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Ross, III et al.

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- (54) **ANTENNA ASSEMBLIES**
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- (*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 168 days.

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- (60) Provisional application No. 62/782,273, filed on Dec. 19, 2018, provisional application No. 62/776,344, filed on Dec. 6, 2018.

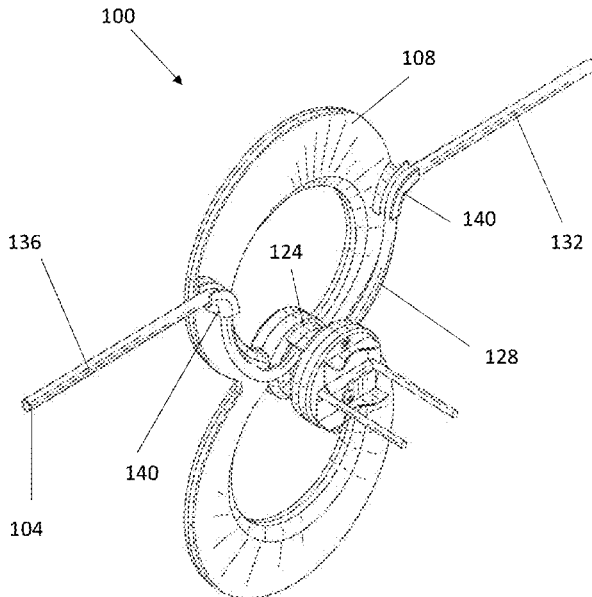
Primary Examiner — Renan Luque
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H01Q 5/378 (2015.01)
H01Q 1/12 (2006.01)
 (Continued)
- (52) **U.S. Cl.**
 CPC **H01Q 5/378** (2015.01); **H01Q 1/1228** (2013.01); **H01Q 7/00** (2013.01); **H01Q 21/30** (2013.01)
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 CPC H01Q 5/378; H01Q 1/1228; H01Q 21/30; H01Q 7/00; H01Q 5/40; H01Q 9/22;
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Exemplary embodiments are disclosed of antenna assemblies configured for reception of television signals, such as high definition television (HDTV) signals. In an exemplary embodiment, an antenna assembly generally includes a VHF antenna element and a UHF antenna element. The VHF antenna element and the UHF antenna element may be parasitically coupled without a direct ohmic connection between the VHF antenna element and the UHF antenna element. The antenna assembly may be configured to be operable for receiving VHF and UHF high definition television signals without using a diplexer and a VHF balun.

19 Claims, 26 Drawing Sheets



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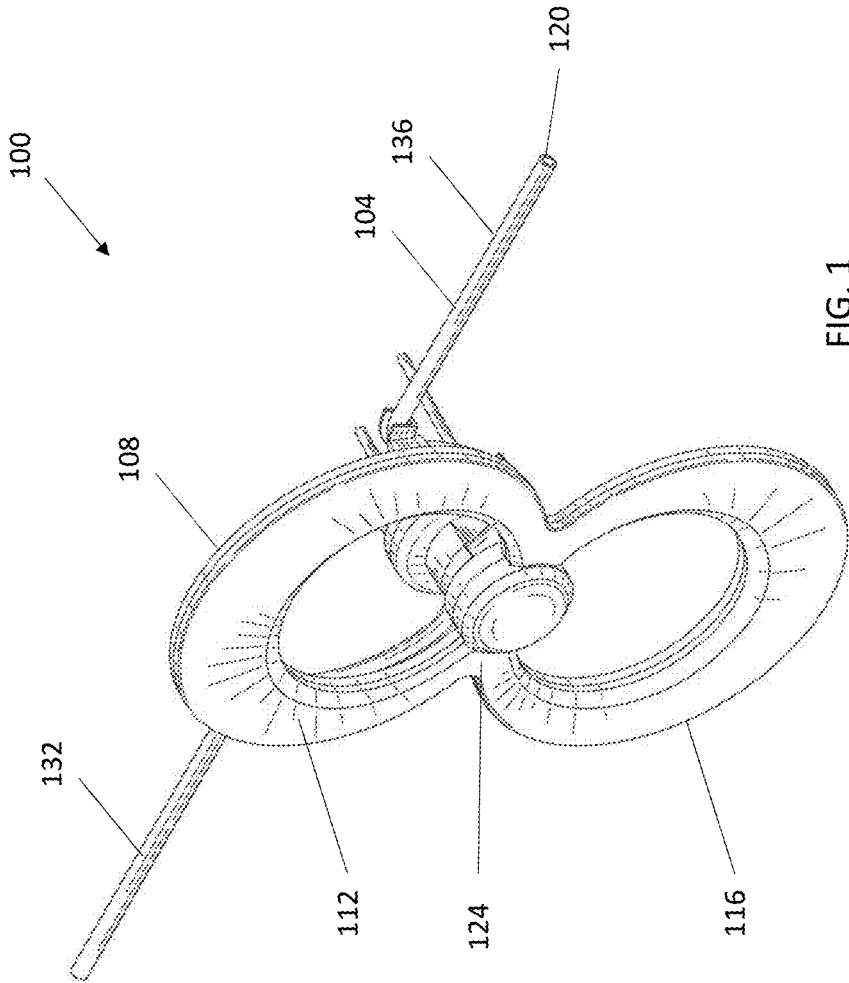
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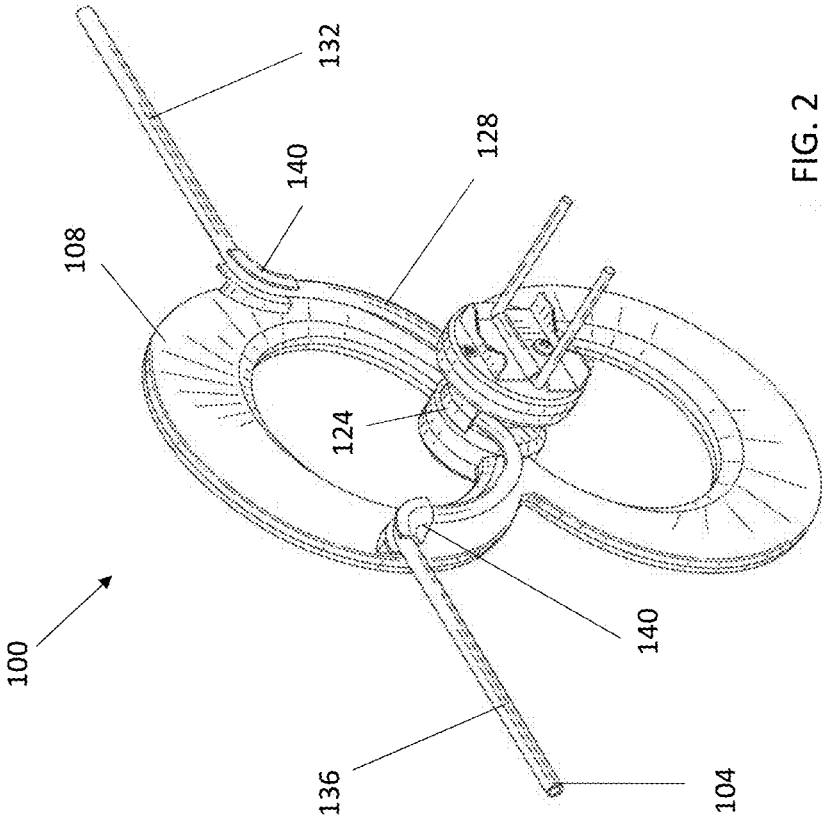


FIG. 2

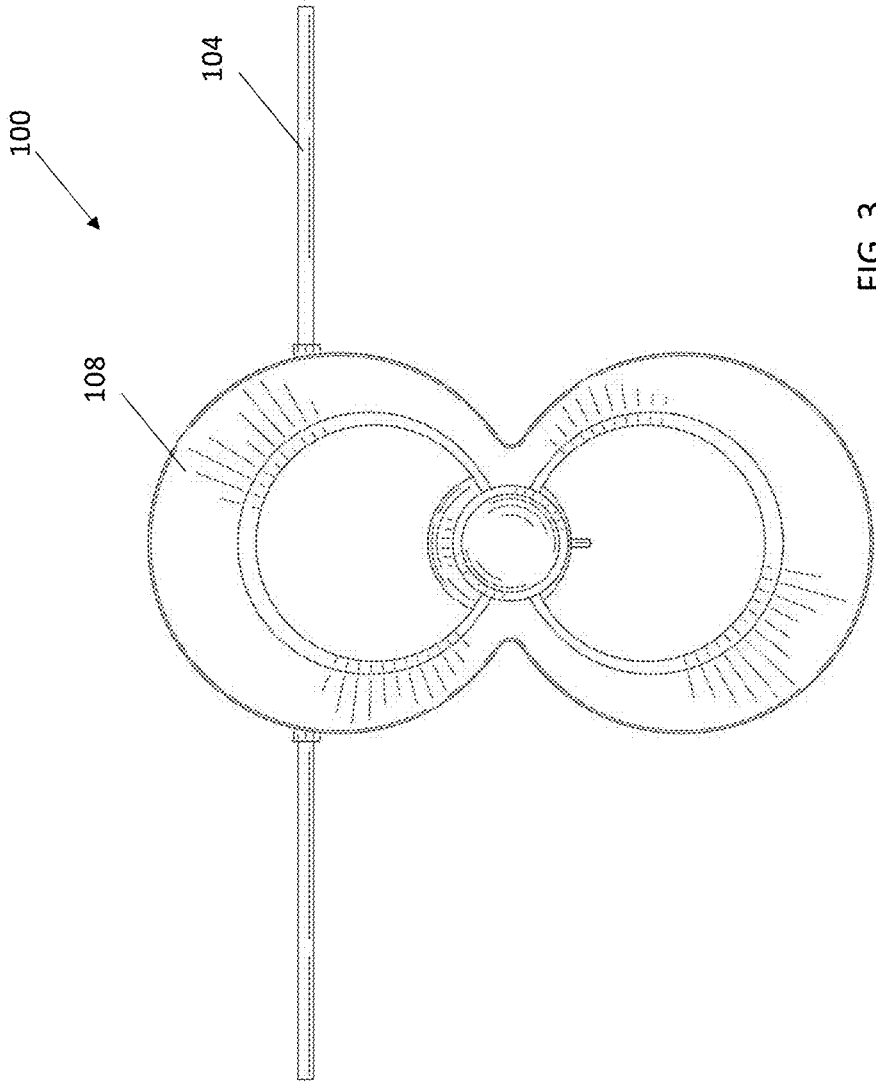


FIG. 3

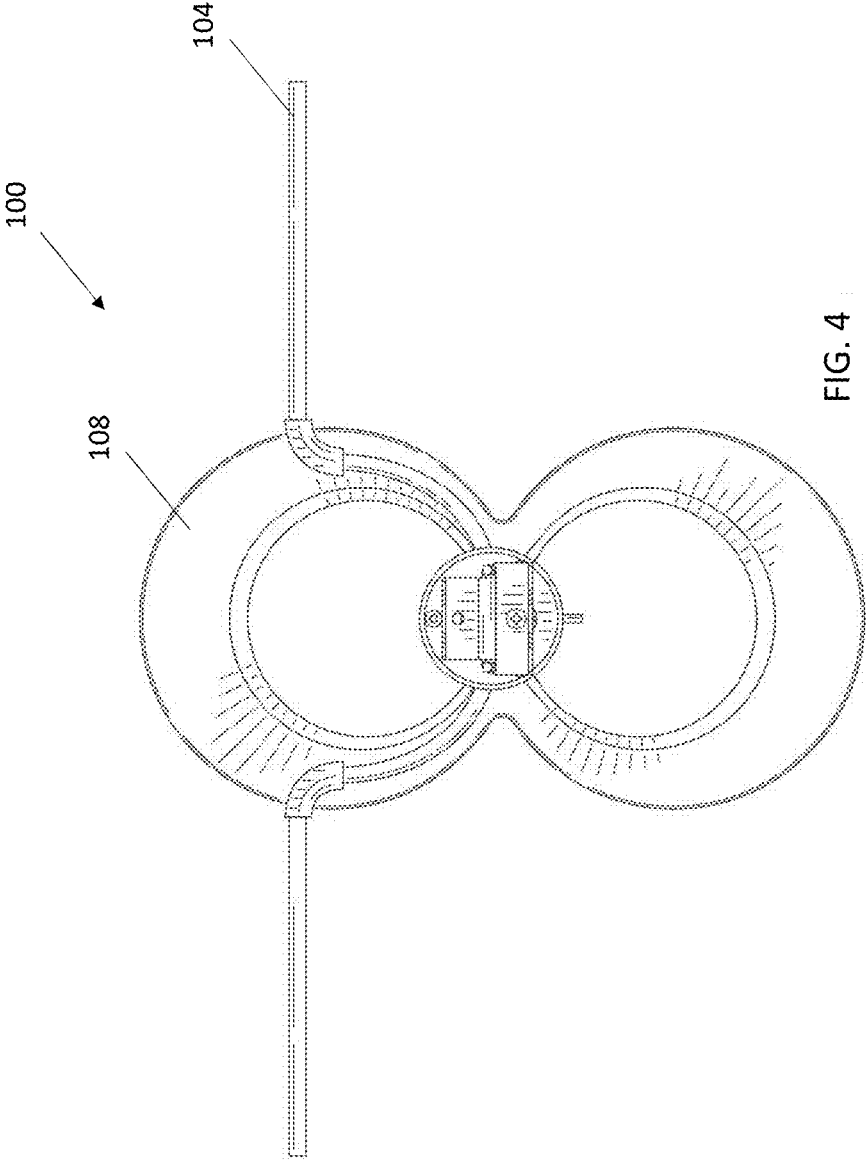


FIG. 4

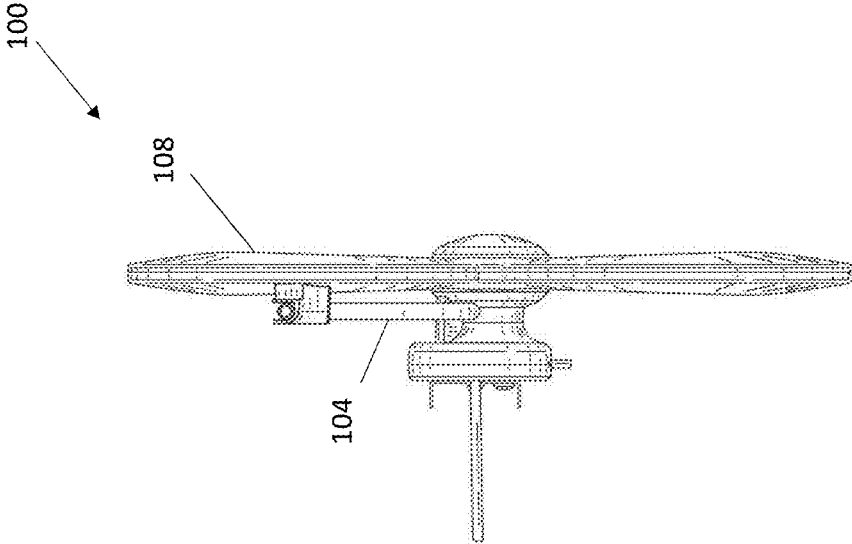


FIG. 5

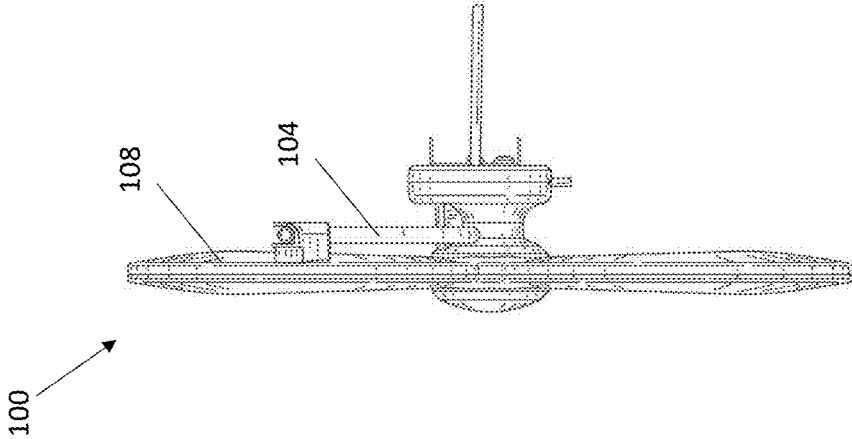


FIG. 6

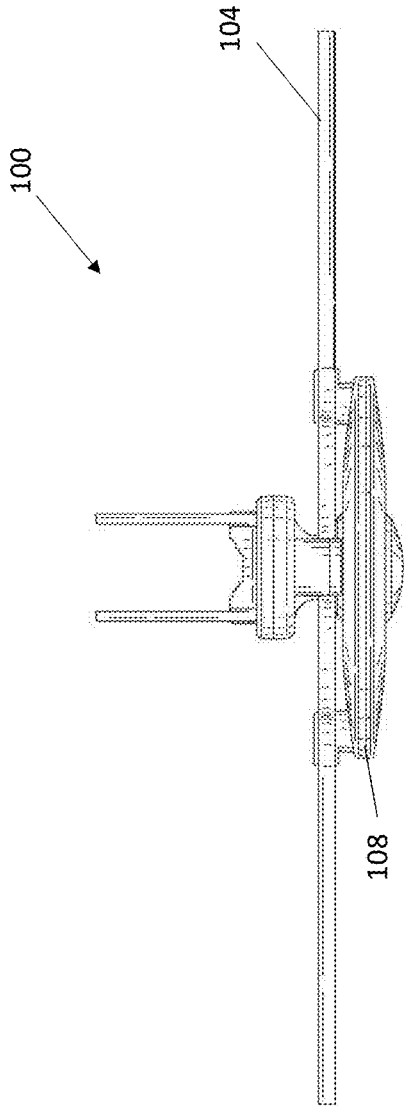


FIG. 7

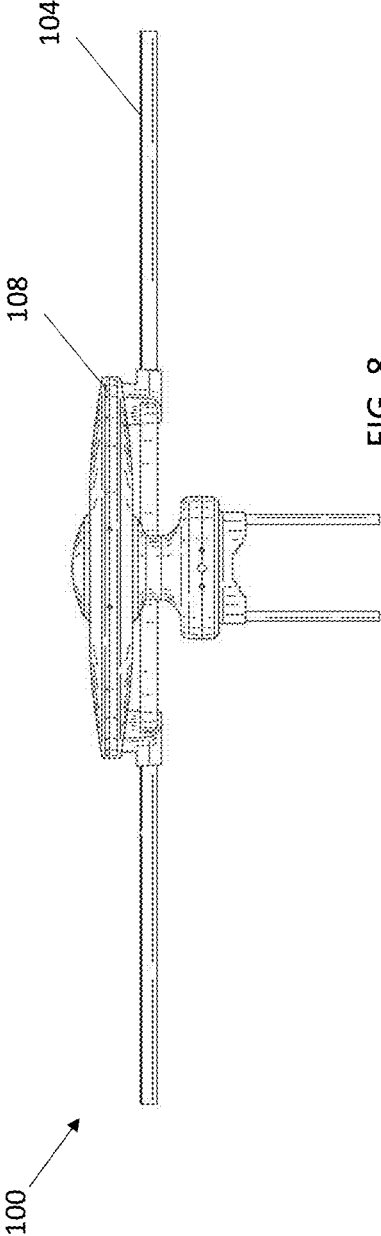


FIG. 8

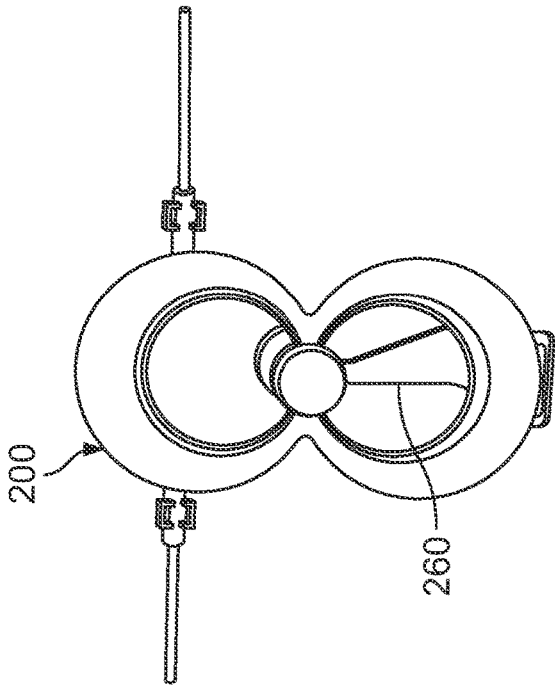


FIG. 9

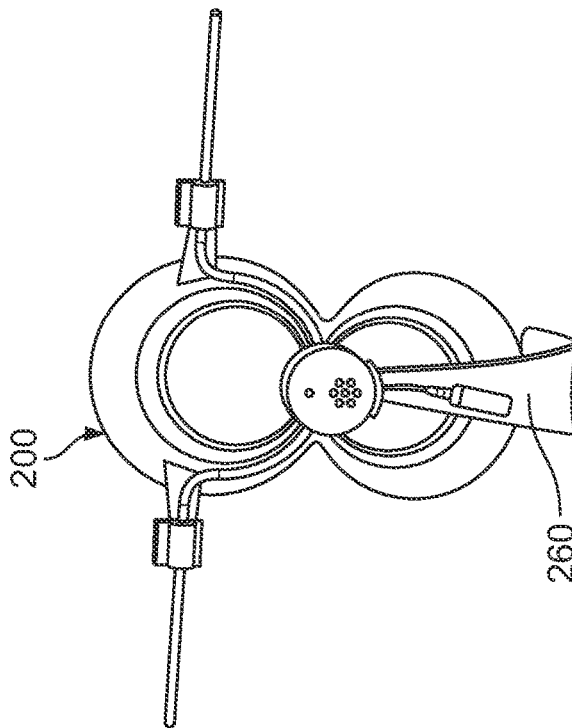


FIG. 10

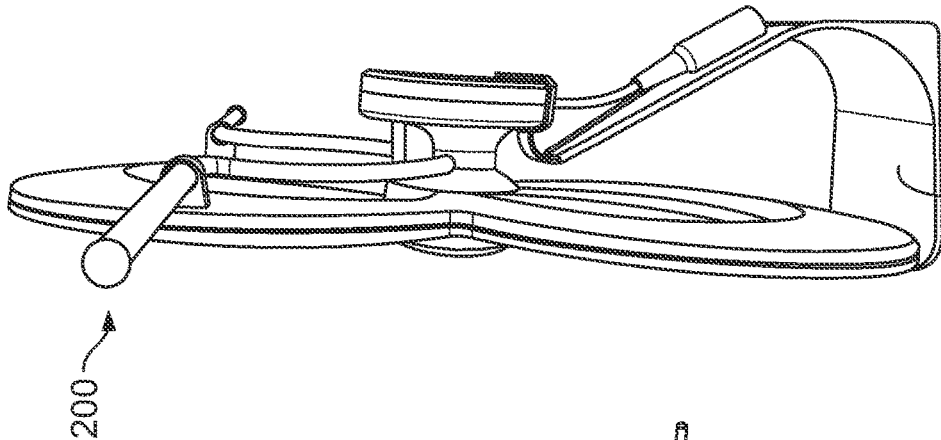


FIG. 11

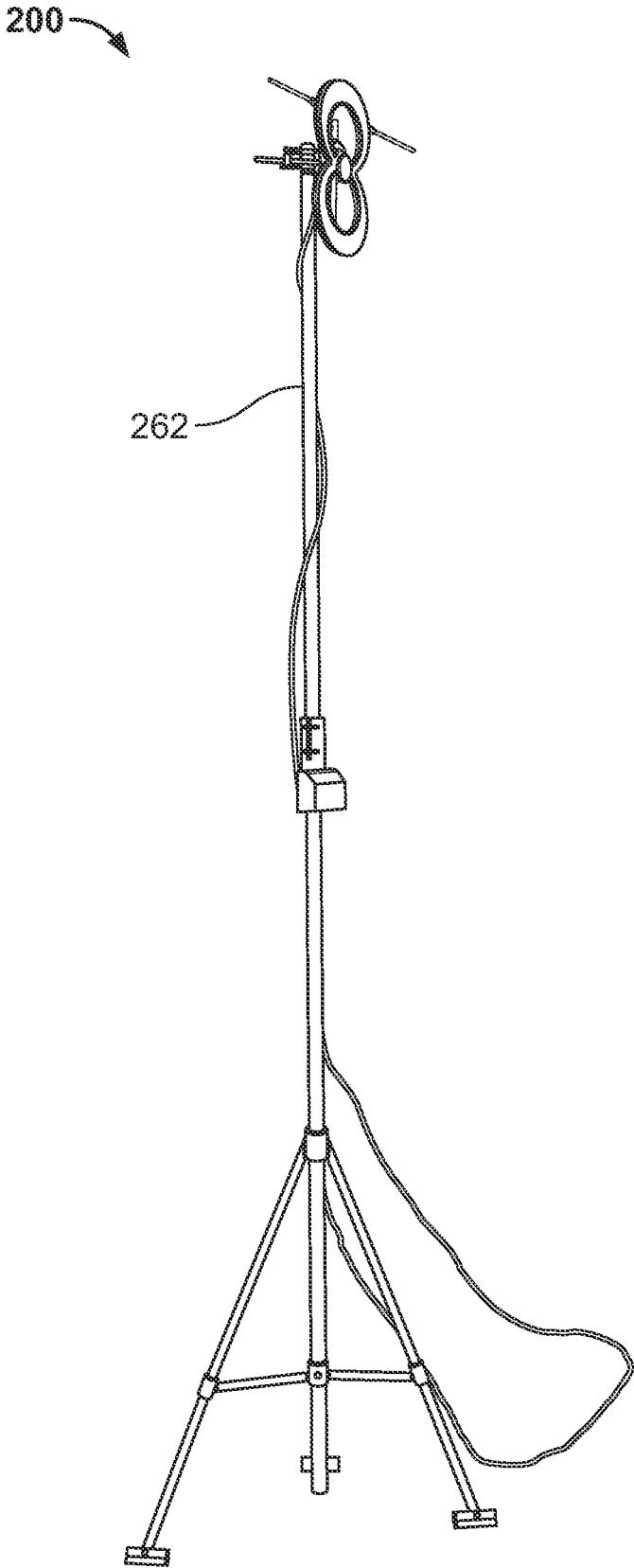


FIG. 12

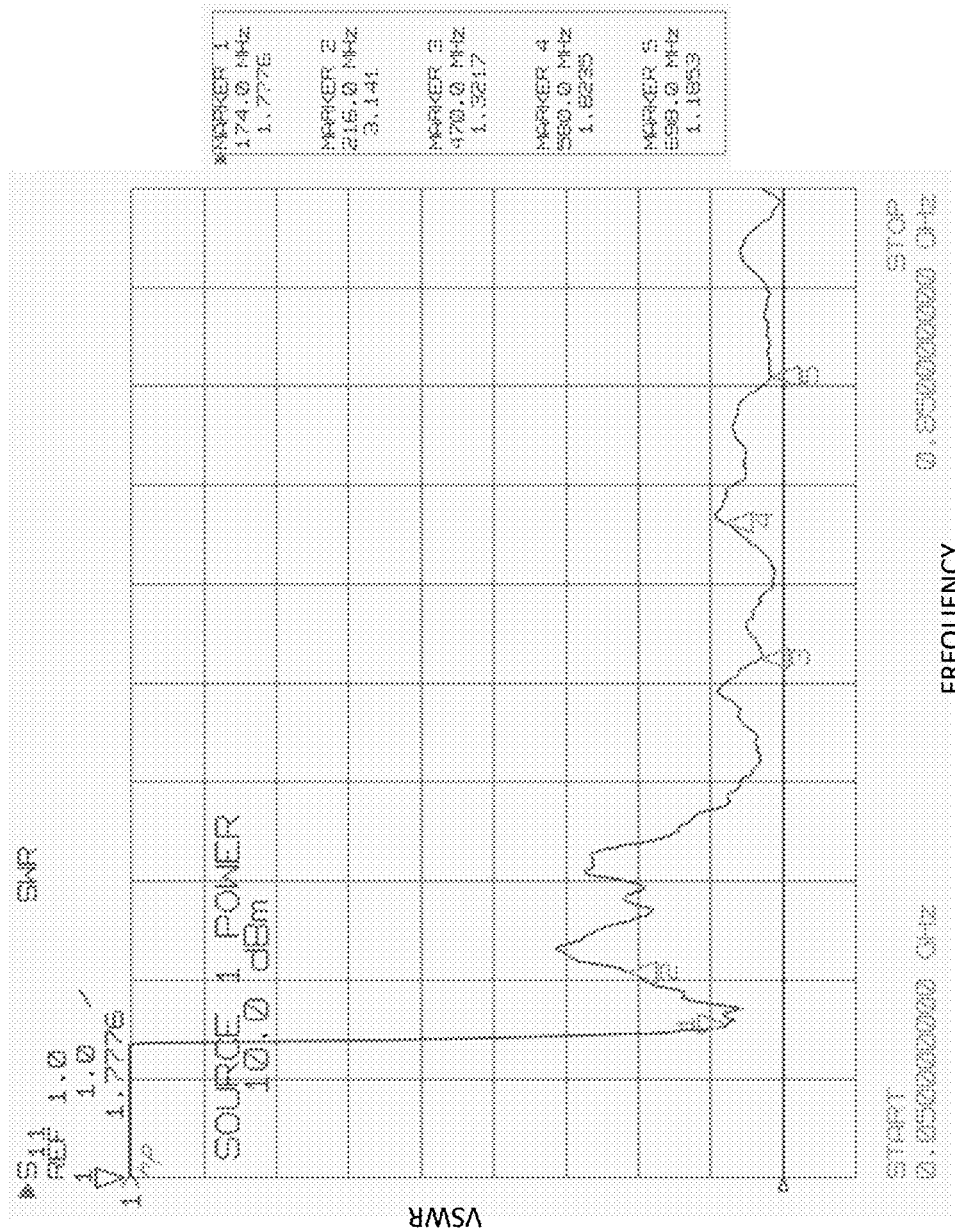


FIG. 13

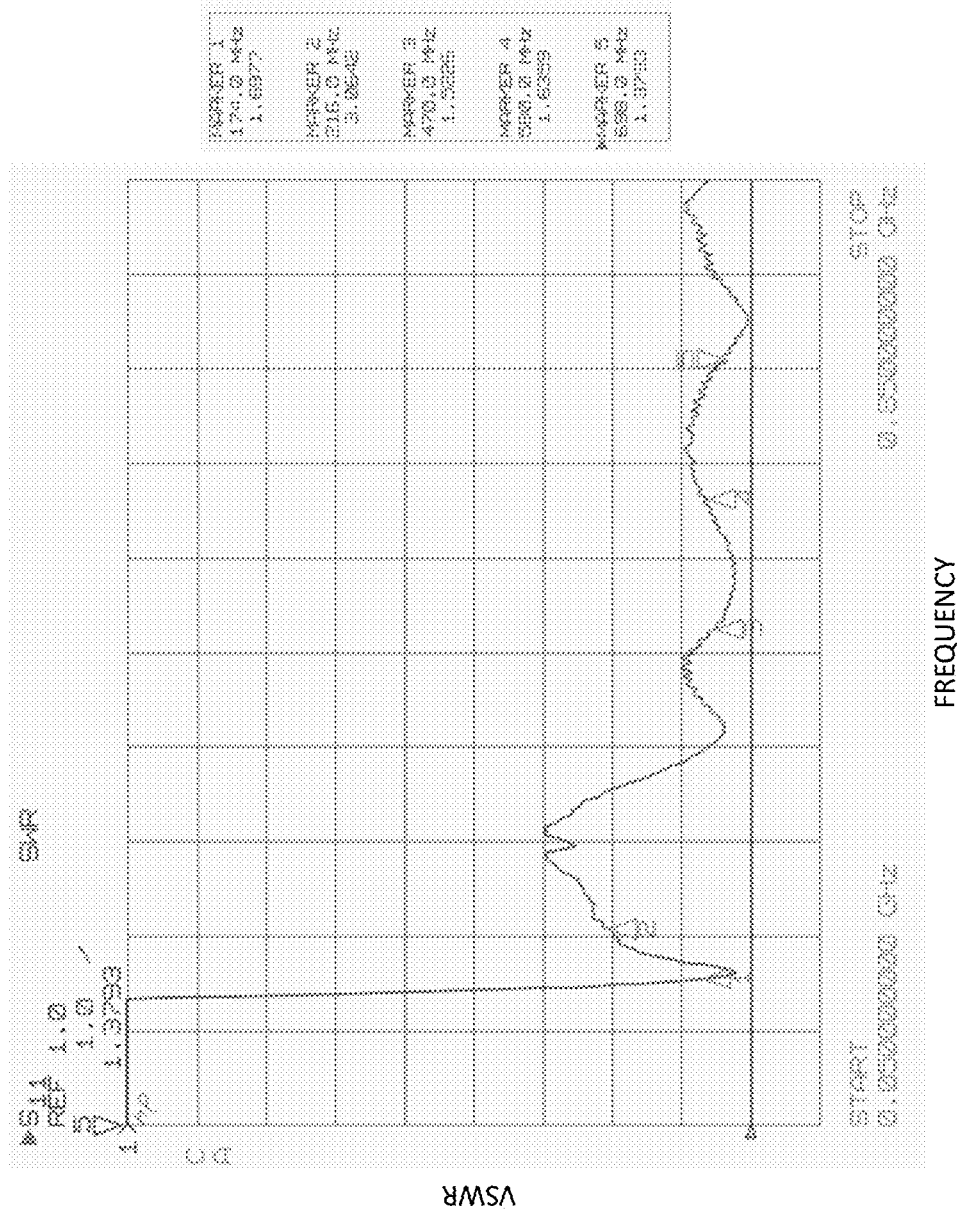


FIG. 14

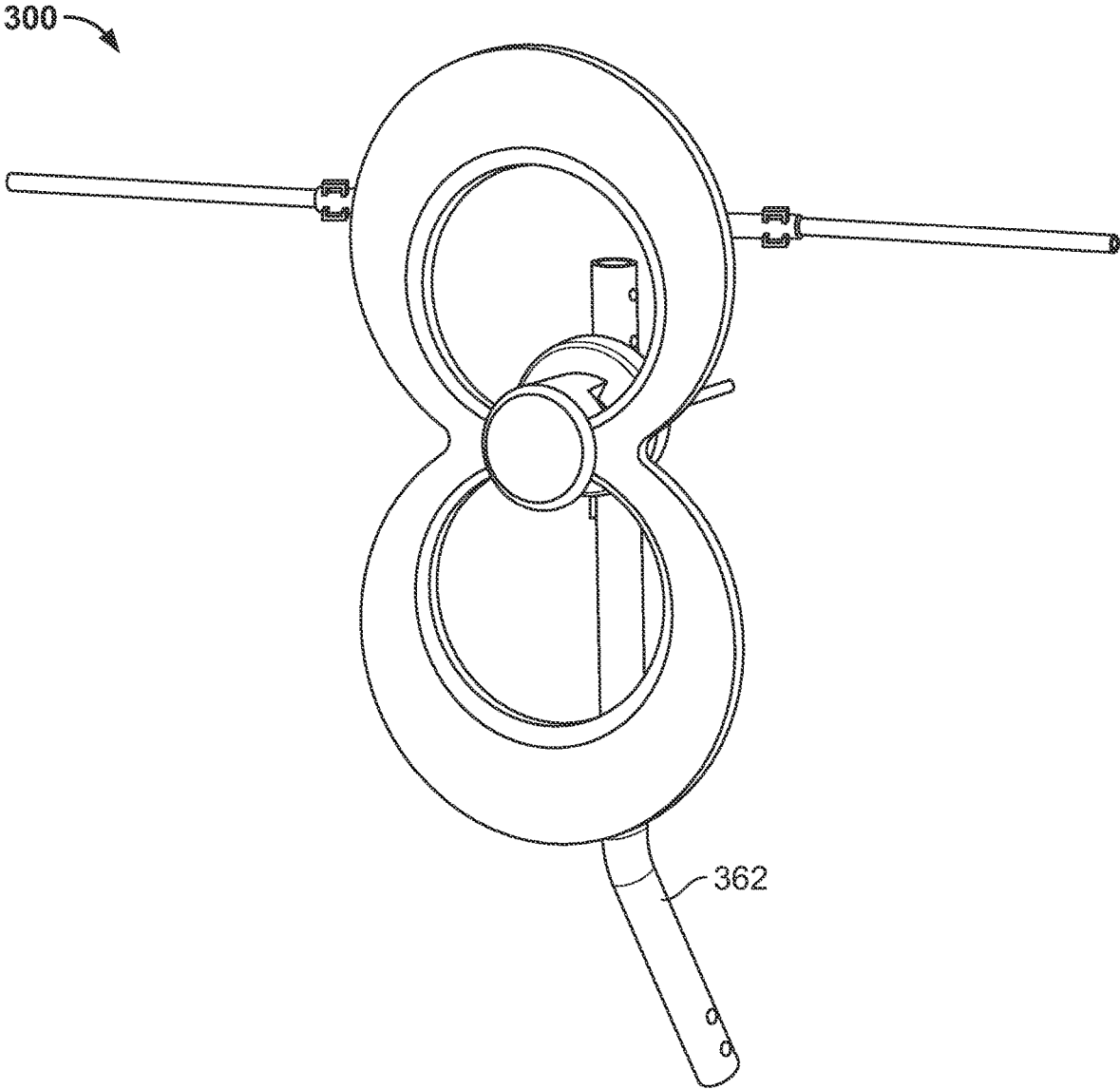


FIG. 15

300

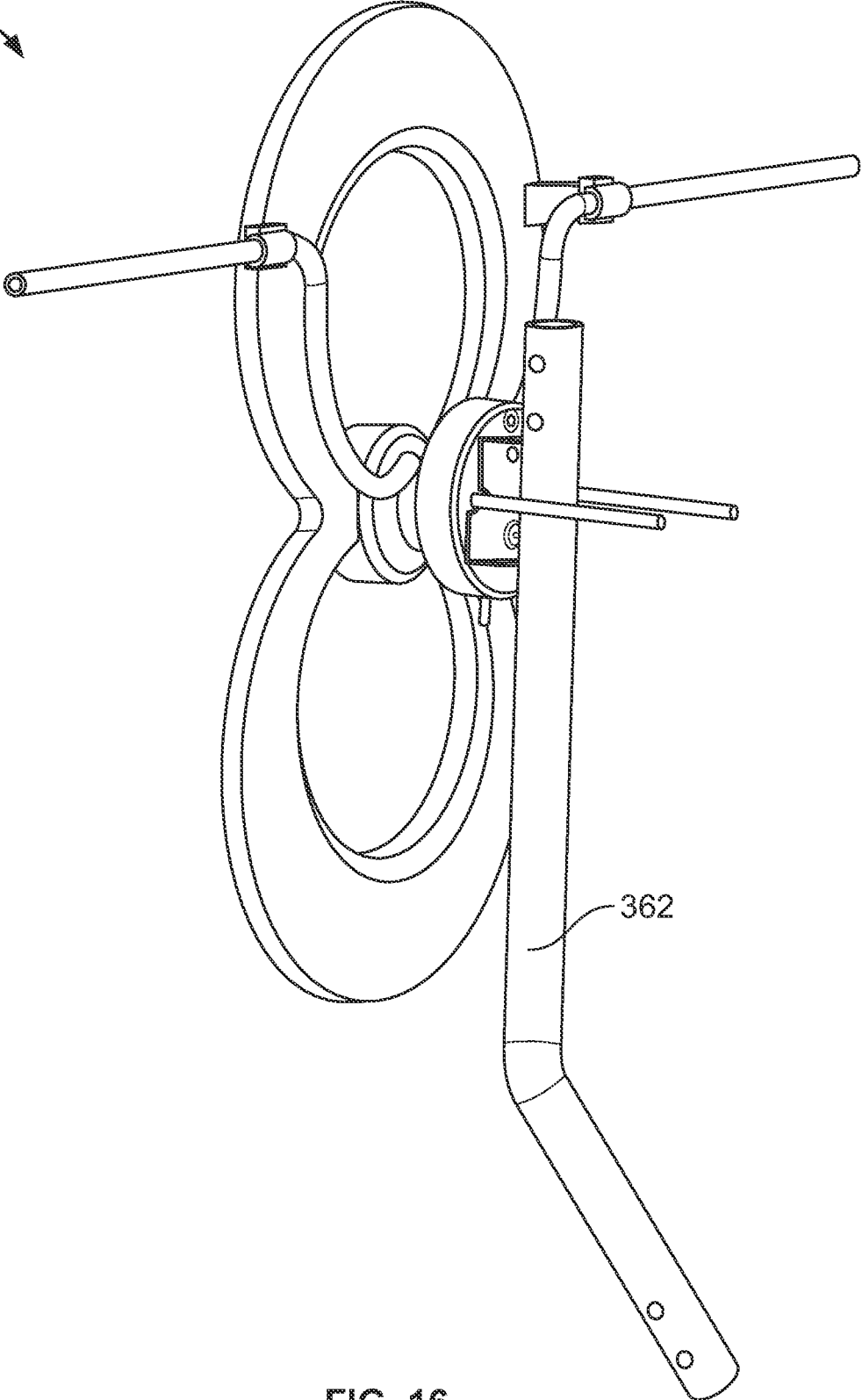


FIG. 16

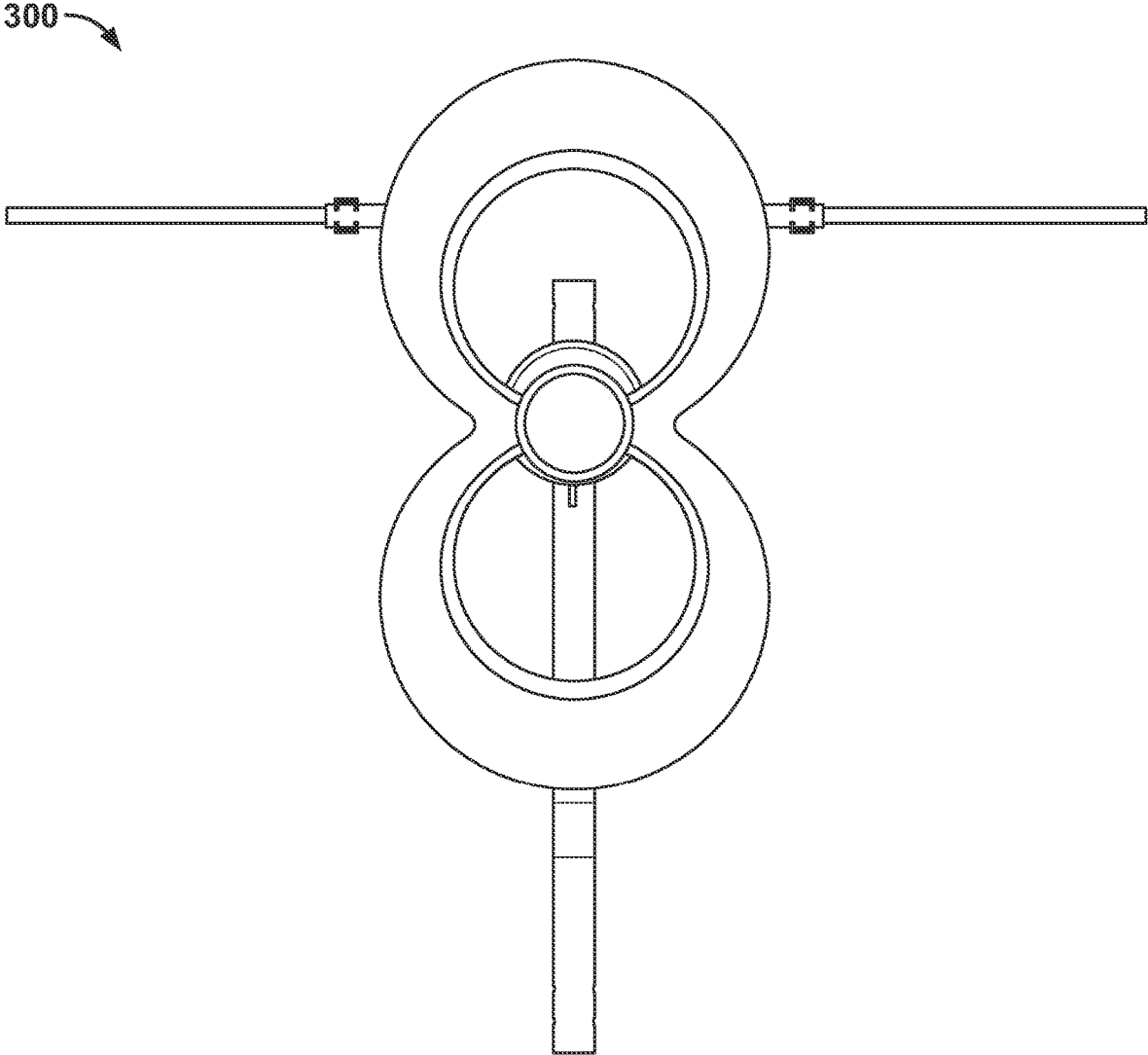


FIG. 17

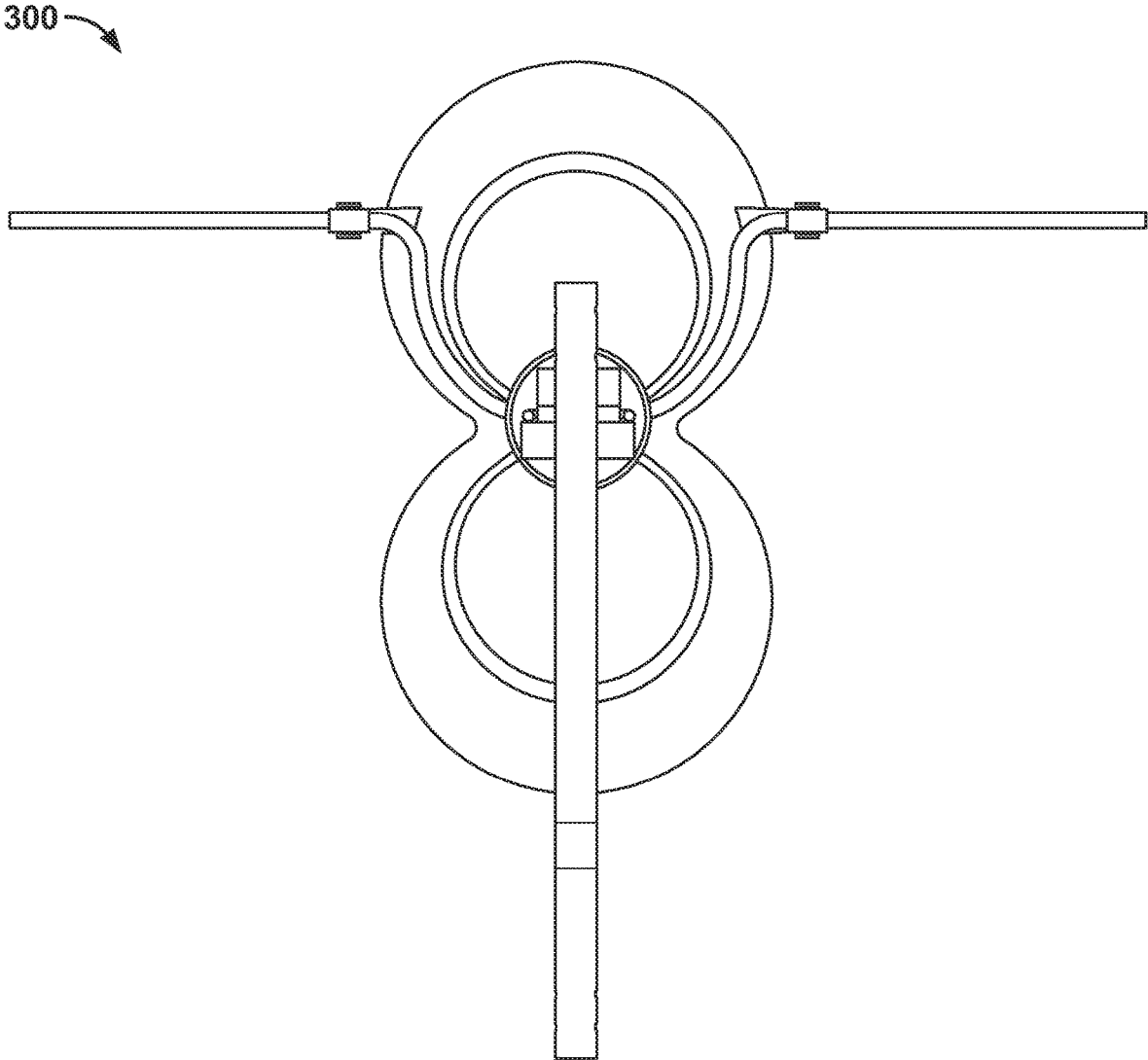


FIG. 18

300

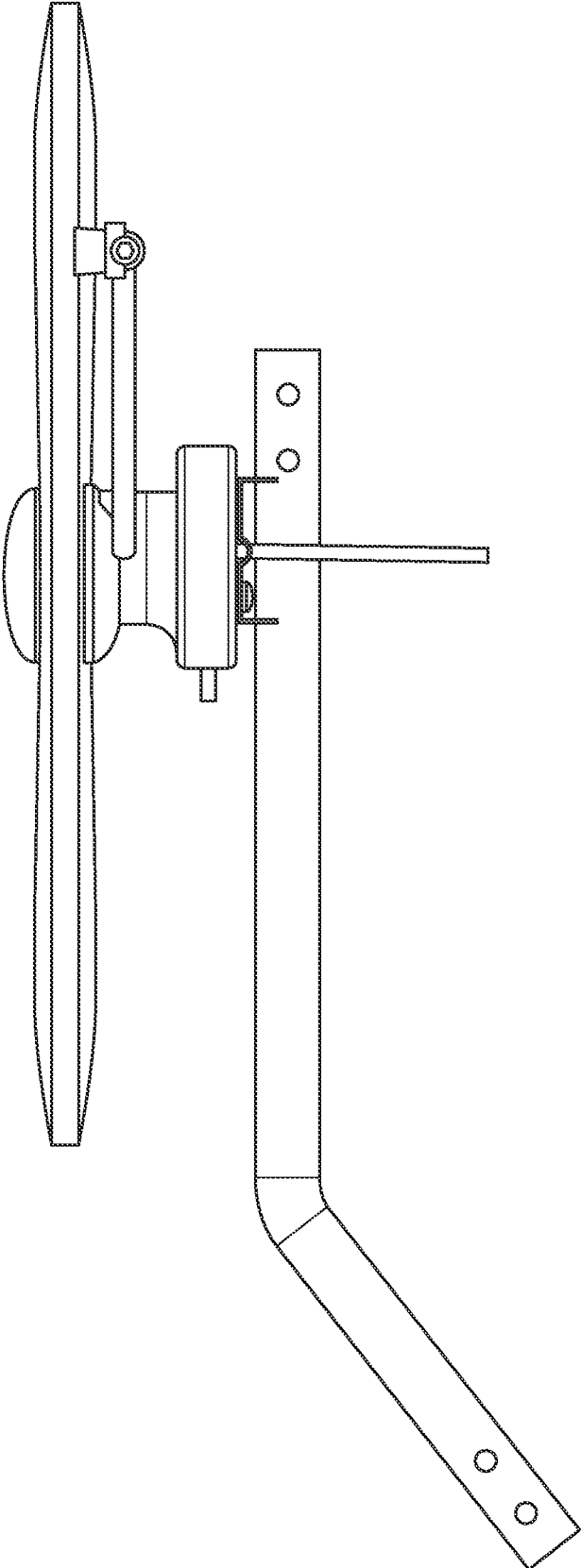


FIG. 19

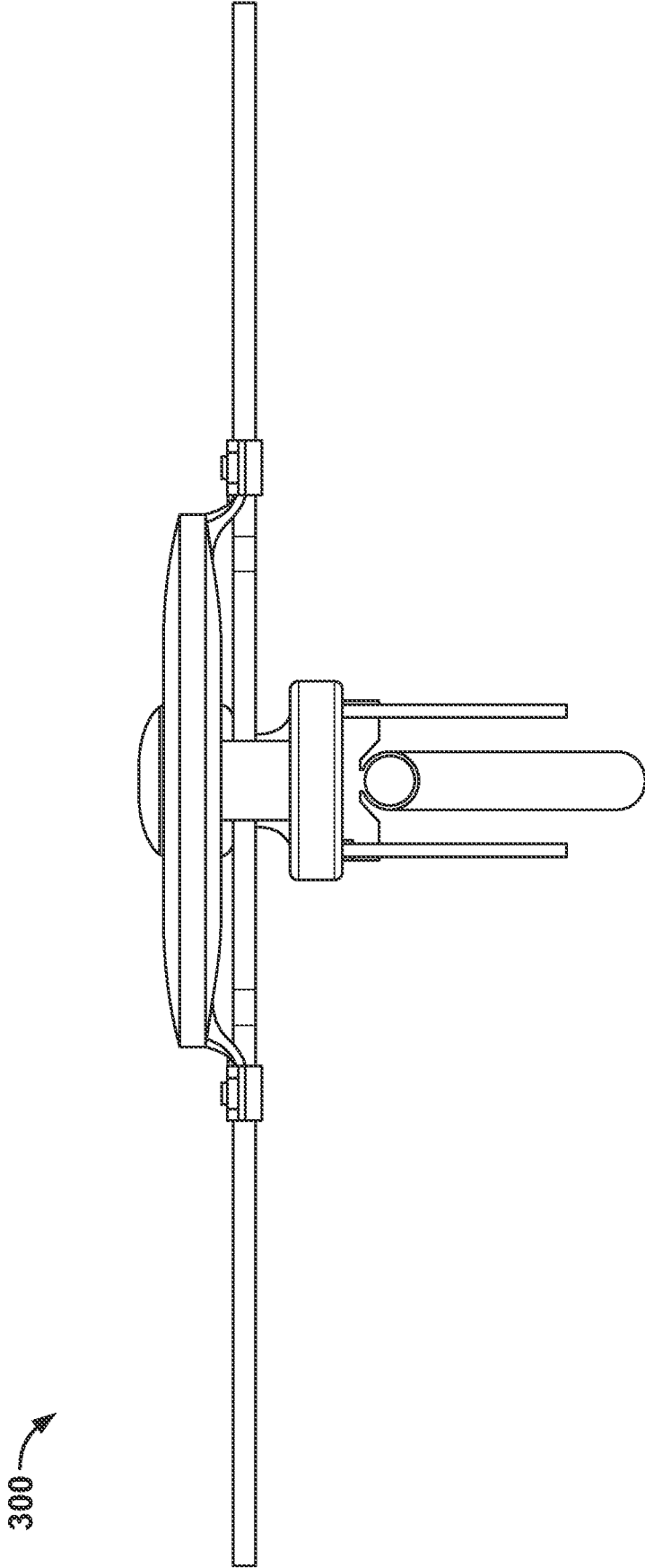


FIG. 20

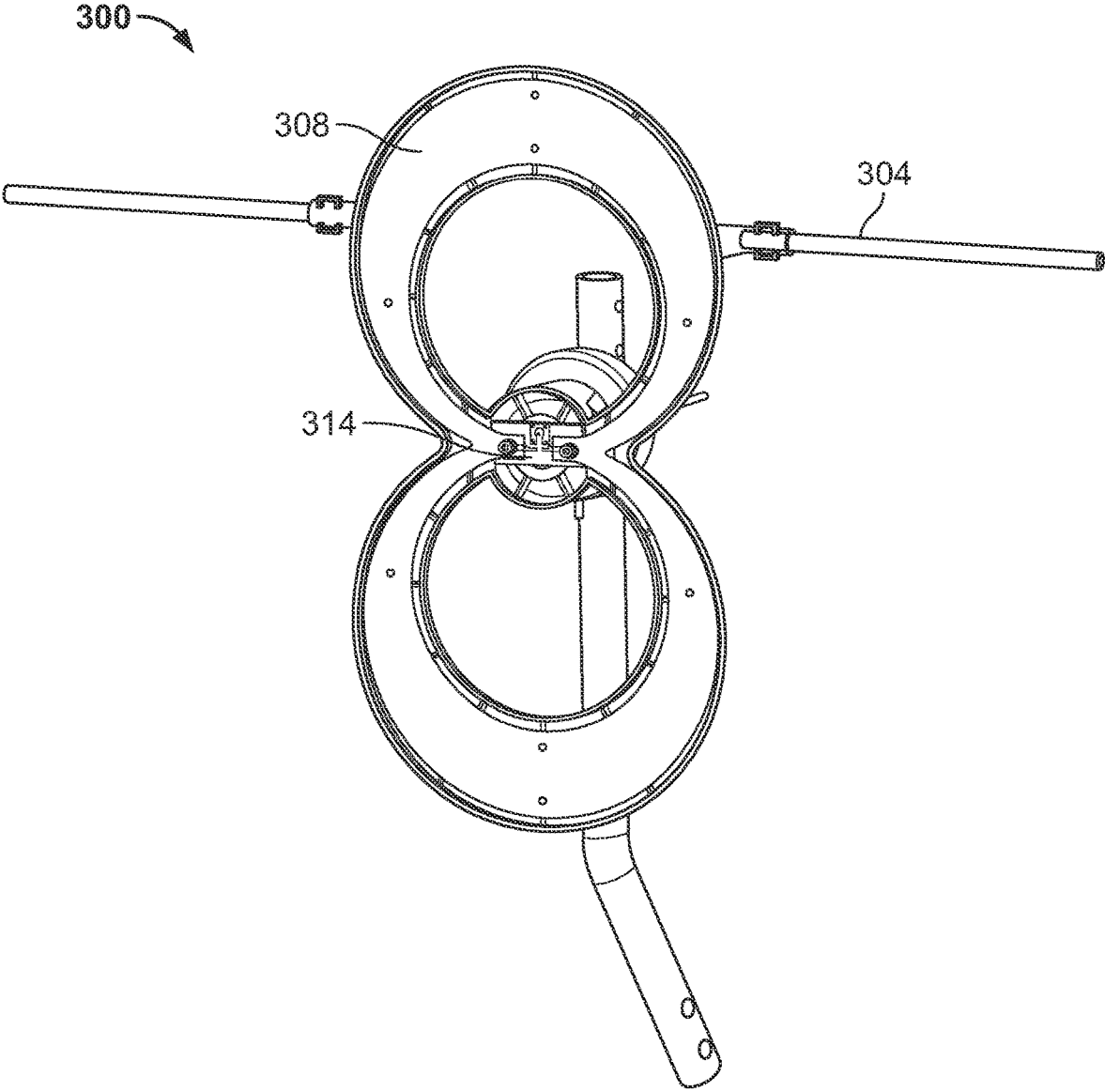


FIG. 21

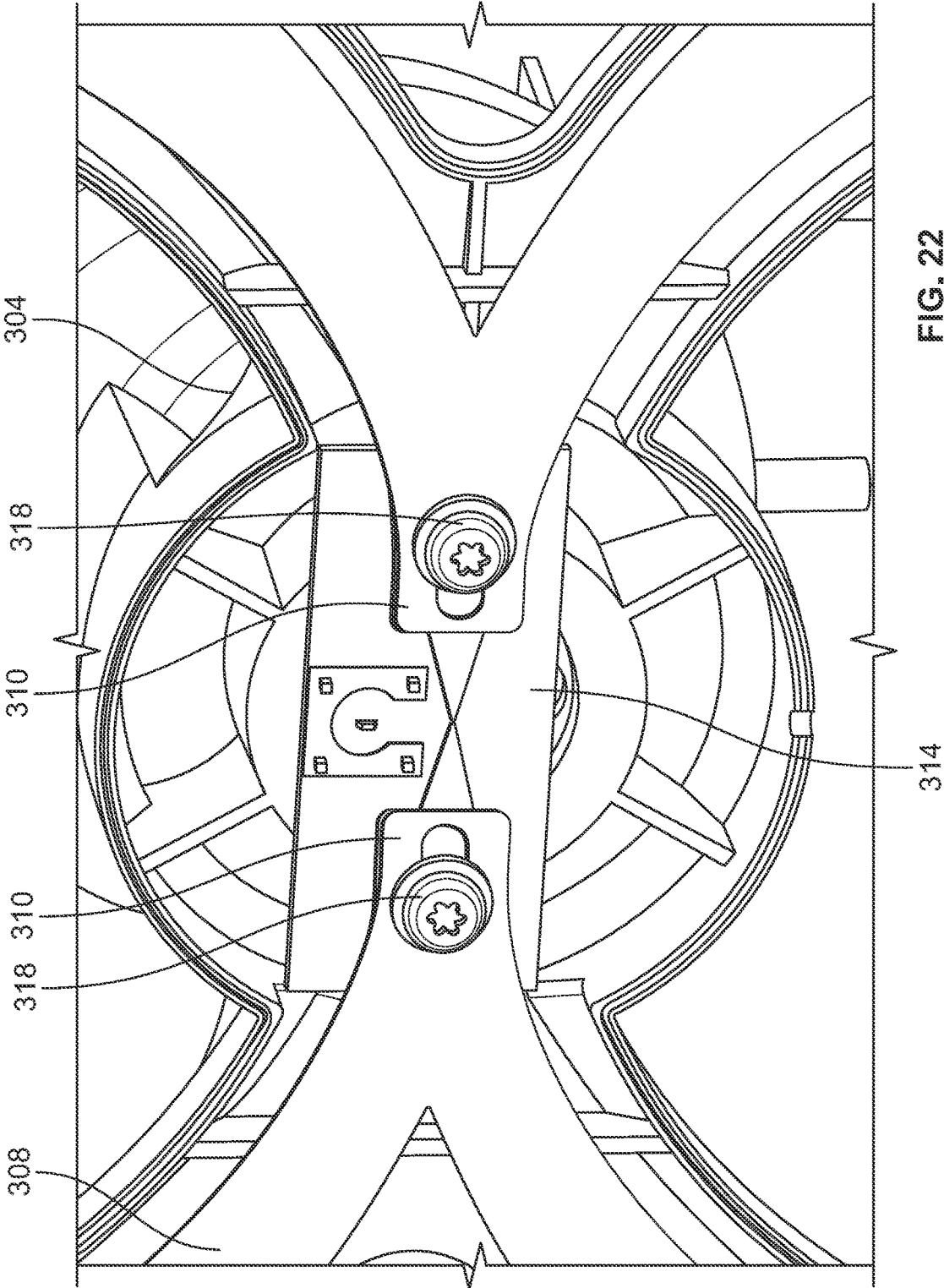


FIG. 22

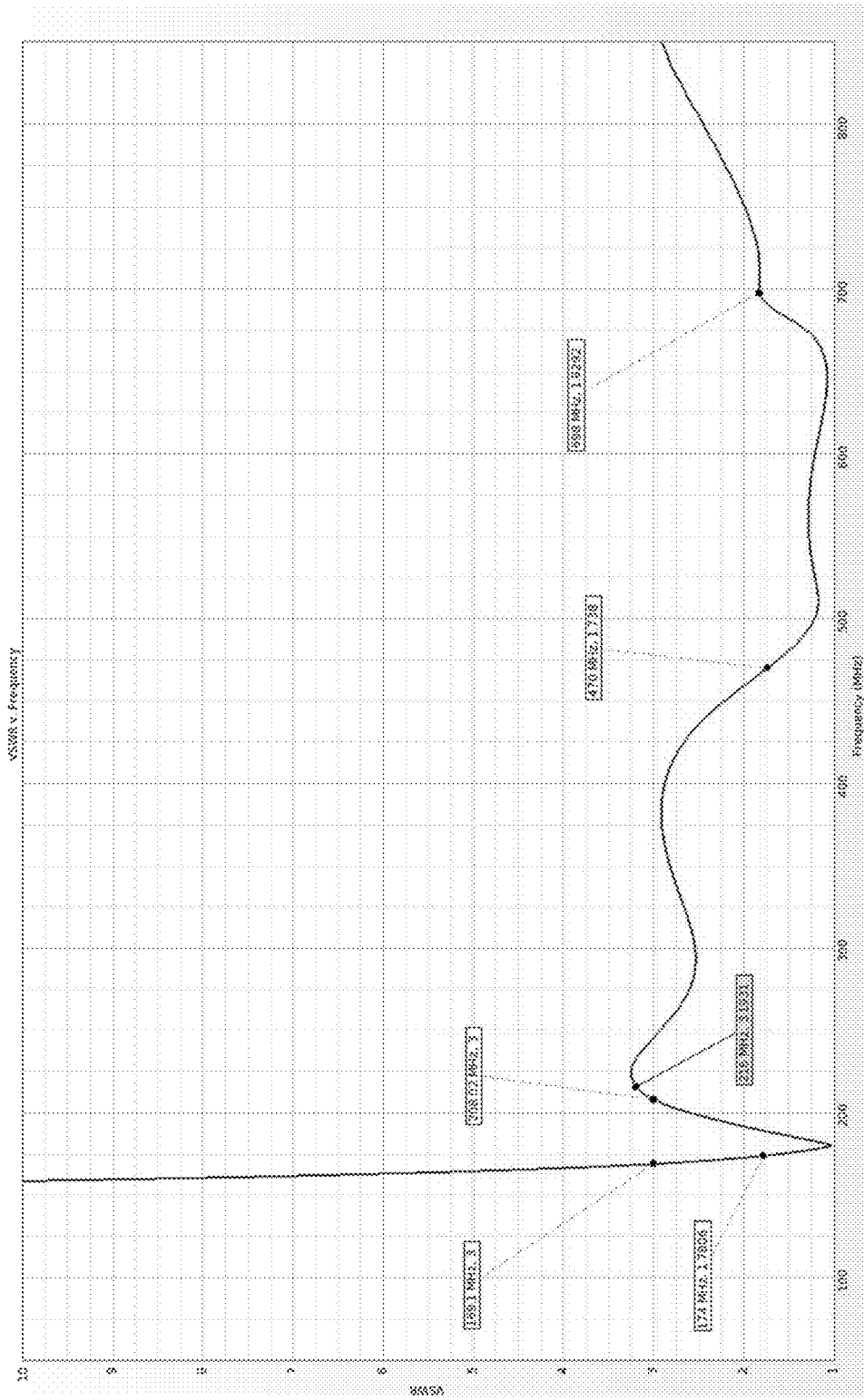


FIG. 23

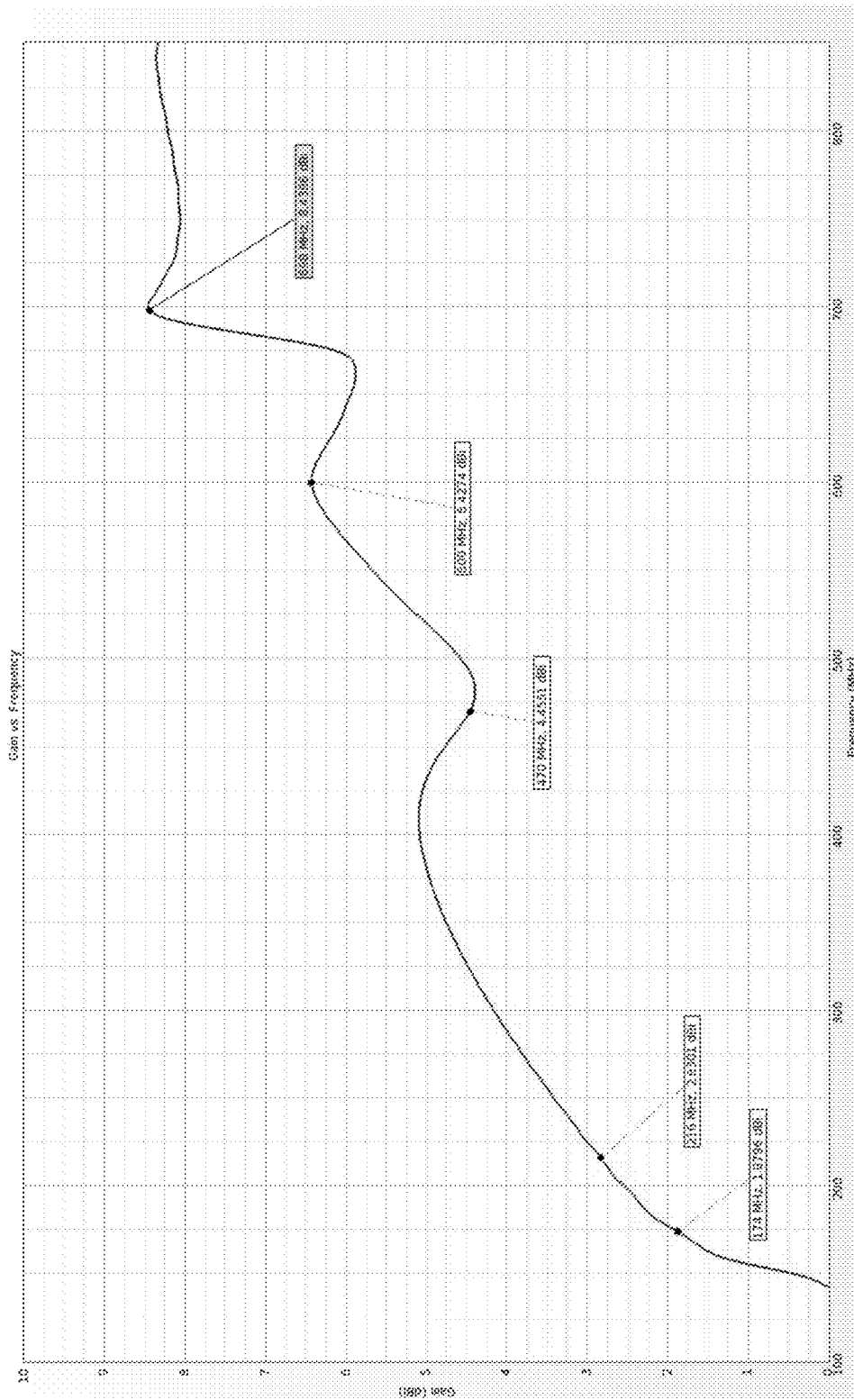


FIG. 24

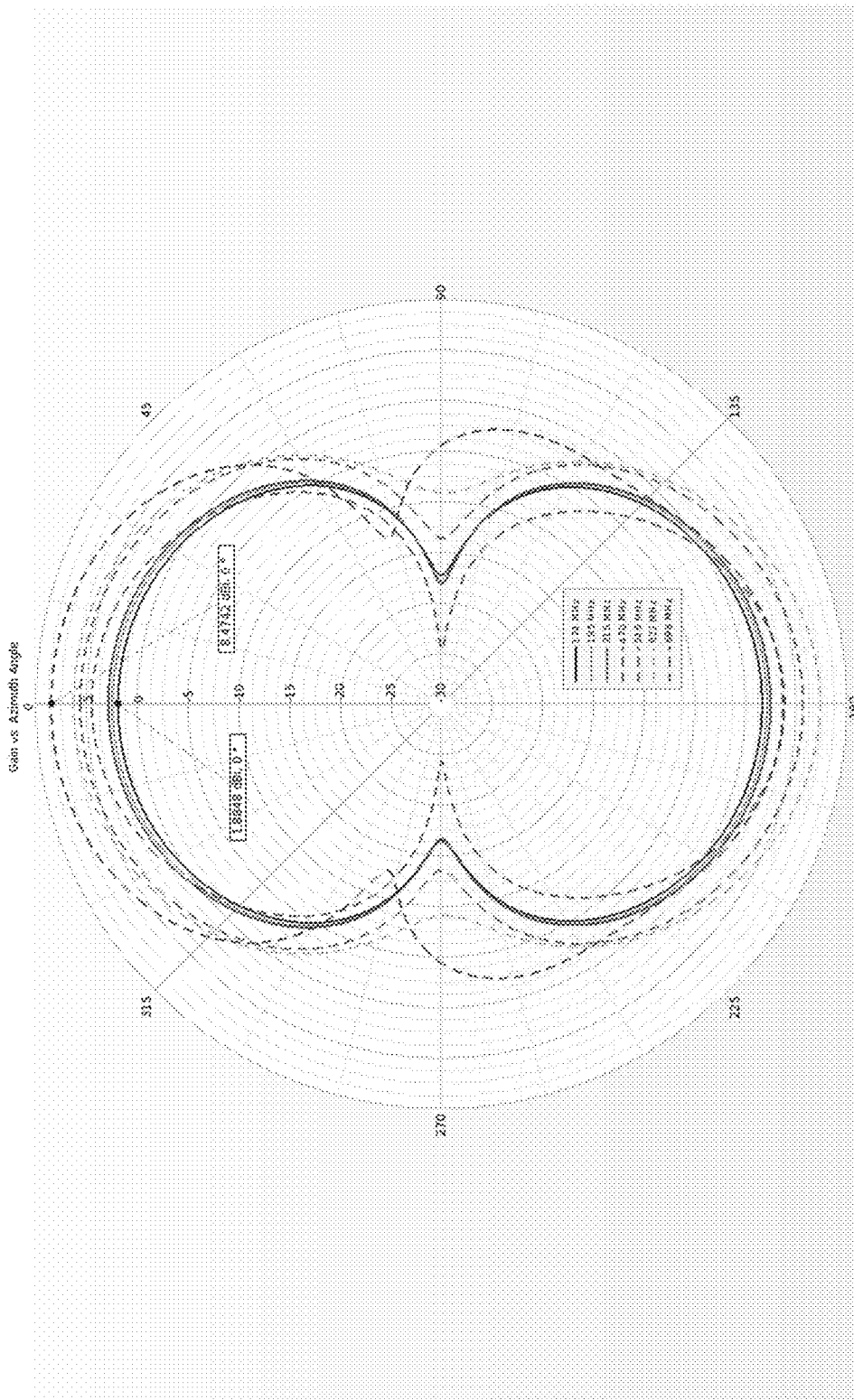


FIG. 25

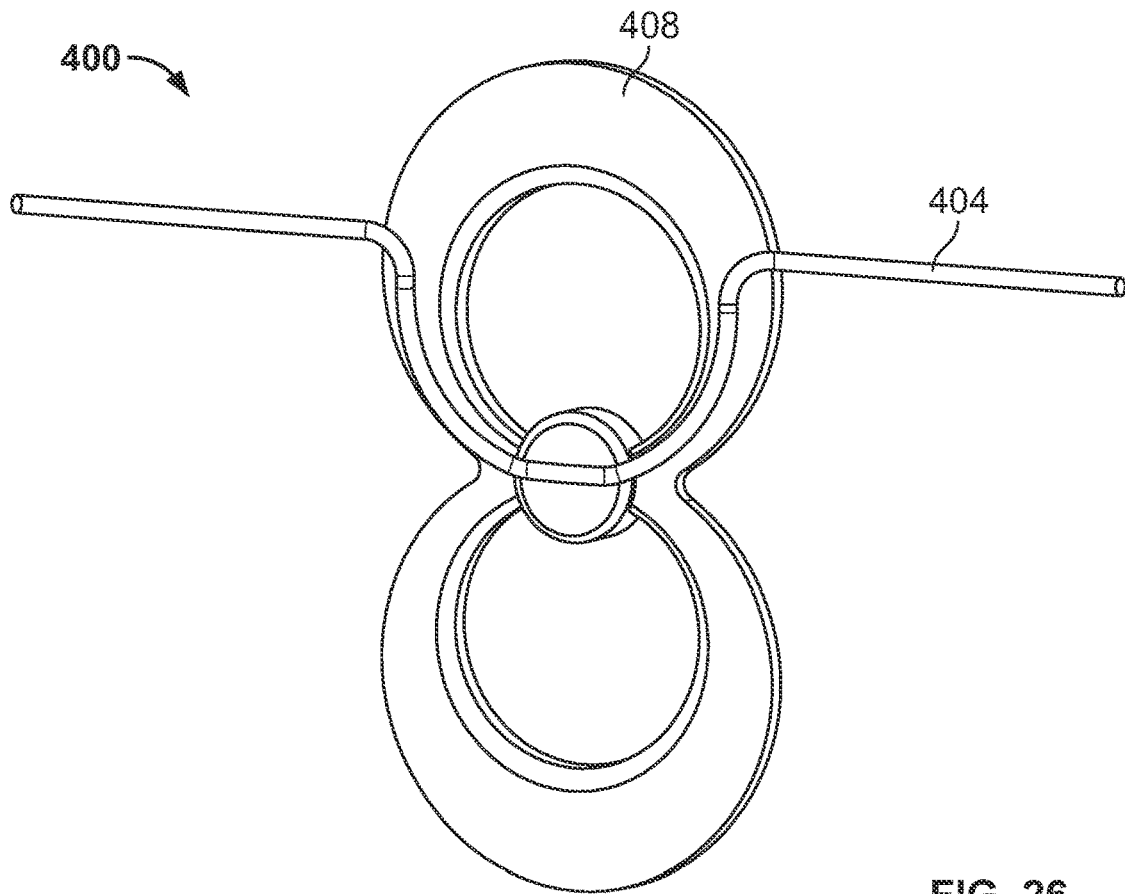


FIG. 26

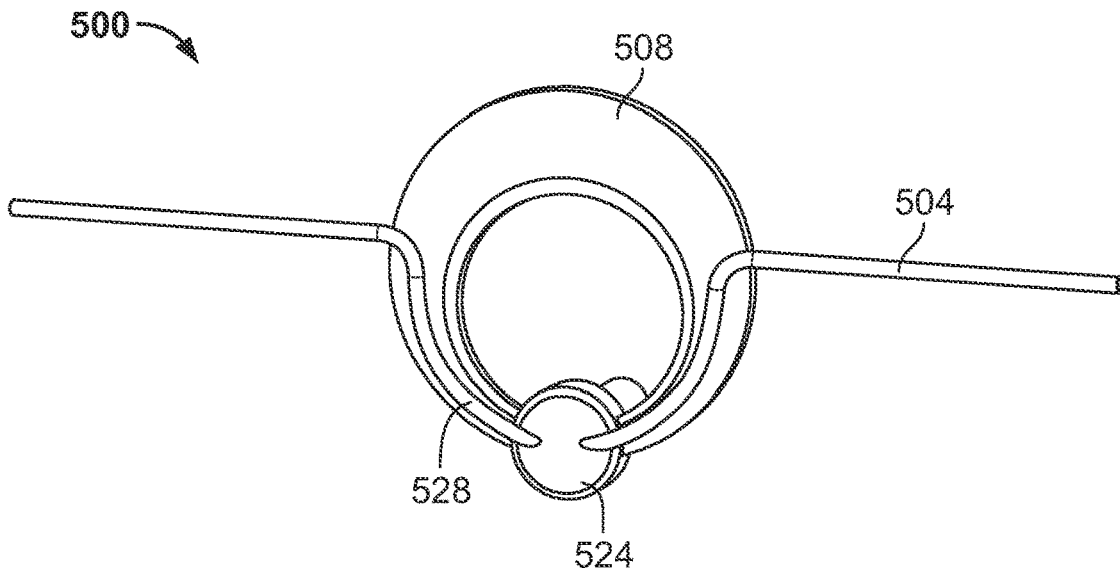


FIG. 27

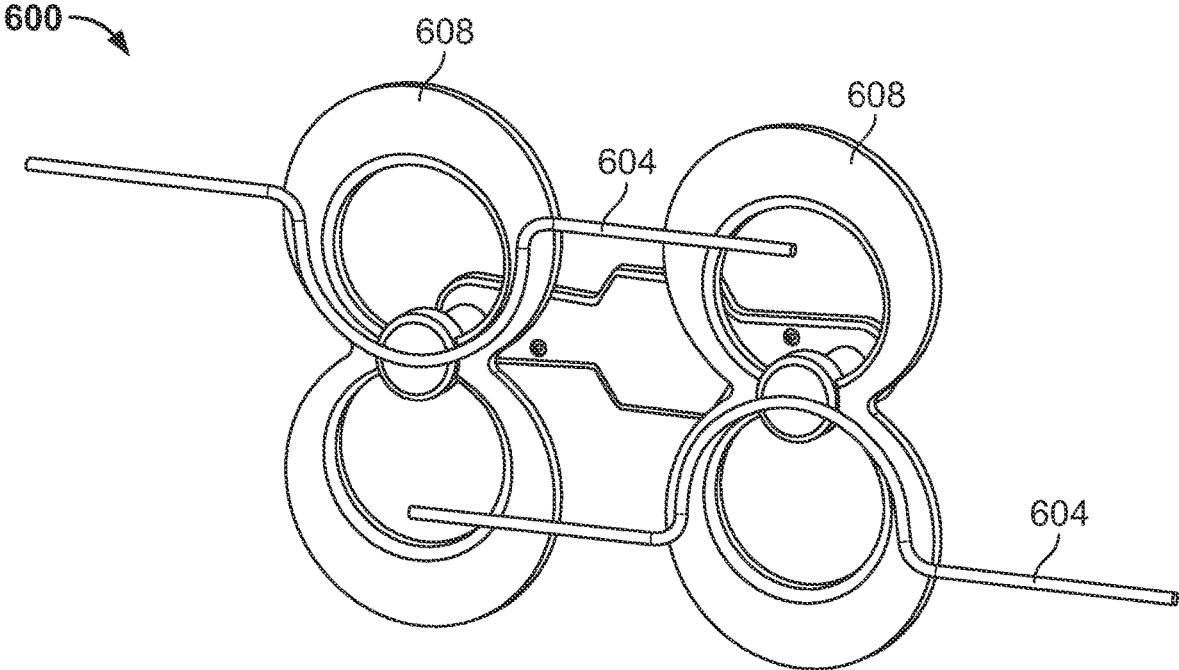


FIG. 28

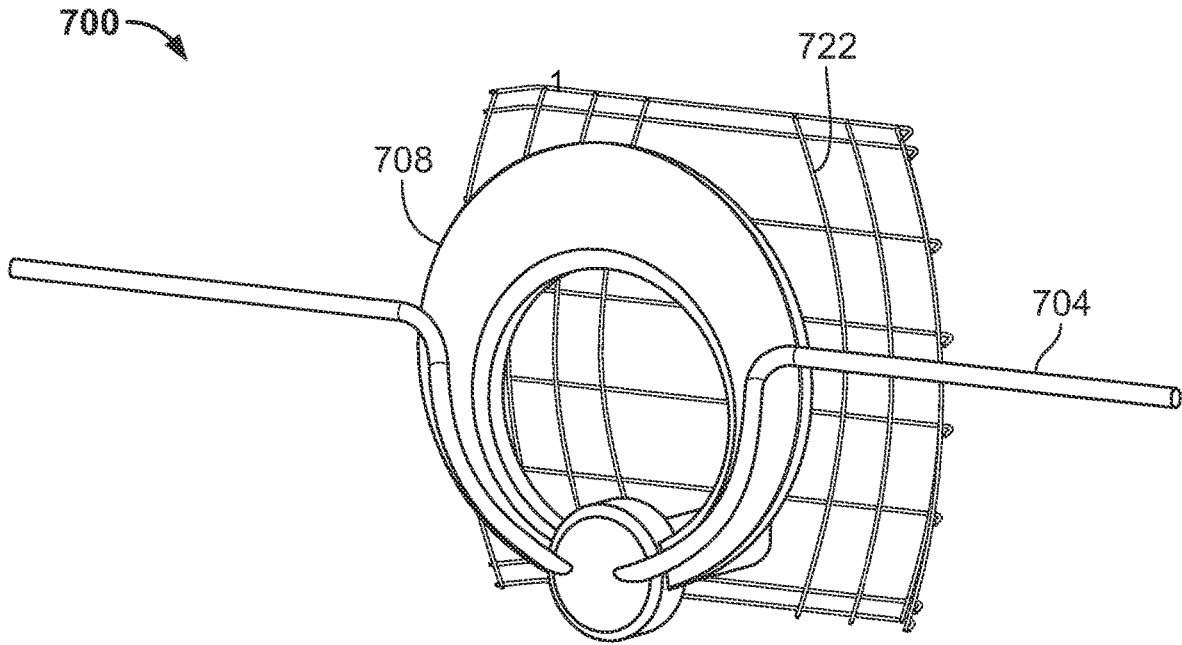


FIG. 29

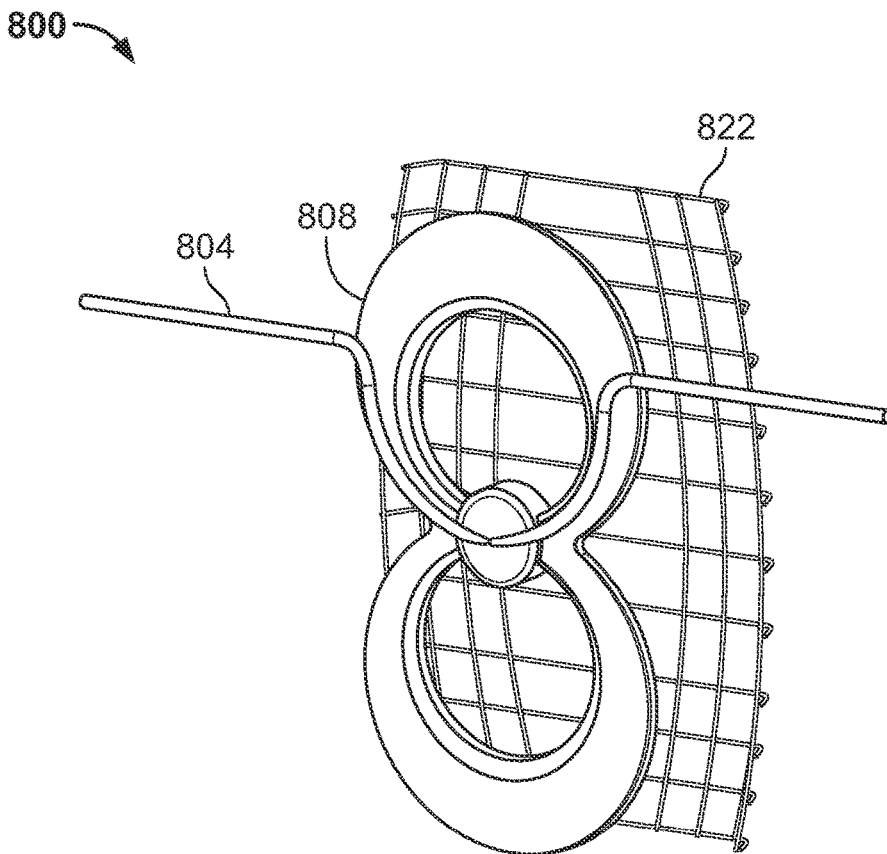


FIG. 30

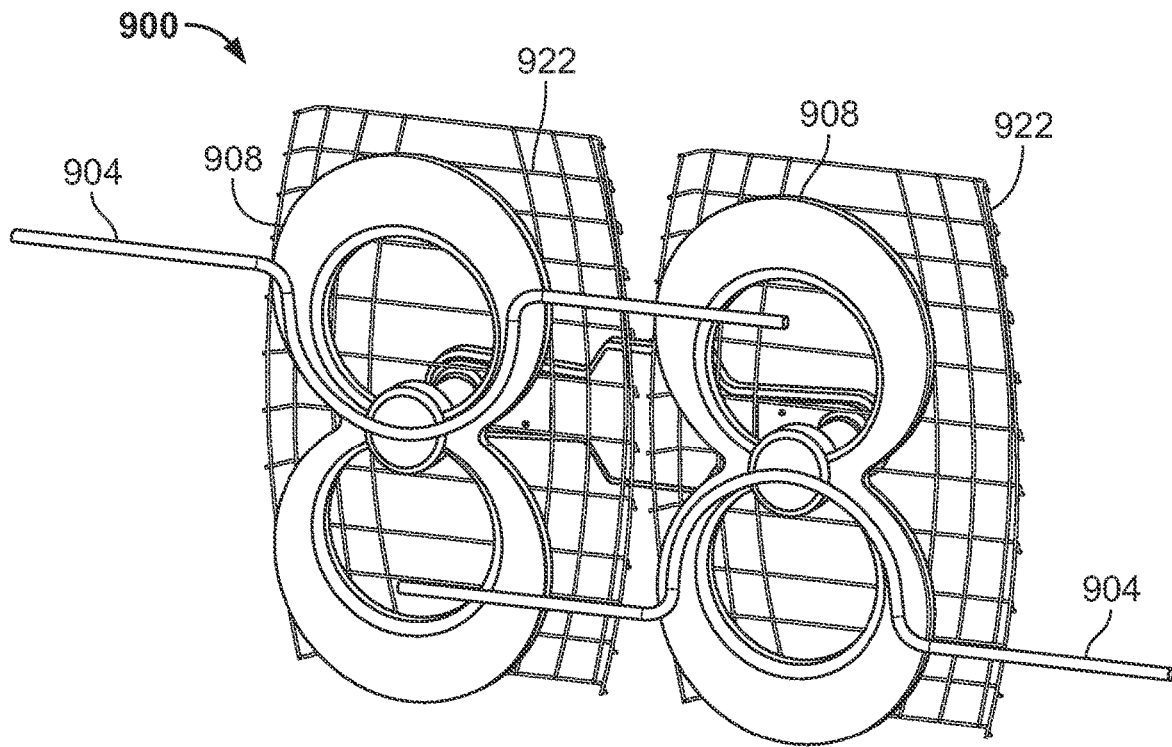


FIG. 31

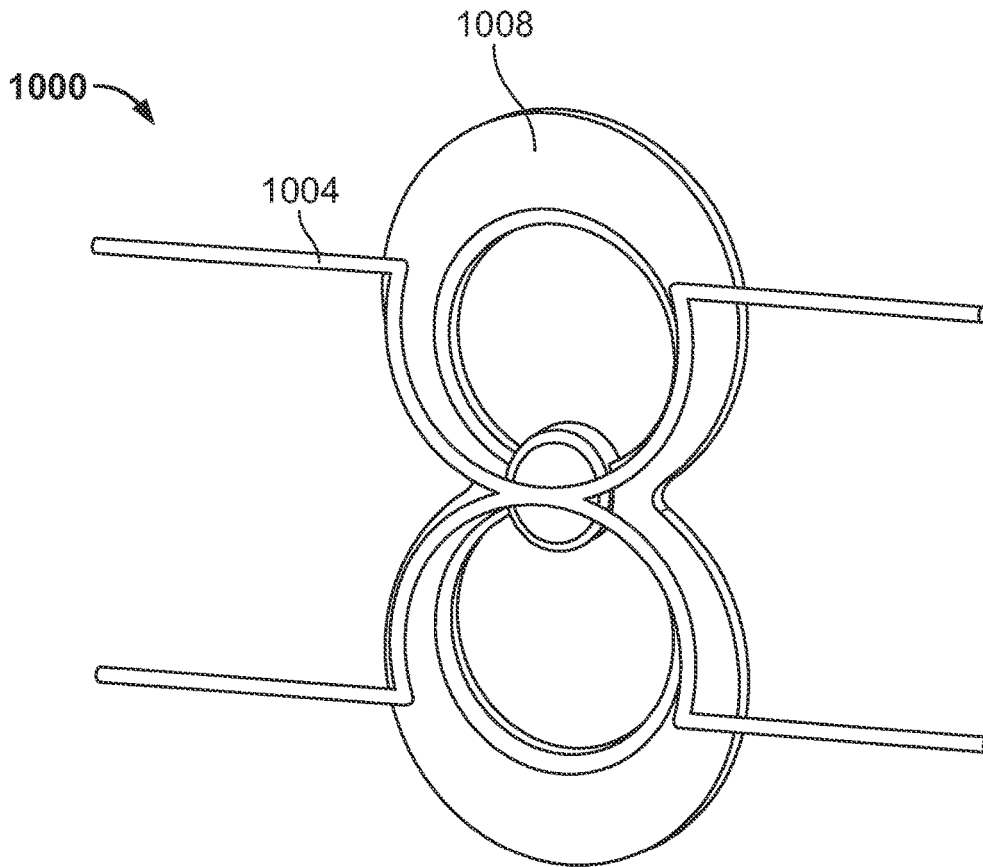


FIG. 32

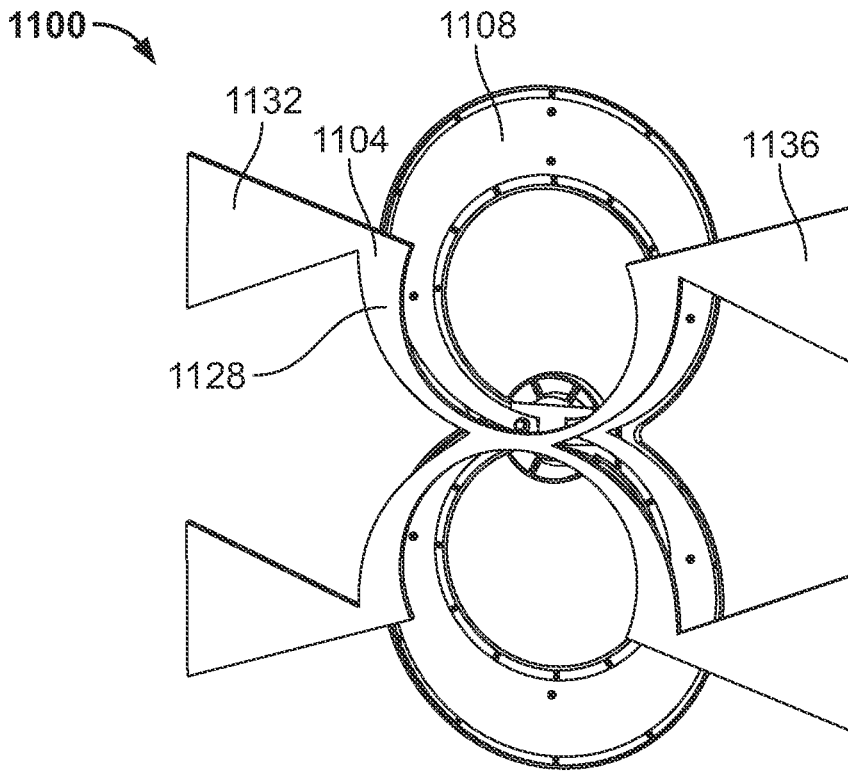


FIG. 33

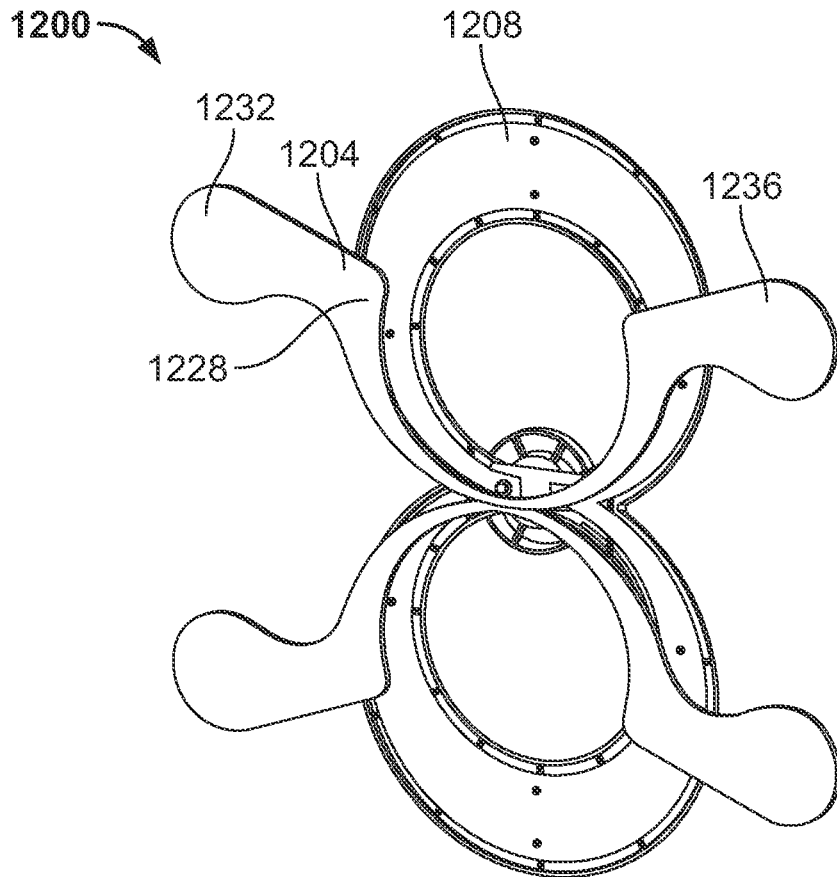


FIG. 34

ANTENNA ASSEMBLIES

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit and priority of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/776,344 filed Dec. 6, 2018, and also claims the benefit and priority of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/782,273 filed Dec. 19, 2018. The entire disclosures of the above applications are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD

The present disclosure generally relates to antenna assemblies configured for reception of television signals, such as high definition television (HDTV) signals.

BACKGROUND

The statements in this section merely provide background information related to the present disclosure and may not constitute prior art.

Many people enjoy watching television. Recently, the television-watching experience has been greatly improved due to high definition television (HDTV). A great number of people pay for HDTV through their existing cable or satellite TV service provider. In fact, many people are unaware that HDTV signals are commonly broadcast over the free public airwaves. This means that HDTV signals may be received for free with the appropriate antenna.

DRAWINGS

The drawings described herein are for illustration purposes only and are not intended to limit the scope of the present disclosure in any way.

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an exemplary embodiment of an antenna assembly, which may be used, for example, for receiving broadcast signals, such as digital television signals, high definition television (HDTV) signals, etc.

FIG. 2 is a back perspective view of the antenna assembly shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a front view of the antenna assembly shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is a back view of the antenna assembly shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is a right side view of the antenna assembly shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 6 is a left side view of the antenna assembly shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 7 is a top view of the antenna assembly shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 8 is a bottom view of the antenna assembly shown in FIG. 1.

FIGS. 9, 10, and 11 are front, back, and side views, respectively, of a prototype of the antenna assembly shown in FIG. 1 being supported by a dielectric stand on a support surface for use indoors according to an exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 12 shows the prototype of the antenna assembly shown in FIG. 9 being supported on a pole for use outdoors according to an exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 13 is an exemplary line graph of voltage standing wave ratio (VSWR) versus frequency (MHz) measured for

the prototype antenna assembly shown in FIGS. 9-11 while indoors and supported on a table by the dielectric stand shown in FIGS. 9-11.

FIG. 14 is an exemplary line graph of VSWR versus frequency (MHz) measured for the prototype antenna assembly shown in FIG. 12 while outdoors on the pole shown in FIG. 12.

FIGS. 15 and 16 are front and back perspective views, respectively, of a computer simulation model of the antenna assembly shown in FIG. 1 being supported on a pole for use outdoors according to an exemplary embodiment.

FIGS. 17, 18, 19, and 20 are front, back, side, and top views, respectively, of the antenna assembly shown in FIGS. 15 and 16.

FIG. 21 is a front perspective view of the antenna assembly shown in FIGS. 15 and 16 with a front portion of the antenna housing removed.

FIG. 22 is a front perspective of a portion of the antenna assembly shown in FIG. 21, and illustrating an exemplary feed with a 75:300 ohm balun.

FIG. 23 is a line graph of VSWR versus frequency (MHz) for the computer simulation model of the antenna assembly shown in FIGS. 15-22, which was computed using a Remcom X-FDTD simulator.

FIG. 24 is a line graph of gain (dBi) versus frequency (MHz) boresight for the computer simulation model of the antenna assembly shown in FIGS. 15-22, which was computed using a Remcom X-FDTD simulator.

FIG. 25 is a plot of gain (dBi) versus azimuth angle for the computer simulation model of the antenna assembly shown in FIGS. 15-22 at frequencies of 174 MHz, 195 MHz, 216 MHz, 470 MHz, 546 MHz, 622 MHz, and 698 MHz, which was computed using a Remcom X-FDTD simulator.

FIG. 26 is a perspective view of an antenna assembly including a VHF antenna element in front of a double tapered loop UHF antenna element according to an alternative exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 27 is a perspective view of an antenna assembly including a VHF antenna element in front of a single tapered loop UHF antenna element according to another alternative exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 28 is a perspective view of an antenna assembly including two VHF antenna elements in front of an array of two double tapered loop UHF antenna elements according to another alternative exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 29 is a perspective view of an antenna assembly including a VHF antenna element in front of a single tapered loop UHF antenna element and reflector according to another alternative exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 30 is a perspective view of an antenna assembly including a VHF antenna element in front of a double tapered loop UHF antenna element and reflector according to another alternative exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 31 is a perspective view of an antenna assembly including two VHF antenna elements in front of an array of two double tapered loop UHF antenna elements and two reflectors according to another alternative exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 32 is a perspective view of an antenna assembly including a double VHF antenna element in front of a double tapered loop UHF antenna element according to another alternative exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 33 is a perspective view of an antenna assembly including a double planar VHF antenna element with fan extensions in front of a double tapered loop UHF antenna element according to another alternative exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 34 is a perspective view of an antenna assembly including a double planar VHF antenna element with rounded fan extensions in front of a double tapered loop UHF antenna element according to another alternative exemplary embodiment.

Corresponding reference numerals indicate corresponding (although not necessarily identical) parts throughout the several views of the drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The following description is merely exemplary in nature and is in no way intended to limit the present disclosure, application, or uses.

Exemplary embodiments are disclosed of antenna assemblies configured for reception of television signals, such as high definition television (HDTV) signals. In exemplary embodiments, an antenna assembly generally includes a VHF antenna element and a UHF antenna element. The VHF antenna element and the UHF antenna element may be parasitically coupled without a direct ohmic connection between the VHF antenna element and the UHF antenna element. The antenna assembly may be configured to be operable for receiving VHF and UHF high definition television signals without using a diplexer and a VHF balun.

In exemplary embodiments, the VHF antenna element may be a shorted VHF dipole that has been configured (e.g., bent into a shape similar to a U or W, etc.) with extensions along or extending from a top of a middle portion (e.g., a top of the U or W, etc.). The VHF antenna element may be configured (e.g., shaped, sized, located, etc.) so as to achieve desired coupling to the UHF antenna element (e.g., one or more tapered loop antenna elements, etc.), which may be fed by a 75:300 Ohm balun.

The coupling between the VHF and UHF antenna elements may be adjusted by changing the distance between the planes containing each antenna element as well as the distance over which the paths of the VHF and UHF antenna elements overlap each other. The lower cut off frequency of the VHF band may be adjusted by adding or removing material from the part of the VHF antenna element that protrudes outwardly relative to and/or beyond either side of the UHF antenna element. The lower cut off frequency and bandwidth may also be affected and adjusted by changing the separation distance between the VHF and UHF antenna elements.

In exemplary embodiments, the VHF antenna element(s) may comprise one or more rods or tubes. Alternatively, the VHF antenna element(s) may comprise one or more planar elements. In exemplary embodiments that include planar VHF antenna elements, bandwidth may be improved by flaring extensions along or at a top of U-shaped, W-shaped, bent, or curved middle portion of the planar VHF antenna element into a fan or curved fan configuration.

In exemplary embodiments, the VHF antenna element may be placed in front of the UHF antenna element. In alternative exemplary embodiments, the VHF antenna element may be placed behind the UHF antenna element. The offset distance between the UHF and VHF antenna elements may range from about 15 millimeters (mm) to about 45 mm depending on desired performance, element shape, and material properties. In exemplary embodiments, the VHF antenna element was placed behind UHF antenna element to allow adjustment to the shape of the VHF antenna element to accommodate housing and mounting hardware with relatively little change in performance.

In exemplary embodiments, the UHF antenna element(s) may include a single tapered loop antenna element, a double tapered loop antenna element (e.g., in a figure eight configuration having a closed shape, etc.), an arrays of single or double tapered loop antenna elements, etc. In exemplary embodiments, the VHF antenna element may include a single antenna element, a double antenna element, etc.

In exemplary embodiments, the antenna assembly may be operable without using or requiring a reflector behind the UHF and VHF antenna elements. In alternative exemplary embodiments, the antenna assembly may include one or more reflectors (e.g., grill or mesh surface, etc.) behind the UHF and VHF antenna elements.

With reference now to the figures, FIGS. 1 through 8 illustrate an exemplary embodiment of an antenna assembly embodying one or more aspects of the present disclosure. As shown, the antenna assembly 100 generally includes a VHF antenna element 104 (broadly, a first antenna element) and a UHF antenna element 108 (broadly, a second antenna element). In FIG. 1, the UHF antenna element 108 is within the housing 124.

The VHF antenna element 104 may be configured to be operable for receiving VHF high definition television signals, e.g., from about 174 megahertz to about 216 megahertz, etc. The UHF antenna element 108 may be configured for receiving UHF high definition television signals, e.g., from about 470 megahertz to about 698 megahertz, etc.

The VHF antenna element 104 is parasitically coupled to the UHF antenna element 108 without benefit of direct ohmic contact. The VHF antenna element 104 and UHF antenna element 108 are electromagnetically coupled without a direct ohmic connection between the VHF antenna element 104 and the UHF antenna element 108.

The antenna assembly 100 includes a single feed point on the UHF antenna element 108, e.g., along one of the two generally side-by-side tapered loop antenna elements 112, 116 in a generally figure eight configuration as shown in FIG. 1, etc. The antenna assembly 100 includes a 75:300 ohm broadband balun. The antenna assembly 100 may include a 75-ohm RG6 coaxial cable fitted with an F-Type connector, although other suitable communication links may also be employed. Alternative embodiments may include other coaxial cables or other suitable communication links.

As shown in FIGS. 2, 5, and 6, the planes containing the VHF antenna element 104 and the UHF antenna element 108 may be separated by an offset or spaced distance (e.g., about 22 mm, within a range from about 15 mm to about 45 mm, etc.) along the z-direction. Accordingly, the VHF antenna element 104 is not coplanar with the UHF antenna element 108.

The VHF antenna element 104 may be formed by configuring (e.g., bending, curving, forming, etc.) a rod or tube 120 so that a curved portion 128 of the VHF antenna element 104 matches or corresponds with a curvature of the curved lower portion of the upper tapered loop antenna element 112 of the UHF antenna element 108. The rod 120 may be wrapped around a housing portion 124 near a feed region of the antenna assembly 100.

Although the VHF antenna element 104 is shown in FIGS. 1-8 as a rod 120, planar elements may also be used for VHF antenna elements in alternative exemplary embodiments. See, for example, the antenna assemblies 1100 and 1200 shown in FIGS. 33 and 34, respectively.

In this exemplary embodiment, the VHF antenna element 104 comprises a shorted VHF dipole including a U-shaped, bent, or curved middle portion 128 and first and second straight sections, portions, or extensions 132, 136 extending

outwardly from each of the respective first and second sides or ends of the U-shaped middle portion **128**. The first and second straight portions **132**, **136** extend outwardly beyond the UHF antenna element **108**.

In exemplary embodiment, the VHF antenna element **104** may be broken down into two or more pieces for more compact packaging within a box. In which case, a user may relatively easily assemble the VHF antenna element pieces or parts by fastening the pieces/parts together (e.g., with screws, other mechanical fasteners, etc.) and then snapping the assembled VHF pieces/parts into place (e.g., interference or friction fit, etc.) within holders **140** (FIG. 2) along the back of the UHF antenna element housing **124**.

The antenna assembly **100** is configured to be operable as a dual band high VHF/UHF antenna. The antenna assembly **100** may be tuned by adjusting the separation distance between the VHF and UHF antenna elements **104**, **108**, by adjusting the curvature of the VHF antenna element **104** to control the coupling region, and by adjusting the lengths of the straight sections **132**, **136** of the VHF antenna element **104** that extend from either side of the U-shaped portion **128** of the VHF antenna element **104**.

The parasitic coupling may be adjusted by changing the distance between the planes containing the VHF and UHF antenna elements **104**, **108** as well as the distance over which the paths of the VHF and UHF antenna elements **104**, **108** overlap each other. The lower cut off frequency of the VHF band may be adjusted by adding or removing material from the part of the VHF antenna element **104** that protrudes outwardly relative to and/or beyond either side of the UHF antenna element **108**. The lower cut off frequency and bandwidth may also be affected and adjusted by changing the separation distance between the VHF and UHF antenna elements **104**, **108**.

A main benefit that may be realized by the antenna assembly **100** is the elimination of a diplexer and VHF balun along with associated cabling and connectors. This also allows for a size reduction of the mounting assembly as well.

The antenna assembly **100** may be used for receiving digital television signals (of which high definition television (HDTV) signals are a subset) and communicating the received signals to an external device, such as a television. A coaxial cable may be used for transmitting signals received by the antenna assembly **100** to the television. The antenna assembly **100** may also be supported by a dielectric stand (e.g., plastic stand **260** shown in FIGS. 9-11, etc.) on a support surface (e.g., tabletop, shelf, desktop, other support surface, etc.) for use indoors. Or, for example, the antenna assembly **100** may be supported on a pole (e.g., pole **362** shown in FIG. 12, etc.) for use outdoors. Alternative embodiments may include an antenna assembly positioned elsewhere and/or supported using other means.

As shown in FIGS. 1-4, the UHF antenna element **108** includes two generally side-by-side tapered loop antenna elements **112**, **116** in a generally figure eight configuration. Each of the upper and lower tapered loop antenna elements **112**, **116** has a generally annular shape cooperatively defined by an outer periphery or perimeter portion and an inner periphery or perimeter portion. The outer periphery or perimeter portion is generally circular. The inner periphery or perimeter portion is also generally circular, such that each tapered loop antenna element has a generally circular opening.

In exemplary embodiments, each tapered loop antenna element **112**, **116** may have an outer diameter of about two hundred twenty millimeters and an inner diameter of about eighty millimeters. The inner diameter may be offset from

the outer diameter such that the center of the circle defined generally by the inner perimeter portion (the inner diameter's midpoint) is about twenty millimeters below the center of the circle defined generally by the outer perimeter portion (the outer diameter's midpoint). Stated differently, the inner diameter may be offset from the outer diameter such that the inner diameter's midpoint is about twenty millimeters below the outer diameter's midpoint. The offsetting of the diameters thus provides a taper to the tapered loop antenna element such that the tapered loop antenna element has at least one portion wider than another portion.

Each tapered loop antenna element **112**, **116** includes first and second halves or curved portions that are generally symmetric such that the first half or curved portion is a mirror-image of the second half or curved portion. Each curved portion extends generally between a corresponding end portion and then tapers or gradually increases in width until the middle portion of the tapered loop antenna element **112**, **116**.

The tapered loop antenna elements **112**, **116** may be substantially planar with a generally constant or uniform thickness. In an exemplary embodiment, the tapered loop antenna elements have a thickness of about 3 millimeters. Other embodiments may include a thicker or thinner antenna element.

The UHF antenna element **108** may be housed or enclosed within a housing **124** formed from various materials. In exemplary embodiments, the housing **124** is formed from plastic. In exemplary embodiments in which the antenna assembly **100** is intended for use as an outdoor antenna (e.g., FIG. 12, etc.), the housing **124** may be formed from a weather resistant material (e.g., waterproof and/or ultra-violet resistant material, etc.).

FIGS. 9, 10, and 11 illustrate a prototype **200** of the antenna assembly **100** shown in FIG. 1. As shown, the prototype antenna assembly **200** is being by a dielectric (e.g., plastic, etc.) stand **260** (broadly, a support) on a support surface (e.g., tabletop, shelf, desktop, other support surface, etc.) for use indoors. FIG. 12 shows the antenna assembly **200** being supported on a pole **262** for use outdoors.

FIG. 13 is an exemplary line graph of voltage standing wave ratio (VSWR) versus frequency (MHz) measured for the antenna assembly **200** while indoors and supported on a table by the dielectric stand **260** shown in FIGS. 9-11. As shown by FIG. 13, the antenna assembly **200** was operable with good VSWR from about 174 megahertz to about 216 megahertz and from 470 megahertz to about 698 megahertz. For example, the antenna assembly **200** had a VSWR of about 1.78 at 174 MHz, about 3.14 at 216 MHz, about 1.32 at 470 MHz, about 1.82 at 580 MHz, and about 1.18 at 698 MHz.

FIG. 14 is an exemplary line graph of VSWR versus frequency (MHz) measured for the antenna assembly **200** while outdoors on the pole **262** shown in FIG. 12. As shown by FIG. 14, the antenna assembly **200** was operable with good VSWR from about 174 megahertz to about 216 megahertz and from 470 megahertz to about 698 megahertz. For example, the antenna assembly **200** had a VSWR of about 1.70 at 174 MHz, about 3.06 at 216 MHz, about 1.52 at 470 MHz, about 1.64 at 580 MHz, and about 1.38 at 698 MHz.

FIGS. 15 through 20 illustrate a computer simulation model **300** of the antenna assembly **100** shown in FIG. 1. As shown, the antenna assembly **300** is being supported on a pole **362** for use outdoors.

FIG. 21 shows the antenna assembly **300** with a front portion of the antenna housing removed. FIG. 22 shows a

portion of the antenna assembly **300** shown in FIG. **21**, and illustrating a feed with 75:300 ohm balun.

As shown in FIGS. **21** and **22**, end portions **310** of the tapered loop UHF antenna elements **308** are mechanically fastened to each other and to a printed circuit board (PCB) **314** by mechanical fasteners **318** that pass through aligned openings in the tapered loop antenna elements' end portions **310** and the PCB **314**. The spaced distance or offset between the tapered loop UHF antenna elements **308** and VHF antenna element **304** is also shown in FIG. **22**.

FIG. **23** is a line graph of VSWR versus frequency (MHz) for the antenna assembly **300** shown in FIGS. **15-22**, which was computed using a Remcom X-FDTD simulator. As shown by FIG. **23**, the antenna assembly **300** was operable with good VSWR from about 174 megahertz to about 216 megahertz and from 470 megahertz to about 698 megahertz. For example, the antenna assembly **300** had a VSWR of about 1.78 at 174 MHz, about 3.2 at 216 MHz, about 1.74 at 470 MHz and about 1.83 at 698 MHz.

FIG. **24** is a line graph of gain (dBi) versus frequency (MHz) boresight for the antenna assembly **300** shown in FIGS. **15-22**, which was computed using a Remcom X-FDTD simulator. As shown by FIG. **24**, the antenna assembly **300** was operable with good gain for frequencies from about 174 megahertz to about 216 megahertz and from 470 megahertz to about 698 megahertz. For example, the antenna assembly **300** had a gain of about 1.88 dBi at 174 MHz, about 2.83 dBi at 216 MHz, about 4.46 dBi at 470 MHz, about 6.43 dBi at 600 MHz, and about 8.44 dBi at 698 MHz.

FIG. **25** is a plot of gain (dBi) versus azimuth angle for the assembly **300** shown in FIGS. **15-22** at frequencies of 174 MHz, 195 MHz, 216 MHz, 470 MHz, 546 MHz, 622 MHz, and 698 MHz, which was computed using a Remcom X-FDTD simulator. As shown by FIG. **25**, the antenna assembly **300** was operable with good gain at an azimuth angle of zero degrees for frequencies from 174 megahertz to about 216 megahertz and from 470 megahertz to about 698 megahertz. For example, the antenna assembly **300** had a gain at an azimuth angle of zero of about 1.88 dBi at 174 MHz and about 8.47 dBi at 698 MHz.

FIG. **26** illustrates an alternative exemplary embodiment of an antenna assembly **400** embodying one or more aspects of the present disclosure. The antenna assembly **400** may include features similar or substantially identical to corresponding features of the antenna assembly **100**. But in this exemplary embodiment, the antenna assembly **400** includes a VHF antenna element **404** in front of (not behind) a double tapered loop UHF antenna element **408**.

FIG. **27** illustrates another alternative exemplary embodiment of an antenna assembly **500** embodying one or more aspects of the present disclosure. The antenna assembly **500** may include features similar or substantially identical to corresponding features of the antenna assembly **100**. But in this exemplary embodiment, the antenna assembly **500** includes a VHF antenna element **504** in front of a single tapered loop UHF antenna element **508**. The middle portion **528** of the VHF antenna element **504** may be continuous and connected (e.g., not broken with a gap therebetween, etc.) and extend generally under a portion **524** of the antenna housing without making direct ohmic contact with the UHF antenna element **508**.

FIG. **28** illustrates another alternative exemplary embodiment of an antenna assembly **600** embodying one or more aspects of the present disclosure. The antenna assembly **600** may include features similar or substantially identical to corresponding features of the antenna assembly **100**. But in

this exemplary embodiment, the antenna assembly **600** includes two VHF antenna elements **604** in front of an array of two double tapered loop UHF antenna elements **608**. The VHF antenna elements **608** have alternative orientations (e.g., rotated 180 degrees, etc.) to avoid interference.

FIG. **29** illustrates another alternative exemplary embodiment of an antenna assembly **700** embodying one or more aspects of the present disclosure. The antenna assembly **700** may include features similar or substantially identical to corresponding features of the antenna assembly **100**. But in this exemplary embodiment, the antenna assembly **700** includes a VHF antenna element **704** in front of a single tapered loop UHF antenna element **708** and reflector **722** (e.g., grill or mesh surface, etc.). The reflector **722** may be configured to be operable for reflecting electromagnetic waves generally towards the antenna elements **704**, **708**.

FIG. **30** illustrates another alternative exemplary embodiment of an antenna assembly **800** embodying one or more aspects of the present disclosure. The antenna assembly **800** may include features similar or substantially identical to corresponding features of the antenna assembly **100**. But in this exemplary embodiment, the antenna assembly **800** includes a VHF antenna element **804** in front of a double tapered loop UHF antenna element **808** and reflector **822** (e.g., grill or mesh surface, etc.). The reflector **822** may be configured to be operable for reflecting electromagnetic waves generally towards the antenna elements **804**, **808**.

FIG. **31** illustrates another alternative exemplary embodiment of an antenna assembly **900** embodying one or more aspects of the present disclosure. The antenna assembly **900** may include features similar or substantially identical to corresponding features of the antenna assembly **100**. But in this exemplary embodiment, the antenna assembly **900** includes two VHF antenna elements **904** in front of an array of two double tapered loop UHF antenna elements **908** and two reflectors **922** (e.g., grill or mesh surface, etc.). The VHF antenna elements **904** have alternative orientations (e.g., rotated 180 degrees, etc.) to avoid interference. The reflectors **922** may be configured to be operable for reflecting electromagnetic waves generally towards the antenna elements **904**, **908**.

FIG. **32** illustrates another alternative exemplary embodiment of an antenna assembly **1000** embodying one or more aspects of the present disclosure. The antenna assembly **1000** may include features similar or substantially identical to corresponding features of the antenna assembly **100**. But in this exemplary embodiment, the antenna assembly **1000** includes a double VHF antenna element **1004** in front of a double tapered loop UHF antenna element **1008**. The double VHF antenna element **1004** may include upper and lower portions having alternative orientations, which upper and lower portions may be similar to the VHF antenna element **104** of antenna assembly **100**.

FIG. **33** illustrates another alternative exemplary embodiment of an antenna assembly **1100** embodying one or more aspects of the present disclosure. The antenna assembly **1100** may include features similar or substantially identical to corresponding features of the antenna assembly **100**. But in this exemplary embodiment, the antenna assembly **1100** includes a double planar VHF antenna element **1104** with extensions **1132**, **1136** in front of a double tapered loop UHF antenna element **1108**. The extensions **1132**, **1136** may be configured as triangular fan extensions, have a configuration of a triangular fan blade, etc. Bandwidth may be improved by flaring the extensions **1132**, **1136** along or at a top of the middle portion **1128** of the planar VHF antenna element **1104**.

FIG. 34 illustrates another alternative exemplary embodiment of an antenna assembly 1200 embodying one or more aspects of the present disclosure. The antenna assembly 1200 may include features similar or substantially identical to corresponding features of the antenna assembly 100. But in this exemplary embodiment, the antenna assembly 1200 includes a double planar VHF antenna element 1204 with extensions 1232, 1236 in front of a double tapered loop UHF antenna element 1208. The extensions 1232, 1236 may be configured as rounded fan extensions, have a configuration of a rounded fan blade, etc. Bandwidth may be improved by flaring the extensions 1232, 1236 along or at a top of the middle portion 1228 of the planar VHF antenna element 1204.

By way of example, an antenna assembly disclosed herein may be configured to be operable for receiving VHF high definition television signals from about 174 megahertz to about 216 megahertz (e.g., with a voltage standing wave ratio of less than about 3 referenced to a 300 ohm line, etc.) and for receiving UHF high definition television signals from about 470 megahertz to about 698 megahertz (e.g., with a voltage standing wave ratio of less than about 2 referenced to a 300 ohm line, etc.). An antenna assembly disclosed herein may be configured to operate with consistent gain throughout the entire UHF DTV channel spectrum. An antenna assembly disclosed herein may provide great performance regardless of whether it is indoors, outdoors, in an attic, etc. An antenna assembly disclosed herein may have an efficient, compact design that offers excellent gain and impedance matching across the entire post 2009 UHF DTV spectrum and with good directivity at all UHF DTV frequencies.

Alternative embodiments may include one or more UHF antenna elements that are configured differently than the tapered loop antenna elements shown in the figures. For example, other embodiments may include a non-tapered loop UHF antenna element having a centered (not offset) opening. Other embodiments may include a UHF antenna element having an outer periphery/perimeter portion, inner periphery/perimeter portion, and/or opening sized or shaped differently, such as with a non-circular shape (e.g., ovalar, triangular, rectangular, etc.). The antenna elements (or any portion thereof) may also be provided in various configurations (e.g., shapes, sizes, etc.) depending at least in part on the intended end-use and signals to be received by the antenna assembly.

The antenna elements disclosed herein may be made from a wide range of materials, which are preferably good conductors (e.g., metals, silver, gold, aluminum, copper, etc.). By way of example only, the tapered loop antenna elements may be formed from a metallic electrical conductor, such as aluminum (e.g., anodized aluminum, etc.), copper, stainless steel, other metals, other alloys, etc.

Exemplary embodiments of antenna assemblies have been disclosed herein as being used for reception of digital television signals, such as HDTV signals. Alternative embodiments, however, may include one or more antenna elements tuned for receiving non-television signals and/or signals having frequencies not associated with HDTV. Thus, embodiments of the present disclosure should not be limited to receiving only television signals having a frequency or within a frequency range associated with digital television or HDTV.

Example embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough, and will fully convey the scope to those who are skilled in the art. Numerous specific details are set forth such as examples of specific components, devices, and

methods, to provide a thorough understanding of embodiments of the present disclosure. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that specific details need not be employed, that example embodiments may be embodied in many different forms, and that neither should be construed to limit the scope of the disclosure. In some example embodiments, well-known processes, well-known device structures, and well-known technologies are not described in detail. In addition, advantages and improvements that may be achieved with one or more exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure are provided for purpose of illustration only and do not limit the scope of the present disclosure, as exemplary embodiments disclosed herein may provide all or none of the above mentioned advantages and improvements and still fall within the scope of the present disclosure.

Specific dimensions, specific materials, and/or specific shapes disclosed herein are example in nature and do not limit the scope of the present disclosure. The disclosure herein of particular values and particular ranges of values for given parameters are not exclusive of other values and ranges of values that may be useful in one or more of the examples disclosed herein. Moreover, it is envisioned that any two particular values for a specific parameter stated herein may define the endpoints of a range of values that may be suitable for the given parameter (i.e., the disclosure of a first value and a second value for a given parameter can be interpreted as disclosing that any value between the first and second values could also be employed for the given parameter). For example, if Parameter X is exemplified herein to have value A and also exemplified to have value Z, it is envisioned that parameter X may have a range of values from about A to about Z. Similarly, it is envisioned that disclosure of two or more ranges of values for a parameter (whether such ranges are nested, overlapping or distinct) subsume all possible combination of ranges for the value that might be claimed using endpoints of the disclosed ranges. For example, if parameter X is exemplified herein to have values in the range of 1-10, or 3-9, or 3-8, it is also envisioned that Parameter X may have other ranges of values including 1-9, 1-8, 1-3, 1-3, 3-10, 3-8, 3-3, 3-10, and 3-9.

The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular example embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting. For example, when permissive phrases, such as “may comprise”, “may include”, and the like, are used herein, at least one antenna assembly comprises or includes the feature(s) in at least one exemplary embodiment. As used herein, the singular forms “a”, “an” and “the” may be intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. The terms “comprises,” “comprising,” “including,” and “having,” are inclusive and therefore specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps, operations, antenna elements, and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, operations, antenna elements, components, and/or groups thereof. The method steps, processes, and operations described herein are not to be construed as necessarily requiring their performance in the particular order discussed or illustrated, unless specifically identified as an order of performance. It is also to be understood that additional or alternative steps may be employed.

When an antenna element or layer is referred to as being “on”, “engaged to”, “connected to” or “coupled to” another antenna element or layer, it may be directly on, engaged, connected or coupled to the other antenna element or layer, or intervening antenna elements or layers may be present. In

contrast, when an antenna element is referred to as being “directly on,” “directly engaged to,” “directly connected to” or “directly coupled to” another antenna element or layer, there may be no intervening antenna elements or layers present. Other words used to describe the relationship between antenna elements should be interpreted in a like fashion (e.g., “between” versus “directly between,” “adjacent” versus “directly adjacent,” etc.). As used herein, the term “and/or” includes any and all combinations of one or more of the associated listed items.

The term “about” when applied to values indicates that the calculation or the measurement allows some slight imprecision in the value (with some approach to exactness in the value; approximately or reasonably close to the value; nearly). If, for some reason, the imprecision provided by “about” is not otherwise understood in the art with this ordinary meaning, then “about” as used herein indicates at least variations that may arise from ordinary methods of measuring or using such parameters. For example, the terms “generally,” “about,” and “substantially” may be used herein to mean within manufacturing tolerances.

Although the terms first, second, third, etc. may be used herein to describe various antenna elements, components, regions, layers and/or sections, these antenna elements, components, regions, layers and/or sections should not be limited by these terms. These terms may be only used to distinguish one antenna element, component, region, layer or section from another region, layer or section. Terms such as “first,” “second,” and other numerical terms when used herein do not imply a sequence or order unless clearly indicated by the context. Thus, a first antenna element, component, region, layer or section could be termed a second antenna element, component, region, layer or section without departing from the teachings of the example embodiments.

Spatially relative terms, such as “inner,” “outer,” “beneath,” “below,” “lower,” “above,” “upper” and the like, may be used herein for ease of description to describe one antenna element or feature’s relationship to another antenna element(s) or feature(s) as illustrated in the figures. Spatially relative terms may be intended to encompass different orientations of the device in use or operation in addition to the orientation depicted in the figures. For example, if the device in the figures is turned over, antenna elements described as “below” or “beneath” other antenna elements or features would then be oriented “above” the other antenna elements or features. Thus, the example term “below” can encompass both an orientation of above and below. The device may be otherwise oriented (rotated 90 degrees or at other orientations) and the spatially relative descriptors used herein interpreted accordingly.

The foregoing description of the embodiments has been provided for purposes of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the disclosure. Individual antenna elements, intended or stated uses, or features of a particular embodiment are generally not limited to that particular embodiment, but, where applicable, are interchangeable and can be used in a selected embodiment, even if not specifically shown or described. The same may also be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the disclosure, and all such modifications are intended to be included within the scope of the disclosure.

What is claimed is:

1. An antenna assembly comprising:
 - a plurality of antenna elements including:
 - a UHF antenna element;

- a VHF antenna element;
 - wherein the UHF antenna element and the VHF antenna element are parasitically coupled without a direct ohmic connection between the UHF antenna element and the VHF antenna element;

- wherein the antenna assembly is configured to be operable for receiving VHF and UHF high definition television signals without using a diplexer and a VHF balun;
 - wherein the VHF antenna element comprises a middle portion and first and second extensions extending outwardly from the middle portion;

- wherein the middle portion of the VHF antenna element has a curvature substantially matching a curvature of a curved portion of the UHF antenna element that overlaps and/or is alongside the middle portion of the VHF antenna element; and

- wherein the UHF antenna element comprises at least one tapered loop antenna element having the curved portion that overlaps and/or is alongside the middle portion of the VHF antenna element.

2. The antenna assembly of claim 1, wherein:
 - the middle portion comprises a U-shaped portion having first and second ends; and

- the first and second extensions of the VHF antenna element extend in opposite directions from the respective first and second ends of the U-shaped portion.

3. The antenna assembly of claim 2, wherein:
 - the VHF antenna element comprises a VHF dipole including the middle portion and the first and second extensions; and

- the antenna assembly does not include a diplexer and a VHF balun.

4. The antenna assembly of claim 2, wherein the VHF antenna element comprises a rod including:
 - the U-shaped portion having the curvature substantially matching the curved portion of the tapered loop antenna element that overlaps and/or is alongside the U-shaped portion; and

- the first and second extensions of the VHF antenna element extend linearly in opposite directions from the respective first and second ends of the U-shaped portion.

5. The antenna assembly of claim 4, wherein:
 - the antenna assembly further comprises a housing in which the UHF antenna element is housed;
 - the U-shaped portion of the rod is disposed around a portion of the housing adjacent a feed region; and
 - one or more portions of the rod are disposed within one or more holders along the housing.

6. The antenna assembly of claim 2, wherein the VHF antenna element comprises a planar element including:
 - the U-shaped portion having the curvature substantially matching the curved portion of the tapered loop antenna element that overlaps and/or is alongside the U-shaped portion;

- the first and second extensions that extend outwardly in opposite directions from the respective first and second ends of the U-shaped portion, the first and second extensions being flared, triangular, and/or rounded.

7. An antenna assembly comprising:
 - a plurality of antenna elements including:
 - a UHF antenna element;
 - a VHF antenna element;

- wherein the UHF antenna element and the VHF antenna element are parasitically coupled without a direct ohmic connection between the UHF antenna element and the VHF antenna element;

- wherein the UHF antenna element and the VHF antenna element are parasitically coupled without a direct ohmic connection between the UHF antenna element and the VHF antenna element;

- wherein the UHF antenna element and the VHF antenna element are parasitically coupled without a direct ohmic connection between the UHF antenna element and the VHF antenna element;

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wherein the antenna assembly is configured to be operable for receiving VHF and UHF high definition television signals without using a diplexer and a VHF balun; wherein:

the VHF antenna element comprises a curved portion having first and second ends, and first and second extensions extending in opposite directions from the respective first and second ends of the curved portion;

the UHF antenna element comprises a tapered loop antenna element having a curved portion that overlaps and/or is alongside the curved portion of the VHF antenna element; and

the curved portion of the VHF antenna element has a curvature that substantially matches a curvature of the curved portion of the tapered loop antenna element.

8. An antenna assembly comprising:

a plurality of antenna elements including:
a UHF antenna element;
a VHF antenna element;

wherein the UHF antenna element and the VHF antenna element are parasitically coupled without a direct ohmic connection between the UHF antenna element and the VHF antenna element;

wherein the antenna assembly is configured to be operable for receiving VHF and UHF high definition television signals without using a diplexer and a VHF balun; wherein:

the UHF antenna element comprises first and second tapered loop antenna elements defining a generally figure eight configuration;

the VHF antenna element comprises:
a curved portion including first and second ends and having a curvature that substantially matches a curvature of a curved portion of the first tapered loop antenna element; and

first and second extensions extending in opposite directions from the respective first and second ends of the curved portion of the VHF antenna element.

9. An antenna assembly comprising:

a plurality of antenna elements including:
a UHF antenna element;
a VHF antenna element;

wherein the UHF antenna element and the VHF antenna element are parasitically coupled without a direct ohmic connection between the UHF antenna element and the VHF antenna element;

wherein the antenna assembly is configured to be operable for receiving VHF and UHF high definition television signals without using a diplexer and a VHF balun; wherein:

the UHF antenna element comprises upper and lower tapered loop antenna elements;

the VHF antenna element comprises:
an upper curved portion including first and second ends and having a curvature that substantially matches a curvature of a lower curved portion of the upper tapered loop antenna element;

first and second extensions extending in opposite directions from the respective first and second ends of the upper curved portion of the VHF antenna element;

a lower curved portion including third and fourth ends and having a curvature that substantially

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matches a curvature of an upper curved portion of the lower tapered loop antenna element; and third and fourth extensions extending in opposite directions from the respective third and fourth ends of the lower curved portion of the VHF antenna element.

10. The antenna assembly of claim 9, wherein:

the upper and lower tapered loop antenna elements defining a generally figure eight configuration; and/or the upper and lower curved portions of the VHF antenna element have opposite upwardly facing and downwardly facing U-shaped and/or concave curvatures.

11. An antenna assembly comprising:

a plurality of antenna elements including:

a UHF antenna element;
a VHF antenna element;

wherein the UHF antenna element and the VHF antenna element are parasitically coupled without a direct ohmic connection between the UHF antenna element and the VHF antenna element;

wherein the antenna assembly is configured to be operable for receiving VHF and UHF high definition television signals without using a diplexer and a VHF balun; wherein:

the UHF antenna element comprises an array of tapered loop antenna elements including first and second tapered loop antenna elements defining a first generally figure eight configuration and third and fourth tapered loop antenna elements defining a second generally figure eight configuration;

the VHF antenna element comprises:

a first VHF antenna element including a first curved portion having first and second ends and a curvature that substantially matches a curvature of a curved portion of the first tapered loop antenna element, the first VHF antenna element further including first and second extensions extending in opposite directions from the respective first and second ends of the first curved portion of the first VHF antenna element; and

a second VHF antenna element including a second curved portion having third and fourth ends and a curvature that substantially matches a curvature of a curved portion of the fourth tapered loop antenna element, the second VHF antenna element further including third and fourth extensions extending in opposite directions from the respective third and fourth ends of the second curved portion of the second VHF antenna element.

12. The antenna assembly of claim 11, wherein:

the first and second curved portions of the respective first and second VHF antenna elements have opposite upwardly facing and downwardly facing U-shaped and/or concave curvatures; and/or

the antenna assembly further comprises:

a first reflector behind the first and second tapered loop antenna elements and the first VHF antenna element; and

a second reflector behind the third and fourth tapered loop antenna elements and the second VHF antenna element.

13. An antenna assembly comprising:

a plurality of antenna elements including:

a UHF antenna element;
a VHF antenna element;

wherein the UHF antenna element and the VHF antenna element are parasitically coupled without a direct

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ohmic connection between the UHF antenna element and the VHF antenna element;
 wherein the antenna assembly is configured to be operable for receiving VHF and UHF high definition television signals without using a diplexer and a VHF balun;
 wherein:
 the UHF antenna element includes at least two antenna elements each having a generally annular shape with an opening;
 each of the at least two antenna elements includes generally circular inner and outer perimeter portions such that the antenna element's annular shape and opening are generally circular;
 the antenna assembly further comprises a printed circuit board having fastener holes;
 each of the at least two antenna elements includes fastener holes; and
 the printed circuit board is attached to the at least two antenna elements by mechanical fasteners inserted through the fastener holes of the printed circuit board that are aligned with the fastener holes of the at least two antenna elements.

14. An antenna assembly comprising:
 a plurality of antenna elements including:
 a UHF antenna element;
 a VHF antenna element;
 wherein the UHF antenna element and the VHF antenna element are parasitically coupled without a direct ohmic connection between the UHF antenna element and the VHF antenna element;
 wherein the antenna assembly is configured to be operable for receiving VHF and UHF high definition television signals without using a diplexer and a VHF balun;
 wherein a plane including the VHF antenna element is spaced apart from and separated in the z-direction from a plane including the UHF antenna element by a distance within a range from about 15 millimeters to

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about 45 millimeters, such that the VHF antenna element is not coplanar with the UHF antenna element; and/or wherein:
 the VHF antenna element is configured to be operable for receiving VHF high definition television signals from about 174 megahertz to about 216 megahertz;
 the UHF antenna element is configured for receiving UHF high definition television signals from about 470 megahertz to about 698 megahertz; and
 the antenna assembly is configured for receiving high definition television signals and communicating the received high definition television signals to a television.

15. The antenna assembly of claim 14, wherein:
 the antenna assembly includes a single feed point on the UHF antenna element; and/or
 the antenna assembly includes a 75:300 ohm broadband balun.

16. The antenna assembly of claim 14, wherein:
 the antenna assembly further comprises at least one reflector behind the UHF antenna element and the VHF antenna element; and
 the VHF antenna element is in front of or behind the UHF antenna element.

17. The antenna assembly of claim 14, wherein the antenna assembly does not include a diplexer and a VHF balun.

18. The antenna assembly of claim 14, wherein the VHF antenna element comprises a middle portion and first and second extensions extending outwardly from the middle portion.

19. The antenna assembly of claim 18, wherein the middle portion of the VHF antenna element has a curvature substantially matching a curvature of a curved portion of the UHF antenna element that overlaps and/or is alongside the middle portion of the VHF antenna element.

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