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Truckner et al.

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(54) **ADJUSTABLE STAIR STRINGER AND RAILING**

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Paul Truckner, Hayward, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **EZ Stairs, Inc.**, Laguna Hills, CA (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 1182 days.

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(21) Appl. No.: **11/083,885**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 17, 2005**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2005/0160688 A1 Jul. 28, 2005

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 10/095,780, filed on Mar. 9, 2002, now Pat. No. 6,868,944, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/315,809, filed on May 21, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,354,403.

(60) Provisional application No. 60/085,151, filed on May 21, 1998.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
E04F 11/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **182/228.1; 52/183**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **182/228.1**
See application file for complete search history.

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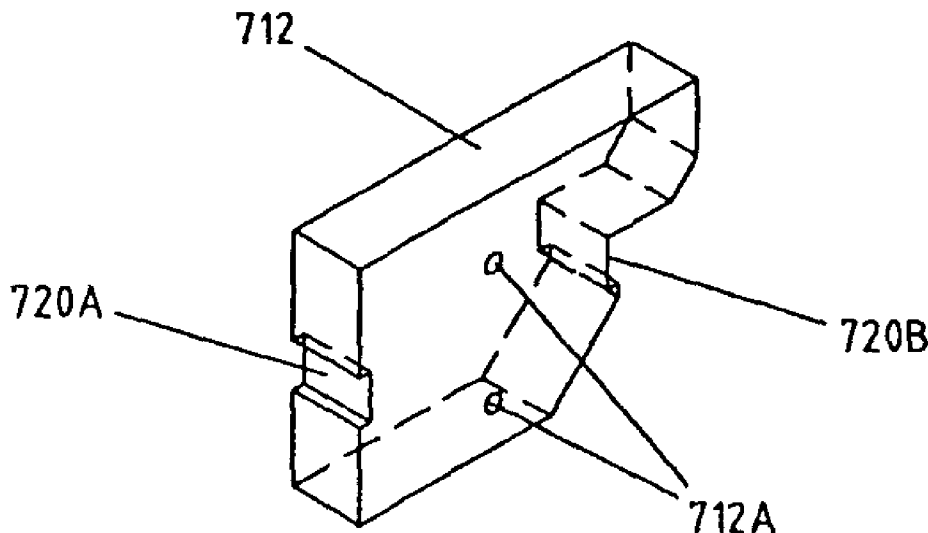
Primary Examiner—Alvin C Chin-Shue

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—George W. Wasson

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An adjustable stair stringer and railing construction assembly is disclosed. The assembly is adapted to use a pair of parallel stringer arms for each side of the stair, a riser/tread support bracket for each stair and alignment and spacing elements for spacing the support brackets along the stringers. The brackets include formations for spacing the stringers with respect to each other and for spacing adjacent brackets along the stringers. The brackets are initially pivotally attached to each of the stringers so as to be rotatably movable about their pivotal attachment as the stringers are moved axially. Axial movement of the stringers with respect to each other establishes the angle of rise of the stair. Treads and risers are attached to the brackets to form the stairs and railings are attachable to the stringer and bracket assembly to complete the construction. The parallel stringers, brackets and spacers are also used in the preparation of formwork for pouring aggregate stairs with the stringers, brackets and spacers being reusable.

1 Claim, 23 Drawing Sheets



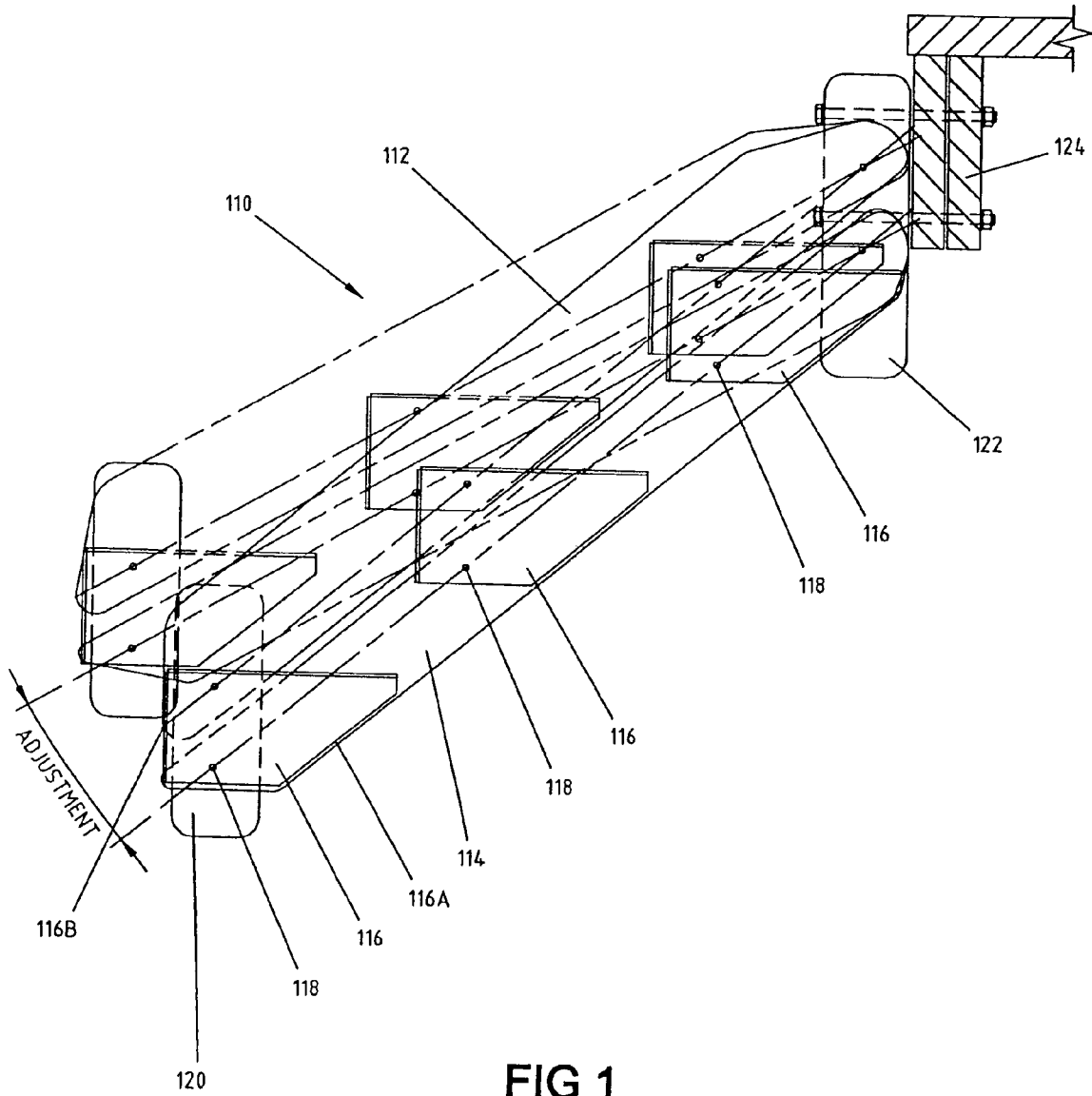
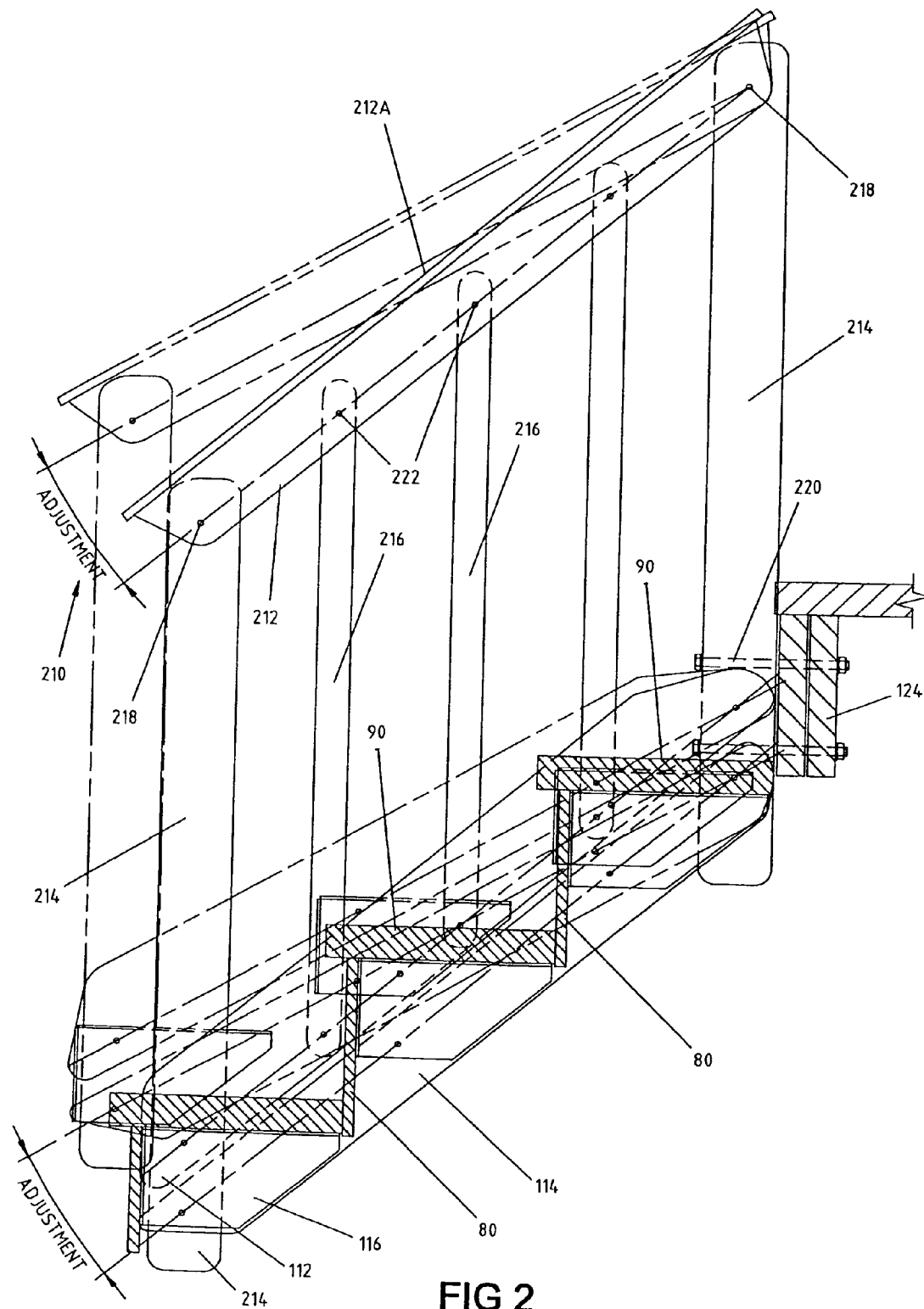


FIG 1



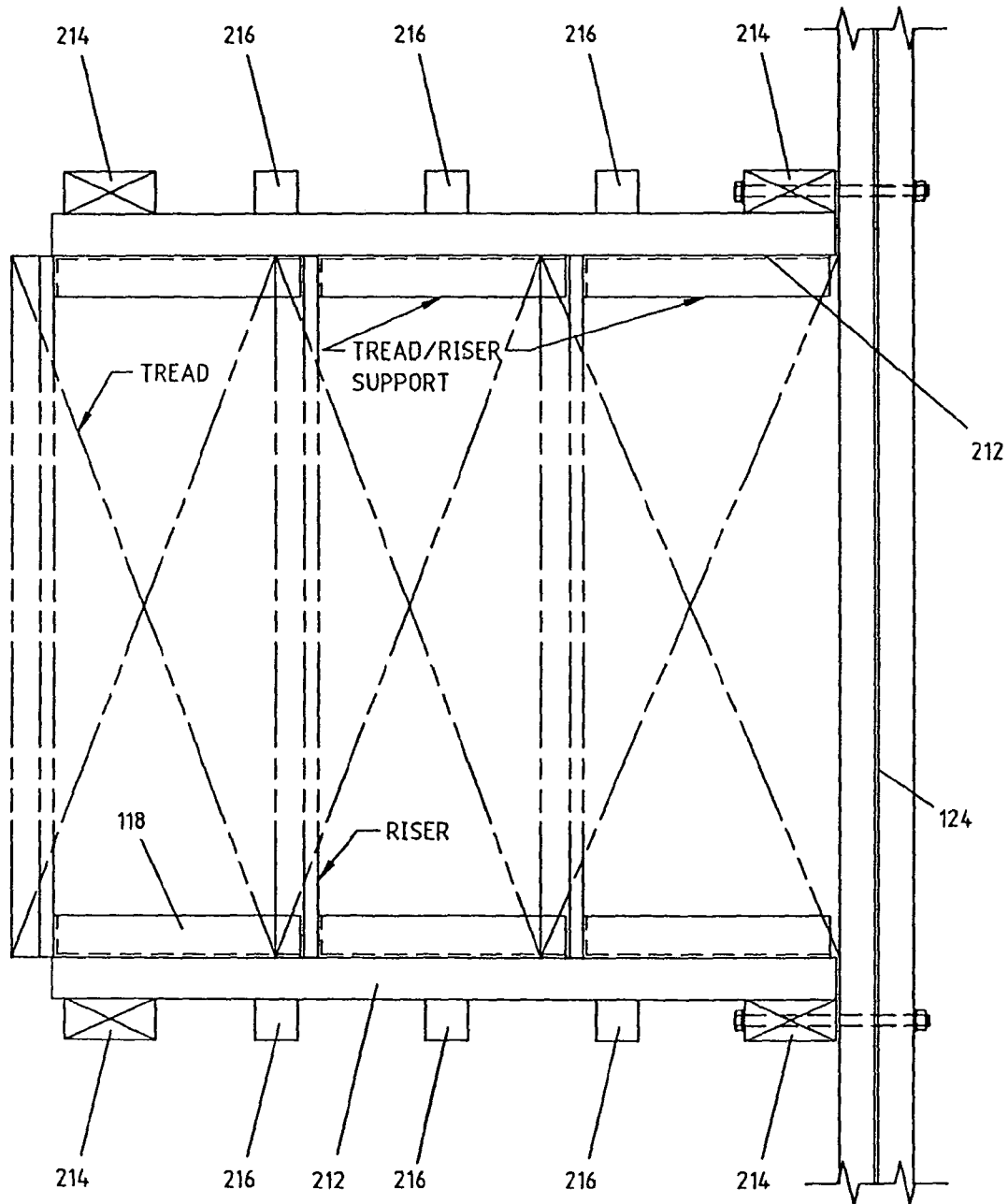


FIG 3

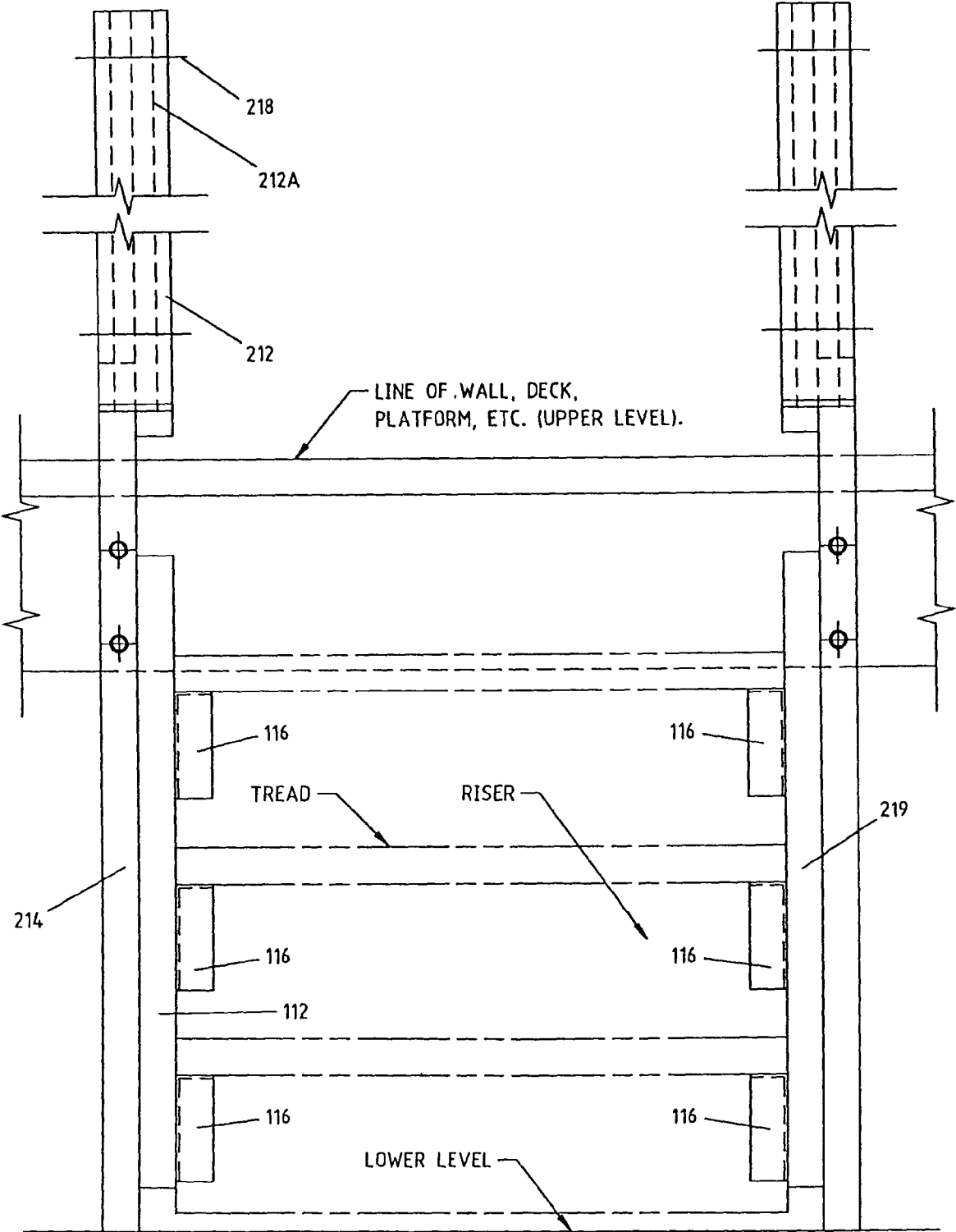


FIG 4

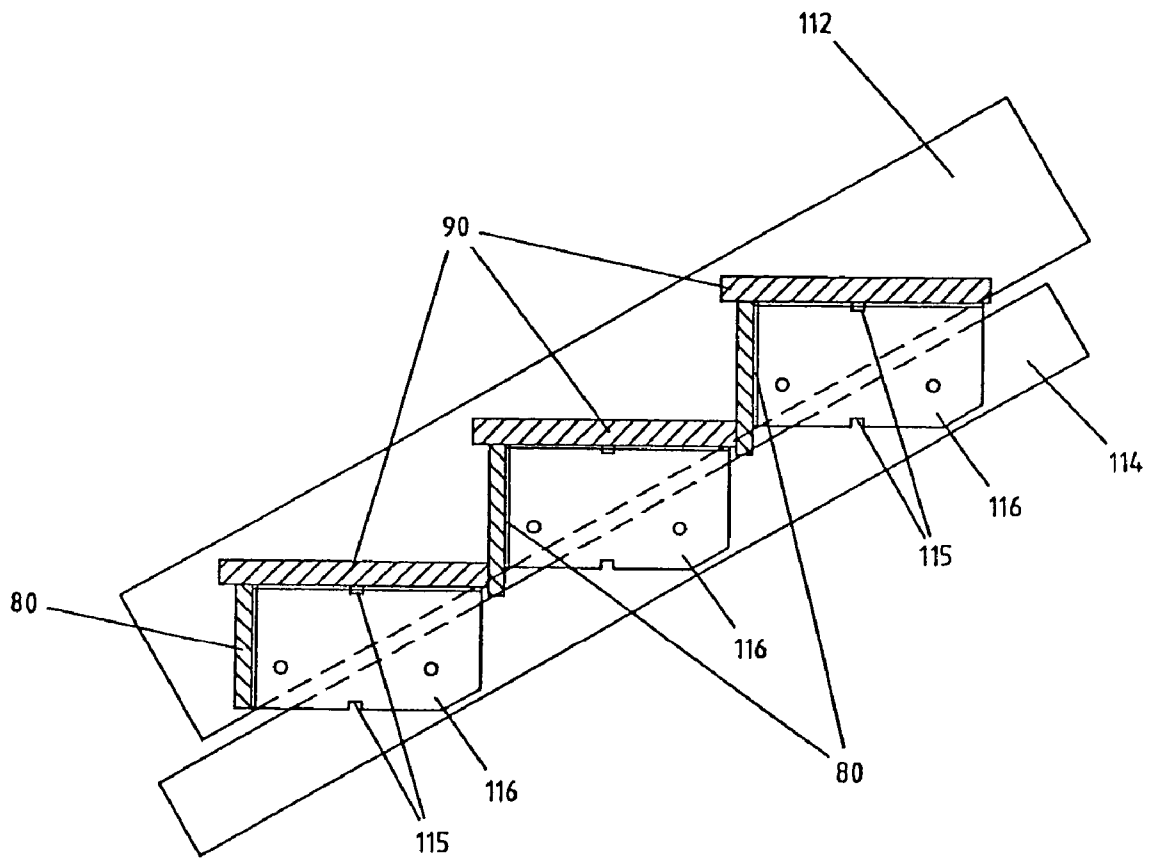


FIG 5

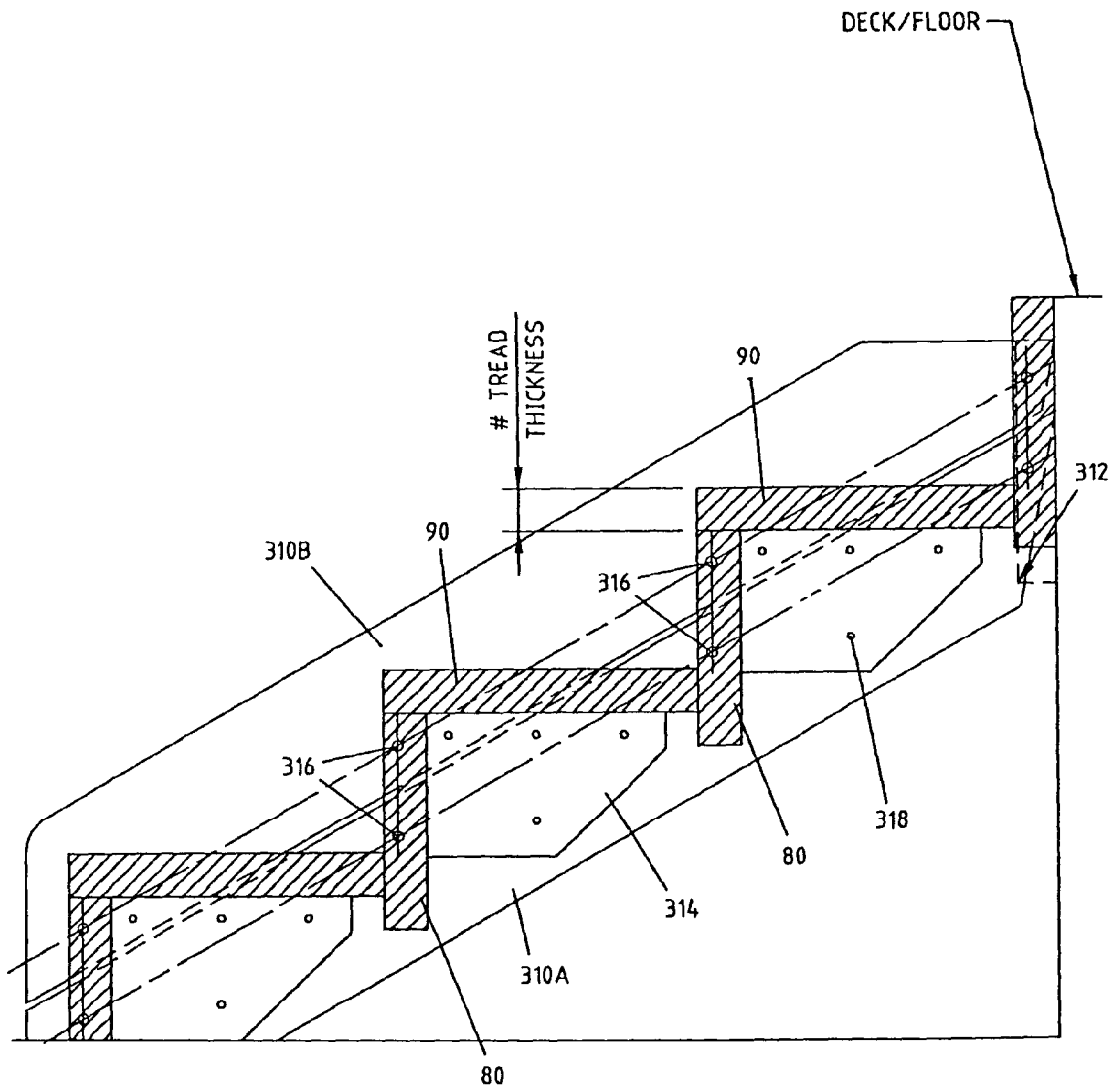


FIG 6

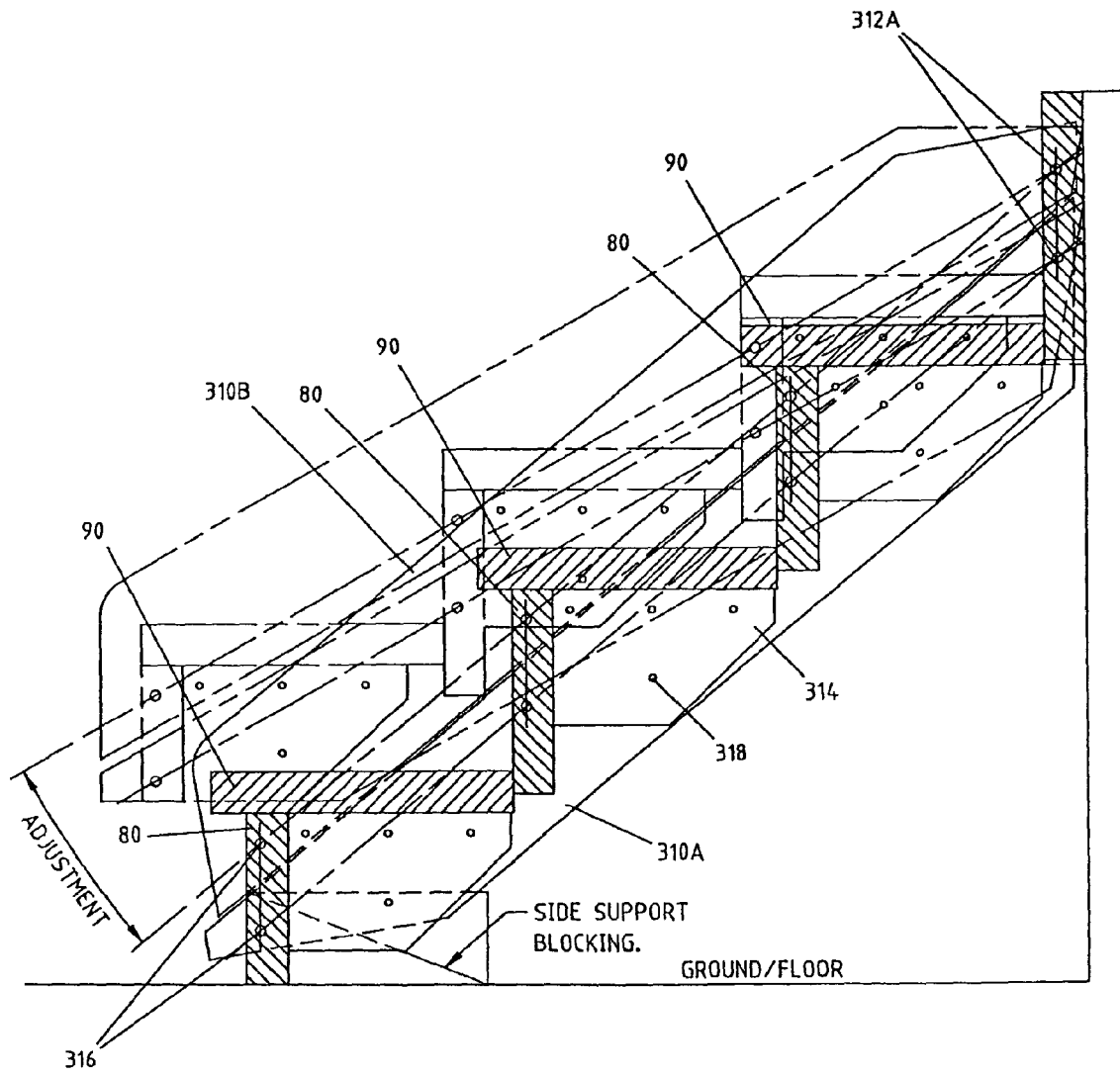


FIG 7

FIG 8

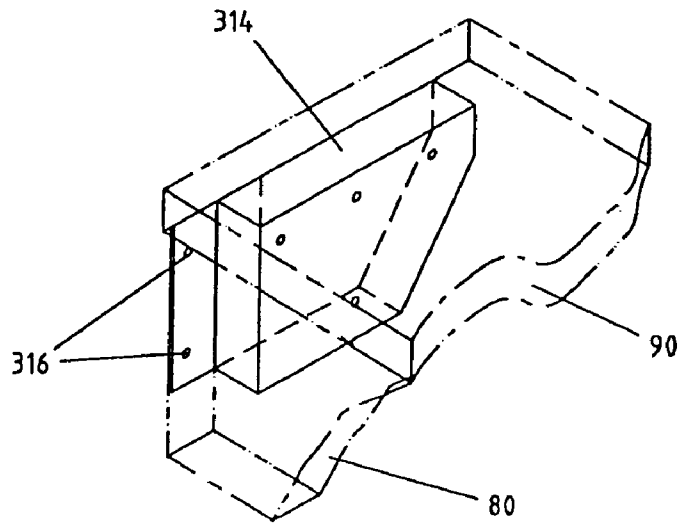


FIG 9

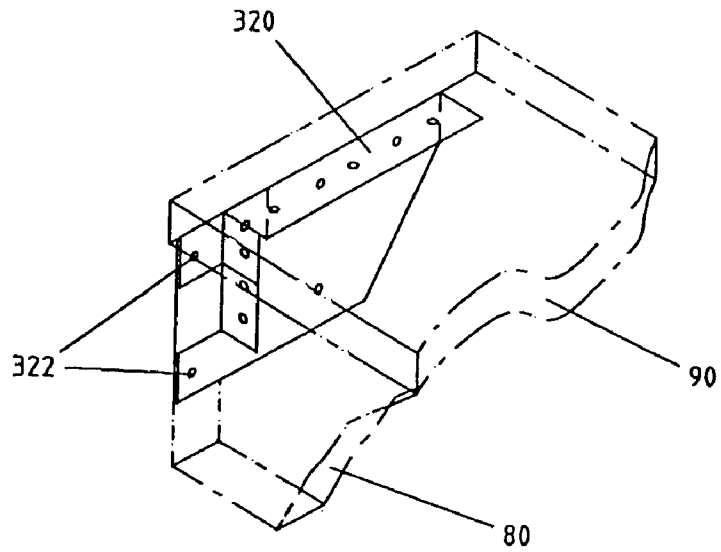
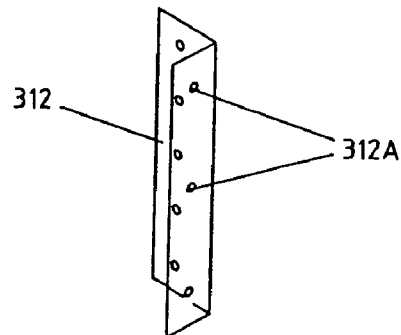
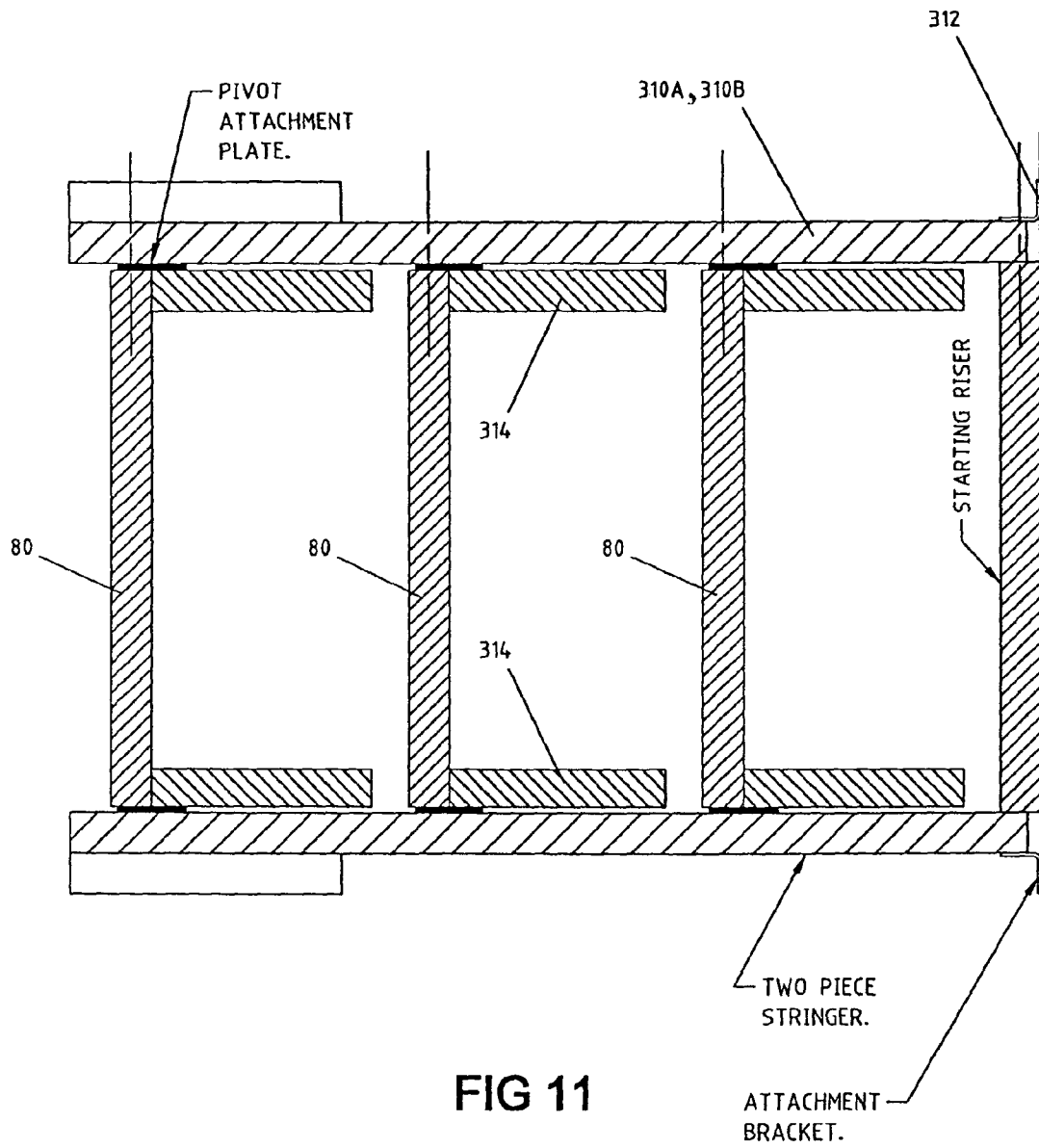


FIG 10





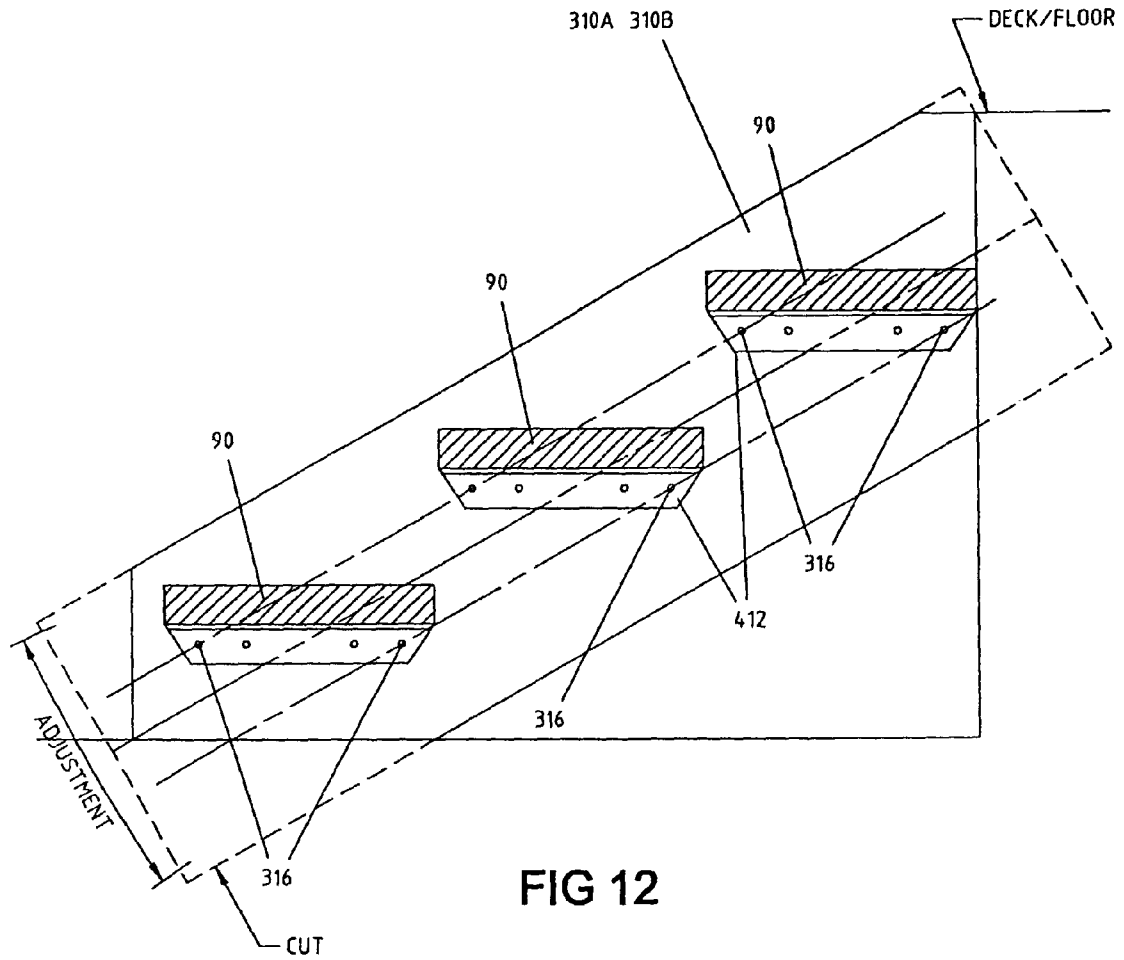


FIG 12

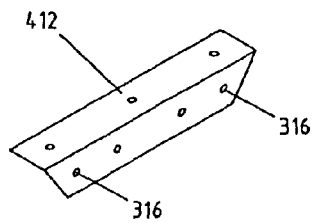


FIG 13

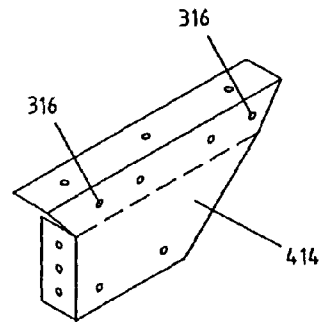


FIG 14

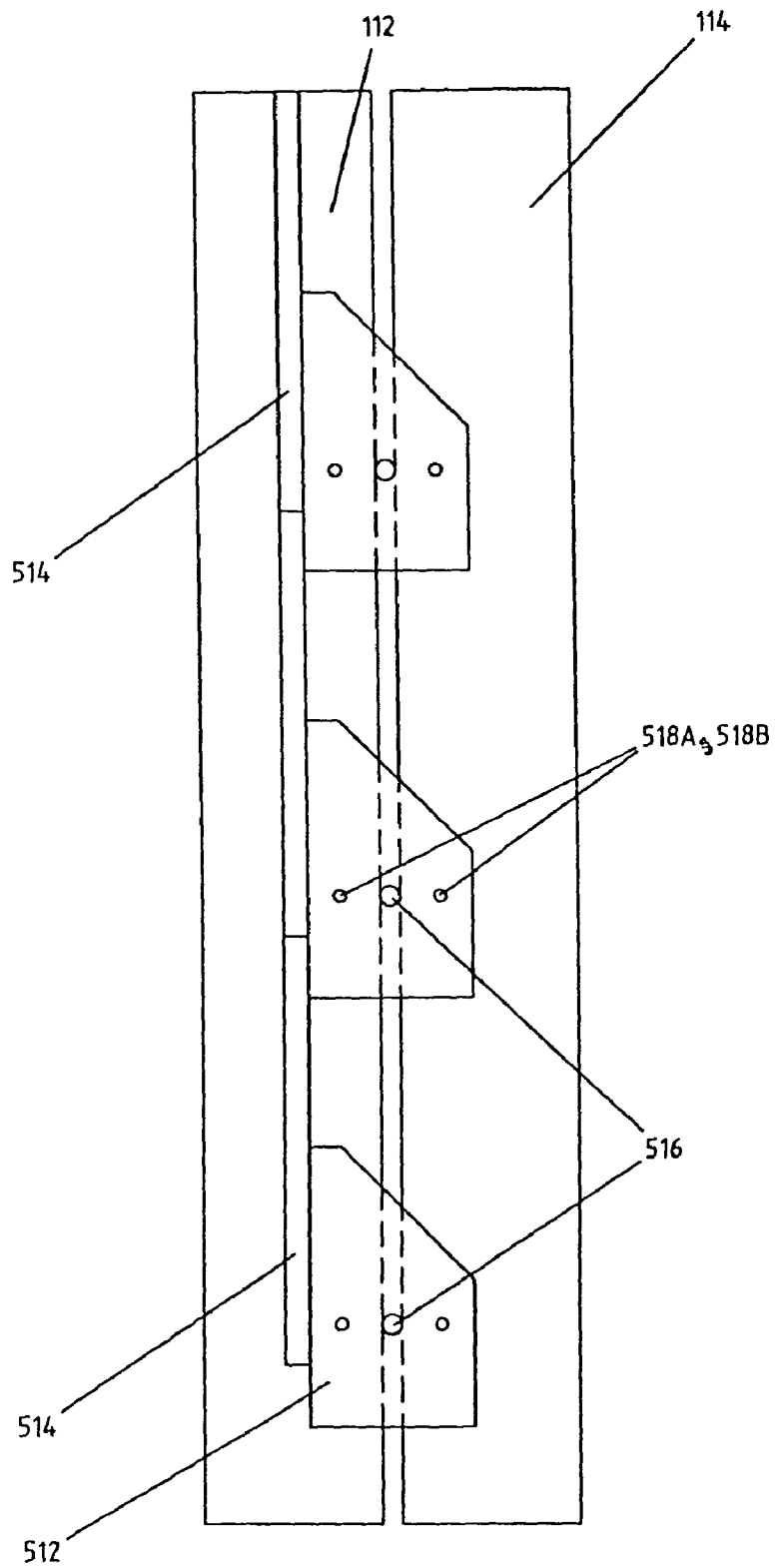


FIG 15

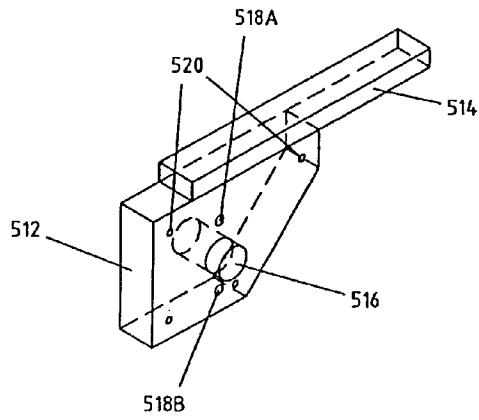


FIG 17

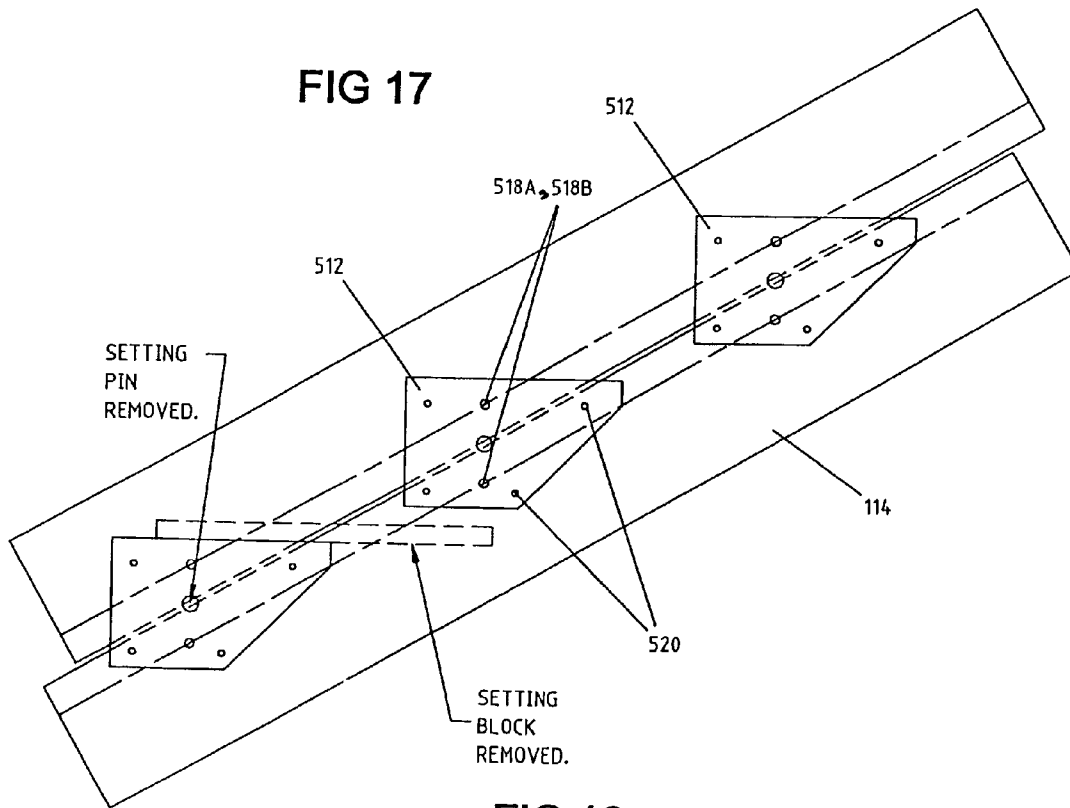


FIG 16

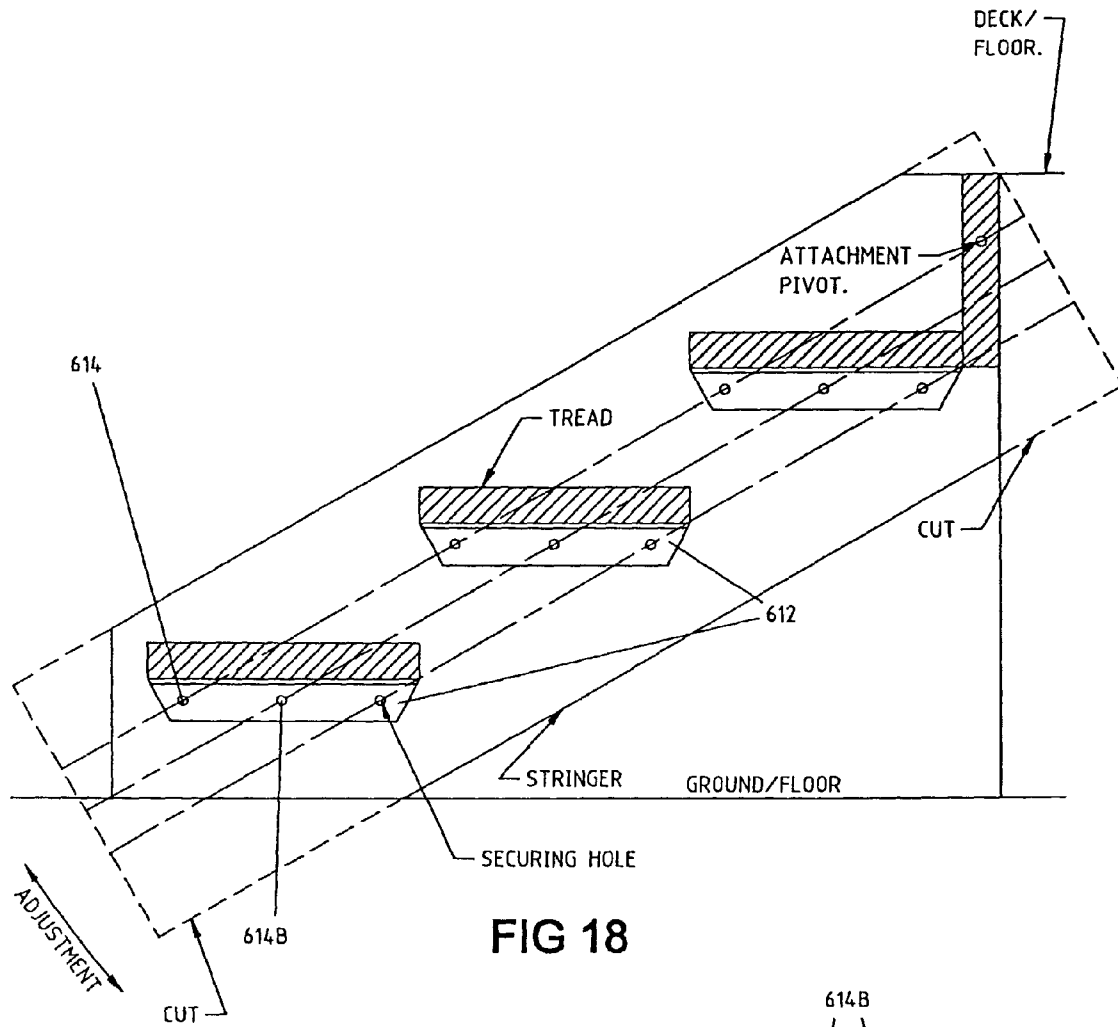


FIG 18

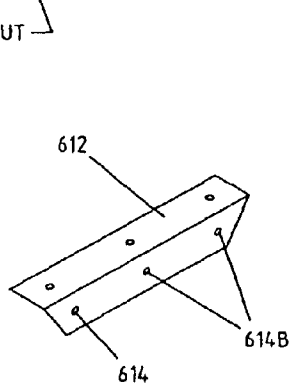


FIG 19

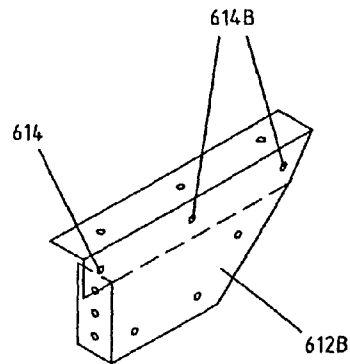


FIG 20

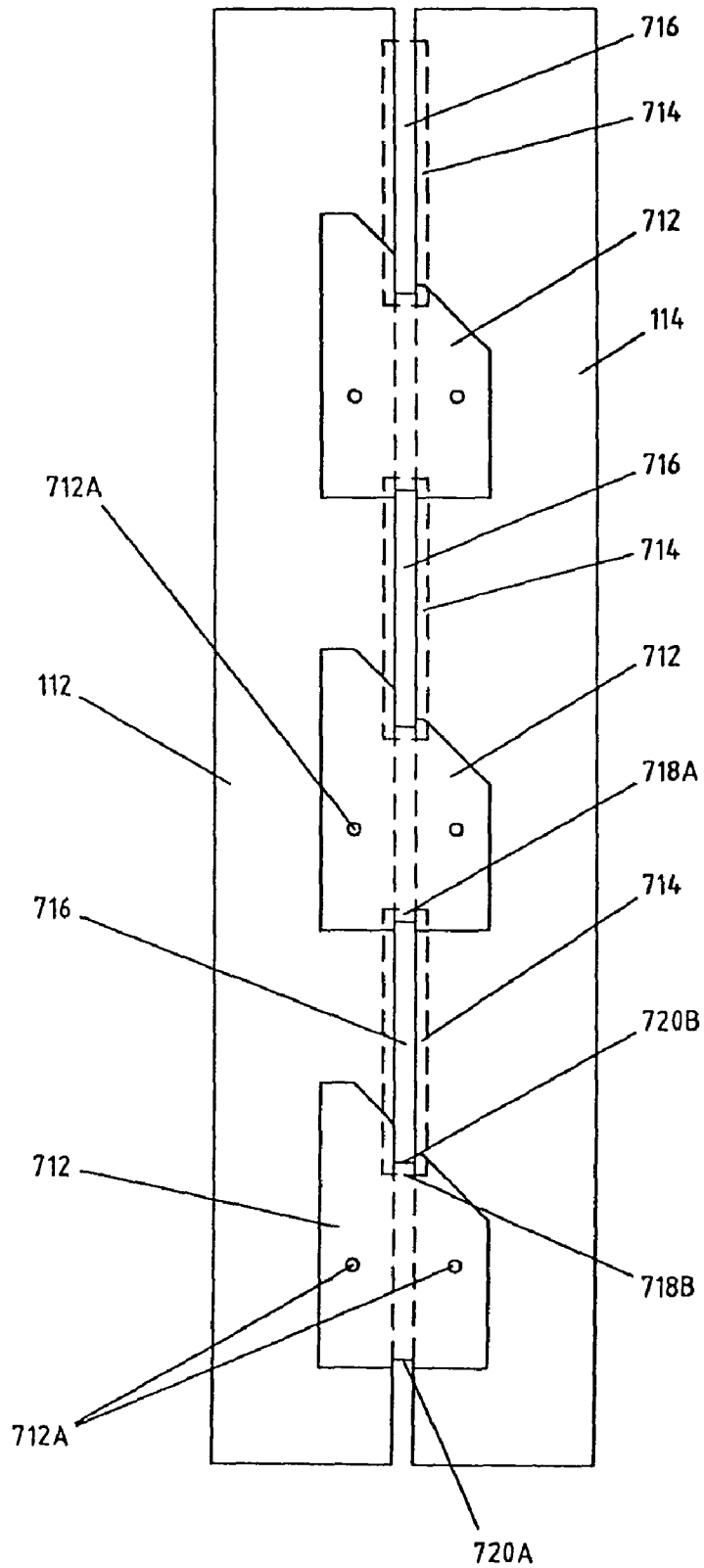


FIG 21

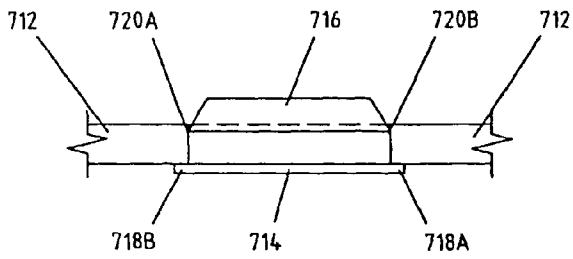


FIG 22

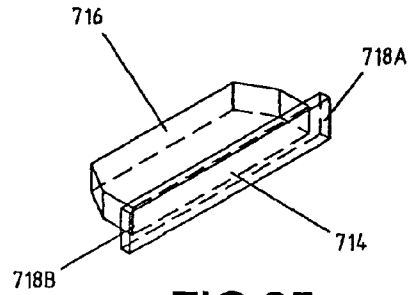


FIG 25

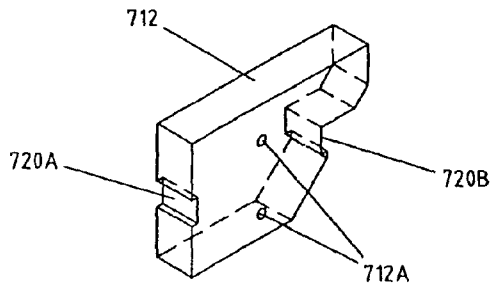


FIG 24

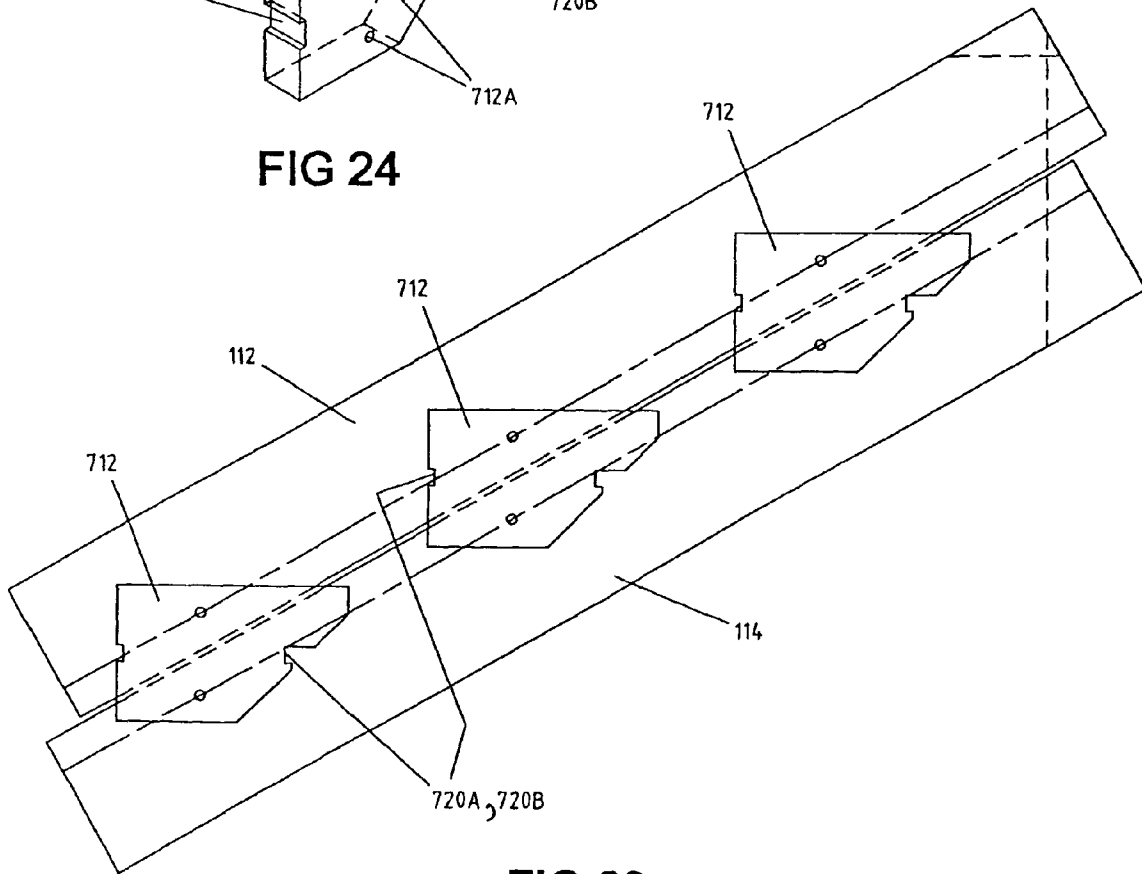


FIG 23

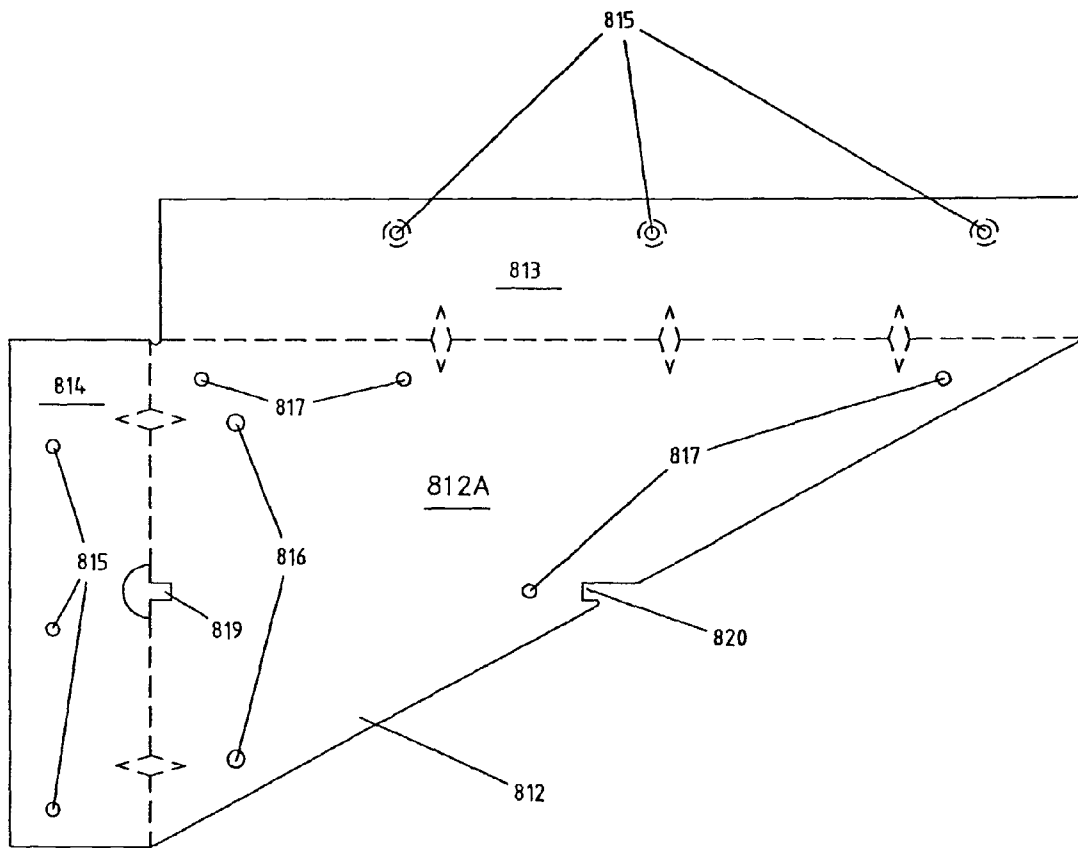


FIG 26

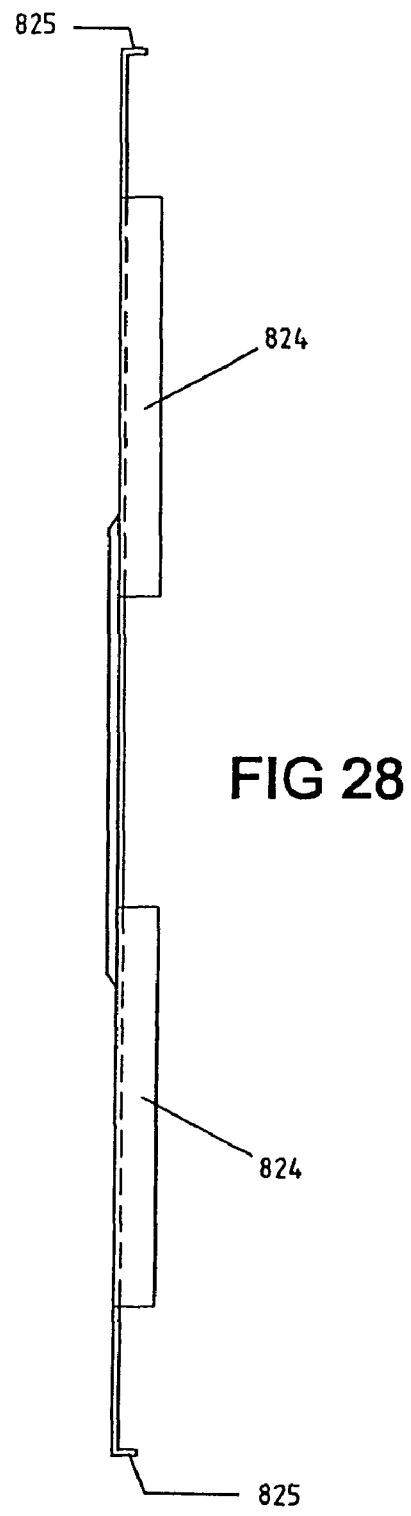
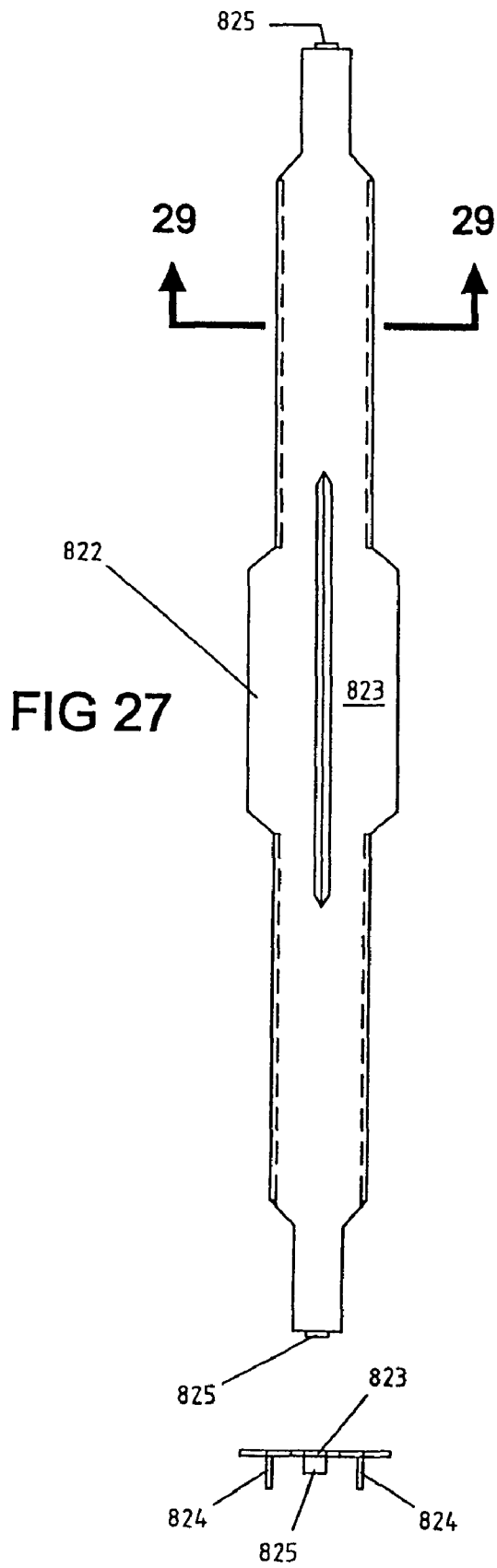


FIG 29

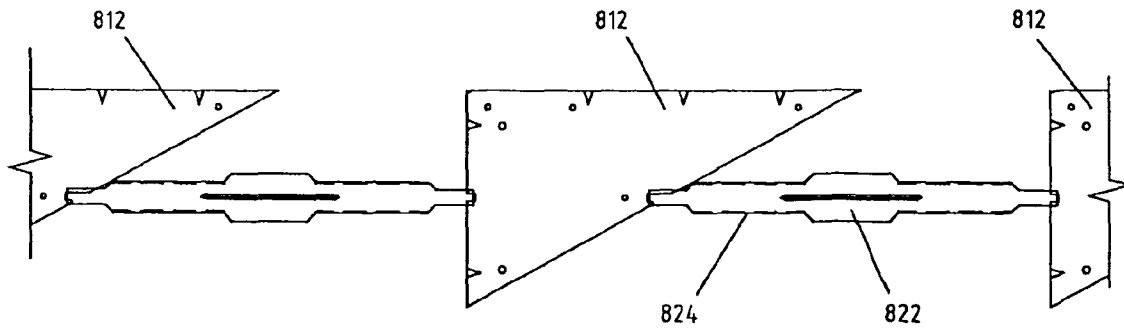


FIG 30

FIG 31

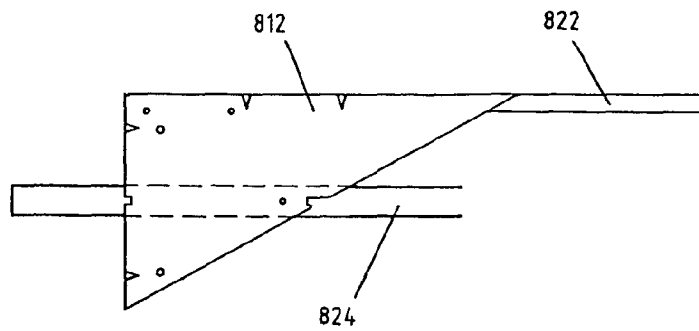


FIG 32

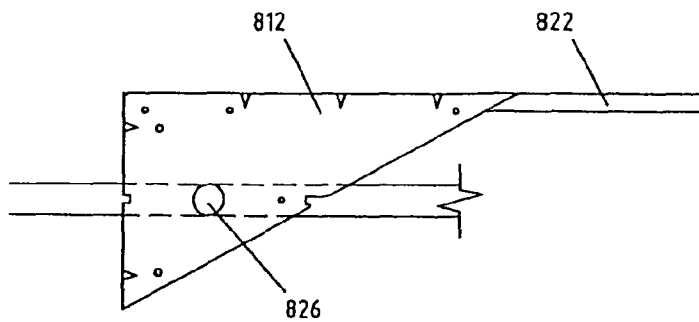
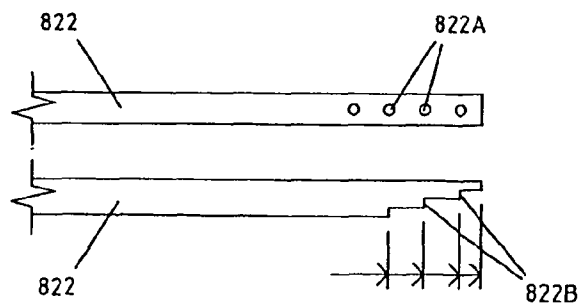
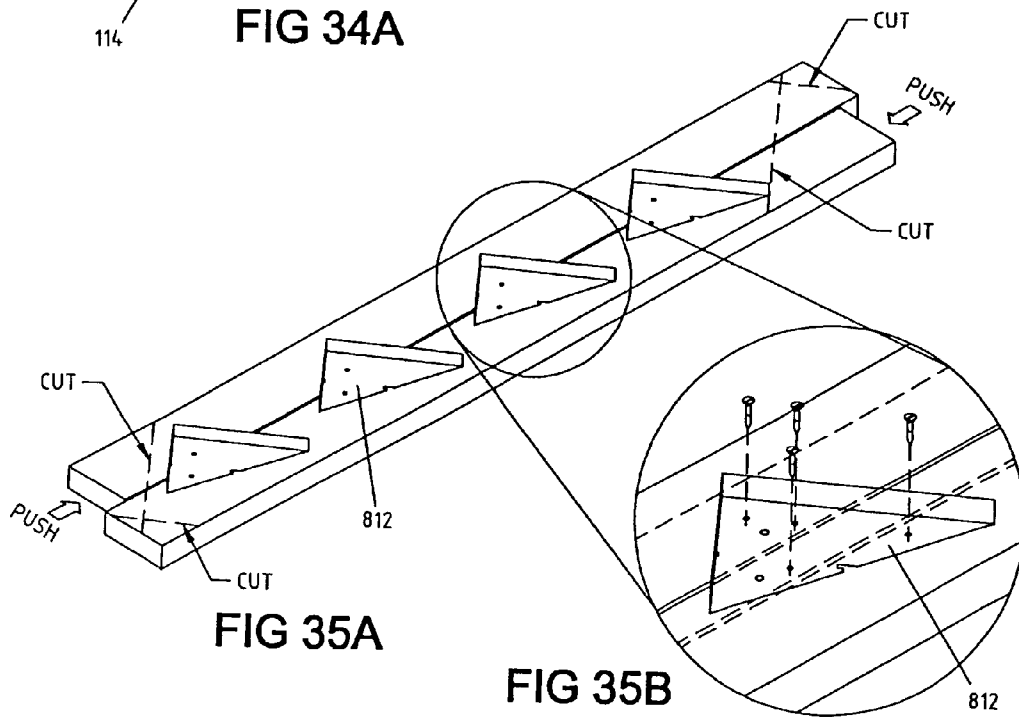
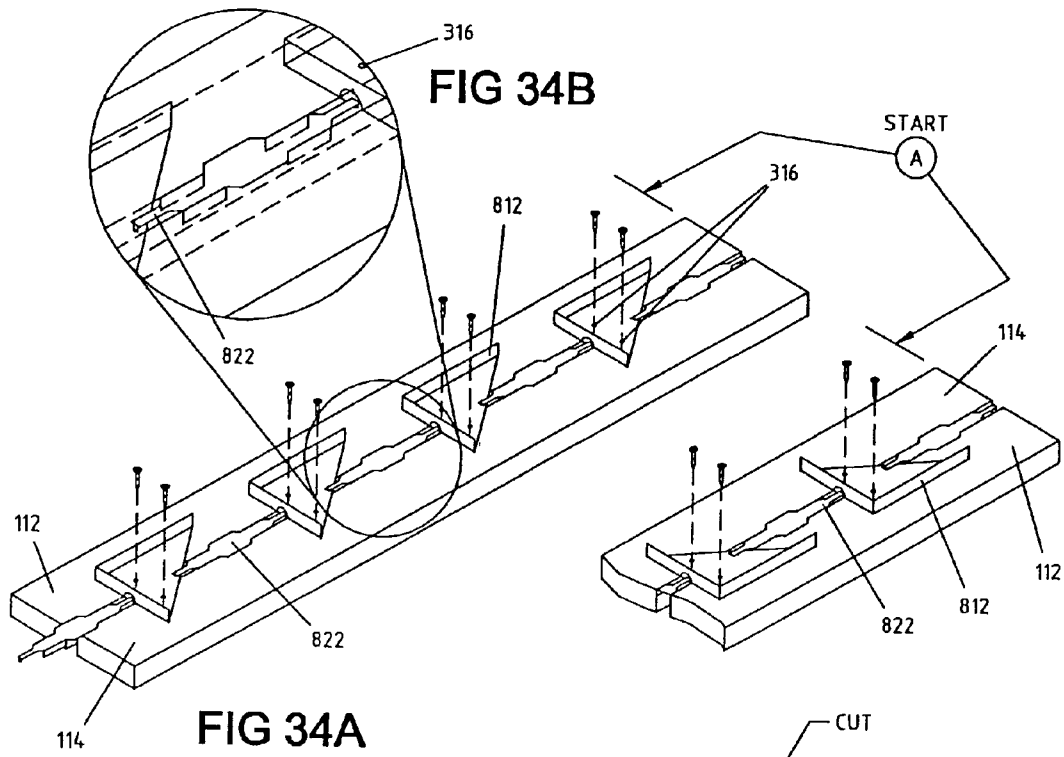


FIG 33





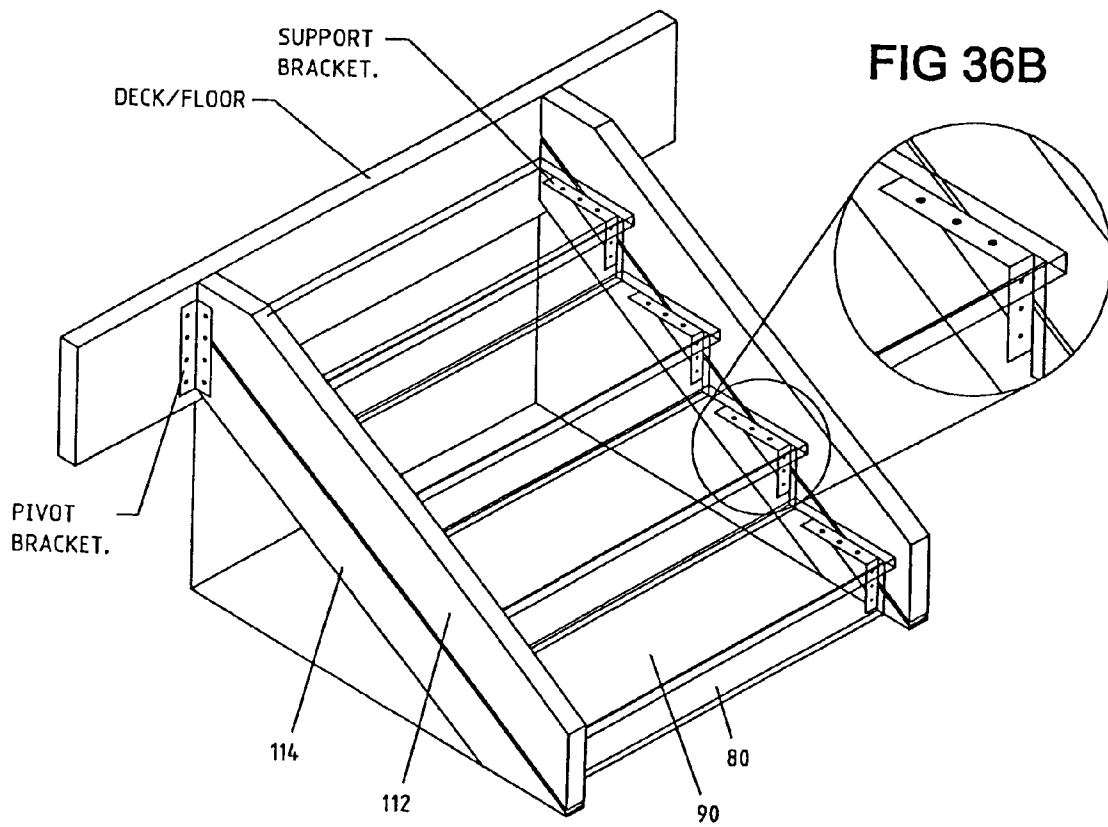
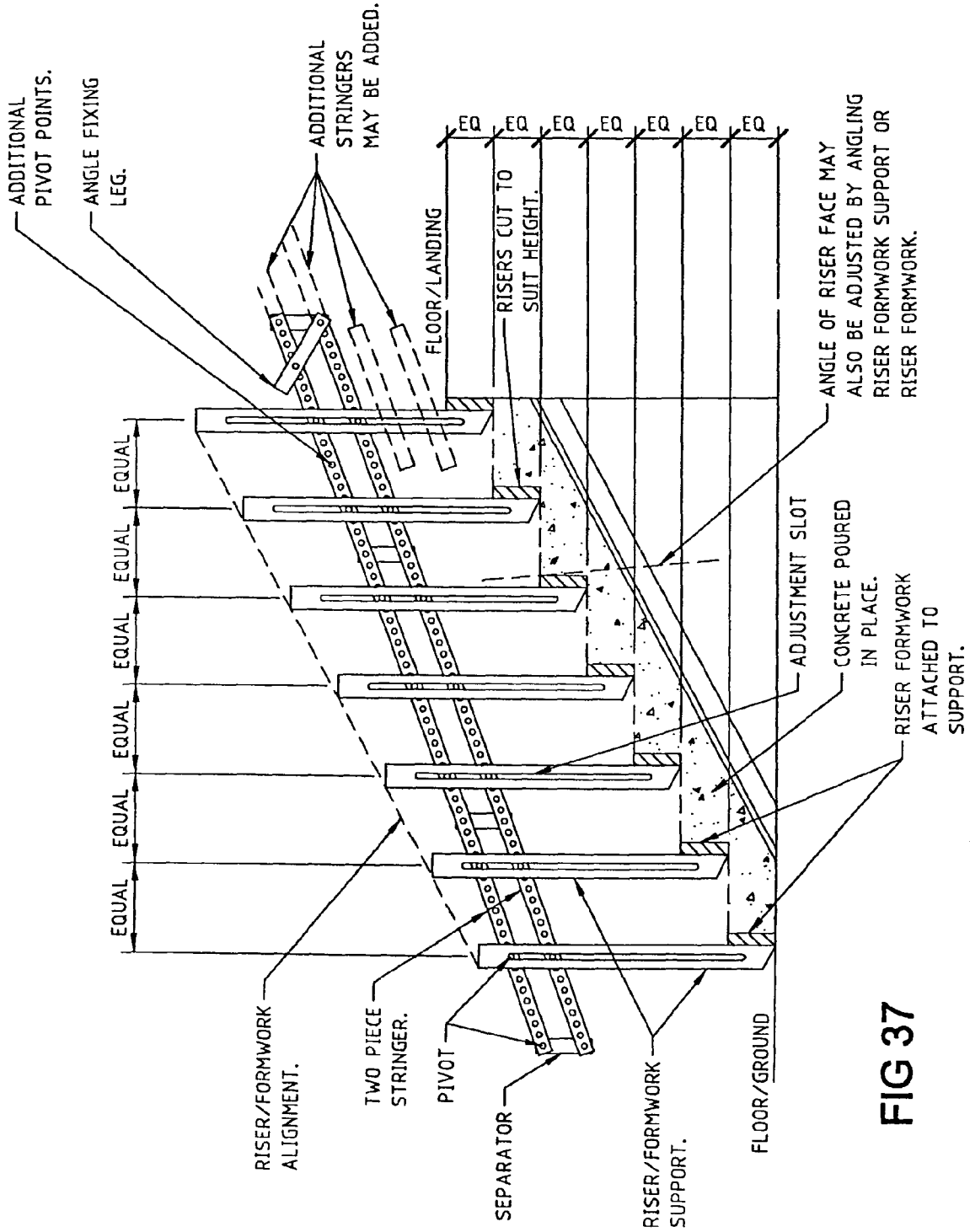


FIG 36A



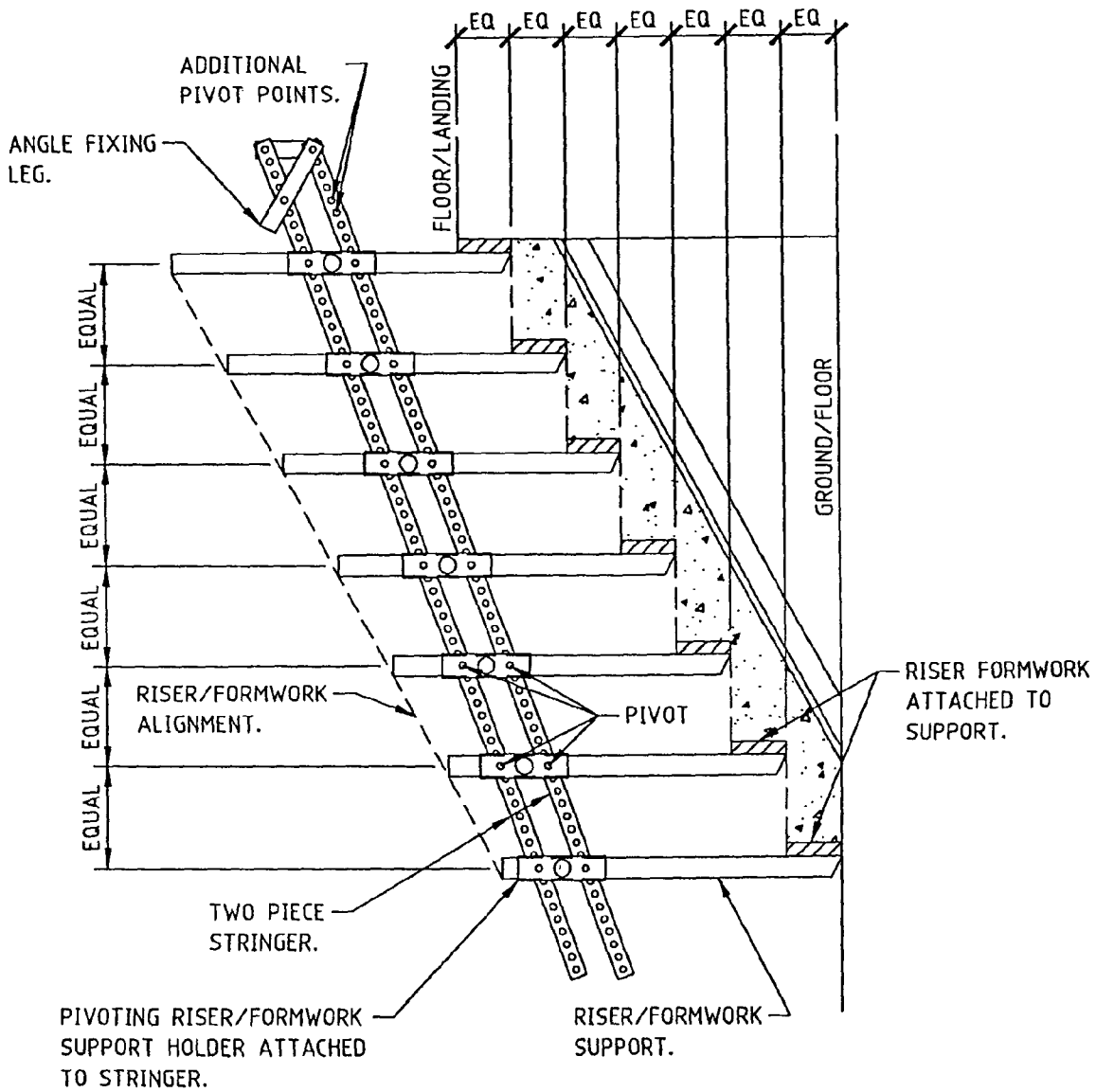


FIG 38A

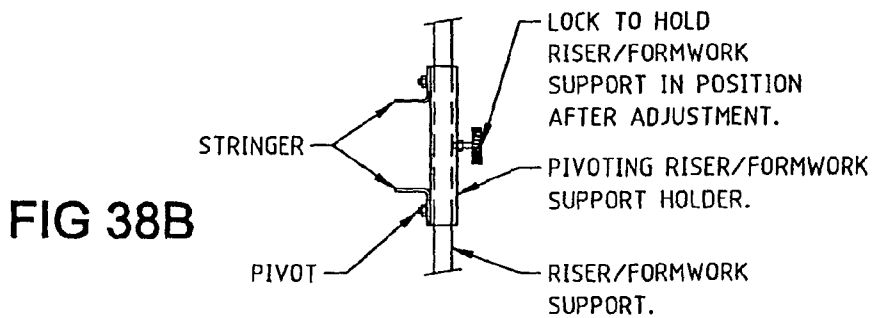
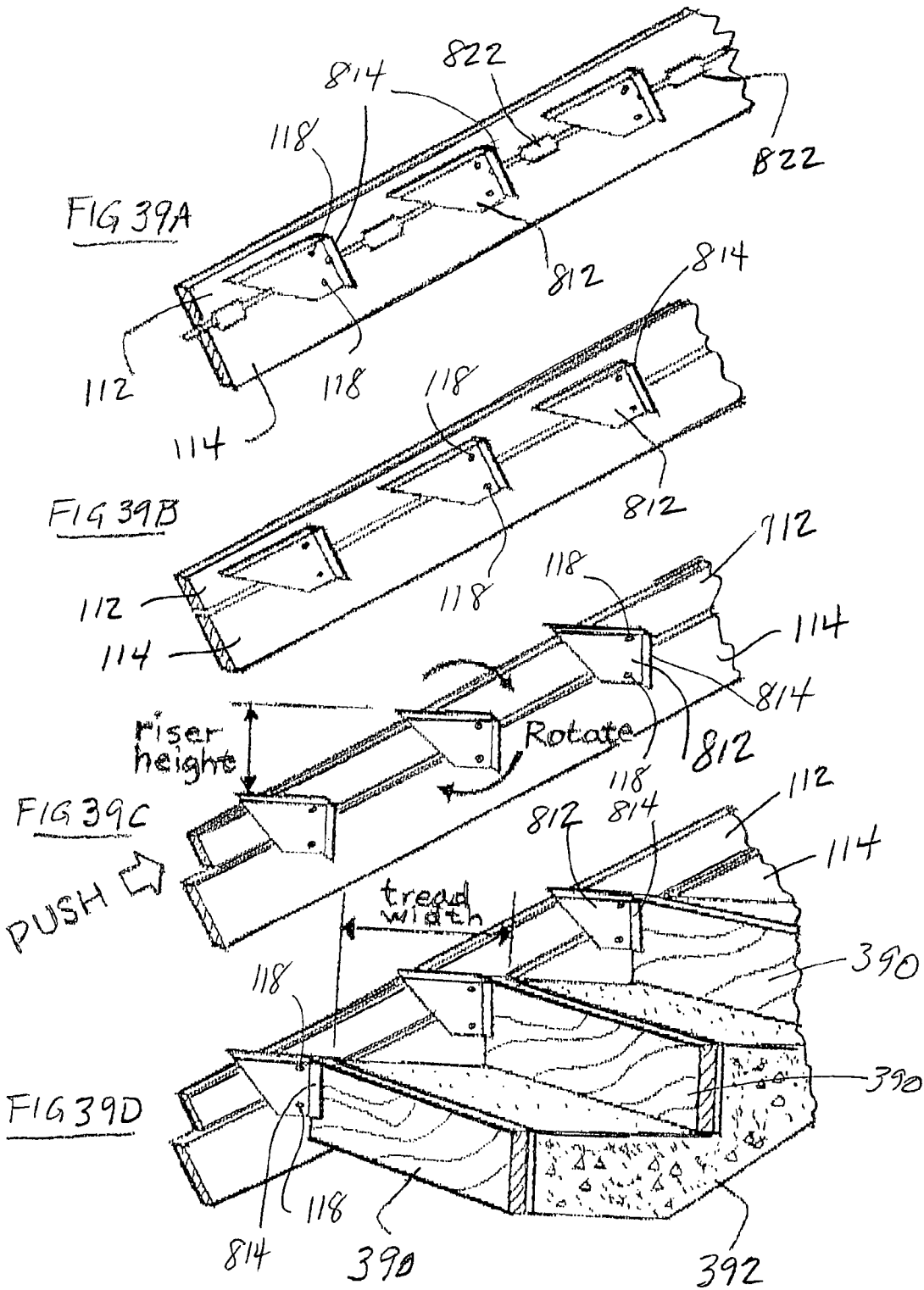


FIG 38B



ADJUSTABLE STAIR STRINGER AND RAILING

This application is a Continuation of application Ser. No. 10/095,780, filed Mar. 9, 2002 now U.S. Pat. No. 6,868,944 which is a Continuation-In-Part of application Ser. No. 09/315,809, filed May 21, 1999 now U.S. Pat. No. 6,354,403. That application claims priority from Provisional Application No. 60/085,151 for ADJUSTABLE STAIR STRINGER AND RAILING filed May 21, 1998 by Richard Truckner and Paul Truckner.

Numerous innovations for adjustable stairways have been provided in the prior art that are described as follows. Even though these innovations may be suitable for specific individual purposes to which they address, they differ from the present invention as hereinafter contrasted.

The prior art does not utilize a pivoted motion and does not allow an infinite amount of variable spacing when framing stairs and/or a railing. The present invention allows an infinite amount of variable spacings and use of a pivoting motion.

U.S. Pat. No. 2,245,825 to W. E. Ross teaches a folding stand that has pivoting support but is not based on vertical holes which keep treads in a horizontal position with an infinite amount of variable spacings. Furthermore, the patented invention utilizes different elements from the present invention. Some of the differences are:

- 1) Vertical holes are not important,
- 2) Stair is adjustable into one position only,
- 3) Not meant to be permanently fixed after moved into position on risers,
- 4) Risers and treads to not slide past each other,
- 5) Pivoting tread support is not fixed in position after adjustment and therefore not used to lock stringers.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,370,664 to J. J. Whitehead teaches an adjustable staircase. The patented invention does not have any pivoting motion and utilizes different elements from the present invention.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,885,365 to J. W. Cox teaches a self adjusting stair which utilizes a truss assemblage. In the patented invention adjustments are made using a pin and slot. The patented invention does not utilize any pivoting motion and the rails are not adjusted by stringers as with the present invention.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,962,838 to J. W. Cox teaches a self adjusting which utilizes spacers in a truss assemblage. The patented invention does not utilize a pivoting motion and the rails are not adjusted by stringers.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,406,347 to N. M. Strathopoulos teaches a modular staircase assembly. The patented invention does not utilize a pivoting motion. The rails are not adjusted by stringers and are not adjusted on vertical holes.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,959,935 to H. R. Stob teaches a prefabricated adjustable stairway. The patented invention does not utilize a pivoting motion and the rails are not adjusted by stringers. This apparatus uses a three point pivoting action so that stringers do not separate during adjustment and slide one on top of the other.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,189,854 to K. J. Nebel teaches an adjustable height staircase. The patented invention does not utilize a pivoting apparatus as described herein. The present invention utilizes a pivoting apparatus and contains different elements from the patented invention for at least the following reasons:

- 1) Treads are directly connected to stringers,
- 2) No risers,
- 3) No sliding motion of riser past the tread.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,124,957 to Pouplaw shows treads that are directly connected to stringers, stringers that have special

tongue and groove spacers which must be an exact size each time in order to lock stringers otherwise the stringers must be secured top and bottom of the stair only, and risers and treads do not slide past each other.

Numerous innovations for adjustable staircases have been provided in the prior art that are adapted to be used. Even though these innovations may be suitable for specific individual purposes to which they address, they would not be suitable for the purposes of the present invention as heretofore described.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The structure of the present invention can be used for forming a stair and may also be used as a support for concrete form work, as a form for a ramp, as a form for adjustable shelves, as an adjustable bleacher, and for adjustable displays.

It is an object of the present invention to provide an adjustable stringer and railing that allows users to have a quickly formed stair structure.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an adjustable stringer and railing that provides partially assembled elements that can be adjusted to a variety of applications and then securely fixed to form a stair framing and/or railing framing.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an adjustable stringer and railing that utilizes a pivoting motion.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an adjustable stringer and railing that allows an infinite amount of variable spacings when creating stairs and/or railing.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an adjustable stringer and railing that eliminates the need to calculate spacing between step treads and angle of the stairs.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an adjustable stringer and railing that provides an embodiment that includes an upper stringer arm, a lower stringer arm and at least one riser support.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an adjustable stringer and railing that provides an embodiment that includes an upper rail support and at least two railing posts pivotally attached to the upper rail support.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an adjustable stringer and railing that is easy and inexpensive to manufacture.

Another object of the present invention is the use of a bracket and setting and spacer bar that can be used with stringer elements for simplifying the formation of a stair assembly with treads, risers and rail supports.

Further objects of the present invention include a stair forming apparatus that includes a pivoting block to which treads and risers can be attached, a pivoting block to which treads only can be attached, a pivoting block which allows risers and treads to slide past each other, a pivoting block which allows risers and treads to be attached such that the risers and treads can be attached to each other after assembly to form a solid construction in which the risers become beams and the treads become lateral use of a bracing to produce great structural strength and much wider stair widths than normal with on center supports (additional stringers) as with normal stairs, and greater stringer strength than with normal saw tooth stringers because of greater stringer depth and, when the riser/tread supports are secured to the upper and lower stringers after adjustment, the stringers are bonded together to form one solid stringer which also is capable of much greater spans without additional supports.

The structure of the present invention includes riser and tread support which allows risers and tread to slide past each

other (as the stinger is adjusted) in order to utilize standard lumber and eliminate the need to cut lumber to exact widths, to use standard lumber of varying lengths according to width of the stair (i.e. 4' to 10' wide stairs), to use riser and tread support systems which, after pivoting and adjusting in position, allows risers to be used as beams which greatly increases the structural strength of the stair allowing much greater stair widths than normal without the need for additional center support stringers, and provides a stringer system which, when the riser/tread supports are secured, the stringer members are bonded together to form a much stronger stringer member than in normal "saw tooth" type construction giving much greater stair lengths without additional supports.

The foregoing benefits are accomplished with the simplified bracket, spacer and setting combination that permits the assembly of a stair stringer assembly without difficulty permitting the "do it yourselfer" to install a stair assembly with simple instructions.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a side view of the stair embodiment of the adjustable stair stinger and railing illustrating two possible inclinations.

FIG. 2 is a side view of the railing embodiment of the adjustable stair stringer and railing.

FIG. 3 is a top view of the adjustable stair stringer and railing.

FIG. 4 is a front view showing the assembled stair and railing set in position.

FIG. 5 is a side view showing the assembled stairs.

FIG. 6 is a side view of an alternative form of the adjustable stair 10 as assembled.

FIG. 7 is a side view showing the adjustable stair in two alternative rise angles using the same elements.

FIG. 8 is a perspective view showing the nailing block and pivot attachment plate for the stair assembly of FIG. 7.

FIG. 9 is a perspective view of an alternative riser tread support.

FIG. 10 is a perspective view of the attachment bracket as used in the present invention.

FIG. 11 is a top plan view of a stair assembly of the form of FIG. 7 with risers and without the treads.

FIG. 12 is a sectional view of a stair assembly of the form of FIG. 7 with the use of horizontal pivots.

FIG. 13 is a perspective view of the tread support bracket as used in FIG. 12.

FIG. 14 is an alternative form of a tread support and riser support using horizontal pivots as used in FIG. 12.

FIG. 15 is an elevation view showing alternative riser/tread supports which are individually set on a two piece stringer.

FIG. 16 is an elevation view showing the riser/tread adjusted in position.

FIG. 17 is a perspective view of the riser/tread support of FIGS. 15 & 16.

FIG. 18 is an alternative form of the present invention using a single pivot point for a riser/tread support.

FIGS. 19 & 20 are alternative forms of tread support support for the assembly of FIG. 18.

FIG. 21 is a side elevation view with an alternative stair assembly showing riser/tread supports and setting spacing blocks.

FIG. 22 is a partial top plan view of a portion of FIG. 21.

FIG. 23 is a side elevation view of the alternative riser/tread supports of FIG. 21 after removal of the setting/spacing blocks and as set for assembly as a stair riser and tread support.

FIGS. 24 and 25 are perspective views of the riser/tread support and setting/spacing block after separation.

FIG. 26 is a top plan view of a structure from which a bracket may be formed.

FIG. 27 is a top plan view of a setting and spacer bar for use with the bracket of FIG. 26.

FIG. 28 is a side elevation view of FIG. 27.

FIG. 29 is a sectional view taken along the lines 29-29 of FIG. 27.

FIGS. 30, 31 and 32 are alternative forms of bracket elements with setting/spacing bars.

FIG. 33 is a view showing alternative adjustable spacing constructions.

FIGS. 34A, 34B, 35A, 35B, 36A and 36B illustrate the use of the brackets, setting/spacer bars and stringer elements of the present invention.

FIGS. 37, 38A and 38B are side elevation views of riser formwork and locking clamp using a two piece stinger and riser/formwork supports.

FIGS. 39A, 39B, 39C and 39D illustrate the forming for concrete stairway using the bracket and spacer of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

Referring to FIG. 1 which is a side view of the stair embodiment of an adjustable stair stringer and railing 110 which includes an upper stringer arm 112, a lower stringer arm 114 and at least one riser/tread support 116. The upper stringer arm 112 is parallel to the lower stringer arm 114. The riser/tread support 116 is pivotally attached to the upper stringer arm 112 and pivotally attached to the lower stringer arm 114. The riser/tread support 116 may be attached to the upper stringer arm 112 and lower stringer arm 114 by riser/tread stringer arm fasteners 118. The riser/tread stringer arm fastener 118 can be a pin, screw, bolt, clamp, dowel or hook.

The riser/tread support 116 can be in the shape of a rectangle, square, triangle, pentangle or circle. The riser/tread support 116 may be rectangular in shape and contain a riser/tread support beveled corner 116A. Furthermore, if there are more than one riser/tread supports 116 the riser/tread supports 116 can be positioned equally along the upper stringer arm 112 and lower stringer arm 114. The riser/tread support 116 can be attached at horizontally positioned fixed points 116B fastened to the upper stringer arm 112 and lower stringer arm 114.

The stair embodiment of the adjustable stair stringer and railing 110 can include a lower stringer support 120 which can be attachable to the upper stringer arm 112 and the lower stringer arm 114, and an upper stringer support 122 which can be attachable to the upper stringer arm 112 and the lower stringer arm 114.

The stair embodiment of the adjustable stair stringer and railing 110 can be manufactured from wood, fiberglass, metal, metal alloys, epoxy, carbon graphite, concrete or plastic. It further can be adapted for use to pour concrete and create concrete stairs.

The railing embodiment of the adjustable stair stringer and railing 210 as shown in FIG. 2 showing risers 80 and treads 90 contains an upper rail support 212 and at least two railing posts 214. The two railing posts 214 are pivotally attached to the upper rail support 212. The at least two railing posts 214 are pivotally attached to the upper rail support 212 by upper rail support railing posts fasteners 218. The upper rail support railing post fastener 218 can be a pin, screw, bolt, clamp, dowel or a hook.

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The railing embodiment of the adjustable stair stringer and railing **210** can contain at least one banister **216** pivotally attachable and/or attached to the upper rail support **212**. The at least one banister **216** is parallel to the railing posts **214**. The banister **216** can be attached to the upper rail support **212** by an upper rail support banister fastener **222**. The at least one banister **216** can be positioned equally along the upper rail support **212**. The upper rail support banister fastener **222** can be a pin, screw, bolt, clamp, dowel or hook.

The rail embodiment of the adjustable stair stringer and railing **210** can contain an upper rail support railing cap **212A** which is attached to the upper rail support **212**. It can further contain a railing post attachment **220** attachable to each of the railing posts **214**.

It will be understood that each of the elements describe above, or two or more together, may also find useful application in other types of constructions differing from the type described above.

FIGS. **6-10** illustrate an alternative form of the stringer, riser and tread assembly in accord with the present invention. In this form a two piece stringer **310A** (lower) and **310B** (upper), as shown in FIGS. **6 & 7**, is first attached to a deck or wall vertical surface by an attachment bracket **312**, as shown in FIG. **10**, with the two pieces of the stringer attached to pivot holes **312A** in the bracket. Riser/tread supports **314** having pivot holes **316** spaced the same distances as the pivot holes in the attachment bracket are spaced along the risers and are fixed to the risers by suitable means at screw holes **318** to cause the riser/tread supports to be parallel to the attachment bracket and equally spaced along the risers. These vertical pivot riser/tread support **314** are unique because the supports pivot for adjustment only and are fixed in position after adjustment; the fixing of the riser/tread supports joins the two pieces of the stringer to form a one piece, permanently adjusted stringer which is structurally superior to normal stair construction; the positioning of the pivot points (opposite risers) allows the top of the stair to be attached the same distance down from the deck/floor level each time regardless of the riser height because all risers adjust equally including the first riser; the configuration of the riser/tread support allows risers **80** and treads **90** to slide against each other for adjustment; and when the risers are attached to the riser/tread supports and the treads, each riser then acts as a beam giving the stair much greater structural stability and allowing greater widths for a stair without additional supports. The riser/tread supports **314** can be constructed from metal, composites and other materials. It should be evident that the riser/tread supports **314** are now vertical if the surface of the deck where attachment was made was vertical when the attachment bracket was attached, and as illustrated in the two positions shown in FIG. **7**, the riser/tread supports are now in position to be permanently attached to the stringers at securing holes **318** and to have risers **80** and treads **90** attached to the supports.

FIGS. **12-14** illustrate an alternative form of the stringer, riser and tread assembly formed using horizontal pivoted tread support brackets and including an alternative tread support with riser support elements. FIG. **13** shows alternative pivoting tread supports using a straight bracket **412** and FIG. **14** another support **414**, which is truncated in shape which can be used with or without a riser, but allowing greater fixing to the stringer. Riser **80** and treads **90** can still slide past each other to form beams. There are three steps shown on the drawing which illustrates how this system would be installed with pivot points that are horizontal.

The feature of the riser/tread support in either the vertical or horizontal pivoted form is that it is a one piece apparatus

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which attaches to the two piece stringer using two pivot points which normally are vertical or horizontal but can be at any common angle. The riser/tread supports pivots to adjust for a required height to form the correct stair profile.

The riser/tread support is then fixed in position (using nails, screws, bolts, glue, etc.) against the two piece stringer to form one solid, non-moving stringer which is capable of supporting both risers and treads or treads alone or risers alone (when being used for concrete formwork). The two piece stringer is then cut (at the dotted lines shown) to conform to the deck or wall at the top and the base at ground level at the bottom. The riser/tread support allows risers and treads to slide past each other so that the risers can be adjusted for height sliding up or down past the back of the tread. The back of the tread is pushed against the face of the riser to form an enclosed stair. The position of the risers and treads can vary infinitely in respect to each other depending on the stair adjustment.

FIGS. **15-17** illustrate a further alternative form for riser/tread supports **512** which are individually set on a two piece stringer **310A** and **310B** using removable setting blocks **514** and setting pins **516**. In this form the removable setting blocks **514** are used to space the riser/tread supports equally along the two piece stringer by being placed on a reference surface of a support and as their ends abut along the stringer. The stringer pieces are separated from each other by the removable setting pin **516** and the riser/tread supports **512** are attached at their pivot points **518A** and **518B** to the stringer **112** and to the stringer **114**. When the setting blocks **514** and the setting pins **516** are removed, the two parts of the stringer can be slid with respect to each other to adjust the riser/tread supports **512** in the desired vertical position and the riser/tread supports can then be secured to the stringers by screws, nails, or other fasteners at securing holes **520**. The riser/tread supports are then in position for the attachment of equally spaced treads and risers.

FIGS. **18-20** illustrate a stair section showing pivoting riser/tread supports using a single pivot point allowing the tread to be set level after stringer installation. Equally spaced support brackets **612** are pivoted at a single pivot **614** position off the stringer with those pivot positions being located the same distance below the deck/floor when the stringer is attached with the pivot position a desired distance below the level of the deck or floor to which the stair is to be attached. With a single pivot point for each of the equally spaced riser/tread supports, the supports can be attached to the second stringer by suitable means and the treads will always be equally spaces and will have equal rising distances. The single pivot point can be at any common point (shown as alternatives **614B**) along the riser/tread support brackets **612** and the brackets can be just a tread support at a tread and riser support. FIG. **20** illustrates an alternative form **612B** for the brackets in a truncated form.

FIGS. **21-25** illustrate another alternative form for riser/tread supports for use in the present invention. In this form the riser/tread supports **712** are individually set on a two piece stringer **112-114** using removable setting/spacing blocks **714**. This form of two piece stringer/riser/tread support assembly can be assembled with the stringers **112-114** and the riser/tread supports **112** in place by attachment means at the pivots **712A** and with the riser/tread supports spaced by the body **716** of setting/spacing blocks **714**, as shown in FIG. **24**, mating and cooperating extensions **718A** and **718B** with centering reference slots **720A** and **720B** in the opposite longitudinal surfaces of the planar body of riser/tread supports, as shown in FIG. **24**. When the assembly is to be used, the setting/spacing blocks can then be removed from the riser/tread supports and the stringers can then slide with respect to

each other to rotate the riser/tread supports about their pivot points **712A**. The stringer can then be attached to the face of the deck or wall where the stair is to be attached and the stringers can be cut (at possible cut lines shown) to face against the deck or wall. The riser/tread supports will then be

equally spaced both vertically and horizontally, can be attached by suitable fastening means to the stringers, and are in position for installation of risers and treads.

FIGS. **26-33** illustrate another alternative form for a riser/tread support bracket **812**. This form may be formed from a metal or other suitable material blank **812A** with stamped holes, slots and side portions to form the bracket. The side portions **813** and **814** form the tread and riser support surfaces (respectively) with stamped holes **815** for attaching means for the treads and risers. Pivot holes **816** are used for connecting the bracket to the stringers and holes **817** are for fixing the bracket in place when a stringer assembly is completed. The bracket **812** is provided with stamped alignment guide holes at **819** and a guide slot at **820**.

FIGS. **27-30** illustrate a setting and spacing bar **822**. The setting and spacing bar may be formed of metal or other suitable material and includes a central body portion **823** with folded ears **824** at each with a guide tab **825** formed at each end of the body portion.

The setting and spacing bar **822** is adapted to cooperate with and space two brackets **812** by aligning the guide tab **825** with the guide hole **819** at one bracket and with guide slot **820** in the next bracket and serves to establish the spacing between brackets. The folded ears **824** separate two stringers and thus to allow for the space for relative movement between stringers.

With at least a pair of brackets **812** spaced by setting and spacing bars **822** and an upper and lower stringer the brackets may be attached by suitable means to the stringers at the pivot holes **816** to provide aligned and spaced riser/tread brackets for a stair assembly as will be described with reference to FIGS. **34-38**.

FIGS. **30-33** illustrate alternative forms for riser/tread brackets similar to that shown in FIGS. **26-29**. FIG. **31** illustrates a bracket **812** with a setting and spacing bar **822** integrally formed with the bracket. The bar **822** has a length designed to space adjacent brackets and a near central folded ear portion **824** for spacing stringers. The bar **822** would be detachable after it has functioned in setting and spacing. FIG. **31** illustrates another alternative of an integrally formed bracket **812** with a removable spacing bar **822** and a central setting body **824**. FIG. **32** is another alternative bracket similar to FIG. **31** with a removable spacing bar **822** and a central plug **826** for spacing the stringers. FIG. **33** illustrates alternative forms for the end of a spacing bar **822** to adapt the bracket to different spacings of brackets along a stringer assembly. The spacing bar may include holes or pins at **822A** or notches at **822B**. Spacing bars of the type shown here can be used with the brackets **116** shown in FIG. **5** by cooperating with the spacer slots **115** in positioning brackets **116** before stringers **112** and **114** are moved relative to each other in setting the brackets **116** for receiving treads and/or risers.

FIGS. **34-36** illustrate the use of the brackets with stringers in the formation of a stair assembly. FIGS. **34A** and **34B** illustrate the opposite sides of a stair stringer assembly, each side having an upper **112** and lower **114** stringer with a plurality of brackets **812** of the type illustrated in FIGS. **26-29** (or of the types shown in FIGS. **1-25**) and employing setting and spacing bars **822** to position the brackets along the stringers. The two stringer assemblies mirror each other to be left and right sides of a stairway. When assembled, spaced and guided, the brackets are attached to the stringers by suitable

means through pivot holes **316**. FIGS. **35A** and **35B** illustrate the moved portion of the stringers **812-814** and the rotation of the brackets **812** to the desired position for attachment to a deck or wall and for tread and riser attachment after cutting the stringers for attachment to the deck or wall. At this stage in the formation of the stringer assembly the brackets **812** can be permanently attached to the stringers at the provided attachment holes.

FIGS. **36A** and **36B** illustrate the completed stair using the brackets and movable stringers of the present invention. It should be noted that the forward holes **815** along the tread side portions **813** of the bracket of FIG. **26** permit the location for pre-drilling guide holes into a tread from below. By knocking the tread against the bracket, the raised holes will mark the underside of the tread. Pre-drilling guide holes will permit ease of assembly of the tread from below before a riser is added to the face of the stair.

FIGS. **37** and **38A** illustrate the use of the principle of the present invention for the positioning of formwork for poured concrete stairs. The use of two part parallel stringers with pivoted riser/formwork supports permits the setting of equally spaced horizontal riser forms and equally spaced vertical spaces between poured stairs. The two piece stringer is first set at the desired angle and the separated stringer parts are fixed with respect to the top and bottom of the desired stair. Equally spaced riser/formwork supports are positioned along the risers by attachment at pivot points with the support elements having adjustment slots (FIG. **37**) or by the use of locking holders (FIG. **38B**). Riser formwork elements are attached to the free end of each of the supports. Concrete aggregate can then be poured behind each of the riser formworks to the desired level for the stairs and allowed to set. It should be evident that the face of the riser formwork elements can be adjusted to a desired angle other than vertical by adjusting the relative positions of the two stringer elements. The riser height adjustment can be achieved by setting the first and last support and their riser formworks in position and then raising or lowering intermediate supported riser formworks to a string line drawn from the first to the last support. Equally spaced horizontal supports will then result in equally spaced vertical riser formworks.

An additional use for the parallel stringers, brackets and spacers is illustrated in FIGS. **39A**, **39B**, **39C** and **39D** for the setting of forms for pouring concrete in the formation of a concrete stair. Previous forming systems have required that stringers be set at each side of the stairs to be poured along with form boards for the vertical forms off the stair. With the use of the parallel stringers, brackets and spacers of the present invention, the form work for a stair is easily positioned and aligned. As with the case of the riser/tread setting of a stairway, the brackets are placed and spaced on the parallel stringers so that all brackets move parallel with each other and provide a surface for the mounting of riser forms.

As illustrated in FIG. **39A**, the parallel stringers **112** and **114** (as shown in FIG. **1**) are set with brackets **812** and spacers **814** (as shown in FIGS. **26** through **35B**) so that the brackets are equally spaced and pivoted about mounting fasteners **118** (FIG. **1**) in each of the parallel stringers **112** and **114**. Note that the brackets are mounted in a reverse position from that shown in the previous figures because the only surface that will be needed in the form work is the vertical surface **814** (FIG. **26**) where a riser form **390** is to be attached. When set in place, the spacers are removed as shown in FIG. **39B** so that the brackets are free to be rotated with the movement of the parallel stringers. As illustrated in FIG. **39C**, when the parallel stringers are moved with respect to each other, the brackets are rotated parallel to each other. The vertical surfaces **814** of

the brackets 812 are then parallel to each other and spaced equally along the formwork. With the stringer assembly set and fixed in place for the desired angle of rise for the stairway, the vertical surfaces are positioned for the mounting of a riser form 390 at each bracket. It should be understood that the surface 814 need not be exactly vertical if it is desired that the riser part of a stair be tilted slightly from vertical.

FIG. 39D illustrates in perspective one side of a poured concrete stairway with aggregate 392 poured along the desired stairway and finished against the riser forms 390 and leveled between riser forms. The parallel stringers, riser forms and brackets may then be removed for reuse after the concrete aggregate has become set. The tread width and riser heights will all be equal in the finished stairway.

While certain preferred embodiments of the invention have been specifically disclosed, it should be understood that the invention is not limited thereto as many variations will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art and the invention is to be given its broadest possible interpretation within the terms of the following claims.

We claim:

1. A riser/tread support bracket for use in an adjustable stair assembly formed with a pair of parallel stringers at each side of the stair assembly, said parallel stringers being movable parallel with respect to each other, said bracket to be initially pivotally attached to said parallel stringers and being adapted to permit relative movement of said stringers as said bracket is adjusted for establishing a stair assembly of riser and tread support surfaces at each side of the stair assembly and along said stairway where said bracket is permanently attached, said bracket comprising:

- a) a generally right triangular shaped formed bracket with a planar body portion having a riser support surface on a first edge surface of said planar body portion and a tread support surface on a second edge surface of said planar body portion, said first edge and said second edge surfaces being at right angles with respect to each other forming the apex of said generally right triangular shape, said planar body portion extending longitudinally across said bracket and connecting said first edge, said second edge, and the hypotenuse edge opposite to said apex of said generally right triangular bracket, said riser support surface on said planar body portion being on a surface perpendicular to said tread support surface, both said riser support surface and said tread support surface being along edges of said generally right triangular shaped formed bracket and perpendicular to each other and to said planar body portion,
- b) at least a pair of spaced aligned holes through said planar body portion for use with fastening means for pivotally attaching said generally right triangular shaped formed bracket to each of said parallel stringers, said pair of

spaced aligned holes in said bracket being adapted for attaching said bracket to said pair of parallel stringers with a separate fastening means passing through each one of said spaced aligned holes to pivotally attach said bracket separately and movably to each of said parallel stringers,

- c) a pair of aligned, reference slot means formed in said planar body portion of said right triangular shaped formed bracket along opposite longitudinally spaced edge surfaces of said planar body portion, the first of said reference slot means being in said planar body portion in said first edge and including a cutout portion extending perpendicular to said first edge and within said planar body portion and the second of said reference slot means being in said planar body portion in said hypotenuse edge of said planar body portion and including a cutout portion extending within said planar body portion in alignment with and toward said cutout portion in said first edge so as to align said reference slot means, said reference slot means being at about the center of said first edge and said hypotenuse edge, said pair of reference slot means being equally spaced laterally from said tread support surface and longitudinally along said opposite edge surfaces of said planar body portion, one of said pair of reference slot means being in said one longitudinal edge surface of said planar body portion and the other of said pair of reference slot means being in said hypotenuse edge surface longitudinally opposite said apex connection of said first and second surfaces of said planar body portion,
- d) said pair of reference slot means being adapted for cooperation with separate rigid spacing means at each side of said pivotally mounted bracket for positioning said bracket with respect to duplicate brackets positioned at both sides of said bracket and along said parallel stringers for aligning said bracket and other duplicate brackets laterally along said parallel stringers,
- e) whereby said bracket and other duplicate brackets may be
 - i) positioned on said parallel stringers,
 - ii) uniformly spaced laterally along said parallel stringers by said cooperation of said reference slot means with spacing means,
 - iii) be pivotally rotated about said fastening means when said spacing means are removed and as said parallel stringers are moved parallel to each other,
 - iv) and be permanently fixed to said parallel stringers at least at said at least a pair of alignment holes and fastening means when aligned in a final position for attachment of a riser and a tread to said support bracket in forming said adjustable stair assembly.

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