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(54) **WOODWORKING MACHINES WITH OVERMOLDED ARBORS**

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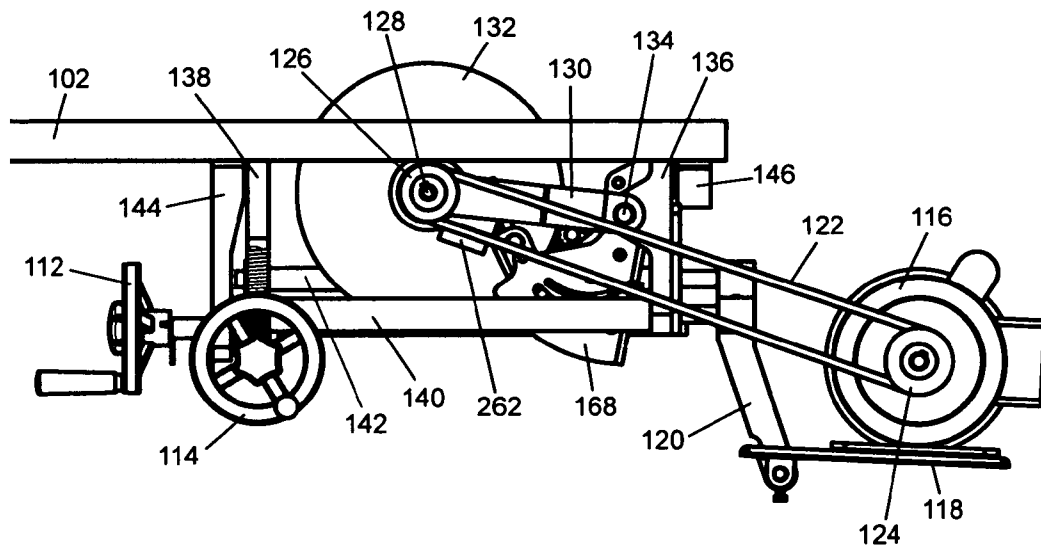
(57) **ABSTRACT**

(22) Filed: **Jan. 5, 2009**

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 10/923,290, filed on Aug. 20, 2004, now Pat. No. 7,472,634, Continuation of application No. 11/647,676, filed on Dec. 29, 2006.

Power equipment with various safety systems is disclosed. Table saws with safety systems and/or blade retraction are disclosed. Over-molded arbors are disclosed for use in power equipment with safety systems and/or blade retraction, including arbors with fiber and/or prepreg over-molding.



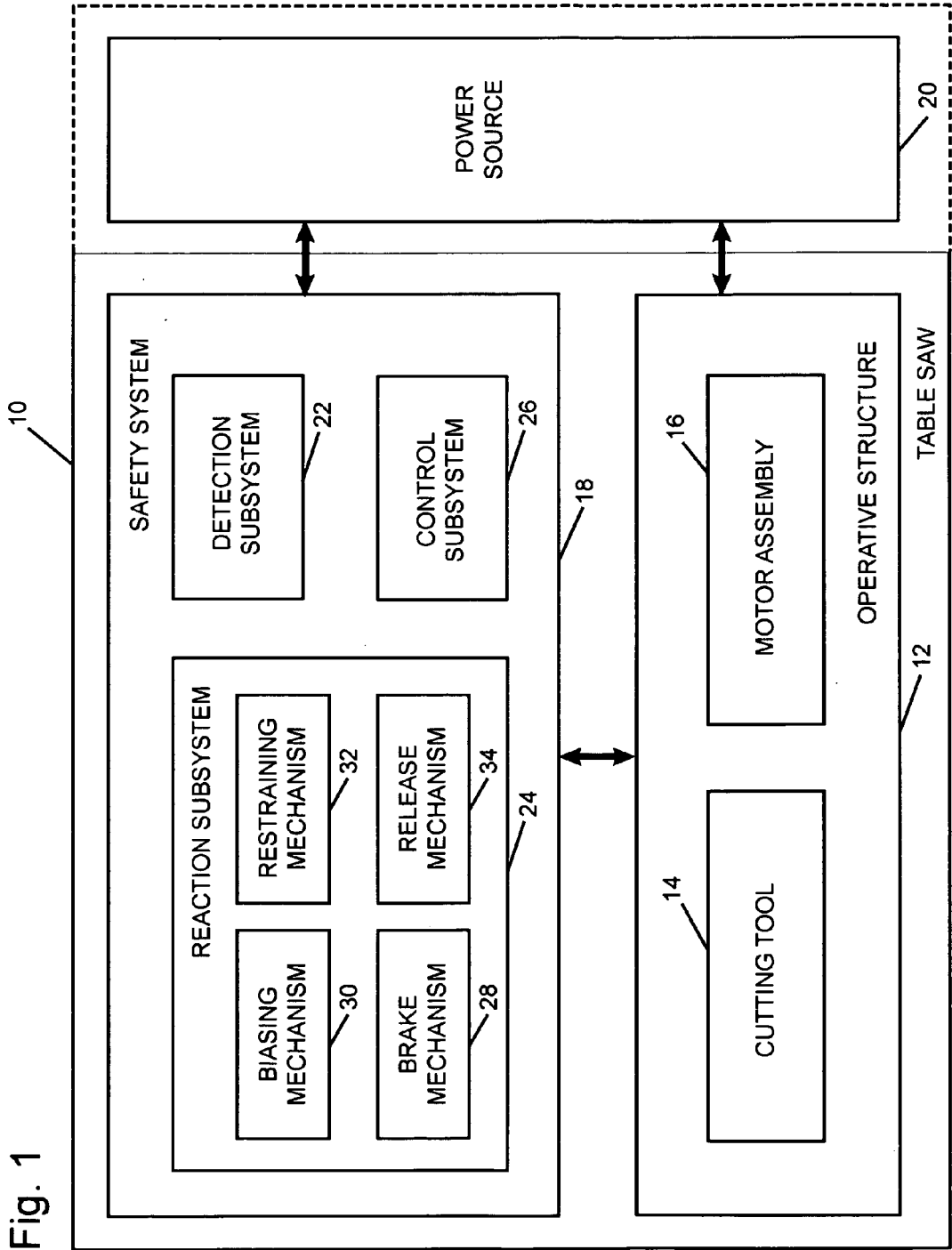


Fig. 1

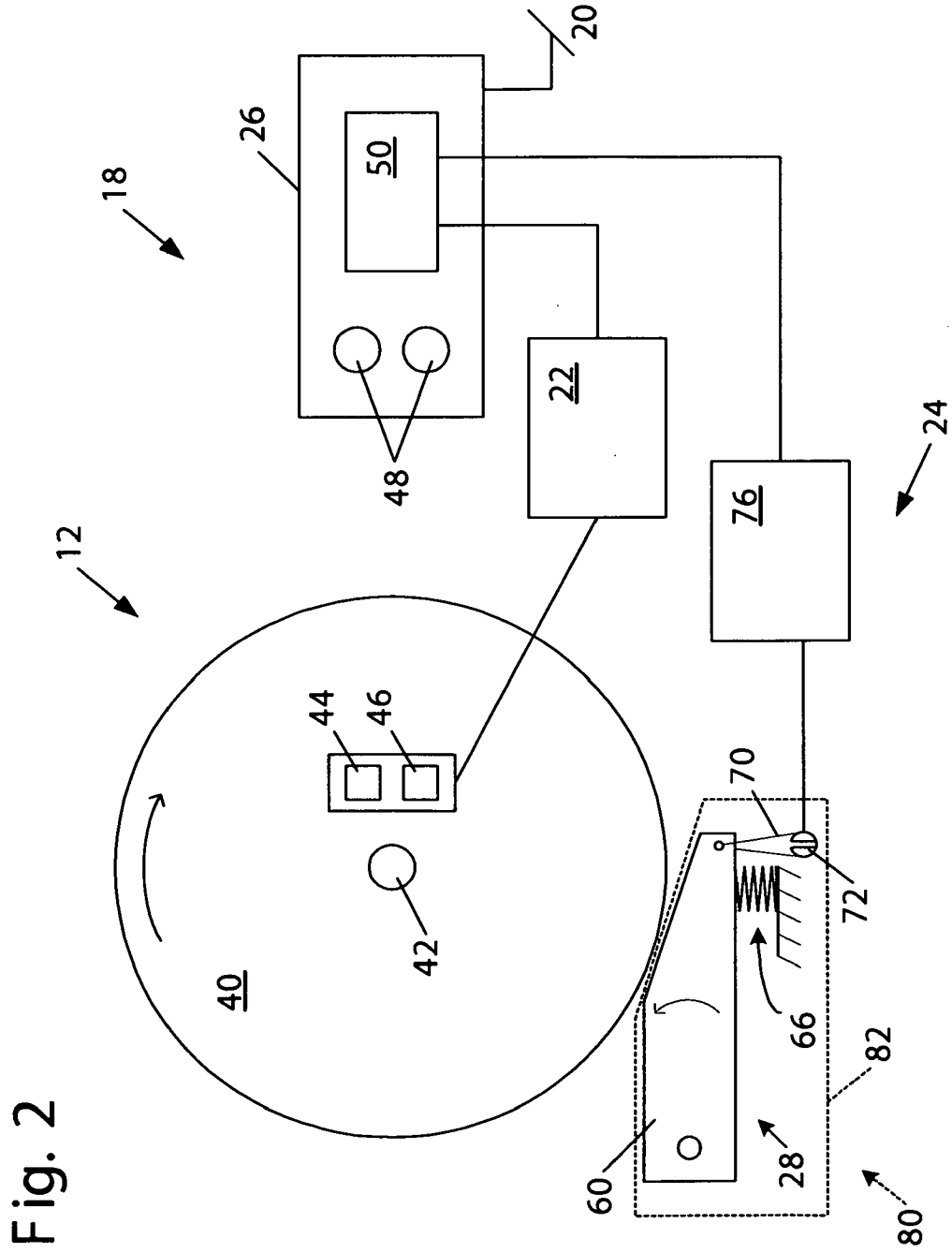
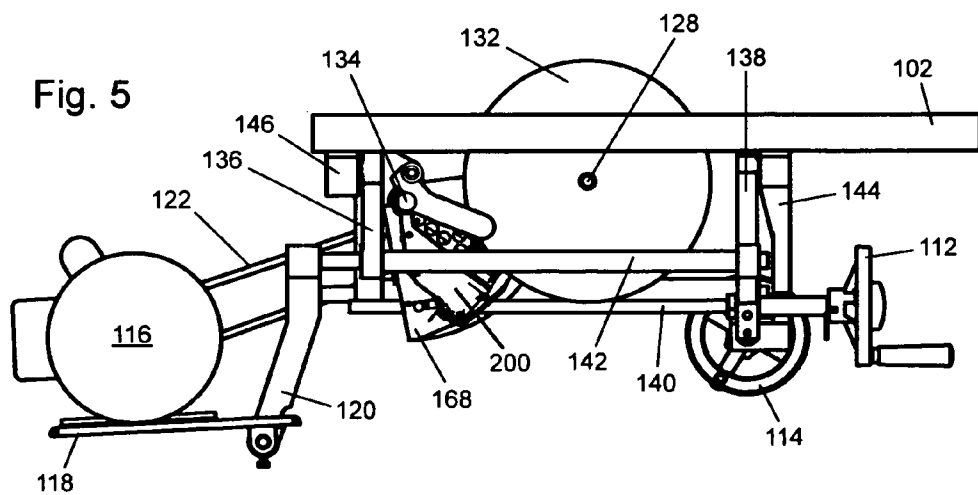
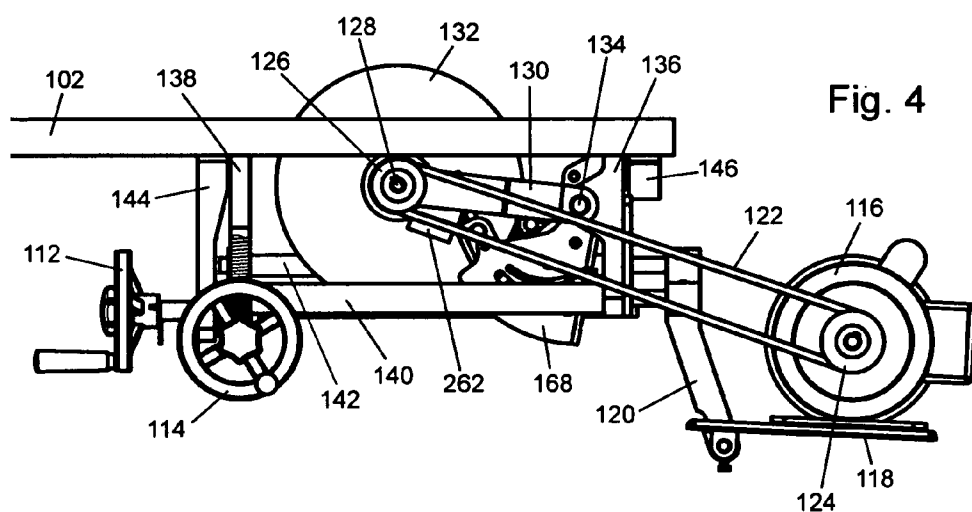
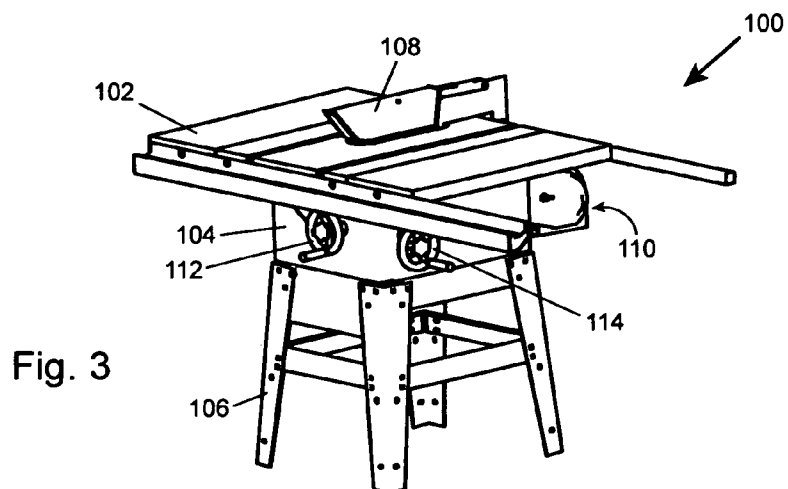
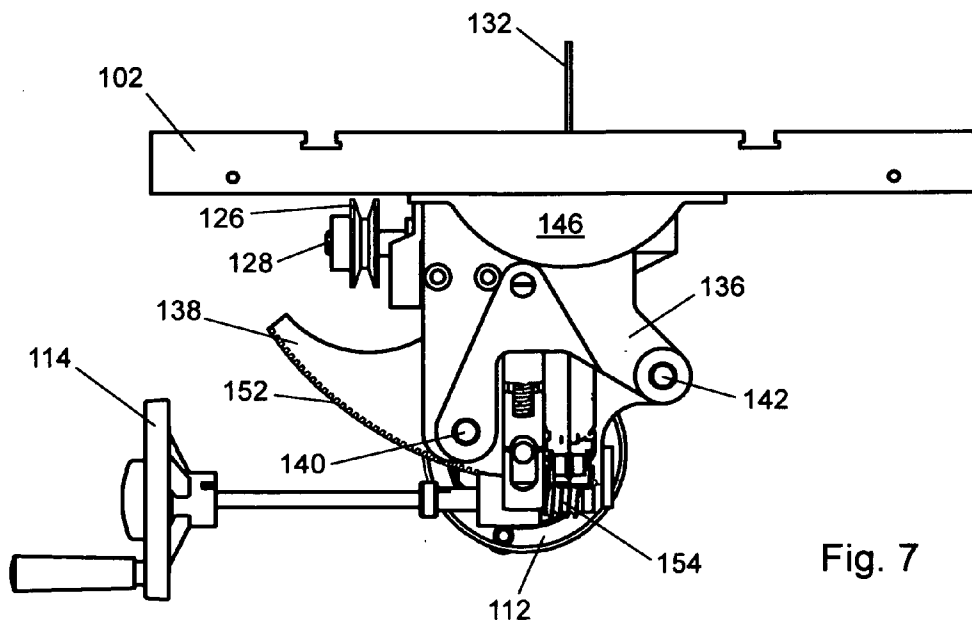
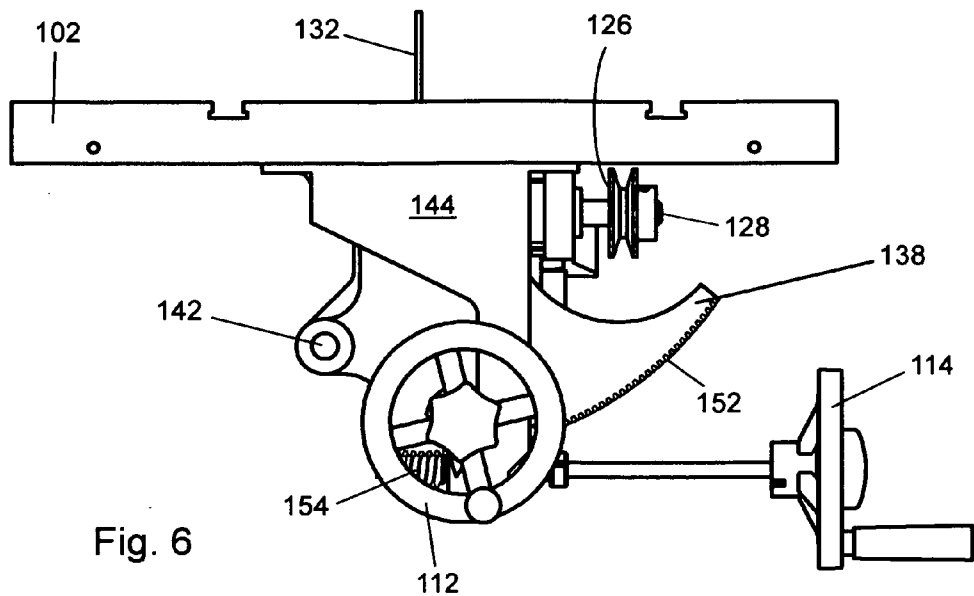


Fig. 2





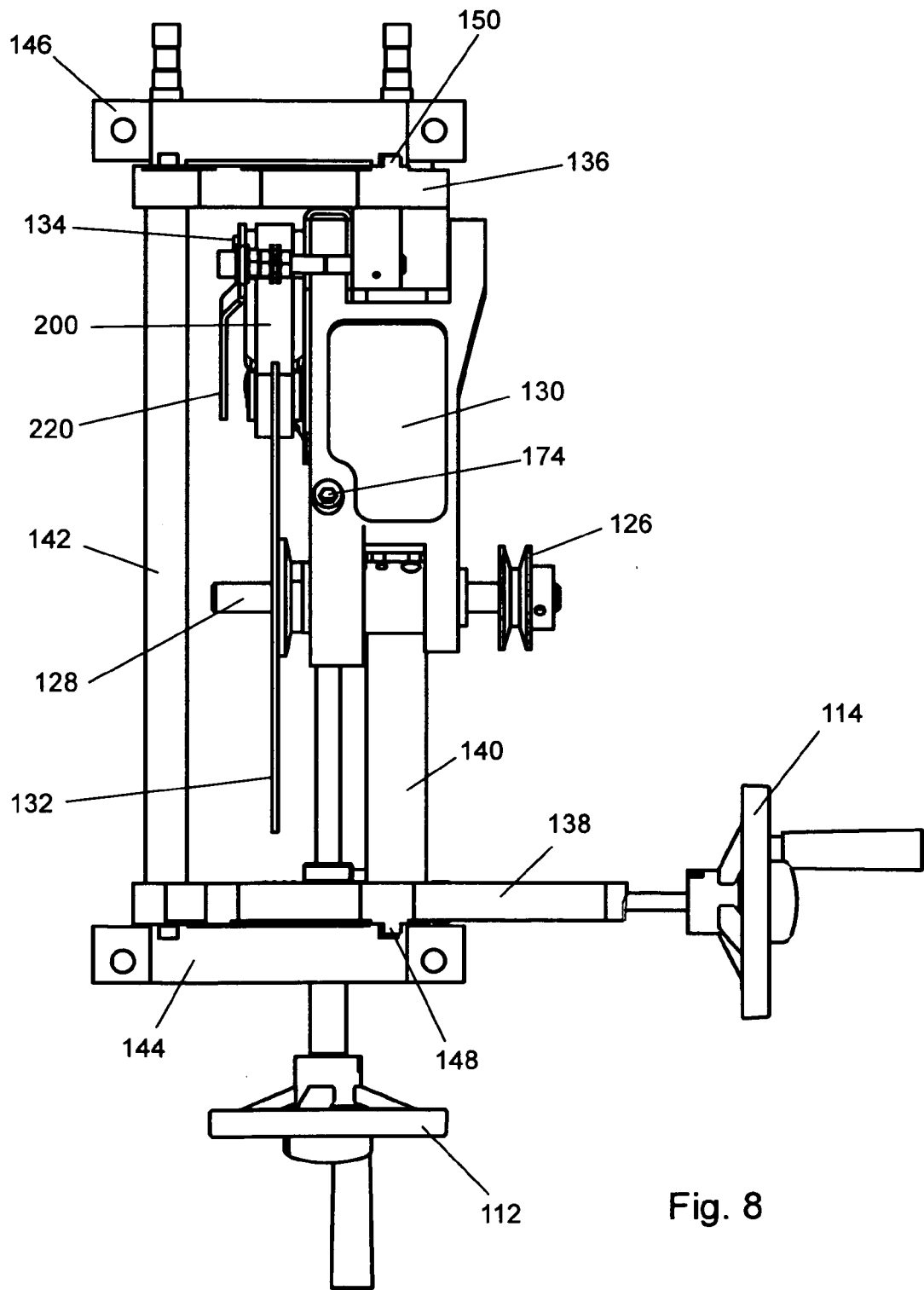


Fig. 8

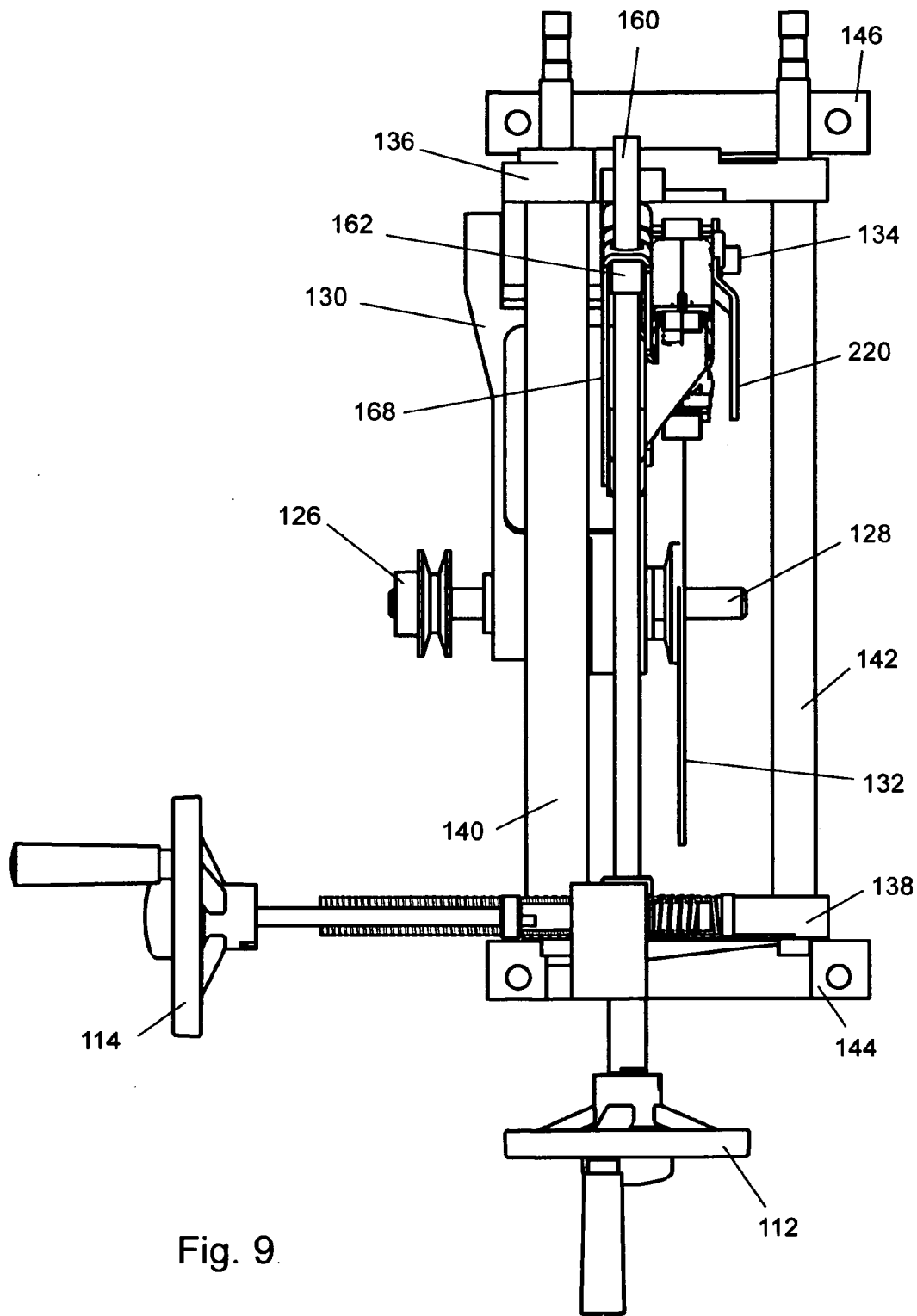


Fig. 9.

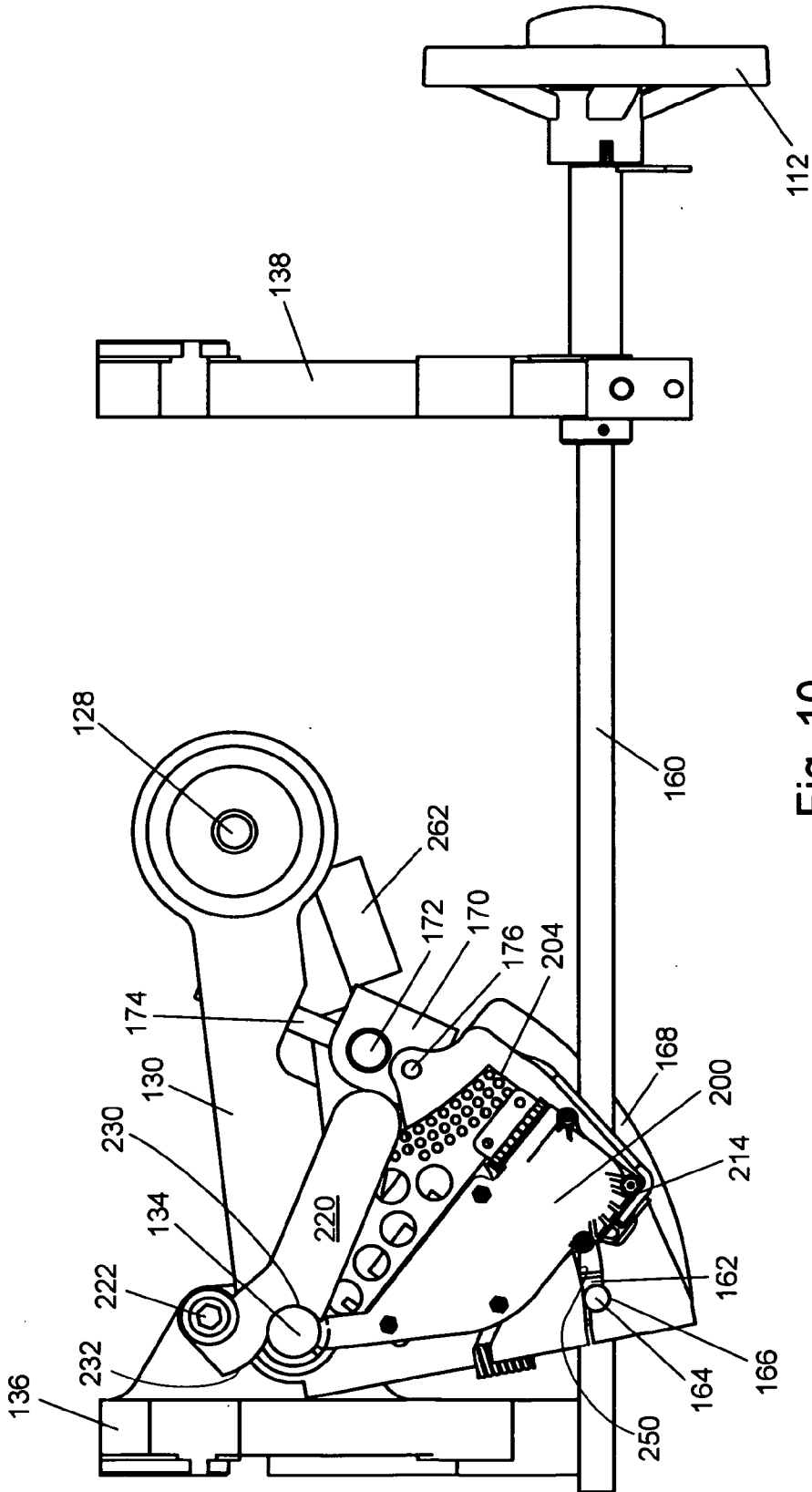


Fig. 10

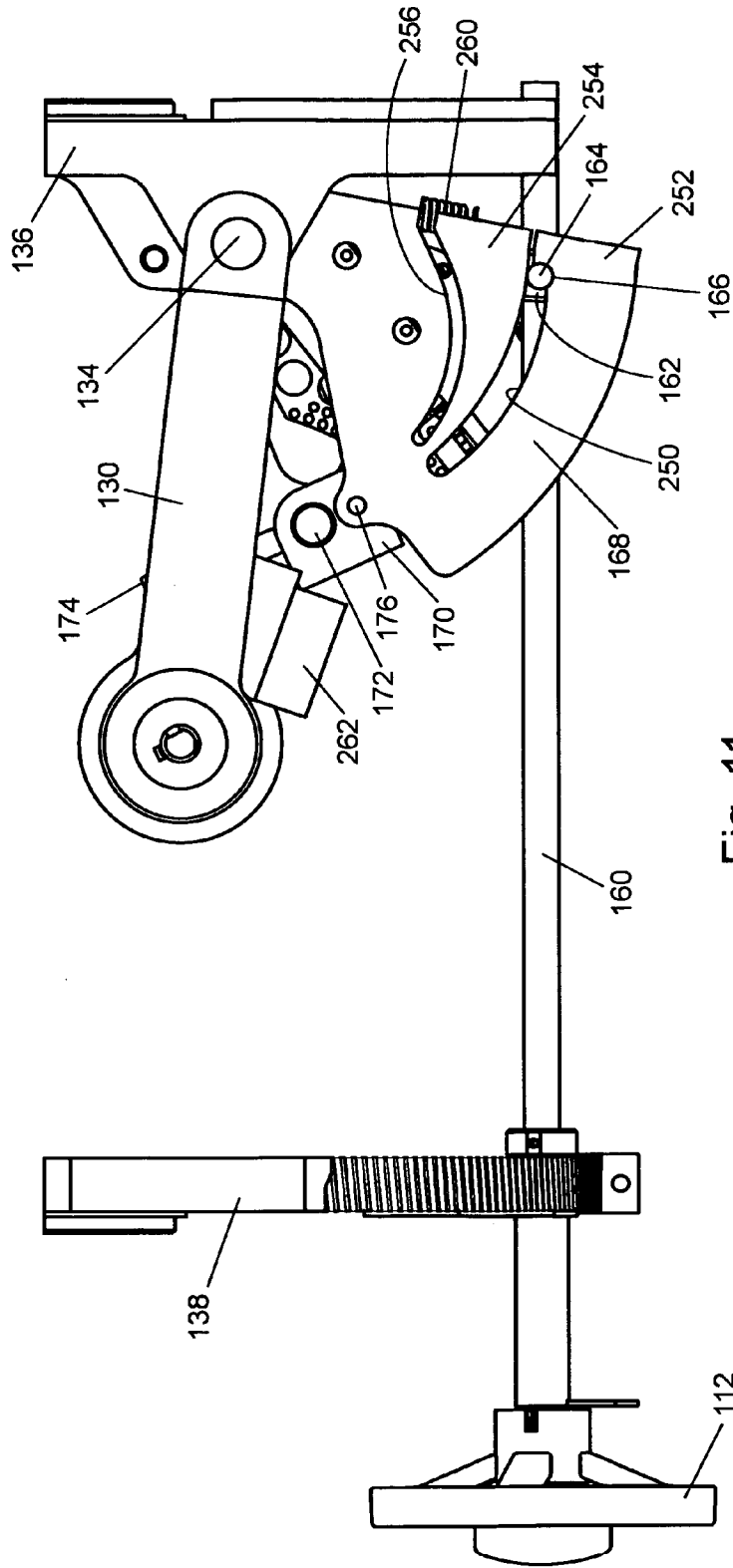


Fig. 11

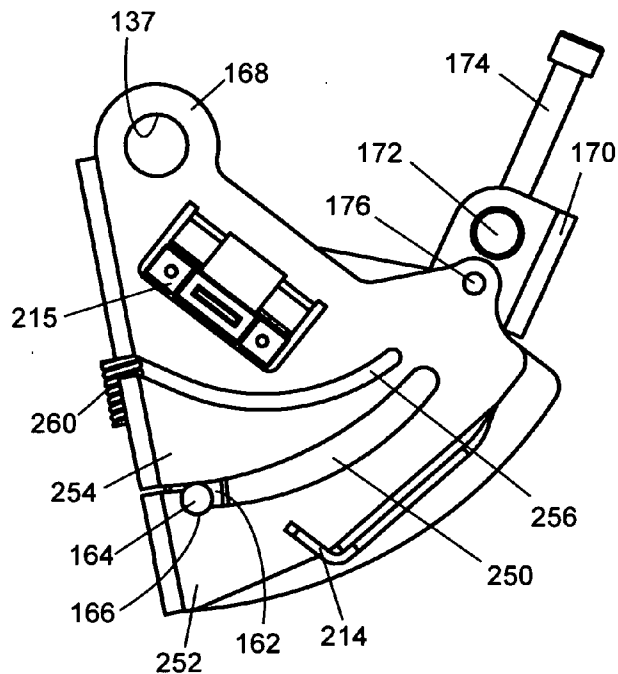


Fig. 12

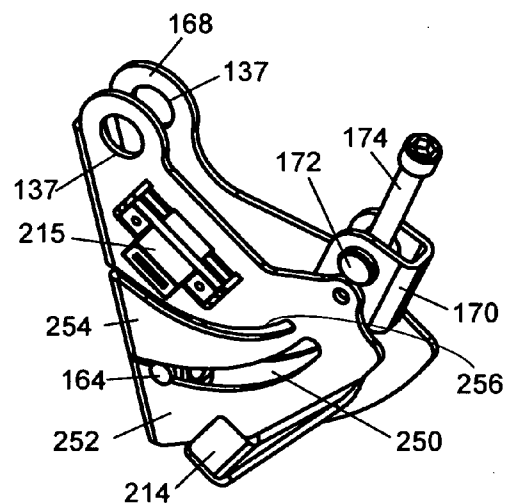


Fig. 13

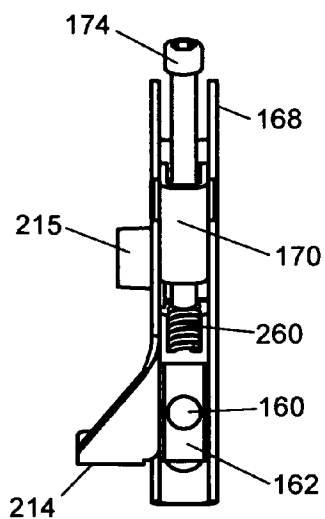


Fig. 14

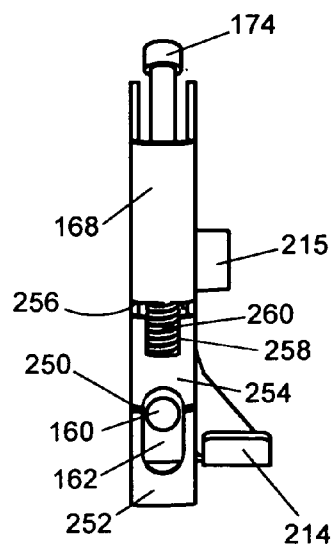
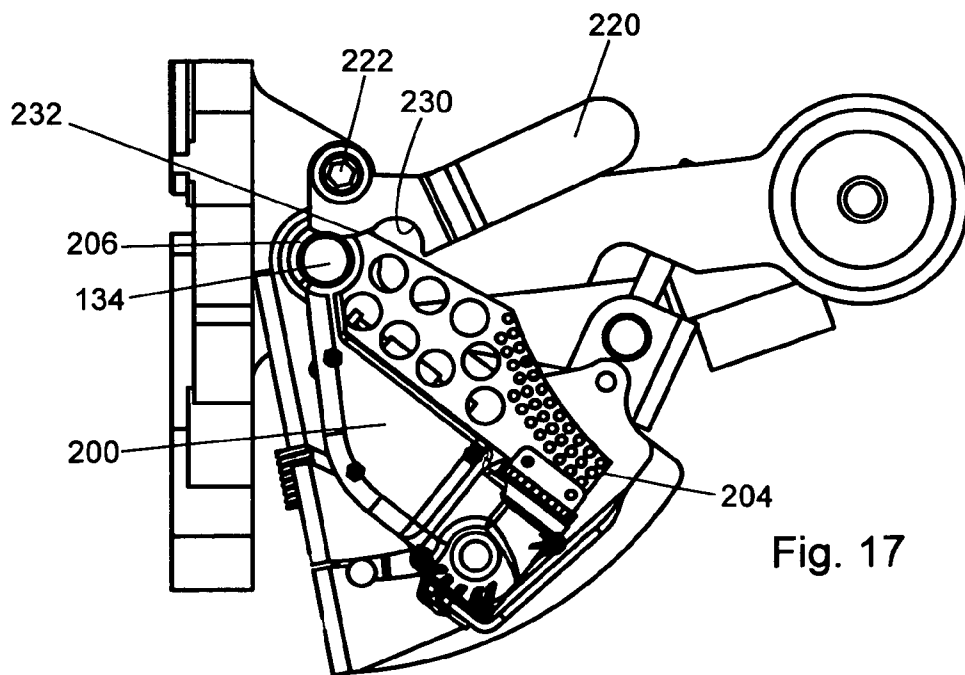
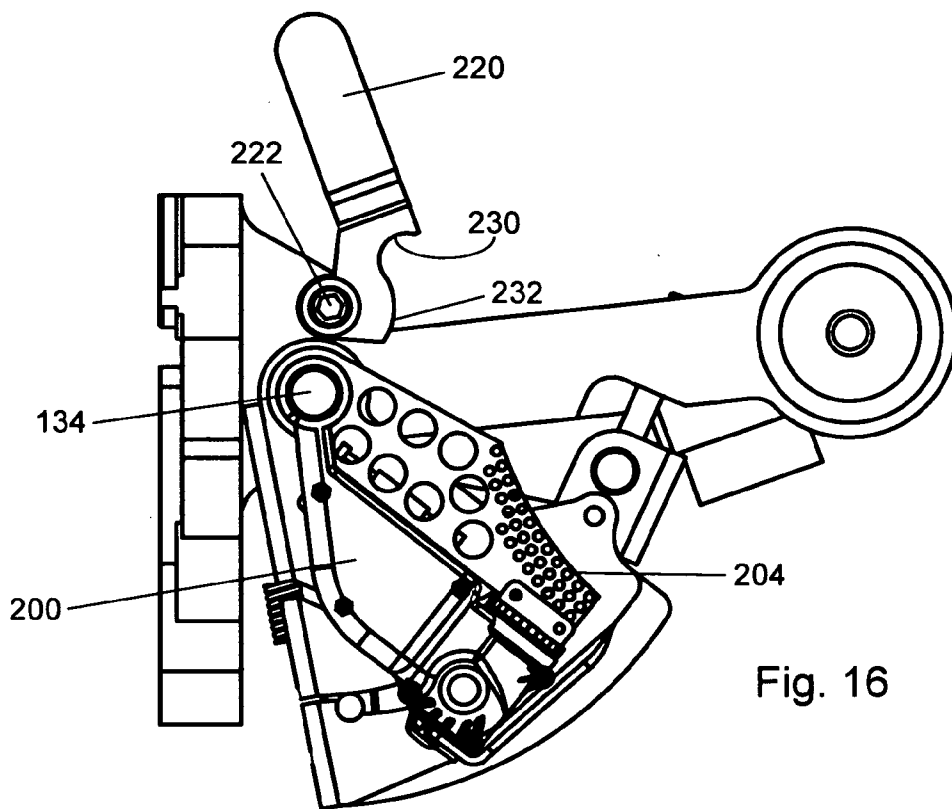
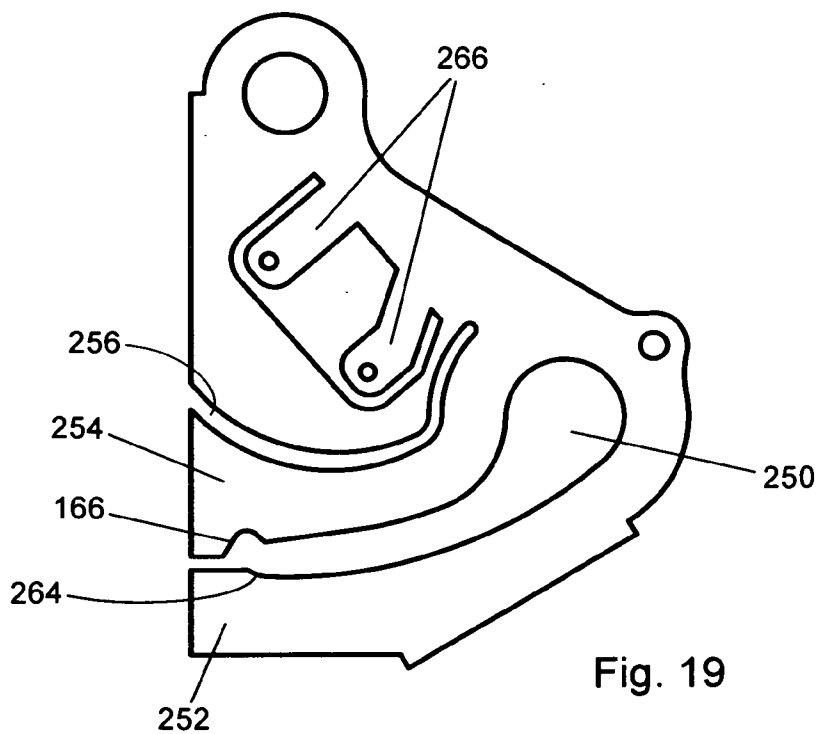
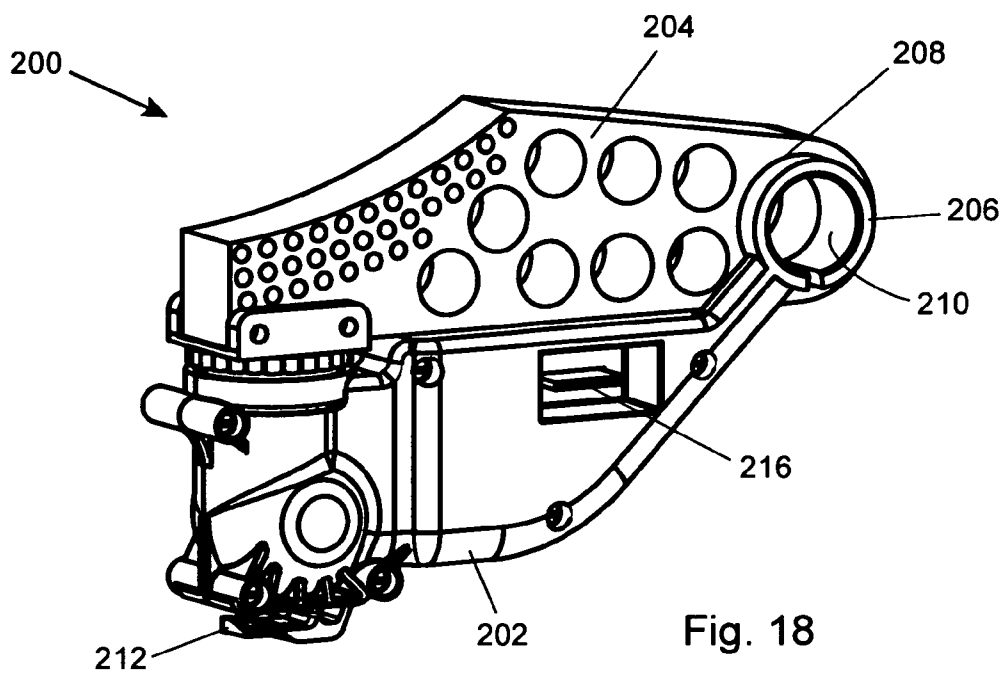
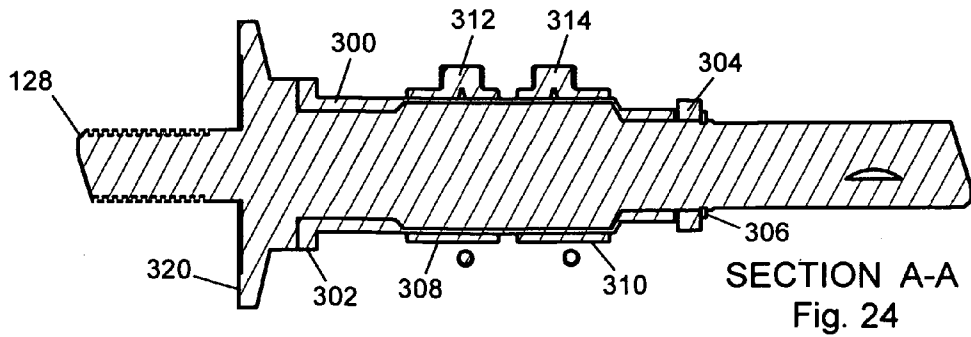
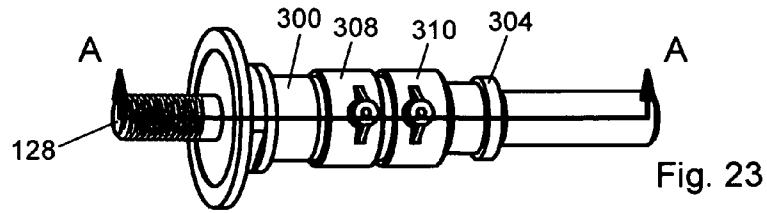
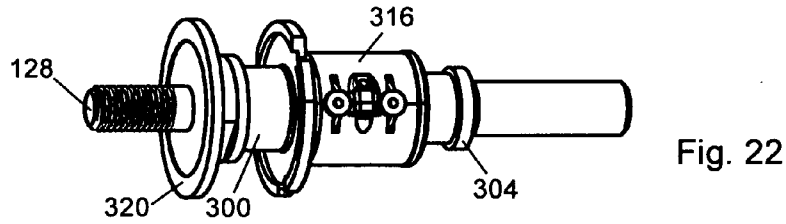
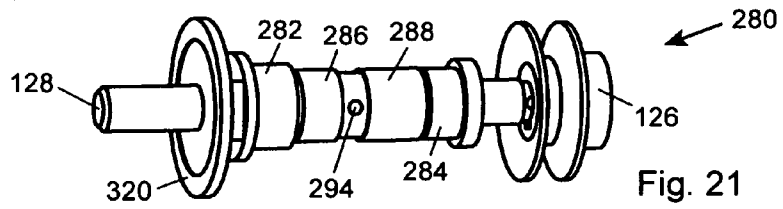
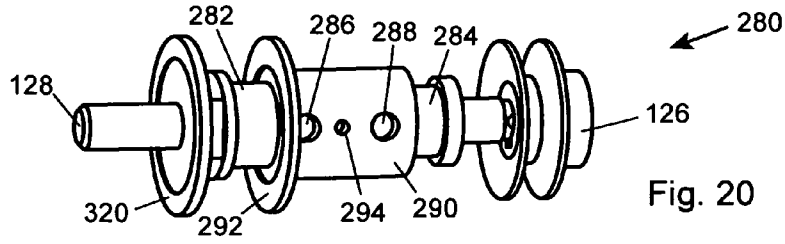


Fig. 15







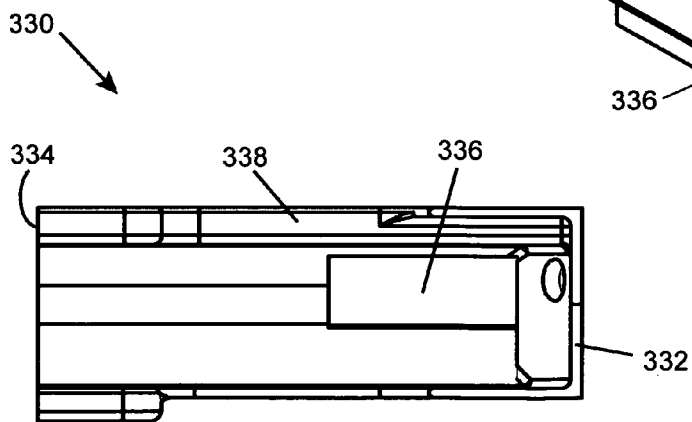
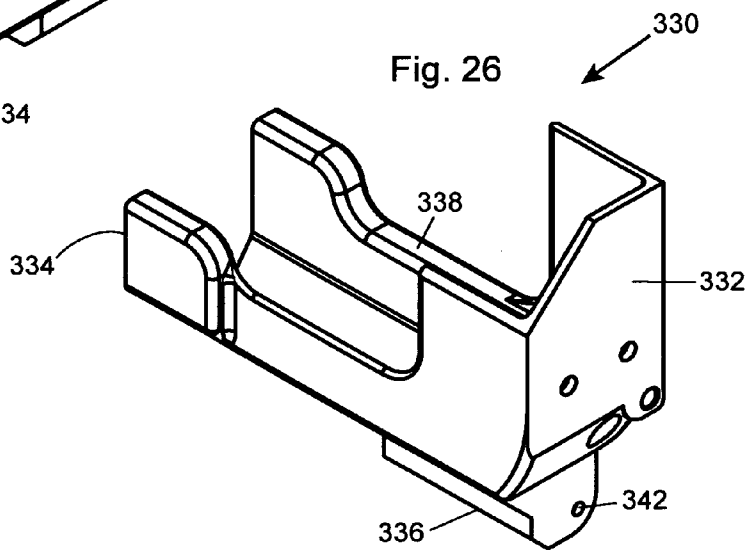
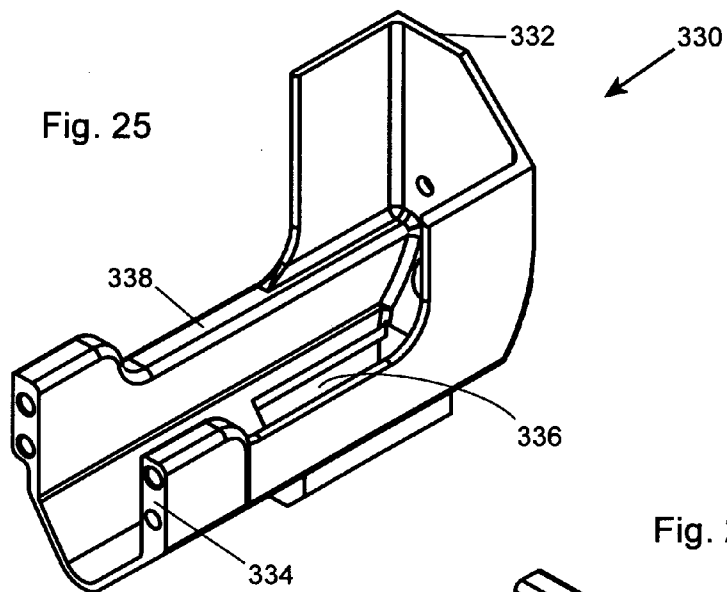


Fig. 27

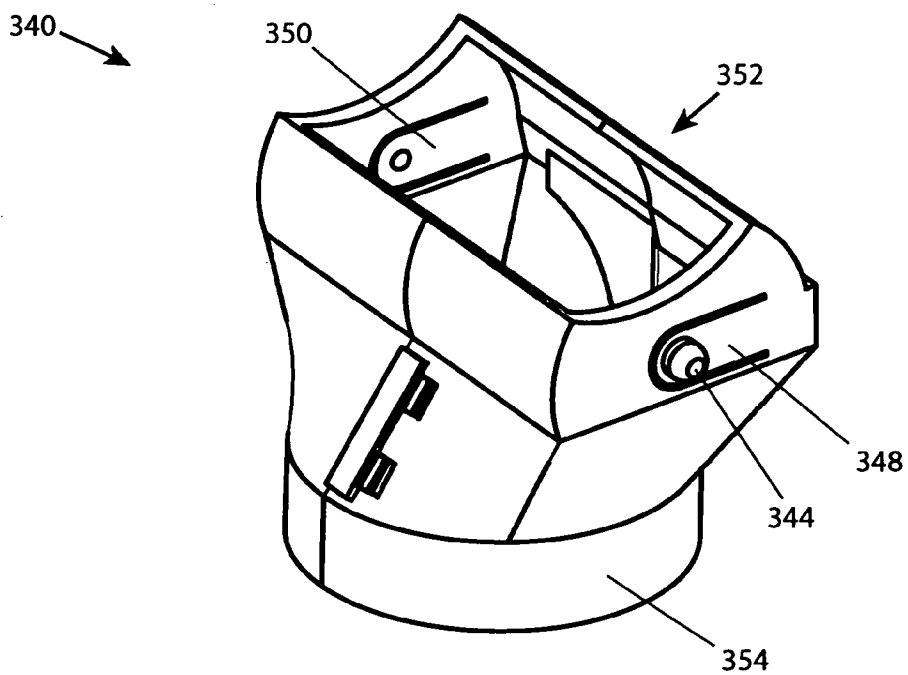


Fig. 28

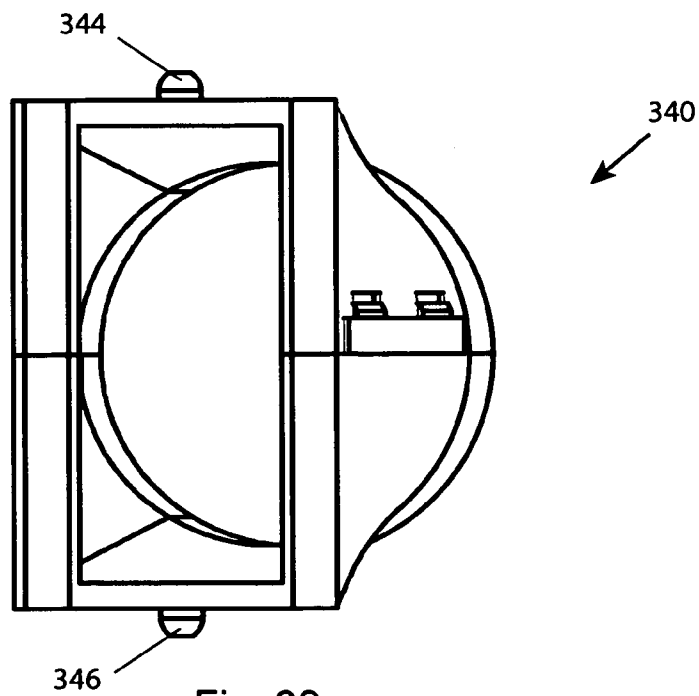


Fig. 29

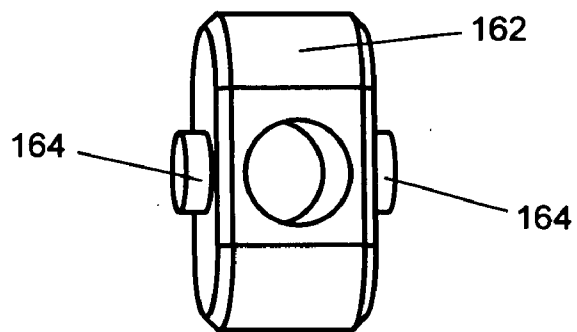


Fig. 30

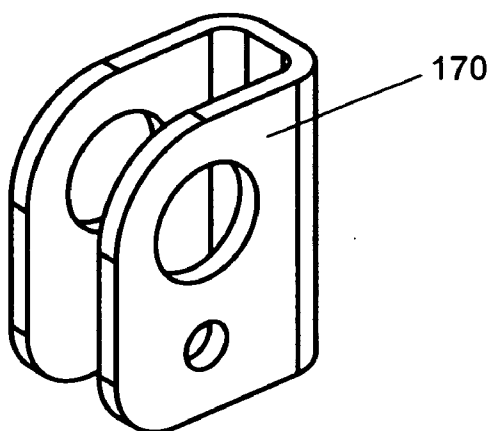


Fig. 31

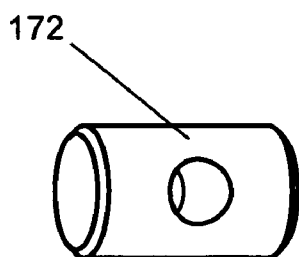


Fig. 32

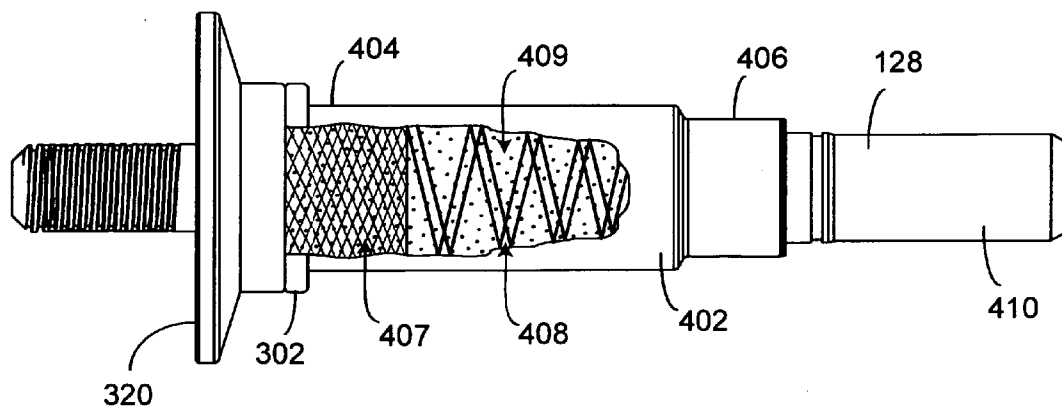


Fig. 33

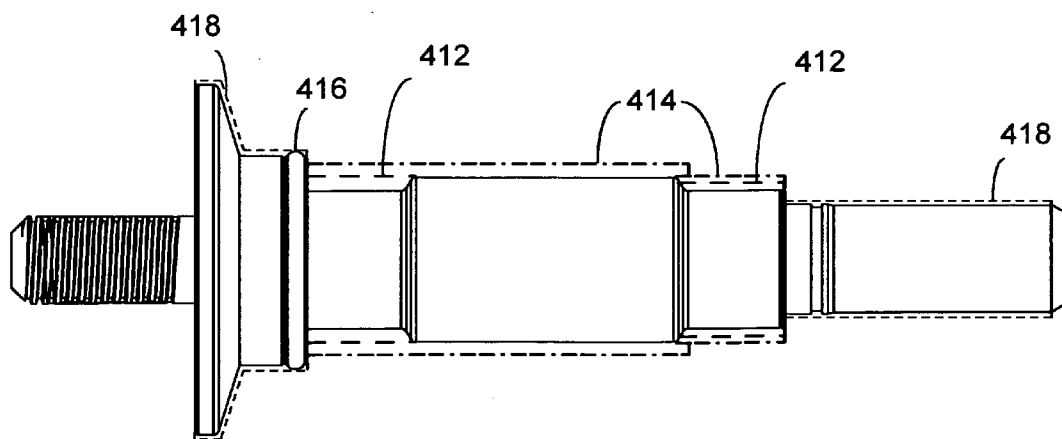


Fig. 34

WOODWORKING MACHINES WITH OVERMOLDED ARBORS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application is a continuation of the following U.S. patent applications: Ser. No. 11/647,676, filed Dec. 29, 2006, and Ser. No. 10/923,290, filed Aug. 20, 2004, which in turn claimed the benefit of and priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/496,550, filed Aug. 20, 2003. The disclosures of these applications are herein incorporated by reference in their entireties.

FIELD

[0002] The present disclosure relates to woodworking machines and more particularly to woodworking machines with overmolded arbors. The disclosure further relates to table saws with safety systems and blade retraction.

BACKGROUND

[0003] A table saw is a power tool that includes a work surface or table and a circular blade extending up through the table. A person uses a table saw by moving a work piece past the spinning blade to cut the work piece. When spinning, the circular saw blade presents a risk of injury to a user of the saw. Accordingly, safety features or systems are incorporated with table saws to minimize the risk of injury. Probably the most common safety feature is a guard that physically blocks an operator from making contact with the blade. In many cases, guards effectively reduce the risk of injury, however, there are many instances where the nature of the operations to be performed precludes using a guard that completely blocks access to the blade.

[0004] Other safety systems try to prevent or minimize injury by detecting and reacting to an event. For instance, U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,953,770, 4,075,961, 4,470,046, 4,532,501 and 5,212,621, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference, disclose radio-frequency safety systems which utilize radio-frequency signals to detect the presence of a user's hand in a dangerous area of a machine and thereupon prevent or interrupt operation of the machine. U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,785,230 and 4,026,177, the disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference, disclose a safety system for use on circular saws to stop the blade when a user's hand approaches the blade. The system uses the blade as an antenna in an electromagnetic proximity detector to detect the approach of a user's hand prior to actual contact with the blade. Upon detection of a user's hand, the system engages a brake using a standard solenoid.

[0005] U.S. Pat. No. 4,117,752, which is herein incorporated by reference, discloses a braking system for use with a band saw, where the brake is triggered by actual contact between the user's hand and the blade. However, the system described for detecting blade contact does not appear to be functional to accurately and reliably detect contact. Furthermore, the system relies on standard electromagnetic brakes operating off of line voltage to stop the blade and pulleys of the band saw. It is believed that such brakes would take 50

ms-1 s to stop the blade. Therefore, the system is too slow to stop the blade quickly enough to avoid serious injury.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0006] FIG. 1 is a schematic block diagram of a machine with a fast-acting safety system.

[0007] FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram of an exemplary safety system in the context of a machine having a circular blade.

[0008] FIG. 3 is a perspective view of a contractor style table saw.

[0009] FIG. 4 is a right side elevation view of the table saw shown in FIG. 3 with the stand, cabinet, and several other parts redacted for clarity.

[0010] FIG. 5 is a left side elevation view of the saw shown in FIG. 3.

[0011] FIG. 6 is a front elevation view of the saw shown in FIG. 3.

[0012] FIG. 7 is a back elevation view of the saw shown in FIG. 3.

[0013] FIG. 8 is a top elevation view of the saw shown in FIG. 3, with the tabletop and other components removed for clarity.

[0014] FIG. 9 is a bottom view of the saw shown in FIG. 8.

[0015] FIG. 10 is a left side elevation view showing components used to adjust the elevation of the blade, and with other components removed for clarity.

[0016] FIG. 11 is a right side elevation view of the components shown in FIG. 10.

[0017] FIG. 12 is a side elevation view of a cartridge bracket and other components used to adjust the elevation of the blade.

[0018] FIG. 13 is a perspective view of the cartridge bracket and other components shown in FIG. 12.

[0019] FIG. 14 is a front elevation view of the cartridge bracket and other components shown in FIG. 12.

[0020] FIG. 15 is a back elevation view of the cartridge bracket and other components shown in FIG. 12.

[0021] FIG. 16 is a side elevation view of a brake cartridge and cartridge bracket, with a retaining handle raised.

[0022] FIG. 17 is similar to FIG. 16, except the retaining handle is in a different position.

[0023] FIG. 18 is a perspective view of a possible brake cartridge.

[0024] FIG. 19 shows geometry for an alternative bracket.

[0025] FIG. 20 shows a possible arbor assembly.

[0026] FIG. 21 shows the arbor assembly of FIG. 20 with an electrode sheath removed.

[0027] FIG. 22 shows another possible arbor assembly.

[0028] FIG. 23 shows the arbor assembly of FIG. 22 with an electrode sheath removed.

[0029] FIG. 24 shows a cross-sectional view of the arbor assembly shown in FIG. 23.

[0030] FIG. 25 shows an alternative trunnion brace.

[0031] FIG. 26 shows another view of the alternative trunnion brace of FIG. 25.

[0032] FIG. 27 shows a top view of the alternative trunnion brace of FIG. 25.

[0033] FIG. 28 is a perspective view of a pivoting coupler that may be used in a dust collection system.

[0034] FIG. 29 shows a top view of the pivoting coupler shown in FIG. 28.

[0035] FIG. 30 shows a barrel nut used in the saw shown in FIGS. 4-11.

[0036] FIG. 31 shows a link used in the saw shown in FIGS. 4-11.

[0037] FIG. 32 shows another barrel nut used in the saw shown in FIGS. 4-11.

[0038] FIG. 33 shows an over-molded arbor.

[0039] FIG. 34 shows one way prepreg can be wrapped on an arbor.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0040] A table saw that may incorporate a safety system according to the present invention is shown schematically in FIG. 1 and indicated generally at 10. Saw 10 may be any of a variety of different table saws. Saw 10 includes an operative structure 12 having a cutting tool 14 and a motor assembly 16 adapted to drive the cutting tool. Saw 10 also includes a safety system 18 configured to minimize the potential of a serious injury to a person using the saw. Safety system 18 is adapted to detect the occurrence of one or more dangerous conditions during use of the saw. If such a dangerous condition is detected, safety system 18 is adapted to engage operative structure 12 to limit any injury to the user caused by the dangerous condition.

[0041] Saw 10 also includes a suitable power source 20 to provide power to operative structure 12 and safety system 18. Power source 20 may be an external power source such as line current, or an internal power source such as a battery. Alternatively, power source 20 may include a combination of both external and internal power sources. Furthermore, power source 20 may include two or more separate power sources, each adapted to power different portions of machine 10.

[0042] It will be appreciated that operative structure 12 may take any one of many different forms. For example, operative structure 12 may include a stationary housing configured to support motor assembly 16 in driving engagement with cutting tool 14. Alternatively, operative structure 12 may include one or more transport mechanisms adapted to convey a work piece toward and/or away from cutting tool 14.

[0043] Motor assembly 16 includes at least one motor adapted to drive cutting tool 14. The motor may be either directly or indirectly coupled to the cutting tool, and may also be adapted to drive work piece transport mechanisms. The particular form of cutting tool 14 will vary depending upon the various embodiments of saw 10. For example, cutting tool 14 will typically be a single, circular rotating blade having a plurality of teeth disposed along the perimetrical edge of the blade. Alternatively, the cutting tool may be a plurality of circular blades, such as a dado blade or dado stack.

[0044] Safety system 18 includes a detection subsystem 22, a reaction subsystem 24 and a control subsystem 26. Control subsystem 26 may be adapted to receive inputs from a variety of sources including detection subsystem 22, reaction subsystem 24, operative structure 12 and motor assembly 16. The control subsystem may also include one or more sensors adapted to monitor selected parameters of saw 10. In addition, control subsystem 26 typically includes one or more instruments operable by a user to control the saw. The control subsystem is configured to control saw 10 in response to the inputs it receives.

[0045] Detection subsystem 22 is configured to detect one or more dangerous or triggering conditions during use of saw 10. For example, the detection subsystem may be configured to detect that a portion of the user's body is dangerously close to, or in contact with, a portion of cutting tool 14. As another example, the detection subsystem may be configured to detect

the rapid movement of a workpiece due to kickback by the cutting tool, as is described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/676,190, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,055,417, the disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference. In some embodiments, detection subsystem 22 may inform control subsystem 26 of the dangerous condition, which then activates reaction subsystem 24. In other embodiments, the detection subsystem may be adapted to activate the reaction subsystem directly.

[0046] Once activated in response to a dangerous condition, reaction subsystem 24 is configured to engage operative structure 12 quickly to prevent serious injury to the user. It will be appreciated that the particular action to be taken by reaction subsystem 24 will vary depending on the type of saw 10 and/or the dangerous condition that is detected. For example, reaction subsystem 24 may be configured to do one or more of the following: stop the movement of cutting tool 14, disconnect motor assembly 16 from power source 20, place a barrier between the cutting tool and the user, or retract the cutting tool from its operating position, etc. The reaction subsystem may be configured to take a combination of steps to protect the user from serious injury. Placement of a barrier between the cutting tool and teeth is described in more detail in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017183 A1, entitled "Cutting Tool Safety System," the disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference. Retracting the cutting tool is described in more detail in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017181 A1, entitled "Retraction System for Use in Power Equipment," and U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 60/452,159, filed Mar. 5, 2003, entitled "Retraction System and Motor Position for Use With Safety Systems for Power Equipment," now U.S. Pat. No. 7,098,800, the disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference.

[0047] The configuration of reaction subsystem 24 typically will vary depending on which action or actions are taken. In the exemplary embodiment depicted in FIG. 1, reaction subsystem 24 is configured to stop the movement of cutting tool 14 and includes a brake mechanism 28, a biasing mechanism 30, a restraining mechanism 32, and a release mechanism 34. Brake mechanism 28 is adapted to engage operative structure 12 under the urging of biasing mechanism 30. During normal operation of machine 10, restraining mechanism 32 holds the brake mechanism out of engagement with the operative structure. However, upon receipt of an activation signal by reaction subsystem 24, the brake mechanism is released from the restraining mechanism by release mechanism 34, whereupon, the brake mechanism quickly engages at least a portion of the operative structure to bring the cutting tool to a stop.

[0048] It will be appreciated by those of skill in the art that the exemplary embodiment depicted in FIG. 1 and described above may be implemented in a variety of ways depending on the type and configuration of operative structure 12. Turning attention to FIG. 2, one example of the many possible implementations of safety system 18 is shown. System 18 is configured to engage an operative structure having a circular blade 40 mounted on a rotating shaft or arbor 42. Blade 40 includes a plurality of cutting teeth (not shown) disposed around the outer edge of the blade. As described in more detail below, braking mechanism 28 is adapted to engage the teeth of blade 40 and stop the rotation of the blade. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017175 A1, entitled "Translation Stop For Use In Power Equipment," the disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference, describes

other systems for stopping the movement of the cutting tool. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017184 A1, entitled "Table Saw With Improved Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017179 A1, entitled "Miter Saw With Improved Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0059855 A1, entitled "Miter Saw with Improved Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0056350 A1, entitled "Table Saw With Improved Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0059854 A1, entitled "Miter Saw With Improved Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0056349 A1, entitled "Miter Saw With Improved Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0056348 A1, entitled "Miter Saw With Improved Safety System," and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0066346 A1, entitled "Miter Saw With Improved Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0015253 A1, entitled "Router With Improved Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0170400 A1, entitled "Band Saw With Improved Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0019341 A1, entitled "Safety Systems for Band Saws," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0056853 A1, entitled "Router With Improved Safety System," and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/406,138, entitled "Miter Saw With Improved Safety System," filed Aug. 27, 2002 by SD3, LLC, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0230896 A1, the disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference, describe safety system 18 in the context of particular types of machines.

[0049] In the exemplary implementation, detection subsystem 22 is adapted to detect the dangerous condition of the user coming into contact with blade 40. The detection subsystem includes a sensor assembly, such as contact detection plates 44 and 46, capacitively coupled to blade 40 to detect any contact between the user's body and the blade. Typically, the blade, or some larger portion of cutting tool 14 is electrically isolated from the remainder of saw 10. Alternatively, detection subsystem 22 may include a different sensor assembly configured to detect contact in other ways, such as optically, resistively, etc. In any event, the detection subsystem is adapted to transmit a signal to control subsystem 26 when contact between the user and the blade is detected. Various exemplary embodiments and implementations of detection subsystem 22 are described in more detail in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017176 A1, entitled "Detection System For Power Equipment," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017336 A1, entitled "Apparatus And Method For Detecting Dangerous Conditions In Power Equipment," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0069734 A1, entitled "Contact Detection System for Power Equipment," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0190581 A1, entitled "Apparatus and Method for Detecting Dangerous Conditions in Power Equipment," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0002942 A1, entitled "Discrete Proximity Detection System," and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0090224 A1, entitled "Detection System for Power Equipment," the disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference.

[0050] Control subsystem 26 includes one or more instruments 48 that are operable by a user to control the motion of blade 40. Instruments 48 may include start/stop switches,

speed controls, direction controls, light-emitting diodes, etc. Control subsystem 26 also includes a logic controller 50 connected to receive the user's inputs via instruments 48. Logic controller 50 is also connected to receive a contact detection signal from detection subsystem 22. Further, the logic controller may be configured to receive inputs from other sources (not shown) such as blade motion sensors, work piece sensors, etc. In any event, the logic controller is configured to control operative structure 12 in response to the user's inputs through instruments 48. However, upon receipt of a contact detection signal from detection subsystem 22, the logic controller overrides the control inputs from the user and activates reaction subsystem 24 to stop the motion of the blade. Various exemplary embodiments and implementations of control subsystem 26 are described in more detail in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0020262 A1, entitled "Logic Control For Fast Acting Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017178 A1, entitled "Motion Detecting System For Use In Safety System For Power Equipment," and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0058121 A1, entitled "Logic Control With Test Mode for Fast-Acting Safety System," the disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference.

[0051] In the exemplary implementation, brake mechanism 28 includes a pawl 60 mounted adjacent the edge of blade 40 and selectively moveable to engage and grip the teeth of the blade. Pawl 60 may be constructed of any suitable material adapted to engage and stop the blade. As one example, the pawl may be constructed of a relatively high strength thermoplastic material such as polycarbonate, ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene (UHMW) or Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS), etc., or a metal such as aluminum, etc. It will be appreciated that the construction of pawl 60 may vary depending on the configuration of blade 40. In any event, the pawl is urged into the blade by a biasing mechanism in the form of a spring 66. In the illustrative embodiment shown in FIG. 2, pawl 60 is pivoted into the teeth of blade 40. It should be understood that sliding or rotary movement of pawl 60 might also be used. The spring is adapted to urge pawl 60 into the teeth of the blade with sufficient force to grip the blade and quickly bring it to a stop.

[0052] The pawl is held away from the edge of the blade by a restraining mechanism in the form of a fusible member 70. The fusible member is constructed of a suitable material adapted to restrain the pawl against the bias of spring 66, and also adapted to melt under a determined electrical current density. Examples of suitable materials for fusible member 70 include NiChrome wire, stainless steel wire, etc. The fusible member is connected between the pawl and a contact mount 72. Preferably, fusible member 70 holds the pawl relatively close to the edge of the blade to reduce the distance the pawl must travel to engage the blade. Positioning the pawl relatively close to the edge of the blade reduces the time required for the pawl to engage and stop the blade. Typically, the pawl is held approximately 1/32-inch to 1/4-inch from the edge of the blade by fusible member 70, however other pawl-to-blade spacings may also be used within the scope of the invention.

[0053] Pawl 60 is released from its unactuated, or cocked, position to engage blade 40 by a release mechanism in the form of a firing subsystem 76. The firing subsystem is coupled to contact mount 72, and is configured to melt fusible member 70 by passing a surge of electrical current through the fusible member. Firing subsystem 76 is coupled to logic controller 50 and activated by a signal from the logic control-

ler. When the logic controller receives a contact detection signal from detection subsystem 22, the logic controller sends an activation signal to firing subsystem 76, which melts fusible member 70, thereby releasing the pawl to stop the blade. Various exemplary embodiments and implementations of reaction subsystem 24 are described in more detail in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0020263 A1, entitled "Firing Subsystem For Use In A Fast-Acting Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0020271 A1, entitled "Spring-Biased Brake Mechanism for Power Equipment," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017180 A1, entitled "Brake Mechanism For Power Equipment," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0059853 A1, entitled "Power Saw With Improved Safety System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0020265 A1, entitled "Translation Stop For Use In Power Equipment," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0005588 A1, entitled "Actuators For Use in Fast-Acting Safety Systems," and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0020336 A1, entitled "Actuators For Use In Fast-Acting Safety Systems," the disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference.

[0054] It will be appreciated that activation of the brake mechanism will require the replacement of one or more portions of safety system 18. For example, pawl 60 and fusible member 70 typically must be replaced before the safety system is ready to be used again. Thus, it may be desirable to construct one or more portions of safety system 18 in a cartridge that can be easily replaced. For example, in the exemplary implementation depicted in FIG. 2, safety system 18 includes a replaceable cartridge 80 having a housing 82. Pawl 60, spring 66, fusible member 70 and contact mount 72 are all mounted within housing 82. Alternatively, other portions of safety system 18 may be mounted within the housing. In any event, after the reaction system has been activated, the safety system can be reset by replacing cartridge 80. The portions of safety system 18 not mounted within the cartridge may be replaced separately or reused as appropriate. Various exemplary embodiments and implementations of a safety system using a replaceable cartridge, and various brake pawls, are described in more detail in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0020261 A1, entitled "Replaceable Brake Mechanism For Power Equipment," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017182 A1, entitled "Brake Positioning System," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0140749 A1, entitled "Brake Pawls for Power Equipment," and U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/496,568, entitled "Motion Detecting System for use in a Safety System for Power Equipment," filed Aug. 20, 2003 by SD3, LLC, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0041359 A1 the disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference.

[0055] While one particular implementation of safety system 18 has been described, it will be appreciated that many variations and modifications are possible within the scope of the invention. Many such variations and modifications are described in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0170399 A1, entitled "Safety Systems for Power Equipment," U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0037651, entitled "Safety Systems for Power Equipment," and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0131703 A1, entitled "Apparatus and Method for Detecting Dangerous Conditions in Power Equipment," the disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference.

[0056] FIG. 3 shows a table saw 100 often called a contractor saw. Saw 100 includes a table 102 on which a work piece may be cut. The table is mounted on a cabinet 104 supported by a stand 106. A blade guard 108 covers the blade. A motor assembly 110 drives the blade. Hand wheels 112 and 114 may be turned to adjust the elevation of the blade (the height the blade extends above the table) and the tilt of the blade relative to the tabletop, respectively. In operation, a user makes a cut by pushing a work piece on the table past the spinning blade.

[0057] FIGS. 4-9 show the internal mechanism of saw 100. A motor 116 is mounted on a bracket 118, which in turn is supported by motor plate 120 attached to the saw. The motor, bracket and motor plate are shown in FIGS. 4 and 5.

[0058] A belt 122 extends around a pulley 124 mounted on the drive shaft of the motor and around a pulley 126 mounted on an arbor 128. Arbor 128 is mounted in bearings and supported for rotation by an arbor block 130. A blade 132 is mounted on arbor 128. When motor 116 is running, belt 122 spins arbor 128, thereby spinning blade 132. Blade 132 spins counterclockwise as seen in FIG. 4.

[0059] Arbor block 130 is pivotally mounted on pin 134, and pin 134 is supported by rear trunnion 136. The rear trunnion is structurally connected to a front trunnion 138 by a large shaft 140 and a small shaft 142. Motor plate 120 is mounted on the ends of shafts 140 and 142, as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5.

[0060] The front and rear trunnions are supported by front trunnion block 144 and rear trunnion block 146, respectively. Specifically, arcuate flanges on the front and rear trunnions extend into corresponding arcuate grooves on the front and rear trunnion blocks, as shown in FIG. 8 at 148 and 150. The arcuate flanges and grooves allow the front and rear trunnions, the arbor block, and the blade, to tilt relative to the table, as is known in the art. A rack gear 152 on the front trunnion meshes with a worm gear 154 attached to hand wheel 114, so that a user may adjust the tilt of the blade by turning hand wheel 114. The front and rear trunnion blocks, in turn, are bolted to table 102.

[0061] The mechanism to control the elevation of the blade is shown best in FIGS. 10 and 11. A threaded shaft 160 is supported for rotation by front trunnion 138 and attached to hand wheel 112 so that the shaft rotates when the hand wheel is turned. Shaft 160 is threaded along most of its length, including at the end of the shaft distal from the hand wheel (the threads are not shown in the figures). A first barrel nut 162 is threaded on the distal end of shaft 160. First barrel nut 162 is shown isolated in FIG. 30. The nut includes two shoulders 164, one extending from each side of the nut. Each shoulder is held in a notch 166 in a bracket 168, as shown in FIGS. 10 and 11, one notch on each side of the bracket. The bracket is a "U" shaped piece that is pivotally mounted on pin 134 and supported by rear trunnion 136. The bracket is shown separate from the rear trunnion in FIGS. 12 through 15. Apertures 137 in the bracket are shown in those figures, and pin 134 extends through those apertures to mount the bracket to the rear trunnion.

[0062] Bracket 168 is connected to arbor block 130 by a link 170, a second barrel nut 172, and a bolt 174 extending through the arbor block. These components are also shown in FIGS. 12 through 15, 31 and 32. Link 170 is a "U" shaped piece that is pivotally connected to the bracket by rivets 176, as shown in FIG. 12. Of course, the link can be connected to the bracket by other means as well. Barrel nut 172 has two ends, and each end of the nut extends into and is captured by

apertures in the sides of the link. In that manner, the barrel nut may pivot around an axis extending between its ends, but it cannot move toward or away from the bracket. Bolt 174 passes through an aperture in the arbor block and is held in place by the head of the bolt on the top of the arbor block, and by a wave washer and a snap ring or clip that fits into a groove cut into the bolt under the arbor block. Bolt 174 is then threaded into barrel nut 172.

[0063] When a user turns hand wheel 112 and shaft 160, first barrel nut 162 moves along the shaft. In the embodiment shown in FIGS. 4 through 11, when a person standing in front of the saw turns the hand wheel clockwise, the first barrel nut will travel up the shaft toward the user. Bracket 168 will then pivot up because the first barrel nut is held in notches 166 in the bracket. Bracket 168 will push link 170 and bolt 174 up, thereby causing the arbor block and blade to rise. Similarly, turning hand wheel 112 counterclockwise will cause the arbor block and blade to retract. Shaft 160 may flex as barrel nut 162 moves along the shaft.

[0064] The saw shown in FIGS. 3 through 15 includes a brake cartridge 200. The brake cartridge is best seen in FIGS. 10 and 16-18. Brake cartridge 200 is a type of reaction mechanism 24, as discussed above. The brake cartridge includes a shell 202 that encloses a biasing mechanism 30, restraining mechanism 32, and release mechanism 34, as discussed above. The brake cartridge also includes a brake pawl 204 made of fully annealed aluminum. End 206 of the housing extends through an aperture 208 in the brake pawl to join the housing and pawl, as shown in FIG. 18. Cartridges such as cartridge 200 are described in more detail in U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/496,574, entitled "Brake Cartridges for Power Equipment," filed Aug. 20, 2003 by SD3, LLC, now U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0039586 A1, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

[0065] End 206 of the housing includes an aperture 210, and the brake cartridge is mounted in the saw by sliding the cartridge onto pin 134 through aperture 210. Brake cartridge 200 also includes a flange 212 on the end of the cartridge opposite end 206. Flange 212 is configured to accept a tab 214 on bracket 168, as shown in FIGS. 10, 16 and 17. (Tab 214 is shown best in FIGS. 12-15.) In this manner, brake cartridge 200 is securely held by bracket 168 so that the brake cartridge does not pivot relative to bracket 168.

[0066] The brake cartridge is designed so that it automatically connects with the power source, switches, electrodes, and possibly other electronics when the cartridge is slid on pin 134 and positioned by tab 214. A plug 215 is mounted on bracket 168, and a corresponding plug 216 is part of the brake cartridge. In the embodiment shown in FIGS. 12 through 15 and 18, plug 215 is a printed circuit board card edge connector, and plug 216 is a printed circuit board card edge designed to fit into plug 215. When a user slides the cartridge on pin 134 and aligns the cartridge with tab 214, plugs 215 and 216 will be aligned and will connect when the cartridge is slid all the way on the pin. This facilitates the installation and replacement of brake cartridges by the user, and insures that the cartridge is electrically connected to the rest of the system. The user would not have to make any other electrical connections to install the cartridge. Of course, many different types of plugs may be used. For example, a standard, high-density, 15-pin D-Sub plug may be used instead of a card edge connector. In that case, the male portion of the D-Sub plug may be mounted on the cartridge, and the female portion mounted on the saw so that if a pin on the plug were bent, simply replacing

the cartridge would repair the plug. This configuration, while perhaps presenting several advantages, is not required; it is simply one of many arrangements that may be used. A user may install brake cartridge 168 in a saw by simply reaching through the throat plate opening in the table while holding the cartridge and then sliding the cartridge onto pin 134 and tab 214. The throat plate opening in the table is the opening through which the blade extends.

[0067] A handle 220 is pivotally mounted on a bolt 222 supported by rear trunnion 136. Handle 220 pivots down to lock brake cartridge 168 onto pin 134, and pivots up so that the brake cartridge may be removed and replaced. The handle is shown down in FIG. 10, locking brake cartridge 168 in place. The handle is shown up in FIG. 16, and is shown at an intermediate position in FIG. 17. A user moves handle 220 by reaching down through the throat plate opening in the table and pivoting the handle up or down.

[0068] Handle 220 includes a first surface 230 shaped to correspond to the outer surface of pin 134. When the handle is fully down, surface 230 extends around the pin, as shown in FIG. 10. The handle also includes a second surface 232 shaped to rub against pin 134 as the handle pivots. The friction that results from the surface 232 rubbing against the pin helps hold the handle in place and provides a positive feel to the user. Surfaces 230 and 232 are shaped so that the handle snaps or locks into place around pin 134 when the handle is pivoted down.

[0069] Handle 220 helps insure that the brake cartridge is correctly positioned in the saw and plugged into plug 215. If brake cartridge 200 is not fully slid onto pin 134, then handle 220 cannot pivot down because second surface 230 would contact either the brake pawl or end 206 of the brake cartridge. Thus, a user cannot pivot handle 220 down until the brake cartridge is slid all the way on pin 134. Handle 220 also prevents the brake cartridge from being removed until the handle is fully up. FIG. 17 shows handle 220 approximately half way between being fully down and fully up. In that position, second surface 230 is rubbing against pin 134 and is in front of end 206 of the brake cartridge, blocking the brake cartridge from being slid off pin 134. Brake cartridge 200 can only be removed when handle 220 is all the way up, as shown in FIG. 16. This helps prevent the cartridge from sliding off pin 134 and becoming unplugged. Also, handle 220 is configured so that it is long enough to extend up through the throat plate opening in the table so that a user would see the handle and could not install a throat plate until the handle is pivoted down. This feature helps to prevent a user from forgetting to pivot the handle down to lock the brake cartridge into place.

[0070] Brake cartridge 200 is positioned so that it is closely adjacent the perimeter of blade 132, as shown in FIG. 5. When the detection subsystem detects a dangerous condition, such as a person contacting the spinning blade, the control system will trigger the brake cartridge and the brake cartridge will quickly pivot brake pawl 204 out, into the teeth of the blade. The teeth will cut into the brake pawl and bind, thereby stopping the blade from spinning. The closer the brake pawl is to the perimeter of the blade, the faster the blade will stop because the brake pawl will have less distance to travel before it contacts the teeth.

[0071] In the embodiment shown in FIGS. 4 through 15, the elevation control mechanism, discussed above, is constructed so that the position of the brake pawl relative to the perimeter of the blade may be adjusted. This position may be referred to

as blade-to-pawl spacing. As discussed above, the elevation control mechanism includes link **170**, second barrel nut **172** and bolt **174**, as shown in FIGS. **10** through **15** and **30** through **32**. Those components help determine the position of bracket **168** and brake cartridge **200** relative to the blade. When bolt **174** is turned, barrel nut **172** will travel up or down the length of the bolt. The barrel nut is captured by link **170**, so as the barrel nut moves up and down the bolt, link **170** also moves. Link **170**, in turn, is connected to bracket **168**, as explained. Thus, when bolt **174** is turned, bracket **168** and brake cartridge **200** will pivot toward or away from the blade. In this manner, a person may infinitely adjust the blade-to-pawl spacing. The adjustment can be made by extending, for example, an Allen wrench through the throat plate opening in the table to engage and turn the head of bolt **174**. The ability to adjust blade-to-pawl spacing is an optional feature. Alternatively, the position of the brake cartridge relative to the blade may be fixed for specific blades, or the position may be adjustable between specific fixed or indexed positions only. Also, different brake cartridges may be used for different blades, such as dado blades, and those cartridges may be designed so that the brake pawl is close to the perimeter of the specific blade for which it was designed.

[0072] The design of the elevation control mechanism, bracket **168**, brake cartridge **200**, and rear trunnion **136** insure that brake cartridge **200** moves with the blade and is always adjacent the perimeter of the blade. Because the brake cartridge is mounted on the bracket, and because the bracket and arbor block are both pivotally mounted on the same pin, when the arbor block pivots up or down to change the elevation of the blade relative to the tabletop, the brake cartridge will also pivot up and down with the blade and maintain the same blade-to-pawl spacing. Similarly, when the front and rear trunnions slide relative to the front and rear trunnion blocks to change the tilt of the blade, the brake cartridge will move with the blade because the bracket and brake cartridge are supported by the rear trunnion. Thus, the brake cartridge maintains its position relative to the blade and is ready to stop the blade in case of an accident.

[0073] The saw embodiment shown in FIGS. **4** through **11** is also designed to retract the blade beneath the tabletop when the brake cartridge stops the blade. Retracting the blade helps minimize the time the cutting tool is in contact with the user, thereby minimizing any injury to the user. Moving the cutting tool away from the point of accidental contact also prevents the cutting tool from moving toward the user, which could increase any injury to the user. For example, the spinning blade in a table saw has substantial angular momentum that could cause the blade to move upward toward a user when a brake pawl hits the blade, depending on the position of the brake, the weight of the blade and the amount of play in the structure supporting the blade. Preventing any such movement lessens the potential injury to the user. A retraction system may be used in addition to or instead of other safety mechanisms.

[0074] Blade **132** spins clockwise when looking at the saw as shown in FIG. **5**, and when it is spinning, the blade will have angular momentum. When brake cartridge **200** engages and stops the blade, the angular momentum of the blade will be transferred to the arbor block, brake cartridge and bracket, and those components will try to spin in the same direction as the blade due to the conservation of angular momentum. The arbor block, bracket and brake cartridge will then all try to move down, or pivot clockwise around pin **134**, because that

is the only movement they can make that is in the same direction as the blade was spinning. The elevation control mechanism, and particularly bracket **168** and first barrel nut **162**, are designed to use the angular momentum of the blade to retract the blade in case of an accident.

[0075] As discussed above, and as shown in FIGS. **10** through **15** and **30**, first barrel nut **162** includes shoulders **164** that are held in notches **166** in bracket **168**. Notches **166** are part of a slot **250** that extends through bracket **168** from one side of the bracket to the other. Shoulders **164** on barrel nut **162** are circular, and notches **166** are shaped to conform to and extend around a bottom portion of those shoulders, as shown. The top surface of slot **250** contacts the top of shoulders **164**, so that the shoulders are pinched between the top surface of slot **250** and notches **166**. Because slot **250** extends from one side of the bracket to the other, and because the bracket is typically constructed of folded or stamped sheet metal, the slot creates a spring arm **252** in the bracket. Slot **250** is sized so that shoulders **164** push spring arm **252** down or out when the shoulders are seated in notches **166**. In this manner, spring arm **252** applies a force against shoulders **164** to help hold barrel nut **162** in place.

[0076] Bracket **168** also includes a second spring arm **254** having an upper edge defined by a second slot **256**, and having a lower edge defined by slot **250**. Second slot **256**, like slot **250**, extends from one side of the bracket to the other. Second spring arm **254** comprises the material extending between slots **250** and **256**. Slot **256** is sized and positioned relative to slot **250** so that there is less material between the ends of the two slots on each side of the bracket than at other points so that the second spring arm can flex without deforming.

[0077] As explained above, bracket **168** is "U" shaped, with two sides and a web or spine connecting the two sides. Slot **256** is configured so that it creates a socket **258** in the web of the bracket. A coil spring **260** is held in the socket by tabs that extend from both the bottom and top of the slot into the coil of the spring. The spring is sized so that it pushes down on spring arm **254** to apply pressure to shoulders **166** on barrel nut **162**. The pressure applied by spring **260** and second spring arm **254** further helps hold barrel nut **162** in place. The bracket shown in **10** through **15** is simply one embodiment of many possible brackets. Brackets may be designed with varying slots and with or without springs like spring **260**.

[0078] When brake cartridge **200** stops the blade, the angular momentum creates a significant force tending to urge the blade down, away from the tabletop, and that force is sufficient to overcome the force holding barrel nut **162** in notches **166**. Thus, when brake cartridge **200** engages the blade, the angular momentum of the blade causes bracket **168** to pivot down, and barrel nut **162** snaps out of notches **166**. When barrel nut **162** snaps free of notches **166**, bracket **168** is then free to pivot down with shoulders **164** sliding in slot **250**. Slot **250** is configured so that it extends in front of notches **166** on each side of bracket **168**, and the slot increases in size so that shoulders **164** can slide freely in the slot. Slot **250** is also arcuate so that the bracket can pivot down without binding on the barrel nut. In this manner, the blade and arbor block become disconnected from the elevation control mechanism, so the blade retracts beneath the table. The angular momentum of the blade is so significant that the retraction of the blade happens very quickly, typically in only a few milliseconds.

[0079] Using a structure as described above, a force of 5 to 200 pounds or more can be exerted on the barrel nut to hold it

in place. The force can be adjusted by changing the geometry of spring arms 252 and 254, and/or by changing spring 260, if a spring is used. The force both eliminates play in the mechanism when the barrel nut is seated in notches 166, and defines how much force is required to snap the barrel nut free to retract the blade.

[0080] A bumper 262, as shown in FIGS. 4, 10 and 11, is mounted to the bottom of arbor block 130 above shaft 140. The bumper may be made from urethane, rubber, or some other cushioning material. Upon retraction of the blade, the bumper will impact shaft 140 and thereby limit the downward movement of the blade and arbor block. Shaft 140 should be sized sufficiently to withstand the force of the impact from the bumper, and that is why shaft 140 is shown larger than shaft 142. Alternatively, the bumper may be mounted on the shaft, in which case the arbor block would pivot down into contact with the bumper.

[0081] The impact on the arbor block from retracting the blade has the potential to damage the saw. To help address this concern, the arbor block may be made from a ductile iron, such as FC25, that is better able to withstand the impact. Also, the main bearing supporting the arbor may be bigger than it otherwise would be.

[0082] After the blade and arbor block have retracted, the elevation control mechanism can be reset simply by reaching through the throat plate opening in the table and pulling up on the arbor block until barrel nut 162 snaps into notches 166, or hand wheel 112 may be turned to cause barrel nut 162 to travel back in slot 250 until the barrel nut snaps into place. As shown, slot 250 extends behind and between notches 166, and the slot extending between the notches is small so that shoulders 164 cannot move back past notches 166. Once barrel nut 162 snaps into place in notches 166, the elevation control mechanism is again functional and a user may turn hand wheel 112 to raise and lower the blade.

[0083] When the brake cartridge fires, the blade cuts into the brake pawl and binds. The spent cartridge will then have to be replaced with a new one to make the saw functional. To replace the spent cartridge the blade must first be knocked off the brake pawl. However, there may still be residual pressure from the spring in brake cartridge pushing the brake pawl onto the blade. That residual pressure should be released prior to knocking the pawl off the blade. Any residual pressure can be released by turning bolt 174 to move the cartridge away from the blade. The brake pawl will be held on the blade as the cartridge moves away, thereby allowing the spring to fully expand. The brake cartridge can then be knocked off the blade and the spent cartridge replaced with a new one.

[0084] An alternative bracket is shown in FIG. 19. Slot 250 in the bracket shown in FIG. 19 is configured so that first spring arm 252 has sufficient spring force to hold the barrel nut in notches 166 without the use of a coil spring such as spring 160 shown in FIGS. 12-15. In this configuration, slot 250 includes a larger opening on each side of the bracket at the end of the slot with less material surrounding the slot. Additionally, notches 166 in the alternative bracket are configured so that they surround the top portion of the shoulders of the barrel nut. Encircling the top portion of the shoulders helps hold the barrel nut in position because as the elevation of the blade is raised and the bracket pivots up, the shoulders tend to roll into the notches. In contrast, positioning notches 166 on the bottom of the shoulders causes the weight of the arbor block and blade to tend to roll the shoulders out of the notches when the blade is raised. Notches 166 in FIG. 19 are also

non-circular and are shaped so that they provide point contact with the shoulders of the barrel nut. The point contact provides a positive seating of the shoulders in the notches. A drop-off 264 is also included in slot 250 on each side of the bracket below notches 166. The drop-off is designed to help release the barrel nut as quickly as possible after a sufficient force is experienced to snap the barrel nut out of the notches. The drop-off provides almost immediate clearance for the barrel nut to slide relative to the slot. FIG. 19 also shows two tabs 266 to which a plug may be mounted to connect a cartridge to other electric components and switches in the saw.

[0085] FIGS. 20 and 21 show an arbor assembly 280 that may be used in detection subsystem 22. The arbor assembly includes an arbor 128, a first insulating bushing 282, and a second insulating bushing 284. The bushings are made of a hard, nonconductive material such as a thermoset, a bulk molding compound, or a thermoplastic. One possible material is 30% glass filled Ultem. The bushings electrically isolate the arbor and blade from the rest of the saw. Because the arbor and blade are electrically isolated, it is possible that a static electric charge may build up on the arbor as it spins. Any such static electric charge may affect the detection subsystem in the saw. In that case, the bushings alternatively may be made of a slightly conductive or static dissipative material to dissipate any static electricity that may build up over time.

[0086] Bushings 282 and 284 are mounted directly on arbor 128, and the bushings provide seats for the bearings to support the arbor in the arbor block. Each bushing also includes a raised flange to prevent the side of a bearing from contacting and potentially grounding the arbor. First and second electrodes 286 and 288, respectively, are positioned between the bushings and concentrically around the arbor but not touching the arbor. The electrodes are made of a conductive material such as bronze, and they are part of the capacitive coupling that imparts the electrical signal to the arbor and blade and then monitors that signal, as discussed above and as discussed in several of the references incorporated by reference. The electrodes are electrically connected to the control subsystem of the saw in any known manner. The electrodes are press fit into and held by an electrode shell 290, shown in FIG. 20. The electrode shell is not shown in FIG. 21 so that the electrodes may be seen more clearly. The electrode shell, in turn, is held in the arbor block around the arbor. In the arbor assembly shown in FIG. 20, electrode shell 290 includes a flange 292 that is positioned inside the bearing bore in the arbor block between the bearing and the arbor block. The other end of the electrode shell is positioned in a bore in the arbor block adjacent the small arbor bearing. Of course, the electrode shell may be held in the arbor block in any known way. In this assembly, the arbor is electrically isolated from the rest of the saw, and the electrodes provide an effective capacitive coupling to the blade.

[0087] FIGS. 20 and 21 also show a hole 294 in the arbor and electrode shell that may be used to detect blade rotation. Specifically, a light emitting diode and sensor may be positioned so that as the blade rotates, light shines through hole 294. Detecting blade rotation may be used to enable the detection subsystem only when the blade is spinning, as described in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0017178 A1, entitled "Motion Detecting System for Use in a Safety System for Power Equipment," which was mentioned above and is hereby incorporated by reference.

[0088] FIGS. 22 through 24 show an alternative arbor assembly. In this alternative, arbor 128 is over-molded with a

hard, non-conductive material like BMC (bulk molding compound). The over-molding is shown at **300**. The over-molding takes the place of insulating bushings **282** and **284** discussed above, and provides bearing seats for the two bearings that support the arbor. The over-molding includes a flange **302** to prevent the side of the main arbor bearing (bearing not shown) from contacting the arbor. A non-conductive washer **304** is positioned on the end of the arbor opposite flange **302**, adjacent the side of the small arbor bearing (bearing not shown), and a retaining clip **306** holds washer **304** against the small bearing. Over-molding **300** completely encircles arbor **128** and extends from flange **302** to bearing **304**, and serves to electrically isolate the arbor and blade from the rest of the saw.

[0089] Two electrodes **308** and **310** encircle but do not touch the over-molded arbor. Electrodes **308** and **310** are conductive and may be made from powder metal. The electrodes are electrically connected to the control system of the saw at screw bosses **312** and **314**, respectively. The electrodes are held in place by electrode shell **316**. Electrode shell **316** is molded from plastic, and it includes two halves that snap together to encompass and hold the electrodes. The electrode shell, in turn, is held in the arbor block as described above for electrode shell **290**.

[0090] An advantage of the arbor assembly shown in FIGS. **22** through **24** is that the over-molding insulates the electrodes from the arbor. That insulation allows the arbor to be closer to the electrodes than it otherwise could be. Without the over-molding, the electrodes would have to be spaced a sufficient distance away from the arbor to prevent the arbor from ever touching an electrode, and to minimize the chance of a small piece of conductive material getting between the electrodes and arbor and conductively coupling them. If the arbor touched or electrically coupled to an electrode, then the signal on the arbor and blade would change, and the detection subsystem and control system could interpret that change as a person touching the blade and then trigger the brake. The over-molding between the arbor and electrodes insulates the arbor and eliminates the possibility of the arbor touching or electrically coupling to an electrode. Thus, the over-molding on the arbor may be closer to the electrodes than the arbor alone could be. Having the over-molded arbor closer to the electrodes results in a better capacitive coupling between the arbor and electrodes, and improves the ability to impart a signal to the arbor and blade and to monitor that signal.

[0091] As shown in FIG. **24**, the arbor directly below the electrodes has an increased diameter. Increasing the diameter of the arbor increases the surface area of the arbor under the electrodes making the capacitive coupling larger. The bulk molding compound in the gap between the arbor and electrodes also acts as a dielectric to improve significantly the capacitive coupling. It also may be advantageous to include a layer of another dielectric or other material such as Kynar, for example, between the electrodes and arbor to further enhance the capacitive coupling. With the arbor assembly shown in FIGS. **22** through **24**, there remains an air gap between the outer surface of the over-molding and the inner surface of the electrodes of approximately 0.005 to 0.007 inches.

[0092] Other materials that can be used as over-molding include thermosets, such as the phenolic RX630 from Sumitomo Bakelite Co. Ltd. (previously from Vyncolit North America Inc.), and thermoplastics such as the polyetherimide Ultem from General Electric, including glass-reinforced Ultem 2300 and Ultem 2400. Still other materials that might

be used as over-molding, depending on the application, include: urethane, fiberglass (plastic and glass composite), Kepingal (acetal copolymer), Kadel (carbon fiber reinforced polyketone resin), Amodel (glass reinforced, heat stabilized polyphthalamide), Torlon (polyamide-imide resin), Noryl GTX (PPE/PA resin), Capron (glass reinforced nylon), Ryton (polyphenylene sulfide) and epoxy. Material selection depends on the requirements of the specific application, the cost of the material, and the mechanical, thermal and electrical properties of the material, such as the compressive strength, flexural strength, hardness, melting point, upper service temperature, coefficient of thermal expansion, dielectric constant and resistivity.

[0093] In applications where the over-molding provides bearing seats to support an arbor in a power tool and the arbor is expected to spin over extensive periods of time due to heavy use of the machine, experimentation and testing have shown that a structurally reinforced laminate material such as prepreg is particularly effective. Prepreg is a laminate material made of reinforcing fibers impregnated with some type of resin. For example, prepreg can be made from paper, cloth (cotton cloth, for example) or glass fabric that is impregnated with a polyimide, epoxy, phenolic, melamine, silicon or other resin. (Prepreg made with a glass fabric is a type of fiberglass.) Typically the reinforcing fibers are organized into some pattern or structure, such as being crisscrossed or woven into cloth or flexible sheets. As used herein, references to fiber organized into a pattern or structure include, but is not limited to, fiber crisscrossed or woven into cloth or flexible sheets as well as fiber spooled or wound around an arbor. As stated, the reinforcing fibers are impregnated or coated with resin and typically the resin is partially cured or reacted during the impregnation process. Sheets and/or strands of the impregnated material are laid upon and/or against each other and the resin is cured by application of pressure and high temperature to form a solid mass. Prepreg is commonly used to make printed circuit boards and the prepreg for printed circuit boards is known as G-10 or FR-4 or G-10/FR-4. That type of prepreg is a glass-epoxy laminate with high strength and dimensional stability over temperature, and it could be used as an arbor over-molding in some applications. The label G-10 refers to a standard from the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) and FR-4 is an abbreviation for Flame Resistant 4. The material G-10 alone lacks the self extinguishing flammability characteristics of FR-4.

[0094] Testing and use of prepreg as an over-molding material for bearing seats on arbors in power tools has shown at least some types of prepreg to be remarkably durable in that application.

[0095] FIG. **33** shows arbor **128** with a prepreg over-molding **402** and the over-molding includes bearing seats **404** and **406**. Before the prepreg is applied to the arbor, the outer surface of the arbor may be roughened or abraded in order to increase the friction and/or adhesion between the arbor and the prepreg. For example, the outer surface of the arbor under the bearing seats is knurled, as shown at **407** for bearing seat **404**, and the outer surface of the arbor between the bearing seats is patterned with a double spiral groove, as shown at **408**. The entire outer surface of the arbor under the prepreg is sandblasted, as shown at **409**. Of course, many different patterns and combinations of knurling, patterning, abrading, etc., can be used. The abrading or roughening of the arbor better secures the prepreg to the arbor because during molding the resin flows around and into the abraded or roughened

areas. This can form a mechanical interlock against movement of the overmold on the arbor, as in the case of knurling, or can improve adhesion between the metal of the arbor and the overmold.

[0096] The prepreg is applied to the arbor by wrapping. The arbor may be wrapped with only one type of fiber cloth or with several different fiber cloths to achieve the desired over-molding characteristics and/or shape. FIG. 34 illustrates how an arbor 128 could be wrapped with a 0.15 mm thick prepreg cloth and a 0.18 mm thick prepreg cloth. The 0.15 mm thick cloth is wrapped around the arbor before the 0.18 mm thick cloth and is used to wrap around sections of the arbor with smaller diameters, as shown at 412. Alternatively, a thinner cloth, such as a 0.04 mm thick cloth could be wrapped around the arbor first and the 0.15 mm cloth could be wrapped over the 0.04 mm cloth. The thinner cloth might better conform to and/or grip the arbor and it could be used to provide a cloth and resin surface to contact and help grip or fix subsequent wrapping by presenting a slightly tacky surface. The 0.18 mm cloth could be wrapped over the 0.15 mm cloth, as shown at 414 in FIG. 34. Using a thicker cloth minimizes the number of times the cloth must be wrapped around the arbor to achieve the desired shape and size, thereby minimizing production cost and time. A 0.04 mm cloth also could be wrapped over the 0.18 mm cloth to help fix the prior wrappings in place.

[0097] The over-molding on arbor 128 may include a flange to help isolate the arbor, such as flange 302 shown in FIG. 33 and discussed previously. A flange can be made by rolling a portion of prepreg cloth into a ring and then positioning the ring around the arbor where desired, as shown at 416 in FIG. 34. The flange is formed from the ring during pressing and curing of the prepreg. Different prepreg cloths can be used to make the ring, such as the 0.15 mm thick cloth discussed above, depending on the desired characteristics. A piece of tape and/or a thin piece of prepreg cloth (0.04 mm thick, for example) could be used to fix the ring in place prior to pressing and curing, as shown at 418 (tape 418 might also serve other functions, as discussed below).

[0098] The arbor also may be wrapped using a string or thread of prepreg or similar material—like thread on a spool.

[0099] After the arbor is wrapped, it is placed in a mold and heated and pressed to melt the resin and cause the resin to flow (at least to some degree) into the desired shape. For example, a force of 100 kg may be applied to the mold and the mold may be heated to around 145 degrees Celcius, plus or minus 5 degrees, for around 30 minutes, depending on the resin used. The mold is configured to press the prepreg into the desired shape and size, after which the resin gels and solidifies. If the outer surface of the arbor was patterned, abraded or roughened, then during molding the resin would flow at least partially into and around any ridges and valleys of the patterns or abrasions and solidify to better secure the over-molding to the arbor, as stated.

[0100] As the arbor is heated and pressed, some of the resin may escape the mold as flashing. Tape can be applied over surfaces of the arbor to help protect the surfaces from flashing and to provide what may be thought of as a seal or gasket between surfaces of the arbor and the mold, as shown at 418 in FIG. 34. Other material may also be used to protect exposed surfaces of the arbor. For example, a small plastic bag or plastic sleeve may be placed over end 410 of the arbor to protect the arbor and the plastic sleeve may be held in place with tape.

[0101] After heating and pressing, the resin is allowed to cure. As an example, curing may take place at room temperature for 10 minutes while the 100 kg force is maintained on the mold, depending on the resin used. After curing, the over-molding can be ground and/or machined to a desired shape. Any tape or cloth used to help seal the mold or minimize flashing, as well as any flashing itself, can be removed by hand or by grinding or machining.

[0102] One example of a prepreg cloth is “Epoxy Resin Glass Cloth Prepreg” from Wah Hong Industrial Corp. of Taiwan. This cloth may be used as the 0.18 mm thick cloth illustrated in FIG. 34. The cloth is woven from what is referred to as yarn and the yarn is made of a glass fiber called E-Glass from PFG Fiber Glass Corporation in Taiwan. E-Glass (1062A) fibers have nominal diameters of 13.3±0.06 (K)µm and they may be treated with a silane binder to help provide an interfacial bond with resin. The fibers are woven into a fabric and the fabric is impregnated with a resin. Wah Hong Industrial Corp. reports the following specifications for the finished cloth:

- [0103] Density (per 25 mm): warp 64, fill 27
- [0104] Weight (g/m²): 212
- [0105] R.C. (%): 36±2
- [0106] V.C. (%): 0.5-1.5
- [0107] Weave: Satin
- [0108] Width (mm): 1020±20
- [0109] Gel Time: 135° C. 3.0-3.30 min.
- [0110] Yarn type: E-Glass
- [0111] Tensile Strength: 250 kgf/mm²
- [0112] Tensile Modulus: 7700 kgf/mm²

[0113] An example of a 0.15 mm thick prepreg fabric is from Forthtrack Co., Ltd. of Taiwan and is identified by the designation E-glass fiber ud-prepreg.(hot-melt) FT-150G/37%. Forthtrack provides the following specifications for that fabric:

- [0114] Weave: Plain
- [0115] Thickness (mm): 0.04
- [0116] Width (mm): 1030
- [0117] Weight (g/m): 26
- [0118] Thread Count (/inch): Warp 60, Fill 51
- [0119] RC (%): 50
- [0120] VC: 1.5
- [0121] Roll Length (prepreg/m): 150

[0122] An example of a 0.04 mm thick prepreg fabric is from Wah Lee Industrial Corp. of Taiwan and is identified by the designation KN303. Wah Lee Industrial provides the following specifications for that fabric:

- [0123] Weight (g/m²): 150
- [0124] R.C. (%): 37
- [0125] Width (m): 1
- [0126] Epoxy: 88 g/m²
- [0127] Gel Time: 135° C. 3.0-3.30 min.
- [0128] Yarn Type: E-Glass (1062A)

[0129] Another example of a glass fabric is from Porcher Industries and is identified by the designation Standard E-Glass Fabric Style 106. Porcher Industries provides the following specifications for that fabric:

- [0130] Width: 1120
- [0131] Weave: Plain
- [0132] Fibre Count (Warp/Weft): 22.2x22.2
- [0133] Warp: EC5 5.5
- [0134] Weft: EC5 5.5
- [0135] Weight Ratio Warp/Weft: 50/50
- [0136] Weight (g/m²): 25
- [0137] Finish: 731

[0138] Another prepreg epoxy resin glass cloth is TGFW-800 from Wah Lee Industrial Corp. in Taiwan. Wah Lee Industrial reports the following specifications for that cloth:

[0139] Basic Weight (g/m^2): 720 min., 800 nom., 880 max.

[0140] Width (mm)<30 cm: ± 6

[0141] Width (mm)>30 cm: ± 9.5

[0142] Tail Width (mm): 13-25

[0143] L.O.I. (%): 0.35-0.61

[0144] Construction, Ends per Inch: 5

[0145] Construction, Picks per Inch: 4

[0146] The TGFW-800 cloth has a coarser weave than the other cloths discussed above and is approximately 0.56 mm thick. In some applications thicker fabric can be used to minimize the number of times the fabric must be wrapped around the arbor, as stated previously. However, in some applications the smaller number of wrappings and/or the coarser weave may affect the final strength and/or durability of the over-molding. For example, in tests where a bearing was seated loosely on the over-molding (i.e., the over-molding and bearing were sized so there was some play or clearance between them) and the arbor was spun at around 4000 rpm to test the durability of the over-molding, the outer surface of the over-molding made from the 0.56 mm thick cloth was turned to powder or was slightly pulverized within a relatively short period of time and the play between the over-molding and bearing increased, while over-molding made from the 0.18 mm thick cloth discussed above did not.

[0147] A resin that may be used in at least some of the prepreg cloth described above is called Eporite EHM from Epolab Chemical Ind. Inc. of Taiwan. That resin is made from modified epoxy resin (85-95%) combined with dicyandiamine (5-15%). Epolab Chemical reports the following properties of that resin when cured:

[0148] Flexure Strength ($150\text{L}/\text{WT}^2$): 55-60

[0149] Heat distortion temp ($^{\circ}\text{C}$.): 120-140

[0150] Short beam shear strength ($0.75\text{L}/\text{WT}$): 3.5-4.0

[0151] Impact strength ($5271.42(\cos 150^{\circ}-\cos \theta)/(\text{W}-2.5)\text{T}$): 85-95

[0152] As an alternative to over-molding an arbor, one or more bearings supporting the arbor may be over-molded or coated. The over-molding or coating would electrically insulate the bearing from the arbor. The over-molding or coating could comprise a non-conductive material reinforced by fiber organized into a pattern, such as prepreg.

[0153] The arbor assemblies shown in FIGS. 20 through 24, 33 and 34 are mounted to spin in the arbor block. The blade is mounted on the end of the arbor adjacent flange 320, and secured with a washer and nut, as is known in the art. FIGS. 20 and 21 also show pulley 126 around which belt 122 extends to transfer power from the motor to spin the arbor.

[0154] FIGS. 25 through 27 show a trunnion brace 330 that may be used as an alternative to shafts 140 and 142 (as shown in FIGS. 4 through 9) to connect front trunnion 138 and rear trunnion 136. End 332 bolts to the front trunnion, and end 334 bolts to the rear trunnion. Trunnion brace 330 is configured to shroud the portion of the blade under the table to help prevent a person from accidentally contacting the blade under the table. This is especially applicable if the blade is designed to retract. If a person accidentally touches a spinning blade under the table and the blade retracts, the person may be more severely injured because the retraction would move the blade down. Shrouding the blade minimizes that risk.

[0155] Trunnion brace 330 may be made of cast iron and should be strong enough to rigidly connect the front and rear trunnions. Trunnion brace 330 also includes a surface 338 against which a retracting arbor block may impact. Surface 338 must be sufficiently strong to withstand the impact of the retracting arbor block, and that is why the surface is larger and wider than the corresponding surface on the opposite side of the trunnion brace. Of course, the bumper discussed above that helps cushion the impact of the retracting arbor block may be mounted on surface 338.

[0156] Trunnion brace 330 also acts to help collect sawdust. As the blade cuts, much of the resulting dust will be caught by the trunnion brace. The trunnion brace is provided with an opening 336 in the bottom to which a vacuum or other dust collection system may be attached to evacuate the dust.

[0157] Opening 336 in trunnion brace 330 is shaped to accept pivoting coupler 340 shown in FIGS. 28 and 29. When a user adjusts the tilt of the blade, the trunnion brace will tilt from side to side. A pivoting coupler allows a vacuum hose to remain connected to the trunnion brace as the trunnion brace tilts. Coupler 340 includes two bumps 344 and 346 that mount into holes like hole 342 on the trunnion brace. The bumps are positioned on tabs 348 and 350, and the coupler is molded from plastic, so tabs 348 and 350 allow the bumps to be depressed to mount the coupler on the trunnion brace. The tabs also provide some spring force to hold the bumps in their respective holes. Coupler 340 will then pivot on bumps 344 and 346. Upper section 352 of the coupler is shaped so that it extends into opening 336 as the coupler pivots. Bottom section 354 of the coupler is annular so that a vacuum hose or other conduit can be easily attached.

[0158] The structure disclosed above for a right-tilt saw may be mirrored for implementation in a left-tilt saw.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

[0159] The systems and components disclosed herein are applicable to power equipment, and specifically to wood-working equipment such as table saws.

[0160] It is believed that the disclosure set forth above encompasses multiple distinct inventions with independent utility. While each of these inventions has been disclosed in its preferred form, the specific embodiments thereof as disclosed and illustrated herein are not to be considered in a limiting sense as numerous variations are possible. The subject matter of the inventions includes all novel and non-obvious combinations and sub-combinations of the various elements, features, functions and/or properties disclosed herein. No single feature, function, element or property of the disclosed embodiments is essential to all of the disclosed inventions. Similarly, where the claims recite "a" or "a first" element or the equivalent thereof, such claims should be understood to include incorporation of one or more such elements, neither requiring nor excluding two or more such elements.

[0161] It is believed that the following claims particularly point out certain combinations and sub-combinations that are directed to one of the disclosed inventions and are novel and non-obvious. Inventions embodied in other combinations and sub-combinations of features, functions, elements and/or properties may be claimed through amendment of the present claims or presentation of new claims in this or a related application. Such amended or new claims, whether they are directed to a different invention or directed to the same invention, whether different, broader, narrower or equal in scope to

the original claims, are also regarded as included within the subject matter of the inventions of the present disclosure.

1. A woodworking machine comprising:
 - a cutter;
 - a conductive arbor on which the cutter is mounted;
 - overmolding on at least a portion of the arbor;
 - a detection system adapted to detect a dangerous condition between a user and the cutter, where the detection system includes at least one electrode positioned adjacent the arbor and where the overmolding electrically insulates the electrode from the arbor; and
 - a reaction system adapted to perform a specified action to mitigate the dangerous condition upon detection of the dangerous condition by the detection system.
2. The woodworking machine of claim 1 where the overmolding is bulk molding compound.
3. The woodworking machine of claim 1 where the arbor includes at least one section with a diameter larger than another section of the arbor, and where the overmolding covers at least the section with the larger diameter.
4. The woodworking machine of claim 1 where the overmolding acts as a dielectric.
5. The woodworking machine of claim 1 where the electrode is made from powder metal.
6. The woodworking machine of claim 1 where the electrode includes at least one screw boss.
7. An arbor for a woodworking machine, the arbor comprising:

a generally elongate, metal shaft having two ends;
a first region adapted to support a blade adjacent one end of the shaft;
a flange adjacent the first region;
a nonconductive overmolding on at least a portion of the arbor other than the first region or the flange.

8. The arbor of claim 7 where the overmolding is bulk molding compound.

9. The arbor of claim 7 where a section of the overmolding forms at least one bearing seat for a bearing.

10. The arbor of claim 7 where the overmolding forms at least two bearing seats for two bearings.

11. The arbor of claim 10 where the two bearing seats are of different diameters.

12. A woodworking machine comprising:

a cutter;
a detection system adapted to detect a dangerous condition between a user and the cutter, where the detection system includes at least one electrode positioned adjacent the arbor;
a reaction system adapted to perform a specified action to mitigate the dangerous condition upon detection of the dangerous condition by the detection system; and
overmolded arbor means for supporting the cutter and for insulating the electrode from the arbor.

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