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(54) **USER-WEARABLE ILLUMINATION ASSEMBLY**

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(75) Inventors: **Brian L. Wilt**, Middleton, WI (US);
Patrick Shipley, Sun Prairie, WI (US);
Frederick N. Bushroe, Tucson, AZ (US); **Kevin Garcia**, Tucson, AZ (US)

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(73) Assignee: **Kerr Corporation**, Orange, CA (US)

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Primary Examiner—Sharon E Payne
Assistant Examiner—Sean P Gramling

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Wood, Herron & Evans, LLP

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F21S 8/08 (2006.01)

F21S 4/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **362/103**; 362/105; 362/418;
362/419; 362/570; 362/572

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 362/103,
362/551, 105, 396, 570, 572, 573, 581, 427,
362/253, 106, 418–419, 449, 436, 438; 248/276.1,
248/278.1, 689, 902

See application file for complete search history.

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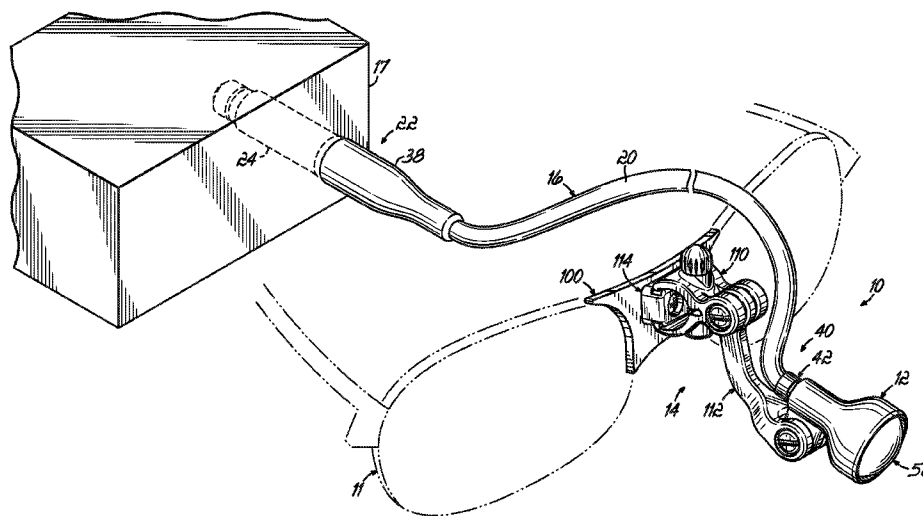
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A user-wearable illumination assembly comprises a mounting fixture that is adapted to be coupled to a user-wearable device, such as eyeglasses, goggles, face masks, helmets, or other devices. A light guide has a first end that can be coupled to a light source, and a second end coupled to a lens housing that is in turn coupled to the mounting fixture. An optical lens in the lens housing cooperates with the light guide to project light from the light source through the lens. In one embodiment, the lens has a substantially spherical surface facing the second end of the light guide and an aspheric surface facing away from the second end of the light guide. In another embodiment, the mounting fixture comprises articulating portions to permit independent or simultaneous adjustment of the lens housing to direct projected light in a desired direction.

13 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets



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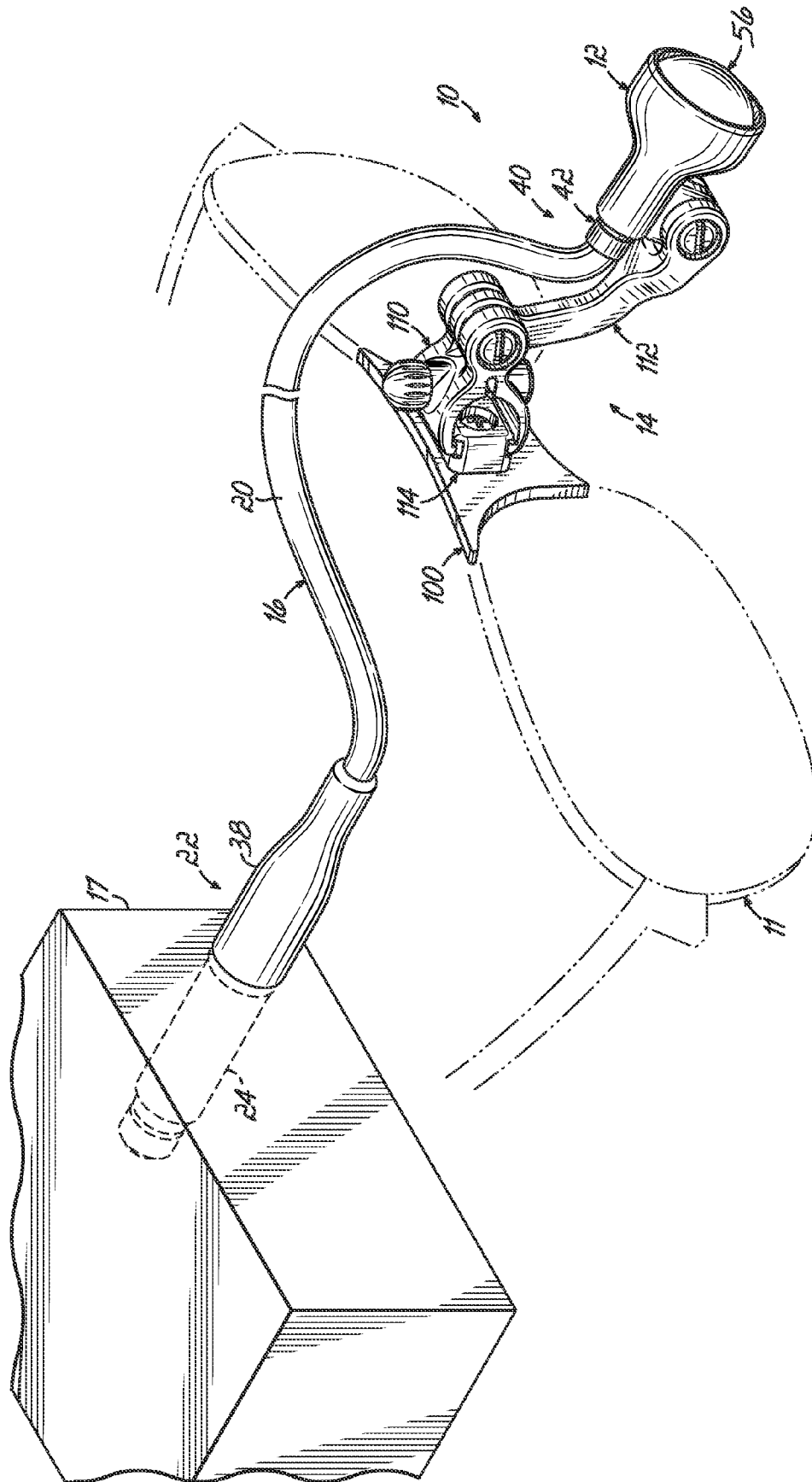


FIG. 1

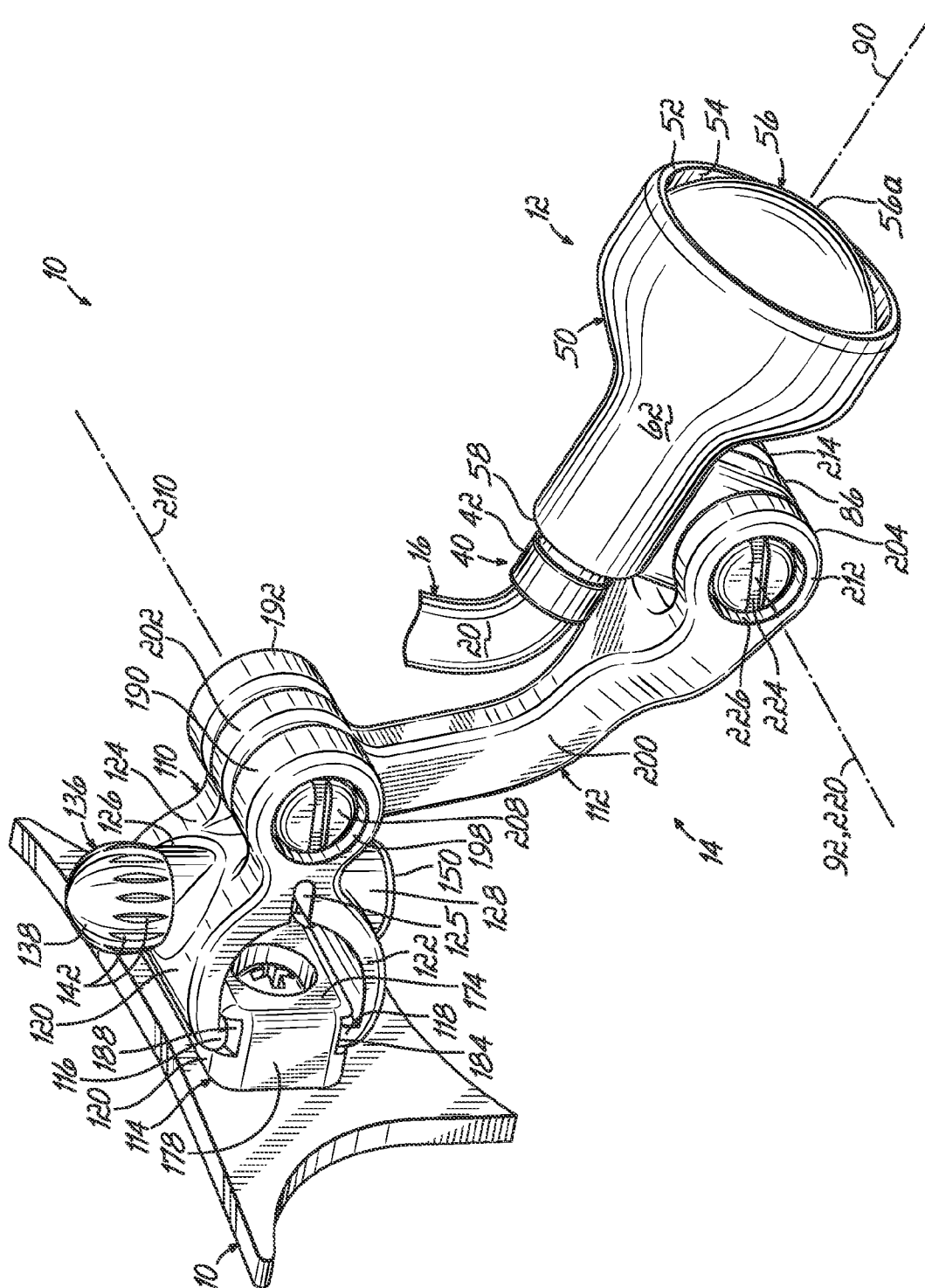


FIG. 2

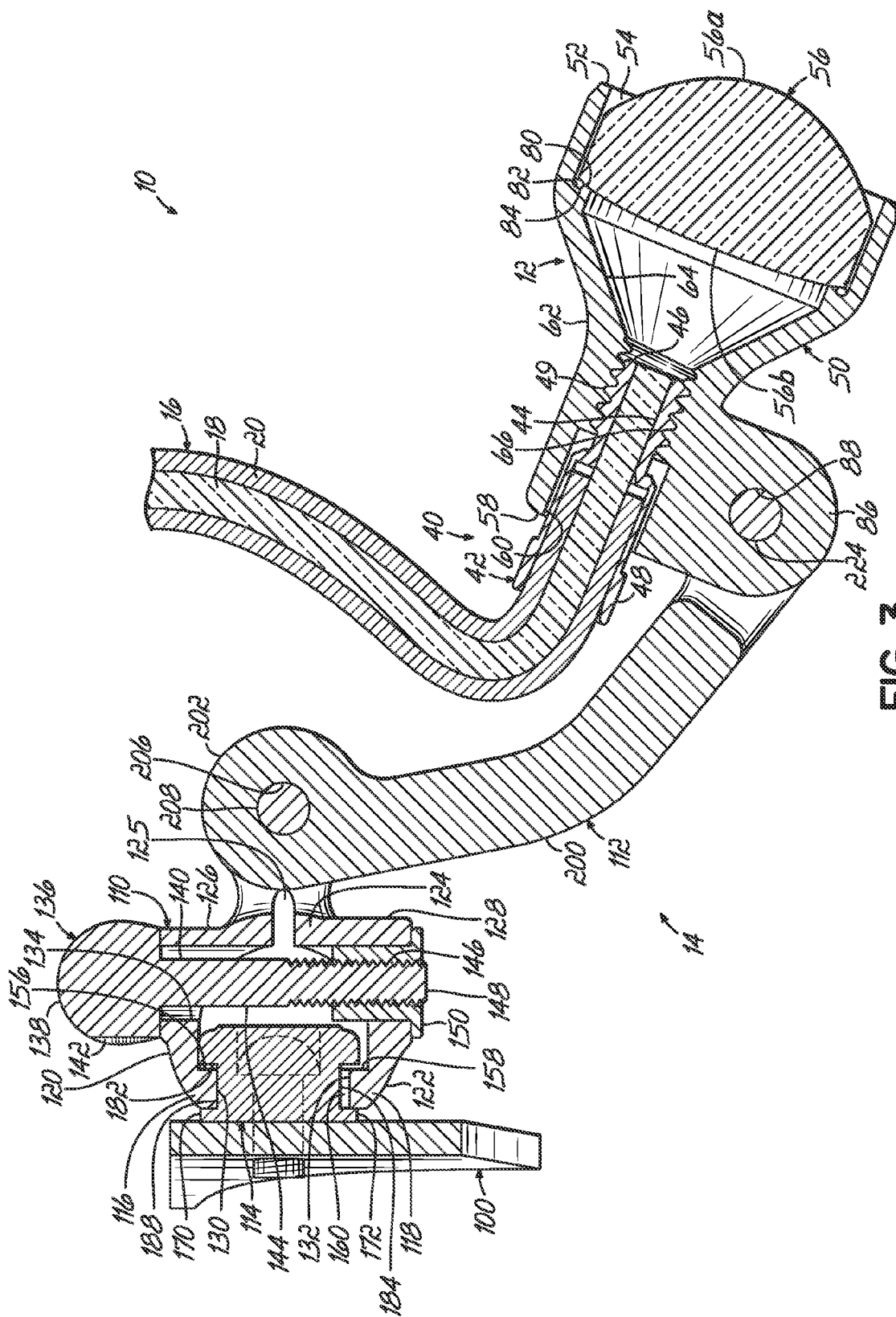


FIG. 3

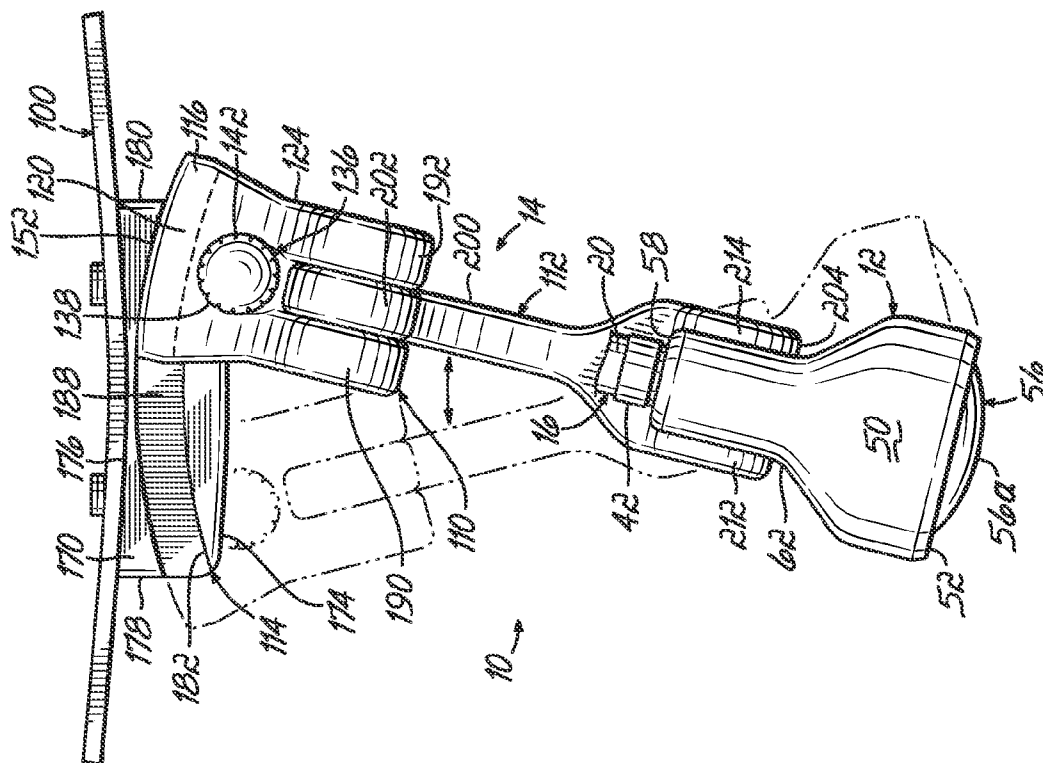


FIG. 13

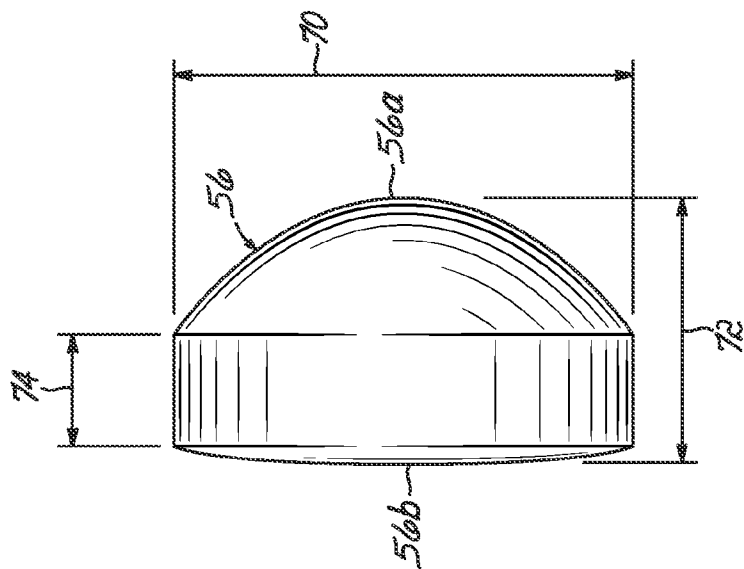


FIG. 4

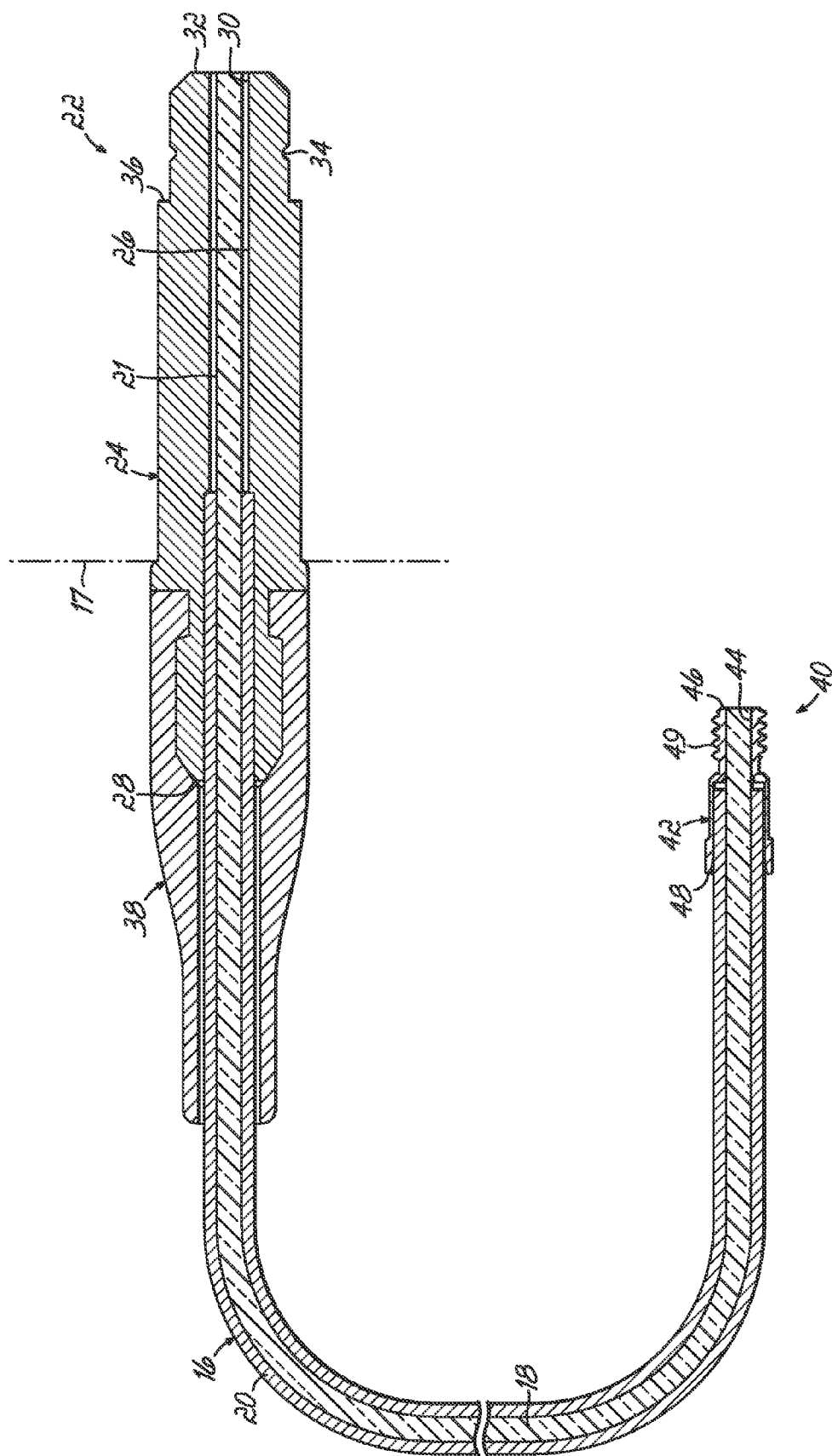


FIG. 5

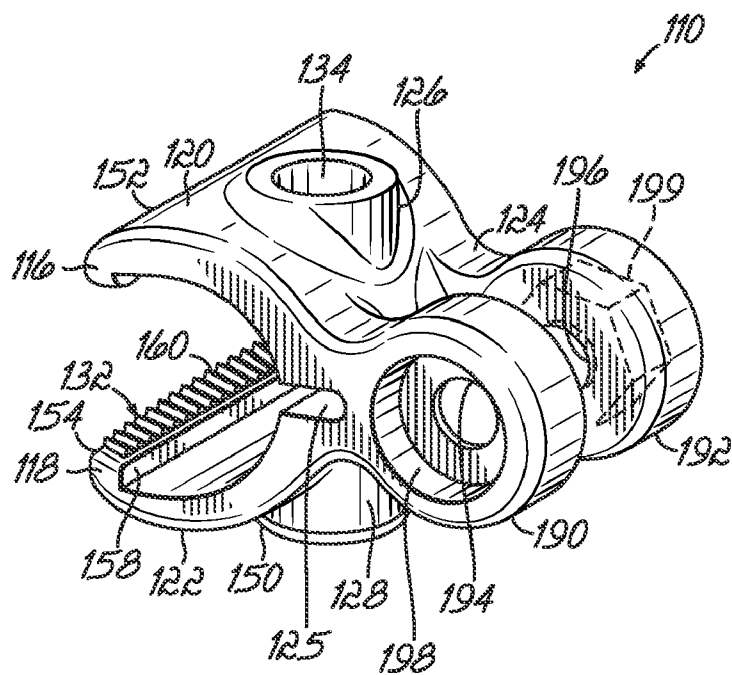


FIG. 6

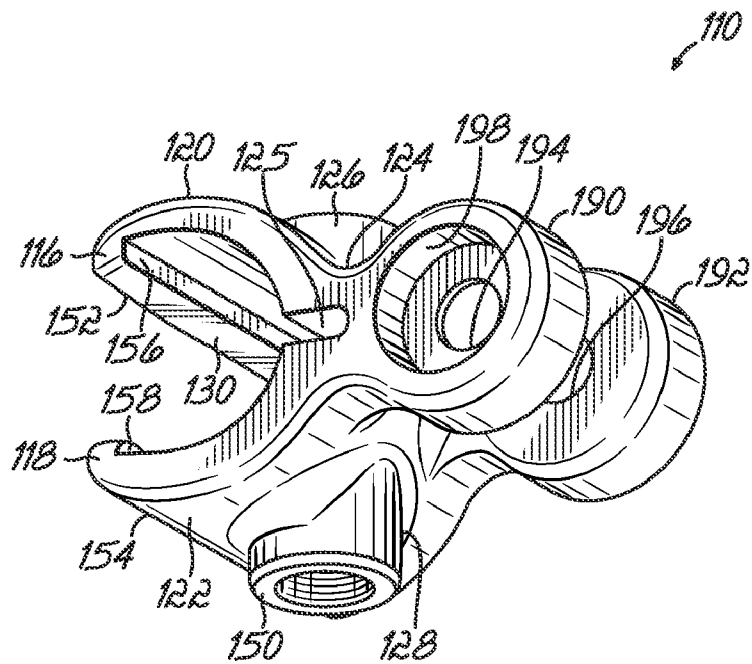


FIG. 7

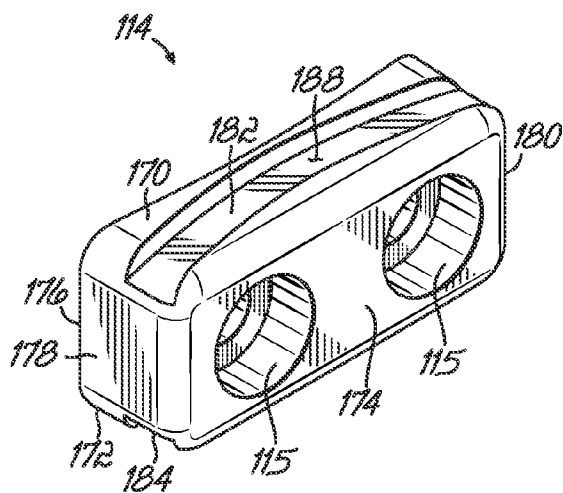


FIG. 8

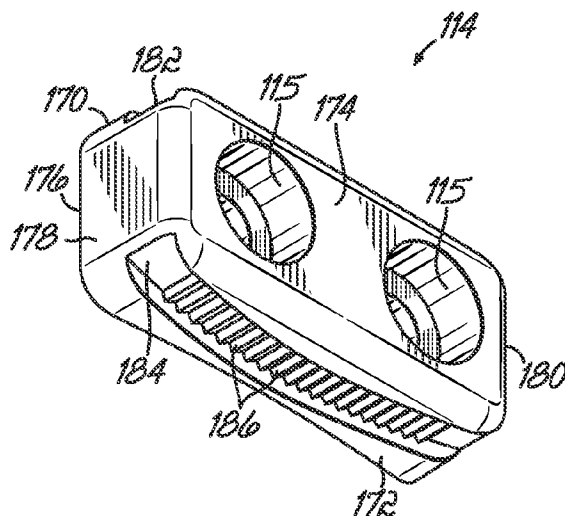


FIG. 9

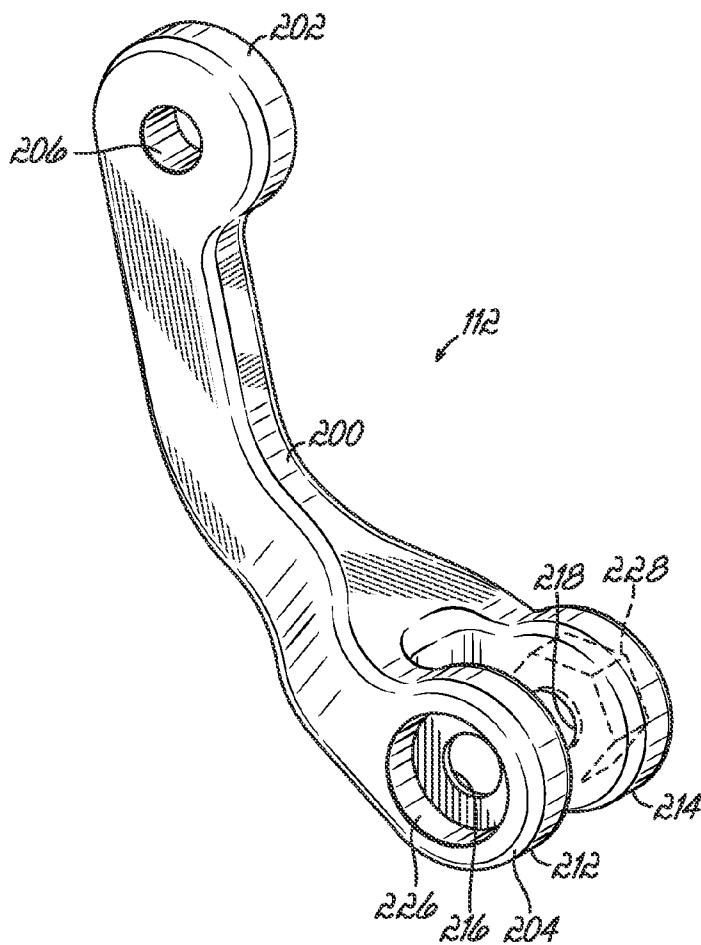
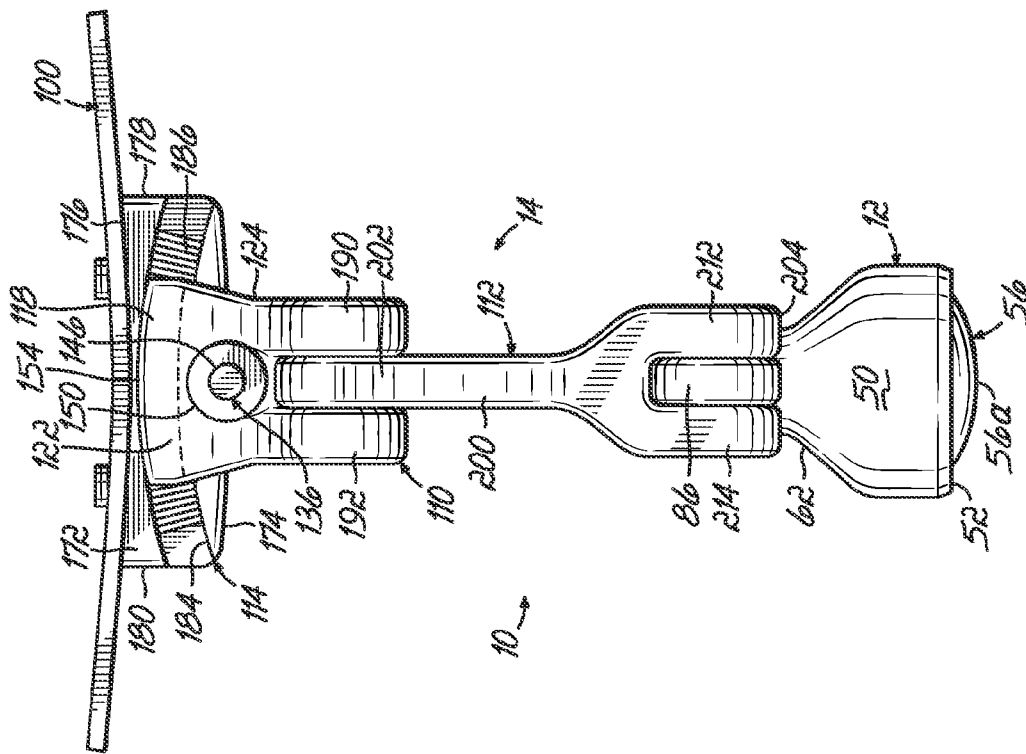
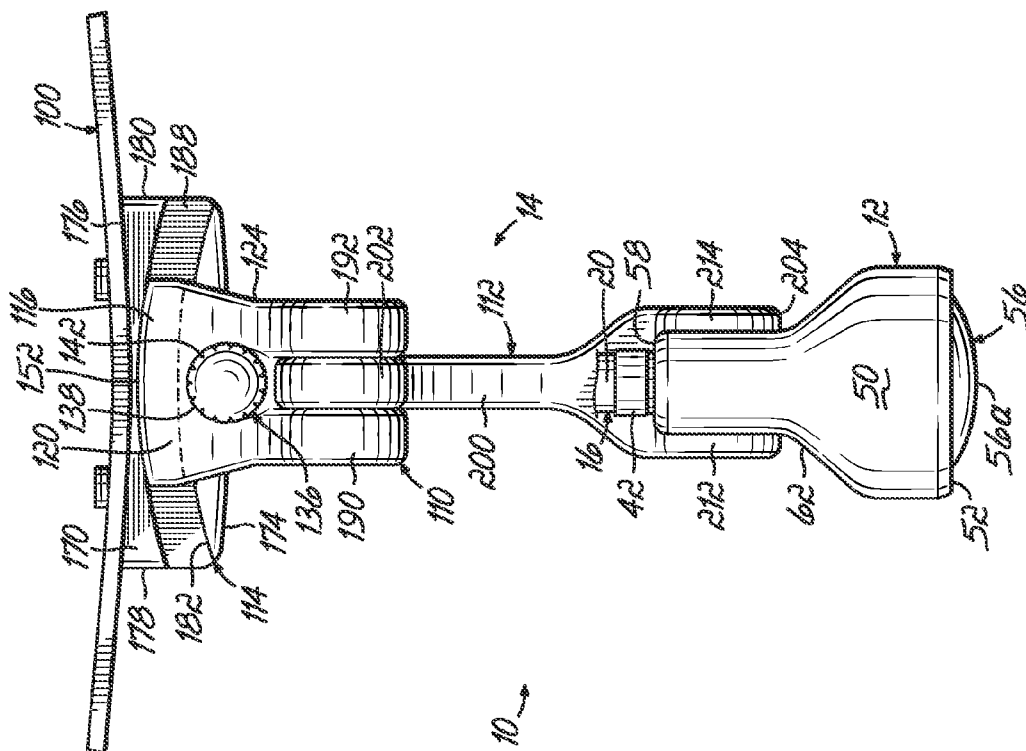


FIG. 10



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110

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USER-WEARABLE ILLUMINATION ASSEMBLY

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Appli-
cation Ser. No. 60/739,870, filed Nov. 23, 2005, incorporated
by reference herein in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates generally to medical and
dental devices, and more particularly to a user-wearable illu-
mination device for medical and dental purposes.

BACKGROUND

User-wearable illumination devices are known in the art
for providing illumination to assist practitioners during the
performance of various medical and/or dental procedures.
For example, U.S. Pat. No. 5,667,291 to Caplan et al. dis-
closes a lightweight, user-wearable illumination assembly
that can be removably attached to user-wearable devices,
such as eyeglasses, face shields, headbands, or various other
devices. U.S. Pat. No. 5,667,291 is commonly owned by the
assignee of the present application, and is incorporated by
reference herein in its entirety. The illumination device dis-
closed therein utilizes a light guide, such as a fiber optic cable,
to provide illumination from a remote illumination source.

While prior illumination devices have been developed to
overcome various drawbacks of previously available lighting
implements, further improvements to such user-wearable
illumination devices is desired to make the devices even more
compact and lightweight, without sacrificing performance.

SUMMARY

In one embodiment, a user-wearable illumination assem-
bly includes a lens housing that can be mounted by a mount-
ing fixture to a user-wearable device, such as a pair of
goggles, a pair of eyeglasses, a face shield, a helmet, or other
devices. A light guide has a first end that can be coupled to a
light source, and a second end that is coupled to the lens
housing. An optical lens disposed within the lens housing has
a substantially spherical surface that faces the second end of
the light guide, and an aspheric surface that faces away from
the second end of the light guide. The lens cooperates with the
light guide to project light from the light source through the
lens to provide a bright illumination of a desired target area.
The illumination assembly is small in size and is lightweight
to provide increased comfort for users, particularly during the
performance of surgical and/or medical procedures.

In another embodiment, the mounting fixture comprises
first, second, and third portions that provide articulation of
the illumination assembly. The first portion is adapted to be
coupled to the user-wearable device. The second portion is
coupled to the first portion for pivotal movement about a first
axis, and the third portion is coupled to the second portion for
pivotal movement about a second axis that is orthogonal to the
first axis. In this arrangement, the illumination assembly may
be easily adjusted to direct light generally along the line-of-
sight of the person wearing the device.

In yet another embodiment, the lens housing is coupled to
the third portion of the mounting fixture for pivotal movement
about a third axis that is substantially parallel to the second
axis. This arrangement permits independent or simultaneous
adjustment of the lens housing about two horizontal axes, as
well as a vertical axis, so that the lens may be precisely
oriented as desired.

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In another embodiment, the lens may be configured to
introduce aberrations into a light spot projected from the lens.
When the light guide comprises a bundle of individual fiber
optic elements, or otherwise has structure at its end, the aber-
rations help the projected light appear substantially uniform
at the desired target.

These and other features, objects and advantages of the
invention will become more readily apparent to those skilled
in the art in view of the following detailed description, taken
in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in
and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodi-
ments of the invention and, together with a general descrip-
tion of the invention given above, and the detailed description
given below, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an exemplary user-wearable
illumination assembly in accordance with the principles of
the present invention.

FIG. 2 is an enlarged perspective view of the user-wearable
illumination assembly of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a side cross-sectional view of the illumination
assembly of FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is a side elevation view of a lens of the illumination
assembly of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view of a light guide of the
illumination assembly of FIG. 1.

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of a clip member of the illu-
mination assembly of FIG. 1.

FIG. 7 is a perspective view similar to FIG. 6, illustrating
the clip member viewed at a lower elevation.

FIG. 8 is a perspective view of a bridge mounting of the
illumination assembly of FIG. 1.

FIG. 9 is a perspective view similar to FIG. 8, illustrating
the bridge mounting viewed at a lower elevation.

FIG. 10 is a perspective view of a yoke of the illumination
assembly of FIG. 1.

FIG. 11 is a top plan view of the illumination assembly of
FIG. 1.

FIG. 12 is a bottom plan view of the illumination assembly
of FIG. 1.

FIG. 13 is a top plan view similar to FIG. 11, illustrating
articulation of the illumination assembly of FIG. 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

FIGS. 1 and 2 depict an exemplary user-wearable illumi-
nation assembly 10 in accordance with the principles of the
present invention. The illumination assembly 10 includes a
lens housing assembly 12 and a mounting fixture 14 for
attaching the lens housing assembly 12 to user-wearable
devices 11, such as eyeglasses, goggles, face shields, masks,
headbands, helmets, or various other user-wearable devices.
In the embodiment shown, a flexible light guide 16 extends
from the lens housing assembly 12 and is coupled to a light
source 17 that is remote from the illumination assembly 10.
Referring to FIG. 5, the light guide 16 shown in the figures,
comprises a plurality of individual fiber optic strands (de-
picted in FIG. 5 as a single bundle 18) that are aligned and
bundled to form a fiber optic bundle, as known in the art.
Alternatively, the light guide 16 may comprise a liquid filled
member, a single fiber formed from plastic, glass or other
materials, photonic crystals, or various other materials suit-
able for conducting the light from the light source along a
desired path. The light guide 16 has a protective outer cover

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20 along its length, comprising a PVC layer and an optional metal monocoil wound around the bundle 18 of fiber optic strands. In one embodiment, the numerical aperture of the fibers is 0.66 and the fiber strands are approximately 50 microns in diameter. The optical diameter of the fiber optic cable is approximately 1.6 millimeters in diameter, which is smaller than fiber optic cables used in conventional illumination assemblies. In another embodiment, the numerical aperture of the fibers may be less than 0.55, such as for example 0.55 or less.

As best depicted in FIGS. 1 and 5, a first end 22 of the light guide 16 is provided with a connector 24 for coupling the light guide 16 to the light source 17. The light source 17 may be a commercially available fiber optic illuminator having, for example, a halogen, xenon, LED, or short-arc metal halide lamp. Short-arc metal halide illuminators are available, for example, from Welch Allyn Medical Products of Skaneateles Falls, N.Y. In the embodiment shown, the connector 24 is a standard ACMI connector having a central channel 26 there-through, although various other types of connectors may alternatively be used to couple the light guide 16 to a light source. A portion of the protective cover 20 over the fiber optic bundle 18 is stripped away and the first end 21 of the bundle 18 is inserted into a first end 28 of the connector 24 such that only the individual strands extend through the channel 26 toward an aperture 30 at the second end 32 of the connector 24. The connector 24 may be provided with various surface features, such as grooves 34 and/or shoulders 36, to facilitate connecting the first end 22 of the light guide 16 to the light source 17.

An elongate, flexible boot 38 is coupled to the first end 28 of the connector 24 and extends over a portion of the light guide 16 to provide strain relief. In one embodiment, the boot 38 is formed from silicone. It will be recognized, however, that various other elastomeric materials may be used to form the boot 38. Alternatively, the boot 38 may be formed from various other materials suitable for providing strain relief to the light guide 16.

With continued reference to FIGS. 1 and 5, the second end 40 of the light guide 16 is fitted with a threaded ferrule 42 to facilitate coupling the second end 40 to the lens housing assembly 12. In the embodiment shown, the protective cover 20 over the bundle 18 of fiber optic strands is stripped a distance from the second end 40 of the light guide 16 and the exposed strands are inserted through the ferrule 42 to extend toward an aperture 44 in the first end 46 of the ferrule 42. The second end 48 of the ferrule 42 extends over a portion of the bundle 18 and protective cover 20 and is secured to the light guide 16 with adhesive or by other methods. External threads 49 are formed into the first end 46 of the ferrule 42. In the embodiment shown, the ferrule 42 is formed from aluminum and is black anodized. It will be recognized that the ferrule 42 may alternatively be formed from various other materials.

Referring now to FIGS. 2 and 3, the lens housing assembly 12 includes a lens housing 50 having a first end 52 with generally circular first aperture 54 for receiving a lens 56, and an oppositely disposed second end 58 with a smaller, generally circular second aperture 60 for receiving the second end 40 of the light guide 16. An intermediate portion 62 of the lens housing 50 is tapered to transition between the smaller, second end 58 and the larger, first end 52 of the housing 50. A passage through the lens housing 50 connects the first and second apertures 54, 60. A generally frustoconical surface 64 is defined in the interior of the housing 50 along the tapered intermediate portion 62. The frustoconical surface 64 may have a rough surface finish to facilitate scattering light provided through the second end 40 of the light guide 16. Internal

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threads 66 provided inside the lens housing 50, adjacent the second aperture 60, are configured to correspond to the external threads 49 formed on the ferrule 42 at the second end 40 of the light guide 16. Accordingly, the second end 40 of the light guide 16 may be threaded into the lens housing 50 to form a secure connection therebetween.

The first aperture 54 in the first end 52 of the lens housing 50 is sized to receive an optical lens 56 which collects light from the light guide 16 and projects the light to a location forward of the first end 52 of the lens housing 50. In the embodiment shown, the optical lens 56 is an aspheric lens as depicted in FIG. 4. The lens 56 has a major diameter 70 of approximately 12.7 millimeters and a center thickness 72 of approximately 7.5 millimeters. The edge thickness 74 of the lens 56 is approximately 3.1 millimeters. The aspheric surface 56a has a clear lens aperture of approximately 11.8 millimeters and a surface profile defined by the conic sag equation:

$$z(\rho) = \frac{\rho^2/R}{1 + \sqrt{1 - (1 + K)(\rho/R)^2}}$$

wherein:

R=6.10728 (convex radius of curvature, in millimeters)

K=-0.622845 (conic constant)

ρ=the radial position from the optical axis

The opposite surface 56b is spherical and has a clear lens aperture of about 11.6 millimeters and a radius of curvature of about 29.8 millimeters. The lens 56 has an effective focal length of approximately 10.4 millimeters and a back focal length of approximately 6 millimeters and is molded from Schott B270 or equivalent glass having an index of refraction (n_d) of about 1.52 and an abbe dispersion number (v_d) of about 58.57. The surfaces of the lens 56 may be coated with an anti-reflective coating.

In an exemplary embodiment, the aspheric configuration of the lens 56 is designed to introduce aberrations into the illumination assembly 10 so that light emanating from the individual fiber optic strands and projected through the lens 56 appears substantially uniform at an intended target distance. For example, the introduced aberrations help to reduce or eliminate visual distinction of individual points of light at the target, resulting from the individual fibers, and to reduce or eliminate any gaps in the individual points of light that may result from the bundling of the fibers or the presence of a broken fiber. The aspheric configuration of the lens 56 also helps to provide a relatively high numerical aperture in a small package size. In one embodiment, the numerical aperture of the lens 56 is selected to substantially correspond to the numerical aperture of the light guide 16. When used with a light source having a lamp that has a numerical aperture substantially corresponding to the numerical apertures of the light guide 16 and lens 56, the light projected from the illumination assembly 10 can be maximized.

Referring to FIG. 3, the lens 56 is mounted into the first aperture 54 of the lens housing 50 and is positioned within the first aperture 54 by an annular shoulder 80 formed on the inside surface of the lens housing 50. An annular groove 82 is provided on the shoulder 80 and is sized to receive a sealing member, such as an O-ring 84. The lens 56 is tightly fitted within the first aperture 54 and compresses the O-ring 84 to thereby seal the interior of the lens housing 50 against infiltration by moisture or gases which may fog or otherwise degrade the optical performance of the illumination assembly

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10. In one embodiment, the O-ring **84** is formed from silicone. Alternatively, O-ring **84** may be formed from various other polymeric materials, or from various other materials suitable for sealing between the lens **56** and the lens housing **50**. The lens **56** may be secured in position using adhesives, or it may be frictionally held or snap-fit in place by appropriately sizing the lens **56** and the first aperture **54**.

With the lens **56** in place in the first aperture **54**, the distance between the lens **56** and the second end **40** of the light guide **16** may be adjusted by manipulating the threaded first end **46** of the ferrule **42** into or out of the second aperture **60** of the lens housing **50**. Once the desired spacing is obtained, the relative positions of the second end **40** of the light guide **16** and the lens **56** may be fixed by securing the second end **40** of the light guide **16** to the second end **58** of the lens housing **50** using adhesives or by other suitable methods.

With continued reference to FIGS. **2** and **3**, a radially outwardly extending tongue **86** projects from the second end **58** of the lens housing **50** to facilitate coupling the lens housing **50** with the mounting fixture **14**. A bore **88** is formed through the tongue **86** in a direction perpendicular to the central axis **90** through the lens housing **50** and is sized to receive a fastener therethrough, such that the lens housing **50** may be pivoted about an axis **92** extending along the bore **88**, as will be described in more detail below. In the embodiment shown, the lens housing **50** is formed from a thermoplastic resin, such as VALOX, available from the General Electric Company, New York, N.Y. It will be appreciated, however, that various other polymeric materials may be used to form the lens housing **50**, and that the lens housing **50** may alternatively be formed from metal, ceramic, or various other materials suitable for forming the lens housing **50**.

Referring again to FIGS. **1** and **2**, the illumination assembly **10** further includes a fixture **14** for mounting the lens housing assembly **12** to a user-wearable device, such as the bridge **100** of a pair of eyeglasses. In the embodiment shown, the fixture **14** includes a clip member **110** for securing the assembly to a user-wearable device, and yoke **112** extending from the clip member **110** for coupling to the lens housing assembly **12**. The clip member **110** may be mounted directly to the user-wearable device, or it may be mounted to an adapter configured to be secured to the user-wearable device. In the embodiment shown, the fixture **14** includes an adapter in the form of a bridge mount **114** that can be attached to the bridge **100** of a pair of eyeglasses and is configured to receive the clip member **110**.

With reference to FIGS. **2**, **6**, and **7**, the clip member **110** comprises spaced-apart, confronting, upper and lower jaws **116**, **118** that may be selectively adjusted toward or away from one another to thereby clamp onto the bridge mount **114**. It will be recognized that the upper and lower jaws **116**, **118** may alternatively be configured to clamp directly to the user-wearable device. The upper and lower jaws **116**, **118** are disposed on the distal ends of respective upper and lower arcuately-shaped clamp arms **120**, **122**, each of which extends from a central portion **124** of the clip member **110**. Each jaw **116**, **118** projects inwardly from its respective clamp arm **120**, **122**, in a direction toward the oppositely disposed jaw. A slot **125** is formed through the central portion **124** of the clip member **110**, at the apex of the upper and lower clamp arms **120**, **122**, to facilitate flexure of the upper and lower jaws **116**, **118** toward and away from one another.

A generally cylindrically-shaped boss **126**, **128** extends from each of the upper and lower clamp arms **120**, **122**, in a direction generally away from the clamping surface **130**, **132** of its associated jaw **116**, **118**. An aperture **134** formed through the boss **126** on the upper clamp arm **120** accommo-

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dates a thumbscrew **136** that extends through the aperture **134** and across the space between the upper and lower clamp arms **120**, **122**. As best depicted in FIGS. **2** and **3**, the thumbscrew **136** has an enlarged head **138** at a first end **140**. Knurls **142** are formed into the head **138** to facilitate manipulation of the thumbscrew **136** by the fingers of a user without the need for any tools. An elongate shank **144** extends from the head **138**, and external threads **146** are formed into the shank **144** at the second end **148** of the thumbscrew **136**. A threaded insert **150**, best seen in FIGS. **3** and **7**, is provided in the boss **128** on the lower clamp arm **122**. The insert **150** has internal threads corresponding to the external threads **146** formed on the thumbscrew **136**. By manipulating the thumbscrew **136**, a user can thread the shank **144** into and out of the threaded insert **150** and thereby adjust the relative positions of the upper and lower jaws **116**, **118**.

As best depicted in FIG. **11-13**, the distal edge surfaces **152**, **154** of the upper and lower jaws **116**, **118** are curved, with the radii of curvature extending in a direction opposite the open end of the clamping arms **120**, **122**. The side surfaces **156**, **158** of each jaw **116**, **118**, opposite the respective distal edge surfaces **152**, **154**, are substantially straight. The sides surfaces **156**, **158** may alternatively incorporate a small amount of taper to facilitate manufacture of the clip member **110** in a molding process. The upper jaw **116** has a generally flat clamping surface **130** and the clamping surface **132** of the lower jaw **118** is provided with a plurality of V-groove-shaped teeth **160**.

In one embodiment, clip member **110** is formed from DELRIN, although it will be recognized that various other polymeric materials may be used. Alternatively, clip member **110** may be formed from various other materials suitable for attaching lens housing assembly **12** to a user-wearable device.

With reference to FIGS. **8**, **9**, **11**, and **12**, the bridge mount **114** of the exemplary embodiment has a generally rectangular box shape, with oppositely disposed upper and lower surfaces **170**, **172**, oppositely disposed front and back surfaces **174**, **176**, and oppositely disposed ends **178**, **180**. In one embodiment, bridge member **114** is formed from ZYTEL, although it will be recognized that various other polymeric materials may be used. Alternatively, bridge member **114** may be formed from various other materials suitable as an adapter for coupling clip member **110** to a user-wearable device. Bridge member **114** may include counter-bored through-holes **115** to facilitate mounting the bridge member **114** to a user-wearable device.

In the embodiment shown, upper and lower slots **182**, **184** are formed into the upper and lower surfaces **170**, **172** of the bridge mount **114**, respectively, and are sized to receive a corresponding one of the upper and lower jaws **116**, **118** of the clip member **110**. As best depicted in FIG. **9**, the lower slot **184** includes V-shaped teeth **186** configured to mate with the teeth **160** formed on the lower jaw **118** of the clip member **110**. The upper slot **182** has a generally flat surface **188** for engaging the flat clamping surface **130** of the upper jaw **116**. The upper and lower slots **182**, **184** are formed with generally arcuate shapes that correspond to the curved distal end surfaces **152**, **154** of the upper and lower jaws **116**, **118**. When the upper and lower jaws **116**, **118** are seated within the respective slots **182**, **184** of the bridge mount **114**, with the curved surfaces **152**, **154** of the jaws **116**, **118** engaging the arcuate sidewalls of the slots **182**, **184**, angular adjustment of the illumination assembly **10** about a substantially vertical axis can be accomplished by sliding the jaws **116**, **118** laterally within the respective slots **182**, **184**, as depicted in FIG. **13**.

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The teeth **160** of the lower jaw **118** and the teeth **186** formed in the lower slot **184** extend along radial lines emanating from centers that correspond to the centers of curvature of the distal end surfaces **152**, **154** of the jaws **116**, **118** so that the teeth will engage when the jaws **116**, **118** are laterally adjusted within the slots **182**, **184**. When a desired position of the illumination assembly **10** is attained, the jaws **116**, **118** may be clamped tightly against the bridge mount **114** using the thumbscrew **136** to hold the illumination assembly **10** in the desired position.

Referring again to FIGS. **6** and **7**, the clip member **110** further includes first and second spaced-apart clevis arms **190**, **192** extending from the central portion **124** and in a direction opposite the upper and lower clamp arms **120**, **122**. The clevis arms **190**, **192** are oriented generally 90 degrees from the upper and lower clamp arms **120**, **122**. Respective bores **194**, **196** formed through the first and second clevis arms **194**, **196** are sized to receive a fastener therethrough. Corresponding recesses **198**, **199** provided in the outwardly facing surfaces of the clevis arms **192**, **194** are shaped to receive a head of a fastener and/or a hex-shaped nut therein.

Referring now to FIGS. **2**, **3**, and **10**, the mounting fixture **14** further includes a yoke **112** pivotally coupled to the clip member **110** and to the lens housing **50**. The yoke may be formed from ZYTEL, various other polymeric materials, or other materials suitable for supporting the lens housing assembly **12** and coupling the lens housing assembly **12** to the clip member **110**. In the embodiment shown, the yoke **112** comprises a bent, elongate yoke arm **200** having first and second ends **202**, **204**. The first end **202** of the yoke arm **200** is configured to be received between the first and second clevis arms **190**, **192** of the clip member **110** and has a bore **206** formed therethrough. The yoke **112** is secured to the clip member **110** by aligning the bore **206** through the first end **202** of the yoke arm **200** with the bores **194**, **196** through the first and second clevis arms **190**, **192** and inserting a fastener, such as a screw or bolt **208**, through the aligned bores **194**, **196**, **206**. Coupled in this fashion, the yoke **112** may be pivoted about an axis **210** extending generally along the centerline of the aligned bores **194**, **196**, **206**. When the illumination assembly **10** is attached to a user-wearable device **11**, the axis **210** will be substantially horizontal. The first end **202** of the yoke arm **200** may be tightly clamped between the first and second clevis arms **190**, **192**, by threading screw **208** into an associated nut or other mounting hardware, to fictionally engage the yoke **112** and thereby maintain a desired angular orientation of the yoke **112** relative to the clip member **110**.

The second end **204** of the yoke arm **200** comprises first and second spaced-apart clevis arms **212**, **214**. Respective bores **216**, **218** formed through the first and second clevis arms **212**, **214** are aligned along an axis **220** that is substantially parallel to the axis **210** through the first and second clevis arms **192**, **194** of the clip member **110**, such that the axis **220** through the yoke clevis arms **212**, **214** is substantially horizontal when the mounting fixture **14** is secured to the user-wearable device **11**. The lens housing **50** is pivotally coupled to the second end **204** of the yoke arm **200** by inserting the tongue **86** of the lens housing **50** between the first and second clevis arms **212**, **214** of the yoke **112**, aligning the respective bores **88**, **216**, **218**, and inserting a fastener **224** through the aligned bores **88**, **216**, **218**. The fastener **224** may be threadably, adjustably secured to the yoke **112** using a nut or other appropriate hardware. In the embodiment shown, recesses **226**, **228** are formed in the outwardly facing portions of the first and second clevis arms **212**, **214** and are sized and shaped to receive the head of the fastener and/or a corresponding nut. Coupled in this fashion, the lens housing **50** may be pivoted

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about the axis **220** extending through the respective bores **88**, **216**, **218** of the housing tongue **86** and the first and second clevis arms **212**, **214**. When the lens housing **50** has been adjusted to a desired orientation, the fastener **224** may be tightened to clamp the housing tongue **86** between the first and second clevis arms **212**, **214**.

An illumination assembly **10** in accordance with the principles of the present invention, such as that described above, provides a convenient, lightweight and easily adjustable source of illumination that may be removably secured to a user-wearable device. The illumination assembly **10** provides bright illumination of a desired target area from a lens housing **50** that is substantially smaller than those provided on conventionally available illumination devices. The small size and light weight of the illumination assembly **10** ensures increased comfort for users, particularly during the performance of surgical and/or medical procedures where it may be necessary to wear the illumination assembly **10** for long periods of time.

In use, the illumination assembly **10** is easily adjusted to direct light generally along the line-of-sight of the person wearing the device. In particular, the lens housing **50** may be selectively adjusted to align the light projecting from the lens housing **50** in a direction that is coaxial with the user's line-of-sight. This eliminates shadows that would otherwise be created when the projected light is not coaxial with the user's line-of-sight. The lens housing **50** may also be simultaneously or independently pivotally adjusted about two horizontal axes **210**, **220**, as well as about a vertical axis, such that the position and angle of the lens **56** may be precisely oriented as desired by a particular user. Because the light source is located remote from the illumination assembly **10**, there is no additional weight that needs to be supported by the user, and heat is kept away from the users head and face.

While the present invention has been illustrated by the description of one or more embodiments thereof, and while the embodiments have been described in considerable detail, they are not intended to restrict or in any way limit the scope of the appended claims to such detail. Additional advantages and modifications will readily appear to those skilled in the art. The invention in its broader aspects is therefore not limited to the specific details, representative apparatus and method and illustrative examples shown and described. Accordingly, departures may be made from such details without departing from the general inventive concept.

What is claimed is:

1. A mounting fixture for supporting a light on a user-wearable device, comprising:

a first portion adapted to be coupled to the user-wearable device;

a second portion coupled to said first portion for pivotal movement relative to said first portion about a first axis; and

a third portion coupled to said second portion for pivotal movement relative to said second portion about a second axis that is orthogonal to said first axis;

wherein said second portion comprises first and second opposing jaws arranged to clamp said first portion therebetween; and

wherein said first portion comprises first and second oppositely disposed slots, each of said first slot and said second slot configured to receive a respective one of said first and second jaws; wherein said first and second jaws and said first and second slots have complementary interengaging arcuate shapes, whereby the light is

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adjustable about a substantially vertical axis by sliding said first and second jaws along said respective first and second slots.

2. The mounting fixture of claim 1, wherein said first and second jaws are movable toward one another by flexural bending of said second portion.

3. The mounting fixture of claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of first teeth on said first jaw;

a plurality of second teeth on said first slot, said second teeth complementary to said first teeth to intermesh with said first teeth when said first jaw is received in said first slot.

4. The mounting fixture of claim 3, wherein said second jaw and said second slot have substantially flat mating surfaces.

5. The mounting fixture of claim 3, wherein said first and second teeth are aligned along directions emanating radially from respective centers of curvature of said arcuate shaped first jaw and said arcuate shaped first slot.

6. A user-wearable illumination assembly, comprising:

a mounting fixture adapted to be coupled to a user-wearable device, said mounting fixture including:

a first portion adapted to be coupled to the user-wearable device,

a second portion coupled to said first portion for pivotal movement relative to said first portion about a first axis, and

a third portion coupled to said second portion for pivotal movement relative to said second portion about a second axis that is orthogonal to said first axis;

a lens housing coupled to said mounting fixture;

a light guide having a first end adapted to be coupled to a light source, and having a second end coupled to said lens housing; and

an optical lens disposed in said lens housing and cooperating with said light guide to project light from the light source through said lens, said lens having a substantially spherical surface facing said second end of said light guide, and an aspheric surface facing away from said second end of said light guide;

wherein said second portion comprises first and second opposing jaws; and

said first portion comprises first and second oppositely disposed slots, each of said first slot and said second slot configured to receive a respective one of said first and second jaws.

7. The illumination assembly of claim 6, wherein said first and second jaws and said first and second slots have complementary interengaging arcuate shapes, whereby said lens housing is adjustable about a substantially vertical axis by sliding said first and second jaws along said respective first and second slots.

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8. The illumination assembly of claim 6, wherein said first and second jaws are movable toward one another by flexural bending of said second portion.

9. The illumination assembly of claim 6, further comprising:

a plurality of first teeth on said first jaw;

a plurality of second teeth on said first slot, said second teeth complementary to said first teeth to intermesh with said first teeth when said first jaw is received in said first slot.

10. The illumination assembly of claim 9, wherein said second jaw and said second slot have substantially flat mating surfaces.

11. The illumination assembly of claim 9, wherein said first and second teeth are aligned along directions emanating radially from respective centers of curvature of said arcuate shaped first jaw and said arcuate shaped first slot.

12. A user-wearable illumination assembly, comprising:

a mounting fixture couplable to a user-wearable device, said mounting fixture comprising:

a first portion adapted to be coupled to a user-wearable device,

a second portion coupled to said first portion for pivotal movement relative to said first portion about a first axis, and

a third portion coupled to said second portion for pivotal movement relative to said second portion about a second axis that is orthogonal to said first axis;

a lens housing coupled to said third portion of said mounting fixture;

a light guide having a first end adapted to be coupled to a light source, and having a second end coupled to said lens housing; and

an optical lens disposed in said lens housing and cooperating with said light guide to project light from the light source through said lens;

wherein said first and second axes are spaced from one another;

wherein said first axis is substantially vertical when said mounting fixture is coupled to the user-wearable device; and

wherein said lens housing is coupled to said third portion for pivotal movement relative to said third portion about a third axis that is substantially parallel to said second axis such that an angular orientation of a central axis of said lens housing about said third axis is selectively adjustable.

13. The illumination assembly of claim 12, wherein said optical lens is configured to project a light spot through said optical lens such that the light spot is defocused and has aberrations introduced at a target distance.

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