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(54) **End connecting structure for fitting light**

(57) An end connecting structure for fitting light (20) which includes a transparent inner pipe (21) having therein positioned conductors and lamp strings and includes an enveloping transparent external layer (22). The fitting light can be cut into a desired length and leaves conductor sections (24,25) with desired lengths on one end or both ends (23) thereof in advance after cutting. Male electrical connecting ends or female electrical connecting ends (30) of the amount corresponding

to that of the conductors are formed and provided each on one end thereof with a connecting section (31) for connecting with the conductor sections (24,25). Thereby, the conductor sections (24,25) can be connected with the male or female electrical connecting ends (30) by pressing or clamping method to make connection of the male or female electrical connecting ends (30) with the internal conductors firmer and surer. Thus reliability and quality of electric conducting between fitting lights can be elevated.

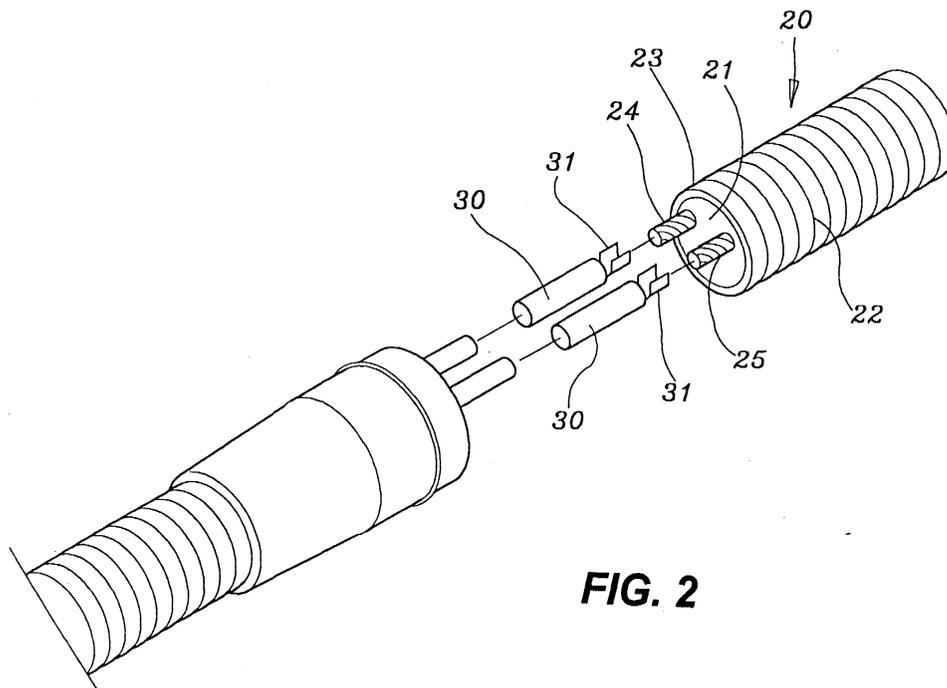


FIG. 2

Description**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

1. Field of the invention

[0001] The present invention is related to an end connecting structure for fitting light, and especially to definite and reliable connecting of male or female electrical connecting insertion ends of a fitting light with the internal conductors of a lamp pipe, thus safety standard with high criticality can be met and elevated.

2. Description of the Prior Art

[0002] A fitting light or lighting rope system comprises mainly lamp strings having light emitting or flashing function in a flexible and transparent pipe. It is advantageous in providing a unique decorative effect by light emitting and flashing of a lot of lamp bulbs through a transparent pipe. With the flexible structure which is plastic, the fitting light can be used in various fields for decoration with various patterns. For example, it can be hung on a surface of a building, or can be wrapped on a broad wall with a given pattern to form a marvelous and attractive large light emitting or flashing pattern.

[0003] In using such a fitting light, it can have any of various decorative patterns in pursuance of designed patterns or requirement of customers. Hence in manufacturing in factories, fitting lights are all in rolled form. A user buying a fitting light in rolled form can make cutting according to indicative marks to obtain desired lengths and then the lengths are taken for connection.

[0004] Fig. 1 shows a kind of internal structure of such a conventional fitting light 10 which is shaped to form a transparent inner pipe 11 of suitable diameter firstly in a factory, the transparent inner pipe 11 is shaped and synchronically makes positioning of two conductors 12, 13 mutually separated in the interior of the transparent inner pipe 11 itself. The conductors 12, 13 are comprised both of a plurality of core wires.

[0005] The transparent inner pipe 11 is provided on the periphery thereof with two oppositely arranged guiding grooves 14, 15; and a plurality of diametrical holes 16, 17 of smaller and larger diameters respectively are provided along the transparent inner pipe 11. A plurality of miniature lamp bulbs 18 can be placed in the diametrical holes 17 of larger diameters, two pins 181, 182 of each miniature lamp bulb 18 can be placed in the diametrical holes 16 of smaller diameters, and then are processed (such as by welding) to connect and complete a desired internal lamp string. The core wires of the ends of the conductors 12, 13 can be extended outwardly to electrically connect with the lamp string to get an electric conducting state. The necessitate transparent inner pipe 11 of such a combination can be further enveloped with another transparent external layer 100 by ejection molding to complete the entire fitting light.

[0006] A connecting member 19 is provided with and makes positioning of two metallic insertion pieces 191, 192 integrally formed therewith by molding and mutually separated in alignment with the two conductors 12, 13.

5 These metallic insertion pieces 191, 192 are provided respectively with insertion ends 193, 194 on one side of the connecting member 19, and are provided correspondingly with a pair of male or female electrical connecting ends 195, 196 on the other side of the connecting member 19. In this conventional technique structure, the insertion ends 193, 194 on the connecting member 19 are in alignment with and accept insertion of the two conductors 12, 13 with the core wires to build electrical connecting. When the male or female electrical connecting ends 195, 196 are electrically connected, the internal lamp string is wholly lightened and flashes.

[0007] The conventional connecting structure for the ends of conductors of a fitting light has its disadvantage residing in that, when a roll of fitting light is cut to get a required length, a worker or a consumer does the work of alignment for connecting of the insertion ends 193, 194 on the connecting member 19 with the two conductors 12, 13 with manpower, assembling is slow and inconvenient. And the insertion ends 193, 194 are often unable to accurately insert respectively into the conductors 12, 13 concentrically, sometimes, deviation in insertion may result incomplete connecting or may result breakage of some thin wall areas 121, 131 of the transparent inner pipe due to extruding. Such connecting structure for the ends of conductors of a fitting light may result undesired and unexpected electrical conducting state. A long and distantly connected fitting light may come into a danger state with overly high electric resistance or abnormal temperature raising by long period electrical conducting, and thereby is uneasy to meet the severer requirement of safety standard.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

40 **[0008]** The object of the present invention is to provide an end connecting structure for fitting light. When the transparent inner pipe of the fitting light is formed, the conductors simultaneously positioned in the pipe can be processed to leave a desired length each. While the male or female electrical connecting ends can be formed by pressing or turning in mating with the above stated conductors with desired lengths in advance, thus the male or female electrical connecting ends are provided each with a connecting section for connecting with the conductors prepared. Thereby, the male or female electrical connecting ends of the fitting light can be stably and firmly connected with the conductors in the fitting light by pressing of clamping method. And the quality and reliability of electrical connection of them can be assured to meet the severe requirement of safety standard.

[0009] The present invention will be apparent in its novelty and features after reading the detailed descrip-

tion of the preferred embodiment thereof in reference to the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010]

Fig. 1 is an anatomic perspective view showing the internal structure of a conventional fitting light;

Fig. 2 is an anatomic perspective view showing connection of a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 3 shows a plurality of feasible embodiments of the connecting ends shown in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is an anatomic perspective view showing the male or female electrical connecting ends after two external sleeves shown in Fig. 2 is provided but before connection;

Fig. 5 is a sectional elevation view showing connection of the members as shown in Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view analytically showing another connecting joint of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0011] Referring to Fig. 2, in the fitting light 20 shown in the drawing, there are a transparent inner pipe 21 and an enveloping transparent external layer 22 made by ejection molding. The transparent inner pipe 21 is structurally the same as that of the above stated conventional fitting light. In the present invention, when the fitting light 20 is cut to get a desired length, the conductor sections 24, 25 with desired lengths are provided on one end or both ends 23 in advance. These conductor sections 24, 25 with desired lengths are by all means formed from extending of the conductors formed and positioned inside of the transparent inner pipe 21.

[0012] Male electrical connecting ends (or female electrical connecting ends) 30 are provided each on one end thereof with a connecting section 31 for connecting with the conductor sections 24, 25. Thereby, the conductor sections 24, 25 can be integrally connected therewith by pressing or clamping method with a machine or a simple tool (such as a pair of pincers).

[0013] As shown in Fig. 2 and Figs. 3A and 3B, The connecting sections 31 of the male or female electrical connecting ends 30 can be formed each into a U shaped cross-section by pressing process in advance. So that when the conductor sections 24, 25 are placed in the connecting sections 31, they can be subsequently pressed together on a lathe, or can be clamped together with a simple tool by a consumer. In addition to the above stated pressing process in processing the male or female electrical connecting ends 30, in another embodiment shown in Fig. 3C, the male or female electrical connecting ends 30 can also be turned to get an inner hole 32 with a suitable depth from solid material to form

the desired connecting sections 31.

[0014] As shown in Fig. 4 and 5, the above stated fitting light 20 having been assembled with the male or female electrical connecting ends 30 can be further ejection molded on one end thereof to form a male or female electrical connecting end portion. In the embodiment shown in the drawings, the fitting light 20 having been assembled with the male connecting end 30 and another fitting light 200 having been assembled with the female electrical connecting end 300 can be respectively formed and enveloped through injection molding by a female electrical connecting end portion 29 and a male electrical connecting end portion 290. So that the ends of the fitting lights 20, 200 can be assembled and gotten a conducting state by means of the male and female electrical connecting ends 30, 300. And the female electrical connecting end portion 29 and the male electrical connecting end portion 290 can be provided with a leak-proof gasket 40 therebetween.

[0015] In order to assure accurate direction of inserting, the female electrical connecting end portion 29 and the male electrical connecting end portion 290 can be provided at the joint thereof respectively with an axial groove 292 and a guide rail 291 mating with each other. So that the male and female electrical connecting ends 30, 300 inside of them can be connected with each other by insertion.

[0016] In order to make firm and fast connecting of the female electrical connecting end portion 29 and the male electrical connecting end portion 290, the female electrical connecting end portion 29 and the male electrical connecting end portion 290 can be provided nearby themselves with a male sleeve 50 and a female sleeve 60 respectively, so that the two fitting lights 20, 200 can be fast and tightly combined with each other by means of such joint structure.

[0017] In another embodiment shown in Fig. 6, the present invention can also use a joint structure formed from two half cylindrical pieces 70, 80 provided each with four corner through holes 71, 81 respectively, bolts 72 can be used to extend through the corner through holes 71, 81 to fixedly combine the fitting lights 20, 200.

[0018] The present invention solves the disadvantageous problem residing in inserting the insertion ends of the connecting member into the conductors by manpower after cutting to get a fitting light as in the conventional cases. The present invention not only has the advantage of easiness in connecting with the conductors, but also renders the joint structure firmer and more reliable in meeting the high safety standard.

[0019] My invention is to be construed as including all modifications and variations falling within the scope of the appended claims.

Claims

1. An end connecting structure for fitting light, said fit-

ting light includes a transparent inner pipe having therein positioned conductors and lamp strings, and includes an enveloping transparent external layer, said fitting light is adapted for being cut into a desired length, said end connecting structure is **characterized by:**

said fitting light leaves conductor sections with desired lengths on one end or both ends thereof in advance after cutting; male electrical connecting ends or female electrical connecting ends of the amount corresponding to that of said conductors are formed and provided each on one end thereof with a connecting section for connecting with said conductor sections, thereby, said conductor sections can be integrally connected with said male or female electrical connecting ends by pressing or clamping method.

2. An end connecting structure for fitting light as claimed in claim 1, wherein,
 - said connecting sections of said male or female electrical connecting ends are formed each into a U shaped cross-section by pressing process.
3. An end connecting structure for fitting light as claimed in claim 1, wherein,
 - said male or female electrical connecting ends are turned to get an inner hole with a suitable depth from solid material to form said connecting sections.
4. An end connecting structure for fitting light as claimed in claim 1, wherein,
 - said fitting light having said male or female electrical connecting ends connected therewith is further formed on one end thereof a male or female electrical connecting end portion.
5. An end connecting structure for fitting light as claimed in claim 4, wherein,
 - said male electrical connecting end portion of said fitting light and said female electrical connecting end portion of another said fitting light are provided respectively with an axial groove and an axially directing guide rail mating with each other.
6. An end connecting structure for fitting light as claimed in claim 4, wherein,
 - said female and male electrical connecting end portions are provided nearby themselves with a male sleeve and a female sleeve respectively at said end connecting structure between said connecting end portions.
7. An end connecting structure for fitting light as claimed in claim 4, wherein,
 - said end connecting structure is fixed by means of two half cylindrical pieces.

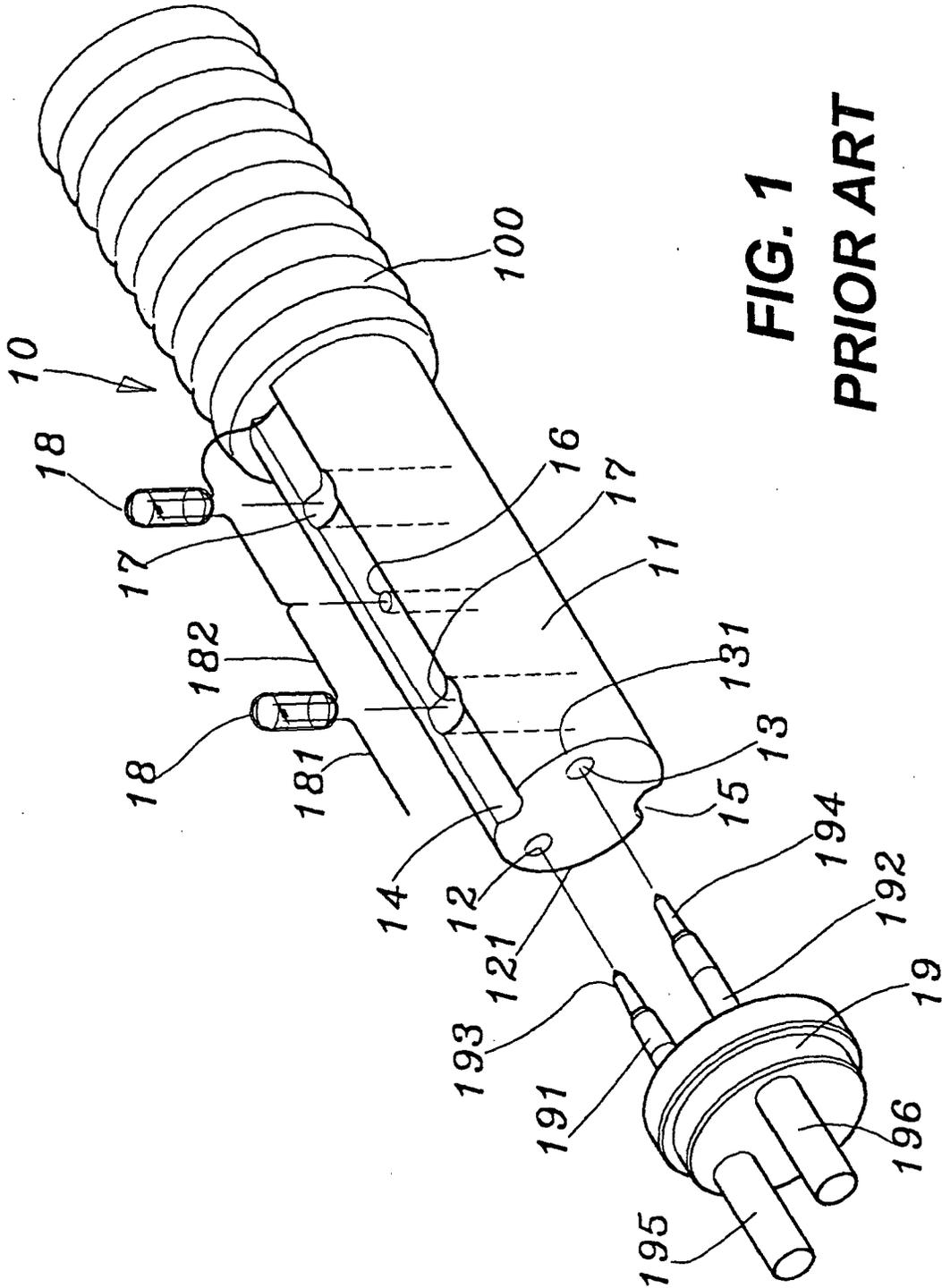


FIG. 1
PRIOR ART

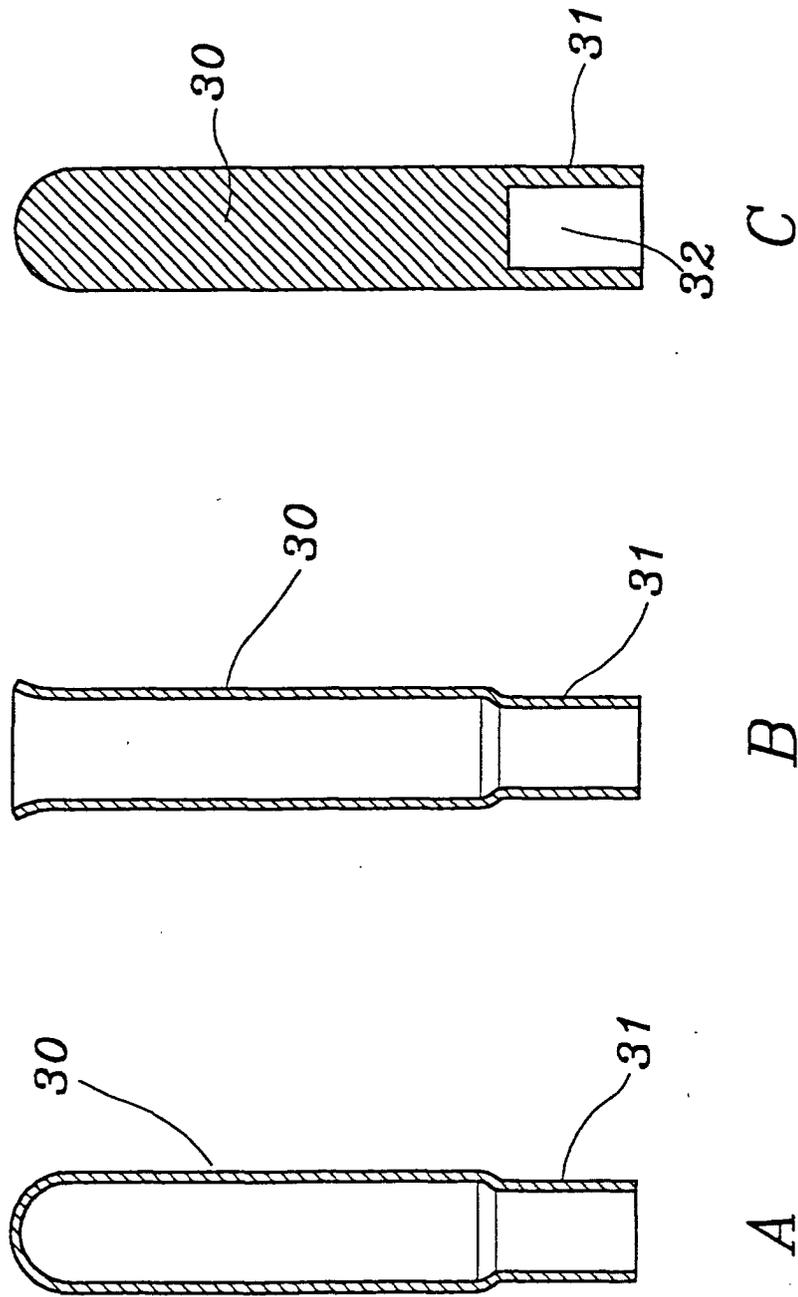


FIG. 3

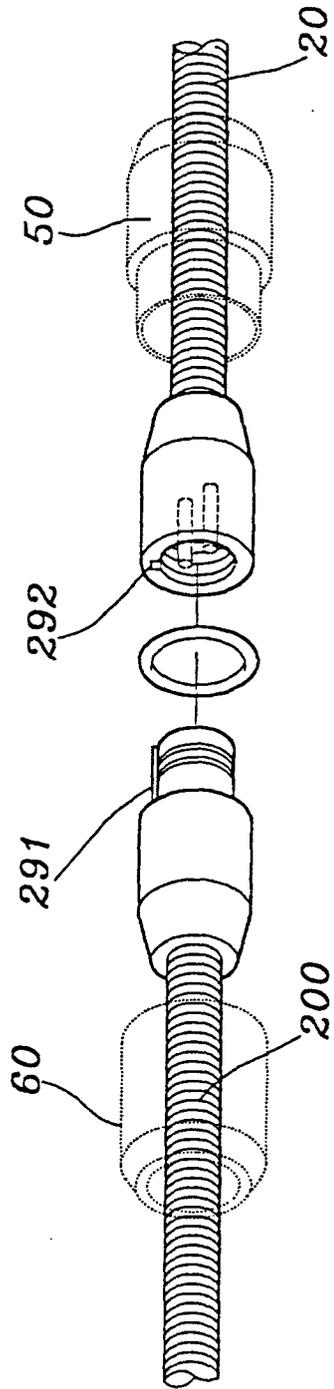


FIG. 4

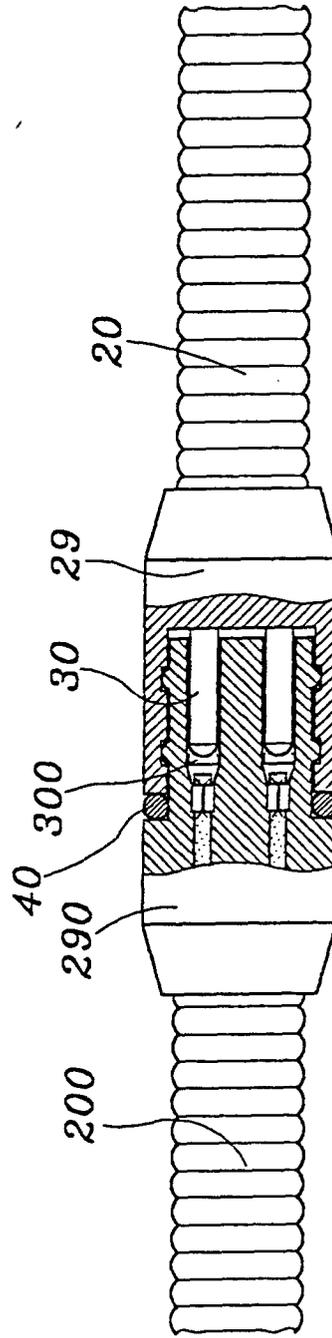


FIG. 5

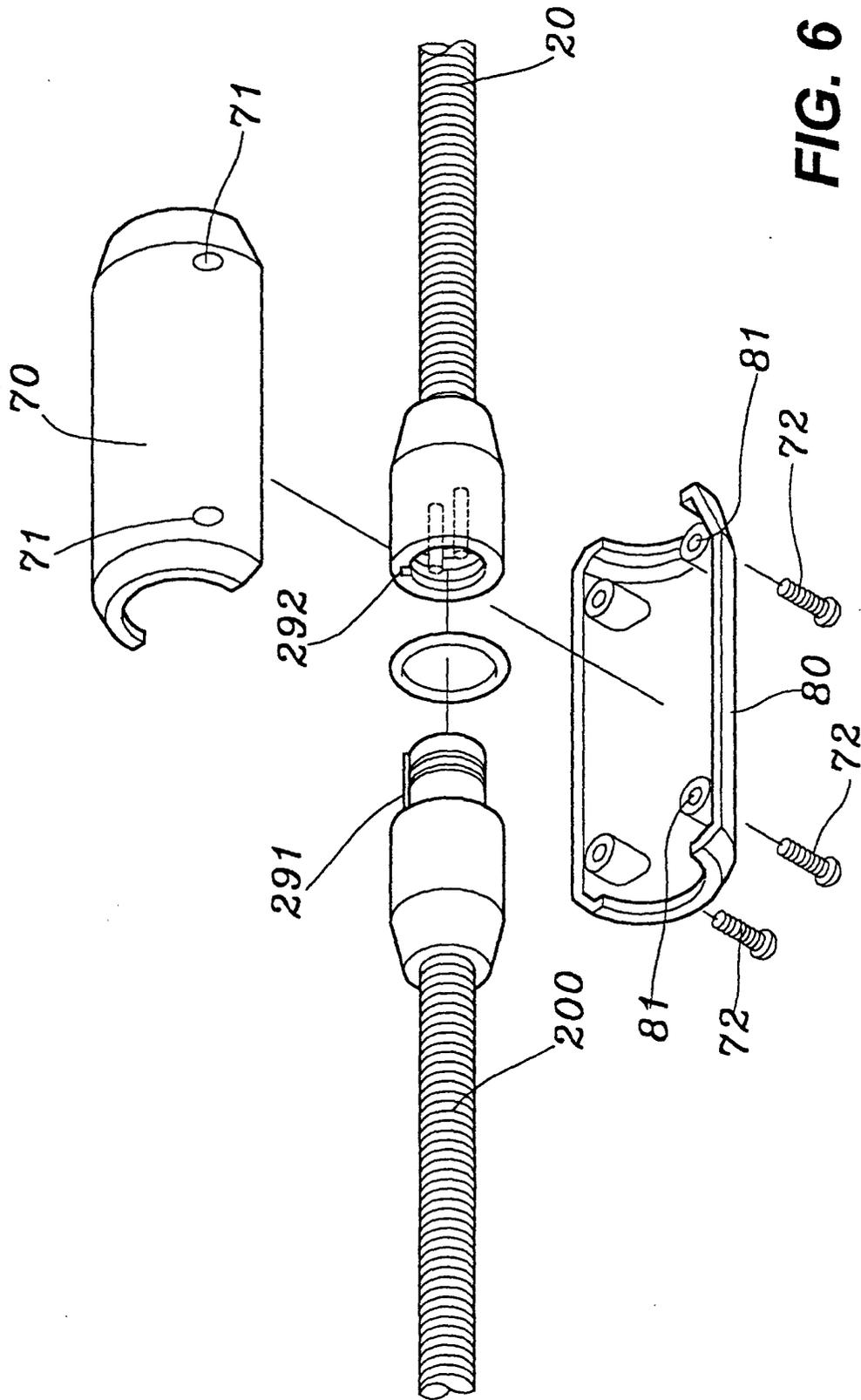


FIG. 6



European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 30 4106

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	US 5 934 792 A (CAMAROTA RICHARD J) 10 August 1999 (1999-08-10) * column 2, line 64 - column 4, line 15 * * figures 1-5 * ---	1,4,6	F21V23/06 F21S4/00 //F21W121:00
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A	US 4 607 317 A (LIN TA-YEH) 19 August 1986 (1986-08-19) * column 2, line 7 - column 4, line 55 * * figures 1-4 * ---	1,4,6	
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A	FR 2 609 620 A (MAVILLE PARIS CREATIONS) 22 July 1988 (1988-07-22) * page 3, line 6 - page 4, line 22 * * figures 1-4 * -----	1,2	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			F21P F21V H01R
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		17 October 2000	Cosnard, D
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 00 30 4106

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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17-10-2000

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