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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

TMI PRODUCTS, INC.,

Plaintiff

v.

INVISION INDUSTRIES, INC.,

Defendant

CV 09 - 07913 ODW (JCx)

Case No.

**COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT**

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

For its complaint against INViSiON Industries, Inc. ("INViSiON," or "Defendant"), Plaintiff TMI Products, Inc. ("TMI") alleges as follows:

## THE PARTIES

1. TMI is a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the California, with its principal place of business at 1493 E. Bentley Drive, Corona, California 92879. TMI holds an exclusive license to U.S. Patent Nos. 7,040,697 ("the '697 patent") and 7,407,227 ("the '227 patent"). TMI's exclusive license includes the exclusive world-wide rights to sublicense the '697 and '227 patents, and to enforce the '697 and '227 patents against alleged infringers.

2. Upon information and belief, INViSiON is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida, with its principal place of business at 1170 Celebration Avenue, Suite 100, Celebration, Florida 34747.

## NATURE OF THE ACTION

3. In this civil action, TMI seeks damages and injunctive relief against Defendant for acts of patent infringement in violation of the Patent Act of the United States, 35 U.S.C. §§ 1 et seq.

## JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a), because this is an action for patent infringement arising under the laws of the United States, including 35 U.S.C. §§ 1 et seq.

5. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(c) and 1400(b), in that the acts and transactions complained of herein were conceived, carried out, made effective, or had effect within the State of California and within this Judicial District, among other places.

6. On information and belief, INViSiON resides in this Judicial District by virtue of its business activities in this Judicial District. For example, and without limitation, on information and belief, INViSiON has transacted business and has

committed tortious acts of infringement within the State of California and within this Judicial District with respect to the '697 and '227 patents.

7. On information and belief, INViSiON markets and sells, throughout the United States and including in this Judicial District, headrest mountable video systems.

8. On information and belief, based at least on the facts stated above, this Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant.

## BACKGROUND

9. On May 9, 2006, the United States Patent & Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Letters Patent No. 7,040,697 ("the '697 patent"), entitled "HEADREST HAVING AN INTEGRATED VIDEO SCREEN." A true and correct copy of the '697 Patent is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

10. On August 5, 2008, the United States Patent & Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Letters Patent No. 7,407,227 ("the '227 patent"), entitled "HEADREST HAVING AN INTEGRATED VIDEO SCREEN." A true and correct copy of the '227 Patent is attached as Exhibit B and incorporated herein by reference.

## FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

### (Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 7,040,697)

11. TMI incorporates herein by reference the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1-10 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

12. On information and belief, Calli Ventosa, Inc. and Tierra Vista Corp. are the joint legal owners by assignment of the '697 patent from Timely Innovations, LP, which is the original assignee listed on the front page of the '697 patent. TMI is the exclusive licensee of the '697 patent, having acquired from Calli Ventosa, Inc. and Tierra Vista Corp. substantially all rights in the '697 patent,

including the exclusive world-wide right to sublicense the '697 patent and to enforce the '697 patent against any and all infringers.

13. Defendant has directly infringed and continues to directly infringe the '697 Patent by making, using, selling, or offering for sale in or importing into the United States mobile video headrest systems that embody or otherwise practice one or more of the claims of the '697 Patent, such as, without limitation, products and systems marketed as the "REVOLUTION II," "REVOLUTION IIG," "REVOLUTION III," "SL," and "SL Active" systems.

14. On information and belief, Defendant has indirectly infringed and continues to indirectly infringe the '697 Patent by actively inducing direct infringement by other persons who operate and/or use mobile video headrest systems such as, without limitation, products and systems marketed as the "REVOLUTION II," "REVOLUTION IIG," "REVOLUTION III," "SL," and "SL Active" systems, or otherwise practice one or more of the claims of the '697 Patent, when Defendant had knowledge of the '697 Patent and knew or should have known that its actions would induce direct infringement by others and intended that its actions would induce direct infringement by others.

15. On information and belief, Defendant has indirectly infringed and continue to indirectly infringe the '697 Patent by contributory infringement by providing non-staple articles of commerce to others for use in an infringing system or method with respect to mobile video headrest systems such as, without limitation, products and systems marketed as the "REVOLUTION II," "REVOLUTION IIG," "REVOLUTION III," "SL," and "SL Active" systems with knowledge of the '697 Patent and knowledge that these non-staple articles of commerce are used as a material part of the claimed inventions of the '697 Patent.

16. On information and belief, Defendant will continue to infringe the '697 Patent as alleged in this Complaint unless enjoined by this Court.

17. On information and belief, Defendant's infringement of the '697 patent is, has been, and continues to be willful and deliberate.

18. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's infringement of the '697 patent, TMI has been and continues to be damaged in an amount yet to be determined.

19. Unless Defendant and its respective officers, agents, servants, and employees, and all persons acting in concert with Defendant, are enjoined from infringing the '697 patent, TMI will be greatly and irreparably harmed.

20. By reason of the above acts, TMI is entitled to injunctive relief enjoining and restraining Defendant, and its respective officers, agents, servants, and employees, and all persons acting in concert with Defendant, from further infringement of the '697 patent.

## SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

**(Infringement of U.S. Patent No. 7,407,227)**

21. TMI incorporates herein by reference the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1-10 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

22. On information and belief, Calli Ventosa, Inc. and Tierra Vista Corp. are the joint legal owners by assignment of the '227 patent from Timely Innovations, LP, which is the original assignee listed on the front page of the '227 patent. TMI is the exclusive licensee of the '227 patent, having acquired from Calli Ventosa, Inc. and Tierra Vista Corp. substantially all rights in the '227 patent, including the exclusive world-wide right to sublicense the '227 patent and to enforce the '227 patent against any and all infringers.

23. Defendant has directly infringed and continue to directly infringe the '227 Patent by making, using, selling, or offering for sale in or importing into the United States mobile video headrest systems that embody or otherwise practice one or more of the claims of the '227 Patent, such as, without limitation, products and

systems marketed as the "REVOLUTION II," "REVOLUTION IIG," "REVOLUTION III," "SL," and "SL Active" systems.

24. On information and belief, Defendant has indirectly infringed and continues to indirectly infringe the '227 Patent by actively inducing direct infringement by other persons who operate and/or use mobile video headrest systems such as, without limitation, products and systems marketed as the "REVOLUTION II," "REVOLUTION IIG," "REVOLUTION III," "SL," and "SL Active" systems, or otherwise practice one or more of the claims of the '227 Patent, when Defendant had knowledge of the '227 Patent and knew or should have known that its actions would induce direct infringement by others and intended that its actions would induce direct infringement by others.

25. On information and belief, Defendant has indirectly infringed and continues to indirectly infringe the '227 Patent by contributory infringement by providing non-staple articles of commerce to others for use in an infringing system or method with respect to mobile video headrest systems such as, without limitation, products and systems marketed as the "REVOLUTION II," "REVOLUTION IIG," "REVOLUTION III," "SL," and "SL Active" systems, with knowledge of the '227 Patent and knowledge that these non-staple articles of commerce are used as a material part of the claimed inventions of the '227 Patent.

26. On information and belief, Defendant will continue to infringe the '227 Patent as alleged in this Complaint unless enjoined by this Court.

27. On information and belief, Defendant's infringement of the '227 patent is, has been, and continues to be willful and deliberate.

28. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's infringement of the '227 patent, TMI has been and continues to be damaged in an amount yet to be determined.

29. Unless Defendant and its respective officers, agents, servants, and employees, and all persons acting in concert with Defendant, are enjoined from infringing the '227 patent, TMI will be greatly and irreparably harmed.

30. By reason of the above acts, TMI is entitled to injunctive relief enjoining and restraining Defendant, and its respective officers, agents, servants, and employees, and all persons acting in concert with Defendant, from further infringement of the '227 patent.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, TMI prays for judgment against Defendant as follows:

1. For a judicial determination and declaration that Defendant directly infringes United States Letters Patent Nos. 7,040,697 and 7,407,227 by making, using, offering to sell and/or selling mobile video headrest systems such as, without limitation, products and systems marketed as the "REVOLUTION II," "REVOLUTION IIG," "REVOLUTION III," "SL," and "SL Active" systems;

2. For a judicial determination and declaration that Defendant induces direct infringement of United States Letters Patent Nos. 7,040,697 and 7,407,227;

3. For a judicial determination and declaration that Defendant commits contributory infringement of United States Letters Patent Nos. 7,040,697 and 7,407,227;

4. For a judicial determination and decree that Defendant's infringement of United States Letters Patent Nos. 7,040,697 and 7,407,227 is willful;

5. For damages resulting from Defendant's past and present infringement of United States Letters Patent Nos. 7,040,697 and 7,407,227, and the trebling of such damages because of the willful and deliberate nature of its infringement;

6. For injunctive relief against further infringement of United States Letters Patent Nos. 7,040,697 and 7,407,227 by Defendant, its respective officers, directors, shareholders, agents, servants, employees, and all other entities and individuals acting in concert with the enjoined entities or on their behalf;

7. For a declaration that this is an exceptional case under 35 U.S.C. § 285 and for an award of attorneys' fees and costs in this action;

8. For an assessment of prejudgment interest; and

9. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper under the circumstances.

Dated: October 29, 2009 By: _____

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(949) 340-9736

*Attorneys for Plaintiff, TMI Products, Inc.*

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

TMI hereby demands a jury trial pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure as to all issues in this lawsuit.

Dated: October 29, 2009 By: _____

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(949) 340-9736

*Attorneys for Plaintiff, TMI Products, Inc.*

# EXHIBIT A

US007040697B1

(12) **United States Patent**
**Tuccinardi et al.**

(10) **Patent No.: US 7,040,697 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent: May 9, 2006**

(54) **HEADREST HAVING AN INTEGRATED VIDEO SCREEN**

(75) Inventors: **Eugene M. Tuccinardi**, Temecula, CA (US); **Ernesto R. Haack**, Perris, CA (US); **Robert Murphy**, Lake Elsinore, CA (US); **Frank Barrese**, Temecula, CA (US); **Roel C. Espina**, Loma Linda, CA (US); **Jon A. Molo**, Ontario, CA (US); **Theo Zoetemelk**, Riverside, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Timely Innovations, LP**, Temecula, CA (US)

( * ) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **10/395,870**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 20, 2003**

(51) **Int. Cl.**
***A47C 31/00*** (2006.01)
***A47C 7/62*** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **297/217.3**; 297/188.04

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... 297/217.3, 297/188.04, 188.07, 185; 411/510; 312/242, 312/245
See application file for complete search history.

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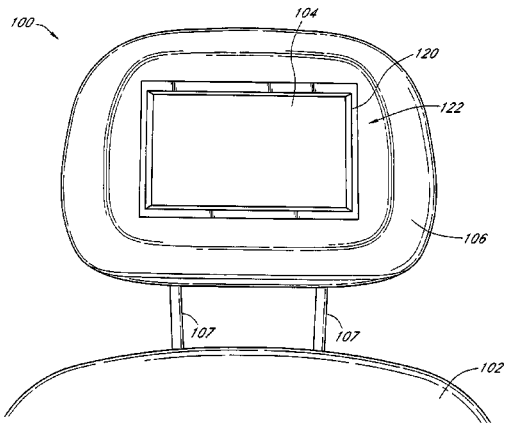
*Primary Examiner*—Peter M. Cuomo
*Assistant Examiner*—Sarah B. McPartlin
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear, LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A seat back video display assembly adapted to be positioned in the back of a vehicle seat having an outer skin cover. In one aspect, the assembly may comprise a receptacle member having sidewalls and a back wall so as to define an opening wherein the receptacle member is adapted to be positioned in the back of the vehicle seat. In addition, the assembly may further comprise a carrier member having sidewalls and a back wall so as to define an opening, wherein the carrier member includes at least one fastener that extends from the back wall of the carrier member and engages with the back wall of the receptacle member to secure the carrier member into the receptacle member. Moreover, the assembly may still further comprise a video display unit that is sized so as to be positioned secured within the opening in the carrier member, wherein the video display unit provides video signals.

**24 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets**



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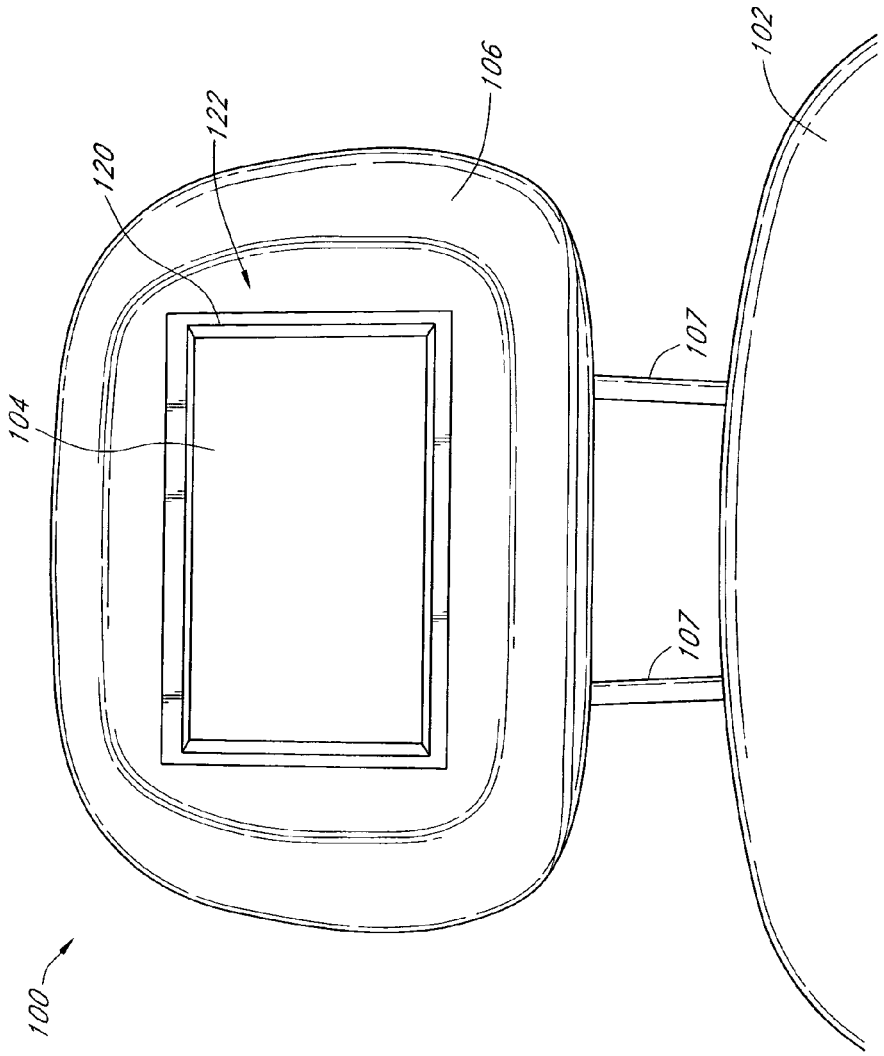


FIG. 1A

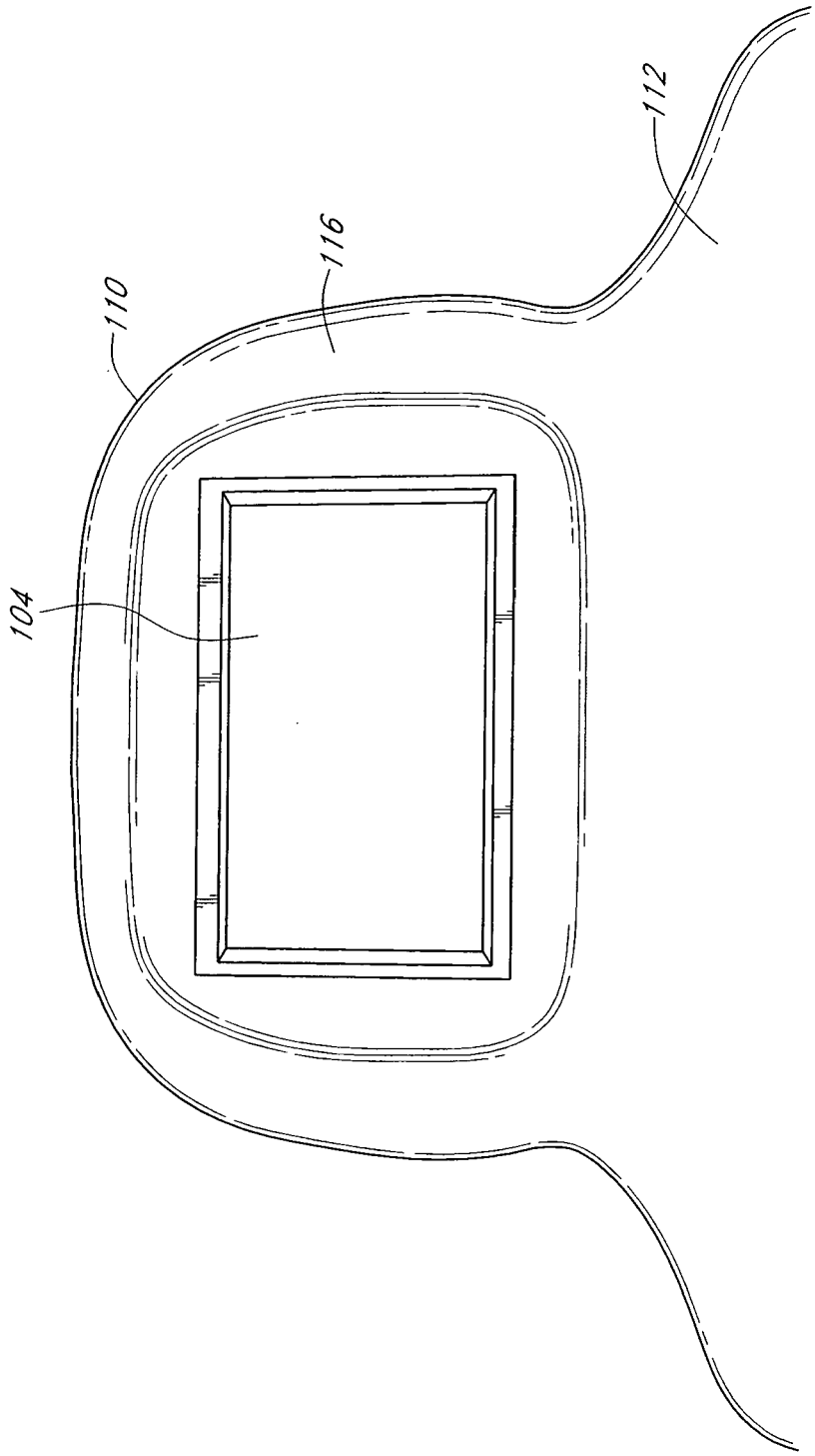


FIG. 1B

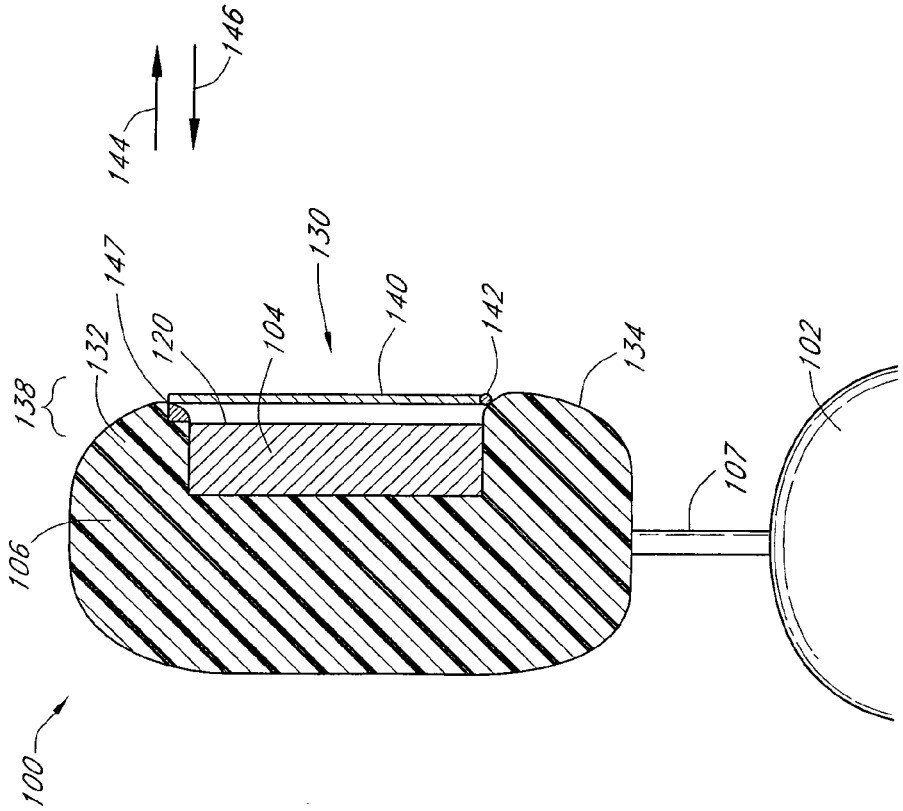
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FIG. 3A

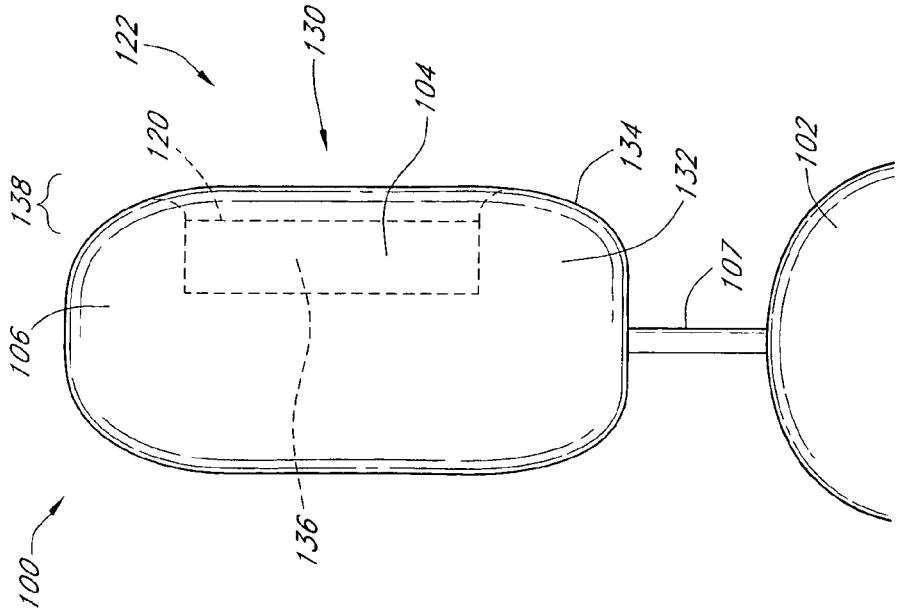
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FIG. 2

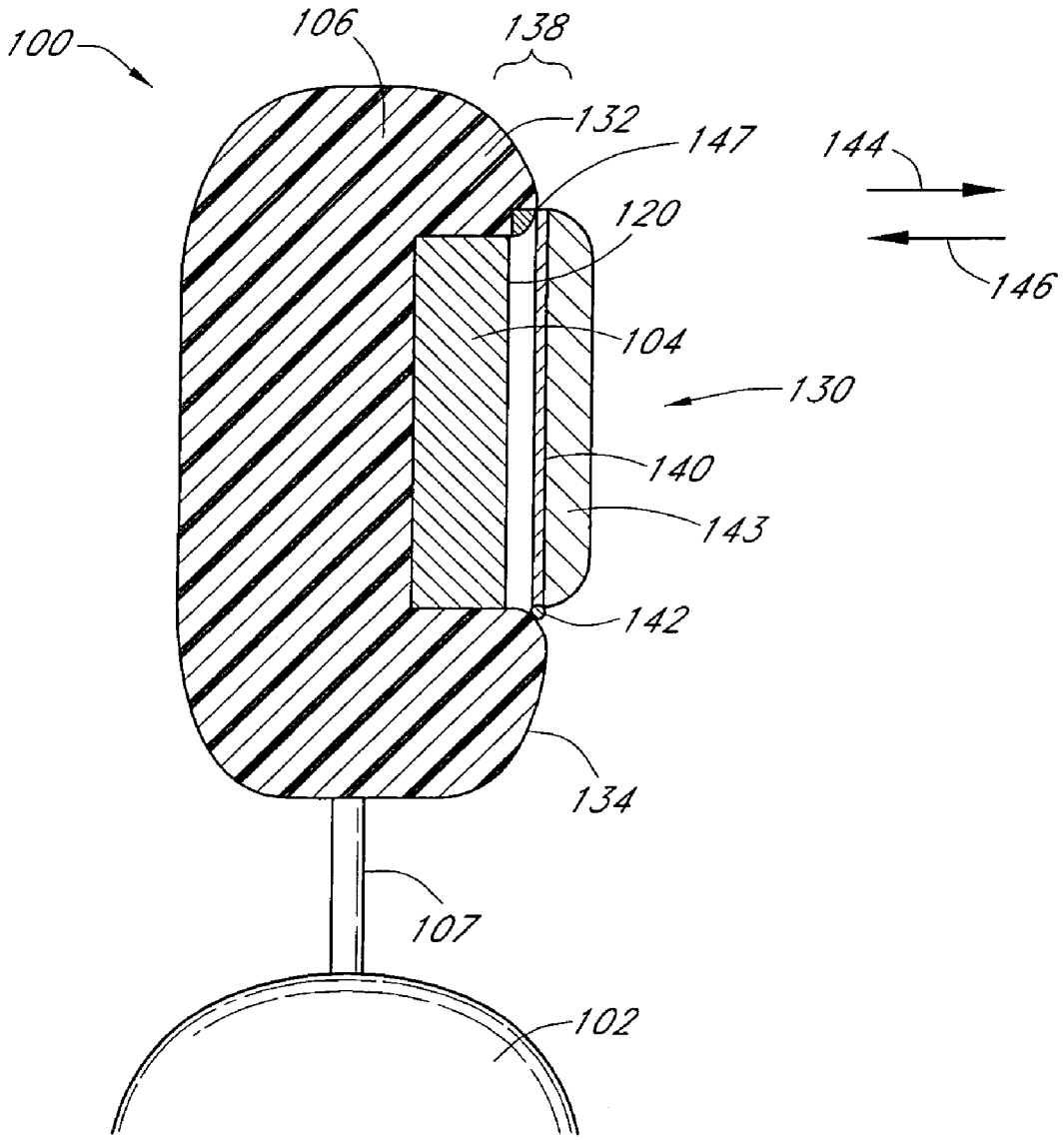


FIG. 3B

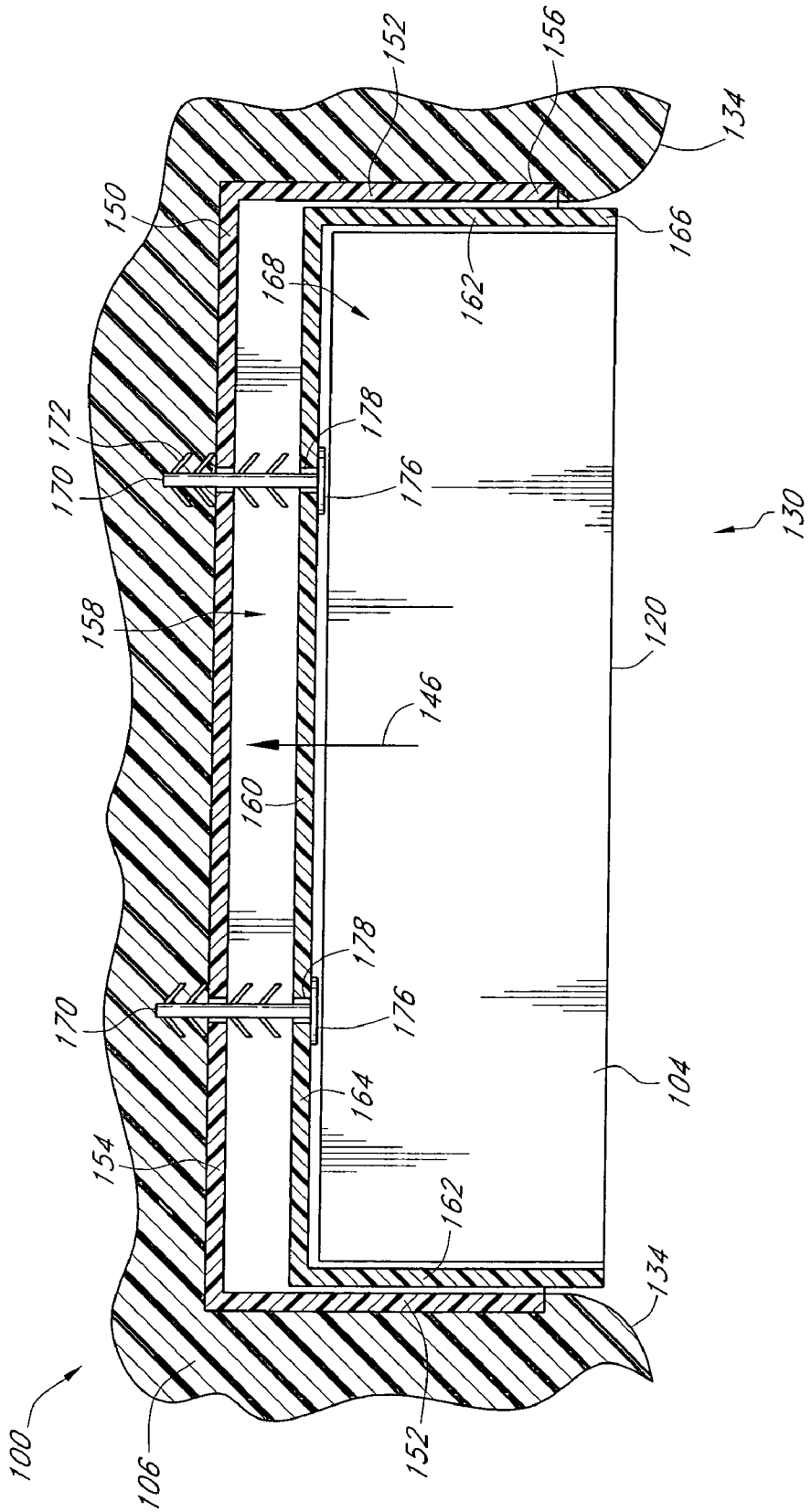
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FIG. 4

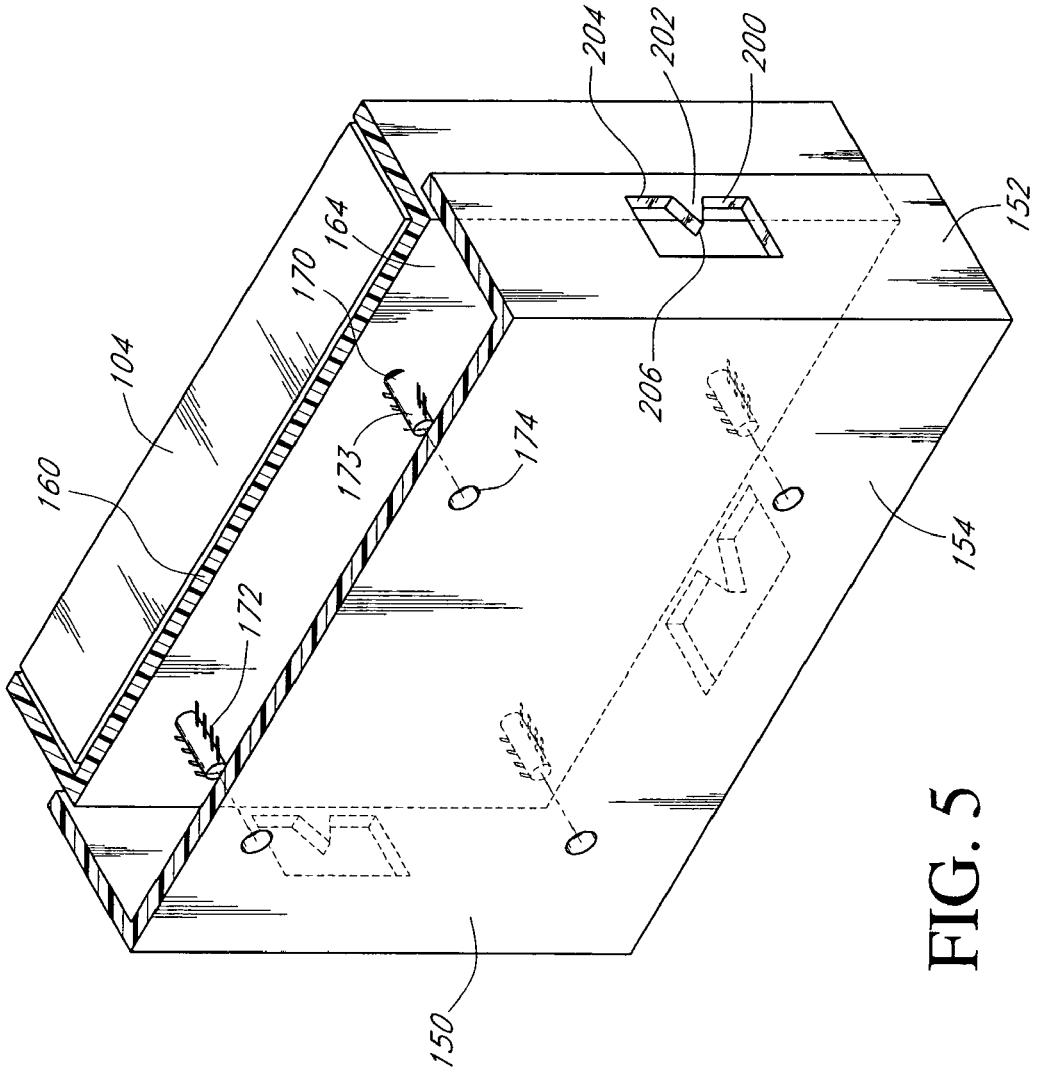


FIG. 5

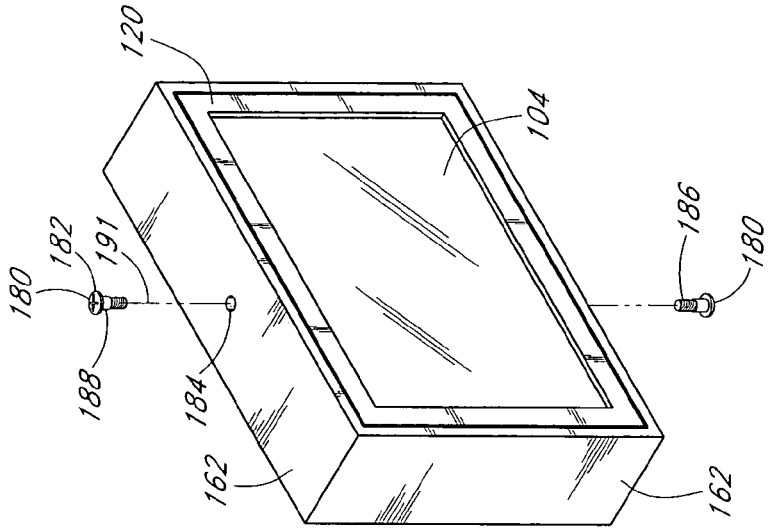
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FIG. 6B

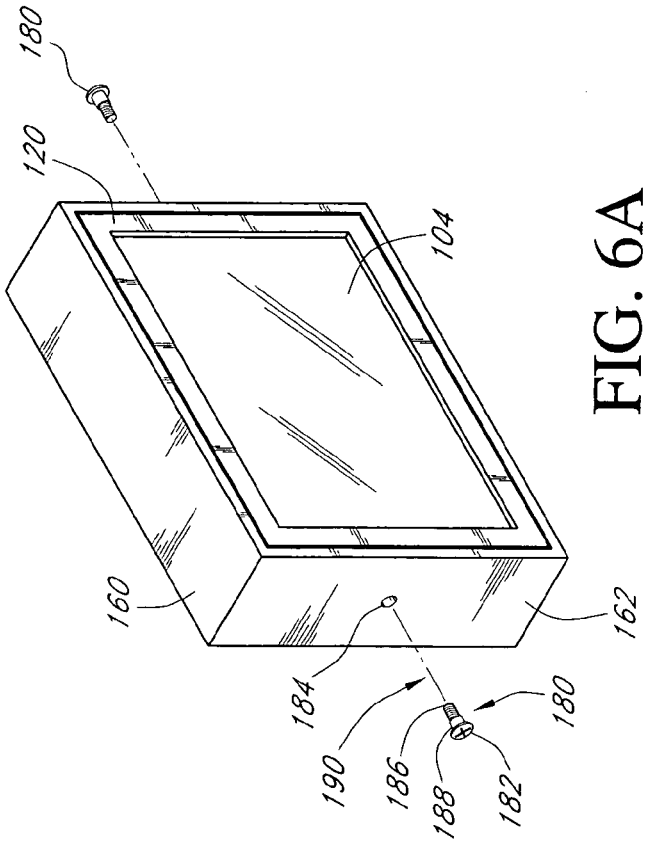
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FIG. 6A

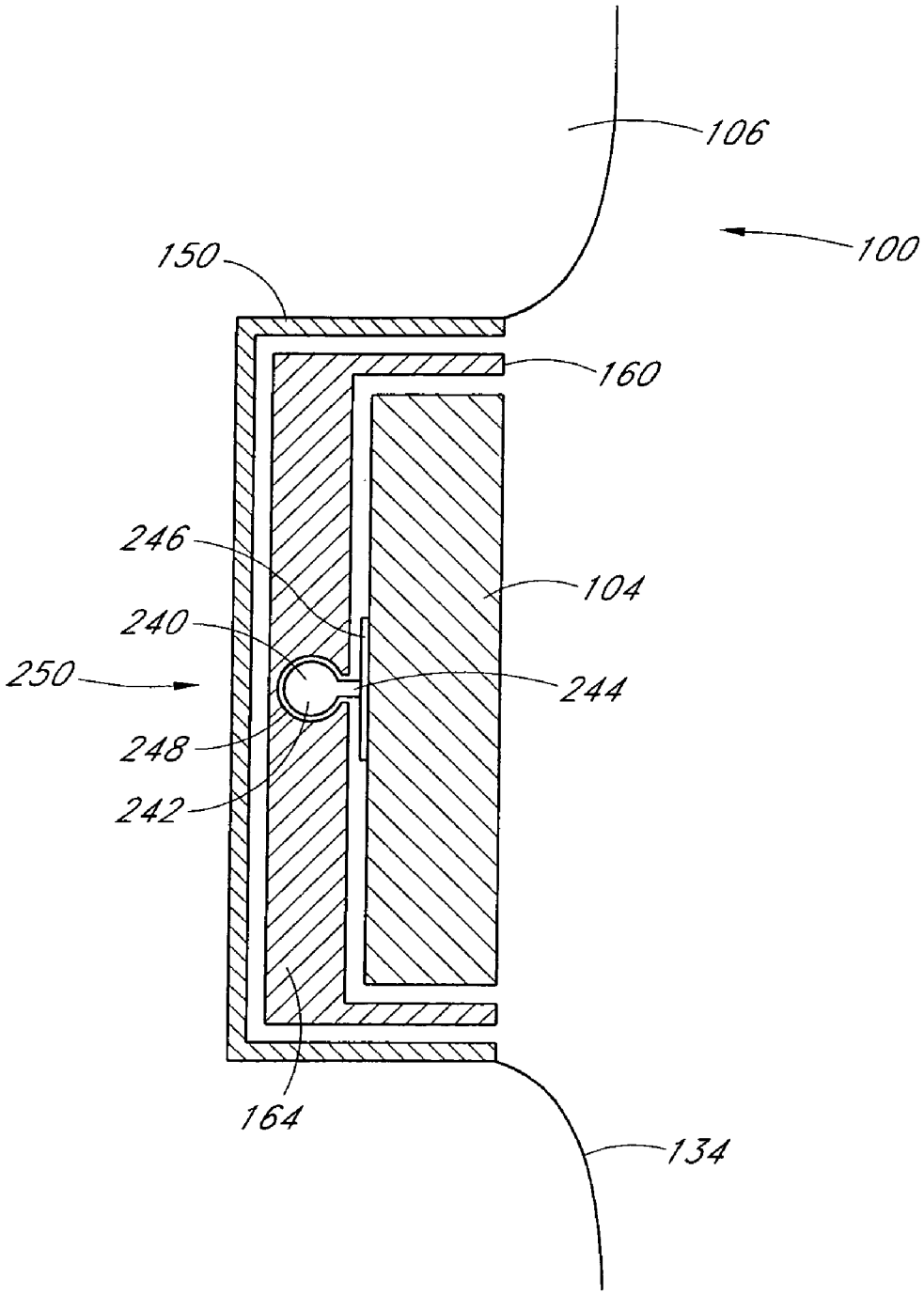


FIG. 6C

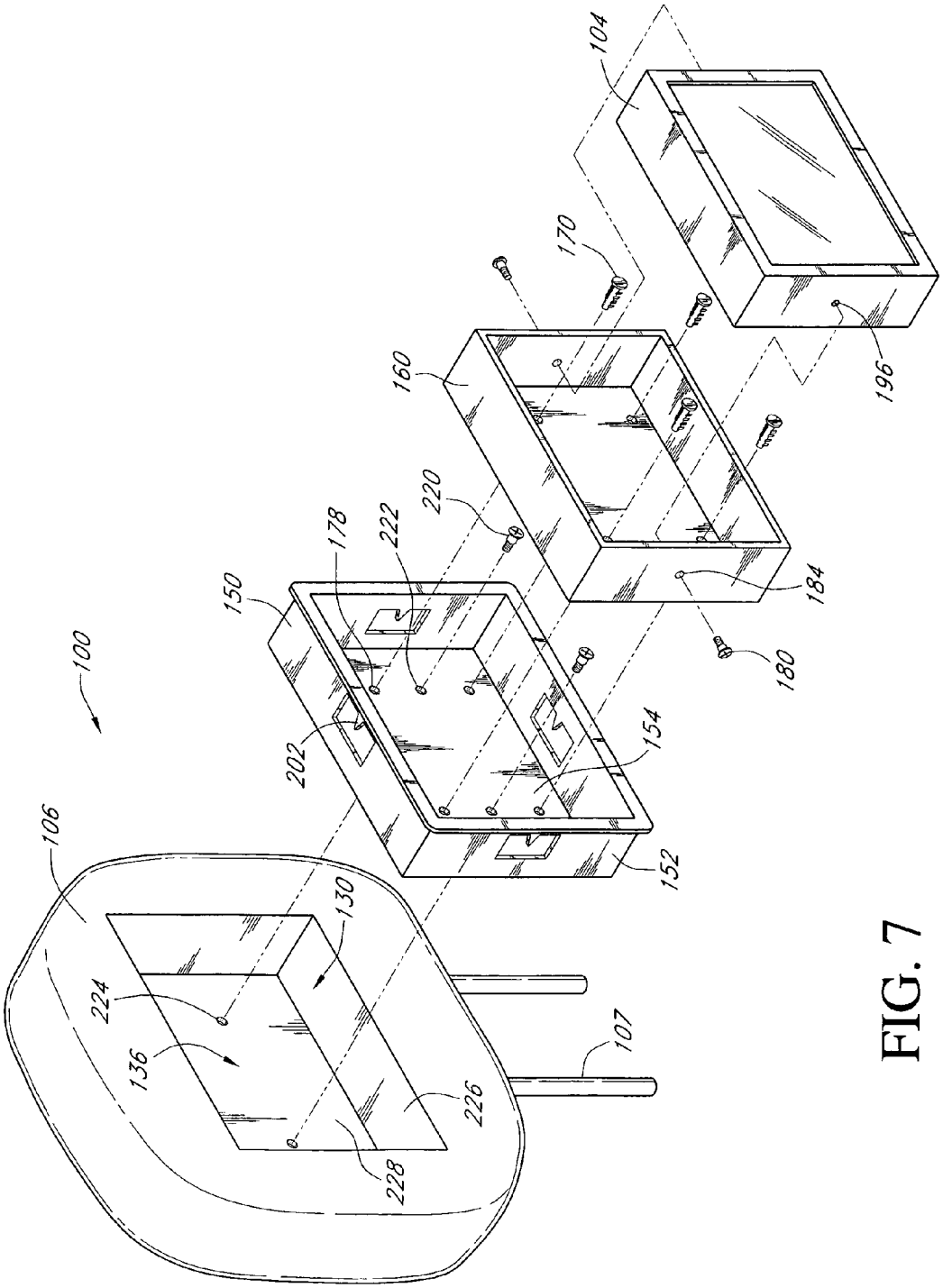
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FIG. 7

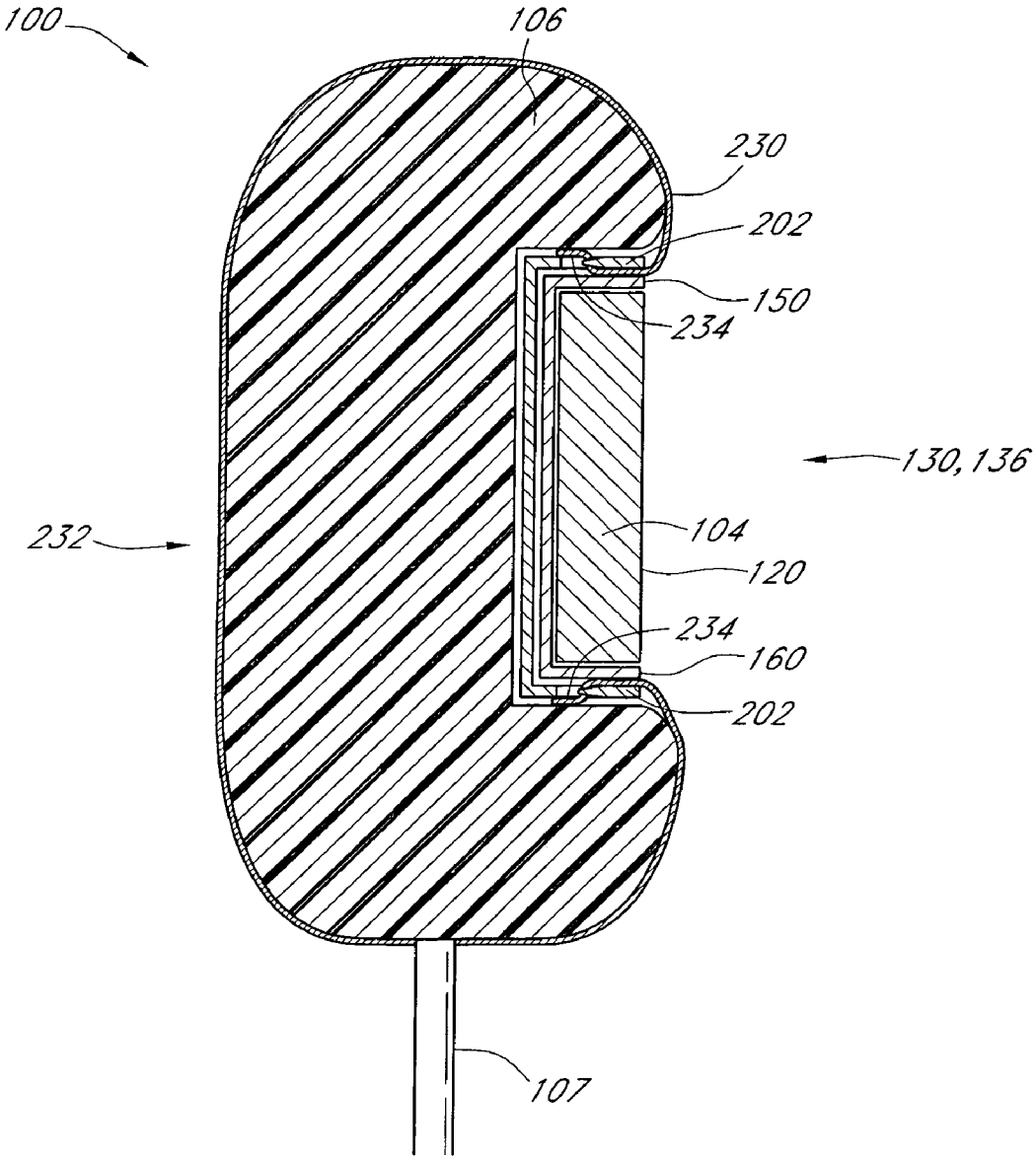


FIG. 8

# HEADREST HAVING AN INTEGRATED VIDEO SCREEN

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to motor vehicles and, in particular, to a headrest for motor vehicle seats having an integrated video screen mounted therein.

2. Description of the Related Art

Seat back video monitors are becoming increasingly popular in vehicles. Originally, these entertainment systems were largely confined to airplanes, however, recently, these systems have become much more popular with cars, trucks and SUVs. These entertainment systems provide the opportunity for passengers to view entertainment or educational video programs during long trips.

Typically, these systems have been installed as aftermarket products where the seat back is modified to accept the video display device, however, more of these systems are being installed as original equipment. Unfortunately, existing systems are often difficult and labor intensive to mount, particularly as an aftermarket product and are also subject to being dislodged.

Generally, the devices are mounted on the outer surface of the seat back where they protrude. In many vehicles, the space between seats and seat backs is limited, hence the protruding video display unit can inhibit the ability of passengers to easily get into and out of the vehicles. Moreover, passenger contact with the protruding video display screen may result in the screens being inadvertently dislodged.

A further difficulty with many existing video display unit designs is that they are not well secured to the seat. This is particularly the case for designs that allow the video display unit to pivot about an axis to improve the viewing angle of the passenger. One common way that these display units are installed is that a bucket is installed into the seat and the peripheral rim of the bucket includes openings that receive pivot posts that extend outward from the housing of the display unit. The pivot posts are positioned within the openings and keepers or caps are then positioned in the openings to prevent the pivot posts from being removed from the openings.

In these designs, the keepers or caps are generally press fit and are exposed to the passenger. Hence, inadvertent contact may result in the keepers or caps being dislodged. Moreover, many of the passengers are children who, through boredom, may attempt to remove the keepers which can result in the video display being dislodged and potentially damaged.

Hence, from the foregoing, there is a need for a seat back video display system and method of mounting that provides more secure mounting of the video display unit. To this end, there is a need for an assembly that is less likely to be dislodged through inadvertent contact and does not have exposed detachable mounting components.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The aforementioned needs may be satisfied by a seat back video display assembly adapted to be positioned in the back of a vehicle seat having an outer skin cover. In one aspect, the assembly may comprise a receptacle member having sidewalls and a back wall so as to define an opening, wherein the receptacle member is adapted to be positioned in the back of the vehicle seat. In addition the assembly may



further comprise a carrier member having sidewalls and a back wall so as to define an opening, wherein the carrier member includes at least one fastener that extends from the back wall of the carrier member and engages with the back wall of the receptacle member to secure the carrier member into the receptacle member, and a video display unit that is sized so as to be positioned secured within the opening in the carrier member, wherein the video display unit provides video signals.

Additionally, in one embodiment, the at least one fastener may comprise a plurality of fasteners that include a central member that extends outward from back wall of the carrier member and a plurality of flexible engagement members attached to the central member, wherein the flexible engagement members are deformable so as to allow insertion of the central member into the openings in the back wall of the receptacle member, and wherein the flexible engagement members are biased outward so as to inhibit removal of the central member from the openings in the back wall of the receptacle member. Also, the video display unit may be pivotally attached to the carrier member such that the plane of the video display unit can be adjusted by a user about a pivot point or axis, wherein the video display unit may be pivotable about a substantially horizontal pivot axis, a substantially vertical pivot axis, or pivot point that allows a continuous range of pivotal motion about the pivot point. Also, the openings may be positioned in the sidewalls of the receptacle member and the plurality of capture members are positioned within the openings, and wherein the plurality of capture members define a pointed surface that engages with the outer skin and inhibits removal of the outer skin from the opening defined by the receptacle member so as to securely fasten the outer skin to the receptacle member.

Additionally, in certain embodiments, the seat back video display assembly includes a screen cover that is dimensioned to cover the video display unit such that the screen cover can disengageably cover the screen of the video display unit to occlude the screen. The screen cover can include an impact attenuating material, a rigid protective layer, or any combination thereof.

The aforementioned needs may also be satisfied by a vehicle seat assembly having a seat back display. In one aspect, the vehicle seat assembly may comprise a vehicle seat adapted to receive an occupant during travel of a vehicle, the vehicle seat defining a seat back with an outer contour and a skin, and a receptacle member having sidewalls and a back wall to as to define an opening, wherein the receptacle member is mounted in the seat back of the vehicle seat such that the sidewalls are located at or below the outer contour of the seat back. In addition, the vehicle seat assembly may further comprise a video display unit mounted within the receptacle member, wherein the video display unit is generally planar with the outer plane being mounted at or below the outer contour of the seat back.

Moreover, the aforementioned needs may also be satisfied by a method of installing a video display unit into a seat back of a vehicle seat. In one embodiment, the method may comprise cutting an opening through an outer skin of the seat back, forming an aperture in the seat back, and positioning a receptacle in the aperture such that the receptacle is mounted at or below the level of the seat back. In addition, the method may comprise securing the video display unit to a carrier, and mounting the carrier into the receptacle such that an upper surface of the video display unit is mounted below the outer surface of the seat back. These and other objects and advantages of the present invention will become

more fully apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1**A illustrates an adjustable headrest for a motor vehicle seat having an integrated video screen mounted therein.

FIG. **1**B illustrates a fixed headrest for a motor vehicle seat having the integrated video screen of FIG. **1**A mounted therein.

FIG. **2** illustrates a side view of the adjustable headrest shown in FIG. **1**A having the integrated video screen mounted therein with a recessed orientation.

FIGS. **3**A, **3**B illustrate a cross-sectional view of the adjustable headrest shown in FIG. **1**A having the integrated video screen mounted therein with a screen cover.

FIG. **4** illustrates a cross-sectional view of the integrated video screen being mounted to the headrest via a carrier receptacle, a carrier member, and a plurality of fasteners.

FIG. **5** illustrates an perspective view of the integrated video screen being mounted to the headrest via the carrier member and the plurality of fasteners of FIG. **4**.

FIGS. **6**A, **6**B illustrate a perspective view of mounting the integrated video screen to the carrier member.

FIG. **6**C illustrates a side view of mounting the integrated video screen to the carrier member via pivot member.

FIG. **7** illustrates a perspective view of mounting the integrated video screen to the adjustable headrest of FIG. **1**A.

FIG. **8** illustrates a cross-sectional view of the video screen mounted to the headrest, wherein an outer skin from the headrest is secured to the carrier receptacle.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Reference will now be made to the drawings wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout. A headrest for motor vehicle seats having an integrated video screen mounted therein in a flush or recessed manner will be described in greater detail herein below with reference to the drawings. In one aspect, it should be appreciated that the term motor vehicle seats refers to a plurality of generally known motor vehicles seats, such as those manufactured for automobiles, buses, boats, cars, semi-trucks, etc., wherein the following discussion can be similarly applied to these various types of motor vehicle seats without departing from scope of the present teachings. In addition, the following discussion refers to mounting the integrated video screen to the headrest of motor vehicle seats but may also be applied to other various component features of motor vehicle seats, such as the seat back, without departing from the scope of the present teachings.

FIG. **1**A illustrates an adjustable headrest **100** for a first motor vehicle seat **102** having an integrated video screen **104** mounted therein. As illustrated in FIG. **1**A, the adjustable headrest **100** is coupled to the seat **102** via posts **106** that extend therefrom and allow vertical adjustment of the adjustable headrest **100** with respect to the seat **102** in a generally known manner. FIG. **1**B illustrates a fixed headrest **110** for a second motor vehicle seat **112** having the integrated video screen **104** mounted therein. In one embodiment, the video screen **104** is mounted within a headrest bun **106**, **116** that is adapted to receive the video screen **104** for firm attachment therein in a manner that will be described in greater detail herein below. In addition, as will be described in greater detail herein below, the video screen **102** is mounted such that a front surface **120** of the video screen **104** is either flush or recessed from a contour **122** of the headrest **100**, **110**.

In one embodiment, the video screen **104** comprises a generally known LCD (liquid crystal display) monitor or terminal that can be electrically coupled to a video entertainment system so as to receive video signals therefrom for viewing of movies, television, internet web pages, video games, etc. As illustrated, the video screen **104** is generally rectangular in shape with the planar front surface **120** that is viewable by a user. In one aspect, it should be appreciated that the degree of recessed depth (with no depth comprising a flush mount) of the integrated video screen **104** and the manner in which the contour **122** of the seat **102**, **112** is shaped may be selected such that the shape (side view, for example) of the headrest **100**, **110** with the integrated video screen **104** mounted therein is generally similar to the shape of the headrest **100**, **110** without the integrated video screen **104**. Moreover, it should be appreciated that the motor vehicle seats **102**, **112** may comprise any one of a number of various types or models of generally known motor vehicle seats without departing from the scope of the present invention.

FIG. **2** illustrates a side view of the adjustable headrest **100** shown in FIG. **1**A having the integrated video screen **104** mounted therein with a recessed orientation. It should be appreciated that the following discussion is with respect to the adjustable headrest **100** of FIG. **1**A but may be similarly applied to the fixed headrest **110** of FIG. **1**B without departing from the scope of the present teachings.

FIG. **2** further illustrates the side view shape or contour **122** of the headrest **100**. As illustrated in FIG. **2**, the contour **122** of the headrest **100** is maintained due to the recessed orientation of the video screen **104** within the headrest bun **106**. In addition, an opening **130** is formed in a rear section **132** of the headrest **100** so as to define a substantially rectangular interior region **136** within the headrest bun **106** below an outer surface **134** of the headrest **100**. As further illustrated in FIG. **2**, the video screen **104** can then be positioned adjacent the opening **130** so as to be firmly positioned within the interior region **136** of the headrest bun **106**. Moreover, the recessed orientation may be defined by a depth **138** between the front surface **120** of the video screen **104** and the outer surface **134** of the headrest **100**. The depth **138** therebetween may vary in magnitude depending on the thickness of the headrest bun **106** and/or the internal structural characteristics of the headrest **100**, which may vary with respect to the type or model of motor vehicle seat used. In one aspect, the depth **138** of the recessed orientation may comprise a magnitude of approximately zero so as to define a flush mounted video screen **104**, wherein the front surface **1120** of the video screen **104** is substantially aligned with the outer surface **134** of the headrest **100**.

FIG. **3**A illustrates a cross-sectional view of the adjustable headrest **102** shown in FIGS. **1**A having the integrated video screen **104** mounted therein with the recessed orientation shown in FIG. **2** and a screen cover **140**. In one embodiment, the screen cover **140** is coupled to the rear section **132** of the headrest **100** via a hinge **142** so as to overlie the video screen **104** and at least part of the opening **130** formed therein. The screen cover **140** may comprise generally rectangular shape and is oriented generally parallel to the front surface **120** of the video screen **104** so as to temporarily occlude the video screen **104**. In one aspect, as further illustrated in FIG. **3**A, the screen cover **140** can be positioned adjacent the opening

130 so as to substantially align with the outer surface 134 of the headrest 100 thus forming a flush mounting therewith. It should be appreciated that the screen cover 140 may be positioned within the opening 130 so as to be recessed with respect to the outer surface 134 of the headrest 100 without departing from the scope of the present teachings. Moreover, the screen cover 140 may comprise a rigid material, such as plastic, metal, etc. Alternatively, in another aspect, the screen cover 140 may comprise a piece or flap of material from an outer skin 230 (FIG. 8) of the motor vehicle seat 102 that is attached to the headrest 100 adjacent the lower side of the video screen 104.

In still another aspect, as illustrated in FIG. 3B, the screen cover 140 may comprise an impact attenuating section 143 comprising a material such as foam, various types of padding, an air cushion, etc. so as to soften the force of an impact from an object. For example, during a car accident, a person's head may be propelled towards the screen cover 140, wherein the impact attenuating material may soften the impact to the headrest 102 to thereby protect the person's head and the video screen 104 from damage.

Also, in one embodiment, the video screen 104 can be viewed by opening the screen cover 140 or temporarily occluded by closing the screen cover 140. Hence, the screen cover 140 can be outwardly rotated about the hinge 142 in a first direction 144 to openly view the video screen 104, or the screen cover 140 can be inwardly rotated about the hinge 142 in a second direction 144 opposite the first direction 144 to temporarily occlude the video screen 104. Advantageously, the screen cover 104, when closed, conceals the video screen 104 from view thus, in some situations, functions as a thief deterrent.

Moreover, in one aspect, the recessed configuration of the video screen 104 facilitates the manner in which the screen cover 140 may be deployed. For example, the video screen 104 may not physically interfere with the closing of the screen cover 140. In addition, as illustrated in FIGS. 3A, 3B, the screen cover 140 is intended to "hide" the video screen 104 from outside observers, thereby reducing the probability that the video screen 104 will be a target of theft. As further illustrated in FIGS. 3A, 3B, the screen cover 140 may further comprise a means for engagement 144 that allows the screen cover 140 to remain in the "up" or closed configuration. In general, it should be appreciated that some possible means for achieving such an engagement include but are mot limited to magnetic strips, mechanical clips, velcro strips, and the like.

FIG. 4 illustrates a cross-sectional view of the integrated video screen 104 being mounted to the headrest 100 via a carrier receptacle 150, a carrier member 160, and first fasteners 170. FIG. 5 illustrates a perspective view of the integrated video screen 104 being mounted to the headrest 100 via the carrier receptacle 150, the carrier member 152, and the first fasteners 170. In one embodiment, the carrier receptacle 150 comprises a plurality of planar sidewalls 152 and a rear planar wall 154 that are joined together in a manner so as to form a substantially rectangular outer structure 156 having an inner recessed region 158 that is adapted to receive the carrier member 152 therein. Similarly, the carrier member 152 comprises a plurality of planar sidewalls 162 and a rear planar wall 164 that are joined together in a manner so as to form a substantially rectangular outer structure 166 having an inner recessed region 168 that is adapted to receive the video screen 104 therein.

As illustrated in FIG. 4, the video screen 104 may be mounted within the carrier member 160 via side fasteners 180 (shown in FIGS. 6A, 6B) and then the carrier member 152 is mounted within the carrier receptacle 150 via the first fasteners 170 so as to simplify the mounting of the video screen 104 to the headrest 100 including the headrest bun 106. In one aspect, the first fasteners 170 may comprise a plurality of flexible engagement members 172 that extend therefrom so as to mechanically couple with a plurality of mounting apertures 174 (FIG. 5) formed in the rear wall 154 of the carrier receptacle 150. The first fasteners 170 may further comprise a central member 173 that extends outward from the rear wall 164 of the carrier member 160. Also, the flexible engagement members 172 are attached to the central member 173, wherein the flexible engagement members 172 are deformable so as to allow insertion of the central member 173 into the mounting apertures 174 in the rear wall 164 of the receptacle member 150. Moreover, the flexible engagement members 170 are biased outward so as to inhibit removal of the central member 173 from the mounting apertures 174 in the rear wall 154 of the receptacle member 150. In addition, the first fasteners 170 comprise a head 176 that abuts the rear wall 164 of the carrier member 152 and is positioned through a plurality of second apertures 178 formed in the rear wall 164 of the carrier member 152.

Advantageously, the video screen 104 can be mounted to the headrest 100 via the carrier receptacle 150 and the carrier member 152 without using external fasteners that may be seen. Hence, the video screen 104 can be mounted to the headrest 100 in a more aesthetically appealing manner, wherein the front surface 120 of the video screen 104 recessed or flush mounted with respect to the outer surface 134 of the headrest 100, and wherein the first and second fasteners 170, 180 are concealed from view.

As illustrated in FIG. 5, the sidewalls 152 of the carrier receptacle 150 each comprise at least one sidewall aperture 200 having at least one serrated tooth 202 protruding from an interior sidewall 204. In one embodiment, the at least one serrated tooth 202 is triangular in shape having a pointed tip 206 that projects outward from the interior sidewall 204 in a horizontal manner. It should be appreciated that the serrated tooth 202 may comprise any one of a number of various shapes known in the art without departing from the scope of the present teachings. Additionally, as will be shown in FIG. 8, the pointed tip 234 engages with the outer skin 230 (FIG. 8) and inhibits removal of the outer skin 230 from the at least one sidewall aperture 200 formed in the carrier receptacle 150. Advantageously, as will be described in greater detail herein below, the serrated tooth 200 allows outer skin from the motor vehicle seat 102, 112 to be attached to the carrier receptacle 150 by wrapping the outer skin around the planar sidewalls 152 and into the recessed region 158 of the carrier receptacle 150 and then securing the outer skin to the serrated tooth 200.

FIG. 6A illustrates a perspective view of attaching the integrated video screen 104 to the carrier member 152 via the second fasteners 180. In one embodiment, the planar sidewalls 162 of the carrier member 160 comprise pivot apertures 184 that allow the video display 104 to be mounted to the carrier member 160. Also, the pivot apertures 184 are adapted to rotatably receive the second fasteners 180. As illustrated in FIG. 6A, the second fasteners 180 comprise a threaded region 186 that mechanically couples to threaded apertures 196 (FIG. 7) formed in the video screen 104 in a generally known manner so as to be securely attached thereto. Moreover, the second fasteners 180 further comprise a head 182 and a smooth pivot region 188 interposed between the threaded region and the head 182.

In one aspect, the pivot region 188 of the second fastener 180 rotatably communicates with the pivot aperture 184 of

the carrier member **160** to thereby allow the video screen **104** to pivot or tilt with respect to the carrier member **160** and/or the headrest **100** along a horizontal pivot axis **190** defined by the horizontally mounted second fasteners **180**. Hence, the video screen **104** is pivotally attached to the carrier member **160** such that the plane of the video screen **104** can be adjusted with respect to the headrest **100** by a user about the defined horizontal pivot axis **190**. Advantageously, the horizontal pivot axis **190** allows the video screen **104** to readily pivot when mounted to the headrest **100** to thereby allow greater positional flexibility during viewing of the video screen **104** by a user.

FIG. **6**B further illustrates a perspective view of attaching the integrated video screen **104** to the carrier member **152** via the second fasteners **180**. In one embodiment, as illustrated in FIG. **6**B, the second fasteners **180** can be mounted vertically through the planar sidewalls **162** of the carrier member **160**. The pivot region **188** of the vertically mounted second fasteners **180** rotatably communicates with the pivot aperture **184** of the carrier member **160** to thereby allow the video screen **104** to pivot or tilt side-to-side with respect to the carrier member **160** and/or the headrest **100** along a vertical pivot axis **191** defined by the vertically mounted second fasteners **180**. Hence, the video screen **104** is pivotally attached to the carrier member **160** such that the plane of the video screen **104** can be adjusted with respect to the headrest **100** by a user about the vertical pivot axis **191**. Advantageously, the vertical pivot axis **191** allows the video screen **104** to readily pivot when mounted to the headrest **100** to thereby allow greater positional flexibility during viewing of the video screen **104** by a user.

In one aspect, it should be appreciated that the second fasteners **180** may comprise generally known screws, such as sheet metal screws, without departing from the scope of the present invention. It should also be appreciated that the pivot region **188** of the second fasteners **180** may be threaded in a manner such that the video screen **104** can still pivot with respect to the carrier member **150** without departing from the scope of the present invention.

FIG. **6**C illustrates a view of attaching the integrated video screen **104** to the carrier member **152** via a pivot member **240**. In one embodiment, as illustrated in FIG. **6**C, the pivot member **240** comprises a spherical ball **242** attached to the video screen **104** via a shaft **244** and a plate **246**. The spherical ball **242** is positioned within a spherical receptacle **248** formed in the rear wall **164** of the carrier member **160**. As illustrated in FIG. **6**C, the rear wall **164** of the carrier member **160** may be dimensioned so as to accommodate the spherical receptacle **248**. In one aspect, the plate **246** of the pivot member **240** may be attached to the video screen **104** using an adhesive, such as epoxy or glue, or fasteners, such as screws or bolts. In addition, the shaft **244** distally extends from the plate **246** towards the spherical receptacle **248** of the carrier member **160**. Also, the shaft **244** and the spherical ball **242** may be formed as an integral part of the plate **246** or may be formed separately and interconnected to the plate **246** via an adhesive or fasteners.

Moreover, once the pivot member **240** is attached to the video screen **104** in a manner as previously described, the spherical ball **242** of the pivot member **240** can be pressed to fit within the spherical receptacle **248** formed in the rear wall **164** of the carrier member **160**. In one aspect, the spherical ball **242** may be sized at least less than the size of the spherical receptacle **248** so as to allow rotational movement therein. Advantageously, the resulting interconnection between the spherical ball **242** of the pivot member **240** and the spherical receptacle **248** of the carrier member **160** defines a pivot point **250** to thereby allow the video screen **104** to pivot, tilt, or rotate in a multi-directional manner with respect to the defined pivot point **250**. Therefore, the defined pivot point **250** allows the video screen **104** to readily pivot when mounted to the headrest **100** to thereby allow greater positional flexibility during viewing of the video screen **104** by a user.

FIG. **7** illustrates a perspective view of mounting the integrated video screen **104** to the headrest **100** of FIG. **1**A. In one embodiment, as illustrated in FIG. **7**, the opening **130** is formed in the headrest bun **106** so as to define the substantially rectangular interior region **136** and to receive the carrier receptacle **150**. The carrier receptacle **150** can then be positioned within the opening **130** so that the planar sidewalls **152** and the planar rear wall **154** abut the interior walls **226** of the mounting recess **136** formed in the headrest bun **106**. In one embodiment, the carrier receptacle **150** can be secured to the headrest **100** via one or more third fasteners **220**, such as screws, machine screws, sheet metal screws, etc. As illustrated in FIG. **7**, the third fasteners **220** are positioned through rear wall apertures **222** formed in the rear wall **154** of the carrier receptacle **150** and coupled to rear mounting apertures **224** formed in a back wall **226** of the mounting recess **136** of the headrest bun **106**. Advantageously, the third fasteners **220** can be securely attached to a structural component (not shown) of the headrest **100**, such as an internal framework member of the headrest **100**, so as to form a rigid attachment between the carrier receptacle **150** and the headrest **100**.

In addition, the video screen **104** may be mounted to the carrier member **160** so as to pivot with respect thereto in a manner as previously described with reference to FIGS. **6**A, **6**B, **6**C. Following, the carrier member **160** including the video screen **104** can then be mounted to the carrier receptacle **150** via the first fasteners **170** in a manner as previously described with reference to FIG. **4**. Advantageously, this method of attaching the video screen **104** to the headrest **100** via the carrier receptacle **150**, the carrier member **160**, and the fasteners **170**, **180** allows the video screen **104** to be securely mounted to the headrest **100** while providing a means for pivoting the video screen **104** with respect to the headrest **100** so as to improve the viewing range by a user.

FIG. **8** illustrates a cross-sectional view of the video screen **104** mounted to the headrest **100**, wherein the outer skin **230** of the headrest **100** of the motor vehicle seat **102** is attached to the carrier receptacle **150** and the carrier member **160** with the video screen **104** mounted therein is mounted within the mounting recess **136** of the carrier receptacle **150**. As is generally known, many motor vehicle car seats comprise the illustrated outer skin **230**, such as fabric, leather, upholstery, vinyl, etc., that provides a outer surface **232** for a user to lean against or rest upon. In one aspect, when mounting the integrated video screen **104** into the headrest **100** of the motor vehicle seat **102**, the outer skin **230** is adapted to accommodate the video screen **104** including the carrier receptacle **150**. In some situations, one or more flaps **234** can be formed in the outer skin **230** and attached to the one or more serrated teeth **202** formed in the planar sidewalls **152** of the carrier receptacle **150**.

As further illustrated in FIG. **8**, the carrier receptacle **150** may be positioned within the mounting recess **136** formed in the headrest bun **106**, and then the outer skin **230** is secured to the serrated teeth **202** via the flaps **234** formed therein by hooking the flaps **234** to one or more of the serrated teeth **202**. Once the outer skin **230** is attached to the serrated teeth **202** via the flaps **234**, the carrier member **160** is firmly pressed within the mounting recess **136** of the headrest bun

106 so that the first fasteners 170 couple to the mounting apertures 174 formed in the rear wall 154 of the carrier receptacle 150.

Advantageously, this interconnection between the carrier member 160 and carrier receptacle 150 provides a quick and easy means for mounting of the video screen 104 to the headrest 100. In addition, the pressed fit of the outer skin between the carrier member 160 and the carrier receptacle 150 further secures the outer skin of the motor vehicle seat 102 to the carrier receptacle 150. As a result, the outer skin is securely held to the carrier receptacle 150 via the one or more serrated teeth 202 formed in the planar sidewalls 152 of the carrier receptacle 150 and the pressed fit of the carrier member 160 within the mourning recess 136 of the carrier receptacle 150.

Although the foregoing description has shown, described and pointed out the fundamental novel features of the invention, it will be understood that various omissions, substitutions, and changes in the form of the detail of the apparatus as illustrated, as well as the uses thereof, may be made by those skilled in the art, without departing from the spirit or scope of the present invention. Consequently, the scope of the invention should not be limited to the foregoing discussion, but should be defined by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A seat back video display assembly adapted to be positioned in a back of a vehicle seat having an outer skin, the assembly comprising:

a receptacle member having sidewalls and a back wall so as to define an opening wherein the receptacle member is adapted to be positioned in the back of the vehicle seat wherein the opening is facing away from the back of the vehicle seat when the receptacle member is positioned within the back of the vehicle seat and wherein the receptacle member includes at least one securing opening formed in the back wall of the receptacle member;

a carrier member having sidewalls and a back wall so as to define an opening, wherein the carrier member includes at least one fastener that is coupled to the back wall that extends from the back wall of the carrier member and engages with the at least one securing opening in the back wall of the receptacle member to secure the carrier member into the receptacle member and wherein the opening in the carrier member is facing away from the back of the vehicle seat when the carrier member is positioned within the receptacle member; and

a video display unit that is sized so as to be positioned secured within the opening in the carrier member and substantially conceal the at least one fastener, wherein the video display unit provides video signals wherein the video display unit is pre-assembled into the carrier member so that the combined video display unit and the carrier member can be simultaneously secured within the receptacle member by positioning the carrier member in the receptacle member such that the back wall of the carrier member is flush with the back wall of the receptacle member and the at least one fastener of the carrier member is pushed through the at least one securing opening.

2. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the receptacle member includes a plurality of openings positioned within the back wall that receive the fasteners of the carrier member.

3. The assembly of claim 2, wherein the at least one fastener comprises a plurality of fasteners that include a central member that extends outward from back wall of the carrier member and a plurality of flexible engagement members attached to the central member, wherein the flexible engagement members are deformable so as to allow insertion of the central member into the openings in the back wall of the receptacle member, and wherein the flexible engagement members are biased outward so as to inhibit removal of the central member from the openings in the back wall of the receptacle member.

4. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the video display unit defines a plane and is pivotally attached to the carrier member such that the plane of the video display unit can be adjusted by a user about a pivot axis.

5. The assembly of claim 4, wherein the video display unit is pivotable about a substantially horizontal axis.

6. The assembly of claim 4, wherein at least a first and second fasteners are positioned through the carrier into the display unit so as to secure the video display unit to the carrier member prior to installation of the carrier into the receptacle member, and wherein the at least first and second fasteners engage with the video display unit so as to define a pivot axis.

7. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the receptacle member includes an outer lip and a plurality of outer skin capture members that engage with the outer skin of the seat back following installation such that the outer skin is extended over the outer lip of the receptacle member and secured to the outer skin capture members.

8. The assembly of claim 7, wherein openings are positioned in the sidewalls of the receptacle member and the plurality of capture members are positioned within the openings, and wherein the plurality of capture members define a pointed surface that engages with the outer skin and inhibits removal of the outer skin from the opening defined by the receptacle member.

9. The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a screen cover that is dimensioned to cover the video display unit in a first configuration following installation into the seat back, and wherein the cover is selectively disengagable so as to allow visual access to the video display unit.

10. The assembly of claim 9, wherein the cover includes an impact attenuating material.

11. The assembly of claim 9, wherein the cover includes a generally rigid layer to provide physical protection of the video display unit.

12. A vehicle seat assembly having a seat back display, the assembly comprising:

a vehicle seat adapted to receive an occupant during travel of a vehicle, the vehicle seat defining a seat back with an outer contour and an outer skin;

a receptacle member having sidewalls and a back wall so as to define an opening, wherein the receptacle member is mounted in the seat back of the vehicle seat such that the sidewalls are located at or below the outer contour of the seat back and wherein the receptacle member includes at least one opening in the side walls and at least one outer skin capture member having a pointed surface positioned within the at least one opening such that the at least one outer skin capture member captures the outer skin of the seat back to inhibit removal of the outer skin from the at least one opening; and

a video display unit mounted within the receptacle member, wherein the video display unit is generally planar with an outer plane that is at or below the outer contour of the vehicle seat.

13. The assembly of claim 12, further comprising a carrier member having sidewalls and a back wall so as to define an

opening, wherein the carrier member includes at least one fastener that extends from the back wall of the carrier member and engages with the back wall of the receptacle member to secure the carrier member into the receptacle member, and wherein the video display unit is positioned within the carrier unit.

**14**. The assembly of claim **13**, wherein the receptacle member includes a plurality of openings positioned within the back wall that receive the fasteners of the carrier member.

**15**. The assembly of claim **14**, wherein the at least one fastener comprises a plurality of fasteners that include a central member that extends outward from back wall of the carrier member and a plurality of flexible engagement members attached to the central member, wherein the flexible engagement members are deformable so as to allow insertion of the central member into the openings in the back wall of the receptacle member, and wherein the flexible engagement members are biased outward so as to inhibit removal of the central member from the openings in the back wall of the receptacle member.

**16**. The assembly of claim **13**, wherein the video display unit is pivotally attached to the carrier member such that the outer plane of the video display unit can be adjusted by a user about a pivot axis.

**17**. The assembly of claim **16**, wherein the video display unit is pivotable about a substantially horizontal axis.

**18**. The assembly of claim **16**, wherein at least a first and second fasteners are positioned through the carrier into the display unit so as to secure the video display unit to the carrier member prior to installation of the carrier into the receptacle member, and wherein the at least first and second fasteners engage with the video display unit so as to define a pivot axis.

**19**. The assembly of claim **12**, further comprising a screen cover that is dimensioned to cover the video display unit in a first configuration following installation into the seat back, and wherein the cover is selectively disengagable so as to allow visual access to the video display unit.

**20**. The assembly of claim **19**, wherein the screen cover comprises at least a portion of the outer skin that is attached to the seat back adjacent a bottom side of the video display unit and a fastener assembly attached to the portion of outer skin and the seat back adjacent a top side of the video display unit such that the portion of outer skin can hide the video display unit from view.

**21**. The assembly of claim **19**, wherein the screen cover includes an impact attenuating material selected from the group consisting of foam, padding, and an air cushion.

**22**. The assembly of claim **19**, wherein the screen cover includes a generally rigid layer to provide physical protection of the video display unit.

**23**. The assembly of claim **12**, wherein the outer skin is selected from the group consisting of fabric, leather, upholstery, and vinyl.

**24**. The assembly of claim **12**, wherein the vehicle seat includes a head rest and the receptacle member is positioned within the head rest.

* * * * *

# EXHIBIT B

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(12) **United States Patent**
**Tuccinardi et al.**

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(54) **HEADREST HAVING AN INTEGRATED VIDEO SCREEN**

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( * ) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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*A47C 7/62* (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **297/217.3**; 297/188.04

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... 297/217.3, 297/188.04, 188.07, 408, 391; 5/643, 645
See application file for complete search history.

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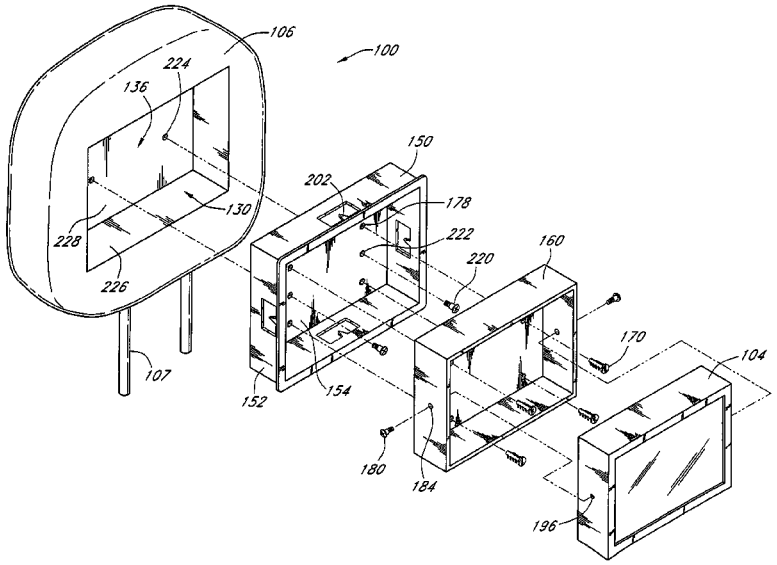
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A seat back video display assembly adapted to be positioned in the back of a vehicle seat having an outer skin cover. In one aspect, the assembly may comprise a receptacle member having sidewalls and a back wall so as to define an opening wherein the receptacle member is adapted to be positioned in the back of the vehicle seat. In addition, the assembly may further comprise a carrier member having sidewalls and a back wall so as to define an opening, wherein the carrier member includes at least one fastener that extends from the back wall of the carrier member and engages with the back wall of the receptacle member to secure the carrier member into the receptacle member. Moreover, the assembly may still further comprise a video display unit that is sized so as to be positioned secured within the opening in the carrier member, wherein the video display unit provides video signals.

**14 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets**



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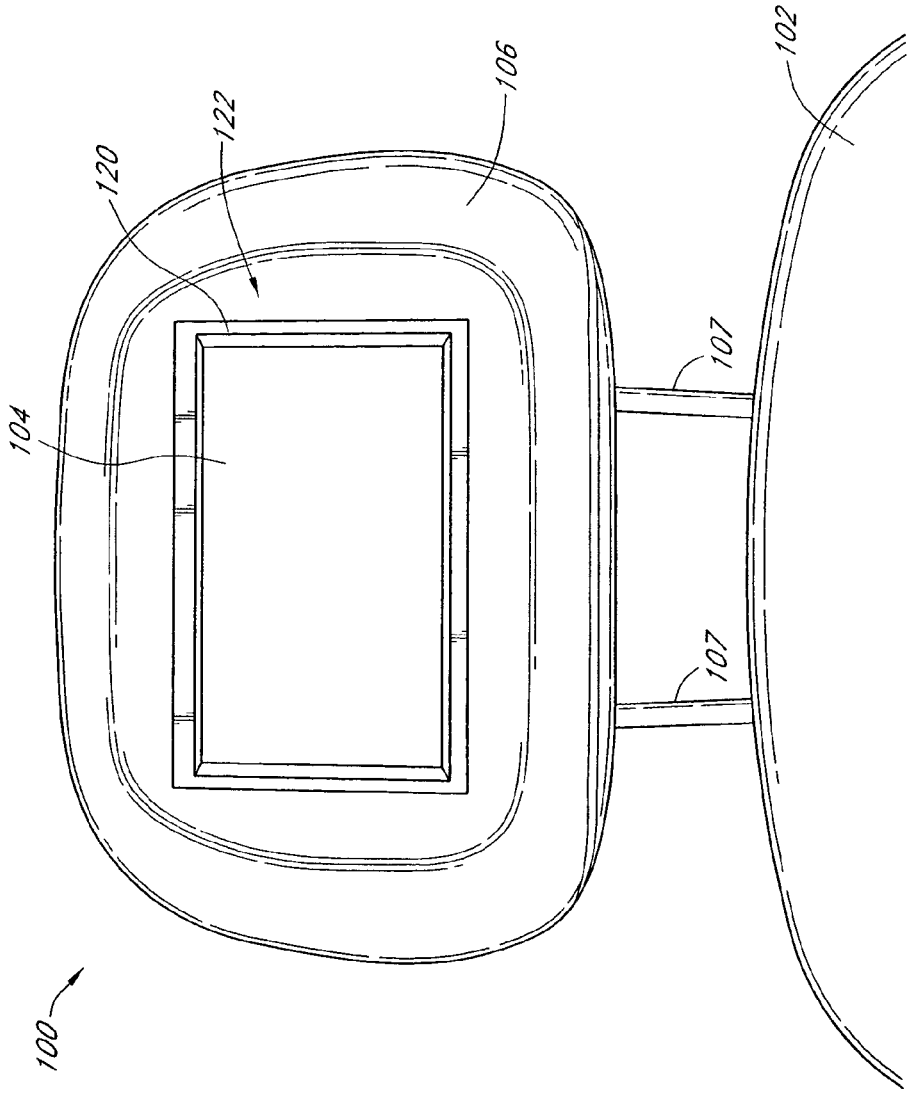



FIG. 1A

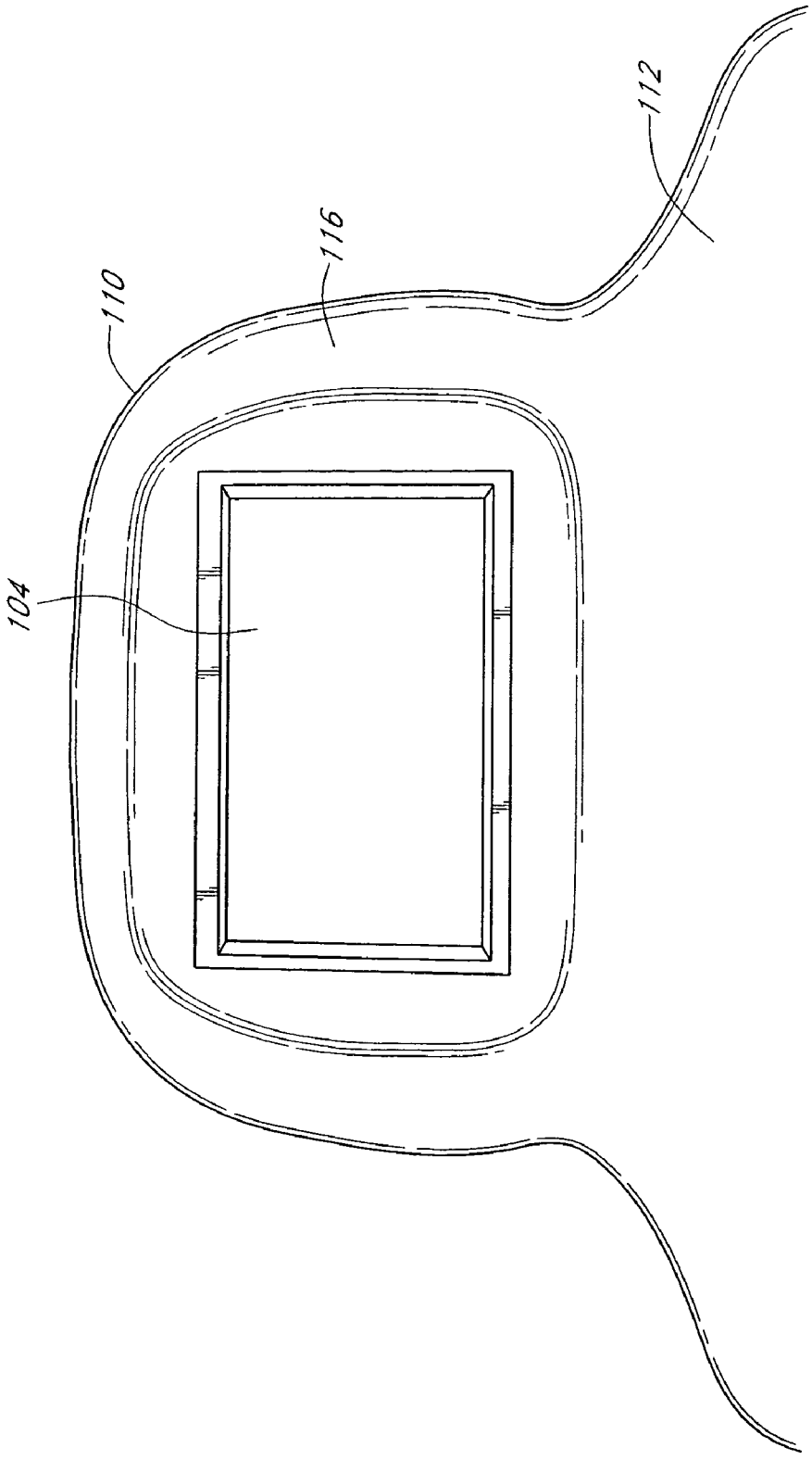
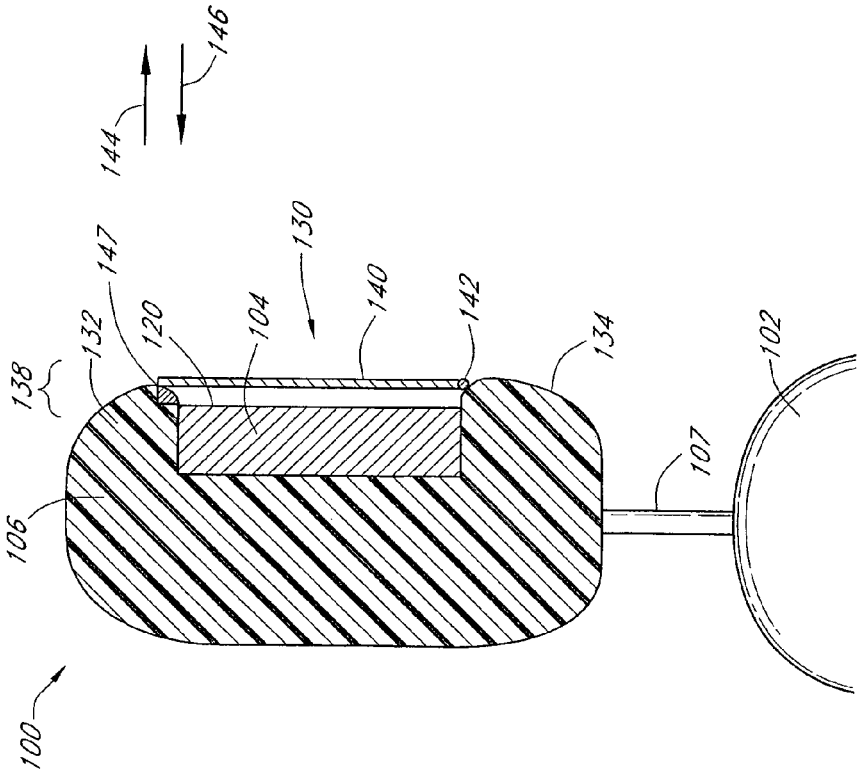



FIG. 1B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144
147
130
132
120
104
140
142
134
102
138
107
106
100

FIG. 3A

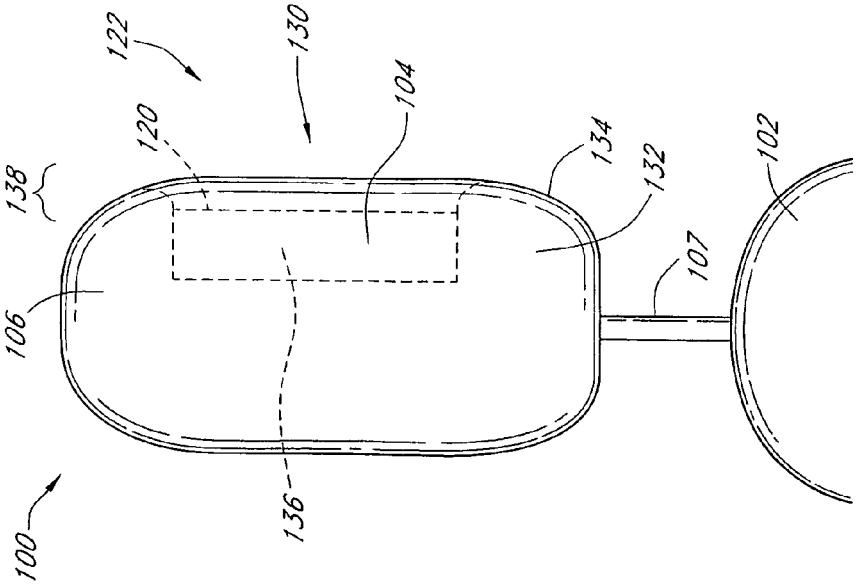

122
130
120
104
134
132
102
138
107
106
136
100

FIG. 2

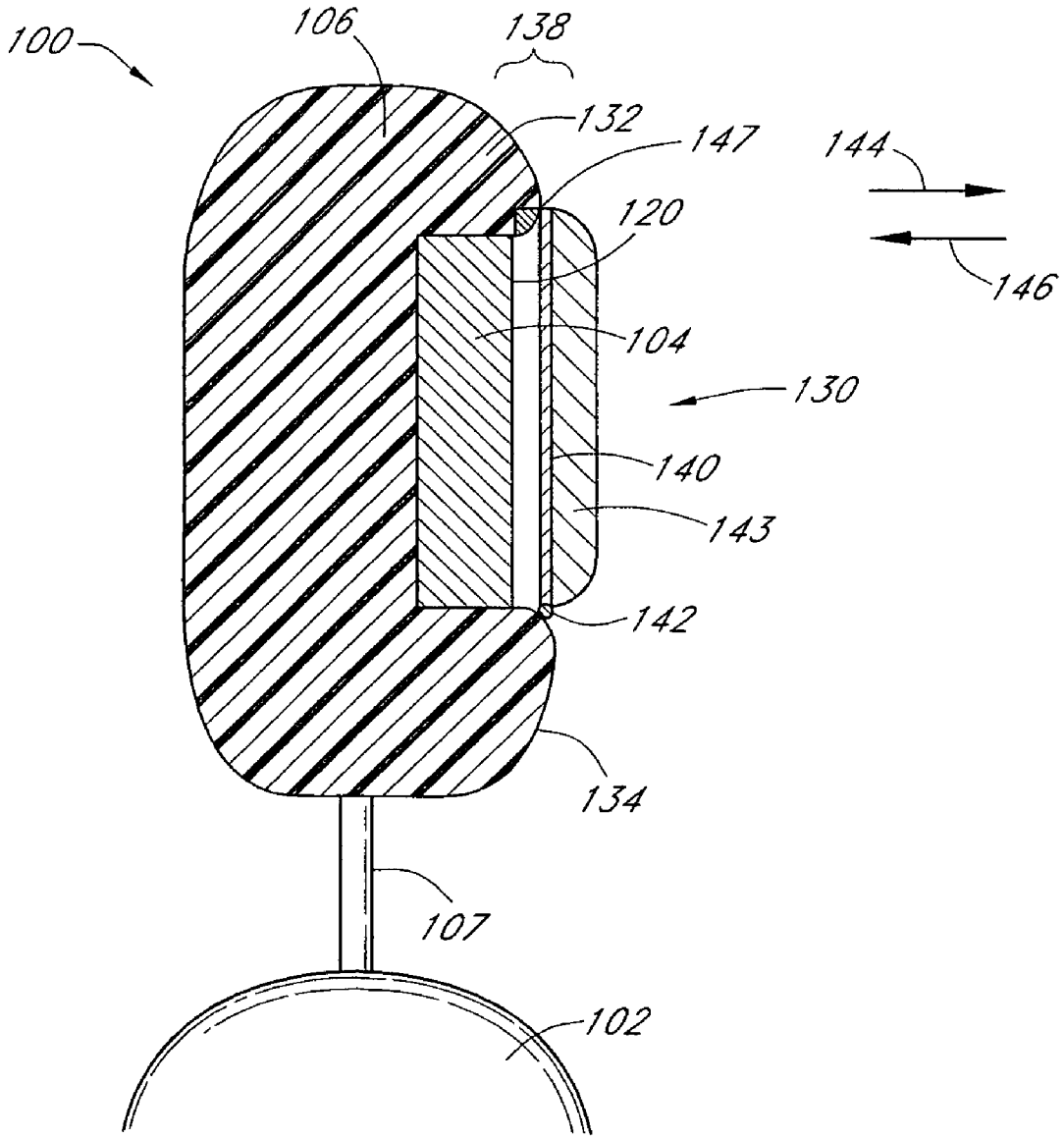



FIG. 3B

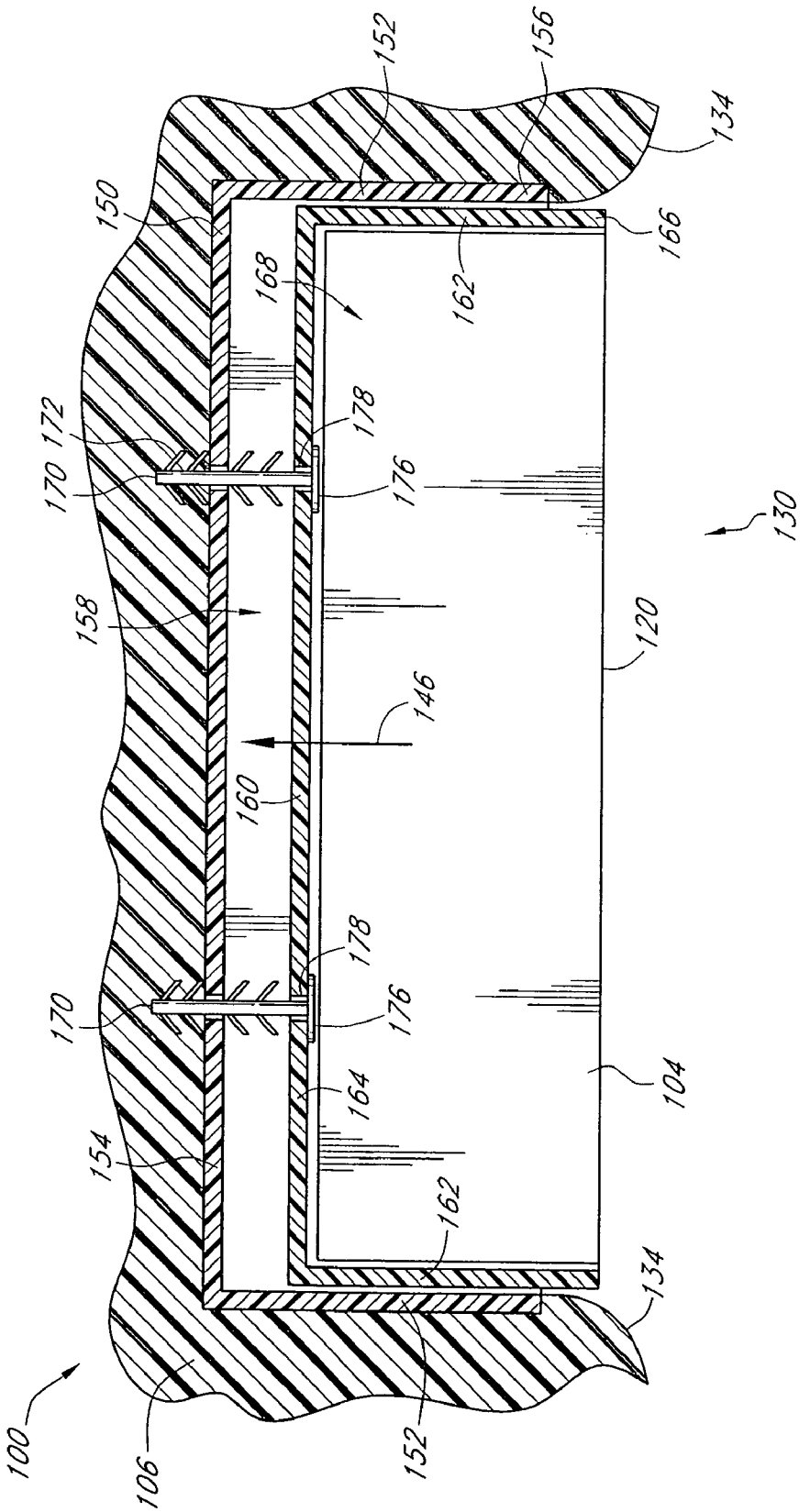

152
156
134
150
166
168
162
178
172
170
176
130
158
120
146
160
178
170
176
104
164
154
162
134
100
106
152

FIG. 4

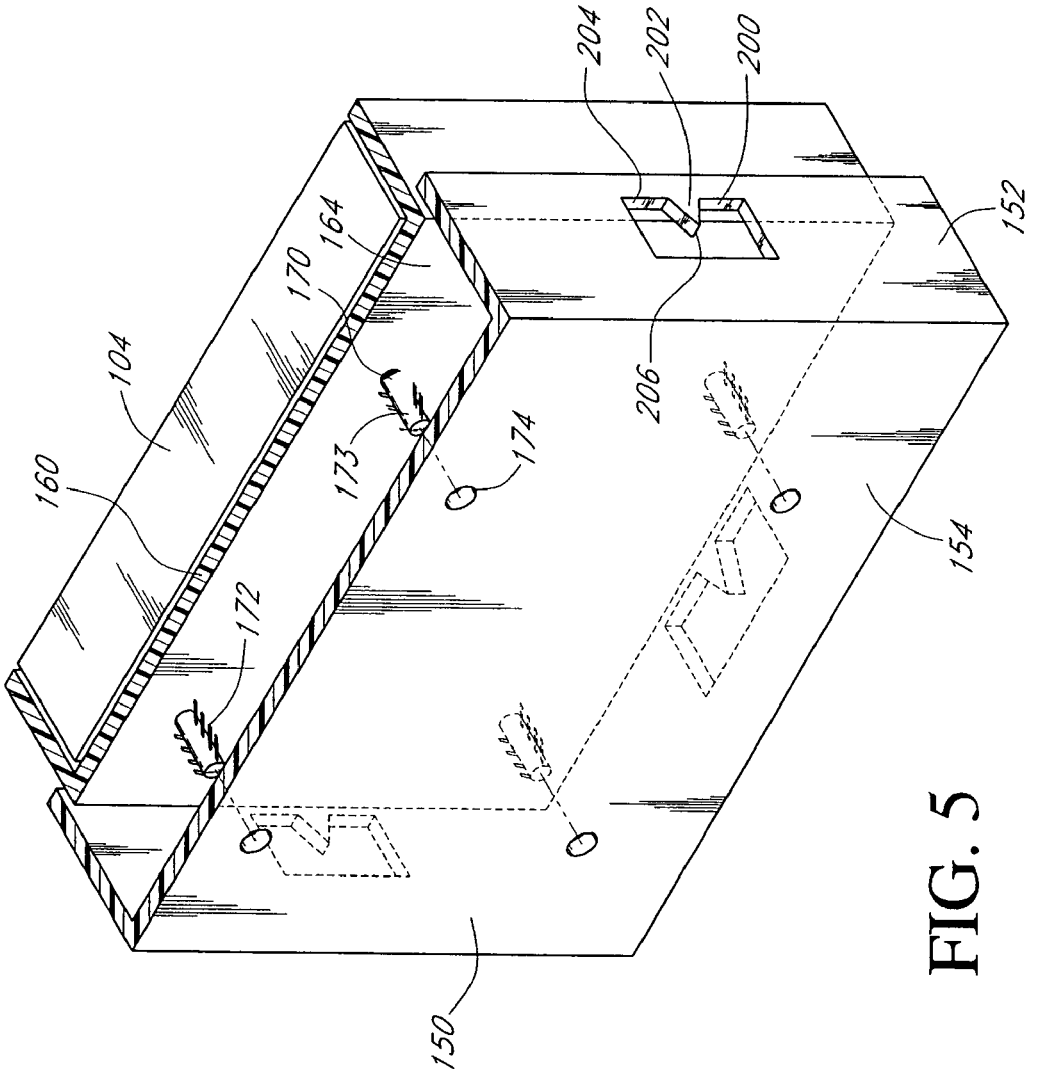
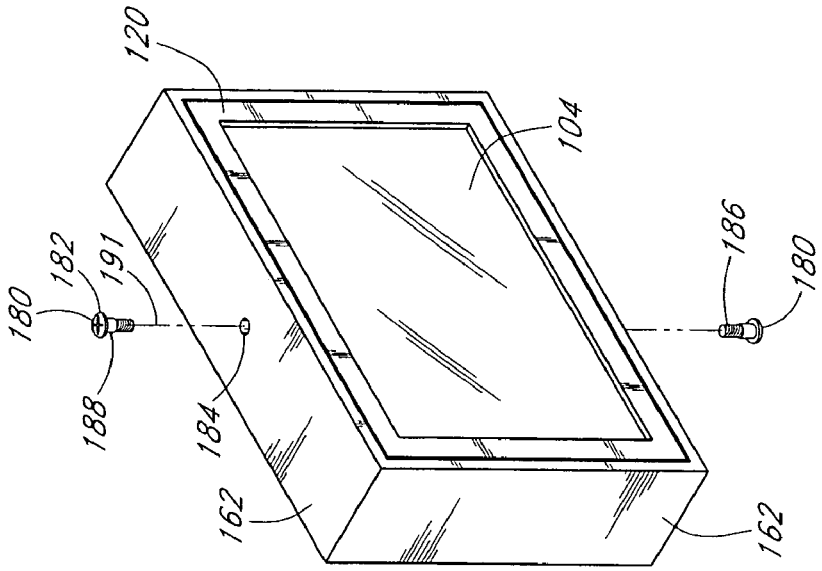



FIG. 5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104
186
180
182
191
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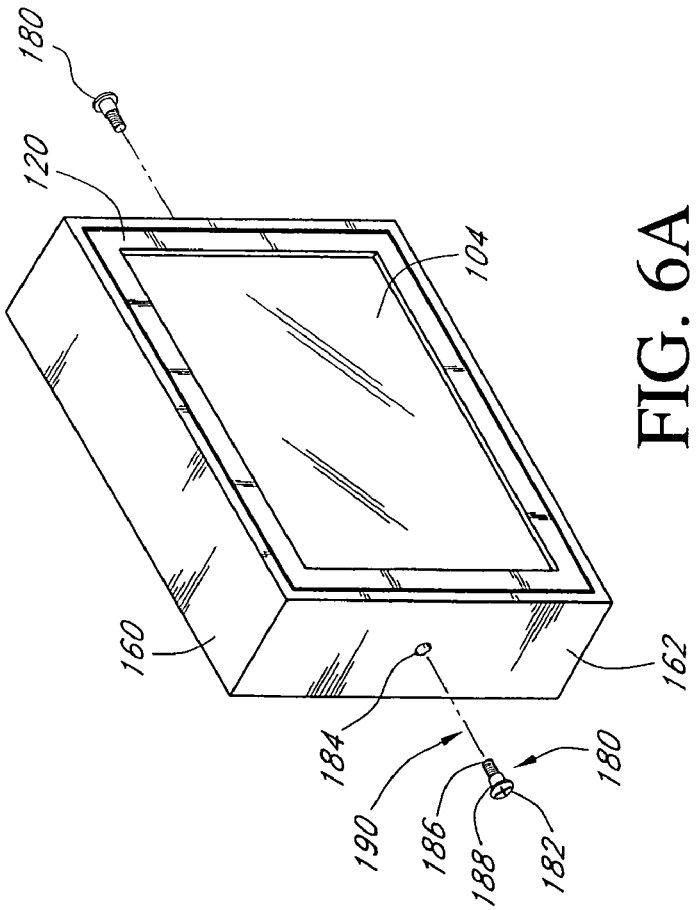
188
184
162
162

FIG. 6B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104
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162
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180
190
186
188
182

FIG. 6A

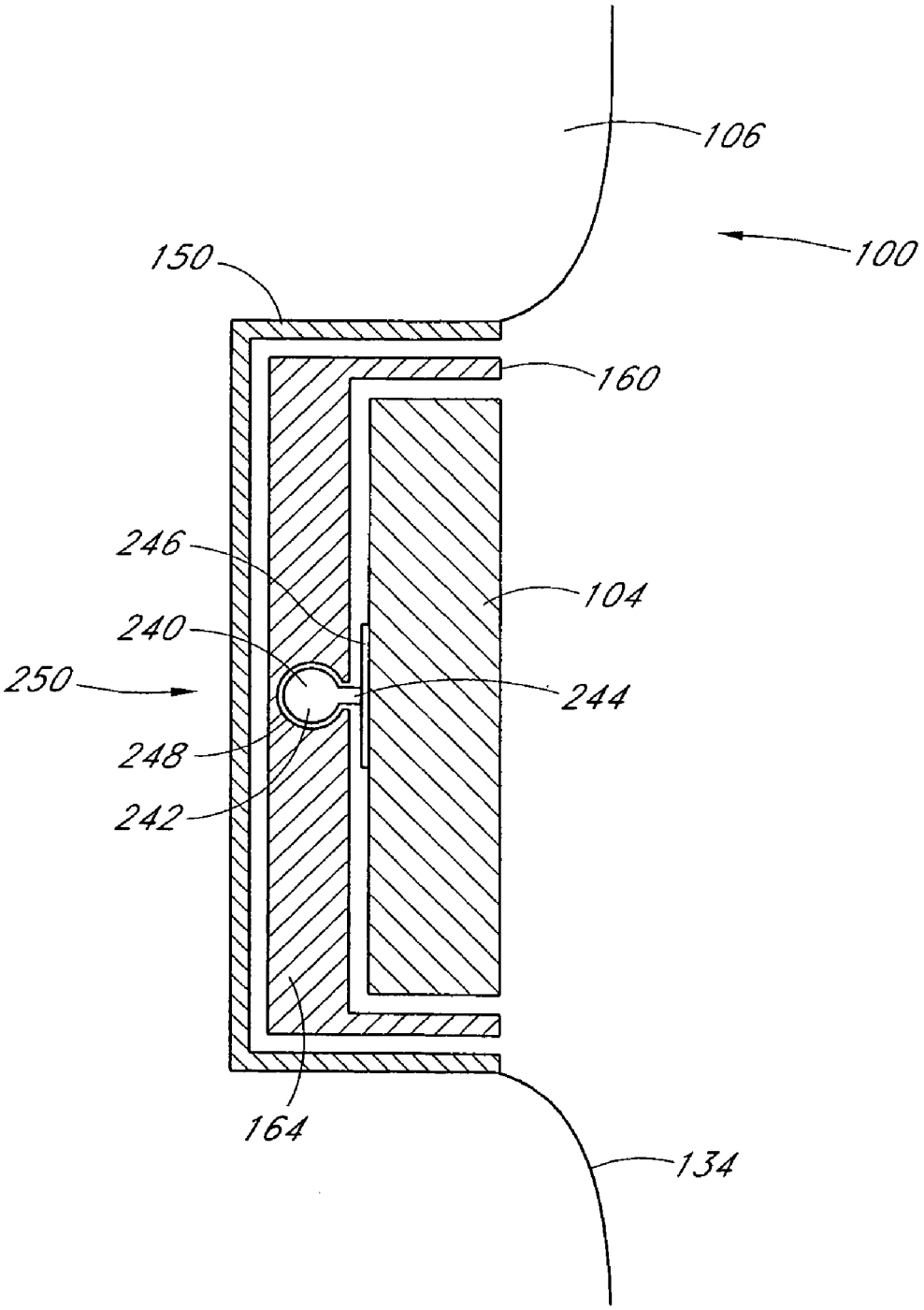


FIG. 6C

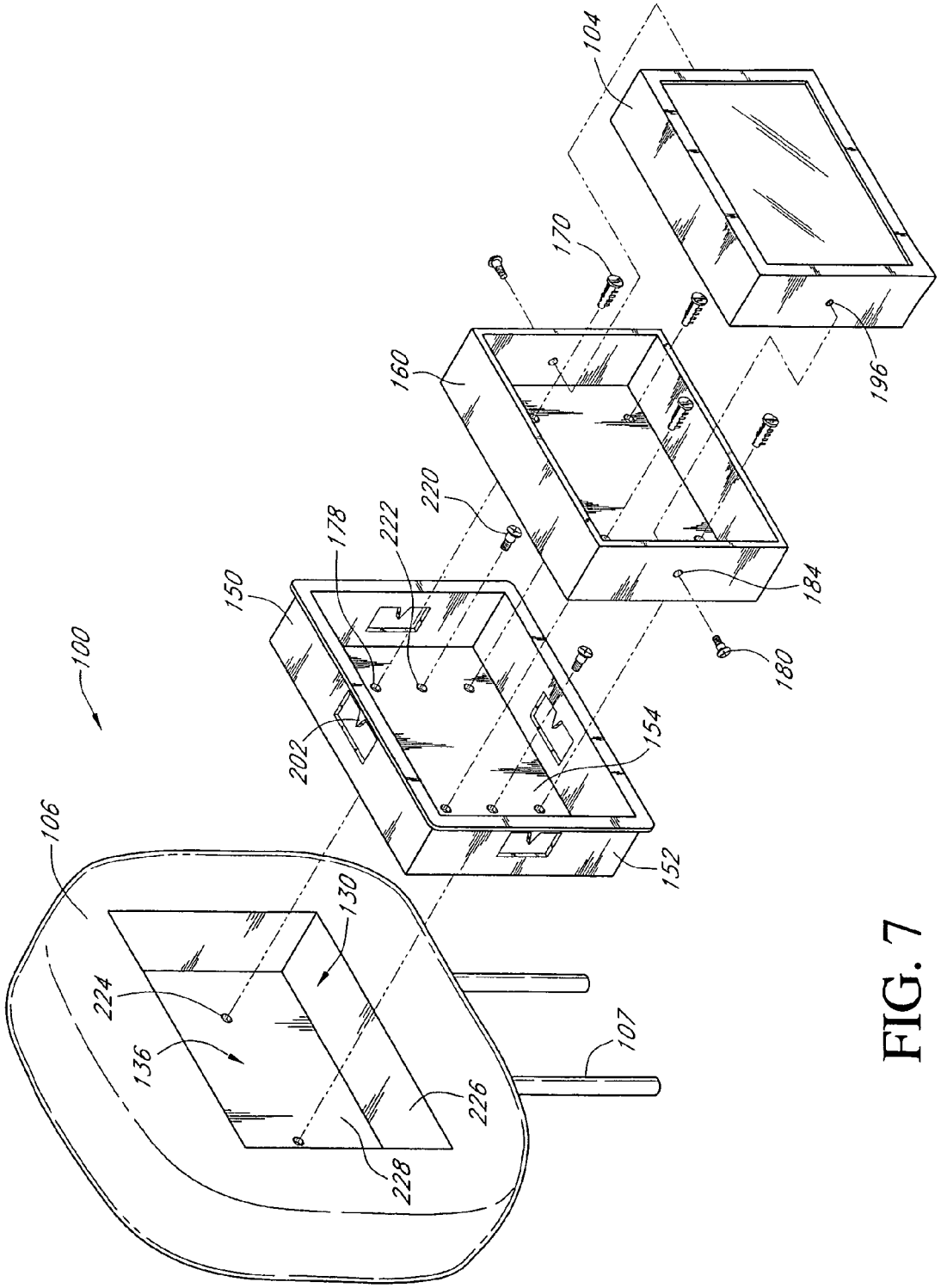
104
170
160
196
220
178
222
150
184
100
180
202
154
106
152
130
224
136
107
226
228

FIG. 7

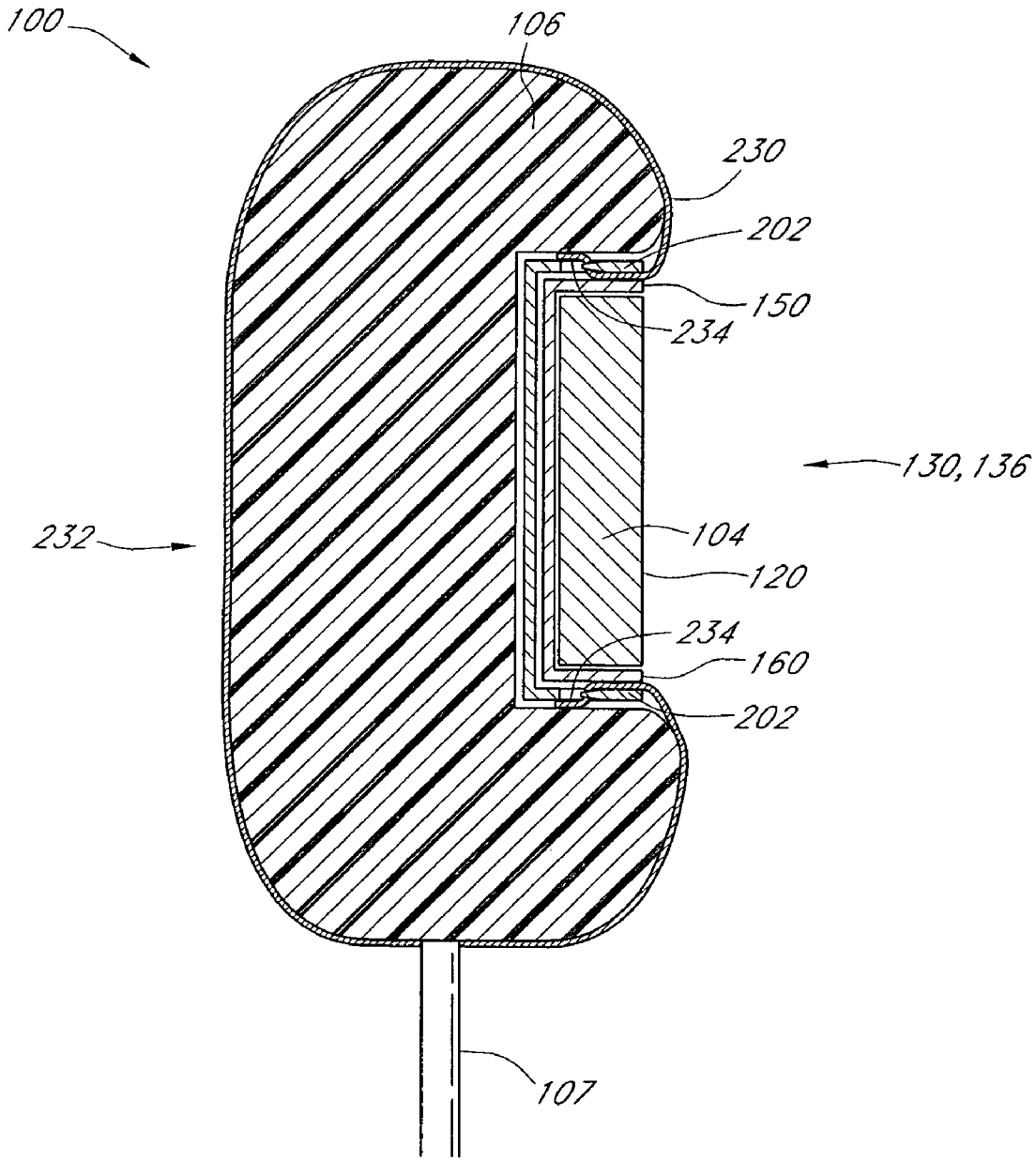


FIG. 8

# HEADREST HAVING AN INTEGRATED VIDEO SCREEN

## RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 10/395,870 filed Mar. 20, 2003 now U.S. Pat. No. 7,040,697, entitled "HEADREST HAVING AN INTEGRATED VIDEO SCREEN," which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety; and this application is related to U.S. application Ser. No. 10/819,341 filed Apr. 5, 2004, entitled "HEADREST/HEAD RESTRAINT HAVING AN INTEGRATED VIDEO SCREEN," and to U.S. application Ser. No. 11/415,918 filed concurrently with this application, entitled "HEADREST HAVING AN INTEGRATED VIDEO SCREEN," which is a divisional of the above-identified Ser. No. 10/395,870 application.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to motor vehicles and, in particular, to a headrest for motor vehicle seats having an integrated video screen mounted therein.

2. Description of the Related Art

Seat back video monitors are becoming increasingly popular in vehicles. Originally, these entertainment systems were largely confined to airplanes, however, recently, these systems have become much more popular with cars, trucks and SUVs. These entertainment systems provide the opportunity for passengers to view entertainment or educational video programs during long trips.

Typically, these systems have been installed as aftermarket products where the seat back is modified to accept the video display device, however, more of these systems are being installed as original equipment. Unfortunately, existing systems are often difficult and labor intensive to mount, particularly as an aftermarket product and are also subject to being dislodged.

Generally, the devices are mounted on the outer surface of the seat back where they protrude. In many vehicles, the space between seats and seat backs is limited, hence the protruding video display unit can inhibit the ability of passengers to easily get into and out of the vehicles. Moreover, passenger contact with the protruding video display screen may result in the screens being inadvertently dislodged.

A further difficulty with many existing video display unit designs is that they are not well secured to the seat. This is particularly the case for designs that allow the video display unit to pivot about an axis to improve the viewing angle of the passenger. One common way that these display units are installed is that a bucket is installed into the seat and the peripheral rim of the bucket includes openings that receive pivot posts that extend outward from the housing of the display unit. The pivot posts are positioned within the openings and keepers or caps are then positioned in the openings to prevent the pivot posts from being removed from the openings.

In these designs, the keepers or caps are generally press fit and are exposed to the passenger. Hence, inadvertent contact may result in the keepers or caps being dislodged. Moreover, many of the passengers are children who, through boredom, may attempt to remove the keepers which can result in the video display being dislodged and potentially damaged.

Hence, from the foregoing, there is a need for a seat back video display system and method of mounting that provides more secure mounting of the video display unit. To this end, there is a need for an assembly that is less likely to be dislodged through inadvertent contact and does not have exposed detachable mounting components.



## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The aforementioned needs may be satisfied by a seat back video display assembly adapted to be positioned in the back of a vehicle seat having an outer skin cover. In one aspect, the assembly may comprise a receptacle member having sidewalls and a back wall so as to define an opening, wherein the receptacle member is adapted to be positioned in the back of the vehicle seat. In addition the assembly may further comprise a carrier member having sidewalls and a back wall so as to define an opening, wherein the carrier member includes at least one fastener that extends from the back wall of the carrier member and engages with the back wall of the receptacle member to secure the carrier member into the receptacle member, and a video display unit that is sized so as to be positioned secured within the opening in the carrier member, wherein the video display unit provides video signals.

Additionally, in one embodiment, the at least one fastener may comprise a plurality of fasteners that include a central member that extends outward from back wall of the carrier member and a plurality of flexible engagement members attached to the central member, wherein the flexible engagement members are deformable so as to allow insertion of the central member into the openings in the back wall of the receptacle member, and wherein the flexible engagement members are biased outward so as to inhibit removal of the central member from the openings in the back wall of the receptacle member. Also, the video display unit may be pivotally attached to the carrier member such that the plane of the video display unit can be adjusted by a user about a pivot point or axis, wherein the video display unit may be pivotable about a substantially horizontal pivot axis, a substantially vertical pivot axis, or pivot point that allows a continuous range of pivotal motion about the pivot point. Also, the openings may be positioned in the sidewalls of the receptacle member and the plurality of capture members are positioned within the openings, and wherein the plurality of capture members define a pointed surface that engages with the outer skin and inhibits removal of the outer skin from the opening defined by the receptacle member so as to securely fasten the outer skin to the receptacle member.

Additionally, in certain embodiments, the seat back video display assembly includes a screen cover that is dimensioned to cover the video display unit such that the screen cover can disengageably cover the screen of the video display unit to occlude the screen. The screen cover can include an impact attenuating material, a rigid protective layer, or any combination thereof.

The aforementioned needs may also be satisfied by a vehicle seat assembly having a seat back display. In one aspect, the vehicle seat assembly may comprise a vehicle seat adapted to receive an occupant during travel of a vehicle, the vehicle seat defining a seat back with an outer contour and a skin, and a receptacle member having sidewalls and a back wall to as to define an opening, wherein the receptacle member is mounted in the seat back of the vehicle seat such that the sidewalls are located at or below the outer contour of the seat back. In addition, the vehicle seat assembly may further comprise a video display unit mounted within the receptacle member, wherein the video display unit is generally planar with the outer plane being mounted at or below the outer contour of the seat back.

Moreover, the aforementioned needs may also be satisfied by a method of installing a video display unit into a seat back of a vehicle seat. In one embodiment, the method may comprise cutting an opening through an outer skin of the seat back, forming an aperture in the seat back, and positioning a receptacle in the aperture such that the receptacle is mounted at or below the level of the seat back. In addition, the method may comprise securing the video display unit to a carrier, and mounting the carrier into the receptacle such that an upper surface of the video display unit is mounted below the outer surface of the seat back. These and other objects and advantages of the present invention will become more fully apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1**A illustrates an adjustable headrest for a motor vehicle seat having an integrated video screen mounted therein.

FIG. **1**B illustrates a fixed headrest for a motor vehicle seat having the integrated video screen of FIG. **1**A mounted therein.

FIG. **2** illustrates a side view of the adjustable headrest shown in FIG. **1**A having the integrated video screen mounted therein with a recessed orientation.

FIGS. **3**A, **3**B illustrate a cross-sectional view of the adjustable headrest shown in FIG. **1**A having the integrated video screen mounted therein with a screen cover.

FIG. **4** illustrates a cross-sectional view of the integrated video screen being mounted to the headrest via a carrier receptacle, a carrier member, and a plurality of fasteners.

FIG. **5** illustrates an perspective view of the integrated video screen being mounted to the headrest via the carrier member and the plurality of fasteners of FIG. **4**.

FIGS. **6**A, **6**B illustrate a perspective view of mounting the integrated video screen to the carrier member.

FIG. **6**C illustrates a side view of mounting the integrated video screen to the carrier member via pivot member.

FIG. **7** illustrates a perspective view of mounting the integrated video screen to the adjustable headrest of FIG. **1**A.

FIG. **8** illustrates a cross-sectional view of the video screen mounted to the headrest, wherein an outer skin from the headrest is secured to the carrier receptacle.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Reference will now be made to the drawings wherein like numerals refer to like parts throughout. A headrest for motor vehicle seats having an integrated video screen mounted therein in a flush or recessed manner will be described in greater detail herein below with reference to the drawings. In one aspect, it should be appreciated that the term motor vehicle seats refers to a plurality of generally known motor vehicles seats, such as those manufactured for automobiles, buses, boats, cars, semi-trucks, etc., wherein the following discussion can be similarly applied to these various types of motor vehicle seats without departing from scope of the present teachings. In addition, the following discussion refers to mounting the integrated video screen to the headrest of motor vehicle seats but may also be applied to other various component features of motor vehicle seats, such as the seat back, without departing from the scope of the present teachings.

FIG. **1**A illustrates an adjustable headrest **100** for a first motor vehicle seat **102** having an integrated video screen **104** mounted therein. As illustrated in FIG. **1**A, the adjustable headrest **100** is coupled to the seat **102** via posts **107** that extend therefrom and allow vertical adjustment of the adjustable headrest **100** with respect to the seat **102** in a generally known manner. FIG. **1**B illustrates a fixed headrest **110** for a second motor vehicle seat **112** having the integrated video screen **104** mounted therein. In one embodiment, the video screen **104** is mounted within a headrest bun **106**, **116** that is adapted to receive the video screen **104** for firm attachment therein in a manner that will be described in greater detail herein below. In addition, as will be described in greater detail herein below, the video screen **102** is mounted such that a front surface **120** of the video screen **104** is either flush or recessed from a contour **122** of the headrest **100**, **110**.

In one embodiment, the video screen **104** comprises a generally known LCD (liquid crystal display) monitor or terminal that can be electrically coupled to a video entertainment system so as to receive video signals therefrom for viewing of movies, television, internet web pages, video games, etc. As illustrated, the video screen **104** is generally rectangular in shape with the planar front surface **120** that is viewable by a user. In one aspect, it should be appreciated that the degree of recessed depth (with no depth comprising a flush mount) of the integrated video screen **104** and the manner in which the contour **122** of the seat **102**, **112** is shaped may be selected such that the shape (side view, for example) of the headrest **100**, **110** with the integrated video screen **104** mounted therein is generally similar to the shape of the headrest **100**, **110** without the integrated video screen **104**. Moreover, it should be appreciated that the motor vehicle seats **102**, **112** may comprise any one of a number of various types or models of generally known motor vehicle seats without departing from the scope of the present invention.

FIG. **2** illustrates a side view of the adjustable headrest **100** shown in FIG. **1**A having the integrated video screen **104** mounted therein with a recessed orientation. It should be appreciated that the following discussion is with respect to the adjustable headrest **100** of FIG. **1**A but may be similarly applied to the fixed headrest **110** of FIG. **1**B without departing from the scope of the present teachings.

FIG. **2** further illustrates the side view shape or contour **122** of the headrest **100**. As illustrated in FIG. **2**, the contour **122** of the headrest **100** is maintained due to the recessed orientation of the video screen **104** within the headrest bun **106**. In addition, an opening **130** is formed in a rear section **132** of the headrest **100** so as to define a substantially rectangular interior region **136** within the headrest bun **106** below an outer surface **134** of the headrest **100**. As further illustrated in FIG. **2**, the video screen **104** can then be positioned adjacent the opening **130** so as to be firmly positioned within the interior region **136** of the headrest bun **106**. Moreover, the recessed orientation may be defined by a depth **138** between the front surface **120** of the video screen **104** and the outer surface **134** of the headrest **100**. The depth **138** therebetween may vary in magnitude depending on the thickness of the headrest bun **106** and/or the internal structural characteristics of the headrest **100**, which may vary with respect to the type or model of motor vehicle seat used. In one aspect, the depth **138** of the recessed orientation may comprise a magnitude of approximately zero so as to define a flush mounted video screen **104**, wherein the front surface **1120** of the video screen **104** is substantially aligned with the outer surface **134** of the headrest **100**.

FIG. **3**A illustrates a cross-sectional view of the adjustable headrest **102** shown in FIG. **1**A having the integrated video screen **104** mounted therein with the recessed orientation shown in FIG. **2** and a screen cover **140**. In one embodiment,

the screen cover **140** is coupled to the rear section **132** of the headrest **100** via a hinge **142** so as to overlie the video screen **104** and at least part of the opening **130** formed therein. The screen cover **140** may comprise generally rectangular shape and is oriented generally parallel to the front surface **120** of the video screen **104** so as to temporarily occlude the video screen **104**. In one aspect, as further illustrated in FIG. **3**A, the screen cover **140** can be positioned adjacent the opening **130** so as to substantially align with the outer surface **134** of the headrest **100** thus forming a flush mounting therewith. It should be appreciated that the screen cover **140** may be positioned within the opening **130** so as to be recessed with respect to the outer surface **134** of the headrest **100** without departing from the scope of the present teachings. Moreover, the screen cover **140** may comprise a rigid material, such as plastic, metal, etc. Alternatively, in another aspect, the screen cover **140** may comprise a piece or flap of material from an outer skin **230** (FIG. **8**) of the motor vehicle seat **102** that is attached to the headrest **100** adjacent the lower side of the video screen **104**.

In still another aspect, as illustrated in FIG. **3**B, the screen cover **140** may comprise an impact attenuating section **143** comprising a material such as foam, various types of padding, an air cushion, etc. so as to soften the force of an impact from an object. For example, during a car accident, a person's head may be propelled towards the screen cover **140**, wherein the impact attenuating material may soften the impact to the headrest **102** to thereby protect the person's head and the video screen **104** from damage.

Also, in one embodiment, the video screen **104** can be viewed by opening the screen cover **140** or temporarily occluded by closing the screen cover **140**. Hence, the screen cover **140** can be outwardly rotated about the hinge **142** in a first direction **144** to openly view the video screen **104**, or the screen cover **140** can be inwardly rotated about the hinge **142** in a second direction **144** opposite the first direction **144** to temporarily occlude the video screen **104**. Advantageously, the screen cover **104**, when closed, conceals the video screen **104** from view thus, in some situations, functions as a thief deterrent.

Moreover, in one aspect, the recessed configuration of the video screen **104** facilitates the manner in which the screen cover **140** may be deployed. For example, the video screen **104** may not physically interfere with the closing of the screen cover **140**. In addition, as illustrated in FIGS. **3**A, **3**B, the screen cover **140** is intended to "hide" the video screen **104** from outside observers, thereby reducing the probability that the video screen **104** will be a target of theft. As further illustrated in FIGS. **3**A, **3**B, the screen cover **140** may further comprise a means for engagement **147** that allows the screen cover **140** to remain in the "up" or closed configuration. In general, it should be appreciated that some possible means for achieving such an engagement include but are mot limited to magnetic strips, mechanical clips, velcro strips, and the like.

FIG. **4** illustrates a cross-sectional view of the integrated video screen **104** being mounted to the headrest **100** via a carrier receptacle **150**, a carrier member **160**, and first fasteners **170**. FIG. **5** illustrates a perspective view of the integrated video screen **104** being mounted to the headrest **100** via the carrier receptacle **150**, the carrier member **152**, and the first fasteners **170**. In one embodiment, the carrier receptacle **150** comprises a plurality of planar sidewalls **152** and a rear planar wall **154** that are joined together in a manner so as to form a substantially rectangular outer structure **156** having an inner recessed region **158** that is adapted to receive the carrier member **152** therein. Similarly, the carrier member **152** comprises a plurality of planar sidewalls **162** and a rear planar wall **164** that are joined together in a manner so as to form a substantially rectangular outer structure **166** having an inner recessed region **168** that is adapted to receive the video screen **104** therein.

As illustrated in FIG. **4**, the video screen **104** may be mounted within the carrier member **160** via side fasteners **180** (shown in FIGS. **6**A, **6**B) and then the carrier member **152** is mounted within the carrier receptacle **150** via the first fasteners **170** so as to simplify the mounting of the video screen **104** to the headrest **100** including the headrest bun **106**. In one aspect, the first fasteners **170** may comprise a plurality of flexible engagement members **172** that extend therefrom so as to mechanically couple with a plurality of mounting apertures **174** (FIG. **5**) formed in the rear wall **154** of the carrier receptacle **150**. The first fasteners **170** may further comprise a central member **173** that extends outward from the rear wall **164** of the carrier member **160**. Also, the flexible engagement members **172** are attached to the central member **173**, wherein the flexible engagement members **172** are deformable so as to allow insertion of the central member **173** into the mounting apertures **174** in the rear wall **164** of the carrier receptacle **150**. Moreover, the flexible engagement members **170** are biased outward so as to inhibit removal of the central member **173** from the mounting apertures **174** in the rear wall **154** of the carrier receptacle **150**. In addition, the first fasteners **170** comprise a head **176** that abuts the rear wall **164** of the carrier member **152** and is positioned through a plurality of second apertures **178** formed in the rear wall **164** of the carrier member **152**.

Advantageously, the video screen **104** can be mounted to the headrest **100** via the carrier receptacle **150** and the carrier member **152** without using external fasteners that may be seen. Hence, the video screen **104** can be mounted to the headrest **100** in a more aesthetically appealing manner, wherein the front surface **120** of the video screen **104** recessed or flush mounted with respect to the outer surface **134** of the headrest **100**, and wherein the first and second fasteners **170**, **180** are concealed from view.

As illustrated in FIG. **5**, the sidewalls **152** of the carrier receptacle **150** each comprise at least one sidewall aperture **200** having at least one serrated tooth **202** protruding from an interior sidewall **204**. In one embodiment, the at least one serrated tooth **202** is triangular in shape having a pointed tip **206** that projects outward from the interior sidewall **204** in a horizontal manner. It should be appreciated that the serrated tooth **202** may comprise any one of a number of various shapes known in the art without departing from the scope of the present teachings. Additionally, as will be shown in FIG. **8**, the pointed tip **234** engages with the outer skin **230** (FIG. **8**) and inhibits removal of the outer skin **230** from the at least one sidewall aperture **200** formed in the carrier receptacle **150**. Advantageously, as will be described in greater detail herein below, the serrated tooth **200** allows outer skin from the motor vehicle seat **102**, **112** to be attached to the carrier receptacle **150** by wrapping the outer skin around the planar sidewalls **152** and into the recessed region **158** of the carrier receptacle **150** and then securing the outer skin to the serrated tooth **200**.

FIG. **6**A illustrates a perspective view of attaching the integrated video screen **104** to the carrier member **152** via the second fasteners **180**. In one embodiment, the planar sidewalls **162** of the carrier member **160** comprise pivot apertures **184** that allow the video display **104** to be mounted to the carrier member **160**. Also, the pivot apertures **184** are adapted to rotatably receive the second fasteners **180**. As illustrated in FIG. **6**A, the second fasteners **180** comprise a threaded region **186** that mechanically couples to threaded apertures **196** (FIG. **7**) formed in the video screen **104** in a generally known

manner so as to be securely attached thereto. Moreover, the second fasteners **180** further comprise a head **182** and a smooth pivot region **188** interposed between the threaded region and the head **182**.

In one aspect, the pivot region **188** of the second fastener **180** rotatably communicates with the pivot aperture **184** of the carrier member **160** to thereby allow the video screen **104** to pivot or tilt with respect to the carrier member **160** and/or the headrest **100** along a horizontal pivot axis **190** defined by the horizontally mounted second fasteners **180**. Hence, the video screen **104** is pivotally attached to the carrier member **160** such that the plane of the video screen **104** can be adjusted with respect to the headrest **100** by a user about the defined horizontal pivot axis **190**. Advantageously, the horizontal pivot axis **190** allows the video screen **104** to readily pivot when mounted to the headrest **100** to thereby allow greater positional flexibility during viewing of the video screen **104** by a user.

FIG. **6**B further illustrates a perspective view of attaching the integrated video screen **104** to the carrier member **152** via the second fasteners **180**. In one embodiment, as illustrated in FIG. **6**B, the second fasteners **180** can be mounted vertically through the planar sidewalls **162** of the carrier member **160**. The pivot region **188** of the vertically mounted second fasteners **180** rotatably communicates with the pivot aperture **184** of the carrier member **160** to thereby allow the video screen **104** to pivot or tilt side-to-side with respect to the carrier member **160** and/or the headrest **100** along a vertical pivot axis **191** defined by the vertically mounted second fasteners **180**. Hence, the video screen **104** is pivotally attached to the carrier member **160** such that the plane of the video screen **104** can be adjusted with respect to the headrest **100** by a user about the vertical pivot axis **191**. Advantageously, the vertical pivot axis **191** allows the video screen **104** to readily pivot when mounted to the headrest **100** to thereby allow greater positional flexibility during viewing of the video screen **104** by a user.

In one aspect, it should be appreciated that the second fasteners **180** may comprise generally known screws, such as sheet metal screws, without departing from the scope of the present invention. It should also be appreciated that the pivot region **188** of the second fasteners **180** may be threaded in a manner such that the video screen **104** can still pivot with respect to the carrier member **150** without departing from the scope of the present invention.

FIG. **6**C illustrates a view of attaching the integrated video screen **104** to the carrier member **152** via a pivot member **240**. In one embodiment, as illustrated in FIG. **6**C, the pivot member **240** comprises a spherical ball **242** attached to the video screen **104** via a shaft **244** and a plate **246**. The spherical ball **242** is positioned within a spherical receptacle **248** formed in the rear wall **164** of the carrier member **160**. As illustrated in FIG. **6**C, the rear wall **164** of the carrier member **160** may be dimensioned so as to accommodate the spherical receptacle **248**. In one aspect, the plate **246** of the pivot member **240** may be attached to the video screen **104** using an adhesive, such as epoxy or glue, or fasteners, such as screws or bolts. In addition, the shaft **244** distally extends from the plate **246** towards the spherical receptacle **248** of the carrier member **160**. Also, the shaft **244** and the spherical ball **242** may be formed as an integral part of the plate **246** or may be formed separately and interconnected to the plate **246** via an adhesive or fasteners.

Moreover, once the pivot member **240** is attached to the video screen **104** in a manner as previously described, the spherical ball **242** of the pivot member **240** can be pressed to fit within the spherical receptacle **248** formed in the rear wall **164** of the carrier member **160**. In one aspect, the spherical ball **242** may be sized at least less than the size of the spherical receptacle **248** so as to allow rotational movement therein. Advantageously, the resulting interconnection between the spherical ball **242** of the pivot member **240** and the spherical receptacle **248** of the carrier member **160** defines a pivot point **250** to thereby allow the video screen **104** to pivot, tilt, or rotate in a multi-directional manner with respect to the defined pivot point **250**. Therefore, the defined pivot point **250** allows the video screen **104** to readily pivot when mounted to the headrest **100** to thereby allow greater positional flexibility during viewing of the video screen **104** by a user.

FIG. **7** illustrates a perspective view of mounting the integrated video screen **104** to the headrest **100** of FIG. **1**A. In one embodiment, as illustrated in FIG. **7**, the opening **130** is formed in the headrest bun **106** so as to define the substantially rectangular interior region **136** and to receive the carrier receptacle **150**. The carrier receptacle **150** can then be positioned within the opening **130** so that the planar sidewalls **152** and the planar rear wall **154** abut the interior walls **226** of the mounting recess **136** formed in the headrest bun **106**. In one embodiment, the carrier receptacle **150** can be secured to the headrest **100** via one or more third fasteners **220**, such as screws, machine screws, sheet metal screws, etc. As illustrated in FIG. **7**, the third fasteners **220** are positioned through rear wall apertures **222** formed in the rear wall **154** of the carrier receptacle **150** and coupled to rear mounting apertures **224** formed in a back wall **226** of the mounting recess **136** of the headrest bun **106**. Advantageously, the third fasteners **220** can be securely attached to a structural component (not shown) of the headrest **100**, such as an internal framework member of the headrest **100**, so as to form a rigid attachment between the carrier receptacle **150** and the headrest **100**.

In addition, the video screen **104** may be mounted to the carrier member **160** so as to pivot with respect thereto in a manner as previously described with reference to FIGS. **6**A, **6**B, **6**C. Following, the carrier member **160** including the video screen **104** can then be mounted to the carrier receptacle **150** via the first fasteners **170** in a manner as previously described with reference to FIG. **4**. Advantageously, this method of attaching the video screen **104** to the headrest **100** via the carrier receptacle **150**, the carrier member **160**, and the fasteners **170**, **180** allows the video screen **104** to be securely mounted to the headrest **100** while providing a means for pivoting the video screen **104** with respect to the headrest **100** so as to improve the viewing range by a user.

FIG. **8** illustrates a cross-sectional view of the video screen **104** mounted to the headrest **100**, wherein the outer skin **230** of the headrest **100** of the motor vehicle seat **102** is attached to the carrier receptacle **150** and the carrier member **160** with the video screen **104** mounted therein is mounted within the mounting recess **136** of the carrier receptacle **150**. As is generally known, many motor vehicle car seats comprise the illustrated outer skin **230**, such as fabric, leather, upholstery, vinyl, etc., that provides a outer surface **232** for a user to lean against or rest upon. In one aspect, when mounting the integrated video screen **104** into the headrest **100** of the motor vehicle seat **102**, the outer skin **230** is adapted to accommodate the video screen **104** including the carrier receptacle **150**. In some situations, one or more flaps **234** can be formed in the outer skin **230** and attached to the one or more serrated teeth **202** formed in the planar sidewalls **152** of the carrier receptacle **150**.

As further illustrated in FIG. **8**, the carrier receptacle **150** may be positioned within the mounting recess **136** formed in the headrest bun **106**, and then the outer skin **230** is secured to the serrated teeth **202** via the flaps **234** formed therein by hooking the flaps **234** to one or more of the serrated teeth **202**. Once the outer skin **230** is attached to the serrated teeth **202** via the flaps **234**, the carrier member **160** is firmly pressed within the mounting recess **136** of the headrest bun **106** so that the first fasteners **170** couple to the mounting apertures **174** formed in the rear wall **154** of the carrier receptacle **150**.

Advantageously, this interconnection between the carrier member **160** and carrier receptacle **150** provides a quick and easy means for mounting of the video screen **104** to the headrest **100**. In addition, the pressed fit of the outer skin between the carrier member **160** and the carrier receptacle **150** further secures the outer skin of the motor vehicle seat **102** to the carrier receptacle **150**. As a result, the outer skin is securely held to the carrier receptacle **150** via the one or more serrated teeth **202** formed in the planar sidewalls **152** of the carrier receptacle **150** and the pressed fit of the carrier member **160** within the mourning recess **136** of the carrier receptacle **150**.

Although the foregoing description has shown, described and pointed out the fundamental novel features of the invention, it will be understood that various omissions, substitutions, and changes in the form of the detail of the apparatus as illustrated, as well as the uses thereof, may be made by those skilled in the art, without departing from the spirit or scope of the present invention. Consequently, the scope of the invention should not be limited to the foregoing discussion, but should be defined by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

**1**. A headrest assembly for a vehicle seat, the assembly comprising:

a receptacle member having a plurality of sidewalls and a back wall so as to define an opening wherein the receptacle member is adapted to be positioned in a back of the vehicle seat wherein the opening is facing away from the back of the vehicle seat when the receptacle member is positioned within the back of the vehicle seat and wherein the back wall of the receptacle member defines at least one securing aperture;

a carrier member having a plurality of sidewalls and a back wall so as to define an opening, wherein the opening in the carrier member is facing away from the back of the vehicle seat when the carrier member is positioned within the receptacle member and wherein the back wall of the carrier member defines at least one securing aperture;

an outer skin having edges that extend into the opening of the receptacle member and attached to at least some of the plurality of sidewalls of the receptacle member and wherein the edges of the outer skin are substantially concealed when the carrier member is positioned within the opening of the receptacle member;

at least one fastener that extends through the at least one securing aperture of the carrier member and engages with the at least one securing aperture of the receptacle member to allow securing of the carrier member in the opening of the receptacle member;

a video display unit that is sized so as to be positioned within the opening in the carrier member and substantially conceal the at least one fastener when in a viewing orientation.

**2**. The assembly of claim **1**, wherein the at least one fastener comprises a plurality of fasteners that include a central member dimensioned to extend through the securing aperture of the carrier member and a plurality of flexible engagement members attached to the central member, wherein the flexible engagement members are deformable so as to allow insertion of the central member into the corresponding securing aperture of the receptacle member, and wherein the flexible engagement members are biased outward so as to inhibit removal of the central member from the apertures of the receptacle member.

**3**. The assembly of claim **1**, wherein the video display unit defines a plane and is pivotally attached to the carrier member such that the plane of the video display unit can be adjusted by a user about a pivot axis.

**4**. The assembly of claim **3**, wherein the video display unit is pivotable about a substantially horizontal axis.

**5**. The assembly of claim **3**, wherein first and second pivot member coupled to the video display unit are positioned through the carrier member so as to define the pivot axis and pivotably secure the video display unit to the carrier member.

**6**. The assembly of claim **1**, wherein the receptacle member includes an outer lip and a plurality of outer skin capture members that engage with the outer skin such that the outer skin is extended over the outer lip of the receptacle member and secured to the outer skin capture members.

**7**. The assembly of claim **6**, wherein the plurality of capture members define a pointed surface that engages with the outer skin and inhibits removal of the outer skin from the opening defined by the receptacle member.

**8**. The assembly of claim **1**, further comprising a screen cover that is dimensioned to cover the video display unit, and wherein the cover is selectively disengagable so as to allow visual access to the video display unit.

**9**. The assembly of claim **8**, wherein the cover includes an impact attenuating material.

**10**. The assembly of claim **8**, wherein the cover includes a generally rigid layer to provide physical protection of the video display unit.

**11**. The assembly of claim **1**, wherein the receptacle member has four sidewalls.

**12**. The assembly of claim **1**, wherein the carrier member has four sidewalls.

**13**. The assembly of claim **1**, wherein the edges of the outer skin are secured to each of the plurality of sidewalls.

**14**. A headrest assembly for a vehicle seat, the assembly comprising:

a receptacle member having a plurality of sidewalls that are joined to a back wall so as to define an opening wherein the receptacle member is adapted to be positioned in a back of the vehicle seat wherein the opening is facing away from the back of the vehicle seat when the receptacle member is positioned within the back of the vehicle seat and wherein the back wall of the receptacle member defines at least one securing aperture;

a carrier member having a plurality of sidewalls and a back wall so as to define an opening, wherein the opening in the carrier member is facing away from the back of the vehicle seat when the carrier member is positioned within the receptacle member and wherein the back wall of the carrier member defines at least one securing aperture;

an outer skin having edges that extend into the opening of the receptacle member and secured to at least some of the plurality of sidewalls of the receptacle member, and wherein the edges of the outer skin are substantially concealed when the carrier member is positioned within the opening of the receptacle member;

at least one fastener that extends through the at least one securing aperture of the carrier member and engages with the at least one securing aperture of the receptacle member to allow securing of the carrier member in the opening of the receptacle member;

a video display unit that is sized so as to be positioned within the opening in the carrier member and substantially conceal the at least one fastener when in a viewing orientation.

* * * * *

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
# CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

## NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR DISCOVERY

This case has been assigned to District Judge Otis D. Wright II and the assigned discovery Magistrate Judge is Jacqueline Chooljian.

The case number on all documents filed with the Court should read as follows:

**CV09- 7913 ODW (JCx)**

Pursuant to General Order 05-07 of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, the Magistrate Judge has been designated to hear discovery related motions.

All discovery related motions should be noticed on the calendar of the Magistrate Judge

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**NOTICE TO COUNSEL**

*A copy of this notice must be served with the summons and complaint on all defendants (if a removal action is filed, a copy of this notice must be served on all plaintiffs).*

Subsequent documents must be filed at the following location:

[X] **Western Division**
**312 N. Spring St., Rm. G-8**
**Los Angeles, CA 90012**

[ ] **Southern Division**
**411 West Fourth St., Rm. 1-053**
**Santa Ana, CA 92701-4516**

[ ] **Eastern Division**
**3470 Twelfth St., Rm. 134**
**Riverside, CA 92501**

Failure to file at the proper location will result in your documents being returned to you.

ORIGINAL

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

| | |
|---|---|
| TMI PRODUCTS, INC.<br><br>PLAINTIFF(S)<br><br>v.<br>INVISION INDUSTRIES, INC.<br><br>DEFENDANT(S). | CASE NUMBER<br>CV 09 - 07913 ODW (JC)<br><br>SUMMONS |

TO: DEFENDANT(S): INVISION INDUSTRIES, INC.

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 20 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it), you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached ☑ complaint ☐ _____ amended complaint ☐ counterclaim ☐ cross-claim or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff's attorney, REYNALDO C. BARCELO, whose address is Barceló & Harrison, LLP, 2901 West Coast Hwy, Suite 200, Newport Beach, CA 92663. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

TERRY NAFISI

Clerk, U.S. District Court

Dated: OCT 29 2009

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

*(Seal of the Court)*

*[Use 60 days if the defendant is the United States or a United States agency, or is an officer or employee of the United States. Allowed 60 days by Rule 12(a)(3)].*

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

## CIVIL COVER SHEET

| I (a) PLAINTIFFS (Check box if you are representing yourself ☐) | DEFENDANTS |
|---|---|
| TMI PRODUCTS, INC. | INVISION INDUSTRIES, INC. |
| (b) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number. If you are representing yourself, provide same.)<br>REYNALDO C. BARCELO (199741), BARCELO & HARRISON, LLP<br>2901 WEST COAST HWY, SUITE 200<br>NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92663 | Attorneys (If Known)<br>NOT YET KNOWN |

**II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION** (Place an X in one box only.)

☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff ☑ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)

☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant ☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

**III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES** - For Diversity Cases Only (Place an X in one box for plaintiff and one for defendant.)

| | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Citizen of This State | ☐ 1 | ☐ 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in this State | ☐ 4 | ☐ 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | ☐ 2 | ☐ 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business in Another State | ☐ 5 | ☐ 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | ☐ 3 | ☐ 3 | Foreign Nation | ☐ 6 | ☐ 6 |

**IV. ORIGIN** (Place an X in one box only.)

☑ 1 Original Proceeding ☐ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened ☐ 5 Transferred from another district (specify): ☐ 6 Multi-District Litigation ☐ 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judge

**V. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:** JURY DEMAND: ☑ Yes ☐ No (Check 'Yes' only if demanded in complaint.)

CLASS ACTION under F.R.C.P. 23: ☐ Yes ☑ No ☑ MONEY DEMANDED IN COMPLAINT: $ To be determined at trial

**VI. CAUSE OF ACTION** (Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.)

**VII. NATURE OF SUIT** (Place an X in one box only.)

| OTHER STATUTES | CONTRACT | TORTS | TORTS | PRISONER | LABOR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ 400 State Reapportionment | ☐ 110 Insurance | PERSONAL INJURY | PERSONAL PROPERTY | PETITIONS | ☐ 710 Fair Labor Standards Act |
| ☐ 410 Antitrust | ☐ 120 Marine | ☐ 310 Airplane | ☐ 370 Other Fraud | ☐ 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence Habeas Corpus | ☐ 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations |
| ☐ 430 Banks and Banking | ☐ 130 Miller Act | ☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability | ☐ 371 Truth in Lending | ☐ 530 General | ☐ 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act |
| ☐ 450 Commerce/ICC Rates/etc. | ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument | ☐ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander | ☐ 380 Other Personal Property Damage | ☐ 535 Death Penalty | ☐ 740 Railway Labor Act |
| ☐ 460 Deportation | ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment | ☐ 330 Fed. Employers' Liability | ☐ 385 Property Damage Product Liability | ☐ 540 Mandamus/ Other | ☐ 790 Other Labor Litigation |
| ☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations | ☐ 151 Medicare Act | ☐ 340 Marine | BANKRUPTCY | ☐ 550 Civil Rights | ☐ 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act |
| ☐ 480 Consumer Credit | ☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan (Excl. Veterans) | ☐ 345 Marine Product Liability | ☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 | ☐ 555 Prison Condition | PROPERTY RIGHTS |
| ☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV | ☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits | ☐ 350 Motor Vehicle | ☐ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 | FORFEITURE/ PENALTY | ☐ 820 Copyrights |
| ☐ 810 Selective Service | ☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits | ☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability | CIVIL RIGHTS | ☐ 610 Agriculture | ☑ 830 Patent |
| ☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange | ☐ 190 Other Contract | ☐ 360 Other Personal Injury | ☐ 441 Voting | ☐ 620 Other Food & Drug | ☐ 840 Trademark |
| ☐ 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 | ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability | ☐ 362 Personal Injury-Med Malpractice | ☐ 442 Employment | ☐ 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 | SOCIAL SECURITY |
| ☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions | ☐ 196 Franchise | ☐ 365 Personal Injury-Product Liability | ☐ 443 Housing/Acco-mmodations | ☐ 630 Liquor Laws | ☐ 861 HIA (1395ff) |
| ☐ 891 Agricultural Act | REAL PROPERTY | ☐ 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability | ☐ 444 Welfare | ☐ 640 R.R. & Truck | ☐ 862 Black Lung (923) |
| ☐ 892 Economic Stabilization Act | ☐ 210 Land Condemnation | IMMIGRATION | ☐ 445 American with Disabilities - Employment | ☐ 650 Airline Regs | ☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) |
| ☐ 893 Environmental Matters | ☐ 220 Foreclosure | ☐ 462 Naturalization Application | ☐ 446 American with Disabilities - Other | ☐ 660 Occupational Safety /Health | ☐ 864 SSID Title XVI |
| ☐ 894 Energy Allocation Act | ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment | ☐ 463 Habeas Corpus-Alien Detainee | ☐ 440 Other Civil Rights | ☐ 690 Other | ☐ 865 RSI (405(g)) |
| ☐ 895 Freedom of Info. Act | ☐ 240 Torts to Land | ☐ 465 Other Immigration Actions | | | FEDERAL TAX SUITS |
| ☐ 900 Appeal of Fee Determi-nation Under Equal Access to Justice | ☐ 245 Tort Product Liability | | | | ☐ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) |
| ☐ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes | ☐ 290 All Other Real Property | | | | ☐ 871 IRS-Third Party 26 USC 7609 |

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Case Number: CV 09 - 07913 ODW (JCx)

AFTER COMPLETING THE FRONT SIDE OF FORM CV-71, COMPLETE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
**CIVIL COVER SHEET**

**VIII(a). IDENTICAL CASES:** Has this action been previously filed in this court and dismissed, remanded or closed? ☑ No ☐ Yes
If yes, list case number(s): _____

**VIII(b). RELATED CASES:** Have any cases been previously filed in this court that are related to the present case? ☑ No ☐ Yes
If yes, list case number(s): _____

**Civil cases are deemed related if a previously filed case and the present case:**
(Check all boxes that apply) ☐ A. Arise from the same or closely related transactions, happenings, or events; or
☐ B. Call for determination of the same or substantially related or similar questions of law and fact; or
☐ C. For other reasons would entail substantial duplication of labor if heard by different judges; or
☐ D. Involve the same patent, trademark or copyright, and one of the factors identified above in a, b or c also is present.

**IX. VENUE:** (When completing the following information, use an additional sheet if necessary.)

(a) List the County in this District; California County outside of this District; State if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which **EACH** named plaintiff resides.
☐ Check here if the government, its agencies or employees is a named plaintiff. If this box is checked, go to item (b).

| County in this District:* | California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country |
|---|---|
| TMI PRODUCTS, INC.: Riverside County, California | |

(b) List the County in this District; California County outside of this District; State if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which **EACH** named defendant resides.
☐ Check here if the government, its agencies or employees is a named defendant. If this box is checked, go to item (c).

| County in this District:* | California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country |
|---|---|
| | INViSiON INDUSTRIES, INC.: Florida |

(c) List the County in this District; California County outside of this District; State if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which **EACH** claim arose.
**Note: In land condemnation cases, use the location of the tract of land involved.**

| County in this District:* | California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country |
|---|---|
| RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, AND NATIONWIDE | |

*** Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luis Obispo Counties**
**Note**: In land condemnation cases, use the location of the tract of land involved

X. SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (OR PRO PER): _____ **Date** OCTOBER 29, 2009

**Notice to Counsel/Parties:** The CV-71 (JS-44) Civil Cover Sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3-1 is not filed but is used by the Clerk of the Court for the purpose of statistics, venue and initiating the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions sheet.)

Key to Statistical codes relating to Social Security Cases:

| Nature of Suit Code | Abbreviation | Substantive Statement of Cause of Action |
|---|---|---|
| 861 | HIA | All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program. (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b)) |
| 862 | BL | All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. (30 U.S.C. 923) |
| 863 | DIWC | All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended; plus all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405(g)) |
| 863 | DIWW | All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405(g)) |
| 864 | SSID | All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security Act, as amended. |
| 865 | RSI | All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. (g)) |