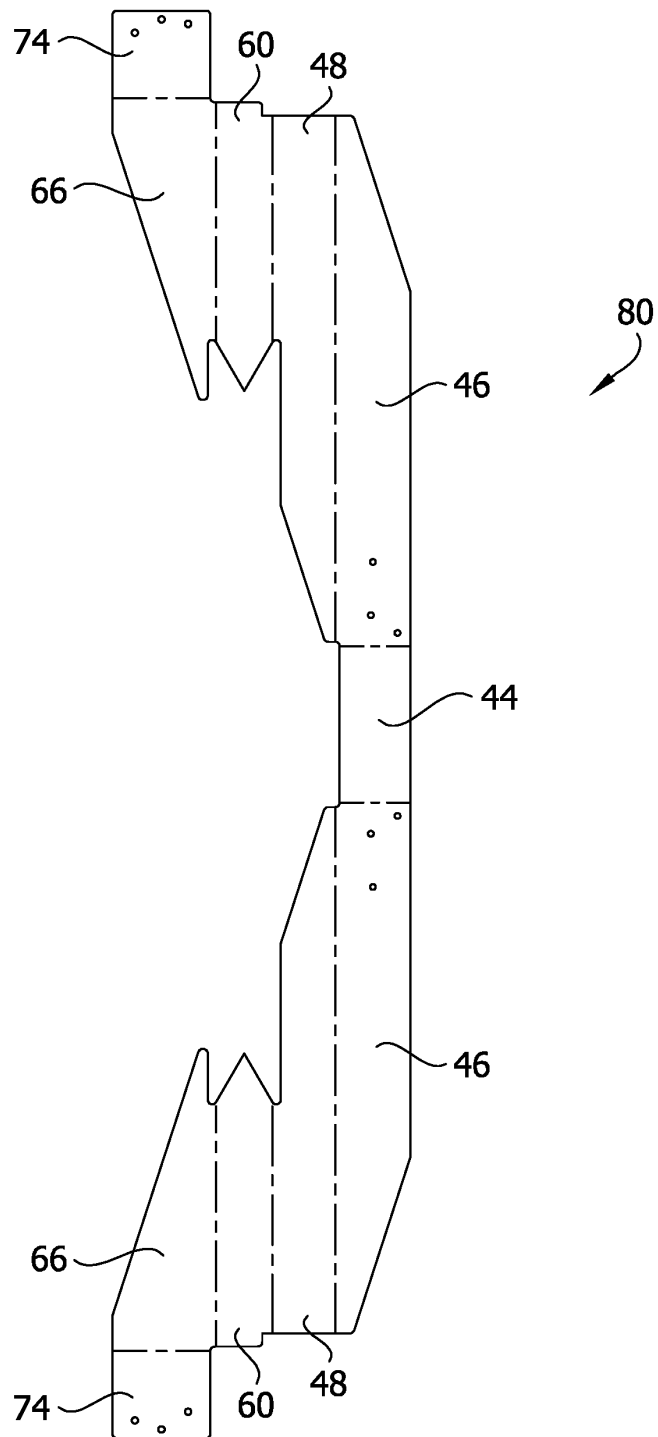


FIG. 16

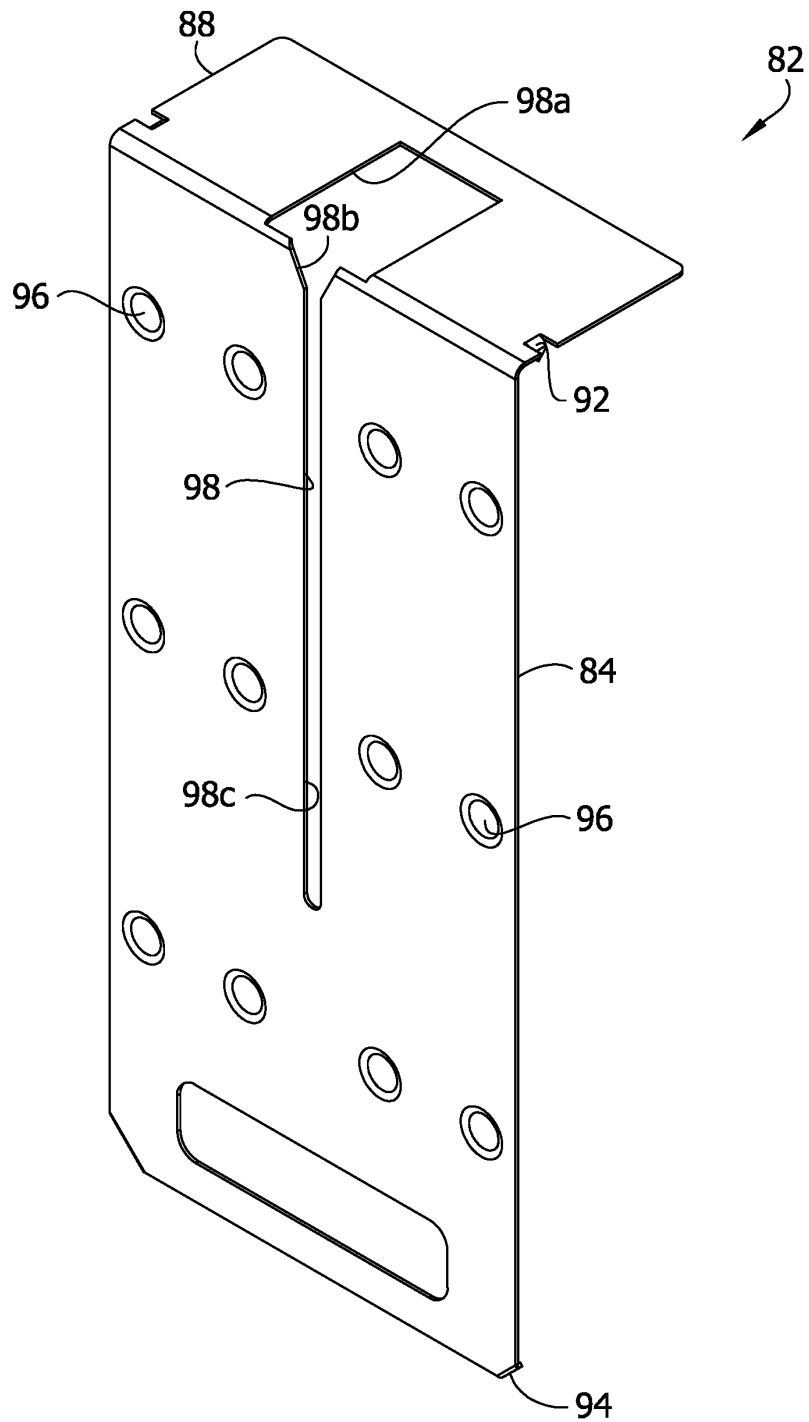


FIG. 17

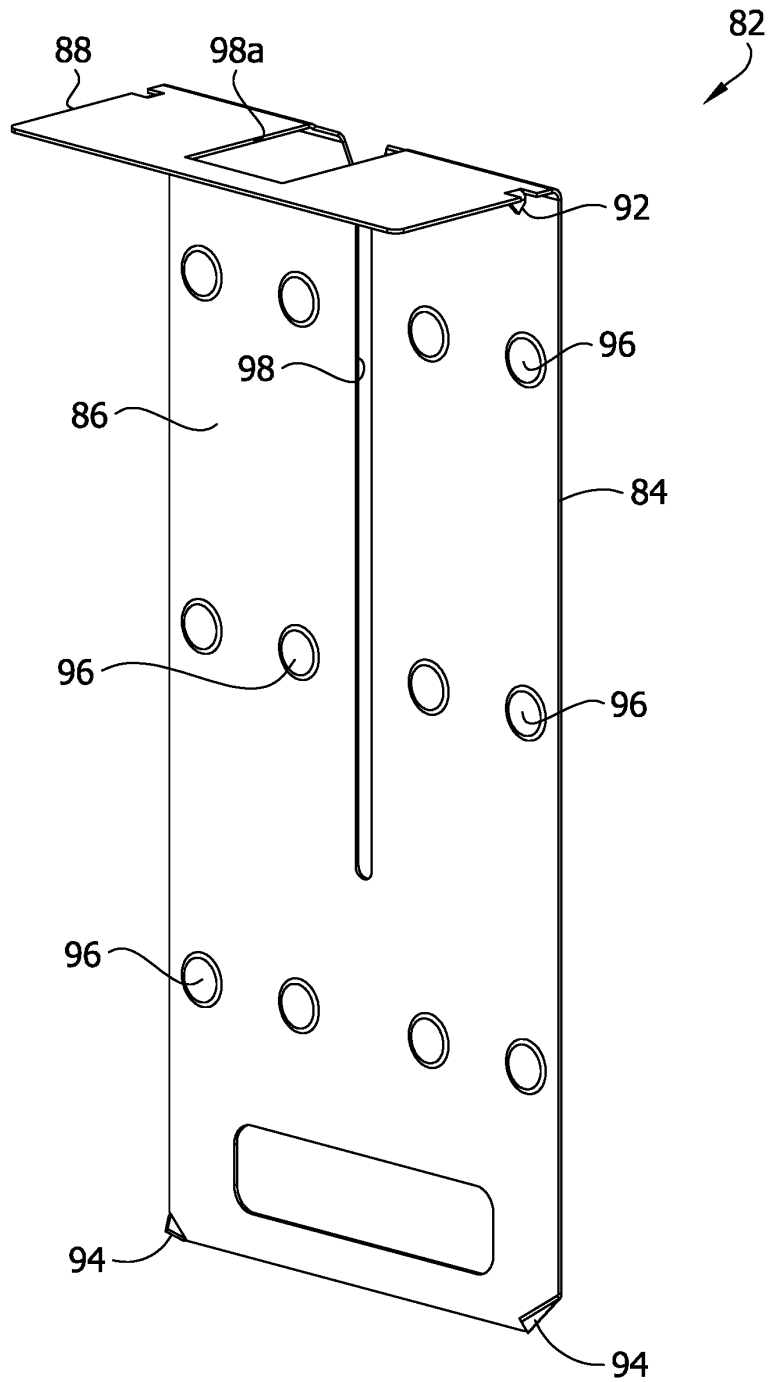


FIG. 18

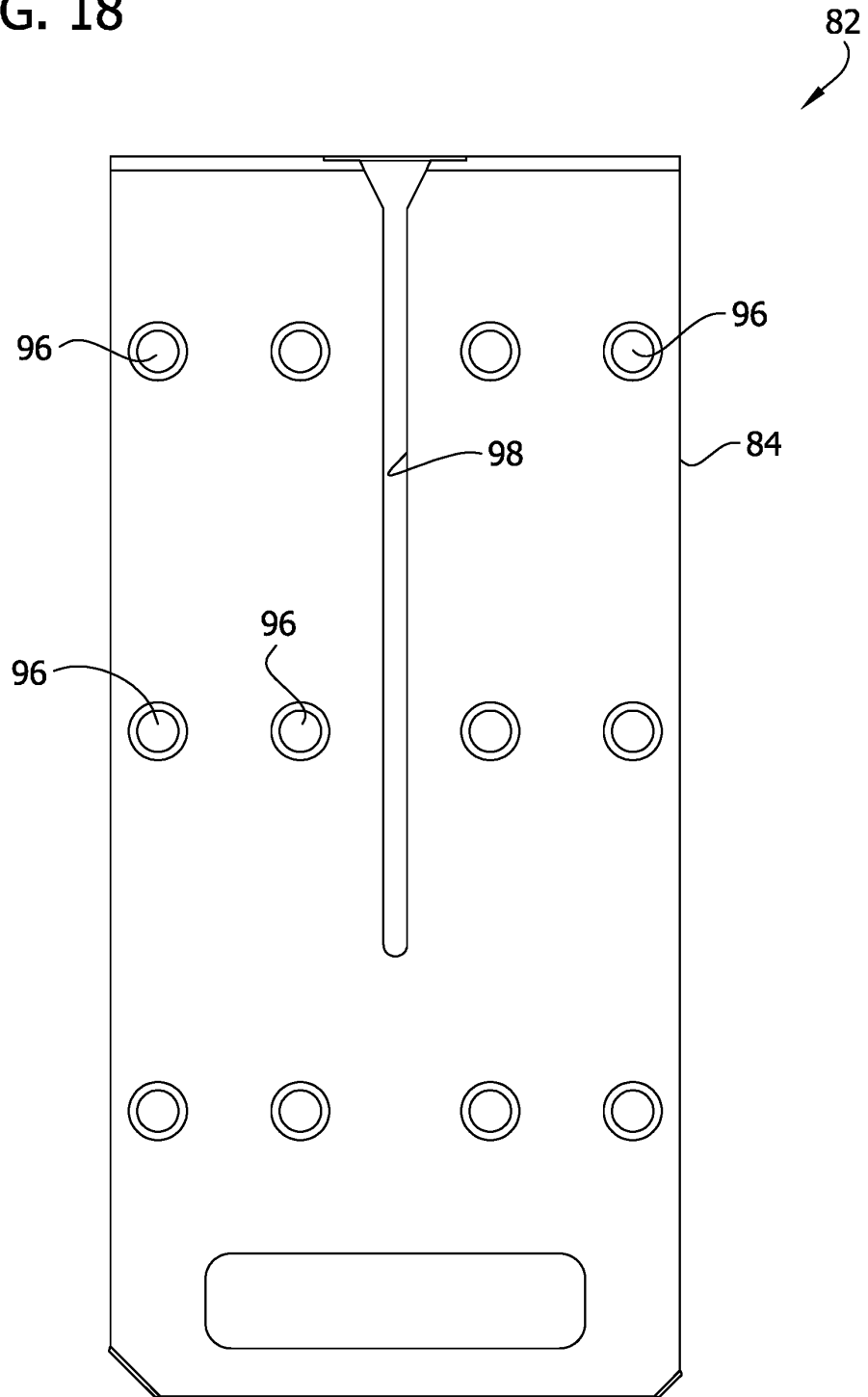


FIG. 19

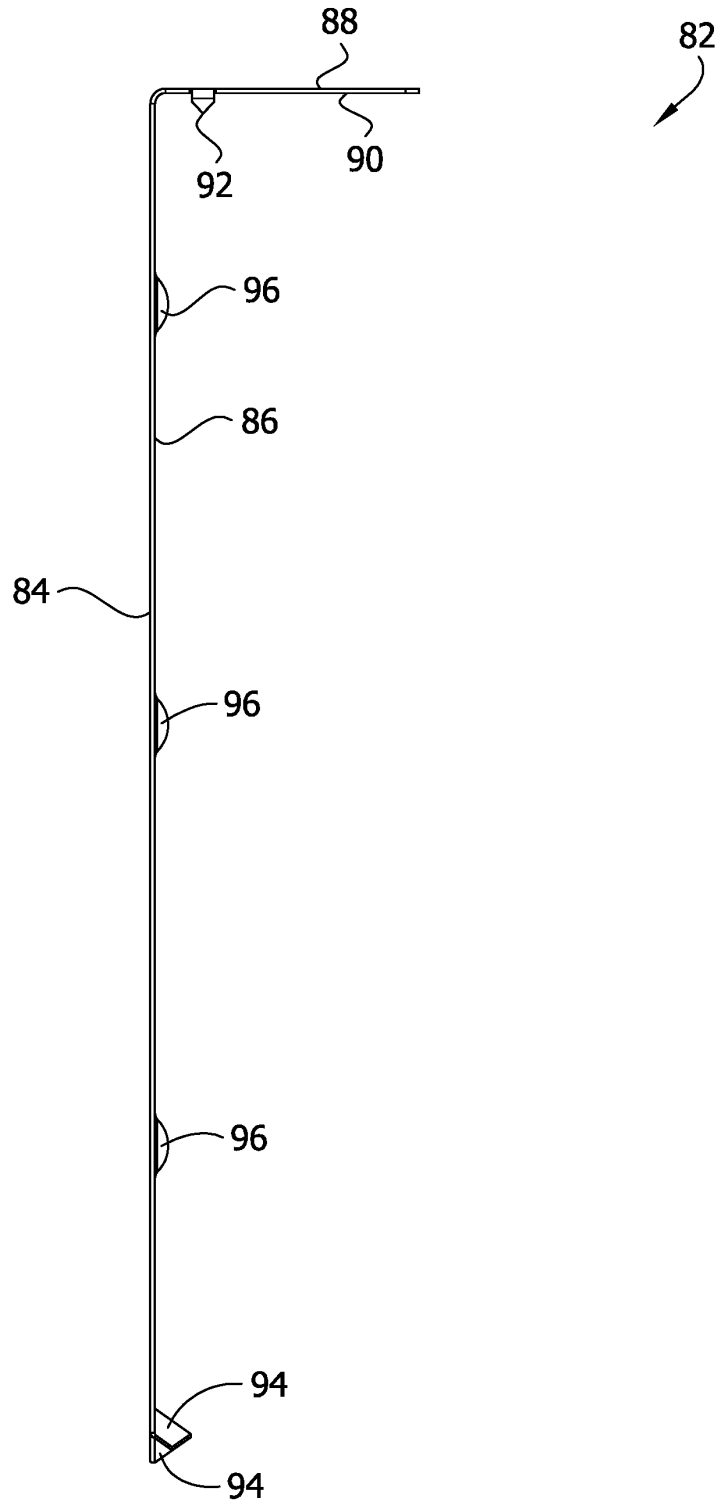


FIG. 20

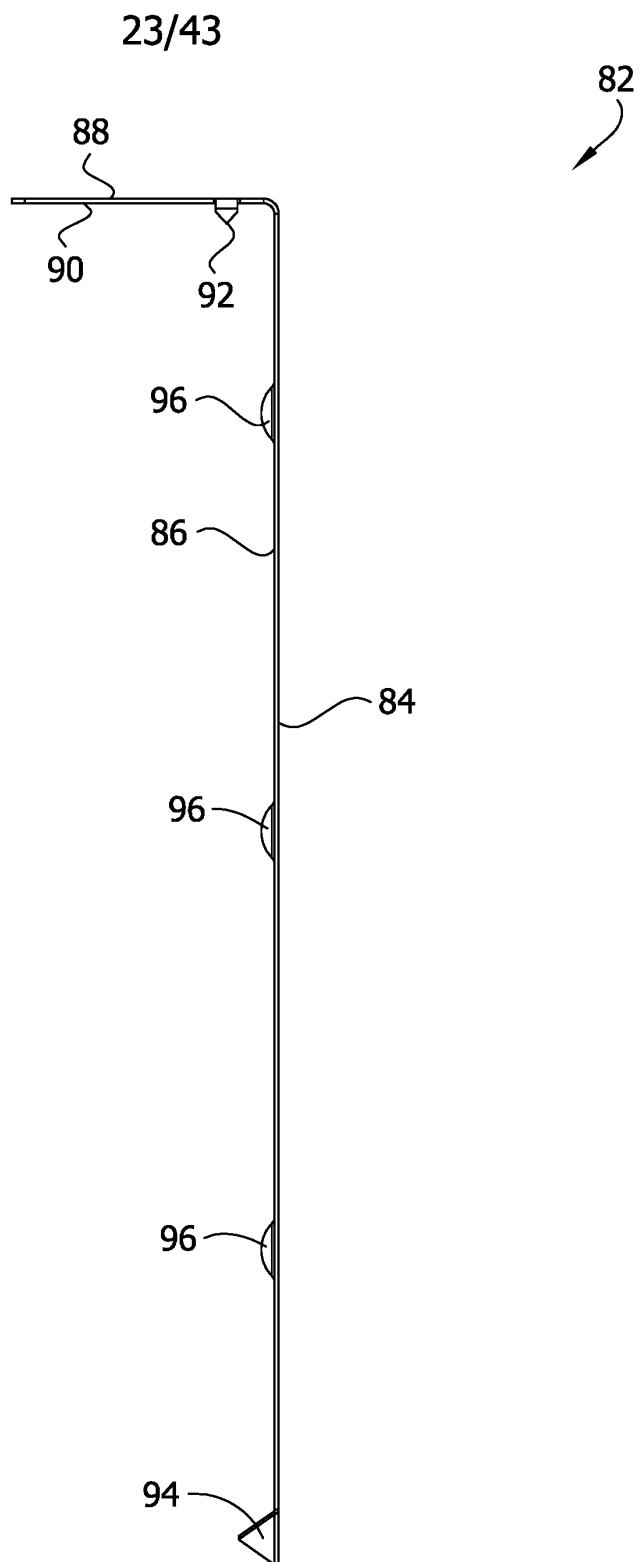


FIG. 21

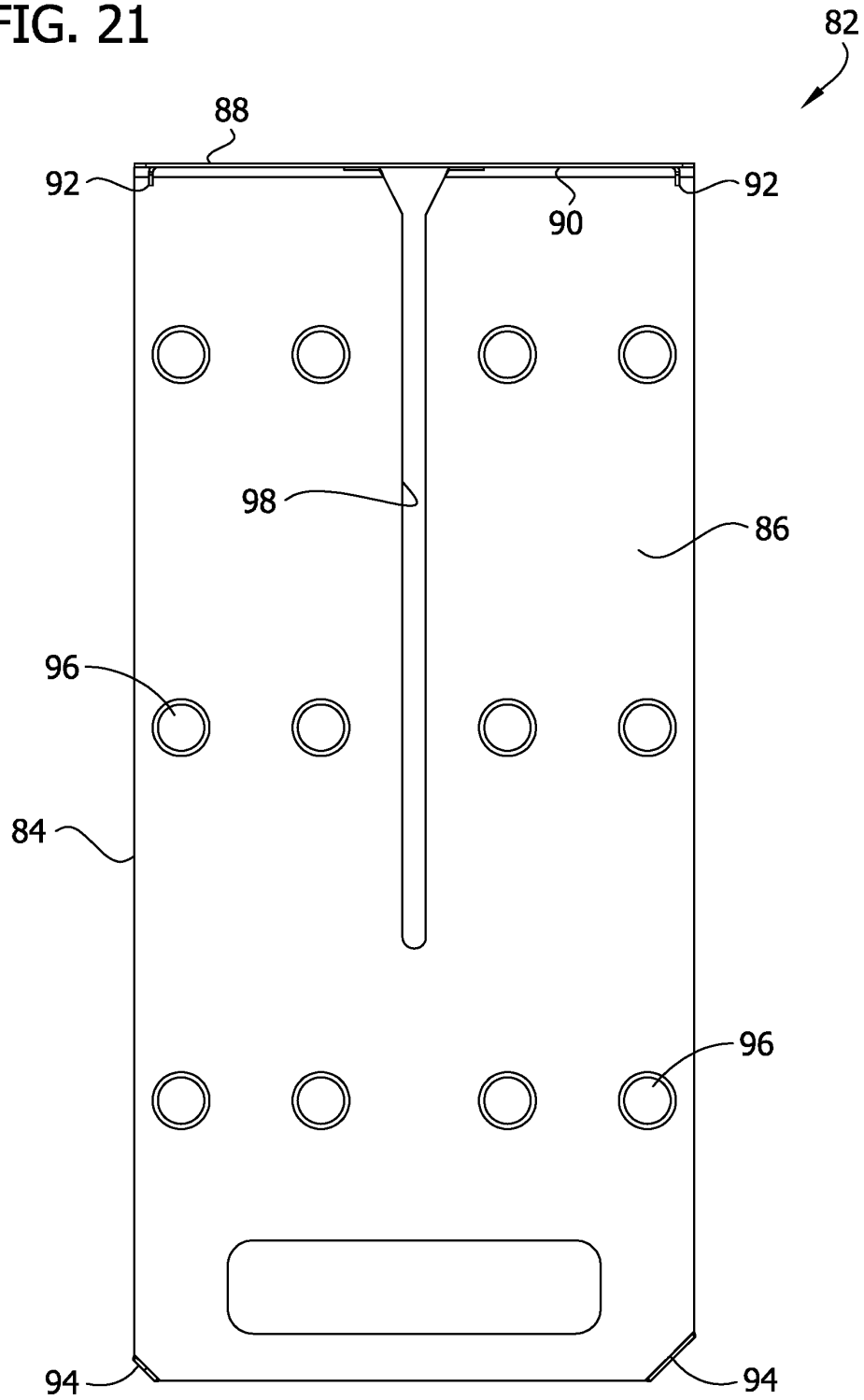


FIG. 22

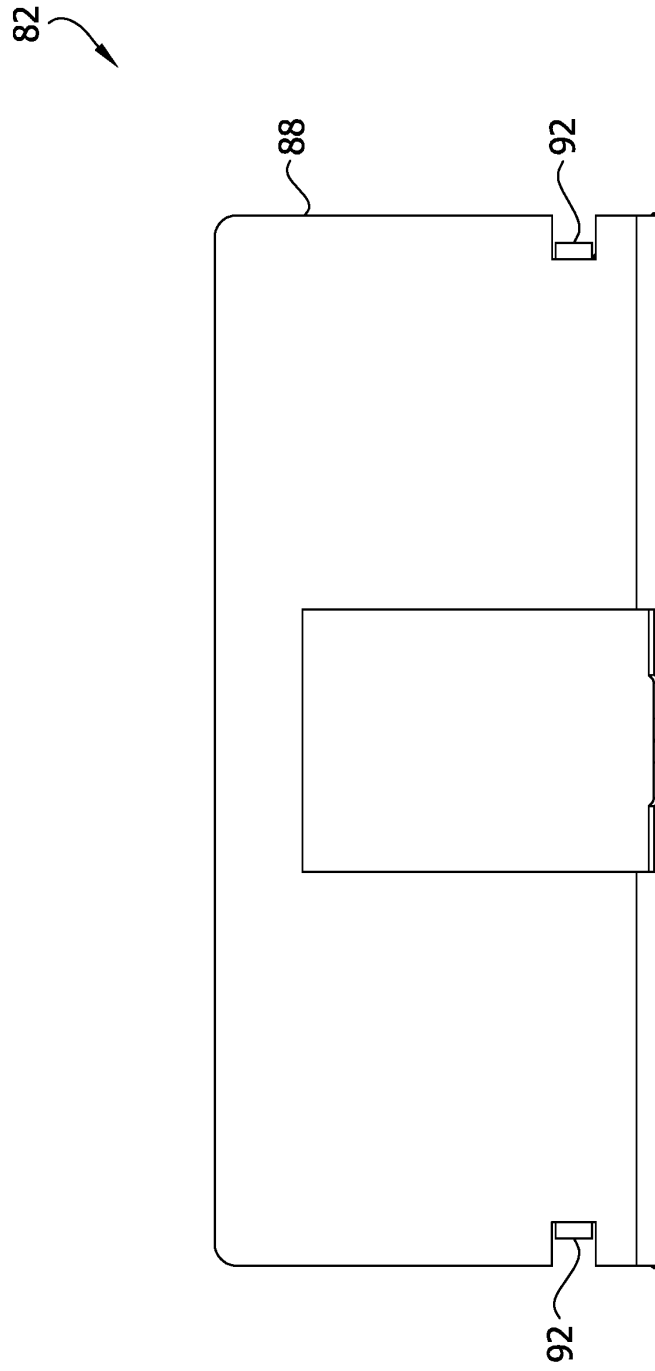


FIG. 23

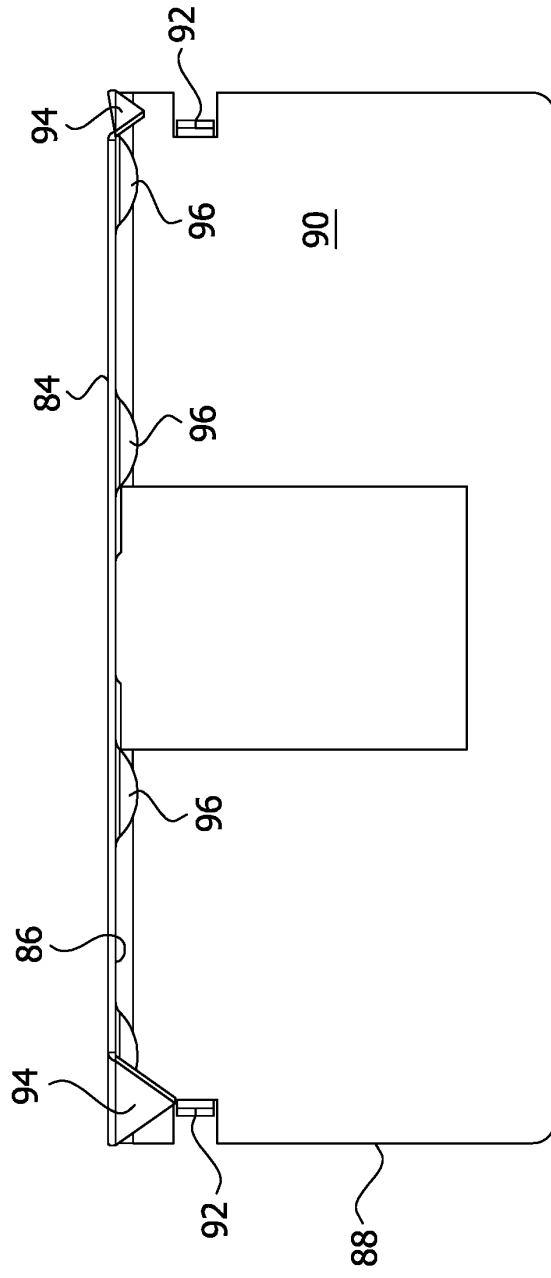


FIG. 24

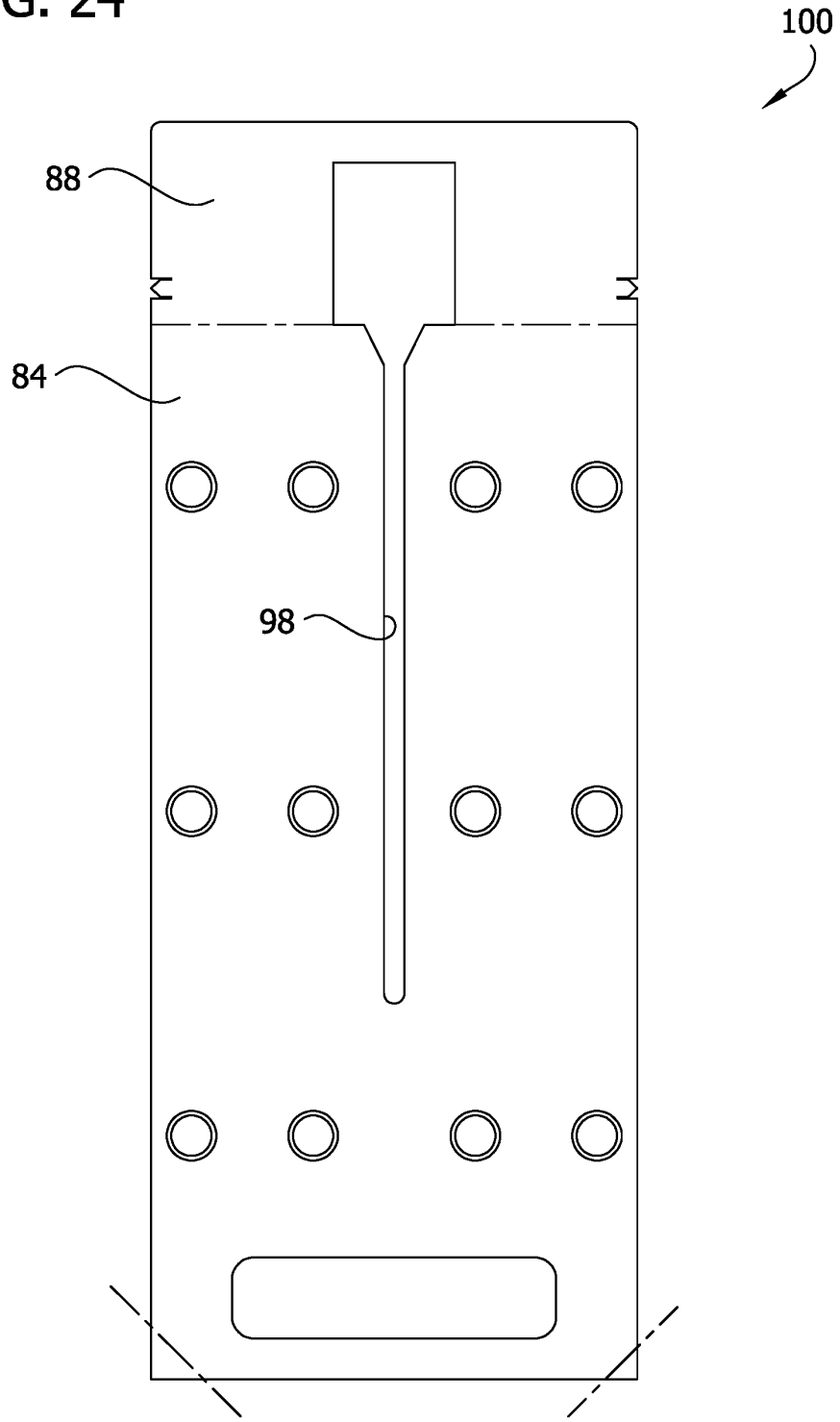


FIG. 25

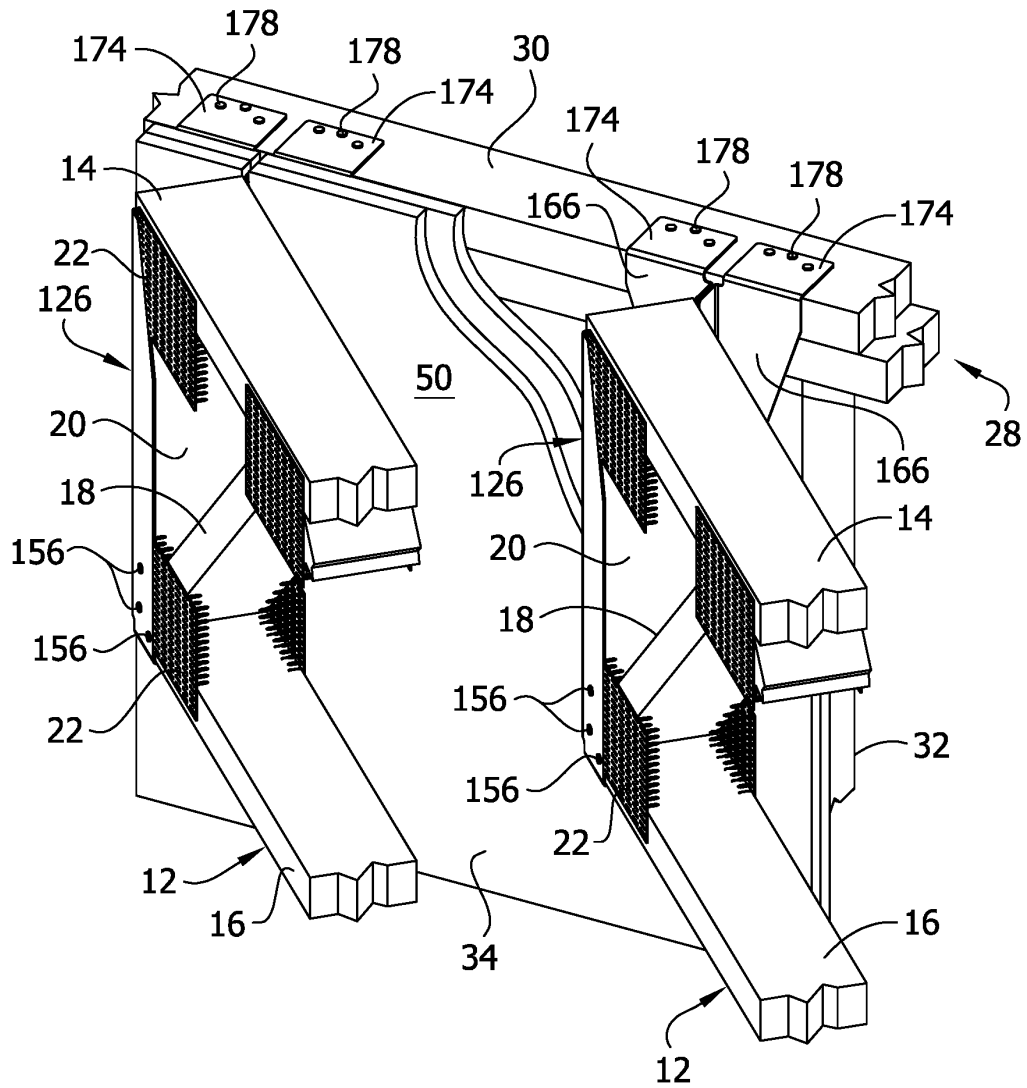


FIG. 26

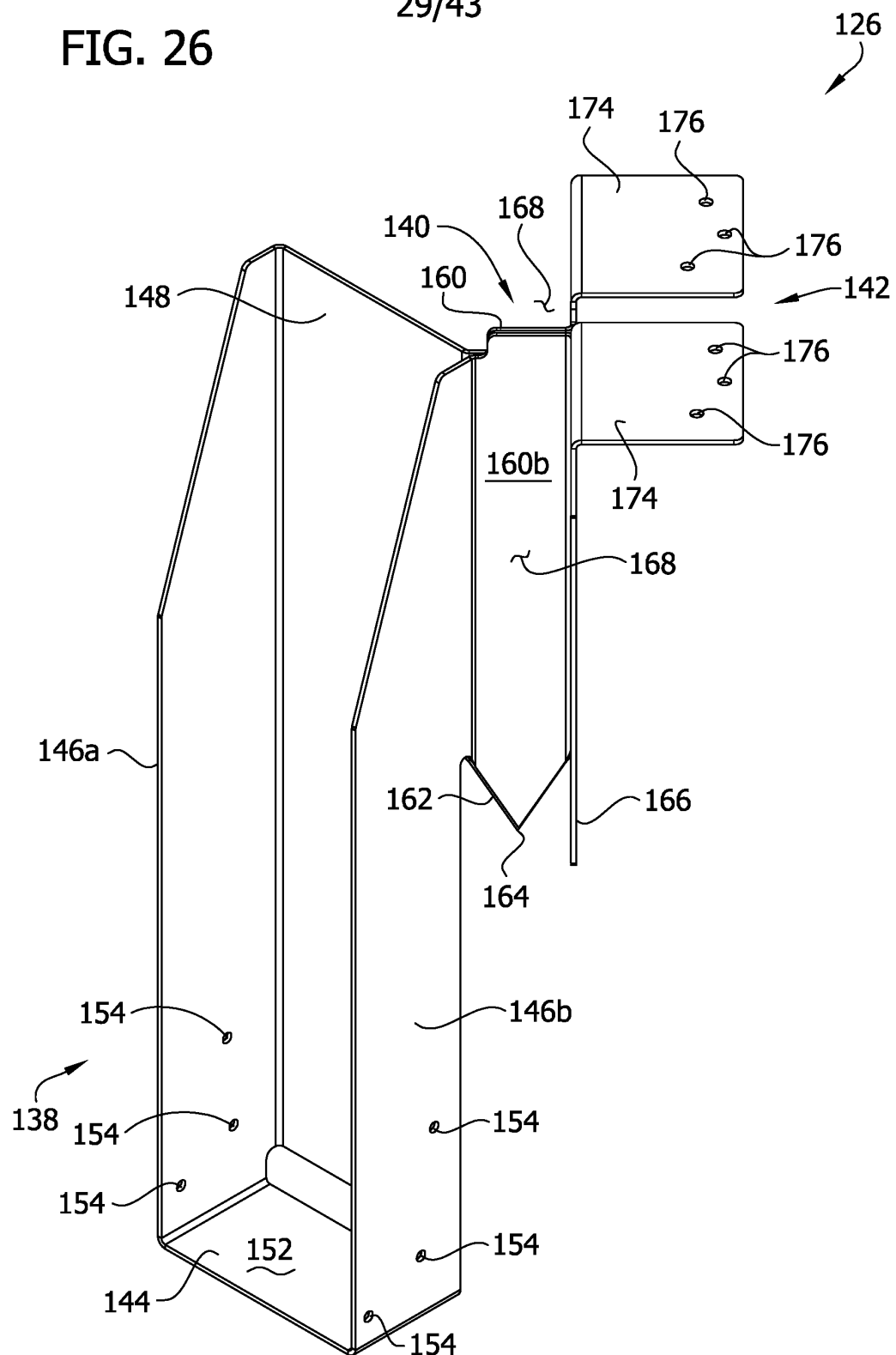
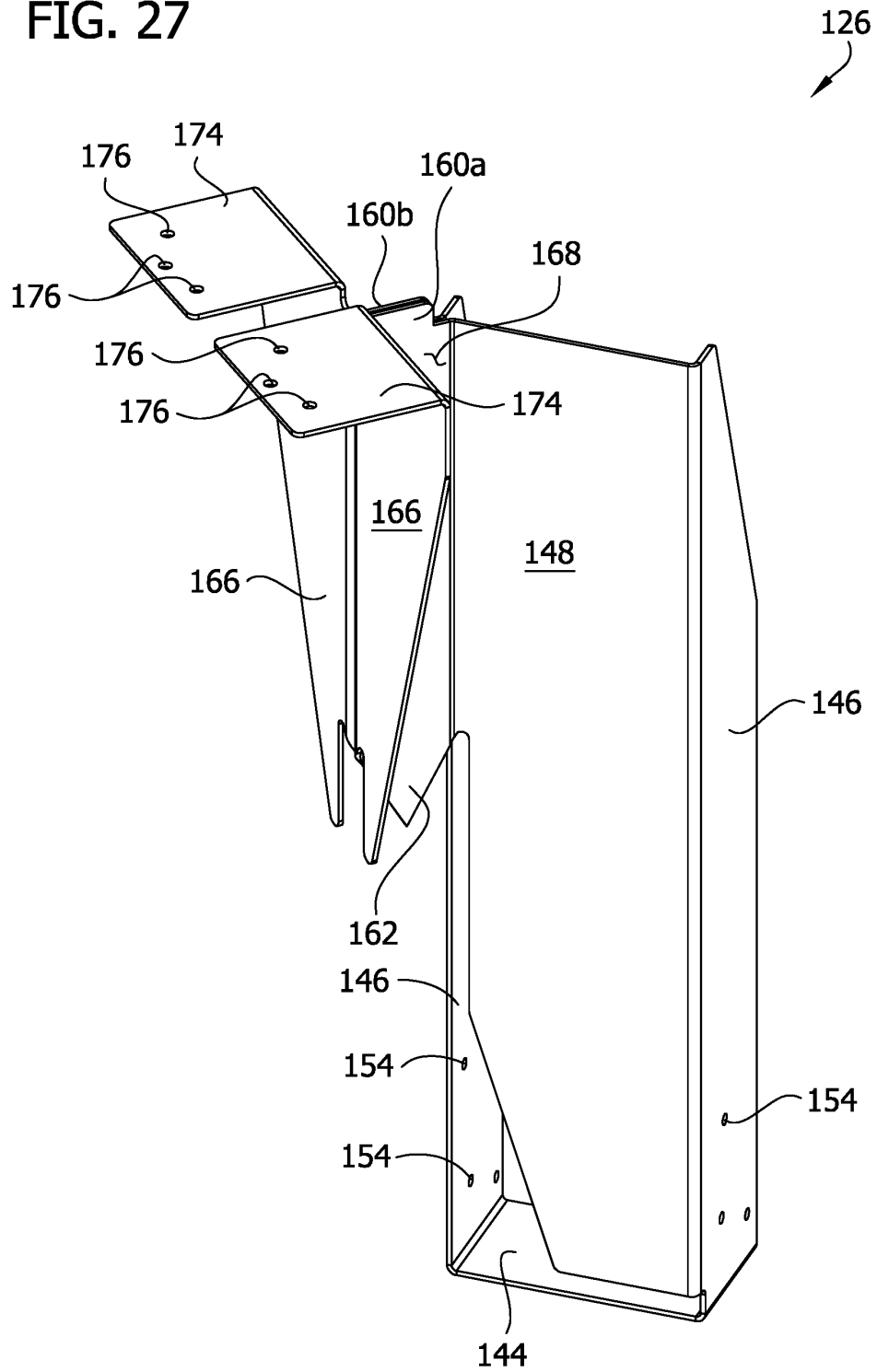


FIG. 27



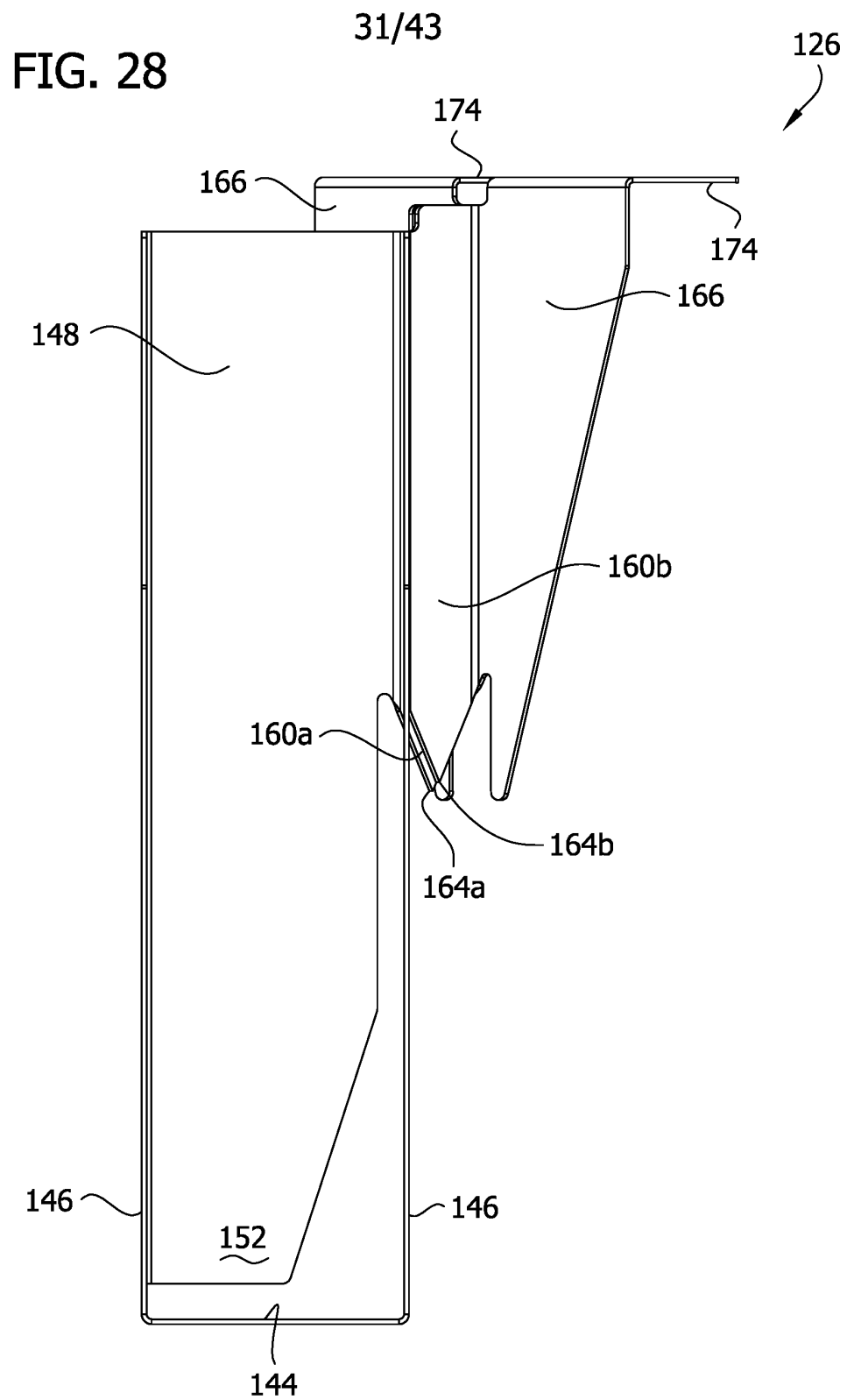


FIG. 29

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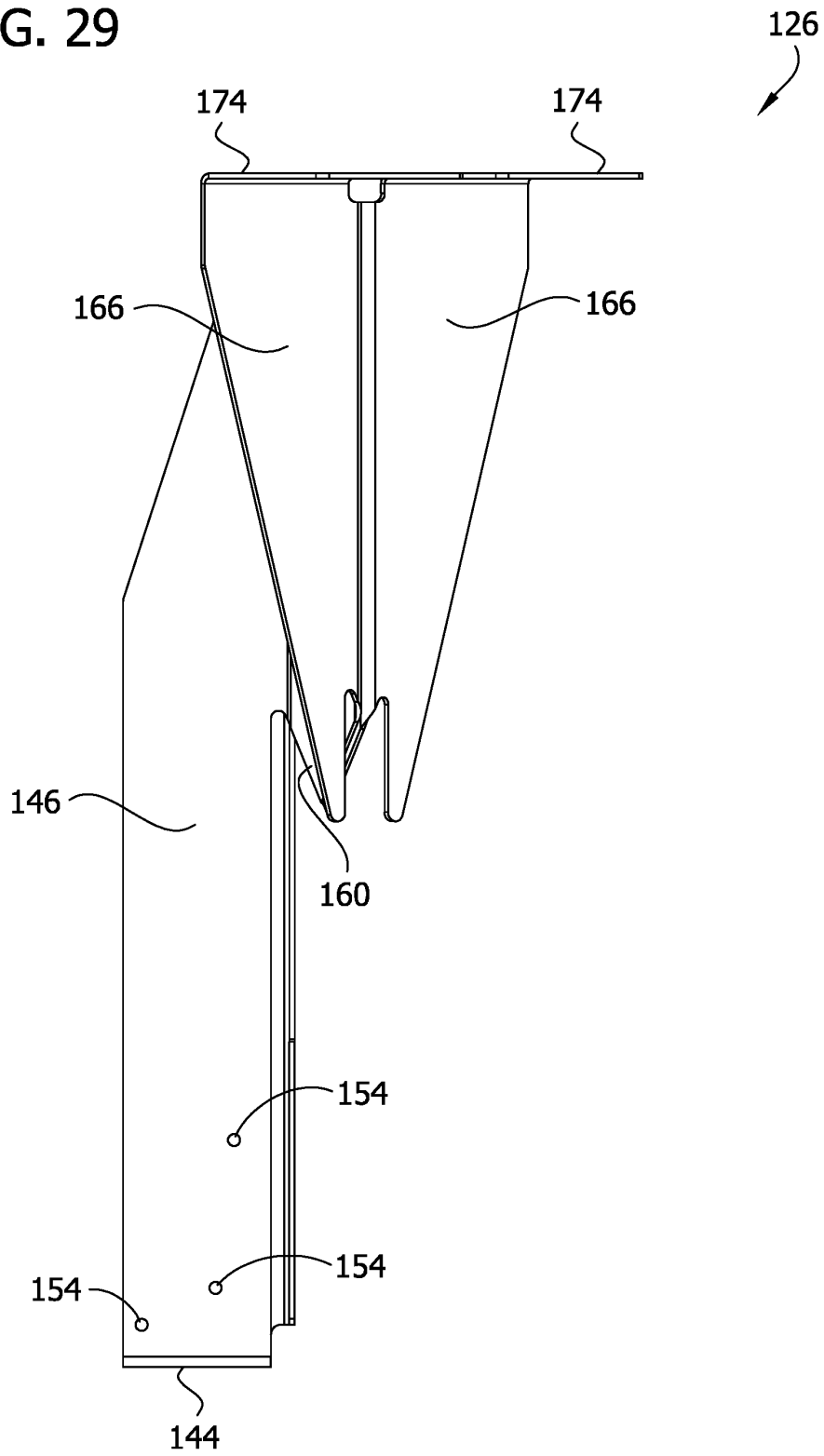
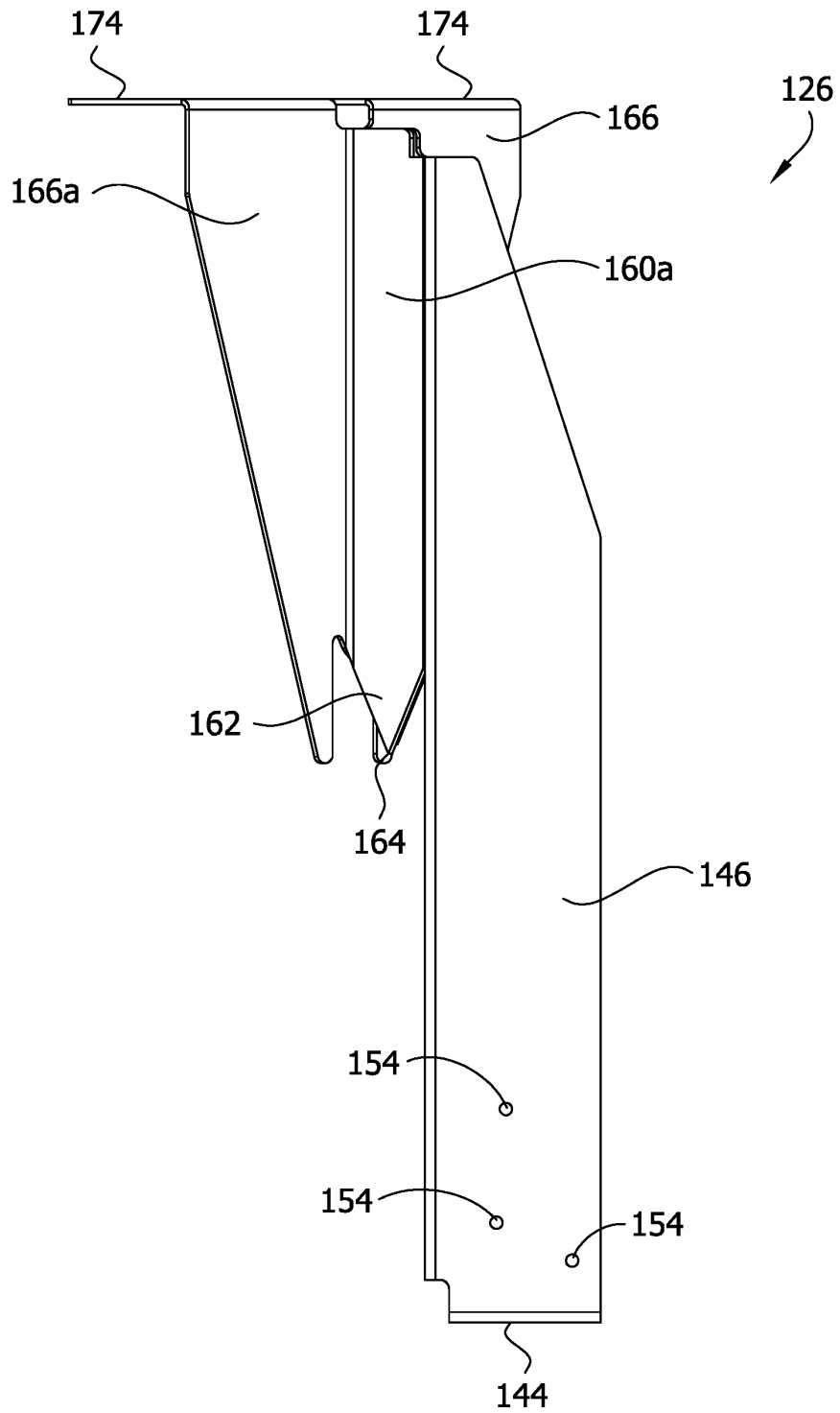


FIG. 30



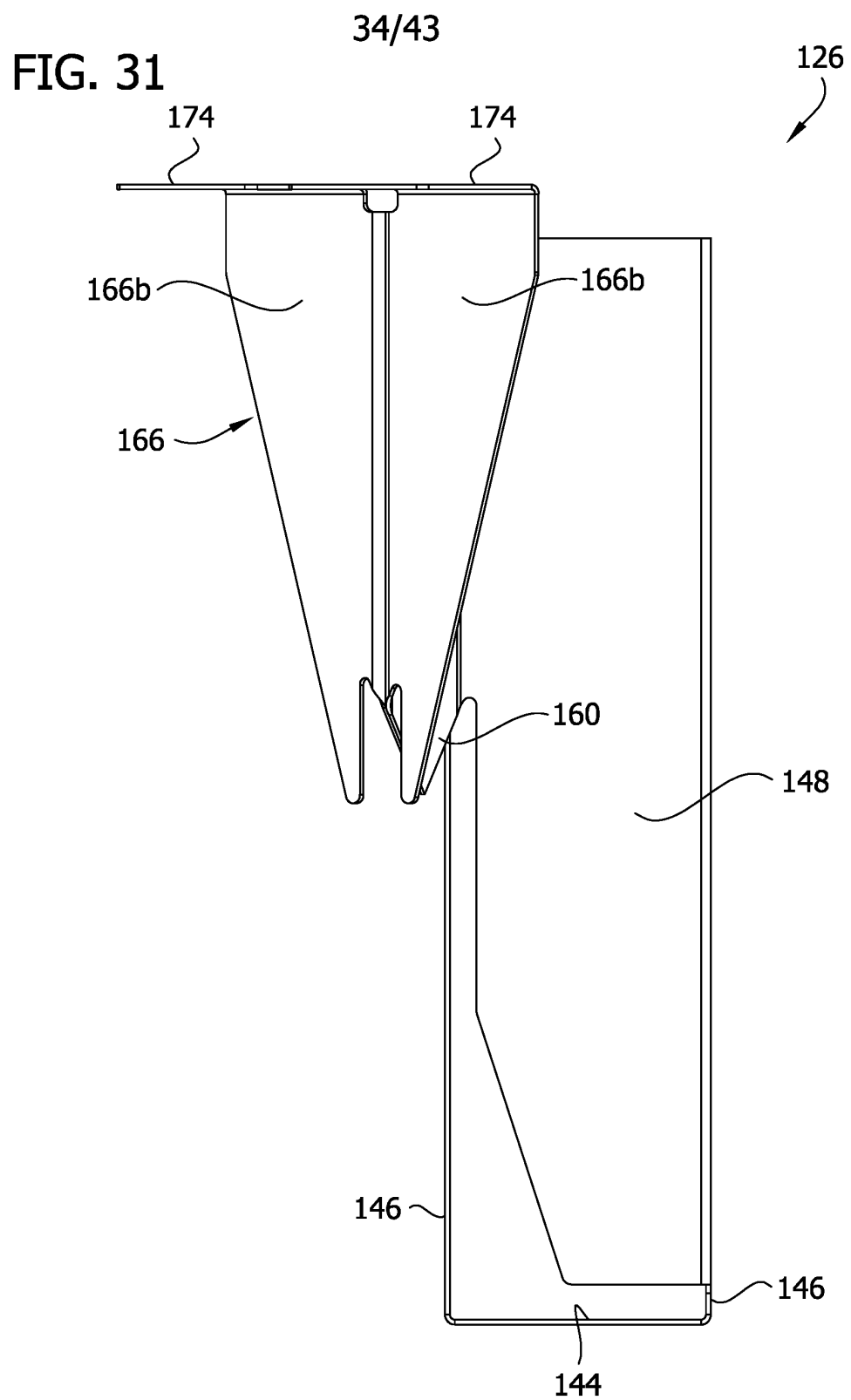


FIG. 32

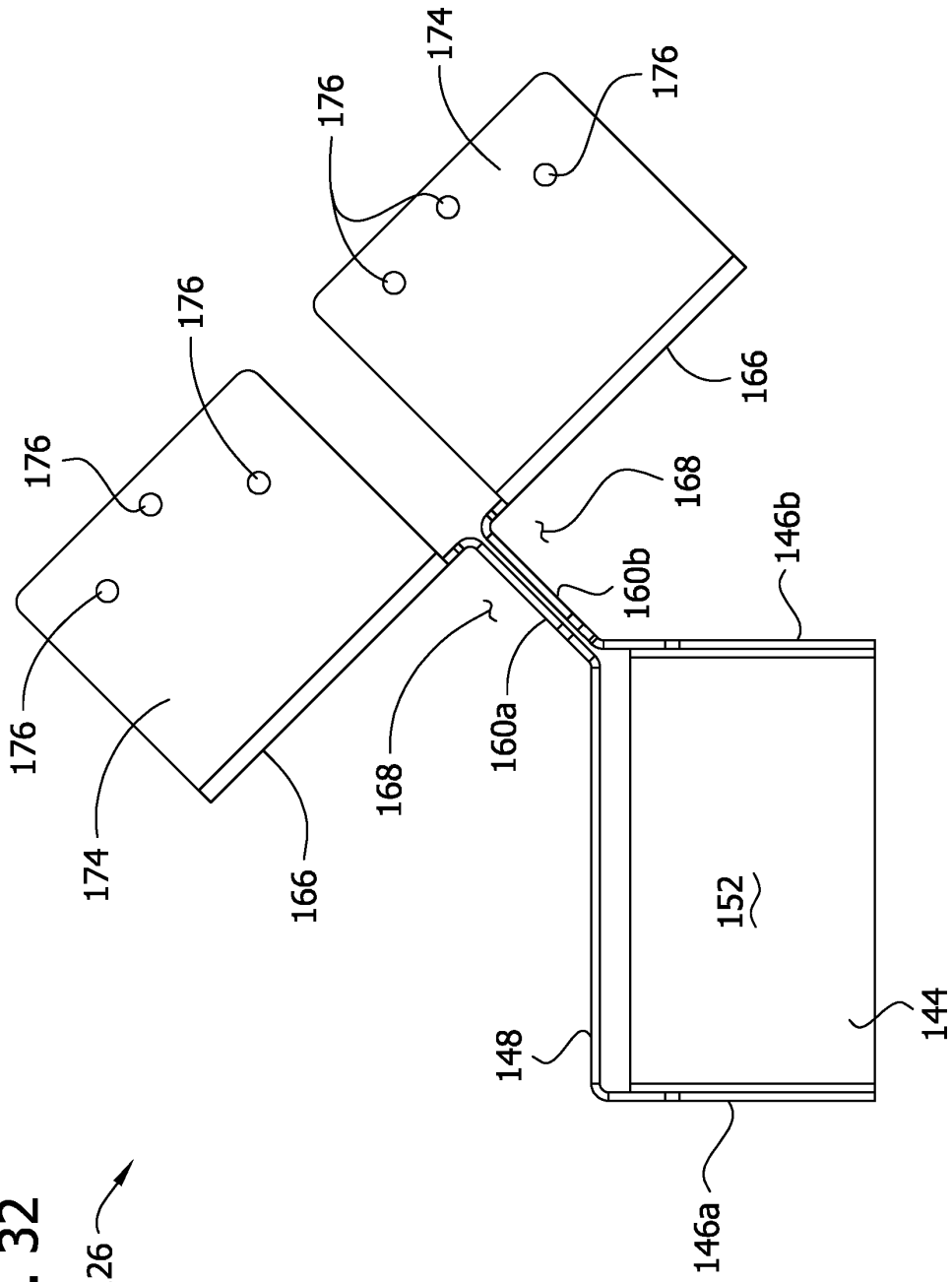


FIG. 33

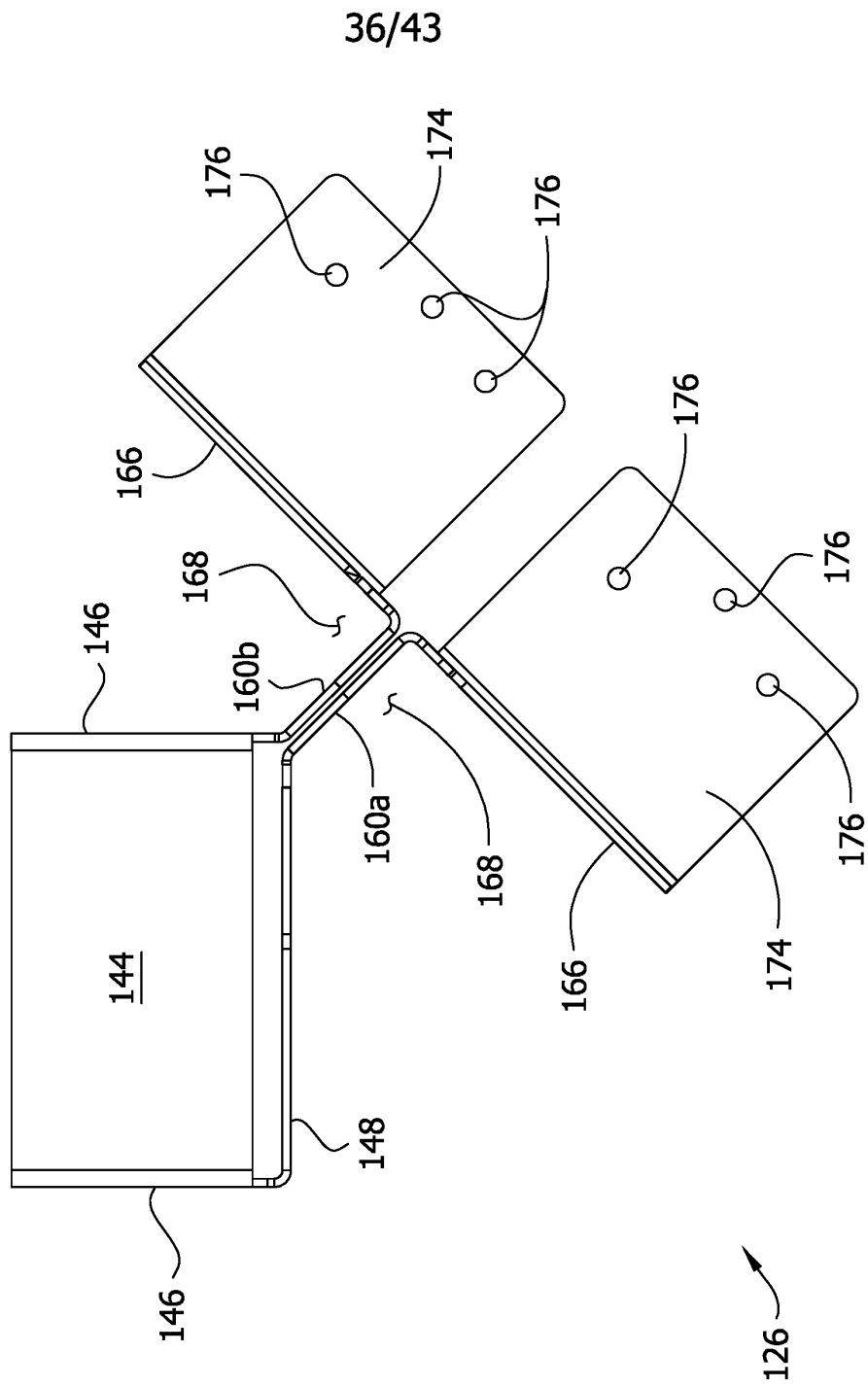


FIG. 34

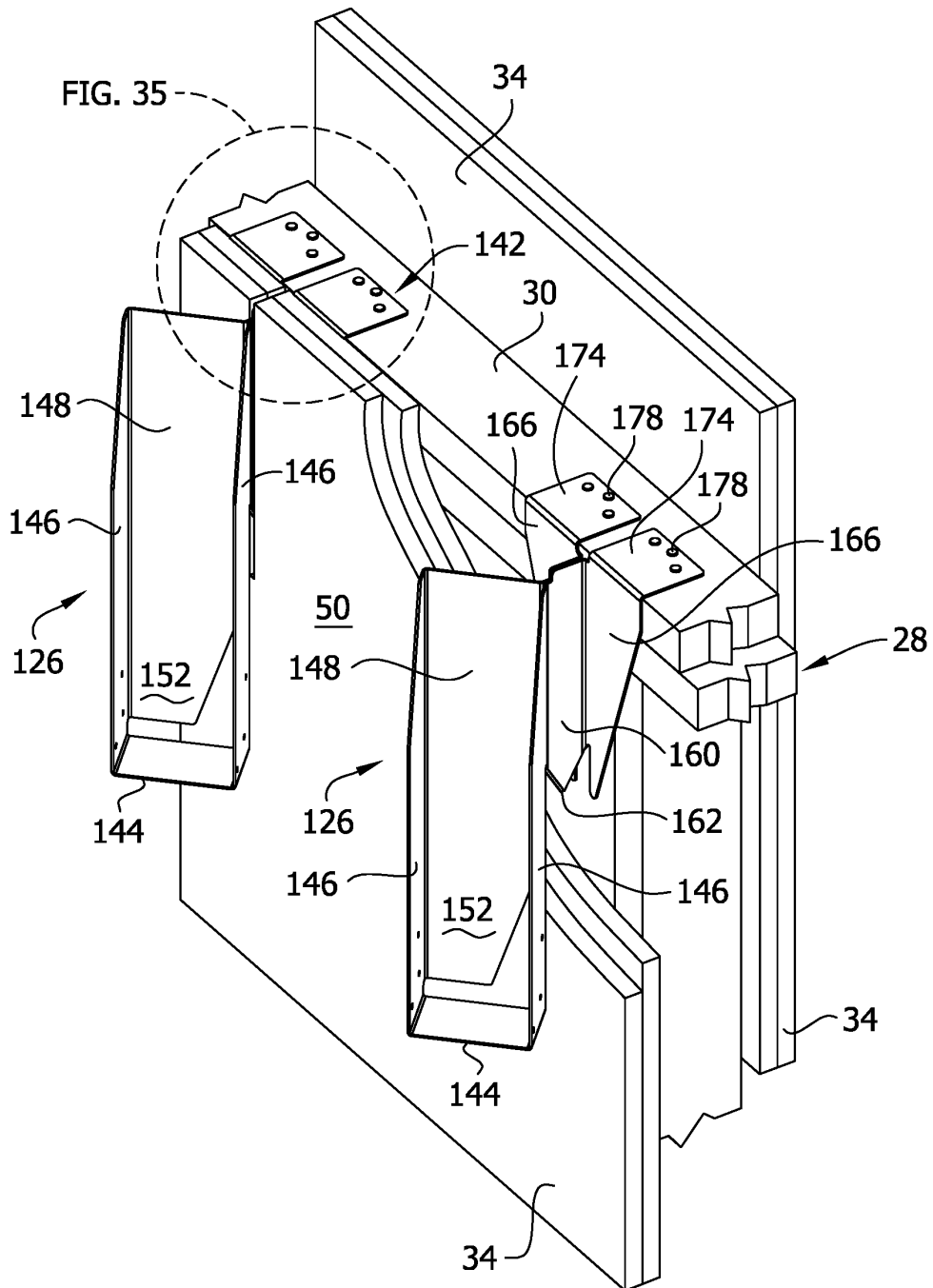


FIG. 35

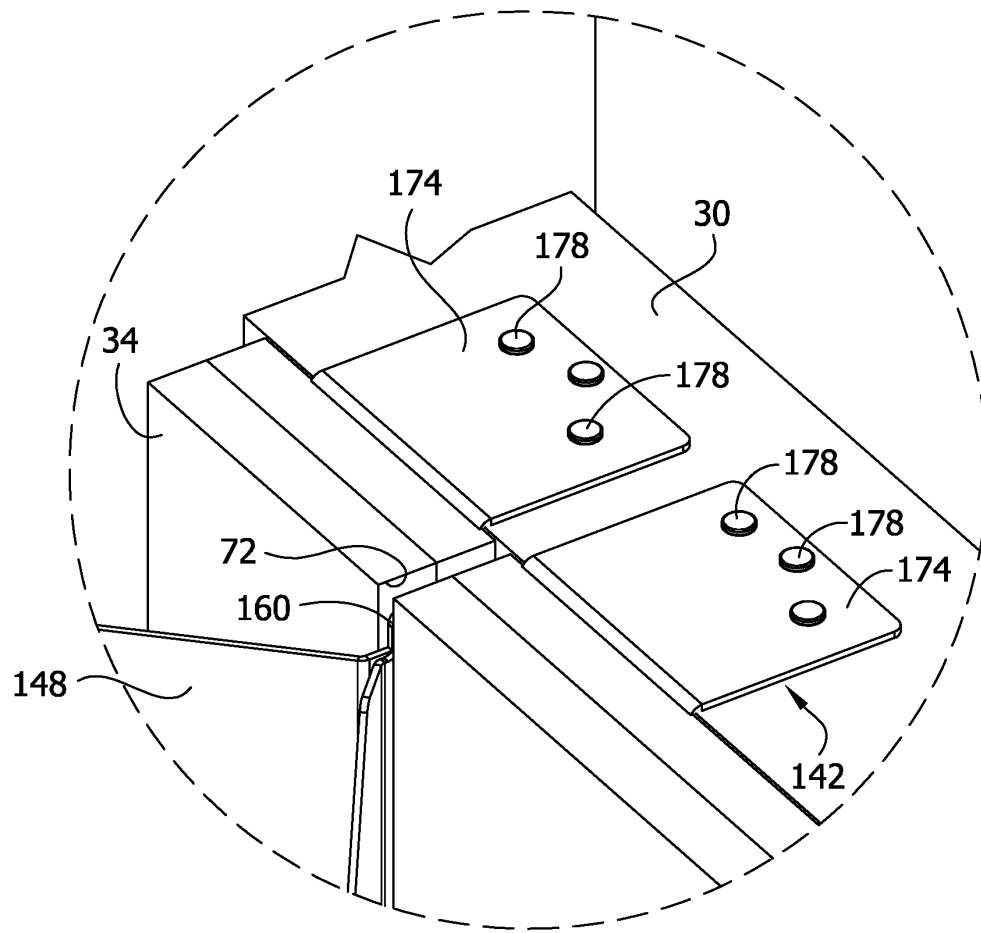


FIG. 36

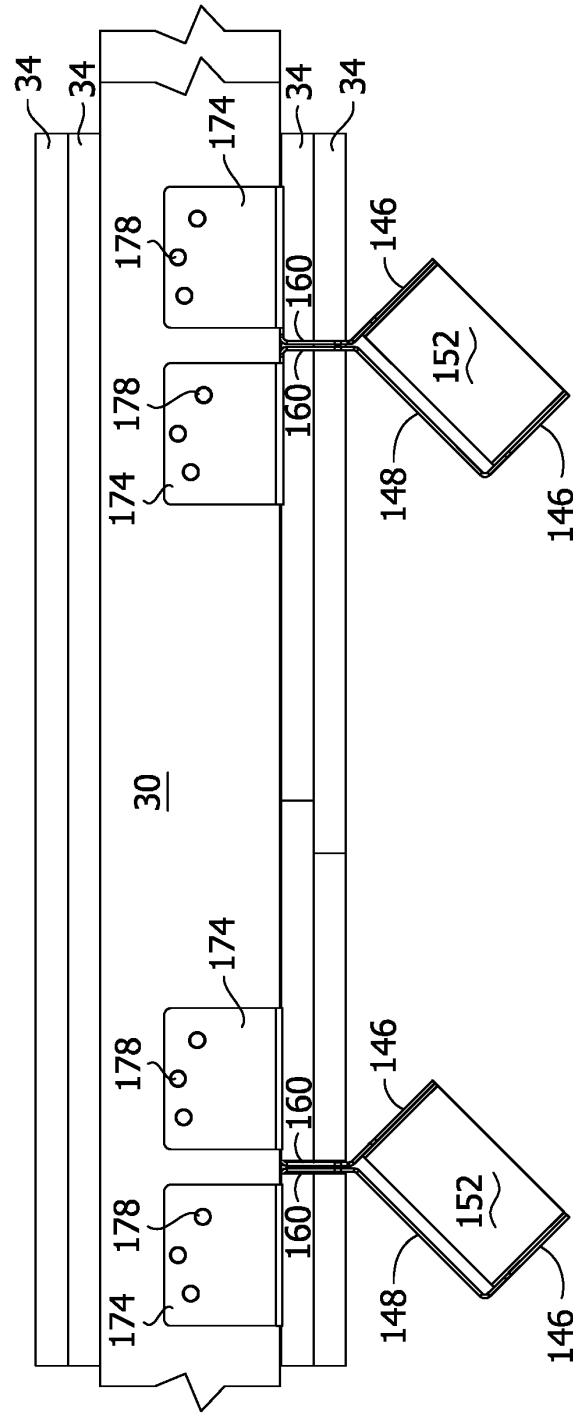


FIG. 37

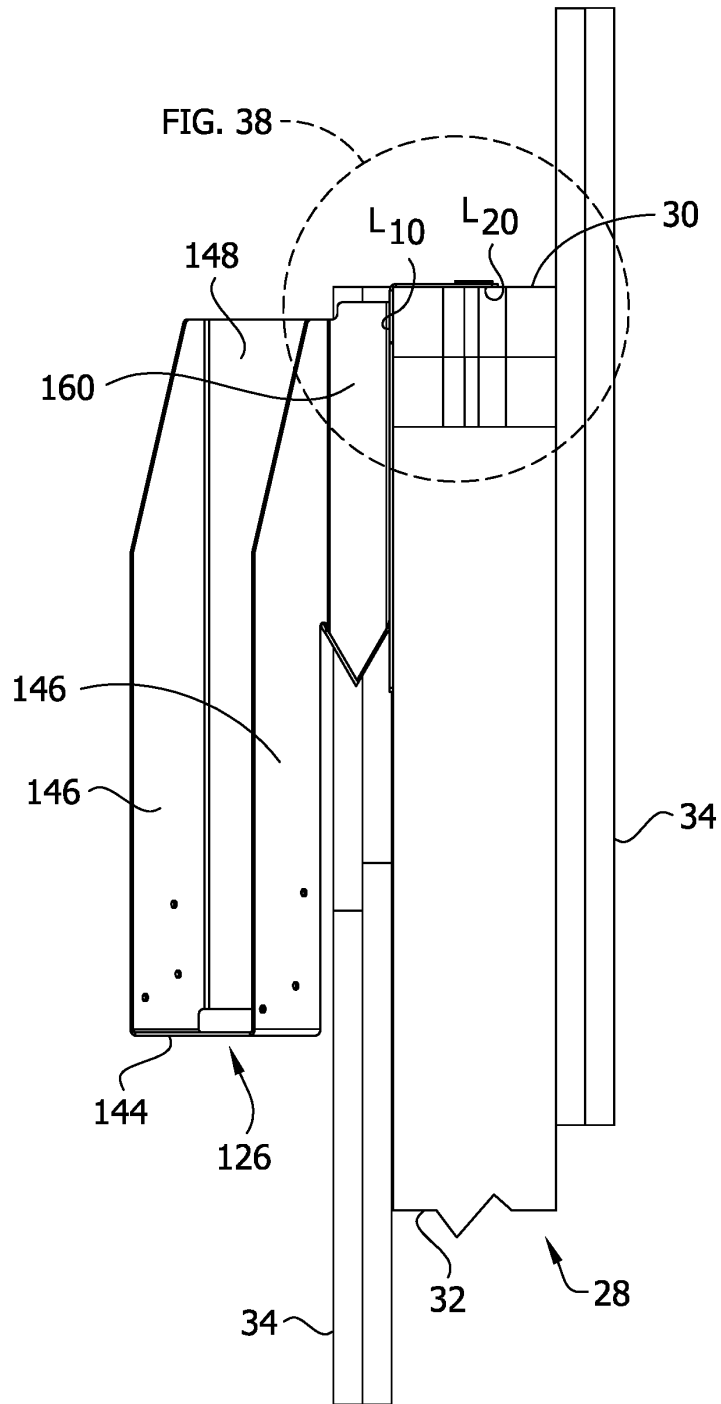


FIG. 38

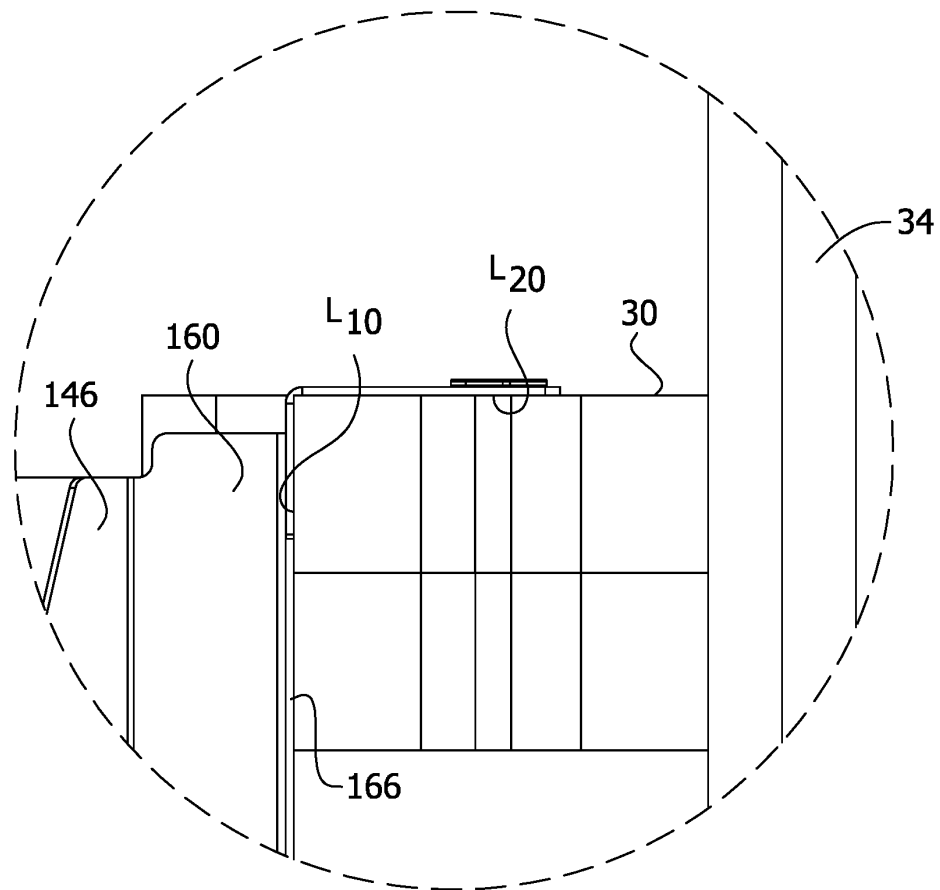


FIG. 39

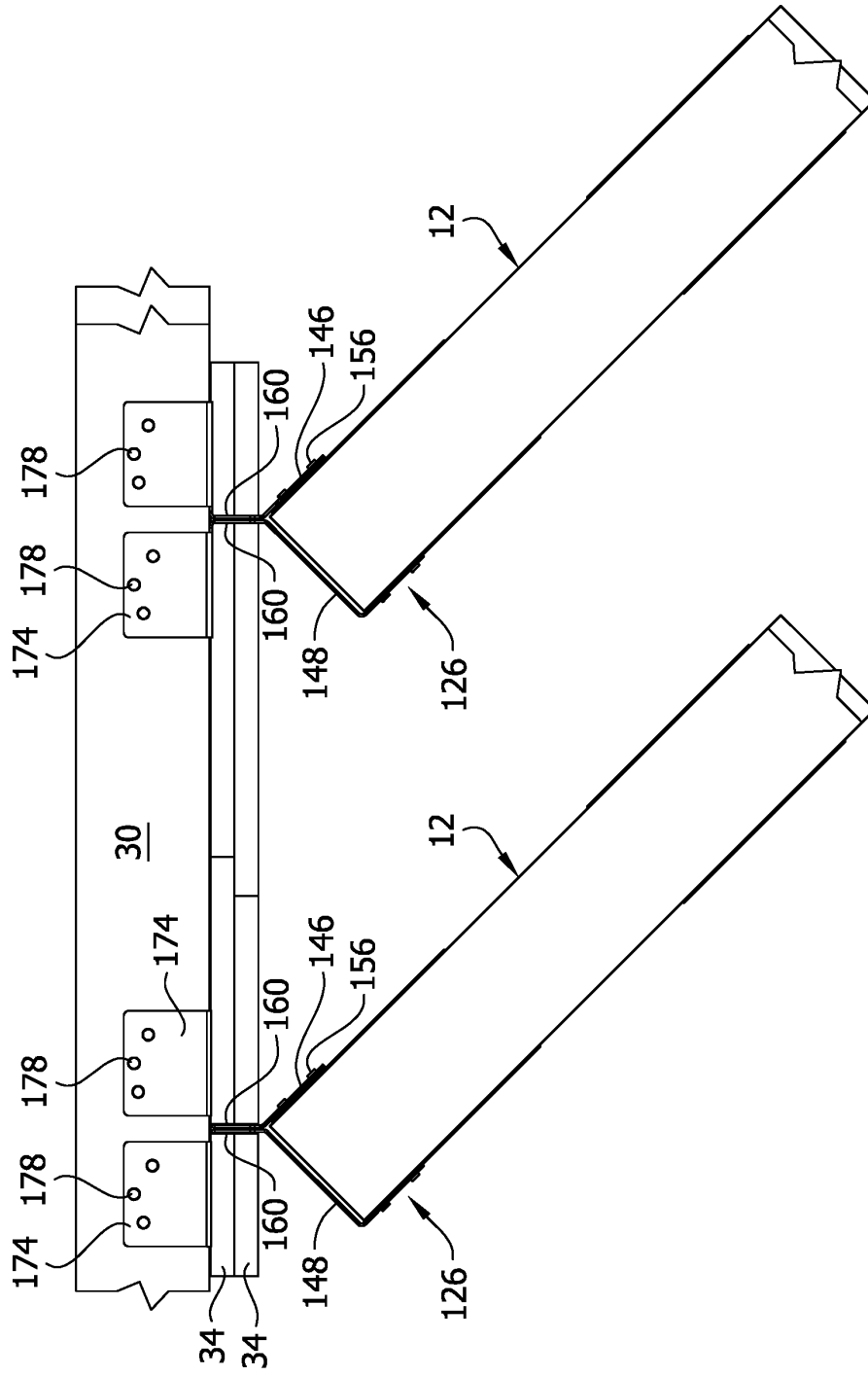
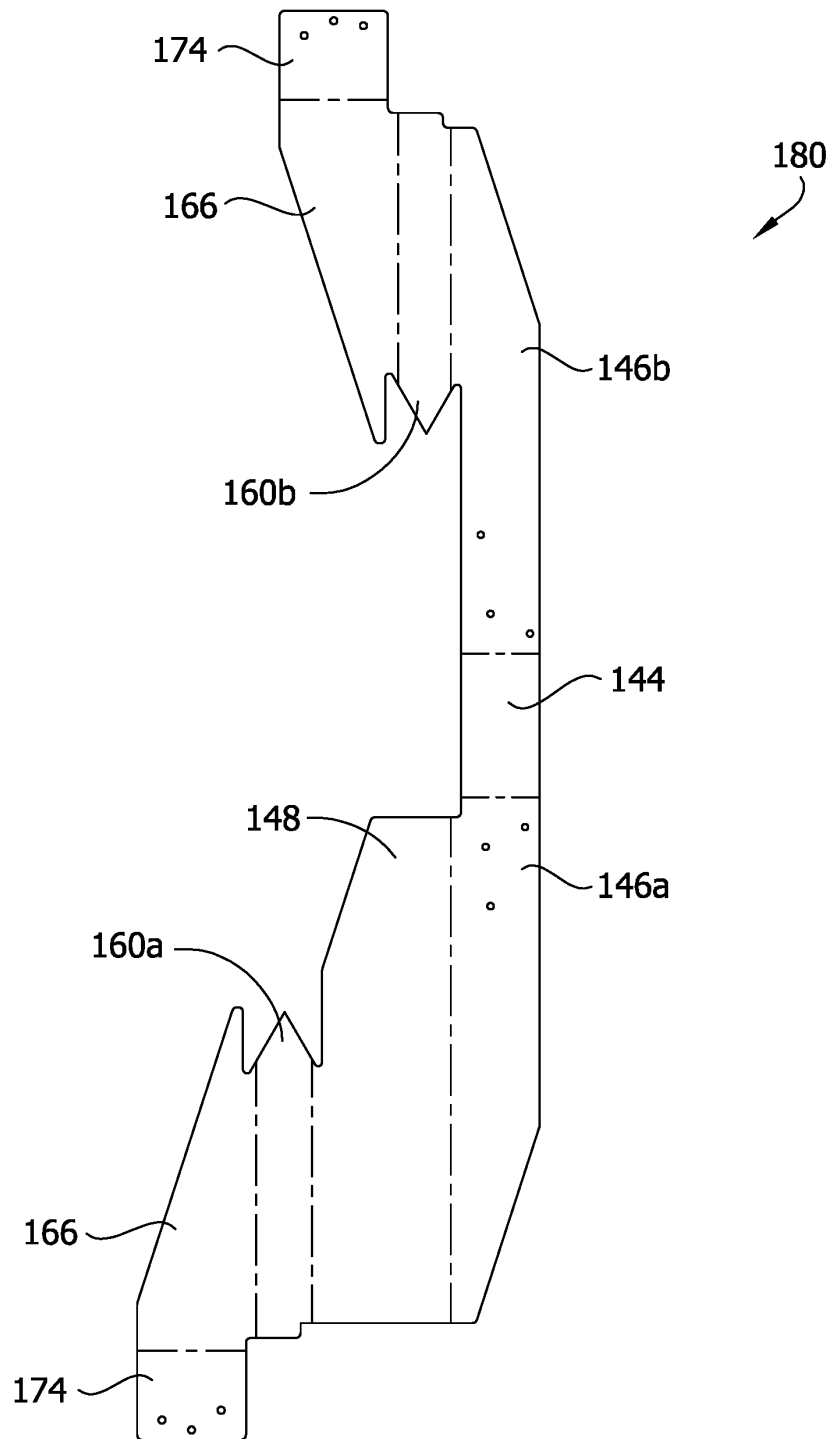


FIG. 40



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<p>LEGAL NAME OF INVENTOR</p> <p>Inventor: <u>Steven Brekke</u> Date (Optional): <u>11/17/14</u></p> <p>Signature: <u><i>Steven H. Brekke</i></u></p>	
<p>Note: An application data sheet (PTO/SB/14 or equivalent), including naming the entire inventive entity, must accompany this form or must have been previously filed. Use an additional PTO/AIA/01 form for each additional inventor.</p>	

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