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**United States Patent** [19]  
**Milliman et al.**

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- [54] **SURGICAL STAPLING APPARATUS**
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- [73] Assignee: **United States Surgical Corporation**, Norwalk, Conn.
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- [51] **Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup>** ..... **A61B 17/068**
- [52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **227/176.1; 227/19; 227/178.1**
- [58] **Field of Search** ..... **227/19, 175.1, 227/176.1, 175.3, 178.1, 179.1**

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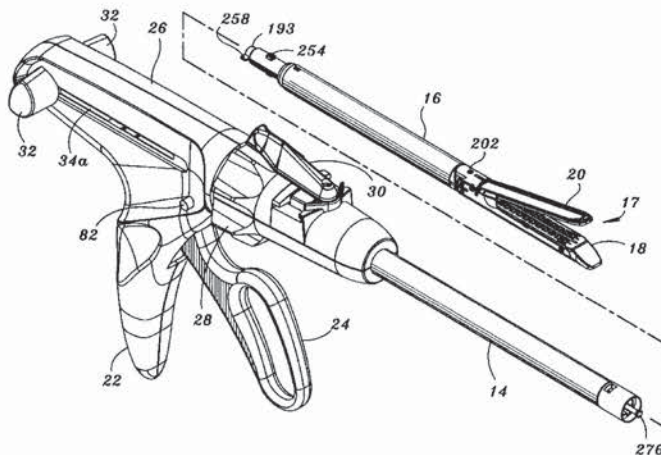
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Primary Examiner—Scott A. Smith

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A surgical stapling device particularly suited for endoscopic procedures is described. The device can be used with both articulating and non-articulating disposable loading units and has a sensing mechanism for sensing the type of disposable loading unit secured to the device.

**4 Claims, 39 Drawing Sheets**



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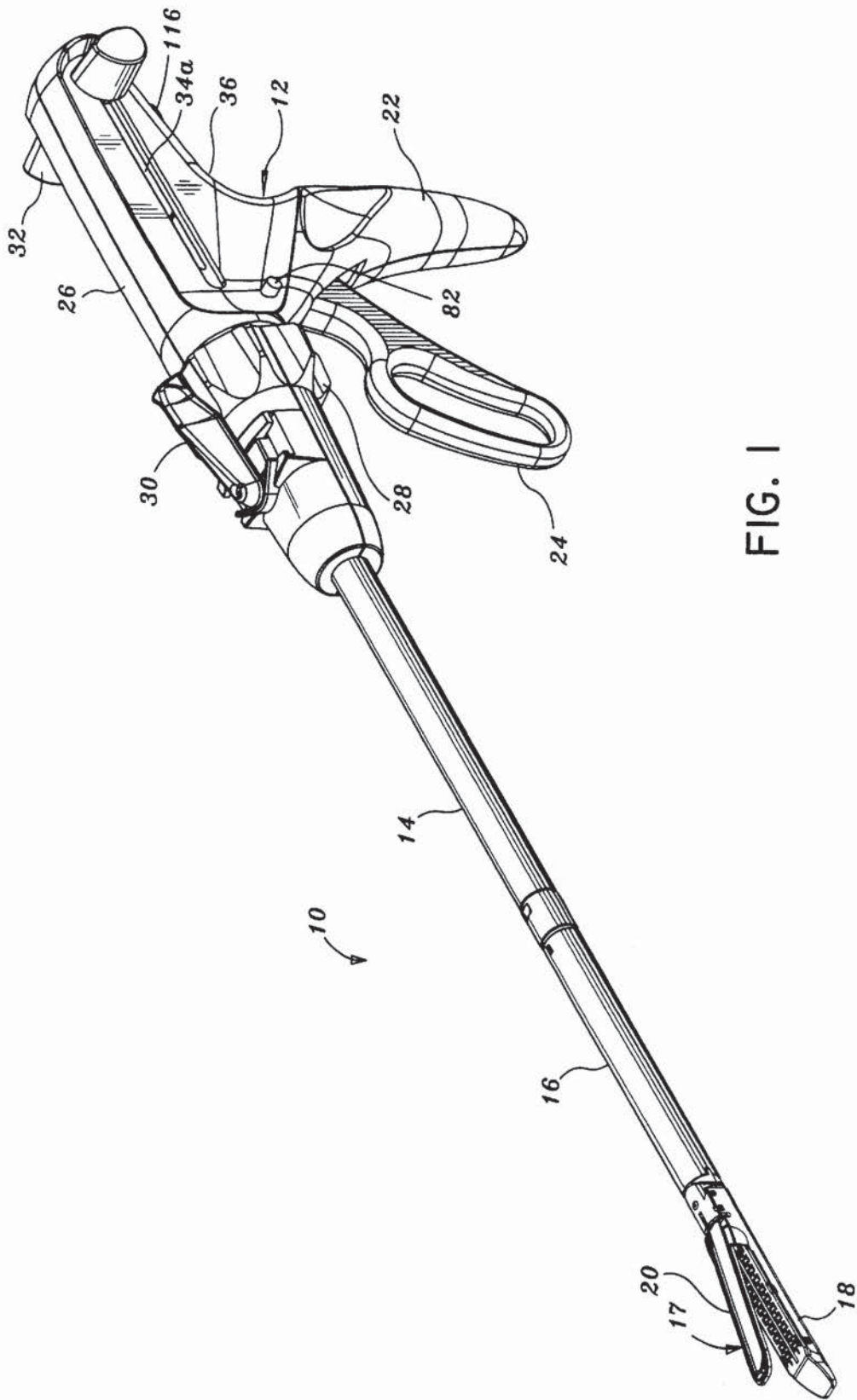


FIG. 1

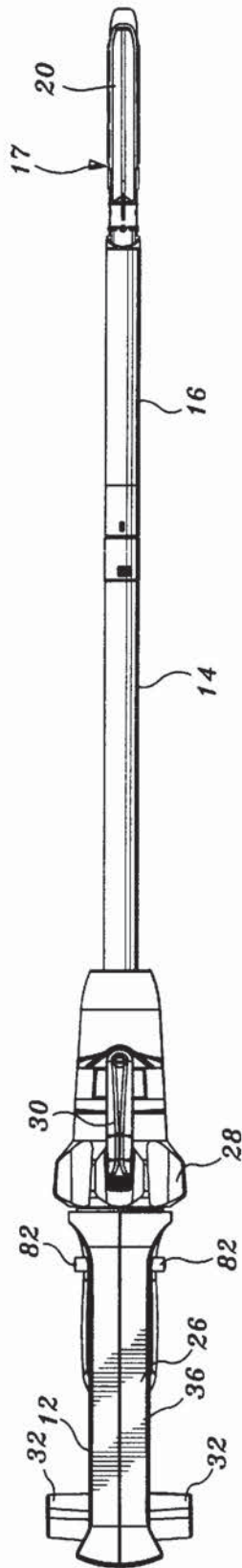


FIG. 2

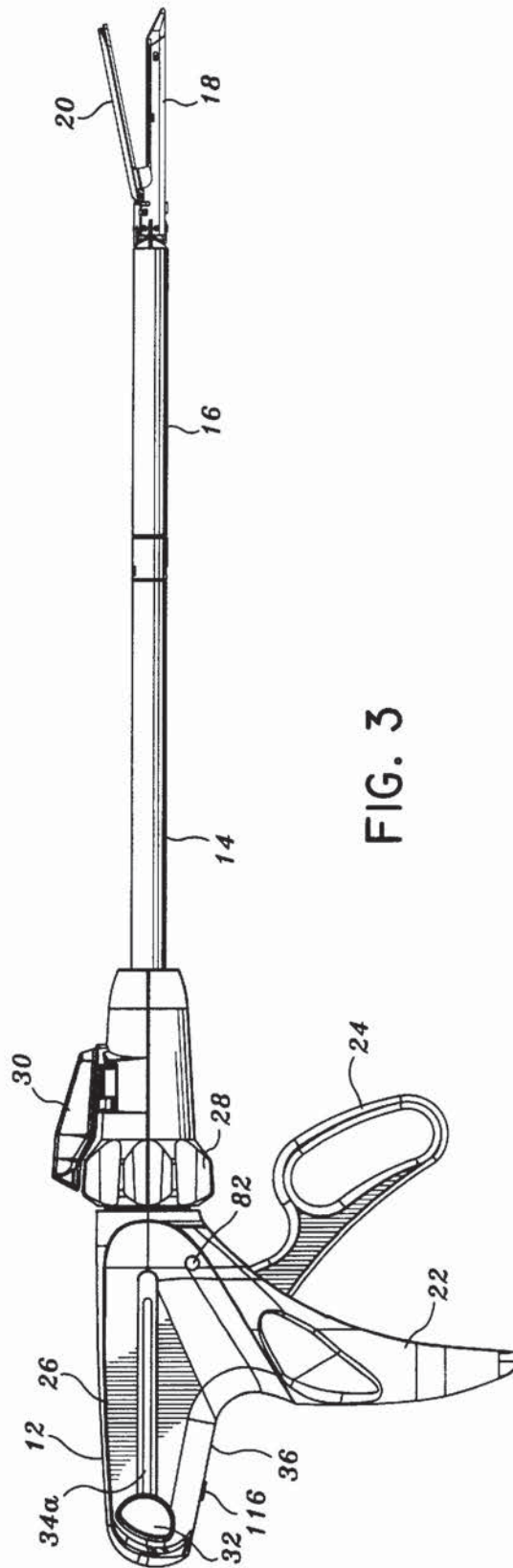


FIG. 3



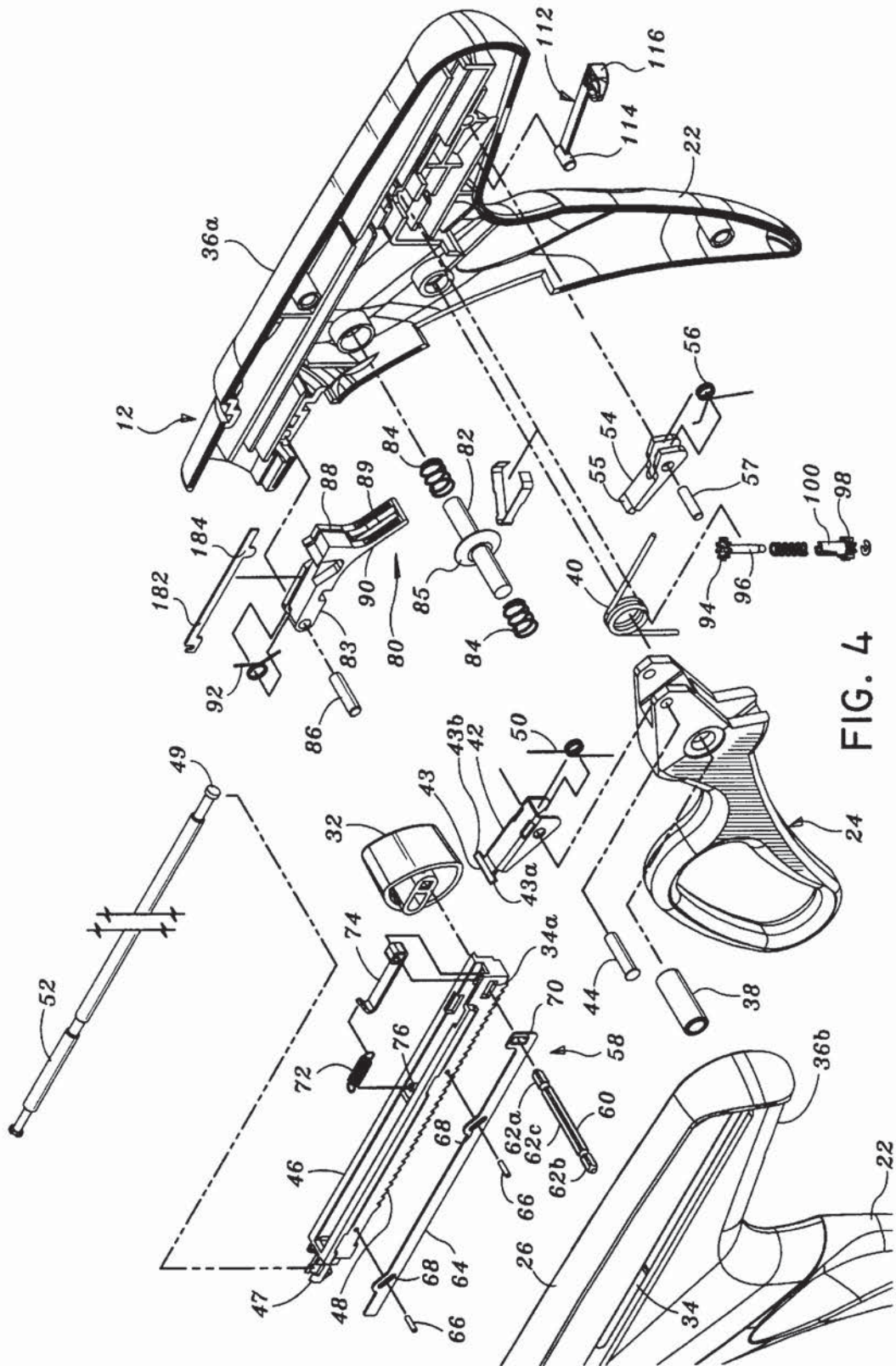


FIG. 4

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