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Geiste et al.

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[54] **SURGICAL STAPLER**

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[*] Notice: This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **A61B 17/068**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **227/175.1**; 227/19; 227/176.1; 227/180.1

[58] **Field of Search** 227/19, 175.1, 227/176.1, 180.1, 179.1

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Primary Examiner—Scott A. Smith

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A surgical stapler is disclosed which includes a first body portion supporting an anvil plate defining a fastener forming surface, and a second body portion configured to releasably mate with the first body portion. A disposable loading unit is removably supported in the second body portion and includes a cartridge defining a plurality of slots, a plurality of surgical fasteners disposed in the slots, a plurality of ejectors positioned adjacent the surgical fasteners, and a wedged actuator configured to enter into and translate through the cartridge to sequentially interact with the ejectors. An elongated actuation member is mounted for longitudinal movement within the second body portion and is releasably engagable with the wedged actuator, whereby longitudinal movement of the actuation member causes the wedged actuator to interact with the ejectors, driving the surgical fasteners from the cartridge to be formed against the anvil plate.
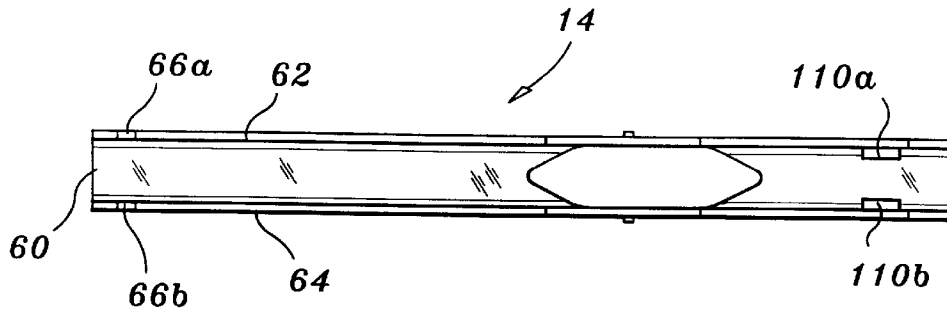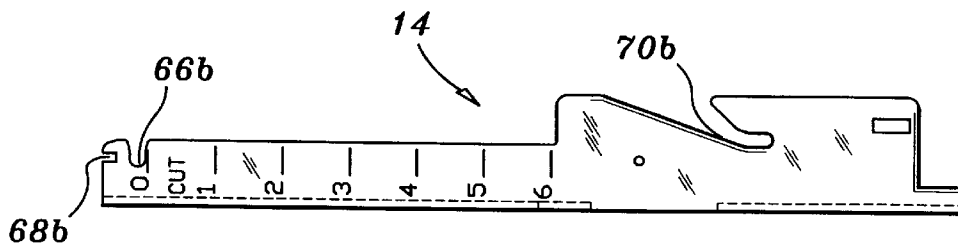
21 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets

FIG. IA

FIG. IB

FIG. 2

FIG. 3
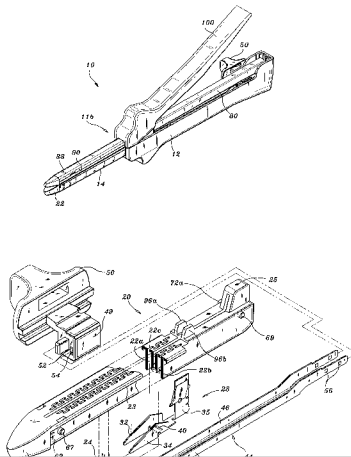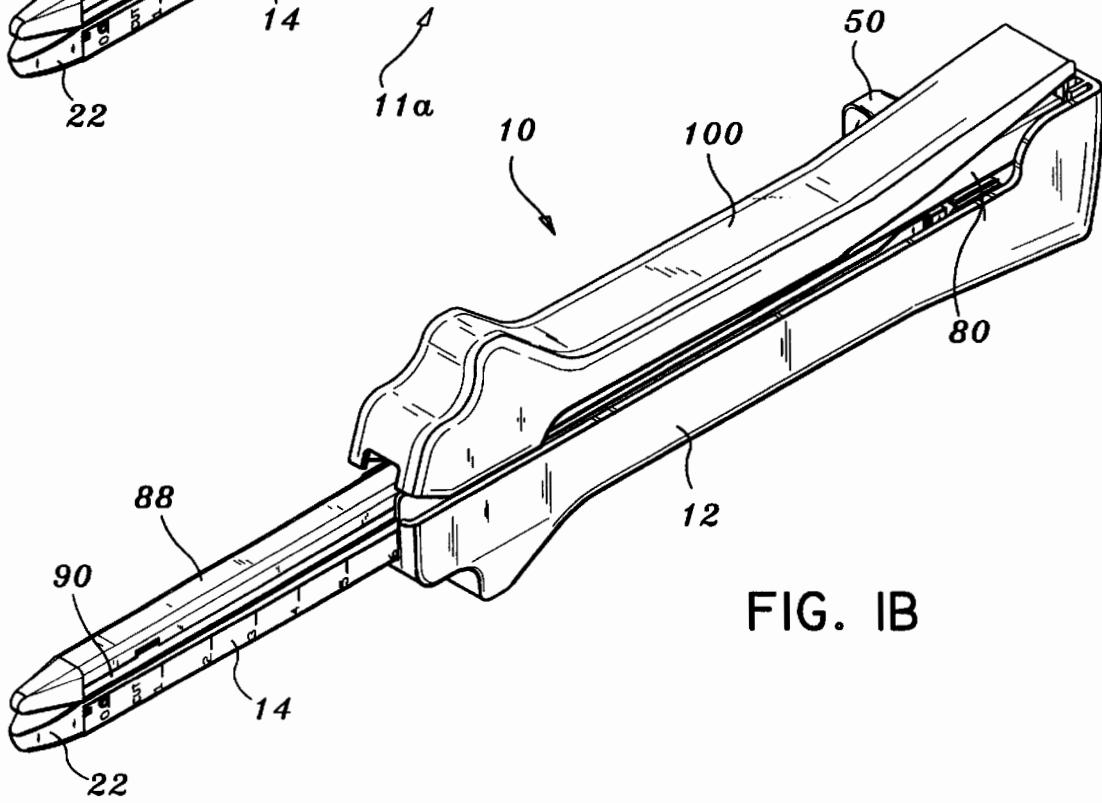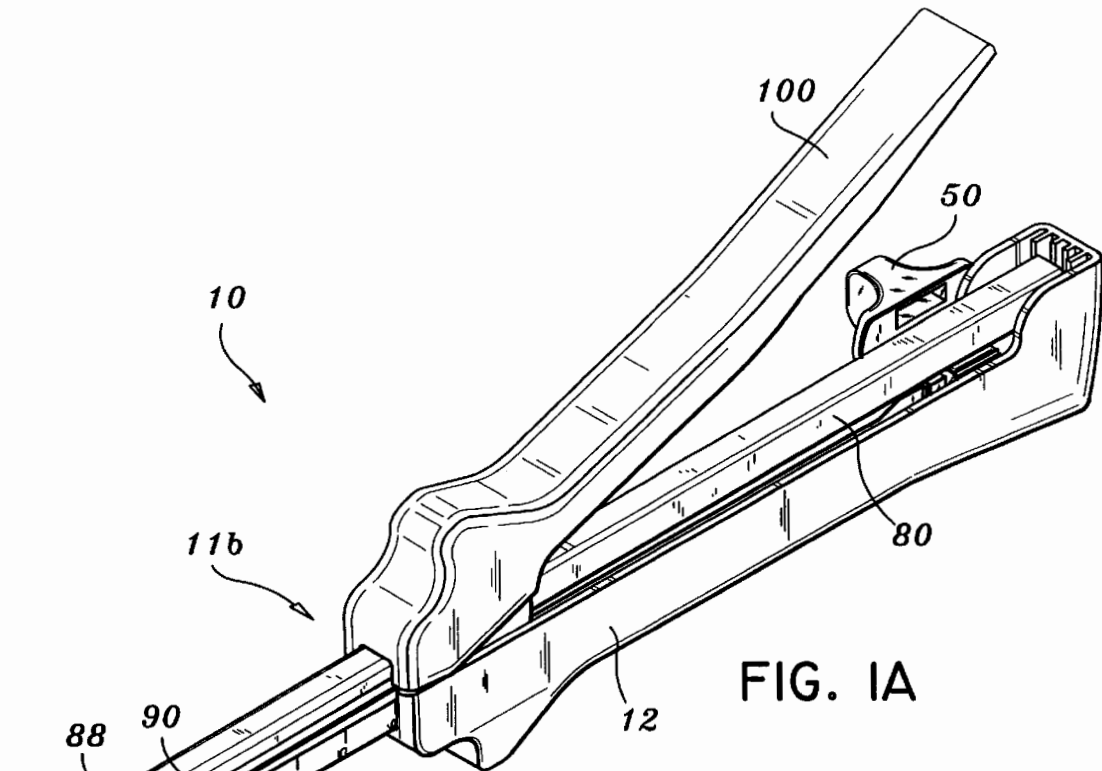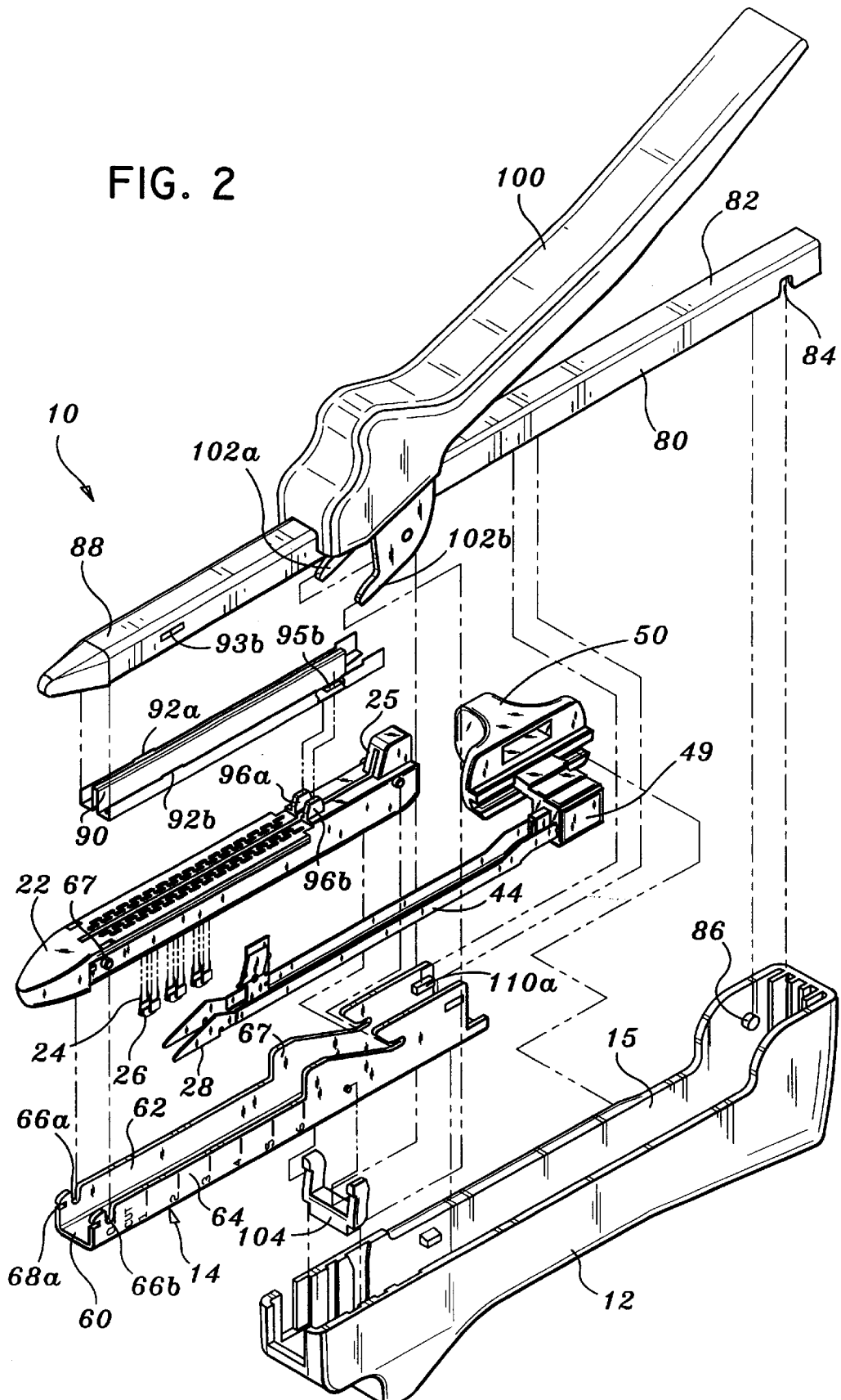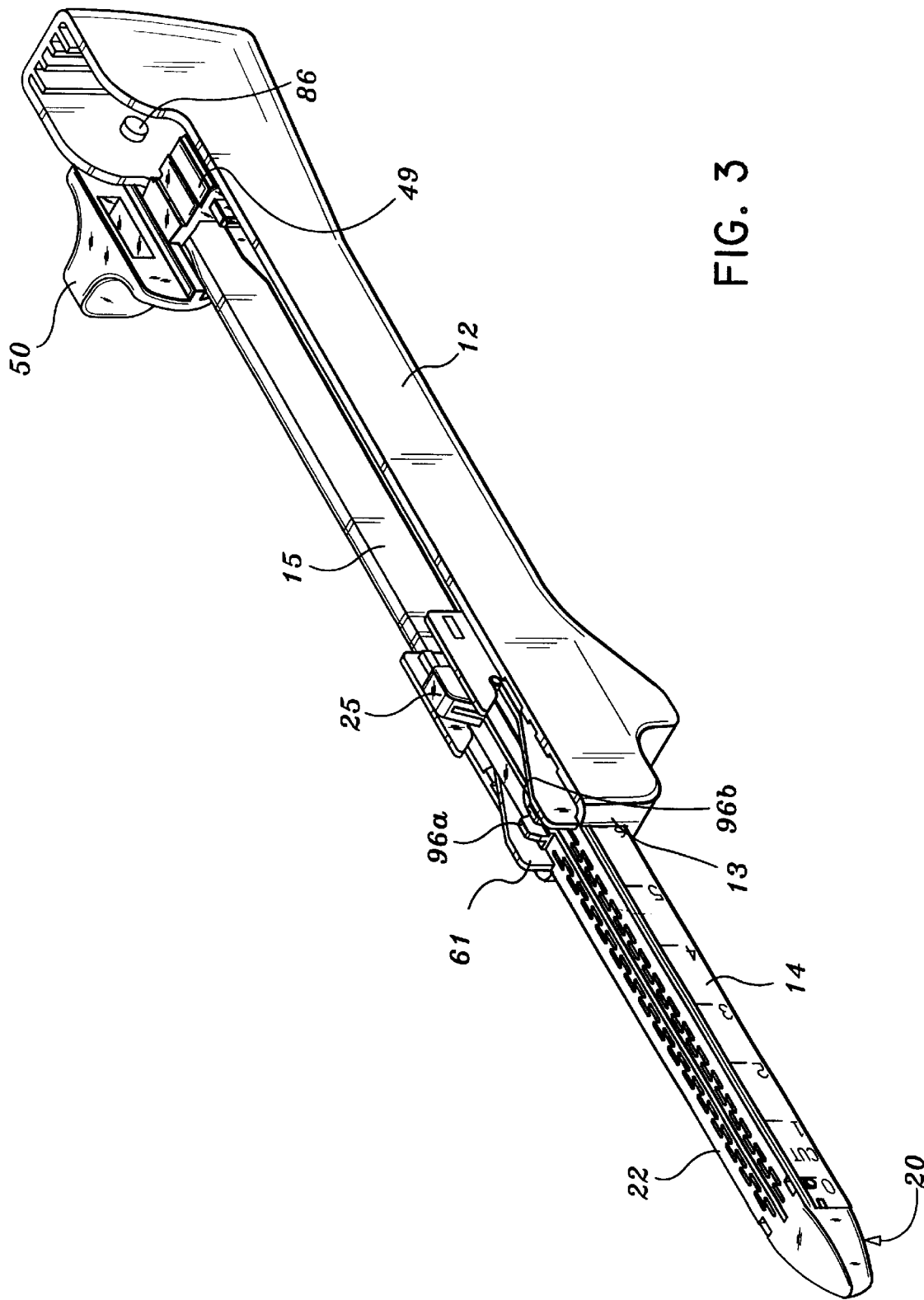
FIG. 4A

FIG. 4B

FIG. 4C

DOCKET ALARM
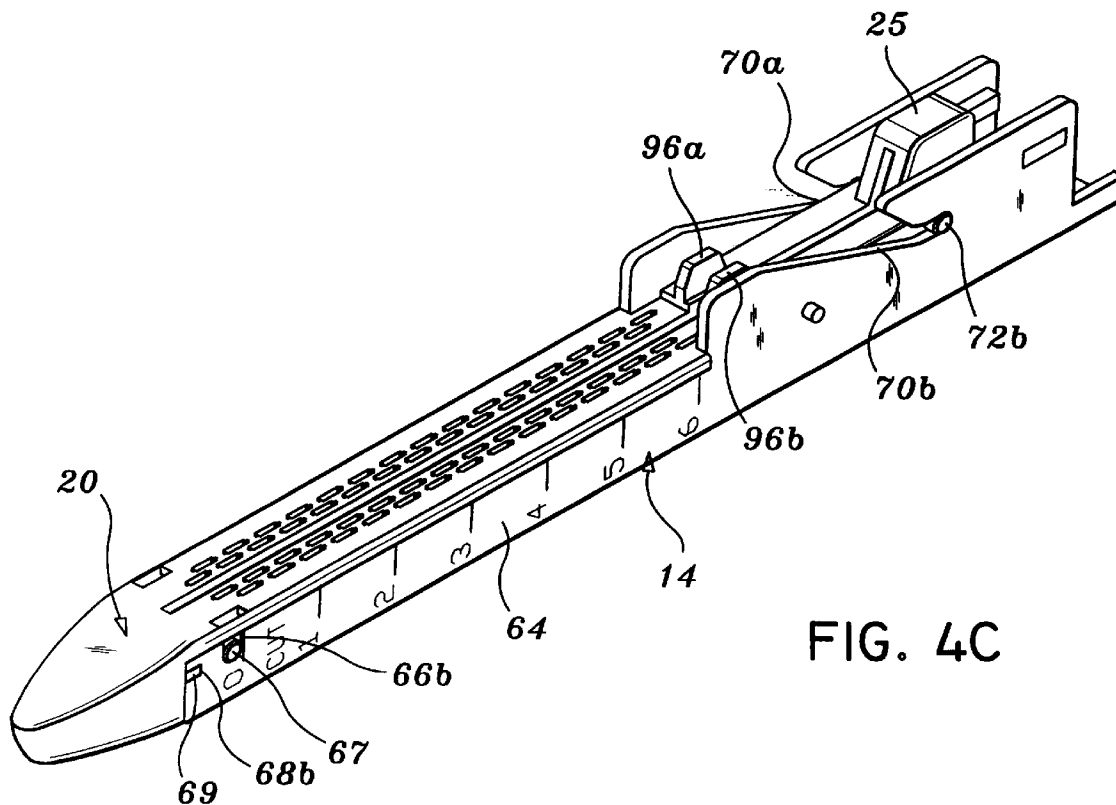
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