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(54) **DEFLECTABLE FINGER CONNECTION  
FEATURE ON SURGICAL SAW BLADE**

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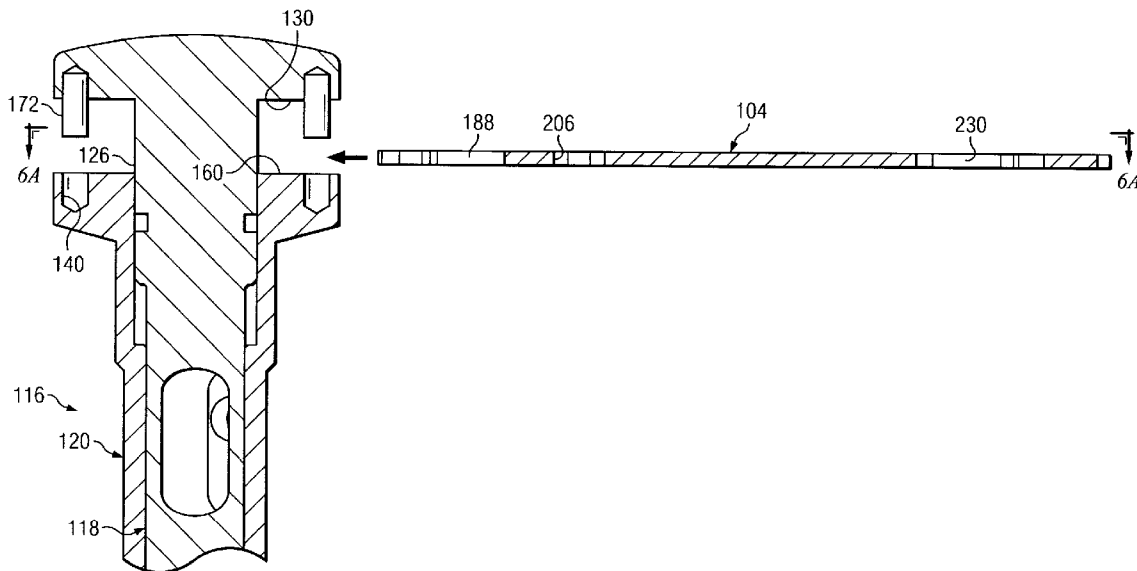
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A surgical cutting blade for cutting bone material when the blade is coupled to a hand-held surgical saw includes a distal portion comprising a plurality of cutting teeth, a shank portion adjacent the distal portion, and a proximal portion adjacent the shank portion. The proximal portion may include a longitudinally extending slot having a proximal opening. The slot may be shaped to receive a portion of the surgical saw through the proximal opening. The proximal portion may have a plurality of deflectable fingers respectively separated from a plurality of main body portions by respective gaps. The plurality of deflectable fingers may extend adjacent the longitudinally extending slot, and may deflect into the gaps to increase and decrease a width of a portion of the slot.

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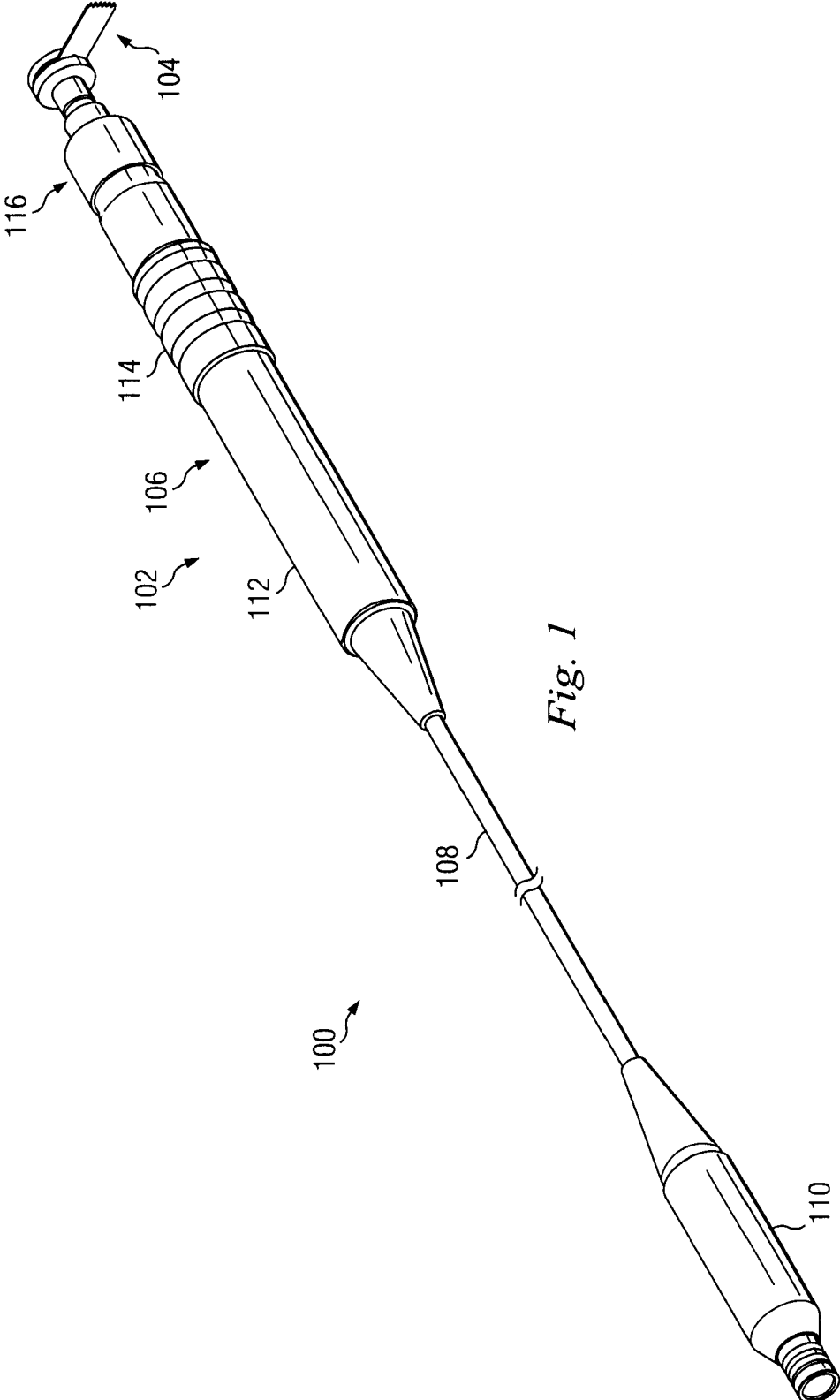
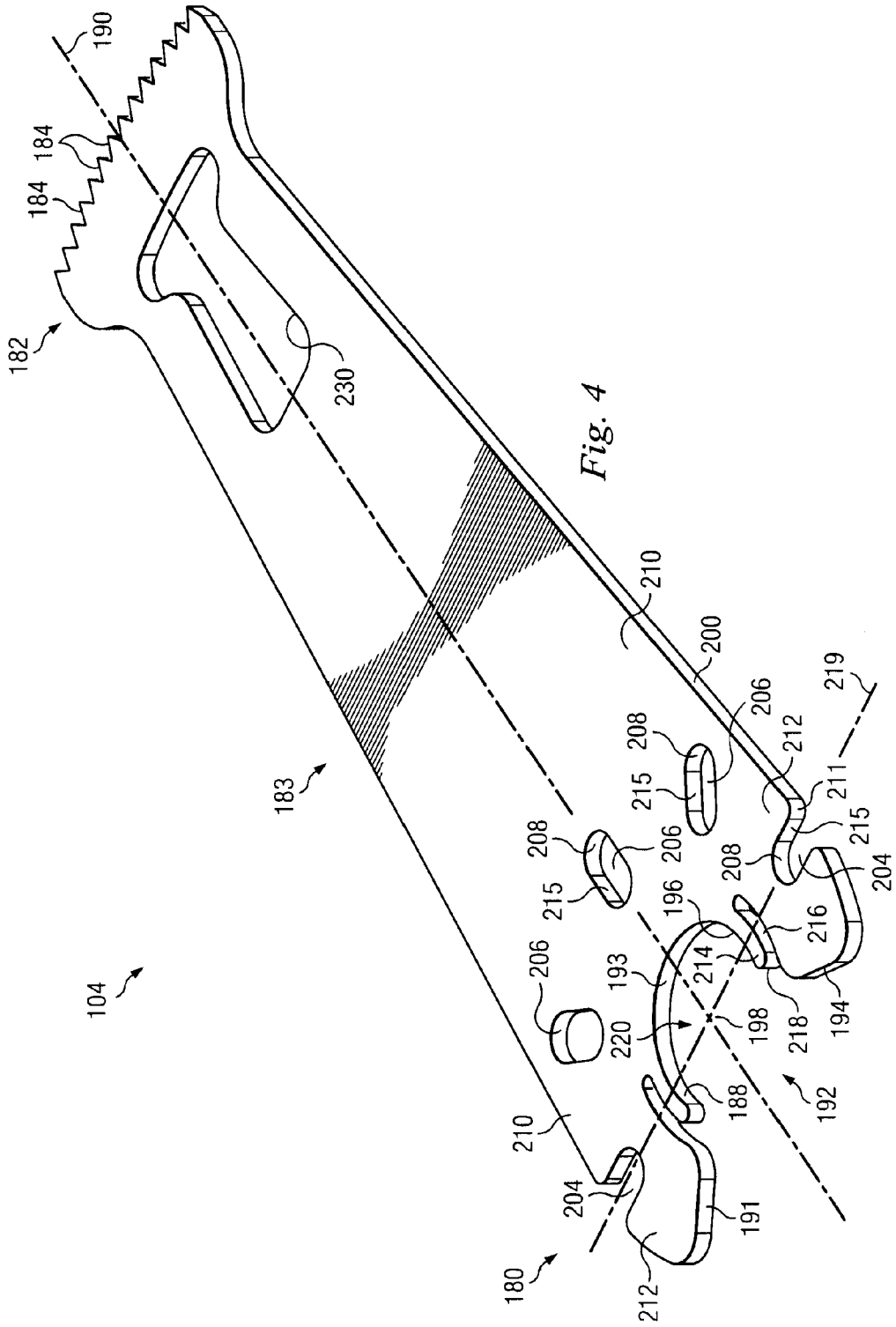


Fig. 1





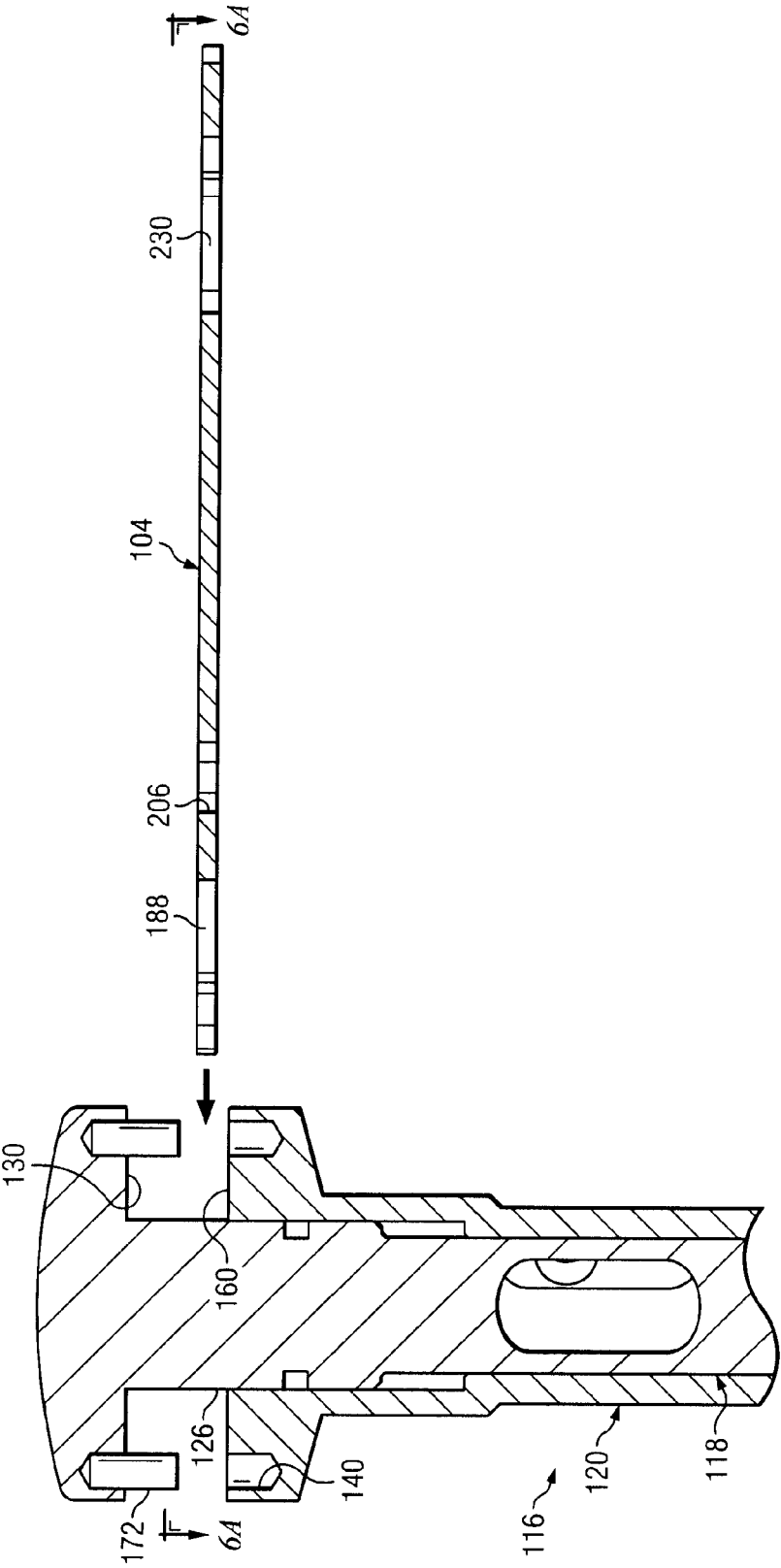


Fig. 5

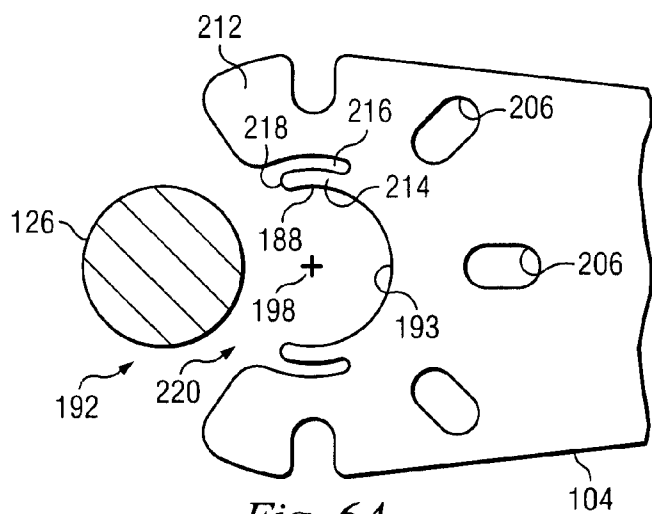


Fig. 6A

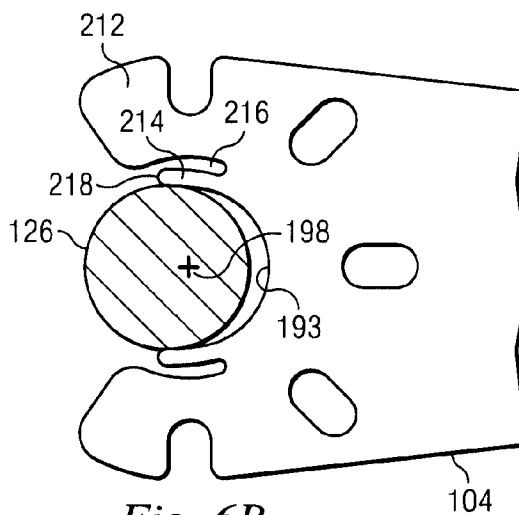


Fig. 6B

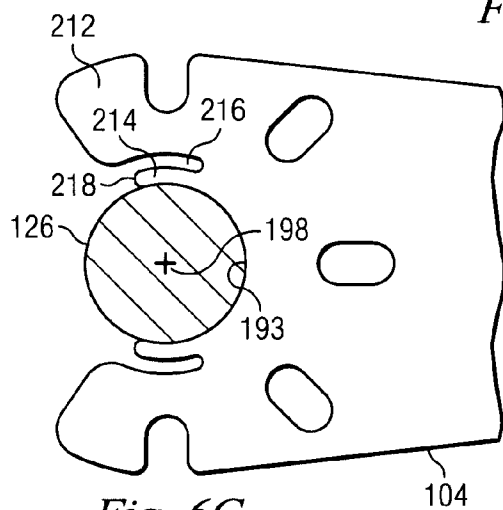


Fig. 6C

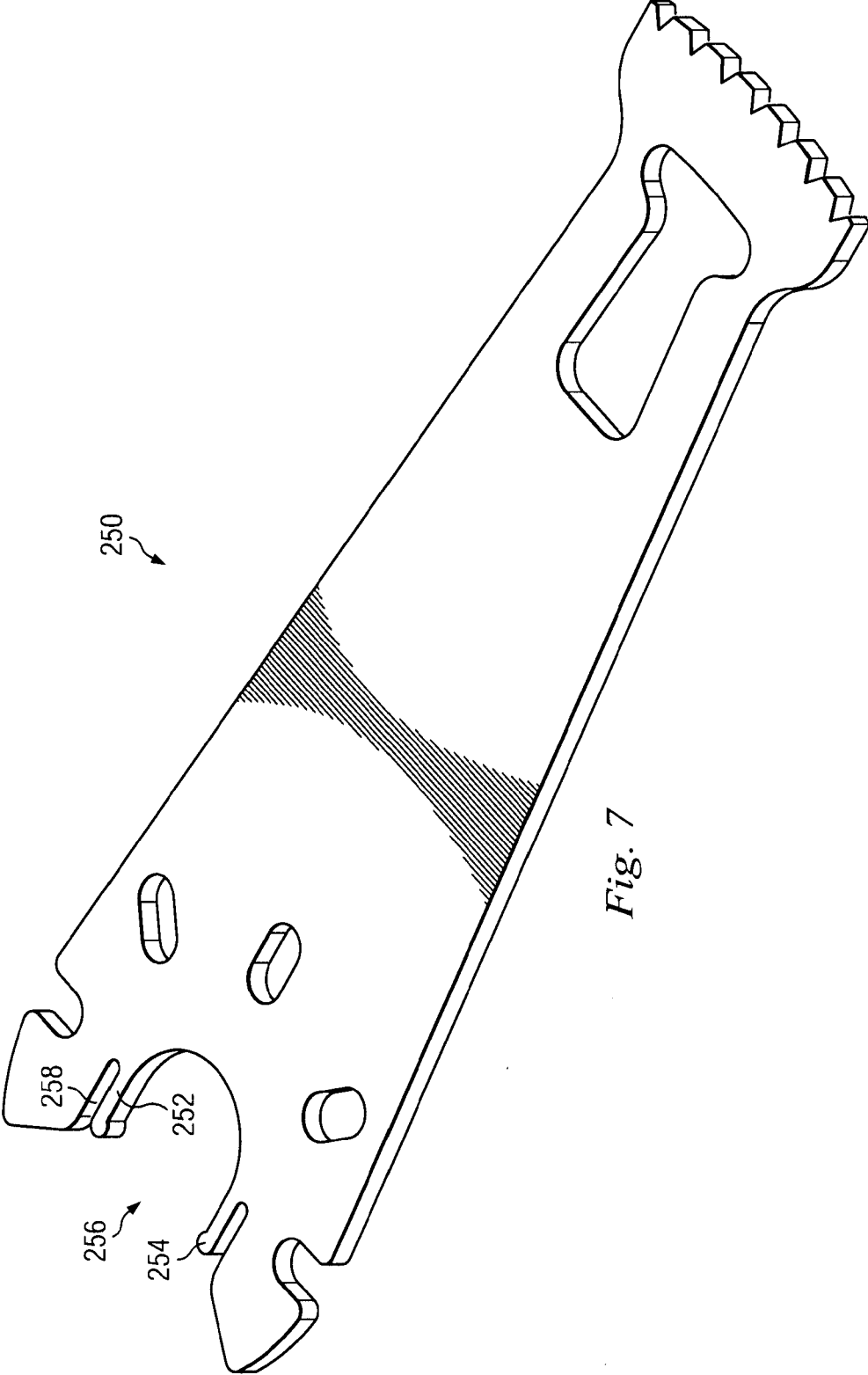


Fig. 7

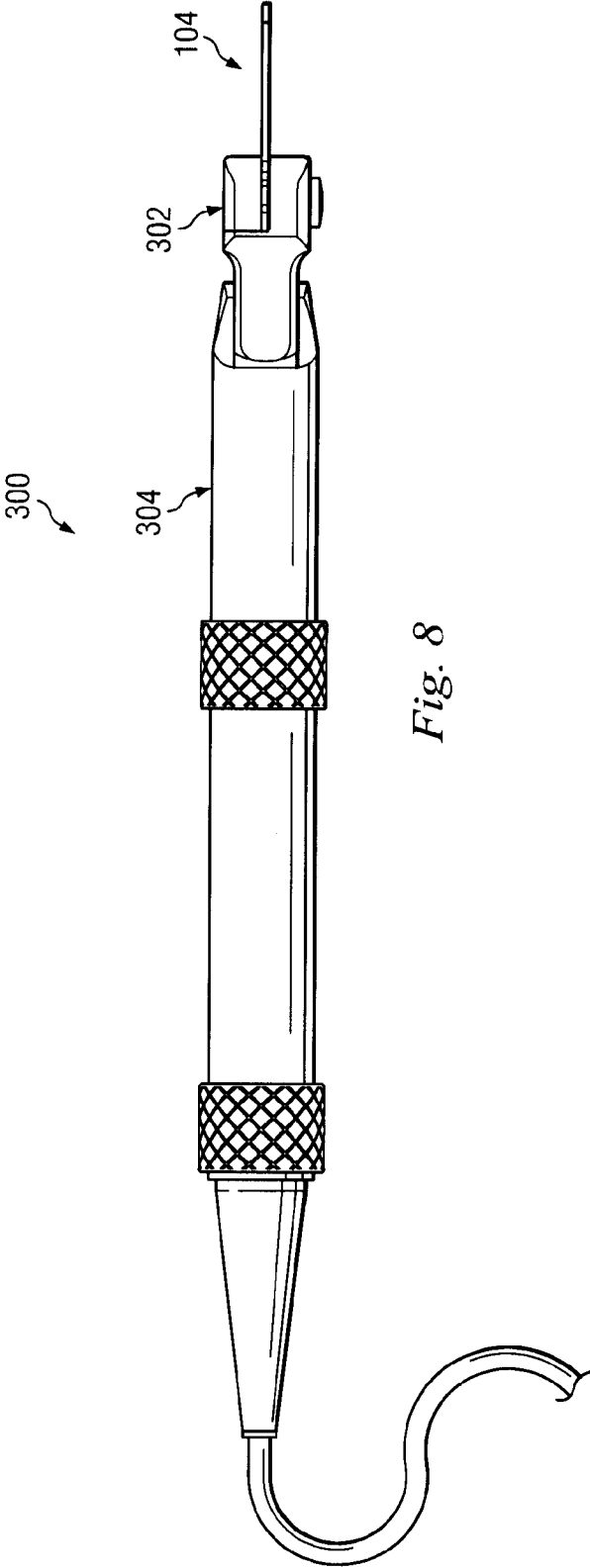


Fig. 8



**DEFLECTABLE FINGER CONNECTION  
FEATURE ON SURGICAL SAW BLADE**

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

**[0001]** This disclosure is directed to a surgical system for cutting tissue and more particularly, to a surgical saw blade having a deflectable finger connection feature.

**BACKGROUND**

**[0002]** Surgical saw blades are inserted and removed from surgical saws prior to, sometimes during, and after surgical procedures. The saws are often arranged so that these saw blades project radially from a post or driver in the saw. To accommodate the post, some blades have openings or gaps formed into their proximal ends. However, until the blade is positively clamped in place, the blade is typically manually held in place on the post. In some instances, the surgeon may not properly clamp the blade in the saw. In these instances, when the surgeon releases his grip on the saw blade, it may fall out of the saw and onto the floor. It then must be discarded.

**[0003]** The present disclosure is directed to a surgical system including a saw blade addressing one or more of the limitations in the prior art.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

**[0004]** In one exemplary aspect the present disclosure is directed to a surgical cutting blade for cutting bone material when the blade is coupled to a hand-held surgical saw. The cutting blade includes a distal portion comprising a plurality of cutting teeth, a shank portion adjacent the distal portion, and a proximal portion adjacent the shank portion. The proximal portion may be shaped to attach to the surgical saw and may include an upper substantially planar surface, a lower substantially planar surface, and a side edge extending between the upper and lower planar surfaces. The side edge may at least in part define an outer perimeter extending about the proximal portion. The proximal portion may include a proximal opening in the outer perimeter to a longitudinally extending slot shaped to receive a portion of the surgical saw. A deflectable finger may form a portion of the slot. The deflectable finger may be defined by the slot and by at least one gap between the deflectable finger and the outer perimeter. The deflectable finger may be configured to deflect into the gap when the saw blade is introduced to the surgical saw.

**[0005]** In one aspect, the slot divides the proximal portion into two lateral sides, with each lateral side having a deflectable finger and a main body portion. The deflectable finger may be configured to deflect into the gap without deflecting the main body portion. In one aspect, the surgical cutting blade includes a seat for said portion of the surgical saw. The fingers may define a seat opening smaller than a width of the seat.

**[0006]** In another exemplary aspect the present disclosure is directed to a surgical cutting blade for cutting bone material when the blade is coupled to a hand-held surgical saw, where the cutting blade includes a distal portion comprising a plurality of cutting teeth, a shank portion adjacent the distal portion, and a proximal portion adjacent the shank portion. The proximal portion may include a longitudinally extending slot having a proximal opening. The slot may be shaped to receive a portion of the surgical saw through the proximal opening. The proximal portion may have a plurality of deflectable fingers respectively separated from a plurality of

main body portions by respective gaps. The plurality of deflectable fingers may extend adjacent the longitudinally extending slot, and may be deflectable into the gaps to increase and decrease a width of a portion of the slot.

**[0007]** In one aspect, the main body portion comprises engagement features shaped to connect to the hand-held surgical saw. In one aspect, the slot divides the proximal portion into two lateral sides. Each lateral side may have one of the plurality of deflectable fingers and one of the plurality of main body portions. The said one of the plurality of deflectable fingers may be configured to deflect into the respective gap without deflecting the said one of the plurality of main body portions. In one aspect, each deflectable finger of the plurality of deflectable fingers comprises a gripping protrusion extending in a transverse direction toward the central longitudinal axis. In one aspect, the plurality of deflectable fingers are configured to snap the blade onto the surgical saw.

**[0008]** In another exemplary aspect, the present disclosure is directed to a method of attaching a surgical cutting blade for cutting bone material to a hand-held surgical saw. The method may include opening a collet fixture to create a space for reception of the surgical cutting blade, and introducing a shank of the collet fixture into a proximal opening of a slot in the blade. The method also may include introducing the shank of the collet fixture into a seat of the slot formed in the blade. The slot may be formed at least partially by deflectable fingers in a first condition. Introducing the shank may include deflecting the deflectable fingers formed on the blade with the shank from a first condition to a second condition. The method also may include advancing the shank into a seat so that the shank passes partially beyond the deflected deflectable fingers and the fingers return toward the first condition to provisionally secure the blade to the shank.

**[0009]** In one aspect, the method includes closing the collet fixture to capture the blade between clamping surfaces on the collet fixture. Closing the collet fixture may include inserting protrusions through openings in the saw blade to secure the saw blade in place.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

**[0010]** A more complete understanding of the present disclosure and advantages thereof may be acquired by referring to the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying figures.

**[0011]** FIG. 1 is an illustration of an exemplary oscillating bone-cutting surgical system according to one exemplary aspect of the present disclosure.

**[0012]** FIG. 2 is an illustration of an exemplary collet assembly from the surgical system of FIG. 1 with a saw blade inserted therein according to one exemplary aspect of the present disclosure.

**[0013]** FIG. 3 is an illustration of a cross-section of the exemplary collet assembly with the saw blade of FIG. 2.

**[0014]** FIG. 4 is an illustration of an exemplary micro-saw blade of the bone cutting surgical system of FIG. 1 according to one exemplary aspect of the present disclosure.

**[0015]** FIG. 5 is an illustration of the exemplary collet system of FIG. 3 in an open or saw blade-receiving position according to one exemplary aspect of the present disclosure.

**[0016]** FIGS. 6A-6C are illustrations showing an attachment sequence of introducing the saw blade of FIG. 4 onto a shank of the exemplary collet system of FIG. 3 according to one exemplary aspect of the present disclosure.

[0017] FIG. 7 is an illustration of another exemplary micro-saw blade of the bone cutting surgical system of FIG. 1 according to one exemplary aspect of the present disclosure.

[0018] FIG. 8 is an illustration of an exemplary sagittal saw for driving a saw blade according to one exemplary aspect of the present disclosure.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0019] Reference is now made in detail to exemplary embodiments of the invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Wherever possible, the same reference numbers are used throughout the drawings to refer to the same or like parts.

[0020] Generally, the present disclosure relates to a bone cutting surgical system including a hand-held, high-speed, bone-cutting surgical saw, such as a sagittal or oscillating saw, and a micro-saw cutting blade. The cutting blade is arranged to provisionally attach to the surgical saw prior to being fully clamped in place. Because the cutting blade may be provisionally secured in the surgical saw, surgeons are less likely to inadvertently drop the cutting blade when securing the cutting blade to the surgical saw, and the cutting blade is less likely to inadvertently slip from the surgical saw prior to being fully clamped in place. This provides both economic and physiological benefits. It reduces waste that may occur when a blade is dropped onto a floor, and must be discarded as waste, and more importantly, it provides easier and faster saw blade changes and saw assembly. These types of efficiencies in the surgical room may benefit the patient by requiring less time under anesthesia, which in some instances may result in the physiological benefit of an improved surgical outcome.

[0021] Turning now to FIG. 1, the present disclosure is directed to a bone-cutting surgical system 100 including a hand-held surgical saw 102 and a selectively removable micro-saw blade 104. The surgical saw 102 includes a hand-piece 106, a cord 108, and a connector 110 configured to removably couple with a power source. The connector 110 is merely exemplary, and it should be apparent to one skilled in the art that any suitable connector may be used, and in some embodiments, the cord 108 itself may be coupled to the power source without the use of a connector. Additional contemplated embodiments include a power source as a part of the hand-piece 106, such as a battery powered hand-piece. In one example, the surgical saw is a pneumatically driven saw.

[0022] The hand-piece 106 includes a motor assembly 112, a grip 114, and a collet assembly 116. In some embodiments, the motor assembly 112 is housed within the grip 114, while in other embodiments, it is disposed adjacent to the grip 114. It is contemplated that any suitable system for controlling the surgical saw 102 may be used. For example, some embodiments include a trigger system disposed on the hand-piece 106 to provide hand-control of the cutting speed, or alternatively, a foot pedal associated with the hand-piece 106 through the power source to provide the controlling inputs. Other control systems also are contemplated.

[0023] FIG. 2 illustrates a portion of the exemplary collet assembly 116 clamping the saw blade 104. The collet assembly 116 secures the saw blade 104 to the surgical saw 102 and transfers a driving force from the motor to the blade. In this embodiment, it includes a driving shaft 118 and a sleeve 120 defining a longitudinal collet axis 122. The sleeve 120 receives and extends about the driving shaft 118 and is axially movable along the collet axis 122 relative to the driving shaft 118, enabling selective coupling with the blade 104.

[0024] The driving shaft 118 and the sleeve 120 are described in greater detail with reference to the cross-sectional view shown in FIG. 3. Here, the driving shaft includes a head 124 forming a distal end of the driving shaft and a shank 126 extending proximally from the head 124. These together define an axis coincident with the collet axis 122.

[0025] The shank 126 includes a distal end 142 either connected to or integral with the head 124 and a proximal end 144. The head 124 includes a proximally facing blade contacting surface 130. In the embodiment shown, the shank 126, including the distal end 142, is formed with a circular diameter sized to mate with a portion of the saw blade 104. However, in other embodiments, the distal end 142 of the shank 126 is non-circular, and may be formed, for example, of a series of flat surfaces or may be formed of, for example, two grooves formed into opposing sides of the shank 126. An axially elongated slot 150 extends through the shank 126. This can receive a pin (not shown) connecting the shank 126 to the sleeve 120 while still permitting limited axial sliding between the sleeve 120 and shank 126. In this embodiment, the proximal end 144 includes a motor coupling feature 147 shown as a pin-receiving through passage that connects either directly or indirectly to the motor to provide the cutting oscillation required.

[0026] The proximally facing blade contacting surface 130 of the driving shaft 118 includes a plurality of protrusions 172 formed as tapered or straight cylinders thereon. These are symmetrically disposed about the collet axis 122 and are configured to interface with the saw blade 104, as is further discussed below. In one embodiment, the driving shaft 118 includes eight protrusions extending therefrom, spaced apart about the collet axis 122. It is contemplated that more or fewer protrusions may be present. The protrusions 172 may be integrally formed with driving shaft 118 or, for manufacturing convenience, may be separate components fit, such as with an interference fit, into receiving ports 171 (shown in FIG. 3) formed in the proximally facing blade contacting surface 130. In the cross-sectional view in FIG. 3, only two of the protrusions are shown, however, it is contemplated that one or more additional protrusions are included. In one embodiment, these protrusions 172 are formed of cylindrical pins extending from the substantially planar proximally facing blade contacting surface 130. In other embodiments, however, the protrusions 172 have a square, rectangular, triangular or diamond-shaped cross-section, and may be shaped as tapered or straight as indicated above. Protrusions of other shapes are also contemplated. For example, in one embodiment, the protrusions are tapered pins formed as frustoconically shaped protrusions. In this embodiment, a blade carried by the collet assembly may not engage both of the surfaces 130, 160, but instead, a portion of the protrusions has a width or diameter greater than that of connection-facilitating openings in the blades. Therefore, the protrusions wedge into the openings, and the protrusions themselves carry the blade. Other embodiments are also contemplated. It should be noted that depending on the embodiment, the protrusions may extend from either the driving shaft 118 or the sleeve 120.

[0027] Still referring to FIG. 3, the sleeve 120, like the driving shaft 118, includes a head 152 and a shank 154, but is formed with a central bore 156 sized to receive the shank 126 of the driving shaft 118. The sleeve 120 defines a sleeve axis coincident with the collet axis 122. The head 152 includes a substantially planar distally facing blade contacting surface 160, a proximally facing surface 162, and an outer perimeter

**164.** In this embodiment, the sleeve outer perimeter **164** is sized to have substantially the same diameter as the driving shaft outer perimeter **132**. Further, as shown in FIG. 3, the distally facing blade contacting surface **160** of the sleeve **120** faces the proximally facing blade contacting surface **130** of the driving shaft **118**.

**[0028]** The distally facing blade contacting surface **160** of the sleeve **120** includes a single recess, such as a groove, or multiple receiving recesses **140** aligned with or corresponding to the protrusions **172**. When the blade **104** is clamped in the collet assembly **116**, the protrusions project into the receiving recesses **140**, as shown in FIG. 3. In one embodiment, the receiving recess **140** is a single groove formed radially about the shaft axis **122**, and extending into the distally facing blade contacting surface **160**. In some embodiments, the collet assembly **116** includes no receiving recess, but the protrusions extend to and abut directly against the substantially planar distally facing blade contacting surface **160**.

**[0029]** Referring to FIG. 3, as can be seen, the distally facing blade contacting surface **160** of the sleeve **120** and the blade contacting surface **130** of the driving shaft **118** face each other. The pieces may axially move apart to receive the blade **104**, and then come together to clamp the blade **104** between the blade contacting surfaces. When assembled, the collet axis forms a centerline about which the saw blade **104**, along with the collet assembly **116**, can oscillate. The protrusions **172** extending from the proximally facing blade contacting surface **130** fit within the receiving recess **140** formed in the head of the sleeve **120** to both secure and align the saw blade **104**, as discussed below.

**[0030]** FIG. 4 shows the exemplary saw blade **104** usable with the surgical saw **102** in FIG. 1 and securable with the collet assembly **116** in FIGS. 2 and 3. The saw blade **104** includes an upper substantially planar surface and a lower substantially planar surface and a side edge extending between the upper and lower planar surfaces. The saw blade **104** includes a proximal portion **180** that facilitates interconnection with the collet assembly **116** and a distal portion **182** having a cutting edge including a plurality of cutting teeth **184** formed thereon, and a shank **183** interposed between the proximal portion **180** and the distal portion **182**.

**[0031]** In this example, the proximal portion **180** includes a slot **188** extending inwardly along a longitudinal axis **190** from a proximal end **191** of the saw blade **104**. The slot **188** is formed with a funnel-like proximal opening **192** defined by substantially straight edges **194** facing toward the longitudinal axis **190** and includes an inner distal end **193** forming a semi-circle. The straight edges **194** may help guide the saw blade **104** into place on the collet assembly **116**, and form an angle between 70 and 160 degrees, but more particularly, within a range of about 90 to 120 degrees. The slot **188** also includes a slot edge **196** shaped to interface with the shank **126** of the driving shaft **118** (FIG. 3). Because the shank **126** is cylindrically shaped, the slot edge **196** is formed as a semi-circle, about a center point **198**. An outer perimeter **200** defines an outer edge of the proximal portion **180**.

**[0032]** In the example shown, the saw blade **104** is longitudinally symmetric. As such, the saw blade **104** has two lateral portions **210** on opposing sides of the longitudinal axis **190**. In the example shown, each lateral portion **210** includes a main body portion **212** and a spring finger or deflectable finger **214**. As described further below, the deflectable finger **214** is separated from the main body portion **212** by a gap **216**

extending adjacent the slot **188**. As will become apparent from the discussion below, the deflectable fingers **214** are used to elastically deflect apart to receive the shank **126** of the driving shaft **118**, then deflect back toward their neutral position to at least provisionally secure or seat the saw blade **104** in the surgical saw collet assembly **116**.

**[0033]** In the embodiments shown, the main body portion **212** is defined between the gap **216** and the outer perimeter **200**. In this example, each of the main body portions **212** is configured to be rigidly and securely attached to the collet assembly **116**. In the example shown, the main body portions each includes an engagement feature shown as an opening **204** formed in the outer perimeter **200**. These openings **204** extend through the saw blade **104** and permit it to be secured to the surgical saw collet assembly **116**. In the embodiment shown, the openings **204** are symmetrically disposed about the center point **198**. Here, the two openings **204** lie directly on opposing sides of the center point **198** and on transverse sides of the longitudinal axis **190**. In this example, three additional openings **206** are spaced the same distance from the center point **198** as the perimeter openings **204**. In the example shown the openings **204**, **206** are offset from each other by 45 degrees and are sized to match the protrusions **172** on the distally facing surface of the driving shaft **118**. However, other offset angles are contemplated that match the desired collet assembly. Each opening **204**, **206** is shaped to be slot-like, having a semi-circular inner end **208** and substantially parallel sides **215**, albeit for a relatively short distance. The perimeter openings **204** extend from the semi-circular end **208** toward the outer perimeter **200**. Chamfered or rounded edges **211** smooth the transition from the openings **204** to the outer perimeter **200**. This reduces the chance of snagging or perforating surgical gloves on the proximal portion **180** of the saw blade **104**. This is particularly useful because the outer perimeter **200** may be closely aligned with, or slightly smaller than the outer perimeters of the heads of the driving shaft and sleeve. It is noted that the transition from the outer perimeter **200** to the straight edges **194** of the slot opening **192** are also chamfered or rounded.

**[0034]** In the example shown, the proximal portion **180** includes five openings **204**, **206**. However, in other embodiments, more or less openings may be provided. When the funnel-like opening **192** has an angle smaller than that shown, additional openings may be included, while maintaining the 45 degree spacing shown.

**[0035]** The deflectable fingers **214** form a portion of the slot edge **196** of the slot **188** and help define a seat for the shank **126** of the collet assembly **116**. In this embodiment, the deflectable fingers **214** are arcuate shaped, having an inner radius matching the radius of the inner distal slot end **193**. The fingers **214** extend from an end of the gap **216** disposed distal of the center point **198** of the slot **188**. Because the deflectable fingers **214** are arcuate shaped, the gap **216** is also arcuate shaped, and formed to be concentric with the flexible fingers **214** about the center point **198**. In the example shown, the flexible fingers **214** extend within a range of 20 degrees to either side of the transverse axis **218** through the center point **198**. Also in the embodiment shown, the deflectable fingers **214** extend in the proximal direction only a distance sufficient to capture the shank **126** and do not extend beyond the proximal ends **191** of the main body portion **212**. In the example shown, ends **218** of the deflectable fingers **214** are disposed so

as to not interfere with the shank 126 as it progresses along the funnel like proximal opening 192 to fully seat into the slot 188.

[0036] In the embodiment, shown, the deflectable fingers 214 form a portion of the radius of the slot, and the ends 218 of the deflectable fingers 214 define a seat opening 220. The combination of the deflectable fingers 214 and the inner distal end 193 of the slot 188 form a semicircular arch extending between about 250 and 200 degrees. In one example, the semicircular arch extends within a range of about 215 to 225 degrees. In one example, the semicircular arch extends about 220 degrees. The seat opening 220 in this example, therefore corresponds to the size of the semicircular arch. In one embodiment, the semicircular arch has a diameter selected to be about the same as or just larger than the size of the shank 126 so that the shank 126 can neatly fit within the slot 188. Because the fingers 214 cause the semicircular arch to extend more than half way around the shank 126, the linear measurement of the seat opening 220 measured between ends 218 of the fingers 214 is less than the diameter or cross-sectional width of the shank 126, and less than the cross-sectional width of the slot at the seat. As such, when the shank 126 is introduced into the seat, the fingers 214 deflect to allow passage of the shank 126. This will be explained further below.

[0037] The distal portion 182 of the saw blade 104 comprises a viewing window 230 therein. The viewing window 230 in this example is somewhat key-hole shaped. It extends from a region just proximal of the teeth to a region of the shank 183. The viewing window 230 provides multiple advantages over conventional systems. First, a surgeon using the tool can now view the cut through the viewing window 230 during the cutting procedure. As such, the surgeon may view both sides of the cut during a process, allowing the surgeon to create a more accurate cut. In addition, the viewing window 230 removes mass from the distal portion 182 of the saw blade 104, permitting the saw blade 104 to oscillate with less energy. Although shown as a key-hole shape in the distal portion of the saw blade 104, it should be recognized that any shape of hole may be used. In this example, the hole includes a transverse width that is greater closer to the teeth. This may enable a surgeon to view the inner cut with less visual impairment as the blade cuts back and forth.

[0038] The distal portion 182 of the saw blade 104 includes the plurality of teeth 184 formed at angles of 60 degrees, however, other angles, both larger and smaller are contemplated. The cutting teeth angle may be at least partially dependent on the surgical application.

[0039] FIG. 5 shows a cross-sectional view of the surgical saw collet assembly 116 in an open configuration, ready to receive the saw blade 104. In this configuration, the saw blade 104 may be introduced into the collet assembly 116 so that the shank 126 of the driving shaft 118 enters into the slot 188. This process is described in greater detail in FIGS. 6A-6C. Together, FIGS. 6A-6C show a process for introducing the saw blade 104 to the collet assembly 116, and provisionally locking or provisionally securing the saw blade 104 in a provisionally locked condition on the collet assembly 116.

[0040] FIG. 6A is a top view taken in the direction of the arrows A-A in FIG. 5. It shows the shank 126 of the driving shaft 118 in cross-section and a view of the proximal portion 180 of the saw blade 104. The deflectable fingers 214 are shown in a neutral or non-deflected condition. Accordingly, the inner and outer surfaces of the deflectable fingers 214 form a concentric partial ring about the center point 198. In

addition, in this example, the gaps 216 are formed to also arc concentrically about the center point 198. As the saw blade 104 is advanced toward the shank 126, the shank 126 enters the slot 188 and the round leading edge of the shank 126 interfaces with the ends 218 of the deflectable fingers 214, causing them to deflect outwardly to accommodate the width of the shank.

[0041] FIG. 6B shows the saw blade 104 positioned on the shank 126 where the deflectable fingers 214 are deflected by the external perimeter of the shank 126. The deflectable fingers 214 elastically displace into the gaps 216, thereby increasing the size of the seat opening 220 formed between the ends 218 of the deflectable fingers 214, without deflecting the main body portions 212. As the shank 126 continues to advance into the seat of the slot 188, the biasing force of the elastically deflectable fingers 214 applies pressure on the trailing side of the shank 126. This biasing force causes the shank 126 to be more fully drawn to a fully seated position in the slot 188, where the leading side of the shank 126 engages the inner distal end 193 of the slot 188. In some embodiments, this force also causes the saw blade 104 to actively snap onto the shank 126.

[0042] FIG. 6C shows the shank 126 seated in the slot 188. As can be seen, the deflectable fingers 114 are returned toward their neutral or original, non-deflected position, about the shank 126. In this position, the saw blade 104 is provisionally locked onto the shank 126. That is, it can be rotated about the shank 126 because it is connected only by the deflectable fingers 114. This provisionally locked position helps secure the blade 104 to the shank 126, even before the openings 204, 206 are aligned with the connecting protrusions 172 on the collet assembly 116. As such, although the saw blade 104 may rotate entirely about the shank 126, it is less likely to slip off of the shank 126 and be inadvertently dropped. It should be noted that when the blade 104 is properly received in and seated about the shank 126, the center point 198 of the saw blade 104 is aligned with the collet axis 122. Although shown as being elastically deflectable, in one embodiment, the fingers can also be plastically deformed when the shank 126 is introduced into the slot 188.

[0043] With the deflectable fingers disposed about the shank, the saw blade 104 may be rotated about the shank to align the openings 204, 206 with the collet connecting features. When the collet connecting features are aligned as desired, the sleeve 120 is then axially slid along the shaft 118 so that the protrusions 172 (not shown in FIG. 6C) engage the openings 204, 206 in the blade 104, thereby placing the saw blade in the locked position, as shown in FIGS. 2 and 3. In this position, the surgeon may be ready to use the saw blade in a surgical procedure.

[0044] FIG. 7 shows a second embodiment of a saw blade, referenced herein by the numeral 250. The saw blade 250 is similar in many ways to the saw blade 104 discussed above, and much of the relevant discussion above will not be repeated here. In this embodiment, the saw blade includes deflectable fingers 252 that are not arcuate shaped, but that are straight and extend in a longitudinal direction. Protrusions 254 are disposed at the ends of the deflectable fingers 252 and extend inwardly in a transverse direction toward a longitudinal axis to define a seat opening 256 sized smaller than the width of the shank. In this example, the gaps 258 are also arranged to extend in the longitudinal direction. In the manner described above, as the saw blade 250 is introduced to a shank, the leading side of the shank engages the protrusions

254 and separates them to increase the size of the seat opening 256. The elastic nature of the fingers 252 biases them toward their original position, causing the fingers 252 with the protrusions 254 to snap back as the shank passes, thereby placing the saw blade 250 and shank in the provisionally locked condition.

[0045] FIG. 8 shows a sagittal saw 300 for driving the saw blade 104. In this embodiment, the collet assembly 302 is arranged to secure the blade 104 in an axial direction relative to a saw handle 304. Accordingly, instead of having proximally and distally facing blade contacting surfaces as described above, the collet assembly includes side-by-side blade contacting surfaces.

[0046] It is evident that the particular illustrative embodiments disclosed above may be altered or modified and all such variations are considered within the scope and spirit of the present invention.

We claim:

1. A surgical cutting blade for cutting bone material when the blade is coupled to a hand-held surgical saw, the cutting blade comprising:

- a distal portion comprising a plurality of cutting teeth;
- a shank portion adjacent the distal portion;
- a proximal portion adjacent the shank portion, the proximal portion being shaped to attach to the surgical saw and including an upper substantially planar surface, a lower substantially planar surface, and a side edge extending between the upper and lower planar surfaces, the side edge at least in part defining an outer perimeter extending about the proximal portion, the proximal portion comprising a proximal opening in the outer perimeter to a longitudinally extending slot shaped to receive a portion of the surgical saw; and
- a deflectable finger forming a portion of the slot, the deflectable finger being defined between the slot and at least one gap between the deflectable finger and the outer perimeter, the deflectable finger being configured to deflect into the gap when the saw blade is introduced to the surgical saw.

2. The surgical cutting blade of claim 1, wherein the slot divides the proximal portion into two lateral sides, each lateral side having a deflectable finger and a main body portion, the deflectable finger being configured to deflect into the gap without deflecting the main body portion.

3. The surgical cutting blade of claim 1, comprising a seat for said portion of the surgical saw, wherein the fingers define a seat opening smaller than a width of the seat.

4. The surgical cutting blade of claim 1, wherein the deflectable finger comprises a gripping protrusion extending in a transverse direction toward the central longitudinal axis.

5. The surgical cutting blade of claim 4, wherein the gripping protrusion is disposed at an end of the deflectable fingers.

6. The surgical cutting blade of claim 1, wherein the deflectable finger has an end disposed at a location distal of the proximal end of the main body portion.

7. The surgical cutting blade of claim 1, wherein the proximal portion comprises a plurality of engagement features configured to receive and interface with protrusions on the surgical saw in a manner that the protrusions cooperatively impart motion to drive the blade.

8. The surgical cutting blade of claim 7, wherein the plurality of engagement features are spaced radially about the center point.

9. The surgical cutting blade of claim 7, wherein two of the plurality of engagement features intersect with the outer perimeter, the two of plurality of engagement features being disposed along a transverse reference line through the center point.

10. The surgical cutting blade of claim 1, further comprising a window portion through the cutting blade disposed at the distal portion of the blade.

11. A surgical cutting blade for cutting bone material when the blade is coupled to a hand-held surgical saw, the cutting blade comprising:

- a distal portion comprising a plurality of cutting teeth;
- a shank portion adjacent the distal portion; and
- a proximal portion adjacent the shank portion, the proximal portion comprising a longitudinally extending slot having a proximal opening, the slot being shaped to receive a portion of the surgical saw through the proximal opening, the proximal portion having a plurality of deflectable fingers respectively separated from a plurality of main body portions by respective gaps, wherein the plurality of deflectable fingers extend adjacent the longitudinally extending slot, and are deflectable into the gaps to increase and decrease a width of a portion of the slot.

12. The surgical cutting blade of claim 11, wherein the main body portion comprises engagement features shaped to connect to the hand-held surgical saw.

13. The surgical cutting blade of claim 11, wherein the slot divides the proximal portion into two lateral sides, each lateral side having one of the plurality of deflectable fingers and one of the plurality of main body portions, the said one of the plurality of deflectable fingers being configured to deflect into the respective gap without deflecting the said one of the plurality of main body portions.

14. The surgical cutting blade of claim 11, wherein each deflectable finger of the plurality of deflectable fingers comprises a gripping protrusion extending in a transverse direction toward the central longitudinal axis.

15. The surgical cutting blade of claim 14, wherein the gripping protrusion is disposed at an end of said each deflectable finger.

16. The surgical cutting blade of claim 11, wherein the proximal portion comprises a plurality of engagement features configured to receive and interface with protrusions on the surgical saw in a manner that the protrusions cooperatively impart motion to drive the blade.

17. The surgical cutting blade of claim 11, wherein the plurality of deflectable fingers are configured to snap the blade onto the surgical saw.

18. A method of attaching a surgical cutting blade for cutting bone material to a hand-held surgical saw, the method comprising:

- opening a collet fixture to create a space for reception of the surgical cutting blade;
- introducing a shank of the collet fixture into a proximal opening of a slot in the blade;
- introducing the shank of the collet fixture into a seat of the slot formed in the blade, the slot being formed at least partially by deflectable fingers in a first condition, wherein introducing the shank comprises deflecting the deflectable fingers formed on the blade with the shank from a first condition to a second condition;
- advancing the shank into a seat so that the shank passes partially beyond the deflected deflectable fingers and the

fingers return toward the first condition to provisionally secure the blade to the shank.

**19.** The method of claim **18**, further comprising closing the collet fixture to capture the blade between clamping surfaces on the collet fixture.

**20.** The method of claim **19**, wherein closing the collet fixture comprises inserting protrusions through openings in the saw blade to secure the saw blade in place.

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