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(54) **LIFT ASSEMBLY**

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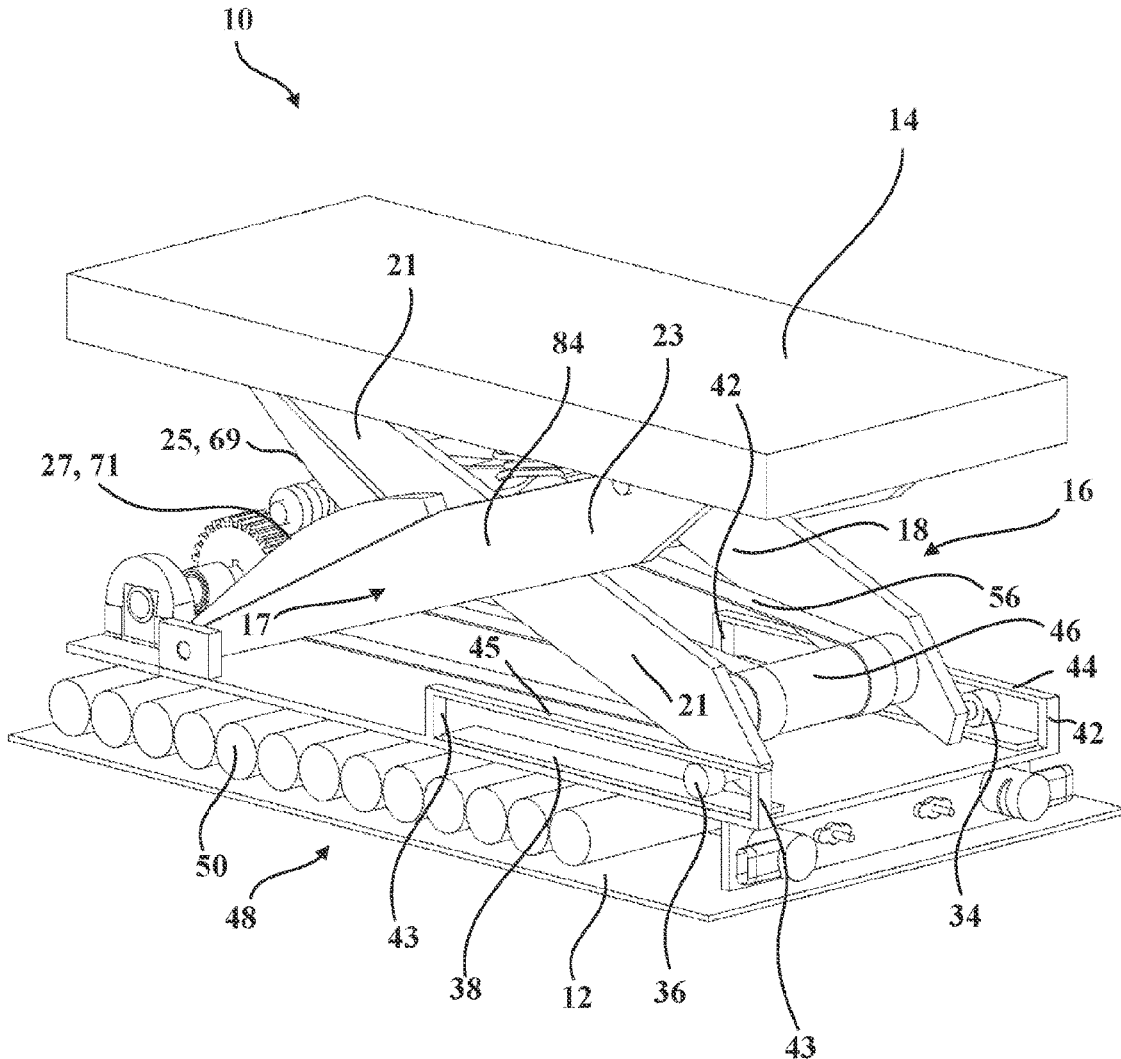
(57) **ABSTRACT**

(22) Filed: **May 31, 2023**

A lift assembly includes a base, a platform coupled to the base and moveable between a lowered state and an elevated state, a first pair of scissor arms including a first arm and a second arm pivotably connected to one another, and a second pair of scissor arms including a third arm and a fourth arm pivotably connected to one another. The lift assembly also includes a carriage coupled to the first pair of scissor arms and to the second pair of scissor arms. The carriage includes a shaft extending transverse to the first arm, the second arm, the third arm, and the fourth arm, and a centering wheel rotatably coupled to the shaft. The first arm includes a cam surface engageable with the centering wheel to guide travel of the platform between the lowered state and the elevated state.

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 63/347,311, filed on May 31, 2022, provisional application No. 63/347,333, filed on May 31, 2022.



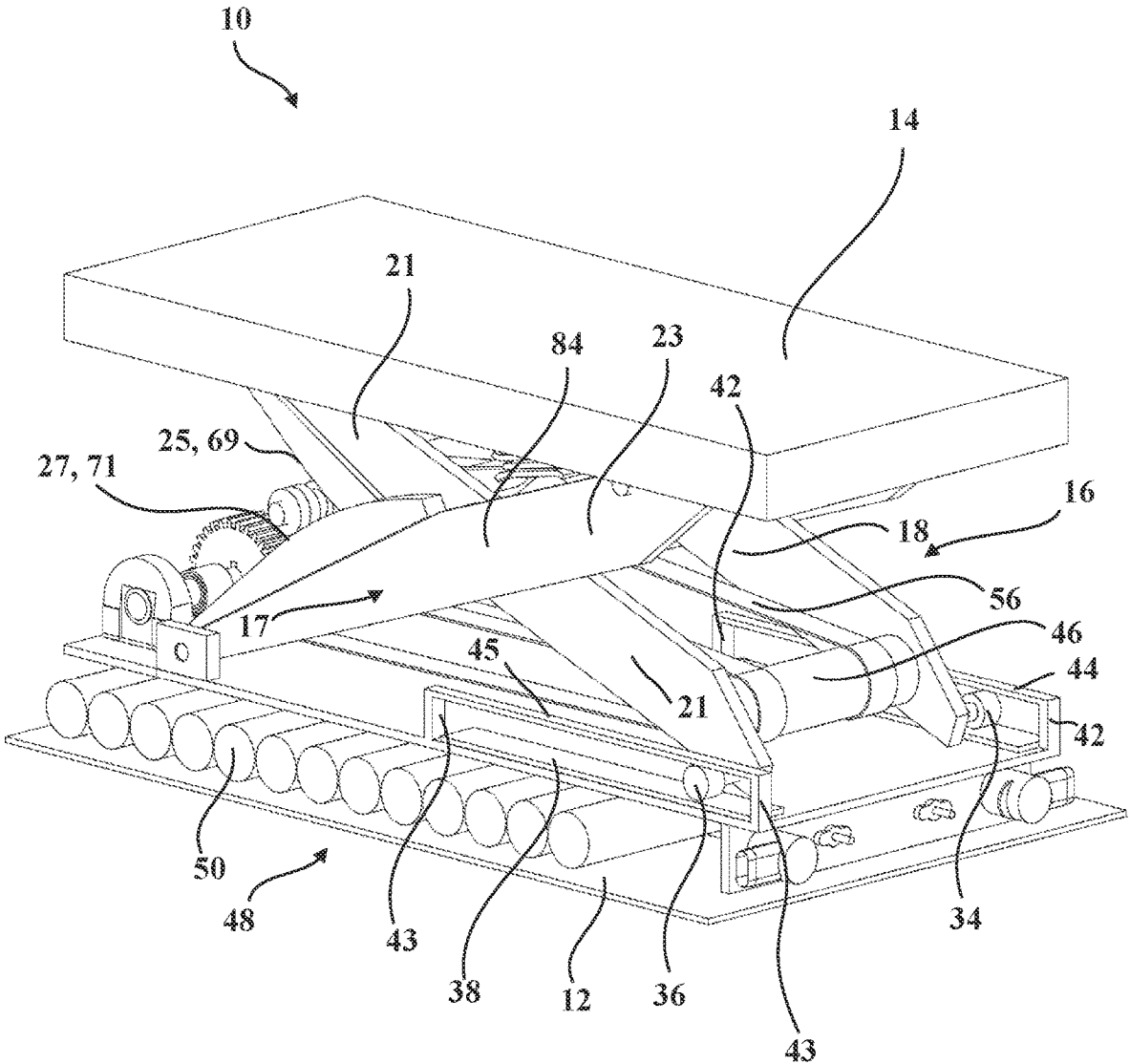


FIG. 1

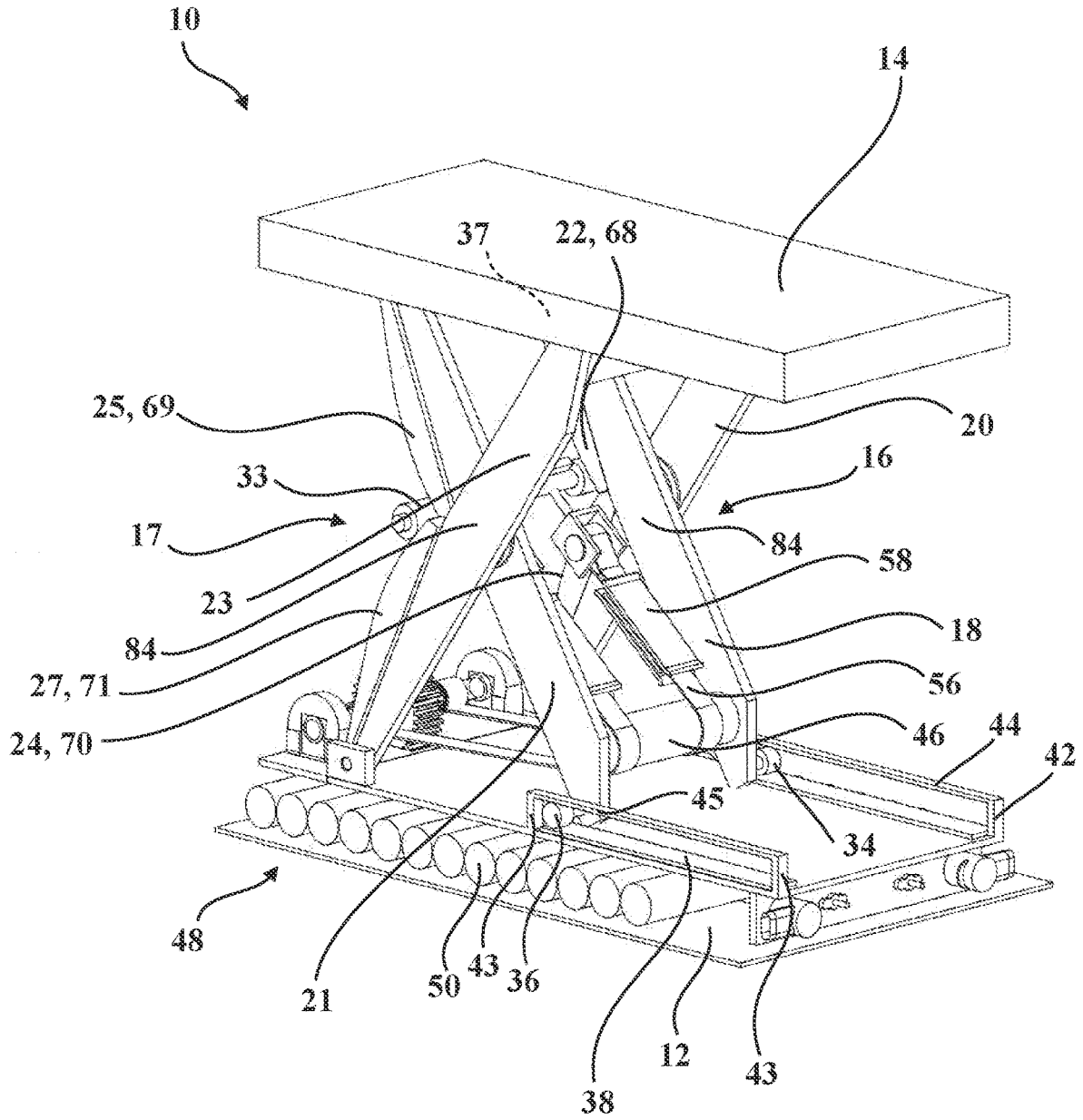


FIG. 2

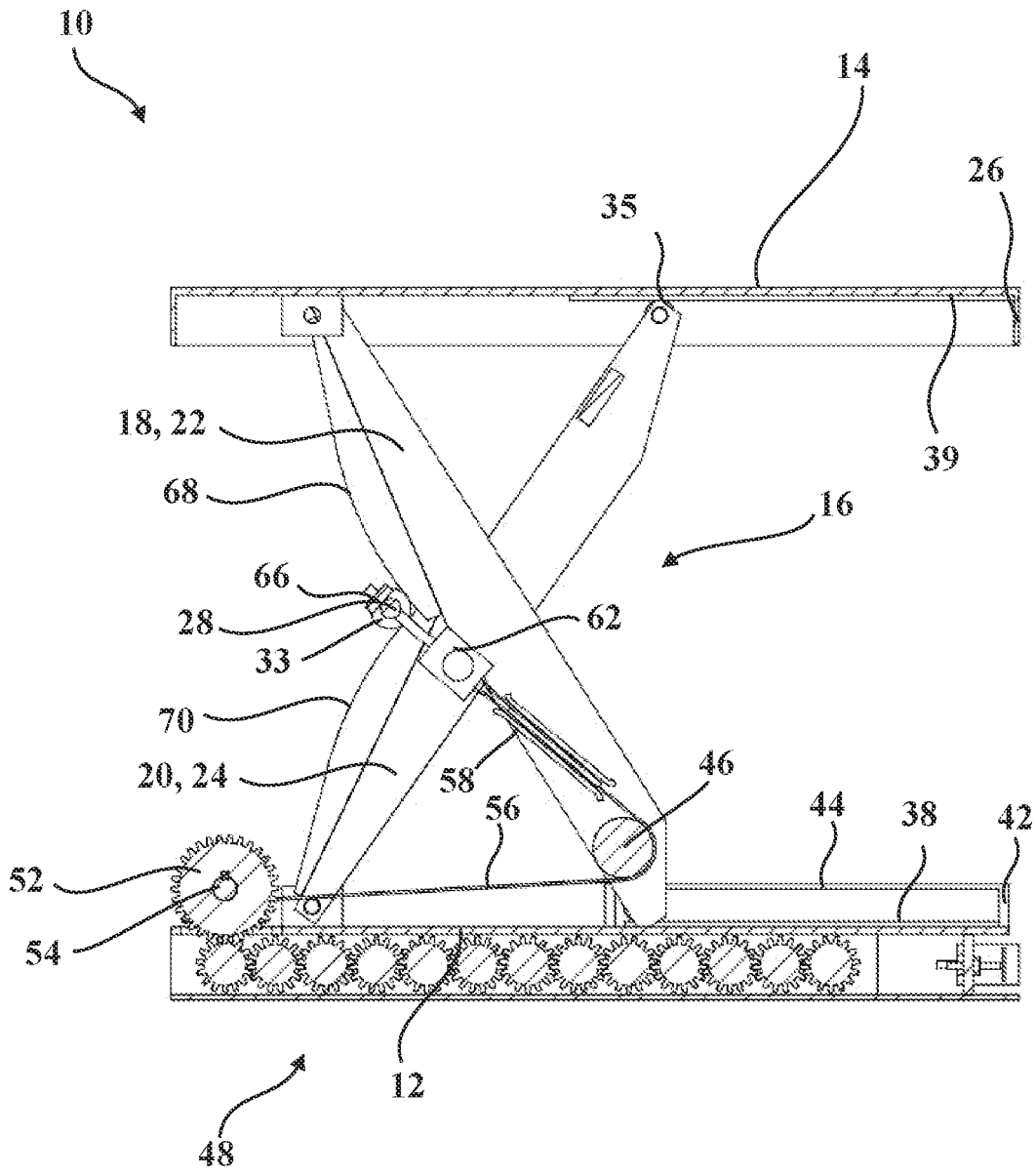


FIG. 3

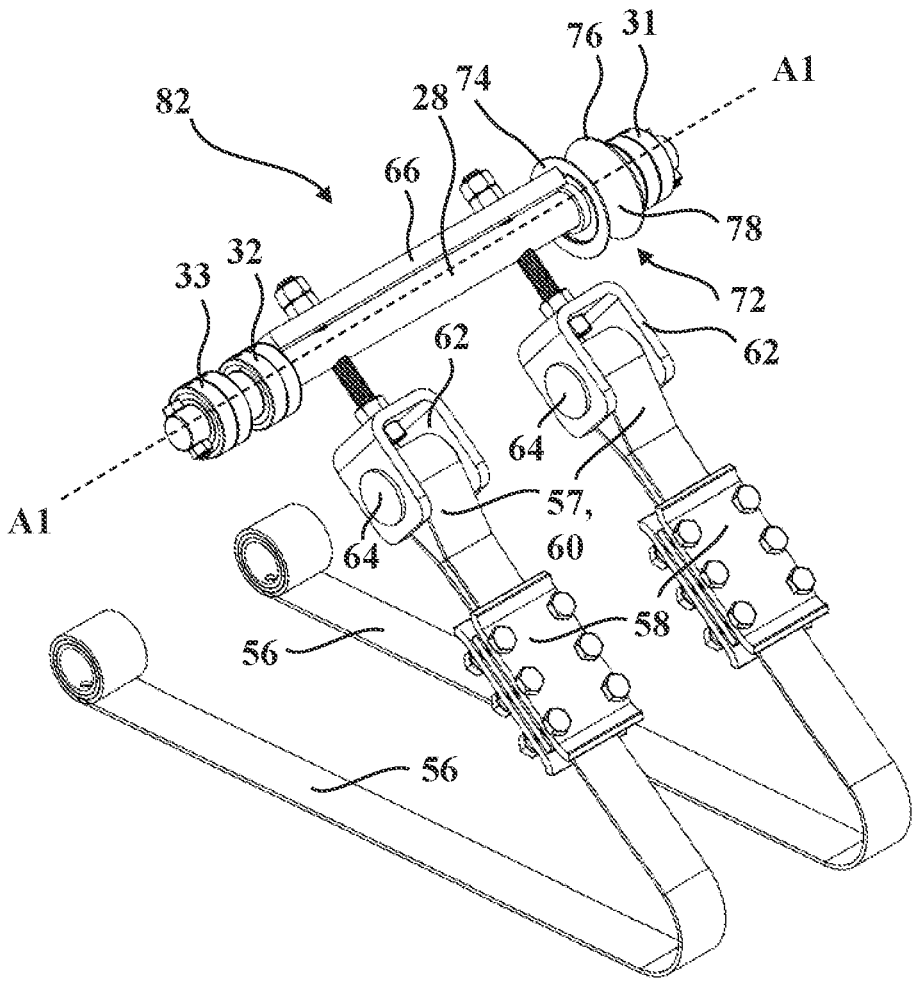


FIG. 4

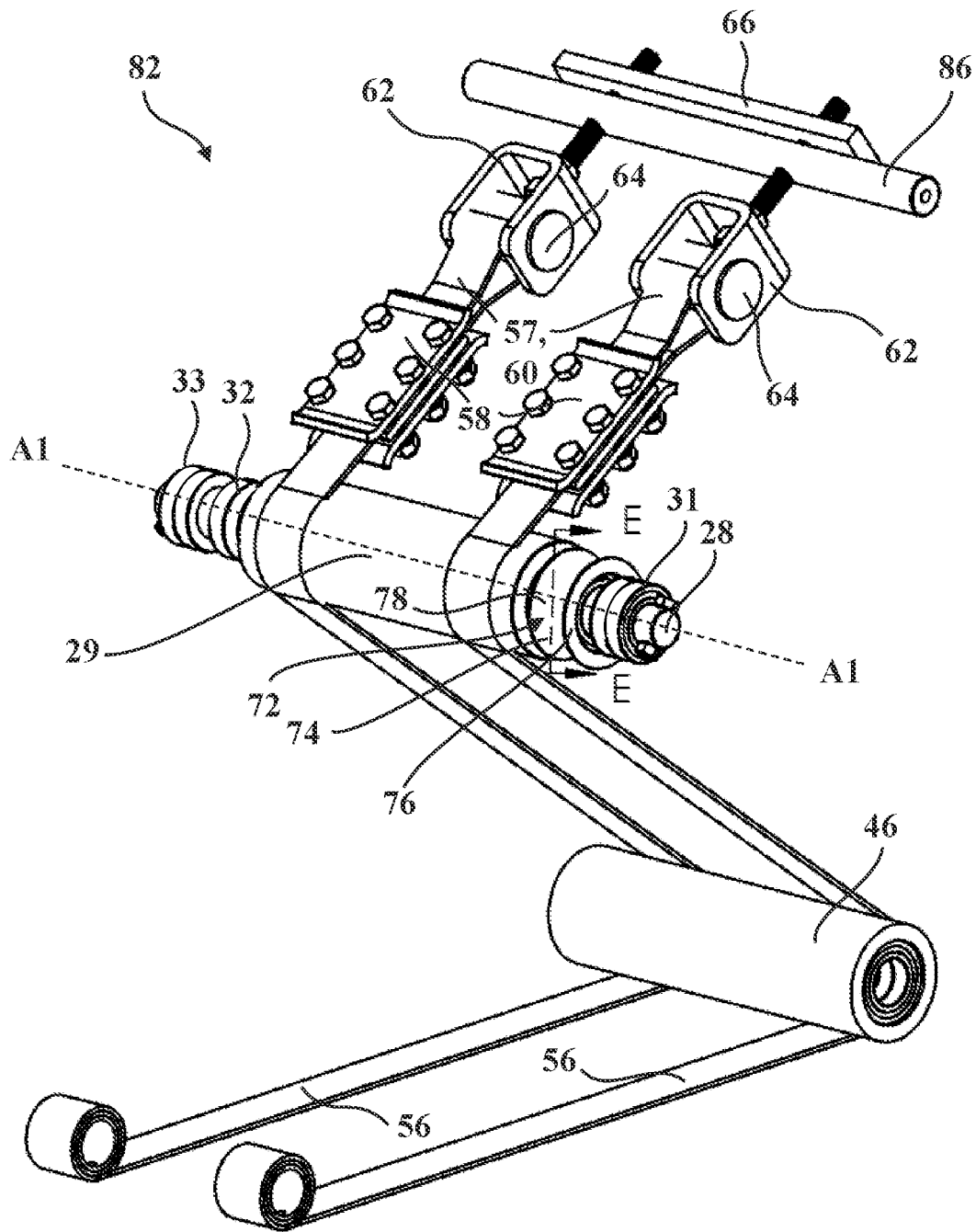


FIG. 5

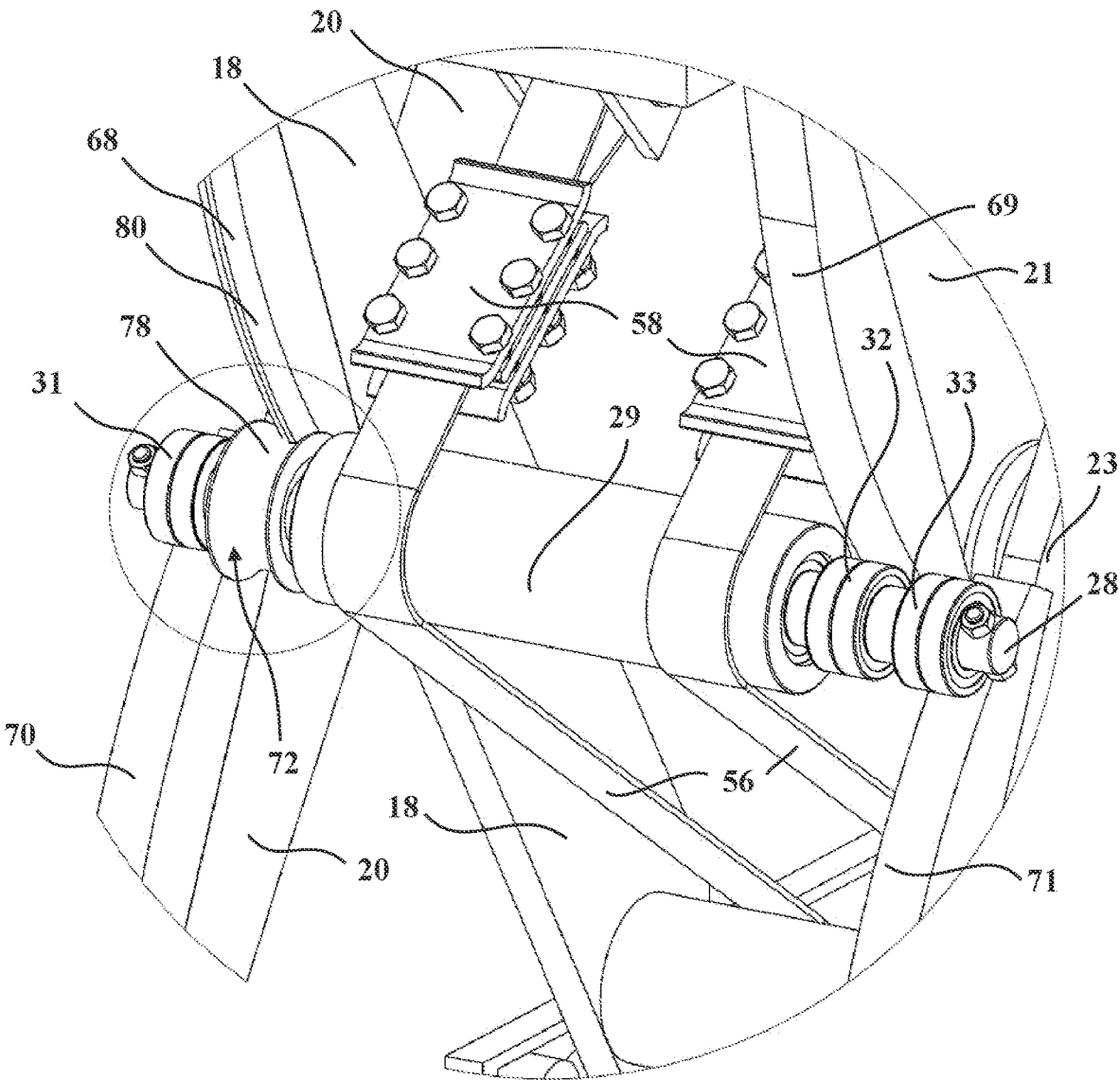


FIG. 6

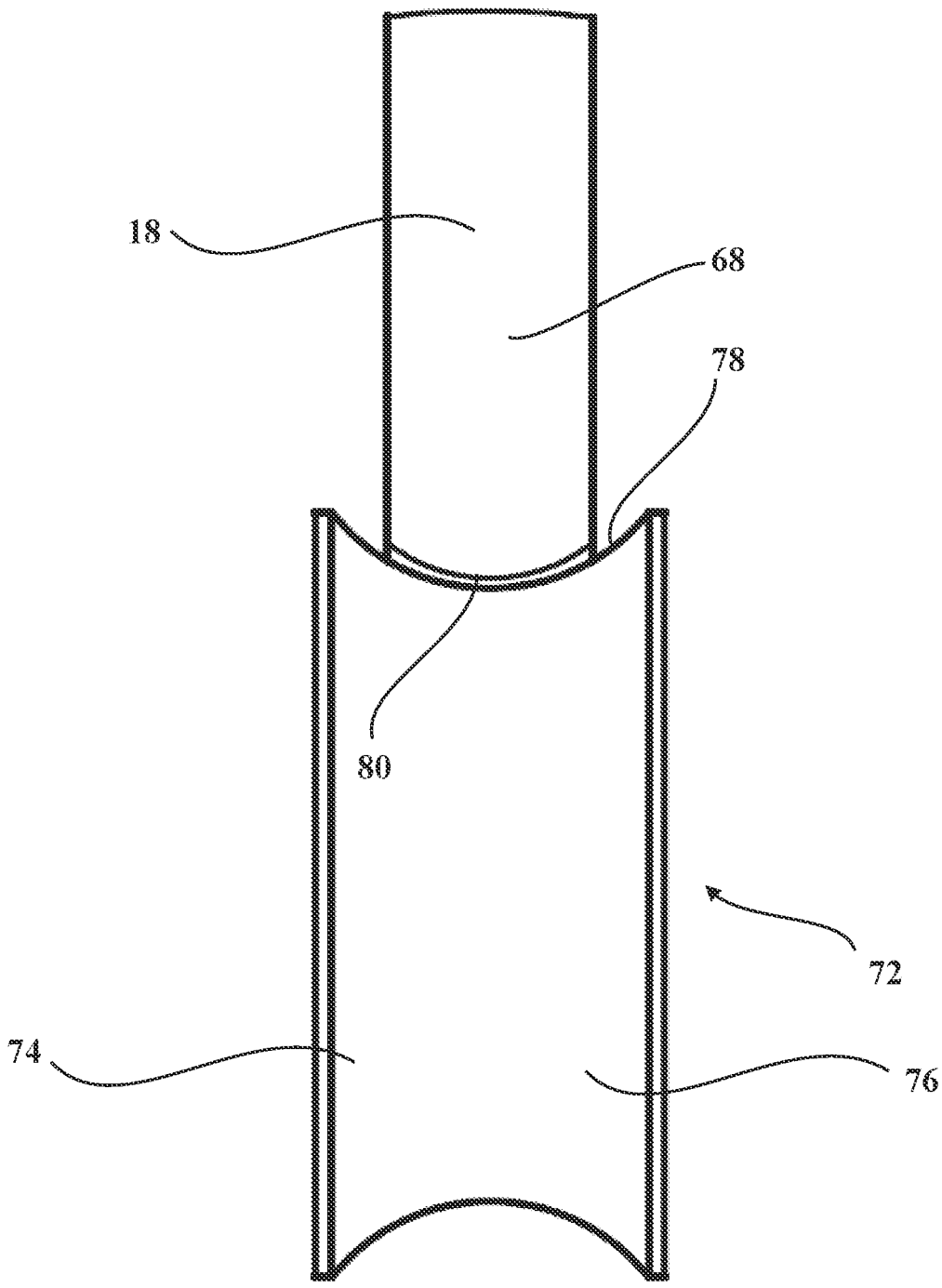


FIG. 7

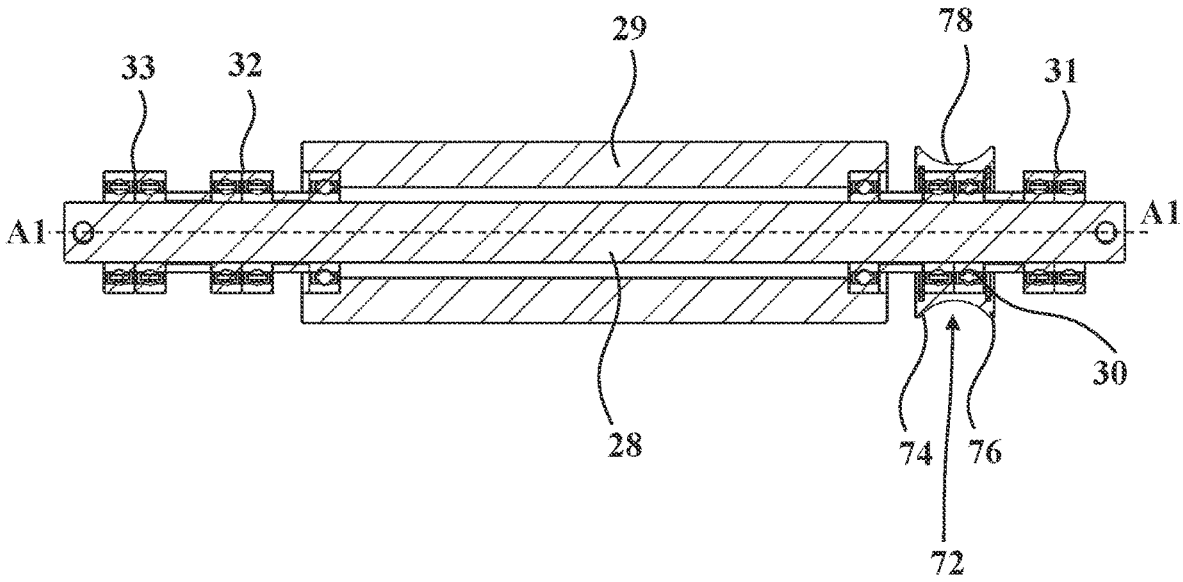


FIG. 8

LIFT ASSEMBLY

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] The subject patent application claims priority to and all the benefits of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 63/347,311, which was filed on May 31, 2022, and claims priority to and all the benefits of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 63/347,333, which was filed on May 31, 2022, which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The invention generally relates to a lift assembly.

2. Description of the Related Art

[0003] Lift assemblies commonly include a base, a platform moveable relative to the base, a first pair of scissor arms, and a second pair of scissor arms. The first pair of scissor arms and the second pair of scissor arms typically pivot to permit the platform to move. However, the first and second pairs of scissor arms typically require guidance as they move the platform, particularly when weight is applied to the platform. Otherwise, the first and second pairs of scissor arms are prone to misalignment which prevents the first and second pairs of scissor arms from pivoting in a manner that permits safe movement of the platform.

[0004] As such, there remains a need to provide an improved lift assembly that maintains alignment.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES

[0005] A lift assembly includes a base and a platform coupled to the base. The platform is moveable between a lowered state where the platform is proximal to the base and an elevated state where the platform is distal to the base. The lift assembly also includes a first pair of scissor arms and a second pair of scissor arms. The first pair of scissor arms includes a first arm coupled to the platform and the base, and a second arm coupled to the platform and the base. The first arm and the second arm are pivotably connected to one another. The second pair of scissor arms includes a third arm coupled to the platform and the base, and a fourth arm coupled to the platform and the base. The third arm and the fourth arm are pivotably connected to one another.

[0006] The lift assembly further includes a carriage coupled to the first pair of scissor arms to the second pair of scissor arms. The carriage includes a shaft extending transverse to the first arm, the second arm, the third arm, and the fourth arm. The carriage also includes a centering wheel rotatably coupled to the shaft. The first arm includes a cam surface engageable with the centering wheel to guide travel of the platform between the lowered state and the elevated state.

[0007] There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, certain features of embodiments of the invention in order that the detailed descriptions thereof may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. Additional or alternative features of embodiments of the invention are described in further detail below.

[0008] In this respect, before explaining embodiments of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

[0009] To accomplish the above and related objects, the invention may be embodied in the forms illustrated in the accompanying drawings, attention being called to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only, and that changes may be made in the specific constructions illustrated. Moreover, it is to be noted that the accompanying drawings are not necessarily drawn to scale or to the same scale. In particular, the scale of some of the elements of the drawings may be exaggerated to emphasize characteristics of the elements.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] Other advantages of the present invention will be readily appreciated, as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings.

[0011] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a lift assembly in a lowered state.

[0012] FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the lift assembly in an elevated state.

[0013] FIG. 3 is a side view of the lift assembly partially in cross-section.

[0014] FIG. 4 is a perspective view of one embodiment of a carriage and a belt.

[0015] FIG. 5 is a perspective view of another embodiment of a carriage and a belt.

[0016] FIG. 6 is a fragmented view of the carriage of FIG. 5 with a centering wheel.

[0017] FIG. 7 is an enlarged frontal view of the centering wheel.

[0018] FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view of the carriage of FIG. 5 having the centering wheel.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0019] With reference to the Figures, wherein like numerals indicate like parts throughout the several views, an embodiment of a lift assembly 10 is shown in FIGS. 1-4. The lift assembly 10 includes a base 12 and a platform 14 coupled to the base 12. The platform 14 is moveable between a lowered state where the platform 14 is proximal to the base 12, as shown in FIG. 1, and an elevated state where the platform 14 is distal to the base 12, as shown in FIG. 2. The lift assembly 10 also includes a first pair of scissor arms 16 and a second pair of scissor arms 17. The first pair of scissor arms 16 includes a first arm 18 coupled to the platform 14 and the base 12, and a second arm 20 coupled to the platform 14 and the base 12. The first arm 18 and the second arm 20 are pivotably connected to one another. The second pair of scissor arms 17 includes a third arm 21 coupled to the platform 14 and the base 12, and a fourth arm 23 coupled to the platform 14 and the base 12. The third arm 21 and the fourth arm 23 are pivotably

connected to one another. The lift assembly 10 further includes a carriage 82 coupled to the first pair of scissor arms 16 to the second pair of scissor arms 17. The carriage 82 includes a shaft 28 extending transverse to the first arm 18, the second arm 20, the third arm 21, and the fourth arm 23. The carriage 82 also includes a centering wheel 72 rotatably coupled to the shaft 28. The first arm 18 includes a cam surface 68 engageable with the centering wheel 72 to guide travel of the platform 14 between the lowered state and the elevated state.

[0020] An alternative embodiment of the invention is shown in FIGS. 5-6 and 8 and is discussed in greater detail below. Certain aspects of the two embodiments are the same, such as the centering wheel 72 and its engagement with the cam surface 68. The shaft 28, bearings, centering wheel, and cam surfaces shown in FIGS. 6 and 8 are common to both embodiments. The roller 29, discussed below, is not present in the embodiment of FIGS. 1-4.

[0021] Referring to FIGS. 4 and 6-8, engagement between the centering wheel 72 and the cam surface 68 guides travel of the platform 14 between the lowered state and the elevated state, thus limiting misalignment of the first and second pairs of scissor arms 16, 17. Limiting misalignment of the first and second pairs of scissor arms 16, 17 also limits manual realignment of the first and second pairs of scissor arms 16, 17, saving time and limiting risk of injury to an operator.

[0022] Although not required, the centering wheel 72 may have a concave surface 78 engageable with the cam surface 68. The cam surface 68 may have a convex surface 80 shaped to correspond to the concave surface 78 of the centering wheel 72. The centering wheel 72 may have two opposing cones 74, 76 having a contoured surface 78 tapered inwardly. The first cam surface 68 may be forced by the taper of the contoured surface 78 toward the center of the centering wheel 72, which prevents the first cam surface from moving out of contact with the centering wheel 72. Moreover, the center of the centering wheel 72 may be positioned such that the first arm 18 follows an optimal path for efficiency, wear, noise, and/or stability when the platform 14 is moved between the elevated state and the lowered state. Therefore, the first arm 18 is prevented from being misaligned, which would require an operator to manually realign to continue operation of the lift assembly 10.

[0023] As perhaps best shown in FIG. 8, the lift assembly 10 may also include a bearing 30 disposed about the shaft 28. The centering wheel 72 is disposed about the bearing 30. The bearing 30 permits the centering wheel 72 to be rotatable relative to the shaft 28. More specifically, in a non-limiting example, the bearing 30 may include an inner race fixed to the shaft 28, an outer race fixed to the centering wheel 72, and a rolling element disposed between the inner race and the outer race which permits the outer race, and thus the centering wheel 72, to rotate relative to the inner race and the shaft 28. Moreover, the bearing 30 may be further defined as a first bearing 30, and the lift assembly 10 may further include another bearing 32 disposed about the shaft 28. The cam surface 68 may be further defined as a first cam surface 68, and the third arm 21 may include a third cam surface 69. The another bearing 32 is engageable with the third cam surface 69 in unison with the centering wheel 72 engaging the first cam surface 68 as perhaps best shown in

FIG. 6. It is to be appreciated that the roller 29 would be removed from FIGS. 6 and 8 when used in the embodiment of FIGS. 1-4.

[0024] Moreover, the lift assembly 10 may further include a second bearing 31 disposed about the shaft 28, a third bearing 32 disposed about the shaft 28, and a fourth bearing 33 disposed about the shaft 28. The another bearing 32 may be the third bearing 32. The cam surface 68 may be further defined as a first cam surface 68, the second arm 20 may include a second cam surface 70 engageable with the second bearing 31, the third arm 21 may include a third cam surface 69 engageable with the third bearing 32, and the fourth arm 23 may include a fourth cam surface 71 engageable with the fourth bearing 33. The first arm 18 may press on the centering wheel 72 downward toward the base 12, and the third arm 21 may press on the third bearing 32 downward toward the base 12. The second arm 20 may press upward on the second bearing 31 toward the platform 14, and the fourth arm 23 may press upward on the fourth bearing 33 toward the platform 14.

[0025] The first arm 18, the second arm 20, the third arm 21, and the fourth arm 23 each have a length. The first cam surface 68, the second cam surface 70, the third cam surface 69, and the fourth cam surface 71 are arcuate along at least a portion of the lengths of the first arm 18, the second arm 20, the third arm 21, and the fourth arm 23. Additionally, the shaft 28 extends along an axis A1, and the second arm 20, the third arm 21, and the fourth arm 23 each have a width along the axis A1. Each of the second cam surface 70, the third cam surface 69, and the fourth cam surface 71 may be flat along at least a portion of the widths of the second arm 20, the third arm 21, and the fourth arm 23. The second bearing 31, the third bearing 32, and the fourth bearing 33 may have complementary flat surfaces which are engageable with the flat surfaces of the second arm 20, the third arm 21, and the fourth arm 23, respectively. Moreover, as shown in FIG. 8, the centering wheel 72 may have a larger diameter than the second bearing 31, the third bearing 32, and the fourth bearing 33. As such, it is to be appreciated that the first cam surface 68 may be relatively smaller than the second cam surface 70, the third cam surface 69, and the fourth cam surface 71.

[0026] The first arm 18 and the second arm 20 may be pivotably connected to one another about a pivot point 84. The first arm 18 has a first upper portion 22 disposed between the pivot point 84 and the platform 14. Although not required, the first upper portion 22 may include the cam surface 68. The second arm 20 has a second lower portion 24 disposed between the pivot point 84 and the base 12. The second lower portion 24 may include the second cam surface 70. Moreover, the third arm 21 and the fourth arm 23 may be pivotably connected to one another about another pivot point 84. The third arm 21 has a third upper portion 25 disposed between the pivot point 84 and the platform 14. Although not required, the third upper portion 25 may include the third cam surface 69. The fourth arm 23 may have a fourth lower portion 27 disposed between the pivot point 84 and the base 12. The fourth lower portion 27 may include the fourth cam surface 71.

[0027] The shaft 28 extends along an axis A1, and the first arm 18 may be disposed between the second arm 20 and the third arm 21 along the axis A1 such that the first arm 18 is in-board of the second arm 20. Moreover, the third arm 21 may be disposed between the fourth arm 23 and the first arm

18 along the axis **A1** such that the third arm **21** is in-board of the fourth arm **23**. As such, it is to be appreciated that the second arm **20** may be out-board of the first arm **18**, and the fourth arm **23** may be out-board of the third arm **21**.

[0028] The first arm **18** may be pivotable relative to the platform **14** but fixed longitudinally relative to the platform **14**. In a non-limiting example, the first arm **18** is bolted to the platform **14** through a bolted connection defining a pivot axis for the first arm **18** relative to the platform **14**. The first arm **18** may include a first rolling element **34** contactable with the base **12** to permit movement of the first arm **18** longitudinally relative to the base **12**. More specifically, the first arm **18** may slide relative to the base **12**.

[0029] The second arm **20** may be pivotable relative to the base **12** but fixed longitudinally relative to the base **12**. In a non-limiting example, the second arm **20** is bolted to the base **12** through a bolted connection defining a pivot axis for the second arm **20** relative to the base **12**. The second arm **20** may include a second rolling element **35** contactable with the platform **14** to permit movement of the second arm **20** longitudinally relative to the platform **14**. More specifically, the second arm **20** may slide relative to the platform **14**.

[0030] The third arm **21** may be pivotable relative to the platform **14** but fixed longitudinally relative to the platform **14**. In a non-limiting example, the third arm **21** is bolted to the platform **14** through a bolted connection defining a pivot axis for the third arm **21** relative to the platform **14**. The third arm **21** may include a third rolling element **36** contactable with the base **12** to permit movement of the third arm **21** longitudinally relative to the base **12**. More specifically, the third arm **21** may slide relative to the base **12**.

[0031] The fourth arm **23** may be pivotably fixed relative to the base **12** but fixed longitudinally relative to the base **12**. In a non-limiting example, the fourth arm **23** is bolted to the base **12** through a bolted connection defining a pivot axis for the fourth arm **23** relative to the base **12**. The fourth arm **23** may include a fourth rolling element **37** contactable with the platform **14** to permit movement of the fourth arm **23** longitudinally relative to the platform **14**. More specifically, the fourth arm **23** may slide relative to the platform **14**.

[0032] The first rolling element **34**, the second rolling element **35**, the third rolling element **36**, and the fourth rolling element **37** may be wheels, other rounded objects, or objects capable of rotation relative to the first arm **18**, the second arm **20**, the third arm **21**, or the fourth arm **23**, respectively. The first rolling element **34**, the second rolling element **35**, the third rolling element **36**, and the fourth rolling element **37** may even be bearings, such as ball bearings, roller bearings, needle bearings, or plain bearings, among other possibilities.

[0033] The base **12** has a base surface **38** contactable with the first rolling element **34** and the third rolling element **36**. The base surface **38** may be free of a track for the rolling elements. More specifically, the base surface **38** may be free of a track for the first rolling element **34** and the third rolling element **36**. The centering wheel **72** removes the need for the base **12** to have a track to guide the first rolling element **34** and the third rolling element **36**. Instead, alignment of the first rolling element **34** and the third rolling element **36** is ensured because alignment of the first arm **18** and the third arm **21** is ensured. Therefore, the base surface **38** may advantageously be formed without any track whatsoever and

may optionally be flat. However, it is also to be appreciated that the base surface **38** may include or define a track as a redundant measure.

[0034] The base **12** may include two first opposing stops **42, 42** extending away from the base **12**. The two first opposing stops **42, 42** are contactable with the first rolling element **34** to limit movement of the first arm **18**. The base **12** may also include two second opposing stops **43, 43** extending away from the base **12**. The two second opposing stops **43, 43** are contactable with the third rolling element **36** to limit movement of the third arm **21**. Moreover, the base **12** may further include a first top rail **44** extending between the two first opposing stops **42, 42** such that the first rolling element **34** is disposed between the first top rail **44** and the base **12**. The first top rail **44** assists in maintaining contact between the first rolling element **34** and the base surface **38**. The base **12** may further include a second top rail **45** extending between the two second opposing stops **43, 43** such that the third rolling element **36** is disposed between the second top rail **45** and the base **12**. The second top rail **45** assists in maintaining contact between the third rolling element **36** and the base surface **38**.

[0035] The platform **14** may include a lip **26** extending toward the base **12**. Although not required, the platform **14** may have a perimeter, and the lip **26** may extend from the perimeter of the platform **14** toward the base **12**. The lip **26** is contactable with the second rolling element **35** and the fourth rolling element **37** to limit movement of the second arm **20** and the fourth arm **23**. Moreover, the platform **14** has a platform surface **39** contactable with the second rolling element **35** and the fourth rolling element **37**. The platform surface **39** may be free of a track for the rolling elements. More specifically, the platform surface **39** may be free of a track for the second rolling element **35** and the fourth rolling element **37** and may optionally be flat. Still, the platform surface **39** may include or define a track as a redundant measure.

[0036] The shaft **28** may be further defined as a first shaft **28**, and the lift assembly may further include a second shaft **46** extending transverse to the first arm **18**, the second arm **20**, the third arm **21**, and the fourth arm **23**. The second shaft **46** is fixed relative to the first arm **18** and the third arm **21**. The second shaft **46** may support the relative position(s) of the first arm **18** and the third arm **21** as the platform **14** moves between the lowered state and the elevated state. The lift assembly **10** may further include a drive system **48** and an output belt **56** configured to be moved by the drive system **48**. The output belt **56** wraps partially about the second shaft **46** and extends toward the first shaft **28**. The drive system **48** may include the drive mechanism of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 63/347,311, which was filed on May 31, 2022, and U.S. patent application Ser. No. _____ filed concurrently herewith, both of which are incorporated by reference in its entirety.

[0037] The output belt **56** has an end **57**, and the lift assembly **10** may further include a bracket **62** coupled to the end **57** of the output belt **56**. The bracket **62** may be fixed to the first shaft **28**, as shown in FIG. 4.

[0038] Alternatively shown in FIGS. 5-6 and 8, the bracket **62** may be fixed to the platform **14** with the output belt **56** further extending to the first shaft **28**, wrapping partially about a roller **29** rotatably disposed on the first shaft

28, and extending toward the platform **14**. In this embodiment a third shaft **86** is included that is mounted to the platform **14**.

[0039] The first arm **18**, the second arm **20**, the third arm **21**, and the fourth arm **23** may be moved through use of the drive system **48** including, but not limited to, a low-profile drive system **48** as shown in FIG. 3. The drive system **48** may include an electric motor **50** (or a plurality of electric motors **50** arranged in series) which output rotational torque to an output member **52**. The output member **52** may be rotationally fixed to an output shaft **54** such that rotation of the output member **52** by the electric motors **50** rotates the output shaft **54**. The drive mechanism **48** may further include the output belt **56**, and the output belt **56** may be fixed to the output shaft **54**. Upon rotation of the output shaft **54**, the output belt **56** may be wound about the output shaft **54**. The output belt **56** may include a clamp **58** to create a loop **60** at the end **57** of the output belt **56**. It is also to be appreciated that the drive mechanism **48** may include a second output belt **56** having the characteristics of the output belt **56** as described herein, or may include a third output belt or more output belts. Although not required, the output belt(s) **56** may extend from the output shaft **54** substantially along the base **12** to the second shaft **46**. The output belt(s) **56** may then wrap partially about the second shaft **46** and extend toward the first shaft **28**.

[0040] Although not required, the bracket **62** may have a U-shaped configuration and may include a bracket pin **64** extending through the loop **60** of the output belt **56** to fix the bracket **62** to the output belt **56**. The bracket **62** may be fixed to the first shaft **28**, as shown in FIG. 4. In a non-limiting example, the bracket(s) **62** may be bolted to the first shaft **28** through a bolted connection to fix the bracket **62** to the first shaft **28**. Alternatively, as shown in FIG. 5, the bracket(s) **62** may be spaced from the first shaft **28** due to the output belt **56** wrapping around the roller **29**. The lift assembly **10** may also include a backing plate **66** coupled to the first shaft **28** (as in FIG. 4) or coupled to the third shaft **86** (as in FIG. 5) to provide a flat surface for the bracket **62** to be bolted to. It is to be appreciated that the bracket **62** may be welded, brazed, soldered, or otherwise physically joined with the shaft **28**, **86**, or may be formed integrally with the shaft **28**, **86** such as but not limited to by casting.

[0041] The invention has been described in an illustrative manner, and it is to be understood that the terminology which has been used is intended to be in the nature of words of description rather than of limitation. Many modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings, and the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described.

What is claimed is:

1. A lift assembly comprising;

a base;

a platform coupled to said base, said platform moveable between a lowered state where said platform is proximal to said base and an elevated state where said platform is distal to said base;

a first pair of scissor arms including a first arm coupled to said platform and said base and a second arm coupled to said platform and said base, with said first arm and said second arm pivotably connected to one another;

a second pair of scissor arms including a third arm coupled to said platform and said base and a fourth arm

coupled to said platform and said base, with said third arm and said fourth arm pivotably connected to one another; and

a carriage coupled to said first pair of scissor arms and to said second pair of scissor arms, said carriage including,

a shaft extending transverse to said first arm, said second arm, said third arm, and said fourth arm, and a centering wheel rotatably coupled to said shaft;

wherein said first arm includes a cam surface engageable with said centering wheel to guide travel of said platform between said lowered state and said elevated state.

2. The lift assembly of claim 1, wherein said centering wheel has a concave surface engageable with said cam surface.

3. The lift assembly of claim 2, wherein said cam surface has a convex surface shaped to correspond to said concave surface of said centering wheel.

4. The lift assembly of claim 1 further comprising a bearing disposed about said shaft, wherein said centering wheel is disposed about said bearing.

5. The lift assembly of claim 4, wherein said bearing is further defined as a first bearing, and further comprising another bearing disposed about said shaft.

6. The lift assembly of claim 5, wherein said cam surface is further defined as a first cam surface, and wherein said third arm includes a third cam surface with said another bearing engaging said third cam surface in unison with said centering wheel engaging said first cam surface.

7. The lift assembly of claim 4, wherein said bearing is further defined as a first bearing, and further comprising a second bearing disposed about said shaft, a third bearing disposed about said shaft, and a fourth bearing disposed about said shaft.

8. The lift assembly of claim 7, wherein said cam surface is further defined as a first cam surface, wherein said second arm includes a second cam surface engageable with said second bearing, wherein said third arm includes a third cam surface engageable with said third bearing, and wherein said fourth arm includes a fourth cam surface engageable with said fourth bearing.

9. The lift assembly of claim 8, wherein said first arm, said second arm, said third arm, and said fourth arm each have a length, and wherein said first cam surface, said second cam surface, said third cam surface, and said fourth cam surface are arcuate along at least a portion of said lengths of said first arm, said second arm, said third arm, and said fourth arm.

10. The lift assembly of claim 1, wherein said first arm and said second arm are pivotably connected to one another about a pivot point, wherein said first arm has a first upper portion disposed between said pivot point and said platform, and wherein said first upper portion includes said cam surface.

11. The lift assembly of claim 1, wherein said shaft extends along an axis, and wherein said first arm is disposed between said second arm and said third arm along said axis such that said first arm is in-board of said second arm.

12. The lift assembly of claim 1, wherein said first arm is pivotable relative to said platform but fixed longitudinally relative to said platform, and includes a first rolling element contactable with said base to permit movement of said first arm longitudinally relative to said base,

wherein said second arm is pivotable relative to said base but fixed longitudinally relative to said base, and includes a second rolling element contactable with said platform to permit movement of said second arm longitudinally relative to said platform,

wherein said third arm is pivotable relative to said platform but fixed longitudinally relative to said platform, and includes a third rolling element contactable with said base to permit movement of said third arm longitudinally relative to said base, and

wherein said fourth arm is pivotably fixed relative to said base but fixed longitudinally relative to said base, and includes a fourth rolling element contactable with said platform to permit movement of said fourth arm longitudinally relative to said platform.

13. The lift assembly of claim **12**, wherein said base has a base surface contactable with said first rolling element and said third rolling element, and wherein said base surface is free of a track for said rolling elements.

14. The lift assembly of claim **12**, wherein said base includes two first opposing stops extending away from said base, with said two first opposing stops contactable with said first rolling element to limit movement of said first arm, and wherein said base includes two second opposing stops extending away from said base, with said two second opposing stops contactable with said third rolling element to limit movement of said third arm.

15. The lift assembly of claim **12**, wherein said platform includes a lip extending toward said base, and wherein said lip is contactable with said second rolling element and said fourth rolling element to limit movement of said second arm and said fourth arm.

16. The lift assembly of claim **12**, wherein said platform has a platform surface contactable with said second rolling element and said fourth rolling element, and wherein said platform surface is free of a track for said rolling elements.

17. The lift assembly of claim **1**, wherein said shaft is further defined as a first shaft, and further comprising a second shaft extending transverse to said first arm, said second arm, said third arm, and said fourth arm, with said second shaft fixed relative to said first arm and said third arm, and further comprising a drive system and an output belt configured to be moved by said drive system, with said output belt wrapping partially about said second shaft, and extending toward said first shaft.

18. The lift assembly of claim **17**, wherein said output belt has an end, and wherein said lift assembly further comprises a bracket coupled to said end of said output belt.

19. The lift assembly of claim **18**, wherein said bracket is fixed to said first shaft.

20. The lift assembly of claim **18**, wherein said bracket is fixed to said platform with said output belt further extending to said first shaft, wrapping partially about said first shaft, and extending toward said platform.

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