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(54) **SURGICAL STAPLER**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **606/139**; 227/19; 227/176.1; 227/82; 606/219

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 227/176.1, 227/175.1, 19, 82, 88; 606/139, 219
See application file for complete search history.

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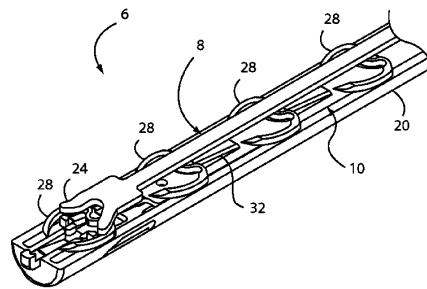
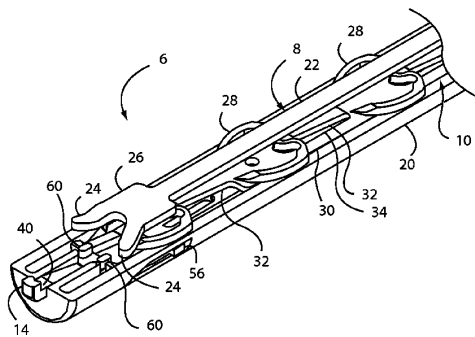
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method for surgically stapling tissue may include providing staples in a first configuration, plastically deforming at least one staple to a second configuration different from the first configuration; and then plastically deforming at least one staple to a third configuration different from the first configuration and the second configuration. The deformation of a staple from the first configuration to the second configuration may be performed by splaying the staple. The staple may be splayed by a splay arm or other suitable structure or mechanism.

13 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



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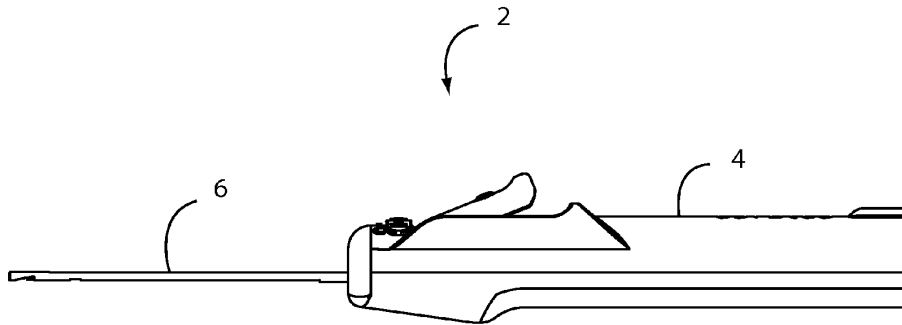


FIG. 1

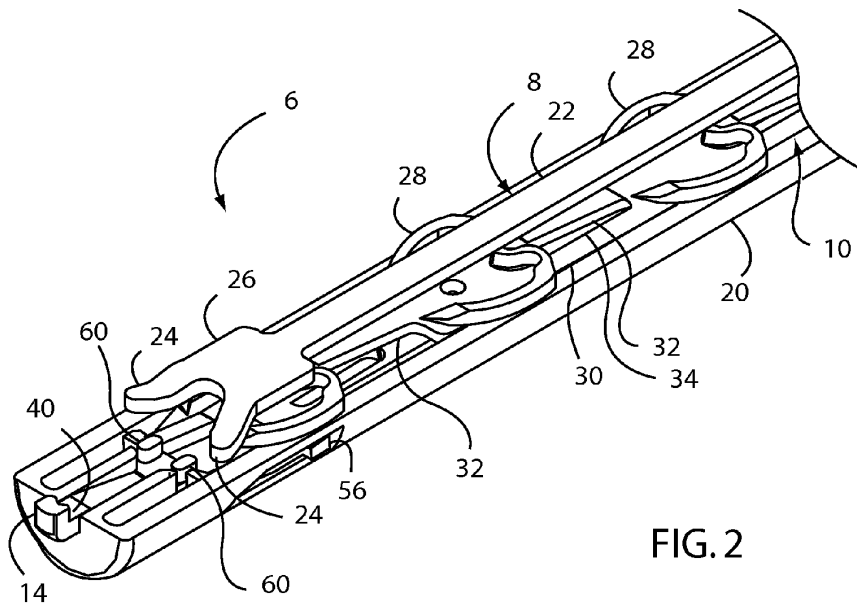


FIG. 2

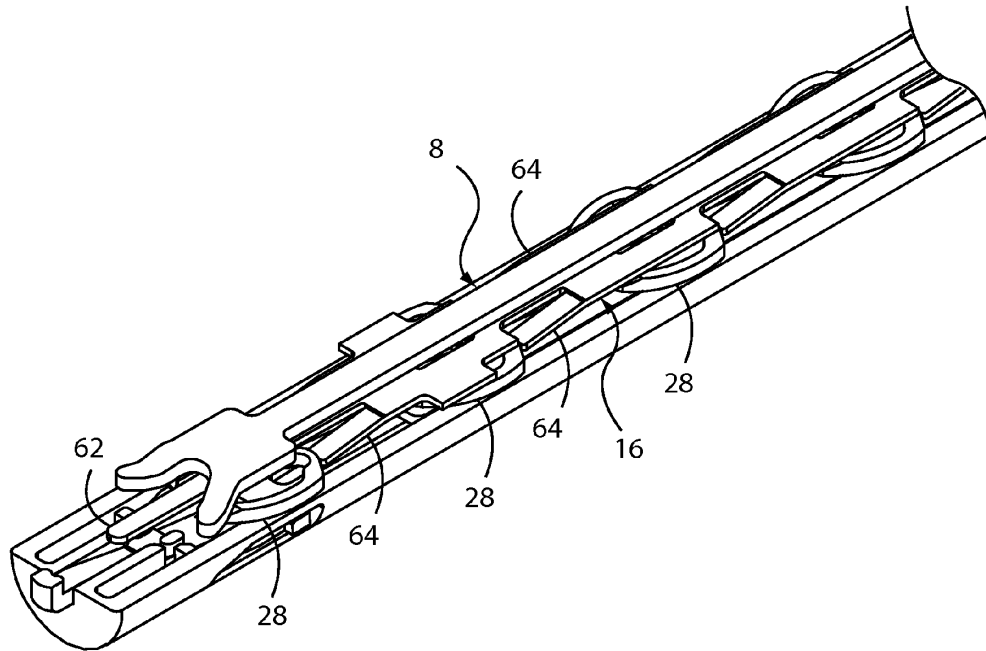


FIG. 2A

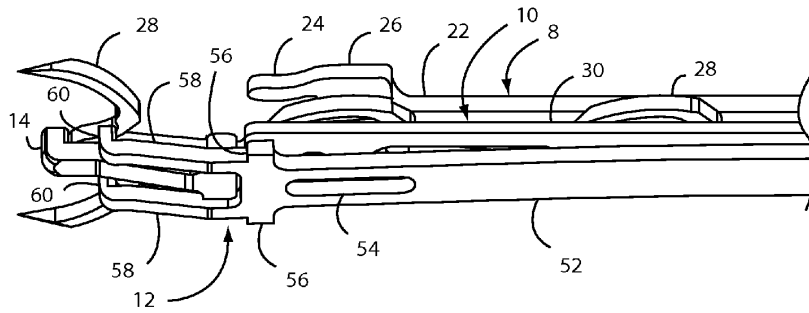


FIG. 3

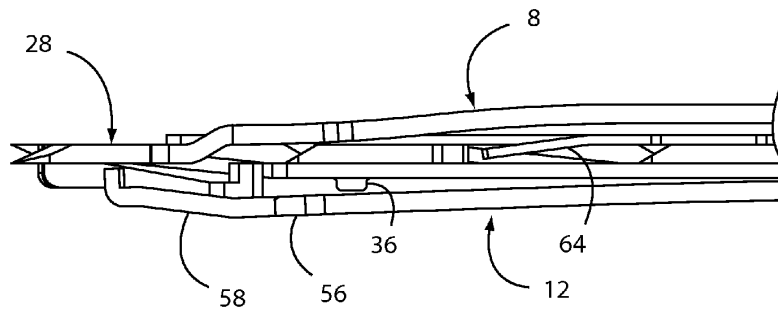


FIG. 4

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