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**EP-A2- 2 134 107**  
**WO-A1-2010/040351**  
**WO-A1-2013/004623**  
**CA-A1- 2 858 644**



# DESCRIPTION

## Field of the invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a receiver assembly for in-ear-monitors, earphones, headphones, or other in-ear applications. In particular, the present invention relates to a joiner for mounting two or more receivers jointly together.

## Background of the invention

[0002] For In-Ear-Monitors and other Pro-Audio applications different miniature receivers, such as a woofer and a tweeter, are combined to obtain a full audio frequency spectrum. In order to handle such receivers in a convenient manner, a single assembly of receivers is constructed. Such an assembly has a fixture that mechanically connects two or more receivers, and a PCB providing electrical connections to the respective receivers. In some applications the assembly is further provided with a manifold for acoustic filtering. An example is shown in international application WO 2013/176840.

[0003] Such a receiver has a number of limitations, for example: Balanced armatures are preferred because of form-factor and efficiency, but when joining Balanced armatures in dual or multiple setup this advantage is lost. Fixtures are made of metal to allow the receivers housings to be welded to the fixture, which requires a rather thick plate. During assembly, positioning and alignment of the receivers and fixture is a cumbersome process and requires additional registering fixtures. Therefore there is a need for a simple device that alleviates the aforementioned drawbacks.

[0004] WO 2013/004623 discloses a receiver assembly comprising a first and a second receiver housing and a spout. The second receiver housing is positioned over a first sound outlet port of the first receiver housing and the spout is positioned over a second outlet port of the second receiver housing. An acoustic duct is located between the first and second receiver housing acoustically connecting the first sound outlet port to the spout and is provided with an acoustic mass.

[0005] WO 2010/040351 discloses an elastic sleeve member for a receiver module of a hearing aid of the receiver-in-the-ear (RITE) type. The receiver module comprises an elongated housing adapted for receiving an electrical input signal from said hearing aid, a sound output port and at least one receiver for converting said input signal to an acoustic output signal. The sleeve member comprises a body adapted to at least partly enclose said receiver module, and a spout for extending said sound output port of the elongated housing into the ear.

**[0006]** CA 2,858,644 discloses a digital hearing aid. The hearing aid includes a machine body hanging behind the back of the ear and a sound guide device embedded in the auricle and extending into the external ear auditory canal for sound receiving and sound output, with the machine body and the sound guide device being connected and fixed through a connection device, the connection device being made of a material and structure which can bend, stretch and retain the bending and deformation and the connection device being prefabricated as an ear hook shape.

**[0007]** EP 2 134 107 discloses a miniature loudspeaker comprising a front chamber with first and second separate sound ports so as to allow the front chamber to form an integral part of the acoustical vent of the hearing aid earmold. Thus, while using the same opening in the hearing aid for both sound output and venting, sound from the outside of the hearing aid may be introduced into the users ear via the same opening.

### **Description of the invention**

**[0008]** It is an object of embodiment of the invention to provide an improved joiner for a receiver assembly.

**[0009]** According to a first aspect, the invention provides a multiple receiver assembly according to claim 1.

**[0010]** It should be understood, that the mounting plane extends in the same plane as the mounting plate.

**[0011]** By "aligned" is herein meant, that a sound channel is at least partly overlapping a sound output opening when viewed in parallel with the mounting plane, whereby sound and air can be transmitted from the sound output opening to the sound channel. As the cross-sectional area of the sound output opening and the sound channel may be different, these may only be partly overlapping. In case, the size and shape of the sound channel and the sound output opening are identical, they can be arranged so that they Fully overlap.

**[0012]** It should further be understood, that the sound channel and the sound output opening are arranged at an angle relative to each other, i.e. at least one of them may be arranged transverse to the mounting plane.

**[0013]** In the context of the present invention, the term 'spout-less receiver' should be understood as, a receiver which does not comprise a spout extending on the outside of the housing of the receiver. Sound may be transmitted from the receiver via an opening in one surface of the housing.

**[0014]** In other words, the spout-less receiver may have an outer surface being symmetrically about a plane through the receiver housing, except for the opening provided for sound output

from the receiver.

**[0015]** The assembly comprises a second spout-less receiver, and the joiner further comprises second engagement means for engaging the second spout-less receiver at the second surface, whereby a sound output opening of the second spout-less receiver can be aligned with one of the at least one sound channels when the second spout-less receiver engages the second engagement means.

**[0016]** The first and second spout-less receivers are each aligned with a sound channel. The spout portion and the mounting plate portion are arranged such that a sound channel is located on each side of the mounting plane.

**[0017]** The first engagement means may facilitate positioning of the first receiver during assembly of the receiver assembly. As an adhesive may be located at the engagement means and/or at the mounting plate, the receiver(s) may be adhesively attached to the joiner after being positioned correctly by use of the engagement means.

**[0018]** In one embodiment, the engagement means are provided as raised clamping edges at the first and/or second surface for clamping a receiver. Thus, the receiver(s) may be fastened to the mounting plate portion by frictional forces between a pair of clamping edges. The clamping edges may be located on each side of the mounting plate so that each edge extends in a plane being perpendicular to the mounting plane.

**[0019]** As an alternative or in addition to the clamping edges, the engagement means may be provided as grooves, tracks, bumps, spikes, protrusions and/or dents or the like.

**[0020]** The joiner is made in one piece as a single solid piece by injection molding, stereolithography or 3D-printing.

**[0021]** At least one sound channel may comprise an acoustic filter. An acoustic filter may be arranged in each of the sound channels. The acoustic filters may be identical or may be different.

**[0022]** The first and second engagement means may be arranged on both sides of the mounting plane, each engagement means engaging respective receivers. Alternatively, the first and second engagement means may be the same so that two receivers may engage the joiner by use of common engagement means, one receiver engaging on each side of the mounting plane. Thus, the engagement means may be arranged so that it extends on both sides of the mounting plane. The engagement means are arranged for accommodating receivers of different size.

**[0023]** To simplify the multiple receiver assembly, the mounting plate portion may further comprise electrical connector parts for providing contact between the first receiver and a connector part of a signal- and/or power cable. As an example, the electrical connector parts

may be arranged so that they extend perpendicular from the mounting plate at the opposite end relative to the location of the spout portion. As an alternative, the electrical connector parts may be arranged on the engagement means. Other positions may also be used. Similar or identical connector parts may also be provided for contact between the second receiver and a connector part.

**[0024]** The electrical connector parts may comprise electrical conducting tracks for cooperation with slide contacts of the first receiver. This may likewise be the case for the second receiver.

**[0025]** The joiner may further comprise an electronic circuit at least partially located within the mounting plate portion.

**[0026]** To facilitate dampening of vibrations, e.g. due to the mounting of two receivers of different size and/or weight, the joiner may further comprise vibration reduction means arranged for resilient mounting of the first receiver. Similar vibration reduction means may be arranged for resilient mounting of the second receiver.

**[0027]** In one embodiment, the vibration reduction means comprises a resilient strip positioned on the mounting plate alongside at least one of the first and second engagement means. The resilient strip may have a length corresponding to the length of the engagement means. It should however be understood, that the length may also be smaller, so that the resilient strip is positioned only along a part of the engagement means.

**[0028]** The vibration reduction means may be made from a gel, a foam, a resilient plastic material, such as a rubber band, or another suitable material possessing compliant material characteristics.

**[0029]** To increase the dampening of the vibrations, the vibration reduction means may be provided on both the first and second surface of the mounting plate. The vibration reduction means may each be optimized for reducing a different resonance frequency. This may as an example be done by providing the vibration reduction means of different materials and/or of different size.

**[0030]** In one embodiment, the invention relates to a joiner for assembling a multiple receiver assembly having a mounting plate portion having a first surface and a second opposite surface, the mounting plate further defining a mounting plane. And further having a spout portion comprising two sound channels running through the spout. The spout portion and the mounting plate portion are arranged such that the two sound channels are located on respective sides of the mounting plane. The use of such a joiner allows a less cumbersome assembly of a receiver assembly. The joiner may further have alignment means, such as ridges, edges, grooves or the like. In the case of edges these can be arranged to provide a clamping force for clamping a receiver. One or both of the sound channels of the spout may be provided with an acoustic filter such as an acoustic mass e.g. embodied in a tube or lumen.

**[0031]** It should be understood, that a skilled person would readily recognise that any feature described in combination with the first aspect of the invention could also be combined with the above mentioned embodiment. The remarks set forth above in relation to the first aspect are therefore equally applicable in relation to this embodiment.

**[0032]** The spout is made as an integral part from plastic. It is manufactured by injection molding, stereolithography (SLA) or 3D-printing providing a solid plastic part. The use of these techniques and especially plastic allows more freedom for design to accommodate receivers of different size on each side of the joiner. Moreover, one side of the joiner may be designed such that it can accommodate receivers of different size at the same side.

**[0033]** A further advantage of the plastic joiner is that it allows gluing. And such gluing allows dispensing with the cover of the one or more receivers. As the edge of the case is too small to carry glue - it will run off inside the case and harm the motor assembly of a balanced armature receiver- the glue would have to be placed on the fixture introducing further alignment difficulties. However, the flexibility and precision in design and manufacture made possible by use of plastic is unachievable with steel and/or metal, and allows accurate placement of the alignment means and hence application of glue at the correct location.

**[0034]** In another embodiment, the invention relates to a joiner with vibration reduction means arranged for resilient mounting of a receiver. For hearing aids, the use of so-called dual receivers was introduced to reduce vibration by having two receivers identical in mass and size move in counter phase, thereby reducing the overall vibration originating from the dual receiver assembly. However, in pro-audio applications a Tweeter and Woofer combination is preferred which differ in size and mass. To alleviate the vibration stemming from such a combination, the mounting plate of the joiner is provided with vibration reduction means such as gel or a resilient ring like band positioned on or alongside the alignment means. In one embodiment, the vibration reduction means are provided on both the first and second surface of the mounting plate and are each optimized for reducing a different resonance frequency corresponding to the a resonance frequency of receiver mounted on that side.

**[0035]** It should be understood, that a skilled person would readily recognise that any feature described in combination with the first aspect of the invention could also be combined with the above mentioned embodiment. The remarks set forth above in relation to the first and second aspects are therefore equally applicable in relation to this embodiment.

#### **Brief description of the drawings**

**[0036]** Embodiments of the invention will now be further described with reference to the drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 shows a perspective view of a joiner according to the invention,

Fig. 2 shows a cross-section of the joiner of Figure 1,

Fig. 3 shows a cross-section of a joiner having two receivers mounted, and

Fig. 4 shows a perspective view of a joiner according to an aspect of the invention.

### **Detailed description of the drawings**

**[0037]** Fig. 1 shows a joiner 1 for assembling a multiple receiver assembly having a mounting plate portion 2. The mounting plate has a first surface 3 and a second opposite surface 4 and defines a mounting plane 5. The joiner further has a spout portion 6 having two sound channels 7, 8 running through the spout portion 6. The spout portion 6 and the mounting plate portion 2 are arranged such that the two sound channels 7, 8 are located on respective opposite sides of the mounting plane 5. The mounting plate portion 2 further has alignment means 9 for registering a receiver during assembly on the mounting plate 2. In the embodiment, the alignment means 9 are provided as raised clamping edges 10 at both the first and the second surfaces 3, 4 for clamping a receiver. In another embodiment, the alignment means 9 can be provided on either the first surface 3 or the second surface 4. The alignment means 9 can be different for each surface, i.e. clamping edges on one side and a raised ridge on the other side. In yet other embodiments the alignment means can be provided as grooves, tracks, bumps, spikes, protrusions and/or dents or the like. In addition, the alignment means at one side may be arranged such that these can accommodate receivers of different size.

**[0038]** The joiner is made as a single solid piece. The manufacturing process can be injection molding, stereolithography (SLA) techniques, or 3D-printing.

**[0039]** Turning to Fig. 2, the cross-section of the joiner 1 shows the sound channels 7, 8 running on respective sides of the mounting plane 5 as defined by the mounting plate portion 2. The sound channel 7 in the spout portion of 6 the joiner 1 has an acoustic filter 11. The use of the acoustic filter allows tuning the sound output corresponding to the frequency range produced by a receiver to be mounted.

**[0040]** Fig. 3 shows the joiner 1 having two receivers 12, 13 jointly mounted thereon thereby forming a receiver assembly. The first receiver 12 is mounted on the first surface 3 of the mounting plate portion 2. The second receiver 13 is mounted on the second surface 4 of the mounting plate portion 2. The second receiver 13 has a regular case 14 and cover 15 as commonly applied for e.g. balanced armature receivers. The first receiver 12 however has no cover but only a case 16. This is facilitated by the joiner that acoustically seals off the receiver alleviating the need for a cover. The second receiver 13 has a sound output 17 that is acoustically connected to sound channel 7 of the spout portion 6. The first receiver 12 has a sound opening 18 that is acoustically connected to the sound channel 8. When the second receiver 13 is a woofer, the acoustic filter 11 in the sound channel 7 is provided as a small tube



that functions as a low pass filter. The first receiver 12 is a tweeter for reproducing the upper frequency spectrum of the sound signal delivered to the receiver assembly.

**[0041]** In one embodiment, the mounting plate portion 2 has electrical connector parts for providing contact between the first and / or second mounted receiver and the connector part of a signal- and/or power cable (not shown). The incorporation of electrical connective parts allows a more compact construction of the receiver assembly. The electrical connector parts can e.g. be provided as electrical conducting tracks for electrical and mechanical cooperation with slide contacts of a mounted receiver. The joiner can further be equipped with an electronic circuit located in the mounting plate portion 2. The electronic circuit may be at least partially located within the mounting plate portion or completely buried within the mounting plate 2.

**[0042]** In another embodiment, shown in Fig. 4, the joiner 1 has vibration reduction means 19 arranged for resilient mounting of a receiver. These vibration reduction means comprise a resilient ring like strip 19 positioned on the mounting plate 2 alongside the alignment means 9. In other embodiments the vibration reduction means may be provided as a gel applied at the first 3 and / or second surface 4 of the mounting plate portion 2 or as a rubber band stretch around the circumference of the receiver assembly. When the vibration reduction means 19 are provided on both the first 3 and second surface 4 of the mounting plate portion 2 these can each be optimized for reducing a different resonance frequency. The resonance frequency being different for the first receiver 12 and the second receiver 13 as is the case for a woofer / tweeter receiver assembly.

## **REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION**

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### **Patent documents cited in the description**

- [WO2013176840A \[0002\]](#)
- [WO2013004623A \[0004\]](#)
- [WO2010040351A \[0005\]](#)
- [CA2858644 \[0006\]](#)
- [EP2134107A \[0007\]](#)

## PATENTKRAV

1. En multipel lyd giver enhed omfattende en første tudløs lyd giver (12) omfattende en lydudgangsåbning (18); en anden tudløs lyd giver (13) omfattende en lydudgangsåbning (17); og et forbindelses element (1) omfattende
  - en monteringspladedel (2) med en første overflade (3) og en modsat anden overflade (4), hvor monteringspladen yderligere definerer et monteringsplan (5); og
  - en tuddel (6);kendetegnet ved, at forbindelses elementet (1) er fremstillet som et enkelt, massivt stykke ved sprøjtstøbning, stereolitografi eller 3D-printning, og omfatter:
  - første indgrebsorgan (9) til at gå i indgreb med den første tudløse lyd giver (12) ved den første overflade (3);
  - andet indgrebsorgan (9) til at gå i indgreb med den anden tudløse lyd giver (13) ved den anden overflade (4); hvor det første og andet indgrebsorgan (9) er arrangeret til at rumme lyd givere af forskellig størrelse;og ved at tuddelen (6) omfatter to lydkanaler (7, 8), der strækker sig gennem tuddelen, hvor de to lydkanaler (7, 8) er anbragt på de respektive sider af monteringsplanet (5), hvor lydudgangsåbningen (18) af den første tudløse lyd giver (12) flugter med en af lydkanalerne (7, 8), når den første tudløse lyd giver (12) går i indgreb med det første indgrebsorgan (9), og hvor lydudgangsåbningen (17) af den anden tudløse lyd giver (13) flugter med den anden af lydkanalerne (7, 8), når den anden tudløse lyd giver (13) går i indgreb med det andet indgrebsorgan (9).
2. Enhed ifølge krav 1, hvor mindst en lyd kanal (7, 8) omfatter et akustisk filter.
3. Enhed ifølge et hvilket som helst af de foregående krav, hvor et akustisk filter er anbragt i hver af lydkanalerne (7, 8).
4. Enhed ifølge et hvilket som helst af de foregående krav, hvor monteringspladedelen (2) yderligere omfatter elektriske forbindelsesdele for tilvejebringelse af kontakt mellem den første lyd giver (12) og en forbindelsesdel af et signal og/eller strømkabel.
5. Enhed ifølge krav 4, hvor de elektriske forbindelsesdele omfatter elektriskledende spor for samarbejde med glidekontakter på den første lyd giver (12).
6. Enhed ifølge et hvilket som helst af de foregående krav, hvor det første indgrebsorgan (9) er tilvejebragt som hævede fastspændingskanter (10) ved den første og/eller anden overflade (3, 4) til fastspænding af en lyd giver (12, 13).

7. Enhed ifølge et hvilket som helst af de foregående krav, hvor forbindelseselementet (1) yderligere omfatter et elektronisk kredsløb, i det mindste delvist placeret inden i monteringspladedelen (2).

8. Enhed ifølge et hvilket som helst af de foregående krav, hvor forbindelseselementet (1) yderligere omfatter vibrationsreduktionsorganer (19) arrangeret til elastisk montering af den første lyd giver (12).

9. Enhed ifølge krav 8, hvor vibrationsreduktionsorganet (19) omfatter en elastisk strimmel placeret på monteringspladen langs det første indgrebsorgan (9).

10. Enhed ifølge krav 8 eller 9, hvor vibrationsreduktionsorganet (19) er tilvejebragt på både den første og anden overflade (3, 4) af monteringspladen og hver er optimeret til at reducere en forskellig resonansfrekvens.

11. Enhed ifølge et hvilket som helst af de foregående krav, omfattende et gummibånd strakt over en omkreds af lyd giver enheden.

# DRAWINGS

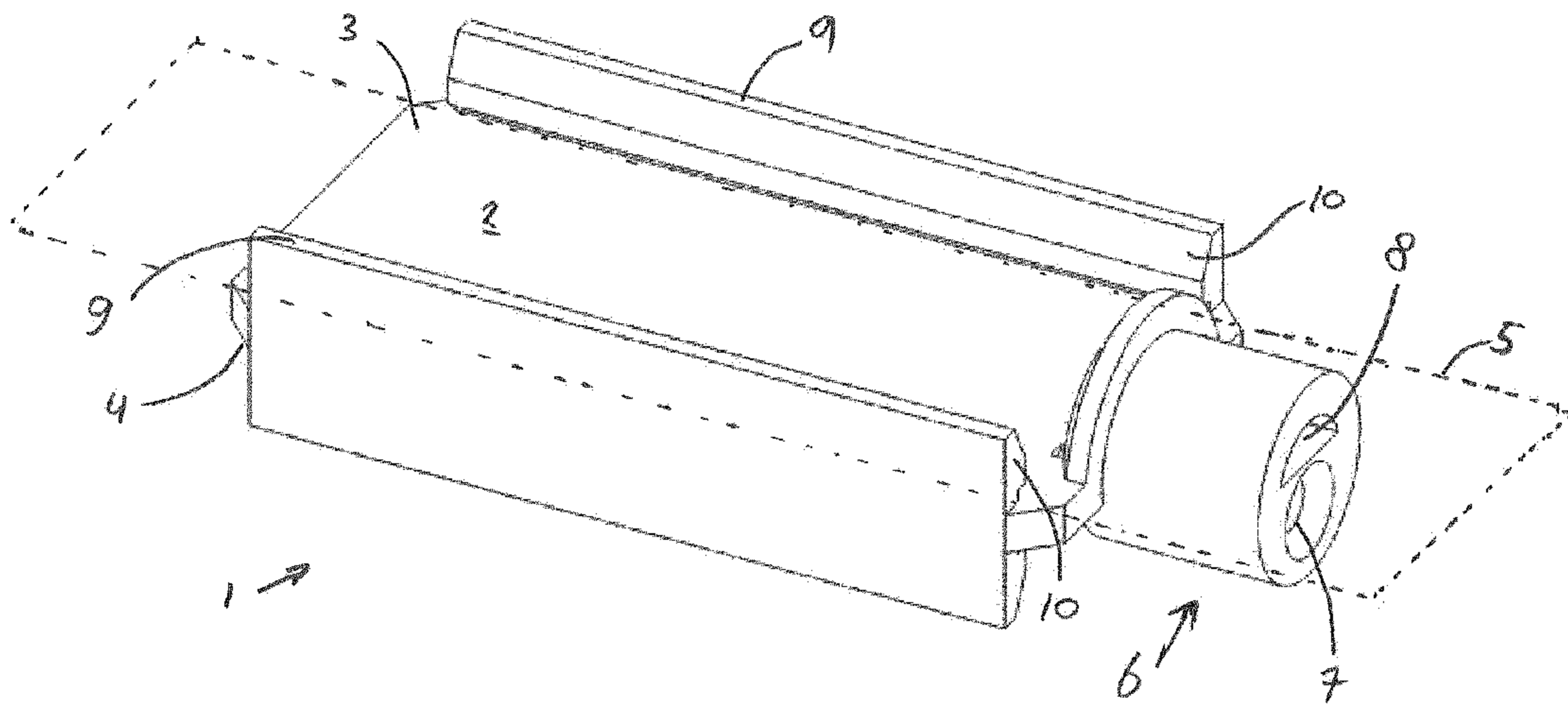


Fig. 1

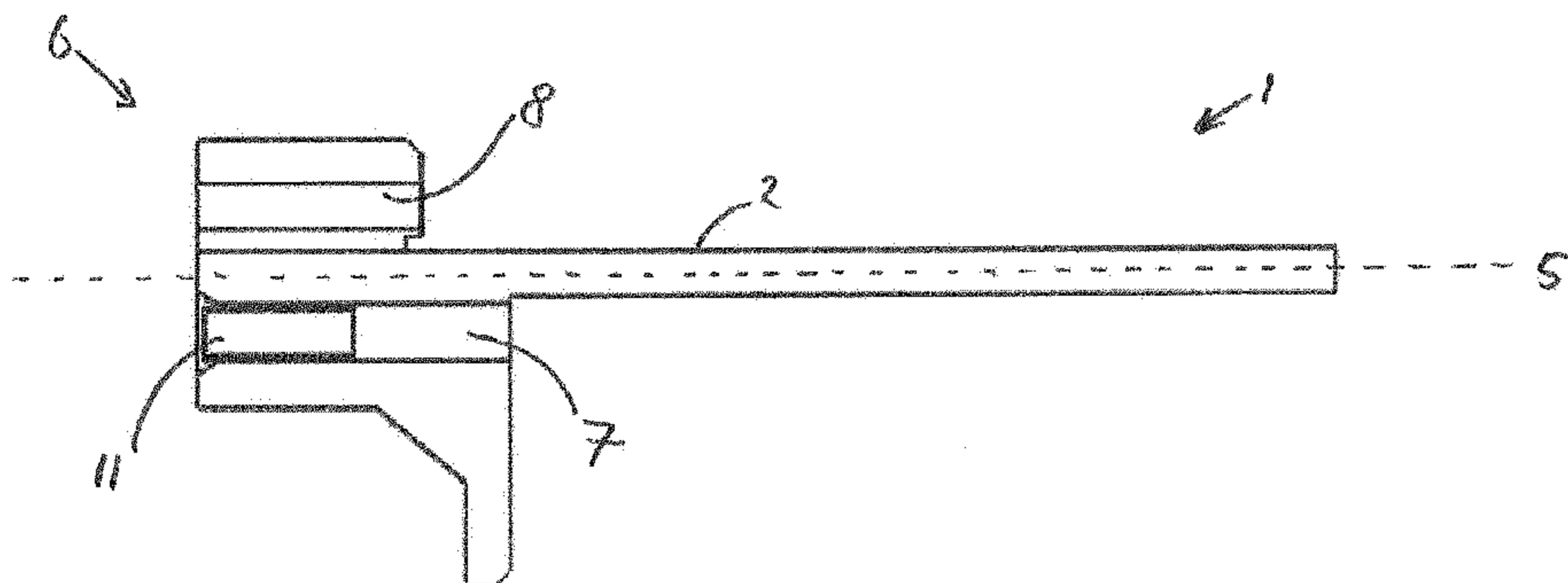


Fig. 2

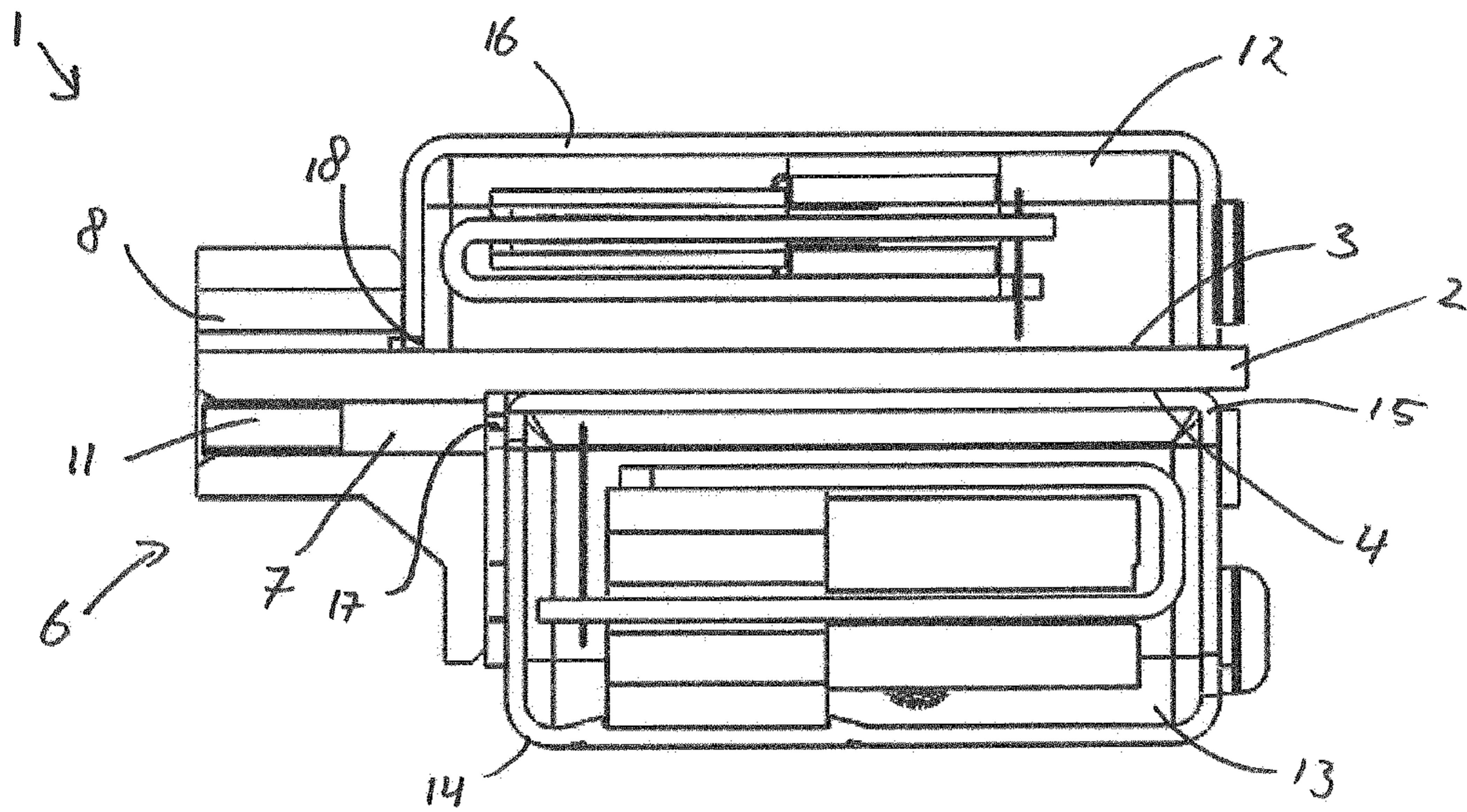


Fig. 3

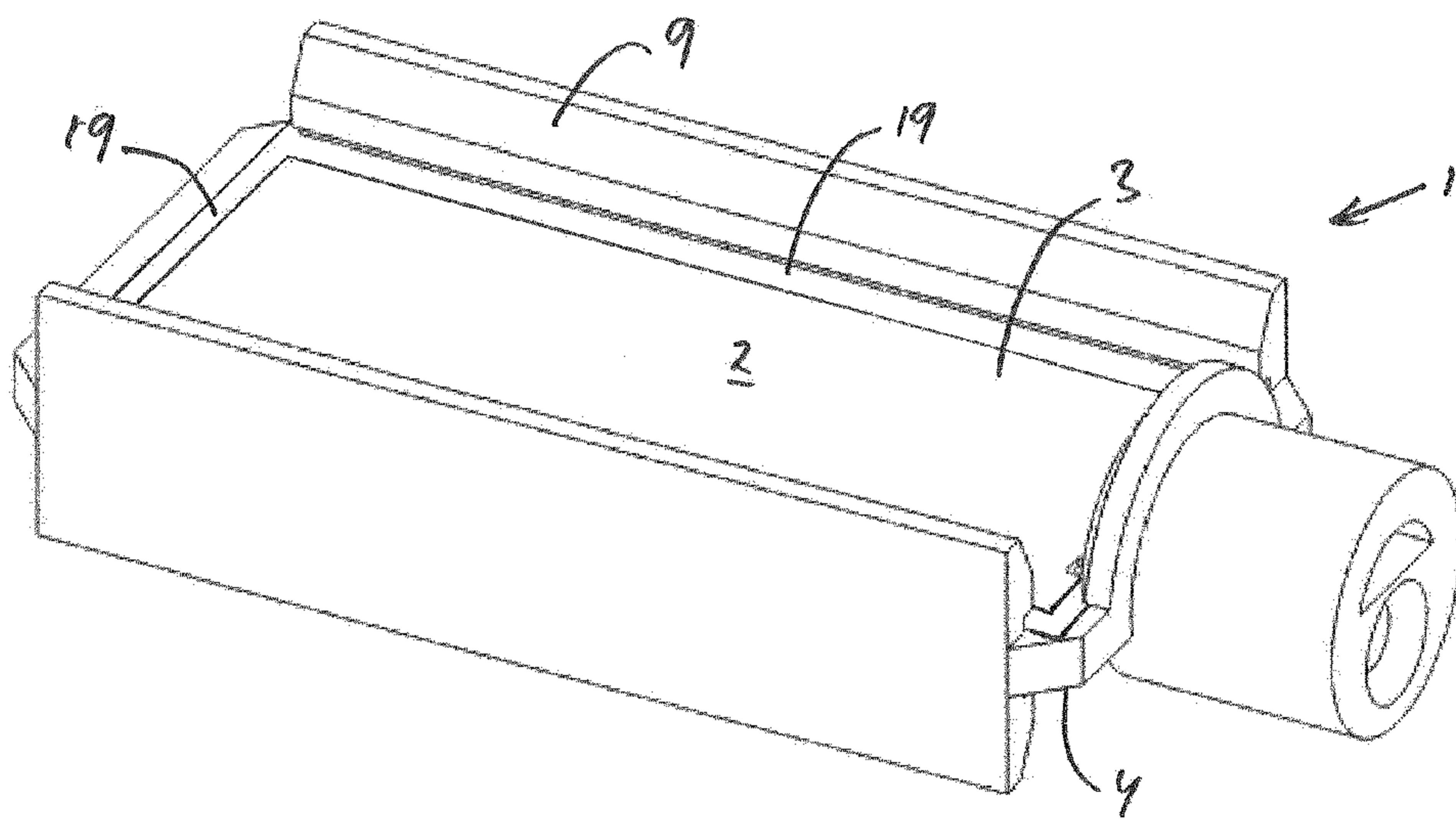


Fig. 4