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(54) **HIGH IMPACT STRENGTH LIGHTED NOCK ASSEMBLY**

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(2013.01)

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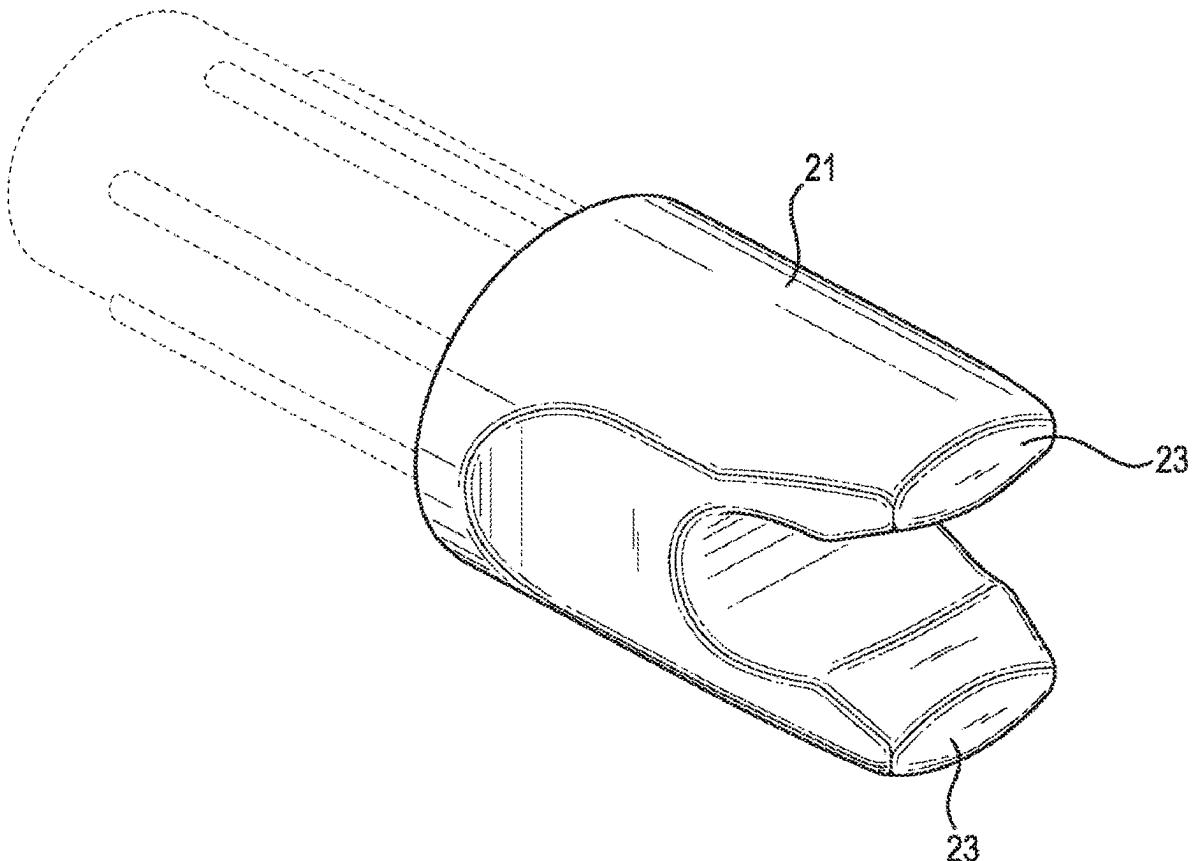
(63) Continuation of application No. 18/097,141, filed on Jan. 13, 2023, now Pat. No. 12,215,961, which is a continuation of application No. 17/366,596, filed on Jul. 2, 2021, now Pat. No. 11,555,676, which is a continuation of application No. 16/237,034, filed on Dec. 31, 2018, now Pat. No. 11,054,227, which is a continuation of application No. 15/631,016, filed on Jun. 23, 2017, now Pat. No. 10,203,186.

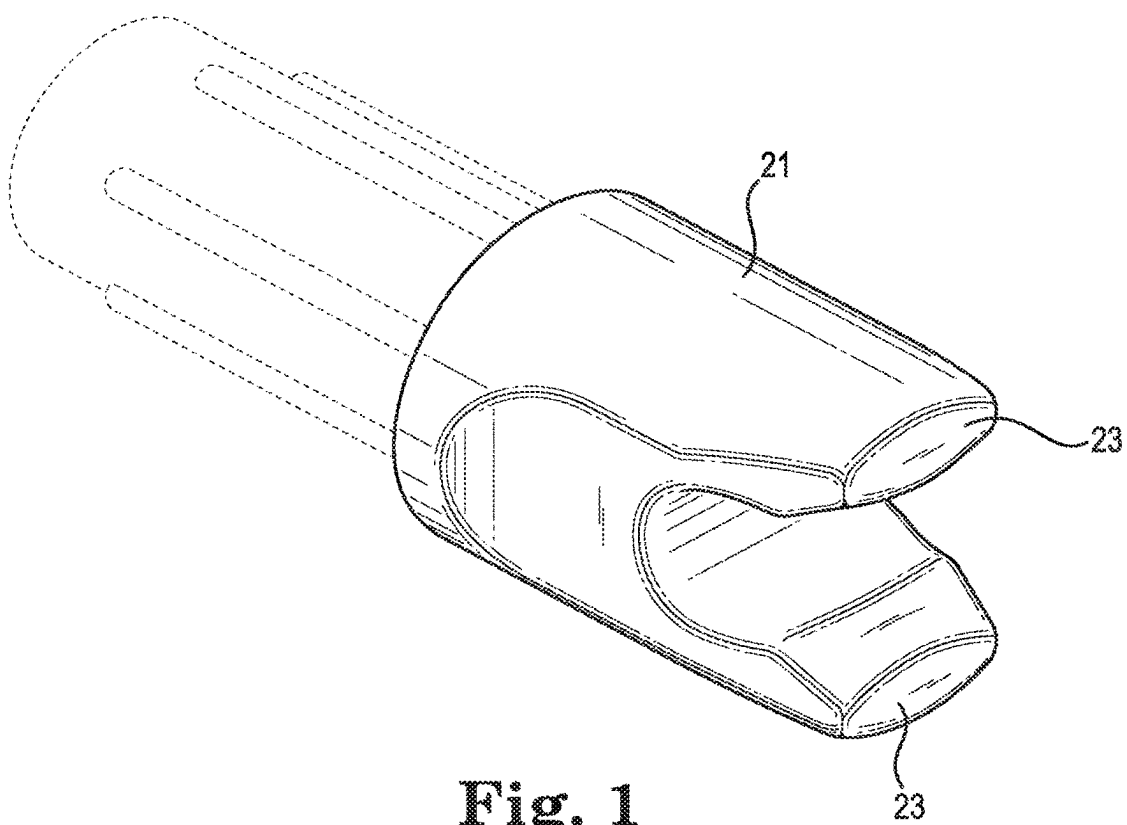
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(57)

ABSTRACT

A matched arrow set including a first arrow and a second arrow. The first arrow including: a first shaft, a first bushing coupled to the first shaft, and a first nock received in the first bushing. The second arrow including: a second shaft, a second bushing coupled to the second shaft, and a second nock received in the second bushing. The first shaft and the first bushing define a first weight, the second shaft and the second bushing define a second weight greater than the first weight, and a first arrow weight is substantially the same as a second arrow weight.





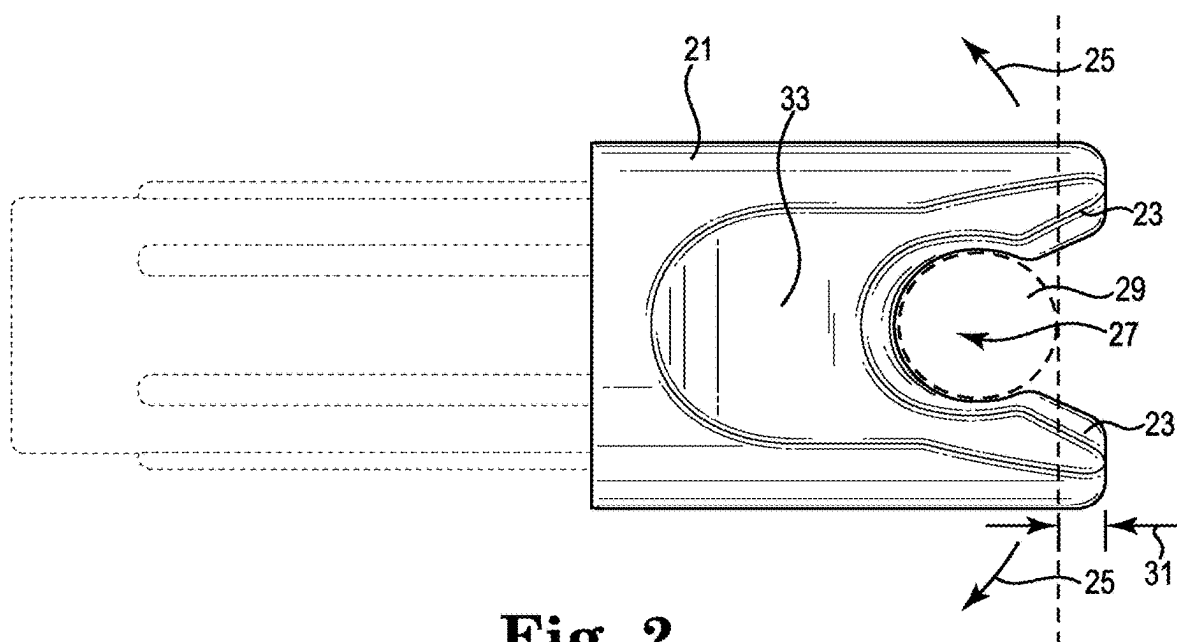


Fig. 2

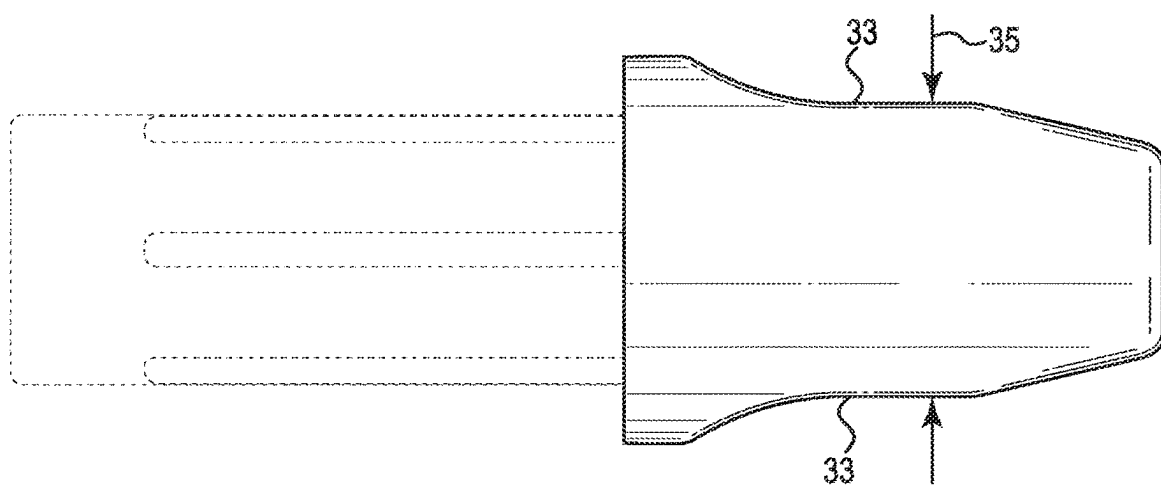


Fig. 3

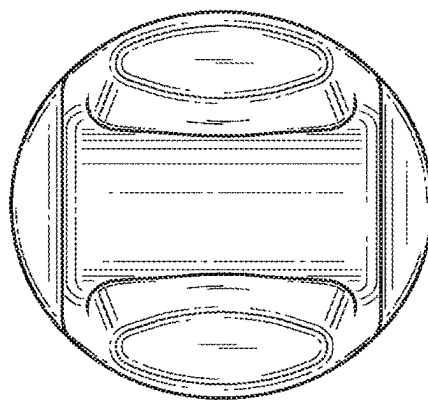


Fig. 4

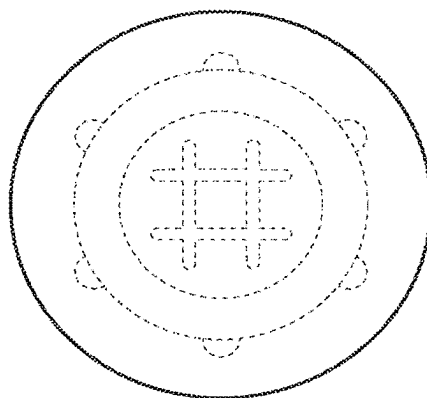


Fig. 5

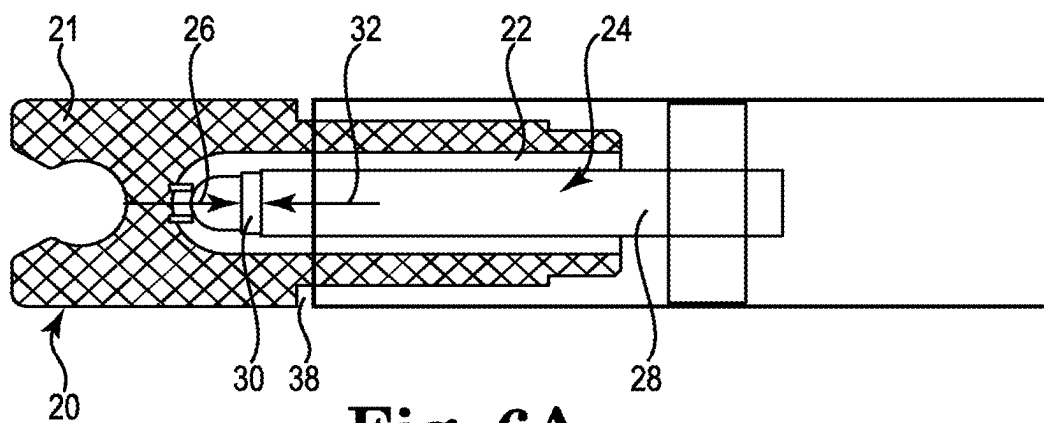


Fig. 6A

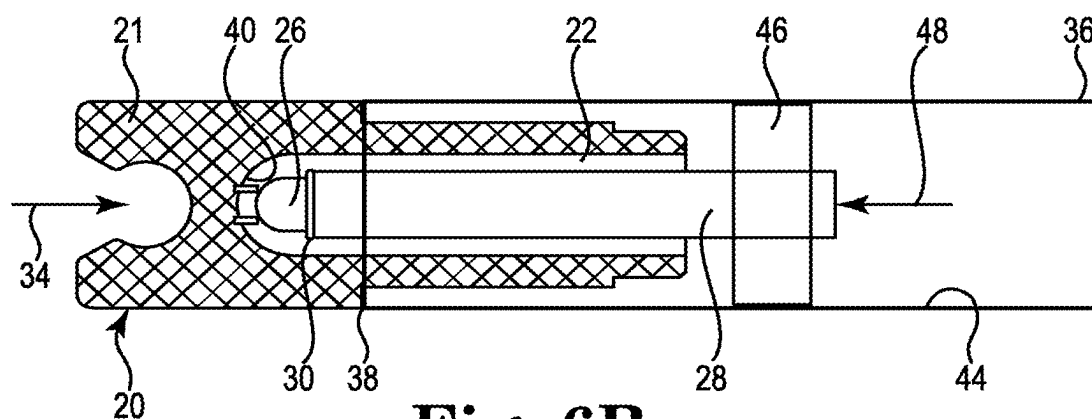


Fig. 6B

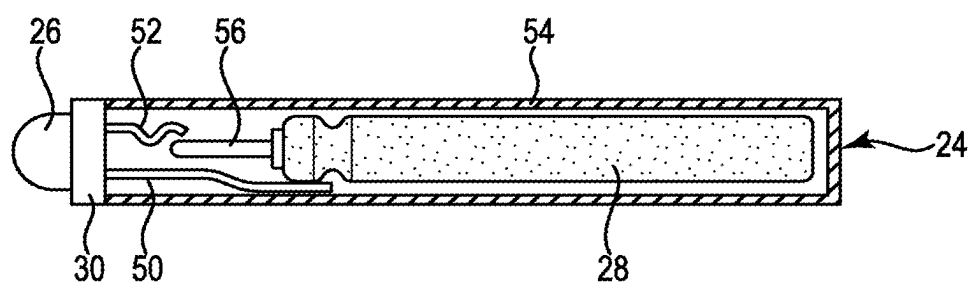


Fig. 7A

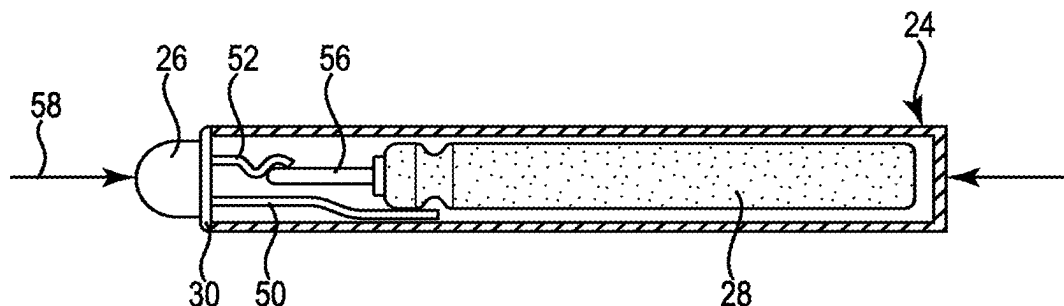
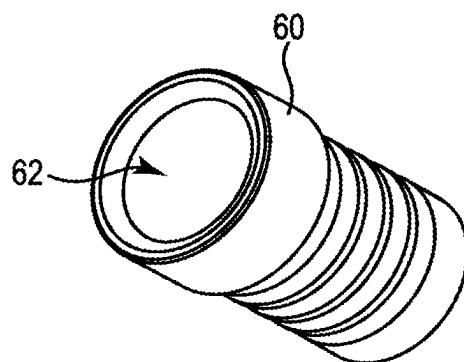
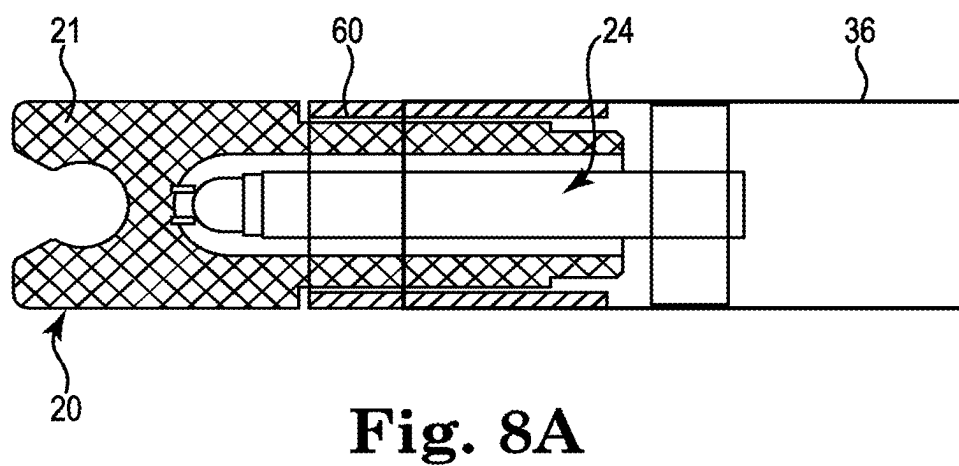
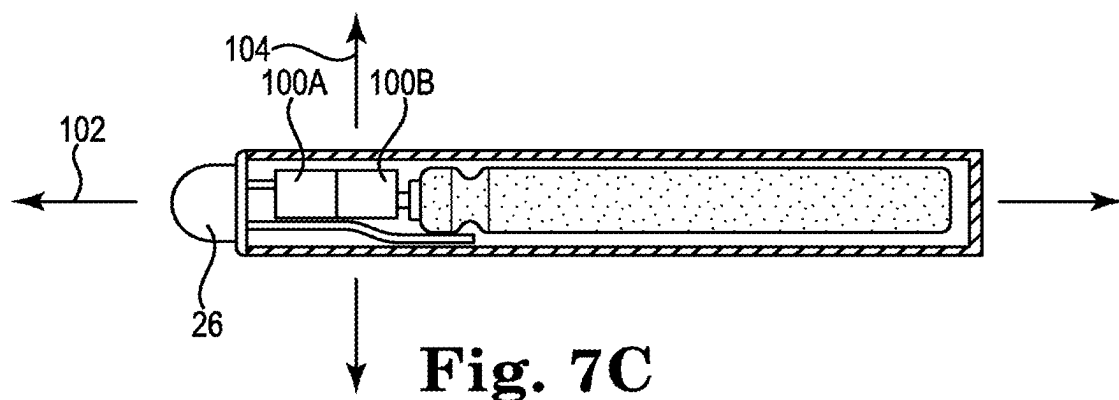


Fig. 7B



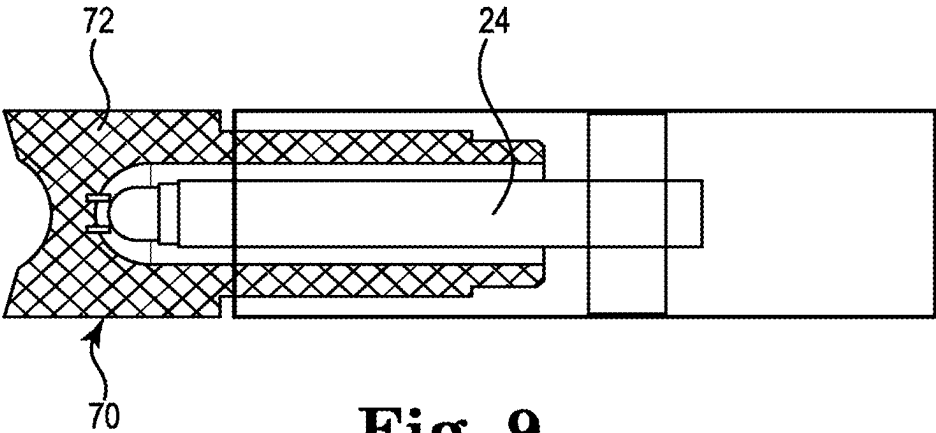


Fig. 9

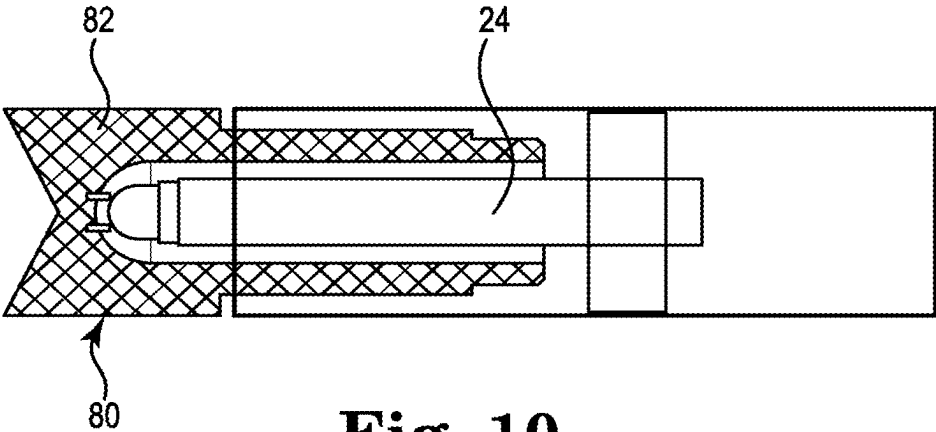


Fig. 10

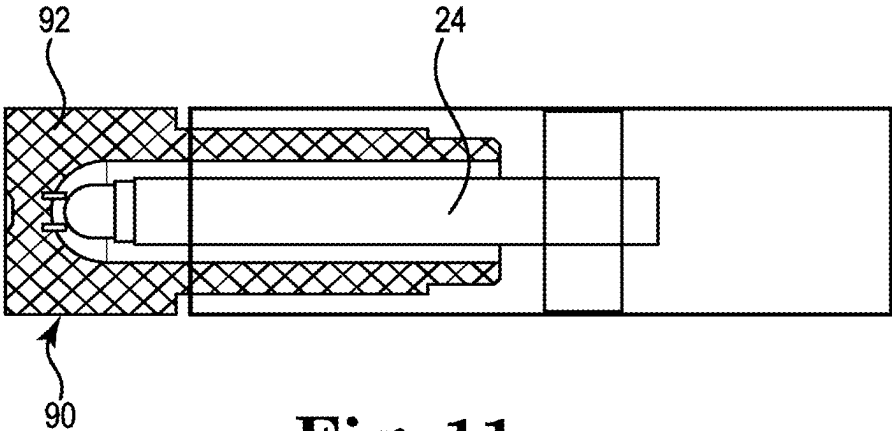


Fig. 11

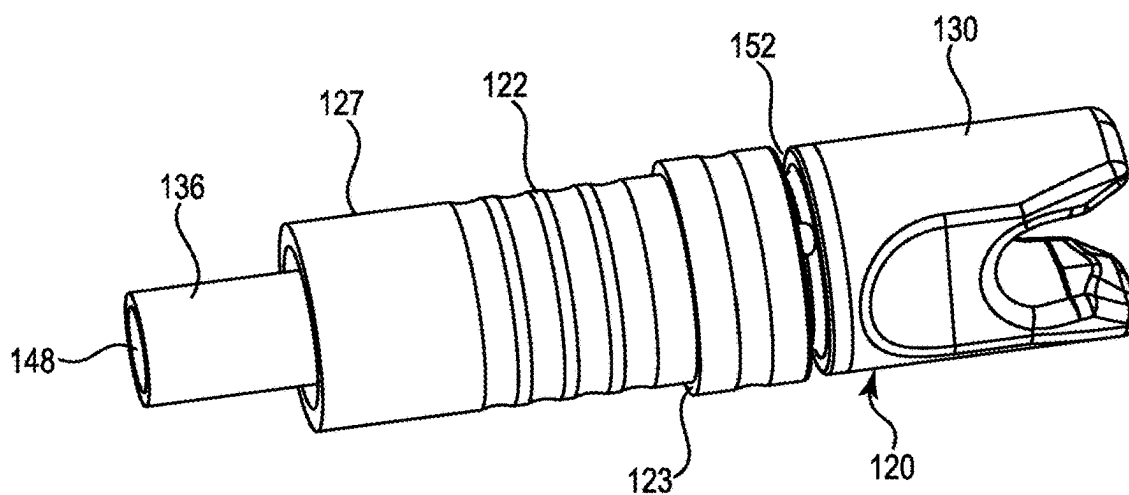


Fig. 12A

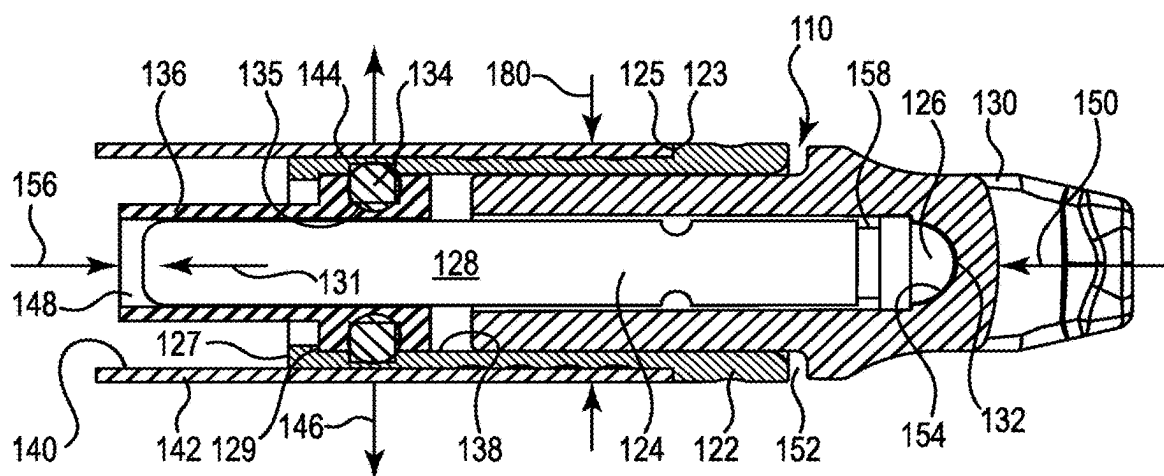


Fig. 12B

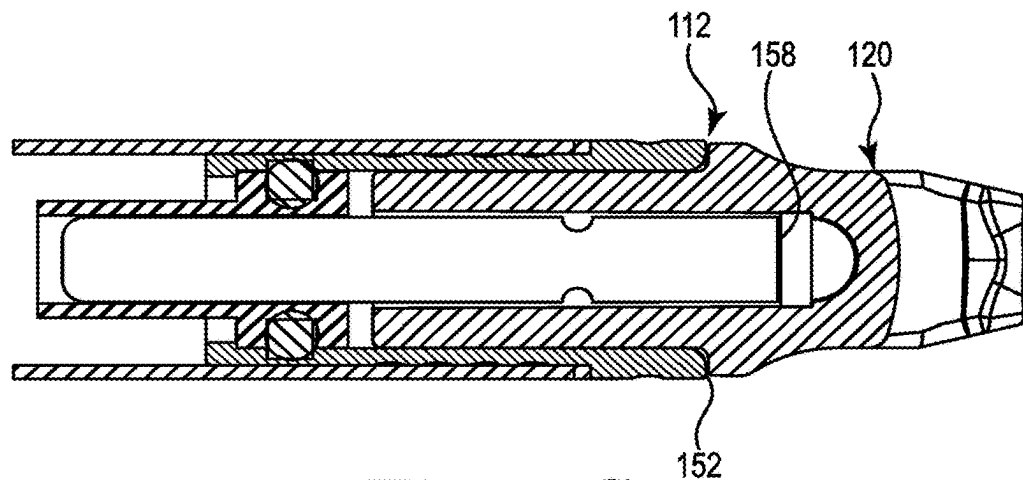
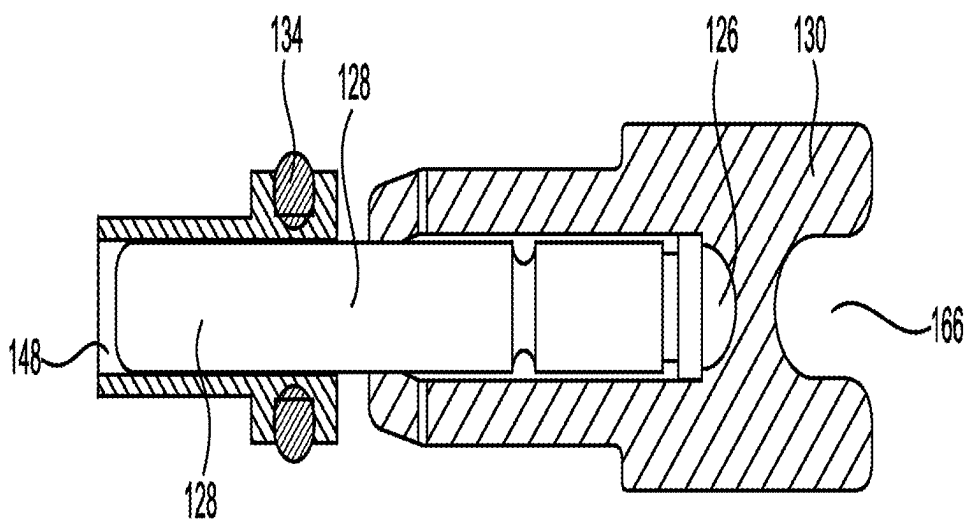
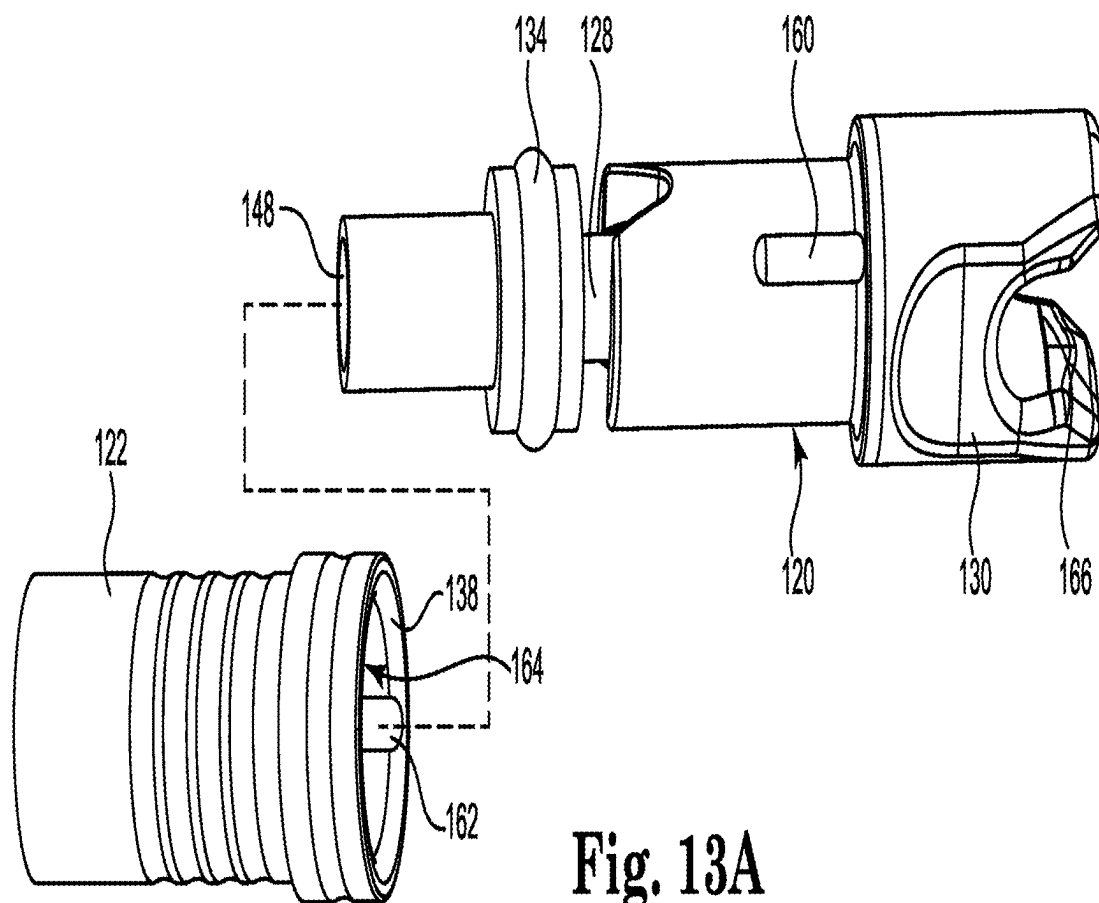


Fig. 12C



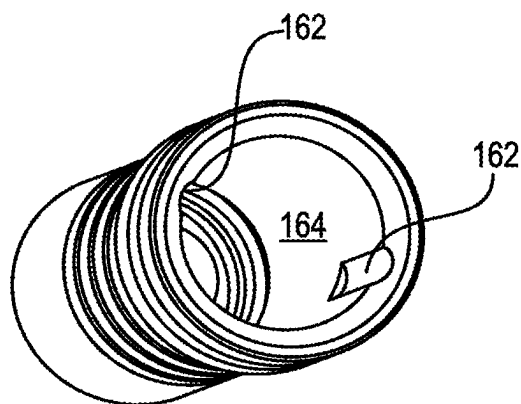


Fig. 14B

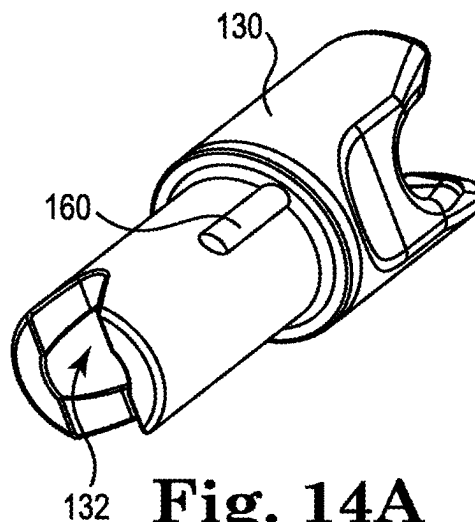


Fig. 14A

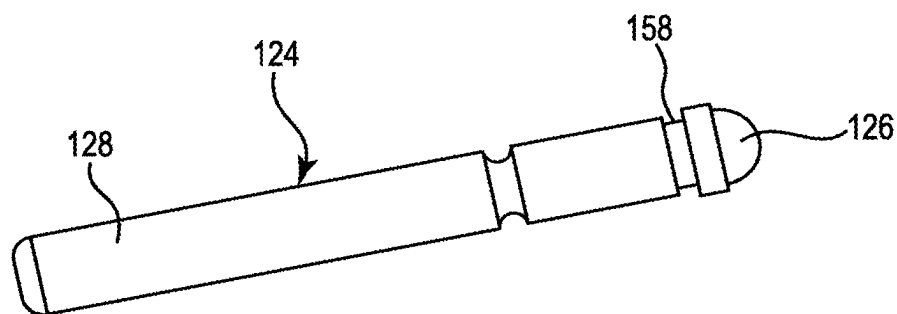


Fig. 15

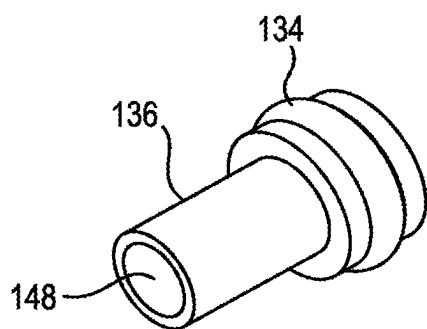


Fig. 16A

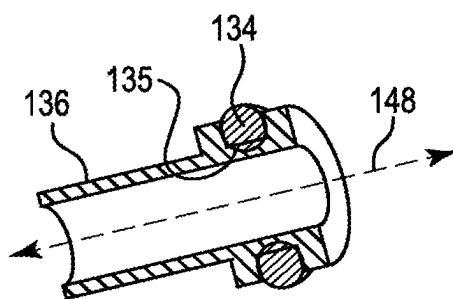


Fig. 16B

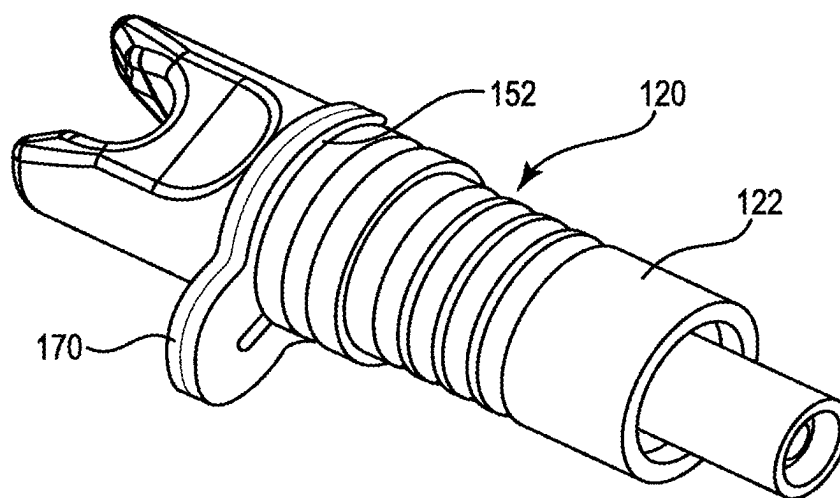


Fig. 17A

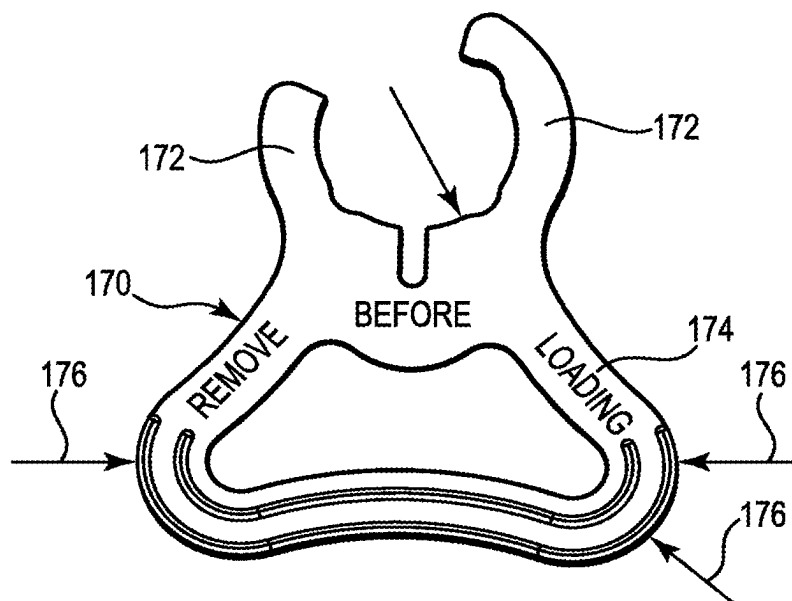


Fig. 17B

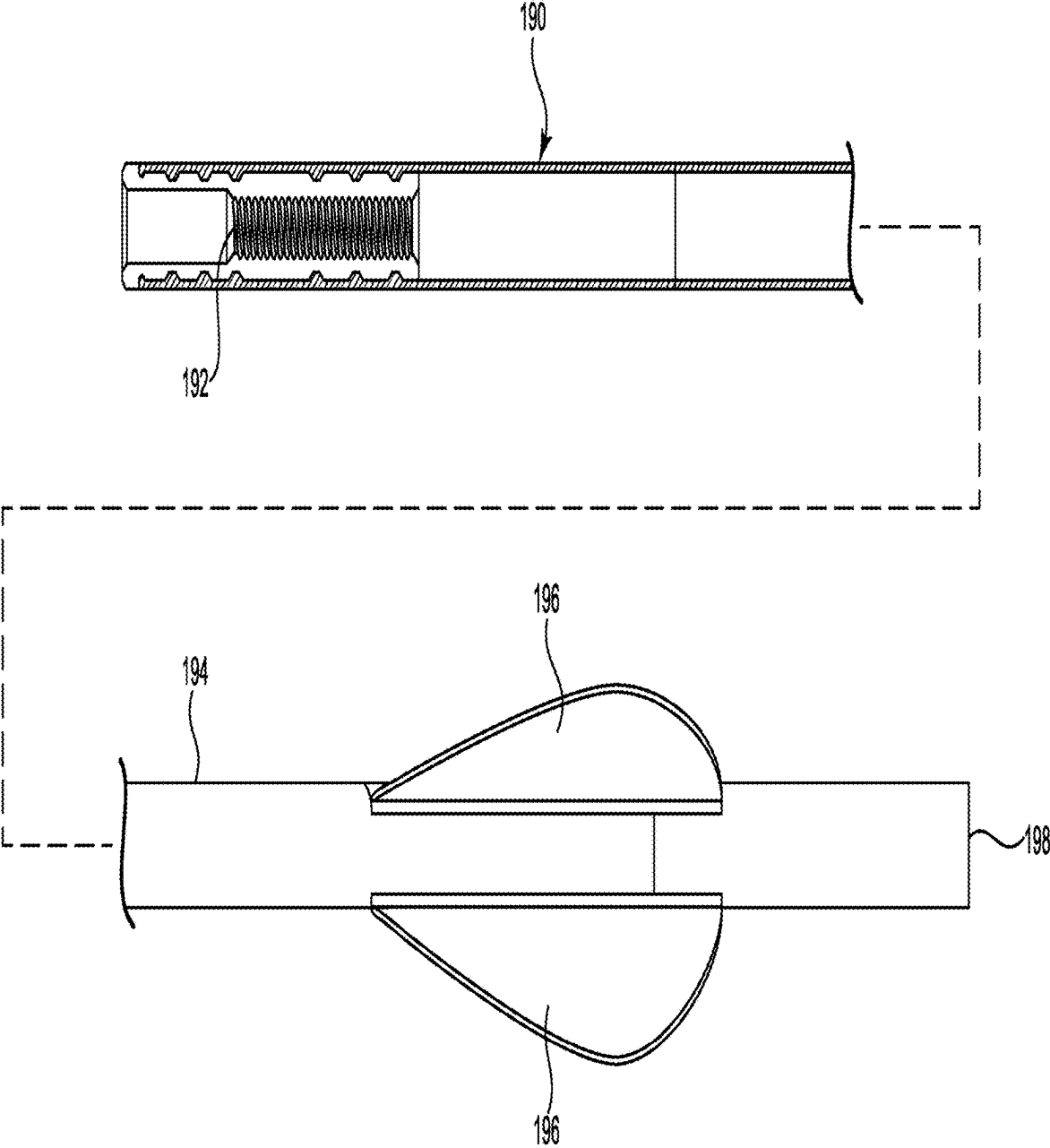


Fig. 18

HIGH IMPACT STRENGTH LIGHTED NOCK ASSEMBLY

REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] The present application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 18/097,141, filed on Jan. 13, 2023, now U.S. Pat. No. 12,215,961 which is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 17/366,596, filed on Jul. 2, 2021, now U.S. Pat. No. 11,555,676, which is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 16/237,034, filed on Dec. 31, 2018, now U.S. Pat. No. 11,054,227, which is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 15/631,016, filed Jun. 23, 2017, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,203,186, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/459,421, filed Feb. 15, 2017 and U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/492671, filed May 1, 2017, the entire disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present disclosure is directed to a lightednock constructed from a transparent or semi-transparent, reinforced, high impact strength polymeric material (or blend of polymeric materials) for use in bows and crossbows.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Lighted arrow nocks, such as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 8,777,786 (Bay) and U.S. Pat. No. 9,279,649 (Bay), allow an archer to be able to more easily see the arrow in flight, see the point of arrow impact, and recover the arrow after a shot. Being able to observe the arrow in flight and see the point of impact helps the archer to diagnose problems with shooting form or bow setup and make appropriate adjustments. Perhaps more importantly, a lighted arrow nock allows an archer to more easily recover the arrow.

[0004] Bow hunters can especially benefit from using an arrow with a lightednock device. Recovering an arrow that was shot at an animal is critical in the ethical harvest of animals, and a lightednock device allows a bow hunter to recover the arrow and animal more easily. Upon recovering the arrow, the bow hunter can diagnose many things about the shot by inspecting the arrow.

[0005] As vertical bows and crossbows (referred to collectively herein as “bows”) have gotten more powerful current lightednock products have demonstrated an inability to handle the forces generated during launch. If a nock breaks on launch the energy stored in the bow is not absorbed (or is only partially absorbed) by the arrow, resulting in a full or partial “dry fire” event. In a dry fire event some or all of the energy stored by the bow is absorbed by the bow itself, especially the limbs and the riser. Shattered limbs and crack risers are common outcomes of a dry fire event. Dry fire events are often catastrophic for the bow.

[0006] Many existing lightednock systems have components that transfer forces to the inside surface of the arrow shaft, causing arrow shaft fractures, such as U.S. Pat. No. 7,021,784 (DiCarlo) and U.S. Pat. No. 9,546,851 (Kim). Some lightednock systems that rely on nock translation to activate the light also require the entire light assembly to be removed from the arrow to deactivate the light. Most of the lightednock systems suffer from unintended activation of the light, such as during transport, which can drain the battery.

SUMMARY

[0007] One embodiment relates to matched arrow set that includes a first arrow and a second arrow. The first arrow including: a first shaft, a first bushing coupled to the first shaft, and a first nock received in the first bushing. The second arrow including: a second shaft, a second bushing coupled to the second shaft, and a second nock received in the second bushing. The first shaft and the first bushing define a first weight, the second shaft and the second bushing define a second weight greater than the first weight, and a first arrow weight is substantially the same as a second arrow weight.

[0008] Another embodiment relates to a matched weight arrow set that includes a first arrow including a lightednock assembly and defining a first weight, and a second arrow including a non-lightednock assembly and defining a second weight. The lightednock assembly weighs more than the non-lightednock assembly, and the first weight is within two percent of the second weight.

[0009] Another embodiment relates to a matched weight arrow set that includes a first arrow and a second arrow. The first arrow defines a first arrow weight and includes: a first shaft, a first bushing coupled to the first shaft, wherein the first shaft and the first bushing define a first base weight, and a lightednock received in the first bushing. The lightednock includes: a head configured to engage a drawstring, a shank formed with the head and sized to be received within the first bushing and defining a cavity, and a light assembly received in the cavity. The second arrow defines a second arrow weight and includes: a second shaft, a second bushing coupled to the second shaft, wherein the second shaft and the second bushing define a second base weight, and a non-lightednock received in the second bushing. The first arrow weight is within five percent of the second arrow weight, and the first base weight is less than the second base weight.

[0010] This summary is illustrative only and is not intended to be in any way limiting. Other aspects, inventive features, and advantages of the devices or processes described herein will become apparent in the detailed description set forth herein, taken in conjunction with the accompanying figures, wherein like reference numerals refer to like elements.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0011] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a nock for an archery arrow in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0012] FIG. 2 is a top view of the nock of FIG. 1.

[0013] FIG. 3 is a side view of the nock of FIG. 1.

[0014] FIG. 4 is an end view of the nock of FIG. 1.

[0015] FIG. 5 is an end view of the nock of FIG. 1.

[0016] FIGS. 6A and 6B are sectional views of a lightednock assembly in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0017] FIGS. 7A and 7B are sectional views of a light assembly in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0018] FIG. 7C is a sectional view of an alternate light assembly with multiple acceleration switches in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0019] FIG. 8A is a sectional view of a combination lightednock assembly and bushing in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0020] FIG. 8B is a perspective view of the bushing of FIG. 8A.

[0021] FIG. 9 is a sectional view of a lighted nock assembly for a half-moon nock in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0022] FIG. 10 is a sectional view of a lighted nock assembly for a V-nock in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0023] FIG. 11 is a sectional view of a lighted nock assembly for a flat nock in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0024] FIG. 12A is a perspective view of an alternate lighted nock assembly used with a bushing in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0025] FIG. 12B is cross-sectional view of the lighted nock assembly of FIG. 12A in a deactivated configuration in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0026] FIG. 12C is cross-sectional view of the lighted nock assembly of FIG. 12A in an activated configuration in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0027] FIG. 13A is an exploded view of the lighted nock assembly of FIG. 12A.

[0028] FIG. 13B is a sectional view of the lighted nock assembly of FIG. 12A without the bushing.

[0029] FIGS. 14A and 14B illustrate an interface of the bushing and the nock of FIG. 12A.

[0030] FIG. 15 illustrates the light assembly of FIG. 12A.

[0031] FIGS. 16A and 16B illustrate the battery stop of FIG. 12A.

[0032] FIGS. 17A and 17B illustrate a tab stop for use with a lighted nock assembly in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0033] FIG. 18 illustrates a matched weight arrow that can be used with or without a lighted nock assembly in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0034] Following below are more detailed descriptions of various concepts related to, and implementations of, methods, apparatuses, and systems for nocks. Before turning to the figures, which illustrate certain exemplary embodiments in detail, it should be understood that the present disclosure is not limited to the details or methodology set forth in the description or illustrated in the figures. It should also be understood that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of description only and should not be regarded as limiting.

[0035] FIGS. 1 through 5 illustrate various views of an exemplary nock 21 in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. The nock 21 is molded from a reinforced polymeric material (or blend of polymeric materials). The nock 21 can be used with or without a light assembly, as will be discussed herein.

[0036] For lighted nock applications, the reinforced polymeric material is preferably transparent, but may also be semi-transparent or translucent. Light transmittance of the polymeric material is preferably at least 65%, more preferably at least 75%, and most preferably at least 85%. Nocks for vertical bows and crossbows are often distinguished in their general shape, but both are collectively referred to herein as “nocks”. As used herein, the term “bows” refers generically to both vertical bows and crossbows.

[0037] The nock 21 illustrated in FIGS. 1-5 is a clip-on nock. The prongs 23 flex outward 25 until the bowstring is

seated in semi-circular opening 27. In order to withstand the forces generated in high-powered bows, the polymeric material must have a high impact strength, but also requires sufficient flexibility to permit the nock prongs 23 to deflect when engaging with and disengaging from the bowstring 29. The polymeric material preferably has a tensile strength of greater than about 10,000 pounds per square inch (psi) as determined by ASTM D638. The polymeric material preferably has a flexural strength of greater than about 20,000 psi as determined by ASTM D790. The polymeric material preferably has a flexural modulus of greater than 0.50×10⁶ psi. The flexural modulus is the ratio, within the elastic limit, of stress corresponding to strain.

[0038] The reinforcing material can be plastic, metal, ceramic, glass, wood, and/or natural and synthetic composite material, and so forth, as well as combinations thereof. For example, reinforcing material can be glass, carbon, titanium, aluminum, stainless steel, talc, mica, quartz, Wollastonite, as well as combinations thereof. The form of the reinforcing material can be fibers (including woven, non-woven (e.g., felt), chopped, continuous, and/or random fibers), flakes, beads, particles, and combinations thereof. In one embodiment, the reinforcing material has an average aspect ratio (i.e., the ratio of a structure's size in different dimensions) of at least about 5:1, and more preferably at least about 7:1, and most preferably about 10:1.

[0039] In one embodiment, the nock 21 is molded from a high impact, transparent polycarbonate material filled with between about 10% to about 30% by weight reinforcing material. In one embodiment, the reinforcing material is about 20% by weight glass fibers or filamentous glass. The glass fibers preferably have diameters in the range of about 5 microns to about 100 microns and a length of less than about 2 millimeters. One polymeric material suitable for the present high impact nock is available from RTP Company of Winona, Wis. under the product designation RTP 303. While the material is substantially transparent, it exhibits a slight yellow tint. Polyurethane, polyetherimide, nylon, polyetheretherketone, polyetherketone, and thermoplastic polyimide may also be used. Other polymeric materials suitable for the present nock 21 are disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 9,434,334 (Marur et al.); U.S. Pat. No. 7,767,738 (Gagger et al.) and U.S. Pat. No. 5,859,119 (Hoefflin), which are hereby incorporated by reference.

[0040] Transparency is the physical property of allowing light to pass through a material without being scattered. Translucency, on the other hand, allows light to pass through, but the photons can be scattered either at interfaces where there is a change in index of refraction or internally. The nock 21 is preferably constructed from a polymeric material that is transparent (or transparent to certain wavelengths of light due to color tinting of the polymer), while the reinforcing material scatters some portion of the light from the light emitting device. Consequently, portions of the nock 21 both transparent and translucent. That is, a portion of the light emitted by the light emitting device is transmitted through the nock 21 and a portion of the light is scattered by the reinforcing material.

[0041] By altering the percentage of reinforcing material in the polymeric material it is possible to engineer the optimum balance of transmitted light (which creates more directional light source that is visible at a greater distance) and scattered light (which creates a hemispheric distribution of light that is visible from more angles). Applicants have

identified a reinforcing material content of about 10% to about 30% by weight as providing optimal light distribution for lighted nock applications.

[0042] The nock **21** illustrated in FIGS. 1-5 may be used with the crossbows illustrated in U.S. Pat. No. 9,494,379 (Yehle) entitled Crossbow, filed Apr. 14, 2016 and U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/433,769 entitled Crossbow, filed Feb. 15, 2017, both of which are hereby incorporated by reference. In particular, the anti-dry fire mechanism disclosed in the patents noted above preferably engages with the nock **21** in the region **31** behind the bowstring **29**. The region **31** is preferably at least about 0.1 inches. Flat regions **33** illustrated in FIG. 3 are preferably separate by a distance **35** of about 0.250 inches, which corresponds to a gap between fingers on a bowstring catch for the crossbow in the patents noted above.

[0043] FIGS. 6A and 6B are cross-sectional views of the lighted nock assembly **20** in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. In the illustrated embodiment, the light assembly **24** is a “bobber-light” that includes light emitting device **26**, such as a filament light, an LED, or other light producing device, electrically coupled to battery **28**. The nock **21** includes recess **22** configured to receive the light emitting device **26**.

[0044] In the illustrated embodiment, elastomeric member **30** maintains gap **32** between light emitting device **26** and the battery **28** corresponding to the battery **28** being disconnected from the light emitting device **26** (see FIG. 7A). The light assembly **24** is biased to the deactivated configuration by the elastomeric member **30**.

[0045] As best illustrated in FIG. 6B, on launch the bowstring (not shown) applies force **34** to displace the nock **21** into the arrow shaft **36**, reducing or closing the gap **38**. Bottom surface **40** of the recess **22** simultaneously displaces the light emitting device **26** toward the battery **28** to complete the circuit and altering the light emitting device to an activated state (see e.g., FIG. 7B). Elastomeric insert **46** secures the battery **28** to the inside surface **44** of the arrow shaft **36** so as to create force **48** that opposes the force **34** applied to the light emitting device **26** by displacement of the nock **21**. The opposing forces **34** and **48** compress the elastomeric material **30** and substantially closes the gap **32**, resulting in the battery **28** being electrically coupled to the light emitting device **26** (see FIG. 7B). The light emitting device **26** is now in the activated state.

[0046] The light assembly **24** is moved to the deactivated configuration by pulling the nock **21** slightly out of the arrow shaft **36** as illustrated in FIG. 6A and reestablishing the gap **38**. The elastomeric material **30** simultaneously displaces the light emitting device **26** away from the battery **28** and opens the circuit to deactivate the light emitting device **26** (see e.g., FIG. 7A). The light assembly **24** is normally biased to the deactivated configuration absent an external force.

[0047] FIGS. 7A and 7B illustrate the light assembly **24** in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. 7A illustrates the light assembly **24** in the deactivated configuration and FIG. 7B illustrates the activated configuration. The light emitting device **26** includes a pair of electrical contacts **50** and **52** that extend rearward within housing **54** toward the battery **28**. In the illustrated embodiment the contact **50** is engaged with one pole of the battery **28** at all times. In the deactivated configuration the contact **52** is separated from the other pole **56** of the battery **28**. The elastomeric member **30** maintains that separation. In another

embodiment, a metal spring may be located generally concentrically around the pole **56** to serve as both the contact **50** and to provide the biasing force of the elastomeric member **30**. In both embodiments the light assembly **24** is biased to the inactive configuration.

[0048] As illustrated in FIG. 7B, when the light assembly **24** is subject to a longitudinal compressive force **58** the elastomeric member **30** is elastically deformed and compressed a sufficient amount so the contact **52** engages with the other pole **56** of the battery **28**, completing the circuit so the light emitting device **26** is in the activated state. When the longitudinal compressive force **58** is removed the elastomeric member **30** automatically returns to its original size and shape (see FIG. 7A), which displaces the contact **52** away from the pole **56** of the battery **28** to move the light emitting device **26** to the deactivated state.

[0049] In another embodiment, the light emitting device **26** is secured in the recess **22** in the nock **21**. When the nock **21** is pulled away from the arrow shaft **36** and the gap **38** is reset, the light emitting device **26** and the contact **52** are also displaced away from the pole **56** of the battery **28** and the light emitting device **26** is in the deactivated state. The elastomeric member **30** is not required in this embodiment.

[0050] In an alternate embodiment illustrated in FIG. 7C, one or more accelerometer switches or an integrated circuit accelerometer **100A**, **100B** (“**100**”) control activation of the light emitting device **26**, such as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 7,993,224 (Brywig), which is hereby incorporated by reference. The switches **100** respond to the forces resulting from the acceleration of the arrow upon release or deceleration of the arrow upon impact with a target. In one embodiment, multiple accelerometer switches **100** are provided to sense acceleration and/or deceleration along multiple axes **102**, **104**. For example, axis **102** may be located along a longitudinal axis of the arrow and the axis **104** is perpendicular to the axis **102**. Triggering of the light emitting device **26** preferably requires a combination of acceleration and/or deceleration signals along the two different axes **102**, **104**.

[0051] FIGS. 8A and 8B illustrate an alternate lighted nock assembly **20** used in combination with bushing **60** in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. The bushing **60** is a hollow cylinder that is interposed between the nock **21** and the arrow shaft **36** to reinforce the shaft **36**. The light assembly **24** extends through center opening **62** in the bushing **60**. The bushing **60** is preferably aluminum or other light-weight metal.

[0052] The present disclosure is not limited to the light assemblies **24** illustrated herein. The present lighted nock assembly **20** can be modified to operate with a variety of light assemblies, including without limitation the light assemblies disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,340,930 (Carissimi); U.S. Pat. No. 4,547,837 (Bennett); U.S. Pat. No. 5,134,552 (Call et al.); U.S. Pat. No. 6,123,631 (Ginder); U.S. Pat. No. 6,736,742 (Price et al.); U.S. Pat. No. 7,021,784 (DiCarlo); U.S. Pat. No. 7,211,011 (Sutherland); U.S. Pat. No. 7,837,580 (Huang); U.S. Pat. No. 7,931,550 (Lynch); U.S. Pat. No. 7,927,240 (Lynch); U.S. Pat. No. 7,993,224 (Brywig); U.S. Pat. No. 8,342,990 (Price); U.S. Pat. No. 8,540,594 (Chu); U.S. Pat. No. 8,758,177 (Minica); U.S. Pat. No. 8,777,786 (Bay); U.S. Pat. No. 8,944,944 (Pedersen et al.); U.S. Pat. No. 9,140,527 (Pedersen et al.); U.S. Pat. No. 9,151,580 (Pedersen); U.S. Pat. No. 9,243,875 (Minica); U.S. Pat. No. 9,279,647 (Marshall); U.S. Pat. No. 9,279,648 (Marshall); U.S. Pat. No. 9,279,649 (Bay); U.S. Pat. No. 9,404,720

(Pedersen); U.S. Pat. No. 9,423,219 (Pedersen et al.); U.S. Pat. No. 9,518,806 (Pedersen); U.S. Pat. No. 9,546,851 (Kim); 2015/0192395 (Beck), which are hereby incorporated by reference.

[0053] The present disclosure is applicable to any nock configuration, including without limitation, flat, half-moon, slotted, and universal nocks, such as disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 9,441,925 (Palomaki et al.); U.S. Pat. No. 9,285,195 (Palomaki et al.); U.S. Pat. No. 9,212,874 (Harding); U.S. Pat. No. 8,622,855 (Bednar et al.); U.S. Pat. No. 7,189,170 (Korsa et al.); U.S. Pat. No. 5,803,843 (Anderson et al.); D717,389 (Huang); D664,625 (Minica); D641,827 (Errett); and D595,803 (Giles), which are hereby incorporated by reference.

[0054] FIG. 9 illustrates a lighted nock assembly 70 including a light assembly 24 and a half-moon nock 72 in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. 10 illustrates a lighted nock assembly 80 including a light assembly 24 and a V-nock 82 in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. FIG. 11 illustrates a lighted nock assembly 90 including a light assembly 24 and a flat nock 92 in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0055] FIGS. 12A through 12C illustrate an alternate lighted nock assembly 120 used in combination with bushing 122 in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. The bushing 122 is preferably constructed from a light weight metal and is sized to be receive within arrow shaft 142. In the illustrated embodiment, the bushing 122 includes shoulder 123 that engages with rear end 125 of the arrow shaft 142.

[0056] In the illustrated embodiment, the light assembly 124 is a “bobber-light” that includes light emitting device 126, such as a filament light, an LED, or other light producing device, electrically coupled to battery 128. See also, FIG. 15. The light emitting device 126 is mechanically coupled to a battery 128. Displacing the light emitting device 126 toward the battery 128 activates the light emitting device 126 and displacing the light emitting device 126 away from the battery 128 deactivates the light emitting device. FIG. 12B illustrates the lighted nock assembly 120 in a deactivated configuration 110 and FIG. 12C illustrates the lighted nock assembly 120 in an activated configuration 112, as will be discussed further herein.

[0057] As best illustrated in FIG. 12B, the nock 130 includes recess 132 configured to receive the light assembly 124 (see also FIG. 14A). The light emitting device 126 is secured in the recess 132 using a variety of means, such as fasteners, adhesives, inter-locking structures, and the like. Only the light emitting device 126 is attached to the nock 130 so the remainder of the light assembly 124 can move relative to the nock, as illustrated in FIG. 12C. The nock 130 is preferably molded from a transparent, high impact strength polymeric material, as discussed herein.

[0058] Battery 128 is secured to inside surface 138 of the bushing 122 by battery stop 136. The battery stop 136 is attached to the battery 128 at a location offset from the nock 130, even in the activated configuration 112. The battery stop 136 is a discrete component from the nock 130 and the bushing 122. Consequently, the nock 130 is coupled to the battery stop 136 by the battery 128, such that movement of the nock 130 relative to the bushing 122 is independent from the engagement of the battery stop 136 with the bushing 122.

[0059] Distal end 127 of the bushing 122 preferably includes a structure 129, such as a ridge or a shoulder that limits displacement of the battery stop 136 in direction 131. The tolerances on the battery stop 136 are such that it can slide within the bushing 122, but substantially limits radial displacement of the battery 128 within the arrow shaft 142. This configuration also serves to reinforce the nock 130 from torque applied by a bowstring. These forces are substantially contained within the bushing 122, rather than the arrow shaft 142.

[0060] In the illustrated embodiment, the battery 128 is glued to center opening 148 that extends through the battery stop 136. The center opening 148 permits the battery stop 136 to be slid along the battery 128 to the optimum location before being glued in place. It is also possible to use a longer battery 128 that extends past distal end of the battery stop 136.

[0061] Friction member 134, such as an elastomeric O-ring, is located in recess 135 in the battery stop 136. See also, FIGS. 16A and 16B. The friction member 134 engages with inside surface 138 of the bushing 122 rather than inside surface 140 of the arrow shaft 142. In the illustrated embodiment, inside surface 138 of the bushing 122 includes recess 144 that receives a portion of the friction member 134. Locating the O-ring 134 in the opposing recesses 135, 144 resists longitudinal displacement of the battery 128 in the bushing 122 a sufficient amount to permit the nock 130 to be pulled to reset the gap 152 to the deactivated configuration 110, without removing the lighted nock assembly 120 from the bushing 122 (see FIG. 12C). By applying additional pulling force to the nock 130, the entire lighted nock assembly 120 (light assembly 124, battery stop 136, and nock 130) can be removed from the bushing 122 and replaced.

[0062] Because the lighted nock assembly 120 is contained within the bushing 122, forces applied to the nock 130 during launch are transmitted to the shaft 142 through the bushing 122. For example, radial outward forces 146 transmitted to the battery stop 136 and friction member 134 are contained by the bushing 122, rather than the arrow shaft 142. Many existing lighted nock systems have components that transfer forces to the inside surface of the arrow shaft, causing arrow shaft fractures. The present system isolates the forces generated by the nock 130 within the bushing 122, so any forces experienced by the nock 130 are transmitted to the arrow shaft 142 by the bushing 122, greatly extending arrow life. When combined with a nock molded from a transparent, high impact strength polymeric material, the present lighted nock assembly 120 is suitable for use with high-powered bows and crossbows.

[0063] On launch the bowstring (not shown) applies force 150 that displaces the nock 130 into the arrow shaft 142 to the activated configuration 112 shown in FIG. 12C, reducing or closing the gap 152. Bottom surface 154 of the recess 132 simultaneously displaces the light emitting device 126 toward the battery 128, completing the circuit and placing the light emitting device 126 to an activated state. The friction member 134 secures the battery 128 to the inside surface 138 of the bushing 122 so as to create force 156 that opposes the force 150 applied to the light emitting device 126 by displacement of the nock 130. The opposing forces 150 and 156 displace the light emitting device 126 toward the battery 128 to substantially reduce or close the gap 158 and to activate the light emitting device 126.

[0064] The light assembly 124 is moved to the deactivated configuration 110 by pulling the nock 130 slightly out of the arrow shaft 142 to reestablish the gap 152, as illustrated in FIG. 12B. The friction member 134 secures the battery stop 136 that is attached to the battery 128 within the bushing 122 in opposition to the nock 130 being pulled away from the bushing 122. Consequently, the light emitting device 126 can be deactivated without removing the light assembly 124 from the bushing 122.

[0065] FIGS. 13A and 13B show the lighted nock assembly 120 separated from the bushing 122. Since the battery stop 136 is glued to the battery 128 and the LED 126 is glued to the nock 130, the entire lighted nock assembly 120 can be removed from the bushing 122. In the event the light assembly 124 is not working or the nock 130 damaged, the user can pull the entire lighted nock assembly 120 from the bushing 122 by overcoming the frictional coupling generated by the friction member 134 engaged with the recess 144 (see FIG. 12B) in the bushing 122. A replacement lighted nock assembly 120 is then re-inserted into the bushing 122. This configuration permits the bushing 122 to be permanently attached, such as with an adhesive, to the arrow shaft 142 (see FIG. 12B).

[0066] The nock 130 preferably includes one or more ridges 160 that mate with corresponding grooves 162 located on inside surface 138 in center opening 164 of the bushing 122. The ridges 160 and grooves 162 prevent the nock 130 from rotating axially relative to the bushing 122 so the nock opening 166 is retained in the correct orientation relative to the arrow shaft 142. See also, FIGS. 14A and 14B.

[0067] FIGS. 17A and 17B illustrate the lighted nock assembly 120 and the bushing 122 with stop tab 170 located in the gap 152 (see FIG. 12A) to prevent inadvertent activation of the light assembly 124. The tab stop 170 is useful for shipping purposes and for carrying arrows containing the present lighted nock assembly 120 in the field. The stop tab 170 includes one or more arms 172 that wrap around the stem of the nock 130 and block the gap 152 from closing. The arms 172 are designed to flex outward during insertion into, and removal from, the gap 152.

[0068] In the illustrated embodiment, the tab stop 170 includes a handle portion 174 that is large enough to prevent the nock 130 from being engaged with a crossbow trigger housing, forcing the user to remove the tab stop 170 before nocking the arrow. The handle portion 174 preferably has at least one major dimension 176 that is at least about two times an outside diameter 180 of the arrow shaft 142 (see FIG. 12B) coupled to the nock 130, and more preferably at least about three times the outside diameter of the arrow shaft.

[0069] FIG. 18 illustrates a matched weight arrow 190 that can be both lighted and non-lighted, in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure. As used herein, “matched weight arrows” refers to a plurality of arrows with the same functional characteristics, such as for example, length, stiffness, weight, and diameter, that exhibit substantially similar flight characteristics when launched from the same bow. The present matched weight arrows 190 have a weight difference of less than about 10%, more preferably less than about 5%, and most preferably less than about 2%. In operation, matched weight arrows can be used interchangeable without adjusting the sight or scope on the bow.

[0070] The arrow 190 includes a threaded front insert 192 that receives an arrow head (not shown), a shaft 194,

fletching 196, and a rear opening 198 configured to receive any of the bushings and/or nocks disclosed herein. The present matched weight arrow 190 is configured to have substantially the same weight, whether used with or without the present lighted nock assembly 120, so their flight characteristics are the substantially the same. Consequently, a user can select either a lighted arrow or a non-lighted arrow without having to compensate for different weight arrows.

[0071] For a non-lighted arrow 190, for example, the bushing 60 (see FIG. 8B) and the nock 21 (FIG. 1) are inserted into the rear opening 198, without the lighted nock assembly 120.

[0072] For a lighted arrow 190, for example, the present lighted nock assembly 120 and bushing 122 is inserted into the rear opening 198. Since the lighted nock assembly 120 and bushing 122 are heavier than just the nock 21 and bushing 60, weight is preferably removed elsewhere from the lighted arrow, such as from the shaft 194, the threaded front insert 192, or the fletching 196, so the lighted arrow weighs substantially the same as a non-lighted arrow. In one embodiment, weight is removed from the front insert 192 of the lighted arrow to offset the weight added by the lighted nock assembly 120. In one embodiment, the rear bushing 122 used with the lighted arrow assembly 120 is lighter than the bushing 60, to offset some or all of the weight difference. In another embodiment, weight is added to the non-lighted arrows, such for example, in the threaded front insert 192 or the rear bushing 60, equal to the amount of weight added by the lighted nock assembly 120 and bushing 122. Consequently, the user can carry both lighted arrows and non-lighted arrows having substantially the same weight and flight characteristics. These matched weight arrows 190 can be used interchangeable without effecting accuracy.

[0073] Where a range of values is provided, it is understood that each intervening value, to the tenth of the unit of the lower limit unless the context clearly dictates otherwise, between the upper and lower limit of that range and any other stated or intervening value in that stated range is encompassed within this disclosure. The upper and lower limits of these smaller ranges which may independently be included in the smaller ranges is also encompassed within the disclosure, subject to any specifically excluded limit in the stated range. Where the stated range includes one or both of the limits, ranges excluding either both of those included limits are also included in the disclosure.

[0074] Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this disclosure belongs. Although any methods and materials similar or equivalent to those described herein can also be used in the practice or testing of the various methods and materials are now described. All patents and publications mentioned herein, including those cited in the Background of the application, are hereby incorporated by reference to disclose and described the methods and/or materials in connection with which the publications are cited.

[0075] The publications discussed herein are provided solely for their disclosure prior to the filing date of the present application. Nothing herein is to be construed as an admission that the present disclosure is not entitled to antedate such publication by virtue of prior invention. Fur-

ther, the dates of publication provided may be different from the actual publication dates which may need to be independently confirmed.

[0076] Other embodiments are possible. Although the description above contains much specificity, these should not be construed as limiting the scope of the disclosure, but as merely providing illustrations of some of the presently preferred embodiments. It is also contemplated that various combinations or sub-combinations of the specific features and aspects of the embodiments may be made and still fall within the scope of this disclosure. It should be understood that various features and aspects of the disclosed embodiments can be combined with or substituted for one another in order to form varying modes disclosed. Thus, it is intended that the scope of at least some of the present disclosure should not be limited by the particular disclosed embodiments described above.

[0077] Thus the scope of this disclosure should be determined by the appended claims and their legal equivalents. Therefore, it will be appreciated that the scope of the present disclosure fully encompasses other embodiments which may become obvious to those skilled in the art, and that the scope of the present disclosure is accordingly to be limited by nothing other than the appended claims, in which reference to an element in the singular is not intended to mean “one and only one” unless explicitly so stated, but rather “one or more.” All structural, chemical, and functional equivalents to the elements of the above-described preferred embodiment that are known to those of ordinary skill in the art are expressly incorporated herein by reference and are intended to be encompassed by the present claims. Moreover, it is not necessary for a device or method to address each and every problem sought to be solved by the present disclosure, for it to be encompassed by the present claims. Furthermore, no element, component, or method step in the present disclosure is intended to be dedicated to the public regardless of whether the element, component, or method step is explicitly recited in the claims.

1-20. (canceled)

21. A matched arrow set, comprising:

a first arrow including:

a first shaft;

a first bushing coupled to the first shaft; and

a first nock received in the first bushing, the first nock comprising a light assembly; and

a second arrow including:

a second shaft;

a second bushing coupled to the second shaft; and

a second nock received in the second bushing, the second nock excluding a light assembly;

wherein a weight of the first arrow is substantially the same as a weight of the second arrow.

22. The matched arrow set of claim **21**, wherein the light assembly is configured to selectively alter between a non-lighted state before an arrow is fired to a lighted state after the arrow is fired.

23. The matched arrow set of claim **21**, wherein the first nock is a lighted nock, and the first nock includes:

a head configured to engage a drawstring;

a shank formed with the head, the shank configured to be received within the first bushing and defining a cavity; and

the light assembly received in the cavity.

24. The matched arrow set of claim **21**, wherein the first nock is a lighted nock, and the lighted nock moves within the first bushing between an activated position and a deactivated position.

25. The matched arrow set of claim **21**, wherein the first arrow defines substantially the same length as the second arrow.

26. The matched arrow set of claim **21**, wherein a weight of the first bushing is less than a weight of the second bushing.

27. The matched arrow set of claim **21**, wherein a weight of the first shaft is less than a weight of the second shaft.

28. A matched weight arrow set, comprising:

a first arrow including a lighted nock assembly and defining a first weight, the lighted nock assembly including a light assembly; and

a second arrow including a non-lighted nock assembly and defining a second weight, the non-lighted nock assembly excluding a light assembly,

wherein the first weight is within two percent of the second weight.

29. The matched weight arrow set of claim **28**, wherein the first arrow includes a first front insert, and wherein the second arrow includes a second front insert weighing more than the first front insert.

30. The matched weight arrow set of claim **28**, wherein the first arrow includes a first bushing sized to receive the lighted nock assembly, and

wherein the second arrow includes a second bushing sized to receive the non-lighted nock assembly and weighing more than the first bushing.

31. The matched weight arrow set of claim **28**, wherein the first arrow includes a first shaft, and

wherein the second arrow includes a second shaft weighing more than the first shaft.

32. The matched weight arrow set of claim **28**, wherein the light assembly includes a light emitting device and a battery, and

wherein the light emitting device transitions from a deactivated state before the first arrow is fired to an activated state after the first arrow is fired.

33. The matched weight arrow set of claim **28**, wherein the first arrow includes a bushing,

wherein the lighted nock assembly includes:

a head configured to engage a drawstring;

a shank formed with the head and sized to be received within the bushing and defining a cavity; and

the light assembly received in the cavity; and

wherein the lighted nock assembly moves linearly within the bushing between an activated position and a deactivated position.

34. The matched weight arrow set of claim **28**, wherein the first arrow defines substantially the same length as the second arrow.

35. A matched weight arrow set, comprising:
a first arrow defining a first arrow weight and including:
a first shaft;
a first bushing coupled to the first shaft; and
a lighted nock received in the first bushing and including:
a head configured to engage a drawstring;
a shank formed with the head and sized to be received within the first bushing and defining a cavity; and
a light assembly received in the cavity; and
a second arrow defining a second arrow weight and including:
a second shaft;
a second bushing coupled to the second shaft; and
a non-lighted nock received in the second bushing, the non-lighted nock excluding a light assembly;
wherein the first arrow weight is within five percent of the second arrow weight.

36. The matched weight arrow set of claim **35**, wherein:
the lighted nock defines a lighted nock weight;
the non-lighted nock defines a non-lighted nock weight;
a nock difference weight is defined by the lighted nock weight minus the non-lighted nock weight;

the first shaft and the first bushing define a first base weight;
the second shaft and the second bushing define a second base weight; and
the first base weight is less than the second base weight by the nock difference weight.

37. The matched weight arrow set of claim **35**, wherein the first arrow defines substantially the same length as the second arrow.

38. The matched weight arrow set of claim **35**, wherein a weight of the first bushing is less than a weight of the second bushing.

39. The matched weight arrow set of claim **35**, wherein a weight of the first shaft is less than a weight of the second shaft.

40. The matched weight arrow set of claim **35**, further comprising:

a battery stop at least partially disposed within the first bushing and coupled to a portion of the light assembly, the battery stop including a first recess;
wherein a frictional member at least partially resides within the first recess and a second recess defined by the first bushing.

* * * * *