

[54] **ENDOLUMINAL PROSTHESIS AND SYSTEM FOR JOINING**

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**Related U.S. Application Data**

[63] Continuation of application No. 08/461,513, Jun. 5, 1995, Pat. No. 5,716,365, and a division of application No. 08/317,763, Oct. 4, 1994, Pat. No. 5,609,627, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 08/312,881, Sep. 27, 1994.

[30] **Foreign Application Priority Data**

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 Jun. 10, 1994 [EP] European Pat. Off. .... 94401306

[51] **Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup>** ..... **A61F 2/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **623/1.16**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 623/1, 11, 12, 623/1.16

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A stent joining means is provided for joining a first endoluminal stent to a second endoluminal stent to define a continuous lumen through the first and second endoluminal stents. The stent joining means includes two transversely spaced female portions on the first endoluminal stent. The stent joining means also includes a male engaging portion of the second endoluminal stent. The male engaging portion is configured to be entered into one of the female portions in a radially compressed state and thereafter expanded in the female portion such that an outer surface of the male engaging portion and an inner surface of the female portion are interengaged to resist longitudinal movement to prevent separation of the first and second endoluminal stents in service.

**82 Claims, 23 Drawing Sheets**

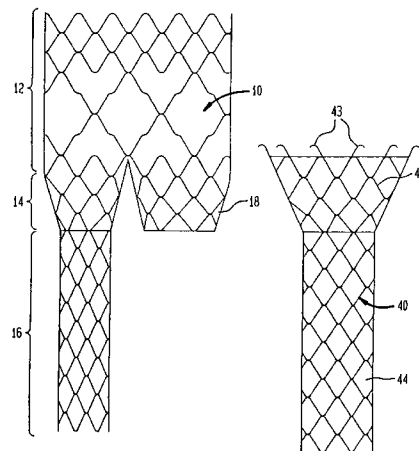




FIG. 1A

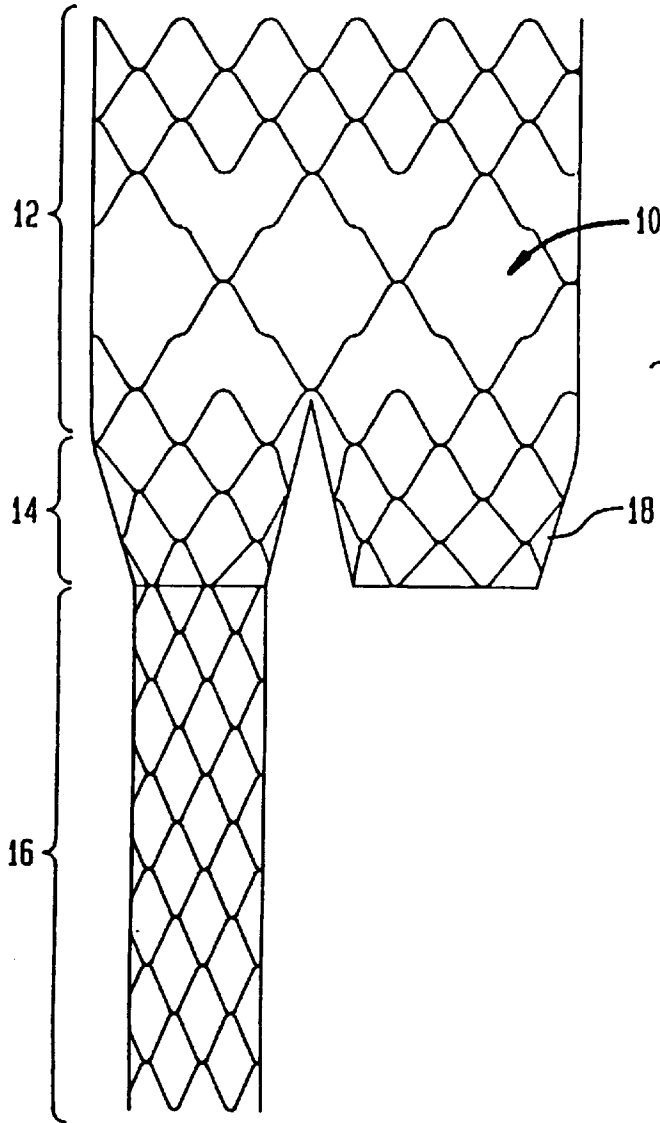


FIG. 1B

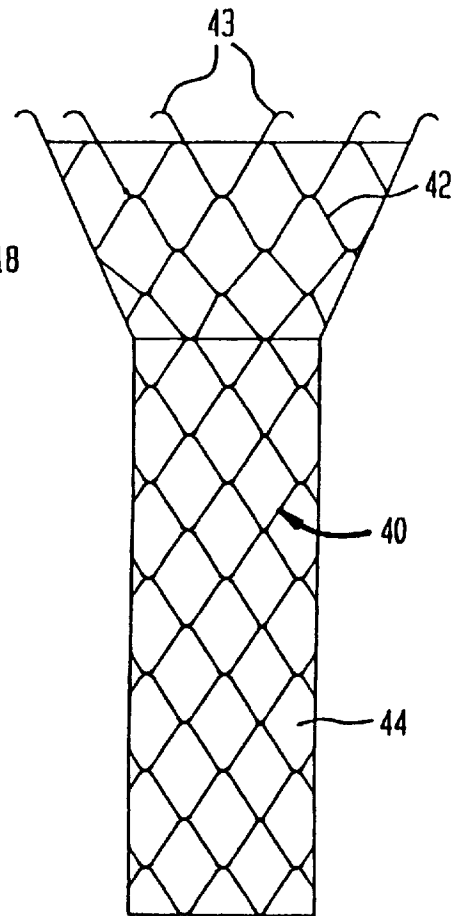


FIG. 2A

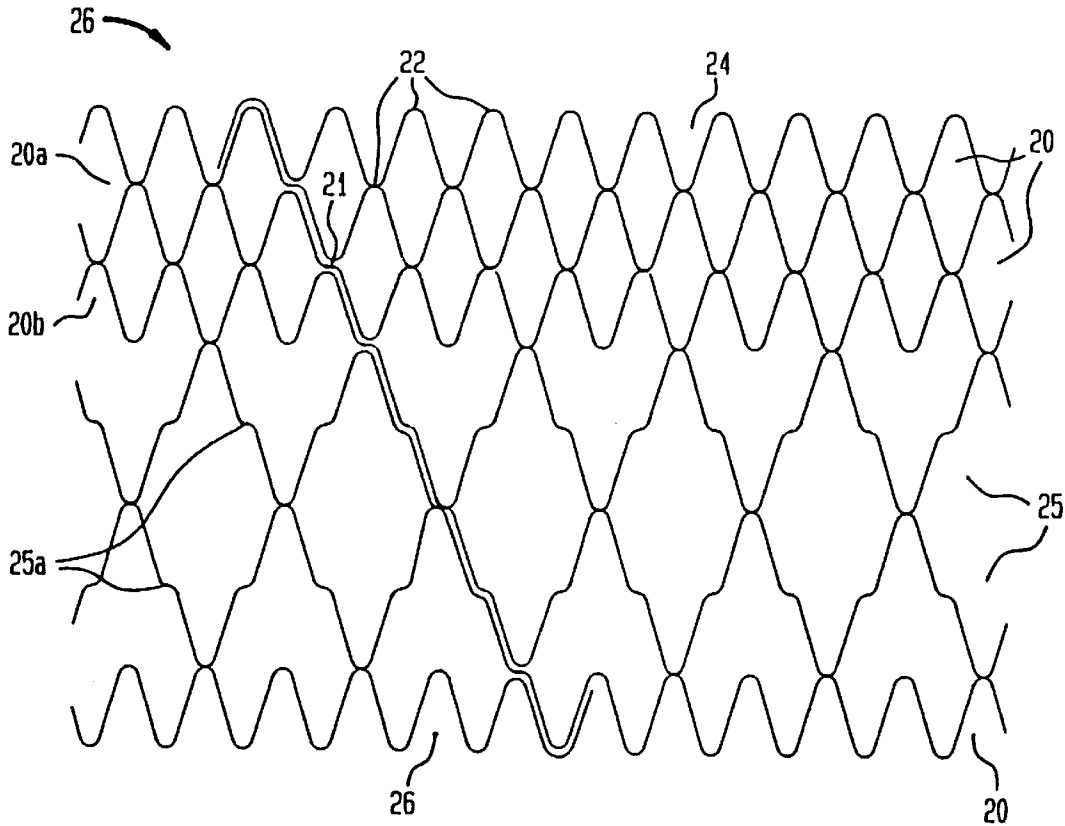


FIG. 2B

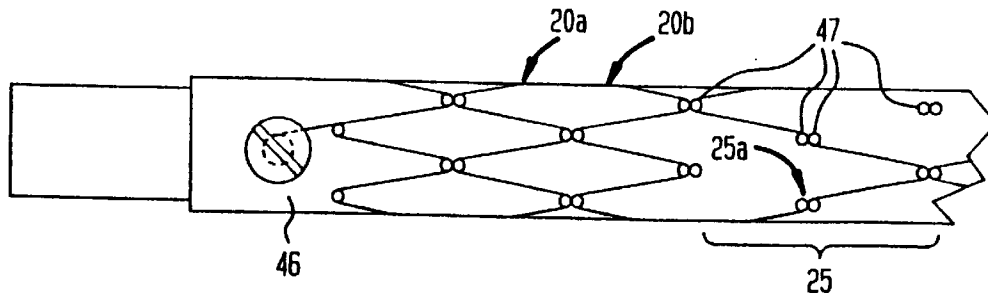


FIG. 3

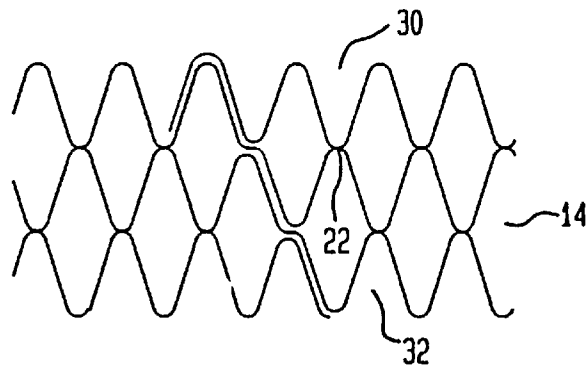
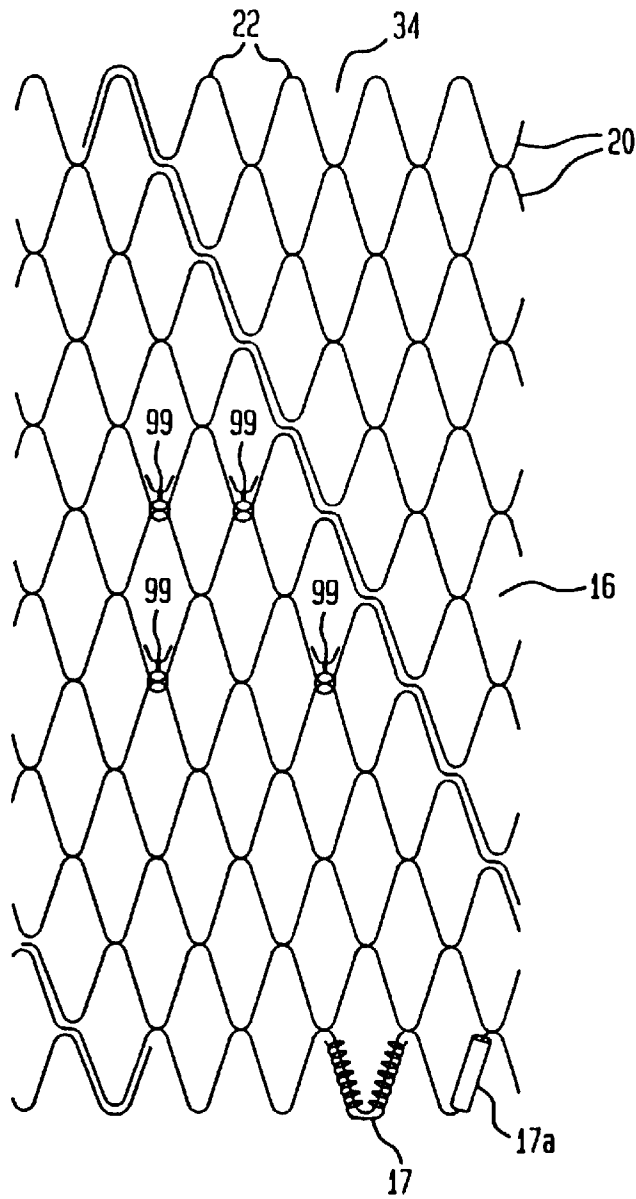


FIG. 4A



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