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(54) **ENDPIN STAND APPARATUS FOR STRINGED INSTRUMENTS**

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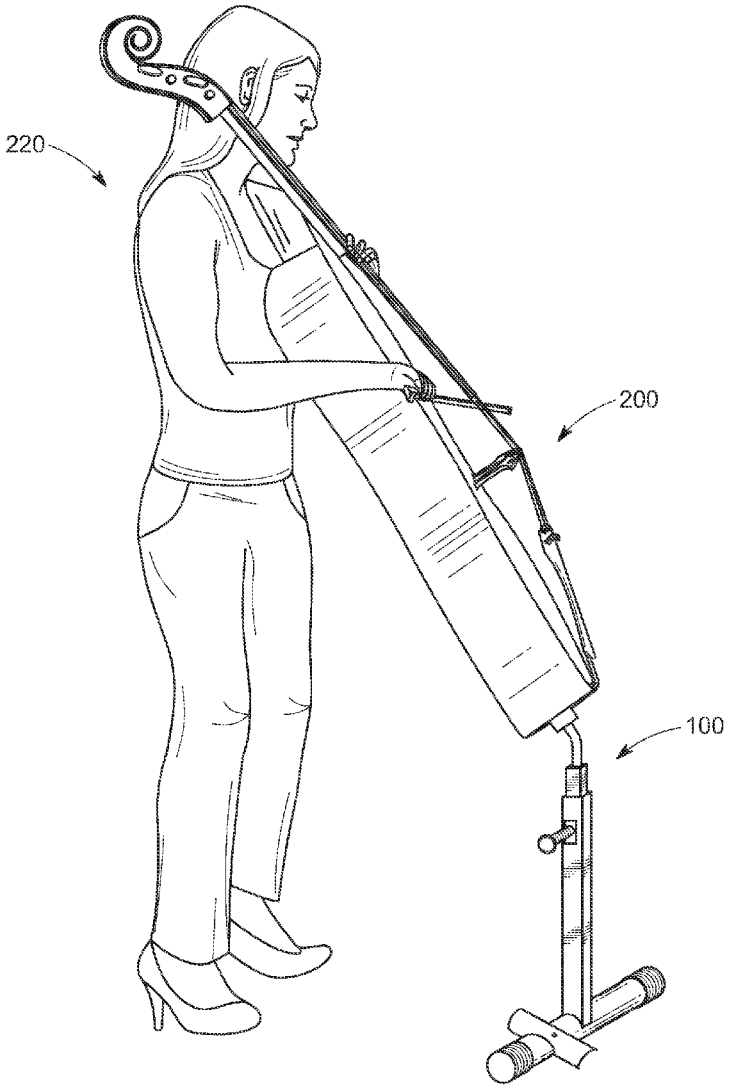
(57) **ABSTRACT**

Improved endpin stand apparatus for large stringed instruments are provided. The endpin stand apparatus comprises components to elevate the endpin shaft from the floor on which the apparatus rests, may comprise a kickstand, and may comprise components for easy disassembly and reassembly. The endpin stand apparatus may comprise an endpin shaft and/or a hole for receiving an endpin shaft, or may comprise a platform, which supports a large stringed instrument. The endpin stand apparatus allows for adjustment of the height of the apparatus and thus of the stringed instrument, and adjustment of the angle of the instrument relative to the axis defined by the apparatus. The apparatus allows a user to stand while playing the instrument, and to move through a forward-to-back and side-to-side range of motion. The adjustable height and angle allow for a range of instrument locations and angles, and increased range of motion by the musician.



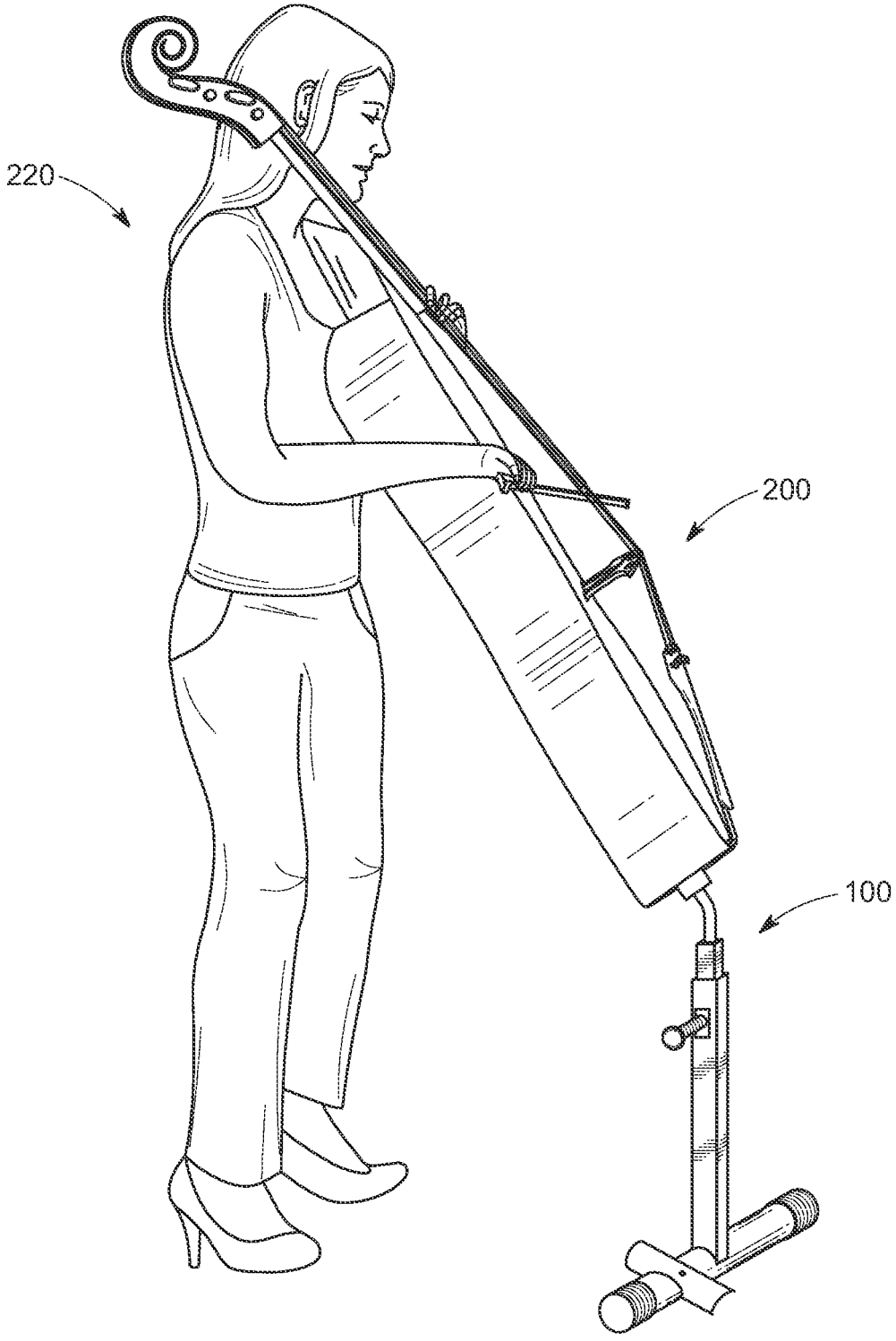


FIG. 1

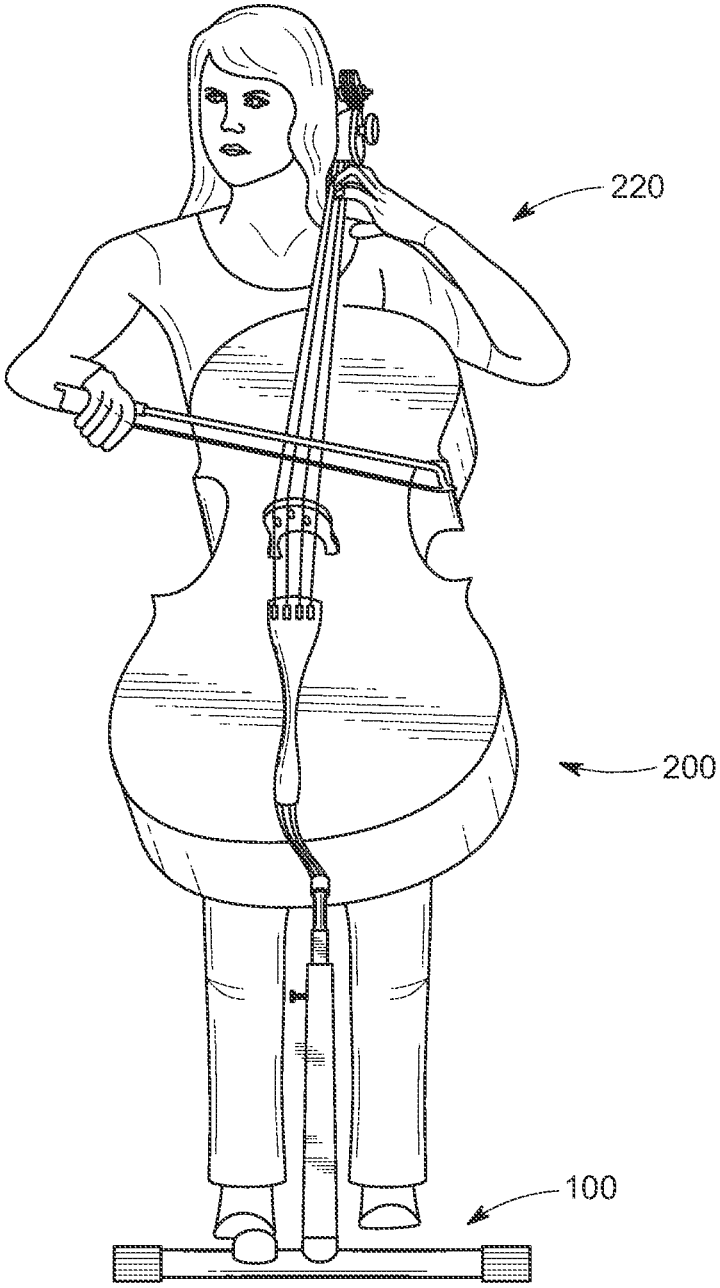


FIG. 2

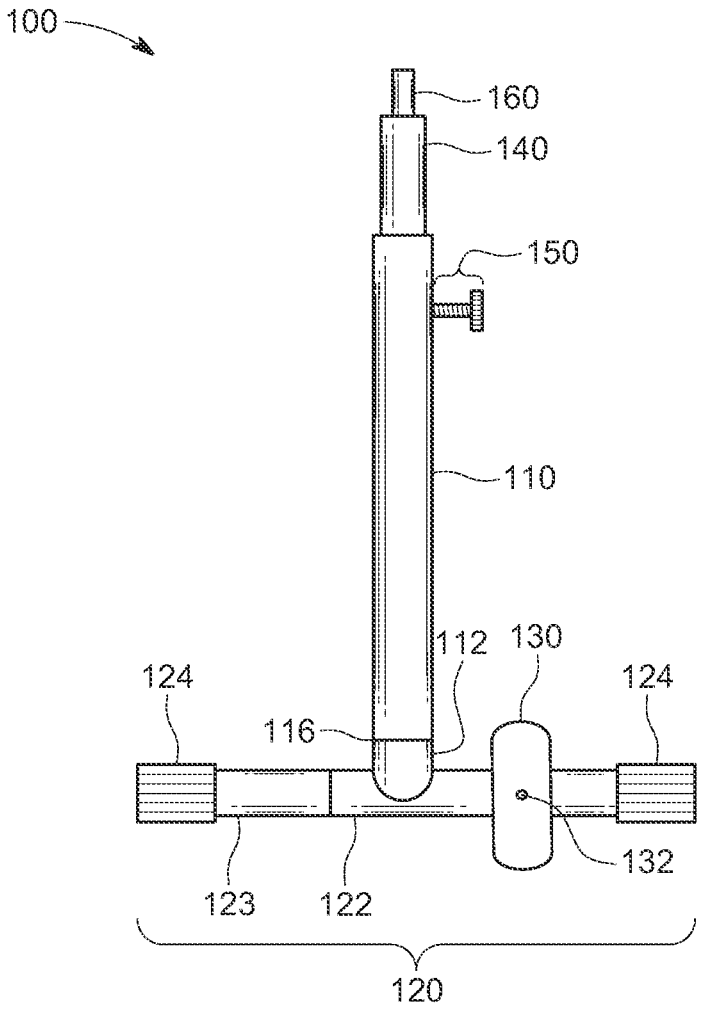
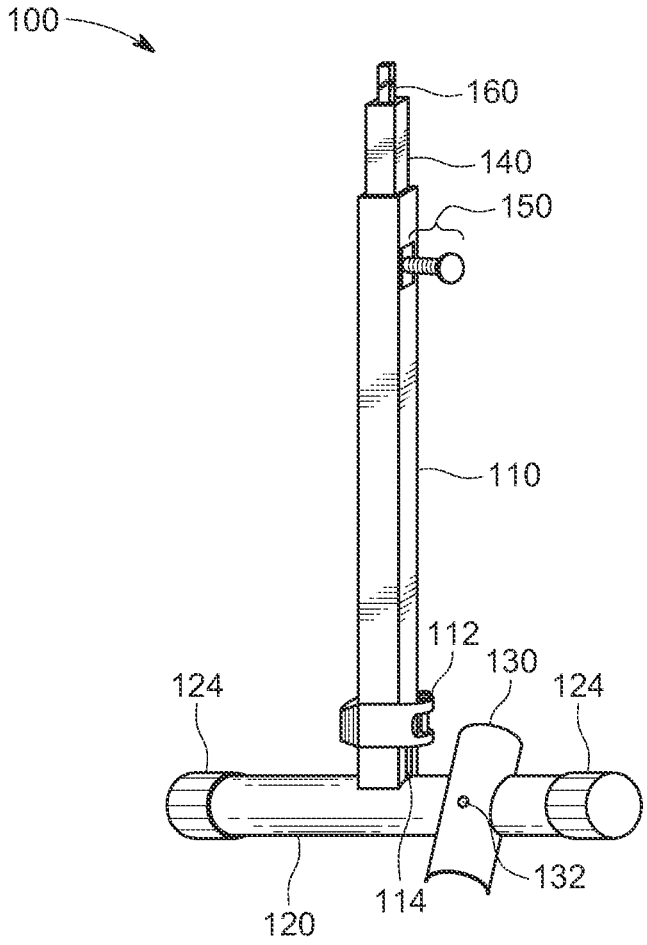


FIG. 3



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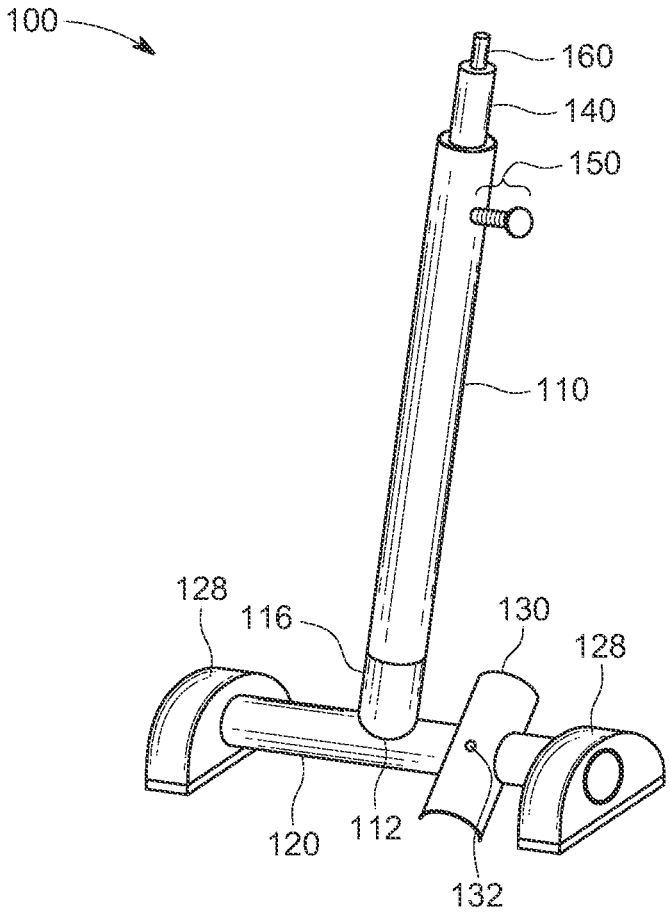

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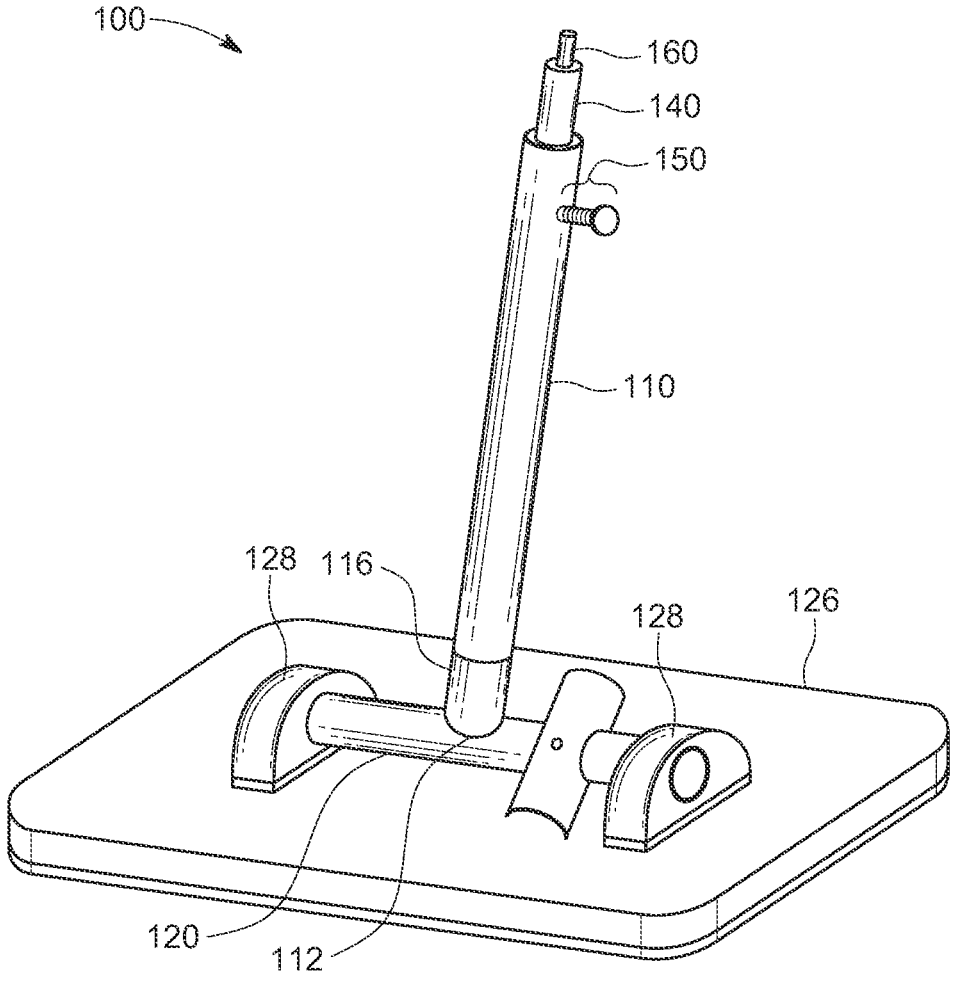

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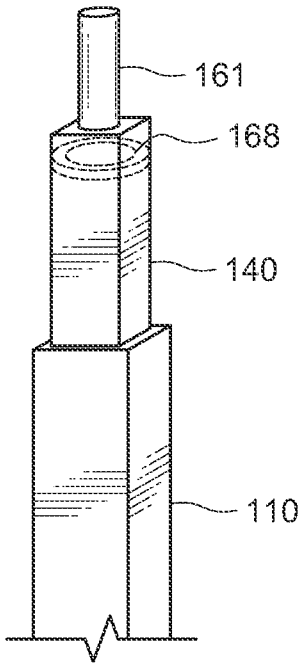

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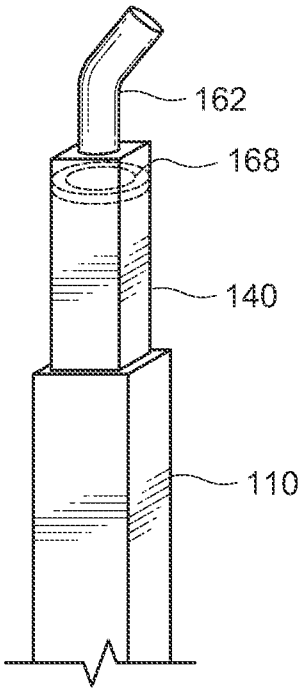

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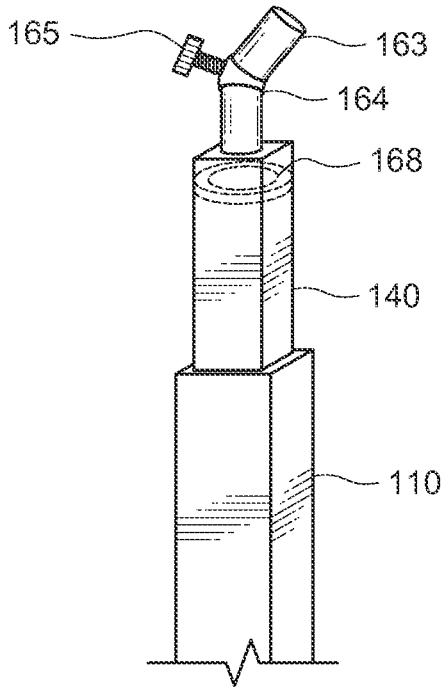

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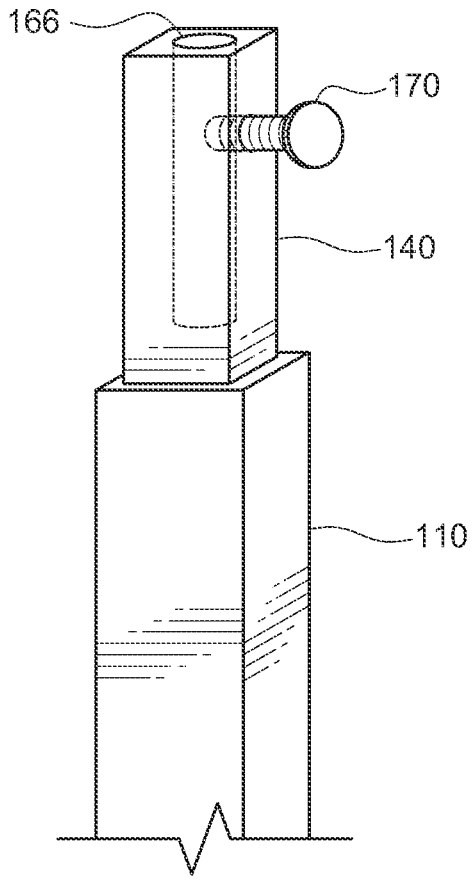

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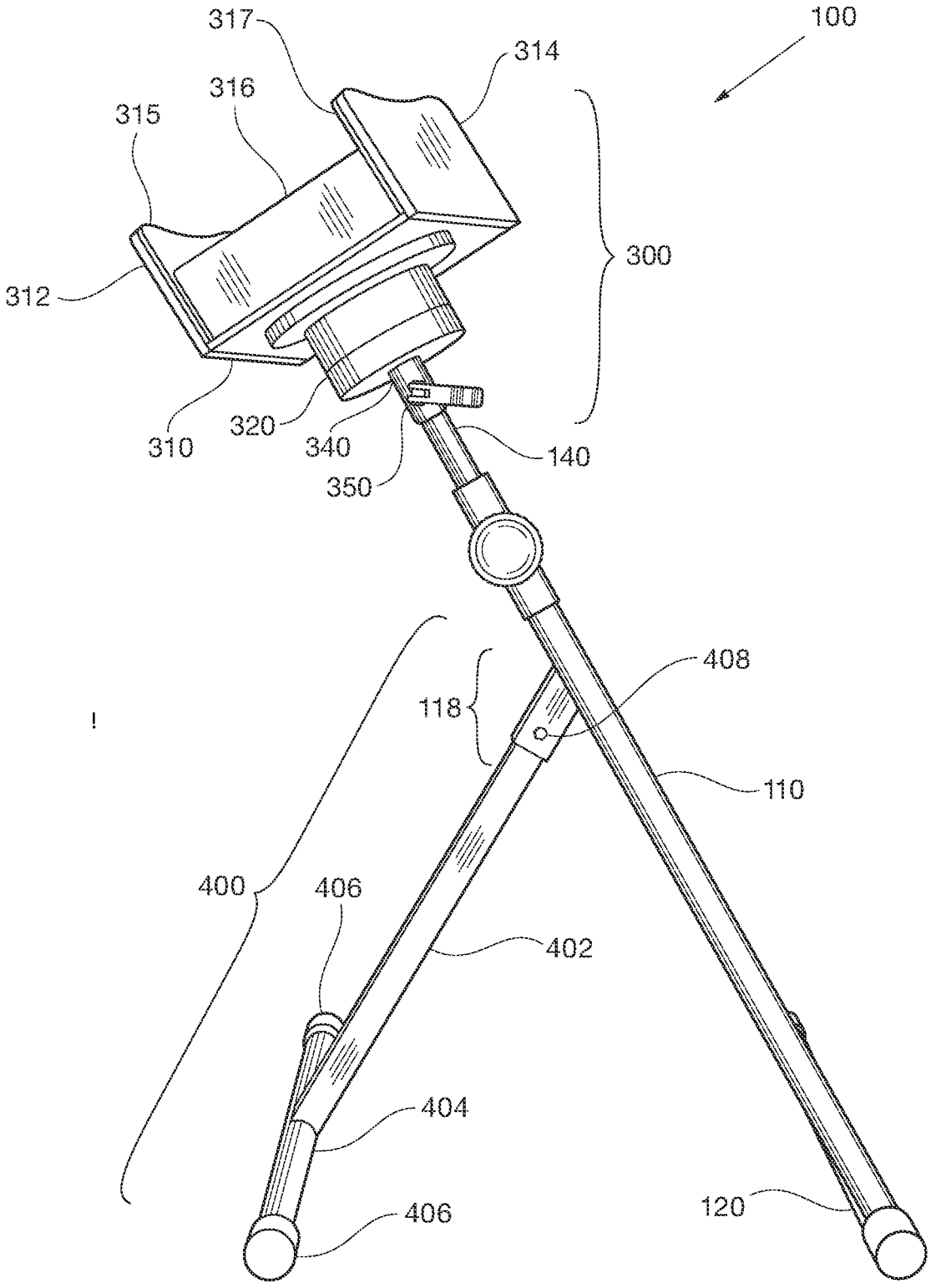
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FIG. 11

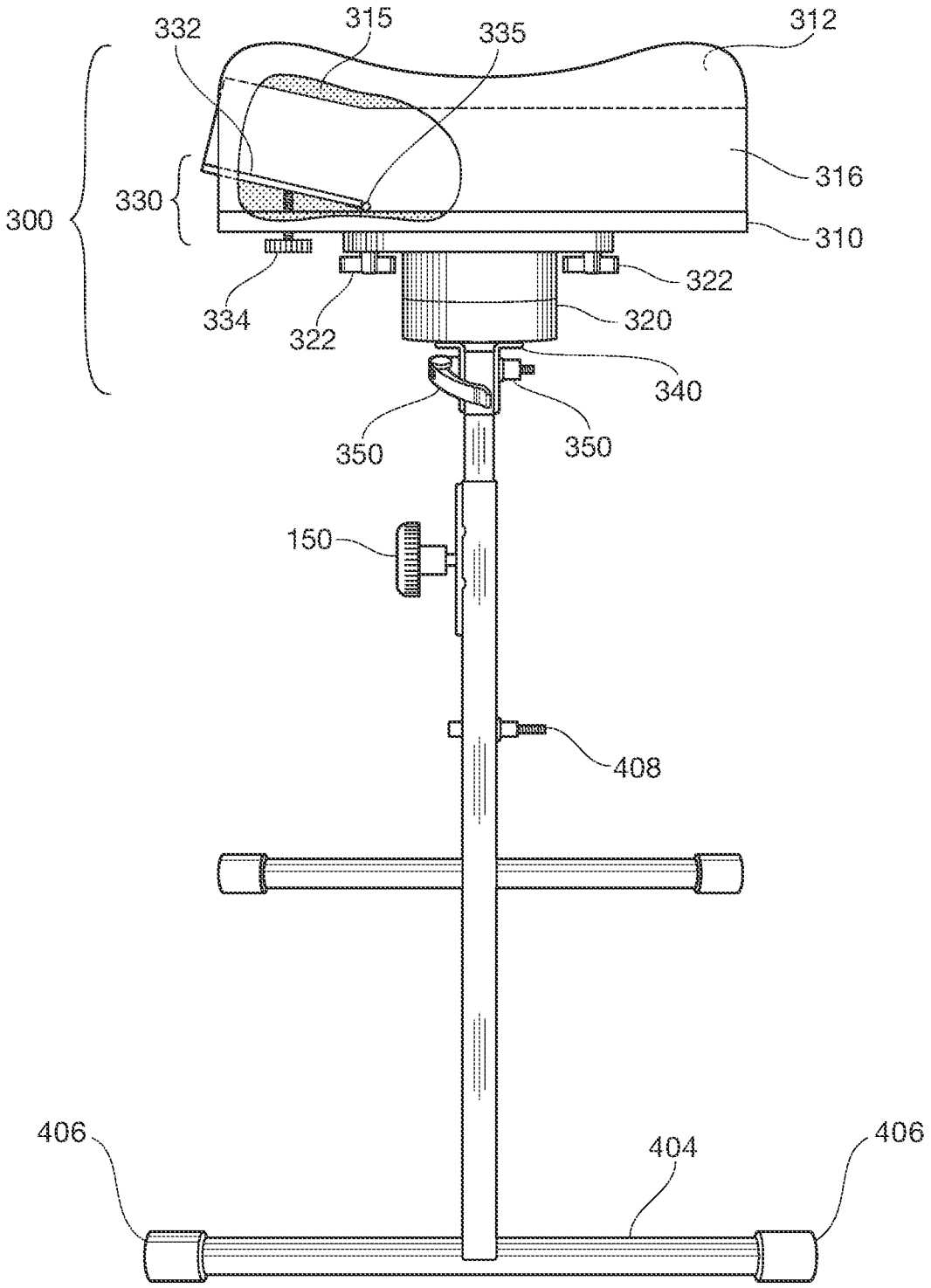
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FIG. 12

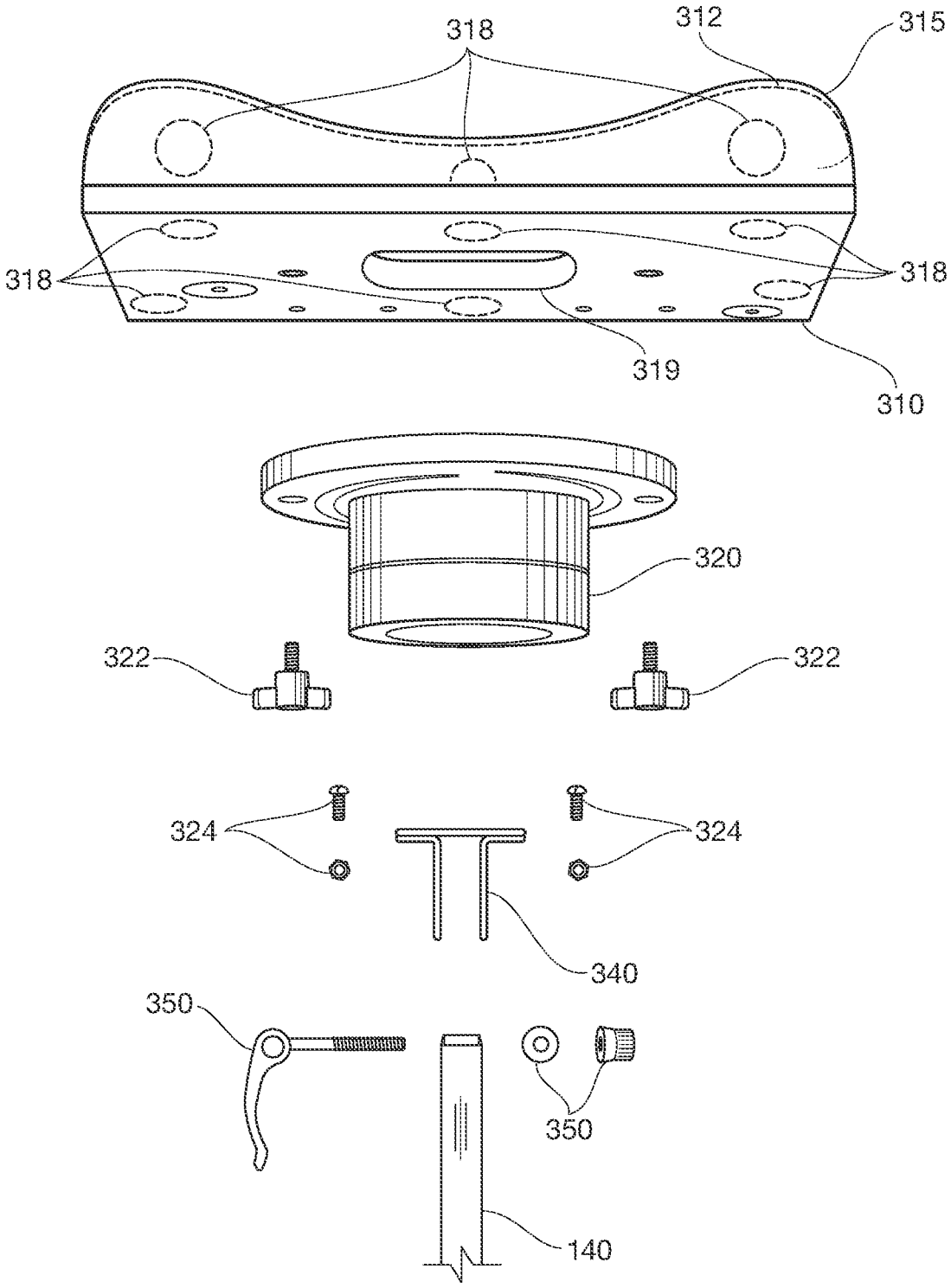


FIG. 13

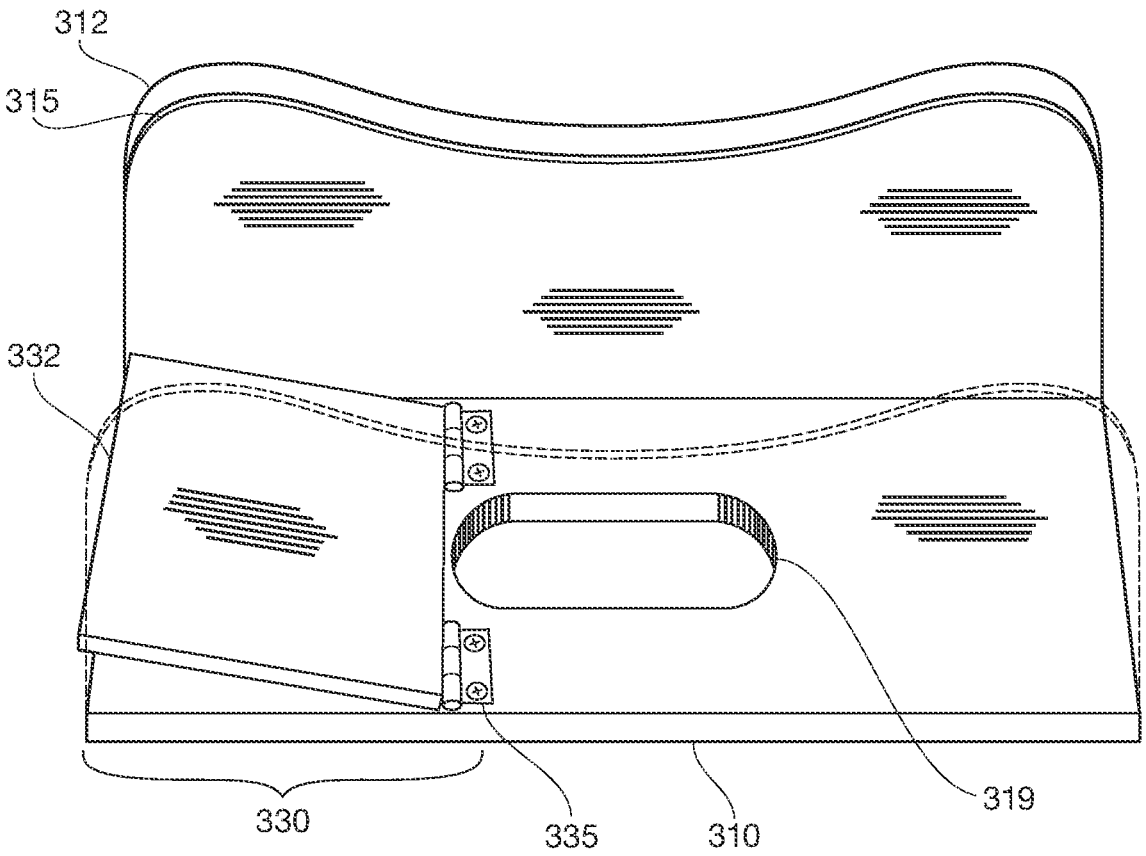


FIG. 14

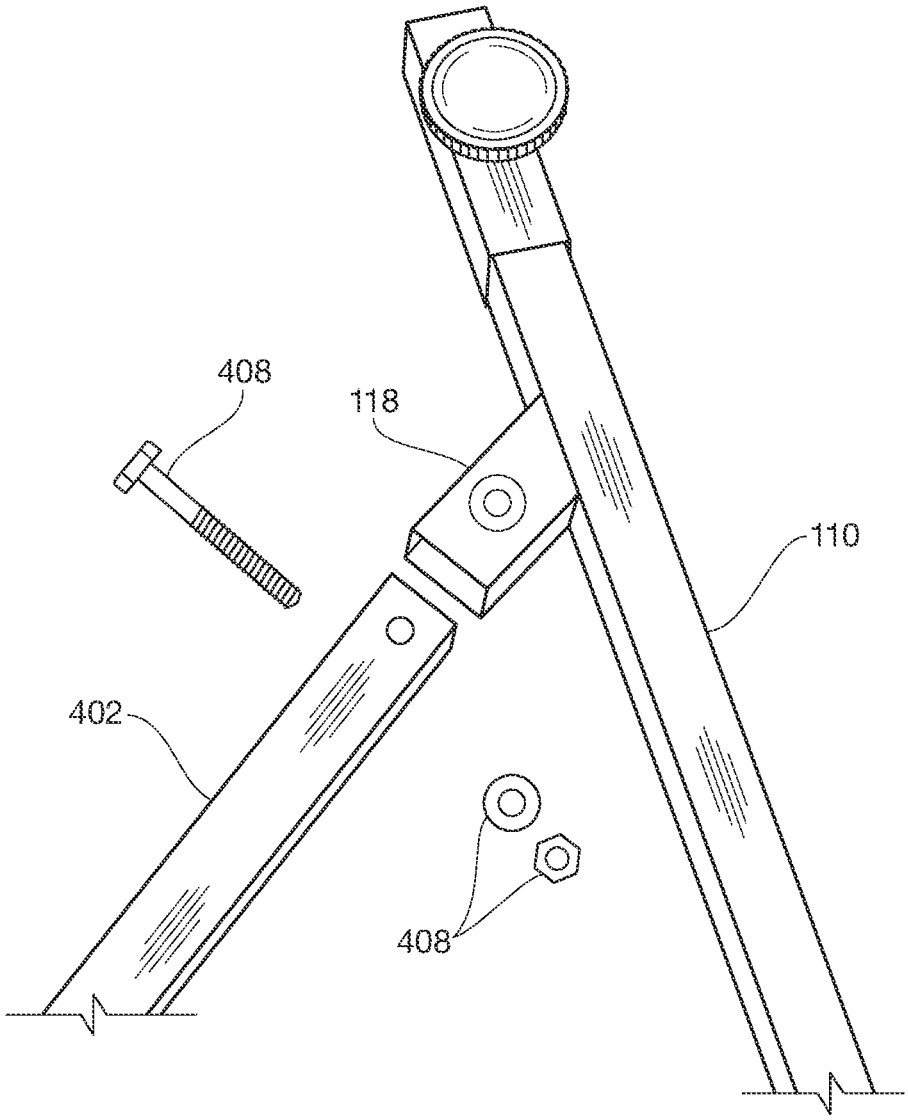


FIG. 15

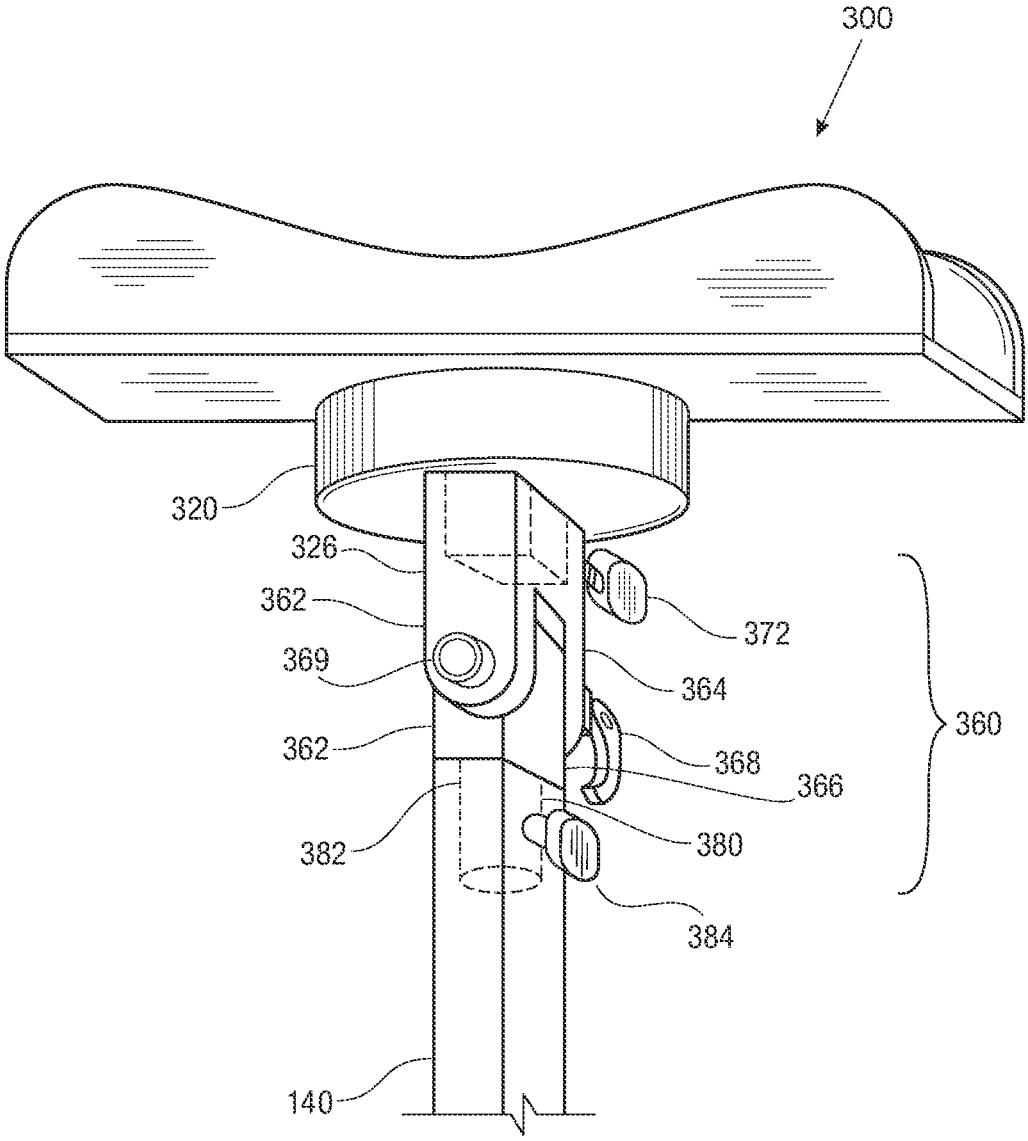


FIG. 16

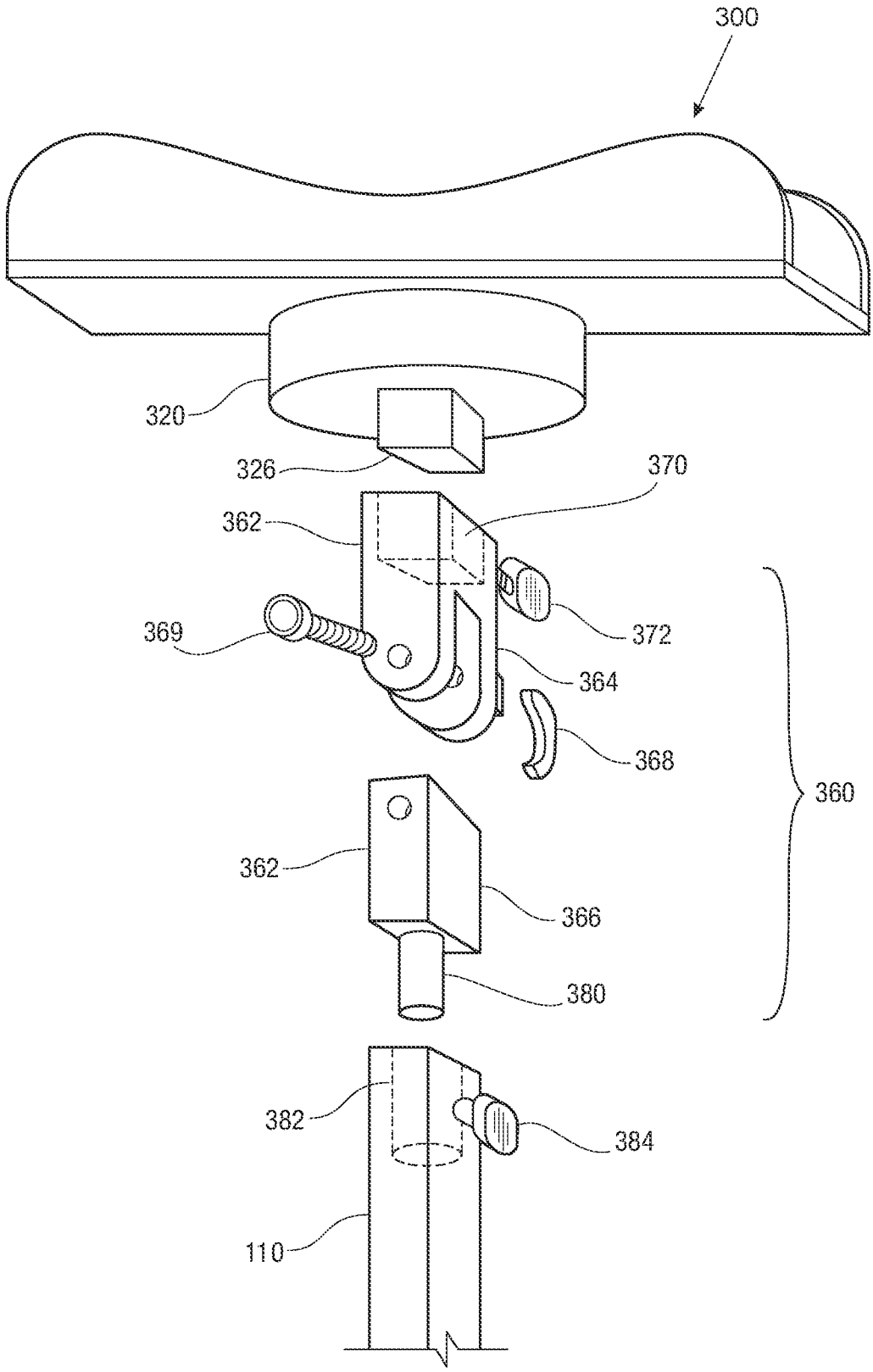
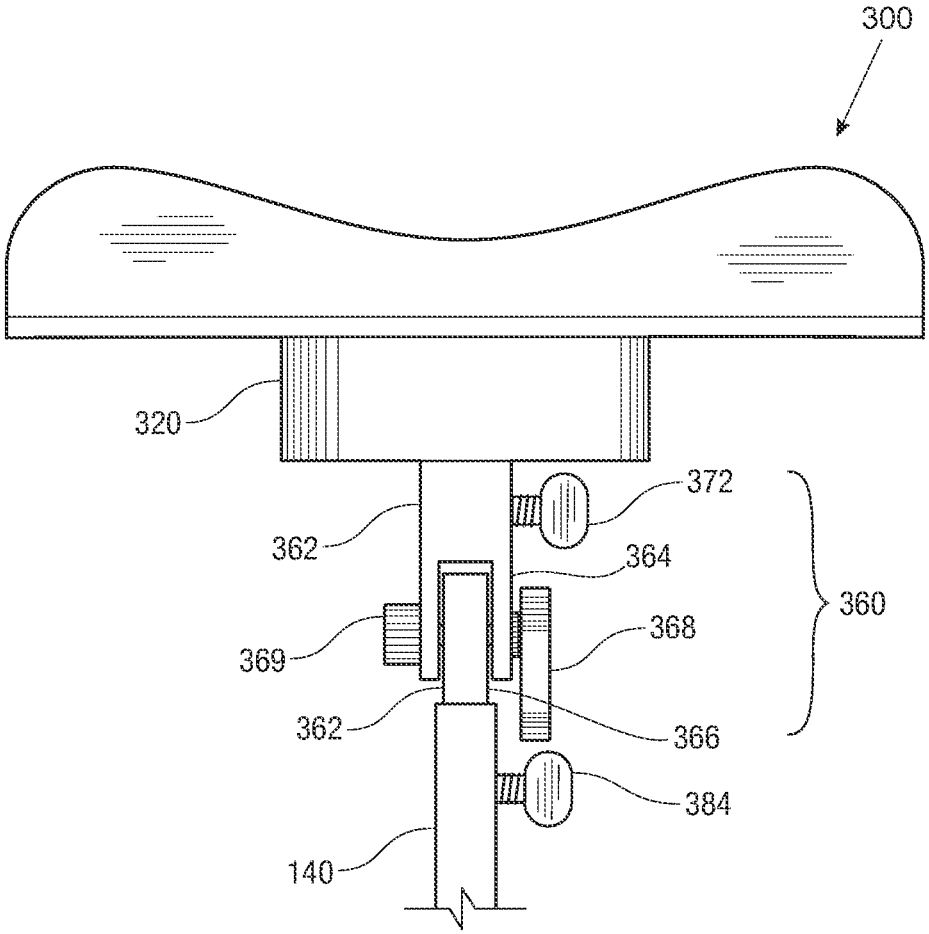


FIG. 17



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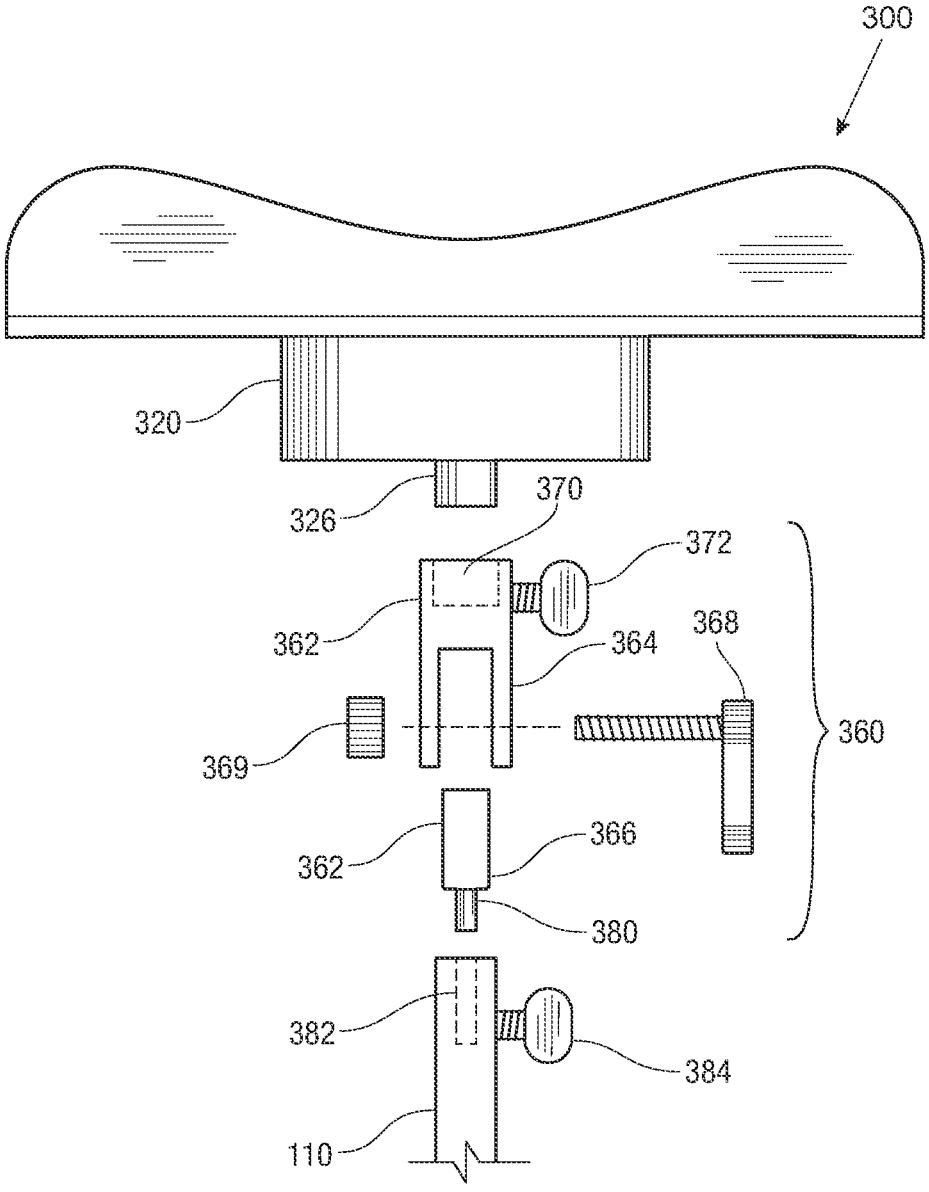

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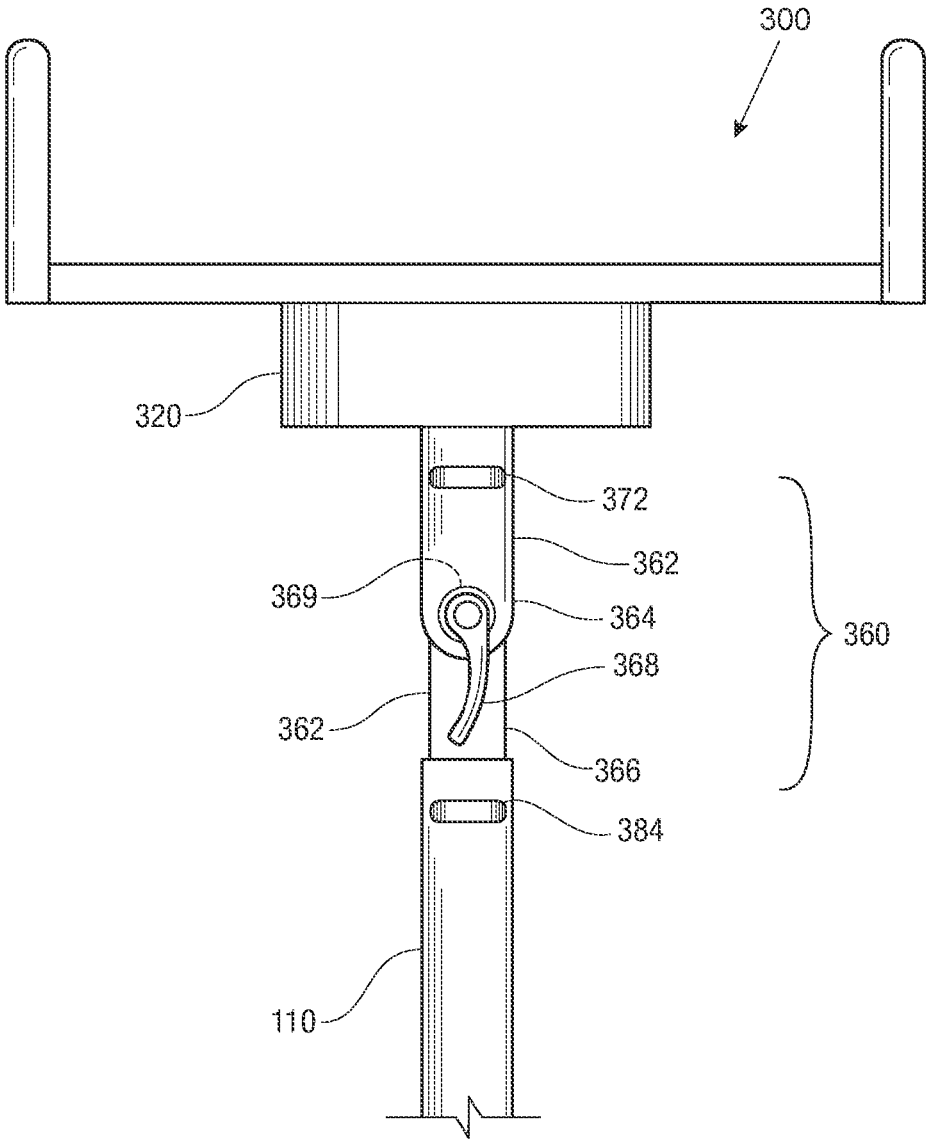

FIG. 20

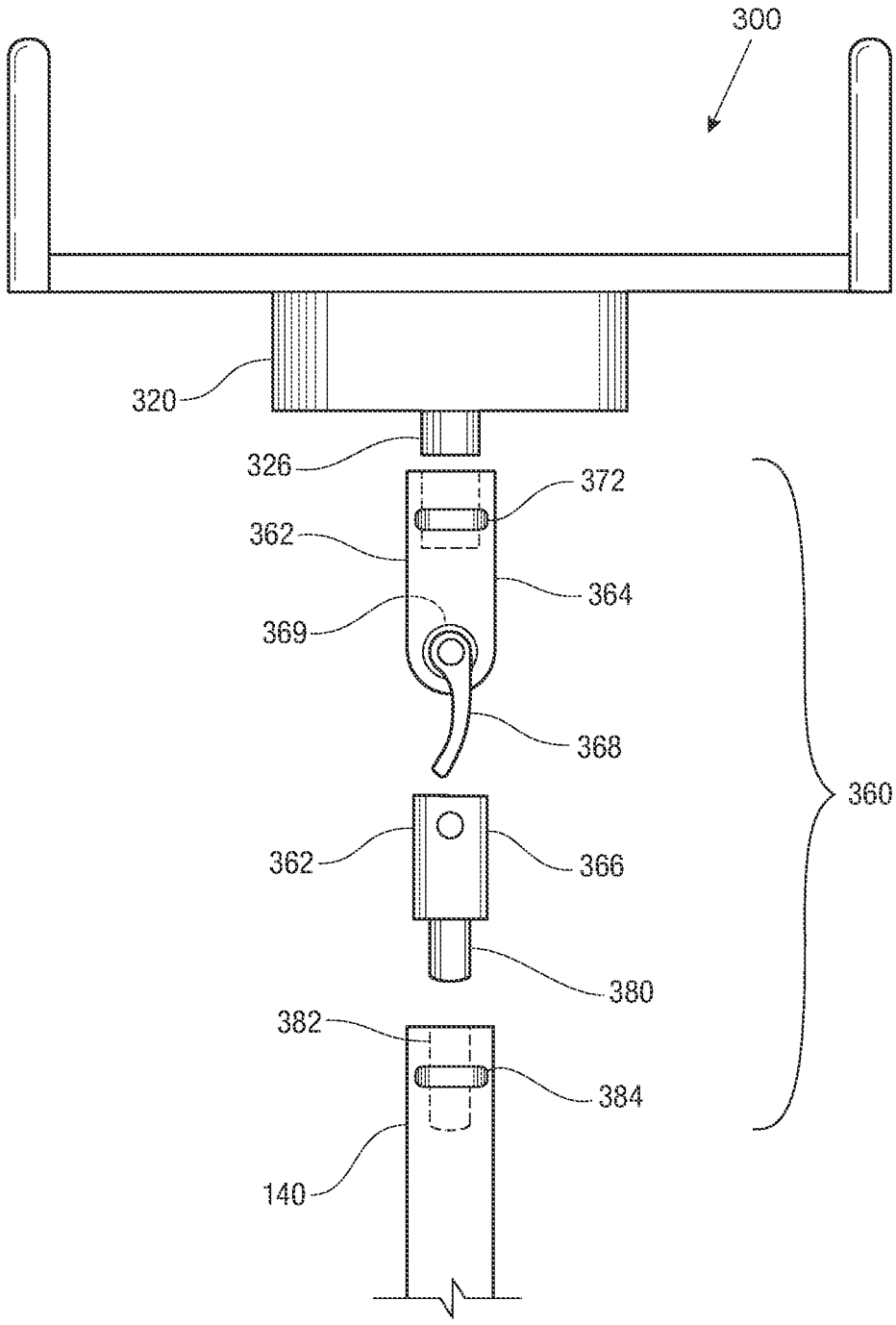

FIG. 21

ENDPIN STAND APPARATUS FOR STRINGED INSTRUMENTS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The presently disclosed subject matter relates to endpin stand apparatus for stringed instruments, and more particularly, to endpin stand apparatus with platform, with kickstand, or with both, that allow adjustment of the instrument height and angle of support through a range of heights and angles relative to the instrument, and that allow simple assembly and disassembly for transport while maintaining the desired heights and angles.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Large stringed instruments, including but not limited to the cello and the upright bass, are heavy instruments that must be supported on the floor, in nearly all uses of the instruments, so that a musician can play them. Traditionally, instruments are supported with a straight endpin that protrudes from the bottom of the instrument, known as the lower rib area. The endpin is braced to the instrument with a small endpin support that is external to the instrument and which in most instances has an element that spans into the internal space of the instrument, in contact with a part of the instrument that is a reinforcing block inside the lower rib area of the instrument, which reinforcing block is in contact with the inside surface of the instrument body panels comprising the lower rib area. Traditional endpins protrude straight out of the instrument, parallel to the long axis of the instrument and perpendicular to the exterior surface of the instrument at the lower rib area. They can be adjusted for length but not adjusted to be affixed to the instrument at any other angle, or to be affixed in any location other than a single hole placed in the lower rib area of the instrument, which hole is typically in the center of the lower rib area. Traditional endpins also have a limited range of heights available to them, with limitations imposed by the tensile strength of materials available to be used, the length of adjustable endpins, and the diameter of the hole in the instrument's lower rib area and the support of the endpin sufficient to support the torque imposed on the lower rib area by the weight of the instrument when supported by a longer-than-traditional endpin. For a traditional endpin, which telescopes in two sections, the length in use is typically in the range of approximately 14" to 15". For shorter musicians, the endpin as used may be set at a height of approximately 6" to 8". For taller musicians, the endpin as used may be set at a height of approximately 16" to 17". Traditional telescoping endpins are understood to be impossible, impractical, or unsafe to use at lengths of approximately 20" or longer than 20", as the endpin at that extension may not adequately support the weight of the instrument. Because large stringed instruments are both expensive and fragile, accessories and modifications that are not reliably safe are undesirable. These limitation of prior art endpins make it unsafe or impossible for nearly all musicians to play while standing.

[0003] Typical prior art endpins have only two sections, to allow insertion of the endpin into the instrument without needing to remove the endpin from the instrument when the endpin is not in use, and to allow the instrument to fit into a case. Additionally, a traditional endpin, if made longer, may need to telescope with more than two sections, so that the lengths of endpin sections may be inserted into the instrument when not in use, both for safety to reduce trip hazards and the risk of damage to the instrument, and to make it feasible to fit the instrument into an instrument case to allow for safe storage and transportation of the instrument. An endpin that included a third section, or more than three, to extend farther than a traditional endpin, would increase the risk of damage to the endpin and thus the instrument, by introducing one or more sections of endpin that are necessarily smaller in diameter and therefore weaker and more prone to mechanical failure.

[0004] For these reasons, large stringed instruments, such as cellos are typically played only while seated, because the instrument cannot be supported at a sufficient height to allow most musicians to play while standing. This limitation in playing positions leads to other problems, including ergonomic problems and repetitive stress injuries (RSI) suffered by musicians, and constraints on the freedom of motion of the musician while playing seated, specifically in the ability of the musician to sway forward and back while playing, or to sway side-to-side. For definition of a reference frame, if one faces an upright instrument with the strings approximately vertical and facing the viewer, the x axis is side-to-side along the instrument, the y-axis is front to back on the instrument, and the z-axis is vertical along the instrument. The forward-and-back motion referred to in the present disclosure refers to motion in the y-z plane, which may be a rotation about the x-axis, and the side-to-side motion referred to in the present disclosure refers to motion parallel to the x-z plane, which may be a rotation about the y-axis.

[0005] Finally, the constraint of playing only while seated makes some concert venues or performance formats challenging for musicians using large stringed instruments.

[0006] Accordingly, the problems with the prior art for endpins or any apparatus replacing or supplementing an endpin for stringed instruments include a limited range of height available to the musician, in particular a limit on heights larger than 15" or 20"; providing a sufficiently high endpin or endpin support that is both strong enough for safe use, and may be easily and safely packed and transported; ergonomic problems and repetitive stress injuries (RSI) suffered by musicians; constraints on the freedom of motion of the musician while playing seated; and limitations on performance formats imposed by playing seated. Additionally, the prior art does not provide endpins or replacements thereto, including but not limited to endpin stands, platforms, or endpin platforms, that can be quickly and easily assembled and disassembled, for transport, and re-assembled while maintaining a user's desired and previously set heights and angles of the apparatus.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] The present invention meets all these needs, by disclosing endpin stand apparatus for stringed instruments that may be used with a string instrument with little or no irreversible modifications, or any modifications at all, to the instrument, with much reduced or no risk of damaging the instrument. In one aspect of the present invention, the present invention allows an instrument to be used at a greater height and greater range of heights than is possible with the prior art, allowing musicians to stand while playing, presenting a solution to a range of ergonomic and RSI problems for musicians, and allowing greater musical expressiveness with an improved range of movement available to the

musician using the present invention. The present invention facilitates improved and higher support of a stringed instrument and improved adjustability by each musician playing an instrument, including support at approximately 20" of height and higher, such as approximately 24" to 25" high for many musicians, and opens up a range of playing positions and performance venues for musicians playing large stringed instruments.

[0008] In one aspect of the present disclosure, the disclosed apparatus allows people to quickly and easily use the invention with their existing instruments, and enables improved support of each instrument, by allowing for an adjustable range of heights for the instrument relative to the floor. By enabling higher support for the instrument, the musician may stand, and the risk of ergonomic or RSI for the musician is greatly reduced, as the musician is not required to sit and lean forward while holding up the instrument and moving to play the instrument, and can move to play the instrument without needing to lean forward and/or to a side, as is typically done by a musician playing a large string instrument while seated. The present disclosure teaches aspects of an apparatus which can be quickly and easily assembled and disassembled, for transport, and re-assembled while maintaining a user's desired and previously set heights and angles of the apparatus

[0009] Furthermore, in another aspect of the present disclosure, the disclosed apparatus allows for use of a plurality of endpins comprising a range of angles, offsets, and orientations by the musician. The musician may choose different short endpin shafts for use with the endpin stand apparatus, and swap them in and out of use as components of the apparatus. This represents a great improvement over the current art, in which endpin adjustment is difficult or impossible.

[0010] In one aspect, the present disclosure teaches an endpin stand apparatus for support of a stringed instrument, comprising: a ground tube; an upright tube; an upright-ground connector; an internal tube; an upright-internal fastener; a platform, wherein the platform further comprises a platform base, the platform base further comprising: a platform hole and a platform cup, and wherein the platform cup is disposed under the platform hole; and a hinged assembly.

[0011] In one aspect, the present disclosure teaches wherein the hinged assembly comprises a plurality of hinge units, wherein each of the plurality of hinge units is rotatably fixed to one or more of the plurality of hinge units.

[0012] In one aspect, the present disclosure teaches wherein the hinged assembly comprises a top-hinge-unit and a bottom-hinge-unit, and wherein the top-hinge-unit and the bottom-hinge-unit are rotatably fixed to each other with a hinge-unit-pin.

[0013] In one aspect, the present disclosure teaches wherein the hinge-unit-pin passes through the top-hinge-unit and the bottom-hinge-unit, and is fixed into a hinge-pin-nut.

[0014] In one aspect, the present disclosure teaches wherein the top-hinge-unit further comprises a hinge-cup-connector, and wherein the platform cup further comprises a cup-hinge-connector.

[0015] In one aspect, the present disclosure teaches wherein the cup-hinge-connector and the hinge-cup-connector are sized and shaped such that the cup-hinge-connector can be inserted into and removed from the hinge-cup-connector, and the cup-hinge-connector fits snugly in the hinge-cup-connector; and wherein the hinged assembly further comprises a hinge-cup-retainer, which can securely and reversibly secure the cup-hinge-connector and the hinge-cup-connector to each other.

[0016] In one aspect, the present disclosure teaches wherein the cup-hinge-connector and the hinge-cup-connector are sized and shaped such that the hinge-cup-connector can be inserted into and removed from the cup-hinge-connector, and the hinge-cup-connector fits snugly in the cup-hinge-connector; and wherein the hinged assembly further comprises a hinge-cup-retainer, which can securely and reversibly secure the cup-hinge-connector and the hinge-cup-connector to each other.

[0017] In one aspect, the present disclosure teaches wherein the cup-hinge-connector and the hinge-cup-connector are sized and shaped such that either can be inserted into the other in any orientation.

[0018] In one aspect, the present disclosure teaches wherein the cup-hinge-connector and the hinge-cup-connector are sized and shaped such that the cup-hinge-connector and the hinge-cup-connector can be together in only one orientation.

[0019] In one aspect, the present disclosure teaches wherein the bottom-hinge-unit further comprises a hinge-tube-connector; and wherein a top end of the internal tube further comprises a tube-hinge-connector.

[0020] In one aspect, the present disclosure teaches wherein the hinge-tube-connector and the tube-hinge-connector are sized and shaped such that the hinge-tube-connector is inserted into and removed from the tube-hinge-connector, which is shaped as a receptacle for the hinge-tube-connector.

[0021] In one aspect, the present disclosure teaches wherein the hinge-tube-connector and the tube-hinge-connector are sized and shaped such that the tube-hinge-connector is inserted into and removed from the hinge-tube-connector, which is shaped as a receptacle for the tube-hinge-connector.

[0022] In one aspect, the present disclosure teaches wherein the hinged assembly further comprises a hinge-tube-retainer, which securely and reversibly secures the hinge-tube-connector and the tube-hinge-connector to each other, and wherein the hinge-tube-connector and the tube-hinge-connector are sized and shaped such that they can be rotated relative to each other, and then set at a particular position and relative rotation with the hinge-tube-retainer.

[0023] In one aspect, the present disclosure teaches wherein the hinged assembly comprises a plurality of ball-and-socket joints.

[0024] In one aspect, the present disclosure teaches an endpin stand apparatus for support of a stringed instrument, comprising: a ground tube; an upright tube; an upright-ground connector; a platform, wherein the platform further comprises a platform base, the platform base further comprising: a platform hole and a platform cup, and wherein the platform cup is disposed under the platform hole; and a hinged assembly.

[0025] In one aspect, the present disclosure teaches wherein the hinged assembly comprises a top-hinge-unit and a bottom-hinge-unit, and wherein the top-hinge-unit and the bottom-hinge-unit are rotatably fixed to each other with a hinge-unit-pin; and wherein the top-hinge-unit further comprises a hinge-cup-connector, and wherein the platform cup further comprises a cup-hinge-connector; and wherein the

cup-hinge-connector and the hinge-cup-connector are sized and shaped such that one can be inserted into the other.

[0026] In one aspect, the present disclosure teaches wherein the cup-hinge-connector and the hinge-cup-connector are sized and shaped such that the cup-hinge-connector and the hinge-cup-connector can be together in only one orientation.

[0027] In one aspect, the present disclosure teaches wherein the bottom-hinge-unit further comprises a hinge-tube-connector; and wherein a top end of the upright tube further comprises a tube-hinge-connector; and wherein the hinge-tube-connector and the tube-hinge-connector are sized and shaped such that the one of the tube-hinge-connector and the hinge-tube-connector is reversibly inserted into and removed from the other of the tube-hinge-connector and the hinge-tube-connector.

[0028] In one aspect, the present disclosure teaches wherein the hinged assembly further comprises a hinge-tube-retainer, which securely and reversibly secures the hinge-tube-connector and the tube-hinge-connector to each other, and wherein the hinge-tube-connector and the tube-hinge-connector are sized and shaped such that they can be rotated relative to each other, and then set at a particular position and relative rotation with the hinge-tube-retainer.

[0029] In one aspect, the present disclosure teaches an endpin stand apparatus for support of a stringed instrument, comprising: a ground tube; an upright tube; an upright-ground connector; an internal tube; an upright-internal fastener; a platform, wherein the platform further comprises a platform base, the platform base further comprising: a platform hole and a platform cup, and wherein the platform cup is disposed under the platform hole; and a bracket, wherein the bracket reversibly affixes the platform cup to the internal tube, and wherein the bracket further comprises a hinged assembly.

[0030] These aspects of the present disclosure, and others disclosed in the Detailed Description of the Drawings, represent improvements on the current art. This summary is provided to introduce a selection of concepts in a simplified form that are further described below in the Detailed Description of the Drawings. This Summary is not intended to identify key features for essential features of the claimed subject matter, nor is it intended to be used to limit the scope of the claimed subject matter.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0031] The foregoing summary, as well as the following detailed description of various aspects, is better understood when read in conjunction with the appended drawings. For the purposes of illustration, there is shown in the drawings exemplary aspects; but the presently disclosed subject matter is not limited to the specific methods and instrumentalities disclosed. In the drawings, like reference characters generally refer to the same components or steps of the device throughout the different figures. In the following detailed description, various aspects of the present invention are described with reference to the following drawings, in which:

[0032] FIG. **1** shows a perspective view of a musician playing a stringed instrument (here, a cello) with an aspect of the present invention.

[0033] FIG. **2** shows a front elevation view of a musician playing a stringed instrument (here, a cello) with an aspect of the present invention.

[0034] FIG. **3** shows a front elevation view of an exemplary endpin stand apparatus of the present invention.

[0035] FIG. **4** shows a perspective view of an exemplary endpin stand apparatus of the present invention.

[0036] FIG. **5** shows a perspective view of an exemplary endpin stand apparatus of the present invention.

[0037] FIG. **6** shows a perspective view of an exemplary endpin stand apparatus of the present invention.

[0038] FIG. **7** shows a perspective view of a portion of an exemplary endpin stand apparatus of the present invention.

[0039] FIG. **8** shows a perspective view of a portion of an exemplary endpin stand apparatus of the present invention.

[0040] FIG. **9** shows a perspective view of a portion of an exemplary endpin stand apparatus of the present invention.

[0041] FIG. **10** shows a perspective view of a portion of an exemplary endpin stand apparatus of the present invention.

[0042] FIG. **11** shows a side perspective view of an exemplary endpin stand apparatus of the present invention.

[0043] FIG. **12** shows a front elevation view, with partial cut-away, of an exemplary endpin stand apparatus of the present invention.

[0044] FIG. **13** shows an exploded front perspective view of a portion of an exemplary endpin stand apparatus of the present invention.

[0045] FIG. **14** shows a top perspective view of a portion of an exemplary endpin stand apparatus of the present invention.

[0046] FIG. **15** shows a side perspective view of a portion of an exemplary endpin stand apparatus of the present invention.

[0047] FIG. **16** shows an assembled side perspective view of a portion of an exemplary endpin stand apparatus of the present invention.

[0048] FIG. **17** shows a partially-exploded side perspective view of a portion of an exemplary endpin stand apparatus of the present invention.

[0049] FIG. **18** shows an assembled front elevation view of a portion of an exemplary endpin stand apparatus of the present invention.

[0050] FIG. **19** shows a partially-exploded front elevation view of a portion of an exemplary endpin stand apparatus of the present invention

[0051] FIG. **20** shows an assembled side elevation view of a portion of an exemplary endpin stand apparatus of the present invention.

[0052] FIG. **21** shows a partially-exploded side elevation view of a portion of an exemplary endpin stand apparatus of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0053] The presently disclosed invention is described with specificity to meet statutory requirements. But, the description itself is not intended to limit the scope of this patent. Rather, the claimed invention might also be presented in other aspects, to include different steps or elements similar to the ones described in this document, in conjunction with other present or future technologies. Moreover, although the term "step" may be used herein to connote different aspects of methods employed, the term should not be interpreted as implying any particular order among or between various steps herein disclosed unless and except when the order of individual steps is explicitly described. The word "approxi-

mately" as used herein means within 5% of a stated value, and for ranges as given, applies to both the start and end of the range of values given.

[0054] In the following description, numerous specific details are set forth to provide a thorough understanding of the invention. But, the present invention may be practiced without these specific details. Structures and techniques that would be known to one of ordinary skill in the art have not been shown in detail, in order not to obscure the invention. Referring to the figures, it is possible to see the various major elements constituting the methods and systems of the present invention.

[0055] The present subject matter discloses aspects of improved endpin stand apparatus for use on and support of stringed instruments. At a high level of overview, the endpin stand apparatus **100** of the present invention is made, in various aspects, so that the endpin stand apparatus **100** may be used with a stringed instrument **200** with little or no modification of the instrument's body, and the endpin stand apparatus **100** allows a musician **220** using the stringed instrument **200** with the endpin stand apparatus **100** to stand, or sit in a higher seat than is possible with prior-art endpins, and allows the musician **220** a choice of the height of the endpin stand apparatus **100** and a choice of the endpin shaft **160** or platform **300** used with the stringed instrument **200**, providing better support of the stringed instrument **200** and an improved range of positions which the musician **220** may employ while playing the stringed instrument **200**.

[0056] With reference to FIG. **1** and FIG. **2**, a musician **220** is shown playing a stringed instrument **200** that is supported by an endpin stand apparatus **100** of the present invention.

[0057] With reference to FIG. **3**, FIG. **11**, and FIG. **12**, an aspect of the invention is depicted. The endpin stand apparatus **100** comprises a ground tube **120**, an upright tube **110**, an upright-ground connector **112**, an internal tube **140**, and an upright-internal fastener **150**. The endpin stand apparatus **100** may further comprise an endpin shaft **160**. The endpin stand apparatus **100** may further comprise a platform **300**. The endpin stand apparatus **100** may further comprise a kickstand **400**.

[0058] With reference to FIG. **3**, FIG. **4**, FIG. **5**, and FIG. **6**, the ground tube **120** is disposed to sit on or at the floor or ground where the musician **220** has the stringed instrument **200**. As used herein, the term "floor" is to be understood as encompassing any object or surface on which a stringed instrument **200** may be placed, including but not limited to the interior of a building, the ground or a rock, a vehicle, a platform, or any structure or object. The endpin stand apparatus **100** of the present invention should sit on the floor or ground, and should meet the stringed instrument **200** at such an angle that the upright tube **110** (and the internal tube **140** inside the upright tube **110**) are approximately vertical and approximately perpendicular to the floor or ground. It has been found advantageous to have the upright tube **110** be approximately perpendicular to the floor or ground, so that the ground tube **120** and the ground feet **124** (or the plurality of ground blocks **128** or the ground plate **126**, as disclosed below in other aspects of the present invention) meet the floor with most of the weight of the stringed instrument **200** directed down so as to maximize the frictive forces between the floor and the endpin stand apparatus **100** and therefore reduce the risk of the endpin stand apparatus **100** sliding along the floor, as opposed to having a significant component of the force directed sideways, which would reduce the frictive forces between the floor and the endpin stand apparatus **100** and increase the risk of the endpin stand apparatus **100** sliding and the stringed instrument **200** being damaged. As is discussed below in greater detail, an endpin shaft **160** component of the present invention may be a straight endpin shaft **161** or an angled endpin shaft **162** or a hinged endpin shaft **163**, and a plurality of endpin shaft **160** may be used and may be interchangeable, such that the angle between the internal tube **140** and the stringed instrument **200** is such that the upright tube **110** is approximately vertical and approximately perpendicular to the floor or ground, and the stringed instrument **200** is not vertical so that it is at a comfortable position to be played. To that end, an angled endpin shaft **162** may be desirable when in use with a stringed instrument **200** using a traditional round endpin support that allows only for a straight path of a traditional endpin in and out of the lower rib area of the stringed instrument **200** (that is, along the long axis of the stringed instrument **200**). In contrast, a straight endpin shaft **161** may be desirable when in use with a stringed instrument **200** using an endpin support that allows for an endpin to be supported at an angle relative to the long axis of the stringed instrument **200**.

[0059] The ground tube **120** may comprise a single piece of material, as is shown in FIG. **4**, FIG. **5**, and FIG. **6**, or may comprise more than one piece of material, as is shown in FIG. **3**, in which the ground tube **120** comprises a ground tube first piece **122** and a ground tube second piece **123**, which may be joined together with screw threads, a pressure fitting, one or more spring-locking latches, a set screw, or other means now known or later invented. Where the ground tube **120** comprises more than one piece of material, the ability to disassemble and reassemble the ground tube **120** makes storage and transport of the endpin stand apparatus **100** simpler. The ground tube **120** may advantageously be circular in cross-section, though other cross-sectional shapes of the ground tube **120** are possible. The ground tube **120** may be straight, or may be curved, or have another shape including but not limited to a split or branched shape. The ground tube **120** may have a rocker-stabilizer **130** attached to the ground tube **120** with a ground-rocker connector **132**. The rocker-stabilizer **130** may be an approximately flat rectangle of material, or may be any other shape, or may advantageously be shaped like a half of a cylinder, with a section cut out from each side to match the shape of the ground tube **120**, such that the rocker-stabilizer **130** is shaped to closely align with the ground tube **120**. The rocker-stabilizer **130** may be used by the musician **220** as a footrest when playing the stringed instrument **200** mounted on the endpin stand apparatus **100**, and/or to adjust the angle of the stringed instrument **200** by movement of the foot of the musician **220**, whether the musician **220** is currently playing or not. The rocker-stabilizer **130** may also be used to stabilize the endpin stand apparatus **100** when the musician **220** is mounting the stringed instrument **200** on the endpin stand apparatus **100**, or when the musician **220** is removing the stringed instrument **200** from the endpin stand apparatus **100**. In some aspects, there may be a plurality of rocker-stabilizers **130**, providing an advantage to a musician **220** who wishes to switch which foot the musician **220** is using on the rocker-stabilizer **130**.

[0060] The ground tube **120** may comprise at least two ends, at its extremities distal from the upright tube **110**, and

may have a plurality of ground feet **124** mounted on the ground tube **120**, disposed at or near the ends of the ground tube **120**. The plurality of ground feet **124** serve to provide a frictive connection between the endpin stand apparatus **100** and the floor, such that the endpin stand apparatus **100** does not slip or slide while the musician **220** is playing the stringed instrument **200**. Any such movement of the endpin stand apparatus **100** along the floor could lead to damage to the stringed instrument **200**, injury to the musician **220**, and errors in the performance by the musician **220**, or a distraction during the performance.

[0061] The ground tube **120** may be connected to and disconnected from the upright tube **110** with the upright-ground connector **112**. The upright-ground connector **112** may comprise screw threads, a pressure fitting, a clamp such as that depicted in FIG. **5**, one or more spring-locking latches, a set screw, or other means now known or later invented. The upright-ground connector **112** serves to allow the ground tube **120** to be attached to and detached from the upright tube **110**. When detached, the storage and transport of the endpin stand apparatus **100** is simpler as the endpin stand apparatus **100** may be packed into a relative small package or container, and carried with the stringed instrument **200** in the case of the stringed instrument **200**, or alongside such a case. The upright-ground connector **112** may be fixedly attached to the upright tube **110**, or may be fixedly attached to the ground tube **120**, or the upright-ground connector **112** may be removably attached to each of the upright tube **110** and the ground tube **120**. The upright tube **110** attaches to either the upright-ground connector **112** or directly to the ground tube **120** at an upright-tube joint **116**.

[0062] With reference to FIG. **3**, FIG. **4**, FIG. **5**, FIG. **6**, FIG. **7**, FIG. **8**, FIG. **9**, and FIG. **10**, the upright tube **110** and the internal tube **140** are, advantageously, concentric with the upright tube **110** larger than the internal tube **140**, such that the internal tube **140** may be disposed snugly within the upright tube **110**, and the internal tube **140** may slide within the upright tube **110** so that the musician **220** may adjust a height of the endpin stand apparatus **100** by sliding the internal tube **140**. The endpin stand apparatus **100** may be used at a height of approximately 20" or higher, such as a height of approximately 24"-25" high for a musician **220** of approximately average height, or may be used at a height of approximately 28"-30", or higher, for a musician **220** who is taller than an average height. The internal tube **140** may be fixed in place relative to the upright tube **110** by use of the upright-internal fastener **150**, at the height of the endpin stand apparatus **100** selected by the musician **220** for playing the stringed instrument **200**, or may be collapsed as short as possible for storage and transport. The upright-internal fastener **150** may be a set screw, as is shown in FIG. **3**, FIG. **4**, FIG. **5**, and FIG. **6**, or may be a quick-release clamp or other suitable fastener mechanism now known or later invented that will serve to reversibly fasten and be released, to secure the upright tube **110** and the internal tube **140** together, as will be understood by one of skill in the art. The upright tube **110** and the internal tube **140** may advantageously be circular in cross-section, as shown in FIG. **3**, FIG. **5**, and FIG. **6**, or may advantageously be square in cross-section, as shown in FIG. **1**, FIG. **4**, FIG. **7**, FIG. **8**, and FIG. **9**, though other cross-sectional shapes of the upright tube **110** and the internal tube **140** are possible.

[0063] With reference to FIG. **4**, an aspect of the present invention is that the connection between the ground tube **120** and the upright tube **110** may be by means of an upright-ground slot **114**, in which a protrusion from the ground tube **120** aligns with the upright-ground slot **114** in the lower end of the upright tube **110**, such that the upright-ground slot **114** may slide over the ground tube **120**. The upright tube **110** may then be fastened to the ground tube **120** by clamping the upright-ground connector **112** around at least part of the upright tube **110** at the upright-ground slot **114**, so as to secure the upright tube **110** to the ground tube **120**.

[0064] Also with reference to FIG. **4**, the cross-sectional shape of the ground tube **120** does not have to be the same as the cross-sectional shapes of the upright tube **110** and the internal tube **140**.

[0065] With reference to FIG. **5**, in an aspect of the present invention, the ground tube **120** may be attached to a plurality of ground blocks **128** with freedom of movement to rotate axially while remaining attached to the plurality of ground blocks **128**, which plurality of ground blocks **128** are advantageously larger than the plurality of ground feet **124** present in other aspects of the present invention. The ground tube **120** may be rotated by the musician **220** within and relative to the plurality of ground blocks **128**, such as by use of the rocker-stabilizer **130** as previously described, to allow adjustment of the angle and position of the endpin stand apparatus **100** and to stabilize the endpin stand apparatus **100** as described herein, while the plurality of ground blocks **128** may provide more stability and frictional connection to the floor, in this aspect of the present invention, than the plurality of ground feet **124** may.

[0066] With reference to FIG. **6**, in an aspect of the present invention, the endpin stand apparatus **100** may further comprise a ground plate **126**, to which the plurality of ground blocks **128** may be affixed. In such aspects of the present invention, the ground plate **126** would sit on the floor or ground, and the plurality of ground blocks **128** may allow the ground tube **120** to rotate within the ground blocks **128**, to provide the aforementioned adjustability and stability of the endpin stand apparatus **100**, as previously disclosed herein.

[0067] With reference to FIG. **7**, FIG. **8**, FIG. **9**, and FIG. **10**, and with reference to FIG. **3**, FIG. **4**, FIG. **5**, and FIG. **6**, the endpin stand apparatus **100** may comprise, at the upper end (the end away from the upright tube **110** and the ground tube **120**) of the internal tube **140**, an endpin shaft **160**, which, as discussed previously, may be a straight endpin shaft **161** or may be an angled endpin shaft **162** or may be a hinged endpin shaft **163**, and any of the foregoing aspects of an endpin shaft **160** may be, it has been found advantageous, interchangeable in use with the endpin stand apparatus **100**. Any endpin shaft **160** may, it has been found advantageous, be a cylinder of material suitably strong to support the weight of the stringed instrument **200**; specifically this includes but is not limited to a straight endpin shaft **161** or an angled endpin shaft **162** or a hinged endpin shaft **163**. In contrast to traditional adjustable endpins, the endpin shaft **160** may be approximately 2" to approximately 8" long, and, it has been found advantageous, is not adjustable, though an endpin shaft **160** as described herein may be adjustable as may be desirable in some aspects, including but not limited to the hinged endpin shaft **163** that is hinged and can be fixed at a hinge-angle as desired by the musician **220**, which allows for a range of adjustment of the hinged

endpin shaft **163** to allow the musician **220** to adjust the angle at which the musician **220** holds the stringed instrument **200**, and the angle at which the endpin stand apparatus **100** meets the floor. The hinged endpin shaft **163** comprises a top end and a bottom end disposed opposite each other, and an endpin shaft catchment **164**, which allows the two ends of the hinged endpin shaft **163** to be adjusted relative to each other and remain fixed as a hinged endpin shaft **163**, and an endpin shaft fastener **165** to fasten the endpin shaft catchment **164** and fix the hinged endpin shaft **163** at a particular angle chosen by the musician **220**. The upper end of the internal tube **140** may comprise an internal-endpin shaft hole **166**. In some aspects of the present invention, the upper end of the internal tube **140** may comprise both an endpin shaft **160** and an internal-endpin shaft hole **166**. The upper end of the internal tube **140** may further comprise an internal-endpin connector **168**, which internal-endpin connector **168** may be threaded, or hinged, or a ball-bearing or pressure fit mount, or other connection now known or later invented, which serves to connect the endpin shaft **160** to the internal tube **140**. In an aspect of the present invention, the internal-endpin connector **168** may allow the endpin shaft **160** to be affixed to and removed from the internal tube **140**. In an aspect of the present invention, the internal-endpin shaft hole **166** may allow the endpin shaft **160** to be inserted into and removed from the internal tube **140**.

[0068] An internal-endpin set screw **170** may be used with aspects of the present invention having the internal-endpin shaft hole **166** to affix the endpin shaft **160** in the internal-endpin shaft hole **166**, such as is illustrated in FIG. **10**. The internal-endpin set screw **170** may not be needed in some aspects of the present invention, as the weight of the stringed instrument **200** may prevent the stringed instrument **200** and/or the endpin shaft **160** from moving relative to the rest of the endpin stand apparatus **100**, though in some aspects of the present invention the internal-endpin set screw **170** may be desired to prevent the stringed instrument **200** and/or endpin shaft **160** from rotating or moving relative to the rest of the endpin stand apparatus **100**. In some aspects of the present invention, the endpin shaft **160** may be made fixedly and immovably part of the internal tube **140**. In other aspects of the present invention, the endpin shaft **160** may be removable from the internal tube **140**, and it may be possible to replace an endpin shaft **160** of the endpin stand apparatus **100** with any of various different aspects of an endpin shaft **160**. For instance, and without limiting the foregoing, the endpin shaft **160** that is used or placed with an aspect of the present invention may be a straight endpin shaft **161**, an angled endpin shaft **162**, or may be an endpin shaft **160** of a different length than is illustrated in the present disclosure.

[0069] With reference to FIG. **11**, FIG. **12**, FIG. **13**, and FIG. **14**, the endpin stand apparatus **100** may further comprise a platform **300**. The platform **300** comprises a platform base **310** further comprising a platform hole **319**; a platform cup **320**, wherein the platform cup **320** is sized and shaped to accommodate an endpin plug or endpin block of a stringed instrument **200** and allow movement of an endpin plug or endpin block within the platform cup **320**, and the platform cup **320** is disposed under the platform hole **319** such that an endpin plug can be passed through the platform hole **319** when the stringed instrument **200** is placed on the platform **300**; a plurality of cup-platform-fasteners **322**; a plurality of cup-bracket-fasteners **324**; and a bracket **340** and the platform **300** may further comprise a bracket-tube fastener **350**. The plurality of cup-platform-fasteners **322** reversibly affix the platform cup **320** to the platform base **310**, and may comprise finger screws, latches, or any other fastener now known or later invented. The bracket **340** reversibly affixes the platform cup **320** to the internal tube **140**, and may comprise a bracket in shape, or may comprise a plurality of components sized and shaped to fit concentrically outside of or inside of the internal tube **140**, or the upright tube **110**, or may comprise some other shape or form that allows the platform cup **320** to be reversibly affixed to the internal tube **140** or upright tube **110**. The bracket **340** may be snugly fitted to the internal tube **140** or the upright tube **110**, or may be reversibly affixed and removed with a bracket-tube fastener **350**. The plurality of cup-bracket-fasteners **324** reversibly affix the platform cup **320** to the bracket **340**, and may comprise bolts, finger screws, latches, or any other fastener now known or later invented. The bracket-tube fastener **350** may comprise a quick-release bolt with nut, or may comprise a screw or bolt with a wing nut or similar, or may comprise any type of fastener now known or later invented.

[0070] With reference to FIG. **16**, FIG. **17**, FIG. **18**, FIG. **19**, FIG. **20**, and FIG. **21**, in some aspects of the present disclosure, the bracket **340** may comprise a hinged assembly **360**. Alternatively, in other aspects of the present disclosure, the bracket **340** is not present in the endpin stand apparatus **100**, and the hinged assembly **360** is present. In either such aspect, the hinged assembly **360** comprises a plurality of hinge units **362**, wherein each of the plurality of hinge units **362** may be rotatably fixed to the one or more of the plurality of hinge units **362** which they each contact and connect to, such that the plurality of hinge units **362** may bend through a range of angles, and be fixed at any given angle or combination of angles at which the plurality of hinge units **362** are arranged. In some aspects of the present disclosure, the hinged assembly **360** may comprise a ball-and-socket joint, or a plurality of ball-and-socket joints, or other mechanism.

[0071] In some aspects of the present disclosure, the plurality of hinge units **362** comprises two hinge units **362**: a top-hinge-unit **364** and a bottom-hinge-unit **366**. It will be apparent to one of skill in the art that any number of hinge units **362** may be present, and furthermore that in most aspects of the present disclosure it will be advantageous to have a top-hinge-unit **364** and a bottom-hinge-unit **366**, and any number of the hinge units **362**, as are advantageous or desired, intermediated between the top-hinge-unit **364** and the bottom-hinge-unit **366**. Each pair of the plurality of hinge units **362** may be rotatably fixed to each other with a hinge-unit-pin **368**, about which the pair of the plurality of hinge units **362** may rotate and may be fixed. Each hinge-unit-pin **368** may be a set screw, clamp, or other mechanism now known or later invented to allow the pair of the plurality of hinge units **362** to rotate relative to each other, and be fixed in place at a desired angle relative to each other. Each hinge-unit-pin **368** may pass through the respective pair of the plurality of hinge units **362** and be fixed into or with a hinge-pin-nut **369**. In FIG. **16**, FIG. **17**, FIG. **18**, FIG. **19**, FIG. **20**, and FIG. **21**, only a top-hinge-unit **364** and a bottom-hinge-unit **366** are illustrated, with a hinge-unit-pin **368** connecting them, affixed to a hinge-pin-nut **369**.

[0072] The top-hinge-unit **364** further comprises a hinge-cup-connector **370**. In these aspects of the present disclosure, the platform cup **320** further comprises a cup-hinge-

connector **326**. The cup-hinge-connector **326** and the hinge-cup-connector **370** may be sized and shaped such that the cup-hinge-connector **326** may be inserted into and removed from the hinge-cup-connector **370**, and the cup-hinge-connector **326** fits snugly in the hinge-cup-connector **370**. In some aspect of the present disclosure, the opposite may be true such that the hinge-cup-connector **370** may be inserted into the cup-hinge-connector **326**. The hinged assembly **360** may further comprise a hinge-cup-retainer **372**, which hinge-cup-retainer **372** may be a set screw, clamp, paired magnets, or other mechanism now known or later invented to securely and reversibly secure the cup-hinge-connector **326** and the hinge-cup-connector **370** to each other, such that the cup-hinge-connector **326** may be removed from and reassembled into the hinge-cup-connector **370**, or in other aspects, such that the hinge-cup-connector **370** may be removed from and reassembled into the cup-hinge-connector **326**. This allows for improvements in the portability and packability of the endpin stand apparatus **100**, while allowing the musician **220** to maintain the desired settings, specifically with regard to height and angles of the endpin stand apparatus **100** relative to the floor and to the stringed instrument **200**. It will be apparent to one of skill in the art that the cup-hinge-connector **326** may, in some aspects of the present disclosure, be an indentation in the platform cup **320**, and in such aspects that the hinge-cup-connector **370** is a protrusion that fits into the cup-hinge-connector **326**, with the advantages as described above, and further, that in such aspects the hinge-cup-retainer **372** may be a unit or assembly that is in the platform cup **320** and secures the hinge-cup-connector **370** into or to the cup-hinge-connector **326**. Such variations are within the scope of the present disclosure.

[0073] The cup-hinge-connector **326** and the hinge-cup-connector **370** may be sized and shaped such that either can be inserted into the other in any orientation, or in only one or two or a particular number of orientations. For instance, and without limiting the foregoing, the cup-hinge-connector **326** and the hinge-cup-connector **370** may both be a regular shape in cross-section, such as two square shapes which can be connected in any of four orientations, for their four sides. Or, the cup-hinge-connector **326** and the hinge-cup-connector **370** may both be rhombuses in cross-section, so that they can be inserted in either of two orientations. Or, the cup-hinge-connector **326** and the hinge-cup-connector **370** may both be irregular pentagons, with only one possible orientation between them. Or, the cup-hinge-connector **326** and the hinge-cup-connector **370** may both be round, with any number of possible orientations between them.

[0074] The bottom-hinge-unit **366** further comprises a hinge-tube-connector **380**. In such aspects of the present disclosure, a top end of the internal tube **140**, or of the upright tube **110** where there is not the internal tube **140**, further comprises a tube-hinge-connector **382**. The hinge-tube-connector **380** and the tube-hinge-connector **382** may be sized and shaped such that the hinge-tube-connector **380**, which may be a pin or other shape, is inserted into and removed from the tube-hinge-connector **382**, which is shaped as a receptacle for the hinge-tube-connector **380**, and the hinge-tube-connector **380** may fit snugly in the tube-hinge-connector **382**. In some aspects of the present disclosure, the foregoing components may be sized and shaped such that the tube-hinge-connector **382**, which may be a pin or other shape, is inserted into and removed from the hinge-tube-connector **380**, which is shaped as a receptacle for the tube-hinge-connector **382**, and the tube-hinge-connector **382** may fit snugly in the hinge-tube-connector **380**. In either of the foregoing aspects, the hinged assembly **360** further comprises a hinge-tube-retainer **384**. The hinge-tube-retainer **384** may be a set screw, clamp, paired magnets, or other mechanism now known or later invented to securely and reversibly secure the hinge-tube-connector **380** in the tube-hinge-connector **382**, or the tube-hinge-connector **382** in the hinge-tube-connector **380**, or otherwise secure the hinge-tube-connector **380** and the tube-hinge-connector **382** to each other. The hinge-tube-connector **380** and the tube-hinge-connector **382** may be sized and shaped such that they can be rotated relative to each other, and then set at a particular position and relative rotation with the hinge-tube-retainer **384**. This allows for improvements in the portability and packability of the endpin stand apparatus **100**, while allowing the musician **220** to maintain the desired settings, specifically with regard to height and angles of the endpin stand apparatus **100** relative to the floor and to the stringed instrument **200**.

[0075] In such aspects, the hinged assembly **360** is present rather than a bracket **340**, and the combination of the hinged assembly **360** and its components, described above, reversibly affixes the platform cup **320** to the internal tube **140**, or to the upright tube **110** if the endpin stand apparatus **100** does not comprise the internal tube **140**.

[0076] With reference to FIG. **11**, FIG. **12**, FIG. **13**, and FIG. **14**, the platform base **310** may, advantageously, be flat or approximately flat, or may in some aspects of the endpin stand apparatus **100** be curved. The platform **300** may, in some aspects of the present disclosure, be rotated side-to-side (which may be achieved with the cup-platform-fasteners **322** being loosened, the platform base **310** rotated relative to the platform cup **320** with the cup-platform-fasteners **322** in curved slots milled or formed in the platform cup **320**, and the cup-platform-fasteners **322** being tightened) and/or front-to-back (which may be achieved by loosening the bracket-tube fastener **350**, tilting the bracket **340** relative to the internal tube **140** or the upright tube **110**, and tightening the bracket-tube fastener **350**).

[0077] With reference to FIG. **16**, FIG. **17**, FIG. **18**, FIG. **19**, FIG. **20**, and FIG. **21**, in some aspects of the present disclosure, the endpin stand apparatus **100** may not comprise the cup-platform-fasteners **322**. The motion and rotation that was made possible, in the foregoing aspects comprising the cup-platform-fasteners **322** described above (in which the platform **300** may be rotated side-to-side with the cup-platform-fasteners **322** being loosened, the platform base **310** rotated relative to the platform cup **320** with the cup-platform-fasteners **322** in curved slots milled or formed in the platform cup **320**, and the cup-platform-fasteners **322** being tightened), is possible with rotation of the hinge-tube-connector **380** relative to the tube-hinge-connector **382**, such that the hinge units **362** and thus the platform **300** rotate relative to the upright tube **110** or internal tube **140**. An advantage of this aspect of the endpin stand apparatus **100** is that the relative angle and position of the platform **300** relative to the upright tube **110** or internal tube **140** is simpler and easier for the musician **220** to set and re-attain upon disassembly and re-assembly of the endpin stand apparatus **100**.

[0078] The platform base **310** may be covered in part or in whole with a platform padding **316**. The platform padding

316 may comprise a foam material, including but not limited to a memory foam or other material now known or later invented, and may be uniform in thickness, advantageously from approximately ⅛" to approximately 4" thick, or may be approximately 2" thick, or may vary in thickness across the extent of the platform padding **316**, or may be thicker in the approximate vicinity of the platform hole **319** and platform cup **320**, such that the platform padding **316** is primarily contacting the stringed instrument **200** in the lower rib area of the stringed instrument **200**. The platform padding **316** may be covered with a cover of cloth, velvet, a non-slip cloth or other non-slip material, or other material now known or later invented. The platform padding **316** may be reversibly attached to and removed from the platform base **310** with a plurality of padding fasteners **318**, which plurality of padding fasteners **318** may comprise hook-and-loop fasteners, or may comprise zippers, snaps, buttons, and/or straps, or other types of fasteners, as will be apparent to one of skill in the art. The plurality of padding fasteners **318** may be placed on or used on more than just the platform base **310**, as described below. Because the lower rib area of a stringed instrument **200** is curved, when the stringed instrument **200** is on the platform **300**, the weight of the stringed instrument **200** is centered on the area around the stringed instrument **200** endpin plug or endpin block, and on the platform **300** in the vicinity of the platform hole **319**. This is the strongest part of the stringed instrument **200** because of the internal block and the strength of the instrument ribs glued to the internal block. The platform padding **316** assists the musician **220** in playing the stringed instrument **200**, by preventing the stringed instrument **200** from twisting axially relative to the platform **300**, which would be destabilizing to the left hand of the musician **220** on the stringed instrument **200**, which would be detrimental because the left hand does the fingering (playing) of notes. In aspects of the endpin stand apparatus **100** with a platform-front-support **314**, the platform-front-support **314** also helps prevent axial twisting of the stringed instrument **200**.

[0079] The platform **300** may further comprise a platform-rear-support **312**, and may further comprise a platform-front-support **314**. The platform-rear-support **312** may comprise, and be covered in part or in whole with a platform-rear-support-padding **315**. The platform-front-support **314** may comprise, and be covered in part or in whole with a platform-front-support-padding **317**. The platform-rear-support-padding **315** may comprise a padding material such as approximately ½" thick neoprene rubber, or other material now known or later invented. The platform-front-support-padding **317** may comprise a padding material such as approximately ½" thick neoprene rubber, or other material now known or later invented. The platform-rear-support-padding **315** may be reversibly attached to and removed from the platform-rear-support **312** with a plurality of padding fasteners **318**, which plurality of padding fasteners **318** may comprise hook-and-loop fasteners, or may comprise zippers, snaps, buttons, and/or straps, or other types of fasteners, as will be apparent to one of skill in the art. The platform-front-support-padding **317** may be reversibly attached to and removed from the platform-front-support **314** with a plurality of padding fasteners **318**, which plurality of padding fasteners **318** may comprise hook-and-loop fasteners, or may comprise zippers, snaps, buttons, and/or straps, or other types of fasteners, as will be apparent to one of skill in the art. The platform-rear-support **312** and/or the platform-front-support **314** support the back outer edge or front outer edge, respectively, of the stringed instrument **200** back or front, in the lower curvature of the stringed instrument **200** where the back or front structurally attaches to the ribs of the stringed instrument **200**, close to the lower internal block where the stringed instrument **200** is structurally strongest. The platform-rear-support **312** keeps the stringed instrument **200** from sliding off the back of the platform **300**.

[0080] With reference to FIG. **12** and FIG. **14**, the platform **300** may further comprise a plurality of platform-tilt-mechanisms **330**. The platform-tilt-mechanisms **330** may be used to tilt the stringed instrument **200** slightly, and adjustably, to the side, which is advantageous to any musician **220**, because part of the mechanism of the stringed instrument **200** that attaches the neck to the body is known as a button, and protrudes backward from the stringed instrument **200** such that it would dig into the musician **220** if the stringed instrument **200** were not tilted to a side. The plurality of platform-tilt-mechanisms **330** may comprise a platform-tilt-panel **332**; a plurality of platform-tilt-adjusters **334**; and a plurality of platform-tilt-hinges **335**. In other aspects of the endpin stand apparatus **100**, the platform-tilt-mechanisms **330** may comprise a plurality of platform-tilt-panels **332**, or may comprise a wedge of material, or the platform-tilt-mechanisms **330** may be integrated with the platform padding **316** such that the platform padding **316** tilts the stringed instrument **200** to a side. In aspects where the platform-tilt-mechanisms **330** comprise a plurality of platform-tilt-panels **332**, the plurality of platform-tilt-adjusters **334** may be located above or below or to a side of the platform base **310**, and may comprise a thumb screw or other mechanism now known or later invented that may be used to reversibly adjust the height and tilt angle of the platform-tilt-panel **332** relative to the platform base **310**, with the platform-tilt-hinges **335** serving as the attachment and pivot point or pivot edge of the platform-tilt-panel **332**; the platform-tilt-hinges **335** can be simple hinges, or a piano hinge, or other mechanism now known or later invented, not necessarily hinges.

[0081] With reference to FIG. **11**, FIG. **12**, and FIG. **15**, the endpin stand apparatus **100** may, in some aspects, further comprise a kickstand **400**, wherein the kickstand **400** comprises a kickstand-tube **402** and a kickstand-upright-fastener **408**, which kickstand-upright-fastener **408** reversibly attaches the kickstand-tube **402** to the upright tube **110** at an upright-kickstand-tube joint **118**, wherein the upright tube **110** comprises the upright-kickstand-tube joint **118**, which is affixed to or made as part of the upright tube **110**. The kickstand **400** provides support and stability to the endpin stand apparatus **100**. The kickstand **400** may be removable; or may be made such that the kickstand **400** reversibly folds against the endpin stand apparatus **100**, specifically against the upright tube **110**, the ground tube **120**, or both; or the kickstand **400** may be both removable and may reversibly fold. The kickstand-upright-fastener **408** may comprise a quick-release bolt with nut, or may comprise a screw or bolt with a wing nut or similar, or may comprise any type of fastener now known or later invented. The kickstand **400** may further comprise a kickstand-base **404**, which kickstand-base **404** may be approximately perpendicular to the kickstand-tube **402**, and disposed to sit on the ground, and wherein the kickstand-base **404** may be reversibly affixed to and removed from the kickstand-tube **402**. The kickstand

400 may further comprise a plurality of kickstand-feet **406**, wherein the plurality of kickstand-feet **406** may comprise part of, or may be reversibly affixed to, the kickstand-tube **402** and/or to the kickstand-base **404**.

[0082] Certain aspects of the present invention were described above. From the foregoing it will be seen that this invention is one well adapted to attain all the ends and objects set forth above, together with other advantages, which are obvious and inherent to the system and method of the present invention. It will be understood that certain features and sub-combinations are of utility and may be employed without reference to other features and sub-combinations. It is expressly noted that the present invention is not limited to those aspects described above, but rather the intention is that additions and modifications to what was expressly described herein are also included within the scope of the invention. Moreover, it is to be understood that the features of the various aspects described herein are not mutually exclusive and can exist in various combinations and permutations, even if such combinations or permutations were not made express herein, without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. In fact, variations, modifications, and other implementations of what was described herein will occur to those of ordinary skill in the art without departing from the spirit and the scope of the invention. As such, the invention is not to be defined only by the preceding illustrative description.

Accordingly, what is claimed is:

1. An endpin stand apparatus for support of a stringed instrument, comprising:

a ground tube;

an upright tube;

an upright-ground connector;

an internal tube;

an upright-internal fastener;

a platform, wherein the platform further comprises a platform base, the platform base further comprising: a platform hole and a platform cup, and wherein the platform cup is disposed under the platform hole; and

a hinged assembly.

2. The endpin stand apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the hinged assembly comprises a plurality of hinge units, wherein each of the plurality of hinge units is rotatably fixed to one or more of the plurality of hinge units.

3. The endpin stand apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the hinged assembly comprises a top-hinge-unit and a bottom-hinge-unit, and wherein the top-hinge-unit and the bottom-hinge-unit are rotatably fixed to each other with a hinge-unit-pin.

4. The endpin stand apparatus of claim **3**, wherein the hinge-unit-pin passes through the top-hinge-unit and the bottom-hinge-unit, and is fixed into a hinge-pin-nut.

5. The endpin stand apparatus of claim **3**, wherein the top-hinge-unit further comprises a hinge-cup-connector, and wherein the platform cup further comprises a cup-hinge-connector.

6. The endpin stand apparatus of claim **5**, wherein the cup-hinge-connector and the hinge-cup-connector are sized and shaped such that the cup-hinge-connector can be inserted into and removed from the hinge-cup-connector, and the cup-hinge-connector fits snugly in the hinge-cup-connector; and wherein the hinged assembly further comprises a hinge-cup-retainer, which can securely and reversibly secure the cup-hinge-connector and the hinge-cup-connector to each other.

7. The endpin stand apparatus of claim **5**, wherein the cup-hinge-connector and the hinge-cup-connector are sized and shaped such that the hinge-cup-connector can be inserted into and removed from the cup-hinge-connector, and the hinge-cup-connector fits snugly in the cup-hinge-connector; and wherein the hinged assembly further comprises a hinge-cup-retainer, which can securely and reversibly secure the cup-hinge-connector and the hinge-cup-connector to each other.

8. The endpin stand apparatus of claim **5**, wherein the cup-hinge-connector and the hinge-cup-connector are sized and shaped such that either can be inserted into the other in any orientation.

9. The endpin stand apparatus of claim **5**, wherein the cup-hinge-connector and the hinge-cup-connector are sized and shaped such that the cup-hinge-connector and the hinge-cup-connector can be together in only one orientation.

10. The endpin stand apparatus of claim **3**, wherein the bottom-hinge-unit further comprises a hinge-tube-connector; and wherein a top end of the internal tube further comprises a tube-hinge-connector.

11. The endpin stand apparatus of claim **10**, wherein the hinge-tube-connector and the tube-hinge-connector are sized and shaped such that the hinge-tube-connector is inserted into and removed from the tube-hinge-connector, which is shaped as a receptacle for the hinge-tube-connector.

12. The endpin stand apparatus of claim **10**, wherein the hinge-tube-connector and the tube-hinge-connector are sized and shaped such that the tube-hinge-connector is inserted into and removed from the hinge-tube-connector, which is shaped as a receptacle for the tube-hinge-connector.

13. The endpin stand apparatus of claim **10**, wherein the hinged assembly further comprises a hinge-tube-retainer, which securely and reversibly secures the hinge-tube-connector and the tube-hinge-connector to each other, and wherein the hinge-tube-connector and the tube-hinge-connector are sized and shaped such that they can be rotated relative to each other, and then set at a particular position and relative rotation with the hinge-tube-retainer.

14. The endpin stand apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the hinged assembly comprises a plurality of ball-and-socket joints.

15. An endpin stand apparatus for support of a stringed instrument, comprising:

a ground tube;

an upright tube;

an upright-ground connector;

a platform, wherein the platform further comprises a platform base, the platform base further comprising: a platform hole and a platform cup, and wherein the platform cup is disposed under the platform hole; and

a hinged assembly.

16. The endpin stand apparatus of claim **15**, wherein the hinged assembly comprises a top-hinge-unit and a bottom-hinge-unit, and wherein the top-hinge-unit and the bottom-hinge-unit are rotatably fixed to each other with a hinge-unit-pin; and wherein the top-hinge-unit further comprises a hinge-cup-connector, and wherein the platform cup further comprises a cup-hinge-connector; and wherein the cup-hinge-connector and the hinge-cup-connector are sized and shaped such that one can be inserted into the other.

17. The endpin stand apparatus of claim **16**, wherein the cup-hinge-connector and the hinge-cup-connector are sized and shaped such that the cup-hinge-connector and the hinge-cup-connector can be together in only one orientation.

18. The endpin stand apparatus of claim **16**, wherein the bottom-hinge-unit further comprises a hinge-tube-connector; and wherein a top end of the upright tube further comprises a tube-hinge-connector; and wherein the hinge-tube-connector and the tube-hinge-connector are sized and shaped such that the one of the tube-hinge-connector and the hinge-tube-connector is reversibly inserted into and removed from the other of the tube-hinge-connector and the hinge-tube-connector.

19. The endpin stand apparatus of claim **18**, wherein the hinged assembly further comprises a hinge-tube-retainer, which securely and reversibly secures the hinge-tube-connector and the tube-hinge-connector to each other, and wherein the hinge-tube-connector and the tube-hinge-connector are sized and shaped such that they can be rotated relative to each other, and then set at a particular position and relative rotation with the hinge-tube-retainer.

20. An endpin stand apparatus for support of a stringed instrument, comprising:

a ground tube;

an upright tube;

an upright-ground connector;

an internal tube;

an upright-internal fastener;

a platform, wherein the platform further comprises a platform base, the platform base further comprising: a platform hole and a platform cup, and wherein the platform cup is disposed under the platform hole; and

a bracket, wherein the bracket reversibly affixes the platform cup to the internal tube, and wherein the bracket further comprises a hinged assembly.

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