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(54) Title: DESCENT DEVICE

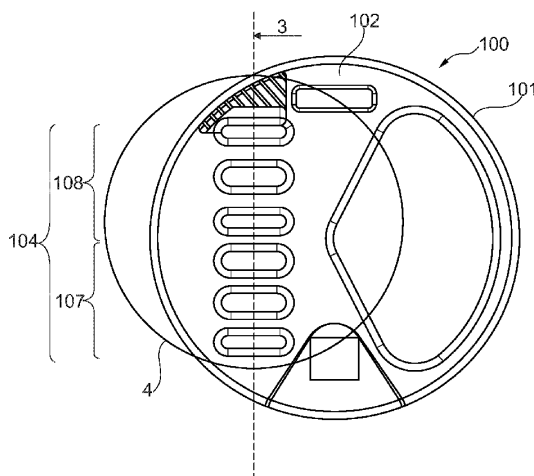


Fig. 2

(57) Abstract: There is provided a descent device comprising a body for attachment to a load, such as a person, and a series of apertures extending through the body for passage of a line in alternate directions therethrough, from a first aperture to a final aperture, such that regions of the body delimiting and extending between the apertures provide a discontinuous contact surface for frictional engagement with the line. The series of apertures comprises a first group of apertures providing a first frictional resistance and including the first aperture, and a second group of apertures providing a second frictional resistance greater than the first frictional resistance and including the final aperture. The device may have application as an emergency descent device, such as to allow a person to descend from one position to another to escape a dangerous environment.

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