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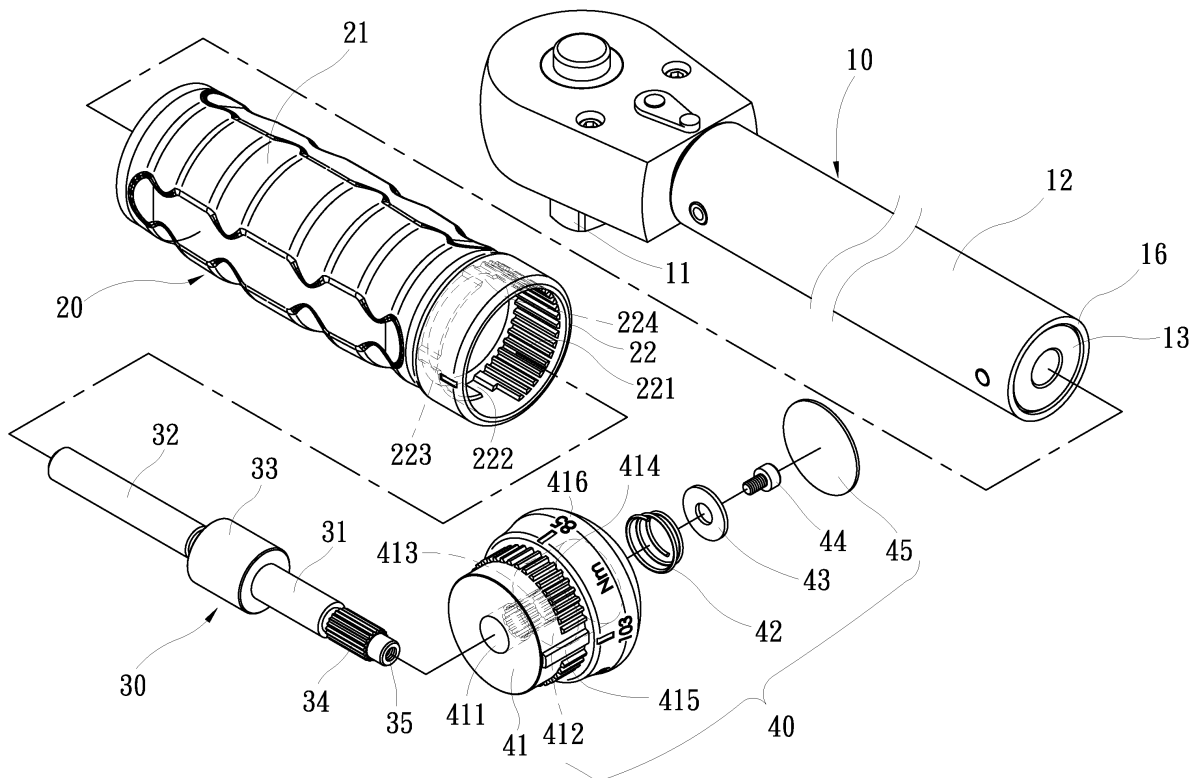
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(57) A torque wrench includes an operation bar (10) having a mounting sleeve (12), a hollow handle (20) having an inner wall provided with a first toothed portion (221) and a plurality of positioning grooves (222, 223, 224), and an adjusting unit (40) including an adjusting knob (41) movable relative the handle and having an outer wall provided with a second toothed portion (414) detachably

engaged with the first toothed portion of the handle and a positioning block (415) detachably locked in one of the positioning grooves of the handle. Thus, the adjusting knob is initially pulled outwardly relative to the mounting sleeve and the linking rod and is then rotatable relative to the handle so as to adjust the torque values of the torque wrench.

**FIG. 2****EP 2 138 276 A1**

Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a wrench, and more particularly to a torque wrench whose torque values can be preset, fixed and adjusted.

2. Description of the Related Art

[0002] A conventional torque wrench is used to lock and detach a workpiece, such as a screw and the like. The torque wrench includes a plurality of preset torque values (such as pounds) so as to control the tightening extent of the workpiece to prevent the workpiece from being distorted or broken due to an excessive torque. The torque values of the torque wrench usually have a larger ranges, such as from 50 through 75 to 105 pounds. However, a user has to adjust the torque values of the torque wrench step by step to change the torque values successively from 50 through 75 to 105 pounds, thereby wasting the working time, and thereby causing inconvenience to the user in adjustment of the torque values of the torque wrench.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The present invention is to mitigate and/or obviate the disadvantage of the conventional torque wrench.

[0004] The primary objective of the present invention is to provide a torque wrench whose torque values can be adjusted easily and quickly.

[0005] Another objective of the present invention is to provide a torque wrench, wherein the adjusting knob of the adjusting unit is initially pulled outwardly relative to the mounting sleeve of the operation bar and the linking rod and is then rotatable relative to the end portion of the handle so as to adjust the torque values of the torque wrench.

[0006] A further objective of the present invention is to provide a torque wrench, wherein a user only needs to pull and rotate the adjusting knob of the adjusting unit so as to adjust the torque values of the torque wrench, so that the torque values of the torque wrench is adjusted easily and quickly, thereby facilitating the user adjusting the torque values of the torque wrench.

[0007] A further objective of the present invention is to provide a torque wrench, wherein the adjusting knob of the adjusting unit is rotatable freely to directly reach any one of the torque values of the torque wrench, so that the user can adjust the torque values of the torque wrench freely and selectively according to the user's requirement without have to adjust the torque values of the torque wrench step by step, thereby facilitating the user operating the torque wrench.

[0008] In accordance with the present invention, there is provided a torque wrench, comprising an operation bar having a first end provided with a mounting sleeve and a second end provided with a drive portion, a hollow handle mounted on the mounting sleeve of the operation bar and having an end portion having an inner wall provided with a first toothed portion and a plurality of positioning grooves, and an adjusting unit mounted on the handle and including an adjusting knob movable relative to the end portion of the handle and having an outer wall provided with a second toothed portion detachably engaged with the first toothed portion of the handle and a positioning block detachably locked in one of the positioning grooves of the handle to releasably lock the adjusting knob of the adjusting unit onto the end portion of the handle.

[0009] Further benefits and advantages of the present invention will become apparent after a careful reading of the detailed description with appropriate reference to the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010]

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a torque wrench in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is an exploded perspective view of the torque wrench as shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a front plan cross-sectional view of the torque wrench as shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a side plan view of a handle of the torque wrench as shown in Fig. 2;

Fig. 5 is a top plan view of the torque wrench as shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 6 is a schematic operational view of the torque wrench as shown in Fig. 3 in use;

Fig. 7 is a schematic operational view of the torque wrench as shown in Fig. 5 in use; and

Fig. 8 is a schematic operational view of the torque wrench as shown in Fig. 7 in use.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0011] Referring to the drawings and initially to Figs. 1-5, a torque wrench in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the present invention comprises an operation bar 10 having a first end provided with a mounting sleeve 12 and a second end provided with a drive portion 11, a hollow handle 20 mounted on the mounting sleeve 12 of the operation bar 10 and having an end portion 22 having an inner wall provided with a first toothed portion 221 and a plurality of positioning grooves 222, 223 and 224, an adjusting unit 40 mounted on the handle 20 and including an adjusting knob 41 movable relative to the end portion 22 of the handle 20 and having an outer wall provided with a second toothed portion 414 detachably

engaged with the first toothed portion 221 of the handle 20 and a positioning block 415 detachably locked in one of the positioning grooves 222, 223 and 224 of the handle 20 to releasably lock the adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40 onto the end portion 22 of the handle 20, and a linking rod 30 mounted in the mounting sleeve 12 of the operation bar 10 and attached to the adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40 to limit the adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40 on the mounting sleeve 12 of the operation bar 10.

[0012] The torque wrench further comprises a first bushing 13 mounted in the mounting sleeve 12 of the operation bar 10 and a second bushing 14 mounted in the mounting sleeve 12 of the operation bar 10, and the mounting sleeve 12 of the operation bar 10 has an inside defining a limit space 15 between the first bushing 13 and the second bushing 14.

[0013] The handle 20 has an outer wall provided with an elongate serrated anti-slip portion 21 to facilitate a user holding the handle 20. The end portion 22 of the handle 20 protrudes outwardly from the mounting sleeve 12 of the operation bar 10, and the inner wall of the end portion 22 of the handle 20 is provided with a stepped stop portion 225 flush with an end face 16 of the mounting sleeve 12 of the operation bar 10 to stop the adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40. The end portion 22 of the handle 20 has a ring shape, and the inner wall of the end portion 22 of the handle 20 has a first semi-circular periphery provided with the first toothed portion 221 and a second semi-circular periphery provided with the positioning grooves 222, 223 and 224. The positioning grooves 222, 223 and 224 of the handle 20 are equally spaced from each other.

[0014] The adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40 is movably mounted on the linking rod 30 and is movable axially relative to the mounting sleeve 12 of the operation bar 10 and the linking rod 30 to a position where the second toothed portion 414 of the adjusting knob 41 is detached from the first toothed portion 221 of the handle 20 and the positioning block 415 of the adjusting knob 41 is detached from one of the positioning grooves 222, 223 and 224 of the handle 20 to unlock the adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40 from the end portion 22 of the handle 20 so that the adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40 is rotatable relative to the end portion 22 of the handle 20. The adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40 has a first end extended into the end portion 22 of the handle 20 and provided with the second toothed portion 414 and the positioning block 415 and an enlarged second end protruding outwardly from the end portion 22 of the handle 20 and provided with a plurality of indicating numbers 416 each aligning with a respective one of the positioning grooves 222, 223 and 224 of the handle 20 when the positioning block 415 of the adjusting knob 41 is inserted into one of the positioning grooves 222, 223 and 224 of the handle 20. The adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40 has an inner wall having a first end provided with a through hole 411 movable on the

linking rod 30 and a second end provided with a receiving chamber 417 connected to the through hole 411. The receiving chamber 417 of the adjusting knob 41 has a diameter greater than that of the through hole 411, and the inner wall of the adjusting knob 41 has a mediate portion provided with a stepped limit portion 412 located between the receiving chamber 417 and the through hole 411. The through hole 411 of the adjusting knob 41 has a periphery provided with a first serrated portion 413.

[0015] The adjusting unit 40 further includes a threaded retaining member 44 screwed onto the linking rod 30, an elastic member 42 mounted on the linking rod 30 and biased between the threaded retaining member 44 and the adjusting knob 41 to push the adjusting knob 41 toward the mounting sleeve 12 of the operation bar 10 and the end portion 22 of the handle 20, a washer 43 mounted on the linking rod 30 and located between the threaded retaining member 44 and the elastic member 42, and an end cap 45 mounted on the adjusting knob 41 to cover the threaded retaining member 44, the washer 43, the elastic member 42 and the linking rod 30. The threaded retaining member 44, the washer 43 and the elastic member 42 of the adjusting unit 40 are received in the receiving chamber 417 of the adjusting knob 41, and the end cap 45 of the adjusting unit 40 is mounted on an end portion of the receiving chamber 417 of the adjusting knob 41 to close the receiving chamber 417 of the adjusting knob 41. The elastic member 42 of the adjusting unit 40 is biased between the washer 43 and the limit portion 412 of the adjusting knob 41.

[0016] The linking rod 30 is rotatable in the mounting sleeve 12 of the operation bar 10 by rotation of the adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40 relative to the end portion 22 of the handle 20. The linking rod 30 has a first end 31 extending through the first bushing 13 and the through hole 411 of the adjusting knob 41 into the receiving chamber 417 of the adjusting knob 41 for mounting the elastic member 42 and the washer 43 of the adjusting unit 40, a second end 32 extending through the second bushing 14, and a mediate portion located between the first end 31 and the second end 32 and provided with an enlarged limit block 33 limited in the limit space 15 of the mounting sleeve 12 between the first bushing 13 and the second bushing 14. The first end 31 of the linking rod 30 has a peripheral wall provided with a second serrated portion 34 engaged with the first serrated portion 413 of the adjusting knob 41 and has an end face provided with a screw bore 35 into which the threaded retaining member 44 is screwed.

[0017] In operation, referring to Figs. 5-8 with reference to Figs. 1-4, when the second toothed portion 414 of the adjusting knob 41 is engaged with the first toothed portion 221 of the handle 20, and the positioning block 415 of the adjusting knob 41 is locked in a first one of the positioning grooves 222, 223 and 224 of the handle 20, the adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40 is locked onto the end portion 22 of the handle 20. At this time, a first one of the indicating numbers 416 is shown to indi-

cate a first torque value of the torque wrench, such as 85 pounds, as shown in Fig. 5.

[0018] Alternatively, when the adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40 is movable outwardly relative to the mounting sleeve 12 of the operation bar 10 and the linking rod 30 from the position as shown in Fig. 3 to the position as shown in Fig. 6, the second toothed portion 414 of the adjusting knob 41 is detached from the first toothed portion 221 of the handle 20 and the positioning block 415 of the adjusting knob 41 is detached from the first one of the positioning grooves 222, 223 and 224 of the handle 20 to unlock the adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40 from the end portion 22 of the handle 20, so that the adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40 is rotatable relative to the end portion 22 of the handle 20.

[0019] In such a manner, when the positioning block 415 of the adjusting knob 41 is moved to align with a second one of the positioning grooves 222, 223 and 224 of the handle 20, the adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40 is pushed by the restoring force of the elastic member 42 to move toward the mounting sleeve 12 of the operation bar 10 and the linking rod 30 from the position as shown in Fig. 6 to the position as shown in Fig. 3, so that the second toothed portion 414 of the adjusting knob 41 is engaged with the first toothed portion 221 of the handle 20 again, and the positioning block 415 of the adjusting knob 41 is locked in the second one of the positioning grooves 222, 223 and 224 of the handle 20. At this time, a second one of the indicating numbers 416 is shown to indicate a second torque value of the torque wrench, such as 103 pounds, as shown in Fig. 7.

[0020] Alternatively, when the adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40 is movable outwardly relative to the mounting sleeve 12 of the operation bar 10 and the linking rod 30 from the position as shown in Fig. 3 to the position as shown in Fig. 6, the second toothed portion 414 of the adjusting knob 41 is detached from the first toothed portion 221 of the handle 20 and the positioning block 415 of the adjusting knob 41 is detached from the second one of the positioning grooves 222, 223 and 224 of the handle 20 to unlock the adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40 from the end portion 22 of the handle 20, so that the adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40 is rotatable relative to the end portion 22 of the handle 20.

[0021] In such a manner, when the positioning block 415 of the adjusting knob 41 is moved to align with a third one of the positioning grooves 222, 223 and 224 of the handle 20, the adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40 is pushed by the restoring force of the elastic member 42 to move toward the mounting sleeve 12 of the operation bar 10 and the linking rod 30 from the position as shown in Fig. 6 to the position as shown in Fig. 3, so that the second toothed portion 414 of the adjusting knob 41 is engaged with the first toothed portion 221 of the handle 20 again, and the positioning block 415 of the adjusting knob 41 is locked in the third one of the positioning grooves 222, 223 and 224 of the handle 20. At this time, a third one of the indicating numbers 416 is shown to

indicate a second torque value of the torque wrench, such as 108 pounds, as shown in Fig. 8.

[0022] Accordingly, the adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40 is initially pulled outwardly relative to the mounting sleeve 12 of the operation bar 10 and the linking rod 30 and is then rotatable relative to the end portion 22 of the handle 20 so as to adjust the torque values of the torque wrench. In addition, a user only needs to pull and rotate the adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40 so as to adjust the torque values of the torque wrench, so that the torque values of the torque wrench is adjusted easily and quickly, thereby facilitating the user adjusting the torque values of the torque wrench. Further, the adjusting knob 41 of the adjusting unit 40 is rotatable freely to directly reach any one of the torque values of the torque wrench, so that the user can adjust the torque values of the torque wrench freely and selectively according to the user's requirement without have to adjust the torque values of the torque wrench step by step, thereby facilitating the user operating the torque wrench.

[0023] Although the invention has been explained in relation to its preferred embodiment(s) as mentioned above, it is to be understood that many other possible modifications and variations can be made without departing from the scope of the present invention. It is, therefore, contemplated that the appended claim or claims will cover such modifications and variations that fall within the true scope of the invention.

Claims

1. A torque wrench, comprising:

an operation bar having a first end provided with a mounting sleeve and a second end provided with a drive portion;
a hollow handle mounted on the mounting sleeve of the operation bar and having an end portion having an inner wall provided with a first toothed portion and a plurality of positioning grooves;
an adjusting unit mounted on the handle and including an adjusting knob movable relative to the end portion of the handle and having an outer wall provided with a second toothed portion detachably engaged with the first toothed portion of the handle and a positioning block detachably locked in one of the positioning grooves of the handle to releasably lock the adjusting knob of the adjusting unit onto the end portion of the handle.

2. The torque wrench in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

a linking rod mounted in the mounting sleeve of the operation bar and attached to the adjusting

knob of the adjusting unit to limit the adjusting knob of the adjusting unit on the mounting sleeve of the operation bar.

3. The torque wrench in accordance with claim 2, wherein the adjusting knob of the adjusting unit is movably mounted on the linking rod and is movable axially relative to the mounting sleeve of the operation bar and the linking rod to a position where the second toothed portion of the adjusting knob is detached from the first toothed portion of the handle and the positioning block of the adjusting knob is detached from one of the positioning grooves of the handle to unlock the adjusting knob of the adjusting unit from the end portion of the handle so that the adjusting knob of the adjusting unit is rotatable relative to the end portion of the handle.

4. The torque wrench in accordance with claim 2, wherein the adjusting unit further includes:

a threaded retaining member screwed onto the linking rod;

an elastic member mounted on the linking rod and biased between the threaded retaining member and the adjusting knob to push the adjusting knob toward the mounting sleeve of the operation bar and the end portion of the handle.

5. The torque wrench in accordance with claim 4, wherein the adjusting unit further includes:

a washer mounted on the linking rod and located between the threaded retaining member and the elastic member;

an end cap mounted on the adjusting knob to cover the threaded retaining member, the washer, the elastic member and the linking rod.

6. The torque wrench in accordance with claim 5, wherein

the adjusting knob of the adjusting unit has an inner wall having a first end provided with a through hole movable on the linking rod and a second end provided with a receiving chamber connected to the through hole;

the threaded retaining member, the washer and the elastic member of the adjusting unit are received in the receiving chamber of the adjusting knob;

the end cap of the adjusting unit is mounted on an end portion of the receiving chamber of the adjusting knob to close the receiving chamber of the adjusting knob.

7. The torque wrench in accordance with claim 6, wherein

the inner wall of the adjusting knob has a mediate portion provided with a stepped limit portion located

between the receiving chamber and the through hole;

the elastic member of the adjusting unit is biased between the washer and the limit portion of the adjusting knob.

8. The torque wrench in accordance with claim 6, wherein

the torque wrench further comprises a first bushing mounted in the mounting sleeve of the operation bar and a second bushing mounted in the mounting sleeve of the operation bar;

the linking rod has a first end extending through the first bushing and the through hole of the adjusting knob into the receiving chamber of the adjusting knob for mounting the elastic member and the washer of the adjusting unit and a second end extending through the second bushing.

9. The torque wrench in accordance with claim 8, wherein

the through hole of the adjusting knob has a periphery provided with a first serrated portion;

the first end of the linking rod has a peripheral wall provided with a second serrated portion engaged with the first serrated portion of the adjusting knob.

10. The torque wrench in accordance with claim 8, wherein the first end of the linking rod has an end face provided with a screw bore into which the threaded retaining member is screwed.

11. The torque wrench in accordance with claim 8, wherein

the mounting sleeve of the operation bar has an inside defining a limit space between the first bushing and the second bushing;

the linking rod has a mediate portion located between the first end and the second end and provided with an enlarged limit block limited in the limit space of the mounting sleeve between the first bushing and the second bushing.

12. The torque wrench in accordance with claim 6, wherein the receiving chamber of the adjusting knob has a diameter greater than that of the through hole.

13. The torque wrench in accordance with claim 2, wherein the linking rod is rotatable in the mounting sleeve of the operation bar by rotation of the adjusting knob of the adjusting unit relative to the end portion of the handle.

14. The torque wrench in accordance with claim 1, wherein

the end portion of the handle has a ring shape;

the inner wall of the end portion of the handle has a first semi-circular periphery provided with the first

toothed portion and a second semi-circular periphery provided with the positioning grooves.

15. The torque wrench in accordance with claim 14,
wherein the positioning grooves of the handle are
equally spaced from each other. 5
16. The torque wrench in accordance with claim 1,
wherein the adjusting knob of the adjusting unit has
a first end extended into the end portion of the handle
and provided with the second toothed portion and
the positioning block and an enlarged second end
protruding outwardly from the end portion of the han- 10
dle and provided with a plurality of indicating num-
bers each aligning with a respective one of the po- 15
sitioning grooves of the handle when the positioning
block of the adjusting knob is inserted into one of the
positioning grooves of the handle.
17. The torque wrench in accordance with claim 1, 20
wherein the end portion of the handle protrudes out-
wardly from the mounting sleeve of the operation bar.
18. The torque wrench in accordance with claim 1,
wherein the inner wall of the end portion of the handle 25
is provided with a stepped stop portion flush with an
end face of the mounting sleeve of the operation bar
to stop the adjusting knob of the adjusting unit.

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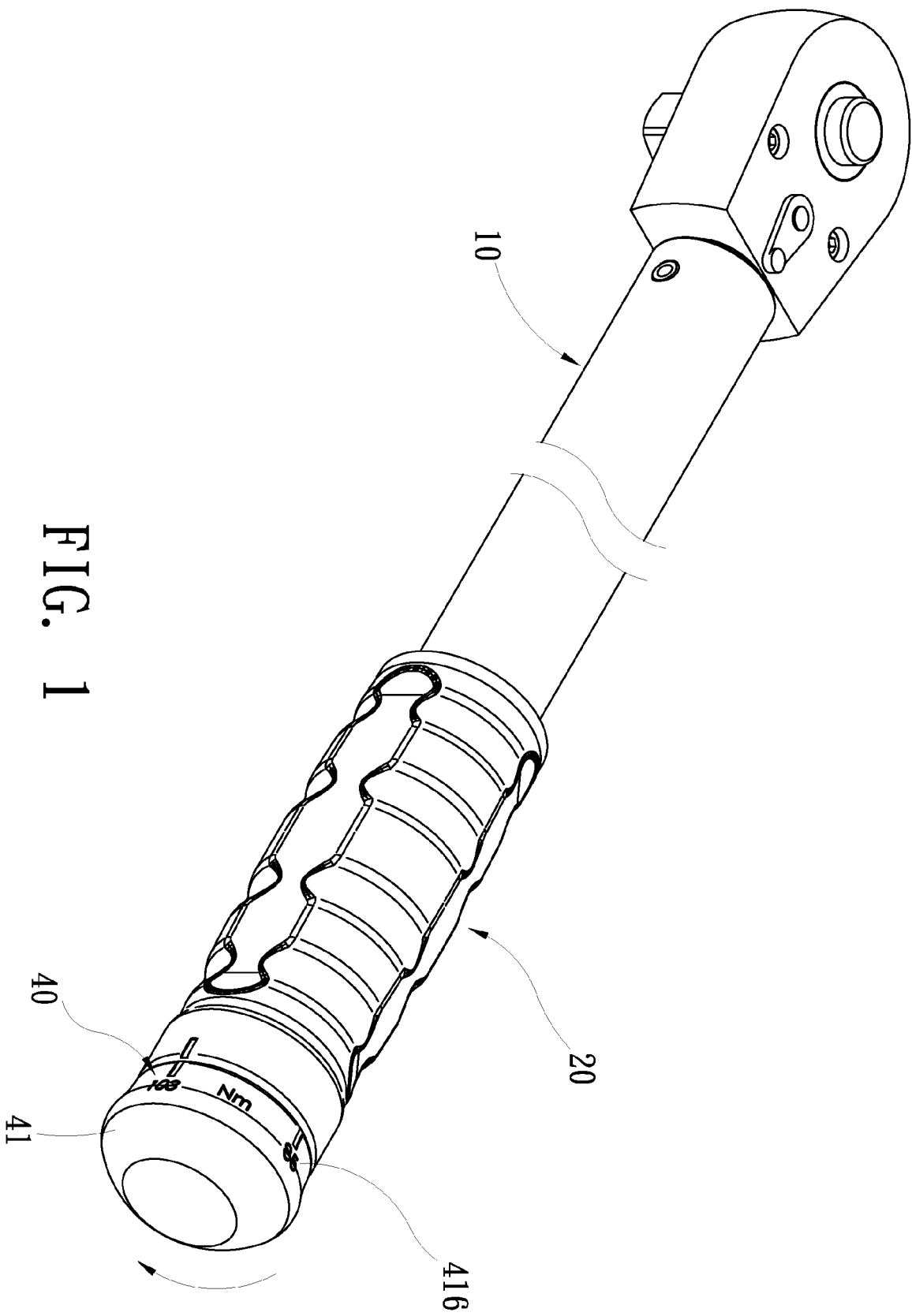
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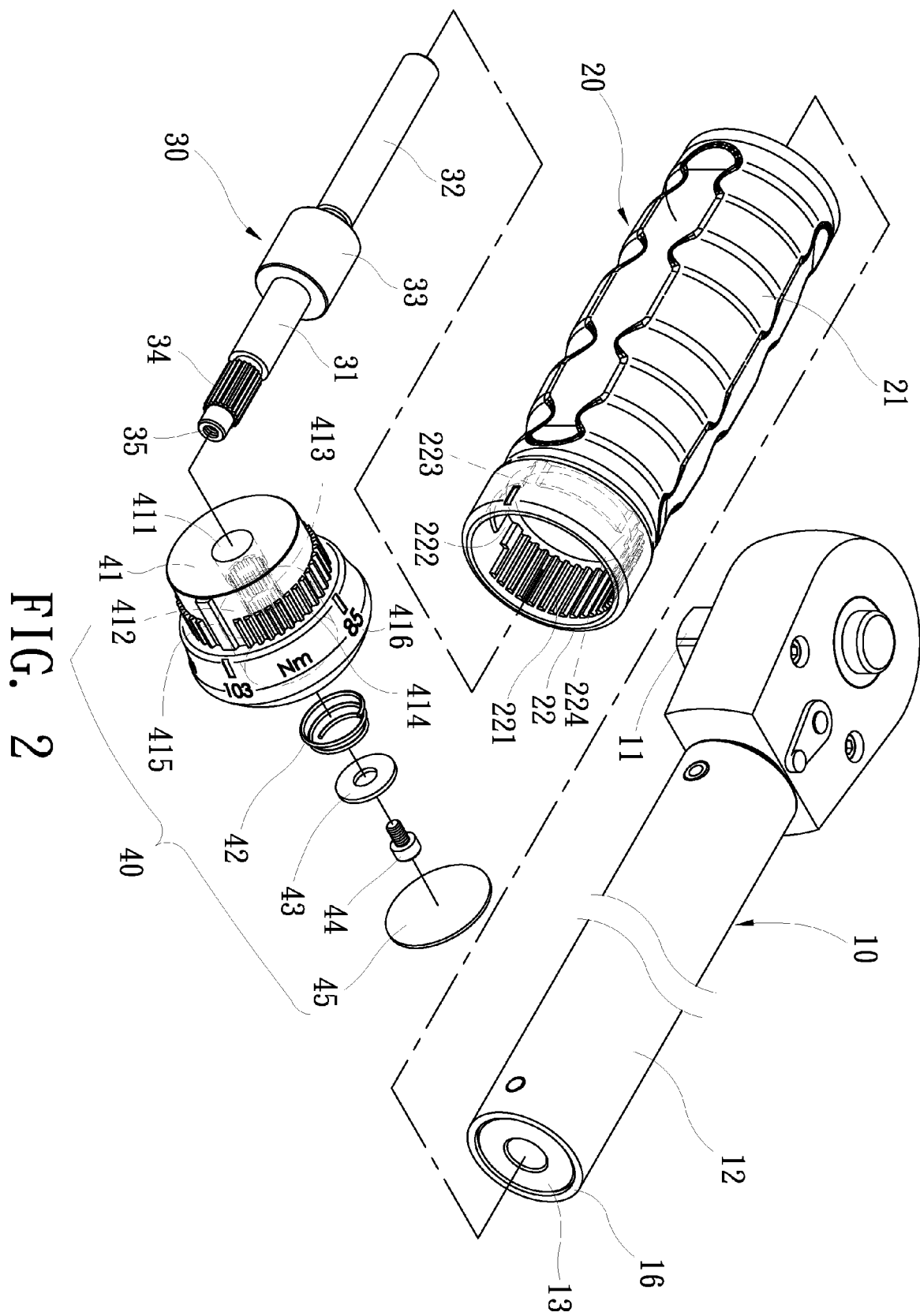


FIG. 2

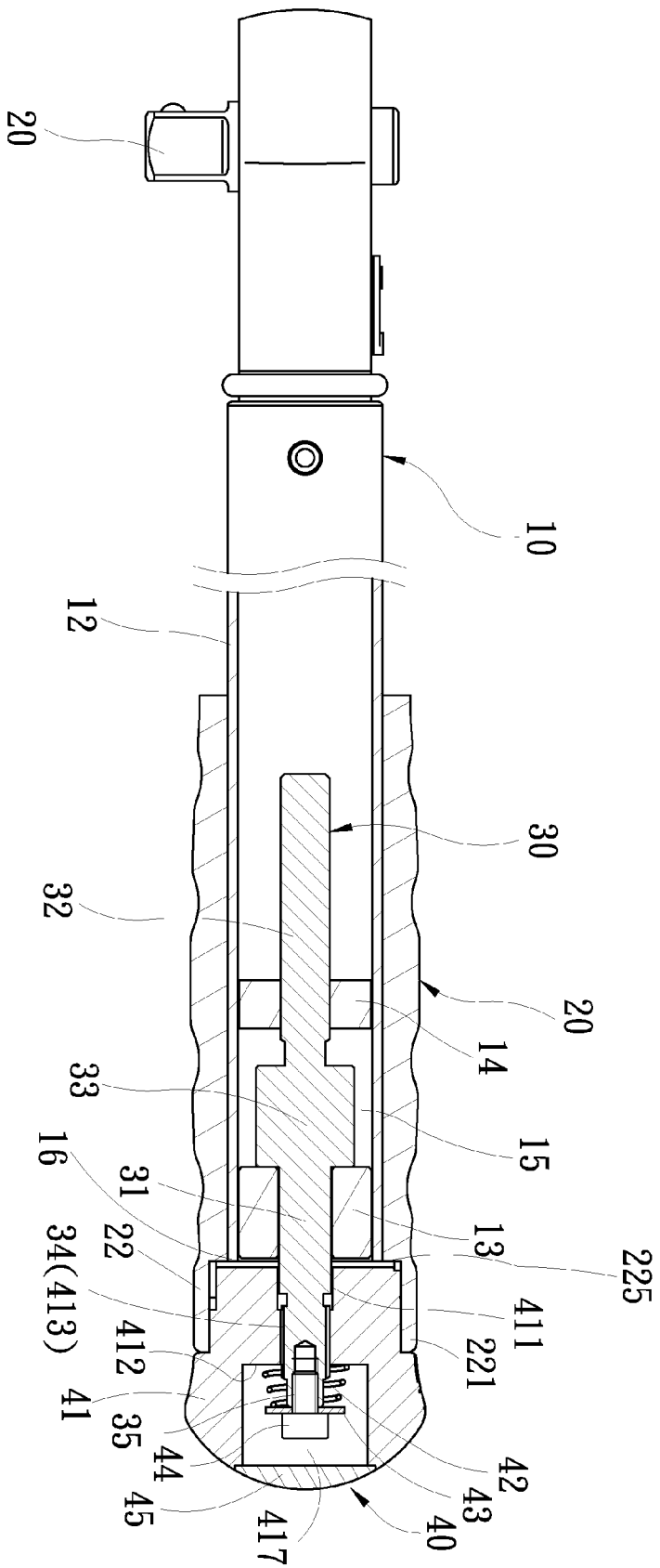


FIG. 3

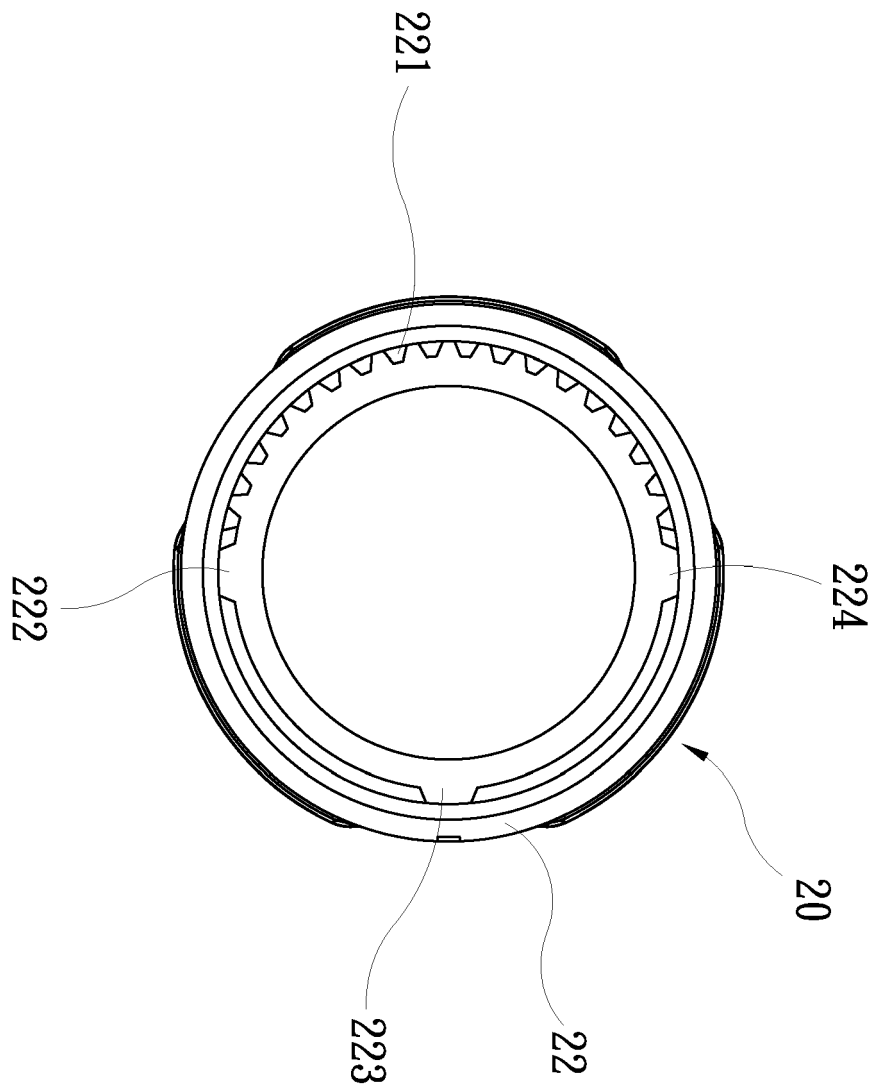


FIG. 4

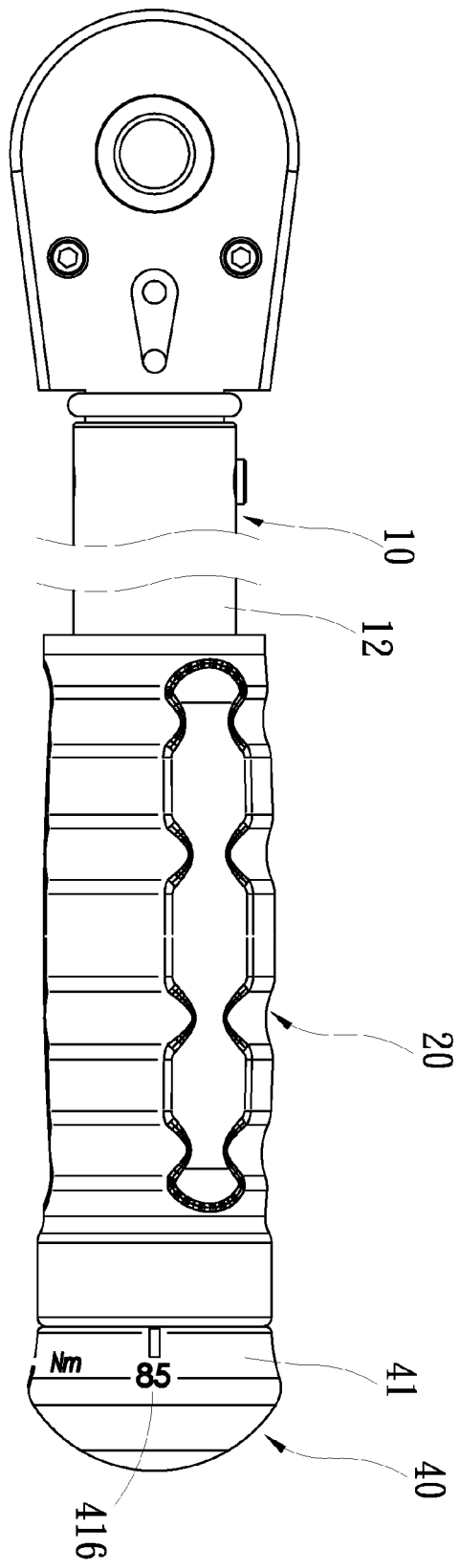


FIG. 5

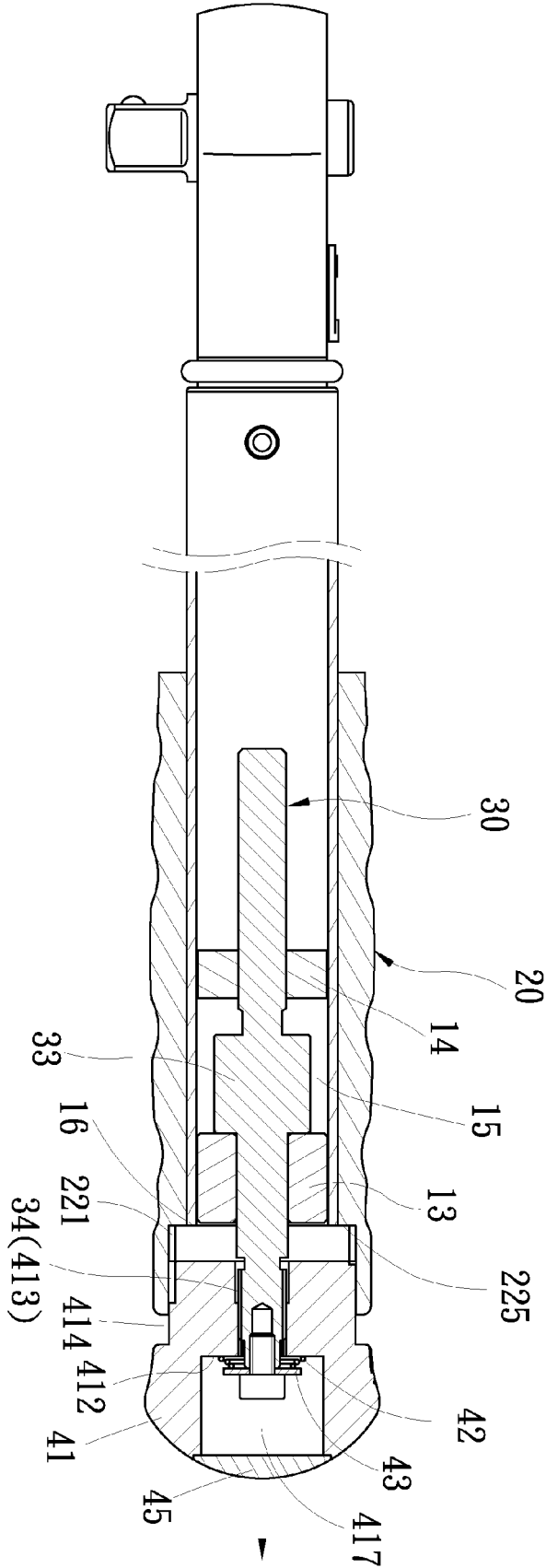


FIG. 6

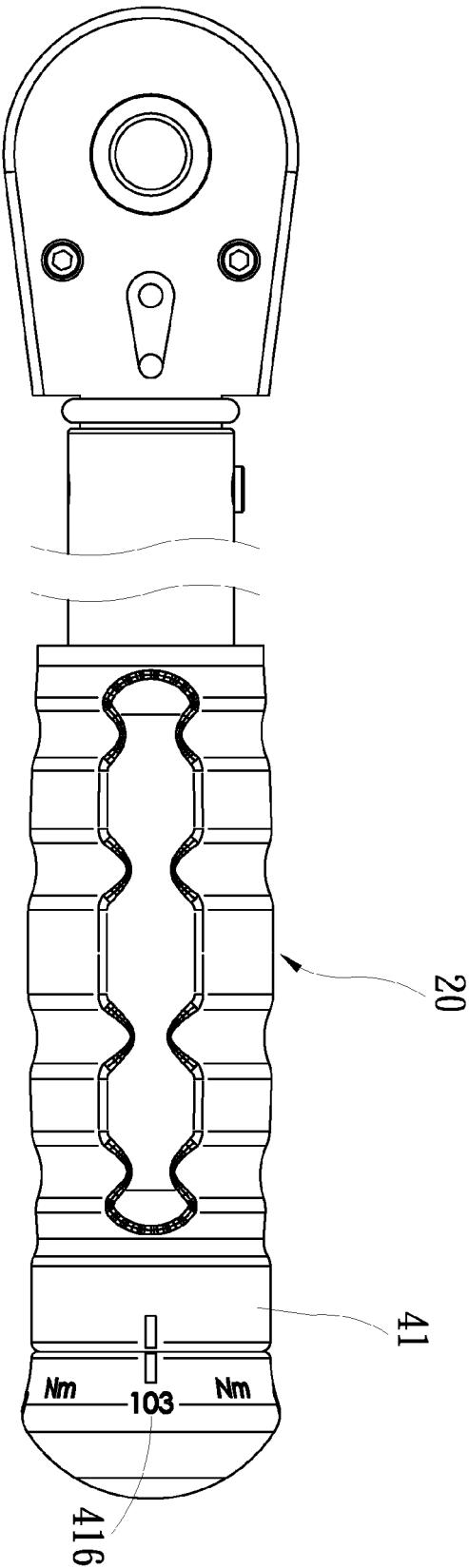


FIG. 7

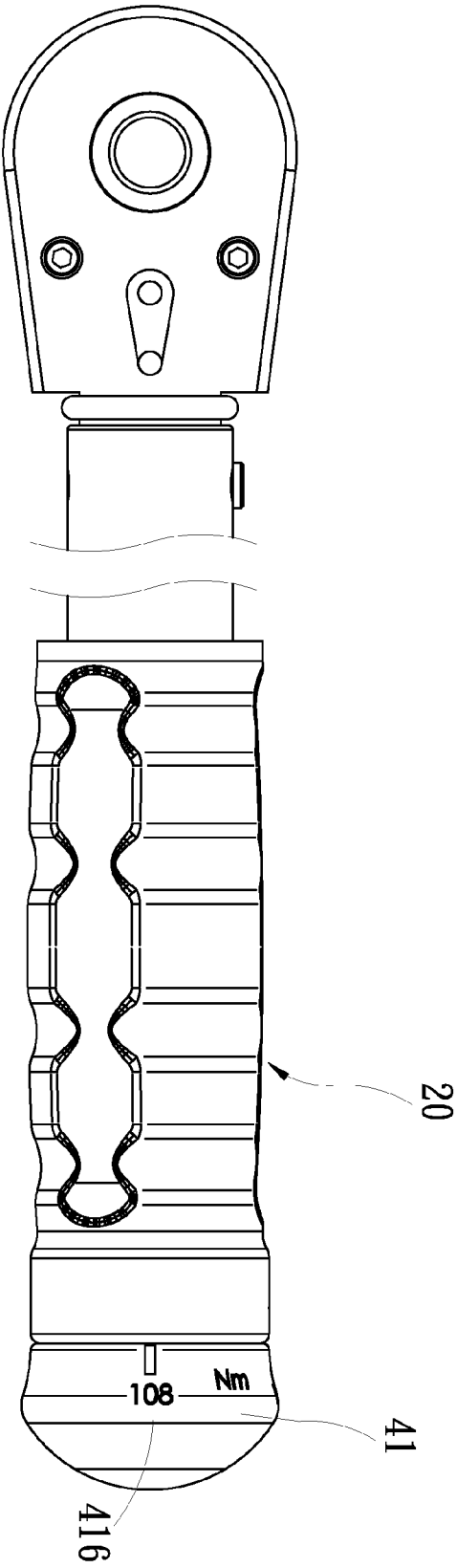


FIG. 8



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 08 15 8960

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Y A	US 6 945 144 B1 (CUTLER BRIAN [US] ET AL) 20 September 2005 (2005-09-20) * figures 1,3-5 * * column 3, lines 58-67 - column 4, lines 1-34 * * abstract * -----	1 2-18	INV. B25B23/142
Y A	US 4 207 783 A (GRABOVAC BOSKO [US]) 17 June 1980 (1980-06-17) * figures 1,2,4-7 * * column 7, lines 3-10 - lines 23-30 * -----	1 2-18	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) B25B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 11 November 2009	Examiner Klein, A
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			

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EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 08 15 8960

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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11-11-2009

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6945144	B1	20-09-2005	NONE
US 4207783	A	17-06-1980	NONE