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Blue

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(54) **FILTER HOUSING WITH LIFTABLE LID**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

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B65D 43/26 (2006.01)
B01D 35/30 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **B01D 35/30** (2013.01)
USPC **220/263**; 220/816; 220/324

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 220/260, 319–321, 293, 300, 582, 324, 220/327, 328, 325, 291, 816, 323, 823, 288, 220/756, 262–264; 248/147, 134

See application file for complete search history.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A filter housing having a lid that is mateable with a vessel portion. An arm that is rotationally fixed relative to the housing having threads that mate with threads in a ratcheting mechanism. Rotating the ratcheting mechanism raises the lid because the ratcheting mechanism is fixed from longitudinal movement. A slot in which a pin rides is used to fix rotation, the slot has an aligned portion and an angled portion. The aligned portion is aligned with the longitudinal axis of the arm and the angled portion is angled with respect to the longitudinal axis of the arm. As the arm raises and the pin rides in the aligned portion of the slot, the lid raises without rotation, and as the pin rides in the angled portion the lid raises and rotates.

4 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

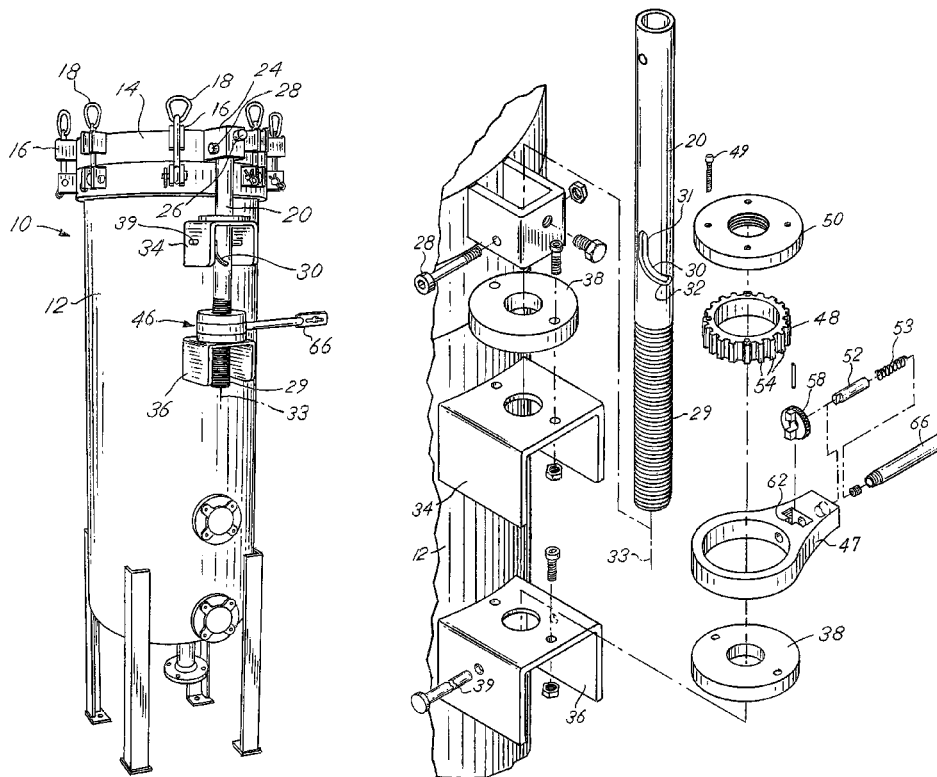
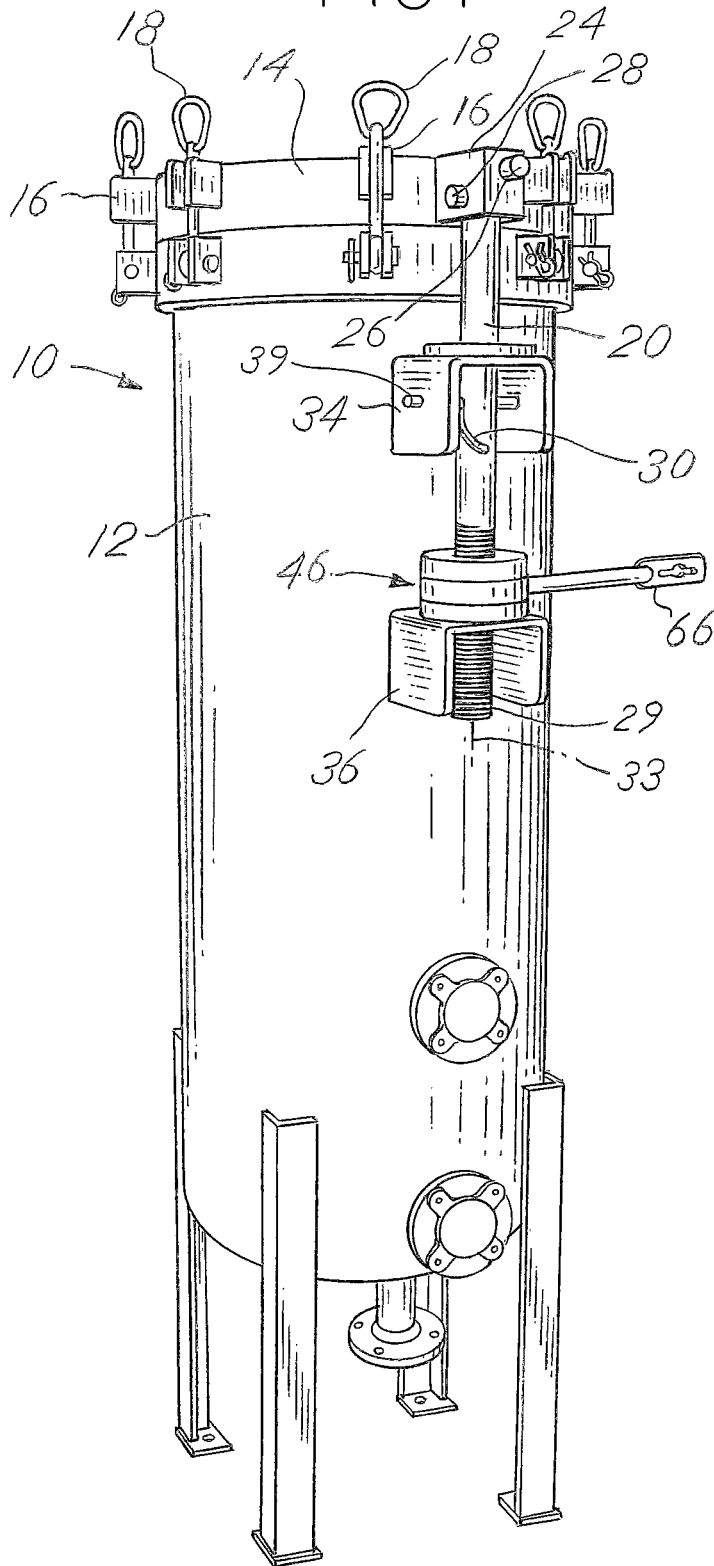
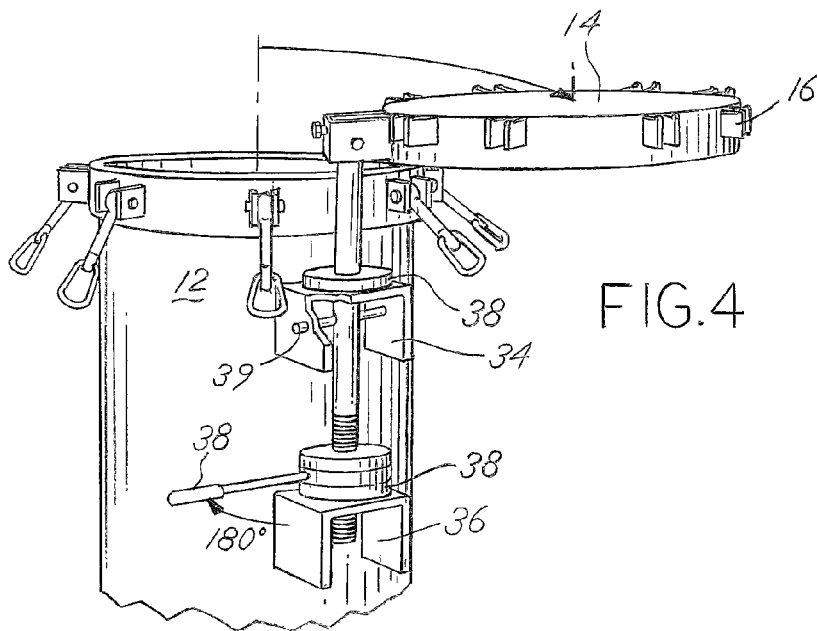
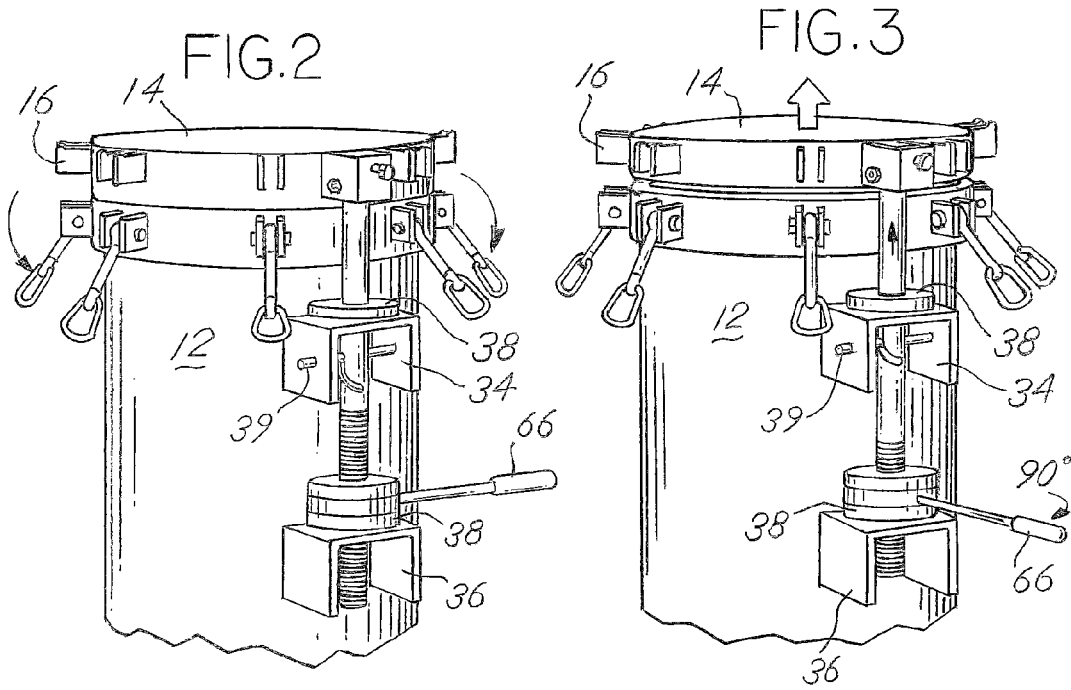
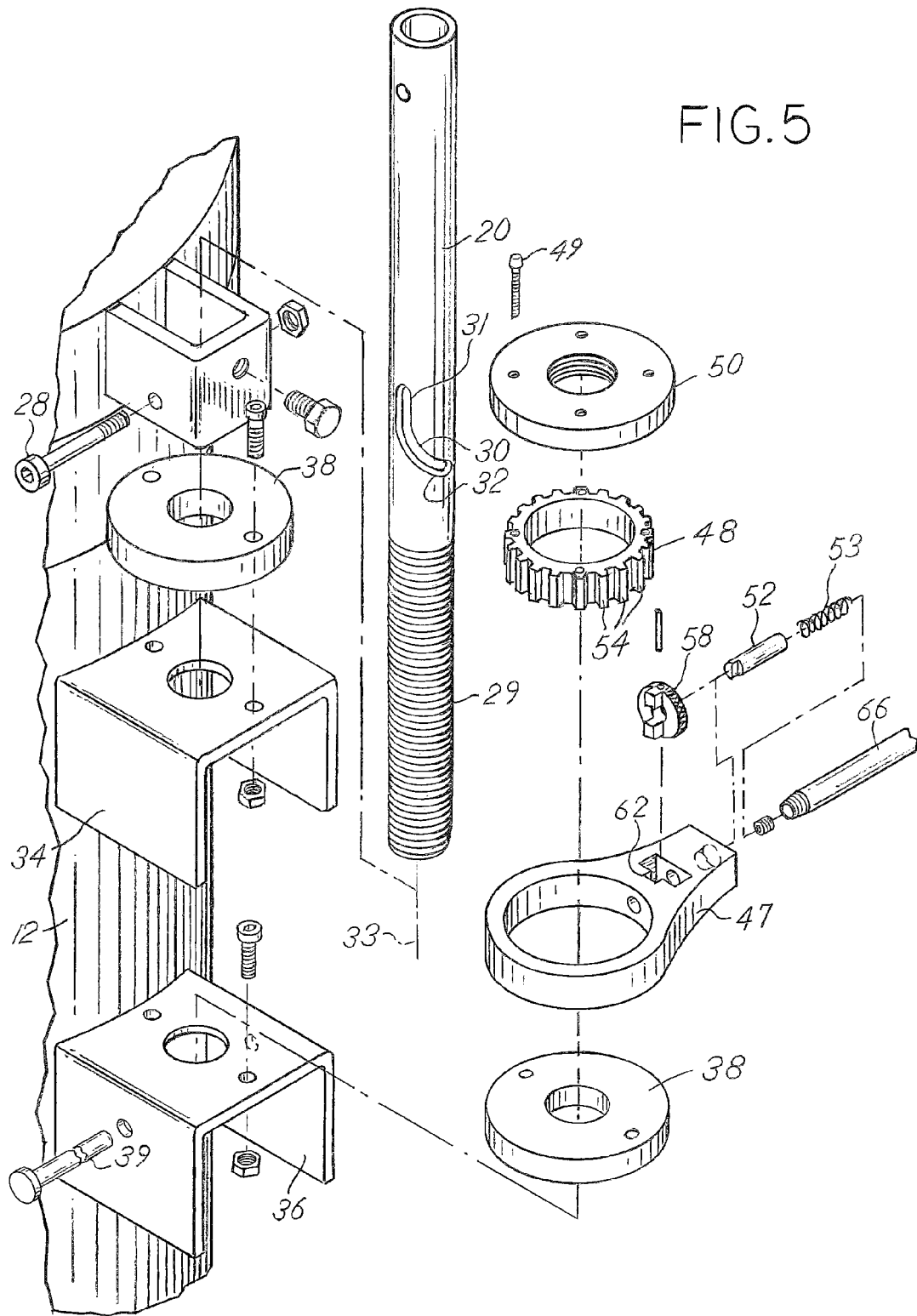
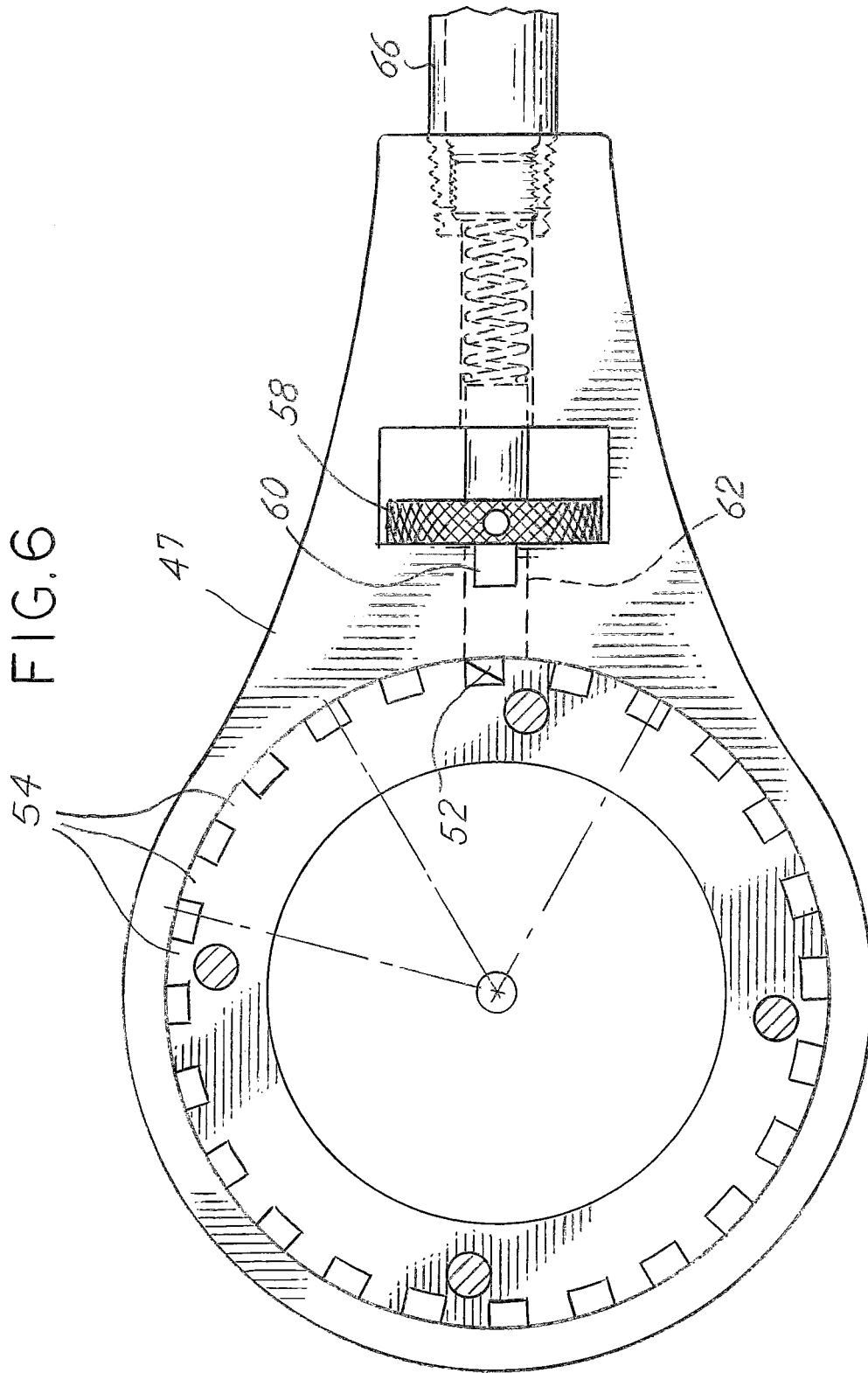


FIG 1









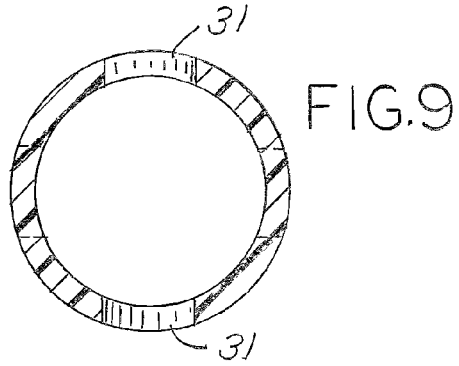


FIG. 7

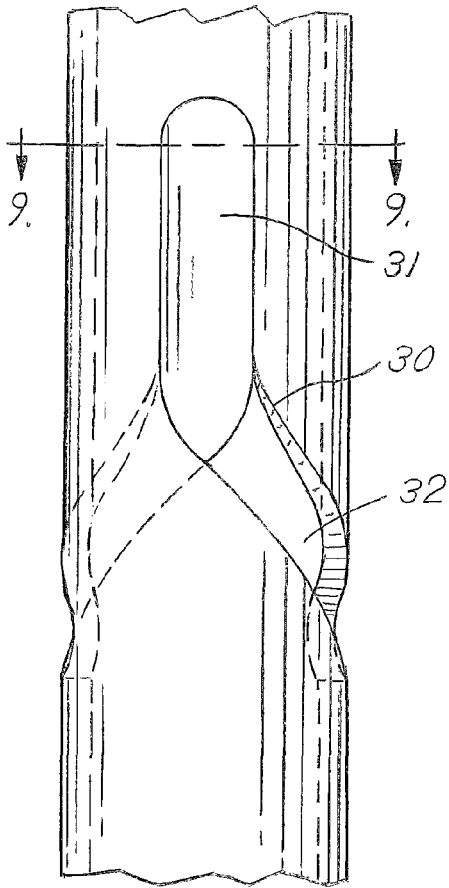
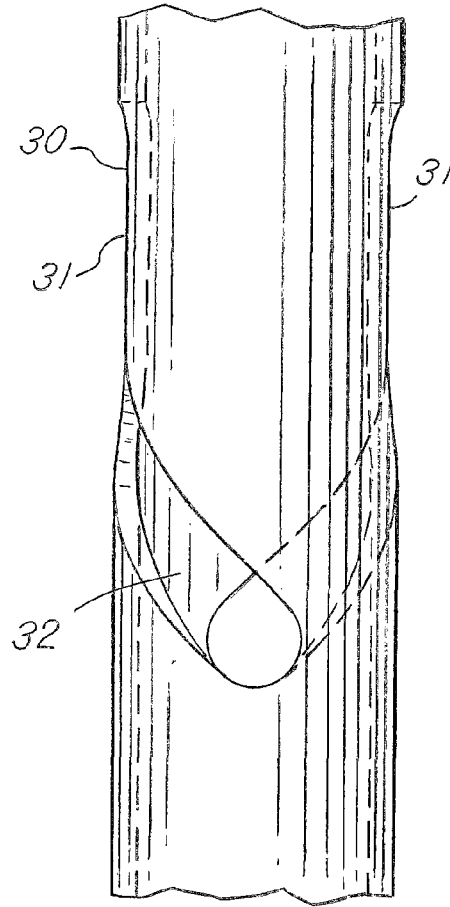


FIG. 8



FILTER HOUSING WITH LIFTABLE LIDCROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Utility application Ser. No. 13/303,950, filed Nov. 23, 2011, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND

Large volume filtration vessels are very useful for filtering large amounts of fluid and, due to high pressures within such a vessel, the parts can be quite heavy. The heft of the parts can make changing individual filter elements within the vessel very difficult. Often, a lid or other cover must be lifted to reveal the individual elements within a filter vessel. The cover may be hundreds of pounds and, due to size, be quite awkward. Some large filter vessels may employ external means to lift the cover from the vessel such as an external crane. Frequently chains are used to attach a crane to the lid for lifting. This can cause injury if the chains are improperly installed, or if the chains slip off of the lid during its removal. Ideally, a system for lifting the lid would be integrated into the filter housing itself.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a filter housing. The filter housing has a vessel portion and a lid which mates with the vessel portion. An arm is secured to the lid and is movable with respect to the vessel portion. The arm has an inclined feature. A rotational member engages the inclined feature. The rotational member is rotatable with respect to the vessel portion and restrained from longitudinal movement with respect to the vessel portion so that rotation of the rotational member relative to the arm causes longitudinal movement of the arm and separation of the lid from the vessel portion.

In one aspect of the invention, the inclined feature on the arm may be threads. In this case, threads on the rotational member mate with the threads on the arm.

In another aspect of the invention, a slot may be located apart from the threads so that a pin rides in the slot. The slot having an aligned portion that is aligned with respect to the longitudinal axis of the arm, and having an inclined portion that is inclined with respect to the longitudinal axis of the arm. The pin being fixed with respect to the housing so the pin may prevent rotation when in the aligned portion, and facilitate rotation when the pin is in the angled portion.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the filter housing;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the filter housing shown in FIG. 1 with the lid in the lowered position;

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of the filter housing shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 with the lid in a raised position, and the lid not being turned with respect to the vessel portion of the housing;

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the filter housing shown in FIGS. 1-3 with the lid in a raised position, and the lid being turned with respect to the vessel portion of the housing;

FIG. 5 is an exploded perspective view of the filter housing shown in FIGS. 1-4;

FIG. 6 is a top view of the ratchet housing and ratchet gear;

FIG. 7 is a view showing the slot in the arm;

FIG. 8 is side view of the arm shown in FIG. 7 taken ninety degrees to the view shown in FIG. 7; and

FIG. 9 is a sectional view taken about the line 9-9 in FIG. 7.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION

The filter housing **10** of the present invention has a vessel portion **12** and a lid **14** that is sealingly matable to the vessel portion **12**. The lid **14** is typically made of steel and, depending on the size of the housing, can be extremely heavy. The lid has retainer brackets **16** around the periphery that are designed to accept clamps **18** that are used to secure the lid **14** to the vessel portion of the housing **10** when it is in use. The lid has an arm **20** that is secured to a mounting bracket **24** on the lid **14**. The arm **20** may be joined to the bracket **24** by use of a press fit and bolt **26**, or may be mounted with a bolt **26** and/or pin **28**. The arm **20** and lid **14** are movable relative to the vessel portion **12** and both move together. The arm **20** is typically made of steel pipe and has an inclined feature which are threads **29** along a threaded portion of the arm **20** near its lower end.

The arm **20** includes a slot **30** that is above the threads **29**. The slot **30** has an aligned portion **31** and an angled portion **32**. The aligned portion **31** of the slot **30** is aligned with the longitudinal central axis **33** of the arm **20**. The angled portion **32** is inclined with respect to the central axis **33** of the arm **20**. The angled portion is helical with respect to the arm **20**. As can be seen in FIGS. **5**, **7**, **8** each side of the arm **20** has a slot and the helical angled portions **32** are oriented so that a pin **39** can extend through the arm **20** at its center through all positions in the aligned and angled portions **31**, **32** of the slots **30**. The arm **20** is held adjacent to the vessel portion **12** by upper and lower brackets **34**, **36**. The upper and lower brackets **34**, **36** are welded to the side of the vessel portion **20** and have bushings **38** fastened to their upper surfaces as can be seen in FIGS. **1-4**. The bushings **38** have an inner diameter that accepts the arm **20** and allows movement of the arm **20** within the bushings **38**. Thus, longitudinal and rotational movement of the arm **20** is possible with respect to the vessel portion **12**. The upper bracket **34** has holes through which pin **39** is inserted. The pin **39** passes through the upper bracket **34** and through the slot **30**. The pin **39** is adapted for riding in the slot **30** during longitudinal movement of the arm **20** with respect to the brackets **34**, **36**.

A rotational member **46** rests against the bushing **38** on the lower bracket **36**, as shown in FIG. **1**. The rotational member **46** is fixed from longitudinal movement with respect to the vessel portion **12**. The rotational member **46** includes a ratchet housing **47** that contains a ratchet gear **48**. The ratchet gear **48** has a threaded bushing **50** that is mounted to the ratchet gear **48** with bolts **49**. The threaded bushing **50** has internal threads that match the threads **29** on the arm **20**. The connection between the threaded bushing **50** and the threads **29** on the arm **20** supports the weight of the lid **14**, and the rotational member **46** is in constant contact with the lower bracket **36**. Thus, the rotational member **46** and the threaded bushing **50** are effectively fixed with respect to the vessel portion **12**. It is contemplated that it may be possible to put an opposing bracket opposite that of lower bracket **36** to contain the threaded busing **50** and rotational member **46**, but due to the weight of the lid **14** this is unnecessary. The ratchet housing **47** includes a reversible spring loaded pawl **52**. A spring **53** urges the pawl **52** into teeth **54** on the ratchet gear **48**. FIG. **6** shows how the pawl **52** is angled to catch within the teeth **54** in one direction and slide over the teeth **54** in the opposite direction. A knurled thumb wheel **58** is attached to the pawl **52** and has a rib **60** for engaging a notch **62** in the ratchet housing **47**. When the wheel is turned 180 degrees, the direc-

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tion of the pawl 52 is reversed and, as can be seen by one skilled in the art, the direction the ratchet gear 48 will turn will be reversed. A handle 66 extends from the ratchet housing 47.

When the handle 66 is used to turn the ratchet housing 47 with the pawl 52, as shown in FIG. 6, the ratchet gear 48 and threaded bushing 50 will be rotated in a clockwise direction as viewed in FIG. 6. Rotating the ratchet housing 47 in a ratcheting motion will move the entire rotational member 46 downward on the arm 20. Thus, the arm 20 will be urged upward because the rotational member 46 rests against the lower bracket 36 that is fixed to the vessel portion 12. As the arm 20 is urged upward, the pin 39 rides in the slot. When the lid 14 is in its fully lowered position, the pin 39 is in its uppermost position in the aligned portion 31 of the slots 30. This is shown in FIG. 2. As the arm 20 is urged upwardly to the point that the pin 39 is in the angled portion 32 of the slot 30, rotation will be imparted in the arm 20 and therefore the lid. The lid 14 and arm 20 are restrained from rotation for a predetermined distance equivalent to the length of the aligned portion 31 of the slot 30. While the pin 39 is in the aligned portion 31 of the slot, the lid 14 will be lifted vertically. Upon entry of the pin 39, in the angled portion 32 of the slot, the lid will continue to lift, and will rotate at the same time. FIG. 3 shows the lid 14 being lifted to its height just before rotation, the lifted height being the length of the aligned portion 31. FIG. 4 shows the lid 14 being rotated toward the right of FIG. 4. It is contemplated that the angled portion 32 of the slot 30 could be angled the opposite way as that shown in the FIGS, and in such case the lid 14 could be made to rotate in the opposite direction as that shown in FIG. 4. If standard right hand threads 29 are used for the threaded portion of the arm 20, friction will tend to assist in rotation of the lid in the direction shown in FIG. 4 during upward movement of the lid. Likewise, with standard right hand threads 29, friction will tend to assist in rotating the lid the opposite direction during lowering of the lid.

For a user to lower the lid 14, he will first pull back on the knurled thumb wheel 58 and rotate the pawl 52, 180 degrees to the position shown in FIG. 6. This will cause the ratchet gear 48 and threaded bushing 50 to be rotated counterclock-

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wise when the handle 66 is pulled. As mentioned above, friction from the threads will assist in rotating the arm 20 so that the pin 39 moves from the angled portion 32 into the aligned portion 31. Throughout the entire operation of raising and lowering the lid 14, the threaded bushing 50 never leaves contact with the lower bracket 36.

The invention is not limited to the details given above, but may be modified within the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A filter housing comprising:
 - a vessel portion;
 - a lid being sealingly matable with said vessel portion;
 - a pin that is fixed relative to said vessel portion;
 - an arm secured to said lid and movably engaged with said vessel portion, said arm including a slot, said pin riding in said slot to restrain said arm from rotational movement said slot including an angled portion being angled with respect to said longitudinal axis, said pin restraining said arm from rotational movement when in said aligned portion and said pin imparting rotation in said arm as said pin rides in said angled portion, said arm including a threaded portion having threads; and
 - a rotational member circumscribing said arm and including threads engaging said threads on said arm, said rotational member rotatable with respect to said vessel portion, said rotational member being fixed from longitudinal movement with respect to said vessel portion so that rotation of said rotational member about said arm causes longitudinal movement of said arm and separation of said lid from said vessel portion.
2. The filter housing as claimed in claim 1, wherein said rotational member includes a ratcheting mechanism and said threads are located on a threaded bushing that is held within said rotational member for ratchetable rotation.
3. The filter housing as claimed in claim 2, wherein said ratcheting mechanism includes a gear having teeth affixed to said threaded bushing and a pawl for engaging said teeth.
4. The filter housing as claimed in claim 3, wherein said pawl is reversible.

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