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Remarks:
Amended claims in accordance with Rule 137(2) EPC.

(54) **Surgical distance adjusting assembly for a bone distractor**

(57) A surgical distance adjusting assembly (10; 130) for a bone distractor (128; 156) is described. The assembly (10; 130) comprises a base (12; 132) having a first connecting portion (16; 136) configured to hold a first bone attachment member (102; 148); and a carrier (14; 134) having a second connecting portion (18; 138) configured to hold a second bone attachment member (120; 154). The base (12; 132) and the carrier (14; 134) are movable relative to each other, wherein the first and second connecting portions (16, 18; 136, 138) provide a releasable mechanical coupling to the first and second bone attachment members (102, 120; 148, 154). The releasable mechanical coupling comprises a hook member (94) at one or both of the first and second connecting portions (16, 18; 136, 138) and configured to engage the respective bone attachment member (102, 120). Alternatively, the releasable mechanical coupling comprises an opening (144) at one or both of the first and second connecting portions (16, 18; 136, 138). The opening

(144) has a thread for a fixation screw (158) configured to releasably couple the respective bone attachment member (148, 154) to the respective connecting portion (136, 138).

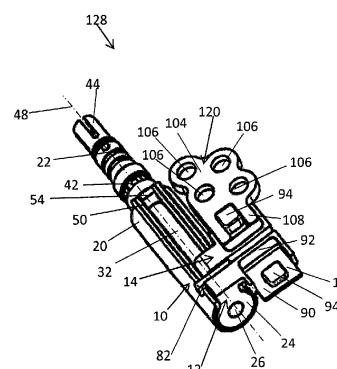


Fig. 21