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Szmyr

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(54) PATIO SUPPORT BRACKET

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E04H 12/22 (2006.01)
A45B 23/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC .. ***E04H 12/2269*** (2013.01); *A45B 2023/0012* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC A47G 2033/1233; A47G 25/12; E04H 12/2253
USPC 248/519, 523, 500, 507, 508
See application file for complete search history.

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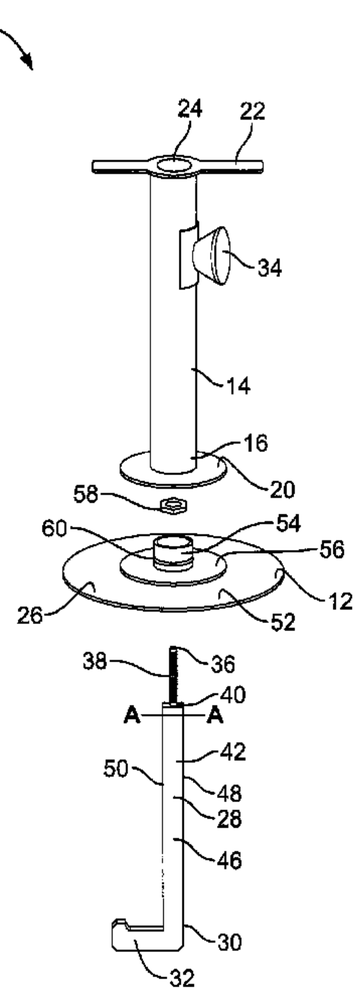
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Herein is disclosed a patio support for securely supporting an object to a patio deck. The patio support includes a base member for sitting on the patio deck, a mounting member for mounting the object to the base member, and an elongated member extending downwardly from the base member. The elongated member passes through the gap separating adjacent patio deck members and is sufficiently long that a hook formed on a lower end of the elongated member can be positioned below a lower edge of the joist supporting the deck members. The elongated member is movable between a lowered position wherein the hook is positioned below the lower edge of the joists and a raised position wherein the hook securely engages the lower edge of the joists. The patio support is further configured to lock the elongated member in its raised position.

13 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



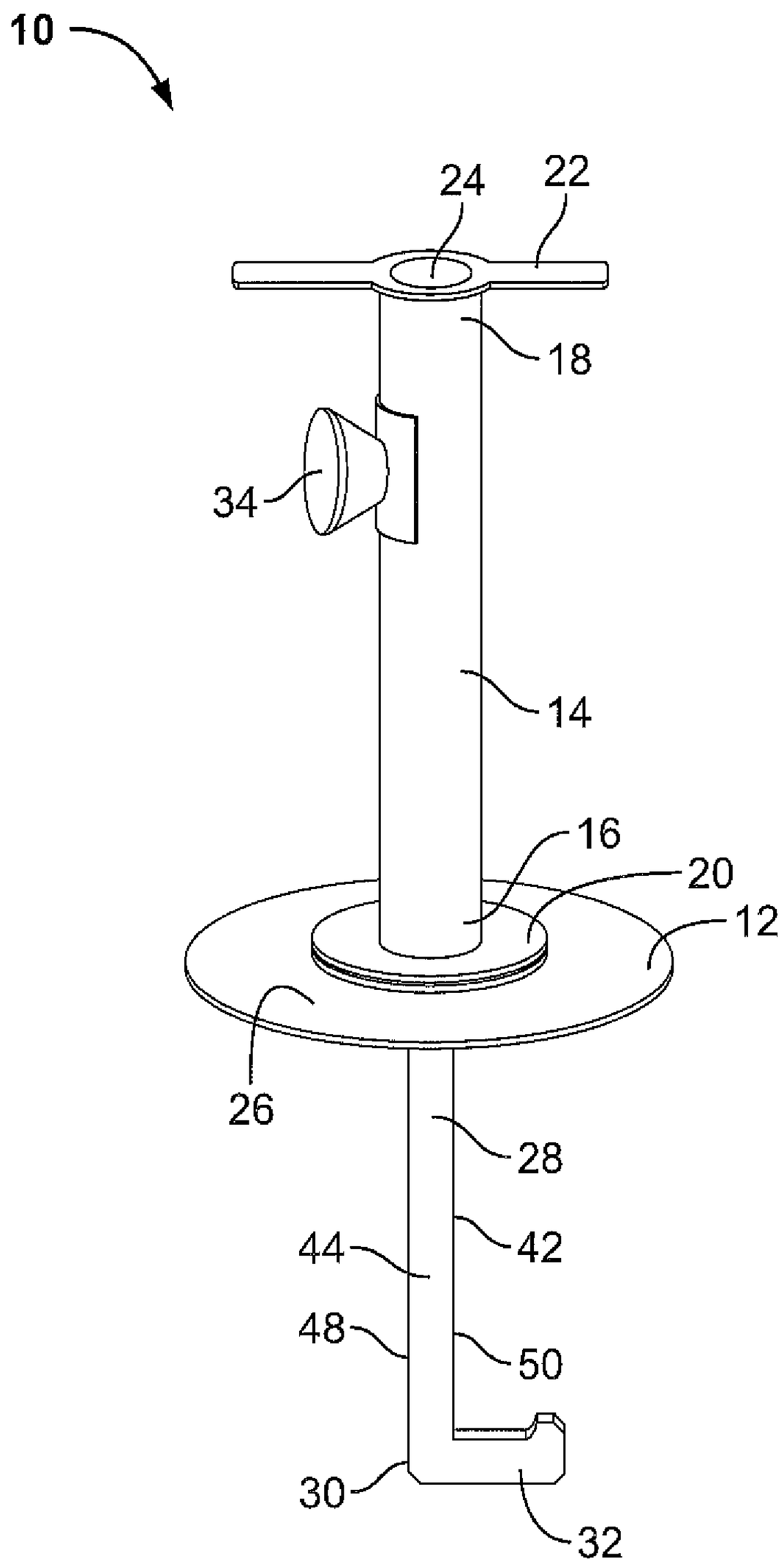


FIG. 1

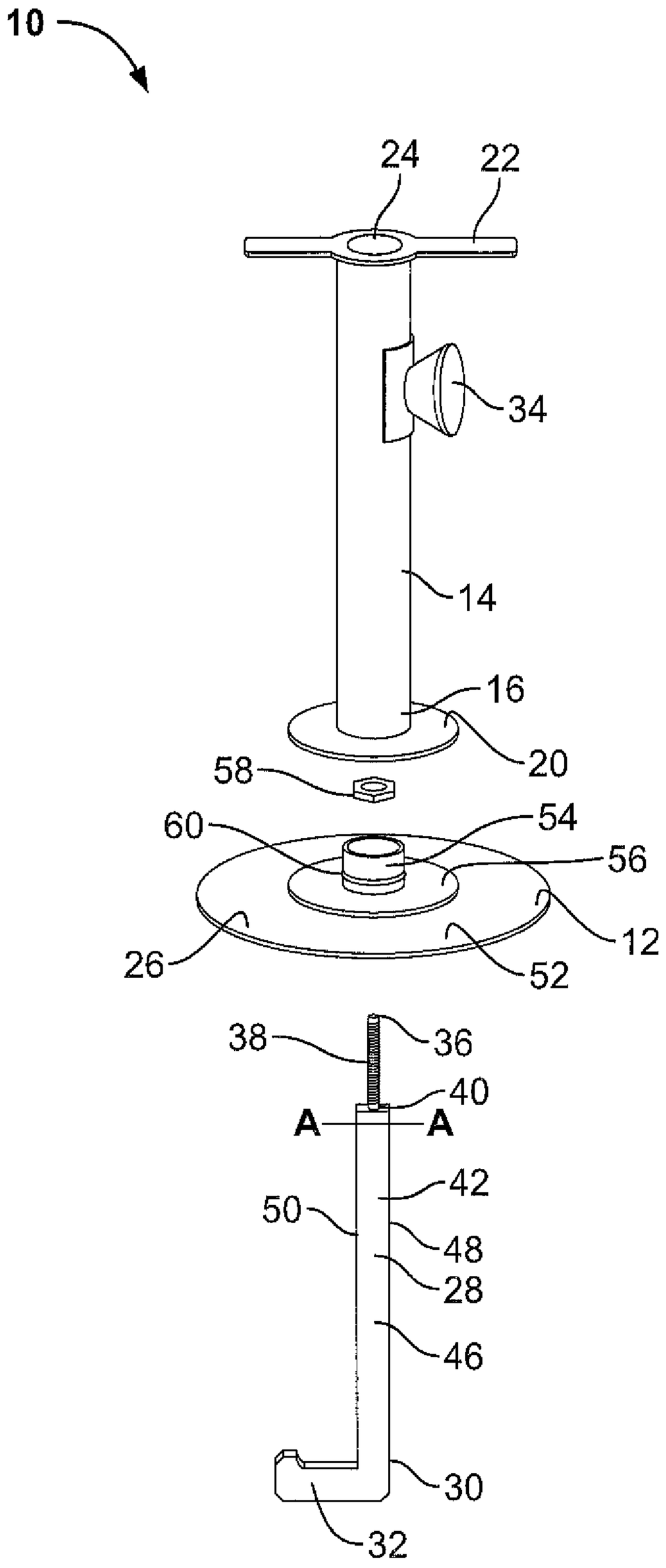

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FIG. 2

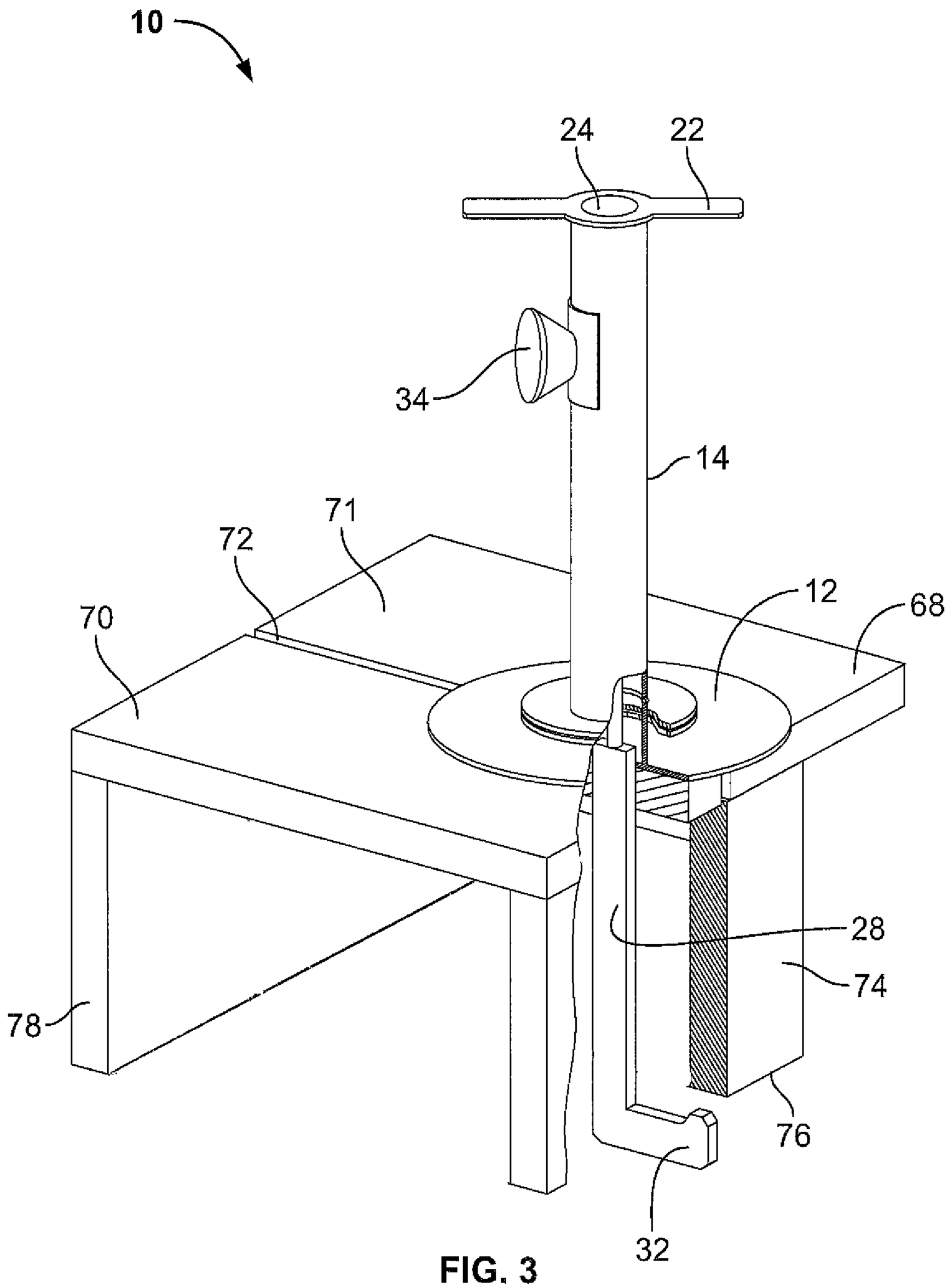


FIG. 3

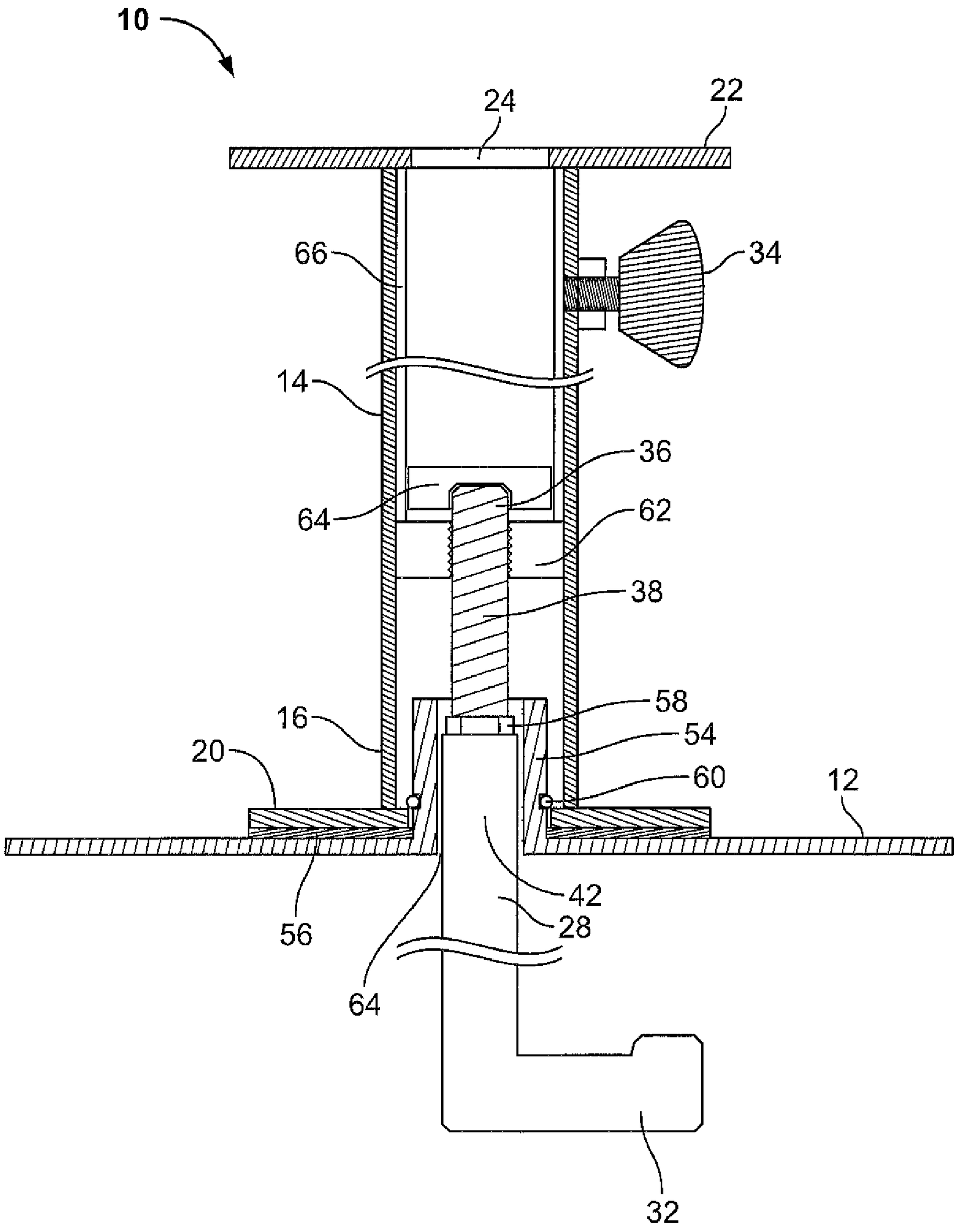


FIG. 4

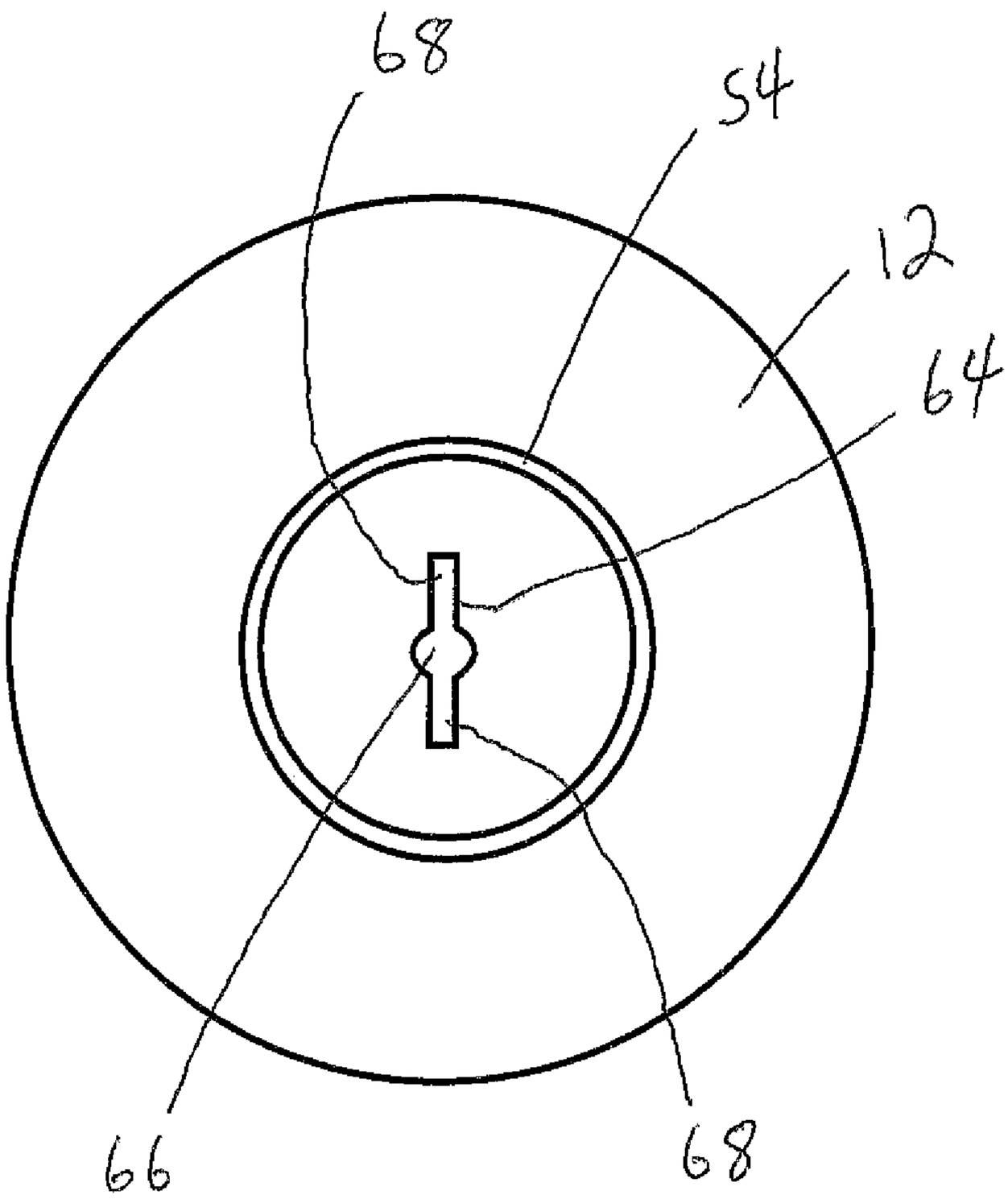


Fig. 5

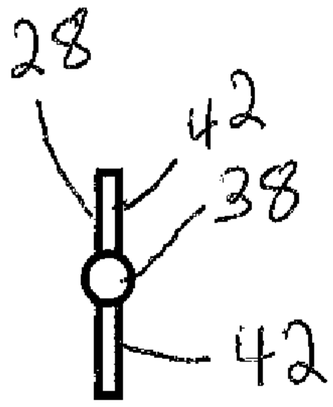


Fig. 6

PATIO SUPPORT BRACKET

BACKGROUND

The present invention relates to devices for securely mounting heavy object such as a patio umbrella onto a wooden patio deck.

Patio umbrella stands tend to be large and heavy. Due to the action of the wind on large opened patio umbrellas, large torsional forces are created where the umbrella stand is mounted to the umbrella shaft. As a result, unless the umbrella stand is very heavy and has a relatively large diameter, the umbrella stand is likely to topple over in even moderate winds. Of course the larger and heavier the umbrella stand is, the more difficult and awkward it is to use. An improved umbrella stand which is capable of supporting a large patio umbrella in without toppling in the wind is therefore desirable.

SUMMARY

The apparatus of the present invention consists of a support member configured to physically mount an object such as a patio umbrella to the decking of a patio by clamping between the decking members and the joists supporting the decking. The patio support consist of a flat base member dimensioned to lay on top of two adjacent deck members above a joist member, the base member dimensioned so as to span an elongated gap between the adjacent deck members and position a central portion of the base member directly above the elongated gap and supporting joist. The support further includes an elongated hook member extending downward from the central portion of the base member and down between the deck members, the hook member having a hook formed on a lower end thereof with the hook member being sufficiently long to engage a lower edge of the joist supporting the deck members. The base member is provided with an upwardly projecting support mount for mounting the object to the base member. The elongated hook member is elongated and has an upper end opposite the lower end. The hook member is movably mounted to the base member between a lowered position where the hook is positioned below the lower edge of the joist, and an upper position wherein the hook physically engages the lower edge of the joist, the hook member being lockable in its raised position. A portion of the elongated hook member adjacent the hook being substantially flat having a thickness dimensioned to fit within the elongated gap.

The invention is also directed at a patio support for securely supporting an object to a patio, the patio support being anchored to the parallel deck members and joist members forming the patio. The patio support includes a base member configured to rest on top of the deck members with a mounting member mounted to a top portion of the base member, the mounting member configured to releasably mount to the object. The patio support further includes an elongated member having opposite top and bottom ends, the bottom end extending downward from the base member, a hook portion formed on the bottom end, the elongated member being sufficiently long such that the bottom end can be extended below the lower edge of the joists. The elongated member is dimensioned to pass through the elongated gaps separating adjacent deck members. The elongated member is movably mounted to the base member and is movable between a lowered position wherein the hook is positioned below the lower edge of the joists and a raised position wherein the hook securely engages the lower edge of the joists. The patio support is configured to lock the elongated member in the elongated member's raised position.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of the patio mount device of the present invention;

FIG. **2** is an exploded view of the patio mount shown in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **3** is a perspective view of the patio mount shown in FIG. **1** mounted to a wooden patio deck;

FIG. **4** is a long sectional view of the patio mount shown in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **5** is a top view of the base plate portion of the patio mount shown in FIG. **1**;

FIG. **6** is a cross sectional view taken along line A-A in FIG. **2** of the elongated hook member portion of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring firstly to FIG. **1**, a patio mount made in accordance with the present invention is shown generally as item **10** and consists of a flat base member **12** upon which a tubular cylinder **14** is coaxially mounted to. Tubular cylinder **14** has opposite ends **16** and **18**, with flange **20** radiating outwards from end **16** and handles **22** projecting from end **18**. Tubular cylinder **14** is hollow and has an opening **24** dimensioned to receive an object to be supported, such as the stem of a patio umbrella (not shown). A screw clamp **34** is provided on tubular cylinder **14** to secure the stem of the patio umbrella within the tubular cylinder.

Depending downward from a central portion **26** of base member **12** is an elongated hook member **28** which has a lower end **30** with hook **32** formed thereon. As better seen in FIG. **2**, elongated hook member has an upper end **36** opposite lower end **30**. A cylindrical threaded section **38** extends between end **36** and point **40** where the cylindrical threaded section meets flat planar portion **42**. Flat planar portion **42** continues towards end **30** to form hook **32**, Flat planar portion **42** has opposite side faces **46** and **44** (FIG. **1**) and opposite edges **48** and **50**. The thickness of planar portion **42** is defined by the distance separating side faces **44** and **46** and the width of planar portion **42** is defined by the distance separating edges **48** and **50**. Elongated hook member **28** is preferably made of a strong metal such as steel with threaded cylindrical threaded section secured to flat planar portion **42** by means known generally in the art such as welding.

Base member **12** is flat and planar and has a flat surface **52**. Cylindrical collar **54** is formed at the center of base member **12** and washer **56** is concentrically placed around collar **54**. Washer **56** preferably has substantially the same diameter as flange **20**. Collar **54** has an outside diameter sufficient to fit snuggly within end **16** of cylinder **14** allowing the cylinder to be coaxially mounted to the collar and base member **12** while permitting the cylinder to rotate. Washer **56** is preferably made of a nonmetallic material such as plastic to prevent metal on metal contact between base member **12** and flange **20** to permit easy and smooth rotation of the cylinder on the base member. O-ring **60** is provided on collar **54** to help secure bottom end **16** of cylinder **14** onto the collar. Of course, O-ring **60** will be seated in an annular ring (not shown) which is formed on collar **54**. Jam nut **58** is provided between cylinder **14** and base member **12** and is

configured to thread onto cylindrical threaded portion **38** of elongated hook member **28**. End **36** of elongated hook member is passed through an aperture in the center of base **12** and through the center of collar **54** before threading onto jam nut **58**. As will be discussed later in the specification, jam nut **58** ensures that elongated hook member **28** does not accidentally fall away from base member **12**.

Referring now to FIG. **4**, cylinder **14** is provided with an internally threaded collar **62** which is rigidly secured within the cylinder and which is configured to thread onto threaded cylindrical section **38** of elongated hook member **28**. Hook member **28** passes through a keyhole opening **64** at the centre of base member **12**. Rotating cylinder **14** relative to base **12** causes threaded collar **62** to likewise rotate relative to threaded cylindrical section **38** which in turn causes elongated hook member to move in and out of cylinder **14**. Jam nut **58** is threaded onto threaded cylindrical section **38** and positioned adjacent flat planar portion **42**. Jam nut **58** is dimensioned such that it will not pass through keyhole aperture **64**, thereby preventing elongated hook member **28** from falling away from base member **12** when the elongated hook member is not threaded into threaded collar **62**. An internal lining **66** can be provided in cylinder **14** above threaded collar **62** and cap **64** can be provided to fit on top of end **36** of the elongated hook member. Liner **66** and cap **64** may be made of a polymer material such as plastic to prevent metal on metal contact between support **10** and the stem of a patio umbrella (not shown). When assembled, hook **32** on elongated hook member **28** can be raised or lowered simply by rotating cylinder **14** by engaging handle **22**. Please note that FIG. **4** exaggerates the separation between collar **54** and cylinder **14** for the purposes of illustration.

Referring now to FIGS. **5** and **6**, keyhole opening **64** is positioned at the very centre of base member **12** and within collar **54**. Keyhole opening **64** has a central circular aperture **66** configured to receive cylindrical threaded portion **38** of elongated hook member **28** while slots **68** radiate from the central circular aperture to receive flat planar portion **42** of elongated hook member **28**. Keyhole opening **64** effectively ensures that the elongated hook member can only be inserted in one orientation. Furthermore, when elongated hook member **28** is fully inserted into keyhole opening **64**, the elongated hook member cannot be rotated relative to base member **12**. Jam nut **58** (see FIGS. **2** and **4**) has a diameter greater than the diameter of circular aperture **66** or slots **68** and therefore cannot pass through the keyhole opening.

Referring now to FIG. **3**, when assembled, mount **10** is positioned onto patio deck **71**. Patio deck **71** is formed from a plurality of flat decking members supported by a plurality of vertically oriented joists. The decking members are separated from each other by narrow gaps. Mount **10** is positioned onto deck **71** such that base member straddles gap **72** separating decking members **68** and **70** and the centre of the mount is positioned above joist **74**. Elongated hook member **28** is then passed through gap **72** and elongated hook member **28** is positioned adjacent to joist **74** with hook **32** positioned below lower edge **76** of joist **74**. Handle **22** of cylinder **14** is then engaged to rotate cylinder **14** relative to base **12** in order to raise hook **32** to physically engage edge **76** of joist **74**. Sufficient torsional force is applied to handle **22** to force the hook tightly onto the edge **76**, thereby locking the elongated hook member in place and strongly securing mount **10** onto patio **71**. If sufficient torsional force is applied to handle **22**, collar **62** applies a strong linear force on elongated hook member **28** thereby strongly biasing hook **32** towards base member **12** resulting in a secure coupling of mount **10** to the patio. The stem of a patio umbrella (not shown) or other similar object can then be inserted into cylinder **14** and locked into place by clamp **34**. Any forces applied transversely onto cylinder **14** are transmitted to decking members **68** and **70** by base **12** and to joist **74** by elongated hook member **28**. The distance separating base member **12** on deck members **68**/**70** and hook **32** on lower edge **76** of joist **74** ensures sufficient leverage so that only an enormously strong force on cylinder **14** could cause mount **10** to fail. The mount can be removed by simply engaging handle **22** to rotate cylinder **14** to disengage hook **32** off joist **74**, permitting the elongated hook member **28** to be removed from gap **72**.

This written description uses examples to disclose the invention, including the best mode, and also to enable any person skilled in the art to practice the invention, including making and using any devices or systems and performing any incorporated methods. The patentable scope of the invention is defined by the claims, and may include other examples that occur to those skilled in the art.

What is claimed is:

1. A patio support for securely supporting an object to a patio, the patio having a plurality of parallel deck members supported by a plurality of joist members transversely oriented relative to the deck members, the deck members being separated from each other by elongated gaps, the elongated gaps having a width, the joist members having a height defined by opposite upper and lower edges, the patio support comprising:

a base member having a first portion, the base member being flat and dimensioned to lay on top of two adjacent deck members and above the joist member supporting said two adjacent deck members, the base member dimensioned so as to span the elongated gap between the adjacent deck members and position the first portion directly above said elongated gap;

a mounting member mounted to a top portion of the base member, the mounting member configured to releasably mount to the object;

a hook member mounted to the base member such that the hook member depends downward from the first portion of the base member;

the hook member having a top end coupled to the base member, a lower end opposite the top end, opposite side edges and opposite side faces and a hook formed at the lower end;

the hook member having a length extending between the hook member's top and bottom ends;

the hook member having a thickness between the opposite side faces and a width between the opposite side edges, the thickness of the hook member being less than the width of the elongated gap and the width of the hook member being greater than the width of the elongated gap;

the length of the hook member being greater than the height of the joist members, the length of the hook member being further selected so as to position the hook below the lower edge of the joist;

the hook member being retractably mounted to the base member such that the hook at the bottom end of the hook member can be secured between a lowered position wherein the hook is positioned below the lower edge of the joist and a raised position wherein the hook securely engages the lower edge of the joist, the patio support being configured to lock the hook member in its raised position, and

wherein the hook member has a cylindrical threaded portion and a planar flat portion, the cylindrical threaded extending downward from the top end and the planar flat portion extending upward from the bottom end, the planar flat portion being dimensioned to fit within the gap separating the parallel deck members, the central portion of the base member having an opening for receiving the cylindrical threaded portion of the hook member, the patio support further comprising a threaded collar for locking the hook member in its raised position by threading onto the cylindrical threaded portion of the hook member.

2. The patio support of claim **1** wherein the mounting member comprises a cylindrical tube mounted to the first portion of the base member, the cylindrical tube having an adjustable clamp for securing the object to the cylindrical tube.

3. The patio support of claim **2** wherein the cylindrical tube, base member and cylindrical threaded portion are all coaxially aligned and wherein the threaded collar is formed within the cylindrical tube.

4. The patio support of claim **3** wherein the cylindrical tube has opposite first and second ends with a flange projecting transversely from said first end, the base member having a flat surface upon which the flange is set, a flat annular washer being coaxially aligned with the cylindrical tube and interposed between the flange and flat surface of the base member, base member and flange being made of a strong metal, the flat annular washer being made of a non-metal material configured to prevent metal on metal frictional contact between the flange and the flat surface of the base member.

5. The patio support of claim **4** wherein a pair of handles project transversely from the second end of the cylindrical tube.

6. The patio support of claim **5** wherein a tubular collar is coaxially formed on the first portion of the base member at a centre of the flat surface, the flat washer being concentric with the tubular collar, the tubular collar having a top edge, the first end of the cylindrical tube being coaxially and rotatably mounted to the tubular collar.

7. The patio support of claim **6** wherein the centre of the flat surface has a keyhole aperture dimensioned to permit the cylindrical threaded portion of the hook member and a segment of the planar flat portion adjacent the cylindrical threaded portion of the hook member to pass through, the keyhole aperture formed as a wider circular hole with narrower projecting slots extending there from.

8. The patio support of claim **6** further comprising a jam nut dimensioned to thread onto the cylindrical threaded portion of the hook member, the jam nut being dimensioned to fit within the tubular collar, the jam nut being further dimensioned to not pass through the keyhole aperture.

9. A patio support for securely supporting an object to a patio, the patio having a plurality of parallel deck members supported by a plurality of joist members perpendicularly oriented relative to the deck members, the deck members being separated from each other by elongated gaps, the elongated gaps having a width, the joist members having a height defined by opposite upper and lower edges, the patio support comprising:

a base member configured to rest on top of the deck members;

a mounting member mounted to a top portion of the base member, the mounting member configured to releasably mount to the object;

an elongated member having opposite top and bottom ends, the bottom end extending downward from the base member, a hook portion formed on the bottom end, the elongated member being sufficiently long such that the bottom end can extend below the lower edge of the joists, the elongated member being further dimensioned to pass through the elongated gaps;

the elongated member being movably mounted to the base member between a lowered position wherein the hook is positioned below the lower edge of the joists and a raised position wherein the hook securely engages the lower edge of the joists, the patio support being configured to lock the elongated member in its raised position;

wherein the elongated member has a thickness less than the width of the gaps, the elongated member also having a width greater than the width of the gaps;

wherein the patio support is adapted to bias the hook towards the base member when the elongated member is locked in its raised position thereby pressing the base member securely onto the deck members when the patio support is mounted to the patio, and

wherein the base member has a flat portion with an aperture formed thereon, the elongated member having a threaded portion extending from the top end, the threaded portion passing through the aperture, the patio support further comprising a threaded collar threaded onto the threaded portion with the flat portion of the base member interposed between the bottom end and the threaded collar, the threaded portion of the elongated member and the threaded collar configured such that rotating the threaded collar moves the elongated member between its lowered and raised positions.

10. The patio support member of claim **9** further comprising a cylindrical tube having opposite first and second ends, the first end being rotatably mounted to a tubular collar formed on the flat portion of the base member, the threaded collar being mounted within the cylindrical tube, the cylindrical tube, tubular collar, threaded collar, aperture and threaded portion of the elongated member all being coaxially aligned, the cylindrical tube being coupled to at least one handle for providing a mechanical advantage when rotating the cylindrical tube.

11. The patio support member of claim **10** wherein the cylindrical tube has a flat flange radiating from the first end, the flat flange being parallel with the flat portion of the base member, a washer concentrically interposed between the flat flange and the flat portion of the base member, the washer made of a nonmetallic material and is dimensioned and configured to prevent contact between the flat flange and the flat portion of the base member.

12. The patio support member of claim **10** wherein the threaded portion of the elongated member is cylindrical and wherein the elongated member further comprises a flat portion extending between the threaded portion of the elongated member and the lower end of the elongated member, the flat portion of the elongated member having a wider diameter than a diameter of the threaded portion of the elongated member, the aperture comprising an elongated slot having a central circular portion, the central circular portion of the aperture dimensioned to permit the threaded portion of the elongated member to pass there through, the elongated slot of the aperture dimensioned to permit the flat portion of the elongated member to pass there through.

13. The patio support member of claim **10** further comprising a jam nut threaded onto the threaded portion of the elongated member between the threaded collar and the flat

portion of the base member, the jam nut dimensioned to not pass through the aperture in the flat portion of the base member.

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