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Sarmova

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(54) **QUICK-DEPLOYING CAR COVER**

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B60J 11/04 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **B60J 11/04** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC B60J 11/04
USPC 296/136.01, 136.07, 136.13, 95.1
See application file for complete search history.

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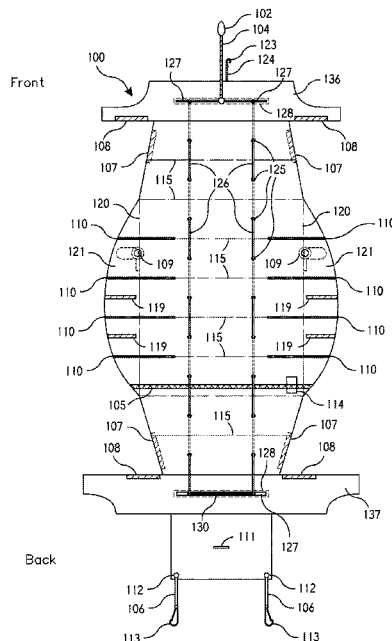
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A car cover is formed of top panels configured to unfold and refold in accordion manner along fold lines. It attaches to the front and back of the car. It includes grommets in the panels and a refolded cord threaded through the grommets which refolds the cover when pulled. It also includes wings formed along the edges of the top panels and configured to selectively either extend outward from the top panels or fold downward over car sides.

19 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets



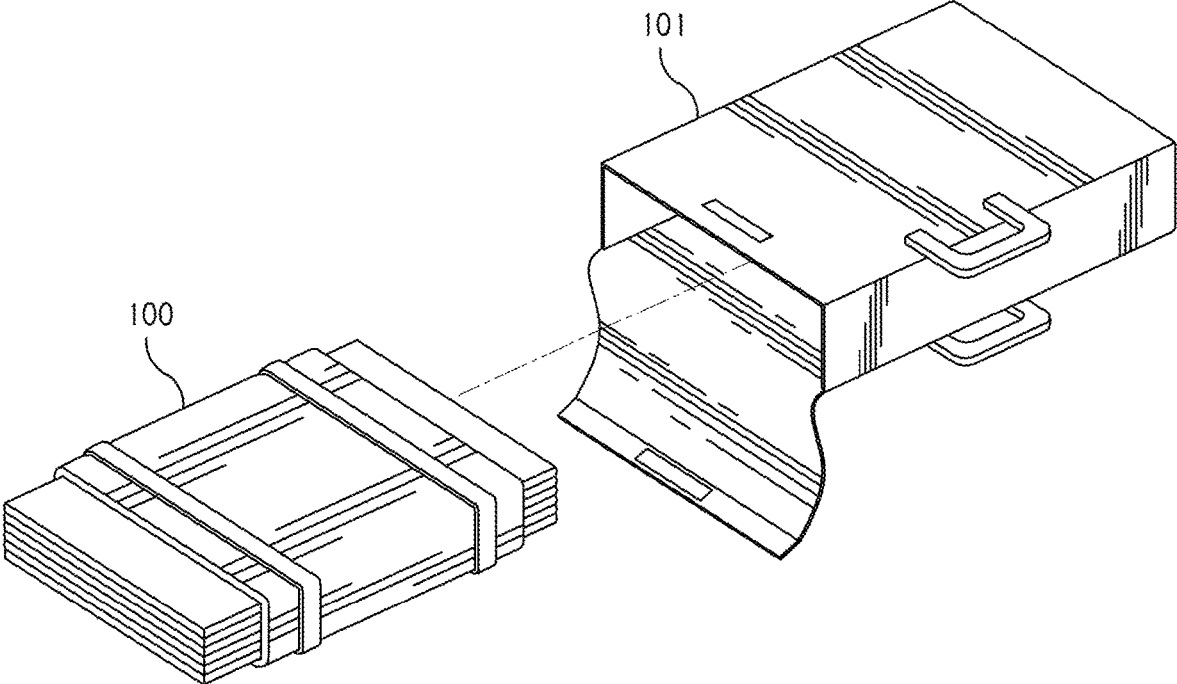


Fig. 1

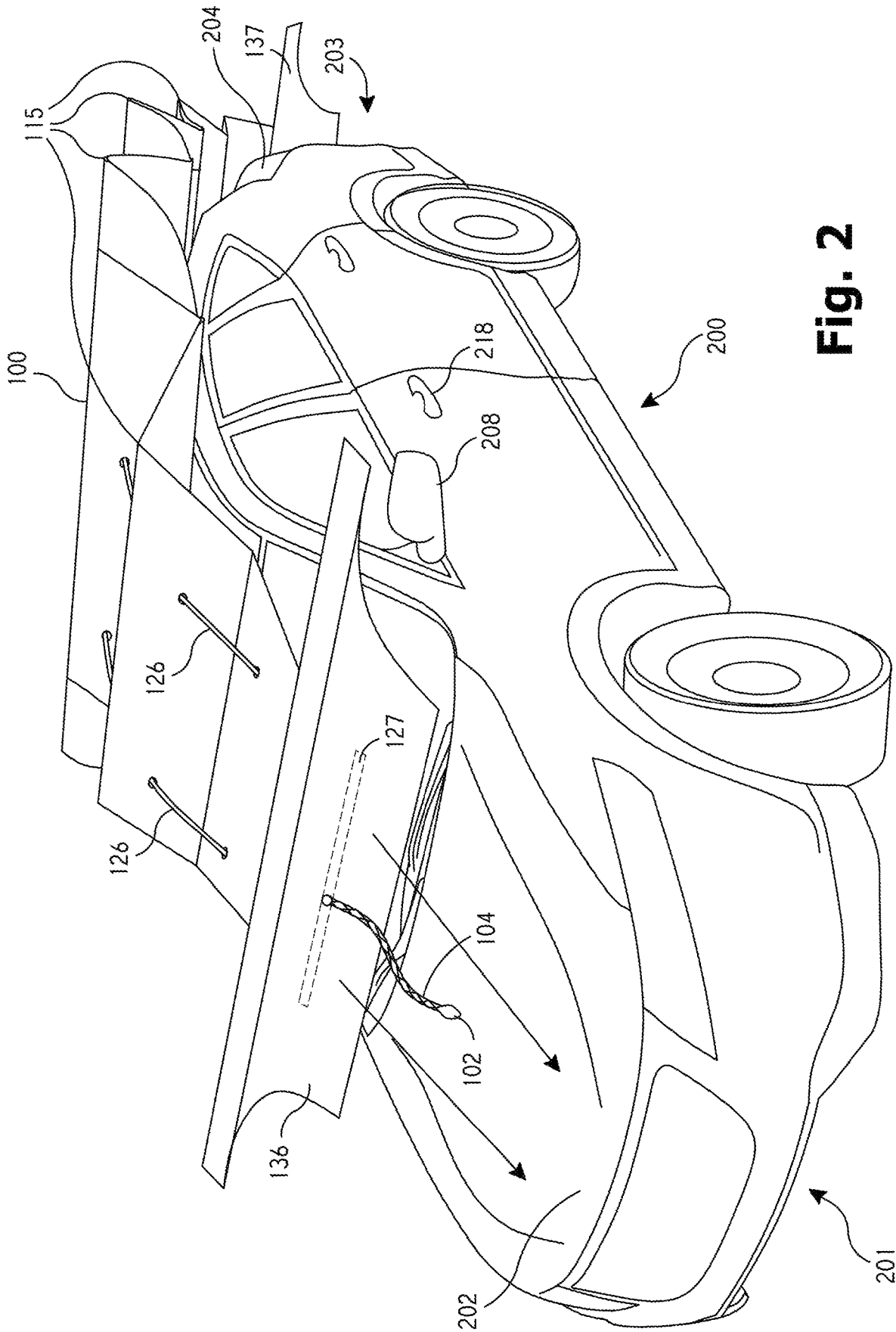


Fig. 2

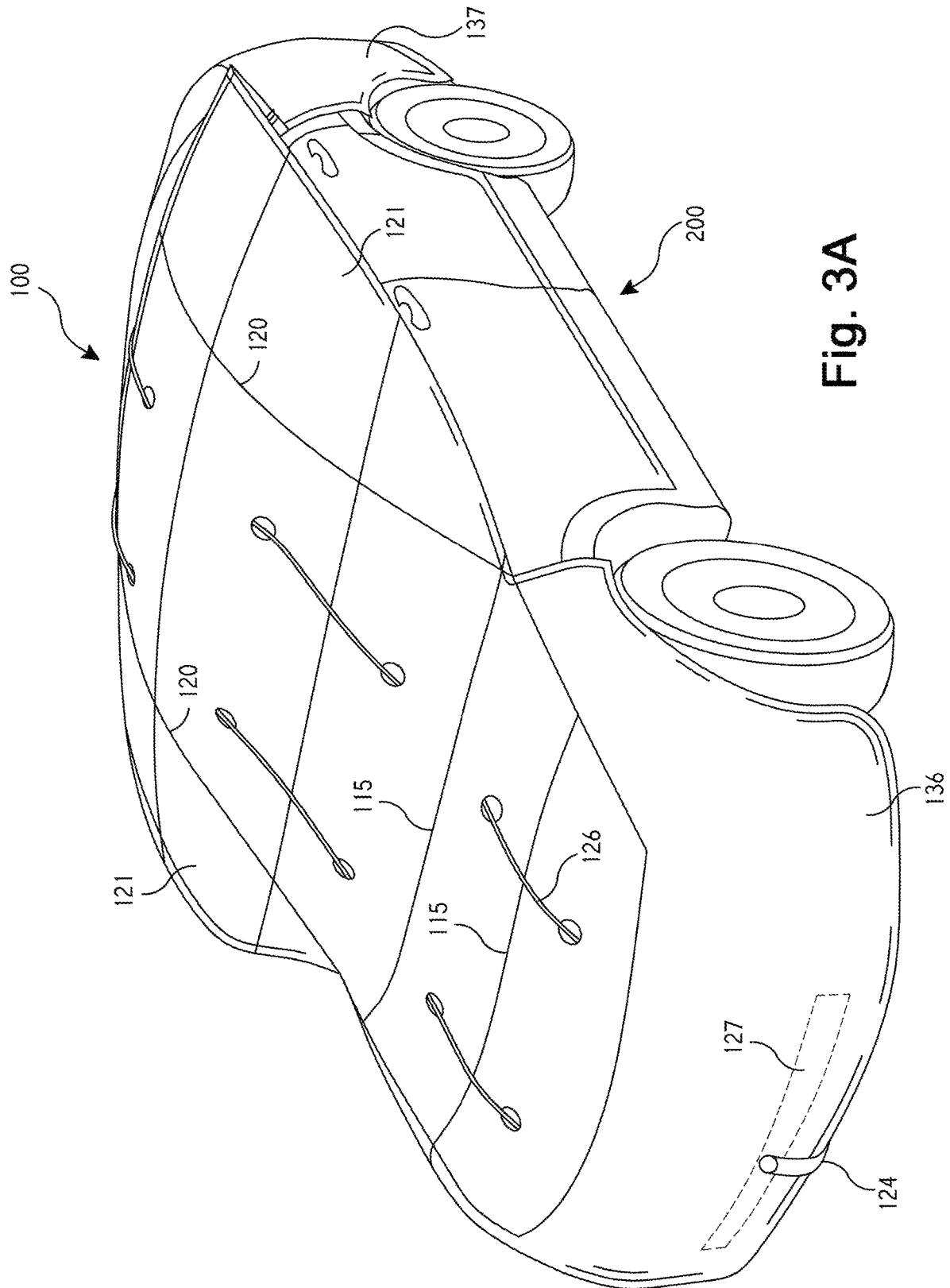


Fig. 3A

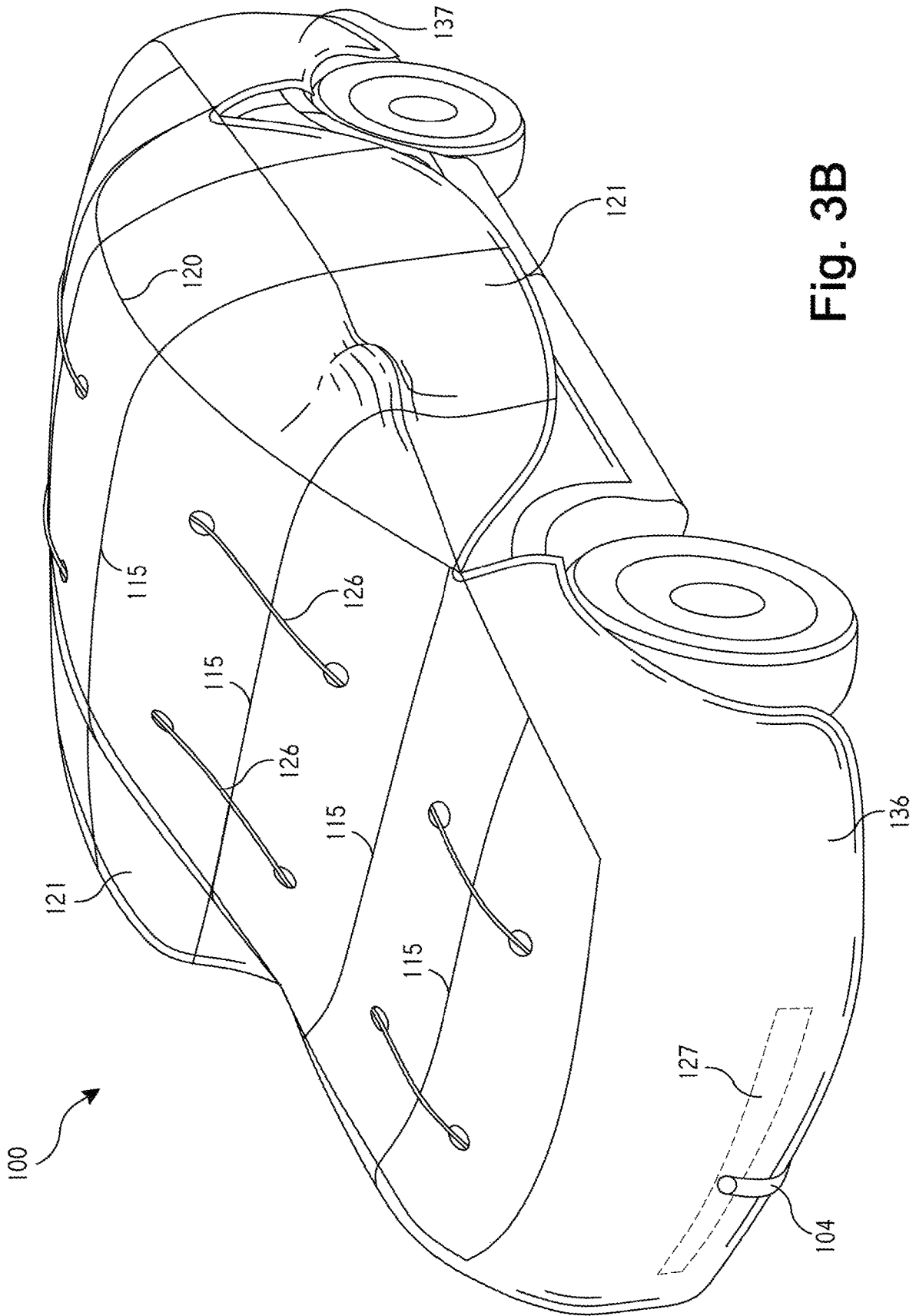


Fig. 3B

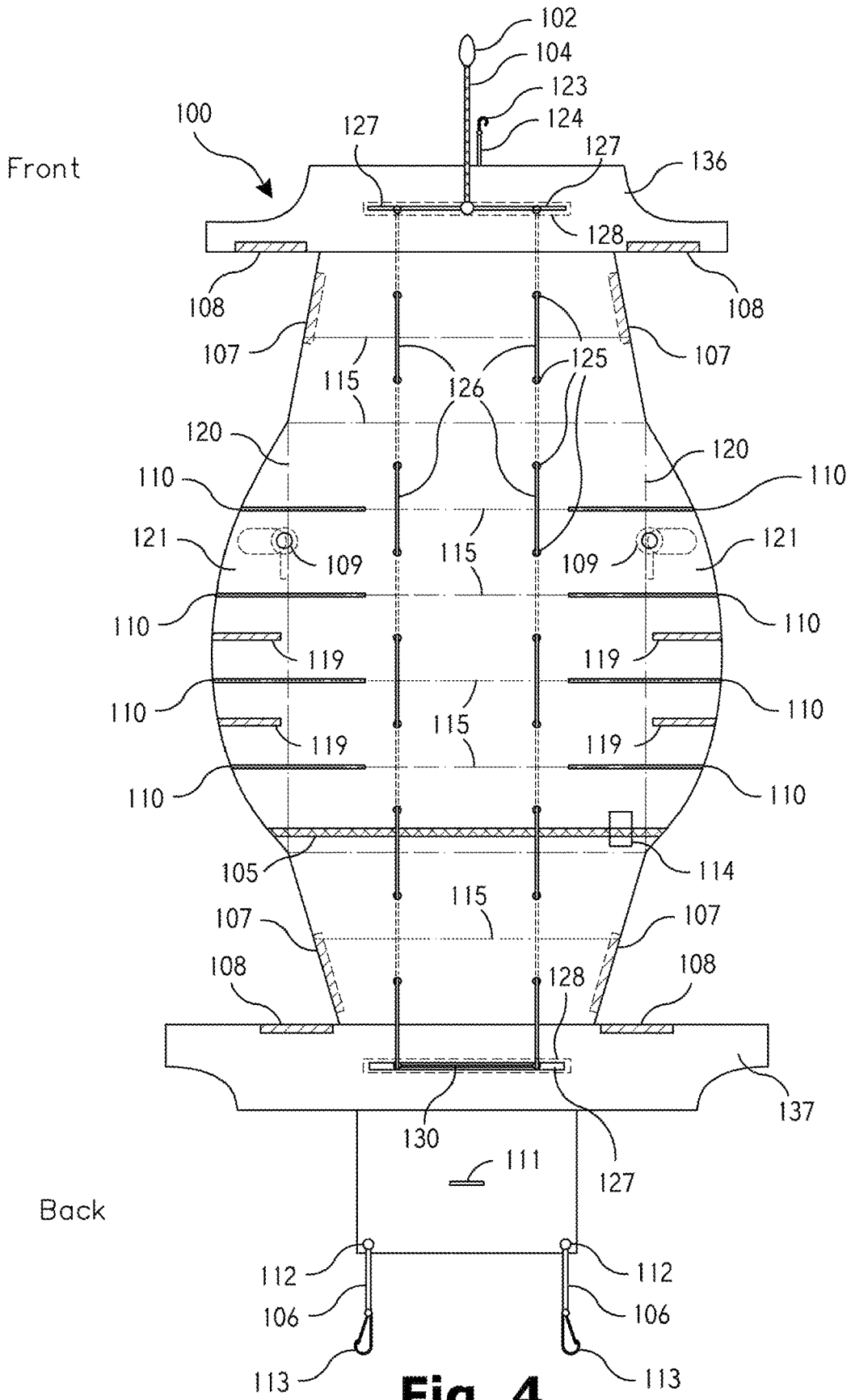


Fig. 4

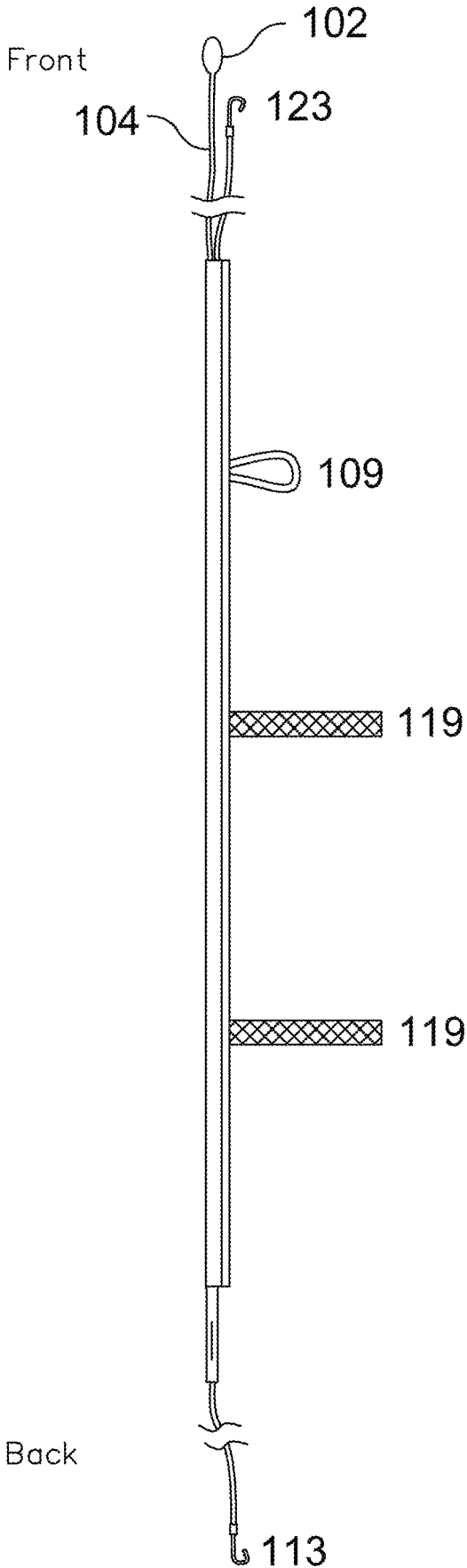


Fig. 5

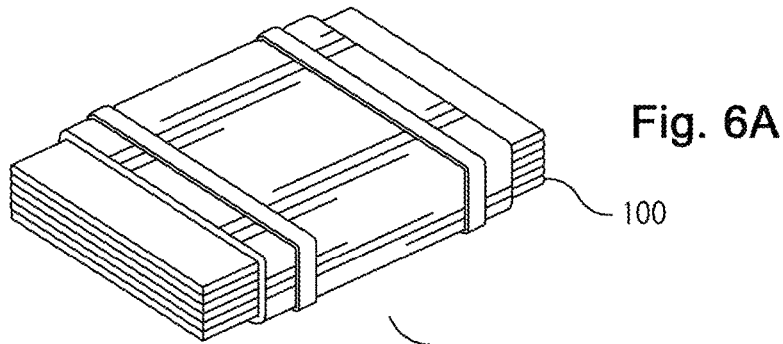
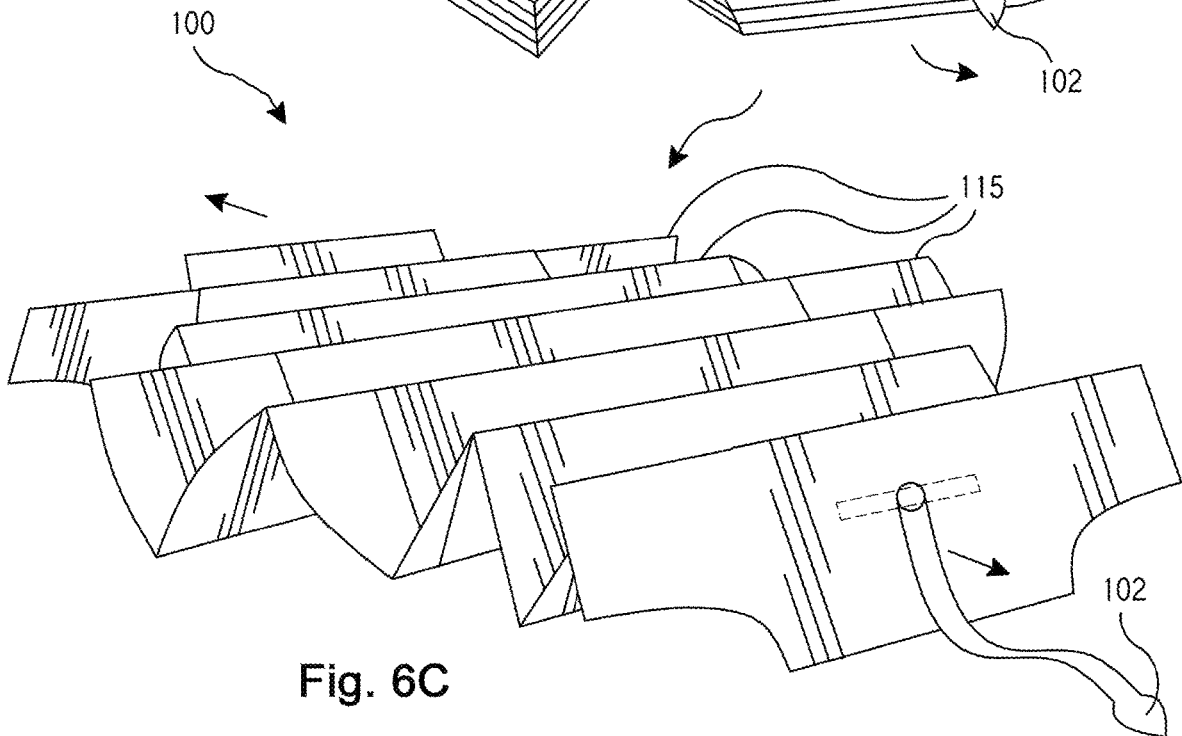
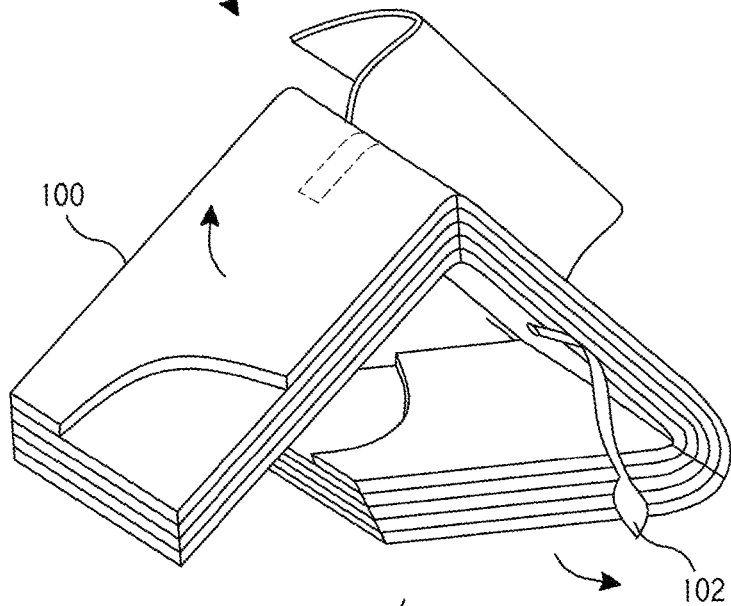


Fig. 6B



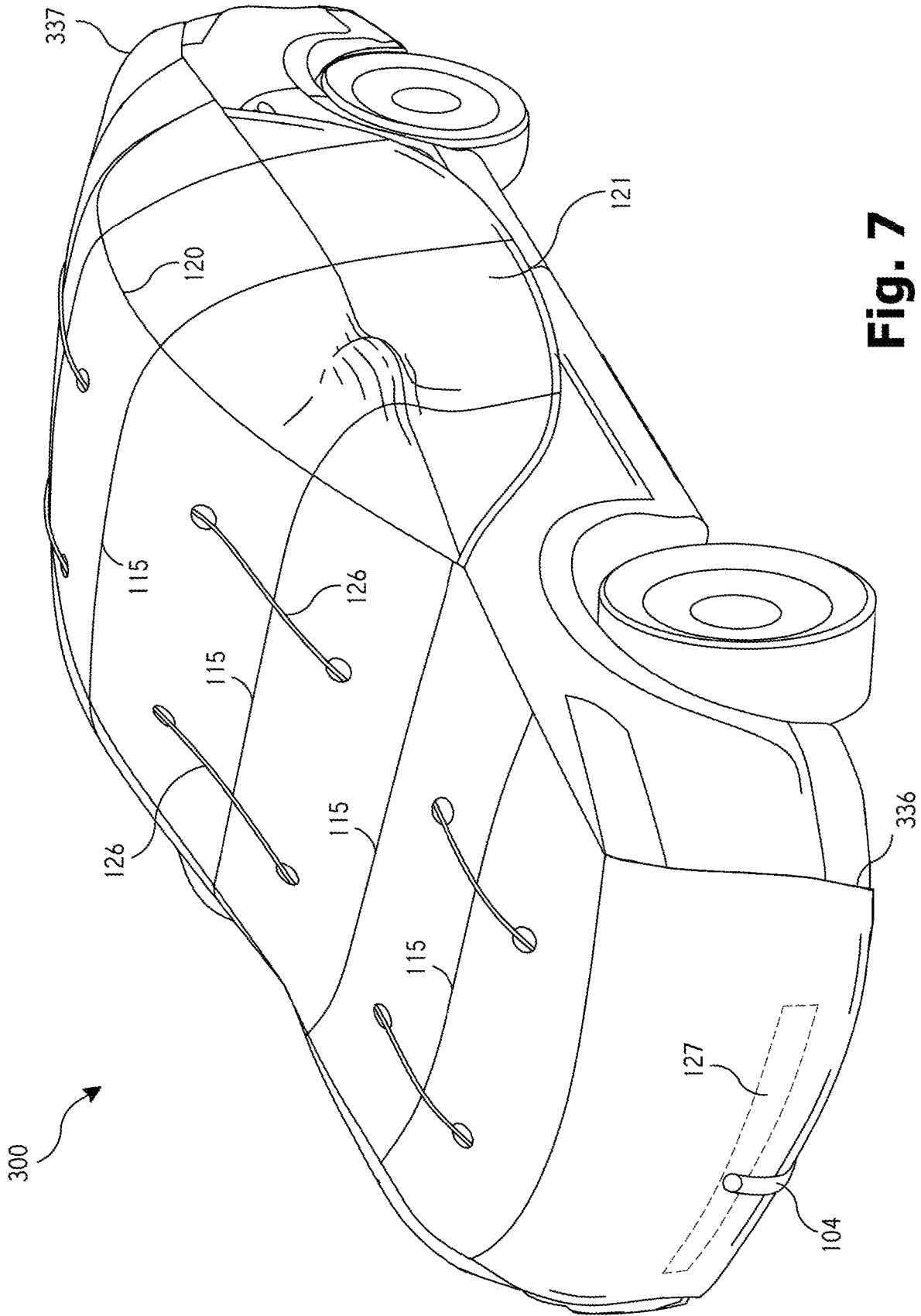


Fig. 7

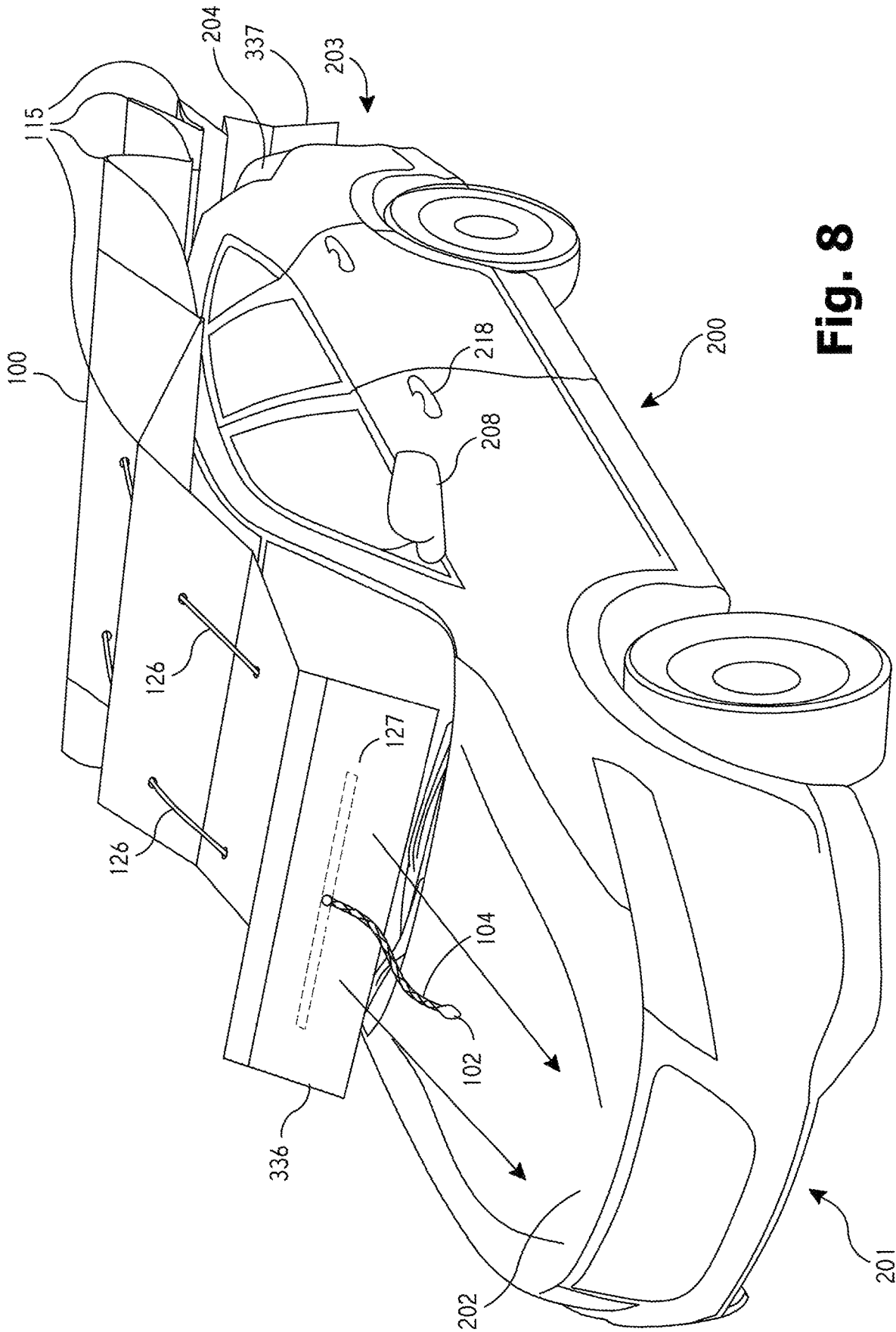


Fig. 8

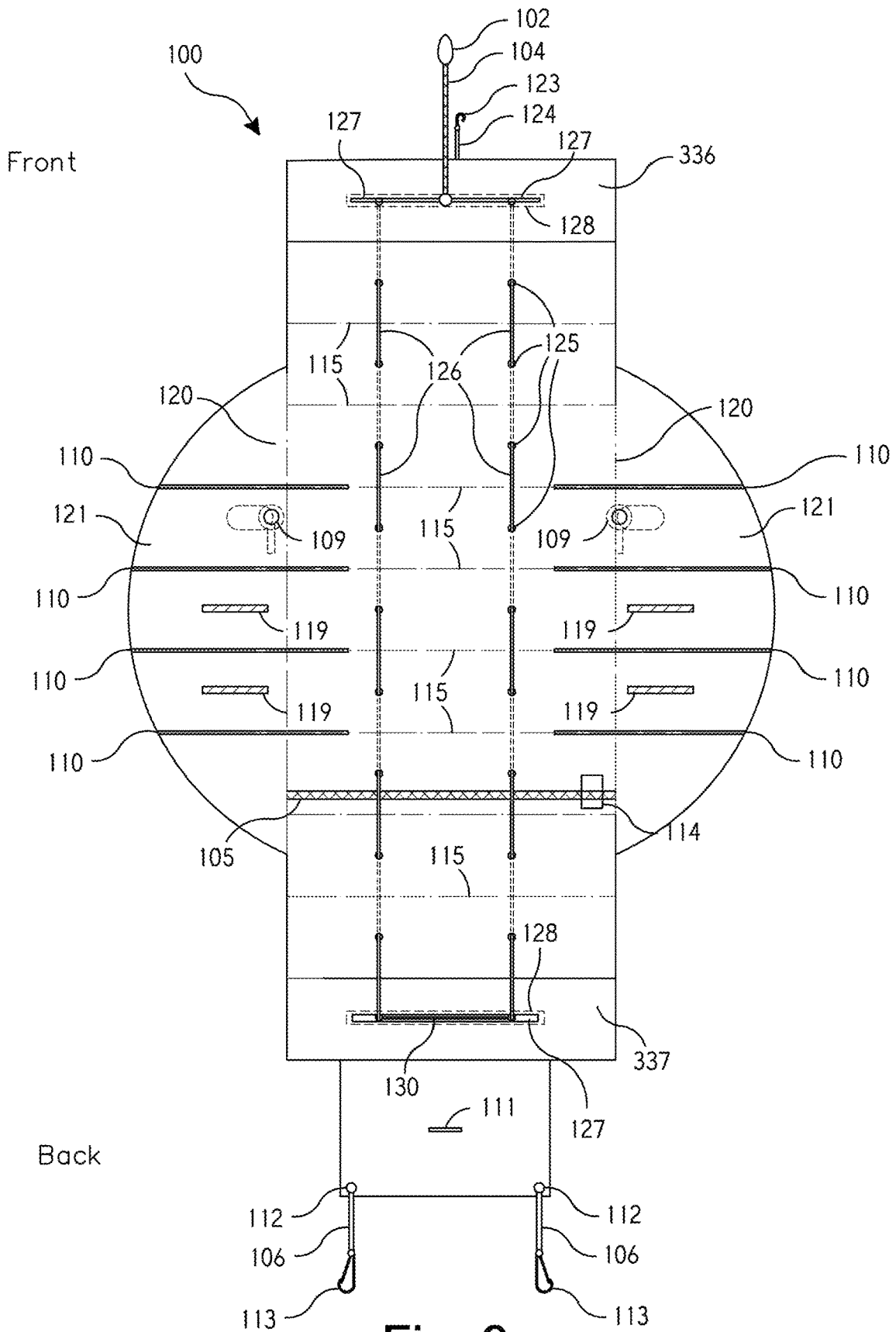


Fig. 9

QUICK-DEPLOYING CAR COVER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to car covers. In particular, the present invention relates to quick-deploying car covers to shield cars from hail and the like.

Discussion of Related Art

Currently, car covers take several minutes to deploy, and don't sufficiently protect cars from hail, as they are generally one layer of flexible material.

A need remains in the art for a car cover that can be deployed quickly and will protect the car from hail and other adverse conditions.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a car cover that can be deployed quickly and will protect the car from hail and other adverse conditions.

An embodiment of the present invention comprises an accordion-like cover which attaches to the back end of the car, inside the trunk and is unfolded to cover the car. The other end of the cover is then attached to the front end of the car. A handle is provided for the user to pull the cover over the car.

One end of the cover may be attached to the rear of the car by securing one or more attachment hooks inside the trunk of the car, the door handles of the car, and the side mirrors.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is an isometric view of a folded car cover according to the present invention being removed from its storage case.

FIG. 2 is an isometric view of a first embodiment of the car cover of FIG. 1 being deployed on a car.

FIG. 3A is an isometric view of the car cover of FIG. 2 after being deployed on a car with the umbrella flaps extended.

FIG. 3B is an isometric view of the car cover of FIG. 1 after being deployed on a car with one umbrella flap extended and one folded down.

FIG. 4 is a schematic top plan view of the car cover of FIG. 2.

FIG. 5 is a schematic side view of the car cover of FIG. 2.

FIGS. 6A, 6B, and 6C are isometric figures showing the car cover of FIG. 2 being unfolded prior to deployment

FIG. 7 is an isometric view of a second embodiment of the car cover of FIG. 1 after being deployed on a car with umbrella flaps folded down.

FIG. 8 is an isometric view of a second embodiment of the car cover of FIG. 7 in the process of being deployed on a car.

FIG. 9 is a schematic top plan view of the car cover of FIG. 7.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The following table lists elements of the present invention along with their reference numbers.

Reference No.	Element
100	Car cover
101	Cover storage case
102	Cover deploying handle
103	Top panels
104	Cover deploying handle strap
105	Cover back end securing strap
106	Trunk strap
107	Hook-and-loop first side
108	Hook-and-loop second side
109	Elastic side-view mirror straps
110	Wing rod
111	Securing slit
112	Grommets
113	Clip/hook
114	Clips
115	Accordion folding lines
119	Car door handle strap for wing
120	Car edge fold line
121	Wings
123	Front hook
124	Front hook strap
125	Refolding cord grommets
126	Refolding cord
127	Reinforcement openings for refolding cord
128	Reinforcement panel pocket
130	Refolding cord portion
136	Front wrap-around panel
137	Rear wrap-around panel
200	Car
201	Front of car
202	Hood
203	Rear of car
204	Trunk
208	Side mirror
218	Car handle
300	Second embodiment of car cover
336	Front panel
337	Rear panel

FIG. 1 is an isometric view of a car cover 100 according to the present invention being removed from its storage case 101. In a preferred embodiment, car cover 100 is formed of three layers: two water resistant layers (e.g. Dintex™) encasing an insulating layer (e.g. 1/4" Low-ET™). Conventional car covers have only a single layer and hence are not thick or stiff enough to protect cars.

FIG. 2 is an isometric view of car cover 100 of FIG. 1 being deployed on a car 200. Car cover 100 is especially useful for protecting a car from hail. In this embodiment, the owner begins deploying car cover 100 by hooking the back of cover 100 to the inside of the trunk 204 (see FIGS. 4 and 5). Cover 100 is then pulled forward over car 200 by pulling cover-deploying strap 104 via handle 102. Cover 100 comprises a plurality of top panels 103 which are unfolded like an accordion along fold lines 115, preferably reinforced. Refolding cord 126 will be used to refold cover 100. Top panels 103 might be around 10" each.

FIG. 3A is an isometric view of car cover 100 after being deployed on car 200, with umbrella wings 121 extended. FIG. 3B is an isometric view of car cover 100 after being deployed on car 200, with left wing 121 extended and right wing 121 folded down. After cover 100 is pulled forward, a hook 123 (see FIGS. 4 and 5) attached to front hook strap 124 attaches to the front of car 200 (for example under the bumper), front wraparound panel 136 is attached around the front end of car 200, and rear wraparound panel 137 is attached around the rear of car 200, for example with hook-and-loop attachments. In the embodiment of FIG. 3, umbrella wings 121 extend outward over the sides of car 200. This allows the owner to get into the car after deploying car cover 100. wings 121 might extend around 17 inches,

which, when folded down as in FIG. 7, would cover one-half to two-thirds of the car doors, depending on the model.

In some embodiments, cover **100** is further attached to car **200** for security. For example, elastic loops might hook around car side mirrors **208** and via car door handle straps **119**.

FIG. 4 is a schematic top plan view of the cover **100**, showing several useful features. FIG. 5 is a schematic side view of cover **100**.

As shown in FIGS. 2, 3A, and 3B, cover **100** folds and unfolds at accordion folding lines **115**. Refolding cord **126** threads through grommets **125** and is used to refold cover **100**, by pulling refolding cord portion **130** at rear reinforcement panel **127** in reinforced pocket panel **128**. In some embodiments, refolding cord **126** is elastic, so cover **100** begins to refold itself when released.

Cover deploying handle **102** is attached to front reinforcement panel **127** via strap **104**. Front hook **123** on strap **124** is used to attach the front of cover **100** to the front **201** of car **200**, e.g. at hood **202**. Back clips **113** attach cover **100** at the rear **203** of car **200**, preferably inside trunk **204** via straps **106** attached to cover **100** at grommets **112**. Securing slit **111** allows the trunk to latch. In some embodiments, there is an additional strap **105** for securing cover **100** to car back tires via clips **114**.

In this embodiment, front wrap-around panel **136** wraps around the front **201** of car **200** and is attached to cover **100** via hook-and-loop material **107**, **108**. Similarly, back wrap-around panel **137** wraps around the rear **203** of car **200** and is attached to cover **100** via hook-and-loop material **107**, **108**. Elastic window straps **109** may be attached to car side-view mirrors **208**.

Wings **121** are preferably reinforced by wing rods **110**, and may be extended outward to form umbrella protection and to allow the owner to enter car **200**, or may be folded down at car edge fold lines **120**. In the latter case, straps **119** may attach wings **121** to car handles **218**, for example via hook-and-loop connection.

FIGS. 6a, 6b, and 6c are isometric figures showing car cover **100** being unfolded prior to deployment. FIG. 6a shows cover **100** still folded. The flap which attaches the car cover inside the trunk wraps around the folded car cover, which is then secured by straps. FIG. 6b shows cover **100** being unfolded. This shows how the car cover flap is unfolded first allowing the deploying of the car cover. Cover-deploying handle **102** is visible. In FIG. 6b, cover **100** is being extended via accordion folds **115** for deployment.

FIGS. 7-9 show a second embodiment **300** of a car cover according to the present invention. This embodiment is especially useful for protecting a car from snow, ice, sun, sap, and dust. Similar elements have similar reference numbers.

FIG. 7 is an isometric view of second embodiment **300** after being deployed on car **200**, with wings **121** folded down. They may be secured to car door handles **218** via straps **119** and to side mirrors via elastic straps **109**. The embodiment of FIG. 7 is different than that of FIGS. 1-6c in that wings **121** are wider, and hence may be deployed in an extended mode (as in FIG. 7) or in a folded down mode that covers more of the car **200** (as in the right side of FIG. 3B). FIG. 3B is an isometric view of the car cover of FIG. 7 after being deployed on a car with one umbrella flap extended and one folded down. This version of embodiment **300** varies slightly from that of FIG. 9 in that non-wrap-around front panel **336** and non-wrap-around rear panel **337** replace front wrap-around panel **136** and rear wrap-around panel **137**, as well as having a slightly different shape (See FIG. 9 as well).

FIG. 8 is an isometric view of car cover **300** in the process of being deployed on a car. Wings **121** are folded under and hence not visible. FIG. 9 is a schematic top plan view of the version of car cover **300** shown in FIG. 8.

While the exemplary preferred embodiments of the present invention are described herein with particularity, those skilled in the art will appreciate various changes, additions, and applications other than those specifically mentioned, which are within the spirit of this invention. For example, those skilled in the art will appreciate that features from various embodiments may be mixed and matched (such as wrap-around panels, various combinations of securing straps, shapes and sizes of panels, wings, etc.

What is claimed is:

1. A car cover for covering a car comprising:
 - a plurality of top panels configured to unfold and refold along fold lines;
 - a front attachment for attaching a front end of the car cover to a front end of the car;
 - a back attachment for attaching a back of the car cover to a back of the car;
 - grommets attached to holes formed in the top panels;
 - a refolding cord threaded through the grommets and configured to refold the top panels when pulled;
 - wings formed along the edges of the top panels and configured to selectively either extend outward from the top panels or fold downward over car sides; and
 - wing rods attached to the wings and configured to reinforce and stiffen the wings.
2. The car cover of claim 1 wherein the refolding cord is elastic.
3. The car cover of claim 1, further comprising hook and loop connections for attaching the car cover to car door handles.
4. The car cover of claim 1, further comprising elastic straps for attaching the car cover to car side windows.
5. The car cover of claim 1 further comprising a cover deploying handle at a front end of the car cover, the cover deploying handle configured to unfold the top panels when the back attachment is attached to a car trunk and the cover deploying handle is pulled.
6. The car cover of claim 1 further comprising a front panel configured to wrap around a front bumper of the car and a rear panel configured to wrap around a back bumper of the car.
7. The car cover of claim 1 wherein the top panels comprise an insulating layer and a water resistant layer.
8. A method of covering a car for protecting the car comprising the steps of:
 - (a) forming a car cover with foldable panels and wings formed at the sides of the cover, the wings having attached wing rods configured to reinforce and stiffen the wings, the wings configured to selectively either extend outward from the cover or fold downward over car sides;
 - (b) attaching a first end of the car cover to a first end of the car;
 - (c) pulling the car cover over the car using a handle attached to a second end of the car cover;
 - (d) attaching the second end of the cover to the second end of the car; and
 - (e) unfolding the wings formed at the sides of the cover.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein step (e) includes the step of unfolding one of the wings to extend outward from a side of the car over a car door.
10. The method of claim 8 wherein step (e) unfolds the wings to extend downward over sides of the car.

11. The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

(f) unattaching the first end of the car cover from the first end of the car and the second end of the car cover from the second end of the car; and

(e) folding the cover by pulling a refolding cord threaded through grommets through the top panels.

12. The method of claim 8 wherein the first end of the car includes a trunk and wherein step (b) includes the step of shutting a flap on the car cover in the trunk.

13. The car cover of claim 7 wherein the cover comprises an additional water resistant layer, and wherein the two water resistant layers encase the insulating layer.

14. The car cover of claim 13 wherein the insulating layer is at least about 1/4" thick.

15. The car cover of claim 13 wherein the two water resistant layers comprise Dintex™ and the insulating layer comprises LowE™.

16. The car cover of claim 15 wherein the insulating layer is at least about 1/4" thick.

17. The car cover of claim 1 wherein the top panels are about 10" deep.

18. The car cover of claim 1 further comprising a flap configured to be shut inside a trunk of the car.

19. The car cover of claim 18, further comprising a slit formed within the flap, the slit configured to allow a trunk latch to extend through the flap.

* * * * *