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(54) APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR STRAIGHTENING ANGLED TISSUE CUTTING INSTRUMENTS

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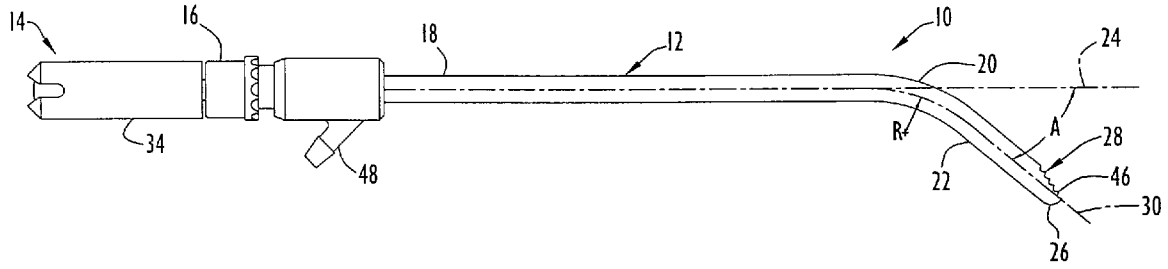
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **606/170**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A straightening tool is disclosed for straightening angled tissue cutting instruments including an outer member having a proximal length portion and a pre-formed bend connecting the proximal length portion with a distal length portion extending from the bend at an angle to a distal end, and a flexible inner member movably disposed in the outer member to cut anatomical tissue. The straightening tool comprises a handle and a positioning block extending from the handle coaxial with the straightening tool. The positioning block has a longitudinal bore for receiving the distal length portion therethrough to position the distal end within a cavity of the positioning block and the bend within a longitudinal slot of the positioning block with the proximal length portion extending externally through an opening of the slot. The bore confines the distal length portion against radial movement and serves as a fulcrum about which the proximal length portion is manually pivotable into abutment with a floor of the slot extending from the bore at an angle in a direction opposite the slot opening. Upon release of the manual pivoting force, the proximal length portion springs back somewhat in the direction of the original bend to obtain a longitudinally straightened outer member. The straightened outer member is used with the inner member to cut anatomical tissue as a straightened tissue cutting instrument.



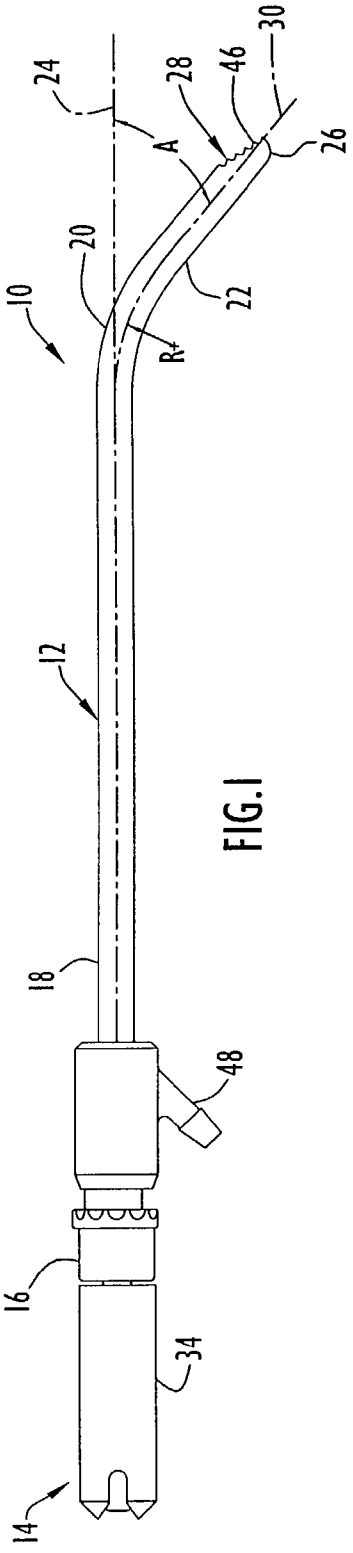


FIG.1

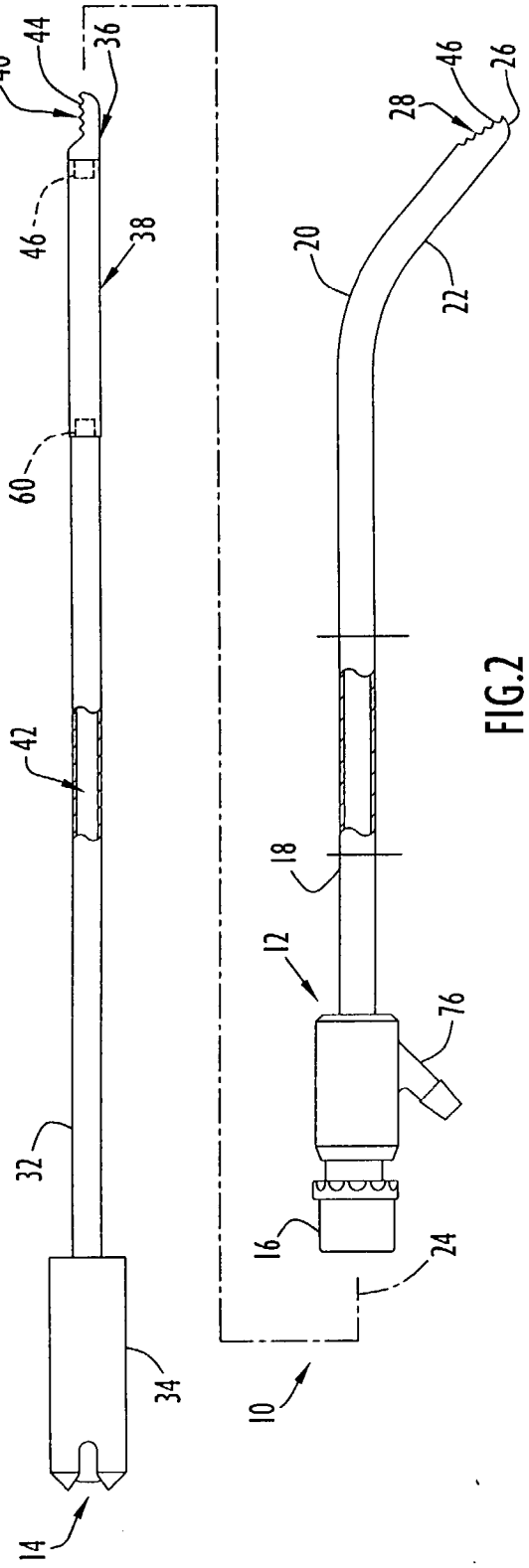


FIG.2

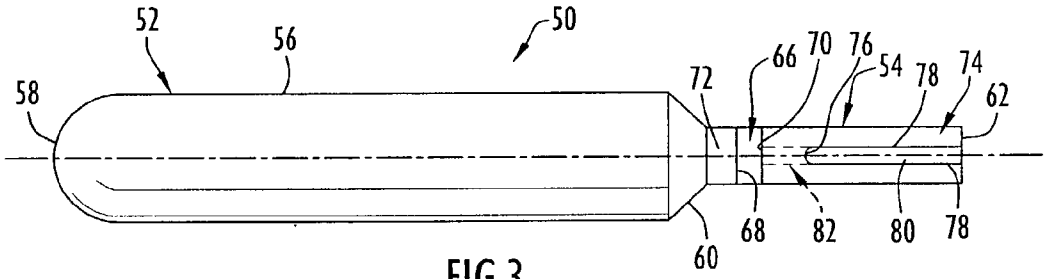


FIG.3

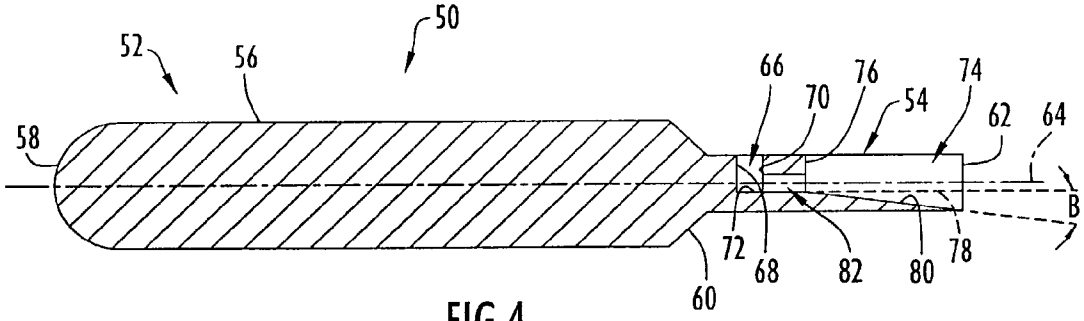


FIG.4

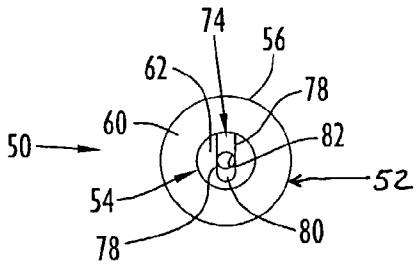


FIG.5

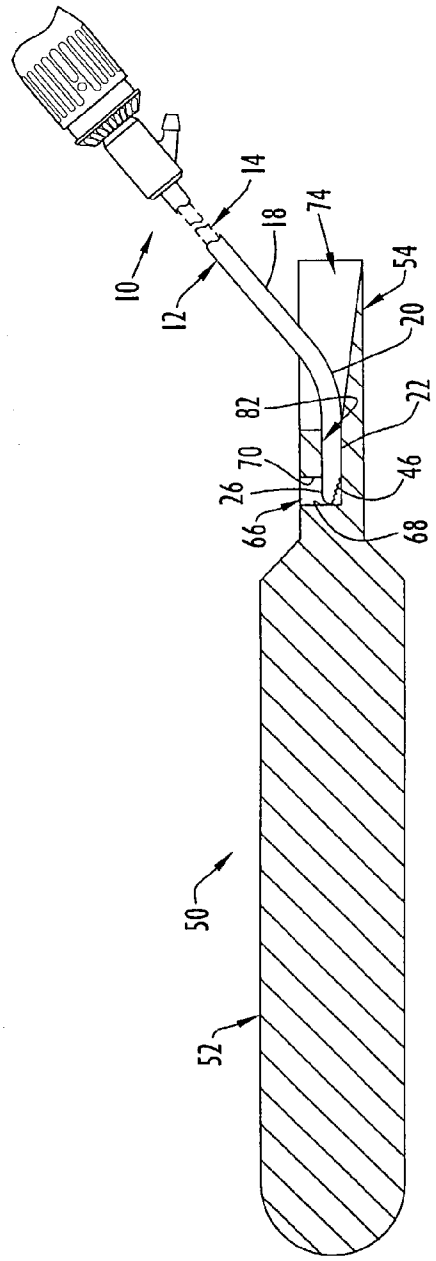


FIG.6

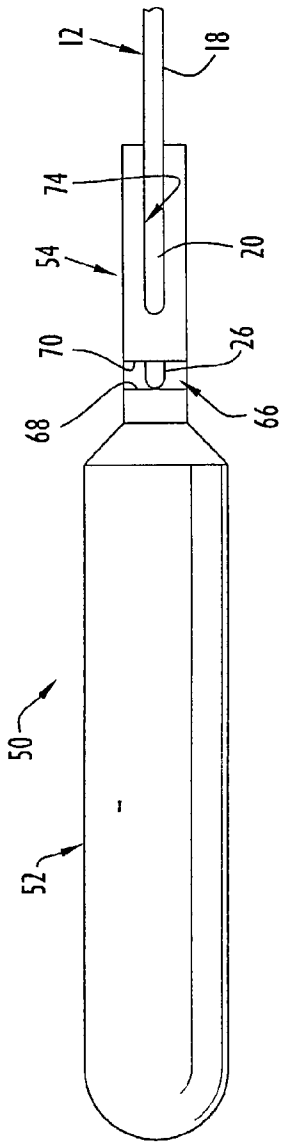


FIG.7

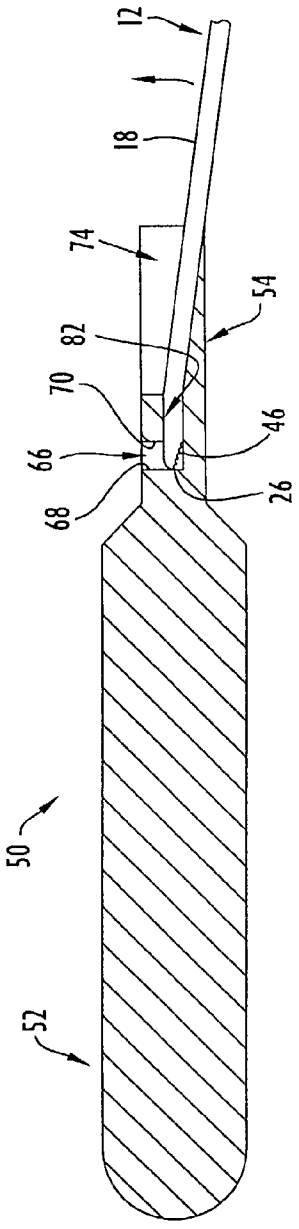


FIG.8

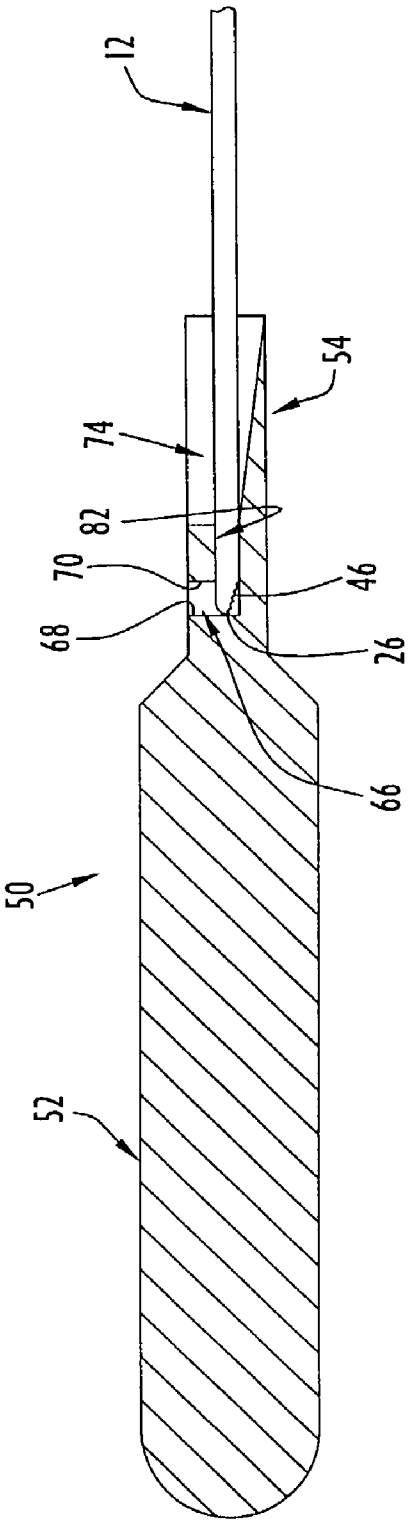


FIG.9

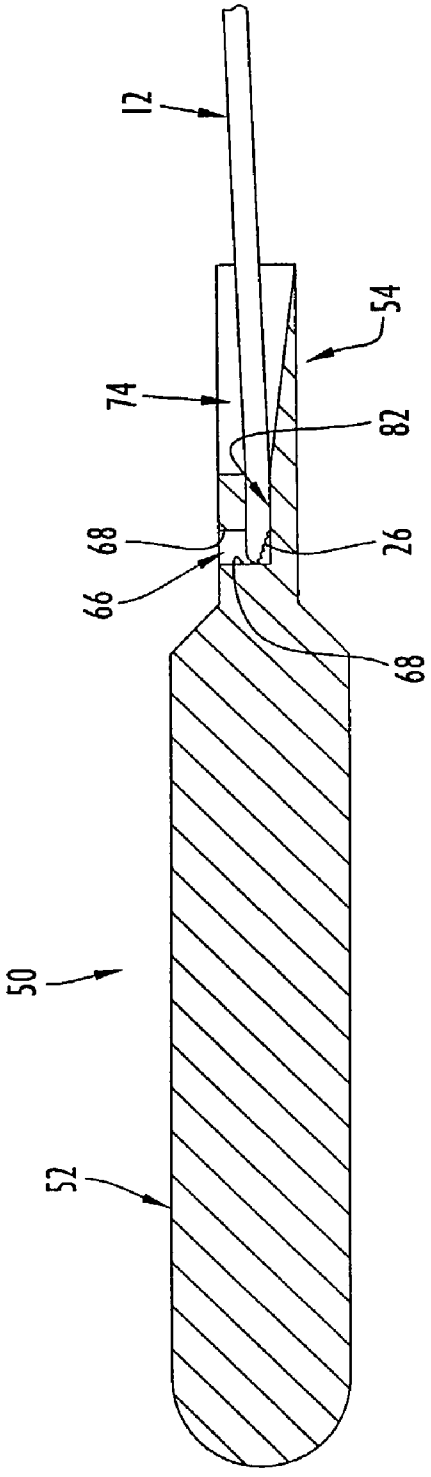


FIG.10

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