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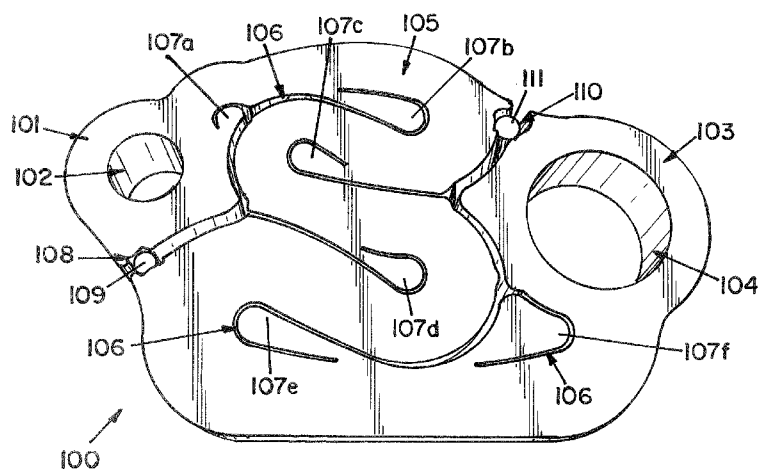
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(54) Title: ENERGY ABSORBER

FIG. 1



(57) Abstract: An energy absorber comprises an intermediate portion interconnecting a first end and a second end. The intermediate portion and the first and second ends are on the same plane. The intermediate portion includes curved portions configured and arranged to deform and begin to straighten when subjected to a pre-determined load to absorb energy from the pre-determined load. Should a user fall, the energy absorber will deform (begin to straighten) to absorb energy from the fall. Optional pins prevent material from getting caught in the energy absorber, assist in stiffening the energy absorber, and assist in pre-stressing the energy absorber so that it will not open up when subjected to a load less than the pre-determined load. Optional tabs and slots or protrusions and notches prevent material from getting caught in the energy absorber.

