



US 20250264681A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**

Sedor et al.

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2025/0264681 A1**

(43) **Pub. Date:** Aug. 21, 2025

(54) **OPTICAL DISTRIBUTION AND SPLICING FRAME INCLUDING CASSETTES**

(71) Applicant: **Panduit Corp.**, Tinley Park, IL (US)

(72) Inventors: **Thomas M. Sedor**, Orland Park, IL (US); **Max W. Hibner**, Glenview, IL (US); **Michael R. Walters**, Chicago, IL (US); **Alex C. Brouwer**, New Lenox, IL (US); **Michael Mayo**, New Lenox, IL (US); **Bon B. Sledzinski**, Westmont, IL (US); **Benjamin J. Berridge**, Griffith, IN (US)

(73) Assignee: **Panduit Corp.**, Tinley Park, IL (US)

(21) Appl. No.: **19/201,490**

(22) Filed: **May 7, 2025**

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 18/591,372, filed on Feb. 29, 2024, now Pat. No. 12,321,032, which is a continuation of application No. 17/477,845, filed on Sep. 17, 2021, now Pat. No. 11,947,178.

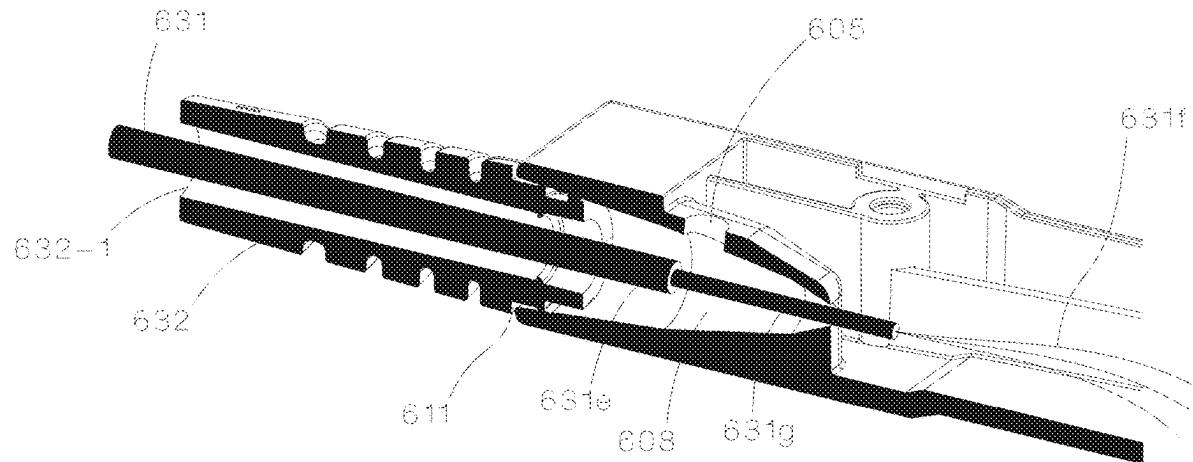
(60) Provisional application No. 63/079,739, filed on Sep. 17, 2020, provisional application No. 63/231,457, filed on Aug. 10, 2021.

Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G02B 6/44 (2006.01)
G02B 6/38 (2006.01)
(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC *G02B 6/4455* (2013.01); *G02B 6/3825* (2013.01); *G02B 6/44524* (2023.05); *G02B 6/44526* (2023.05); *G02B 6/44528* (2023.05);
G02B 6/4478 (2013.01)

ABSTRACT

An optical distribution and splice frame system includes rack(s), enclosure(s), cable management component(s), and/or cassette(s) that have features to allow for different cable management configurations not yet available in the market. A fiber optic cassette and enclosure are designed to enable flexibility in cable management configurations for the overall system.



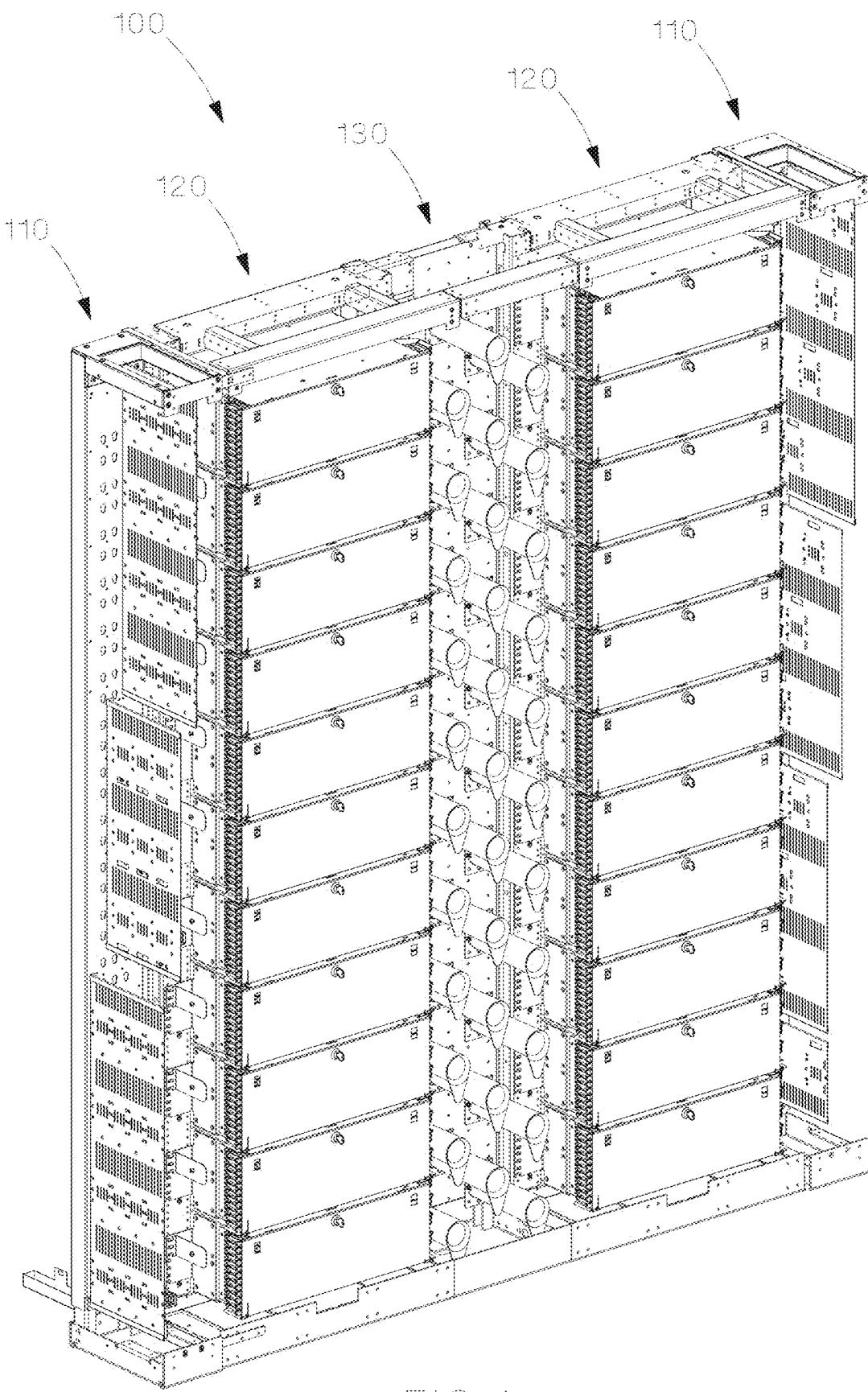


FIG. 1

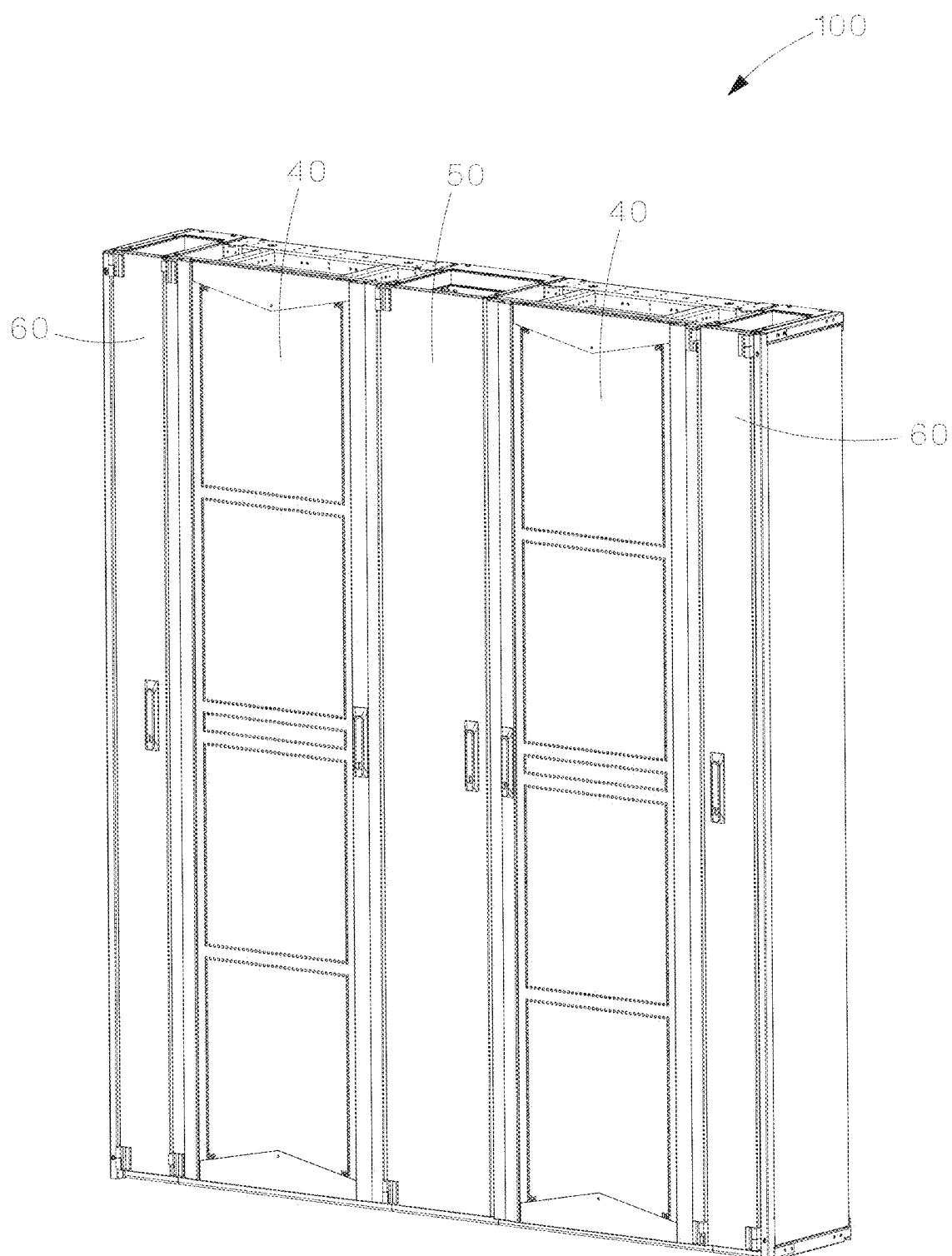
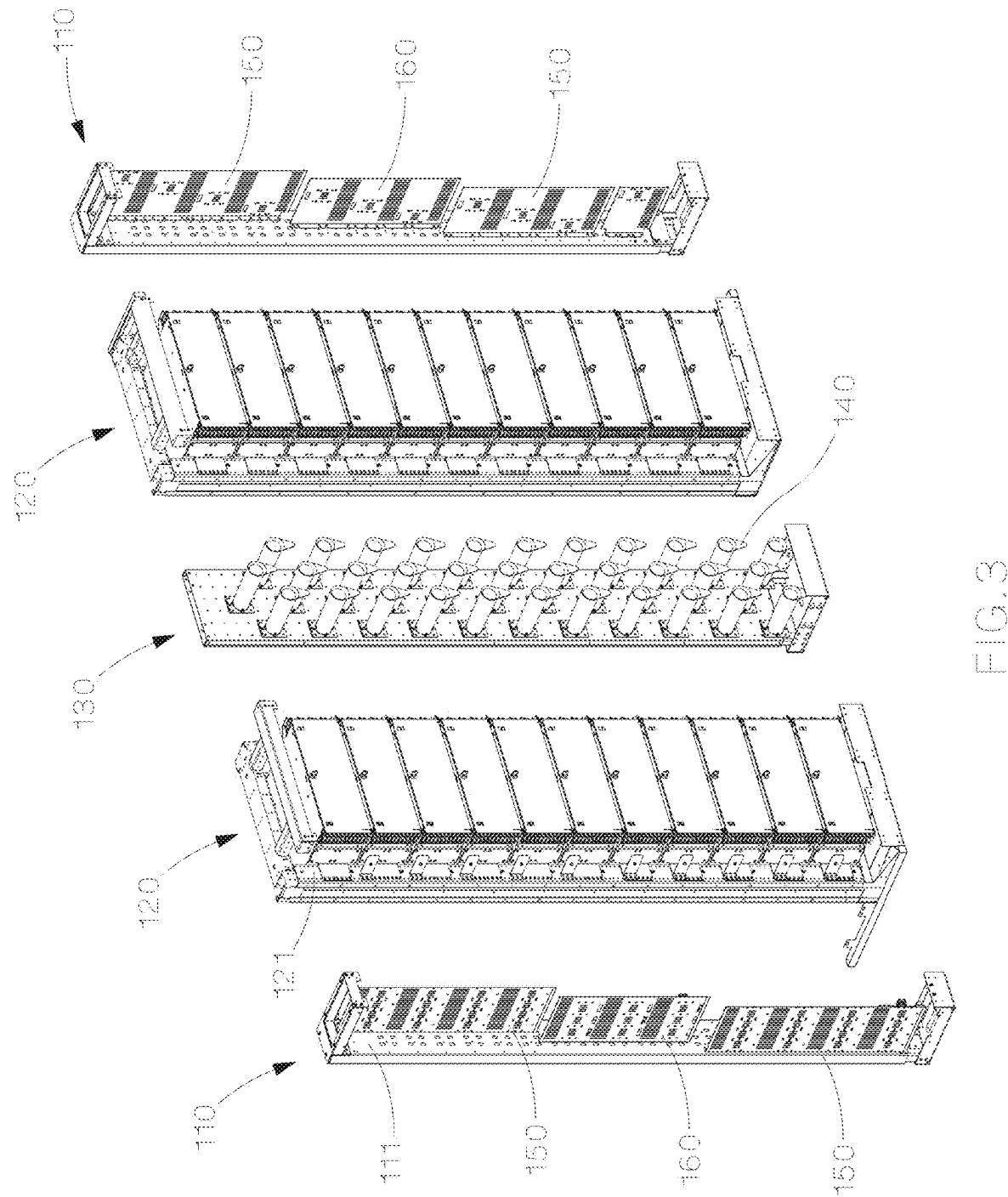


FIG.2



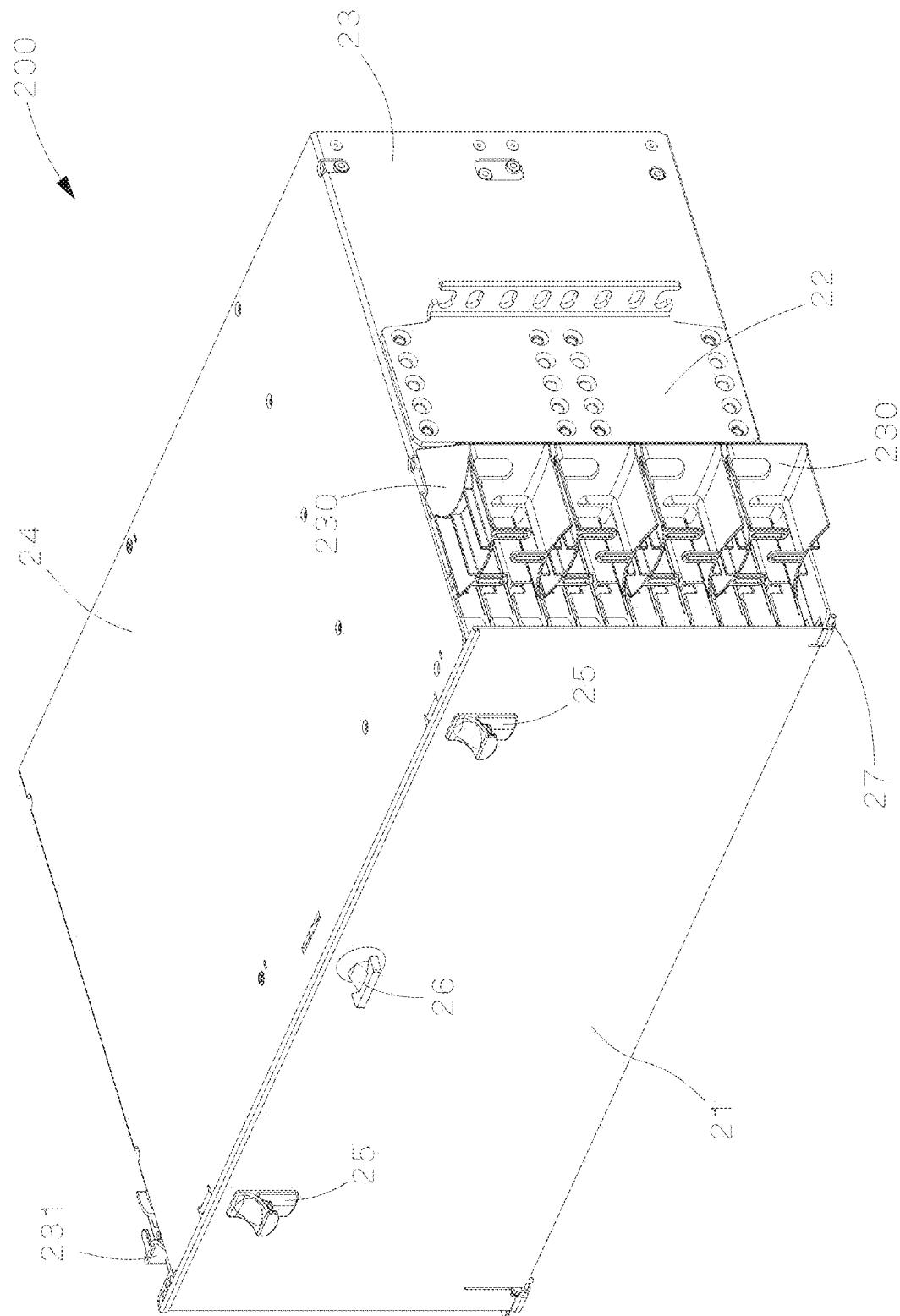


FIG. 4

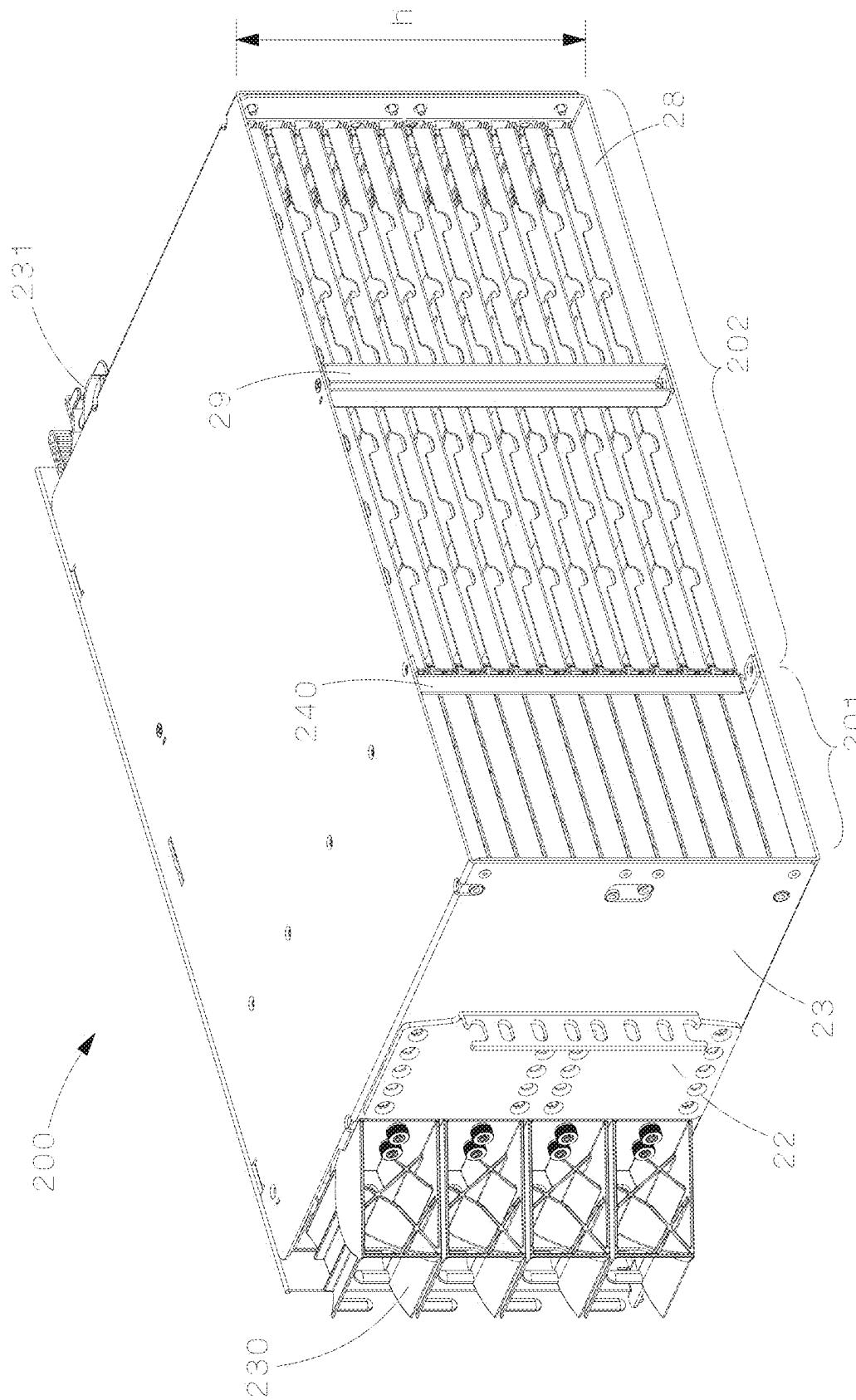


FIG. 5

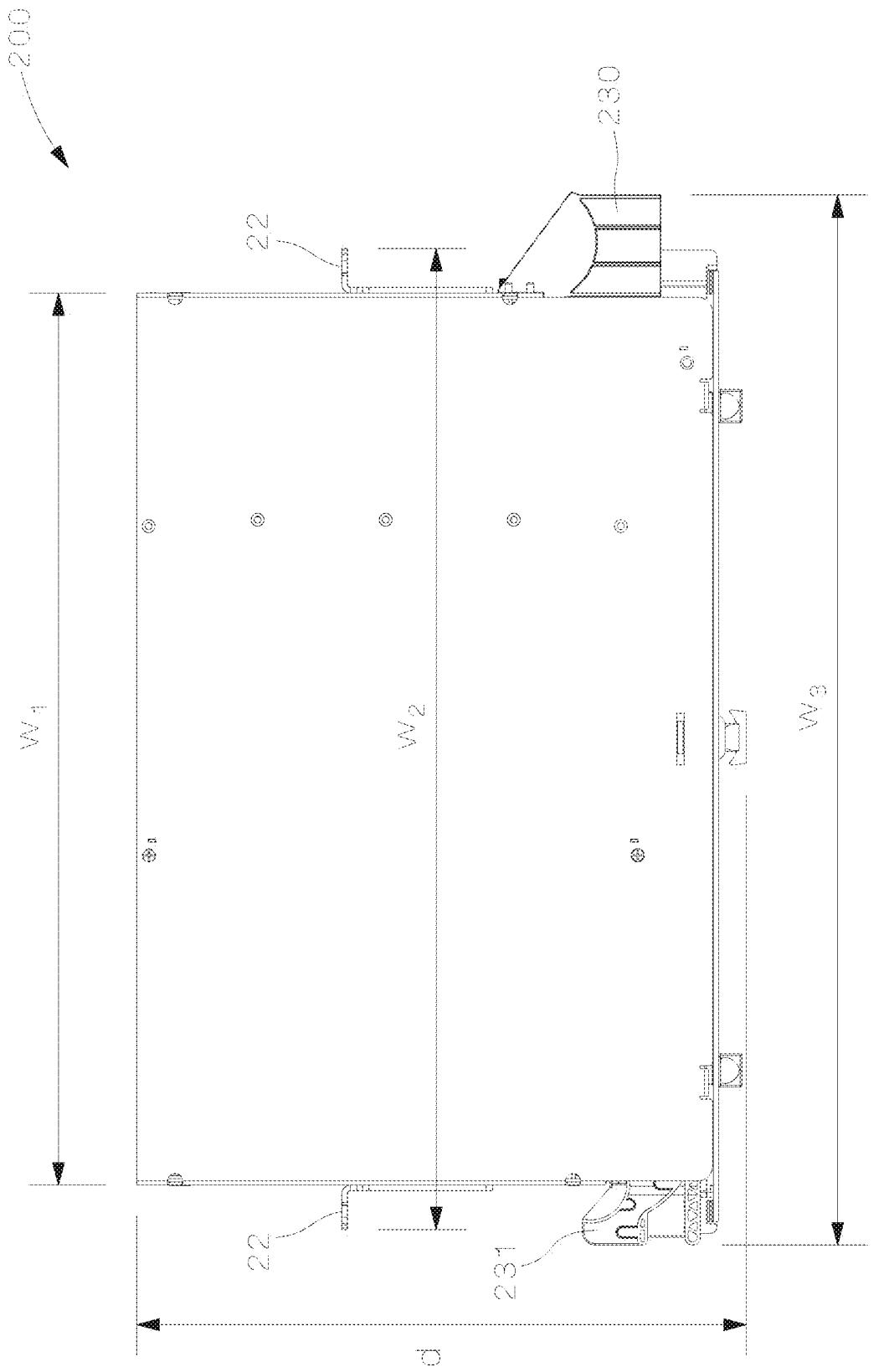
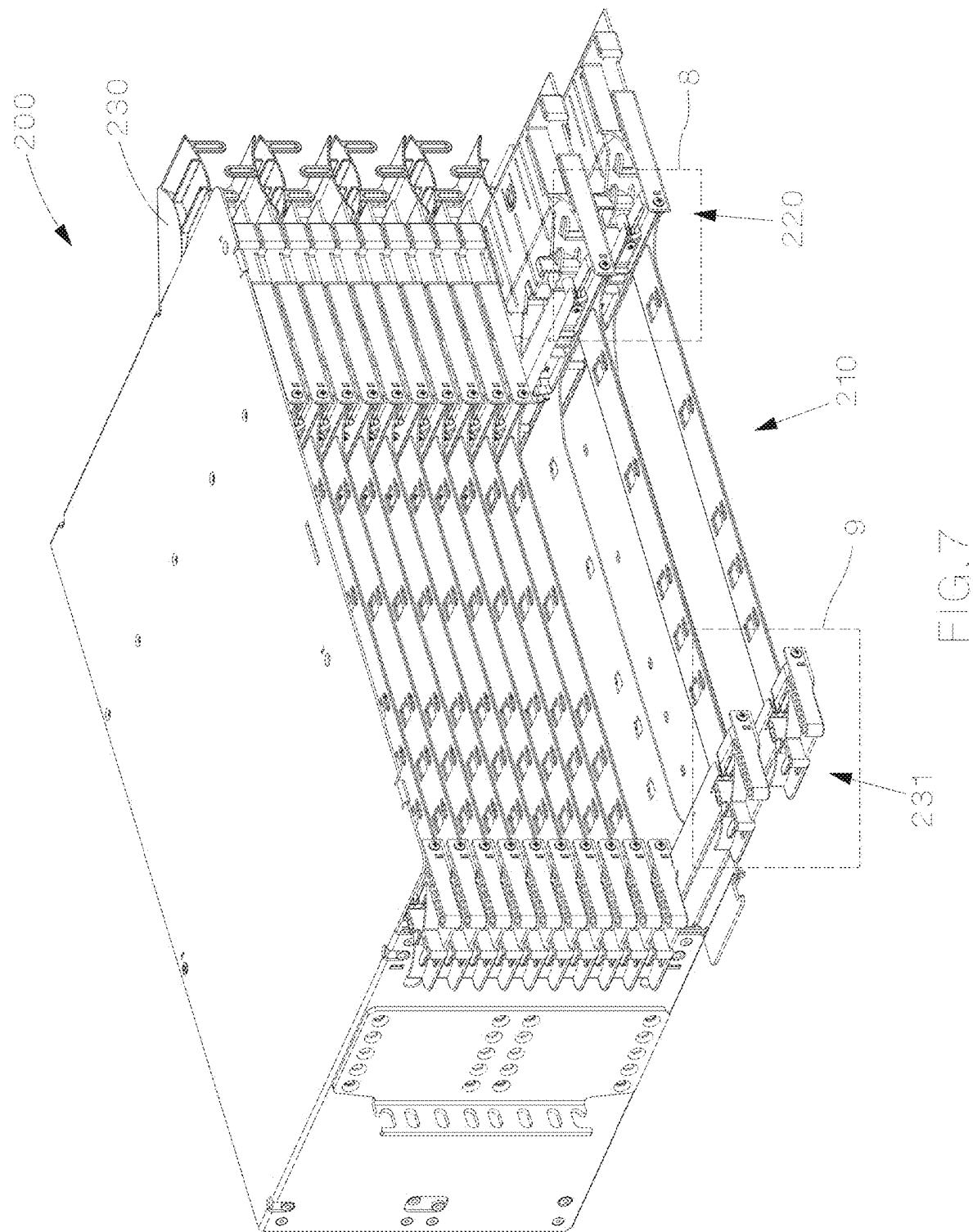


FIG. 6



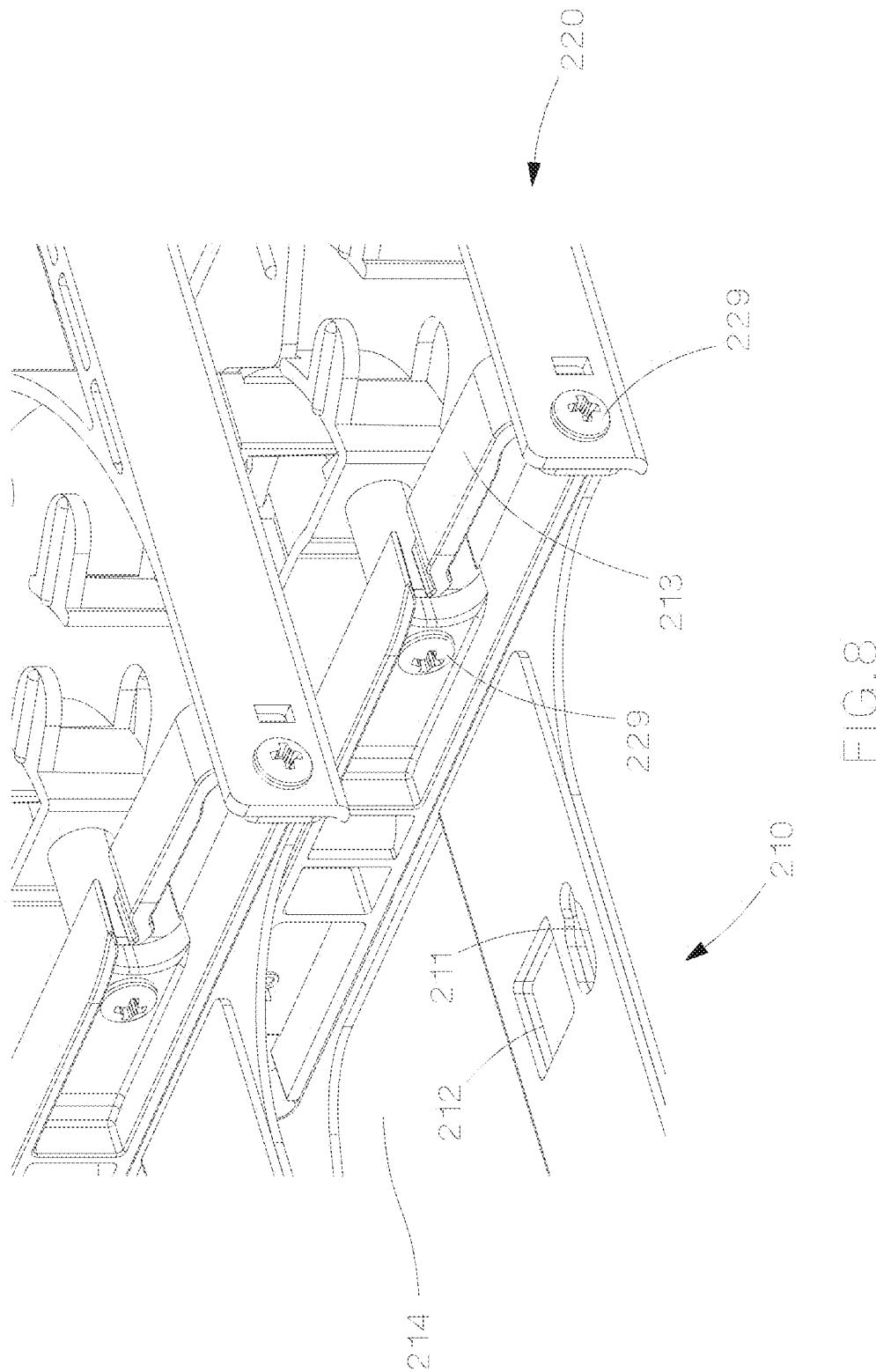


FIG. 8

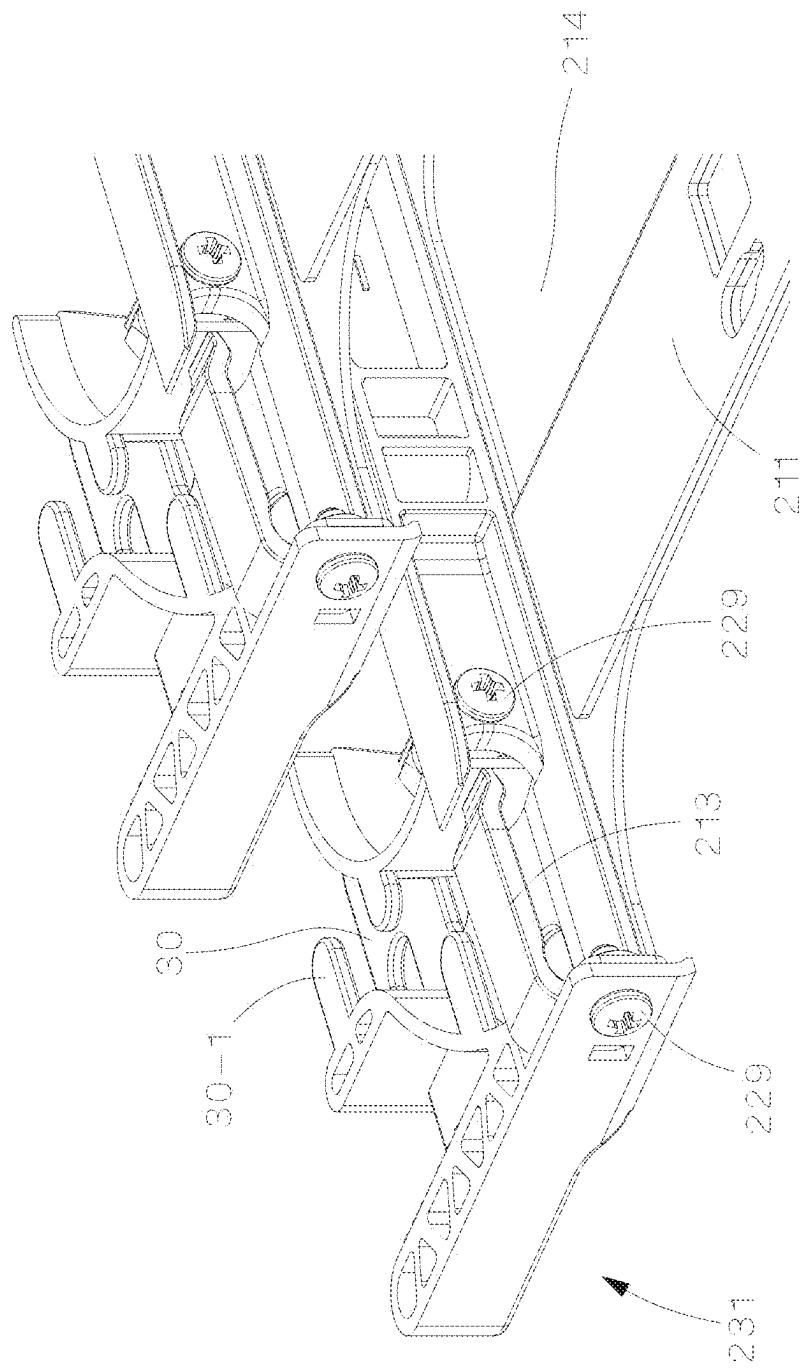
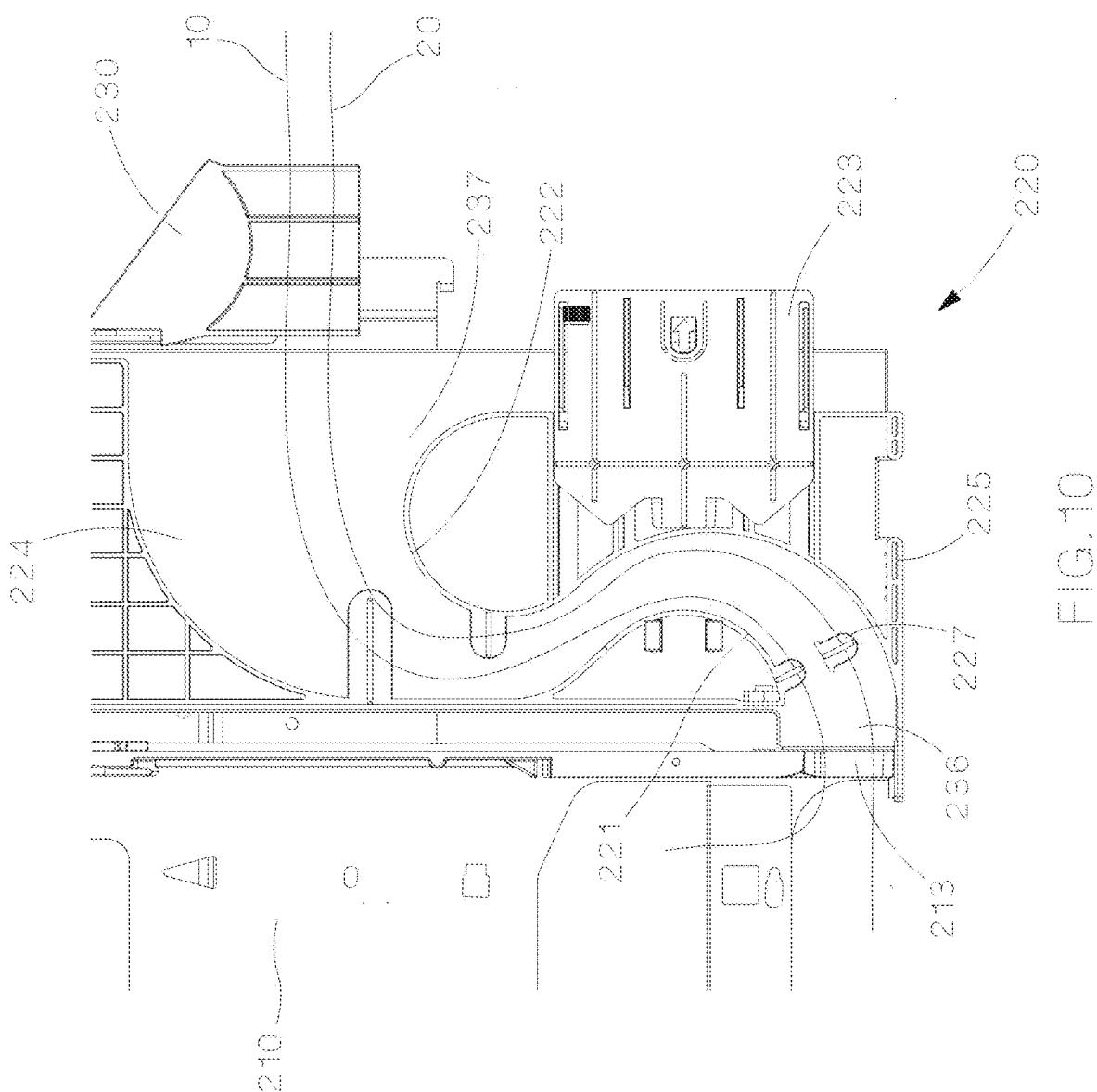
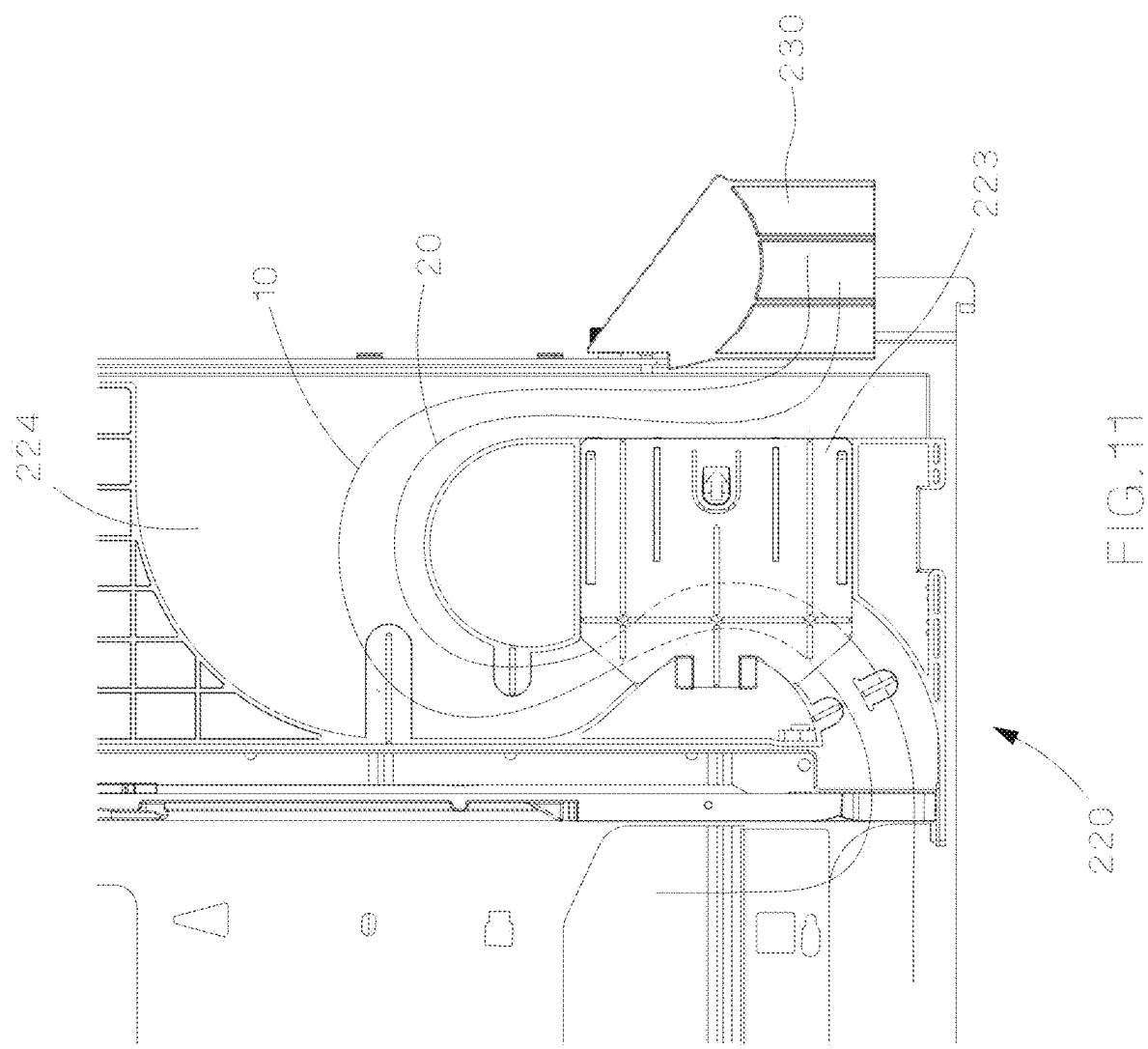


FIG. 9





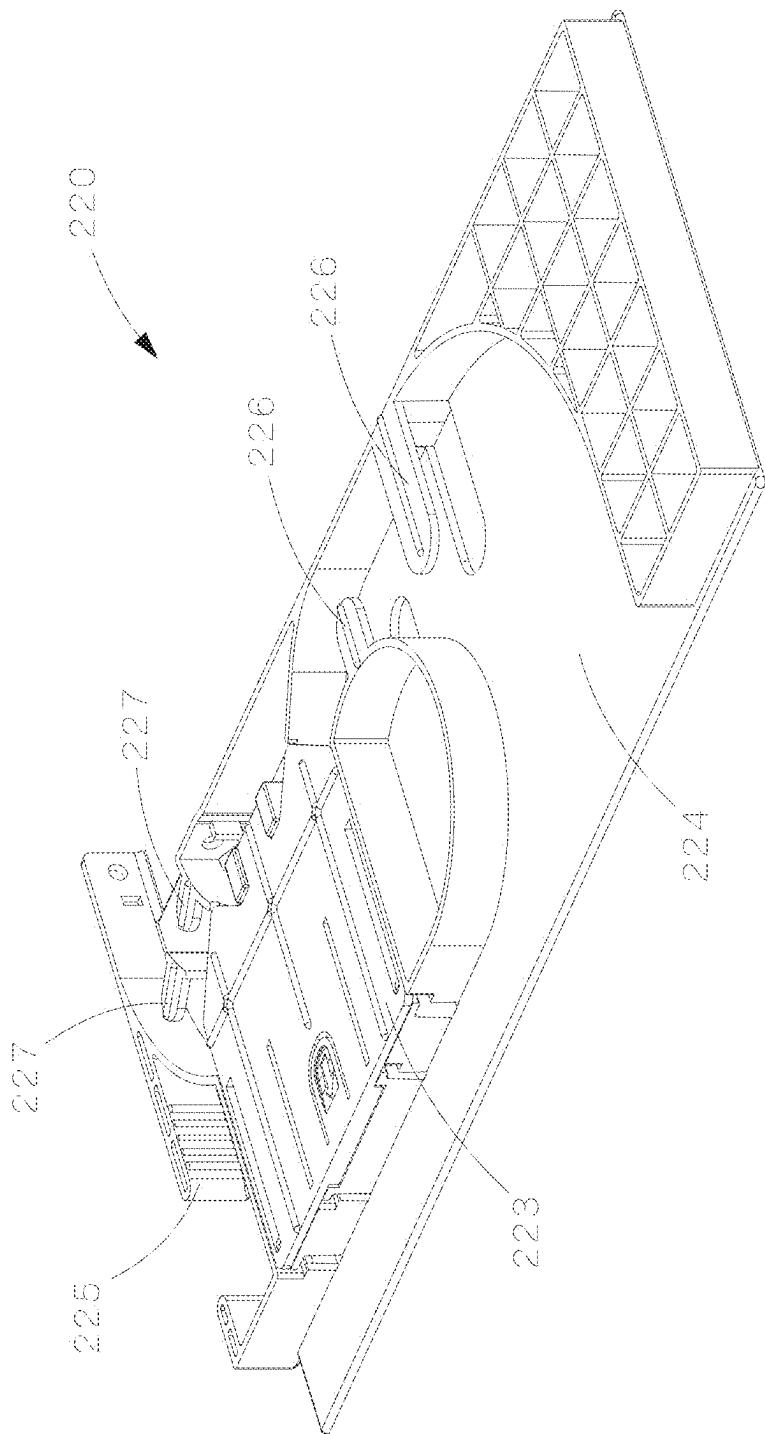


FIG. 12

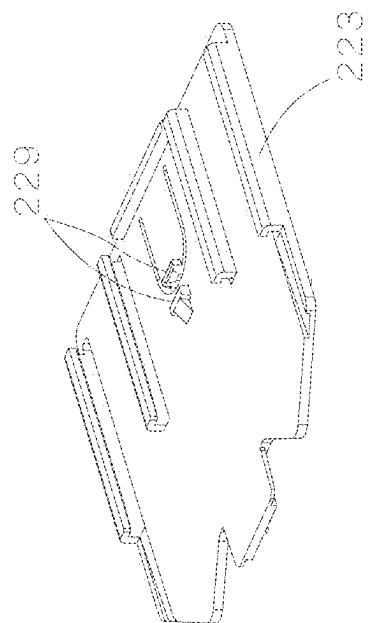


FIG. 14

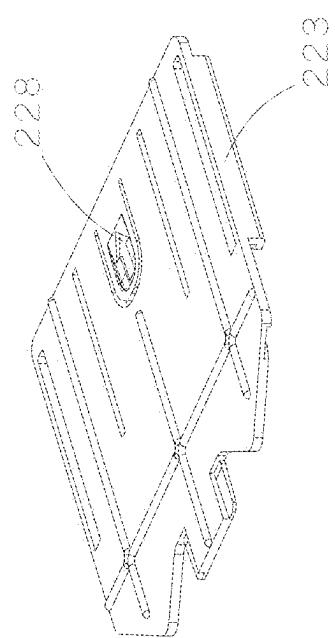


FIG. 13

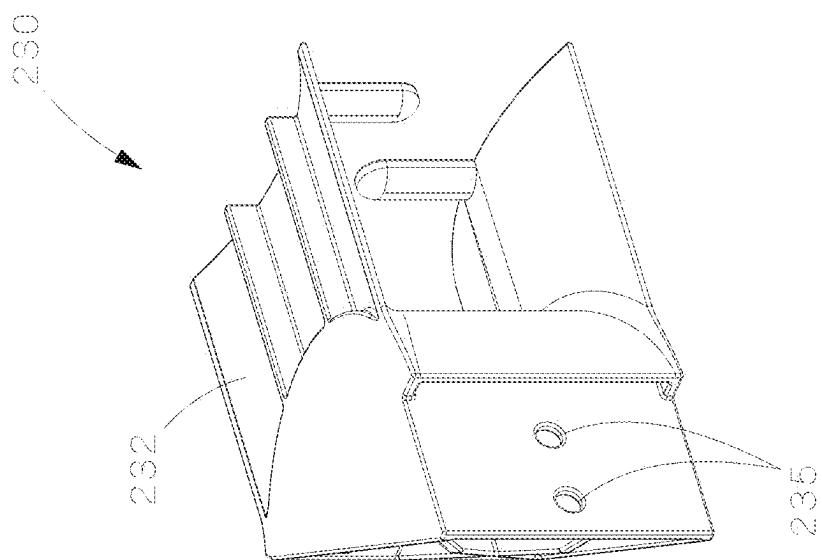


FIG. 16

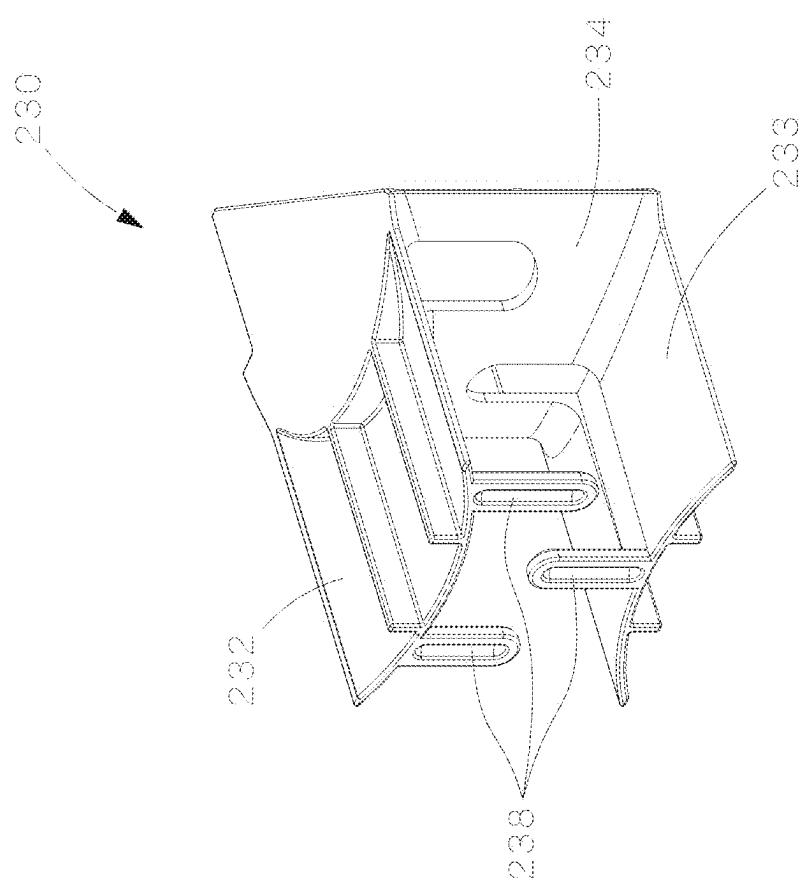


FIG. 15

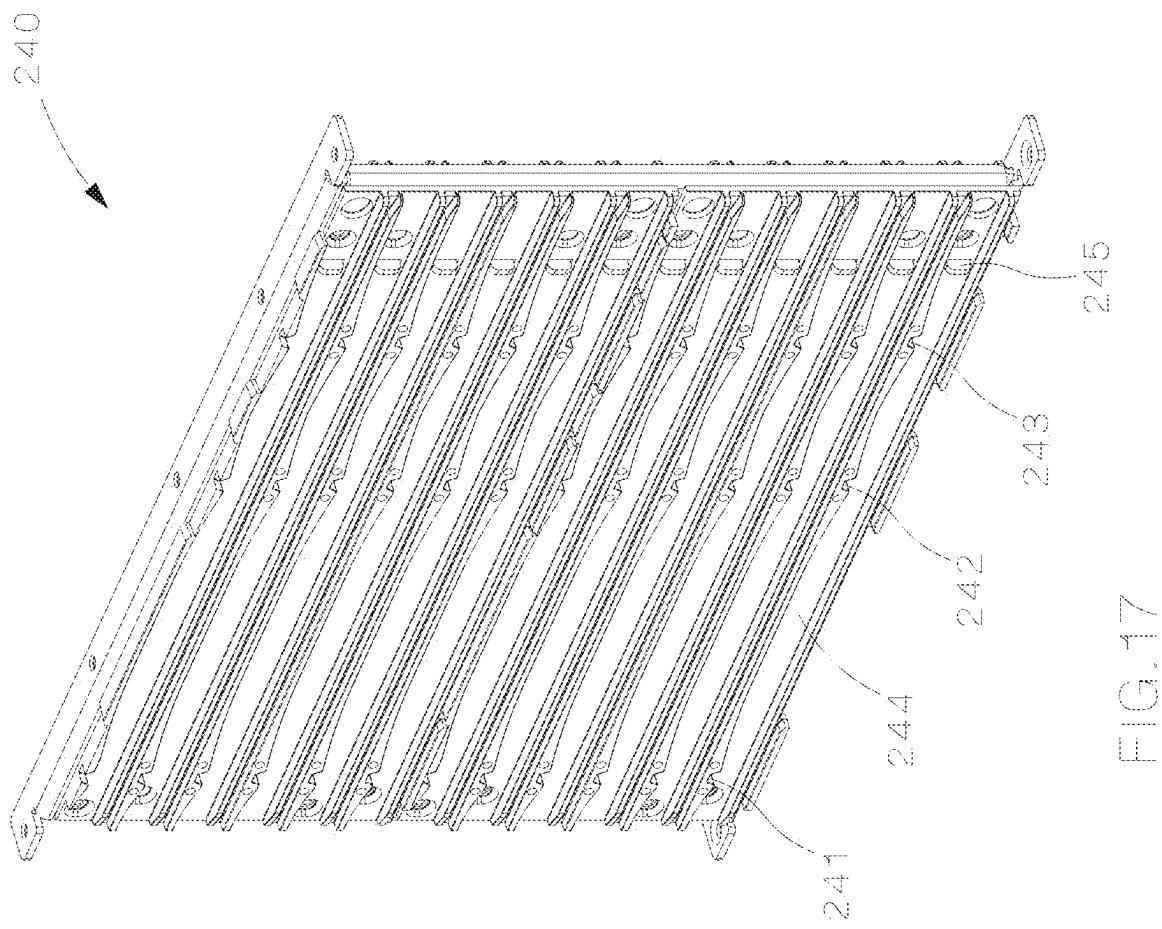


FIG. 17

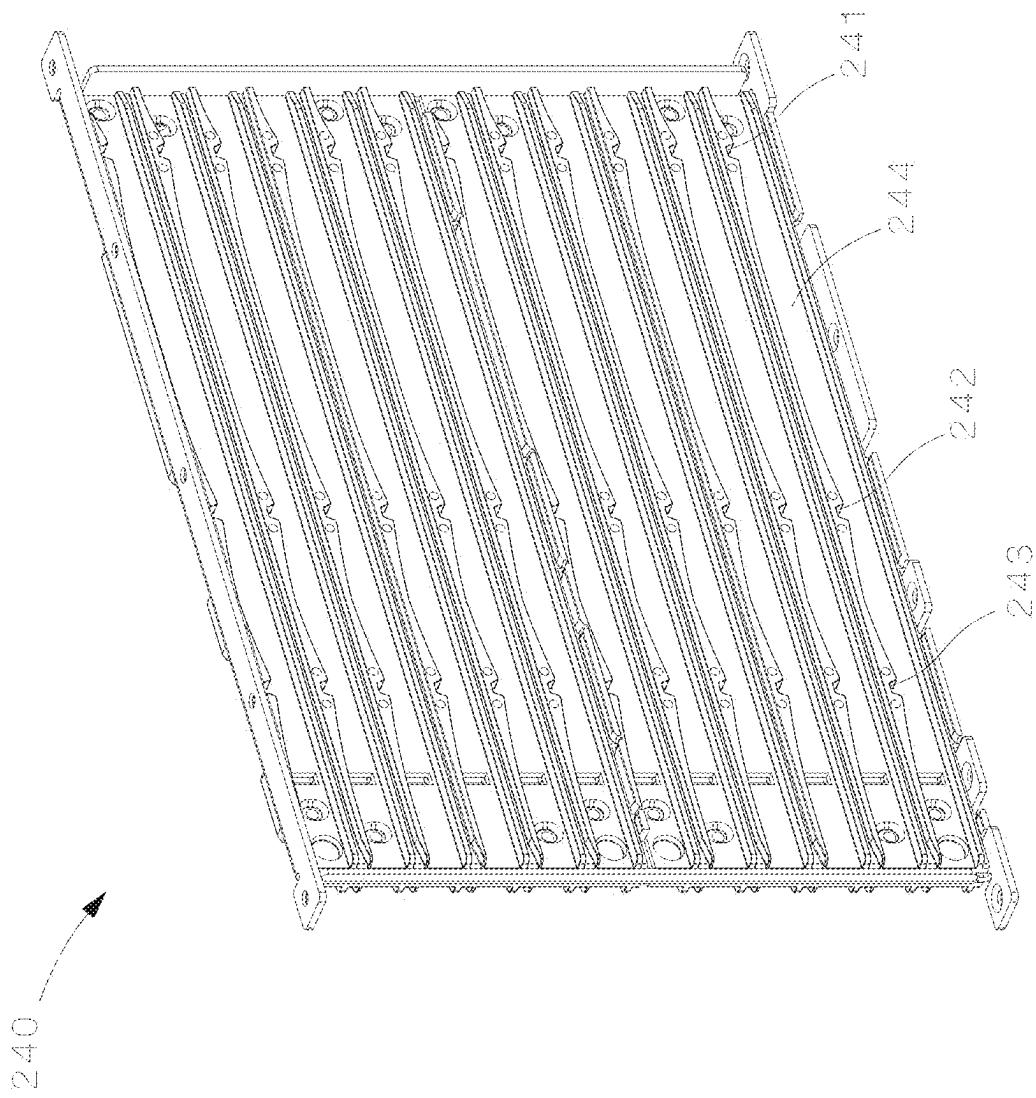


FIG. 18

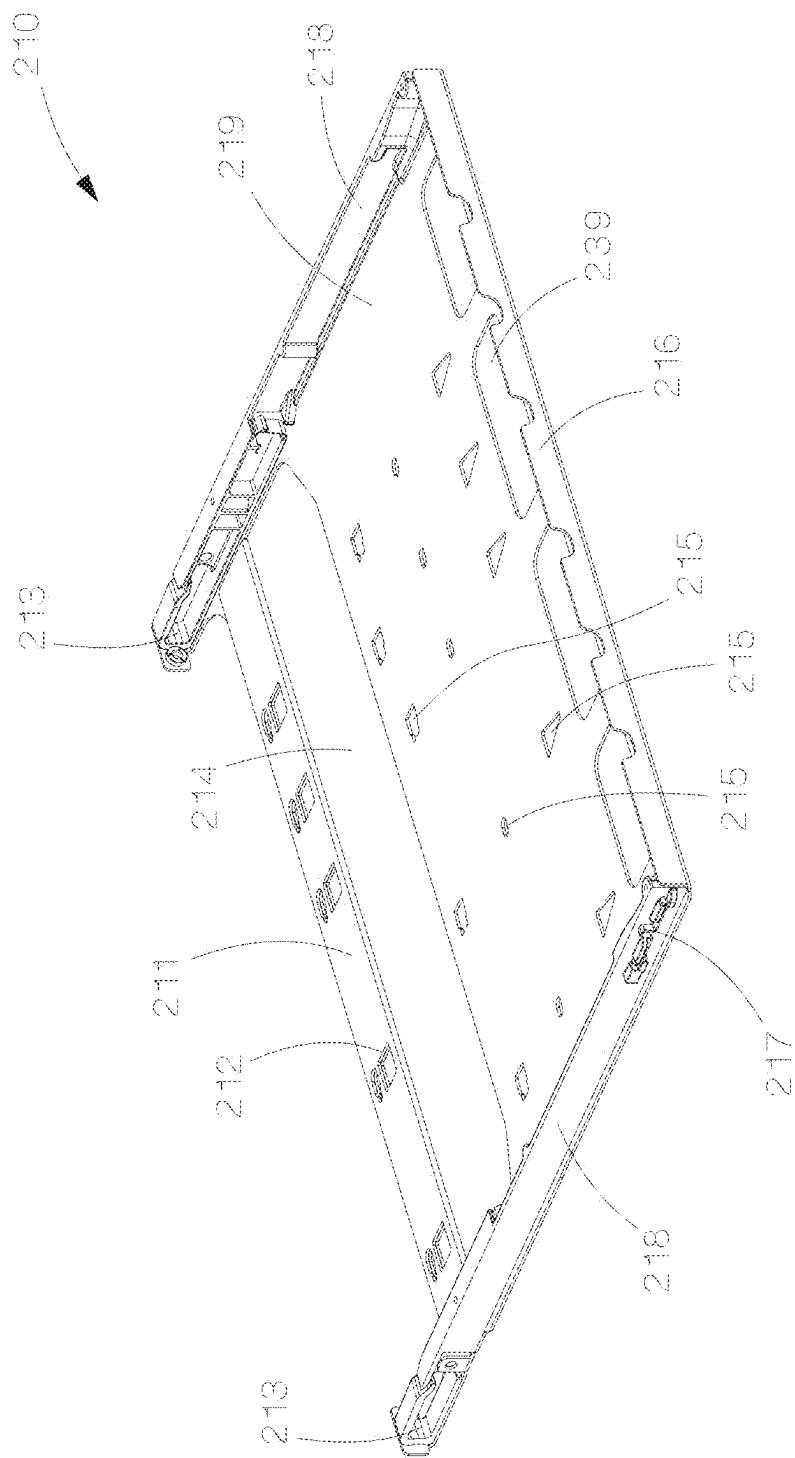


FIG. 19

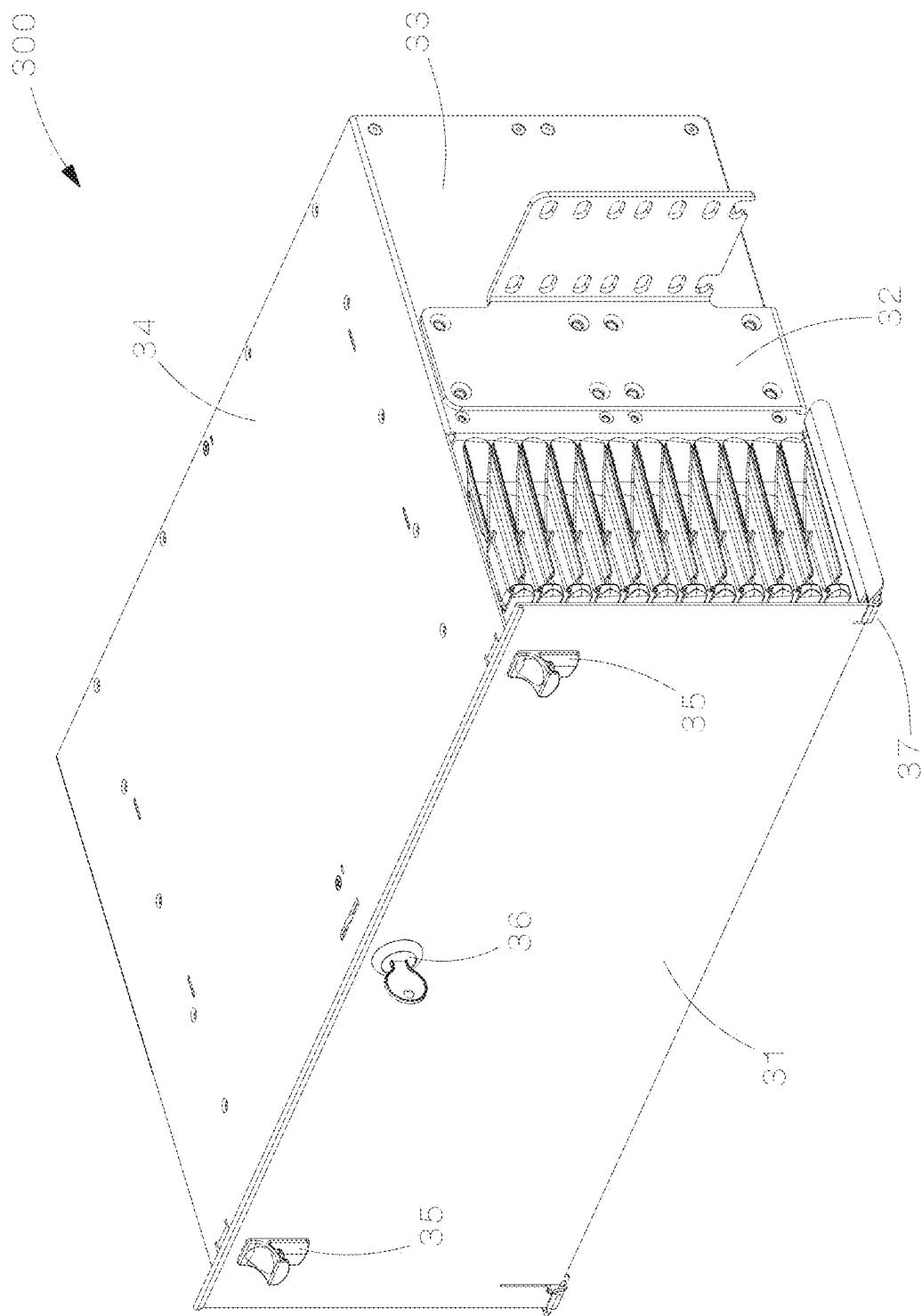


FIG. 20

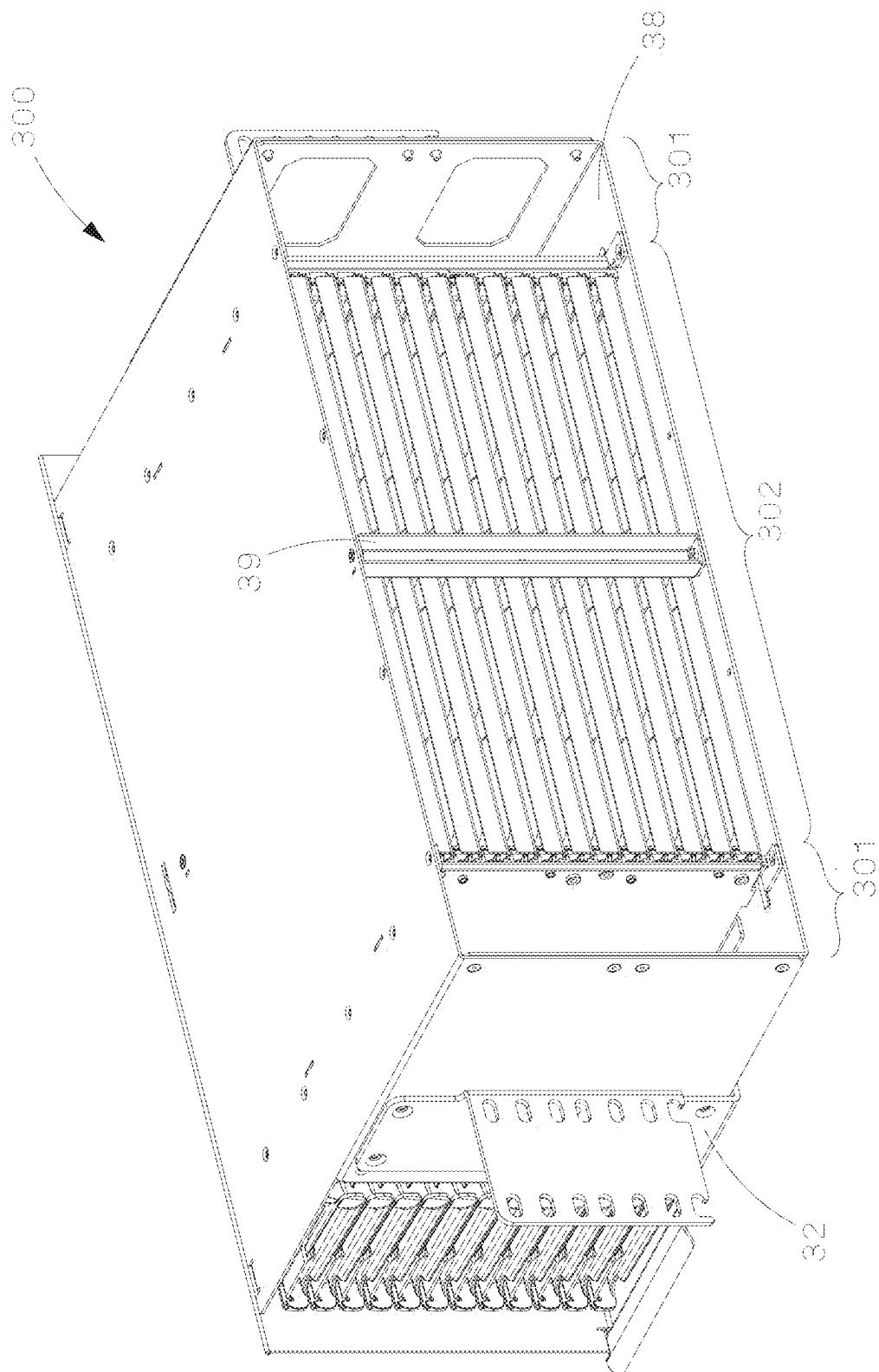


FIG. 21

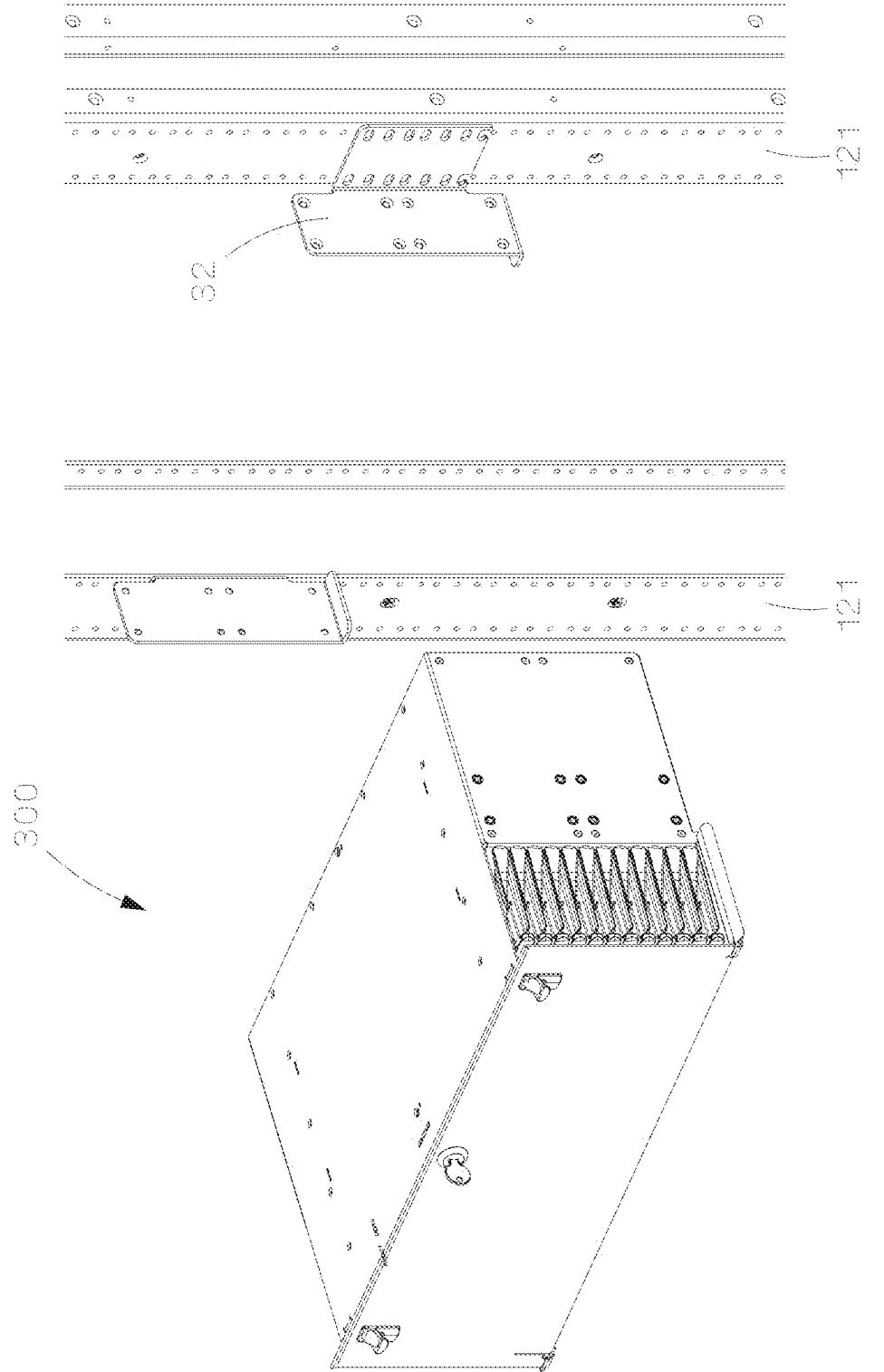
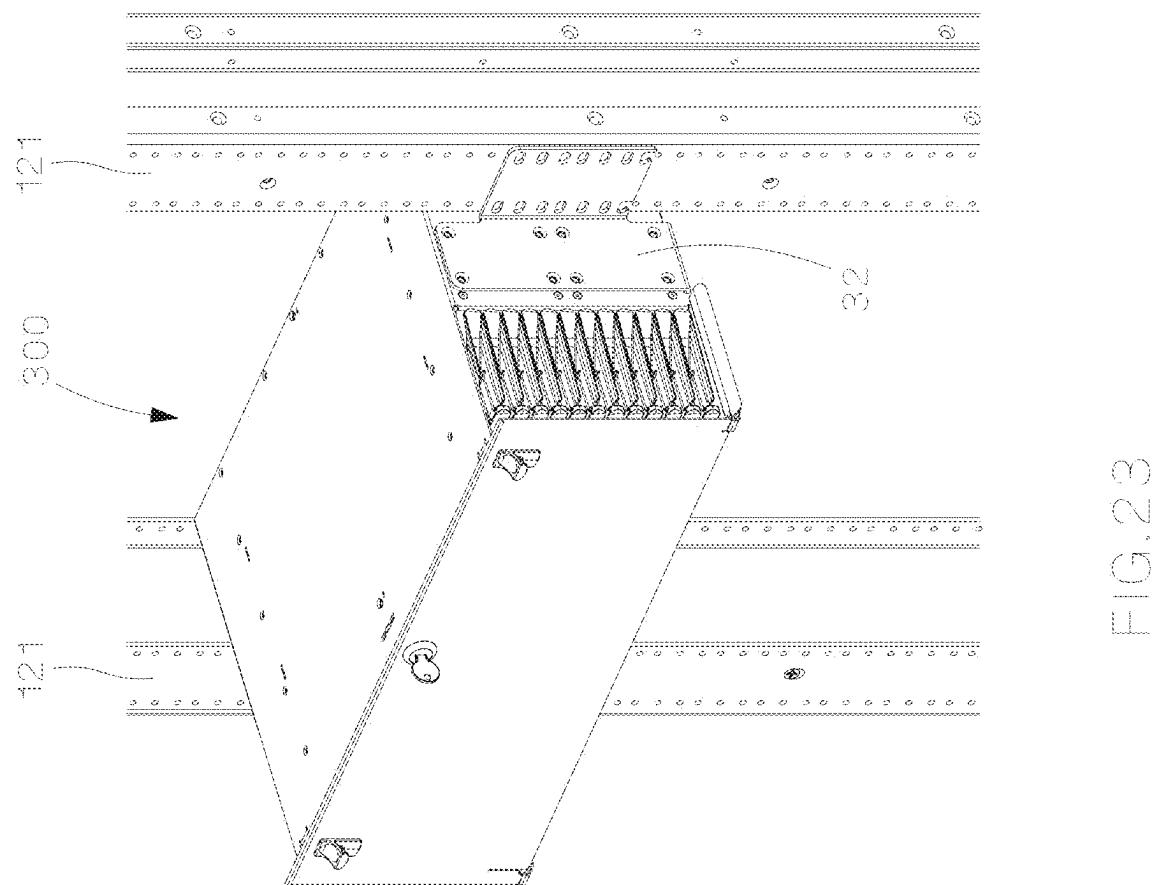


FIG. 22



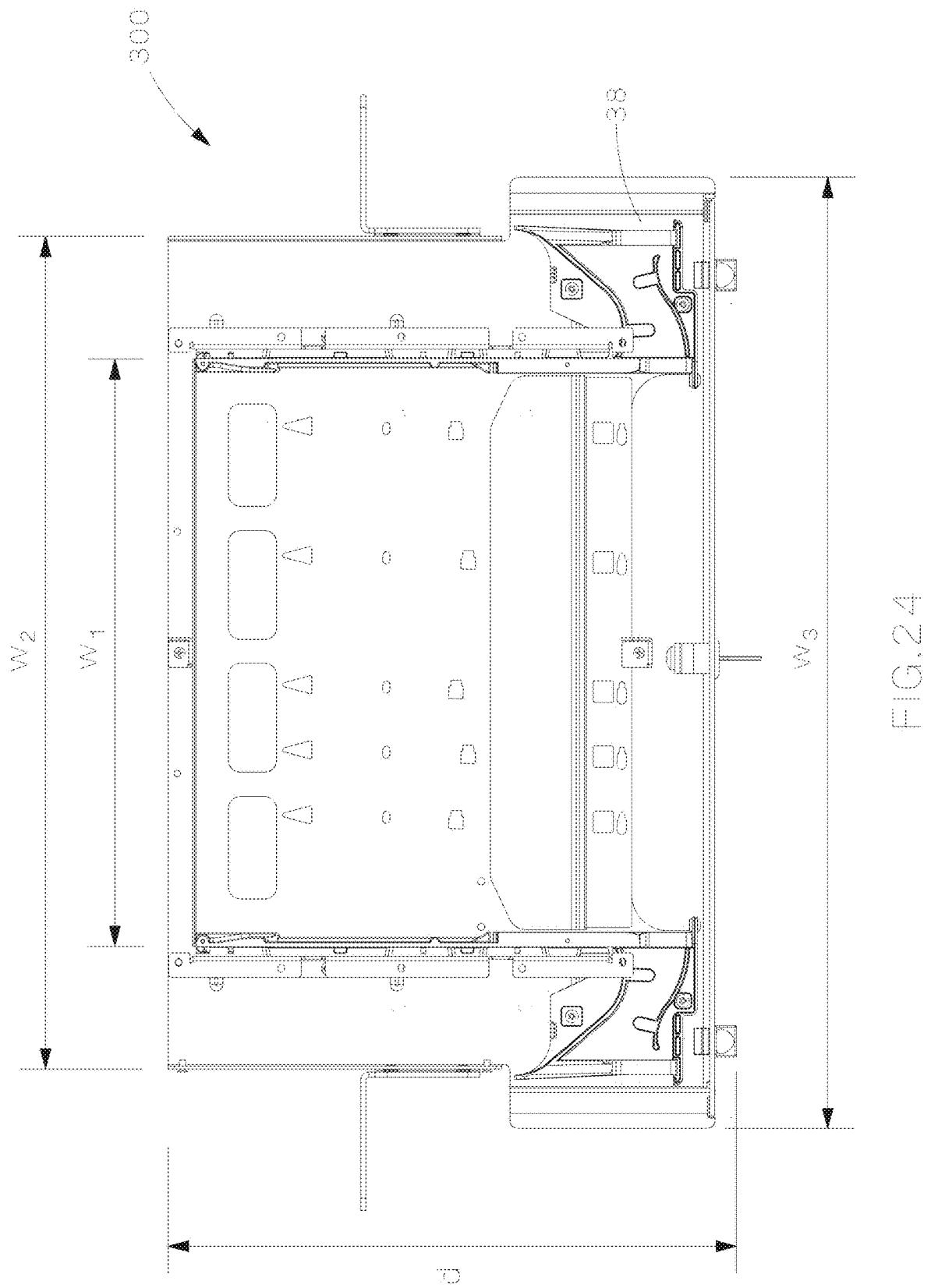


FIG. 24

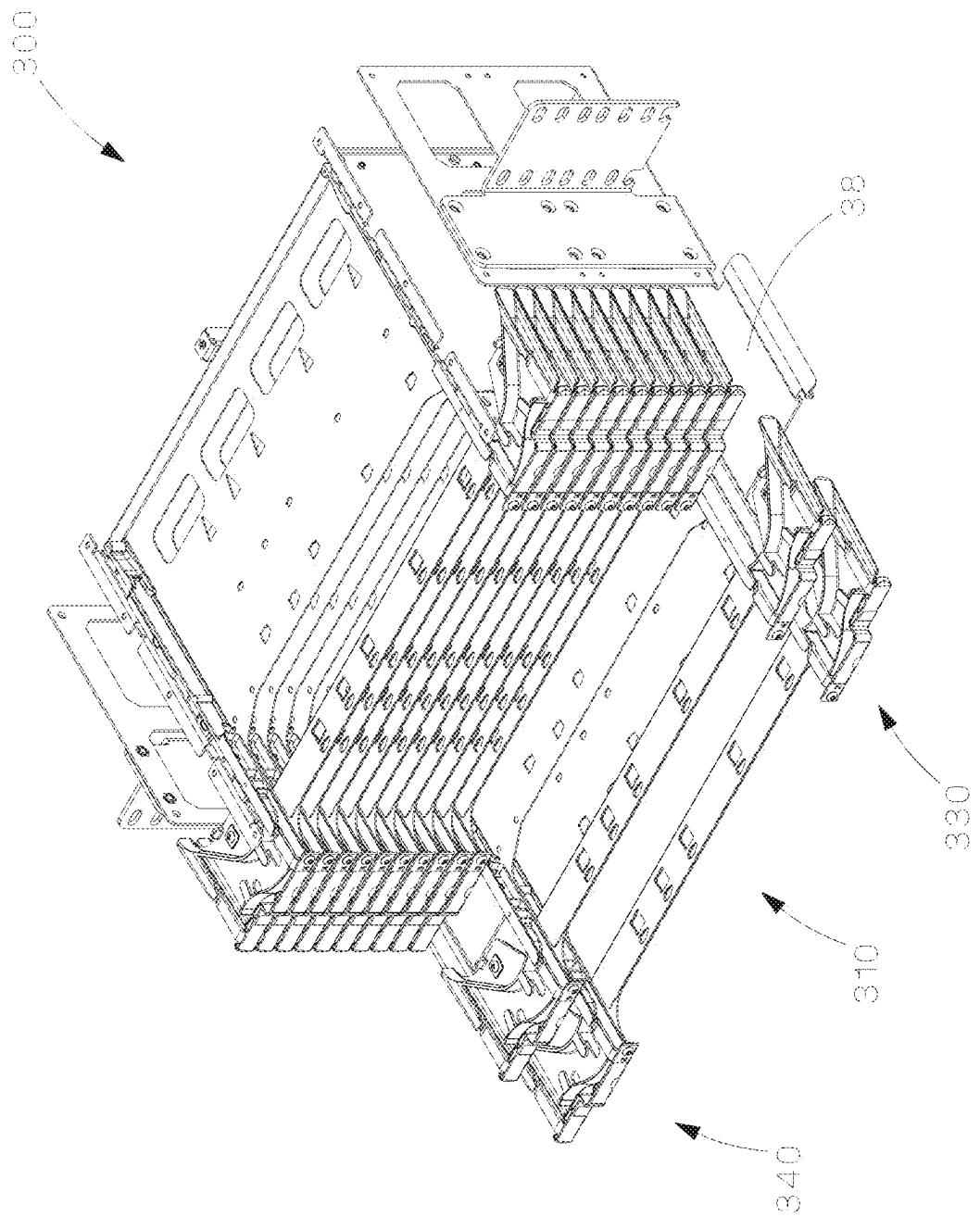


FIG. 25

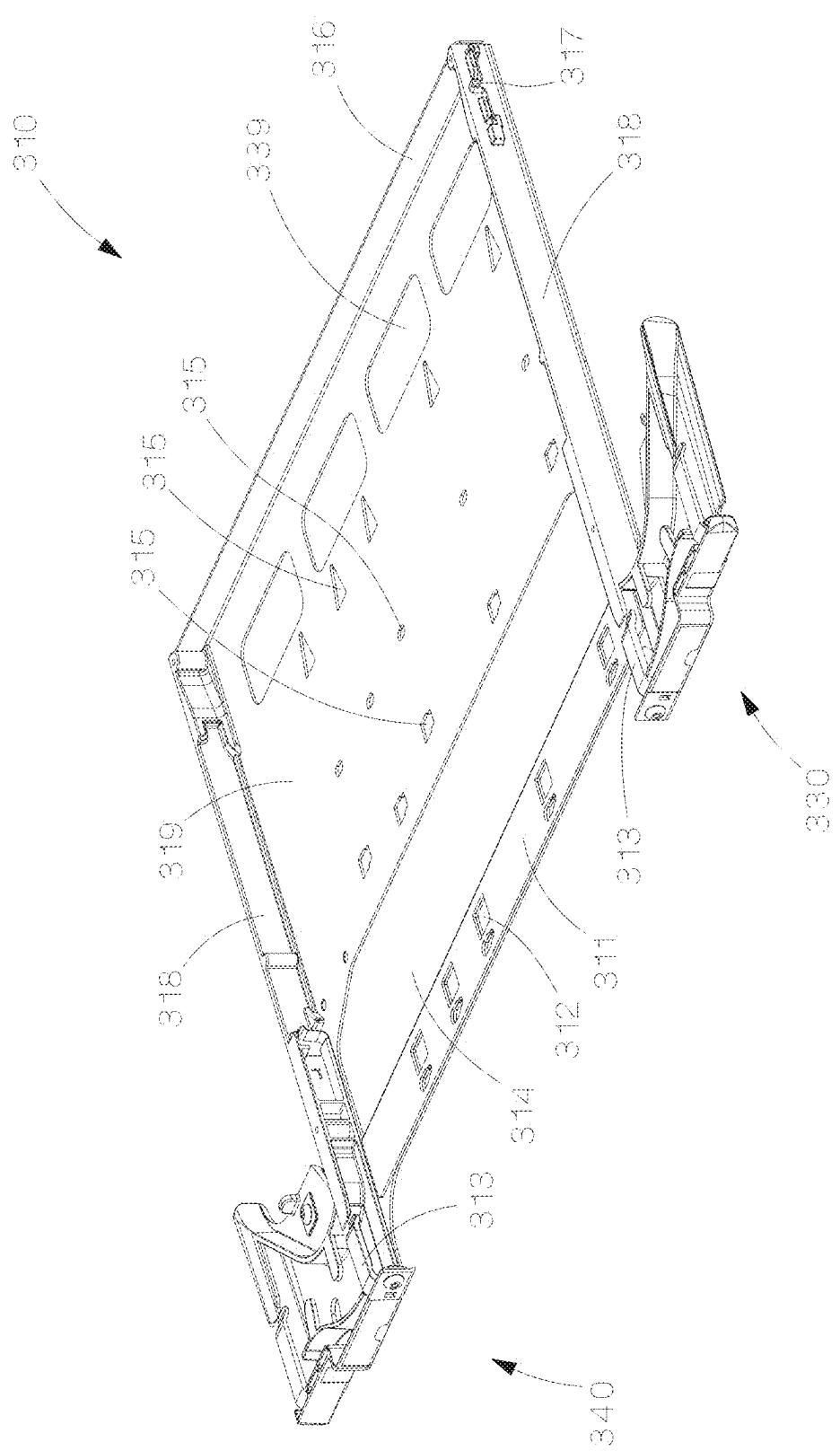


FIG. 26

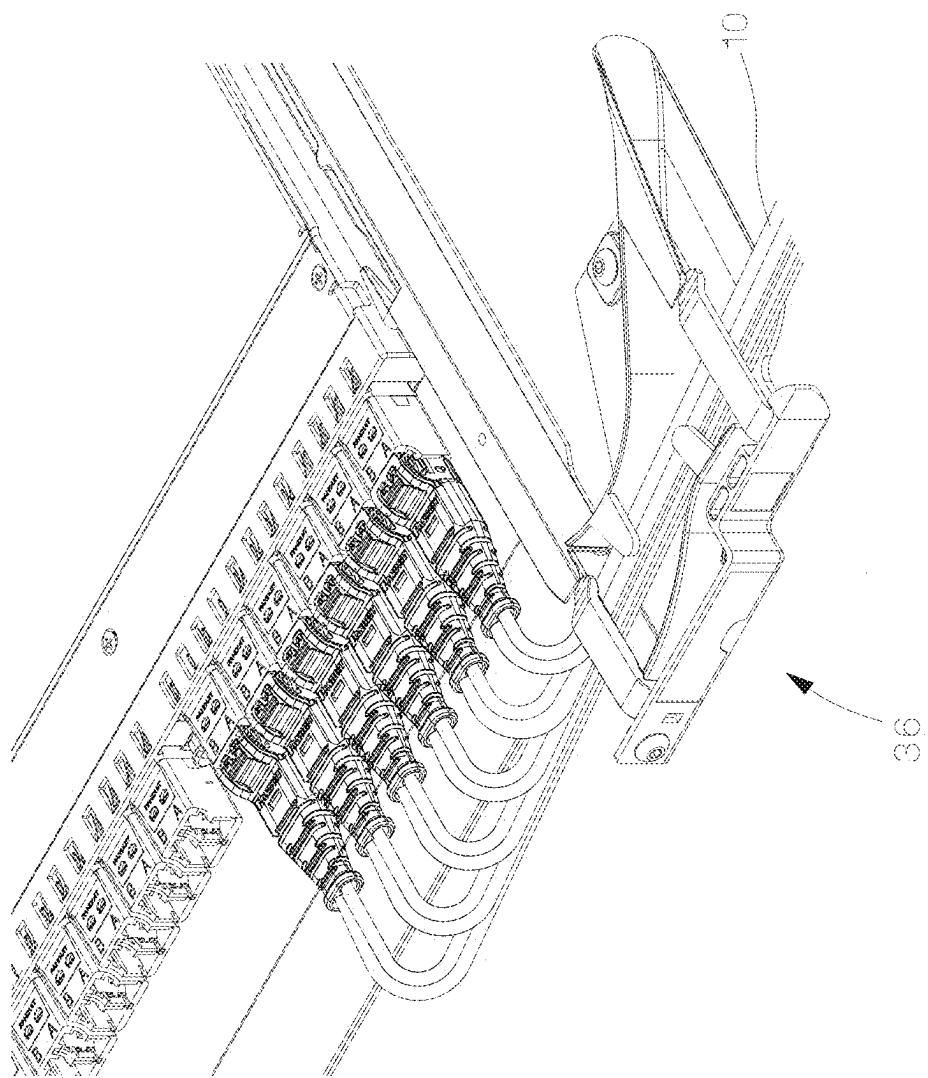


FIG. 27

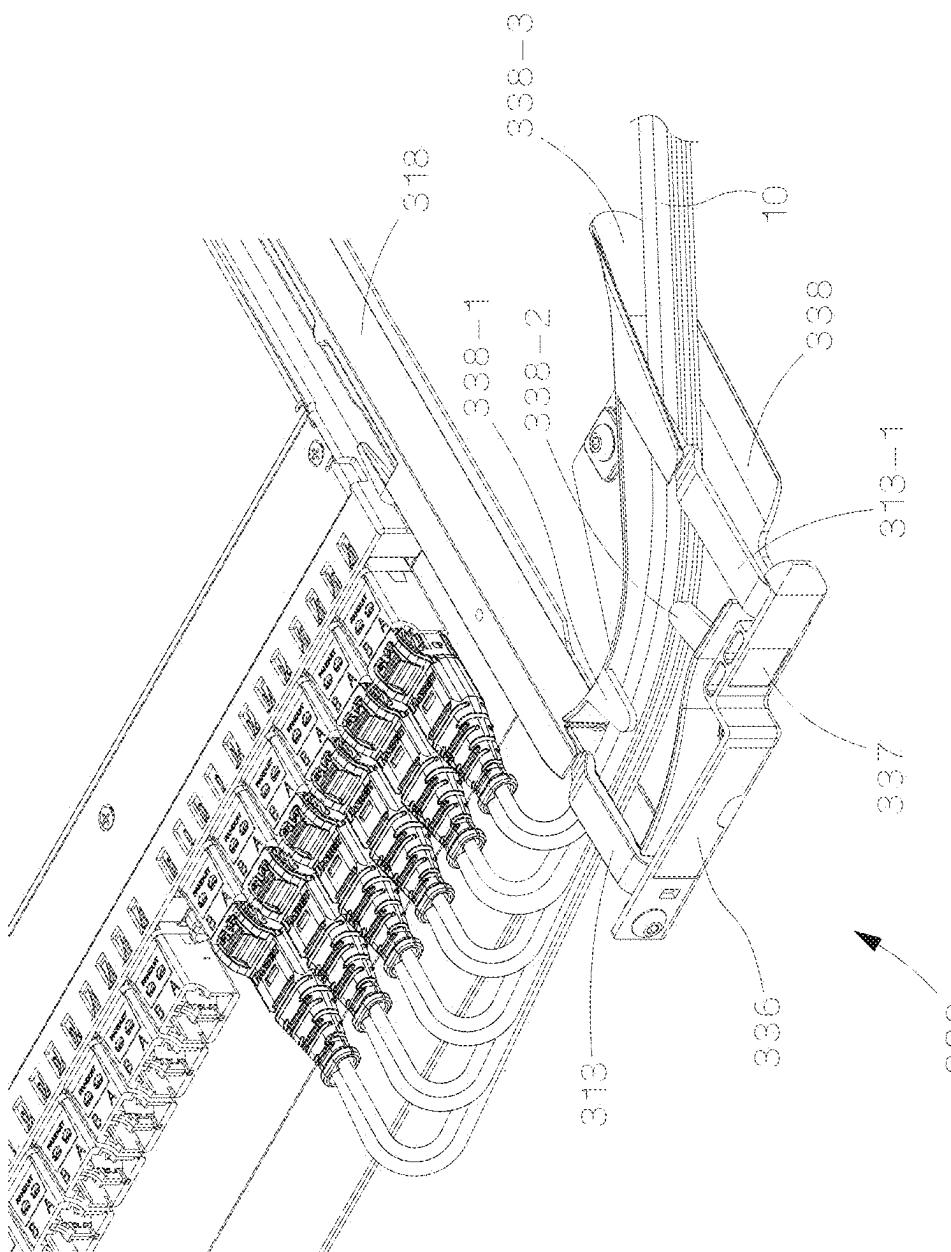


FIG. 28

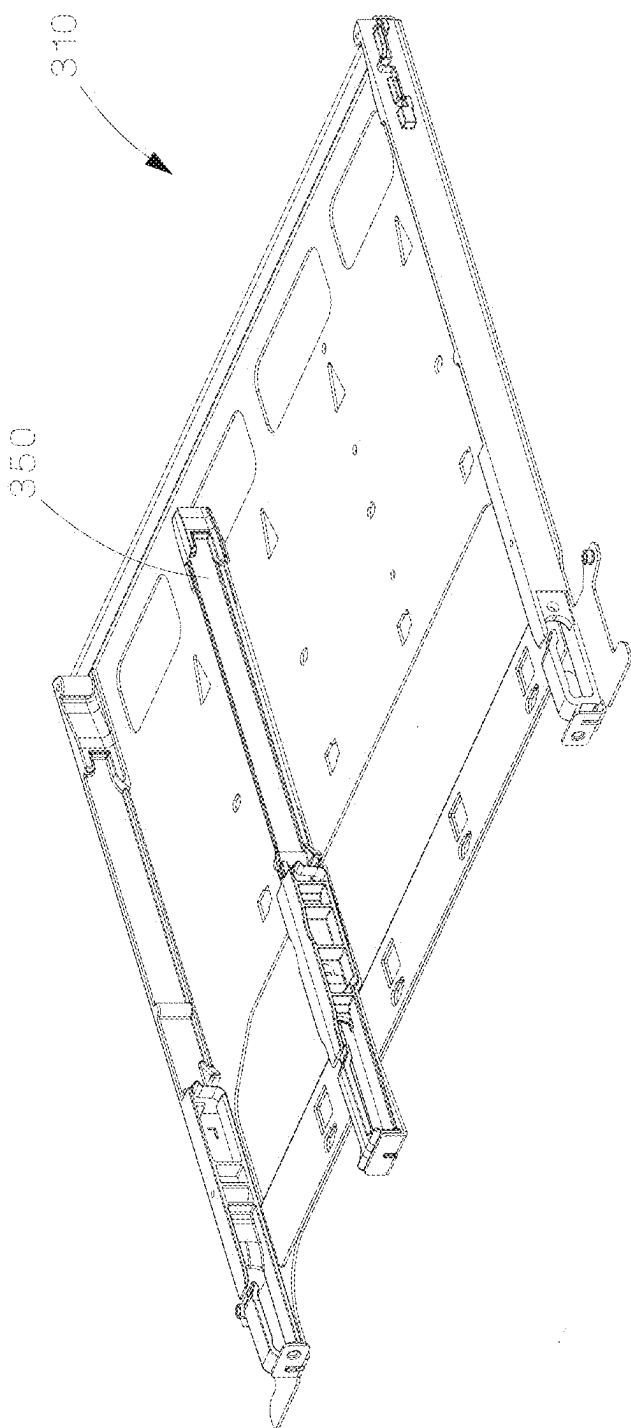
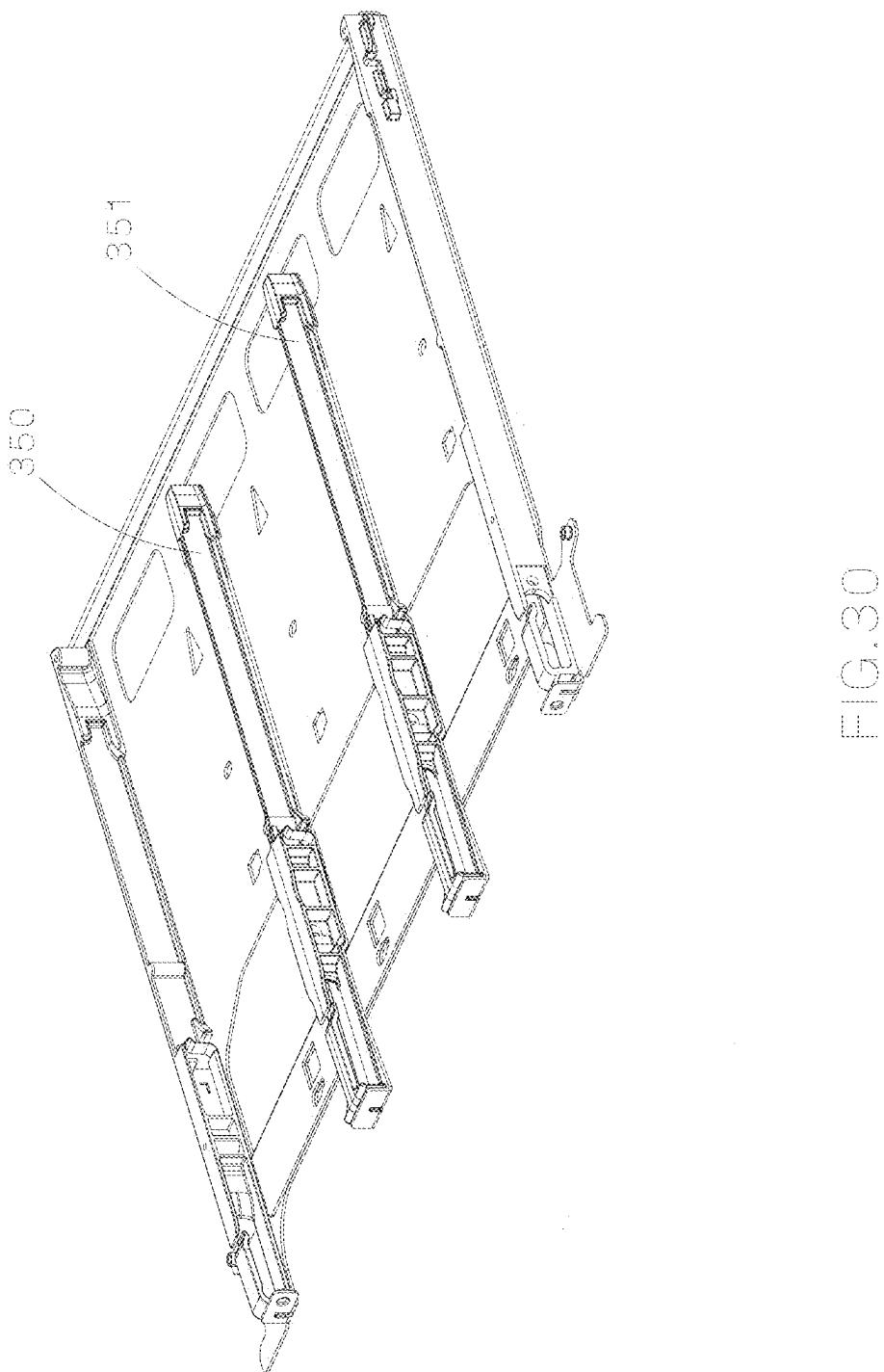


FIG. 28



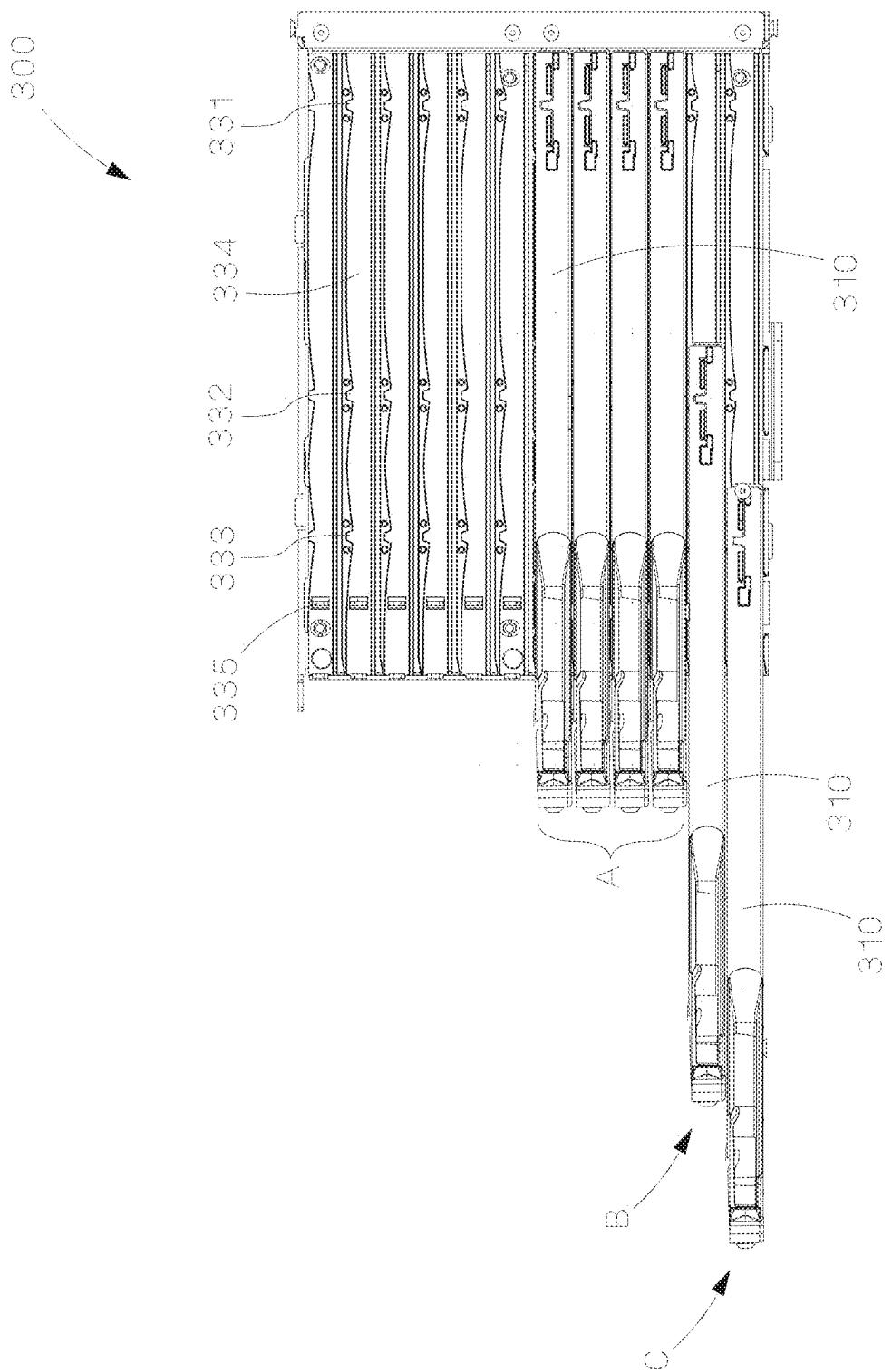
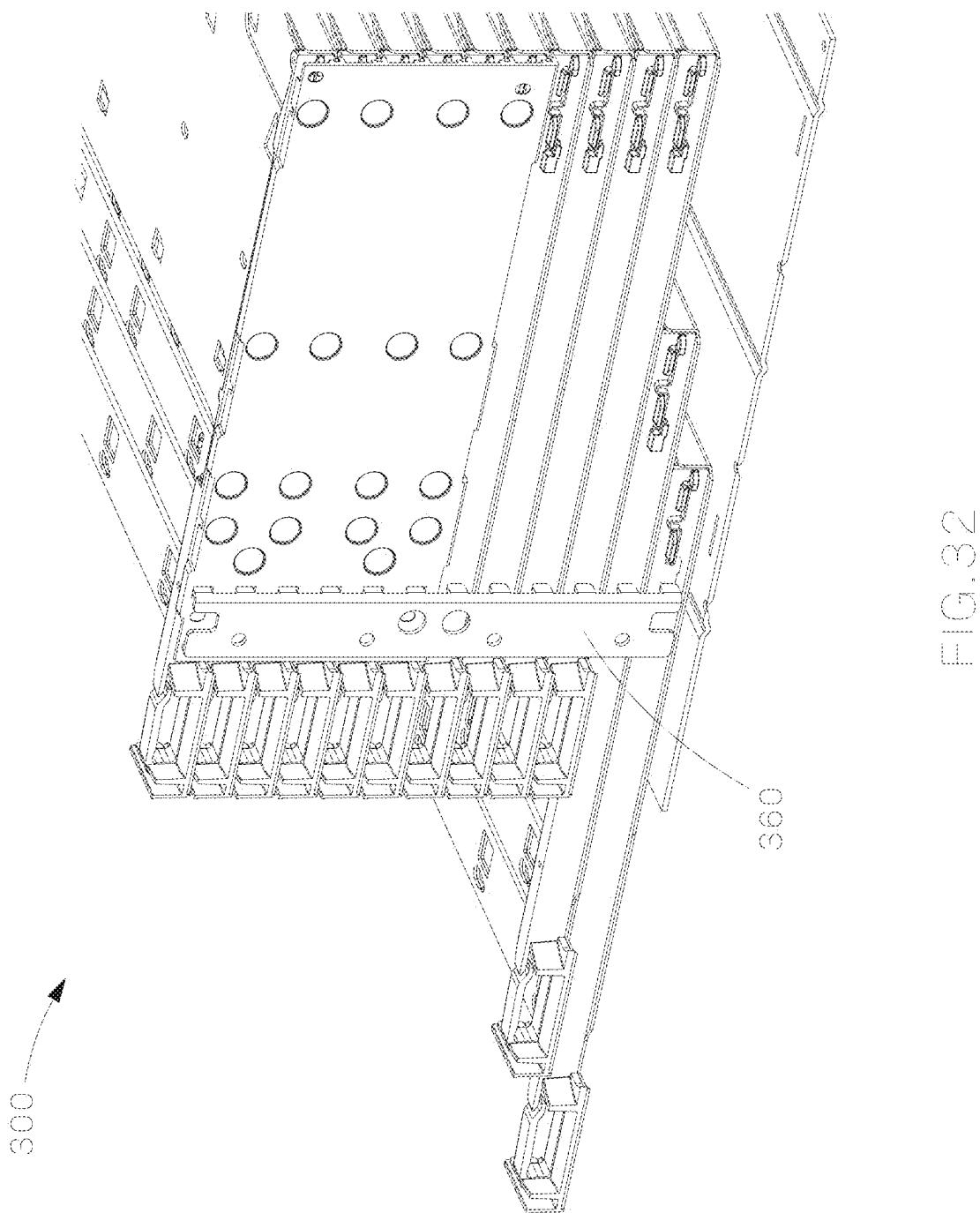


FIG. 31



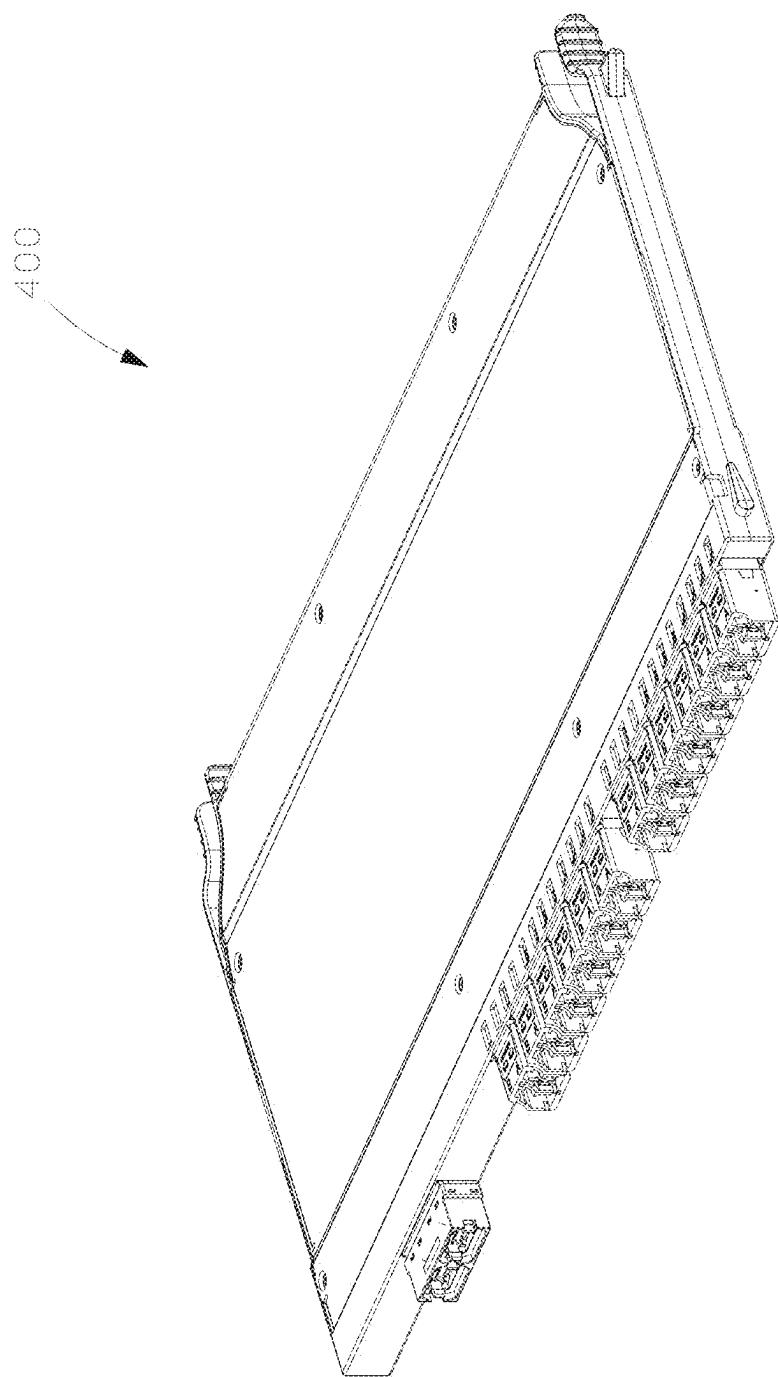


FIG. 33

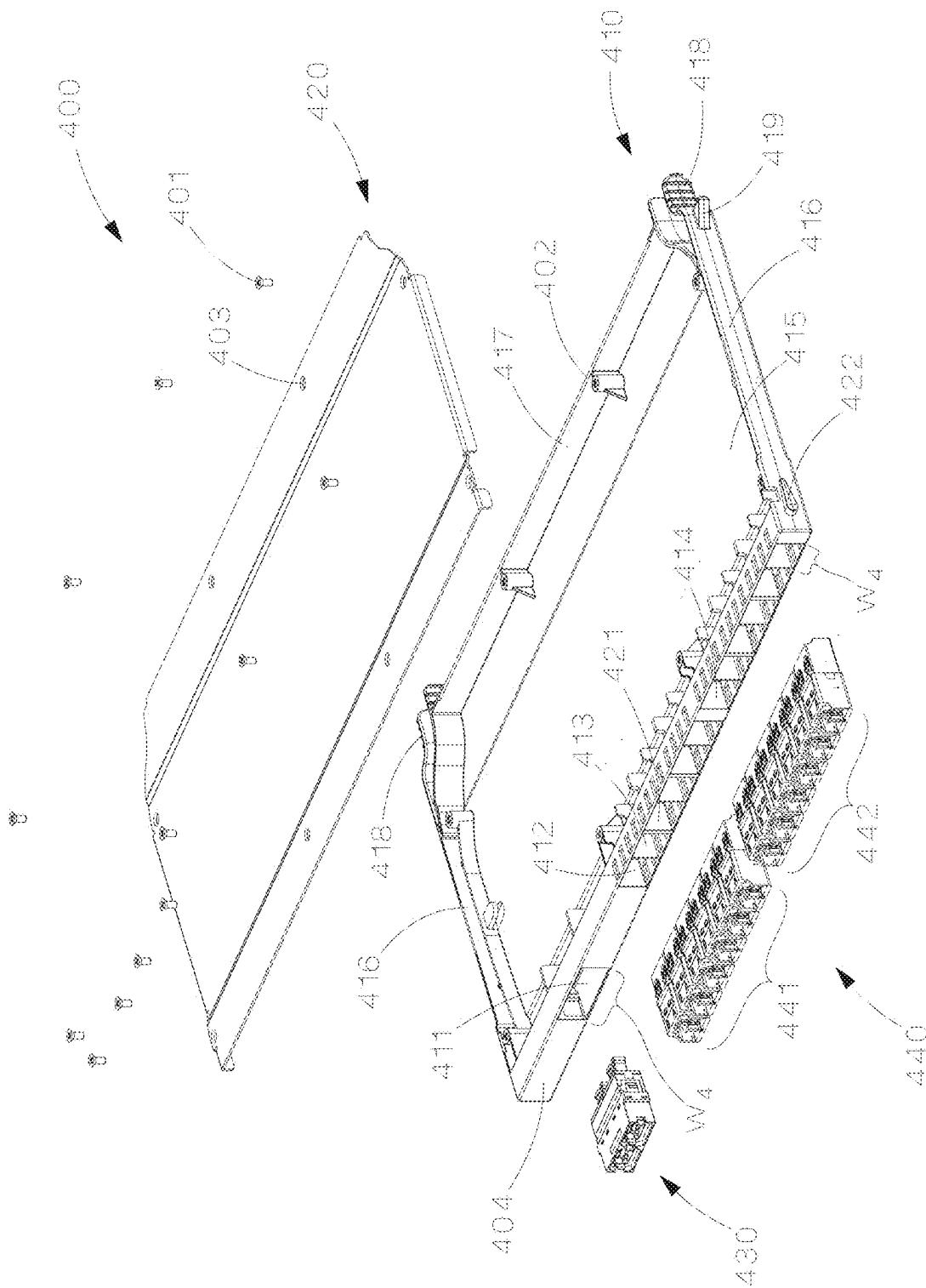
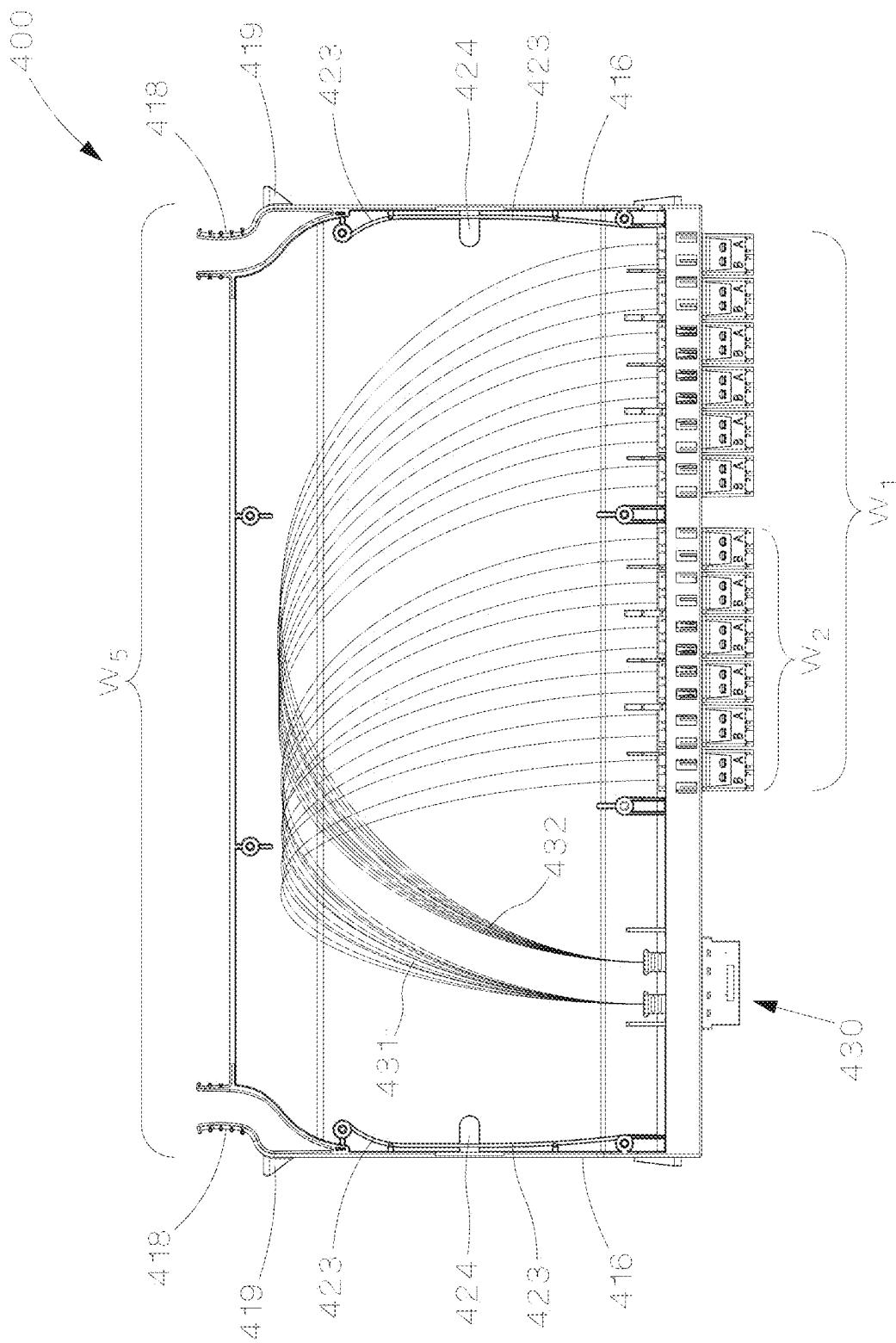


FIG. 34



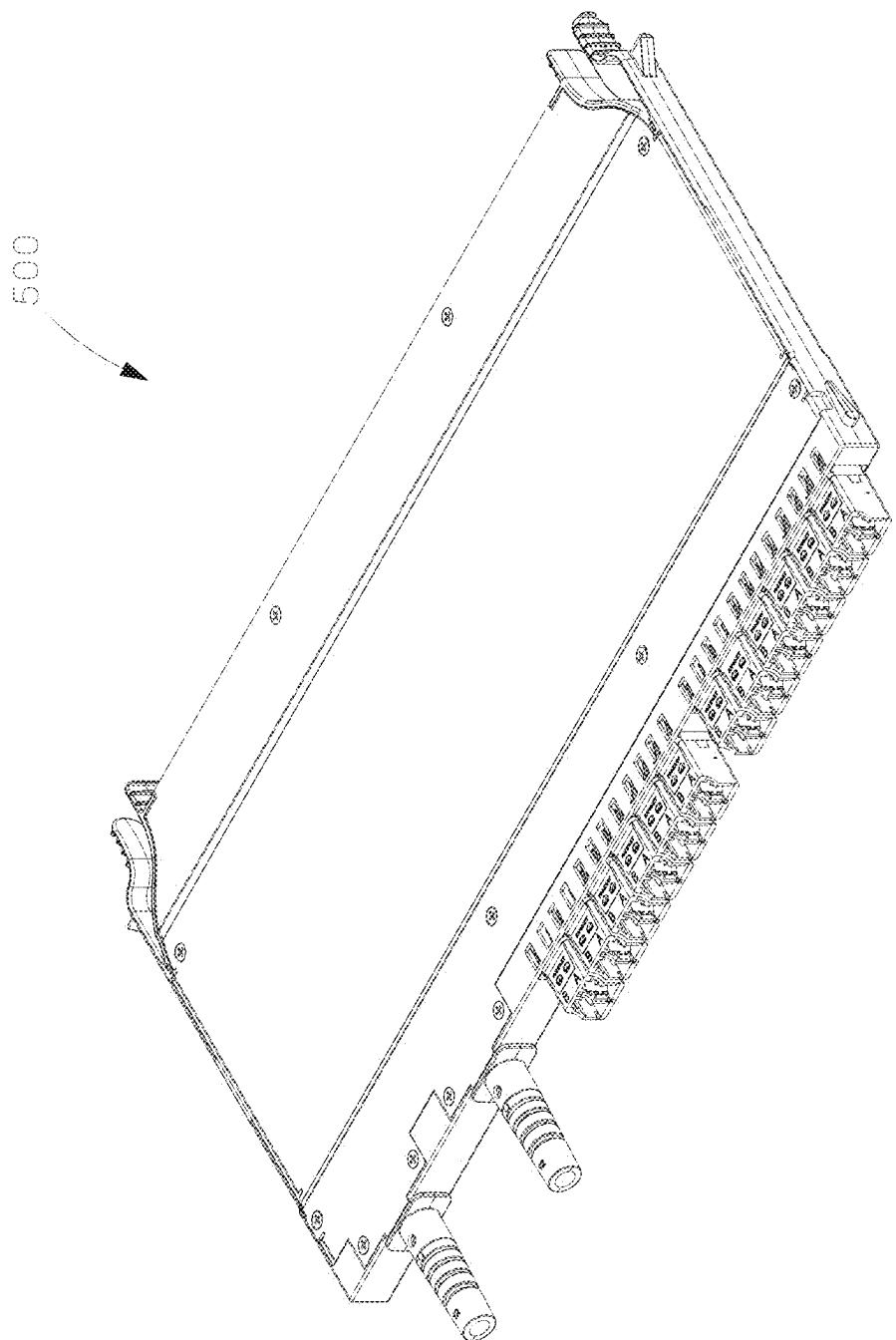


FIG. 36

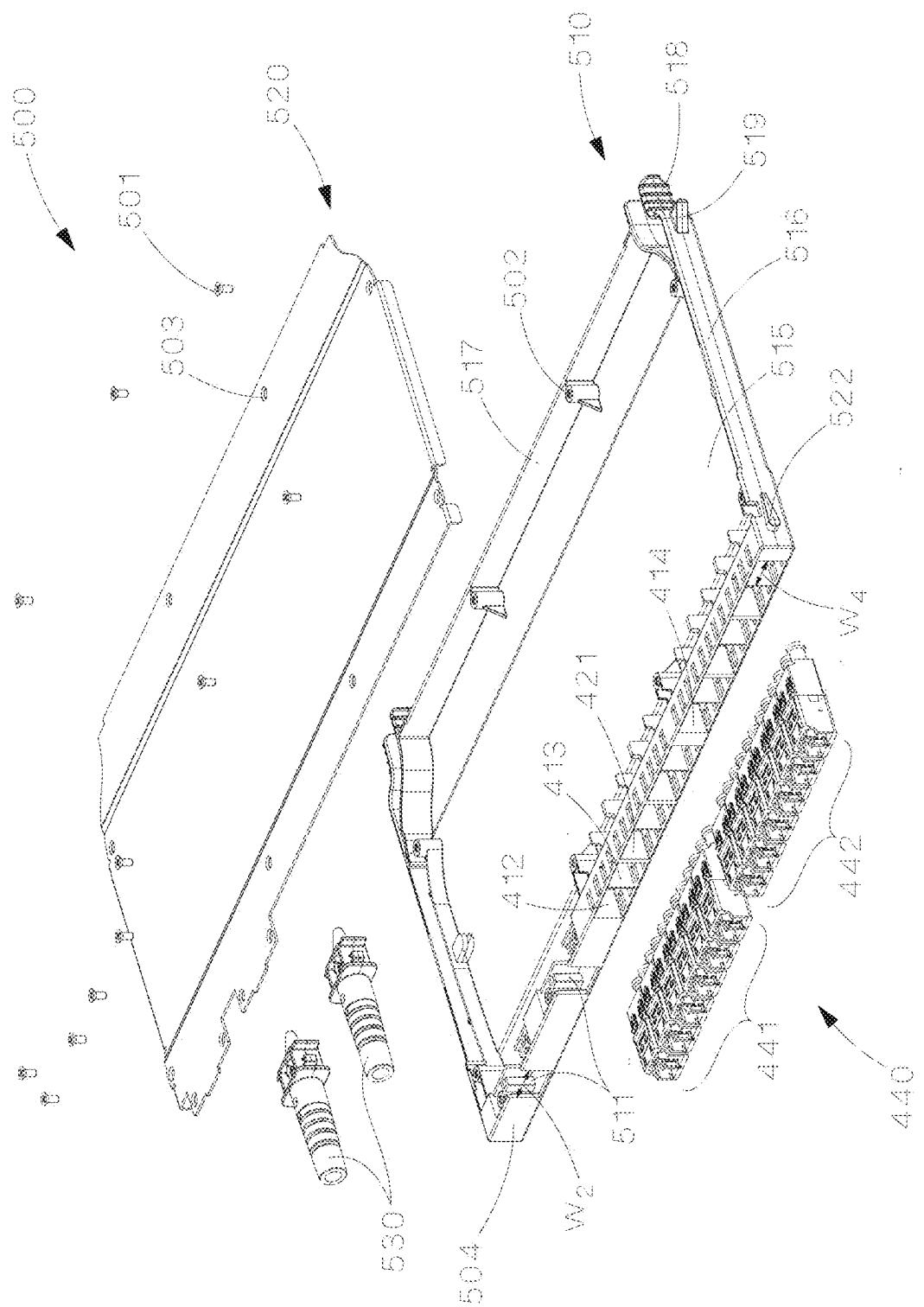
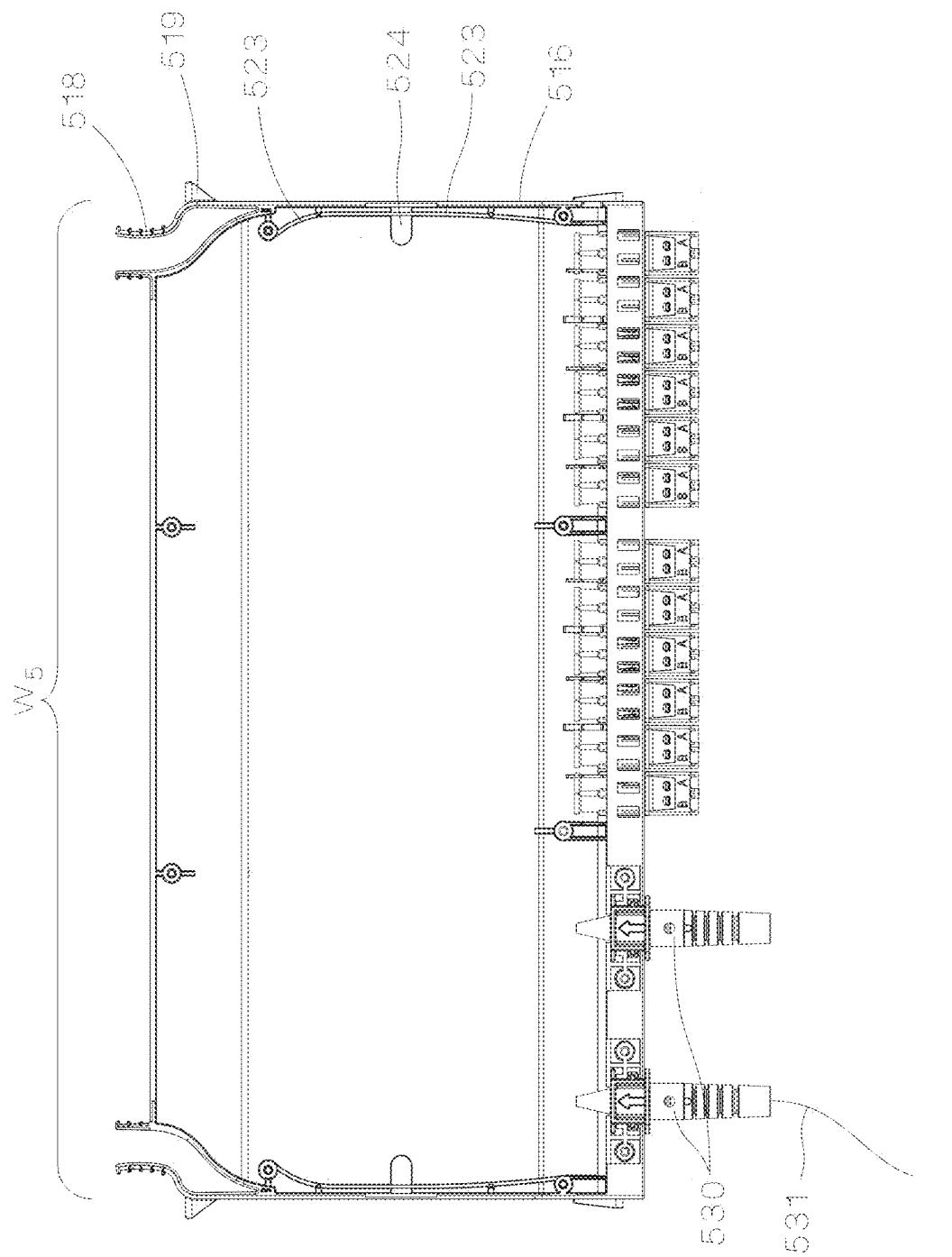


FIG. 37



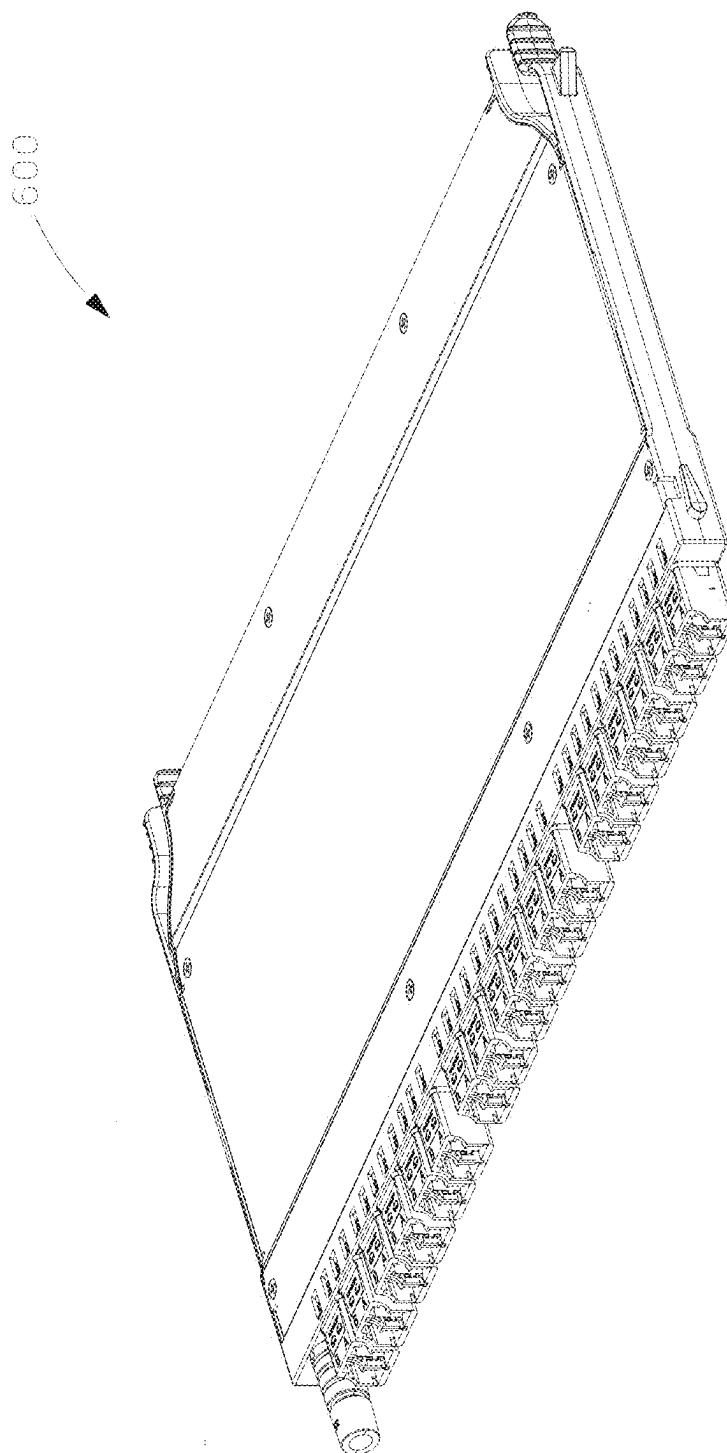


FIG. 39

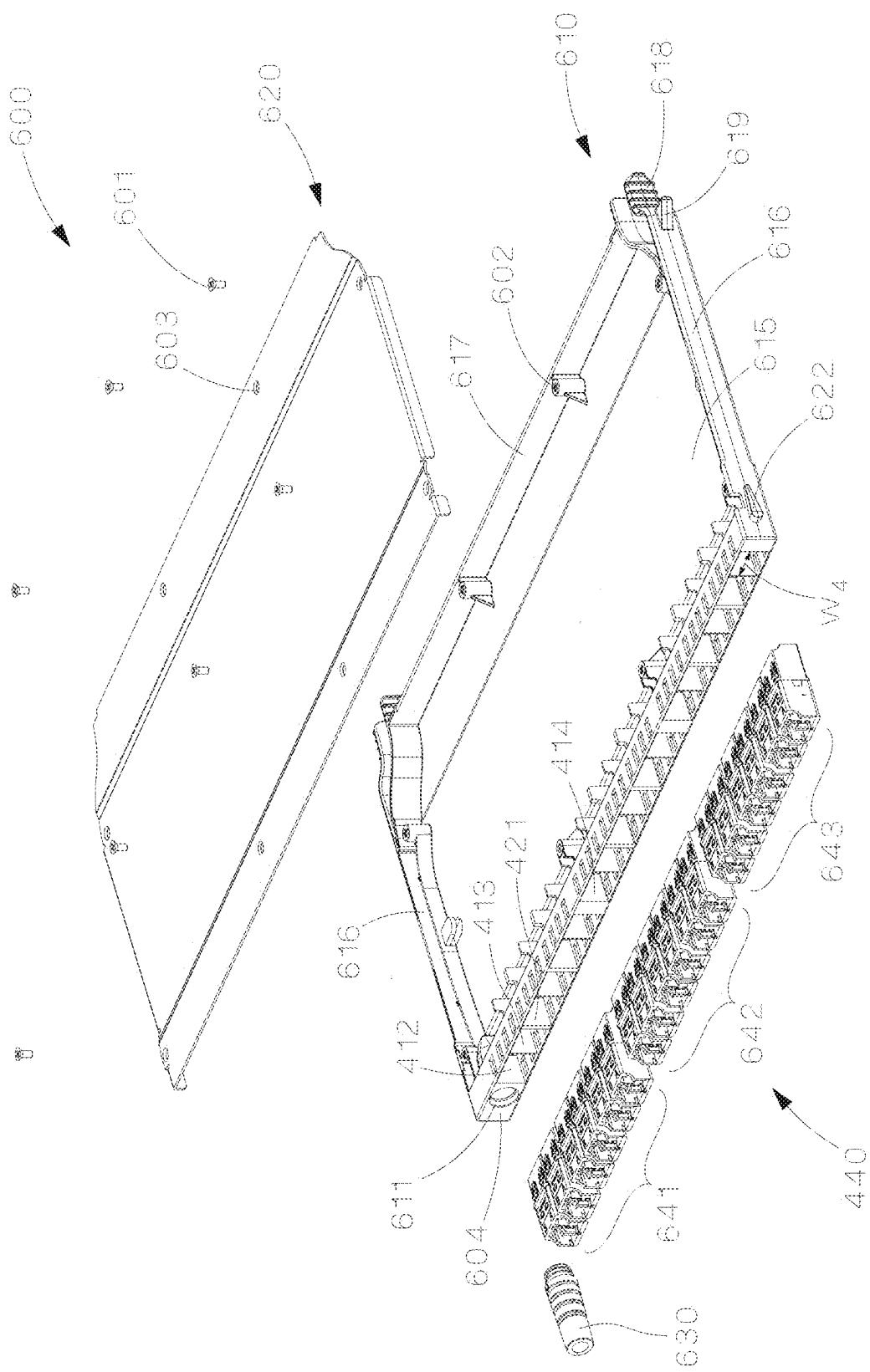


FIG. 40

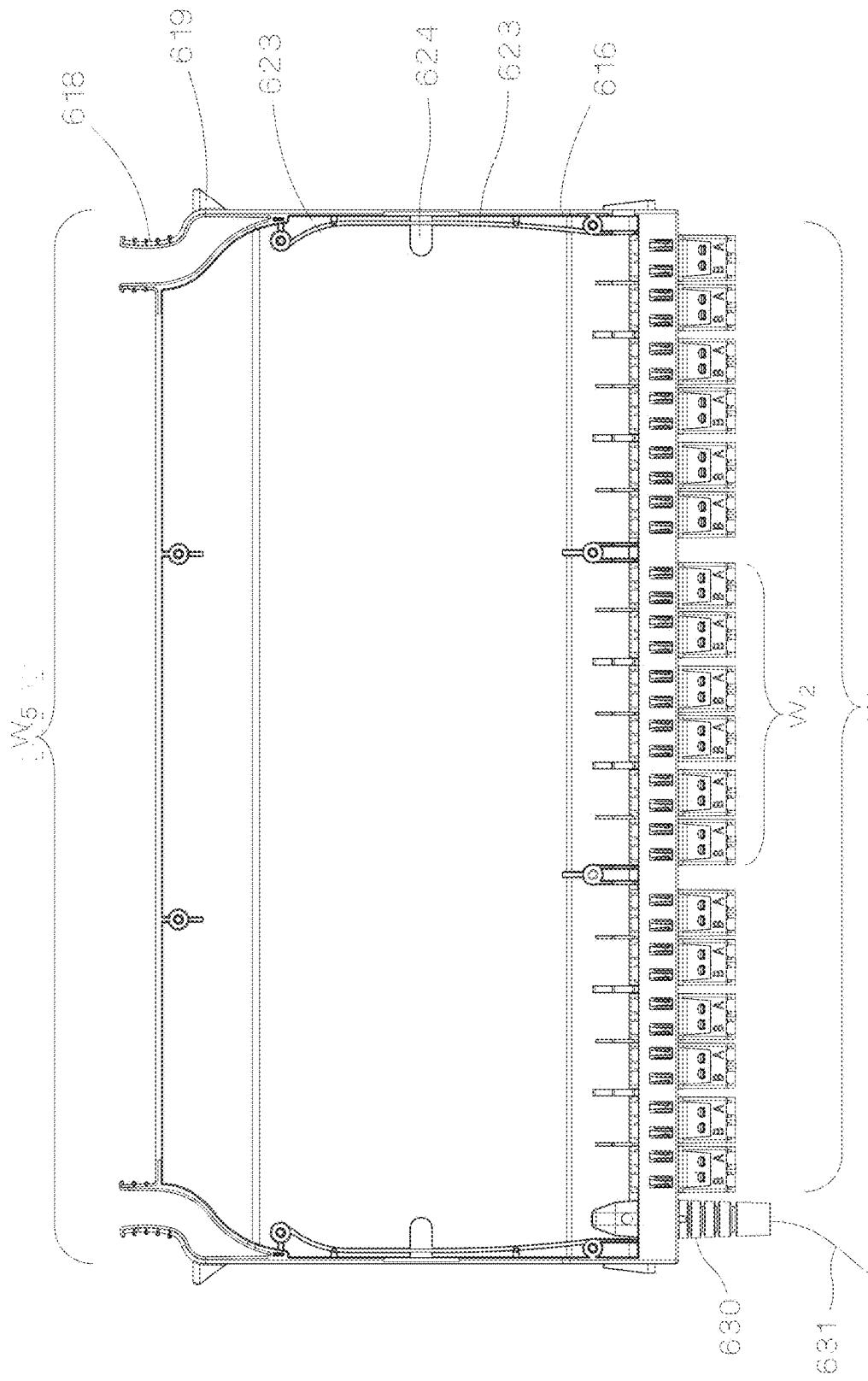


FIG. 44

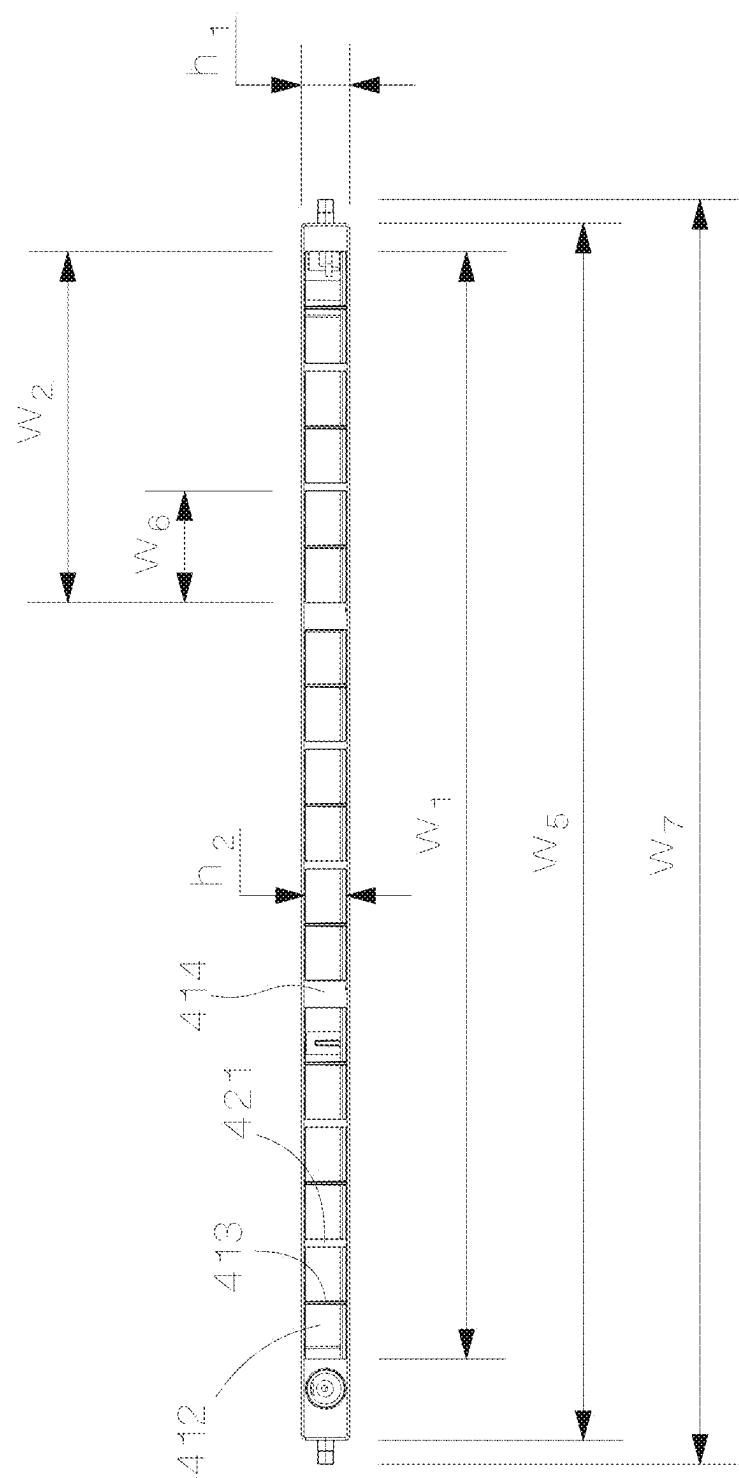


FIG. 42

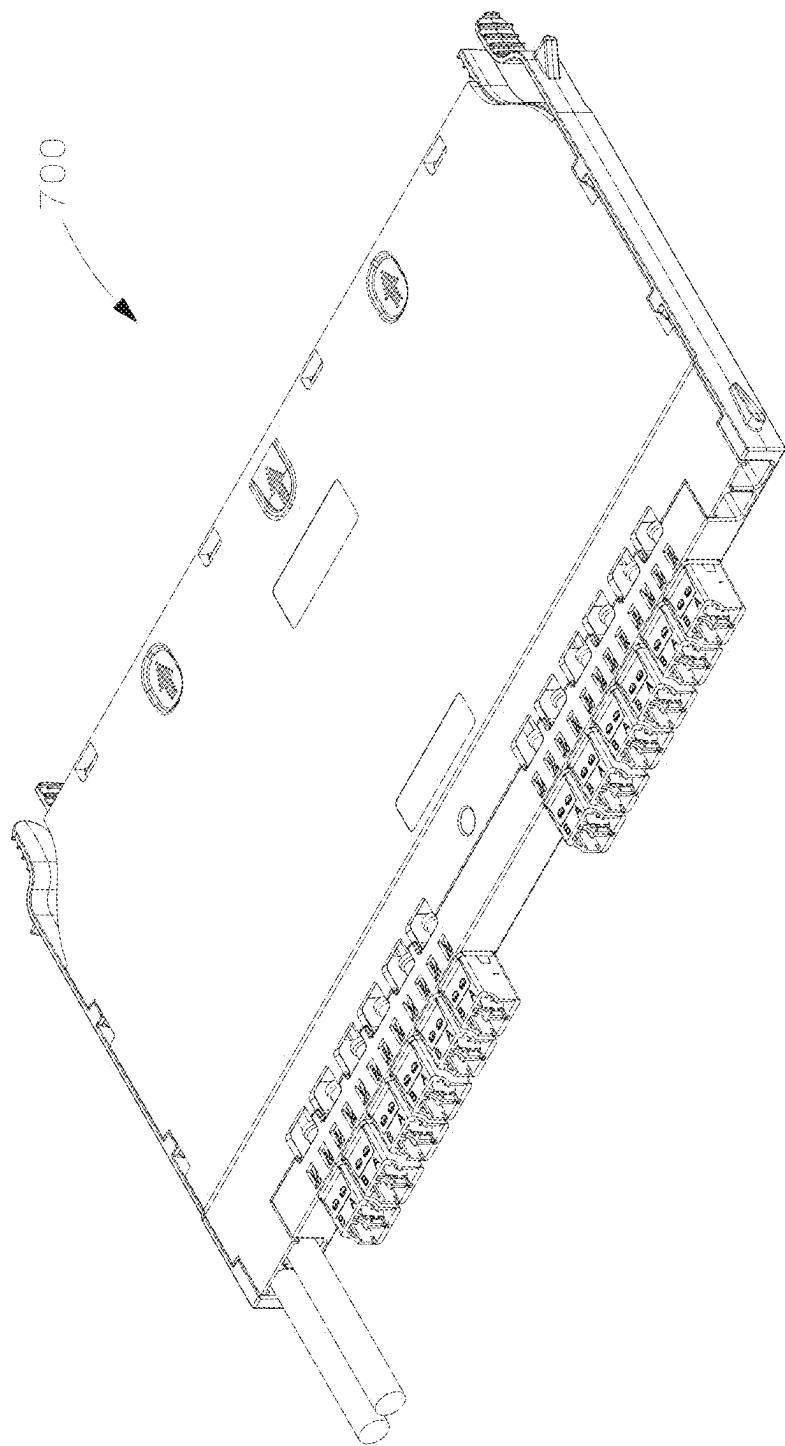


FIG. 43

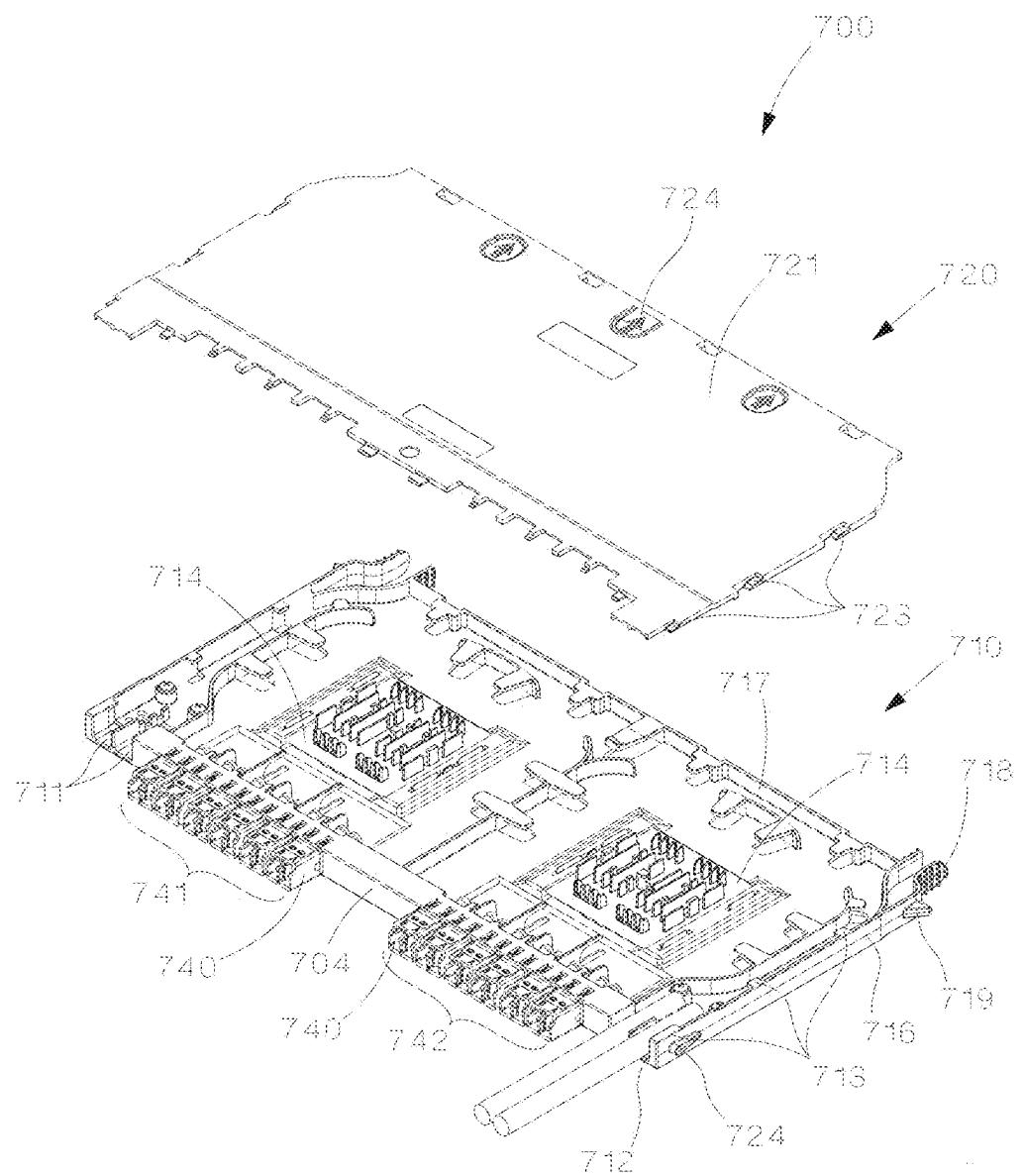


FIG. 44

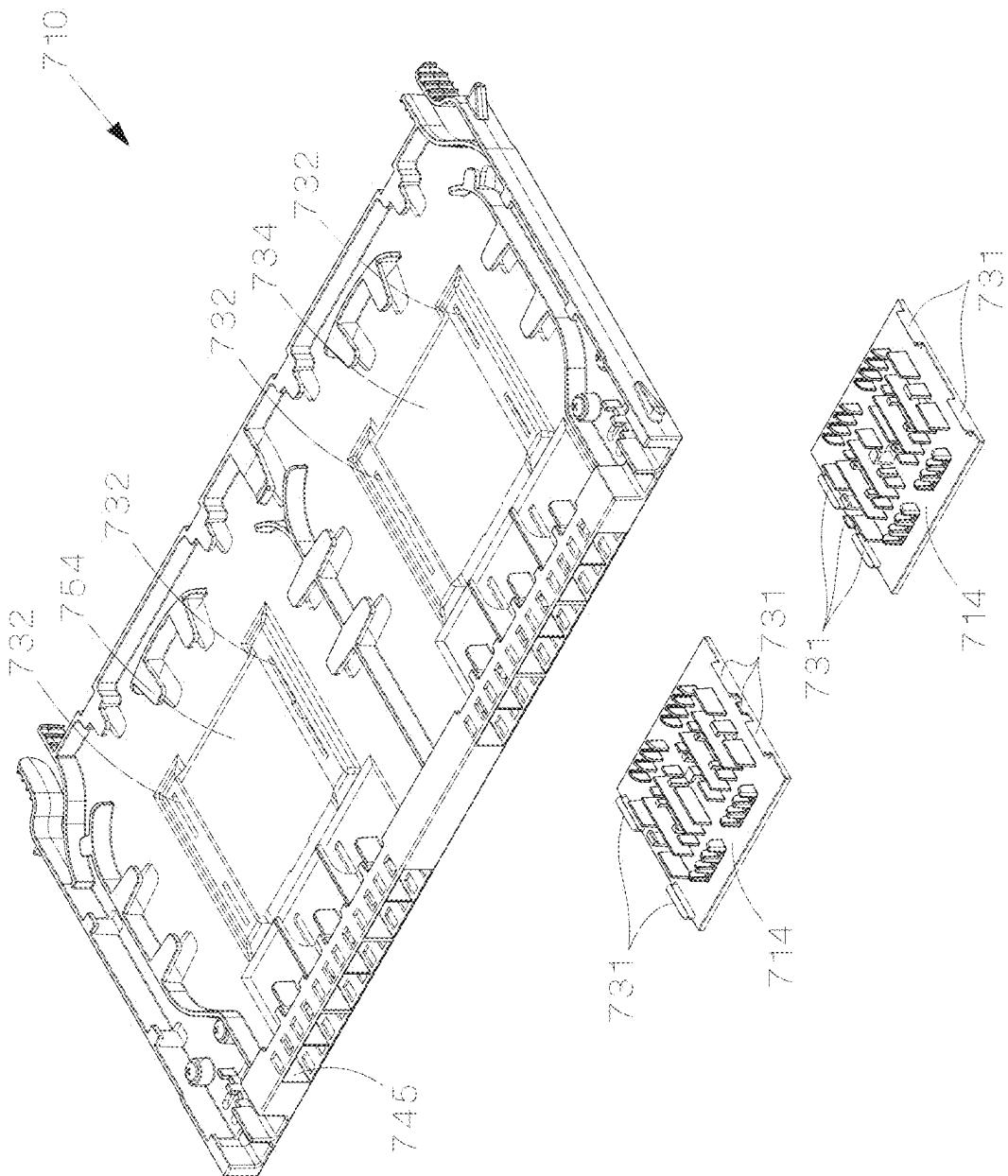


FIG. 45

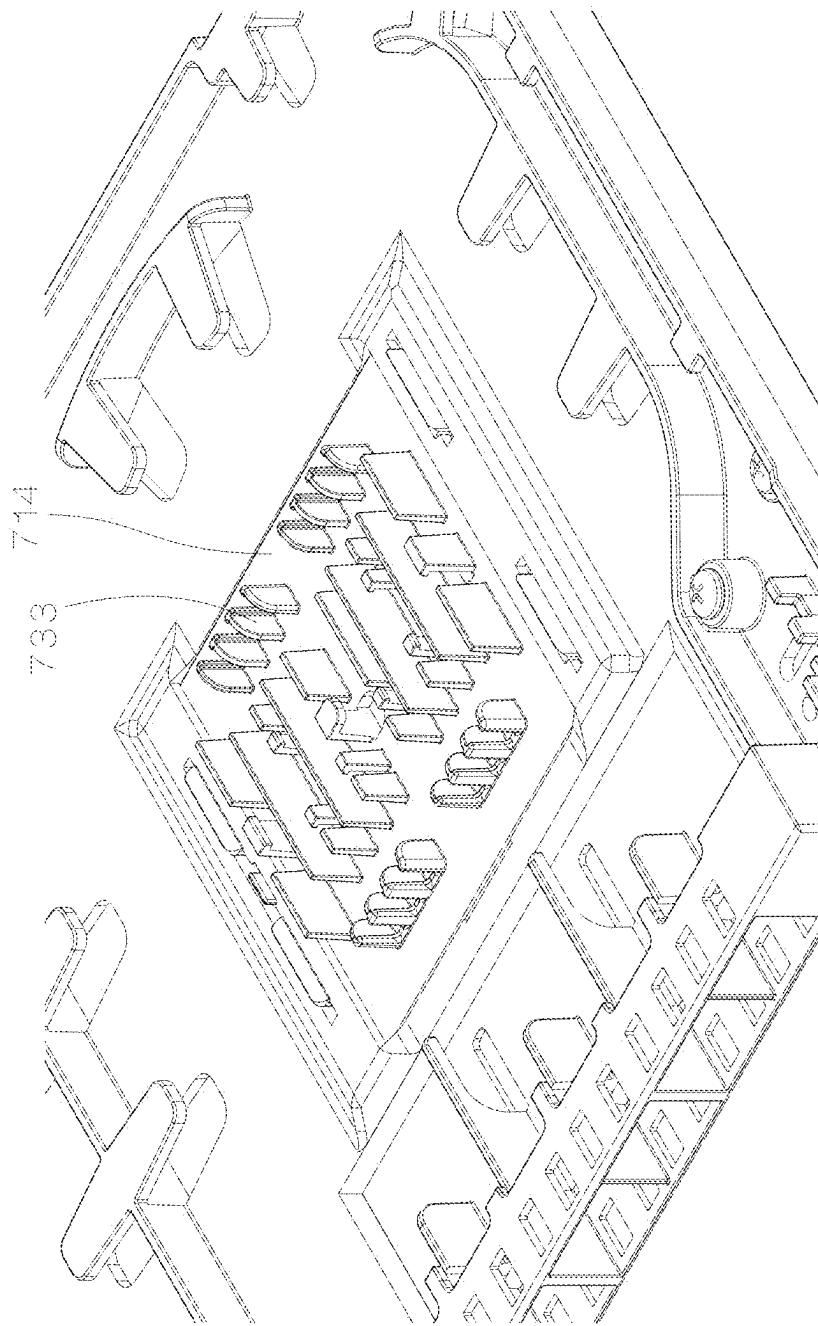


FIG. 46

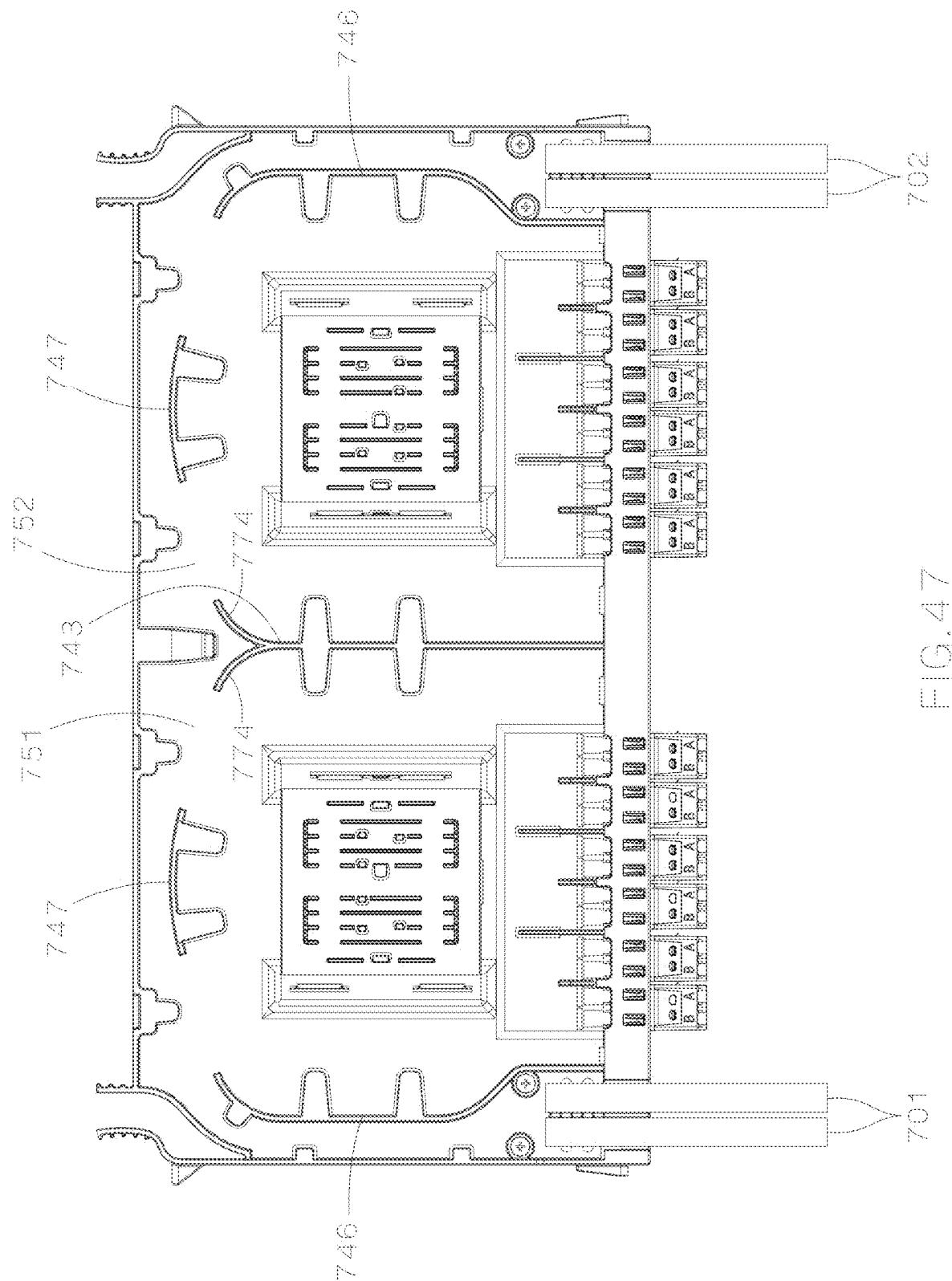


FIG. 47

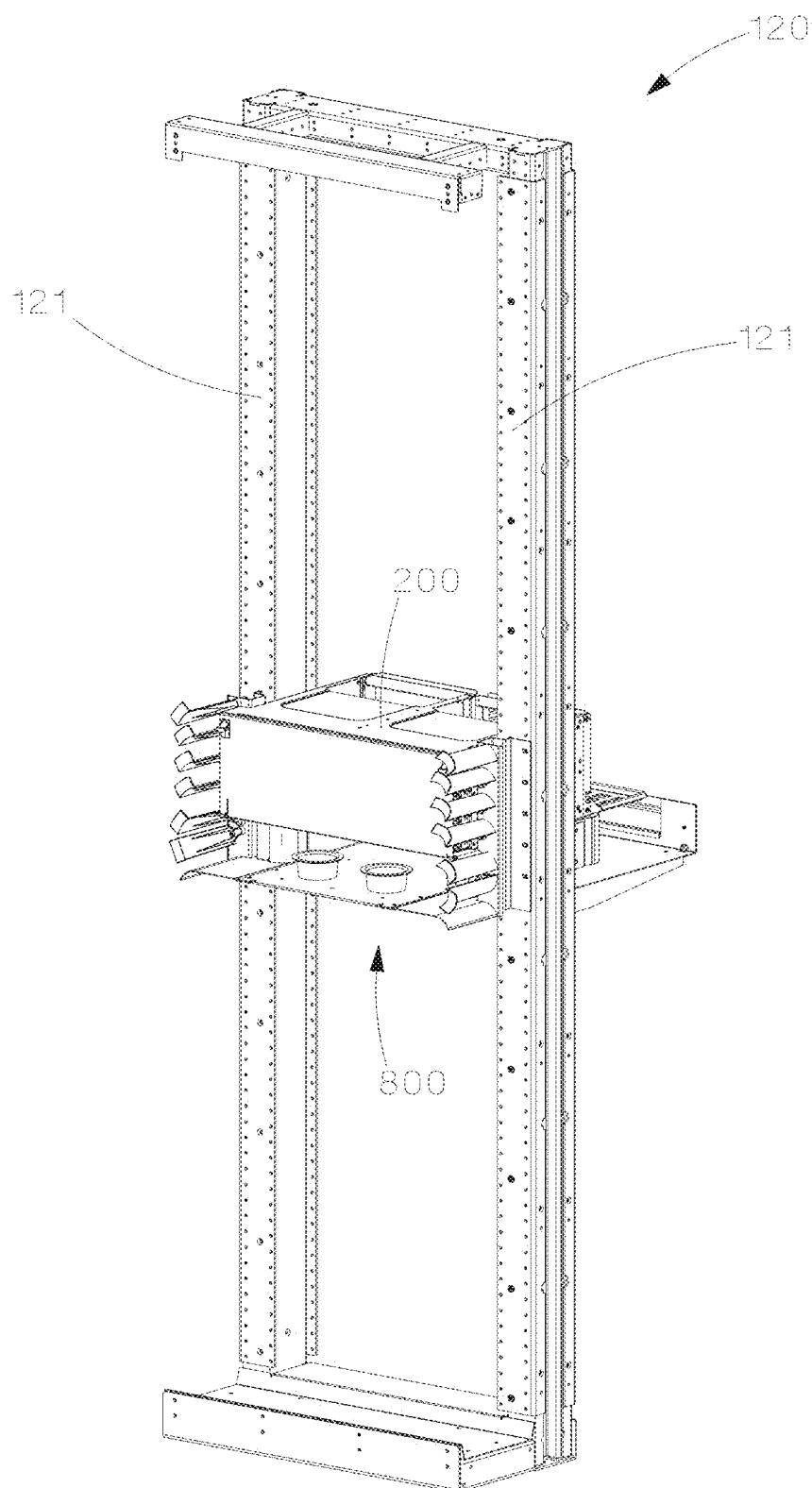


FIG. 48

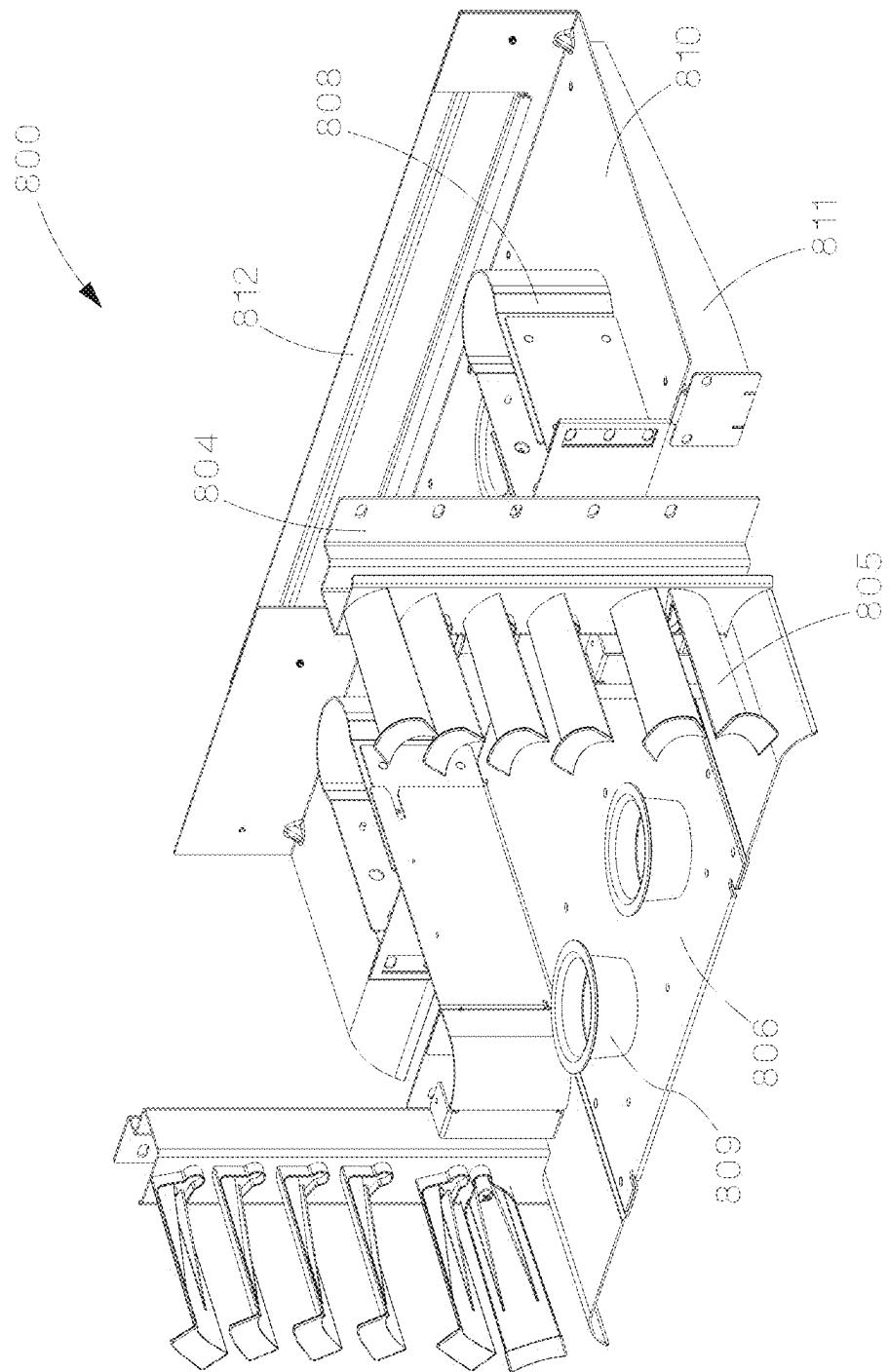


FIG. 49

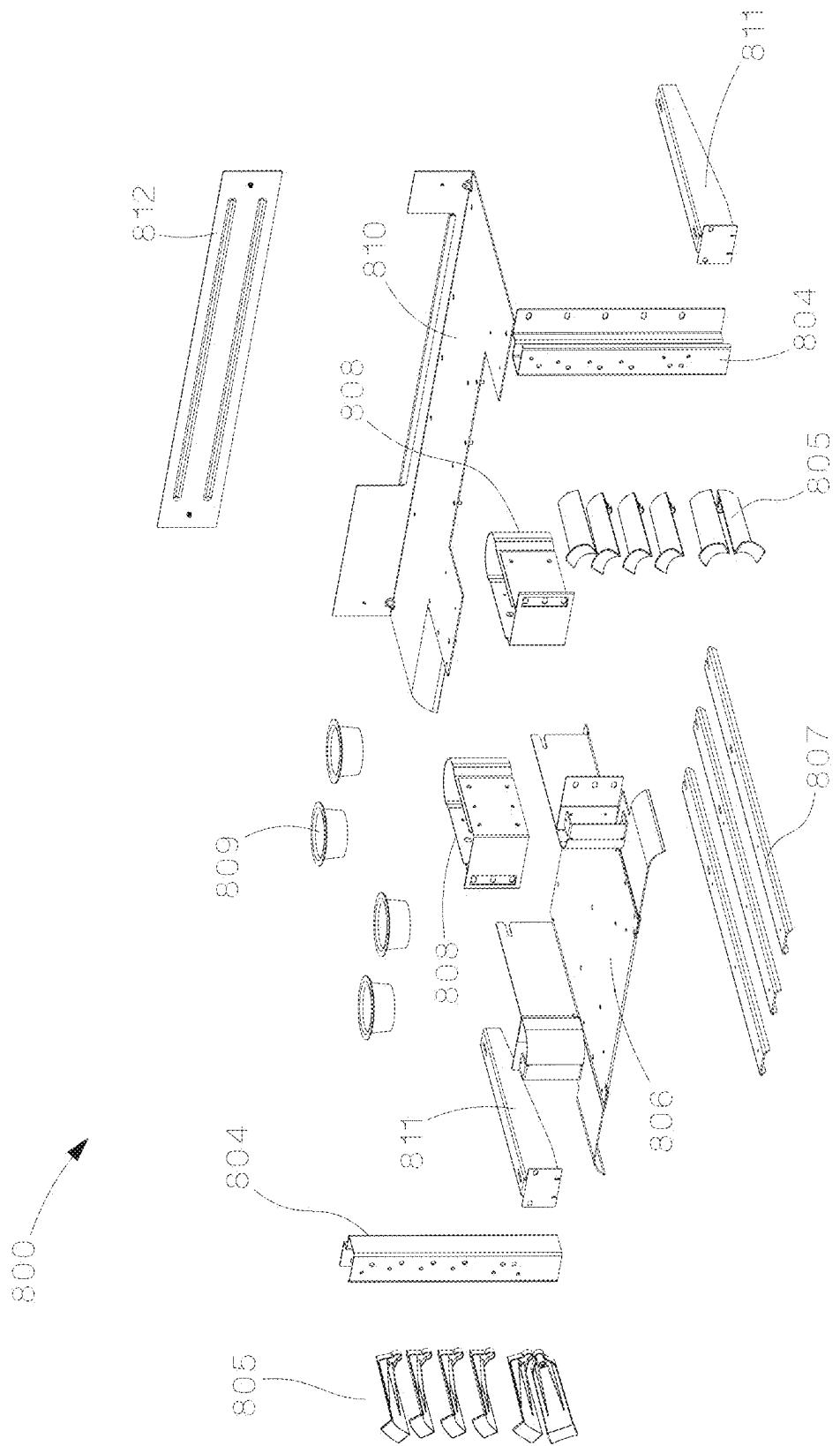
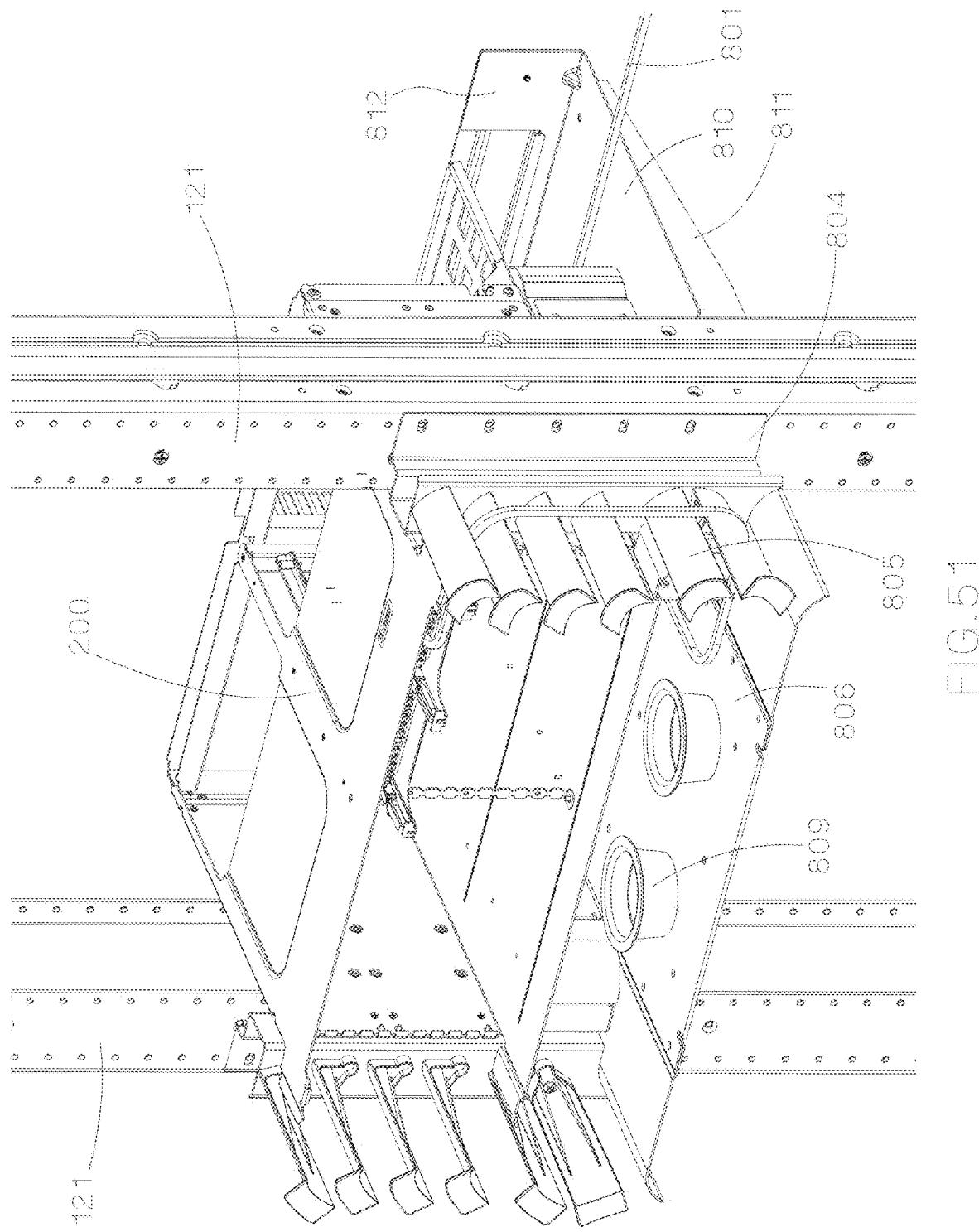


FIG. 50



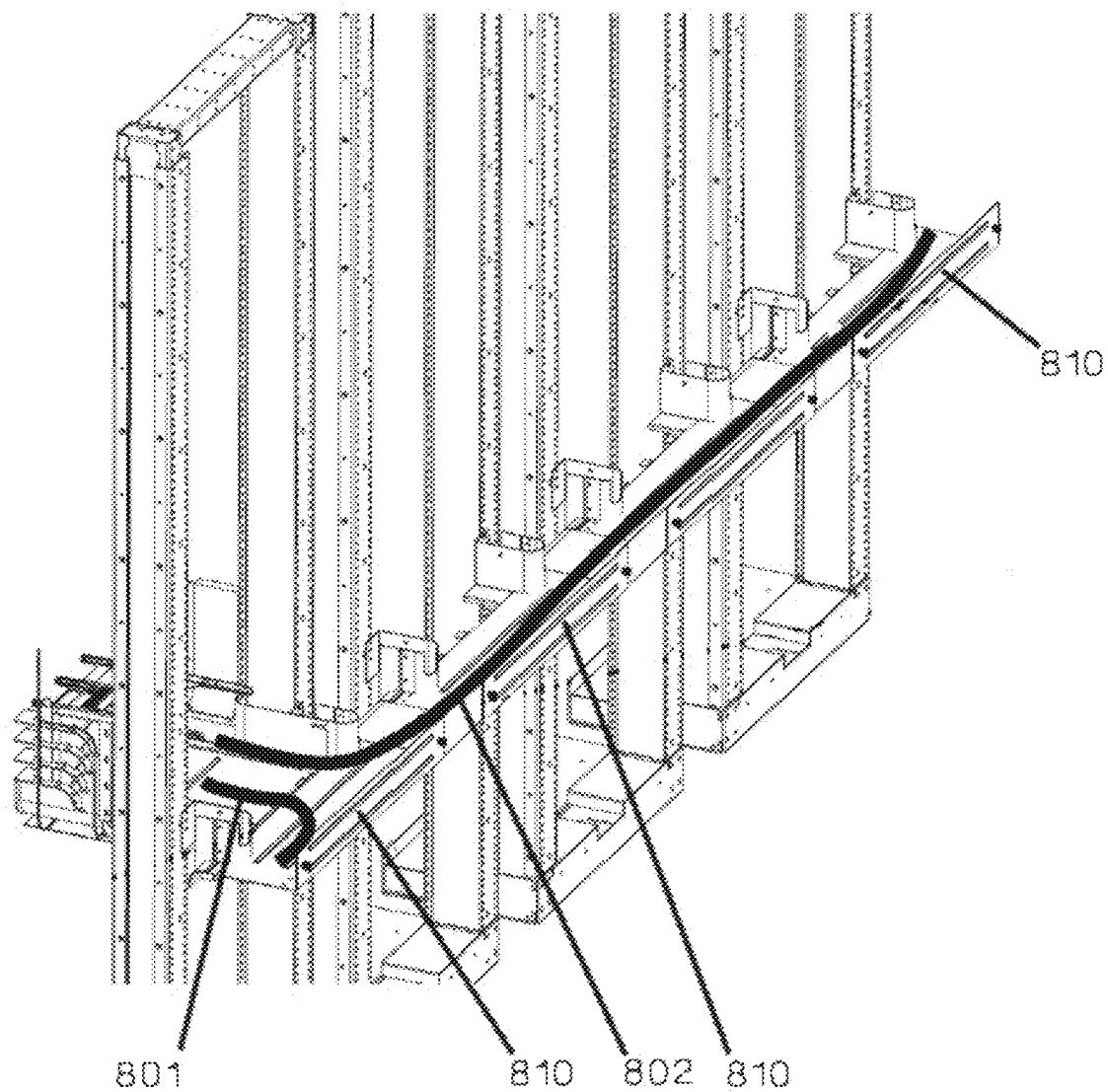


FIG.52

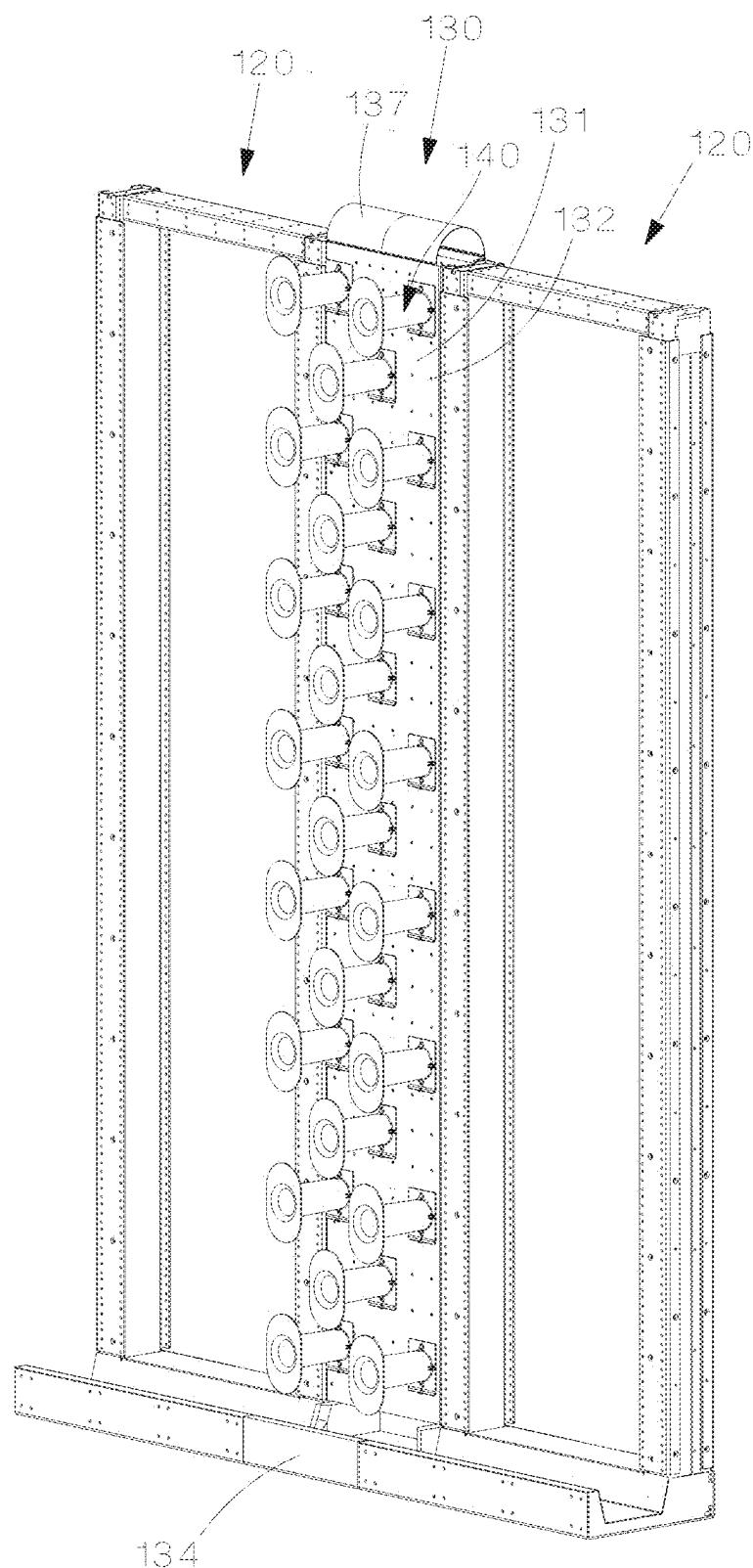


FIG. 53

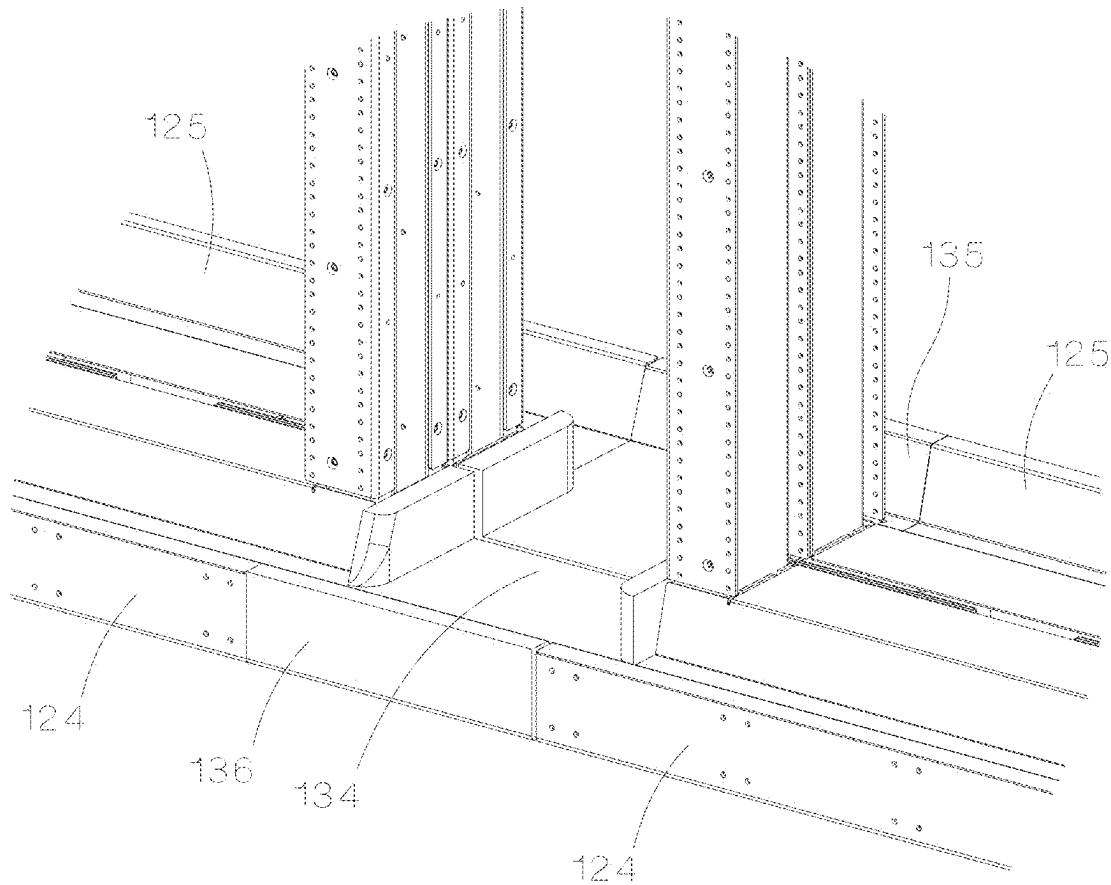


FIG. 54

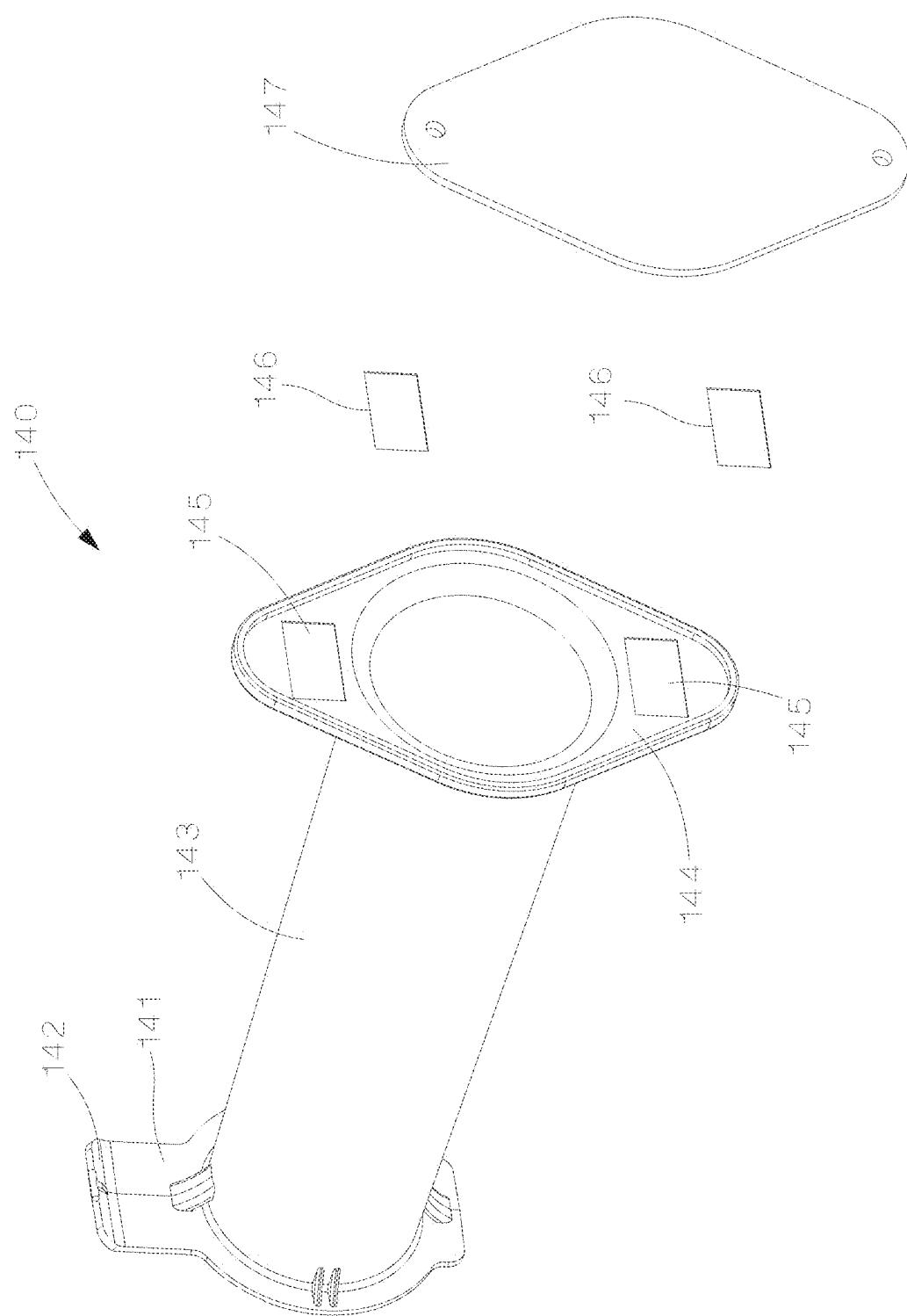
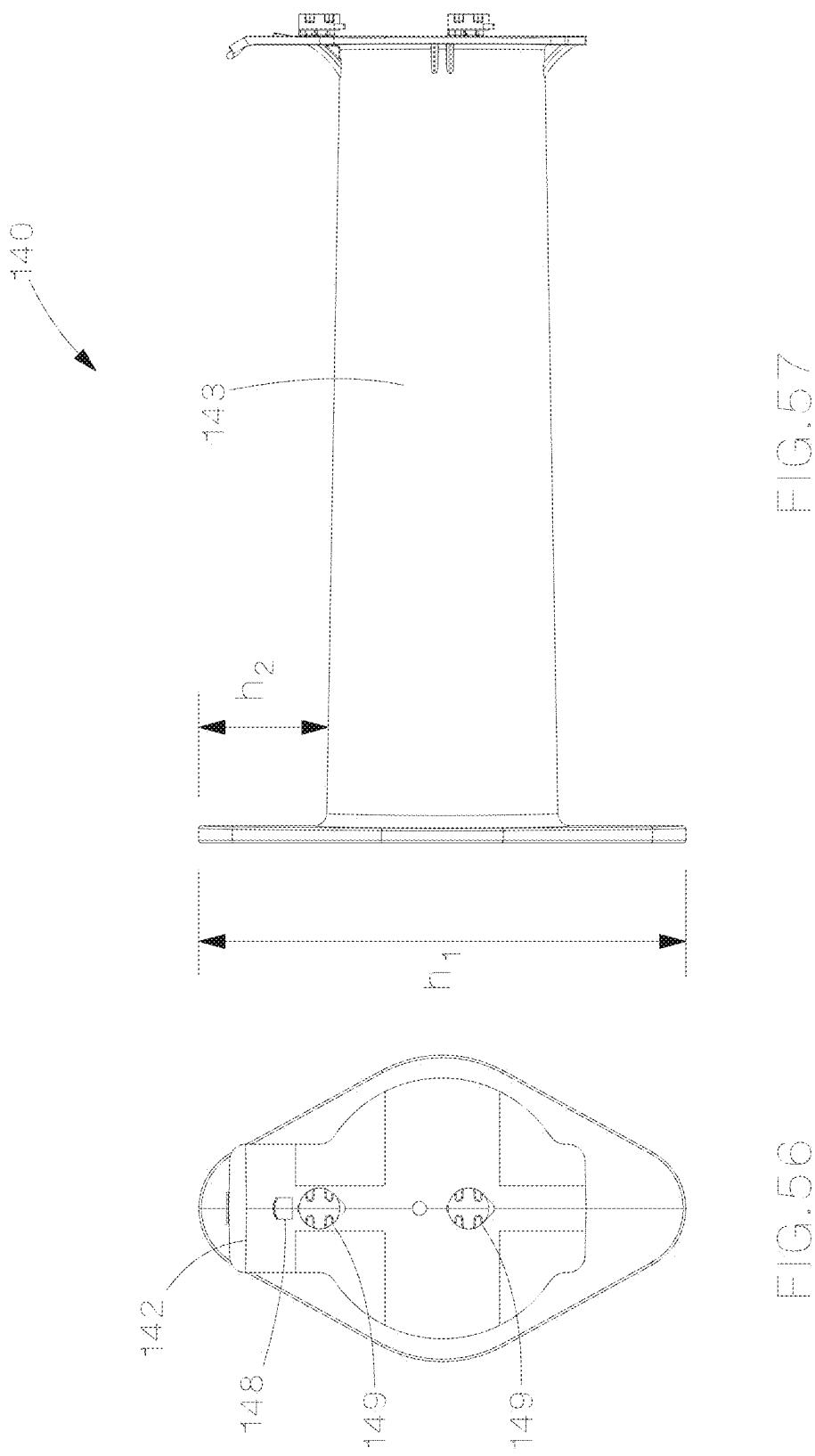


FIG. 55



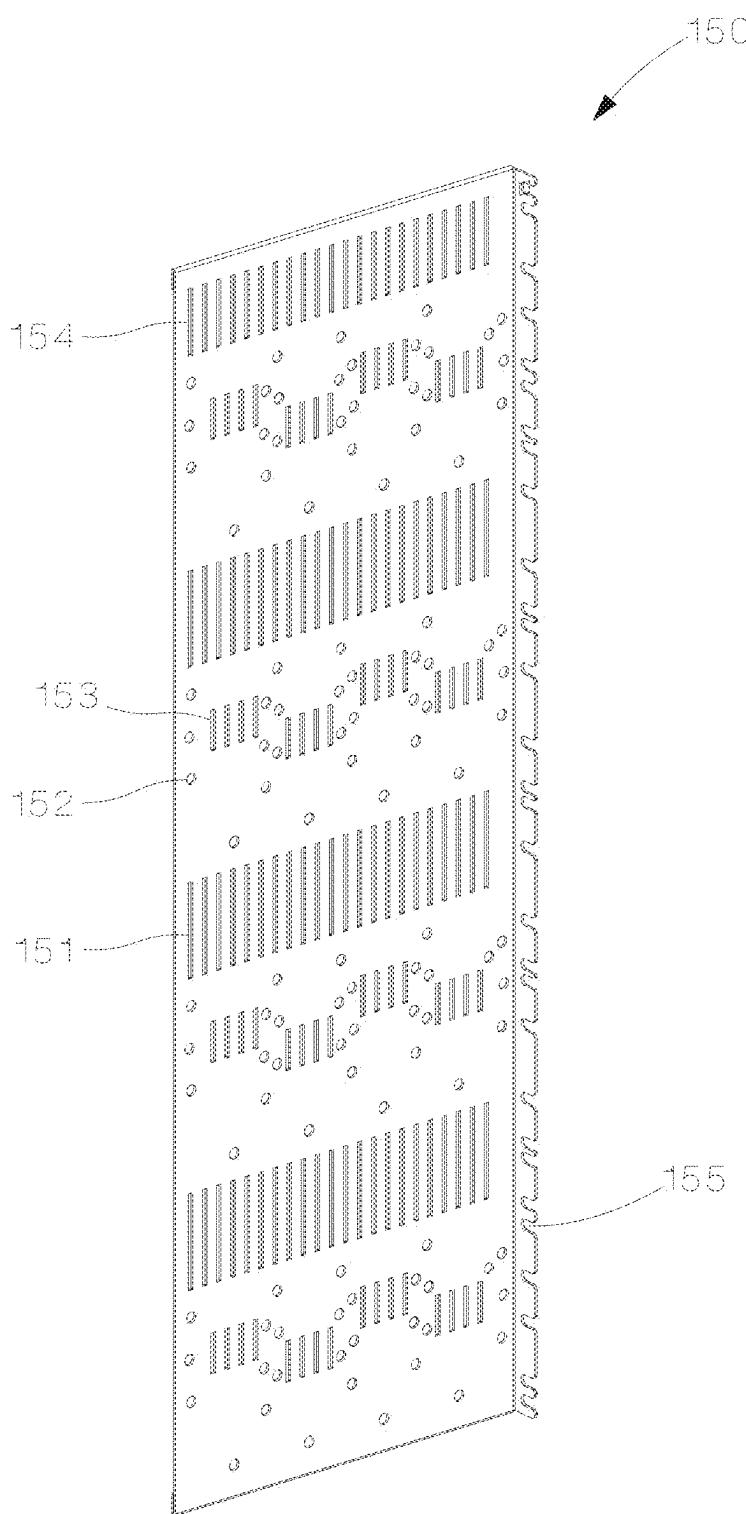


FIG. 58

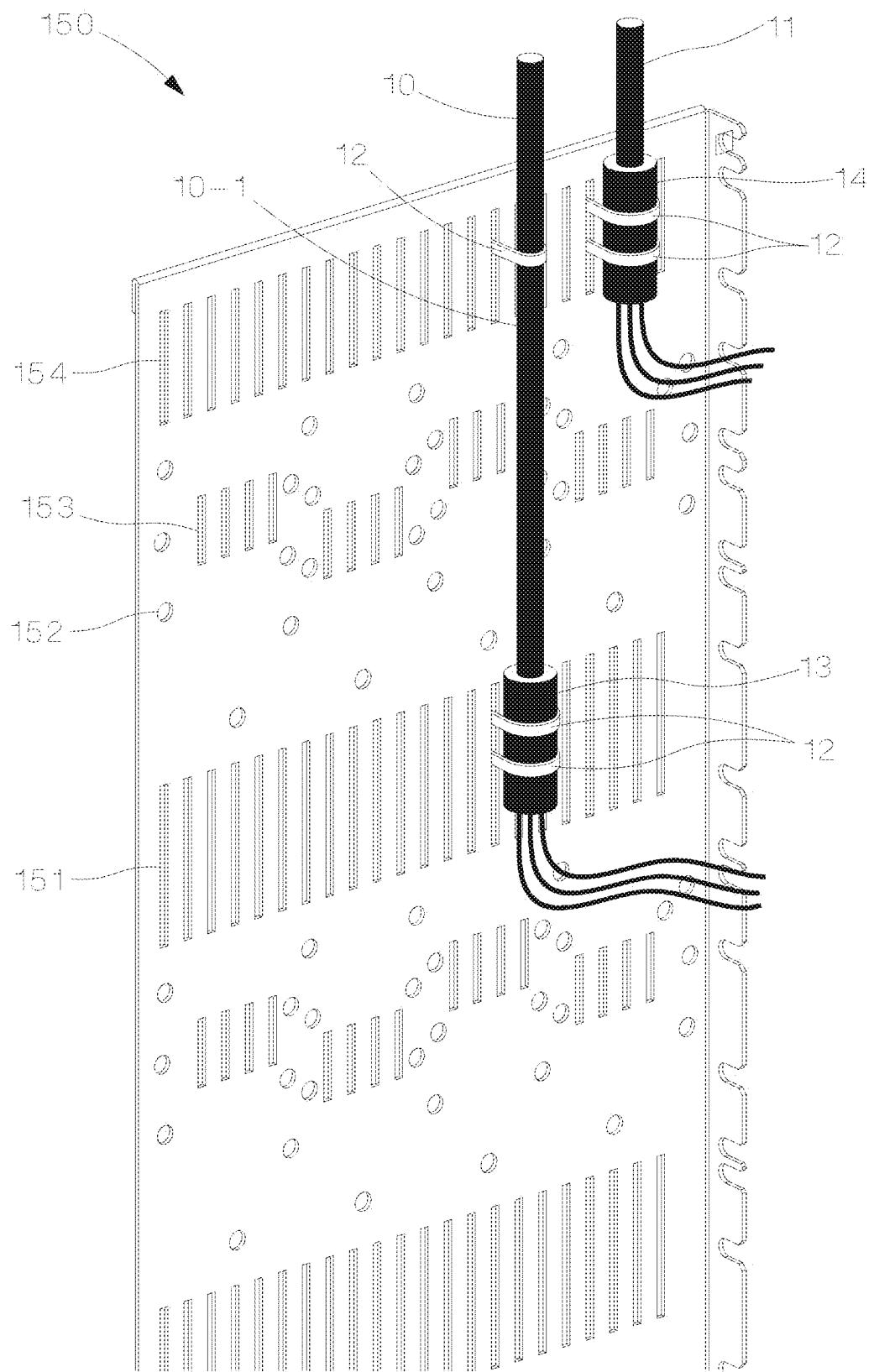


FIG. 59

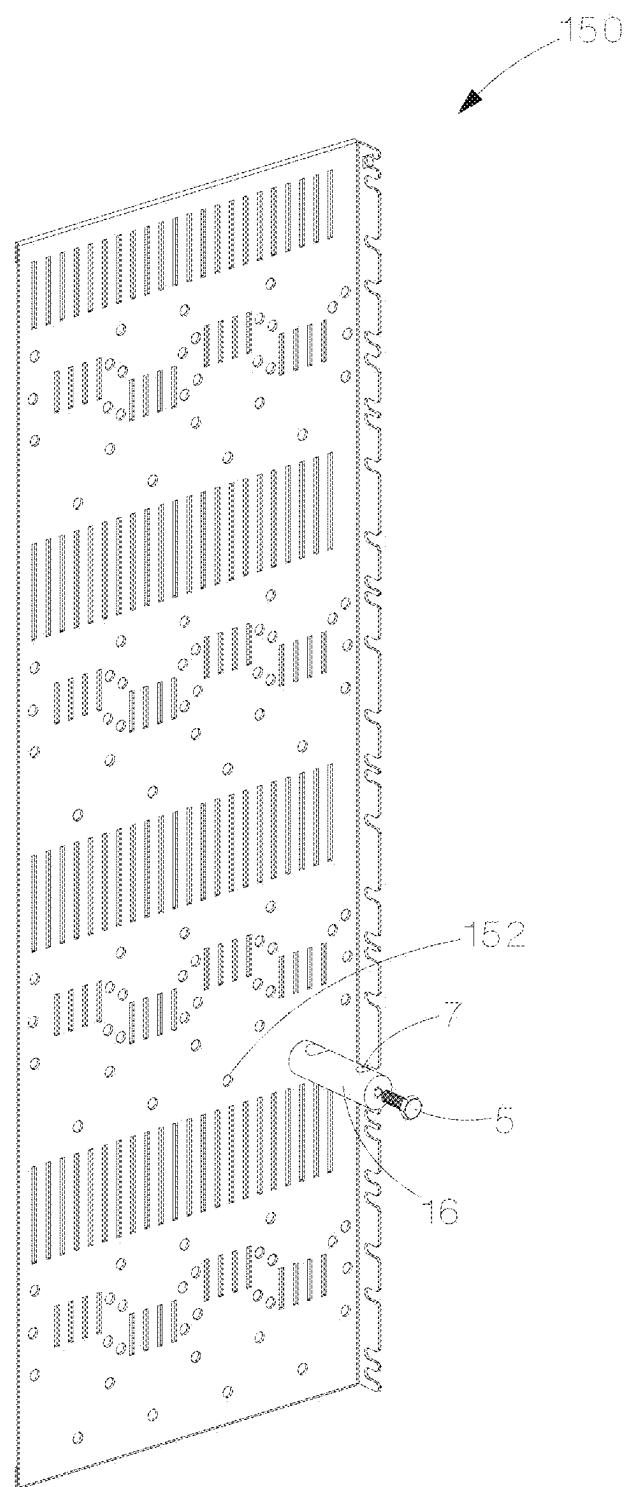


FIG. 60

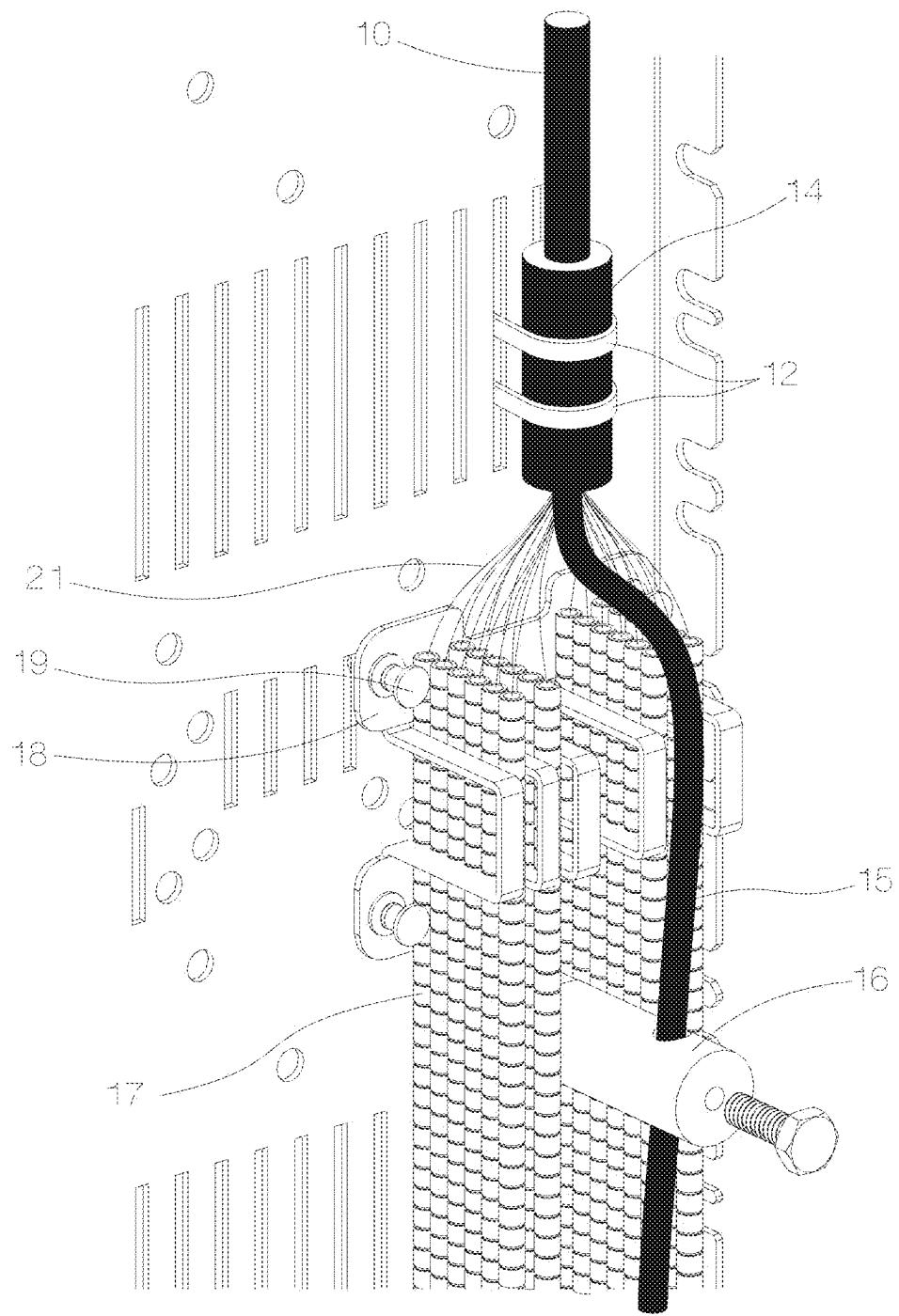


FIG. 61

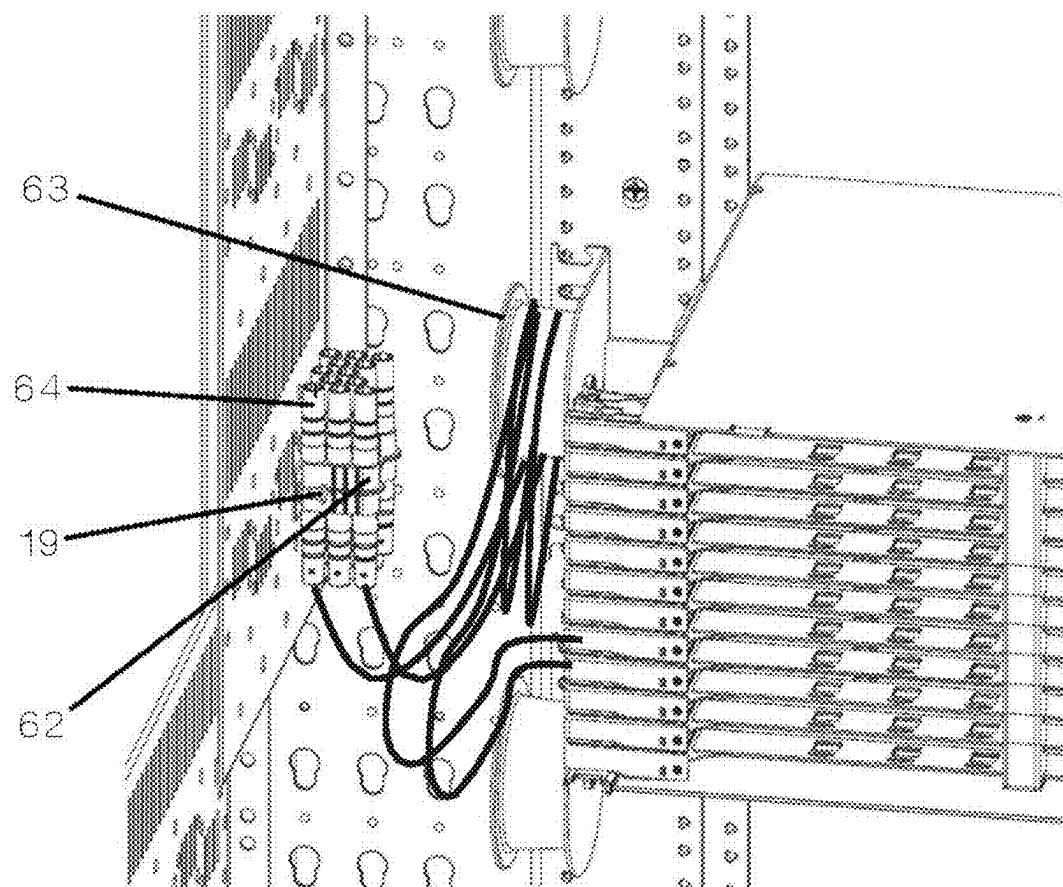


FIG.62

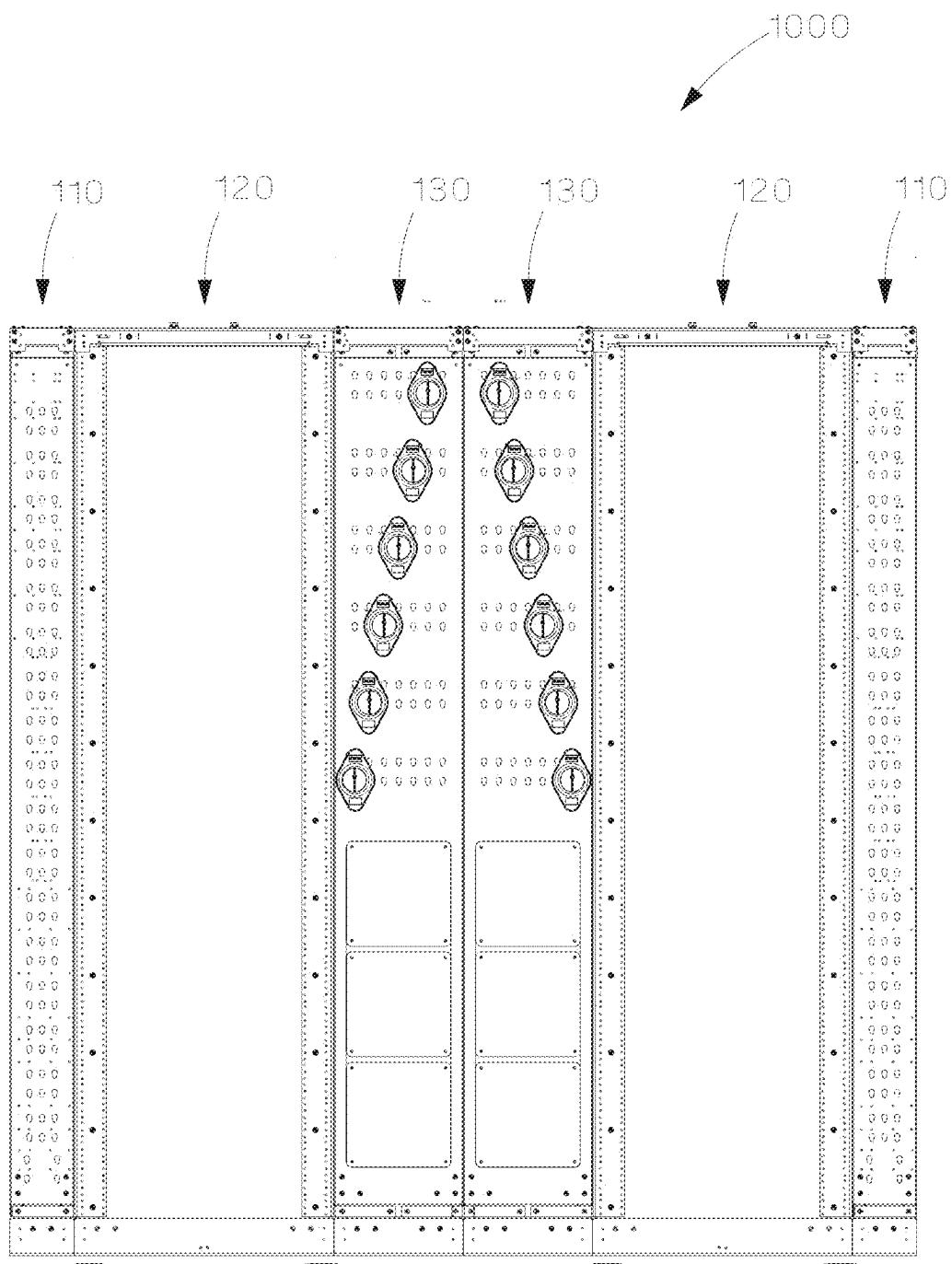


FIG. 63

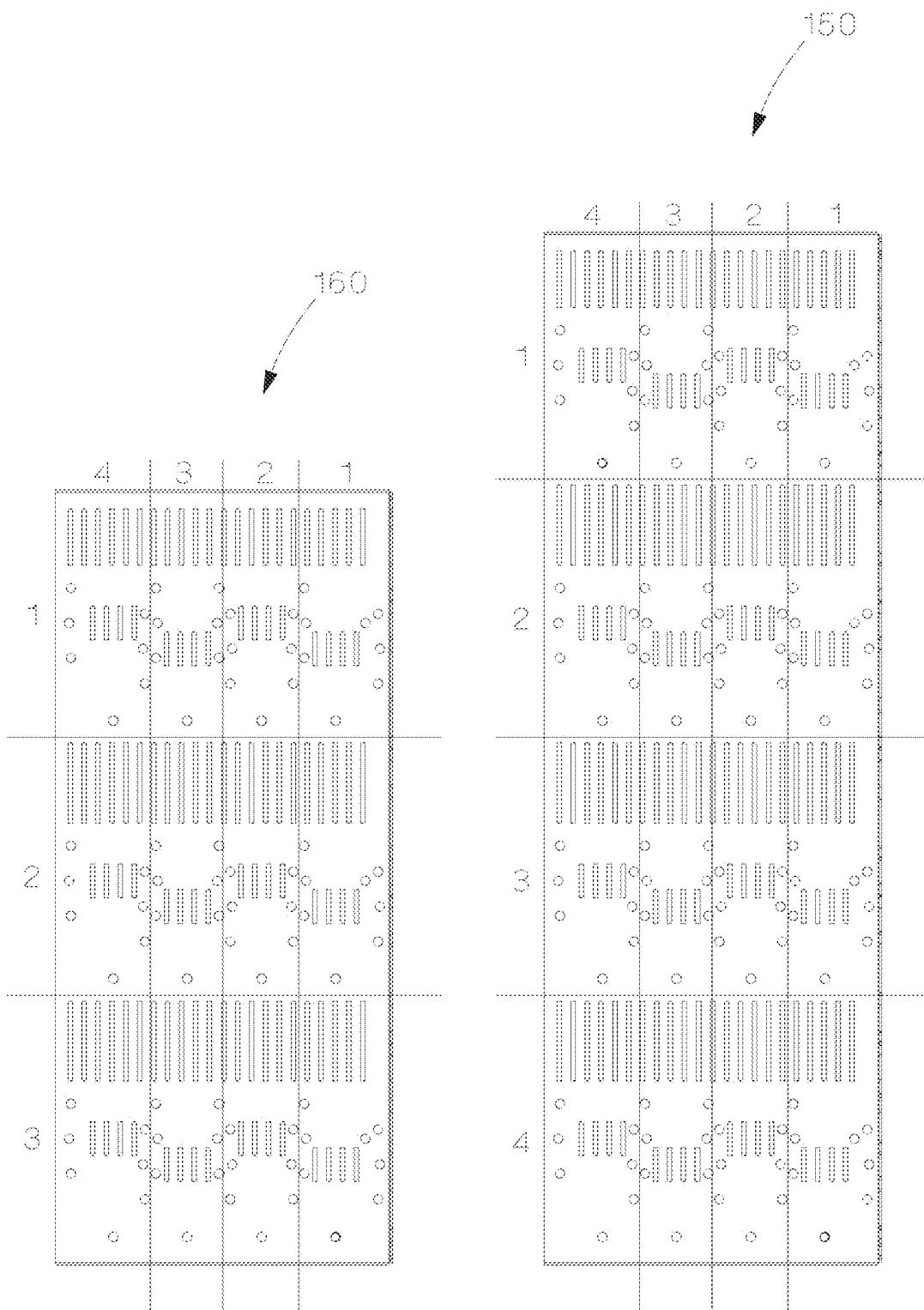


FIG. 64

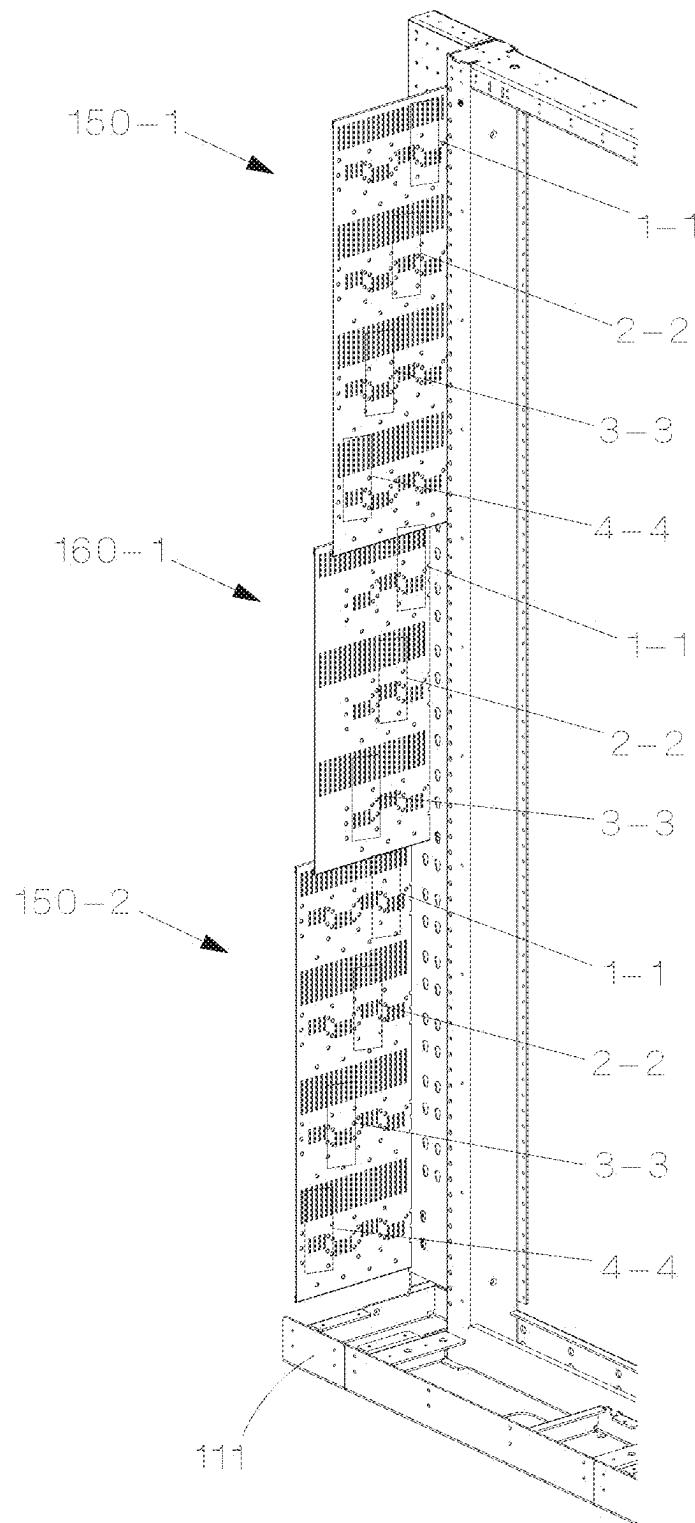


FIG. 65

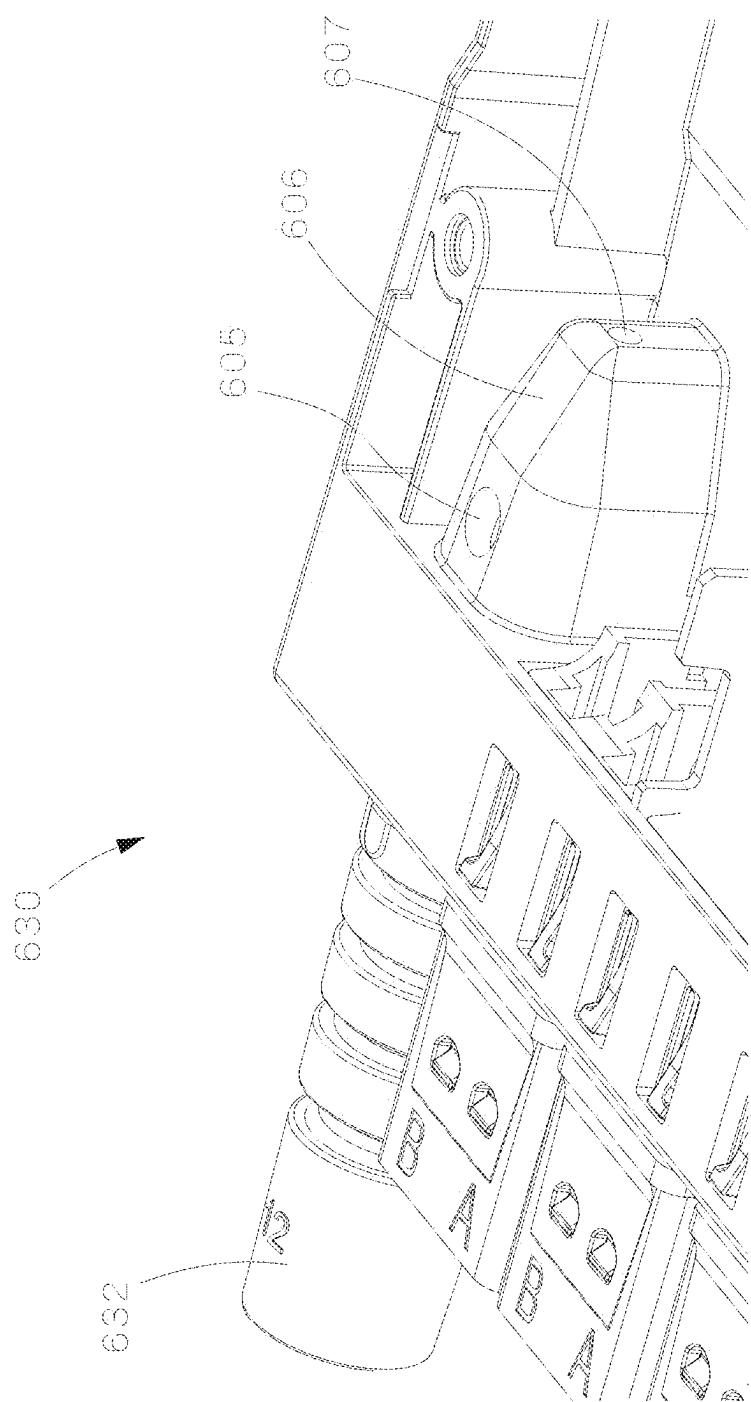


FIG. 66

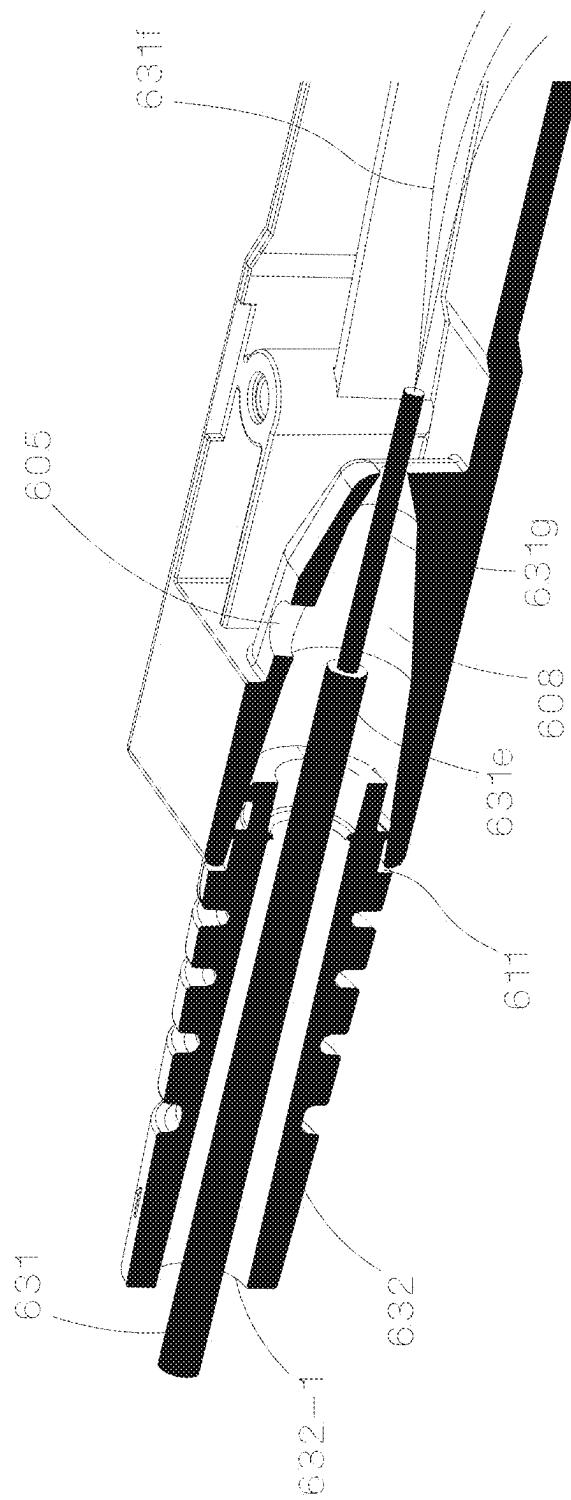


FIG. 67

OPTICAL DISTRIBUTION AND SPLICING FRAME INCLUDING CASSETTES

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. Non-Provisional patent application Ser. No. 18/591,372, filed on Feb. 29, 2024, which is a continuation of U.S. Non-Provisional patent application Ser. No. 17/477,845, filed on Sep. 17, 2021 (issued as U.S. Pat. No. 11,947,178 on Apr. 2, 2024), which claims benefit to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 63/079,739, filed Sep. 17, 2020, and to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 63/231,457, filed Aug. 10, 2021, the entirety of all of which are incorporated by reference herein.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Optical fibers allow for transmission of communications over longer distances and at higher bandwidths than wire cables. Optical fibers are also advantageous for communication systems because signals suffer less loss than wire cables and are immune to electromagnetic interference. Optical fibers are therefore often used for high bandwidth, long distance applications. One of the primary functions of a data center is to provide connections between incoming and outgoing optical fiber connections.

[0003] For example, an optical distribution and splice frame may be used to provide cable interconnections between a network provider and the facilities receiving the communications data. However, not all facilities are the same and may require different cable management configurations. Thus, a system that includes rack(s), enclosure(s), cable management component(s), and/or cassette(s) having the features to allow for different cable management configurations that are not yet available in the market may be advantageous.

SUMMARY

[0004] The present disclosure describes embodiments of a fiber optic cassette for use in an optical distribution and splice frame system. The fiber optic cassettes provide enhanced cable management capabilities, as well as allow for easy, non-disruptive maintenance or replacement of installed optical fiber cables.

[0005] According to some embodiments a cable management system is disclosed. The cable management system comprising a rack, an enclosure configured to be installed onto the rack, the enclosure configured to hold a fiber optic cassette, the fiber optic cassette comprising a cassette housing including a front face panel, the front face panel including a first opening and a plurality of second openings a vertical cable manager configured to be secured to a first side of the rack; and an incoming cable manager configured to be secured to a second side of the rack.

[0006] According to some embodiments a cable management system is disclosed. The cable management system comprising a rack, an enclosure configured to be installed onto the rack, the enclosure configured to hold a fiber optic cassette, the fiber optic cassette comprising a cassette housing including a front face panel, the front face panel including a first opening and a plurality of second openings, a bottom floor including a floor opening, and a splice insert configured to be removably attached to the bottom floor

through the floor opening, a vertical cable manager configured to be secured to a first side of the rack, and an incoming cable manager configured to be secured to a second side of the rack.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] FIG. 1 is a front perspective view of a cable management system, according to some embodiments.

[0008] FIG. 2 is a front perspective view of the cable management system shown in FIG. 1 having doors attached, according to some embodiments.

[0009] FIG. 3 is a partially exploded view showing the sub-systems that comprise the cable management system shown in FIG. 1, according to some embodiments.

[0010] FIG. 4 is a front perspective view of a first exemplary enclosure that may be installed into the cable management system, according to some embodiments.

[0011] FIG. 5 is rear perspective view of the enclosure shown in FIG. 4.

[0012] FIG. 6 is a top-down view of the enclosure shown in FIG. 4.

[0013] FIG. 7 is a front perspective view of the enclosure shown in FIG. 4 having trays pulled out in various states of use, according to some embodiments.

[0014] FIG. 8 is a close-up partial view of a portion in the enclosure shown in FIG. 4 where a tray and a cable slack manager are secured together, according to some embodiments.

[0015] FIG. 9 is a close-up partial view of a portion in the enclosure shown in FIG. 4 where a tray and a first type of outer cable manager are secured together, according to some embodiments d.

[0016] FIG. 10 is a top-down partial view of the cable slack manager in an open position.

[0017] FIG. 11 is a top-down partial view of the cable slack manager in a closed position.

[0018] FIG. 12 is perspective view of the cable slack manager.

[0019] FIG. 13 is a perspective view of a top side to a top cover included in the cable slack manager.

[0020] FIG. 14 is a perspective view of a bottom side to the top cover included in the cable slack manager.

[0021] FIG. 15 is a perspective view of a second type of outer cable manager secured to the enclosure.

[0022] FIG. 16 is a perspective view showing a back side of the second type of outer cable manager secured to the enclosure.

[0023] FIG. 17 is a first perspective view of a dividing wall including rail guides on both a first side and an opposite second side.

[0024] FIG. 18 is a second perspective view of a dividing wall including rail guides on both a first side and an opposite second side.

[0025] FIG. 19 is a perspective view of the tray installed into the enclosure shown in FIG. 4.

[0026] FIG. 20 is a front perspective view of a second exemplary enclosure that may be installed into the cable management system, according to some embodiments.

[0027] FIG. 21 is a rear perspective view of the enclosure shown in FIG. 20.

[0028] FIG. 22 is a perspective partial view of the enclosure shown in FIG. 20 being installed into an enclosure rack.

[0029] FIG. 23 is a perspective partial view of the enclosure shown in FIG. 20 installed into the enclosure rack.

- [0030] FIG. 24 is a top-down view of the enclosure shown in FIG. 20.
- [0031] FIG. 25 is a perspective view of the enclosure shown in FIG. 20 with a top cover removed to view internal components of the enclosure.
- [0032] FIG. 26 is a perspective view of an individual tray that may be installed into the enclosure shown in FIG. 20, according to some embodiments.
- [0033] FIG. 27 is a close-up partial view of a cable manager.
- [0034] FIG. 28 is a close-up partial view of the cable manager shown in FIG. 27 in a maintenance position.
- [0035] FIG. 29 is a perspective view of the tray including a removable rail installed, according to some embodiments.
- [0036] FIG. 30 is a perspective view of the tray including two removable rails installed, according to some embodiments.
- [0037] FIG. 31 is a side partial view of the enclosure shown in FIG. 20 having a side wall removed to reveal trays installed and positioned at various predetermined positions, according to some embodiments.
- [0038] FIG. 32 is a perspective partial view of the enclosure shown in FIG. 20 having a side wall removed to reveal internal components including a final stop bracket, according to some embodiments.
- [0039] FIG. 33 is a perspective view of a first exemplary cassette for use in the cable management system, according to some embodiment.
- [0040] FIG. 34 is a perspective exploded view of the first exemplary cassette shown in FIG. 33.
- [0041] FIG. 35 is a top-down partial view of the first exemplary cassette with a top cover removed to reveal internal components.
- [0042] FIG. 36 is a perspective view of a second exemplary cassette for use in the cable management system, according to some embodiment.
- [0043] FIG. 37 is a perspective exploded view of the second exemplary cassette shown in FIG. 36.
- [0044] FIG. 38 is a top-down partial view of the second exemplary cassette with a top wall removed to reveal internal components.
- [0045] FIG. 39 is a perspective view of a third exemplary cassette for use in the cable management system, according to some embodiment.
- [0046] FIG. 40 is a perspective exploded view of the third exemplary cassette shown in FIG. 39.
- [0047] FIG. 41 is a top-down partial view of the third exemplary cassette with a top cover removed to reveal internal components.
- [0048] FIG. 42 is a front view of the third exemplary cassette showing openings for receiving fiber optic adapters.
- [0049] FIG. 43 is a perspective view of a fourth exemplary cassette for use in the cable management system, according to some embodiment.
- [0050] FIG. 44 is a perspective exploded view of the fourth exemplary cassette.
- [0051] FIG. 45 is a perspective partial view of the fourth exemplary cassette showing an installation of a splice tray into a bottom floor of the fourth exemplary cassette.
- [0052] FIG. 46 is a partial perspective view of the fourth exemplary cassette showing the splice tray installed into the bottom floor.

- [0053] FIG. 47 is a top-down partial view of the fourth exemplary cassette with a top cover removed to reveal internal components.
- [0054] FIG. 48 is a perspective view of an enclosure rack including both an exemplary enclosure and pass-through cable manager installed, according to some embodiments.
- [0055] FIG. 49 is a perspective view of the pass-through cable manager.
- [0056] FIG. 50 is a perspective exploded view of the pass-through cable manager.
- [0057] FIG. 51 is a close-up view of the pass-through cable manager installed onto the enclosure shown in FIG. 48.
- [0058] FIG. 52 is a perspective rear view of the pass-through cable manager installed onto the enclosure and the rear-side trunk passage formed by the pass-through cable manager.
- [0059] FIG. 53 is a perspective view of an exemplary vertical cable manager installed between two enclosure racks, according to some embodiments.
- [0060] FIG. 54 is a close-up perspective view of a bottom trunk passage formed by the vertical cable manager and the enclosure racks shown in FIG. 53.
- [0061] FIG. 55 is a perspective view of an exemplary spool for installing onto the vertical cable manager shown in FIG. 53, according to some embodiments.
- [0062] FIG. 56 is a rear-side view of the spool shown in FIG. 55.
- [0063] FIG. 57 is a side view of the spool shown in FIG. 55.
- [0064] FIG. 58 is a perspective view of a cable plate for securing onto the incoming cable management system shown in FIG. 3, according to some embodiments.
- [0065] FIG. 59 is a perspective partial view of the cable plate having cables secured via exemplary cable securing components, according to some embodiments.
- [0066] FIG. 60 is a perspective view of the cable plate including an exemplary cable securing component secured, according to some embodiments.
- [0067] FIG. 61 is a perspective partial view of the cable plate including exemplary cable securing components secured, according to some embodiments.
- [0068] FIG. 62 is a perspective partial view of the cable plate secured to an enclosure rack as shown in FIG. 1, according to some embodiments.
- [0069] FIG. 63 is a front head-on view of a cable management system including an exemplary arrangement of two vertical cable managers, according to some embodiments.
- [0070] FIG. 64 is a front view of a two different sized cable plates, according to some embodiments.
- [0071] FIG. 65 is a front perspective view of an incoming cable management system including a pattern of cable plates, according to some embodiments.
- [0072] FIG. 66 is a perspective view of a portion to the third exemplary cassette shown in FIG. 39.
- [0073] FIG. 67 is a sectional view along the line 67-67 for an adapter included FIG. 66.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

- [0074] This disclosure describes embodiments of a cable management system (e.g., an optical distribution and/or splice frame system) including components that enable enhanced flexibility for installing and managing cables into

unique configurations for use in a network environment. The front access features also provide the components to be mounted against a wall.

[0075] FIG. 1 shows an exemplary cable management system 100 comprising a vertical cable manager system 130, an enclosure rack system 120 secured to both sides of the vertical cable manager system 130, and an incoming cable management system 110 (e.g., including an end panel) secured to each of the enclosure rack system 120 at the outer ends. Each of the systems comprising the cable management system 100 may have a predetermined width to allow for standardized components and arrangements of components within the cable management system 100. For example, the vertical cable manager system 130 may have a width of 300 mm, the enclosure rack system 120 may have a width of 600 mm, and the incoming cable management system 110 may have a width of 150 mm. The cable management system 100 offers a level of standardized modularity that allows users to reliably plan their network systems, while also providing the flexibility of enhanced options that fit a wide range of network system design requirements that other more rigid systems cannot provide.

[0076] FIG. 2 shows an exemplary embodiment where doors are attached to a front side of the cable management system 100. In particular, a door 40 is attached to a front side of the enclosure rack systems 120, a door 50 is attached to the vertical cable manager system 130, and a door 60 is attached to the incoming cable management systems 110.

[0077] FIG. 3 is a partially exploded view of the cable management system 100 showing each of the sub-systems that may comprise the cable management system 100. As illustrated, the vertical cable manager system 130 is positioned in a center portion of the cable management system 100, and one enclosure rack system 120 is secured to each side of the vertical cable manager system 130. Then to each remaining side of the enclosure rack system 120, an incoming cable management system 110 is secured to make up the outer ends of the cable management system 100. In this exemplary arrangement the overall width of the cable management system 100 is 1800 mm.

[0078] Incoming cables may work their way through the cable management system 100 by being received by the incoming cable management system 110 at a first end, routed to a cassette held by an enclosure in the adjacent enclosure rack system 120, routed out to the vertical cable manager system 130, routed to a cassette held by an enclosure in the adjacent enclosure rack system 120 at a second end (opposite the first end), then routed to the incoming cable management system 110 at the second end to be sent to an intended destination. Specifically, the incoming cable management system 110 includes a vertical panel 111 that holds a number of cable plates 150, 160 for securing incoming cables into predetermined configurations, and the vertical cable manager system 130 includes a plurality of spools 140 for routing the cables from the first side enclosure rack system 120 to the second side enclosure rack system 120. For example, FIG. 3 shows a plurality of cable plates 150, 160 arranged into a staggered design from each other, and the spools 140 are arranged into a diamond offset design. The cable plate 160 is shown to have a smaller size (e.g., due to shorter height) than the cable plate 150.

[0079] The arrangement of the spools 140 may be according to a predetermined design to optimize organization of the cables, and/or for standardizing a travel distance for cables

being routed through the cable management system 100. In other words, by using predetermined arrangements of spools 140 within a predetermined configuration of sub-systems in a cable management system (e.g., the 1800 mm cable management system 100 shown in FIGS. 1 and 3), the cable lengths for cables being routed through the cable management system 100 can be more accurately calculated. By standardizing a travel distance for cables being routed through the cable management system 100, pre-cut cables that are manufactured into predetermined (standardized) lengths for use in the cable management system 100 may be used, thus providing further ease in installation. Further description on the cable organization offered by the predetermined positioning of the cable plates 150 on the vertical panel 111 and the predetermined positioning of cable management accessories on the cable plates 150 will be provided in more detail below.

[0080] According to other embodiments, other arrangements of the sub-systems are provided and enabled. For example, FIG. 63 shows an alternative embodiment of the cable management system 1000 where the center portion is comprised of two vertical cable manager systems 130 secured adjacent to each other. The added width provided by the two vertical cable management systems 130 within the center portion of the cable management system 1000 allows for different, and more, arrangements of spools 140 hanging from the vertical cable management system 130 that would not be possible when using just a single vertical cable manager 130 as in the cable management system 100 shown in FIG. 1. The overall width of the cable management system 1000 is increased to 2100 mm by adding the additional vertical cable manager 130.

[0081] Further description of the components comprising the sub-systems of the cable management system 100 is now provided. FIG. 4 shows an exemplary enclosure 200 that may be installed into the enclosure rack system 120. The enclosure 200 is a 4 RU sized enclosure, although the enclosure 200 may be modified into other rack sized dimensions (e.g., 1 RU, 2 RU, 3 RU) by reducing a number of cassette tray rows according to other embodiments.

[0082] The enclosure 200 includes a front access door 21 located at a front side, where the front access door 21 rotates about a hinge 27 to open and closed positions. In the open position the front access door 21 rotates down to enable access into the enclosure 200, and in the closed position the front access door 21 rotates up to close off access into the enclosure 200. The front access door 21 includes two latches 25 located at opposite sides of the front access door 21, as well as a turning latch 26 acting as a locking mechanism and located at a center top of the front access door 21. The latches 26 may include latch hooks for attaching into latch openings on a top cover 24 of the enclosure 200. According to other embodiments, the turning latch 26 may be removed from its position at a center between the two latches 25 and be relocated to under one or both of the two latches 25.

[0083] The enclosure 200 also includes a housing comprised of two side walls 23 positioned at opposite ends to each other, a top cover 24 connecting the two side walls 23 at a top portion, and a bottom floor 28 (shown in FIG. 5). Mounting brackets 22 are secured to each side wall 23 and then used to secure the enclosure 200 to rack posts 121 included in the enclosure rack system 120. According to some embodiments, the mounting brackets 22 used for the enclosure 200 may be switched out for wider sized alterna-

tives such as mounting brackets 32 shown on enclosure 300 in FIG. 21, to accommodate installation onto rail posts of the enclosure rack system 120. The enclosure 200 also includes a first type of outer cable manager 230 on one side, and a second type of outer cable manager 231 on a second (opposite) side. Depending on the positioning of the enclosure 200 relative to the vertical cable manager system 130 or other application use case considerations, the sides of the enclosure 200 on which the first type of outer cable manager 230 and the second type of outer cable manager 231 are secured may be swapped.

[0084] FIG. 5 shows a rear side of the enclosure 200 is left mainly open other than a stop brace 29 and a divider wall 240 for holding tray guides. The stop brace 29 is included at the rear of the enclosure 200 within the fiber cassette holding portion 202 to prevent the trays 210 from extending out through the rear opening. According to some embodiments, the stop brace 29 may not be included in the enclosure 200. As shown more clearly from the rear view of the enclosure 200, the enclosure 200 is partitioned into a dynamic cable slack manager portion 201 and a fiber cassette holding portion 202, where the two portions are divided by the divider wall 240. As the overall width of the enclosure 200 is 1 RU width (e.g., EIA standard 19" width), the width of the dynamic cable slack manager portion 201 is approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ RU width, while the width of the fiber cassette holding portion 202 is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ RU width. Within the dynamic cable slack manager portion 201 are stored dynamic cable slack managers 220. Within the fiber cassette holding portion 202 are stored cassette trays 210 for holding cassettes. The cassette trays 210 are configured to hold a single triple wide cassette, or other combinations of single wide and double wide cassettes by using removable divider rail(s), as will be described in more detail herein.

[0085] As the enclosure 200 is a 4 RU spaced enclosure, it has a standard RU width and a 4 RU height including 12 rows for trays holding cassettes. FIG. 6 is a top-down view of the enclosure 200 that provides some exemplary dimensional measurements. For example, a first width w_1 of the enclosure 200 measured from side wall 23 to side wall 23 is approximately 17-18 inches (e.g., 17.35 inches/440.58 mm), a second width w_2 measured from mounting bracket 22 to mounting bracket 22 is approximately 19-20 inches (e.g., 19.11 inches/485.51 mm), and a third width w_3 measured from the outer cable manager 230 to the outer cable manager 231 is approximately 20-21 inches (e.g., 20.48 inches/520.14 mm). A first depth d of the enclosure measured from the latch to a rear of the enclosure 200 is approximately 11-12 inches (e.g., 11.81 inches/299.91 mm).

[0086] FIG. 7 shows the enclosure 200 having the bottom two rows of cassette trays 210 and cable slack managers 220 extended to different degrees. The cassette trays 210 and cable slack managers 220 may be extended out to one or more extended positions, and preferably three extended positions, as enabled by stopping positions within tray guides inside the enclosure 200. FIG. 8 shows a close-up of how the cable slack manager 220 secures to the cassette tray 210. The front side of the cassette tray 210 includes a front loop 213 for guiding cables being routed out from cassettes installed into the cassette tray 210. Fasteners 229 may be used for fastening portions of the cassette tray 210 to the cable slack manager 220. In addition, or alternatively, the cable slack manager 220 may be secured to a flange coming up from the bottom of the cassette tray 210. FIG. 8 also

shows portions of a front strip 211 in the cassette tray 210, where the front strip 211 includes minor openings 212 that may enable an installer to use a finger (or other object) to push up and through the minor openings 212 to assist in removing an installed cassette. The cassette tray 210 also includes a major opening 214 which is larger than the minor opening 212, which may also assist an installer to push up and through the minor openings 212 to remove an installed cassette.

[0087] FIG. 9 shows a close-up view of how the outer cable manager 231 secures to the cassette tray 210. Fasteners 229 may be used for fastening portions of the cassette tray 210 to the outer cable manager 231. In addition, or alternatively, the outer cable manager 231 may be secured to a flange coming up from a bottom of the cassette tray 210. The outer cable manager 231 includes a passage 30 for guiding cables that originates from the attached front loop 213 and travels to an exit opening away from the cassette tray 210. The top ceiling to the passage 30 is partially covered by a plurality of fingers 30-1.

[0088] FIG. 10 shows a top-down view of the cable slack manager 220 in an open position where the cable slack manager 220 is fully extended out. From this view, an exemplary first cable 10 and an exemplary second cable 20 may be routed from cassettes (not illustrated) installed in the cassette tray 210 via the front loop 213, through the cable slack manager 220, and finally out through the outer cable manager 230. Specifically, the cables 10, 20 enter into the cable slack manager 220 via an enter opening 236, and exit the cable slack manager 220 via a wide mouthed exit opening 237. In between the enter opening 236 and the exit opening 237, the cables 10, 20 travel via a tunnel pathway defined by bend radius features 221, 222 while laying on top of a tray floor 224. Partially covering a ceiling of the tunnel pathway are a plurality of ceiling fingers 227. A slidable cover 223 is also included for adjustably allowing access into the tunnel pathway by sliding between an open and closed positions. FIG. 10 shows the slidable cover 223 in an open position. In a closed position (as shown in FIG. 11), the slidable cover 223 slides into a position that covers at least a portion of the tunnel pathway.

[0089] FIG. 11 shows the cable slack manager 220 in a closed position where it has been slid back fully into the enclosure 200. The cable slack manager 220 allows the cables 10, 20 to stay aligned, stress-free, and static with respect to their respective mated cassette during all times when a user is accessing the fibers. In other words, the bend radius features 221, 222 work to maintain the cable bend radii and reduce the motion/stress on the fiber connector adapters on the cassettes that would otherwise occur if the cables 10, 20 were to move while the cassette tray 210 slides without the aid of the cable slack manager 220. For example, when the cable slack manager 220 transitions from the open position to the closed position, the only movement of the cables 10, 20 occurs past the bend radius feature 222 in the middle portion of the tunnel pathway. Then the cables 10, 20 exiting out the exit opening 237 only have approximately 2" to 3" of movement compared to the 6" relative movement of the cable slack manager 220. This greatly reduces the tension on the cables 10, 20 at the point where they exit the enclosure 200 and enter into the cable slack manager 220 at the enter opening 236, as well as at their respective adapters.

[0090] FIG. 12 provides a view of a finger grab portion 225 at the front of the cable slack manager 220. The finger

grab portion 225 includes features (e.g., protrusion and grooves) for enabling a user to pull the cable slack manager 220 between the open position and the closed position. The pathway tunnel is shown to include two ceiling fingers 227 near the enter opening 236, and two ceiling fingers 226 at other positions (e.g., midway) within the tunnel pathway. Different variations in the number and placement of the ceiling fingers 226, 227 are considered within the scope of the cable slack manager 220 in other alternative embodiments.

[0091] FIG. 13 shows a top side of the slidable cover 223 that includes a button latch 228. The button latch 228 is configured to provide a locking mechanism that engages a locking latch portion on the cable slack manager 220 when the slidable cover 223 is in the closed position to lock the slidable cover in place. Then when the button latch 228 is pushed down, the locking mechanism is disabled by the button latch 228 disengaging from the locking latch portion on the cable slack manager 220 which allows the slidable cover 223 to slide open into the open position. FIG. 14 is a perspective view showing a bottom side of the slidable cover 223 that includes latching features for engaging the locking latch portion on the cable slack manager 220.

[0092] FIG. 15 shows the second type of outer cable manager 230 configured to be secured directly to a side wall 23 of the enclosure 200. The outer cable manager 230 includes a side wall 234, a bottom floor 233, and a top ceiling 232. On an opposite side to the side wall 234 is a partially opened wall covered by a plurality of wall fingers 2381. There are three wall fingers 238 shown in FIG. 15; however different numbers of wall fingers 238 may be provided according to alternative embodiments of the outer cable manager 230. FIG. 16 shows a back side to the outer cable manager 230 where fastener openings 235 are shown. The fastener openings 235 are used to insert fasteners for securing the outer cable manager 230 to the enclosure 200.

[0093] FIG. 17 shows the dividing wall 240 that divides the dynamic cable slack manager portion 201 and the fiber cassette holding portion 202. FIG. 18 shows an opposite side of the dividing wall 240 from the view shown in FIG. 17. One side of the divider wall 240 is configured to slidably hold the cassette trays 210, while the other side of the divider wall 240 is configured to slidably hold the cable slack manager 220. The divider wall 240 includes rail guides 244 on both sides, where each rail guide 244 includes a number of detents that correspond to stop positions for the cassette trays 210 and cable slack managers 220. For example, the divider wall 240 shown in FIGS. 17-18 include three detents corresponding to three stop positions: a first detent 241 corresponding to a fully inserted position, a second detent 242 corresponding to an intermediate position, and a third detent 243 corresponding to a fully extended position (e.g., an access/install position). The divider wall 240 also includes a final stop member 245 that may be included which provides a final stopping member to abut against the rails of the cassette tray 210 or cable slack manager 220 to prevent them from being fully removed from the enclosure 200.

[0094] FIG. 19 shows the cassette tray 210 to include two side rails 218 at opposite sides, a bottom floor 219, a back wall 216, and a front strip 211. At a front end of the side rails 218 are front loops 213, where the front loops 213 include a 'D' ring design having a disconnected portion to allow cables to be inserted and removed from within the ring

defined by the front loops 213. Towards a back end of the side rails 218 are a stop protrusion 217. The stop protrusion 217 is configured to be releasably inserted into the detents 241, 242, 243 to define the different stop positions. The stop protrusion 217 may be made from a flexible material, such as a spring metal, so that the stop protrusion 217 may flex into one of the detents 241, 242, 243 when the stop protrusion 217 is aligned with one of the detents 241, 242, 243, and also flex out of the detents 241, 242, 243 when a sliding push or pull force is asserted to the cassette tray 210 to disengage from the detents 241, 242, 243.

[0095] As shown in FIG. 19, the front strip 211 includes minor openings 212 for receiving attachment features of a divider rail (e.g., divider rail 350 as shown in FIG. 29) for attaching the divider rail onto the cassette tray 210. The front strip 211 also defines a major opening 214 that also allows fingers or other tools to access the connector adapters (e.g., plug and/or unplug) during maintenance procedures, as well as to push up in an effort to remove cassettes that are installed on to the cassette tray 210. The back wall 216 defines a lip that serves as a stop member to prevent installed cassettes from falling through the rear of the cassette tray 210. The back openings 239 provide clearance for cassettes and/or divider rails that are installed by rotating them into place onto the bottom floor 219 of the tray 210. Although rear install/removal is not enabled for the enclosure 200, according to other embodiments the back openings 239 may further allow a finger or other tool to push up in an effort to remove cassettes that are installed on to the cassette tray 210. The floor openings 215 may come in different shapes to accommodate different removable divider rails to enable different sized cassettes being installed onto the same sized cassette tray 210, as will be described in more detail later in this disclosure (e.g., divider rail 350 as shown in FIG. 29).

[0096] FIG. 20 shows a second exemplary enclosure 300 that may be installed into the enclosure rack system 120 of the cable management system 100. The enclosure 300 is a 4 RU sized enclosure, although the enclosure 300 may be modified into other rack sized dimensions (e.g., 1 RU, 2 RU, 3 RU) by reducing a number of cassette tray rows according to other embodiments.

[0097] The enclosure 300 includes a front access door 31 located at a front side, where the front access door 31 rotates about a hinge 37 to open and closed positions. In the open position the front access door 31 rotates down to enable access into the enclosure 300, and in the closed position the front access door 31 rotates up to close off access into the enclosure 300. The front access door 31 includes two latches 35 located at opposite sides of the front access door 31, as well as a turning key 36 acting as a locking mechanism and located at a center top of the front access door 31.

[0098] The enclosure 300 also includes a housing comprised of two side walls 33 positioned at opposite ends to each other, a top cover 34 connecting the two side walls 33 at a top portion, and a bottom floor 38 (shown in FIG. 21). Mounting brackets 32 are secured to each side wall 33 and then used to secure the enclosure 300 to rack posts 121 included in the enclosure rack system 120. As shown in FIG. 22, the mounting brackets 32 include a lower lip for the enclosure 300 to rest on top of, thus providing a more secure installation onto the rack posts 121. The mounting brackets 32 may be pre-installed to the rack posts 121, and then the enclosure 300 may be slid on top of the lip surface for final installation as shown in FIG. 23. The enclosure 300 also

includes outer cable managers 330, 340 that mirror each other on opposite sides of the enclosure 300.

[0099] FIG. 21 shows a rear side of the enclosure 300 to be open other than a stop brace 39 for preventing trays 310 from falling out the rear of the enclosure 300. According to some embodiments, the stop brace 39 may be removed from the enclosure 300. As shown more clearly from the rear view of the enclosure 300, the enclosure 300 is partitioned into a fiber cassette holding portion 302, and an open space 301 on either side of the fiber cassette holding portion 302. As the overall width of the enclosure 300 is 1 RU width, the width of the fiber cassette holding portion 302 is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ RU width, while the remaining open space 301 both combine to be approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ RU width. Within the fiber cassette holding portion 302 are stored cassette trays 310 for holding cassettes. The cassette trays 310 are configured to hold a single triple wide cassette as described herein, three single wide cassettes, or a combination of single wide and double wide cassettes, as will be described in more detail herein.

[0100] As shown in FIG. 24, a first width w_1 measured as a width of the cassette tray 310 is approximately 11-12 inches (e.g., 11.98 inches/304.42 mm), a second width w_2 measured from the edges of the outer cable managers 330, 340 is approximately 17-18 inches (e.g., 17.35 inches/440.59 mm), and a third width w_3 measured from end to end of the bottom floor 38 is approximately 19-20 inches (e.g., 19.68 inches/500.07 mm). The enclosures 200, 300 has a depth d of approximately 11-12 inches (e.g., 11.79 inches/300 mm).

[0101] FIG. 25 shows the enclosure 300 having the bottom two rows of cassette trays 310 extended to different degrees. FIG. 26 is a perspective view of the cassette tray 310, which is the same or substantially the same as the cassette tray 210. The cassette tray 310 includes two side rails 318 at opposite sides, a bottom floor 319, a back wall 316, and a front strip 311. At a front end of the side rails 318 are front loops 313, where the front loops 313 include a disconnected portion to allow cables to be inserted and removed from within the ring of the front loops 313. Towards a back end of the side rails 318 are a stop protrusion 317. The stop protrusion 317 is configured to be releasably inserted into detents found on rail guides that the side rails 318 are configured to travel on, where the detents define the different stop positions. The stop protrusion 317 may be made from a flexible material, such as a spring metal.

[0102] As shown in FIG. 26, the front strip 311 includes a plurality of minor openings 312, and also defines a major opening 314 that is larger than any one of the minor openings 312. The back wall 316 defines a lip that acts as a stop member to prevent installed cassettes from falling through the rear of the cassette tray 310. Back openings 339 are also included at a rear portion of the bottom floor 319. The floor openings 315 may come in different shapes to accommodate different floor divider rails, as will be described in more detail later in this disclosure (see e.g., FIG. 29). The floor divider rails may be installed at different locations on the bottom floor to enable different sized cassettes being installed onto the same sized cassette tray 310.

[0103] In FIG. 27 the cassette tray 310 is in a fully inserted position within the enclosure 300, while FIG. 28 shows the cassette tray 310 in a fully extend out position. FIG. 27 shows a close-up view of how the outer cable manager 330

is secured to the front loop 313 and has a flared out shape such that a flared exit 335 is larger than the input opening at the front loop 313. The outer cable manager 330 includes a bottom surface 338 on which the cables 10 are routed on top of, as well as a plurality of fingers 338-1, 338-2 for partially closing a top roof of the outer cable manager 330. The flared exit 338-3 is also defined by exit loop 313-1 having a flexible opening, similar to the front loop 313, that prevents cables 10 from accidentally being removed from the outer cable manager 330, but also provides the capability to intentionally remove the cables 10 when desired. The outer cable manager 330 also includes a front face having a first label surface 336 and a second label surface 337 for placing adhesive backed labels.

[0104] In the fully extended out position shown in FIG. 28, the cables 10 are shown to have traversed within the outer cable manager 330 to rest against the curved walls provided by the flared exit 335. By allowing the cables 10 to traverse within the outer cable manager 330, and in particular within the flared exit 335, cable movement at the cassette location where the adapters are installed is nearly eliminated. Therefore, this greatly reduces unwanted tugging (i.e., stress forces) on the cables at their adapter locations within the cassettes which could lead to degraded optical performance of the cables 10 due to physical disconnections/deformities in the fiber cables 10 as the trays are moved to different positions.

[0105] FIG. 29 is a front perspective view of the cassette tray 310 (or cassette tray 210), showing the divider rail 350 installed. Although the cassette trays 210, 310 are illustrated to fit triple wide cassettes, the divider rail 350 may be installed to enable installation of different sized cassettes onto the cassette trays 210, 310. For example, the installation location for the divider rail 350 in FIG. 29 enables installation of a single wide cassette and a double wide cassette onto the cassette tray 310. In the exemplary embodiment illustrated in FIG. 30, the installation locations for the two divider rails 350, 351 enable installation of three individual single wide cassettes.

[0106] FIG. 31 is a side view of the enclosure 300 having side wall 33 removed to show the internal components that enable the sliding mechanisms of the cassette tray 310. The enclosure 300 is equipped with rail guides 334 having a number of detents 331, 332, 333 for accepting the stop protrusion 317 to create a same number of stop positions. The rail guides 334 include a first detent 331 (fully inserted stop position), a second detent 332 (intermediate stop position), and a third detent 333 (fully extended stop position). For exemplary purposes, cassettes in group A are positioned in the fully inserted stop position, cassette B is positioned in the intermediate stop position, and cassette C is positioned in the fully extended stop position. Based on the unique dimensions of the enclosure that includes the open spaces 301 at the outer side edges of the enclosure 300, a final stop bracket 360 is provided (as seen in FIG. 32) for providing the final stop member 345 positioned beyond the third detent 333 and configured to prevent the cassette tray 310 from falling out the enclosure 300. This sliding mechanism is the same, or substantially the same for the sliding of the cassette tray 210 within the enclosure 200.

[0107] FIG. 33 shows a first exemplary cassette 400, and FIG. 34 shows a perspective exploded view of the cassette 400. The cassette 400 includes a top cover 420 and housing body 410, where the top cover 420 is secured to the housing

body 410 using a plurality of fasteners 401 that fit through fastener openings 403 in the top cover 420 and screwed into fastener openings 402 in the housing body 410. The top cover 420 may be made from aluminum to increase rigidity while reducing overall weight of the cassette 400. The housing body 410 may be made from a molded plastic material.

[0108] The housing body 410 includes a front face 404 that includes a first opening 411 for installing a first adapter 430, and a plurality of second openings 412 for installing a group of second adapters 440. The first adapter 430 may be a duplex MPO adapter, and the second adapter 440 may be a duplex LC adapter. According to other embodiments, the first adapter 430 may be a group of two simplex MPO adapters, with the corresponding first openings 411. As shown in FIG. 34, the first opening 411 has a width w_3 and each of the second openings 412 have a width w_4 for receiving their respective adapters. Second openings 412 may be separated by a first dividing wall 413 having a first thickness/width, where the first dividing wall 413 is slightly recessed in from the front face 404. Every second of the second openings 412 may be separated by a second dividing wall 421 having a second thickness/width that is slightly larger than the first thickness/width. The second adapters 440 and their respective second openings 412 are grouped into two groups, a first group 441 including six of the second adapters 440 and a second group 442 including six of the second adapters 440. The second openings 412 corresponding to the first group 441 and the second openings 412 corresponding to the second group 442 are separated by a third dividing wall 414 that is thicker/wider than the first dividing wall 413 and the second dividing wall 421. The cassette 400 allows for up to 24 fiber connections using the 12 LC duplex adapters. An area of the front face 404 including either a front opening 411 or second opening 412 is greater than an area that does not include such openings.

[0109] The housing body 410 further includes side walls 416 at opposing sides, a back wall 417. On the side walls 416 are included a front post 422, a rear post 419, and a release latch 418.

[0110] FIG. 35 shows the inner workings of the housing body 410 where a first fan out of fibers 431 from the first adapter 430 (first MPO) is configured to be routed to the second set of adapters 440 in the first group 441, and a second fan out of fibers 432 from the first adapter 430 (second MPO) is configured to be routed to the second set of adapters 440 in the second group 442. A width w_1 for the area covering the second adapters 440 is approximately 175.5 mm, while a width w_2 for the first group 441, or second group 442, of second adapters 440 is approximately 84.9 mm. A width w_5 for the cassette 400 measured between the side walls 416 is approximately 292.61 mm (11.52 inches). In this configuration, the cassette 400 enables up to 24 fiber connections, and up to 72 fiber connections per RU space. FIG. 35 also shows fiber wall protectors 423 on both the side walls 416, where the fiber wall protectors 423 prevent the individual fibers 431, 432 within the housing body 410 from moving to the side walls 416 where they might be pinched by the top cover 420 during assembly. The fiber wall protectors 423 include a rounded end portion that curves in towards the inside of the cassette 400. The rounded ends assist in contouring the fibers 431, 432 as they travel from their fanouts from the first adapters 430 to the second adapters 440. Protruding tabs 424 on either side further help

prevent the fibers 431, 432 from moving over the tops of the side walls 416 where they are at risk of being pinched during assembly when the top cover 420 is brought down onto the housing body 410.

[0111] FIG. 36 shows another exemplary cassette 500, and FIG. 37 shows a perspective exploded view of the cassette 500. The components comprising the cassette 500 are substantially the same as the cassette 400. The main difference is that a front face 504 of the housing body 510 includes a different type of first adapters 530 and subsequently, different sized front openings 511 for the first adapters 530 compared to the first adapter 430 in cassette 400. The top cover 520 may also be modified to account for the shape and dimensions of the first adapters 530 that are different from the first adapter 430. The number and layout of the group of second adapters 440 and corresponding second openings 412 in the cassette 500 are the same as in cassette 400.

[0112] The top cover 520 is secured to the housing body 510 using a plurality of fasteners 501 that fit through fastener openings 503 in the top cover 520 and screwed into fastener openings 502 in the housing body 510. The top cover 520 may be made from aluminum to increase rigidity while reducing overall weight of the cassette 500. The housing body 510 may be made from a molded plastic material. The housing body 510 further includes side walls 516 at opposing sides, and a back wall 517. On the side walls 516 are included a front post 522, a rear post 519, and a release latch 518.

[0113] The housing body 510 includes the front face 504 having first openings 511 for installing the first adapters 530, and a plurality of second openings 412 for installing the second adapter 440. The first adapter 530 may be two separate epoxy cable transition adapters, and the second adapter 540 may be the duplex LC adapters also installed into the cassette 400. The epoxy cable transition adapters are described, for example, in more detail in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/245,441 (filed Jan. 11, 2019), now U.S. Pat. No. 10,656,360 (issued May 19, 2020), the entirety of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein. Each of the first openings 511 have a width w_3 to accommodate the epoxy cable transition adapters, and each of the second openings have a width w_4 for receiving their respective adapters same as in cassette 400. The cassette 500 includes the same number of second adapters 440 as the cassette 400, thus also allowing for up to 24 fiber connections. An area of the front face 504 including either a front opening 511 or second opening 412 is greater than an area that does not include such openings.

[0114] FIG. 38 shows the inner workings of the housing body 510 where a first fiber cable 531 coming into a first adapter 530 will fan out to the second adapters 440 in the first group 441, and a second fiber cable 532 coming into a first adapter 530 will fan out to the second adapters 440 in the second group 442. In this configuration, the cassette 500 enables up to 24 fiber connections, and up to 72 fiber connections per RU space. The widths (w_1 , w_2 , w_4) corresponding to the second adapter 440 and the overall cassette width w_5 are the same as provided in the cassette 400. FIG. 38 also shows fiber wall protectors 523 along both the side walls 516, where the fiber wall protectors 523 prevent the individual fibers from the cables 531, 532 within the housing body 510 from moving to the side walls 516 where they might be pinched by the top cover 520 during assembly. The fiber wall protectors 523 include a rounded end portion that

curves in towards the inside of the cassette **500**. The rounded ends assist in contouring the fibers from the cables **531**, **532** as they travel from their fanouts from the first adapters **530** to the second adapters **540**. Protruding tabs **524** on either side further help prevent the fibers from the cables **531**, **532** from moving over the tops of the side walls **516** where they are at risk of being pinched during assembly when the top cover **520** is brought down onto the housing body **510**. Although two epoxy transition type of first adapters **530** each supporting up to 12 fiber connections are shown, according to other embodiments a single epoxy transition type of first adapter and corresponding single first opening may be used instead that supports up to 24 fiber connections.

[0115] FIG. 39 shows another exemplary cassette **600**, and FIG. 40 shows a perspective exploded view of the cassette **600**. The components comprising the cassette **600** are substantially the same as the cassette **400**. The main difference is that a front face **604** of the housing body **610** includes a different type of integrated first adapter **630** and subsequently, different sized front opening **611** for the integrated first adapter **630** compared to the first adapter **430** included in the cassette **400**. The top cover **620** may also be modified to account for the shape and dimensions of the first adapter **630** that are different from the first adapter **430**. The number of the second adapters **440** and corresponding second openings **412** in the cassette **600** are increased from the cassette **400** to now include 18 duplex LC adapters enabling up to 36 fiber connections in the cassette **600**.

[0116] The top cover **620** is secured to the housing body **610** using a plurality of fasteners **601** that fit through fastener openings **603** in the top cover **620** and screwed into fastener openings **602** in the housing body **610**. The top cover **620** may be made from aluminum to increase rigidity while reducing overall weight of the cassette **600**. The housing body **610** may be made from a molded plastic material. The housing body **610** further includes side walls **616** at opposing sides, and a back wall **617**. On the side walls **616** are included a front post **622**, a rear post **619**, and a release latch **618**.

[0117] The housing body **610** includes the front face **604** that includes first opening **611** for installing the integrated first adapter **630**, and a plurality of second openings **412** for installing the groups of second adapters **440**. The integrated first adapter **630** is actually provided in two parts. As shown in FIG. 66, the first part to the integrated first adapter **630** comprises a flexible boot **632**, and the second part comprises an integrated epoxy transition **606**. The integrated epoxy transition **606** is integrated as part of the housing body **610** that defines the first opening **611**. The integrated epoxy transition **606** includes an epoxy fill hole **605** on a top roof, an exit hole **607**, and a tapered cable tunnel **608** that defines an inner housing formed into the housing body **610**. By integrating the epoxy transition elements into the housing body **610** directly, the need for a separate epoxy transition component (e.g., as used in cassette **500**) is obviated. This reduces the overall footprint of the epoxy transition features in the cassette **600**, which enables additional space on the front face **604** to include the high-density number of second openings **412** for installing the groups of second adapters **440** (e.g., duplex LC adapters).

[0118] As shown in FIG. 67, the first opening **611** is configured to receive the flexible boot **632** that is installed to hold the cable **631**. The first opening **611** is the beginning to the tapered cable tunnel **608**, where the flexible boot **632** is

installed into the first opening **611**. The cable **631** may be installed through a boot opening **632-1** and into the tapered cable tunnel **608**. Inside the tapered cable tunnel **608**, the outer jacket **631e** to the cable **631** may be stripped to expose a coated bundle of fibers **631g** (e.g., Acrylate coated bundle). Epoxy may then be injected via the epoxy fill hole **605** into the tapered cable tunnel **608** to hold the exposed fibers and/or bundled fibers in place. The individual fibers **631f** are then fanned out from the exit hole **607** and routed to their respective second adapters **440**.

[0119] Each of the second openings have a width w_4 for receiving their respective adapters same as in cassette **400**. The cassette **600** is a higher density cassette that includes 18 of the second adapters **440** (e.g., duplex LC adapters), for a total of up to 36 fiber connections, which translates to up to 108 fiber connections per RU space. An area of the front face **604** including either a front opening **611** or second opening **612** is greater than an area that does not include such openings.

[0120] FIG. 41 shows the inner workings of the housing body **610**. An incoming fiber cable **631** is coupled to the first adapter **630**, and fibers from the cable **631** are configured to fan out into a plurality of fibers inside the housing body **610** to connect to each of the second adapters **440**. The second adapters **440** are arranged in three distinct groups: a first group **641**, a second group **642**, and a third group **643**. Each of the first group **641**, the second group **642**, and the third group **643** have a uniform layout similar to the groups in cassette **400**, where each group **641**, **642**, **643** have a width of w_2 that is approximately 3.33 inches along the front face **604**.

[0121] FIG. 41 further shows where a fiber cable **631** coming into a first adapter **530** will fan out to the second adapters **440** in the first group **641**, the second group **642**, and the third group **643**. In this configuration, the cassette **600** enables up to 36 fiber connections, which translates to up to 108 fiber connections per RU space. The widths (w_2 , w_4) corresponding to the second adapter **440** and the overall cassette width w_5 are the same as provided in the cassette **400**. FIG. 38 also shows fiber wall protectors **623** along both the side walls **616**, where the fiber wall protectors **623** prevent the individual fibers from the cables **631** within the housing body **610** from moving to the side walls **616** where they might be pinched by the top cover **620** during assembly. The fiber wall protectors **623** include a rounded end portion that curves in towards the inside of the cassette **600**. The rounded ends assist in contouring the fibers from the cables **631** as they travel from their fanouts from the first adapter **630** to the second adapters **540**. Protruding tabs **624** on either side further help prevent the fibers from the cable **631** from moving over the tops of the side walls **616** where they are at risk of being pinched during assembly when the top cover **620** is brought down onto the housing body **610**.

[0122] As shown in FIG. 42, a width w_1 of the area occupied by the second adapters **440** is approximately 10.49 inches, while a width w_5 of the overall cassette **600** is approximately 11.52 inches. A width w_7 of the cassette **600** including the front posts **422** is approximately 11.98 inches. A height h_2 of the cassette is approximately 0.46 inches. A height h_1 for the second opening **412** is approximately 0.39 inches, while a width w_6 of two second openings **412** adjacent to each other is approximately 1.06 inches. Each set of two second openings **412** may be separated by the second dividing wall **421** that is thicker than the first dividing wall

413, where the second divider wall **421** is thinner than the third dividing wall **414**. The individual dimensions relating to the second opening **412** and dividing walls **413, 414, 421** may be the same for other cassettes **400, 500**.

[0123] FIG. 43 shows another exemplary cassette **700**, the cassette **700** allowing for ambidextrous input cable insertion. FIG. 44 shows the cassette **700** includes a top cover **720** and housing body **710**. The top cover **720** includes a top surface **721** and a thumb latch **724** for assisting in sliding the top cover **720**. The top cover **720** also includes sliding retention features (e.g., hooks) **723** for engaging corresponding sliding retention features **713** (e.g., latches) on the housing body **710**. The system of sliding retention features **713, 723** engage together to secure the top cover **720** to the housing body **710**, as well as to disengage to allow the top cover **720** to be removed from the housing body **710**.

[0124] The housing body **710** includes a front face **704** that includes first openings **711, 712** on opposite sides to enable cables **701, 702** to be installed on either side, or even both sides, of the housing body **710**. Second adapters **740** may be installed into second openings **745** that are also included on the front face **704**, where the second openings **745** may be the same dimensions as the second openings **412** discussed herein. A first set **741** of the second adapters **740** may be separate from a second set **742** of the second adapters **740**. The second adapters **740** may be duplex LC adapters, so that the cassette **700** includes 12 duplex LC adapters for up to 24 fiber connections, and up to 72 fiber connections per RU space.

[0125] The housing body **710** includes side walls **716** at opposing sides, a back wall **717**, and a bottom floor **715**. A front post **722**, a rear post **719**, and release latch **718** are included in the side walls **716**. The bottom floor **715** includes a removable splice protector insert **714**. As shown in FIG. 45 the splice protector inserts **714** are installed from the bottom into tray openings **734** in the bottom floor **715**.

[0126] FIG. 46 shows the splice protector insert **714** as it is installed onto the bottom floor **715**. Snap latches **731** of the splice protector insert **714** are configured to insert and snap into corresponding latch openings **732** in the bottom floor **715** for securing the splice protector insert **714** to the bottom floor **715**. The splice protector insert **714** includes various protection features **733** for holding and protecting fiber splice components.

[0127] FIG. 47 illustrates fiber routing features inside the housing body **710** of the cassette **700**. On the inside of the housing body **710**, each side includes a routing wall **746** configured to define a routing path for including cables on one side. The routing walls **746** have a rounded bend for routing internal fibers towards the splice protector insert **714** located more in the center of the bottom floor **715**, as well as top fingers to prevent fibers from reaching up and touching the top cover **720**. The inside of the housing body **710** also includes rear routing walls **747** having a rounded bend and top fingers. The inside of the housing body **710** also includes a center wall **743** having rounded ends **744** and top fingers. As shown in FIG. 47, the incoming cables **701, 702** can fit into either the left side first openings **711** or the right side front openings **712** to offer enhanced installation flexibility options for an installer. The cables may be inserted into the openings **711, 712** and secured using a cable tie, with the optional to use a screw to further secure the cable's strength member to the openings **711, 712**. According to some embodiments, cables **701, 702** may be installed

into both the left side first openings **711** and the right side front openings **712**. One or more of the left side first openings **711** or the right side front openings **712** may be plugged closed when not in use to receive the cables **701, 702**.

[0128] FIG. 48 shows an exemplary pass-through cable manager **800** of the enclosure rack system **120**, where the pass-through manager **800** is configured to be installed under an enclosure (e.g., enclosure **200, 300**) to provide additional cable management features for routing cables interfacing the enclosure **200**.

[0129] FIG. 49 shows the pass-through cable manager **800** including a pass-through shelf **806**, spools **809** that are installed onto the pass-through shelf **806**, a rear trough **810**, a rear trough cover, rear trough supports **811** for holding up the rear trough **810**, brackets **804**, jumper manager fingers **805** configured to attach to the brackets **804** to provide cable routing, and rear bend radius supports **808** for routing cables on the rear trough **810**. FIG. 50 is a perspective exploded view of the pass-through cable manager **800**, that additionally provides a view of pass through supports **807** that are attached to an under-side of the pass-through shelf **806**.

[0130] FIG. 50 is a perspective close-up view of the pass-through cable manager **800** as it is installed under the enclosure **200**. The pass-through cable manager **800** is secured to the rack posts **121** using the brackets **804**. In this view, the cable **801** can be seen coming down from the enclosure **200**, routed using the jumper manager fingers **805**, down onto the pass-through shelf **806**, and back to a rear side where the cables **801** are further routed away on the rear trough **810**. As shown, the different jumper manager fingers **805** may be secured to the bracket **804** to be at different spaced locations and/or different relative angles to each other. Although not illustrated in FIG. 51 specifically, according to other embodiments the cables **801** may be further routed around the spools **809** that are installed on the pass-through shelf **806**.

[0131] FIG. 52 shows rear side view of three pass-through cable managers **800** installed adjacent to each other, to better show how a rear-side trunk passage can be created by the rear tough **810** for routing cable from the enclosure **200**. When multiple pass-through cable managers **800** are installed adjacent to each other, the rear-side trunk passage that is formed can route cables **801, 802** in either direction within the overall cable management system **100**.

[0132] FIG. 53 shows the vertical cable manager system **130** having an enclosure rack system **120** attached to both sides. The vertical cable manager system **130** includes a vertical panel **131**, a waterfall attachment **133** for bending cables over a top of the vertical panel **131**, and a bottom base **136**. The vertical panel **131** includes a plurality of holes **132** arranged in a predetermined pattern for securing one or more spools **140**. Cables that are connected to either enclosure rack system **120** may be routed via the spools **140** on the vertical cable manager system **130**. The spools **140** may be installed onto the vertical panel **131** in a predetermined pattern to enable organized routing of cables from the enclosure rack system **120** on the first side to the enclosure rack system **120** on the second side. For example, FIG. 63 shows the spools **140** positioned into unique cascading patterns on each of the vertical cable manager systems **130**, so that there is minimal, or no, vertical and/or horizontal overlap.

[0133] As shown in FIG. 54, when connecting the vertical cable manager system 130 to the enclosure rack system 120, the bottom base 136 form a trunk passage comprising a front trough pathway 124 and a pass-through 134 provided by the bottom base 136. The pass-through 134 provided by the bottom base 136 further offers a passage that connects the front trough pathway 124 to a rear trough pathway 125, 135.

[0134] FIG. 55 shows an exemplary spool 140 that includes a mounting plate 141 that includes a tab 142, a cylindrical body 143, and a front face 144 formed in a diamond shape. The front face 144 includes two recessed pockets 145 for attaching labels 146, and may further include a face plate 103 that covers the front face 144. FIG. 56 shows a rear side of the mounting plate 141 to further illustrate mounting features used to secure the spool 140 to the vertical panel 131 via one or more holes 132. The mounting features include a protrusion 148 for fitting into a hole 132, and two hooks 149 for latching into respective holes 132. FIG. 57 shows a side view of the spool 140 to better provide dimensional measurements. For example, a height h_1 of the front face 144 is approximately 5.7 inches, and a height h_2 from the cylindrical body 143 to a top of the front face 144 is approximately 1.5 inches. Cables are intended to rest on the cylindrical body 143, and the front face 144 is used to prevent the cables from falling off the front of the spools 140.

[0135] FIG. 58 shows the cable plate 150 that may be installed onto the vertical panel 111 at fixed locations, via the holes 112, of the incoming cable management system 110. The cable plate 150 includes a plurality of different openings for securing different cable management accessories for managing incoming trunk cables such as anchor kits 16, tubing brackets 18, and transition holders 62. The openings include different sized slits (e.g., large slits 151, medium slits 154, small slits 153), and holes 152 that may be arranged into predetermined patterns. The cable plate 150 also includes mounting slots 155 for attaching fasteners used to secure the cable plate 150 to the holes 112 in the vertical panel 111.

[0136] FIG. 59 shows an exemplary embodiment where cables 10, 11 (e.g., trunk cables) and components are secured to the cable plate 150. An outer jacket 10-1 of the cable 10 may be secured to the cable plate 150 via the medium slits 154 using a cable tie 12. A transition point 13 to the cable 10 is an end piece to the cable 10 that is secured to the cable plate 150 via the large slit 151 using a plurality of cable ties 12. Another cable 11 is shown to have a corresponding transition point 14 secured to the cable plate 150 via the medium slit 154 using a plurality of cable ties 12. The transition points 13, 14 are representative of and end piece to a trunk cable coming into the cable management system 100 where the outer jacket of the trunk cable is terminated and secured into place using epoxy or other similar material for securing internal cables in place. Then the multi-fiber cables that are included in the trunk cables are fanned out into their own individual furcation tubes as they exit the transition point, where each furcation tube is their own fiber optic cable having a predetermined number of fibers (e.g., 12 fibers) for being routed to the enclosures and cassettes in the enclosure rack systems 120.

[0137] FIG. 60 shows an exemplary anchor kit 16 that secures onto the cable plate 150 via a hole 152, where the anchor kit 16 is configured to receive and stabilize a central strength member 15 from a cable (see e.g., FIG. 60). The

central strength member 15 may be a fiberglass rod located in the center of the fiber optic cable 10, which provides rigidity and robustness to the overall cable construction.

[0138] FIG. 61 shows an exemplary fiber breakout assembly coming from the cable 10 and when using the cable plate 150. The outer jacket 10-1 of the cable 10 is directly secured to the cable plate 150 using cable ties 12 and the large slits 151 at the transition point 14. At this transition point, the cable 10 is transitioned to partition the individual multi-fiber cables into the breakout fan assembly before being inserted into breakout tubing 17, where the breakout tubing is held into a tubing bracket 18 that is secured to the cable plate 150 using plungers/grommets 19 inserted into the small slits 153 and holes 152. From the transition point 14 also comes out the central strength member 15 from the cable 10, where the central strength member 15 is inserted through an opening 7 in the anchor kit 16. A screw 5 is then tightened to secure the central strength member 15 to the anchor kit 16, which provides stability and limits movement of the central strength member 15 after installation.

[0139] FIG. 62 shows another exemplary arrangement where a transition holder 62 (e.g., Panduit's HD Flex transition) is secured to the cable plate 150 by inserting the plungers/grommets 19 into the openings in the cable plate 150. The transition holder 62 is designed to hold a plurality of transitions 64. Spool brackets 63 attached to the rack post 121 are positioned to receive cables from the transitions 64 and take up any excess cable length (i.e., cable slack) for the cables that are routed to the enclosure mounted on the rack post 121.

[0140] As shown in FIGS. 1 and 3, the enclosure rack system 120 is provided to install up to eleven (11) 4 RU sized enclosures 200, 300 when fully populated. FIGS. 1 and 3 further show that in addition to the larger sized cable plate 150 described thus far, the incoming cable management system 110 may also include a smaller sized cable plate 160. The smaller sized cable plate 160 is functionally the same, having the same features as the larger sized cable plate 150, but just having smaller height dimensions. According to an exemplary embodiment, the larger sized cable plate 150 may be configured to enable ingress/egress cable management routing for up to four (4) of the enclosures 200, 300 installed onto the enclosure rack system 120 (e.g., consecutive enclosures), while the smaller cable plate 160 may be configured to enable ingress/egress cable management routing for up to three (3) of the enclosures 200, 300 installed onto the enclosure rack system 120 (e.g., consecutive enclosures). Different sized cable plates for enabling ingress/egress cable management routing for different number of enclosures may be provided according to other embodiments.

[0141] In an effort to provide enhanced organization features, the surface area of the cable plates 150, 160 may be partitioned to be dedicated to a specific enclosure that is installed onto the enclosure rack system 120. FIG. 64 shows the cable plates 150, 160 having partition lines overlayed to show exemplary areas that are dedicated to receive cables for ingress/egress to specific enclosures. Each row outlined onto the cable plates 150, 160 is representative of a different dedicated enclosure. So for cable plate 160, row 1 includes areas (row-column) 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, and 1-4 that are dedicated to a first enclosure, row 2 includes areas 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, and 2-4 that are dedicated to a second enclosure, and row 3 includes areas 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, and 3-4 that are dedicated to a third enclosure. For cable plate 150, row 1 includes areas

(row-column) 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, and 1-4 that are dedicated to a first enclosure, row 2 includes areas 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, and 2-4 that are dedicated to a second enclosure, row 3 includes areas 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, and 3-4 that are dedicated to a third enclosure, and row 4 includes areas 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, and 4-4 that are dedicated to a fourth enclosure.

[0142] FIG. 65 shows an exemplary arrangement of cable plates **150-1**, **150-2**, **160-1** installed onto the vertical panel **111** for managing cable ingress/egress for up to eleven (11) enclosures installed onto the enclosure rack system **120**. Like the pattern shown in FIGS. 1 and 3, the cable plates **150**, **160** themselves are installed in a cascading pattern from each other. Now within each of the cable plates **150-1**, **150-2**, **160-1**, this exemplary arrangement provides a dedicated area on each of the cable plates **150-1**, **150-2**, **160-1** for managing cables going to dedicated enclosures. For example, on the first large cable plate **150-1** an area 1-1 is dedicated for managing cables to a first enclosure, an area 2-2 is dedicated for managing cables to a second enclosure, a third area 3-3 is dedicated for managing cables to a third enclosure, and an area 4-4 is dedicated for managing cables to a fourth enclosure. On the first small cable plate **160-1** an area 1-1 is dedicated for managing cables to a fifth enclosure, an area 2-2 is dedicated for managing cables to a sixth enclosure, and a third area 3-3 is dedicated for managing cables to a seventh enclosure. On the second large cable plate **150-2** an area 1-1 is dedicated for managing cables to an eighth enclosure, an area 2-2 is dedicated for managing cables to a ninth enclosure, a third area 3-3 is dedicated for managing cables to a tenth enclosure, and an area 4-4 is dedicated for managing cables to an eleventh enclosure. Each of the areas within the individual cables plates **150-1**, **150-2**, **160-1** is shown to be in a cascading pattern according to the areas described in FIG. 64, which enables little to no overlap in the adjacent areas to maximize organization of cables that are ingressing/egressing to the enclosures.

[0143] While the particular preferred embodiments described herein have been shown and described, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that changes, and modifications, may be made without departing from the teaching of the embodied features described in this disclosure. The matter set forth in the foregoing description and accompanying drawings is offered by way of illustration only and not as limitation. The actual scope of the disclosure is intended to be defined in the following claims when viewed in their proper perspective.

What is claimed is:

1. A fiber optic cassette for use within an enclosure having a 1 RU width, the fiber optic cassette comprising:
a cassette housing having a width less than 1 RU width, the cassette housing comprising:
a first side wall located at a first side of the cassette housing;
a second side wall located at a second side of the cassette housing, the second side wall positioned opposite the first side wall;
a rear wall;
a floor;
a top cover configured to attach to the cassette housing; and

a front face panel including:

an input opening including an epoxy transition adapter configured to transition a fiber optic cable into individual fibers within an inner side of the cassette housing; and
an output opening configured to hold a fiber optic adapter, wherein the fiber optic adapter is configured to receive a fiber optic connector coupled to one of the individual fibers from the fiber optic cable.

2. The fiber optic cassette of claim 1, wherein the epoxy transition adapter is integrated into the input opening.

3. The fiber optic cassette of claim 1, wherein the front face panel includes a plurality of output openings, each output opening configured to receive a separate fiber optic adapter.

4. The fiber optic cassette of claim 1, wherein the input opening is located towards the first side of the front face panel.

5. The fiber optic cassette of claim 1, the epoxy transition adapter comprising:

a flexible boot configured to receive the fiber optic cable; and

an integrated epoxy transition that is molded as part of the front face to form the input opening, the integrated epoxy transition comprising:

an inner tunnel configured to route the fiber optic cable from the flexible boot, wherein an outer jacket of the fiber optic cable is removed to expose an optical fiber of the fiber optic cable within the inner tunnel;

a top roof, the top roof including an epoxy fill hole configured to enable an epoxy to enter and fill at least a portion of the inner tunnel; and

an exit hole through which the exposed optical fiber exits the inner tunnel and enters the inner side of the cassette housing.

6. The fiber optic cassette of claim 5, wherein the exposed optical fiber includes a bundle of more than one optical fibers.

7. The fiber optic cassette of claim 1, wherein a width of the input opening is less than a width of the output opening.

8. The fiber optic cassette of claim 1, wherein the front face includes a plurality of output openings, and an area of the front face including openings is greater than an area of the front face not including an opening.

9. The fiber optic cassette of claim 1, wherein the front face panel includes a plurality of output openings, wherein the plurality of output openings covers at least 60 percent of a width of the front face panel.

10. The fiber optic cassette of claim 1, wherein the front face panel includes a plurality of output openings, wherein the plurality of output openings covers less than 60 percent of a width of the front face panel.

11. The fiber optic cassette of claim 1, wherein the front face includes a plurality of output openings to enable up to 36 fiber optic connections, wherein each output opening is configured to receive a duplex LC adapter.

12. The fiber optic cassette of claim 1, wherein a portion of the epoxy transition adapter is positioned within the inner side of the cassette housing.

13. The fiber optic cassette of claim 12, wherein the portion of the epoxy transition adapter that is positioned within the inner side of the cassette housing is configured in a tapered shape.

14. The fiber optic cassette of claim 1, wherein a width of the fiber optic cassette is approximately 12 inches or less.

15. The fiber optic cassette of claim 1, wherein the front face includes a plurality of output openings arranged into a plurality of distinct groups, such that a space between adjacent output openings within a same group is less than a space between adjacent output openings from different groups.

* * * * *