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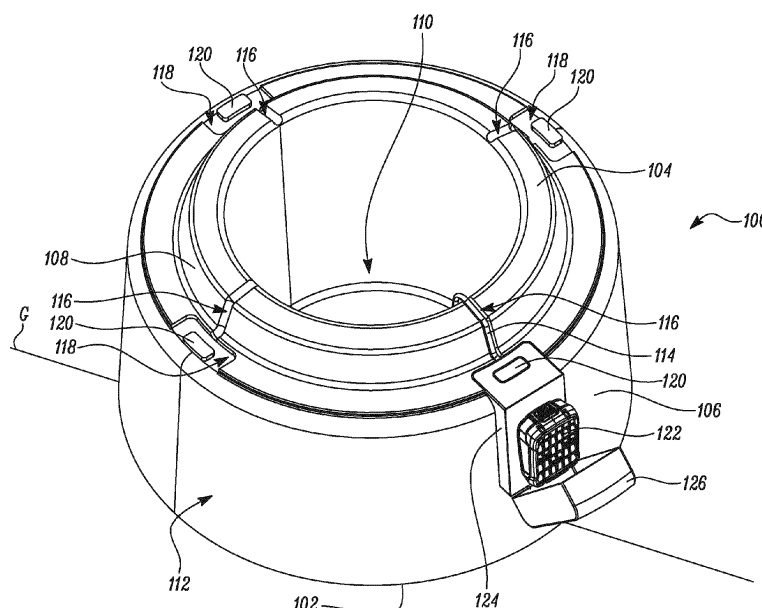
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Amended claims in accordance with Rule 137(2) EPC.

(54) WATER COLLECTION MODULE

(57) A base element (**100, 100'**) of a water collection module (**300**) includes a bottom side (**102**). The base element (**100, 100'**) also includes a top side (**104**), which is opposite to the bottom side (**102**) and connected to the bottom side (**102**) via a side surface (**106**). The bottom side (**102**) forms a base face for standing the base element (**100, 100'**) on an underlying surface (**G**) and the opposite side, i.e., the top side (**104**) forms a mounting face to hold any other device, in particular a water reservoir (**200**), mounted to it. Further, at least one electric

device having a connection line (**114**) is housed within the base element (**100, 100'**) such that the connection line (**114**) extends into an exterior (**112**) of the base element (**100, 100'**). The base element (**100, 100'**) is characterized in that the base element (**100, 100'**) is formed with at least one recess (**116**) to house the connection line (**114**). Further, the base element (**100, 100'**) is formed to hold an external component (**122**) to which the connection line (**114**) extends.

**FIG. 3****EP 4 467 731 A1**

Description

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present disclosure relates to a water collection module, and more particularly to a base element of a water collection module that may allow simple and ergonomic access of collected water.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Many areas of the world rely upon the collection and use of reclaimed precipitation as a primary source of usable water. Water reservoirs and other devices are utilized for the purpose of collecting and storing water runoff from impervious surfaces such as the rooftops of dwellings. While generally unpotable, such systems provide a useful source of water for tasks such as irrigation, washing cars or driveways, and the like.

[0003] Many such water reservoirs and other similar rainwater recollection systems store the water in a stagnant, manually accessed manner. Items such as pails or buckets are often the only means of accessing and transporting the water. As such, the process of utilizing the reclaimed water is often tedious or impossible, thus reducing the efficiency of employing such methods and resulting in the use of municipal wells or other sources of water for many tasks, which in turn eliminates the usefulness and purposes of such water reservoir systems.

[0004] Further, because of continuous innovation to allow easy access of collected water, systems have been developed in which the water reservoir are mounted on a base element to elevate the water reservoir for access to the water. The water is extracted from the water reservoir by opening a spigot provided near the bottom of the water reservoir and filling a container such as a watering can. A soaker hose may also be attached to the bottom of the water reservoir to water nearby plants.

[0005] However, such systems do not provide an adequate means for the varied reuse of the collected water according to a user's needs. Further, such systems do not provide adequate storage means and pressurizing means with their electrification thereof to allow a user to use the water in a simple and conventional manner upon collection. Accordingly, there exists a need for a rainwater collection system or module for facilitating easy access to the stored water from the water reservoir for further usage in an ergonomic and efficient manner.

[0006] An example of an improved water collection module is provided in United States Patent US 8,578,976 B1 (hereinafter referred to as '976 reference). The '976 reference provides a water collection module with a water reservoir mounted on top of a hollow base element. At the bottom of the water reservoir there is a water outlet to which a water pressurization apparatus is fixed, and which is then housed inside a free space surrounded by the base element. The water pressurization apparatus includes an electric pump with its power

line. The power line includes a plug at its end that extends into an exterior of the base element in order to be switched into a power socket.

5 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] In view of the above, it is an objective of the present invention to solve or at least reduce the drawbacks discussed above. The objective is at least partially achieved by a base element of a water collection module.

[0008] According to an aspect of the present invention, the base element of a water collection module includes a bottom side. The base element also includes a top side, which is opposite to the bottom side, and connected to the bottom side via a side surface. The bottom side forms a base face for standing the base element on an underlying surface and the opposite side, i.e., the top side forms a mounting face to hold any other device, in particular a water reservoir, mounted to it. Further, at least one electric device having a connection line is housed within the base element such that the connection line extends into an exterior of the base element. The base element is characterized in that the base element is formed with at least one recess to house the connection line. Further, the base element is formed to hold an external component to which the connection line extends.

[0009] Thus, the present disclosure provides an improved base element for the water reservoir. The base element may provide a certain height to the water reservoir relative to the underlying surface, which may allow easy access of the water stored in the water reservoir, for example by opening a tap provided proximate to a bottom of the water reservoir. The base element may further provide provision to house at least one electric device which may facilitate easy access of the collected or stored water in the water reservoir. For example, the electric device may be a pump, which may pump out the collected water for various domestic and industrial applications. The base element may further include the at least one recess to allow electrification of the at least one electric device housed in the base element. For example, the base element may allow an electric cable connected with pump to extend outside the base element via the recess such that the electric cable may be connected to a power supplying means for running the pump. The base element may further be able to hold an external component that may be required to run the at least one electric device. For example, the base element may hold a battery to run the pump housed in the base element. The base element thus may be a versatile base element that may advantageously house the at least electric device, and further hold the external component to run the at least one electric device while allowing easy connection between the at least one electric device and the external component.

[0010] Further, the base element other than its usage may be advantageously aesthetically pleasing. The base element may allow ergonomic, simple, and effortless

access to the collected water for further application in industries and households. Further, the design of the base element may allow compact storage and transport of a plurality of base elements such as by stacking of the plurality of base elements.

[0011] The water collection module according to the present invention may denote an assembly of the water reservoir and the base element such that the water reservoir may be mounted on the base element.

[0012] According to an exemplary embodiment of the invention, the base element may have a tapered cylinder, or frustum like shape. However, the base element may have any other shape and size without limiting the scope of the present invention. It is obvious that the circumference of the base element may have any shape and is not limited to a circular shape, but also could as well exhibit corners.

[0013] According to an exemplary embodiment of the invention, the at least one recess may be linear, curvy, or may have any other shape without limiting the scope of the present invention. The at least one recess may ensure smooth passage of connection there through.

[0014] According to an exemplary embodiment of the invention, the external component is removably held on the base element. The external component may be removably held with the base element for easy replacement of the external component. For example, if the battery is discharged completely, then it may be easily replaced with a new fully charged battery. Further, if the base element is not housing any electric device, then there may be no need of the battery and hence the battery may be removed from the base element and may be used elsewhere.

[0015] According to an exemplary embodiment of the invention, the external component is hung in a form-fitting manner on the base element. The external element may simply be hooked to the base element without using any tool or fixing element.

[0016] According to an exemplary embodiment of the invention, the side surface of the base element is formed to at least partially enclose the external component. The external component may be hung or removably held on the base element without adding to the width of the water collection module. In other words, the external component may be held within the boundaries of the base element. This may ensure uniformity in the structure of the base element.

[0017] According to an exemplary embodiment of the invention, the external component is one of a battery, a battery housing, a control housing, or a watering computer. The external component may be such that it may be configured to support the working of the at least one electric device housed in the base element.

[0018] According to an exemplary embodiment of the invention, the water collection module includes the water reservoir housed on top of the base element. The water reservoir may be a water tank, and the like that may be stably held, housed, or mounted on top of the base

element. The water reservoir may further be covered with a cover to prevent contamination of the collected water.

[0019] Before discussing the invention with the help of the drawings the invention will be briefly discussed in general. A base element is designed to be placed below a water reservoir. The base element includes a gap between the water reservoir and the base element as a functional joint. The functional joint may have several identical docking points recessed in a plastic body of the base element into which optionally any external component may be hung in a form fitting manner without the use of any tool, or fixing element. The external component may simply be hooked in the form-fitting manner. The external component may preferably be a battery, whose housing may rest backpack like on an outer surface of the base element. However, other external components such as a hose, a syringe, a shower holder, etc., are also conceivable. The external component is completely secured when the water reservoir is placed on the base element.

[0020] The base element according to the present invention may be cost-effective such that an additional cost after purchase of the base element may only be due to the external component. The base element according to the present invention may retain aesthetic properties without any impact due to hanging of the external component. The base element according to the present invention may include a generous shadow gap between the water reservoir and the base element. The gap may be aesthetically advantageous as it contributes to a solid impression.

[0021] According to an exemplary embodiment of the invention, there may be the functional joint between the base element and the water reservoir into which various external components such as a battery pack may be easily hooked or docked without using any tool.

[0022] Other features and aspects of this invention will be apparent from the following description and the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0023] The invention will be described in more detail with reference to the enclosed drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 illustrates a perspective view of a water collection module, in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 2 illustrates a perspective view of a base element, in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 3 illustrates a perspective view of a base element and an external component in an assembled state, in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 4 illustrates a perspective view of a base element and an external component in an unassembled state, in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 5 illustrates another perspective view of a base element and an external component in an assembled state, in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 6 illustrates a perspective view of a water collection module and an external component removably hung on a base element of the water collection module, in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 7 illustrates another perspective view of a water collection module and an external component removably hung on a base element of the water collection module, in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 8 illustrates a perspective view of a base element with a mounting groove, in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure; and

FIG. 9 illustrates a side view of a plurality of base elements assembled in a stacked configuration, in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0024] The present invention will be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which example embodiments of the invention incorporating one or more aspects of the present invention are shown. This invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein; rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the scope of the invention to those skilled in the art. For example, one or more aspects of the present invention may be utilized in other embodiments and even other types of structures and/or methods. In the drawings, like numbers refer to like elements.

[0025] Certain terminology is used herein for convenience only and is not to be taken as a limitation on the invention. For example, "upper", "lower", "front", "rear", "side", "longitudinal", "lateral", "transverse", "upwards", "downwards", "forward", "backward", "sideward", "left", "right", "horizontal", "vertical", "upward", "inner", "outer", "inward", "outward", "top", "bottom", "higher", "above", "below", "central", "middle", "intermediate", "between", "end", "adjacent", "proximate", "near", "distal", "remote", "radial", "circumferential", or the like, merely describe the

configuration shown in the Figures. Indeed, the components may be oriented in any direction and the terminology, therefore, should be understood as encompassing such variations unless specified otherwise.

[0026] **FIG. 1** illustrates a perspective view of a water collection module **300**. The water collection module **300** includes a base element **100** and a water reservoir **200**. The water reservoir **200** is housed on top of the base element **100**. In other words, the water reservoir **200** is removably mounted on the base element **100** in an up-right manner.

[0027] **FIG. 2** illustrates a perspective view of the base element **100**. The base element **100** includes a bottom side **102**. The base element **100** also includes a top side **104**. The top side **104** is opposite to the bottom side **102**. The top side **104** is connected to the bottom side **102** via a side surface **106**. The side surface **106** has a neck portion **108** that connects the side surface **106** with the top side **104**. The bottom side **102** and the top side **104** have a circular cross-section and the cross-section area of the bottom side **102** is at least marginally greater than the cross-section area of the top side **104**. Further, the bottom side **102** forms a base face for standing the base element **100** on an underlying surface "G". A boundary or circumferential surface of the bottom side **102** may form the actual base face for standing the base element **100** on the underlying surface "G". In a possible embodiment, several or even all other portions of the base element **100** interior to the boundary or circumferential surface of the bottom side **102** are structurally lifted marginally relative to the boundary or circumferential surface of the bottom side **102**. In other words, only the boundary or circumferential surface of the bottom side **102** touches the underlying surface "G" when the base element **100** stands on the underlying surface "G" and a gap exists between the underlying surface "G" and the other portions of the base element **100** interior to the boundary or circumferential surface of the bottom side **102** when the base element **100** stands on the underlying surface "G".

[0028] Further, the side opposite to the bottom side **102**, i.e., the top side **104** forms a mounting face to hold any other device. The other device is the water reservoir **200** such that the water reservoir **200** is removably and securely mounted to the top side **104** of the base element **100**.

[0029] The base element **100** is further formed with at least one recess **116**. The at least one recess **116** extends from the top side **104** to the neck portion **108** of the base element **100**. The at least one recess **116** is along a horizontal plane at the top side **104** with respect to the underlying surface "G". The at least one recess **116** is along a substantially slanted plane at the neck portion **108** with respect to the underlying surface "G". The at least one recess **116** is a hollow space extending from the top side **104** to the neck portion **108**. The at least one recess **116** is four in number. The end of the each of the four recesses **116** is accompanied by a docking area **118**. The four docking areas **118** are identical to each other.

Each of the four docking areas **118** are recessed in a portion of the side surface **106** of the base element **100** that is parallel to the underlying surface "G". Each of the four docking areas **118** are recessed in a portion of the side surface **106** of the base element **100** that is annular to the neck portion **108**.

[0030] Further each of the four docking areas **118** include a protrusion **120**. The protrusion **120** corresponding to each of the four docking areas **118** is rectangular in shape. The docking area **118** is greater than an area of the protrusion **120**. The protrusion **120** is enclosed by the docking area **118**. In other words, the docking area **118** is substantially an empty space with the protrusion **120** occupying a nominal space within the docking area **118**. Further, a center of the protrusion **120** is equidistant from the edges of the docking area **118**. Further, the size of the protrusion **120** is such that the protrusion **120** does not obstruct the removable coupling between the base element **100** and the water reservoir **200**.

[0031] With continuous reference to FIG. 2, the base element **100** includes an interior **110** and an exterior **112** such that the interior **110** is opposite to the exterior **112**. The exterior **112** of the base element **100** is visible from outside when the water reservoir **200** is removably mounted on the base element **100**. The interior **110** of the base element **100** is not visible from outside when the water reservoir **200** is removably mounted on the base element **100**.

[0032] Further, the base element **100** is configured to house at least one electric device (not shown) in the interior **110** of the base element **100**. The at least one electric device is configured to be operable by an external power supply. The at least one electric device has a connection line **114** via which the at least one electric device receives external power supply.

[0033] FIG. 3 illustrates a perspective view of the base element **100** with the connection line **114** housed in the at least one recess **116**. The at least one recess **116** is configured to house only one connection line **114**. In other words, only one connection line **114** may be housed in the corresponding connection line **114**. The connection line **114** at one end is connected to the at least one electric device housed in the interior **110** of the base element **100** while the other end of the connection line **114** extends into the exterior **112** of the base element **100**. The connection line **114** extends from the interior **110** to the exterior **112** via the at least one recess **116**. The connection line **114** follows a path formed by the at least one recess **116** to easily pass from the interior **110** of the base element **100** to the exterior **112** of the base element **100**. In other words, the connection line **114** adapts to the shape of the at least one recess **116**. Further, the end of the connection line **114** that extends to the exterior **112** of the base element **100** is connected to an external component **122**. The base element **100** is formed to hold the external component **122** to which the connection line **114** extends.

[0034] The external component **122** is one of a battery,

a battery housing, a control housing, or a watering computer to support the working of the at least one electric device housed in the base element **100**. However, the external component **122** described in the present invention is the battery. The external component **122** is held on the side surface **106** of the base element **100** via a bracket **124**. In other words, the external component **122** is coupled to the bracket **124** and the bracket **124** is further coupled to the protrusion **120** in the docking area **118** of the base element **100**. The bracket **124** is also further hingedly connected to a cover **126**. The cover **126** has an open state and a closed state. In the open state of the cover **126**, the external component **122** is accessible to a user. In the closed state of the cover **126**, the external component **122** is completely shielded by the cover **126** and the external component **122** is not accessible to the user. FIG. 3 shows the cover **126** in the open state.

[0035] FIG. 4 illustrates a perspective view of the base element **100** and the bracket **124**. The bracket **124** is an L-shaped bracket with a first part **123** and a second part **125**. The first part **123** is orthogonal to the second part **125**. The first part **123** is parallel to the plane of the underlying surface "G" and the second part **125** is perpendicular to the plane of the underlying surface "G". The first part **123** includes a cavity **128**. The shape of the cavity **128** is similar to the shape of the protrusion **120**. However, the area of the cavity **128** is marginally greater than the area of the protrusion **120**. The protrusion **120** and the cavity **128** allows the external component **122** to be removably held on the base element **100**. The cavity **128** allows the bracket **124** to be hooked at the docking area **118** via virtue of the protrusion **120**.

[0036] FIG. 5 illustrates a perspective view of the base element **100** with the bracket **124** removably held or hooked on the base element **100**. When the bracket **124** is hooked, the edges of the cavity **128** removably engages with the edges of the protrusion **120**. Further, the connection between the bracket **124** and the docking area **118** is secured by the weight of the bracket **124**, the cover **126**, and the external component **122**. The weight of the bracket **124**, the cover **126**, and the external component **122** produces a force vector in a downward direction perpendicular to the plane of the underlying surface "G" such that the connection or engagement between the cavity **128** and the protrusion **120** may not be tempered without any external influence or force such as that produced by the user while attempting to lift the bracket **124**. The bracket **124** and hence the external component **122** is hung in a form-fitting manner on the base element **100**. Further, FIG. 5 shows the cover **126** in the closed state such that the external component **122** is completely shielded between the bracket **124** and the cover **126**.

[0037] FIG. 6 illustrates a perspective view of the water collection module **300** and the external component **122** removably held on the base element **100** of the water collection module **300**. The water collection module **300** includes the base element **100** and the water reservoir

200. The bottom side **102** of the base element **100** forms the base face for standing the base element **100** on the underlying surface "**G**". Further, the external component **122** with the help of the bracket **124** is removably held in the form-fitting manner on the base element **100**. The external component is configured to support the working of the at least one electric device housed in the base element **100**. The docking area **118**, where the connection between the base element **100** and the bracket **124** takes place is not visible when the water reservoir **200** is removably mounted on the base element **100**.

[0038] Further, **FIG. 7** illustrates a perspective view of the water collection module **300** and the external component **122** removably held on the base element **100** of the water collection module **300** such that the external component **122** is completely shielded by the bracket **124** and the cover **126**.

[0039] **FIG. 8** illustrates a perspective of a base element **100'** according to another embodiment. The base element **100'** is substantially similar to the base element **100**. The base element **100'** additionally includes a mounting groove **130** below the docking area **118**. The base element **100'** includes the mounting groove **130** corresponding to each of the docking area **118**. The mounting groove **130** is formed in the side surface **106** of the base element **100'**. The shape of the mounting groove **130** corresponds to the shape of the second part **125** of the bracket **124**. Further, the area of the mounting groove **130** is just marginally greater than the second part **125** of the bracket **124** such that the second part **125** and the mounting groove **130** frictionally engage with each other when the external component **122** or the bracket **124** is removably hung on the base element **100'** in the form-fitting manner. In other words, the side surface **106** of the base element **100'** is formed to at least partially enclose the external component **122**. Further, the side surface **106** with the help of the mounting groove **130** provides lateral support to the bracket **124** and prevents any lateral movement in the bracket **124** due to any external influence.

[0040] **FIG. 9** illustrates a side view of a plurality of base elements **100** assembled in a stacked configuration. For illustration of the present invention, the plurality of base elements **100** are four in number, namely a first base element **100**, a second base element **100**, a third base element **100**, and a fourth base element **100**.

[0041] In the stacked configuration, the bottom side **102** of the first base element **100** rests on the underlying surface "**G**". Further, the second base element **100** is stacked on the first base element **100** such that the first base element **100** is at least partially stuck in the second base element **100**. In other words, when the second base element **100** is stacked on the first base element **100**, the top side **104** and the neck portion **108** of the first base element **100** is completely stuck in the second base element **100**. Further, the remaining side surface **106** of the first base element **100** is at least partially stuck in the second base element **100**. In other words, when the

first base element **100** and the second base element **100** are stacked together, then the top side **104**, the neck portion **108** of the first base element **100** are completely covered by the overlying first base element **100** and the remaining portion of the side surface **106** below the neck portion **108** of the first base element **100** is at least partially covered by the overlying second base element **100**. Likewise, the third base element **100** is stacked on the second base element **100** and the fourth base element **100** is stacked on the third base element **100**.

[0042] In the drawings and specification, there have been disclosed exemplary embodiments and examples of the invention and, although specific terms are employed, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for the purpose of limitation of the scope of the invention being set forth in the following claims.

LIST OF ELEMENTS

[0043]

100, 100'	Base Element
102	Bottom Side
104	Top Side
106	Side Surface
108	Neck Portion
110	Interior
112	Exterior
114	Connection Line
116	Recess
118	Docking Area
120	Protrusion
122	External Component
123	First Part
124	Bracket
125	Second Part
126	Cover
128	Cavity
130	Mounting Groove
200	Water Reservoir
300	Water Collection Module
G	Underlying Surface

Claims

1. A base element (**100, 100'**) of a water collection module (**300**), comprising:

a bottom side (**102**);

a top side (**104**) opposite to the bottom side (**102**) and connected via a side surface (**106**);

wherein the bottom side (**102**) forms a base face for standing the base element (**100, 100'**) on an underlying surface (**G**), and wherein the opposite side forms a mounting face to hold any other device, in particular a water reservoir (**200**), mounted to it;

at least one electric device having a connection line (114) is housed within the base element (100, 100');
with the connection line (114) extending into an exterior (112) of the base element (100, 100'); 5

characterized in that:

the base element (100, 100') is formed with at least one recess (116) to house the connection line (114), and
wherein the base element (100, 100') is formed to hold an external component (122) to which the connection line (114) extends. 10

2. The base element (100, 100') according to claim 1, wherein the external component (122) is removably held on the base element (100, 100'). 15
3. The base element (100, 100') according to one of claims 1 or 2, wherein the external component (122) is hung in a form-fitting manner on the base element (100, 100'). 20
4. The base element (100') according to claim 1, wherein the side surface (106) of the base element (100') is formed to at least partially enclose the external component (122). 25
5. The base element (100, 100') according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the external component (122) is one of a battery, a battery housing, a control housing, or a watering computer. 30
6. A water collection module (300), comprising of a water reservoir (200) housed on top of a base element (100, 100') according to any one of claims 1-5. 35

Amended claims in accordance with Rule 137(2) EPC. 40

1. A base element (100, 100') of a water collection module (300), comprising: 45

a bottom side (102);
a top side (104) opposite to the bottom side (102) and connected via a side surface (106); 50

wherein the bottom side (102) forms a base face for standing the base element (100, 100') on an underlying surface (G), and
wherein the opposite side forms a mounting face to hold a water reservoir (200) mounted to it; 55

at least one electric device having a connection line (114) is housed within the base element (100, 100');

with the connection line (114) extending into an exterior (112) of the base element (100, 100');

characterized in that:

the base element (100, 100') is formed with at least one recess (116) to house the connection line (114), and
wherein the base element (100, 100') is formed to hold an external component (122) to which the connection line (114) extends.

2. The base element (100, 100') according to claim 1, wherein the external component (122) is removably held on the base element (100, 100').
3. The base element (100, 100') according to one of claims 1 or 2, wherein the external component (122) is hung in a form-fitting manner on the base element (100, 100').
4. The base element (100') according to claim 1, wherein the side surface (106) of the base element (100') is formed to at least partially enclose the external component (122).
5. The base element (100, 100') according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the external component (122) is one of a battery, a battery housing, a control housing, or a watering computer.
6. A water collection module (300), comprising of a base element (100, 100') and a water reservoir (200), wherein the water reservoir (200) is housed on top of the base element (100, 100') according to any one of claims 1-5.

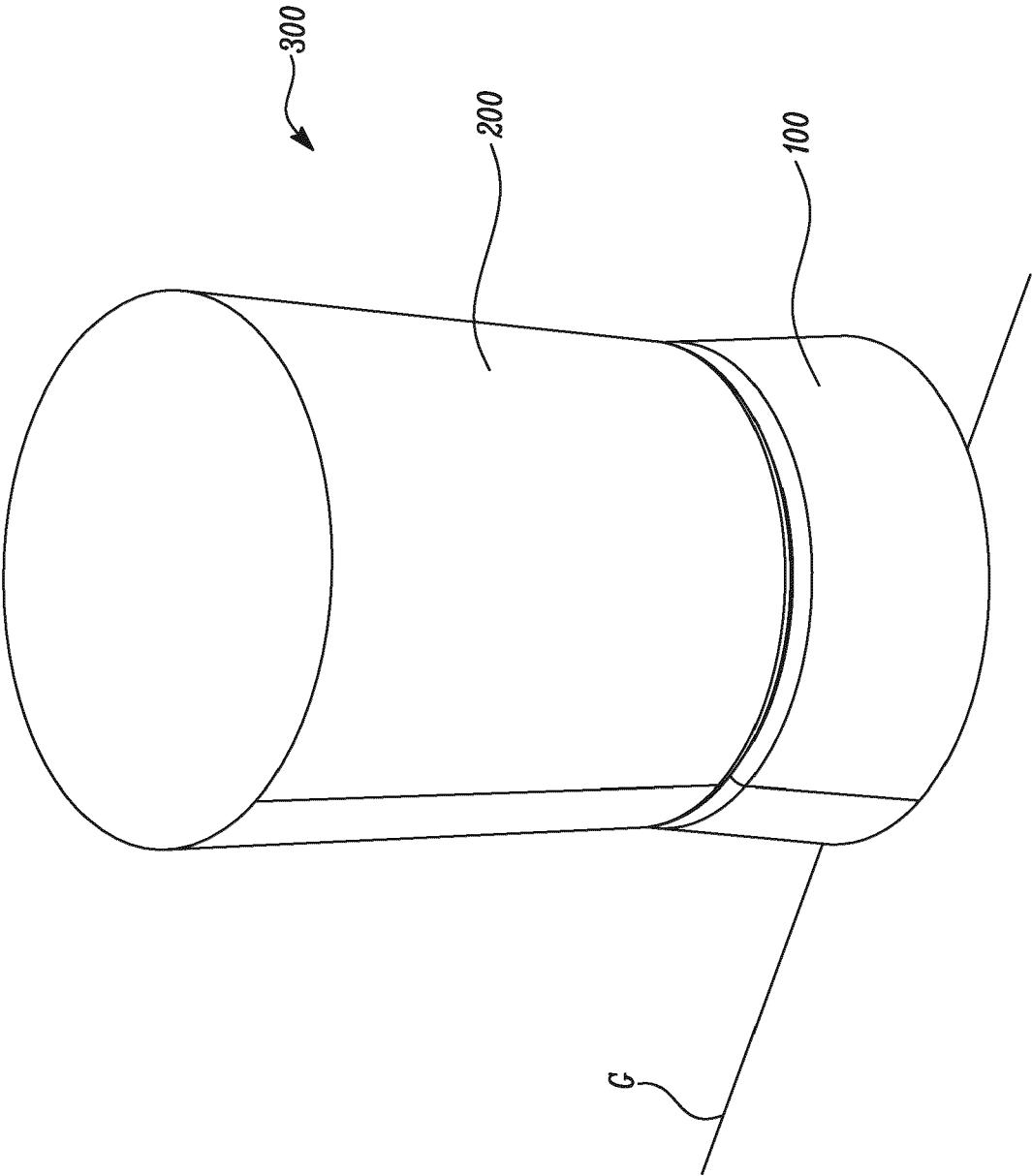


FIG. 1

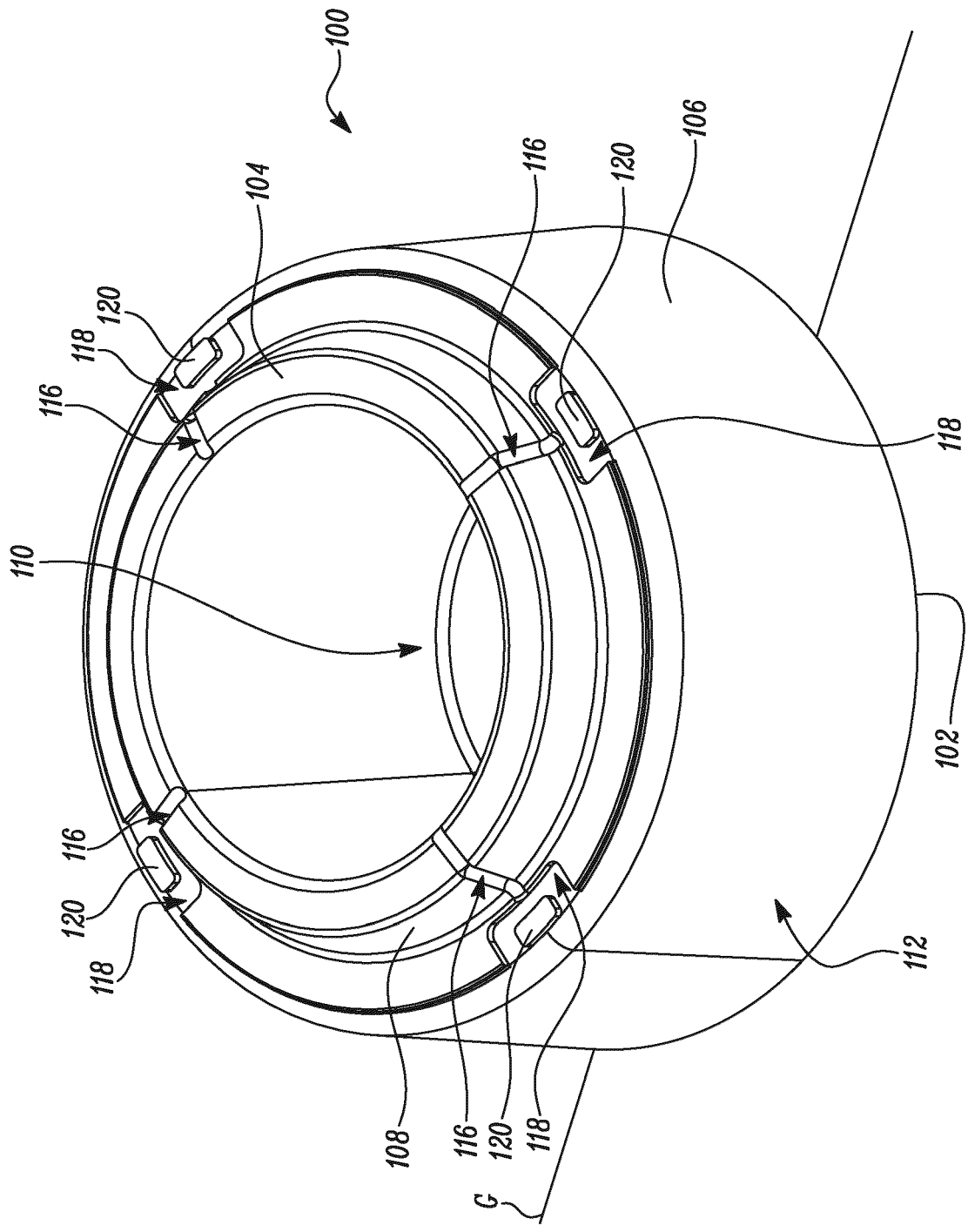


FIG. 2

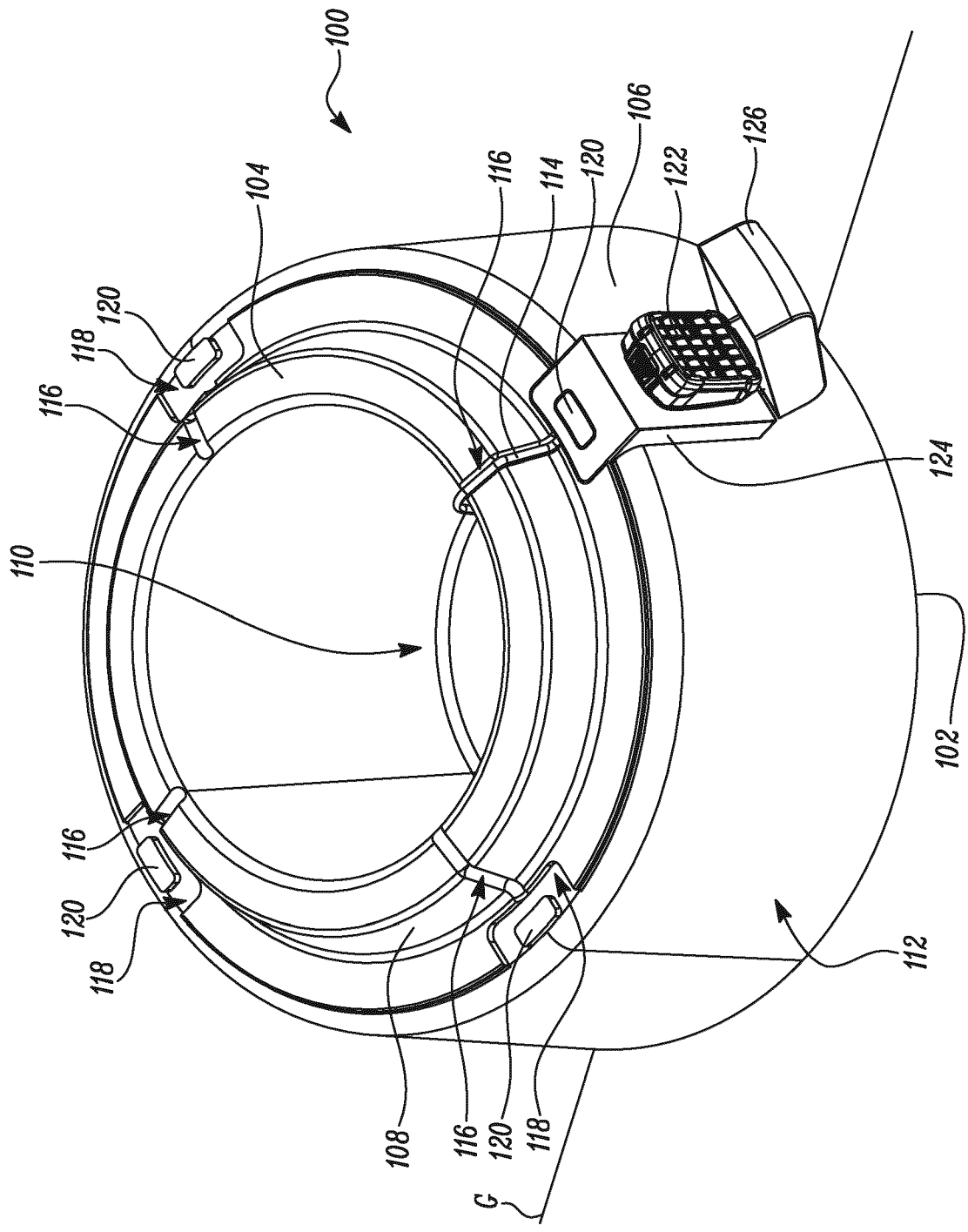


FIG. 3

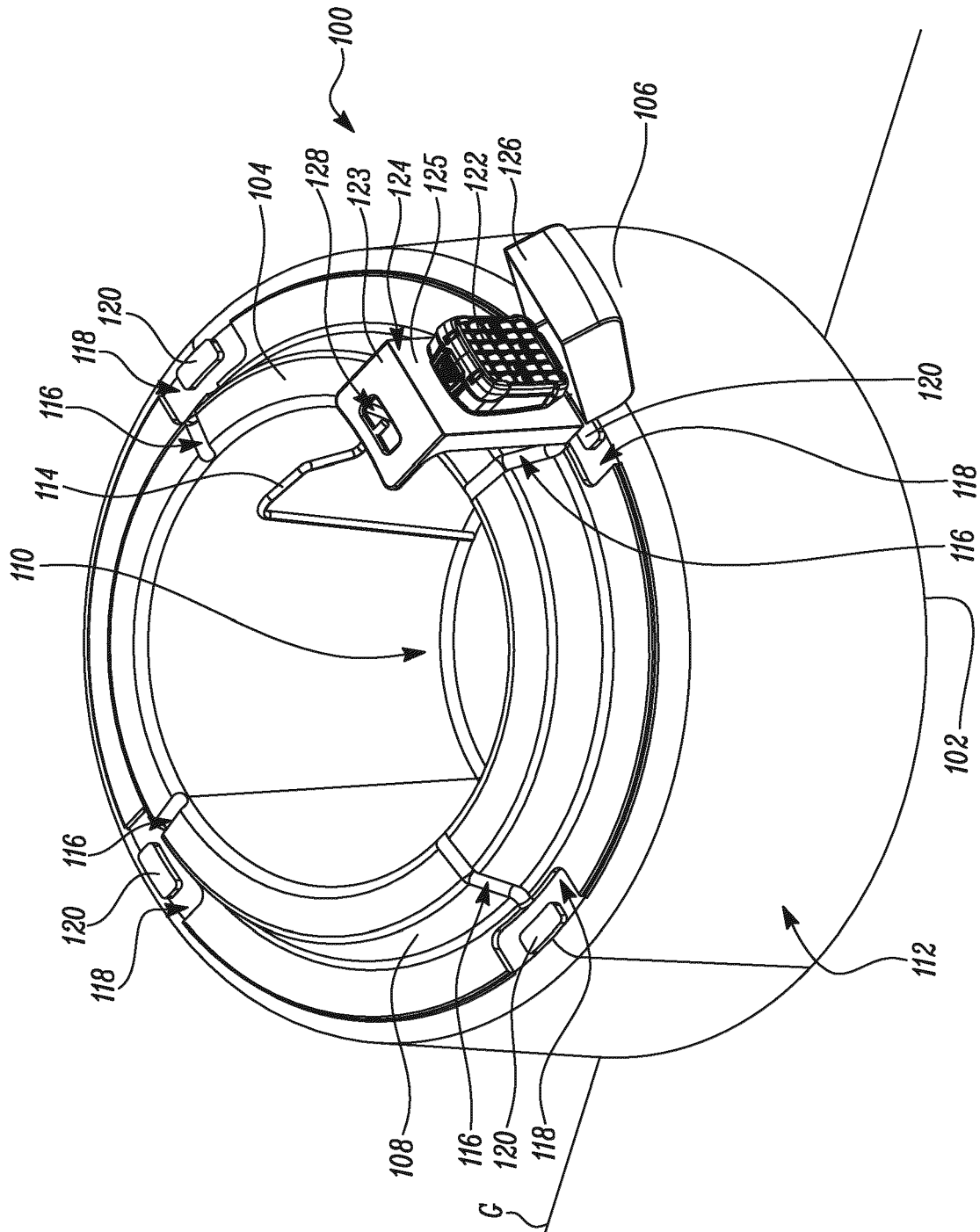


FIG. 4

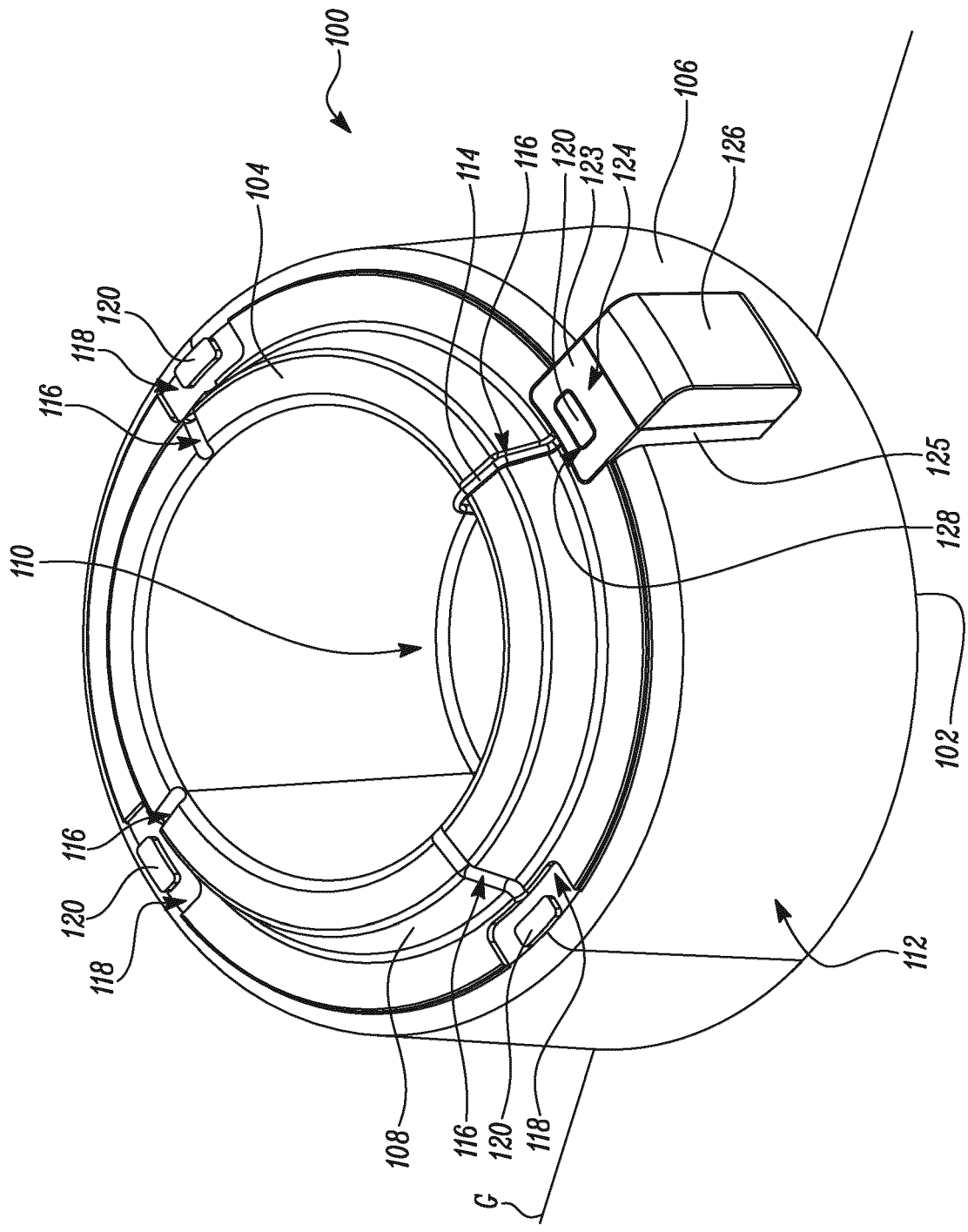


FIG. 5

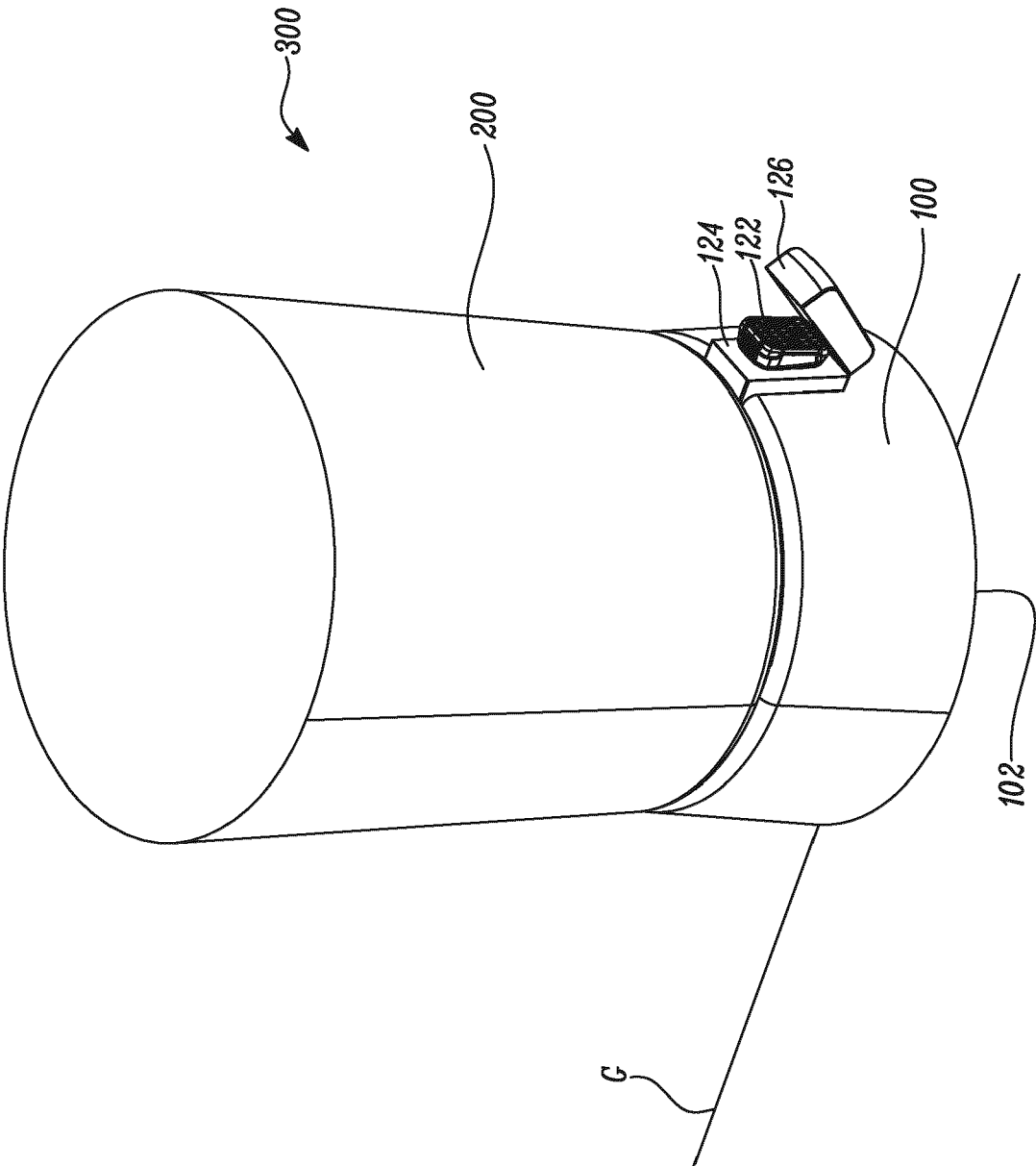


FIG. 6

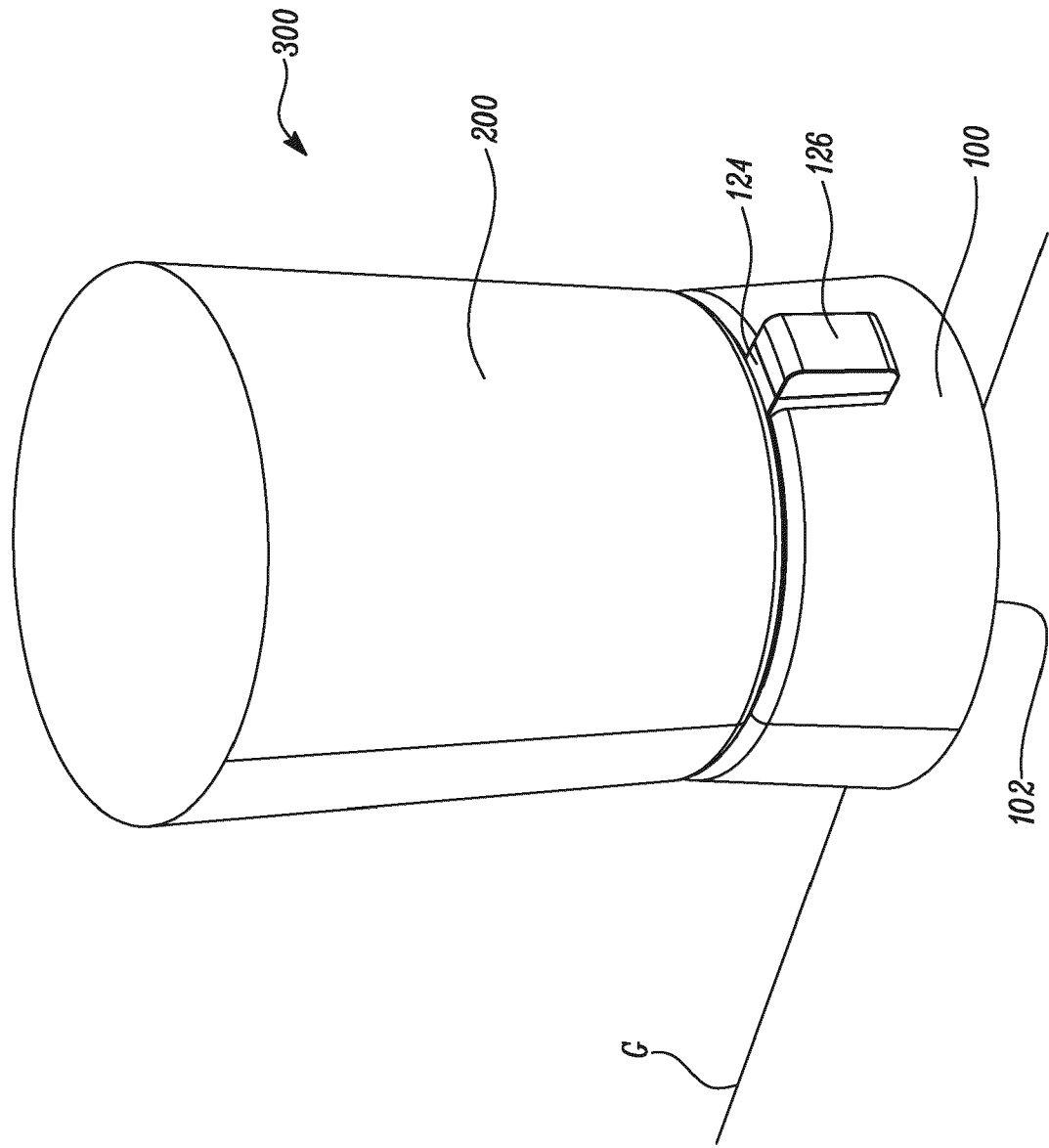


FIG. 7

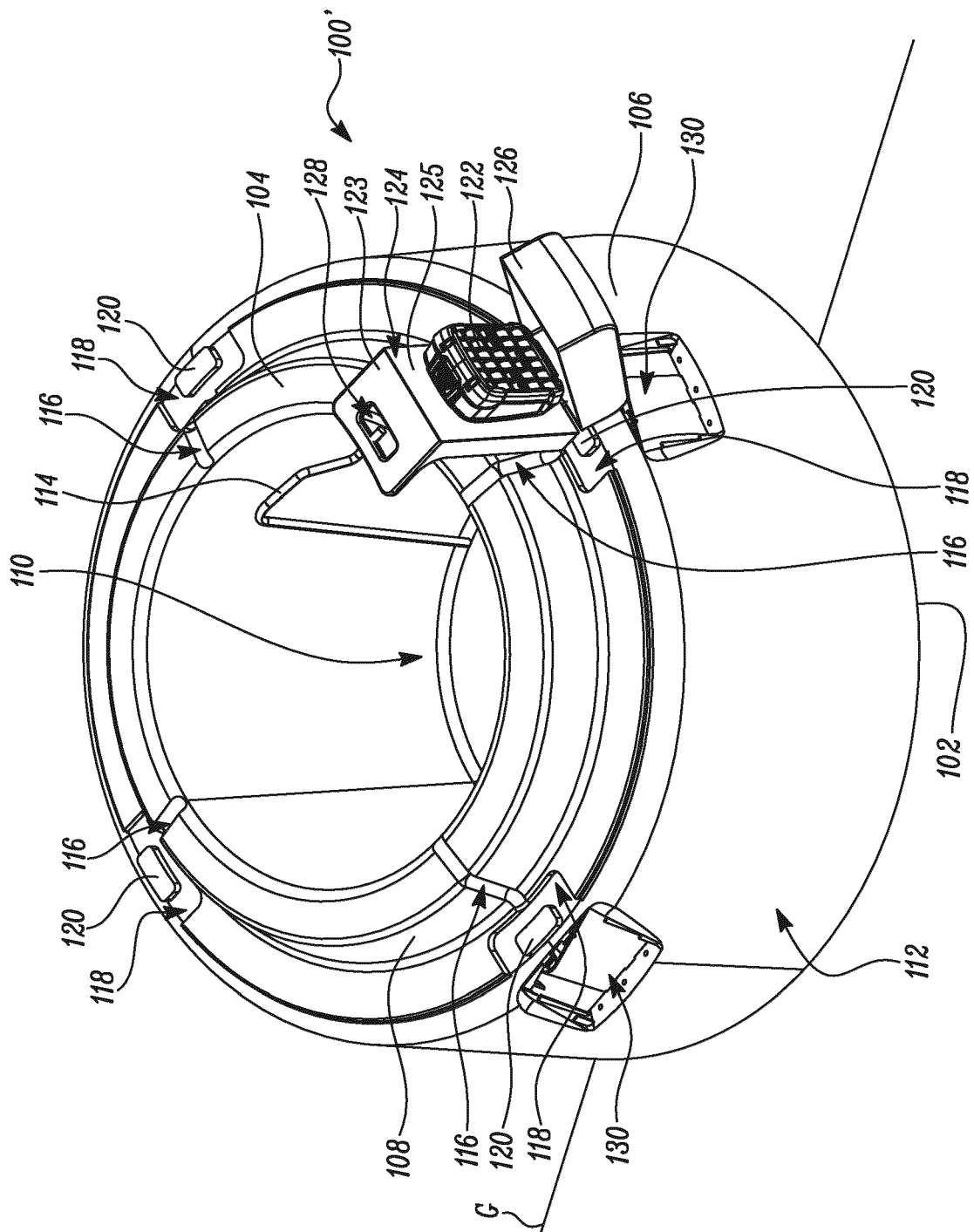


FIG. 8

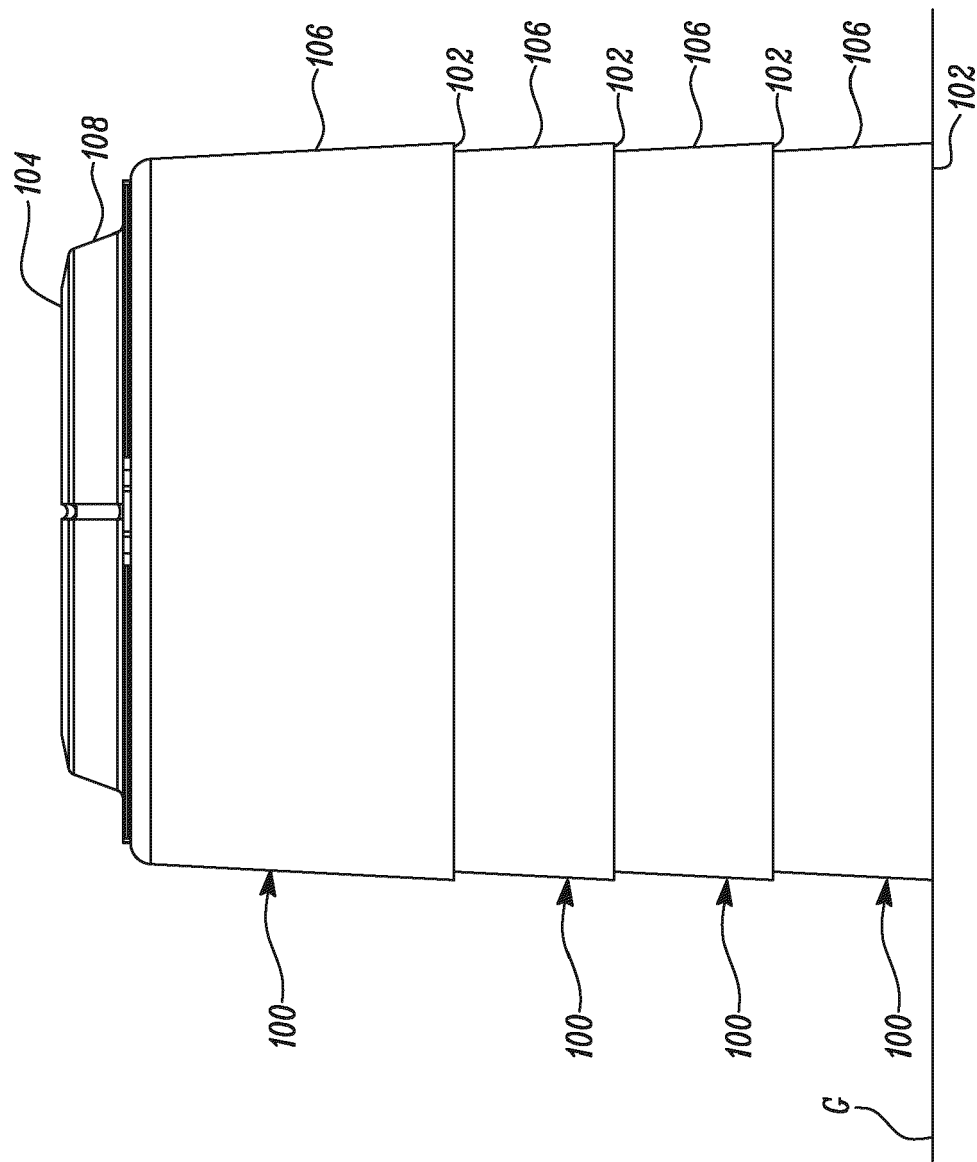


FIG. 9



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

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