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MECHANICAL-ENERGY STORAGE UNIT AND ASSEMBLY FIXTURE

Abstract

A system may include a stacking device having a base portion and one or more walls, the base portion having a first axle receiver that holds a first axle at a first defined position, the one or more walls extending from the base portion, the stacking device receiving one or more flywheel plates onto the first axle. A system may include a clamping device adapted to couple with the stacking device using one or more alignment mechanisms, the clamping device including a second axle receiver that holds a second axle at a second defined position, the first defined position and the second defined position being in line when the clamping device is coupled with the stacking device.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION [0001] This application claims priority to U.S. application Ser. No. 18/666,593 filed on May 16, 2024, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 63/502,648 filed on May 16, 2023. The present application is related to co-pending U.S. application Ser. No. 18/666,522, titled “Mechanical-Energy Storage Unit System” filed on May 16, 2024; U.S. application Ser. No. 18/666,542, titled “Flywheel Vacuum Enclosure and Adjustment System” filed on May 16, 2024; U.S. application Ser. No. 18/666,557, titled “Stacking Flywheel and Linkage” filed on May 16, 2024; and U.S. application Ser. No. 18/666,573, titled “Flywheel Magnetic Lift and Bearing System” filed on May 16, 2024; as the present application by common inventors. All of these applications are incorporated herein by reference, including their specifications and drawings, which disclosure is not admitted to be prior art with respect to the present invention by its mention in the cross-reference section.

BACKGROUND

[0002] The present disclosure relates to mechanical-energy storage units. Implementations relate to assembly of flywheels for mechanical-energy storage units.

[0003] Currently, residential electricity customers, as well as electrical utilities, use various sources of electrical energy storage to offset varying electrical power production and use, such as the duck curve associated with solar or other renewable energy production. The variation in power production and usage has been further exacerbated with the increasing popularity of renewable power sources. These issues cause significant costs and other issues to utilities, power outages, and other issues.

[0004] Commonly, excess or backup power is stored in chemical storage, such as large chemical batteries. Unfortunately, chemical batteries suffer from many issues that make them undesirable at both a residential level and at a utility level. For example, chemical batteries may be very expensive, complex, and require numerous safeguards against fires. Chemical batteries are also ecologically unfriendly, as their production uses toxic chemicals, creates significant greenhouse gases, and results in significant material waste. Furthermore, chemical batteries have short lifespans because the batteries have a limited number of years and recharge cycles before they must be disposed of.

[0005] Previous solutions for mechanical energy storage have been overly complex, too large to be implemented at a residential level, not scalable for an electrical utility, or have faced other issues.

[0006] Furthermore, while balance of a flywheel is important, previous solutions did not include effective means or methods for assembling multi-part flywheels in an aligned or balanced manner.

SUMMARY

[0007] In some aspects, the techniques described herein relate to a flywheel assembly fixture including: a stacking device having a base portion and one or more walls, the base portion having a first axle receiver that holds a first axle at a first defined position, the one or more walls extending

from the base portion, the stacking device receiving one or more flywheel plates onto the first axle; and a clamping device adapted to couple with the stacking device using one or more alignment mechanisms, the clamping device including a second axle receiver that holds a second axle at a second defined position, the first defined position and the second defined position being in line when the clamping device is coupled with the stacking device.

[0008] In some aspects, the techniques described herein relate to a flywheel assembly fixture, further including: a plate alignment mechanism adapted to align the one or more flywheel plates with the first axle and the second axle.

[0009] In some aspects, the techniques described herein relate to a flywheel assembly fixture, wherein the plate alignment mechanism is coupled with the one or more walls and adjustably extends in a first direction away from the one or more walls to exert pressure on the one or more flywheel plates, the first direction being substantially perpendicular to an axial direction of the first axle.

[0010] In some aspects, the techniques described herein relate to a flywheel assembly fixture, wherein: the plate alignment mechanism includes a plate contact surface that is adapted to interact with a contour in a peripheral edge of at least one of the one or more flywheel plates to push the at least one flywheel plate into alignment with the first axle.

[0011] In some aspects, the techniques described herein relate to a flywheel assembly fixture, wherein: the one or more flywheel plates include a first clamping plate, a second clamping plate, and one or more stacking plates positioned between the first clamping plate and the second clamping plate.

[0012] In some aspects, the techniques described herein relate to a flywheel assembly fixture, wherein: the first clamping plate is coupled with the first axle; and the second clamping plate is coupled with the second axle.

[0013] In some aspects, the techniques described herein relate to a flywheel assembly fixture, wherein the first clamping plate is placed into the stacking device prior to the first axle.

[0014] In some aspects, the techniques described herein relate to a flywheel assembly fixture, wherein at least one of the one or more stacking plates does not directly contact either the first axle or the second axle.

[0015] In some aspects, the techniques described herein relate to a flywheel assembly fixture, wherein the first clamping plate is aligned using the first axle, the second clamping plate is aligned using the second axle, and the one or more stacking plates are aligned using the one or more alignment mechanisms.

[0016] In some aspects, the techniques described herein relate to a flywheel assembly fixture, wherein the clamping device is adapted to exert a clamping force on the one or more flywheel plates to stress a clamping plate of the one or more flywheel plates in an axial direction of the first axle and the second axle.

[0017] In some aspects, the techniques described herein relate to a method of assembling a multi-part flywheel including: placing a first axle into a first axle receiver of a stacking device, the first axle receiver holding the first axle in a first defined position; placing one or more flywheel plates onto the first axle while the first axle is held by the first axle receiver; and placing a second axle into a second axle receiver of a clamping device, the second axle receiver holding the second axle receiver at a second defined position, the first defined position being in line with the second defined position when the clamping device is coupled with the stacking device.

[0018] In some aspects, the techniques described herein relate to a method **11**, further including: aligning the one or more flywheel plates with the first axle in the stacking device.

[0019] In some aspects, the techniques described herein relate to a method **12**, wherein aligning the one or more flywheel plates with the first axle in the stacking device includes: stacking the one or more flywheel plates using the stacking device; and adjusting a plate alignment mechanism coupled with the stacking device to exert pressure on the one or more flywheel plates in a first

direction, an axis of rotation of the first axle being perpendicular to the first direction.

[0020] In some aspects, the techniques described herein relate to a method **13**, further including: adjusting the plate alignment mechanism to move a plurality of the one or more flywheel plates into alignment and balance about the axis of rotation of the first axle.

[0021] In some aspects, the techniques described herein relate to a method **11**, further including: placing the first axle into the stacking device; placing the one or more flywheel plates into the stacking device; placing the second axle into the clamping device; and coupling the clamping device with the stacking device.

[0022] In some aspects, the techniques described herein relate to a method **11**, further including: placing a first clamping plate into the stacking device; and after placing the first clamping plate into the stacking device, placing the first axle into the first axle receiver of the stacking device through a perforation in a center of the first clamping plate.

[0023] In some aspects, the techniques described herein relate to a method **11**, further including: placing a first clamping plate into the stacking device contacting the first axle, the one or more flywheel plates including the first clamping plate, at least three stacking plates, and a second clamping plate; and placing the at least three stacking plates on top of one or more of the first clamping plate and the first axle, one or more of the at least three stacking plates not contacting the first axle when the multi-part flywheel is assembled.

[0024] In some aspects, the techniques described herein relate to a method **17**, further including: placing the second clamping plate into the stacking device contacting the second axle; and placing the clamping device onto the stacking device, the clamping device pushing the second axle into alignment with the first axle.

[0025] In some aspects, the techniques described herein relate to a method **11**, further including: applying, using the clamping device, a clamping force to one or more clamping plates of the one or more flywheel plates in an axial direction of the first axle to place the one or more clamping plates in a stressed position.

[0026] In some aspects, the techniques described herein relate to a method **19**, further including: while the clamping force is applied using the clamping device and while the one or more clamping plates are in the stressed position, inserting a plurality of bolts to couple the one or more clamping plates together in the stressed position.

[0027] Other implementations of one or more of these aspects or other aspects include corresponding systems, apparatus, and computer programs, configured to perform the various actions and/or store various data described in association with these aspects. Some implementations, such as various data structures for using the system, may be encoded on tangible computer storage devices. Numerous additional features may, in some cases, be included in these and various other implementations, as discussed throughout this disclosure. It should be understood that the language used in the present disclosure has been principally selected for readability and instructional purposes, and not to limit the scope of the subject matter disclosed herein.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0028] This disclosure is illustrated by way of example, and not by way of limitation in the figures of the accompanying drawings in which like reference numerals are used to refer to similar elements.

[0029] FIGS. **1A-1B** illustrate an example mechanical-energy storage unit or flywheel assembly.

[0030] FIG. **1C** illustrates an example mechanical-energy storage unit.

[0031] FIG. **1D** illustrates an example mechanical-energy storage unit with components omitted to expose a massive flywheel inside an enclosure.

[0032] FIGS. 2A and 2B illustrate views of an example flywheel.
[0033] FIG. 2C illustrates a cross sectional view of an example flywheel.
[0034] FIGS. 2D and 2E illustrate side-top views of example flywheels.
[0035] FIGS. 3A and 3B illustrate views of example flywheel stacking plates.
[0036] FIGS. 4A and 4B illustrate example flywheel axles.
[0037] FIGS. 5A-5C illustrate various views of an example flywheel assembly fixture.
[0038] FIGS. 5D-5F illustrate various cross sections of an example flywheel assembly fixture.
[0039] FIGS. 5G-5J illustrate horizontal cross sections of an example flywheel assembly fixture.
[0040] FIG. 5K illustrates a horizontal cross-sectional view of an example horizontal alignment component applying alignment pressure to a plurality of stacking flywheel plates.
[0041] FIG. 5L illustrates a cross section in which a clamping plate and axle are placed onto stacking plates in an assembly fixture.
[0042] FIG. 5M illustrates a horizontal cross section in which a clamping plate and axle are inserted into a top axle receiver of a clamping device.
[0043] FIG. 5N illustrates a bottom-up cross section of an example clamping device.
[0044] FIG. 6 is a flowchart of an example method for assembling a flywheel using a flywheel assembly fixture.
[0045] FIG. 7 is a block diagram illustrating a method of building a flywheel assembly.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0046] This description includes several improvements over previous solutions, such as those described in reference to the Background. A mechanical-energy storage unit **102** is described herein along with its assembly and an assembly fixture **502**.

[0047] In some implementations, one or two mechanical-energy storage units **102** may be installed at a residence to provide backup power in case of a power outage, to store electricity generated using residential solar panels, or to offset unevenness of power production and usage (e.g., an electrical utility may control the mechanical-energy storage unit **102** at a residence to address the balance energy use/production at the residence, nearby residences, or across the power grid). A mechanical-energy storage unit **102** may be buried next to an electrical panel or placed in a shed outside a residence, placed in a garage or utility room, or stored offsite.

[0048] In some implementations, multiple mechanical-energy storage units **102** may be coupled together to scale energy backup at a larger facility, such as a business, or by an electrical utility. For instance, many mechanical-energy storage units **102** may be placed at a facility, buried, or otherwise used by an electrical utility. The multiple mechanical-energy storage units **102** may be communicatively linked to each other or to a central server to control storage and distribution of the stored energy (e.g., by controlling the rotational frequency of a flywheel **202** to keep various flywheels **202** at efficient speeds).

[0049] Various implementations and features of flywheel energy storage systems (FESS) are described herein. These provide improvements over previous energy storage units including other flywheels **202**. For instance, the technology described herein provides an improved flywheel system or assembly, improved bearings, improved flywheel-motor couplings, improved flywheel housing, improved flywheel plates, improved assembly fixture **502**, and method for assembly and use, among other improvements, features, and benefits.

[0050] For example, a flywheel **202** may include a rotational mass comprising a plurality of stacking plates **122**, one or more bolt or clamping plates **120**, one or more axle **208** members, and other features. For instance, the technologies described herein include a plurality of plates that have contoured edges based on an associated support structure, which allows increased speeds while reducing failure modes. For instance, the support structure may include clamping plates **120** that apply pressure to the plates, thereby inducing friction between the plates to keep them in place and transfer rotational momentum between the plates and one or more axles **208**. In some implementations, two clamping plates **120** may be clamped together by bolts or other fasteners,

which thereby cause the clamping plates **120** to apply pressure on stacking plates **122** and increase the friction among the stacking plates **122**, which may, in some cases, allow the stacking plates **122** to be used without other fasteners, thereby improving safety and efficiency. Other features and benefits of the flywheel **202** are described below. Not only are the plates improved, but their support structure is improved, among other benefits. Further implementations and features allow the expansion, positioning, and use of the flywheel **202** thereby further improving its performance. [0051] Among other improvements, the technologies described herein also include an improved enclosure **104** and support system, which may include, among other things, a sealed enclosure **104**, a lid-mounted vacuum assembly **104**, a magnetic coupling **118**, various bearings, and positioning mechanisms. The enclosure **104** may include a magnetic assist mechanism that either entirely supports or partially supports the weight of the flywheel **202** (e.g., to reduce wear on bearings). The enclosure **104** may also include a transport surface and a lifting and adjustment mechanism that moves the position of the flywheel **202** internal to the enclosure **104** from a transport or storage position and adjusts it in an active position. The enclosure **104** may provide support for various components, such as a supercapacitor **106**, vacuum assembly, processor/controller/central processing unit, a motor **110**, and other components. The enclosure **104** may include various features for maintaining a vacuum, holding one or more bearings, positioning a flywheel **202** during use or transport, mitigating damage due to structural failures, and isolating vibration, among other features. For example, the technology may include a hex nut and locking mechanism that may be used to position the flywheel **202** and engage it with bearings, magnetic levitation/assist, or other features of the enclosure **104** while also maintaining a vacuum seal.

[0052] The technology also includes a fixture **502** for assembling a flywheel **202** in a balanced, square, and aligned manner, which may include tensioning the support structure or clamping plates **120**, among other things. A method for assembly using the assembly fixture **502** is also described. For instance, the assembly fixture **502** may retain a first and a second axle **208** member in alignment while also vertically positioning and squaring the flywheel plates and other components. For instance, a bottom axle **208b** may be placed into the fixture with a bottom clamping plate **120b** (also referred to as a star plate). The fixture **502** may be placed into a plate stacking configuration and multiple massive flywheel plates (e.g., **120** and/or **122**) may be stacked thereon. A clamping plate **120** and/or axle **208** may be placed on the stack and a top fixture component may be placed onto the fixture, and the top fixture component may exert a clamping force on the stacking plates **122** and/or clamping plates **120** to pre-tension them. The fixture **502** may be moved incrementally into an alignment position to position and align the components of the flywheel **202**. Bolts may also be placed in the flywheel assembly **102** to maintain the clamping force. Several innovative features of the assembly fixture **502** and method are described below.

[0053] Other benefits and features are described throughout this disclosure, but it should be noted that other features and benefits are contemplated. Furthermore, while various implementations are described in reference to the figures, these are provided by way of example and their features may be expanded, modified, or removed. For instance, features described in reference to some implementations may additionally or be used with other implementations.

[0054] With reference to the figures, reference numbers may be used to refer to components found in any of the figures, regardless of whether those reference numbers are shown in the figure being described. Further, where a reference number includes a letter referring to one of multiple similar components (e.g., component **000a**, **000b**, and **000n**), the reference number may be used without the letter to refer to one or all of the similar components.

[0055] The innovative technology disclosed in this document also provides novel advantages including the ability to integrate modem technology with conventional power infrastructure; enable rapid transition to renewable energy sources; use the power grid as a backup; store power locally in nodes and regionalized storage clusters of nodes; isolate and minimize the impact of power outages; whether caused by natural disasters, infrastructure failure, or other factors; provide

affordable alternatives to expensive and environmentally unfriendly electrochemical batteries; provide consumers the option to be independent from carbon-based power sources; and decentralize electric power production.

[0056] FIGS. **1A-1B** illustrate an example mechanical-energy storage unit **102** (MESU **102**) or flywheel assembly **102** from various angles and views. For example, FIG. **1A** illustrates a front-top view, FIG. **1B** illustrates a cross section view, FIG. **1C** illustrates a front-top view of another example MESU **102** or flywheel assembly **102**, and FIG. **1D** illustrates a front-top view with an enclosure lid **128** removed to show a flywheel **202** inside a flywheel enclosure **104** of an example MESU **102** assembly.

[0057] The improved flywheel assembly **102** may be a mechanical-energy storage unit **102** with configurations and features that improve manufacturability while also providing redundancy, safety, and reliability that allow the flywheel assembly **102** to provide years of safe and relatively maintenance free operation in ways that were not previously possible, for example, as noted in the Background and elsewhere herein. Although various configurations are possible and contemplated, the illustrated example flywheel assembly **102** may include a vacuum enclosure **104** and support structure, a massive rotating flywheel **202** (not visible in FIG. **1A**) internal to the enclosure **104**, a motor-generator **110** that may be fully or partially external to the enclosure **104** and coupled with the flywheel **202**, a supercapacitor **106**, driver(s) and/or CPUs, inverter(s), circuit breakers, a vacuum pump **108**, and various other components, as described below, although other implementations are possible and contemplated herein.

[0058] The example flywheel assembly **102** may include, among other things, an enclosure **104** that is sealable to provide a vacuum, support to the flywheel **202**, a mounting structure for various components of the assembly, and protection against mechanical failure, among other things. The example vacuum enclosure **104** for the flywheel **202** may be configured as a vacuum assembly case with reinforcement including features for coupling the flywheel **202** with the case, an improved shape, and an ability to adjust the flywheel **202** through the case. In some instances, a connection for creating and/or maintaining a vacuum may also be included with the case. Example implementations and features of the enclosure **104** may be described in further detail in reference to FIGS. **5A-5E**, although other implementations are possible and contemplated herein.

[0059] The flywheel enclosure **104** may be mounted and/or isolated from a mounting structure by one or more feet **114** or legs, as noted below, and may include mounting structures for accommodating various components of the assembly. For example, a supercapacitor **106** may be mounted to a support structure of or attached to the enclosure **104**, which supercapacitor **106** may buffer energy entering/exiting the flywheel **202**, for instance, by assisting the motor **110** to spin the flywheel **202** up or receive energy therefrom.

[0060] Also, as described below, the enclosure **104** may provide mounting points or structures for mounting a motor-generator **110** in line with the axis of rotation of the flywheel **202**, although, in other implementations gears may be used to couple the motor-generator **110** with the flywheel **202**. The motor-generator **110** may be coupled with the flywheel **202** via one or more axle **208** components and, in some instances, a magnetic coupling **118** that allows a flywheel axle(s) **208** to remain physically decoupled from a motor-generator **110** rotor while still providing force to pass between them, as described below. The motor-generator **110** may have an electrical connection to a supercapacitor **106**, inverter, driver, CPU, external grid connection or otherwise, which allows electrical current to flow into the motor-generator **110** to spin up the flywheel **202** or out of the motor-generator **110** to receive stored potential energy from the flywheel **202**.

[0061] The motor-generator **110** may have various configurations, as noted in further detail elsewhere herein. In some implementations, the motor-generator **110** may be an electrical-vehicle motor or other motor (e.g., a Hyper 9™ motor), such as a brushless alternating current motor (e.g., a 3 phase AC synchronous reluctance internal permanent magnet motor) that can free-wheel in order to allow the flywheel **202** to store power for a longer period of time. The motor size and

configuration may vary depending on peak output/input and flywheel **202** size/speed requirements. For instance, a smaller, residential MESU **102** may include a smaller size flywheel **202** with a 30-40 kW motor while a larger, commercial (e.g., for a store, electrical utility, subdivision, etc.) may have a 300-500 kW motor, although other implementations are possible. The motor controller and/or CPU may be the same for various sizes of flywheels **202** or may vary depending on the implementation.

[0062] The motor-generator **110** may be coupled with the flywheel **202** using an axle **208** and bearing of the flywheel **202**/flywheel enclosure **104**. Similarly, in some implementations, the flywheel axle **208** and motor-generator **110** may be coupled using a flywheel **202** motor coupling, which may include a direct connection, magnetic coupling **118**, friction clutch, torque converter, gearbox, or otherwise.

[0063] An example flywheel **202** (not visible in FIG. **1A**) may be housed in and/or supported by the enclosure **104** and components thereof. Example flywheels **202** and features thereof are described throughout this disclosure, for example, in reference to FIGS. **1B**, **1D**, and **2A-4B**. For example, a flywheel **202** may include a plurality of stacking plates **122** held together by a support structure, such as clamping plates **120** (e.g., using compression and friction). The support structure may include one or more axles **208** that attach thereto and provide support to the flywheel **202**. As described in further detail elsewhere herein, the configuration of the support structure and axles **208** may allow flywheel plates to be used without the axle **208** perforating the plates. Depending on the implementation, the axle(s) **208** may be vertically and/or horizontally supported by other components or the flywheel enclosure **104** and may couple with a motor-generator **110** (e.g., as noted above).

[0064] For example, an axle **208** may interact with one or more bearings, whether magnetic, metal, ceramic, etc., of the enclosure **104**, to allow the flywheel **202** to spin about an axis formed by the axle **208**. The enclosure **104** may include or couple with one or more bearings that support the flywheel **202** horizontally to keep it spinning with little-to-no vibration, as described below.

[0065] Additionally, one or more bearings may support the axle(s) **208** and/or flywheel **202** vertically within the enclosure **104**. For instance, a bottom bearing may hold the bottom of the flywheel **202** and/or a top bearing may hold the top of the flywheel **202**, for example, inside the enclosure **104**. In some implementations, a magnetic lift assistance member or magnetic levitation device may be used to reduce the friction or pressure, for example, on one or more of the bearings. For instance, a magnetic levitation device may be disposed at a bottom of the flywheel **202** to apply upward force thereon thereby limiting the force due to gravity on a bottom bearing and/or balancing force between a top and bottom bearing. In some implementations, a magnetic lift assistance member may be positioned at a top of the flywheel **202**/enclosure **104** to pull the enclosure **104** upward, thereby decreasing the force due to gravity on a bottom bearing(s). As noted in further detail elsewhere herein, the magnetic lift assistance member may lift less than, exactly, or greater than the weight of the flywheel **202** so that there is some, little, or no weight on the bottom and/or top bearing(s).

[0066] The amount of weight held by magnets of the magnetic lift assistance member may be adjusted based on a distance from the magnets, as described elsewhere herein. For instance, the enclosure **104** may include or may be coupled with one or more flywheel **202** positioning components that may adjust the position of the flywheel **202**, for example, to ensure that a correct distance between the flywheel **202** and magnetic lift assist mechanism, top bearing, bottom bearing, or other component of the assembly. For instance, a flywheel **202** positioning component may move the flywheel **202** (e.g., inside the enclosure **104**) from a shipping position to an engaged position where it is in a correct position relative to the bearing(s) to minimize bearing wear and friction.

[0067] It should be noted that although the enclosure **104** is illustrated as fully enclosed, including reinforcements, welds, seals/O-rings, etc., that allow a vacuum to be maintained inside the

enclosure **104** with the flywheel **202**; however, it should be noted that other implementations are possible and contemplated herein, such as where the enclosure **104** is fully or partially open.

[0068] In some implementations, the flywheel assembly **102** may include various components mounted to the enclosure **104** (e.g., via a lid **128** assembly mounting plate or bracket) that support the operation of the flywheel **202**. For instance, the flywheel assembly **102** may include a supercapacitor **106**, motor-generator **110** (and associated mounting hardware), driver and CPU/controller **112**, vacuum pump **108**, various inverters, wiring harnesses, circuit breakers, and other equipment, although other implementations are possible and contemplated herein.

[0069] As illustrated in the examples of FIGS. **1A-1D**, a flywheel enclosure **104** may be round with a flat bottom and top and various reinforcing ridges, which configuration may provide strength to the enclosure **104** to prevent buckling due to an internal vacuum while also preventing external damage in case of a mechanical failure of the flywheel **202**. It should be noted that the enclosure **104** may be square, hexagonal, etc. It may have rounded (e.g., as illustrated in FIG. **1D**) or flat sides (e.g., as illustrated in FIG. **1A**). As illustrated in FIG. **1A**, a mounting plate may be positioned on top of the enclosure **104** components mounted thereto, as described in further detail below.

[0070] In some implementations, as illustrated in the examples, the flywheel assembly **102** may include one or more (e.g., 3 and 4 arms are illustrated) motor mounts that couple with a lid **128** of the flywheel enclosure **104** and extend upward to support a motor mount brace **132**, which may comprise a ring that holds the motor-generator **110** in alignment with an axis of rotation of the flywheel **202**. In some instances, the motor mount braces **132** may include linear actuators that lift the motor-generator **110** vertically in order to decouple the motor-flywheel **202** coupling, such as the magnetic coupling **118** described in further detail below. The flywheel assembly **102** may include a lid assembly mounting plate(s) **130** that couple with top ribs or other structures of the enclosure **104** and provide mounting points for the various components of the flywheel assembly **102**. In some instances, the lid **128** or lid assembly mounting plate(s) **130** may have various perforations that allow the motor mount braces **132**, axles **208**, motor-flywheel **202** coupling, vacuum pump **108** connection and other components to pass therethrough. Accordingly, the components may be securely mounted to mounting plate, lid **128**, enclosure **104**, or otherwise (e.g., as illustrated in the example figure) in order to speed assembly and improve stability.

[0071] As shown in the example of FIG. **1A**, the enclosure **104** may have a plurality of reinforcing structures, such as ribs, rings, etc.

[0072] The enclosure **104** may also include one or more feet **114** or other supports that provide support to the ribs (e.g., the side or bottom ribs) or other structures (e.g., a bottom plate) of the enclosure **104** to secure the flywheel assembly **102**, support the weight of the flywheel **202**, and/or isolate the flywheel **202**'s movement/vibration; although, it should be noted that vibration is ideally limited by balancing the flywheel **202** and acceleration, temperature, or other sensors may be located in the bearings, axles **208**, enclosure **104**, or other components.

[0073] FIG. **1B** illustrates an example cross section view of the flywheel assembly **102**. For instance, as shown in the figure, a flywheel **202** having a number of stacking plates **122** and a top and bottom axle **208b** is located inside an enclosure **104**. The bottom axle **208b** of the flywheel **202** is shown interacting with bottom bearings that support the flywheel **202** horizontally and/or vertically. The top axle **208a** of the flywheel **202** is shown passing through a magnetic lift member and into a magnetic coupling **118**, which couples the axle **208** with a stator (directly or via other components, axles **208**, drive shafts, gears, etc.) with the motor-generator **110**, which is held vertically above the axle **208** using the motor braces **132**. Additionally, as noted elsewhere herein, various sensors may be located throughout the assembly, such as the RPM sensor mount **116** that is located adjacent to the magnetic coupling **118**, as well as various temperature, acceleration, etc., sensors that may be positioned adjacent to the motor **110**, bearings, and other components of the assembly. These and other implementations and features are described in further detail below.

[0074] FIG. **1C** illustrates another example MESU **102** or flywheel assembly **102** with a different

implementation of the enclosure **104**. As illustrated, an enclosure **104** may be a cylindrical enclosure with a base tub **126** and a lid **128**. The enclosure **104** may also include one or more feet **114** (e.g., three are illustrated in FIG. **1C**) or legs support the flywheel assembly **102**. A foot **114** may include a bushing or other component that isolates vibrations, bolt holes to bolt the flywheel assembly **102** to a floor or other location.

[0075] In the depicted example, the motor-generator **110** may be mounted higher on motor mount braces **132** and/or base than the example of FIG. **1A**, for example, to allow access to mount or remove the motor-generator **110**, magnetic coupling **118**, bearings, or other components.

Additionally, while the other components illustrated in FIG. **1A** are not shown in FIG. **1C**, they may also be mounted to the lid **128** or another location of the flywheel assembly **102**. For instance, a vacuum pump **108**, supercapacitor **106**, chemical battery, driver, CPU, etc., may be mounted to the lid **128**, tub **126**, other portion of the flywheel assembly **102**, or otherwise.

[0076] FIG. **1D** illustrates the example flywheel assembly **102** of FIG. **1C** with the lid **128** and other components omitted to show an example massive flywheel **202** inside the enclosure **104**. As shown, the flywheel **202** may be positioned at a center of the enclosure **104**, although other implementations are possible. As illustrated in the example of FIG. **1D**, a flywheel **202** may include one or more clamping plates **120** (the top clamping plate **120a** is shown), one or more stacking plates **122**, one or more bolts holding the clamping plates **120** together and/or to the stacking plates **122**, and one or more axles **208**. These and other features and implementations are described in further detail elsewhere herein.

[0077] FIGS. **2A-4B** illustrate an example flywheel **202** and various components, views, and constructions thereof. There are a number of innovative features in the flywheel **202**. For example, the flywheel **202** may include flywheel plates that are coupled together using friction, which may be performed in addition to or in lieu of other connections, such as adhesive, welding, or otherwise. Some implementations of the flywheel **202** include bolts through components while others do not include bolts through components. Similarly, some implementations of the flywheel **202** include two separate axles **208**—a top axle **208a** and a bottom axle **208b**. For instance, while previous flywheels **202** may include bolts attaching each of their components together, some implementations of the flywheel **202** herein may separate the axle **208** and/or use a clamping force from clamping plates **120** (and/or axles **208**) to increase friction between the stacking plates **122** themselves, which may improve manufacturing and reduce points of failure when the flywheel **202** is spinning at high speeds.

[0078] In some implementations, clamping plates **120** may be used on the top and bottom of the flywheel **202** to support the flywheel **202**, for example, by coupling the stacking flywheel plates together and/or to axles **208**. A top clamping plate **120a** and a bottom clamping plate **120b** may be drawn together by bolts at or near its peripheral edge (e.g., as illustrated in FIGS. **2A-3B**), which applies pressure inward on the stacking plates **122** in an axial direction thereby increasing friction. The friction allows rotational force to be transferred through the stacking plates **122** while also preventing them from moving out of alignment, which may throw the balance of the flywheel **202** off.

[0079] Depending on the implementation, the clamping force from the clamping plates **120** may be applied to the stacking plates **122** directly (e.g., by direct contact between the clamping plates **120** or stacking plates **122**) or via other components, such as a portion of an axle **208** or other contact points. For example, a clamping plate **120** may apply force to a center of the stacking plates **122** via a top and bottom axle **208b** (and/or washer(s), bushings at a peripheral edge, or otherwise).

[0080] In some implementations, the clamping plates **120** may be less massive than the stacking plates **122**, so each type of plate may expand (and, potentially, become thinner) differently, especially at the peripheral edge. Accordingly, in some instances, bushings or other components may allow the stacking plates **122** to move relative to the clamping plates **120** while the clamping force is continuously applied.

[0081] The clamping plates **120** may have various contours and configurations to allow them to provide clamping force and other functionality. In some implementations, the stacking plates **122** may be configured differently from the clamping plates **120** and their function is primarily to add rotational mass to the flywheel **202** in order to store energy. The stacking plates **122** may be massive plates that are substantially round or may include various contours based on interaction with the clamping plates **120** or an assembly fixture **502**, as described in further detail elsewhere herein.

[0082] FIG. 2A illustrates a side-top view of the example flywheel **202** and FIG. 2B illustrates a side-bottom view of the example flywheel **202**. As illustrated, the stacking plates **122** may be continuously stacked with their faces touching each other to minimize space consumed and flex while increasing friction. Fourteen stacking plates **122** are illustrated, although other implementations are possible and contemplated herein. As illustrated, there may be a space between one or both of the clamping plates **120** and the stacking plates **122**. Although this space is illustrated as being relatively large and uniform, it may be smaller. For instance, there may be only a few millimeters between the bottom clamping plate **120b** and the bottom-most stacking plate **122**, which space may vary based on clamping force applied and flex of the clamping plate **120**.

[0083] As illustrated in the example flywheel **202** of FIG. 2B, a bottom axle **208b** may be coupled with a bottom clamping plate **120b**. The bottom clamping plate **120b** then interacts with a bottom flywheel stacking plate **122** (e.g., via bushings, an axle washer, a portion of the axle **208**, etc.). Various quantities of stacking flywheel plates may be stacked together depending on desired energy capacity, as noted elsewhere herein. Similarly, a top clamping plate **120a** may interact with a top-most flywheel stacking plate **122** (e.g., via bushings, axle washer, etc.). The top clamping plate **120a** may be coupled with a top axle **208a**. In other implementations, a bottom face of the top clamping plate **120a** may rest directly against the top face of the top-most stacking plate **122**.

[0084] In some implementations, each of the stacking plates **122** may be identical, and each of the clamping plates **120** may be identical, although other implementations (e.g., sizes, configurations, etc.) are possible and contemplated, as noted below. Similarly, the top and bottom axle **208b** may be the same or different (e.g., having a different length, interacting with different bearings or configurations, as illustrated herein).

[0085] As illustrated, when assembled, the clamping plates **120** of the flywheel **202** may align with the stacking plates **122**. In some implementations, a clamping plate **120** may have a star shape (e.g., as illustrated in FIGS. 2A and 2B) where the tip of each arm or branch of the clamping plate **120** has a bolt hole that receives a bolt for clamping the clamping plates **120** together. In some implementations, a clamping plate **120** may have another shape (e.g., as illustrated in FIGS. 2D and 2E) including one or more perforations proximate to a peripheral edge.

[0086] Similarly, the configuration of the stacking plates **122** may be based on the shape (e.g., the position and quantity of branches of the clamping plate **120**), as described in further detail below. For instance, bolt points of the stacking plates **122** may correspond to bolt points of the clamping plates **120** whether or not, as illustrated in the example of FIGS. 2A-2C, the stacking plates **122** do not contact the bolts.

[0087] Although not visible in FIGS. 2A and 2B, in some implementations, various mechanisms may be used at the axle-to-clamping-plate interface to keep the axle **208** and clamping plate **120** mechanically connected, so that rotational force may be transferred between them. For instance, the hole in the clamping plate **120** that accepts a portion of the axle **208** may have an oval shape or a flat area (e.g., to be shaped like a D, whether the flat area is large or small), which may prevent them from twisting relative to one another. For instance, a small flat area is provided or there is an oval shape at the interface, stress risers may be reduced in the plates, which may be particularly beneficial at higher rotations per minute. For example, in some implementations, rather than being bolted through or having a square or other shape with large protrusions, which may increase stress in the flywheel **202**, especially where the flywheel **202** is massive or spinning at a high rate, the

clamping plate **120** to axle **208** interface may be shaped to induce very little stress into the axle **208** or clamping plate **120** while allowing torque to be transferred.

[0088] FIG. 2C illustrates a cross sectional view of an example multi-part flywheel **202**. As illustrated in the example implementation, a top clamping plate **120a** may be connected with a top axle **208a**. For instance, a top axle **208a** may pass through the top clamping plate **120a** so that the top clamping plate **120a** may apply downward force on the axle **208**. In some implementations, the axle **208** may include multiple parts, such as an axle **208** portion and a washer (e.g., an axle ball washer **232**), where the washer (or a bottom portion of the top axle **208a**) contacts a top-most stacking plate **122**. Accordingly, via the axle **208**, the top clamping plate **120a** may apply force to the stacking plate(s) **122**. It should be noted that other configurations, such as direct contact or contact through another device are possible without departing from the scope of this disclosure. Accordingly, the clamping plate **120** may apply pressure at a center of the stacking plate(s) **122** via the washer and/or axle **208**.

[0089] Similar to the description of the top axle **208a** above, a bottom axle **208b** may be coupled to a bottom clamping plate **120b** and may apply force to a bottom-most stacking plate **122**. It should be noted that other configurations are possible, such as where the contact is direct, where the axles **208** are integrated with the clamping plates **120**, where the axles **208** are integrated with one or more stacking plates **122**, or otherwise.

[0090] Additionally, force may be applied to a periphery (e.g., in an axial direction) or other area of the stacking plate(s) **122**. For example, bolts may be tightened down on the clamping plate(s) **120**, which apply force to an outer edge of the stacking plates **122**. The force may be applied via direct contact between the clamping plates **120** and the stacking plates **122** or via an intermediary device, such as a bushing or washer. In some instances, the clamping plates **120** may flex between the axle(s) **208** and the bolt(s) to provide the pressure. Accordingly, friction can be increased between the stacking plates **122**. In some implementations, the stacking plates **122** may be simple, solid plates (e.g., as in FIG. 3A) rather than having perforations for fasteners in the plates, which may reduce strength and introduce stress risers due to centrifugal force, which may lead to increased complexity and failure modes. In other implementations, the stacking plates **122** may have perforations (e.g., as in FIG. 3B) through which bolts may pass, which may increase a radius of the plates, provide simplicity in manufacturing, or increase an inter-plate (e.g., due to friction) force.

[0091] As described below, the bolts may be tensioned to varying levels of tension to cause the friction force. Although different configurations are possible and contemplated, the flywheel **202** may include 8 bolts located around or proximate to a peripheral edge. Each bolt may be tightened to provide a defined torque or based on an applied force before the bolts are torqued (e.g., to apply a force of 2600 pounds per bolt), which may cumulatively provide a relatively even clamping and friction force across the stacking plates **122** (e.g., 16,000-21,000 pounds of clamping force).

[0092] In addition to their roles in clamping together the clamping plates **120**, the bolts may include other features, such as the ability to mitigate failure of one or more stacking plates **122** (e.g., by catching a stacking plate **122** or portion thereof that slips or breaks). In some instances, the bolts may be replaced with other bolts of varying weights to assist in balancing the flywheel **202**. Other details and implementations are possible and/or described elsewhere herein.

[0093] It should also be noted that the top axle **208a** and the bottom axle **208b** (e.g., as described in the examples of FIGS. 4A and 4B) should be aligned as perfectly as possible to reduce vibrations and improve alignment with bearings, etc. As described below in reference to FIGS. 5A-12, an assembly fixture **502** and assembly procedure may be used to align the axles **208**. Although other implementations are possible, ball washers may be used with the axles **208** to allow some adjustability during assembly to improve alignment. It should be noted that flat washers or no washers (e.g., the axles **208** may be single components instead of broken into an axle body and axle washer) may be used.

[0094] In some implementations, an axle-connection region of a clamping plate **120** may connect

to an axle **208** in order to transfer force between the clamping plate **120** and the axle **208**. The connection may include a step that allows the clamping plate **120** to apply clamping force on the axle **208** (e.g., on a corresponding lip or step thereof), although the axle **208** may be integrated with the clamping plate **120** or the force may simply be applied onto the axle **208** by a bottom edge of the clamping plate **120** (e.g., where no step is included in the implementation). For instance, the axle-connection region of a clamping plate **120** may include a perforation in the clamping plate **120** through which the axle **208**, or a portion thereof, may pass. For example, an axle washer may be coupled with the axle **208** at the step, or a portion of the axle **208** itself may interact with the step. [0095] In some implementations, the axle **208** connection may include various shapes to the pass through that interact with corresponding shapes of the axle **208**. The perforation or a portion thereof may be oval shaped or have a flat or “D” shaped area, key, or other shape that allows torque to be transferred between the stacking plate **122** and the axle **208** (e.g., in addition to the torque that may be applied to the axle **208** by its contact with the top/bottom-most stacking plate **122**) without significantly increasing material stress at the connection point. In some implementations, this shape may be applied to the entirety of the perforation or only to a portion or step thereof (e.g., as in the illustrated step). This shape may be small, such as a $\frac{1}{8}$ inch deviation in diameter or a flat section.

[0096] Although other implementations are possible, the axle **208** and perforation diameter may be 3-5 inches. For example, a first (e.g., illustrated at a top of the figure) perforation/axle **208** diameter may be 3.75 inches. A second (e.g., illustrated downward from the first) perforation (e.g., step in the perforation)/axle **208** diameter may be 4.25 inches to allow force to be applied from the first diameter onto the axle **208** and then onto the stacking plates **122**. In implementations where the second step/perforation/axle **208** portion are oval shaped, the oval may vary from 4.375 inches to 4.250 inches, for example, although other implementations are possible and contemplated herein.

[0097] The top axle **208a** may couple with and/or extend through a top clamping plate **120a** and a bottom axle **208b** may couple with and/or extend through a bottom clamping plate **120b**. As a clamping plate **120** may induce friction and transfer force to/from the stacking plates **122**.

Accordingly, the clamping plates **120** may be designed to apply axial force to the plates without having high stress areas at the periphery where the clamping plates **120** may fail at high speeds. Accordingly, the clamping pressure may be increased and risk due to structural/material failure decreased. Example configurations of the clamping plates **120** are described elsewhere herein.

[0098] Additionally, the clamping plate(s) **120** may include a connection area for coupling with the axle(s) **208**, which allows the rotational force to be transferred between the plates and the axles **208**. For instance, an axle **208** may extend through a clamping plate **120** and have one or more shapes or structures that allow rotational, as well as clamping force, to be applied onto the stacking plates (e.g., via the axle **208**). In some implementations, the axles **208** may have portions, washers, or ball washers that extend beyond an inner edge of the stacking plate **122** to apply force to the stacking plates **122**. Although the washers are illustrated as being approximately the size of the passthrough in the clamping plates **120**, it should be noted that they may be omitted, combined with the axle body, be smaller radius than the passthrough, or be larger than the pass through (e.g., to apply force to the stacking plates over a larger area).

[0099] As the axles **208** or axle washers contact the stacking plates **122**, the application of clamping force by the bolts may cause the arms of the bend slightly and increase the force at the center that is applied by the axles **208**/axle washers. The thickness of the axle washer (or similar component) and the configuration of the clamping arms may be such that the distance between the ends of the arms (e.g., to the stacking plates **122**) may be minimized when the plates are clamped. In some implementations, in addition or alternative to the clamping force at the center of the stacking plates **122**, the clamping plates **120** may apply clamping force along a peripheral edge of the stacking plates **122**.

[0100] The clamping plates **120** may be constructed from aluminum, steel, or another material. For

instance, the plates may be constructed from a ferromagnetic steel (e.g., AR500 steel plate) and may be stamped, formed, or machined into the desired shapes. Example masses of the clamping plates **120** may be 66-68 pounds when constructed from steel, although other implementations are possible.

[0101] FIG. 2D illustrates a side-top view of another example flywheel **202**, according to some implementations. In the example of FIG. 2D, the shape of the clamping plates **120** has been modified to be an X shape with two bolt holes proximate to the radial edge of each arm thereof. In the depicted example, the bolts may be angled as they pass from the top clamping plate **120a**, through the stacking plates **122**, and to the bottom clamping plate **120b**. By angling the bolts, rotational forces across the clamping plates **120**, stacking plates **122**, and axles **208** may be reinforced, which reduces the odds that the plates will move out of alignment when the flywheel **202** is spun up or down through the axle(s) **208**.

[0102] In the depicted example, the bolts may be angled toward each other or away from each other on alternating arms, which improves uniformity of force (e.g., circumferentially and axially) and rotational balance. For instance, in a first arm, the bolts are angled away from each other at the top plate, while, at a second arm 90 degrees from the first arm, the bolts are angled toward each other at the top plate, which pattern may repeat, as illustrated. Where the top clamping plate **120a** and the bottom clamping plate **120b** are the same, they may be rotated 90 degrees, so that the holes on each match the angles of the bolts.

[0103] In the depicted example of FIG. 2D, the bolts extend through the top and bottom clamping plates **120b** and through perforations in the stacking plates **122**. In the example implementation where the bolts are angled, the bolts may include wedge shaped washers that allow the force from the bolts to be applied to the clamping plates **120**. In some implementations whether with angled or straight (e.g., axial) bolts, the bolts and associated nuts may be tapered to allow them to extend partially into countersunk holes in the clamping plate(s) **120**.

[0104] In the depicted example of FIG. 2D, the top clamping plate **120a** (and potentially the bottom clamping plate **120b**) may be substantially flat on its top and bottom surfaces, which allows the it to contact the stacking plates **122** and/or interact with a magnetic lifting component. For example, a very flat top surface of the top plate that interacts with a magnetic lifting component may reduce eddy currents in the top clamping plates **120a** caused by rotation relative to the magnetic lifting component.

[0105] FIG. 2E illustrates a side-top view of another example flywheel **202**, according to some implementations. In the depicted example, the bolts extend axially through perforations **222** in the top clamping plate **120a**, the stacking plates **122**, and the bottom clamping plate **120b**. Depending on the implementation, the stacking plates **122** may have an equal quantity of perforations **222** as the quantity of bolts clamping the clamping plates **120**, the clamping plate(s) **120** may include additional perforations **222** proximate to their peripheral edge(s). These additional perforations **222** may be used in balancing the flywheel **202**, for instance, by drilling out the holes or adding plugs to the holes. As noted elsewhere herein, there may be a space between one or both of the clamping plates **120** and the stacking plates **122**. For instance, the top clamping plate **120a** and top stacking plate **122** may lack a space, which may prevent the top clamping plate **120a** from flexing, thereby improving its flatness and interaction with a magnetic lift member. In some implementations, there may be a small gap/space between the bottom clamping plate **120b** and a bottom-most stacking plate **122**, which allows some flex in clamping (e.g., to increase a force at the center/axles **208**).

[0106] As noted below, in some implementations, the stacking plates **122** (e.g., in any of the examples of FIGS. 2A-2E) may include scallops **310** around a peripheral edge, which may reduce failure points due to radial stress around bolt holes and/or assist with aligning the plates in an assembly fixture **502**, as described below.

[0107] FIGS. 3A and 3B illustrate views of example implementations of flywheel stacking plates **122**. The stacking plates **122** may be a flat sheet of metal, such as steel. Although the stacking

plates **122** may include contours or perforations **314** (e.g., as in FIG. 3B), in some implementations, they are solid plates without perforations (e.g., as in FIG. 3A or otherwise), which could increase internal stresses when spinning at high rotations per minute. For example, the stacking plates **122** may be 25 to 35 inches in diameter (e.g., an example implementation may be 27.71, 29.25, etc., inches in diameter), although other sizes are possible. The stacking plates **122** may have various thicknesses, such as $\frac{1}{8}$ inch to 2 inches. For example, a stacking plate **122** may be 0.25, 0.47, 0.5, etc. inches thick. For example, each stacking plate **122** may have a weight of 20-200 pounds (e.g., 47, 94, etc., pounds). Additionally, any number (e.g., 10, 14, 24, etc.) of stacking plates **122** may be stacked without departing from the scope of this disclosure.

[0108] The shape and configuration of the stacking plates **122** may be varied depending on the implementation. For instance, a stacking plate **122** may include a clamping portion or location at or proximate to a peripheral edge at which the stacking plates **122** may be clamped (e.g., in addition to or alternative from clamping at the axle **208**). For instance, the illustrated example flywheel stacking plate **122** includes a clamping portion/location that is contoured based on a bolt location (e.g., associated with a size/shape of a clamping plate **120**).

[0109] Although the outer edge of the stacking plate **122**, at the clamping location **308**, may be flat (or curved based on a radius of curvature of the plate), it may be contoured to increase contact area with a clamping bolt. For instance, where the bolt and/or associated nut has a round top or the bolt couples with the stacking plate **122** via a round washer (as described below), the clamping location **308** may be contoured around the bolt/washer that allow the force and stress to be distributed.

[0110] In some implementations, as illustrated in FIG. 3B, the contact area may be around a perforation **314** through the clamping plate(s) **120**. In some instances, the clamping plate(s) **120** may have a countersunk region that interacts with a taper in the bolts and/or nuts.

[0111] Where the clamping force is applied to the stacking plates **122** via one or more bushings, the clamping location **308** may be contoured based on the force applied by the bushing(s) and to avoid excess stress of the plate(s) at high rotational frequencies. In some implementations, the edge of the stacking plate **122** at the clamping location **308** may extend partially or fully around the bolt, so that the bolt passes therethrough. For example, there may be a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, 1 inch, or other radius (e.g., 0.55 inches, 2 inches, etc.) contour that extends any distance (e.g., a few degrees to nearly 360 degrees) around the bolt in the stacking plate **122**. It should be noted that, depending on the implementation, edges of the stacking plates **122** may or may not contact the clamping bolts. For instance, in order to reduce external stress on the bolts (especially where stacking plates **122** may expand outward at high rotational velocities/frequencies), spacing may be left between a bolt and the edge of the stacking plate **122**, so that the stacking plate **122** does not put centrifugal force on the bolt. Similarly, where bolts may flex more than the stacking plates **122**, a space may be left radially outward of the bolt to allow it to flex without putting additional stress on the stacking plate(s) **122**. In other implementations, the stacking plates **122** may be designed to support outward flex of the bolts (e.g., to reinforce weaker bolts or benefit from stronger stacking plates **122**).

[0112] In some implementations, a stacking plate **122**, as shown in FIGS. 3A and 3B, may include one or more scallops **310** at its peripheral edge that may reduce unsupported regions of the stacking plate **122** that may be more stressed without having sufficient support at high rotational frequencies. For instance, as illustrated in the example of FIG. 3A, the stacking plate **122** may include a scalloped region **310** on both sides of each clamping region. The scalloped region **310** may be gently rounded or contoured to avoid regions of the plate that may be more prone to failure. The scalloped regions **310** may be shaped as partial circles or may have another shape, such as the shape illustrated in the example of FIG. 3A. For example, a finite element analysis may be performed to determine load on various areas of staking plate (or other flywheel **202** components) in order to determine the shape of the scalloped areas **310**, for example, based on the configuration of the clamping locations **308**.

[0113] In some implementations, between the scallops **310**, the flywheel **202** may include non-

scalloped areas **310** that may be trimmed during balancing of the flywheel **202** (e.g., as noted below) without jeopardizing the structural stability of the plates.

[0114] Using the notches, cutouts, and/or scallops **310**, can improve an overall safety factor for the flywheel **202** and/or allow it to operate at higher speeds without material failing or pulling outward; although it should be noted, that the plates may flex at high speeds/loads and the flywheel **202** may be engineered to accommodate for the change in shape, as described below.

[0115] In some implementations, the scallops **310** are designed to interact with one or more locations of an assembly fixture **502** in order to improve alignment and manufacturability, as described in further detail below (e.g., in reference to FIGS. 5A-7).

[0116] In some implementations, the technologies described herein allow a solid plate to be used even without welds, pins extending through the plates, or an axle **208** extending through the stacking plates **122**. Accordingly, safety and maximum rotational velocity may be increased while avoiding failure modes or balance issues introduced by these other methods, such as where a pin, axle **208**, or weld introduces a weakness that may cause a structural failure.

[0117] The example flywheel stacking plate **122** illustrated in FIG. 3B may be used with angled bolts, as illustrated in FIG. 2D. The stacking plates **122** may have holes at various locations, so that they are stacked in order to allow the bolts to be angled therethrough. Similarly, the scallops **310** may include contours **312** that allow more precise alignment using the assembly fixture **502**.

[0118] FIGS. 4A and 4B illustrate example flywheel axles **208**. Although other sizes and configurations are possible, FIG. 4A illustrates a top and bottom axle **208b** with ball washers, and FIG. 4B illustrates another example implementation of a top flywheel axle **208** and a bottom flywheel axle **208**. Depending on the implementation, the top and bottom axles **208b** may be identical or have variations, such as their length, whether or not they include washers or axle washers, whether they include a motor connection **406**. Some features of the axle **208** are described in reference to a single one of the top and bottom axle **208b**, but they may be present on both or the other axle **208**.

[0119] Depending on the implementation, as illustrated in FIGS. 4A and 4B, an axle **208** may include a smooth shaft **404** (e.g., a 50-70 mm diameter shaft **404**) portion that interacts horizontally with one or more bearings to keep the flywheel **202** aligned. The shaft **404** may contact one or more seals to maintain the vacuum and may be polished to avoid friction with the seals.

[0120] An axle **208** may include one or more bearing shelf(ves)/step(s) **408** that interact with bearings to provide vertical support to the flywheel **202** (e.g., to lift, lower, or hold it vertically).

[0121] In some implementations, an axle **208** may include one or more clamping shelf(ves)/step(s) **410** that interact with a clamping plate **120**. For instance, the clamping step **410** could be a wider area than the shaft **404** so that the clamping plate **120** applies pressure on the clamping step **410** to hold the axle **208**. In some implementations, the axle **208** extends beyond the clamping step **410** and clamping flywheel **202**, so that the axle **208** applies pressure to a stacking plate **122**, as noted above. The contact with a stacking plate **122** may be via a washer, such as an axle ball washer **232**. The clamping step **410** may interact with an edge or corresponding step(s) on a clamping plate **120**.

[0122] In some implementations, the clamping step **410**, an axle washer, or another part of the axle **208** may be shaped to interact with a corresponding shape or structure in a clamping plate **120**. For instance, it may include a flat side, oval shape, protrusion, or other structure that allows torque to be transferred between the axle **208** and the clamping plate **120** and/or stacking plates **122** (e.g., where a top or bottom stacking plate **122** includes a shape to match this structure). For example, as noted in further detail above, an oval or small flat side may be used to avoid stress risers in the material (e.g., of the clamping plate **120**).

[0123] In some implementations, one or both of the axles **208** may include a motor connection **406** that may be a portion or extension of the shaft **404**. The motor connection **406** may include a flat, oval, D-shaped, or other structure/shape (e.g., a key or slot) that allows torque to be transferred between the axle **208** and another structure, such as a motor-generator **110** (e.g., via a magnetic

coupling **118**, as described above. The motor connection **406** may additionally or alternatively include keys or other protrusions that improve the connection between the axle **208** and another structure (e.g., the magnetic coupling **118**, motor-generator **110**, etc.).

[0124] Although a ball washer is illustrated on both the top and bottom axle **208b** in FIG. 4A (also shown in FIG. 2C), other implementations are possible and contemplated. For example, a ball washer may be used to provide a small amount of adjustability to the axle **208** alignment when top axle **208a**, bottom axle **208b**, stacking plates **122**, and clamping plates **120** are aligned, as discussed below.

[0125] A ball washer may be flat on its bottom where it contacts a stacking plate **122** while it is rounded on a top where it contacts a corresponding curve in the axle body. Accordingly, the position of the axles **208** could be shifted slightly during assembly to allow the axles **208** to be positioned. As illustrated, in some implementations, a bolt may couple the axle washer to the axle body in order to hold it in place during assembly.

[0126] It should be noted that, in some implementations, such as is illustrated with the top axle **208a** in FIG. 4B, flat washers or no washers are used with an axle **208**, such as where an assembly fixture **502** is machined precisely enough to align the axles **208** without other adjustments. When an assembly fixture **502** shuts, it may push the axles **208** into alignment with each other.

[0127] FIGS. 5A-5N illustrate an example flywheel assembly fixture **502** or compression tool for compressing a multi-plate flywheel **202** including various views, components, constructions, and uses thereof. The flywheel assembly fixture **502** may be configured to provide improved and/or accelerated assembly of a flywheel **202**. Various flywheels **202** may be assembled in the fixture and/or using features thereof. For instance, while an example flywheel **202** or components thereof are displayed in the fixture, other features, such as those with different configurations of clamping plates **120**, stacking plates **122** (e.g., having a different outer-edge profiles, bolt holes, etc.), full axles **208**, or other features are possible and contemplated herein.

[0128] It should be noted that although the flywheel assembly fixture **502** is referred to as an “assembly” fixture, it may additionally or alternatively be used primarily for alignment of a flywheel **202**. For instance, the components (axles **208**, clamping plates **120**, stacking plates **122**, bolts, etc.) may be assembled separately and then placed into the flywheel assembly fixture **502** to align the plates and axles **208**, exert a clamping force, or perform other operations. Similarly, a “stacking” device and “clamping” device may additionally or alternatively be used for alignment, assembly, clamping, or other purposes despite their titles herein.

[0129] The flywheel assembly fixture **502** may, depending on the implementation, include structures and features that allow the flywheel **202** to be assembled, for example, by aligning axles **208**, clamping plates **120**, stacking plates **122**, and other components. In some implementations, the assembly fixture **502** may clamp the flywheel **202**, for example, by pre-stressing the clamping plates **120** (e.g., to flex them or otherwise place them in a stressed position) and/or stacking plates **122**, for example, to allow the bolts to be placed around a periphery and/or provide a defined amount of force on the plates/flywheel **202**.

[0130] Various features and structures of the assembly fixture **502** are described below and elsewhere herein. Additionally, example methods for using the assembly fixture **502** and/or assembling a flywheel **202** are described in further detail below. It should be noted that the features and components are provided as examples and that they may be combined or replaced with other features described herein.

[0131] FIG. 5A illustrates a side-perspective view, FIG. 5B illustrates a side view, and FIG. 5C illustrates a top-down view of an example flywheel assembly fixture **502**.

[0132] Depending on the implementation, the flywheel assembly fixture **502** may include a stacking device **504** and a clamping device **506**, which may couple together to partially encase a flywheel **202**. For example, the stacking device **504** may hold a bottom axle **208b**, bottom clamping plate **120b**, and allow multiple stacking plates **122** to be placed thereon. The stacking

device **504** may also vertically and/or horizontally align the components of the flywheel **202**. The clamping device **506** may be a lid **128** or top body that may be placed on the stacking device **504** thereby enclosing a flywheel **202** during assembly, as shown in the illustrated example. Pressure may be applied on or by the clamping plate **120** to pre-stress the flywheel **202**, such as the clamping plates **120** and/or stacking plates **122** to allow bolts to be inserted and/or torqued (e.g., to a defined torque).

[0133] For example, as described in further detail below, in order to apply a defined pressure to the flywheel **202**, a defined pressure may be exerted on or by the flywheel assembly fixture **502** and bolts may be inserted and torqued (e.g., to a defined torque) into the clamping plates **120**. For instance, the stacking device **504** and/or clamping device **506** may include contours or perforations above and/or below the bolts/bolt holes to allow them to be placed therein.

[0134] As illustrated in the examples, a stacking device **504** may include a base portion **512**, one or more wall portions **514**, and various other structures for holding an axle **208**, aligning plates, or performing other operations, as described in further detail below. For instance, the stacking device **504** may include a bottom axle receiver **516b**, one or more support or alignment pins that vertically support or align the clamping and/or stacking plates **122**, and other structures. The stacking device **504**, such as integrated or coupled with the wall portion **514**, may include a plate alignment mechanism **522** for horizontally and/or rotationally aligning the plates.

[0135] As discussed below, a plate alignment mechanism **522** may be placed into an open position for removing a previously assembled flywheel **202**. The plate alignment mechanism **522** may be moved into a stacking position in which it locates alignment devices at the sides for keeping the plates (e.g., the stacking plates **122**) in line, for example, by interacting with outer edges or contours of the plates during stacking. Once the plates are stacked, the plate alignment mechanism **522** may be moved into an alignment or locking position in which alignment devices push the stacking plates into a more precise alignment with each other and/or with the flywheels **202** support structure (axles **208** and/or clamping plates **120**) held by the assembly fixture **502**. These and other operations and features are also described below.

[0136] As illustrated in the example, a clamping device **506** may include an upper axle **208** receiving portion one or more alignment mechanisms for aligning the clamping device **506** with the stacking device **504**, and one or more compression structures.

[0137] For example, the clamping device **506** may hold an upper axle **208** or otherwise align it when the clamping device **506** is placed onto the stacking device **504**. For instance, as described below, the clamping device **506** may include alignment pin(s), fixture alignment member(s) **520**, or other structures that align the clamping device **506** with the stacking device **504**, which may, in turn, align the axle(s) **208** and/or the other portions of the flywheel **202**. The alignment of the clamping and stacking devices **504**, axle(s) **208**, and plates may be performed automatically due to the alignment of the alignment pins, structures, etc., or it may be performed manually, for example, by screwing or clamping the alignment structures, etc., as noted below.

[0138] In some implementations, the clamping device **506** may include pins or other structures that vertically align and/or clamp the flywheel **202**, such as the stacking plates **122** and/or the clamping plates **120**. In the examples illustrated herein, the clamping device **506** may include pins that contact the stacking plates **122** to hold them or apply pressure thereon to pre-stress them while the flywheel **202**'s bolts are inserted and/or torqued.

[0139] In some implementations, in order to put pressure on the flywheel **202**, pressure may be exerted on the clamping device **506** while it is placed onto the stacking device **504** in order to push the clamping device **506** onto the stacking device **504** and, thereby, apply force to the flywheel **202**. In some implementations, once the clamping device **506** is placed onto the stacking device **504**, pressure may be applied to the flywheel **202**, for example, by the clamping pins **524** (e.g., by exerting force on a clamping pin **524** plate **518**). The pressure may be applied using springs, pneumatics, hydraulics, screws, linear motors, or other devices.

[0140] As can be seen from the top-down view of the example assembly fixture **502** in FIG. 5C, bolt access contours **528** may be included in the clamping device **506** and/or the stacking device **504** to allow access to bolts.

[0141] In some implementations, the clamping device **506** may include alignment pins that align the clamping device **506** with the stacking device **504**. For example, as illustrated in FIG. 5C, one or more clamping plate alignment mechanisms **526** may be attached to the clamping device **506** and/or passing therethrough. In some instances, the clamping plate alignment mechanism **526** may include a pin that is attached to the clamping device **506** and into the stacking plate **122** (e.g., recesses in the wall portion **514** thereof). In some instances, the clamping plate alignment mechanism **526** may include cams or cam bolts that allow the position of the alignment pins or interaction with recesses to be adjusted.

[0142] In some implementations, alignment pins may be coupled with the stacking device **504** (e.g., in or on the wall portion(s) **514**) and extend into recesses or perforations in the clamping device **506**.

[0143] FIGS. 5D-5F illustrate various cross-sectional views of an example flywheel assembly fixture **502**. FIGS. 5D and 5E illustrate cross-sectional side views of an example flywheel assembly fixture **502** with a flywheel **202** disposed therein. FIG. 5F illustrates a cross-sectional side view with the cross section positioned at a ninety-degree angle to those shown in FIGS. 5D and 5E of the example flywheel assembly fixture **502** and flywheel **202**.

[0144] As illustrated in the examples, the stacking device **504** may include a plurality of bottom clamping pins **524b** that are coupled with the stacking device **504** and that contact a bottom stacking plate **122** in order to vertically support, position, and/or clamp it. In some implementations, a bottom clamping pin **524b** may be adjustable for positioning and/or to apply clamping force.

[0145] As illustrated in the example implementations, the top clamping pins **524a** of the clamping plate **120** may be coupled to the plate via clamping pin **524** plate **518** and may include a shaft that exits the clamping plate **120** to contact one or more of the stacking plate **122** (e.g., the topmost plate) and the clamping plate **120** (e.g., the top clamping plate **120a**). In some implementations, the top clamping pins **524a** may include springs that apply force to push the clamping pins **524** outward so that when the clamping device **506** is placed onto the stacking device **504**, force is placed on a stacking plate **122**, for instance. In some implementations, the spring force may apply a defined amount of clamping force while in other implementations, the springs or pins may bottom out and additional clamping force may be applied.

[0146] In some implementations, such as where a flywheel **202** has two separate axles **208** that do not directly contact each other, the axles **208** should be aligned in order to avoid balance problems or excess wear on bearings or seals. The stacking device **504** and the clamping device **506** may each include an axle receiver **516**, which may be a recess or other structure that interacts with the bottom and top axles **208a**. The axle receiver(s) **516a** and **516b** may be sized to match the diameter of the axle(s) **208**, so that the axle(s) **208** are precisely held. For instance, the axle receiver(s) **516** may be placed at a center of the devices and machined so that they are precisely aligned with each other. The axle receiver(s) **516** may allow the axles **208** to slide into and out of them vertically to accommodate the assembly or variability in flywheel **202** thickness (e.g., due to random thickness variations in stacking plates **122**).

[0147] In some implementations, the axle receiver(s) **516** may include a perforation or recess in the stacking and clamping devices **506**. An axle receiver **516** may include an adapter positioned in the perforation that matches the contours, size, or position of the axle **208** to make assembly easier and, potentially, more precise.

[0148] As illustrated in the example implementations, the stacking device **504** may include one or more plate alignment mechanisms **522** that horizontally align the stacking plates **122**, so that they are in alignment with the axles **208**/axle receivers **516**. As illustrated, an example stacking device

504 includes two plate alignment mechanisms **522** located opposite to one another in the horizontally opposed wall portions **514** of the stacking device **504**. For instance, a wall portion **514** may be a vertical body extending upward from the base portion **512** of the stacking device **504** and adjacent to a flywheel **202**/space for a flywheel **202** therein. The plate alignment mechanism **522** may include a structure coupled with the wall portion **514** to exert a pressure horizontally on the stacking plates **122** or other components of the flywheel **202** to push them into alignment and/or balance.

[0149] As illustrated in the cross sections of FIGS. 5D, 5E, and 5F, a plate alignment mechanism **522** may align the flywheel **202** horizontally, for example, so that the stacking plates **122** are both aligned with each other and with the axle(s) **208**. Depending on the implementation, the plate alignment mechanism **522** may include one, two, or another quantity of shafts (e.g., alignment shafts **534**, push shafts **536**, etc.) that pass through a body, such as the wall portion **514** of the stacking plate **122** to push or pull an alignment tool **532** inward (e.g., toward an axle **208**/axis of rotation) or outward (e.g., away from an axle **208**/axis of rotation). For instance, various mechanisms may be used to move the alignment tool **532**, such as a pneumatic or hydraulic pump, a screw, a rack and worm drive, or other devices that may, for example, move a push shaft **536** to push the alignment tool **532**. Some of the shaft(s) may be used to keep the alignment tool **532** parallel and some of the shaft(s) may be used to move it inward/outward.

[0150] Example configurations and uses of the plate alignment mechanism **522** are described below. Similarly, example implementations of the configuration of the alignment tool **532**, which may contact the flywheel plates, are also described below.

[0151] FIG. 5G illustrates a horizontal cross-sectional view of an example flywheel assembly fixture **502** with a bottom axle **208b** placed within an axle **208** positioning structure. As shown in the figure, an axle **208** (whether a top axle **208a** or bottom axle **208b**, depending on assembly order) may be inserted into the axle receiver **516** of the stacking device **504**. Depending on the implementation, an axle **208** may be placed first, a clamping plate **120** may be placed first or the axle **208** and clamping plate **120** may be preassembled and placed in the stacking device **504** (e.g., where the axle **208** is inserted into the axle receiver **516**). As noted above, an axle receiver **516** may include a perforation and/or adapter that holds the bottom axle **208b** in a defined position and/or orientation. In some implementations, the axle receiver **516** may include a beveled edge that allows the axle **208** to be more easily centered and inserted into the receiver.

[0152] FIG. 5G illustrates cross sections of bottom clamping pins **524b**, which may be connected or integrated with the base portion **512** and provide vertical support to one or more of a stacking plate **122** and the clamping plate **120**. The bottom clamping pin(s) **524b** may be vertically adjustable, removable, or have other configurations.

[0153] In some implementations, the bottom clamping pins **524b** may be omitted, so that a clamping plate **120** (e.g., a top or bottom clamping plate **120b**, depending on the stacking order) may be placed directly against a surface of the stacking device **504**, which may reduce the probability that this plate flexes when clamping pressure is applied by the assembly fixture **502**.

[0154] The cross section of the wall portions **514** of the stacking device **504** illustrates example structures that may hold or be used to assemble the wall portions **514**, for example, with the base portion **512**.

[0155] FIG. 5H illustrates a horizontal cross-sectional view of an example flywheel assembly fixture **502** with an axle **208** in an axle **208** positioning structure and a clamping plate **120** coupled thereto. For instance, a bottom clamping plate **120b** is coupled with a bottom axle **208b** and inserted into the axle receiver **516** of the stacking device **504**. Four bottom clamping pins **524b** are shown extending from the base portion **512** of the stacking device **504**. In some implementations, the top axle **208a** and top clamping plate **120a** may be inserted first (e.g., where the flywheel **202** is assembled upside down). In some cases, such as where a clamping plate **120** is circular (e.g., instead of star shaped), the bottom clamping pins **524b** may be hidden or omitted. Similarly, the

clamping plate alignment article **540** may be shaped differently or omitted to accommodate different clamping and/or stacking plate **122** configurations.

[0156] In some implementations, the stacking device **504** may include a clamping plate **120** rotational alignment article that keeps the stacking plate **122** in a given rotational alignment, so that it may remain aligned with the stacking plates **122**, which may be rotationally aligned using the alignment tool **532** of the plate alignment mechanism **522**. The clamping plate **120** rotational alignment article may be bolted to the base portion **512** of the stacking device **504** and may include one or multiple protrusions or posts that interact with clamping plate **120** to keep it in a given alignment. For instance, the article may include a pair of posts that straddle an arm of the clamping plate **120** to keep it at a defined angle.

[0157] In some implementations, the alignment tool **532** may include a body with contours or ridges that correspond to contours or ridges of stacking plates **122**, as noted in further detail below.

[0158] FIG. 5I illustrates a horizontal cross-sectional view of an example flywheel assembly fixture **502** with a first stacking flywheel **202** plate placed onto the axle **208** and above the clamping plate **120**. As illustrated in the figure, a stacking flywheel **202** may be placed onto/into the stacking device **504**, for example, so that it sits on top of the clamping plate **120**.

[0159] As noted elsewhere herein, the bottom stacking plate **122** may contact a bottom axle **208b** when stacked in the stacking device **504**. Alternatively, when the flywheel **202** is assembled upside down, the plates may be stacked on the top axle **208a** inserted into the stacking device **504**.

[0160] In some implementations, where the bottom clamping plate **120b** is not under stress (and therefore not bent toward the stacking plate **122**), it (e.g., the bushings of the clamping plate **120**) may not contact the bottom stacking plate **122**. In some instances, the top surface of the bottom clamping pin(s) **524b** and the top surface of the bottom axle **208b** may be positioned at the same height in the stacking device **504**, so that the bottom-most stacking plate **122** rests thereon.

[0161] In some implementations, the stacking device **504** is not configured to bend or flex the received clamping plate **120**, whether or not there is a space between the first clamping plate **120** and the first stacking plate **122** (e.g., due to an axle **208** or washer), so that the first clamping plate **120** remains substantially flat. For instance, a top clamping plate **120a** may be inserted flat and then stacking plates **122** stacked directly thereon to prevent the top clamping plate **120a** from flexing, which improves the flatness of the top clamping plate **120a** (e.g., for interaction with a bearing or magnetic lift component).

[0162] Where the stacking plates **122** have contours, clamping regions, or scallops **310** at their outer edges, as noted above, they may be aligned with corresponding bolt locations of the clamping plate **120**. For instance, FIG. 5I and FIG. 5J illustrate different implementations of the stacking plates **122** with different outer-edge contours, and each of the implementations shows clamping regions of the stacking plates **122** aligned with the bolts/clamping locations of the clamping plate(s) **120**. For example, FIG. 5I illustrates consistently sized scallops **310** at the clamping locations and on each side thereof (e.g., 8 bolts and 16 adjacent scallops **310**). FIG. 5J illustrates clamping regions of the stacking plates **122** being varied from the scallops **310**, as described in further detail above.

[0163] The plate alignment mechanism **522** may extend the alignment tool **532**, which contacts one or more edges of the stacking plates **122** to push them horizontally into alignment. The alignment tool **532** may extend partially around the circumferential edge of the stacking plate(s) **122** to push the stacking plate **122** toward the axle **208** and align it from multiple directions.

[0164] In some implementations, the alignment tool **532** may include one or more contours that match contours of the flywheel **202**. For instance, a center of the alignment tool **532** may be recessed to avoid contact with the clamping plate(s) **120** and the alignment tool **532** may include two vertical ridges that extend upward and are shaped to interact with scallops **310** on the stacking plates **122**, as illustrated. Accordingly, by aligning the scallops **310** with the ridges on the alignment tool **532**, the stacking plates **122** may be aligned horizontally and/or rotationally.

[0165] The alignment tool **532** may be positioned at various points. For instance, it may be opened or retracted entirely to allow a flywheel **202** to be more easily removed. It may be closed partially to allow the flywheel **202** to be stacked, for example, where it is extended far enough to interact with scallops **310** without exerting pressure thereon, which would make it difficult, due to friction, to stack additional stacking plates **122**. The alignment tool(s) **532** may be extended completely, to a detent, to a measurement point, or otherwise to align the plates of the flywheel **202**. For instance, each of alignment tools **532** may be incrementally, alternately extended to adjust the alignment of the plates, as described below.

[0166] FIG. **5J** illustrates a horizontal cross-sectional view of an example flywheel assembly fixture **502** with three stacking flywheel plates stacked therein and horizontal alignment components in a stacking position to hold the flywheel plates in line. As illustrated in the example, the alignment tool **532** may be extended by a pushing shaft **536** that is coupled with a screw drive or otherwise to move the alignment tool **532**, as noted below. The ridges of the alignment tool **532** may extend upward to interact with multiple stacking plates **122** and align them with each other and/or the axle **208**.

[0167] FIG. **5K** illustrates a horizontal cross-sectional view of an example horizontal alignment component applying alignment pressure to a plurality of stacking flywheel plates. As illustrated, a pushing shaft **536** may extend through a wall portion **514** of the stacking device **504** and push the alignment tool **532** outward to interact with the stacking plates **122**. For instance, the alignment tool **532** may include a contact surface, such as on ridge(s) **550**, that interacts with an edge of the stacking plates **122**, such as the scallops **310**. In some implementations, the alignment tool **532** may be retracted completely or partially into an alignment tool recess **546** in the wall portion **514**. A bolt **548** is also visible in the example.

[0168] FIG. **5L** illustrates a top-down horizontal cross-sectional view and FIG. **5M** illustrates a perspective cross-sectional view of an example flywheel assembly fixture **502** with a plurality of stacking flywheel plates, a top clamping plate **120a**, and a top axle **208a** placed therein. As illustrated, example horizontal alignment components have been adjusted horizontally to align the flywheel plates along a vertical axis. Each of FIG. **5L** and FIG. **5M** illustrate slightly different implementations, such as where the contours of the stacking plates **122** are different; although, it should be noted that many different implementations are possible and contemplated herein including but not limited to those described herein.

[0169] FIG. **5L** illustrates a cross section in which a top clamping plate **120a** and top axle **208a** are placed onto the stacking plates **122**. A cross-section of a top axle receiver **516** is also visible.

[0170] Fixture alignment members **520** are illustrated on the top of the wall portions of the stacking device **504**, which may interact with corresponding halves on the clamping device **506** in order to align the two devices. For instance, each wall portion **514** may have two fixture alignment members **520** that align the devices in the X and Y directions, respectively.

[0171] In some implementations, as noted above, the stacking device **504** and/or the clamping devices **506** may have alignment or compression pins **524**. As noted above, the pins may extend from the stacking device **504** into corresponding holes in the clamping device **506** or vice versa. In some implementations, the pins may be used for alignments and/or used to compress the stacking device **504** and the clamping device **506** together (e.g., via threads on the pins, pneumatics or hydraulics, etc.).

[0172] FIG. **5M** illustrates a horizontal cross section in which a top clamping plate **120a** and axle **208** are inserted into a top axle receiver **516** of a clamping device **506**, a cross section of which is shown. For instance, once the stacking plates **122** have been stacked, a top clamping plate **120a** (e.g., with a top axle **208a**) may be placed thereon. Additionally, before or after the clamping device **506** is placed on the stacking device **504**, one or more of the bolts may be inserted around a periphery of the flywheel **202** whether in an axial or an angled configuration. When the clamping device **506** is placed onto the stacking device **504**, the top axle **208a** may be inserted into a top axle

receiver **516** of the clamping device **506**, which may align the top axle **208a** with the bottom axle **208b** based on, for instance, the alignment of the fixture alignment member(s) **520**.

[0173] In some implementations, before or after the clamping device **506** is placed on the stacking device **504** and/or the clamping force is placed thereon, the plate alignment mechanisms **522** may be inserted (e.g., through the stacking plates **122** and/or clamping regions, as illustrated) or adjusted to align the plates.

[0174] For example, one or more pushing shafts **536** may extend from the plate alignment mechanism(s) **522** (e.g., through a wall portion **514** of the stacking device **504**). A pushing shaft **536** may be threaded, along with the wall portion **514** (e.g., an aperture therein in which the pushing shaft **536** is held) and the pushing shaft **536** may be rotated to push the alignment tool **532** inward or outward. For instance, the pushing shaft **536** may include a hex head that interacts with a wrench, drill, impact driver, or other device that twists it to move the alignment tool **532**.

[0175] In some implementations, the clamping device **506** may also include a clamping plate alignment article **540**, similar to that described in reference to the stacking device **504**, that holds a top clamping plate **120a** in a given rotational position, for example, to match that of the stacking plates **122** as held by the plate alignment mechanism **522**.

[0176] In some implementations, where a top clamping plate **120a** is stacked in the stacking device **504** first (after a top axle **208a**), stacking plates **122** are then stacked thereon, and then a bottom clamping plate **120b** (with after a bottom axle **208b**) is stacked last, the top plate may not flex and the clamping device **506** may flex only the bottom plate, as described elsewhere herein.

[0177] As described above, in some implementations, the clamping device **506** may include one or more top clamping pins **524a** (e.g., cross sections of four top clamping pins **524a** are illustrated in FIG. 5M) that apply pressure to the stacking plates **122** and/or a clamping plate **120** in order to stress them. For instance, as noted above, the top clamping pins **524a** may put pressure on the stacking plates **122** to keep them in place while bolts are inserted and/or tightened. In some instances, the axle receiver(s) **516** may also apply force to the axle(s) **208** and/or clamping plate(s) **120**. The some (e.g., those that are accessible) or all (e.g., by rotating the flywheel **202** or via a top/bottom perforation in the clamping and stacking devices **504**) of the bolts may be tightened.

[0178] In some implementations, the clamping device **506** may additionally or alternatively pre-stress or put force on the clamping plates **120** and then the bolts may be inserted and/or tightened.

[0179] The bolts may be tightened until a defined amount of deflection of the clamping plates **120** is measured, until a certain torque is measured, or until a defined pressure is applied by the clamping plates **120** on the stacking plates **122**, as noted in further detail above.

[0180] FIG. 5N illustrates a bottom-up view of an example clamping device **506**, which may serve as a flywheel assembly fixture **502** lid, and which may be placed on a stacking device **504** (e.g., a flywheel assembly fixture **502** bottom). The figure also shows a top axle **208a** disposed within an axle receiver **516** or axle **208** positioning structure of the lid. For instance, when the axle **208** clamping device **506** is placed onto the stacking device **504**, a top (or bottom) axle **208** may extend into the axle receiver **516**. When the fixture alignment members **520** are aligned with corresponding components on the stacking device **504**, the top axle **208a** is aligned with the bottom axle **208b**. The top axle receiver **516** may include a beveled edge to assist in alignment or insertion of the top axle **208a** into the receiver.

[0181] As illustrated in FIG. 5N, a clamping plate alignment article **540** may be coupled (e.g., integrated with or bolted to) a body of the clamping device **506**, such as to a bottom surface thereof. Similarly, one or more top clamping pins **524a** may extend downward from the clamping device **506**, so that they contact one or more of the stacking plate **122** and the clamping plate **120**, as discussed above. Similarly, fixture alignment members **520** and/or alignment pins may be included with the clamping device **506** to interact with corresponding structures on the stacking device **504** in order to align the two devices and, by so doing, align the top and bottom axles **208b**.

[0182] In some implementations, the top clamping pins **524a** and/or the clamping plate alignment

article **540** may be modified or omitted to adapt the clamping device **506** and assembly fixture **502** to various configurations of flywheels **202**. For instance, where no pre-stressing force is to be applied at the top of the flywheel **202** (e.g., to a top or bottom clamping plate **120b**) or by the clamping device **506**, the top clamping pins **524a** may be omitted, spring loaded, or otherwise modified.

[0183] In some implementations, one or both of the axle(s) **208** may include a ball joint or washer that allows some flexibility in assembling the flywheel **202**. For instance, the ball joint may allow variability in alignment of the clamping device **506** and the stacking device **504** to ease assembly. In such implementations, the clamping plates **120** may be more precisely aligned by contacting a portion or recess of the alignment tool **532**, based on manual measurement, based on interaction with clamping plate alignment article(s) **540**, or otherwise.

[0184] In some implementations, when the clamping device **506** is placed onto the stacking device **504**, the axle receiver(s) **516** applies force on the axle **208** and/or on the clamping plate(s) **120** (e.g., on a flat region thereof), which puts force at the center of the stacking plates. Additionally, four (or another quantity), clamping pins **524** may apply force at four points of the stacking plates **122** (e.g., the position of the top clamping pins **524a** may match that of the bottom clamping pins **524b**). In some implementations, as noted elsewhere herein, the top and/or bottom clamping pins **524b** may be spring loaded to apply some clamping force on the plates.

[0185] In some implementations, as noted below, a flywheel **202** may be balanced once assembled. In some implementations, the flywheel assembly fixture **502** may include pressure sensors, levels, or other devices that detect an imbalance in the flywheel **202**, or the flywheel **202** may be removed and separately balanced (e.g., by shaving pieces of the stacking plates **122** from between scallops **310**).

[0186] FIG. **6** is a flowchart of an example method for assembling a flywheel **202**, for example, using a flywheel assembly fixture **502**. The method includes operations that allow stacking plates **122**, such as those stacking plates **122** without perforations described elsewhere herein to be used. For example, the method allows implementations of stacking plates **122** to be aligned that may not have any other means for alignment, such as axles **208** or pins extending through them, to be aligned and held together, or it may allow stacking plates **122**, clamping plates **120**, and separate axles **208** to be aligned and assembled. It should be noted that the operations may be varied, for example, by using other operations, changing the order of operations, using various mechanisms (e.g., those described herein or others), or otherwise.

[0187] In some implementations, at **602**, the method may include opening a flywheel assembly fixture **502** (e.g., that was previously closed) and adjusting a plate alignment mechanism **522** to a stacking position, for example, from a completely open position. For instance, the clamping device **506** or lid may be removed, and the plate alignment position may be opened to remove a previously assembled flywheel **202**. Before or after the first clamping plate **120** and axle **208** are inserted, the plate alignment mechanism **522** may be moved to a middle or stacking position to keep the plates in alignment during assembly.

[0188] In some implementations, although the stacking of plates is described as being performed inside of the flywheel assembly fixture **502**, the flywheel assembly fixture **502** may be used to align the plates of an assembled flywheel **202**. For example, the stacking may be performed separately and then the assembled flywheel **202** may be placed into the flywheel assembly fixture **502**, which may be used to align it.

[0189] In some implementations, a first axle **208** (e.g., a top or a bottom axle **208b**) and first clamping plate **120** (e.g., a top or a bottom clamping plate **120b**) may be assembled, a plurality of stacking plates **122** may be set thereon (e.g., with clamping regions or scallops **310** aligned), and a second axle **208** and second clamping plate **120** may be placed on the stacked/stacking plates **122**. At any point, bolts may be inserted into the stack (e.g., at the clamping regions around the periphery of the flywheel **202**). Once the flywheel **202** is assembled, it may be lifted (e.g., by crane

or other device) and placed into the assembly fixture **502**. The first axle **208** may be horizontally aligned with the bottom axle receiver **516**. The flywheel **202** may be rotationally aligned with the alignment tool **532**/plate alignment mechanism **522** either while placing it into the stacking device **504** or afterwards. Once the flywheel **202** is placed in the assembly fixture **502** (e.g., the stacking device **504**), the clamping device **506** may be placed thereon, the plates may be aligned (e.g., using the plate alignment mechanism **522**), the bolts may be tightened, and other operations, such as those described below, may be performed to align and/or clamp the flywheel **202**.

[0190] In some implementations, at **604**, the first clamping plate **120** and the first axle **208** may be assembled, for example, by inserting the bottom axle **208b** into a perforation at the center of the clamping plate **120** (e.g., in the correct rotational orientation to match shapes, keys, or other structures, as noted above). In some implementations, where a washer, such as a ball washer, is included, it may also be inserted or assembled with the axle **208** and clamping plate **120** and may allow some flexibility during assembly, as noted elsewhere herein, so that the axle **208** can be adjusted to be perpendicular with the clamping plate **120** (e.g., when inserted into the axle receiver **516**). Although other implementations are possible and contemplated herein, the axle **208** may be friction fit with the clamping plate **120**.

[0191] In some implementations, at **606**, the first clamping plate **120** and axle **208** may be placed into the assembly fixture **502** (e.g., into the stacking device **504**) including inserting an axle **208** in the receiver and aligning the plate arm either one at a time or in an assembled form. For instance, the axle receiver **516** may position the axle **208** at the center of the stacking device **504**. In some implementations, the axle receiver **516** may have a beveled edge that aids in moving the axle **208** into the axle receiver **516**.

[0192] In some implementations, the flat region of the clamping plate **120** may rest on a top surface of the axle receiver **516** or stacking device **504**, which causes the axle **208** and clamping plate **120** to move into an aligned perpendicular arrangement (e.g., where a ball washer or other configuration allows flexibility in the alignment).

[0193] In some implementations, one or more of the arms of the clamping plate **120** may be rotationally aligned with an alignment tool **532** (e.g., a recess or channel, as noted above) and/or a clamping plate alignment article **540** to keep the clamping plate **120** in a defined rotational position. In some implementations, the clamping plate alignment article(s) **540** may have a height above a base portion **512** of the stacking device **504**, so that it contacts the first clamping plate **120** to hold it level and perpendicular to the bottom axle **208b**. In other implementations, the first clamping plate **120** may rest directly on the stacking device **504**.

[0194] In some implementations, at **608**, multiple flywheel stacking plates **122** may be stacked on top of the first clamping plate **120** and/or axle **208** in the assembly fixture **502** (e.g., in the stacking device **504**). For instance, a bottom-most stacking plate **122** may be stacked, so that it contacts the bottom axle **208b**, as noted elsewhere herein.

[0195] As each stacking plate **122** is stacked, the clamping locations, scallops **310**, or other alignment features may be aligned with each other, the clamping plate(s) **120**, and/or structures of the assembly fixture **502**. For instance, because the stacking plates **122** may be symmetrical, any of the scallop **310** pairs may be aligned with the ridges of the alignment tool **532** to keep them aligned during assembly (e.g., as illustrated in FIG. 5A), although they may be rotated to alignment at a later point. Accordingly, the clamping locations of the stacking plates **122** may be kept in alignment, so that bolts may be placed through or adjacent to them either during stacking or after clamping device **506** is placed thereon, as noted below.

[0196] In some implementations, at **610**, the second clamping plate **120** (e.g., the bottom or the top clamping plate **120a** depending on stacking order) may be assembled with the second axle **208** similar to the operation at **604**. In some implementations, this assembly may be placed onto the top-most stacking plate **122**, as noted below, while in other implementations, this assembly may be inserted into a top axle receiver **516** of a lid/clamping device **506** of the fixture, so that it is

positioned while mounting the clamping device **506**.

[0197] In some implementations, at **612**, the second clamping plate **120** and axle **208** may be placed into the assembly fixture **502** including aligning the clamping plate **120** arm, so that its clamping location matches those of the stacking plates **122** and other clamping plate **120**. This may be done with the second clamping plate **120** and axle **208** assembled or individually.

[0198] In some implementations, at **614**, a plate alignment mechanism(s) **522** may be adjusted from the stacking position to one or more alignment positions. For instance, the alignment tool **532** may be pushed toward an axis of rotation (e.g., at the center of the axle receivers **516**), which may in turn push the stacking plates **122** (and/or clamping plate **120**). For instance, the alignment tool(s) **532** may be pressed in horizontally by screwing a pushing shaft **536**, which centrally loads the stacking plates **122** in order to align them, for instance, with the top and bottom clamping plates **120b** and connected axles **208** as held by the axle receivers **516**.

[0199] Depending on the implementation, the plate alignment mechanisms **522** may alternately be moved to push the plates (e.g., by applying force from the alignment tool **532** on the scallops **310**). The alignment or position of the plates may be measured, for example, by checking the position of the alignment tools **532**, the stacking plates **122** against measurement points on the flywheel assembly fixture **502**, or otherwise. For instance, a measurement tool, such as a ruler, calipers, measuring tape, or laser measuring device may be used to check the position of the stacking plates **122** against a defined center/axis, as noted above.

[0200] Additionally, or alternatively, by moving horizontally opposed alignment tools **532** toward the axis (as illustrated in the examples of FIG. 5A-5M), a clamping force may be applied to the stacking plates **122** to push them into alignment with each other, so that the edges match. Similarly, in implementations where the alignment tool **532** pushes into with the scallops **310**, the clamping force may cause the plates to rotate into alignment (e.g., by exerting force on the scallops **310**, as illustrated in the example of FIG. 5M), which causes the stacking plates **122** to be both horizontally and rotationally aligned.

[0201] It should be noted that although the alignment of the plates (e.g., at **614**) is described as being performed prior to placing the clamping device **506** onto the stacking device **504** (and/or pressure applied thereto), these operations may be performed in different orders. For instance, the clamping device **506** may be stacked first, the plates may be aligned, and then clamping force may be applied.

[0202] In some implementations, at **616**, the clamping plate(s) **120** may be measured and aligned, for example, with the stacking plates **122**. In some instances, a clamping plate **120** is measured and aligned so that its axle **208** aligns with the axle receiver **516** on the clamping device **506** when it is placed on the stacking device **504**. For example, measurements may be performed, as noted above. In some implementations, an axle receiver **516** on a clamping device **506** may have a beveled edge so that if the top axle **208a** is nearly aligned, the bevel may push it into a more precise alignment, so that it fits in a relatively tight axle receiver **516**.

[0203] In some implementations, at **618**, the clamping device **506** may be aligned and placed on the stacking device **504** of the flywheel assembly fixture **502**. For example, the axle receiver **516** may be aligned with a top axle **208a**, alignment or clamping pins **524** may be aligned, and/or fixture alignment members **520** may be aligned. For example, a top axle **208a** may be aligned first with the axle receiver **516** of the clamping receiver, which may cause it to shift slightly as fixture alignment members **520** are aligned.

[0204] As noted above, a fixture alignment member **520** may include a rectangular protrusion that inserts into a rectangular slot, although square, circular, or other shapes are possible. As illustrated in the example of FIG. 5M, a clamping device **506** may include two rectangular protrusions on each wall portion **514**, where the two rectangular protrusions are oriented at right angles to one another. The top of the wall portions **514** of the stacking device **504** may include corresponding rectangular slots. Accordingly, the clamping device **506** may be aligned in both the X and Y

directions and precisely with the stacking device **504**.

[0205] In some implementations, at **620**, a defined amount of clamping force may be applied on or by the assembly fixture **502**. For example, when the clamping device **506** is placed, the top clamping pins **524a** may exert pressure on the stacking plates **122** and/or clamping plates **120**. For example, a clamping force may be applied to press the clamping device **506** to the stacking device **504**, which may apply force to the top axle **208a** and/or top clamping pins **524a**. The clamping may be based on a pneumatics, hydraulics, a screw drive, etc. For example, the clamping force may be applied using a hydraulic pump that presses the devices together. The mechanism applying the clamping force may have a sensor and limiter that causes the pressure to raise to a certain PSI. For instance, 5,000, 10,000, 20,000, 60,000 tons, or other pressure amounts may be applied to compress the stacking plates **122**.

[0206] In some implementations, the top clamping pins **524a** may be spring loaded, so that as the springs compress, pressure will be added. The springs may compress until they bottom out and pressure is increased.

[0207] In some implementations, clamping force may be applied to bend the clamping plates **120** toward one another by the assembly fixture **502** or by the bolts. For instance, the clamping force may cause one or both clamping plates **120** (e.g., a second clamping plate **120**) to bend inward until the clamping plate **120** or bushings (or otherwise) on the ends of the arms contact and apply force on the stacking plates **122**, which bending, by the clamping arms, puts pressure on the axle **208** to clamp the two axles **208** together. Accordingly, even in implementations where the stacking plates **122** do not have perforations at a center for the axle **208**, a clamping force may be applied.

[0208] In addition to the sideways alignment/clamping of the plate alignment mechanism **522**, the vertical (e.g., axial) clamping force may square the alignment of the flywheel **202** to ensure that it is aligned and balanced in multiple directions.

[0209] In some implementations, at **622**, bolts may be inserted and/or torqued. For example, as illustrated in example figures, bolts may be inserted at perforations or other clamping locations of clamping plate **120** arms and stacking plates **122**. Where contours of the peripheral edges of the stacking plates **122** extend partially (or completely) around the bolts, the bolts may be inserted through the contours or perforations. Washers, such as Belleville washers, may be used with the bolts and/or their nuts.

[0210] While the examples of FIGS. 5A-5N illustrate bolts being inserted parallel with an axis of rotation of the flywheel **202**, it should be noted that the bolts may additionally or alternatively be inserted at angles, as illustrated in the example of FIG. 2D.

[0211] For example, as illustrated in FIG. 5A, a subset (e.g., six of the eight) bolts may be exposed and inserted. A technician may torque the bolts in an alternating or star pattern to help distribute the force. Where not all of the bolts are accessible, the flywheel **202** may be rotated in the fixture or removed from the fixture to allow the remaining bolts to be inserted.

[0212] The bolts may be tightened to a defined specification based on the size and flexibility of the clamping plates **120** and other parameters. For example, each bolt may be tightened to provide a defined torque or based on an applied force before the bolts are torqued (e.g., to apply a force of 2600 pounds per bolt), which may cumulatively provide a relatively even clamping and friction force across the stacking plates **122** (e.g., 16,000-21,000 pounds of clamping force)

[0213] It should be noted that while clamping force increases friction between the plates, excessive clamping force may cause the axle **208** to lose clamping pressure instead of increasing it. For instance, where bushings are located radially inward from the bolts (e.g., instead of to the sides of a bolt), excessive tightening of the bolts may cause the axle **208** to lift off the clamping plates **120**. Where this occurs, the bolts may be loosened until pressure at the axle **208** is restored.

[0214] Once the bolts have been tightened to specifications, they may be locked in place using adhesive, welds, or other means for locking the bolts in place.

[0215] At **624**, pressure on the flywheel assembly fixture **502** may be released and the fixture may

be opened. For instance, a clamping device **506** may be released and removed. The plate alignment mechanism(s) **522** may be moved to an open or fully retracted position. The flywheel **202** may be lifted from stacking device **504** and, in some instances, installed in a flywheel enclosure **104**, as described elsewhere herein.

[0216] Where some bolts have not been inserted while in the fixture, they may be inserted and torqued while the flywheel **202** is outside of the fixture or the fixture is open.

[0217] Beneficially, once a flywheel **202** is assembled with sufficient clamping force but without exceeding the flex or strength of the materials, it may have little to no maintenance and suffer little to no degradation.

[0218] In some implementations, the flywheel **202** may be further balanced after removing it from the fixture. For instance, it may be spun to identify vibrations or imbalances due to imperfections in the plates or alignment. Material may be trimmed from the stacking plates **122** between the scallops **310** in order to balance the flywheel **202** better, or plugs may be inserted into holes on the clamping plate(s) **120**, for instance.

[0219] FIG. 7 is a block diagram illustrating a method of building a flywheel assembly **102**, such as placing a flywheel **202** into a flywheel enclosure **104** and moving the flywheel **202** from a storage or shipping position to an active position. It should be noted that the operations provided are illustrative examples and that variations are possible and contemplated herein, such as where the order of operations is changed, various operations are omitted or added, or otherwise.

[0220] In some implementations, at **702**, a flywheel **202** may be assembled, aligned, and/or balanced, for example, as described in reference to FIG. 6.

[0221] In some implementations, at **704**, a bottom bearing assembly and/or flywheel **202** may be set at a storage or shipping position, for example, using a vertical adjustment bolt or nut. For example, an axle **208** support may be completely twisted downward, so that it (e.g., via a bearing) does not vertically support the flywheel **202**. As described above, where the flywheel **202** is in a shipping position, it may rest on a shipping ring or similar structure to avoid damaging the bearings during shipping. In some implementations, other clamps, packing materials, bolts, or devices may be used to further secure the flywheel **202** from shifting during shipping.

[0222] In other implementations, the top and/or bottom bearings may be completely removed or otherwise disengaged to prevent damage to the bearings during transport of the MESU **102** or flywheel assembly **102**. In such instances, as noted below at **714**, the flywheel **202** may be adjusted and/or the bearings reengaged or re-inserted.

[0223] In some implementations, at **706**, the flywheel **202** may be placed in the enclosure tub **126** with a bottom axle **208b** inserted into the bottom bearing assembly. For instance, the bottom bearing assembly may hold the axle **208** horizontally. Where a bottom axle **208b** holder has been moved to a shipping position, a flat bottom area of the bottom clamping plate **120b** may rest on a shipping ring or disposable shipping support. In some implementations, the bottom of the clamping ring and the shipping ring (e.g., with ridges, protrusions, channels, etc.) may prevent the flywheel **202** from shifting on the shipping ring or shipping support during transport.

[0224] In some implementations, at **708**, the enclosure **104** lid may be attached and sealed to the enclosure tub **126**. The enclosure **104** lid may include O-rings or other seals (e.g., caulk, welds, etc.) may be used to seal it. The enclosure **104** lid may be bolted to a top ring of the enclosure tub **126**. The top axle **208a** of the flywheel **202** may be inserted into a top bearing assembly when the enclosure **104** lid is lowered onto the enclosure tub **126**.

[0225] In some implementations, various components may be pre-assembled onto the enclosure **104** lid, such as the motor-bearing, controller, or components described or illustrated herein. In some implementations, after the enclosure **104** lid is assembled onto the enclosure **104**, the other components of the flywheel assembly **102** may be assembled.

[0226] In some implementations, at **710**, the MESU **102**/flywheel assembly **102** may be transported to an installation location and installed. For instance, the legs thereof may be bolted to a concrete

base or other structure. In some implementations, the flywheel assembly **102** may be placed into an enclosure **104** or case that is decorative or protects it from the elements. The flywheel assembly **102** may be placed fully or partially underground, above ground in a water-resistant enclosure **104** or otherwise. In some instances, where additional cooling is needed, the enclosure **104** may include vents, fans, or a radiator.

[0227] The flywheel assembly **102** may be installed at a residence in a utility room or adjacent to a service panel, or the flywheel assembly **102** may be installed with other flywheels **202**.

[0228] In some implementations, at **712**, a position of the flywheel **202** may be adjusted into an active position using a vertical adjustment bolt, clamp, axle **208** holder, external lift, or other device. For instance, an axle **208** holder may be twisted upward to engage a lower bearing with the flywheel **202** and lift it from a shipping ring.

[0229] In some implementations, the flywheel **202** may be raised, using an axle **208** holder, lift, or other device (whether from the top or bottom), until the flywheel **202** contacts a top structure, such as the magnetic lift member (e.g., magnets located at the top of the enclosure **104** to pull the flywheel **202** against a top bearing or limit the force on a bottom bearing), an enclosure **104** lid, or another structure, or the flywheel **202** may be raised until another condition is satisfied, such as a measured rotation of the nut bearing holder, a measured height or offset from a structure, etc. For example, the flywheel **202** may be raised until a top clamping plate **120a** contacts the magnetic lift member or a top bearing. The flywheel **202** may be lowered slightly to avoid contact with a top structure or magnetic lift member.

[0230] Once the vertical position of the flywheel **202** has been set, a retaining cap and/or hex lock may be placed on the nut bearing holder to lock the flywheel **202**'s vertical position. Similarly, the retaining cap may be sealed using integrated O-rings or other seals.

[0231] Other openings in the enclosure **104** may also be closed or sealed, a vacuum valve may be opened, and other preparations may be performed.

[0232] In some implementations, at **714**, where the top and/or bottom bearings were removed or otherwise disengaged during shipping, a technician may reinsert or reengage the bearings. For instance, a shipping holder may be removed and/or a bottom bearing may be inserted into a channel or cylinder at the bottom of the flywheel enclosure **104** to bridge the gap between the cylinder and the bottom axle **208b**. In some implementations, similar actions may be performed to install one or more top axles **208a** bearings.

[0233] In some implementations, at **716**, the MESU **102**/flywheel assembly **102** may be connected to an external electrical network. For example, the motor-generator **110**, control unit, or other components may be coupled with an external energy source, load, or power grid. An inverter may be coupled with an external circuit breaker, and a controller may be connected to a communications network. Accordingly, for example, energy received from a grid or renewable energy source (e.g., solar panels) may be received, converted into A/C (e.g., based on a motor-generator type), and used to spin up the flywheel **202**. Similarly, when electrical power is requested, the motor-generator **110** may receive energy from the flywheel **202** to provide the power.

[0234] In some implementations, at **718**, a vacuum may be engaged for the enclosure **104** to reduce internal air pressure in the enclosure **104**, which may reduce energy losses due to air resistance.

The vacuum may be permanent or maintained by an attached vacuum. The vacuum may be set to run at defined intervals or pressures (e.g., based on a pressure sensor). The vacuum may receive its power from the flywheel **202**, supercapacitor **106**, chemical battery, and/or external grid.

[0235] In some implementations, at **720**, the flywheel **202** may be spun up or down based on received power, requested power, or a data signal. For instance, when excess power is fed into the motor-generator **110**, the motor-generator **110** spins the flywheel **202** more quickly. Similarly, when power is requested, the motor-generator **110** may generate current from on the rotation of the flywheel **202**. The flow of energy may be controlled by a controller, which may be controlled based on received signals (e.g., from a server or connected computer).

[0236] The flywheel **202** controller may measure various parameters of the flywheel **202**, such as its rotational frequency, using sensors in the bearings or otherwise coupled with the flywheel assembly **102**. The controller may instruct an inverter to receive or input power that keeps the flywheel **202** within certain RPMs. For instance, the controller may measure the RPM and keep the flywheel **202** from spinning too quickly beyond safe limits, which may be set based on flywheel **202** size, material strengths, desired energy storage capacity, regulations, etc. For example, the limits may keep the flywheel **202** at less than 15,000 or 25,000 RPMs, although other implementations are possible.

[0237] In the foregoing description, for purposes of explanation, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the technology. It will be apparent, however, that the technology described herein can be practiced without these specific details.

[0238] Reference in the specification to “one implementation”, “an implementation”, “some implementations”, or “other implementations” means that a particular feature, structure, or characteristic described in connection with the implementation is included in at least one implementation of the disclosure. The appearances of the term “implementation” or “implementations” in various places in the specification are not necessarily all referring to the same implementation.

[0239] In addition, it should be understood and appreciated that variations, combinations, and equivalents of the specific implementations, implementations, and examples may exist, are contemplated, and are encompassed hereby. The invention should therefore not be limited by the above-described implementations, implementations, and examples, but by all implementations, implementations, and examples, and other equivalents within the scope and spirit of the invention as claimed.

Claims

1. A method of assembling a multi-part flywheel comprising: placing a flywheel into an assembly fixture, the flywheel including one or more axles and a plurality of flywheel plates, the plurality of flywheel plates being stacked in an axial direction; aligning the plurality of flywheel plates with a rotational axis of the one or more axles including: adjusting a plate alignment mechanism coupled with the assembly fixture to exert pressure on at least one of the plurality of flywheel plates in a radial direction, the radial direction being perpendicular to the axial direction.
