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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Albers et al.(10) **Pub. No.: US 2018/0092443 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Apr. 5, 2018**(54) **FLEXIBLE BAND WEARABLE
ELECTRONIC DEVICE***A45F 5/00* (2006.01)*A44C 5/00* (2006.01)*G01D 11/30* (2006.01)*A61B 5/0205* (2006.01)*A61B 5/00* (2006.01)(71) Applicants: **Sven Albers**, Regensburg (DE); **Klaus Reingruber**, Langquaid (DE); **Andreas Wolter**, Regensburg (DE); **Georg Seidemann**, Landshut (DE); **Christian Geissler**, Teugn (DE); **Thorsten Meyer**, Regensburg (DE); **Gerald Ofner**, Regensburg (DE)(52) **U.S. Cl.**CPC *A44C 5/027* (2013.01); *H04B 1/385*(2013.01); *A45F 5/00* (2013.01); *A44C 5/0053*(2013.01); *A61B 5/021* (2013.01); *A61B**5/02055* (2013.01); *A61B 5/681* (2013.01);*A45F 2005/008* (2013.01); *G01D 11/30*

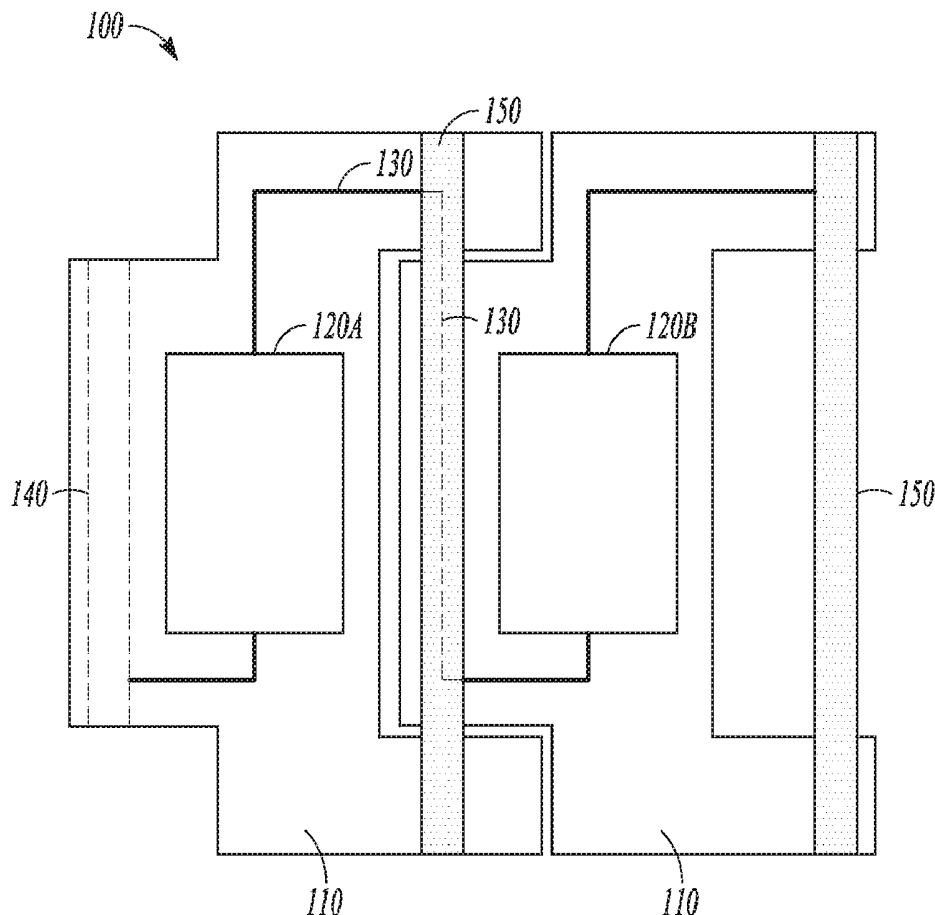
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(57)

ABSTRACT

A flexible band wearable electronic device includes a plurality of rigid links. The flexible band wearable electronic device also includes a number of pivot joints coupling the plurality of rigid links together. The flexible band wearable electronic device further includes a first electronic device on a first of the plurality of rigid links, and a second electronic device on a second of the plurality of rigid links. The flexible band wearable electronic device still further includes an electrical communication pathway between first electronic device and the second electronic device and through at least a portion of one of the number of pivot joints.

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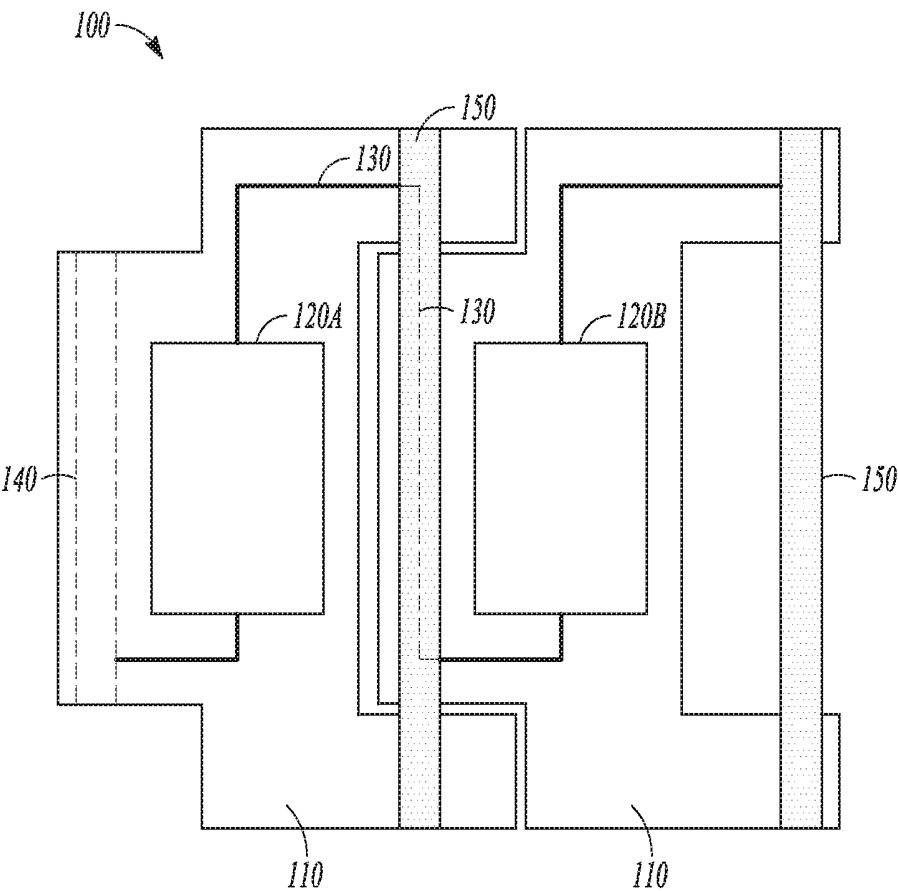


FIG. 1

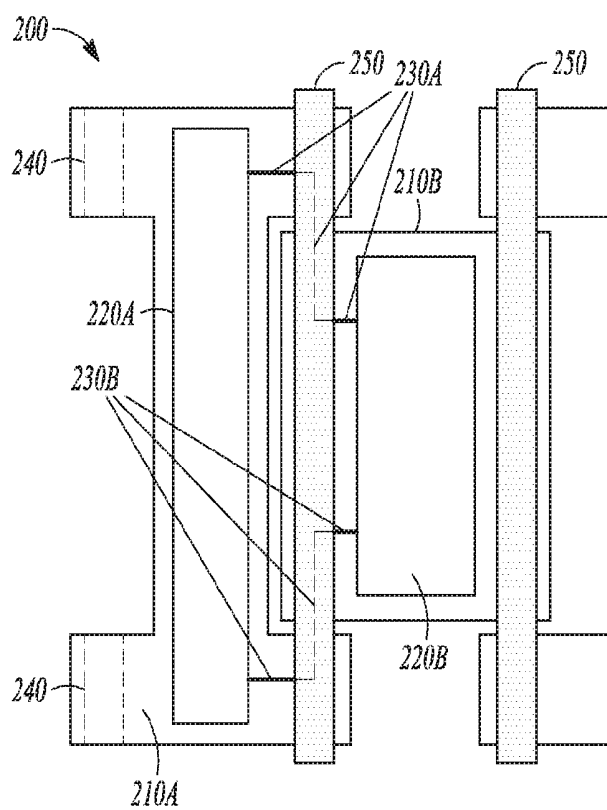


FIG. 2

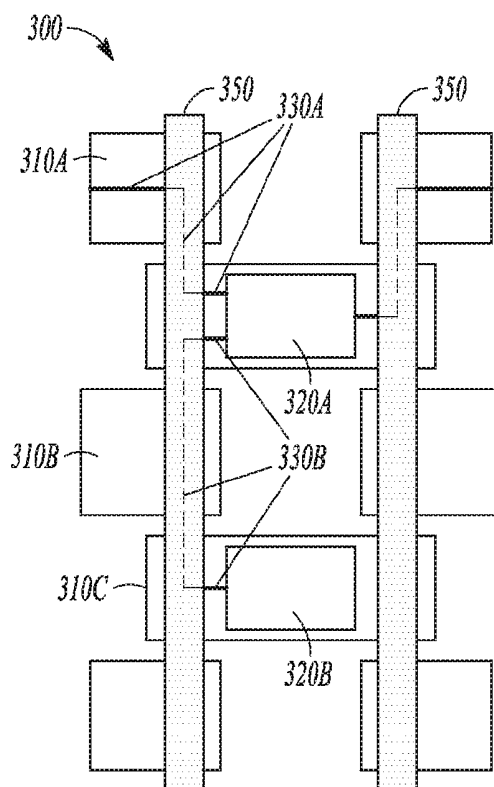


FIG. 3

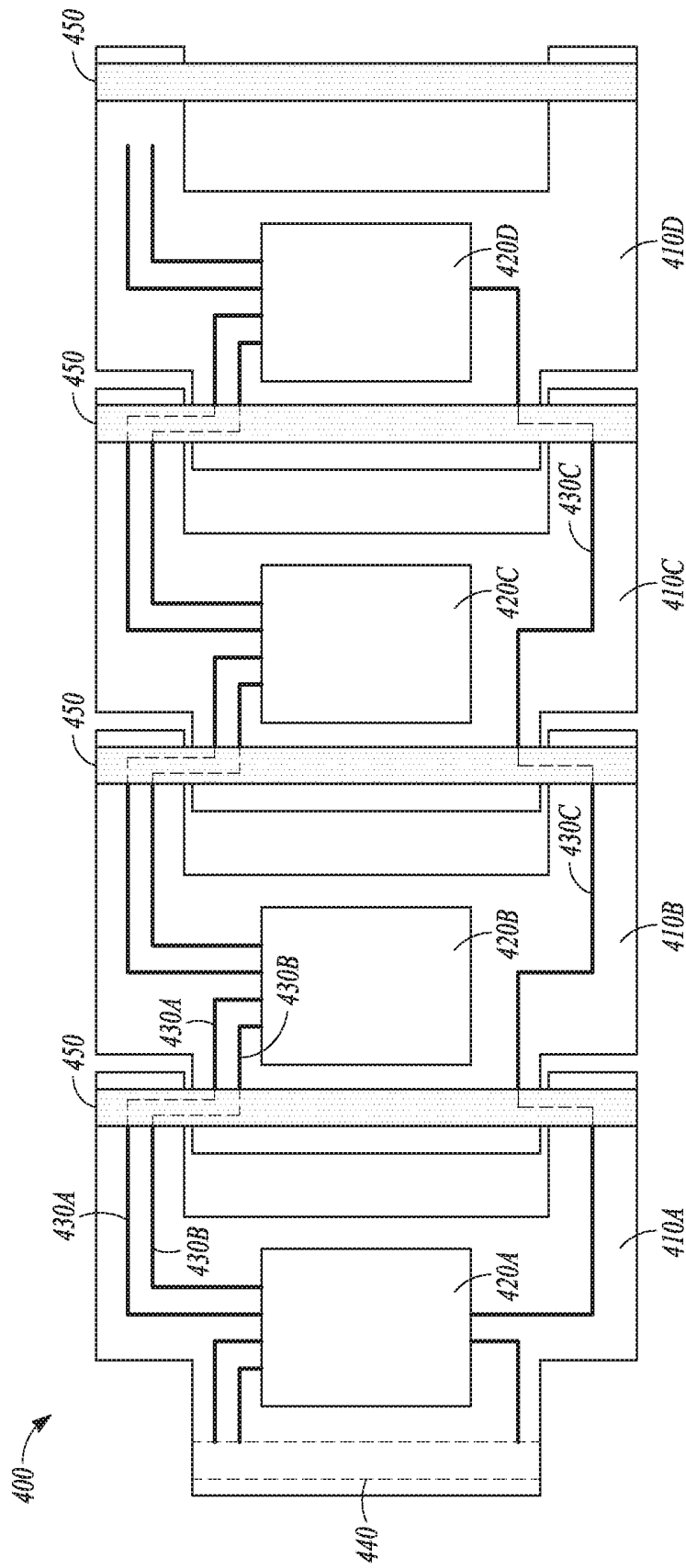


FIG. 4

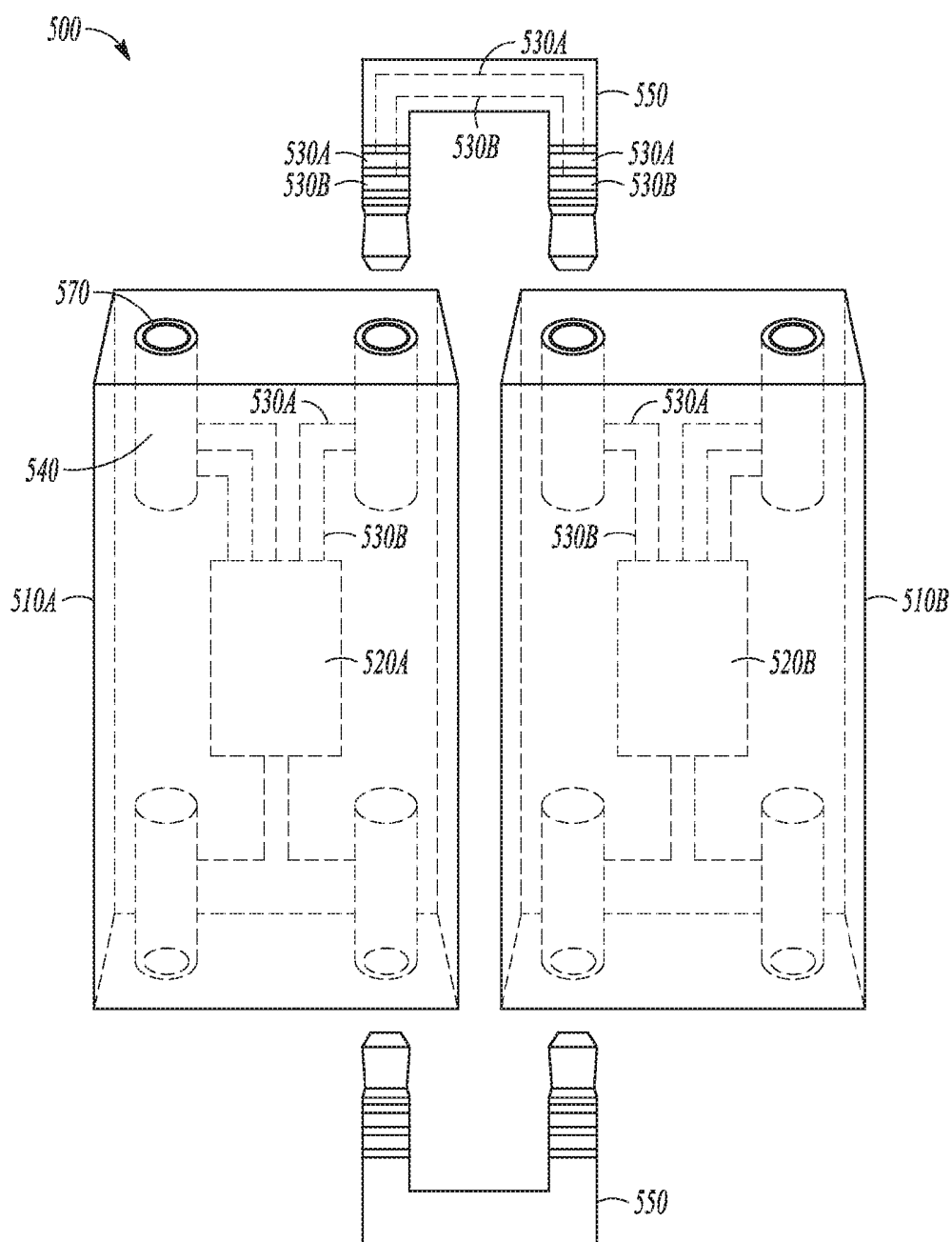


FIG. 5

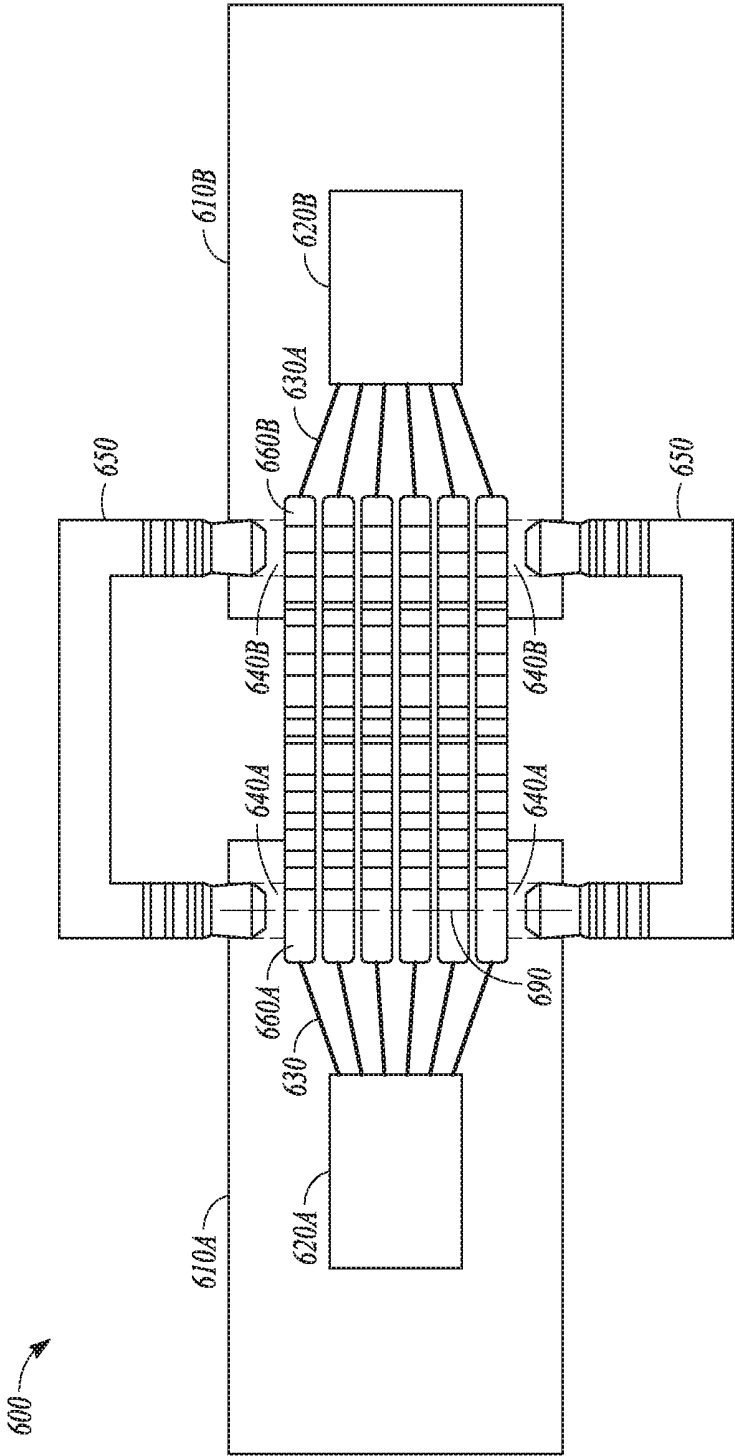


FIG. 6A

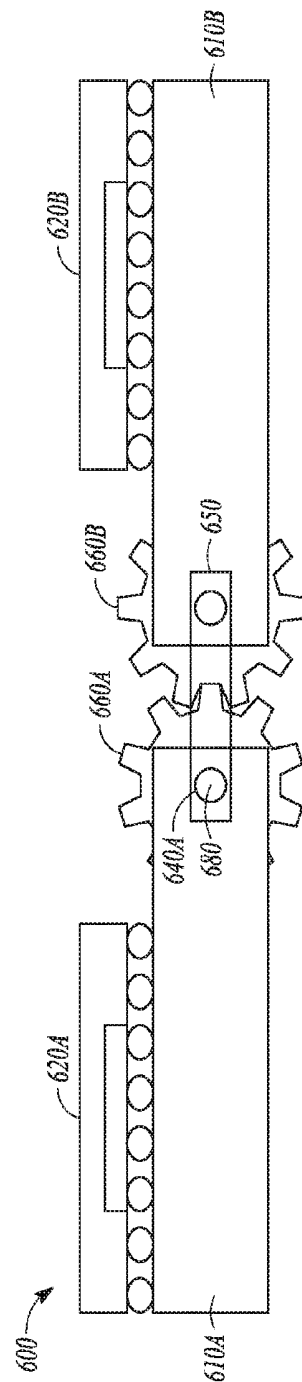


FIG. 6B

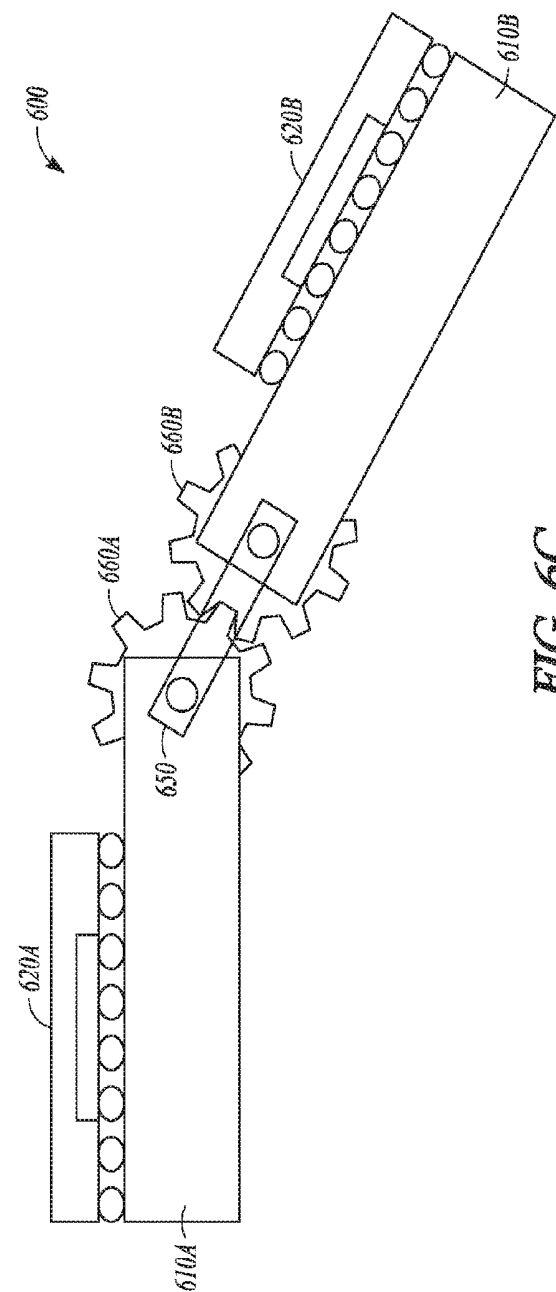
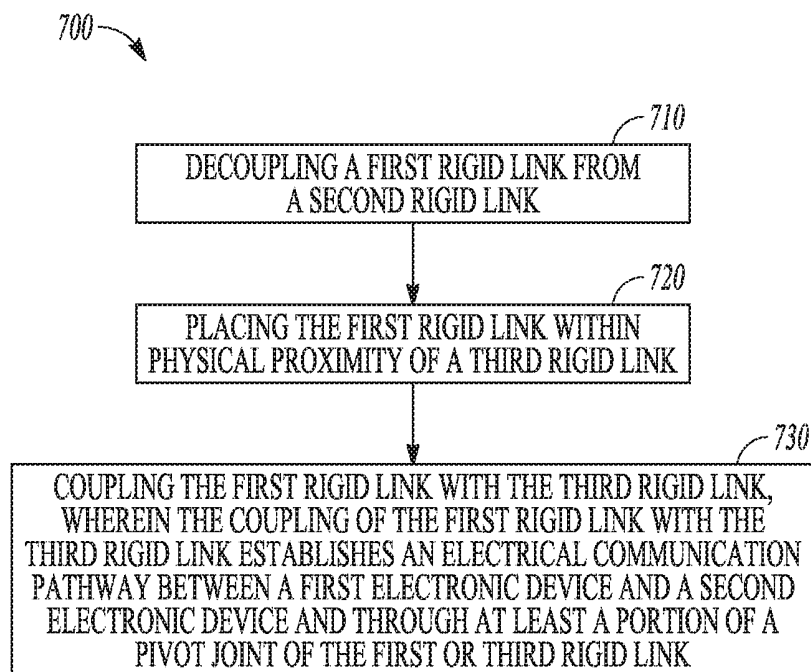


FIG. 6C

**FIG. 7**

FLEXIBLE BAND WEARABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICE

BACKGROUND

[0001] Jewelry, specifically watches, typically will have a bracelet or a band to secure the piece of jewelry to the user's person. Manufacturers have been increasing the utility and functionality of jewelry, specifically watches, by adding additional electronics to make the jewelry "smart". Rigid printed circuit boards do not allow for deformation of the printed circuit boards. Flexible printed circuit boards can be cost-prohibitive.

OVERVIEW

[0002] The present inventors have recognized, among other things, that a problem to be solved can include a limited ability to alter the functionality of existing wearable electronic devices. The present inventors have also recognized, among other things, that a problem to be solved can include reducing the size of wearable electronic devices. The present inventors have also recognized, among other things, that a problem to be solved can include providing a flexible coupling of electronic devices. The present subject matter can help provide a solution to this problem, such as by coupling, or integrating, electronic devices with rigid links in a flexible band.

[0003] A flexible band wearable electronic device includes a plurality of rigid links. The flexible band wearable electronic device also includes a number of pivot joints coupling the plurality of rigid links together. The flexible band wearable electronic device further includes a first electronic device on a first of the plurality of rigid links, and a second electronic device on a second of the plurality of rigid links. The flexible band wearable electronic device still further includes an electrical communication pathway between first electronic device and the second electronic device and through at least a portion of one of the number of pivot joints.

[0004] This overview is intended to provide an overview of subject matter of the present patent application. It is not intended to provide an exclusive or exhaustive explanation of the invention. The detailed description is included to provide further information about the present patent application.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0005] In the drawings, which are not necessarily drawn to scale, like numerals may describe similar components in different views. Like numerals having different letter suffixes may represent different instances of similar components. The drawings illustrate generally, by way of example, but not by way of limitation, various embodiments discussed in the present document.

[0006] FIG. 1 illustrates a view of one example of a portion of a flexible band wearable electronic device in accordance with some embodiments of the invention.

[0007] FIG. 2 illustrates a view of another example of a portion of a flexible band wearable electronic device in accordance with some embodiments of the invention.

[0008] FIG. 3 illustrates a view of yet another example of a portion of a flexible band wearable electronic device in accordance with some embodiments of the invention.

[0009] FIG. 4 illustrates another view of a portion of the flexible band wearable electronic device of FIG. 1.

[0010] FIG. 5 illustrates a view of still yet another example of a portion of a flexible band wearable electronic device in accordance with some embodiments of the invention.

[0011] FIG. 6A illustrates a view of an additional example of a portion of a flexible band wearable electronic device in accordance with some embodiments of the invention.

[0012] FIG. 6B illustrates another view of the flexible band wearable electronic device of FIG. 6A.

[0013] FIG. 6C illustrates yet another view of the flexible band wearable electronic device of FIG. 6A.

[0014] FIG. 7 is a block diagram of a method for modifying a wearable electronic device 700.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0015] The following description and the drawings sufficiently illustrate specific embodiments to enable those skilled in the art to practice them. Other embodiments may incorporate structural, logical, electrical, process, and other changes. Portions and features of some embodiments may be included in, or substituted for, those of other embodiments. Embodiments set forth in the claims encompass all available equivalents of those claims.

[0016] FIG. 1 illustrates a view of one example of a portion of a flexible band wearable electronic device 100 ("wearable device 100") in accordance with some embodiments of the invention. The wearable device 100 can include a plurality of rigid links 110, a first electronic device 120A, a second electronic device 120B, an electrical communication pathway 130, a cylindrical passage 140, and a connector 150. In one example, the plurality of rigid links 110 can be identically sized and shaped. In another example, the plurality of rigid links 110 can be substantially similar in size and shape. In yet another example, the plurality of rigid links 110 can be substantially different in size and shape, yet still interconnect such that a substantially continuous chain of links is formed. The plurality of rigid links 110 can be components of a piece of jewelry. The plurality of rigid links 110 can be components of a watch.

[0017] The first and second electronic devices 120A, B can be coupled to the plurality of rigid links 110. The first and second electronic devices 120A, B and the plurality of rigid links 110 can be coupled to the electrical communication pathway 130 such that the electrical communication pathway 130 is able to transmit one or more electrical signals. The electrical signals can be either analog or digital.

[0018] The insertion of connector 150 into cylindrical passage 140 can create a pivot joint that physically couples the plurality of rigid links 110 together. Additionally, the insertion of connector 150 into cylindrical passage 140 can create a pivot joint that rotatably couples the plurality of rigid links 110 together. Further, the insertion of connector 150 into the cylindrical passage 140 can also establish the electrical communication pathway 130 between the plurality of rigid links 110. The insertion of connector 150 into the cylindrical passage 140 establishes the electrical communication pathway 130 between the plurality of rigid links 110 by completing one or more electrical circuits between the plurality of rigid links 110.

[0019] FIG. 2 illustrates a view of another example of a portion of a flexible band wearable electronic device 200 ("wearable device 200") in accordance with some embodi-

ments of the invention. The wearable device **200** can include a first rigid link **210A**, a second rigid link **210B**, a first electronic device **220A**, a second electronic device **220B**, an electrical communication pathway **230**, a cylindrical passage **240**, and a connector **250**. The first rigid link **210A** can be sized and shaped in a substantially different way than the second rigid link **210B**. However, the first and second rigid links **210A, B** can be sized and shaped such that they are able to interconnect with each other. The interconnection of the first and second rigid links **210A, B** can align cylindrical passages (e.g., cylindrical passage **240**) such that a connector (e.g., connector **250**) can be inserted into the cylindrical passages.

[0020] In one example, the insertion of connector **250** into the aligned cylindrical passages can physically couple the first and second rigid links **210A, B** together. The insertion of connector **250** into the aligned cylindrical passages can rotatably couple the first and second rigid links **210A, B** together. A substantially continuous chain of rigid links can be formed by coupling a plurality of first and second rigid links **210A, B** together.

[0021] In another example, the insertion of connector **250** into the aligned cylindrical passages can further establish the electrical communication pathway **230**. The insertion of connector **250** into the cylindrical passages can further establish the electrical communication pathway **130** by completing one or more electrical circuits between the first rigid link **210A** and the second rigid link **210B**.

[0022] FIG. 3 illustrates a view of yet another example of a portion of a flexible band wearable electronic device **300** ("wearable device **300**") in accordance with some embodiments of the invention. The wearable device **300** can include a first rigid link **310A**, a second rigid link **310B**, a third rigid link **310C**, a first electronic device **320A**, a second electronic device **220B**, an electrical communication pathway **330A**, an electrical communication pathway **330B**, and a connector **350**. The first, second, and third rigid links **310A, B, C** can be sized and shaped in a substantially different way from one another. However, the first, second, and third rigid links **310A-C** can be sized and shaped such that they are able to interconnect with one another. The interconnection of the first, second, and third rigid links **310A-C** can align cylindrical passages (not shown) such that a connector connector **350** can be inserted into the cylindrical passages.

[0023] In one example, the insertion of connector **350** into the aligned cylindrical passages can physically couple the first, second, and third rigid links **310A-C** together. The insertion of connector **250** into the aligned cylindrical passages can rotatably couple the first, second, and third rigid links **310A-C** together. A substantially continuous chain of links can be formed by coupling a plurality of first, second, and third rigid links **310A-C** together.

[0024] In another example, the insertion of connector **350** into the aligned cylindrical passages can establish one or more electrical communication pathways (e.g., electrical communication pathways **330A, B**). The one or more electrical communication pathways can transmit one or more electrical signals between electronic devices (e.g., electronic devices **320A, B**). The connector **350** can have one or more electrically isolated conductors for establishing the one or more electrical communication pathways. The connector **350** can be a fastener, splint, shim, or the like. The connector **350** can be constructed by alternating electrically conductive and non-conductive material segments to create electrically

isolated conductors. The electronic devices can be located within the same segment of a plurality of rigid links such that the electrical signals being transmitted by the electrical communication pathway (e.g., electrical communication pathway **320B**) are only transmitted over one connector **350**. In yet another example, the first electronic device **320A** and the second electronic device **320B** can be sub-components of an electronic system. The sub-components of the electronic system can be in either electrical or wireless communication.

[0025] FIG. 4 illustrates another view of a portion of the flexible band wearable electronic device **400** ("wearable device **400**") of FIG. 1. The wearable device **400** can include a plurality of rigid links **410A-D**, electronic devices **120A-D**, electrical communication pathways **130A-B**, a cylindrical passage **440**, and a connector **450**. As previously discussed herein, the reception of the connector **450** within the cylindrical passage can physically or rotatably couple (e.g., create a pivot joint between) the plurality of rigid links **410A-D**, or establish one or more communication pathways **430A-C**. In one example, an electrical communication pathway (e.g., electrical communication pathway **430A, B**) can be established through at least a portion of one of the number of pivot joints (e.g., the electrical communication pathway can be established through one connector **450**). In another example, an electrical communication pathway (e.g., electrical communication pathway **430C**) can be established through at least a portion of a number of pivot joints (e.g., the electrical communication pathway can be established through one or more connectors **450**). The establishment of an electrical communication pathway (e.g., electrical communication pathway **430C**) through one or more connectors **450** can allow for one or more rigid links (e.g., second and third rigid links **410B, C**) to transmit one or more electrical signals between electronic devices coupled to other rigid links (e.g., first and fourth rigid links **410A**). The establishment of an electrical communication pathway (e.g., electrical communication pathway **430C**) through one or more connectors **450** can allow for an electronic device (e.g., electronic device **420A**) to electrically communicate with another electronic device (e.g., electronic device **420D**) despite the electronic devices being coupled to rigid links that are not physically adjacent to each other (e.g., rigid links **410A, D**).

[0026] FIG. 5 illustrates a view of still yet another example of a portion of a flexible band wearable electronic device **500** ("wearable device **500**") in accordance with some embodiments of the invention. The wearable device **500** can include a first rigid link **510A**, a second rigid link **510B**, a first electronic device **520A**, a second electronic device **520B**, communication pathways **530A-B**, cylindrical passages **540**, and connector **550**. In an example, the first and second rigid link **510A, B** can be physically or rotatably coupled through use of the connector such that the first electronic device and the second electronic device are in electrical communication via the electrical communication pathways **530A-B**. The connector **550** can be any type of connector that allows for one or more electrical signals to be transmitted through the connector **550** (e.g., has one or more conductors). The connector **550** can be a connector with one or more electrically isolated channels (e.g., communication pathways) that allow for one or more electrical signals to be transmitted without interference from other electrical signals being transmitted on other electrically isolated channels. In

an example, the connector **550** can be a 3.5 mm headphone-type connector. The wearable device **500** can include a seal **570** that is coupled with the cylindrical passages **550**. The seal **570** can provide an interference fit with the connector **550** when the seal **570** is coupled with the connector (e.g., when a user or manufacturer inserts the connector **550** into the cylindrical passage **540**). The seal **570** can be an o-ring, gasket, or the like.

[0027] The wearable device **500** can include one or more electronic devices (e.g., first or second electronic device **520A, B**). The one or more electronic devices can include a printed circuit board. The one or more electronic devices can be selected from the group consisting of a processor, battery, accelerometer, gyroscope, inertial measurement unit, global positioning system receiver, cellular radio, Bluetooth radio, WiFi radio, solid state memory, random access memory, microphone, speaker, induction coil, heart rate sensor, blood pressure sensor, temperature sensor, barometric pressure sensor, photosensor, liquid sensor, diode, and a display.

[0028] Additionally, the one or more electronic devices can allow for wireless communication. The one or more electronic devices (e.g., first or second electronic device **520A, B**) can be in wireless communication with each other. Wireless communication can be achieved by transmitting electromagnetic energy (e.g., radio waves), representative of analog or digital electrical signals through a medium (e.g., air). The wireless communication can utilize one or more standardized forms of wireless communication such as the IEEE 802.11 (Wi-Fi) standards, Bluetooth Core Specification versions 1.0-4.2, or cellular networks (e.g., GSM, CDMA, GPRS, EDGE, AMPS, or LTE), but is not so limited.

[0029] FIG. 6A illustrates a view of an additional example of a portion of a flexible band wearable electronic device **600** ("wearable device **600**") in accordance with some embodiments of the invention. The wearable device **600** can include a first rigid link **610A**, a second rigid link **610B**, a first electronic device **620A**, a second electronic device **620B**, a communication pathway **630**, a cylindrical passage **640A**, a cylindrical passage **640B**, a connector **650**, and one or more electrically conductive gears **660A, B**.

[0030] The one or more electrically conductive gears **660A, B** can be coupled to the first and second rigid link **610A, B**. In an example, one or more first (left) electrically conductive gears (e.g., electrically conductive gear **660A**) can be coupled to the first rigid link **610A**. One or more second (right) electrically conductive gears (e.g., electrically conductive gear **660B**) can be coupled to the second rigid link **610B**. The first and second electrically conductive gears can be in communication with each other. The first and second electrically conductive gears can be physically engaged (e.g., intermeshed) with each other. In another example, the one or more electrically conductive gears **660A, B** can differ in size, shape, or number of teeth, but will still be sized and shaped to intermesh with each other such that an electrical signal can be transmitted through the intermeshed one or more electrically conductive gears **660A, B**. In yet another example, the one or more electrically conductive gears **660A, B** can be only a portion of a complete gear (e.g., a quarter, a third, or half of a complete gear wheel).

[0031] Additionally, the one or more electrically conductive gears **660A, B** can be in electrical communication with the communication pathway **630**. The coupling together of

the first rigid link **610A** with the second rigid link **610B** can result in the one or more first electrically conductive gears (e.g., electrically conductive gear **660A**) physically engaging with the one or more second electrically conductive gears (e.g., electrically conductive gear **660B**). The physical engagement (e.g., intermeshing) of the one or more electrically conductive gears **630A, B** can establish the electrical communication pathway **630** between the first electronic device **620A** and the second electronic device **620B**. It is anticipated by the present subject matter that more than one set of electrically conductive gears can be used to establish more than one electrical communication pathway. In an example, the one or more electrically conductive gears (e.g., electrically conductive gear **660A**) of the first rigid link **610A** can each be electrically isolated from the other electrically conductive gears that are also coupled to the first rigid link **610A**.

[0032] Further, each electrically conductive gear (e.g., electrically conductive gear **660A**) can have a central gear axis (shown in FIG. 6B as feature **680**) about which the gear is allowed to rotate. In an example, the cylindrical passage **640A** can have a central passage axis **690** that is collinear with the central gear axis (denoted in FIG. 6B as feature **680**). The first and second rigid links **610A, B** can be physically coupled together through the reception of the connector **650** into the cylindrical passages **640A, B**. Additionally, the reception of the connector **650** into the cylindrical passages **640A, B** can create further electrical communication pathways between the first and second electronic devices **620A, B**.

[0033] FIG. 6B illustrates another view of the flexible band wearable electronic device **600** ("wearable device **600**") of FIG. 6A in an unbent configuration. The wearable device **600** can include a first rigid link **610A**, a second rigid link **610B**, a first electronic device **620A**, a second electronic device **620B**, a cylindrical passage **640A**, a connector **650**, one or more electrically conductive gears **660A, B**, and a central gear axis **680**. As previously discussed with reference to FIG. 6A, each of the one or more electrically conductive gears (e.g., electrically conductive gear **660A**) can have a central gear axis **680**. The central gear axis **680** and the central passage axis **690** can be collinear. The central gear axis **680** extends perpendicular from the page from the perspective of the viewer.

[0034] In an example with the central gear axis **680** and the central passage axis **690** being collinear, the first rigid link **610A** and the second rigid link **620A** are able to rotate about a pivot joint (formed collectively, in part, by the cylindrical passages **640A, B**; the connector **650**; and the one or more electrically conductive gears **660A, B**). The formation of the pivot joint can establish an electrical communication pathway (e.g., electrical communication pathway **630**) between the first and second rigid links **610A, B**. The formation of the pivot joint can allow for the electrical communication of electronic devices **620A, B** while also allowing the first rigid link to rotate freely about the pivot joint. The formation of the aforementioned pivot point can also allow for electrical systems to be distributed across the plurality of rigid links such that the footprint of the electrical system is reduced. Additionally, the formation of the aforementioned pivot point can allow for a flexible and resilient connection between one or more electronic devices.

[0035] FIG. 6C illustrates a view of the flexible band wearable electronic device of FIG. 6A in a bent configura-

tion. FIG. 6C shows that the formation of a pivot joint allows for the second rigid link 610B to be moved (e.g., deflected or rotated) with respect to the first rigid link 610A while also maintaining an electrical communication pathway (e.g., electrical communication pathway 630). The electrical communication is less likely to fatigue or decay with repeated movement of the first and second rigid links 610A, B. Fatigue and decay are reduced by providing electrically conductive pivot joints that facilitate electrical communication between the plurality of rigid links (e.g., first and second rigid links 610A, B). The pivot joints can be more resilient than a rigid or flexible printed circuit board.

[0036] FIG. 7 is a block diagram of a method for modifying a wearable electronic device 700. Operation 710 can include decoupling a first rigid link (e.g., first rigid link 410A) from a second rigid link (e.g., second rigid link 410B). Operation 720 can include placing the first rigid link within physical proximity of a third rigid link (e.g., third rigid link 410C). Operation 730 can include coupling the first rigid link with the third rigid link, wherein the coupling of the first rigid link with the third rigid link establishes an electrical communication pathway (e.g., electrical communication pathway 430A) between a first electronic device (e.g., first electronic device 420A) and a second electronic device (e.g., second electronic device 420B) and through at least a portion of a pivot joint (e.g., the reception of the connector 450 within the cylindrical passage 440) of the first or third rigid link.

[0037] Additionally, the method for modifying a wearable electronic device 900 can include that the third rigid link is a replacement for the second rigid link. Further, the method for modifying a wearable electronic device 900 can include that third rigid link is added to increase functionality of the wearable electronic device. Still further, the method for modifying a wearable electronic device 900 can include that the coupling of the first rigid link with the third rigid link also includes intermeshing one or more electrically conductive gears of the first rigid link with one or more electrically conductive gears of the third rigid link.

Various Notes & Examples

[0038] Example 1 can include or use a flexible band wearable electronic device, comprising a plurality of rigid links; a number of pivot joints coupling the plurality of rigid links together; a first electronic device on a first of the plurality of rigid links, and a second electronic device on a second of the plurality of rigid links; and an electrical communication pathway between first electronic device and the second electronic device and through at least a portion of one of the number of pivot joints.

[0039] Example 2 can include or use, or can optionally be combined with the subject matter of Example 1, to optionally include or use one or more electrically conductive gears that can be coupled to each of a first rigid link and a second rigid link, wherein each electrically conductive gear can have a central gear axis about which the gear is allowed to rotate; and the one or more electrically conductive gears of the first rigid link can be sized and shaped to intermesh with the one or more electrically conductive gears of the second rigid link.

[0040] Example 3 can include or use, or can optionally be combined with the subject matter of one or any combination of Examples 1 or 2 to optionally include or use one or more electrically conductive gears of a first rigid link that can each

be electrically isolated from the other electrically conductive gears that are coupled to the first rigid link.

[0041] Example 4 can include or use, or can optionally be combined with the subject matter of one or any combination of Examples 1 through 3 to optionally include or use first and second rigid links that can have a cylindrical passage, wherein the cylindrical passage can have a central passage axis that can be collinear with the central gear axis; additionally, the cylindrical passage can be sized and shaped to receive a connector.

[0042] Example 5 can include, or can optionally be combined with the subject matter of one or any combination of Examples 1 through 4 to include or use that reception of a connector within a cylindrical passage can physically couple first and second rigid links and establish an electrical communication pathway between a first electronic device and a second electronic device.

[0043] Example 6 can include, or can optionally be combined with the subject matter of one or any combination of Examples 1 through 5 to include or use that a first or second electronic device can include a printed circuit board.

[0044] Example 7 can include, or can optionally be combined with the subject matter of one or any combination of Examples 1 through 6 to include or use that a first or second electronic device can be selected from the group consisting of a processor, battery, accelerometer, gyroscope, inertial measurement unit, global positioning system receiver, cellular radio, Bluetooth radio, solid state memory, random access memory, microphone, speaker, induction coil, heart rate sensor, blood pressure sensor, temperature sensor, barometric pressure sensor, photosensor, liquid sensor, diode, and a display.

[0045] Example 8 can include, or can optionally be combined with the subject matter of one or any combination of Examples 1 through 7 to include or use that pivot joints can be coupled with a seal that can provide an interference fit with a connector when the seal is coupled with the connector.

[0046] Example 9 can include, or can optionally be combined with the subject matter of one or any combination of Examples 1 through 8 to include or use a first electronic device and a second electronic device that can be sub-components of an electronic system.

[0047] Example 10 can include, or can optionally be combined with the subject matter of one or any combination of Examples 1 through 9 to include or use sub-components that can be in wireless communication.

[0048] Example 11 can include, or can optionally be combined with the subject matter of one or any combination of Examples 1 through 10 to include or use first and second electronic devices that can be in wireless communication.

[0049] Example 12 can include, or can optionally be combined with the subject matter of one or any combination of Examples 1 through 11 to include or use rigid links that can be components of a piece of jewelry.

[0050] Example 13 can include, or can optionally be combined with the subject matter of one or any combination of Examples 1 through 12 to include or use a piece of jewelry that can be a watch.

[0051] Example 14 can include or use a method for modifying a wearable electronic device, comprising: decoupling a first rigid link from a second rigid link; placing the first rigid link within physical proximity of a third rigid link; coupling the first rigid link with the third rigid link, wherein

the coupling of the first rigid link with the third rigid link establishes an electrical communication pathway between a first electronic device and a second electronic device and through at least a portion of a pivot joint of the first or third rigid link.

[0052] Example 15 can include or use, or can optionally be combined with the subject matter of Example 14, to optionally include or use a third rigid link that can be a replacement for the second rigid link.

[0053] Example 16 can include or use, or can optionally be combined with the subject matter of one or any combination of Examples 14 or 15 to optionally include or use a third rigid link that can be added to increase functionality of the wearable electronic device.

[0054] Example 17 can include or use, or can optionally be combined with the subject matter of one or any combination of Examples 14 through 16 to optionally include or use a first or second electronic device that can be selected from the group consisting of a processor, battery, accelerometer, gyroscope, inertial measurement unit, global positioning system receiver, cellular radio, Bluetooth radio, solid state memory, random access memory, microphone, speaker, induction coil, heart rate sensor, blood pressure sensor, temperature sensor, barometric pressure sensor, photosensor, liquid sensor, diode, and a display.

[0055] Example 18 can include or use, or can optionally be combined with the subject matter of one or any combination of Examples 14-17 to optionally include or use coupling a first rigid link with a third rigid link that can include intermeshing one or more electrically conductive gears of the first rigid link with one or more electrically conductive gears of the third rigid link.

[0056] Example 19 can include or use a flexible band wearable electronic device, comprising: a plurality of rigid links; a number of pivot means coupling the plurality of rigid links together; a first electronic device on a first of the plurality of rigid links, and a second electronic device on a second of the plurality of rigid links; and a communication pathway means between first electronic device and the second electronic device and through at least a portion of one of the number of pivot means.

[0057] Example 20 can include or use, or can optionally be combined with the subject matter of Example 19, to optionally include or use a first or second electronic device that can be selected from the group consisting of a processor, battery, accelerometer, gyroscope, inertial measurement unit, global positioning system receiver, cellular radio, Bluetooth radio, solid state memory, random access memory, microphone, speaker, induction coil, heart rate sensor, blood pressure sensor, temperature sensor, barometric pressure sensor, photosensor, liquid sensor, diode, and a display.

[0058] Example 21 can include or use, or can optionally be combined with the subject matter of one or any combination of Examples 19 or 21 to optionally include or use a first or second electronic device that can include a printed circuit board.

[0059] Each of these non-limiting examples can stand on its own, or can be combined in various permutations or combinations with one or more of the other examples.

[0060] The above detailed description includes references to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of the detailed description. The drawings show, by way of illustration, specific embodiments in which the invention can be practiced. These embodiments are also referred to herein as

“examples.” Such examples can include elements in addition to those shown or described. However, the present inventors also contemplate examples in which only those elements shown or described are provided. Moreover, the present inventors also contemplate examples using any combination or permutation of those elements shown or described (or one or more aspects thereof), either with respect to a particular example (or one or more aspects thereof), or with respect to other examples (or one or more aspects thereof) shown or described herein.

[0061] In the event of inconsistent usages between this document and any documents so incorporated by reference, the usage in this document controls.

[0062] In this document, the terms “a” or “an” are used, as is common in patent documents, to include one or more than one, independent of any other instances or usages of “at least one” or “one or more.” In this document, the term “or” is used to refer to a nonexclusive or, such that “A or B” includes “A but not B,” “B but not A,” and “A and B,” unless otherwise indicated. In this document, the terms “including” and “in which” are used as the plain-English equivalents of the respective terms “comprising” and “wherein.” Also, in the following claims, the terms “including” and “comprising” are open-ended, that is, a system, device, article, composition, formulation, or process that includes elements in addition to those listed after such a term in a claim are still deemed to fall within the scope of that claim. Moreover, in the following claims, the terms “first,” “second,” and “third,” etc. are used merely as labels, and are not intended to impose numerical requirements on their objects.

[0063] Method examples described herein can be machine or computer-implemented at least in part. Some examples can include a computer-readable medium or machine-readable medium encoded with instructions operable to configure an electronic device to perform methods as described in the above examples. An implementation of such methods can include code, such as microcode, assembly language code, a higher-level language code, or the like. Such code can include computer readable instructions for performing various methods. The code may form portions of computer program products. Further, in an example, the code can be tangibly stored on one or more volatile, non-transitory, or non-volatile tangible computer-readable media, such as during execution or at other times. Examples of these tangible computer-readable media can include, but are not limited to, hard disks, removable magnetic disks, removable optical disks (e.g., compact disks and digital video disks), magnetic cassettes, memory cards or sticks, random access memories (RAMs), read only memories (ROMs), and the like.

[0064] The above description is intended to be illustrative, and not restrictive. For example, the above-described examples (or one or more aspects thereof) may be used in combination with each other. Other embodiments can be used, such as by one of ordinary skill in the art upon reviewing the above description. The Abstract is provided to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b), to allow the reader to quickly ascertain the nature of the technical disclosure. It is submitted with the understanding that it will not be used to interpret or limit the scope or meaning of the claims. Also, in the above Detailed Description, various features may be grouped together to streamline the disclosure. This should not be interpreted as intending that an unclaimed disclosed feature is essential to any claim. Rather, inventive subject

matter may lie in less than all features of a particular disclosed embodiment. Thus, the following claims are hereby incorporated into the Detailed Description as examples or embodiments, with each claim standing on its own as a separate embodiment, and it is contemplated that such embodiments can be combined with each other in various combinations or permutations. The scope of the invention should be determined with reference to the appended claims, along with the full scope of equivalents to which such claims are entitled.

The claimed invention is:

1. A flexible band wearable electronic device, comprising:
 - a plurality of rigid links;
 - a number of pivot joints coupling the plurality of rigid links together;
 - a first electronic device on a first of the plurality of rigid links, and a second electronic device on a second of the plurality of rigid links; and
 - an electrical communication pathway between first electronic device and the second electronic device and through at least a portion of one of the number of pivot joints.
2. The flexible band wearable electronic device of claim 1, further comprising one or more electrically conductive gears coupled to each of the first rigid link and the second rigid link, wherein:
 - each electrically conductive gear has a central gear axis about which the gear is allowed to rotate; and
 - the one or more electrically conductive gears of the first rigid link are sized and shaped to intermesh with the one or more electrically conductive gears of the second rigid link.
3. The flexible band wearable electronic device of claim 2, wherein the one or more electrically conductive gears of the first rigid link are each electrically isolated from the other electrically conductive gears that are coupled to the first rigid link.
4. The flexible band wearable electronic device of claim 2, wherein the first and second rigid links have a cylindrical passage, wherein:
 - the cylindrical passage has a central passage axis that is collinear with the central gear axis;
 - the cylindrical passage is sized and shaped to receive a connector.
5. The flexible band wearable electronic device of claim 4, wherein the reception of the connector within the cylindrical passage:
 - physically couples the first and second rigid links; and
 - establishes the electrical communication pathway between first electronic device and the second electronic device.
6. The flexible band wearable electronic device of claim 1, wherein the first or second electronic device includes a printed circuit board.
7. The flexible band wearable electronic device of claim 1, wherein the first or second electronic device is selected from the group consisting of a processor, battery, accelerometer, gyroscope, inertial measurement unit, global positioning system receiver, cellular radio, Bluetooth radio, solid state memory, random access memory, microphone, speaker, induction coil, heart rate sensor, blood pressure sensor, temperature sensor, barometric pressure sensor, photosensor, liquid sensor, diode, and a display.

8. The flexible band wearable electronic device of claim 1, wherein the pivot joints are coupled with a seal that provides an interference fit with a connector when the seal is coupled with the connector.

9. The flexible band wearable electronic device of claim 1, wherein the first electronic device and the second electronic device are sub-components of an electronic system.

10. The flexible band wearable electronic device of claim 9, wherein the sub-components are in wireless communication.

11. The flexible band wearable electronic device of claim 1, wherein the first and second electronic devices are in wireless communication.

12. The flexible band wearable electronic device of claim 1, wherein the rigid links are components of a piece of jewelry.

13. The flexible band wearable electronic device of claim 12, wherein the piece of jewelry is a watch.

14. A method for modifying a wearable electronic device, comprising:

- decoupling a first rigid link from a second rigid link;
- placing the first rigid link within physical proximity of a third rigid link;

- coupling the first rigid link with the third rigid link, wherein the coupling of the first rigid link with the third rigid link establishes an electrical communication pathway between a first electronic device and a second electronic device and through at least a portion of a pivot joint of the first or third rigid link.

15. The method for modifying a wearable electronic device of claim 14, wherein the third rigid link is a replacement for the second rigid link.

16. The method for modifying a wearable electronic device of claim 14, wherein the third rigid link is added to increase functionality of the wearable electronic device.

17. The method for modifying a wearable electronic device of claim 14, wherein the first or second electronic device is selected from the group consisting of a processor, battery, accelerometer, gyroscope, inertial measurement unit, global positioning system receiver, cellular radio, Bluetooth radio, solid state memory, random access memory, microphone, speaker, induction coil, heart rate sensor, blood pressure sensor, temperature sensor, barometric pressure sensor, photosensor, liquid sensor, diode, and a display.

18. The method for modifying a wearable electronic device of claim 14, wherein coupling the first rigid link with the third rigid link includes intermeshing one or more electrically conductive gears of the first rigid link with one or more electrically conductive gears of the third rigid link.

19. A flexible band wearable electronic device, comprising:

- a plurality of rigid links;
- a number of pivot means coupling the plurality of rigid links together;
- a first electronic device on a first of the plurality of rigid links, and a second electronic device on a second of the plurality of rigid links; and
- a communication pathway means between first electronic device and the second electronic device and through at least a portion of one of the number of pivot means.

20. The flexible band wearable electronic device of claim 19, wherein the first or second electronic device is selected from the group consisting of a processor, battery, accelerometer, gyroscope, inertial measurement unit, global posi-

tioning system receiver, cellular radio, Bluetooth radio, solid state memory, random access memory, microphone, speaker, induction coil, heart rate sensor, blood pressure sensor, temperature sensor, barometric pressure sensor, photosensor, liquid sensor, diode, and a display.

21. The flexible band wearable electronic device of claim **19**, wherein the first or second electronic device includes a printed circuit board.

* * * * *

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摘要(译)

柔性带可穿戴电子设备包括多个刚性链接。柔性带可穿戴电子设备还包括将多个刚性连杆连接在一起的多个枢轴接头。柔性带可穿戴电子设备还包括在多个刚性连杆中的第一刚性连杆上的第一电子设备以及在多个刚性连杆中的第二刚性连杆上的第二电子设备。柔性带可穿戴电子设备还进一步包括第一电子设备和第二电子设备之间以及通过多个枢轴接头中的一个的至少一部分的电通信路径。

