



US 20080015600A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**  
**D'Alessio et al.**

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2008/0015600 A1**

(43) **Pub. Date: Jan. 17, 2008**

(54) **UNICONDYLAR KNEE IMPLANTS AND  
INSERTION METHODS THEREFOR**

(75) Inventors: **Jerry D'Alessio**, Belleville, NJ  
(US); **Carlos E. Collazo**, Old  
Greenwich, CT (US)

Correspondence Address:  
**LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,  
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK**  
600 SOUTH AVENUE WEST  
WESTFIELD, NJ 07090

(73) Assignee: **Howmedica Osteonics Corp.**,  
Mahwah, NJ (US)

(21) Appl. No.: **11/545,158**

(22) Filed: **Oct. 10, 2006**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation of application No. 11/471,931, filed on  
Jun. 21, 2006.

**Publication Classification**

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
*A61B 17/00* (2006.01)  
(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **606/79**  
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method of balancing extension and flexion gaps in a knee joint includes preparing a tibial component seating surface at a proximal end of a tibia, extending the knee joint and measuring an extension gap between the tibial component seating surface and a distal end of a femur, and flexing the knee joint and measuring a flexion gap between the tibial component seating surface and a posterior region of the femur. The extension gap is compared with the flexion gap to determine an amount of bone that is to be removed from the posterior region of the femur for balancing the extension gap with the flexion gap.

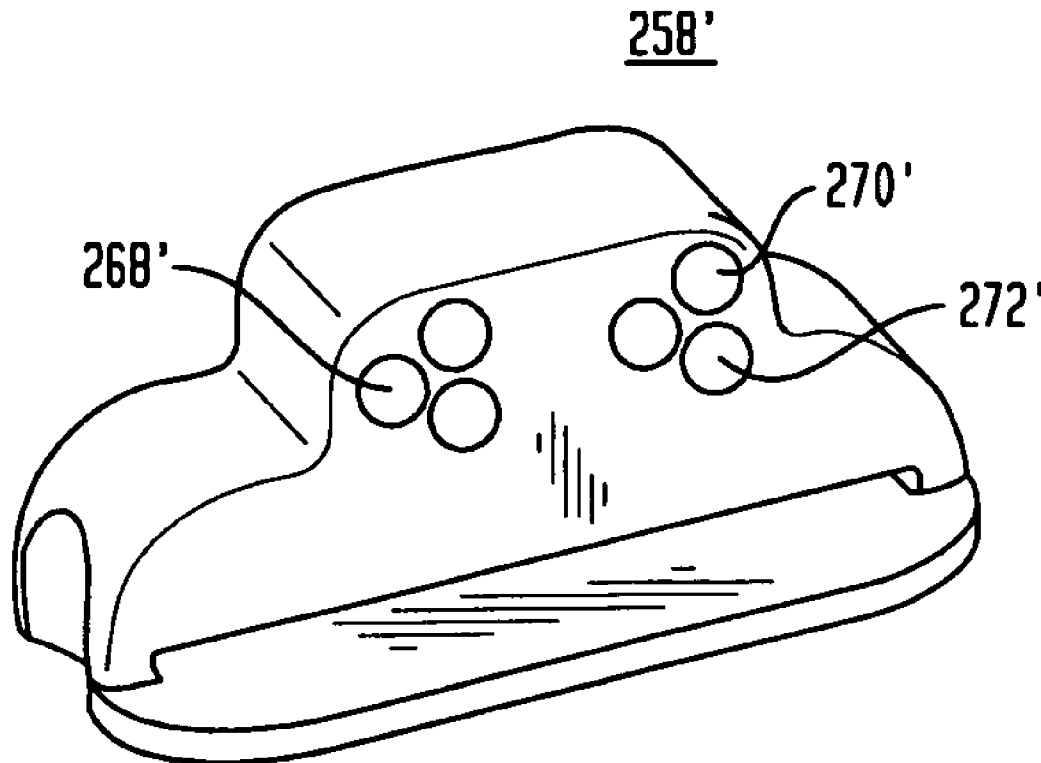


FIG. 1D

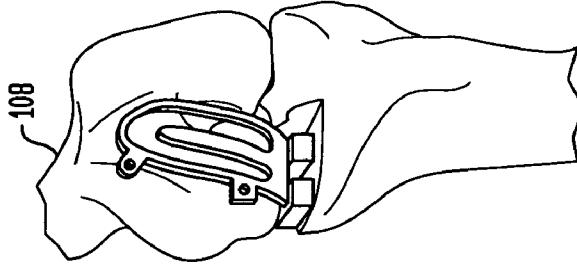


FIG. 1C

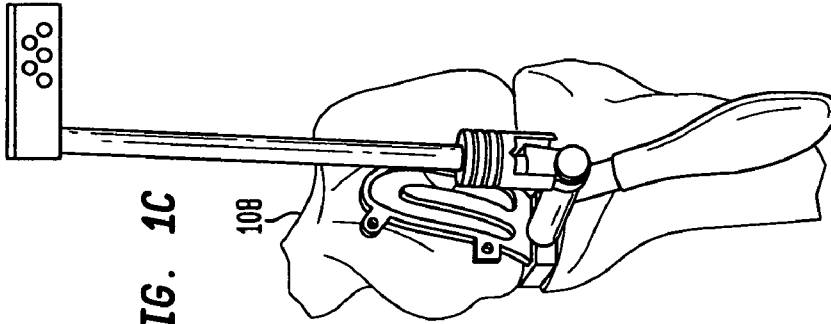


FIG. 1B

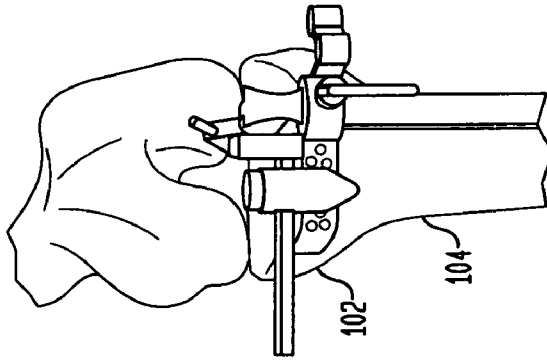


FIG. 1A

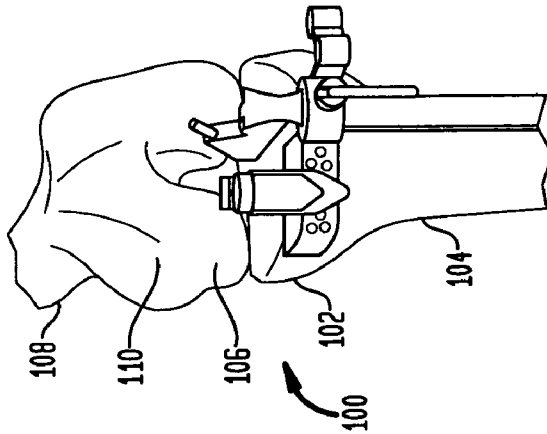


FIG. 1G

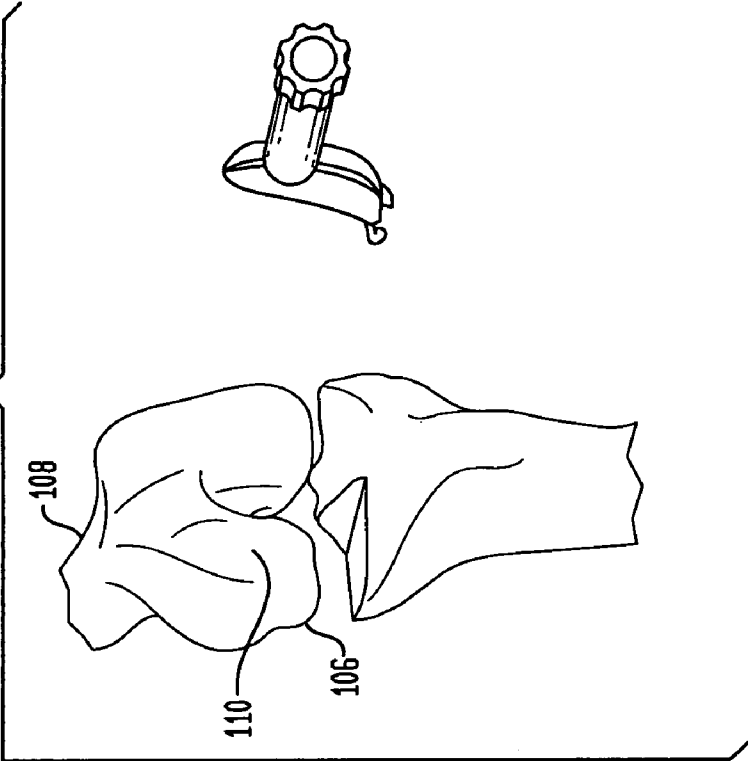


FIG. 1F

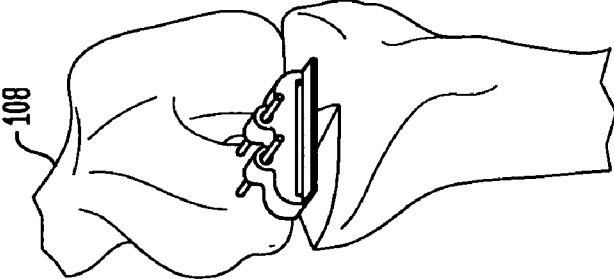
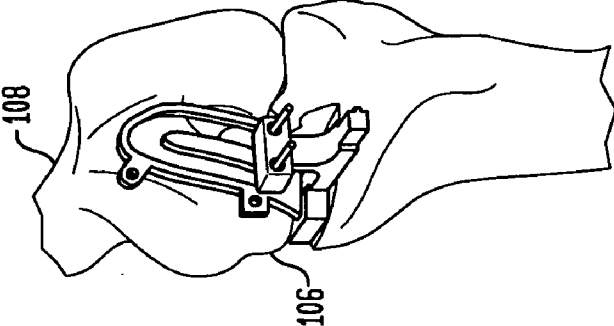


FIG. 1E



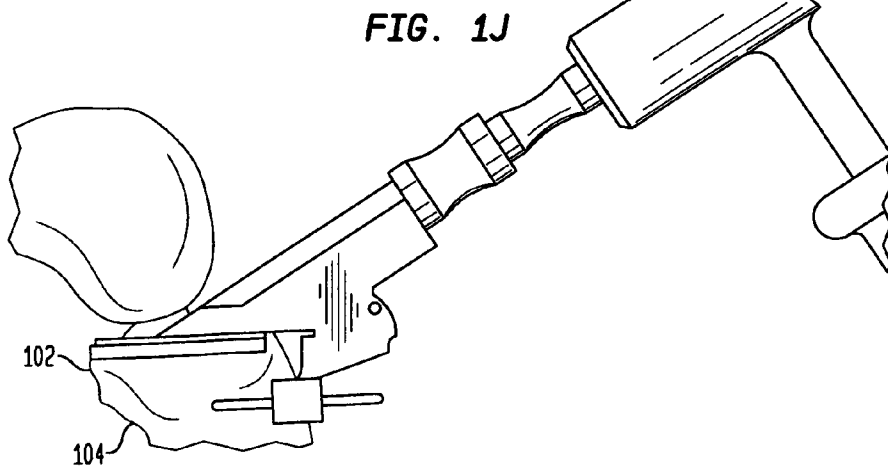
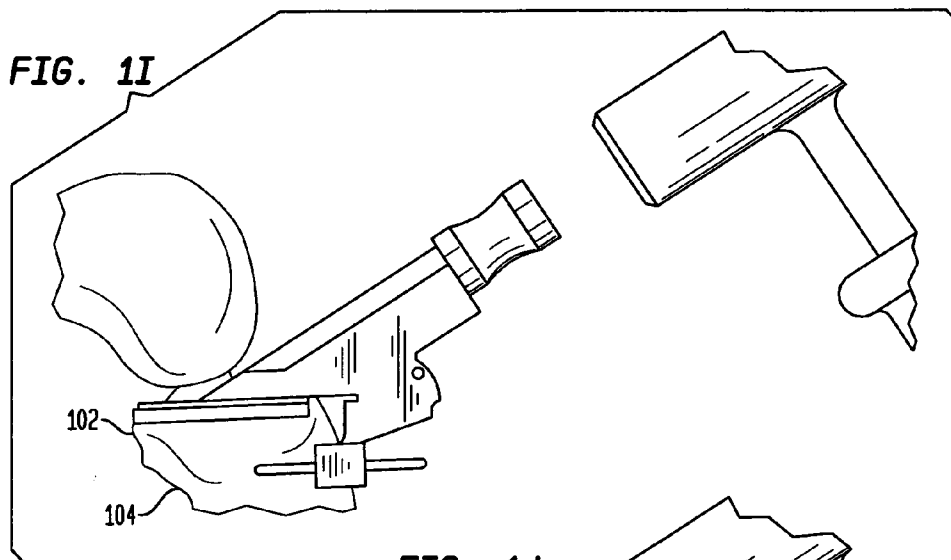
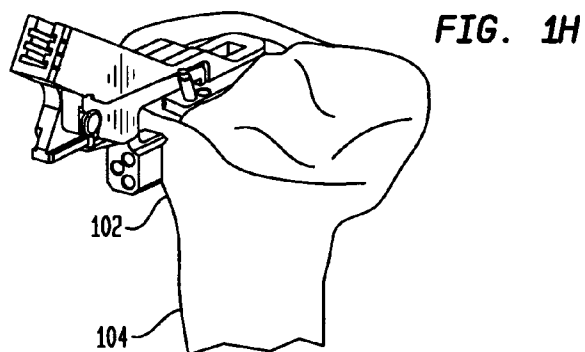


FIG. 2

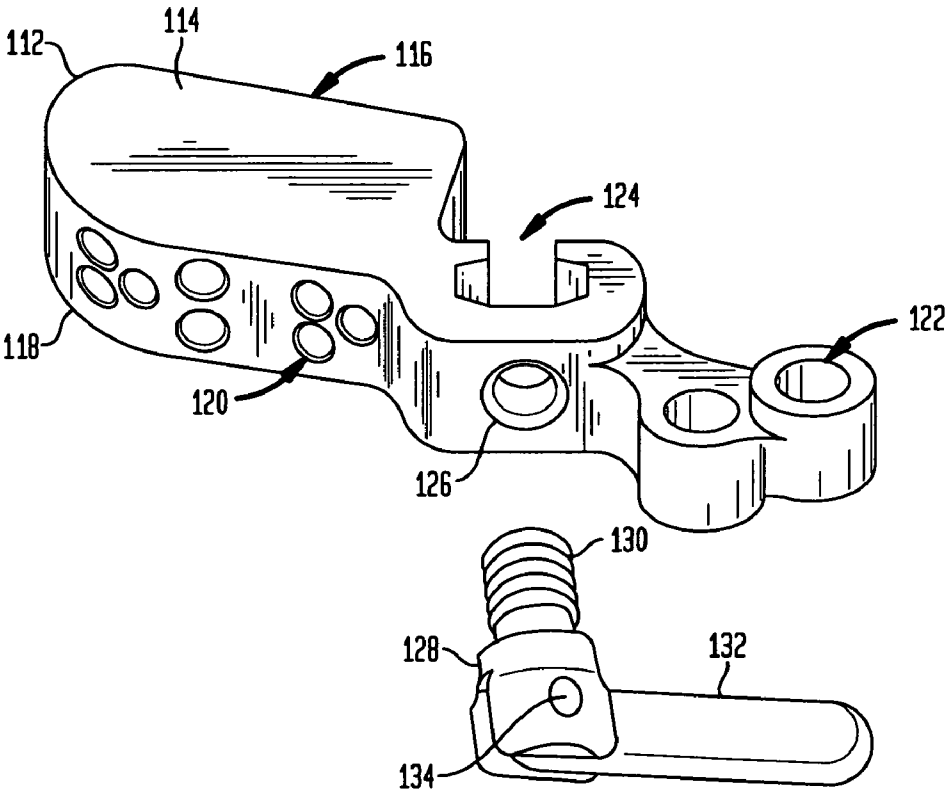


FIG. 3A

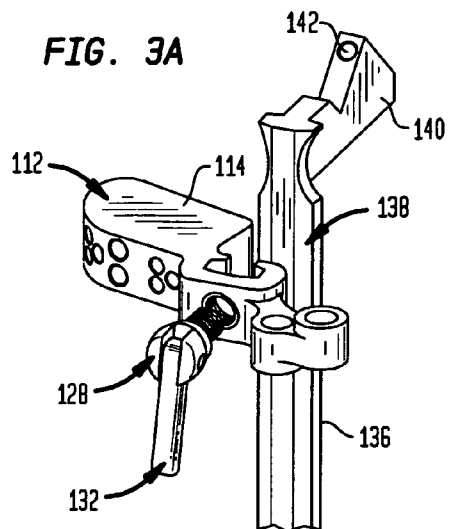


FIG. 3B

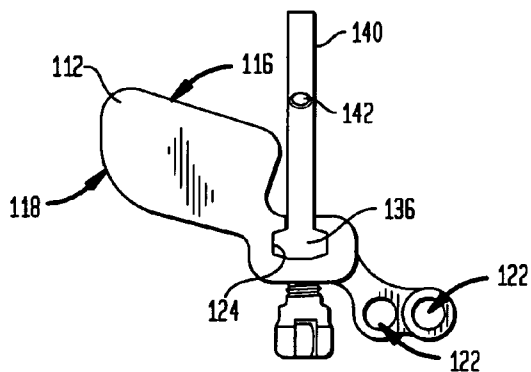


FIG. 3C

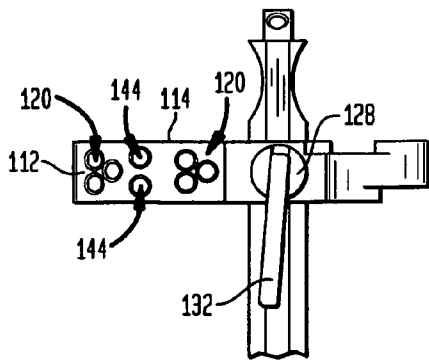
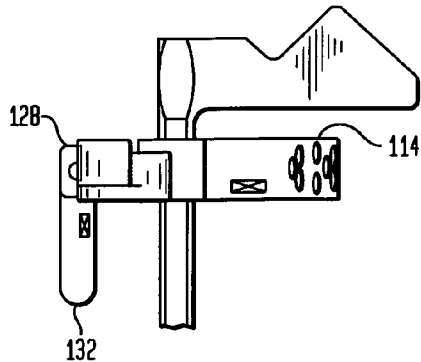
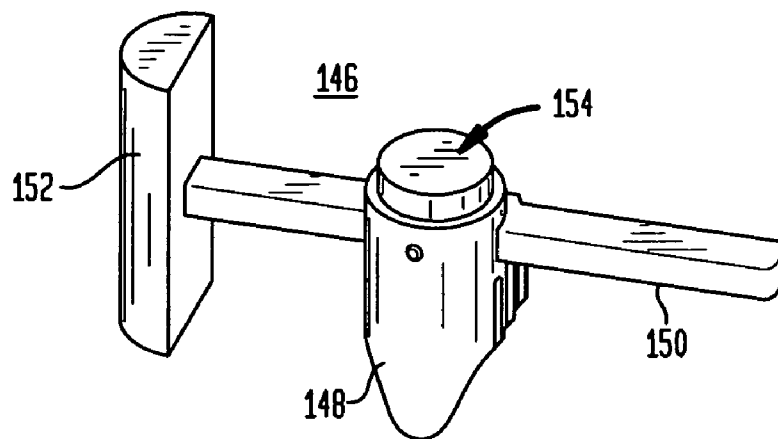


FIG. 3D



**FIG. 4**



**FIG. 5A**

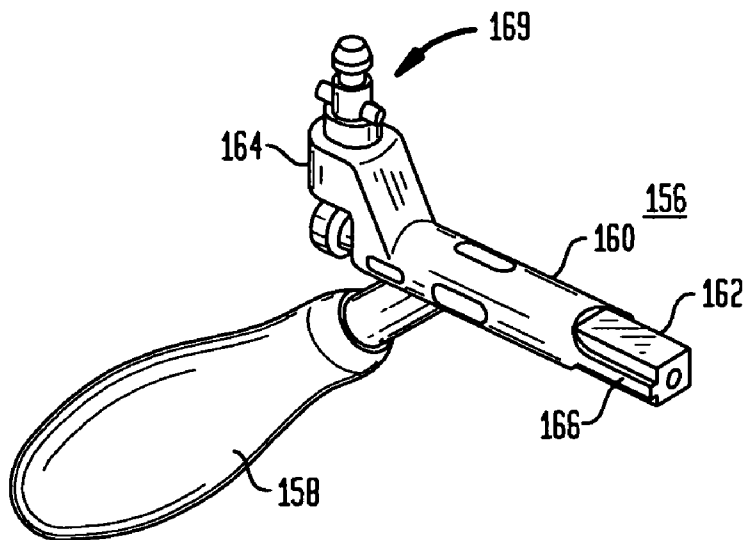


FIG. 5B

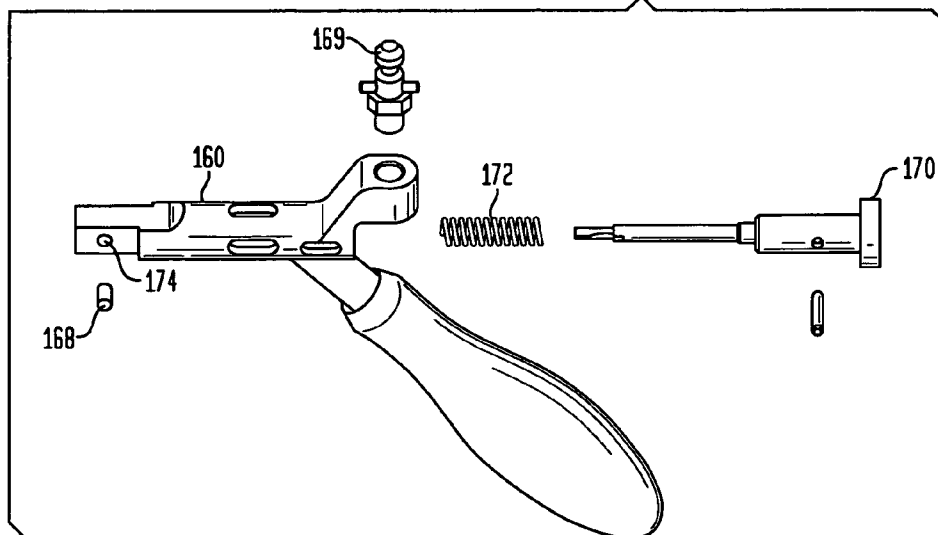


FIG. 5D

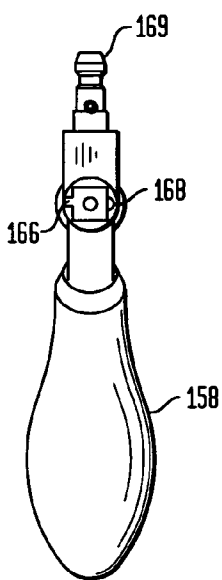


FIG. 5C

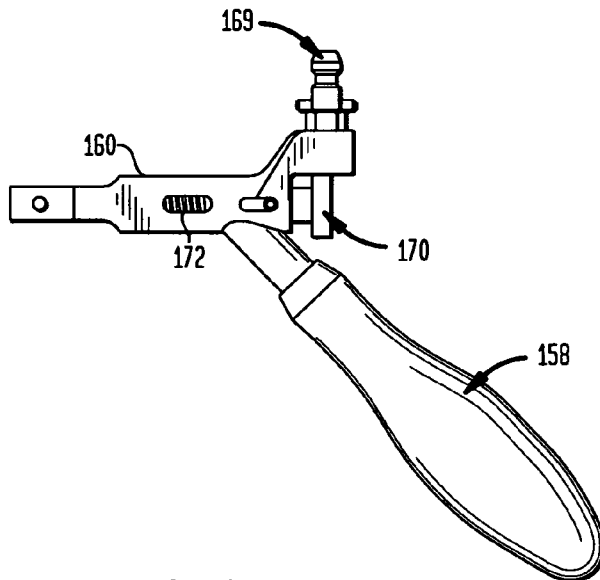
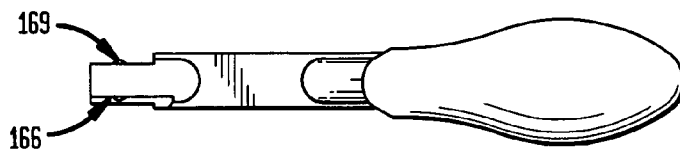
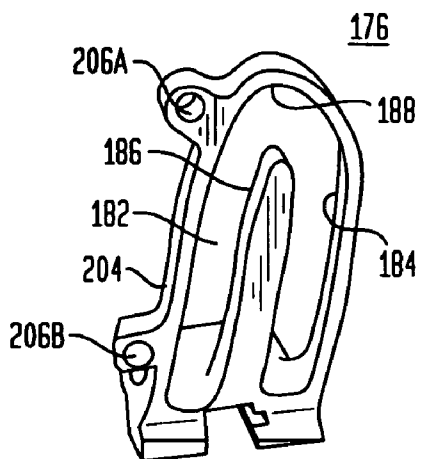


FIG. 5E

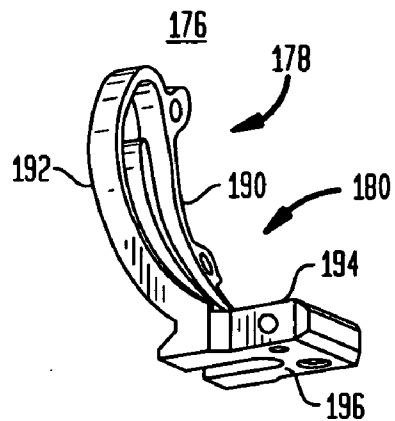




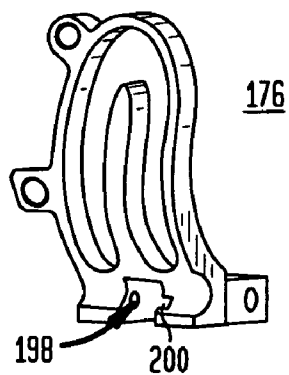
**FIG. 6A**



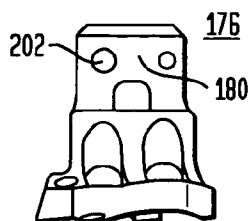
**FIG. 6B**



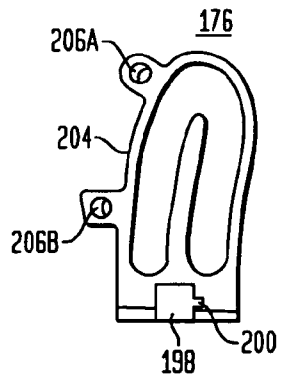
**FIG. 6C**



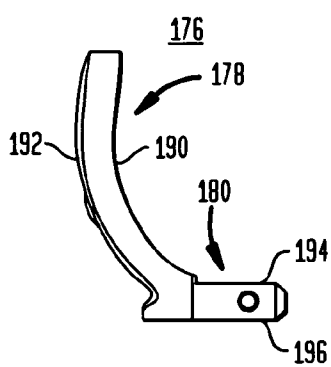
**FIG. 6F**



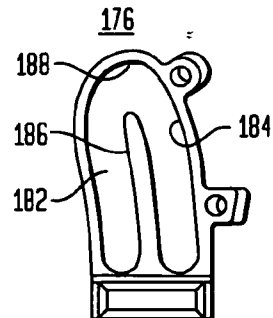
**FIG. 6G**



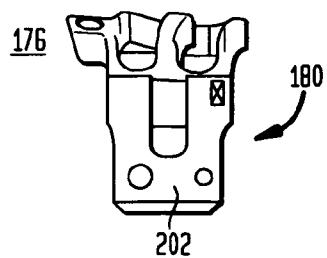
**FIG. 6D**



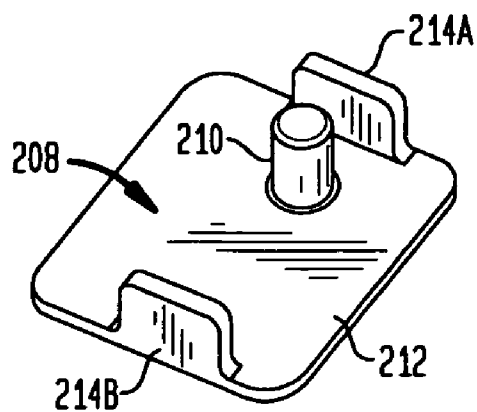
**FIG. 6E**



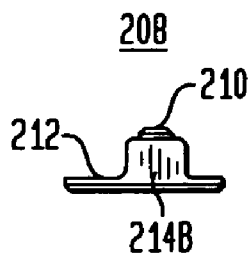
**FIG. 6H**



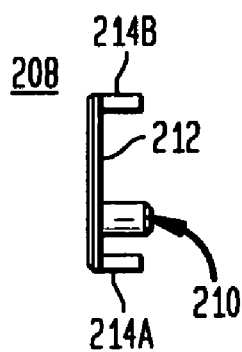
**FIG. 7A**



**FIG. 7B**

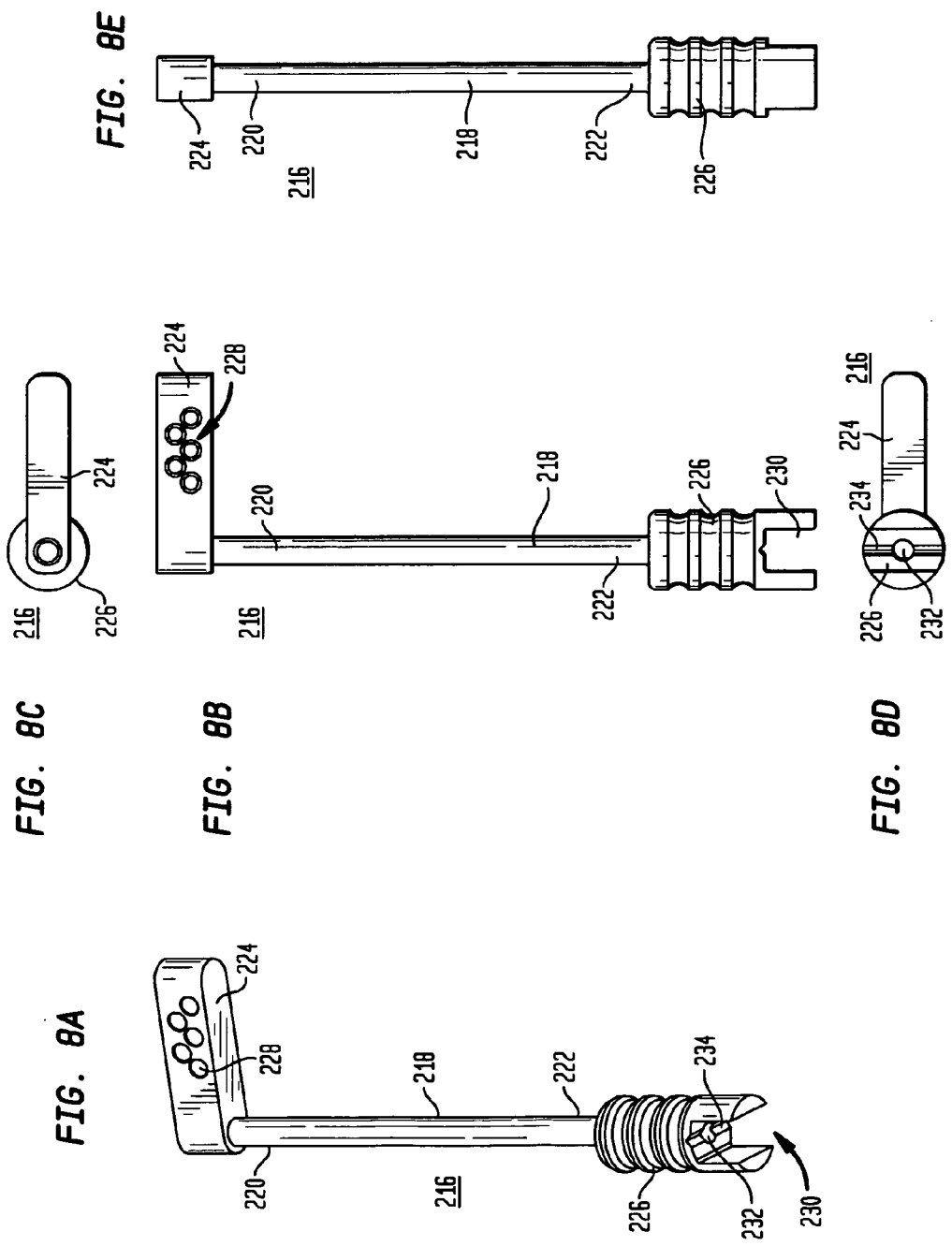


**FIG. 7D**

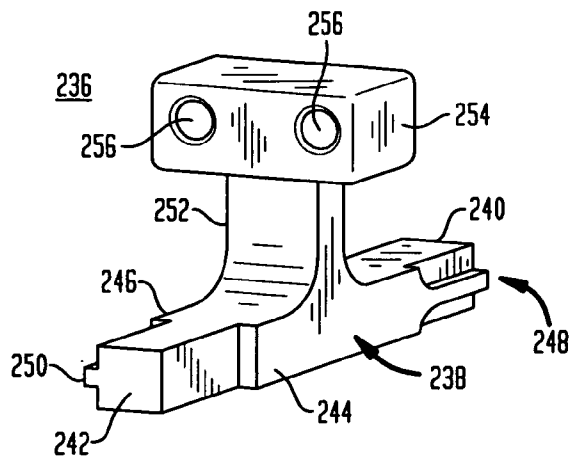


**FIG. 7C**

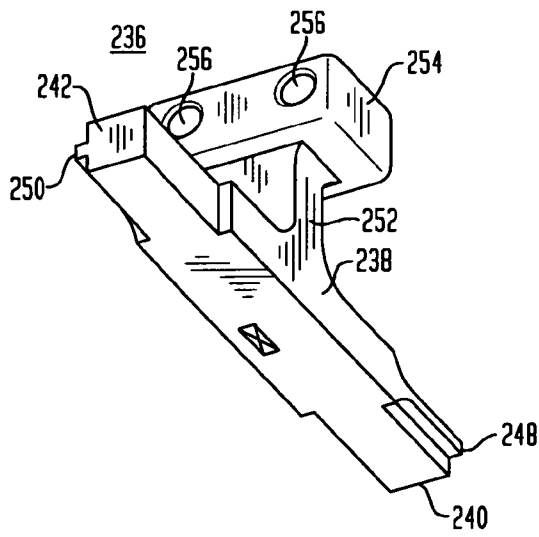




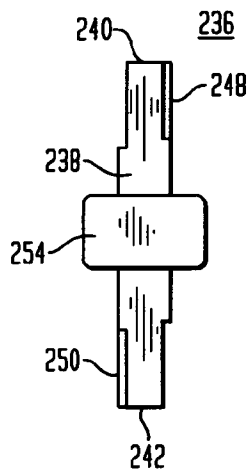
**FIG. 9A**



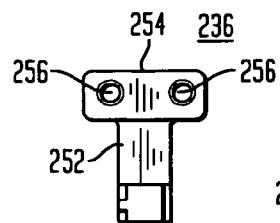
**FIG. 9B**



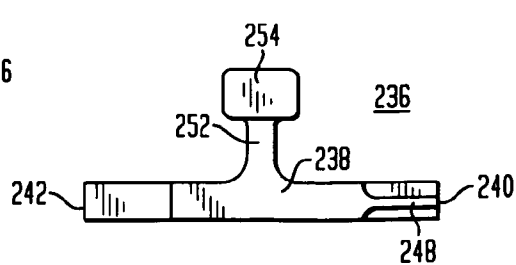
**FIG. 9C**



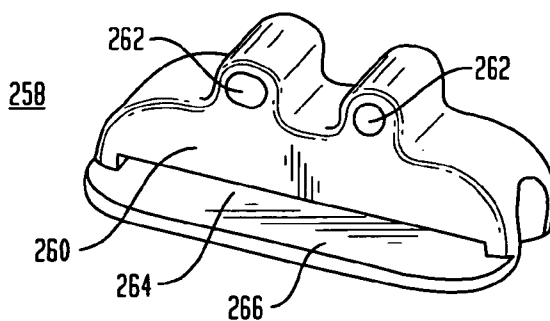
**FIG. 9E**



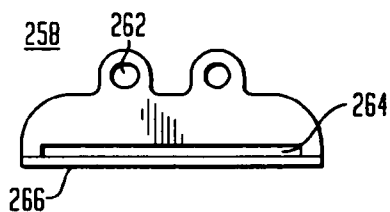
**FIG. 9D**



**FIG. 10A**



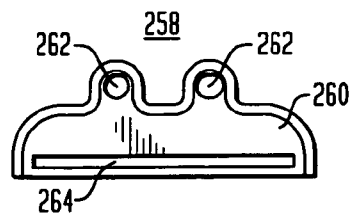
**FIG. 10B**



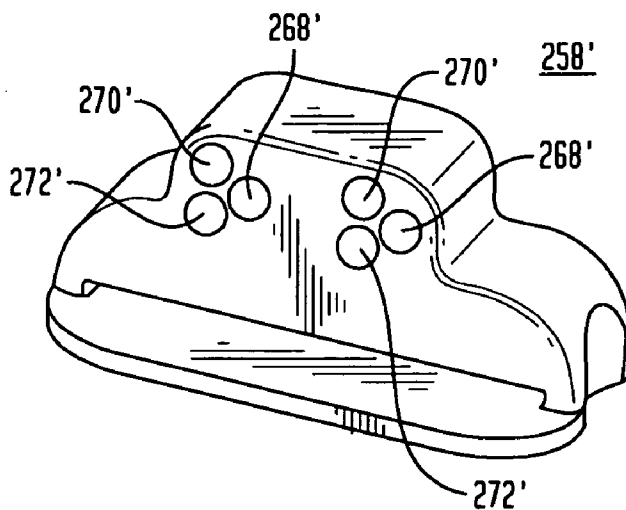
**FIG. 10C**



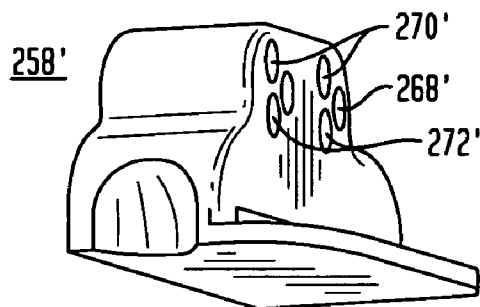
**FIG. 10D**



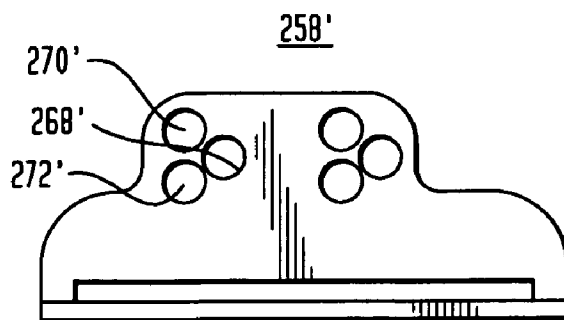
**FIG. 11A**



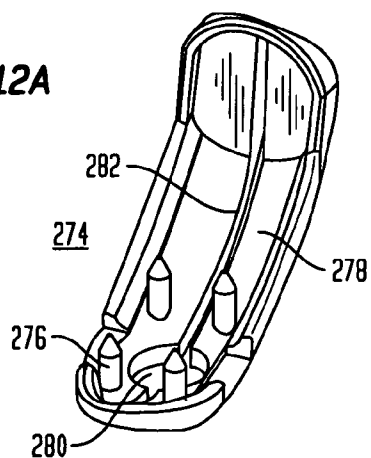
**FIG. 11B**



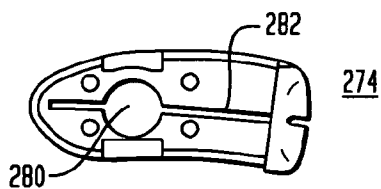
**FIG. 11C**



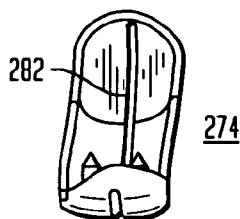
**FIG. 12A**



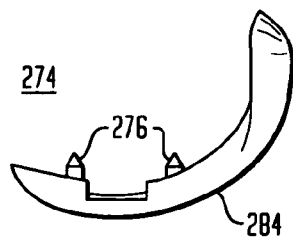
**FIG. 12C**



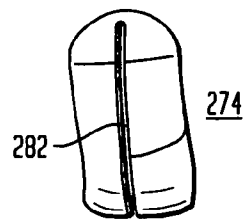
**FIG. 12E**



**FIG. 12B**



**FIG. 12F**



**FIG. 12D**

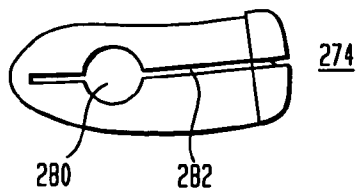




FIG. 13A

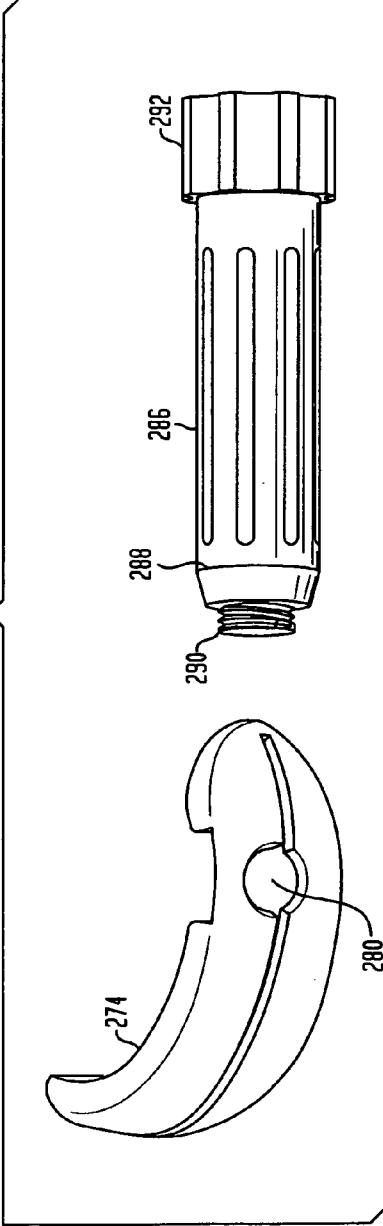


FIG. 13B

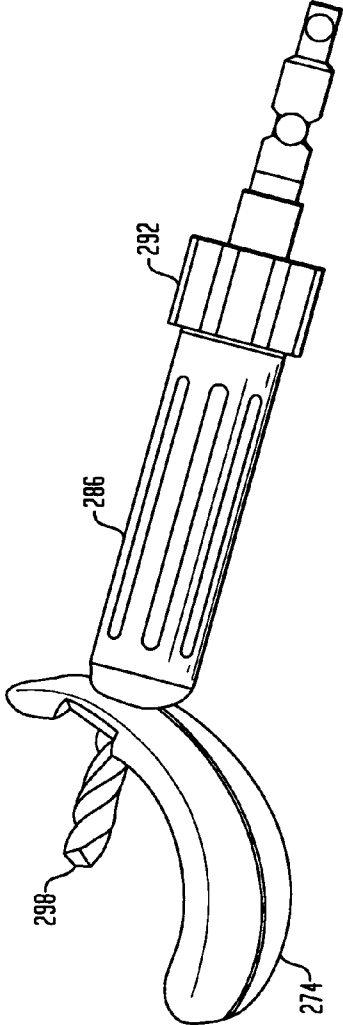


FIG. 14A

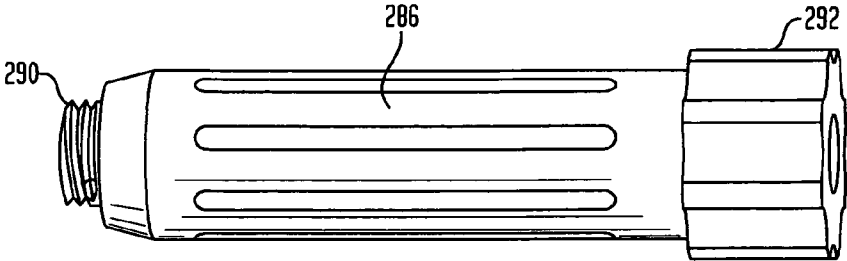


FIG. 14D

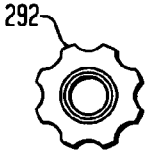


FIG. 14B

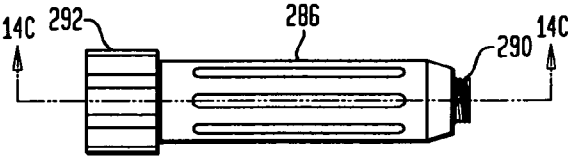


FIG. 14E



FIG. 14C

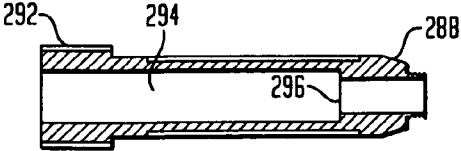


FIG. 15A

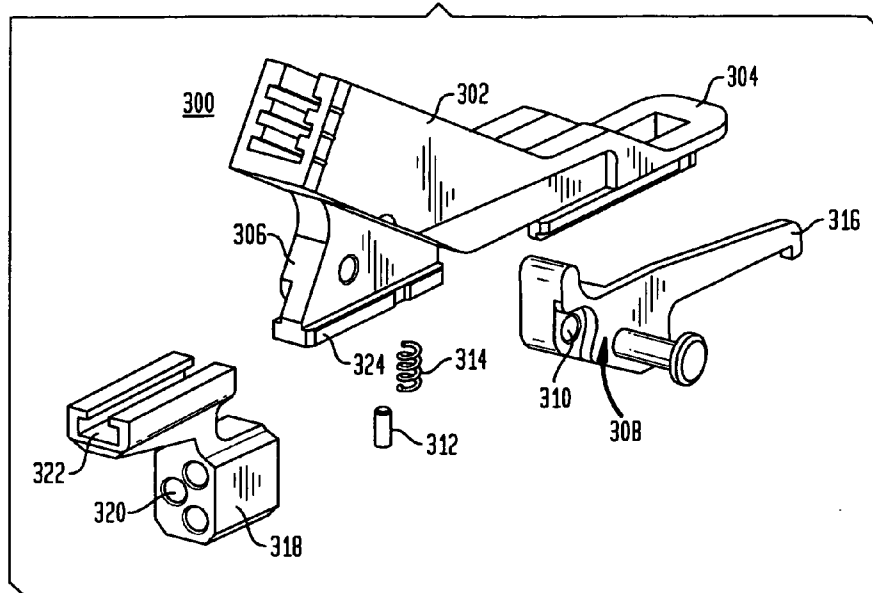


FIG. 15D

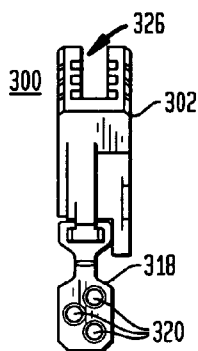


FIG. 15B

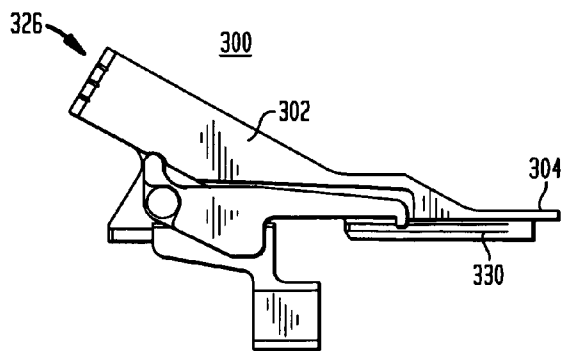


FIG. 15C

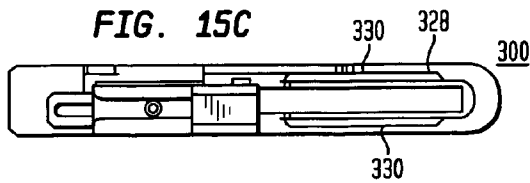


FIG. 16A

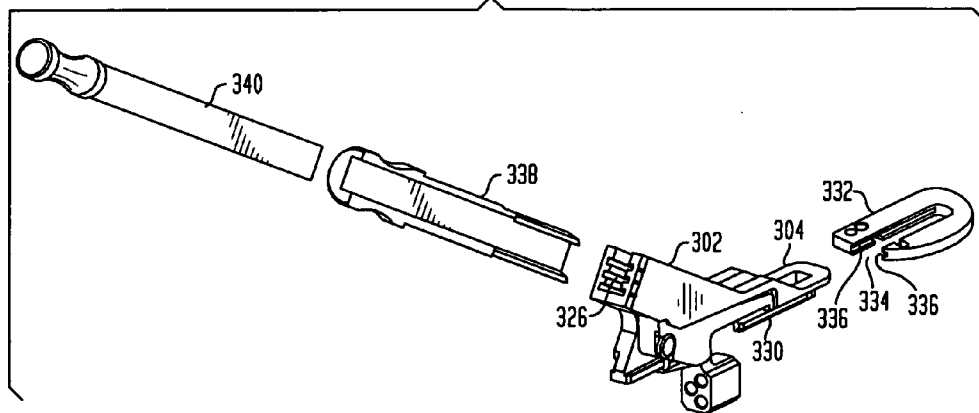


FIG. 16B

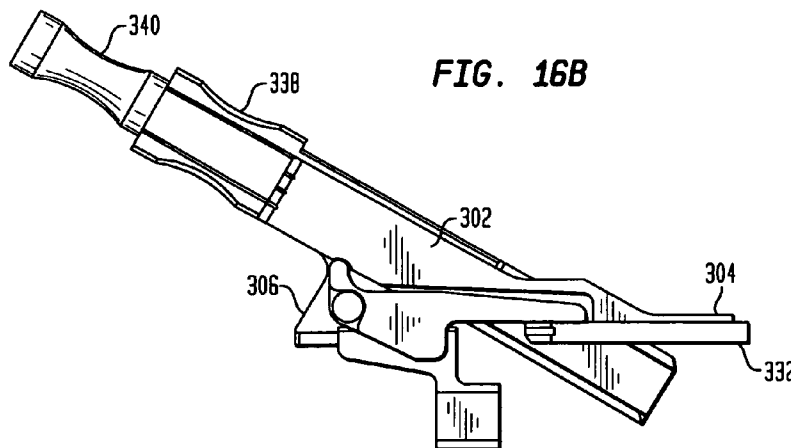
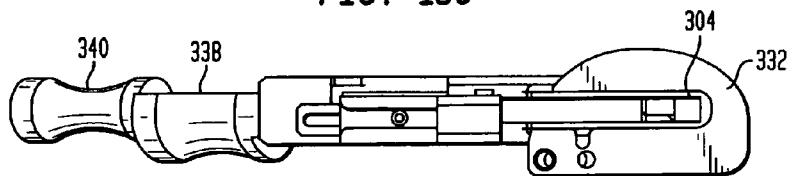


FIG. 16C



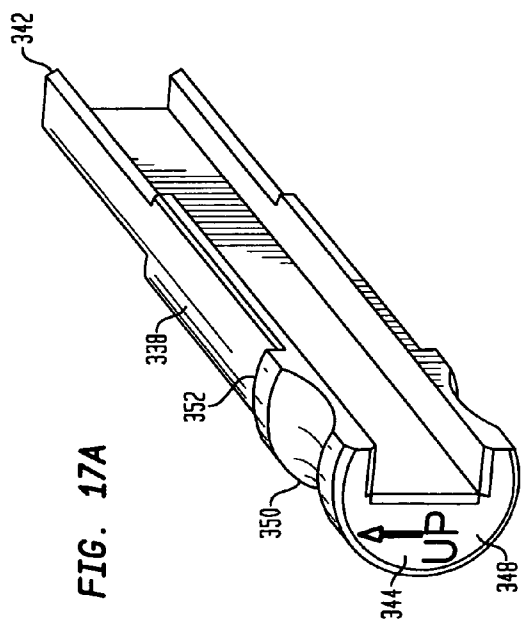


FIG. 17A

FIG. 17D

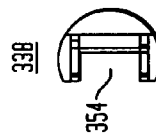


FIG. 17B

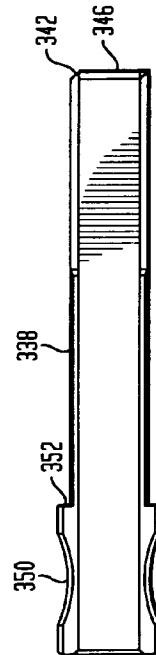
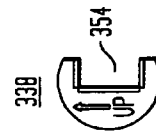


FIG. 17C



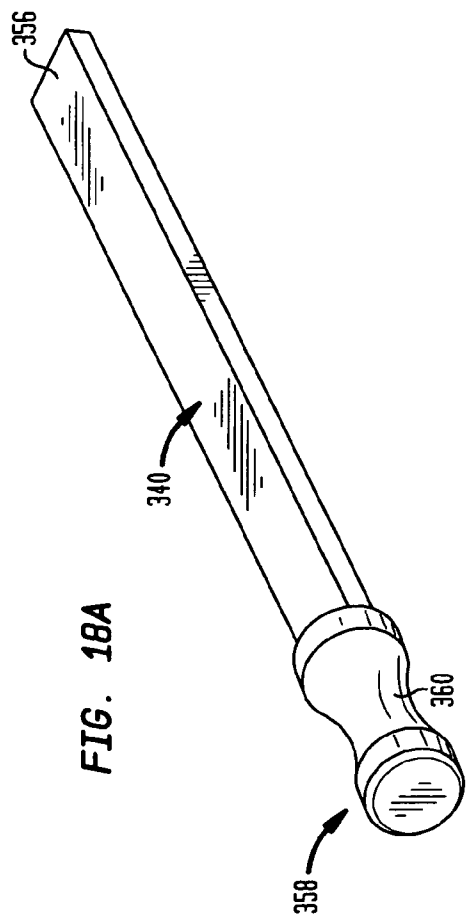


FIG. 18A

FIG. 18D

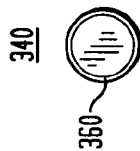


FIG. 18B

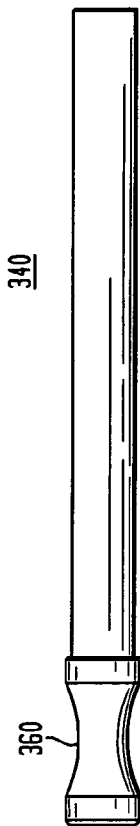


FIG. 18C



FIG. 19

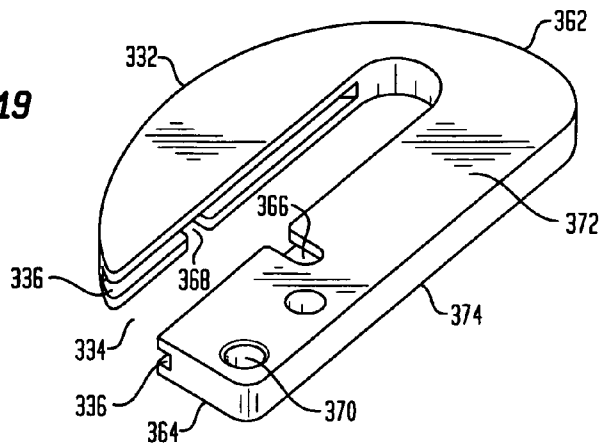
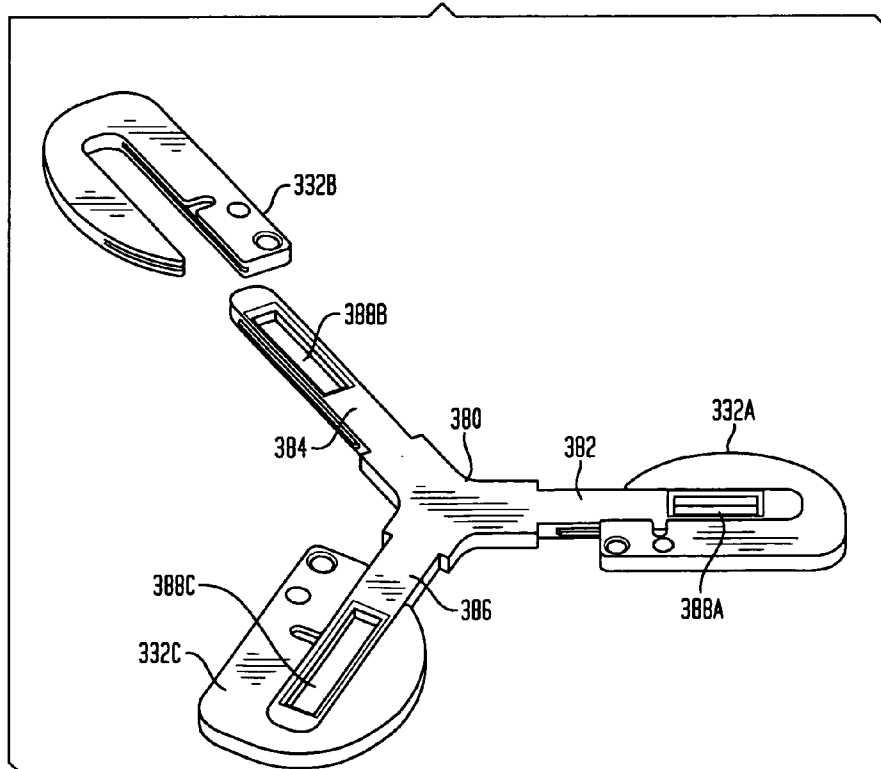


FIG. 20



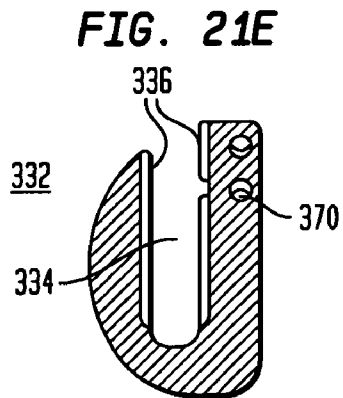
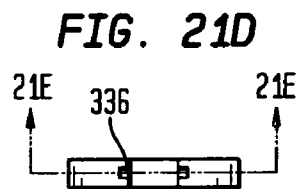
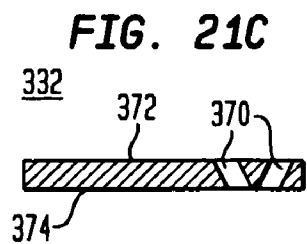
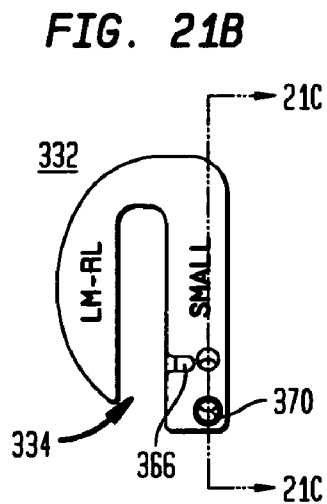
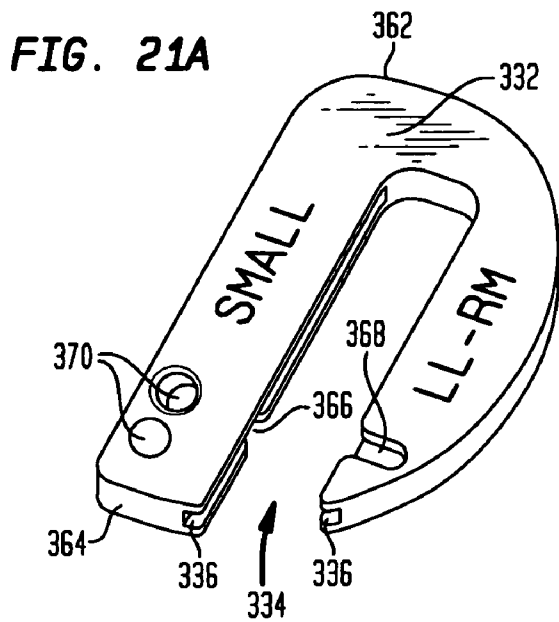




FIG. 22A

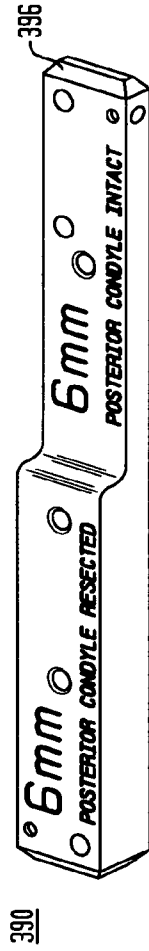


FIG. 22B

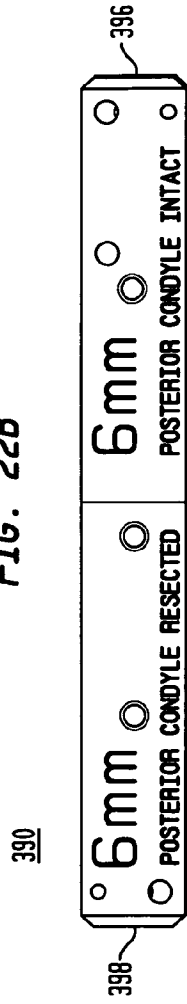


FIG. 22C

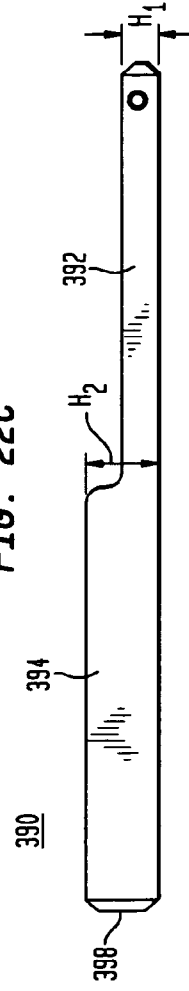
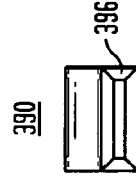
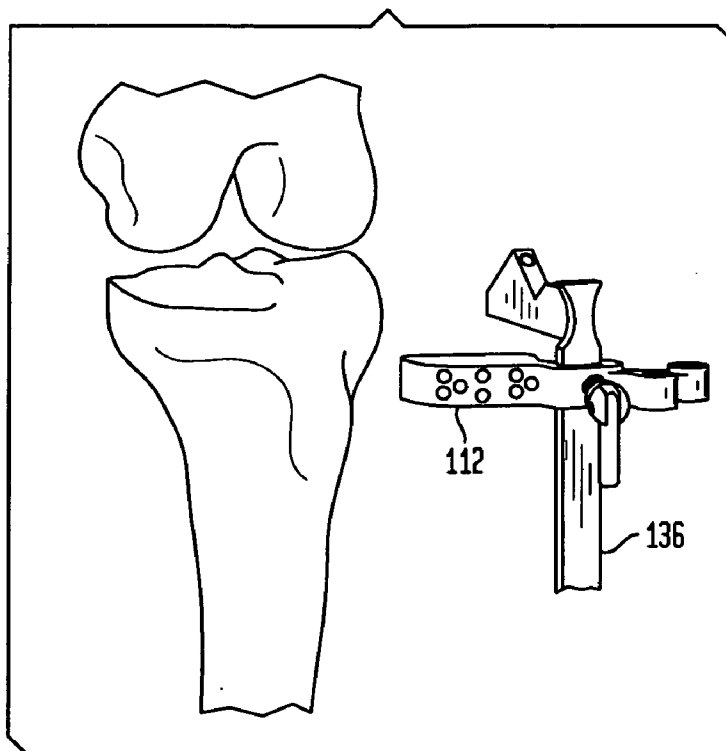


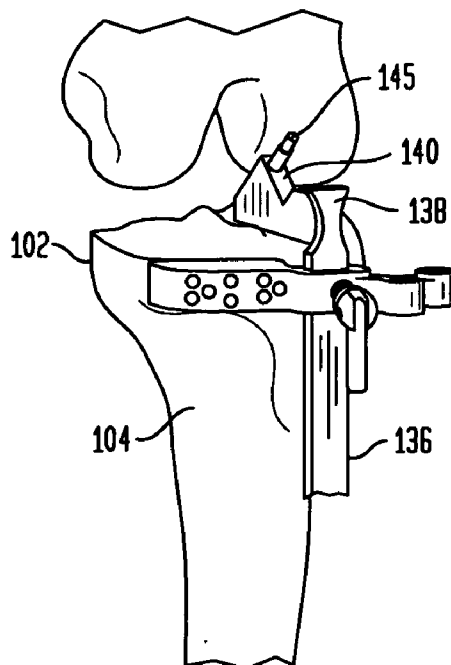
FIG. 22D



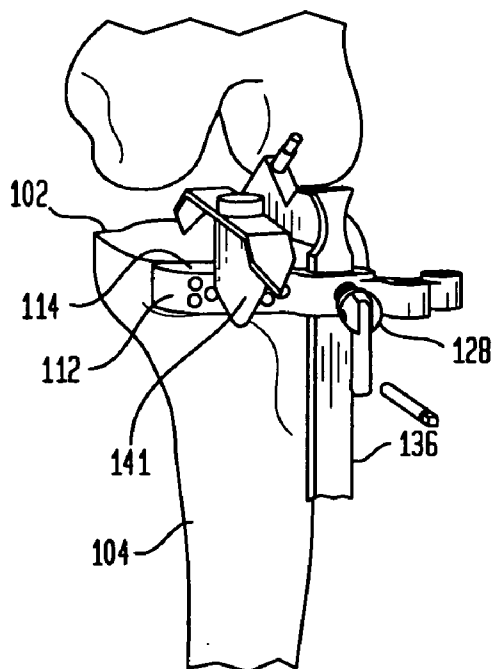
**FIG. 23**



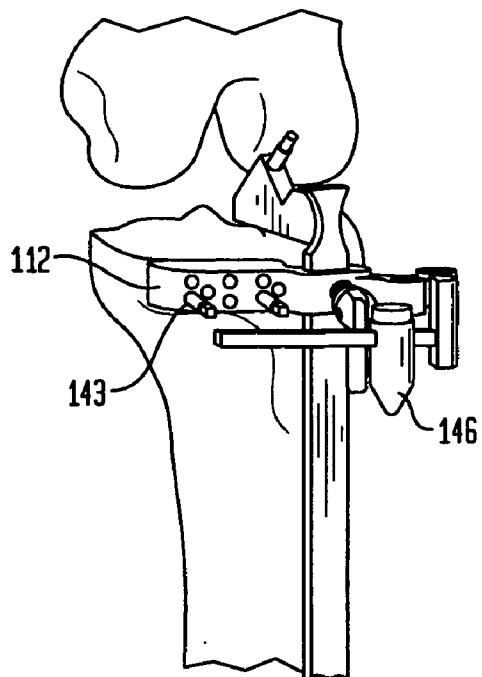
**FIG. 24**



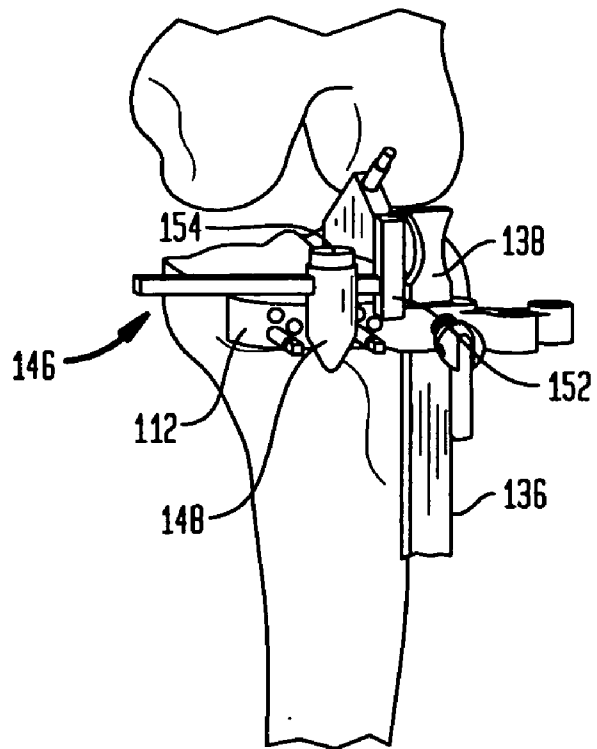
**FIG. 25**



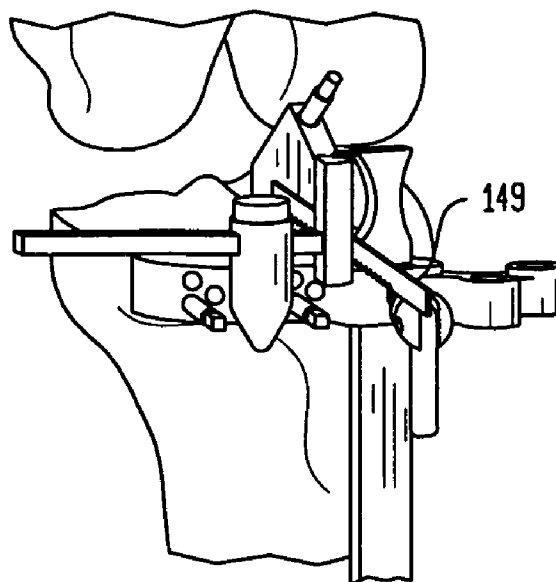
**FIG. 26**



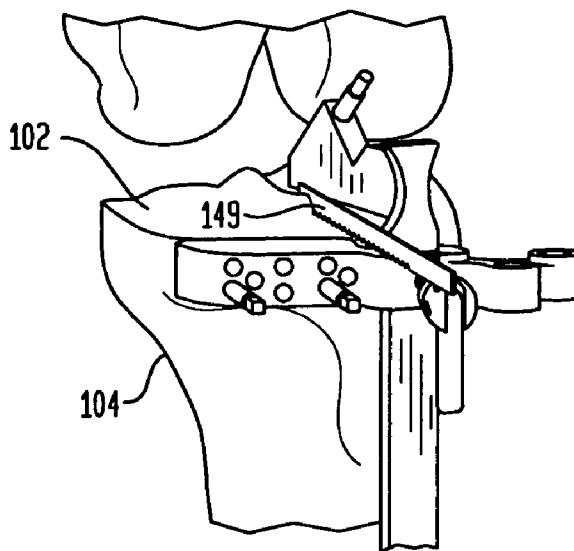
**FIG. 27**



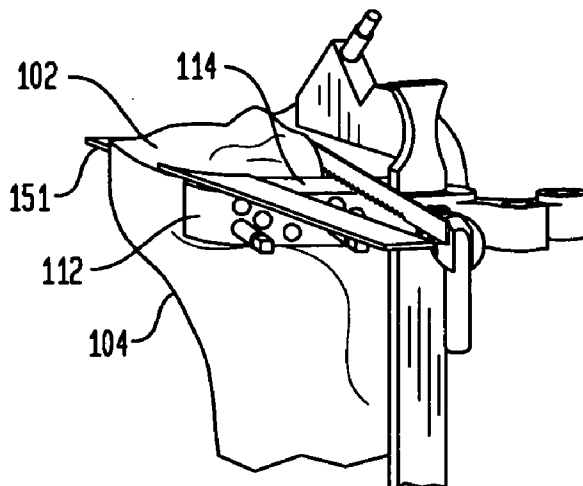
**FIG. 28**



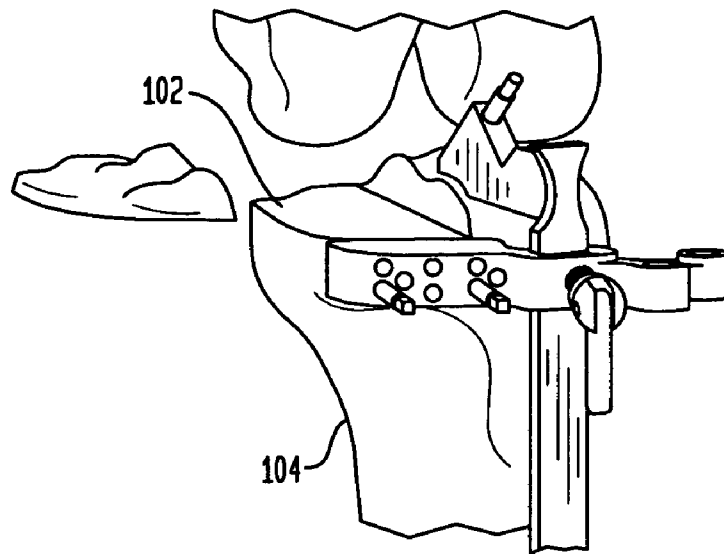
**FIG. 29**



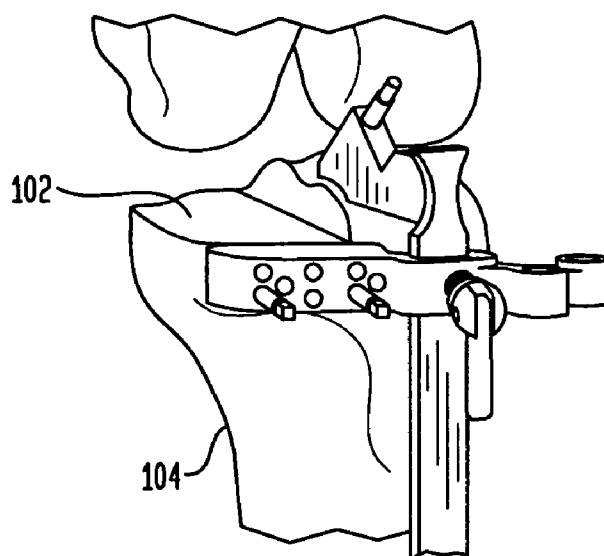
**FIG. 30**



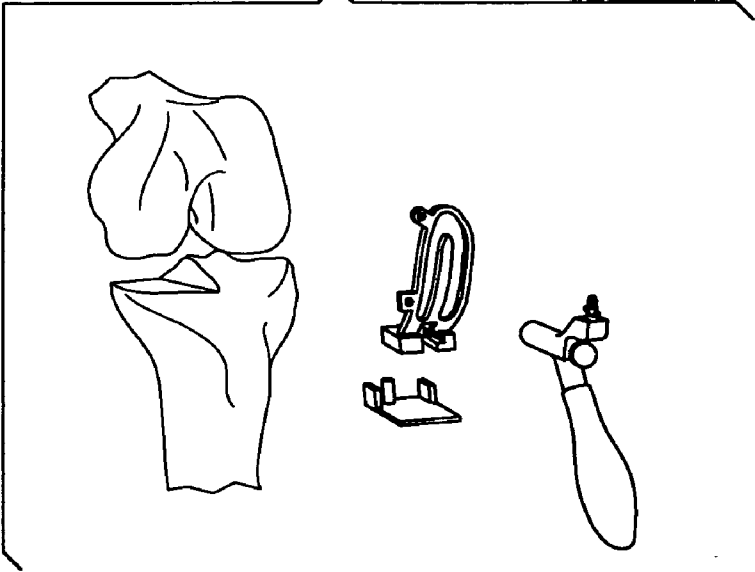
**FIG. 31**



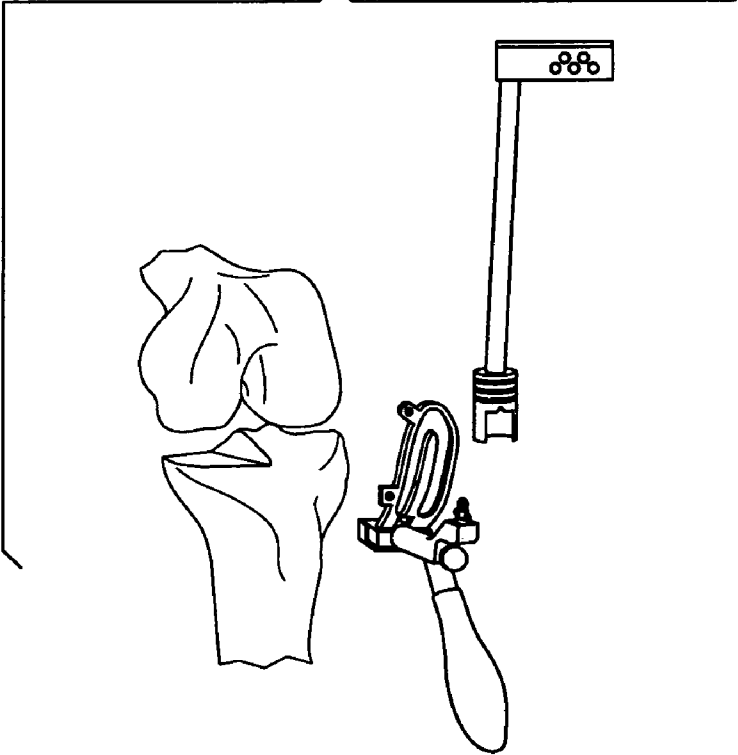
**FIG. 32**



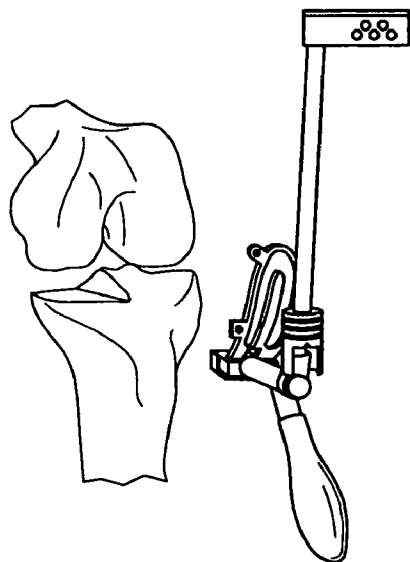
**FIG. 33**



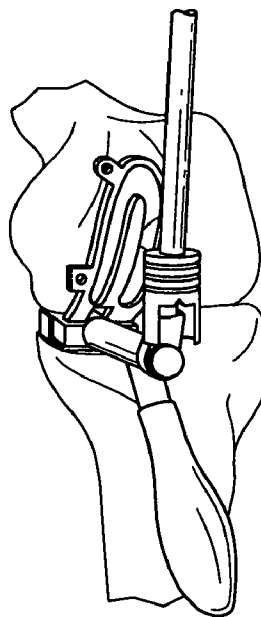
**FIG. 34**



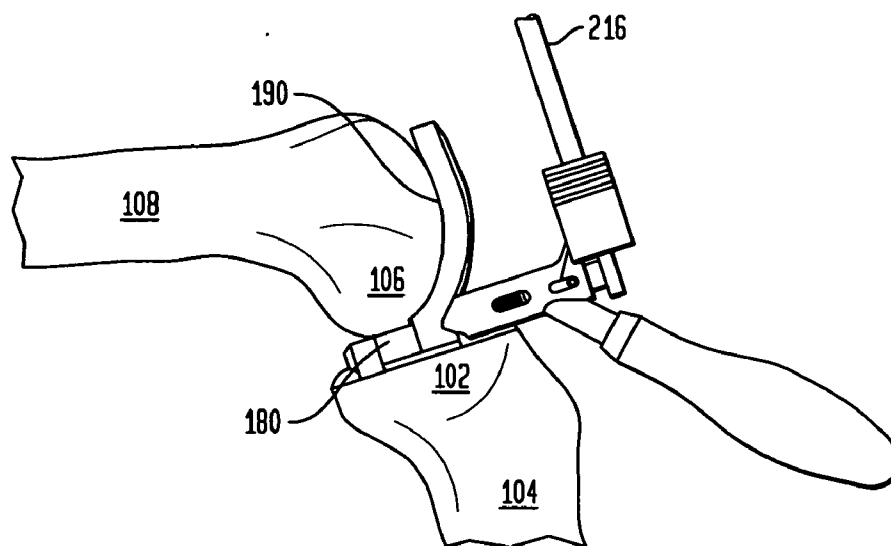
**FIG. 35**



**FIG. 36**

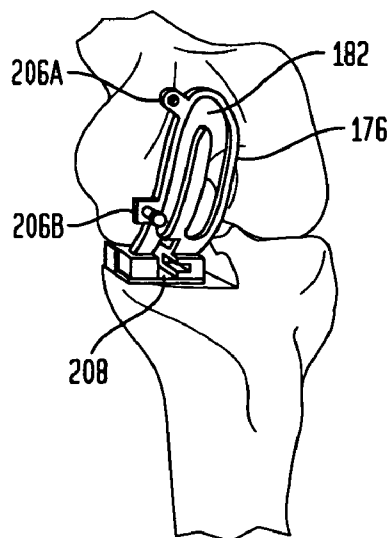


**FIG. 37**

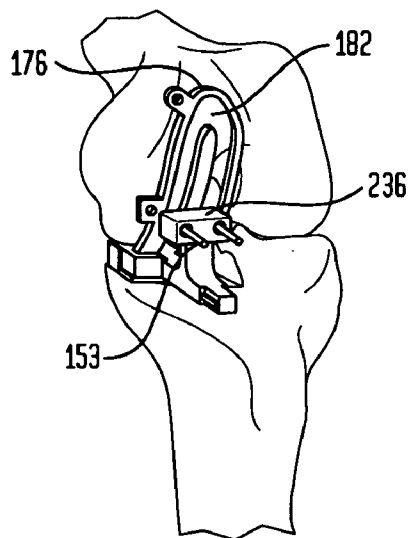




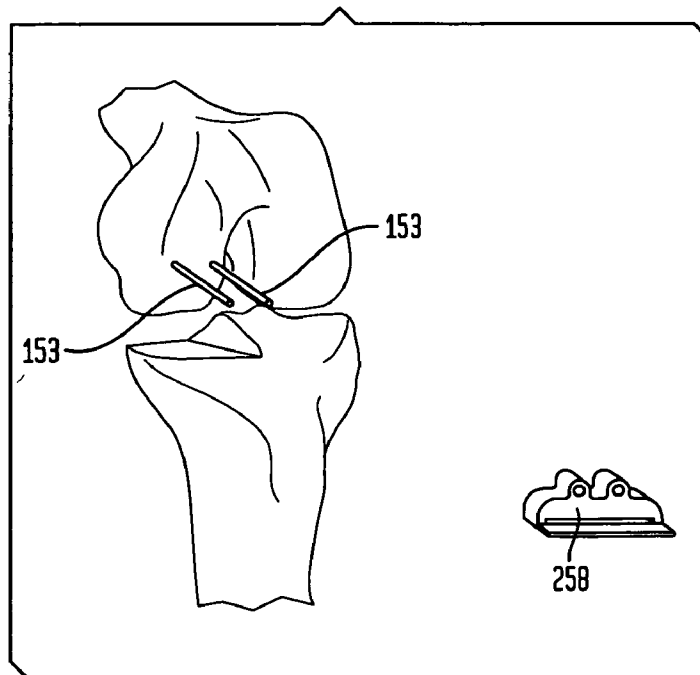
**FIG. 38**



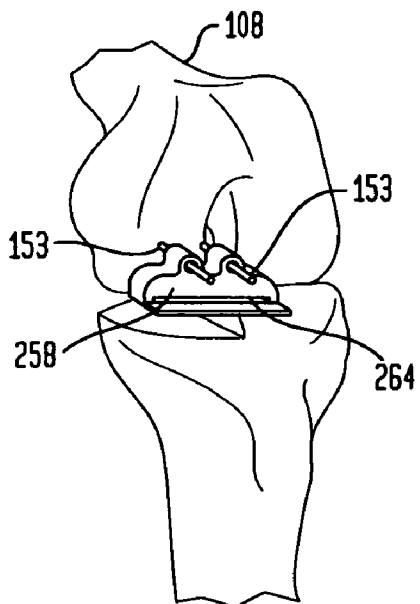
**FIG. 39**



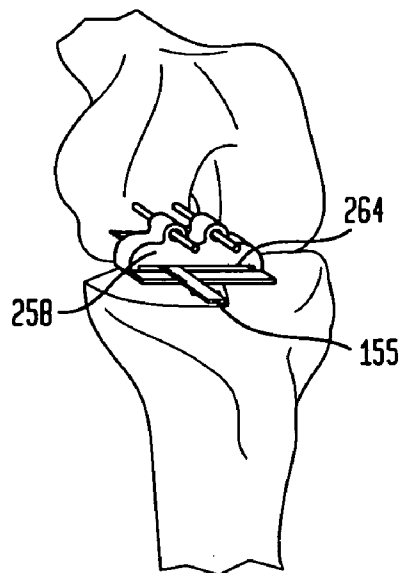
**FIG. 40**



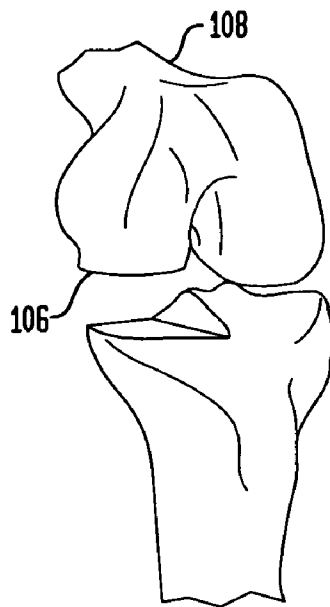
**FIG. 41**



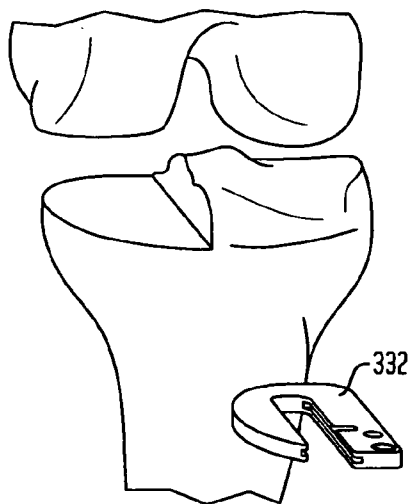
**FIG. 42**



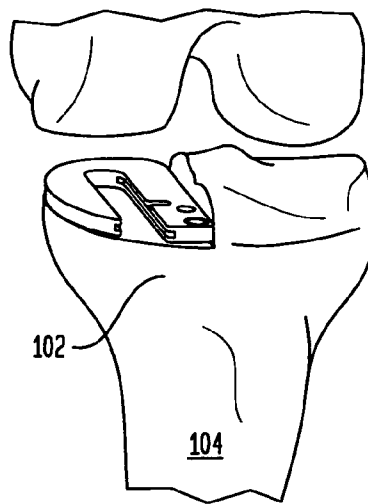
**FIG. 43**



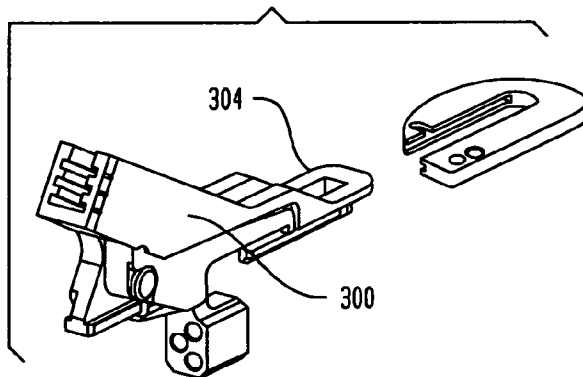
**FIG. 44**



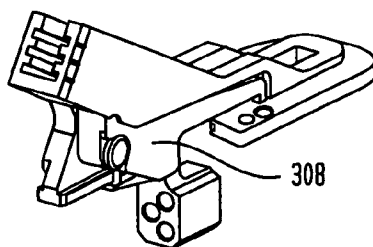
**FIG. 45**



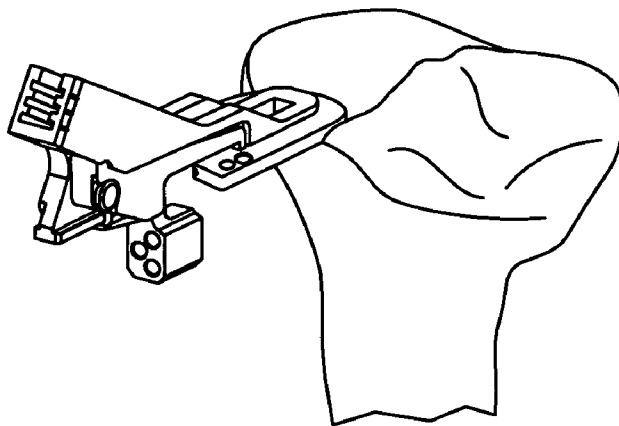
**FIG. 46**



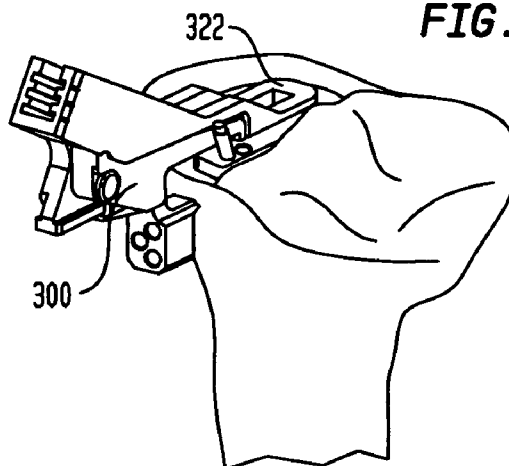
**FIG. 47**



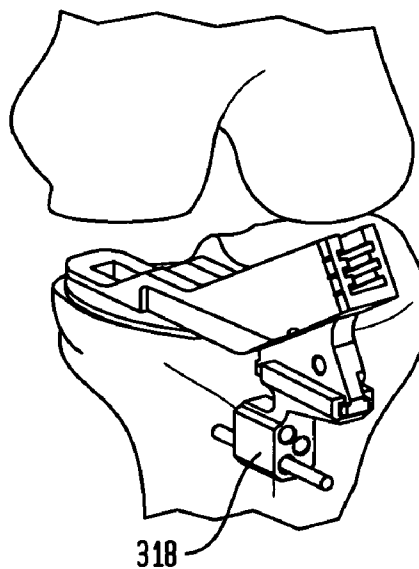
**FIG. 48**

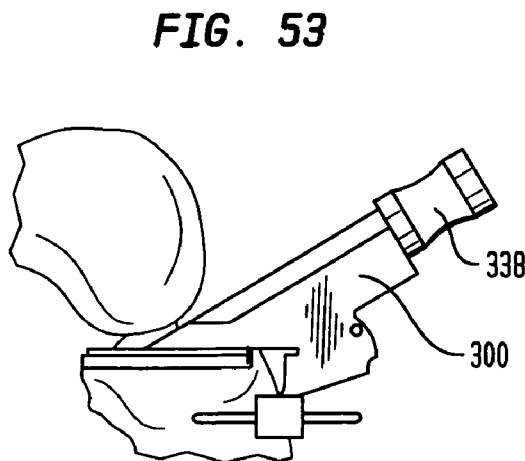
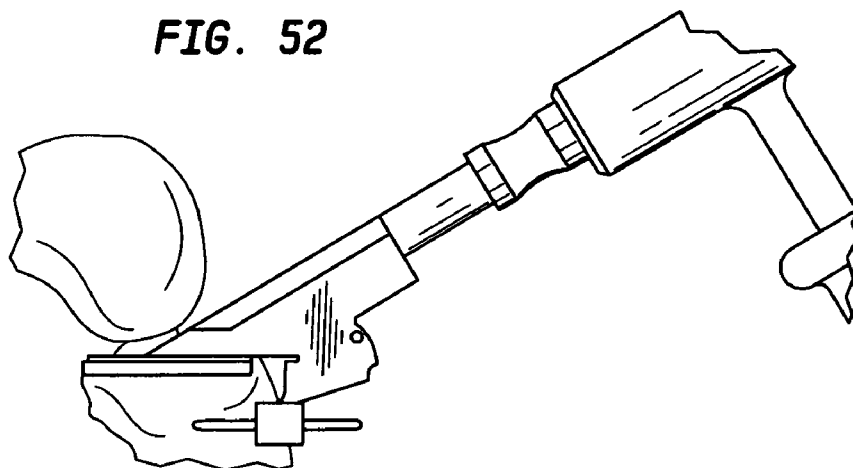
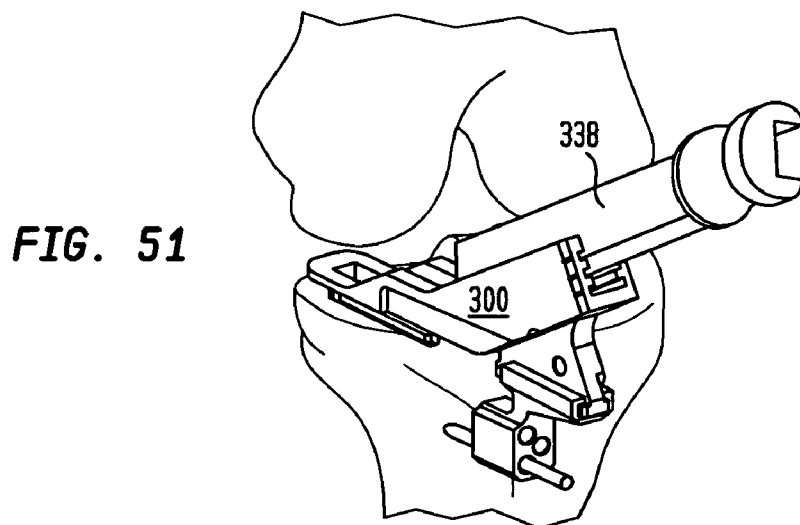


**FIG. 49**

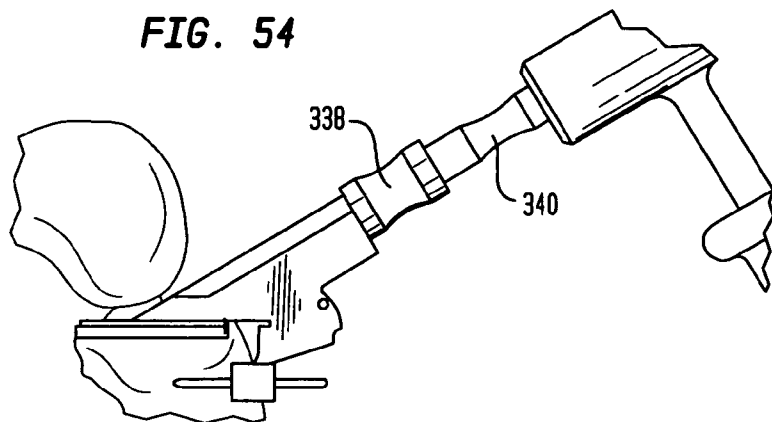


**FIG. 50**

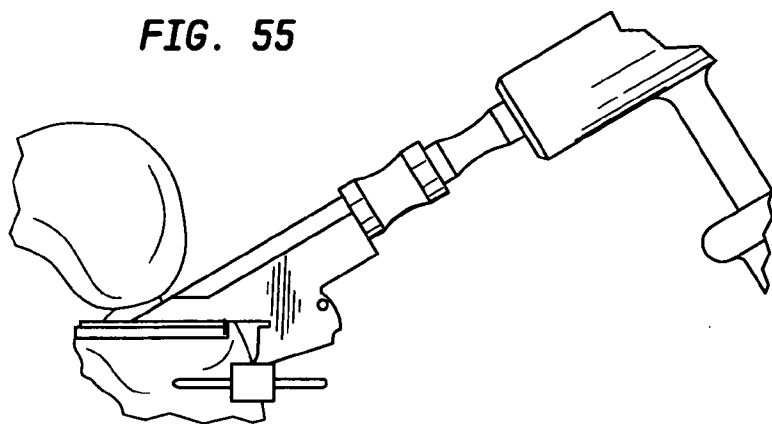




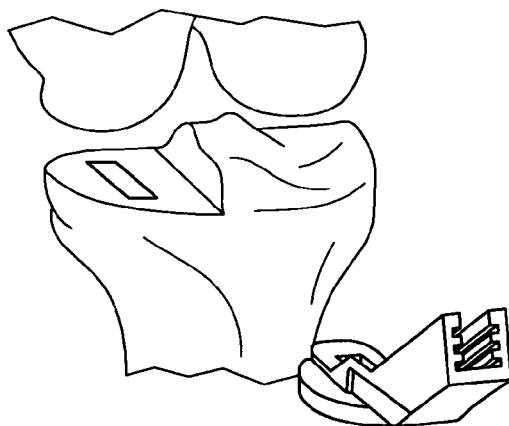
**FIG. 54**



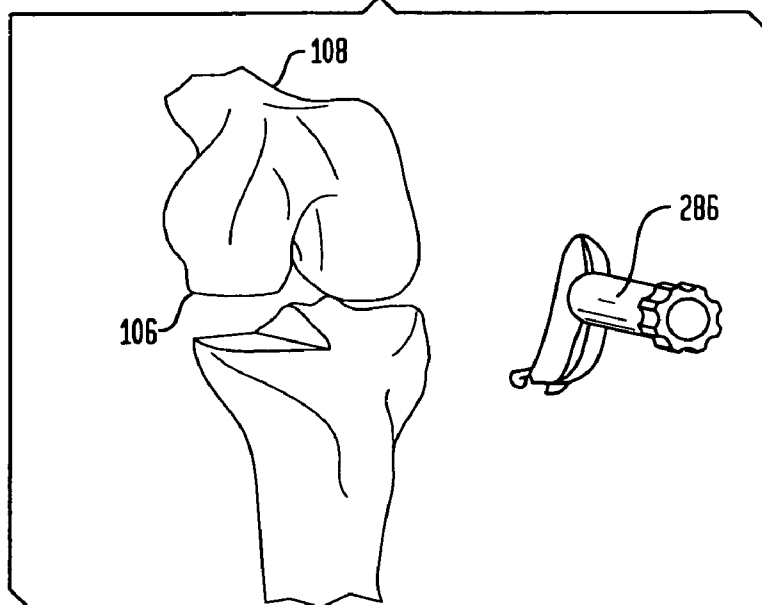
**FIG. 55**



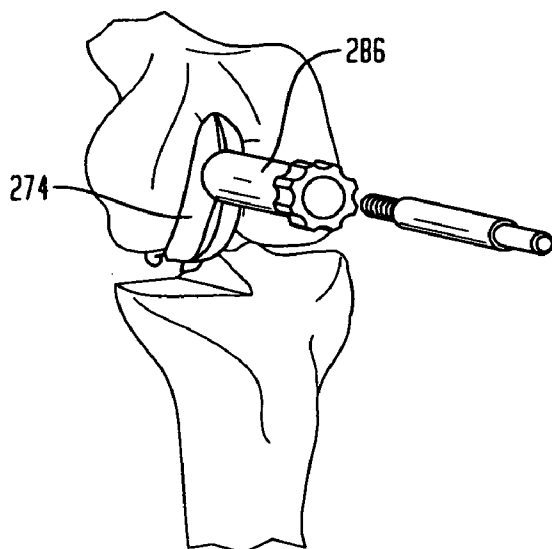
**FIG. 56**



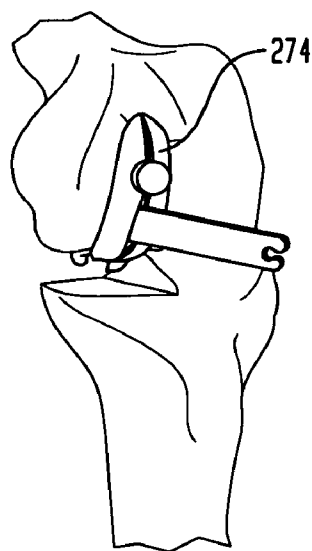
**FIG. 57**



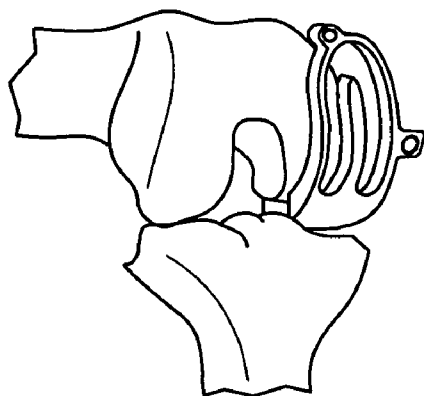
**FIG. 58**



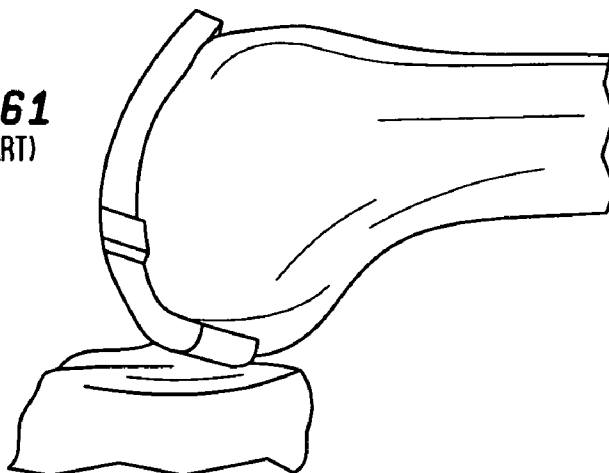
**FIG. 59**



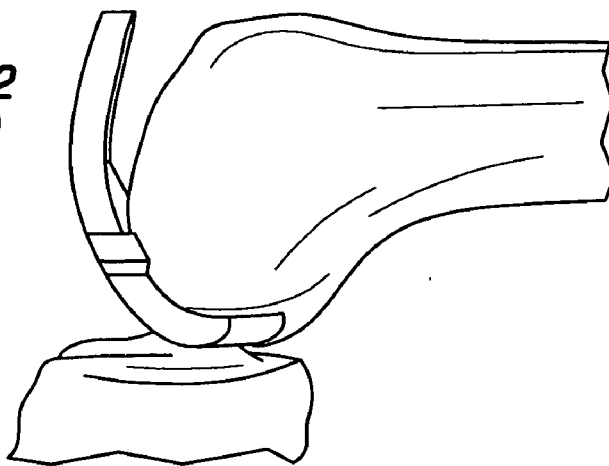
**FIG. 60**  
(PRIOR ART)



**FIG. 61**  
(PRIOR ART)

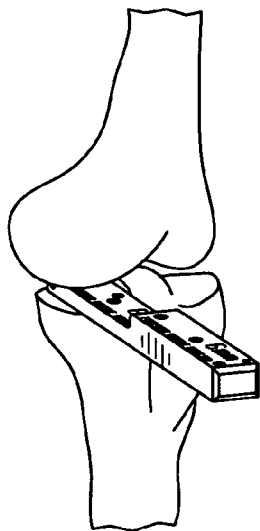


**FIG. 62**  
(PRIOR ART)

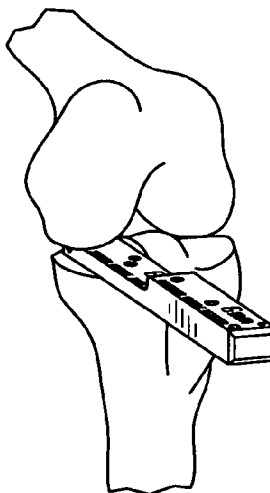




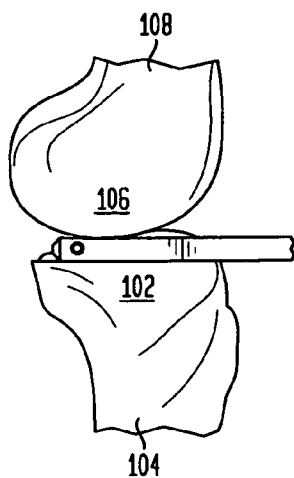
**FIG. 63A**



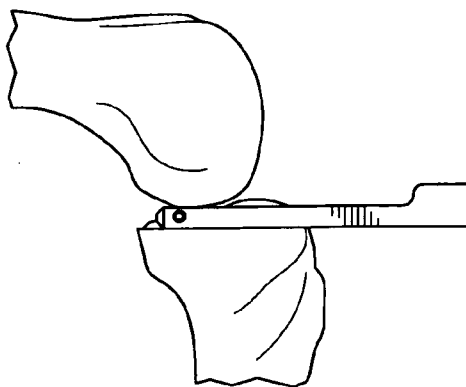
**FIG. 64A**



**FIG. 63B**



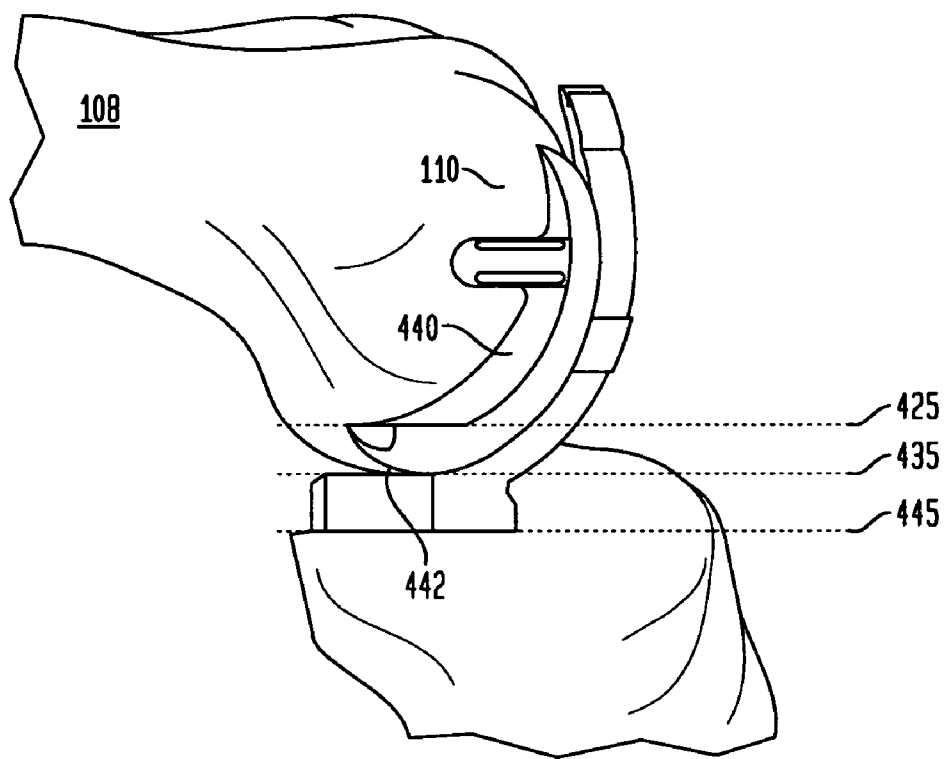
**FIG. 64B**



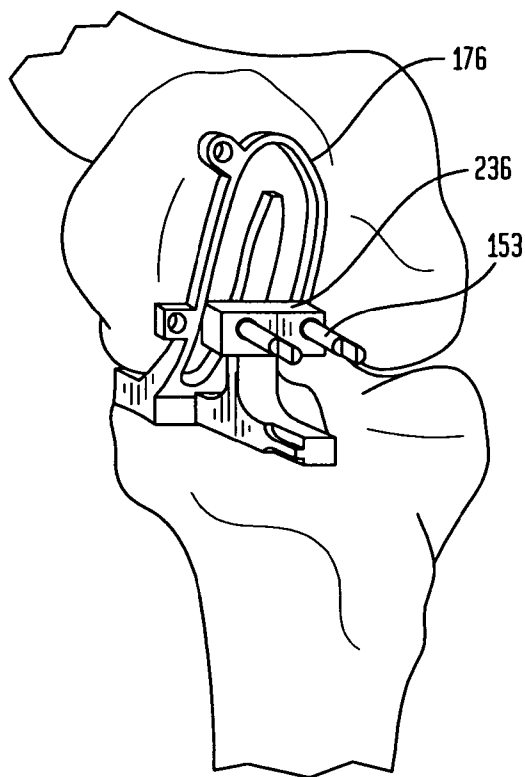
**FIG. 65**  
GAP BALANCING TABLE

		FLEXION			
			TIGHT 4 mm	GOOD 6 mm	LOOSE 8 mm
EXTENSION	TIGHT 4 mm	N/A	< POSTERIOR CONDYLE	<< POSTERIOR CONDYLE	
	GOOD 6 mm	> POSTERIOR CONDYLE	N/A	< POSTERIOR CONDYLE	
	LOOSE 8 mm	>> POSTERIOR CONDYLE	> POSTERIOR CONDYLE	N/A	

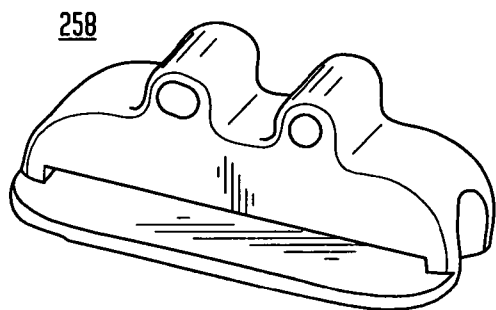
**FIG. 66**



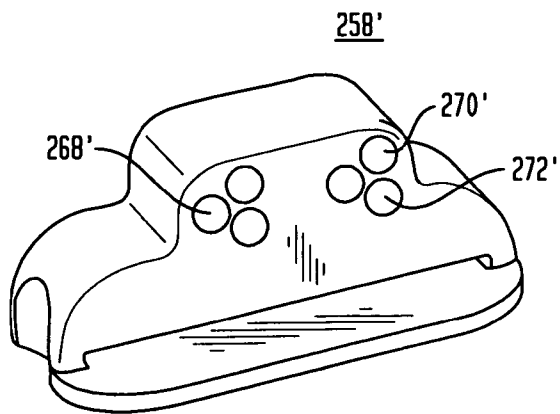
**FIG. 67**



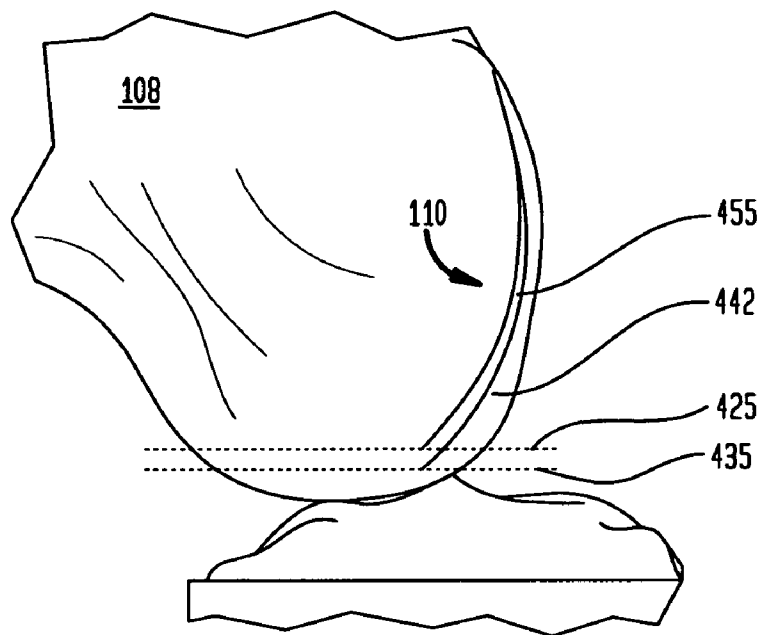
**FIG. 68**



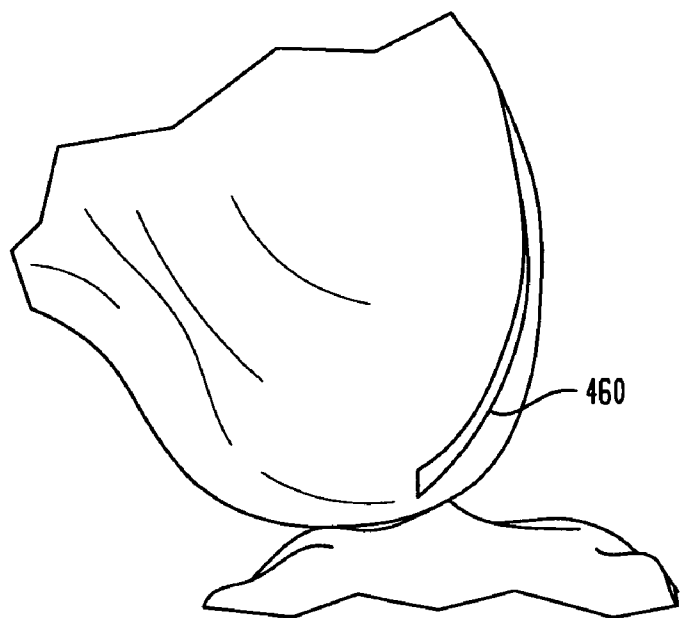
**FIG. 69**



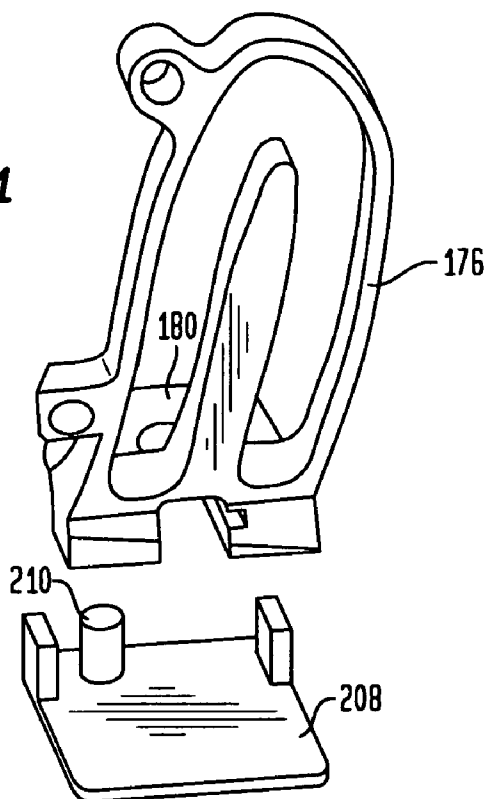
**FIG. 70A**



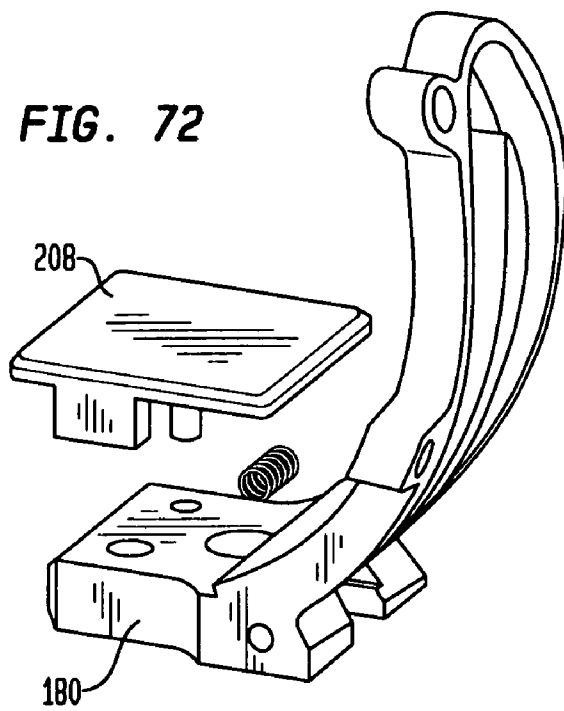
**FIG. 70B**



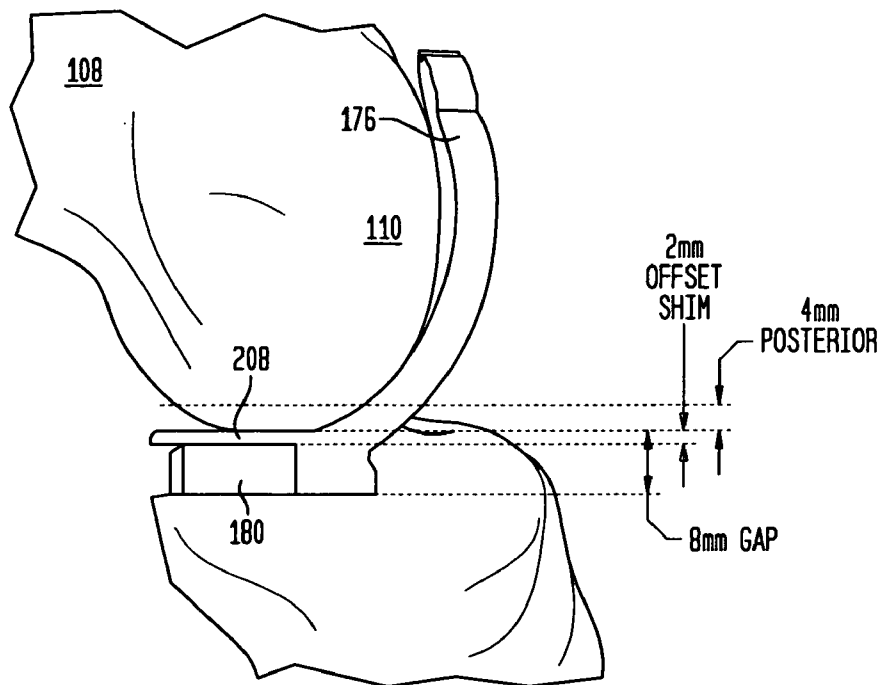
**FIG. 71**



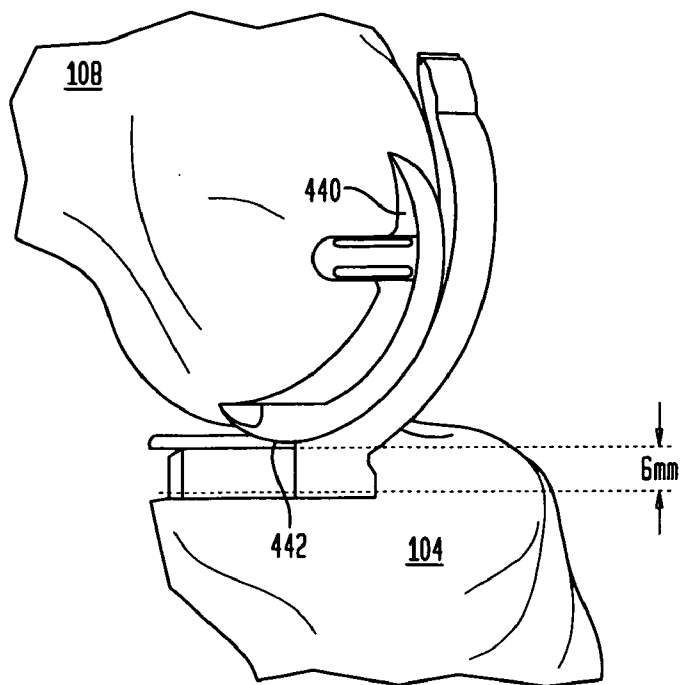
**FIG. 72**



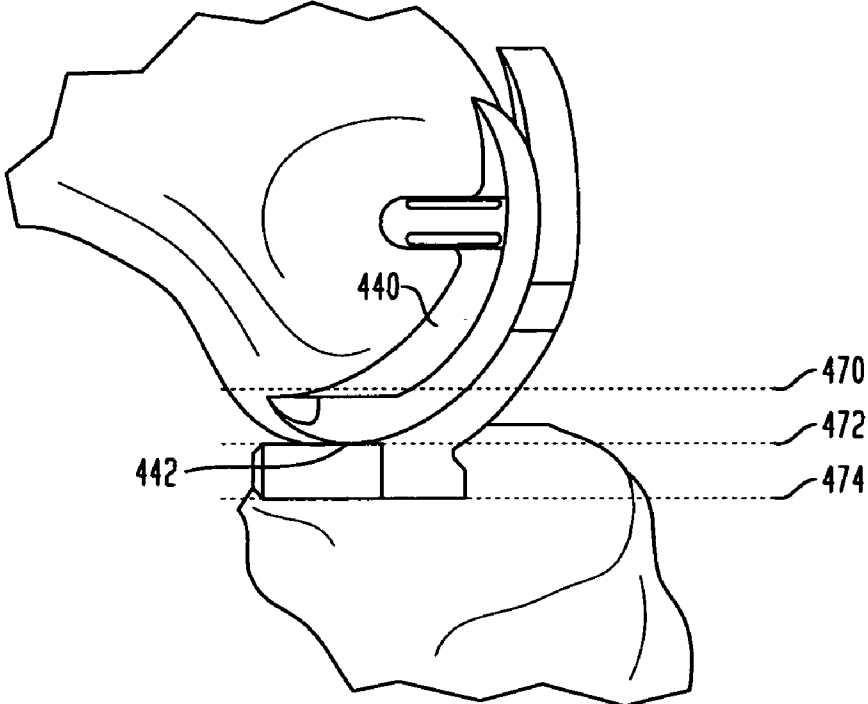
**FIG. 73**



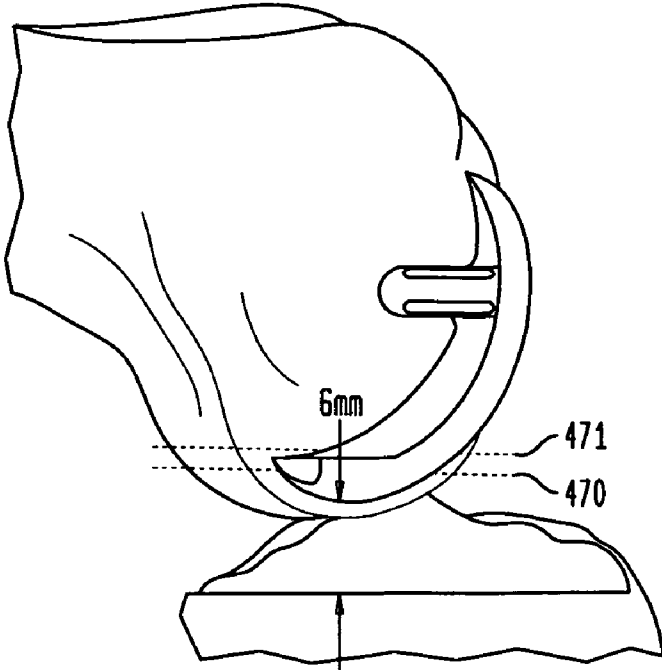
**FIG. 74**



**FIG. 75**

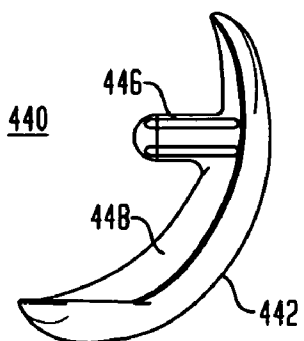


**FIG. 76**

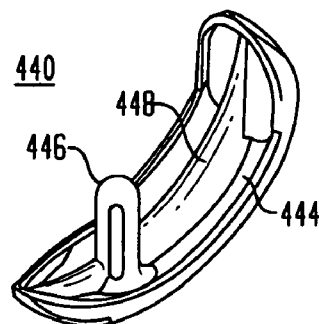




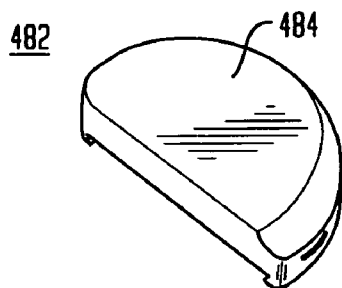
**FIG. 77A**



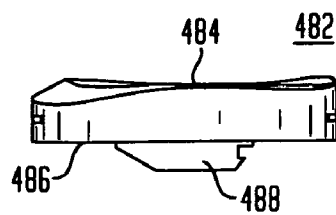
**FIG. 77B**



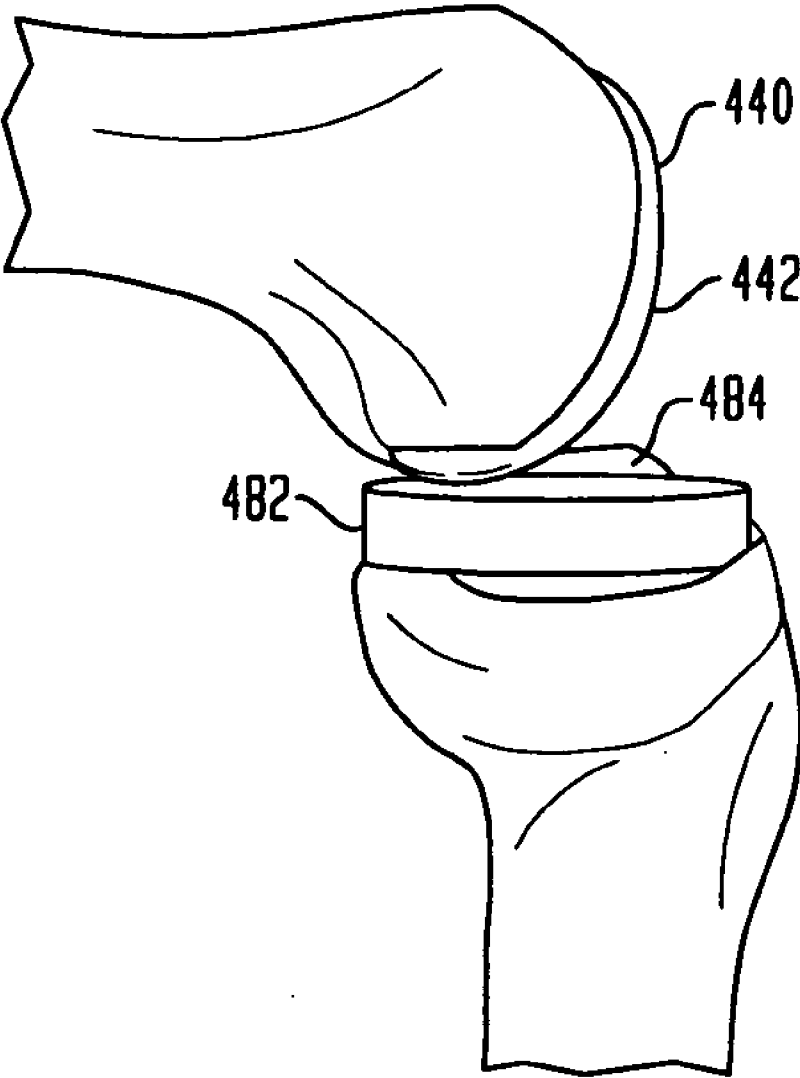
**FIG. 78A**



**FIG. 78B**



**FIG. 79**



**UNICONDYLAR KNEE IMPLANTS AND INSERTION METHODS THEREFOR**

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

[0001] The present application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/471,931, filed Jun. 21, 2006, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein. The present application is related to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/504,420, filed Aug. 15, 2006, entitled "Unicondylar Knee Implants and Insertion Methods Therefor" and U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/519,691, filed Sep. 7, 2006, entitled "Unicondylar Knee Implants and Insertion Methods Therefor", the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference herein.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

[0002] The present invention generally relates to implants and more specifically relates to method and apparatus for preparing bone for receiving an implant.

[0003] The use of prosthetic implants to replace damaged natural joints, or portions of such joints, in the body has become widespread as medical and technological advances have joined to provide improved materials and configurations for prosthetic implants and innovative procedures for implanting these devices. The basic objective of such devices and procedures is to provide a repaired joint of maximum effectiveness, with a minimal intrusion into the body. Component parts of these prosthetic implants are utilized to replace portions of a natural joint which have become damaged, either through injury or disease, and it is usually necessary to remove portions of the natural joint beyond merely the damaged portions in order to enable stable and secure fixation of the component parts to the natural bone. In addition, access to damaged joints is limited and the necessity for reaching the areas to be worked upon can affect the extent of intrusion required to complete an effective implant.

[0004] Improved methods for implanting a prosthetic device are disclosed in commonly assigned U.S. Pat. No. 6,554,838, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein. In certain preferred embodiments of the '838 patent, a method for preparing a seating surface for an implant includes positioning a guide on bone, the guide having a guide slot following a path geometrically similar to the peripheral boundary of the seating surface, inserting a cutting device through the guide slot at any selected location along the path of the guide slot, and translating the cutting device along the guide slot to cut an outline groove in the bone coincident with the peripheral boundary of the seating surface. The guide is removed from the bone, and portions of the bone lying within the area delineated by the outline groove are removed to establish the seating surface. The methods disclosed in the '838 patent provide numerous advantages including minimizing the amount of natural bone that must be removed and attaining accuracy in the delineation of the area, depth and contour configuration of the prepared surfaces of the bone that will receive the implant

[0005] In spite of the above advances, there remains a need for improved methods and apparatus for preparing bone for receiving implants and implanting the prosthetic devices.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

[0006] In certain preferred embodiments of the present invention, a method of balancing extension and flexion gaps in a knee joint includes preparing a tibial component seating surface at a proximal end of a tibia; extending the knee joint and measuring an extension gap between the tibial component seating surface and a distal end of a femur, flexing the knee joint and measuring a flexion gap between the tibial component seating surface and a posterior region of the femur, and comparing the extension gap with the flexion gap to determine an amount of bone that is to be removed from the posterior region of the femur for balancing the extension gap with the flexion gap.

[0007] The method desirably includes the steps of removing a predetermined amount of bone (e.g. 6mm) from the posterior region of the femur if the extension gap equals the flexion gap, removing less than the predetermined amount of bone from the posterior region of the femur if the extension gap is smaller than the flexion gap, and removing more than the predetermined amount of bone from the posterior region of the femur if the extension gap is larger than the flexion gap.

[0008] The method also preferably include preparing a femoral component seating surface by removing bone from both the distal end of the femur and the posterior region of the femur, wherein preparation of the distal end of the femur is finalized before preparation of the posterior region of the femur is finalized.

[0009] In certain preferred embodiments, the method includes providing a combination bur template and spacer block including a bur template for guiding removal of bone from the distal end of the femur and a spacer block extending from the lower end of the bur template, and inserting the spacer block into the knee joint. The bur template preferably abuts against the distal end of the femur when the spacer block is fully inserted into the knee joint. The bur template desirably has an upper end, a lower end and a curved inner surface extending between the upper and lower ends thereof, and the spacer block desirably extends from the lower end of the bur template, the spacer block having a top surface, a bottom surface, a leading end for insertion into a knee joint and a trailing end spaced from the leading end and adjacent the lower end of the bur template. The trailing end of the spacer block preferably includes an opening with an alignment feature that extends from the trailing end of the spacer block toward the leading end of said spacer block. After insertion of the spacer block into the knee joint, the top surface of the spacer block faces the femur and the bottom surface of the spacer block faces the tibia.

[0010] In certain preferred embodiments of the present invention, the method includes providing a posterior resection guide locator including an alignment rail, and inserting the alignment rail into the opening at the trailing end of the spacer block. The alignment rail is preferably adapted to engage the alignment feature in the opening of the spacer block. The alignment rail desirably has an elongated projection and the alignment feature on the spacer block has an elongated groove that receives the elongated projection.

**[0011]** The posterior resection guide locator may include an alignment pin guide overlying the alignment rail, whereby the alignment pin guide includes at least one pin opening extending therethrough. The bur template desirably includes a guide rail extending around an outer perimeter thereof and a central opening surrounded by the guide rail.

**[0012]** The method may also include aligning the at least one pin opening of the alignment pin guide with the central opening when the alignment rail is inserted into the opening of the spacer block, and inserting an alignment pin into the at least one pin opening of the alignment pin guide. The method may include providing a posterior resection guide including an upper end, a lower end having a surface for guiding a cutting tool and a pin opening between the upper and lower ends, and sliding the pin opening of the posterior resection guide over the alignment pin.

**[0013]** In certain preferred embodiments, the pin opening in the posterior resection guide includes a first set of pin openings and a second set of pin openings that is closer to the upper end of the posterior resection guide than the first set of pin openings. The pin opening may also include a third set of pin openings that is closer to the lower end of the posterior resection guide than the first set of pin openings.

**[0014]** In another preferred embodiment of the present invention, a method of preparing a knee joint for receiving a unicondylar knee implant includes preparing a tibial component seating surface at a proximal end of a tibia, extending the knee joint and measuring an extension gap between the tibial component seating surface and a distal end of a femur, and flexing the knee joint and measuring a flexion gap between the tibial component seating surface and a posterior region of the femur. The method preferably includes comparing the extension gap with the flexion gap to determine an amount of bone that is to be removed from the posterior region of the femur for balancing the extension gap with the flexion gap, and providing a combination bur template and spacer block, the bur template having an upper end, a lower end and a curved surface extending between the upper and lower ends thereof that is adapted to conform to a femoral condyle of a femur and the spacer block extending from the lower end of the bur template and having top and bottom surfaces.

**[0015]** In certain preferred embodiments, the method preferably includes placing a shim on the top surface of the spacer block if the flexion gap is greater than the extension gap, and flexing the knee joint so that the prepared first seating surface at the proximal end of the tibia opposes a posterior region of the femoral condyle. The method desirably includes inserting the spacer block and the shim into the knee joint so that the top surface of the spacer block engages the posterior region of the femoral condyle and the shim over the bottom surface of the spacer block engages the first seating surface at the proximal end of the tibia. While maintaining the spacer block and the shim between the femur and the tibia, the knee joint is extended until the curved surface of the bur template engages a distal region of the femoral condyle. The bur template is preferably anchored to the distal region of the femoral condyle and the bur template is used to guide burring of the distal region of the femoral condyle for preparing a second seating surface on the femur. After the distal region of the femoral condyle is burred, the posterior region of the femoral condyle is resected.

**[0016]** In other preferred embodiments, a shim is placed over the bottom surface of the said spacer block if the flexion gap is less than the extension gap. In these preferred embodiments, the knee joint is flexed so that the prepared first seating surface at the proximal end of the tibia opposes a posterior region of the femoral condyle, and the spacer block and the shim are inserted into the knee joint so that the shim over the top surface of the spacer block engages the posterior region of the femoral condyle and the bottom surface of the spacer block engages the first seating surface at the proximal end of the tibia. While the shim and the spacer block are maintained between the femur and the tibia, the knee joint is extended until the curved surface of the bur template engages a distal region of the femoral condyle. The bur template is preferably anchored to the distal region of the femoral condyle and the bur template is used to guide burring of the distal region of the femoral condyle for preparing a second seating surface on the femur. After burring the distal region of the femoral condyle, the posterior region of the femoral condyle is resected.

**[0017]** In still other preferred embodiments of the present invention, if the flexion gap equals the extension gap, the method include flexing the knee joint so that the prepared first seating surface at the proximal end of the tibia opposes a posterior region of the femoral condyle, inserting the combination bur template and spacer block into the knee joint so that the top surface of the spacer block engages the posterior region of the femoral condyle and the bottom surface of the spacer block engages the first seating surface at the proximal end of the tibia. While maintaining the spacer block between the femur and the tibia, the knee joint is preferably extended until the curved surface of the bur template engages a distal region of the femoral condyle. The bur template is preferably anchored to the distal region of the femoral condyle and the bur template is used to guide burring of the distal region of the femoral condyle for preparing a second seating surface on the femur. After burring the distal region of the femoral condyle, the posterior region of the femoral condyle is resected.

**[0018]** In other preferred embodiments of the present invention, a method of preparing a knee joint for receiving a unicondylar knee implant includes preparing a first seating surface at a proximal end of a tibia such as by resecting the proximal end of the tibia. The method desirably includes providing a combination bur template and spacer block. The bur template and spacer block are preferably integrally connected together. In certain preferred embodiments, the bur template and the spacer block are permanently connected together. The bur template and the spacer block desirably form a single, rigid element. The bur template preferably has an upper end, a lower end and a curved surface extending between the upper and lower ends thereof that is adapted to conform to a femoral condyle of a femur and the spacer block extends from the lower end of the bur template and has top and bottom surfaces.

**[0019]** The method desirably includes flexing the knee joint so that the prepared first seating surface at the proximal end of the tibia opposes a posterior region of the femur. The combination bur template and spacer block may be inserted into the knee joint so that the top surface of the spacer block engages the posterior region of the femur and the bottom surface of the spacer block engages the first seating surface at the proximal end of the tibia. While the spacer block is maintained between the femur and the tibia, the knee joint

is extended until the curved surface of the bur template engages the femoral condyle of the femur. The bur template may be anchored to the femur, such as by using pins. The bur template is preferably used for guiding burring of the femoral condyle for preparing a second seating surface on the femur. After burring the femoral condyle of the femur, the posterior region of the femur is desirably resected.

**[0020]** The method may also include determining a distance between the first seating surface on the tibia and the posterior region of the femur, and selecting one of a plurality of combination bur template and spacer blocks for inserting into the knee joint. The spacer block of the selected bur template preferably has a thickness that matches the determined distance between the first seating surface on the tibia and the posterior region of said femur. In certain preferred embodiments, the thickness of the spacer block preferably corresponds to the thickness of a prosthetic device placed in the gap between the first seating surface on the tibia and the posterior region of the femur. The combination bur template and spacer block desirably includes an alignment feature. In certain preferred embodiments, the alignment feature is formed at a trailing end of the spacer block.

**[0021]** The method may also include inserting an alignment rail of a posterior resection guide locator into the alignment feature formed in the trailing end of the spacer block. The posterior resection guide locator desirably includes at least one pin opening that overlies the alignment rail. When the alignment rail is inserted into the alignment feature formed in the spacer block, the at least one pin opening of the posterior resection guide locator is preferably aligned with an opening of the bur template. A pin may be inserted through the at least one pin opening, through the opening in the bur template and anchored in the femur. In other preferred embodiments, two or more pins are inserted through two or more respective pin openings in the posterior resection guide locator.

**[0022]** The method may also include disengaging the posterior resection guide locator from engagement with the combination bur template and spacer guide and sliding a posterior resection guide over said at least one pin in said femur.

**[0023]** In other preferred embodiments of the present invention, a method of preparing seating surfaces in a knee joint for receiving a unicondylar knee implant includes preparing a first seating surface for receiving a tibial component at a proximal end of a tibia, flexing the knee joint so that the first seating surface opposes a posterior region of the femoral condyle, and providing a combination bur template and spacer block. The bur template preferably has a curved surface extending between upper and lower ends thereof and the spacer block desirably extends from the lower end of the bur template. The spacer block is preferably inserted into the knee joint so that the spacer block engages the posterior region of the femoral condyle and the first seating surface on the tibia. While the spacer block is maintained between the femur and the tibia, the knee joint is desirably extended until the curved surface of the bur template engages a distal region of the femoral condyle.

**[0024]** The method may include using the bur template to guide burring of the distal region of the femoral condyle for preparing a second seating surface for receiving a femoral component. After the second seating surface has been prepared, one or more alignment pins may be anchored in the femoral bone at the second seating surface. The one or more

alignment pins anchored in the femoral bone may be used for aligning a posterior resection guide with the posterior region of the femoral condyle. The posterior resection guide preferably has a slot for guiding a cutting instrument. The posterior resection guide is desirably used for resecting the posterior section of the femur.

**[0025]** In other preferred embodiments of the present invention, a kit for preparing a knee joint for receiving a unicondylar knee implant includes a combination bur template and spacer block having a bur template with an upper end, a lower end and a curved inner surface extending between the upper and lower ends thereof, and a spacer block extending from the lower end of said the template. The spacer block may have a top surface, a bottom surface, a leading end for insertion into a knee joint and a trailing end spaced from the leading end and adjacent the lower end of the bur template. The trailing end of the spacer block preferably includes an opening with an alignment feature that extends from the trailing end of the spacer block toward the leading end of the spacer block.

**[0026]** The kit may also include a posterior resection guide locator having an alignment rail insertible into the opening at the trailing end of the spacer block. The alignment rail is preferably adapted to mesh with the alignment feature in the opening of the spacer block. In certain preferred embodiments, the alignment rail has an elongated projection and the alignment feature in the spacer block has an elongated groove that receives the elongated projection. In other preferred embodiments, the alignment rail may have an elongated groove and the alignment feature in the spacer block may have an elongated projection that fits into the groove.

**[0027]** The posterior resection guide locator preferably includes an alignment pin guide overlying the alignment rail. The alignment pin guide desirably includes at least one pin opening extending therethrough.

**[0028]** The bur template preferably includes a guide rail extending around an outer perimeter thereof and a central opening surrounded by the guide rail. The at least one pin opening of the alignment guide is preferably aligned with the central opening when the alignment rail is inserted into the opening of the spacer block. An alignment pin is insertible into the at least one pin opening of the alignment guide.

**[0029]** The kit may also include a posterior resection guide having an upper end, a lower end having an elongated opening for receiving a cutting tool and a pin opening between the upper and lower ends. The pin opening of the posterior resection guide is desirably slidable over the alignment pin. The pin opening may include a first set of pin openings and a second set of pin openings that is closer to the upper end of the posterior resection guide than the first set of pin openings. The pin opening may also include a third set of pin openings that is closer to the lower end of the posterior resection guide than the first set of pin openings. As will be described in more detail below, the different sets of pin openings may be used for adjusting the amount of bone resected from the posterior region of the femoral condyle.

[0030] These and other preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described in more detail below.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0031] FIGS. 1A-1J show a method of preparing a knee to receive a unicondylar knee implant, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0032] FIG. 2 shows a tibial resection block and a locking element securable thereto, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0033] FIGS. 3A-3D show the tibial resection block of FIG. 2 secured to a rod, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0034] FIG. 4 shows a sagittal resection alignment guide, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0035] FIGS. 5A-5E show a modular handle, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0036] FIGS. 6A-6H show a combination bur template and spacer block, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0037] FIGS. 7A-7D show a shim engageable with the combination bur template and spacer block shown in FIGS. 6A-6H, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0038] FIGS. 8A-8E show an alignment tower, in accordance with preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0039] FIGS. 9A-9E show a posterior resection guide locator, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0040] FIGS. 10A-10D show a posterior resection guide, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0041] FIGS. 11A-11C show a posterior resection guide, in accordance with other preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0042] FIGS. 12A-12F show a femoral trial cutting guide, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0043] FIG. 13A shows a handle attachable to the femoral trial cutting guide of FIGS. 12A-12F, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0044] FIG. 13B shows a drill passable through an opening in the femoral trial cutting guide of FIGS. 12A-12F and the handle of FIG. 13A.

[0045] FIGS. 14A-14E show the handle of FIG. 13A.

[0046] FIGS. 15A-15D show a punch tower for forming keel openings in tibial bone, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0047] FIGS. 16A-16C show the punch tower shown in FIGS. 15A-15D.

[0048] FIGS. 17A-17D show a chisel for use with the punch tower shown in FIGS. 15A-15D.

[0049] FIGS. 18A-18D show a tamp for use with the punch tower shown in FIGS. 15A-15D.

[0050] FIG. 19 shows a tibial template, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments in the present invention.

[0051] FIG. 20 shows a holder for tibial templates having different sizes, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0052] FIGS. 21A-21E show the tibial template of FIG. 19.

[0053] FIGS. 22A-22D show a spacer for evaluating flexion and extension gaps, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0054] FIGS. 23-32 show a method of resecting a proximal end of a tibia, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0055] FIGS. 33-37 show a method of aligning the combination bur template and spacer block of FIGS. 6A-6H in a knee joint, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0056] FIG. 38 shows the bur template/spacer block of FIGS. 6A-6H secured between a tibia and a femur, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0057] FIGS. 39-43 show a method of resecting a posterior region of a femoral condyle, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0058] FIGS. 44-56 show a method of forming a keel opening at the proximal end of a tibia, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0059] FIGS. 57-59 show a method of making openings for a post and a fin of a femoral component, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0060] FIGS. 60-62 show a prior art bur template.

[0061] FIGS. 63A-63B show the spacer of FIGS. 22A-22D positioned between an extended knee joint.

[0062] FIGS. 64A-64B show the spacer of FIGS. 22A-22D positioned between a flexed knee joint.

[0063] FIG. 65 shows a gap balancing table, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0064] FIG. 66 shows a sagittal view of a flexed knee joint with a combination bur template and spacer block inserted into the knee joint.

[0065] FIG. 67 shows a posterior resection guide locator coupled with a combination bur template and spacer block, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0066] FIG. 68 shows the posterior resection guide shown in FIGS. 10A-10D.

[0067] FIG. 69 shows the posterior resection guide shown in FIGS. 11A-11C.

[0068] FIGS. 70A and 70B show a method of aligning a knee implant, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0069] FIG. 71 shows a perspective view of a bur template/spacer block and shim engageable therewith, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0070] FIG. 72 shows a perspective view of a bur template/spacer block and shim engageable therewith, in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention.

[0071] FIGS. 73-76 show a method of inserting a femoral component of a knee implant, in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention.

[0072] FIGS. 77A-77B show a femoral component of a knee implant, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0073] FIGS. 78A-78B show a tibial component of a knee implant, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention.

[0074] FIG. 79 shows the femoral component of FIGS. 77A-77B and the tibial component of FIGS. 78A-78B implanted in a knee joint.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0075] FIGS. 1A-IJ show a method of preparing a knee for receiving an implant, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention. In particular preferred embodiments, the method is used for preparing a knee to receive a knee implant such as a unicondylar knee implant. Referring to FIG. 1A, a knee joint 100 is located between a proximal end 102 of a tibia 104 and a distal end 106 of a femur 108. The distal end 106 of the femur 108 includes a distal condyle 110, which is the curved surface on a bone where it forms a joint with another bone. The femur 108 also has a posterior region of the femoral condyle.

[0076] In FIG. 1A, a tibial resection is performed on the proximal end 102 of the tibia 104. FIG. 1B shows a sagittal resection being performed on the proximal end 102 of the tibia 104. FIG. 1C shows the positioning and alignment of a combination bur template and spacer block in a knee joint. The combination bur template and spacer block includes a spacer block that is inserted into the knee joint between the femur and the tibia and the bur template that guides burring of the condyle at the distal end of the femur. The bur template and spacer block is aligned with femur 108 using an alignment flag, as will be described in more detail below. FIG. 1D shows the bur template/spacer block after it has been positioned in a knee joint. The bur template includes a rail that surrounds a central opening. The rail preferably guides movement of a burring instrument after the burring instrument is passed through the central opening of the bur template. FIG. 1E shows a posterior resection guide locator assembled with the combination bur template and spacer guide and alignment pins extending through pin openings in the posterior resection guide locator. FIG. 1F shows the alignment pins shown in FIG. 1E being used to align a posterior resection guide for performing a posterior resection of the femur 108. FIG. 1G shows a femoral trial cutting guide used for forming post and fin openings on the condyle 110 located at the distal end 106 of the femur 108. FIGS. 1H-1J show a method of forming a keel opening at the proximal end 102 of the tibia 104.

[0077] Referring to FIG. 2, in certain preferred embodiments of the present invention, a system for preparing a knee joint for receiving a unicondylar knee implant includes a tibial resection block 112 having a top surface 114, an inner contoured surface 116 that is preferably shaped to fit against the proximal end of a tibia and an outer contoured surface 118 that is adapted to fit easily within an incision. The tibial resection block 112 has a universal design so that it may be used on the left or right side of the knee, thereby minimizing the number of parts that are required. The tibial resection block is preferably used to perform a tibial resection at a proximal end of a tibia. The tibial resection block desirably includes one or more holes 120 that may receive fasteners such as pins for securing the tibial resection block to bone. One or more of the holes 120 may be adapted to secure a tool thereto, as will be described in more detail below. The tibial resection block also preferably includes one or more openings 122 adapted to secure a navigation tracker for properly aligning the tibial resection block relative to the proximal end of a tibia.

[0078] The tibial resection block 112 also preferably includes a C-shaped opening 124 engagable with an elongated element such as a rod. After the rod is coupled with the C-shaped opening 124, the tibial resection block is designed to slide along the rod for adjusting the location of the tibial resection block relative to the proximal end of the tibia. The tibial resection block 112 may also include a threaded opening 126 aligned with the C-shaped opening 124. A tightening screw 128 has threads 130 that are preferably received within the threaded opening 126. The tightening screw 128 also includes a lever 132 that may pivot about a pivot point 134 for enabling greater leverage to be applied to the tightening screw. The pivotable lever also preferably allows the screw 128 and the lever 132 to remain below the resection surface.

[0079] Referring to FIGS. 3A-3D, the tibial resection block 112 is securable to a rod 136 having a proximal end 138 and a lower end (not shown). The lower end of the rod may be connected to an ankle clamp for stabilizing the rod. Referring to FIG. 3B, the rod 136 is preferably secured within the C-shaped opening 124 of the tibial resection block 112, with the inner contoured surface 116 facing the tibia and the outer contoured surface 118 facing away from the tibia. The proximal end 138 of the rod 136 includes a flange 140 having a pin opening 142 for anchoring the rod to the proximal end of a tibia so as to further enhance the stability of the rod 136 and the tibial resection block 112. The tibial resection block 112 also desirably includes one or more navigation tracker openings 122 for properly aligning the tibial resection block with the surface to be resected.

[0080] Referring to FIGS. 3A, 3C and 3D, after the top surface 114 of the tibial resection block 112 is positioned at a correct height relative to the proximal end of the tibia, the lever 132 may be grasped for tightening the tightening screw 128 so as to lock the position of the tibial resection block relative to the rod 136.

[0081] Referring to FIG. 3C, in order to more firmly secure the position of the tibial resection block 112 relative to the proximal end of the tibia, one or more securing elements such as pins may be passed through the outer openings 120. The central openings 144 may be used for alignment pins or for securing tools to the tibial resection block, such as securing a stylus to the tibial resection block.

[0082] FIG. 4 shows a sagittal resection alignment guide 146 that is securable to the tibial resection block 112 shown in FIGS. 2 and 3A-3D. The sagittal resection alignment guide 146 preferably includes a main body 148, an elongated rod 150 that slides through an opening in the main body and an alignment block 152 secured to an end of the elongated rod 150. The alignment guide 146 also includes a depressible button 154 that may be depressed for allowing the rod 150 to move relative to the main body 148. The sagittal resection alignment guide 146 may include projections, such as posts or hooks (not shown), that engage one or more of the openings in the tibial resection block shown above in FIG. 2.

[0083] Referring to FIGS. 5A-5E, in certain preferred embodiments of the present invention, a modular handle 156 for inserting a combination bur guide and spacer block includes a handle portion 158 having an upper end secured to an alignment element 160 having a leading end 162 and a trailing end 164. The leading end 162 of the alignment element 160 preferably includes a male projection 166 on one lateral side thereof and a pin 168 on an opposite side

thereof. Modular handle 156 also includes a male end connector 169 projecting from the second end 164 of the alignment element 160. The modular handle 156 also includes a depressible button 170 and a spring 172 coupled therewith. The depressible button 170 may be depressed for interacting with the pin 168. In one button position, the pin 168 is free to move inwardly in pin opening 174. When the button 170 is not depressed, however, the pin is locked outwardly and may not retract within the opening 174.

[0084] Referring to FIGS. 6A-6H, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention, a bur template/spacer block 176 includes a bur template portion 178 for guiding burring of femoral bone and a spacer block portion 180 insertible into a knee joint. Referring to FIGS. 6A and 6E, the bur template/spacer block 178 includes a slot 182 that defines an outer surface 184, an inner surface 186 and an apex 188. The bur portion 178 includes an inner surface 190 and an outer surface 192. The inner and outer surfaces 190, 192 are preferably curved to conform to the condyle at a distal end of a femur. The spacer portion 180 includes a top surface 194 and a bottom surface 196 remote therefrom. Depending upon the gap between the femur and the tibia, a plurality of spacer blocks may be provided having varying thicknesses. In certain preferred embodiments, spacer blocks are available having thicknesses of between 4-14 mm and more preferably 6-12 mm. Referring to FIGS. 6C and 6G, the spacer block portion 176 has an opening 198 extending from a trailing end of the spacer block toward a leading end of the spacer block. The opening 198 preferably has an elongated alignment groove 200 extending along one side thereof. Referring to FIGS. 6F and 6H, the spacer block portion 180 has at least one post opening 202 extending between the top and bottom surfaces 194, 196. Referring to FIGS. 6A and 6G, the outer rail 204 of the bur template portion 178 includes pin fixation flanges 206A, 206B. The pin fixation flanges include openings extending therethrough that are adapted to receive securing elements such as pins so that the bur template may be anchored to bone.

[0085] Referring to FIGS. 7A-7D, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention, the system includes a shim 208 having a posts 210 projecting from a first surface 212 thereof. The shim 208 includes opposing sidewalls 214A, 214B. As will be described in more detail below, the shim may be assembled over either the top surface or the bottom surface of the spacer block portion of the bur template/spacer block shown in FIGS. 6A-6H for adjusting the position of the bur template/spacer block. The shim may also be used for adjusting the thickness of the spacer block. In certain preferred embodiments, more than one shim may be connected with the spacer block.

[0086] Referring to FIGS. 8A-8E, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention, the system includes an alignment tower 216 that may be coupled with the modular handle shown in FIGS. 5A-5E for inserting and aligning the bur template/spacer block in a knee joint. Referring to FIGS. 8A, 8B and 8E, the alignment tower 216 preferably includes a shaft 218 having an upper end 220 and a lower end 222. Referring to FIGS. 8A-8E, the alignment tower includes an alignment flag 224 secured to the upper end 220 of the shaft 218 and a connection member 226 secured to the lower end of the shaft 218. Referring to FIGS. 8A and 8B, the alignment flag 224 includes a number of holes 228 extending therethrough that are used for approxi-

imating the center of a knee. In certain preferred embodiments, an alignment rod can be passed through one or more of the holes 228 in the flag 224 for locating or approximating the center of the knee. Referring to FIGS. 8A, 8B and 8D, the connection member 226 at the lower end includes a C-shaped opening 230 having a centrally located well 232 and an elongated groove 234 extending from opposite sides of the well 232. The central well 232 is adapted to fit over the male end connector 169 of the modular handle 158 (FIGS. 5A-5E).

[0087] Referring to FIGS. 9A-9E, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention, the system includes a posterior resection guide locator 236. Referring to FIGS. 9A, 9B and 9D, the posterior resection guide locator includes an alignment rail 238 having a first end 240 and a second end 242. The alignment rail 238 also desirably includes a first lateral surface 244 and a second lateral surface 246 extending on opposite sides of the alignment rail 238 between the first and second ends 240, 242 thereof. The alignment rail 238 includes a first male projection 248 provided adjacent the first end 240 and a second male projection 250 provided adjacent the second end 242. The male projections 248, 250 are sized to fit into the elongated alignment groove 200 (FIG. 6G) provided at the trailing end of the spacer block. The particular first end 240 or second end 242 of the rail 238 that is inserted into the alignment groove 200 may depend upon the type of operation being conducted. For example, the first end 240 may be inserted in the groove 200 for a LM/RL procedure and the second end 242 may be inserted in the groove 200 for a RM/LL procedure.

[0088] Referring to FIGS. 9A-9E, the posterior resection guide locator 236 includes a support element 252 and a pin guide 254 mounted atop the support element 252. The pin guide 254 preferably includes one or more pin holes 256 extending therethrough. As will be described in more detail below, after the posterior resection guide locator is coupled with the elongated alignment groove in the bur template/spacer block shown in FIGS. 6A-6H, the pin holes 256 are aligned with the opening in the bur template portion and alignment pins are inserted into bone through the pinholes 256. The alignment pins are preferably used to align a posterior resection guide for conducting a posterior resection of the femur, as will be described in more detail below.

[0089] Referring to FIGS. 10A-10D, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments to the present invention, the assembly includes a standard posterior resection guide 258 including a main body 260 having an upper end with pin holes 262 and a lower end with a slot 264 extending therethrough. The slot 264 is preferably a captured slot that is bounded on left and right sides thereof by the main body 260. As a result, a cutting instrument such as a saw placed into the slot cannot extend beyond the left and right boundaries of the main body. The posterior resection guide also includes a ledge 266 that projects from one side of the slot 264. The combination of the ledge 266 and the captured slot 264 control movement of a cutting blade so as to accurately control the cut through a posterior region of the femoral condyle. In certain preferred embodiments of the present invention, the standard posterior resection guide 258 is sized and configured to remove 6 mm of bone from the posterior region of the femoral condyle, which matches the 6 mm thickness of the femoral component of the implant. The size and configuration of the standard posterior resection guide



may be varied so that the amount of bone to be removed matches the thickness of the femoral component.

[0090] FIGS. 11A-11C show a posterior resection guide 258', in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention. The posterior resection guide 258' is generally similar to the standard posterior resection guide shown in FIGS. 10A-10D, however, it includes three different sets of pin holes. The first set of pin holes 268' is used for performing a standard posterior resection, which in certain preferred embodiments is 6 mm. A second set of pin holes 270' is used when the resection guide must be lowered when performing a posterior resection for reducing the amount of bone removed from the posterior region of the femur. A third set of pin holes 272' is used when the resection guide must be raised when performing a posterior resection for increasing the amount of bone removed from the posterior region of the femur. As will be described in more detail below, it may be necessary to raise or lower the posterior resection guide 258' from a standard resection (e.g. removing 6 mm of bone from the posterior region of the femoral condyle) in order to balance the gap of a knee joint when in an extended position and a flexed position. The posterior resection guide may be raised or lowered so that the gap in extension is equal to the gap in flexion and vice versa. As is well known to those skilled in the art, uneven gaps may result in flexion instability or extension instability.

[0091] Referring to FIGS. 12A-12F, in certain preferred embodiments of the present invention, the system includes a femoral trial cutting guide 274 for preparing the distal end of the femur to receive the femoral component of the implant. The femoral trial cutting guide 274 desirably includes a set of anchoring pins 276 projecting from an inner face 278 thereof. The cutting guide 274 also desirably includes a central opening 280 extending therethrough and an elongated slot 282 that intersects the central opening 280. The elongated slot preferably extends between upper and lower ends of the cutting guide 274. After the condyle at the distal end of a femur has been burred using the bur template portion of the bur template/spacer block shown above, the inner face 278 of the cutting guide 274 is abutted against the burred surface of the femur. The pins 276 are preferably inserted into bone for holding the cutting guide in place. An impactor may be used to advance the anchor pins 276 into the bone. A drill may be inserted through the central opening 280 to form a post opening for an implant peg. In addition, a cutting instrument, such as a saw or cutting blade, may be inserted through the elongated slot 282 to form a keel opening for an implant.

[0092] Referring to FIG. 12B, the cutting guide 274 preferably has an outer surface that is curved. The curved outer surface of the cutting guide may be used to perform a range of motion test. After the post and keel openings have been formed, and a range of motion test is completed, the cutting guide 274 may be removed from its attachment to the femoral bone.

[0093] Referring to FIG. 13A, in certain preferred embodiments, the system includes a drill guide 286 having a first end 288 with a threaded projection 290 and a second end 292 including a handle. Referring to FIGS. 14A-14E, the drill guide 286 has a central opening 294 extending between the first end 288 and the second 292. The opening 294 includes a reduced diameter area or shelf 296 that limits forward movement of a drill. Referring to FIGS. 13A-13B and 14C, after the threaded projection 290 of the drill guide 286 is

threaded into central opening 280 of the cutting guide 274, a drill bit 298 may be passed through the opening 294 of the drill guide 286 until a portion of the drill abuts against the shelf 296 for limiting further advancement of the drill bit 298. The drill may be operated for forming a post opening in the femoral bone. The post opening, as will be described in more detail below, is adapted to receive a post of a permanent femoral component of an implant. After the post hole has been formed, the drill bit 298 may be removed from the drill guide 286. The handle 292 of the drill guide may be grasped to remove the cutting guide 274 from its attachment to the femoral bone. In certain preferred embodiments, the drill guide 286 may be used as an impaction/extraction handle for a trial such as a femoral trial.

[0094] Referring to FIGS. 15A-15D, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention, the system includes a punch tower 300 for forming keel openings in tibial bone. Referring FIG. 15A, the punch tower 300 includes a main body 302 having a leading end 304 and a trailing end 306. The punch tower 300 includes a latch paw 308 securable to the main body 302. The latch paw includes an opening 310 extending therethrough that is adapted to receive a pivot pin 312 so that the latch paw may be coupled with the main body 302 and pivot relative thereto. The latch paw also includes a spring 314 that normally urges the latch paw to move downwardly at its hooked front end 316. The punch tower also preferably includes an alignment flange 318 that may be coupled with a trailing end 306 of the main body 302. The alignment flange includes one or more openings 320 extending therethrough that are adapted to receive pins for anchoring the punch tower to bone. The alignment flange 318 desirably includes a C-shaped opening 322 at an upper end thereof that is adapted to slide over a rail 324 at the trailing end 306 of the main body 302. A pin 312 is disposed in engagement with the alignment flange 318 to secure the alignment flange with the main body 302.

[0095] The main body 302 preferably includes a series of slots 326 extending therethrough. The series of slots 326 are adapted for forming different sized keel openings in tibial bone. Referring to FIG. 15A, a first slot 126A is used for forming a small keel opening, a second slot 126B is used for forming a medium keel opening and a third slot 126C used for forming a large keel opening. In other preferred embodiments, more than three slots may be provided.

[0096] Referring to FIGS. 15B and 15C, an underside of the main body 302 includes an alignment guide 328 at the leading end 304 thereof. The alignment guide 328 includes male projections 330 extending along opposite sides of the main body.

[0097] Referring to FIG. 16A, the leading end 304 of the main body 302 is adapted to be coupled with a tibial template 332 having an elongated opening 334. The elongated opening 334 includes female grooves 336 extending along a longitudinal axis of the tibial template 332. The male projections 330 provided at the underside of the main body 332 are adapted to slide into the female grooves 336 in the tibial template 332.

[0098] Referring to FIGS. 16A-16C, the assembly includes a chisel 338 that is insertible into one of the slots 326 in the punch tower. The assembly also includes a tamp 340 that slides within the chisel 338, as will be described in more detail below. FIGS. 16B and 16C show the leading end 304 of the punch tower coupled with the tibial template 332. As shown in FIG. 16B, the chisel 338 and tamp 340 are

guided along an axis that intersects an axis extending between the leading **304** and trailing **306** ends of the main body **302**.

[0099] Referring to FIGS. 17A-17D, the chisel **338** preferably includes a leading end **342** and a trailing end **344**. The leading end preferably includes a sharpened surface **346** that cuts into bone. The trailing end **344** desirably includes a striking surface **348** so that the chisel **338** may be hit with a hammer or mallet. The second end **344** includes a handle **350** having a shoulder **352** that limits advancement of the chisel **338** into the slot of the punch tower. The exact positioning of the shoulder **352** may be varied in response to the depth of the bone cut required to be formed in the tibial bone.

[0100] Referring to FIGS. 17C-17D, the chisel includes a C-shaped opening **354** extending along the length thereof. The C-shaped opening provides a space for bone to move when the keel opening is being formed. The C-shaped opening **354** also provides a space for a tamp, as will be described in more detail below.

[0101] Referring to FIGS. 18A-18D, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention, the system includes a tamp **340** having a leading end **356** and a trailing end **358** including a handle **360**. Referring to FIG. 18C, the handle **360** includes a shoulder **362** that preferably abuts against the striking surface **348** of the chisel **338** (FIG. 17A) for limiting advancement of the tamp **340**. After the chisel has been advanced into bone for forming an outline of the keel opening, the tamp is advanced through the chisel to impact the bone and complete the formation of the keel opening.

[0102] Referring to FIGS. 19 and 21A, the tibial template **332** preferably includes a central opening **334** having opposing female slots **336** extending between a leading end **362** and a trailing end **364** thereof. The tibial template includes a first slot **366** for receiving a hooked end of a latch paw when the template is used on one side of a knee and a second slot **368** that is also designed to receive the hooked end of a latch paw when the template is flipped over. The tibial template **332** also desirably includes one or more openings **370** extending between top and bottom surfaces **372**, **374** thereof, which are adapted to receive anchor pins for anchoring the tibial template to the proximal end of the tibia.

[0103] FIG. 20 shows a holder **380** for holding different sized tibial templates. The holder preferably includes a first arm **382** for holding an extra small or small sized tibial template **332A**, a second arm **384** for holding a medium or large sized tibial template **332B** and a third arm **386** for holding an extra large sized tibial template **332C**. Each arm of the holder **380** has an outer end including an opening **388** that is the size of a keel opening for the particular implant part to be implanted into bone. Thus, the opening **388A** in the first arm **382** is smaller than the opening **388B** in the second arm **384** and so on.

[0104] FIGS. 22A-22D show a spacer bar **390**, in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention. The spacer bar **390** includes a first section **392** defining a height  $H_1$  and a second section **394** defining a height  $H_2$  that is greater than  $H_1$ . In certain preferred embodiments, the difference between  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  is preferably the thickness of the implant that is positioned between the posterior condyle and the tibia. The spacer bar includes a first end **396** that is tapered and a second end **398** that is also tapered. As will be described in more detail below, the

spacer bar is placed between the distal end of a femur and a proximal end of a tibia to determine spacing between the femur and tibia during extension and flexion of the knee joint. The spacer bar may be used to align a cutting instrument for cutting the posterior region of the femur. As described herein, it is preferable that the gap between the femur and the tibia is the same for both flexion and extension. Thus, the present invention seeks to prepare bone sites and attached implant components to the respective bone sites so that the gap between the femur and tibia is the same in both flexion and extension so as to reduce joint instability and provide for smooth movement between flexion and extension.

[0105] FIGS. 23-32 show a preferred method of preparing a seating surface at a proximal end of a tibia. Referring to FIG. 23, a tibial resection block **112** is coupled with an elongated rod **136**. Referring to FIG. 24, the attachment flange **140** at the proximal end **138** of the rod **136** is secured to the proximal end **102** of the tibia **104** using a fastener **145** such as a pin. A lower end (not shown) of the rod **136** is preferably secured to the tibia **104** such as by using an ankle clamp.

[0106] Referring to FIG. 25, the tibial resection block **112** has a top surface **114** that defines a cutting plane for the proximal end **102** of the tibia **104**. A stylus **141** is preferably coupled with the tibial resection block so as to determine a depth of cut into the proximal end **102** of the tibia **104**. The tibial resection block **112** may slide along the rod **136** until the desired position of the top surface **114** of the block **112** is determined. At that point, the tightening screw **128** is tightened for securing the position of the tibial resection block **112** along the rod **136**. In other preferred embodiments, the tibial resection block may be coupled with a navigation tracker for aligning the top surface **114** of the block **112** at the appropriate depth for the resection.

[0107] Referring to FIG. 26, anchoring pins **143** may be passed through openings in the tibial resection block **112** to further stabilize the tibia resection block relative to the tibia. Referring to FIG. 26, a sagittal resection guide **146** may be moved into abutment against the tibial resection block **112**.

[0108] Referring to FIG. 27, the sagittal resection guide **146** has a main body **148** that is abutted against the tibial resection block **112**. The depressible button **154** of the sagittal resection guide **146** may be depressed to allow movement of the alignment block **152** for defining a sagittal cutting plane between the alignment block **152** and the proximal end **138** of the rod **136**. The outer surface of the alignment block **152** may be rounded to provide for a perpendicular cut of the bone.

[0109] Referring to FIGS. 28 and 29, a saw **149** or other cutting instrument may be used to make a sagittal resection of the proximal end **102** of the tibia **104**. Referring to FIG. 30, a second cutting instrument or saw **151** may be used to cut the proximal end **102** of the tibia **104** in a plane defined by the top surface **114** of the tibial resection block **112**. FIGS. 31 and 32 show the proximal end **102** of the tibia **104** after the tibial resection is complete. The tibial resection block may then be disengaged from the tibia.

[0110] FIGS. 33-37 show femoral alignment of the bur template/spacer block within the knee joint. The leading end **162** of the modular handle **158** shown in FIGS. 5A and 6G is coupled with the female opening **198** of the bur template/spacer block. The male projection **166** at the leading end **162** of the modular handle **158** is preferably inserted into the

elongated alignment groove 200 in the opening 198 at the trailing end of the spacer block portion 176. A shim may be coupled with the spacer block for adjusting for the gap distance in the knee.

[0111] Referring to FIG. 34, the alignment tower 216 shown in FIG. 8A is coupled with the male projection 169 of the modular handle 158 (FIG. 5A). The male projection 169 of the modular handle is preferably coupled with the well 232 at the bottom of the alignment post 216. Referring to FIGS. 35-37, the spacer block portion 180 of the bur template/spacer block is inserted into the joint between the distal end 106 of femur 108 and the proximal end 102 of tibia 104. An alignment rod is desirably placed in the appropriate hole in the alignment tower 216 which is preferably centered on the knee or on the femur using openings 228 in the alignment flag 224 (FIG. 8A). Referring to FIG. 37, once the spacer block 180 is in place, the tibia is extended until the curved inner surface 190 of the bur template engages the femoral condyle. Once the entire length of the curved inner surface of the bur template engages the femoral condyle, extension of the knee joint may be stopped. At that stage, the bur template is preferably secured from further movement relative to the femur using fasteners such as anchoring pins.

[0112] Referring to FIG. 38, the one or more pins for anchoring the bur template from further movement relative to the femur may be inserted through securing flanges 206A, 206B. In the particular preferred embodiment shown in FIG. 38, a shim 208 is coupled with an underside of the spacer block for adjusting the tension of the bur template/space block in the joint. As will be described in more detail herein, the shim may be used for balancing the gap between the femur and the tibia when the knee joint moves between flexion and extension. A bur (not shown) may be inserted into the slot 182 of the bur template/spacer block to prepare the condyle at the distal end of the femur for receiving a femoral component of the implant.

[0113] Referring to FIGS. 9A and 39, the alignment rail 238 of the posterior resection guide locator 236 is preferably inserted into the opening at the trailing end of the bur template/spacer guide 176. The projection 248 on the alignment rail 238 is preferably inserted into the elongated, alignment groove 200 (FIG. 6G) in the spacer block. Referring to FIG. 39, once the alignment rail is inserted into the opening in the spacer block, the pin openings 256 of the posterior resection guide locator 236 are preferably in alignment with the slot 182 of the bur template/spacer block 176. Referring to FIGS. 39 and 40, a pair of alignment pins 153 are desirably inserted through the pin openings in the posterior resection guide locator 236 and advanced into the bone at the distal end of the femur. In certain preferred embodiments of the present invention, the guide locator 236 is preferably sized and shaped so that the alignment pins 153 are attached to the femur at a location that will eventually result in 6 mm of bone being resected from the posterior region of the femur.

[0114] Referring FIGS. 40 and 41, a posterior resection guide 258 is aligned with the femur 108 using the previously anchored alignment pins 153. Referring to FIGS. 41 and 42, a posterior resection of the femur is desirably performed by passing a cutting instrument such as a saw 155 through the slot 264 in the posterior resection guide 258. The posterior resection guide is sized and shaped so that it slides over the alignment pins that were previously anchored in the bone

using the posterior resection guide locator. The posterior resection guide is preferably sized and shaped so that once it is slid over the alignment pins 153, the slot is located so that a predetermined section of bone from the posterior region of the femur is removed. In certain preferred embodiments, the posterior resection guide is sized and shaped so that 6 mm of bone is removed from the posterior region of the femur. As shown in FIG. 43, after the posterior resection of the femur 108 is complete, the posterior resection guide and the alignment pins are removed.

[0115] Referring to FIGS. 44 and 45, a tibial template 332 may be positioned over the prepared site at the proximal end 102 of the tibia 104. The surgeon desirably makes a determination of the proper sized tibial template that should be used, which is based upon the area of the prepared site at the proximal end of the tibia. The tibial template is preferably used to prepare the site for receiving a tibial component of an implant.

[0116] Referring to FIGS. 46 and 47, after the proper tibial template has been selected, the leading end 304 of the punch tower 300 is coupled with the opening in the tibial template. As described above, the male projections at the leading end 304 of the punch tower 300 slide into the female openings in the elongated opening of the tibial template. The latch paw 308 desirably engages a latch paw groove formed in the top surface of the tibial template for securing the tibial template and the punch tower together.

[0117] Referring to FIGS. 48 and 49, the coupled together tibial template and punch tower are preferably moved into place over the prepared site at the proximal end of the tibia. Referring to FIG. 49, a pin may be used to anchor the tibial template and/or the punch tower to the bone.

[0118] Referring to FIG. 50, addition pins may be passed through the attachment flange 318 of the punch tower to further anchor the punch tower to bone.

[0119] Referring to FIGS. 51-53, after the punch tower and tibial template have been anchored to the tibia, the chisel 338 is desirably passed through an appropriate slot in the punch tower and hammered in place using a hammer or mallet. As shown in FIG. 51, the punch tower 300 has at least three slots for receiving the chisel 338. As noted above, each of the three slots will result in the formation of keel openings having a particular size. FIG. 53 shows the chisel 338 after it has been fully advanced in the punch tower 300.

[0120] Referring to FIGS. 54 and 55, the tamp 340 is then hammered in place through the chisel 338 to complete formation of the keel opening. Referring to FIG. 56, the punch tower is then removed. A keel opening has been formed at the prepared site at the proximal end of the tibia.

[0121] FIG. 57 shows a prepared site at the distal end 106 of the femur 108, which has been prepared by passing a bur through the slot in the bur template/spacer block shown and described above in FIGS. 6A-6H. Referring to FIG. 58, in order to prepare the distal end of the femur for receiving a femoral component of the implant, a femoral trial cutting guide, such as that shown and described above in FIGS. 12A-12F and 13A, is abutted against the prepared site. The outer perimeter of the femoral trial cutting guide 274 desirably matches the perimeter of the prepared site previously burred on the femur. The cutting guide is preferably handled by attaching the drill guide 286 to the cutting guide.

[0122] Referring to FIG. 58, after the cutting guide is in place, a drill bit may be passed through an elongated opening in the drill guide 286 to form a post opening for the

implant. Referring to FIG. 59, a cutting instrument, such as a saw, may be passed through the elongated slot formed in the cutting guide 274 so as to form an elongated opening for a keel on an implant.

[0123] FIGS. 60-62 show a prior art bur template used to prepare the distal end of a femur for receiving an implant. As is well known to those skilled in the art, the template generally conforms to the shape of an actual implant. Thus, it is important that the template conform to the shape of the distal end of the femur as closely as possible. Referring to FIG. 61, after the posterior region of the femoral condyle has been resected, and while the leg remains flexed, the upper part of the bur template is abuted against the condyle at the distal end of the femur. As shown in FIG. 61, a gap forms between the prepared site at the posterior region of the femur and the template. This may result in a number of problems including a poor fit between the implant and the distal end of the femur, joint instability or the removal of excessive bone from the distal end of the femur in order to fit the implant to the femur bone. Conversely, referring to FIG. 62, if the lower end of the bur template is placed in contact with the prepared site at the posterior region of the femur, the upper part of the bur template is spaced from the condyle of the femur. This may cause a number of problems including a poor fit between the implant and the femur bone, joint instability and/or the removal of excessive bone from the femur in order to fit the implant to the femur bone. In certain preferred embodiments, the present invention seeks to avoid these problems by preparing the site at the distal end of the femur before removing bone from the posterior region of the femur. In other preferred embodiments, the present invention seeks to minimize the amount of bone removed from the posterior region of the femur when balancing the gaps between the femur and the tibia when the joint moves between an extended position and a flexed position.

[0124] FIGS. 63A and 63B show a knee joint in an extended position, after the tibia has been resected but before the femur is resected. A spacer bar, similar to that shown in FIGS. 22A-22D, is placed in the gap between the distal end 106 of the femur 108 and the proximal end 102 of the tibia 104. The spacer bar is used to measure the distance or gap between the distal end of the femur and the prepared site at the proximal end of the tibia. Referring to FIGS. 64A and 64B, the knee joint is then flexed and the gap between the posterior region of the femur and the prepared site at the proximal end of the tibia is measured. Ideally, the gap between the femur and tibia is the same when the joint is in the extended and flexed positions. For example, in certain instances, the gap when the joint is flexed is 6 mm and the gap when the joint is extended is 6 mm. Often, however, the gap distances change as the joint moves between extended and flexed positions. For example, the flexion gap may be 8mm and the extension gap may be 6 mm. Thus, certain preferred embodiments of the present invention seek to balance the gap between the femur and the tibia so that the gap in extension is equal to the gap when the knee is flexed. Unlike prior art methods, certain preferred embodiments of the present invention seek to balance the gaps by taking more or less bone from the posterior region of the femur, rather than by taking additional bone from the distal end of the femur. Moreover, in certain preferred embodiments, the posterior resection of the femur takes place only after the site at the distal end of the femur has been completely prepared. In still other preferred embodiments, although some bone

may be removed from the posterior region before the distal end of the bone is burred, the final posterior resection region is not completed until the site at the distal end of the femur is finalized.

[0125] Referring to FIGS. 63A and 63B, the extension gap between the distal end of the femur and the prepared site at the proximal end of the tibia is about 6 millimeters. Referring to FIGS. 64A and 64B, the flexion gap between the posterior region of the femur and the prepared site at the proximal end of the tibia is about 8 millimeters. Thus, the gap is 2 mm larger in flexion than in extension. The present invention seeks to balance the gaps so that the gap in flexion is equal to the gap in extension. In certain preferred embodiments, the present invention balances the gap by decreasing the flexion gap by 2 millimeters, rather than increasing the extension gap by 2 millimeters. As a result, less bone is removed from the femur.

[0126] FIG. 65 shows a gap balancing table that may be used for calculating the amount of bone that is removed from the posterior condyle of the femur. The table may be used by a surgeon for balancing the flexion and extension gaps of a knee joint. As noted above, use of the table preferably minimizes the amount of bone that is removed from the femur. Use of the table also preferably results in proper positioning of the implant parts on the femur and the tibia and smooth movement of the knee joint when moving between the extended and flexed positions. For purposes of clarity, the table uses 6 mm as the preferred gap for a knee joint in both flexion and extension. This chart also assumes that the thickness of the femoral component of the implant is 6 mm. In other preferred embodiments, other thicknesses may be used, e.g. 4 mm, 8 mm, etc. If the initial gap distance is more or less than 6 mm, then more or less bone is removed from the posterior region of the femoral condyle so that the final gap distance in extension is the same as the final gap distance in flexion.

[0127] Referring to the table, the gap distance associated with a tight fit is 4 mm; the gap distance associated with a good fit is 6 mm and the gap distance associated with a loose fit is 8 mm. The table includes a first row that compares a tight extension gap (4 mm) with a tight (4 mm), good (6 mm) and loose (8 mm) flexion gap. If the extension gap and the flexion gap are both tight, then the gap is considered to be in balance and the standard 6 mm of bone is removed from the posterior condyle. If the extension gap is tight (4 mm) and the flexion gap is good (6 mm), then the gaps are not in balance. In order to balance the gaps, 2 mm less bone material is removed from the posterior region of the femoral condyle for a total of 4 mm (6 mm-2 mm=4 mm) of bone being removed. If the extension gap is tight (4 mm) and the flexion gap is loose (8 mm), then the gaps are not in balance and 4 mm less bone material is removed from the posterior region of the femoral condyle for a total of 2 mm (6 mm-4 mm=2 mm) of bone being removed.

[0128] The second row of the gap balancing table is used when the extension gap is good (e.g. 6 mm). If the extension gap is good (6 mm) and the flexion gap is tight (4 mm), then the gaps are not in balance. In order to balance the gaps, 2 mm of additional bone is removed from the posterior region of the femoral condyle for a total of 6 mm (4 mm+2 mm=6 mm) of bone being removed. If the extension gap and the flexion gap are both good, then the gap is considered to be in balance and the standard 6 mm of bone is removed from the posterior region of the femoral condyle. If the extension

gap is good (6 mm) and the flexion gap is loose (8 mm), then the gaps are not in balance and 2 mm less bone is removed from the posterior region of the femoral condyle for a total of 6 mm (8 mm–2 mm=6 mm) of bone being removed.

[0129] The third row of the gap balancing table is used when the extension gap is loose (e.g. 8 mm). If the extension gap is loose (8 mm) and the flexion gap is tight (4 mm), then 4 mm of additional bone is removed from the posterior region of the femoral condyle for a total of 8 mm (4 mm+4 mm=8 mm) of bone being removed. If the extension gap is loose (8 mm) and the flexion gap is good (6 mm), then 2 mm of additional bone is removed from the posterior region of the femoral condyle for a total of 8 mm (6 mm+2 mm=8 mm) of bone being removed. If the extension gap is loose (8 mm) and the flexion gap is loose (8 mm), then the gap is balanced and the standard 6 mm (6 mm+0 mm=6 mm) of bone is removed from the posterior region of the femoral condyle and the 8 mm tibial component is preferably used.

[0130] In FIG. 66, the flexion gap is 8 mm and the extension gap is 6 mm so that the flexion gap is 2 mm greater than the extension gap. Thus, a standard 6 mm posterior resection will result in a flexion instability of 2 mm. This is shown in FIG. 66 where reference line 425 designates the cut line for a standard 6 mm posterior resection and line 435 is 6 mm away from line 425 (the thickness of the femoral component of the implant). When the femoral component 440 is attached to the bone, the outer surface 442 is present at line 435. However, an 8 mm flexion gap still remains between the proximal end of the tibia (designated by line 445) and the outer surface of the implant (designated by line 435). Thus, in order to balance the flexion gap with the extension gap, the posterior resection must be lowered by 2 mm so that the outer surface of the implant is lowered by 2 mm. Lowering the femoral component by 2 mm will result in a 6 mm flexion gap and a 6 mm extension gap. As a result, when the femoral component 440 shown in FIG. 66 is attached to the distal end of the femur 108, the outer surface 442 of the implant 440 will form a flexion gap of 6 mm.

[0131] Adjusting the posterior resection is shown in conjunction with FIGS. 67–69. Referring to FIG. 67, after the bur template/spacer block has been positioned between the knee joint and pinned to the femur, the alignment rail of the posterior resection guide locator 236 is inserted into the alignment opening of the bur template/spacer block 176. Pins 153 are then passed through the pin openings of the posterior resection guide locator and into the distal end of the femur bone. As shown in FIGS. 39–40, the posterior resection guide locator 236 is then removed so that only the pins 153 remain attached to the bone. Referring to FIGS. 40–43 and 68, if the flexion gap matches the extension gap, then the standard posterior resection guide 258 may be used to provide a 6 mm posterior resection. The prepared site with the 6 mm posterior resection is shown in FIG. 43.

[0132] If the flexion gap does not match the extension gap, then the posterior resection must be adjusted from the standard 6 mm cut as discussed above with reference to the gap balancing table of FIG. 65. This may be accomplished by using a second posterior resection guide 258', shown in FIG. 69, having three sets of pin openings. Although three sets of pin openings are shown, it is contemplated that other preferred embodiments may have four or more sets of pin openings for further modification of the amount of bone removed during a posterior resection. The middle set of openings 268' provides for a standard posterior resection of

6 mm of bone. The upper set of openings 270' lowers the posterior resection guide 258' by 2 millimeters so that the posterior resection removes 4 mm of bone. In certain preferred embodiments, the upper set of openings 270' is used when the flexion gap is greater than the extension gap. The posterior resection guide 258' also includes a lower set of openings 272' that is used when the posterior resection must be raised by 2 mm. The third set of openings 272' may be used when the flexion gap is less than the extension gap. In other preferred embodiments, the sets of openings may be 1 mm apart, or another desired distance.

[0133] Referring to FIG. 70A, line 425 shows the standard posterior resection of 6 mm of bone. Line 435 shows a posterior resection that has been lowered 2 mm so that only 4 mm of bone is removed. Line 455 shows the burred surface 455 formed at the femoral condyle 110 at the distal end of the femur 108, with the inner surface of the femoral component of the implant being shown at line 442. Due to downward shifting of the femoral component by about 2 mm (preferably after the distal burring is accomplished), a gap may form between the burred surface 455 and the inner surface 442 of the femoral component. Referring to FIG. 70B, bone cement 460 may be used for filling the gap resulting from the downward shifting of the femoral component.

[0134] In other preferred embodiments of the present invention, the amount of bone removed during the posterior resection may be controlled by coupling a shim with the spacer block portion of the bur template/spacer block. The shim may be coupled with either the top surface of the spacer block or the bottom surface of the spacer block. FIG. 71 shows the bur template/spacer block 176 of FIG. 6A aligned for assembly with shim 208 of FIG. 7A. Shim 208 includes a post 210 that is insertible in an opening extending through spacer block 180. In FIG. 71, the shim is oriented for assembly with a bottom surface of the spacer block. In FIG. 72, the shim 208 is oriented for assembly with a top surface of the spacer block 180.

[0135] Referring to FIG. 73, the shim 208 having a thickness of 2 mm is assembled with the top surface of the spacer block 180. The addition of the 2 mm shim on top of the spacer block lowers the posterior resection by 2 mm. As a result, when the standard posterior resection guide 258 of FIG. 68 is slid over the pins shown in FIG. 40 and the resection conducted, only 4 mm of bone is removed from the posterior region, rather than the standard 6 mm.

[0136] Referring to FIG. 74, when the implant 440 is attached to the prepared site on the femur 108, the gap between the outer surface 442 of the implant 440 and the upper prepared surface of the tibia 104 is 6 millimeters. This 6 millimeter gap in flexion is the same distance as the 6 mm extension gap.

[0137] FIGS. 75 and 76 show a knee joint having a flexion gap that is less than the extension gap. In order to balance the gaps, the posterior resection must be raised by a particular distance. FIG. 75 shows a standard 6 millimeter posterior resection line 470 that may be formed using the standard posterior resection guide 258 shown in FIG. 68. When the implant 440 is attached to the distal end of the femur, the outer surface 442 of the implant defines a tangent line 472 that is 4 mm from line 474. In this case, a 2 mm extension instability exists. Correcting this situation requires the posterior resection to be raised 2 mm so that the flexion gap matches the extension gap.

[0138] Referring to FIG. 76, in order to raise the outer surface of the implant 2 mm, the posterior resection line is first raised 2 mm to line 471. As a result, when the implant 440 is attached to bone, the flexion gap between the outer surface 442 of the implant part 440 and the prepared surface of the tibia is 6 millimeters, which matches the 6 millimeter extension gap.

[0139] After the sites have been prepared at the distal end of the femur and the proximal end of the tibia, a femoral component of the implant is connected with the distal end of the femur and a tibial component of the implant is connected to the proximal end of the tibia. Referring to FIGS. 77A and 77B, the femoral component 440 has an outer surface 442 that is preferably curved and an inner surface 444. The femoral component 440 also preferably includes a post 446 projecting from the inner surface 444 and a keel 448 projecting from the inner surface 444 thereof. The femoral component 440 is assembled with the distal end of the femur by abutting the inner surface 444 against the femoral bone. The post 446 and the keel 448 are preferably pressed into openings previously formed in the bone as described above with respect to the femoral trial cutting guide shown in FIGS. 57-59.

[0140] Referring to FIGS. 78A and 78B, the implant includes a tibial component 482 having a top surface 484 adapted to abut against the outer surface 442 of the femoral component 440 (FIG. 77A). The tibial component 482 includes an underside 486 having a keel 488 projecting therefrom. The keel is adapted to be inserted into a keel opening, such as the keel opening shown in FIG. 56.

[0141] Referring to FIG. 79, after final insertion of the implant, the outer surface 442 of femoral component 440 engages the top surface 484 of tibial component 482. The opposing outer surfaces of the two implant parts engage one another as the knee joint moves between a flexed position and an extended position. In certain preferred embodiments, the femoral and tibial components 440, 482 may be secured using cement. In particular preferred embodiments, the cement is applied over the post 446 and keel 448 of the femoral component 440 shown in FIG. 77A. Cement may also be applied over the bottom surface 486 and the keel 488 of the tibial component 482 shown in FIG. 78B. The first and second implant parts may be impacted into place just by using a striking instrument such as a hammer, an impactor or a mallet. Any excessive cement present around the implant parts 440, 482 is preferably removed.

[0142] Disclosed herein are unicondylar knee implants, surgical instruments and procedures in accordance with certain preferred embodiments of the present invention. It is contemplated, however, that the implants, instruments and procedures may be slightly modified, and/or used in whole or in part and with or without other instruments or procedures, and still fall within the scope of the present invention. Although the present invention may discuss a series of steps in a procedure, the steps can be accomplished in a different order, or be used individually, or in subgroupings of any order, or in conjunction with other methods, without deviating from the scope of the invention.

[0143] While there has been described and illustrated herein embodiments of unicondylar knee implants and insertion methods therefor, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that variations and modifications are possible without deviating from the broad spirit and principle of the present invention. The present invention shall, therefore, not be

limited solely to the specific embodiments disclosed herein and other arrangements may be devised without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims.

1. A method of balancing extension and flexion gaps in a knee joint comprising:

preparing a tibial component seating surface at a proximal end of a tibia;

extending said knee joint and measuring an extension gap between the tibial component seating surface and a distal end of a femur;

flexing said knee joint and measuring a flexion gap between the tibial component seating surface and a posterior region of said femur;

comparing the extension gap with the flexion gap to determine an amount of bone that is to be removed from the posterior region of said femur for balancing the extension gap with the flexion gap.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising: removing a predetermined amount of bone from the posterior region of said femur if the extension gap equals the flexion gap;

removing less than the predetermined amount of bone from the posterior region of said femur if the extension gap is smaller than the flexion gap; and

removing more than the predetermined amount of bone from the posterior region of said femur if the extension gap is larger than the flexion gap.

3. The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising preparing a femoral component seating surface by removing bone from both the distal end of said femur and the posterior region of said femur, wherein preparation of the distal end of said femur is finalized before preparation of the posterior region of said femur is finalized.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising: providing a combination bur template and spacer block including a bur template for guiding removal of bone from the distal end of said femur and a spacer block extending from the lower end of said bur template; and inserting said spacer block into said knee joint.

5. The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said bur template abuts against the distal end of said femur when said spacer block is fully inserted into said knee joint.

6. The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said bur template has an upper end, a lower end and a curved inner surface extending between the upper and lower ends thereof, and said spacer block extends from the lower end of said bur template, said spacer block having a top surface, a bottom surface, a leading end for insertion into a knee joint and a trailing end spaced from the leading end and adjacent the lower end of said bur template, wherein the trailing end of said spacer block includes an opening with an alignment feature that extends from the trailing end of said spacer block toward the leading end of said spacer block.

7. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein after insertion of said spacer block into said knee joint the top surface of said spacer block faces said femur and the bottom surface of said spacer block faces said tibia.

8. The method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising: providing a posterior resection guide locator including an alignment rail; and

inserting said alignment rail into the opening at the trailing end of said spacer block.

9. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the alignment rail is adapted to engage the alignment feature in the opening of said spacer block.

10. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the alignment rail comprises an elongated projection and the alignment feature on said spacer block comprises an elongated groove that receives the elongated projection.

11. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said posterior resection guide locator includes an alignment pin guide overlying said alignment rail, wherein said alignment pin guide includes at least one pin opening extending therethrough.

12. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said bur template includes a guide rail extending around an outer perimeter thereof and a central opening surrounded by the guide rail, the method further comprising aligning said at least one pin opening of said alignment pin guide with the central opening when said alignment rail is inserted into the opening of said spacer block.

13. The method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising inserting an alignment pin into the at least one pin opening of said alignment pin guide.

14. The method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

- providing a posterior resection guide including an upper end, a lower end having a surface for guiding a cutting tool and a pin opening between the upper and lower ends; and
- sliding the pin opening of said posterior resection guide over the alignment pin.

15. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the pin opening includes a first set of pin openings and a second set of pin openings that is closer to the upper end of said posterior resection guide than the first set of pin openings.

16. The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the pin opening includes a third set of pin openings that is closer to the lower end of said posterior resection guide than the first set of pin openings.

17. A method of preparing a knee joint for receiving a unicondylar knee implant comprising:

- preparing a tibial component seating surface at a proximal end of a tibia;
- extending said knee joint and measuring an extension gap between the tibial component seating surface and a distal end of a femur;
- flexing said knee joint and measuring a flexion gap between the tibial component seating surface and a posterior region of said femur;
- comparing the extension gap with the flexion gap to determine an amount of bone that is to be removed from the posterior region of said femur for balancing the extension gap with the flexion gap;
- providing a combination bur template and spacer block, said bur template having an upper end, a lower end and

a curved surface extending between the upper and lower ends thereof that is adapted to conform to a femoral condyle of a femur and said spacer block extending from the lower end of said bur template and having top and bottom surfaces.

18. The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising placing a shim on the top surface of said spacer block if the flexion gap is greater than the extension gap.

19. The method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising:

flexing said knee joint so that said prepared first seating surface at the proximal end of said tibia opposes a posterior region of said femoral condyle;

inserting said spacer block and said shim into said knee joint so that the top surface of said spacer block engages the posterior region of said femoral condyle and said shim over the bottom surface of said spacer block engages the first seating surface at the proximal end of said tibia;

while maintaining said spacer block and said shim between said femur and said tibia, extending said knee joint until the curved surface of said bur template engages a distal region of said femoral condyle;

anchoring said bur template to the distal region of said femoral condyle and using said bur template to guide burring of the distal region of said femoral condyle for preparing a second seating surface on said femur;

after burring the distal region of said femoral condyle, resecting the posterior region of said femoral condyle.

20. The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein if the flexion gap equals the extension gap the method further comprises:

flexing said knee joint so that said prepared first seating surface at the proximal end of said tibia opposes a posterior region of said femoral condyle;

inserting said combination bur template and spacer block into said knee joint so that the top surface of said spacer block engages the posterior region of said femoral condyle and the bottom surface of said spacer block engages the first seating surface at the proximal end of said tibia;

while maintaining said spacer block between said femur and said tibia, extending said knee joint until the curved surface of said bur template engages a distal region of said femoral condyle;

anchoring said bur template to the distal region of said femoral condyle and using said bur template to guide burring of the distal region of said femoral condyle for preparing a second seating surface on said femur;

after burring the distal region of said femoral condyle, resecting the posterior region of said femoral condyle.

\* \* \* \* \*