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(54) Title: AN IMPROVED GARTER SPRING INCLUDING SPACER ELEMENTS

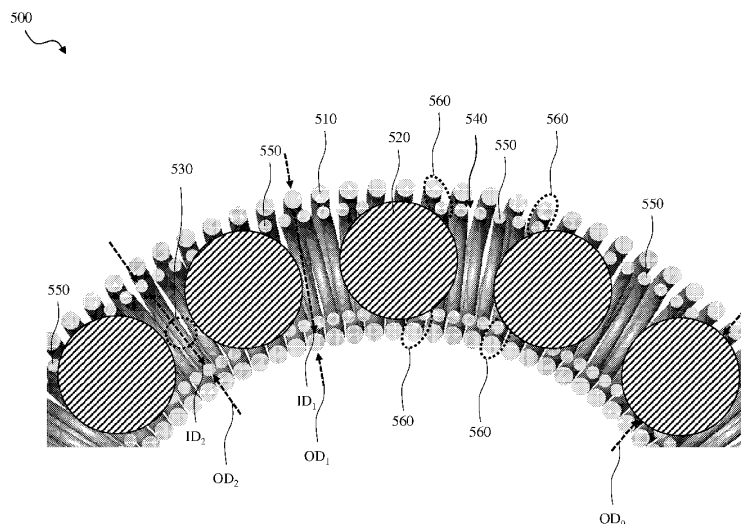


FIG. 5

(57) Abstract: Provided is a garter spring, a downhole tool and a well system. The garter spring, in one aspect, includes a coiled spring member having an inside diameter (ID₁) and an outside diameter (OD₁). The garter spring, in accordance with this aspect, further includes a plurality of spaced balls located within the inside diameter (ID₁) of the coiled spring member, as well as ones of spacer elements located in gaps between the plurality of spaced balls.

[Continued on next page]

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