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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))*

[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title**: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SEPARATING SOLIDS FROM A SOLIDS LADEN DRILLING FLUID

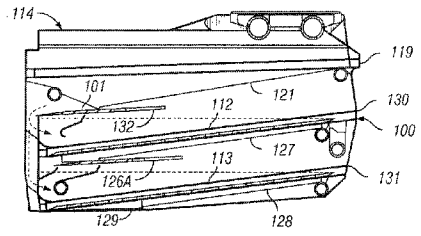

Fig. 3

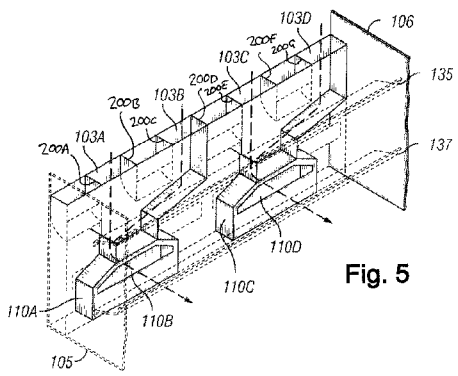

Fig. 5

(57) **Abstract**: A shale shaker for separating solids from solids laden drilling fluid, said shale shaker comprising a basket (100) having a first screen assembly (122a, 122b) in an upper screen deck (112) and a second screen assembly (125a, 125b) in a lower screen deck (113), the basket (100) further comprising a flow tray (121) for feeding solids laden drilling fluid to a first duct (107A-D) and a second duct (108A-D), the first duct (107A-D) for feeding solids laden drilling fluid to the first screen assembly (122a, 122b) and the second duct (108A-D) feeding solids laden drilling fluid to the second screen assembly (125a, 125b) characterised in that the second duct (108A- D) comprises a plurality of second duct openings (103A-D) for dividing the feed of solids laden drilling fluid and at least one discharge opening (110B,110D) for dispersing said solids laden drilling fluid on to the second screen assembly (122a, 122b; 125a, 125b).

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