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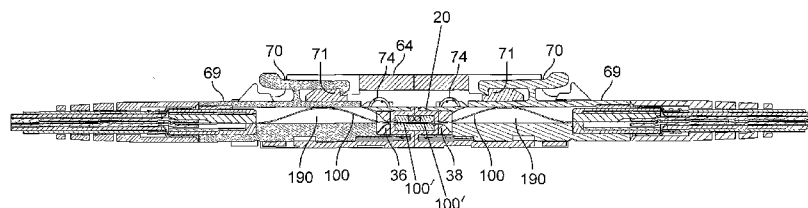
Date of publication of the amended claims: 21 November 2013(54) **Title:** OPTICAL FIBER CONNECTION SYSTEM INCLUDING OPTICAL FIBER ALIGNMENT DEVICE

FIG. 19

(57) **Abstract:** The present disclosure relates to an optical fiber alignment device that has an alignment housing that includes first and second ends. The alignment housing defines a fiber insertion axis that extends through the alignment housing between the first and second ends. The alignment housing includes a fiber alignment region at an intermediate location between the first and second ends. First and second fiber alignment rods are positioned within the alignment housing. The first and second fiber alignment rods cooperate to define a fiber alignment groove that extends along the fiber insertion axis. The first and second fiber alignment rods each having rounded ends positioned at the first and second ends of the alignment housing.