

Jeffrey T. Holman (USB 10942)  
175 S Main Street, Suite 850  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111  
Telephone: (801) 746-5560  
Facsimile: (801) 746-7451  
Email: [jeff@techpatents.com](mailto:jeff@techpatents.com)

Attorney for Plaintiff

---

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH, CENTRAL DIVISION**

---

SOLAR AGENT LLC, a Utah limited liability  
company,

Plaintiff

v.

SILICON SOLAR, INC., a New York  
corporation, and DOES 1-5,

Defendants

**COMPLAINT FOR  
PATENT INFRINGEMENT  
AND  
JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

Judge \_\_\_\_\_

Plaintiff, Solar Agent LLC (“Plaintiff” and/or “Solar Agent”), complains against Defendants Silicon Solar, Inc. (“Defendant” and/or “Silicon Solar”), and presently unknown parties (“Defendant” and/or “Does 1-5”) whose identities will be revealed during discovery, for judgment and other relief and alleges:

**PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff Solar Agent is a limited liability company organized under the laws of the state of Utah with a principal place of business at 175 S Main Street, Suite 850, Salt Lake City, Utah.

2. Defendant Silicon Solar is a corporation of New York having a principal place of business at 1917 State HWY 7, Bainbridge, New York.
3. Defendants Does 1-5 are persons or entities currently unknown, including without limitation, undisclosed persons or entities associated with Defendant Silicon Solar.
4. Defendant Silicon Solar and Defendants Does 1-5 are sometimes referred to herein each individually as a “Defendant” and sometimes collectively as “Defendants.”

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5. This civil action for patent infringement arises under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 1 et seq., in particular §§ 271 and 281-285.
6. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338 because this case arises under the patent laws of the United States.
7. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants based on the regular and ongoing business solicitations by Defendant Silicon Solar in this state as demonstrated by the dealership relationships that Defendant Silicon Solar maintains in this state for the advertisement and sale of a product that literally infringes the patent rights of Plaintiff Solar Agent.
8. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400(b) because Defendant Silicon Solar has offered infringing products for sale in this judicial district.

### **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

9. Plaintiff Solar Agent is the assignee and owner of U.S. Patent 7,585,085 (the ‘085 Patent), which was issued on September 8, 2009. The ‘085 Patent describes and claims inventions for solar lighting technology. A copy of the ‘085 Patent is attached as Exhibit A.
10. Claims 13-15 of the ‘085 Patent are generally directed to a flyer box with a solar cell and a light source.

11. Defendant Silicon Solar manufactures and/or sells solar lighting products. More specifically, Defendant Silicon Solar offers a product designated as the “SunBox,” which is advertised as a solar brochure box light. The SunBox is a flyer box with a solar cell and a light source. A copy of a website advertisement and purchase page for the SunBox is attached as Exhibit B.

12. Upon information and belief, Defendant Silicon Solar has offered to sell, offered for sale, and/or sold and continues to offer to sell, offer for sale, and/or sell solar lighting products, including the SunBox, within this judicial district through a dealer located in the Woods Cross, Utah. This conduct of Defendant Silicon Solar constitutes infringement of one or more claims of the ‘085 Patent.

13. On or about October 2, 2009, Plaintiff Solar Agent’s counsel, Jeff Holman, sent a cease-and-desist letter to Defendant Silicon Solar via Certified Mail to advise Defendant Silicon Solar of the ‘085 Patent. Copies of the letter were sent to the Corporate Headquarters of Defendant Silicon Solar and to their registered agent. An unsigned copy of the cease-and-desist letter is attached as Exhibit C.

14. Upon information and belief, Defendant Silicon Solar has had and continues to have actual notice of the existence of the ‘085 Patent. Despite such notice, Defendant Silicon Solar continues to willfully, wantonly, and deliberately engage in acts of infringement of the ‘085 Patent.

**FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Direct Infringement of the ‘085 Patent)**

15. Plaintiff Solar Agent incorporates by reference the preceding allegations of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

16. Defendant Silicon Solar has made, used, offered to sell, offered for sale, and/or sold within the United States and/or imported into the United States products falling within the scope falling within the scope of one or more claims of the '085 Patent.

17. Defendant Silicon Solar is making, using, offering to sell, offering for sale, and/or selling within the United States, and/or importing into the United States products falling within the scope of one or more claims of the '085 Patent.

18. The abovementioned acts of Defendant Silicon Solar constitute direct infringement of one or more of the claims of the '085 Patent.

19. Defendant Silicon Solar has had and continues to have notice of the existence of the '085 Patent and continues to willfully, wantonly, and deliberately engage in acts of direct infringement of the '085 Patent.

20. Defendant Silicon Solar's infringing conduct has caused and continues to cause injury to Plaintiff Solar Agent.

21. Defendant Silicon Solar's infringing conduct, if permitted to continue, will cause irreparable harm to Plaintiff Solar Agent.

**SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Willful Infringement of the '085 Patent)**

22. Plaintiff Solar Agent incorporates by reference the preceding allegations of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

23. This case is exception under 35 U.S.C. § 285 because Defendant Silicon Solar has had and continues to have notice of the existence of the '085 Patent and continues to willfully, wantonly, and deliberately engage in acts of direct infringement of the '085 Patent.

**THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Inducement to Infringe the '085 Patent)**

24. Plaintiff Solar Agent incorporates by reference the preceding allegations of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

25. Upon information and belief, Defendant Silicon Solar has actively induced and is now actively inducing infringement of the claims of the '085 Patent.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Solar Agent prays for judgment against Defendant Silicon Solar as follows:

- A. Judgment that Defendant Silicon Solar is liable for direct infringement of the '085 Patent.
- B. Judgment that Defendant Silicon Solar is liable for willful infringement of the '085 Patent.
- C. Judgment that Defendant Silicon Solar is liable for actively inducing infringement of the '085 Patent.
- D. Judgment enjoining Defendant Silicon Solar from further infringement actions.
- E. Judgment that Defendant Silicon Solar must pay money damages to Plaintiff Solar Agent in an amount to be determined at trial.
- F. Judgment that Defendant Silicon Solar must pay treble money damages to Plaintiff Solar Agent for willful infringement.
- G. Judgment that Defendant Silicon Solar must pay Plaintiff Solar Agent for reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and interest.
- H. Judgment that Defendant Silicon Solar must provide an accounting to Plaintiff Solar Agent of any and all other ascertainable damages, in an amount to be determined at trial, related to the unlawful acts of Defendant Silicon Solar.

I. Judgment in favor of Plaintiff Solar Agent for such further relief as the Court may deem proper.

**JURY DEMAND**

A demand is hereby made for trial by jury.

Dated this 11 day of August, 2010.

/s/Jeffrey T. Holman

Jeffrey T. Holman

Attorney for Plaintiff

# Exhibit A

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Holman**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,585,085 B1**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Sep. 8, 2009**

(54) **SOLAR LIGHT SIGN POST**

(76) Inventor: **Jeffrey Tedd Holman**, 3538,  
Mendenhall Ct., Pleasanton, CA (US)  
94588

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this  
patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
U.S.C. 154(b) by 199 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/584,937**

(22) Filed: **Oct. 23, 2006**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(60) Provisional application No. 60/729,518, filed on Oct.  
24, 2005.

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**F21V 33/00** (2006.01)  
**F21L 13/00** (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **362/183; 362/154; 40/541**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... **362/154,**  
**362/155, 183; 40/541**  
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

4,005,537 A 2/1977 Von Camber et al.  
4,299,043 A 11/1981 Lathrop et al.

4,319,310 A \* 3/1982 Kingsley ..... 362/183  
4,718,185 A 1/1988 Conlin et al.  
4,843,525 A 6/1989 Williams  
5,036,442 A \* 7/1991 Brown ..... 362/102  
5,101,329 A \* 3/1992 Doyle ..... 362/183  
5,467,076 A \* 11/1995 Ruocco et al. .... 340/571  
D378,143 S 2/1997 Kollins  
D379,545 S 5/1997 Houghton et al.  
5,813,749 A \* 9/1998 Sheldon ..... 362/155  
6,004,002 A \* 12/1999 Giannone ..... 362/183  
6,263,601 B1 7/2001 Emert  
6,509,204 B2 \* 1/2003 Campbell ..... 438/97  
6,604,840 B2 8/2003 Watson  
2004/0177538 A1 9/2004 De Ruyter et al.  
2006/0185203 A1 \* 8/2006 Bittle et al. .... 40/541  
2007/0193088 A1 \* 8/2007 Lemberger et al. .... 40/544  
2007/0261280 A1 \* 11/2007 Rastegar ..... 40/541  
2008/0278934 A1 \* 11/2008 Maldonado ..... 362/183

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

CA 2209867 2/1999

\* cited by examiner

*Primary Examiner*—Stephen F Husar

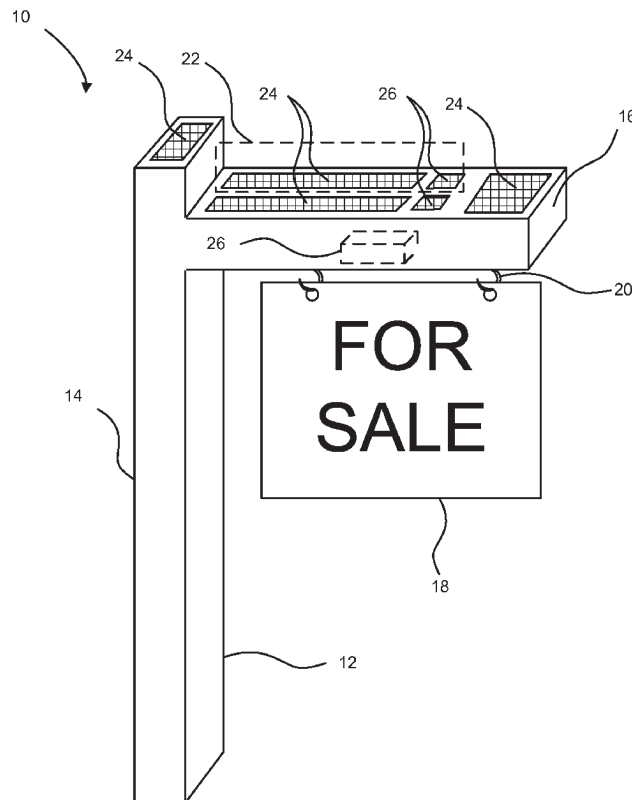
*Assistant Examiner*—James W Cranson

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Jeffrey T. Holman

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Embodiments of a solar lighting apparatus and method.

**19 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets**





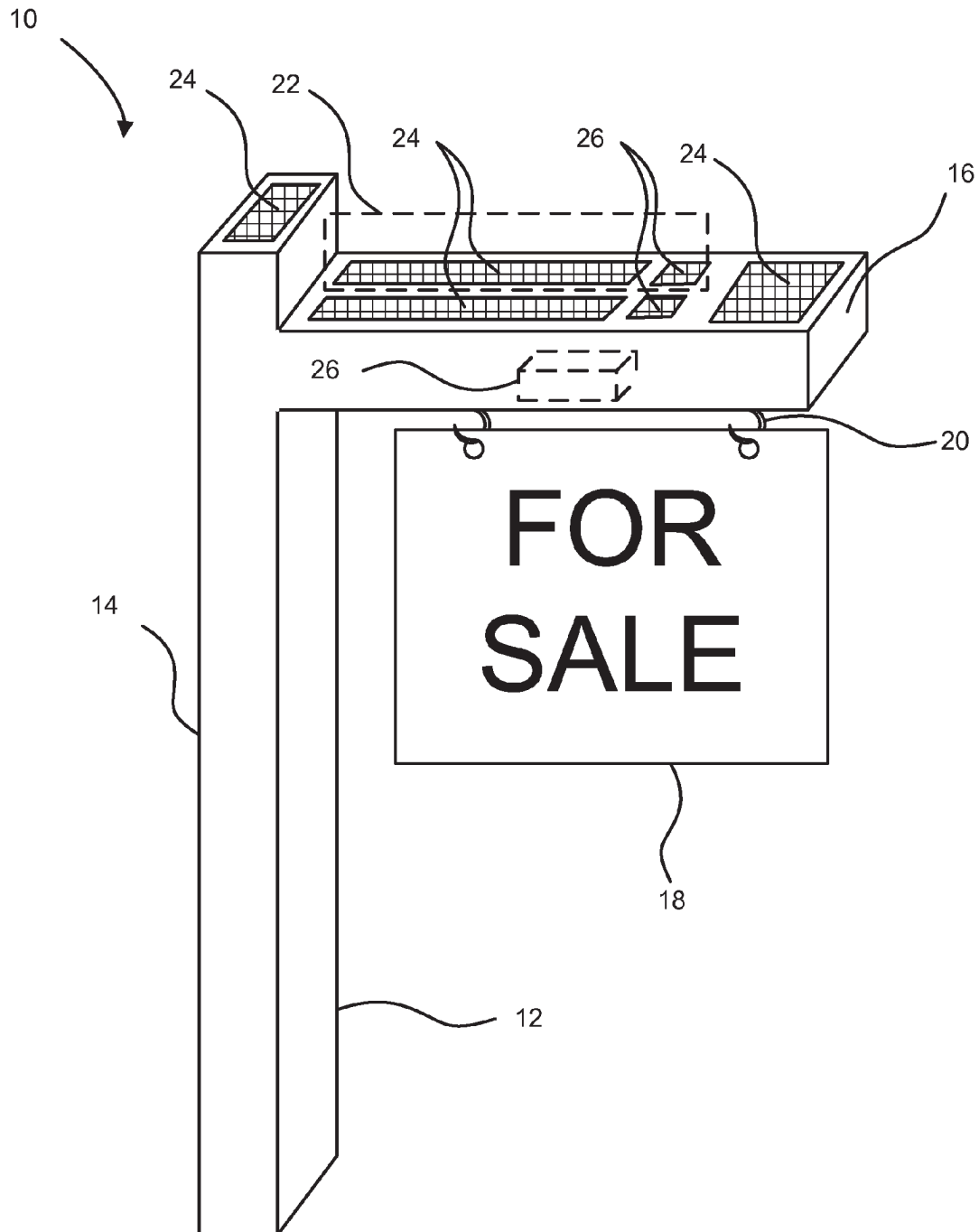


FIG. 1A

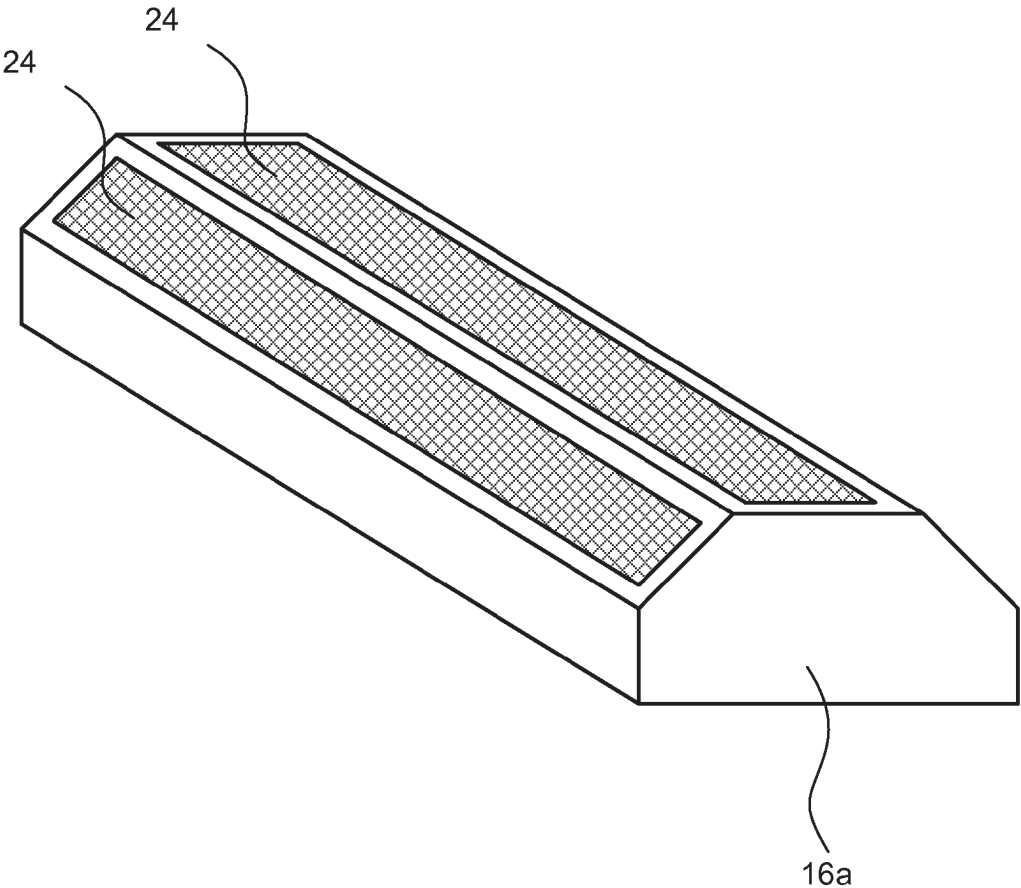
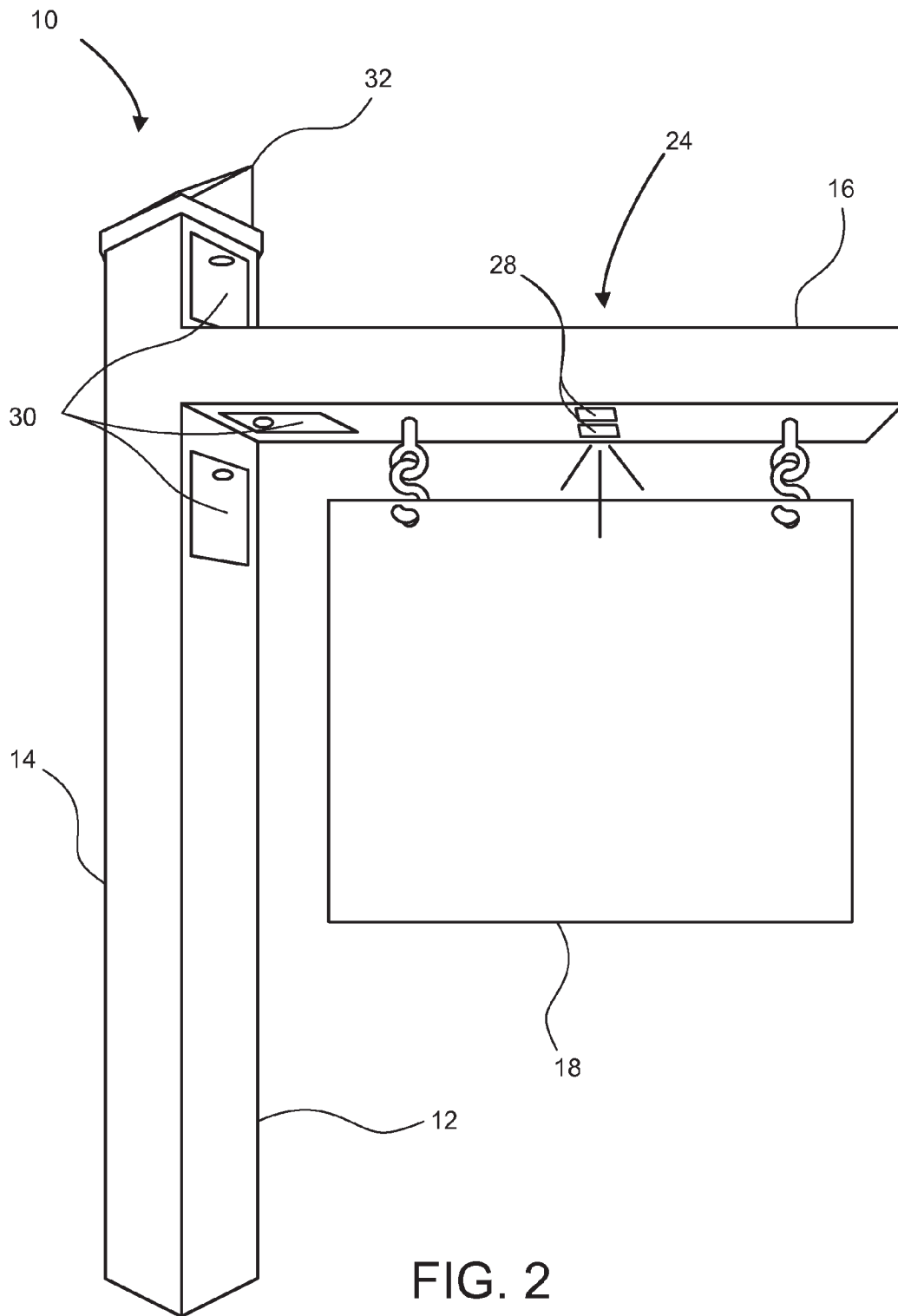


Fig 1B



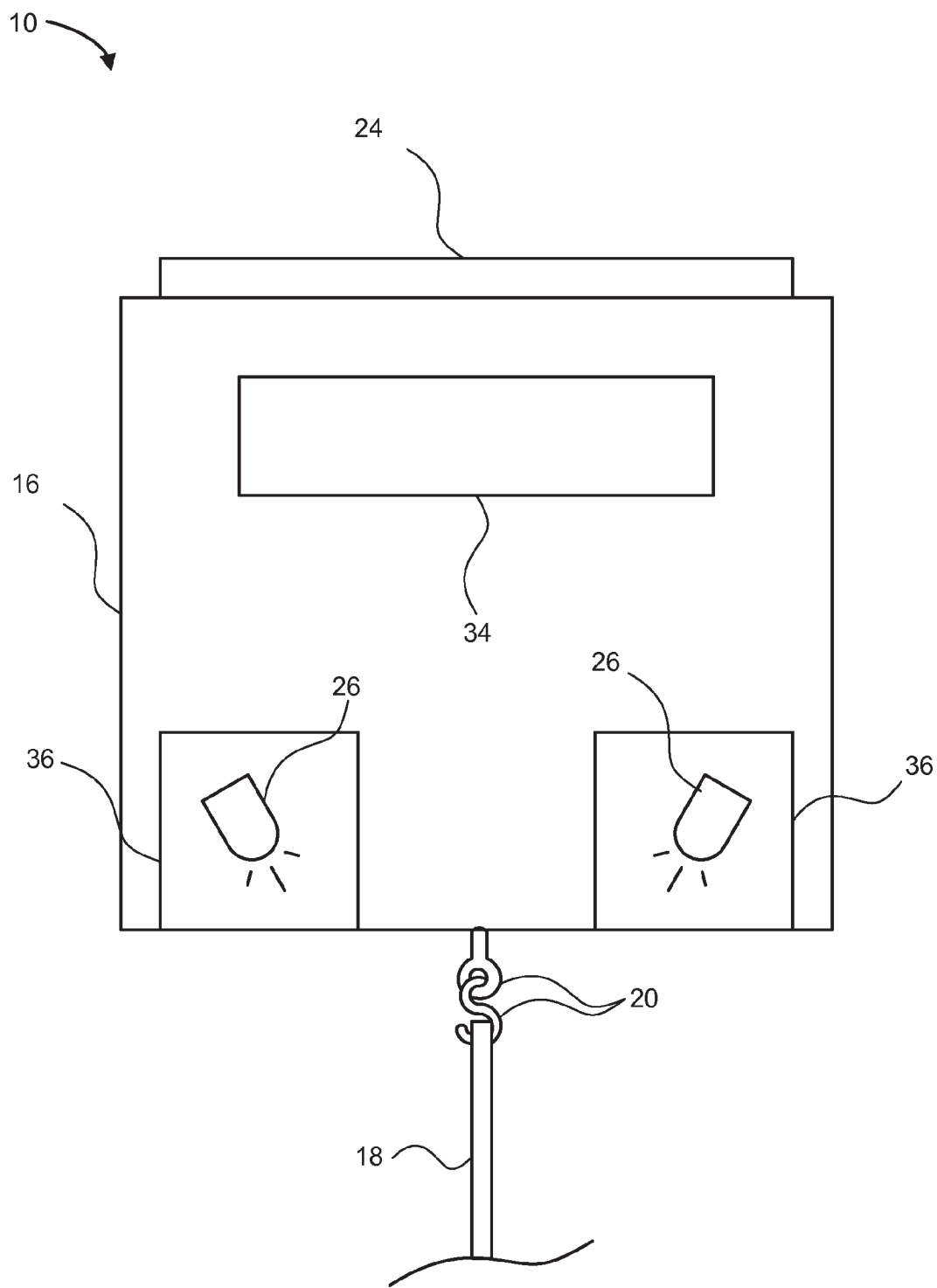
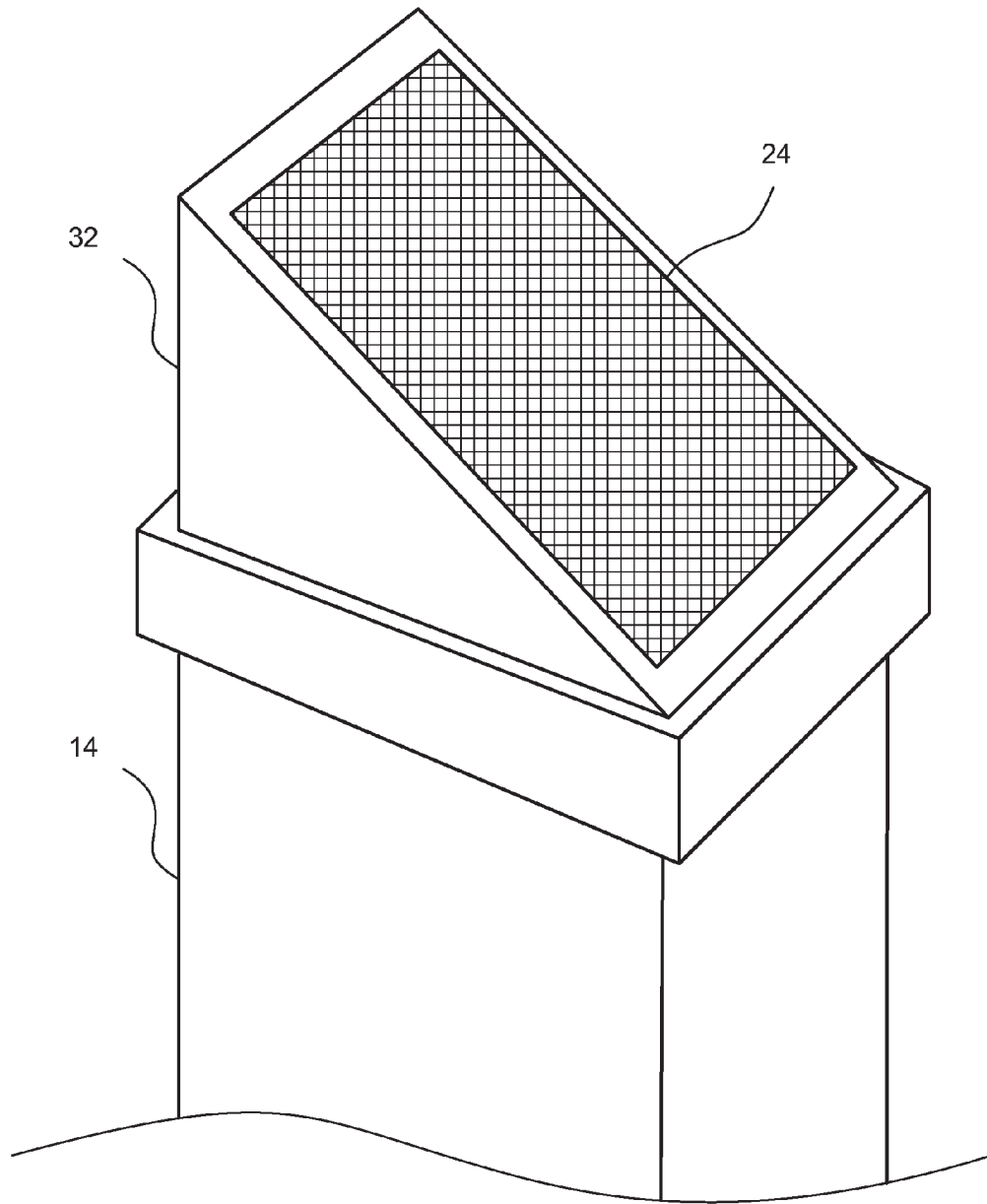


FIG. 3



**FIG. 4**

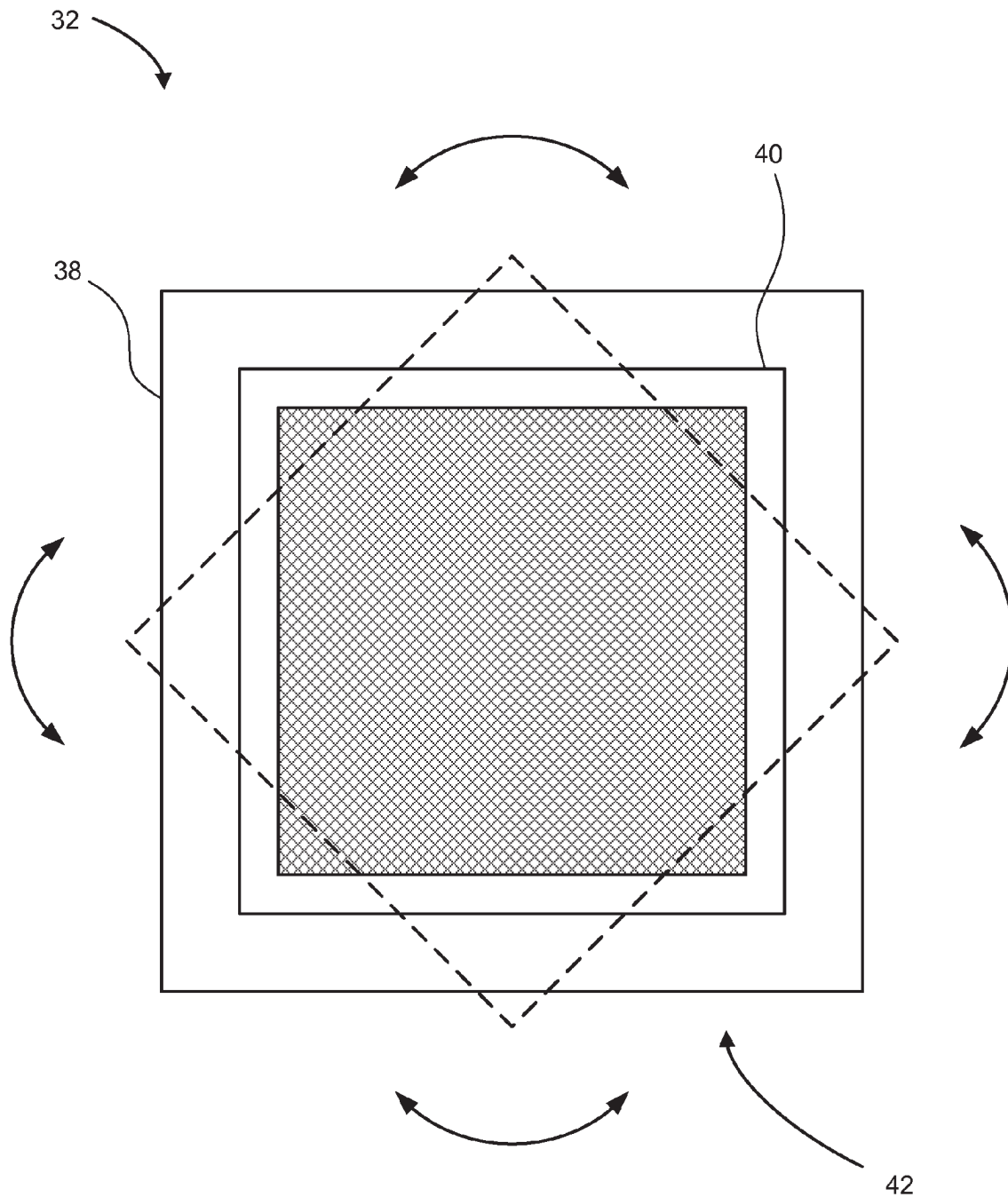


FIG. 5

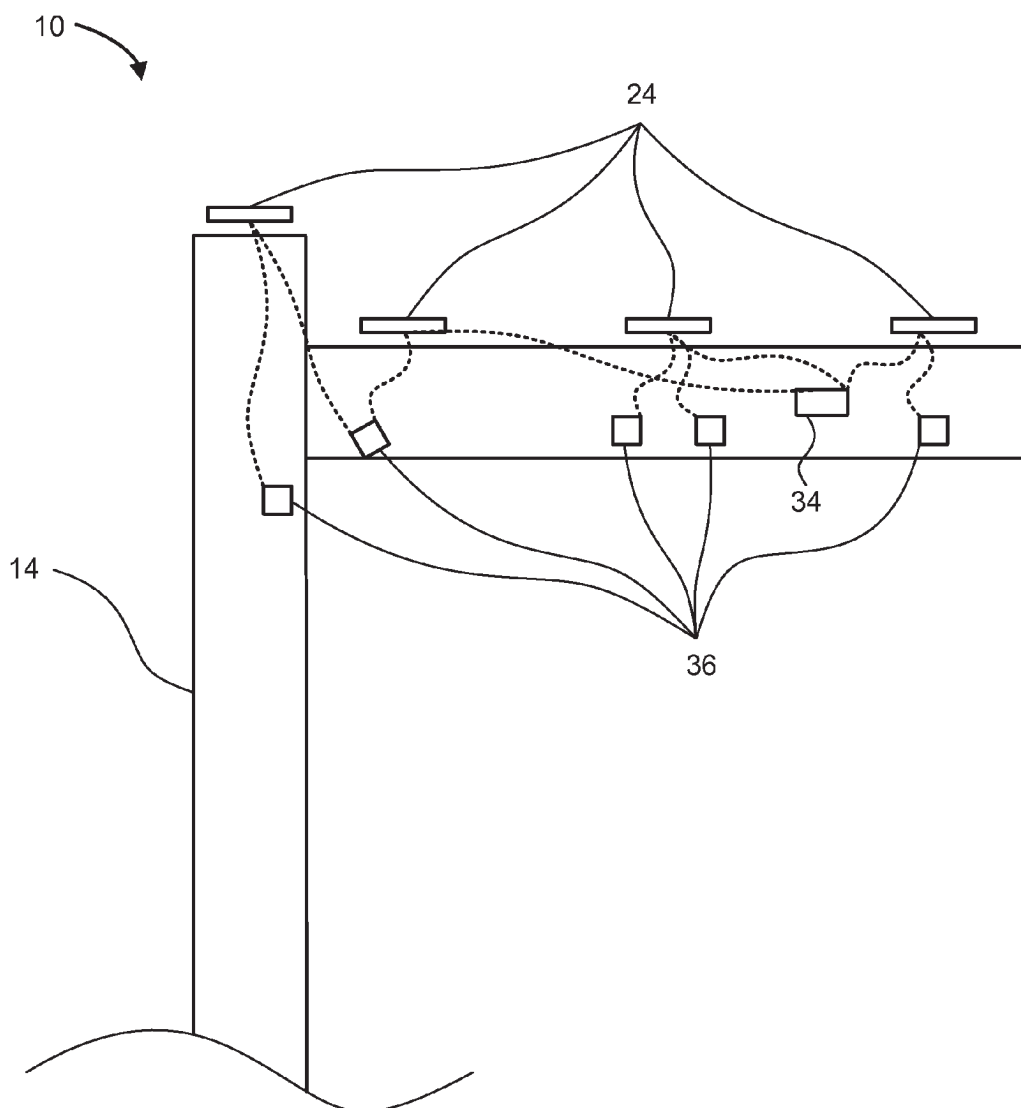


FIG. 6

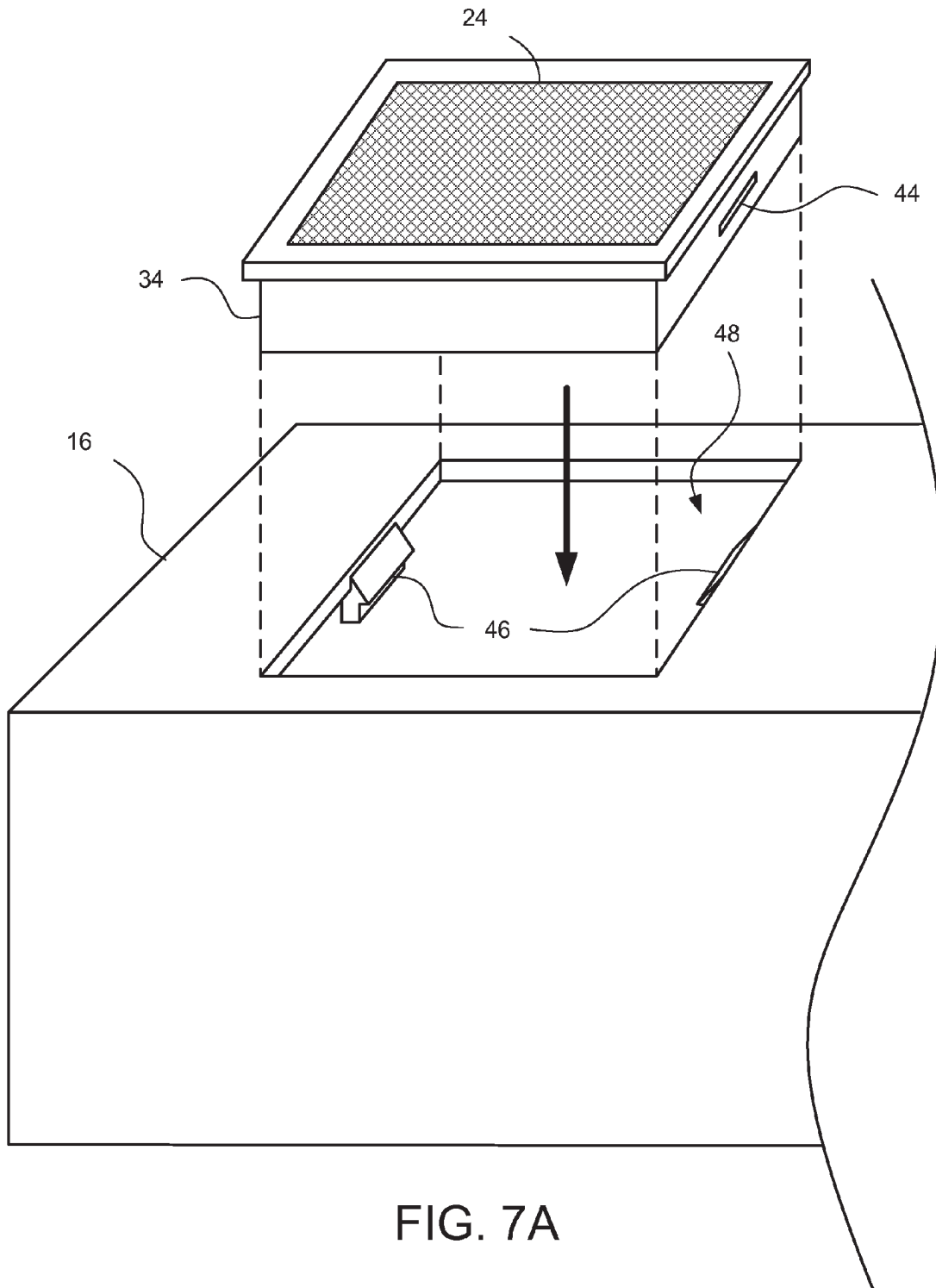


FIG. 7A



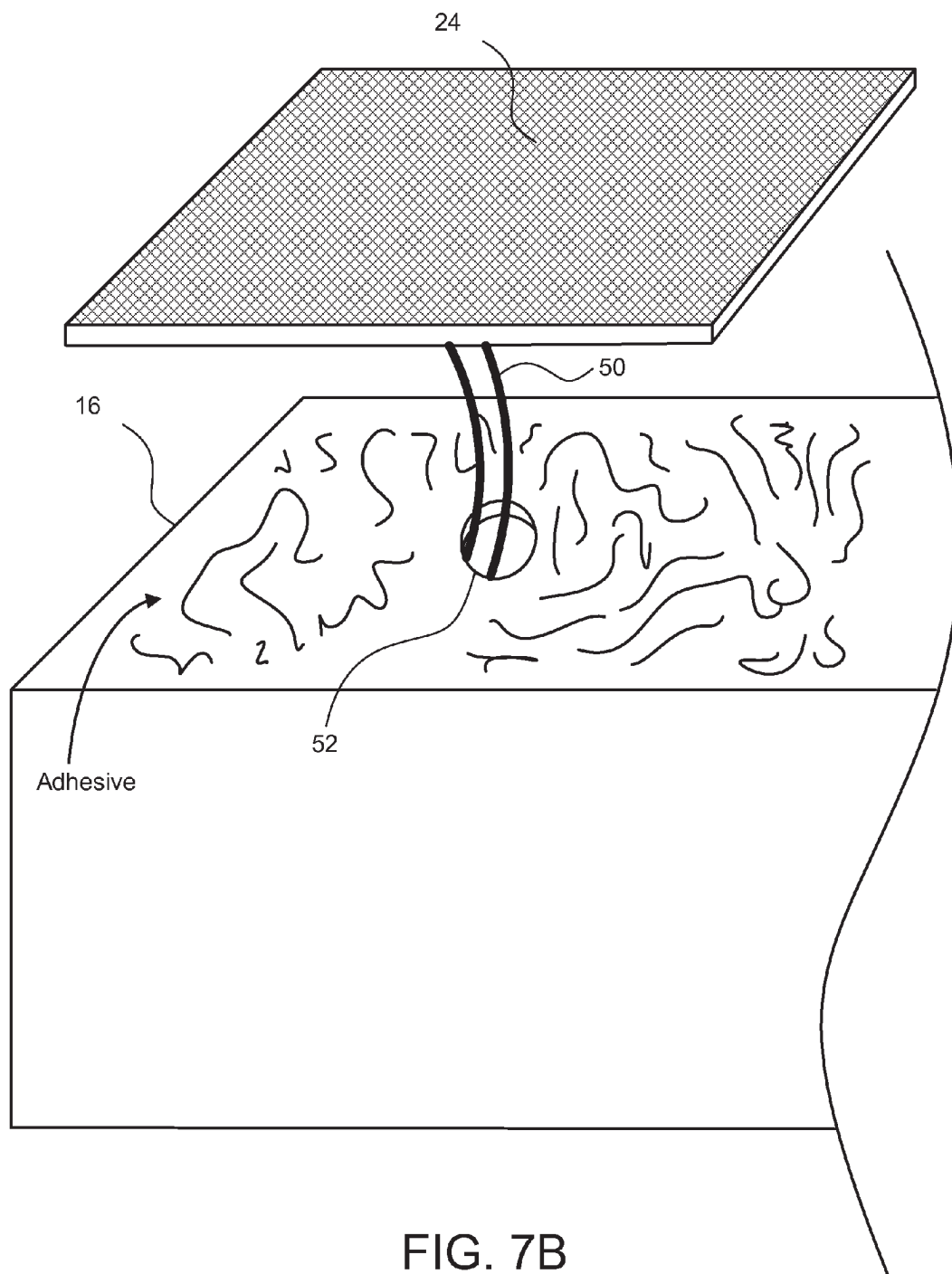
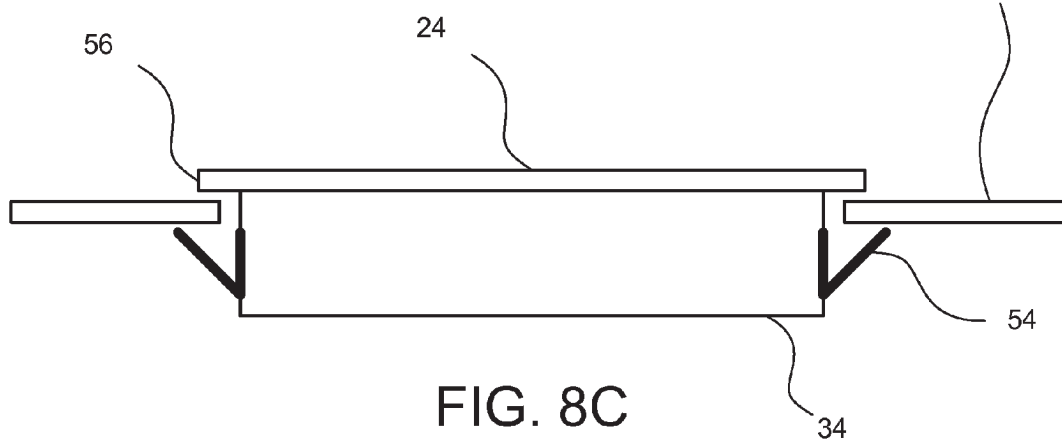
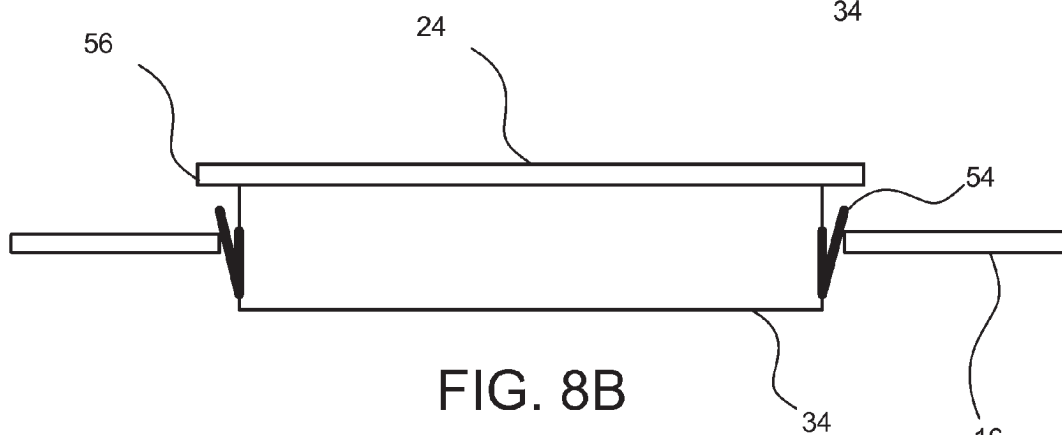
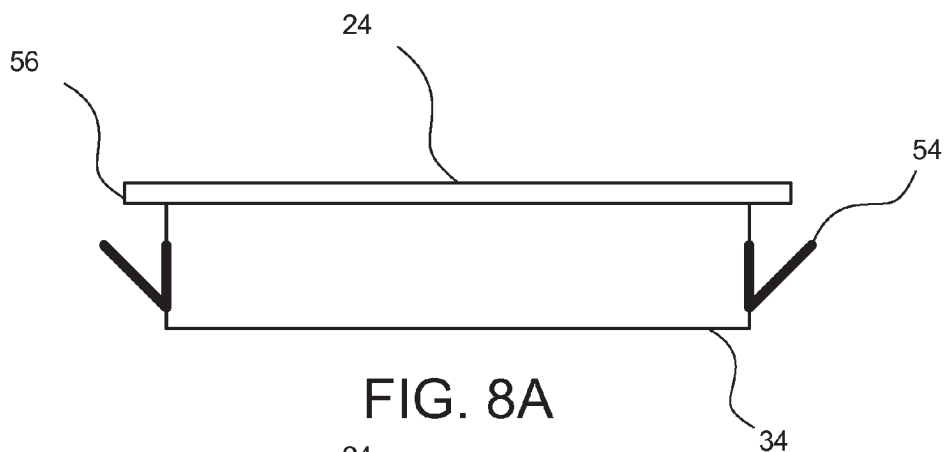


FIG. 7B



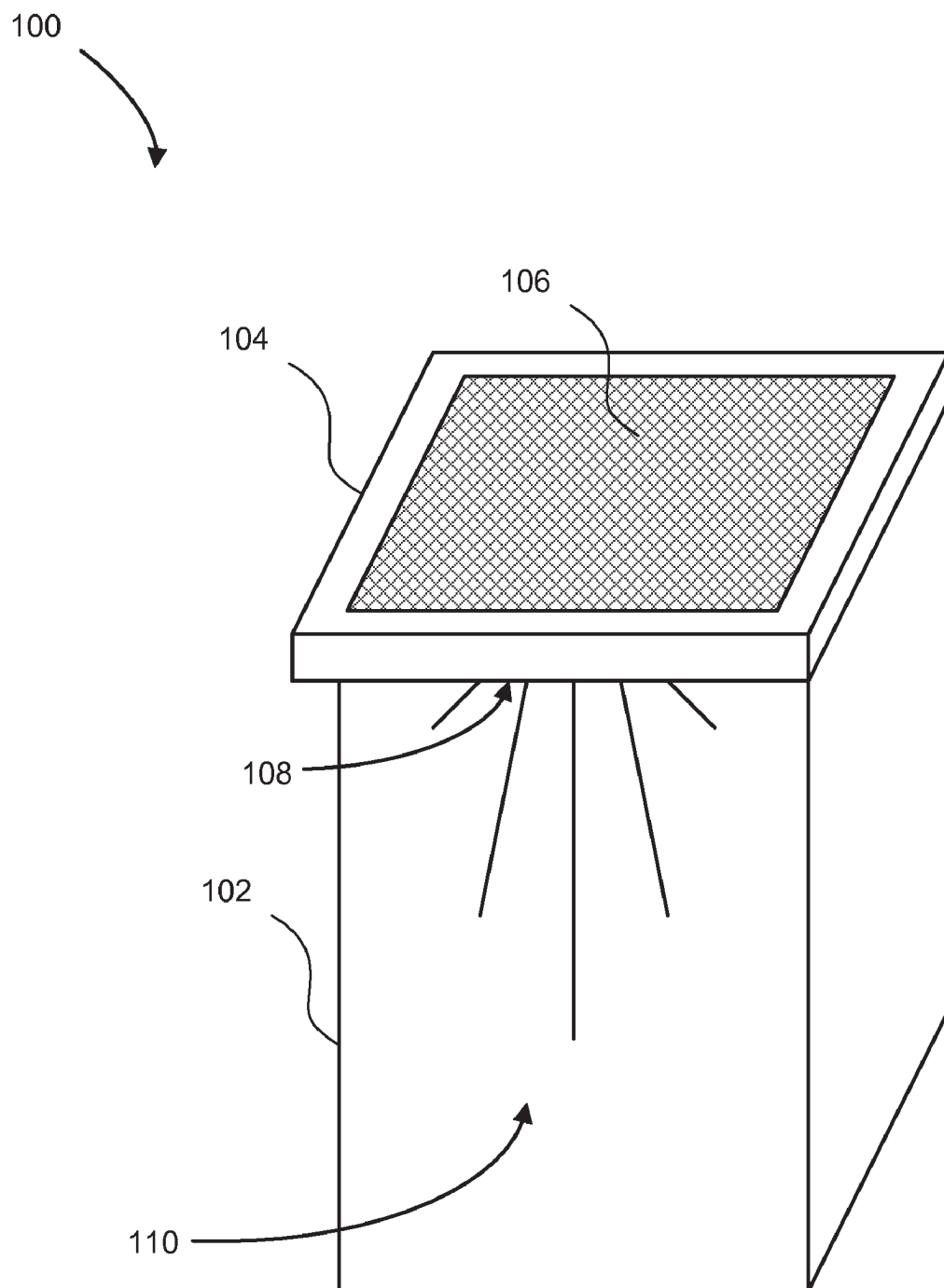
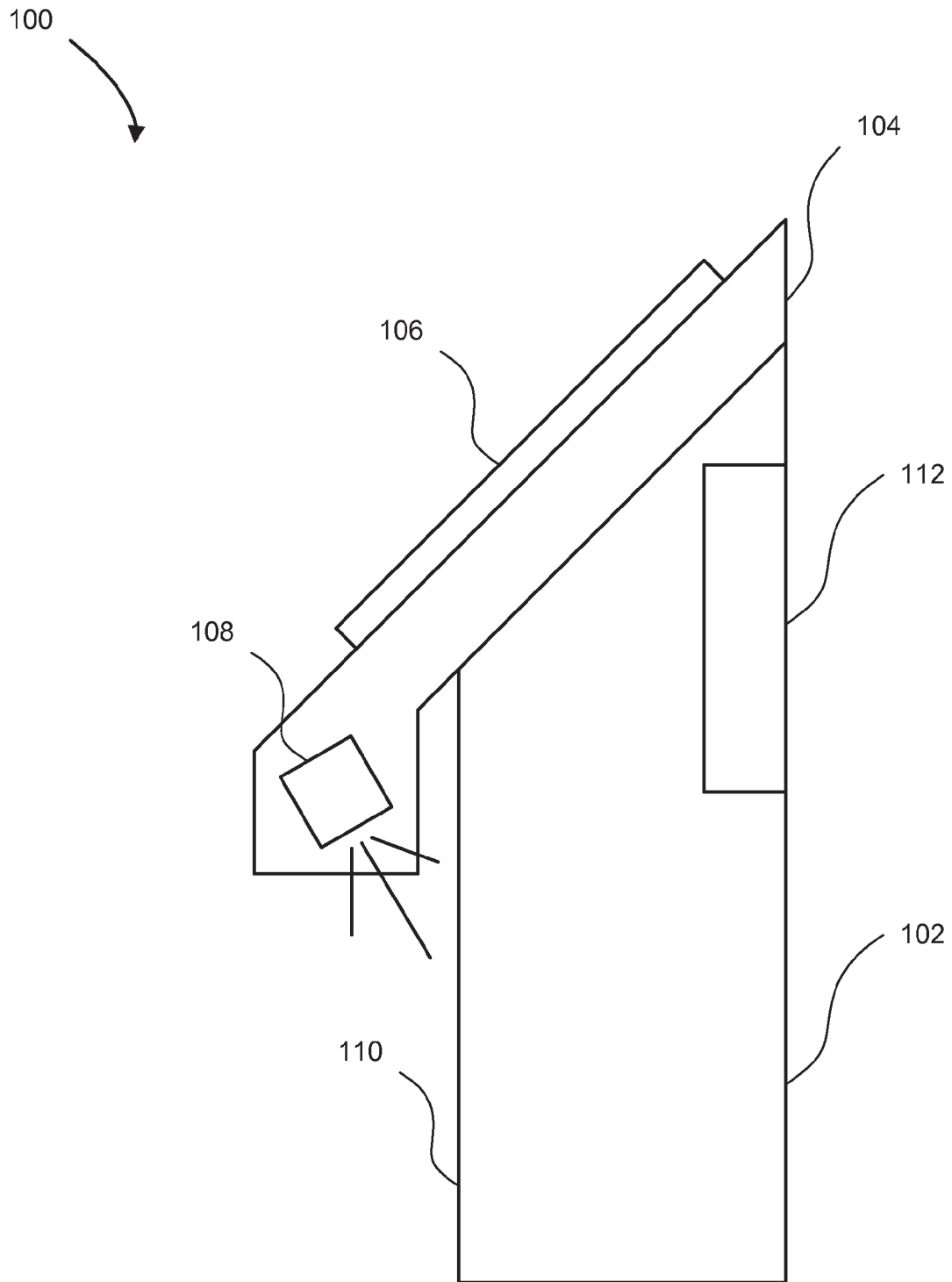
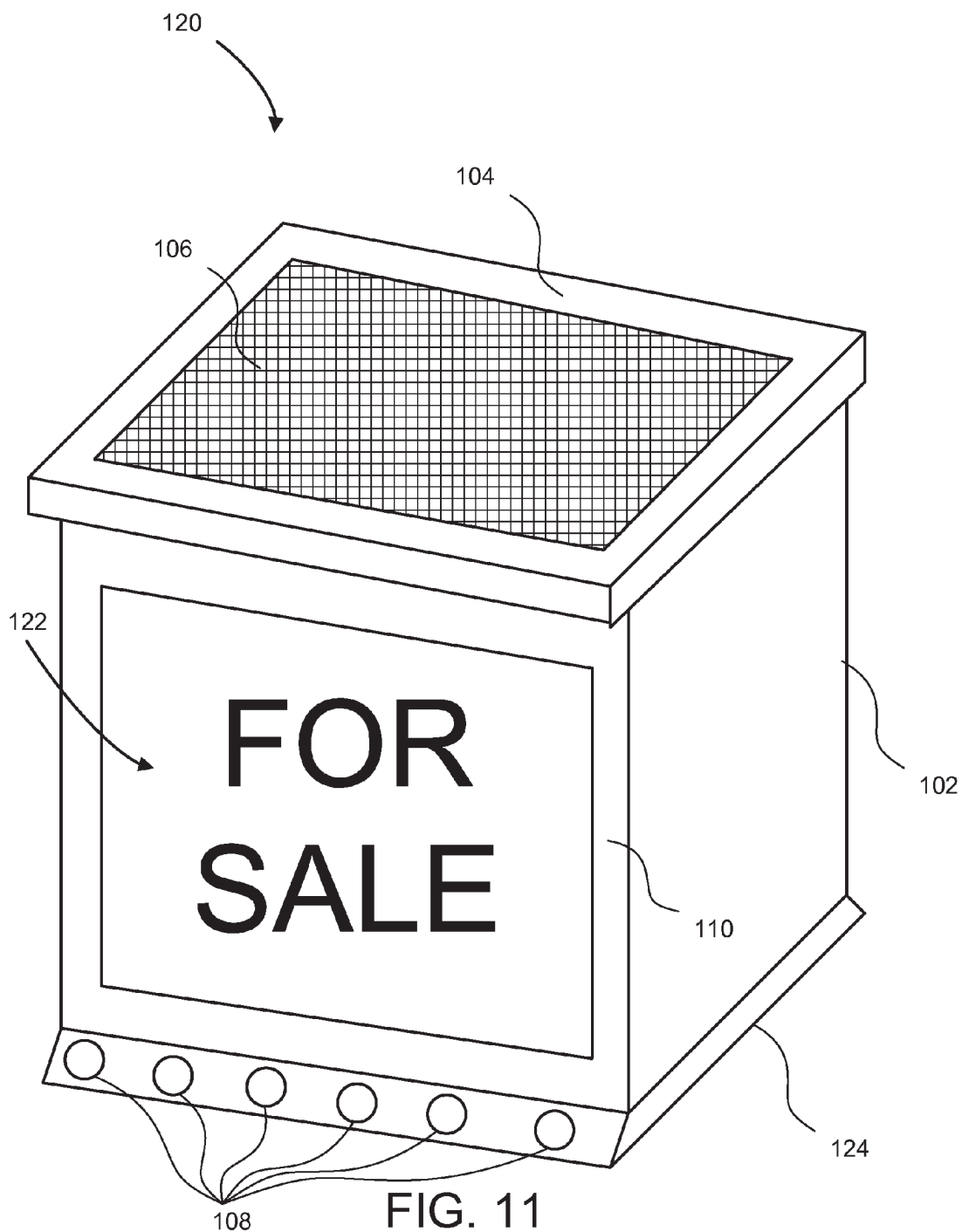
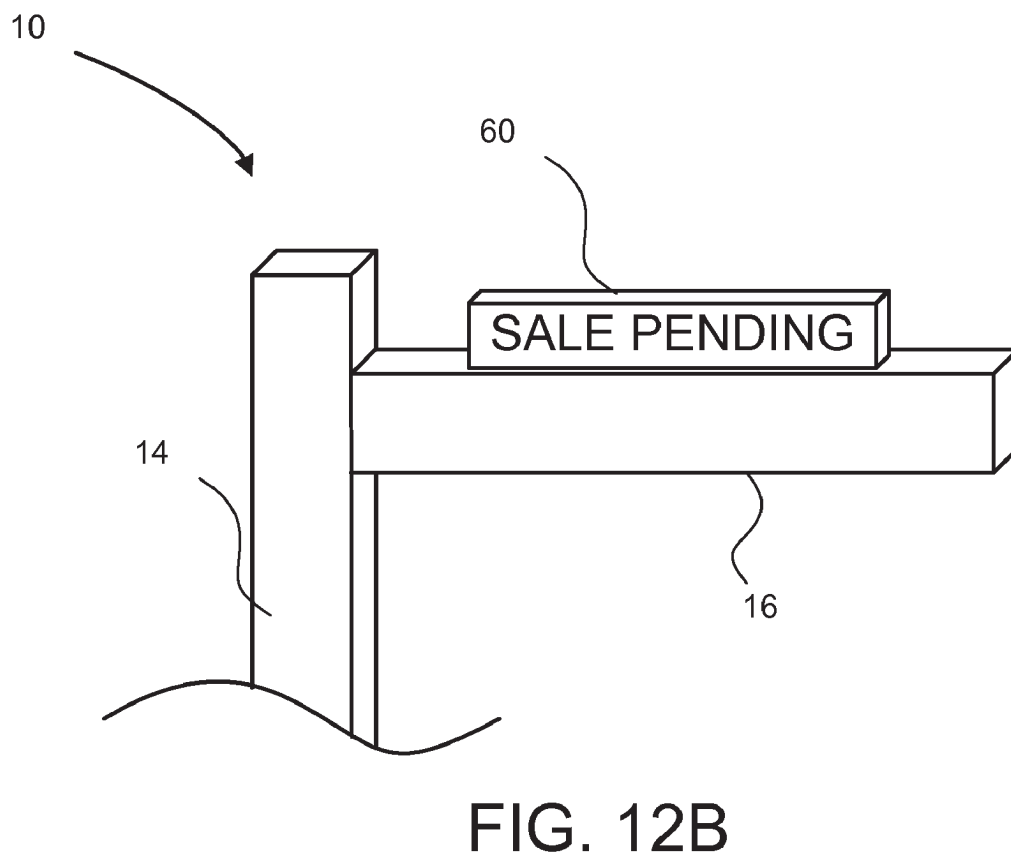
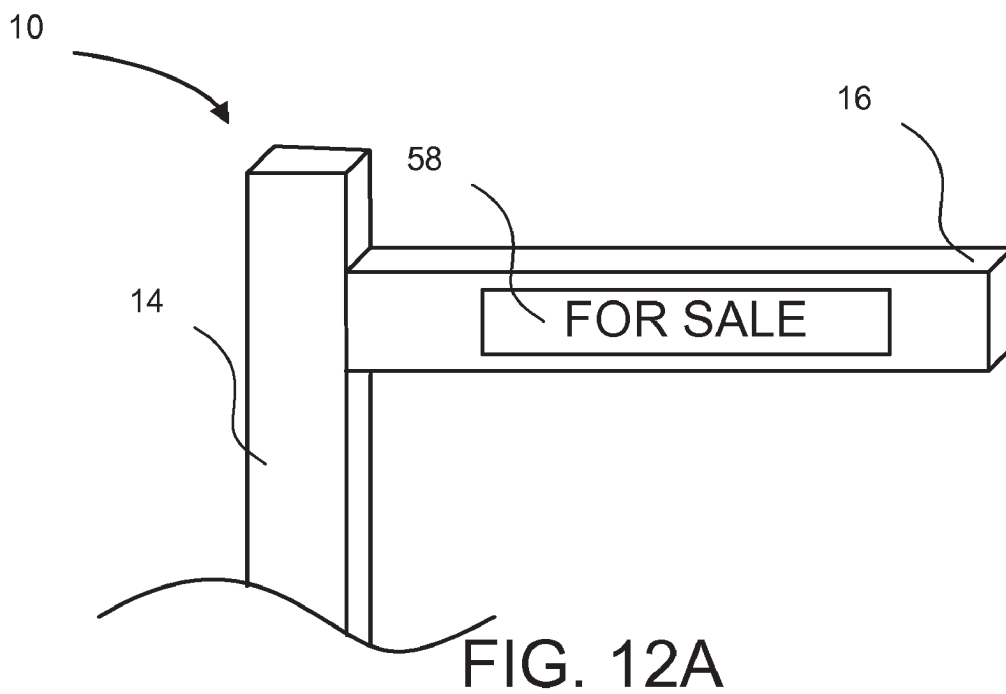


FIG. 9



**FIG. 10**





US 7,585,085 B1

1

**SOLAR LIGHT SIGN POST****CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application claims the benefit of priority of U.S. Provisional Patent Application 60/729,518, filed on Oct. 24, 2005, and U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/514,760, filed on Sep. 1, 2006.

**BACKGROUND**

Solar lighting is a renewable source of energy. Over the years, solar lighting components are becoming more compact and more efficient, allowing solar lighting components to be incorporated into new devices and to implement new applications.

One specific area of solar innovations is in solar lighting products to light signage such as real estate “for sale” signs. However, currently available solar light devices for signage suffer from many disadvantages. Foremost, many conventional solar lighting devices are bulky or otherwise distract from the traditional and professional image of real estate signs. For example, many conventional solar lighting products are made to attach to the sign post or directly to the sign. In this way, a substantial portion of the solar lighting product typically increases the profile of the sign/post system, or extends away from the sign/post like a foreign appendage. Because they are mounted in an exposed manner on the sign and/or post, these conventional solar lighting devices are also prone to theft, abuse, or damage. Specific types of conventional solar lighting devices have additional problems.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

A more particular description of embodiments of the invention is provided herein by reference to specific embodiments that are illustrated in the appended drawings.

FIG. 1A is a schematic diagram illustrating one embodiment of a solar light sign post.

FIG. 1B is a schematic diagram illustrating one embodiment of a non-rectangular crossarm.

FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram illustrating another embodiment of a solar light sign post.

FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram illustrating a cross-sectional view of a solar light sign post.

FIG. 4 is a schematic diagram illustrating one embodiment of an inclined solar post top.

FIG. 5 is a schematic diagram illustrating a top view of the inclined solar post top of FIG. 4.

FIG. 6 is a schematic diagram illustrating several potential locations of a solar panel and one or more lights on a solar light sign post.

FIG. 7A is a schematic diagram illustrating an exploded view of one embodiment of a solar light sign post assembly.

FIG. 7B is a schematic diagram illustrating another embodiment of a solar light sign post assembly.

FIGS. 8A-C are schematic diagrams illustrating one embodiment of an attachment clip of a solar light device.

FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram illustrating one embodiment of a solar light flyer box.

FIG. 10 is a schematic diagram illustrating a side view of the solar light flyer box of FIG. 9.

FIG. 11 is a schematic diagram illustrating another embodiment of a solar light flyer box with edge-lighting.

FIG. 12A illustrates another embodiment of a solar light sign post with a backlight panel built into the crossarm.

2

FIG. 12B illustrates another embodiment of a solar light sign post with an edge-lit rider sign.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

Reference throughout this specification to “one embodiment,” “an embodiment,” or similar language means that a particular feature, structure, or characteristic described in connection with the embodiment is included in at least one embodiment of the present invention. Thus, appearances of the phrases “in one embodiment,” “in an embodiment,” and similar language throughout this specification may, but do not necessarily, all refer to the same embodiment.

The described features, structures, or characteristics of the embodiments may be combined in any suitable manner in one or more embodiments. In the following description, numerous specific details are provided to provide a thorough understanding of embodiments of the invention. One skilled in the relevant art will recognize, however, that some embodiments of the invention may be practiced without one or more of the specific details, or with other methods, components, materials, and so forth. In other instances, well-known structures, materials, or operations are not shown or described in detail to avoid obscuring aspects of the invention.

FIG. 1A depicts one embodiment of a solar light sign post 10. The illustrated solar light sign post 10 includes a post 12 having a vertical member 14 and a horizontal member 16. Alternative embodiments may include other vertical or horizontal members. The horizontal member 16 is also referred to as a crossarm. A listing sign 18 or other type of sign may be attached to the crossarm 16 using sign hardware 20. For example, conventional sign hanging hardware 20 includes eye-hooks attached to the underside of the crossarm 16 and “S” hooks which hang the sign 18 from the eye-hooks. In certain embodiments, the sign 18 may be a conventional real estate “For Sale” sign or a “For Rent” sign such as a metal or corrugated plastic sign. Other types of sign hardware 20 and signs 18 may be used with the solar light sign post 10. Furthermore, the crossarm 16 may have a mounting location and/or hardware for a rider sign 22 (shown dashed) on the top side of the crossarm 16.

In one embodiment, the sign post 12 is manufactured of vinyl, aluminum, steel, or another material that forms a hollow interior. Alternatively, the sign post 12 may be a solid material such as wood. Additionally, the sign post 12 may have cross-sectional dimensions similar to conventional sign posts. For example, the cross-section of the sign post 12 may be between approximately one inch square (1" by 1") and six inches square (6" by 6") or a rectangular variation within the range of one to six inches. Some conventional sign posts include one inch tubular steel sign posts, 3×2¼ aluminum sign posts, and trade size 4×4 wood sign posts, all of which may be generally referred to as swingposts. Other types of sign posts include A-frames, H-frames, and other well-known sign frames. Reference herein to a specific type of sign post 12 or frame is meant to generally refer to sign posts or frames, unless indicated otherwise in the text or context.

The illustrated solar light sign post 10 includes one or more solar panels 24, or solar cells, that collect solar energy and generate electrical energy. Several optional locations are shown for the one or more solar panels 24. For example, a solar panel 24 may be located on the top of the vertical member 14. In another embodiment, a solar panel 24 may be located in the center of or off-center along the top side of the crossarm 16. In another embodiment, one or more solar panels 24 may be located on either or both sides of the rider sign location 22 along the top side of the crossarm 16. Although

US 7,585,085 B1

3

specific locations are illustrated, other locations and combinations of locations may be implemented in a particular solar light sign post 10. The use of certain locations may depend in part on the size and configuration of the sign post 12, including the crossarm 16. For, example, where a crossarm with a non-rectangular cross-section 16a, as shown in FIG. 1B, is implemented, the solar panels 24 may be mounted on surfaces that are not completely horizontal or vertical. In one embodiment, a solar panel 24 may be mounted on an angled portion of the crossarm 16a so that the solar panel 24 is mounted at an angle such as 45 degrees (or another angle between zero and 90 degrees) relative to a horizontal position. Furthermore, the solar panels 24 may be mounted on top of or partially or wholly recessed within the corresponding member of the sign post 12. In the case of a hollow member such as a vinyl crossarm 16, recessing may be accomplished by cutting or otherwise forming a whole in the crossarm 16 and locating the solar panel 24 within the hole. In the case of a solid member such as a 4x4 wood crossarm 16, recessing may be accomplished by constructing the member with a recess or by forming the recess through routing the recess into the member or otherwise forming the recess.

The illustrated solar light sign post 10 also includes one or more lights 26 and associated circuitry (not shown) to electrically couple the solar panel(s) 24 and the lights 26. In one embodiment, one or more lights 26 may be mounted on or recessed into the underside of the crossarm 16 and oriented to project light onto the listing sign 18 or other sign mounted to the underside of the crossarm 16. In another embodiment, one or more lights 26 may be mounted to the topside of the crossarm 16 to project light onto the rider sign 22. In another embodiment, one or more lights 26 may be mounted to one or both sides of the crossarm 16, the end of the crossarm 16, or any other location on the sign post 12, including the vertical member 14.

The circuitry may include wires, circuitboards, transistors, batteries, connectors, and other electrical components that may be used to connect the one or more solar panels 24 to the one or more lights 26. In one embodiment, the lights 26 may be light emitting diodes (LEDs). Alternatively, the lights 26 may be another type of light source. In one embodiment, the batteries store the electrical energy generated by the solar panels 24 and, at an appropriate time, send the electrical energy to the lights 26. In one embodiment, the lights 26 and circuitry are configured to allow the lights 26 to remain off during approximately daylight hours and to allow the lights 26 to turn on and remain on during approximately the nighttime hours. In one embodiment, the lights 26 turn on or off depending on the ambient light as determined through a photocell (not shown) or other type of light detector such as the solar panels 24 themselves. In another embodiment, the lights 26 turn on or off depending on other circuitry such as a timer (not shown). Additionally, the circuitry may include programming circuitry to program the lights 26 to turn on or off according to a preset program, such as blinking, fading, strobing, and so forth. Additionally, where multiple lights 26 are used, the lights 26 may be controlled individually or in groups. Additionally, the lights 26 may include multiple colors. In one embodiment, the lights 26 are superbright white LEDs and the batteries are rechargeable batteries.

FIG. 1B is a schematic diagram illustrating one embodiment of a non-rectangular crossarm 16a. In other words, some embodiments may implement a sign post 12 with a crossarm 16a with a non-rectangular cross-section. For example, the crossarm 16a may have a trapezoidal cross-section, or another polygonal or partially curved cross-section. Imple-

4

menting a non-rectangular crossarm 16a may permit various placement locations for the solar panels 24.

FIG. 2 depicts another embodiment of a solar light sign post 10. The depicted solar light sign post 10 is similar in some aspects to the solar light sign post 10 of FIG. 1A. The solar light sign post 10 of FIG. 2 is shown from a different vantage point to illustrate multiple lights 26 on the underside of the crossarm 16. In certain embodiments, the lights 26 may be protected by one or more lenses 28, flanges, seals, or other protective components.

The illustrated solar light sign post 10 includes one or more battery compartments (internal to the sign post 12) having an access door 30. The access door 30 may be held closed by a screw or other fastener. As shown, the access door 30 may be on the vertical member 14 or on the crossarm 16. In other embodiments, the access door 30 may be on another part of the sign post 12. In a particular embodiment, the battery compartment may be accessible under another solar light device such as a solar panel 24. For example, the battery compartment may be accessible by removing a solar panel 24 or opening a compartment covered by a solar panel 24. In the case of a hollow sign post 12, the battery compartment may be located within the hollow core of the sign post 12, either attached to the sign post 12 or unattached (resting on) a part of the sign post 12. The battery compartment also may be referred to as a power storage module.

FIG. 2 also illustrates an inclined, rotatable solar panel post cap 32 mounted on the vertical member 14 of the sign post 12. One example of a solar panel post cap 30 is shown and described in more detail with reference to FIGS. 4 and 5 below.

FIG. 3 depicts a cross-sectional view of a solar light sign post 10. The illustrated solar light sign post 10 is substantially similar to the solar light sign posts 10 of FIGS. 1A and 2. The illustrated solar light sign post 10 includes a solar panel 24 that is located on the topside of the crossarm 16, a battery compartment 34 within the hollow core of the crossarm 16, and two light housings 36 recessed within the underside of the crossarm 16. In another embodiment, the light housings 36 may partially or wholly extend from the core of the crossarm 16. Each light housing 36 may have one or more lights 26 such as LEDs and/or lenses 28. In another embodiment, the solar light sign post 10 may include a single light housing 36 with LEDs 26 in approximately the same position and orientation in relation to the sign. In another embodiment, the lights 26 may be clustered or distributed within one or more light housings 36. For example, a cluster of three LEDs 26 may be attached to a single circuitboard (not shown) and positioned approximately at the horizontal center of the hanging sign 18. As another example, a bar of LEDs 26 may be positioned parallel to the crossarm 16 and sign 18 to light a side of the sign 18. Although omitted for clarity, one or more wires, circuitboards, or other circuitry may be included to electrically couple the solar panel 24, battery compartment 34, and light housing(s) 36.

Alternatively, the lights 26 may be installed within the internal compartment of the crossarm 16 without using a light housing 36. For example, one or more bars of LEDs 26 may be glued or otherwise fastened to an interior surface of the crossarm 16. In another embodiment, the LEDs 26 may be mounted to the lens 28, which may be fastened to the crossarm 16.

FIG. 4 depicts one embodiment of an inclined solar post top 32. The inclined solar post top 32 is at an angle with respect to the vertical and horizontal planes. In one embodiment, the incline may be approximately equal to an angle that might position the solar panel 24 approximately perpendicu-



US 7,585,085 B1

5

lar to the location of the sun (not shown). The inclined solar panel post top 32 may be fixed or rotatable with respect to the vertical member 14 of the sign post 12. One example of a rotatable inclined solar panel post top 32 is shown and described in more detail with reference to FIG. 5.

FIG. 5 depicts a top view of the inclined solar panel post top 32 of FIG. 4. In one embodiment, the solar panel post top 32 includes a fixed base 38 and a rotatable top 40. The fixed base 38 may be rigidly fixed to the top of the vertical member 14, and the rotatable top 40 may be rotated relative to the fixed base 38. The solar panel post top 32 is shown in a first position (solid) and a second position (dashed). The second position is rotated approximately 45 degrees from the first position as indicated by the arrows. In one embodiment, the solar panel post top 32 may include a mechanical stop 42 to prevent rotation of the post top 32 more than approximately one revolution. For example, the stop 42 may allow the solar panel post top 32 to rotate a maximum of approximately 359 degrees, in one embodiment.

FIG. 6 depicts several potential locations of one or more solar panels 24 and one or more lights 26 on a solar light sign post 10. The solar panel(s) 24 may be located on the top of the vertical member 14 or the top of the horizontal member 16. In other embodiments, the solar panel(s) 24 potentially may be mounted on a side or other location of the vertical or horizontal members 14 and 16. In another embodiment, the solar panel(s) 14 may be mechanically coupled to one of the members of the sign post 12. Similarly, the light(s) 26 may be located on the vertical member 14, the horizontal member 16, or both. In one embodiment, the light(s) 26 may be located and oriented to project light onto a sign 18 hanging from the crossarm 16. In another embodiment, the light(s) 26 may be located and oriented to project light onto a sign 18 mounted onto the crossarm 16. In another embodiment, the light(s) 26 may be located and oriented to project light onto a sign 18 mounted to the vertical member 14 or another part of the sign post 12. In another embodiment, the light(s) 26 may be located and oriented to project light onto the sign post 12 itself.

FIG. 7A depicts an exploded view of one embodiment of a solar light sign post 10 assembly. The illustrated assembly includes a solar panel 24, battery compartment 34, and a crossarm 16. Other components are omitted for clarity, but may be configured in a manner similar to or different from the illustrated components. In one embodiment, the solar panel 24 serves as a cover for the battery compartment 34. The battery compartment 34 includes one or more notches 44 that align with one or more locking catches 46 coupled to the cutout 48 in the crossarm 16. The locking catches 46 may be integrally formed with the crossarm 16, in one embodiment, or attached to the crossarm 16. For example, the locking catches 46 may be coupled to a ring (not shown) that may be inserted into the cutout 48. The notches 44 and locking catches 46 align so that when the battery compartment 34 is inserted into the crossarm cutout 48 then the locking catches 46 engage the corresponding notches 44 to hold the battery compartment 34 and solar panel 24 within or against the crossarm 16. Similar mounting arrangements may be implemented to assemble the light housings 36 in the crossarm 16. Alternatively, other assembly hardware such as adhesives, screws, snaps, clasps, or fasteners may be used to install the battery compartment 34, light housing 36, or solar panel 24 into or on the crossarm 16.

FIG. 7B is a schematic diagram illustrating another embodiment of a solar light sign post 10 assembly. The illustrated assembly includes a solar panel 24 and a crossarm 16. Other components are omitted for clarity, but may be config-

6

ured in a manner similar to or different from the illustrated components. In one embodiment, the solar panel 24 is directly adhered to a surface such as the top of the crossarm 16. Wires 50 from the solar panel 24 are directed through a hole 52 in the surface of the crossarm 16. In one embodiment, the hole 52 is covered by the solar panel 24 once the solar panel 24 is adhered to the crossarm.

FIGS. 8A-C depict one embodiment of an attachment clip 54 of a solar light 24 device. The attachment clip 54 also may be referred to as a locking catch. The illustrated attachment clip 54 is coupled the battery compartment 34 and solar panel 24. In one embodiment, the solar panel 24 serves as a cover for the battery compartment 34, as described in relation to FIG. 7A above. The solar panel 24 also includes a flange 56 that is larger extends beyond the battery compartment 34 and may serve to rest against the outer surface of the top side of the crossarm 16, as explained below.

FIG. 8B specifically shows the battery compartment 34 partially inserted into the crossarm cutout 48 in the direction indicated by the arrow. As the battery compartment 34 and attachment clips 54 are inserted through the crossarm cutout 48, the attachment clips 54 engage against the sides of the crossarm cutout 48 to compress the attachment clips 54 so that the battery compartment 34 may be recessing into the crossarm 16.

FIG. 8C specifically shows the battery compartment 34 inserted into the crossarm cutout 48. In the illustrated embodiment, the flange 56 of the solar panel 24 engages against the top side of the crossarm 16 and the attachment clip 54 engages against the opposite side of the same wall of the top side of the crossarm 16. In this manner, the solar panel 24 and battery compartment 34 may be temporarily or permanently secured to the crossarm 16. Similar mounting arrangements may be implemented for the light housings 36.

The light housing(s) 36 other components of the solar light sign post 10 may be attached similarly to the attachment methods shown and described with reference to the previous figures. In another embodiment, one or more components may be temporarily or permanently secured to the sign post 12 in another manner using similar or other types of fasteners, including glue, screws, silicone, or other fasteners.

FIG. 9 depicts one embodiment of a solar light flyer box 100. The illustrated solar light flyer box 100 includes a flyer box 102 having a lid 104. A solar panel 106 is mounted on or within the lid 104 and coupled to a light source 108 that projects light onto the flyer box 102. In one embodiment, the light source 108 is located on the underside of the lid 104 and configured to project light onto the front panel 110 of the flyer box 102. In one embodiment, the solar panel 106, light source 108, and other related circuitry (not shown), including one or more rechargeable batteries, may be substantially similar to the components described above. In one embodiment, the flyer box 102 may be mounted to a post (not shown) such as a sign post or a dedicated post.

FIG. 10 depicts a side view of the solar light flyer box 100 of FIG. 9. In particular, FIG. 10 shows the flyer box 102, the lid 104, the solar panel 106, and the light source 108 mounted within a housing on the underside of the lid 104. The lid 104 extends beyond the front panel 110 of the flyer box 102 so that the light source 108 such as an LED may project light onto the front panel 110. The illustrated solar light flyer box 100 also includes a battery compartment 112, which may be mounted within the flyer box 102 as shown, or on the outside of the flyer box 102, the lid 104, a stand, a post, or another device.

FIG. 11 depicts another embodiment of a solar light flyer box 120. The illustrated solar light flyer box 120 implements edge-lighting to light an image 122 etched or otherwise

US 7,585,085 B1

7

marked on the front panel **110** of the flyer box **102**. Alternatively, the image **122** may be marked on another part of the flyer box **102** or lid **104**. The image **122** shown is the phrase "FOR SALE" etched into the front panel **110**, which may be made of glass, plastic, or another transparent or translucent material.

The image **122** may be lit from light emitted from one or more light sources **108** such as LEDs that project light into the edge of the panel **110**. For example, one or more LEDs may project light from the bottom of the front panel **110** into the front panel **110** to light up the image **122**. The one or more lights **108** may be located within a light base **124** attached to the bottom of the flyer box **102**. In alternative embodiments, the lights **108** may be mounted and configured to project light into one or more panels and/or the light **108** from another position other than the base **124**. For example, one or more light sources **108** may be mounted within a side panel of the flyer box **102** to project light into a side edge of the flyer box **102**.

FIG. 12A illustrates another embodiment of a solar light sign post **10** with a backlit panel **58** built into the crossarm **16**. For clarity, many of the solar components are omitted, but may be configured in a manner similar to or different from the illustrated components. The depicted solar light sign post **10** includes a backlit panel **58** that may be partially or wholly translucent or semi-translucent so that a light source **26** mounted behind the backlit panel **58** (i.e., within the crossarm **26**) may illuminate the backlit panel **58**. In one embodiment, the solar light sign post **10** may be configured to allow a user to easily exchange different backlit panels **58** within the crossarm **16**.

FIG. 12B illustrates another embodiment of a solar light sign post **10** with an edge-lit rider sign **60**. For clarity, many of the solar components are omitted, but may be configured in a manner similar to or different from the illustrated components. The depicted solar light sign post **10** includes an edge-lit rider sign **60** that may be etched with an image, as described above, so that the edge-lighting illuminates the image. In one embodiment, the light source **26** to illuminate the rider sign **60** is located within the crossarm **16**. In some embodiments, the solar light sign post **10** may be configured to allow a user to easily exchange different edge-lit rider signs **60** on the crossarm **16**.

Some embodiments of the solar lighting sign post **10** use different types of solar cells or solar panels **24**. For example, some embodiments use crystalline solar cells such as monocrystalline or polycrystalline solar cells. Other embodiments use amorphous solar cells or another type of solar cell.

In another embodiment, an apparatus includes means for mounting a sign; means for defining a cavity within the mounting means; and means for illuminating the sign from within the cavity.

The present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from its spirit or essential characteristics. The described embodiments are to be considered in all respects only as illustrative and not restrictive. The scope of the invention is, therefore, indicated by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description. All changes which come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are to be embraced within their scope.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus, comprising:

a photovoltaic cell to collect solar energy and to convert the solar energy into electrical energy, wherein the photovoltaic cell is integrated with a sign post;

8

a power storage module coupled to the photovoltaic cell, the power storage module having a rechargeable battery to store at least some of the electrical energy;

a light source coupled to the power storage module by control circuitry, wherein the light source is at least partially recessed in the sign post; and

a light source housing to enclose the light source, wherein the light source housing is at least partially recessed in the sign post and has dimensions approximately equal to a lighting aperture in the sign post.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sign post comprises a vertical member and a horizontal member, and the light source is at least partially recessed in either the vertical member or the horizontal member.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the photovoltaic cell comprises a crystalline solar cell, and the photovoltaic cell is adhered directly to a top, substantially horizontal surface of the sign post, and the photovoltaic cell is coupled to the power storage module by at least one wire which enters an interior space of the sign post through a hole beneath the photovoltaic cell.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the light source is fully recessed into the interior space of a horizontal member of the sign post.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising a lens assembly integrated with the light source housing, the light source housing coupled to the sign post, the lens assembly to align with a lighting aperture in horizontal member of the sign post.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the light source is oriented within the interior space of the horizontal member of the sign post to illuminate a sign mounted to the sign post.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the light source is oriented within an interior space of the sign post to provide backlight illumination for a partially translucent panel mounted approximately at an aperture in the sign post.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a fastener to secure the light source housing within the sign post.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the fastener comprises a compressible attachment clip, the compressible attachment clip to compress during insertion of the light source housing into the sign post and to return to engage against an inside surface of the sign post to secure the light source housing within the sign post.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the light source housing is further configured to house the power storage module.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising another housing to house the power storage module.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a separate housing to house the photovoltaic cell and the power storage module.

13. An apparatus, comprising:

a flyer box to hold a flyer;

a solar cell coupled to the flyer box; and

a light source coupled to the solar cell, the light source to illuminate at least a portion of the flyer box.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the light source is oriented to project illumination on a front panel of the flyer box.

15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the light source is oriented to edge-light a panel of the flyer box.

16. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the solar cell and light source are coupled to a lid of the flyer box.

US 7,585,085 B1

9

17. An apparatus comprising:  
a crossarm of a sign post, wherein the crossarm has a  
non-rectangular cross-sectional geometry with at least  
one side surface at a non-vertical angle;  
a photovoltaic cell mounted to the side surface at the non-  
vertical angle, the photovoltaic cell to collect solar  
energy and to convert the solar energy into electrical  
energy;  
a power storage module coupled to the photovoltaic cell,  
the power storage module comprising a rechargeable  
battery to store at least some of the electrical energy; and

10

a light source coupled to the power storage module by  
control circuitry, wherein the light source is at least  
partially recessed in the sign post and oriented to illumi-  
nate a sign below the crossarm of the sign post.  
18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the crossarm has a  
trapezoidal cross-sectional geometry.  
19. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising another  
photovoltaic cell mounted to a substantially horizontal top  
surface of the crossarm of the sign post.

\* \* \* \* \*

# Exhibit B





**Silicon Solar Inc**  
Innovative Solar Solutions™

Questions? Call us today!

**1.800.786.0329**

9AM-6PM EST M-F



Solar Electric Panels



Solar Thermal Systems



Commercial Solar Lighting



Solar Fountain Kits



Solar Power Kits

**Product Categories**[Solar Panels](#)[Solar Hot Water Heaters](#)[Photovoltaic Solar Cells](#)[Commercial Solar Lighting](#)[Solar Landscape Lights](#)[Solar Fountains & Pumps](#)[Solar Battery Chargers](#)[Complete Solar Systems](#)[Solar Electronic Kits](#)[Solar Power Accessories](#)[Wind Products](#)[Solar Services](#)[Specials](#)**Why Shop With Us?**

Silicon Solar provides the latest solar technologies directly to our customers. We offer a complete line of renewable energy products that exceed the highest quality standards in the industry.

**Sales & Customer Service**

Ph: (800) 786-0329  
Fax: (800) 653-8540  
M-F 9AM-5:30PM EST

**Information****Secured Service**

Search our online catalog for hundreds of [solar lights](#), [solar fountains](#) and many other products, including [solar cells](#) and [solar panels](#). We also manufacture custom [solar kits](#) upon request for professors and educational programs.

**SunBox Solar Brochure Box Light**
[Silicon Solar](#) > [Commercial Solar Lighting](#) > [Solar Real Estate Lights](#) > [SunBox Solar Brochure Box Light](#)
**SunBox Solar Brochure Box Light**

**SunBox**  
Innovative Solar Technologies™

**Product Information:**SKU: **SunBox**

List Price: \$19.99

Our Price: **\$15.35**Weight: **3.00 lbs**Quantity: [Add to cart](#)

Availability: Please add to cart to verify

**Order With Confidence**

100% Secure Ordering

Questions? Call us at 1-888-765-2711

[Tell a Friend About This Product](#)

Speak with a Live Solar Representative Today!

**Product Details**
[Click Here to Print Product Brochure!](#)

**SunBox Solar Brochure Box Light:** Many real estate agents, business owners and other professionals have asked us to make them a solar powered brochure box which offers plenty of great features and solar powered lights and is available at an affordable price. Our answer: the SunBox Solar Powered Lighted Brochure Box.

The SunBox features an oversized solar panel which charges the included (and replaceable) battery bank during the day. The energy which is stored during the day is then used to operate the light all night, every night. The SunBox has 4 different lighting modes including off, auto, 4 hour and 6 hour. Three easily replaced AAA batteries (rechargeable batteries are available at any retail or drug store) provide the charging capacity for the SunBox and ensure that it operates correctly.

**Specifications:**

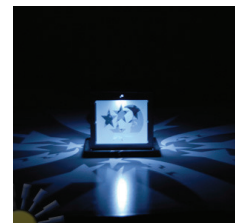
- Oversized crystalline solar panel
- 3 AAA Batteries for power storage which are easily replaced with rechargeable AAA batteries
- 2 Ultra-bright LEDs
- 4 Lighting Modes: off, auto, 4 hour and 6 hour

**Features:**

- Built-in business card holder for added exposure
- Stylish white body
- Clear, removable front
- Durable plastic case
- Easily mounts in minutes with 2 screws/bolts

**Who needs the SunBox?**

- Real Estate Agents
- Other Business that Advertise With Outdoor Brochure Boxes
- Municipal and Civic Governments/Groups who Offer Brochures for Tourists and Residents

**Solar Partners****Featured Products**[click here](#)[Deals and Sales](#)[Solar Tulip Flower Light](#)[Frosted Moon Light](#)

**Solar Home Evaluation**

Sign-up today for your free **solar home evaluation**.

We offer solar electric, wind, and solar hot water home evaluations. Simply click on the link below or call us to speak with a live representative. Calculate your Solar Hot Water and Electric Savings

[FREE Solar Evaluation](#)

- Resort & Vacation Destinations
- Travel Agents
- Shops, Boutiques, and Home Businesses
- **New use idea: Restaurants, leave your menu outdoors for potential customers to take on their way!**

**DEALERS WANTED!** Looking for a great way to make extra money, or add some additional capital to your bottom line? There are great opportunities available around the world to resell the SunPal, SunPal 2X, SunPal 4X, AdLite and SunBox. If you work with real estate agents, or sell business and marketing solutions to them, this is a great opportunity for you to add one of the fastest growing product lines in the real estate industry to your offerings.

**Need Assistance?**

If you have questions, need help, or simply feel uncomfortable placing your order online, feel free to contact the product representative at 1-800-786-0329 or send a [Support Ticket](#).

**Warranty:** 30 day(s)

Email A Friend


Question? 24/7 Sales Support

To share this product with a friend, simply fill out the form below:

Your Name: \*

Your E-mail Address: ; \*

Recipient's E-Mail Address: \*

Send to friend 

Need assistance with your order?

Call our professionally trained specialist today at 1-888-SOLAR-11


OR

Submit the form below:  
(Please reference a SKU or other relevant information so our staff can assist you)

E-mail: \*


Subject: \*

Contents: \*

Question: Technical 

Prove you are Human:  
Please enter the number of days in a week  
( Your answer should be a single digit)

Submit 



**We Ship Worldwide:** New York | California | Florida | Texas | New Mexico | New Jersey | North Carolina | Beijing | United Kingdom | France | Canada  
**Call us toll free:** 1-800-786-0329 | Fax: 800-653-8540 Hours of Operation: M-F 8AM-7PM EST [Solar Energy Store](#)

**:: Valued Customers:**

:: Yale University (Solar Panel Systems)  
:: United States Army (Solar Sign Lighting)  
:: Holloman Air Force Base (Solar Cells)  
:: University of Buffalo (Solar Boat Team)  
:: Texas A&M University (Solar Car Team)

:: Brookhaven National Laboratory (Small Solar Power systems)  
:: Kennedy Space Center (Solar Lights & Educational Kits)  
:: Arizona Housing District (10,000 watt solar panel array, solar lights)  
:: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Solar Lights)  
:: Cornell University (Small 40 Watt Charging System)  
:: Landscape Maintenance Services (Solar Sign Lighting)  
:: Sidney High School (Solar Hot Water Systems)

[Customer Service](#) | [Commercial Sales](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Visual Directory](#) | [Information Guide](#) | [Solar Panels](#) | [Company Information](#)

Copyright © 1997-2009 Silicon Solar Inc.

# Exhibit C

October 2, 2009

Silicon Solar, Inc.  
Corporate Headquarters  
15 Catherwood Road  
Ithaca, New York 14850

***Via Certified Mail***

***Return Receipt Requested***

**Re: Notice of U.S. Patent 7,585,085**

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please be advised that I am the owner of U.S. Patent 7,585,085 directed to various designs related to solar lighting for signs and accessories. A copy of the patent is enclosed for your reference. A copy of this letter is also being sent to Adam Farrell, who is listed by the New York State Department of State as the Chairman or Chief Executive Officer.

It has come to my attention that you are selling and/or distributing a product called the SunBox which is similar to my patented technology. Consequently, I request that you



Page 2

October 2, 2009

immediately discontinue all advertising, sales, distribution, and other activities involving the SunBox and other similar products until negotiations can occur to explore a possible resolution of this matter. Also, in order to mitigate further harm, please immediately comply with the following actions:

- Disclose all manufacturers who make and/or supply the SunBox or other similar products.
- Provide a list of all individuals, companies, or other entities, including all relevant contact information, to whom you have sold or otherwise provided the SunBox or other similar products.
- Provide a list of all individuals, companies, or other entities, including all relevant contact information, who act in a representative capacity on your behalf for any activities related to the SunBox or other similar products.
- Provide a list of all individuals, companies, or other entities, including all relevant contact information, of whom you are aware that are or may be involved in making, using, selling, importing, or otherwise benefiting from activities involving the SunBox or other similar products.
- Provide a detailed list of all sales, marketing, manufacturing, and distribution activities engaged in by you and/or your representatives related to the SunBox or other similar products.
- Provide an accounting of all revenue and profits related to the SunBox or other similar products.
- Immediately discontinue all activities involving the SunBox or other similar products.

Page 3

October 2, 2009

Please provide all of the requested information in a prompt response to this letter. Also, please contact me at your earliest convenience so that we may discuss possible ways to resolve this matter. I await your response.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey T. Holman

175 S Main St, Suite 850

Salt Lake City, UT 84111

(801) 746-5560 voice

(801) 746-7451 fax

[jeff@techpatents.com](mailto:jeff@techpatents.com)

Enclosure

cc: Adam Farrell