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(54) Title: A TOOL FOR A SURFACE CLEANING APPARATUS

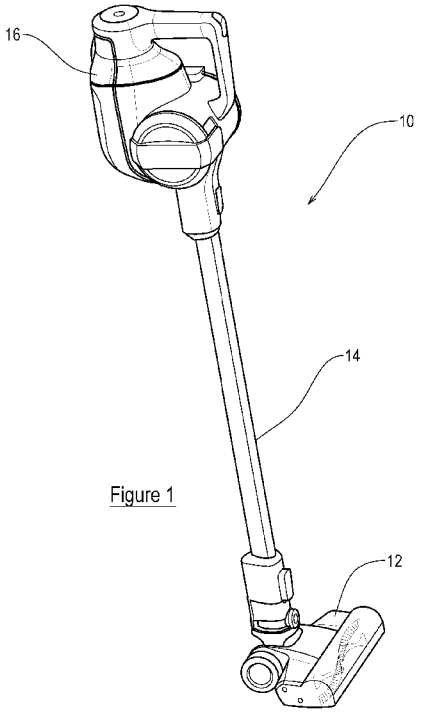

Figure 1

(57) Abstract: A tool (11) for a surface cleaning apparatus (10), is described, including: a floor head (12), a connecting member (200) for connecting the tool (11) to a surface cleaning apparatus (10); and a passage (203) for carrying dirt-laden air from the floor head (12) to the apparatus (10), wherein the floor head (12) and connecting member (200) are pivotally connected to each other about an axis A, wherein the connecting member (200) includes an articulated joint having first (201) and second parts (202) which are pivotable relative to each other about an axis B, wherein axis B extends transversely to axis A, where the tool 11 includes an electrical cable passage through which electrical cables (204, 205) may extend to provide an electric connection between the apparatus (10) and an electrical component in the floor head (12).

[Continued on next page]

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Title: A tool for a surface cleaning apparatus

Technical Field

The present invention relates to a tool for a surface cleaning apparatus and in particular, but not exclusively, to a surface cleaning apparatus including such a tool.

Background Art

Tools for surface cleaning apparatus often require electrical power for an electrical component in the floor head of the tool, e.g. a motor. Routing the wires around moving or articulating components of the tool can be difficult and in use often leads to pinching or breaking of wires. This can result in the tool not working properly or being a safety concern.

Summary

According to a first aspect, disclosed is a tool for a surface cleaning apparatus, including:

a floor head;

a connecting member for connecting the tool to a surface cleaning apparatus; and

a passage for carrying dirt-laden air from the floor head to the apparatus,

wherein the floor head and connecting member are pivotally connected to each other about an axis A,

wherein the connecting member includes an articulated joint having first and second parts which are pivotable relative to each other about an axis B, wherein axis B extends transversely to axis A,

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where the tool includes an electrical cable passage through which electrical cables may extend to provide an electric connection between the apparatus and an electrical component in the floor head,

wherein a first part of the electrical cable passage is provided in or by the first part of the articulated joint, and wherein the first part of the electrical cable passage terminates at an opening which is positioned above the axis B and which opening extends upwardly away from the floor head, said opening communicating with a second part of the electrical cable passage which is provided in or by the second part of the articulated joint, wherein the opening and a portion of the first part of the electrical cable passage adjacent the opening are positioned in or substantially in the same plane.

According to a second aspect, disclosed is a tool for a surface cleaning apparatus, including:

a floor head;

a connecting member for connecting the tool to a surface cleaning apparatus; and

a corrugated tube for carrying dirt-laden air from the floor head to the apparatus,

wherein the floor head and connecting member are pivotally connected to each other about an axis A,

wherein the connecting member includes an articulated joint having first and second parts which are pivotable relative to each other about an axis B, wherein axis B extends transversely to axis A,

where the tool includes an electrical cable passage through which electrical cables may extend to provide an electric connection between the apparatus and an electrical component in the floor head,

wherein a first part of the electrical cable passage is provided in or by the first part of the articulated joint, wherein the first part of the electrical cable passage includes a portion which extends towards the floor head and to a

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lateral side of said tube, said portion being defined at least partially by a cover member which is positioned laterally to said tube.

According to a third aspect, disclosed is a tool for a surface cleaning apparatus, including:

a floor head;

a connecting member for connecting the tool to a surface cleaning apparatus; and

a passage for carrying dirt-laden air from the floor head to the apparatus,

wherein the floor head and connecting member are pivotally connected to each other about an axis A,

wherein the connecting member includes an articulated joint having first and second parts which are pivotable relative to each other about an axis B, wherein axis B extends transversely to axis A,

where the tool includes an electrical cable passage through which electrical cables may extend to provide an electric connection between the apparatus and an electrical component in the floor head,

wherein a first part of the electrical cable passage is provided in or by the first part of the articulated joint, and wherein a portion of the first part extends away from the floor head and around one side of the axis B.

According to a fourth aspect, disclosed is a surface cleaning apparatus including a tool according to the first, second or third aspects.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Embodiments of the disclosure will be set out below by way of example only with reference to the accompanying figures, of which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a surface cleaning apparatus;

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Figure 2 is a front view of the apparatus of figure 1;

Figure 3 is a side view of the apparatus figure 1;

Figure 4 is an opposite side view of the apparatus figure 1;

Figure 5 is a perspective view of a housing of the apparatus of figure 1, which housing is operable as a handheld surface cleaning apparatus;

Figure 6 is a side view of the housing of figure 5;

Figure 7 is an opposite side view of the housing of figure 5;

Figure 8 is a perspective view of a tool of the apparatus;

Figure 9 is a front view of the tool of figure 8;

Figure 10 is a rear view of components parts of the tool of figure 8;

Figure 11 is a rear view of components parts of the tool in a first configuration;

Figure 12 is a rear view of components parts of the tool in a second configuration;

Figure 13 is a perspective view of component parts of the tool;

Figure 14 is an exploded perspective view of the components shown in figure 13;

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Figure 15 is a rear perspective view of the tool; and

Figure 16 is a magnified view of part of figure 15.

Detailed Description

Referring to the figures, these show a surface cleaning apparatus 10 in accordance with the present disclosure. The apparatus 10 includes a tool 11 with a floor head 12, a housing 16 and an elongate member 14 connecting the floor head 12 to the housing 16. The housing 16 in this example is operable as a handheld surface cleaning apparatus, commonly known as a hand vac, when the elongate member 14 and floor head 12 are not connected thereto. The housing 16 supports a suction source, a dirt container 18 and a cyclonic separator. In this example the suction source is an electric motor driving a rotatable fan, but any appropriate suction source may be used. All that is necessary is for the suction source to be able to draw air through the floor head 12 and elongate member 14 towards the dirt collection container.

In this example the housing 16 supports or contains a battery to provide electrical power to the suction motor and other components of the apparatus 10. In alternative embodiments, the apparatus 10 may be mains powered.

Whilst in the present embodiment the apparatus 10 includes a cyclonic separator to separate dirt from the air flowing through the apparatus 10, this is not essential. Indeed, embodiments are envisaged where the apparatus 10 includes a filter bag which collects dirt, or any other appropriate device to separate the dirt from the air. The apparatus 10 includes a pivotally moveable door 18a which enables a user to empty dirt collected within the container 18.

The elongate member 14 includes a passage for carrying dirt-laden air from the floor head 12 to the dirt collection container 18. In this example the floor

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head 12 includes a motor for driving a rotatable floor agitating member or brush, so the elongate member 14 includes a further passage through which electrical cables may extend to provide an electric connection between the housing 16 and the motor in the floor head.

The floor head 12 is disconnectable from the elongate member 14, so that, for example, another tool can be connected to the free end of the elongate member 14. The elongate member 14 is also disconnectable from the housing 16, by way of a manually operated switch 17. This enables the housing 16 to be used as handheld surface cleaning apparatus, with the option of being able to connect another tool to the location from where the elongate member 16 is removed.

The housing 16 includes a handle for holding the apparatus 10, said handle including first 20 and second 21 user-graspable portions which are connected to each other substantially at right-angles. A first end of the first user-graspable portion 20 is connected to the housing 16 and extends generally rearwardly away therefrom and from the elongate member 14. A first end of the second user-graspable portion 21 is connected to the housing 16 and extends generally upwardly therefrom. Respective second ends of the first 20 and second 21 user-graspable portions are connected to each other. Essentially, the first 20 and second 21 user-graspable portions form a handle which is L-shaped and which provides two locations each of which is sized such that it can be grasped fully by a hand of a user. A device 22, e.g. a switch, for turning the apparatus “on” is positioned at the connection of the second ends of the first 20 and second 21 user-graspable portions to each other.

Figures 8 to 16 focus on features of the tool 11, its floor head 12 and its connection to the elongate member 14. The tool 11 includes a connecting

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member, indicated generally at 200, for connecting the tool 11 to the elongate member. The connecting member 200 includes an articulated joint having first 201 and second 202 parts which are pivotable relative to each other about an axis B. The floor head 12 and the second part 202 of the connecting member are pivotally connected to each other about an axis A which extends transversely to axis A. The floor head 12 also includes a pair of rearwardly mounted wheels 150.

The tool 11 also includes a passage 203 for carrying dirt-laden air from the floor head 12 to the housing 16, in the form of a corrugated tube. The tool 11 also includes an electrical cable passage through which electrical cables 204, 205 extend to provide an electric connection between the housing 16 (e.g. a battery housed therein) and an electrical component in the floor head 12. In this example, the floor head 12 includes a floor surface agitator member 13 rotatable by an electric motor (not shown). Thus, electrical power is provided to the motor in the floor head 12 by way of the wires 204, 205. The electrical cable passage in this example is positioned rearwardly of the passage 203, but embodiments are envisaged where it is positioned forwardly of the passage 203.

Figures 13 and 14 show the various component parts which make up connecting member 200. In more detail, the first part 201 is generally n-shaped when viewed from the rear or front of the tool 11. It has downwardly extending leg portions 223, 224 which are spaced from each other to permit the passage 203 to pass therebetween. Each portion 223, 224 is provided with a generally cylindrical projection 225, 226 which are received in corresponding openings in the floor head 12. The projections 225, 226 facilitate the pivoting of the floor head 12 relative to the connecting member about the axis A. An opposite end 220 of the first part 201 is provided with formations 221, 222

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which are again spaced from each other and which provide one half of the articulation between the first 201 and second 202 parts.

The second part 202 is generally cylindrical with an opening to receive the passage 203. An end of the second part 202 which faces the first part 201 is provided with formations 211, 212 which are spaced from each other and which provide the other half of the articulation between the first 201 and second 202 parts. The formation 212 is connected to the formation 222 by a fastener. The formation 211 is connected to the formation 221 by a connector 213, which provides a snap-fit. Additionally, the connecting member includes a part 215 which is shaped to provide a releasable connection to the elongate member 14. Essentially, the part 215 is a sub-part of the second part 202 of the connecting member 200.

The electrical cable passage has a first part 250 which is provided in the first part 201 of the articulated joint, and a second part 270 which is provided in the second part 202 of the articulated joint. The first part 250 of the electrical cable passage terminates at an opening 260 which is positioned above, in some forms directly vertically above, the axis B. The opening 260 extends upwardly away from the axis B and the floor head 11 and communicates with the second part 270 of the electrical cable passage. In the figures, the wires 204, 205 can be seen extending through the opening 260. The opening 260, as can be seen from figure 16, is generally square in cross-section, but flares outwardly as it extends away from the axis B. Thus, an upper portion of the opening 260 has a greater cross-sectional area than a lowermost portion of the opening 260. This ensures that there is a greater freedom of movement of the wires 204, 205 the further the wires 204, 205 are away from the axis B.

Advantageously, a portion of the first part 250 (which portion is adjacent the opening 260) and the opening 260 are positioned in or substantially in the

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same plane. This means that the electrical wires 204, 205 do not need to change direction (i.e. be bent) as they pass from the first part 250 and into (and out from) the opening 260. This reduces the likelihood of the wires breaking during use, as the parts 201, 202 are pivoted relative to each other.

Additionally, it can be seen that the first part 250 is shaped so that a portion 250a of it extends around one side of the axis B, e.g. laterally to one side of the axis B. The portion 250a of the first part 250 of the passage therefore extends to one side and above the axis B. More particularly, it can be seen that the portion 250a of the first part 250 of the electrical cable passage extends in an arcuate or substantially arcuate path around the axis B. A lowermost portion of the first portion 250a of the passage terminates at an opening 251 which is positioned laterally to one side of the axis B. The opening 251 also flares outwardly as it extends downwardly away from the axis B, thus giving the wires 204, 205 more room to move.

As can be seen from the figures, the electrical wires 204, 205 extend downwardly through the first portion 250a of the first part 250 until they pass through the opening 251. At this point, the wires 204, 205 pass downwardly into a second portion 250b of the first part 250. The second portion 250b extends towards the floor head 12 and to a lateral side of said passage 203 where it is enclosed by a cover member 230, a wall 232 of which is positioned laterally to the passage 203 and engages a lip 202a provided on an inwardly facing surface of the leg portion 223. The cover 230, which also has a wall 231 for mating with the formation 222, is positioned in between the passage 203 and a portion the floor head 12. The cover 230 therefore defines part of the second portion 250b of the passage and it can be seen that the wall shaped to correspond substantially to the adjacent passage 203. The shaping of the wall, i.e. that it is curved, increases as much as possible the volume of the second portion 250b of the passage, so as to maximise space for the wires

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204, 205. Advantageously, the cover 230 is removable to gain access to the wires 204, 205. As can be seen from the figures, the second portion 250b of the passage terminates at an opening 233 which extends through the projection 225, with the opening being coaxial with the axis A. The wires 204, 205 therefore pass through this opening 233 and into the floor head 12 to the motor.

When used in this specification and claims, the terms "comprises" and "comprising" and variations thereof mean that the specified features, steps or integers are included. The terms are not to be interpreted to exclude the presence of other features, steps or components.

The features disclosed in the foregoing description, or the following claims, or the accompanying drawings, expressed in their specific forms or in terms of a means for performing the disclosed function, or a method or process for attaining the disclosed result, as appropriate, may, separately, or in any combination of such features, be utilised for realising the invention in diverse forms thereof.

It is to be understood that, if any prior art is referred to herein, such reference does not constitute an admission that the prior art forms a part of the common general knowledge in the art, in Australia or any other country.

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CLAIMS

1. A tool for a surface cleaning apparatus, including:

a floor head;

a connecting member for connecting the tool to a surface cleaning apparatus; and

a corrugated tube for carrying dirt-laden air from the floor head to the apparatus,

wherein the floor head and connecting member are pivotally connected to each other about an axis A,

wherein the connecting member includes an articulated joint having first and second parts which are pivotable relative to each other about an axis B, wherein axis B extends transversely to axis A,

where the tool includes an electrical cable passage through which electrical cables may extend to provide an electric connection between the apparatus and an electrical component in the floor head,

wherein a first part of the electrical cable passage is provided in or by the first part of the articulated joint, wherein the first part of the electrical cable passage includes a portion which extends towards the floor head and to a lateral side of said tube, said portion being defined at least partially by a cover member which is positioned laterally to said tube.

2. A tool according to claim 1 wherein the cover member is positioned in between said tube and a portion the floor head.

3. A tool according to either claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the cover member includes a wall shaped to correspond substantially to the adjacent tube.

4. A tool according to claim 3 wherein the wall is curved.

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5. A tool according to any one of claims 2 to 4 wherein the cover member is removable.

6. A tool for a surface cleaning apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the portion of the first part extends away from the floor head and around one side of the axis B.

7. A tool according to claim 6 wherein said portion of the first part of the electrical cable passage is positioned rearwardly of the tube.

8. A tool according to either claim 6 or claim 7 wherein said portion of the first portion of the electrical cable passage is positioned forwardly of the tube.

9. A tool according to any one of claims 6 to 8 wherein said portion of the first part of the electrical cable passage extends to one side and above the axis B.

10. A tool according to any one of claims 6 to 9 wherein said portion of the first part of the electrical cable passage extends in an arcuate or substantially arcuate path around the axis B.

11. A tool according to any one of claims 6 to 10 wherein the first part of the electrical cable passage terminates at an opening which extends upwardly away from the floor head, said opening communicating with a second part of the electrical cable passage which is provided in or by the second part of the connecting member.

12. A tool according to claim 11 wherein the opening is positioned above the axis B.

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13. A tool according to either claim 11 or 12 wherein the opening and said portion of the first part of the electrical cable passage which extends to one side of the axis B are positioned in, or substantially in, the same plane.

14. A tool according to any preceding claim wherein the second part of the connecting member is connectable directly or indirectly to the apparatus.

15. A tool according to any preceding claim wherein the first part is generally n-shaped when viewed from the rear of the tool.

16. A tool according to any preceding claim wherein the floor head includes a floor surface agitator member rotatable by an electric motor, and wherein the floor head includes electrical cables passing through the electric cable passage to provide electrical power to the motor.

17. A surface cleaning apparatus including a floor head according to any preceding claim.

18. A surface cleaning apparatus according to claim 17 wherein the apparatus includes a cyclonic separation device for separating dirt from the airflow passing through the apparatus.

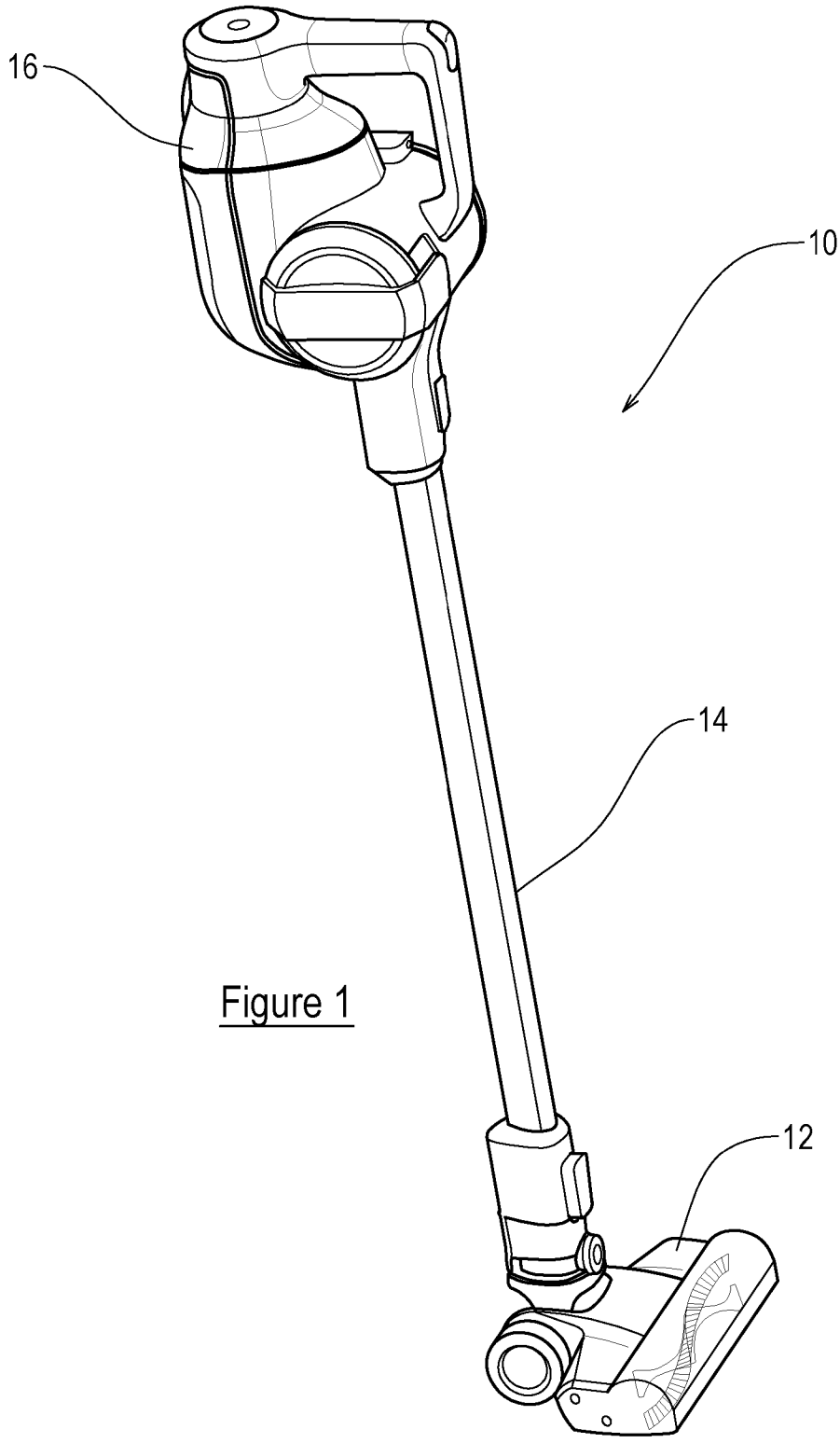
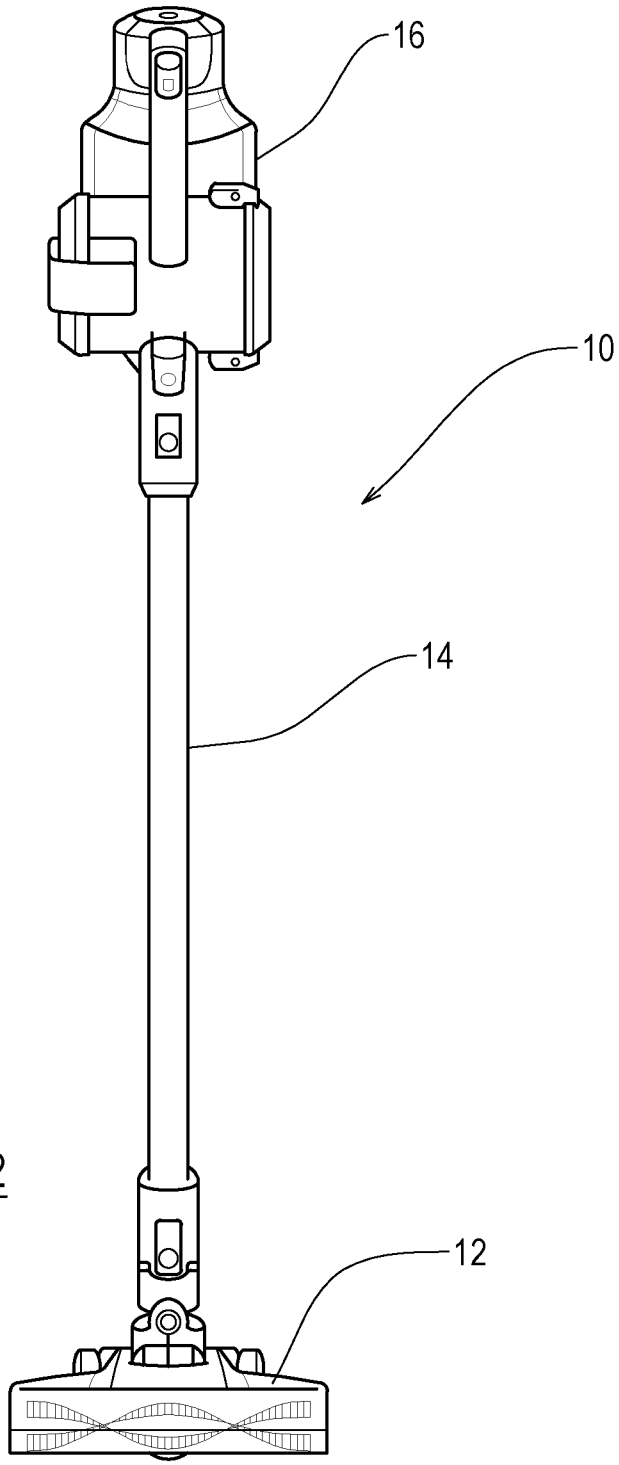


Figure 1



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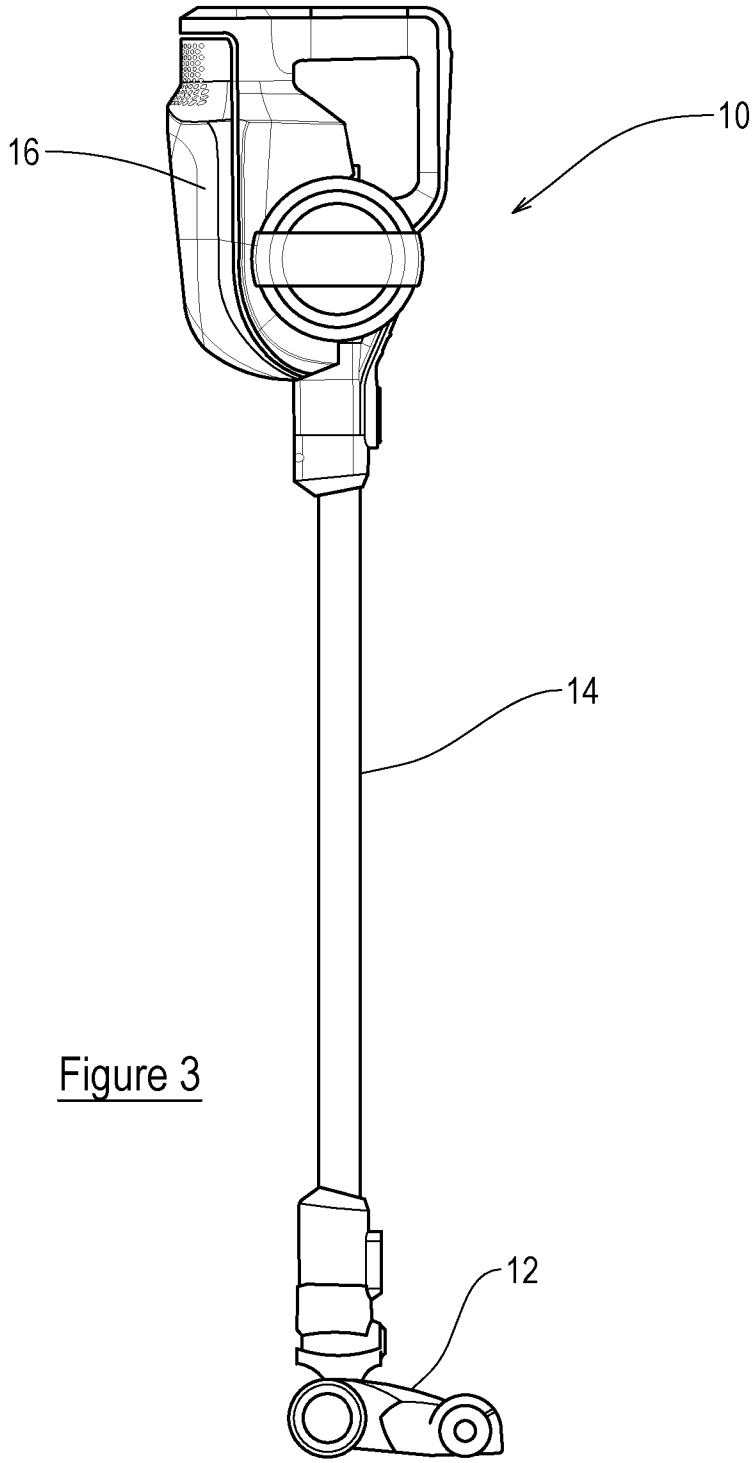

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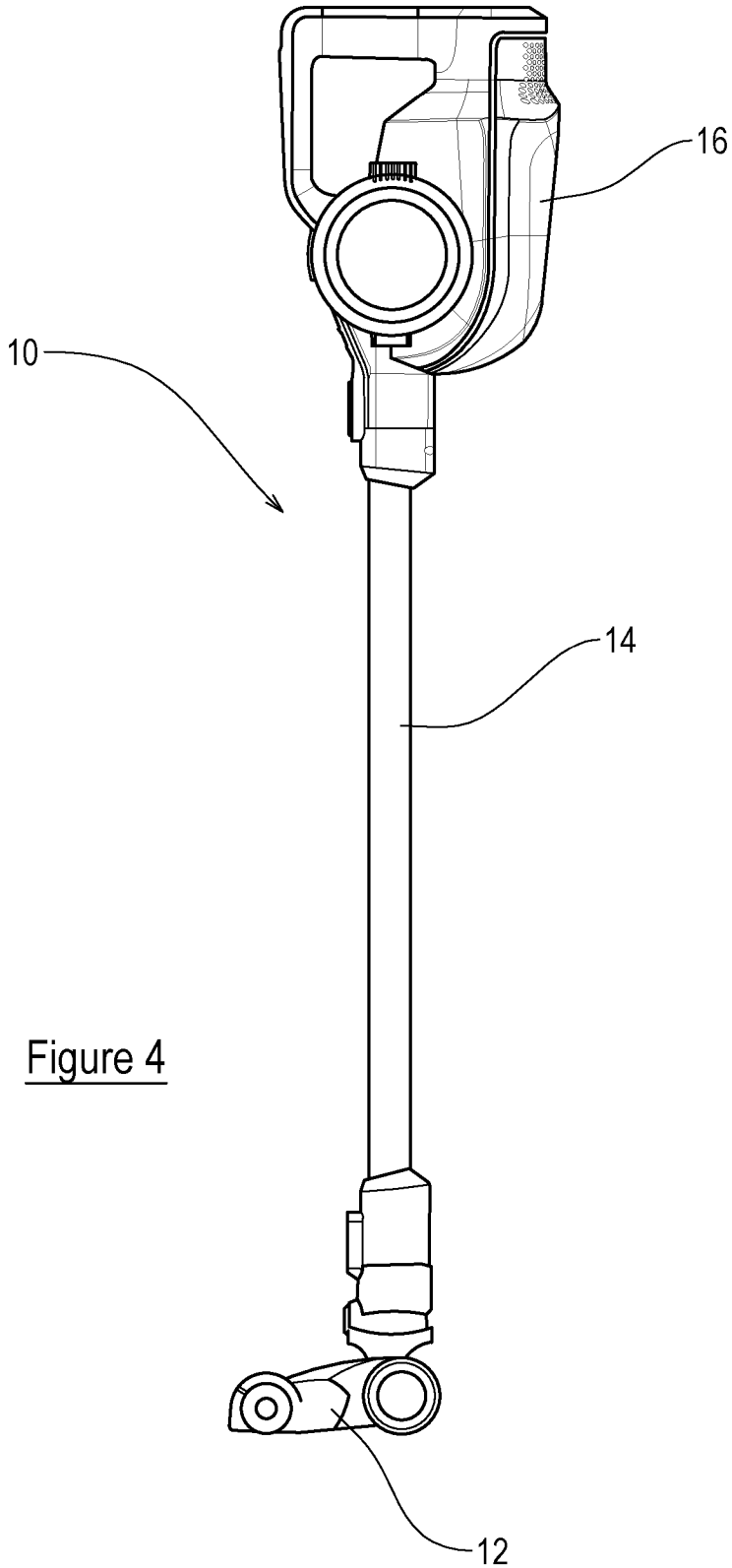


Figure 4

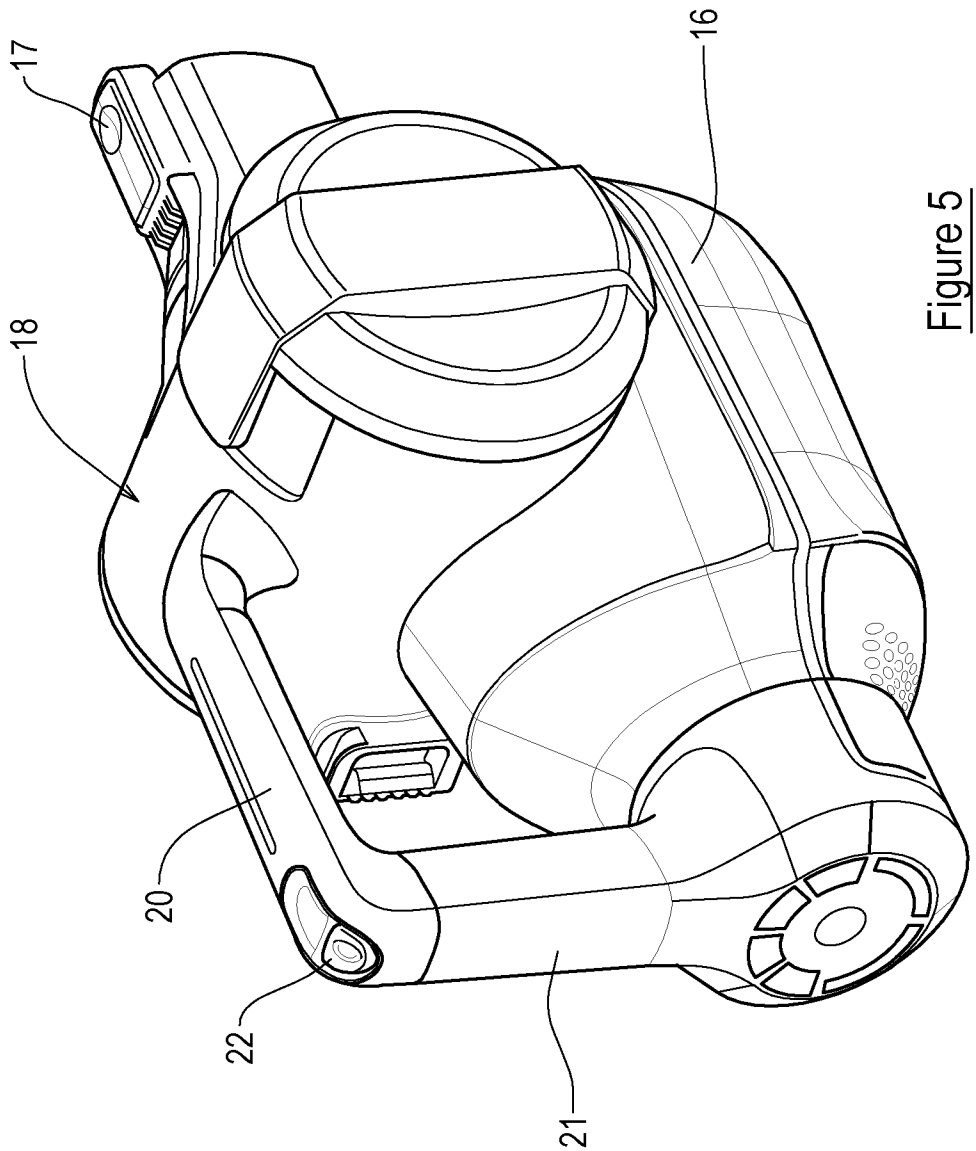


Figure 5

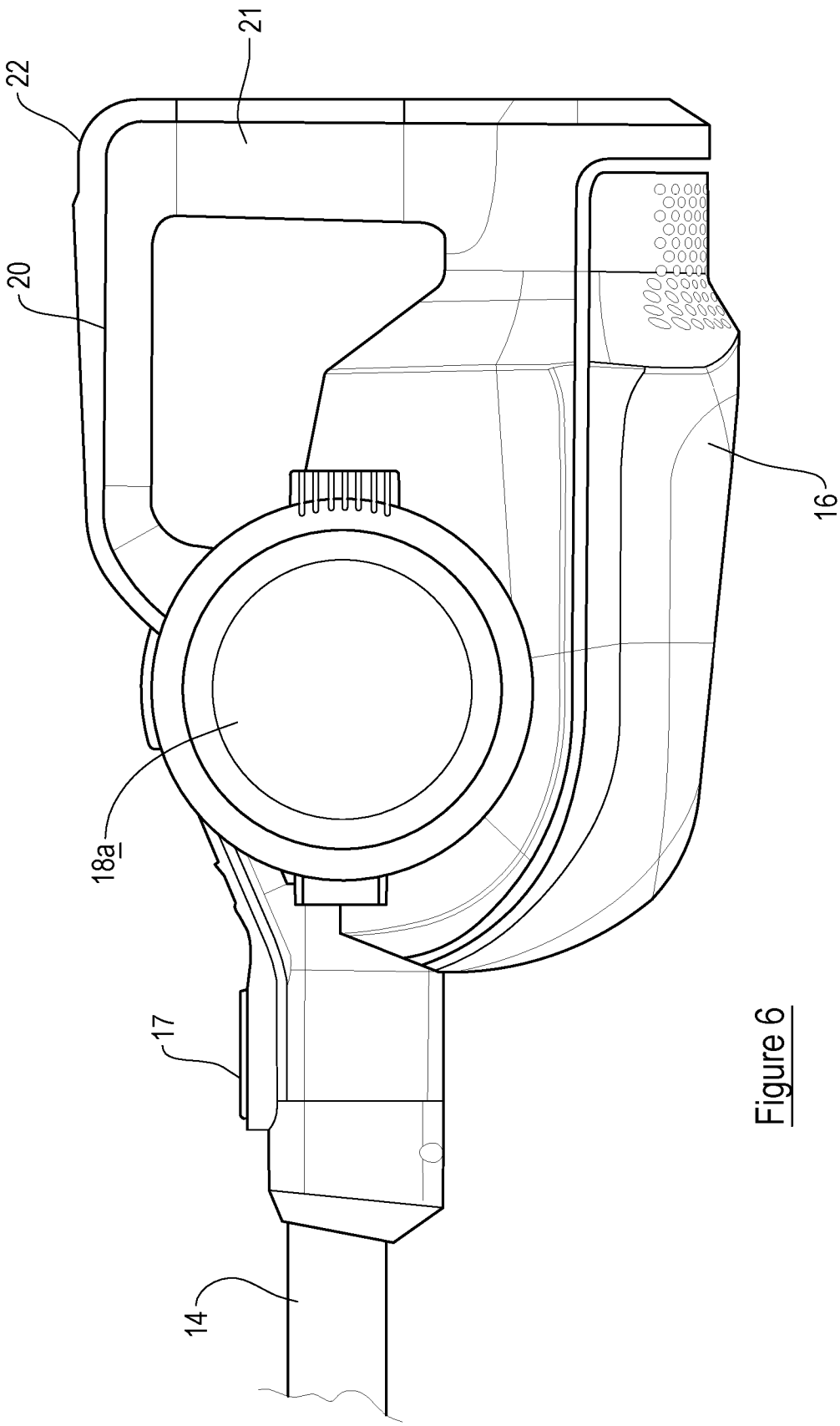


Figure 6

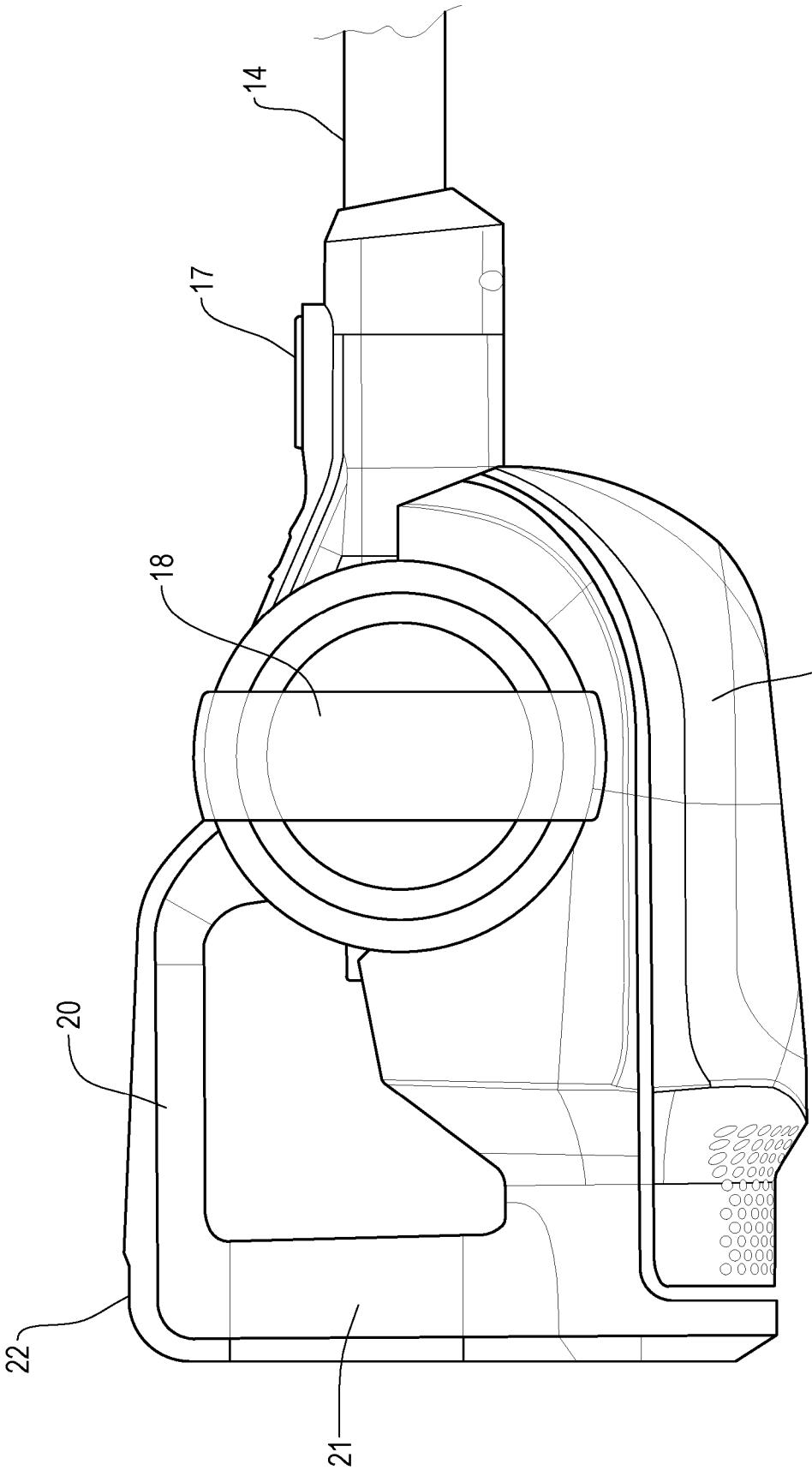


Figure 7

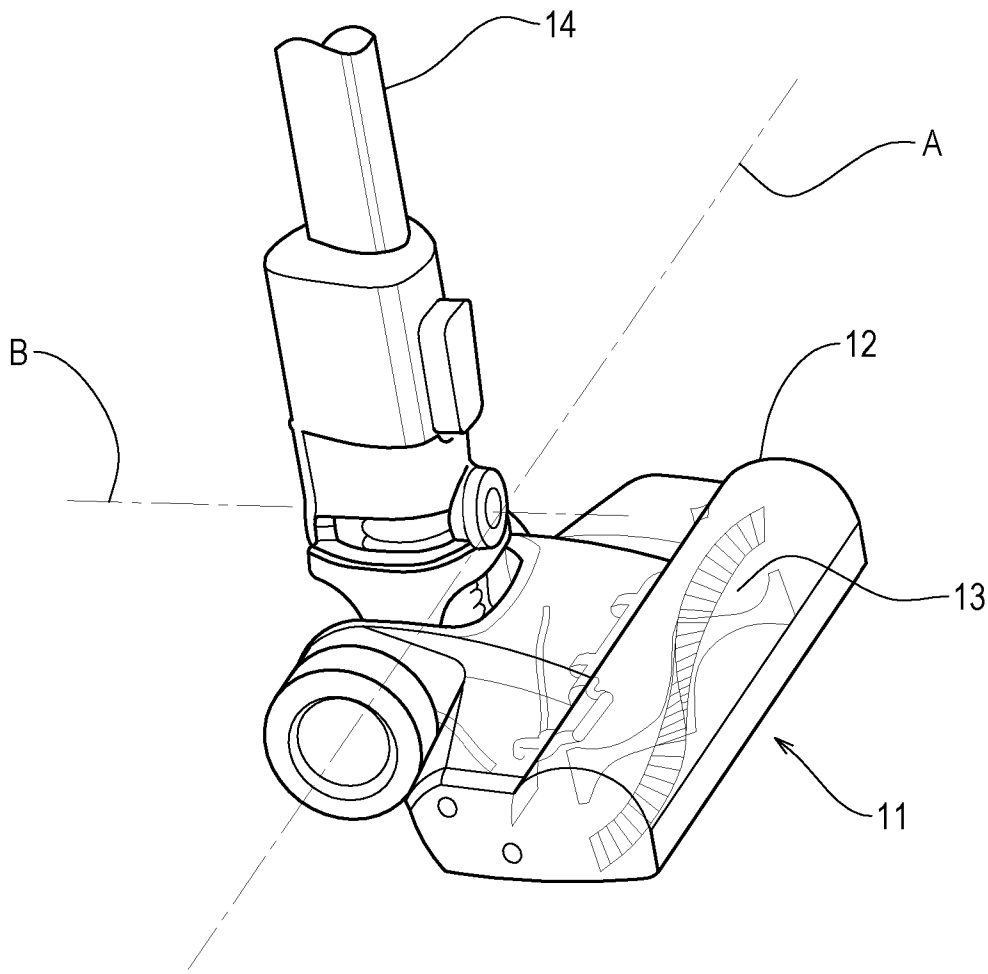


Figure 8

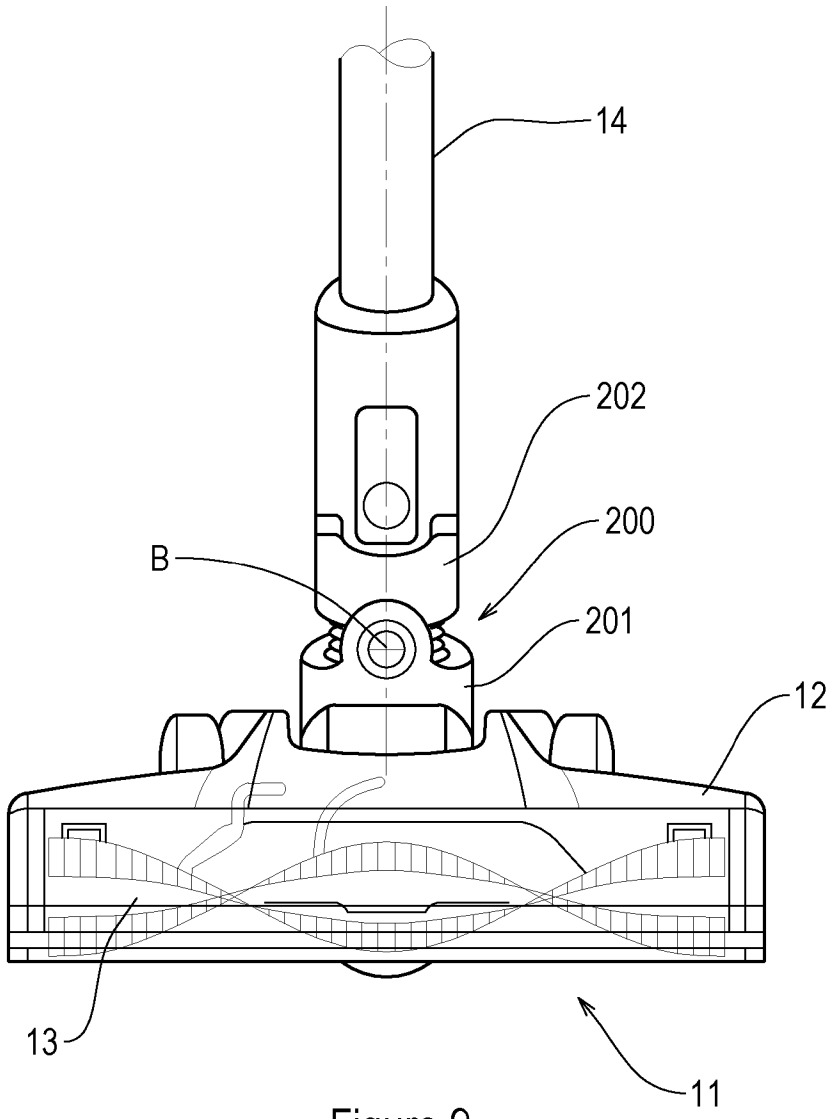


Figure 9

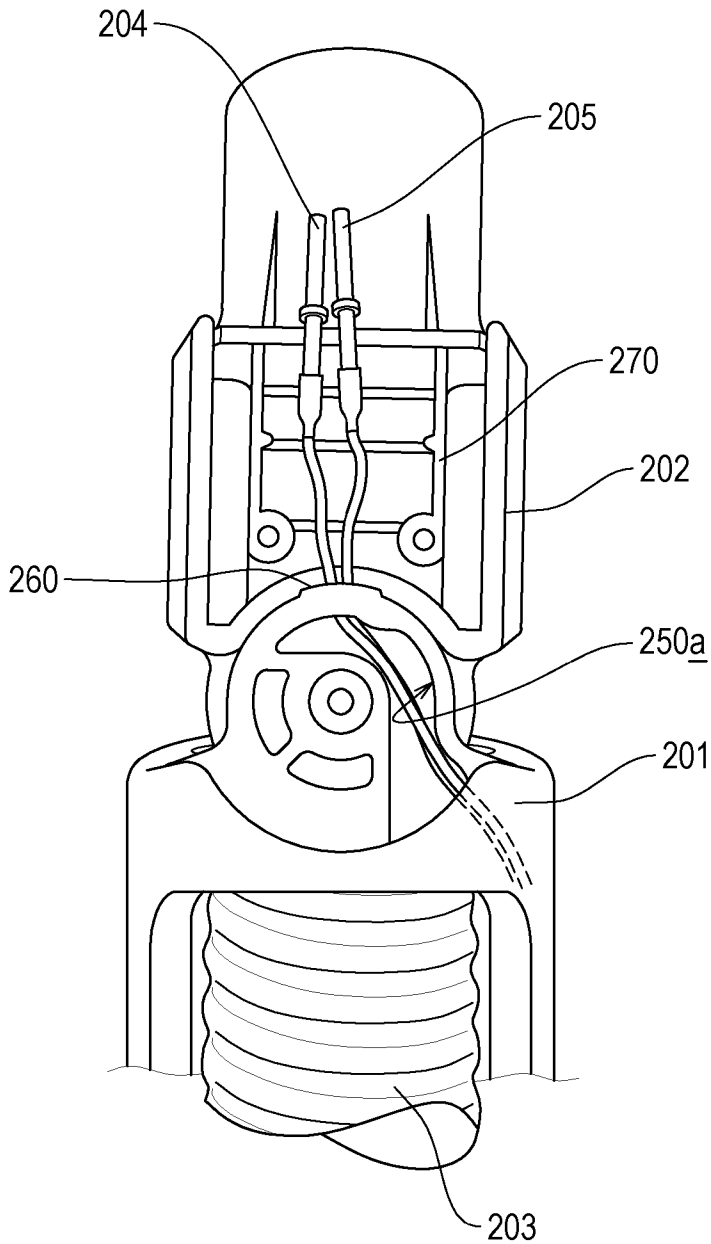


Figure 10

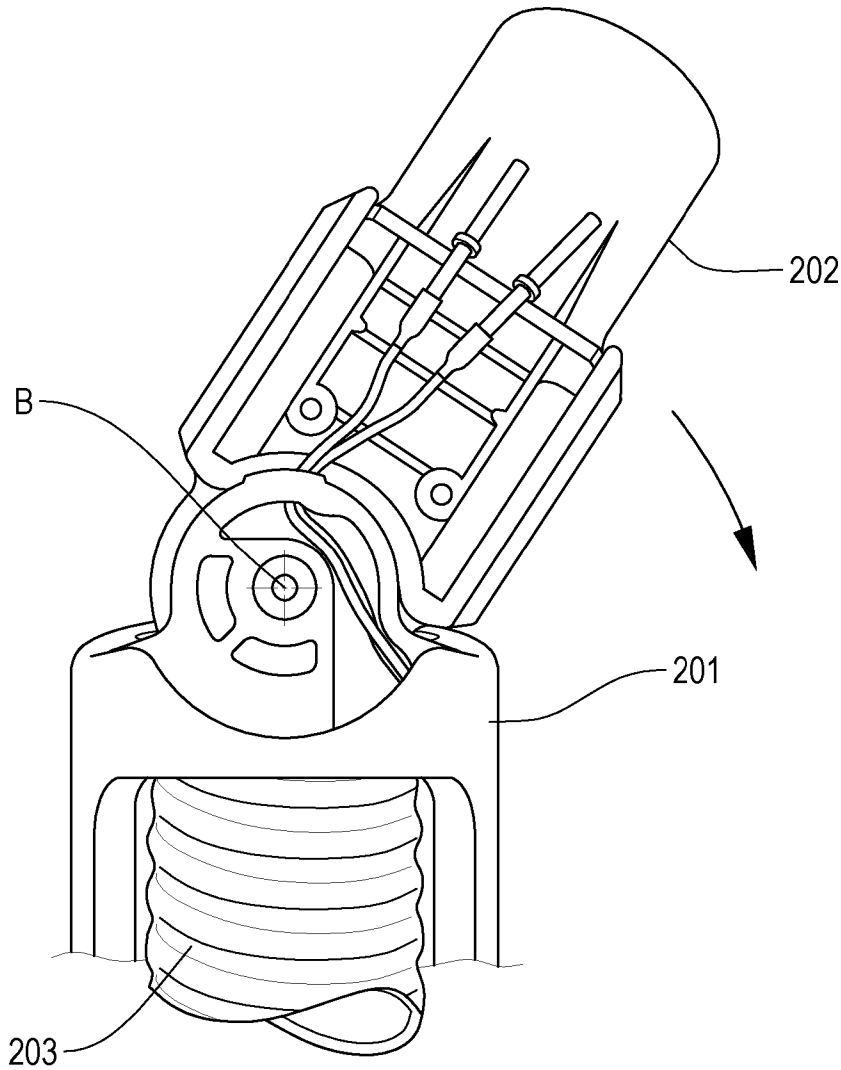


Figure 11

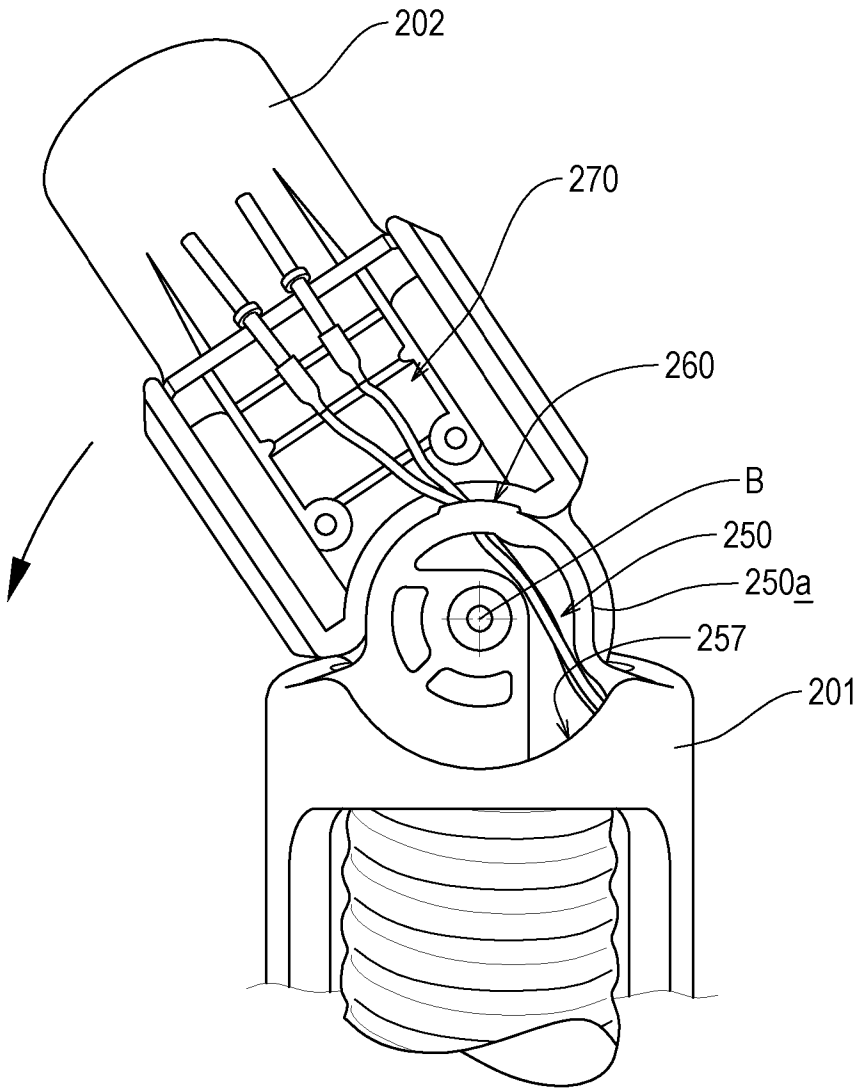


Figure 12

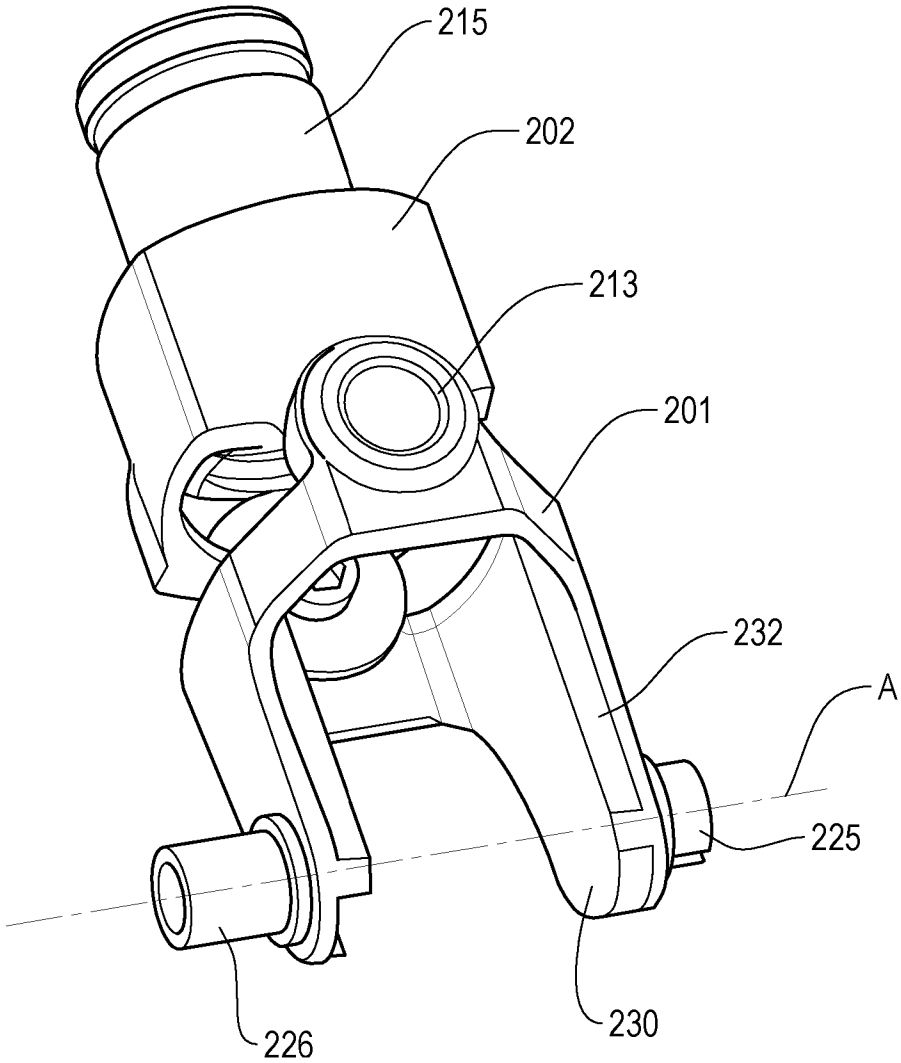
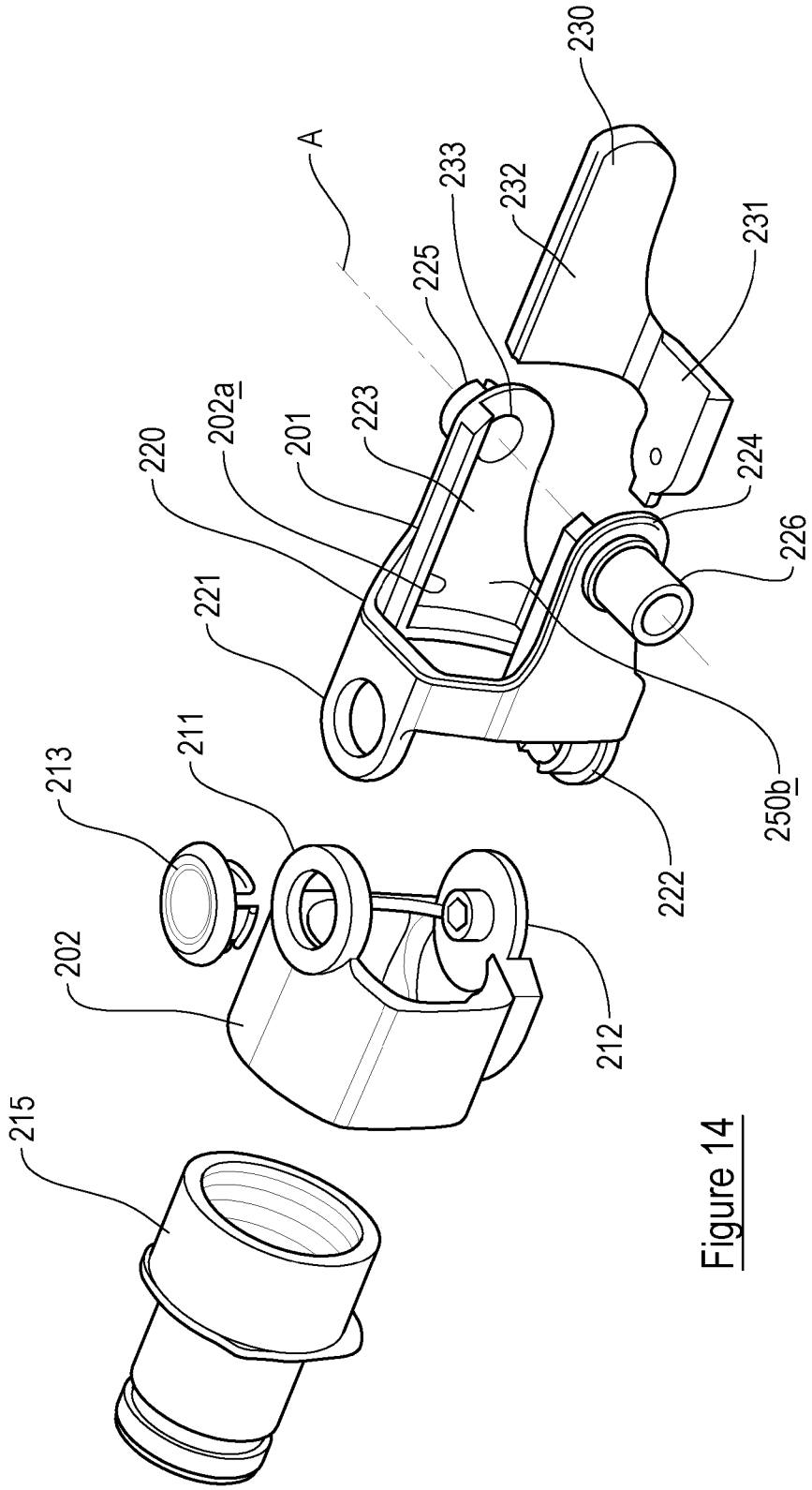


Figure 13


230
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233
232
231
225
202a
201
223
220
224
226
221
250b
211
213
222
202
212
215

Figure 14

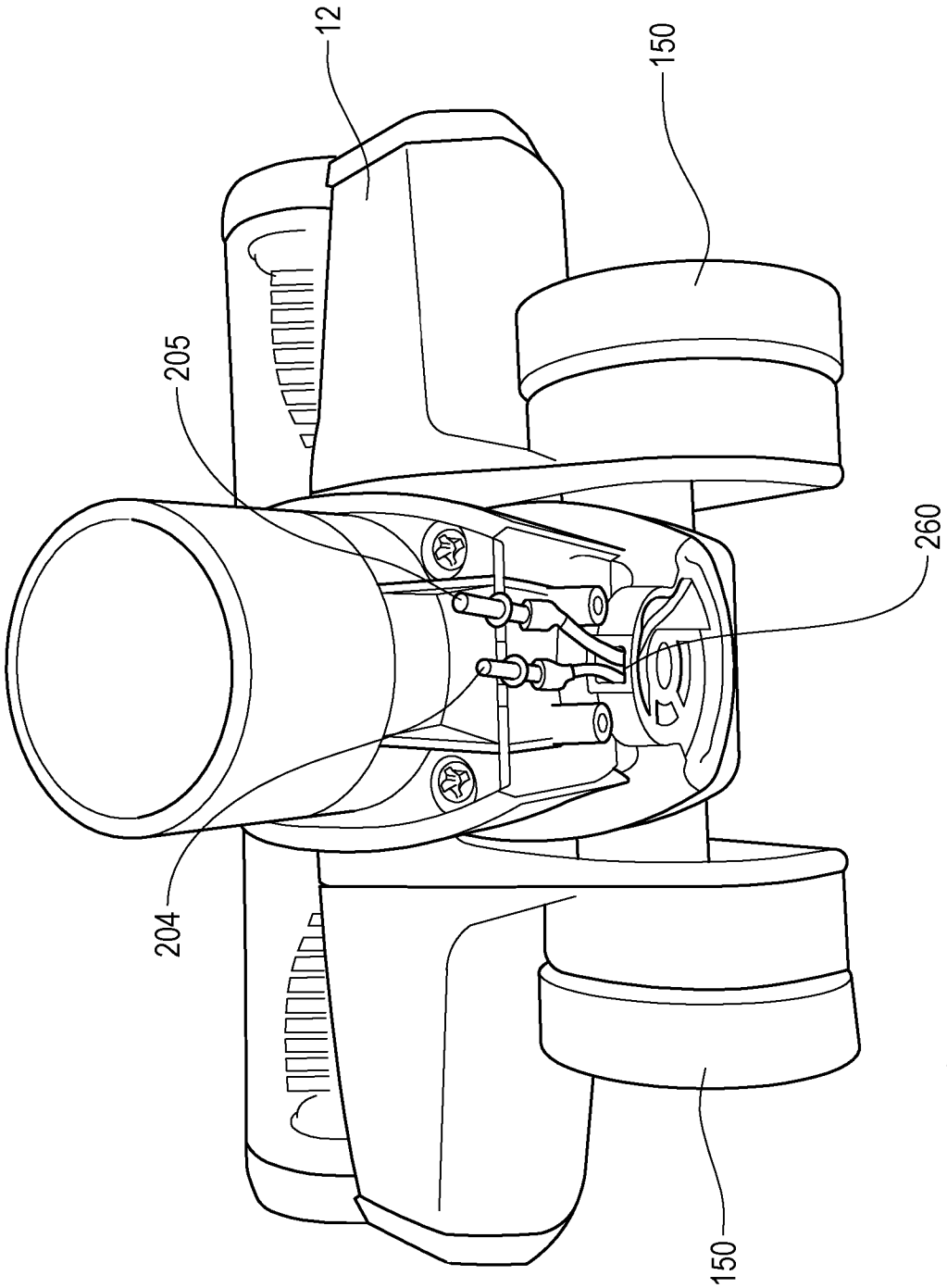

Figure 15

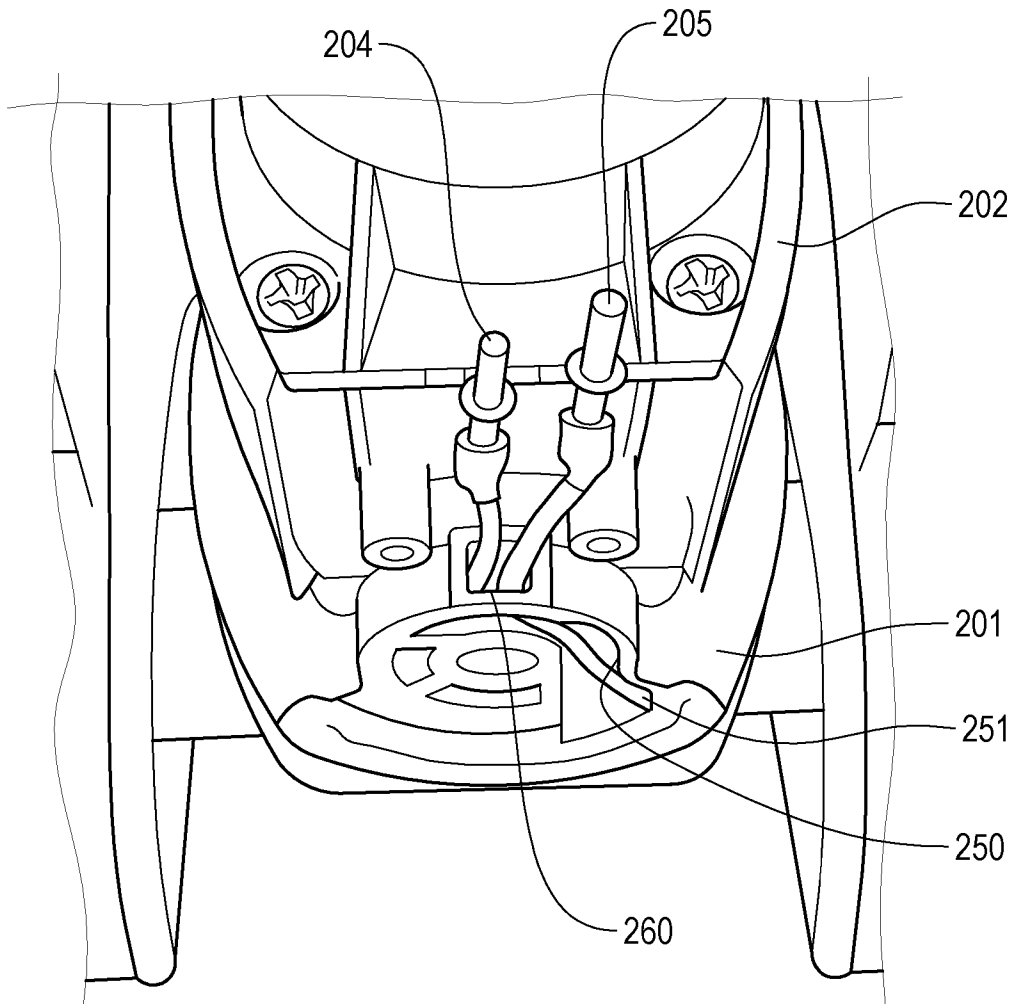

Figure 16