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(54) **SURGICAL STAPLING APPARATUS**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present disclosure provides for a loading unit for use with and/or supportable on a distal end of a surgical stapling apparatus. The loading unit includes a housing portion including a connecting feature, preferably in the form of a pair of axially oriented and diametrically opposed slots formed therein, and a drive assembly slidably supported within the housing portion of the loading unit, the drive assembly including a pair of axially spaced apart radially inwardly extending fingers, wherein when the distal end of a control rod of a surgical stapling apparatus is axially advanced in the direction of and engages the resilient fingers, the distal end of the control rod biases the resilient fingers radially outward into the slots of the housing portion.

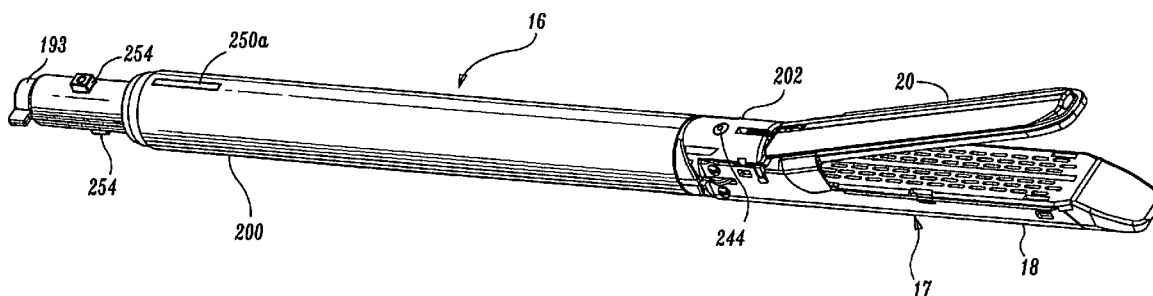
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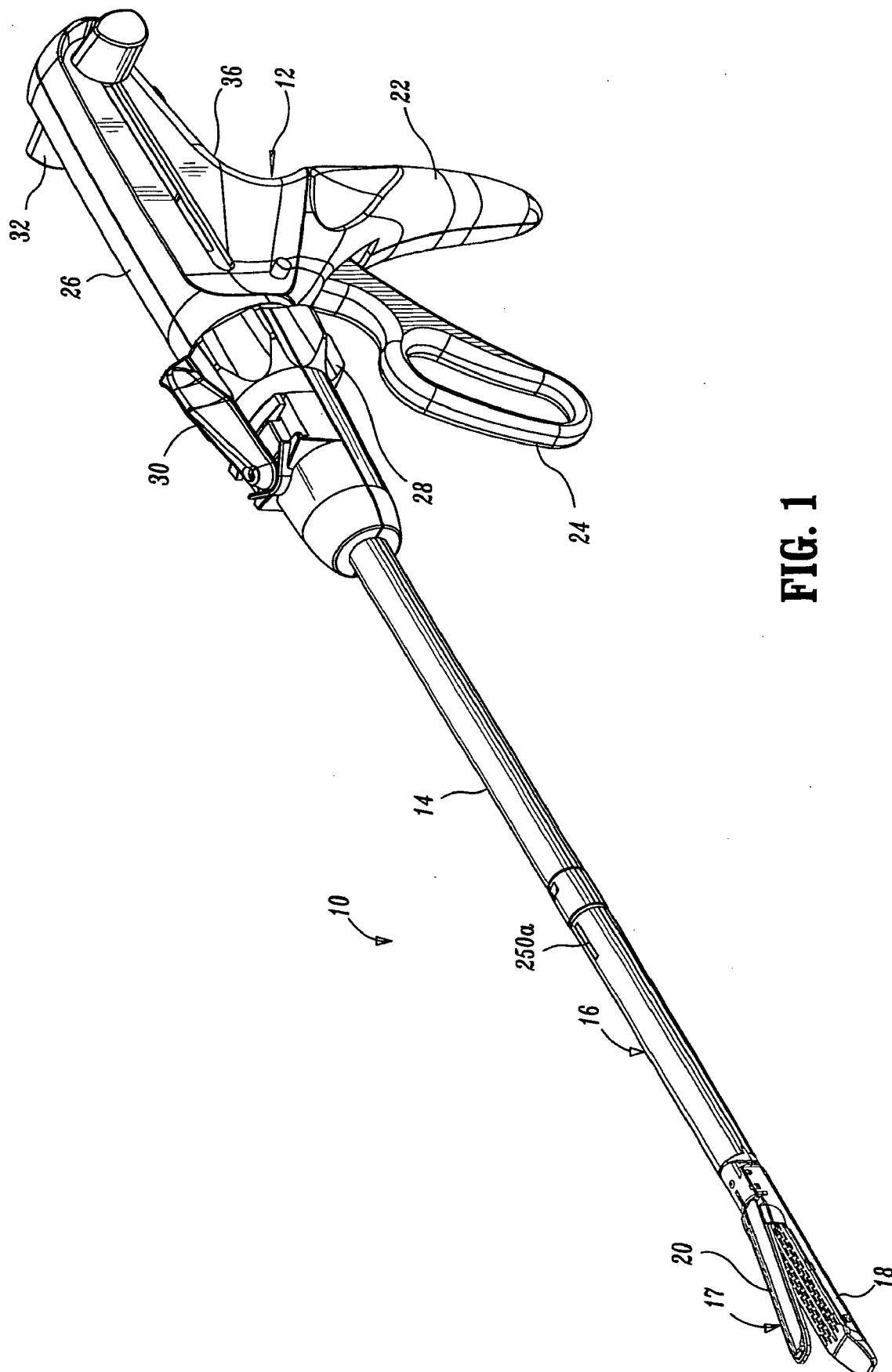


FIG. 1

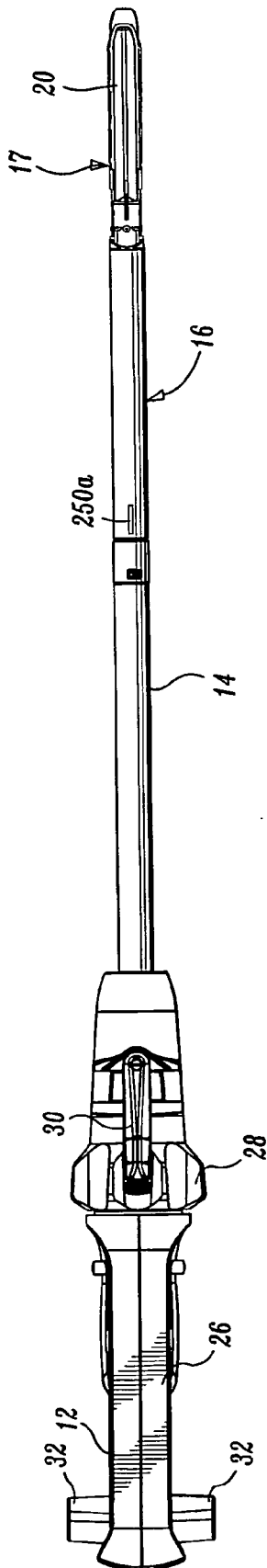


FIG. 2

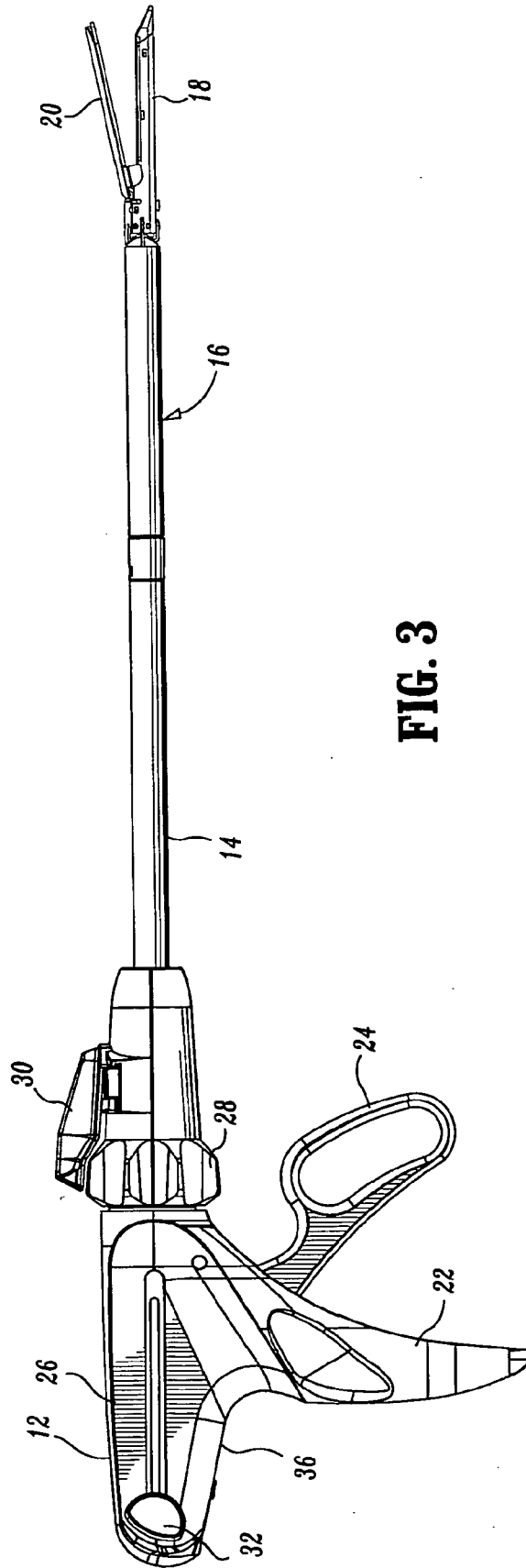


FIG. 3

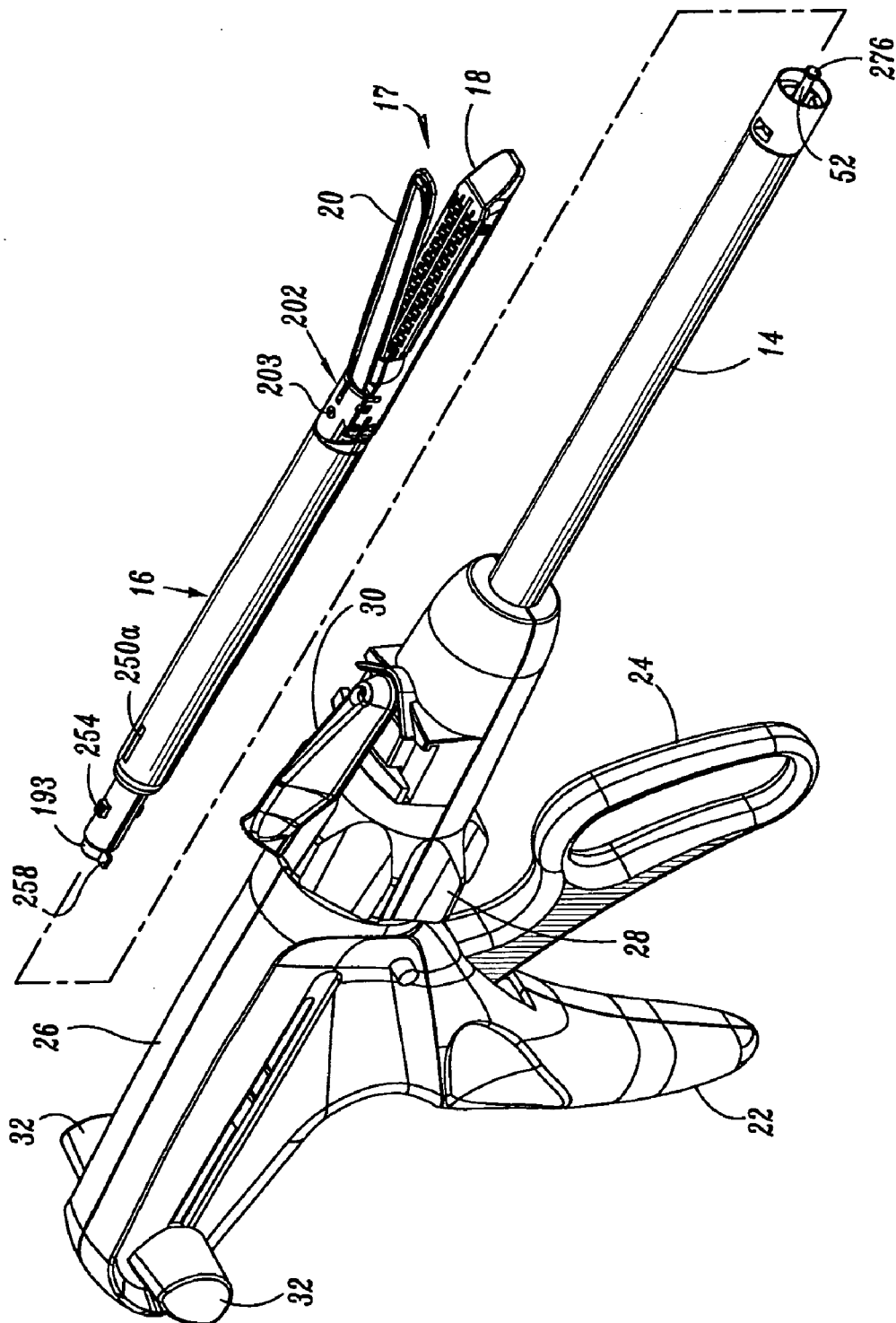
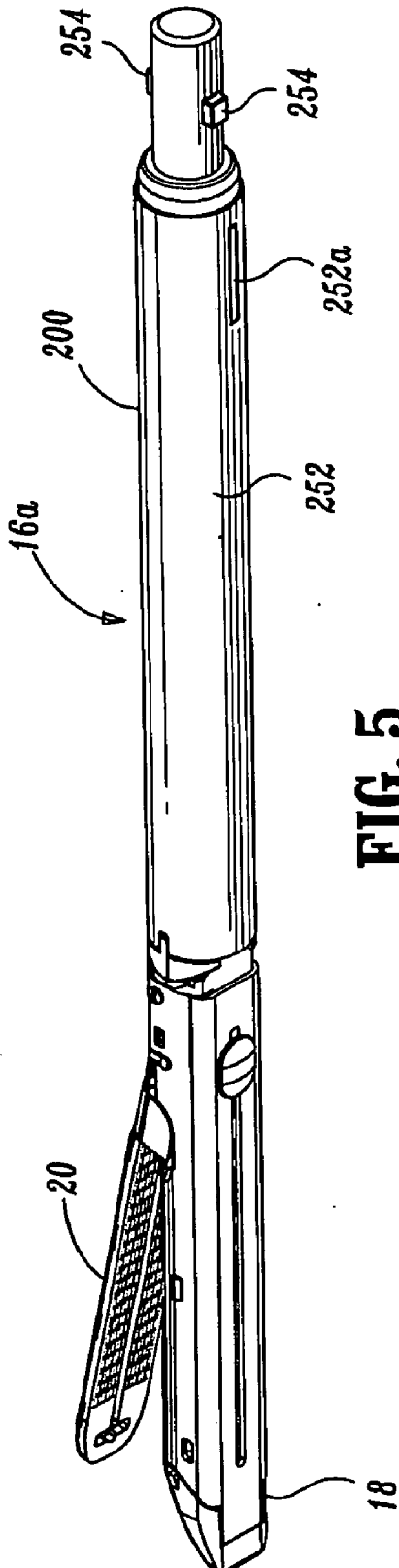
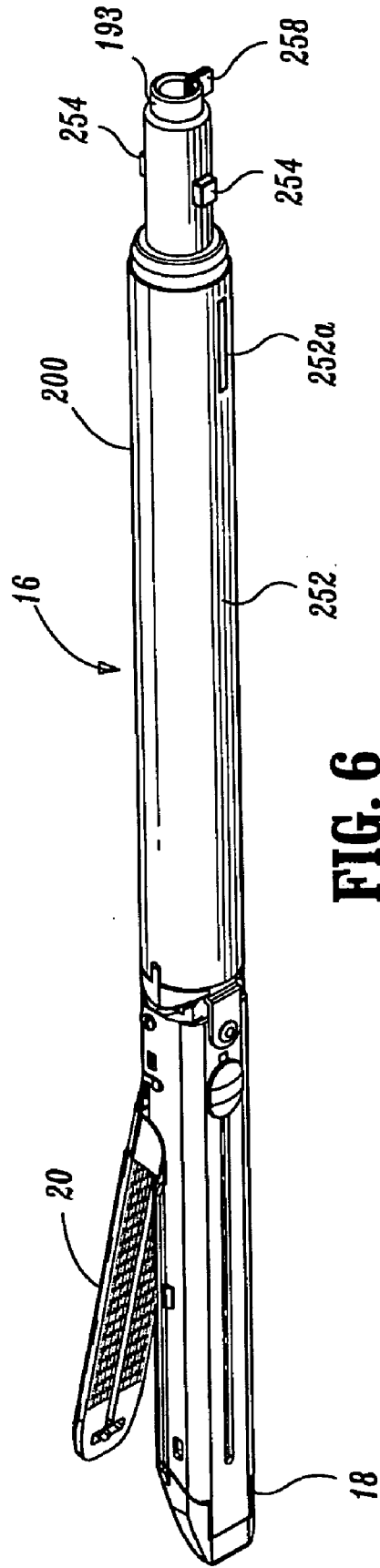


FIG. 4



**FIG. 5**



**FIG. 6**

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