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|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| International application number:            | <b>PCT/CA2023/051057</b>                        |
| International filing date:                   | <b>08 August 2023 (08.08.2023)</b>              |
| Document type:                               | <b>Certified copy of priority document</b>      |
| Document details:                            | Country/Office: <b>US</b>                       |
|                                              | Number: <b>63/396,062</b>                       |
|                                              | Filing date: <b>08 August 2022 (08.08.2022)</b> |
| Date of receipt at the International Bureau: | <b>22 August 2023 (22.08.2023)</b>              |

Remark: Priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a),(b) or (b-bis)

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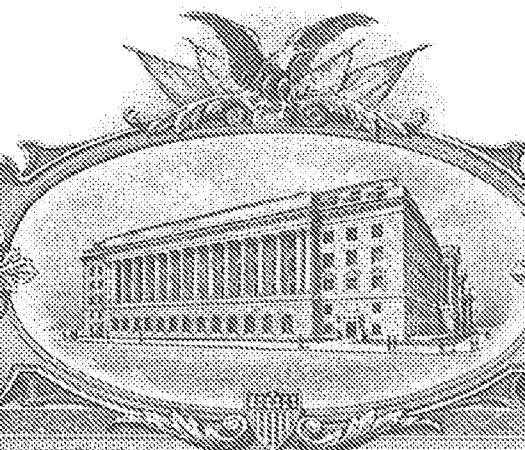
Application number: 63396062

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# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

*August 22, 2023*

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT ANNEXED HERETO IS A TRUE COPY FROM THE RECORDS OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE OF THOSE PAPERS OF THE BELOW IDENTIFIED PATENT APPLICATION THAT MET THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE GRANTED A FILING DATE UNDER 35 USC 111.**

**APPLICATION NUMBER: 63/396,062**  
**FILING DATE: *August 08, 2022***

**THE COUNTRY CODE AND NUMBER OF YOUR PRIORITY APPLICATION, TO BE USED FOR FILING ABROAD UNDER THE PARIS CONVENTION, IS *US63/396,062***



Certified by

*Kathi*

Under Secretary of Commerce  
for Intellectual Property  
and Director of the United States  
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                  |                        |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                  | Attorney Docket Number | 67540/00050 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                  | Application Number     |             |
| Title of Invention                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Retractable Roof |                        |             |
| The application data sheet is part of the provisional or nonprovisional application for which it is being submitted. The following form contains the bibliographic data arranged in a format specified by the United States Patent and Trademark Office as outlined in 37 CFR 1.76. This document may be completed electronically and submitted to the Office in electronic format using the Electronic Filing System (EFS) or the document may be printed and included in a paper filed application. |                  |                        |             |

**Secrecy Order 37 CFR 5.2:**

☐ Portions or all of the application associated with this Application Data Sheet may fall under a Secrecy Order pursuant to 37 CFR 5.2 (Paper filers only. Applications that fall under Secrecy Order may not be filed electronically.)

**Inventor Information:**

|                                    |                       |                                   |             |                                                            |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Inventor                           | 1                     | <a href="#">Remove</a>            |             |                                                            |
| Legal Name                         |                       |                                   |             |                                                            |
| Prefix                             | Given Name            | Middle Name                       | Family Name | Suffix                                                     |
|                                    | Richard               |                                   | VOLLEBREGT  |                                                            |
| Residence Information (Select One) |                       |                                   |             | US Residency • Non US Residency Active US Military Service |
| City                               | Brantford             | Country of Residence <sup>i</sup> | CA          |                                                            |
| Mailing Address of Inventor:       |                       |                                   |             |                                                            |
| Address 1                          | 4 Kerr Shaver Terrace |                                   |             |                                                            |
| Address 2                          |                       |                                   |             |                                                            |
| City                               | Brantford             | State/Province                    | ON          |                                                            |
| Postal Code                        | N3T 6H7               | Country <sup>i</sup>              | CA          |                                                            |
| Inventor                           | 2                     | <a href="#">Remove</a>            |             |                                                            |
| Legal Name                         |                       |                                   |             |                                                            |
| Prefix                             | Given Name            | Middle Name                       | Family Name | Suffix                                                     |
|                                    | Wayne                 |                                   | LICKERS     |                                                            |
| Residence Information (Select One) |                       |                                   |             | US Residency ● Non US Residency Active US Military Service |
| City                               | Brantford             | Country of Residence <sup>i</sup> | CA          |                                                            |
| Mailing Address of Inventor:       |                       |                                   |             |                                                            |
| Address 1                          | 63 Varadi Ave.        |                                   |             |                                                            |
| Address 2                          |                       |                                   |             |                                                            |
| City                               |                       | State/Province                    | ON          |                                                            |
| Postal Code                        | N3R 3N2               | Country <sup>i</sup>              | CA          |                                                            |
| Inventor                           | 3                     | <a href="#">Remove</a>            |             |                                                            |
| Legal Name                         |                       |                                   |             |                                                            |

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| <b>Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76</b> |                  | Attorney Docket Number | 67540/00050 |
|                                           |                  | Application Number     |             |
| Title of Invention                        | Retractable Roof |                        |             |

|                                                                                                                                        |            |                                   |             |        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| Prefix                                                                                                                                 | Given Name | Middle Name                       | Family Name | Suffix |
|                                                                                                                                        | Shane      | William                           | LEWIS       |        |
| <b>Residence Information (Select One)</b> US Residency <input checked="" type="radio"/> Non US Residency    Active US Military Service |            |                                   |             |        |
| City                                                                                                                                   | Cambridge  | Country of Residence <sup>i</sup> | CA          |        |

**Mailing Address of Inventor:**

|                   |                 |                        |    |  |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----|--|
| Address 1         | 67 Kenmore Ave. |                        |    |  |
| Address 2         |                 |                        |    |  |
| City              | Cambridge       | State/Province         | ON |  |
| Postal Code       | N1S 3H4         | Country <sup>i</sup>   | CA |  |
| Inventor          | 4               | <a href="#">Remove</a> |    |  |
| <b>Legal Name</b> |                 |                        |    |  |

|                                                                                                                                        |            |                                   |             |        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| Prefix                                                                                                                                 | Given Name | Middle Name                       | Family Name | Suffix |
|                                                                                                                                        | Jeff       |                                   | DRABBLE     |        |
| <b>Residence Information (Select One)</b> US Residency <input checked="" type="radio"/> Non US Residency    Active US Military Service |            |                                   |             |        |
| City                                                                                                                                   | Brantford  | Country of Residence <sup>i</sup> | CA          |        |

**Mailing Address of Inventor:**

|                   |                   |                        |    |  |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|----|--|
| Address 1         | 4 Kings Hill Lane |                        |    |  |
| Address 2         |                   |                        |    |  |
| City              | Brantford         | State/Province         | ON |  |
| Postal Code       | N3T 6A4           | Country <sup>i</sup>   | CA |  |
| Inventor          | 5                 | <a href="#">Remove</a> |    |  |
| <b>Legal Name</b> |                   |                        |    |  |

|                                                                                                                                        |            |                                   |             |        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| Prefix                                                                                                                                 | Given Name | Middle Name                       | Family Name | Suffix |
|                                                                                                                                        | Graham     |                                   | MCDONALD    |        |
| <b>Residence Information (Select One)</b> US Residency <input checked="" type="radio"/> Non US Residency    Active US Military Service |            |                                   |             |        |
| City                                                                                                                                   | Brantford  | Country of Residence <sup>i</sup> | CA          |        |

**Mailing Address of Inventor:**

|             |               |                      |    |  |
|-------------|---------------|----------------------|----|--|
| Address 1   | 2 Admiral Rd. |                      |    |  |
| Address 2   |               |                      |    |  |
| City        | Brantford     | State/Province       | ON |  |
| Postal Code | N3R 1L4       | Country <sup>i</sup> | CA |  |

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| <b>Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76</b> |                  | Attorney Docket Number | 67540/00050 |
|                                           |                  | Application Number     |             |
| Title of Invention                        | Retractable Roof |                        |             |

All Inventors Must Be Listed - Additional Inventor Information blocks may be generated within this form by selecting the **Add** button.

[Add](#)

## Correspondence Information:

Enter either Customer Number or complete the Correspondence Information section below.  
For further information see 37 CFR 1.33(a).

☐ An Address is being provided for the correspondence information of this application.

|                 |                    |                           |                              |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Customer Number | 27871              |                           |                              |
| Email Address   | epatent@blakes.com | <a href="#">Add Email</a> | <a href="#">Remove Email</a> |

## Application Information:

|                                         |                  |                                                                 |  |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Title of the Invention                  | Retractable Roof |                                                                 |  |
| Attorney Docket Number                  | 67540/00050      | Small Entity Status Claimed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
| Application Type                        | Provisional      |                                                                 |  |
| Subject Matter                          | Utility          |                                                                 |  |
| Total Number of Drawing Sheets (if any) | 17               | Suggested Figure for Publication (if any)                       |  |

## Filing By Reference:

Only complete this section when filing an application by reference under 35 U.S.C. 111(c) and 37 CFR 1.57(a). Do not complete this section if application papers including a specification and any drawings are being filed. Any domestic benefit or foreign priority information must be provided in the appropriate section(s) below (i.e., "Domestic Benefit/National Stage Information" and "Foreign Priority Information").

For the purposes of a filing date under 37 CFR 1.53(b), the description and any drawings of the present application are replaced by this reference to the previously filed application, subject to conditions and requirements of 37 CFR 1.57(a).

|                                                        |                          |                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Application number of the previously filed application | Filing date (YYYY-MM-DD) | Intellectual Property Authority or Country |
|                                                        |                          |                                            |

## Publication Information:

☐ Request Early Publication (Fee required at time of Request 37 CFR 1.219)

☐ **Request Not to Publish.** I hereby request that the attached application not be published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b) and certify that the invention disclosed in the attached application **has not and will not be** the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication at eighteen months after filing.

## Representative Information:

Representative information should be provided for all practitioners having a power of attorney in the application. Providing this information in the Application Data Sheet does not constitute a power of attorney in the application (see 37 CFR 1.32). Either enter Customer Number or complete the Representative Name section below. If both sections are completed the customer Number will be used for the Representative Information during processing.

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| <b>Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76</b> |                                                  | Attorney Docket Number | 67540/00050                                             |
|                                           |                                                  | Application Number     |                                                         |
| Title of Invention                        | Retractable Roof                                 |                        |                                                         |
|                                           |                                                  |                        |                                                         |
| Please Select One:                        | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Customer Number | US Patent Practitioner | <input type="radio"/> Limited Recognition (37 CFR 11.9) |
| Customer Number                           | 27871                                            |                        |                                                         |

### Domestic Benefit/National Stage Information:

This section allows for the applicant to either claim benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121, 365(c), or 386(c) or indicate National Stage entry from a PCT application. Providing benefit claim information in the Application Data Sheet constitutes the specific reference required by 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or 120, and 37 CFR 1.78.

When referring to the current application, please leave the "Application Number" field blank.

|                                                                                                                       |                      |                                       |                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Prior Application Status                                                                                              | <input type="text"/> | <input type="button" value="Remove"/> |                                    |
| Application Number                                                                                                    | Continuity Type      | Prior Application Number              | Filing or 371(c) Date (YYYY-MM-DD) |
| <input type="text"/>                                                                                                  | <input type="text"/> |                                       |                                    |
| Additional Domestic Benefit/National Stage Data may be generated within this form by selecting the <b>Add</b> button. |                      |                                       |                                    |

### Foreign Priority Information:

This section allows for the applicant to claim priority to a foreign application. Providing this information in the application data sheet constitutes the claim for priority as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b) and 37 CFR 1.55. When priority is claimed to a foreign application that is eligible for retrieval under the priority document exchange program (PDX)<sup>i</sup> the information will be used by the Office to automatically attempt retrieval pursuant to 37 CFR 1.55(i)(1) and (2). Under the PDX program, applicant bears the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that a copy of the foreign application is received by the Office from the participating foreign intellectual property office, or a certified copy of the foreign priority application is filed, within the time period specified in 37 CFR 1.55(g)(1).

|                                                                                                        |                      |                          |                                          |                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Application Number                                                                                     | Country <sup>i</sup> | Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD) | Access Code <sup>j</sup> (if applicable) | <input type="button" value="Remove"/> |
| <input type="text"/>                                                                                   | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/>     |                                          |                                       |
| Additional Foreign Priority Data may be generated within this form by selecting the <b>Add</b> button. |                      |                          |                                          |                                       |

### Statement under 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78 for AIA (First Inventor to File) Transition Applications

- ☐ This application (1) claims priority to or the benefit of an application filed before March 16, 2013 and (2) also contains, or contained at any time, a claim to a claimed invention that has an effective filing date on or after March 16, 2013.
- NOTE: By providing this statement under 37 CFR 1.55 or 1.78, this application, with a filing date on or after March 16, 2013, will be examined under the first inventor to file provisions of the AIA.

|                                           |                  |                        |             |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76</b> |                  | Attorney Docket Number | 67540/00050 |
|                                           |                  | Application Number     |             |
| Title of Invention                        | Retractable Roof |                        |             |

## Authorization or Opt-Out of Authorization to Permit Access:

When this Application Data Sheet is properly signed and filed with the application, applicant has provided written authority to permit a participating foreign intellectual property (IP) office access to the instant application-as-filed (see paragraph A in subsection 1 below) and the European Patent Office (EPO) access to any search results from the instant application (see paragraph B in subsection 1 below).

Should applicant choose not to provide an authorization identified in subsection 1 below, applicant **must opt-out** of the authorization by checking the corresponding box A or B or both in subsection 2 below.

**NOTE:** This section of the Application Data Sheet is **ONLY** reviewed and processed with the **INITIAL** filing of an application. After the initial filing of an application, an Application Data Sheet cannot be used to provide or rescind authorization for access by a foreign IP office(s). Instead, Form PTO/SB/39 or PTO/SB/69 must be used as appropriate.

### 1. Authorization to Permit Access by a Foreign Intellectual Property Office(s)

**A. Priority Document Exchange (PDX)** - Unless box A in subsection 2 (opt-out of authorization) is checked, the undersigned hereby **grants the USPTO authority** to provide the European Patent Office (EPO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (SIPO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and any other foreign intellectual property office participating with the USPTO in a bilateral or multilateral priority document exchange agreement in which a foreign application claiming priority to the instant patent application is filed, access to: (1) the instant patent application-as-filed and its related bibliographic data, (2) any foreign or domestic application to which priority or benefit is claimed by the instant application and its related bibliographic data, and (3) the date of filing of this Authorization. See 37 CFR 1.14(h)(1).

**B. Search Results from U.S. Application to EPO** - Unless box B in subsection 2 (opt-out of authorization) is checked, the undersigned hereby **grants the USPTO authority** to provide the EPO access to the bibliographic data and search results from the instant patent application when a European patent application claiming priority to the instant patent application is filed. See 37 CFR 1.14(h)(2).

The applicant is reminded that the EPO's Rule 141(1) EPC (European Patent Convention) requires applicants to submit a copy of search results from the instant application without delay in a European patent application that claims priority to the instant application.

### 2. Opt-Out of Authorizations to Permit Access by a Foreign Intellectual Property Office(s)

☐ A. Applicant **DOES NOT** authorize the USPTO to permit a participating foreign IP office access to the instant application-as-filed. If this box is checked, the USPTO will not be providing a participating foreign IP office with any documents and information identified in subsection 1A above.

☐ B. Applicant **DOES NOT** authorize the USPTO to transmit to the EPO any search results from the instant patent application. If this box is checked, the USPTO will not be providing the EPO with search results from the instant application.

**NOTE:** Once the application has published or is otherwise publicly available, the USPTO may provide access to the application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.14.

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| <b>Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76</b> |                  | Attorney Docket Number | 67540/00050 |
|                                           |                  | Application Number     |             |
| Title of Invention                        | Retractable Roof |                        |             |

## Applicant Information:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                          |                                                  |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Providing assignment information in this section does not substitute for compliance with any requirement of part 3 of Title 37 of CFR to have an assignment recorded by the Office.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                          |                                                  |                |
| <b>Applicant</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                          | 1 <span>Remove</span>                            |                |
| If the applicant is the inventor (or the remaining joint inventor or inventors under 37 CFR 1.45), this section should not be completed. The information to be provided in this section is the name and address of the legal representative who is the applicant under 37 CFR 1.43; or the name and address of the assignee, person to whom the inventor is under an obligation to assign the invention, or person who otherwise shows sufficient proprietary interest in the matter who is the applicant under 37 CFR 1.46. If the applicant is an applicant under 37 CFR 1.46 (assignee, person to whom the inventor is obligated to assign, or person who otherwise shows sufficient proprietary interest) together with one or more joint inventors, then the joint inventor or inventors who are also the applicant should be identified in this section. <span>Clear</span> |                                          |                                                  |                |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Assignee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Legal Representative under 35 U.S.C. 117 |                                                  | Joint Inventor |
| Person to whom the inventor is obligated to assign.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                          | Person who shows sufficient proprietary interest |                |
| If applicant is the legal representative, indicate the authority to file the patent application, the inventor is:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                          |                                                  |                |
| <div></div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                          |                                                  |                |
| Name of the Deceased or Legally Incapacitated Inventor: <div></div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                          |                                                  |                |
| If the Applicant is an Organization check here. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                          |                                                  |                |
| Organization Name                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Volco Inc.                               |                                                  |                |
| <b>Mailing Address Information For Applicant:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                          |                                                  |                |
| Address 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 30 White Swan Road                       |                                                  |                |
| Address 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                          |                                                  |                |
| City                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Brantford                                | State/Province                                   | ON             |
| Country                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | CA                                       | Postal Code                                      | N3T 5L4        |
| Phone Number                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                          | Fax Number                                       |                |
| Email Address                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                          |                                                  |                |
| Additional Applicant Data may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button. <span>Add</span>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                          |                                                  |                |

## Assignee Information including Non-Applicant Assignee Information:

Providing assignment information in this section does not substitute for compliance with any requirement of part 3 of Title 37 of CFR to have an assignment recorded by the Office.

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| <b>Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76</b> |                  | Attorney Docket Number | 67540/00050 |
|                                           |                  | Application Number     |             |
| Title of Invention                        | Retractable Roof |                        |             |

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Assignee</b> | <b>1</b> |
|-----------------|----------|

Complete this section if assignee information, including non-applicant assignee information, is desired to be included on the patent application publication. An assignee-applicant identified in the "Applicant Information" section will appear on the patent application publication as an applicant. For an assignee-applicant, complete this section only if identification as an assignee is also desired on the patent application publication.

[Remove](#)If the Assignee or Non-Applicant Assignee is an Organization check here. ☐

|        |            |             |             |        |
|--------|------------|-------------|-------------|--------|
| Prefix | Given Name | Middle Name | Family Name | Suffix |
|        |            |             |             |        |

**Mailing Address Information For Assignee including Non-Applicant Assignee:**

|               |  |                |  |  |
|---------------|--|----------------|--|--|
| Address 1     |  |                |  |  |
| Address 2     |  |                |  |  |
| City          |  | State/Province |  |  |
| Country i     |  | Postal Code    |  |  |
| Phone Number  |  | Fax Number     |  |  |
| Email Address |  |                |  |  |

Additional Assignee or Non-Applicant Assignee Data may be generated within this form by selecting the Add button.

[Add](#)**Signature:**[Remove](#)

**NOTE:** This Application Data Sheet must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33(b). However, if this Application Data Sheet is submitted with the **INITIAL** filing of the application and either box A or B is not checked in subsection 2 of the "Authorization or Opt-Out of Authorization to Permit Access" section, then this form must also be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.14(c).

This Application Data Sheet **must** be signed by a patent practitioner if one or more of the applicants is a **juristic entity** (e.g., corporation or association). If the applicant is two or more joint inventors, this form must be signed by a patent practitioner, **all** joint inventors who are the applicant, or one or more joint inventor-applicants who have been given power of attorney (e.g., see USPTO Form PTO/AIA/81) on behalf of **all** joint inventor-applicants.

See 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the manner of making signatures and certifications.

|            |                    |           |                   |                     |        |
|------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Signature  | /Laurie C. Wright/ |           | Date (YYYY-MM-DD) | 2022-08-08          |        |
| First Name | Laurie C.          | Last Name | WRIGHT            | Registration Number | 74,698 |

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| <b>Application Data Sheet 37 CFR 1.76</b> |                  | Attorney Docket Number | 67540/00050 |
|                                           |                  | Application Number     |             |
| Title of Invention                        | Retractable Roof |                        |             |

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## **RETRACTABLE ROOF**

### **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

**[0001]** The present invention relates to a retractable roof.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART**

**[0002]** Retractable roofs are used in a variety of applications, such as sport stadiums, storage facilities and for protection of crops as they grow. The ability to cover and uncover an area enables the ambient conditions beneath the roof to be adjusted and mitigate adverse effects of the environment, such as excessive heat or rain. This is particularly important in horticultural applications where an unexpected weather event can cause serious damage or loss of a crop.

**[0003]** Conventionally, crop protection has been provided by glasshouses which are large permanent structures. They are therefore expensive to build and maintain.

**[0004]** An alternative type of structure is that exemplified in U.S. patent 5,265,373 issued to Richard Vollebregt in which crop protection is provided by curtains that can be extended and retracted along support wires to adjust the protection afforded to the crop.

**[0005]** U.S. patent 5,513,470 to Richard Vollebregt shows a crop protection structure in which gables provide support for a ridged curtain system that emulates a conventional greenhouse structure. The gables support curtains that extend across the peaks and through the valleys. The curtains can be extended or retracted by a driven cable to vary the protection provided. The cables are connected to a drive system that includes a rotating shaft that extends along the gable to provide multiple locations to which cables can be connected to the curtains. Because of the pitched nature of the roof the drive shafts incorporate universal couplings and more than one drive shaft may be used along the length of the structure. The substantial nature of the gables provides a durable and versatile structure but the complexity of the drive system is relatively expensive and complicated to install. The cost is justified where intensive horticultural practices are concerned with multiple high value crops per growing season.

**[0006]** In order to reduce the overall cost of installation an alternative support structure is shown in U.S. patent 9,163,401 to Richard Vollebregt where posts and tensioned cables are utilised to provide the gables. This allows the structure to be installed on land that is not level and significantly reduces the cost of materials whilst maintaining the versatility. However, for certain applications, the high cost still cannot be justified.

**[0007]** For example, crops like cherries and grapes need to be grown outside since they need cold temperatures in the winter time and need exposure to the natural outdoors to create firm, sweet fruit. They need protection from rain primarily during the last several weeks just prior to harvest to prevent splitting of fruit and maintain the quality to attain the highest available price. Automatic retractable roof systems such as those discussed above can protect plants from cold, heat, wind, rain, hail and are cost effective on crops like berries and vegetables which need protection from rain 12 months per year. However a retractable roof system like those described above is cost prohibitive for crops that only have one harvest of fruit per year (i.e. cherries, grapes) since the value of the crop per hectare is much lower than crops that have multiple harvests over many months. The value of the rain shedding capabilities only starts in year 3 when cherry trees start to produce fruit

**[0008]** Where permanent retractable systems cannot be justified seasonally installed protective coverings may be utilised. Such coverings are manually installed early in the season and are used to advance flowers, protect from frost, wind, sunburn, rain prior to harvest. The covering must be in tension (taut) to minimize flapping since movement of the covering causes failure due to fatigue. It also takes significant manpower to install and remove

**[0009]** Whilst the seasonal covering may provide for protection from extreme weather events over the growing season, the covering changes the climate also in negative ways compared to a natural environment resulting in softer fruit that is less sweet and has a shorter shelf life. The openings between the lower edges of the curtains allow for continual air exchange between the areas below and above the covering which prevents protection from cold air temperatures. Openings between the coverings mean that the covering cannot be used to raise temperatures like a greenhouse or trap supplemental heat to accelerate the spring flowering.

**[0010]** Movable rain coverings intended to protect crops during the critical period prior to harvest rather than protection over the whole growing season have been proposed where the coverings are slidably supported on guide wires and can be deployed selectively depending on weather conditions. Some proposals require manual deployment using long sticks or ropes but this is time consuming and can result in crops not being protected in time before adverse weather resulting in damage to the covering or to the fruit.

**[0011]** Rain coverings have also been proposed that are moved with a drive system can could be powered by a motor or gearbox or portable drill. The major advantage of a powered system is that the coverings can be closed quickly when rain or hail is approaching to prevent damage to the fruit.

**[0012]** To be able to move the covering with minimal power, the covering must be loose so that there is minimal friction between the plastic hooks that connect the covering to the supporting wires or cables. However, loose fabric will flap in the wind causing fatigue to the covering over time and therefore a shorter life.

**[0013]** To move a covering, an economical way is to have a drive cable at the peak and drag the rain cover panel closed. This causes the lower edge to drag behind which then necessitates that the covering needs to be flexible so that it can easily pleat. This is accomplished by not installing any additional reinforcing or stiffening at the grommet location.

**[0014]** The peak of the covering is powered but the lower edge is not powered causing the covering at the valley to lag behind the peak position. This causes sections of the roof to not be completely closed which allows rain to enter causing damage to the fruit. In order to ensure a proper closing and retracting of the rain cover it is necessary to power the covering both at the upper and lower edges of the covering. To do that, a drive shaft would need to have universal joints to allow it to follow the profile of the roof so that one motor can power multiple coverings which adds to the cost and complexity for installation and maintenance.

**[0015]** One covering system marketed by Valenti under the trade name Wayki (<https://valentepali.com/en/orchard/orchard-coverings/antirain/multishield/wayki>) uses a drive cable at the peak to move panels of the rain cover sequentially. A hook engages the rain cover panel at the peak as it passes a support and releases it as it gets to the next support. This system has the advantage of being a simple system however it still requires the lower edges to slide freely along the wire and because it releases the panel as it moves along, it does not keep the covering in a fixed position. A strong wind can blow a closed cover open or an open cover closed.

**[0016]** It is an object of the present invention to provide a retractable roof in which the above disadvantages may be obviated or mitigated.

## **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

**[0017]** According to one aspect of the invention there is provided a retractable roof structure having a pair of longitudinally spaced supports, guide wires extending between said supports and positioned to support a covering in a required profile, said covering comprising a plurality of sections arranged in series along the guide wires with each section slidably supported on the guide wires so as to be moveable between an open position in which the area beneath the covering is exposed and a closed position in which the area beneath the covering is covered, a

drive member extending between the supports and operably connected to one end of each of the sections at a first location to move the one end along the guide wires, and a first tensile member extending from the first location at the one end of one section to the one end of another section and connected to the one end of the other section at a second location spaced from the first location on the other section, whereby movement of the one location of one section is transferred through the tensile member to the second location of the other section to cause a corresponding movement.

**[0018]** Preferably each of said locations is adjacent a respective one of the guide wires.

**[0019]** As a further preference, a second tensile member extends from the first location on the other section to a second location on the one end of the one section.

**[0020]** Still further, the required profile is a ridged profile having an elevated peak extending outwardly and downwardly to a pair of eaves and the guide wires are located at the peak and at the eaves to constrain the covering to the required profile.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

**[0021]** Embodiments of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

**[0022]** FIG 1 is a perspective view of a retractable roof structure showing a covering in an open position;

**[0023]** FIG 2 is a perspective view similar to figure 1 showing a covering in a closed position;

**[0024]** FIG 3 is a view on the line III-III of FIG 2

**[0025]** FIG 4 is a rear perspective of a drive system used on the roof structure of FIG 1;

**[0026]** FIG 5 is a top perspective view of an opposite end of the roof structure of FIG 1 to that shown in FIG 4;

**[0027]** FIG 6 is a view similar to FIG 5 of an intermediate portion of the roof structure of FIG 1;

**[0028]** FIG 7 is an enlarged perspective view of the connection of the covering to the drive system;

**[0029]** FIG 8 is a perspective view showing the connection of the covering to guide wires at the eaves of the covering;

**[0030]** FIG 9 is a rear perspective view showing the covering in a deployed, closed position adjacent the drive system;

**[0031]** FIG 10 is a view similar to FIG 9 showing the covering in a retracted, open position;

**[0032]** FIG. 11 is a view similar to that of FIG. 9 at the opposite end of the roof structure;

**[0033]** FIG. 12 is a view similar to FIG. 10 at the opposite end of the roof structure;

**[0034]** FIG. 13 is a plan view of the roof structure of FIG. 1 showing operation in moving to the deployed, closed position;

**[0035]** FIG. 14 is a plan view of the roof structure of FIG. 1 showing operation in moving to the deployed, closed position;

**[0036]** FIG. 15 is a schematic representation of a cable run shown in FIG. 14

**[0037]** FIG 16 is an enlarged sectional view of an edge of one of the covering; and

**[0038]** FIG. 17 is a view similar to FIG. 2 of an alternative embodiment.

**[0039]** Referring firstly to Fig. 1, a retractable roof structure generally indicated as 10 is used to protect crops C. The crops C are arranged in rows R, typically oriented north to south for optimum exposure to sun and the roof structure 10 is dimensioned to extend over a row R of the crop C. The crop C may be a ground crop, such as strawberries, a vine crop such as grapes or a tree crop such as cherries and the roof structure 10 will be dimensioned accordingly. Multiple rows R may be arranged side by side with a roof structure 10 protecting each row R. For clarity the roof structure 10 associated with only one of the rows R will be described but it will be appreciated that where there are multiple rows the support structures and drive system may be shared between the rows.

**[0040]** The roof structure 10 comprises support structures 11 positioned at regular intervals along the row R. A spacing of 4 metres is typical but different spacing may be used depending on the particular site and application. The support structure 11 includes 3 laterally spaced posts 12 with cross members 13 connecting the upper end of the posts 12. A lateral wire 14 is positioned below the top of the posts 12 and extends horizontally between the posts 12 of each support structure 11. Where multiple rows R are to be protected the wires 14 may extend across the whole of the growing area. The height of the wire 14 will depend on the crop C but a height of 3.5 metres is typical.

**[0041]** Where a single row R is to be protected, the wire 14 may be replaced by a rigid arm, the post 12 to define the lateral extent of the roof structure 10. Again, this will depend on the

crop C but an overall length of the arm of 3 metres is typical, 1.5 metres to each side of the post 12 with the arm 3.5 metres above the ground. Tie wires and cross bracing may also be used to stabilise the posts 12 but these have been omitted for clarity as they are well known structural requirements that are customised for each particular application.

**[0042]** A ridge guide wire 16 extends between the upper ends of the central post 12 and is connected to each of the posts 12 as will be described in greater detail below. Eave guide wires 18 extend between the wires 14 and are connected to wires 14 at the lateral extent of the row R, typically 1.5 metres to either side of the central post 12. The guide wires 16, 18 are used to support a covering 20 in the required profile, which in this case is a ridged profile having a peak 22 and eaves 24 as best seen in FIG. 3.

**[0043]** The covering 20 is formed in individual sections 26 arranged in seriatim along the row R to provide a leading section 26a at one end of the row R, a trailing section 26b at the opposite end of the row R and intermediate sections 26c between the leading and trailing section 26a, 26b. Each section 26 is dimensioned to extend between adjacent support structures 11 and, as shown in figures 7 to 9, is preferably made from a pair of panels 28. Each of the panels 28 extends from a respective one of the eave guide wires 18 to the ridge guide wire 16. The panels 28 are connected to the guide wires 16, 18 by elastic bands 29 ( FIG 8) and releasable hooks 30. The hooks 30 provide a loose sliding connection on the guide wires 16, 18 and allow relative sliding movement between the panels 28 and the guide wires 16, 18. The hooks 30 are well known in the art, such as those shown in US patent 5,761,776, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference, and need not be described further at this time.

**[0044]** Each of the panels 28 has a leading edge 32 that extends from an upper corner of the panel 28 adjacent the ridge wire 16 to a lower corner of the panel adjacent the eave wire 18. A trailing edge 34 of the panel 26 is secured to a shelf 35 (FIG 6) secured to the post 12 and to the lateral wire 14 adjacent to the eave guide wire 18 and so is fixed relative to the guidewires 16, 18. The leading edge 32 is free to slide along the guidewires 16, 18 from a retracted or open position as shown in FIG. 1 to an extended or closed position as shown in FIG. 2. Longitudinal edges 36 extend between the leading and trailing edge 32, 34 parallel to the guide wires 16, 18.

**[0045]** As can best be seen in FIG. 8 and FIG. 16, the edges 32, 34, and the longitudinal edge 36 adjacent to the eave guide wire 18 of the panels 28 are folded over and reinforced by a rope 38 which is heat sealed between the overlapping layers of the panels 28 to form a Keder strip 40. Grommets 42 are installed in the Keder strip 40 to receive the hooks 30 which also pass around the respective one of the wires 16, 18.

**[0046]** The upper longitudinal edge 36 is not reinforced with a rope but has grommets 42 to receive the bands 29 and hooks 30 secure the bands 29 to the ridge wire 16. The upper edge 36 is thus more flexible than the lower edge 36 and pleats more easily in the retracted position. In this manner the motive force required to open or close the cover is reduced whilst the wear resistance at the eaves is maintained.

**[0047]** A drive system, collectively indicated by reference numeral 50 and shown in FIG. 4, is mounted to the posts 12 at one end of the row R to move the covering 20. The drive system 50 includes power source, typically an electric motor 52 which drives a horizontal shaft 54. The shaft 54 is supported for rotation on the post 12 and may extend between multiple rows R so that one motor 52 can move the covering 20 on a number of rows simultaneously. Alternatively, an individual motor 52 can be used for each row R or the motor 52 may be portable, such as an electric screwdriver, and can be moved from one row to the other. In some circumstances the motor 52 may be a manually operated chain drive that operates through a reduction gear box to rotate the shaft 54.

**[0048]** A drive cable 60 extends from the shaft 54 to a post 12 at the opposite end of the row R, around a pulley 62 secured to the post 12 and back to the shaft 54. The drive cable 60 provides a driving run 64 and a return run 66 which are generally parallel to but spaced from the ridge guide wire 16. The opposite ends of the drive cable 60 are wound in opposite directions about the shaft 54 so that as the shaft 54 rotates, the driving run 64 and return run 66 move in opposite directions but remain a constant length.

**[0049]** As shown in FIG 6, the ridge guide wire 16 and drive cable 60 are offset from the posts 12 and the ridge wire 16 is secured to the shelf 35 by a cable clamp 76 with upper and lower jaws 78, 80 bolted to the shelf 35. The ridge guide wire 16 passes between the jaws 70, 80 which are tightened to hold the ridge guide wire 16 to the post 12.

**[0050]** The leading edge 32 of each panel 28 is connected to the driving run 64 by the bracket 90 shown in Fig 7. The bracket 90 comprises a vertical plate 92 which has a pair of flanges 94 extending outwardly from the lower edge. The flanges 94 diverge at an angle corresponding the desired profile of the cover 20 and have holes 96 along their length with a spacing corresponding to the spacing of the grommets 42. Fastenings 98, which may be bolts or hooks 30, are used to secure the upper corner at the leading edge of the panel 28 to the flange 94.

**[0051]** The bracket 90 has a pair of cable clamping blocks 100 mounted on the face of the plate 92 with a V-shaped notch 102 to receive the driving run 64 of the cable 60. The blocks 100 clamp the driving run 64 against the plate 92 to fix the bracket 90 securely to the cable 60.

**[0052]** A tab 104 is bolted to the plate 92 to receive the body of a clip 106. The clip 106 is similar to the hooks 30 having a peripheral body 108 and an open centre 110. One side of the body 108 and can be opened to allow the ridge guide wire 16 to pass into the centre 110 and be encompassed by clip 106. The clip 106 is of known construction, such as that shown in US patent 5,761,776, and need not be described further. The bracket 90 is thus supported on the ridge wire 16 by the clip 106 for sliding movement along the ridge wire 16 and connected to the driving run 64 of the drive cable 62 for movement with it. A wire loop 112 is mounted to the top of the bracket 90 to maintain the return run 66 in proper spaced relationship to the driving run 64.

**[0053]** Operation of the drive system 50 causes rotation of the shaft 54 and moves the driving run 64 relative to the ridge guide wire 16. The bracket 90 associated with each section 26 of the covering 20 moves along the ridge guide wire 16 and pulls each of the leading edges 32 of the panels 28. Each of the panels 28 will thus deploy from a retracted to an extended condition as shown in Fig 1 and 2 respectively, and, upon reversal of the motor 52 move in the opposite direction. However, as discussed above, the lower corners of the leading edge 32 which are supported on the eave guide wires 18 may not slide freely and thus inhibit the deployment or retraction of the panels 28.

**[0054]** To mitigate this, a pair of tensile members 120 are attached at a first location adjacent to the bracket 90 of each of the sections 26. The tensile members 120 are conveniently a 2.2mm polyester monofilament wire that is relatively light, smooth and flexible that will not abrade the panels 28. Alternatively, the tensile members may be rope, cables or wires or even rigid rods if preferred.

**[0055]** The tensile members 120 pass along the outer surface of a respective panel 28 and the opposite end 121 is connected to the leading edge 32 of the adjacent trailing section 26 at a second location. Conveniently, the second location is adjacent to the eave guide wire 18 so the lower corner of each of the panels 28 is connected by a tensile member 120 to the peak of the leading edge of the preceding section 26. As the bracket 90 is moved by the driving run 64, the movement is transferred through each of the tensile members 120 to the lower corner of the following section to pull it along the eave guide wire 18. In this way the friction between the hooks 30 and the eave guide wire at the leading edge is overcome.

**[0056]** To provide for a similar effect when the covering is being moved in the opposite direction, i.e. to the retracted position in the example above, a second pair of tensile members 122 are connected from the bracket 90 of the trailing section to the lower corners of the leading edge 32 of the preceding section 28.

**[0057]** Thus movement of the bracket 90 of one section 26 in either direction by the driving run 64 of cable 62 is transferred through the tensile members 120, 122 to the lower corners at the panels 28 of another section 26 to promote sliding of the panels on the eave wires 18.

**[0058]** The leading edge 32 of the leading section 26a, that is the section closest to the drive shaft 54, cannot be connected to a preceding section. To assist in moving the leading section along the eave guide wires 18, an additional tensile member 124 is connected to each lower corner of the leading edges 32 of section 26a as shown most clearly in FIGs 9, 10 and 15. To effect a direction reversal, the additional tensile member 124 passes forwardly to a pulley 126 on the transverse wire 14 and upwardly to pulleys 128, 130 located on the cross member 13. The pulley 130 directs the tensile member 124 over the drive shaft 54 and rearwardly. The opposite end 125 of the tensile member 124 is connected to the return run 66 of the drive cable 62.

**[0059]** With the drive system 50 operating to move the covering 20 from a retracted condition of figure 1 to the deployed condition of Fig 2, the driving run 64 will cause the bracket 90 of the leading section 26a to move toward the drive shaft 54. At the same time, the return run 66 will move away from the drive shaft 54, i.e. in the opposite direction to the bracket 90. The movement will be transferred through the additional tensile members 124 and pull the leading edge 32 of the leading section 26a along the guide wire 18. When the movement is reversed, the tensile members 122 from the adjacent intermediate section 26c act on the lower corners of the leading edge of the section 26a to pull it to a retracted position.

**[0060]** A similar arrangement is provided at the trailing section 26b as shown in FIGs 11 and 12. Further tensile members 126 are connected to the lower corners of the leading edge 32 of the trailing section 26c and pass rearwardly through pulley 132 on the wire 14 and upwardly through pulleys 134, 136 on cross member 13 to be connected to the return run 66. In this case, the tensile members 122 from the adjacent intermediate section 26c pull the leading edge to the deployed condition with the rearward movement of the return run 66 permitting the further tensile members 126 to follow the movement. When the covering 20 is retracted, the forward movement of the return run 66 acts through the tensile members 126 to pull the leading edge 32 of the trailing section 26b rearwardly to the retracted position.

**[0061]** The organisation and direction of movement of the tensile members 120, 122, 124 and 126 is shown in FIGs 13 and 14 for movement from retracted to deployed (FIG 13) and from deployed to retracted (FIG 14). It will be seen that the connection of the tensile members 124, 126 to the return run via the direction reversing pulleys provides control over the leading edge of the leading section 26a and the trailing section 26b in both directions.

**[0062]** In some circumstances, depending primarily on the dimensions of the sections 26, it is found that the connection of the tensile member 124 and the tensile member 122 at the leading edge 32 places a significant lateral load on the eave guide wire 18. This may be sufficient to displace the wire 18 and distort the balance of the covering. An alternative arrangement to address this is shown in FIG 17 where like reference numerals are used. The tensile member 122 extends from the lower corner of the leading edge 32 of the leading section 26a to the bracket 90 of the next but one section, in this case the trailing section 26b. Where multiple intermediate sections 26c are used then the connection would be to one of those. The effect of this is to increase the included angle between the tensile members 122 and 124 and thereby reduce the lateral forces acting on the lower corner of the panel 28.

**[0063]** It will be seen therefore that the provision of the tensile members from the peak of one section to the eaves of the adjacent section can be used to assist movement of the panels along the eave guide wires and promote a smooth sliding action for the panels. The arrangement is achieved with a single power source and avoids a complex jointed drive shaft.

**[0064]** It will be apparent that different profiles of covering may be utilised. For example, a shed roof may be provided with a single inclined panel in each section. In this arrangement a single tensile member from one location on one of the sections, typically the higher point of the leading edge, to a second location on the adjacent panel, typically the lower point of the leading edge, may be used to maintain proper sliding motion.

**[0065]** The attachment of the tensile members to the peak at one end and the eave at the lower end may also be chosen to suit individual needs. The attachment to the driven run may be at the connection of the section to the run or may be spaced from it along the leading edge provided there is sufficient stiffness in the leading edge to transmit the movement. Similarly, the connection may be made at a location spaced from the leading edge in the direction of the ridge wire.

**[0066]** The attachment to the adjacent panel may also be varied from the location of the eaves cable but it is believed the optimum locations are at the peak and at the eaves where there is adequate structure to withstand the loads imposed.

**[0067]** The points of attachment should be chosen so as to convey the movement of the leading edge by the driven run through the tensile member to another of the panels so as to induce movement of the leading edge along the eave wires 16. The exact location will depend on the nature of the connections of the panels to the guide wires and driving cable, the dimensions of the panels and the durability of the panels.

**[0068]** As described, the driven run is attached to the peak but it might also be attached to the eaves with the tensile members extending to the peak on the adjacent section. This would of course require a drive cable at both eaves and might impair access to the crop.

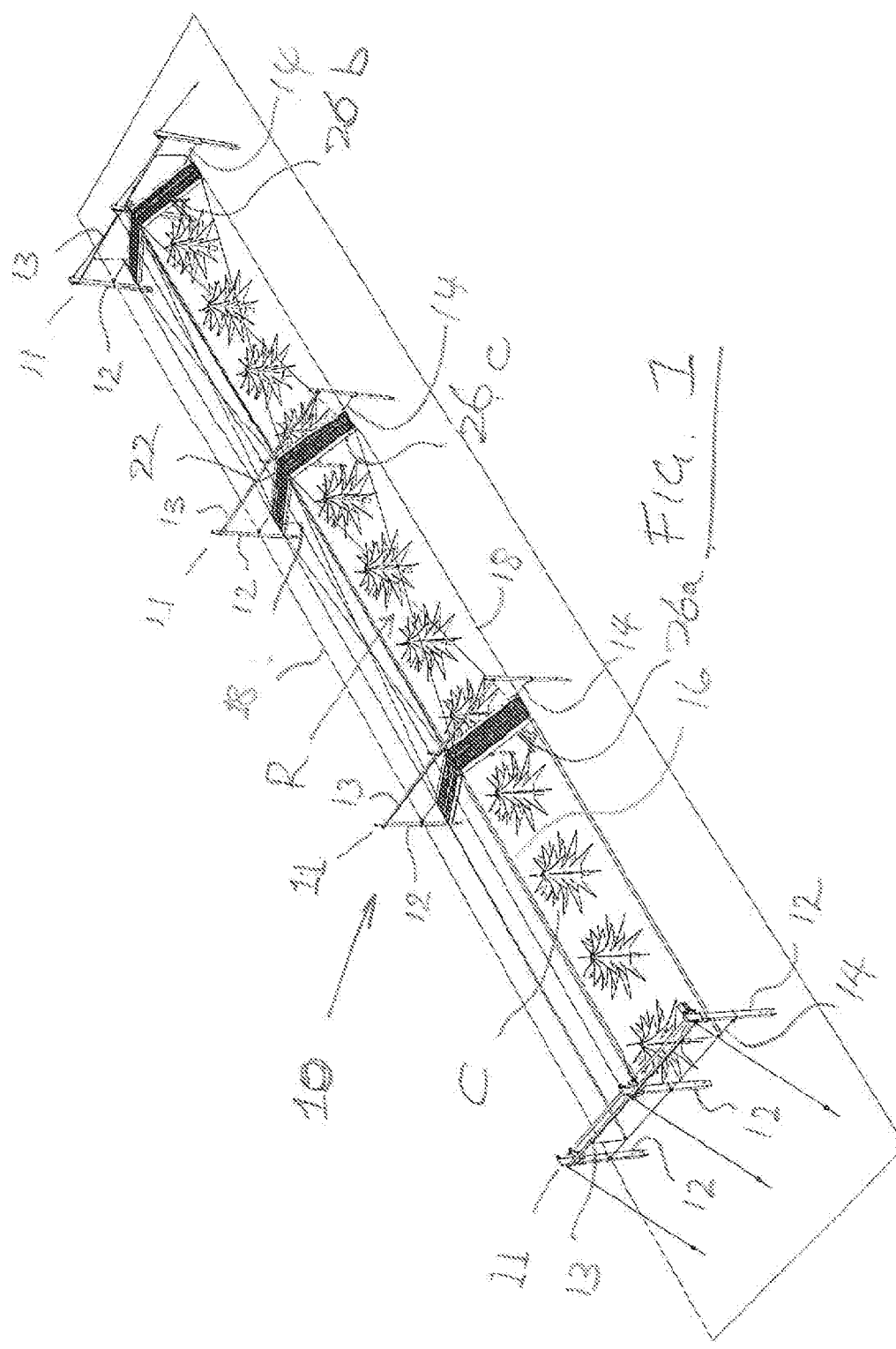
**[0069]** Although the invention has been described with reference to certain specific embodiments, various modifications thereof will be apparent to those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as outlined in the claims appended hereto. The entire disclosures of all references recited above are incorporated herein by reference.

**What is claimed is:**

1. A retractable roof structure having a pair of longitudinally spaced supports, guide wires extending between said supports and positioned to support a covering in a required profile, said covering comprising a plurality of sections arranged in seriatim along the guide wires with each section slidably supported on the guide wires so as to be moveable between an open position in which the area beneath the covering is exposed and a closed position in which the area beneath the covering is covered, a drive member extending between the supports and operably connected to one end of each of the sections at a first location to move the one end along the guide wires, and a first tensile member extending from the first location at the one end of one section to the one end of another section and connected to the one end of the other section at a second location spaced from the first location on the other section, whereby movement of the one location of one section is transferred through the tensile member to the second location of the other section to cause a corresponding movement.
2. The retractable roof of claim 1 wherein each of said locations is adjacent a respective one of the guide wires.
3. The retractable roof of claim 1 wherein a second tensile member extends from the first location on the other section to a second location on the one end of the one section.
4. The retractable roof of claim 1 wherein the required profile is a ridged profile having an elevated peak extending outwardly and downwardly to a pair of eaves and the guide wires are located at the peak and at the eaves to constrain the covering to the required profile.
5. The retractable roof of claim 1 wherein a further tensile member is connected from the leading edge of the leading section through a direction reversing mechanism to a portion of the drive member moving in the opposite direction to the leading edge to provide a corresponding movement to the leading edge.

## **ABSTRACT**

A retractable roof structure has a pair of longitudinally spaced supports, guide wires extending between said supports and positioned to support a covering in a required profile. The covering comprises a plurality of sections arranged in seriatim along the guide wires with each section slidably supported on the guide wires so as to be moveable between an open position in which the area beneath the covering is exposed and a closed position in which the area beneath the covering is covered. A drive member extends between the supports and is connected to one end of each of the sections at a first location to move the one end along the guide wires. Tensile members, such as a rope, extends from the peak of the leading edge of one section to the lower corner of the adjacent section so that movement of the peak is transmitted by the tensile member to the eaves of the adjacent section to move the section along the eave guide wire.



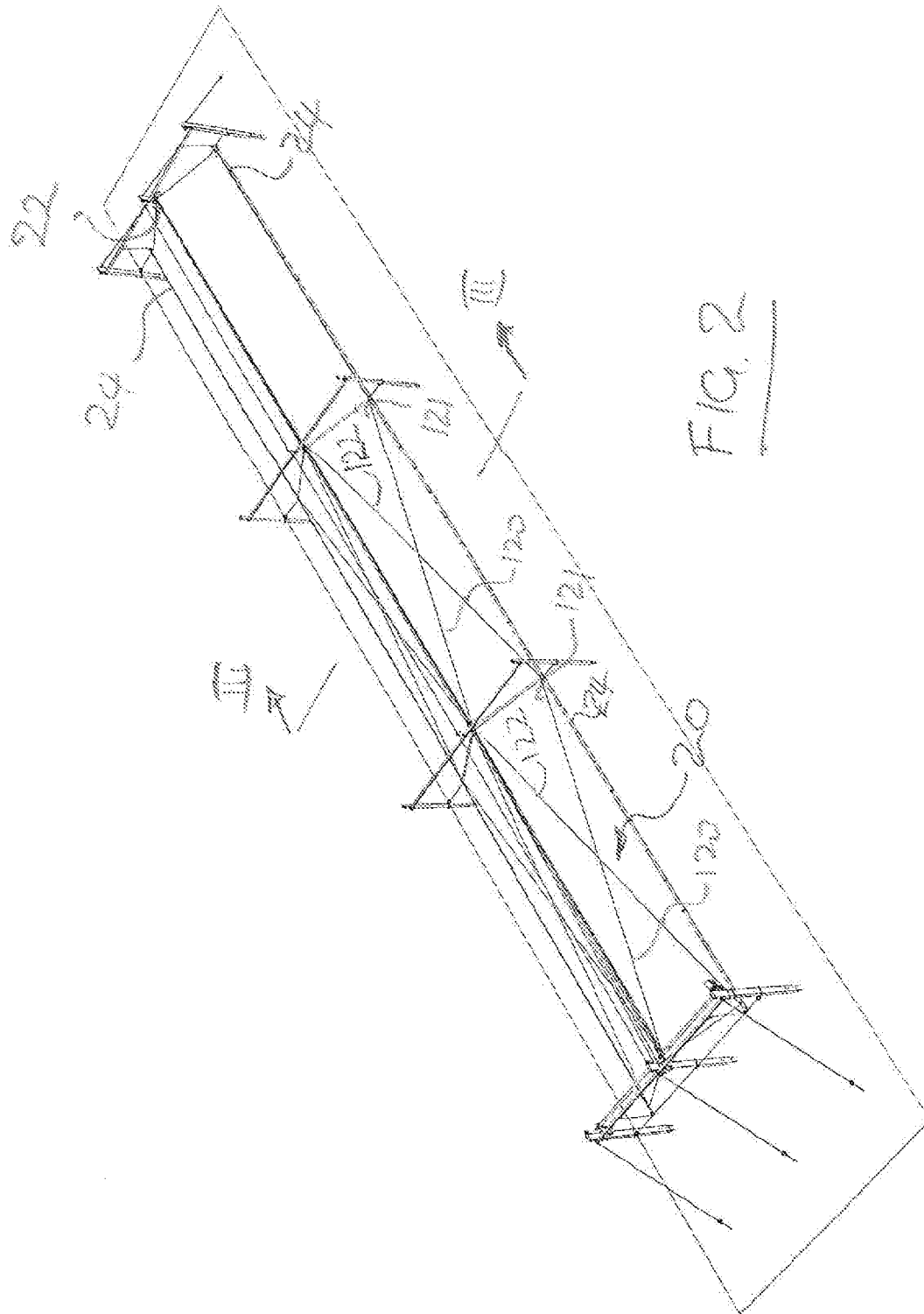


FIG. 2

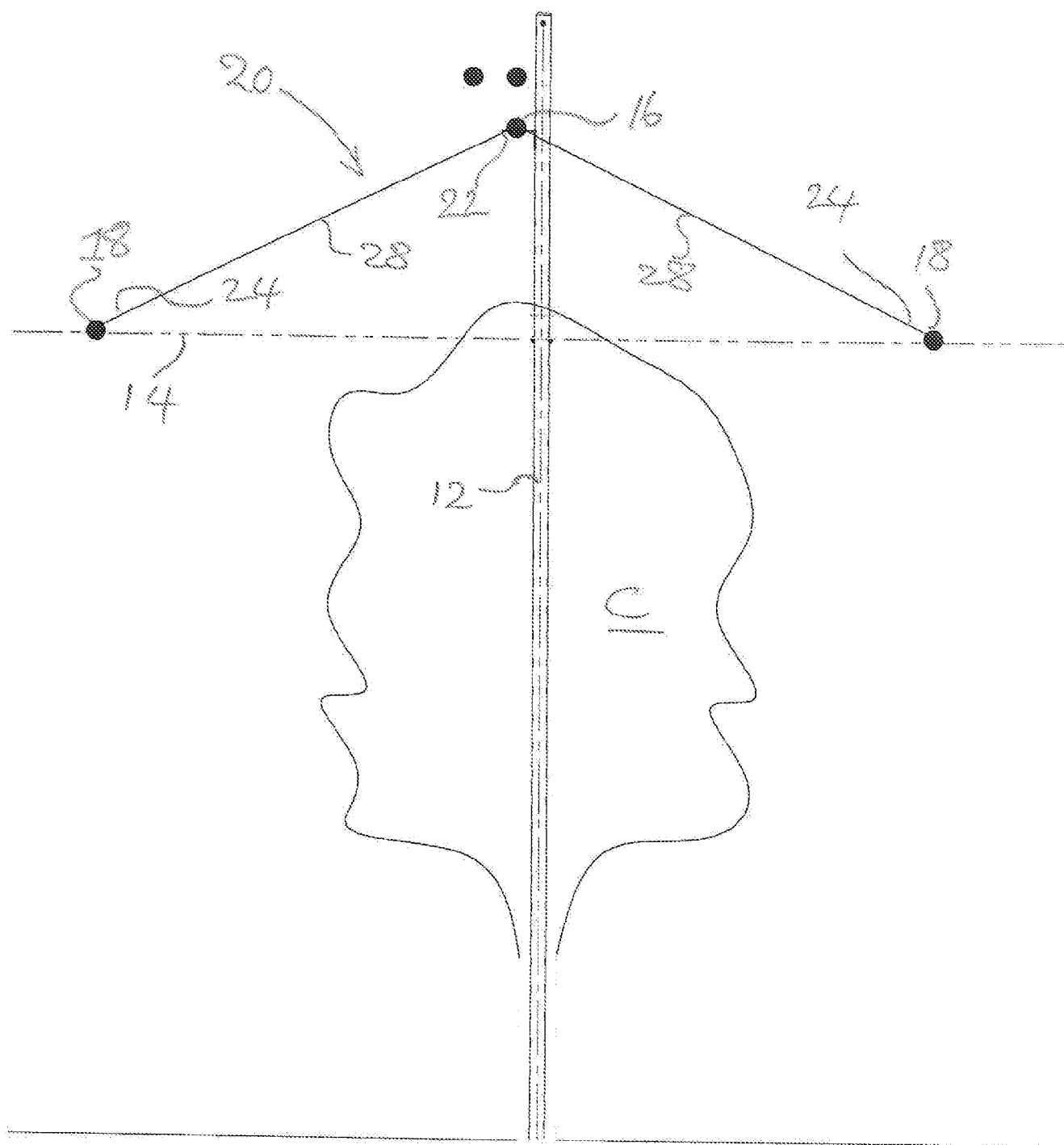


FIG. 3

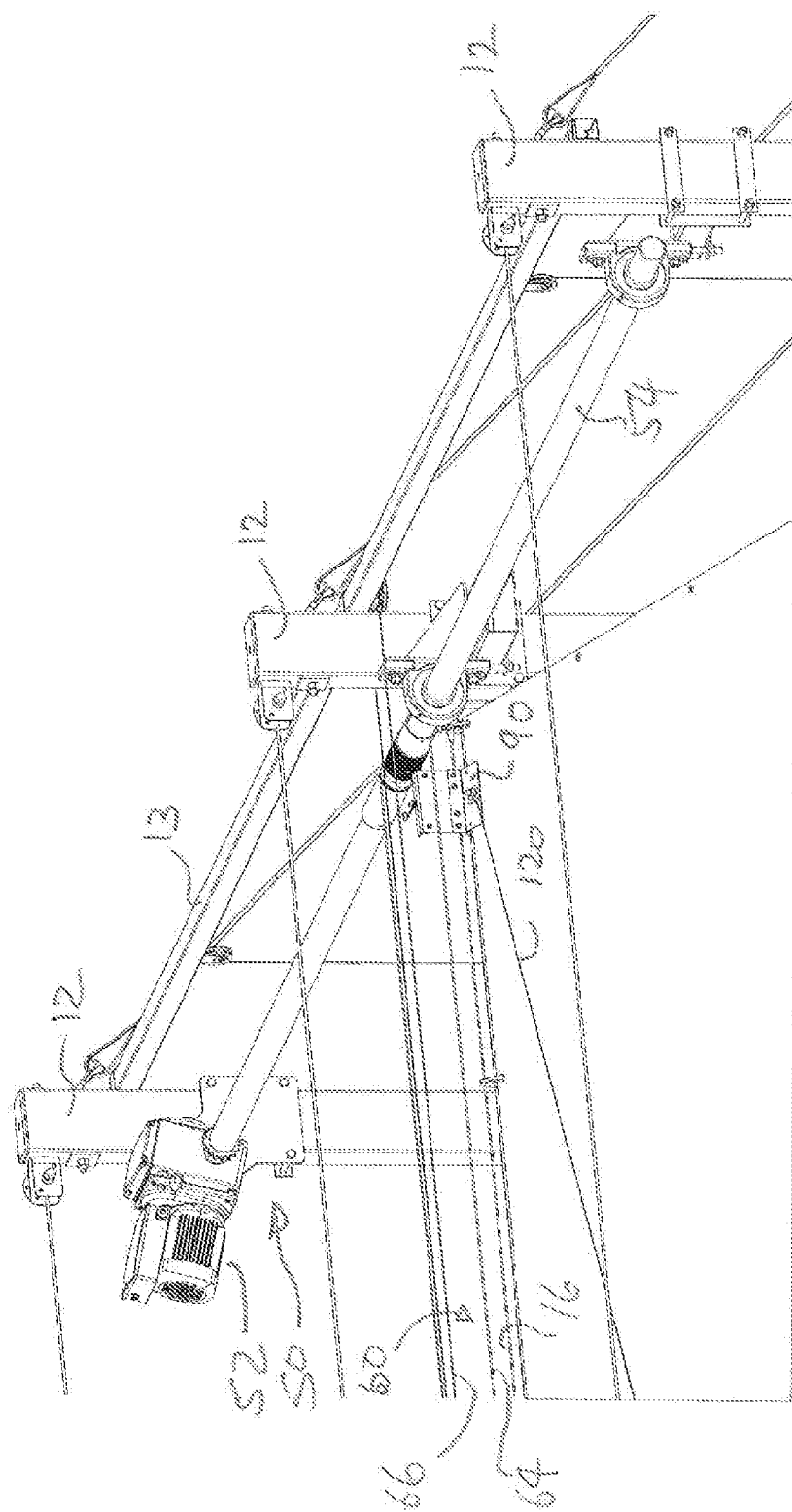
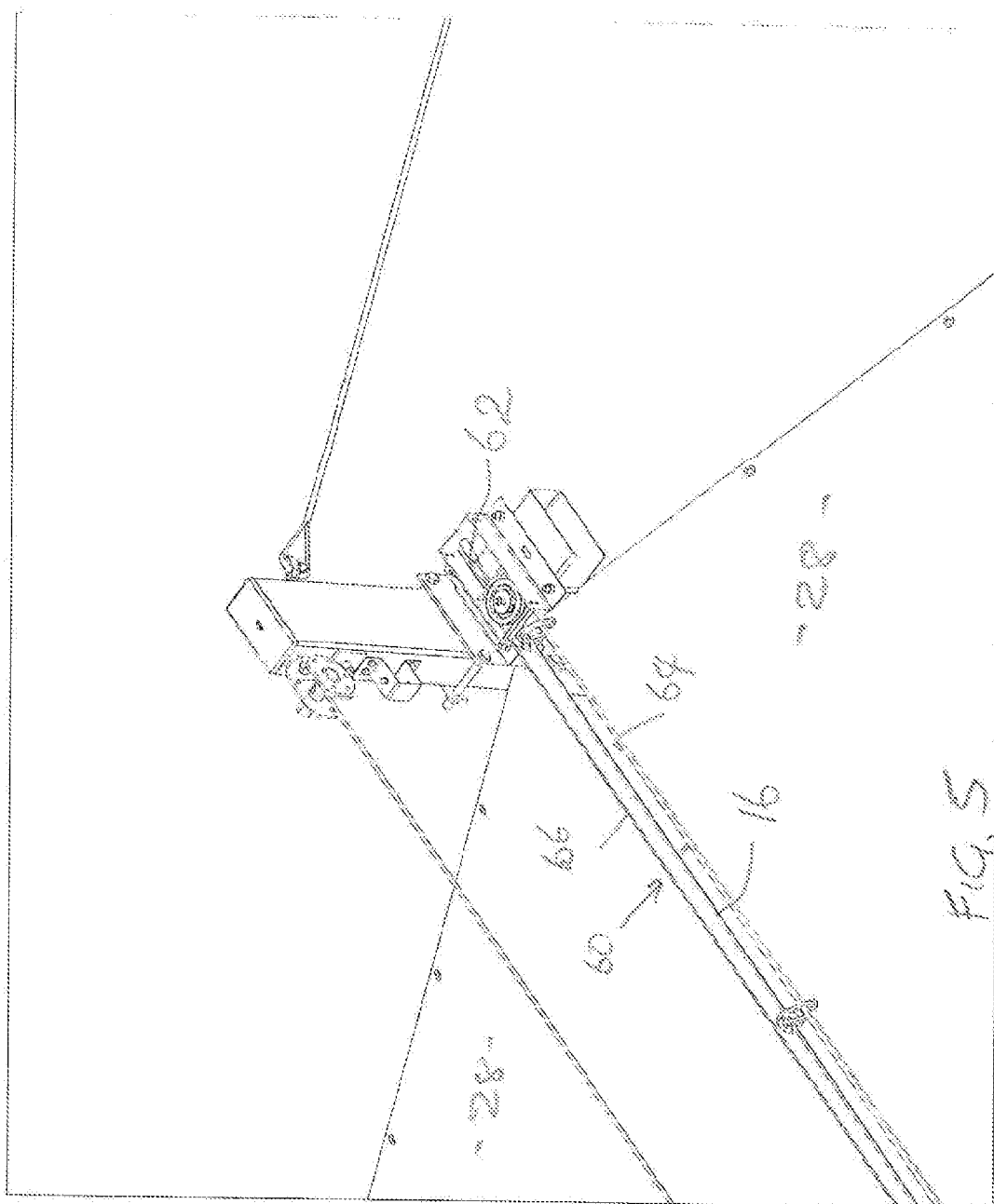
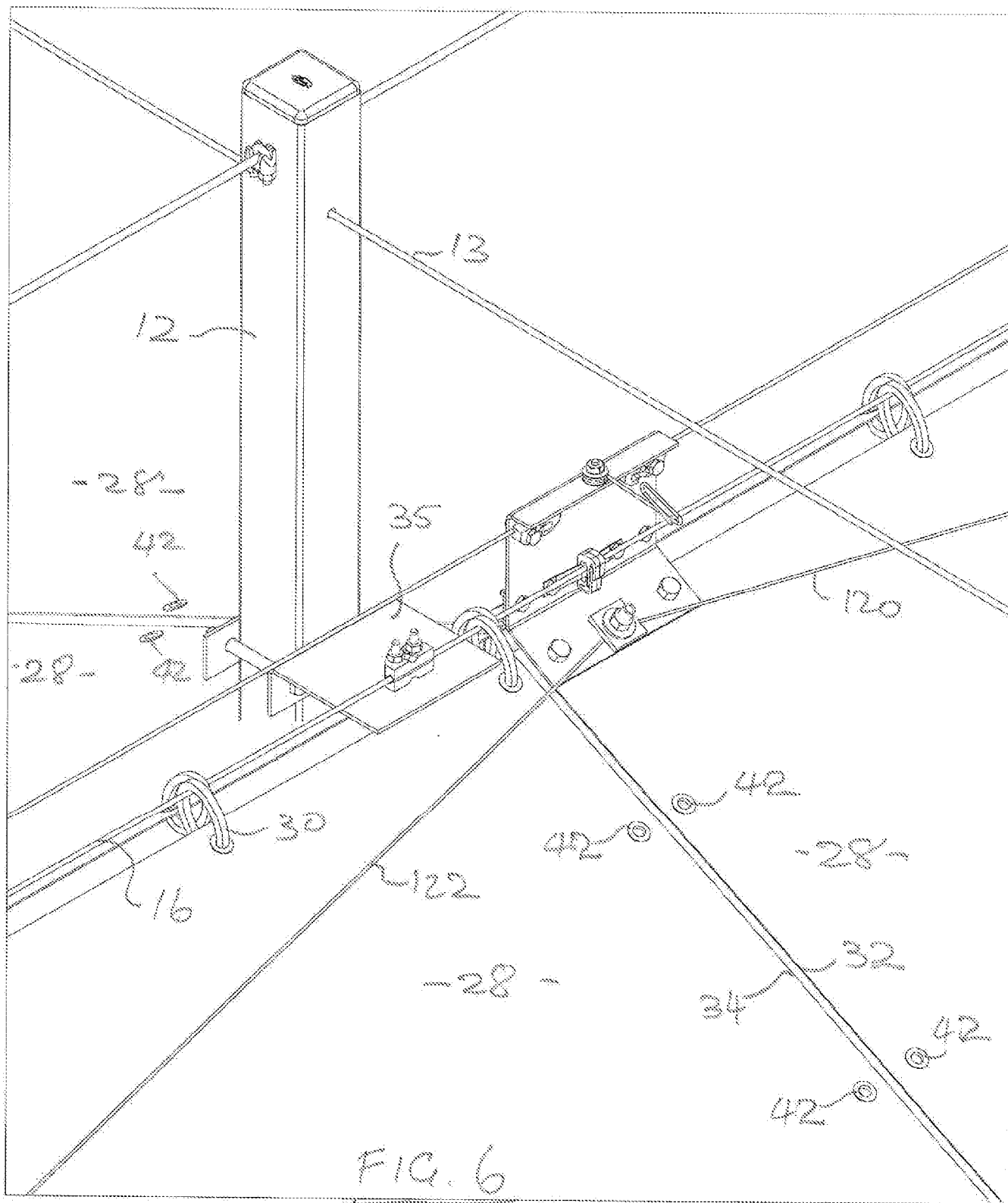


FIG. 46





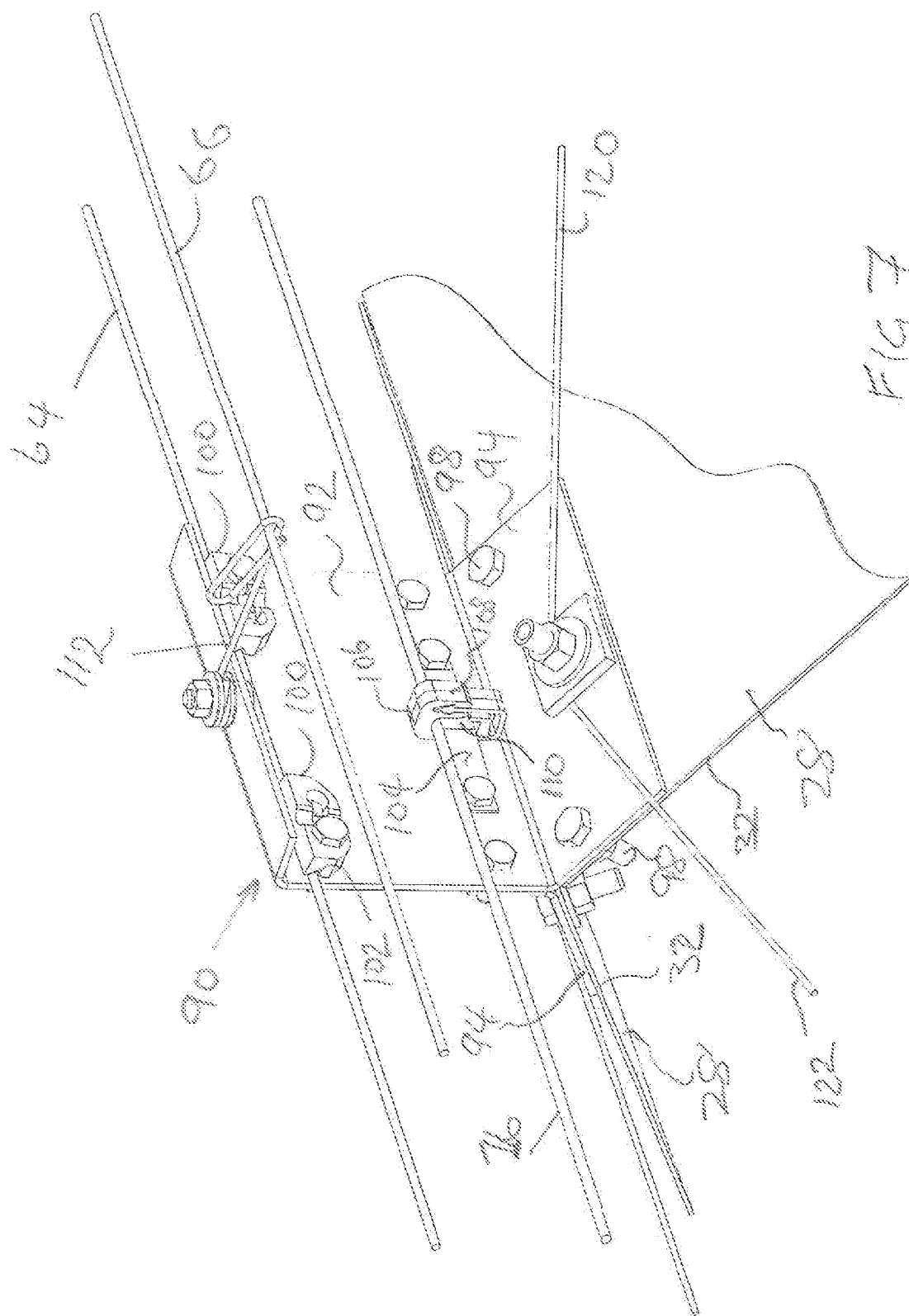
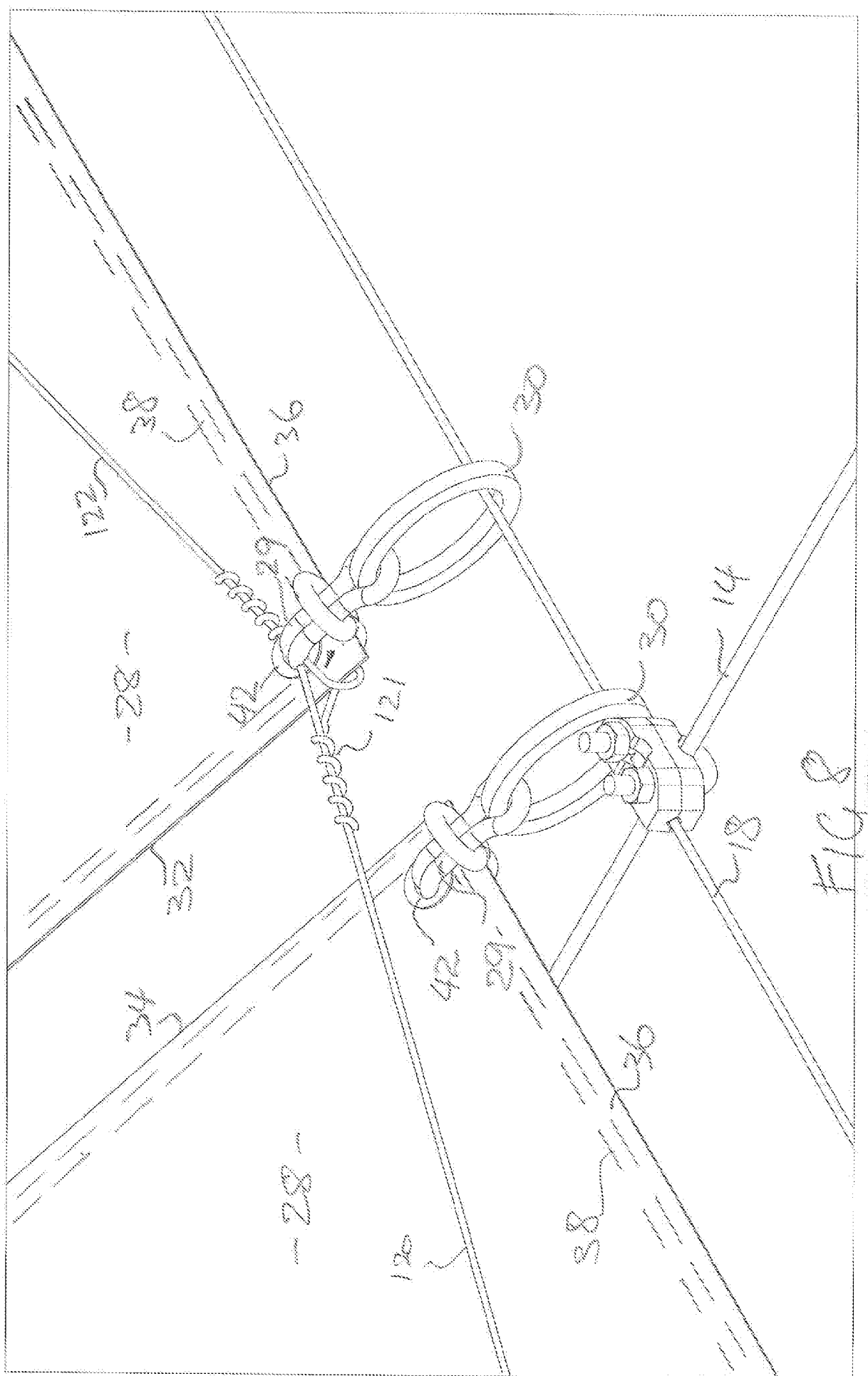


Fig. 7



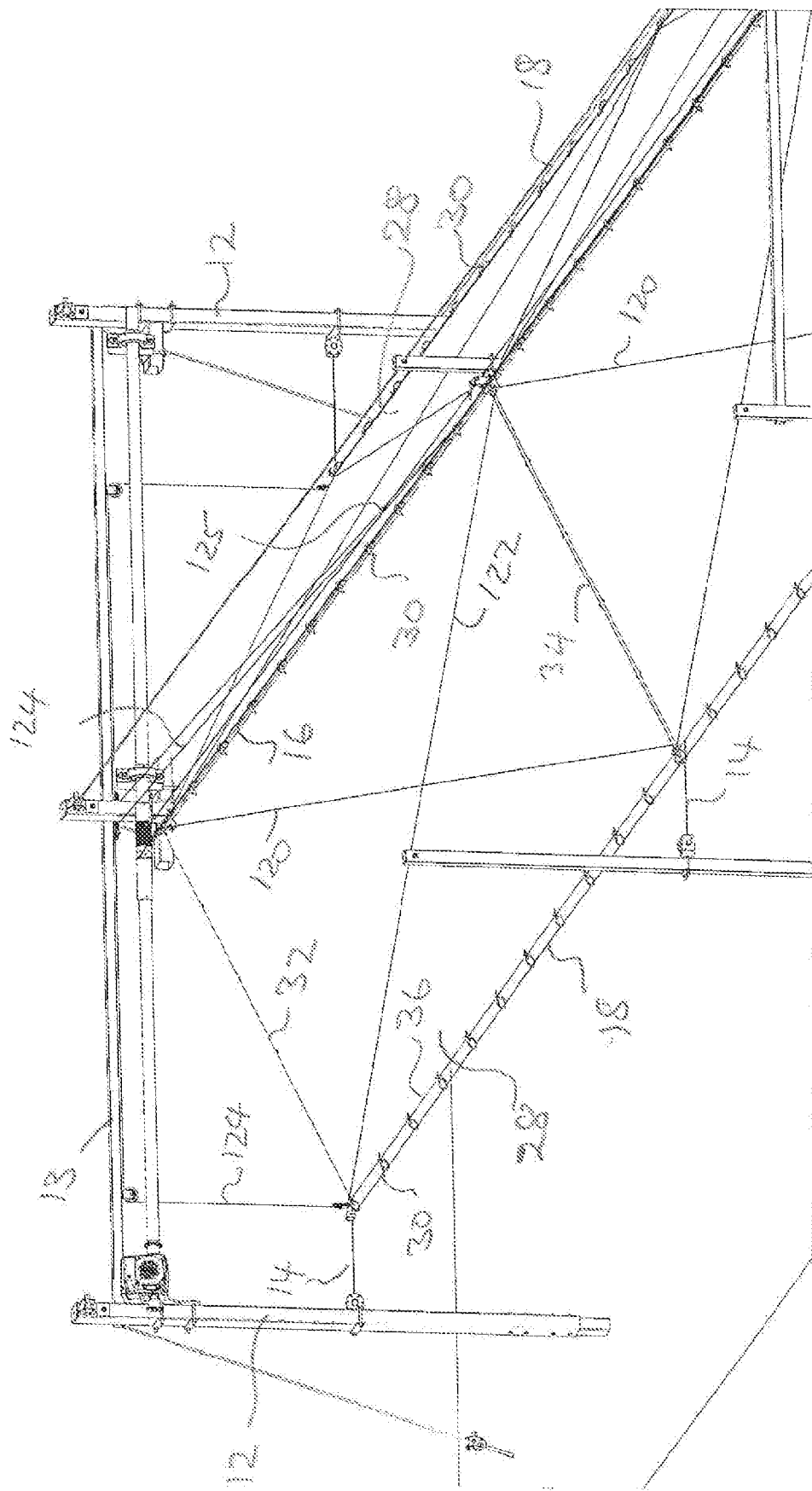


FIG. 9.

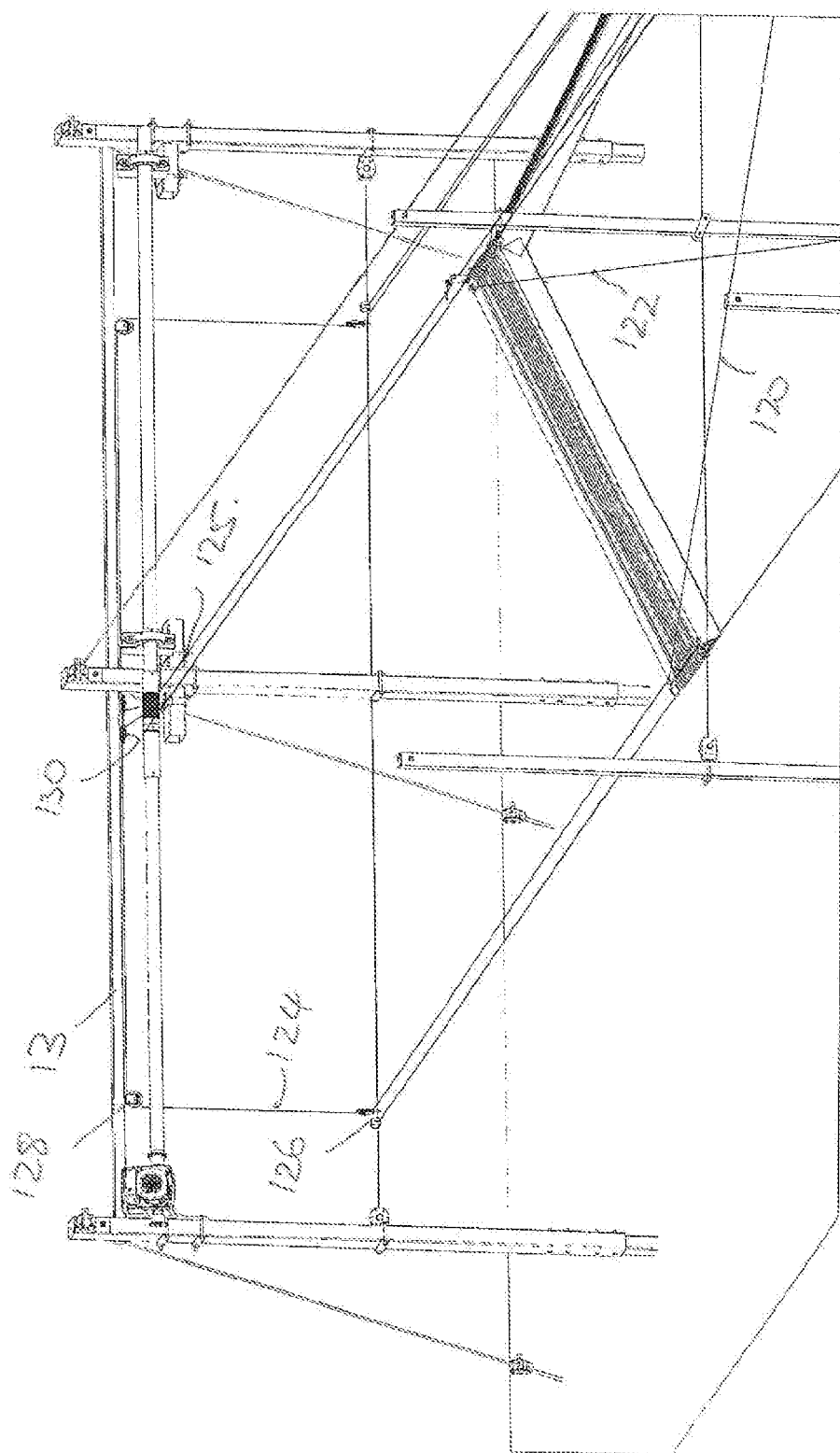


FIG. 10

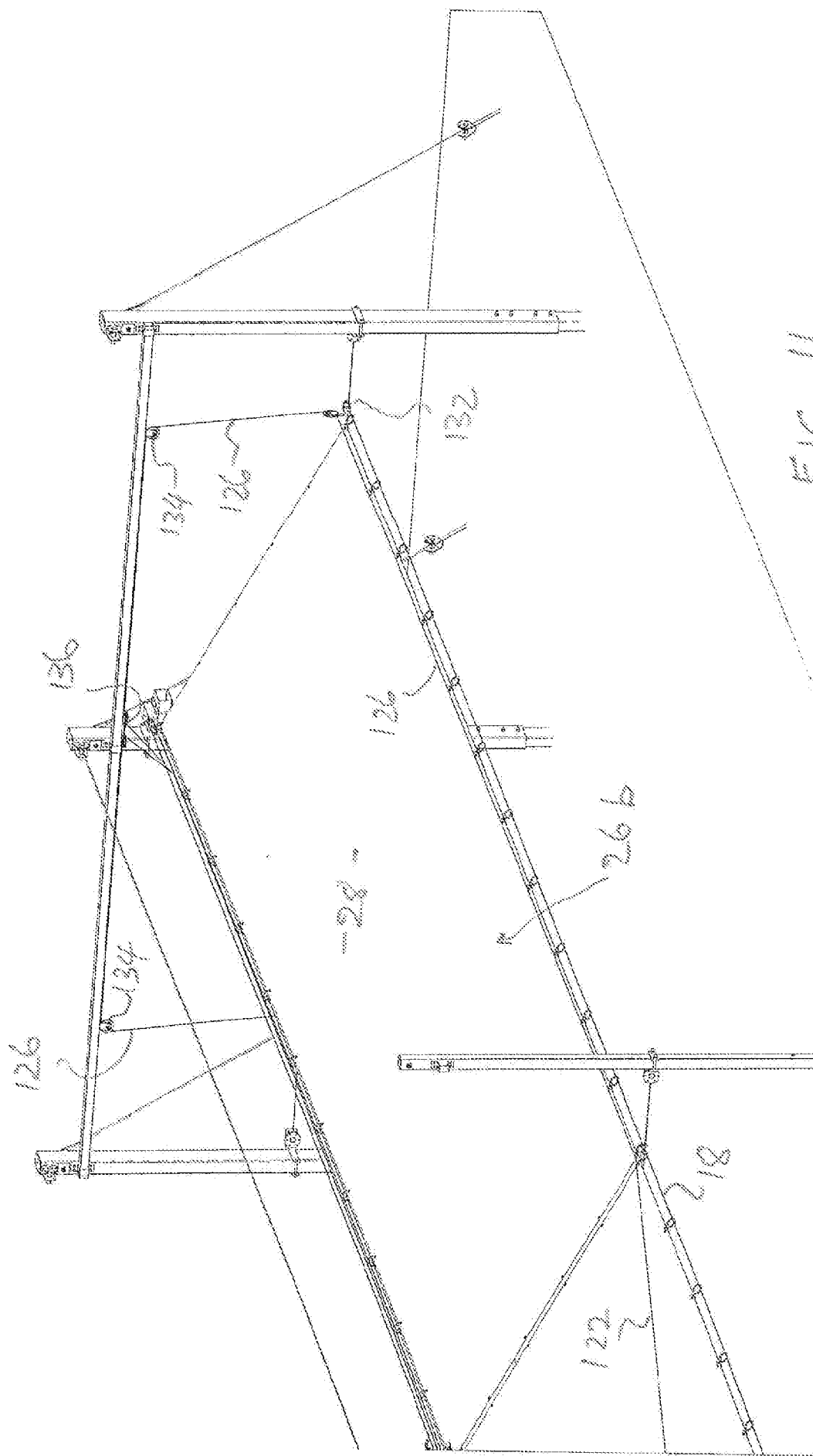
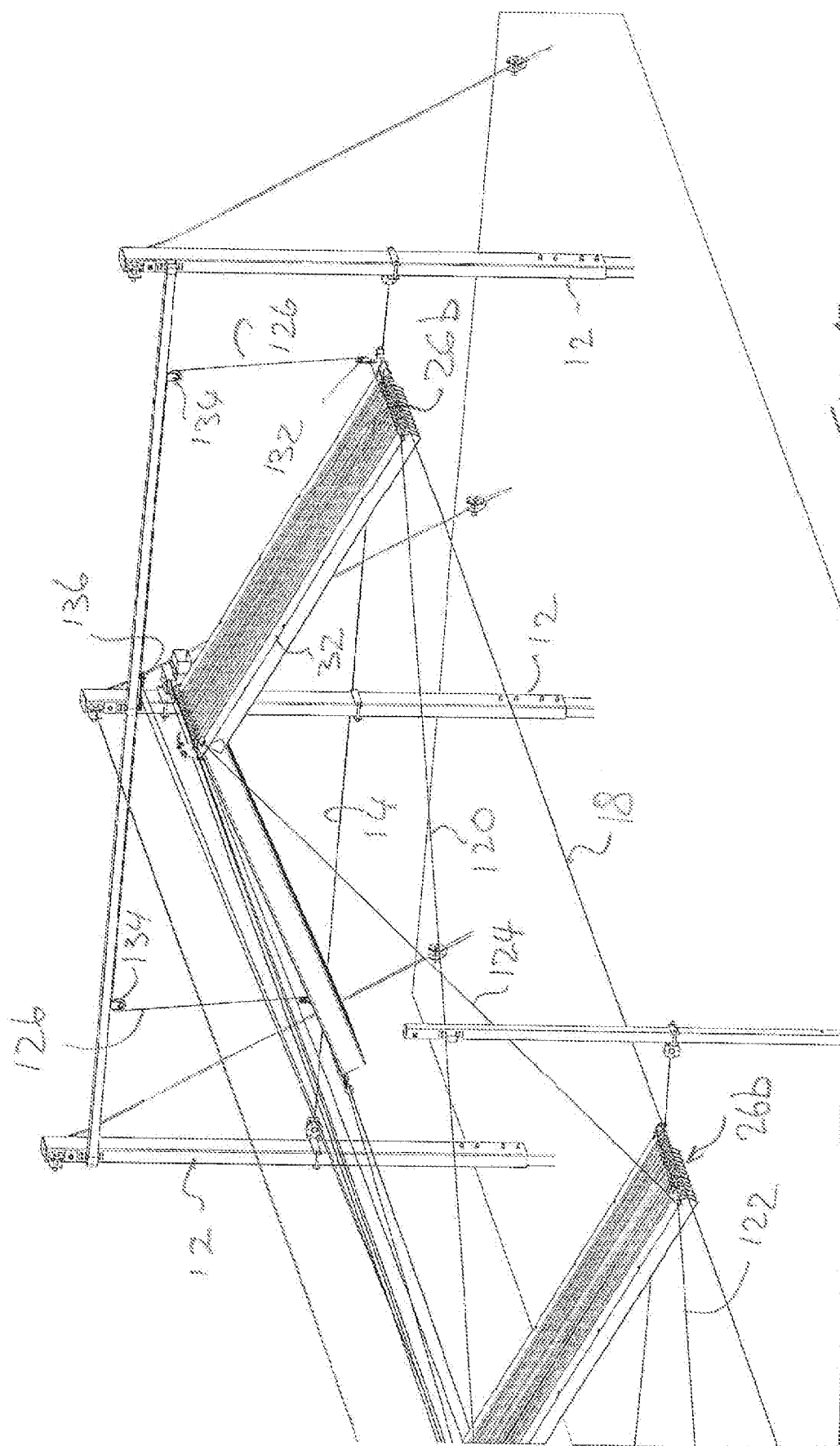
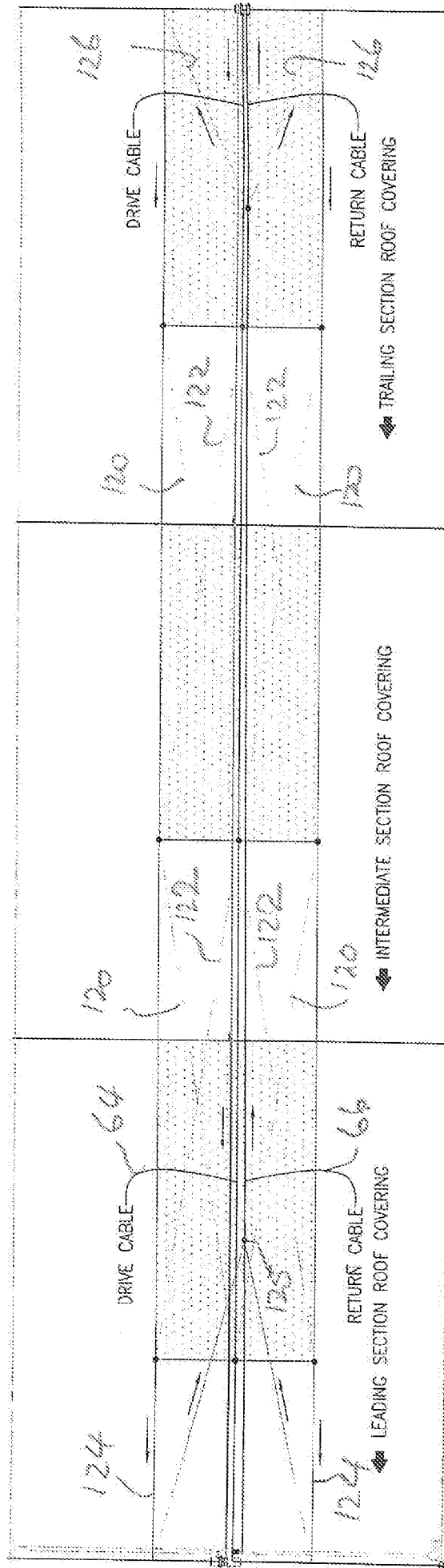


FIG. 11

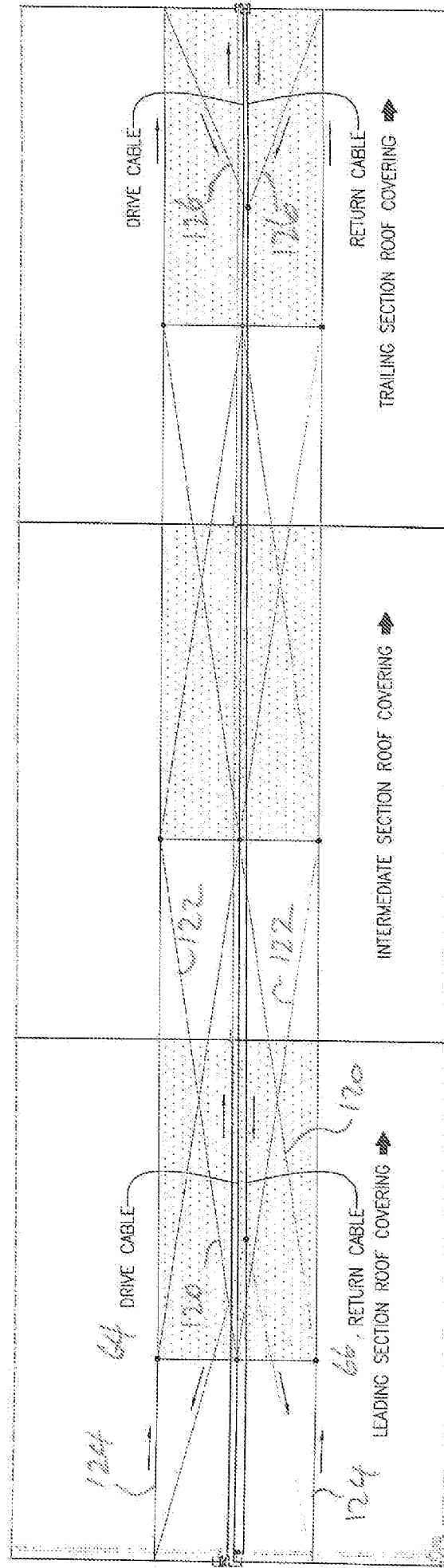


FL 12



RAIN CANOPY DETAIL - DEPLOYED

FIG. 13



RAIN CANOPY DETAIL - RETRACTING

FIG. 14

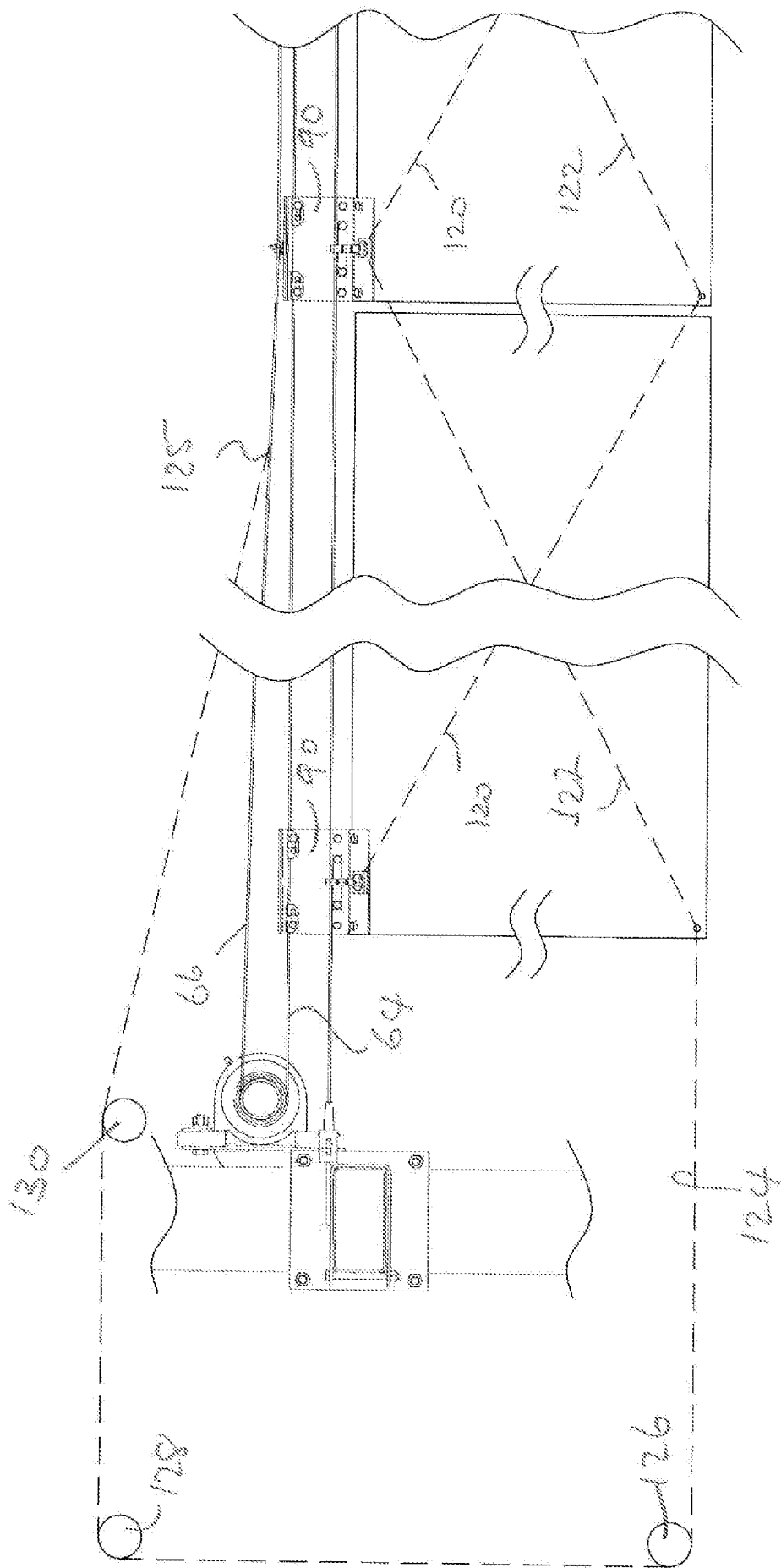


FIG. 15

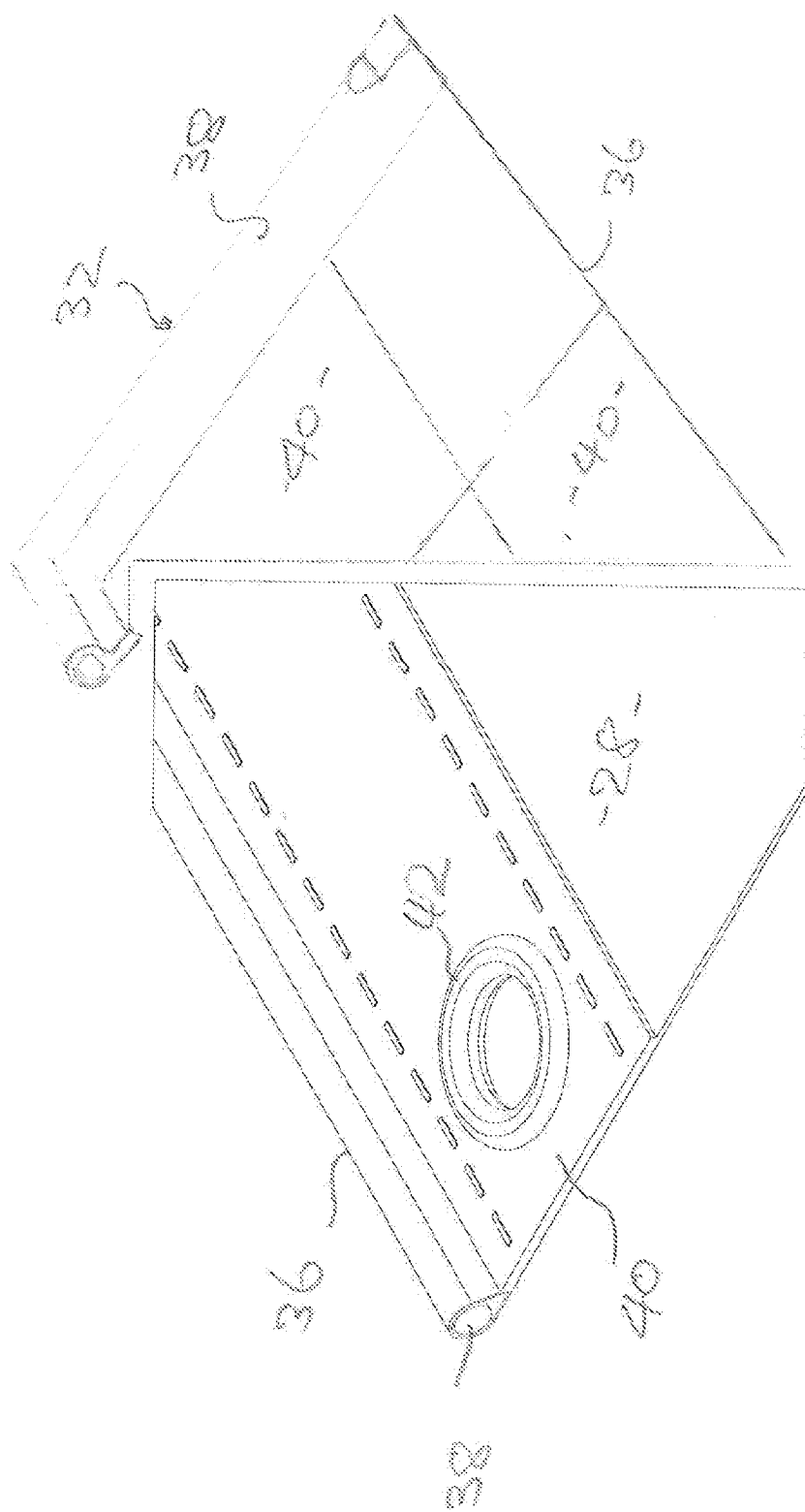
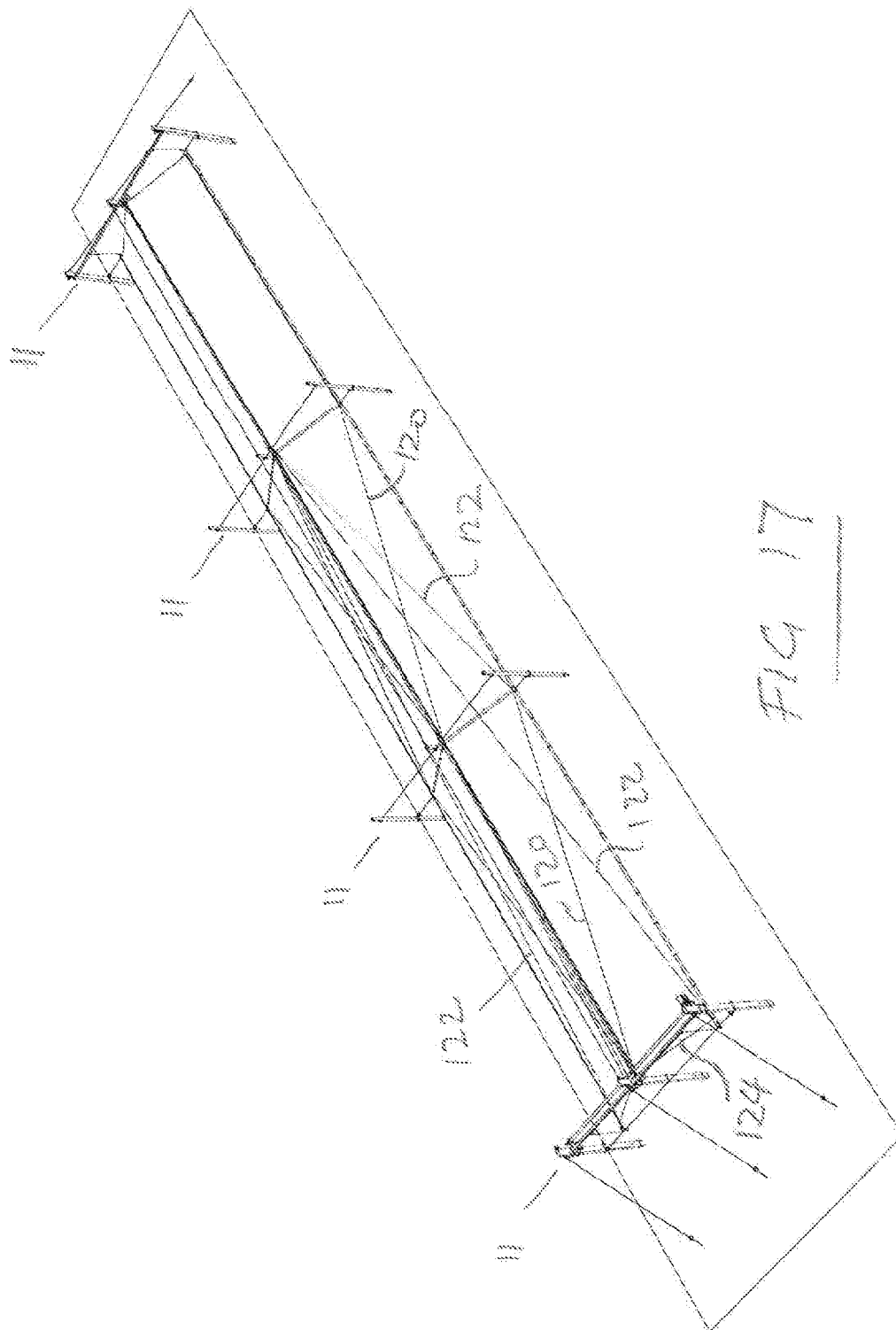


FIG. 16



## Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

|                                             |                                     |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>EFS ID:</b>                              | 46364995                            |
| <b>Application Number:</b>                  | 63396062                            |
| <b>International Application Number:</b>    |                                     |
| <b>Confirmation Number:</b>                 | 3351                                |
| <b>Title of Invention:</b>                  | Retractable Roof                    |
| <b>First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:</b> | Richard VOLLEBREGT                  |
| <b>Customer Number:</b>                     | 27871                               |
| <b>Filer:</b>                               | Laurie Cathryn Wright/Judith Martin |
| <b>Filer Authorized By:</b>                 | Laurie Cathryn Wright               |
| <b>Attorney Docket Number:</b>              | 67540/00050                         |
| <b>Receipt Date:</b>                        | 08-AUG-2022                         |
| <b>Filing Date:</b>                         |                                     |
| <b>Time Stamp:</b>                          | 16:57:44                            |
| <b>Application Type:</b>                    | Provisional                         |

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| Submitted with Payment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | yes              |
| Payment Type                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | DA               |
| Payment was successfully received in RAM                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | \$ 150           |
| RAM confirmation Number                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | E202288G58352110 |
| Deposit Account                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 022553           |
| Authorized User                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Judith Martin    |
| The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:<br>37 CFR 1.16 (National application filing, search, and examination fees)<br>37 CFR 1.17 (Patent application and reexamination processing fees) |                  |

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## File Listing:

| Document Number              | Document Description                                | File Name            | File Size(Bytes)/<br>Message Digest      | Multi Part /.zip | Pages (if appl.) |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1                            | Application Data Sheet                              | Volco50_ADS.pdf      | 2231642                                  | no               | 8                |
|                              |                                                     |                      | 4354dde43cfbcd444fb18780d6bb4f17ecebb66f |                  |                  |
| Warnings:                    |                                                     |                      |                                          |                  |                  |
| Information:                 |                                                     |                      |                                          |                  |                  |
| 2                            |                                                     | Volco50_Appln.pdf    | 146470                                   | yes              | 13               |
|                              |                                                     |                      | 6166d561164761bee763f778fb9b9f1bea4b647c |                  |                  |
|                              | Multipart Description/PDF files in .zip description |                      |                                          |                  |                  |
|                              | Document Description                                |                      | Start                                    | End              |                  |
|                              | Specification                                       |                      | 1                                        | 11               |                  |
|                              | Claims                                              |                      | 12                                       | 12               |                  |
|                              | Abstract                                            |                      | 13                                       | 13               |                  |
| Warnings:                    |                                                     |                      |                                          |                  |                  |
| Information:                 |                                                     |                      |                                          |                  |                  |
| 3                            | Drawings-only black and white line drawings         | Volco50_Drawings.pdf | 3052474                                  | no               | 17               |
|                              |                                                     |                      | a58f853d61695bcc0a454acafe1a2d6ba76ca6f9 |                  |                  |
| Warnings:                    |                                                     |                      |                                          |                  |                  |
| Information:                 |                                                     |                      |                                          |                  |                  |
| 4                            | Fee Worksheet (SB06)                                | fee-info.pdf         | 37492                                    | no               | 2                |
|                              |                                                     |                      | 3d1b57626a17413de9bfb5657388087e75fbdec0 |                  |                  |
| Warnings:                    |                                                     |                      |                                          |                  |                  |
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