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United States Patent [19] de Nijs et al.

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[54] SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONNECTION OF MULTIPLE PROTOCOL TERMINALS

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[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **H04L 7/00**

[52] U.S. Cl. **375/356; 370/85.5; 370/85.14**

[58] Field of Search **375/106, 107, 375/108, 359; 370/100.1, 103, 105.2, 95.1, 95.3, 85.1, 85.5, 85.12, 85.14**

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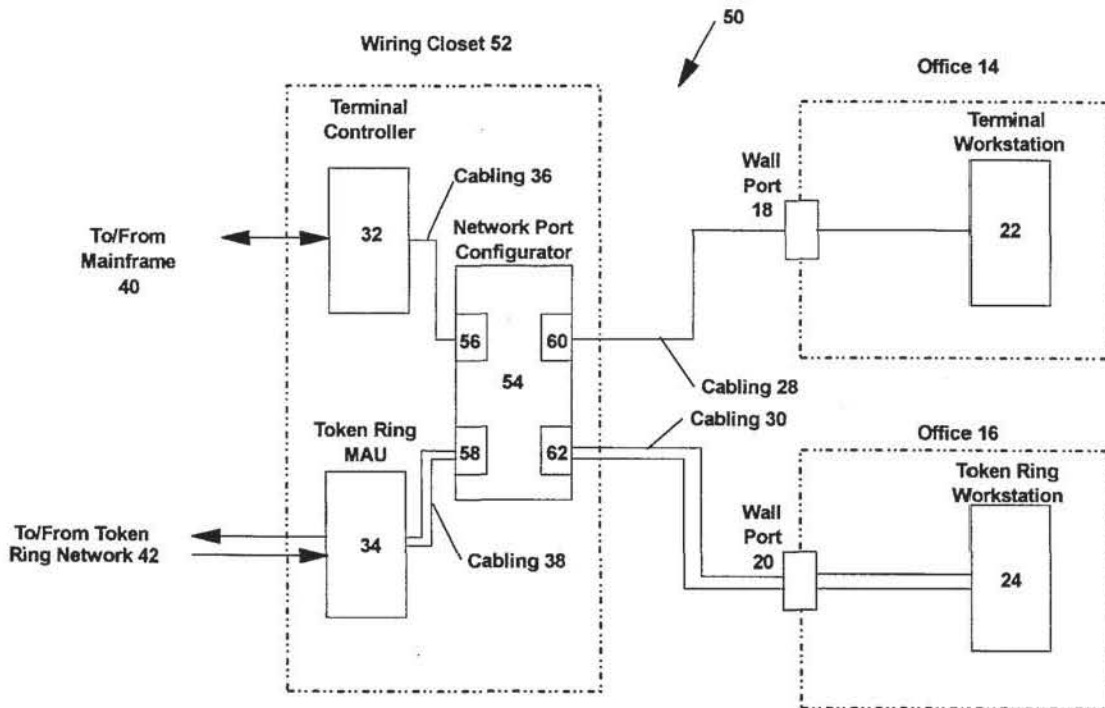
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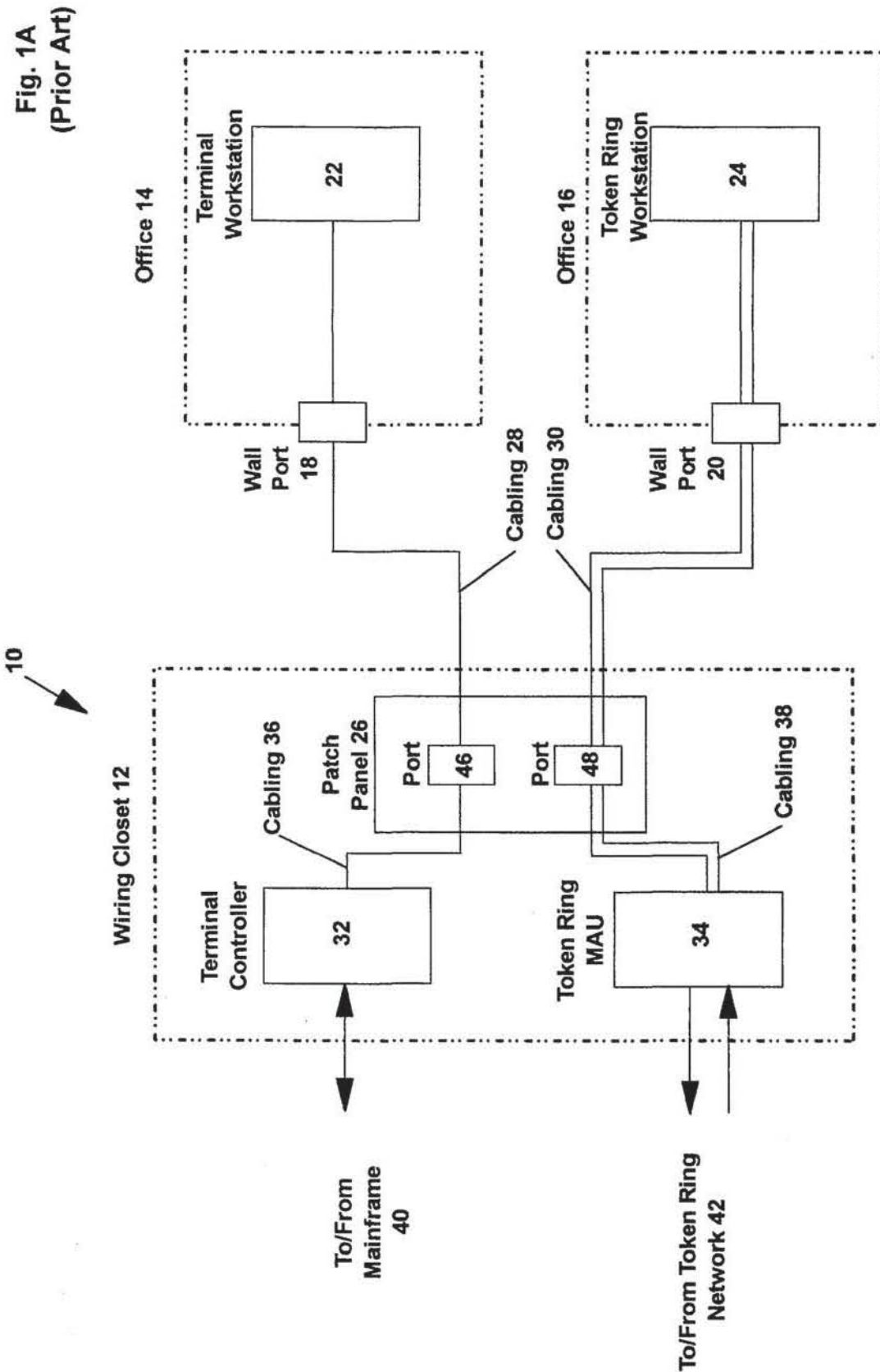
Primary Examiner—Stephen Chin
Assistant Examiner—Bryan E. Webster
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Stephen T. Keohane

[57] ABSTRACT

A network port configurator device for automatically configuring a system having network workstations and corresponding network equipment of various physical protocols. The network port configurator comprises a plurality of input and output ports for receiving physical wiring to which the workstations and network equipment are attached. Detection circuitry attached to the input and output ports determine the physical protocol of the attached workstations and network equipment by determining a characteristic of the attached equipment. Examples of identifying characteristics include a characteristic impedance, a characteristic voltage, and a characteristic cable identification of the workstation. Logic circuitry uses this information to control a circuit switching mechanism that connects the input ports to the output ports.

20 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets





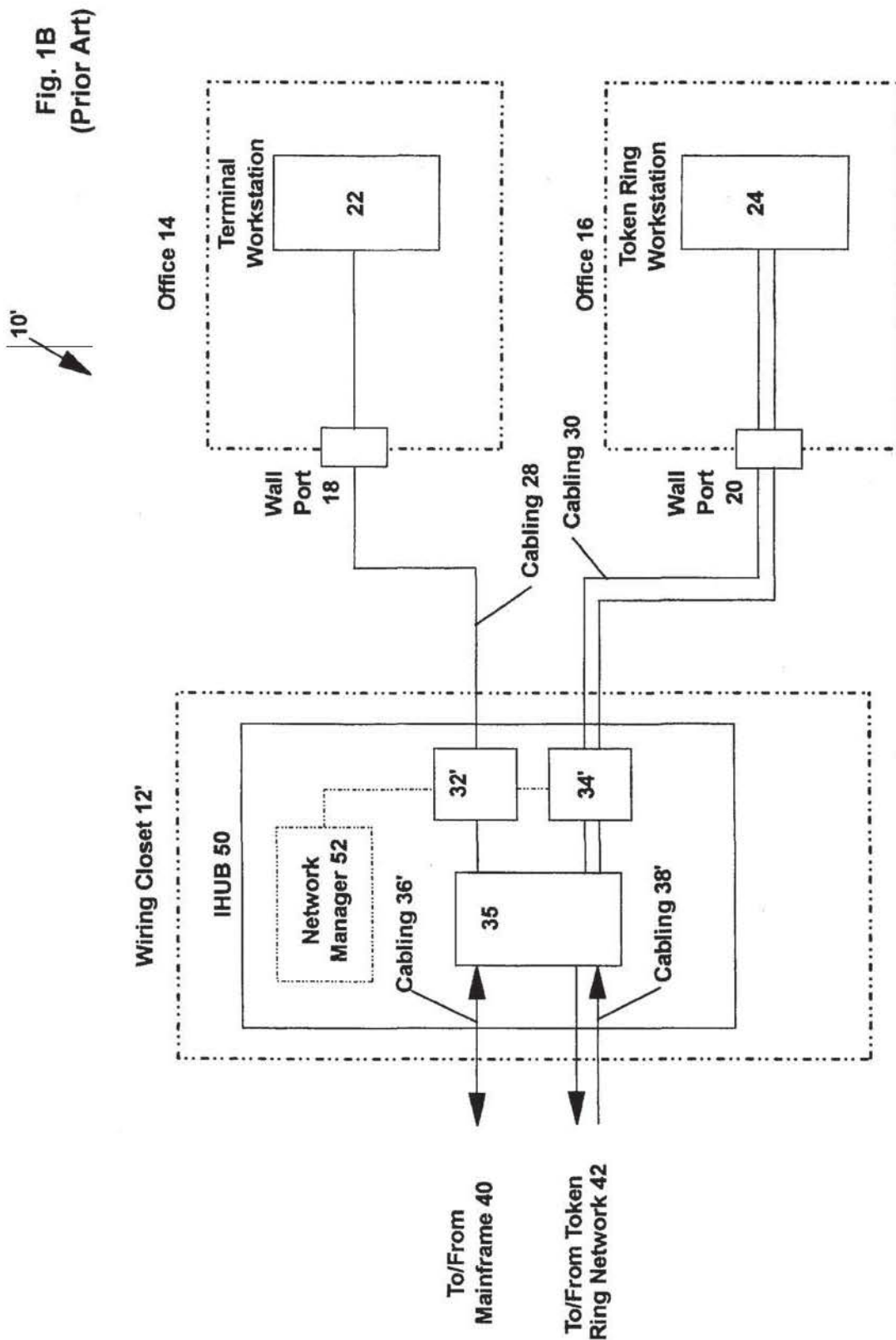


Fig. 2

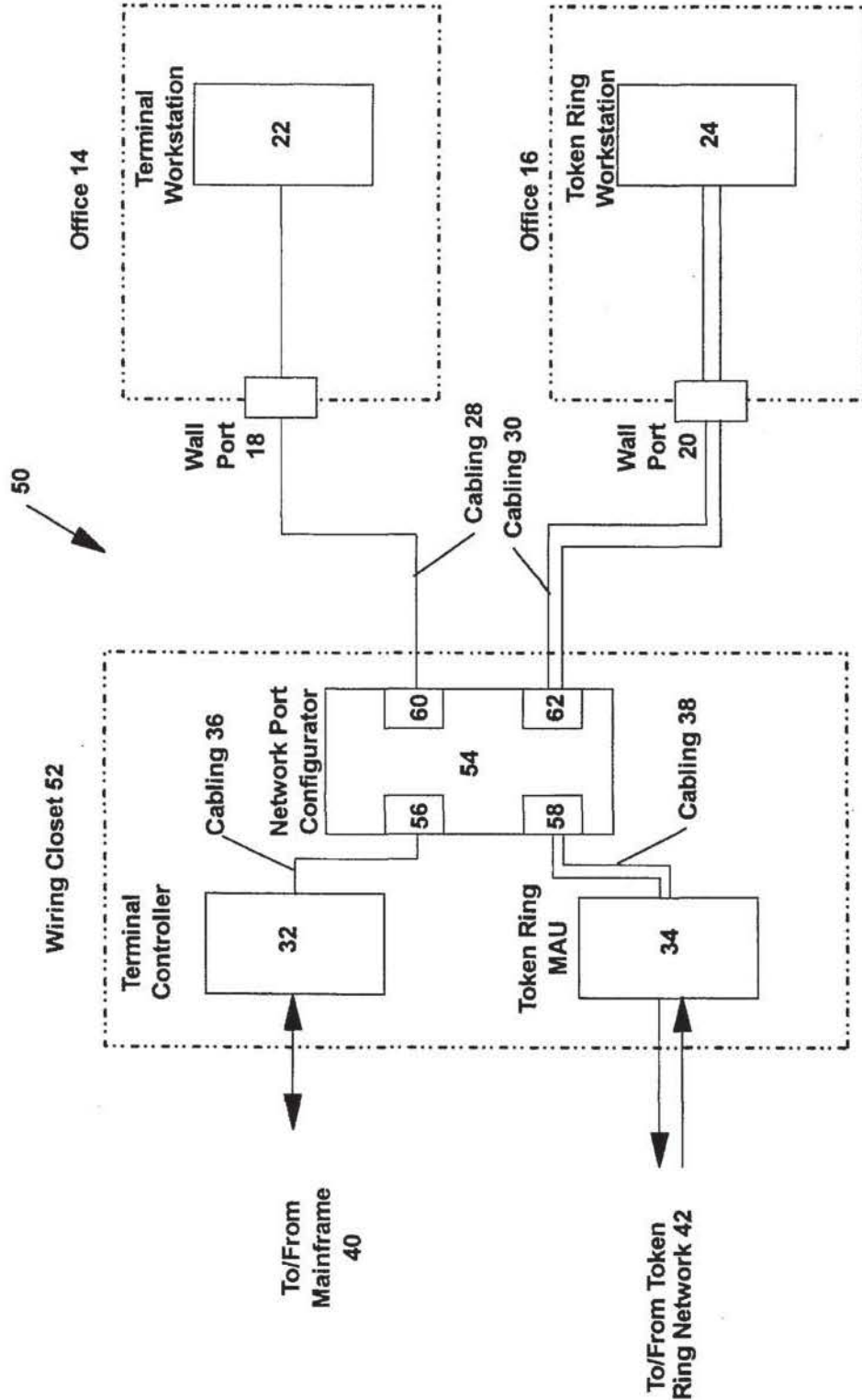


Fig. 3B

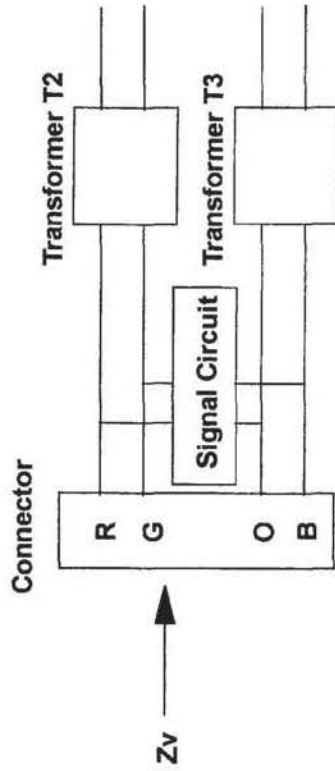


Fig. 3A

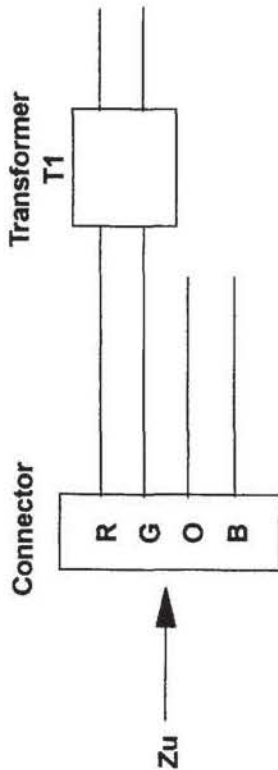
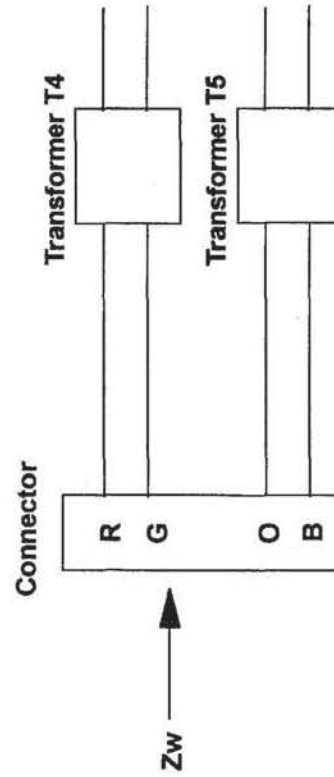


Fig. 3C



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