



US 20250261939A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**

Swayze et al.

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2025/0261939 A1**

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

(54) **FIRING BEAM HEAD HAVING A ROTATABLE LOCK**

A61B 34/30 (2016.01)

A61B 34/37 (2016.01)

A61B 90/00 (2016.01)

(71) Applicant: **Cilag GmbH International**, Zug (CH)

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

CPC *A61B 17/07207* (2013.01); *A61B 17/072* (2013.01); *A61B 34/30* (2016.02); *A61B 34/37* (2016.02); *A61B 34/71* (2016.02); *A61B 2017/00017* (2013.01); *A61B 2017/00367* (2013.01); *A61B 2017/00398* (2013.01); *A61B 2017/00407* (2013.01); *A61B 2017/00446* (2013.01); *A61B 2017/00464* (2013.01); *A61B 2017/00473* (2013.01); *A61B 2017/00477* (2013.01); *A61B 2017/07228* (2013.01); *A61B 2017/0725* (2013.01); *A61B 2017/07257* (2013.01); *A61B 2017/07264* (2013.01); *A61B 2017/07271* (2013.01); *A61B 2017/07278* (2013.01); *A61B 2017/07285* (2013.01); *A61B 2017/2902* (2013.01); *A61B 2017/2912* (2013.01); *A61B 2017/2923* (2013.01); *A61B 2017/2927* (2013.01); *A61B 2017/2929* (2013.01); *A61B 2017/2936* (2013.01); *A61B 2017/2946* (2013.01); *A61B 2034/302* (2016.02); *A61B 2090/0808* (2016.02); *A61B 2090/0814* (2016.02); *A61B 2090/0818* (2016.02)

(21) Appl. No.: **19/188,629**

(22) Filed: **Apr. 24, 2025**

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 17/950,601, filed on Sep. 22, 2022, which is a continuation of application No. 16/855,647, filed on Apr. 22, 2020, now Pat. No. 11,564,688, which is a continuation of application No. 15/385,887, filed on Dec. 21, 2016, now Pat. No. 10,835,245.

Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**

A61B 17/072 (2006.01)

A61B 17/00 (2006.01)

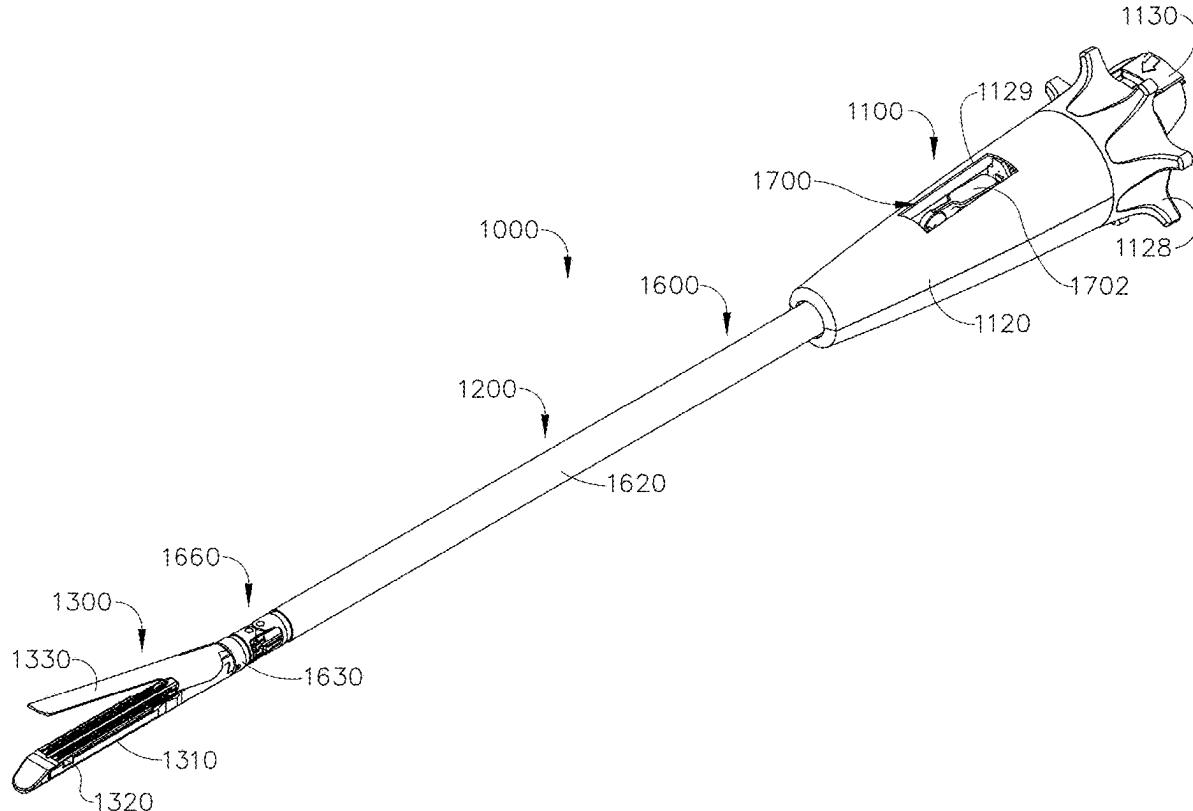
A61B 17/29 (2006.01)

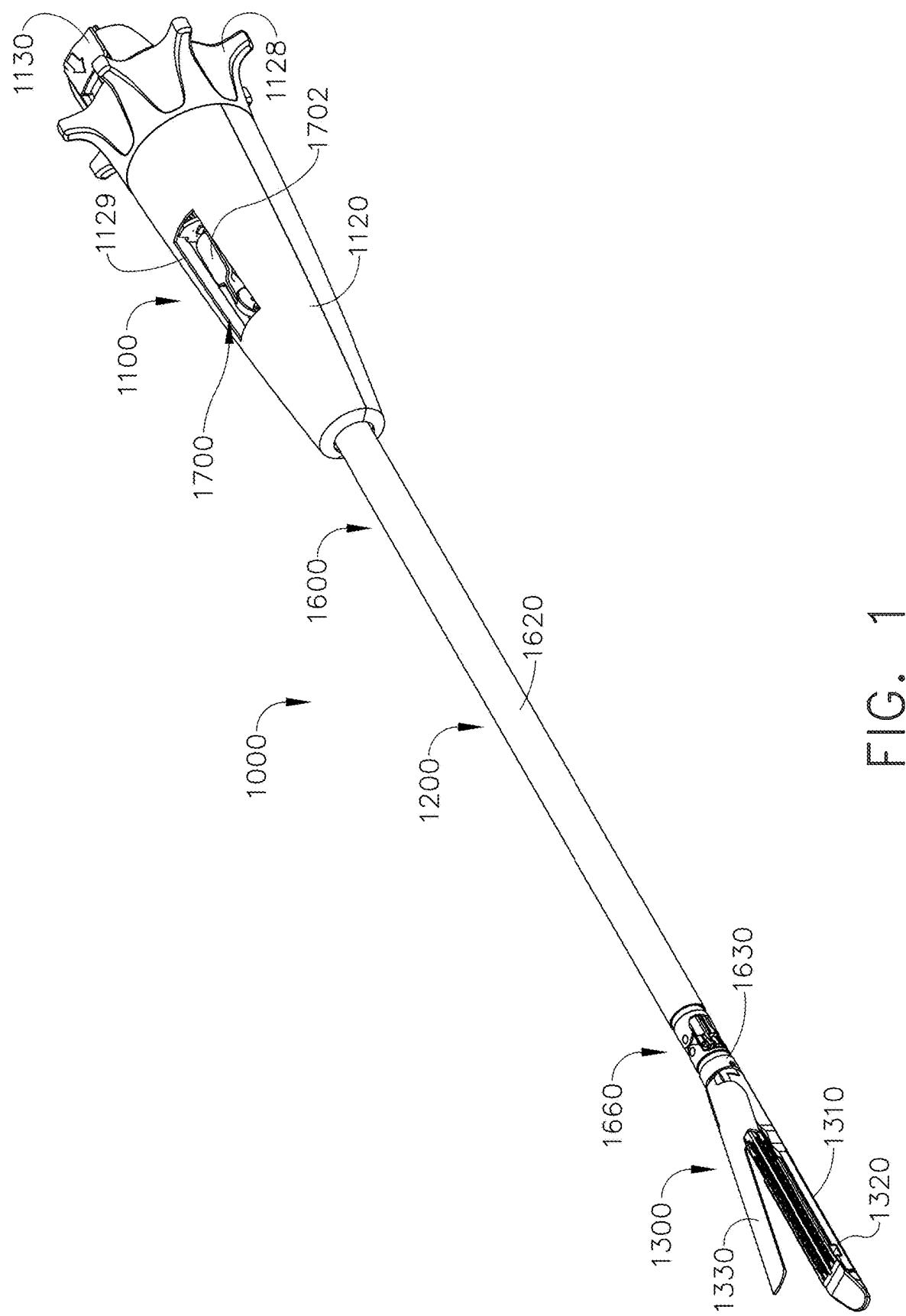
A61B 34/00 (2016.01)

(57)

ABSTRACT

Methods for selectively attaching a shaft assembly to a handle of a surgical instrument and an arm of a surgical robot are disclosed.





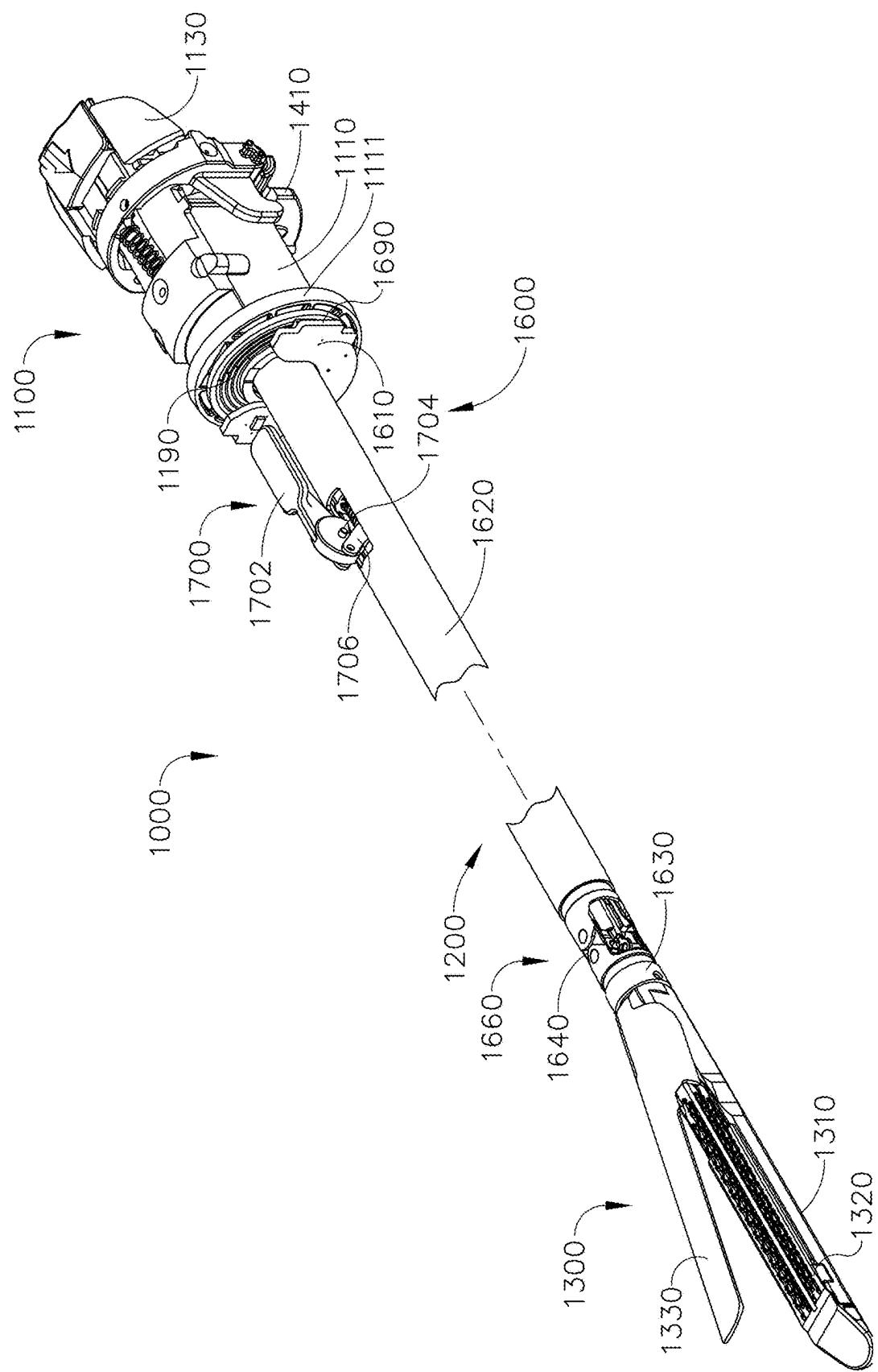
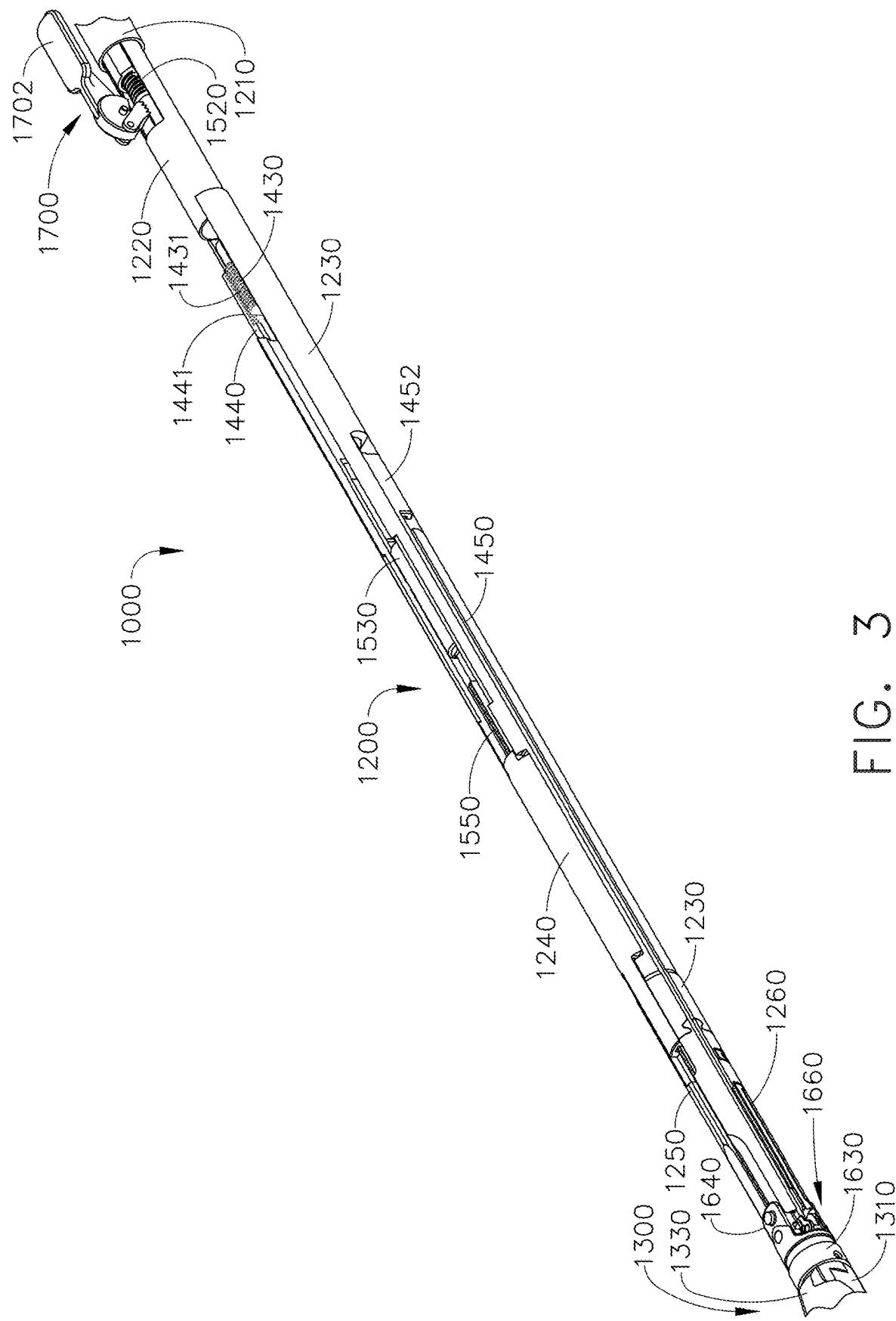
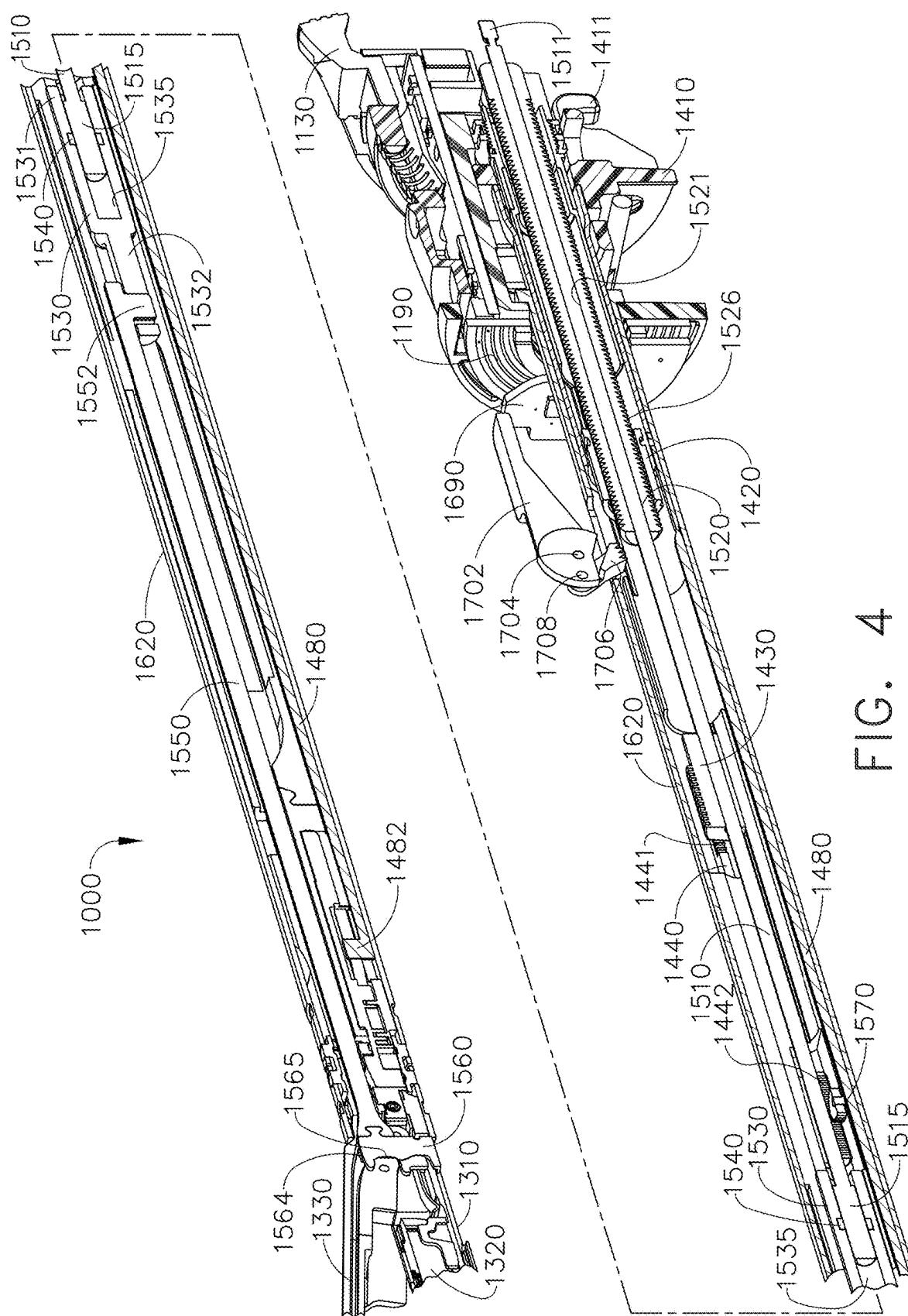


FIG. 2





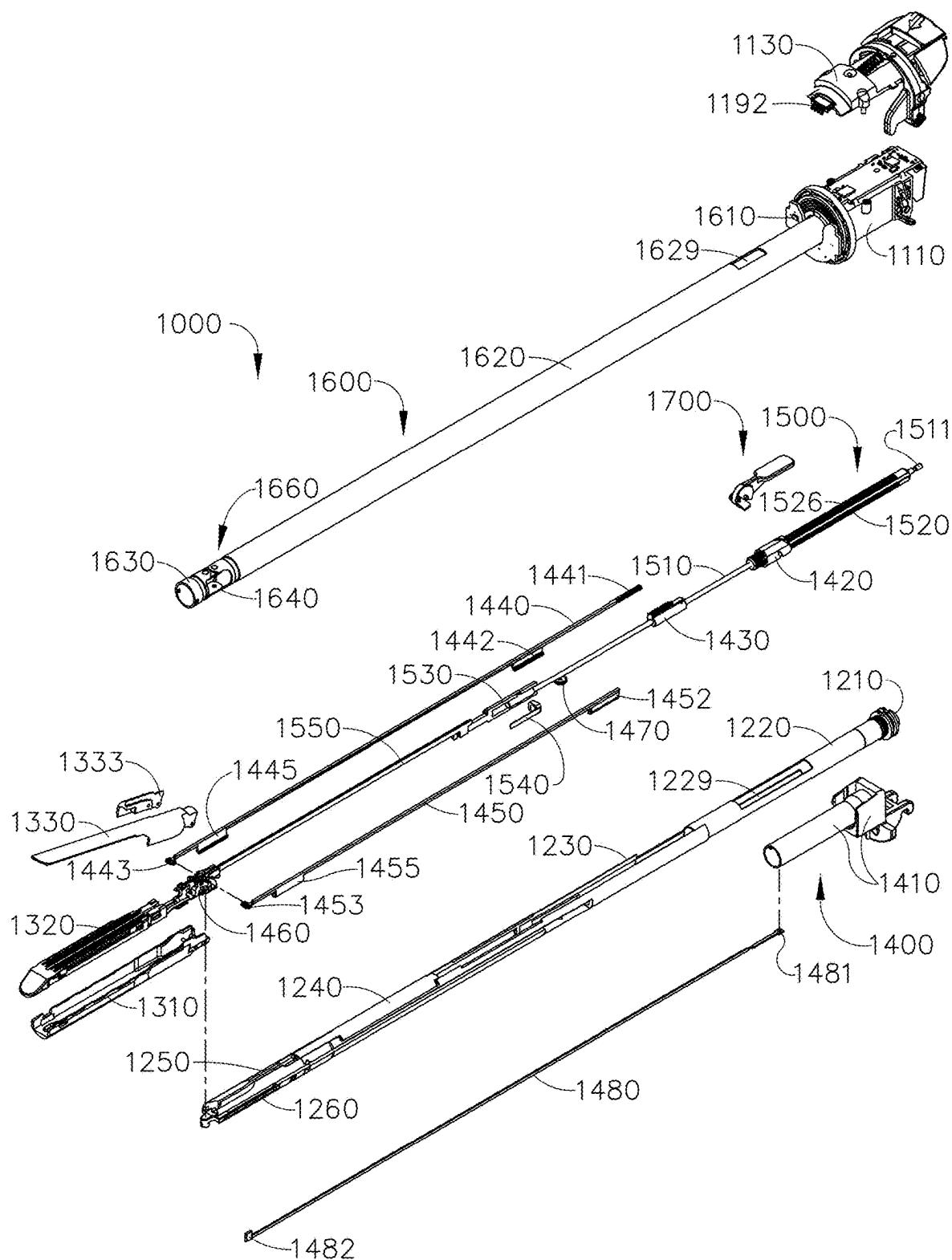
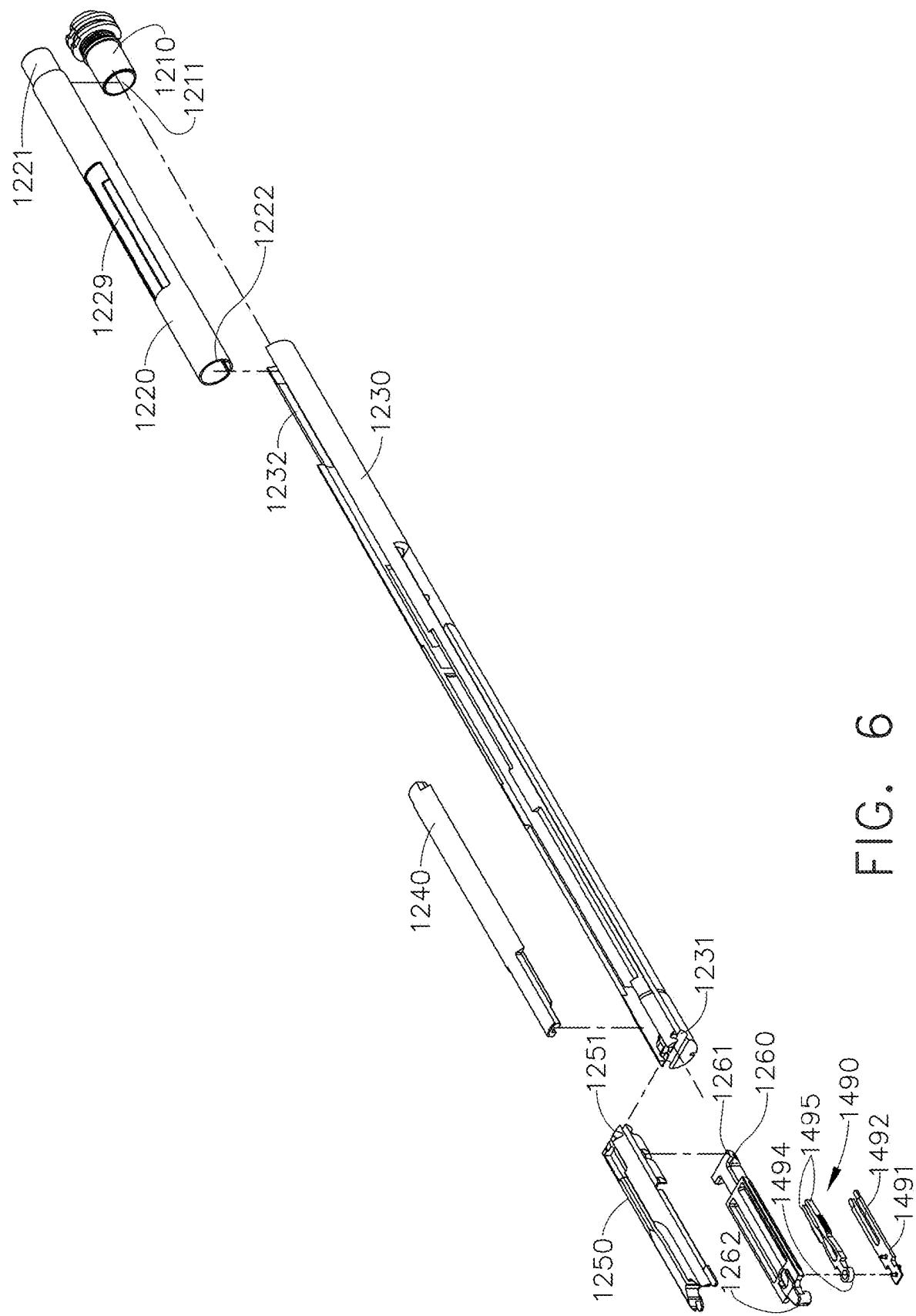


FIG. 5



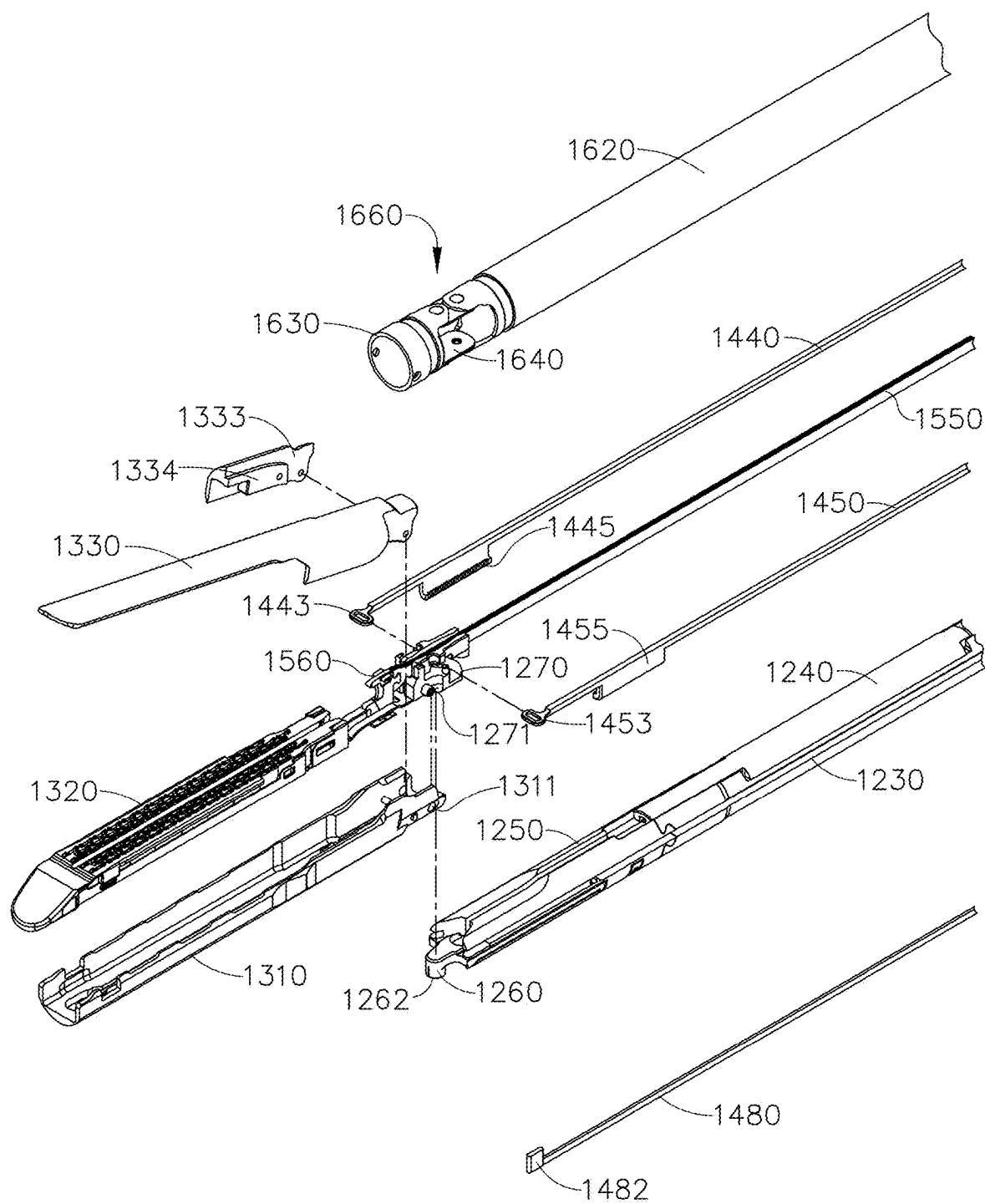


FIG. 7

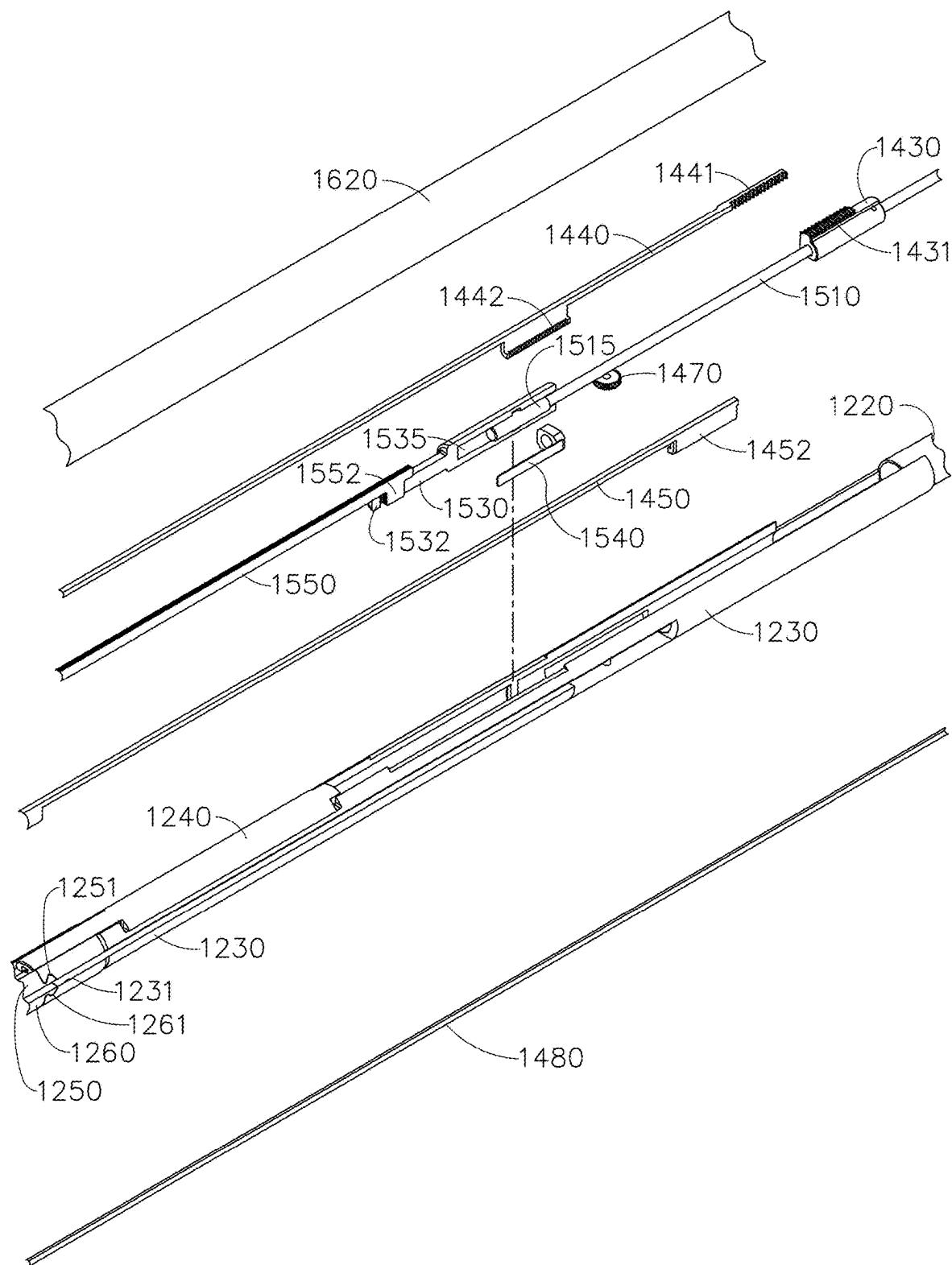


FIG. 8

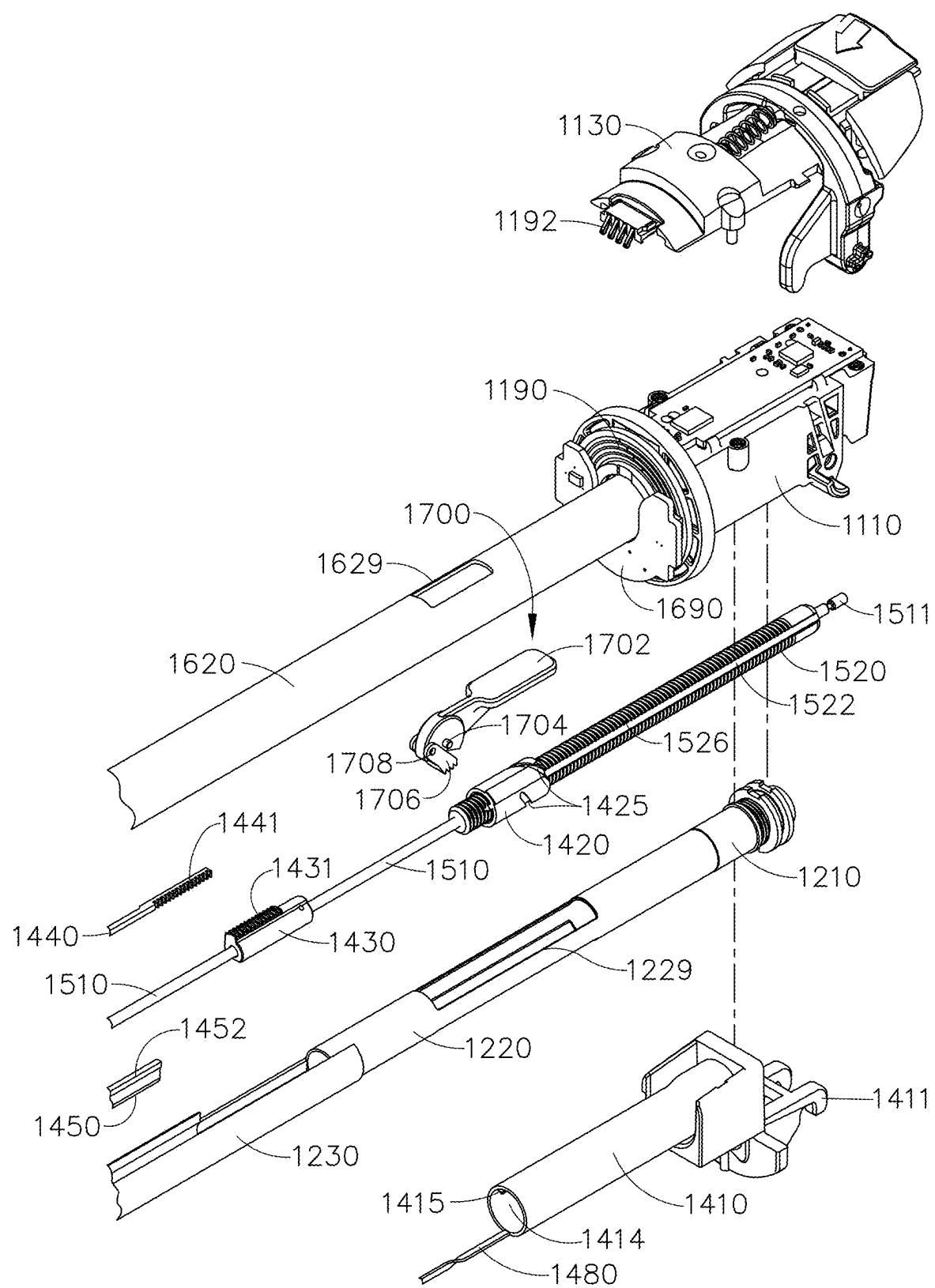


FIG. 9

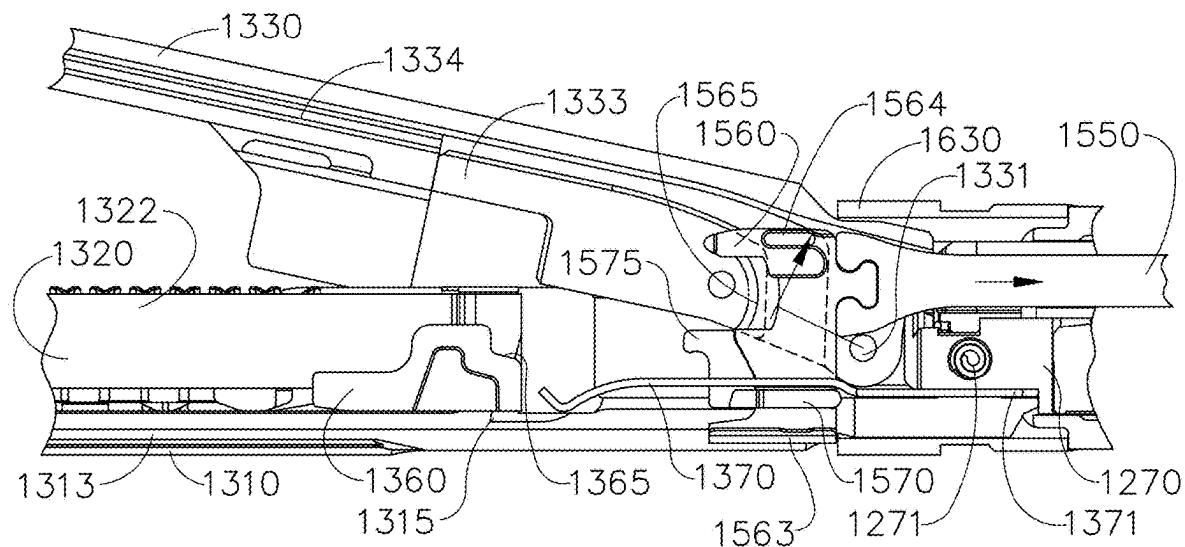


FIG. 10

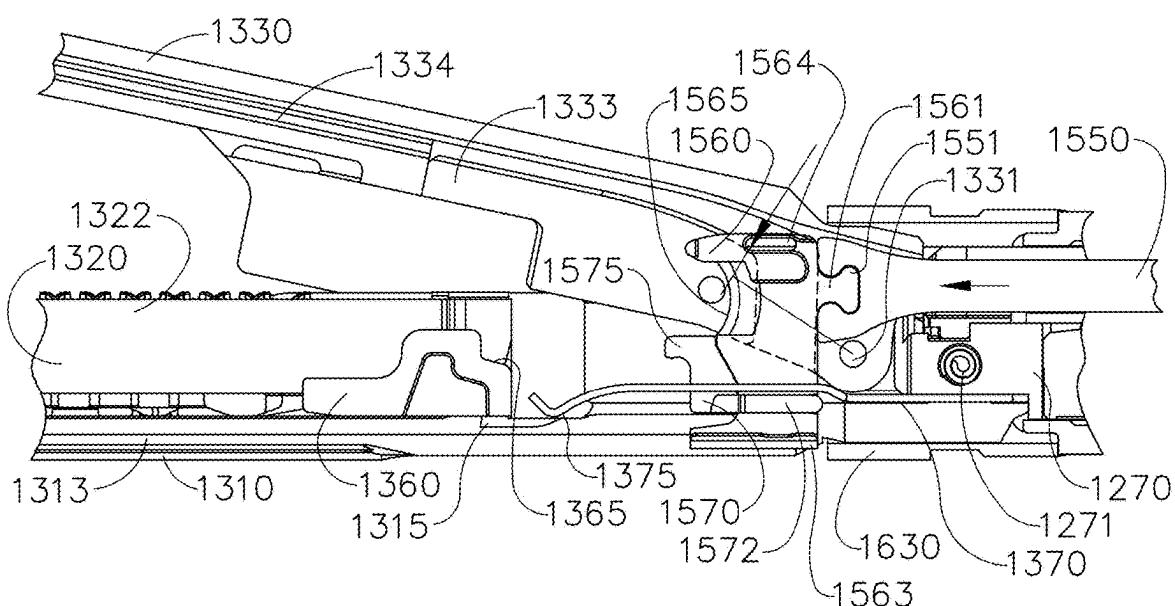


FIG. 11

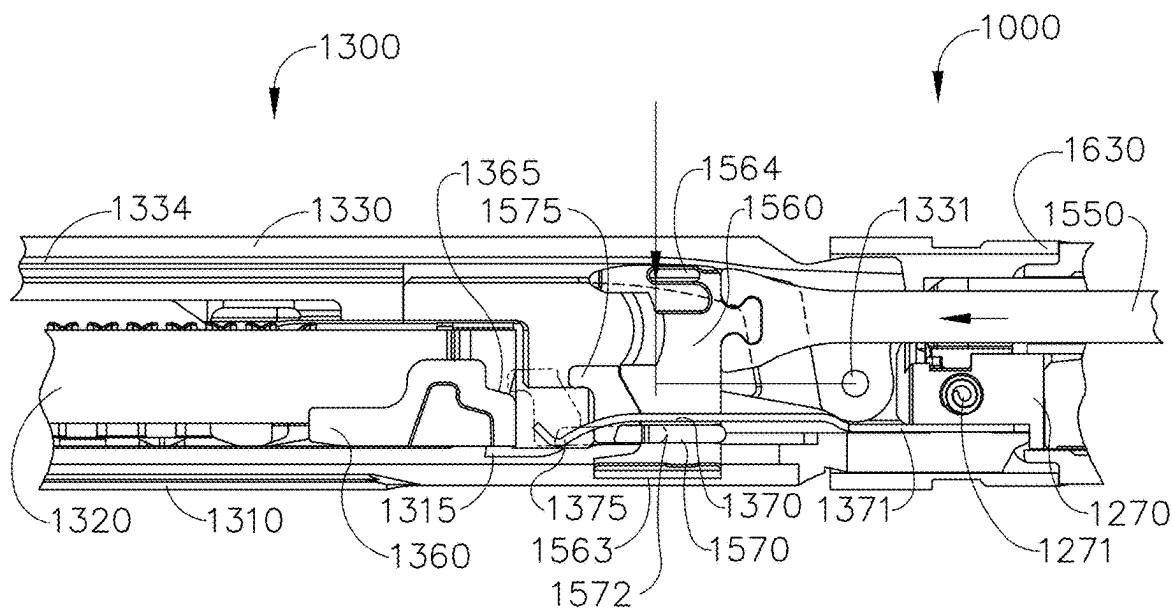


FIG. 12

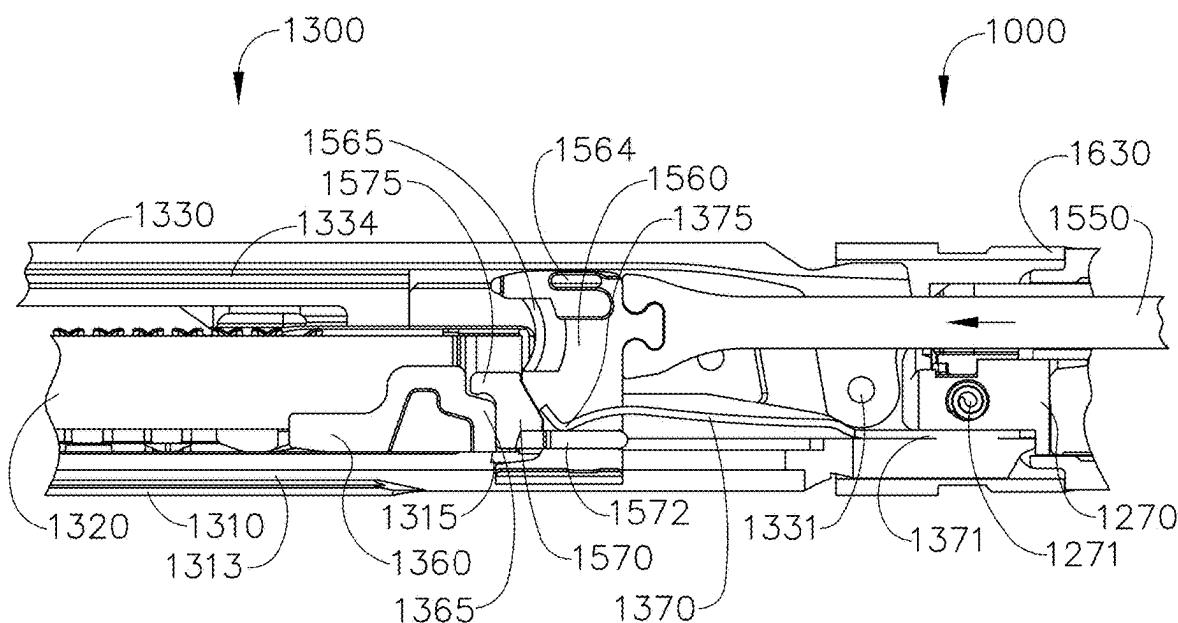


FIG. 13

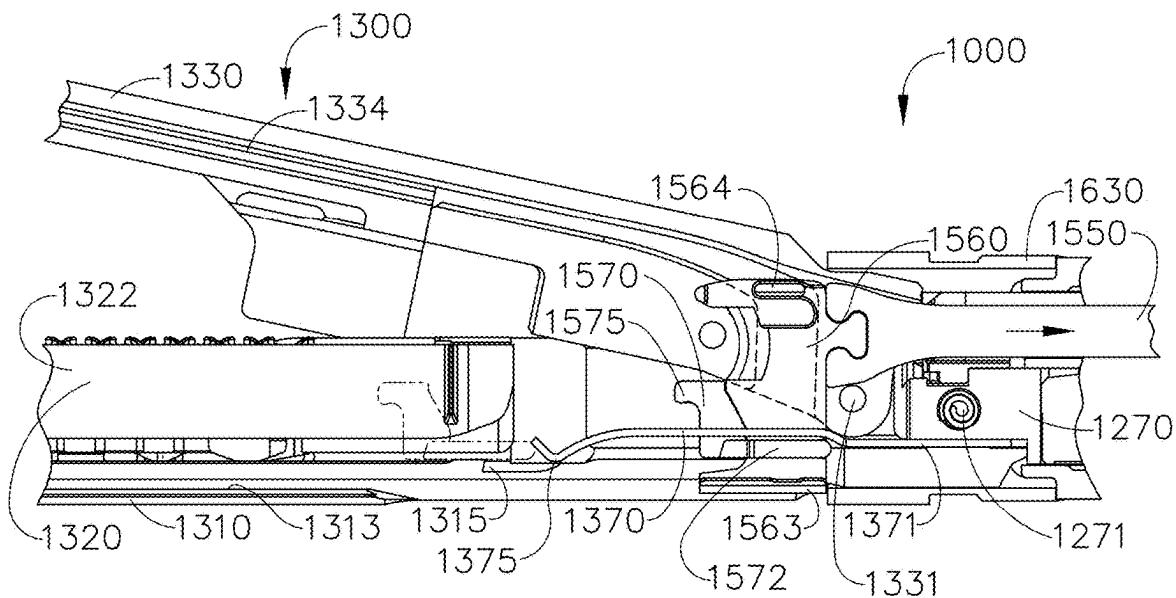


FIG. 14

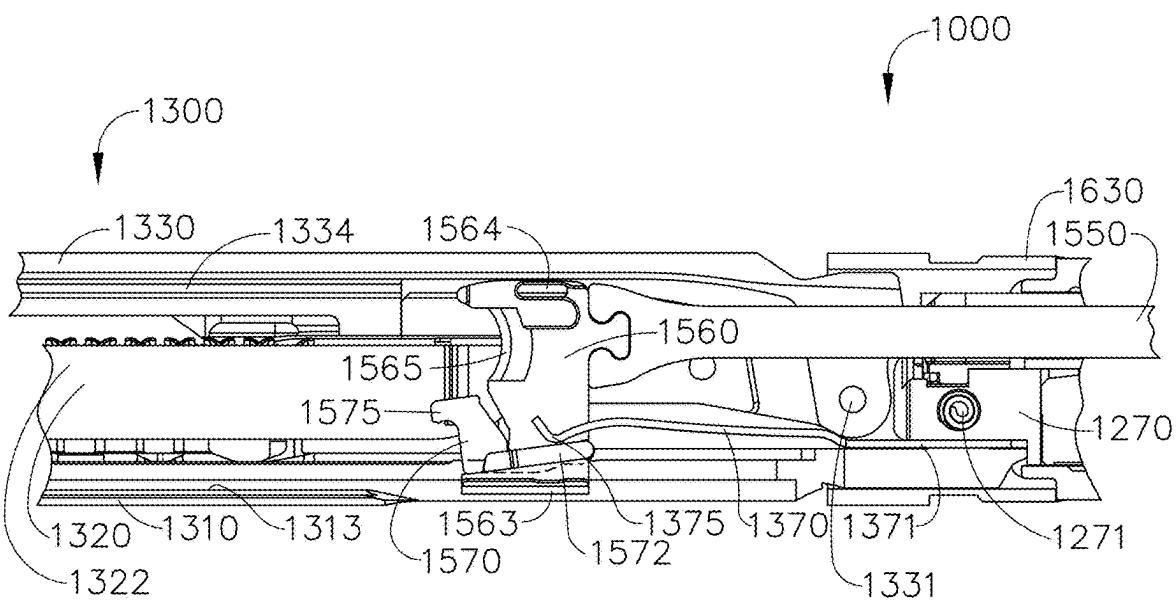
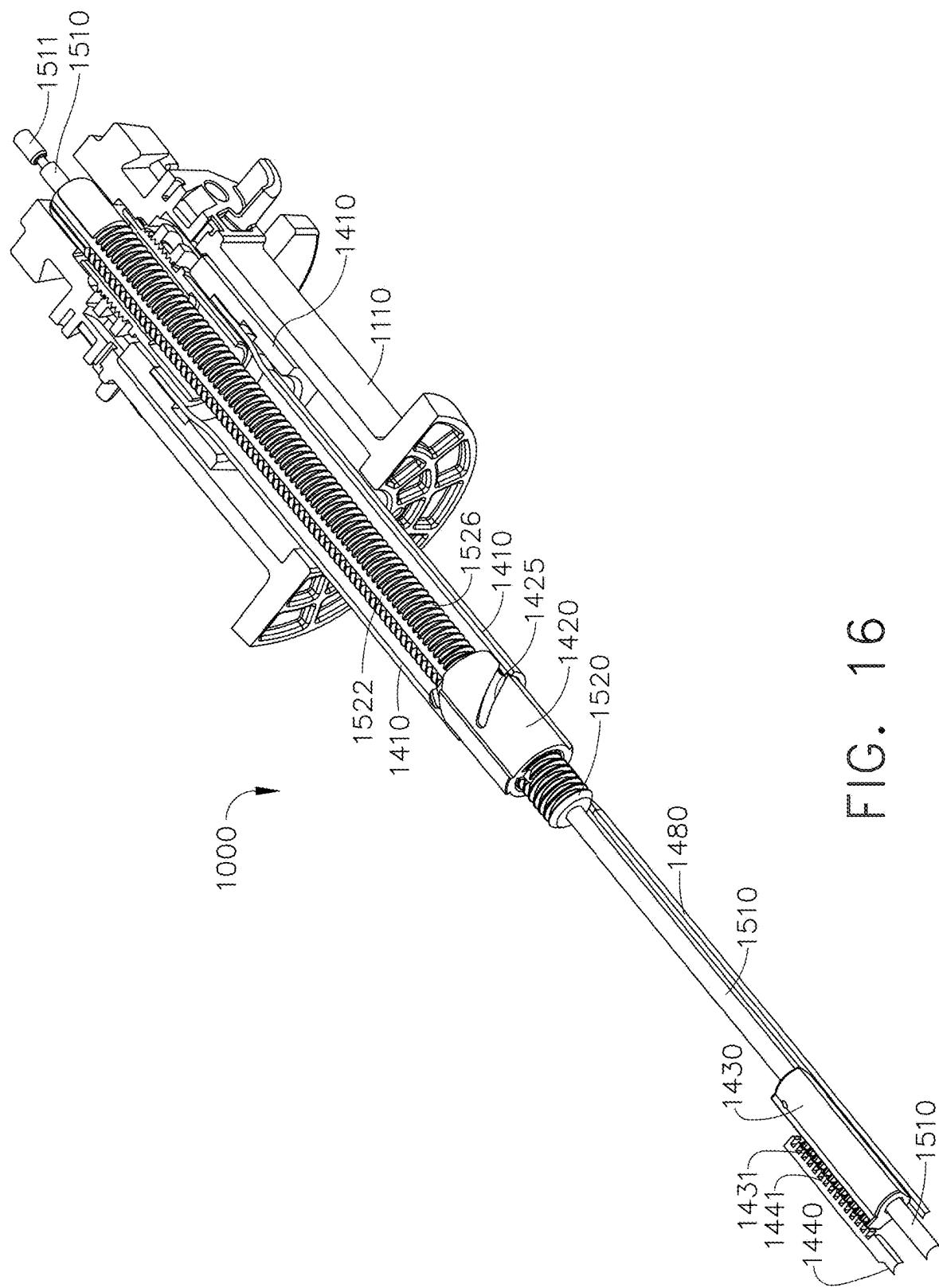
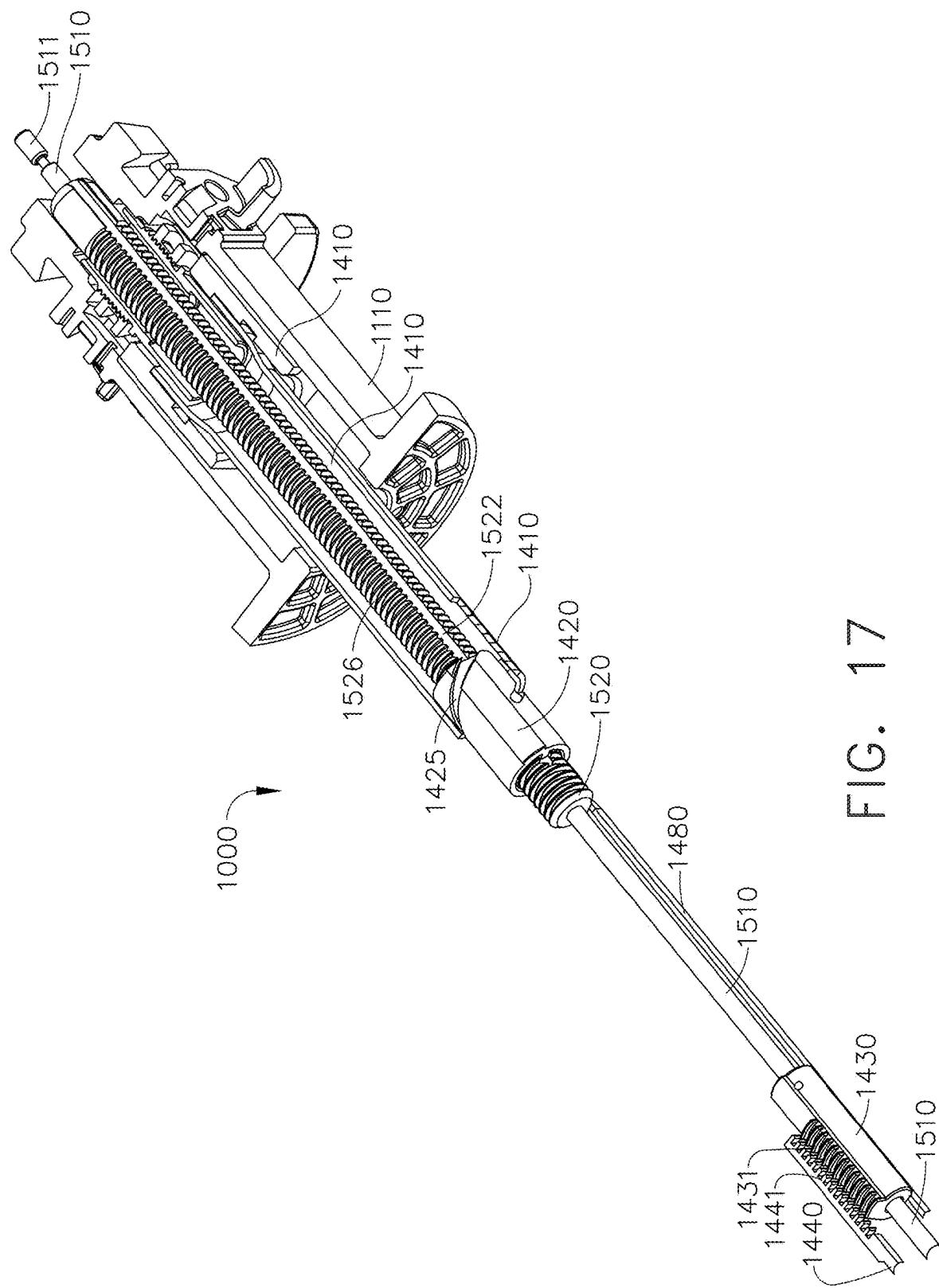
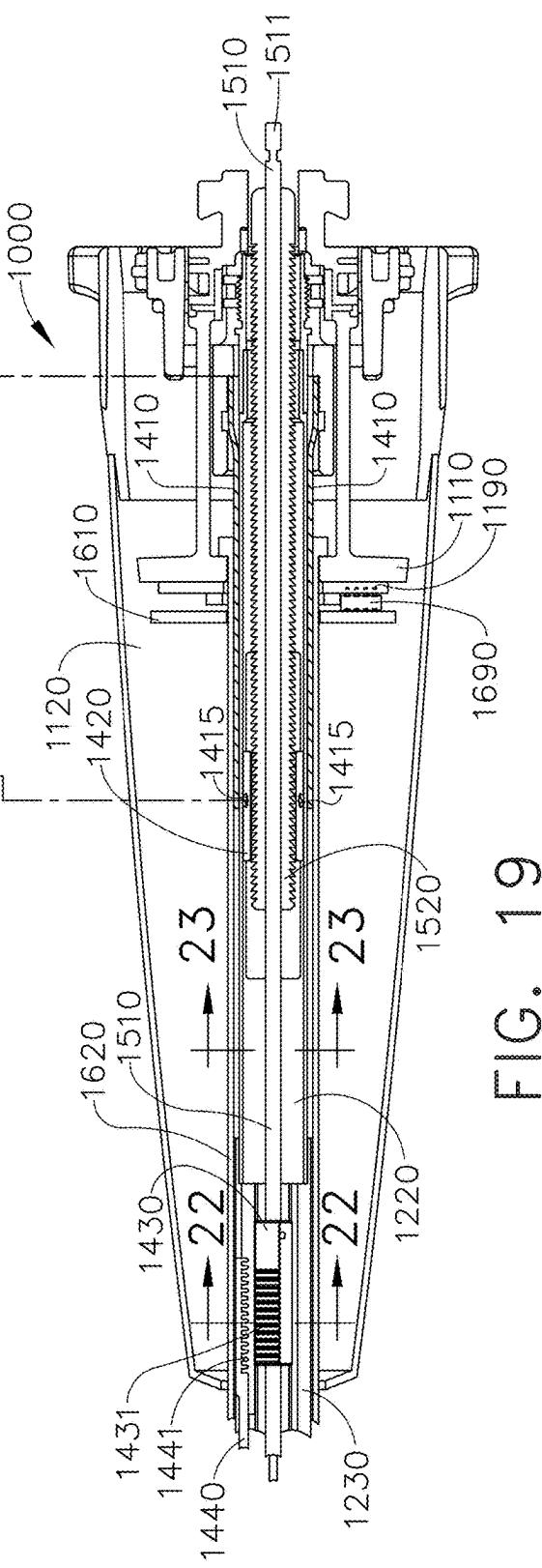
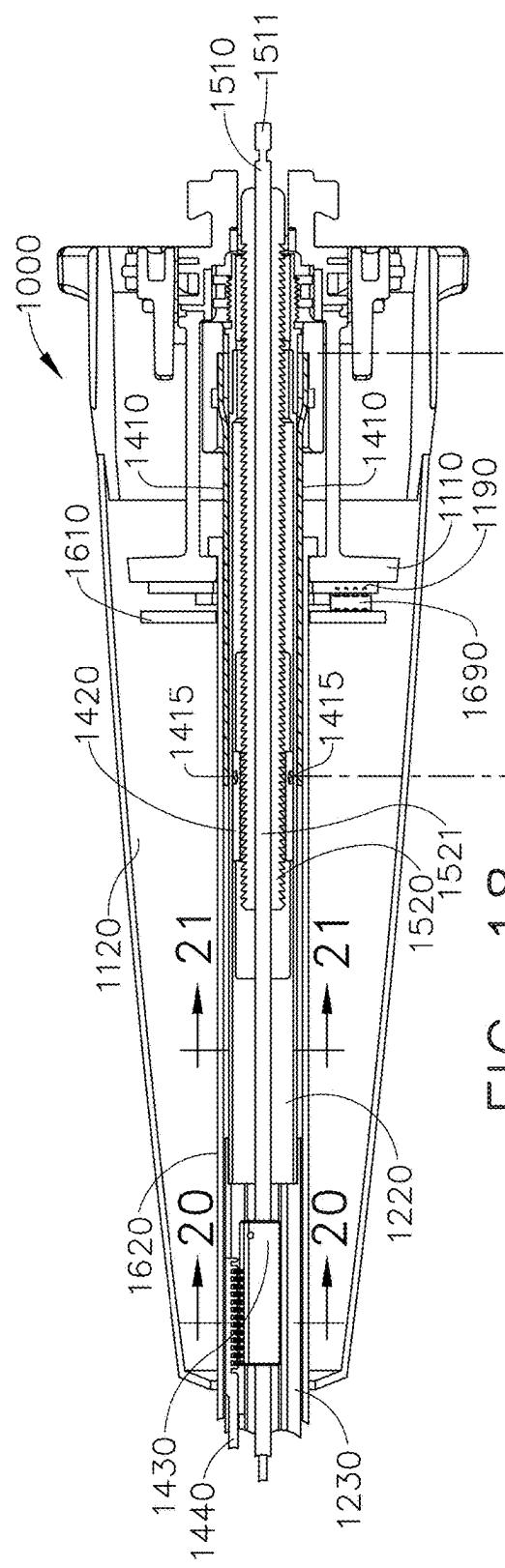
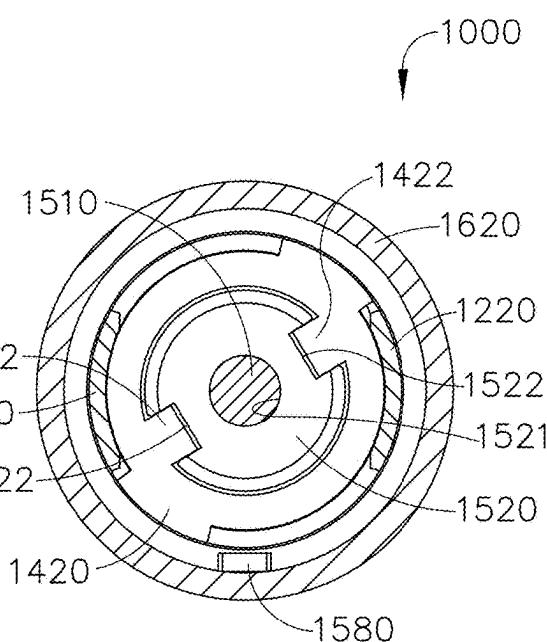
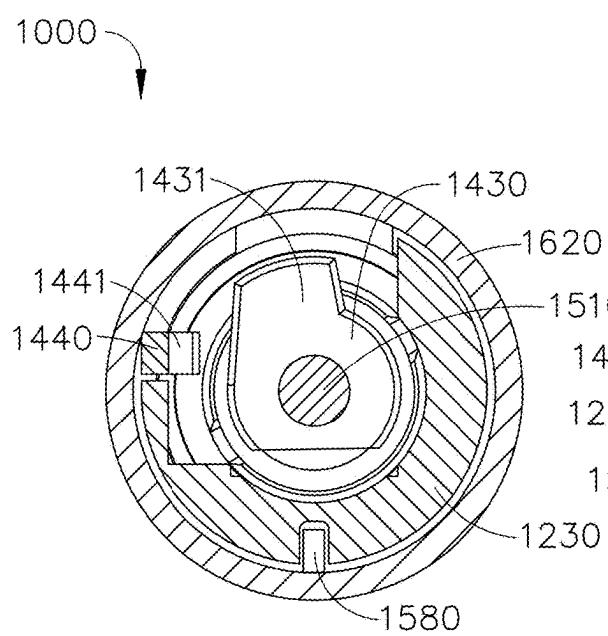
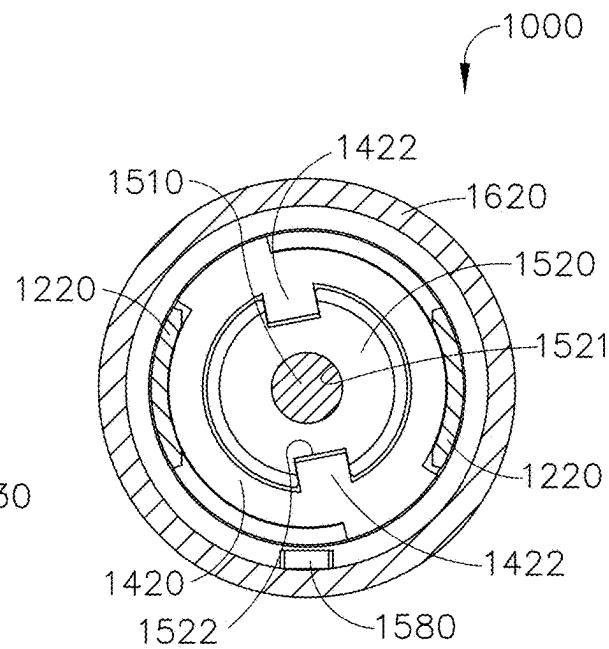
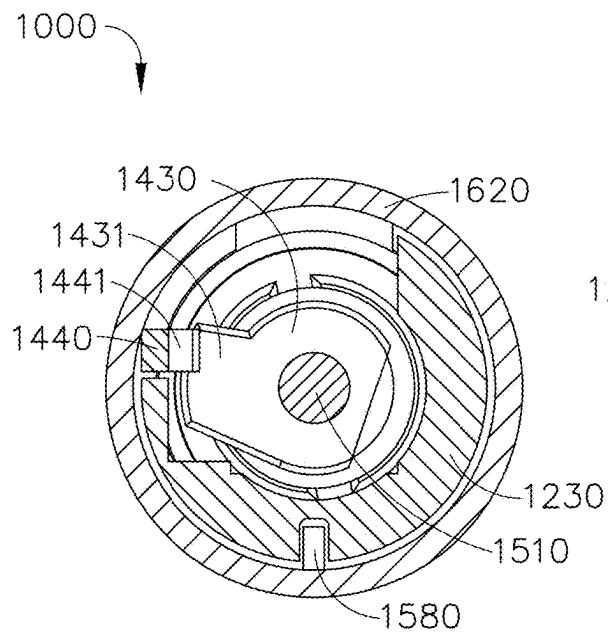


FIG. 15









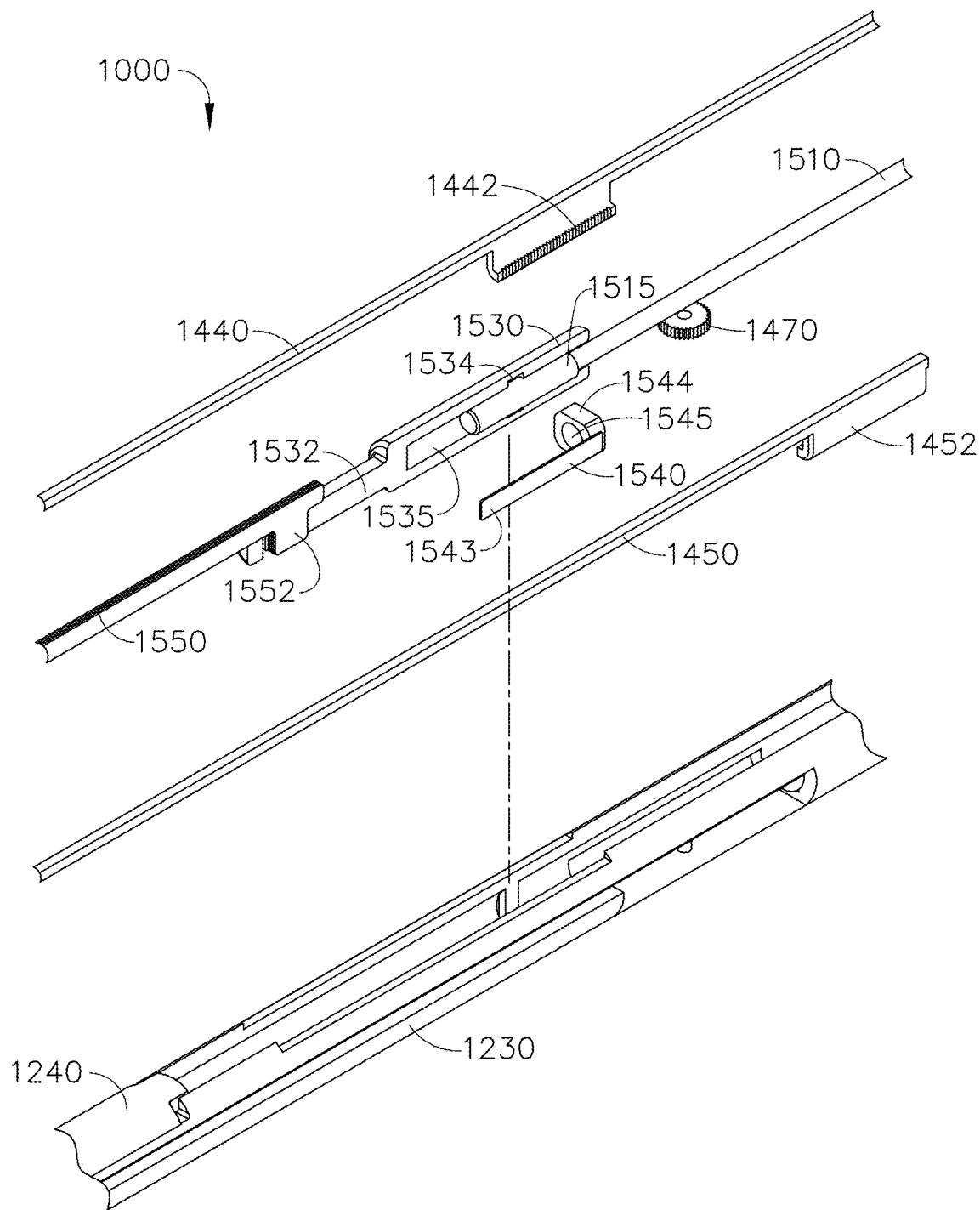


FIG. 24

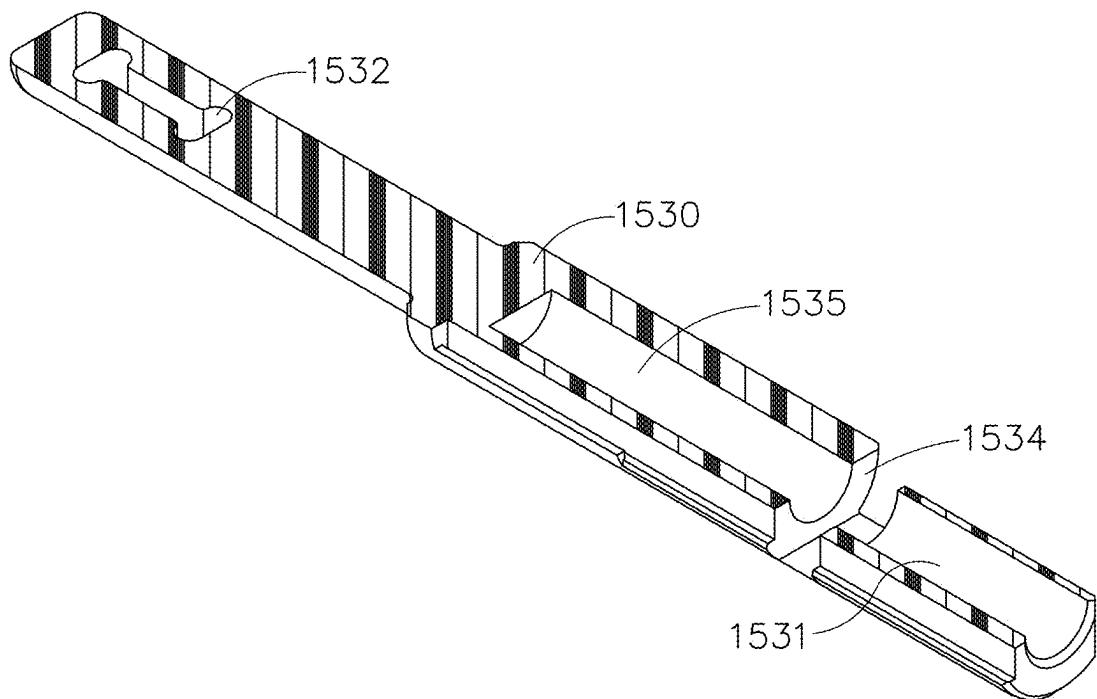


FIG. 25

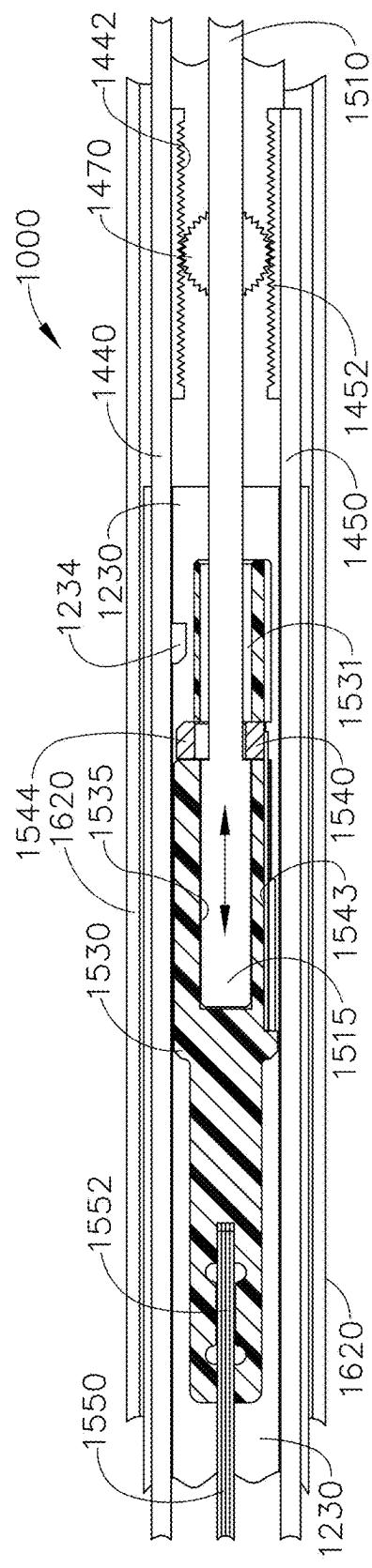


FIG. 26

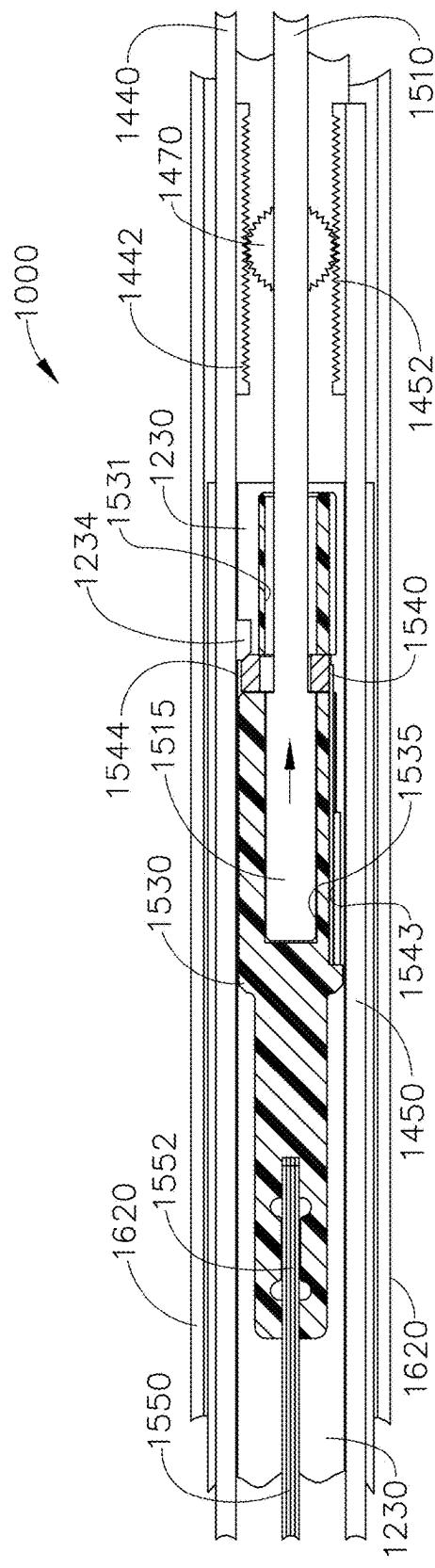


FIG. 27

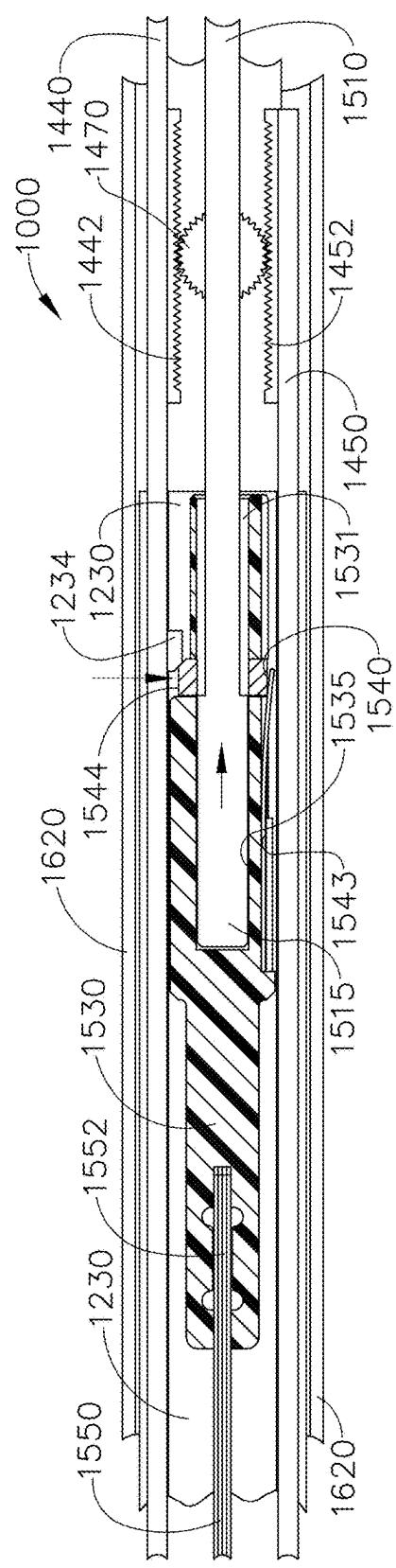


FIG. 28

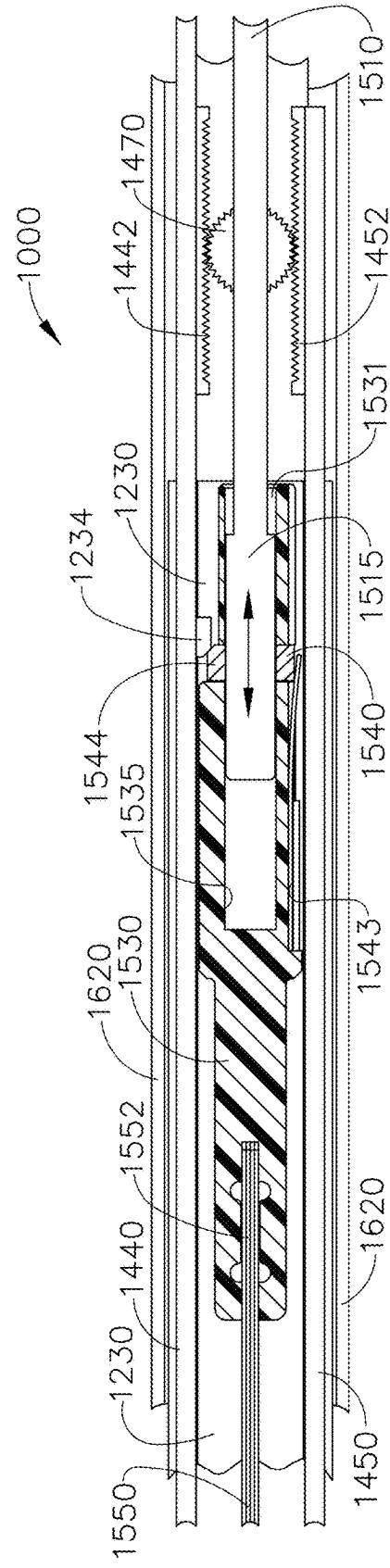
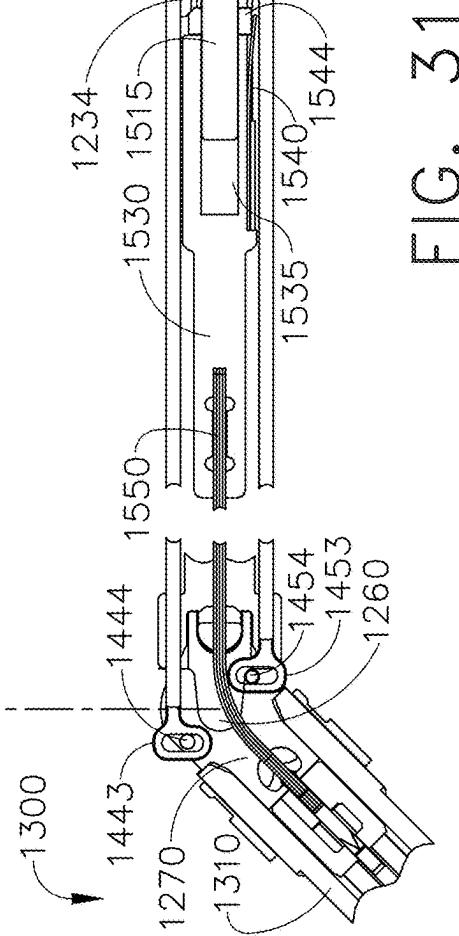
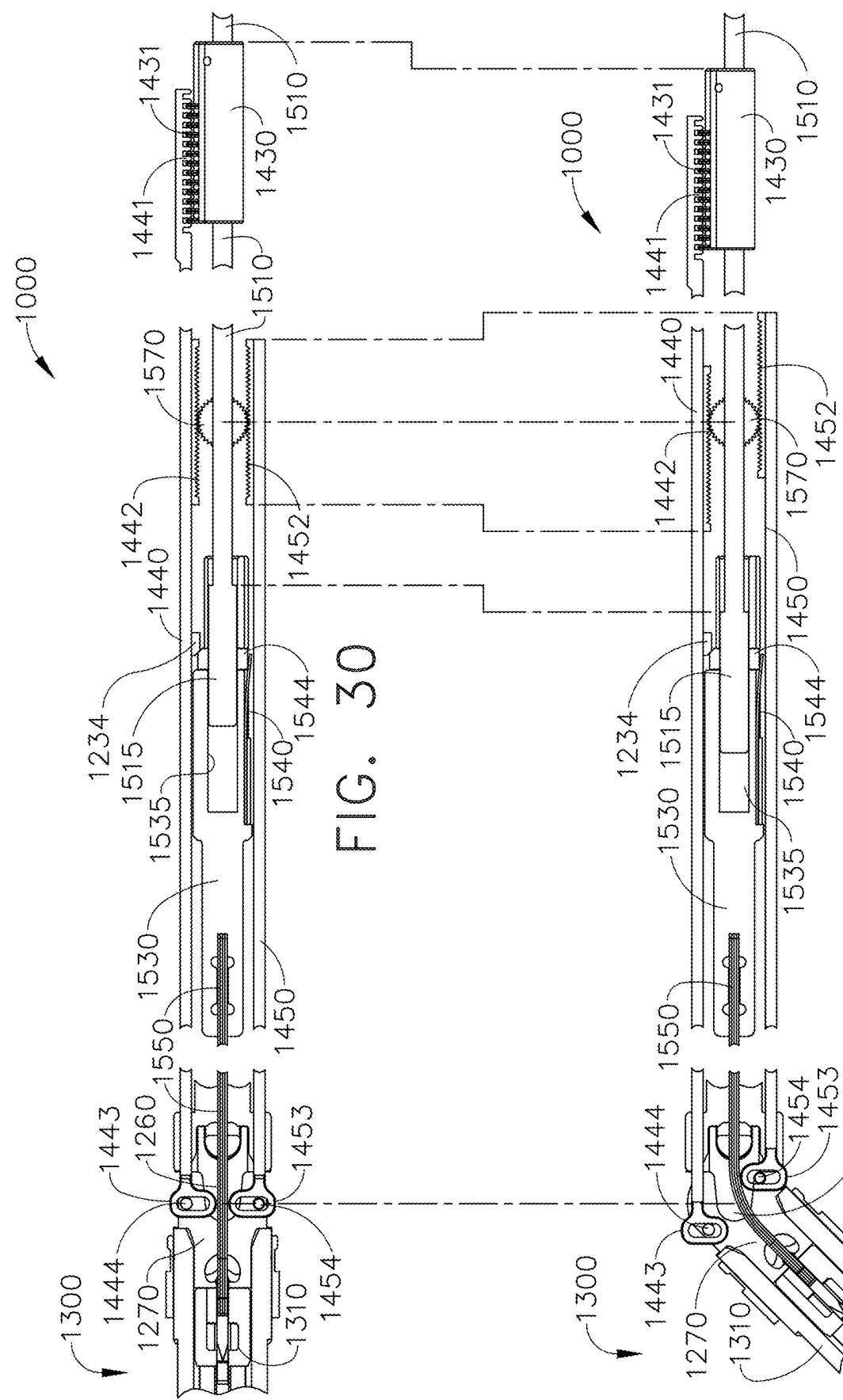


FIG. 29



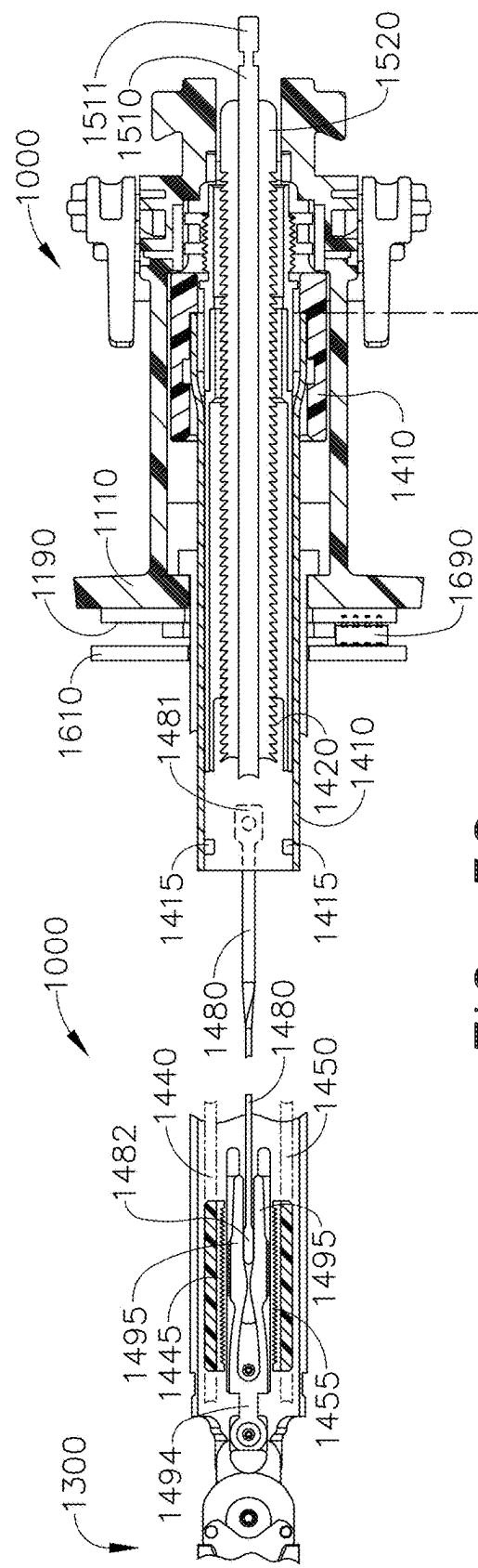


FIG. 32

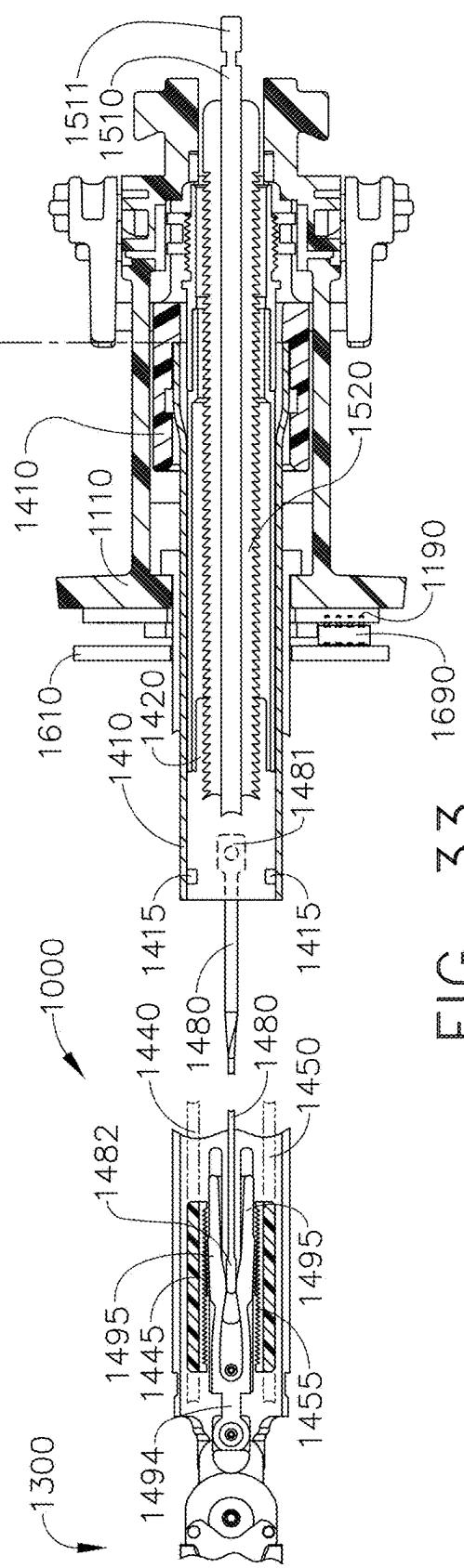


FIG. 33

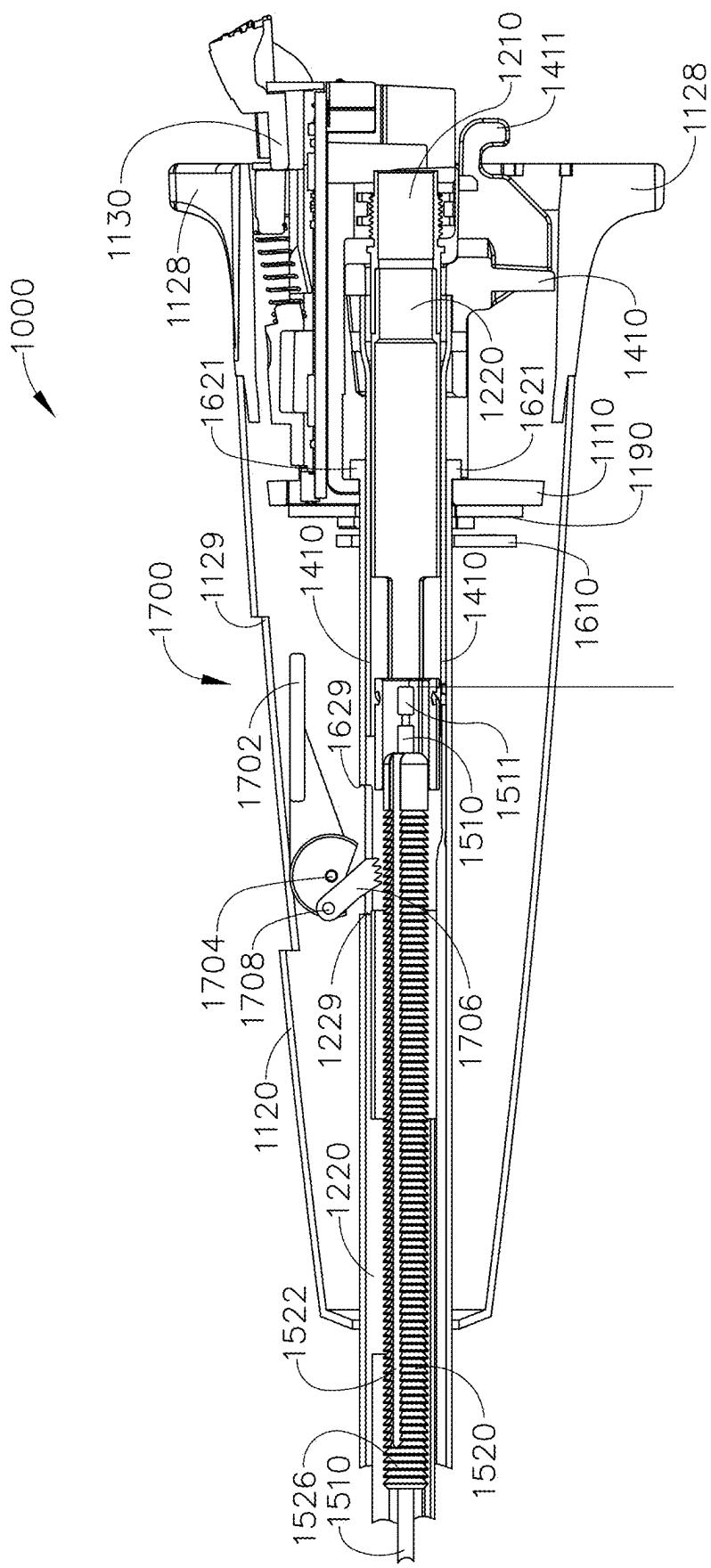


FIG. 34

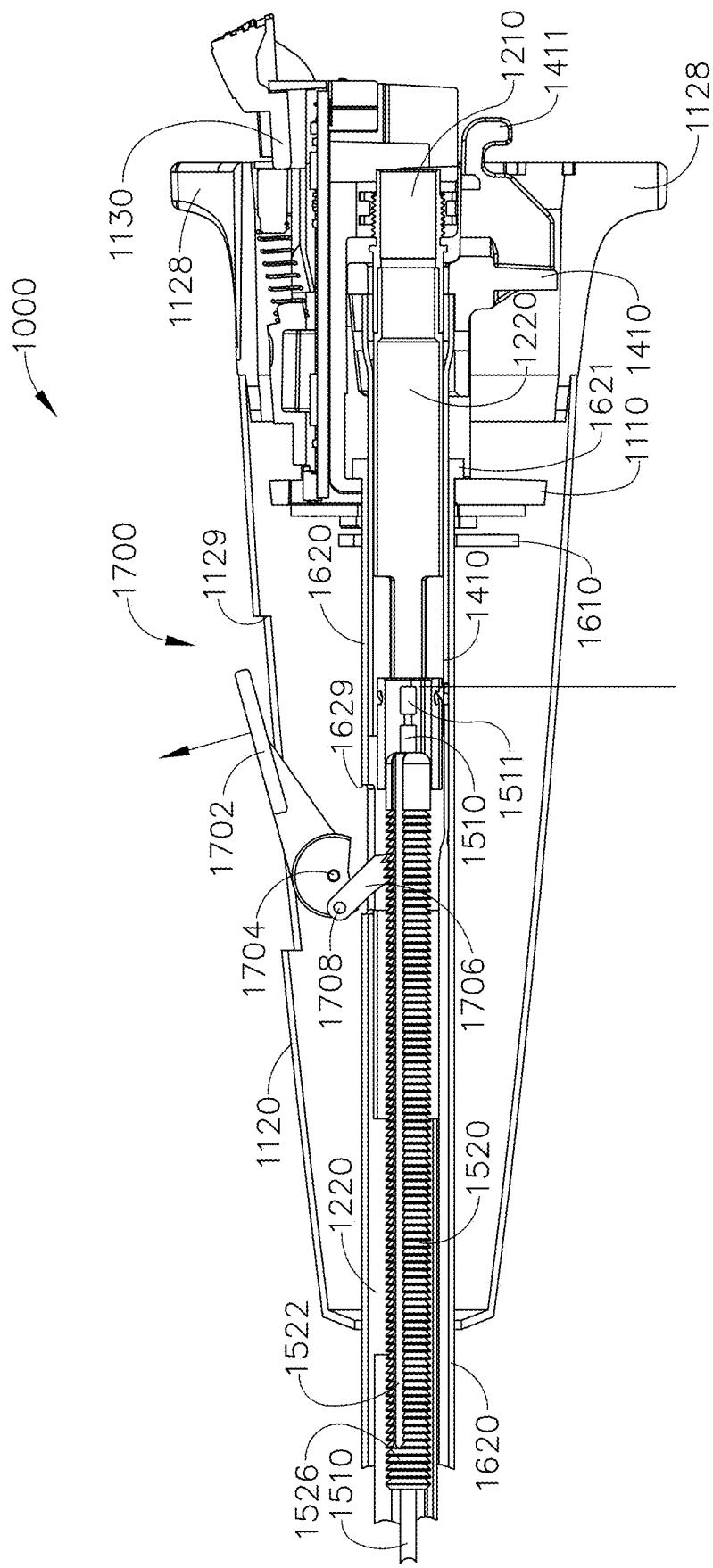


FIG. 35

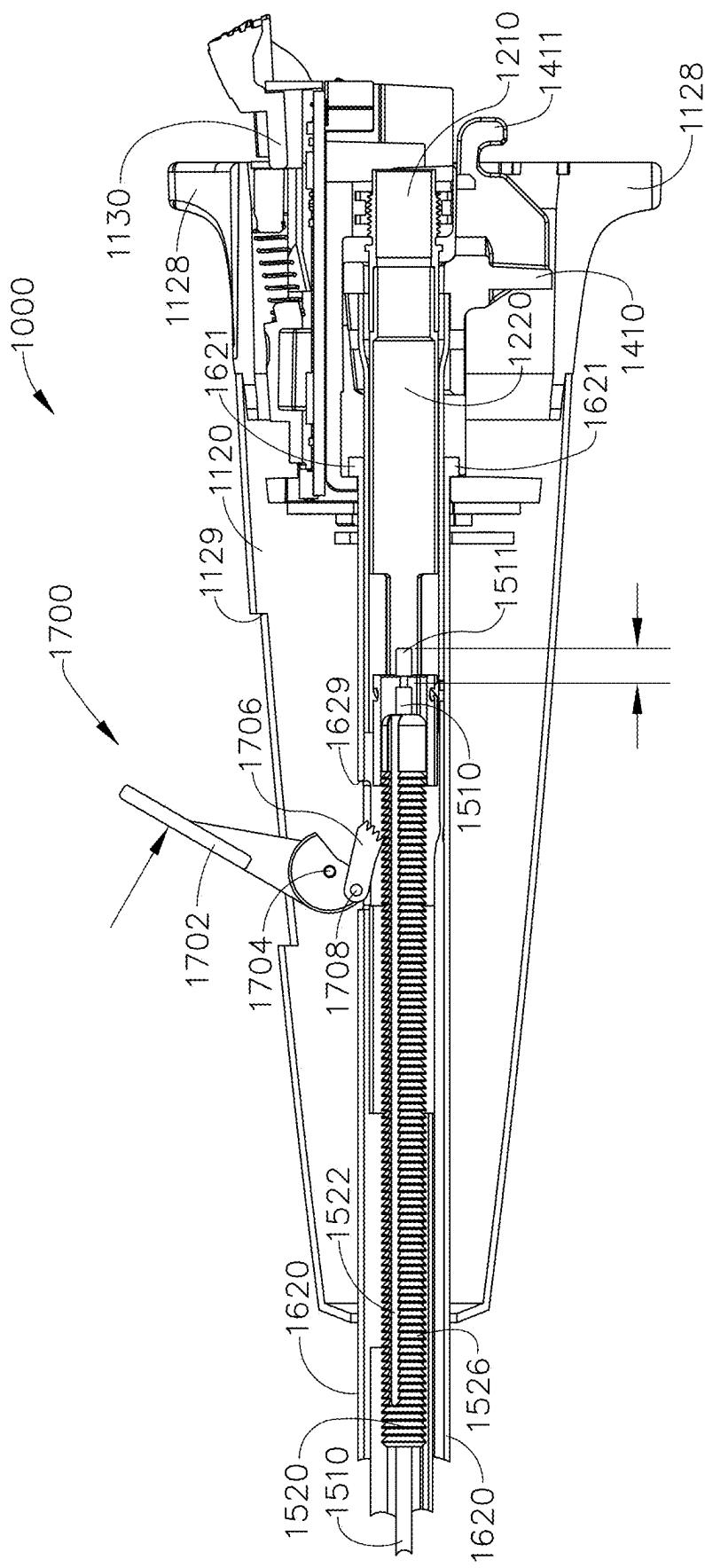


FIG. 36

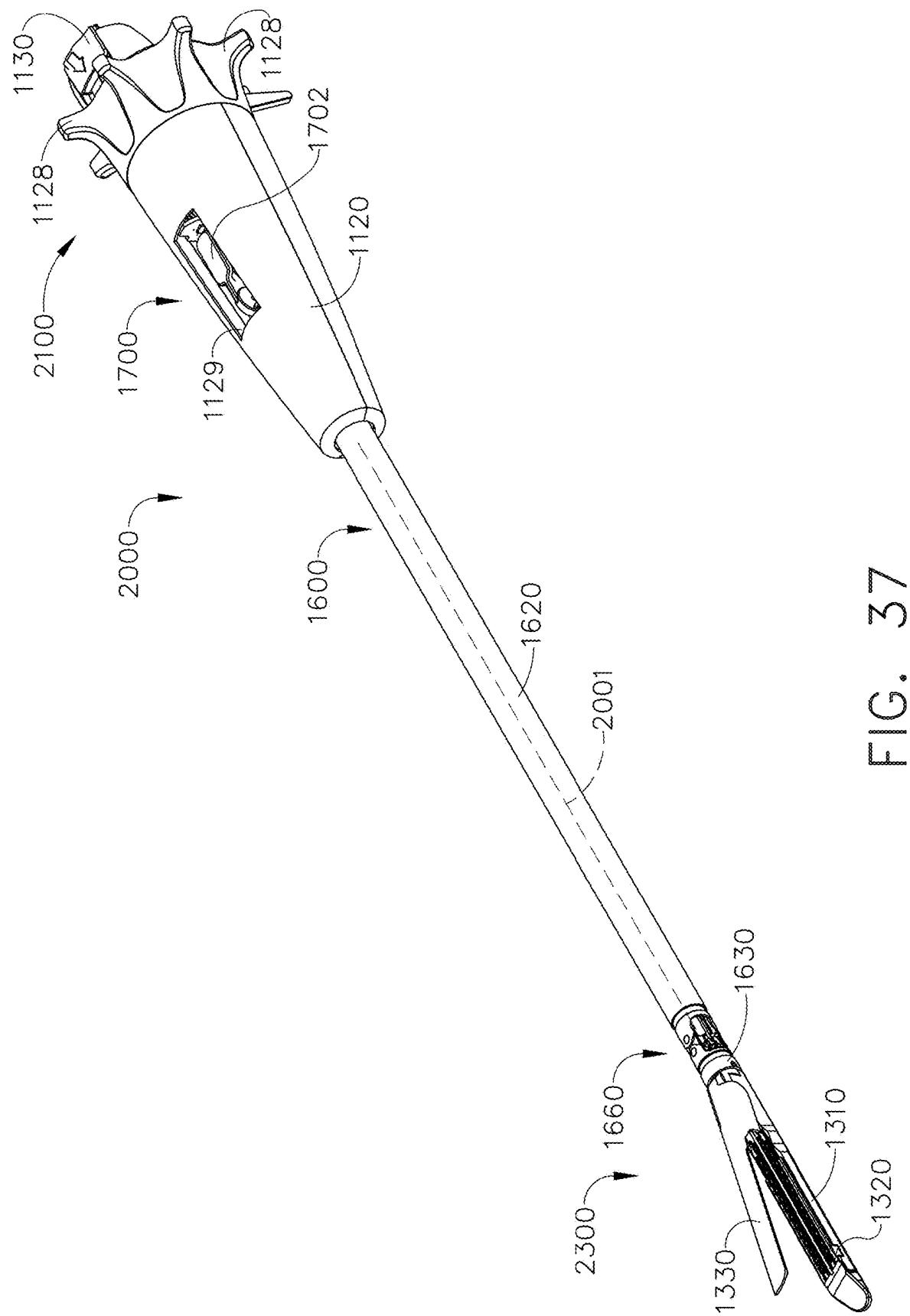


FIG. 37

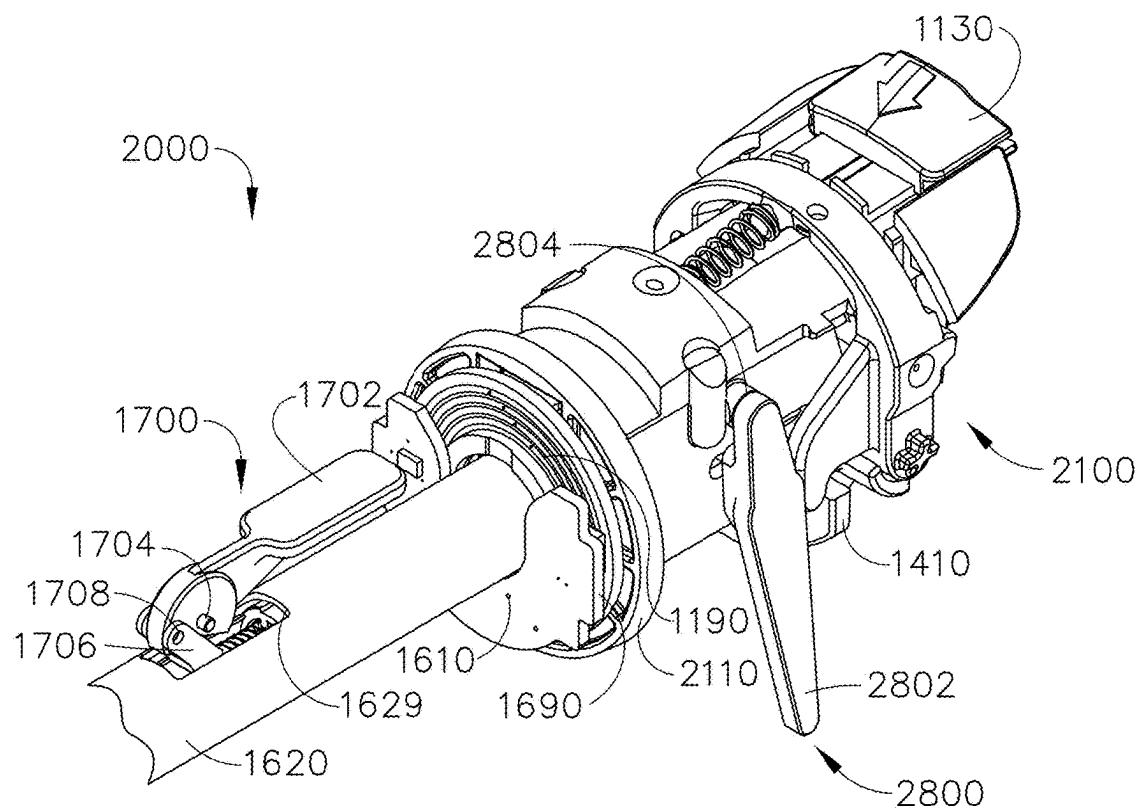


FIG. 38

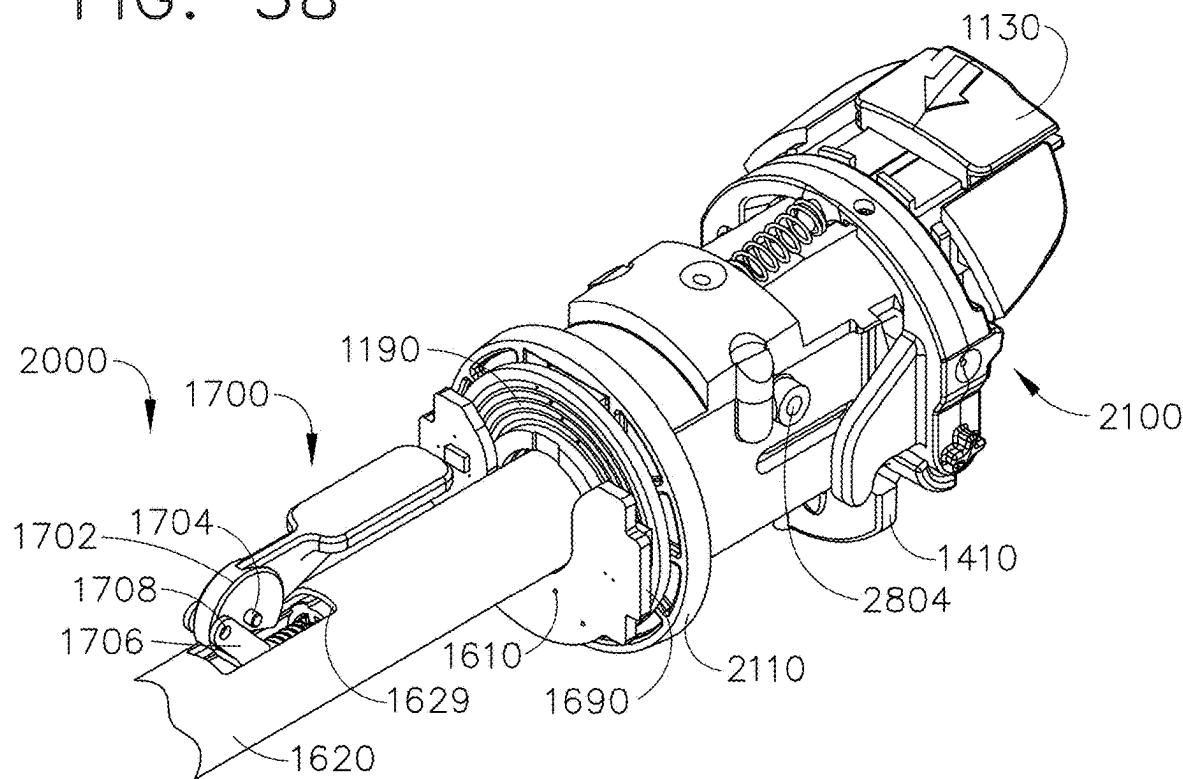


FIG. 39

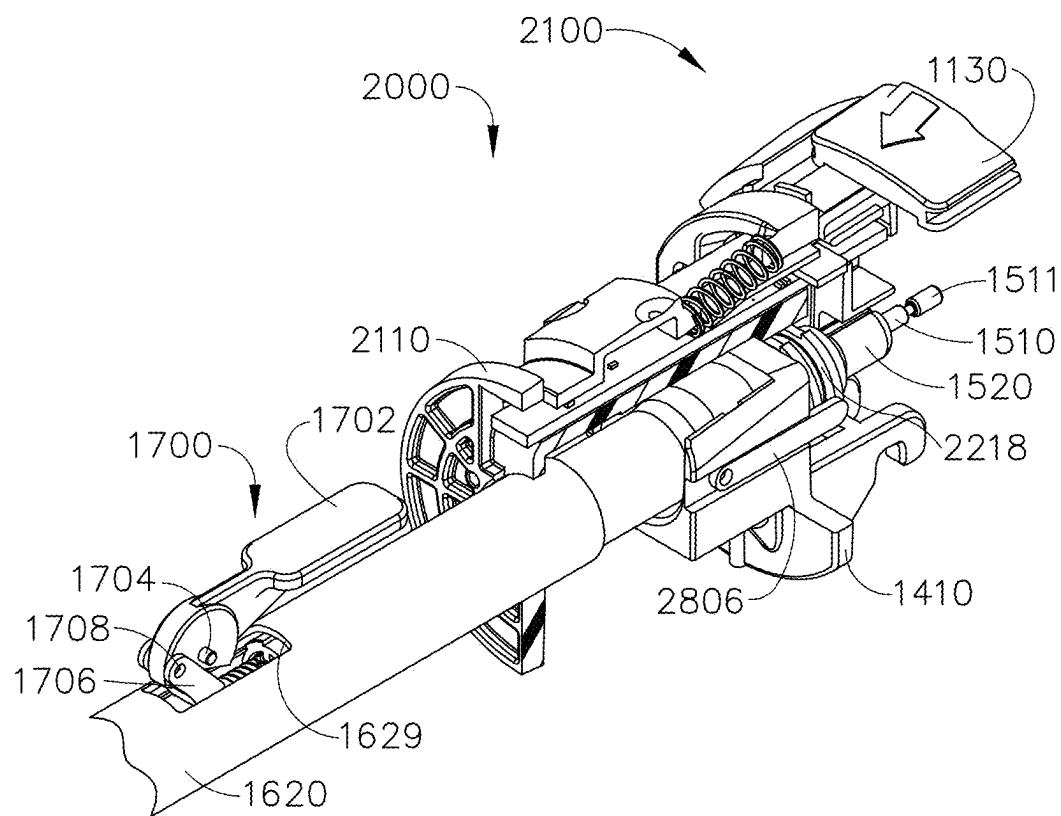


FIG. 40

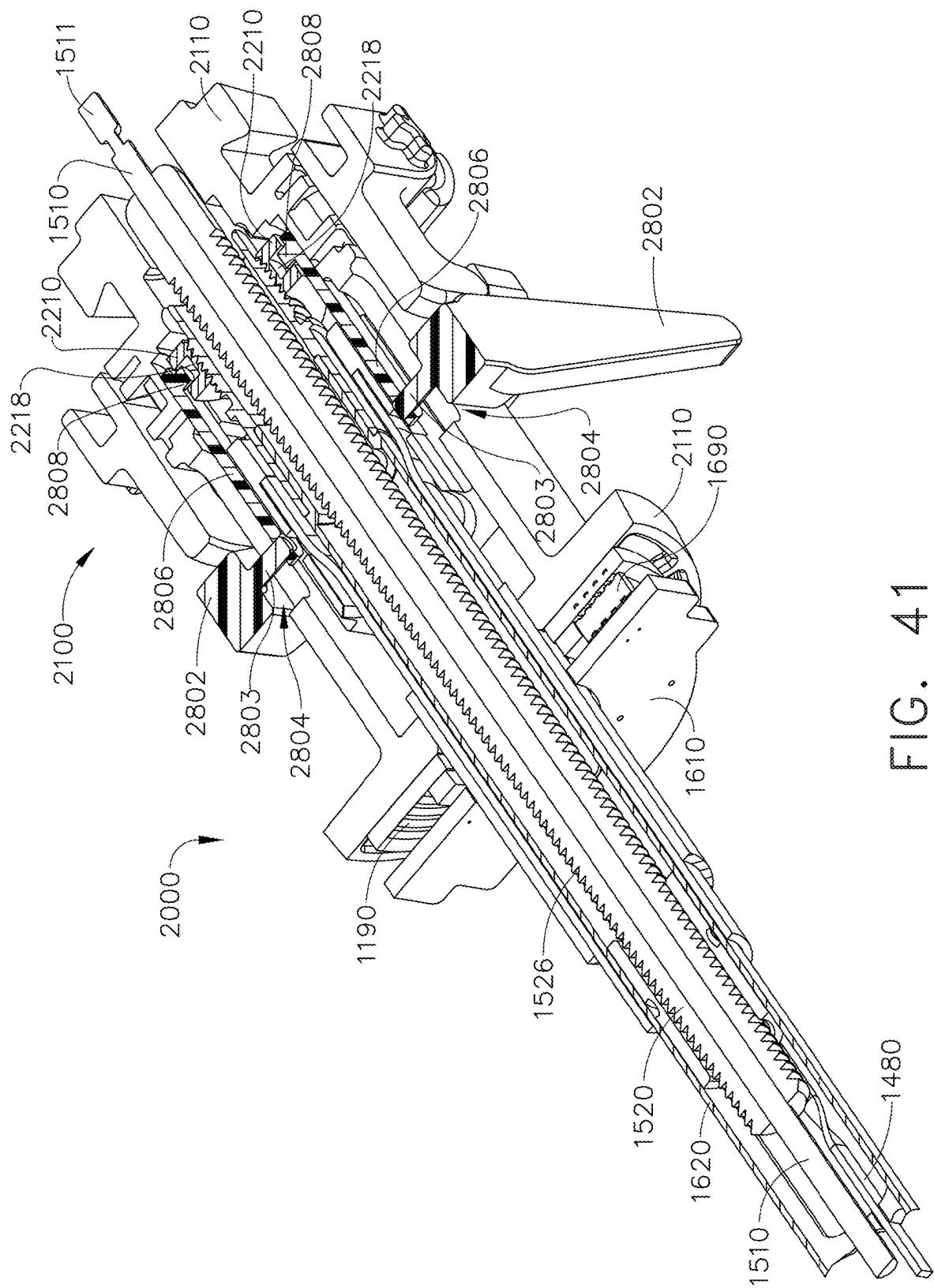


FIG. 41

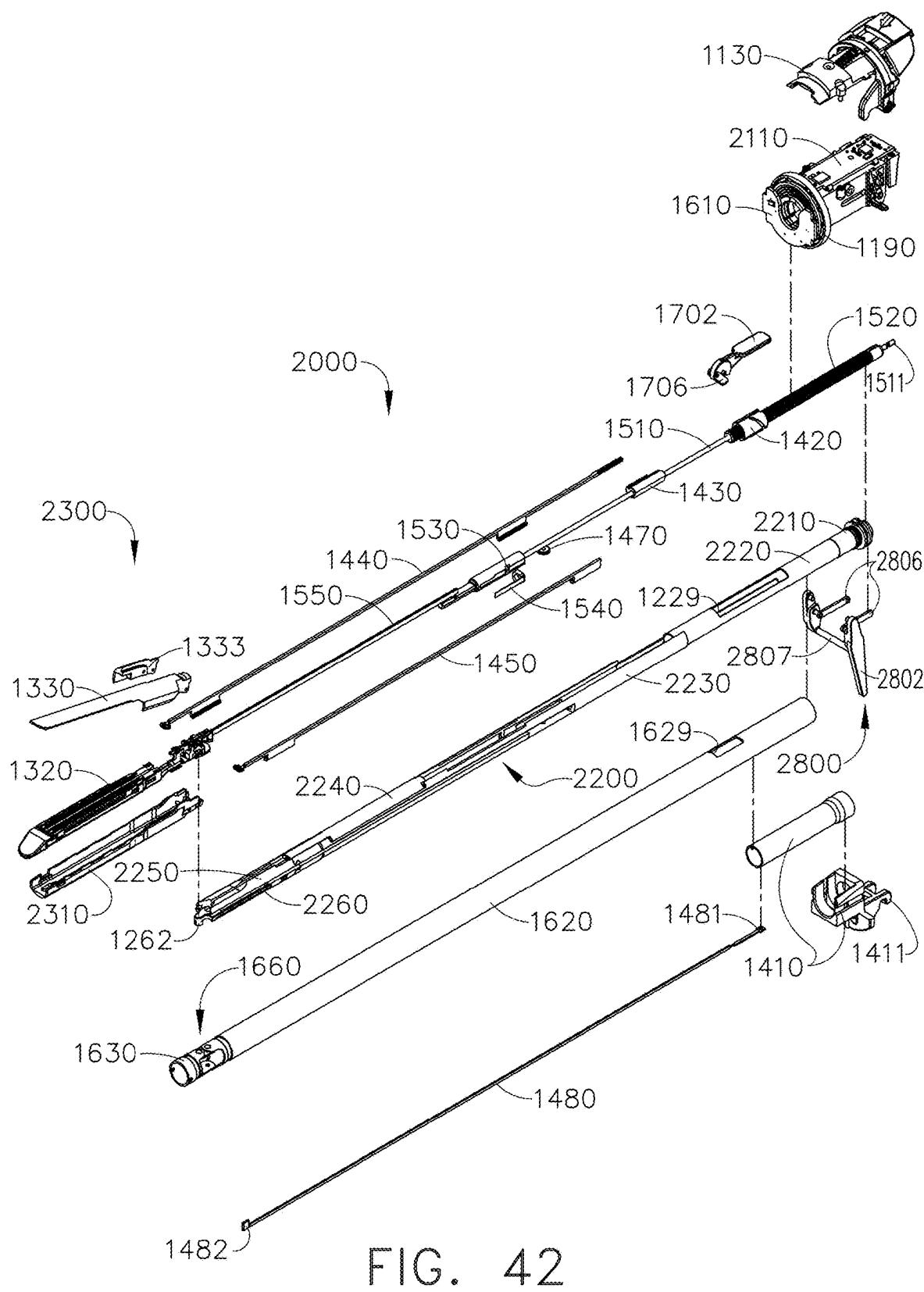


FIG. 42

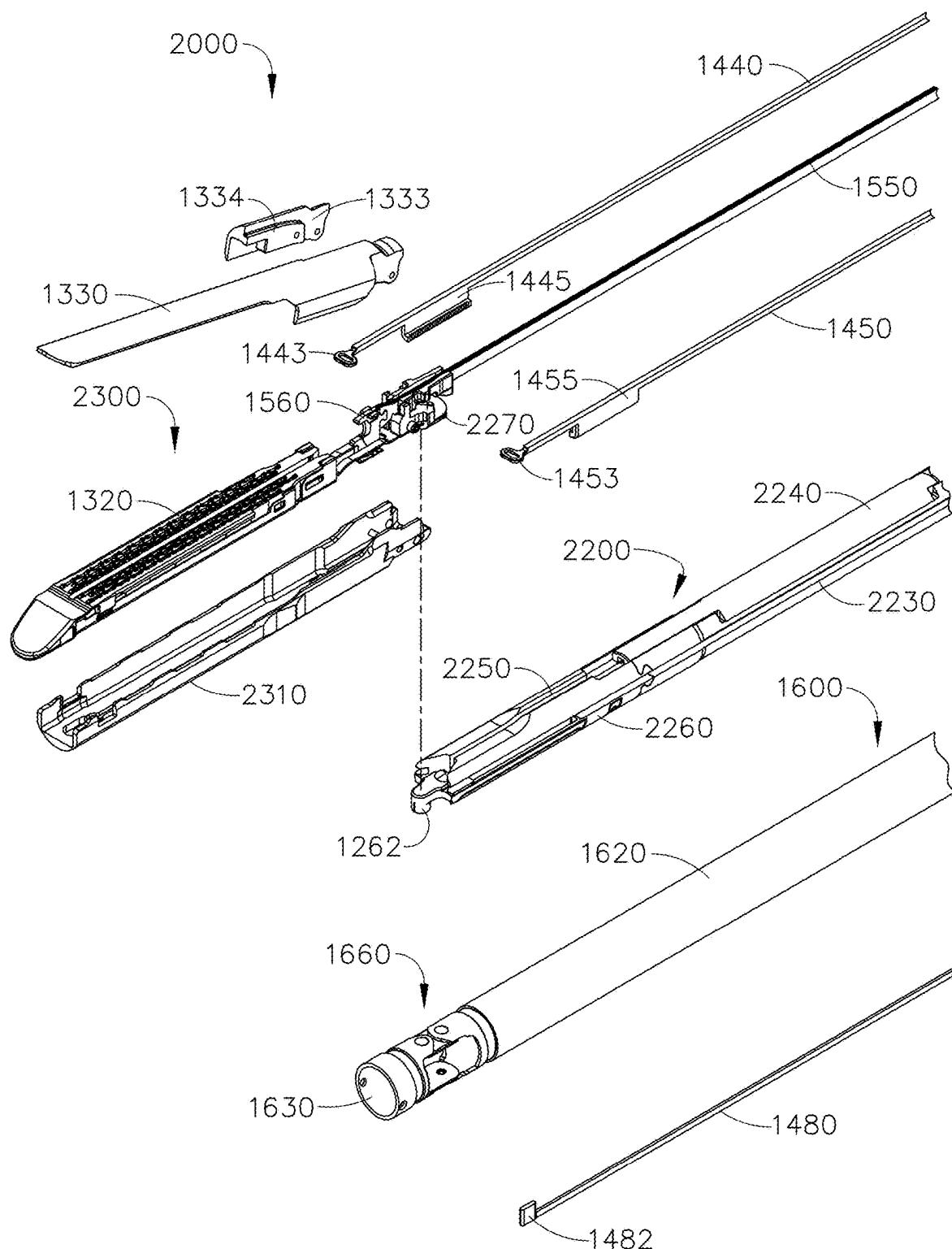


FIG. 43

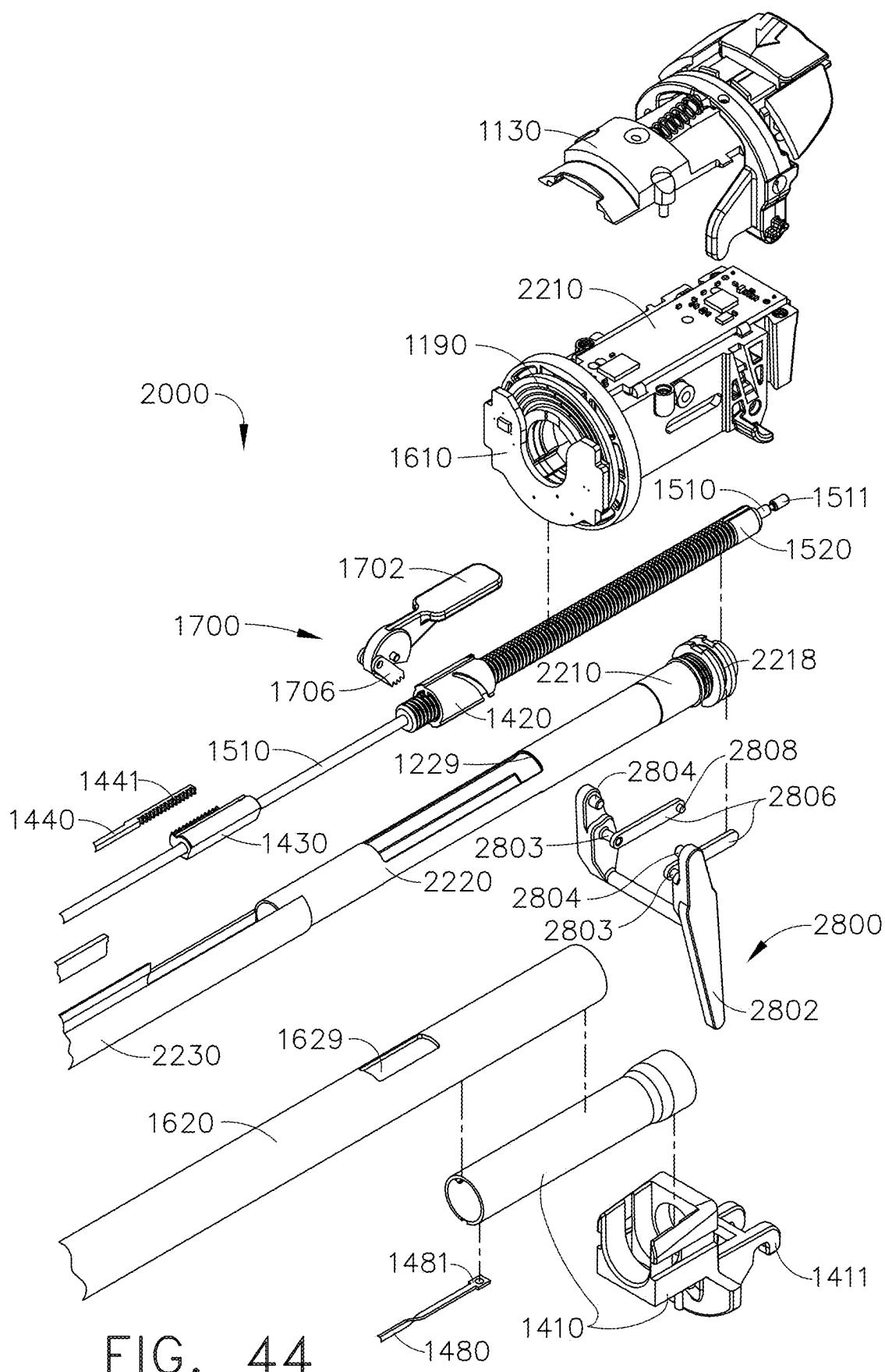


FIG. 44

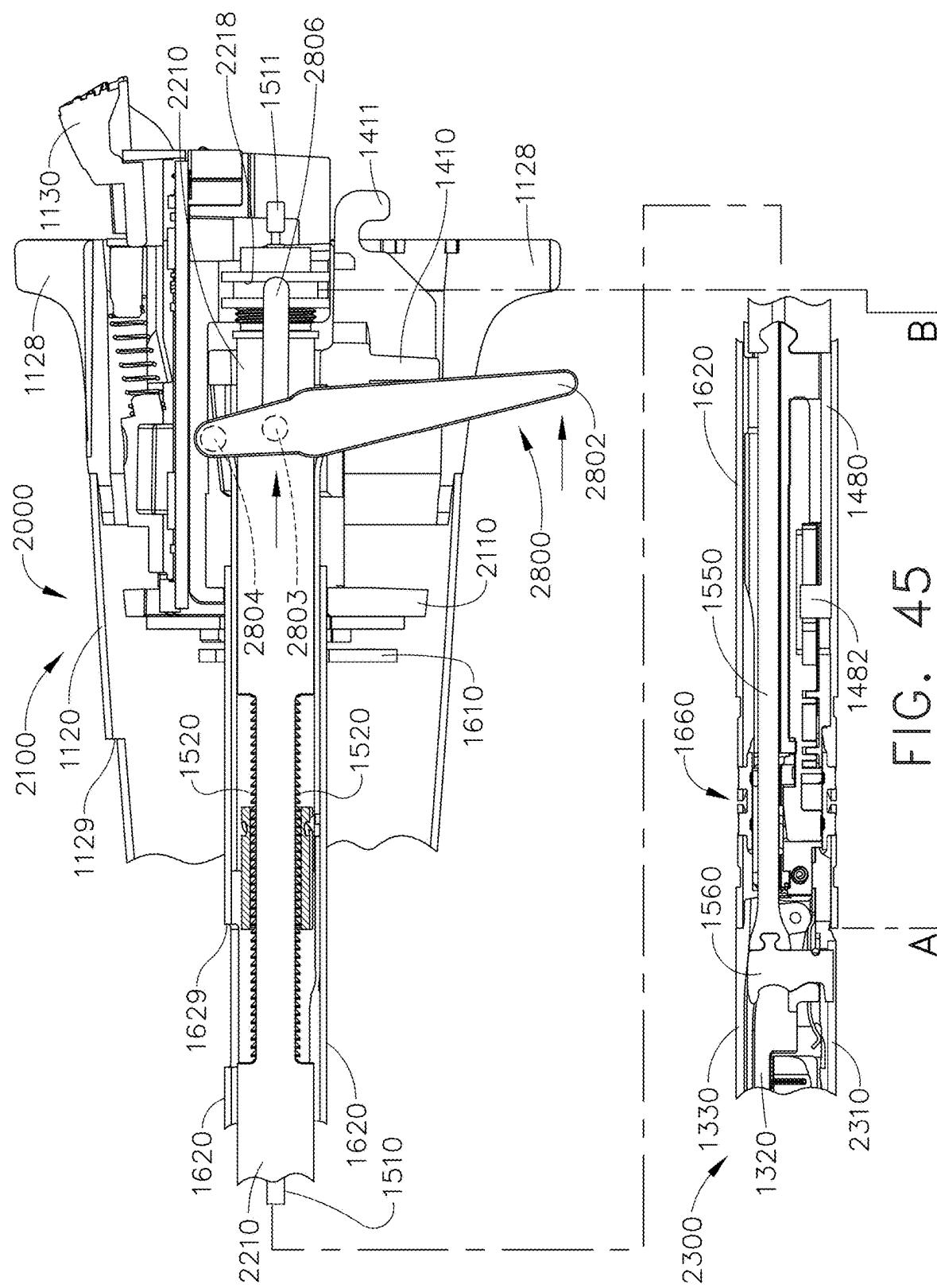
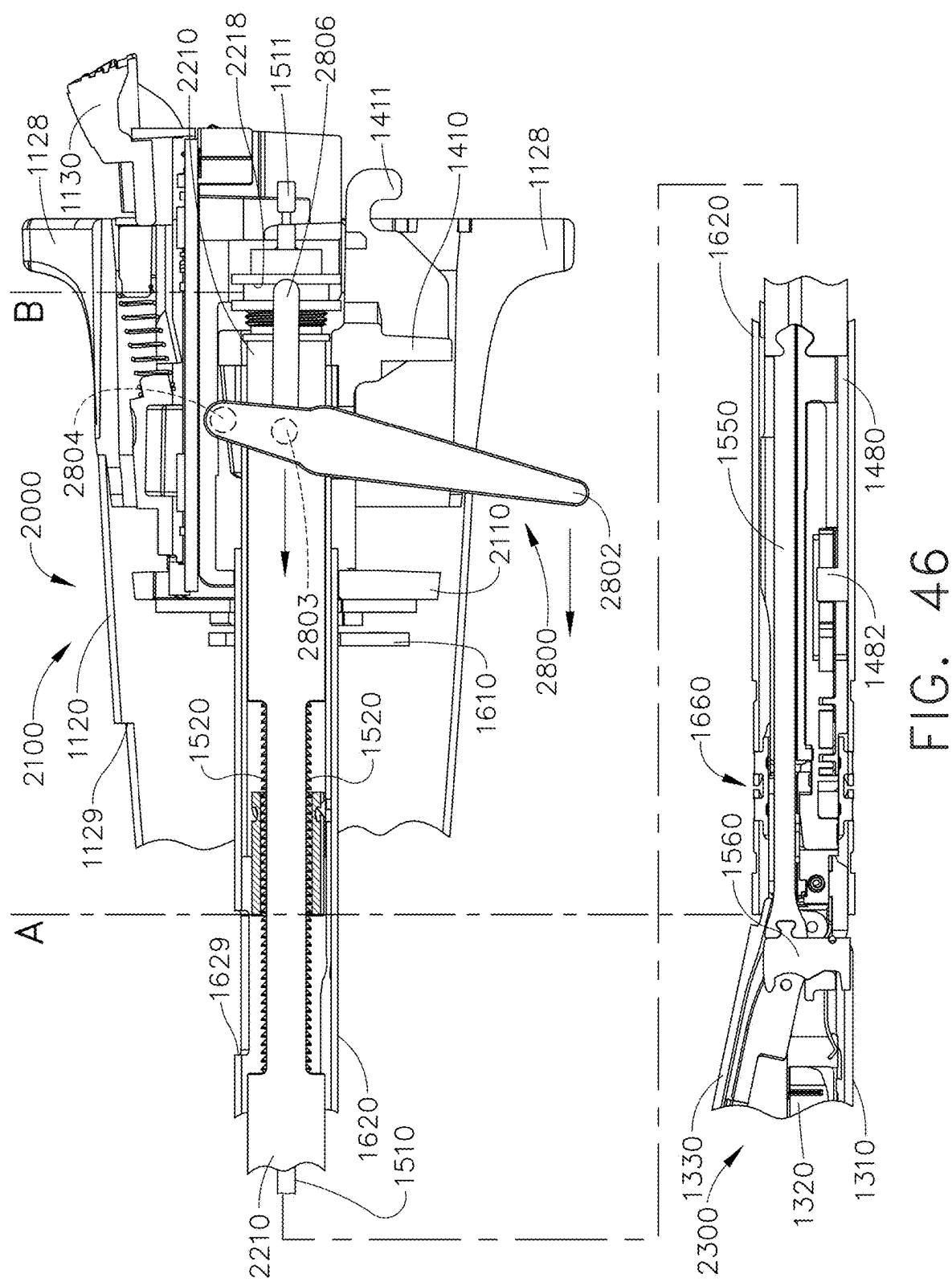
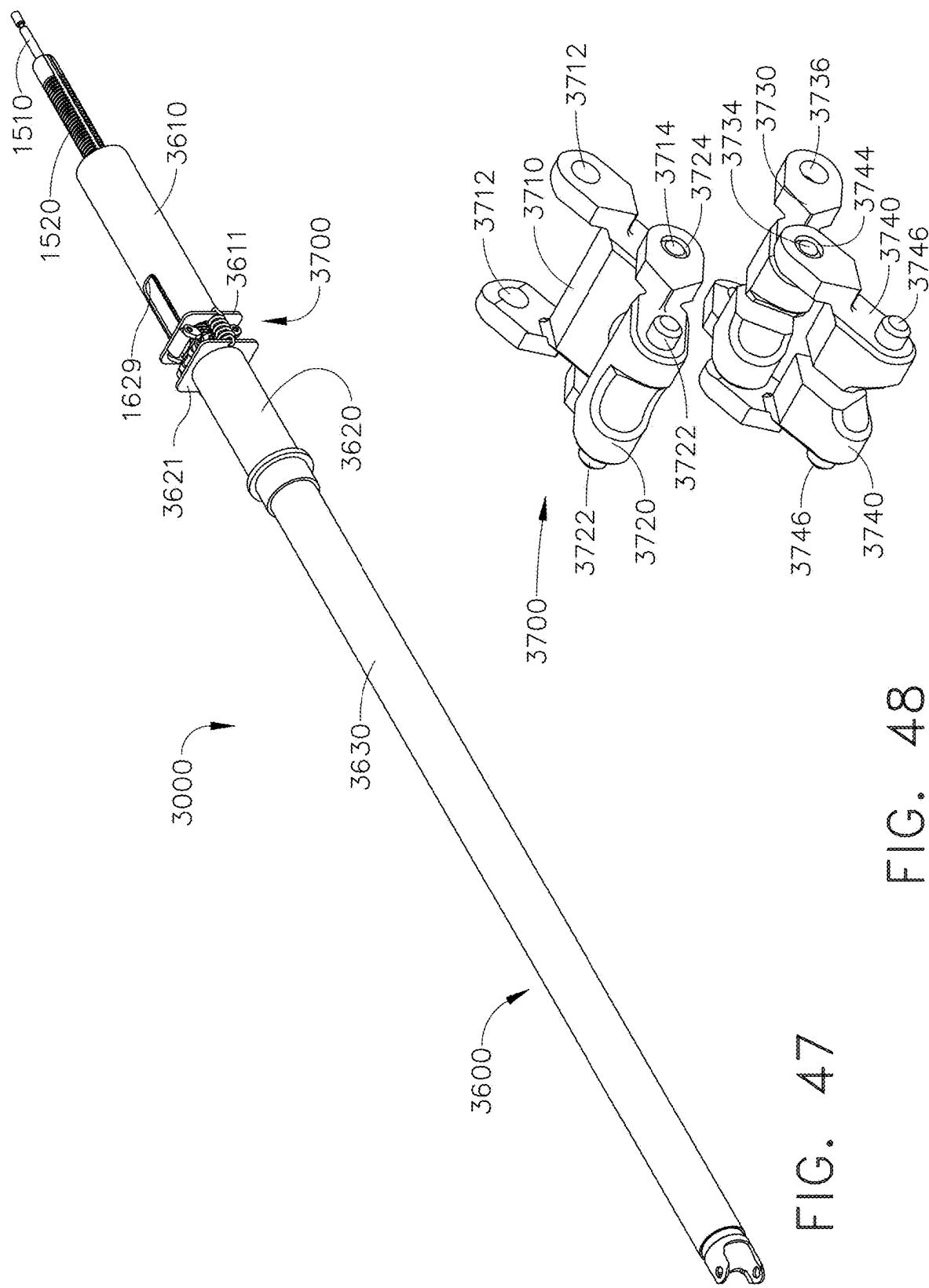


FIG. 45





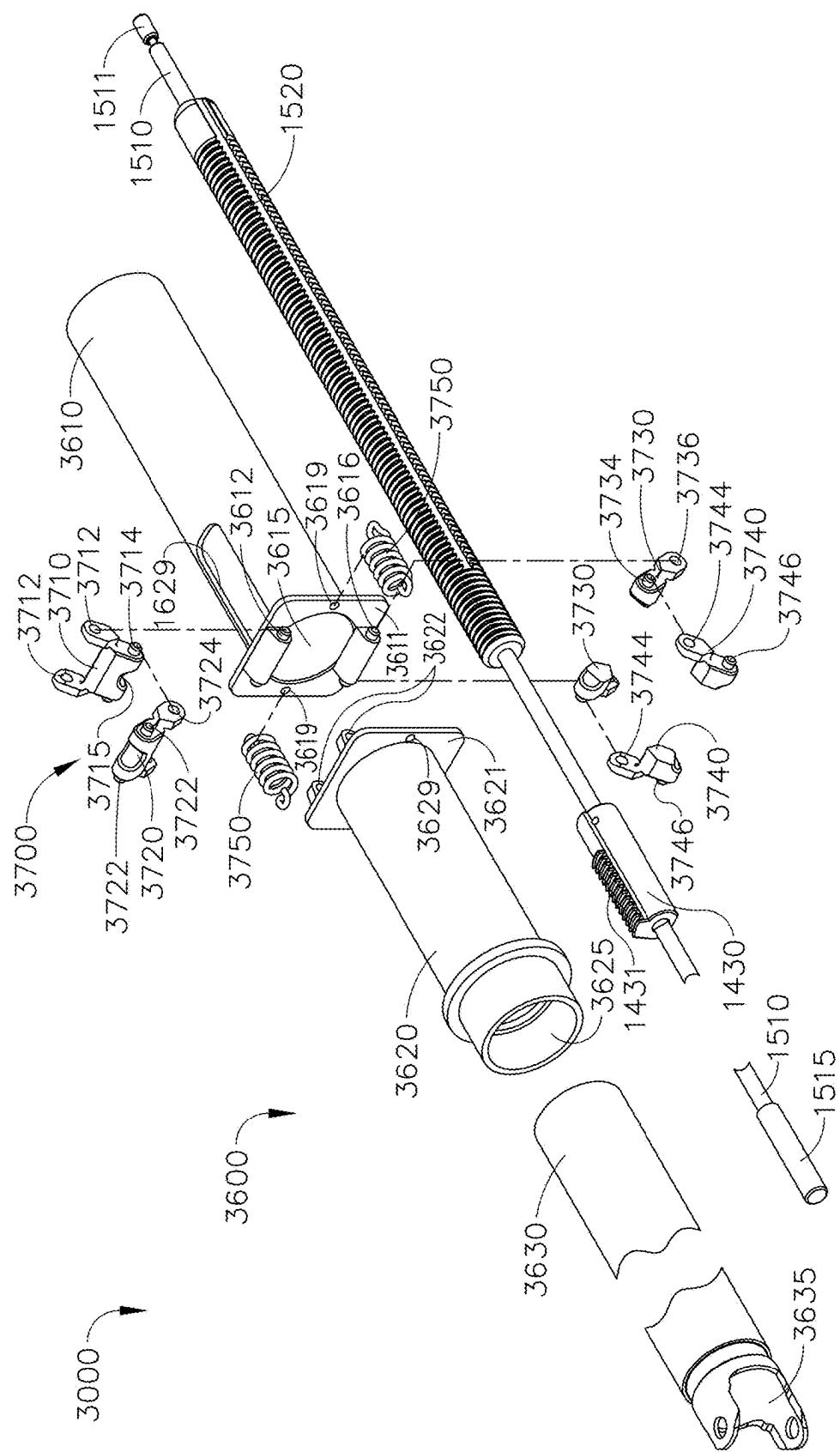


FIG. 49

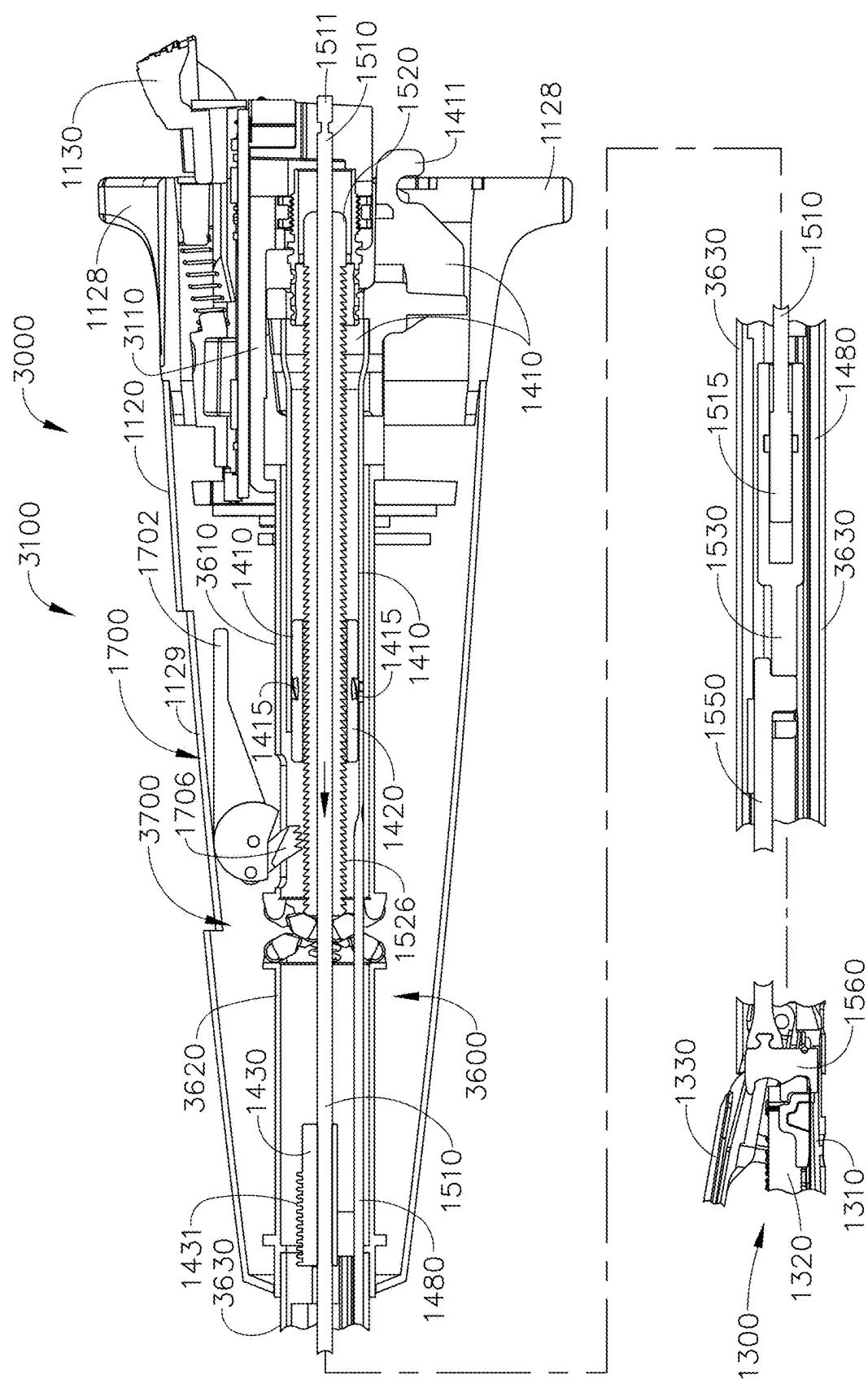


FIG. 50

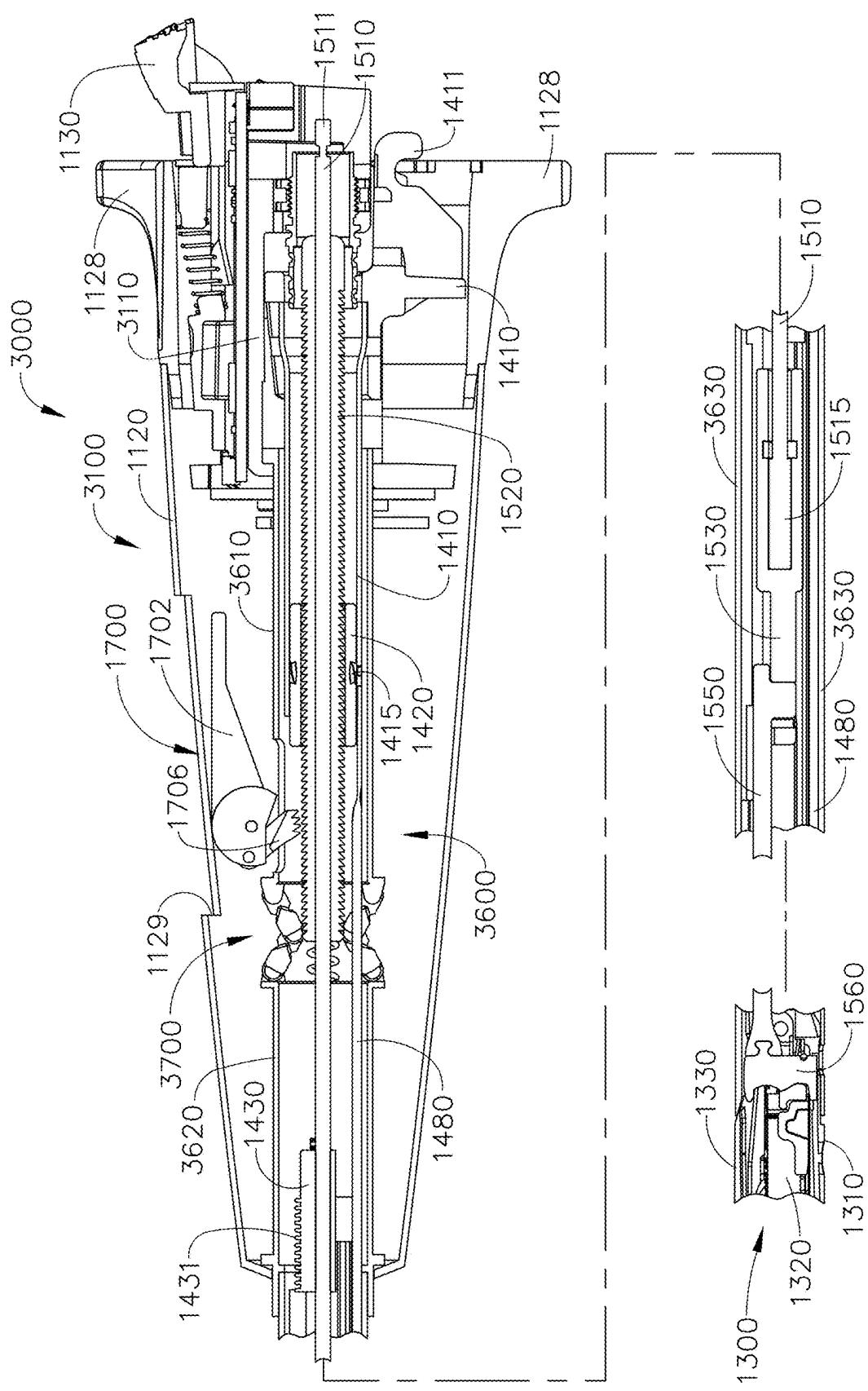


FIG. 51

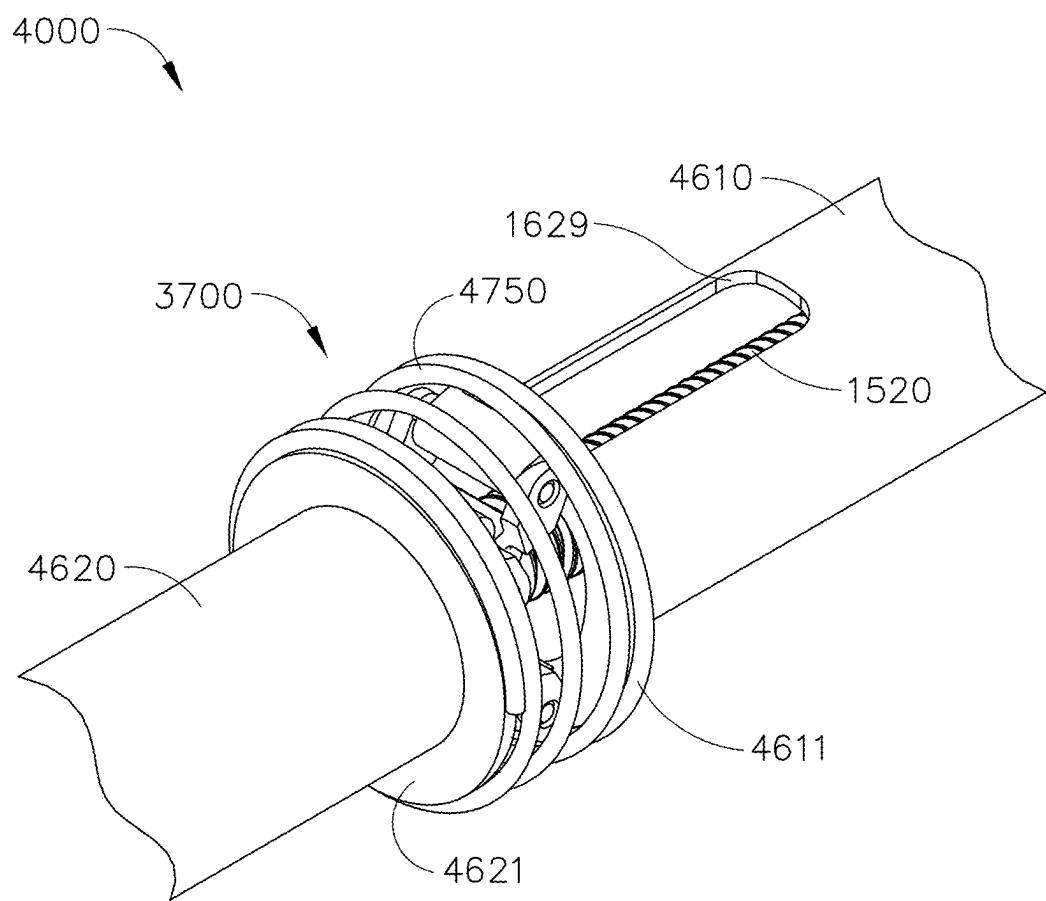


FIG. 52

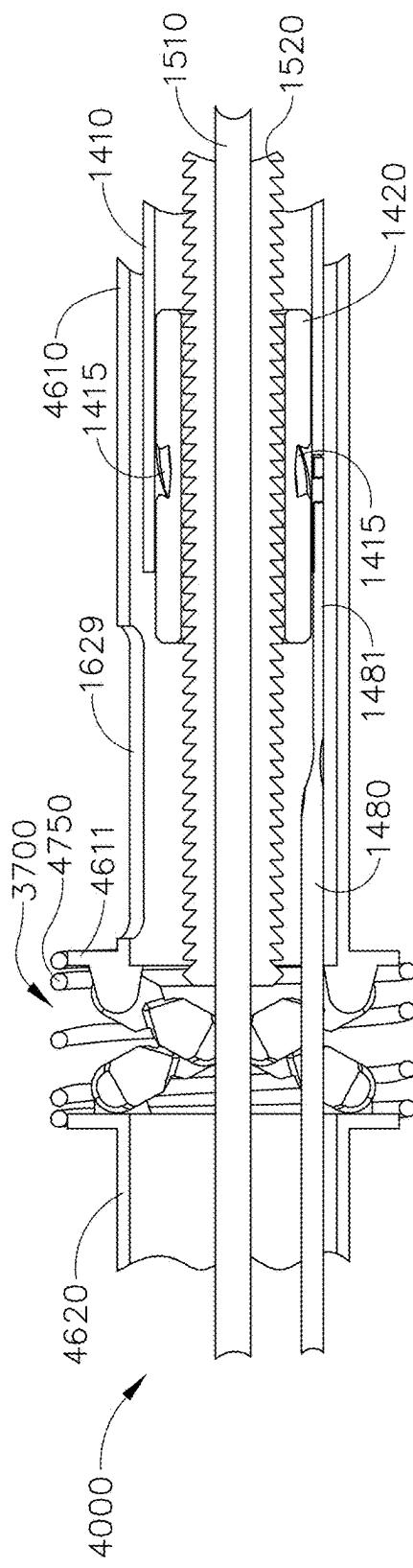


FIG. 53

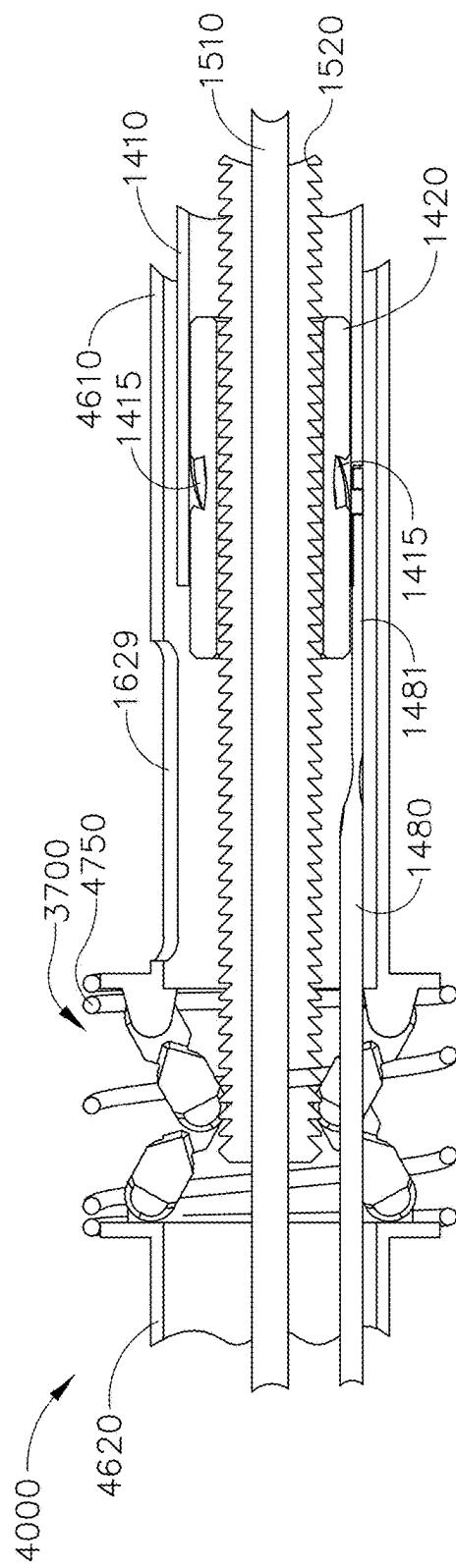
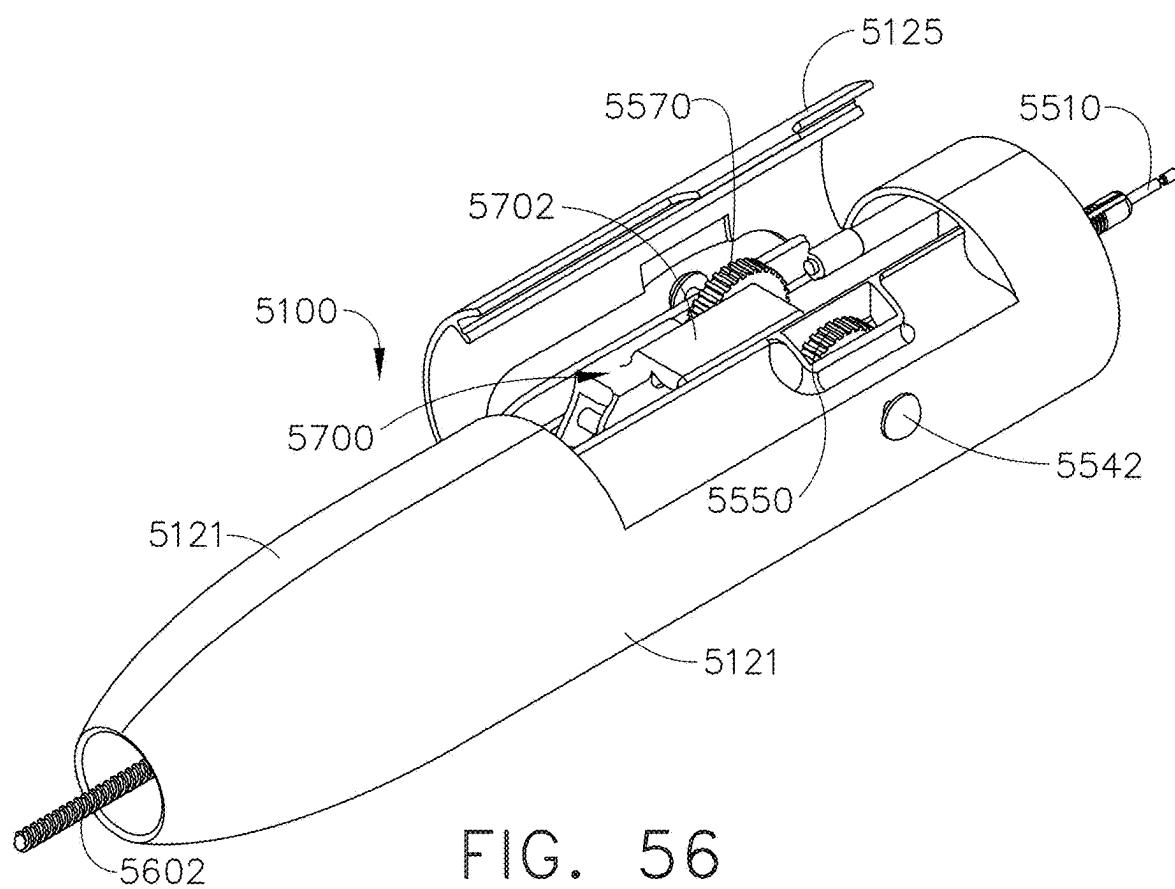
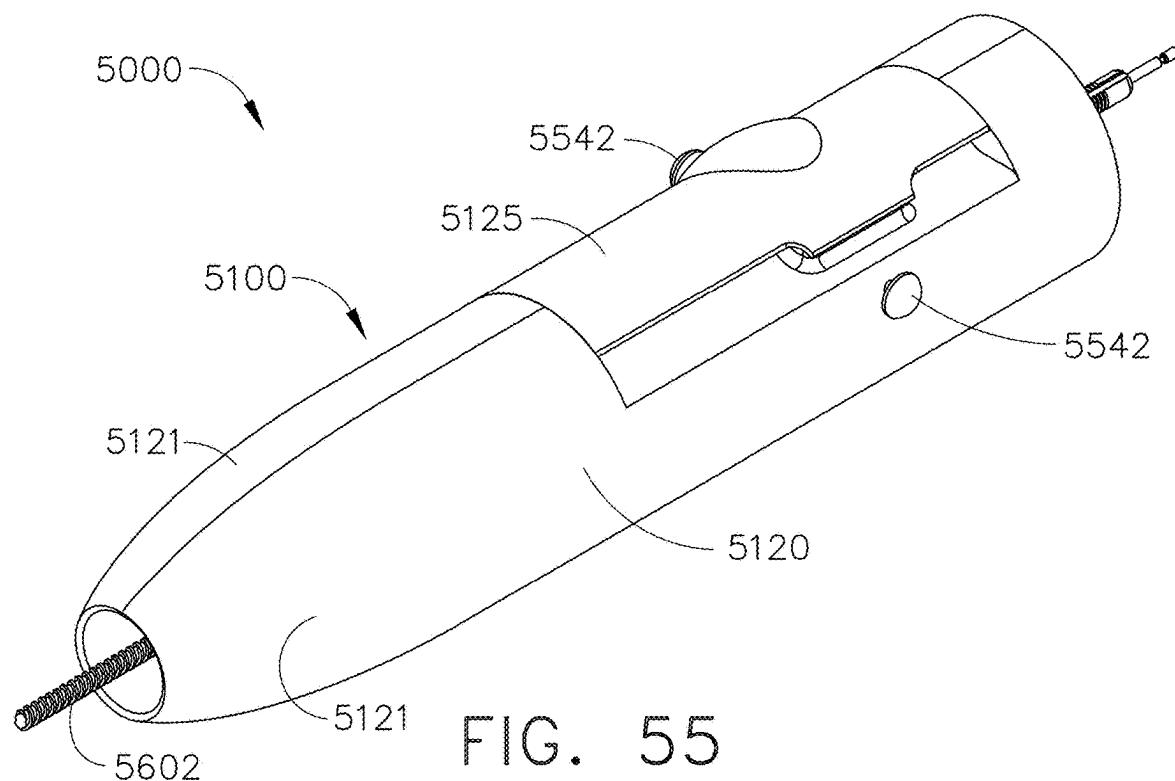
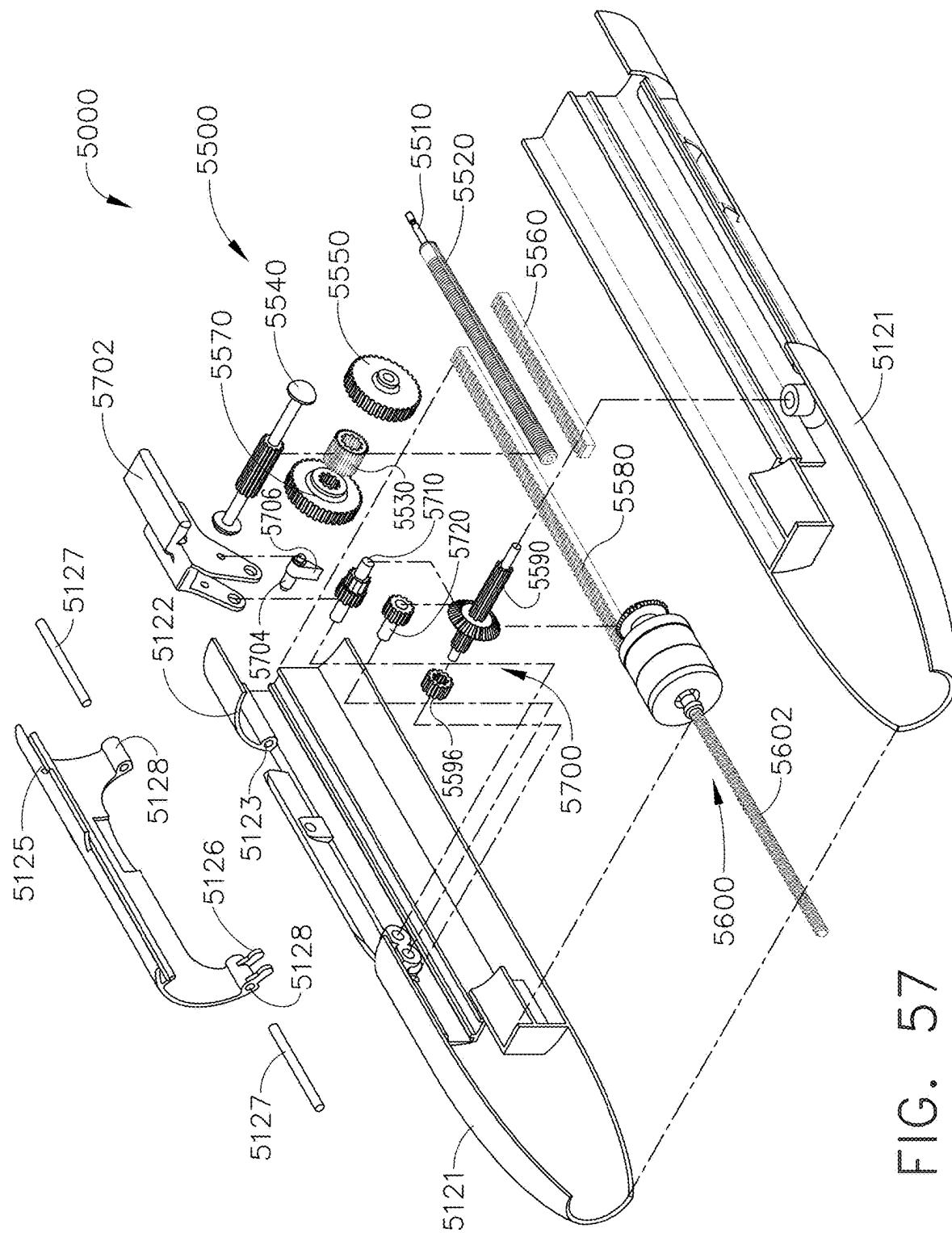


FIG. 54





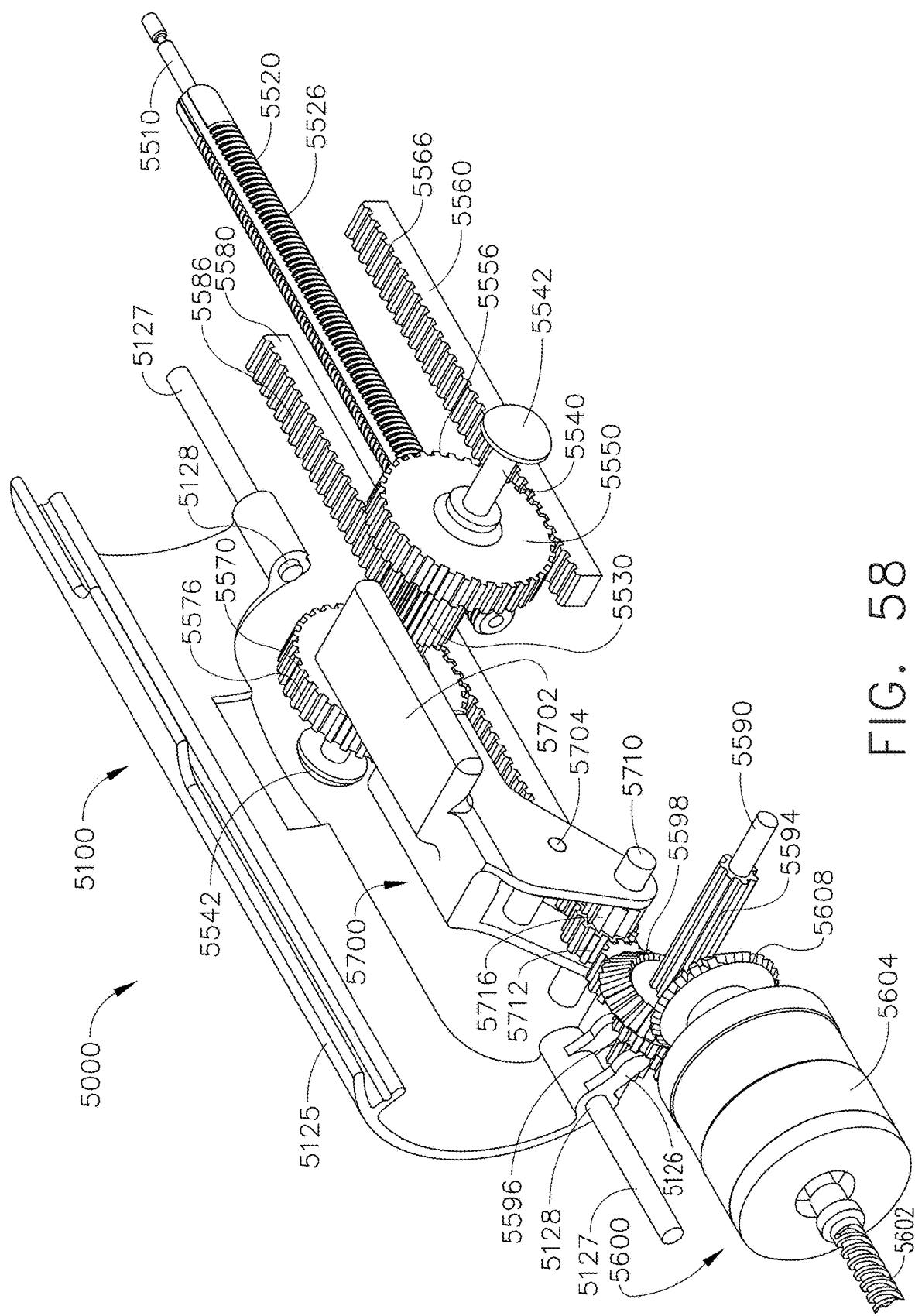
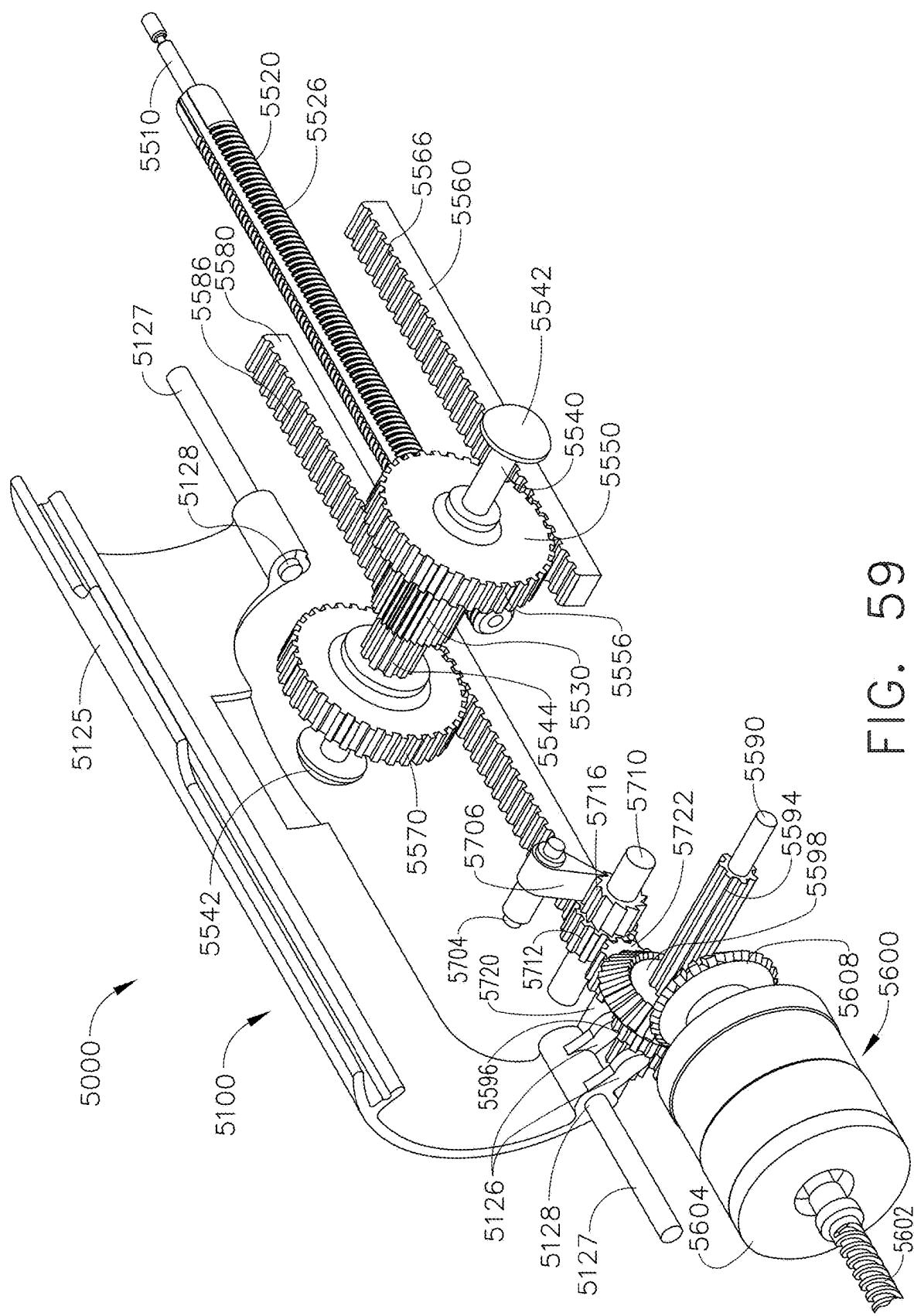


FIG. 58



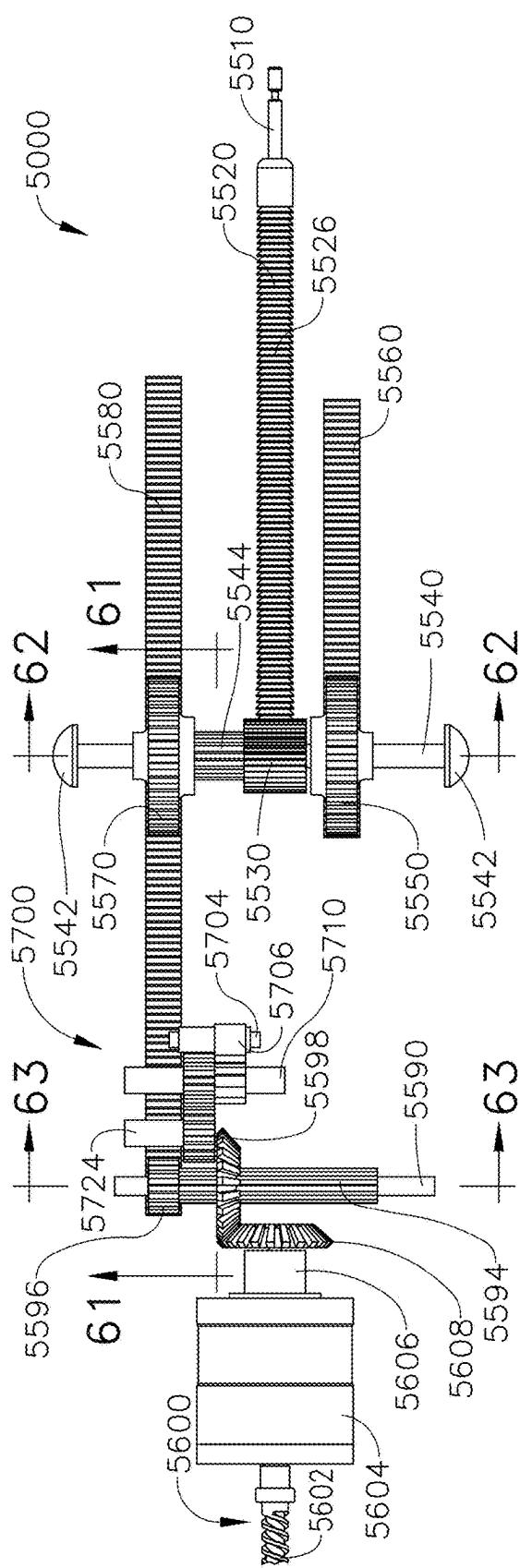
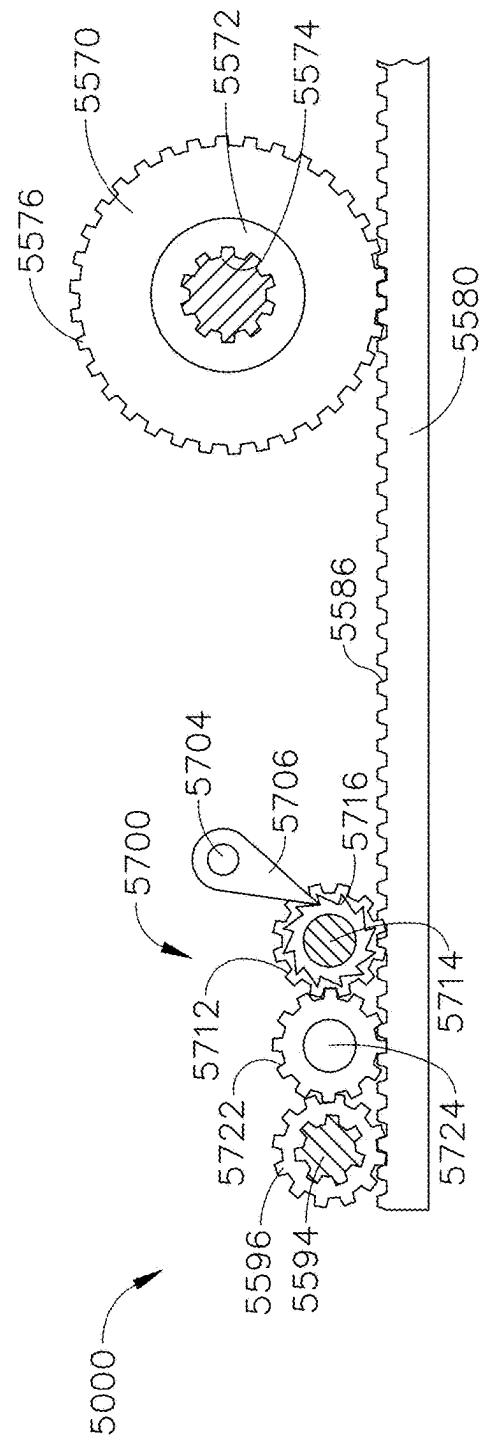


FIG. 60



16

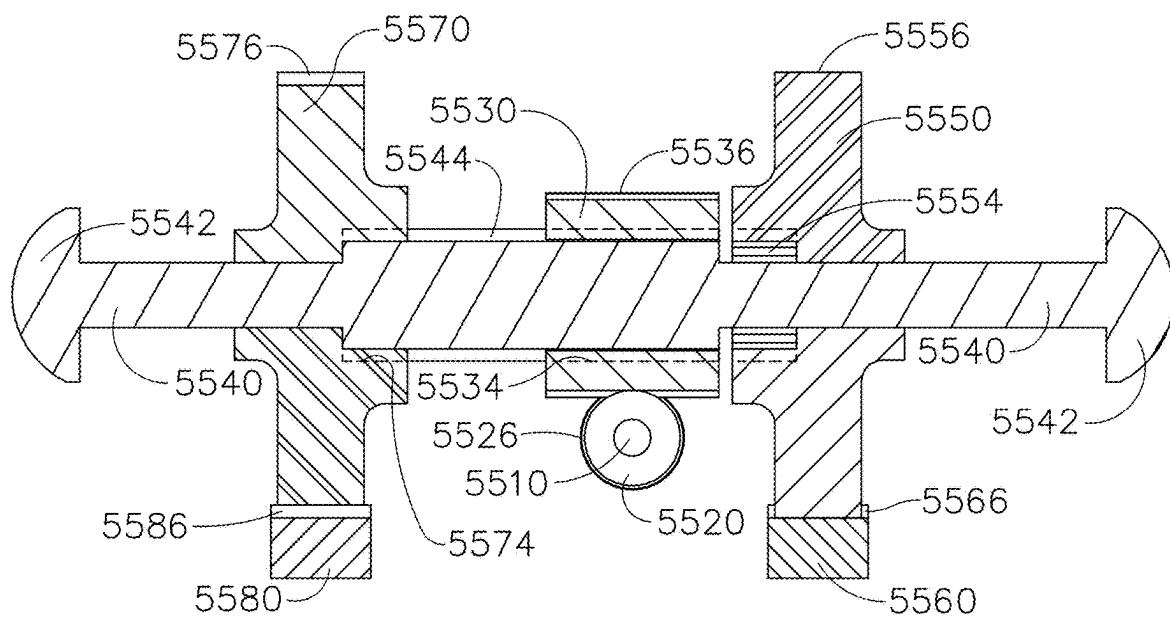


FIG. 62

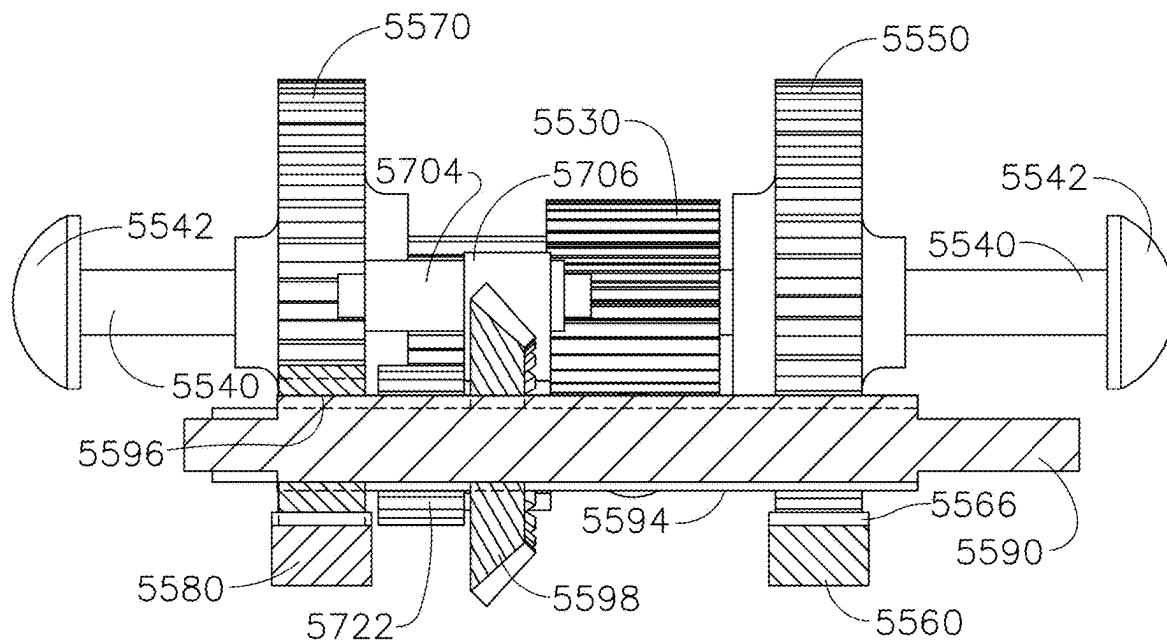


FIG. 63

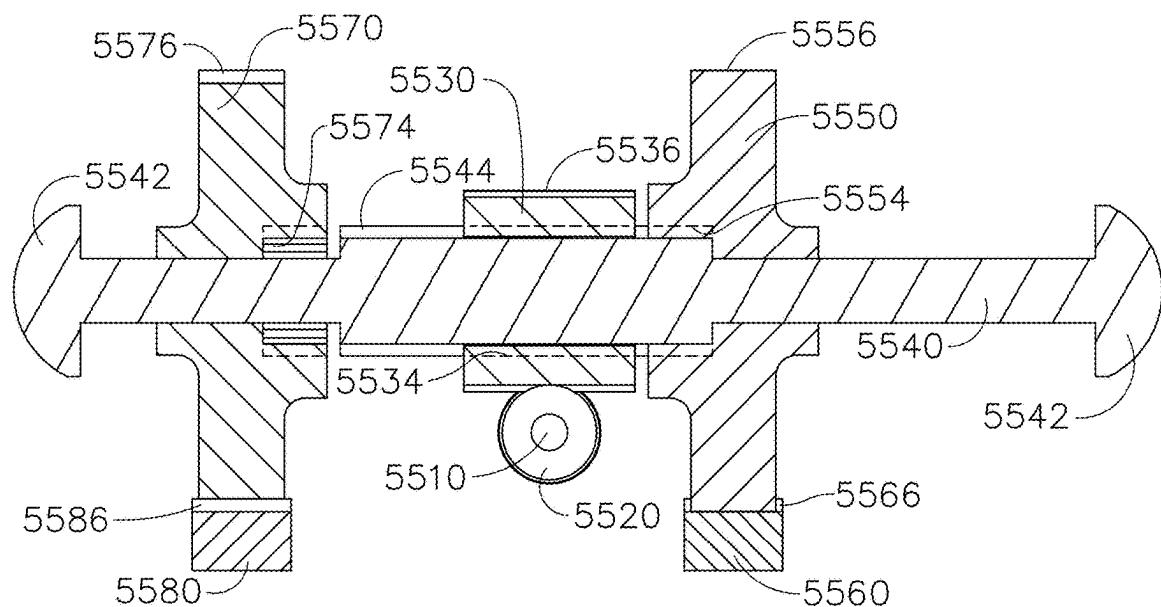


FIG. 64

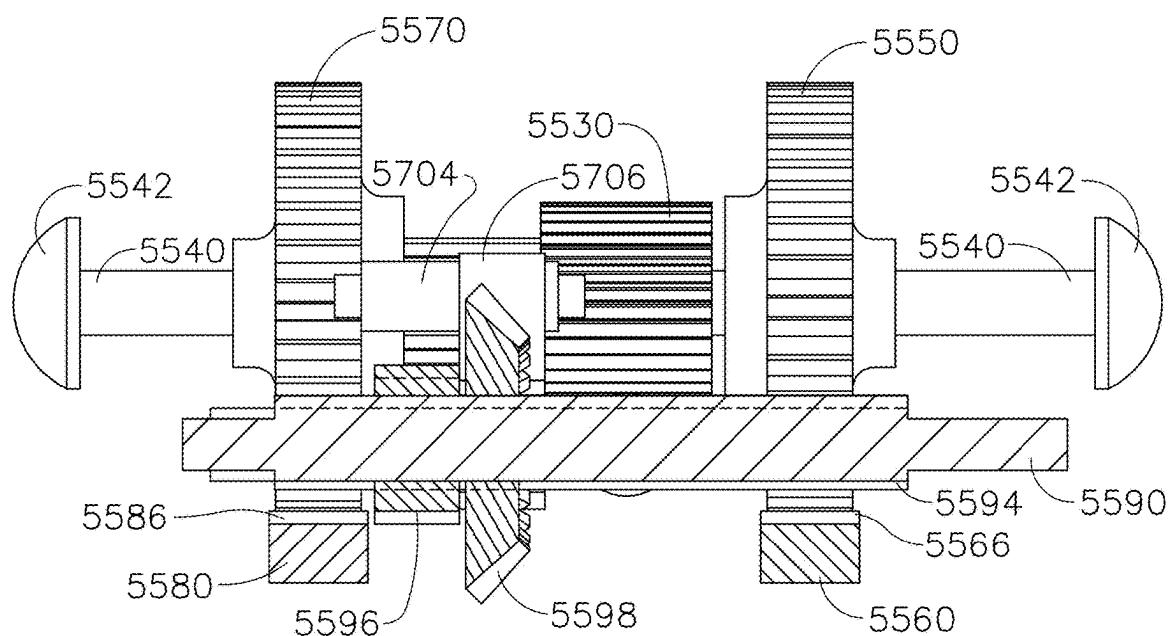


FIG. 65

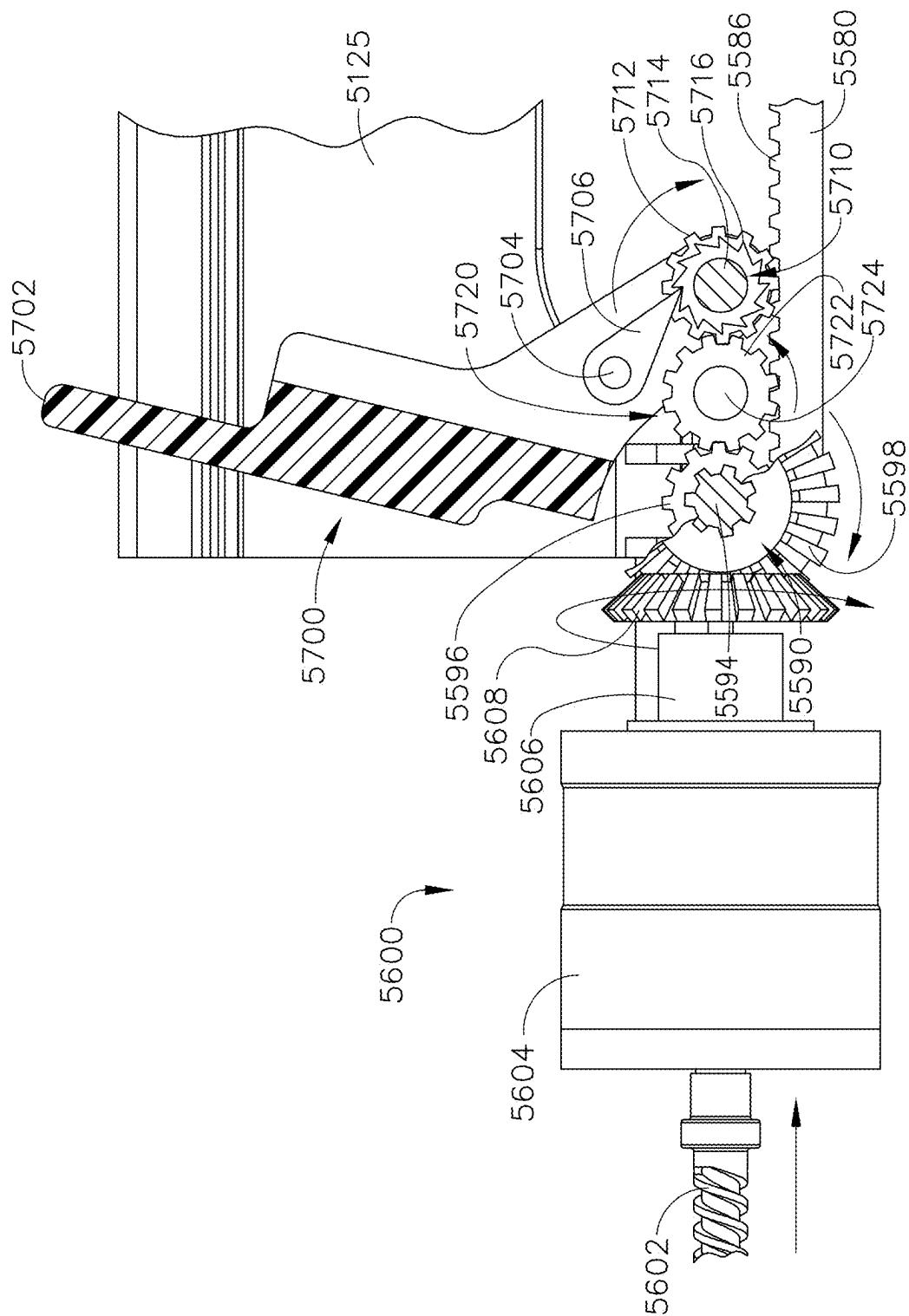
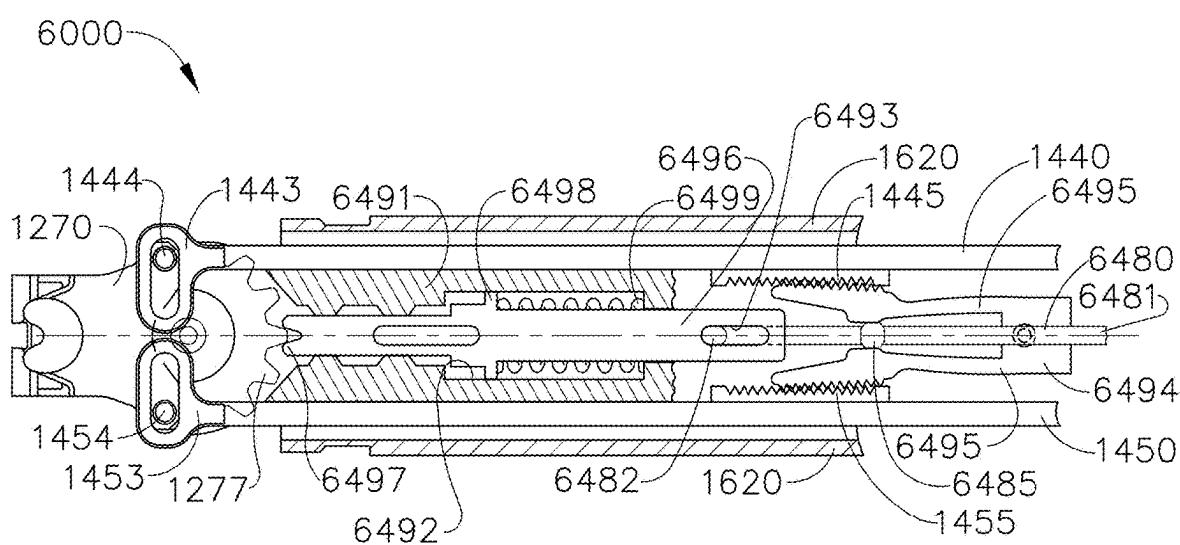
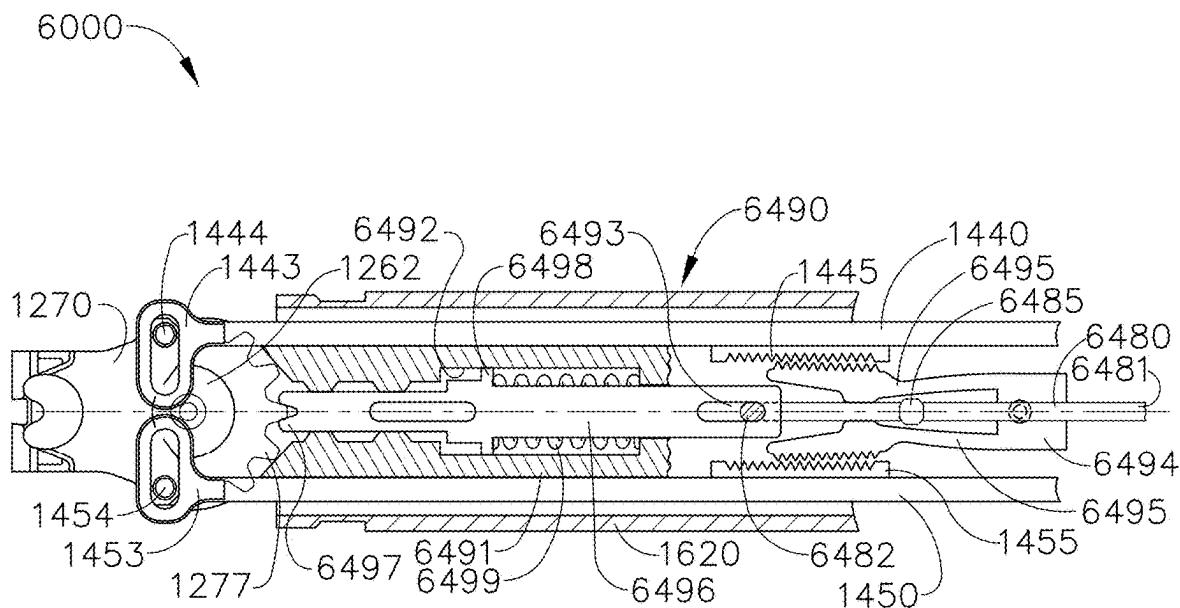


FIG. 66



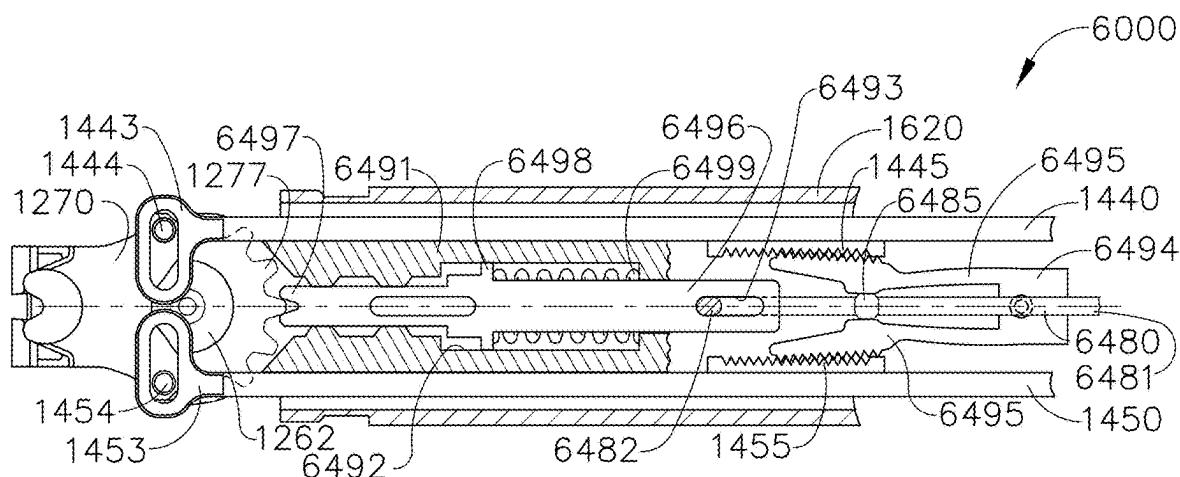


FIG. 69

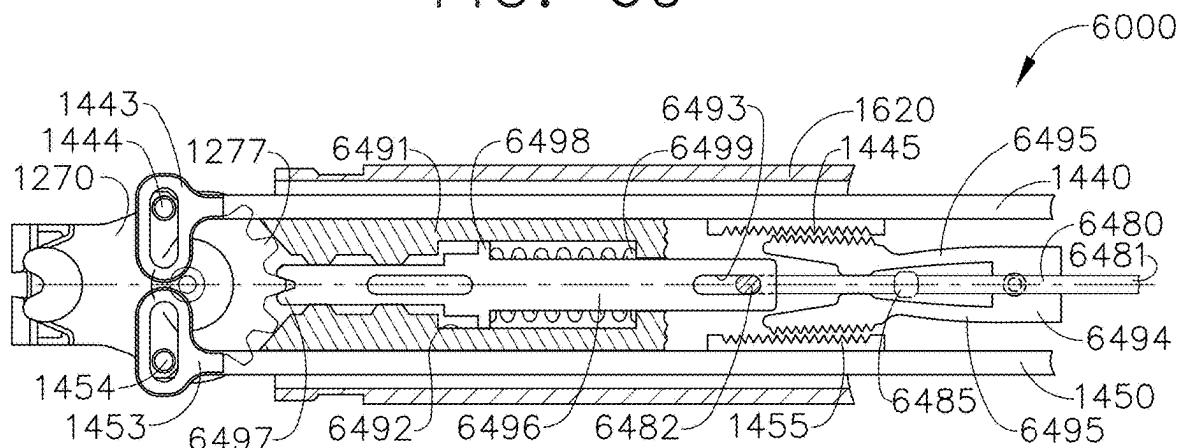


FIG. 70

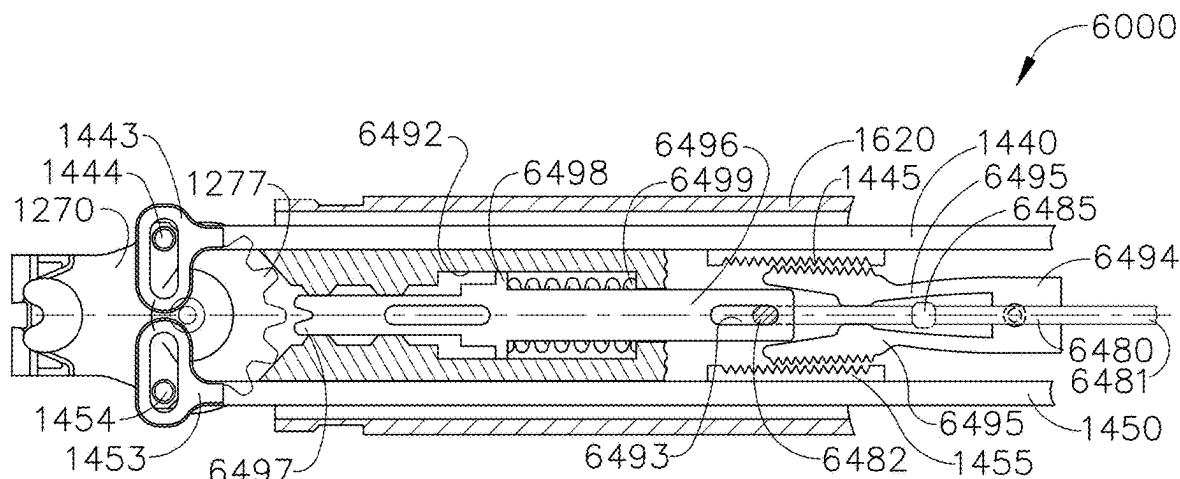


FIG. 71

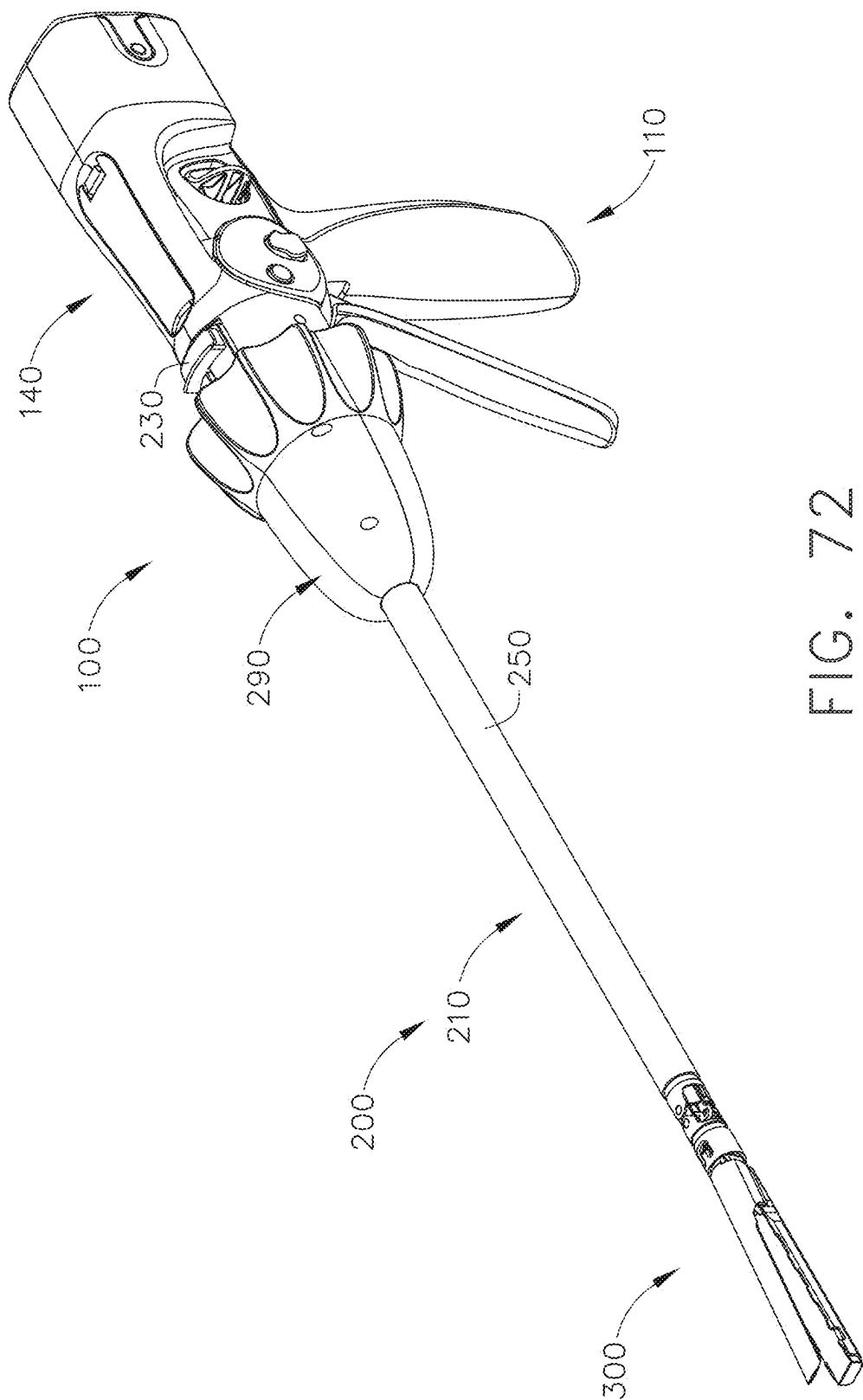


FIG. 72

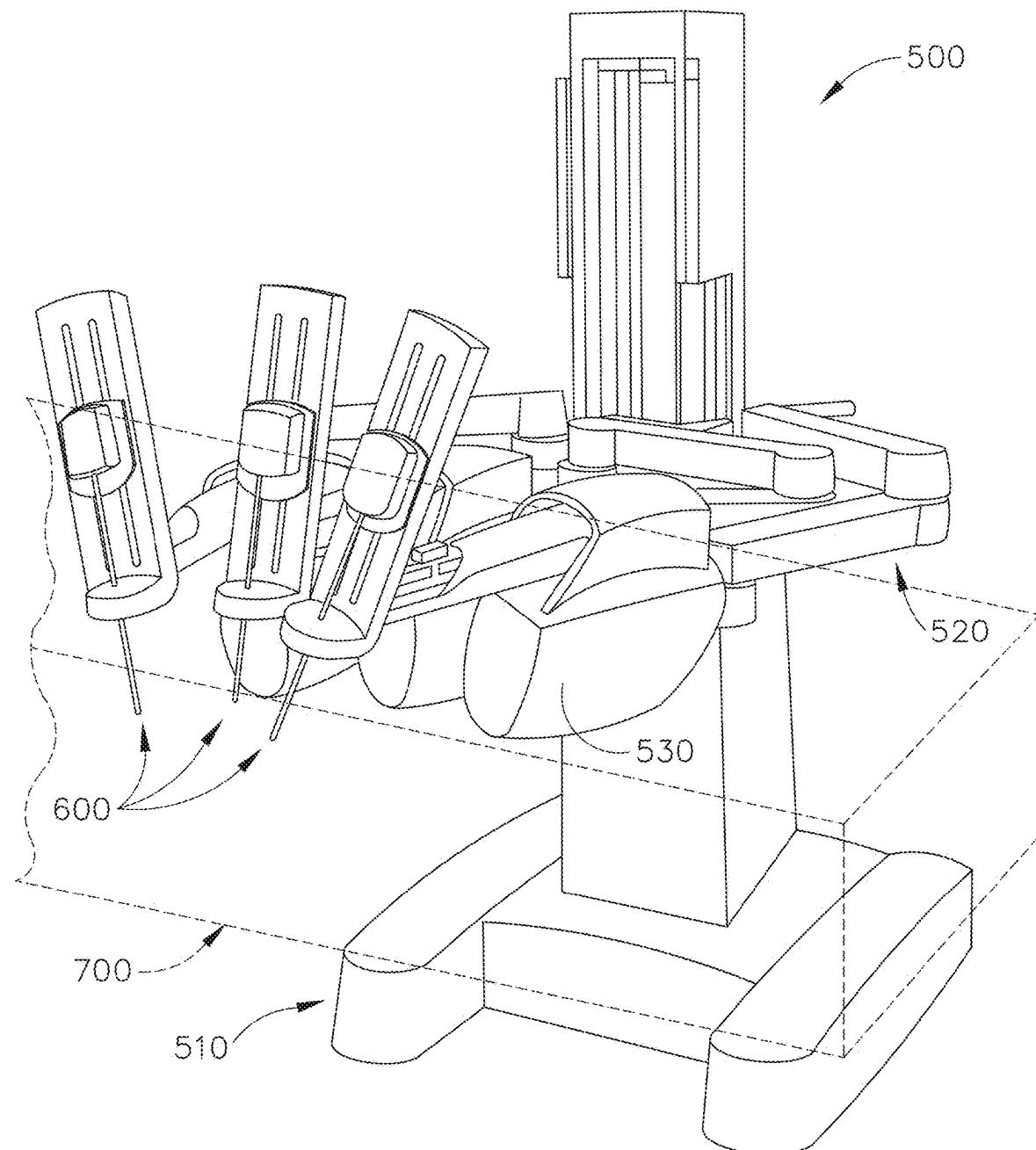


FIG. 73

FIRING BEAM HEAD HAVING A ROTATABLE LOCK

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation application claiming priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/950,601, entitled SURGICAL TOOL INCLUDING A ROTATABLE HANDLE TO RETRACT THE SPACED-APART CAMS, filed Sep. 22, 2022, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2023/0121131, which is a continuation application claiming priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/855,647, entitled ROBOTIC SURGICAL TOOL HAVING A RETRACTION MECHANISM, filed Apr. 22, 2020, which issued on Jan. 31, 2023 as U.S. Pat. No. 11,564,688, which is a continuation application claiming priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,887, entitled METHOD FOR ATTACHING A SHAFT ASSEMBLY TO A SURGICAL INSTRUMENT AND, ALTERNATIVELY, TO A SURGICAL ROBOT, filed Dec. 21, 2016, which issued on Nov. 17, 2020 as U.S. Pat. No. 10,835,245, the entire disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference herein.

BACKGROUND

[0002] The present invention relates to surgical instruments and, in various arrangements, to surgical stapling and cutting instruments and staple cartridges for use therewith that are designed to staple and cut tissue.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0003] Various features of the embodiments described herein, together with advantages thereof, may be understood in accordance with the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings as follows:

[0004] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a shaft assembly in accordance with at least one embodiment;

[0005] FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrated with some components removed;

[0006] FIG. 3 is a perspective view of a spine assembly of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1;

[0007] FIG. 4 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1;

[0008] FIG. 5 is an exploded view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrated with some components removed;

[0009] FIG. 6 is an exploded view of the spine assembly of FIG. 3;

[0010] FIG. 7 is an exploded view of a distal end of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1;

[0011] FIG. 8 is an exploded view of an intermediate portion of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1;

[0012] FIG. 9 is an exploded view of a proximal end of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrated with some components removed;

[0013] FIG. 10 is a partial cross-sectional view of the distal end of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrated in an open, unfired configuration and comprising a staple cartridge in an unspent condition;

[0014] FIG. 11 is a partial cross-sectional view of the distal end of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrated prior to a firing member of the shaft assembly being advanced distally;

[0015] FIG. 12 is a partial cross-sectional view of the distal end of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrated after the firing member has been advanced distally through a closure stroke, but prior to the firing member being advanced through a firing stroke;

[0016] FIG. 13 is a partial cross-sectional view of the distal end of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrated after the firing stroke of the firing member has been initiated;

[0017] FIG. 14 is a partial cross-sectional view of the distal end of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrating the firing member in a retracted position after the firing stroke;

[0018] FIG. 15 is a partial cross-sectional view of the distal end of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrating the staple cartridge in a spent condition and the firing member in a locked out condition;

[0019] FIG. 16 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrated in an articulation operating mode;

[0020] FIG. 17 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrated in a firing operating mode;

[0021] FIG. 18 is a partial cross-sectional view of the proximal end of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrated in the articulation operating mode of FIG. 16;

[0022] FIG. 19 is a partial cross-sectional view of the proximal end of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrated in the firing operating mode of FIG. 17;

[0023] FIG. 20 is a partial cross-sectional view of the proximal end of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 taken along line 20-20 in FIG. 18;

[0024] FIG. 21 is a partial cross-sectional view of the proximal end of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 taken along line 21-21 in FIG. 18;

[0025] FIG. 22 is a partial cross-sectional view of the proximal end of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 taken along line 22-22 in FIG. 19;

[0026] FIG. 23 is a partial cross-sectional view of the proximal end of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 taken along line 23-23 in FIG. 19;

[0027] FIG. 24 is a partial exploded view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrating a shiftable clutch in the firing system of the shaft assembly;

[0028] FIG. 25 is a cross-sectional view of an intermediate firing rod of the firing system of FIG. 24;

[0029] FIG. 26 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrating the shiftable clutch of FIG. 24 in a firing configuration;

[0030] FIG. 27 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrating the shiftable clutch of FIG. 24 about to be transitioned from the firing configuration of FIG. 26 to an articulation configuration;

[0031] FIG. 28 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrating the shiftable clutch of FIG. 24 being transitioned from the firing configuration of FIG. 26 to the articulation configuration;

[0032] FIG. 29 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrating the shiftable clutch of FIG. 24 in the articulation configuration;

[0033] FIG. 30 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrated in an unarticulated configuration;

[0034] FIG. 31 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrated in an articulated configuration;

- [0035] FIG. 32 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrating the articulation system of the shaft assembly in an unlocked state;
- [0036] FIG. 33 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrating the articulation system of the shaft assembly in a locked state;
- [0037] FIG. 34 is a cross-sectional view of the proximal end of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrated with a retraction system of the shaft assembly in an undeployed state;
- [0038] FIG. 35 is a cross-sectional view of the proximal end of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrated with the retraction system of FIG. 34 in a deployed state;
- [0039] FIG. 36 is a cross-sectional view of the proximal end of the shaft assembly of FIG. 1 illustrating the retraction system of FIG. 34 in an actuated state;
- [0040] FIG. 37 is a perspective view of a shaft assembly in accordance with at least one embodiment;
- [0041] FIG. 38 is a partial perspective view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 37 illustrated with some components removed;
- [0042] FIG. 39 is a partial perspective view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 37 illustrated with additional components removed;
- [0043] FIG. 40 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 37;
- [0044] FIG. 41 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 37;
- [0045] FIG. 42 is an exploded view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 37 illustrated with some components removed;
- [0046] FIG. 43 is an exploded view of a distal end of the shaft assembly of FIG. 37;
- [0047] FIG. 44 is an exploded view of a proximal end of the shaft assembly of FIG. 37 illustrated with some components removed;
- [0048] FIG. 45 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 37 illustrated in a closed, or clamped, configuration;
- [0049] FIG. 46 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 37 illustrated in an open configuration;
- [0050] FIG. 47 is a perspective view of a shaft assembly in accordance with at least one embodiment illustrated with some components removed;
- [0051] FIG. 48 is a perspective view of a shifting assembly of the shaft assembly of FIG. 47;
- [0052] FIG. 49 is an exploded view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 47 illustrated with some components removed;
- [0053] FIG. 50 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 47 illustrated in an articulation operating mode;
- [0054] FIG. 51 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 47 illustrated in a firing operating mode;
- [0055] FIG. 52 is a perspective view of a shaft assembly comprising a shifting assembly in accordance with at least one alternative embodiment;
- [0056] FIG. 53 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 52 illustrated in an articulation operating mode;
- [0057] FIG. 54 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 52 illustrated in a firing operating mode;
- [0058] FIG. 55 is a perspective view of an attachment portion of a shaft assembly in accordance with at least one embodiment;
- [0059] FIG. 56 is a perspective view of the attachment portion of FIG. 55 illustrated in an open configuration;
- [0060] FIG. 57 is an exploded view of the attachment portion of FIG. 55;
- [0061] FIG. 58 is a perspective view of the attachment portion of FIG. 55 illustrated in the open configuration of FIG. 56 and illustrated with some components removed;
- [0062] FIG. 59 is a perspective view of the attachment portion of FIG. 55 illustrated in the open configuration of FIG. 56 and illustrated with additional components removed;
- [0063] FIG. 60 is a plan view of a drive train of the attachment portion of FIG. 55 illustrated in a firing operating mode;
- [0064] FIG. 61 is a cross-sectional view of the drive train of FIG. 60 taken along line 61-61 in FIG. 60 and illustrated in the firing operating mode of FIG. 60;
- [0065] FIG. 62 is a cross-sectional view of the drive train of FIG. 60 taken along line 62-62 in FIG. 60 and illustrated in the firing operating mode of FIG. 60;
- [0066] FIG. 63 is a cross-sectional view of the drive train of FIG. 60 taken along line 63-63 in FIG. 60 and illustrated in the firing operating mode of FIG. 60;
- [0067] FIG. 64 is a cross-sectional view of the drive train of FIG. 60 taken along line 64-64 in FIG. 60 and illustrated in a second operating mode;
- [0068] FIG. 65 is a cross-sectional view of the drive train of FIG. 60 taken along line 65-65 in FIG. 60 and illustrated in a retraction operating mode;
- [0069] FIG. 66 is a partial cross-sectional view of the attachment portion of FIG. 55 illustrated in the retraction operating mode of FIG. 65;
- [0070] FIG. 67 is a partial cross-sectional view of a shaft assembly comprising an end effector, a first articulation lock, and a second articulation lock illustrated with the first articulation lock in a locked state and the second articulation lock in an unlocked state;
- [0071] FIG. 68 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 67 illustrated with the first and second articulation locks in a locked state;
- [0072] FIG. 69 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 67 illustrated with the first and second articulation locks in a locked state;
- [0073] FIG. 70 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 67 illustrated with the first articulation lock in a locked state and the second articulation lock in an unlocked state;
- [0074] FIG. 71 is a partial cross-sectional view of the shaft assembly of FIG. 67 illustrated with the first and second articulation locks in an unlocked state;
- [0075] FIG. 72 is a perspective view of a surgical instrument including a handle and an interchangeable shaft assembly; and
- [0076] FIG. 73 is a perspective view of a robotic surgical system operably supporting a plurality of surgical tools.
- [0077] Corresponding reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views. The exemplifications set out herein illustrate various embodiments of the invention, in one form, and such exemplifications are not to be construed as limiting the scope of the invention in any manner.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

- [0078] Applicant of the present application owns the following U.S. Patent Applications that were filed on Dec. 21, 2016 and which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entireties:
- [0079] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/386,185, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENTS AND REPLACEABLE TOOL ASSEMBLIES THEREOF, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168642;
- [0080] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/386,230, entitled ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168649;
- [0081] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/386,221, entitled LOCKOUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SURGICAL END EFFECTORS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168646;
- [0082] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/386,209, entitled SURGICAL END EFFECTORS AND FIRING MEMBERS THEREOF, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168645;
- [0083] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/386,198, entitled LOCKOUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SURGICAL END EFFECTORS AND REPLACEABLE TOOL ASSEMBLIES, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168644; and
- [0084] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/386,240, entitled SURGICAL END EFFECTORS AND ADAPTABLE FIRING MEMBERS THEREFOR, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168651.
- [0085] Applicant of the present application owns the following U.S. Patent Applications that were filed on Dec. 21, 2016 and which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entireties:
- [0086] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,939, entitled STAPLE CARTRIDGES AND ARRANGEMENTS OF STAPLES AND STAPLE CAVITIES THEREIN, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168629;
- [0087] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,941, entitled SURGICAL TOOL ASSEMBLIES WITH CLUTCHING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHIFTING BETWEEN CLOSURE SYSTEMS WITH CLOSURE STROKE REDUCTION FEATURES AND ARTICULATION AND FIRING SYSTEMS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168630;
- [0088] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,943, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENTS AND STAPLE-FORMING ANVILS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168631;
- [0089] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,950, entitled SURGICAL TOOL ASSEMBLIES WITH CLOSURE STROKE REDUCTION FEATURES, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168635;
- [0090] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,945, entitled STAPLE CARTRIDGES AND ARRANGEMENTS OF STAPLES AND STAPLE CAVITIES THEREIN, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168632;
- [0091] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,946, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENTS AND STAPLE-FORMING ANVILS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168633;
- [0092] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,951, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH JAW OPENING FEATURES FOR INCREASING A JAW OPENING DISTANCE, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168636;
- [0093] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,953, entitled METHODS OF STAPLING TISSUE, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168637;
- [0094] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,954, entitled FIRING MEMBERS WITH NON-PARALLEL JAW ENGAGEMENT FEATURES FOR SURGICAL END EFFECTORS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168638;
- [0095] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,955, entitled SURGICAL END EFFECTORS WITH EXPANDABLE TISSUE STOP ARRANGEMENTS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168639;
- [0096] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,948, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENTS AND STAPLE-FORMING ANVILS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168584;
- [0097] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,956, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH POSITIVE JAW OPENING FEATURES, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168640;
- [0098] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,958, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH LOCK-OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR PREVENTING FIRING SYSTEM ACTUATION UNLESS AN UNSPENT STAPLE CARTRIDGE IS PRESENT, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168641; and
- [0099] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,947, entitled STAPLE CARTRIDGES AND ARRANGEMENTS OF STAPLES AND STAPLE CAVITIES THEREIN, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168634.
- [0100] Applicant of the present application owns the following U.S. Patent Applications that were filed on Dec. 21, 2016 and which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entireties:
- [0101] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,896, entitled METHOD FOR RESETTING A FUSE OF A SURGICAL INSTRUMENT SHAFT, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168597;
- [0102] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,898, entitled STAPLE FORMING POCKET ARRANGEMENT TO ACCOMMODATE DIFFERENT TYPES OF STAPLES, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,537,325;
- [0103] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,899, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT COMPRISING IMPROVED JAW CONTROL, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168600;
- [0104] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,901, entitled STAPLE CARTRIDGE AND STAPLE CARTRIDGE CHANNEL COMPRISING WINDOWS DEFINED THEREIN, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168602;
- [0105] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,902, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT COMPRISING

- A CUTTING MEMBER, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168603;
- [0106] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,904, entitled STAPLE FIRING MEMBER COMPRISING A MISSING CARTRIDGE AND/OR SPENT CARTRIDGE LOCKOUT, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168605;
- [0107] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,905, entitled FIRING ASSEMBLY COMPRISING A LOCKOUT, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168606;
- [0108] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,907, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT SYSTEM COMPRISING AN END EFFECTOR LOCKOUT AND A FIRING ASSEMBLY LOCKOUT, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168608;
- [0109] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,908, entitled FIRING ASSEMBLY COMPRISING A FUSE, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168609; and
- [0110] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,909, entitled FIRING ASSEMBLY COMPRISING A MULTIPLE FAILED-STATE FUSE, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168610.
- [0111] Applicant of the present application owns the following U.S. Patent Applications that were filed on Dec. 21, 2016 and which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entireties:
- [0112] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,920, entitled STAPLE FORMING POCKET ARRANGEMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,499,914;
- [0113] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,913, entitled ANVIL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SURGICAL STAPLERS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168614;
- [0114] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,914, entitled METHOD OF DEFORMING STAPLES FROM TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF STAPLE CARTRIDGES WITH THE SAME SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168615;
- [0115] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,893, entitled BILATERALLY ASYMMETRIC STAPLE FORMING POCKET PAIRS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168594;
- [0116] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,929, entitled CLOSURE MEMBERS WITH CAM SURFACE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH SEPARATE AND DISTINCT CLOSURE AND FIRING SYSTEMS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168626;
- [0117] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,911, entitled SURGICAL STAPLERS WITH INDEPENDENTLY ACTUATABLE CLOSING AND FIRING SYSTEMS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,448,950;
- [0118] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,927, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENTS WITH SMART STAPLE CARTRIDGES, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168625;
- [0119] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,917, entitled STAPLE CARTRIDGE COMPRISING STAPLES WITH DIFFERENT CLAMPING BREADTHS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168617;
- [0120] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,900, entitled STAPLE FORMING POCKET ARRANGEMENTS COMPRISING PRIMARY SIDEWALLS AND POCKET SIDEWALLS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168601;
- [0121] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,931, entitled NO-CARTRIDGE AND SPENT CARTRIDGE LOCKOUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SURGICAL STAPLERS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168627;
- [0122] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,915, entitled FIRING MEMBER PIN ANGLE, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168616;
- [0123] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,897, entitled STAPLE FORMING POCKET ARRANGEMENTS COMPRISING ZONED FORMING SURFACE GROOVES, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168598;
- [0124] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,922, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH MULTIPLE FAILURE RESPONSE MODES, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,426,471;
- [0125] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,924, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH PRIMARY AND SAFETY PROCESSORS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168624;
- [0126] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,912, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH JAWS THAT ARE PIVOTABLE ABOUT A FIXED AXIS AND INCLUDE SEPARATE AND DISTINCT CLOSURE AND FIRING SYSTEMS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168613;
- [0127] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,910, entitled ANVIL HAVING A KNIFE SLOT WIDTH, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,485,543;
- [0128] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,903, entitled CLOSURE MEMBER ARRANGEMENTS FOR SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168604; and
- [0129] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,906, entitled FIRING MEMBER PIN CONFIGURATIONS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168607.
- [0130] Applicant of the present application owns the following U.S. Patent Applications that were filed on Dec. 21, 2016 and which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entireties:
- [0131] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/386,188, entitled STEPPED STAPLE CARTRIDGE WITH ASYMMETRICAL STAPLES, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168585;
- [0132] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/386,192, entitled STEPPED STAPLE CARTRIDGE WITH TISSUE RETENTION AND GAP SETTING FEATURES, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168643;
- [0133] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/386,206, entitled STAPLE CARTRIDGE WITH DEFORMABLE DRIVER RETENTION FEATURES, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168586;
- [0134] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/386,226, entitled DURABILITY FEATURES FOR END EFFECTORS AND FIRING ASSEMBLIES OF SUR-

GICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168648;

[0135] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/386,222, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENTS HAVING END EFFECTORS WITH POSITIVE OPENING FEATURES, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168647; and

[0136] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/386,236, entitled CONNECTION PORTIONS FOR DISPOSABLE LOADING UNITS FOR SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168650.

[0137] Applicant of the present application owns the following U.S. Patent Applications that were filed on Dec. 21, 2016 and which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entireties:

[0138] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,889, entitled SHAFT ASSEMBLY COMPRISING A MANUALLY-OPERABLE RETRACTION SYSTEM FOR USE WITH A MOTORIZED SURGICAL INSTRUMENT SYSTEM, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168590;

[0139] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,890, entitled SHAFT ASSEMBLY COMPRISING SEPARATELY ACTUATABLE AND RETRACTABLE SYSTEMS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168591;

[0140] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,891, entitled SHAFT ASSEMBLY COMPRISING A CLUTCH CONFIGURED TO ADAPT THE OUTPUT OF A ROTARY FIRING MEMBER TO TWO DIFFERENT SYSTEMS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168592;

[0141] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,892, entitled SURGICAL SYSTEM COMPRISING A FIRING MEMBER ROTATABLE INTO AN ARTICULATION STATE TO ARTICULATE AN END EFFECTOR OF THE SURGICAL SYSTEM, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168593;

[0142] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,894, entitled SHAFT ASSEMBLY COMPRISING A LOCKOUT, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,492,785; and

[0143] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,895, entitled SHAFT ASSEMBLY COMPRISING FIRST AND SECOND ARTICULATION LOCKOUTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,542,982.

[0144] Applicant of the present application owns the following U.S. Patent Applications that were filed on Dec. 21, 2016 and which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entireties:

[0145] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,916, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING SYSTEMS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168575;

[0146] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,918, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING SYSTEMS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168618;

[0147] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,919, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING SYSTEMS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168619;

[0148] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,921, entitled SURGICAL STAPLE CARTRIDGE WITH MOVABLE CAMMING MEMBER CONFIGURED

TO DISENGAGE FIRING MEMBER LOCKOUT FEATURES, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168621;

[0149] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,923, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING SYSTEMS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/016823;

[0150] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,925, entitled JAW ACTUATED LOCK ARRANGEMENTS FOR PREVENTING ADVANCEMENT OF A FIRING MEMBER IN A SURGICAL END EFFECTOR UNLESS AN UNFIRED CARTRIDGE IS INSTALLED IN THE END EFFECTOR, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,517,595;

[0151] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,926, entitled AXIALLY MOVABLE CLOSURE SYSTEM ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPLYING CLOSURE MOTIONS TO JAWS OF SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168577;

[0152] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,928, entitled PROTECTIVE COVER ARRANGEMENTS FOR A JOINT INTERFACE BETWEEN A MOBILE JAW AND ACTUATOR SHAFT OF A SURGICAL INSTRUMENT, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168578;

[0153] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,930, entitled SURGICAL END EFFECTOR WITH TWO SEPARATE COOPERATING OPENING FEATURES FOR OPENING AND CLOSING END EFFECTOR JAWS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168579;

[0154] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,932, entitled ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL END EFFECTOR WITH ASYMMETRIC SHAFT ARRANGEMENT, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168628;

[0155] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,933, entitled ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH INDEPENDENT PIVOTABLE LINKAGE DISTAL OF AN ARTICULATION LOCK, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168580;

[0156] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,934, entitled ARTICULATION LOCK ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOCKING AN END EFFECTOR IN AN ARTICULATED POSITION IN RESPONSE TO ACTUATION OF A JAW CLOSURE SYSTEM, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2018/0168581;

[0157] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,935, entitled LATERALLY ACTUATABLE ARTICULATION LOCK ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOCKING AN END EFFECTOR OF A SURGICAL INSTRUMENT IN AN ARTICULATED CONFIGURATION, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,524,789; and

[0158] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/385,936, entitled ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH ARTICULATION STROKE AMPLIFICATION FEATURES, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,517,596.

[0159] Applicant of the present application owns the following U.S. Patent Applications that were filed on Jun. 24, 2016 and which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entireties:

- [0160] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/191,775, entitled STAPLE CARTRIDGE COMPRISING WIRE STAPLES AND STAMPED STAPLES, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2017/0367695;
- [0161] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/191,807, entitled STAPLING SYSTEM FOR USE WITH WIRE STAPLES AND STAMPED STAPLES, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2017/0367696;
- [0162] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/191,834, entitled STAMPED STAPLES AND STAPLE CARTRIDGES USING THE SAME, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,542,979;
- [0163] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/191,788, entitled STAPLE CARTRIDGE COMPRISING OVERDRIVEN STAPLES, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2017/0367698; and
- [0164] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/191,818, entitled STAPLE CARTRIDGE COMPRISING OFFSET LONGITUDINAL STAPLE ROWS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2017/0367697.
- [0165] Applicant of the present application owns the following U.S. Patent Applications that were filed on Jun. 24, 2016 and which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entireties:
- [0166] U.S. Design Patent application Ser. No. 29/569, 218, entitled SURGICAL FASTENER, now U.S. Design Patent No. D826,405;
- [0167] U.S. Design Patent application Ser. No. 29/569, 227, entitled SURGICAL FASTENER, now U.S. Design Patent No. D822,206;
- [0168] U.S. Design Patent application Ser. No. 29/569, 259, entitled SURGICAL FASTENER CARTRIDGE, now U.S. Design Patent No. D847,989; and
- [0169] U.S. Design Patent application Ser. No. 29/569, 264, entitled SURGICAL FASTENER CARTRIDGE, now U.S. Design Patent No. D850,617.
- [0170] Applicant of the present application owns the following patent applications that were filed on Apr. 1, 2016 and which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entirety:
- [0171] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,325, entitled METHOD FOR OPERATING A SURGICAL STAPLING SYSTEM, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2017/0281171;
- [0172] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,321, entitled MODULAR SURGICAL STAPLING SYSTEM COMPRISING A DISPLAY, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,271,851;
- [0173] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,326, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING SYSTEM COMPRISING A DISPLAY INCLUDING ARE-ORIENTABLE DISPLAY FIELD, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,433,849;
- [0174] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,263, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT HANDLE ASSEMBLY WITH RECONFIGURABLE GRIP PORTION, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,307,159;
- [0175] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,262, entitled ROTARY POWERED SURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH MANUALLY ACTUATABLE BAIL-OUT SYSTEM, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,357,246;
- [0176] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,277, entitled SURGICAL CUTTING AND STAPLING END EFFECTOR WITH ANVIL CONCENTRIC DRIVE MEMBER, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,531,874;
- [0177] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,296, entitled INTERCHANGEABLE SURGICAL TOOL ASSEMBLY WITH A SURGICAL END EFFECTOR THAT IS SELECTIVELY ROTATABLE ABOUT A SHAFT AXIS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,413,293;
- [0178] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,258, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING SYSTEM COMPRISING A SHIFTABLE TRANSMISSION, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,342,543;
- [0179] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,278, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING SYSTEM CONFIGURED TO PROVIDE SELECTIVE CUTTING OF TISSUE, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,420,552;
- [0180] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,284, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING SYSTEM COMPRISING A CONTOURABLE SHAFT, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No 2017/0281186;
- [0181] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,295, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING SYSTEM COMPRISING A TISSUE COMPRESSION LOCKOUT, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2017/0281187;
- [0182] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,300, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING SYSTEM COMPRISING AN UNCLAMPING LOCKOUT, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,456,140;
- [0183] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,196, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING SYSTEM COMPRISING A JAW CLOSURE LOCKOUT, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2017/0281183;
- [0184] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,203, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING SYSTEM COMPRISING A JAW ATTACHMENT LOCKOUT, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,542,991;
- [0185] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,210, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING SYSTEM COMPRISING A SPENT CARTRIDGE LOCKOUT, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,478,190;
- [0186] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,324, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT COMPRISING A SHIFTING MECHANISM, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,314,582;
- [0187] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,335, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT COMPRISING MULTIPLE LOCKOUTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,485,542;
- [0188] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,339, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2017/0281173;
- [0189] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,253, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING SYSTEM CONFIGURED TO APPLY ANNULAR ROWS OF STAPLES HAVING DIFFERENT HEIGHTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,413,297;
- [0190] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,304, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING SYSTEM COMPRISING A GROOVED FORMING POCKET, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,285,705;
- [0191] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,331, entitled ANVIL MODIFICATION MEMBERS FOR SURGICAL STAPLERS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,376,263;

- [0192] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,336, entitled STAPLE CARTRIDGES WITH AUTOMATIC FEATURES, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2017/0281164;
- [0193] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,312, entitled CIRCULAR STAPLING SYSTEM COMPRISING AN INCISABLE TISSUE SUPPORT, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2017/0281189;
- [0194] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,309, entitled CIRCULAR STAPLING SYSTEM COMPRISING ROTARY FIRING SYSTEM, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2017/0281169; and
- [0195] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/089,349, entitled CIRCULAR STAPLING SYSTEM COMPRISING LOAD CONTROL, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2017/0281174.
- [0196] Applicant of the present application also owns the U.S. Patent Applications identified below which were filed on Dec. 31, 2015 which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entirety:
- [0197] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/984,488, entitled MECHANISMS FOR COMPENSATING FOR BATTERY PACK FAILURE IN POWERED SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,292,704;
- [0198] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/984,525, entitled MECHANISMS FOR COMPENSATING FOR DRIVETRAIN FAILURE IN POWERED SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,368,865; and
- [0199] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/984,552, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH SEPARABLE MOTORS AND MOTOR CONTROL CIRCUITS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,265,068.
- [0200] Applicant of the present application also owns the U.S. Patent Applications identified below which were filed on Feb. 9, 2016 which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entirety:
- [0201] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/019,220, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH ARTICULATING AND AXIALLY TRANSLATABLE END EFFECTOR, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,245,029;
- [0202] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/019,228, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH MULTIPLE LINK ARTICULATION ARRANGEMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,433,837;
- [0203] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/019,196, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT ARTICULATION MECHANISM WITH SLOTTED SECONDARY CONSTRAINT, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,413,291;
- [0204] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/019,206, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH AN END EFFECTOR THAT IS HIGHLY ARTICULATABLE RELATIVE TO AN ELONGATE SHAFT ASSEMBLY, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2017/0224331;
- [0205] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/019,215, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH NON-SYMMETRICAL ARTICULATION ARRANGEMENTS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2017/0224332;
- [0206] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/019,227, entitled ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH SINGLE ARTICULATION LINK ARRANGEMENTS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2017/0224334;
- [0207] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/019,235, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH TENSIONING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CABLE DRIVEN ARTICULATION SYSTEMS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,245,030;
- [0208] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/019,230, entitled ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH OFF-AXIS FIRING BEAM ARRANGEMENTS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2017/0224335; and
- [0209] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/019,245, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH CLOSURE STROKE REDUCTION ARRANGEMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,470,764.
- [0210] Applicant of the present application also owns the U.S. Patent Applications identified below which were filed on Feb. 12, 2016 which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entirety:
- [0211] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/043,254, entitled MECHANISMS FOR COMPENSATING FOR DRIVETRAIN FAILURE IN POWERED SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,258,331;
- [0212] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/043,259, entitled MECHANISMS FOR COMPENSATING FOR DRIVETRAIN FAILURE IN POWERED SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,448,948;
- [0213] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/043,275, entitled MECHANISMS FOR COMPENSATING FOR DRIVETRAIN FAILURE IN POWERED SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2017/0231627; and
- [0214] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/043,289, entitled MECHANISMS FOR COMPENSATING FOR DRIVETRAIN FAILURE IN POWERED SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2017/0231628.
- [0215] Applicant of the present application owns the following patent applications that were filed on Jun. 18, 2015 and which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entirety:
- [0216] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/742,925, entitled SURGICAL END EFFECTORS WITH POSITIVE JAW OPENING ARRANGEMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,182,818;
- [0217] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/742,941, entitled SURGICAL END EFFECTORS WITH DUAL CAM ACTUATED JAW CLOSING FEATURES, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,052,102;
- [0218] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/742,914, entitled MOVABLE FIRING BEAM SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,405,863;
- [0219] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/742,900, entitled ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH COMPOSITE FIRING BEAM STRUCTURES WITH CENTER FIRING SUPPORT MEMBER FOR ARTICULATION SUPPORT, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,335,149;

- [0220] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/742,885, entitled DUAL ARTICULATION DRIVE SYSTEM ARRANGEMENTS FOR ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,368,861; and
- [0221] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/742,876, entitled PUSH/PULL ARTICULATION DRIVE SYSTEMS FOR ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,178,992.
- [0222] Applicant of the present application owns the following patent applications that were filed on Mar. 6, 2015 and which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entirety:
- [0223] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/640,746, entitled POWERED SURGICAL INSTRUMENT, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,808,246;
- [0224] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/640,795, entitled MULTIPLE LEVEL THRESHOLDS TO MODIFY OPERATION OF POWERED SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,441,279;
- [0225] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/640,832, entitled ADAPTIVE TISSUE COMPRESSION TECHNIQUES TO ADJUST CLOSURE RATES FOR MULTIPLE TISSUE TYPES, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2016/0256154;
- [0226] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/640,935, entitled OVERLAID MULTI SENSOR RADIO FREQUENCY (RF) ELECTRODE SYSTEM TO MEASURE TISSUE COMPRESSION, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,548,504;
- [0227] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/640,831, entitled MONITORING SPEED CONTROL AND PRECISION INCREMENTING OF MOTOR FOR POWERED SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,895,148;
- [0228] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/640,859, entitled TIME DEPENDENT EVALUATION OF SENSOR DATA TO DETERMINE STABILITY, CREEP, AND VISCOELASTIC ELEMENTS OF MEASURES, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,052,044;
- [0229] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/640,817, entitled INTERACTIVE FEEDBACK SYSTEM FOR POWERED SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,924,961;
- [0230] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/640,844, entitled CONTROL TECHNIQUES AND SUB-PROCESSOR CONTAINED WITHIN MODULAR SHAFT WITH SELECT CONTROL PROCESSING FROM HANDLE, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,045,776;
- [0231] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/640,837, entitled SMART SENSORS WITH LOCAL SIGNAL PROCESSING, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,993,248;
- [0232] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/640,765, entitled SYSTEM FOR DETECTING THE MIS-INSERTION OF A STAPLE CARTRIDGE INTO A SURGICAL STAPLER, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2016/0256160;
- [0233] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/640,799, entitled SIGNAL AND POWER COMMUNICATION SYSTEM POSITIONED ON A ROTATABLLE SHAFT, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,901,342; and
- [0234] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/640,780, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT COMPRISING A LOCKABLE BATTERY HOUSING, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,245,033.
- [0235] Applicant of the present application owns the following patent applications that were filed on Feb. 27, 2015, and which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entirety:
- [0236] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/633,576, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT SYSTEM COMPRISING AN INSPECTION STATION, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,045,779
- [0237] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/633,546, entitled SURGICAL APPARATUS CONFIGURED TO ASSESS WHETHER A PERFORMANCE PARAMETER OF THE SURGICAL APPARATUS IS WITHIN AN ACCEPTABLE PERFORMANCE BAND, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,180,463;
- [0238] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/633,560, entitled SURGICAL CHARGING SYSTEM THAT CHARGES AND/OR CONDITIONS ONE OR MORE BATTERIES, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2016/0249910;
- [0239] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/633,566, entitled CHARGING SYSTEM THAT ENABLES EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS FOR CHARGING A BATTERY, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,182,816;
- [0240] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/633,555, entitled SYSTEM FOR MONITORING WHETHER A SURGICAL INSTRUMENT NEEDS TO BE SERVICED, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,321,907;
- [0241] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/633,542, entitled REINFORCED BATTERY FOR A SURGICAL INSTRUMENT, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,931,118;
- [0242] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/633,548, entitled POWER ADAPTER FOR A SURGICAL INSTRUMENT, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,245,028;
- [0243] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/633,526, entitled ADAPTABLE SURGICAL INSTRUMENT HANDLE, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,993,258;
- [0244] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/633,541, entitled MODULAR STAPLING ASSEMBLY, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,226,250; and
- [0245] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/633,562, entitled SURGICAL APPARATUS CONFIGURED TO TRACK AN END-OF-LIFE PARAMETER, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,159,483.
- [0246] Applicant of the present application owns the following patent applications that were filed on Dec. 18, 2014 and which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entirety:
- [0247] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/574,478, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT SYSTEMS COMPRISING AN ARTICULATABLE END EFFECTOR AND MEANS FOR ADJUSTING THE FIRING STROKE OF A FIRING MEMBER, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,844,374;
- [0248] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/574,483, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT ASSEMBLY COMPRISING LOCKABLE SYSTEMS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,188,385;

- [0249] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/575,139, entitled DRIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,844,375;
- [0250] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/575,148, entitled LOCKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR DETACHABLE SHAFT ASSEMBLIES WITH ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL END EFFECTORS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,085,748;
- [0251] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/575,130, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH AN ANVIL THAT IS SELECTIVELY MOVABLE ABOUT A DISCRETE NON-MOVABLE AXIS RELATIVE TO A STAPLE CARTRIDGE, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,245,027;
- [0252] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/575,143, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH IMPROVED CLOSURE ARRANGEMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,004,501;
- [0253] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/575,117, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH ARTICULATABLE END EFFECTORS AND MOVABLE FIRING BEAM SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,943,309;
- [0254] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/575,154, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH ARTICULATABLE END EFFECTORS AND IMPROVED FIRING BEAM SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,968,355;
- [0255] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/574,493, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT ASSEMBLY COMPRISING A FLEXIBLE ARTICULATION SYSTEM, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,987,000; and
- [0256] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/574,500, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT ASSEMBLY COMPRISING A LOCKABLE ARTICULATION SYSTEM, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,117,649.
- [0257] Applicant of the present application owns the following patent applications that were filed on Mar. 1, 2013 and which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entirety:
- [0258] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/782,295, entitled ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH CONDUCTIVE PATHWAYS FOR SIGNAL COMMUNICATION, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,700,309;
- [0259] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/782,323, entitled ROTARY POWERED ARTICULATION JOINTS FOR SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,782,169;
- [0260] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/782,338, entitled THUMBWHEEL SWITCH ARRANGEMENTS FOR SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2014/0249557;
- [0261] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/782,499, entitled ELECTROMECHANICAL SURGICAL DEVICE WITH SIGNAL RELAY ARRANGEMENT, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,358,003;
- [0262] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/782,460, entitled MULTIPLE PROCESSOR MOTOR CONTROL FOR MODULAR SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,554,794;
- [0263] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/782,358, entitled JOYSTICK SWITCH ASSEMBLIES FOR SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,326,767;
- [0264] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/782,481, entitled SENSOR STRAIGHTENED END EFFECTOR DURING REMOVAL THROUGH TROCAR, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,468,438;
- [0265] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/782,518, entitled CONTROL METHODS FOR SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH REMOVABLE IMPLEMENT PORTIONS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2014/0246475;
- [0266] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/782,375, entitled ROTARY POWERED SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH MULTIPLE DEGREES OF FREEDOM, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,398,911; and
- [0267] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/782,536, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT SOFT STOP, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,307,986.
- [0268] Applicant of the present application also owns the following patent applications that were filed on Mar. 14, 2013 and which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entirety:
- [0269] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/803,097, entitled ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL INSTRUMENT COMPRISING A FIRING DRIVE, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,687,230;
- [0270] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/803,193, entitled CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS FOR A DRIVE MEMBER OF A SURGICAL INSTRUMENT, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,332,987;
- [0271] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/803,053, entitled INTERCHANGEABLE SHAFT ASSEMBLIES FOR USE WITH A SURGICAL INSTRUMENT, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,883,860;
- [0272] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/803,086, entitled ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL INSTRUMENT COMPRISING AN ARTICULATION LOCK, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2014/0263541;
- [0273] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/803,210, entitled SENSOR ARRANGEMENTS FOR ABSOLUTE POSITIONING SYSTEM FOR SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,808,244;
- [0274] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/803,148, entitled MULTI-FUNCTION MOTOR FOR A SURGICAL INSTRUMENT, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2014/0263554;
- [0275] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/803,066, entitled DRIVE SYSTEM LOCKOUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR MODULAR SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,629,623;
- [0276] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/803,117, entitled ARTICULATION CONTROL SYSTEM FOR ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,351,726;
- [0277] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/803,130, entitled DRIVE TRAIN CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MODULAR SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,351,727; and

[0278] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/803,159, entitled METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR OPERATING A SURGICAL INSTRUMENT, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,888,919.

[0279] Applicant of the present application also owns the following patent application that was filed on Mar. 7, 2014 and is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety:

[0280] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/200,111, entitled CONTROL SYSTEMS FOR SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,629,629.

[0281] Applicant of the present application also owns the following patent applications that were filed on Mar. 26, 2014 and are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entirety:

[0282] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/226,106, entitled POWER MANAGEMENT CONTROL SYSTEMS FOR SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2015/0272582;

[0283] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/226,099, entitled STERILIZATION VERIFICATION CIRCUIT, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,826,977;

[0284] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/226,094, entitled VERIFICATION OF NUMBER OF BATTERY EXCHANGES/PROCEDURE COUNT, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2015/0272580;

[0285] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/226,117, entitled POWER MANAGEMENT THROUGH SLEEP OPTIONS OF SEGMENTED CIRCUIT AND WAKE UP CONTROL, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,013,049;

[0286] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/226,075, entitled MODULAR POWERED SURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH DETACHABLE SHAFT ASSEMBLIES, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,743,929;

[0287] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/226,093, entitled FEEDBACK ALGORITHMS FOR MANUAL BAILOUT SYSTEMS FOR SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,028,761;

[0288] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/226,116, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT UTILIZING SENSOR ADAPTATION, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2015/0272571;

[0289] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/226,071, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT CONTROL CIRCUIT HAVING A SAFETY PROCESSOR, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,690,362;

[0290] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/226,097, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT COMPRISING INTERACTIVE SYSTEMS, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,820,738;

[0291] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/226,126, entitled INTERFACE SYSTEMS FOR USE WITH SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,004,497;

[0292] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/226,133, entitled MODULAR SURGICAL INSTRUMENT SYSTEM, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2015/0272557;

[0293] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/226,081, entitled SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR CONTROLLING A SEGMENTED CIRCUIT, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,804,618;

[0294] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/226,076, entitled POWER MANAGEMENT THROUGH SEG-

MENTED CIRCUIT AND VARIABLE VOLTAGE PROTECTION, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,733,663;

[0295] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/226,111, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT SYSTEM, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,750,499; and

[0296] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/226,125, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT COMPRISING A ROTATABLE SHAFT, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,201,364.

[0297] Applicant of the present application also owns the following patent applications that were filed on Sep. 5, 2014 and which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entirety:

[0298] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/479,103, entitled CIRCUITRY AND SENSORS FOR POWERED MEDICAL DEVICE, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,111,679;

[0299] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/479,119, entitled ADJUNCT WITH INTEGRATED SENSORS TO QUANTIFY TISSUE COMPRESSION, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,724,094;

[0300] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/478,908, entitled MONITORING DEVICE DEGRADATION BASED ON COMPONENT EVALUATION, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,737,301;

[0301] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/478,895, entitled MULTIPLE SENSORS WITH ONE SENSOR AFFECTING A SECOND SENSOR'S OUTPUT OR INTERPRETATION, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,757,128;

[0302] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/479,110, entitled POLARITY OF HALL MAGNET TO DETECT MISLOADED CARTRIDGE, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,016,199;

[0303] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/479,098, entitled SMART CARTRIDGE WAKE UP OPERATION AND DATA RETENTION, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,135,242;

[0304] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/479,115, entitled MULTIPLE MOTOR CONTROL FOR POWERED MEDICAL DEVICE, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,788,836; and

[0305] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/479,108, entitled LOCAL DISPLAY OF TISSUE PARAMETER STABILIZATION, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2016/0066913.

[0306] Applicant of the present application also owns the following patent applications that were filed on Apr. 9, 2014 and which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entirety:

[0307] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/248,590, entitled MOTOR DRIVEN SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH LOCKABLE DUAL DRIVE SHAFTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,826,976;

[0308] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/248,581, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT COMPRISING A CLOSING DRIVE AND A FIRING DRIVE OPERATED FROM THE SAME ROTATABLE OUTPUT, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,649,110;

[0309] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/248,595, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT SHAFT INCLUDING SWITCHES FOR CONTROLLING THE OPERATION OF THE SURGICAL INSTRUMENT, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,844,368;

- [0310] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/248,588, entitled POWERED LINEAR SURGICAL STAPLER, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,405,857;
- [0311] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/248,591, entitled TRANSMISSION ARRANGEMENT FOR A SURGICAL INSTRUMENT, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,149,680;
- [0312] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/248,584, entitled MODULAR MOTOR DRIVEN SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH ALIGNMENT FEATURES FOR ALIGNING ROTARY DRIVE SHAFTS WITH SURGICAL END EFFECTOR SHAFTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,801,626;
- [0313] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/248,587, entitled POWERED SURGICAL STAPLER, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,867,612;
- [0314] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/248,586, entitled DRIVE SYSTEM DECOUPLING ARRANGEMENT FOR A SURGICAL INSTRUMENT, now U.S. Pat. No. 10,136,887; and
- [0315] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/248,607, entitled MODULAR MOTOR DRIVEN SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH STATUS INDICATION ARRANGEMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,814,460.
- [0316] Applicant of the present application also owns the following patent applications that were filed on Apr. 16, 2013 and which are each herein incorporated by reference in their respective entirety:
- [0317] U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/812,365, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH MULTIPLE FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY A SINGLE MOTOR;
- [0318] U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/812,376, entitled LINEAR CUTTER WITH POWER;
- [0319] U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/812,382, entitled LINEAR CUTTER WITH MOTOR AND PISTOL GRIP;
- [0320] U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/812,385, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT HANDLE WITH MULTIPLE ACTUATION MOTORS AND MOTOR CONTROL; and
- [0321] U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/812,372, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH MULTIPLE FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY A SINGLE MOTOR.
- [0322] Numerous specific details are set forth to provide a thorough understanding of the overall structure, function, manufacture, and use of the embodiments as described in the specification and illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Well-known operations, components, and elements have not been described in detail so as not to obscure the embodiments described in the specification. The reader will understand that the embodiments described and illustrated herein are non-limiting examples, and thus it can be appreciated that the specific structural and functional details disclosed herein may be representative and illustrative. Variations and changes thereto may be made without departing from the scope of the claims.
- [0323] The terms “comprise” (and any form of comprise, such as “comprises” and “comprising”), “have” (and any form of have, such as “has” and “having”), “include” (and any form of include, such as “includes” and “including”) and “contain” (and any form of contain, such as “contains” and

“containing”) are open-ended linking verbs. As a result, a surgical system, device, or apparatus that “comprises,” “has,” “includes” or “contains” one or more elements possesses those one or more elements, but is not limited to possessing only those one or more elements. Likewise, an element of a system, device, or apparatus that “comprises,” “has,” “includes” or “contains” one or more features possesses those one or more features, but is not limited to possessing only those one or more features.

[0324] The terms “proximal” and “distal” are used herein with reference to a clinician manipulating the handle portion of the surgical instrument. The term “proximal” refers to the portion closest to the clinician and the term “distal” refers to the portion located away from the clinician. It will be further appreciated that, for convenience and clarity, spatial terms such as “vertical”, “horizontal”, “up”, and “down” may be used herein with respect to the drawings. However, surgical instruments are used in many orientations and positions, and these terms are not intended to be limiting and/or absolute.

[0325] Various exemplary devices and methods are provided for performing laparoscopic and minimally invasive surgical procedures. However, the reader will readily appreciate that the various methods and devices disclosed herein can be used in numerous surgical procedures and applications including, for example, in connection with open surgical procedures. As the present Detailed Description proceeds, the reader will further appreciate that the various instruments disclosed herein can be inserted into a body in any way, such as through a natural orifice, through an incision or puncture hole formed in tissue, etc. The working portions or end effector portions of the instruments can be inserted directly into a patient’s body or can be inserted through an access device that has a working channel through which the end effector and elongate shaft of a surgical instrument can be advanced.

[0326] A surgical stapling system can comprise a shaft and an end effector extending from the shaft. The end effector comprises a first jaw and a second jaw. The first jaw comprises a staple cartridge. The staple cartridge is insertable into and removable from the first jaw; however, other embodiments are envisioned in which a staple cartridge is not removable from, or at least readily replaceable from, the first jaw. The second jaw comprises an anvil configured to deform staples ejected from the staple cartridge. The second jaw is pivotable relative to the first jaw about a closure axis; however, other embodiments are envisioned in which the first jaw is pivotable relative to the second jaw. The surgical stapling system further comprises an articulation joint configured to permit the end effector to be rotated, or articulated, relative to the shaft. The end effector is rotatable about an articulation axis extending through the articulation joint. Other embodiments are envisioned which do not include an articulation joint.

[0327] The staple cartridge comprises a cartridge body. The cartridge body includes a proximal end, a distal end, and a deck extending between the proximal end and the distal end. In use, the staple cartridge is positioned on a first side of the tissue to be stapled and the anvil is positioned on a second side of the tissue. The anvil is moved toward the staple cartridge to compress and clamp the tissue against the deck. Thereafter, staples removably stored in the cartridge body can be deployed into the tissue. The cartridge body includes staple cavities defined therein wherein staples are removably stored in the staple cavities. The staple cavities

are arranged in six longitudinal rows. Three rows of staple cavities are positioned on a first side of a longitudinal slot and three rows of staple cavities are positioned on a second side of the longitudinal slot. Other arrangements of staple cavities and staples may be possible.

[0328] The staples are supported by staple drivers in the cartridge body. The drivers are movable between a first, or unfired position, and a second, or fired, position to eject the staples from the staple cavities. The drivers are retained in the cartridge body by a retainer which extends around the bottom of the cartridge body and includes resilient members configured to grip the cartridge body and hold the retainer to the cartridge body. The drivers are movable between their unfired positions and their fired positions by a sled. The sled is movable between a proximal position adjacent the proximal end and a distal position adjacent the distal end. The sled comprises a plurality of ramped surfaces configured to slide under the drivers and lift the drivers, and the staples supported thereon, toward the anvil.

[0329] Further to the above, the sled is moved distally by a firing member. The firing member is configured to contact the sled and push the sled toward the distal end. The longitudinal slot defined in the cartridge body is configured to receive the firing member. The anvil also includes a slot configured to receive the firing member. The firing member further comprises a first cam which engages the first jaw and a second cam which engages the second jaw. As the firing member is advanced distally, the first cam and the second cam can control the distance, or tissue gap, between the deck of the staple cartridge and the anvil. The firing member also comprises a knife configured to incise the tissue captured intermediate the staple cartridge and the anvil. It is desirable for the knife to be positioned at least partially proximal to the ramped surfaces such that the staples are ejected ahead of the knife.

[0330] A shaft assembly 1000 is illustrated in FIG. 1. The shaft assembly 1000 comprises an attachment portion 1100, a shaft 1200 extending distally from the attachment portion 1100, and an end effector 1300 attached to the shaft 1200. Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, the attachment portion 1100 comprises a frame 1110, a housing 1120, and a latch 1130. The frame 1110 is configured to engage the frame of a surgical system, such as the handle of a surgical instrument and/or the arm of a surgical robot, for example. In at least one instance, the frame 1110 and the frame of the surgical system comprise an interlocking dovetail arrangement, for example. The latch 1130 comprises a lock configured to releasably hold the shaft assembly 1000 to the surgical system. As a result of the above, the shaft assembly 1000 can be selectively used with a hand-held surgical instrument and, alternatively, a remotely-controlled robotic surgical system.

[0331] Referring to FIGS. 3-6, the shaft 1200 comprises a frame, or spine, attached to the frame 1110 of the attachment portion 1100. The spine comprises a proximal spine portion 1210 rotatably engaged with the frame 1110 about a longitudinal shaft axis 1001 extending through the spine. Referring primarily to FIG. 6, the proximal spine portion 1210 comprises an aperture 1211 defined therein configured to receive a proximal end 1221 of a drive cover 1220. The drive cover 1220 further comprises a distal end 1222 configured to be positioned within a proximal end 1232 of an intermediate spine portion 1230. The spine further comprises an upper distal portion 1250 and a lower distal portion 1260 engaged with a distal end 1231 of the spine portion 1230. More

specifically, the distal portions 1250 and 1260 comprise proximal ends 1251 and 1261, respectively, which are laterally inserted, or slid, into a dovetail slot defined in the distal end 1231 of the intermediate spine portion 1230. The spine further comprises a cover 1240 configured to enclose an opening defined in the spine portion 1230 and/or lock the distal portions 1250 and 1260 into place.

[0332] Referring primarily to FIG. 7, the end effector 1300 comprises a channel jaw 1310 and an anvil jaw 1330 rotatably mounted to the channel jaw 1310. The channel jaw 1310 is configured to receive a staple cartridge 1320, or any other suitable staple cartridge, therein. The channel jaw 1310 and the staple cartridge 1320 comprise cooperating alignment features which are configured to permit the staple cartridge 1320 to be seated in only one proper position and orientation within the channel jaw 1310. Once an unspent staple cartridge 1320 is properly seated in the channel jaw 1310, a staple firing member can be advanced through the staple cartridge 1320 to eject the staples from the staple cartridge 1320 and cut the tissue of a patient positioned intermediate the staple cartridge 1320 and the anvil jaw 1330, as described in greater detail below. Further to the above, the anvil jaw 1330 comprises forming pockets defined therein which are configured to deform the staples as they are ejected from the staple cartridge 1320.

[0333] Referring primarily to FIG. 7, the channel jaw 1310 of the end effector 1300 is rotatably coupled to the spine of the shaft 1200 about an articulation joint 1660. The channel jaw 1310 comprises an articulation frame 1270 attached thereto which comprises pins 1271 extending laterally therefrom which are positioned within apertures 1311 defined in the cartridge channel 1310. The pins 1271 and the apertures 1311 are sized and configured to securely mount the articulation frame 1270 to the cartridge channel 1310. The articulation frame 1270 comprises an articulation aperture defined therein and the distal end of the spine comprises an articulation post 1262 positioned within the articulation aperture. The articulation post 1262 is sized and configured such that it is closely received within the articulation aperture and such that relative movement between the articulation frame 1270 and the spine of the shaft 1200 is limited to rotational motion about an axis which is orthogonal to the shaft axis 1001.

[0334] Further to the above, referring again to FIG. 1, the shaft assembly 1000 further comprises an outer frame 1600. Referring now to FIG. 2, the outer frame 1600 is rotatable relative to the frame 1110 of the attachment portion 1100 about a slip joint. The slip joint includes a proximal flange 1610 which is parallel, or at least substantially parallel, to a corresponding flange 1111 defined on the frame 1110. In addition to providing a rotatable mechanical interface, the slip joint also provides a rotatable electrical interface. More specifically, the slip joint comprises electrical traces 1190 defined on the flange 1111 and, in addition, an electrical connector 1690 attached to the flange 1610 which comprises electrical contacts engaged with the traces 1190. In various instances, the electrical traces 1190 comprise conductive annular rings which are electrically isolated from one another and are each part of a discrete electrical circuit. When the outer frame 1600 is rotated relative to the frame 1110, the contacts of the electrical connector 1690 remain in electrical contact with the traces 1190. Referring to FIG. 5, the latch 1130 of the attachment portion 1100 further comprises an electrical connector 1192 in electrical commun-

cation with the traces 1190 which can be placed in electrical communication with a surgical system when the latch 1130 couples the shaft assembly 1000 to the surgical system. As a result of the above, sensors in the shaft assembly 1000 can communicate with a controller and/or microprocessor in the handle of the surgical instrument and, alternatively, the surgical robot through the slip joint.

[0335] The outer frame 1600 further comprises a tube 1620 extending distally from the proximal flange 1610 and, further to the above, the housing 1120 of the attachment portion 1100 is mounted to the tube 1620. The housing 1120 comprises finger grips 1128 defined therein which are configured to assist a clinician in rotating the housing 1120 and the tube 1620 about the longitudinal shaft axis 1001. The outer frame 1600 further comprises a distal tube portion 1630 which is rotatably mounted to the tube 1620. More specifically, referring primarily to FIG. 7, the outer frame 1600 further comprises links 1640 which connect the distal tube portion 1630 to the tube 1620 and provide one or more degrees of freedom between the distal tube portion 1630 and the tube 1620. Such one or more degrees of freedom between the distal tube portion 1630 and the tube 1620 permit the end effector 1300 to articulate relative to the shaft 1200 about the articulation joint 1660. As a result of the above, the outer frame 1600 is rotatable about the longitudinal shaft axis and rotatable about the articulation joint 1660. That said, the outer frame 1600 is not translatable longitudinally relative to the frame 1110 of the attachment portion 1100.

[0336] Referring primarily to FIG. 5, the shaft assembly 1000 further comprises an articulation system 1400 configured to articulate the end effector 1300 relative to the shaft 1200. In addition, the shaft assembly 1000 also comprises a firing system 1500 configured to, one, close the anvil jaw 1330 of the end effector 1300 and, two, fire the staples stored in the staple cartridge 1320, as discussed above. As discussed in greater detail below, the articulation system 1400 is selectively engageable with the firing system 1500 such that the articulation system 1400 can be driven by the firing system 1500 to articulate the end effector 1300. Once the end effector 1300 has been sufficiently articulated, the articulation system 1400 can be operably disengaged from the firing system 1500. At such point, the firing system 1500 can be operated independently of the articulation system 1400. As also discussed in greater detail below, the shaft assembly 1000 further comprises an articulation lock system which, one, locks the end effector 1300 in position and, two, switches the shaft assembly 1000 between an articulation operating mode and a firing operating mode.

[0337] Referring primarily to FIG. 9, the firing system 1500 comprises a firing rod 1510 which is translatable proximally and distally during the articulation operating mode and/or the firing operating mode of the shaft assembly 1000. The firing rod 1510 comprises a proximal end 1511 which is operably engageable with the drive system of a surgical system, such as the handle of a surgical instrument and/or the arm of a surgical robot, for example. The firing system 1500 further comprises a rack 1520 fixedly mounted to the firing rod 1510 such that the rack 1520 is translatable with the firing rod 1510. The firing rod 1510 extends through a longitudinal aperture 1521 defined in the rack 1520. Moreover, the rack 1520 is fixedly mounted to the firing rod 1510 such that the rack 1520 and firing rod 1510 are rotatable together about the longitudinal shaft axis. The

articulation system 1400 further comprises an articulation driver 1420 which is mounted to the rack 1520 such that the rack 1520 is translatable, or longitudinally slidable, relative to the articulation driver 1420. That said, the articulation driver 1420 is mounted to the rack 1520 such that the articulation driver 1420, the rack 1520, and the firing rod 1510 rotate together about the longitudinal shaft axis 1001.

[0338] Further to the above, referring primarily to FIGS. 9, 21, and 23, the rack 1520 comprises longitudinal slots 1522 defined on opposite sides thereof and the articulation driver 1420 comprises projections 1422 positioned in the longitudinal slots 1522. The slots 1522 and the projections 1422 are configured to permit the rack 1520 to move proximally and distally relative to the articulation driver 1420. More specifically, the articulation driver 1420 is mounted within the attachment portion 1100 of the shaft assembly 1000 such that the articulation driver 1420 is prevented from translating, or at least substantially translating, longitudinally relative to the frame 1110 of the attachment portion 1100 and, when the rack 1520 is moved longitudinally to drive the articulation system 1400 and/or the firing system 1500 of the shaft assembly 1000, the rack 1520 can move longitudinally relative to the articulation driver 1420. That said, as described in greater detail below, the slots 1522 and the projections 1422 are configured to transmit rotational motion from the articulation driver 1420 to the rack 1520.

[0339] Referring primarily to FIG. 8, the articulation system 1400 further comprises, one, a shifter 1430 mounted to the firing rod 1510 and, two, an articulation driver 1440. The shifter 1430 is fixedly mounted to the firing rod 1510 such that the shifter 1430 is translated longitudinally with the firing rod 1510. Moreover, the shifter 1430 is fixedly mounted to the firing rod 1510 such that the shifter 1430 is rotatable with the firing rod 1510. The shifter 1430 comprises a longitudinal rack of teeth 1431 and, similarly, the articulation driver 1440 comprises a longitudinal rack of teeth 1441. When the shaft assembly 1000 is in its articulation operating mode, referring to FIGS. 16, 18, 20, and 21, the teeth 1441 of the articulation driver 1440 are meshingly engaged with the teeth 1431 of the shifter 1430. In such a configuration, the longitudinal movement of the firing rod 1510 can be transmitted to the articulation driver 1440.

[0340] Referring primarily to FIG. 30, the articulation driver 1440 further comprises a distal end 1443 which has an elongate aperture defined therein. The articulation frame 1270 of the end effector 1300, which is mounted to the channel jaw 1310, comprises an articulation pin 1444 extending therefrom which is positioned in the aperture defined in the distal end 1443. When the shaft assembly 1000 is in its articulation operating mode and the firing rod 1510 is advanced distally, the firing rod 1510 pushes the articulation driver 1440 and the articulation pin 1444 distally to articulate the end effector 1300 in a first direction, as illustrated in FIG. 31. When the firing rod 1510 is pulled proximally, the firing rod pulls the articulation driver 1440 and the articulation pin 1444 proximally to articulate the end effector 1300 in a second direction which is opposite to the first direction. In use, a clinician can operate the surgical system to push and/or pull the articulation driver 1440 to rotate the end effector 1300 into a desired orientation.

[0341] Referring again to FIG. 30, the articulation system 1400 further comprises a second articulation driver 1450 and a transfer gear 1470. The transfer gear 1470 is mounted to

the spine of the shaft 1200 and is rotatable about a fixed axis. Moreover, the transfer gear 1470 is meshingly engaged with a longitudinal rack of teeth 1442 defined on the articulation driver 1440. Similarly, the second articulation driver 1450 comprises a longitudinal rack of teeth 1452 meshingly engaged with the transfer gear 1470. The second articulation driver 1450 further comprises a distal end 1453 which has an elongate aperture defined therein. The articulation frame 1270 of the end effector 1300 further comprises an articulation pin 1454 extending therefrom which is positioned in the aperture defined in the distal end 1453. When the articulation driver 1440 is advanced distally by the firing rod 1510, as illustrated in FIG. 31, the articulation driver 1440 rotates the transfer gear 1470 which, in turn, drives the articulation driver 1450 and the articulation pin 1454 proximally. As a result, the articulation drivers 1440 and 1450 co-operate to rotate the end effector 1300 in the same direction. When the articulation driver 1440 is pulled proximally by the firing rod 1510, the articulation driver 1440 rotates the transfer gear 1470 in an opposite direction which, correspondingly, pushes the articulation driver 1450 and the articulation pin 1454 distally.

[0342] Once the end effector 1300 is in a desired orientation, the end effector 1300 can be locked in position. Referring primarily to FIGS. 5 and 7-9, the shaft assembly 1000 further comprises an articulation lock bar 1480 and an articulation lock actuator 1410. The articulation lock bar 1480 comprises a proximal end 1481 mounted to the articulation lock actuator 1410. When the articulation lock actuator 1410 is moved from a proximal position (FIG. 32) to a distal position (FIG. 33), the articulation lock actuator 1410 pushes the lock bar 1480 distally. When the articulation lock actuator 1410 is moved from a distal position (FIG. 33) to a proximal position (FIG. 32), the articulation lock actuator 1410 pulls the lock bar 1480 proximally. Referring primarily to FIG. 9, the articulation lock actuator 1410 comprises a proximal drive hook 1411 which is operably engageable with an actuator of a surgical system which can move the articulation lock actuator 1410 proximally and distally as described above.

[0343] Referring to FIGS. 32 and 33, the shaft assembly 1000 further comprises an articulation lock 1494 mounted to the spine of the shaft 1200. The articulation lock 1494 comprises first and second lock arms 1495 extending therefrom. Referring to FIG. 32, a distal end 1482 of the articulation lock bar 1480 is not engaged with the lock arms 1495 when the articulation lock actuator 1410 is in its proximal position. In such instances, the end effector 1300 is in an unlocked configuration and is rotatable relative to the spine of the shaft 1200. When the articulation lock bar 1480 is advanced distally by articulation lock actuator 1410, referring to FIG. 33, the distal end 1482 of the articulation lock bar 1480 engages the lock arms 1495 and displaces the lock arms 1495 into engagement with the articulation drivers 1440 and 1450. Referring primarily to FIG. 7, the articulation driver 1440 comprises a longitudinal rack of teeth 1445 which is engaged by a lock arm 1495 when the lock arms 1495 are displaced outwardly by the articulation lock bar 1480. Similarly, the articulation driver 1450 comprises a longitudinal rack of teeth 1455 which is engaged by the other lock arm 1495 when the lock arms 1495 are displaced outwardly by the articulation lock bar 1480. In such instances, the end effector 1300 is in a locked configuration and is not rotatable relative to the spine of the shaft 1200.

[0344] The movement of the articulation lock actuator 1410 from its proximal position (FIG. 32) to its distal position (FIG. 33) does more than lock the end effector 1300 in position—it also shifts the shaft assembly 1000 from its articulation operating mode (FIGS. 16, 18, 20, and 21) to its firing operating mode (FIGS. 17, 19, 22, and 23). Referring primarily to FIG. 9, the articulation lock actuator 1410 comprises one or more drive projections 1415 which extend inwardly into a longitudinal aperture 1414 defined in the articulation lock actuator 1410. The longitudinal aperture 1414 surrounds, or at least substantially surrounds, the articulation driver 1420 and drive projections 1415 are positioned within a cam groove 1425 defined in the outer surface of the articulation driver 1420. When the articulation lock actuator 1410 is advanced distally, further to the above, the drive projections 1415 rotate the articulation driver 1420, the rack 1520, and the firing rod 1510 from their orientation depicted in FIG. 16 to their orientation depicted in FIG. 17. In such instances, the teeth 1431 of the shifter 1430 are rotated out of operable engagement with the teeth 1441 of the articulation driver 1440 and, as a result, the articulation system 1400 is operably decoupled from the firing system 1500. Thus, the distal movement of the articulation lock actuator 1410 locks the end effector 1300 in position and transitions the shaft assembly 1000 into its firing operating mode. In various instances, the articulation lock actuator 1410 can be pulled proximally to shift the shaft assembly 1000 back into its articulation operating mode.

[0345] Once the articulation system 1400 has been operably decoupled from the firing system 1500, as described above, the firing system 1500 can be advanced distally to perform a closure stroke to close the anvil jaw 1330 and, in addition, to perform a firing stroke which ejects the staples from the staple cartridge 1320 and cuts the tissue captured between the staple cartridge 1320 and the anvil jaw 1330. Referring to FIGS. 7-9, the firing system 1500 further comprises an intermediate firing rod 1530 and a firing bar 1550. As described in greater detail below, the firing rod 1510 is operably engageable with the intermediate firing rod 1530 such that the longitudinal movement of the firing rod 1510 is transferable to the intermediate firing rod 1530. The firing bar 1550 comprises a proximal end 1552 positioned in a longitudinal aperture 1532 defined in the distal end of the distal firing rod 1510.

[0346] When the intermediate firing rod 1530 is pushed distally by the firing rod 1510, referring to FIG. 11, the intermediate firing rod 1530 pushes the firing bar 1550 distally to engage the anvil jaw 1330 and move the anvil jaw 1330 toward its closed, or clamped, position, as illustrated in FIG. 12. This distal movement of the firing bar 1550 represents a closure stroke. If the clinician is not satisfied with the positioning of the tissue between the staple cartridge 1320 and the clamped anvil jaw 1330, the clinician can operate the surgical system to retract the firing bar 1550. In such instances, a spring compressed between the staple cartridge 1320 and the clamped anvil jaw 1330 can act to open the jaw 1330.

[0347] If the clinician is satisfied with the positioning of the tissue between the staple cartridge 1320 and the clamped anvil jaw 1330, further to the above, the clinician can operate the surgical system to advance the firing bar 1550 through the staple cartridge 1320 to eject the staples therefrom and transect the tissue. This distal movement of the firing bar 1550 represents a firing stroke and the initiation of

the firing stroke is depicted in FIG. 13. In the present instance, the closure stroke and the firing stroke are separate and distinct. The surgical system which is being used to operate the firing system 1500 paused, or is paused, between the closure stroke and the firing stroke which gives a clinician an opportunity to retract the firing bar 1550 and re-open the anvil jaw 1330 if they so choose. In other instances, the closure stroke and the firing stroke are not separate and distinct. Instead, the surgical system transitions immediately from the closure stroke to the firing stroke. In either event, referring to FIG. 14, the surgical system can be operated to retract the firing bar 1550 to its unfired position and allow the spring to re-open the anvil jaw 1330.

[0348] As discussed above, the firing rod 1510 is used to drive the articulation system 1400 and the firing system 1500. Without more, it may seem that the firing rod 1510 moves the firing bar 1550 at the same time that the firing rod 1510 is used to operate the articulation system 1400; however, referring to FIGS. 24-29, the shaft assembly 1000 further comprises a clutch 1540 configured to operably couple the firing rod 1510 with the intermediate firing rod 1530 when the clutch 1540 is in a firing configuration (FIG. 26) and operably decouple the firing rod 1510 from the intermediate firing rod 1530 when the clutch 1540 is in an articulation configuration (FIG. 29). The clutch 1540 is configured such that it is in its articulation configuration (FIG. 29) when the shaft assembly 1000 is in its articulation operating mode and, correspondingly, in its firing configuration (FIG. 26) when the shaft assembly 1000 is in its firing operating mode.

[0349] Referring primarily to FIG. 24, the firing rod 1510 comprises a distal piston 1515 slidably positioned in a cylinder 1535 defined in the intermediate firing rod 1530. The clutch 1540 comprises a cantilever beam 1543 fixedly mounted to the intermediate firing rod 1530 and, in addition, a cam head 1544 slidably positioned in a lateral slot 1534 defined in the intermediate firing rod 1530. The cam head 1544 comprises an aperture 1545 defined therein which is configured to receive the distal piston 1515 of the firing rod 1510 therein.

[0350] When the shaft assembly 1000 is in its articulation operating mode and the clutch 1540 is in its articulation configuration, referring to FIG. 29, at least a portion of the distal piston 1515 is positioned in a proximal portion 1531 of the cylinder 1535 defined in the intermediate firing rod 1530. Another portion of the distal piston 1515, in such instances, is positioned in the aperture 1545 defined in the cam head 1544 of the clutch 1540. Although the sidewalls of the aperture 1545 may be in contact with the side of the distal piston 1515, in such instances, the piston 1515 is movable relative to the clutch 1540 and the intermediate firing rod 1530 without transmitting, or at least substantially transmitting, the motion of the firing rod 1510 to the intermediate firing rod 1530. As a result, the firing rod 1510 does not displace the firing bar 1550 distally when the firing rod 1510 is being used to drive the articulation system 1400. In certain instances, a gap can be present between the proximal end 1552 of the firing bar 1550 and the longitudinal end walls of the aperture 1532 to accommodate a certain amount of movement that the intermediate firing rod 1530 may experience when the shaft assembly 1000 is in its articulation operating mode.

[0351] Further to the above, referring again to FIG. 29, the cantilever beam 1543 of the clutch 1540 is deflected, or

resiliently bent, laterally when the clutch 1540 is in its articulation configuration. This is the case because the aperture 1545 defined in the cam head 1544 is not naturally aligned with the distal piston 1515 and, when the distal piston 1515 is positioned in the aperture 1545, the cam head 1544 is displaced laterally, and the beam 1543 is deflected laterally, in order to accommodate this forced alignment. When the shaft assembly 1000 is placed in its firing operating mode and the firing rod 1510 is advanced distally, the distal piston 1515 moves distally relative to the cam head 1544 until the distal piston 1515 entirely passes through the aperture 1545. At such point, referring to FIG. 26, the clutch 1540 resiliently returns to an unflexed state and places the clutch 1540 in its firing configuration. Notably, in such instances, the cam head 1544 shifts laterally and locks behind a proximal shoulder of the distal piston 1515 to hold the distal piston 1515 in the cylinder 1535. As a result, the clutch 1540 locks the firing rod 1510 to the intermediate firing rod 1530 throughout the operation of the firing assembly 1500 such that the longitudinal movement of the firing rod 1510 is transmitted to the intermediate firing rod 1530 during the firing stroke.

[0352] Further to the above, the clutch 1540 continues to hold the firing rod 1510 and the intermediate firing rod 1530 together after the firing stroke has been completed, or at least partially completed. As a result, the firing rod 1510 can be moved proximally to retract the intermediate firing rod 1530 and the firing bar 1550 proximally. In various instances, the spent staple cartridge 1320 can be removed from the end effector 1300 and an unspent staple cartridge 1320, for example, can be seated in the channel jaw 1310. If the clinician is still satisfied with the orientation of the end effector 1300, the clinician can operate the firing assembly 1500 once again. If, however, the clinician would like to change the orientation of the end effector 1300, the clinician can operate the surgical system to retract the firing rod 1510 further proximally and decouple the firing rod 1510 from the intermediate firing rod 1530 to re-enter the articulation operating mode of the shaft assembly 1000. This transition is described in greater detail below.

[0353] Referring to FIGS. 27 and 28, the spine of the shaft assembly 1000 comprises a cam 1234 which is configured to deflect the cam head 1544 of the clutch 1540 laterally when the cam head 1544 contacts the cam 1234 as the intermediate firing rod 1530 is being retracted proximally. Once the cam head 1544 is deflected laterally, the aperture 1545 defined in the cam head 1544 is realigned with the distal piston 1515 and, as a result, the distal piston 1515 is released from the clutch 1540 and can move proximally relative to the cam 1540 into its articulation configuration (FIG. 29). At such point, the firing rod 1510 can be used to operate the articulation system 1400 to re-orient the end effector 1300. Once the clinician is satisfied with the orientation of the end effector 1300, the clinician can use the surgical system to advance the distal piston 1515 distally to shift the clutch 1540 into its fired configuration once again. Moreover, it should be appreciated that the clutch 1540 can be shifted from its firing configuration and its articulation configuration whenever the clinician desires to switch between the firing and articulation operating modes of the shaft assembly 1000.

[0354] As discussed above, referring now to FIGS. 10-12, the firing bar 1550 is movable distally to move the anvil jaw 1330 from an open position (FIG. 11) into, or at least toward,

a closed position (FIG. 12) during the closure stroke of the firing assembly 1500. The firing bar 1550 comprises an anvil cam 1564 configured to engage the anvil jaw 1330 and, in addition, a cartridge cam 1563 configured to engage the channel jaw 1310. The anvil jaw 1330 comprises a longitudinal slot 1334 defined therein which includes a bottom cam surface. Similarly, the channel jaw 1310 comprises a longitudinal slot 1313 defined therein which includes an upper cam surface. When the firing bar 1550 is advanced distally, the anvil cam 1564 can engage the bottom cam surface of the longitudinal slot 1334 and the cartridge cam 1563 can engage the upper cam surface of the longitudinal slot 1313 to co-operatively control the position of the anvil jaw 1330 relative to the staple cartridge 1320.

[0355] As discussed above, the anvil jaw 1330 is rotatably coupled to the channel jaw 1310. In at least one instance, the anvil jaw 1330 is mounted to the channel jaw 1310 by one or more pins and is pivotable about a fixed axis. In other instances, the anvil jaw 1330 is not mounted to the channel jaw 1310 about a fixed axis. In at least one such instance, the anvil jaw 1330 is translatable relative to the channel jaw 1310 as the anvil jaw 1330 is being rotated relative to the channel jaw 1310. In either event, the cartridge jaw 1310 can be referred to as a fixed jaw even though the cartridge jaw 1310 is rotatable, or articulatable, about the articulation joint 1660. In this context, the term fixed means that the surgical system 1000 does not rotate the channel jaw 1310 between an open and closed position. Alternative embodiments are envisioned in which the cartridge jaw 1310 is rotatable relative to the anvil jaw 1330. In such instances, the anvil jaw 1330 can be a fixed jaw.

[0356] Referring to FIG. 7, the anvil jaw 1330 is comprised of several components that have been assembled together. More specifically, the anvil jaw 1330 includes one or more lateral side plates 1333 that have been attached thereto. In at least one instance, the anvil jaw 1330 and the side plates 1333 are comprised of steel and have been welded together, for example. Among other things, such an arrangement can simplify the manufacturing process used to create the longitudinal slot 1334 defined in the anvil jaw 1330. In at least one instance, a portion of the longitudinal slot 1334 can be formed into a side plate 1333 before the side plate 1333 is attached to the anvil jaw 1330. In various instances, the bottom cam surface of the longitudinal slot 1334 comprises a curved contour which can be formed in the side plates 1333 using a grinding process, for example. Moreover, in certain instances, the side plates 1333 can be subjected to a heat treating process which is different than the rest of the anvil jaw 1330. The above being said, the anvil jaw 1330 can be formed using any suitable manufacturing process.

[0357] Further to the above, the staple cartridge 1320 comprises a cartridge body 1322 and a sled 1360 movably positioned in the cartridge body 1322. The sled 1360 is movable between a proximal, unfired position (FIGS. 10, 11, and 12) and a distal, fired position by the firing bar 1550. More specifically, the firing bar 1550 comprises a coupling member 1560 mounted to the distal end thereof which is configured to abut the sled 1360 and move the sled 1360 distally during the firing stroke. Notably, however, the coupling member 1560 does not abut the sled 1360 during the closure stroke of the firing member 1550. As a result, the firing member 1550 can be moved proximally and distally to open and close the anvil jaw 1330 without displacing the

sled 1360 distally. As a result, the staple cartridge 1320 remains in an unspent state regardless of the number of times that the anvil jaw 1330 is opened and closed before the firing stroke is performed.

[0358] Further to the above, the staple cartridge 1320 is replaceable. As a result, various instances can arise when a staple cartridge is not positioned in the channel jaw 1310. Moreover, instances can arise when a spent staple cartridge is positioned in the channel jaw 1310. Referring now to FIGS. 10-15, the shaft assembly 1000 comprises a lockout configured to prevent the firing stroke from being initiated when either condition exists. The lockout comprises a lock 1570 which is rotatably mounted to the firing bar 1550 and is movable between an unlocked position (FIGS. 10-14) and a locked position (FIG. 15). The lock 1570 comprises lateral ledges 1572 pivotably mounted to the opposite lateral sides of the coupling member 1560 which provide an axis of rotation about which the lock 1570 is rotated. When the firing bar 1550 is moved longitudinally to open and close the anvil jaw 1330, referring to FIGS. 10-12, the channel jaw 1310 holds the lock 1570 in an unlocked position.

[0359] When the firing stroke of the firing bar 1550 is initiated, referring to FIG. 13, the sled 1360 is configured to support the lock 1570 in its unlocked position when the sled 1360 is in its proximal, unfired position. More specifically, the sled 1360 comprises a proximal ledge 1365 which is configured to support a distal shoulder 1575 of the lock 1570 as the lock 1570 approaches a lock recess 1315 defined in the channel jaw 1310. Stated another way, the sled 1360 can prevent the lock 1570 from entering the lock recess 1315, but only if the sled 1360 is in its proximal, unfired position. Once the distal shoulder 1575 is supported by the proximal ledge 1365 of the sled 1360 at the initiation of the firing stroke, the proximal ledge 1365 can continue to support the distal shoulder 1575 throughout the firing stroke. That said, once the lock 1570 has been moved distally with respect to the lock recess 1315, the lock 1570 cannot enter into the lock recess 1315 and the ledge 1365 is not needed to support the shoulder 1575 throughout the remainder of the firing stroke.

[0360] Referring again to FIGS. 10-13, the lockout further comprises a lock spring 1370 configured to bias the lock 1570 into the lock recess 1315. The lock spring 1370 comprises a proximal end 1371 fixedly mounted to the articulation frame 1270 and, in addition, a distal end 1375 positioned opposite the proximal end 1371. When the firing bar 1550 is used to open and close the anvil jaw 1330 during the closure stroke, referring to FIGS. 10-12, the ledges 1572 can slide relative to the lock spring 1370. When the firing bar 1550 is advanced distally to perform the firing stroke and the sled 1360 is in its proximal, unfired position, as illustrated in FIG. 13, the ledges 1572 can flex the distal end 1375 of the lock spring 1370 upwardly to allow the ledges 1572 to slide thereunder. As the firing bar 1550 is advanced distally and the ledges 1572 move past the distal end 1375 of the lock spring 1370, the lock spring 1370 can resiliently return to its unflexed condition.

[0361] After the firing stroke has been completed, or at least sufficiently completed, the firing bar 1550 can be retracted back into its proximal, unfired position, as illustrated in FIG. 14. Notably, the sled 1360 is not retracted proximally with the firing bar 1550. Rather, the sled 1360 remains in a distal, fired position. As a result, the sled 1360 of the spent cartridge 1320 cannot hold the lock 1570 in its unlocked position if the firing bar 1550 were to be advanced

distally to perform a second firing stroke. Instead, referring to FIG. 15, the lock spring 1370 would bias the lateral ledges 1572 of the lock 1570 into the lock recess 1315 which would prevent the firing bar 1550 from performing a second firing stroke, i.e., a firing stroke with a spent staple cartridge in the channel jaw 1310. As illustrated in FIG. 15, the distal end 1375 of the lock spring 1370 is engaged with the ledges 1572 of the lock 1570 at a location which is distal to the rotation joint that connects the lock 1570 to coupling member 1560. As a result, the lock spring 1370 is configured to apply a downward biasing torque to the lock 1570 which rotates the lock 1570 downwardly into its locked position and into the lock recess 1315. In order to reset the lock 1570 into its unlocked position, the firing bar 1550 can be pulled proximally to pull the lock 1570 out of the lock recess 1315 until the lock 1570 is supported by the channel jaw 1310 once again.

[0362] Despite not being able to perform a firing stroke when a spent cartridge is positioned in the channel jaw 1310, the firing system 1500 could be used to open and close the anvil jaw 1330 even though a spent staple cartridge is positioned in the channel jaw 1310. Moreover, the firing system 1500 could also be used to operate the articulation system 1400 even though a spent staple cartridge is positioned in the channel jaw 1310. Similarly, the firing system 1500 could be used to open and close the anvil jaw 1330 and/or operate the articulation system 1400 when a staple cartridge is missing from the channel jaw 1310. In order to reuse the shaft assembly 1000 to fire another staple cartridge, however, the spent staple cartridge 1320 must be removed from the channel jaw 1310 and replaced with an unspent staple cartridge, such as another staple cartridge 1320, for example. Such an unspent staple cartridge would have to comprise a sled 1360 in its proximal, unfired position which would permit the firing bar 1550 to be advanced through another firing stroke.

[0363] Referring again to FIGS. 10-15, the coupling member 1560 of the firing bar 1550 comprises a cutting edge 1565 configured to transect the tissue captured between the staple cartridge 1320 and the anvil jaw 1330. Notably, the coupling member 1560 is not displaced downwardly into the lock recess 1315 defined in the channel jaw 1310 by the lock spring 1370. Rather, it is only the lock 1570 that is displaced downwardly by the lock spring 1370. As a result, the cutting edge 1565 is not displaced relative to, and remains aligned with, the tissue captured between the staple cartridge 1320 and the anvil jaw 1330 during the firing stroke of the firing bar 1550.

[0364] As described above, the firing system 1500 is configured to perform a closure stroke to close the end effector 1300 and a firing stroke to staple and cut the tissue captured within the end effector 1300. As also described above, the firing system 1500 is operably coupled to and driven by the drive system of a surgical system. In various instances, the drive system of the surgical system can fail and may not be able to advance and/or retract the firing system 1500 once the closure stroke and/or the firing stroke have been performed. Such instances could be quite problematic as the end effector 1300 would be locked shut by the firing bar 1550. More specifically, as discussed above, the firing bar 1550 comprises cams 1563 and 1564 (FIGS. 10-15) configured to hold the anvil jaw 1330 and the channel jaw 1310 in position relative to one another during the closing and firing strokes and, if the firing bar 1550 were not

retractable, the cams 1563 and 1564 would, without more, effectively lock the jaws 1310 and 1330 together. Described below is a retraction system configured to pull the firing bar 1550 proximally so that the anvil jaw 1330 can be re-opened.

[0365] Turning now to FIGS. 34-36, the shaft assembly 1000 comprises a retraction, or bailout, system 1700 configured to be selectively deployed to engage the firing system 1500 and retract the firing bar 1550 proximally. Referring primarily to FIG. 34, the retraction system 1700 comprises a handle, or actuator, 1702 rotatably mounted to the housing 1120 of the attachment portion 1100 about a pivot pin 1704. The pivot pin 1704 defines a fixed axis of rotation about which the handle 1702 can be rotated. The retraction system 1700 further comprises a pawl 1706 rotatably mounted to the handle 1702 about a pivot pin 1708 which defines a fixed axis of rotation about which the pawl 1706 can rotate relative to the handle 1702. The pawl 1706 comprises teeth defined thereon which are configured to engage a longitudinal rack of teeth 1526 defined on the rack 1520. When the handle 1702 is in a stored, or undeployed, position, as illustrated in FIG. 34, the teeth of the pawl 1706 are not engaged with the rack of teeth 1526.

[0366] Referring again to FIG. 34, the housing 1120 comprises an access window 1129 defined therein which is sized and configured to permit a clinician to grab the handle 1702 and rotate the handle 1702 into a deployed position—which is illustrated in FIG. 35. Further to the above, the tube 1620 of the outer frame 1600 comprises a window 1629 and, similarly, the spine of the shaft 1200 comprises a window 1229 defined therein through which are aligned, or at least substantially aligned, with the window 1129 defined in the housing 1120. The windows 1629 and 1229 are configured to permit the pawl 1706 to access the rack of teeth 1526 defined on the rack 1520. When the handle 1702 is raised into its deployed position, as illustrated in FIG. 35, the teeth of the pawl 1706 engage the rack of teeth 1526. At such point, the handle 1702 can be rotated to drive the rack 1520, the firing rod 1510, the intermediate firing rod 1530, and the firing bar 1550 proximally.

[0367] Further to the above, the handle 1702 and the pawl 1706 comprise a ratchet assembly which can be actuated several times, if necessary, to drive the firing system 1500 proximally to a position in which the firing bar 1550 has been sufficiently disengaged from the anvil jaw 1330 to allow the anvil jaw 1330 to be opened. When the handle 1702 is in its deployed position in FIG. 35, the handle 1702 can be rotated distally approximately 45 degrees, for example, to the position illustrated in FIG. 36 in order to pull the firing system 1500 proximally. Such a 45 degree rotation of the handle 1702 may or may not be sufficient to disengage the firing bar 1550 from the anvil jaw 1330. If it is not sufficient, the handle 1702 can be rotated proximally and returned to the position illustrated in FIG. 35 so that the handle 1702 can be actuated once again to further retract the firing bar 1550. This process can be repeated as many times as necessary until the anvil jaw 1330 can be opened to unclamp the end effector 1300 from the tissue and remove the shaft assembly 1000 from the surgical site.

[0368] Further to the above, circumstances can arise which require the shaft assembly 1000 to be detached from the surgical system prior to the firing bar 1550 being retracted, or at least retracted fully. In such instances, similar to the above, the shaft assembly 1000 would not be powered

by the surgical system—however, the retraction system 1700 could be used to quickly release the end effector 1300 from the tissue even though the shaft assembly 1000 is not attached to a surgical system. Such an arrangement is an improvement over other arrangements in which the retraction system is part of the surgical system instead of the attachable shaft assembly. In such other arrangements, the shaft assembly may have to remain attached to the surgical system in order for the retraction system to be used to re-open the end effector.

[0369] The retraction system 1700 can be used to retract the firing assembly 1500 after a portion of the closure stroke has been performed, after the entire closure stroke has been performed, after a portion of the firing stroke has been performed, and/or after the entire firing stroke has been performed. When the firing stroke has been completely performed and the retraction system 1700 is used to retract the firing assembly 1500, the clinician may have to crank the retraction system 1700 several times in order to retract the firing bar 1550 through the entire firing stroke and, in addition, the entire closure stroke to open the end effector 1300. Such a situation is entirely suitable, but it may take many actuations of the retraction system 1700 to sufficiently retract the firing bar 1550. Discussed below is a shaft assembly comprising an alternative bailout system.

[0370] A shaft assembly 2000 is illustrated in FIGS. 37-46 and is similar to the shaft assembly 1000 in many respects—several of which are not discussed herein for the sake of brevity. Referring primarily to FIG. 37, the shaft assembly 2000 comprises an attachment portion 2100 configured to releasably attach the shaft assembly 2000 to a surgical system, such as the handle of a surgical instrument and, alternatively, the arm of a surgical robot, for example. The shaft assembly 2000 further comprises an end effector 2300, an articulation system 1400 configured to articulate the end effector 2300 about an articulation joint 1660, and a firing system 1500 configured to fire staples from a staple cartridge positioned in the end effector 2300. Referring primarily to FIGS. 38 and 39, the shaft assembly 2000 also comprises an outer frame 1600 which is mounted to a frame 2110 of the attachment portion 2100 and is rotatable relative to the frame 2110 about a longitudinal shaft axis 2001. Such an arrangement can allow the end effector 2300 to be re-oriented relative to the patient tissue. For instance, the anvil jaw 1330 of the end effector 2300 can be rotated from one side of the patient tissue to the other before the anvil jaw 1330 is clamped onto the tissue. The above being said, the outer frame 1600 is mounted to the frame 2110 of the attachment portion 2100 such that the outer frame 1600 is not translatable, or at least substantially translatable, relative to the frame 2110.

[0371] Similar to the shaft assembly 1000, the shaft assembly 2000 comprises a retraction system 1700 configured to retract the firing system 1500. Further to the above, the retraction system 1700 is operable to retract the firing bar 1550 proximally and allow the end effector 2300 to be re-opened from a closed, or clamped, configuration (FIG. 45) to an open configuration (FIG. 46). Referring primarily to FIGS. 42-44, the shaft assembly 2000 further comprises a translatable spine 2200 and a bailout system 2800 which are configured to drive the end effector 2300 from its closed, or clamped, configuration (FIG. 45) to its open configuration (FIG. 46) to re-open the end effector 2300. As described in greater detail below, the bailout system 2800 is configured

to move the spine 2200 distally from a proximal, unactuated position (FIG. 45) to a distal, actuated position (FIG. 46) to move a channel jaw 2310 of the end effector 2300 distally relative to the firing bar 1550.

[0372] The translatable spine 2200 is similar to the spine 1200 in many respects. Referring primarily to FIGS. 42-44, the spine 2200 comprises a proximal spine portion 2210 which is rotatable relative to the frame 2110 about the longitudinal shaft axis 2001. The proximal spine portion 2210 comprises an aperture defined therein which is configured to receive a proximal end of a drive cover 2220. The drive cover 2220 further comprises a distal end configured to be positioned within a proximal end of an intermediate spine portion 2230 of the spine 2200. The spine 2200 further comprises an upper distal portion 2250 and a lower distal portion 2260 engaged with a distal end of the spine portion 2230. The distal portions 2250 and 2260 comprise proximal ends which are laterally inserted, or slid, into a dovetail slot defined in the distal end of the intermediate spine portion 2230. The spine 2200 further comprises a cover 2240 configured to enclose an opening defined in the spine portion 2230 and/or lock the distal portions 2250 and 2260 into place. The lower distal portion 2260 comprises an articulation projection 1262 extending therefrom which is closely positioned within an articulation aperture defined in an articulation frame 2270 mounted within the channel jaw 2210.

[0373] Unlike the spine 1200 which is mounted to the frame 1110 to prevent the translation of the spine 1200 relative to the frame 1110, the spine 2200 is slidably positioned in the frame 2110 and is movable proximally and distally relative to the frame 2110 by the bailout system 2800. Referring primarily to FIGS. 38 and 39, the bailout system 2800 comprises a bailout lever 2802 rotatably mounted to the frame 2110 about a fixed-axis pivot 2804. In fact, referring to FIG. 41, the bailout system 2800 comprises two bailout levers 2802 rotatably mounted to the frame 2110 on opposite sides thereof which are connected to one another by a crossbar 2807, as illustrated in FIG. 42, such that the bailout levers 2802 rotate together. The bailout system 2800 further comprises a drive link 2806 rotatably mounted to each of the bailout levers 2802. Referring to FIG. 41, each bailout lever 2802 comprises a drive pin 2803 which extends into a drive aperture defined in the drive links 2806 and operably couples the drive links 2806 to the bailout levers 2802.

[0374] Further to the above, referring to FIGS. 40 and 41, each drive link 2806 comprises a drive pin 2808 extending therefrom which is positioned in an annular slot 2218 defined in the proximal spine portion 2210. When the bailout levers 2802 are rotated distally into their actuated positions, as illustrated in FIG. 46, the bailout levers 2802 pull the drive links 2806 and the spine 2200 distally to translate the channel jaw 2310 distally relative to the firing bar 1550. Moreover, the distal movement of the channel jaw 2310 also translates the anvil jaw 1330 distally owing to the fact that the anvil jaw 1330 is rotatably mounted to the channel jaw 2310. Such distal movement of the jaws 2310 and 1330 comprises a bailout opening stroke which can disengage the anvil jaw 1330 from the anvil cam 1564 of the firing bar 1550 and allow the anvil jaw 1330 to move into an open position. Further to the above, the end effector 2300 comprises a compressed biasing member, such as a spring, for example, which can bias the anvil jaw 1330 into its open

position once the anvil jaw **1330** has been sufficiently disengaged from the anvil cam **1564**.

[0375] As the reader should appreciate, the bailout system **2800** is separate and distinct from the retraction system **1700**. As a result, the bailout system **2800** and the retraction system **1700** can be operated independently of one another. In at least one instance, the bailout system **2800** can be used to open the end effector **2300** during the closure stroke, if necessary, and the retraction system **1700** can be used to open end the end effector **2300** during the firing stroke, if necessary. In various instances, the retraction system **1700** could be used to open the end effector **2300** at any point during the closure stroke and/or at any point during the firing stroke. In certain instances, the bailout system **2800** can be used to open the end effector **2300** during the closure stroke and/or the firing stroke. In at least one such instance, the bailout opening stroke created by the bailout system **2800** is sufficient to open the end effector **2300** at any point during the closure stroke and/or at any point during the firing stroke. In some instances, however, the bailout opening stroke created by the bailout system **2800** may be insufficient to open the end effector **2300** during the firing stroke. In such instances, a clinician could use the retraction system **1700** in addition to or in lieu of the bailout system **2800** to open the end effector **2300**.

[0376] Further to the above, the bailout system **2800** is actuatable to quickly open the end effector **2300**. Comparatively, the retraction system **1700** may have to be cranked several times to open the end effector **2300** whereas the bailout system **2800** can open the end effector **2300** with a single stroke. In the instances where the bailout system **2800** can't open the end effector **2300** by itself, the bailout system **2800** can be actuated to reduce the number of times that the retraction system **1700** must be cranked to open the end effector **2300**. Moreover, in such instances, the channel jaw **2310** is pushed distally away from the firing bar **1550** and the firing bar **1550** is pulled proximally away from the anvil jaw **1330**. In the instances where the bailout system **2800** can open the end effector **2300** by itself, the firing bar **1550** of the firing system **1500** does not need to be retracted to open the end effector **2300**.

[0377] In various instances, further to the above, the bailout levers **2802** of the bailout system **2800** can be rotated from their proximal, unactuated position (FIG. 45) to their distal, actuated position (FIG. 46) to open the end effector **2300** and release the end effector **2300** from the patient tissue. The end effector **2300** can then be moved away from the patient tissue. Thereafter, the bailout levers **2802** can be rotated from their distal, actuated position (FIG. 46) to their proximal, unactuated position (FIG. 45) to pull the spine **2200** and the channel jaw **2310** proximally and close the end effector **2300**. Such a feature can be especially useful when removing the end effector **2300** from a surgical site as, in various instances, removing the end effector **2300** from the surgical site may be easier when the end effector **2300** is in its closed configuration. In any event, the bailout system **2800** can be actuated and deactuated to open and close the end effector **2300** as many times as necessary.

[0378] As discussed above, referring again to FIGS. 32 and 33, the shaft assembly **1000** comprises an articulation lock bar **1480** which is configured to engage the articulation lock **1494** of the shaft assembly **1000** and displace the arms **1495** of the articulation lock **1494** into engagement with the articulation drivers **1440** and **1450** of the articulation system

1400 in order to lock the end effector **1300** in position and prevent the end effector **1300** from being articulated by the articulation system **1400**. Such an arrangement comprises a single-stage articulation lock system as both of the arms **1495** are engaged with the articulation drivers **1440** and **1450** at the same time, or at least substantially the same time. In an alternative embodiment, a shaft assembly **6000**, which is illustrated in FIGS. 67-71, comprises a two-stage articulation lock system **6490** configured to lock an end effector, such as the end effector **1300**, for example, in position.

[0379] The shaft assembly **6000** is similar to the shaft assemblies **1000** and **2000** in many respects—several of which are not discussed herein for the sake of brevity. Although not necessarily depicted in FIGS. 67-71, the shaft assembly **6000** comprises a shaft **1200**, an end effector **1300**, an articulation system **1400**, a firing system **1500**, and an outer frame **1600**. The shaft assembly **6000** also comprises an articulation lock actuator which is configured to move a lock bar **6480** relative the end effector **1300** and engage the lock bar **6480** with the articulation lock system **6490**. As described in greater detail below, the lock system **6490** is configured to, one, directly engage a first lock with the end effector **1300** and, two, engage a second lock with the articulation drivers **1440** and **1450** of the articulation system **1400**. In such instances, the first lock and the second lock of the articulation lock system **6490** can co-operatively hold the end effector **1300** in position.

[0380] Referring primarily to FIG. 67, the two-stage articulation lock system **6490** comprises a frame **6491** which is positioned in the outer tube **1620** of the outer frame **1600** and fixedly mounted to the spine of the shaft **1200**. The articulation lock system **6490** further comprises, one, a first lock **6496** slidably positioned within a cavity **6492** defined in the frame **6491** and, two, a biasing spring **6499** configured to bias the first lock **6496** into engagement with the articulation frame **1270** mounted in the end effector **1300**. The first lock **6496** comprises a flange **6498** extending therefrom and the biasing spring **6499** is compressed between the flange **6498** and a proximal end wall of the cavity **6492** defined in the frame **6491**. As a result, the biasing spring **6499** is configured to move the first lock **6496** from a proximal, unlocked position (FIG. 66) in which the first lock **6496** is not engaged with the articulation frame **1270** to a distal, locked position (FIGS. 67-70) in which the first lock **6496** is engaged with the articulation frame **1270**.

[0381] Further to the above, the articulation frame **1270** comprises a circumferential array of teeth **1277** which are each configured to be engaged by a tooth recess **6497** defined in the distal end of the first lock **6496** when the first lock **6496** is advanced distally into its locked position. The array of teeth **1277** extends around a proximal perimeter of the articulation frame **1270** such that a tooth **1277** is aligned, or at least substantially aligned, with the first lock **6496** regardless of the orientation of the end effector **1300**. As a result, a tooth **1277** is always presented in front of the distal end of the first lock **6496** such that the first lock **6496** can lock the end effector **1300** in position when the first lock **6496** is biased into its locked position by the biasing spring **6499**.

[0382] The articulation lock system **6490** further comprises a second articulation lock **6494** which is configured to be selectively engaged with the articulation drivers **1440** and **1450** of the articulation system **1400**. The articulation lock **6494** is fixedly mounted to the spine of the shaft assembly

6490 and comprises lock arms **6495** extending therefrom. The lock arms **6495** are movable between an unflexed configuration (FIG. 67) in which they are not engaged with the articulation drivers **1440** and **1450** and a flexed configuration (FIG. 68) in which they are engaged with the articulation drivers **1440** and **1450**. Stated another way, the lock arms **6495** are flexible laterally, or outwardly, from an unlocked configuration into a locked configuration to engage the articulation drivers **1440** and **1450**.

[0383] Each lock arm **6495** comprises teeth defined thereon which are configured to engage the articulation drivers **1440** and **1450** when the lock arms **6495** are deflected outwardly into engagement with the articulation drivers **1440** and **1450**. More specifically, the teeth of a first lock arm **6495** are configured to engage the teeth **1445** defined on the articulation driver **1440** and the teeth of a second lock arm **6495** are configured to engage the teeth **1455** defined on the articulation driver **1450**. This interaction between the lock arms **6495** and the articulation drivers **1440** and **1450** prevents the articulation drivers **1440** and **1450** from being moved proximally and distally to articulate the end effector **1330** and, as a result, locks the end effector **1330** in position. The lock arms **6495** are also configured to prevent the articulation drivers **1440** and **1450** from being back-driven by the end effector **1330** when a torque is applied to the end effector **1330**.

[0384] FIGS. 67 and 68 illustrate a locking sequence of the two-stage articulation locking system **6490**. As illustrated in FIG. 67, the first articulation lock **6496** is biased into its locked state by the biasing spring **6499**, as discussed above. As a result, the first articulation lock **6496** does not need to be actuated to place the articulation locking system **6490** in a first locked state. Notably, however, the second articulation lock **6494** is not engaged with the articulation drivers **1640** and **1650** when the articulation locking system **6490** is in its first locked state as the lock arms **6495** of the articulation lock **6494** have not been biased into engagement with the articulation drivers **1640** and **1650**. Instead, referring to FIG. 68, the lock bar **6480** must be advanced distally to engage the lock arms **6495** and displace the lock arms **6495** into engagement with the articulation drivers **1640** and **1650**. As a result, the second articulation lock **6494** must be actuated to place the articulation locking system **6490** in a second locked state.

[0385] Referring again to FIG. 67, the lock bar **6480** comprises a shaft portion **6481** which is configured to slide between the lock arms **6495** without displacing the lock arms **6495** laterally into engagement with the articulation drivers **1440** and **1450**. That said, referring now to FIG. 68, the lock bar **6480** comprises an enlargement **6485** defined on the shaft portion **6481** which is configured to engage the lock arms **6495** and deflect the lock arms **6495** into their locked configurations when the lock bar **6480** is advanced distally. At such point, the articulation locking system **6490** is in its second locked state. Notably, the first articulation lock **6496** is engaged with the end effector **1300** and the second articulation lock **6494** is engaged with the articulation drivers **1440** and **1450** when the articulation locking system **6490** is in its second locked state. Also, notably, the first articulation lock **6496** engages the end effector **1300** before the second articulation lock **6494** engages the articulation drivers **1440** and **1450** during the two-stage locking sequence of the articulation locking system **6490**.

[0386] FIGS. 69-71 illustrate an unlocking sequence of the two-stage articulation locking system **6490**. FIG. 69 illustrates the articulation locking system **6490** in its second locked state and, in order to unlock the end effector **1300** so that it can be articulated as described above, the articulation locking system **6490** is sequentially placed in its first locked state, as illustrated in FIG. 70, and then placed in its unlocked state, as illustrated in FIG. 71. Referring to FIG. 70, the lock bar **6480** is retracted proximally to disengage the enlargement **6485** from the lock arms **6495** so that the lock arms **6495** can resiliently flex inwardly and disengage from the articulation drivers **1440** and **1450**. At such point, the articulation locking system **6490** has been returned to its first locked state. Notably, the lock bar **6480** comprises a distal end **6482** which is slidably positioned in an elongate aperture **6493** defined in the first articulation lock **6496** and, when the lock bar **6480** is moved proximally to transition the articulation locking system from its second locked state to its first locked state, as discussed above, the distal end **6482** can slide within the elongate aperture **6493** without moving the first articulation lock **6496** out of its locked state.

[0387] Once the articulation locking system **6490** has been returned to its first locked state, as described above, the lock bar **6480** can be retracted further proximally to pull the first articulation lock **6496** out of engagement with the articulation frame **1270**. More specifically, the distal end **6482** of the lock bar **6480** can abut a proximal end wall of the aperture **6483** when the lock bar **6480** is retracted proximally in order to apply a retraction force to the first articulation lock **6494**. Such a proximal retraction force must be able to overcome the distal biasing force that the spring **6499** is applying to the first articulation lock **6496** in order to move the first articulation lock **6496** proximally. In any event, the articulation locking system **6490** is in an unlocked state once the first articulation lock **6496** has been disengaged from the articulation frame **1270**. At such point, the end effector **1300** can be articulated. In order to re-lock the end effector **1300** in position, the lock bar **6480** could be released to allow the biasing spring **6499** to place the first articulation lock **6496** in its locked state once again. Alternatively, the lock bar **6480** can be driven distally to re-lock the end effector **1300** in position.

[0388] As discussed above, the two-stage articulation locking system **6490** is configured to sequentially lock the first articulation lock **6496** and then the second articulation lock **6494**. Alternative embodiments are envisioned in which an articulation locking system is configured to sequentially lock the second articulation lock **6494** and then the first articulation lock **6496**. Further alternative embodiments are envisioned which are configured to lock the first articulation lock **6494** and the second articulation lock **6494** at the same time.

[0389] As also discussed above, the two-stage articulation locking system **6490** is configured to sequentially unlock the second articulation lock **6494** and then the first articulation lock **6496**. Alternative embodiments are envisioned in which an articulation locking system is configured to sequentially unlock the first articulation lock **6496** and then the second articulation lock **6494**. Further alternative embodiments are envisioned which are configured to unlock the first articulation lock **6494** and the second articulation lock **6494** at the same time.

[0390] A shaft assembly **3000** is illustrated in FIGS. 47-51. The shaft assembly **3000** is similar to the shaft

assembly **1000** in many respects—several of which are not discussed herein for the sake of brevity. Although not necessarily depicted in FIGS. 47-51, the shaft assembly **3000** comprises an attachment portion **3100** and a spine mounted to the attachment portion **3100** which is rotatable, but not translatable, relative to a frame **3110** of the attachment portion **3100**. The shaft assembly **3000** also comprises an end effector **1300**, an articulation system **1400** configured to articulate the end effector **1300**, and a firing system **1500**. As discussed above, the end effector **1300** comprises an anvil jaw **1330** which is rotatable relative to a channel jaw **1310** between an open position and a closed position. The shaft assembly **3000** further comprises an outer shaft portion **3600** configured to engage the anvil jaw **1330** and move the anvil jaw **1330** toward its closed position, as described in greater detail below.

[0391] Referring primarily to FIGS. 47 and 49, the outer shaft assembly **3600** comprises a proximal portion **3610**, an intermediate portion **3620** coupled to the proximal portion **3610**, and a distal portion **3630** coupled to the intermediate portion **3620**. The proximal portion **3610** is mounted to the frame **3110** of the attachment portion **3100** such that the proximal portion **3610** is rotatable, but not translatable, relative to the frame **3110**. The proximal portion **3610** comprises a longitudinal passage **3615** extending therethrough and, similarly, the intermediate portion **3620** comprises a longitudinal passage **3625** extending therethrough. The longitudinal passages **3615** and **3625** are aligned, or at least substantially aligned, with one another and surround the spine, the articulation system **1400**, and the firing system **1500** of the shaft assembly **3600**. The distal portion **3630**, further to the above, comprises a longitudinal passage **3635** extending therethrough which is aligned with the longitudinal passage **3625** defined in the intermediate portion **3620**. A proximal end of the distal portion **3630** is positioned in the longitudinal passage **3625** and is engaged with the intermediate portion **3620** in a press-fit manner such that there is little, if any, relative movement between the intermediate portion **3620** and the distal portion **3630**.

[0392] Referring again to FIG. 49, the proximal portion **3610** of the outer shaft assembly **3600** comprises a distal flange **3611**. Additionally, the intermediate portion **3620** of the outer shaft assembly **3600** comprises a proximal flange **3621** positioned adjacent the distal flange **3611**. The distal flange **3611** and the proximal flange **3621** are parallel, or at least substantially parallel, to one another. Referring primarily to FIGS. 48 and 49, the outer shaft assembly **3600** further comprises an extension assembly **3700** which connects the distal flange **3611** of the proximal portion **3610** to the proximal flange **3621** of the intermediate portion **3620**. The extension assembly **3700** is configured to allow the outer shaft assembly **3600** to shift between a contracted configuration (FIG. 50) and an expanded configuration (FIG. 51), as discussed in greater detail below.

[0393] Referring to FIGS. 48 and 49, the extension assembly **3700** comprises a first linkage including a proximal link **3710** and a distal link **3720** and, in addition, a second linkage including proximal links **3730** and distal links **3740**. The proximal link **3710** is rotatably mounted to the proximal portion **3610** of the outer shaft assembly **3600**. The proximal portion **3610** comprises mounting posts **3612** extending therefrom which are positioned in post apertures **3712** defined in the proximal link **3710**. Similarly, the distal link **3720** is rotatably mounted to the intermediate portion **3620**

of the outer shaft assembly **3600**. The intermediate portion **3620** comprises mounting apertures **3622** defined therein which are configured to receive posts **3722** extending from the distal link **3720**. Moreover, the proximal link **3710** is rotatably coupled to the distal link **3720**. More specifically, the proximal link **3710** comprises connector posts **3724** extending therefrom which are rotatably positioned in connector apertures **3724** defined in the distal link **3720**.

[0394] Further to the above, the proximal links **3730** of the extension assembly **3700** are rotatably mounted to the proximal portion **3610** of the outer shaft assembly **3600**. The proximal portion **3610** comprises mounting posts **3616** extending therefrom which are positioned in post apertures **3736** defined in the proximal links **3730**. Similarly, the distal links **3740** of the extension assembly **3700** are rotatably mounted to the intermediate portion **3620** of the outer shaft assembly **3600**. The intermediate portion **3620** comprises mounting apertures defined therein which are configured to receive posts **3746** extending from the distal links **3740**. Moreover, the proximal links **3730** are rotatably coupled to the distal links **3740**. More specifically, each proximal link **3730** comprises a connector post **3734** extending therefrom which is rotatably positioned in a connector aperture **3744** defined in a distal link **3740**.

[0395] Referring now to FIG. 50, the extension assembly **3700** of the outer shaft assembly **3600** is positioned distally with respect to the rack **1520** of the firing system **1500** before the rack **1520** is advanced distally by the firing rod **1510** to perform a closure stroke and/or a firing stroke. When the rack **1520** is advanced distally, referring to FIG. 51, the rack **1520** engages the extension assembly **3700** and shifts the outer shaft assembly **3600** from its contracted configuration (FIG. 50) to its expanded configuration (FIG. 51). More specifically, the rack **1520** abuts the links **3710** and **3720** of the extension assembly **3700** and rotates them laterally, or outwardly, which, as a result, pushes the links **3730** and **3740** distally, or longitudinally. Referring primarily to FIG. 49, the links **3710** and **3720** can comprise cam surfaces **3715** defined therein which are engaged and driven by the rack **1520**. As a result of the above, the intermediate portion **3620** and the distal portion **3630** of the outer shaft assembly **3600** are pushed distally relative to the proximal portion **3610** when the outer shaft assembly **3600** is switched from its contracted configuration (FIG. 50) to its expanded configuration (FIG. 51).

[0396] Further to the above, referring primarily to FIG. 51, the distal portion **3630** of the outer shaft assembly **3600** engages the anvil jaw **1330** when the distal portion **3630** is advanced distally and, as a result, rotates the anvil jaw **1330** into its closed position. Stated another way, the distal movement of the rack **1520** of the firing system **1500** generates a closure stroke which closes the end effector **1300**. Thereafter, the firing system **1500** can be used to drive the firing rod **1510**, the rack **1520**, the intermediate firing rod **1530**, and the firing bar **1550** through a firing stroke—which is discussed above in greater detail. Thus, the firing system **1500** transmits separate and distinct closing and firing strokes to the end effector **1300** via the outer shaft assembly **1600** and the firing bar **1550**, respectively. Notably, the firing system **1500** is able to generate the closure stroke after the shaft assembly **3000** has been switched from its articulation operating mode to its firing operating mode when the

articulation lock actuator **1410** is advanced distally to lock the end effector **1300** in position—which, again, is discussed above in greater detail.

[0397] As discussed above, the rack **1520** of the firing system **1500** engages the extension assembly **3700** during the closure stroke to place the outer shaft assembly **3600** in its expanded configuration. The rack **1520** remains engaged with the extension assembly **3700** throughout the closure and firing strokes and, as a result, holds the outer shaft assembly **3600** in its expanded configuration throughout the closure and firing strokes. After the closing stroke and/or the firing stroke have been completed, or at least sufficiently completed, the firing system **1500** can be operated to retract the firing rod **1510** and the rack **1520** proximally. As the rack **1520** is retracted proximally, the rack **1520** disengages from the extension assembly **3700** and, as a result, the outer shaft assembly **3600** will no longer be held in its extended configuration by the rack **1520**.

[0398] Referring again to FIG. 49, the outer shaft assembly **3600** further comprises springs **3750** configured to bias, or pull, the intermediate portion **3620** toward the proximal portion **3610** and return the outer shaft assembly **3600** into its contracted configuration. The distal flange **3611** of the proximal portion **3610** comprises apertures **3619** defined therein which are configured to mount the springs **3750** to the proximal portion **3610** and, similarly, the proximal flange **3621** of the intermediate portion **3620** comprises apertures **3629** defined therein which are configured to mount the springs **3750** to the intermediate portion **3620**. When the intermediate portion **3620** of the outer shaft assembly **3600** is displaced distally by the rack **1520**, the rack **1520** must apply a distal extension force to the extension assembly **3700** which overcomes the proximal biasing force of the springs **3750**.

[0399] An alternative shaft assembly **4000** is illustrated in FIGS. 52-54. The shaft assembly **4000** is similar to the shaft assembly **3000** in many respects—most of which are not discussed herein for the sake of brevity. The shaft assembly **4000** comprises an outer shaft assembly including a proximal portion **4610** and an intermediate portion **4620** which are connected by a tension spring **4750** which extends around the extension assembly **3700**. Similar to the above, the tension spring **4750** applies a proximal biasing force to the intermediate portion **4620** when the intermediate portion **4620** is displaced distally away from the proximal portion **4610** by the rack **1520**. Also similar to the above, the tension spring **4750** retracts the intermediate portion **4620** toward the proximal portion **4610** after the rack **1520** has been disengaged from the extension assembly **3700**.

[0400] As discussed above, referring again to FIGS. 34-36, the shaft assembly **1000** comprises a retraction system **1700** configured to manually retract the firing system **1500**. Turning now to FIGS. 55-66, a shaft assembly **5000** also comprises a manually-actuated retraction system, which is discussed in greater detail further below. The shaft assembly **5000** is similar to the shaft assembly **1000** in many respects—most of which are not discussed herein for the sake of brevity.

[0401] Referring to FIG. 55, the shaft assembly **5000** comprises an attachment portion **5100** which includes an outer housing **5120**. Referring primarily to FIG. 57, the outer housing **5120** comprises first and second housing portions **5121** that are attached to one another to comprise a housing frame. The housing portions **5121** can be coupled together

by one or more snap-fit features, one or more press-fit features, and/or one or more fasteners, for example. The outer housing **5120** further comprises one or more features configured to releasably connect the attachment portion **5100** to the frame of a surgical system, such as the handle of a surgical instrument and, alternatively, the arm of a surgical robot, for example. The housing portions **5121** further comprise one or more bearing surfaces configured to slidably support the translatable components of a drive assembly **5500** and, in addition, one or more bearing apertures configured to rotatably support the rotatable components of the drive assembly **5500**, for example.

[0402] Referring primarily to FIGS. 57-59, the drive assembly **5500** comprises a translatable firing rod **5510** configured to be operably coupled with a drive system of the surgical system. The drive assembly **5500** further comprises an input rack **5520** fixedly mounted to the firing rod **5510** such that the input rack **5520** is translatable with the firing rod **5510**. The drive assembly **5500** is configured to transmit the translation of the input rack **5520** to a first rack **5560** of a first drive system and, alternatively, a second rack **5580** of a second drive system. To achieve this, the drive assembly **5500** comprises a shiftable shaft **5540** which is displaceable between a first position (FIG. 64) in which the input rack **5520** is operably coupled to the first rack **5560** during a first operating mode and a second position (FIGS. 60-62) in which the input rack **5520** is operably coupled to the second rack **5580** during a second operating mode. The shaft **5540** comprises a first end **5542** extending from the first housing portion **5121** and a second end **5542** extending from the second housing portion **5121**. The first and second ends **5542** of the shaft **5540** each comprise a pushable surface which can be displaced to slide, or toggle, the shaft **5540** between its first position (FIG. 64) and its second position (FIGS. 60-62).

[0403] Referring again to FIGS. 57-59, the drive assembly **5500** further comprises a gear **5530** slidably mounted to the shaft **5540**, a first output gear **5550** operably engageable with the shaft **5540**, and a second output gear **5570** operably engageable with the shaft **5540**. Referring to FIG. 62, the gear **5530** comprises an array of teeth **5536** extending around the perimeter thereof and, in addition, a splined aperture **5534** extending there through. The teeth **5536** are operably intermeshed with a longitudinal array of teeth **5526** defined on the input rack **5520**. When the input rack **5520** is displaced distally, the input rack **5520** rotates the gear **5530** in a first direction and, when the input rack **5520** is displaced proximally, the input rack **5520** rotates the gear **5530** in a second, or opposite, direction. The splined aperture **5534** of the gear **5530** is operably intermeshed with a spline portion **5544** defined on the shaft **5540**. As a result, the gear **5530** rotates the shaft **5540** in the first direction when the gear **5530** is rotated in the first direction. Likewise, the gear **5530** rotates the shaft **5540** in the second direction when the gear **5530** is rotated in the second direction.

[0404] Further to the above, the gear **5530** is constrained within the housing **5120** such that the gear **5530** does not move, or at least substantially move, laterally relative to the first output gear **5550** and the second output gear **5570**. The shaft **5540**, however, is movably laterally relative to the gear **5530**, the first output gear **5550**, and the second output gear **5570** when the shaft **5540** is moved between its first position (FIG. 64) to place the shaft assembly **5000** in its first operating mode and its second position (FIG. 62) to place

the shaft assembly **5000** in its second operating mode. Notably, the spline portion **5544** of the shaft **5540** has a length which is sufficient to operably couple the gear **5530** to the shaft **5540** regardless of whether the shaft **5540** is in its first position (FIG. 64) or its second position (FIG. 62). As a result of the above, the gear **5530** remains operably engaged with the input rack **5520** and the shaft **5540** regardless of the position of the shaft **5540** and regardless of the operating mode in which the shaft assembly **5000** is placed.

[0405] When the shaft **5540** is in its first position, referring to FIG. 64, the spline portion **5544** of the shaft **5540** is operably engaged with the first output gear **5550**. More specifically, the spline portion **5544** of the shaft **5540** is positioned in a splined aperture **5554** defined in the first output gear **5550** when the shaft **5540** is in its first position such that the rotation of the shaft **5540** is transmitted to the first output gear **5550**. As a result, the shaft **5540** rotates the first output gear **5550** in the first direction when the shaft **5540** is rotated in the first direction and, correspondingly, the shaft **5540** rotates the first output gear **5550** in the second direction when the shaft **5540** is rotated in the second direction. The first output gear **5550** comprises an array of teeth **5556** extending around the perimeter thereof which are operably intermeshed with a longitudinal array of teeth **5566** defined on the first rack **5560**. As a result, the first rack **5560** is displaced distally when the input rack **5520** is displaced distally and, correspondingly, the first rack **5560** is displaced proximally when the input rack **5520** is displaced proximally. Similar to the gear **5530**, the first output gear **5550** is constrained within the housing **5520** such that the first output gear **5550** does not move, or at least substantially move, laterally relative to the first rack **5560**. As a result, the first output gear **5550** remains operably engaged with the first rack **5560** regardless of the operating mode of the shaft assembly **5000**.

[0406] When the shaft **5540** is in its second position, referring to FIG. 62, the spline portion **5544** of the shaft **5540** is operably engaged with the second output gear **5570**. More specifically, the spline portion **5544** of the shaft **5540** is positioned in a splined aperture **5574** defined in the second output gear **5570** when the shaft **5540** is in its second position such that the rotation of the shaft **5540** is transmitted to the second output gear **5570**. As a result, the shaft **5540** rotates the second output gear **5570** in the first direction when the shaft **5540** is rotated in the first direction and, correspondingly, the shaft **5540** rotates the second output gear **5570** in the second direction when the shaft **5540** is rotated in the second direction. The second output gear **5570** comprises an array of teeth **5576** extending around the perimeter thereof which are operably intermeshed with a longitudinal array of teeth **5586** defined on the second rack **5580**. As a result, the second rack **5580** is displaced distally when the input rack **5520** is displaced distally and, correspondingly, the second rack **5580** is displaced proximally when the input rack **5520** is displaced proximally. Similar to the gear **5530** and the first output gear **5550**, the second output gear **5570** is constrained within the housing **5520** such that the second output gear **5570** does not move, or at least substantially move, laterally relative to the second rack **5580**. As a result, the second output gear **5570** remains operably engaged with the second rack **5580** regardless of the operating mode of the shaft assembly **5000**.

[0407] Moreover, further to the above, the spline portion **5544** of shaft **5540** has a length which prevents the shaft **5540** from driving the first drive system and the second drive system at the same time. More specifically, the spline portion **5544** is not operably engaged with the second output gear **5570** when the spline portion **5544** is operably engaged with the first output gear **5550**. Correspondingly, the spline portion **5544** is not operably engaged with first output gear **5550** when the spline portion **5544** is operably engaged with the second output gear **5570**. As a result, the firing rod **1510** is engageable with the first rack **5560** and the second rack **5580**, but not both at the same time. Alternative embodiments are envisioned in which the spline portion **5544** is selectively positionable in an intermediate position in which the spline portion **5544** is operably engaged with first output gear **5550** and the second output gear **5570** at the same time. In such instances, the firing rod **1510** can drive the first rack **5560** and the second rack **5580** at the same time.

[0408] The drive system **5500** can be used to selectively drive a first drive system including the first rack **5560** or a second drive system including the second rack **5580**. The first drive system and the second drive system can be configured to perform any suitable function of the shaft assembly **5000**. For instance, the first drive system can be used to produce a closure stroke which closes an end effector of the shaft assembly **5000** and the second drive system can be used to produce a firing stroke which ejects staples from a staple cartridge positioned in the end effector, for example. In such instances, the shaft assembly **5000** is capable of performing separate and distinct closure and firing strokes. Alternatively, the first drive system can be used to articulate the end effector of the shaft assembly **5000** and the second drive system can be used to produce one or more strokes which close the end effector and eject the staples from the staple cartridge, for example. In either event, the drive system **5500** is configured to selectively transmit the linear input motion applied to the firing rod **5510** to two separate drive systems.

[0409] Referring primarily to FIG. 60, the drive system **5500** further comprises an output shaft assembly **5590**. The output shaft assembly **5590** comprises a splined portion **5594**, a gear **5596** slidably mounted to the splined portion **5594**, and a bevel gear **5598** fixedly mounted thereto. The gear **5596** is slidable between a drive position (FIGS. 60, 61, and 63) and a retraction position (FIG. 65). When the gear **5596** is in its drive position, referring to FIGS. 60, 61, and 63, the gear **5596** is operably intermeshed with the longitudinal array of teeth **5586** defined on the second rack **5580**. In such instances, the second rack **5580** can rotate the shaft assembly **5590** via the gear **5596** when the second rack **5580** is driven proximally and distally by the firing rod **1510**, as described above. When the gear **5596** is in its retraction position, referring to FIG. 65, the gear **5596** is operably decoupled from the second rack **5580**. Instead, in such instances, the gear **5596** is operably coupled with a retraction system **5700**, as described in greater detail below.

[0410] Referring to FIG. 56, the retraction system **5700** is stored, or stowed, in the housing **5120** of the attachment portion **5100**. The housing **5120** comprises a cover, or hatch, **5125** rotatably mounted to one of the housing portions **5121** which is openable to access the retraction system **5700**. Referring to FIG. 57, the cover **5125** comprises pin apertures **5128** defined therein which are aligned with pin apertures **5123** defined in a housing portion **5121**. Each set of pin

apertures 5123, 5128 are configured to receive a pin 5127 therein which rotatably couples the cover 5125 to the housing portion 5121. Other arrangements for connecting the cover 5125 to the housing portion 5121 can be used. The housing 5120 further comprises an opening 5122 defined therein through which the retraction system 5700 can be accessed when the cover 5125 is rotated from a closed position (FIG. 55) to an open position (FIG. 56). Notably, the cover 5125 comprises arms 5126 extending therefrom which are configured to engage the gear 5596 of the shaft assembly 5590 when the cover 5125 is rotated from its closed position (FIG. 55) to its open position (FIG. 56), as described in greater detail below.

[0411] Further to the above, the cover 5125 is configured to push the gear 5596 from its drive position (FIG. 63) into its retracted position (FIG. 65) when the cover 5125 is opened. Referring to FIG. 63, the gear 5596 is operably engaged with the rack 5580 and operably disengaged from the retraction system 5700 when the gear 5596 is in its drive position. Referring to FIG. 65, the gear 5596 is operably disengaged from the second rack 5580 and operably engaged with the retraction system 5700 when the gear 5596 is in its retraction position. Thus, when the cover 5125 is opened to access the retraction system 5700, the cover 5125 automatically shifts the shaft assembly 5000 from its second operating mode to a retraction operating mode (FIGS. 65 and 66). As a result, the retraction system 5700 is operably coupled with the shaft assembly 5590 and the second rack 5580 is operably decoupled from the shaft assembly 5590 before the clinician can even grab a crank 5702 of the retraction system 5700. Moreover, the cover 5125 holds the gear 5596 in its retraction position so long as the cover 5125 is in its open position.

[0412] In view of the above, the shaft assembly 5590 is drivable by the second rack 5580 or the retraction system 5700, depending on which operating mode that the shaft assembly 5000 is in. In either the second operating mode or the retraction operating mode, referring primarily to FIG. 60, the bevel gear 5598 of the shaft assembly 5590 is operably engaged with an output system 5600. The output system 5600 comprises a bevel gear 5608 operably intermeshed with the bevel gear 5598. The output system 5600 further comprises a rotatable output shaft 5606. The bevel gear 5608 is fixedly mounted to the output shaft 5606 such that, when the shaft assembly 5590 is rotated, the output shaft 5606 is rotated. The output system 5600 further comprises a rotatable firing shaft 5602 and a gear reduction box 5604 which operably couples the rotatable firing shaft 5602 and the rotatable output shaft 5606. When the shaft assembly 5000 is in its second operating mode and the gear 5596 is operably coupled with the second rack 5580, further to the above, the firing shaft 5602 is rotatable in a first direction or a reverse direction by the second rack 5580 depending on the direction in which the second rack 5580 is displaced. When the shaft assembly 5000 is in its retraction operating mode, the retraction system 5700 is only capable of rotating the firing shaft 5602 in its reverse direction, as described in greater detail below.

[0413] Referring to FIGS. 58, 59, and 66, the crank 5702 of the retraction system 5700 is rotatable relative to a shaft 5710 which is rotatably supported by the housing 5120. Notably, the crank 5702 does not directly drive the shaft 5710 when the crank 5702 is rotated; rather, the crank 5702 comprises a pawl 5706 rotatably mounted thereto which

drives a ratchet gear 5716 fixedly mounted to the shaft 5710. Referring primarily to FIG. 59, the pawl 5706 is rotatably coupled to the crank 5702 about a pin 5704 mounted to the crank 5702. In use, the pawl 5706 is configured to drive the ratchet gear 5716 and rotate the firing shaft 5602 in its reverse direction when the crank 5702 is rotated in a first direction. On the other hand, the pawl 5706 is configured to slide relative to the ratchet gear 5716 when the crank 5702 is rotated in a second, or opposite, direction. The retraction system 5700 further comprises a gear 5712 fixedly mounted to the shaft 5710 which is rotated with the shaft 5710 when the shaft 5710 is rotated by the pawl 5706. Referring primarily to FIG. 66, the gear 5712 is operably intermeshed with a gear 5722 rotatably mounted to a shaft 5724 such that the rotation of the gear 5712 is transmitted to the gear 5722. When the gear 5596 is in its retraction position, further to the above, the gear 5596 is operably intermeshed with the gear 5722. As a result, the rotation of the crank 5702 in its first direction, which is illustrated in FIG. 66, is transmitted to the shaft assembly 5690 to rotate the firing shaft 5602 in its reverse direction. In various instances, the rotation of the firing shaft 5602 in its reverse direction retracts a firing member proximally away from the end effector of the shaft assembly 5000, for example.

[0414] The opening of the cover 5125 permanently decouples the gear 5596 from the second rack 5580 and, correspondingly, permanently decouples the firing shaft 5602 from the input shaft 5510. More specifically, the gear 5596 is not resettable, or at least readily resettable, into its drive position (FIG. 63) after it has been moved into its retraction position (FIG. 65). As a result, the shaft assembly 5000 cannot be returned to its second operating mode after it has been placed in its retraction operating mode. In the event that the cover 5125 were to be opened and then reclosed, for instance, the arms 5126 of the cover 5125 would disengage from the gear 5596 but the gear 5596 would not be moved back into engagement with the second rack 5580. In such instances, however, the retraction system 5700 could still be used to rotate the firing rod 5602 in its reverse direction. Moreover, in such instances, the drive system 5500 could still be used to engage the first rack 5560 with the firing rod 5510 and operate the first drive system. Such an arrangement would prevent a clinician from reusing a shaft assembly 5000 that may be defective—as the act of opening the cover 5125 may suggest that something may be wrong with the shaft assembly 5000.

[0415] Various alternative embodiments are envisioned in which the shaft assembly 5000 is resettable into its second operating mode after being placed in its retraction operating mode. For instance, the shaft assembly 5000 can comprise a spring positioned intermediate the gear 5596 and the bevel gear 5598 which is compressed by the gear 5596 when the cover 5125 is opened and the gear 5596 is slid along the spline portion 5594 of the shaft assembly 5590 into its retraction position. When the cover 5125 is closed in such instances, the spring can bias the gear 5596 back into its drive position and operably re-engage the gear 5596 with the second rack 5580. Such an arrangement would allow a shaft assembly 5000 to be repaired during use and then used to finish a surgical technique.

[0416] FIG. 72 illustrates an exemplary surgical instrument 100 comprising a handle 110 and an interchangeable shaft assembly 200 operably coupled thereto. The handle 110 comprises a housing 140 that is configured to be

grasped, manipulated, and/or actuated by a clinician. The shaft assembly 200 comprises a shaft 210 and an end effector 300. The shaft 210 comprises a shaft frame (not shown in FIG. 78), and a hollow outer sleeve or closure tube 250 through which the shaft frame extends. The shaft assembly 200 further includes a nozzle assembly 290 configured to interface with the outer sleeve 250 and enable the clinician to selectively rotate the shaft 210 about a longitudinal axis. The shaft assembly 200 also includes a latch 230 which is a part of a lock system that releasably locks the shaft assembly 200 to the handle 110. In various circumstances, the latch 230 can close an electrical circuit in the handle 110, for example, when the latch 230 is engaged with the handle 110. The entire disclosure of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/803,086, entitled ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL INSTRUMENT COMPRISING AN ARTICULATION LOCK, which was filed on Mar. 14, 2013, is incorporated by reference herein. All of the embodiments disclosed herein are usable with the handle 110.

[0417] FIG. 73 depicts an exemplary surgical robot 500 configured to actuate a plurality of surgical tools, generally designated as 600, for example. The surgical robot 500 may be used in connection with a master controller, not shown, configured to allow a surgeon to control and view a surgical procedure being performed by the surgical robot 500. In various forms, the surgical robot 500 includes a base 510 from which, in the illustrated embodiment, three surgical tools 600 are supported, for example. In various forms, the surgical tools 600 are each supported by a series of articulatable linkages, generally referred to as arms 520, and are operably coupled with one or more drive systems 530. These structures are illustrated with protective covers which obscure much of the movable components thereof. These protective covers may be optional, and may be limited in size or entirely eliminated in some embodiments to minimize the inertia that is encountered by servo mechanisms used to manipulate the arms 520. In various forms, the surgical robot 500 has wheels that allow the surgical robot 500 to be positioned adjacent an operating table by a single attendant. FIG. 73 further illustrates a work envelope 700 of the surgical robot 500. The work envelope 700 refers to the range of movement of the surgical tools 600 of the surgical robot 500. The shape and size of the work envelope 700 depicted in FIG. 73 is merely illustrative. Thus, a work envelope is not limited to the specific size and shape of the sample work envelope depicted in FIG. 73. The entire disclosure of U.S. Pat. No. 9,060,770, entitled ROBOTICALLY-DRIVEN SURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH E-BEAM DRIVER, which issued on Jun. 23, 2015, is incorporated by reference herein. All of the embodiments disclosed herein are usable with the surgical robot 500.

EXAMPLES

[0418] Example 1—A method comprising the steps of obtaining a shaft assembly comprising an end effector, attaching the shaft assembly to a handle of a surgical instrument, and removing the shaft assembly from the handle. The method also comprises the steps of attaching the shaft assembly to an arm of a surgical robot, and removing the shaft assembly from the arm.

[0419] Example 2—The method of Example 1, wherein the step of removing the shaft assembly from the surgical instrument handle occurs before the step of attaching the shaft assembly to the surgical robot arm, and wherein the

method further comprises the step of sterilizing the shaft assembly after removing the shaft assembly from the surgical instrument handle.

[0420] Example 3—The method of Example 1, wherein the step of removing the shaft assembly from the surgical robot arm occurs before the step of attaching the shaft assembly to the surgical instrument handle, and wherein the method further comprises the step of sterilizing the shaft assembly after removing the shaft assembly from the surgical robot arm.

[0421] Example 4—The method of Examples 1, 2, or 3, wherein the shaft assembly comprises a firing member, wherein the surgical instrument handle comprises an electric motor operably couplable with the firing member during the step of attaching the shaft assembly to the surgical instrument handle, and wherein the surgical robot arm comprises an electric motor operably couplable with the firing member during the step of attaching the shaft assembly to the surgical robot arm.

[0422] Example 5—The method of Examples 1, 2, 3, or 4, wherein the shaft assembly comprises a latch configured to engage the handle of the surgical instrument and, alternatively, the arm of the surgical robot.

[0423] Example 6—The method of Examples 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, wherein the shaft assembly comprises a shaft microprocessor and a shaft electrical connector, wherein the handle comprises a handle microprocessor and a handle electrical connector, and wherein the surgical robot comprises a robot microprocessor and a robot connector.

[0424] Example 7—The method of Example 6, wherein the step of attaching the shaft assembly to the handle of the surgical instrument comprises electrically coupling the shaft electrical connector with the handle electrical connector.

[0425] Example 8—The method of Example 6, wherein the step of attaching the shaft assembly to the handle of the surgical instrument comprises placing the shaft microprocessor in signal communication with the handle microprocessor.

[0426] Example 9—The method of Example 6, wherein the step of attaching the shaft assembly to the arm of the surgical robot comprises electrically coupling the shaft electrical connector with the robot electrical connector.

[0427] Example 10—The method of Example 6, wherein the step of attaching the shaft assembly to the arm of the surgical robot comprises placing the shaft microprocessor in signal communication with the robot microprocessor.

[0428] Example 11—The method of Examples 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10, further comprising a step of attaching a staple cartridge to the shaft assembly before the step of attaching the shaft assembly to the surgical instrument handle.

[0429] Example 12—The method of Examples 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10, further comprising a step of attaching a staple cartridge to the shaft assembly after the step of attaching the shaft assembly to the surgical instrument handle.

[0430] Example 13—The method of Examples 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10, further comprising a step of attaching a staple cartridge to the shaft assembly before the step of attaching the shaft assembly to the surgical robot arm.

[0431] Example 14—The method of Examples 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10, further comprising a step of attaching a staple cartridge to the shaft assembly after the step of attaching the shaft assembly to the surgical robot arm.

[0432] Example 15—The method of Examples 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, or 14, further comprising a step of assembling the end effector to the shaft assembly.

[0433] Example 16—A method comprising the steps of obtaining a shaft assembly, attaching the shaft assembly to a handle of a surgical instrument and attaching, in the alternative, the shaft assembly to an arm of a surgical robot.

[0434] Example 17—The method of Example 16, further comprising a step of attaching an end effector to the shaft assembly.

[0435] Example 18—The method of Example 17, further comprising a step of attaching a staple cartridge to the end effector.

[0436] Example 19—A method comprising the steps of obtaining a shaft assembly, and selectively attaching the shaft assembly to a handle of a surgical instrument or an arm of a surgical robot.

[0437] Example 20—A shaft assembly for use with a motorized surgical system, wherein the shaft assembly comprises a frame selectively mountable to the motorized surgical system, a shaft extending from the frame, and an end effector coupled to the shaft. The shaft assembly also comprises a firing member operably engageable with the motorized surgical system, wherein the firing member is movable toward the end effector during a firing stroke. The shaft assembly further comprises a retraction crank rotatably mounted to the frame, wherein the retraction crank is selectively engageable with the firing member, and wherein the retraction crank is selectively operable to retract the firing member away from the end effector in the event that the shaft assembly is not mounted to the motorized surgical system.

[0438] Example 21—The shaft assembly of Example 20, wherein the end effector comprises a jaw movable between an open position and a closed position, and wherein the firing member is configured to move the jaw from the open position toward the closed position during the firing stroke.

[0439] Example 22—The shaft assembly of Examples 20 or 21, wherein the end effector comprises a first jaw and a second jaw, wherein the first jaw is movable between an open position and a closed position, and wherein the shaft assembly further comprises a closure member configured to move the first jaw toward the closed position.

[0440] Example 23—The shaft assembly of Examples 20, 21, or 22, wherein the shaft comprises a shaft frame slidable relative to the frame, wherein the second jaw is mounted to the shaft frame, and wherein the second jaw is movable by the shaft frame to move the first jaw toward the open position.

[0441] Example 24—The shaft assembly of Examples 20, 21, 22, or 23, further comprising a retraction pawl pivotably mounted to the retraction crank, and wherein the retraction pawl is configured to engage the firing member when the retraction crank is rotated relative to the frame.

[0442] Example 25—The shaft assembly of Examples 20, 21, 22, 23, or 24, wherein the motorized surgical system comprises a first motorized surgical system, wherein the frame is configured to be mounted to a second motorized surgical system, and wherein the firing member is configured to be operably coupled to the second motorized surgical system.

[0443] Example 26—The shaft assembly of Example 25, wherein the first motorized surgical system comprises a

handle of a surgical instrument, and wherein the second motorized surgical system comprises a surgical robot.

[0444] Example 27—The shaft assembly of Examples 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, or 26, wherein the end effector comprises a staple cartridge.

[0445] Example 28—The shaft assembly of Example 27, wherein the staple cartridge is replaceable.

[0446] Example 29—A surgical system comprising a first motorized surgical system which comprises a first electrical motor, a second motorized surgical system comprising a second electrical motor, and a shaft assembly. The shaft assembly comprises a frame selectively mountable to the first motorized surgical system and the second motorized surgical system. The shaft assembly also comprises a shaft extending from the frame, an end effector coupled to the shaft, and a firing member operably engageable with the first electrical motor and the second electrical motor, wherein the firing member is movable toward the end effector during a firing stroke. The shaft assembly further comprises a retraction crank rotatably mounted to the frame, wherein the retraction crank is selectively engageable with the firing member, and wherein the retraction crank is selectively operable to retract the firing member away from the end effector in the event that the shaft assembly is mounted to the first motorized surgical system, mounted to the second motorized surgical system, and not mounted to either the first motorized surgical system or the second motorized surgical system.

[0447] Example 30—The surgical system of Example 29, wherein the end effector comprises a jaw movable between an open position and a closed position, and wherein the firing member is configured to move the jaw from the open position toward the closed position during the firing stroke.

[0448] Example 31—The surgical system of Examples 29 or 30, wherein the end effector comprises a first jaw and a second jaw, wherein the first jaw is movable between an open position and a closed position, and wherein the shaft assembly further comprises a closure member configured to move the first jaw toward the closed position.

[0449] Example 32—The surgical system of Examples 29, 30, or 31, wherein the shaft comprises a shaft frame slidable relative to the frame, wherein the second jaw is mounted to the shaft frame, and wherein the second jaw is movable by the shaft frame to move the first jaw toward the open position.

[0450] Example 33—The surgical system of Examples 29, 30, 31, or 32, further comprising a retraction pawl pivotably mounted to the retraction crank, and wherein the retraction pawl is configured to engage the firing member when the retraction crank is rotated relative to the frame.

[0451] Example 34—The surgical system of Examples 29, 30, 31, 32, or 33, wherein the first motorized surgical system comprises a handle of a surgical instrument, and wherein the second motorized surgical system comprises a surgical robot.

[0452] Example 35—The shaft assembly of Examples 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, or 34, wherein the end effector comprises a staple cartridge.

[0453] Example 36—The shaft assembly of Example 35, wherein the staple cartridge is replaceable.

[0454] Example 37—A shaft assembly for use with a first surgical instrument system and a second surgical instrument system, wherein the shaft assembly comprises a frame selectively mountable to the first surgical instrument system

and the second surgical instrument system. The shaft assembly also comprises a shaft extending from the frame, an end effector coupled to the shaft, and a firing member operably engageable with the first surgical instrument system and the second surgical instrument system, wherein the firing member is movable toward the end effector during a firing stroke. The shaft assembly further comprises manually-operable retraction means for selectively engaging the firing member and retracting the firing member away from the end effector.

[0455] Example 38—The shaft assembly of Example 37, wherein the end effector comprises a staple cartridge.

[0456] Example 39—The shaft assembly of Example 38, wherein the staple cartridge is replaceable.

[0457] Example 40—A shaft assembly for use with a surgical system, wherein the shaft assembly comprises a frame, wherein the frame comprises a proximal portion configured to be mounted to the surgical system, and a tube extending distally from the proximal portion. The shaft assembly also comprises a spine, wherein the spine extends through the tube, and wherein the spine is slidably mounted to the proximal portion. The shaft assembly also comprises an end effector, wherein the end effector comprises a first jaw extending distally from the spine, and a second jaw rotatably mounted to the first jaw, wherein the second jaw is rotatable between an open position and a closed position. The shaft assembly also comprises a firing member operably engageable with a drive system of the surgical system, wherein the firing member is movable distally relative to the spine during a firing stroke. The shaft assembly further comprises a firing member retraction system configured to pull the firing member proximally, and an end effector opening system configured to slide the spine distally and allow the second jaw to rotate into the open position.

[0458] Example 41—The shaft assembly of Example 40, wherein the firing member retraction system comprises a manually-actuatable lever.

[0459] Example 42—The shaft assembly of Examples 40 or 41, wherein the end effector opening system comprises a manually-actuatable lever.

[0460] Example 43—The shaft assembly of Examples 40, 41, or 42, wherein the end effector further comprises a staple cartridge.

[0461] Example 44—The shaft assembly of Example 43, wherein the staple cartridge is replaceably seatable in the first jaw.

[0462] Example 45—The shaft assembly of Example 43, wherein the staple cartridge is replaceably seatable in the second jaw.

[0463] Example 46—The shaft assembly of Examples 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, or 45, further comprising a spring configured to bias the second jaw into the open position.

[0464] Example 47—The shaft assembly of Examples 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, or 46, wherein the end effector opening system and the firing member are operable independently of each other.

[0465] Example 48—The shaft assembly of Examples 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, or 47, wherein the firing member comprises a first cam configured to engage the first jaw and a second cam member configured to engage the second jaw during the firing stroke.

[0466] Example 49—The shaft assembly of Examples 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, or 48, wherein the staple cartridge comprises

staples removably stored therein, and wherein the firing member is configured to eject the staples from the staple cartridge.

[0467] Example 50—The shaft assembly of Examples 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, or 49, wherein the end effector further comprises a staple cartridge comprising staples removably stored therein, and wherein the firing member is configured to eject the staples from the staple cartridge.

[0468] Example 51—The shaft assembly of Examples 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, or 50, further comprising a closure member configured to move the second jaw from the open position toward the closed position during a closure stroke.

[0469] Example 52—The shaft assembly of Example 51, wherein the firing member is configured to engage the closure member and move the closure member through a closure stroke.

[0470] Example 53—The shaft assembly of Examples 51 or 52, wherein the closure member is configurable in a contracted configuration and an expanded configuration, and wherein the closure member is configured to perform the closure stroke when the closure member transitions between the contracted configuration and the expanded configuration.

[0471] Example 54—The shaft assembly of Examples 51, 52, or 53, wherein the closure member comprises a latch configured to releasably hold the closure member in the contracted configuration.

[0472] Example 55—The shaft assembly of Examples 51, 52, 53, or 54, wherein the firing member is configured to engage the closure member and release the latch prior to performing a firing stroke.

[0473] Example 56—The shaft assembly of Examples 51, 52, 53, 54, or 55, wherein the closure member comprises a proximal portion and a distal portion, wherein the proximal portion of the closure member is mounted to the proximal portion of the frame, and wherein the distal portion is movable away from the proximal portion of the closure member during a closure stroke.

[0474] Example 57—The shaft assembly of Examples 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, or 56, wherein the closure member further comprises a spring configured to bias the distal portion toward the proximal portion of the closure member.

[0475] Example 58—The shaft assembly of Example 53, further comprising a spring configured to bias the closure member into the contracted configuration.

[0476] Example 59—A shaft assembly for use with a surgical system, wherein the shaft assembly comprises a frame mountable to the surgical system, and an end effector, wherein the end effector comprises a first jaw; and a second jaw rotatably mounted to the first jaw, wherein the second jaw is rotatable between an open position and a closed position. The shaft assembly further comprises a closure member configurable in a contracted configuration and an expanded configuration, wherein the closure member is configured to move the second jaw toward the closed position when the closure member is transitioned from the contracted configuration to the expanded configuration during a closure stroke.

[0477] Example 60—The shaft assembly of Example 59, further comprising a firing member operably engageable with a drive system of the surgical system, wherein the firing member is movable through a firing stroke by the drive system.

[0478] Example 61—The shaft assembly of Example 60, wherein the firing member is configured to engage the closure member and transition the closure member from the contracted configuration to the expanded configuration.

[0479] Example 62—The shaft assembly of Examples 60 or 61, wherein the closure member comprises a latch configured to releasably hold the closure member in the contracted configuration.

[0480] Example 63—The shaft assembly of Examples 60, 61, or 62, wherein the firing member is configured to release the latch prior to performing the firing stroke.

[0481] Example 64—The shaft assembly of Examples 59, 60, 61, 62, or 63, wherein the closure member comprises a proximal portion and a distal portion, wherein the proximal portion of the closure member is mounted to the frame, and wherein the distal portion is movable away from the proximal portion during a closure stroke.

[0482] Example 65—The shaft assembly of Example 64, wherein the closure member further comprises a spring configured to bias the distal portion of the closure member toward the proximal portion.

[0483] Example 66—The shaft assembly of Examples 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, or 65, further comprising a spring configured to bias the closure member into the contracted configuration.

[0484] Example 67—The shaft assembly of Examples 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, or 66, wherein the end effector further comprises a staple cartridge.

[0485] Example 68—The shaft assembly of Example 67, wherein the staple cartridge is replaceable.

[0486] Example 69—The shaft assembly of Examples 67 or 68, wherein the staple cartridge is seatable in the first jaw.

[0487] Example 70—The shaft assembly of Examples 67 or 68, wherein the staple cartridge is seatable in the second jaw.

[0488] Example 71—A shaft assembly for use with a surgical system, comprising an end effector, and an attachment portion. The end effector comprises a first jaw, a second jaw, a closure member configured to move the first jaw relative to the second jaw between an open position and a closed position, and a firing member movable through a firing stroke. The attachment portion comprises a shaft frame configured to engage a frame of the surgical system, a rotatable input configured to receive a rotary motion from the surgical system, and a closure system operably coupled with the closure member. The attachment portion also comprises a firing system operably coupled with the firing member, and a clutch, wherein the clutch is configurable in a closure mode and a firing mode. The clutch operably couples the rotatable input with the closure system when the clutch is in the closure mode, and the clutch operably decouples the firing system from the rotatable input when the clutch is placed in the closure mode. The clutch operably couples the rotatable input with the firing system when the clutch is in the firing mode, and wherein the clutch operably decouples the closure system from the rotatable input when the clutch is placed in the firing mode.

[0489] Example 72—The shaft assembly of Example 71, wherein the clutch comprises a toggle positionable in a closure position to place the clutch in the closure mode and a firing position to place the clutch in a firing mode.

[0490] Example 73—The shaft assembly of Examples 71 or 72, wherein the toggle comprises a first pushable end and a second pushable end.

[0491] Example 74—The shaft assembly of Examples 71, 72, or 73, further comprising a manually-operable retraction system configured to retract the firing member.

[0492] Example 75—The shaft assembly of Example 74, wherein the retraction system is configurable in a deactivated configuration and an activated configuration, and wherein the retraction system is configured to decouple the rotary input from the firing system when the retraction system is placed in the activated configuration.

[0493] Example 76—The shaft assembly of Examples 74 or 75, wherein the closure system is operably engageable with the rotary input when the retraction system is in the activated configuration.

[0494] Example 77—The shaft assembly of Examples 74, 75, or 76, wherein the firing system is permanently decoupled from the rotary input when the retraction system is placed in the activated configuration.

[0495] Example 78—The shaft assembly of Example 75, wherein the firing system is operably coupleable with the rotary input after the retraction system has been returned to the deactivated configuration.

[0496] Example 79—The shaft assembly of Examples 74, 75, 76, 77, or 78, wherein the attachment portion comprises a housing, and wherein the housing comprises a cover movable between a closed position and an open position to expose a lever of the retraction system.

[0497] Example 80—The shaft assembly of Example 79, wherein the cover is configured to operably disengage the firing system from the rotatable input when the cover is moved from the closed position to the open position.

[0498] Example 81—The shaft assembly of Examples 79 or 80, wherein the cover does not operably disengage the closure system from the rotatable input when the cover is moved from the closed position to the open position.

[0499] Example 82—The shaft assembly of Example 80, wherein the firing system is operably re-engageable with the rotatable input when the cover is moved back into the closed position.

[0500] Example 83—The shaft assembly of Examples 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, or 82 wherein the firing member comprises a rotatable output shaft.

[0501] Example 84—The shaft assembly of Examples 80, 81, 82, or 83, wherein the firing system comprises a first gear and a second gear, wherein the first gear is operably intermeshed with the second gear when the cover is in the closed position, and wherein the first gear is demeshed from the second gear when the cover is in the open position.

[0502] Example 85—The shaft assembly of Example 84, further comprising a spring configured to bias the first gear into operative intermeshment with the second gear.

[0503] Example 86—The shaft assembly of Examples 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, wherein the end effector further comprises a staple cartridge.

[0504] Example 87—The shaft assembly of Example 86, wherein the staple cartridge is replaceable.

[0505] Example 88—The shaft assembly of Examples 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, or 87, wherein the firing member is rotatable and the closure member is translatable.

[0506] Example 89—A shaft assembly for use with a surgical system comprising an end effector, a first drive system, and a second drive system. The shaft assembly also comprises an attachment portion, wherein the attachment portion comprises a shaft frame configured to engage

frame of the surgical system, and a rotatable input shaft configured to receive a rotary motion from the surgical system. The attachment portion also comprises a clutch configurable in a first operating mode, and a second operating mode. The clutch operably couples the rotatable input shaft with the first drive system when the clutch is in the first operating mode, and the clutch operably decouples the second drive system from the rotatable input shaft when the clutch is placed in the first operating mode. The clutch operably couples the rotatable input shaft with the second drive system when the clutch is in the second operating mode, and wherein the clutch operably decouples the first drive system from the rotatable input shaft when the clutch is placed in the second operating mode.

[0507] Example 90—A shaft assembly for use with a surgical system comprising a first drive system, a second drive system, and a shaft frame configured to engage a frame of the surgical system. The shaft assembly also comprises a rotatable input shaft configured to receive a rotary motion from the surgical system, and a transmission configurable in a first operating mode and a second operating mode. The transmission operably couples the rotatable input shaft with the first drive system when the transmission is in the first operating mode, and the transmission operably decouples the second drive system from the rotatable input shaft when the transmission is placed in the first operating mode. The transmission operably couples the rotatable input shaft with the second drive system when the transmission is in the second operating mode, and the transmission operably decouples the first drive system from the rotatable input shaft when the transmission is placed in the second operating mode, and a manually-operable retraction system configured to operably deactivate the first operating mode and retract the second drive system when actuated.

[0508] Example 91—A shaft assembly for use with a surgical system, wherein the shaft assembly comprises a frame attachable to the surgical system, and an end effector comprising a first jaw, a second jaw, wherein the first jaw is rotatable relative to the second jaw, and a staple cartridge comprising staples removably stored therein. The shaft assembly also comprises an articulation joint, wherein the end effector is rotatably connected to the frame about the articulation joint. The shaft assembly also comprises a firing member translatable between an unfired position and a fired position during a firing stroke to eject staples from the staple cartridge, wherein the firing member is rotatable between a first orientation and a second orientation. The shaft assembly further comprises an articulation driver configured to rotate the end effector about the articulation joint, wherein the firing member is operably coupled with the articulation driver when the firing member is in the first orientation, wherein the translational movement of the firing member is transmitted to the articulation driver when the firing member is in the first orientation, and wherein the firing member is operably decoupled from the articulation driver when the firing member is in the second orientation.

[0509] Example 92—The shaft assembly of Example 91, further comprising an articulation lock movable between an unlocked configuration and a locked configuration, wherein the end effector is rotatable relative to the frame when the articulation lock is in the unlocked configuration, and wherein the articulation lock is configured to prevent the end effector from rotating relative to the frame when the articulation lock is in the locked configuration.

[0510] Example 93—The shaft assembly of Example 92, wherein the articulation lock is configured to engage the articulation driver and hold the articulation driver in position when the articulation lock is in the locked configuration.

[0511] Example 94—The shaft assembly of Examples 92 or 93, wherein the articulation lock is configured to engage the end effector and hold the end effector in position when the articulation lock is in the locked configuration.

[0512] Example 95—The shaft assembly of Examples 92, 93, or 94, further comprising an articulation lock actuator configured to move the articulation lock between the unlocked configuration and the locked configuration.

[0513] Example 96—The shaft assembly of Example 95, wherein the articulation lock actuator is configured to rotate the firing member into the first orientation and operably couple the firing member with the articulation driver when the articulation lock actuator moves the articulation lock into the unlocked configuration.

[0514] Example 97—The shaft assembly of Examples 95 or 96, wherein the articulation lock actuator is configured to rotate the firing member into the second orientation and operably decouple the firing member from the articulation driver when the articulation lock actuator moves the articulation lock into the locked configuration.

[0515] Example 98—The shaft assembly of Examples 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, or 97, wherein the firing member is configured to engage the first jaw and move the first jaw toward the second jaw during a closure stroke, and wherein the firing member is configured to perform the closure stroke prior to the firing stroke.

[0516] Example 99—The shaft assembly of Examples 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, or 98, further comprising a retraction actuator, wherein the retraction actuator is selectively engageable with the firing member and manually-actuated to retract the firing member to the unfired position.

[0517] Example 100—The shaft assembly of Examples 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, or 99, further comprising a closure member configured to engage the first jaw and move the first jaw toward the second jaw during a closure stroke.

[0518] Example 101—The shaft assembly of Examples 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, or 100, wherein the firing member comprises a first portion, a second portion, and a clutch, wherein the clutch is configured to switch the firing member between an articulation-mode configuration and a firing-mode configuration, wherein the first portion is movable relative to the second portion when the firing member is in the articulation-mode configuration, and wherein the first portion is engaged with the second portion to drive the second portion distally when the firing member is in the firing-mode configuration.

[0519] Example 102—The shaft assembly of Example 101, wherein the clutch comprises a lock configured to releasably hold the firing member in the firing-mode configuration.

[0520] Example 103—The shaft assembly of Examples 101 or 102, wherein the lock is mounted to the second portion of the firing member.

[0521] Example 104—The shaft assembly of Examples 101, 102, or 103, wherein the first portion of the firing member is movable toward the fired position to allow the lock to releasably trap the first portion into operative engagement with the second portion when the clutch transitions the firing member between the articulation-mode configuration and the firing-mode configuration.

[0522] Example 105—The shaft assembly of Examples 101, 102, 103, or 104, wherein the frame further comprises a key, wherein the lock is configured to engage the key when the firing member is retracted toward the unfired position, and wherein the key is configured to unlock the lock and allow the firing member to transition from the firing-mode configuration to the articulation-mode configuration.

[0523] Example 106—The shaft assembly of Example 91, wherein the frame comprises a first rotational stop and a second rotational stop, wherein the first rotational stop is configured to stop the firing member in the first orientation, and wherein the second rotational stop is configured to stop the firing member in the second orientation.

[0524] Example 107—The shaft assembly of Examples 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, or 106, wherein the staple cartridge is replaceable.

[0525] Example 108—A shaft assembly for use with a surgical system wherein the shaft assembly comprises a frame attachable to the surgical system, and an end effector comprising a first jaw and a second jaw, wherein the first jaw is rotatable relative to the second jaw. The shaft assembly also comprises an articulation joint, wherein the end effector is rotatably connected to the frame about the articulation joint, and an articulation driver configured to rotate the end effector about the articulation joint. The shaft assembly further comprises a firing assembly translatable between an unfired position and a fired position during a firing stroke, wherein the firing assembly comprises a first portion and a second portion. The first portion is rotatable relative to the second portion between an articulation-mode orientation and a firing-mode orientation, wherein the first portion is operably coupled with the articulation driver when the first portion is in the articulation-mode orientation. The translational movement of the firing assembly is transmitted to the articulation driver when the first portion is in the articulation-mode orientation, and wherein the firing assembly is operably decoupled from the articulation driver when the first portion is in the firing-mode orientation.

[0526] Example 109—The shaft assembly of Example 108, wherein the end effector further comprises a staple cartridge.

[0527] Example 110—A shaft assembly for use with a surgical system comprising a frame attachable to the surgical system, and an end effector, wherein the end effector comprises a first jaw, and a second jaw, wherein the first jaw is rotatable relative to the second jaw. The shaft assembly also comprises an articulation joint, wherein the end effector is rotatably connected to the frame about the articulation joint, and an articulation driver configured to rotate the end effector about the articulation joint. The shaft assembly also comprises a firing assembly translatable between an unfired position and a fired position during a firing stroke, wherein the firing assembly comprises a first portion and a second portion. The shaft assembly further comprises means for selectively rotating the first portion of the firing assembly into and out of operable engagement with the articulation driver, and means for operably decoupling the second portion of the firing assembly from the first portion when the first portion is operably engaged with the articulation driver.

[0528] Example 111—A shaft assembly for use with a surgical system, the shaft assembly comprising a staple cartridge, an end effector, and a firing member. The staple cartridge comprises a cartridge body including staple cavities, staples removably stored in the staple cavities, and a

sled movable between an unfired position and a fired position during a firing stroke to eject staples from the staple cavities. The end effector comprises a cartridge channel configured to receive the staple cartridge, wherein the cartridge channel comprises a lockout recess. The end effector further comprises an anvil configured to deform the staples, and a lock spring. The firing member comprises a firing bar comprising a cutting edge configured to cut the tissue of a patient during a firing stroke. The firing member further comprises a lock rotatably mounted to the firing bar, wherein the lock is rotatable between an unlocked position and a locked position, wherein the sled is configured to hold the lock in the unlocked position when the staple cartridge is seated in the cartridge channel and the sled is in the unfired position, and wherein the lock is rotatable from the unlocked position to the locked position by the lock spring when either the staple cartridge is not in the cartridge channel or the sled is not in the unfired position.

[0529] Example 112—The shaft assembly of Example 111, further comprising staple drivers, wherein the sled is configured to engage the staple drivers to eject the staples from the staple cavities during a firing stroke.

[0530] Example 113—The shaft assembly of Example 112, wherein the staple drivers are integrally-formed with the staples.

[0531] Example 114—The shaft assembly of Examples 111, 112, or 113, wherein the firing bar further comprises a coupling member, wherein the coupling member comprises the cutting edge, and wherein the coupling member comprises a cartridge cam configured to engage the cartridge channel and an anvil cam configured to engage the anvil during a firing stroke.

[0532] Example 115—The shaft assembly of Example 114, wherein the anvil is rotatable relative to the cartridge channel between an open position and a closed position, and wherein the coupling member is configured to control the position of the anvil relative to the staple cartridge.

[0533] Example 116—The shaft assembly of Example 114, wherein the cartridge channel is rotatable relative to the anvil between an open position and a closed position, and wherein the coupling member is configured to control the position of the staple cartridge relative to the anvil.

[0534] Example 117—The shaft assembly of Examples 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, or 116, wherein the anvil is rotatable relative to the cartridge channel between an open position and a closed position, and wherein the shaft assembly further comprises a closure member configured to move the anvil toward the closed position.

[0535] Example 118—The shaft assembly of Examples 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, or 117, wherein the cartridge channel is rotatable relative to the anvil between an open position and a closed position, and wherein the shaft assembly further comprises a closure member configured to move the cartridge channel toward the closed position.

[0536] Example 119—The shaft assembly of Examples 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, or 118, wherein the end effector comprises a proximal end and a distal end, and wherein the lock extends distally with respect to the cutting edge.

[0537] Example 120—The shaft assembly of Examples 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, or 119, wherein the lock is biased into the lockout recess by the lock spring when the firing stroke is initiated and either the staple cartridge is not in the cartridge channel or the sled is not in the unfired

position, and wherein the firing stroke is stopped by the lock and the lockout recess before the staples are ejected from the staple cavities.

[0538] Example 121—The shaft assembly of Examples 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, or 120, wherein the firing bar is not biased toward the lockout recess by the lock spring.

[0539] Example 122—The shaft assembly of Examples 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, or 121, wherein the lock is configured to push the sled through the firing stroke if the staple cartridge is seated in the cartridge channel and the sled is in the unfired position at the initiation of a firing stroke.

[0540] Example 123—The shaft assembly of Example 122, wherein the firing member is retractable after at least a portion of the firing stroke has been completed, and wherein the sled is not retractable with the firing member.

[0541] Example 124—The shaft assembly of Examples 122 or 123, wherein the firing member is retractable after at least a portion of the firing stroke has been completed, and wherein the lock is configured to remain in the unlocked position as the lock is retracted past the lock spring.

[0542] Example 125—The shaft assembly of Examples 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, or 124, wherein the lock comprises a cantilever beam comprising a proximal end fixedly mounted to the cartridge channel and a distal end movable relative the proximal end.

[0543] Example 126—The shaft assembly of Examples 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, or 125, wherein the cartridge channel is removably attachable to the end effector.

[0544] Example 127—The shaft assembly of Examples 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, or 125, wherein the cartridge channel is not removably attachable to the end effector.

[0545] Example 128—A shaft assembly for use with a surgical system, wherein the shaft assembly comprises a staple cartridge, an end effector, and a firing assembly. The staple cartridge comprises a cartridge body, and staples, wherein each staple is at least partially stored in the cartridge body. The staple cartridge further comprises a sled movable between an unfired position and a fired position during a firing stroke to eject staples from the cartridge body. The end effector comprises a cartridge channel configured to receive the staple cartridge, wherein the cartridge channel comprises a lockout. The end effector further comprises an anvil configured to deform the staples, and a biasing member. The firing assembly comprises a firing member, and a lock rotatably mounted to the firing member, wherein the lock is rotatable between an unlocked position and a locked position, wherein the sled is configured to hold the lock in the unlocked position when the staple cartridge is seated in the cartridge channel and the sled is in the unfired position, and wherein the lock is rotatable from the unlocked position to the locked position by the biasing member when either the staple cartridge is not in the cartridge channel or the sled is not in the unfired position.

[0546] Example 129—An end effector for use with a surgical system, the end effector comprising a staple cartridge, wherein the staple cartridge comprises a cartridge body, and staples, wherein each staple is at least partially stored in the cartridge body. The staple cartridge further comprises a sled movable between an unfired position and a fired position during a firing stroke to eject staples from the

cartridge body. The end effector also comprises a cartridge channel configured to receive the staple cartridge, wherein the cartridge channel comprises a lockout, an anvil configured to deform the staples, and a biasing member. The end effector further comprises a firing assembly, wherein the firing assembly comprises a firing member, and a lock rotatably mounted to the firing member, wherein the lock is rotatable between an unlocked position and a locked position, wherein the sled is configured to hold the lock in the unlocked position when the staple cartridge is seated in the cartridge channel and the sled is in the unfired position, and wherein the lock is rotatable from the unlocked position to the locked position by the biasing member when either the staple cartridge is not in the cartridge channel or the sled is not in the unfired position.

[0547] Example 130—A shaft assembly comprising a shaft frame, an end effector comprising an end effector frame, and an articulation joint, wherein the articulation joint rotatably connects the end effector frame to the shaft frame. The shaft assembly also comprises an articulation driver configured to rotate the end effector about the articulation joint. The shaft assembly further comprises a first articulation lock selectively actuatable to engage the end effector frame and prevent the end effector frame from rotating relative to the shaft frame, and a second articulation lock selectively actuatable to engage the articulation driver and prevent the end effector frame from rotating relative to the shaft frame.

[0548] Example 131—The shaft assembly of Example 130, wherein the first articulation lock and the second articulation lock are both actuated into a locked condition by a lock actuator during a locking motion.

[0549] Example 132—The shaft assembly of Examples 130 or 131, wherein the first articulation lock is configured to engage the end effector frame before the second articulation lock engages the articulation driver during the locking motion.

[0550] Example 133—The shaft assembly of Examples 130 or 131, wherein the second articulation lock is configured to disengage from the articulation driver before the first articulation lock disengages from the end effector frame during an unlocking motion of the lock actuator.

[0551] Example 134—The shaft assembly of Examples 130 or 131, wherein the first articulation lock is configured to engage the end effector frame after the second articulation lock engages the articulation driver during the locking stroke.

[0552] Example 135—The shaft assembly of Examples 130 or 131, wherein the second articulation lock is configured to disengage from the articulation driver after the first articulation lock disengages from the end effector frame during an unlocking motion of the lock actuator.

[0553] Example 136—The shaft assembly of Examples 130 or 131, wherein the first articulation lock is configured to engage the end effector frame at the same time that the second articulation lock engages the articulation driver during the locking stroke.

[0554] Example 137—The shaft assembly of Examples 130 or 131, wherein the second articulation lock is configured to disengage from the articulation driver at the same time that the first articulation lock disengages from the end effector frame during an unlocking motion of the lock actuator.

[0555] Example 138—The shaft assembly of Example 130, wherein the first articulation lock and the second articulation lock are separately actuatable.

[0556] Example 139—The shaft assembly of Examples 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, or 138, wherein the articulation driver comprises a first articulation driver configured to rotate the end effector in a first direction, wherein the shaft assembly further comprises a second articulation driver configured to rotate the end effector about the articulation joint in a second direction, and wherein the second direction is opposite the first direction.

[0557] Example 140—The shaft assembly of Example 139, wherein the second articulation lock is configured to engage the second articulation driver and prevent the end effector frame from rotating relative to the shaft frame when the second articulation lock is actuated.

[0558] Example 141—The shaft assembly of Example 139, wherein the second articulation lock is configured to engage the first articulation driver and the second articulation driver at the same time when the second articulation lock is actuated.

[0559] Example 142—The shaft assembly of Example 139, wherein the second articulation lock is configured to engage the first articulation driver and the second articulation driver at different times when the second articulation lock is actuated.

[0560] Example 143—The shaft assembly of Examples 139, 140, 141, or 142, wherein the second articulation lock comprises a first arm configured to engage the first articulation driver and a second arm configured to engage the second articulation driver, and wherein the first articulation lock is configured to engage the first arm with the first articulation driver and the second arm with the second articulation driver during a locking motion of the first articulation lock.

[0561] Example 144—The shaft assembly of Examples 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, or 143, wherein the end effector further comprises a staple cartridge.

[0562] Example 145—The shaft assembly of Example 144, wherein the staple cartridge is replaceable.

[0563] Example 146—A shaft assembly comprising a shaft frame, and an end effector

[0564] comprising an end effector frame. The shaft assembly also comprises an articulation joint, wherein the articulation joint rotatably connects the end effector frame to the shaft frame, and an articulation driver configured to rotate the end effector about the articulation joint. The shaft assembly further comprises a lock system configured to engage the end effector frame and prevent the end effector frame from rotating relative to the shaft frame, and engage the articulation driver and prevent the end effector frame from rotating relative to the shaft frame.

[0565] Example 147—The shaft assembly of Example 146, wherein the end effector further comprises a staple cartridge.

[0566] Example 148—A shaft assembly comprising a shaft frame, and an end effector comprising an end effector frame. The shaft assembly also comprises an articulation joint, wherein the articulation joint rotatably connects the end effector frame to the shaft frame, and an articulation driver displaceable to rotate the end effector about the articulation joint. The shaft assembly further comprises first locking means for selectively preventing the rotation of the

end effector about the articulation joint, and second locking means for selectively preventing the displacement of the articulation driver.

[0567] Example 149—The shaft assembly of Example 148, wherein the end effector further comprises a staple cartridge.

[0568] Many of the surgical instrument systems described herein are motivated by an electric motor; however, the surgical instrument systems described herein can be motivated in any suitable manner. In various instances, the surgical instrument systems described herein can be motivated by a manually-operated trigger, for example. In certain instances, the motors disclosed herein may comprise a portion or portions of a robotically controlled system. Moreover, any of the end effectors and/or tool assemblies disclosed herein can be utilized with a robotic surgical instrument system. U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/118,241, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENTS WITH ROTATABLE STAPLE DEPLOYMENT ARRANGEMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,072,535, for example, discloses several examples of a robotic surgical instrument system in greater detail.

[0569] The surgical instrument systems described herein have been described in connection with the deployment and deformation of staples; however, the embodiments described herein are not so limited. Various embodiments are envisioned which deploy fasteners other than staples, such as clamps or tacks, for example. Moreover, various embodiments are envisioned which utilize any suitable means for sealing tissue. For instance, an end effector in accordance with various embodiments can comprise electrodes configured to heat and seal the tissue. Also, for instance, an end effector in accordance with certain embodiments can apply vibrational energy to seal the tissue.

[0570] The entire disclosures of:

[0571] U.S. Pat. No. 5,403,312, entitled ELECTRO-SURGICAL HEMOSTATIC DEVICE, which issued on Apr. 4, 1995;

[0572] U.S. Pat. No. 7,000,818, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT HAVING SEPARATE DISTINCT CLOSING AND FIRING SYSTEMS, which issued on Feb. 21, 2006;

[0573] U.S. Pat. No. 7,422,139, entitled MOTOR-DRIVEN SURGICAL CUTTING AND FASTENING INSTRUMENT WITH TACTILE POSITION FEEDBACK, which issued on Sep. 9, 2008;

[0574] U.S. Pat. No. 7,464,849, entitled ELECTRO-MECHANICAL SURGICAL INSTRUMENT WITH CLOSURE SYSTEM AND ANVIL ALIGNMENT COMPONENTS, which issued on Dec. 16, 2008;

[0575] U.S. Pat. No. 7,670,334, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT HAVING AN ARTICULATING END EFFECTOR, which issued on Mar. 2, 2010;

[0576] U.S. Pat. No. 7,753,245, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENTS, which issued on Jul. 13, 2010;

[0577] U.S. Pat. No. 8,393,514, entitled SELECTIVELY ORIENTABLE IMPLANTABLE FASTENER CARTRIDGE, which issued on Mar. 12, 2013;

[0578] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/343,803, entitled SURGICAL INSTRUMENT HAVING RECORDING CAPABILITIES; now U.S. Pat. No. 7,845,537;

- [0579] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/031,573, entitled SURGICAL CUTTING AND FASTENING INSTRUMENT HAVING RF ELECTRODES, filed Feb. 14, 2008;
- [0580] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/031,873, entitled END EFFECTORS FOR A SURGICAL CUTTING AND STAPLING INSTRUMENT, filed Feb. 15, 2008, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,980,443;
- [0581] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/235,782, entitled MOTOR-DRIVEN SURGICAL CUTTING INSTRUMENT, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,210,411;
- [0582] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/249,117, entitled POWERED SURGICAL CUTTING AND STAPLING APPARATUS WITH MANUALLY RETRACTABLE FIRING SYSTEM, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,608,045;
- [0583] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/647,100, entitled MOTOR-DRIVEN SURGICAL CUTTING INSTRUMENT WITH ELECTRIC ACTUATOR DIRECTIONAL CONTROL ASSEMBLY, filed Dec. 24, 2009; now U.S. Pat. No. 8,220,688;
- [0584] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/893,461, entitled STAPLE CARTRIDGE, filed Sep. 29, 2012, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,733,613;
- [0585] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/036,647, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT, filed Feb. 28, 2011, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,561,870;
- [0586] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/118,241, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENTS WITH ROTATABLE STAPLE DEPLOYMENT ARRANGEMENTS, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,072,535;
- [0587] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/524,049, entitled ARTICULATABLE SURGICAL INSTRUMENT COMPRISING A FIRING DRIVE, filed on Jun. 15, 2012; now U.S. Pat. No. 9,101,358;
- [0588] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/800,025, entitled STAPLE CARTRIDGE TISSUE THICKNESS SENSOR SYSTEM, filed on Mar. 13, 2013, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,345,481;
- [0589] U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/800,067, entitled STAPLE CARTRIDGE TISSUE THICKNESS SENSOR SYSTEM, filed on Mar. 13, 2013, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2014/0263552;
- [0590] U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2007/0175955, entitled SURGICAL CUTTING AND FASTENING INSTRUMENT WITH CLOSURE TRIGGER LOCKING MECHANISM, filed Jan. 31, 2006; and
- [0591] U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2010/0264194, entitled SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT WITH AN ARTICULATABLE END EFFECTOR, filed Apr. 22, 2010, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,308,040, are hereby incorporated by reference herein.
- [0592] Although various devices have been described herein in connection with certain embodiments, modifications and variations to those embodiments may be implemented. Particular features, structures, or characteristics may be combined in any suitable manner in one or more embodiments. Thus, the particular features, structures, or characteristics illustrated or described in connection with one embodiment may be combined in whole or in part, with the features, structures or characteristics of one or more other embodiments without limitation. Also, where materials are disclosed for certain components, other materials

may be used. Furthermore, according to various embodiments, a single component may be replaced by multiple components, and multiple components may be replaced by a single component, to perform a given function or functions. The foregoing description and following claims are intended to cover all such modification and variations.

[0593] The devices disclosed herein can be designed to be disposed of after a single use, or they can be designed to be used multiple times. In either case, however, a device can be reconditioned for reuse after at least one use. Reconditioning can include any combination of the steps including, but not limited to, the disassembly of the device, followed by cleaning or replacement of particular pieces of the device, and subsequent reassembly of the device. In particular, a reconditioning facility and/or surgical team can disassemble a device and, after cleaning and/or replacing particular parts of the device, the device can be reassembled for subsequent use. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that reconditioning of a device can utilize a variety of techniques for disassembly, cleaning/replacement, and reassembly. Use of such techniques, and the resulting reconditioned device, are all within the scope of the present application.

[0594] The devices disclosed herein may be processed before surgery. First, a new or used instrument may be obtained and, when necessary, cleaned. The instrument may then be sterilized. In one sterilization technique, the instrument is placed in a closed and sealed container, such as a plastic or TYVEK bag. The container and instrument may then be placed in a field of radiation that can penetrate the container, such as gamma radiation, x-rays, and/or high-energy electrons. The radiation may kill bacteria on the instrument and in the container. The sterilized instrument may then be stored in the sterile container. The sealed container may keep the instrument sterile until it is opened in a medical facility. A device may also be sterilized using any other technique known in the art, including but not limited to beta radiation, gamma radiation, ethylene oxide, plasma peroxide, and/or steam.

[0595] While this invention has been described as having exemplary designs, the present invention may be further modified within the spirit and scope of the disclosure. This application is therefore intended to cover any variations, uses, or adaptations of the invention using its general principles.

[0596] Any patent, publication, or other disclosure material, in whole or in part, that is said to be incorporated by reference herein is incorporated herein only to the extent that the incorporated materials do not conflict with existing definitions, statements, or other disclosure material set forth in this disclosure. As such, and to the extent necessary, the disclosure as explicitly set forth herein supersedes any conflicting material incorporated herein by reference. Any material, or portion thereof, that is said to be incorporated by reference herein, but which conflicts with existing definitions, statements, or other disclosure material set forth herein will only be incorporated to the extent that no conflict arises between that incorporated material and the existing disclosure material.

1-19. (canceled)

20. A surgical tool, comprising:

an end effector movable between an open configuration and a closed configuration, wherein the end effector

comprises an anvil and an elongate channel, and wherein a lockout recess is defined in the elongate channel;
a beam head movable through the end effector during a staple firing stroke, wherein the beam head comprises:
a beam body movable along a longitudinal axis during the staple firing stroke;
an cartridge cam extending laterally from the beam body;
an anvil cam extending laterally from the beam body; and
a lock rotatably mounted to the beam head, wherein the lock comprises a blocker rotatable into the lockout recess to block the staple firing stroke of the beam head, and wherein the longitudinal axis extends through the blocker.

21. The surgical tool of claim 20, wherein the blocker is movable with the beam body along the longitudinal axis through the staple firing stroke.

22. The surgical tool of claim 21, wherein the lock further comprises lateral ledges mounted to opposite lateral sides of the beam body.

23. The surgical tool of claim 22, wherein the lateral ledges are pivotably mounted to opposite lateral sides of the beam body.

24. The surgical tool of claim 20, further comprising a staple cartridge removably positioned in the elongate channel, wherein the staple cartridge comprises a plurality of staples.

25. The surgical tool of claim 24, wherein the staple cartridge further comprises a sled movable between an unfired position and a fired position to eject at least one staple of the plurality of staples, and wherein, in the unfired position, the sled is positioned to lift the blocker out of the lockout recess.

26. The surgical tool of claim 25, wherein the lock comprises a distal shoulder and the sled comprises a proximal ledge, and wherein, in the unfired position, the distal shoulder of the lock is supported by the proximal ledge of the sled.

27. The surgical tool of claim 26, wherein, in the fired position, the distal shoulder of the lock is unsupported by the proximal ledge of the sled.

28. The surgical tool of claim 27, wherein, in the unfired position, the proximal ledge of the sled abuts the distal shoulder of the lock.

29. The surgical tool of claim 25, wherein the lockout recess comprises a proximal-facing wall, and wherein the blocker comprises a distal-facing blocking surface structured to abut the proximal-facing wall to prevent the staple firing stroke unless the staple cartridge is positioned in the elongate channel and the sled is in the unfired position.

30. The surgical tool of claim 29, further comprising a spring positioned to bias the distal-facing blocking surface into the lockout recess.

31. The surgical tool of claim 20, wherein the beam body comprises a cutting edge.

32. The surgical tool of claim 31, wherein the lock is rotatable about a lateral axis extending through the beam body.

33. The surgical tool of claim 32, wherein the lateral axis is spaced between the anvil cam and the cartridge cam.

34. A surgical tool, comprising:
an end effector comprising an anvil and an elongate channel, wherein a lockout recess is defined in the elongate channel; and
a beam head movable through the end effector during a staple firing stroke, wherein the beam head comprises:
a beam body movable along a longitudinal axis during the staple firing stroke;
a first cam positioned to cammingly engage the anvil during the staple firing stroke;
a second cam positioned to cammingly engage the elongate channel during the staple firing stroke; and
a lock rotatable into the lockout recess in the elongate channel to prevent the beam head from moving through the staple firing stroke, wherein the lock comprises a blocker rotatable into the lockout recess, and wherein the longitudinal axis is oriented through the blocker.

35. The surgical tool of claim 34, wherein the blocker is movable with the beam body along the longitudinal axis through the staple firing stroke.

36. The surgical tool of claim 34, wherein the lock further comprises lateral ledges mounted to opposite lateral sides of the beam body.

37. The surgical tool of claim 36, wherein the lateral ledges are pivotably mounted to opposite lateral sides of the beam body.

38. The surgical tool of claim 34, further comprising a staple cartridge removably positioned in the elongate channel, wherein the staple cartridge comprises a plurality of staples and a sled movable between an unfired position and a fired position to eject at least one staple of the plurality of staples, and wherein, in the unfired position, the sled is positioned to lift the blocker out of the lockout recess.

39. The surgical tool of claim 38, wherein the lockout recess comprises a proximal-facing wall, and wherein the blocker comprises a distal-facing blocking surface structured to abut the proximal-facing wall to prevent the staple firing stroke unless the staple cartridge is positioned in the elongate channel and the sled is in the unfired position.

* * * * *