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(45) **Date of Patent:** Nov. 5, 2024

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(22) Filed: **Jul. 22, 2022**

(Continued)

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Dorsey & Whitney LLP

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(60) Provisional application No. 63/354,321, filed on Jun. 22, 2022, provisional application No. 63/308,422,
(Continued)

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A63B 71/00 (2006.01)
A63B 21/072 (2006.01)
 (Continued)

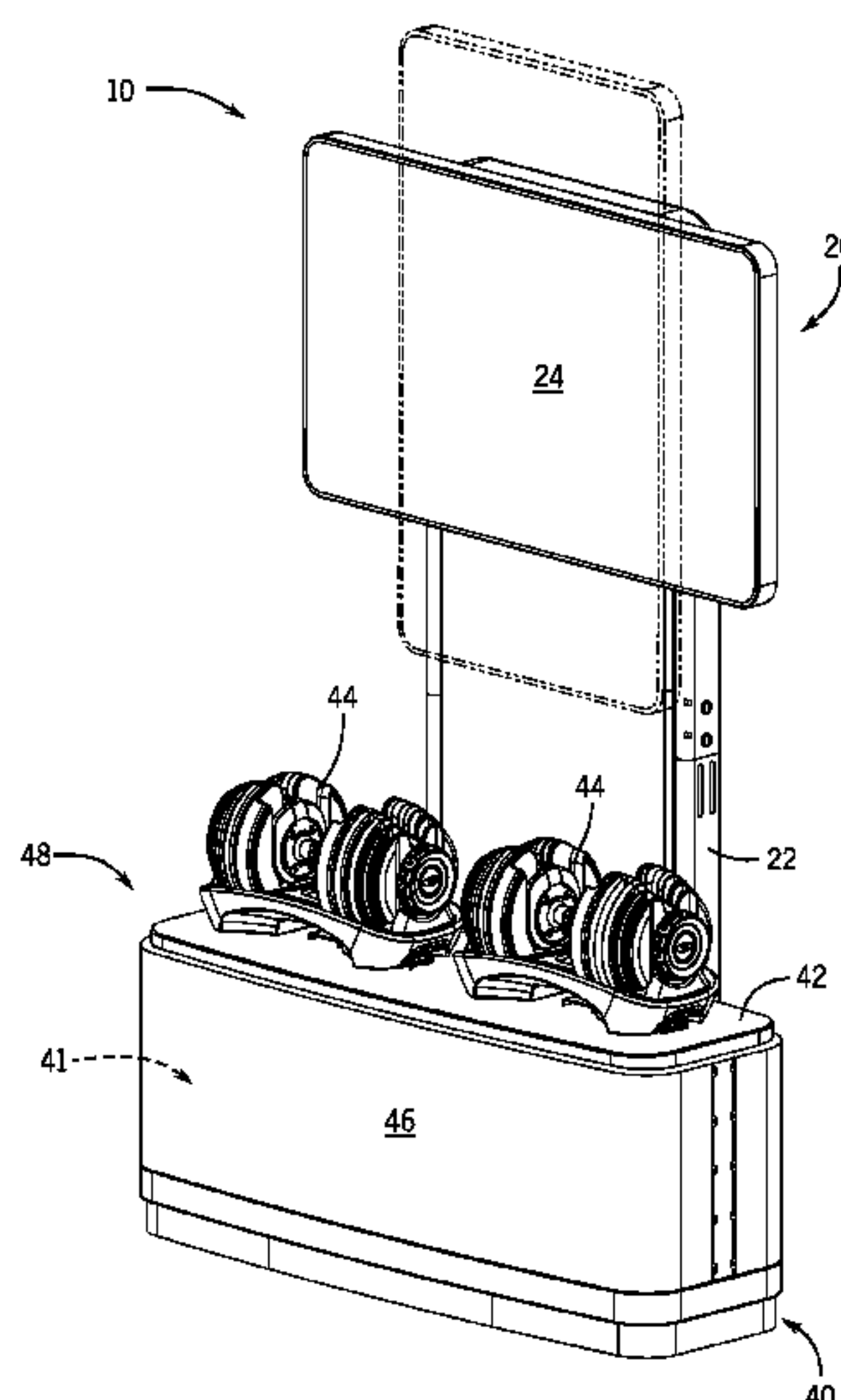
(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***A63B 71/0036*** (2013.01); ***A63B 21/072***
(2013.01); ***A63B 71/0622*** (2013.01); ***F16M***
11/043 (2013.01); ***A63B 2071/0658*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC A63B 71/0036; A63B 21/072; A63B
71/0622; A63B 2071/0658;
(Continued)

ABSTRACT

Embodiments of a free-weight exercise system are disclosed. In one embodiment, the free-weight exercise system includes a base that supports the free-weight exercise system a support surface. A platform is disposed above the base. The platform is sufficiently strong to support one or more exercise weights. The platform is disposed above the base a sufficient height to position the one or more exercise weights at an ergonomic height for grasping by a user. In some embodiments, the platform is be positionable between a retracted configuration and a deployed configuration. The free-weight exercise system includes a mast coupled to and extending above the base. The mast supports a display subsystem. The display subsystem includes a display. The display is disposed at a height above the support surface above the height of the platform. In some embodiments, the display may be rotatable between a landscape orientation and a portrait orientation.

20 Claims, 36 Drawing Sheets



Related U.S. Application Data

filed on Feb. 9, 2022, provisional application No. 63/245,727, filed on Sep. 17, 2021, provisional application No. 63/224,790, filed on Jul. 22, 2021.

(51) Int. Cl.

A63B 71/06 (2006.01)
F16M 11/04 (2006.01)

(58) Field of Classification Search

CPC A63B 2210/50; A63B 2220/801; A63B 2220/805; A63B 2225/093; A63B 2225/20; A63B 2225/50; A63B 21/0726; A63B 21/075; A63B 21/4029; F16M 11/043; F16M 11/105
See application file for complete search history.

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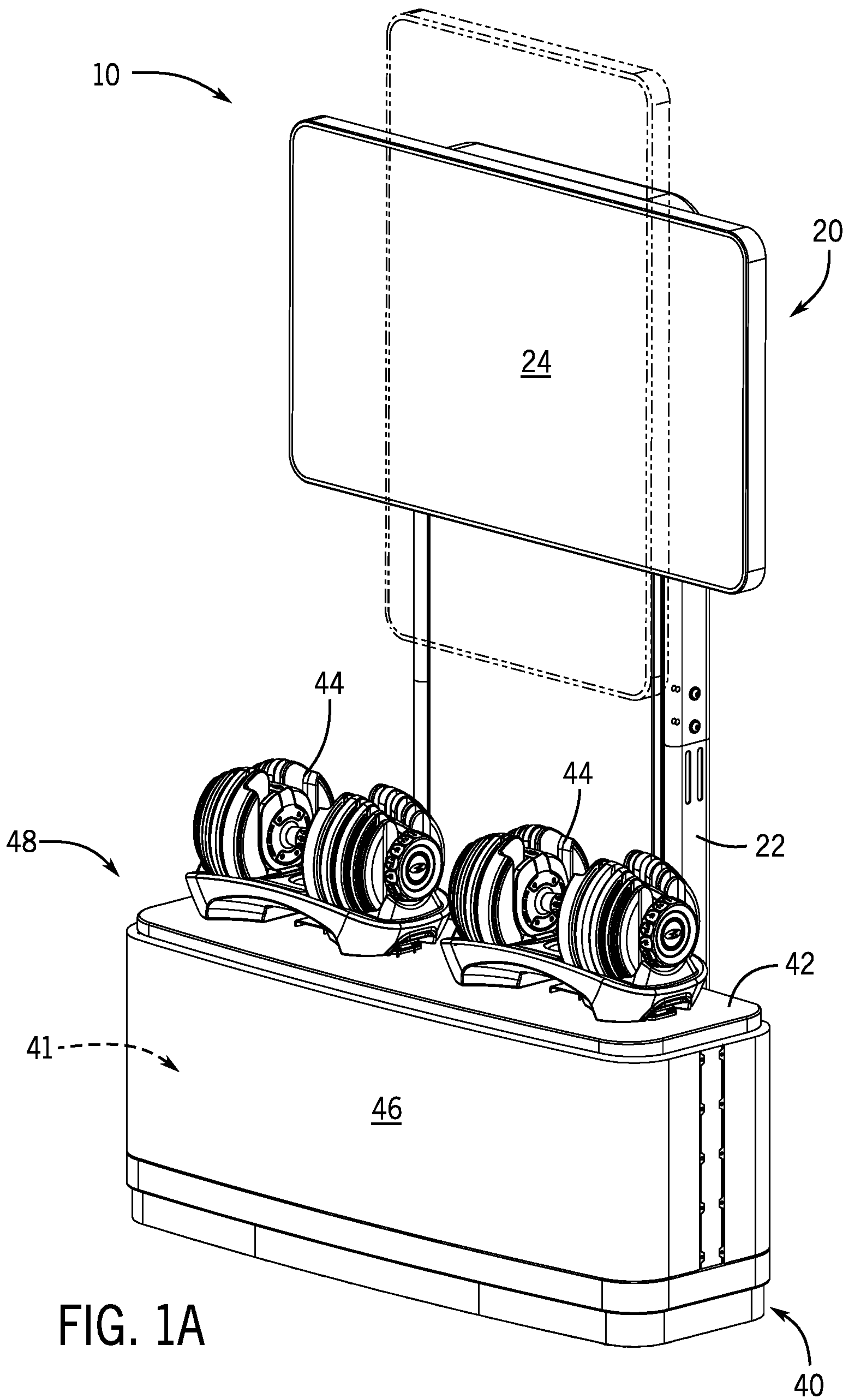
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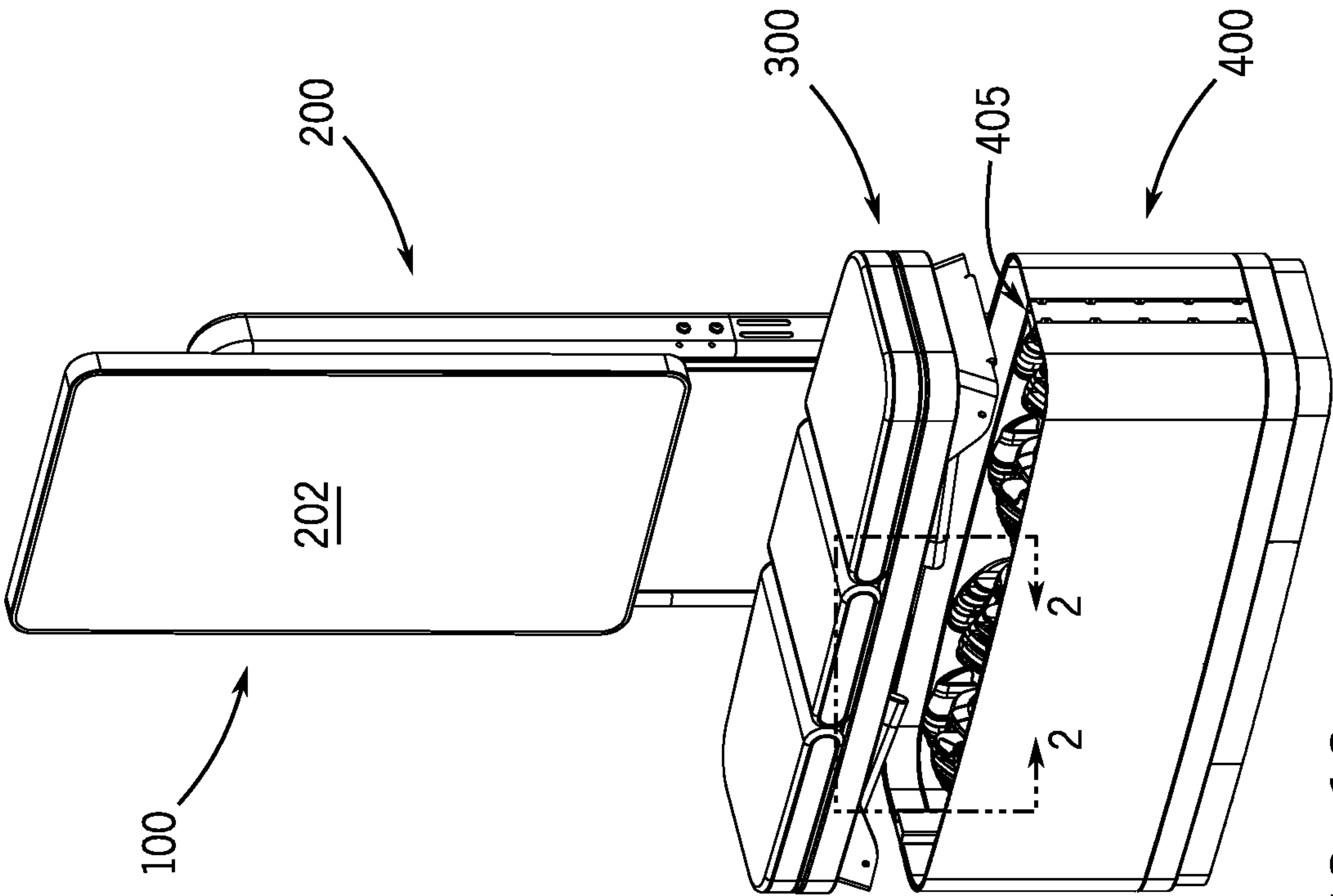


FIG. 1C

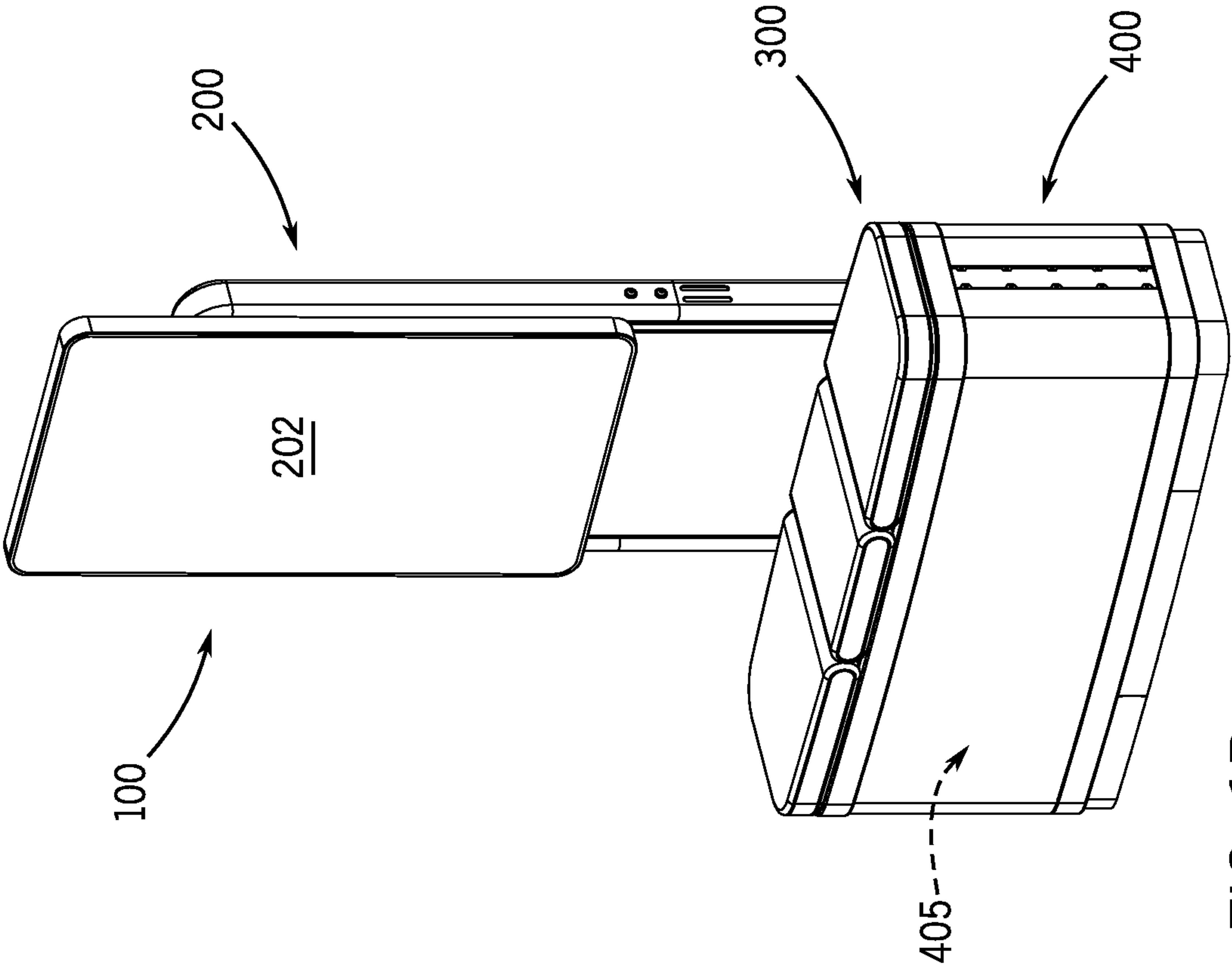


FIG. 1B

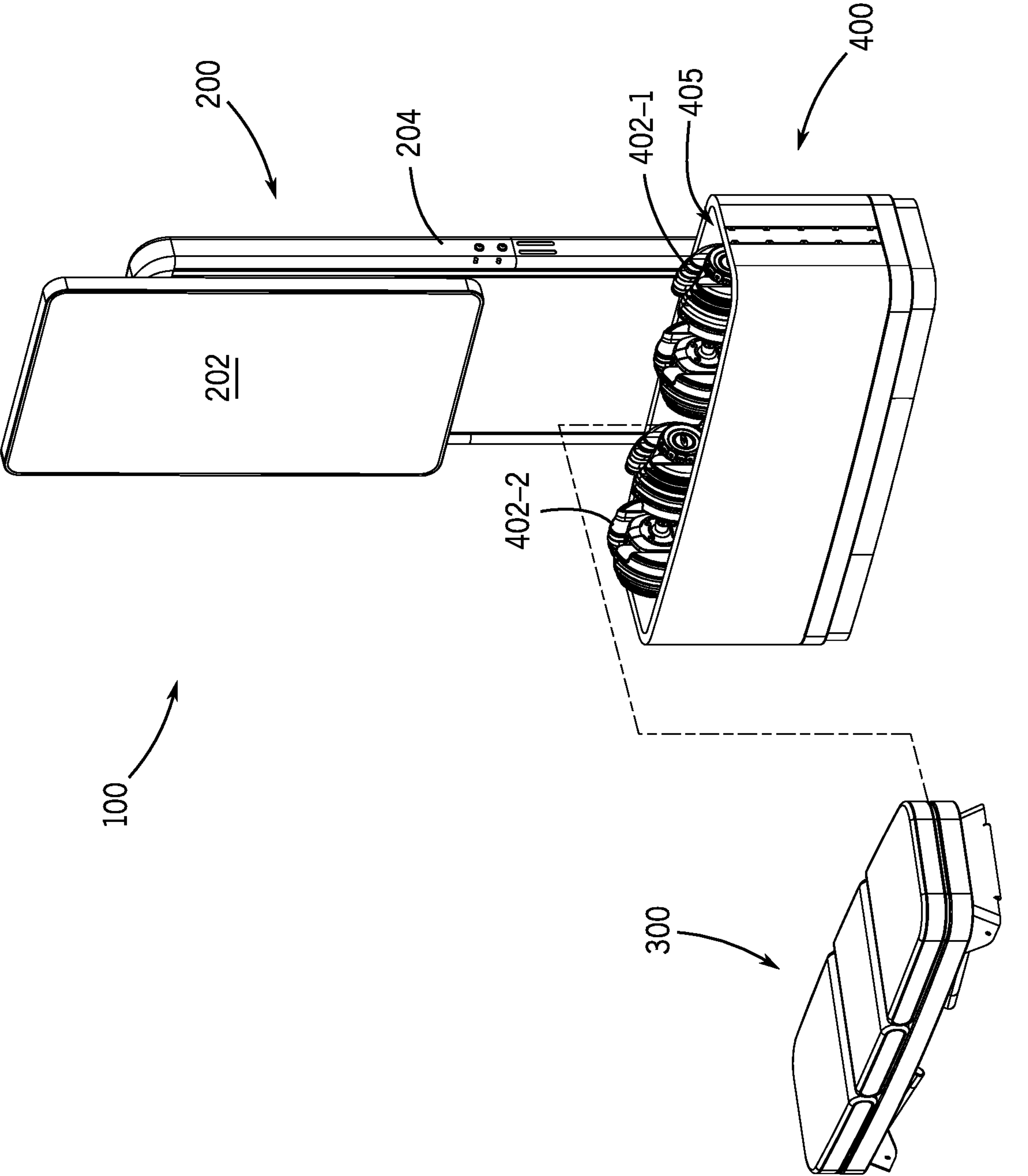
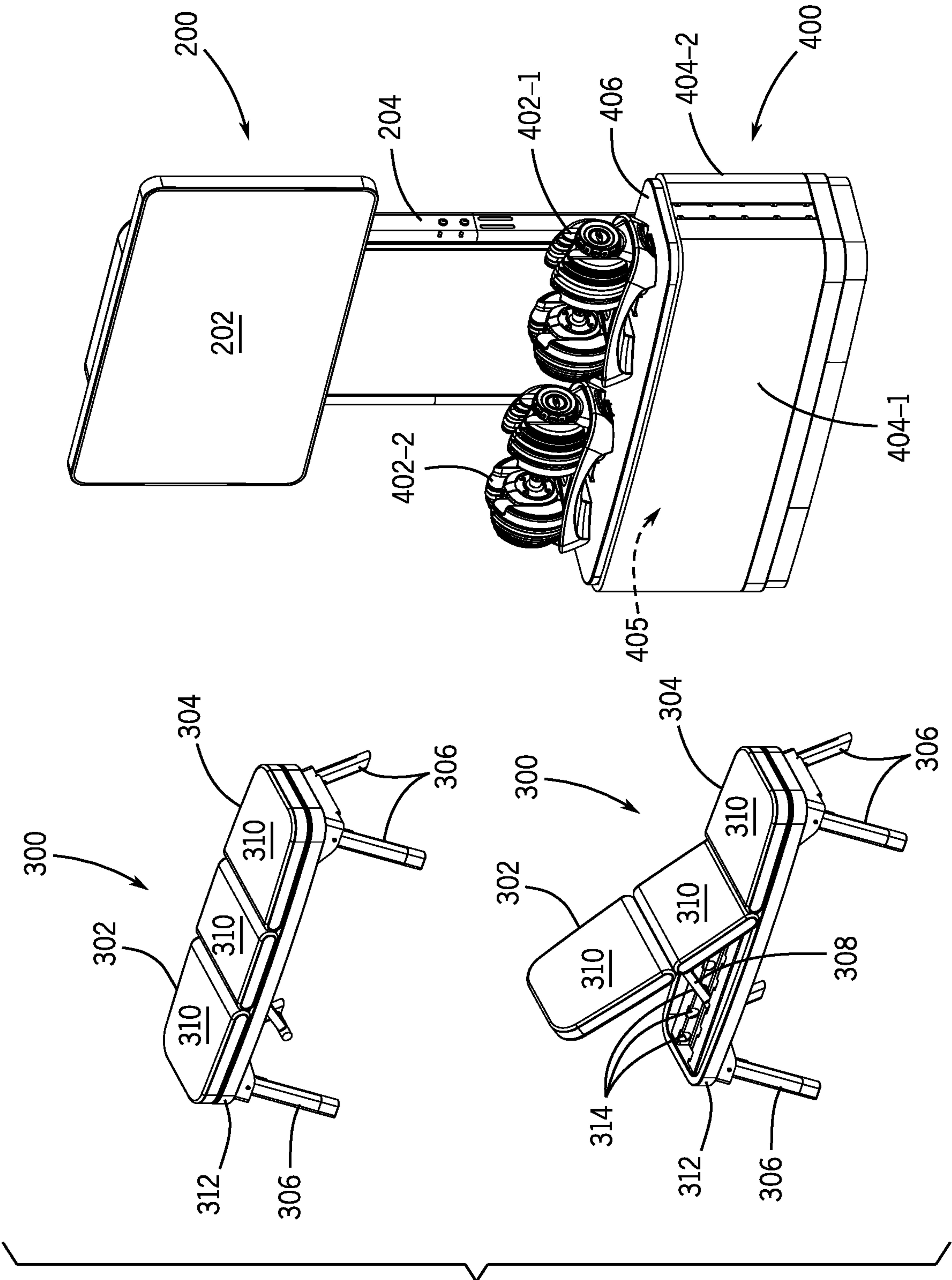


FIG. 1D



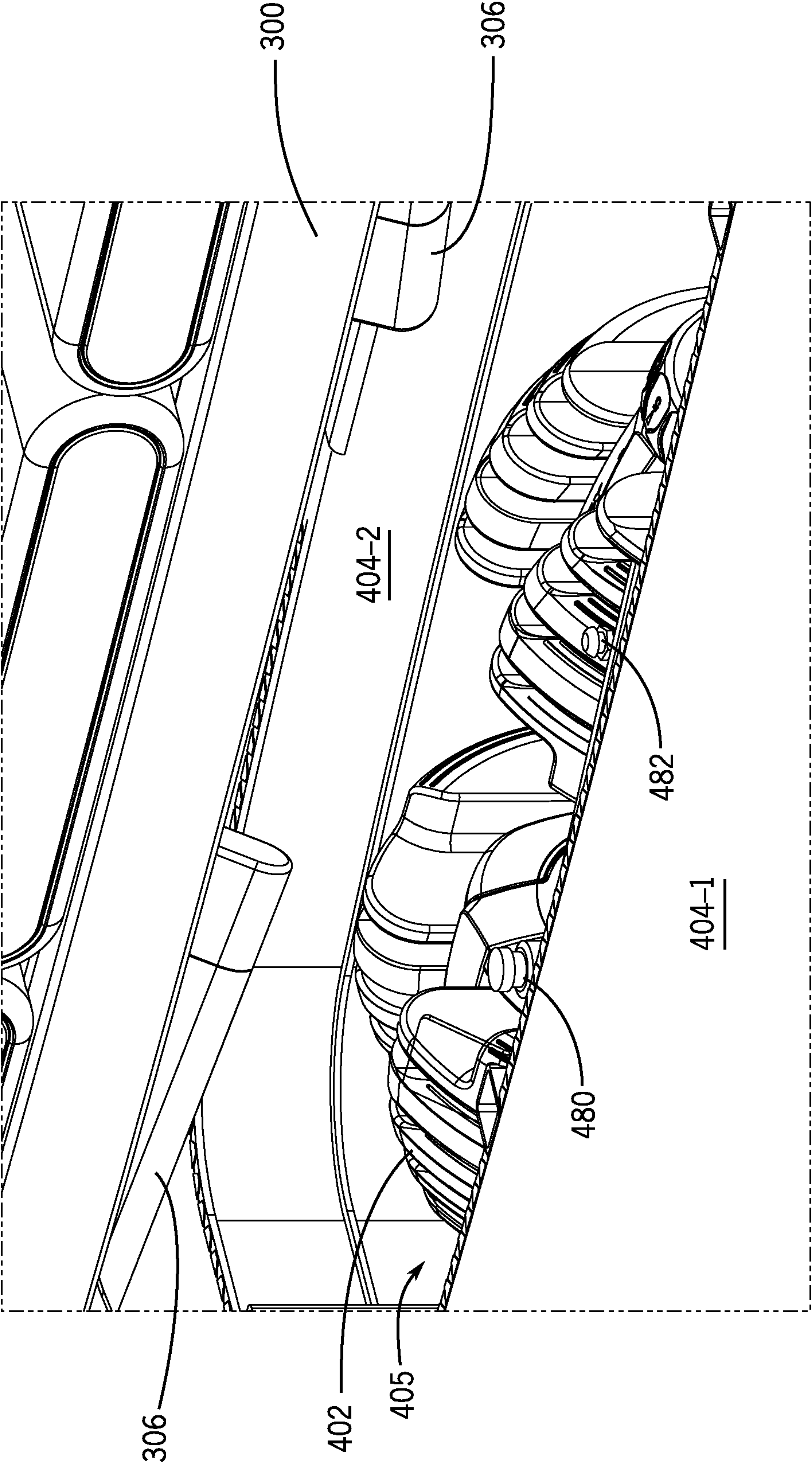


FIG. 2

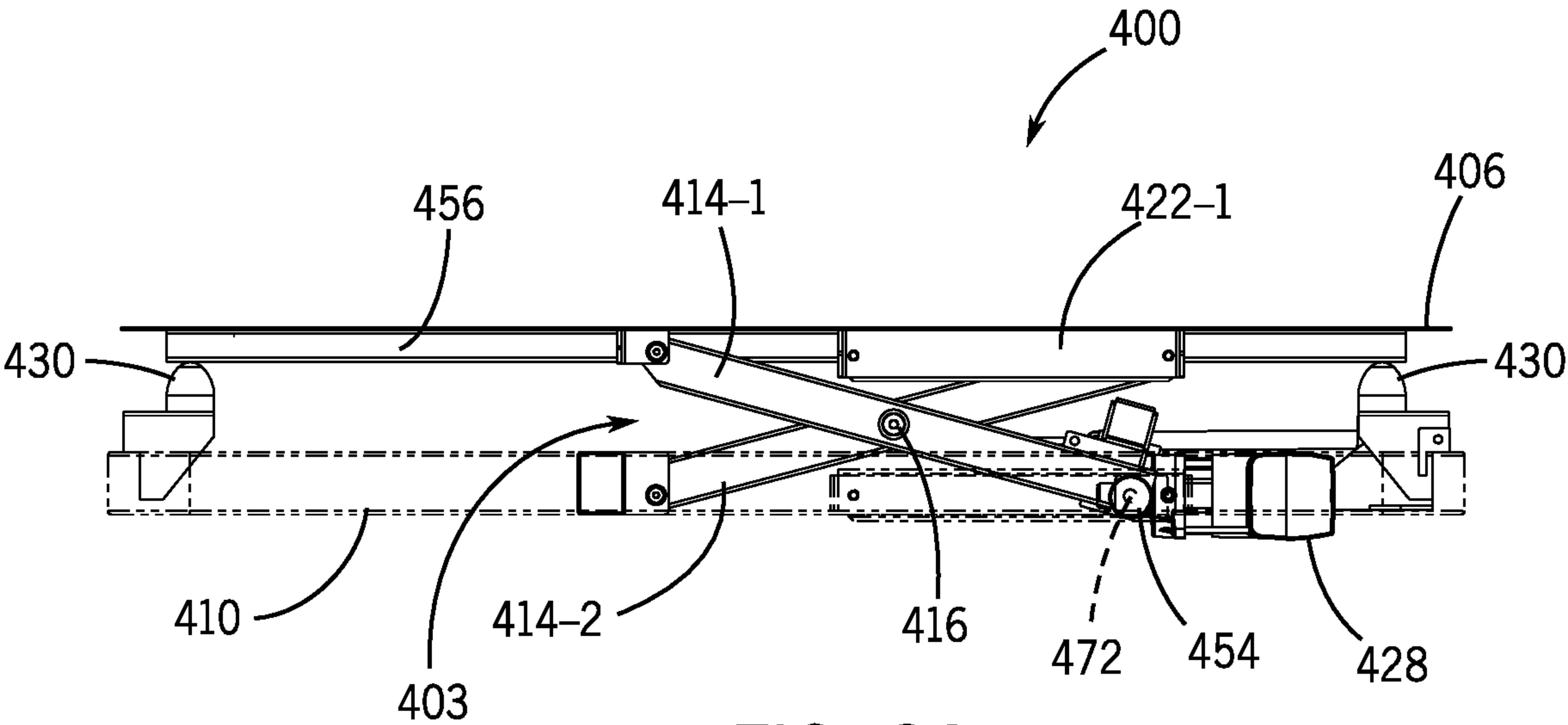


FIG. 3A

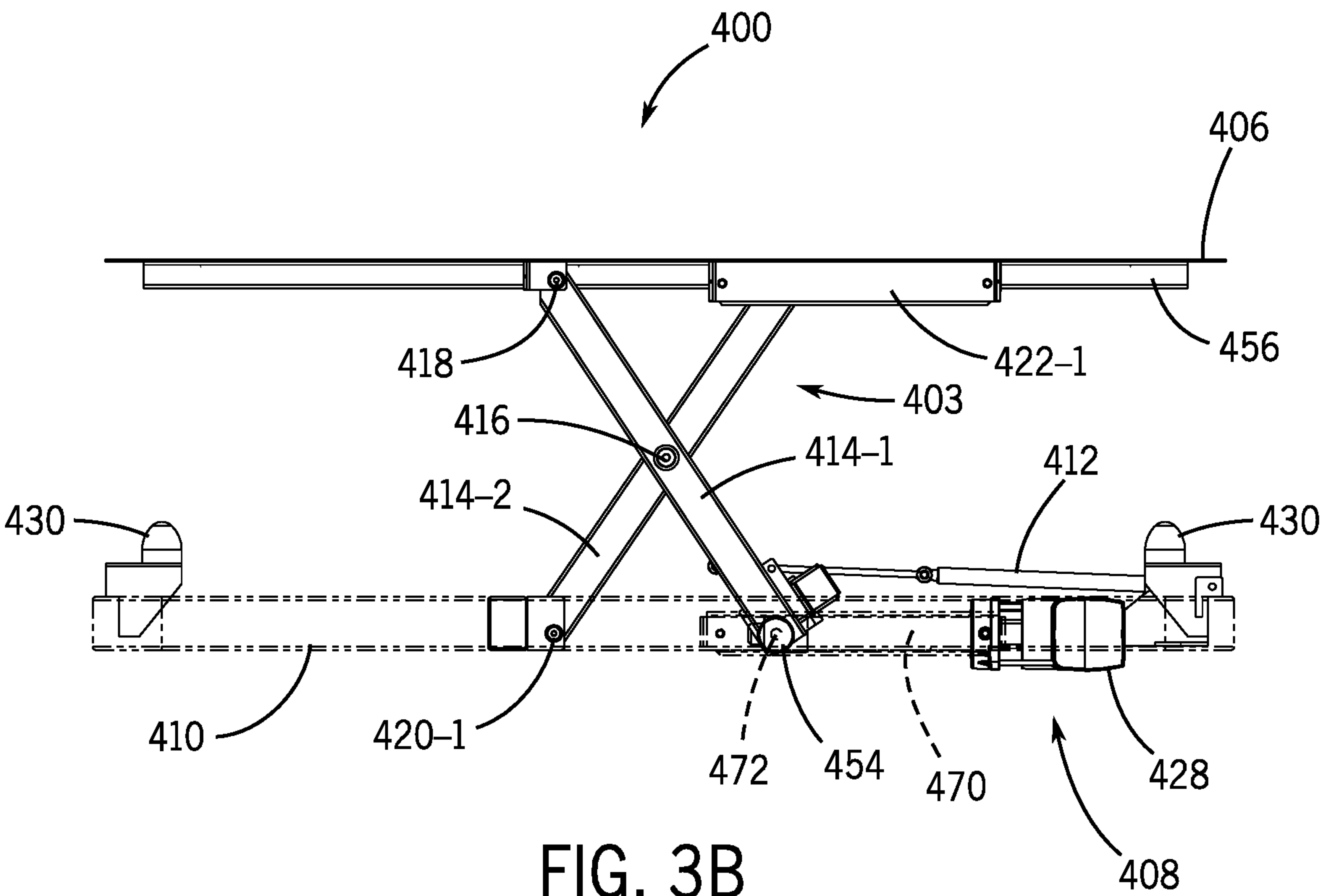


FIG. 3B

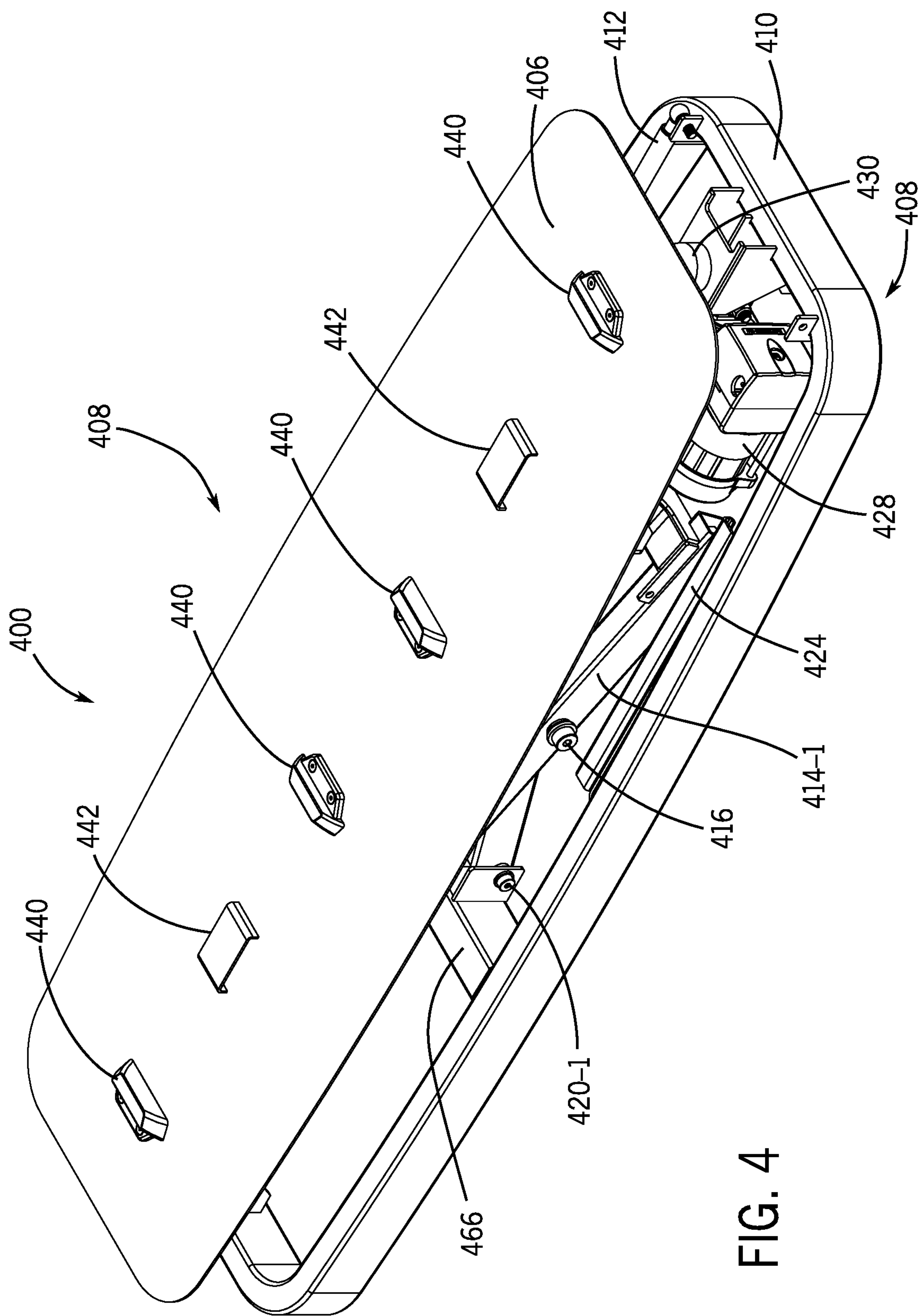


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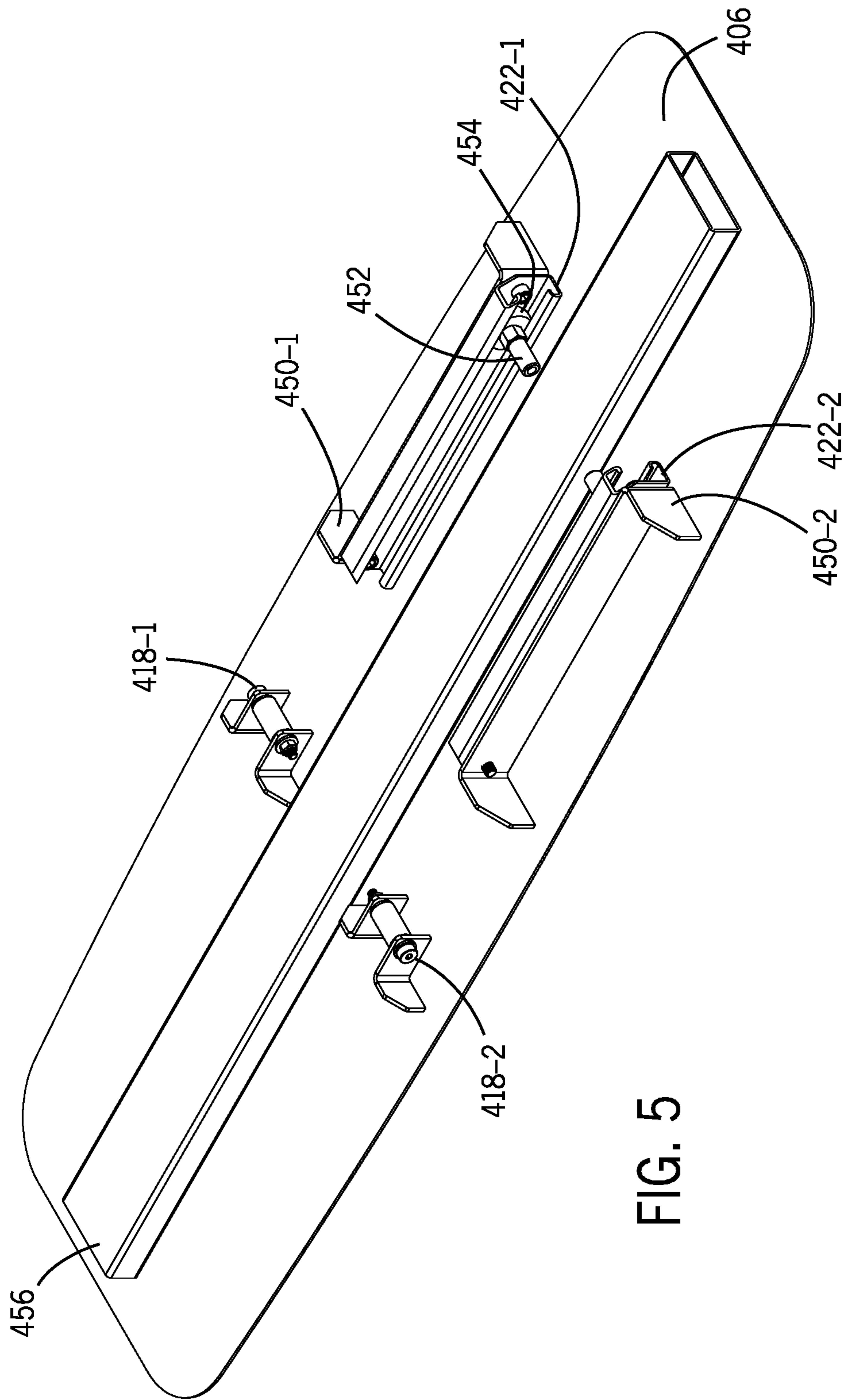
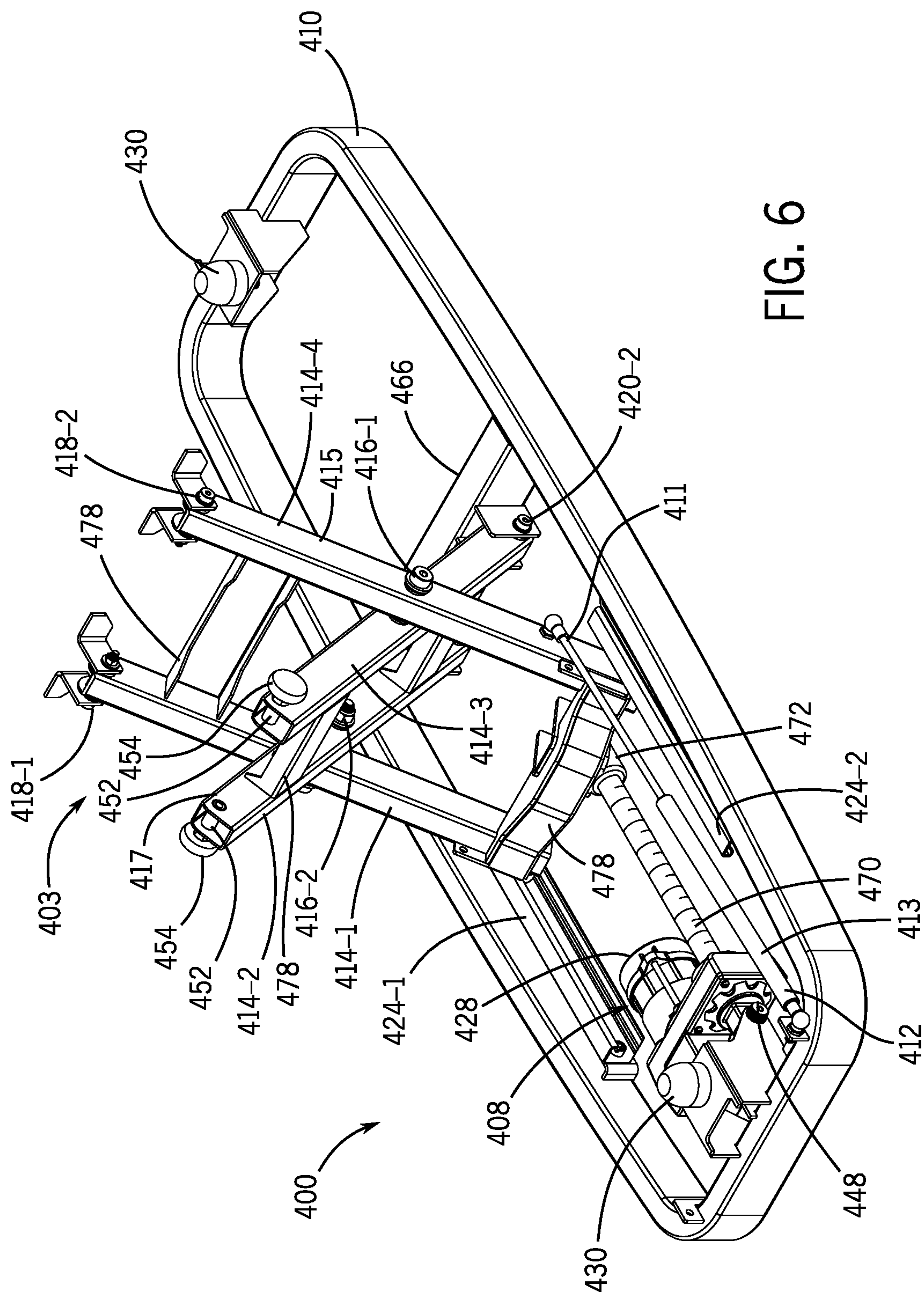


FIG. 5



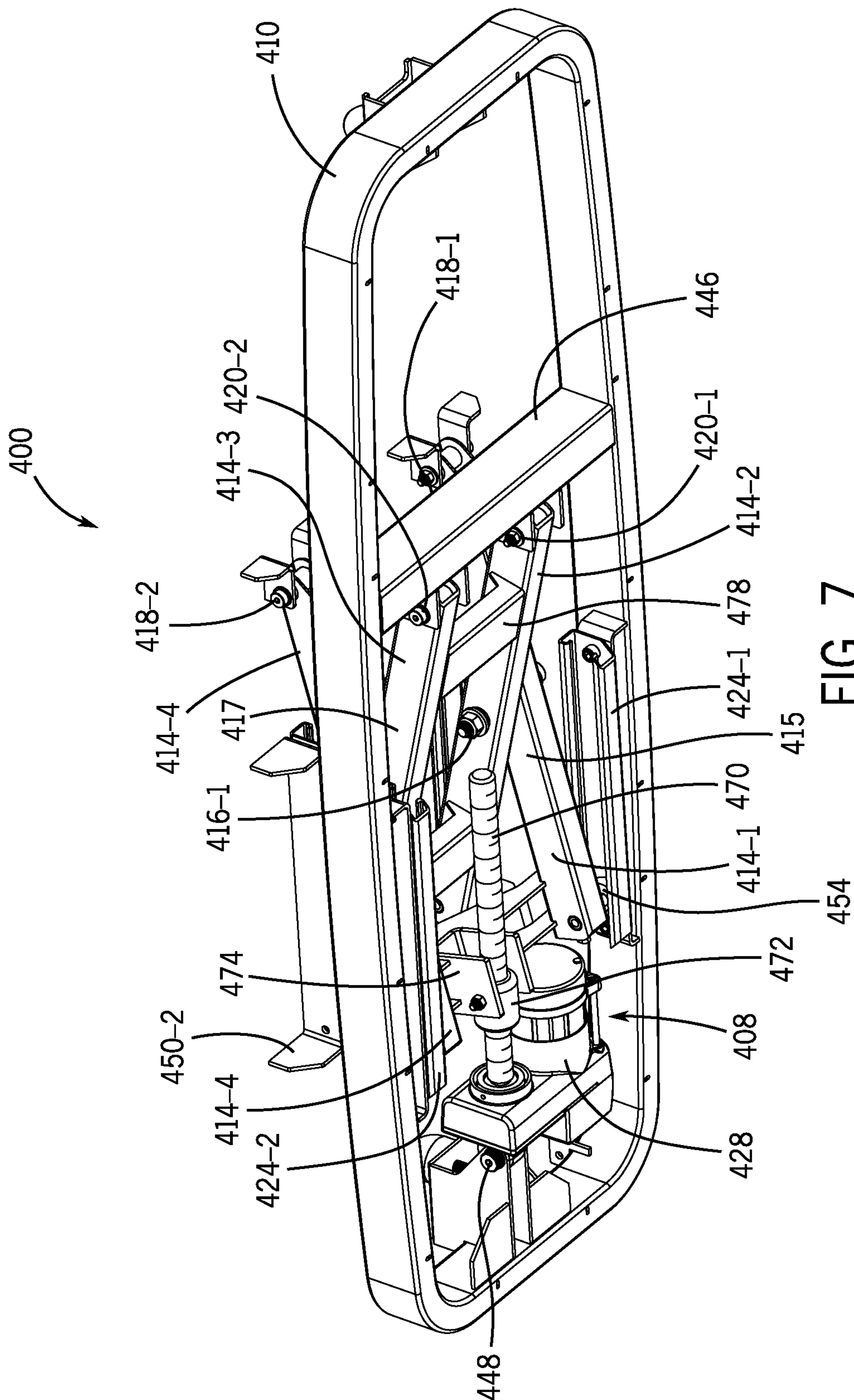
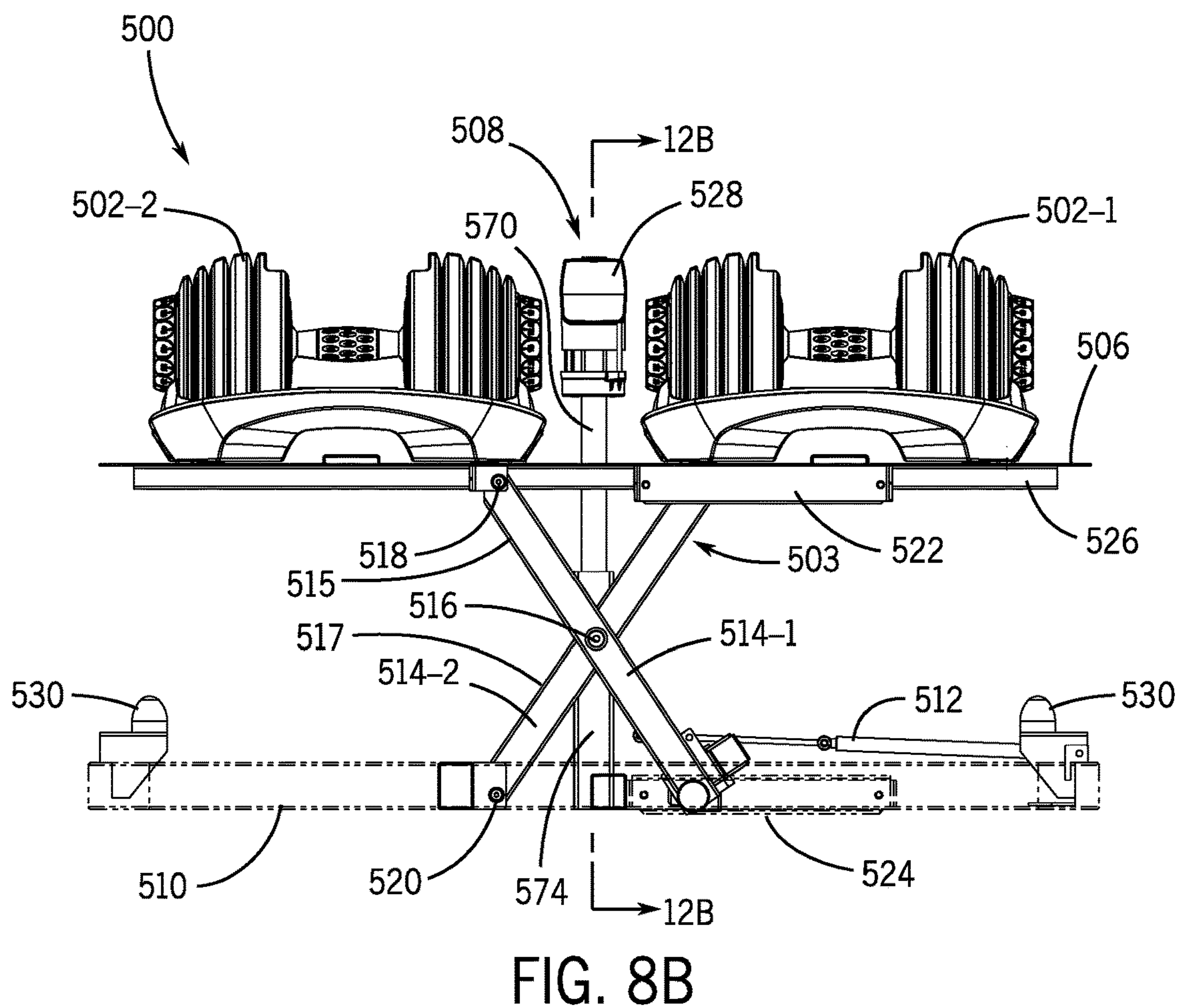
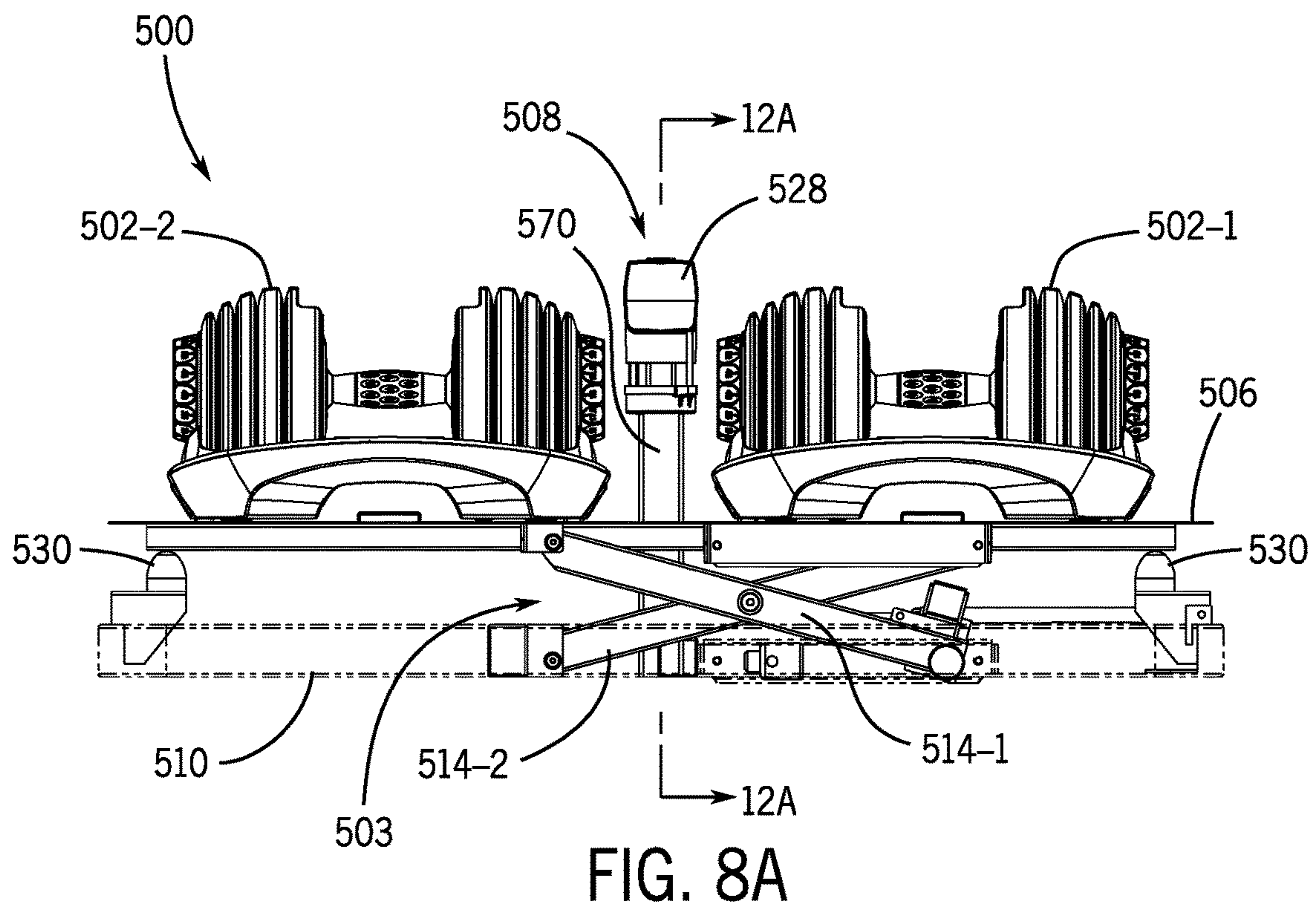


FIG. 7



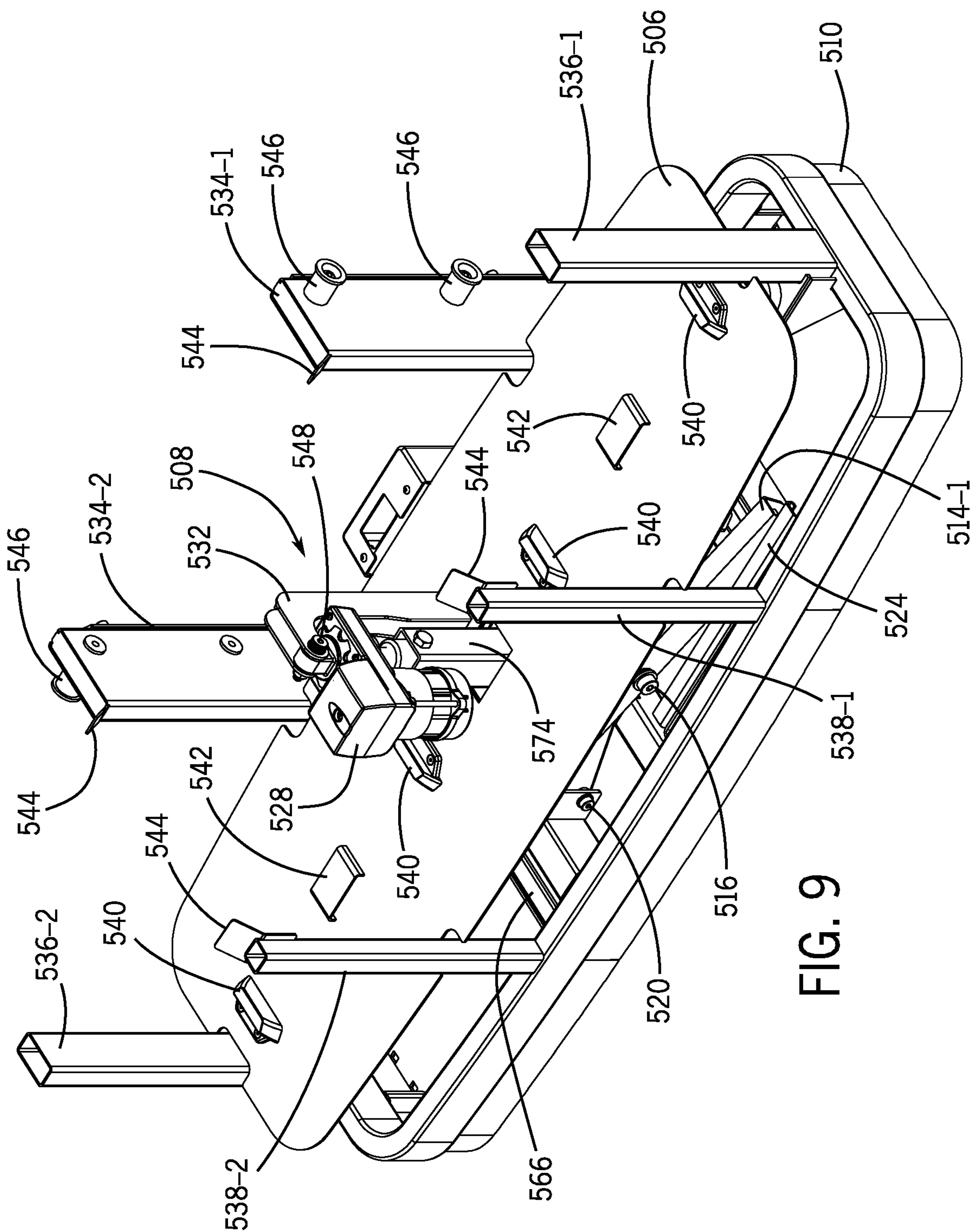
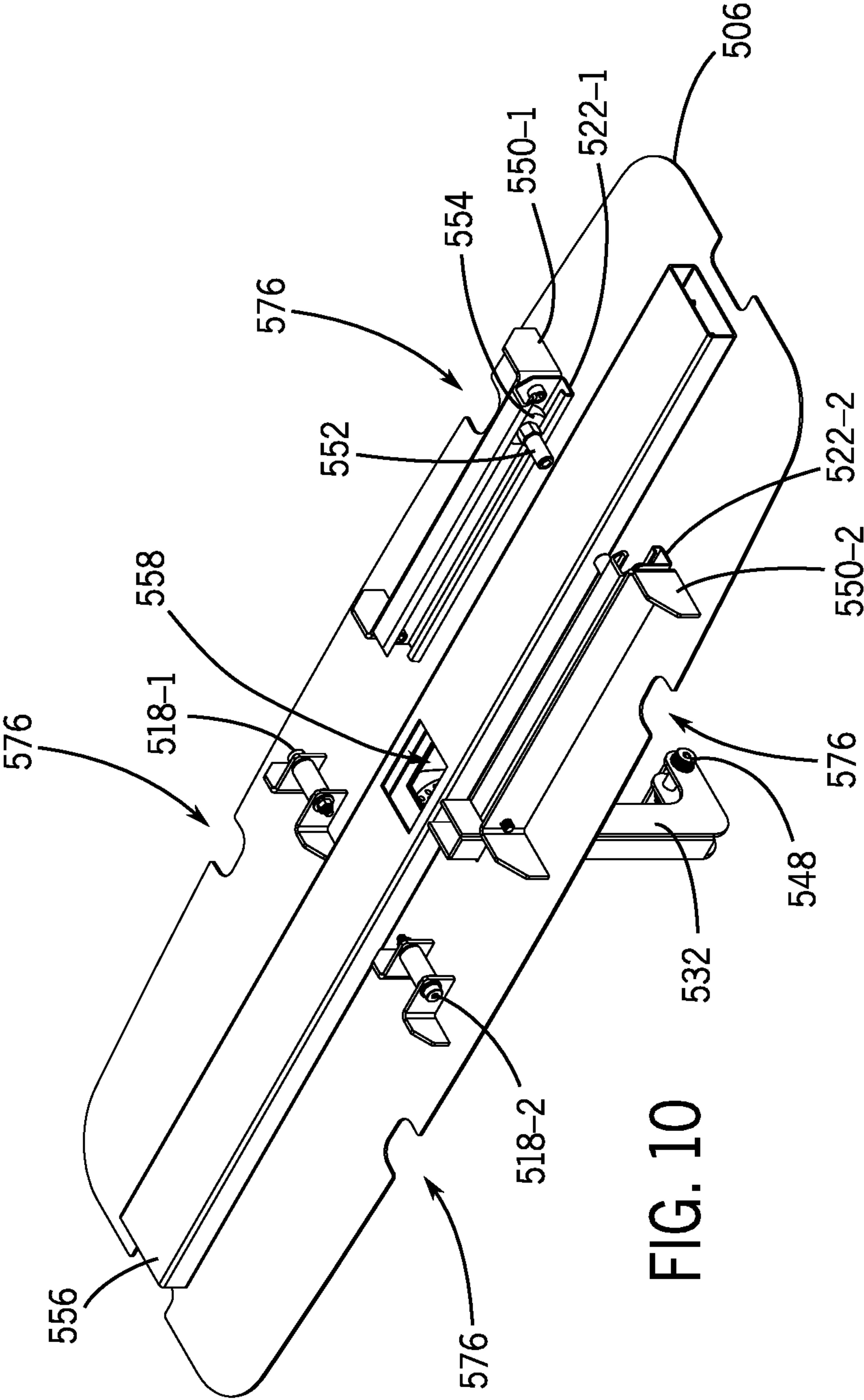


FIG. 9



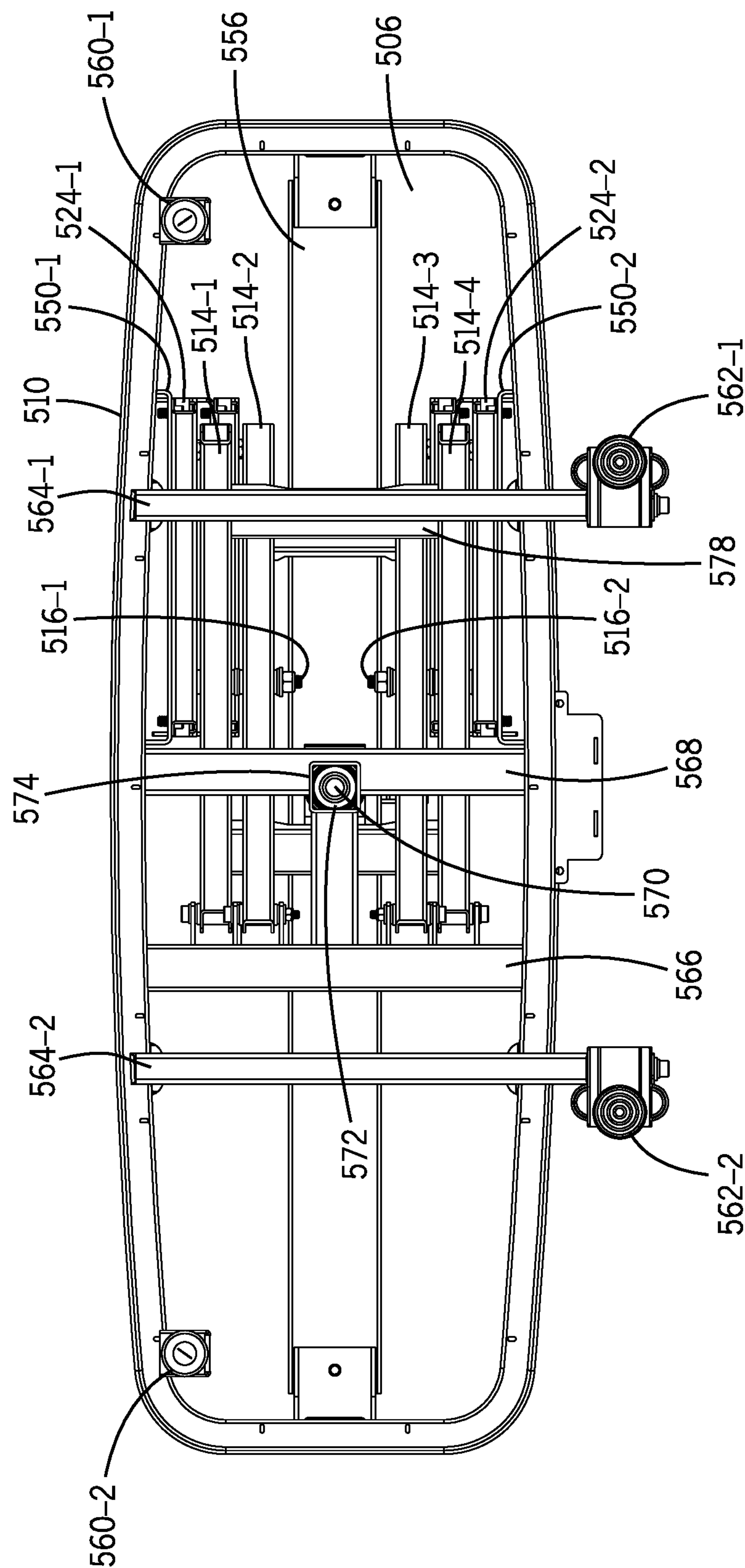
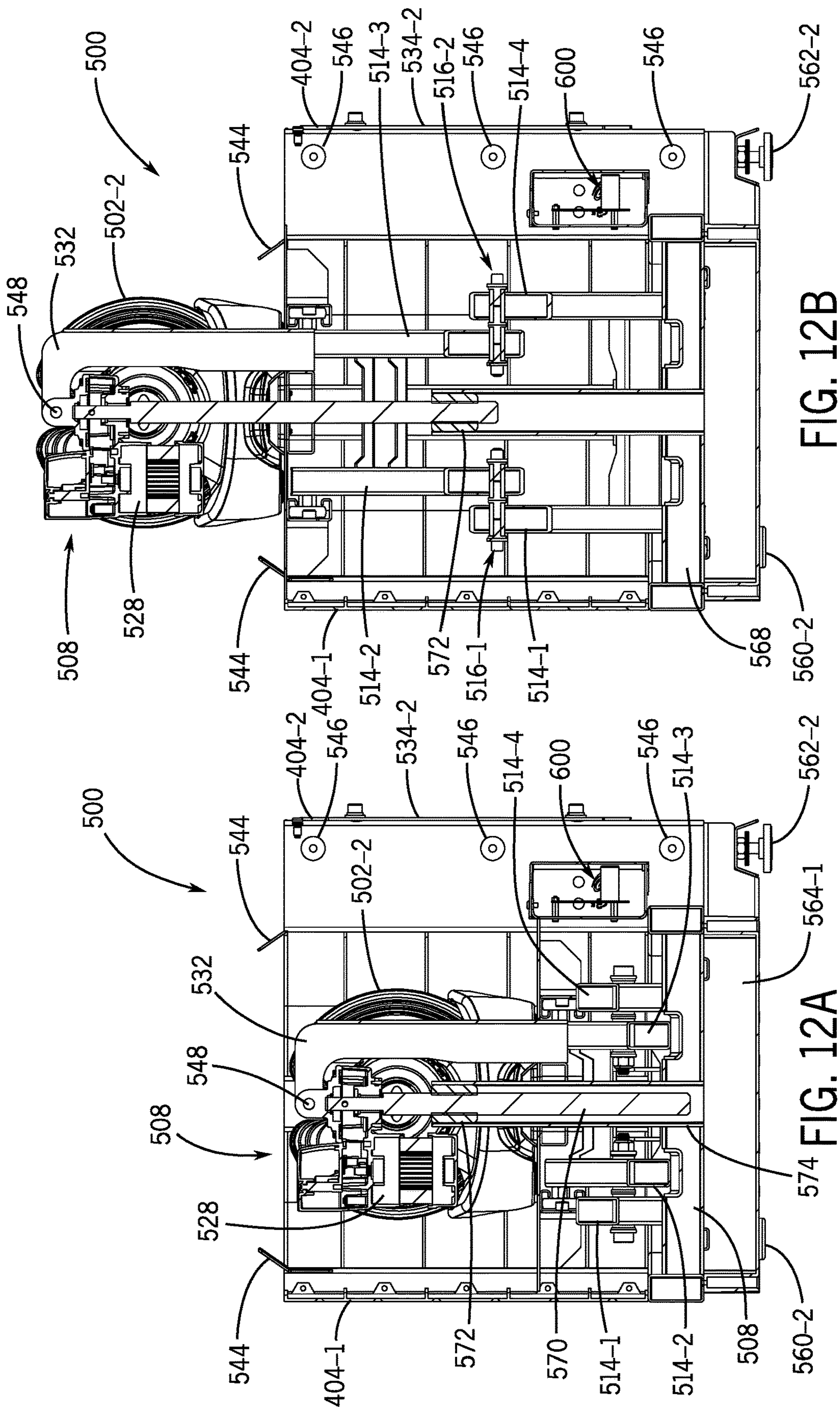


FIG. 11



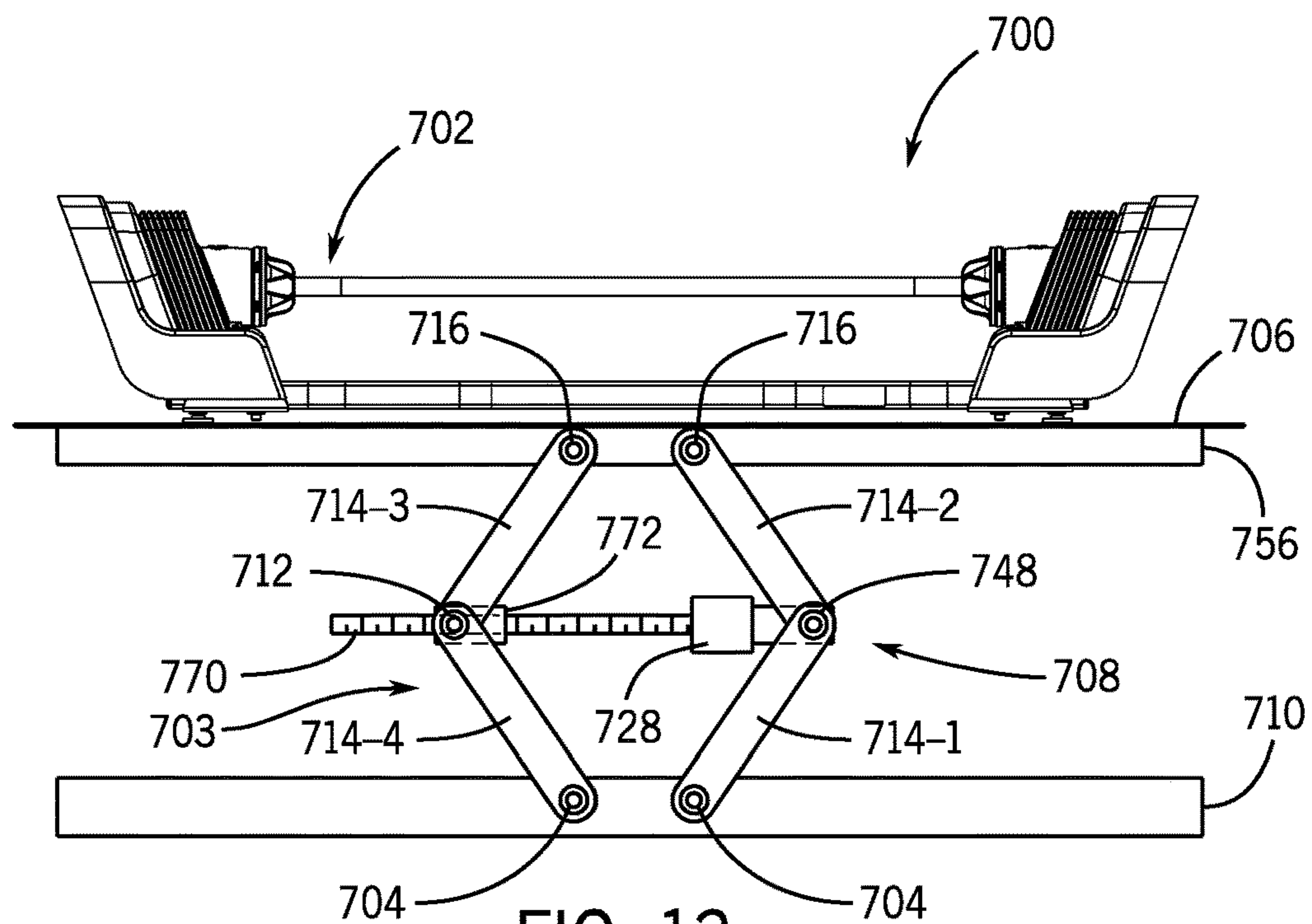


FIG. 13

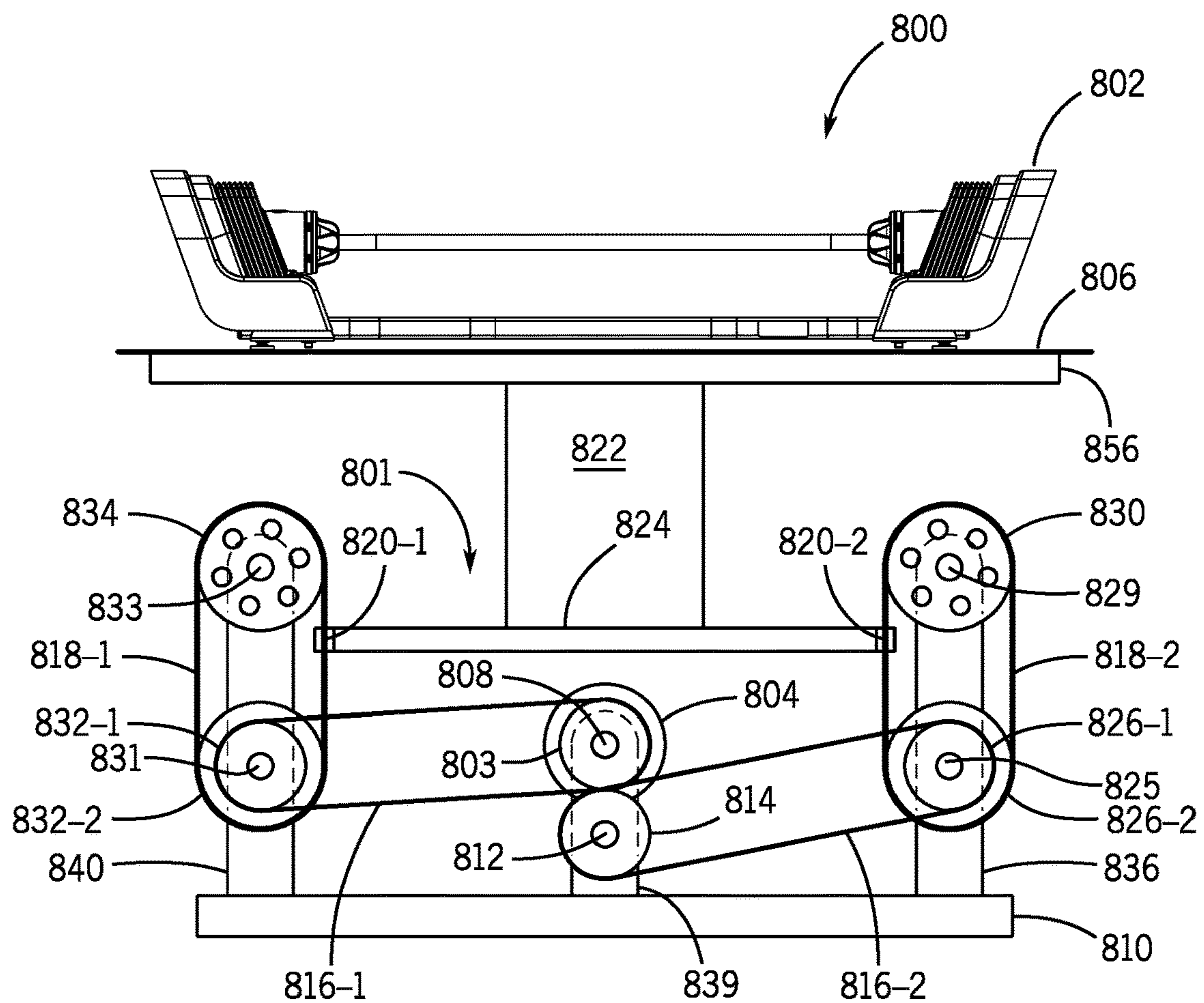


FIG. 14

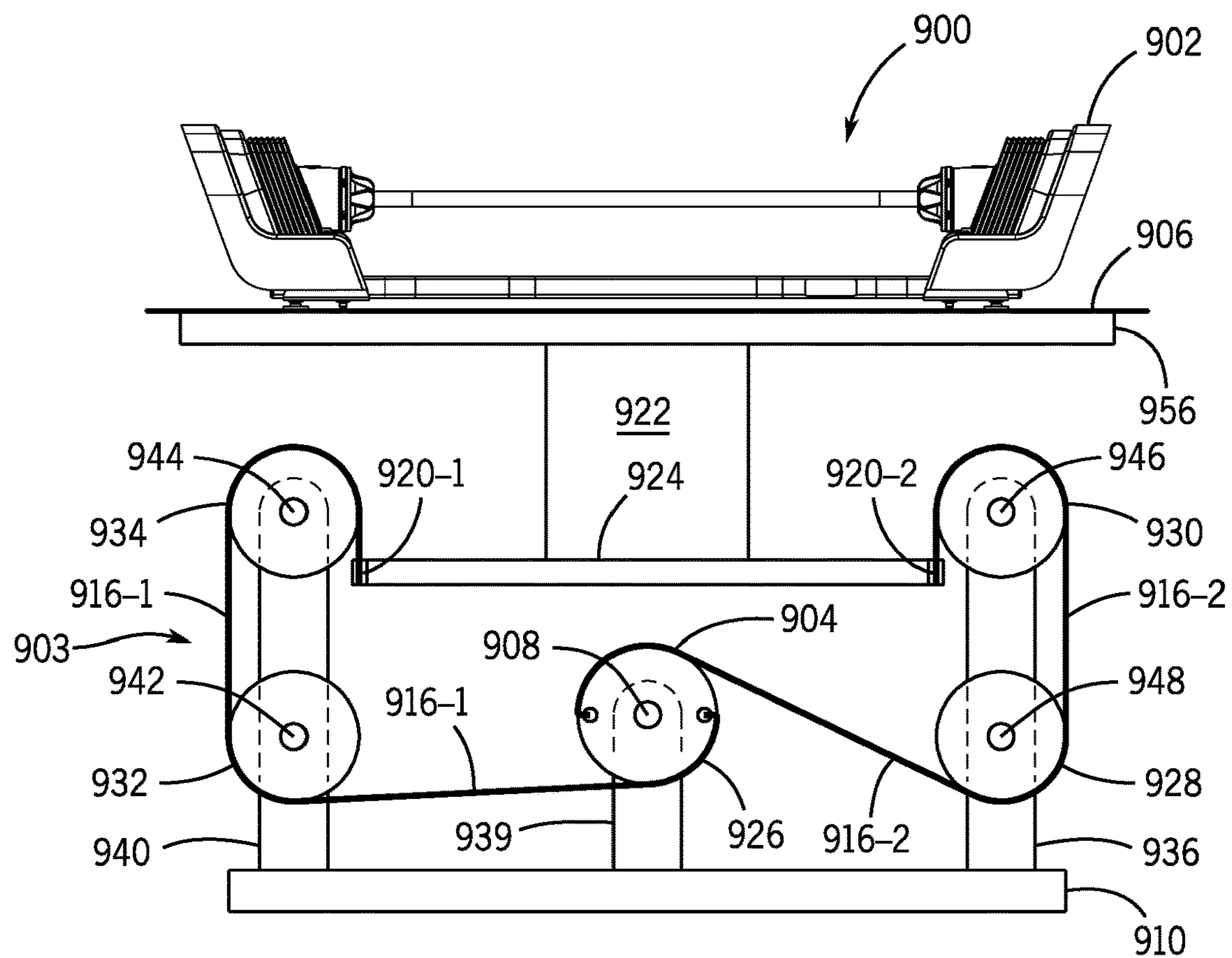


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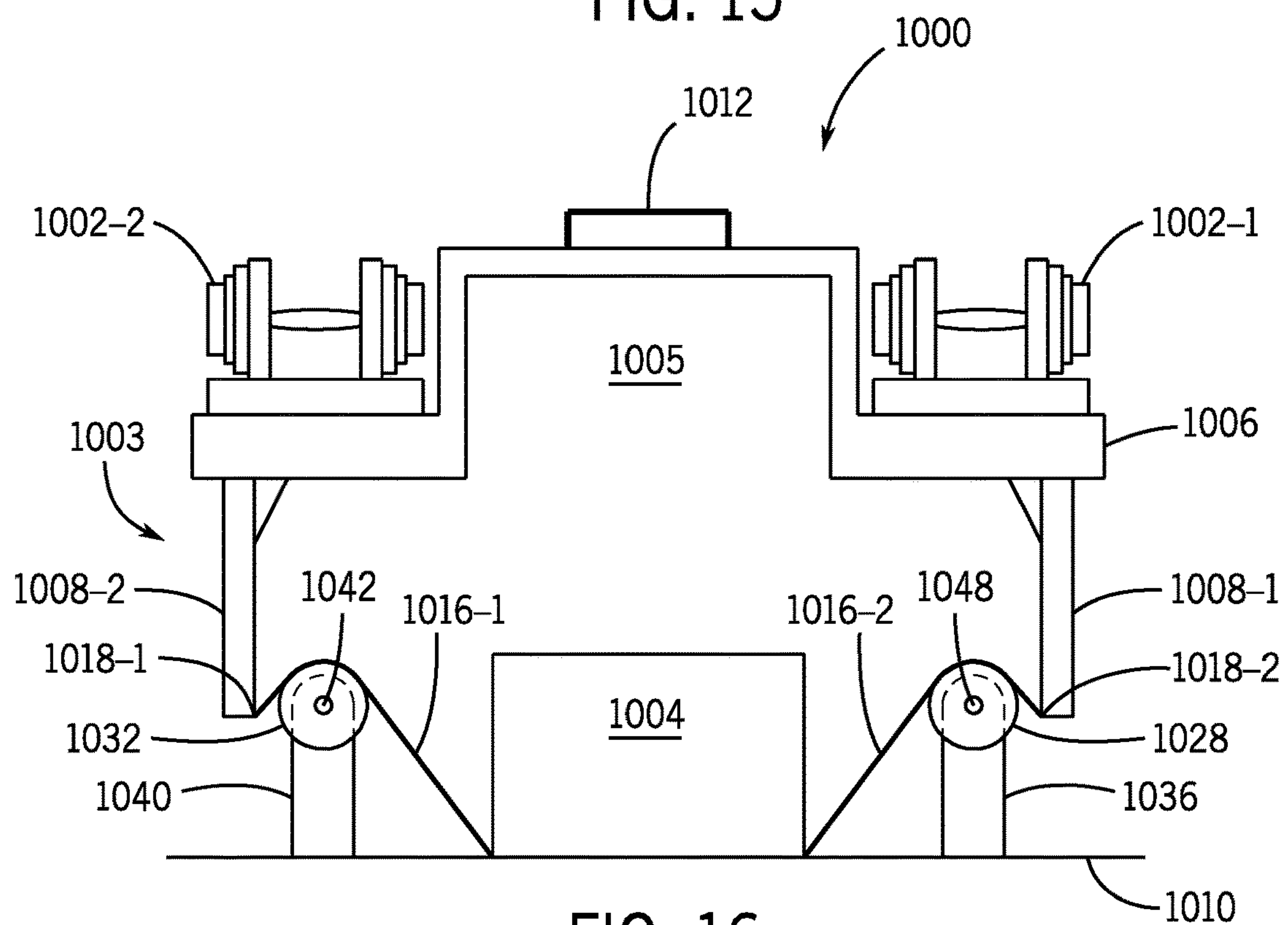
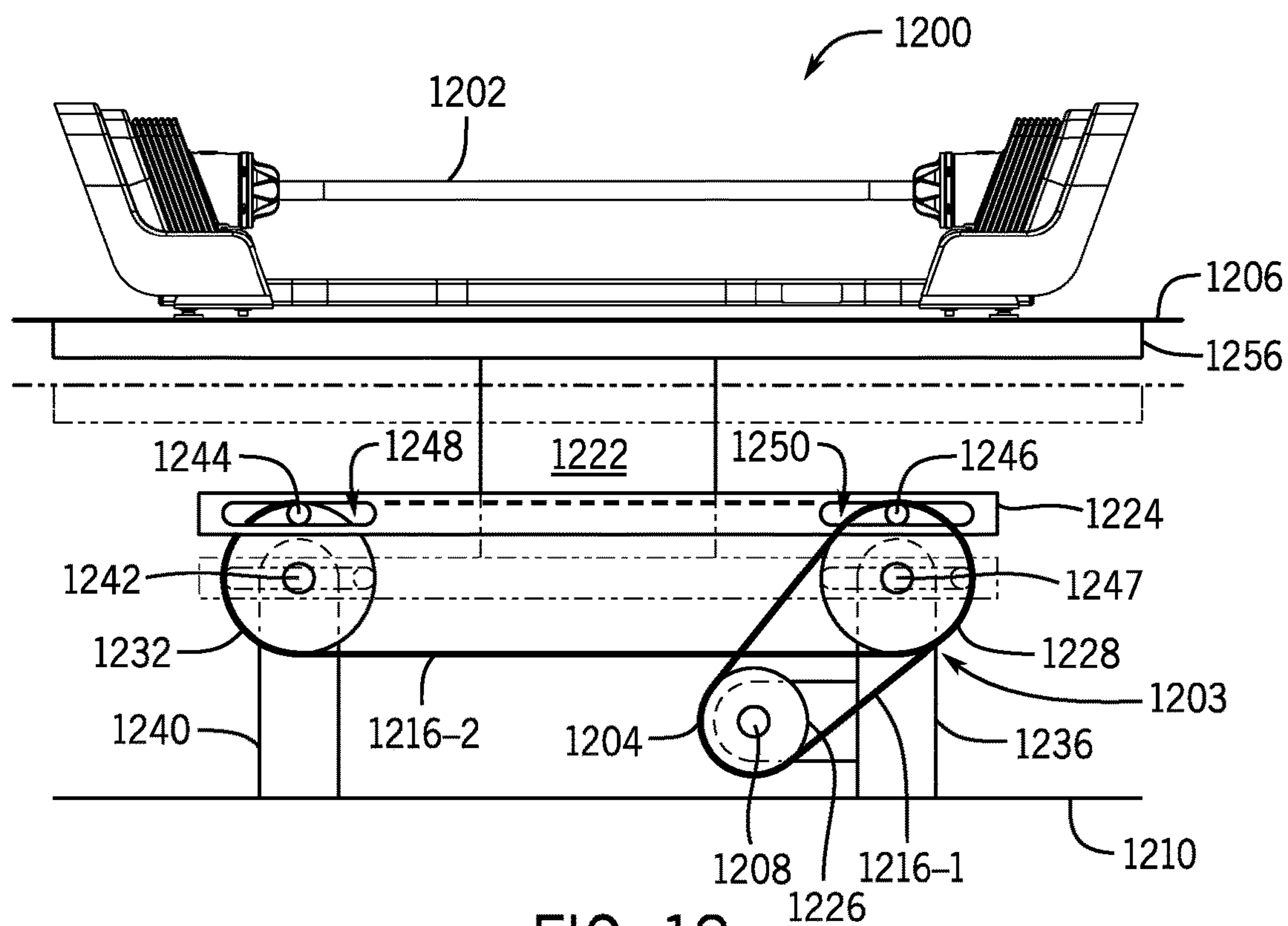
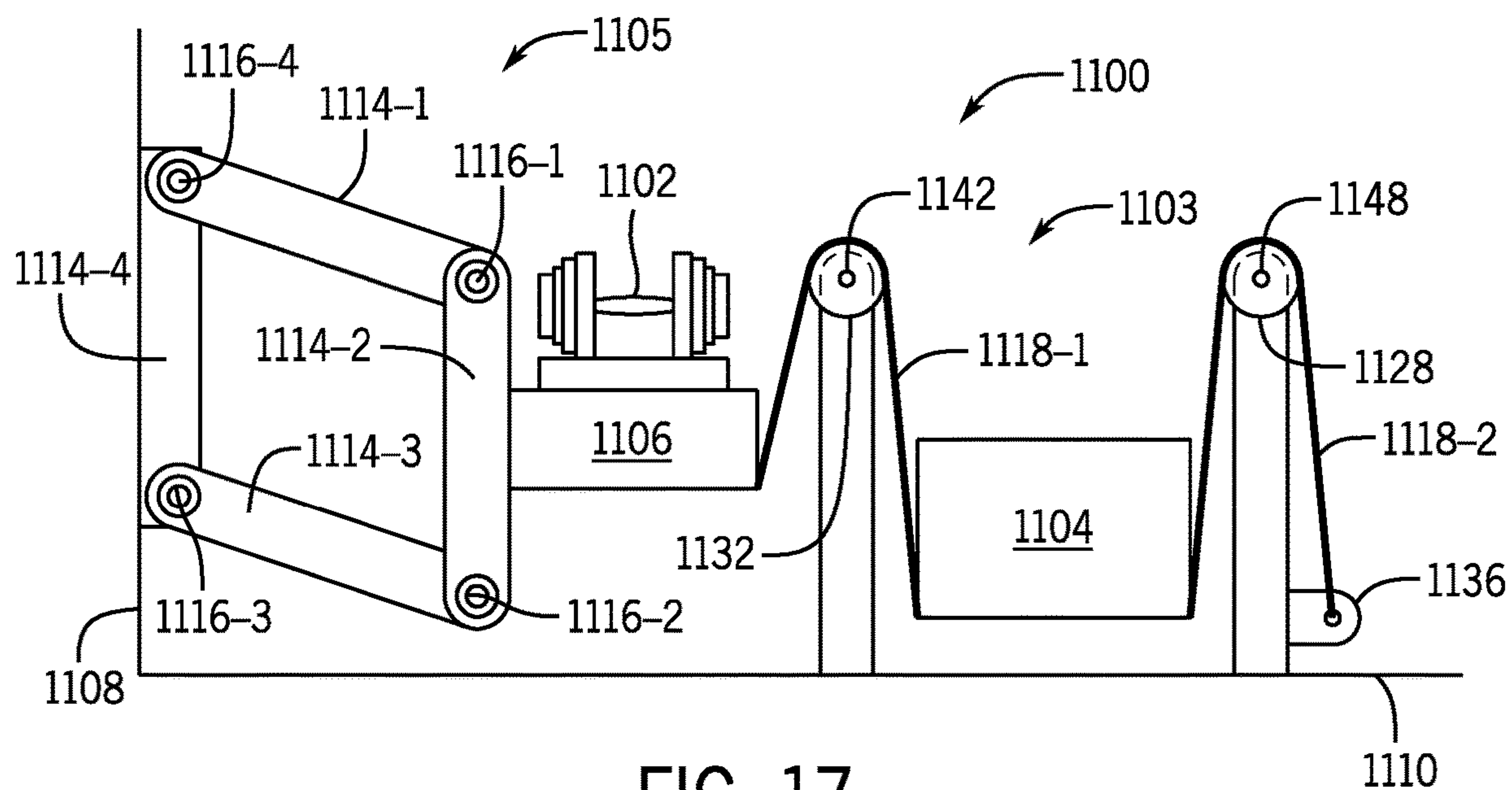


FIG. 16



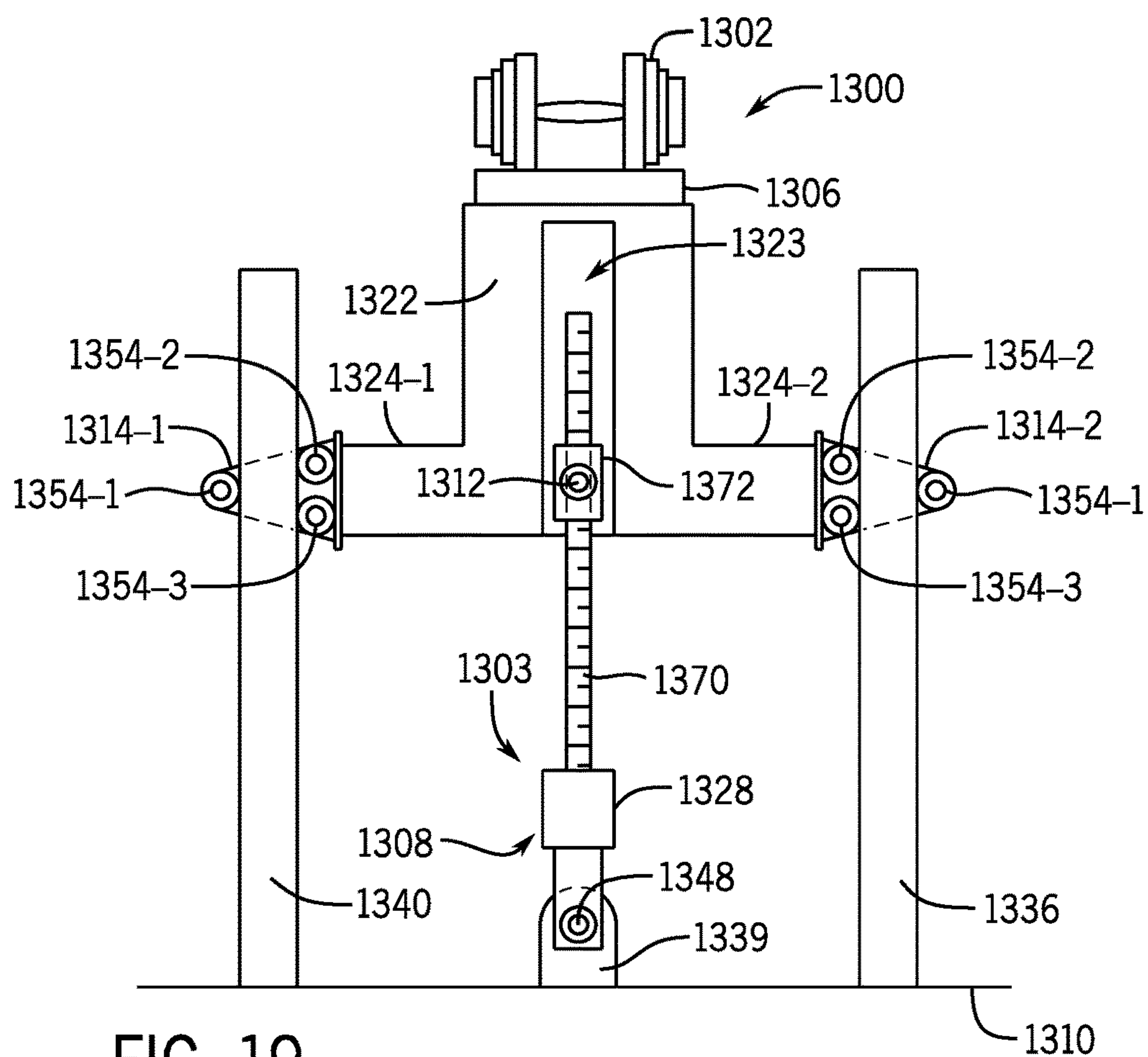


FIG. 19

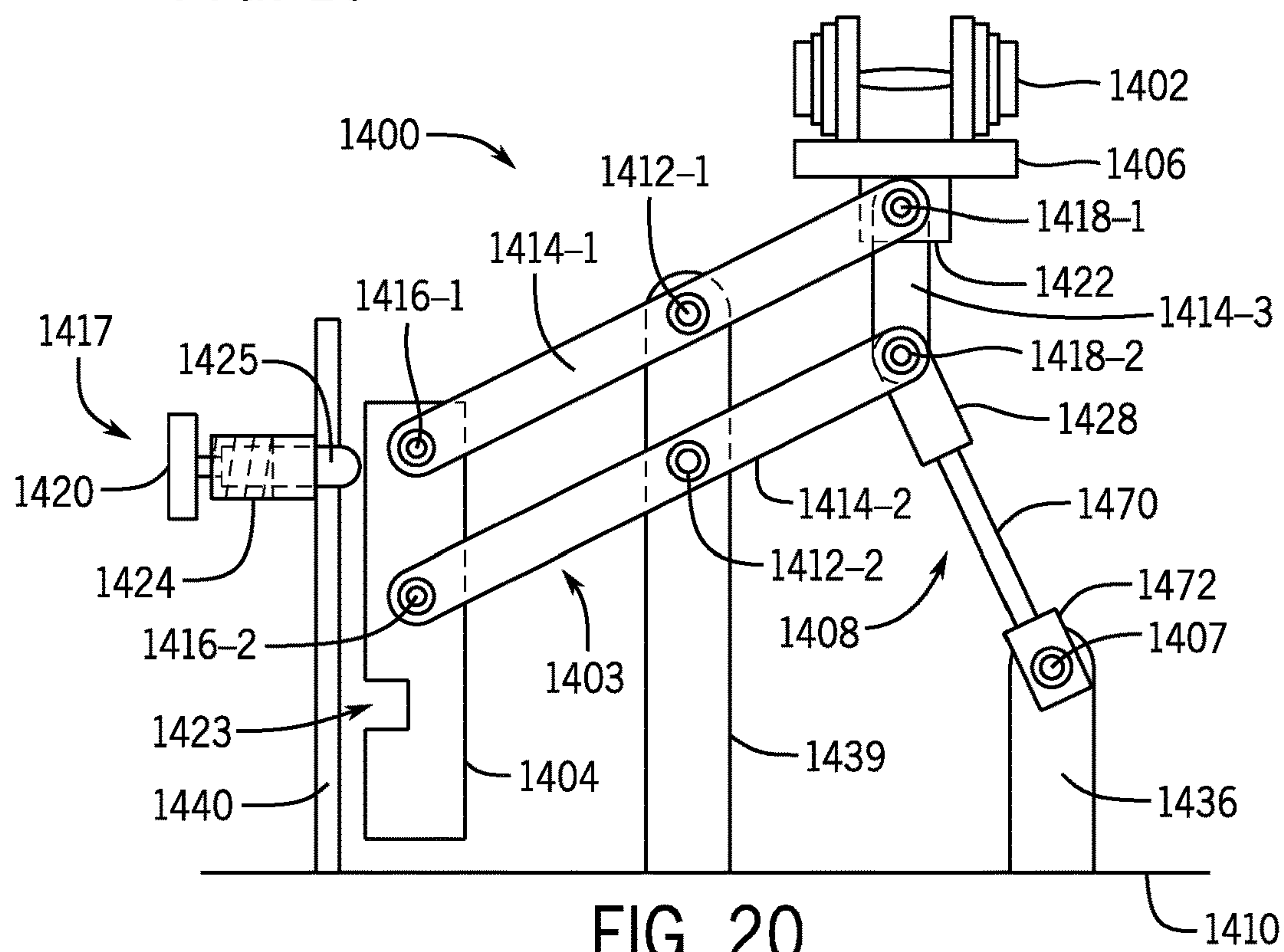
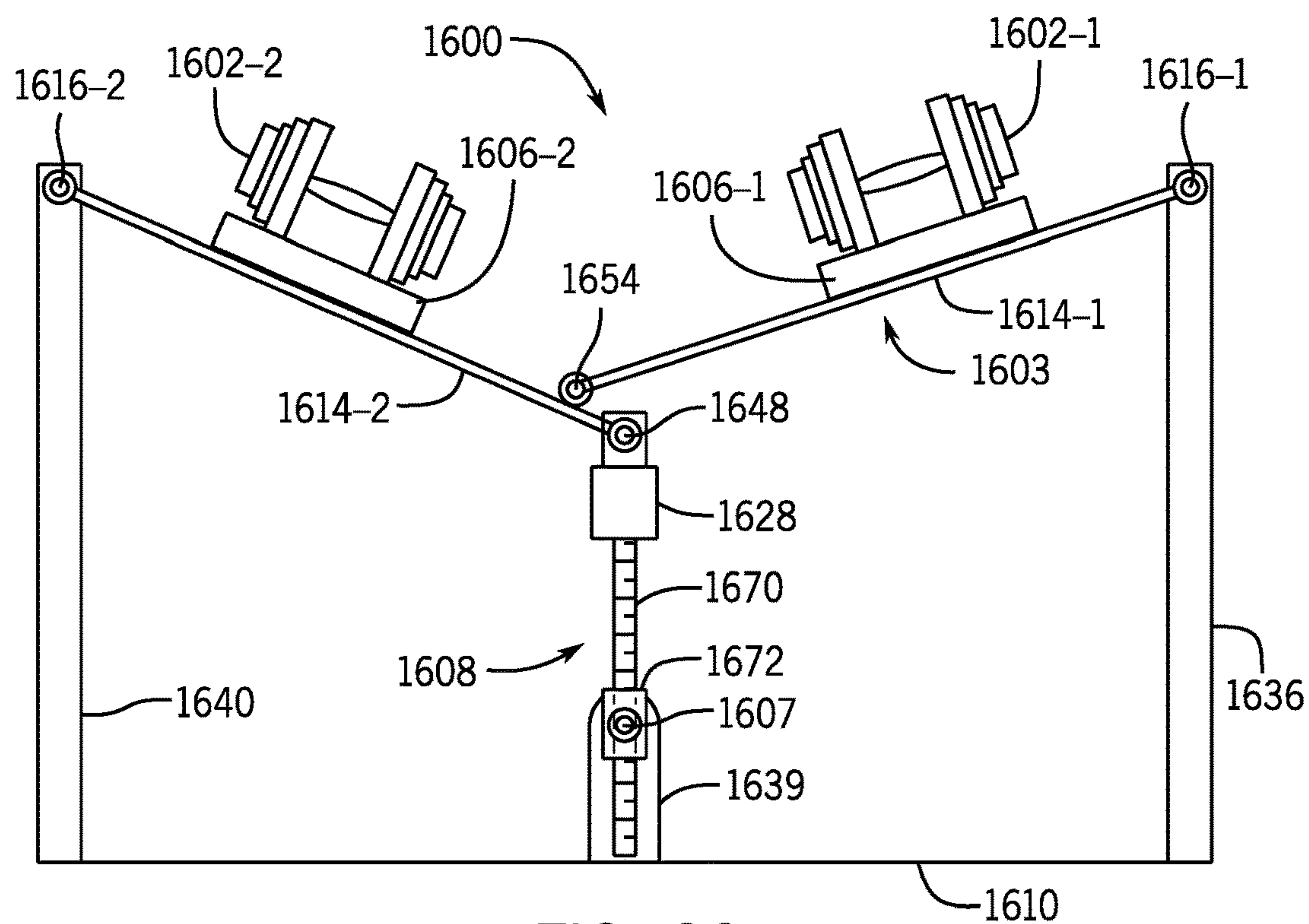
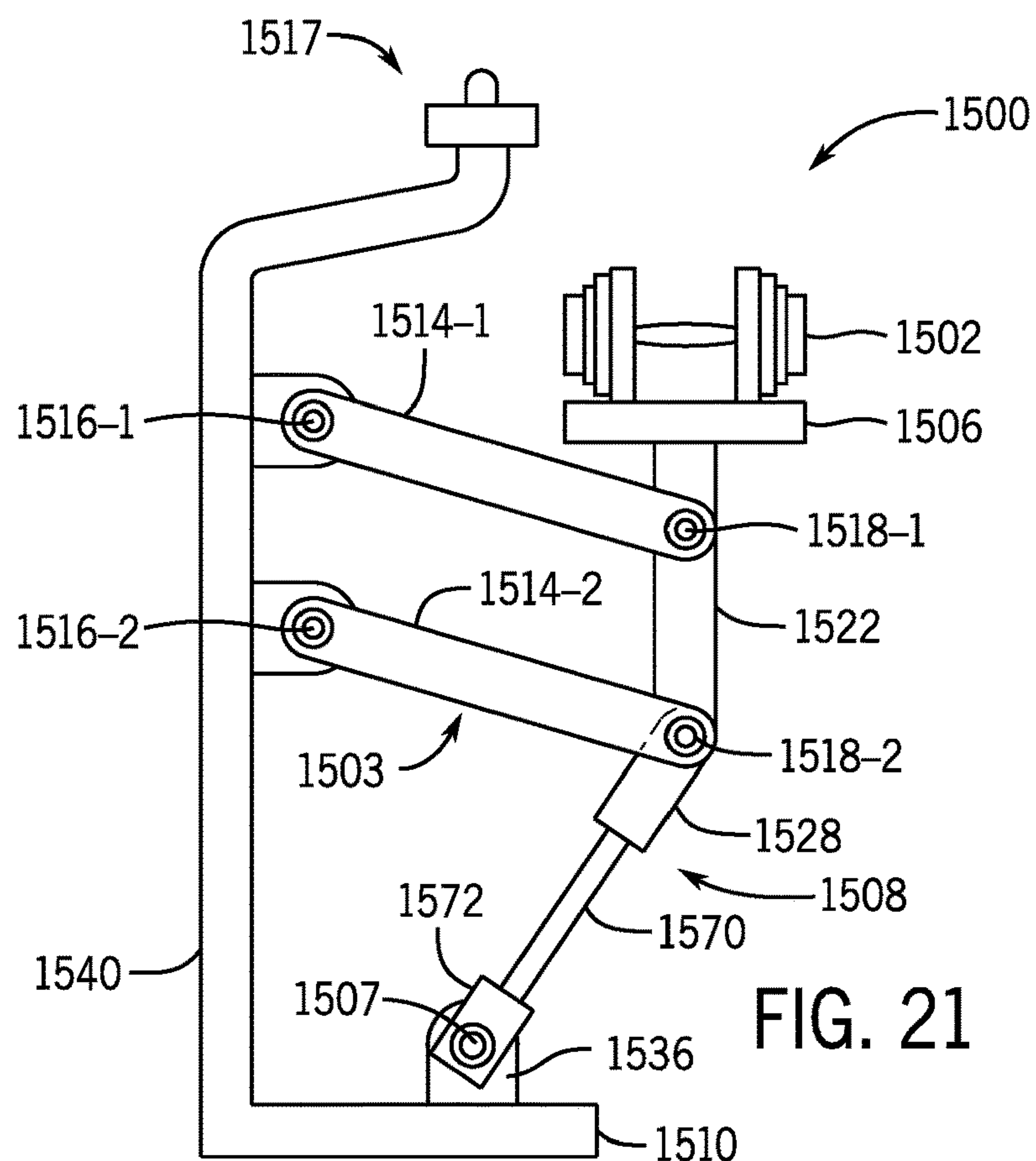
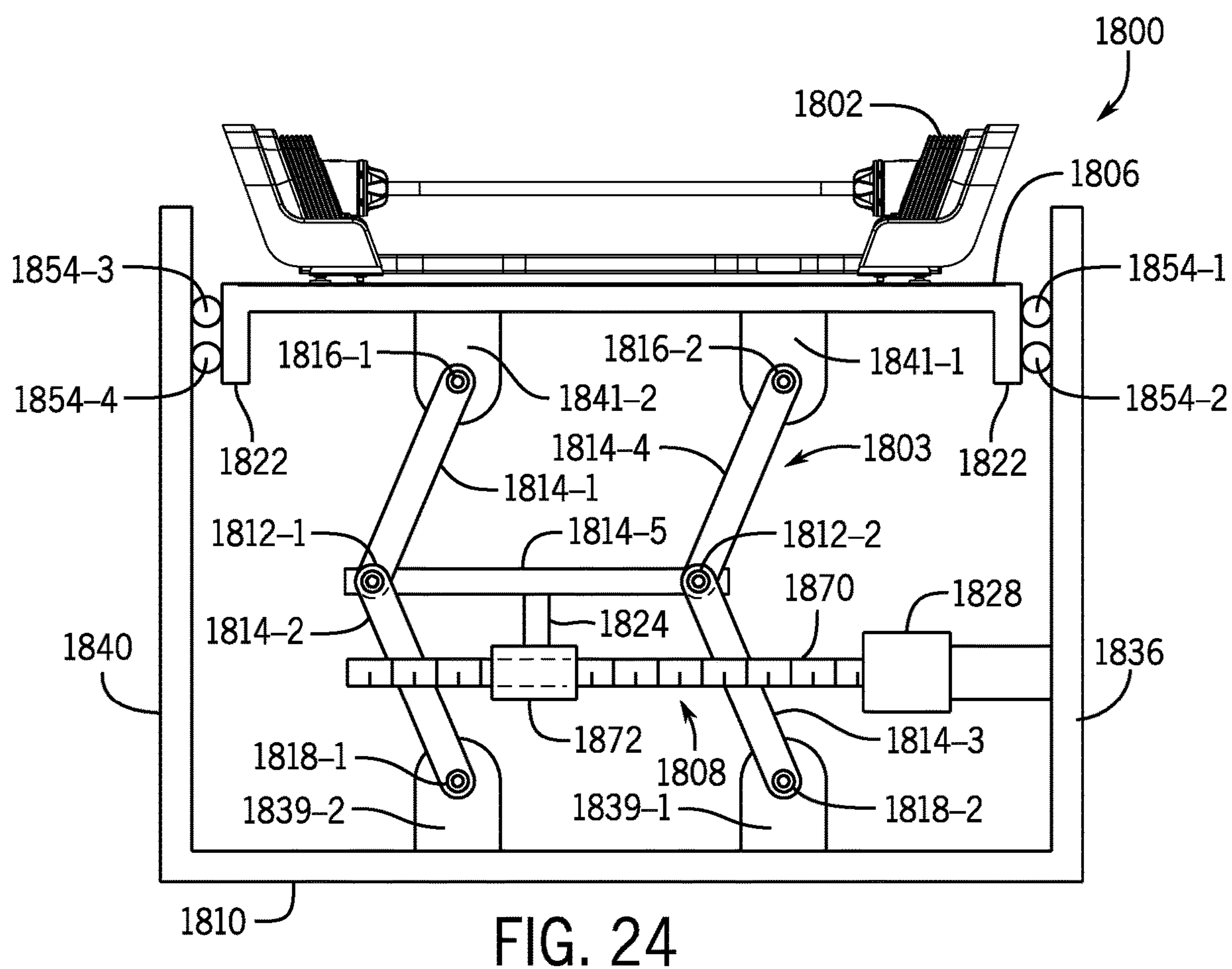
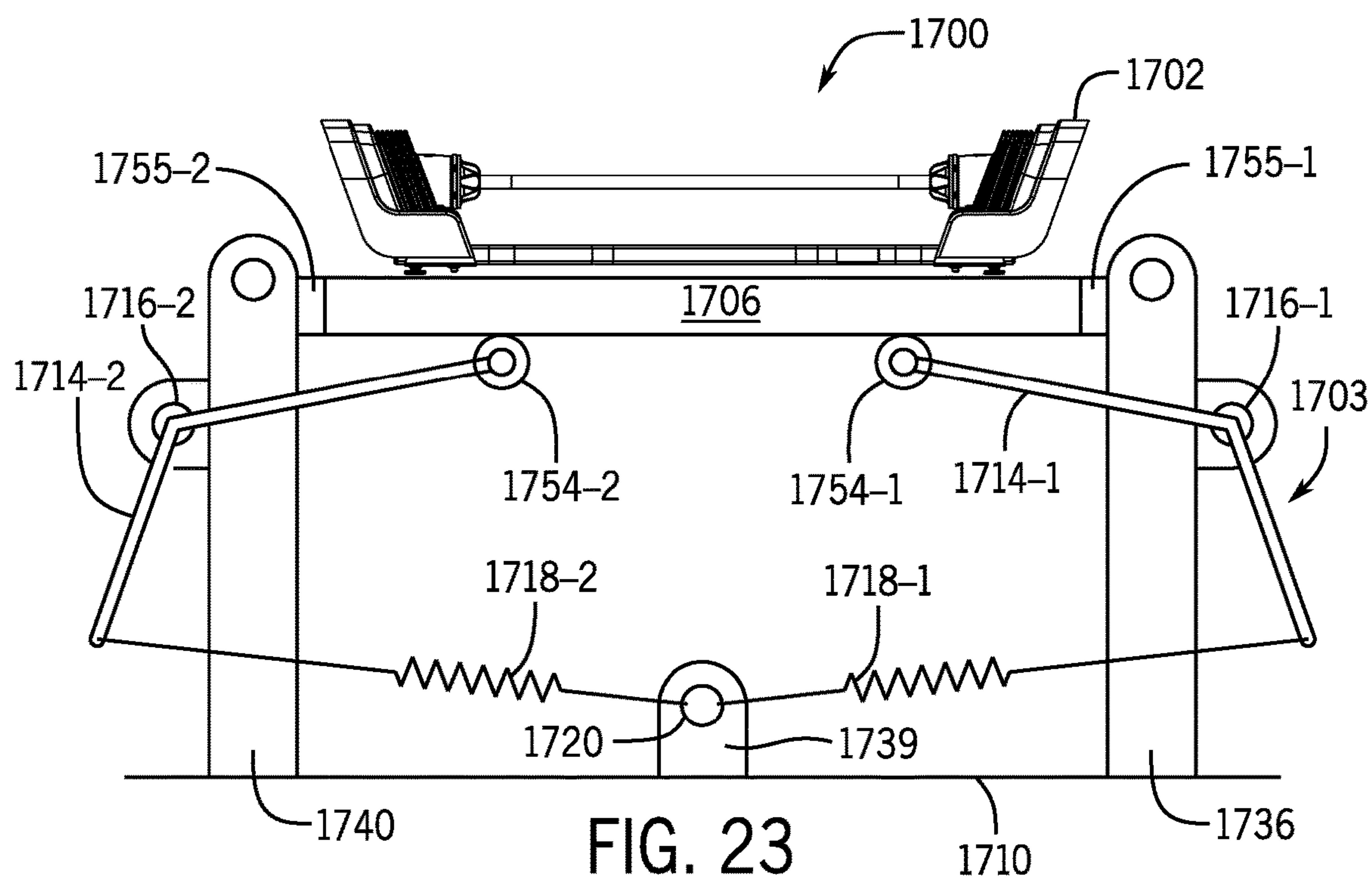
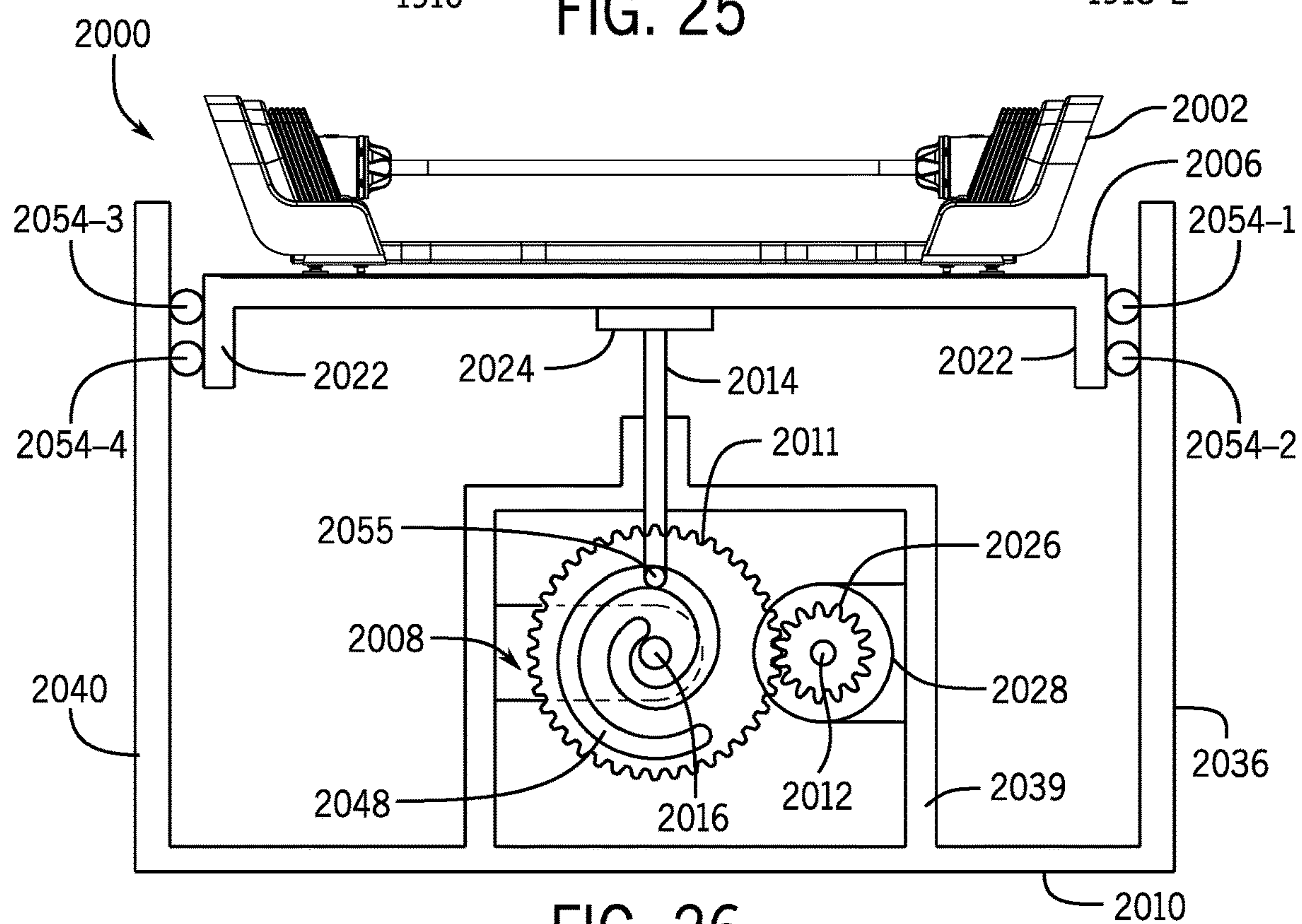
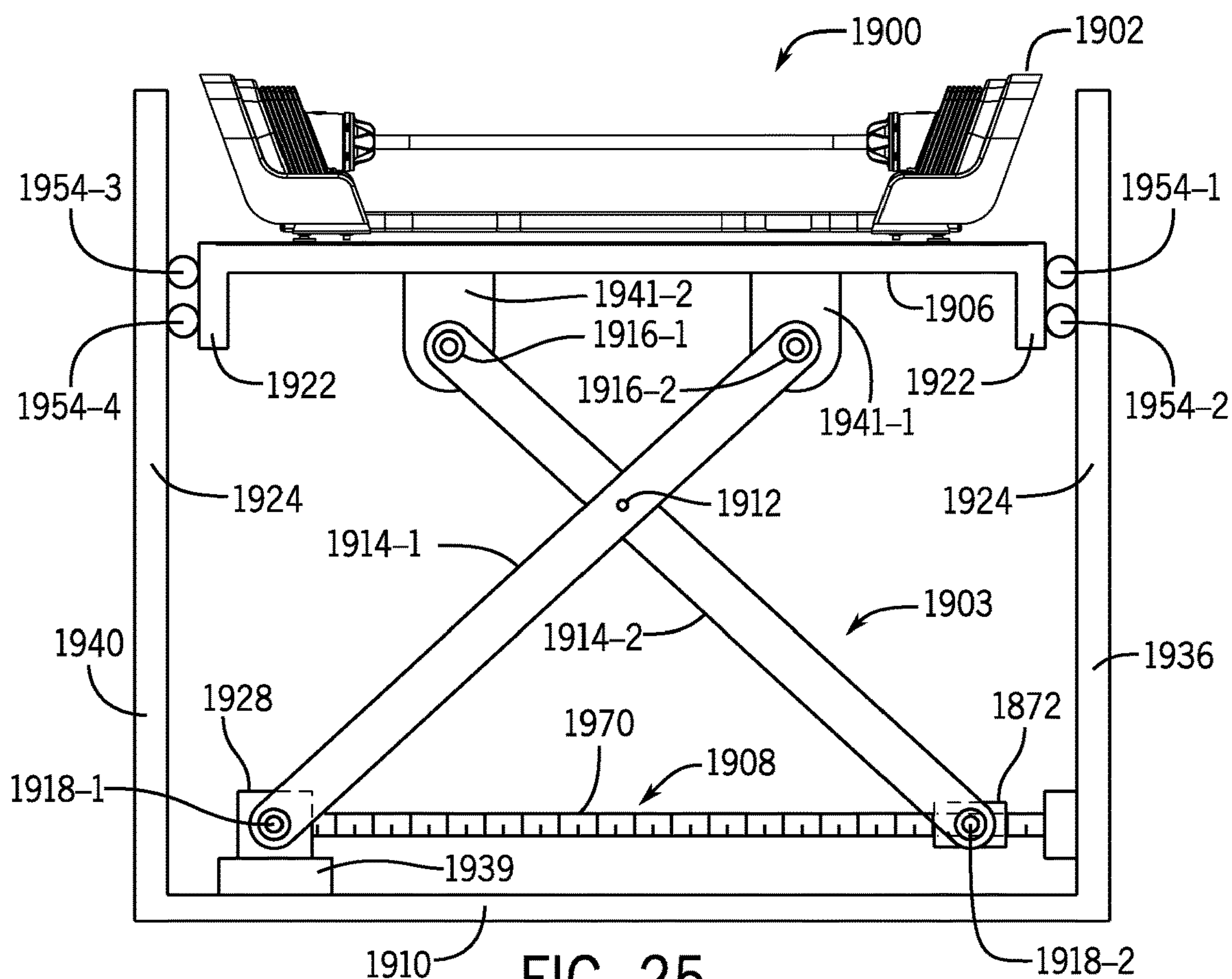
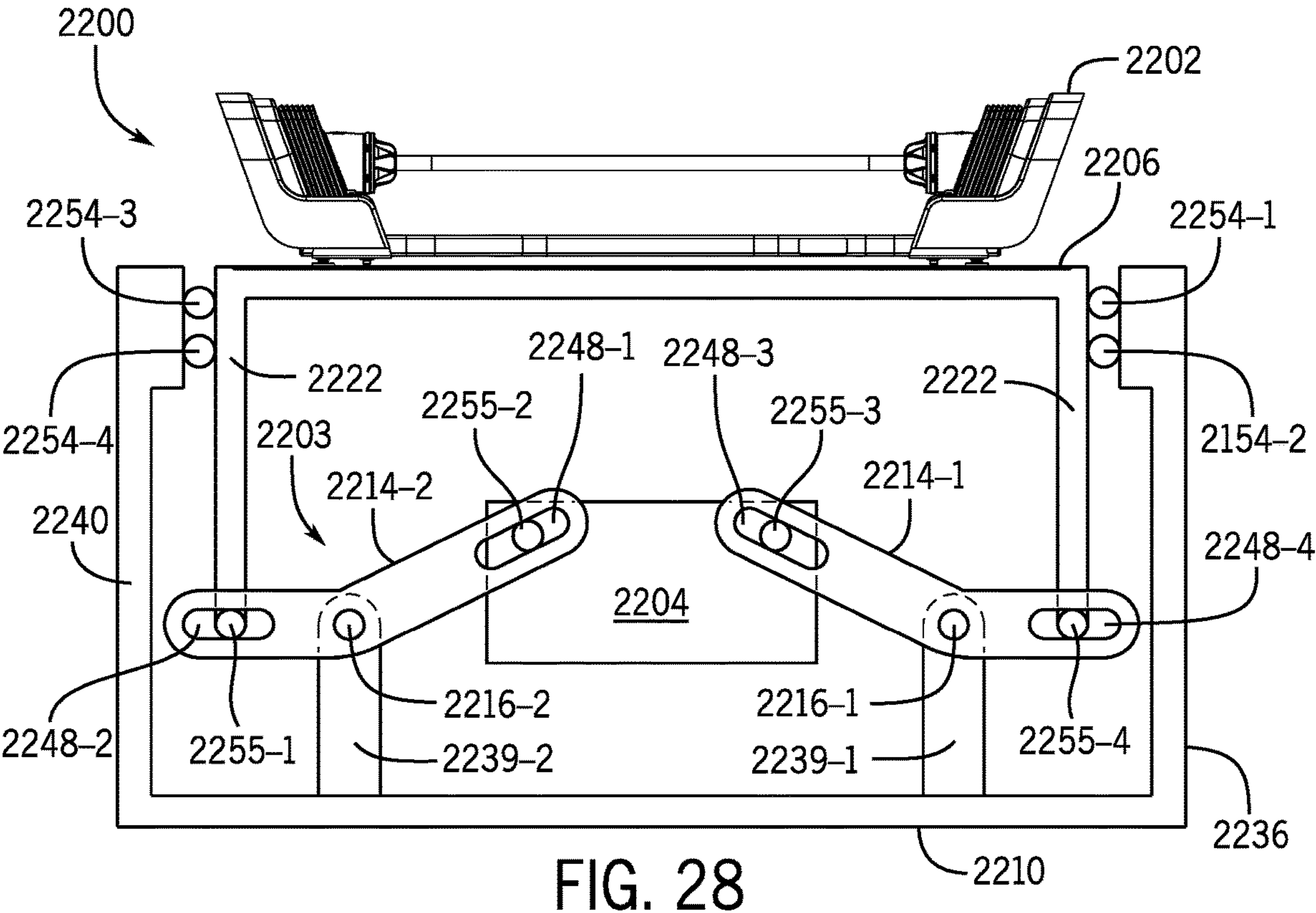
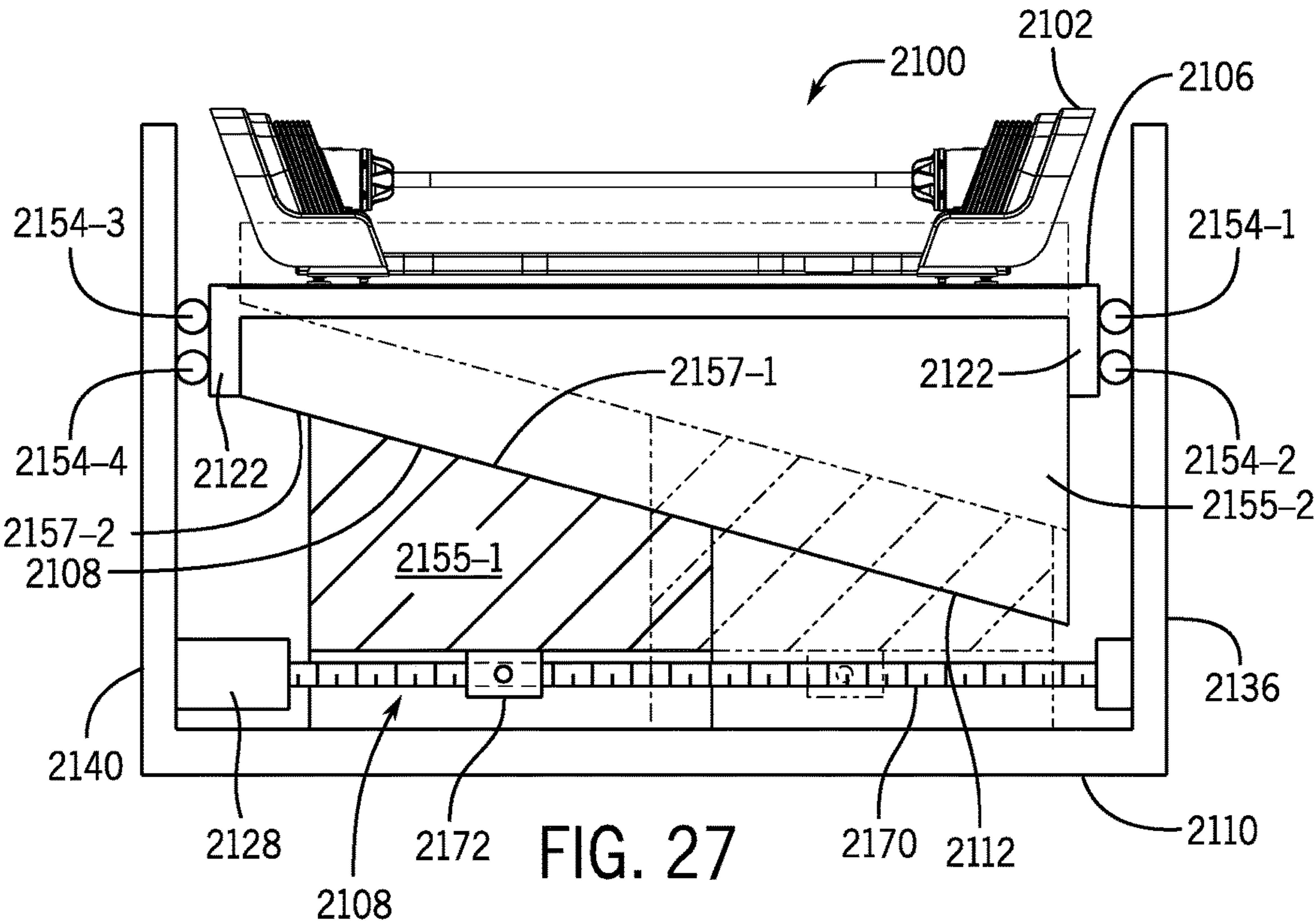


FIG. 20









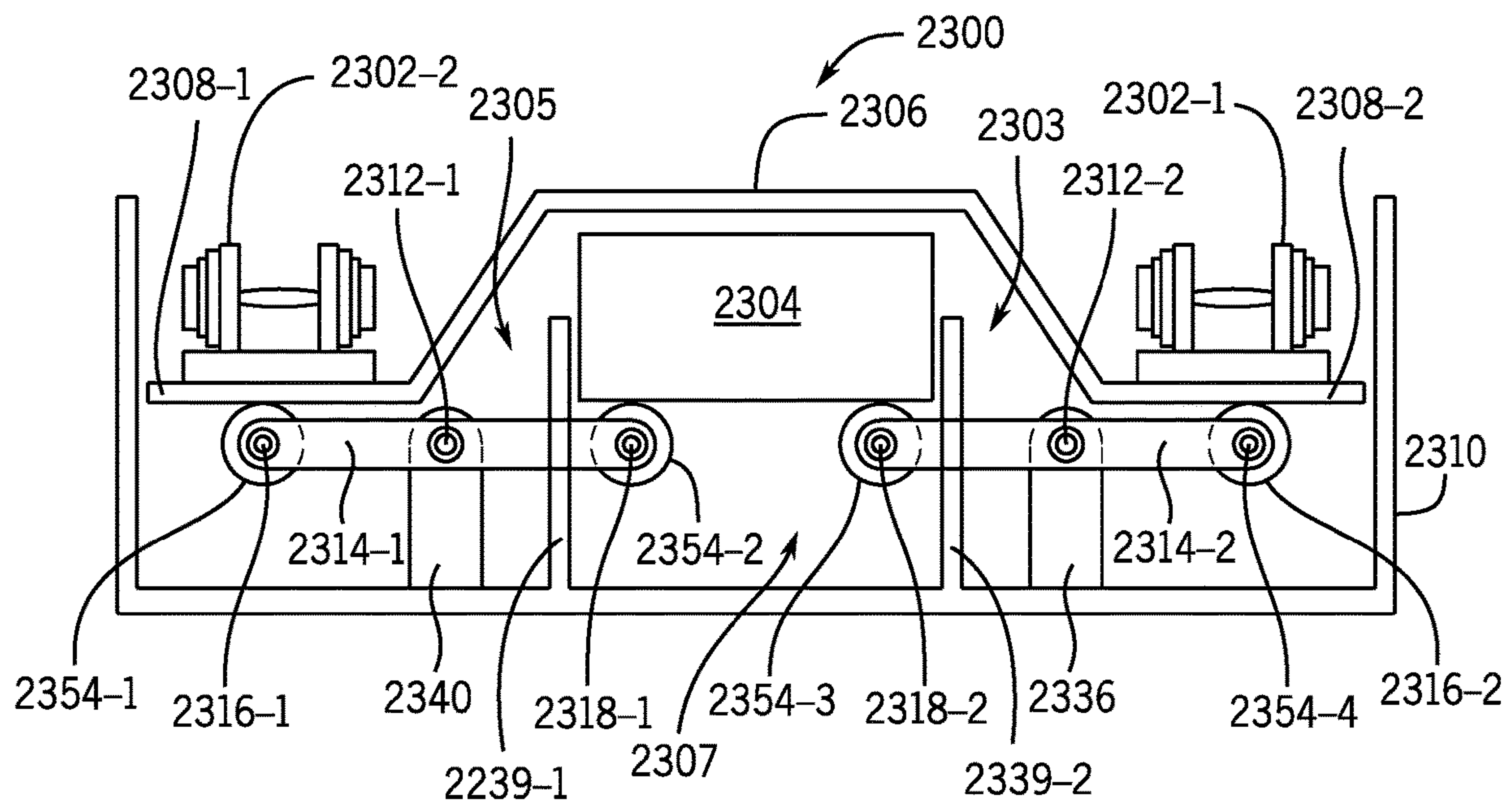


FIG. 29

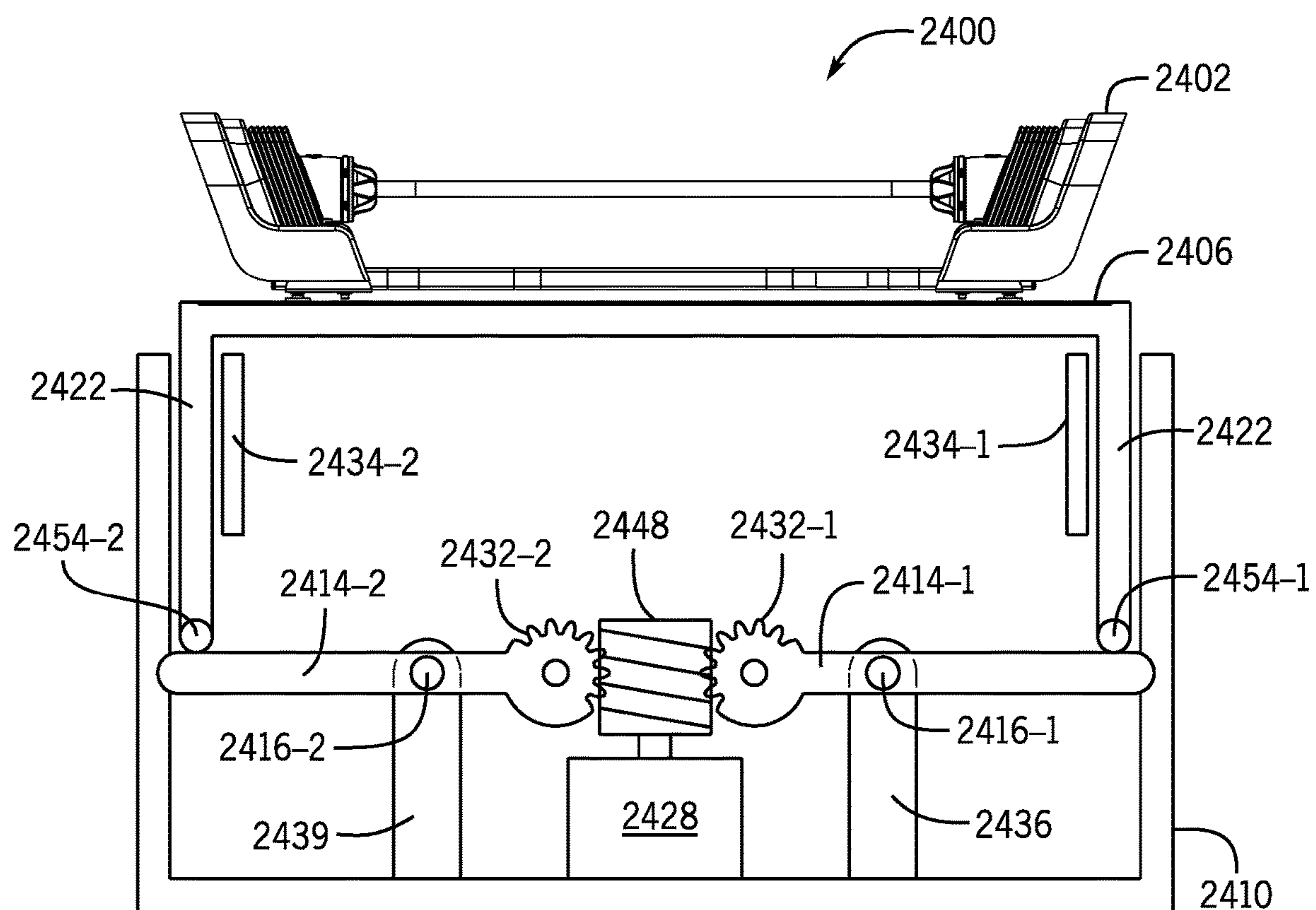


FIG. 30

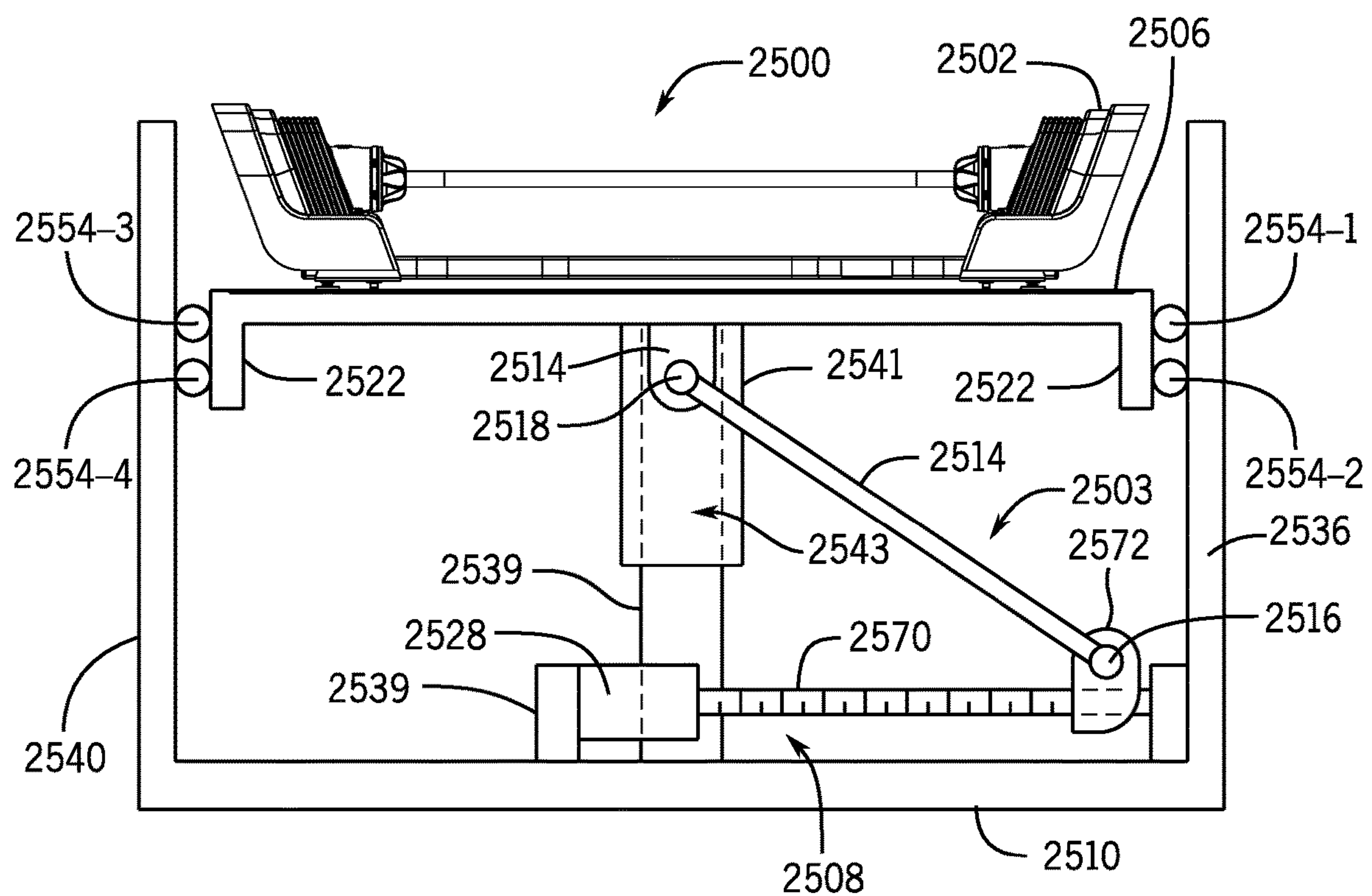


FIG. 31

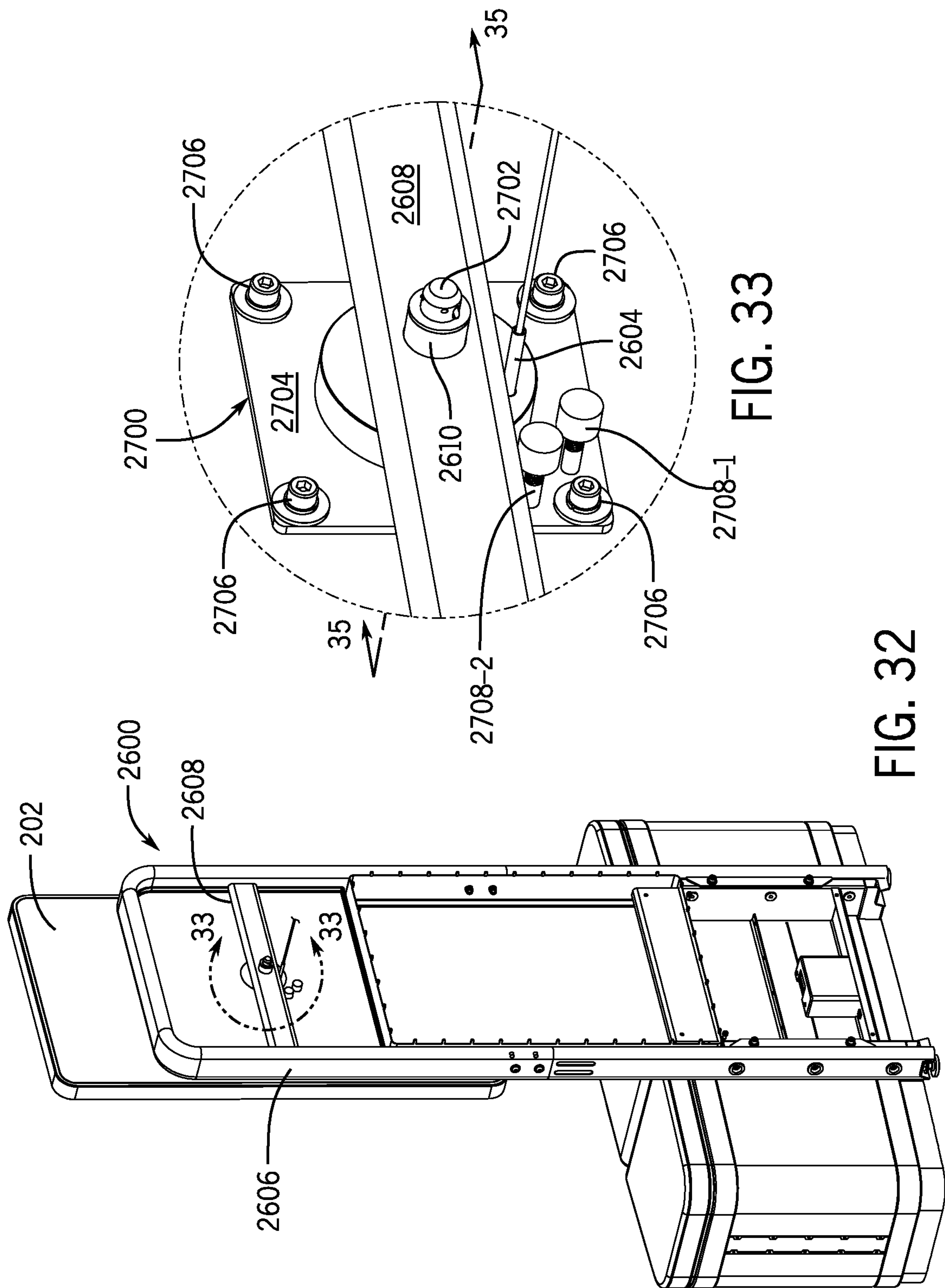


FIG. 32

FIG. 33

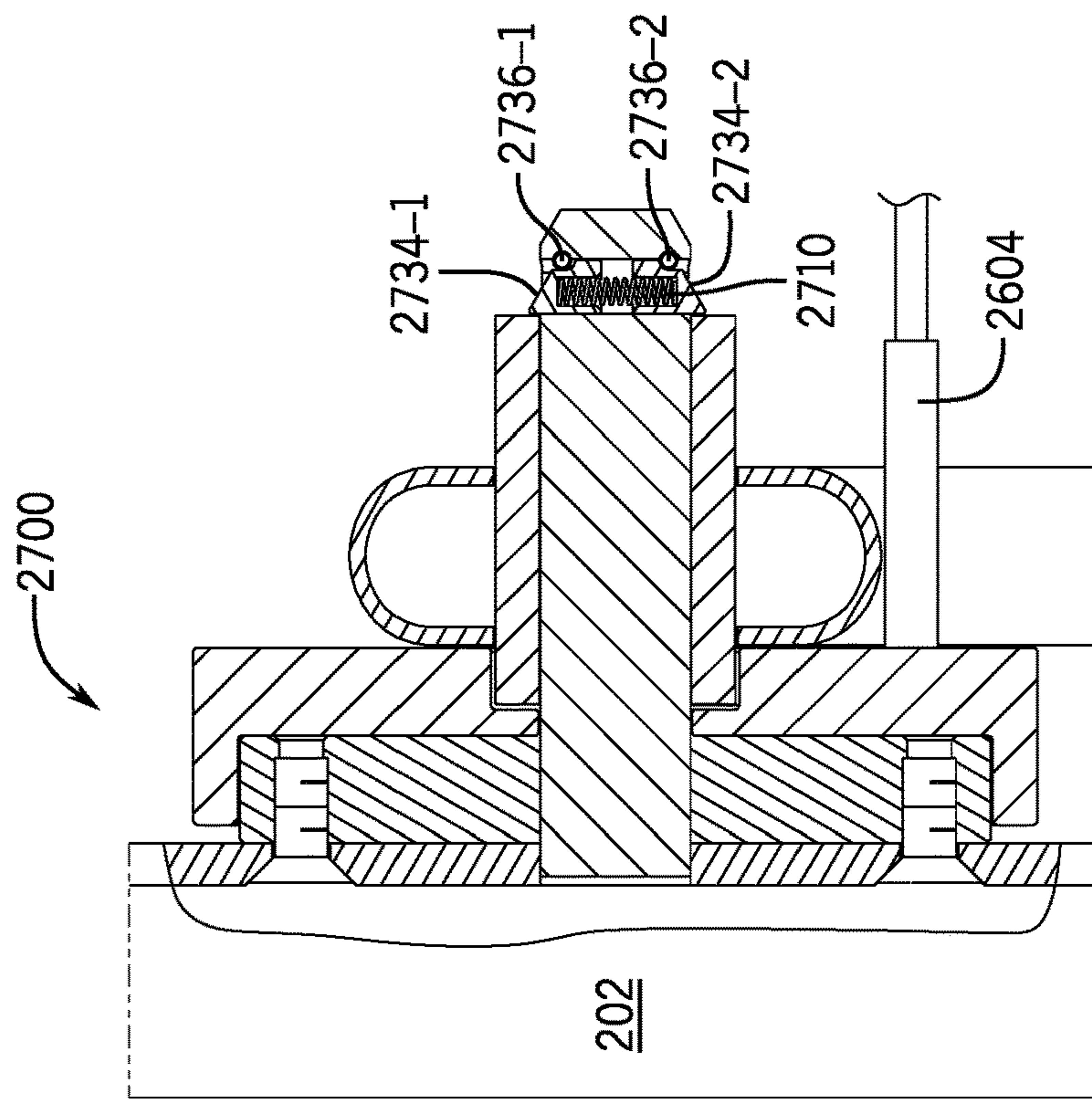


FIG. 35

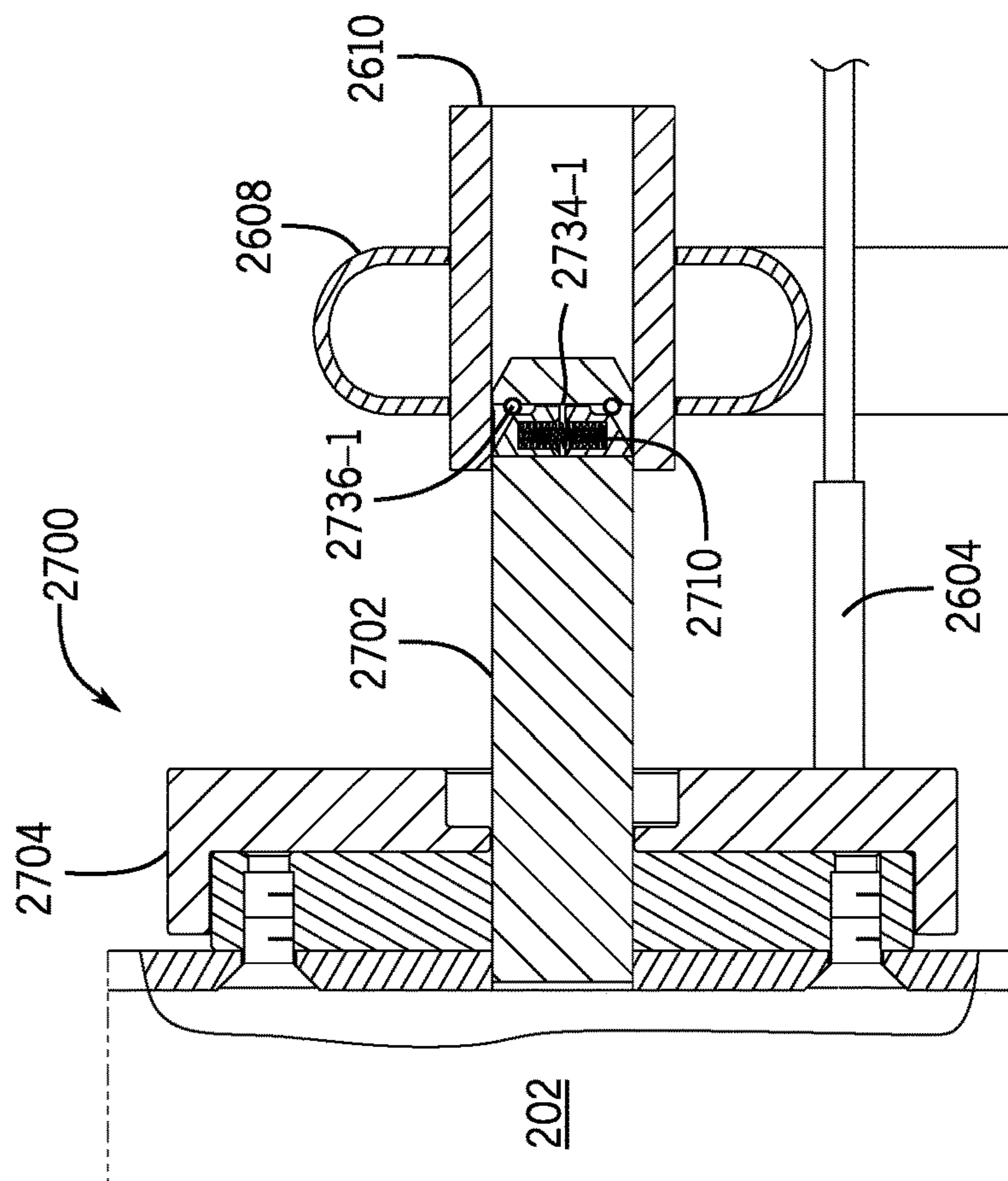


FIG. 34

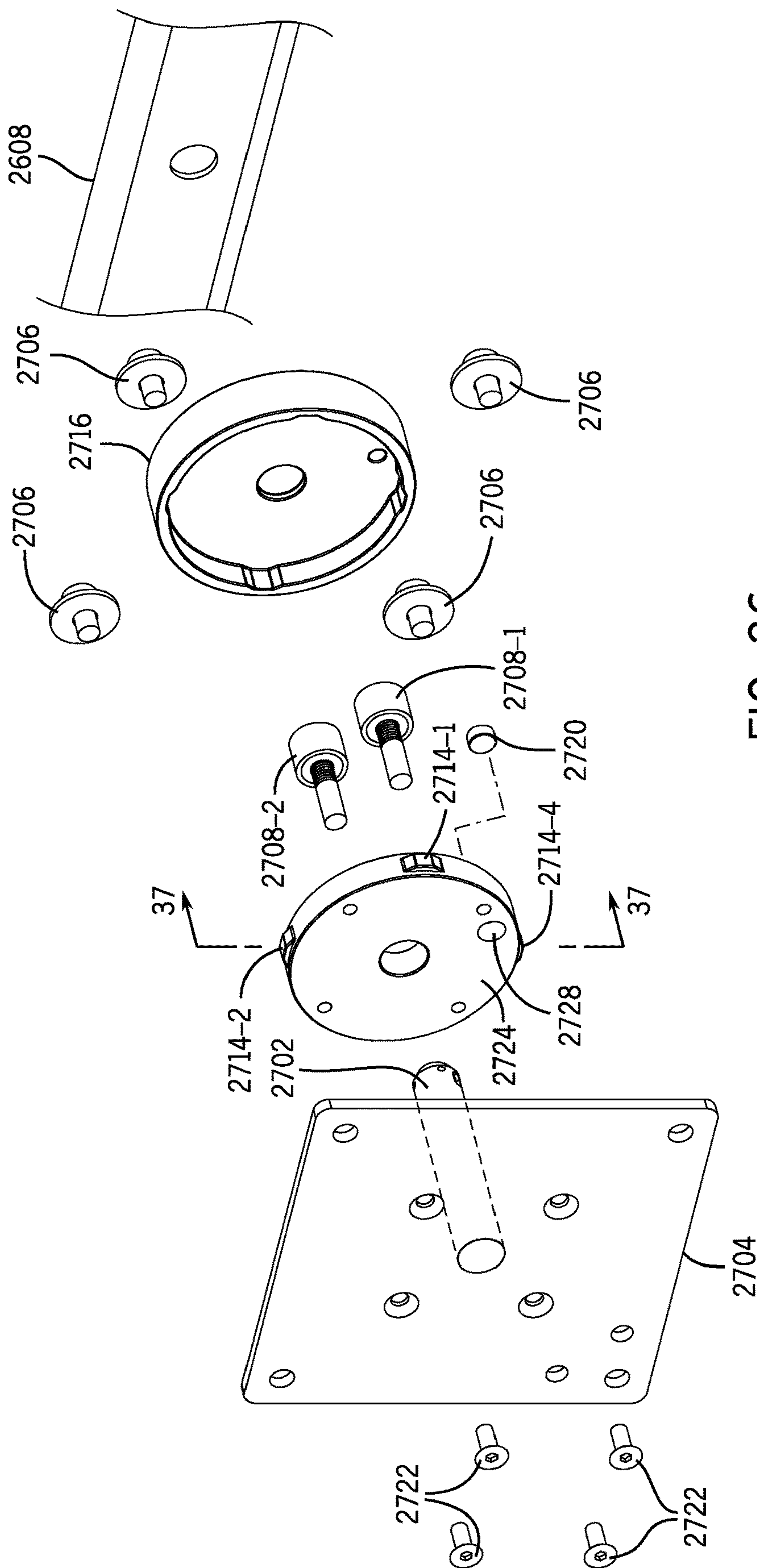


FIG. 36

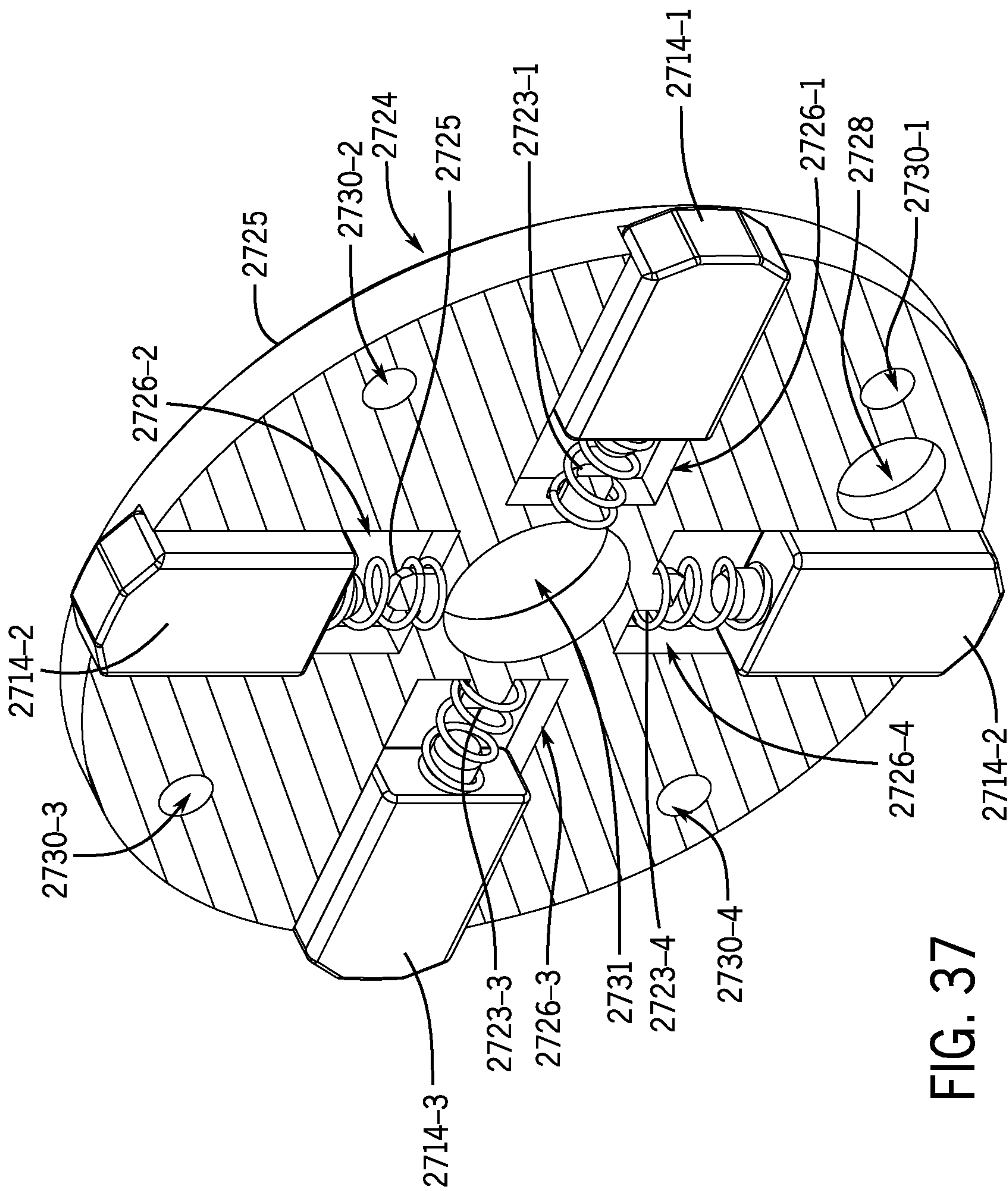


FIG. 37

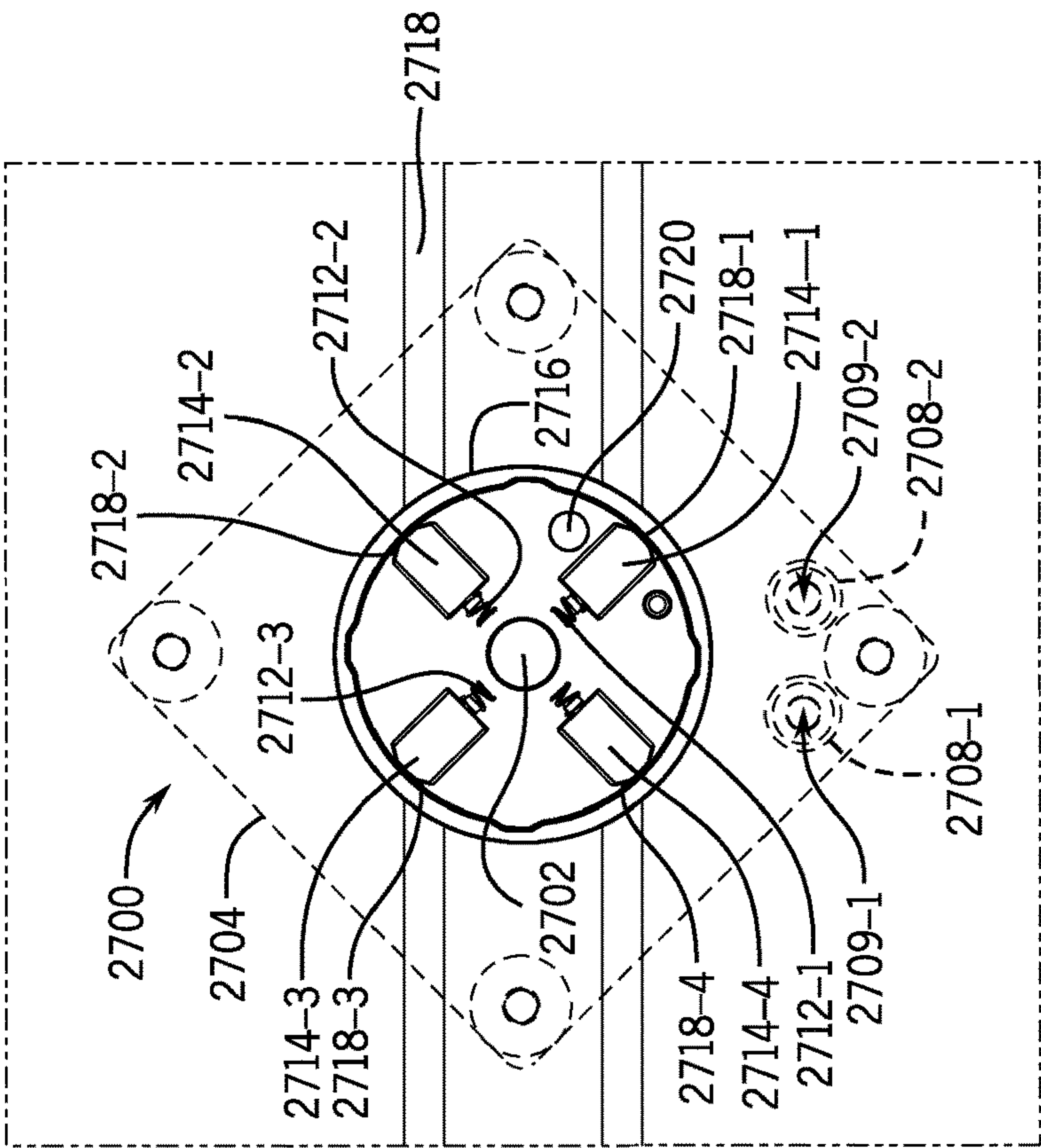


FIG. 39

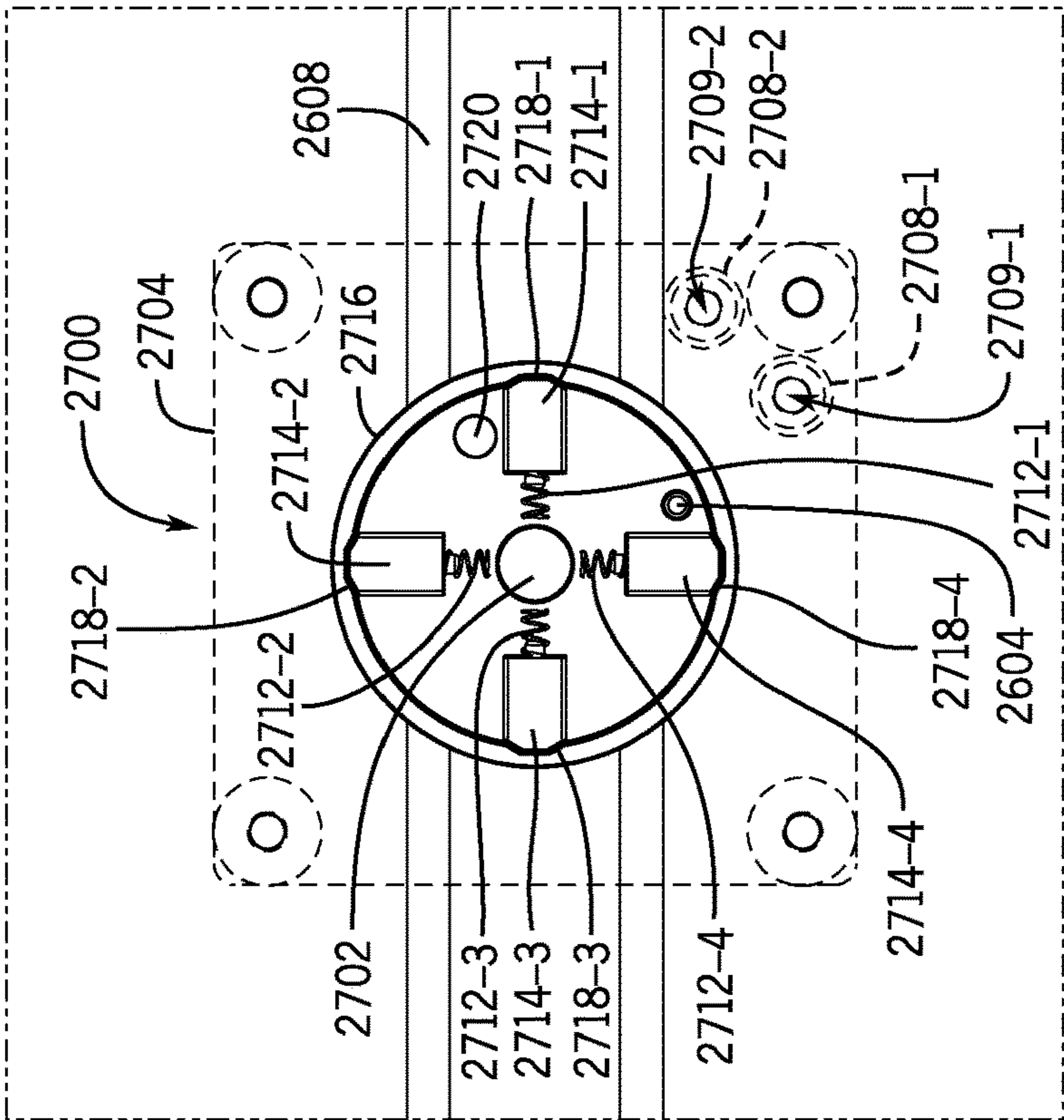
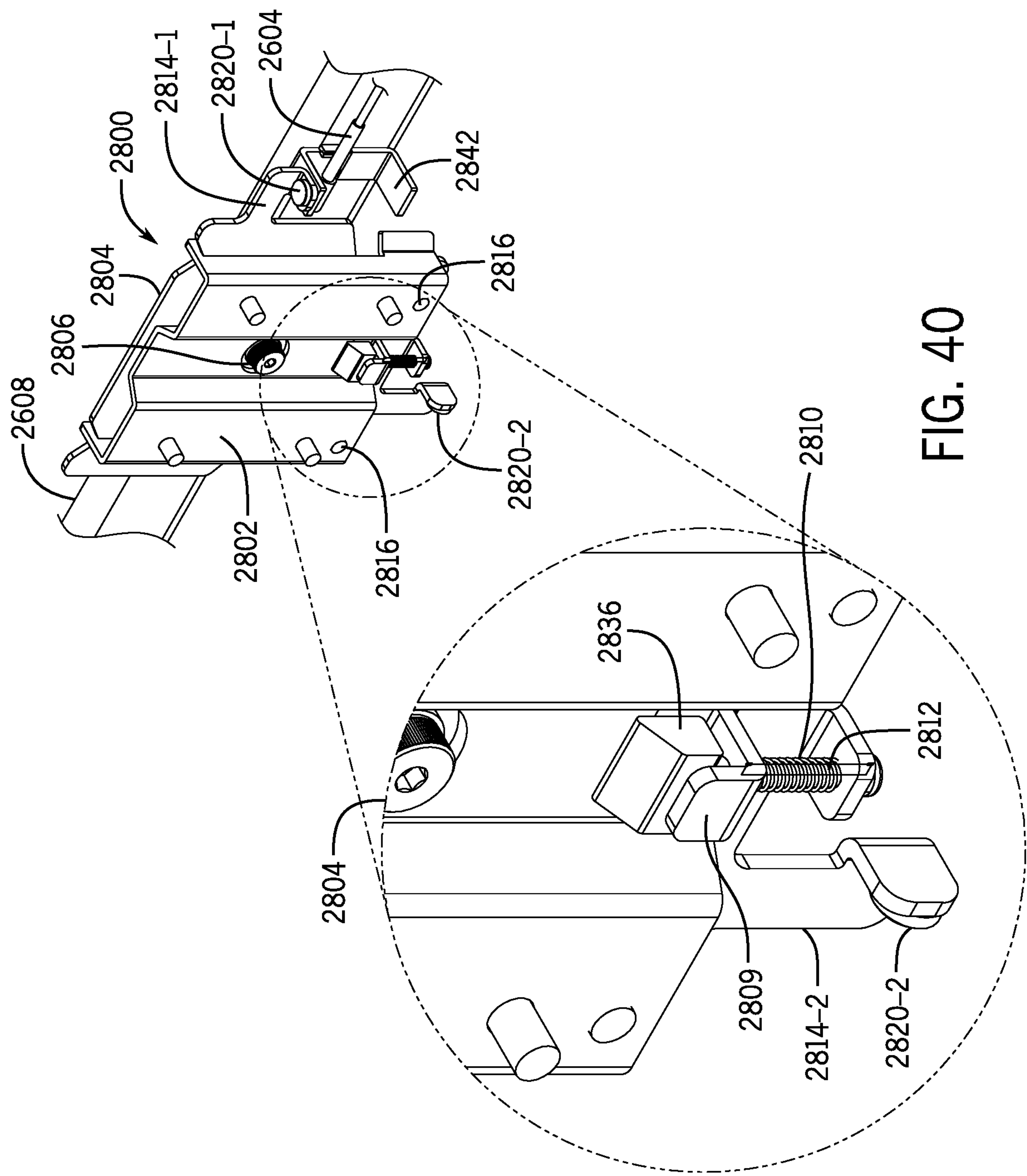


FIG. 38



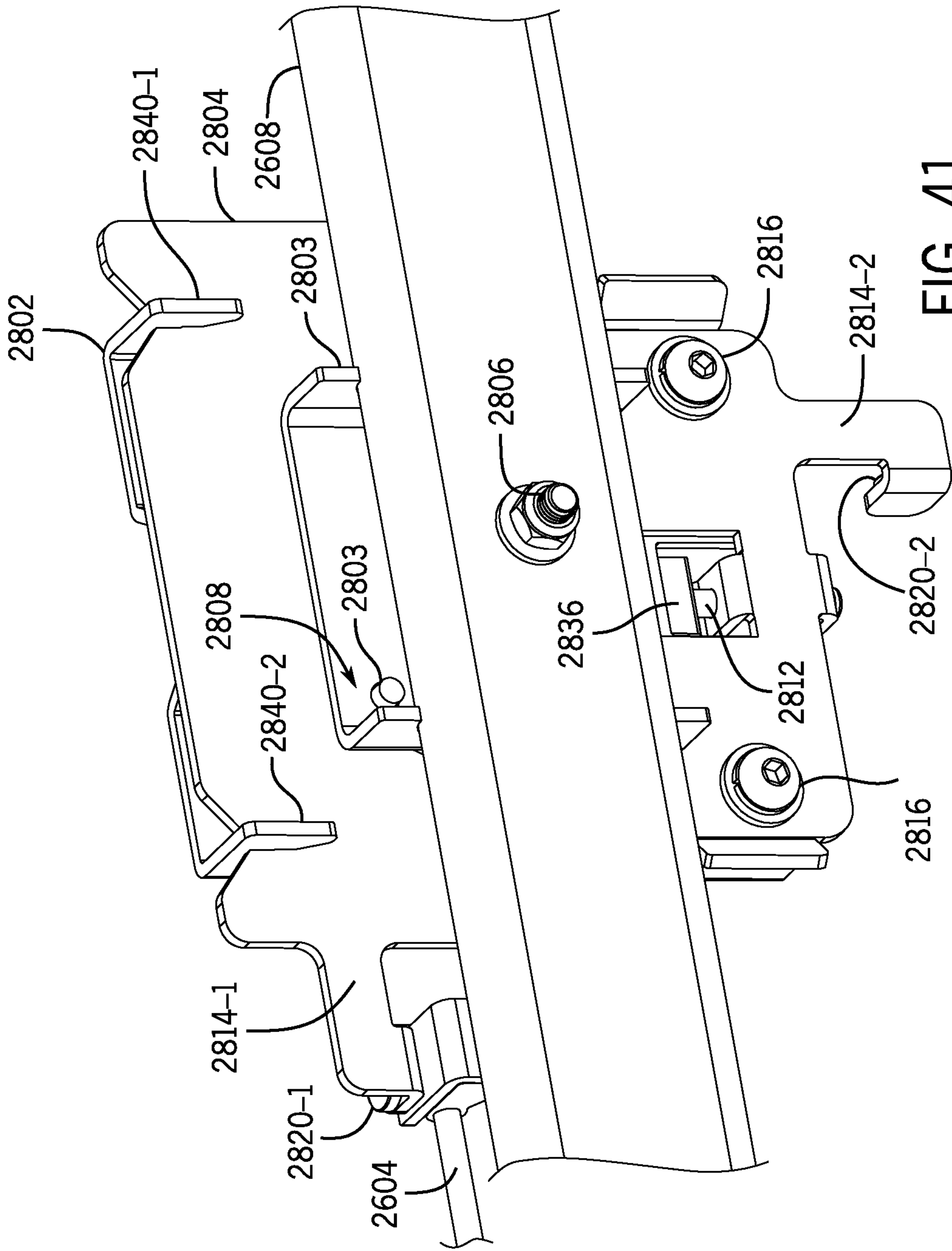


FIG. 41

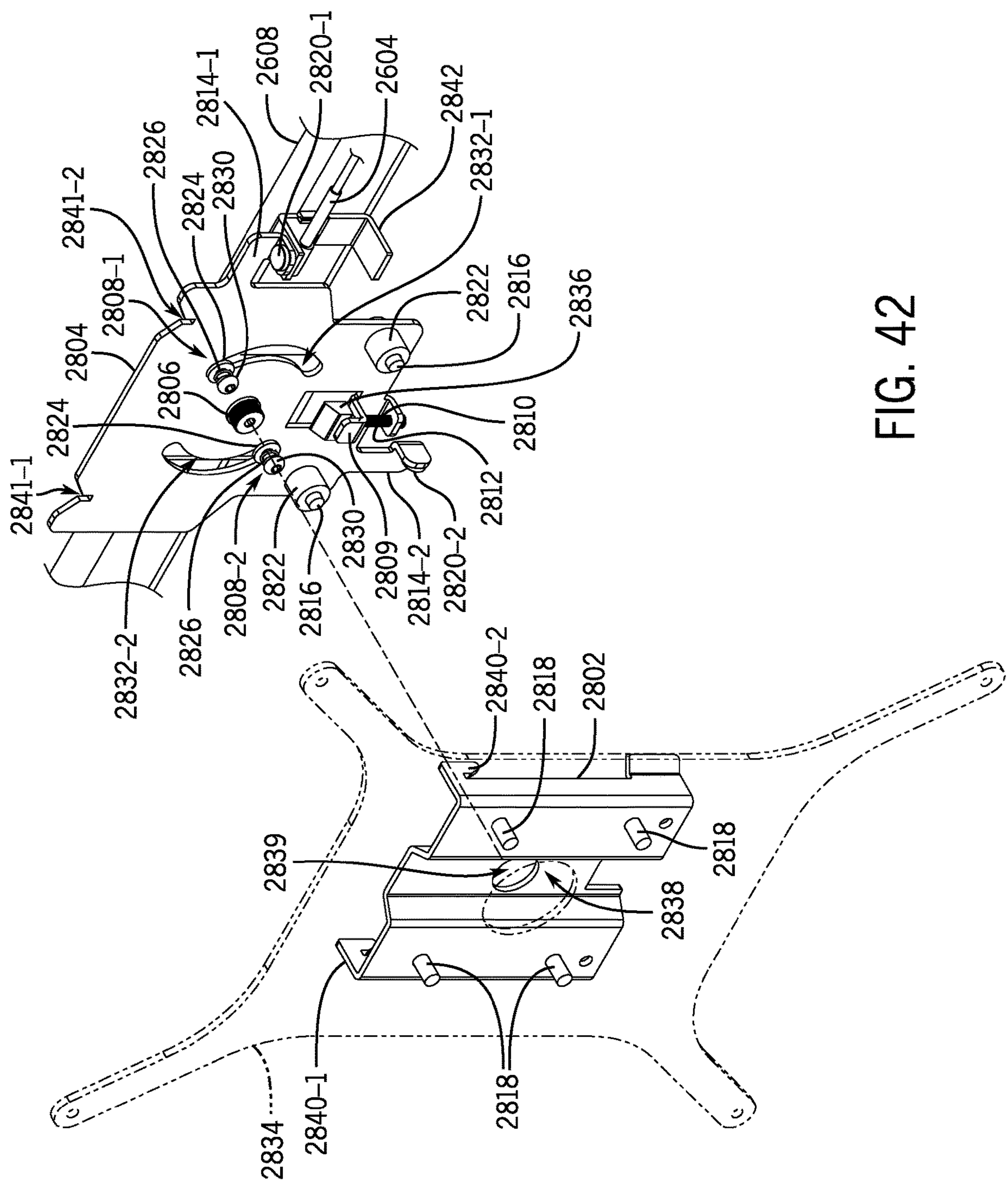


FIG. 42

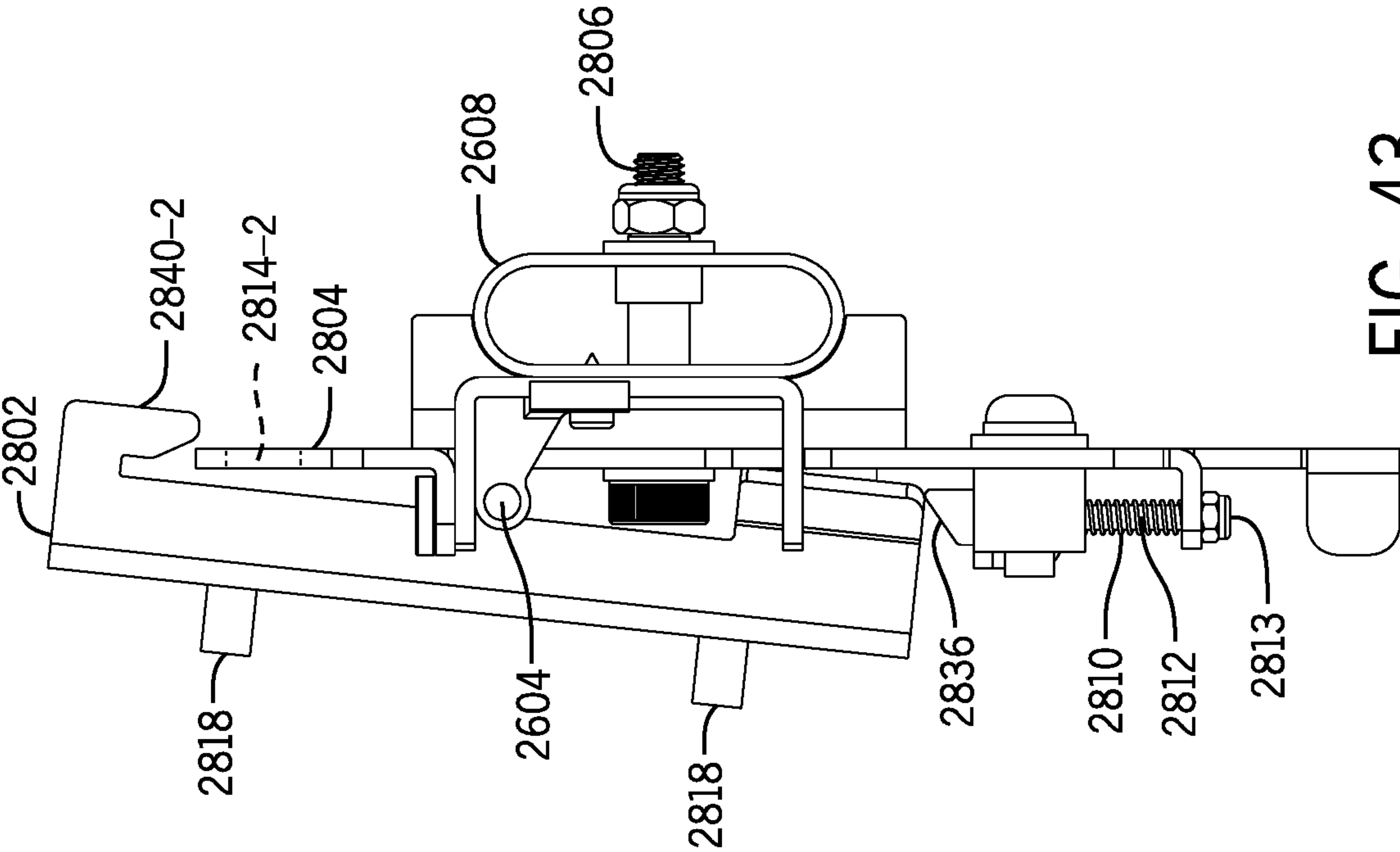


FIG. 43

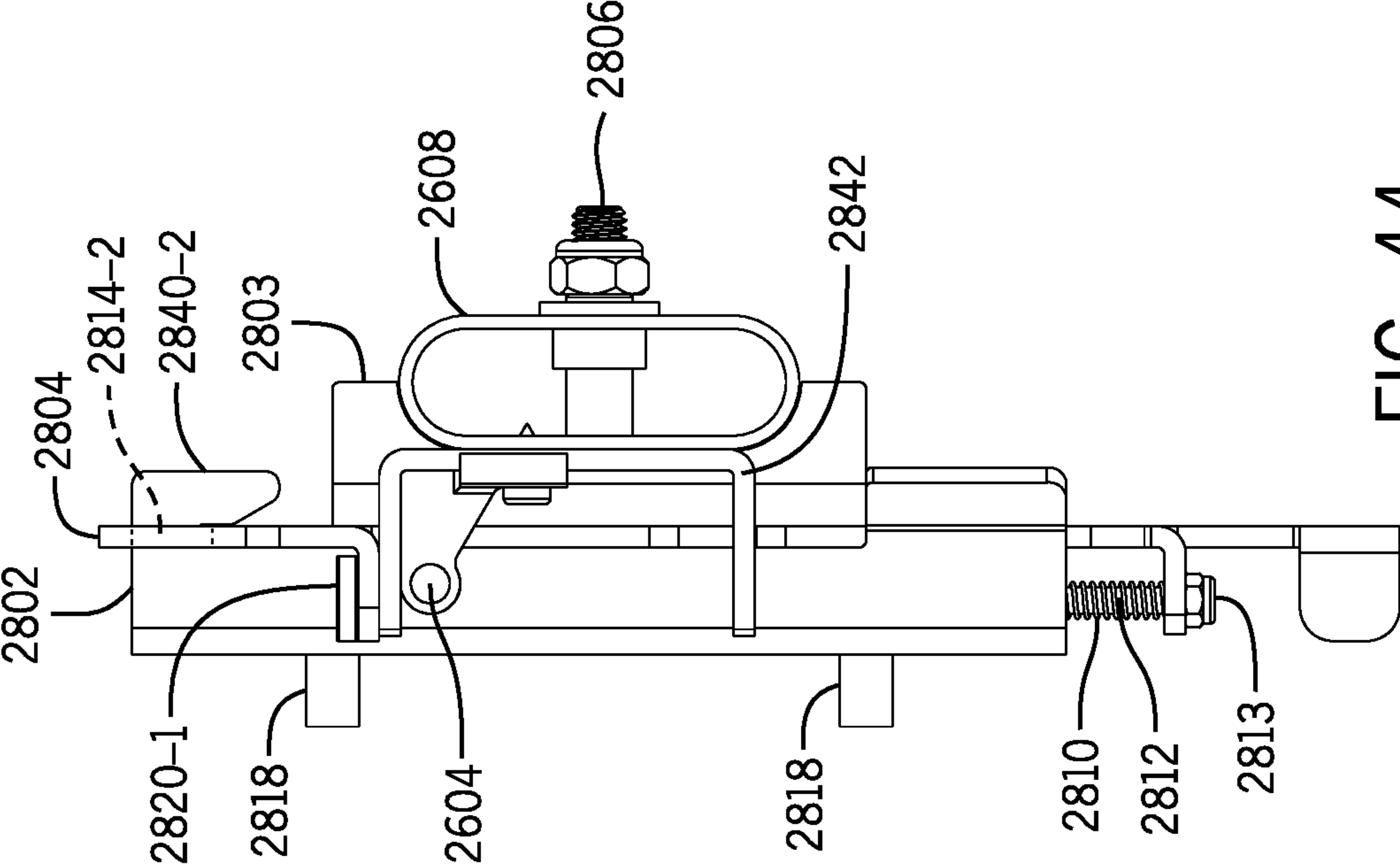


FIG. 44

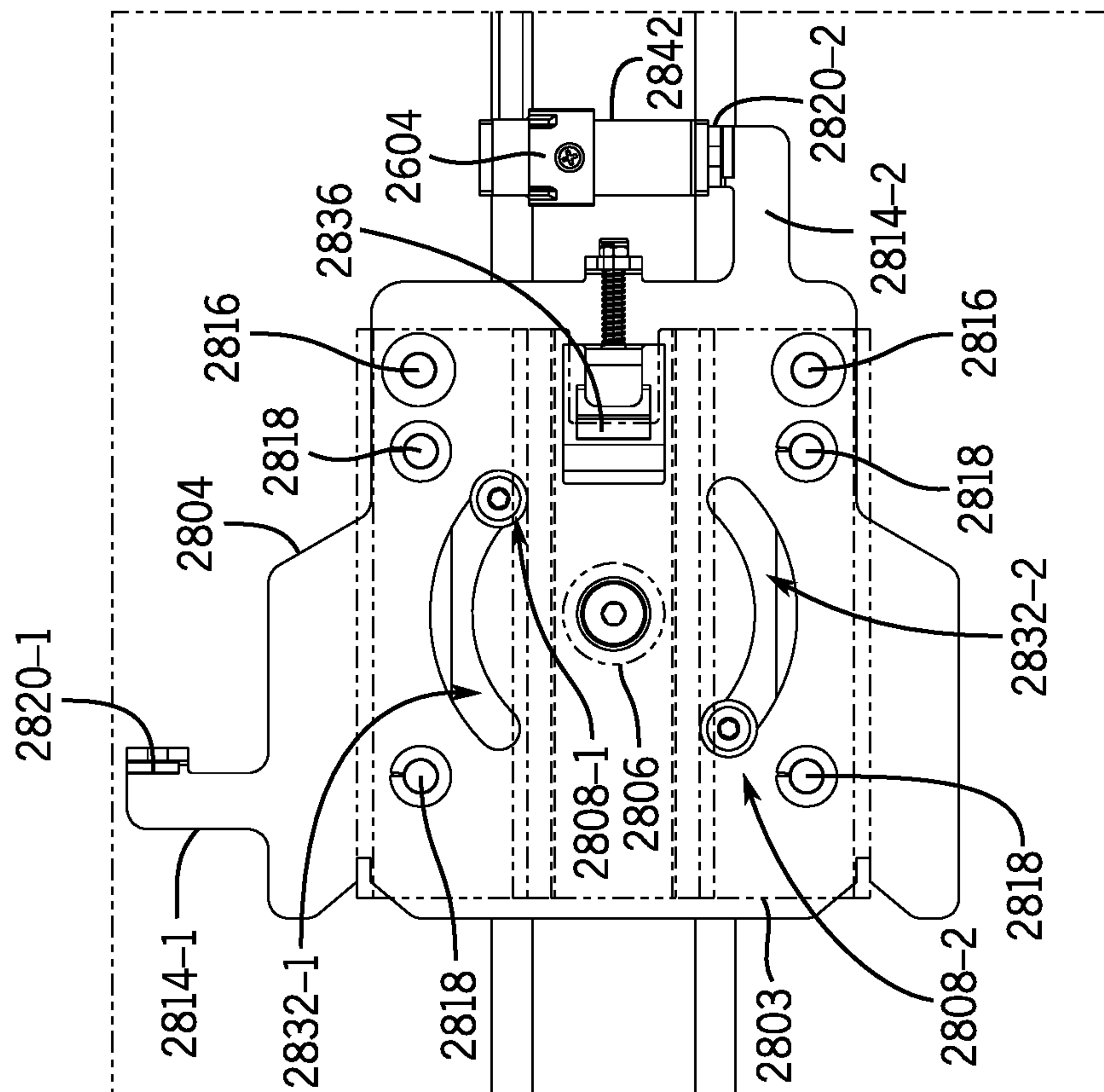


FIG. 45

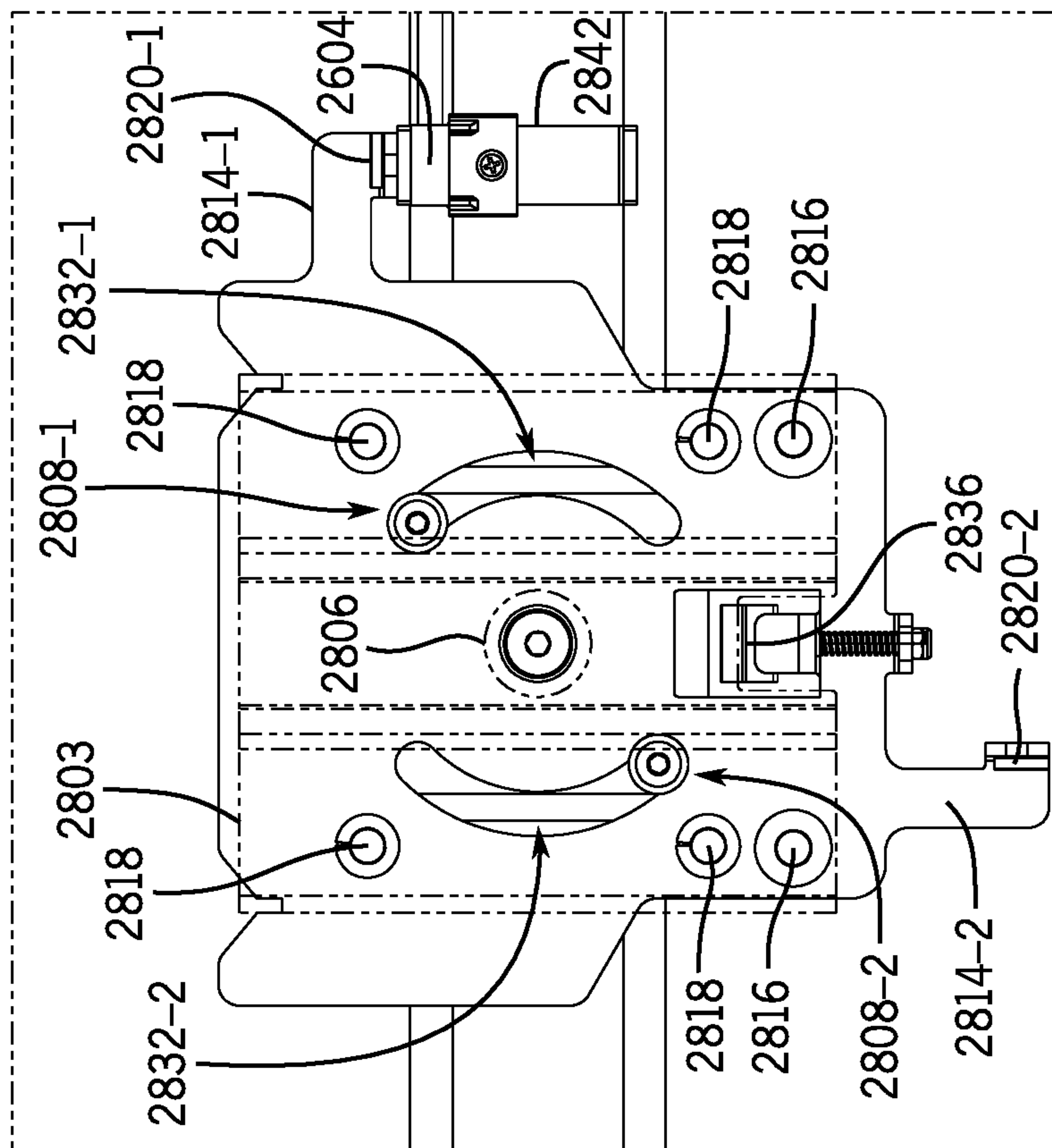


FIG. 46

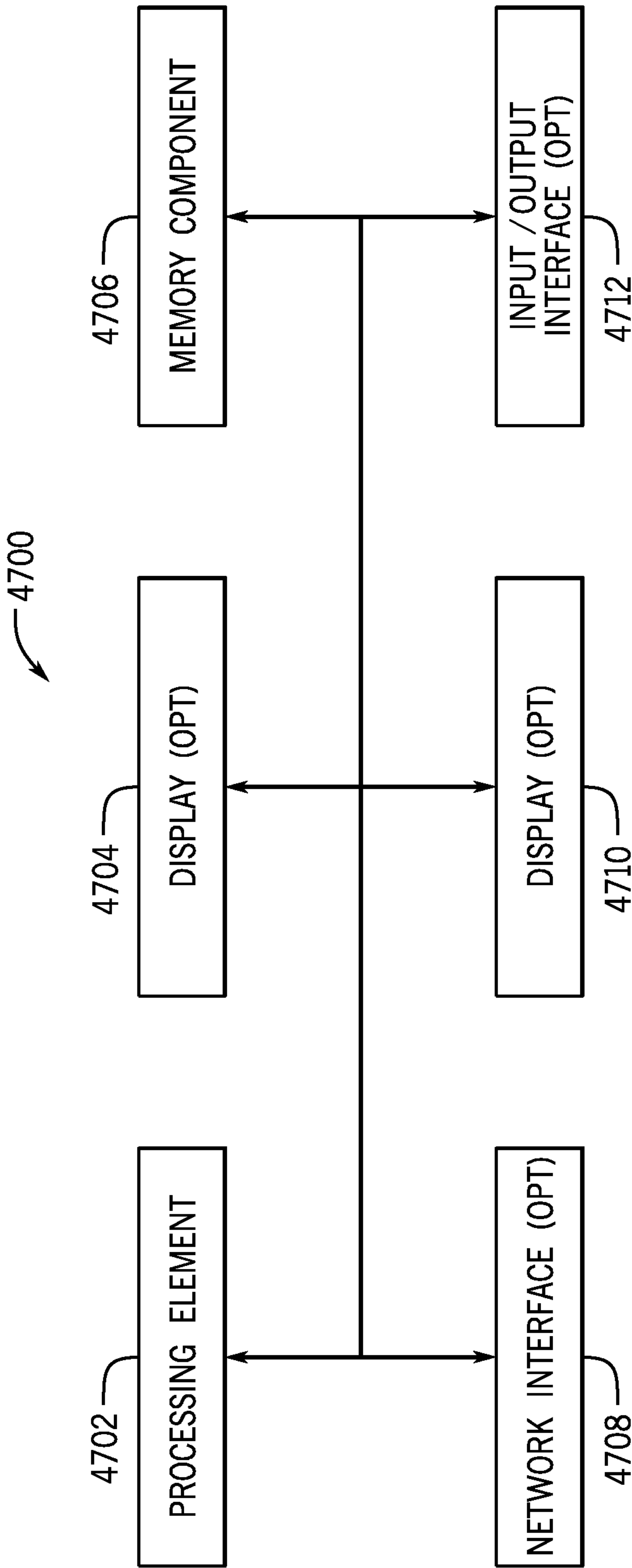


FIG. 47

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FREE-WEIGHT EXERCISE SYSTEM**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application claims the benefit of priority pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of: U.S. provisional patent application No. 63/245,727, filed Sep. 17, 2021, entitled “Free-Weight Exercise System”; U.S. provisional patent application No. 63/224,790, filed Jul. 22, 2021, entitled “Fitness Coaching Platform”; U.S. provisional patent application No. 63/308,422, filed Feb. 9, 2022, entitled “Exercise System with Translatable and Rotatable Display”; U.S. provisional patent application No. 63/354,321, filed Jun. 22, 2022, entitled “Exercise System With Translatable and Rotatable Display”; U.S. provisional patent application No. 63/245,727, filed Sep. 17, 2021, entitled “Free-Weight Exercise System”; and U.S. utility application Ser. No. 17/814,311, filed Jul. 22, 2022, and entitled “Exercise System with Translatable and Rotatable Display” all of which are hereby incorporated by reference herein in the entirety.

FIELD

The present disclosure relates generally to a free-weight exercise system that includes at least one of a display subsystem and a weight elevation subsystem.

BACKGROUND

While many people use weights (e.g., dumbbells, barbells, kettlebells, other free weights, etc.) for exercise, for example in the home, a user may not have sufficient space in their home to have a dedicated exercise area and it may be desirable for them to combine their “exercise area” with their living space, such as their living room, bedroom, or other room in the home that may be used to receive or entertain guests. Exercise equipment such as weights and weight benches can be unsightly and contribute to a cluttered environment, making them less desirable for placement in a person’s living space. Designers and manufacturers of exercise equipment, thus, continue to seek improvements thereto.

BRIEF SUMMARY

Embodiments of a free-weight exercise system are disclosed. In one embodiment, the free-weight exercise system includes a storage compartment configured to enclose free-weight exercise equipment. The storage compartment includes a platform configured to support the free-weight exercise equipment; a lift assembly configured to raise and lower the platform relative to a base of the storage compartment; and a display mast extending upward from the storage compartment. The display mast is configured to mount and accommodate at least a 12 inch display at a position above the storage compartment.

Optionally in some embodiments, the storage compartment fully encloses the free-weight exercise equipment such that the free-weight exercise equipment is concealed from view when the platform is in a lowered position.

Optionally in some embodiments, the free-weight exercise system further includes an exercise bench reconfigurable between a first configuration in which the exercise bench operatively engages an opening of the storage compartment to provide a removable cover for the storage

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compartment and a second configuration in which the exercise bench can support a user in a seated position.

Optionally in some embodiments, the free-weight exercise system further includes a display rotatably coupled to the display mast by a display mount.

Optionally in some embodiments, the display mount includes a shaft rotatably coupled to the display mast.

Optionally in some embodiments, the free-weight exercise system further includes a pawl slidably coupled to an end portion of the shaft and operative to be received in a receptacle coupled to the display mast.

Optionally in some embodiments, the free-weight exercise system further includes a ring coupled to the display mast. The ring includes a detent formed on an inner surface thereof; a retainer plate received in the ring; a cam received in a slot formed in the retainer plate. The cam is selectively biased by a biasing element into the detent.

Optionally in some embodiments, the cam disengages from the detent when the display is rotated between a landscape orientation and a portrait orientation.

Optionally in some embodiments, the display mount includes a sensor configured to detect a position of the display.

Optionally in some embodiments, the display mount includes a display plate coupled to the display; and a frame plate rotatably coupled to the mast.

Optionally in some embodiments, the frame plate includes an arcuate slot and a friction adjuster is received in the arcuate slot and adapted to adjust a level of force that causes the display to rotate.

Optionally in some embodiments, the display plate includes a plurality of hooks; the frame plate includes a plurality of slots adapted to receive the respective plurality of hooks to couple the display plate to the frame plate.

Optionally in some embodiments, the frame plate is coupled to a biased pawl that selectively engages the display plate to couple the display plate to the frame plate.

Optionally in some embodiments, the lift assembly includes a lift mechanism configured to remain fully enclosed within the storage compartment when the platform is in either the raised or lowered position.

Optionally in some embodiments, the lift assembly is positioned below the platform.

Optionally in some embodiments, the lift assembly includes scissor linkage and a lift mechanism operative to raise and lower the lift assembly.

Optionally in some embodiments, the scissor linkage includes: a first arm. A first end portion of the first arm is coupled to the lift mechanism, and a second end portion of the first arm opposite the first end portion is coupled to the platform; a second arm. A first end portion of the second arm is coupled to the base, and a second end portion of the first arm opposite the first end portion is coupled to a guide element; a track coupled to an underside of the platform. The guide element is movably received in the track.

Optionally in some embodiments, the lift assembly includes a lift mechanism partially disposed above the platform and partially disposed below the platform.

Optionally in some embodiments, the lift mechanism is supported by a column extending upwardly from the platform.

Optionally in some embodiments, the lift mechanism includes: a rotary actuator configured to rotate a linear actuator; a movable element rotatably coupled to the linear actuator. The movable element is coupled to a movable element mount that extend portions upward from the base.

Optionally in some embodiments, the mount conceals the linear actuator when the lift assembly is in a lowered position.

Optionally in some embodiments, the free-weight exercise system further includes a guide rigidly coupled to the base and configured to support the platform as the platform moves between raised and lowered positions.

Optionally in some embodiments, the guide includes a flange disposed at an upper end thereof, the flange configured to center the platform when the platform is in the raised position.

Optionally in some embodiments, the free-weight exercise system further includes a sensor operative to detect a removal of the exercise bench and automatically trigger a movement of the platform from the lowered to a raised position.

In one embodiment, a free-weight exercise system includes a storage compartment with a base configured to enclose a free-weight exercise equipment; a platform movably coupled to the storage compartment and configured to securely support the free-weight exercise equipment; and a lift assembly configured to lower and raise the platform relative to the base with the free-weight exercise equipment on the platform.

Optionally in some embodiments, the lift assembly includes a lift mechanism configured to remain fully enclosed within the storage compartment when the platform is in either the raised or lowered position.

Optionally in some embodiments, the lift assembly is positioned below the platform.

Optionally in some embodiments, the lift assembly includes scissor linkage and a lift mechanism operative to raise and lower the lift assembly.

Optionally in some embodiments, the scissor linkage includes: a first arm. A first end portion of the first arm is coupled to the lift mechanism, and a second end portion of the first arm opposite the first end portion is coupled to the platform; a second arm. A first end portion of the second arm is coupled to the base, and a second end portion of the first arm opposite the first end portion is coupled to a guide element; a track coupled to an underside of the platform. The guide element is movably received in the track.

Optionally in some embodiments, the lift assembly includes a lift mechanism partially disposed above the platform and partially disposed below the platform.

Optionally in some embodiments, the lift mechanism is supported by a column extending upwardly from the platform.

Optionally in some embodiments, the lift mechanism includes a rotary actuator configured to rotate a linear actuator; a movable element rotatably coupled to the linear actuator. The movable element is coupled to a mount that extend portions upward from the base.

Optionally in some embodiments, the mount conceals the linear actuator when the lift assembly is in a lowered position.

Optionally in some embodiments, the free-weight exercise system further includes a guide rigidly coupled to the base and configured to support the platform as the platform moves between raised and lowered positions.

Optionally in some embodiments, the guide includes a flange disposed at an upper end thereof, the flange configured to center the platform when the platform is in the raised position.

Optionally in some embodiments, the free-weight exercise system of further including a display mast extending

upward from the storage compartment. The display mast is configured to mount and accommodate a display.

In one embodiment, a free-weight exercise system includes: a base; a display mast extending upward from the base; a platform coupled to the base and adapted to support a free-weight exercise equipment at a first height; a display mounted to the display mast by a display mount at a second height above the first height and rotatably coupled to the display mast.

Optionally in some embodiments, the free-weight exercise system further includes a display rotatably coupled to the display mast.

Optionally in some embodiments, the free-weight exercise system further includes a pawl slidably coupled to an end portion of the shaft and operative to be received in a receptacle coupled to the display mast.

Optionally in some embodiments, the free-weight exercise system further includes: a ring coupled to the display mast. The ring includes a detent formed on an inner surface thereof; a retainer plate received in the ring; a cam received in a slot formed in the retainer plate. The cam is selectively biased by a biasing element into the detent.

Optionally in some embodiments, the cam disengages from the detent when the display is rotated between a landscape orientation and a portrait orientation.

Optionally in some embodiments, the display mount includes a sensor configured to detect a position of the display.

Optionally in some embodiments, the display mount includes: a display plate coupled to the display; and a frame plate rotatably coupled to the mast.

Optionally in some embodiments, the frame plate includes an arcuate slot and a friction adjuster is received in the arcuate slot and adapted to adjust a level of force that causes the display to rotate.

Optionally in some embodiments the display plate includes a plurality of hooks; the frame plate includes a plurality of slots adapted to receive the respective plurality of hooks to couple the display plate to the frame plate.

Optionally in some embodiments, the frame plate is coupled to a biased pawl that selectively engages the display plate to couple the display plate to the frame plate.

Optionally in some embodiments, the free-weight exercise system further includes a lift assembly configured to raise and lower the platform and the free-weight exercise equipment relative to the base.

Optionally in some embodiments, the free-weight exercise system further includes a storage compartment configured to enclose the free-weight exercise equipment when the platform is in a lowered position.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1A is an isometric view of a free-weight exercise system.

FIG. 1B is an isometric view of a free-weight exercise system.

FIG. 1C is a partially exploded isometric view of the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A showing a removable exercise bench in a first configuration and an exercise weight platform in a first configuration.

FIG. 1D is a partially exploded isometric view of the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A showing the removable exercise bench in a second configuration and the exercise weight platform in a second configuration.

FIG. 1E is a partially exploded isometric view of the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A showing the remov-

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able exercise bench in a third and fourth configuration and the exercise weight platform in a third configuration.

FIG. 2 is a detail view of a portion of the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3A is a partial front elevation view of an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A in a retracted configuration.

FIG. 3B is a partial front elevation view of the weight elevation subsystem of FIG. 3A in an extended configuration.

FIG. 4 is a top isometric view of the weight elevation subsystem of FIG. 3A in a retracted configuration.

FIG. 5 is a bottom isometric view of a portion of the weight elevation subsystem of FIG. 3A.

FIG. 6 is a top isometric view of a portion of the weight elevation subsystem of FIG. 3A with the platform removed for clarity.

FIG. 7 is a bottom isometric view of a portion of the weight elevation subsystem of FIG. 3A with the platform removed for clarity.

FIG. 8A is a partial front elevation view of an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A in a retracted configuration.

FIG. 8B is a partial front elevation view of the weight elevation subsystem of FIG. 8A in an extended configuration.

FIG. 9 is a partial front elevation view of the weight elevation subsystem of FIG. 8A in a retracted configuration.

FIG. 10 is a bottom isometric view of a portion of the weight elevation subsystem of FIG. 8A.

FIG. 11 is a bottom plan view of the weight elevation subsystem of FIG. 8A.

FIG. 12A is a section view of the weight elevation subsystem of FIG. 8A taken along line 12A-12A of FIG. 8A.

FIG. 12B is a section view of the weight elevation subsystem of FIG. 8A taken along line 12B-12B of FIG. 8B.

FIG. 13 is a schematic view of an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 14 is a schematic view of an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 15 is a schematic view of an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 16 is a schematic view of an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 17 is a schematic view of an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 18 is a schematic view of an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 19 is a schematic view of an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 20 is a schematic view of an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 21 is a schematic view of an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A.

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FIG. 22 is a schematic view of an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 23 is a schematic view of an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 24 is a schematic view of an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 25 is a schematic view of an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 26 is a schematic view of an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 27 is a schematic view of an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 28 is a schematic view of an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 29 is a schematic view of an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 30 is a schematic view of an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 31 is a schematic view of an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 32 is a rear isometric view of an embodiment of a display subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 33 is a detail view of a portion of the display subsystem of FIG. 32.

FIG. 34 is a simplified section view of a portion of the display subsystem of FIG. 32 in a first configuration.

FIG. 35 is a simplified section view of a portion of the display subsystem of FIG. 32 in a second configuration.

FIG. 36 is a simplified exploded isometric view of a portion of the display subsystem of FIG. 32.

FIG. 37 is an isometric section view of a retainer plate of the display subsystem of FIG. 32 taken along line 37-37 of FIG. 36.

FIG. 38 is a simplified rear elevation view of a portion of the display subsystem of FIG. 32 in a first configuration.

FIG. 39 is a simplified rear elevation view of a portion of the display subsystem of FIG. 32 in a second configuration.

FIG. 40 is an isometric view of an embodiment of a display subsystem suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 41 is a rear isometric view the display subsystem of FIG. 40.

FIG. 42 is a simplified exploded isometric view of a portion of the display subsystem of FIG. 40.

FIG. 43 is a simplified section view of a portion of the display subsystem of FIG. 40 in a first configuration.

FIG. 44 is a simplified section view of a portion of the display subsystem of FIG. 40 in a second configuration.

FIG. 45 is a simplified rear elevation view of a portion of the display subsystem of FIG. 40 in a first configuration.

FIG. 46 is a simplified rear elevation view of a portion of the display subsystem of FIG. 40 in a second configuration.

FIG. 47 is a simplified schematic view of a control system 4700 suitable to control any free-weight exercise system disclosed herein.

The drawings are not necessarily to scale. In certain instances, details unnecessary for understanding the disclosure or rendering other details difficult to perceive may have been omitted. In the appended drawings, similar components and/or features may have the same reference label. Further, various components of the same type may be distinguished by following the reference label by a letter or number that distinguishes among the similar components. If only the first reference label is used in the specification, the description is applicable to any one of the similar components having the same first reference label irrespective of the second reference label. The claimed subject matter is not necessarily limited to the particular examples or arrangements illustrated herein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present disclosure pertains to an exercise system (also referred to as a coaching platform). In some embodiments, the exercise system is specifically configured to exercising with free-weights, and may be referred to as a free-weight exercise system. In some such embodiments, the free-weight exercise system is configured to support a set of free weights at a location providing convenient access to the user. For example, the free weights may be supported on an elevated platform which is placed, in some cases selectively through a motorized or other suitable lift system, at a height above the ground that is at least knee-level (or above), which may reduce the risk of injury to the user. In some embodiments, the weights-supporting platform may be configured to move up and down, via an actuation mechanism, for further lowering or raising the platform and/or for storage. In some embodiments, the weights-supporting platform is at least partially enclosed to at least partially conceal the weights when not in use providing a storage compartment. The storage compartment, or at least a portion thereof such as the weight-supporting platform, may be adapted to be selectively lowered and raised, such as to selectively stow and provide, respectively, the set of free weights, such as dumbbells, barbells, kettle bells, weight plates, or other free weights, at the elevated location for use during exercise. The storage compartment, weights-supporting platform and/or actuation mechanism for lowering and raising the platform may form a weight elevation subsystem of the coaching platform. In some embodiments, the storage compartment may be further equipped with a lid that substantially covers any opening used for retrieval or stowing of the weights. The lid (or cover) may optionally be configured to also function as a seating platform (e.g., when positioned over the storage compartment) and/or an exercise bench (e.g., when removed and expanded into its use configuration. As such the cover of storage compartment may also double as a storable exercise bench, thereby further saving space and enhancing the aesthetics of the user's living space.

Users may wish to use video-based coaching or integrate audio-visual content in some other manner into their exercise routine. However, many users do not have a suitable viewing device in their exercise area, such as near their weights, making the incorporation of video-based coaching or other content into their exercise routine cumbersome. The exercise system (or coaching platform) according to the present disclosure may include a display, which may be mounted proximate the elevated platform. For example, the display may be movably (e.g., rotatably) mounted on a display mast which extends upward from the elevated platform forming a display subsystem. In some embodiments, the display is adapted to show an exercise routine such as a

live coaching session, pre-recorded exercise video/audio media, exercising content which may be tailored for the user (e.g., a specific set of exercises selected for the user and/or exercise form guidance adapted to the user), user data such as biometric information, or the like, and any other audio-visual content that may facilitate the user's exercise. The display may be selectively positionable in different orientations. For example, the display may be movable between a portrait orientation (e.g., where a long dimension of the active area of the display is disposed substantially horizontally and a short dimension is disposed substantially vertically) and a landscape orientation (e.g., where a short dimension of the active area of the display is disposed substantially horizontally and a long dimension is disposed substantially vertically). The display may be configured for operation in a plurality of different orientations, such as landscape orientation and portrait orientation. In some embodiments, the display of the coaching platform may be sufficiently large to enable viewing of the content from a distance, such as from at least a foot or multiple feet away from the display, which can provide sufficient freedom of movement for the user while performing an exercise. As such, the display mast and selectively adjustable display mount may be configured for securely mounting and supporting, and for selectively repositioning (e.g., re-orienting) the display by the user with ease and convenience. In some embodiments, the display may have an active area (i.e., the area that displays images) sized at about 21 inches by about 37 inches. In some embodiments, the display may have an active area of about 12 inches by about 20 inches. In some embodiment, the display mast may extend from about 20 inches to about 37 inches or more above the height of the elevated platform. In yet further embodiments, the display subassembly may be configured to enable vertical repositioning of the display (e.g., along or via an adjustment of the height of the display mast).

FIG. 1A shows an embodiment of a free-weight exercise system **10**. The free-weight exercise system **10** includes a base **40**. The base **40** supports the free-weight exercise system **10** on a support surface such as a floor. A platform **42** is disposed above the base **40**. The platform **42** is configured to stably support one or more weights **44** at a desired height above the ground. For example, platform **42** is sufficiently stable and strong to support the one or more exercise weights **44** at a sufficient distance (e.g., above the ground and/or base **40**) to position the one or more exercise weights **44** at a desired height, such as an ergonomic height for grasping by a user. The weights **44** may be adjustable weights (e.g., a set of adjustable dumbbells, an adjustable barbell, etc.) in which case a set of weights or a barbell stably supported on the platform is configured to stably support a total additional weight ranging anywhere from about 50 lbs. to about 100 lbs. or more (e.g., the total weight of the free weights and any associated base that may be utilized for supporting unused weights and/or locking/unlocking the adjustable free-weight). While illustrated with an adjustable free-weight in FIG. 1A, it will be understood that the exercise system **100** may be used with free-weights of any other configuration (e.g., a set of conventional, non-adjustable or fixed-weight free weights). In some embodiments, the ergonomic height may be at a height above the knees of a typical adult user. In some embodiments, the desired height may be lower or higher. In some embodiments, the use height, which is the height of the platform **42** during exercise, may be selectively adjustable by a user, for example via an actuation mechanism. In some embodiments, the platform **42** is positionable between a

lowered or retracted configuration, also referred to as the stowed configuration, and a raised or deployed configuration, also referred to as the use configuration. As will be discussed further below, the actuation mechanism for raising and lowering the bench may be configured to stably (e.g., while maintaining the platform level) actuate the platform along the range of motion.

In some embodiments, the platform 42 may be lowered (or stowed) into a shroud 46 which at least partially encloses the platform 42 and free weight(s) (e.g., the one or more weights 44) supported on the platform 42 to provide a storage compartment 41 of the exercise system 10. In some embodiments, the shroud 46 may substantially fully encircle the platform 42 and weight(s), when the platform 42 is in the stowed position, whereby the platform 42 and weight(s) 44 are positioned within the compartment 41 formed by the shroud 46, so as to conceal the one or more exercise weights 44 from view when not in use. In some embodiments, the shroud 46 may conceal the platform 42 when in the stowed position but may not fully conceal the weight(s) 44 from view. In some embodiments, the platform 42 may be configured to remain in a fixed vertical (e.g., the elevated) position and may not be concealed within the shroud 46. The shroud 46, if included, may in such embodiments conceal other components of the coaching platform, e.g., at least a portion of the frame supporting the platform 42 at the elevated position.

In some embodiments, the free-weight exercise system 10 includes a lift assembly 48 operative to move the platform 42, together with the one or more exercise weights 44 supported on the platform 42, between the retracted and deployed configurations. The free-weight exercise system 10 may include a cover 30 that is selectively removable from the base 40 and operative to cover the internal storage volume formed by the shroud 46. For example, when the exercise weights are not in use, and the lift assembly 48 is in a retracted position, the cover 30 may be placed above the shroud so as to enclose the storage compartment 41.

In some embodiments, the frame of the free-weight exercise system 10 includes a mast 22 mounted to extend above the base 40. The mast 22 is configured to support a display 24. In some embodiments, the mast 22 movably supports the display 24. The mast is configured to position the display 24 at a predetermined height above the height of the platform 42 and consequently above the support surface (e.g., the ground). In some embodiments, the display is repositionable (e.g., rotatable between a landscape orientation and a portrait orientation) while remaining mounted to the mast 22.

The free-weight exercise system 10 may be adapted to display any desired video content. For example, the exercise system 10 may display exercise content such as a live session with a trainer or a pre-recorded video where a trainer demonstrates an exercise. The demonstrated exercise may, or may not, make use of the one or more exercise weights 44. The display 24 may be rotatable to between different orientations (e.g., landscape and portrait, as shown in solid line and phantom line, respectively, in FIG. 1A), such as to accommodate the content being displayed. When not in use for exercise, the display 24 may be configured to display a screen saver (e.g., a digital display of a dial clock or clock of user-selected format, or a decorative image or other audio-visual content unrelated to functions of the system 10 as a fitness coaching platform. The free-weight exercise system 10 may thus provide the benefit of positioning the one or more exercise weights at a convenient location (e.g., proximate to the display which may provide coaching) for

easy use by a user while also providing a suitable-size display 24 that a user can view while exercising.

FIGS. 1B-1E show further examples of an exercise system 100 according to the present disclosure, shown again as a free-weight exercise system. The free-weight exercise system 100 includes a display 202, a storage compartment 405 and a cover thereof, provided by the exercise bench 300. The display 202 may be mounted to the upwardly-extending frame (e.g., mast) of the exercise system 100 using any of the display mounts described herein or any other suitable display mount technology. The storage compartment 405 may include a selectively stowable platform 406 (see e.g., FIG. 1E) in accordance with any of the examples disclosed herein. The storage compartment 405 may be selectively enclosed by a cover, which in this example is also configured as a storable bench 300, shown in FIG. 1B in a folded (or storage) configuration, and shown in FIG. 1E in an unfolded (or use) configuration. As shown in FIG. 1E, the bench may have one or more adjustable components, such as a pivotally coupled backrest, to enable to user to configured the bench in a desired supported position provided by the bench (e.g., for use while seated or while laying prone or supine). The bench 300 is shown in a stowed orientation.

FIG. 1C shows the cover (e.g., bench 300) in the process of being removed from the free-weight exercise system 100. In FIG. 1C the weight supporting platform 406 is in a retracted or lowered position with the weights stored within an internal volume 405 (shown for example in FIG. 2) formed by a shroud 404. The storage compartment 405 may fully enclose the exercise weights. As shown in FIG. 1E, the shroud 404 may be provided by at least one shroud portions (e.g., first (or front) shroud portions 404-1 and second (or rear) shroud portion 404-2) operatively joined (e.g., fixed) to a frame of the exercise system 100. The exercise (i.e. free) weight(s) is shown as a pair of adjustable dumbbells 402-1 and 402-2, showed in the stowed (or lowered) position in FIGS. 1B and 1n the elevated position in FIG. 1E.

FIG. 1D shows an intermediate state of the exercise system 100 in which the cover (e.g., bench 300) has been removed from the storage compartment 405 and placed on a support surface such as a floor or the ground. FIG. 1D also shows the platform 406 supporting the weights 402-1 and 402-2 in an intermediate position between the fully retracted or lowered position and a fully deployed (or elevated) position. In some embodiments, the platform 406 is configured to begin to elevate automatically when the cover (e.g., bench 300) of the storage compartment 405 is removed. This can be achieved by a two-way switch 480 or sensor 482 that automatically changes from a first state to a second state upon removal of the cover. As shown for example in FIG. 1D, the display 202 may be supported on an upwardly extending frame (also referred to as display mast) 204 to provide a display subsystem or assembly 200. The upwardly extending frame 204 may be fixed to a base frame of the storage compartment and may thus extend above the storage compartment. The display mast 204 is configured to mount and accommodate a display at a position above the storage compartment 405.

In some examples the cover of the storage compartment is implemented by a storable bench 300, and example of which is shown and described further with reference to FIG. 1E. The bench 300 includes a plurality of legs 306 that support a bench frame 312. The bench frame 312 may support a first portion 302 which is inclinable to provide a backrest for exercising in a seated position and a second portion 304, which may be configured to remain fixed relative to the bench frame 312. The first portion 302 may be

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pivotaly coupled to the second portion **304** and be selectively positionable into one of a plurality of inclined positions, such as to support a portion of a user's body (e.g., torso) in one or more seated or inclined positions while using the weights **402-1** and/or **402-2** of the free-weight exercise system **100**. For example, a prop **308** may be coupled to the first portion **302** and the bench frame **312** may include one or more receptacles **314**. The receptacles **314** may be adapted to receive an end portion of the prop **308** to selectively position the first portion **302** at different positions or angles relative to the second portion **304**. As used herein, an end portion is any portion of a structure to one side of a midpoint of the structure, up to and including the midpoint. Either the first portion **302** or the second portion **304** may include a cushion **310** suitable to make the bench **300** more comfortable for a user to use. The bench **300** may be selectively storable to cover a storage compartment such as a storage compartment **405**. The bench **300** may be selectively removable such as for use in exercise.

FIG. 1E shows the bench **300** in a first use configuration in which foldable legs **306** are extended but the first portion **302** is in a lowered position (e.g., providing a substantially flat seating/laying surface) and a second configuration where in which the first portion **302** is in an inclined position (e.g., providing a back rest). While a folding bench is shown in FIG. 1E, it will be understood that the bench may, in some embodiments, be a substantially flat bench without an inclining portion. Yet in other examples, the cover that encloses the storage compartment **405** may not be configured to function as an exercise bench. In some such examples, the exterior surface of the cover may simply provide an aesthetically pleasing surface and/or may be cushioned in some cases, such as to provide a bench seat when the cover is positioned over the storage compartment but may not otherwise have retractable legs and/or other moving parts. FIG. 1E shows the display **202** in a landscape orientation and the platform **406** in the fully deployed position in which the platform **406** supports the weights **402** at an elevated location suitable for easier/more convenient access by a user.

FIG. 2 shows an enlarged view of a portion of the free-weight exercise system **100** indicated by line 2-2 in FIG. 1C. In some embodiments, the exercise system **100** may include a sensor **482**. The sensor **482** may be any device suitable to detect the presence of the cover (e.g., bench **300**) over the opening of the storage compartment **405** of the free-weight exercise system **100**. The sensor **482** may generate a sensor signal that triggers the raising of the platform **460** when the cover is not detected. The free-weight exercise system **100** may include a user input **480** (e.g., a manual switch). The user input **480** can be any device configured for manual actuation. When actuated, the user input may trigger lowering of the platform **460** of the free-weight exercise system **100** to stow the one or more exercise weights **402**. The user input **480** and/or sensor **482** may be implemented by any of a switch, optical sensor, magnetic sensor, proximity sensor, or the like. The sensor **482** is configured to detect the removal and/or absence of the cover (e.g., bench **300**) and to automatically generate a raising trigger that initiates raising of the platform **460** to raise. The user input **480** is configured to detect a user command (e.g., in the case of a manual switch, a manual actuation of the switch by a user) which generates a lowering trigger that initiates lowering of the platform **460**. In some embodiments, the user input **480** and the sensor **482** may be combined in a single device.

FIGS. 3A-7 show a weight elevation subsystem **400** of an exercise system (e.g., **10**, **100**) according to embodiments of

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the present disclosure. The weight elevation subsystem **400** includes a base frame **410** that forms part of the frame of the exercise system (e.g., **10**, **100**). The base frame **410** supports the movable components of the weight elevation subsystem **400**. The base frame **410** may form the base of the exercise system (e.g., **10** or **100**) or it may be fixed to the base of the exercise system. The weight elevation subsystem **400** includes a lift assembly **403** coupled to the base frame **410** and adapted to move between a retracted and a deployed configuration. The lift assembly **403** is operatively associated with a lift mechanism **408** that moves the lift assembly **403** between the retracted and deployed configurations. The lift mechanism **408** may be implemented by any device that can apply sufficient force, e.g., to the lift assembly **403**, to raise and lower a platform **406** with a certain amount of additional weight on the platform (e.g., the exercise weight(s)) between the retracted (or lowered) configuration and a deployed (or raised) configuration. In some embodiments of the weight elevation subsystem, a lift assembly may be driven (e.g., to lift or lower the platform) by a lift mechanism alone or in combination with manual force by the user. The lift assembly **403** may be coupled to a platform **406** adapted to support one or more exercise weights **402** via one or more joints **418** (shown for example in FIGS. 3B, 5, and 6). The lift assembly **403** may be implemented by at least one scissor link, in this example by a pair of scissor links, each coupled to an opposite side (e.g., a front side and rear side) of the platform **406**. Each of the scissor links includes two crossed and pivotally connected links or bars. Upper ends of the links are operatively coupled to the platform **406**, forming e.g., upper pivotal, slidable, rollable, translatable or other suitable joints. The lower ends of the links are coupled to the base frame **410**, forming e.g., lower pivotal, slidable, rollable, translatable or other suitable joints. Thus a set of four bars form part of the lift assembly **403** of this example. In other examples, more or fewer number of links (or bars) may be used to implement the lift assembly of a weight elevation subsystem according to the present disclosure.

As shown, for example, in FIGS. 6 and 7, the base frame **410** may form a closed base that provides mounting points for components of the weight elevation subsystem **400**. In some embodiments (e.g., when the weight elevation is enclosed by a shroud), the mounting points are contained within a perimeter defined by the closed base. The base frame **410** may have a transverse support **466** provided, e.g., by a cross beam extending transversely, although not necessarily perpendicularly in all embodiments, to a longitudinal dimension of the base frame **410**. The transverse support **466** may provide lateral stiffness to the weight elevation subsystem **400**. The transverse support **466** may provide mounting points for the lower end of the lift assembly **403**. For example, at least some of the links **414** of the lift assembly **403** may be pivotally mounted to the transverse support **466**, forming pivotal joints **420** therewith. In the present example, the lift assembly **403** includes a first scissor link formed by links **414-1** and **414-2**, which are pivotally coupled at the pivot joint **416-2**. The lift assembly includes a second scissor link spaced apart from the first scissor link and formed by links **414-3** and **414-4**, which are pivotally coupled at the pivot joint **416-1**. The lower ends of the links **414-2** and **414-3** are pivotally coupled to the base frame **410** via respective lower pivot joints **420-1** (see FIG. 7) and **420-2**. The pivot joints **420** and the joint **416** may include respective bushings, bearings, or other suitable rotatable components suitable to pivotably couple the links **414** to the transverse support **466** and/or one another, respectively.

The lower ends of the links **414-1** and **414-4** are translatably coupled to the base frame **410**, e.g., via one or more guide elements **454** provided at the lower ends of the links **414-1** and **414-4**. For example, the lower ends of the links **414-1** and **414-4** may be rollably coupled to the base frame **410**, e.g., via one or more rollers or wheels supported on respective pins or shafts **452** at the lower ends of the links **414-1** and **414-4**. A rollable guide element, or elements rollably coupled, may be an element (e.g., a wheel, roller, or caster) that rotates or pivots (e.g., moves substantially with dynamic friction such as via a bearing or bushing) with respect to one member and moves substantially with static friction with respect to a second member (e.g., a surface of the roller, wheel or caster does not substantially slide with respect to the second member). In some embodiments, a rollable element may be combined with a sliding element such that the element moves with respect to the second member with both dynamic and static friction. The guide elements **454** (e.g., roller or wheel) of each of the links **414-1** and **414-2** is received in a respective lower track **424** extending along the longitudinal direction of the base frame **410**. In the present example, first lower track **424-1** and second lower track **424-2** extend along a portion of the length of the base frame **410**, and are disposed on the opposite sides (e.g., front and rear sides) of the base frame **410** within the interior thereof.

In some embodiments, the lower tracks **424** may have a C-shaped cross section, and may be oriented with the opening of the channel facing toward or away from a centerline of the base frame **410** so as to capture (or substantially restrict vertical movement of) the respective guide element **454**. The guide elements may be implemented by rollers, sliders, casters, bearings, or the like, or any suitable combination thereof. In other embodiments, the lower tracks **424-1** and **424-2** may be oriented differently, for example with the opening of the channel facing towards the platform **406**, so as to restrict the movement of the lower ends of the links **414-1** and **414-4** along a substantially linear path.

The first and second scissor links are held at a fixed distance from one another by transverse braces **478**, each of which extends between and rigidly couples a pair of the links **414**. In the present example, the links **414-2** and **414-3**, which are pivotally mounted to the base frame **410**, are positioned between the links **414-1** and **414-4**, which are pivotally mounted to the platform **406**, and may thus be referred to as the inner links. The links **414-1** and **414-4** may conversely be referred to as the outer links. At least one transverse brace **478** extends between and rigidly connects the inner links and at least one other transverse brace **478** extends between and rigidly connects the inner links such that the set of inner links move substantially in unison and the set of outer links move substantially in unison, when the lift assembly **403** is operated to raise or lower the platform **406**. The assembly of the link **414-1**, link **414-4** and the respective brace **478** connecting these two links may form a first arm **415** of the lift assembly **403**. The assembly of the link **414-2**, link **414-3**, and the respective brace **478** that joins these two links may form a second arm **417** of the lift assembly **403**. In the present example, the second arm **417** is driven (or actuated) by the lift mechanism **408**, and may be referred to as the driven arm, while the first arm **415** may be referred to as a follower arm. However, in other examples, the lift mechanism may instead be operatively coupled with the first arm to drive the first arm instead.

Similar to the lower ends of the links **414** of the lift assembly **403**, the upper ends thereof for a combination of

pivotal and translatable joints with the underside of the platform **406**. Guide elements **454** are coupled to the upper ends of the links **414-2** and **414-3**, which in this example form the follower arm of the lift assembly, and are operatively received by upper tracks **422**, while the upper ends of the links **414-1** and **414-4**, which in this example form the driven arm of the lift assembly **403**, are pivotally coupled to the platform **406** forming respective pivot joints **418-0** and **418-2**. In other examples the locations of pivotal and translatable joints may be reversed, such as when the lift mechanism **408** is differently arranged, for example if arranged to drive the second arm **417** or positioned elsewhere in relation to the base frame **410**.

As shown in FIG. 6, the upper joints **418** previously described may pivotally couple the lift assembly **403** to the platform **406**. For example, each of link **414-1** and link **414-4** may be pivotally coupled to the platform **406** via upper joint **418-1** and upper joint **418-2**, respectively. Each of link **414-2** and link **414-3** may include a guide element **454**, e.g., a roller or the like, which may be coupled to the respective link via a respective pin or shaft **452**. One or more bumpers **430** (e.g., an elastomeric member, spring or any other suitable type of resilient member or combinations thereof) may be positioned between the base frame **410** and the underside of the platform **406**. The one or more bumpers **430** may cushion the "landing" of the platform **406** on the base frame **410** so as to protect components of the weight elevation subsystem **400** from impacts and/or reduce noise when the weight elevation subsystem **400** moves into the retracted configuration. In some embodiments, the bumper(s) **430** is coupled to the base frame **410** as shown in FIG. 3A. In other embodiments, the bumper(s) **430** may be coupled elsewhere, such as to the underside of the platform **406**.

The platform **406** is a substantially planar structure. The platform **406** may have other shapes as desired for example to stow in the retracted configuration in the weight elevation subsystem **400**, or to accept different kinds of weights **402**. The platform **406** may include, on its upper side, one or more fixing elements configured for securing one type or different types of exercise weights to the platform **406**. In some embodiments, the fixing elements may be integrated into the platform **406** and not intended for removal by the end user. In other embodiments, the fixing elements may be removable and interchangeable, by the user, with a different type of fixing element for securing a different type of weight(s) thereto. The fixing elements may be implemented as one or more protrusions **440**, brackets or clips **442**, or the like, e.g., as shown in FIG. 4. The protrusion **440** and/or the clip **442** may be adapted to secure one or more weights (e.g., first weight **402-1** and second weight **402-2**) to the platform. In some embodiments, the fixing elements (e.g., protrusions, clips or brackets) are configured to secure a base of an adjustable free-weight. In some embodiments, the same set of fixing elements are configured to secure two different types of adjustable free-weights (e.g., a set of adjustable dumbbells and an adjustable barbell), or the bases of two different types of free-weights. In some embodiments, the fixing elements may define a recess or channel above the platform that receives, at least partially therein, a portion of the free-weight or the base of the free-weight for securing the weight(s) to the platform **406**.

The platform **406** may be reinforced by a longitudinal member (e.g., a beam **456**) coupled to or integrally formed therewith, e.g., as shown in FIG. 5. In FIG. 5, the beam **456** is fixed to the underside of the platform **406** but in other embodiments, the reinforcing member may be configure

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differently and/or positioned elsewhere. For example, the beam 456 may be coupled to the upper face or other portion of the platform 406. The platform 406 includes one or more upper tracks 422, e.g., coupled to the lower face thereof. The upper tracks 422 are configured to movably receive an upper end of the lift assembly 403. For example, the upper tracks 422-1 and 422-2 may receive an upper end of the lift assembly 403 such the guide elements 454, which may be rotatably coupled to respective links via a respective pin or shaft 452. Respective upper track 422-1 and upper track 422-2 may be substantially aligned with the longitudinal dimension of the platform 406, extending along a portion of the length of the platform 406, and may be disposed on opposite sides of the reinforcing member (e.g., beam 456), such as near the front and rear edges of the platform 406. In some embodiments, the upper tracks 422 may have a C-shaped cross section, and may be oriented with the opening of the channel facing toward or away from a centerline of the platform 406 so as to capture the respective guide element 454 thereby substantially restricting vertical movement of the guide elements 454. Each of the guide elements 454 may be implemented by a roller, slider, caster, bearing, or the like. In other embodiments, the upper tracks 422-1 and 422-2 may be oriented differently, for example with the opening of the channel facing towards the base frame 410 so as to operatively (e.g., slidably, rollably or otherwise suitably movably) receive the upper end of the links 414-2 and 414-3.

A reinforcing structure 450, shown in FIG. 5 as a flange, may be coupled to each upper track 422 on the underside of the platform 406 to stiffen the track 422, e.g., in configurations in which the track 422 is oriented with its wider transverse dimension extending from the platform 406. In such embodiments, the reinforcing structure 450 (e.g., flange) may enhance the rigidity of the track 422 (e.g., reducing the risk of wobble, bending or deflection), which may provide for smoother motion of the guide elements 454 within the tracks 422. Additionally, a benefit may be reduced wear of the components of the lift assembly 403 and or reduced forces internally due to the upper tracks 422 being relatively straighter than without the reinforcing structures 450. In other embodiments, the flanges 450 may be other suitable shapes that support the upper tracks 422.

As also shown for example in FIG. 5, the one or more upper joints 418 may be coupled to the platform 406. For example, an upper joint 418-1 and an upper joint 418-2 may be disposed on respective portions of the platform 406. The upper joint 418-1 may be in line with the upper track 422-1. The upper joint 418-2 may be in line with the upper track 422-2. The upper joints 418 may be suitable to pivotably couple the platform 406 to the lift assembly 403. For example, the upper joints 418 may include respective bushings, bearings, or other suitable rotatable components suitable to pivotably couple the lift assembly 403 to the platform 406.

The weight elevation subsystem 400 includes a lift mechanism 408 suitable to move the lift assembly 403 between retracted and deployed configurations. The lift mechanism 408 is of suitable power and torque to deploy the lift assembly 403 with one or more exercise weights 402. The lift mechanism 408 is pivotably coupled to the frame 410 at a joint 448. The joint 448 may allow the lift mechanism 408 to pivot relative to the frame 410 as the lift assembly 403 moves between the retracted and deployed configurations. In one embodiment, the lift mechanism 408 includes a rotary actuator 428. The rotary actuator 428 may be a motor such as an electric, hydraulic, pneumatic, or other

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suitable motor. The rotary actuator 428 rotates a linear actuator 470. In some embodiments the linear actuator 470 is a threaded rod such as a lead screw or power screw. The linear actuator 470 is rotatably coupled to a movable element 472. In some embodiments, the movable element 472 is a ball screw or nut threadedly coupled to the linear actuator 470 such that as the linear actuator 470 rotates, the movable element 472 translates along the length of the linear actuator 470. The movable element 472 is coupled to the lift assembly 403, such as at a brace 478 of the first arm 415. The movable element 472 may be coupled to other portions of the lift assembly 403 as desired.

In one example of the operation of the lift assembly 403, the free-weight exercise system 100 receives a command to move the lift assembly 403 from a retracted to a deployed position. For example, such as when the bench 300 is removed from the free-weight exercise system 100 thereby actuating the sensor 482. A processor or other circuit associated with the free-weight exercise system 100 may supply power (e.g., electricity) to the lift mechanism 408. The lift mechanism 408 may cause the rotary actuator 428 to move in a first rotary direction. The movement of the rotary actuator 428 in the first rotary direction may cause the movable element 472 to move in a first translation direction, such as by the threaded engagement of the linear actuator 470 with the movable element 472. As the movable element 472 moves in the first translation direction, the movable element 472 imparts a force on the first arm 415. In this example, the first arm 415 is a driven arm and the second arm 417 is a following arm. The force imparted on the first arm 415 by the movable element 472 causes the first arm 415 and the second arm 417 to pivot relative to one another in a scissors action where the lift assembly 403 narrows and becomes taller. The guide elements 454 move in the respective upper tracks 422 or lower tracks 424 in which they are received. Thus, the lift assembly 403 moves between the retracted position and the deployed position to move the exercise weights 402 to a position suitable for access by a user.

The lift assembly 403 may return to the retracted position responsive to a command, such as a command received by the user input 480. For example, a user may actuate the user input 480. This actuation may be detected by a processor 4702 (see, e.g., FIG. 47 and accompanying description) or other circuit associated with the free-weight exercise system 100 that causes the rotary actuator 428 to move in a second rotary direction opposite the first rotary direction. Accordingly, the movable element 472 may move in a second translation direction opposite the first translation direction. The first arm 415 and the second arm 417 to pivot relative to one another in a scissors action where the lift assembly 403 becomes shorter and wider.

The weight elevation subsystem 400 has numerous advantages. For example, using a lift assembly like the lift assembly 403, the lift assembly 403 may be able to convert an input force (e.g., a force imparted by the movable element 472) to a higher output force to raise the platform 406 and the exercise weights 402, which may be advantageous when lifting heavy objects like the exercise weights 402. In some embodiments, the exercise weight 402 may weigh up to 200 pounds or more. Additionally, forming respective first arm 415 and second arm 417 form the respective links 414 may form a sturdy structure that can repeatedly and reliably lift the exercise weights 402 without undue flexure, wobble, or deflection.

In some embodiments the weight elevation subsystem 400 includes a biasing element 412. The biasing element 412

may be pivotably coupled at one end portion to the frame 410 and pivotably coupled at another end portion to the lift assembly 403. The biasing element 412 may include an energy storage portion 413 and an extendible element 411. The energy storage portion 413 may store mechanical energy when the lift assembly 403 is in one configuration and release the stored energy to help move the lift assembly 403 to another configuration. In one example, the biasing element 412 is a gas spring, where the energy storage portion 413 is a cylinder that stores a gas. When the lift assembly 403 is in the retracted configuration, a piston coupled to the energy storage portion 413 compresses the stored gas as the extendible element 411 moves into the energy storage portion 413, storing energy in the compressed gas. As the lift assembly 403 moves to the deployed configuration the energy stored in the compressed gas is released to help the lift mechanism 408 move the lift assembly 403 to the deployed configuration. In other embodiments, the biasing element 412 may be another type of biasing element such as a mechanical spring, or the like. An advantage of using a biasing element 412 may be the ability to use a smaller and/or less expensive lift mechanism 408.

FIGS. 8A-12B show a weight elevation subsystem 500 of a free-weight exercise system (e.g., 10, 100) according to further examples of the present disclosure. The weight elevation subsystem 500 includes a lift assembly 503, which may be implemented similarly to the lift assembly 403 of the weight elevation subsystem 400. The weight elevation subsystem 500 includes a frame 510 and a platform 506. The frame 510 may form a base of the system 100. The platform 506 is suitable to support one or more exercise weights 502, such as dumbbells 502-1 and 502-2. The platform 506 may have one or more protrusions 540 and/or clips 542 coupled thereto, as discussed with respect to the protrusions and clips 440 and/or 442. The platform 506 may have flanges 550-1 and 550-2 coupled thereto as discussed with respect to the flanges 450. The platform 506 may have tracks 522-1 and 522-2 coupled thereto as discussed with respect to the tracks 422. The platform 506 may have a longitudinal member 556 as discussed with respect to the longitudinal member 456, previously. The platform may have one or more joints 518 coupled thereto as previously discussed with respect to the joints 418.

As shown for example in FIG. 9, the frame 510 may include one or more guides rigidly coupled thereto to help support the platform 506 as it moves between the retracted and deployed configurations. The platform 506 may include one or more suitable recesses 576 to receive or provide clearance for the respective guides. For example, the frame 510 may include first and second rear guides 534-1 and 534-2, respectively, disposed at a rear portion of the frame 510. The rear guides 534-1 and 534-2 may include flanges 544 at respective upper end portions thereof. The upper portion of the exercise system's frame, such as the mast 22 or mast 204, may be joined to the lower or base portion of the frame e.g., via the rear guides 534-1 and 534-2 such as via one or more connectors 546. Any suitable structure, such as a connector rod, plug or fastener may be used to implement the connectors 546 so as to couple the display subsystem 200 of the exercise system to the weight elevation subsystem 500. The frame 510 may include a first and second lateral guide 536-1 and 536-2 disposed at respective left and right portions of the frame 510. The frame 510 may include a first and second front guides 538-1 and 538-2 disposed at a front portion of the frame 510. The guides 538 may include flanges 544 at respective upper end portions thereof. The flanges 544 may act as upper stops for the

platform 506 when the lift assembly 503 is at the deployed configuration. The flanges 544 may be angled toward the middle of the weight storage subassembly 500. This type of flange may be beneficial as the flanges coupled to the front guides 538 may be angled toward the flanges 544 coupled to the rear guides. This arrangement may form a wedge structure that centers the platform 506 and/or secures the platform 506 with the front guides 538 and the rear guides 534 to stiffen the lift assembly 503 when at the deployed configuration. It should be understood that the vertical guides (e.g., rear guides 534-1 and 534-2, lateral guides 536-1 and 536-2, and front guides 538-1 and 538-1) may be used in any suitable combination in any of the other embodiments of weight elevation subsystems described herein. For example the platform 406 of weight elevation subsystem 400 may similarly include recesses to receive one or more front, rear, and lateral guides similar to the ones described with reference to the subsystem 500.

As shown in FIG. 11, the frame 510 may include one or more upper support frame mounts 564-1, 564-2 operative to couple the upper frame or display mast 204 of the display subsystem 200 to the weight elevation subsystem 500. The frame 510 may include one or more feet 562-1, 562-2 and/or feet 560-1, 560-2. Any of the feet 560 and/or 562 may be static feet, or may include a leveler element suitable to level the free-weight exercise system 100.

The lift assembly 503 includes a plurality of links 514 including a link 514-1, a link 514-2, a link 514-3, and a link 514-4. The links 514 may form a first arm 515 and a second arm 517 as previously discussed with respect to the arms 415 and 417. The first arm 515 and the second arm 517 may be pivotally coupled at a joint 516. Either or both of the arms 515 or 517 may have respective guide elements 454 pivotally coupled to one end portion thereof, as previously discussed. The guide elements 454 may be received in respective tracks 522 and 524. An end portion of the respective arms 515 and 517 opposite the guide elements 454 may be pivotally coupled to the frame 510 and/or the platform 506. For example the arm 515 may be pivotally coupled to the platform 506 at a joint 518. The arm 517 may be pivotally coupled to the frame 510 at a joint 520. A biasing element 512 may be coupled to the frame 510 and the lift assembly 503 as previously discussed with respect to the biasing element 412.

The weight elevation subsystem 500 includes a lift mechanism 508 adapted to move the lift assembly 503 between the retracted position (see, e.g., FIG. 8A) and the deployed position (see, e.g., FIG. 8B). The lift mechanism 508 includes a rotary actuator 528, a linear actuator 570, and a movable element 572 as previously discussed with respect to the lift mechanism 408.

With reference to FIGS. 11, 12A, and 12B, the frame 510 includes a center support 568 and cross support 566 that extend portions between front and rear edges of the frame 510. The center support 568 and/or the cross support 566 may help stiffen and/or stabilize the frame 510. A movable element mount 574 may be coupled to, and extend upward from, the frame 510. For example, the movable element mount 574 may be coupled to the center support 568. The movable element mount 574 may extend upwardly from the center support 568. The movable element mount 574 may conceal the linear actuator 570 when the lift assembly 503 is in a lowered position. A column 532 may be coupled to the platform 506. The column 532 may extend upwardly from the platform 506. In some embodiments, the column 532 may extend through the platform (see, e.g., FIG. 10). The lift mechanism 508 may be coupled to the column 532. For

example, the lift mechanism **508** may be pivotally coupled to the column **532** at a joint **548**. The movable element **572** of the lift mechanism **508** may be coupled to the movable element mount **574**. The linear actuator **570** may be selectively received in the movable element mount **574**.

As shown for example in FIGS. **12A** and **12B** in the retracted configuration, a substantial portion of the linear actuator **570** is received in the movable element mount **574** and threadedly engaged with the movable element **572**. Responsive to a command to move from the retracted configuration to the deployed configuration, the rotary actuator **528** may cause the linear actuator **570** to rotate relative to the movable element **572**. The rotary motion of the linear actuator **570** relative to the movable element **572** may induce a force in the linear actuator **570** that causes the lift mechanism **508**, and the platform **506** to move the lift assembly **503** from the retracted configuration to the extended configuration.

With reference to FIG. **13**, an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem **700** suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. **1A** is disclosed. The weight elevation subsystem **700** includes a lift assembly **703**. The lift assembly **703** includes four links **714-1**, **714-2**, **714-3**, and **714-4**. The weight elevation subsystem **700** includes a frame **710**. The lower end portions of the links **714-1** and **714-4** are pivotally coupled to the frame **710** at respective joints **704**. The upper end portions of the links **714-4** and **714-1** are pivotally coupled to the lower end portions of the links **714-3** and **714-2**, respectively. The upper end portions of the links **714-4** and **714-1** and the lower end portions of the links **714-3** and **714-2** are coupled to respective end portions of a lift mechanism **708** at respective joints **712** and **748**. The lift mechanism **708** includes a rotary actuator **728** that rotates a linear actuator **770**. The linear actuator **770** is threadedly coupled to a movable element **772**. The upper end portions of the links **714-3** and **714-2** are pivotally coupled to a platform **706** by respective joints **716**. The platform **706** may include a longitudinal member **756** such as to stiffen the platform **706**. The platform **706** may be suitable to support one or more exercise weights such as the dumbbells **402** and or a barbell **702**. As the rotary actuator **728** rotates the linear actuator **770** relative to the movable element **772**, the movable element **772** may cause the joints **712** and **748** to move relative to one another. For example, the joints **712** and **748** may move away from one another as the lift assembly **703** moves to a retracted configuration. The joints **712** and **748** may move toward one another as the lift assembly **703** moves to a deployed configuration.

With reference to FIG. **14**, an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem **800** suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. **1A** is disclosed. The weight elevation subsystem **800** includes a frame **810**. The frame **810** may have one or more supports **836**, **839** and/or **840** that extend upwardly from the frame **810**. The weight elevation subsystem **800** includes a platform **806** suitable to support one or more exercise weights **802** as previously described. The platform **806** may include a longitudinal member **856**, such as to stiffen the platform **806**. The platform **806** may include a connector element **822** extending therefrom, e.g., extending below the platform **806**. The connector element **822** may be coupled to a flange **824**. The flange **824** may include respective couplings or joints **820-1**, **820-2** at respective lateral end portions thereof that couple the flange **824** to respective flexible elements **818-1** and **818-2**. The flange **824** may extend laterally between the supports **836** and **840**.

The platform **806** may be movable between the retracted and deployed configurations by a lift assembly **801**. A rotary actuator **804** may be coupled to the support **839**. A driving disc **803** may be coupled to a rotary axis **808** of the rotary actuator **804** such that the rotary actuator **804** is operable to rotate the driving disc **803**. Any of the discs of any weight storage subassembly disclosed herein may be pulleys, gears, sprockets, or the like. A driven disc **814** may be pivotally coupled to the support **839** at a joint **812** above or below the rotary actuator **804**. A driven disc **826** may be pivotally coupled to the support **836** at a joint **825**. A driven disc **832** may be pivotally coupled to the support **840** at a joint **831**. A driven disc **830** may be pivotally coupled to the support **836** at a joint **829**. A driven disc **834** may be pivotally coupled to the support **840** at a joint **833**. The driven disc **829** may be disposed above the driven disc **826**. The driven disc **834** may be disposed above the driven disc **832**. The driven disc **826** and/or the driven disc **832** may include respective first disc elements **826-1** and **832-1**. The driven disc **826** and/or the driven disc **832** may include respective second disc elements **826-2** and **832-2**. The diameters of the first disc elements **826-1**, **832-1** may be different than the diameters of the second disc elements **826-2**, **832-2**. Thus, the driven discs **826**, **832** may thus be operative to change the rotary speed and/or torque of respective inputs and outputs thereof. For example, the second disc elements **826-2** and **832-2** may have larger diameters than the respective disc elements **826-1** and **832-1**. Any disc in the present disclosure may include two or more disc elements of different sizes such as the first and second disc elements **826-1**, **826-2**, **832-1**, and **832-2**. One or more flexible elements may couple the discs of the weight elevation subsystem **800**. Any flexible element of the present disclosure may be a belt (e.g., gear belt, v-belt, or the like), chain, strap, or other suitable flexible element that can transmit rotary motion between the discs. For example, a flexible element **816-1** may couple the disc **803** with the first disc element **832-1**. For example, a flexible element **816-2** may couple the disc **814** with the first disc element **826-1**. A flexible element **818-2** may couple the second disc element **826-2** to the disc **830**. A flexible element **818-1** may couple the second disc element **832-2** to the disc **834**. The flexible elements **818-1** and/or **818-2** may be coupled to the flange **824** at the respective joints **820-1**, **820-2**.

As the rotary actuator **804** rotates, the lift assembly **801** may cause the platform **806** to move between the retracted and deployed configurations. For example, the driving disc **803** may, via the flexible element **816-1**, rotate the disc **832** via the first disc element **832-1**. The driving disc **803** may also rotate the disc **814**. The disc **814** may, via the flexible element **816-2**, rotate the disc **826** via the first disc element **826-1**. The disc **832** may, via the flexible element **818-1** and the second disc element **832-2**, rotate the disc **834**. Similarly, the disc **826** may, via the flexible element **818-2** and the second disc element **832-2**, rotate the disc **830**. As the discs **830** and **834** rotate, the flexible elements **818-1**, **818-2** translate, e.g., move vertically. Thus, as the rotary actuator **804** rotates, the rotary motion thereof may be transmitted through the lift assembly **801** to cause the joints **820-1**, **820-2** to raise or lower, thereby causing the platform **806** to raise or lower between the retracted and deployed configurations.

With reference to FIG. **15**, an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem **900** suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. **1A** is disclosed. The weight elevation subsystem **900** includes a frame **910**. The frame **910** may have one or more supports **936**, **939** and/or **940** that

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extend upwardly from the frame 910. The weight elevation subsystem 900 includes a platform 906 suitable to support one or more exercise weights 902 as previously described. The platform 906 may include a longitudinal member 956, such as to stiffen the platform 906. The platform 906 may include a connector element 922 extending therefrom, e.g., extending below the platform 906. The connector element 922 may be coupled to a flange 924. The flange 924 may include respective couplings or joints 920-1, 920-2 at respective lateral end portions thereof that couple the flange 924 to respective flexible elements 916-1 and 916-2. The flange 924 may extend laterally between the supports 936 and 940.

The platform 906 may be movable between the retracted and deployed configurations by a lift assembly 903. A rotary actuator 904 may be coupled to the support 939. A driving disc 926 may be coupled to a rotary axis 908 of the rotary actuator 904 such that the rotary actuator 904 is operable to rotate the driving disc 926. A driven disc 928 may be pivotally coupled to the support 936 at a joint 948. A driven disc 932 may be pivotally coupled to the support 940 at a joint 942. A driven disc 930 may be pivotally coupled to the support 936 at a joint 946. A driven disc 934 may be pivotally coupled to the support 940 at a joint 944. The driven disc 930 may be disposed above the driven disc 928. The driven disc 934 may be disposed above the driven disc 932.

One or more flexible elements may couple the discs of the weight elevation subsystem 900. For example, a flexible element 916-1 may couple the disc 926 with the disc 932 and the disc 934. Similarly, a flexible element 916-2 may couple the disc 926 with the disc 928 and the disc 930. The flexible elements 916-1 and/or 916-2 may be coupled to the flange 924 at the respective joints 920-1, 920-2.

As the rotary actuator 904 rotates, the lift assembly 903 may cause the platform 906 to move between the retracted and deployed configurations. For example, the driving disc 926 may, via the flexible element 916-1, rotate the disc 932 and the disc 934. Similarly, the disc 926 may, via the flexible element 916-2, rotate the disc 928 and the disc 930. As the discs 930 and 934 rotate, the flexible elements 916-1, 916-2 translate, e.g., move vertically. Thus, as the rotary actuator 904 rotates, the rotary motion thereof may be transmitted through the lift assembly 903 to cause the joints 920-1, 920-2 to raise or lower, thereby causing the platform 906 to raise or lower between the retracted and deployed configurations.

With reference to FIG. 16, an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem 1000 suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A is disclosed. The weight elevation subsystem 1000 includes a frame 1010. The frame 1010 may have one or more supports 1036 and/or 1040 that extend upwardly from the frame 1010. The weight elevation subsystem 1000 includes a platform 1006 suitable to support one or more exercise weights 1002-1, 1002-2 as previously described. The platform 1006 may include one or more handles 1012 coupled thereto and suitable to be gripped by a hand of a user, such as to move the weight elevation subsystem 1000 between the retracted and deployed configurations. The platform 1006 may include one or more connector elements 1008-1, 1008-2 extending therefrom, e.g., extending below the platform 1006. The connector elements 1008-1, 1008-2 may include respective couplings or joints 1018-1, 1018-2 that couple the respective connector elements 1008-1 and 1008-2 to respective flexible elements 1016-1 and 1016-2.

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The platform 1006 may be movable between the retracted and deployed configurations by a lift assembly 1003. A disc 1028 may be pivotally coupled to the support 1036 at a joint 1048. A disc 1032 may be pivotally coupled to the support 1040 at a joint 1042.

The one or more flexible elements 1016-1, 1016-2 may couple the platform 1006 to a counterweight 1004. The counterweight 1004 may be selectively receivable in a recess 1005 formed in the platform 1006. For example, a flexible element 1016-1 may couple the joint 1018-1 to the counterweight 1004 and the flexible element 1016-2 may couple the joint 1018-2 to the counterweight 1004. The flexible elements 1016-1 and 1016-2 may be guided by the respective discs 1042 and 1028.

The counterweight 1004 may be of a suitable mass to counteract or balance the weight of the exercise weights 1002-1 and 1002-2. Absent a force imparted to the platform 1006, such as via the user by the handle 1012, the platform may be stationary. When a force is imparted to the platform 1006 such as by the user via the handle, the platform 1006 may move between the retracted and deployed configurations. For example, when the lift assembly 1003 is retracted, the user may pull up on the handle 1012 causing the lift assembly 1003 to expand as the platform 1006 moves up and the counterweight 1004 moves down. Likewise, the user may stow the platform 1006 by pushing on the platform thereby causing the counterweight 1004 to rise and the platform 1006 to fall. An advantage of the lift assembly 1003 may be the ability to deploy and/or stow exercise weights without the use of a powered actuator such as a motor or lift mechanism.

With reference to FIG. 17, an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem 1100 suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A is disclosed. The weight elevation subsystem 1100 is similar in certain aspects to the weight elevation subsystem 1000 including the use of a counterweight 1104, flexible elements 1118-1, 1118-2, and discs 1142 and 1148 which are analogous to similar elements of the weight elevation subsystem 1000. In the weight elevation subsystem 1100, the platform 1106 may be coupled to a lift assembly 1105. The lift assembly 1105 may include to one of the flexible elements 1118-1 or 1118-2. The other of the flexible elements 1118-1 or 1118-2 not coupled to the platform 1106 may be coupled to an anchor 1136 coupled to the frame 1110.

The frame 1110 may have a wall 1108 coupled thereto and an extending vertically therefrom. The lift assembly 1105 may include a four bar lift assembly. For example, the lift assembly 1105 may include links 1114-1, 1114-2, 1114-3, and 1114-4. The link 1114-2 may be coupled (e.g., rigidly coupled) to the platform 1106. The link 1114-2 may be pivotally coupled to the links 1114-1 and 1114-3 at respective joints 1116-1 and 1116-2. The links 1114-1 and 1114-3 may be pivotally coupled to the link 1114-4 at respective joints 1116-3, 1116-4. The respective joints 1116-1 and 1116-2 may be at opposite end portions of the respective links 1114-1 and 1114-3 from the respective joints 1116-3 and 1116-4. The link 1114-4 may be coupled (e.g., rigidly coupled) to the wall 1108, may be formed therewith, or may be an integral part of the wall 1108.

Operation of the weight elevation subsystem 1100 may be similar to that of the weight elevation subsystem 1000, i.e., through use of a force imparted by a user. As the user pulls up on the platform 1106 such as by a handle, the counterweight 1104 may sink and the platform 1106 may rise, and vice versa when stowing. The lift assembly 1105 may provide certain advantages such as providing more leverage

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for the user relative to the weight elevation subsystem 1000 to enable the easier deployment of the weights 1102.

With reference to FIG. 18, an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem 1200 suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A is disclosed. The weight elevation subsystem 1200 includes a frame 1210. The frame 1210 may have one or more supports 1236 and/or 1240 that extend upwardly from the frame 1210. The weight elevation subsystem 1200 includes a platform 1206 suitable to support one or more exercise weights 1202 as previously described. The platform 1206 may include a longitudinal member 1256, such as to stiffen the platform 1206. The platform 1206 may include a connector element 1222 extending therefrom, e.g., extending below the platform 1206. The connector element 1222 may be coupled to a flange 1224. The flange 1224 may include one or more slots 1248, 1250 formed therein.

The platform 1206 may be movable between the retracted and deployed configurations by a lift assembly 1203. The lift assembly 1203 may include a rotary actuator 1204 that may be coupled to the support 1236. A driving disc 1226 may be coupled to a rotary axis 1208 of the rotary actuator 1204 such that the rotary actuator 1204 is operable to rotate the driving disc 1226. A driven disc 1228 may be pivotally coupled to the support 1236 at a joint 1247. A driven disc 1232 may be pivotally coupled to the support 1240 at a joint 1242. The driven discs 1228 and 1232 may have respective guides 1246 and 1244 coupled thereto. The guides 1246, 1244 may be suitable to be received in the respective slots 1250 and 1248.

One or more flexible elements may couple the discs of the weight elevation subsystem 1200. For example, a flexible element 1216-1 may couple the disc 1226 with the disc 1228. Similarly, a flexible element 1216-2 may couple the disc 1228 with the disc 1232. Thus, the flexible elements 1216-1 and 1216-2 may transmit rotary motion of the rotary actuator 1204 from the disc 1226 to the disc 1228 and the disc 1232. As the rotary actuator 1204 rotates, the guides 1244 and 1246 may move within the respective slots 1248 and 1250 and cause the flange 1224 and thus the platform 1206 to move between the retracted configuration (shown for example in phantom lines in FIG. 18) and the deployed position (shown for example, in solid lines in FIG. 18).

With reference to FIG. 19, an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem 1300 suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A is disclosed. The weight elevation subsystem 1300 includes a frame 1310. The frame 1310 may have one or more supports 1336, 1339, and/or 1340 that extend upwardly from the frame 1310. The support 1339 may be disposed between the supports 1340 and 1336. The weight elevation subsystem 1300 includes a platform 1306 suitable to support one or more exercise weights 1302 as previously described. The platform 1306 may include a longitudinal member, such as to stiffen the platform 1306. The platform 1306 may be movable between the retracted and deployed configurations by a lift assembly 1303. The platform 1306 may include a connector element 1322 extending therefrom, e.g., extending below the platform 1306. The connector element 1322 may be coupled to, or formed with, one or more flanges 1324-1 and 1324-2. The connector element 1322 may have a recess 1323 formed therein. A lift mechanism 1308 is pivotally coupled to the support 1339 at a joint 1348. The lift mechanism 1308 includes a rotary actuator 1328 that rotates a linear actuator 1370. The linear actuator 1370 is threadedly coupled to a movable element 1372. The linear actuator 1370 may be at least partially received in the recess 1323, so as to provide

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clearance for the linear actuator 1370 when the lift assembly 1303 is in the retracted position. The movable element 1372 is coupled to the flanges 1324, such as pivotally coupled at a joint 1312. The end portions of the flanges 1324-1 and 1324-2 are coupled to respective couplings 1314-1 and 1314-2. The couplings include one or more guide elements 1354 that translationally couple the couplings to the supports 1336 and/or 1340. For example, the coupling 1314-1 may include a guide element 1354-1 disposed on an outer portion of the support 1340 and two or more guide elements 1354-2, 1354-3 disposed on an inner portion of the support 1340. Similarly, the coupling 1314-2 may be substantially similar to the coupling 1314-1. The guide elements associated with a particular coupling may be arranged in a triangular fashion with respect to one another. Such an arrangement may have the benefit of stabilizing the respective coupling relative to the respective support. As the rotary actuator 1328 rotates the linear actuator 1370, the movable element 1372 may move along the linear actuator 1370 and cause the flanges 1324, the connector element 1322 and the platform 1306 to move between the retracted and deployed positions. As the flanges 1324 move, the couplings 1314 move along the respective supports 1336 and 1340 thereby providing support and smooth motion to the lift assembly 1303.

With reference to FIG. 20, an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem 1400 suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A is disclosed. The weight elevation subsystem 1400 includes a frame 1410. The frame 1410 may have one or more supports 1436, 1439 and/or 1440 that extend upwardly from the frame 1410. The support 1439 may be disposed between the supports 1440 and 1436. The weight elevation subsystem 1400 includes a platform 1406 suitable to support one or more exercise weights 1402 as previously described and coupled to a lift assembly 1403. The platform 1406 may include a longitudinal member, such as to stiffen the platform 1406. The platform 1406 may include a connector element 1422 extending therefrom, e.g., extending below the platform 1406. The connector element 1422 may be coupled to a lift assembly 1403. The lift assembly 1403 may be suitable to move the platform 1406 between the retracted and deployed positions. The lift assembly 1403 may include four-bar linkage. For example, the lift assembly 1403 may include links 1414-1, 1414-2, and/or 1414-3. A counterweight 1404 may form a fourth link of the lift assembly 1403. The counterweight 1404 may be of a suitable mass to counteract or balance the weight of the one or more exercise weights 1402. A benefit of using a counterweight may be the ability to use a smaller, less expensive, or lower power lift mechanism 1408. The counterweight 1404 may have a recess 1423 formed therein. The links 1414-1 and 1414-2 may be pivotally coupled to the support 1439 such as at respective joints 1412-1 and 1412-2. The link 1414-1 may be disposed above the link 1414-2. Respective end portions of the links 1414-1 and 1414-2 may be pivotally coupled to respective end portions of the link 1414-3, such as at respective joints 1418-1 and 1418-2. The end portions of the links 1414-1 and 1414-2 opposite the end portions coupled to the link 1414-3 may be pivotally coupled to the counterweight 1404 at respective joints 1416-1 and 1416-2. In some embodiments, the links 1414-1 and 1414-2 may be substantially parallel to one another.

In one embodiment, a lift mechanism 1408 is pivotally coupled to the support 1436 at a joint 1407. In some embodiments, the lift mechanism 1408 includes a gas spring as previously described. The gas spring may bias the lift assembly 1403 toward the deployed position. The gas spring

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may enable the lift assembly **1403** to be moved manually such as described with respect to the weight elevation subsystems **1000** and/or **1100**.

In some embodiments, the lift mechanism **1408** includes a rotary actuator **1428** that rotates a linear actuator **1470**. The linear actuator **1470** is threadedly coupled to a movable element **1472**. The movable element **1472** is pivotally coupled to the support **1436** at the joint **1407**. The rotary actuator is pivotally coupled to the lift assembly **1403** at the joint **1418-2**. In other embodiments, the lift mechanism **1408** may be installed with the rotary actuator coupled to the support **1436** and the movable element **1472** coupled to the lift assembly **1403**. As the rotary actuator **1428** rotates the linear actuator **1470**, the movable element **1472** may induce a force on the support **1436** and a counteracting force may cause the lift assembly **1403** to move between the retracted and deployed positions. An advantage of the lift assembly **1403** may be that by the selective placement of the supports **1436**, **1439**, and **1440** relative to one another, the relative moments of the counterweight **1404**, exercise weights **1402** and/or lift mechanism **1408** may be selected to reduce cost, weight, and/or power requirements of the lift mechanism **1408**, and/or weight of the counterweight. Another benefit may be the ability to tune the reach of the platform **1406** between the retracted and deployed positions. When a gas spring is used as the lift mechanism **1408**, an advantage may be non-powered operation of the lift assembly **1403**. The counterweight **1404** may also assist to stabilize the lift assembly **1403**.

The weight storage subassembly **1400** may include a lock mechanism **1417**. The lock mechanism may include a pin **1425**, a biasing element **1424**, and an actuator **1420**. The biasing element **1424** may bias the pin **1425** toward the counterweight **1404**. When the pin **1425** and the recess **1423** are aligned, the biasing element may cause the pin to move into the recess. A benefit of the lock mechanism **1417** may be to prevent unwanted movement of the lift assembly **1403**, such as when the lift assembly **1403** is in the deployed position. The actuator **1420** may be used to overcome the bias of the biasing element **1424** to retract the pin **1425** from the recess **1423** to allow motion of the lift assembly **1403**. Another benefit of the lock mechanism **1417** may be one-handed locking and/or unlocking of the lift assembly **1403**.

With reference to FIG. 21, an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem **1500** suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A is disclosed. The weight elevation subsystem **1500** includes a frame **1510**. The frame **1510** may have one or more supports **1536** and **1540** that extend upwardly from the frame **1510**. The weight elevation subsystem **1500** includes a platform **1506** suitable to support one or more exercise weights **1502** as previously described. The platform **1506** may include a longitudinal member, such as to stiffen the platform **1506**. The platform **1506** may include a connector element **1522** extending therefrom, e.g., extending below the platform **1506**. The connector element **1522** may be coupled to a lift assembly **1503**. The lift assembly **1503** may be suitable to move the platform **1506** between the retracted and deployed positions. The lift assembly **1503** may include four-bar linkage. For example, the lift assembly **1503** may include links **1514-1**, **1514-2**. A portion of the connector element **1522** may form a portion of the lift assembly **1503**. A portion of the support **1540** may form a portion of the lift assembly **1503**. The links **1514-1** and **1514-2** may be pivotally coupled to the connector element **1522** such as at respective joints **1518-1** and **1518-2**. The link **1514-1** may be disposed above the link **1514-2**. The end portions of the links **1514-1** and **1514-2** opposite the end

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portions coupled to the connector element **1522** may be pivotally coupled to the support **1540** at respective joints **1516-1** and **1516-2**. In some embodiments, the links **1514-1** and **1514-2** may be substantially parallel to one another.

In some embodiments, a lift mechanism **1508** is pivotally coupled to the support **1536** at a joint **1507**. In some embodiments, the lift mechanism **1508** includes a gas spring as previously described. The gas spring may bias the lift assembly **1503** toward the deployed position. The gas spring may enable the lift assembly **1503** to be moved manually such as described with respect to the weight elevation subsystems **1000** and/or **1100**.

In some embodiments, the lift mechanism **1508** includes a rotary actuator **1528** that rotates a linear actuator **1570**. The linear actuator **1570** is threadedly coupled to a movable element **1572**. The movable element **1572** is pivotally coupled to the support **1536** at the joint **1507**. The rotary actuator **1528** is pivotally coupled to the lift assembly **1503** at the joint **1518-2**. In other embodiments, the lift mechanism **1508** may be installed with the rotary actuator coupled to the support **1536** and the movable element **1572** coupled to the lift assembly **1503**. As the rotary actuator **1528** rotates the linear actuator **1570**, the movable element **1572** may induce a force on the support **1536** and a counteracting force may cause the lift assembly **1503** to move between the retracted and deployed positions. An advantage of the lift assembly **1503** may be smooth movement of the platform **1506** between the retracted and deployed configurations. Another benefit may be the ability to tune the reach of the platform **1506** between the retracted and deployed positions. When a gas spring is used as the lift mechanism **1508**, an advantage may be non-powered operation of the lift assembly **1503**.

The weight storage subassembly **1500** may include a lock mechanism **1517** similar to the lock mechanism **1417** previously described. The lock mechanism **1517** may be operative to limit or prevent unwanted movement of the lift mechanism **1508**. The lock mechanism **1517** may be remotely situated from the lift mechanism, so as to provide easy access to the lock mechanism **1517** for a user.

With reference to FIG. 22, an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem **1600** suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A is disclosed. The weight elevation subsystem **1600** includes a frame **1610**. The frame **1610** may have one or more supports **1636**, **1639** and/or **1640** that extend upwardly from the frame **1610**. The support **1639** may be disposed between the supports **1640** and **1636**. The weight elevation subsystem **1600** includes one or more platforms **1606-1**, **1606-2** suitable to support one or more exercise weights **1502** as previously described. The platform **1606-1**, **1606-2** may include respective longitudinal members, such as to stiffen the platforms. The platforms **1606-1** and **1606-2** may be disposed on respective links **1614-1** and **1614-2**. The supports **1636** and **1640** and the links **1614-1** and **1614-2** may form a portion of a lift assembly **1603**. An end portion of the link **1614-1** may be pivotally coupled to the support **1636** such as at a joint **1616-1**. An end portion of the link **1614-2** may be pivotally coupled to the support **1640** such as at a joint **1616-2**. An end portion of the link **1614-2** opposite the end portion coupled to the support **1640** may be pivotally coupled to a lift mechanism **1608** such as at a joint **1648**. An end portion of the link **1614-1** opposite the end portion coupled to the support **1636** may include, or have coupled thereto, a guide element **1654**. The guide element may be operative to guide the link **1614-1** along the link **1614-2**.

In some embodiments, the lift mechanism **1608** includes a rotary actuator **1628** that rotates a linear actuator **1670**. The linear actuator **1670** is threadedly coupled to a movable element **1672**. The movable element **1672** is pivotally coupled to the support **1639** at a joint **1607**. The rotary actuator **1628** is pivotally coupled to the lift assembly **1603** at the joint **1648**. In other embodiments, the lift mechanism **1608** may be installed with the rotary actuator **1628** coupled to the support **1639** and the movable element **1672** coupled to the lift assembly **1603**. As the rotary actuator **1628** rotates the linear actuator **1670**, the movable element **1672** may induce a force on the support **1636** and a counteracting force may cause the lift assembly **1603** to move between the retracted and deployed positions. As the lift assembly **1603** moves from the retracted to the deployed configuration, the guide element **1654** may move along the link **1614-2**. An advantage of the lift assembly **1603** may be that by the selective placement of the supports **1636**, **1639**, and **1640** relative to one another, the relative moments of the exercise weights **1602-1** and/or **1602-2** relative to the lift mechanism **1608** may be selected to reduce cost, weight, and/or power requirements of the lift mechanism **1608**. Another benefit may be the ability to tune the reach of the platforms **1606-1** and **1606-2** between the retracted and deployed positions.

With reference to FIG. 23, an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem **1700** suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A is disclosed. The weight elevation subsystem **1700** includes a frame **1710**. The frame **1710** may have one or more supports **1736**, **1739** and/or **1740** that extend upwardly from the frame **1710**. The weight elevation subsystem **1700** includes a platform **1706** suitable to support one or more exercise weights **1702** as previously described. The platform **1706** may include a longitudinal member, such as to stiffen the platform. The platform **1706** may include guide elements **1755-1** and **1755-2** disposed at respective end portions thereof. The guide elements **1755-1** and **1755-2** may engage the respective supports **1736** and **1740**, so as to support and/or stabilize the platform **1706**. The platform **1706** may be movable between the retracted and deployed configurations by a lift assembly **1703**.

The lift assembly **1703** may include a link **1714-1** and a link **1714-2**. The links **1714** may be bent or angled links. The links **1714-1** and **1714-2** may be pivotally coupled to the respective supports **1736** and **1740** such as at respective joints **1716-1** and **1716-2**. In some embodiments, the links **1714-1** and **1714-2** are coupled to the respective joints **1716-1** and **1716-2** at a bend in the respective links. One end portion of each of the links **1714-1** and **1714-2** may include, or have coupled thereto, respective guide elements **1754-1** and **1754-2**. The guide elements **1754** may support the platform **1706**, such that the guide elements **1754** may roll, slide, or glide along a lower surface of the platform as the lift assembly **1703** moves between the retracted and deployed configurations. An end portion of the links **1714-1** and **1714-2** opposite the end portions with the guide elements may be coupled to respective biasing elements **1718-1** and **1718-2**. The biasing elements **1718** may be springs. An end portion of the biasing elements **1718** opposite the end portions coupled to the links **1714** may be coupled to an anchor **1720** formed in the support **1739**.

The lift assembly **1703** may be manually movable between retracted and deployed configurations such as described with respect to the weight elevation subsystems **1000** and/or **1100**. However with the lift assembly **1703** the force to balance the weight of the platform **1706** and exercise weights **1702** may be provided by the biasing elements **1718**. An advantage of the lift assembly **1703** may

be the ability to deploy the exercise weights **1702** without the use of a lift mechanism. The movement of the guide elements **1754** and **1755** relative to the rest of the lift assembly **1703** may provide for smooth, stable movement between the retracted and deployed configurations.

With reference to FIG. 24, an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem **1800** suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A is disclosed. The weight elevation subsystem **1800** includes a frame **1810**. The frame **1810** may have one or more supports **1836**, **1839-1**, **1839-2** and/or **1840** that extend upwardly from the frame **1810**. The supports **1839-1** and **1839-2** may be disposed between the supports **1836** and **1840**. The weight elevation subsystem **1800** includes a platform **1806** suitable to support one or more exercise weights **1802** as previously described. The platform **1806** may include a longitudinal member, such as to stiffen the platform. The platform **1806** may include one or connector elements **1822** extending therefrom, e.g., extending below the platform **1806**. The connector elements **1822** may be disposed at respective end portions of the platform **1806**. One more guide elements **1854-1**, **1854-2**, **1854-3**, **1854-4** may be disposed between connector elements **1822** and the respective supports **1836** and **1840**. The guide elements **1854** may enable the platform **1806** to glide, roll, or otherwise move relative to the supports **1836** and **1840** while the supports stabilize and/or support the platform **1806**. One or more bosses **1841-1** and **1842-2** may extend below the platform **1806**.

The platform **1806** may be movable between the retracted and deployed configurations by a lift assembly **1803**. The lift assembly **1803** may be formed by links **1814-1**, **1814-2**, **1814-3**, **1814-4**, and **1814-5**. Respective upper end portions of the links **1814-1** and **1814-4** may be pivotally coupled to respective bosses **1841-2** and **1841-1** by respective joints **1816-1** and **1816-2**. Similarly, respective lower end portions of the links **1814-2** and **1814-3** may be pivotally coupled to respective supports **1839-2** and **1839-1** by respective joints **1818-1** and **1818-2**. The end portions of the links **1814-1**, **1814-2**, **1814-3**, **1814-4** opposite their respective couplings with the respective bosses **1841** and supports **1839** may be coupled to another link of the lift assembly **1803**. For example, end portions of the links **1814-1** and **1814-2** may be pivotally coupled to one another at a joint **1812-1**. Similarly, end portions of the links **1814-3** and **1814-4** may be pivotally coupled to one another at a joint **1812-2**. The link **1814-5** may connect the links **1814-1**, **1814-2**, **1814-3**, and **1814-4**. For example, one end portion of the link **1814-5** may be pivotally coupled to the link **1814-1** and **1814-2** by the joint **1812-1** and the opposite end portion of the link **1814-5** may be pivotally coupled to the links **1814-3** and **1814-4** by the joint **1812-2**.

In some embodiments, the weight storage subassembly **1800** includes a lift mechanism **1808**. The lift mechanism **1808** includes a rotary actuator **1828** that rotates a linear actuator **1870**. The linear actuator **1870** is threadedly coupled to a movable element **1872**. The movable element **1872** is coupled to the lift assembly **1803** via a connector **1824** coupled to the link **1814-5**. The rotary actuator **1828** is coupled to the support **1836**. In other embodiments, the rotary actuator **1828** is coupled to the support **1840**. In other embodiments, the lift mechanism **1808** may be installed with the rotary actuator coupled to the connector **1824** and the movable element **1872** coupled to one of the supports **1836**, **1840**. As the rotary actuator **1828** rotates the linear actuator **1870**, the movable element **1872** may induce a force on the connector **1824** cause the lift assembly **1803** to move between the retracted and deployed positions. An advantage

of the lift assembly **1803** may be smooth movement of the platform **1806** between the retracted and deployed configurations. Another benefit may be the ability to tune the reach of the platform **1806** between the retracted and deployed positions. In some embodiments, the lift mechanism is a gas spring. When a gas spring is used as the lift mechanism **1808**, an advantage may be non-powered operation of the lift assembly **1803**.

With reference to FIG. **25**, an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem **1900** suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. **1A** is disclosed. The weight elevation subsystem **1900** includes a frame **1910**. The frame **1910** may have one or more supports **1936**, **1939**, and/or **1940** that extend upwardly from the frame **1910**. The support **1939** may be disposed between the supports **1936** and **1940**. The weight elevation subsystem **1900** includes a platform **1906** suitable to support one or more exercise weights **1902** as previously described. The platform **1906** may include a longitudinal member, such as to stiffen the platform. The platform **1906** may include one or connector elements **1922** extending therefrom, e.g., extending below the platform **1906**. The connector elements **1922** may be disposed at respective end portions of the platform **1906**. One or more guide elements **1954-1**, **1954-2**, **1954-3**, **1954-4** may be disposed between connector elements **1922** and the respective supports **1936** and **1940**. The guide elements **1954** may enable the platform **1906** to glide, roll, or otherwise move relative to the supports **1936** and **1940** while the supports stabilize and/or support the platform **1906**. One or more bosses **1941-1** and **1942-2** may extend below the platform **1906**.

The platform **1906** may be movable between the retracted and deployed configurations by a lift assembly **1903**. In some embodiments, the lift assembly **1903** includes a lift mechanism **1908**. The lift mechanism **1908** includes a rotary actuator **1928** that rotates a linear actuator **1970**. The linear actuator **1970** is threadably coupled to a movable element **1972**. The movable element **1972** is coupled to the lift assembly **1903** via a connector **1924** coupled to the link **1914-5**. The rotary actuator **1928** is coupled to the support **1939** at one end portion and to one of the supports **1936** or **1940** at the other end portion.

A portion of the lift assembly **1903** may be formed by links **1914-1** and **1914-2**. Respective upper end portions of the links **1914-1** and **1914-2** may be pivotally coupled to respective bosses **1941-2** and **1941-1** by respective joints **1916-1** and **1916-2**. The end portions of the links **1914** opposite their respective couplings with the respective bosses **1941** may be pivotally coupled to a lift mechanism **1908**. For example, end portions of the link **1914-1** may be pivotally coupled to the boss **1941-1** at the joint **1916-2** and to the rotary actuator **1928** of the lift mechanism at a joint **1918-2**. Similarly, the end portions of the link **1914-2** may be pivotally coupled to the boss **1941-2** at the joint **1916-1** and to the movable element **1972** at a joint **1918-2**.

As the rotary actuator **1928** rotates the linear actuator **1970**, the movable element **1972** may induce a force on the joint **1918-2** and thus on the link **1914-2** to cause the lift assembly **1903** to move between the retracted and deployed positions. An advantage of the lift assembly **1903** may be smooth movement of the platform **1906** between the retracted and deployed configurations. Another benefit may be the ability to tune the reach of the platform **1906** between the retracted and deployed positions.

With reference to FIG. **26**, an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem **2000** suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. **1A** is disclosed. The weight

elevation subsystem **2000** includes a frame **2010**. The frame **2010** may have one or more supports **2036**, **2039**, and/or **2040** that extend upwardly from the frame **2010**. The support **2039** may be disposed between the supports **2036** and **2040**. The weight elevation subsystem **2000** includes a platform **2006** suitable to support one or more exercise weights **2002** as previously described. The platform **2006** may include a longitudinal member, such as to stiffen the platform. The platform **2006** may include one or connector elements **2022** extending therefrom, e.g., extending below the platform **2006**. The connector elements **2022** may be disposed at respective end portions of the platform **2006**. One or more guide elements **2054-1**, **2054-2**, **2054-3**, **2054-4** may be disposed between connector elements **2022** and the respective supports **2036** and **2040**. The guide elements **2054** may enable the platform **2006** to glide, roll, or otherwise move relative to the supports **2036** and **2040** while the supports stabilize and/or support the platform **2006**. One or more bosses **2024** may extend below the platform **2006**. A link **2014** may be coupled to the platform **2006** either directly or via the boss **2024**. The link **2014** may include, or be coupled to, a guide element **2055**.

The weight storage subassembly **2000** includes a lift assembly **2003** including a lift mechanism **2008**. The lift mechanism **2008** includes a rotary actuator **2028** such as a motor. The lift assembly **2003** includes a driving disc **2026** is rotatably coupled to an axis **2012** of the rotary actuator **2028**. The driving disc **2026** is rotatably coupled to a driven disc **2011**. The driven disc **2011** is rotatably coupled to the support **2039** by a joint **2016**. In various embodiments, the driving disc **2026** and the driven disc **2011** are gears, pulleys, wheels, sprockets or the like. When appropriate (e.g., when the discs are pulleys or sprockets) the discs may be coupled by a flexible element such as a belt or chain. The driven disc **2011** includes a helical slot **2048** formed therein or therewith. The helical slot **2048** may follow a path around at least a portion of the driven disc **2011** that has a changing distance of the slot **2048** relative to the joint **2016**. For example, as the slot extend portions about the driven disc **2011**, the distance of the slot **2048** may become further away from the joint **2016**. The guide element **2055** is received in the slot **2048**.

As the rotary actuator **2028** rotates, the driving disc **2026** rotates and causes rotation of the driven disc **2011**. As the driven disc **2011** rotates, the guide element **2055** moves relative to the slot **2048**. As the guide element **2055** moves relative to the slot, the guide element **2055** is moved farther from, or closer to, the joint **2016** depending on the direction of rotation of the driven disc **2011**. As the guide element **2055** moves, it causes movement of the link **2014** and thus the platform **2006**. Thus, the platform **2006** may be moved between the retracted and deployed configurations by actuating the rotary actuator **2028** in one direction or the other. An advantage of the lift mechanism **2008** may be smooth movement of the platform **2006** between the retracted and deployed configurations. Another benefit may be the ability to tune the reach of the platform **2006** between the retracted and deployed positions.

With reference to FIG. **27**, an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem **2100** suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. **1A** is disclosed. The weight elevation subsystem **2100** includes a frame **2110**. The frame **2110** may have one or more supports **2136**, **2140** that extend upwardly from the frame **2110**. The weight elevation subsystem **2100** includes a platform **2106** suitable to support one or more exercise weights **2102** as previously described. The platform **2106** may include a longitudinal member, such

as to stiffen the platform. The platform 2016 is moveable between retracted and deployed configurations by a lift assembly 2103. The platform 2106 may include one or connector elements 2122 extending therefrom, e.g., extending below the platform 2106. The connector elements 2122 may be disposed at respective end portions of the platform 2106. One more guide elements 2154-1, 2154-2, 2154-3, 2154-4 may be disposed between connector elements 2122 and the respective supports 2136 and 2140. The guide elements 2154 may enable the platform 2106 to glide, roll, or otherwise move relative to the supports 2136 and 2140 while the supports stabilize and/or support the platform 2106. The platform 2106 may have a guide element 2155-2 coupled thereto or formed therewith. The guide element 2155-2 has an angled face 2157-2 formed thereon.

In some embodiments, the lift assembly 2103 includes a lift mechanism 2108. The lift mechanism 2108 includes a rotary actuator 2128 that rotates a linear actuator 2170. The linear actuator 2170 is threadably coupled to a movable element 2172. The movable element 2172 is coupled to a guide element 2155-1. The guide element 2155-1 has an angled face 2157-1 formed thereon. The angled faces 2157-1 and 2157-2 may be in contact with one another. The rotary actuator 2128 is coupled to one of the supports 2136, 2140. An end portion of the linear actuator 2170 is coupled to the other of the supports 2136, 2140. In other embodiments, the rotary actuator 2128 is coupled to the support 2140. Either or both of the guide elements 2155-1 and/or 2155-2 may be made at least partially of a friction-reducing material such as polyethylene (e.g. ultra high molecular weight polyethylene, polyoxymethylene (i.e., Delrin), or the like. Either or both of the guide elements 2155-1 and/or 2155-2 may include casters, rollers, bearings, or the like. Such features may facilitate the movement of the guide elements 2155-1 and/or 2155-2 with respect to one another.

As the rotary actuator 2128 rotates the linear actuator 2170, the movable element 1872 may induce a lateral force on the guide element 2155-1. As the guide element 2155-1 moves laterally, the interface of the angled faces 2157-1 and 2157-2 may cause the guide element 2155-1 to raise or lower the guide element 2155-2 such as via an inclined plane or ramp action to move the platform 2106 between the retracted and deployed configurations. See, e.g. FIG. 27 showing the platform 2106 in the retracted configuration in solid lines and the deployed configuration in phantom lines. An advantage of the lift assembly 2103 may be smooth movement of the platform 2106 between the retracted and deployed configurations. Another benefit may be the ability to tune the reach of the platform 2106 between the retracted and deployed positions. Additionally, the inclined plane interface of the angled faces 2157-1 and 2157-2 may enable the use of a smaller, lower cost, or less expensive lift mechanism 2108.

With reference to FIG. 28, an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem 2200 suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A is disclosed. The weight elevation subsystem 2200 includes a frame 2210. The frame 2210 may have one or more supports 2236, 2239-1, 2239-2, and 2240 that extend upwardly from the frame 2210. The supports 2239-1 and 2239-2 may be disposed between the supports 2236 and 2240. The weight elevation subsystem 2200 includes a platform 2206 suitable to support one or more exercise weights 2202 as previously described. The platform 2206 may include a longitudinal member, such as to stiffen the platform. The platform 2206 may include one or connector elements 2222 extending therefrom, e.g., extending below the platform 2206. The connector elements

2222 may be disposed at respective end portions of the platform 2206. One or more guide elements 2254-1, 2254-2, 2254-3, 2254-4 may be disposed between connector elements 2222 and the respective supports 2236 and 2240. The guide elements 2254 may enable the platform 2206 to glide, roll, or otherwise move relative to the supports 2236 and 2240 while the supports stabilize and/or support the platform 2206. The connector elements 2222 may include or be coupled to guide elements 2255-1, 2255-4 at respective end portions thereof.

The platform 2206 may be movable between the retracted and deployed configurations by a lift assembly 2203. The lift assembly 2203 may include a link 2214-1 and a link 2214-2. The links 2214 may be bent or angled links. The links 2214-1 and 2214-2 may be pivotally coupled to the respective supports 2239-1 and 2239-2 such as at respective joints 2216-1 and 2216-2. In some embodiments, the links 2214-1 and 2214-2 are coupled to the respective joints 2216-1 and 2216-2 at a bend in the respective links. The links 2214-1 and 2214-2 may include slots 2248-1, 2248-2, 2248-3, 2248-4 formed therein.

The lift assembly 2203 may include a counterweight 2204. The counterweight 2204 may be of a suitable mass to counteract or balance the weight of the exercise weights 2202. Guide elements 2255-2 and 2255-3 may be coupled to, or formed with, the counterweight 2204.

The guide elements 2255-1 and 2255-4 may be received in the slots 2248-2 and 2248-4 formed in the respective links 2214-2 and 2214-1. The guide elements 2255-2 and 2255-3 may be received in the respective slots 2248-1 and 2248-3 formed in the links 2214-2 and 2214-1. As the lift assembly 2203 moves between the retracted and deployed configurations the guide elements 2255 may move within the respective slots 2248 within which they are received. The lift assembly 2203 may be manually movable between retracted and deployed configurations such as described with respect to the weight elevation subsystems 1000 and/or 1100. An advantage of the lift assembly 2203 may be smooth movement of the platform 2206 between the retracted and deployed configurations. Another advantage may be the ability to move the lift assembly 2203 manually, without a powered lift mechanism.

With reference to FIG. 29, an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem 2300 suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A is disclosed. The weight elevation subsystem 2300 includes a frame 2310. The frame 2310 may have one or more supports 2336 and/or 2340 that extend upwardly from the frame 2310. The platform 2306 may be movable between the retracted and deployed configurations by a lift assembly 2303. The lift assembly 2303 may include links 2314-1 and 2314-2 pivotally coupled to the respective supports 2340 and 2336, such as at respective joints 2312-1 and 2312-2. The links 2314-1 and 2314-2 may include, or have coupled thereto, respective guide elements 2354-1, 2354-2, 2354-3, and 2354-4 at the end portions of the links 2314. For example, the guide elements 2354 may be rollers coupled to the end portions of the links 2314 by respective joints 2316-1, 2316-2, 2316-3, and 2316-4.

The weight elevation subsystem 2300 includes a platform 2306 suitable to support one or more exercise weights 2302-1, 2302-2 as previously described. The platform 2306 may include one or more handles coupled thereto and suitable to be gripped by a hand of a user, such as to move the weight elevation subsystem 2300 between the retracted and deployed configurations. The platform 2306 may include one or more connector elements 2308-1, 2308-2 extending therefrom, e.g., extending below the platform

2306. The connector elements 2308-1, 2308-2 may be supported from below by the respective guide elements 2354-1 and 2354-4, such as rollers.

The weight elevation subsystem 2300 includes a counterweight 2304. The counterweight 2304 may be supported by the respective guide elements 2354-2 and 2354-3. The counterweight 2304 may be received in a recess 2307 formed by supports 2339-1 and 2339-2 disposed between the supports 2336 and 2340 when the lift assembly 2303 is in the deployed configuration. The counterweight 2304 may be received in a recess 2305 formed by the platform 2306 when the lift assembly 2303 is in the retracted configuration. The counterweight 2304 may be of a suitable mass to counteract or balance the weight of the exercise weights 2302-1 and 2302-2. The lift assembly 1703 may be manually movable between retracted and deployed configurations such as described with respect to the weight elevation subsystems 1000 and/or 1100. An advantage of the 2303 may be the ability to deploy and/or stow exercise weights without the use of a powered actuator such as a motor or lift mechanism.

With reference to FIG. 30, an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem 2400 suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A is disclosed. The weight elevation subsystem 2400 includes a frame 2410. The frame 2410 may have one or more supports 2436 and/or 2439 that extend upwardly from the frame 2410. A rotary actuator 2428 may be disposed between the supports 2436 and 2439. Links 2414-1 and 2424-2 may be pivotally coupled to the respective supports 2436 and 2439 such as at joints 2416-1 and 2416-2. The links 2414-1 and 2424-2 may have discs 2432-1 and 2432-2 formed at the end portions thereof. The discs may be sprockets or gears in many embodiments. The discs may have teeth or tines disposed on an outer edge thereof.

The weight elevation subsystem 2400 includes a platform 2406 suitable to support one or more exercise weights 2402 as previously described. The platform 2406 may include a longitudinal member, such as to stiffen the platform. The platform 2406 may include one or connector elements 2422 extending therefrom, e.g., extending below the platform 2406. The connector elements 2422 may be disposed at respective end portions of the platform 2406. The connector elements 2422 may be received between the frame 2410 and one or more guides 2434-1 and 2434-2. One or more guide elements 2454-1, 2454-2 may be disposed at the end portions of the connector elements 2422. The guide elements 2454-1 and 2454-2 may be supported by end portions of the links 2414-1 and 2414-2. The guide elements 2454 may enable the platform 2406 to glide, roll, or otherwise move relative to the links 2414-1 and 2414-2.

The rotary actuator 2428 have a threaded element 2448 coupled rotationally thereto. The threaded element 2448 engages the discs 2432-1 and 2432-2. As the rotary actuator 2428 rotates, a helical groove in the threaded element 2448 engages the teeth of the discs 2432-1 and 2432-2 and causes the links 2414-1 and 2414-2 to pivot about the respective joints 2416-1 and 2416-2. For example, as the disc-end portions of the links move down, the end portions of the links 2414-1 and 2414-2 that engage the guide elements 2454-1 and 2454-2 move up to move the platform 2406 to the deployed configuration. As the rotary actuator 2428 in the opposite direction, the action may be reversed and the platform 2406 is moved to the retracted configuration.

With reference to FIG. 31, an embodiment of a weight elevation subsystem 2500 suitable for use with the free-weight exercise system of FIG. 1A is disclosed. The weight

elevation subsystem 2500 includes a frame 2510. The frame 2510 may have one or more supports 2536, 2539, and/or 2540 that extend upwardly from the frame 2510. The support 2539 may be disposed between the supports 2536 and 2540. The weight elevation subsystem 2500 includes a platform 2506 suitable to support one or more exercise weights 2502 as previously described. The platform 2506 may include a longitudinal member, such as to stiffen the platform. The platform 2506 may include one or connector elements 2522 extending therefrom, e.g., extending below the platform 2506. The connector elements 2522 may be disposed at respective end portions of the platform 2506. One or more guide elements 2554-1, 2554-2, 2554-3, 2554-4 may be disposed between connector elements 2522 and the respective supports 2536 and 2540. The guide elements 2554 may enable the platform 2506 to glide, roll, or otherwise move relative to the supports 2536 and 2540 while the supports stabilize and/or support the platform 2506. One or more bosses 2541 may extend below the platform 2506. The boss 2541 may include a receptacle 2543 formed therein. A boss 2541 may be coupled to or formed with, and extend below, the platform 2506. The boss 2541 may be received in the receptacle 2543. The support 2539 may be selectively received in the receptacle 2543.

The platform 2506 may be movable between the retracted and deployed configurations by a lift assembly 2503. The lift assembly 2503 may be formed by a link 2514, the boss 2541, and a portion of a lift mechanism 2508. The lift mechanism 2508 includes a rotary actuator 2528 that rotates a linear actuator 2570. The linear actuator 2570 is threadedly coupled to a movable element 2572. The rotary actuator 2528 is coupled to the support 2539 at one end portion and to one of the supports 2536 or 2540 at the other end portion. The movable element 2572 is pivotally coupled to the lift assembly 2503 via a joint 2516 between the movable element 2572 and the link 2514. The joint 2516 may be disposed at a first end portion of the link 2514. A guide element 2555 may be disposed at a second end portion of the link opposite the first end portion. The boss 2541 may be pivotally coupled to the link 2514 at a joint 2518.

As the rotary actuator 2528 rotates the linear actuator 2570, the movable element 2572 may induce a force on the joint 2516 and thus on the link 2514 to cause the lift assembly 2503 to move between the retracted and deployed positions. The force may be transmitted by the link 2514 to the boss 2541 and to the platform 2506. An advantage of the lift assembly 2503 may be smooth movement of the platform 2506 between the retracted and deployed configurations. Another benefit may be the ability to tune the reach of the platform 2506 between the retracted and deployed positions. The link 2514 may provide a leverage to raise the platform, thereby enabling the use of a smaller, lighter, or less expensive lift mechanism.

FIGS. 32-39 shows a display subsystem 2600 for a coaching platform according to the present disclosure. The display subsystem 2600 includes a display 202 movably supported by a mast 2606 extending upward from the frame of a weight elevation subsystem, such as the base frame 410 or 510. The display subsystem includes a display mount 2700 movably coupling the display 202 to the mast 2606, for example to a cross beam 2608 extending between upward beams 2606-1 and 2606-2 of the mast 2606. In the present example, the display mount 2700 pivotally couples the display 202 to the mast 2606, by having a portion of the display mount 2700 being selectively rotatably received in a receptacle 2610 of the mast (e.g., in a receptacle formed in the cross beam 2608).

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With reference to FIG. 33, the display mount 2700 includes a mounting bracket 2704. A shaft 2702 is fixed to extend from the mounting bracket 2704. In some embodiments, the mounting bracket 2704 may be a plate. The mounting bracket 2704 is configured to be rigidly coupled to the rear side of the display 202, e.g., via one or more fasteners 2706, such that the shaft 2702 extends away from the rear side of the display. When the display is then coupled to the frame of the exercise system, the shaft 2702 is coupled to the mast 2606 to support the weight of the display 202. In many embodiments, the shaft 2702 is pivotally joined to the mast 2606 such as to enable the display 202 to be moved (e.g., rotated between landscape and portrait orientations). The shaft 2702 may be rotatably received in the receptacle 2610, which is rigidly coupled to (e.g., fixed or integrally formed with) the cross beam 2608. The receptacle 2610 may include a bearing, bushing, or other suitable structure to allow relative movement (e.g., rotational and/or translational movement) of the shaft 2702 and the receptacle 2610.

One or more bumpers 2708-1 and 2708-2 may be operatively positioned (e.g., coupled to the mounting bracket 2704 or to the mast, more specifically cross beam 2608) to limit the rotational movement of the display 202 relative to the mast 2606 as will be further described. In some embodiments, the bumpers 2708-1, 2708-2 may include resilient element(s) (e.g., an elastomeric member or coating) to dampen or soften impacts when the display 202 is rotated between different (e.g., portrait and landscape) orientations.

FIGS. 34 and 35 show two stages of assembly of the display mount 2700 to the mast 2606, specifically the cross beam 2608. FIG. 34 shows the shaft 2702 as it is being inserted into the receptacle 2610 and FIG. 35 shows the shaft 2702 fully inserted in the receptacle 2610 with the free-end of shaft secured to the end of the receptacle 2610 opposite the display 202. One or more pawls 2734-1, 2734-2 may be slidably coupled to the free end of the shaft 2702, which is distal from the end of the shaft fixed to the mounting bracket 2704. The pawls 2734-1, 2734-2 may be biased outward from the shaft 2702 by one or more biasing elements 2710, such as one or more coil springs or other suitable biasing elements. The pawls 2734-1, 2734-2 may be retained to the shaft 2702 by respective fasteners 2736-1, 2736-2. In many implementations, the one or more fasteners 2736-1, 2736-2 may be pins, roll pins, cotter pins, screws, rivets, bolts, or the like.

The pawls 2734-1, 2734-2 may have respective tapered faces such that when the pawls 2734-1, 2734-2 are introduced to the inner surface of the receptacle, the sliding motion of the shaft 2702 into the receptacle induces a contracting force of the pawls 2734-1, 2734-2 toward the shaft 2702, such as the middle of the shaft 2702. The contracting force may overcome the outward force of the biasing element 2710 such that the pawls 2734-1, 2734-2 contract toward one another. The shaft 2702 may thus be inserted into the receptacle 2610. When the pawls 2734-1, 2734-2 reach a far end portion of the receptacle 2610 from the display mount 2700, the pawls 2734-1, 2734-2 may clear the receptacle 2610 and the biasing element 2710 may cause the pawls 2734-1, 2734-2 to move away from one another into a locked position. In the locked position, the pawls 2734-1, 2734-2 may extend outward beyond the inner surface of the receptacle such that the display mount 2700 may be secured to the frame 204. The display mount 2700 may be removed by pressing the pawls 2734-1, 2734-2 toward one another against the force of the biasing element 2710 and the mounting procedure may be reversed. For example, a user may press the pawls 2734-1, 2734-2 toward one

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another with their fingers and slide the shaft 2702 out of the receptacle 2610. This configuration of the display mount 2700 may enable mounting of the display 202 to the mast of the free-weight exercise system by a single user. For example, a user may attach (e.g., fasten) the mounting bracket 2704 to the display 202 and slide the shaft 2702 into the receptacle 2610 until the pawls 2734-1, 2734-2 click into the locked position.

With reference to FIGS. 36-39, features of the display mount 2700 that enable the display mount to rotate relative to the mast 2606 are disclosed. The display mount 2700 includes a ring 2716. In some embodiments, the ring 2716 is coupled to the retainer plate 2724 to form part of the display mount 2700. The shaft 2702 may protrude through the rear side of the ring 2716 and/or the retainer plate 2724. In some embodiments, the ring 2716 may be coupled to the mast 2606 such as at the cross beam 2608. The ring 2716 includes one or more detents 2718 formed on an inner surface thereof. For example, the ring 2716 may include four detents 2718-1, 2718-2, 2718-3, and 2718-4. The one or more detents 2718 may have tapered edges such as to facilitate the receipt and/or release of one or more corresponding cams 2714.

The display mount 2700 may include one or more cams 2714 that are selectively received in the respective one or more detents 2718. For example, the display mount 2700 may include four cams 2714-1, 2714-2, 2714-3, and 2714-4. The cams 2714 may include tapered faces suitable to be received in respective detents 2718. The cams 2714 may be received in a retainer plate 2724. The retainer plate 2724 may include a plate body 2725. One or more slots 2726 may be formed in the plate body 2725. For example, the plate body 2725 may include four slots 2726-1, 2726-2, 2726-3, and 2726-4 that correspond to respective cams 2714. More or fewer cams, detents, and/or slots may be used as desired.

The slots 2726 may include respective protrusions 2723 therein suitable to retain respective biasing elements 2712. The biasing elements 2712 may be suitable to bias the respective cams 2714 outward toward the ring 2716. For example, the biasing elements 2712 may be springs or the like. One end portion of a biasing element 2712 may be received on a respective protrusion 2723 and an opposite end portion of the respective biasing element 2712 may be received on a protrusion formed with a respective cam 2714. In other embodiments, the plate body 2725 and/or the cams 2714 may include apertures or recesses therein suitable to receive the biasing elements 2712, rather than protrusions 2723.

The plate body 2725 may include one or more apertures 2730, such as the apertures 2730-1, 2730-2, 2730-3, 2730-4 formed therethrough and suitable to receive respective fasteners 2722 to fasten the mounting bracket 2704 to the plate body 2725. The fasteners 2722 may be any suitable fastener such as screws, pins, bolts, rivets, or the like. The plate body 2725 may have an aperture 2728 formed therein and suitable to receive a magnet 2720. The plate body 2725 may have a central aperture 2731 formed therein and suitable to receive the shaft 2702.

In the assembled display mount 2700, as shown for example in FIGS. 38 and 39, the respective one or more biasing elements 2712 and cams 2714 may be received in the respective slots 2726 formed in the plate body 2725. The magnet 2720 may be received in the aperture 2728 formed in the plate body 2725. The retainer plate 2724 may be received in the ring 2716. The plate body 2725 may be coupled to the mounting bracket 2704 via the fasteners 2722. The mounting bracket 2704 may be coupled to the display

202 via the one or more fasteners 2706. When the display 202 is in one of the portrait or landscape orientations, the respective cams 2714-1, 2714-2, 2714-3, and 2714-4, may be received in respective detents 2718-1, 2718-2, 2718-3, and 2718-4. The tapered faces of the cams 2714 may interact with the tapered faces of the detents 2718 to bias the display 202 to one of the portrait or landscape orientations. For example, the biasing elements 2712 may bias the cams 2714 into the detents 2718 such that the display 202 preferentially settles into one of the portrait or landscape orientations. An advantage of such biasing may be that the display 202 “snaps” into place into one of the portrait or landscape orientations. As the display 202 is rotated out of the portrait or landscape orientations (shown for example in FIG. 39), the tapered faces of the cams 2714 and detents 2718 may cooperate to overcome the outward bias of the biasing elements 2712 on the cams 2714 such that the cams disengage the respective detents and retract toward the shaft 2702 and the faces of the cams slide along the inner face of the ring 2716.

One of the bumpers may be in contact with the cross beam 2608. For example, in one of the portrait or landscape orientations, the bumper 2708-2 may be in contact with the cross beam 2608 and in the other of the portrait or landscape orientation, the bumper 2708-1 may be in contact with the cross beam 2608, thereby limiting the rotational movement of the display mount 2700.

As shown for example in FIGS. 33-35, the display subsystem 2600 may include a sensor 2604 suitable to detect a position of the display 202 relative to the mast 2606. The sensor 2604 may be a reed switch, such as a magnetic reed switch including electrical contacts that close in proximity to a magnetic field, such as generated by a magnet 2720. In other examples, the sensor 2604 may be a proximity sensor, a light sensor, a switch that interacts with a protrusion, detent, or similar feature of the display mount 2700 to detect a position of the display 202, or other suitable sensor. For example, the sensor 2604 may detect whether the display 202 is in a landscape or portrait orientation, and/or whether the display is in a position between the landscape and portrait orientations.

The magnet 2720 may be disposed proximate or distal to the sensor 2604 when the display 202 is in one of the portrait or landscape positions. Thus the sensor 2604 may detect the position of the display 202. For example, as shown in FIG. 38, the magnet 2720 may be disposed distal to the sensor 2604, which may indicate to a processing element 4702 that the display is in a portrait or landscape orientation, or between those orientations. For example, see FIG. 39 where the display is between the portrait and landscape orientations and the magnet 2720, while closer to the sensor may not be close enough to activate the sensor 2640. In some embodiments, two or more sensors may be used such that a processing element 4702 may detect whether the display 202 is in the portrait mode, the landscape mode, or therebetween.

With reference to FIGS. 40-46, a display mount 2800 is disclosed. Like the display mount 2700, the display mount 2800 is suitable for use with any coaching platform disclosed herein. The display mount 2800 is suitable to support a display 202. The display mount 2800 may enable the display 202 to be moved (e.g., rotated between landscape and portrait orientations). For example, the display mount 2800 may couple to a pivot 2806, where a portion of the pivot is fixedly attached to the cross beam 2608. One or more portions of the display mount 2800 may pivot relative to the cross beam 2608 at the pivot 2806. The pivot 2806 may include a bushing, bearing, or other suitable rotational

structure to facilitate the rotation of the display 202. The display mount 2800 is similarly adapted to enable a single user to mount the display 202 to the mast 2606, more specifically to the cross beam 2608.

In one embodiment, the display mount 2800 includes a display plate 2802, a bracket 2803, and a frame plate 2804. The frame plate 2804 may be rotatably coupled to the mast 2606, such as at the cross beam, 2608. For example, the frame plate 2804 may be rotatably coupled to the cross beam 2608. The display plate 2802 is adapted to fixedly fasten to the display 202 (either directly, or via a display bracket 2834) such as with one or more suitable fasteners 2818. The fasteners 2818 may be received directly in the display 202 or may be received in and fasten the display plate 2802 to the display bracket 2834 (see, e.g., FIG. 42) which is coupled to the display 202. The display bracket 2834 may have an aperture 2838 formed therein and adapted to provide a clearance between the display bracket 2834 and the pivot 2806. The display plate 2802 may include one or more hooks 2840 formed therein, or fixedly attached thereto. For example, the display plate 2802 may include hooks 2840-1 and 2840-2 formed in an upper portion thereof. The display plate 2802 may include a central aperture 2839 formed therein which may provide a clearance of the display plate 2802 with the pivot 2806.

The bracket 2803 may couple the frame plate 2804 to a portion of the mast 2606, such as the cross beam 2608. The bracket 2803 may be formed with the cross beam 2608, or may be fixed thereto. For example, the bracket 2803 may be fixedly joined with the cross beam 2608 such as by welding, soldering, brazing or the like. In some examples, the bracket 2803 may be removably coupled to the cross beam 2608 by the pivot 2806.

The frame plate 2804 may include one or more slots 2841 formed in an upper portion thereof. For example, the frame plate 2804 may include slots 2841-1 and 2842-2 formed in an upper portion thereof.

The frame plate 2804 includes a latch 2809 suitable to secure the display plate 2802 to the frame plate 2804, and thus the display 202 to the free-weight exercise system. The latch 2809 includes a pawl 2836. The pawl may be received on a shaft 2812. The pawl 2836 may be biased upward by a biasing element 2810 such as a spring received on the shaft 2812. The shaft 2812 may be removably coupled to the frame plate 2804 by a fastener such as the nut 2813. The pawl 2836 may have a tapered upper face to facilitate the assembly of the display plate 2802 with the frame plate 2804.

With reference to FIGS. 43 and 44, an assembly method of coupling the display plate 2802 (and the display 202) to the frame plate 2804. The display plate 2802 may be tilted with an upper portion thereof above and behind the upper portion of the frame plate 2804. A lower portion of the display plate 2802 may be disposed above the tapered face of the pawl 2836 (see, e.g., FIG. 43). The display plate 2802 may be lowered onto the frame plate 2804 such that the respective hooks 2840-1 and 2840-2 in the display plate 2802 may engage the respective slots 2841-1 and 2842-2 in the frame plate 2804. The lower portion of the display plate 2802 may move toward the frame plate 2804, such as by pivoting the display plate about the interface between the hooks 2840 and the slots 2841. The lower portion of the display plate 2802 may push the pawl 2836 downward by overcoming the bias of the biasing element 2810. When the lower portion of the display plate 2802 is moved sufficiently past the tapered face of the pawl 2836, the pawl 2836 may move up (such as by the bias of the biasing element 2810)

to engage the lower portion of the display plate **2802**. The display plate **2802** may rest against the bumpers **2822**. The fasteners **2816** may be received in respective apertures formed in the display plate **2802**. The frame plate **2804** may include, or have coupled thereto, one or more bumpers **2822**. The bumpers **2822** may be secured to the frame plate **2804** by respective fasteners **2816**. The bumpers **2822** may dampen movements between the display plate **2802** and the frame plate **2804**. Thus, the display **202** may be installed with the free-weight exercise system by a single user.

As shown in FIGS. **45** and **46**, the display mount may be moved between rotational positions. For example, FIG. **45** shows the display mount **2800** with the display plate **2804** in a first position and FIG. **46** shows the display mount **2800** with the display plate **2804** in a second position. Either of the positions in FIGS. **45** and **46** may be associated with a landscape or portrait orientation of the display **202**. The frame plate **2804** may include one or more slots **2832**. For example, the frame plate **2804** includes two slots **2832-1** and **2832-2**. The slots **2832-1** and **2832-2** form respective arcuate tracks suitable to enable the rotational movement of the display **202** relative to the mast **2606** (e.g., between the positions shown in FIGS. **45** and **46**). The friction adjusters **2808-1** and **2808-2** may be received in the respective slots **2832-1** and **2832-2**. The friction adjusters **2808** may be suitable to adjust the level of force that will cause the display **202** to rotate about the pivot **2806**. For example, a friction adjuster **2808** may include a fastener **2830** received in the slot **2832** and coupled (e.g., threadedly coupled to an aperture) to the bracket **2803**. A friction member **2824** may be received on a shaft of the fastener **2830**. The friction member **2824** may have a dimension (e.g., diameter) greater than a dimension (e.g., width) of the slot **2832**, such that the friction member rides on a face of the frame plate **2804**. The friction member **2824** may be a washer formed of any suitable material such as steel, brass, bronze, aluminum, plastic, an elastomer, or a suitable frictional coating disposed on any such material. The friction member **2824** may be biased toward the frame plate **2804** by a suitable biasing element **2826** such as a spring received on the shaft of the fastener **2830**. The friction force between the frame plate **2804** and the friction member **2824** may be adjusted by increasing or decreasing the insertion of the fastener into the bracket **2803**. For example, the friction force may be increased by increasing the normal force between the friction member **2824** and the frame plate **2804** by moving the fastener **2830** further into the bracket **2803** (e.g., by threading). Likewise, the friction force may be decreased by decreasing the normal force between the friction member **2824** and the frame plate **2804** by moving the fastener further away from the bracket **2803**. Being able to adjust the friction via the one or more friction adjusters **2808** may have the advantage of being able to tune the force to rotate the display **202**. For example with a relatively larger display **202**, more friction may be desired as a larger display has a larger moment arm about the pivot **2806** than a smaller display (e.g. due to larger dimension away from the pivot **2806** where a user grasps the display) that may make the display too easy to rotate. Likewise with a smaller display **202** with smaller dimensions, less friction may be desired to enable a user to more easily rotate the display.

Additionally or alternately, the one or more friction adjusters **2808** may serve to limit rotation of the display. For example, when the display **202** is in one of the portrait or landscape positions, the respective friction adjuster **2808-1**

and **2802-2** may be disposed at respective end portions of the slots **2832-1** and **2832-2** as shown for example, in FIGS. **45** and **46**.

The frame plate **2804** may include one or more arms **2814-1** and **2814-2** suitable to receive respective magnets **2820-1** and **2820-2**. The respective magnets **2820** may be suitable to activate one or more sensors **2604** as discussed previously. The one or more sensors **2604** may be coupled to a sensor bracket **2842**. One sensor **2604** is shown with the display mount **2800** but a second sensor **2604** may be mounted to the sensor bracket **2842**, such as at a lower portion of the bracket **2842**. A first or second sensor **2604** may be mounted elsewhere in the display mount **2700** as desired. As shown in for example in FIG. **45**, the arm **2814-2** and the magnet **2820-2** may be disposed proximate to the sensor bracket **2842**. When a sensor **2604** is coupled to the lower portion of the bracket **2842**, the proximity of the magnet **2820-2** may activate the sensor **2604** and indicate to a processing element **4702** that the display **202** is in one of the portrait or landscape orientations. As shown for example in FIG. **46**, the arm **2814-1** and magnet **2820-1** may be disposed proximate to the sensor **2604**. The proximity of the magnet **2820-1** may activate the sensor **2604** and indicate to a processing element **4702** that the display **202** is in the other of the portrait or landscape orientations with respect to FIG. **45**.

With either of the display mounts **2700** or **2800**, the display **202** may be movable between the portrait and landscape positions manually by a user moving the display **202**. In some embodiments, the display **202** may be coupled to an appropriate actuator such as a motor operative to rotate the display between orientations. Being able to rotate the display **202** has many advantages. For example, when the free-weight exercise system is not in use, it may be more aesthetically pleasing to place the display in the portrait orientation. Additionally, some exercise media may be formatted or more amenable to display when the display **202** is in the portrait or landscape orientation. For example, when an exercise medium shows a full body image of an exercise in a standing position, the portrait orientation may be beneficial. Likewise when an exercise routine shows an exercise where a user is prone, the landscape position may be preferred. Additionally, entertainment media such as movies, video games, or the like may be formatted for display in the landscape orientation and the display **202** may be placed in such an orientation.

FIG. **47** illustrates a simplified block diagram for a control system **4700** for any of the free-weight exercise systems herein. As shown, the control system **4700** may include one or more processing elements **4702**, an optional display **4704**, one or more memory components **4706**, a network interface **4708**, optional power supply **4710**, and an optional input/output (I/O) interface **4712**, where the various components may be in direct or indirect communication with one another, such as via one or more system buses, contract traces, wiring, or via wireless mechanisms.

The one or more processing elements **4702** may be substantially any electronic device capable of processing, receiving, and/or transmitting instructions. For example, the processing elements **4702** may be a microprocessor, micro-computer, graphics processing unit, or the like. It also should be noted that the processing elements **4702** may include one or more processing elements or modules that may or may not be in communication with one another. For example, a first processing element **4702** may control a first set of components of the free-weight exercise system and a second processing element **4702** may control a second set of com-

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ponents of the free-weight exercise system where the first and second processing elements **4702** may or may not be in communication with each other. Relatedly, the processing elements **4702** may be configured to execute one or more instructions in parallel locally, and/or across a network, such as through cloud computing resources.

The display **4704** of the control system **4700** is optional and provides an input/output mechanism for devices of the free-weight exercise system **100**, such as to display visual information (e.g., images, graphical user interfaces, videos, notifications, and the like) to a user, and in certain instances may also act to receive user input (e.g., via a touch screen or the like). In some embodiments, the display **4704** may be the same as the display **24** or the display **202**. In some embodiments, the display **4704** may be a different display than the displays **24** or **202**. Any display disclosed herein may be an LCD screen, plasma screen, LED screen, an organic LED screen, or the like. The type and number of displays may vary.

The memory components **4706** store electronic data that may be utilized by the processing element(s) **4702**, such as audio files, video files, workout media, document files, programming instructions, and the like. The memory components **4706** may be, for example, non-volatile storage, a magnetic storage medium, optical storage medium, magneto-optical storage medium, read only memory, random access memory, erasable programmable memory, flash memory, or a combination of one or more types of memory components.

The optional network interface **4708** receives and transmits data to and from a network to the free-weight exercise system **100**. The network/communication interface **4708** may transmit and send data to the network directly or indirectly. For example, the networking/communication interface **4708** may transmit data to and from other computing devices through the network. In some embodiments, the network interface **4708** may also include various modules, such as an application program interface (API) that interfaces and translates requests across the network to a specific server or remote computing device such as a phone, tablet, or the like. The network interface **4708** may be a wider or wireless interface. For example, the network interface **4708** may be an Ethernet, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, Wi-max, Zigbee, or other suitable interface.

The free-weight exercise system **100** may also include a power supply **4710**. The power supply **4710** provides power to various components of the control system **4700** and may supply power to a lift mechanism, switches, sensors, or the like. The power supply **4710** may include one or more rechargeable, disposable, or hardwire sources, e.g., batteries, power cord, AC/DC inverter, DC/DC converter, or the like. Additionally, the power supply **4710** may include one or more types of connectors or components that provide different types of power. In some embodiments, the power supply **4710** may include a connector (such as a universal serial bus) that provides power to another device such as a phone or tablet and also transmits data to and from the free-weight exercise system **100** to the other devices.

The input/output interface **4712** allows the free-weight exercise system **100** to receive input from a user and provide output to a user. For example, the input/output interface **4712** may include a capacitive touch screen, keyboard, mouse, stylus, or the like. The type of devices that interact via the input/output interface **4712** may be varied as desired.

The description of certain embodiments included herein is merely exemplary in nature and is in no way intended to limit the scope of the disclosure or its applications or uses.

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In the included detailed description of embodiments of the present systems and methods, reference is made to the accompanying drawings which form a part hereof, and which are shown by way of illustration specific to embodiments in which the described systems and methods may be practiced. These embodiments are described in sufficient detail to enable those skilled in the art to practice presently disclosed systems and methods, and it is to be understood that other embodiments may be utilized, and that structural and logical changes may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosure. Moreover, for the purpose of clarity, detailed descriptions of certain features will not be discussed when they would be apparent to those with skill in the art so as not to obscure the description of embodiments of the disclosure. The included detailed description is therefore not to be taken in a limiting sense, and the scope of the disclosure is defined only by the appended claims.

From the foregoing it will be appreciated that, although specific embodiments of the invention have been described herein for purposes of illustration, various modifications may be made without deviating from the spirit and scope of the invention.

The particulars shown herein are by way of example and for purposes of illustrative discussion of the preferred embodiments of the present invention only and are presented in the cause of providing what is believed to be the most useful and readily understood description of the principles and conceptual aspects of various embodiments of the invention. In this regard, no attempt is made to show structural details of the invention in more detail than is necessary for the fundamental understanding of the invention, the description taken with the drawings and/or examples making apparent to those skilled in the art how the several forms of the invention may be embodied in practice.

As used herein and unless otherwise indicated, the terms “a” and “an” are taken to mean “one”, “at least one” or “one or more”. Unless otherwise required by context, singular terms used herein shall include pluralities and plural terms shall include the singular.

Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, throughout the description and the claims, the words ‘comprise’, ‘comprising’, and the like are to be construed in an inclusive sense as opposed to an exclusive or exhaustive sense; that is to say, in the sense of “including, but not limited to”. Words using the singular or plural number also include the plural and singular number, respectively. Additionally, the words “herein,” “above,” and “below” and words of similar import, when used in this application, shall refer to this application as a whole and not to any particular portions of the application.

Of course, it is to be appreciated that any one of the examples, embodiments or processes described herein may be combined with one or more other examples, embodiments and/or processes or be separated and/or performed amongst separate devices or device portions in accordance with the present systems, devices and methods.

Finally, the above discussion is intended to be merely illustrative of the present system and should not be construed as limiting the appended claims to any particular embodiment or group of embodiments. Thus, while the present system has been described in particular detail with reference to exemplary embodiments, it should also be appreciated that numerous modifications and alternative embodiments may be devised by those having ordinary skill in the art without departing from the broader and intended spirit and scope of the present system as set forth in the

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claims that follow. Accordingly, the specification and drawings are to be regarded in an illustrative manner and are not intended to limit the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A free-weight exercise system comprising:
 - a storage compartment configured to enclose free-weight exercise equipment, wherein the storage compartment comprises a platform configured to support the free-weight exercise equipment;
 - a lift assembly configured to raise and lower the platform relative to a base of the storage compartment; and
 - a display mast extending upward from the storage compartment, wherein the display mast is configured to mount and accommodate at least a 12 inch display at a position above the storage compartment.
2. The free-weight exercise system of claim 1, wherein the storage compartment fully encloses the free-weight exercise equipment such that the free-weight exercise equipment is concealed from view when the platform is in a lowered position.
3. The free-weight exercise system of claim 1, further comprising an exercise bench reconfigurable between a first configuration in which the exercise bench operatively engages an opening of the storage compartment to provide a removable cover for the storage compartment and a second configuration in which the exercise bench can support a user in a seated position.
4. The free-weight exercise system of claim 1, further comprising a display rotatably coupled to the display mast by a display mount.
5. The free-weight exercise system of claim 4, wherein the display mount includes a shaft rotatably coupled to the display mast.
6. The free-weight exercise system of claim 5, further comprising a pawl slidably coupled to an end portion of the shaft and operative to be received in a receptacle coupled to the display mast.
7. The free-weight exercise system of claim 5, further comprising:
 - a ring coupled to the display mast, wherein the ring includes a detent formed on an inner surface thereof;
 - a retainer plate received in the ring;
 - a cam received in a slot formed in the retainer plate, wherein the cam is selectively biased by a biasing element into the detent.
8. The free-weight exercise system of claim 7, wherein the cam disengages from the detent when the display is rotated between a landscape orientation and a portrait orientation.
9. The free-weight exercise system of claim 4, wherein the display mount includes:
 - a display plate coupled to the display; and
 - a frame plate rotatably coupled to the display mast.

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10. The free-weight exercise system of claim 9, wherein the frame plate includes an arcuate slot and a friction adjuster is received in the arcuate slot and adapted to adjust a level of force that causes the display to rotate.

11. The free-weight exercise system of claim 9, wherein: the display plate includes a plurality of hooks; the frame plate includes a plurality of slots adapted to receive the respective plurality of hooks to couple the display plate to the frame plate.

12. The free-weight exercise system of claim 9, wherein the frame plate is coupled to a biased pawl that selectively engages the display plate to couple the display plate to the frame plate.

13. The free-weight exercise system of claim 1, wherein the lift assembly comprises a lift mechanism configured to remain fully enclosed within the storage compartment when the platform is in either the raised or lowered position.

14. The free-weight exercise system of claim 1, wherein the lift assembly includes scissor linkage and a lift mechanism operative to raise and lower the lift assembly.

15. A free-weight exercise system comprising: a storage compartment comprising a base and configured to enclose a free-weight exercise equipment; a platform movably coupled to the storage compartment and configured to securely support the free-weight exercise equipment; and a lift assembly configured to lower and raise the platform relative to the base with the free-weight exercise equipment on the platform.

16. The free-weight exercise system of claim 15, wherein the lift assembly comprises a lift mechanism configured to remain fully enclosed within the storage compartment when the platform is in either the raised or lowered position.

17. The free-weight exercise system of claim 15, wherein the lift assembly includes scissor linkage and a lift mechanism operative to raise and lower the lift assembly.

18. The free-weight exercise system of claim 15, further comprising a display mast extending upward from the storage compartment, wherein the display mast is configured to mount and accommodate a display.

19. The free-weight exercise system of claim 18, further comprising a display rotatably coupled to the display mast.

20. A free-weight exercise system comprising: a storage compartment comprising a base and configured to enclose a free-weight exercise equipment; a display mast extending upward from the base; a platform movably coupled to the base and adapted to support the free-weight exercise equipment at a first height; a display mounted to the display mast by a display mount at a second height above the first height and rotatably coupled to the display mast.

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