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(54) **SIGNAGE SYSTEMS**

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Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 13/072,191, filed on Mar. 25, 2011, now abandoned, which is a continuation of application No. 11/620,866, filed on Jan. 8, 2007, now Pat. No. 8,001,712.

(60) Provisional application No. 60/756,879, filed on Jan. 6, 2006.

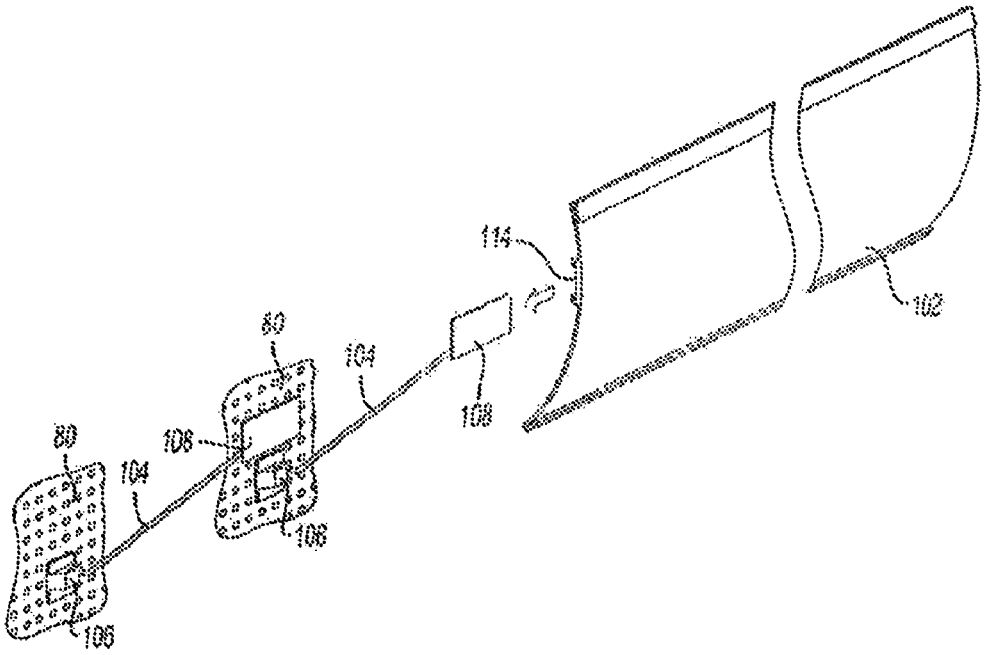
Publication Classification

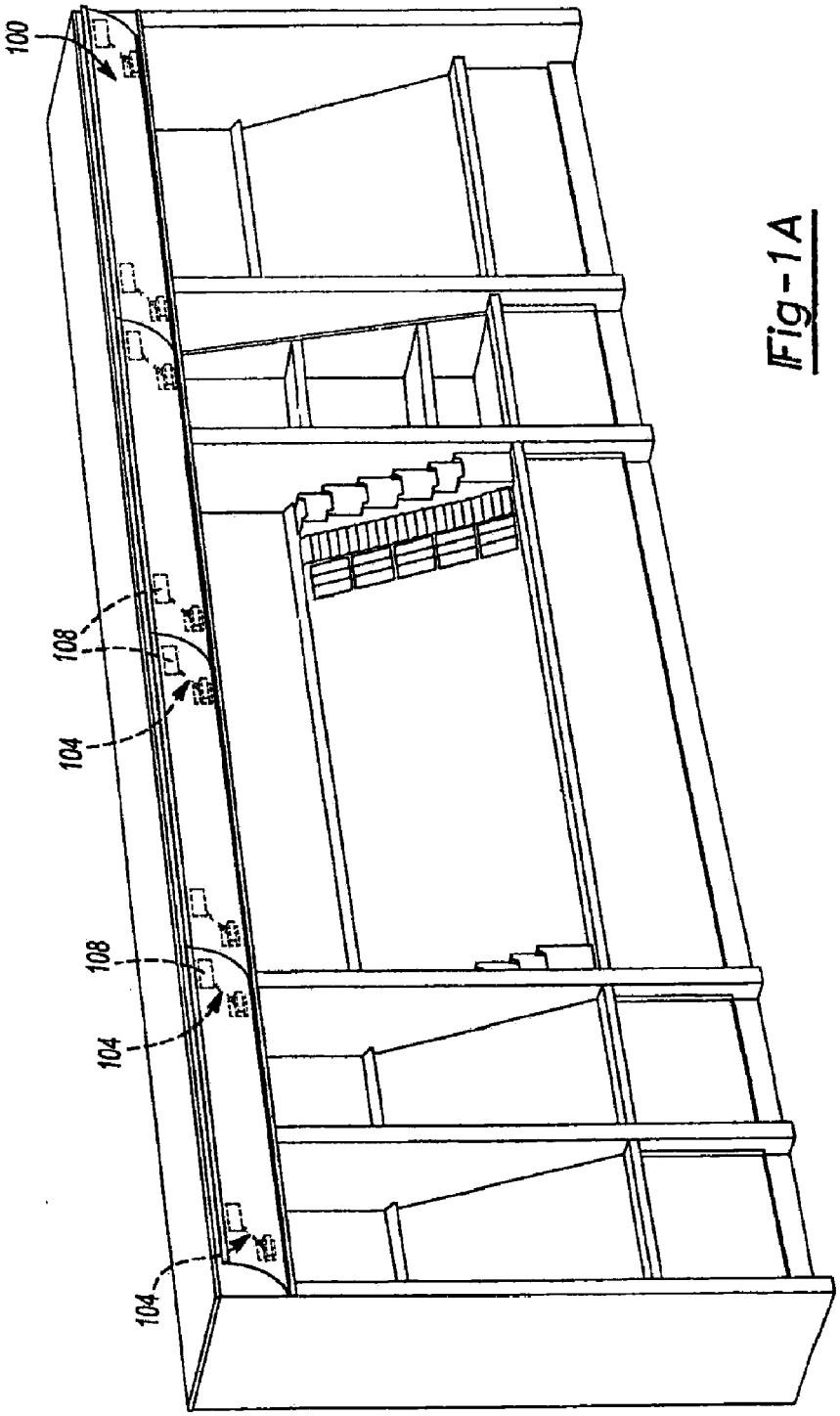
(51) **Int. Cl.**
G09F 15/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **40/606.01**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A system for supporting one or more contiguous overhead signs or portions thereof. The system includes a plurality of sign support members, and a plurality of connectors for coupling adjacent support members along a common longitudinal axis. At least one connector is slidably receivable by the adjacent support members in corresponding channels thereon.





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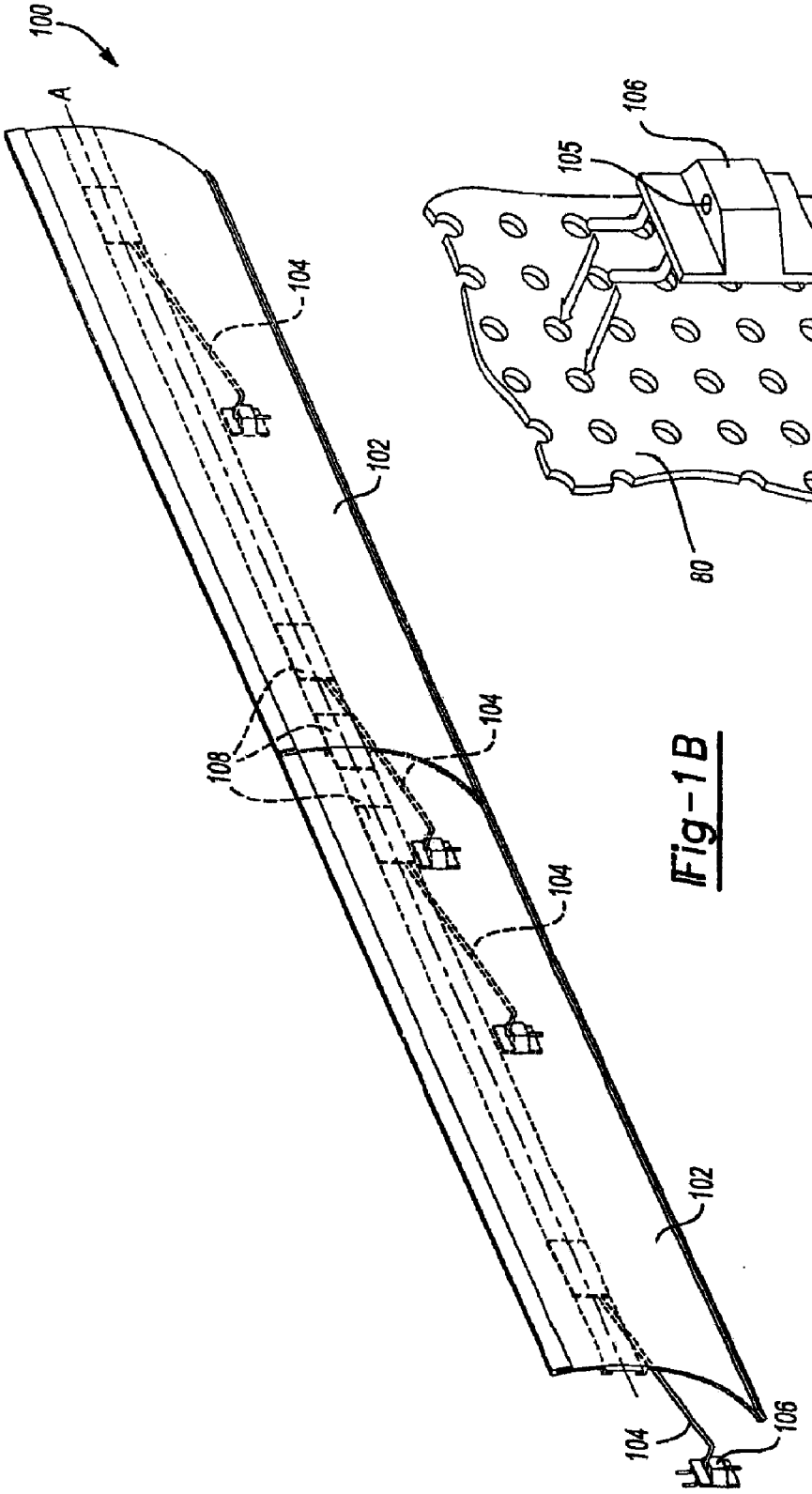


Fig-1B

Fig-2A

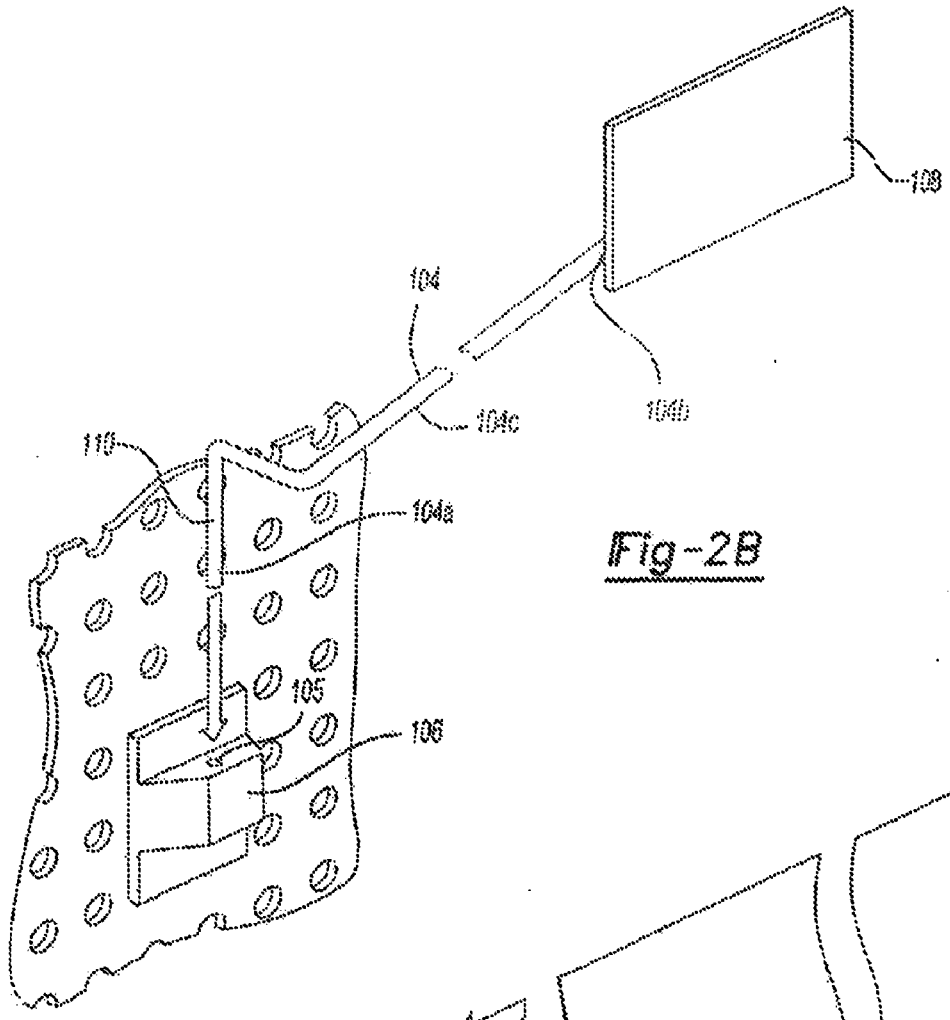


Fig-2B

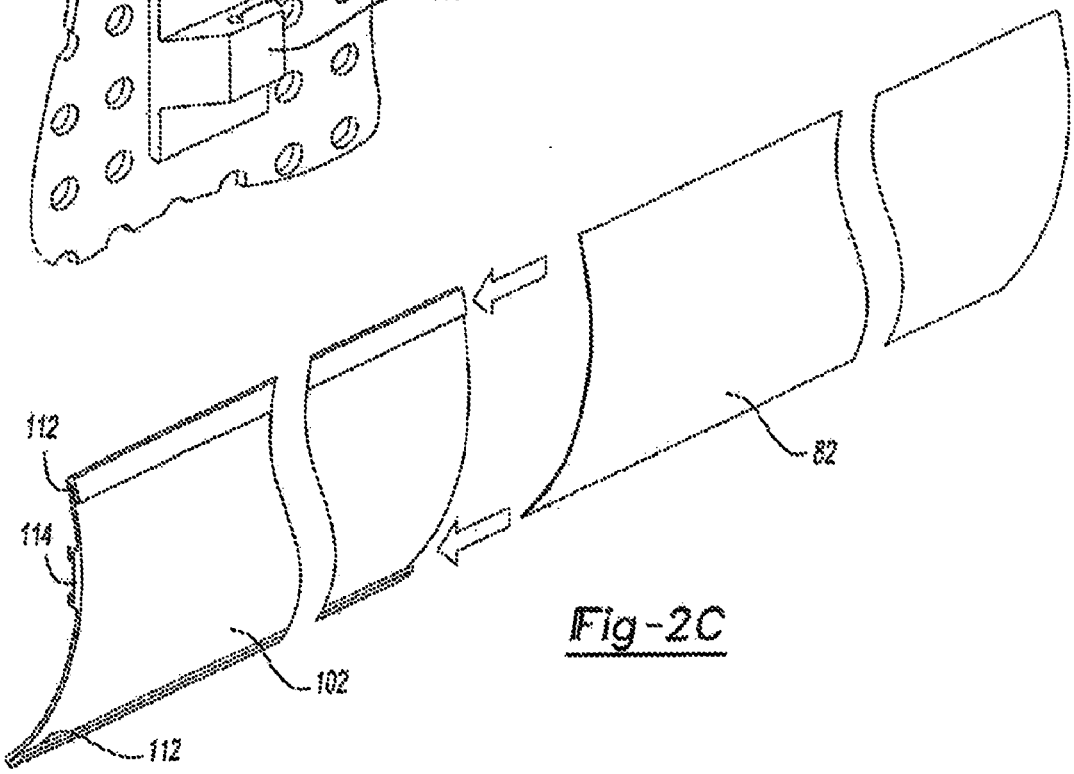


Fig-2C

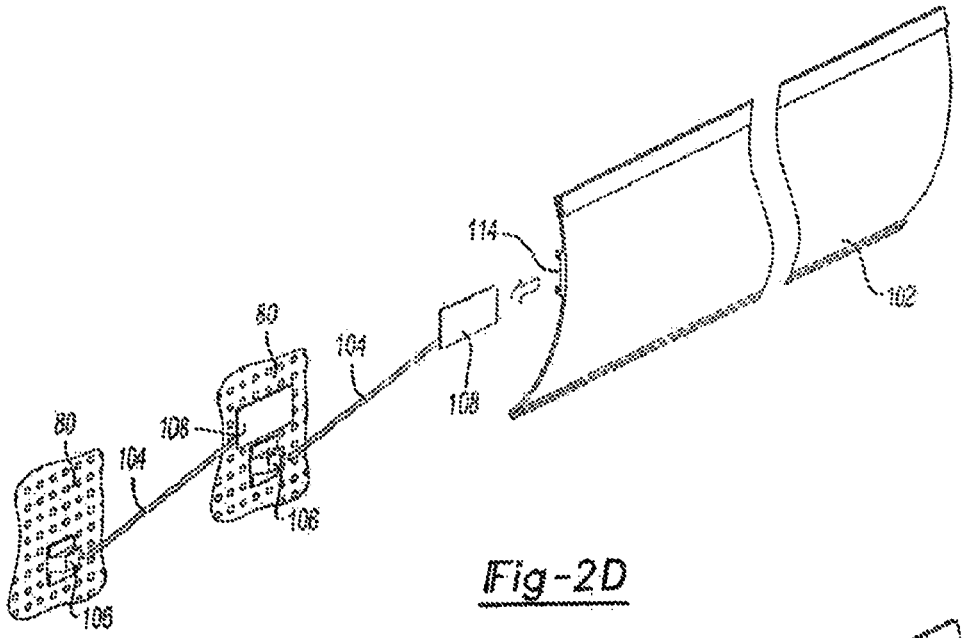


Fig-2D

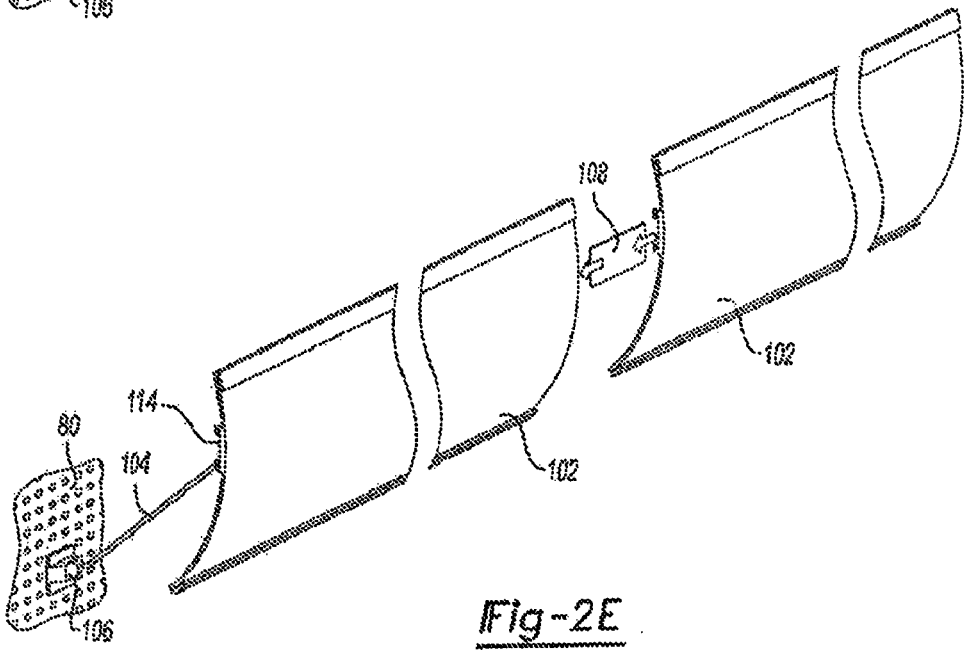
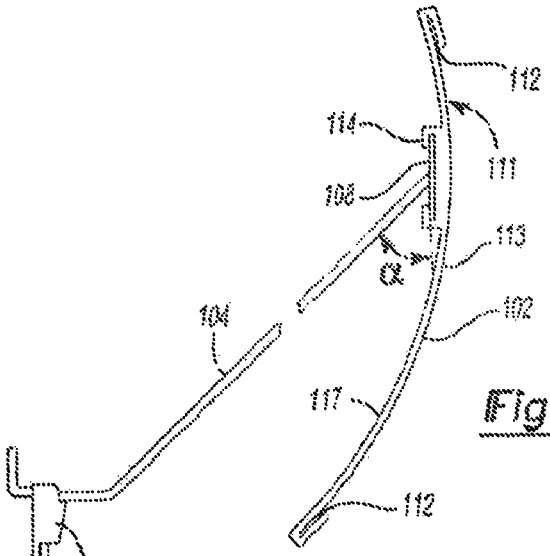


Fig-2E



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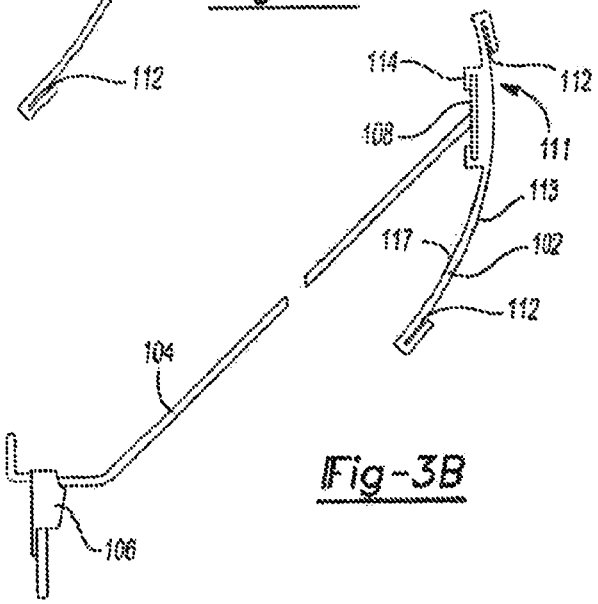


Fig-3B

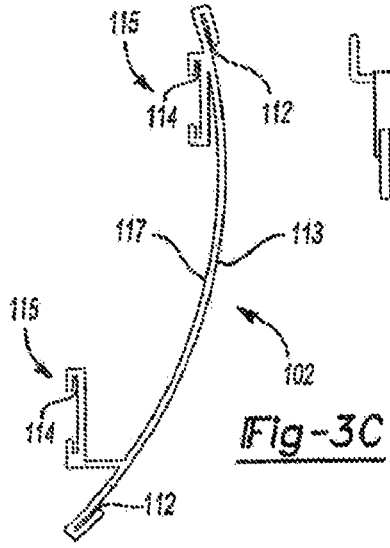
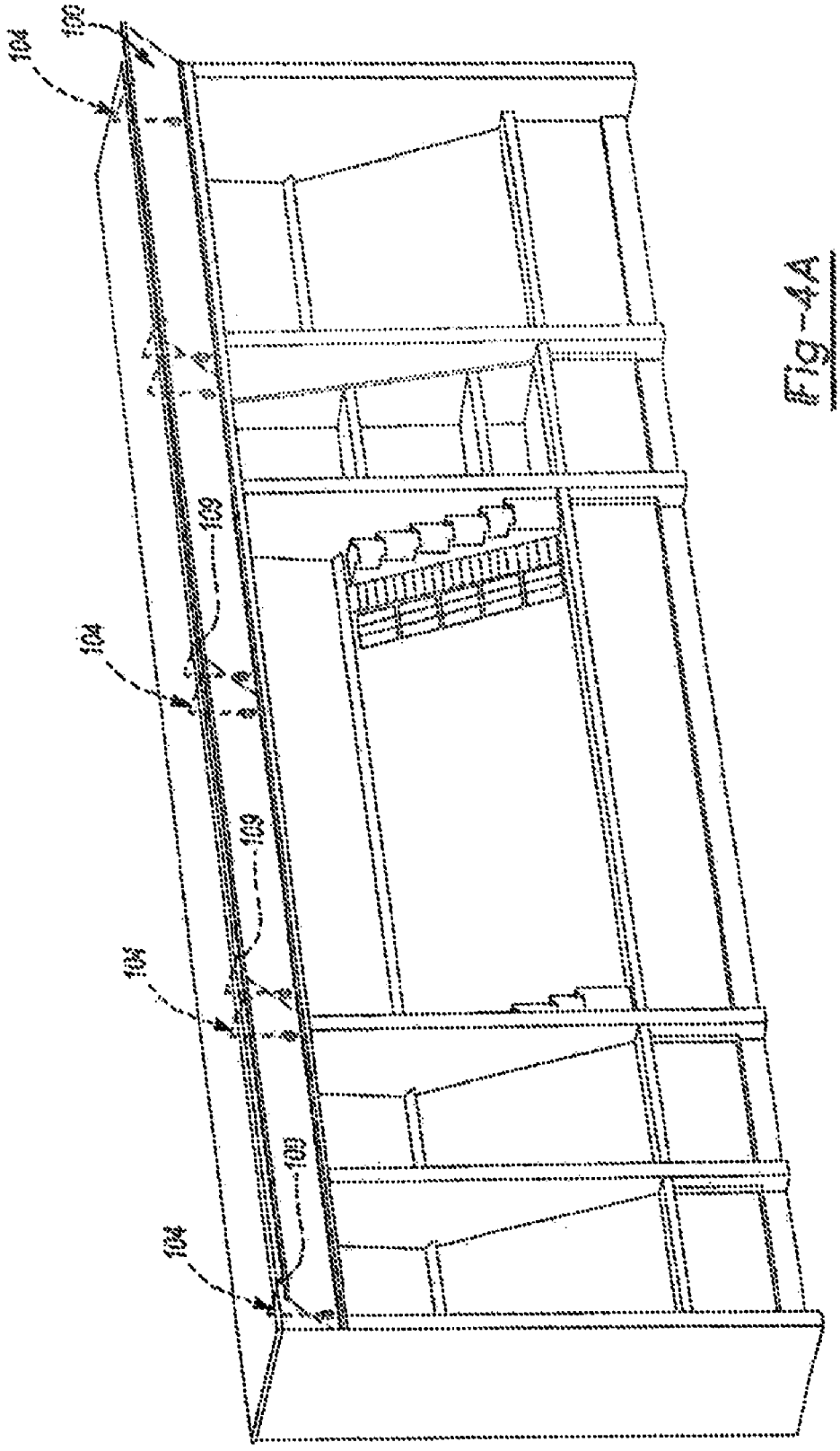


Fig-3C



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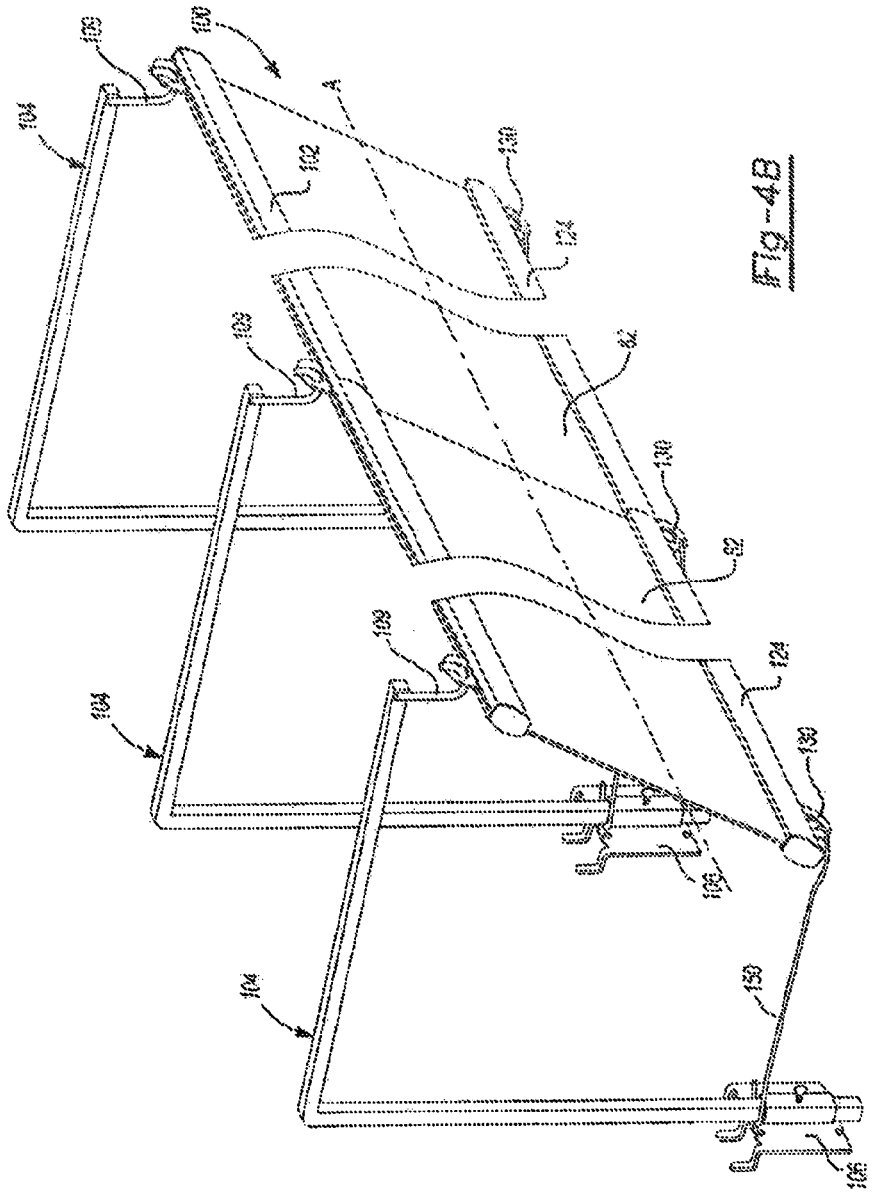
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Fig-4B

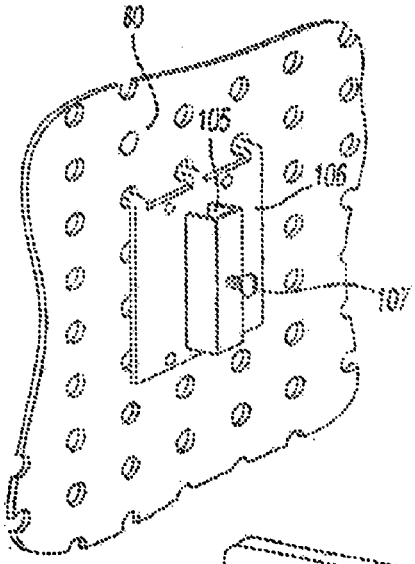


Fig-5A

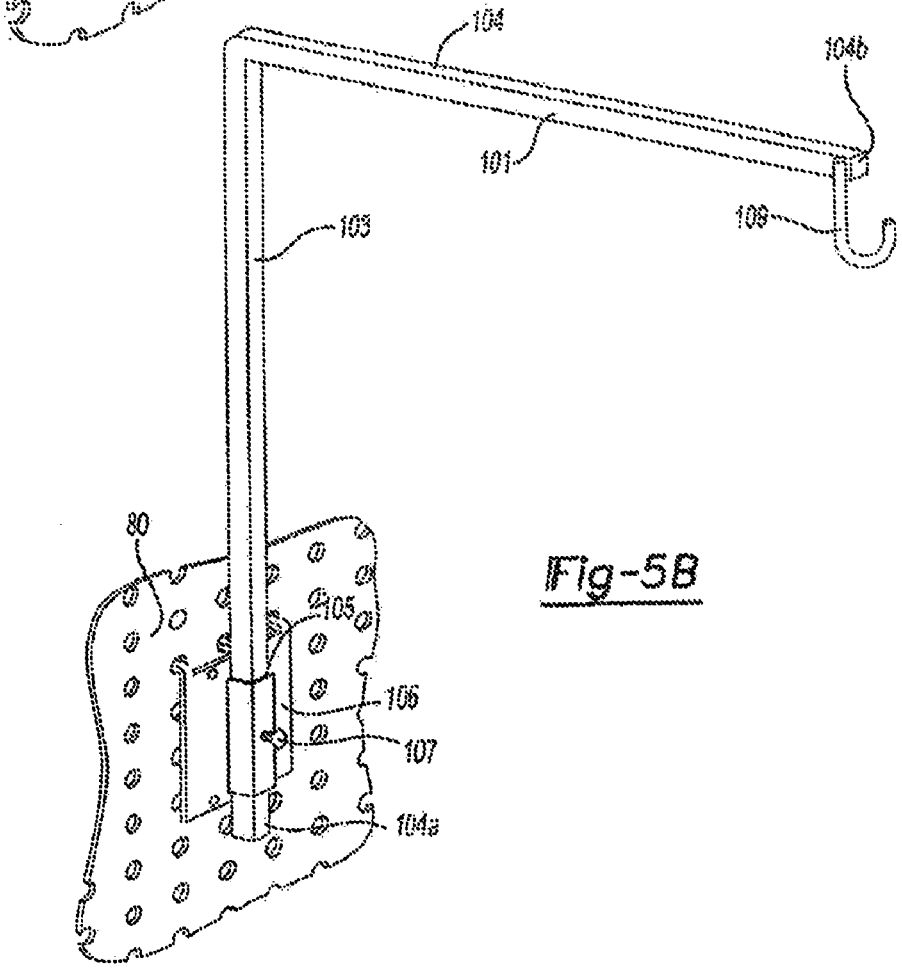


Fig-5B

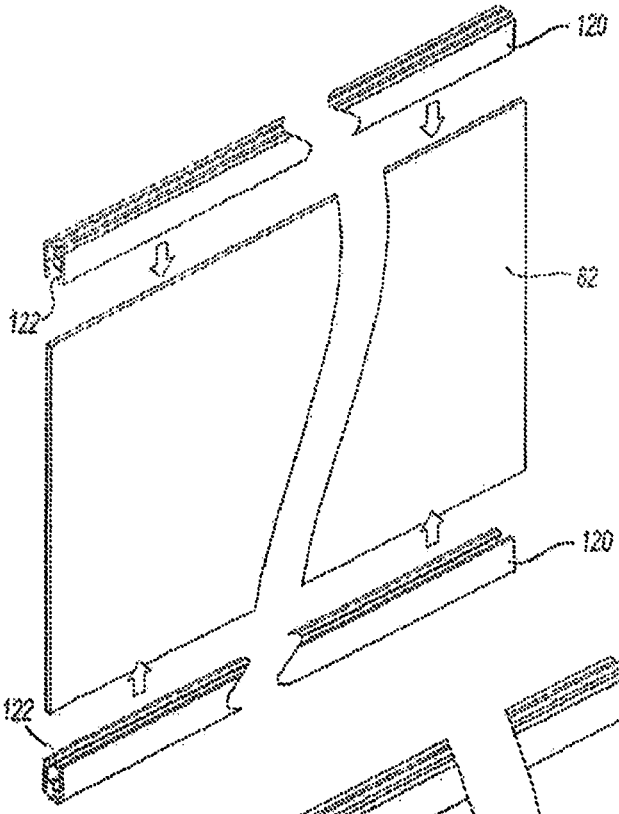
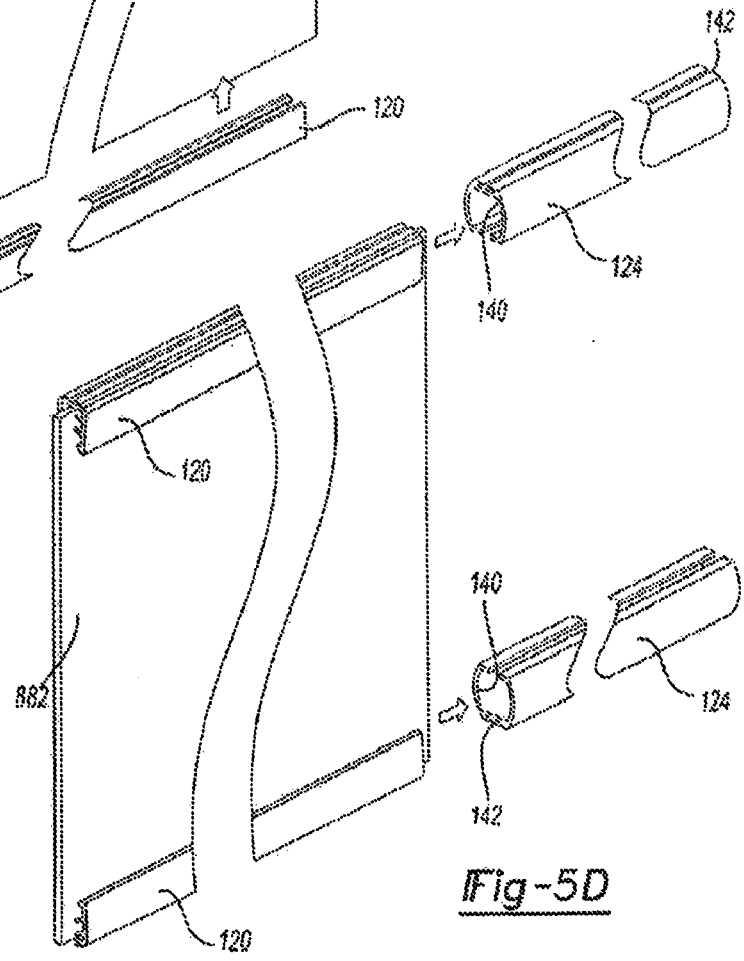


Fig-5C



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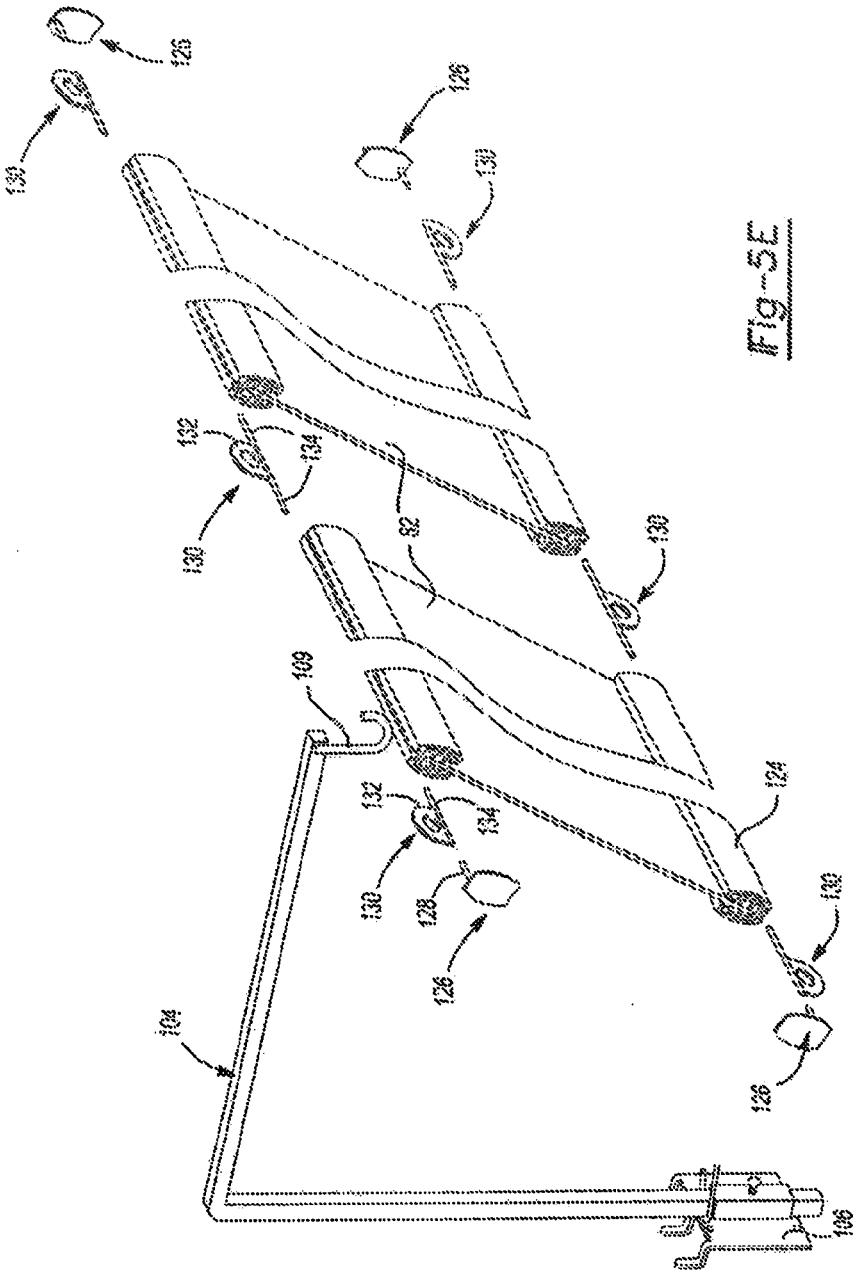
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Fig-5E

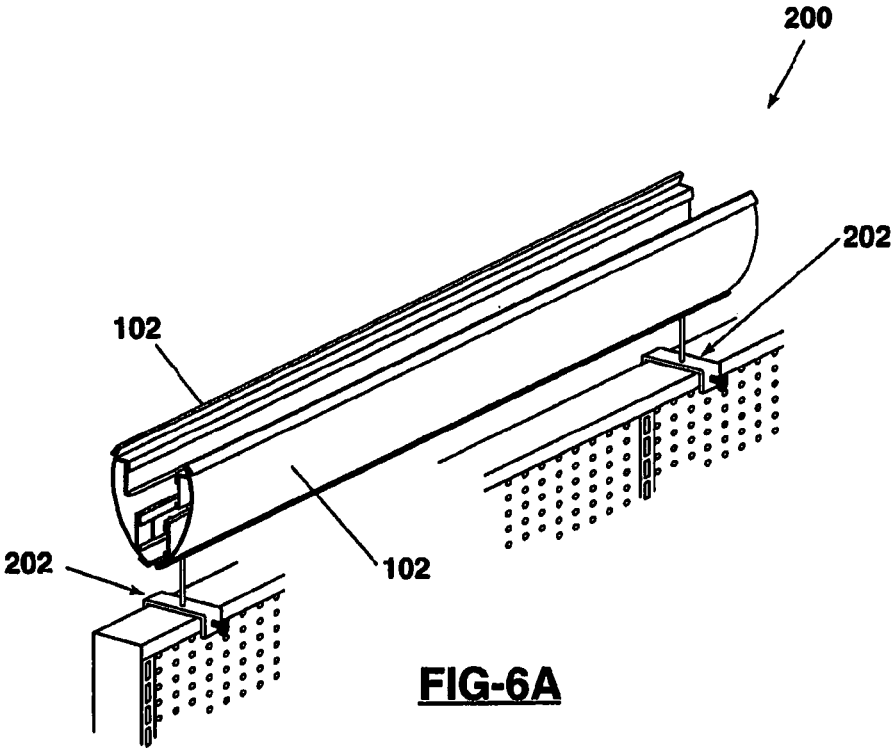
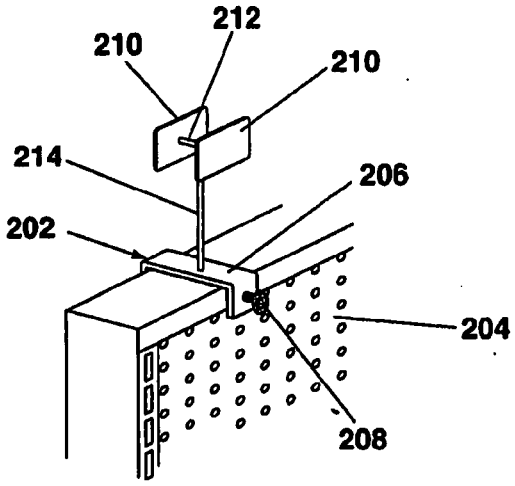


FIG-6A



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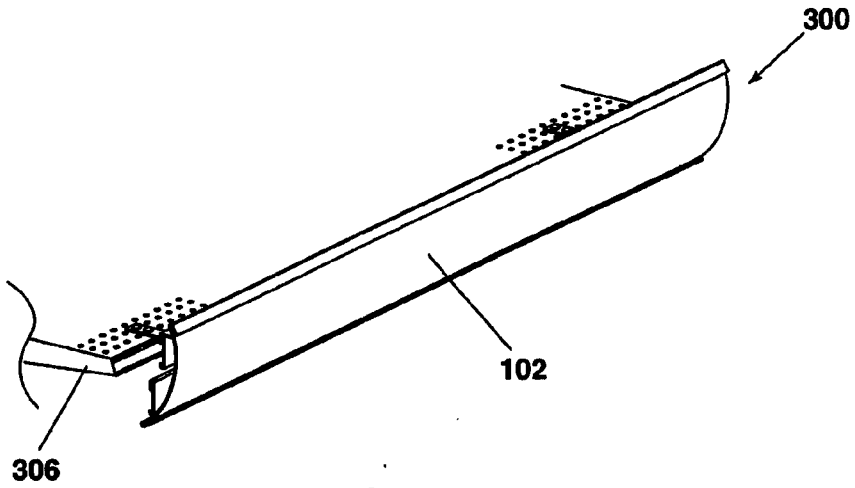


FIG-7A

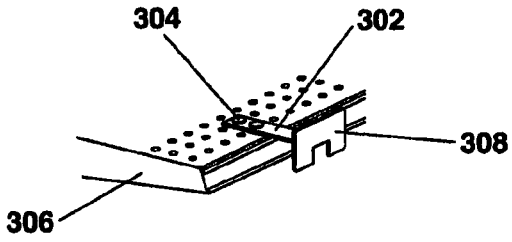


FIG-7B

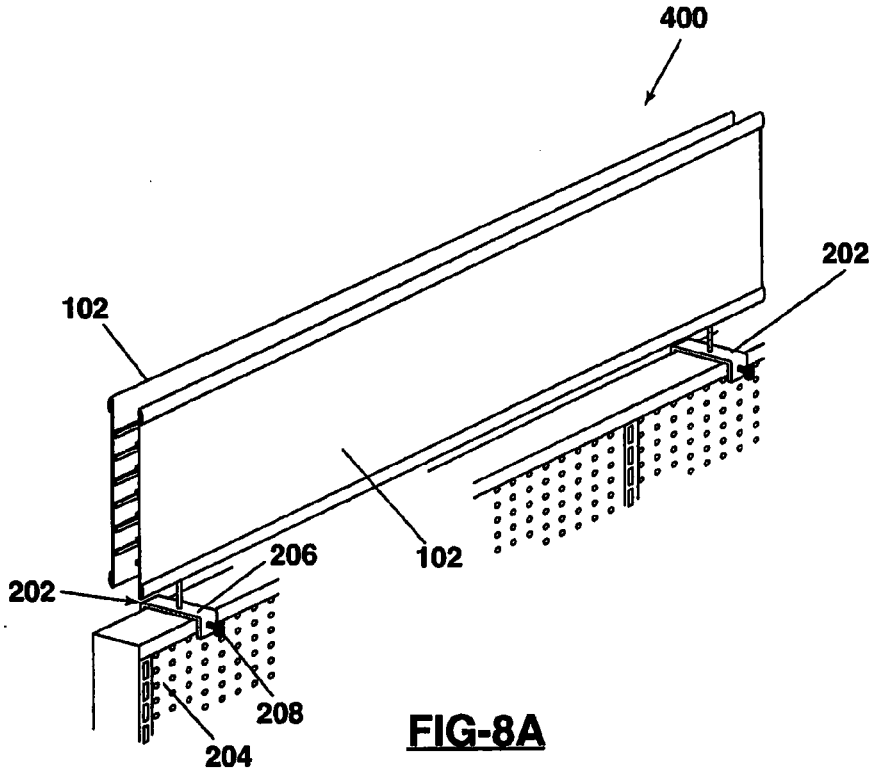


FIG-8A

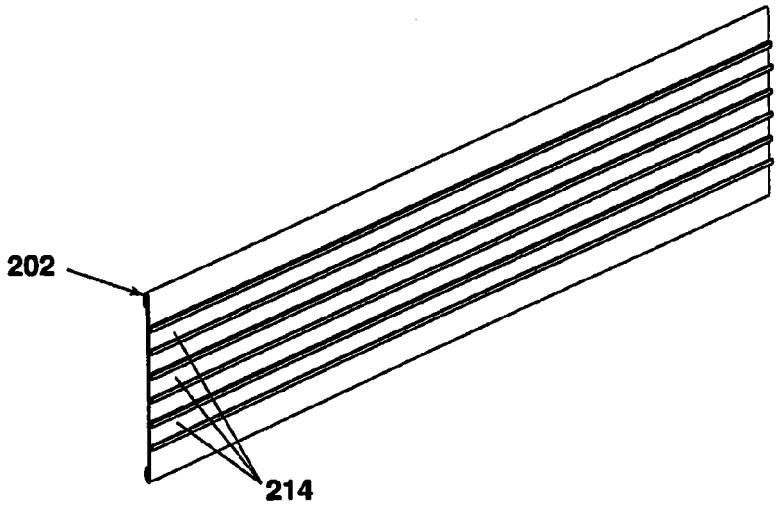
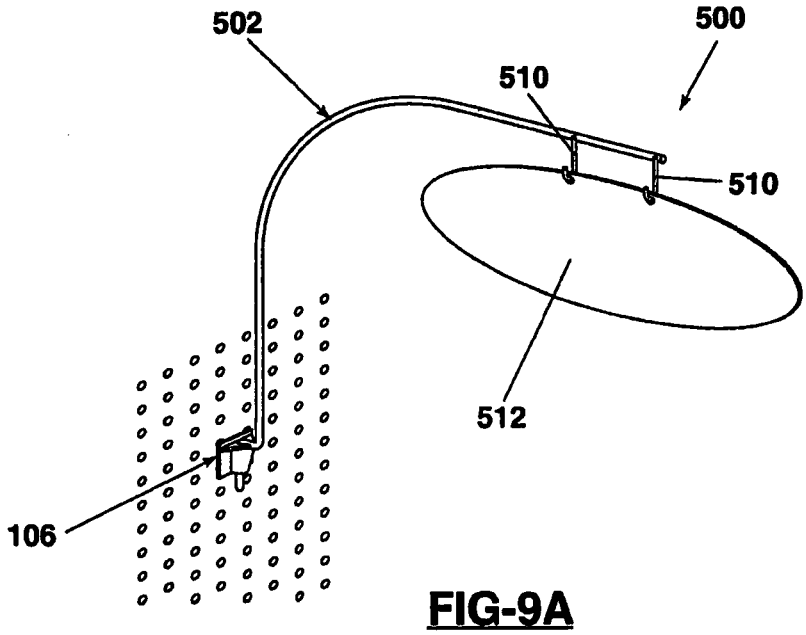


FIG-8B



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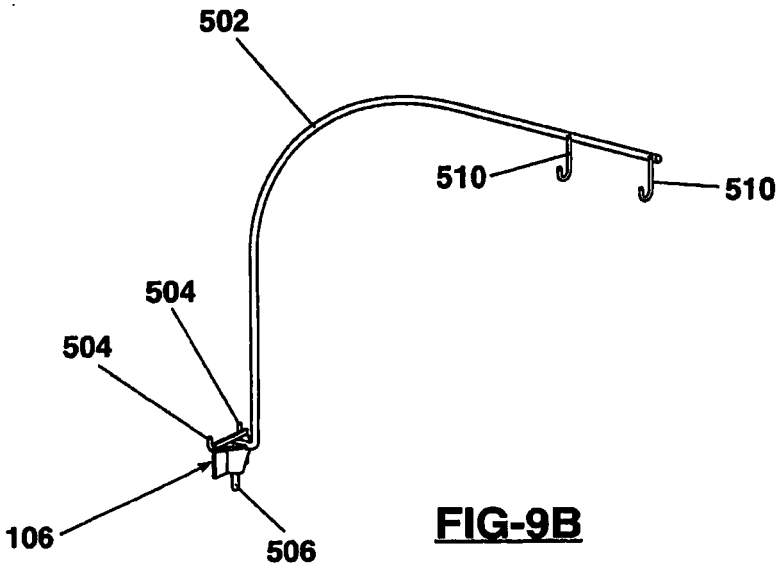

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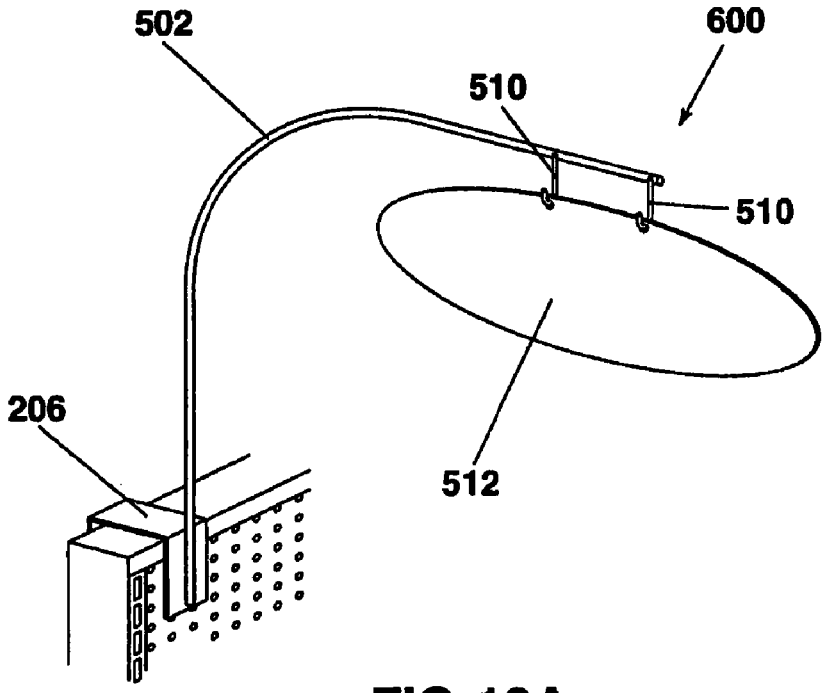
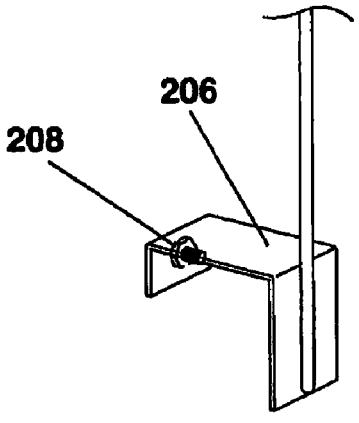


FIG-10A



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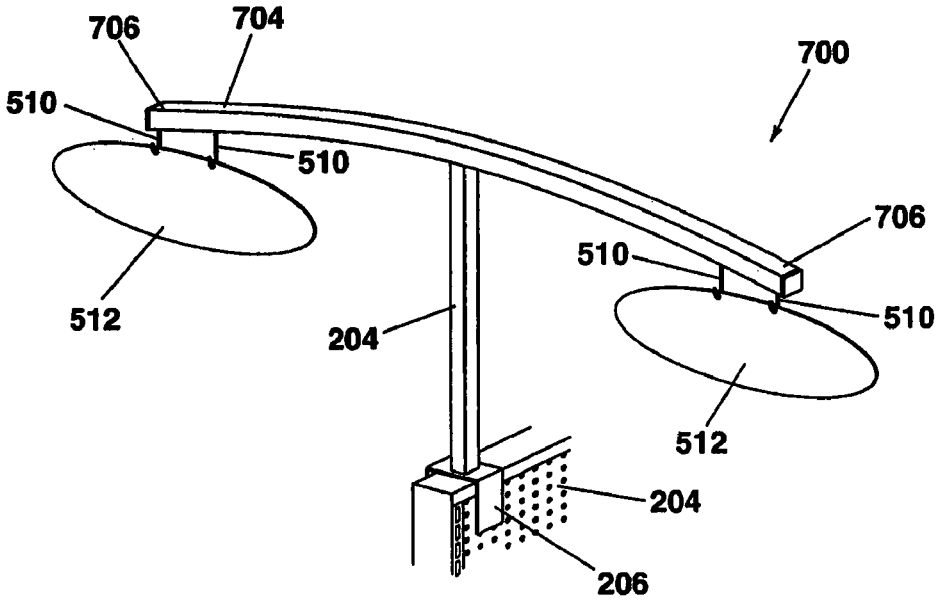
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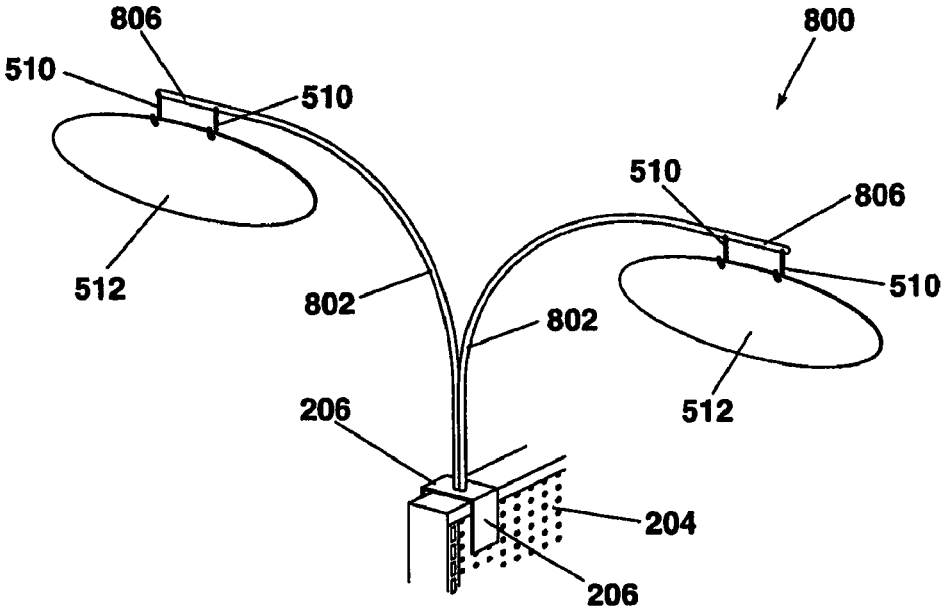
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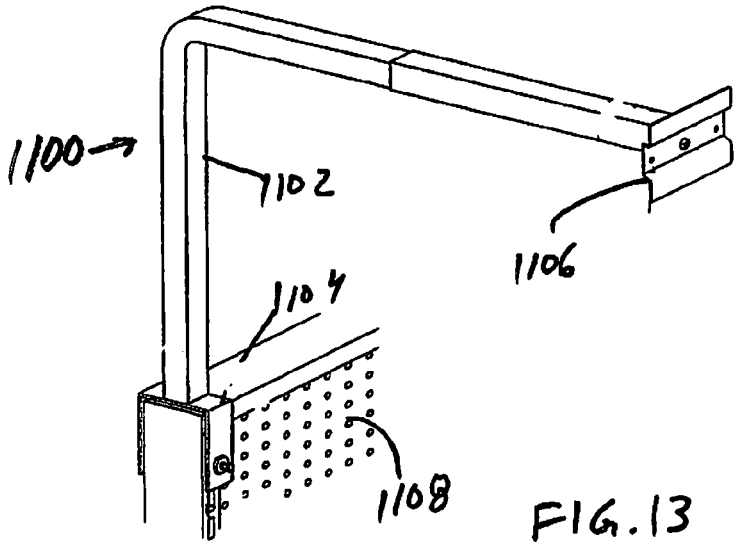
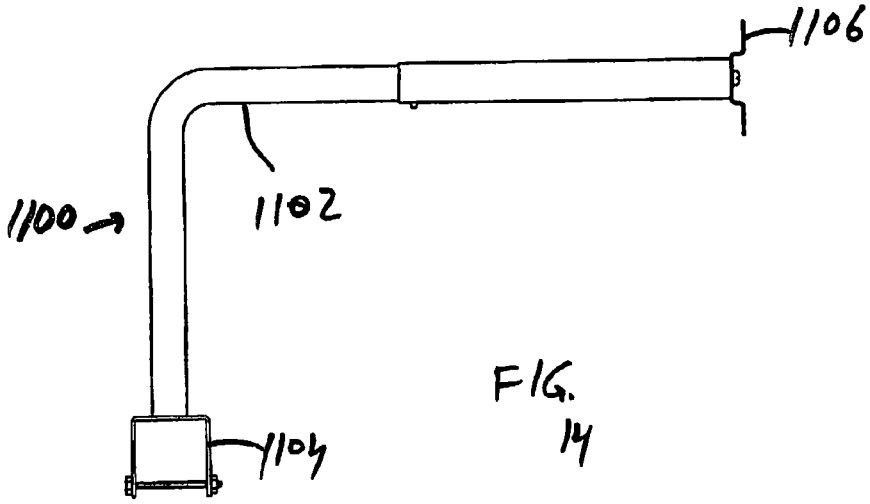


FIG. 13



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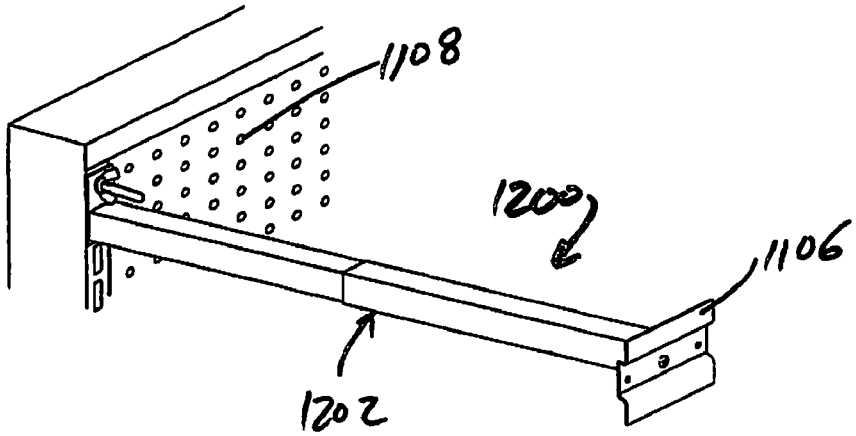


FIG. 15

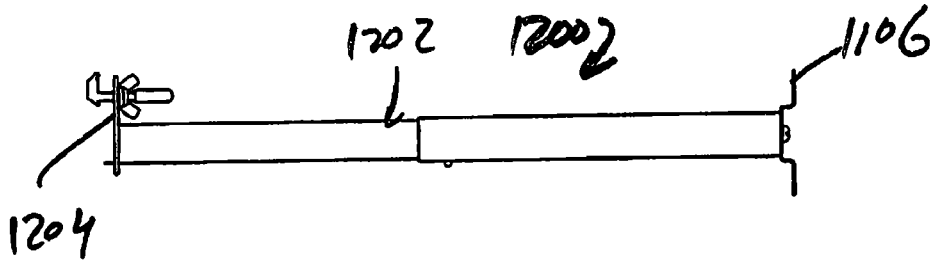


FIG. 16

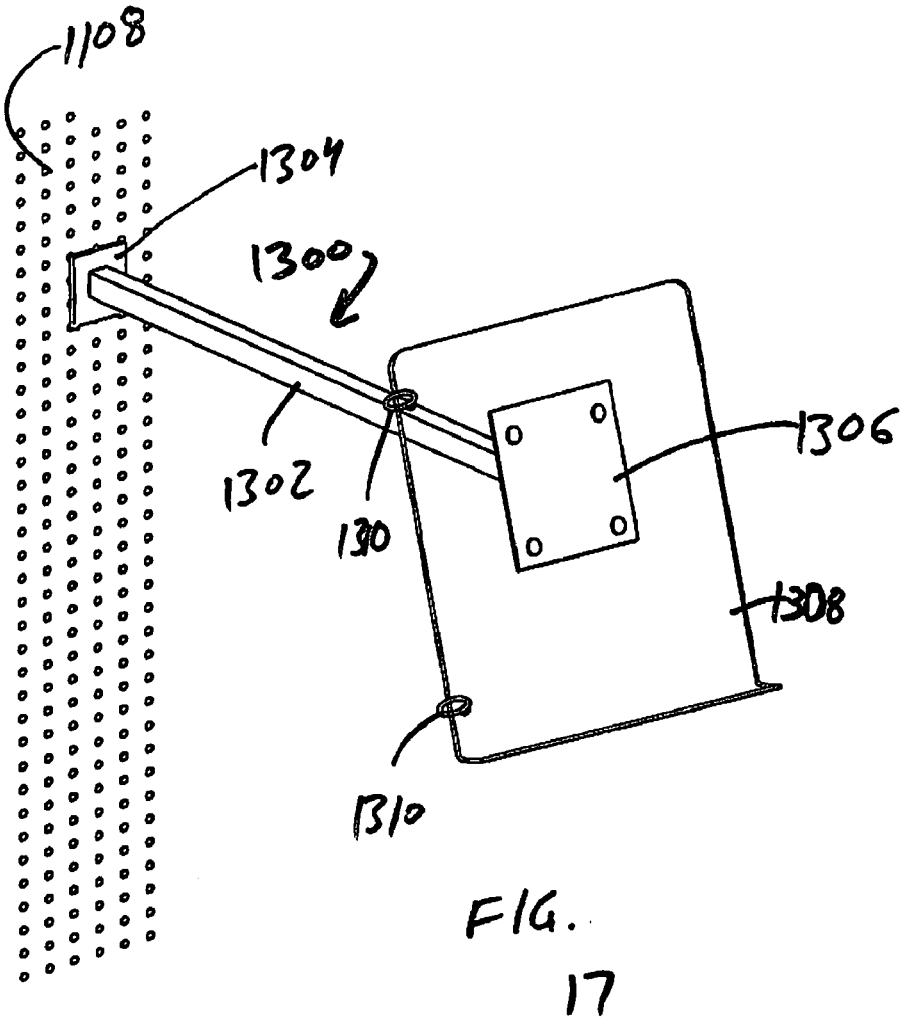


FIG. 17

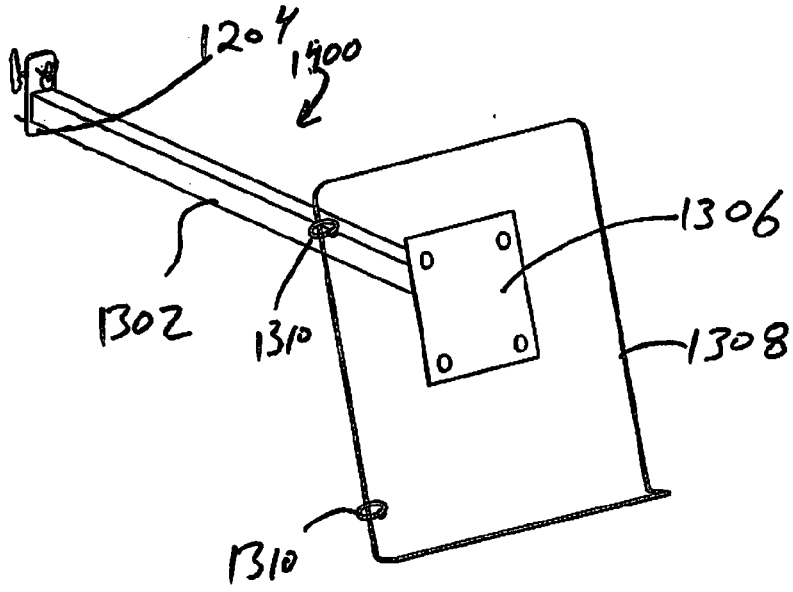


FIG. 18

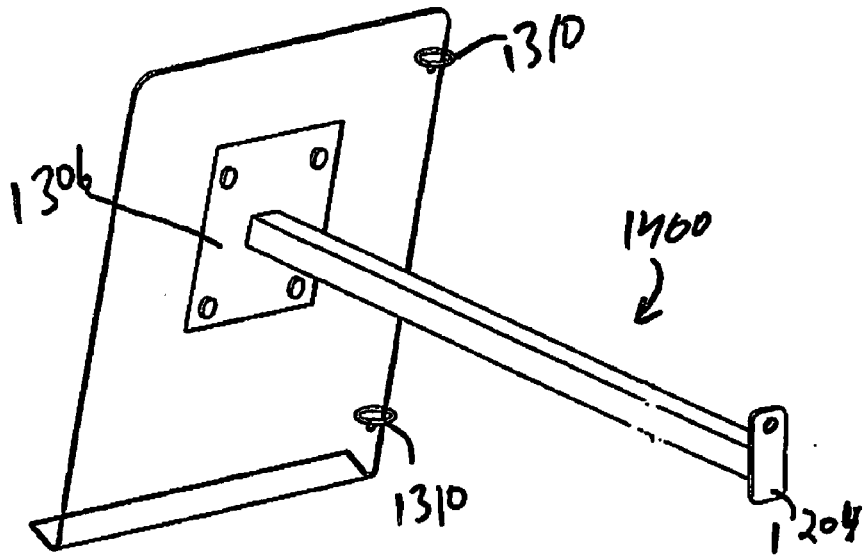


FIG. 19

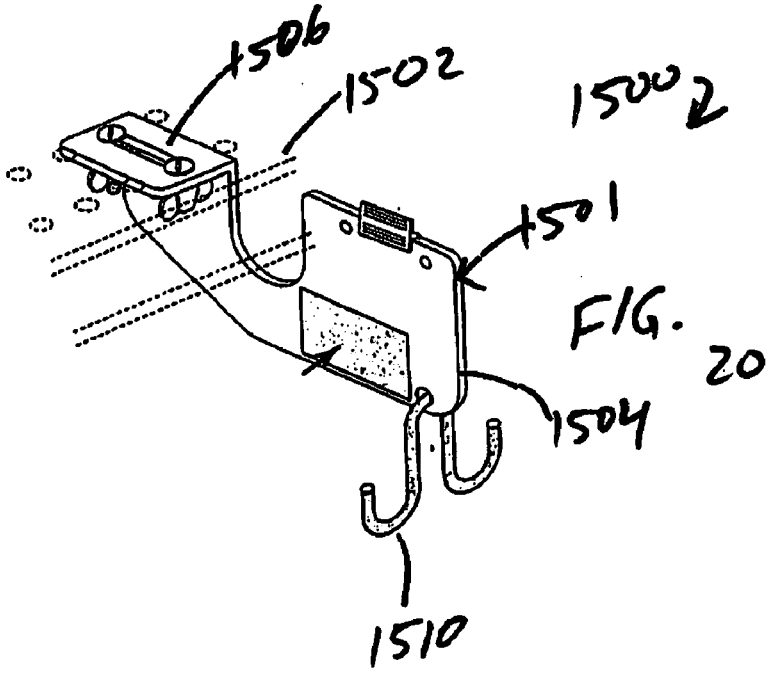
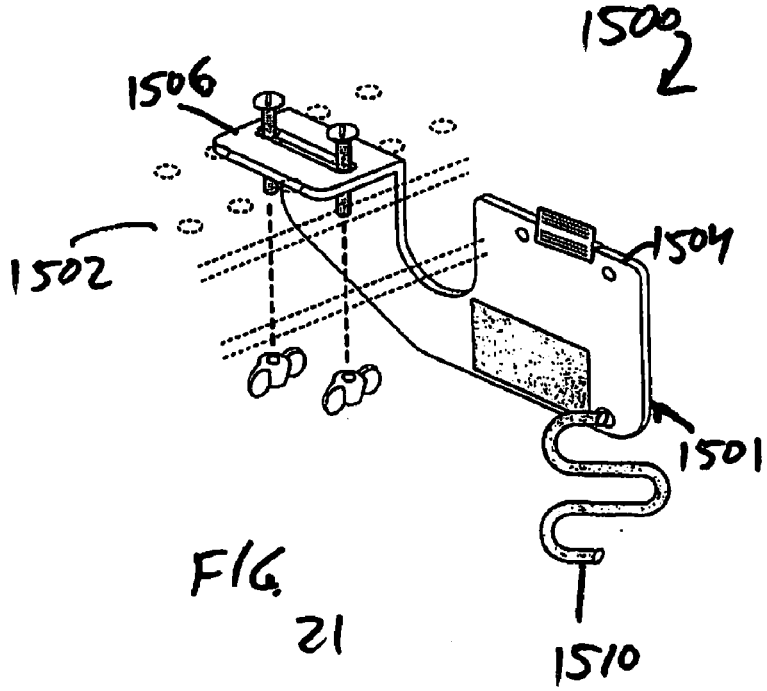


FIG. 20



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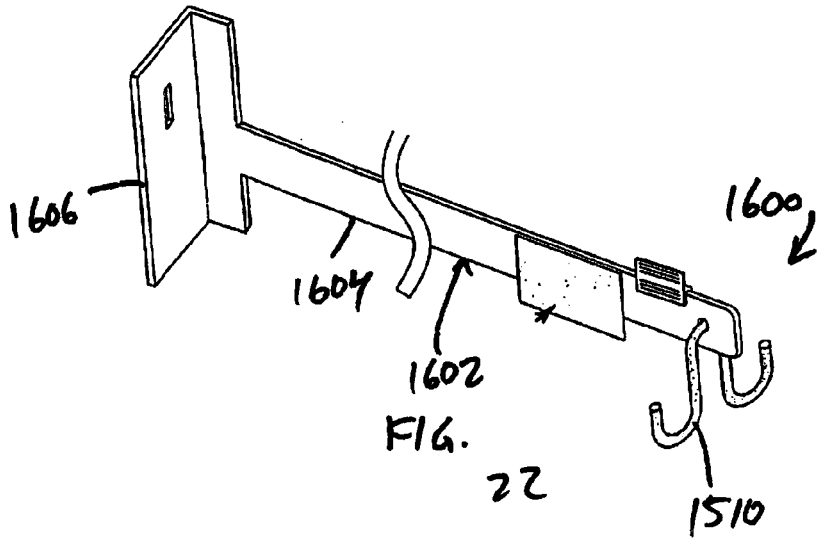

FIG. 22

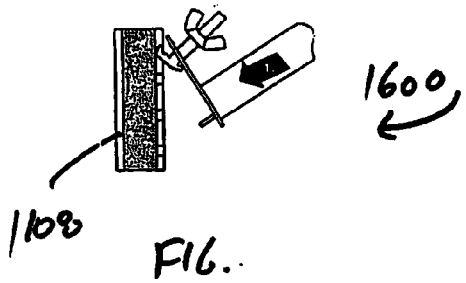

FIG. 23

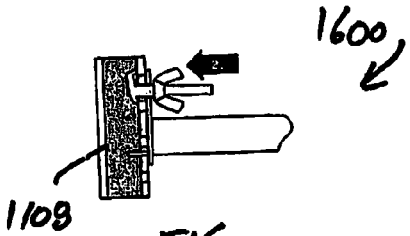

FIG. 24

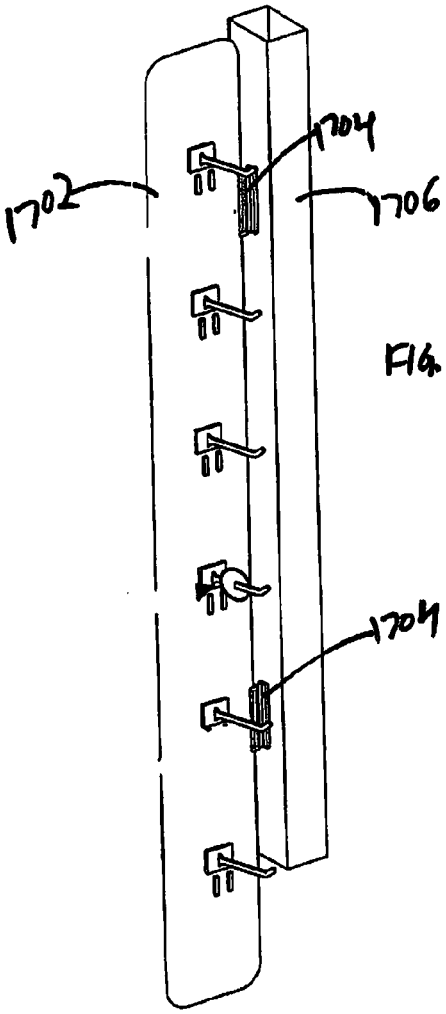

FIG. 25

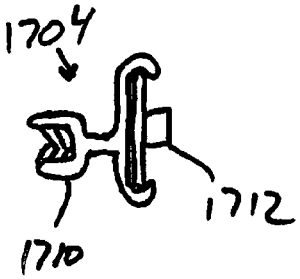

FIG. 25A

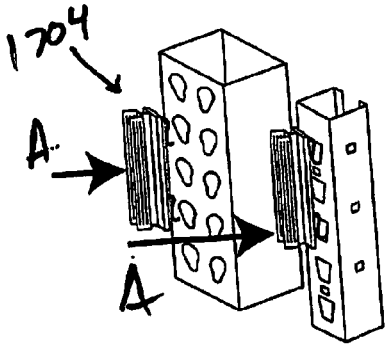

FIG. 26

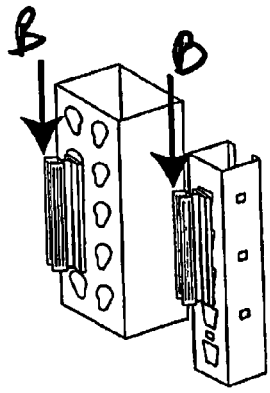

FIG. 27

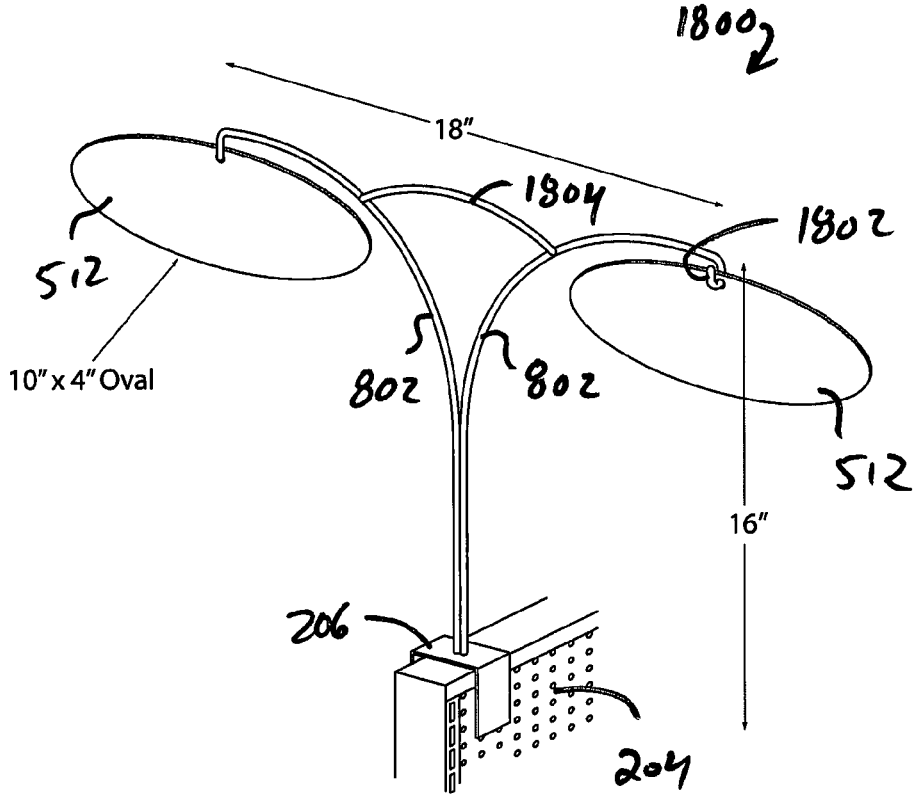

FIG. 28

SIGNAGE SYSTEMS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/317,539 filed on 25 Mar. 2010 and also claims priority to U.S. Ser. No. 13/072,191 filed on 25 Mar. 2011, which claims priority to U.S. Ser. No. 11/620,866 filed on 8 Jan. 2007, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/756,879 filed 6 Jan. 2006. The entire disclosures of the above applications are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD

[0002] The present teachings generally relate to retail signage systems.

DISCUSSION

[0003] A multitude of product and product categories crowd the aisles and merchandise displays of retail stores. Signage systems can be used to showcase products or product categories, attract attention and provide guidance to different sections of the store. Additionally, with fluctuating market demands, seasonal space requirements and influx of new products, there is a constant need to assemble, disassemble, change or remove overhead sign supports quickly and easily while attaining optimal visibility.

[0004] Although the existing signage supports can be satisfactory for their intended purposes, there is still a need for signage systems that are versatile, lightweight and easy to install, assemble and/or disassemble.

SUMMARY

[0005] In one aspect, an overhead sign system according to the present teachings can include at least one support member having a panel having first and second surfaces. The first surface can define a clip for supporting the sign. The second surface can define at least one longitudinal channel. The overhead sign system can further include at least one arm for supporting the support member on a support surface, and at least one connector slidably received in the longitudinal channel of the support member.

[0006] In another aspect, an overhead sign system according to the present teachings can include at least one pair of first and second longitudinal clip elements for holding the sign or portion thereof, at least one pair of first and second receiver elements, each receiver element having a longitudinal inner channel for receiving one of the clip elements therein, and having an outer channel, at least one hanger connector having an elongated projection received in outer channel, and at least one arm coupled to the hanger connector at a first end and to a support surface at a second end.

[0007] Further areas of applicability will become apparent from the description provided herein. It should be understood that the description and specific examples are intended for purposes of illustration only and are not intended to limit the scope of the present disclosure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008] The present invention will become more fully understood from the detailed description and the accompanying drawings, wherein:

[0009] FIG. **1**A is a perspective view of an overhead signage system according to the present teachings, the system shown above a merchandise display;

[0010] FIG. **1**B is a perspective view of an overhead signage system according to the present teachings;

[0011] FIGS. **2**A-E illustrate assembly and installation procedures the overhead signage system of FIG. **1**B;

[0012] FIG. **3**A is a side view of a detail of an overhead signage system according to the present teachings;

[0013] FIG. **3**B is a side view of a detail of an overhead signage system according to the present teachings;

[0014] FIG. **3**C is a side view of a detail of an overhead signage system according to the present teachings;

[0015] FIG. **4**A is a perspective view of an overhead signage system according to the present teachings, the system shown above a merchandise display;

[0016] FIG. **4**B is a perspective view of an overhead signage system according to the present teachings; and

[0017] FIGS. **5**A-E illustrate assembly and installation procedures for the overhead signage system of FIG. **4**B.

[0018] FIG. **6**A is a perspective view of another overhead signage system according to the present teachings.

[0019] FIG. **6**B is a perspective view similar to FIG. **6**A shown with a portion of the overhead signage system removed for purposes of illustration.

[0020] FIG. **7**A is a perspective view of another overhead signage system according to the present teachings.

[0021] FIG. **7**B is a perspective view similar to FIG. **7**A shown with a portion of the overhead signage system removed for purposes of illustration.

[0022] FIG. **8**A is a perspective view of another overhead signage system according to the present teachings.

[0023] FIG. **8**B is a rear perspective view of one of the headers of FIG. **8**A.

[0024] FIG. **9**A is a perspective view of another overhead signage system according to the present teachings, the overhead signage system shown mounted to a pegboard.

[0025] FIG. **9**B is a perspective view of a portion of the overhead signage system of FIG. **9**A shown removed from the pegboard for purposes of illustration.

[0026] FIG. **10**A is a perspective view of another overhead signage system according to the present teachings.

[0027] FIG. **10**B is a perspective view of a portion of the overhead signage system of FIG. **10**A.

[0028] FIG. **11** is a perspective view of another overhead signage system according to the present teachings.

[0029] FIG. **12** is a perspective view of another overhead signage system according to the present teachings.

[0030] FIG. **13** is a perspective view of a signage system according to the present teachings, the system shown extending above a merchandise display.

[0031] FIG. **14** is a side view of the signage system of FIG. **1**, shown removed from the merchandise display for purposes of illustration.

[0032] FIG. **15** is a perspective view of another signage system according to the present teachings, the system shown extending from a merchandise display.

[0033] FIG. **16** is a side view of the signage system of FIG. **3**, shown removed from the merchandise display for purposes of illustration.

[0034] FIG. **17** is a perspective view of another signage system according to the present teachings, the system shown extending from a merchandise display.

[0035] FIG. **18** is a perspective view of another signage system according to the present teachings.

[0036] FIG. **19** is another perspective view of the signage system of FIG. **18**.

[0037] FIG. **20** is a perspective view of another signage system according to the present teachings, the signage system shown secured to a shelf.

[0038] FIG. **21** is another perspective view of the signage system of FIG. **8**, the signage system illustrated as it is attached to the shelf.

[0039] FIG. **22** is a perspective view of another signage system of the present teachings.

[0040] FIGS. **23** and **24** illustrate attachment of the signage system of FIG. **10** to a pegboard wall.

[0041] FIG. **25** is a perspective view of another signage system in accordance with the present teachings.

[0042] FIG. **25**A is a top view of one of the mounting assemblies of FIG. **25**.

[0043] FIGS. **26** and **27** illustrate attachment of the signage system of FIG. **13** to exemplary retail structure.

[0044] FIG. **28** is a perspective view of another signage system of the present teachings.

DESCRIPTION OF VARIOUS ASPECTS

[0045] The following description is merely exemplary in nature and is in no way intended to limit the invention, its application, or uses.

[0046] Referring to FIG. **1**A, an exemplary overhead signage system **100** according to the present teachings is shown in connection with a merchandise display. The overhead signage system **100** can be used to support one or more signs **82**, or contiguous portions thereof. Referring to FIGS. **1**B and **2**A-E, the overhead signage system **100** can include one or more support members **102** having a longitudinal axis A, and a plurality of arms **104** coupled to the support members **102**. Referring to FIGS. **3**A-C, each support member **102** can be an integral panel, substantially flat or curved, and having front and back surfaces **113**, **117**. The front surface **113** can include folded edges **112** defining a C-shaped clip **111** for holding the sign **82** or portion thereof. The back surface **117** can include one or more longitudinal channels **114** defined on a channel structure **115** of the back surface **117**, as shown in FIGS. **3**A-C. The channels **114** can slidably receive connectors **108** coupling the arms **104** to the support members **102**, and/or coupling adjacent support members **102** to each other, as discussed below.

[0047] Referring to FIGS. **2**A-E, the arms **104** can be configured for hanging the sign **82** on the support members **102** at an angle α relative to a support surface **80** or relative to a surface of the connector **108**. The support surface **80** can be a wall, a pegboard, or other surface adjacent to the merchandise display. Each arm **104** can be a wire or other thin elongated member which can be straight or piecewise straight, although curved members can also be used. The arm **104** can include first and second ends **104***a*, **104***b* and a central portion **104***c*. The first end **104***a* can be configured to be removably received in a bore **105** of a mounting bracket **106**. The arm **104** can include an end segment **110** adjacent to the first end **104***a*, which can be angled relative to the central portion **104***c* in or out of plane relative to central portion **104***c* such that the arm **104** can be positioned at a desired angle relative to the support surface **80**. Further, the end segment **110** can be pivotably received in the bore **105** for allowing the arm **104** to rotate relative to the mounting bracket **106**.

[0048] The second end **104***b* of the arm **104** can be modularly or integrally coupled to one of the connectors **108**. The connector **108** can be a plate or other element configured to be slidably received in one of the channels **114** of the support member **102**, as illustrated in FIGS. **2**D, and **3**A-B. Additionally, the connector **108** can be used independently of the arm **104** for connecting two adjacent support members **102** to each other, as illustrated in FIG. **2**E, showing one of the connector **108** at least partially received in the channels **114** of two adjacent support members **102**.

[0049] The overhead signage system **100** can be assembled and installed as illustrated in FIGS. **2**A-E. The mounting brackets **106** can be inserted into the pegboard or otherwise mounted on the support surface **80** at desired distances therebetween, and in one or more rows corresponding to the number of channels **114** of the support members **102**, as shown in FIG. **2**A. The arms **104** can be removably coupled to the mounting brackets **106** by inserting the corresponding end segments **110** into the bores **105**, as shown in FIG. **2**B. The sign **82** can be inserted into the C-shaped clip **111** of the support member **102**, as shown in FIG. **2**C. The connectors **108** of the arms **104** can be inserted into the channel **114** of the support member **102**, as shown in FIG. **2**D. Two support members **102** can be connected longitudinally to each other by inserting a common connector **108** at adjacent ends of their channels **114**, as shown in FIG. **2**E.

[0050] The support members **102** can be made of molded plastic, composite or other material in various sizes and shapes, as shown in FIGS. **3**A-C. The arms **104**, the connectors **108** and the brackets **106** can be metallic or made from other suitable material, and can also be provided in various sizes and shapes.

[0051] In one aspect, as illustrated in FIGS. **4**A-B and **5**A-E, the support members **102** can be modular and include two (upper and lower) separate and substantially parallel elongated clip elements **120**, and two (upper and lower) elongated receiver elements **124**, as illustrated in FIGS. **5**C and **5**D. The clip elements **120** can include inner grooves **122** for receiving the sign **82** without any back panels, or other supports. The clip elements **120** can be received into U-shaped channels or other inner channels **140** defined by the receiver elements **124** and configured to slidably receive and support the clip elements **120** therein. End covers **126** can be coupled to the free ends of the support members **102** to secure the clip elements **120** into the receiver elements **124**, preventing relative sliding and providing a neat and finished appearance, as shown in FIGS. **5**E and **4**B. The end covers **126** can include one-sided pins or other projections **128** which can be inserted in outer grooves/slots/channels **142** of the receiver elements **124**. Hanger connectors **130** having openings **132** and one- or two-sided oppositely extending pins or projections **128** can be slidably received in the outer grooves **142** of the receiver elements **124**. The hanger connectors **130** can be used for coupling the arms **104** with the support members **102** and/or couple two adjacent support members **102** to each other, as shown in FIGS. **4**B and **5**E.

[0052] The support members **102** with the sign **82** attached therebetween can be supported by angled support arms **104**, which can be substantially L-shaped and including first and second substantially orthogonal arm portions **103**, **101**. The free end **104***b* of the second arm section **101** can be coupled to a hook or other hanging device **109**, as shown in FIG. **5**B. The free end **104***a* of the first arm portion **103** can be removably

received in the bore **105** of the mounting bracket **106** and secured in position with a thumbscrew **107**.

[0053] The overhead signage system **100** of FIG. **4**A-B can be assembled and installed as illustrated in FIGS. **5**A-E. The mounting brackets **106** can be inserted into the pegboard or otherwise mounted on the support surface **80** at desired distances therebetween at the same height in one row, as shown in FIG. **5**A. The arms **104** can be coupled to the mounting brackets **106** by inserting their first ends **104***a* into the bores **105**, as shown in FIG. **5**B. The sign **82** can be installed between the clip elements **120**, as shown in FIG. **5**C. The clip elements **120** with the sign **82** supported therebetween can be coupled to the receiver elements **124**, as shown in FIG. **5**D. The end covers **126** and the hanger connectors **130** can be coupled to the support members **102**, as shown in FIG. **5**E. The hooks **109** can be coupled to the openings **132** of the hanger connectors **130** for hanging the support members **102**, as shown in FIG. **4**B. Elongated lower arms **150** can be used for coupling lower hanger connectors **130** to the mounting brackets **106**. The lower arms **150** can be, for example, wire elements terminating in wire hooks, and can be sized to hang the sign **82** at an angle appropriate for enhancing visibility and readability of the sign, as shown in FIGS. **4**A-B. The angled arms **104** and the support members **102** can be made of lightweight strong material, such as aluminum or other metal, although plastics or composites can also be used. The angled arms **104** can be raised or lowered to provide a continuous signage surface with a common longitudinal axis A.

[0054] The overhead signage system **100** of the present teachings is a flexible and lightweight system that can be used in many retail applications, allowing for eye-catching overhead graphics or other signage that can be placed in many sections of a store. The overhead signage system **100** can be provided with modularly connected support members **102** appropriate for accommodating signs of various lengths or contiguous signs. Further, the overhead signage system **100** can be easily assembled and disassembled, moved to new location and re-assembled in the same or different configuration.

[0055] Turning to FIGS. **6**A and **6**B, another overhead signage system in accordance with the present teachings is illustrated and identified at reference character **200**. Like reference characters will be used to identify similar elements to those previously introduced. The system **200** may include a pair of mounting members **202**. As illustrated, the mounting members **202** may be secured to an upper end of a pegboard wall **204**. The mounting members **202** may include a lower portion **206** defining a generally C-shaped opening for receiving the upper end of the wall **204**. The lower portion **206** may be secured to the wall **204** with a thumbscrew **208** or other similar structure.

[0056] The mounting members **202** may additionally include an upper end having one or more mounting flanges **210**. As shown in FIG. **6**B, the upper end may include a pair of mounting flanges **210**. Each mounting flange **210** may be adapted to be received with in a channel **114** defined in a rear surface of a support member **102**, for example. The flanges **210** may be connected to each other through a link **212** and in turn connected to the lower portion **206** through another link **214**. Two or more mounting members **202** may be used to support one or two support members **102**.

[0057] Turning to FIGS. **7**A and **7**B, another overhead signage system in accordance with the present teachings is illustrated and identified at reference character **300**. Like reference characters will be used to identify similar elements to those previously introduced. The system **300** may include one or more shelf mounting members **302** and a support member **102**. The shelf mounting member **302** includes a first end **304** for attachment to a shelf **306** and a second end carrying a mounting flange **308**. The mounting flange **308** is adapted to be received with in a channel **114** defined in a rear surface of a support member **102**, for example.

[0058] Turning to FIGS. **8**A and **8**B, another overhead signage system in accordance with the present teachings is illustrated and identified at reference character **400**. Like reference characters will be used to identify similar elements to those previously introduced. The system **400** may include a pair of mounting members **202**. As illustrated, the mounting members **202** may be secured to an upper end of a pegboard wall **204**. The mounting members **202** may include a lower portion **206** defining a generally C-shaped opening for receiving the upper end of the wall **204**. The lower portion **206** may be secured to the wall **204** with a thumbscrew **208** or other similar structure. As with the system **200**, the mounting members **202** may additionally include an upper end having a pair of mounting flanges **210**. Each mounting flange **210** may be adapted to be received with in a channel **114** defined in a rear surface of a support member **102**, for example.

[0059] Turning to FIGS. **9**A and **9**B, another overhead signage system in accordance with the present teachings is illustrated and identified at reference character **500**. Like reference characters will be used to identify similar elements to those previously introduced. The system **500** may include a wire arm **502**. The wire arm **502** may be secured at a first end to the pegboard wall **204** with a bracket **106**. The bracket **106** may include a pair of upwardly extending prongs **504** and a lower extending prong **506** for engaging holes of the pegboard wall **204**. The wire arm **502** may be welded or otherwise permanently or removably secured to the bracket **106**. A distal end of the wire arm **502** may carry one or more hooks **510** for supporting a sign **512**.

[0060] Turning to FIGS. **10**A and **10**B, another overhead signage system in accordance with the present teachings is illustrated and identified at reference character **600**. Like reference characters will be used to identify similar elements to those previously introduced. The system **600** may include a wire arm **502**. The wire arm **502** may be secured at a first end to a C-shaped member **206** for engaging an upper end of a pegboard wall **204**. The member **206** may be secured with a thumb screw **208**. The wire arm **502** may be welded or otherwise permanently or removably secured to the member **206**. A distal end of the wire arm **502** may carry one or more hooks **510** for supporting a sign **512**.

[0061] Turning to FIG. **11**, another overhead signage system in accordance with the present teachings is illustrated and identified at reference character **700**. Like reference characters will be used to identify similar elements to those previously introduced. The system **700** may include a tubular arm **702**. The tubular arm **702** may have a generally rectangular cross section and may be secured at a lower end to a C-shaped member **206** for engaging an upper end of a pegboard wall **204**. The member **206** may be secured with a thumb screw. The tubular arm **702** may be welded or otherwise permanently or removably secured to the member **206**. An upper end of the tubular arm **702** may be secured to a generally horizontal arm **704**. The arms **702** and **704** may be welded or otherwise secured to one another. The arm **704** may be slightly arcuate in shape such that ends **706** of the arm **704** is

slightly displaced downwardly from a center of the arm **704**. The ends **706** may each carry one or more hooks **510** for supporting a sign **512**.

[0062] Turning to FIG. **12**, another overhead signage system in accordance with the present teachings is illustrated and identified at reference character **800**. Like reference characters will be used to identify similar elements to those previously introduced. The system **800** may include a pair of wire arms arm **802**. The wire arms **802** may be secured at their lower ends to one another and to a C-shaped member **206** for engaging an upper end of a pegboard wall **204**. The member **206** may be secured with a thumb screw. The wire arms **802** may be welded or otherwise permanently or removably secured to the member **206**. The arms **802** may be arcuate in shape. Ends **806** of the arms **802** may each carry one or more hooks **510** for supporting a sign **512**.

[0063] With reference to FIGS. **13** and **14**, a signage system in accordance with the present teachings is illustrated and generally identified at reference character **1100**. It will be understood that the signage system **1100** may be used to support one or more retail signs (not particularly shown). Similar systems are shown in cooperation with retail signs in common assigned U.S. U.S. Ser. No. 11/620,866 which is hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

[0064] The signage system **1100** is generally shown to include an arm **1102**, a first mounting bracket **1104** and a second mounting bracket **1106**. The arm **1102** may cooperate with similarly constructed arms to support retail signage generally in the manner shown and described in U.S. Ser. No. 11/620,866. As shown in FIG. **13**, the system **1100** may be used to support the retail signage from a pegboard wall **1108**.

[0065] The arm **1102** may include a first portion or vertically extending portion and a second portion or horizontally extending portion. As illustrated, the arm **1102** is constructed of a first piece that defines the vertically extending portion and part of the horizontally extending portion. A second piece telescopically cooperates with the part of the horizontally extending portion of the first piece to provide adjustability of the second bracket **1106**. A spring biased button may be carried by the horizontally extending portion of the first piece and cooperate with apertures of the second piece to conventionally lock the second piece relative to the first piece. The vertically extending and horizontally extending portions may be constructed of a greater or lesser number of pieces. In this regard, the vertically extending portion may include multiple pieces to similarly provide for telescopic adjustment.

[0066] The first bracket **1104** may be welded or otherwise securely fastened to a lower end of the vertically extending portion. For example, the first bracket **1104** may be secured to the lower end of the vertically extending portion with a faster. The first bracket **1104** may be generally U-shaped and define an opening for receiving an upper end of the pegboard wall **1108**. A fastener may extend through apertures in downwardly extending legs of the bracket **1104** and may pass through the pegboard wall **1108** for purposes of securing the bracket **104** to the pegboard wall **1108**.

[0067] The second bracket **1106** may be fastened or otherwise securely fastened to a distal or free end of the horizontally extending portion. As shown, the bracket **1106** may be secured to the horizontally extending portion with a fastener passes through an aperture in the bracket **1106** and threadable engages the end of the horizontally extending portion. Alternatively, the second bracket **106** may be welded to the distal end of the horizontally extending portion. The second bracket **1106** may define upper and lower flanges adapted to be received within channels defined by the retail signage. Such an arrangement is shown and further described in U.S. Ser. No. 11/620,866.

[0068] Turing to FIGS. **15** and **16**, another signage system in accordance with the present teachings is illustrated and generally identified at reference character **1200**. The signage system **1200** is similar to the signage system **1100**. For this reason, like reference characters will be used to identify similar components throughout the drawings.

[0069] The signage system **1200** is generally shown to include an arm **1202**, a first mounting bracket **1204** and a second mounting bracket **1106**. As above, the arm **1202** may cooperate with similarly constructed arms to support retail signage. The arm **1202** is adapted to be horizontally oriented. As illustrated, the arm **1202** is constructed of a first piece and a second piece telescopically cooperates with the first piece to provide adjustability of the second bracket **106** relative to the pegboard wall **1108**. A spring biased button may be carried by the first piece and cooperate with apertures of the second piece to conventionally lock the second piece relative to the first piece. It will be understood that the arm **1202** may be constructed of a greater or lesser number of pieces.

[0070] The first bracket **1204** may be welded or otherwise securely fastened to an end of the arm **1202**. For example, the first bracket **1204** may be secured to the end of the arm **1202** with a faster. The first bracket **1204** may be generally planar and may define an opening for receiving a faster for securing the arm **1202** to the pegboard wall **1108**. The fastener may include a hooked end for insertion into a slot of an upwardly extending member of the pegboard wall **1108**, a threaded portion, and a nut threadable carried on the threaded portion. Tightening of the nut may conventionally draw the bracket **1204** against the pegboard wall **1108** and thereby secure the arm **1202** to the pegboard wall **1108**.

[0071] With reference now to FIG. **17**, another signage system in accordance with the present teachings is illustrated and generally identified at reference character **1300**. Like reference characters will be used throughout the drawings to identify components similar to those introduced above.

[0072] The signage system **1300** is generally shown to include an arm **1302**, a first mounting bracket **1304** and a second mounting bracket **1306**. As illustrated, the arm **1302** is constructed of a single piece. Alternatively, the arm **1302** may be constructed of multiple pieces that are telescopically interconnected for purposes of adjustability.

[0073] The first bracket **1304** may be welded or otherwise securely fastened to an end of the arm **1302**. For example, the first bracket **1304** may alternatively be secured to the end of the arm **1302** with a faster. The first bracket **1304** may be generally planar and may include a plurality of rearwardly extending prongs for engaging multiple holes of the pegboard wall **1108**. It will be understood that the rearwardly extending prongs and their cooperation with the pegboard wall **1108** are conventional insofar as the present teachings are concerned.

[0074] The second bracket **1306** may be generally planar and may be secured to an opposite end of the arm **1302**. Securement may be by way of welding, fastening or any other manner well known in the art. The bracket **1306** may be secured to the end of the arm **1302** at an angle.

[0075] The system **1300** may further include a carrier **1308**. The carrier **1308** may include a generally planar portion and a lower flange. The carrier **1308** may be particularly adapted for the display of a parts manual or similar literature. In the

embodiment illustrated, the carrier **1308** is adhesively mounted to the second bracket **1306**. The carrier **1308** may be alternatively mounted to the second bracket **1306** within the scope of the present teachings. Further in the embodiment illustrated, the carrier **1308** may be constructed of a clear acrylic material. The carrier **1308** may be alternatively constructed of another material, including both clear and opaque materials.

[0076] The system **1300** may include a plurality of rings **1310**. The rings **1310** may pass through a corresponding plurality of apertures provided in the carrier **1308**. The rings **1310** may be used to secure the parts manual or similar literature.

[0077] With reference now to FIGS. **18** and **19**, another signage system in accordance with the present teachings is illustrated and generally identified at reference character **1400**. Like reference characters will be used throughout the drawings to identify components similar to those introduced above. It will be understood that the system **1400** is identical to the system **1300** except that the system **1400** incorporates an alternative first bracket **1204**. It will be further understood that the first bracket **1204** is identical to the first bracket **1204** described above with respect to the system **2100**.

[0078] Turning to FIGS. **20** and **21**, another signage system in accordance with the present teachings is illustrated and generally identified at reference character **1500**. FIG. **20** illustrates the signage system **1500** secured to a shelf **1502**. FIG. **21** illustrates the signage system **1500** as it is attached to the shelf **1502**.

[0079] The signage system **1500** may generally include a bracket **1501** having a first planar portion **1504** and a second planar portion **1506**. The first and second planar portions **1504** and **1506** may be formed of a single sheet of metal or other suitable material. Where the bracket **1501** is formed of metal, the first portion **1504** may be bent relative to the second portion **1506** such that the first and second portions are oriented orthogonal to one another.

[0080] The second portion **1506** may define a mounting portion. The second portion **1506** may be located adjacent an underside of the shelf **1502**. The second portion **1506** may include a slot for receiving one or more fasteners. Alternatively, the second portion **1506** may define a plurality of apertures for receiving the fasteners. The slot may be aligned with holes in the shelf **1502** and the fasteners may be passed through the holes in the shelf **1502** and the slot for securing the second portion **1506** of the bracket to the shelf **1502**.

[0081] The first portion **1504** of the bracket may define an opening for accommodating a downwardly extending lip of the shelf **1502**. The opening may be generally U-shaped. Alternatively, the opening may be of any suitable geometry for accommodating the downwardly extending lip of the shelf **1502**. The first portion **1504** may carry UPC codes on both sides and may also carry signage at an upper end.

[0082] The system **1500** may further include a hook **1510**. The hook **1510** may be generally in the shape of a W. Describing the hook **1510** further, the W-shape may include a central U-shaped portion and two U-shaped sides. Each of the U-shaped sides may have a common leg with the central U-shaped portion. The hook **1510** may be received within an aperture defined by the first portion **1504** of the bracket **1501**. As illustrated in FIG. **20**, the hook **1501** may be balanced within the aperture such that one of the U-shaped sides is on a first side of the bracket **1501** and the other of the U-shaped sides is on a second side of the bracket **1501**. Signage may be suspended from both of the U-shaped sides.

[0083] With reference to FIGS. **22-24**, another signage system in accordance with the present teachings is illustrated and generally identified at reference at character **1600**. Like reference characters will be used throughout the drawings to identify components similar to those introduced above. FIGS. **23** and **24** illustrate attachment of the signage system **1600** to a pegboard wall **1108**.

[0084] The signage system **1600** is illustrated to generally include a bracket **1602** and a hook **1510**. The hook **1510** will be understood to be identical to the hook **1510** described above. The bracket **1602** may include a first portion **1604** and a second portion **1606**. The first and second portions **1604** and **1606** may be formed of a single sheet of metal or other suitable material. Where the bracket **1602** is formed of metal, the first portion **1604** may be bent relative to the second portion **1606** such that the first and second portions are oriented orthogonal to one another.

[0085] The second portion **1606** may define a mounting portion. In the embodiment illustrated, the second portion **1606** may be secured to a pegboard wall or other retail structure. The second portion **1606** may be secured to the pegboard wall with a fastener in the manner discussed above with respect to the system **1200**.

[0086] The first portion **1604** of the bracket **1602** may define an arm. The arm may carry UPC codes on both sides and may also carry further signage. The hook **1510** may be suspended from the bracket **1602** in the manner discussed above with respect to the system **1500**. The hook **1510** may be used to suspend signage as discussed above.

[0087] With reference to FIGS. **25-27**, another signage system in accordance with the present teachings is illustrated and generally identified at reference at character **1700**. FIGS. **26** and **27** illustrate attachment of the signage system **1700** to exemplary retail structures.

[0088] The signage system **1700** is generally illustrated to include a sign **1702** and one or more mounting assemblies **1704**. The sign **1702** will be understood to be generally planar and constructed of cardboard or other similar material. The sign may carry hooks or other features for suspending product for retail sale.

[0089] As shown in FIG. **25**A, a pair of mounting assemblies **1704** are shown securing the sign **1702** to a retail structure **1706**. It will be understood that a greater or lesser number of mounting assemblies **1704** may be used within the scope of the present teachings. The number of mounting assemblies **1704** employed will depend on the holding strength of the mounting assemblies **1704** and the weight of the sign **1702**.

[0090] As perhaps best shown in the top view of FIG. **25**A, the mounting assemblies **1704** may be first of first and second pieces **1710** and **1712**. The first piece **1710** may include a first portion or gripping portion for receiving the sign **1702**. The first portion may include a relative stiff and generally U-shaped portion for receiving the sign. The firs portion may further include a plurality of deflectable arms within the U-shaped portion constructed of a material having a relatively high co-efficient of friction. The arms may angle backward to allow insertion of the sign into the U-shaped portion and may be interleaved with the arms on the opposite side thereof to facilitate clamping of the sign **1702**.

[0091] The second portion of the first piece **1710** may define a channel. The channel may slidable receive the second

piece **1712**. The second piece **1712** may include rearwardly extending hooks for mounting to a retail structure.

[0092] The first and second portions of the first piece **1710** may be connected by a flexible arm. The flexible arm may allow the sign to be readily deflected relative to the retail structure when displayed.

[0093] With reference to FIGS. **26** and **27**, attachment of the mounting assemblies **1704** to conventional retail structures is shown. The mounting assemblies **1704** may be secured to pallet racks or HyperMax™ tubes. Alternatively, the mounting assemblies **1704** may be mounted to various other conventional structures within the scope of the present teachings. In a first step, the mounting assemblies **1704** are advanced toward the retail structures in a direction indicated by Arrows A. The hooks rearwardly extending from the second piece **1712** are received within holes of the retail structure. In a second step, the mounting assemblies **1704** are downwardly advanced in the direction of Arrows B.

[0094] Turning to FIG. **28**, another overhead signage system in accordance with the present teachings is illustrated and identified at reference character **1800**. Like reference characters will be used to identify similar elements to those previously introduced. The system **800** may include a pair of wire arms arm **802**. The wire arms **802** may be secured at their lower ends to one another and to a C-shaped member **206** for engaging an upper end of a pegboard wall **204**. The member **206** may be secured with a thumb screw. The wire arms **802** may be welded or otherwise permanently or removably secured to the member **206**. The arms **802** may be arcuate in shape. Ends **806** of the arms **802** may each carry one or more hooks **1802** for supporting a sign **512**. The arcuate arms **802** may be braced by a bracing member **1804**. A generally v-shaped opening may be defined between the arcuate arms **802** and the bracing member **1804**. As illustrated, the bracing member **1804** may be arcuate.

[0095] While specific examples and alternatives have been described in the specification and illustrated in the drawings, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various further changes may be made by and equivalence may be substituted for elements thereof without departing from the scope of the present teachings as defined in the claims. Furthermore, the mixing and matching of features, elements and/or functions between various examples may be expressly contemplated herein so that one skilled in the art would appreciate from the present teachings that features, elements and/or functions of one example may be incorporated into another example as appropriate, unless described otherwise above. Moreover, many modifications may be made to adapt a particular situation or material to the present teachings without departing from the essential scope thereof. Therefore, it may be intended that the present teachings not be limited to the particular examples illustrated by the drawings and described in the specification as the best mode of presently contemplated for carrying out the present teachings but that the scope of the present disclosure will include any embodiments following within the foregoing description and any appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A system for supporting one or more overhead signs or portions thereof, the system comprising:

a plurality of sign support members; and

a plurality of connectors for coupling adjacent support members along a common longitudinal axis, at least one connector slidably receivable by the adjacent support members in corresponding channels thereon.

2. The system of claim **1**, further comprising a plurality of arms coupled to the support members and configured for hanging the sign at an angle relative to a support surface.

3. The system of claim **2**, wherein the arms are coupled to corresponding connectors, the connectors slidably received in the channels of the support members.

4. The system of claim **3**, wherein each support member defines an integral panel having a front surface for supporting the sign and a back surface defining the channel.

5. The system of claim **4**, wherein the support member defines more than one channel.

6. The system of claim **5**, wherein each channel extends along the longitudinal axis.

7. The system of claim **3**, wherein the arms are substantially L-shaped.

8. The system of claim **7**, wherein the support members are modular elongated members comprising first and second clip elements for holding the sign, the first and second clip elements receivable in first and second receiver elements.

9. The system of claim **8**, wherein each connector comprises a hanger opening and at least one projecting element.

10. The system of claim **9**, wherein the channels are outer channels in the receiver elements and receive the projecting elements of the connectors.

11. The system of claim **10**, further comprising end covers for the support members.

12. The system of claim **11**, further comprising lowers arms for supporting the sign at an angle relative to the support surface.

13. The system of claim **2**, further comprising a plurality of mounting brackets for removably coupling the arms to the support surface.

14. A system for supporting one or more contiguous overhead signs or portions thereof, the system comprising:

at least one support member comprising a panel having first and second surfaces, wherein the first surface defines a clip for supporting the sign, and the second surface defines at least one longitudinal channel;

at least one arm for supporting the support member on a support surface; and

at least one connector slidably receivable in the longitudinal channel of the support member.

15. The system of claim **14**, wherein the clip is C-shaped.

16. The system of claim **15**, wherein the panel is curved.

17. The system of claim **14**, wherein the connector is coupled to the arm.

18. The system of claim **14**, wherein the connector is coupled to the longitudinal channel of another adjacent support member.

19. A system for supporting one or more contiguous overhead signs or portions thereof, the system comprising:

at least one pair of first and second longitudinal clip elements for holding the sign or portion thereof;

at least one pair of first and second receiver elements, each receiver element having a longitudinal inner channel for receiving one of the clip elements therein, and having an outer channel;

at least one hanger connector having an elongated projection received in outer channel; and

at least one arm coupled to the hanger connector at a first end, and to a support surface at a second end.

20. The system of claim **20**, further comprising another hanger connector with two opposite elongated projections for connecting two adjacent receiver elements to each other.

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