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Frey et al.

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(54) **DEVICES AND TECHNIQUES FOR A POSTERIOR LATERAL DISC SPACE APPROACH**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**<sup>7</sup> ..... **A61B 17/70**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **606/61**

(58) **Field of Search** ..... 606/61, 99; 623/17.11-17.16

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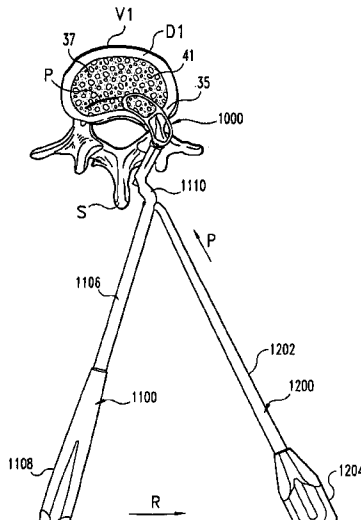
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

This invention relates to methods and instruments for performing disc space preparation and implant insertion from a unilateral approach to the spine through a posterior lateral opening to the disc space. The instruments include spreaders, distractors, reamers, scrapers, cutters, chisels, pushers and implant inserters. A surgical procedure is provided that allows bilateral support of the adjacent vertebrae with at least one interbody fusion device inserted into the disc space via a unilateral approach. Implants for insertion into the disc space are also provided.

**73 Claims, 40 Drawing Sheets**



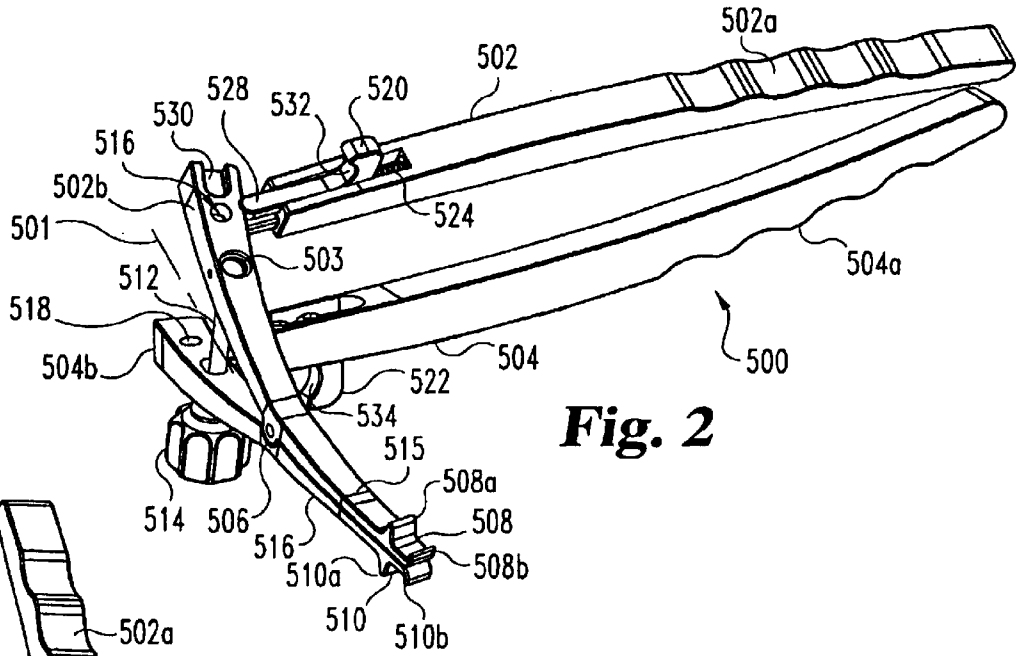
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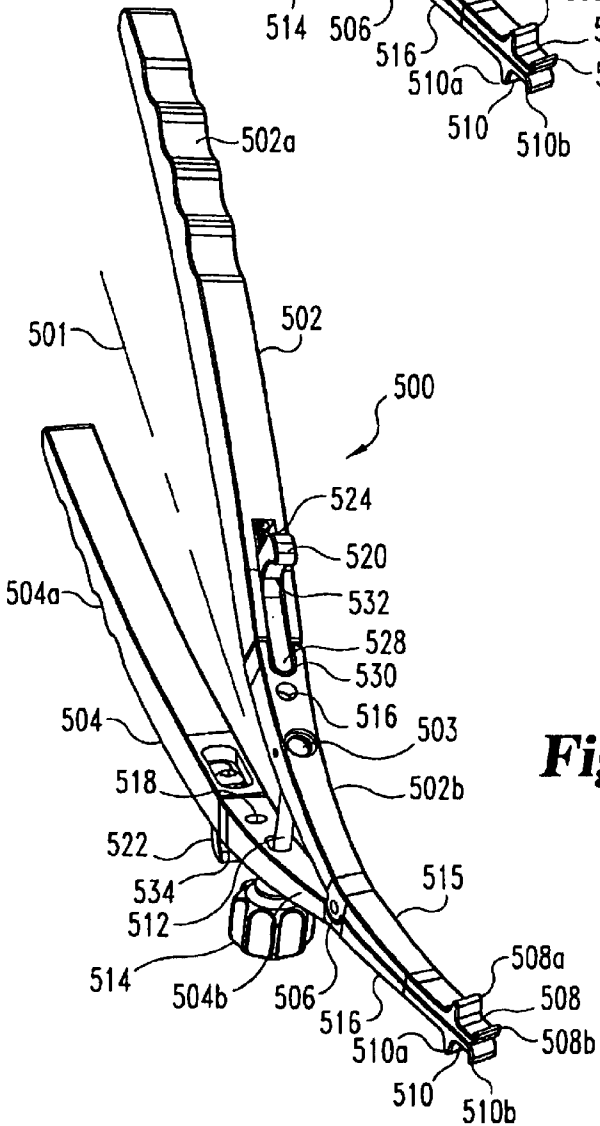
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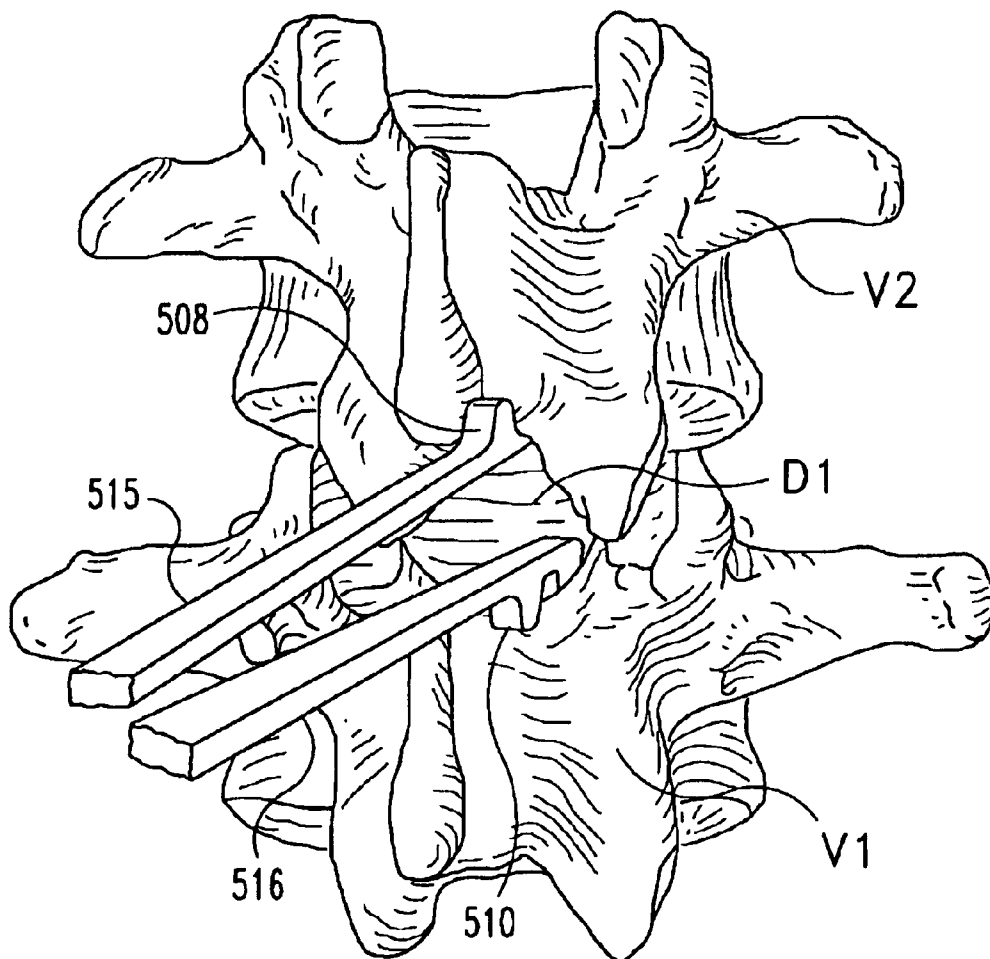
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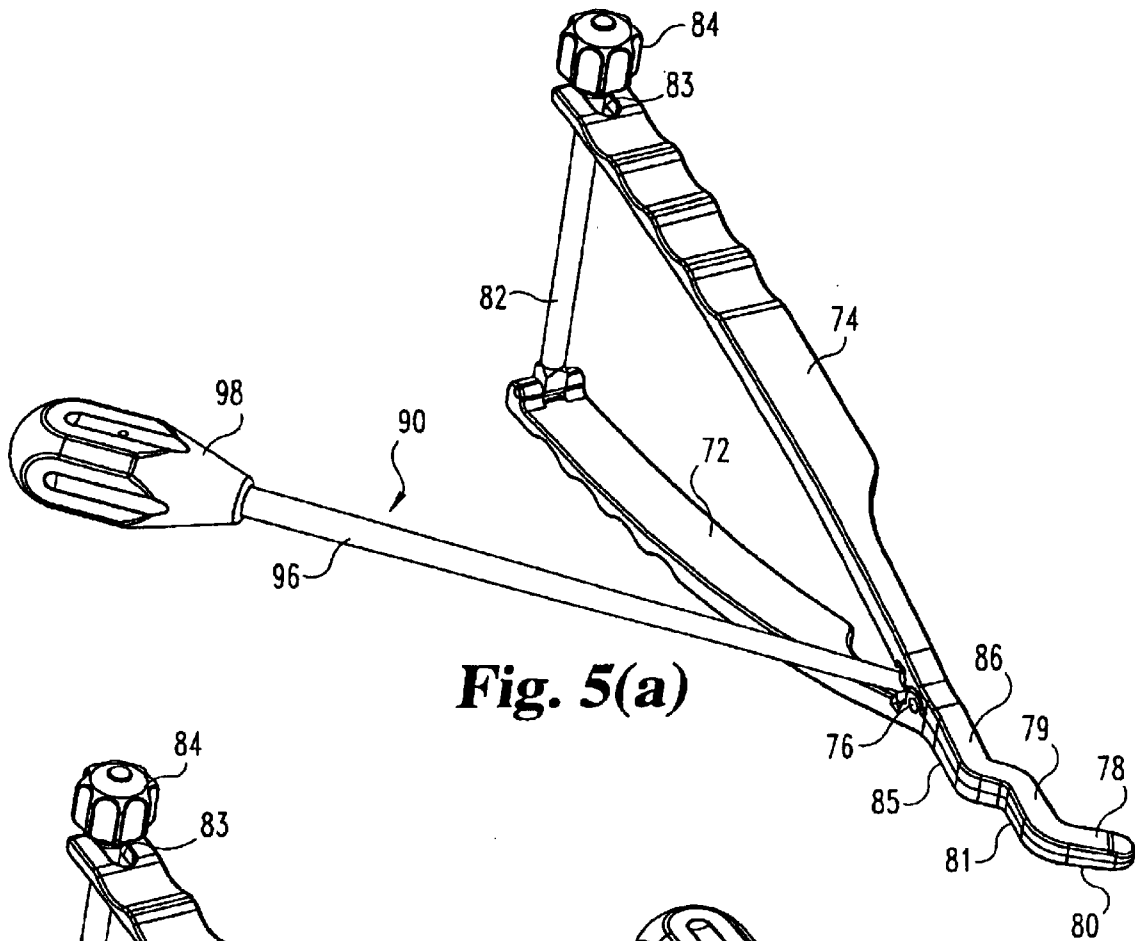
**Fig. 2**



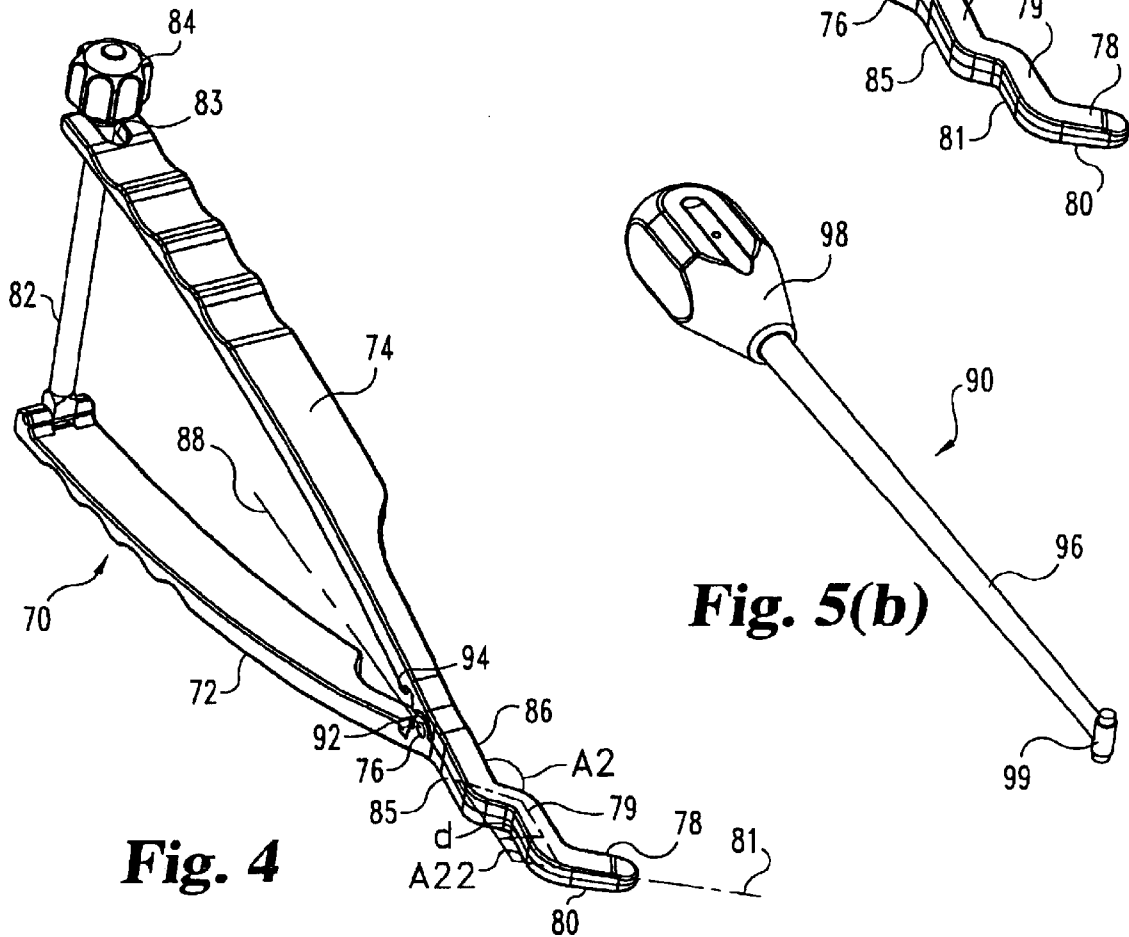
**Fig. 1**



**Fig. 3**



**Fig. 5(a)**



**Fig. 5(b)**

**Fig. 4**

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