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(54) **QUAD-SHIELD COAXIAL CABLE**

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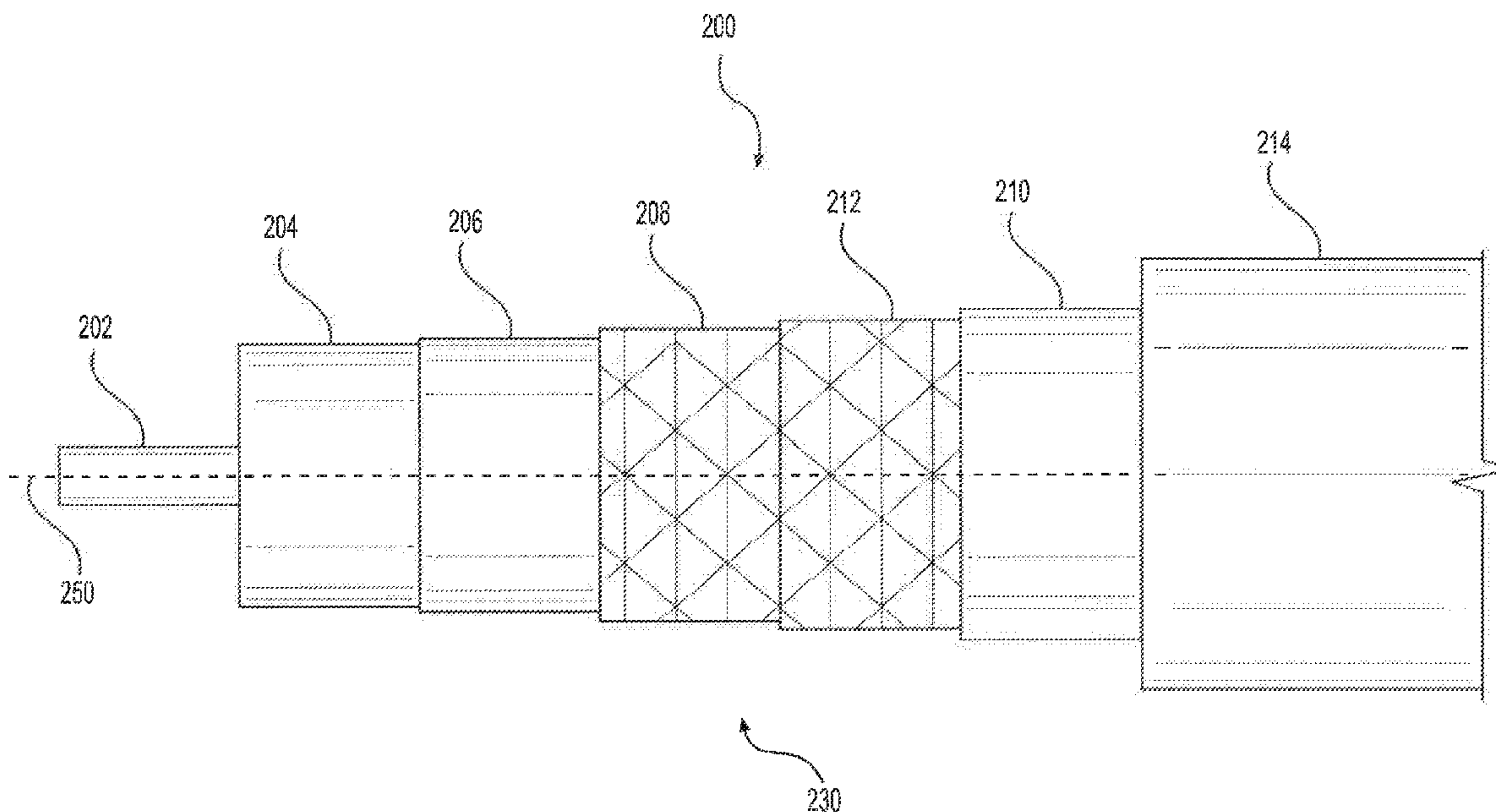
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- (63) Continuation of application No. 15/654,600, filed on Jul. 19, 2017, now Pat. No. 10,332,654.
- (60) Provisional application No. 62/364,292, filed on Jul. 19, 2016.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A quad-shield coaxial cable includes an insulator portion configured to encircle an inner conductor portion, an inner conductive foil portion configured to encircle the insulator portion, an inner braided shield portion configured to encircle the inner conductive foil layer portion, an outer braided shield portion configured to encircle the inner braided shield portion, an outer conductive foil portion configured to encircle the outer braided shield portion, and a jacket portion configured to encircle the outer conductive foil portion.



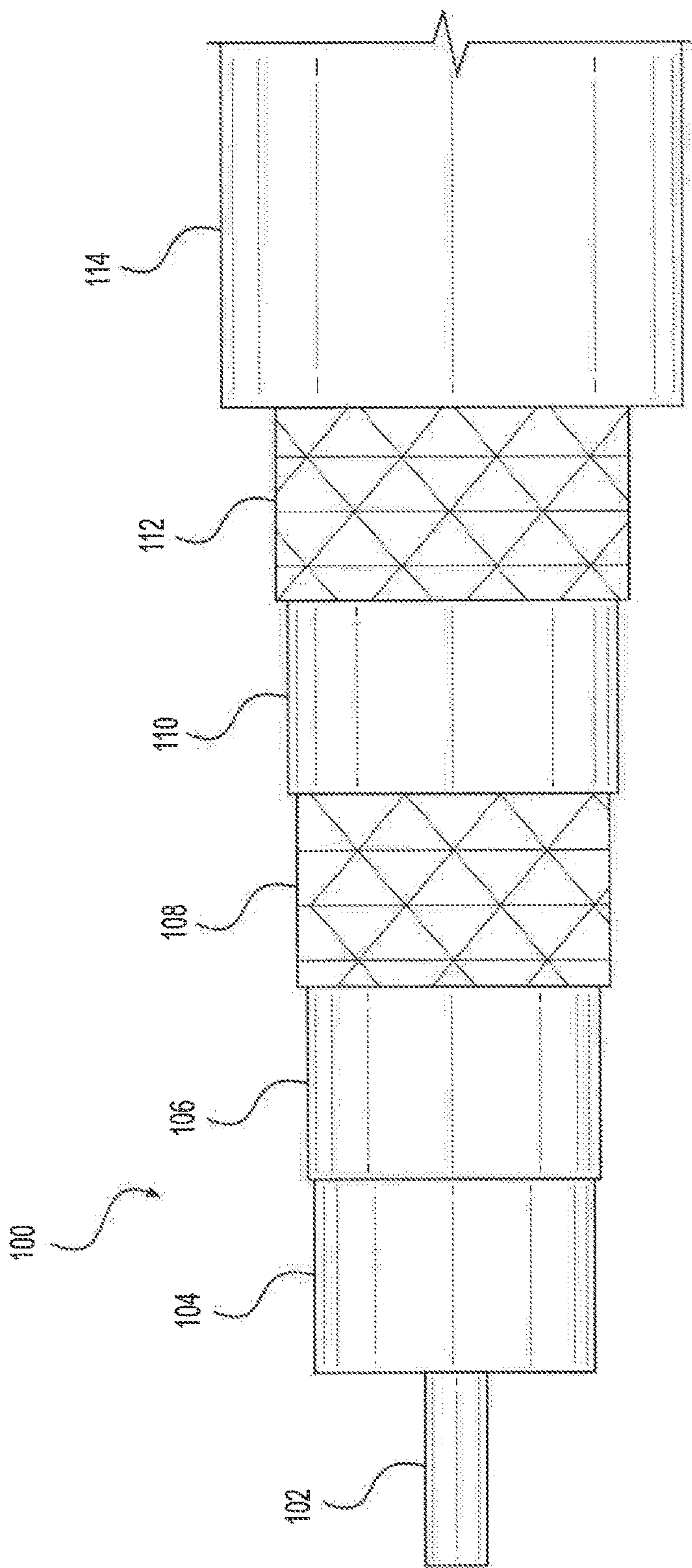


FIG. 1
(PRIOR ART)

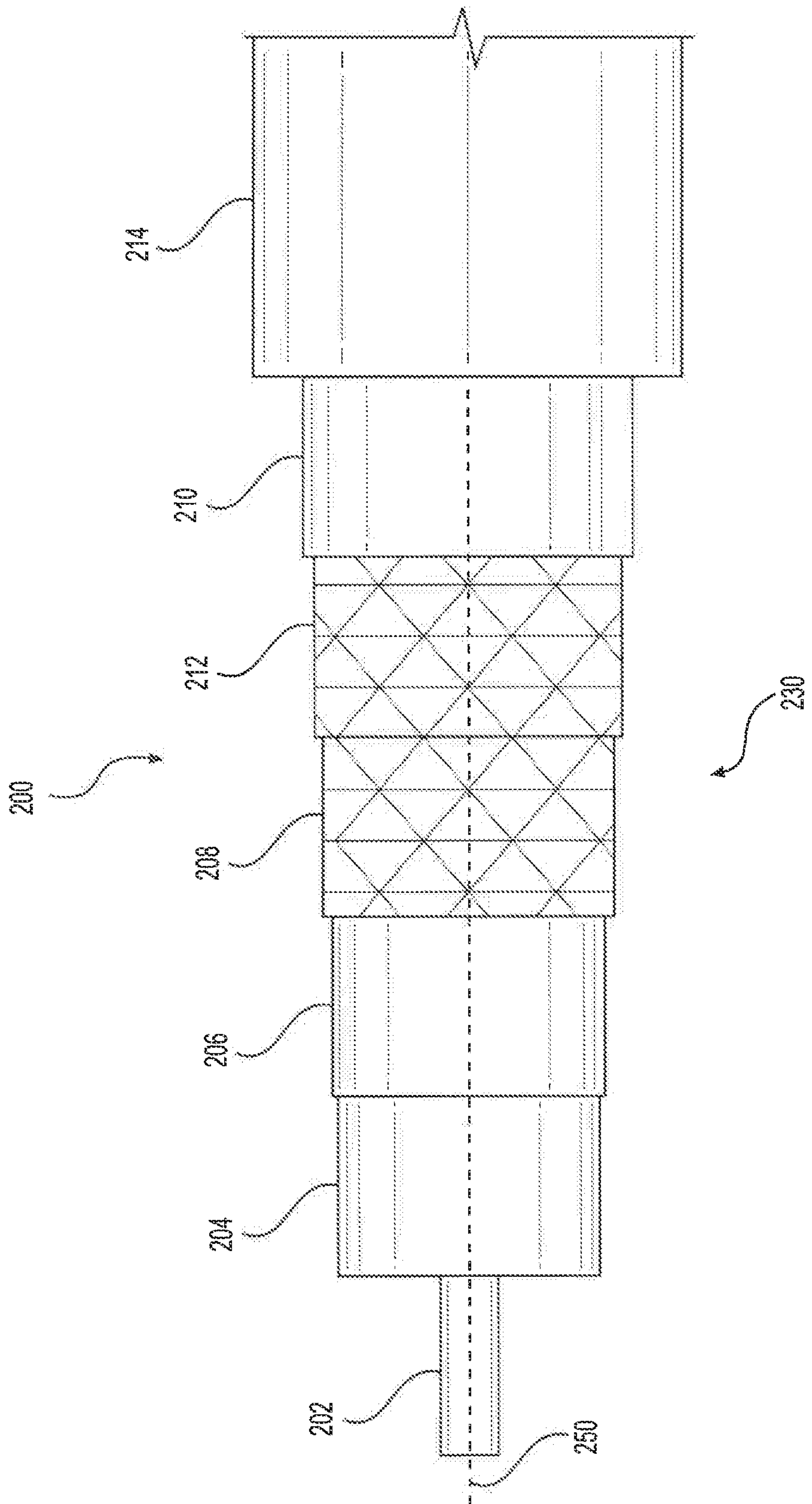


FIG. 2

QUAD-SHIELD COAXIAL CABLE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/654,600, filed Jul. 19, 2017, pending, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 62/364,292, filed Jul. 19, 2016. The disclosure of the prior applications is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Conventional coaxial cable has a center conductor, a dielectric insulator with a single aluminum foil cover, one layer of braided shield surrounding the foil covered dielectric insulator, and a plastic insulating jacket covering the braided shield. Additionally, “tri-shield” and “quad-shield” versions of conventional coaxial cable are being increasingly used due their improved performance.

[0003] Tri-shield cable has a second layer of foil which covers the braided shield, while quad-shield cable has both a second layer of foil and a second layer of braided shield over the second layer of foil. As a result of the additional shielding layers, tri-shield and quad-shield cables have overall thicknesses or diameters greater than that of common (i.e., dual-shield) coaxial cable.

[0004] An example of conventional quad-shield cable is shown in FIG. 1. As illustrated, the quad-shield cable **100** includes a center conductor **102**, a dielectric insulator **104**, an inner aluminum foil cover **106**, an inner layer of braided shield **108** surrounding the inner foil cover **106**, an outer aluminum foil cover **110**, and outer layer of braided shield **112** surrounding the outer foil cover **110**, and a plastic insulating jacket **114** covering the outer layer of braided shield **112**.

[0005] The additional shielding layers provide extra insulation between signals internal on the coax and over the air signals, thus allowing the cable to provide a stronger signal over a longer run, which can be important for high definition (HD) and ultra-high definition (UHD), or 4K, television. The foil covers **106**, **110** provide high frequency shielding, while the layers of braided shield **108**, **112** provide low frequency shielding and add strength to the cable. Regarding the low frequency shielding of the layers of braided shield **108**, **112**, the shielding effect of two layers of braided shield having lesser coverage may surpass the effect of a single layer of braided shield having greater coverage. For example, two layers of braided shield having 60% and 40% coverage, respectively, may provide a greater shielding effect than a single layer of braided shield having 100% coverage.

[0006] As a result of the additional layer of foil or the additional layers of foil and braided shield, tri-shield and quad-shield cable are thicker than common coaxial cable. In the case of quad-shield coaxial cable, the additional layers of foil and braided shield make it more difficult to prepare the cable for connector installation. It can also be difficult to install the connector on the quad-shield coaxial cable due to the thickness added by the additional layers. Also, since the inner foil cover **106** is sandwiched between the two layers of braided shield **108**, **112**, both sides of the inner foil cover **106** can be abraded during installation and/or use, thereby causing the shielding to break down.

SUMMARY

[0007] According to various aspects of the disclosure, a quad-shield coaxial cable may include an elongated center conductor extending along a longitudinal axis, an insulator coaxially surrounding the inner conductor, an inner conductive foil layer coaxially surrounding the insulator, an inner layer of braided shield coaxially surrounding the inner foil layer, an outer layer of braided shield coaxially surrounding the inner layer of braided shield, an outer conductive foil layer coaxially surrounding the outer layer of braided shield, and a jacket coaxially surrounding the outer conductive foil layer.

[0008] In accordance with various aspects of the disclosure, a method of preparing a terminal end of quad-shield coaxial cable for connection with a connector may include cutting a jacket and an outer conductive foil layer at a first step; cutting an inner layer of braided shield, an outer layer of braided shield, an inner conductive foil layer, and an insulator at a second step; and simultaneously folding the inner layer of braided shield and the outer layer of braided shield backward onto the jacket. As a result of the two cutting steps, the inner layer of braided shield, the outer layer of braided shield, the inner conductive foil layer, and the insulator protrude from the jacket and the outer conductive foil layer at the terminal end of the cable; and the inner conductor protrudes from the inner layer of braided shield and the outer layer of braided shield, the inner conductive foil layer, and the insulator at the terminal end of the cable.

[0009] According to some aspects, a method of assembling a connector with a terminal end of a quad-shield coaxial cable may include preparing the terminal end of the quad-shield coaxial cable as described above, and inserting a post of the connector in between the inner layer of braided shield and the inner conductive foil layer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] FIG. 1 is a diagrammatic side view of a conventional quad-shield coaxial cable.

[0011] FIG. 2 is a diagrammatic side view of a quad-shield coaxial cable according to various aspects of the disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

[0012] Referring to FIG. 2, a quad-shield coaxial cable **200** according to various aspects of the disclosure is illustrated. The coaxial cable **200** extends along a cable axis or a longitudinal axis **250**. The cable **200** includes an elongated center conductor or inner conductor **202**, an elongated insulator **204** coaxially surrounding the inner conductor **202**, an inner conductive foil layer **206** coaxially surrounding the insulator **204**, an inner layer of braided shield **208** coaxially surrounding the inner foil layer **206**, an outer layer of braided shield **212** coaxially surrounding the inner layer of braided shield **208**, an outer conductive foil layer **210** coaxially surrounding the outer layer of braided shield **212**, and an elongated sheath, sleeve, or jacket **214** coaxially surrounding the outer conductive foil layer **210**.

[0013] The inner conductor **202** is operable to carry data signals to and from a data network. Depending upon the embodiment, the inner conductor **202** can be a strand, a solid wire, or a hollow, tubular wire. The inner conductor **202** is, in one embodiment, constructed of a conductive material suitable for data transmission, such as a metal or alloy including copper, including, but not limited, to copper-clad

aluminum (“CCA”), copper-clad steel (“CCS”) or silver-coated copper-clad steel (“SCCCS”).

[0014] The elongated insulator **204**, in one embodiment, is a dielectric having a tubular shape. In one embodiment, the elongated insulator **204** is radially, and the elongated insulator **204** is axially flexible along the longitudinal axis **250**. Depending upon the embodiment, the elongated insulator **204** can be a suitable polymer, such as polyethylene (“PE”) or a fluoropolymer, in solid or foam form.

[0015] Each of the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208, 212** includes a conductive RF shield or electromagnetic radiation shield. For example, the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208, 212** may include a conductive screen, mesh, or braid or otherwise has a perforated configuration defining a matrix, grid or array of openings. In one such embodiment, the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208, 212** may have an aluminum material or a suitable combination of aluminum and polyester.

[0016] When the inner conductor **202** and external electronic devices generate magnetic fields, the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208, 212**, which are grounded by a connector (not shown), cancels all, substantially all, or a suitable amount of the potentially interfering magnetic fields. Therefore, there may be less, or an insignificant, disruption of the data signals running through inner conductor **202**. Also, there may be less, or an insignificant, disruption of the operation of external electronic devices near the cable **200**.

[0017] The inner and outer conductive foil layers **206, 210**, in one embodiment, are additional tubular conductors which provide additional shielding of the magnetic fields. The inner and outer conductive foil layers **206, 210** may be a flexible foil tape or laminate. In one embodiment, the inner conductive foil layer **206** includes a flexible foil tape or laminate adhered to the elongated insulator **204**, thus assuming the tubular shape of the insulator **204**. In one embodiment, the outer conductive foil layer **210** includes a flexible foil tape or laminate adhered to the inner surface of the jacket **214**, thus assuming the tubular shape of the jacket **214**.

[0018] The combination of the inner and outer conductive foil layers **206, 210** and the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208, 212** can suitably block undesirable radiation or signal noise from leaving the cable **200**. Such combination can also suitably block undesirable radiation or signal noise from entering the cable **200**. This can result in an additional decrease in disruption of data communications through the cable **200** as well as an additional decrease in interference with external devices, such as nearby cables and components of other operating electronic devices.

[0019] It has been unexpectedly discovered that the quad-shield cable **200** according to the disclosure maintains shielding effectiveness after typical installation abuse and normal wear and tear over time. Conventional quad-shield cable is known to suffer rapid shielding effectiveness decays when subjected to the typical flexing stresses of an aerial feed or the normal bending stresses of in-home or head-end installation. The improved shield effectiveness may be assisted by placing the outer foil layer **210** outside of the outer layer of braided shield (instead of between the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208, 212**). For example, in the cable **200**, the outer surface of the outer foil layer **210** is not subject to abrasion by a braided shield when subjected to the aforementioned flexing stresses.

[0020] In one embodiment, the jacket **214** has a protective characteristic, guarding the cable’s internal components from damage. The jacket **214** also has an electrical insulation characteristic. In one embodiment, the jacket **214** is radially compressible and is flexible along the longitudinal axis **250**. The jacket **214** is constructed of a suitable, flexible material such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or rubber. In one embodiment, the jacket **214** has a lead-free formulation including black-colored PVC and a sunlight resistant additive or sunlight resistant chemical structure.

[0021] Depending upon the embodiment, the components of the cable **200** can be constructed of various materials which have some degree of elasticity or flexibility. The elasticity enables the cable **200** to flex or bend in accordance with broadband communications standards, installation methods or installation equipment. Also, the radial thicknesses of the cable **200**, the inner conductor **202**, the insulator **204**, the inner and outer conductive foil layers **206, 210**, the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208, 212**, and the jacket **214** can vary based upon parameters corresponding to broadband communication standards or installation equipment.

[0022] In use, an installer or preparer prepares a terminal end **230** of the cable **200** so that it can be mechanically connected to a connector. In one embodiment, the preparer removes or strips away differently sized portions of the jacket **214**, the inner and outer conductive foil layers **206, 210**, the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208, 212**, and the insulator **204** so as to expose (i) the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208, 212**, (ii) the inner conductive foil layer **206** and insulator, and (iii) the inner conductor **202** in a stepped or staggered fashion. The preparer can use cable preparation pliers or a cable stripping tool to remove such portions of the cable **200**.

[0023] For example, in one embodiment, the installer or preparer may use cable preparation pliers or a cable stripping tool to cut the jacket **214** and the outer conductive foil layer **210** at a first step, while the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208, 212**, the inner conductive foil layer **206**, and the insulator **204** are cut at a second step. Thus, the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208, 212**, the inner conductive foil layer **206**, and the insulator **204** protrude from the jacket **214** and the outer conductive foil layer **210** at the terminal end **230**. The inner conductor **202** protrudes from the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208, 212**, the inner conductive foil layer **206**, and the insulator **204** at the terminal end. In embodiments where the outer conductive foil layer **210** is bonded to the jacket **214**, cutting and removal of the outer conductive foil layer **210** at the same step as the jacket **214** may be simpler, since a separate step of scoring and peeling away the outer conductive foil layer **210** may be eliminated.

[0024] Next, the installer or preparer folds the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208, 212** backward onto the jacket **214**. Rather than each layer of braided shield being folded individually, as in the conventional quad-shield cable, the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208, 212** can be folded backward onto the jacket **214** simultaneously. Unexpectedly, it has been found that folding the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208, 212** onto the jacket **214** simultaneously can be performed with greater ease and speed as compared to folding a single layer of braid shield due to the greater bulk or thickness of the two layers **208, 212**. After the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208,**

212 are folded backward onto the jacket **214**, the terminal end **230** is ready to receive a connector.

[0025] The preparation process in accordance with the present disclosure is simpler and quicker than with the conventional quad-shield cable. As recognized by persons skilled in the art, after cable preparation pliers or a cable stripping tool is used to remove portions of the cable **100**, preparation of the conventional quad-shield cable for a connector requires that (a) the outer layer of braided shield **112** be folded backward onto the jacket **114**, (b) then the outer conductive foil layer **110** scored and peeled away, and (c) then the inner layer of braided shield **109** folded backward onto the jacket. It should be appreciated that the scoring of the outer conductive foil layer **110** can lead to inadvertent cutting of the inner layer of braided shield **108** that is still in place on the inner conductive foil layer **106** and the insulator **104**. For this and other reasons, removal of the outer conductive foil layer **110** can be difficult.

[0026] As a result of the preparation process of the cable **200** described above, the folded section of the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208, 212** is oriented inside out. The bend or fold of the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208, 212** is adjacent to the inner conductive foil layer **206**. At this point, the cable **200** is ready to be connected to the connector.

[0027] Certain embodiments of the connector include a tubular post. In such embodiments, it has been found, unexpectedly, that the cable **200** according to the present disclosure facilitates easier insertion of such post in between the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208, 212** and the inner conductive foil layer **206**. When the post is inserted beneath the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208, 212**, the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208, 212** are capable of nestling into one another in a radial direction, thereby receiving the post with less resistance than in a conventional quad-shield cable where the inner and outer layers of braided shield **108, 112** are separated by a foil layer **110**, which prevents nestling of the inner and outer layers of braided shield **108, 112**. When the inner and outer layers of braided shield **208, 212** are nestled into one another in the radial direction, more space for receiving the post is created.

[0028] Additional embodiments include any one of the embodiments described above, where one or more of its components, functionalities or structures is interchanged with, replaced by or augmented by one or more of the components, functionalities or structures of a different embodiment described above.

[0029] It should be understood that various changes and modifications to the embodiments described herein will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Such changes and

modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present disclosure and without diminishing its intended advantages. It is therefore intended that such changes and modifications be covered by the appended claims.

[0030] Although several embodiments of the disclosure have been disclosed in the foregoing specification, it is understood by those skilled in the art that many modifications and other embodiments of the disclosure will come to mind to which the disclosure pertains, having the benefit of the teaching presented in the foregoing description and associated drawings. It is thus understood that the disclosure is not limited to the specific embodiments disclosed herein above, and that many modifications and other embodiments are intended to be included within the scope of the appended claims. Moreover, although specific terms are employed herein, as well as in the claims which follow, they are used only in a generic and descriptive sense, and not for the purposes of limiting the present disclosure, nor the claims which follow.

What is claimed is:

1. A quad-shield coaxial cable comprising:
 - an insulator portion configured to encircle an inner conductor portion;
 - an inner conductive foil portion configured to encircle the insulator portion;
 - an inner braided shield portion configured to encircle the inner conductive foil layer portion;
 - an outer braided shield portion configured to encircle the inner braided shield portion;
 - an outer conductive foil portion configured to encircle the outer braided shield portion; and
 - a jacket portion configured to encircle the outer conductive foil portion.
2. The cable of claim 1, wherein the inner conductor portion comprises an elongated center conductor that extends along a longitudinal axis.
3. The cable of claim 2, wherein the inner conductive foil portion comprises an inner conductive foil layer that coaxially surrounds the insulator portion.
4. The cable of claim 3, wherein the inner braided shield portion comprises an inner layer of braided shield that coaxially surrounds the inner conductive foil layer.
5. The cable of claim 4, wherein the outer braided shield portion comprises an outer layer of braided shield that coaxially surrounds the inner layer of braided shield.
6. The cable of claim 5, wherein the outer conductive foil portion comprises an outer conductive foil layer that coaxially surrounds the outer layer of braided shield.

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