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Minikey, Jr. et al.

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(54) **REARVIEW DEVICE**

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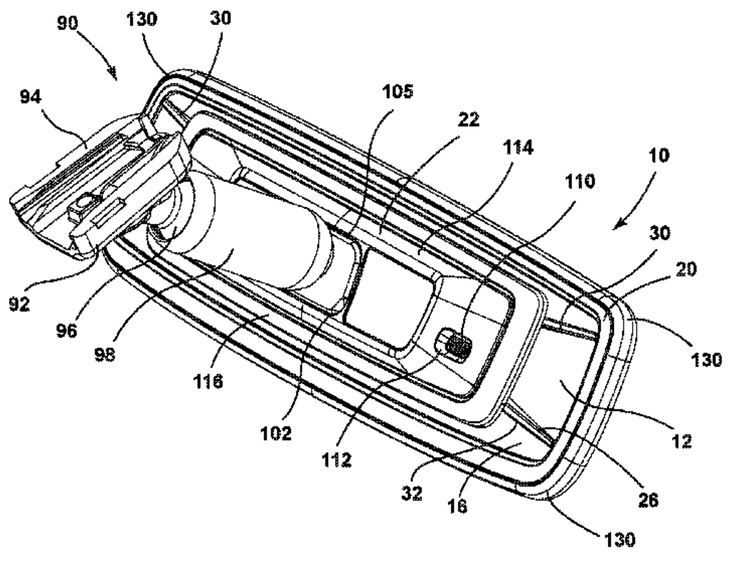
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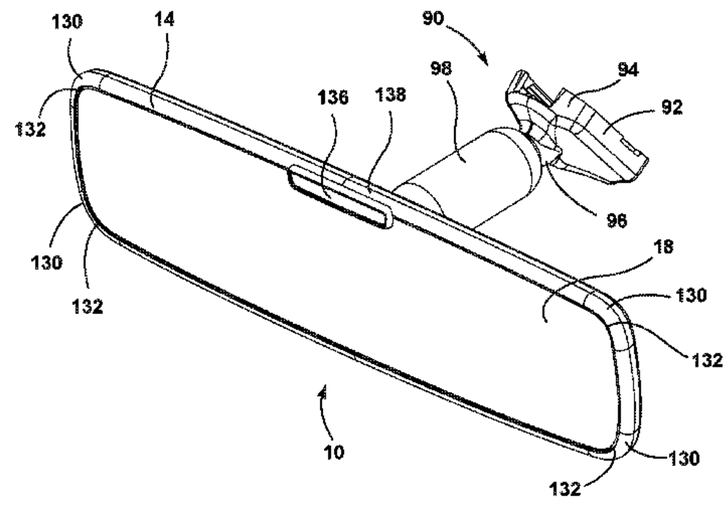
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A rearview device includes a housing that includes a first side and a second side opposite the first side. An electro-optic element is operably coupled with the first side of the housing. A rear trim bezel is disposed on the second side of the housing. A rear trim plate is operably coupled with the second side of the housing. A peripheral gap is defined between the rear trim plate and the second side of the housing. A spacing truss is disposed in the peripheral gap. The spacing truss includes first and second lateral walls extending to the rear trim bezel.

20 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets





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See application file for complete search history.

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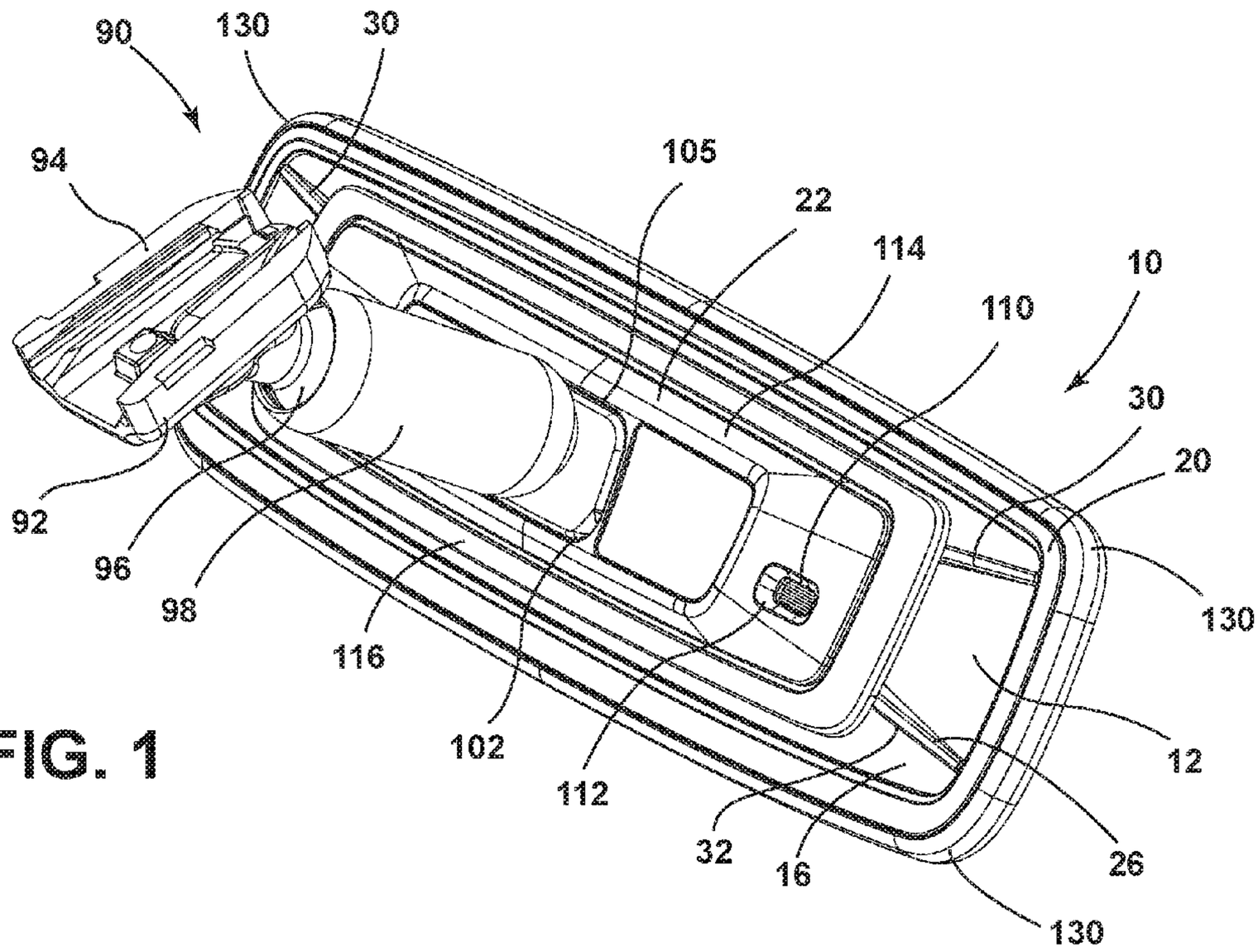

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FIG. 1

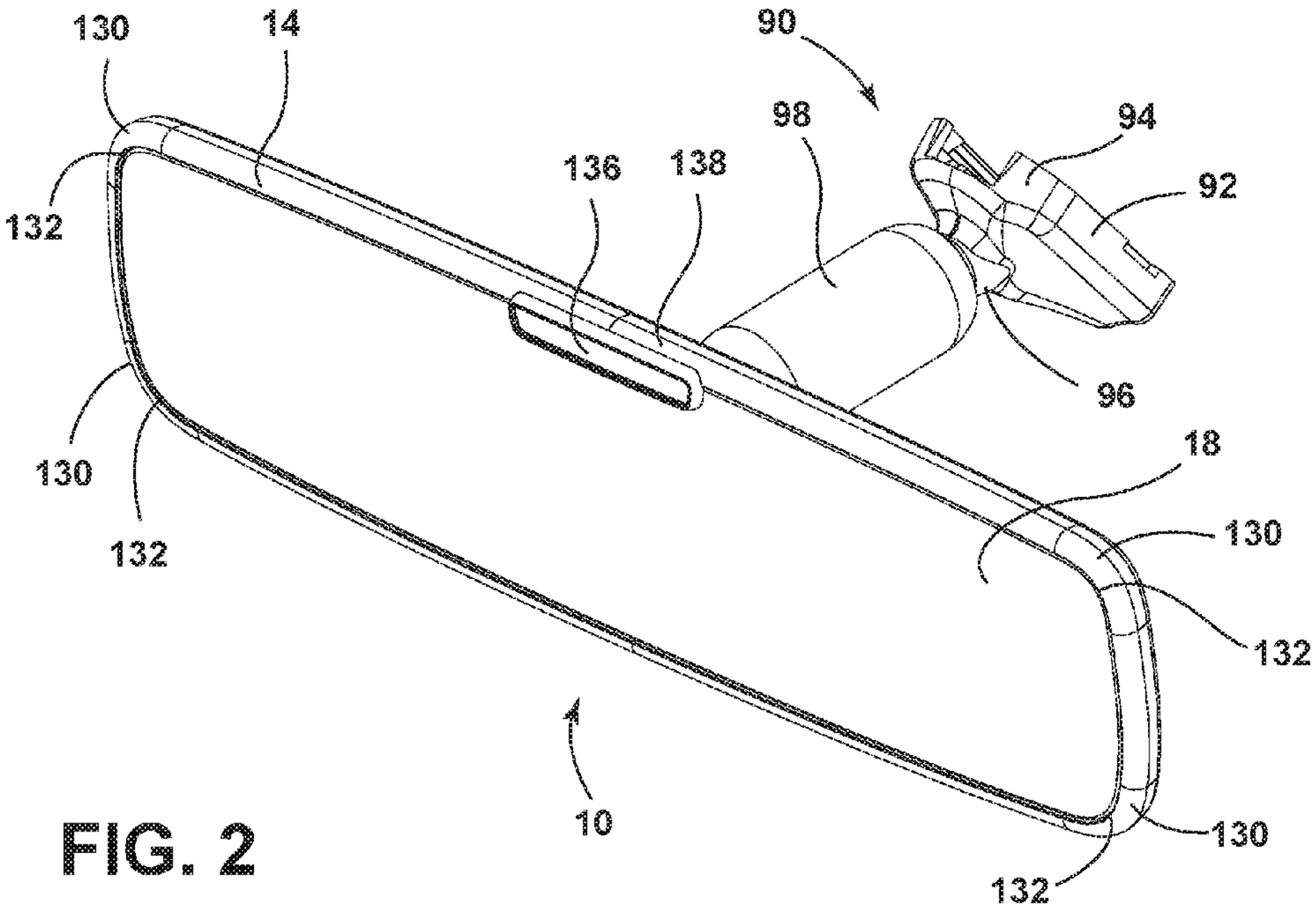

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FIG. 2

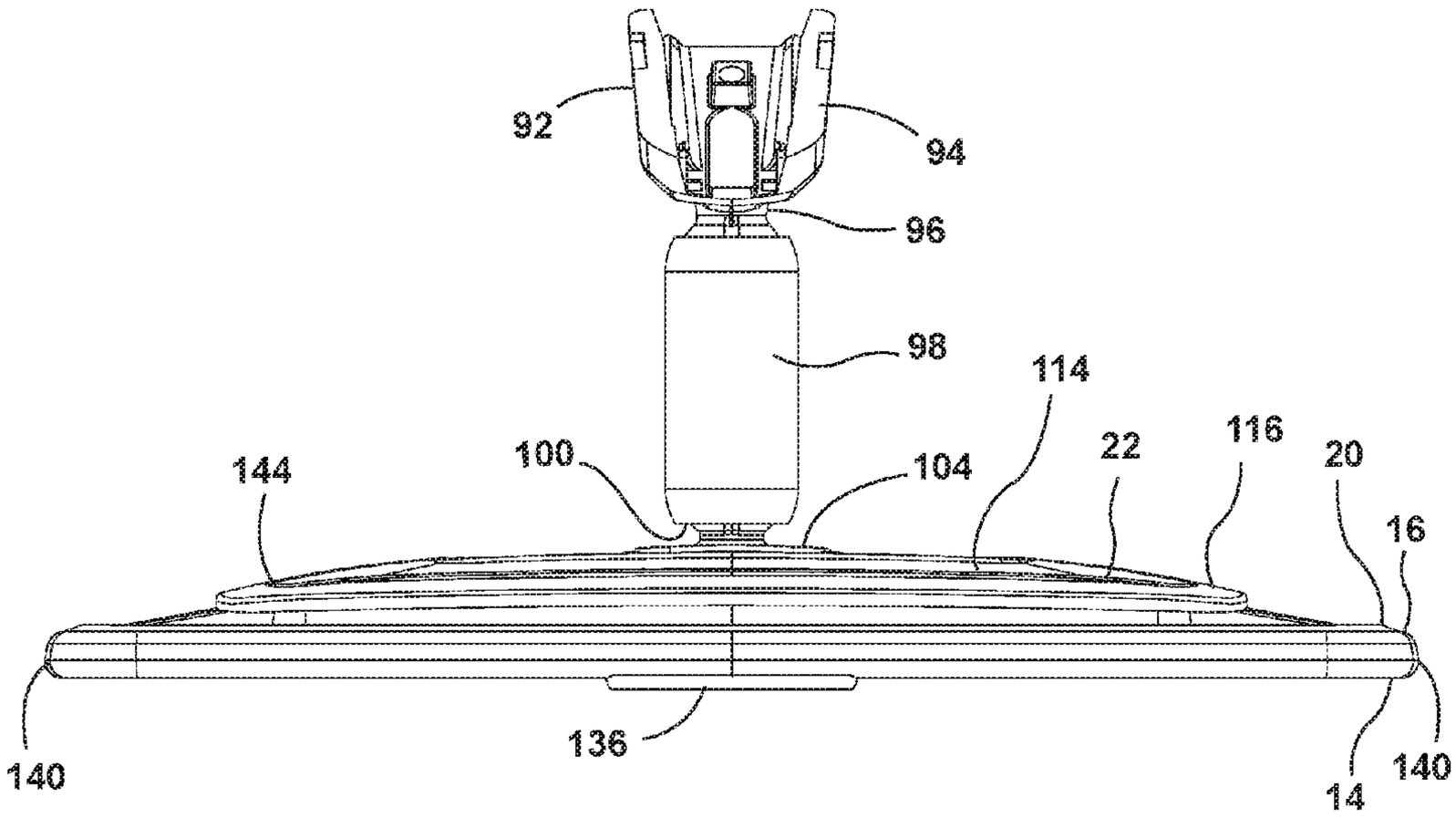

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FIG. 3

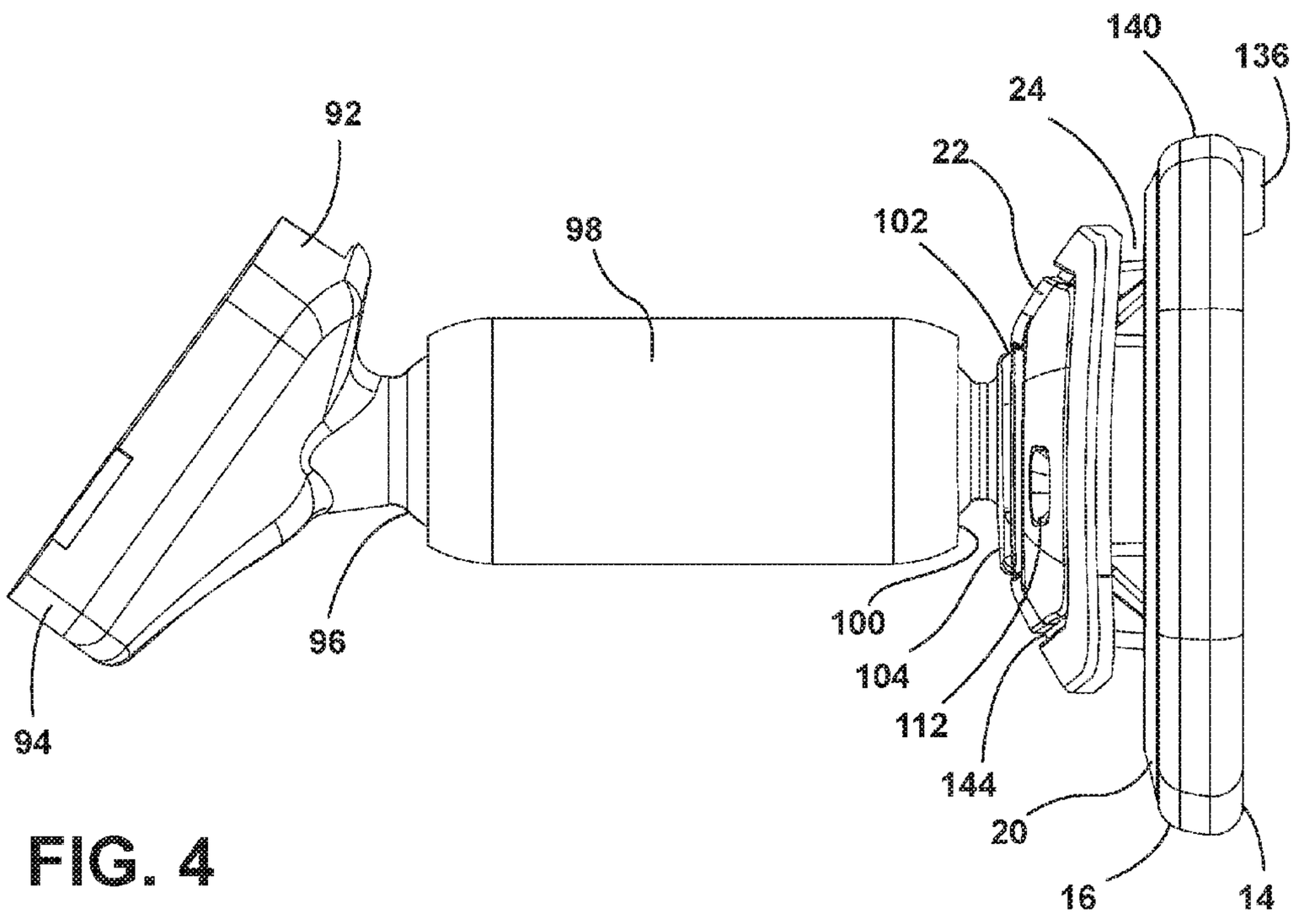

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FIG. 4

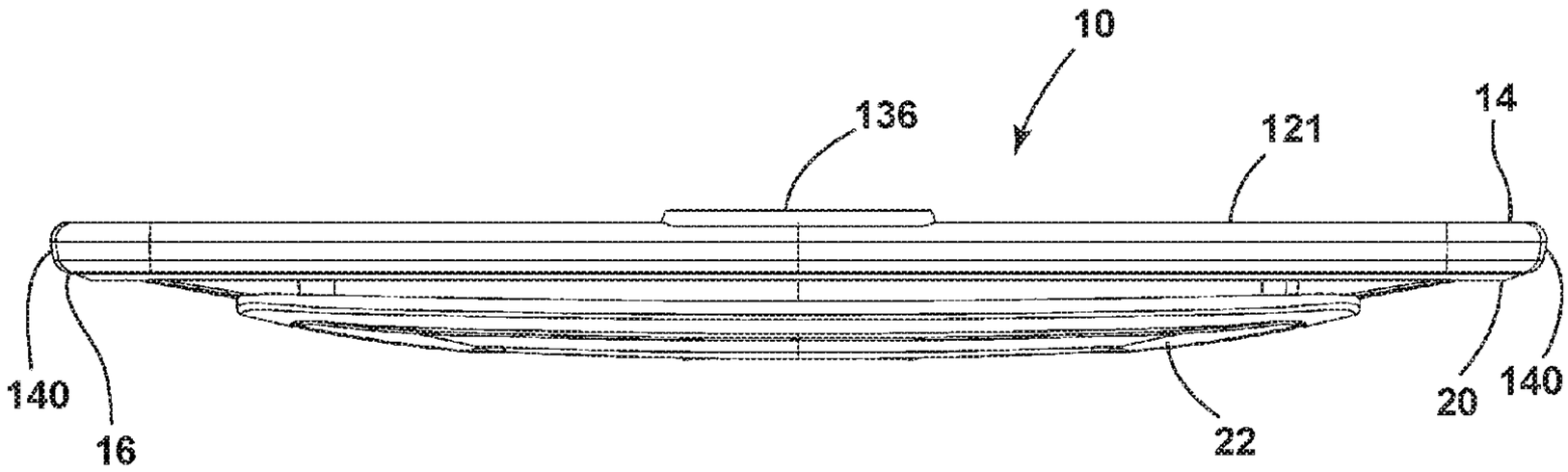

10
136
121
14
140
20
140
16
22

FIG. 5

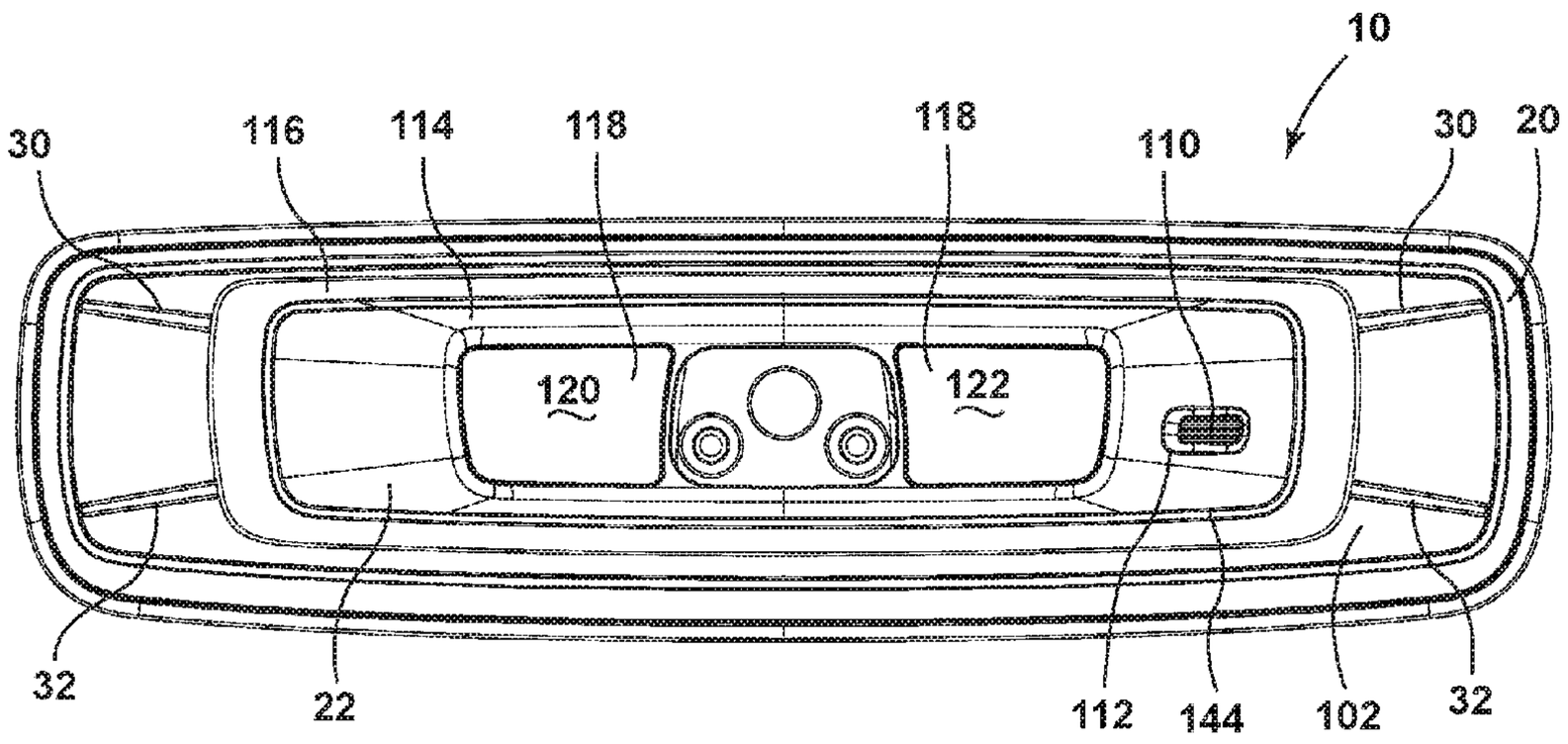

10
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116
114
118
118
110
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120
122
32
22
112
144
102
32

FIG. 6

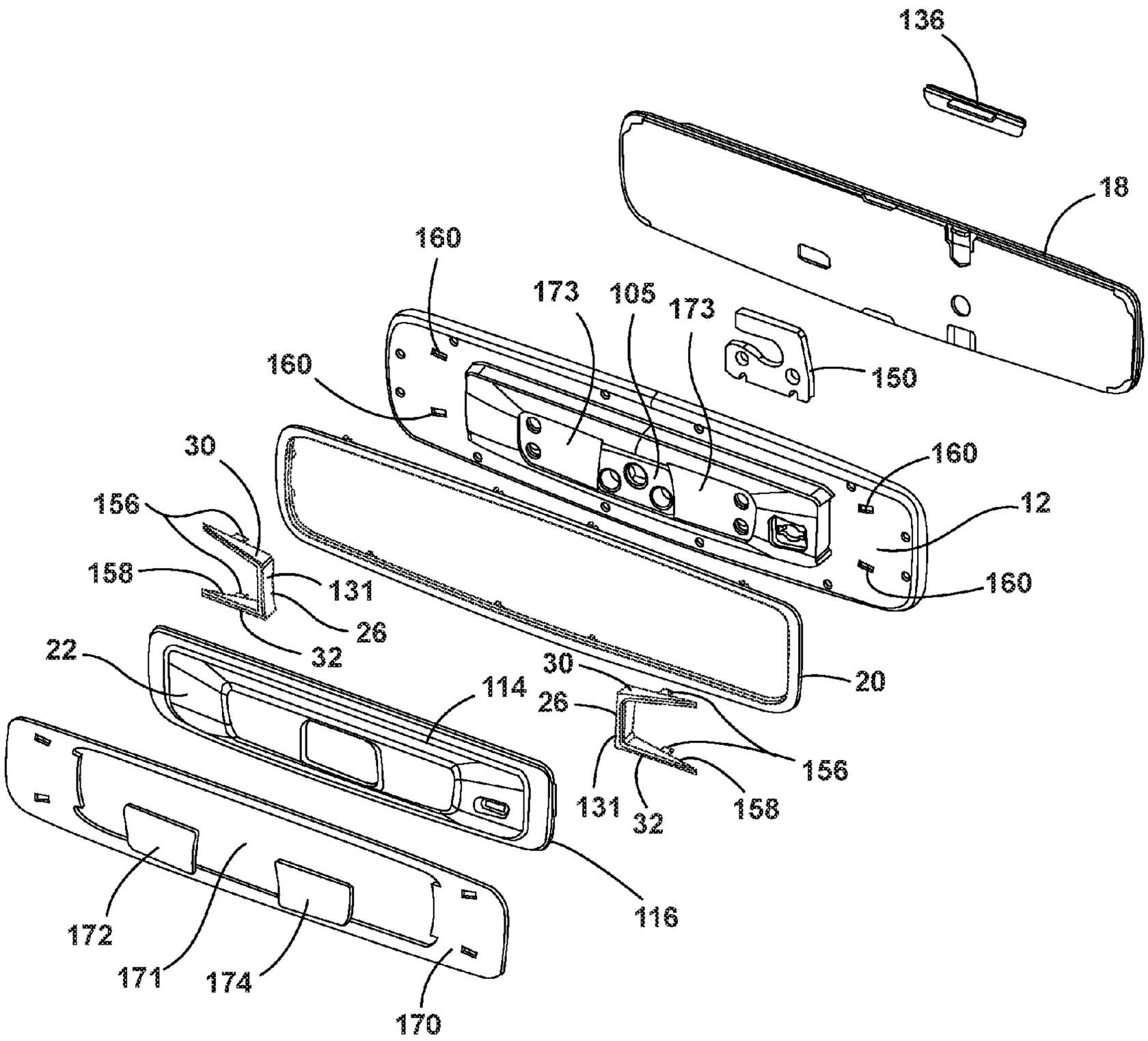

136
18
160
173
105
173
150
160
30
156
158
131
26
32
22
114
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26
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12
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156
131
32
158
116
172
171
174
170

FIG. 7

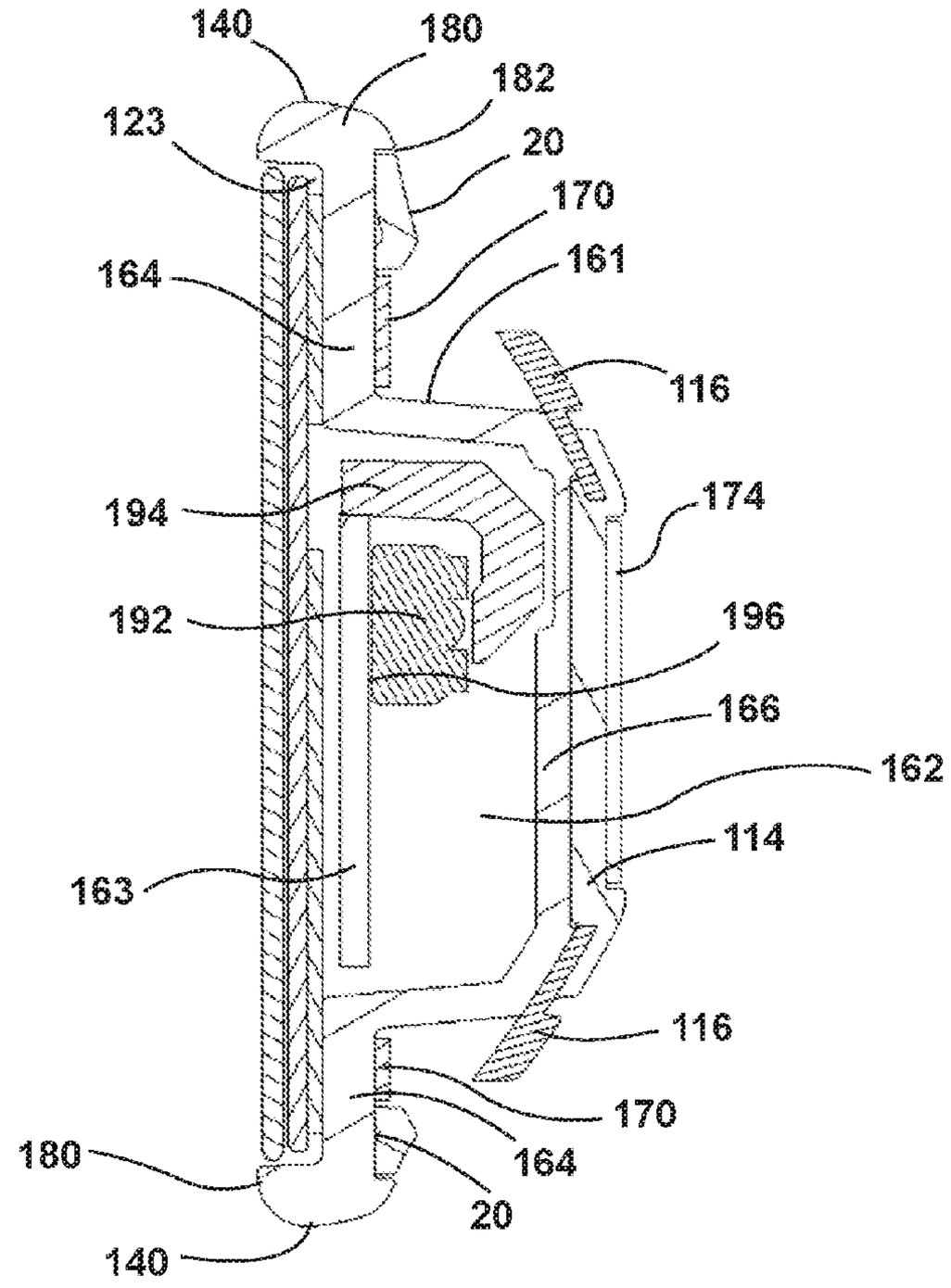

140
180
182
123
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170
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161
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194
174
192
196
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162
114
163
116
170
180
164
20
140

FIG. 8

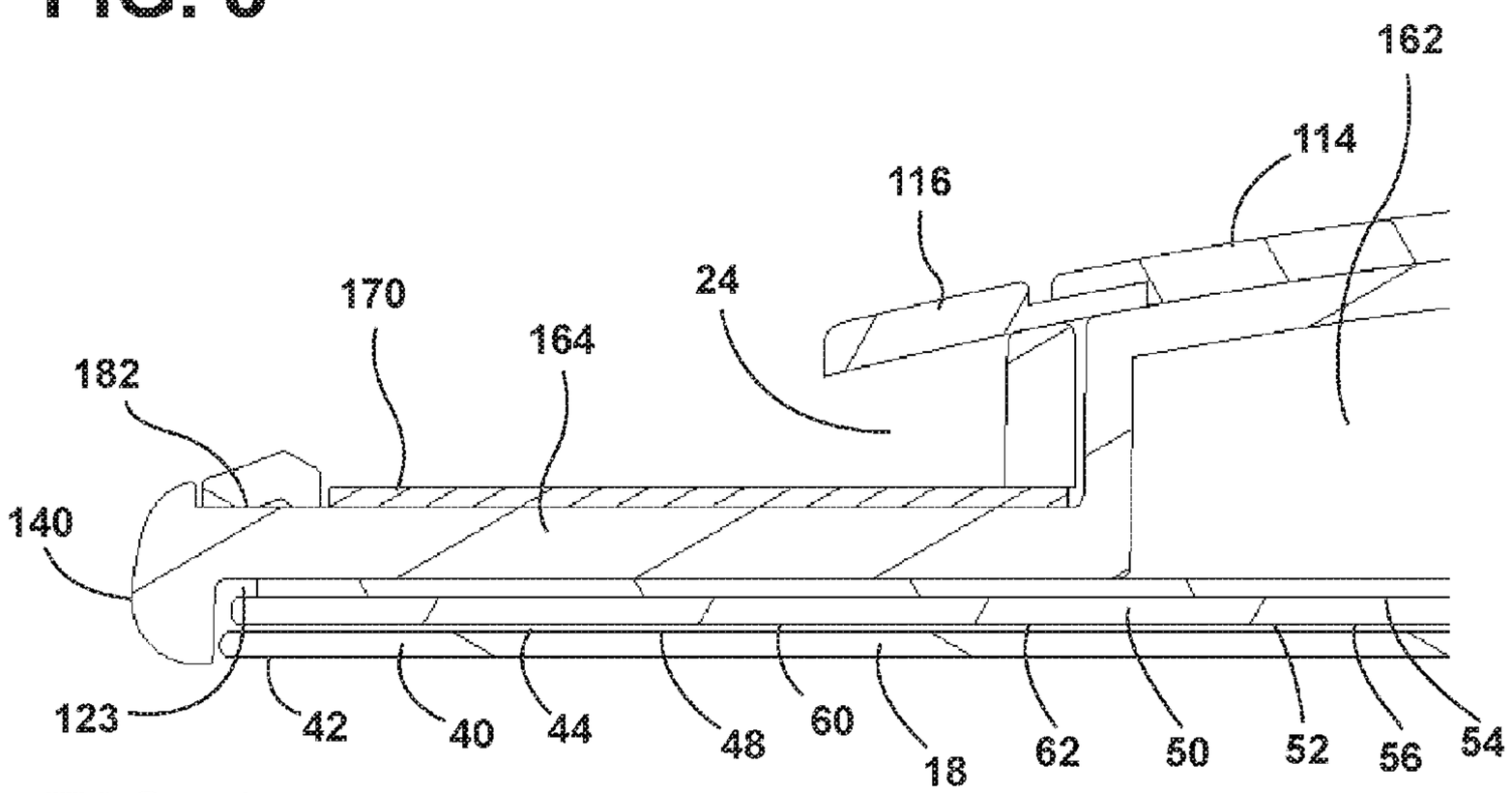

162
114
116
24
170
164
182
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18
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56
54

FIG. 9

REARVIEW DEVICE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority to and the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 62/248,953, filed on Oct. 30, 2015, entitled "REAR-VIEW DEVICE," the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present disclosure generally relates to a rearview device, and more particularly, to an electro-optic element for a rearview device.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

One aspect of the disclosure includes a rearview device having a housing that includes a first side and a second side opposite the first side. An electro-optic element is operably coupled with the first side of the housing. A rear trim bezel is disposed on the second side of the housing. A rear trim plate is operably coupled with the second side of the housing. A peripheral gap is defined between the rear trim plate and the second side of the housing. A spacing truss is disposed in the peripheral gap. The spacing truss includes first and second lateral walls extending to the rear trim bezel.

Another aspect of the disclosure includes a rearview device having a housing that includes a front side and a rear side opposite the front side. An electro-optic element is operably coupled with the housing and is engaged with the front side. A trim bezel is disposed on the rear side of the housing behind the electro-optic element. A rear trim plate is operably coupled with the rear side of the housing. A peripheral gap is defined between the rear trim plate and the rear side of the housing.

Still another aspect of the disclosure includes a rearview device having a housing that includes a first side and a second side opposite the first side. An electro-optic element is operably coupled with the housing and is engaged with the first side. A printed circuit board is disposed inside the housing and includes a forward side and a rearward side. The printed circuit board includes a light pipe that conveys light directed at the electro-optic element to the rearward side of the printed circuit board.

These and other features, advantages, and objects of the present disclosure will be further understood and appreciated by those skilled in the art by reference to the following specification, claims, and appended drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a top rear perspective view of one embodiment of a rearview device of the present disclosure;

FIG. **2** is a front top perspective view of the rearview device of FIG. **1**;

FIG. **3** is a side elevational view of the rearview device of FIG. **1**;

FIG. **4** is a top plan view of the rearview device of FIG. **1**;

FIG. **5** is a top plan view of the rearview device of FIG. **1** with the mounting assembly removed;

FIG. **6** is a rear elevational view of the rearview device of FIG. **1** with the mounting assembly removed;

FIG. **7** is a top rear perspective exploded view of one embodiment of a rearview device of the present disclosure;

FIG. **8** is a side elevational cross-sectional view of one embodiment of a rearview device of the present disclosure; and

FIG. **9** is a partial top plan cross-sectional view of a portion of a rearview device of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

For purposes of description herein, the terms "upper," "lower," "right," "left," "rear," "front," "vertical," "horizontal," and derivatives thereof shall relate to the disclosure as oriented in FIG. **1**. However, it is to be understood that the disclosure may assume various alternative orientations, except where expressly specified to the contrary. It is also to be understood that the specific devices and processes illustrated in the attached drawings, and described in the following specification are simply exemplary embodiments of the inventive concepts defined in the appended claims. Hence, specific dimensions and other physical characteristics relating to the embodiments disclosed herein are not to be considered as limiting, unless the claims expressly state otherwise.

In this document, relational terms, such as first and second, top and bottom, and the like, are used solely to distinguish one entity or action from another entity or action, without necessarily requiring or implying any actual such relationship or order between such entities or actions. The terms "comprises," "comprising," or any other variation thereof, are intended to cover a non-exclusive inclusion, such that a process, method, article, or apparatus that comprises a list of elements does not include only those elements but may include other elements not expressly listed or inherent to such process, method, article, or apparatus. An element proceeded by "comprises . . . a" does not, without more constraints, preclude the existence of additional identical elements in the process, method, article, or apparatus that comprises the element.

As used herein, the term "and/or," when used in a list of two or more items, means that any one of the listed items can be employed by itself, or any combination of two or more of the listed items can be employed. For example, if a composition is described as containing components A, B, and/or C, the composition can contain A alone; B alone; C alone; A and B in combination; A and C in combination; B and C in combination; or A, B, and C in combination.

Referring now to FIGS. **1-8**, reference numeral **10** generally designates a rearview device having a housing **12** that includes a first side **14** and a second side **16** opposite the first side **14**. An electro-optic element **18** is operably coupled with the first side **14** of the housing **12**. A rear trim bezel **20** is disposed on the second side **16** of the housing **12**. A rear trim plate **22** is operably coupled with the second side **16** of the housing **12**. A peripheral gap **24** is defined between the rear trim plate **22** and the second side **16** of the housing **12**. A spacing truss **26** is disposed in the peripheral gap **24**. The spacing truss **26** includes first and second lateral walls **30**, **32** extending to the rear trim bezel **20**.

Referring now to the embodiment depicted in FIGS. **1**, **2**, and **8**, the rearview device **10** includes the electro-optic element **18**. A first substantially transparent substrate **40** includes first and second surfaces **42**, **44** (FIG. **9**) disposed on opposite sides thereof. The second surface **44** includes a first electrically conductive layer **48**. A second substantially transparent substrate **50** includes third and fourth surfaces **52**, **54** disposed on opposite sides thereof. The third surface

52 includes a second electrically conductive layer 56. An electro-optic medium 60 is disposed in a cavity 62 between the first substantially transparent substrate 40 and the second substantially transparent substrate 50. The electro-optic medium 60 is variably transmissive such that the electro-optic medium 60 is operable between generally clear and darkened states. A display device may be disposed proximate the electro-optic element 18.

Referring again to FIGS. 1-3, the rearview device 10 generally includes a mounting assembly 90 having a mount 92 configured to engage a windshield button. The windshield button may be generally secured via an adhesive or other method of connection to a windshield of a vehicle. The mount 92 includes a base 94 and a mount ball 96 that projects from the base 94 and is received by a mount barrel 98. The mount barrel 98 engages the mount ball 96 of the mount 92, as well as a device ball 100 (FIG. 4) that is operably coupled with a rear portion 102 of the rearview device 10. The device ball 100 includes an engagement portion 104 configured to be secured with a mounting area 105 of the rear trim plate 22 of the rearview device 10 includes a receiving member (socket). It will also be understood that the mounting assembly 90 may be a single ball mount in which the rear portion 102 of the rearview device 10 directly engages the mount ball 96 of the mount 92.

With reference again to FIGS. 1, 2, 4, and 6, the rearview device 10 includes an ambient light sensor 110 that receives light through an aperture 112 that extends through the rear trim plate 22. The rear trim plate 22 includes an intermediate portion 114 and a peripheral flange 116. The peripheral flange 116 extends around the intermediate portion 114. The intermediate portion 114 also includes aesthetic portions 118 that are generally disposed on first and second sides 120, 122 of the device ball 100. In FIGS. 1 and 2, the housing 12 extends from the rear portion 102 of the rearview device 10 to a forward portion 121 (FIG. 5) of the rearview device 10, and includes a front recess 123 (FIGS. 8 and 9) configured to receive the electro-optic element 18. It will generally be understood that the electro-optic element 18 could be replaced with a prism-type element or other display-type element suitable for use in providing a rear view to an occupant in a vehicle. Because the housing 12 extends around and receives the electro-optic element 18, the rearview device 10 is free of a separate peripheral bezel. However, as previously noted, the rearview device 10 does include a rear trim bezel 20 that is visible from a rear side of the housing 12. Notably, the rear trim bezel 20 is not generally visible from a front of the housing 12 along a line of sight perpendicular to the planar extent of the electro-optic element 18.

The housing 12 generally includes a plurality of rounded corners 130 that may be generally complementary in shape to rounded corners 132 of the electro-optic element 18. In addition, a badge 136 is positioned over a top forward edge 138 of the housing 12 and the first surface 42 of the electro-optic element 18. It is generally contemplated that the badge 136 will be configured to display a purchaser's trademark, logo, etc.

Turning now to FIGS. 3 and 4, the juxtaposition of the rear trim bezel 20 is readily discernible. In addition, the peripheral gap 24 (FIG. 9) that is defined between the rear trim plate 22 and the second or rear side 16 of the housing 12 can be seen. As illustrated, the peripheral flange 116 of the rear trim plate 22 is angled in a direction toward a peripheral edge 140 of the housing 12. Thus, the peripheral flange 116 of the rear trim plate 22 is not coplanar with the planar extent of the intermediate portion 114 of the rear trim plate 22. It is also contemplated that the rear trim plate 22 may include a curvilinear architecture. Regardless, it is generally contemplated that the peripheral flange 116 will extend toward and be angled toward the peripheral edge 140 of the housing 12. Nevertheless, it is also contemplated that the peripheral flange 116 could also extend linearly generally parallel with the planar extent of the electro-optic element 18.

With reference to FIGS. 5-7, the rear portion 102 of the rearview device 10 includes a generally curved design. An aesthetic channel 144 is disposed between the intermediate portion 114 and the peripheral flange 116 of the rear trim plate 22. In the illustrated embodiment, first and second spacing trusses 26 are located on each side of the rearview device 10. The first and second spacing trusses 26 are shown extending in a direction toward the plurality of rounded corners 130 of the housing 12. Each of the first and second spacing trusses 26 includes a base wall 131 from which the first and second lateral walls 30, 32 extend toward the rear trim bezel 20. In the illustrated embodiment, the first and second lateral walls 30, 32 of the spacing truss 26 terminate at the rear trim bezel 20. However, it is generally contemplated that the first and second lateral walls 30, 32 may extend past the rear trim bezel 20, or may terminate before reaching the rear trim bezel 20. In addition, the first and second lateral walls 30, 32 are set at angles relative to the linear extent of the rearview device 10. Stated differently, the first and second lateral walls 30, 32 are not parallel. Rather, the first and second lateral walls 30, 32 extend at an angle relative to one another, generally in the direction of the plurality of rounded corners 130 of the housing 12.

With reference now to FIGS. 3 and 7-9, the components of the rearview device 10 as set forth in FIGS. 5 and 6 are illustrated in an exploded view. The housing 12 is configured to receive a washer 150 that supports and receives fasteners that secure the device ball 100 to the rear side or second side 16 of the housing 12. The electro-optic element 18 is received in the front recess 123 (FIG. 8) of the housing 12 and the badge 136 is secured to the first surface 42 (FIG. 9) of the electro-optic element 18. The badge 136 may be coupled with the housing 12 or the electro-optic element 18 via mechanical fasteners, adhesive, etc. In addition, the rear trim bezel 20 is generally illustrated, which is configured to engage the second side 16 of the housing 12. The rear trim bezel 20 extends around a periphery of the housing 12 on the second side 16 of the housing 12. However, the rear trim bezel 20 does not extend around the peripheral edge 140 of the housing 12. In addition, the spacing trusses 26 are operably coupled with the second side 16 of the housing 12, and include engagement flanges 156 protruding from an engagement side 158 of each of the first and second lateral walls 30, 32, which engage receiving slots 160 defined on the second side 16 of the housing 12. It is generally contemplated that the flanges 156 may engage via a snap-fit connection, for example.

With reference again to FIGS. 7 and 8, the rear trim plate 22 extends over a body 161 protruding from the housing 12. The body 161 generally defines a cavity 162 configured to house a printed circuit board 163. The body 161 includes a peripheral wall 164 that is generally parallel with a planar extent of the eletro-optic element 18. The peripheral wall 164 extends outwardly from the body 161. However, the rear trim plate 22 extends primarily over a rear face 166 of the body 161. A rear applique 170 is configured to engage a rear portion of the housing 12. The rear applique 170 defines an inner opening 171 within which the rear trim plate 22 and the mount 92 (FIG. 3) extend to couple with a rear portion

of the housing **12**. Thus, the rear applique **170** extends around the mount **92** and the rear trim plate **22**. In addition, left-hand and right-hand appliques **172**, **174**, are configured to engage recesses **173** of the housing **12** disposed on left and right sides of the mounting area **105** (FIG. **1**) of the device ball **100**, respectively. As with the badge **136**, which may include a variety of different emblems, logos, trademarks, etc., the appliques **170**, **172**, **174** are generally configured to be interchangeable to accommodate the needs of a particular purchaser. In addition, the appliques may be decorative appliques that match the interior or trim of a vehicle.

With reference now to FIGS. **8** and **9**, the peripheral gap **24** defined between the rear trim plate **22** and the second side **16** or rear side of the housing **12** is illustrated. The rear applique **170** extends generally from the rear trim bezel **20** all the way to the body **161** of the housing **12**. In addition, the rear applique **170** is larger on the sides than on the top and bottom. Further, it is generally understood that the peripheral wall **164** includes a bulbous rim **180** that extends about the periphery of the housing **12**. The bulbous rim **180** is configured to conceal at least a portion of the periphery of the rear trim bezel **20**, as well as the periphery of the electro-optic element **18**. In the illustrated embodiment, the bulbous rim **180** generally abuts and conceals an outer wall **182** of the rear trim bezel **20**. Further, the electro-optic element **18** is generally set in the front recess **123** such that the bulbous rim **180** protrudes slightly beyond the first surface **42** of the electro-optic element **18**.

Turning again to FIG. **8**, in the illustrated embodiment, it is noted that the intermediate portion **114** of the rear trim plate **22** is not coplanar with the peripheral flange **116**. Further, the peripheral flange **116** may be constructed from a different material than the intermediate portion **114** and optionally include different reflective properties. In addition, the housing **12** supports the printed circuit board **163** illustrated as including a glare sensor **192** that receives light directed at the electro-optic element **18**. The glare sensor **192** includes a light pipe **194** that conveys light directed at the electro-optic element **18** from the first surface **42** of the electro-optic element **18** to a rearward side **196** of the printed circuit board **163**. Thus, a sleeker and slimmer profile from front to back can be obtained on the rearview device **10**, as illustrated. In addition, the peripheral wall **164** includes a planar extent that is generally parallel with a planar extent of the electro-optic element **18**. Accordingly, the printed circuit board **163** and other circuitry, as well as any other components that are made available for the rearview device **10**, are all provided in the body **161** of the housing **12** and do not extend as far as the peripheral walls **164** of the rearview device **10**. However, it is contemplated that in some embodiments, additional room may be gained between the electro-optic element **18** and the peripheral wall **164** of the housing **12**.

The multi-piece construction, as set forth above, includes improved aesthetics that are configurable to provide multiple styling options. Various appliques can be changed to modify the appearance of the rearview device **10**. In addition, the spacing trusses **26** are plated and can be removed to modify the appearance of the rearview device **10**. Further, the rear trim bezel **20** can be modified to include different finishes, thus also modifying the appearance of the rearview device **10**. The rear trim plate **22** gives the appearance of having a floating condition. In one example, the outer portion or peripheral flange **116** of the rear trim plate **22** is clear, while the intermediate portion **114** is opaque. In another example, the peripheral flange **116** is opaque, while the intermediate portion **114** is clear. Variations on this configuration can be made to provide various aesthetics, depending on the preference of the consumer. Moreover, the rear trim plate **22** provides an aperture, as set forth above, that allows for the ambient light sensor **110**, which is located in the body **161** of the housing **12**, to receive light, thus providing data to the printed circuit board **163** related to the ambient light condition when the vehicle, and specifically the rearview device **10**, are being used.

The electro-optic element **18** could also be an element such as a prism. One non-limiting example of an electro-optic element includes an electrochromic medium, which includes at least one solvent, at least one anodic material, and at least one cathodic material. Typically, both of the anodic and cathodic materials are electroactive and at least one of them is electrochromic. It will be understood that regardless of its ordinary meaning, the term "electroactive" will be defined herein as a material that undergoes a modification in its oxidation state upon exposure to a particular electrical potential difference. Additionally, it will be understood that the term "electrochromic" will be defined herein, regardless of its ordinary meaning, as a material that exhibits a change in its extinction coefficient at one or more wavelengths upon exposure to a particular electrical potential difference. Electrochromic components, as described herein, include materials whose color or opacity are affected by electric current, such that when an electrical current is applied to the material, the color or opacity change from a first phase to a second phase. The electrochromic component may be a single-layer, single-phase component, multi-layer component, or multi-phase component, as described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,928,572 entitled "Electrochromic Layer And Devices Comprising Same," U.S. Pat. No. 5,998,617 entitled "Electrochromic Compounds," U.S. Pat. No. 6,020,987 entitled "Electrochromic Medium Capable Of Producing A Pre-selected Color," U.S. Pat. No. 6,037,471 entitled "Electrochromic Compounds," U.S. Pat. No. 6,141,137 entitled "Electrochromic Media For Producing A Pre-selected Color," U.S. Pat. No. 6,241,916 entitled "Electrochromic System," U.S. Pat. No. 6,193,912 entitled "Near Infrared-Absorbing Electrochromic Compounds And Devices Comprising Same," U.S. Pat. No. 6,249,369 entitled "Coupled Electrochromic Compounds With Photostable Dication Oxidation States," and U.S. Pat. No. 6,137,620 entitled "Electrochromic Media With Concentration Enhanced Stability, Process For The Preparation Thereof and Use In Electrochromic Devices"; U.S. Pat. No. 6,519,072, entitled "Electrochromic Device"; and International Patent Application Serial Nos. PCT/US98/05570 entitled "Electrochromic Polymeric Solid Films, Manufacturing Electrochromic Devices Using Such Solid Films, And Processes For Making Such Solid Films And Devices," PCT/EP98/03862 entitled "Electrochromic Polymer System," and PCT/US98/05570 entitled "Electrochromic Polymeric Solid Films, Manufacturing Electrochromic Devices Using Such Solid Films, And Processes For Making Such Solid Films And Devices," which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety. The glass element may also be any other element having partially reflective, partially transmissive properties. To provide electric current to the glass element, electrical elements are provided on opposing sides of the element, to generate an electrical potential therebetween. Element clips, such as J-clips, are electrically engaged with each electrical element, and element wires extend from the J-clips to the main printed circuit board (PCB).

The present disclosure may be used with a rearview assembly such as that described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 8,925,891; 8,814,373; 8,201,800; and 8,210,695; U.S. Patent Application Publication Nos. 2014/0063630, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,174,577, and 2012/0327234, now U.S. Pat. No. 9,838,653; and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Nos. 61/709,716; 61/707,676; and 61/704,869, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. Further, the present disclosure may be used with a rearview packaging assembly such as that described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 8,885,240; 8,814,373; 8,646,924; 8,643,931; and 8,264,761; and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Nos. 61/707,625; and 61/590,259, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. Additionally, it is contemplated that the present disclosure can include a bezel such as that described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 8,827,517; 8,210,695; and 8,201,800, which are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

It will be appreciated that embodiments of the disclosure described herein may be comprised of one or more conventional processors and unique stored program instructions that control one or more processors to implement, in conjunction with certain non-processor circuits, some, most, or all of the functions of a display mirror assembly, as described herein. The non-processor circuits may include, but are not limited to signal drivers, clock circuits, power source circuits, and/or user input devices. As such, these functions may be interpreted as steps of a method used in using or constructing a classification system. Alternatively, some or all functions could be implemented by a state machine that has no stored program instructions, or in one or more application specific integrated circuits (ASICs), in which each function or some combinations of certain of the functions are implemented as custom logic. Of course, a combination of the two approaches could be used. Thus, the methods and means for these functions have been described herein. Further, it is expected that one of ordinary skill, notwithstanding possibly significant effort and many design choices motivated by, for example, available time, current technology, and economic considerations, when guided by the concepts and principles disclosed herein will be readily capable of generating such software instructions and programs and ICs with minimal experimentation.

It will be understood by one having ordinary skill in the art that construction of the described disclosure and other components is not limited to any specific material. Other exemplary embodiments of the disclosure disclosed herein may be formed from a wide variety of materials, unless described otherwise herein.

For purposes of this disclosure, the term "coupled" (in all of its form, couple, coupling, coupled, etc.) generally means the joining of two components (electrical or mechanical) directly or indirectly to one another. Such joining may be stationary in nature or movable in nature. Such joining may be achieved with the two components (electrical or mechanical) and any additional intermediate members being integrally formed as a single unitary body with one another or with the two components. Such joining may be permanent in nature or may be removable or releasable in nature unless otherwise stated.

It is also important to note that the construction and arrangement of the elements of the disclosure as shown in the exemplary embodiments is illustrative only. Although only a few embodiments of the present innovations have been described in detail in this disclosure, those skilled in the art who review this disclosure will readily appreciate that many modifications are possible (e.g., variations in sizes, dimensions, structures, shapes and proportions of the various elements, values of parameters, mounting arrangements, use of materials, colors, orientations, etc.) without materially departing from the novel teachings and advantages of the subject matter recited. For example, elements shown as integrally formed may be constructed of multiple parts or elements shown as multiple parts may be integrally formed, the operation of the interfaces may be reversed or otherwise varied, the length or width of the structures and/or members or connector or other elements of the system may be varied, the nature or number of adjustment positions provided between the elements may be varied. It should be noted that the elements and/or assemblies of the system may be constructed from any of a wide variety of materials that provide sufficient strength or durability, in any of a wide variety of colors, textures, and combinations. Accordingly, all such modifications are intended to be included within the scope of the present innovations. Other substitutions, modifications, changes, and omissions may be made in the design, operating conditions, and arrangement of the desired and other exemplary embodiments without departing from the spirit of the present innovations.

It will be understood that any described processes or steps within described processes may be combined with other disclosed processes or steps to form structures within the scope of the present disclosure. The exemplary structures and processes disclosed herein are for illustrative purposes and are not to be construed as limiting.

It is also to be understood that variations and modifications can be made on the aforementioned structures and methods without departing from the concepts of the present disclosure, and further it is to be understood that such concepts are intended to be covered by the following claims unless these claims by their language expressly state otherwise.

What is claimed is:

1. A rearview device comprising:

a housing including a first side and a second side opposite the first side;

an electro-optic element operably coupled with the first side of the housing;

a rear trim bezel disposed on the second side of the housing;

a rear trim plate operably coupled with the second side of the housing;

a peripheral gap defined between the rear trim plate and the second side of the housing; and

a spacing truss disposed in the peripheral gap, the spacing truss including first and second lateral walls extending to the rear trim bezel.

2. The rearview device of claim **1**, wherein the rear trim plate includes an intermediate portion and a peripheral flange.

3. The rearview device of claim **2**, wherein the peripheral flange extends from the intermediate portion and is angled toward a peripheral edge of the housing.

4. The rearview device of claim **1**, wherein the housing includes a body defining a cavity configured to house a printed circuit board, wherein the body includes a peripheral wall that is generally co-planar with a planar extent of the electro-optic element.

5. The rearview device of claim **4**, wherein the peripheral wall includes a bulbous rim.

6. The rearview device of claim **4**, wherein the printed circuit board includes a glare sensor that receives light directed at the electro-optic element.

7. The rearview device of claim **6**, wherein the glare sensor includes a light pipe that conveys light directed at the electro-optic element to the rearward side of the printed circuit board.

8. The rearview device of claim **1**, wherein the rear trim bezel is visible only when viewing the second side of the housing.

9. A rearview device comprising:
a housing including a front side and a rear side opposite the front side;
an electro-optic element operably coupled with the housing and engaged with the front side;
a trim bezel disposed on the rear side of the housing, behind the electro-optic element;
a rear trim plate operably coupled with the rear side of the housing; and
a peripheral gap defined between the rear trim plate and the rear side of the housing.

10. The rearview device of claim 9, further comprising:
a decorative applique disposed on the rear side of the housing, the decorative applique extending around the rear trim plate.

11. The rearview device of claim 10, wherein the housing includes a body defining a cavity configured to house a printed circuit board, wherein the body includes a peripheral wall that is generally coplanar with a planar extent of the electro-optic element.

12. The rearview device of claim 11, wherein the peripheral wall includes a bulbous rim.

13. The rearview device of claim 11, wherein the printed circuit board includes a forward side and a rearward side, the printed circuit board including a glare sensor light pipe that conveys light directed at the electro-optic element to the rearward side of the printed circuit board.

14. The rearview device of claim 9, further comprising:
first and second trusses disposed on the rear side of the housing, the first and second trusses including a base wall and a plurality of outwardly extending lateral walls.

15. The rearview device of claim 14, wherein the plurality of outwardly extending lateral walls extend to the trim bezel.

16. A rearview device comprising:
a housing including a first side and a second side opposite the first side;
an electro-optic element operably coupled with the housing and engaged with the first side; and
a printed circuit board disposed inside the housing and including a forward side and a rearward side, the printed circuit board including a light pipe that conveys light directed at the electro-optic element to the rearward side of the printed circuit board.

17. The rearview device of claim 16, wherein the housing includes a body defining a cavity configured to house the printed circuit board, wherein the body includes a peripheral wall that is generally co-planar with a planar extent of the electro-optic element.

18. The rearview device of claim 17, further comprising:
a rear trim bezel disposed on the second side of the housing;
a rear trim plate operably coupled with the second side of the housing;
a peripheral gap defined between the rear trim plate and the second side of the housing; and
a spacing truss disposed in the peripheral gap, the spacing truss including first and second lateral walls extending to the rear trim bezel.

19. The rearview device of claim 16, wherein the printed circuit board includes a glare sensor that receives light directed at the electro-optic element.

20. The rearview device of claim 16, further comprising:
a glare sensor on the rearward side of the printed circuit board that receives light from the light pipe.

* * * * *