
USF Patents

2-16-2016

Knot tying devices

David Andrew Bowman Jr.

Joel Anthony Jenkins

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/usf_patents

Recommended Citation

Bowman, David Andrew Jr. and Jenkins, Joel Anthony, "Knot tying devices" (2016). *USF Patents*. 833.
https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/usf_patents/833

This Patent is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in USF Patents by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.

(12) **United States Patent**
Bowman, Jr. et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,260,271 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Feb. 16, 2016**

(54) **KNOT TYING DEVICES**

USPC 289/17
See application file for complete search history.

(71) Applicants: **David Andrew Bowman, Jr.**,
Bradenton, FL (US); **Joel Anthony**
Jenkins, Wesley Chapel, FL (US)

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

(72) Inventors: **David Andrew Bowman, Jr.**,
Bradenton, FL (US); **Joel Anthony**
Jenkins, Wesley Chapel, FL (US)

2,783,571	A *	3/1957	Stilwell	289/17
2,893,159	A *	7/1959	Baird	43/44.85
3,057,109	A *	10/1962	Houk	43/44.85
3,700,272	A *	10/1972	Bauer	289/17
3,877,737	A	4/1975	Chappell et al.	
4,573,719	A	3/1986	Aldridge	
4,714,281	A	12/1987	Peck	
5,971,447	A	10/1999	Steck	
6,419,283	B1	7/2002	Thomas et al.	
6,817,634	B2	11/2004	Champion	
7,494,162	B1 *	2/2009	Howell	289/17
2007/0182157	A1 *	8/2007	Carrier	289/17

(73) Assignee: **University of South Florida**, Tampa, FL
(US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 232 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/024,049**

* cited by examiner

(22) Filed: **Sep. 11, 2013**

Primary Examiner — Shaun R Hurley

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Thomas I Horstemeyer,
LLP

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 61/699,478, filed on Sep.
11, 2012.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

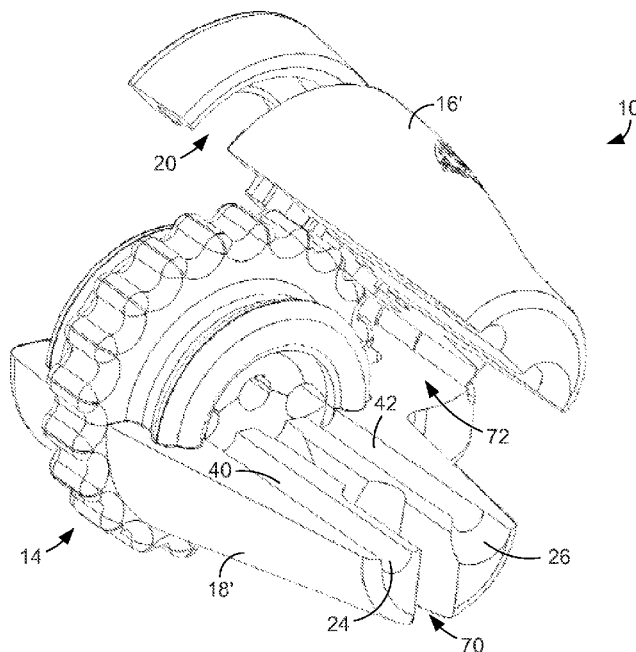
(51) **Int. Cl.**
B65H 69/04 (2006.01)
A01K 91/04 (2006.01)

In some embodiments, a knot tying device includes a body that defines a wheel slot and inner passages that lead to the wheel slot and a wheel that fits and can be rotated within the wheel slot, the wheel including openings that can be aligned with the inner passages of the body, wherein one or more strands of material can be fed through the inner passages of the body and the openings of the wheel and the wheel can then be rotated relative to the body to twist the one or more strands.

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **B65H 69/04** (2013.01); **A01K 91/04**
(2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC A01K 91/04; A01K 91/047; B65H 69/04

19 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets



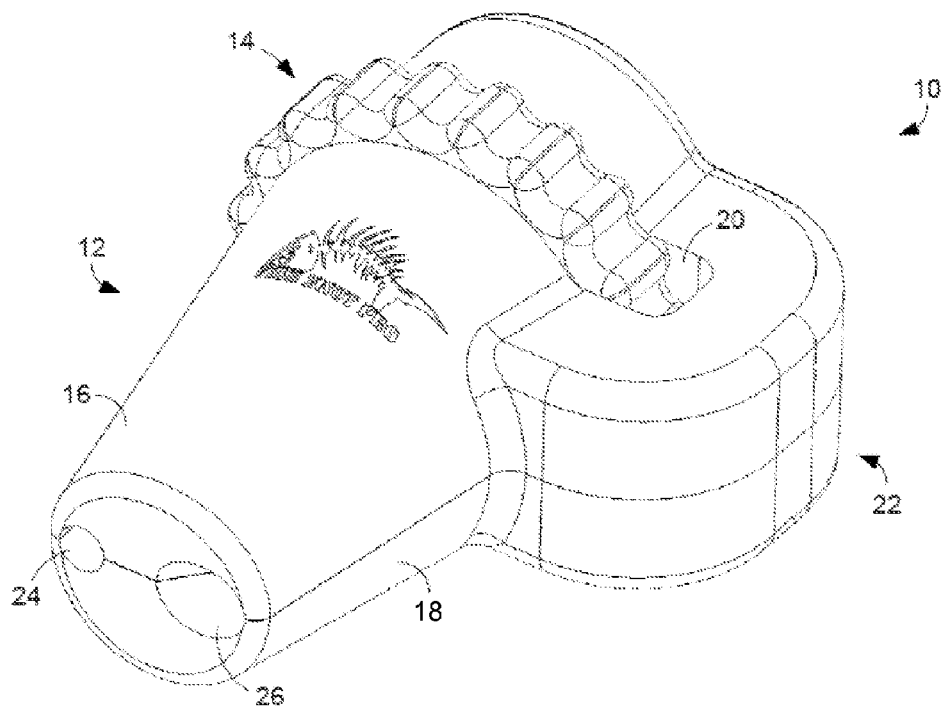


FIG. 1

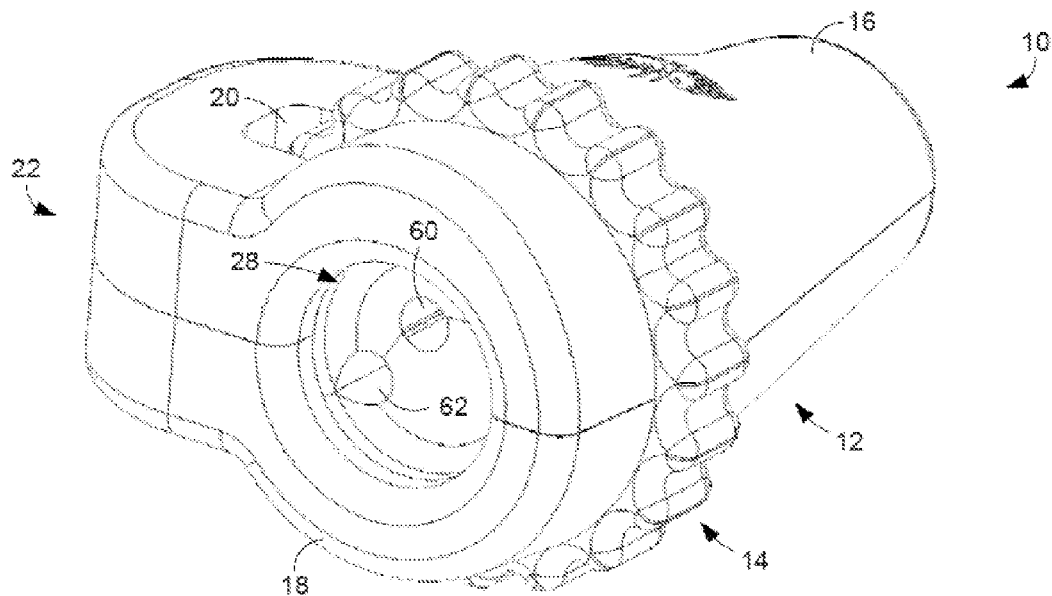
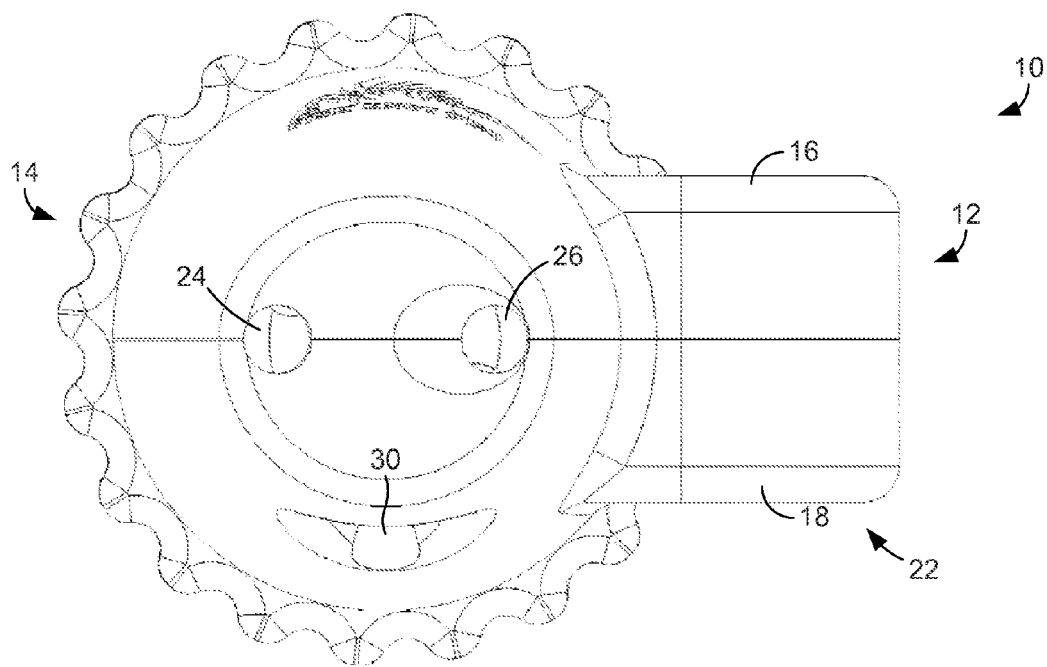
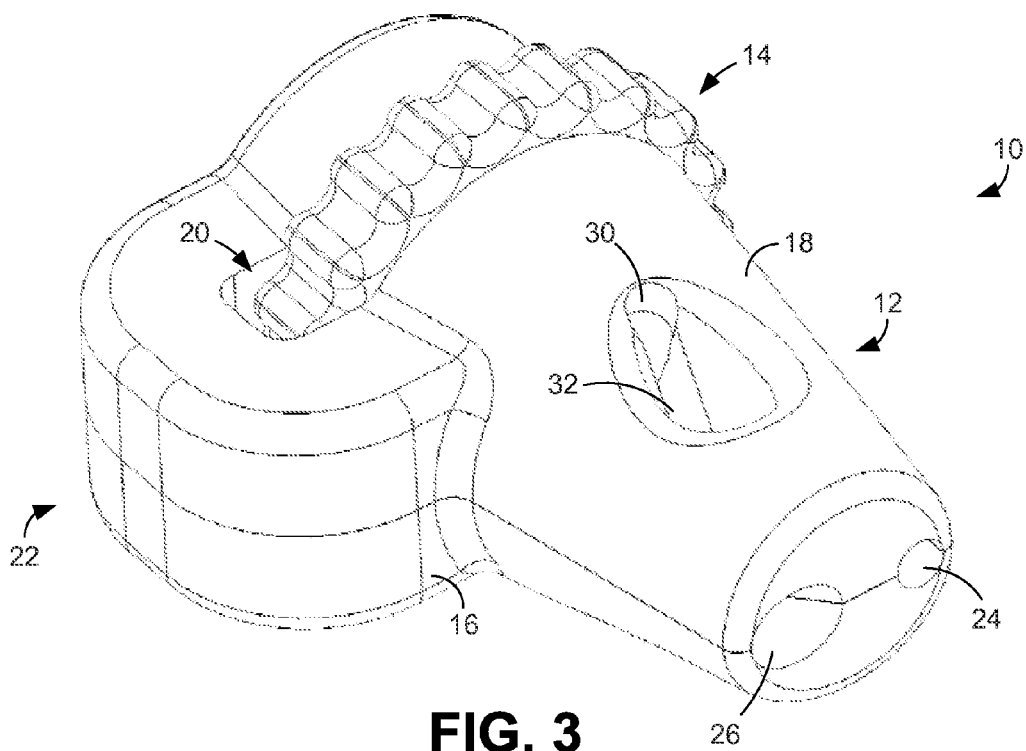


FIG. 2



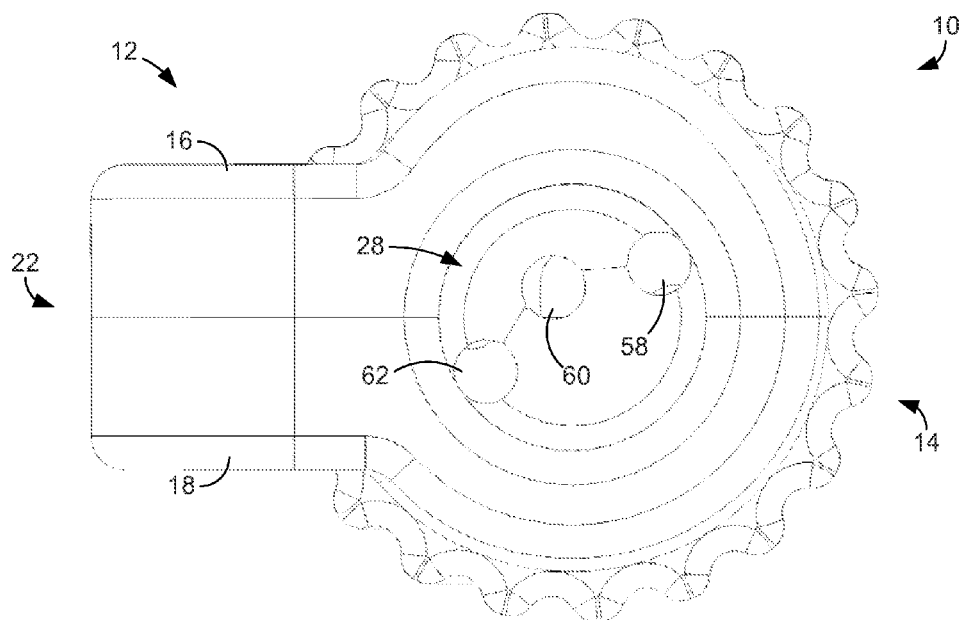


FIG. 5

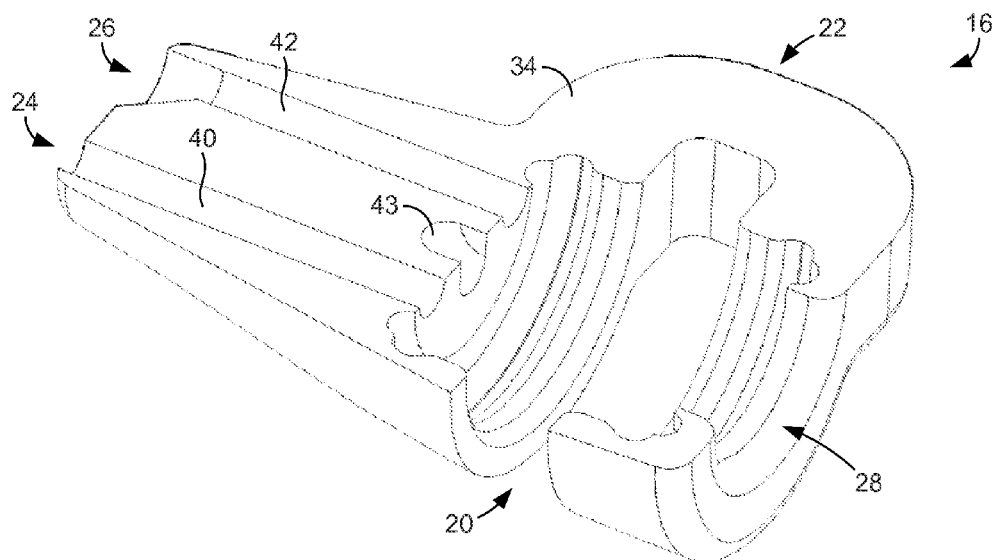


FIG. 6

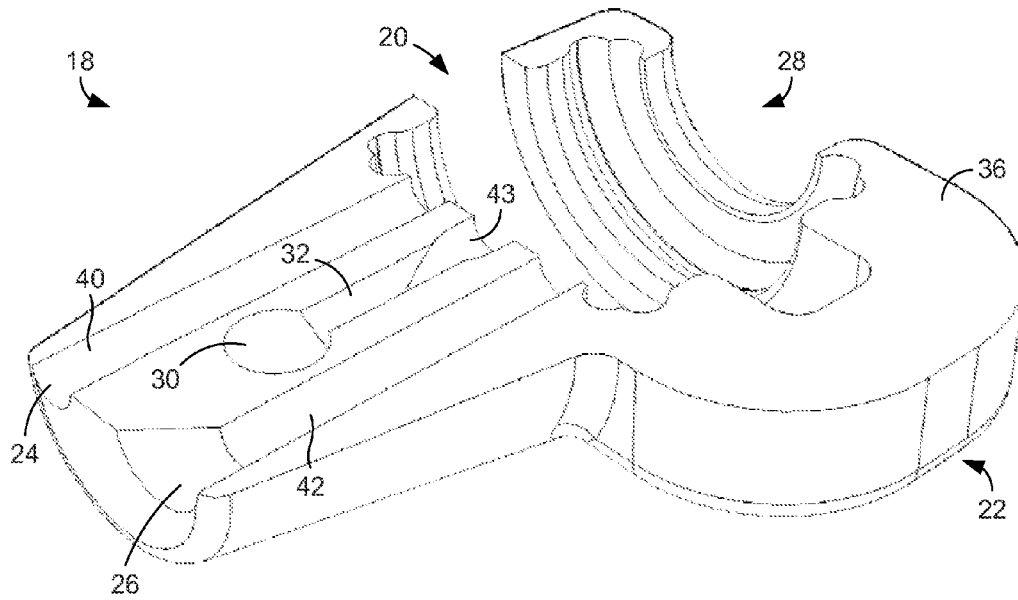


FIG. 7

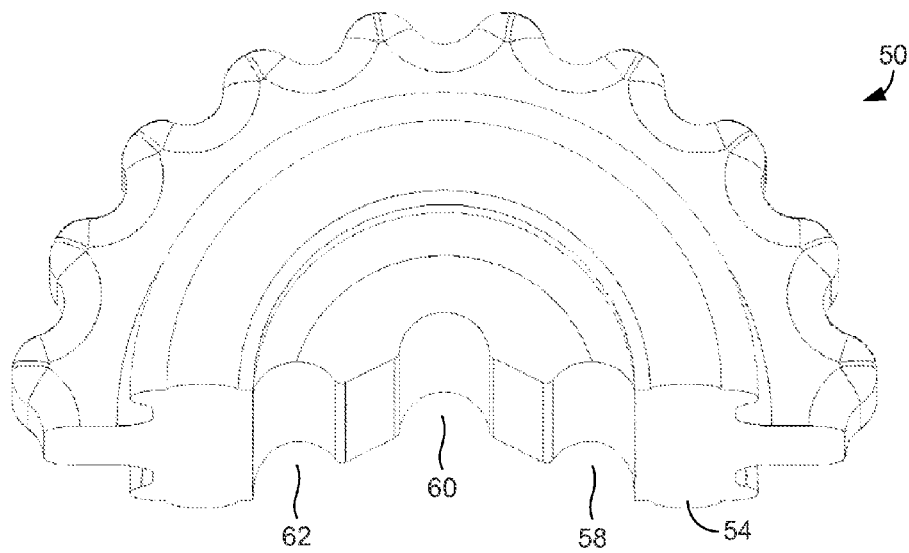


FIG. 8

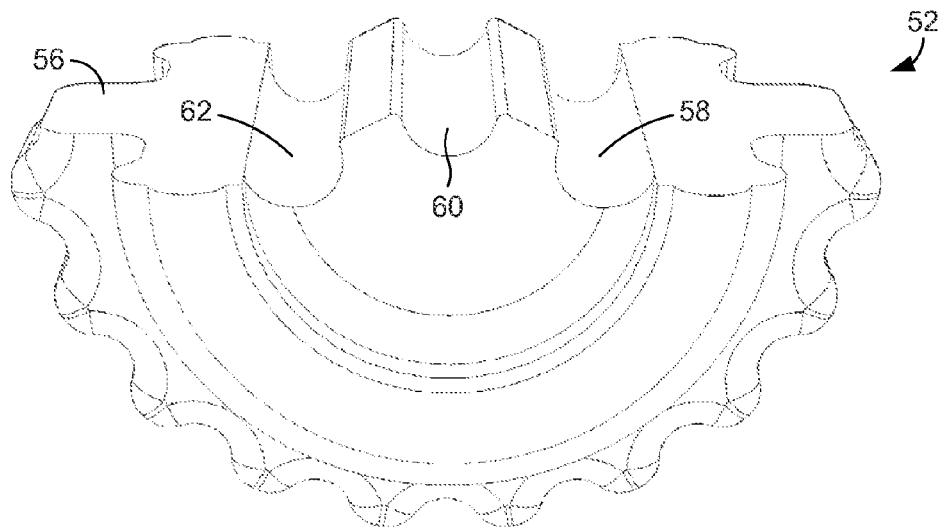


FIG. 9

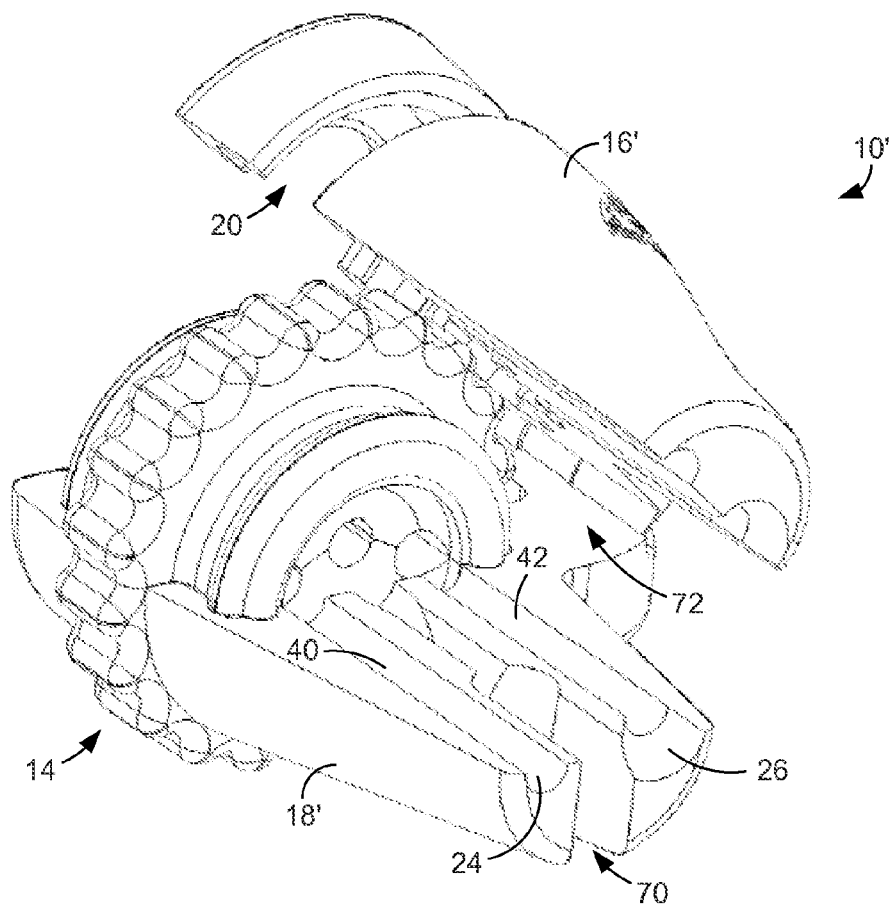


FIG. 10

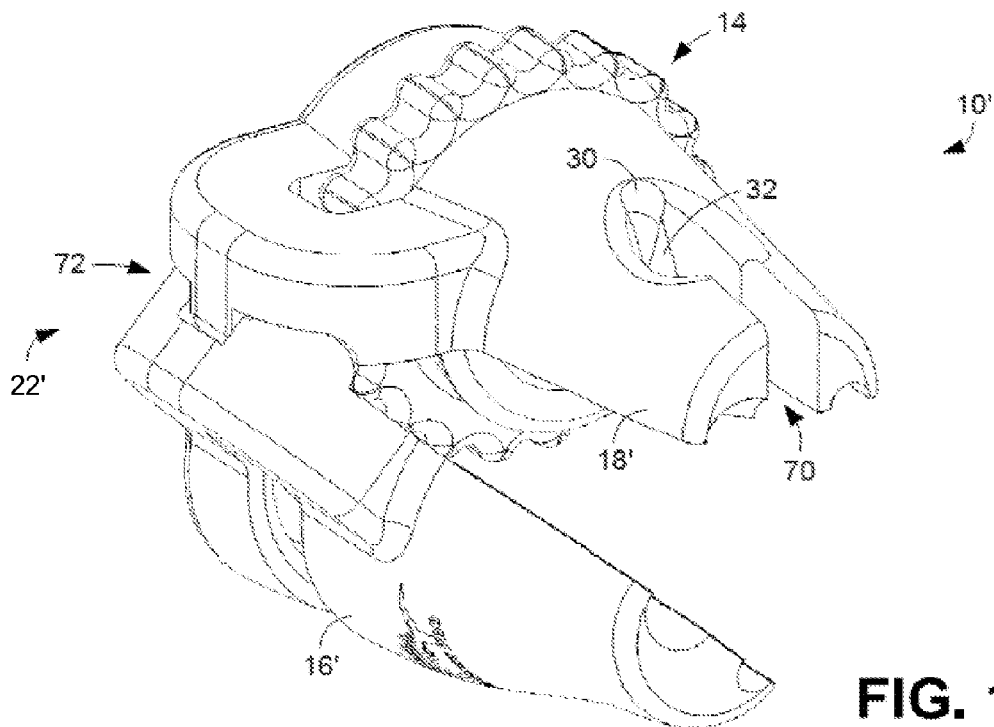


FIG. 11

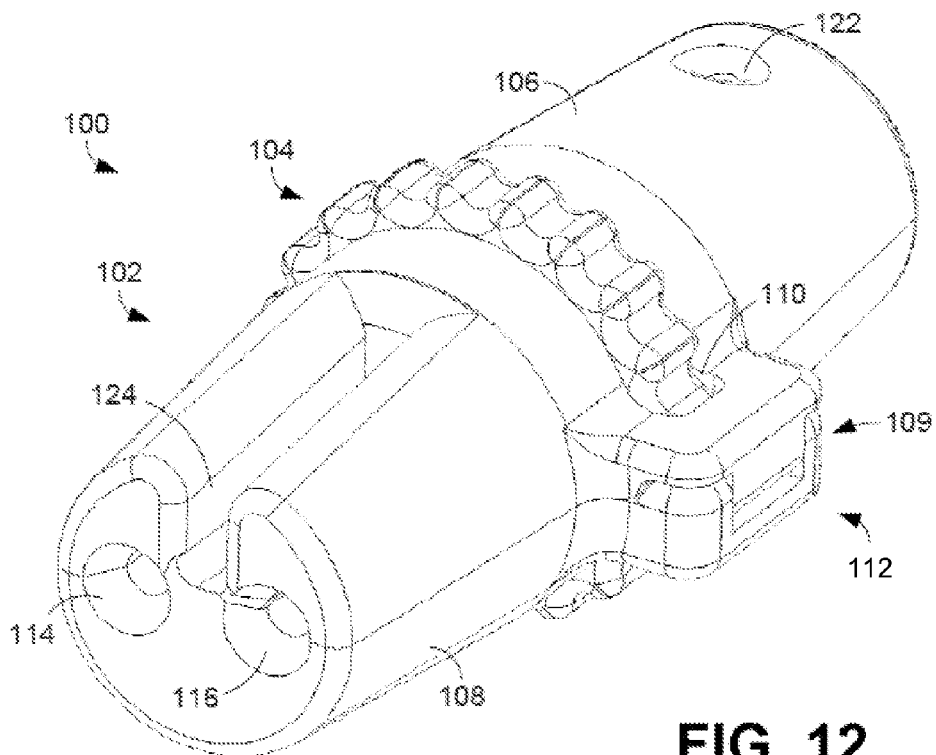
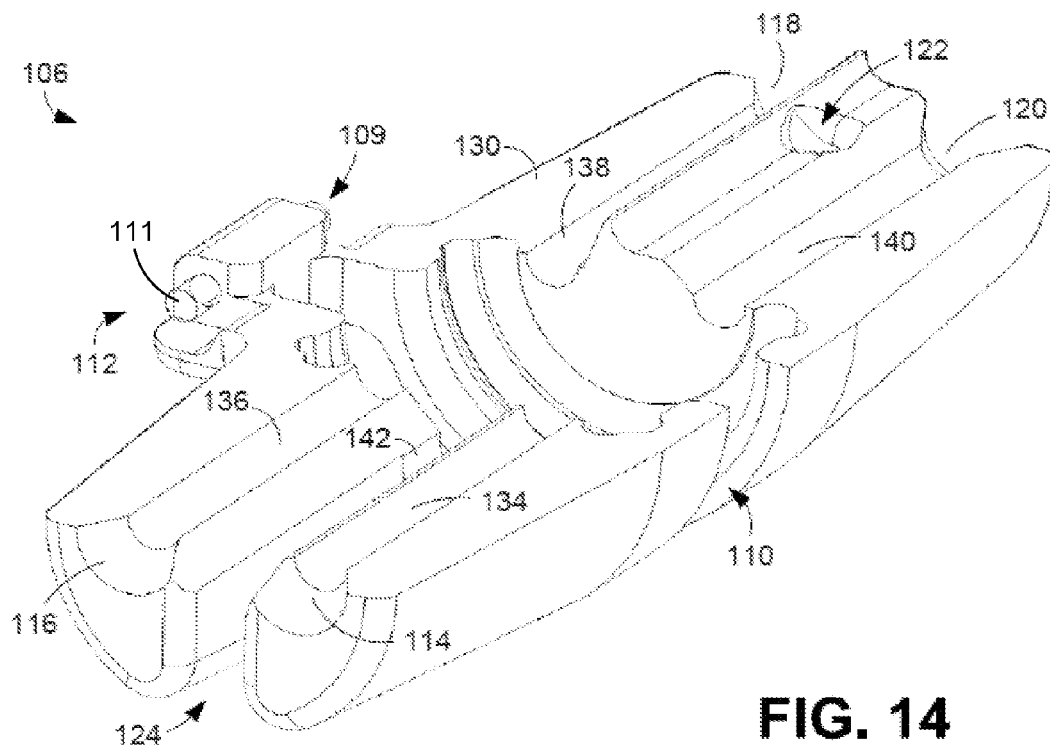
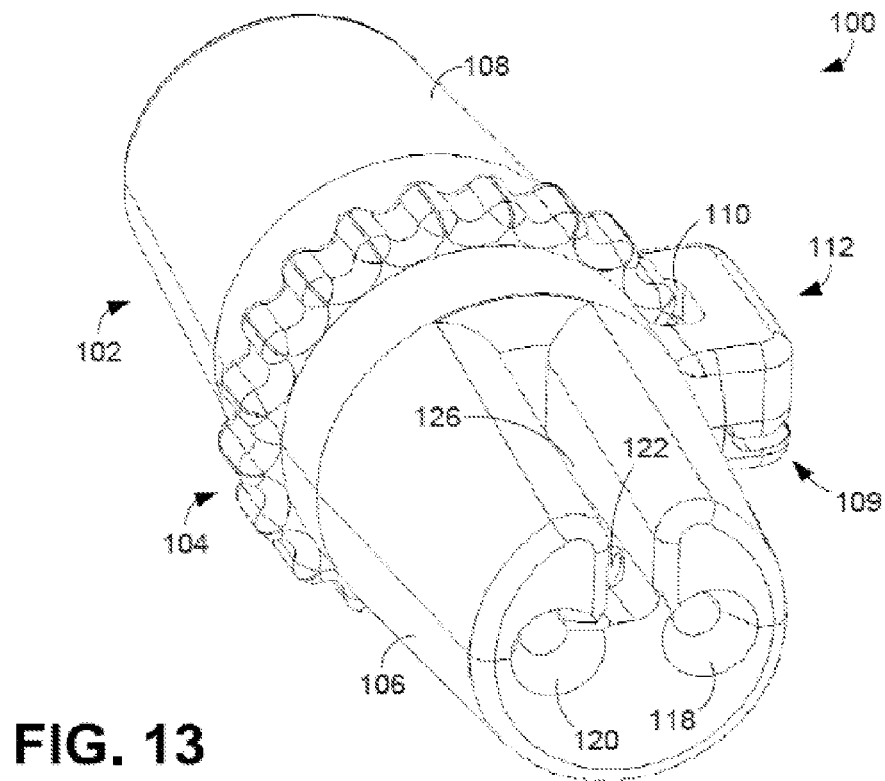


FIG. 12



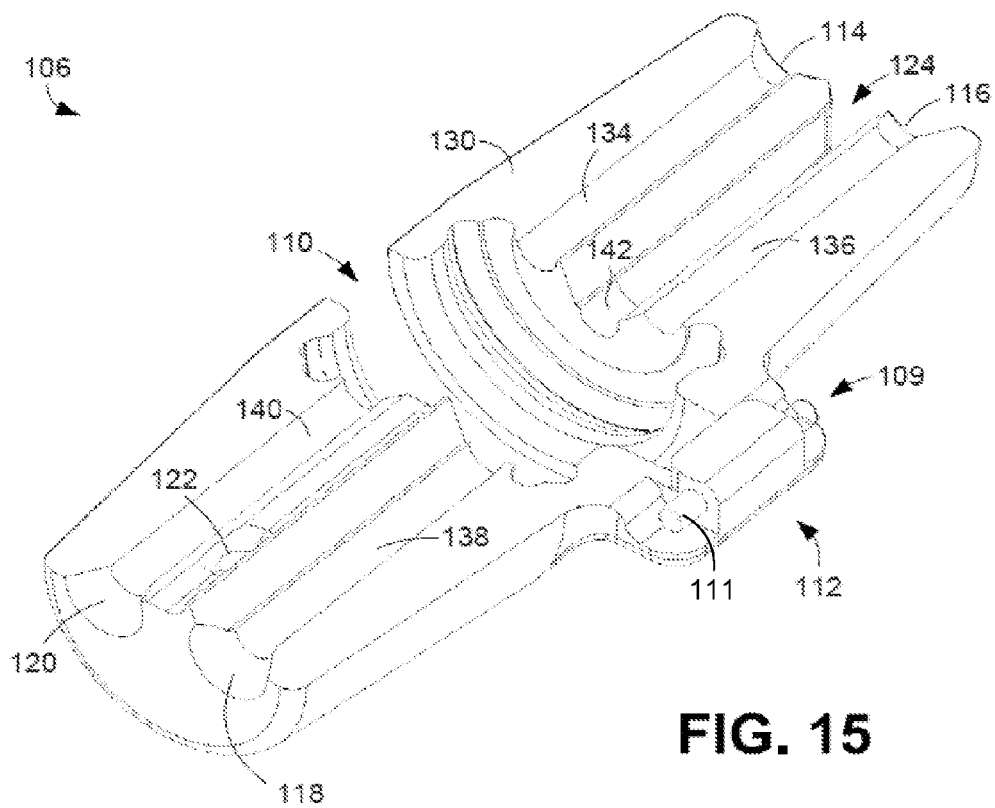


FIG. 15

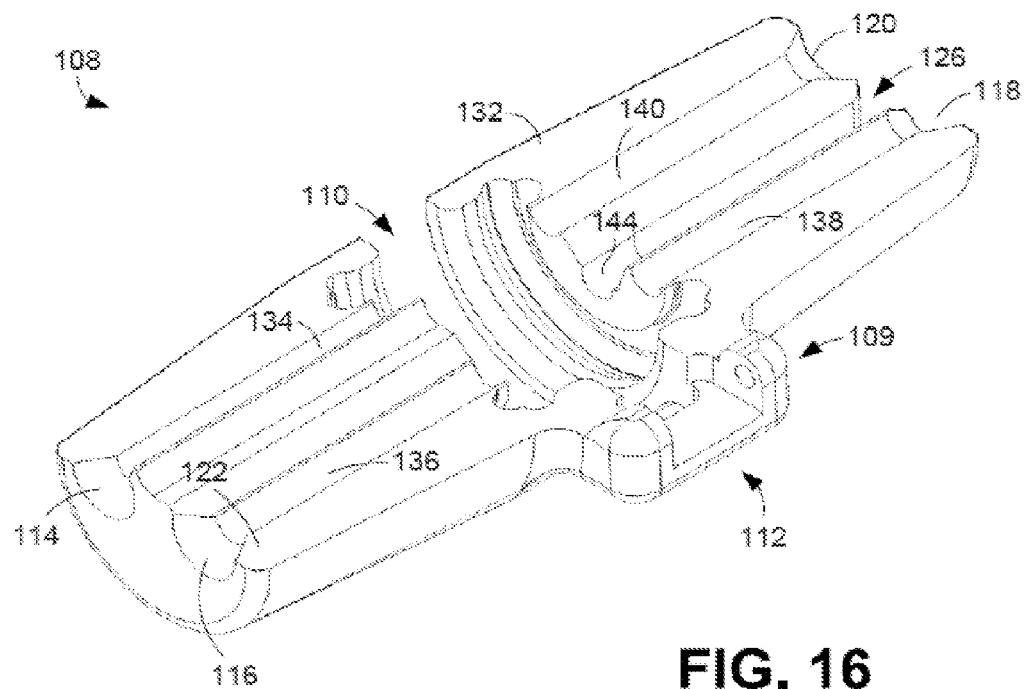


FIG. 16

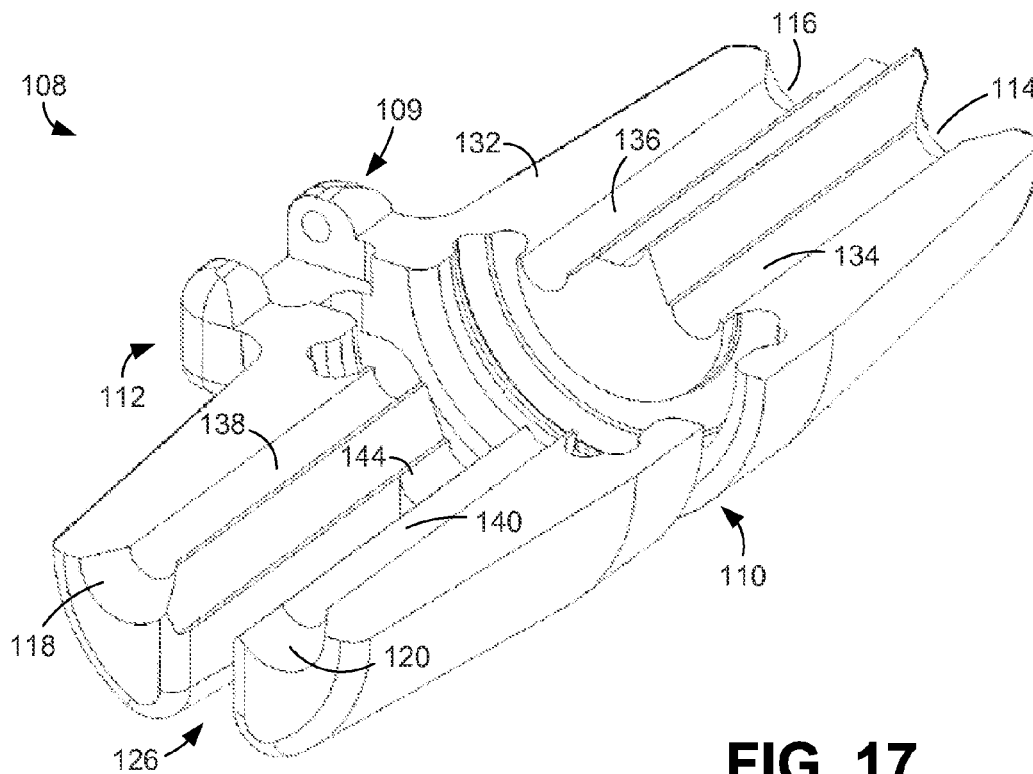


FIG. 17

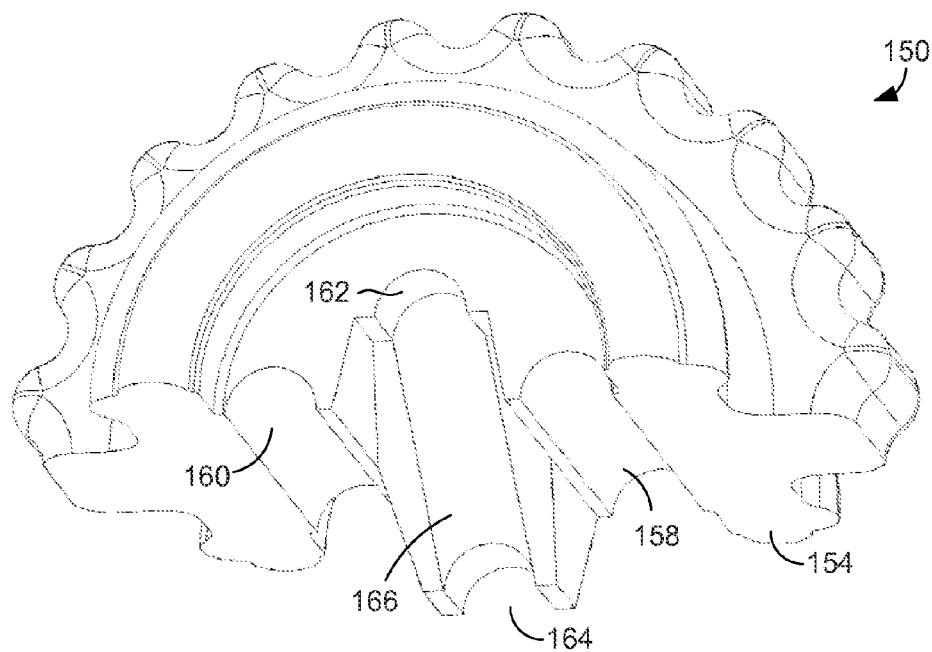


FIG. 18

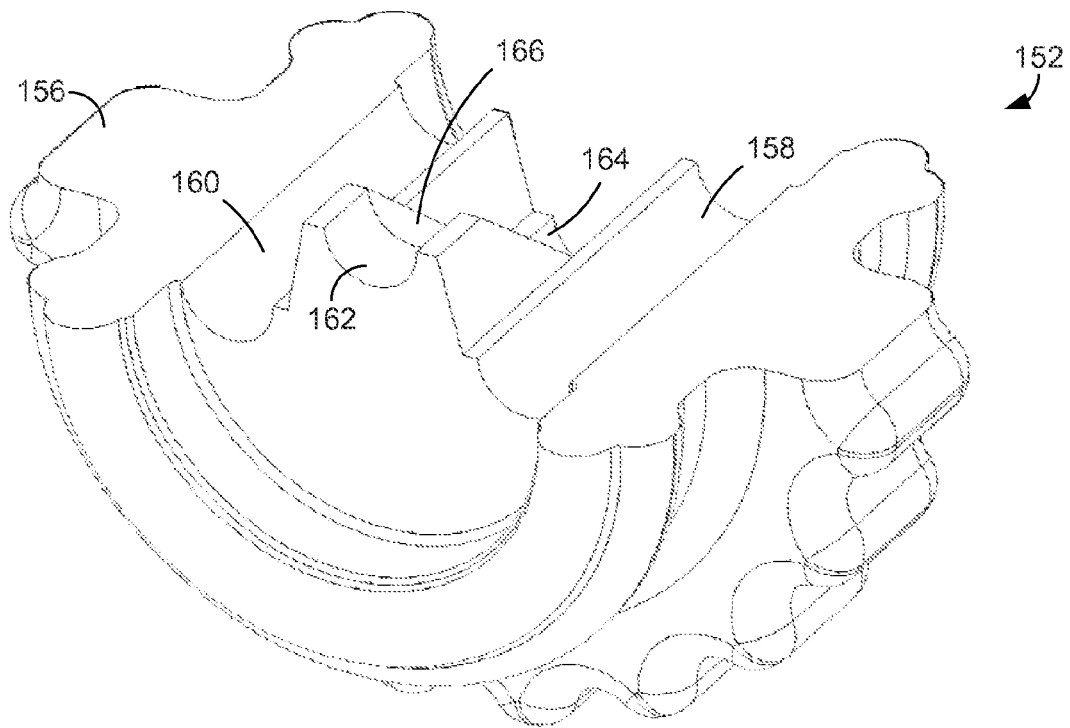


FIG. 19

1

KNOT TYING DEVICES

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 61/699,478, filed Sep. 11, 2012, which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

Knots are useful in various situations. As an example, knots are often used in fishing to tie a hook to a fishing line or to tie two lengths of fishing line together.

While manually tying such knots is not necessarily difficult, one must first be taught how to tie such knots. In addition, even when one has learned how to tie the knots, it may not be easy to tie them under all circumstances. For example, it may be more difficult to tie a knot when one is on a rocking boat. Furthermore, when one has underdeveloped or compromised motor skills, for example due to age or disability, tying such knots can be challenging.

From the above discussion, it can be appreciated that it would be desirable to have means for assisting people in tying knots.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present disclosure may be better understood with reference to the following figures. Matching reference numerals designate corresponding parts throughout the figures, which are not necessarily drawn to scale.

FIG. 1 is a top, front perspective view of a first embodiment of a knot tying device.

FIG. 2 is a top, rear perspective view of the knot tying device of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a bottom, front perspective view of the knot tying device of FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is a front view of the knot tying device of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is a rear view of the knot tying device of FIG. 1.

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of a top body portion of the knot tying device of FIG. 1 showing an inner side of the top body portion.

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of a bottom body portion of the knot tying device of FIG. 1 showing an inner side of the top body portion.

FIG. 8 is a perspective view of a top portion of a wheel of the knot tying device of FIG. 1.

FIG. 9 is a perspective view of a bottom portion of the wheel of the knot tying device of FIG. 1.

FIG. 10 is a top, front perspective view of a second embodiment of a knot tying device.

FIG. 11 is a bottom, front perspective view of the knot tying device of FIG. 10.

FIG. 12 is a top, front perspective view of a third embodiment of a knot tying device.

FIG. 13 is a bottom, rear perspective view of the knot tying device of FIG. 12.

FIG. 14 is a first perspective view of a top body portion of the knot tying device of FIG. 12 showing an inner side of the top body portion.

FIG. 15 is a second perspective view of the top body portion of the knot tying device of FIG. 12 showing an inner side of the top body portion.

FIG. 16 is a first perspective view of a bottom body portion of the knot tying device of FIG. 12 showing an inner side of the bottom body portion.

2

FIG. 17 is a second perspective view of the bottom body portion of the knot tying device of FIG. 12 showing an inner side of the bottom body portion.

FIG. 18 is a perspective view of a top portion of a wheel of the knot tying device of FIG. 12.

FIG. 19 is a perspective view of a bottom portion of the wheel of the knot tying device of FIG. 12.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

As described above, it would be desirable to have means for assisting people in tying knots. Disclosed herein are knot tying devices that are configured to at least partially automate the knot tying process so that those who have not learned how to manually tie knots or those who have difficulty tying knots due to underdeveloped or compromised motor skills can do so more easily. In some embodiments, the devices can be used to tie an object to a strand of material, such as a fishing line. In other embodiments, the devices can be used to tie two strands of material, such as two lengths of fishing line, together.

In the following disclosure, various specific embodiments are described. It is to be understood that those embodiments are example implementations of the disclosed inventions and that alternative embodiments are possible. All such embodiments are intended to fall within the scope of this disclosure.

FIGS. 1-9 illustrate a first embodiment of a knot tying device 10. As is described below, the knot tying device 10 can, for example, be used to tie what are referred to as improved clinch knots. The device 10 is shown assembled in FIGS. 1-5. As is apparent from those figures, the device 10 generally comprises a body 12 and a wheel 14 that is at least partially surrounded by the body. The body 12 and the wheel 14 can, for example, be made of a polymeric material. In some embodiments, the body 12 and wheel 14 are hollow or are made of a buoyant material so that the device 10 will float if dropped in water.

As is apparent from the figures, the body 12 comprises two independent portions, including a first or top portion 16 and a second or bottom portion 18. The two portions 16, 18 connect together to complete the body 12 and, in some embodiments, form first and second halves of the body. Although the two portions 16, 18 are shown in later figures as being completely separate components, it is noted that, in some embodiments, they can be joined together, for example using a hinge (not shown). An example of such a hinge is shown in FIGS. 10 and 11 and can be readily incorporated into the embodiment shown in FIGS. 1-9. In addition, a closure, such as a latch (not shown), can be used on the opposite side of the hinge to keep the two portions 16, 18 assembled while the device 10 is in use.

When the two portions 16, 18 are assembled as shown in FIGS. 1-5, they form a wheel slot 20 in which the wheel 14 can be positioned. The slot 20 is in part defined by an armature 22 that connects a front end of the device 10 to a rear end of the device. As is apparent from the figures, the outer edge of the wheel 14 is exposed when provided in the slot 20, except for the portion that is surrounded by the armature 22. The outer edge of the wheel 14 can be provided with a surface that enables the user to better grip the wheel when rotating it relative to the body 12. For example, the outer edge of the wheel 14 can be knurled.

As is further apparent from FIGS. 1-5, the top and bottom portions 16, 18 of the body 12 together form multiple openings that lead to the interior of the body. As is described below, a strand of material, such as fishing line, can be passed through the openings to tie a knot in the strand. In the illustrated embodiment, the body 12 forms a first opening 24 and

3

a second opening 26 at the front end of the device 10 (FIG. 1), a third opening 28 at the rear end of the device (FIG. 2), and a fourth opening 30 on the bottom side of the device (FIG. 3). As is apparent from FIG. 3, the bottom body portion 18 also forms a groove 32 that extends to or from the opening 30.

The top and bottom body portions 16, 18 can be separated to provide access to the interior of the body 12. When a hinge is provided, the two portions 16, 18 can be separated like a clamshell (see, e.g., FIGS. 10 and 11). FIGS. 6 and 7 show the inner side of each body portion 16, 18, respectively, and therefore reveal the nature of inner passages formed by the body 12. The body portions 16, 18 include generally planar mating surfaces 34, 36 that are placed in contact when the two body portions are connected together. As is apparent from FIGS. 6 and 7, the first opening 24 leads to a first inner passage 40, and the second opening 26 leads to a second inner passage 42. The first and second inner passages 40, 42 are generally parallel to each other and extend along a length direction of the body 12 to the wheel slot 20. The fourth opening 30 and the groove 32 lead to a third inner passage 43 that also extends to the wheel slot 20. As can be appreciated from FIGS. 6 and 7, the wheel slot 20 includes multiple concentric grooves that grip the wheel 14 once it is placed within the slot 20.

Like the body 12, the wheel 14 is composed of two parts, a first or top portion 50 shown in FIG. 8, and a second or bottom portion 52 shown in FIG. 9. The two wheel portions 50, 52 also include generally planar mating surfaces 54, 56 that are brought into contact when the two portions are used to form the complete wheel 14. As shown best in FIG. 5, the wheel 14 includes three openings, including a first (outer) opening 58, a second (central) opening 60, and a third (outer) opening 62. As is apparent from FIGS. 2 and 5, these openings are accessible via the third opening 28 formed at the rear end of the body 12.

The wheel 14 can be assembled when the body 12 is assembled. By way of example, the top portion 50 of the wheel 14 can be slid into in the portion of the slot 20 formed by the top body portion 16 until its mating surface 54 is flush with the mating surface 34 of the top body portion, the bottom portion 52 of the wheel can be slid into in the portion of the slot formed by the bottom body portion 18 until its mating surface 56 is flush with the mating surface 36 of the bottom body portion, and the body 12 can be closed (e.g., like a clamshell). Once the body 12 is closed with the wheel 14 within the wheel slot 20, the wheel can be rotated within the slot as if it were constructed from a single piece of material. Notably, when the wheel 14 is rotated to a position in which its mating surfaces 54, 56 do not align with the mating surfaces 34, 36 of the body portions 16, 18, the body portions cannot be separated.

When the device 10 is to be used to tie an improved clinch knot, a strand of material is passed through the device in two passes, the wheel 14 is rotated through multiple complete turns, the strand is passed through the wheel and the device once again, and the device 10 is then opened to reveal a formed knot. A specific example of tying a fish hook to a fishing line will now be described as an example. Before passing the fishing line into the device 10, the wheel 14 is oriented so that its outer openings 58, 62 are respectively aligned with the first and second inner passages 40, 42 (the wheel shown in FIG. 5 being turned slightly counterclockwise of this orientation). In some embodiments, this can also be the orientation in which the mating surfaces 54, 56 of the wheel 14 are aligned with the mating surfaces 34, 36 of the body portions 16, 18.

4

The fishing line can first be passed through an outer opening of the wheel 14, such as the first outer opening 58. The line can then be pushed through the first inner passage 40 formed by the body 12 and out of the body through the first opening 24 (see FIG. 6). At this point, the line has been passed through the body from one end to the other. A hook can then be threaded onto the line adjacent the first opening 24. In some embodiments, a support element (not shown) can be provided on the body 12 to support the hook as the line is threaded through the hook.

Next, the line can be passed through the second opening 26, along the second inner passage 42, and out through the other outer opening of the wheel 14 (the second outer opening 62 in this example; see FIG. 5) so that the line has again passed through the body from one end to the other. At this point, the wheel 14 can be turned through multiple complete (i.e., 360°) rotations. By way of example, the wheel 14 is turned through two to four complete rotations. However, a knot can be formed by turning the wheel a greater number of rotations, if desired. This turning twists together the two lengths of the line that have passed through the body 12.

Once the wheel 14 has been returned to its original position, the free end of the line can be passed through the central opening 60 of the wheel. This causes the line to be passed through the third inner passage 43 and out from the opening 30 so as to emerge from the body 12 a third time (this time from the bottom of the body 12). At this point, the body 12 can be opened to separate the two body portions 16, 18 and the two wheel portions 50, 52 they respectively comprise to provide access to a loose improved clinch knot that the device 10 has formed. The knot can then be pulled tight by pulling on the free end of the line.

FIGS. 10 and 11 illustrate a second embodiment of a knot tying device 10'. The device 10' is similar in many ways to the knot tying device 10 illustrated in FIGS. 1-9 and therefore incorporates many of the same components, which are identified using the same reference numerals. These components will not be described again for purposes of brevity. The knot tying device 10' differs from the knot tying device 10 in relation to its bottom body portion 18'. As is apparent from both FIGS. 10 and 11, the bottom body portion 18' comprises an additional slot 70 that extends between the first and second openings 24, 26 from the front end of the bottom body portion to the fourth opening 30. This slot 70 provides access to the strand and enables the user to hold the strand in place within the device as the device is opened.

In addition, the knot tying device 10 further comprises a hinge 72 of the type described above. As shown in FIGS. 10 and 11, the hinge 72 is incorporated into the armature 22' formed by the top and bottom body portions 16', 18'. In some embodiments, the hinge 72 includes a pin (not visible) that defines a pivot axis about which the body portions 16', 18' can pivot when the device 10' is opened and closed.

FIGS. 12-19 illustrate a third embodiment of a knot tying device 100. The knot tying device 100 is similar in many ways to the knot tying device 10 of FIGS. 1-9 except that the device 100 can be used to tie what are referred to as blood knots, which can be used to tie two strands of material together. The device 100 is shown assembled in FIGS. 12 and 13. As is apparent from these figures, the device 100 generally comprises a body 102 and a wheel 104 that is at least partially surrounded by the body. The body 102 comprises two independent portions, including a first or top portion 106 and a second or bottom portion 108. The two portions 106, 108 connect together to complete the body 102 are joined together using a hinge 109 that includes a pin 111. In addition, a closure, such as a latch (not shown), can be used on the

5

opposite side of the hinge **109** to keep the two portions **106**, **108** assembled while the device **100** is in use.

When the two portions **106**, **108** are joined together as shown in FIGS. **12** and **13**, they form a wheel slot **110** in which the wheel **104** can be positioned. The slot **110** is in part defined by an armature **112** that incorporates the hinge **109** and connects a front end of the device **100** to a rear end of the device. As is apparent from the figures, the outer edge of the wheel **14** is exposed when provided in the slot **110**, except for the portion that is surrounded by the armature **112**. The outer edge of the wheel **104** can be provided with knurls that enable the user to better grip the wheel when rotating it relative to the body **102**.

As is further apparent from FIGS. **12** and **13**, the top and bottom portions **106**, **108** of the body **102** together form multiple openings that lead to the interior of the body. As is described below, strands of material, such as fishing lines, can be passed through the openings to tie the strands together. In the illustrated embodiment, the body **102** forms a first opening **114** and a second opening **116** at the front end of the device **100** (FIG. **12**), a third opening **118** and a fourth opening **120** at the rear end of the device (FIG. **13**), and a fifth opening **122** on the top side of the device (FIG. **12**). As is also shown in the figures, the body **102** defines two elongated slots, including a first slot **124** positioned at the front end of the body and extending between the first and second openings **114**, **116** (FIG. **12**), and a second slot **126** positioned at the rear end of the body and extending between the third and fourth openings **118**, **120** (FIG. **13**).

The top and bottom body portions **106**, **108** can be separated to provide access to the interior of the body **102**. FIGS. **14-17** show the inner side of each body portion **106**, **108**, and therefore reveal the nature of inner passages formed by the body **102**. The portions **106**, **108**, include generally planar mating surfaces **130**, **132** that are placed in contact when the two portions are connected together. The first opening **114** leads to a first inner passage **134** and the second opening **116** leads to a second inner passage **136**. As is apparent from FIGS. **14-17**, the first and second inner passages **134**, **136** are generally parallel to each other and extend along a length direction of the body **102** from its front end to the wheel slot **110**. The third opening **118** leads to a third inner passage **138** and the fourth opening **120** leads to a fourth inner passage **140**. The third and fourth inner passages **138**, **140** are also generally parallel to each other and extend along the length direction of the body **102** from its rear end to the wheel slot **110**. As can be appreciated from FIGS. **14-17**, the wheel slot **110** includes multiple concentric grooves that grip the wheel **104** once it is placed within the slot **110**.

With further reference to FIGS. **14-17**, the first slot **124** extends to a fifth inner passage **142** formed in the top body portion **106** and the second slot **126** extends to a sixth inner passage **144** formed in the bottom body portion.

Like the body **102**, the wheel **104** is composed of two portions, a first or top portion **150** shown in FIG. **18**, and a second or bottom portion **152** shown in FIG. **19**. In some embodiments, the two wheel portions **150**, **152** are substantially identical. The two wheel portions **150**, **152** also include generally planar mating surfaces **154**, **156** that are brought into contact when the two portions are used to form the complete wheel **104**. When the wheel **104** is formed by the two wheel portions **150**, **152** (i.e., by sliding the wheel portions into the wheel slot portions formed by the top and bottom body portions **106**, **108**), the wheel includes first and second outer openings **158** and **160**, a top opening **162**, a bottom opening **164**, and a diagonal passage **166** that extends between the top and bottom openings.

6

When the device **100** is to be used to tie a blood knot, two strands of material are passed through the device from opposing ends, the wheel **104** is rotated through multiple complete turns, the two strands are then passed through the device once again through another path from opposite directions, and the device is opened to reveal a formed knot. A specific example of tying two lengths of fishing line together will now be described as an example. With reference to FIG. **14**, a first line is passed through the first opening **114**, along the first inner passage **134**, through an outer opening (e.g., the first outer opening **158**) of the wheel **104**, through the fourth inner passage **140**, and out of the body **102** through the fourth opening **120**. In addition, a second line is passed through the third opening **118** at the opposite end of the body **102**, along the third inner passage **138**, through the other outer opening (e.g., the second outer opening or **160**) of the wheel **104**, through the second inner passage **136**, and out of the body **102** through the second opening **116**. At this point, each line has been passed through the body **102** and the wheel **104** once from opposite ends of the body.

Next, the wheel **104** can be turned through multiple complete rotations. By way of example, the wheel **104** is turned through two to four complete rotations. However, a knot can be formed by turning the wheel **104** a greater number of rotations, if desired. Once the wheel **104** has returned to its original position, the first line can be passed through the first slot **124**, through the fifth inner passage **142**, through the diagonal passage **166** of the wheel **104**, through the sixth inner passage **144**, and out through the second slot **126**. In similar matter, the second line can be passed through the second slot **126**, through the sixth inner passage **144**, through the diagonal passage **166** of the wheel **104**, through the fifth inner passage **142**, and out through the first slot **124**, such that the two lines traverse the same path formed by the body **102** and the wheel **104** but from different directions.

At this point, the body **102** can be opened to separate the two body portions **106**, **108** and the two wheel portions **150**, **152** they respectively comprise to provide access to a loose blood knot that the device **100** has formed. Then, the knot can be pulled tight by pulling on the two lengths of line.

Various modifications can be made to the disclosed devices. For example, a resilient member, such as a rubber element or polymeric bristles, can be positioned between the body and the wheel of the devices to ensure that strands of material passed through the devices' parts do not become snagged.

The invention claimed is:

1. A knot tying device comprising:

a body that defines a wheel slot and multiple inner passages enclosed within the body that lead to and open into the wheel slot; and

a wheel that fits and can be rotated within the wheel slot, the wheel including openings that can be aligned with the inner passages of the body;

wherein one or more strands of material can be fed through the inner passages of the body and the openings of the wheel and the wheel can then be rotated relative to the body to twist the one or more strands.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the wheel slot of the body comprises concentric grooves that hold the wheel within the slot.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein the body comprises two generally parallel inner passages that extend to one of its ends.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein the body comprises a first body portion and a second body portion that form first and second halves of the body.

7

5. The device of claim 4, wherein the body further comprises a hinge that connects the first body portion to the second body portion and wherein the body can be opened and closed like a clamshell using the hinge.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein the body comprises openings at one end that lead to the inner passages.

7. A device for tying a knot in a strand of material, the device comprising:

a body that defines a wheel slot and three inner passages that lead to the wheel slot; and

a wheel that fits and can be rotated within the wheel slot, the wheel including three openings that can be aligned with the three inner passages;

wherein the strand can be fed through a first opening of the wheel and a first inner passage of the body and then through a second inner passage of the body and a second opening of the wheel, the wheel can then be rotated relative to the body to twist the strand about itself, and the strand can be fed through a third opening of the wheel and third inner passage of the body to form the knot.

8. The device of claim 7, wherein the wheel slot of the body comprises concentric grooves that hold the wheel within the slot.

9. The device of claim 7, wherein the body comprises a first body portion and a second body portion that form first and second halves of the body.

10. The device of claim 9, wherein the body further comprises a hinge that connects the first body portion to the second body portion and wherein the body can be opened and closed like a clamshell using the hinge.

11. The device of claim 7, wherein the first and second openings are provided at an end of the body and the third opening is provided on a top or bottom side of the body.

12. A device for tying two strands of material together, the device comprising:

a body that defines a wheel slot and six inner passages that lead to the wheel slot; and

a wheel that fits and can be rotated within the wheel slot, the wheel including three openings that can be aligned with the six inner passages;

wherein two strands of material can be passed through the body and the wheel from opposite ends of the body, the wheel can be rotated through multiple complete turns, and the strands can each be passed through the body once

8

again along the same path but in opposite directions to form a knot that ties the strands together.

13. The device of claim 12, wherein the wheel slot of the body comprises concentric grooves that hold the wheel within the slot.

14. The device of claim 12, wherein the body comprises a first body portion and a second body portion that form first and second halves of the body.

15. The device of claim 14, wherein the body further comprises a hinge that connects the first body portion to the second body portion and wherein the body can be opened and closed like a clamshell using the hinge.

16. The device of claim 12, wherein the body comprises first, second, third, and fourth openings provided at ends of the device that lead to the first, second, third, and fourth inner passages.

17. The device of claim 16, wherein the body further comprises first and second slots that lead to fifth and sixth inner passages, the first slot extending between the first and second openings and the second slot extending between the third and fourth openings.

18. A method for tying a knot, the method comprising:

passing one or more strands of material through one or more inner passages formed in a body of a knot tying device and through one or more openings formed in a wheel provided within the body;

turning the wheel relative to the body to twist the one or more strands;

passing the one or more strands through another opening formed in the wheel and another inner passage formed in the body; and

separating the body and the wheel into two portions to remove a knot formed by the device.

19. A method for tying a knot, the method comprising:

passing one or more strands of material through one or more inner passages formed in a body of a knot tying device and through one or more openings formed in a wheel provided within the body;

turning the wheel relative to the body to twist the one or more strands;

passing the one or more strands through another inner passage formed in the body and another opening formed in the wheel; and

separating the body and the wheel into two portions to remove a knot formed by the device.

* * * * *