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(54) **EXTENDING LADDER AND ASSOCIATED MANUFACTURING METHODS**

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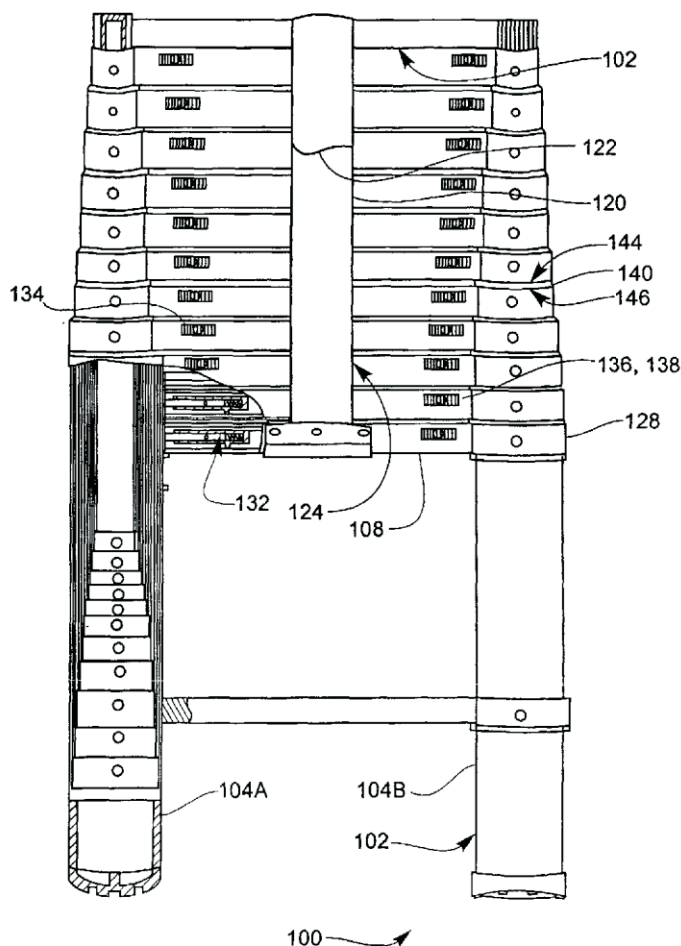
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(54) Title: EXTENDING LADDER AND ASSOCIATED MANUFACTURING METHODS



(57) Abstract: Extending ladders and associated manu-  
facturing methods are disclosed. A ladder in accordance  
with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention  
comprises a plurality of rung units, each rung unit includ-  
ing a left column, a right column, and a rung extending  
between the left column and the right column. The ladder  
may include a first column assembly including a first col-  
umn and a ring coupled to the first column proximate a dis-  
tal end thereof, and a second column assembly including a  
second column and a sleeve coupled to the second column  
proximate a proximal end thereof. The second column be-  
ing at least partially disposed within a lumen defined by an  
internal surface of the first column. The sleeve includes an  
external guiding surface for contacting the internal surface  
of the first column and the ring includes an internal guid-  
ing surface for contacting an exterior surface of the second  
column.

WO 2004/013445 A1



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