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Smullen et al.

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(54) **PORTABLE OFFICE-IN-A-BOX**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**

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A45C 3/02	(2006.01)
A45C 13/02	(2006.01)
A45C 15/06	(2006.01)
E05B 65/52	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***A45C 9/00*** (2013.01); ***A45C 3/02*** (2013.01); ***A45C 13/02*** (2013.01); ***A45C 15/06*** (2013.01); *A45C 2013/025* (2013.01); *A45C 2200/20* (2013.01); *E05B 65/52* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC A45C 3/02; A45C 9/00; A45C 13/005; A45C 15/06; A45C 2011/003; A45C 2013/025; A45C 2200/20; A45C 13/02; E05B 65/52
USPC 190/11, 108, 109; 206/320
See application file for complete search history.

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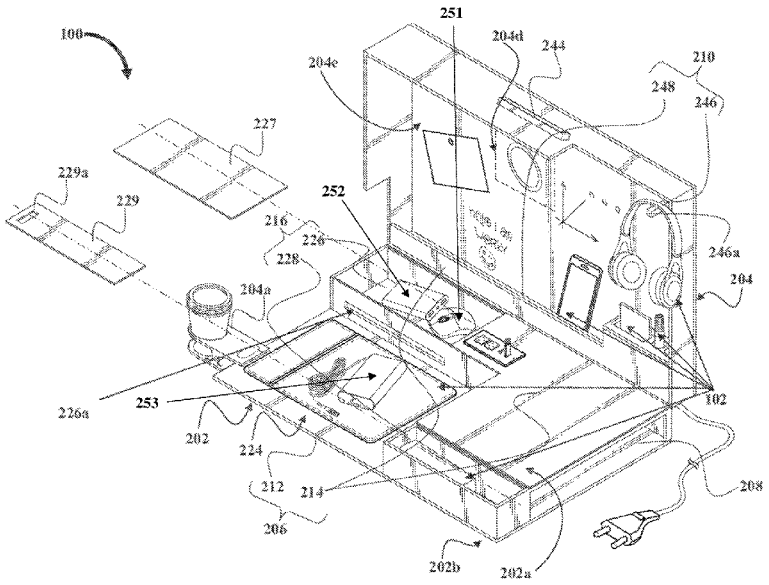
Primary Examiner — Sue A Weaver
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Ashok Tankha

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The portable office-in-a-box allows a user to readily transport and set up an office and workstation at any location. The portable office-in-a-box comprises a substantially rectangular shaped box comprising a base, a lid configured to engage with the base to define the rectangular shaped box, multiple panels, one or more enclosures, multiple mounting fixtures, office equipment and office supplies. The multiple panels are disposed on an inner surface of the base, and inner surface of the lid. A first set of the panels secure one or more office items, and a second set of the panels define one or more enclosures to secure other office items. Multiple drawers slidably engage with the base for providing storage of office equipment and office supplies. Multiple mounting accessories are disposed on the inner surface of the lid for securing office equipment and accessories.

8 Claims, 17 Drawing Sheets



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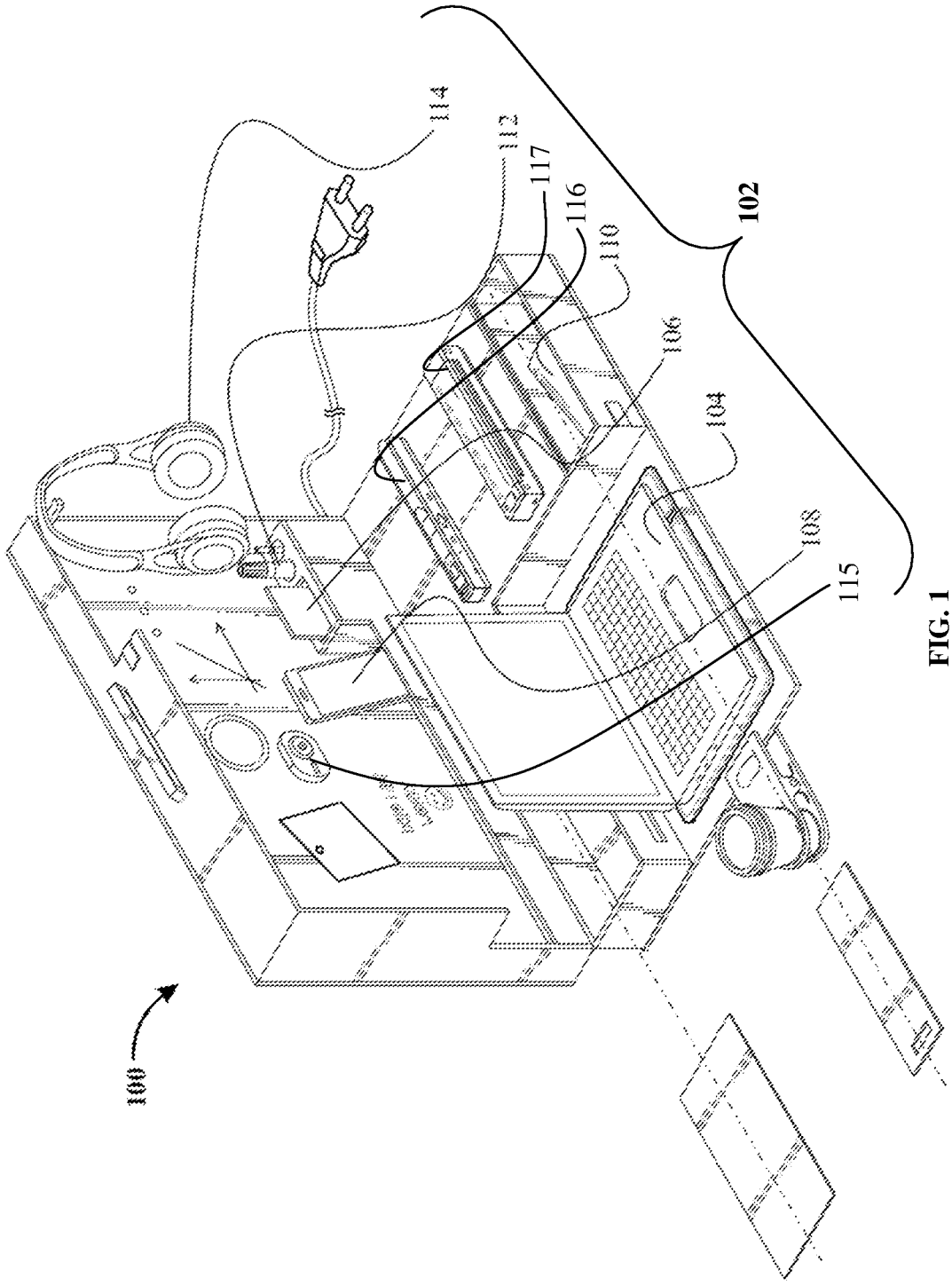

FIG. 1

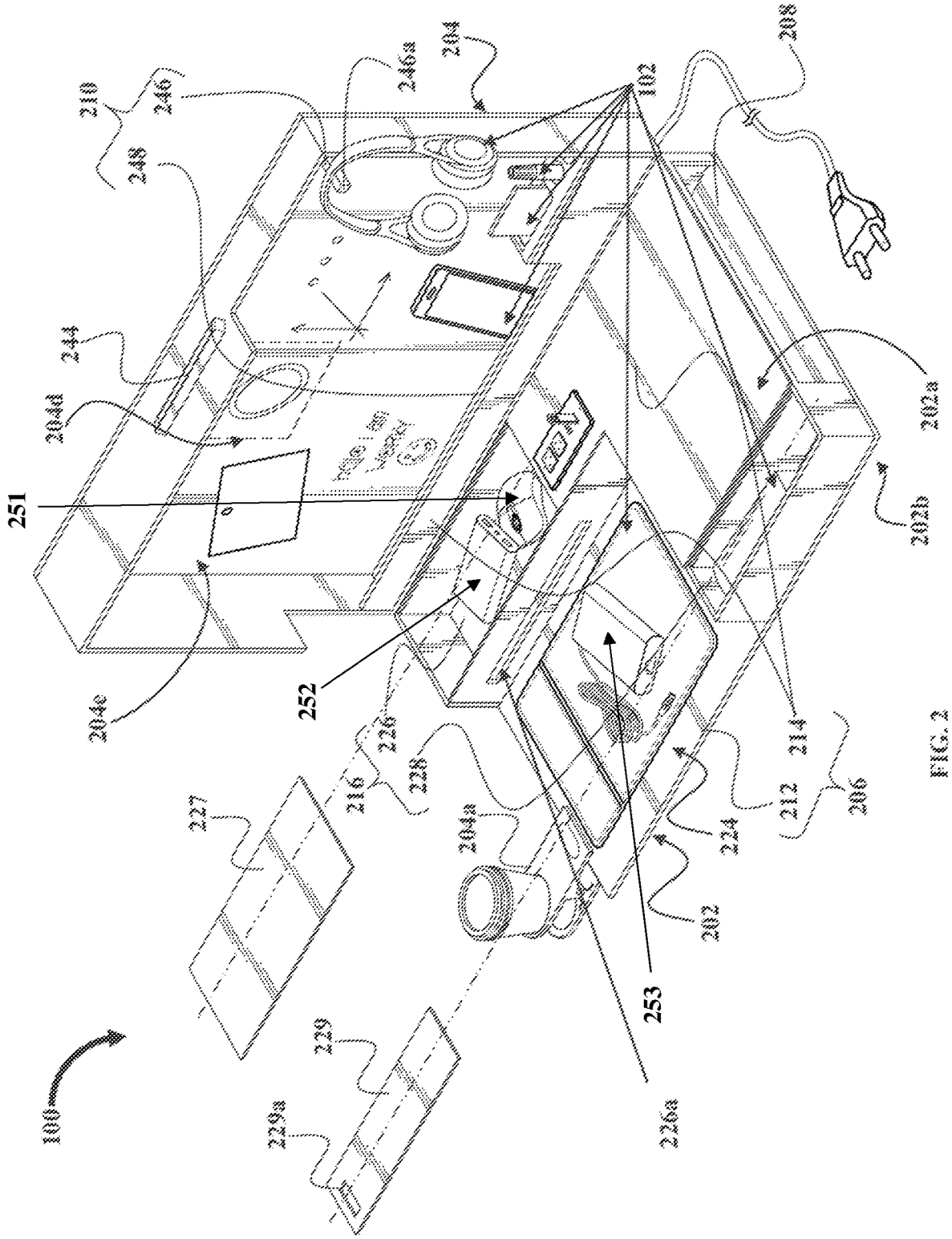
210
246
248
246a
204
102
208
244
204d
251
202a
202b
204e
252
226
216
228
227
204a
214
212
206
224
202
253
239
239a
226a
100

FIG. 2

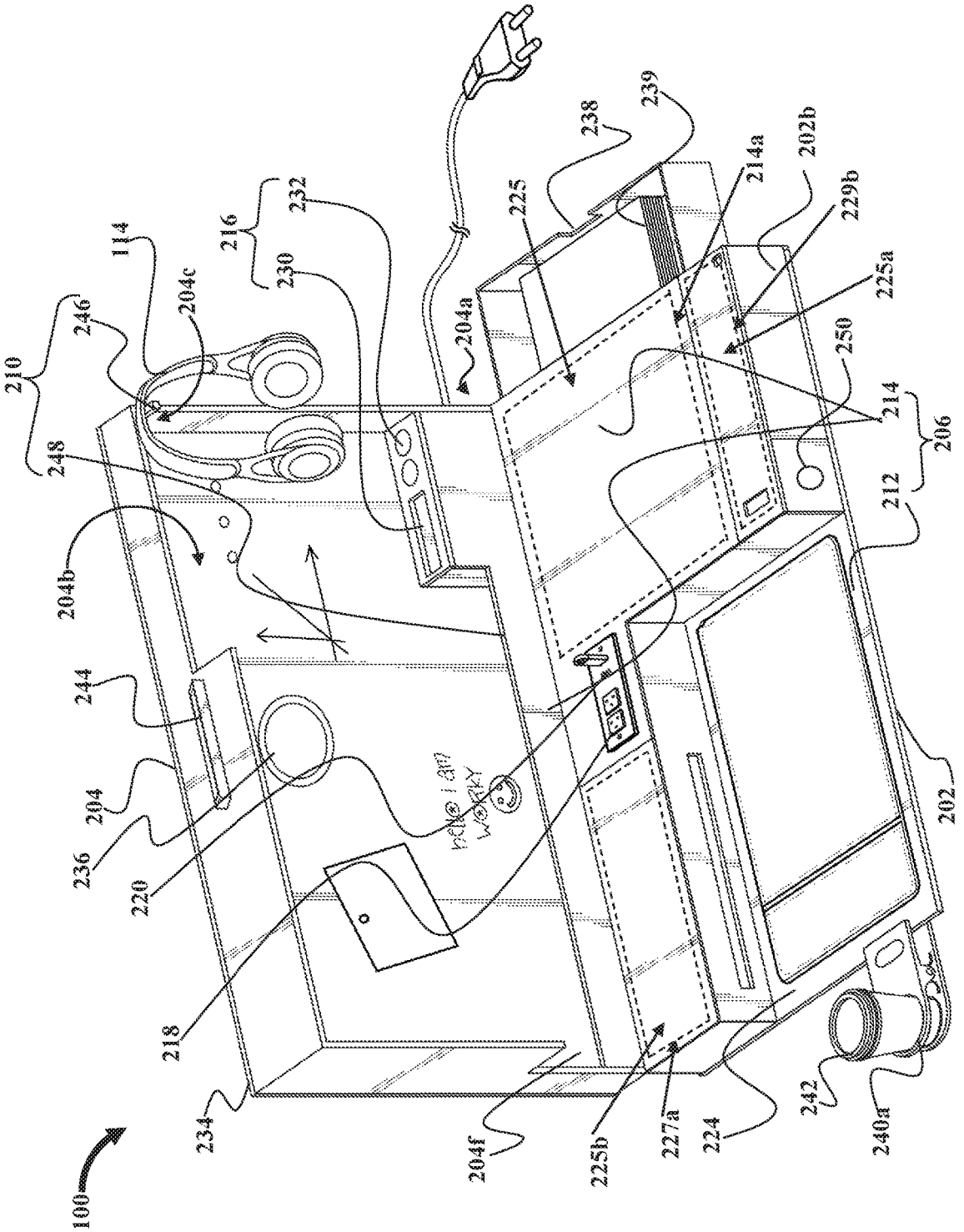
100
210
246
114
204c
216
232
230
204a
225
238
239
214a
202b
229b
225a
250
214
206
212
202
248
204b
244
204
236
220
218
234
204f
225b
227a
224
242
240a

FIG. 3

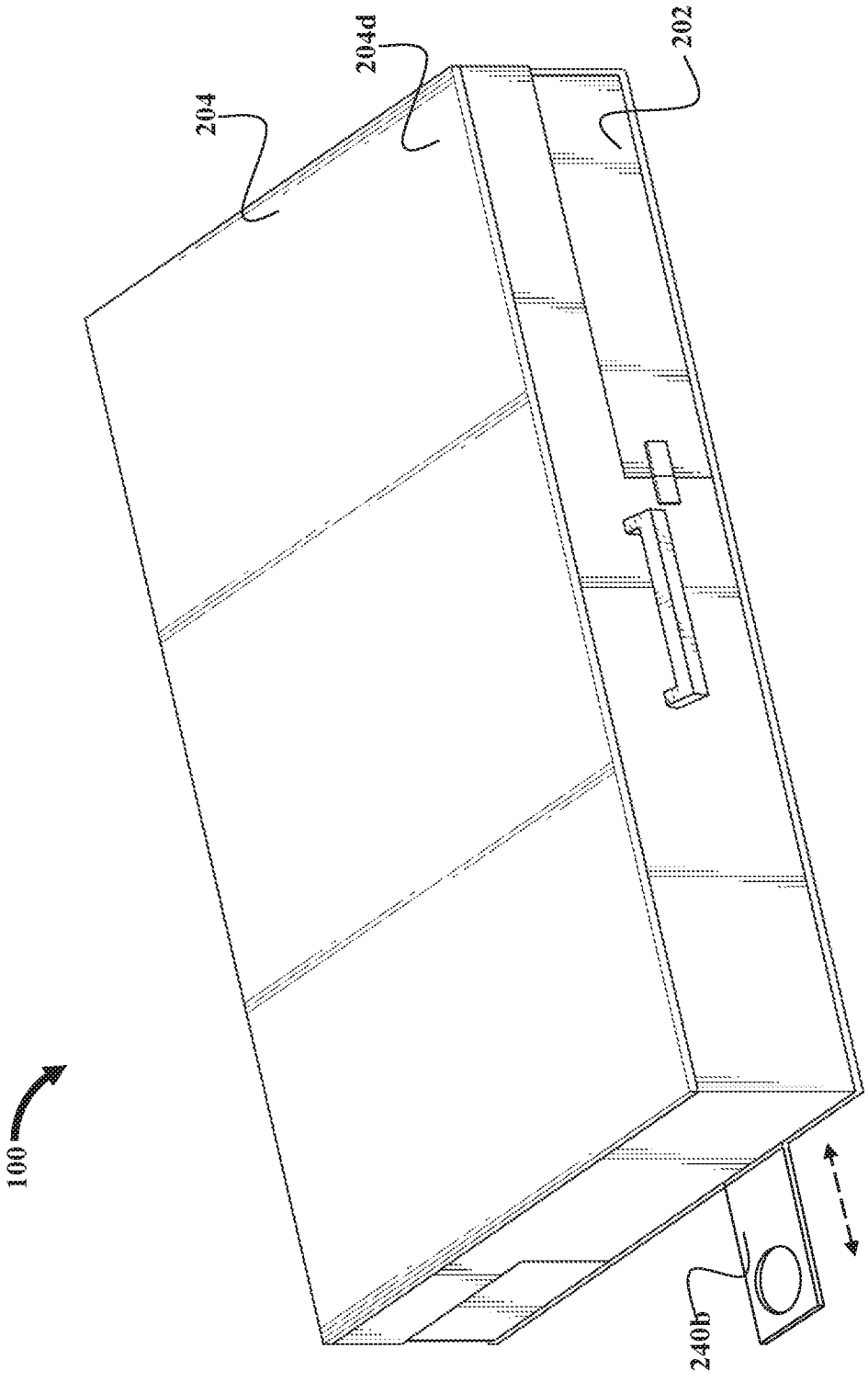

FIG. 4A

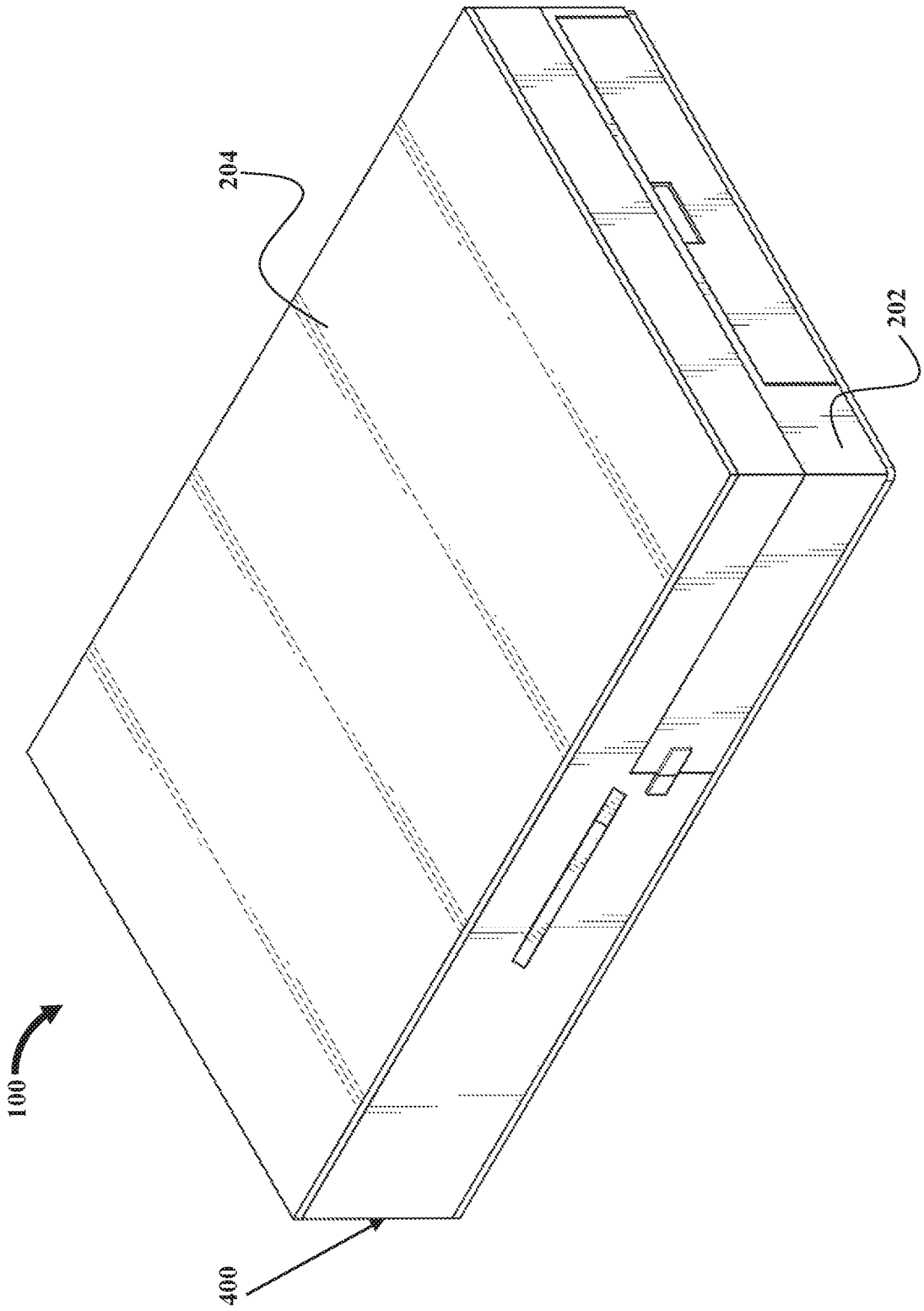

FIG. 4B

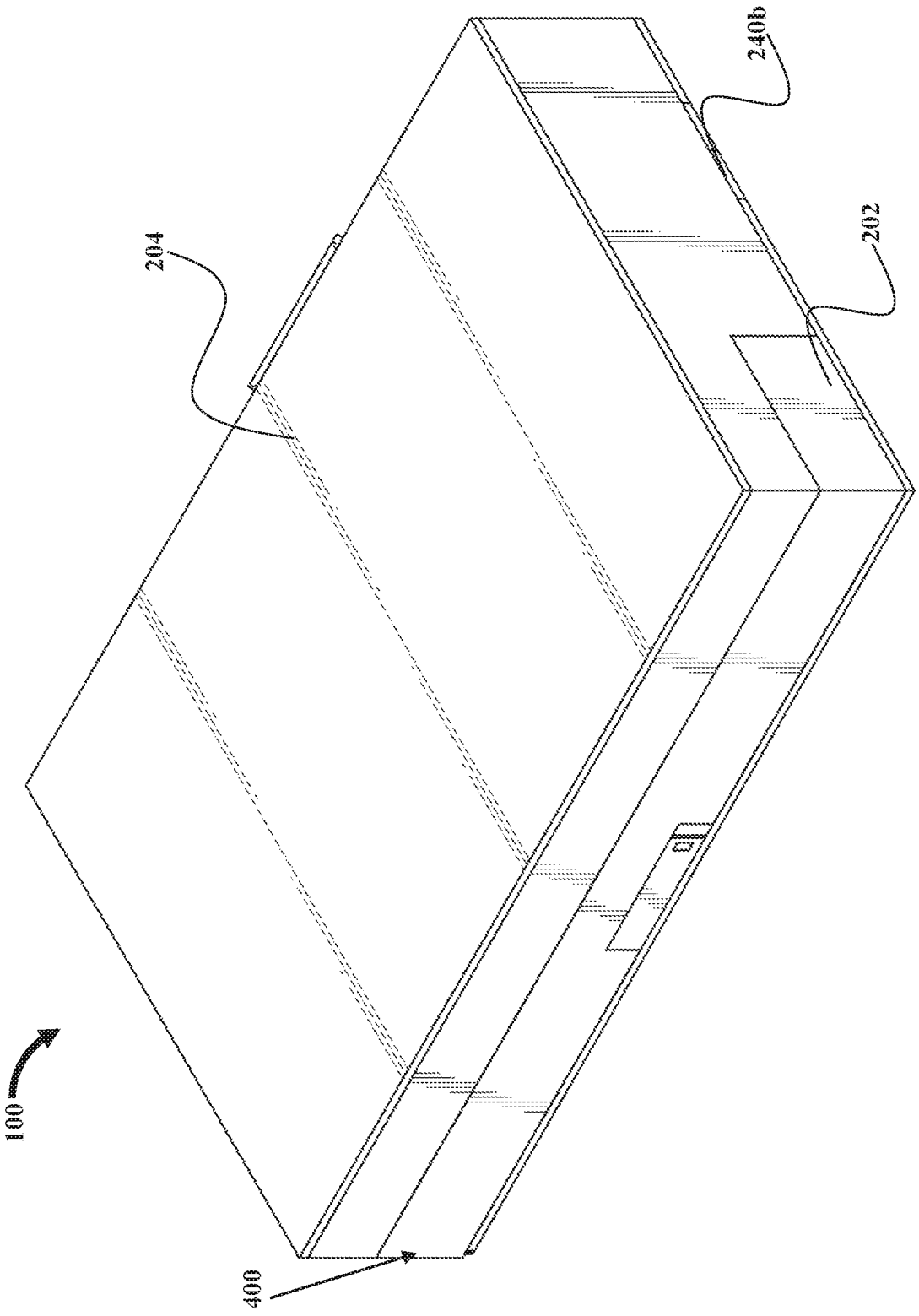

FIG. 4C

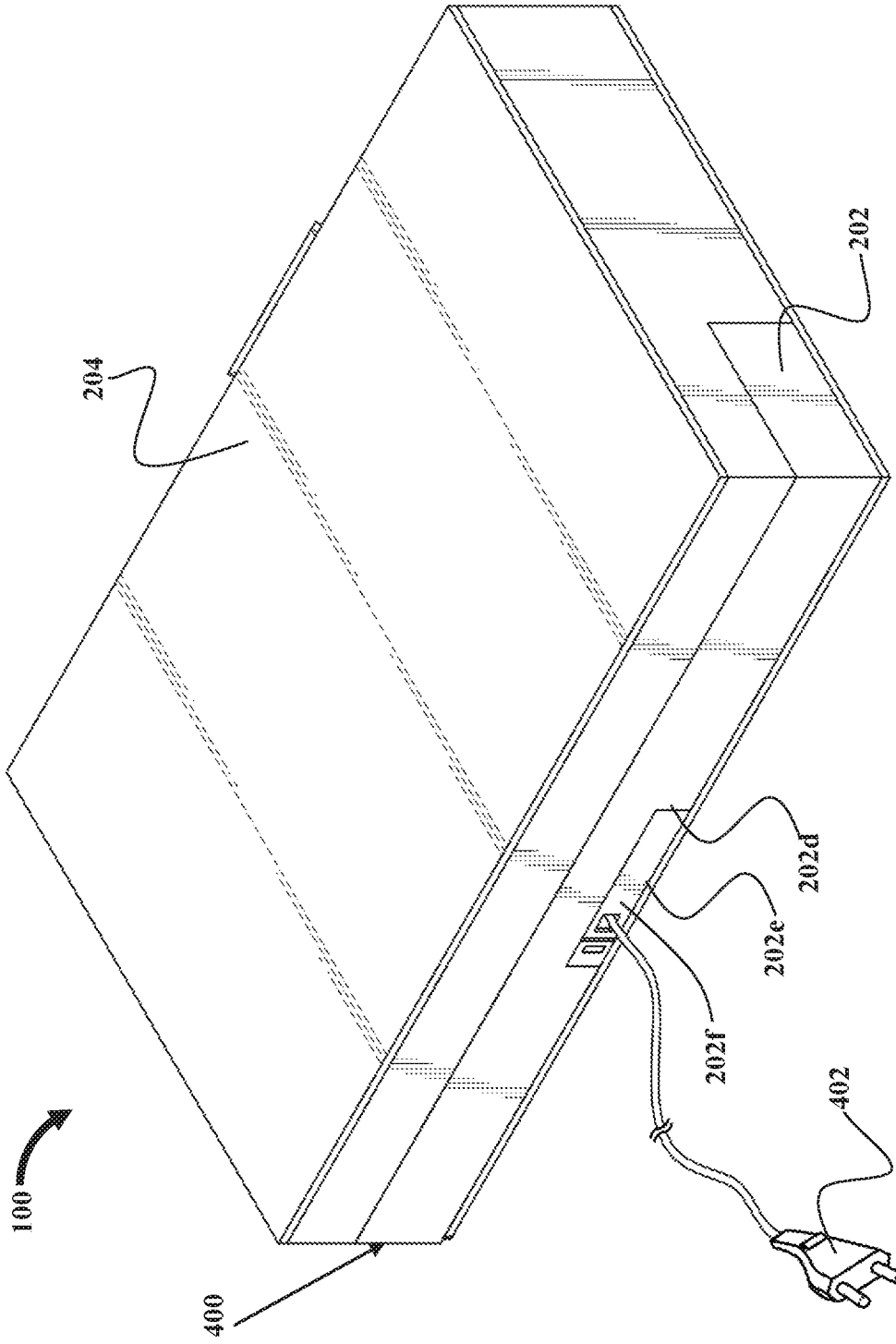

FIG. 4D

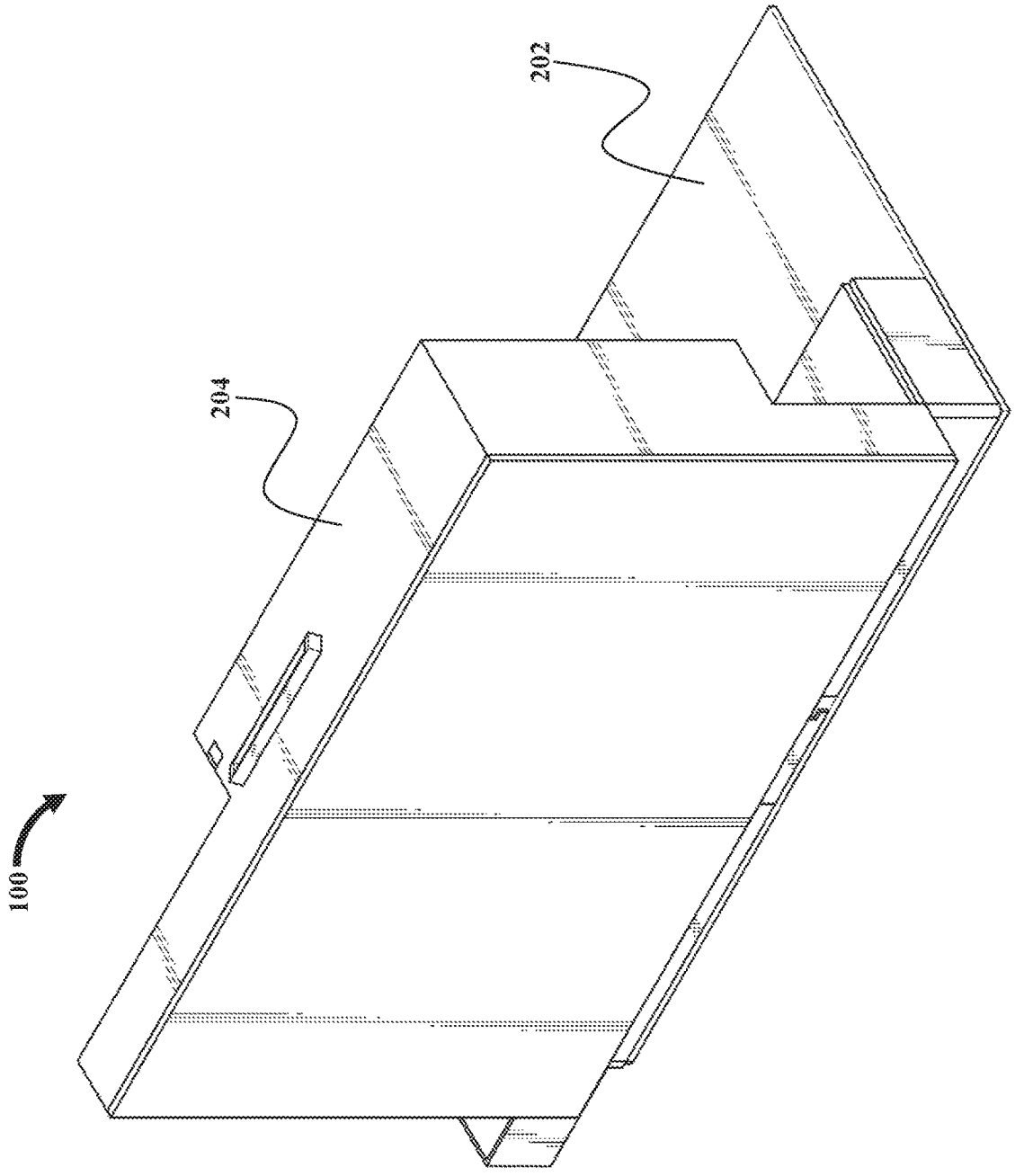

FIG. 5A

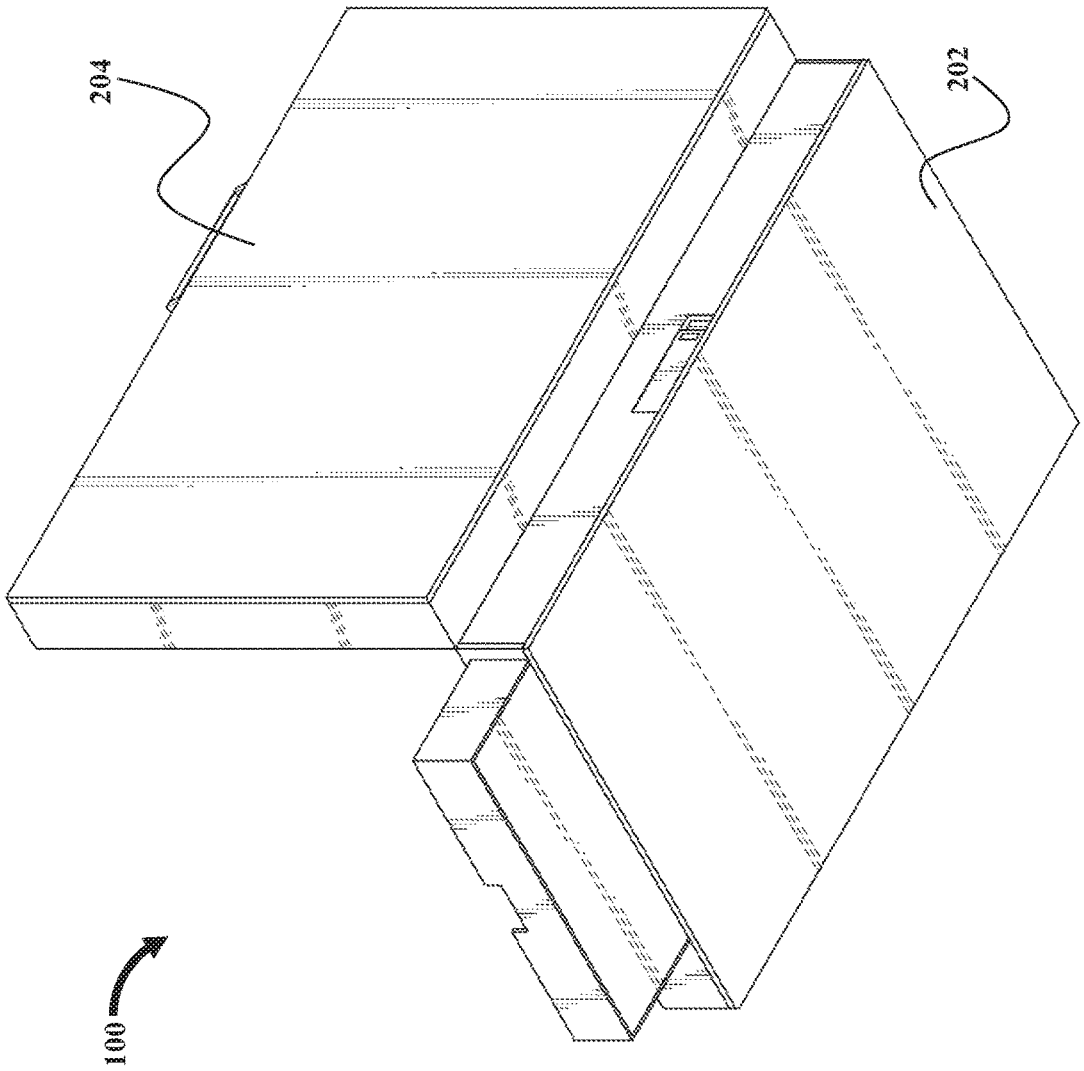

FIG. 5B

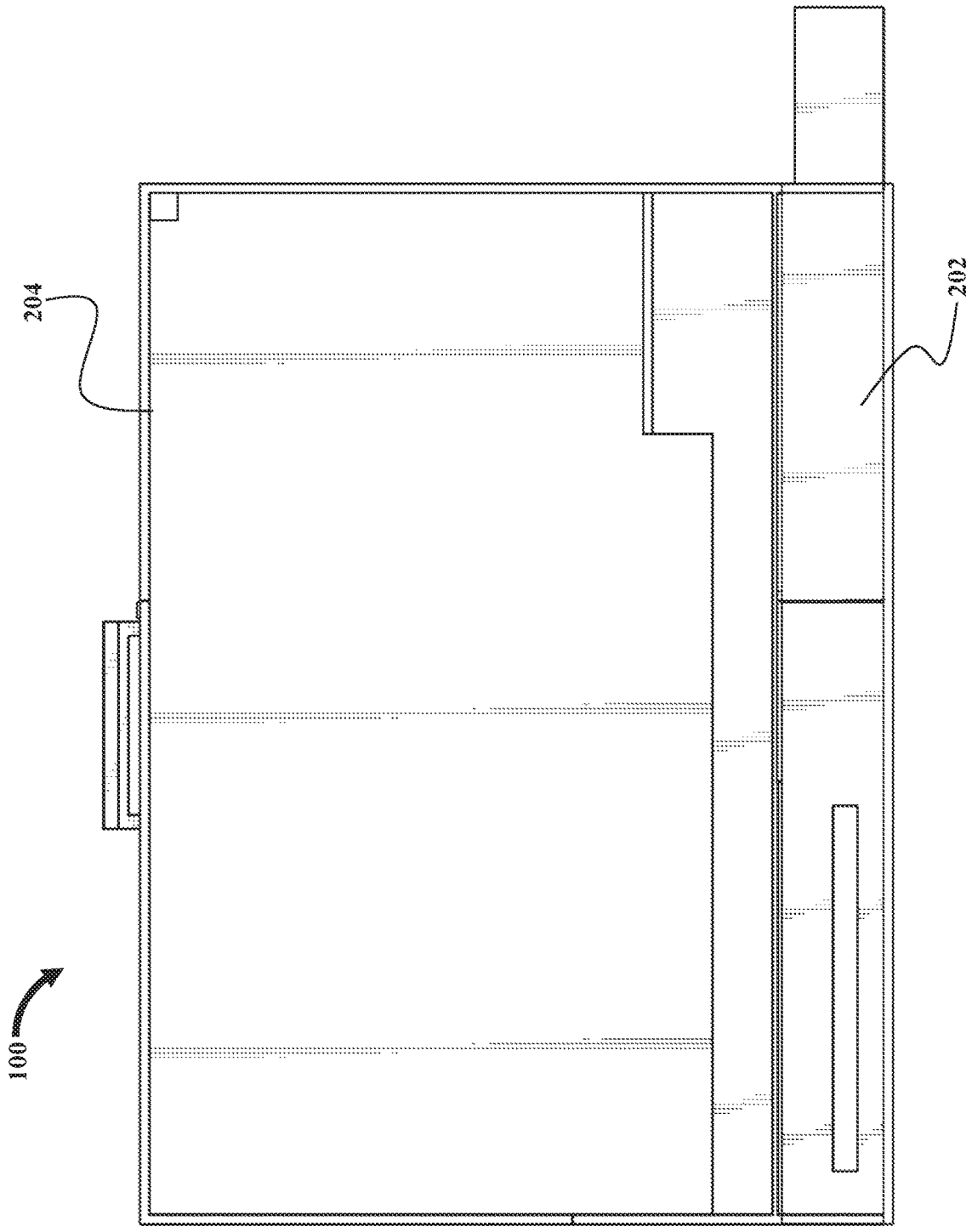

FIG. 5C

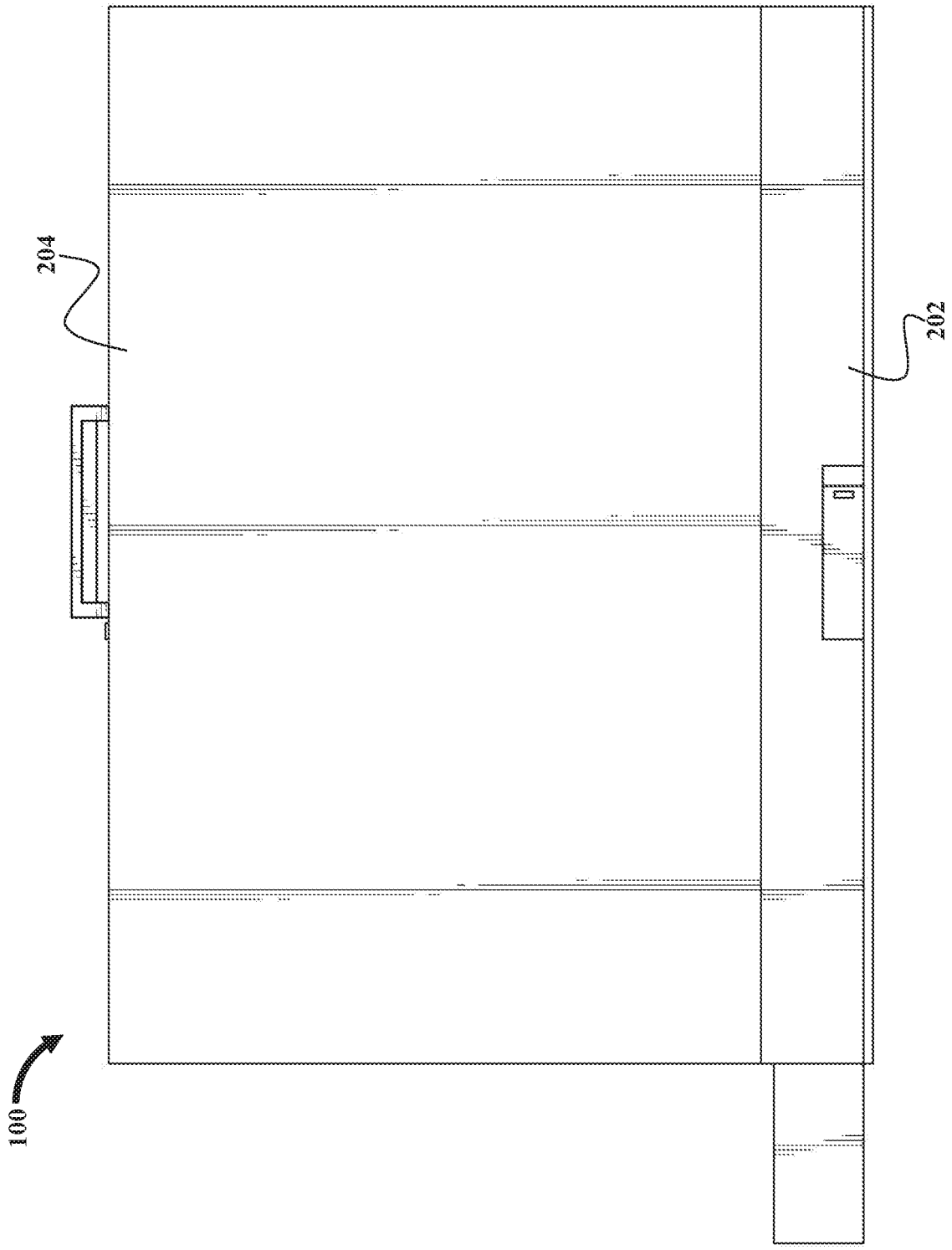

FIG. 5D

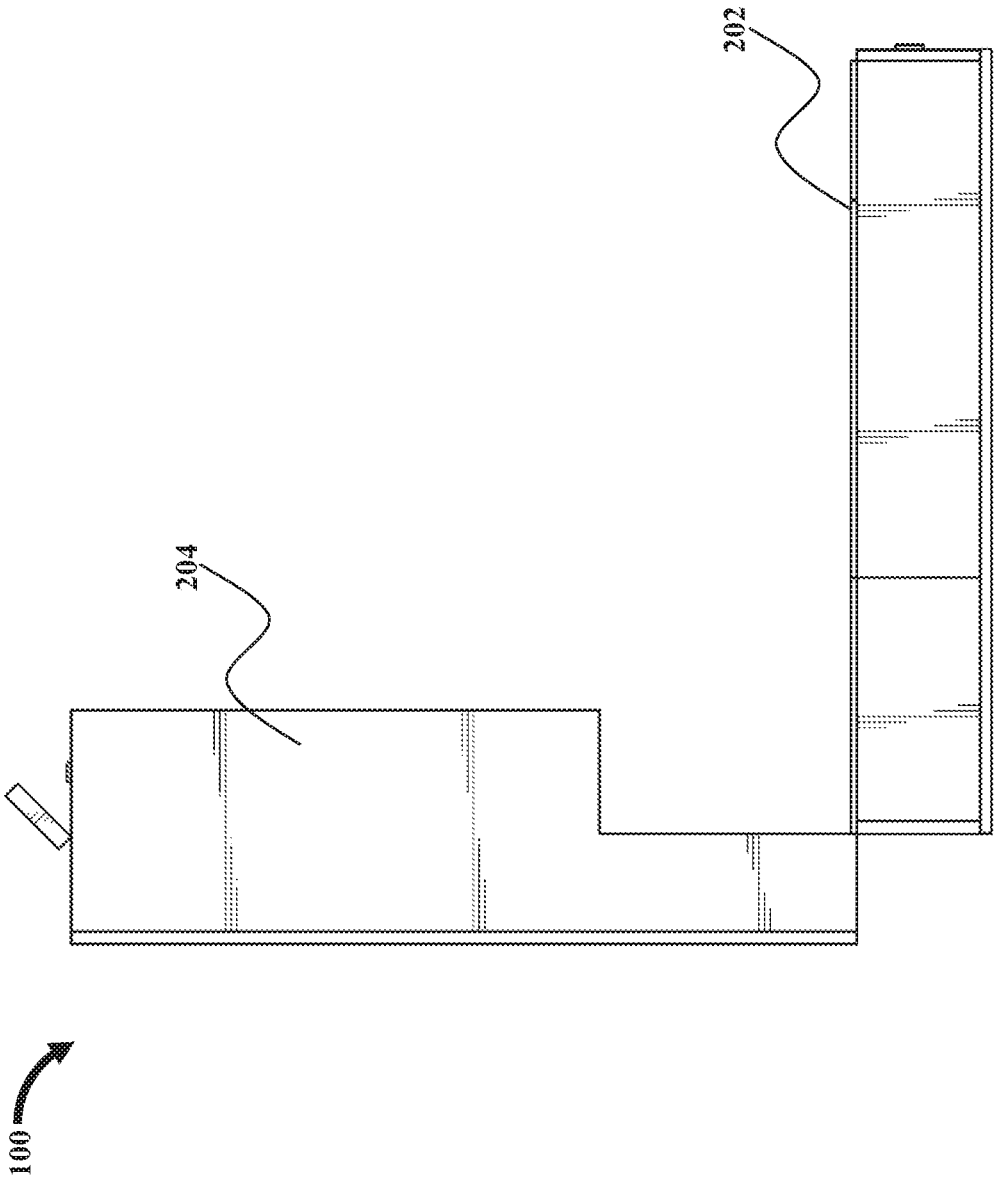

FIG. 5E

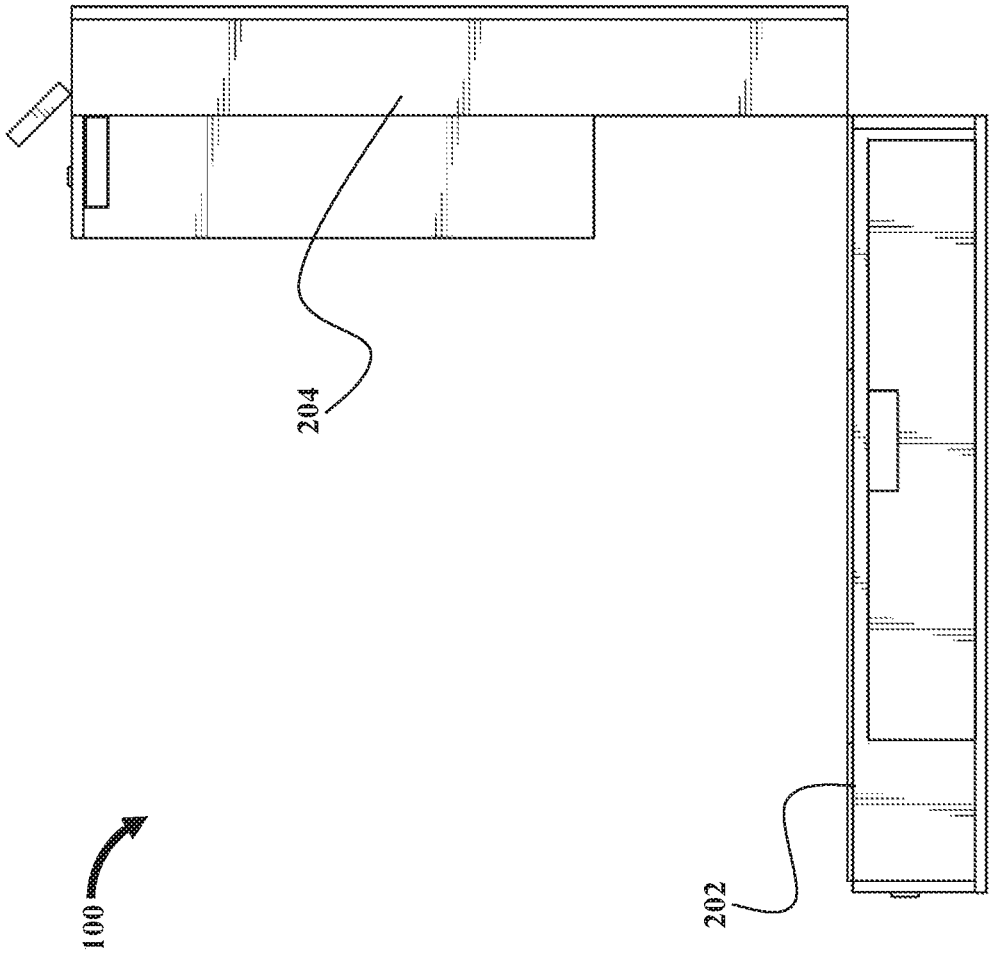

FIG. 5F

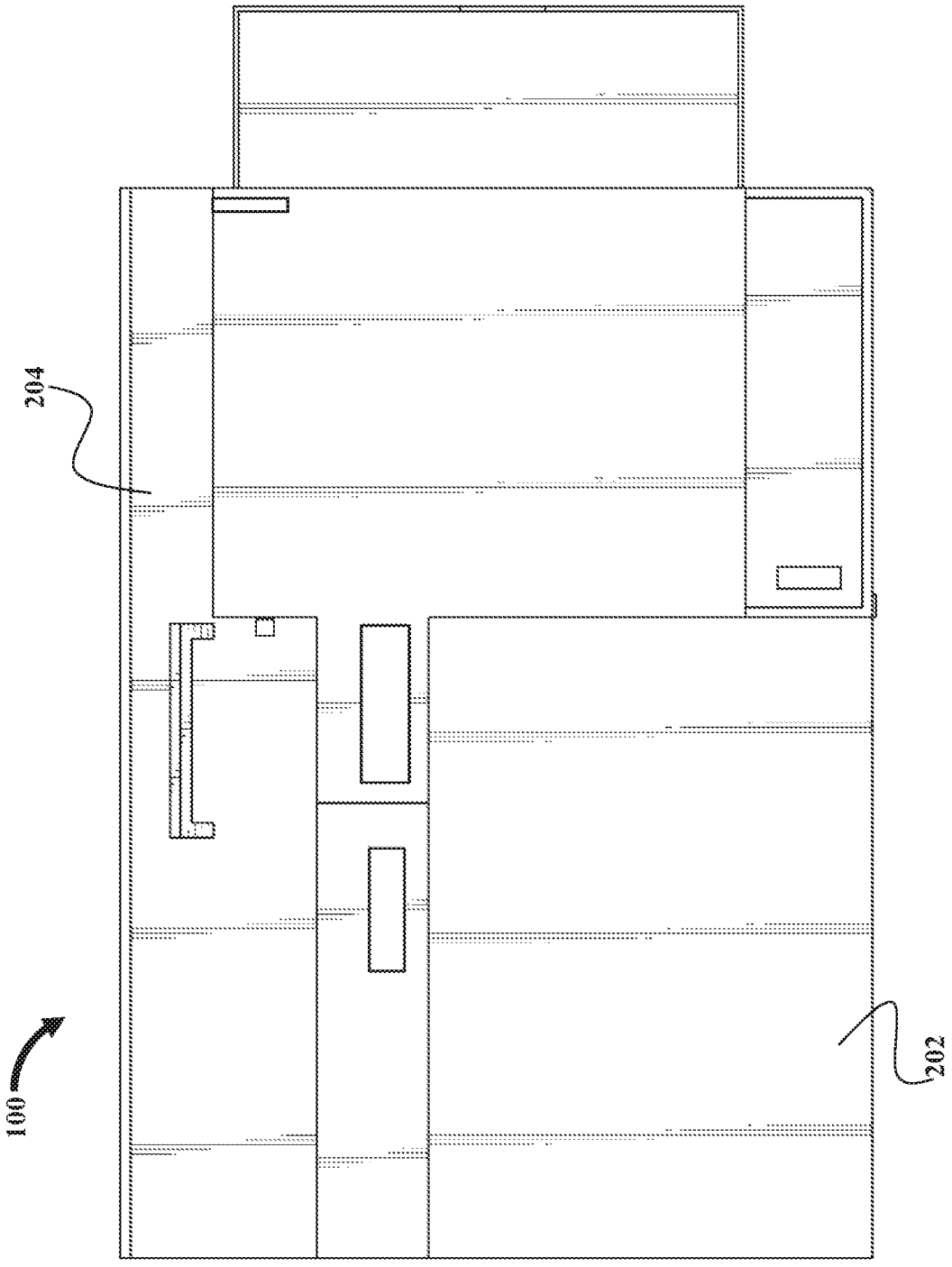

FIG. 5G

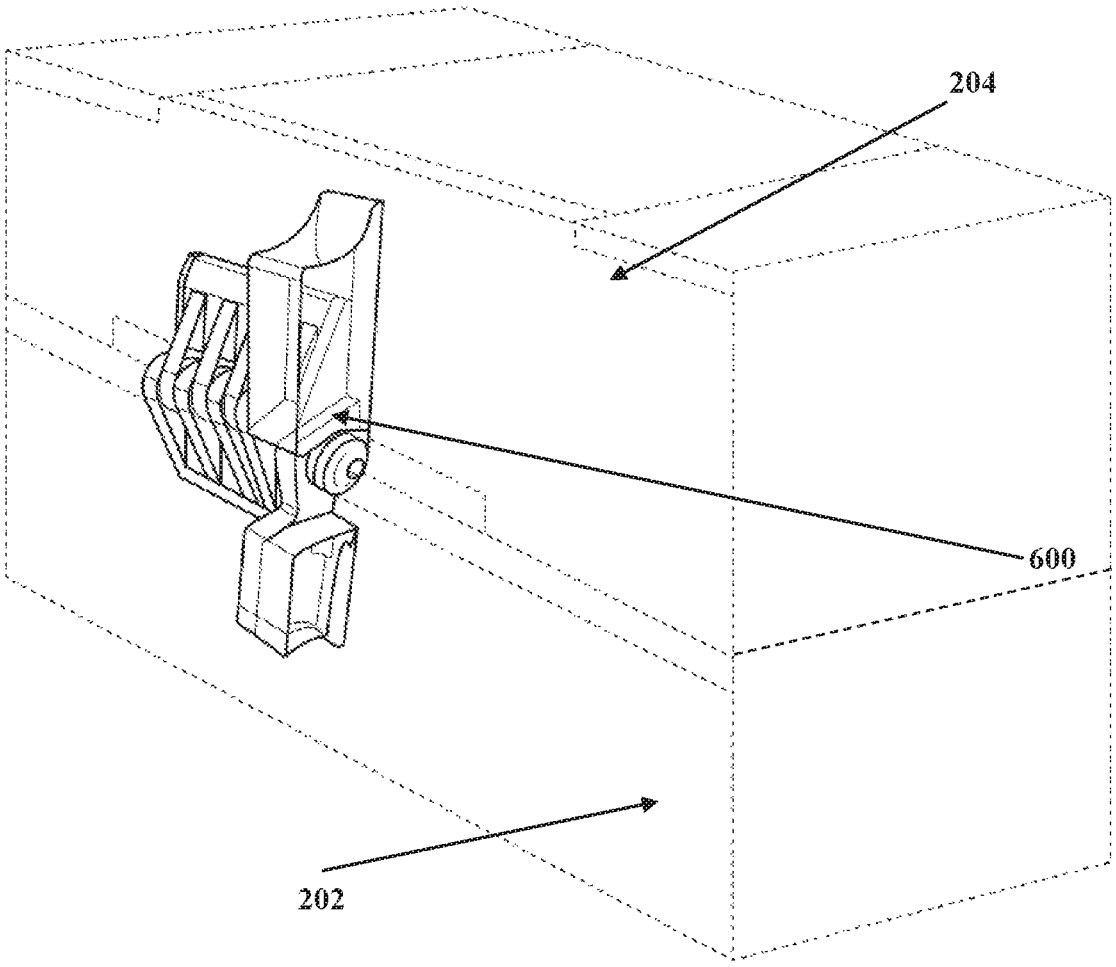

FIG. 6A

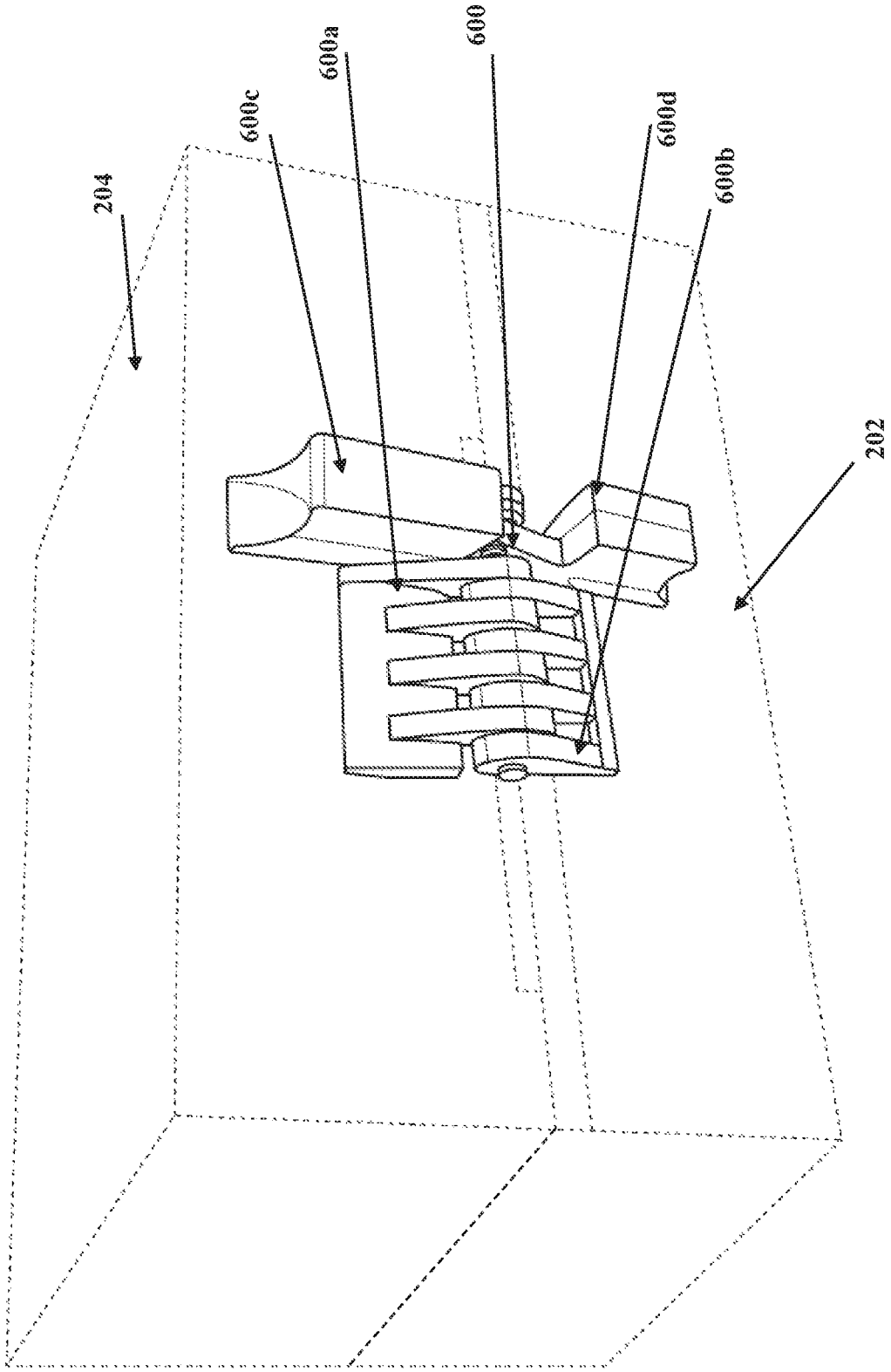

FIG. 6B

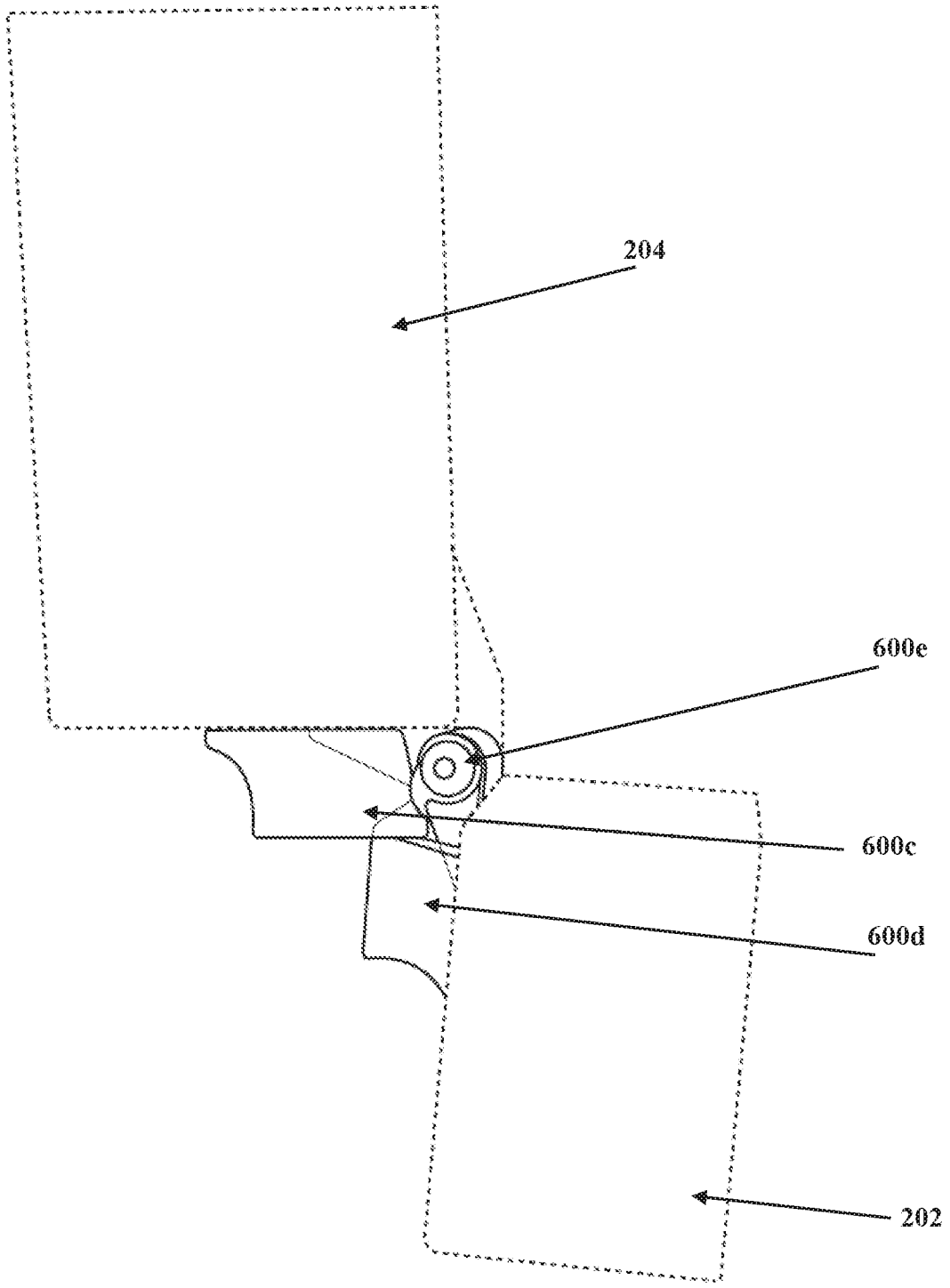

FIG. 6C

PORTABLE OFFICE-IN-A-BOX

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to and the benefit of the provisional patent application titled "Portable Office-In-A-Box", application No. 63/039,451, filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on Jun. 15, 2020. The specification of the above referenced patent application is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The apparatus disclosed herein relates to a portable office apparatus, hereafter an office-in-a-box. The portable office-in-a-box allows a user to readily transport and set up an office and workstation at any location, for example, at a location remote from the user's brick and mortar office or residence, and to allow the user to work in an office setting at the transported location.

In an embodiment, the office-in-a-box disclosed herein is a workstation that allows a user to conveniently and safely transports office equipment and work materials to any location, for example, at a location remote from the user's brick and mortar office, for example, to a conference, where the user can perform office functions and showcase presentation materials posted or displayed in the office-in-a-box to third parties at the conference.

BACKGROUND

Professional persons like managers, engineers, sales personnel, freelancers, etc. hereafter a user, who are on the move need an office-in-a-box that can be easily transported to a location, remote from the user's normal brick and mortar office, and thereafter allow the transported portable office-in-a box to be readily installed and set up at the remote location.

There is a long felt but unmet need for a portable office that a user can readily transport and set up an office and workstation at any location, for example, at a location remote from the user's brick and mortar office or residence, and to allow the user to work in an office setting at any location. There is also a long felt but unmet need for a portable office-in-a-box to accommodate and to make readily available to a user multiple office desk devices at the office-in-a-box's transported location. There is also a long felt but unmet need for a portable office-in-a-box that a user can use as a presentation office to showcase and display user material to a potential client, an audience, etc., at any location, for example, at a conference, at a client's or potential customer's office, etc. Furthermore, there is a long felt but unmet need for a portable office-in-a-box that is compact in design, easy to store, lightweight, durable, transportable and that allows a user to easily assemble and transport the portable office-in-a box to any location, and thereafter to readily assemble and set-up the portable office-in-a box at the transported location.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** exemplarily illustrates a front left-side perspective view of the portable office-in-a-box with one or more office items.

FIG. **2** exemplarily illustrates a front right-side perspective view of the portable office-in-a-box in an open configuration.

FIG. **3** exemplarily illustrates another front left-side perspective of the portable office-in-a-box in the open configuration.

FIG. **4**A exemplarily illustrates a front left-side top perspective view of the portable office-in-a-box in a closed configuration.

FIG. **4**B exemplarily illustrates a front right-side top perspective view of the portable office-in-a-box in the closed configuration.

FIG. **4**C exemplarily illustrates a rear perspective view of the portable office-in-a-box in a closed configuration.

FIG. **4**D exemplarily illustrates a plug-in adapter of the portable office-in-a-box in a pulled-out configuration from a rear portion of the portable office-in-a-box.

FIG. **5**A exemplarily illustrates a rear perspective view of the portable office-in-a-box in the open configuration.

FIG. **5**B exemplarily illustrates a bottom perspective view of the portable office-in-a-box in an open configuration.

FIG. **5**C exemplarily illustrates a front orthogonal view of the portable office-in-a-box in the open configuration.

FIG. **5**D exemplarily illustrates a rear orthogonal view of the portable office-in-a-box in the open configuration.

FIG. **5**E exemplarily illustrates a left side orthogonal view of the portable office-in-a-box in the open configuration.

FIG. **5**F exemplarily illustrates a right-side orthogonal view of the portable office-in-a-box in the open configuration.

FIG. **5**G exemplarily illustrates a top plan view of the portable office-in-a-box in the open configuration.

FIGS. **6**A-**6**C exemplarily illustrate a hinge disposed between the lid and the base for hingedly connecting the lid and the base.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The apparatus disclosed herein relates to a portable office apparatus, hereafter an office-in-a-box. The portable office-in-a-box **100** comprises a substantially rectangular shaped box **400** comprising a base **202**, a lid **204** configured to engage with the base **202** to define the rectangular shaped box **400**, multiple panels **206**, one or more enclosures **216**, multiple mounting fixtures **210**, and office equipment and office supplies. The portable office-in-a-box **100** allows a user to readily transport and set up an office and workstation at a transported location, for example, at a location remote from the user's brick and mortar office or residence, and to allow the user to work in an office setting at the transported location. FIG. **1** exemplarily illustrates a front left-side perspective view of the portable office-in-a-box **100** in an open configuration with one or more office items **102** disposed within the portable office-in-a-box **100**. The portable office-in-a-box **100** addresses the need of a user for an office that is portable, transportable and ready to function as a workstation and office at any location, for example, at a location remote from the user's brick and mortar office or residence. The portable office-in-a-box **100** is configured to accommodate office equipment within the box **100**. As shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**, the portable office-in-a-box **100** is configured to hold office items **102** comprising a laptop **104**, a 3 inches×3 inches standard post **106**, a mobile phone **108**, writing instruments **110**, markers **112**, one or more headphones **114**, and miscellaneous office items **102** comprising

a mouse **251**, one or more chargers **252**, a portable printer **117**, a portable scanner **116**, papers **239**, a webcam **115**, and power adaptors **253**.

FIG. **2** exemplarily illustrates a front right-side perspective view of the portable office-in-a-box **100** in an open configuration. The portable office-in-a-box **100** is substantially rectangular in shape and comprises a base **202**, a lid **204** configured to engage with the base **202**, multiple panels **206**, one or more storage compartments **208**, **248**, and **216** without a lid, and multiple mounting fixtures **210**. In an embodiment, storage compartments **208**, **248** and **216** are provided with a lid **227**, **229** to enclose the contents within the storage compartments. The lid **204** of the portable office-in-a-box **100** when closed on the base **202** defines the substantially rectangular shaped portable office-in-a-box **100**. The lid **204** when completely opened rests substantially perpendicular to the base **202**. In an embodiment, the angle between the lid **204** and the base **202** can be varied to position the lid **204** at any angle between 60 degrees to 120 degrees. Multiple panels **206** are disposed within the inner surface **202***a* of the base **202** and the inner surface **204***b* of the lid **204**. A first set **212** of the panels **206** is configured to secure one or more office items **102**, and a second set **214** of the panels **206** defines one or more enclosures **216** in which office items **102** are positioned and secured. The storage compartments **208** are disposed on the base **202**, and the mounting fixtures **210** are disposed on the inner surface **204***b* of the lid **204** for mounting office items **102**. In an embodiment, the storage compartment **208** is a drawer **238**, shown in FIG. **3**, that slidably engages with the base **202** of the portable office-in-a-box **100**. The portable office-in-a-box **100** is compact and has a desk surface dimension of, for example, about 26 inches in length, about 16 inches in width, and about 5 inches in height when closed. In an embodiment, the length, width and thickness of the portable office-in-a-box is about 15.7 inches, 25.8 inches, and about 4.4 inches, respectively. The portable office-in-a-box **100** is manufactured from durable white wood or light wood with aluminium detailing. In an embodiment, the portable office-in-a-box **100** is manufactured from a thermoplastic, for example, Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS), Nylon, Polycarbonate, Kidex, etc. Kidex is a brand of thermoplastic acrylic-polyvinyl chloride material manufactured by Sekisui SPI of Bloomsburg, Pa., USA, etc.

As illustrated in FIG. **2**, the portable office-in-a-box **100** further comprises a workspace **224** that is positioned leftward on the inner surface **202***a* of the base **202**. The workspace **224** also functions as a storage area, configured to store, for example, a laptop **104**. In an embodiment, the workspace **224** is configured to store a laptop having a length of about 12 to 18 inches, a width of about 8 to 12 inches, and a thickness of about 0.5 inch to 4 inches. In an embodiment, the workspace **224** is configured to store a MacBook Pro 13 inches laptop, manufactured by Apple Inc. of Cupertino, Calif., USA, having a screen size of 13.3 inches with a length of about 12 inches, width of 8.36 inches, and thickness of about 0.6 inch. The enclosures **216** comprise a first recess **226** disposed on the second set **214** of the panels **206**, behind the workspace **224**. The first recess **226** is configured to store the power adaptors associated with the laptop **104** and the mobile phone **108**. In an embodiment, the first recess **226** is configured to be covered with a first lid **227**. In an embodiment, the first recess **226** comprises a slot **226***a* configured to allow a charging cable to be drawn out of the first recess **226** and connected to the office items **102**, for example, a laptop **104**, mobile phone **108**, etc. The enclosures **216** further comprises a second recess **228** disposed on the second set **214** of the panels **206** at a frontal right portion **202***b* of the base **202**. The second recess **228** is configured to store writing instruments **110**. In an embodiment, the second recess **228** is covered using the second lid **229**. In an embodiment, the first lid **227** comprises a cut-out (not shown), similar to a cut-out **229***a* on the lid **229** of the second recess **228** to allow a plug of a power adaptor stored in the first recess **226** to be drawn through the cut-out **229***a*.

FIG. **3** exemplarily illustrates another front left-side perspective of the portable office-in-a-box **100** in the open configuration. In an embodiment, the portable office-in-a-box **100** comprises a set of power ports **218** and USB ports **220** disposed on the first set **212** of the panels **206** at about a mid-section of the base **202** and proximal to a hinge **600** between the base **202** and the lid **204**, shown in FIGS. **6**A-**6**C, to provide electrical power and media connectivity to electronic devices.

As shown in FIG. **3**, in an embodiment, the enclosures **216** comprise a third recess **230** disposed at a bottom right section **204***a* of the lid **204**, which is configured to store a 3 inches×3 inches standard post **106**. The 3 inches×3 inches standard post **106** comprises a stack of adhesive papers with a re-adherable strip of glue on the back of each paper, where the paper is made to temporarily attach notes on surfaces. The third recess **230** is also configured to store a glue or other adhesive to secure the erasable panel **234** on an upper surface of the lid **204**. The enclosures **216** further comprises one or more fourth recesses **232** disposed adjacent to the third recess **230** at the bottom right section **204***a* of the lid **204** to store markers **112** for the erasable panel **234**. In an embodiment, the portable office-in-a-box **100** further comprises a magnetic erasable panel **234** disposed on an upper surface **204***d* of the lid **204**. In another embodiment, the upper surface **204***d* of the lid **204** is used as an erasable panel. In an embodiment, the erasable panel is a magnetic panel configured to magnetically engage with a magnetic upper surface **204***d* of the lid **204**. In an embodiment, the inner surface **204***c* of the lid **204** is used as an erasable panel. The portable office-in-a-box **100** further comprises a light source **236** disposed on the inner surface **204***b* of the lid **204** to provide illumination. In an embodiment, the light source **236** is position on an upper mid-section **204***e* of the inner surface **204***b* of the lid **204**, as shown in FIG. **2**. The light source **236** is, for example, a USB rechargeable ring light.

In an embodiment, the first set **212** of the panels **206** are configured to support placement or mounting of one or more office items **102** on their surfaces. In an embodiment, a top surface **214***a* of the second set **214** of the panels **206**, shown in dotted lines in FIG. **3**, that defines a top section of the storage compartment **208** is configured for use as a secondary workspace **225**. In an embodiment, a top surface **227***a* of the first lid **227** of the first recess **226** and a top surface **229***b* of the second lid **229** of the second recess **228** are configured to be used as first and second extensions **225***a* and **225***b* of the secondary workspace **225**.

As shown in FIGS. **2** and **3**, the storage compartments **208** comprise one or more drawers. In another embodiment, the storage compartments **208** comprise a filing cabinet storage compartment **238** recessed within the base **202**. In an embodiment, the filing cabinet storage compartment **238** is a drawer configured to store papers **239**. As an example, the filing cabinet storage compartment **238** is a foldable storage tray for storage of A4 size paper. In an embodiment, the portable office-in-a-box **100** further comprises one or more cup holders **240***a* and **240***b*. In an embodiment, as shown in FIGS. **1**-**3**, the cup holder **240***a* is a clip-on cup holder **240***a* configured to be attached to the base **202**, as shown in FIG.

3. As shown in FIG. 3, the cup holder **240***a* is attached to the base **202** to accommodate a mug or a disposable cup **242**. In another embodiment, the cup holder **240***b* is a slide out cup holder, as shown in FIG. **4**A. As shown in FIG. **4**C, the slide out cup holder **240***b* is integrated and recessed within the base **202** when the portable office-in-a-box **100** is closed. The slide out cup holder **240***b* is extendable from the base **202**, as shown by dotted arrow in FIG. **4**A, and retracted into the base **202**, as shown in FIG. **4**C. The portable office-in-a-box **100** comprises a handle **244** to allow the portable office-in-a-box **100** when closed to be carried by a user like a briefcase.

In an embodiment, the mounting fixtures **210** comprises a spring loaded retractable pin **246** disposed at an inner edge **204***c* of the lid **204** for mounting one or more headphones **114**, as shown in FIGS. **2** and **3**. As illustrated in FIG. **2**, when the lid **204** is closed over the base **202**, the tip **246***a* of the spring loaded retractable pin **246**, as shown in FIG. **1**, is pressed against the lid **229** of the second recess **228** to allow the pin **246** to retract in to the lid **204**. The spring-loaded retractable pin **246** is configured to be used as a hold-down for the lid **204**. The spring-loaded retractable pin **246** further provides an interlock for the lid **204** when the lid **204** is closed over the base **202**.

As shown in FIG. **3**, the office-in-a box **100** comprises a phone holder channel **248** disposed adjacent to the third recess **230** and at a bottom section of the inner surface **204***b* of the lid **204**. The phone holder channel **248** extends from the third recess **230** to a bottom left section **204***f* of said lid **204**. The phone holder channel **248** is configured to mount and secure one or more mobile phones **108**.

FIGS. **4**A-**4**C exemplarily illustrates a front left-side top perspective view, another top perspective view, and a rear perspective view respectively of the portable office-in-a-box **100** in the closed configuration. FIG. **4**D exemplarily illustrates a plug-in adapter **402** of the portable office-in-a-box **100** that extends from a rear portion **202***d* of the portable office-in-a-box **100**. The plug-in adapter **402** is stored within a recess **202***e* at the rear portion **202***d* of the portable office-in-a-box **100**. The recess **202***e* comprises a door **202***f* that slidably engages with the rear portion **202***d* to close the recess **202***e* when the plug-in adapter **402** is retracted into the recess **202***e* and to open the recess **202***e* when the plug-in adapter **402** is extended from the recess **202***e*.

FIGS. **5**A-**5**G exemplarily illustrates a rear perspective view, a bottom perspective view, a front orthogonal view, a rear orthogonal view, a left side orthogonal view, a right-side orthogonal view and a top plan view respectively, of the portable office-in-a-box **100** in an open configuration.

In an embodiment, FIG. **6**A-**6**C illustrates the portable office-in-a-box **100** with a hinge **600** disposed between the lid **204** and the base **202**, for hingedly connecting the lid **204** to the base **204**. In an embodiment, the hinge **600** is a piano type hinge comprising a first wing **600***a* attached to the lid **204** and a second wing **600***b* attached to the base **202**, as shown in FIG. **6**B. The first and second wings **600***a* and **600***b* rotatably engage with a pin **600***e*, disposed on either sides of the pin **600***e*, as shown in FIG. **6**C. The hinge **600** is made of flexible nylon or a synthetic plastic. In an embodiment, the hinge **600** comprises a first stopper **600***c* attached to the first wing **600***a*, and a second stopper **600***d* attached to the second wing **600***d*, as shown in FIG. **6**B. As shown in FIG. **6**C, the first stopper **600***c* is configured to engage with the second stopper **600***d* when the lid is opened to prevent the lid **204** from tilting beyond a certain angle with respect to the base **202**. In an embodiment, the hinge **600** is configured to position the lid **204** substantially perpendicular to the base **202** when the lid **204** is completely opened. In an embodiment, the hinge **600** is configured to position the lid **204** at any angle between 90 degrees to 120 degrees. In an embodiment, the hinge **600** comprises a lockable pin **600***e* configured to lock the lid **204** with the base **202**, at any angle between 60 degrees to 120 degrees. In an embodiment, the portable office-in-a-box **100** further comprises a security latch **250** disposed at a frontal right portion **202***b* of the base **202**. The security latch **250** is configured to provide a user secure access to the portable office-in-a-box **100**.

The portable office-in-a-box **100** is compact and is shipped to customers in a lid-type cardboard box (not shown) that opens on the side where the handle **244** of the portable office-in-a-box **100** is present. Once the cardboard box is opened, a customer can easily remove the portable office-in-a-box **100** out of the cardboard box. In an embodiment, the cardboard box conforms to drop requirement ASTM D5276-19.

The foregoing examples have been provided merely for illustration and are in no way to be construed as limiting of the portable office-in-a-box **100** disclosed herein. While the portable office-in-a-box **100** has been described with reference to various embodiments, it is understood that the words, which have been used herein, are words of description and illustration, rather than words of limitation. Further, although the portable office-in-a-box **100** has been described herein with reference to particular means, materials, and embodiments, the portable office-in-a-box **100** is not intended to be limited to the particulars disclosed herein; rather, the functionality extends to all functionally equivalent structures and uses, such as are within the scope of the appended claims. Those skilled in the art, having the benefit of the teachings of this specification, may effect numerous modifications thereto and changes may be made without departing from the scope and spirit of the portable office-in-a-box **100** disclosed herein in their aspects.

We claim:

1. A portable office-in-a-box, comprising:

a rectangular shaped box comprising a base and a lid, said lid configured to engage with the base to define the rectangular shape box;

said rectangular shaped box configured to accommodate one or more office items and accessories, wherein said office items and accessories are either stored or mounted within said rectangular shaped box, and wherein said office items and accessories accommodated within said rectangular shaped box comprise:

a laptop, wherein a workspace within said rectangular shaped box is configured as a laptop holder for placing said laptop when said laptop is in use, and wherein the workspace is further configured to store said laptop when said laptop is not in use;

built-in power ports;

built-in Universal Serial Bus (USB) ports;

a built-in light source, wherein the light source is a Universal Serial Bus (USB) rechargeable ring light;

a built-in erasable magnetic board, wherein said built-in erasable magnetic board is configured to perform as a writing surface and a dry erase board;

a headphone, wherein a built-in headphone hook is configured to mount said headphone;

markers, wherein a built-in markers holder is configured to store said markers;

a 3 inches×3 inches standard post, wherein a built-in post holder is configured to store said 3 inches×3 inches standard post;

a set of cables, wherein a built-in cable compartment is configured to store said cables when said rectangular shaped box is closed, and wherein said built-in cable compartment is further configured for the cables to be pulled out when said rectangular shaped box is opened;

papers, wherein a built-in filing cabinet is configured to store said papers;

writing instruments, wherein a built-in compartment is configured to store said writing instruments;

mobile phones, wherein a mobile phone holder is configured for mounting said one or more mobile phones;

a mouse;

a charger;

a portable printer;

a portable scanner; and

a webcam;

one or more storage compartments disposed in said base of said rectangular shaped box for said storage of said office items and accessories, wherein said one or more storage compartments are configured as one of pull-out compartments and panel enclosed compartments; and

a plurality of mounting fixtures disposed on the inner surface of said lid for said mounting of said office items and accessories.

2. The portable office-in-a-box of claim **1**, wherein said built-in power ports and said built-in USB ports are positioned in a mid-section of said base and proximal to a hinge between said base and said lid, to provide electrical power and media connectivity to electronic devices accommodated within said rectangular shaped box, when said electronic devices are in use.

3. The portable office-in-a-box of claim **2**, further comprising one or more panels configured for one or more of creating said storage compartments and acting as workspaces for placement of said electronic devices.

4. The portable office-in-a-box of claim **1**, wherein said magnetic erasable panel is disposed on an upper surface of said lid.

5. The portable office-in-a-box of claim **1**, wherein said light source is disposed on said inner surface of said lid to provide illumination.

6. The portable office-in-a-box of claim **1**, further comprising a cup holder configured to extend out of or retract into said rectangular shaped box.

7. The portable office-in-a-box of claim **1**, wherein one of said mounting fixtures comprises a phone holder channel configured to mount said one or more of said mobile phones.

8. The portable office-in-a-box of claim **1**, further comprises a hinge disposed between said lid and said base, wherein said hinge is a piano type hinge.

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