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(54) **SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR COOLING BATTERIES IN A BATTERY POWERED BLOW DRYER**

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F26B 23/04	(2006.01)
F26B 23/06	(2006.01)
H01M 10/6235	(2014.01)

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CPC **A45D 20/12** (2013.01); **A45D 20/10** (2013.01); **F26B 21/001** (2013.01); **F26B 21/10** (2013.01); **F26B 23/04** (2013.01); **F26B 23/06** (2013.01); **H01M 10/613** (2015.04); **H01M 10/623** (2015.04); **H01M 10/643** (2015.04); **H01M 10/6563** (2015.04); **H01M 50/213** (2021.01); **A45D 2200/00** (2013.01); **H01M 10/6235** (2015.04); **H01M 2200/10** (2013.01); **H01M 2220/30** (2013.01)

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USPC 34/380, 96-100; 132/211, 224
See application file for complete search history.

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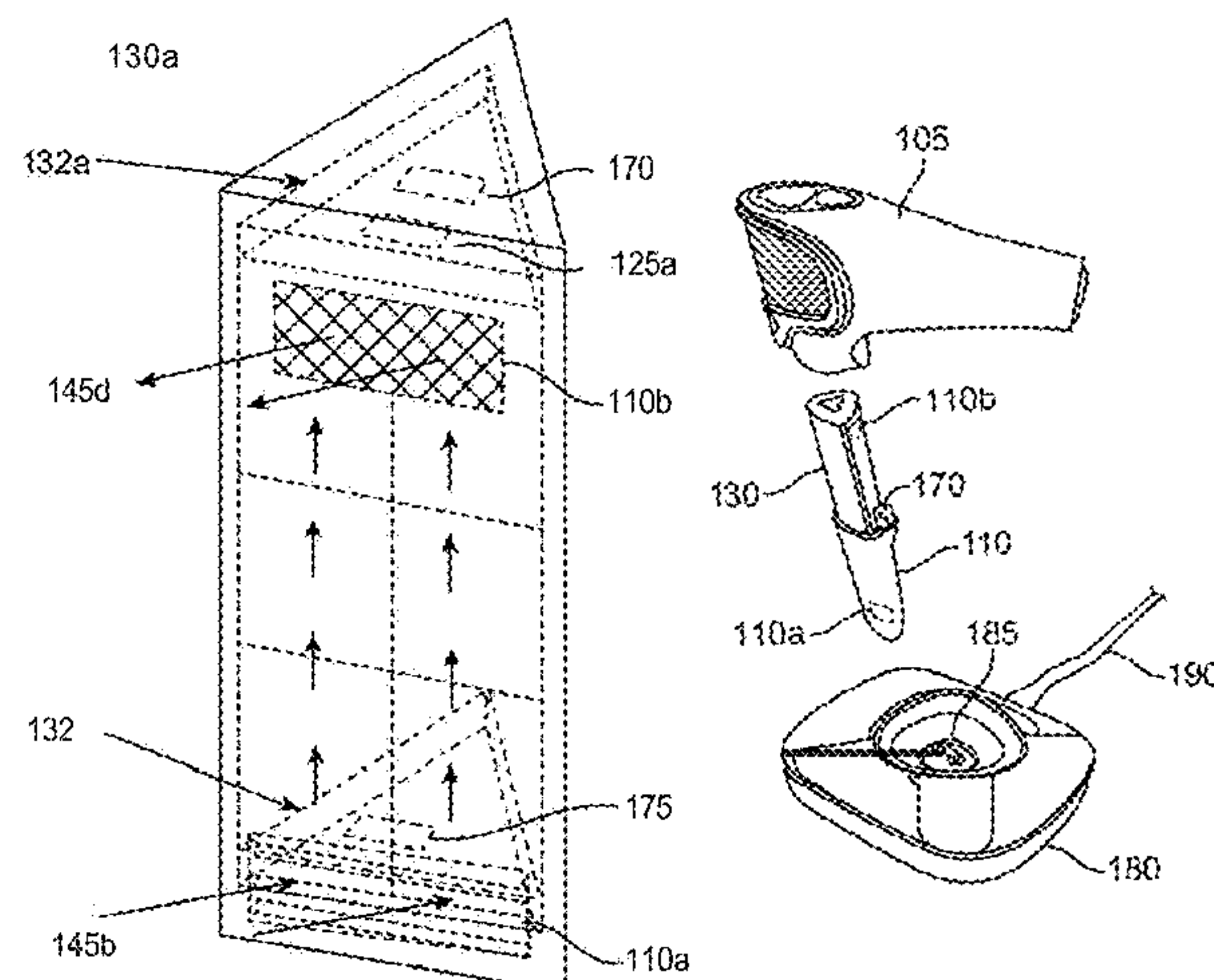
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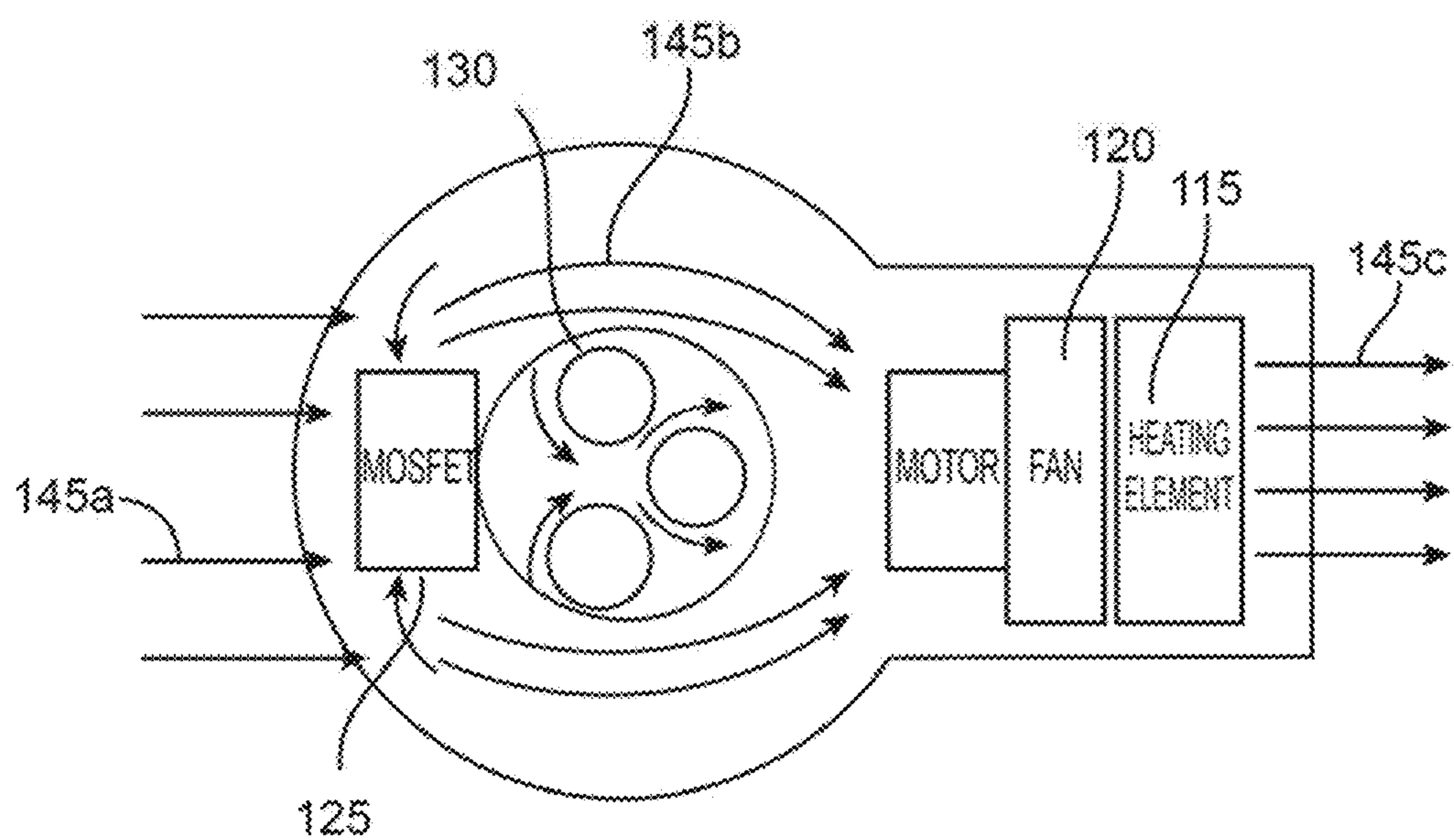
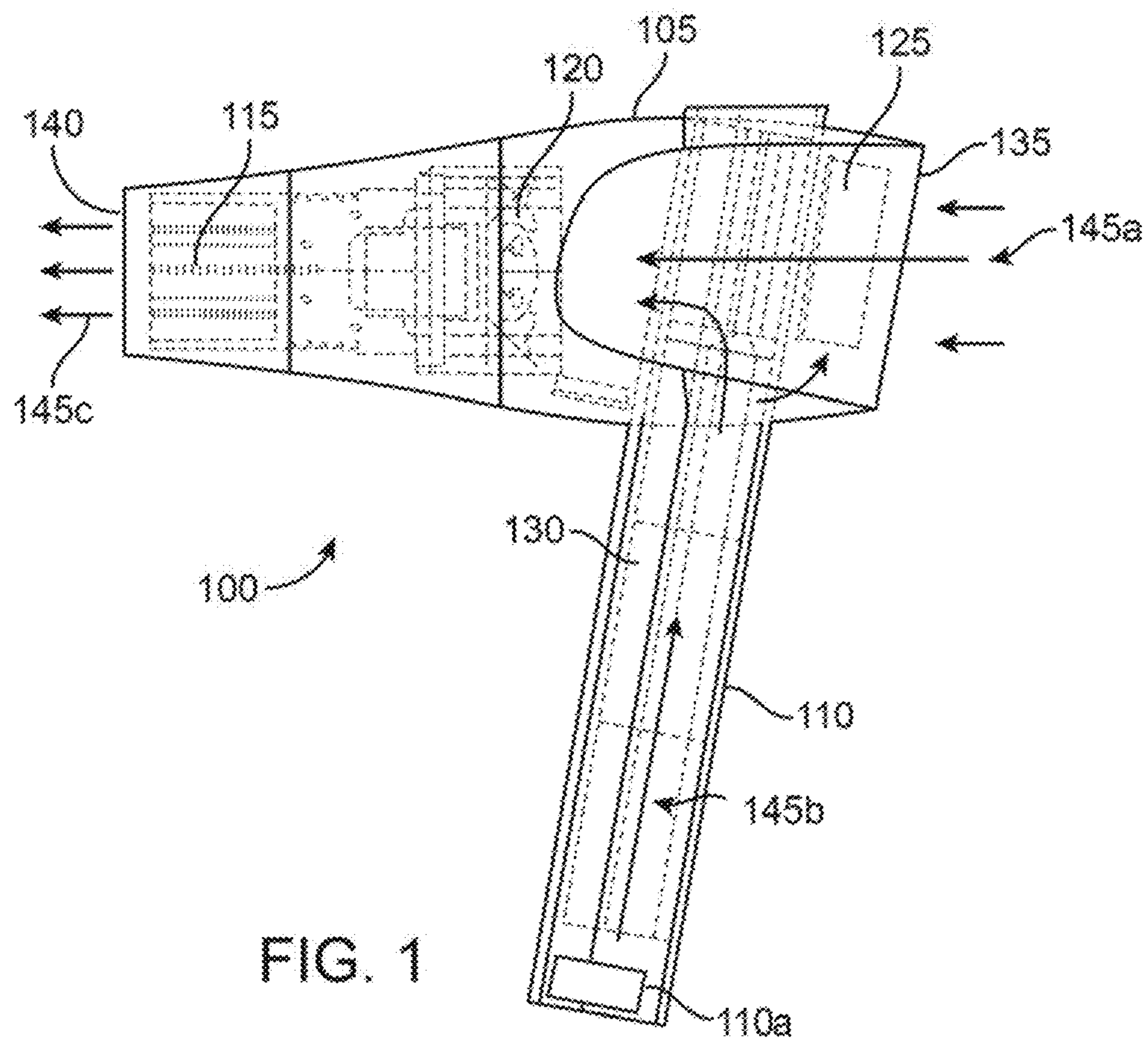
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A battery powered blow dryer having a novel battery cooling feature to simultaneously cool the batteries and improve hair dryer performance.

20 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



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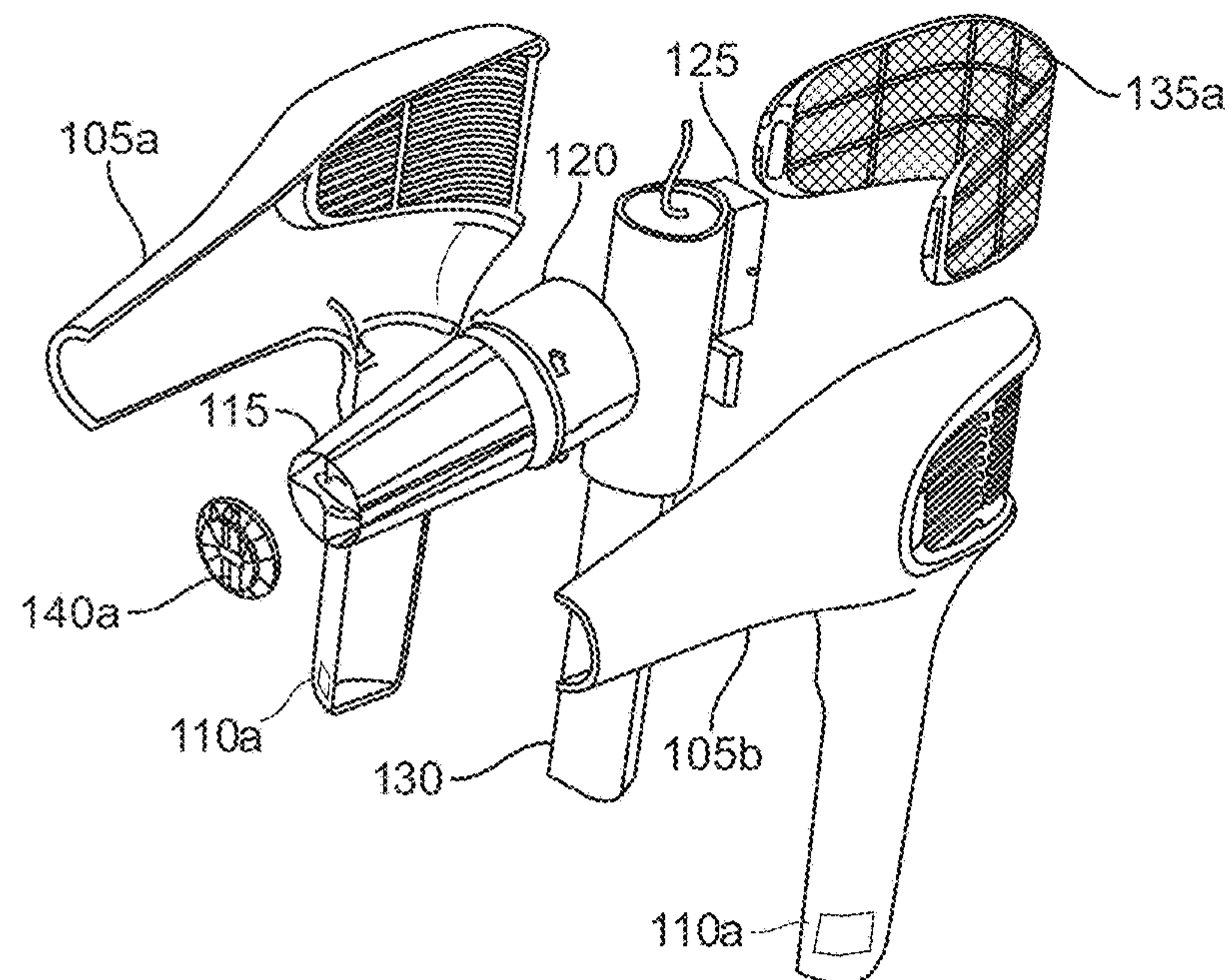
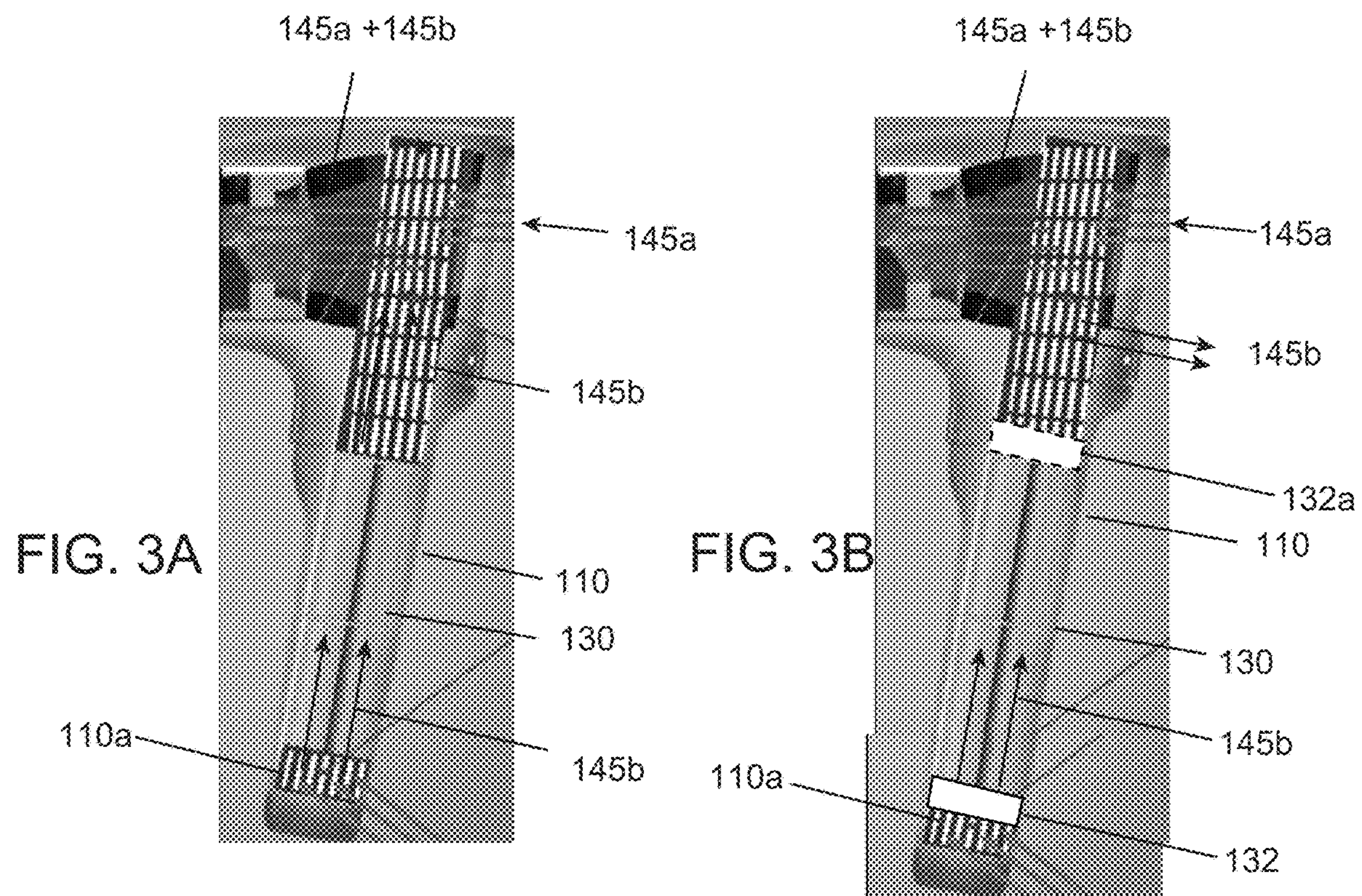


FIG. 4

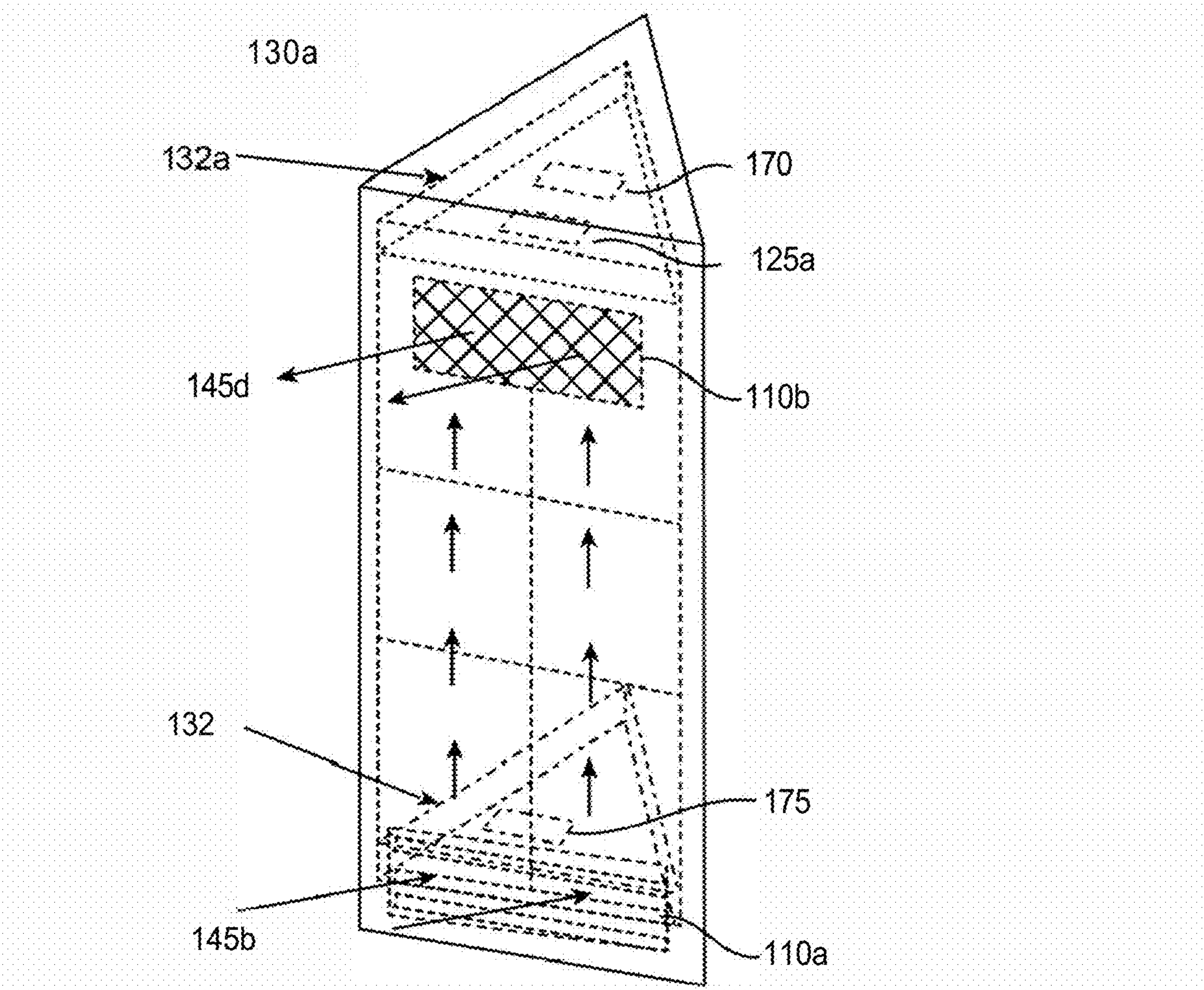


FIG. 5

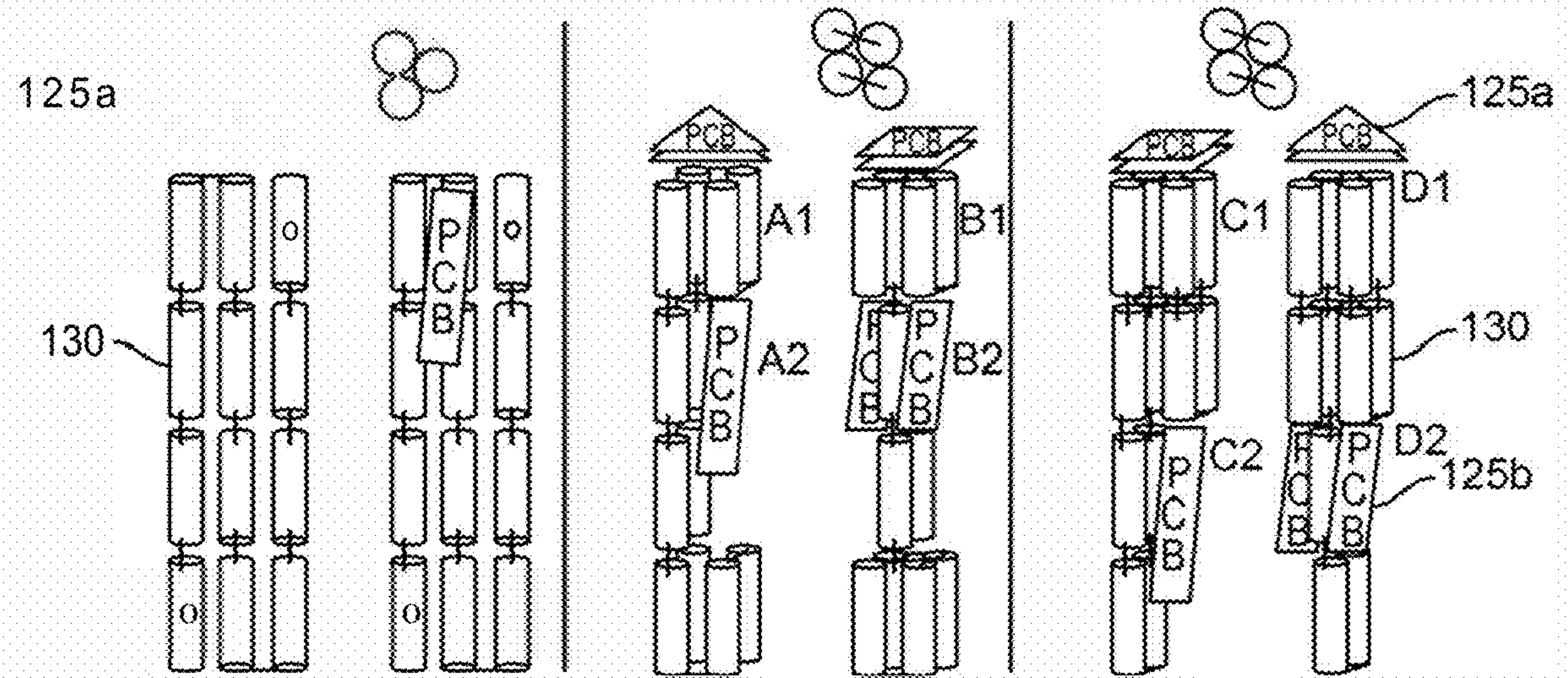


FIG. 6 A

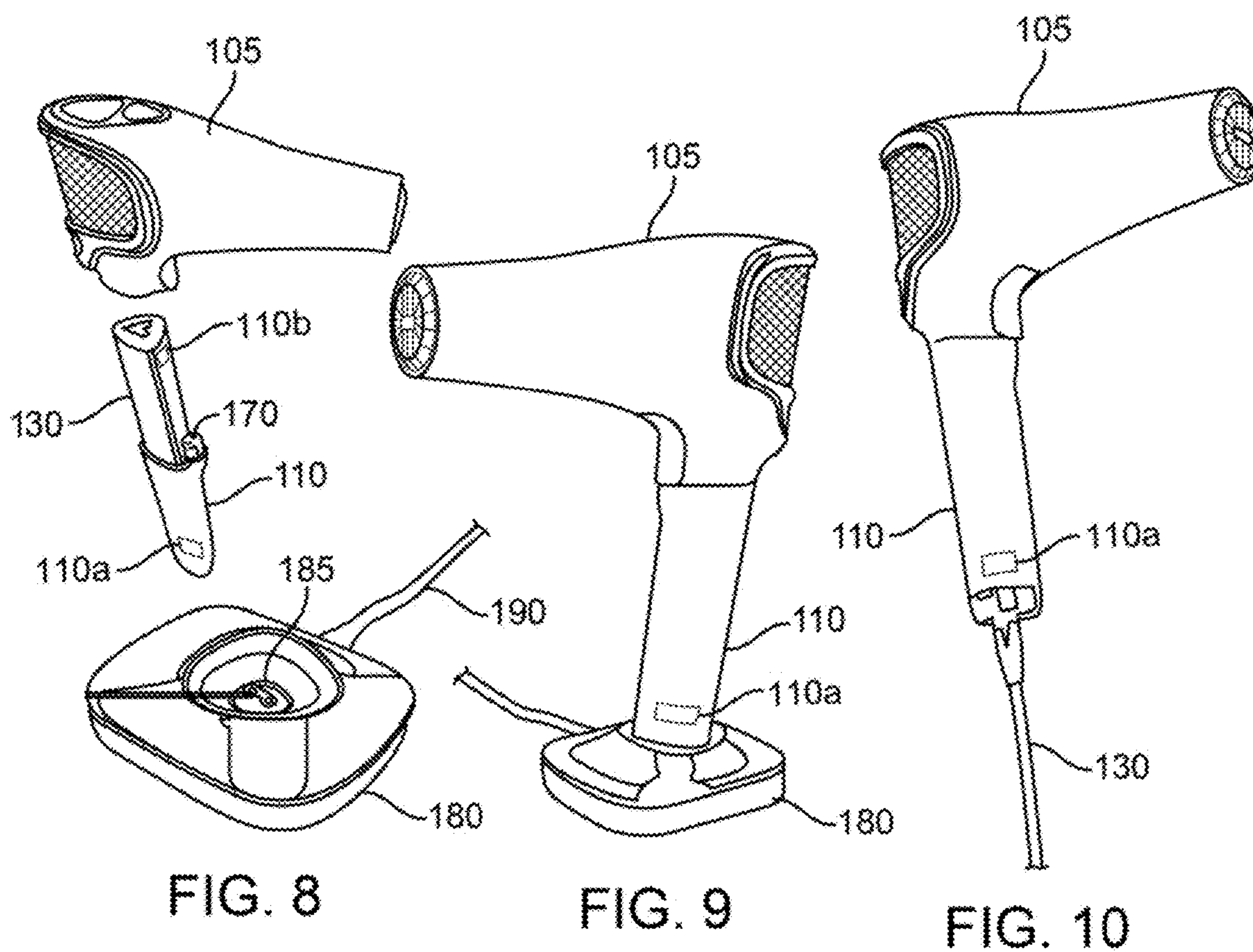
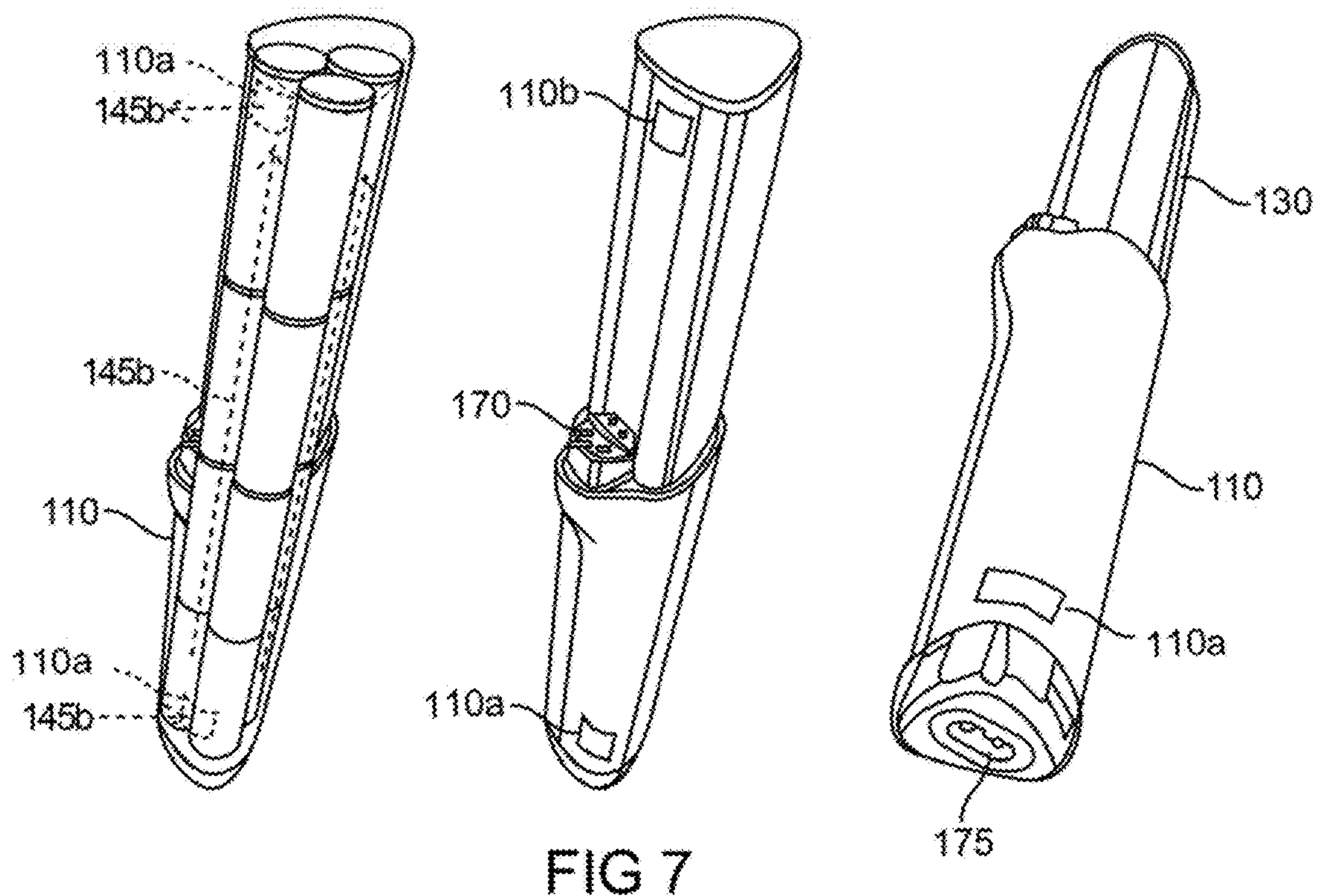
FIG. 6 B

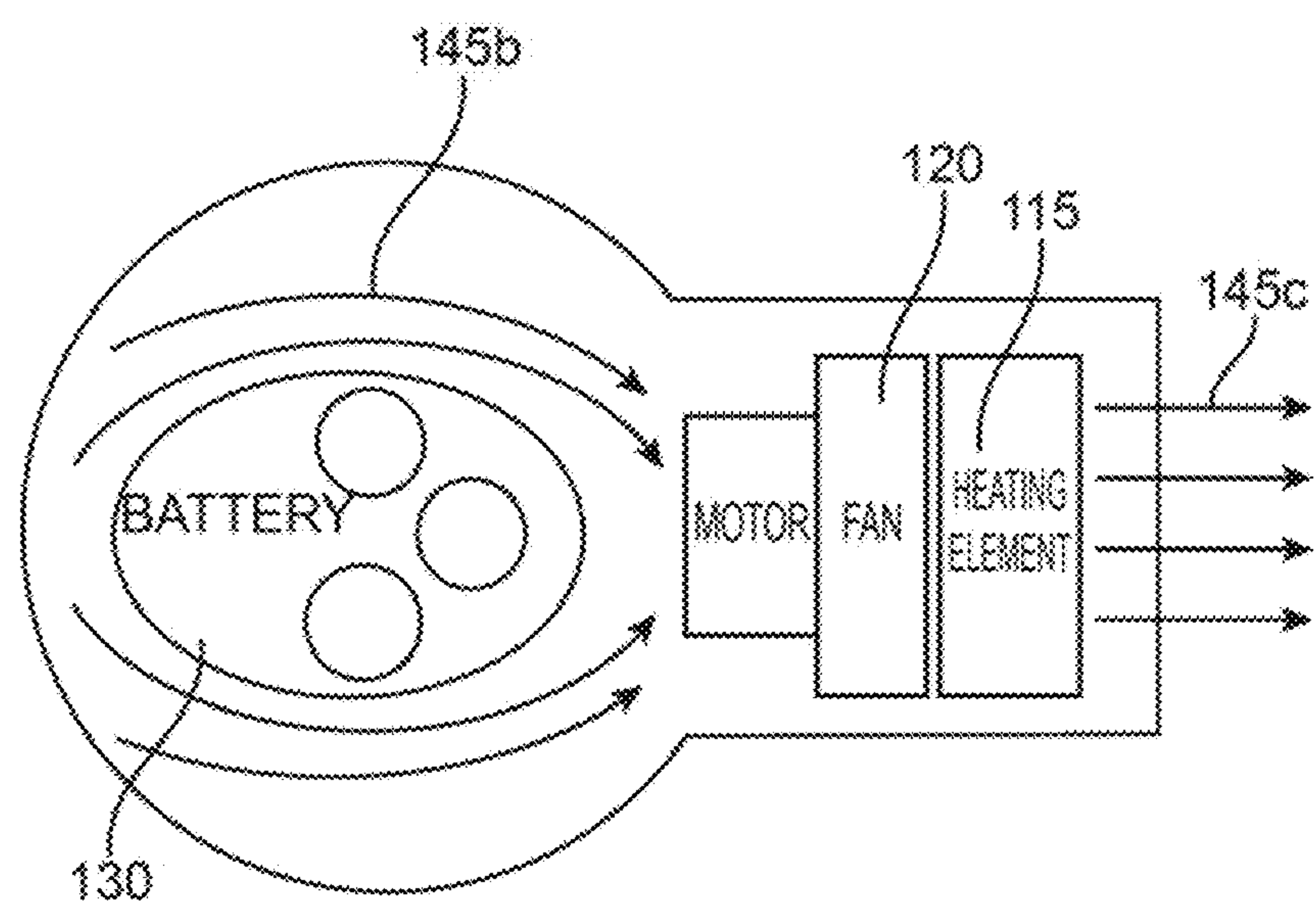
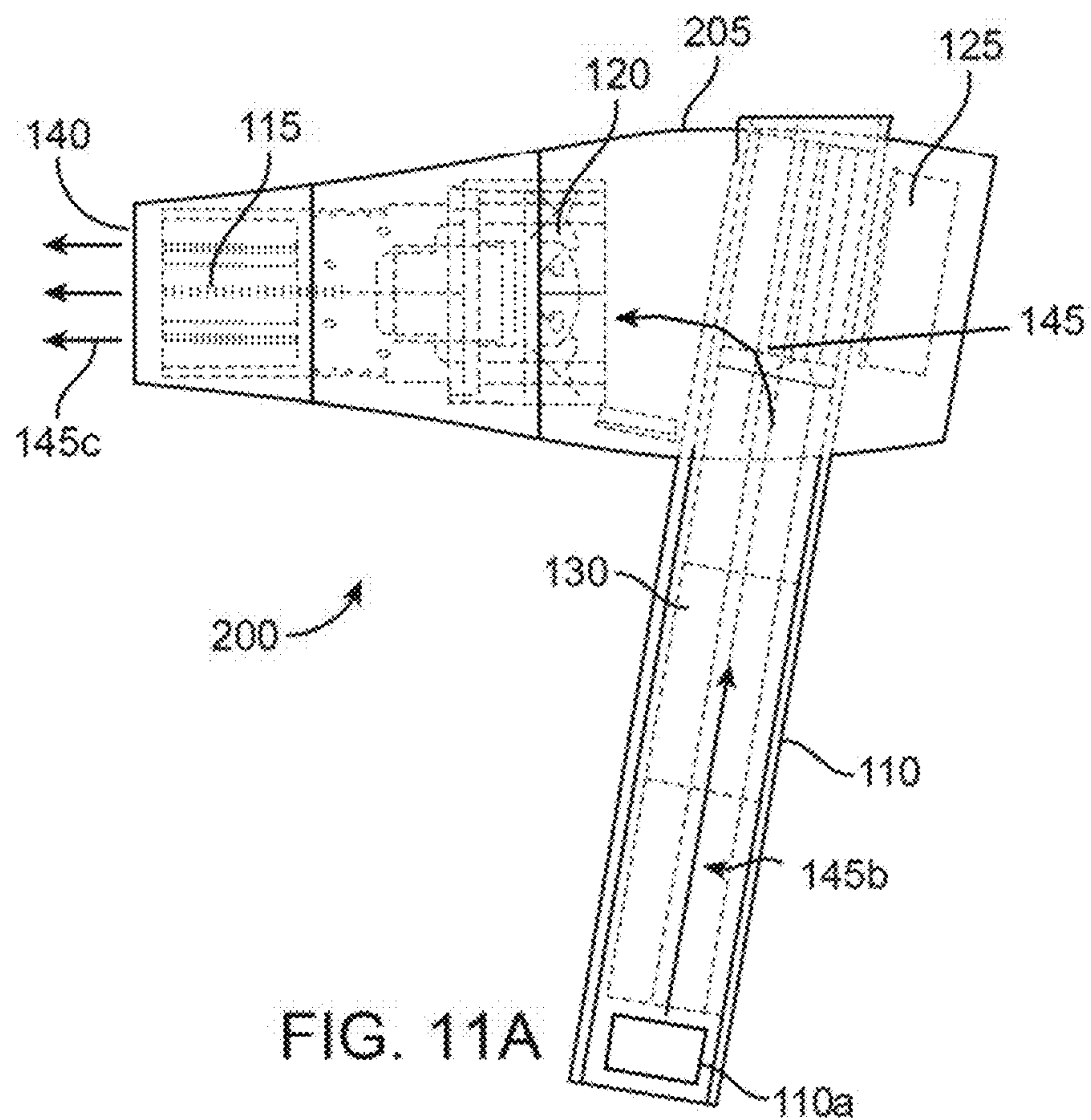
FIG. 6 C

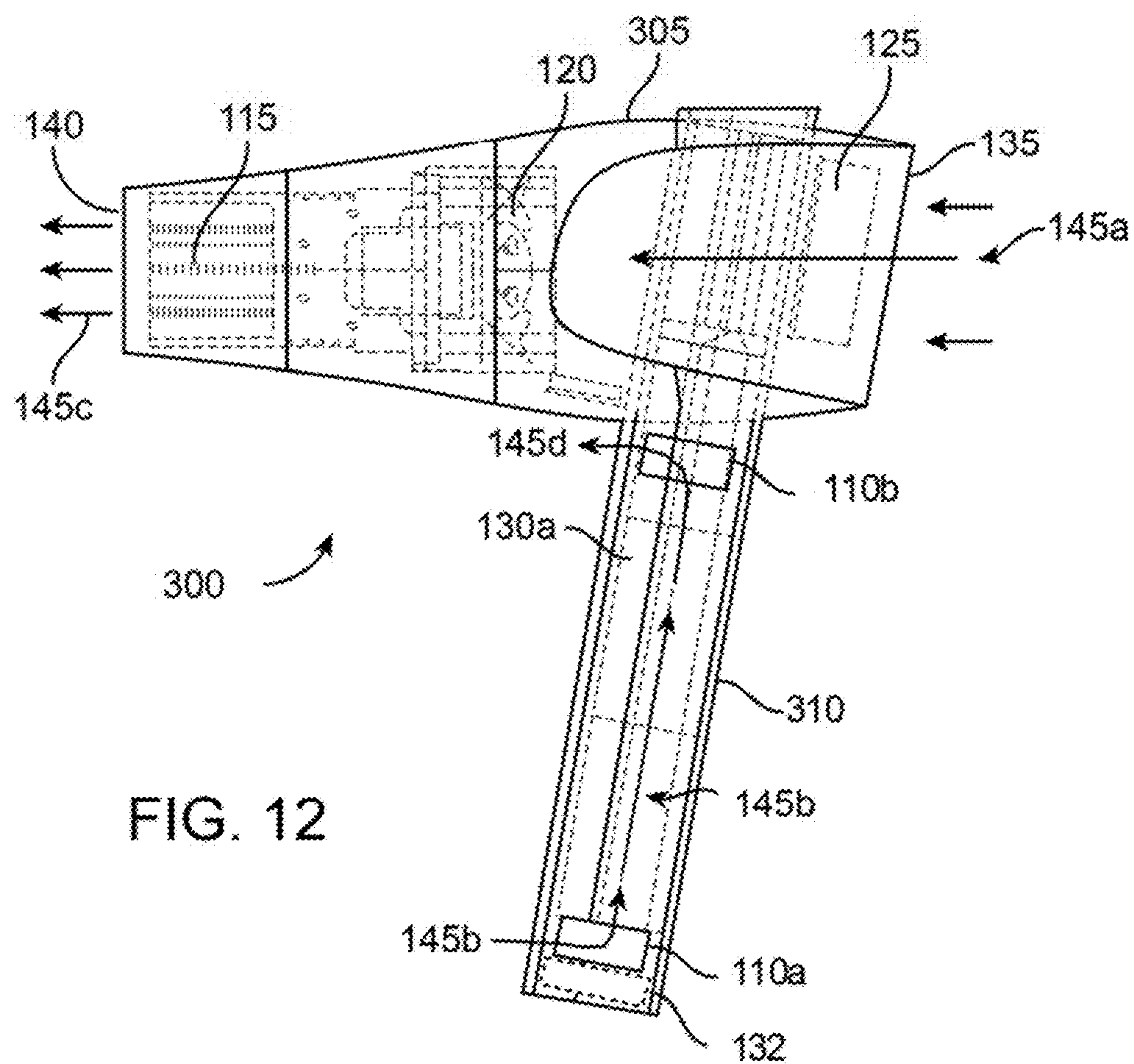
FIG. 6 D

FIG. 6 E

FIG. 6 F







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SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR COOLING BATTERIES IN A BATTERY POWERED BLOW DRYER

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/937,757, filed Mar. 27, 2018, which was a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/663,735, filed Jul. 29, 2017, and a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/660,601, filed Jul. 26, 2017, both of which claim the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/368,962, filed on Jul. 29, 2016, which are incorporated herein by reference

FIELD

This invention relates to the general field of blow dryers, also known as hair dryers, and specifically toward a unique battery cooling system and apparatus of a battery powered blow dryer delivering heat output.

BACKGROUND

Blow dryers have been around for decades. Typical blow dryers include a heating coil and a rotating fan housed within a protective outer shell. When power is supplied to the device, the heating coil responds by heating the air within the apparatus. The heated air is then forcefully expelled out of the device by means of a rotating fan. This results in accelerating the process of removing moisture absorbed within the hair follicle by rapidly heating the temperature of the hair.

Blow dryers tend to fall in the 1000 W to 2000 W range and typically receives power transmitted through a cord that is plugged into a wall outlet, so there is not an urgent design objective to minimize power consumption or waste heat. But, this power output presents challenges to power from a battery. All batteries have a level of internal electrical resistance/impedance, which generates heat during both charging and discharging. Thus, using batteries to power a heating element and fan also generates heat within the batteries, battery packs, or internal circuitry as they discharge. This heat can shorten the life of the batteries, and may affect the discharge rate or run time of the batteries. Excess heat can cause the safety control systems (part of the “battery management system” or BMS) to shut off the battery.

It would be desirable to develop a battery-operated blow dryer that is capable of cooling to batteries and related circuitry to increase their performance, avoid overheating and safety issues, and/or extend the life of the batteries.

SUMMARY

The present invention provides a battery powered blow dryer product which is configured to simultaneously cool the batteries and improve hair dryer performance.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present embodiments may be understood from the following detailed description when read in conjunction with the accompanying figures. It is emphasized that the various features of the figures are not necessarily to scale.

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On the contrary, the dimensions of the various features may be arbitrarily expanded or reduced for clarity.

FIG. 1 shows one embodiment of a battery powered blow dryer with battery cooling features.

FIG. 2 shows one embodiment having the air flow through and around the battery cells.

FIG. 3A shows one embodiment of cooling the batteries.

FIG. 3B shows one embodiment of cooling the batteries having a fan in the handle.

FIG. 4 shows an exploded view of the components of the battery powered blow dryer.

FIG. 5 shows one embodiment of the vented battery pack for cooling.

FIGS. 6A-6F show different embodiments for arranging the one or more batteries and electronics.

FIG. 7 shows one embodiment of the battery pack/handle.

FIG. 8 shows the battery pack/handle.

FIG. 9 shows the battery powered blow dryer.

FIG. 10 shows an embodiment that the power cord plugged directly into connector.

FIG. 11A shows another embodiment of a battery powered blow dryer with battery cooling features.

FIG. 11B shows another embodiment having the air flow around the battery cells.

FIG. 12 shows another embodiment of a battery powered blow dryer with battery cooling features.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Embodiments of the invention will now be described with reference to the figures, wherein like numerals reflect like elements throughout. The terminology used in the description presented herein is not intended to be interpreted in any limited or restrictive way, simply because it is being utilized in conjunction with detailed description of certain specific embodiments of the invention. Furthermore, embodiments of the invention may include several novel features, no single one of which is solely responsible for its desirable attributes or which is essential to practicing the invention described herein.

Prior attempts to provide enough heat to dry hair with a battery powered dryer have failed due to the high power consumption inherent in conventional heating elements. The present invention discloses a blow dryer that solves this problem by using a novel cooling system that provides cooling to the batteries and related circuitry. By placing the ventilation holes proximate to the batteries, the novel cooling system takes advantage of the cool air flow to ventilate the batteries. As the air flows around the batteries to cool them, the air is warmed and generates waste heat. Optionally, this waste heat that can be recycled. For example, from a performance standpoint, the excess heat coming off the battery pack could be directed toward the heating element, which boosts the performance of the dryer. Another option may be to use the warmed air from the batteries to warm the handle for the user.

FIG. 1 shows one embodiment of a battery powered blow dryer 100 having a case 105 with a handle 110, a heating element system 115, a fan 120 positioned proximate the heating element 115, electronics 125 and one or more batteries 130 positioned inside the handle 110 to power the components. The case includes case air flow channel with an air inlet 135 and air outlet 140. In the embodiment shown, the fan draws in air 145a through the inlet 135, the air 145 flows through the case and is blown over/through the heating element to heat, and the heated air 145c exits through the outlet 140.

The handle also includes a handle air flow channel in communication with the case air flow channel, so that air flowing through the handle exits into the case air flow channel. The batteries are positioned within the channel with gaps being formed between the handle **110** and batteries **130** that allows air flow around the batteries. To cool the batteries **130**, the handle **110** includes one or more intake vents **110a** that allows in air to flow **145b** up the channel in the handle over the batteries **130** and gaps between the individual cells. The number of the vents and shape of the vents are designed to promote the flow of air and accommodate the shape of the blow dryer. In the embodiment shown, the fan draws air **145b** through inlet **110a** that flows around the battery cells, then continues through the case **105** and is blown over the heating element **115**. While the air flow **145b** is cooling the batteries, the air flow **145b** is also being warmed, so the battery warmed air flows to the heating element.

The number and configuration of the batteries are designed to supply the desired power to the heating element system **115**, fan **120** and electronics **125** (see FIG. 6). The batteries may be individually inserted into the handle or may be within a removable battery pack (see FIGS. 7 and 8). The individual cells may have a variety of configurations within the pack as which are described but not limited to the examples detailed in FIG. 6.

The gap between the handle and batteries may also vary in design. The size and shape of the gap between the handle and batteries, and between the battery cells themselves may be designed to promote the cooling of the batteries.

The present invention also may contain a variety of sensors to monitor battery temperatures, detect problems, and provide early warning for intervention. Keeping the batteries cool may also extend the usage time and the life of the battery.

FIG. 2 is a schematic showing air flow **145** through the blow dryer **100** during use. In the embodiment shown, the fan draws **120** in air **145a** through the inlet **135** and air **145b** through inlet **110a**, which flows around the battery cells. Then air flow **145a** and **145b** join and continue through the case **105** and blown over the heating element **115** to heat the air, and the heated air **145c** exits through the outlet **140** toward the hair being dried.

FIG. 3A shows another embodiment in which the air flow **145b** is warmed or pre-heated by the batteries prior to reaching the heating element. The fan **120** draws **145a** through the inlet **135** and air **145b** through the vent **110a**. The air **145b** flows around the battery cells, cooling them, and then continues through the case. In addition to the fan, the venture effect of the air **145a** being pulled by the fan may create a suction or vacuum and draw the air **145b** up the handle. If not designed into the blow dryer, this heat would become waste heat—heat that the batteries discharged to achieve, but not adding to the performance of the dryer. By using a design that places the battery pack in line with the dryer's air flow, the battery heat can be drawn off the pack and fed into the heating element.

FIG. 3B shows another embodiment in which the handle includes a fan **132** that draws in air and blows it through the handle **145b** to cool the batteries. In the embodiment shown, the fan **132** is positioned near the bottom of the handle and draws in air **145b** through the vent **110a** and pushes the air up the handle so that the air **145b** flows around the battery cells to cool them. The air flow **145b** can then exit out vents at the top of the handle or may join air flow **145a** and continue through the case **105** and blown over the heating element **115**. In other embodiments, the fan **132a** may be positioned above the battery cells in the handle.

FIG. 4 shows an exploded view of one embodiment of the components of the battery powered blow dryer **100**. The heating element **115**, fan assembly **120** and electronics **125** are positioned inside the case **105**. In the embodiment shown, the case may be made in multiple pieces, such as case **105a** and **105b**. The inlet **135** may include a screen **135a** and the outlet may include a screen or diffuser **140a**.

The battery may be integral or may be separate replaceable unit or module that can be charged/upgraded/swapped out separately from the dryer barrel. It is envisioned that different capacity batteries may be used to provide different price points. As a non-limiting example, the battery unit may be composed of lithium ion cells or one or more lithium polymer pouches.

In some embodiments, the battery may extend into the barrel or air channel to conceal bulk.

In some embodiments, the barrel or air channel may be one-piece (seamless) plastic shell with components inserted from the back.

FIG. 5 shows another embodiment of a battery case **130a** that includes an intake vent **110a** positioned near one end of the case, such as a bottom end, and an exhaust vent **110b**, positioned near the second end of the case, such as a top end. While the vents are shown in the side of the case, the vents may also in the top and/or bottom of the case. Between batteries **130** are gaps that allow air flow around the batteries. To cool the batteries **130**, the one or more intake vents **110a** allows in air to flow **145b** up the handle in the battery case air flow channel over the batteries **130** and between the individual cells to cool them, and then exits from the outlet vent **110b**. The number of the vents and shape of the vents are designed to promote the flow of air given the shape of the blow dryer. When the battery case **130a**, is inserted into the handle, the vents **110a** and **110b** should line up with vents in the handle or case to allow air flow. (see FIG. 12)

In some embodiments, the battery pack **130a** may include one or more fans **125** to assist in pulling air **145b** into the inlet vent **110a** and cooling the batteries. In use, the fan **132** draws in air **145b** through the vent **110a** and pushes the air up the handle so that the air **145b** flows around the battery cells to cool them. The air flow **145b** can then exit out vents at the top of the handle or may join air flow **145a** and continue through the case **105** and blown over the heating element **115**. In other embodiments, the fan **132a** may be positioned above the battery cells in the handle.

In some embodiments, the battery pack **130a** may also include electrical connectors **170** that connect the batteries to electronics and power the components of the battery operated hair dryer. The bottom of the pack may also include charging electric connectors **175** that may be used to charge and recharge the batteries.

FIGS. 6A-6F show different embodiments for arranging the one or more batteries **130** and electronics **125**. As shown in the figures, there may be multiple electronic circuit boards, such as printed circuit boards (PCB). The electronics **125** may include a battery protection feature that monitors the batteries and may shut off the power if the batteries will become damage due to overheating.

FIGS. 6A-6F shows many improved the configurations deemed to be feasible given these constraints

FIG. 7 shows one embodiment of the battery pack **130** is used a part of the handle **110** that plugs into the casing **105** to form the blow dryer **100**. The pack includes electrical connectors **170** that connect the batteries to the electronics **125** and power the components. The bottom of the pack may include charging electric connectors **175** that may be used to charge and recharge the batteries.

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The handle 110/battery pack 130 combination includes one or more intake vents 110a that allows air flow 145b to enter the handle 110 and one or more exhaust vents 110b that allows air flow 145b to exit into the case 105.

FIG. 8 shows the handle 110/battery pack 130 being assembled with the casing 105. Also shown in the figure is a docking or charging station 180 with charging connectors 185 and power cord 190 that interfaces with connectors 175 to charge the batteries.

FIG. 9 shows the battery powered blow dryer 100 coupled to the docking station 180 to charge or store the unit.

FIG. 10 shows an embodiment that the power cord 190 is plugged directly into connector 175. This allows the blow dryer to be used while the batteries are charging.

In some embodiments, it may be desirable to increase air flow over the batteries to improve battery cooling. This may be done by directing more air flow through the one or more inlets 110a and reducing flow through inlet 135 (see FIG. 1). The inlet may include louvers, flaps or other devices that can be opened or closed to regulate air flow.

FIG. 11A shows one embodiment of a battery powered blow dryer 200 for increased battery cooling, that is similar to blow dryer 100, except air inlet 135 has been removed and the only air inlet is in the handle. In the embodiment shown, battery powered blow dryer 200 includes a case 205 with a handle 110, a heating element system 115, a fan 120 positioned proximate the heating element 115, electronics 125 and one or more batteries 130 positioned inside the handle 110 to power the components. The battery powered blow dryer 200 includes air flow channel with one or more air inlets 110a positioned in the handle and an air outlet 140. In the embodiment shown, the fan draws in air 145 through the inlet 110a, the air 145b flows air up the handle 110 cooling the batteries and is blown over/through the heating element in the case 205 to heat, and then the heated air 145c exits through the outlet 140.

Between the handle 110 and batteries 130 may be a gap is formed that allows air flow around the batteries. To cool the batteries 130, the one or more intake vents 110a allows in air to flow 145b up the handle over the batteries 130 and between the individual cells. The number of the vents and shape of the vents are designed to promote the flow of air given the shape of the blow dryer. In the embodiment shown, the fan draws air 145b through inlet 110a that flows around the battery cells, then continues through the case 205 and is blown over the heating element 115.

FIG. 11B is a schematic showing air flow 145 through the blow dryer 200 during use. In the embodiment shown, the fan draws in air 145b through inlet 110a, which flows around the battery cells, continues through the case 205 and blown over the heating element 115 to heat the air, and the heated air 145c exits through the outlet 140 toward the hair being dried.

While the embodiments shown use fan 120 for air flow, other embodiments may include additional fans for battery cooling air flow. The fans may be located within the case, within the handle, or may be part of the battery pack.

FIG. 12 shows another embodiment of a battery powered blow dryer 300 with battery cooling feature within the battery case. The blow dryer 300 includes a case 305 with a handle 310, a heating element system 115, a fan 120 positioned proximate the heating element 115, electronics 125 and a battery case 130a with one or more batteries 130 positioned inside the handle 310 to power the components, and a battery fan 132 to draw in the air 145b to cool the batteries. Blow dryer 300 is similar to blow dryer 100,

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except uses a battery case 130a includes a battery case air inlet 145a, a battery case air outlet 145d, and a handle fan 132 (see FIG. 5).

In the embodiment shown, the battery fan 132 draws in air 145b through the battery case inlet 110a, the air 145b flows air up the handle 110 cooling the batteries, and then the heated air 145d exits through the battery case outlet 110d. In this configuration, airflow 145b enters and exits the handle, and does not go into the case to mix with case airflow 145a.

The battery powered blow dryer 300 may further include electronics 125a that control the operation of the battery fan 132. In some embodiments, the battery fan 132 runs at the same time as fan 120. In other embodiments, battery fan 132 only runs when the batteries need cooling, or to keep the batteries at the optimum operating temperature. The energy usage is reduced resulting in power savings and enables a more efficient design.

While various embodiments of the disclosed technology have been described above, it should be understood that they have been presented by way of example only, and not of limitation. Likewise, the various diagrams may depict an example architectural or other configuration for the disclosed technology, which is done to aid in understanding the features and functionality that may be included in the disclosed technology. The disclosed technology is not restricted to the illustrated example architectures or configurations, but the desired features may be implemented using a variety of alternative architectures and configurations. Indeed, it will be apparent to one of skill in the art how alternative functional, logical or physical partitioning and configurations may be implemented to implement the desired features of the technology disclosed herein. Also, a multitude of different constituent module names other than those depicted herein may be applied to the various partitions. Additionally, with regard to flow diagrams, operational descriptions and method claims, the order in which the steps are presented herein shall not mandate that various embodiments be implemented to perform the recited functionality in the same order unless the context dictates otherwise.

Although the disclosed technology is described above in terms of various exemplary embodiments and implementations, it should be understood that the various features, aspects and functionality described in one or more of the individual embodiments are not limited in their applicability to the particular embodiment with which they are described, but instead may be applied, alone or in various combinations, to one or more of the other embodiments of the disclosed technology, whether or not such embodiments are described and whether or not such features are presented as being a part of a described embodiment. Thus, the breadth and scope of the technology disclosed herein should not be limited by any of the above-described exemplary embodiments.

Terms and phrases used in this document, and variations thereof, unless otherwise expressly stated, should be construed as open ended as opposed to limiting. As examples of the foregoing: the term “including” should be read as meaning “including, without limitation” or the like; the term “example” is used to provide exemplary instances of the item in discussion, not an exhaustive or limiting list thereof; the terms “a” or “an” should be read as meaning “at least one,” “one or more” or the like; and adjectives such as “conventional,” “traditional,” “normal,” “standard,” “known” and terms of similar meaning should not be construed as limiting the item described to a given time period or to an item available as of a given time, but instead

should be read to encompass conventional, traditional, normal, or standard technologies that may be available or known now or at any time in the future. Likewise, where this document refers to technologies that would be apparent or known to one of ordinary skill in the art, such technologies encompass those apparent or known to the skilled artisan now or at any time in the future.

The presence of broadening words and phrases such as “one or more,” “at least,” “but not limited to” or other like phrases in some instances shall not be read to mean that the narrower case is intended or required in instances where such broadening phrases may be absent. The use of the term “module” does not imply that the components or functionality described or claimed as part of the module are all configured in a common package. Indeed, any or all of the various components of a module, whether control logic or other components, may be combined in a single package or separately maintained and can further be distributed in multiple groupings or packages or across multiple locations.

Additionally, the various embodiments set forth herein are described in terms of exemplary block diagrams, flow charts and other illustrations. As will become apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art after reading this document, the illustrated embodiments and their various alternatives may be implemented without confinement to the illustrated examples. For example, block diagrams and their accompanying description should not be construed as mandating a particular architecture or configuration.

Embodiments presented are particular ways to realize the invention and are not inclusive of all ways possible. Therefore, there may exist embodiments that do not deviate from the spirit and scope of this disclosure as set forth by appended claims, but do not appear here as specific examples. It will be appreciated that a great plurality of alternative versions are possible.

The invention claimed is:

1. A battery pack with cooling features for use with a battery-operated hair device comprising:

a battery case configured to hold one or more batteries, the battery case having:

a battery case air intake vent positioned proximate a first end of the battery case;

a battery case air exhaust vent positioned proximate a second end of the battery case;

an air flow cooling channel in communication with the battery case air intake vent and the battery case air exhaust vent;

one or more batteries positioned within the air flow cooling channel; and

one or more battery case cooling fans configured to pull in air through the battery case air intake vent and exhaust air from the battery case air exhaust vent via the air flow cooling channel;

wherein during operation the battery case cooling fans pulls air into the battery case air intake vent, the air flows through the air flow channel contacting and cooling the one or more batteries and the air exists the battery case air exhaust vent.

2. The battery pack of claim 1, wherein the battery case cooling fans are positioned within the battery case.

3. The battery pack of claim 1, further comprising electronics configured to control the battery case cooling fans.

4. The battery pack of claim 3, wherein the electronics further includes an electrical connector coupled to the battery operated hair dryer configured to power the components of the battery operated hair dryer.

5. The battery pack of claim 4, wherein the electronics further includes a battery protection feature that monitors the batteries and may shut off the power if the batteries will become damage due to overheating.

6. The battery pack of claim 1, wherein the battery case further comprises a battery charging electric connector configured to recharge the batteries.

7. The battery pack of claim 6, wherein the battery case and charging electric connector are configured to couple with a docking station and docking station electrical connector to charge the one or more batteries.

8. The battery pack of claim 1, further comprising sensors configured to monitor battery temperatures, detect problems, and/or provide early warning for intervention.

9. The battery pack of claim 1, wherein the air flow channel includes air flow regulation devices to regulate air flow through the battery case air intake vent and/or battery case air exhaust vent.

10. The battery pack of claim 9, wherein the air flow regulation devices include louvers, flaps or other devices that can be opened or closed to regulate air flow.

11. A battery pack with cooling features for use with a battery-operated hair device comprising:

a battery case configured to hold one or more batteries, the battery case having:

a battery case air intake vent positioned proximate a first end of the battery case;

a battery case air exhaust vent positioned proximate a second end of the battery case;

an air flow cooling channel in communication with the battery case air intake vent and the battery case air exhaust vent;

one or more batteries positioned within the air flow cooling channel;

one or more battery case fans positioned in the battery case coupled to the one or more batteries, the battery case fans being configured to pull in air through the battery case air intake vent and exhaust air from the battery case air exhaust vent via the air flow cooling channel; and

electronics configured to control the operation of the one or more battery case cooling fans;

wherein during operation the battery case fans pull air into the battery case air intake vent, the air flows through the air flow channel and the air exists the battery case air exhaust vent, the air contacting and cooling the one or more batteries.

12. The battery pack of claim 11, wherein the electronics further includes an electrical connector coupled to the battery-operated hair device configured to power the battery-operated hair device.

13. The battery pack of claim 12, wherein the electronics further includes a battery protection feature that monitors the batteries and may shut off power if the batteries will become damage due to overheating.

14. The battery pack of claim 11, wherein the battery case electronics are configured to the one or more battery fans the regulate air flow through the air flow channels.

15. The battery pack of claim 11, further comprising air flow regulation devices coupled to the battery case air intake vent configured to regulate air flow through the air flow cooling channel.

16. The battery pack of claim 15, wherein the air flow regulation devices include louvers, flaps or other devices that can be opened or closed to regulate air flow.

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17. The battery pack of claim 11, wherein the battery case further comprises a charging electric connector that may be used to charge and recharge the batteries.

18. The battery pack of claim 17, wherein the battery case and charging electric connector are configured to couple with a docking station and docking station electrical connector to charge the one or more batteries or store the battery pack.

19. A battery pack with cooling features for use with a battery-operated hair device comprising:

a battery case configured to hold one or more batteries, the battery case having:

a battery case air intake vent positioned proximate a first end of the battery case;

a battery case air exhaust vent positioned proximate a second end of the battery case;

an air flow cooling channel in communication with the battery case air intake vent and the battery case air exhaust vent;

one or more batteries positioned within the air flow cooling channel;

one or more battery case fans positioned in the battery case coupled to the one or more batteries, the battery

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case fans being configured to pull in air through the battery case air intake vent and exhaust air from the battery case air exhaust vent via the air flow cooling channel; and

electronics coupled to the one or more batteries being configured to control the operation of the battery pack including controlling the one or more battery case cooling fans to regulate air flow through the air flow channels and monitoring the one or more batteries to shut off the power if the batteries will become damaged due to overheating;

wherein during operation the battery case fans pull air into the battery case air intake vent, the air flows through the air flow channel and the air exits the battery case air exhaust vent, the air contacting and cooling the one or more batteries.

20. The battery pack of claim 19, the electronics further including a charging electric connector configured to couple with a docking station electrical connector to charge the one or more batteries.

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