



US007861485B1

(12) **United States Patent**
Wentworth et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,861,485 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent:** ***Jan. 4, 2011**

(54) **METHOD FOR INSTALLING A STANCHION
ON A TILE ROOF AND SYSTEM THEREFOR**

(76) Inventors: **Stuart H. Wentworth**, 108 Crest Ave.,
Alamo, CA (US) 94507-2646; **Claudia
H. Wentworth**, 108 Crest Ave., Alamo,
CA (US) 94507-2646

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 298 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal dis-
claimer.

(21) Appl. No.: **11/821,927**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 26, 2007**

(51) **Int. Cl.**
E04G 23/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **52/745.06**; 52/745.2; 52/219;
52/173.3; 52/518; 248/237; 248/507; 248/519;
182/45; 29/402.01; 29/402.03; 29/402.12;
29/402.14

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 52/27,
52/219, 199, 173.3, 506.05, 518, 745.2, 745.06;
248/148, 158, 519, 237, 309.2, 314, 57, 58,
248/507; 136/244; 126/623; 182/8, 45;
29/402.01, 402.03, 402.08, 402.12, 402.14
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

1,883,508 A * 10/1932 Bonday 248/536
2,439,063 A * 4/1948 Shur 248/536
4,426,813 A * 1/1984 Buzzi, Jr. 52/27
4,581,863 A * 4/1986 Thaler 52/126.2
4,799,642 A * 1/1989 Wright 248/516
4,932,185 A * 6/1990 Lebel 52/704
4,965,971 A * 10/1990 Jean-Jacques et al. 52/199
5,010,700 A * 4/1991 Blair 52/199
5,094,422 A * 3/1992 Tiffany 248/519
5,226,263 A * 7/1993 Merrin et al. 52/58

5,287,944 A * 2/1994 Woodyard 182/3
5,346,036 A * 9/1994 Arisman et al. 182/3
5,414,964 A * 5/1995 Bodycomb 52/58
5,454,197 A * 10/1995 Horrigan 52/199
5,553,685 A * 9/1996 Cook 182/45
5,603,187 A * 2/1997 Merrin et al. 52/58
5,647,915 A * 7/1997 Zukerman 136/251
5,730,245 A * 3/1998 Conway 182/3
5,746,031 A * 5/1998 Burns 52/170
5,820,092 A * 10/1998 Thaler 248/237
5,842,685 A * 12/1998 Purvis et al. 256/67
5,979,844 A * 11/1999 Hopkins 248/158
6,113,054 A * 9/2000 Ma 248/523
6,439,344 B1 * 8/2002 Cole 182/113
6,526,701 B2 * 3/2003 Stearns et al. 52/24
6,640,503 B1 * 11/2003 Evensen et al. 52/60
6,718,710 B2 * 4/2004 Platt 52/296
6,729,597 B2 * 5/2004 Cholinski et al. 248/646
6,938,871 B1 * 9/2005 Carlson 248/519

(Continued)

Primary Examiner—Robert J Canfield

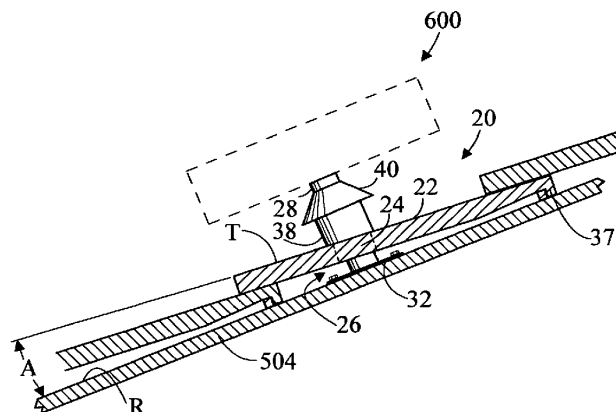
Assistant Examiner—Matthew J Gitlin

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Ted Masters

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method and apparatus for installing a stanchion on a tile roof includes a tile which has an aperture and a stanchion which fits through the aperture. An existing roof tile is removed and the stanchion is connected to the roof sheathing at the place of removal. The tile is then placed over the stanchion so that the stanchion project through the aperture. In an embodiment of the invention, a sleeve surrounds the aperture and a seal provides a weather proof seal between the stanchion and the sleeve.

4 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets



US 7,861,485 B1

Page 2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

6,955,330	B1 *	10/2005	Weiser et al.	248/529	2004/0195487	A1 *	10/2004	Harbaugh	248/519
6,966,531	B2 *	11/2005	Curtin	248/237	2006/0260670	A1 *	11/2006	Terunuma et al.	136/244
7,040,061	B2 *	5/2006	Rillie et al.	52/200	2007/0079865	A1 *	4/2007	Warfield et al.	136/244
7,163,083	B2 *	1/2007	Argoud	182/113	2007/0210225	A1 *	9/2007	Carnevali	248/205.8
7,168,211	B2 *	1/2007	Prenn et al.	52/200	2008/0271391	A1 *	11/2008	Dalmasso	52/199
7,175,140	B2 *	2/2007	Johnson et al.	248/148	2009/0019795	A1 *	1/2009	Szacsvey et al.	52/173.3

* cited by examiner

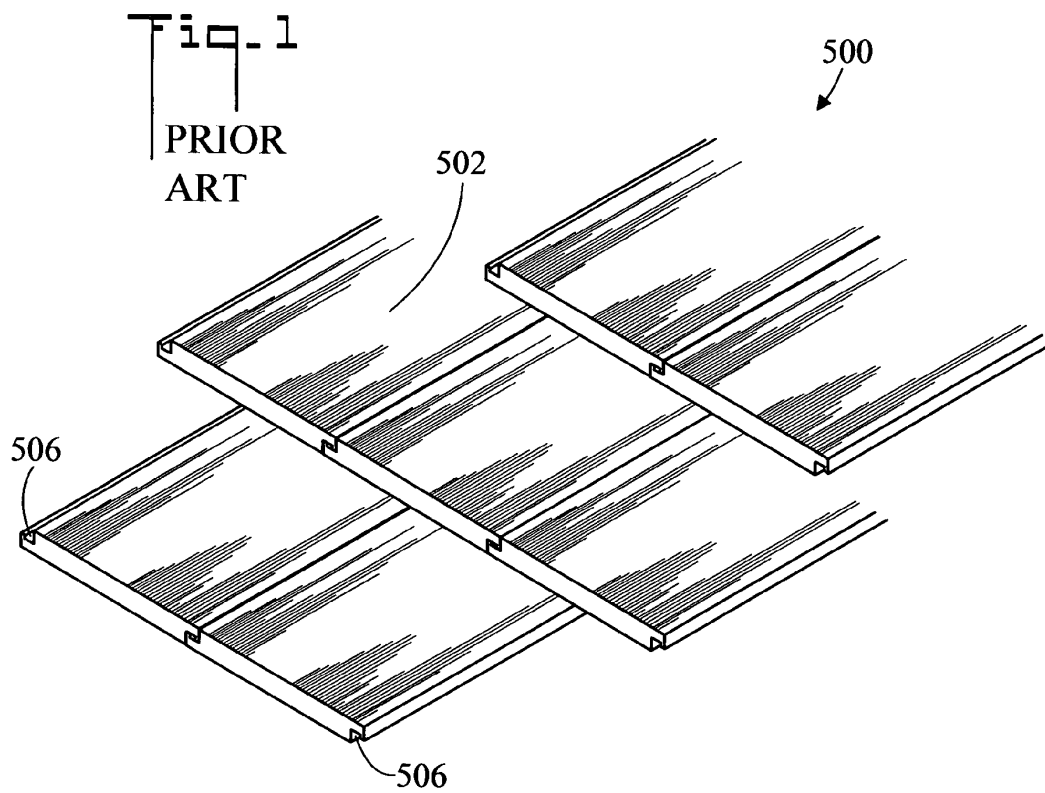
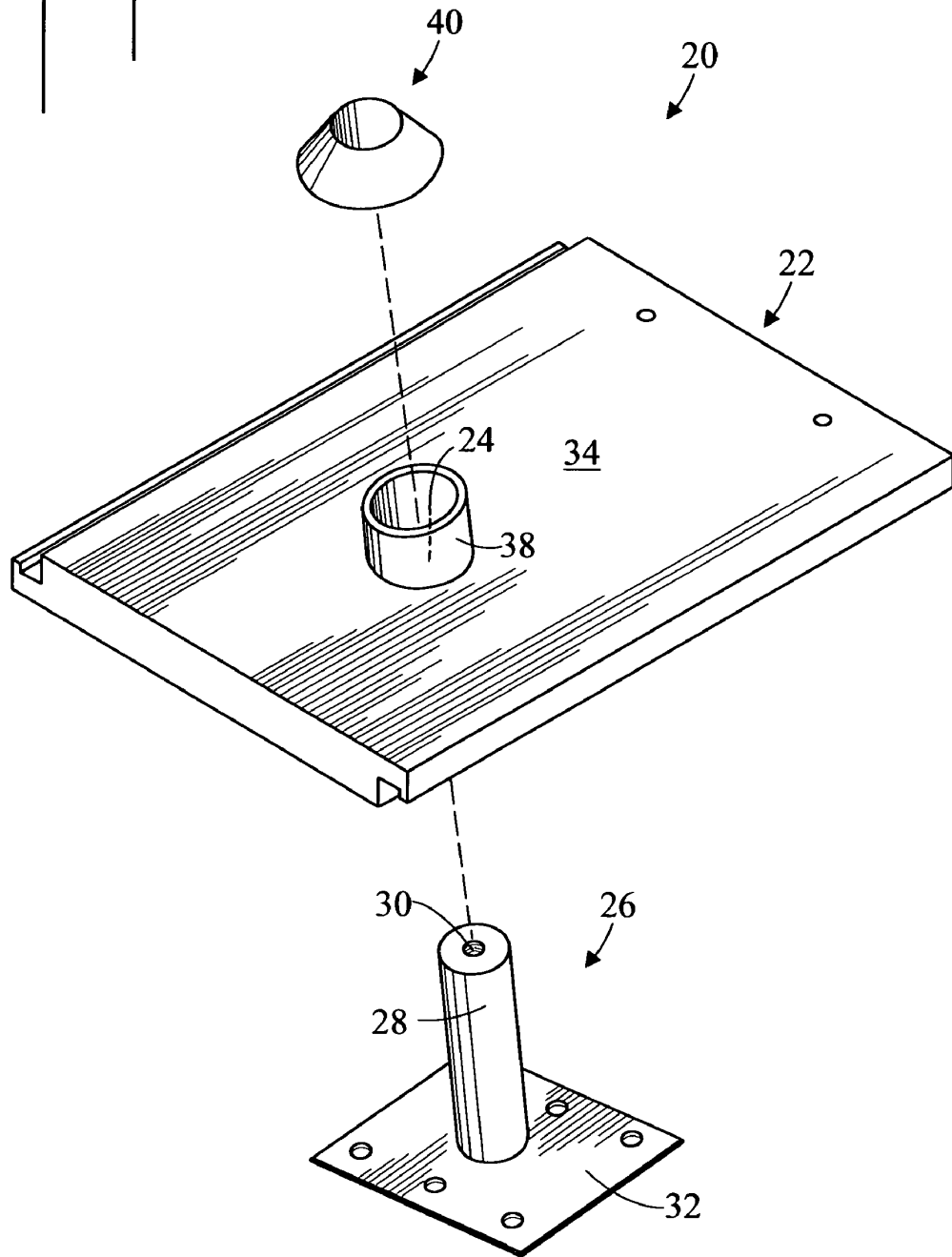


Fig. 2



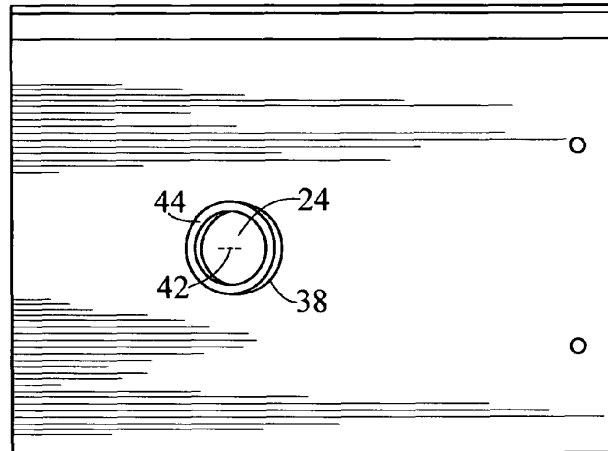


Fig. 3

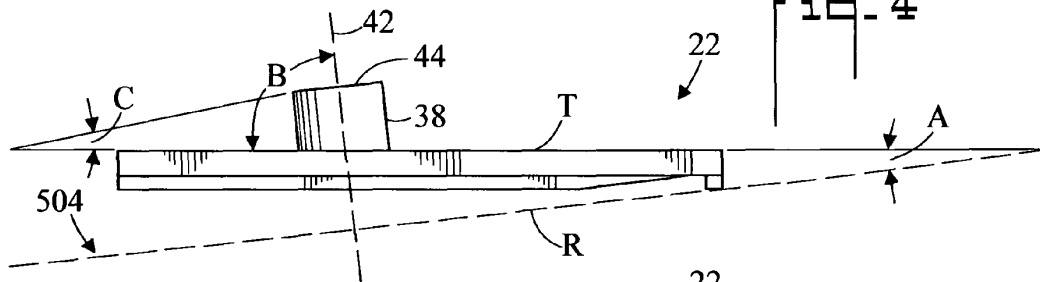


Fig. 4

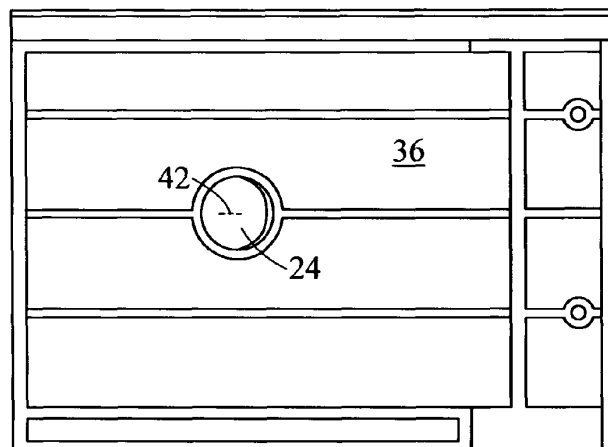
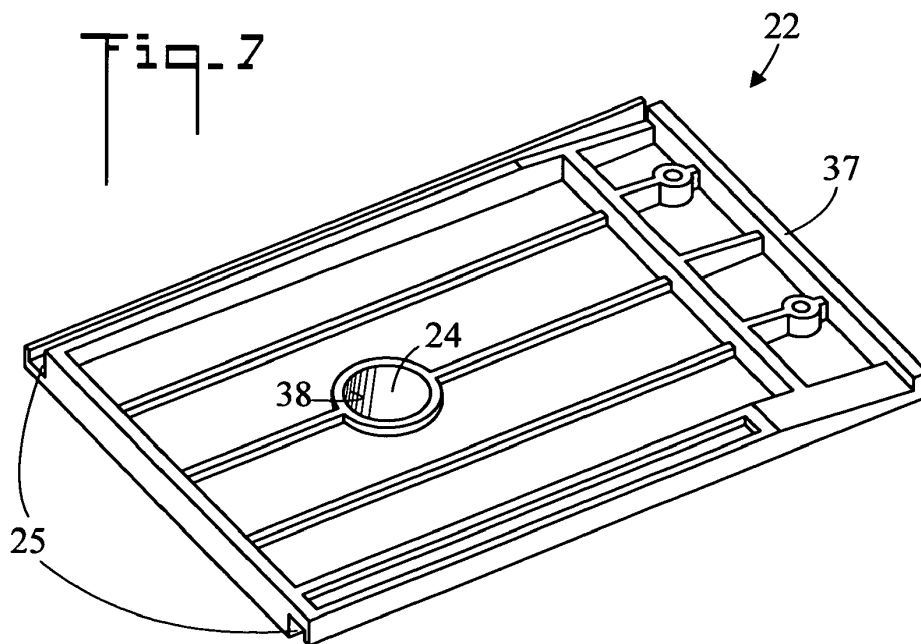
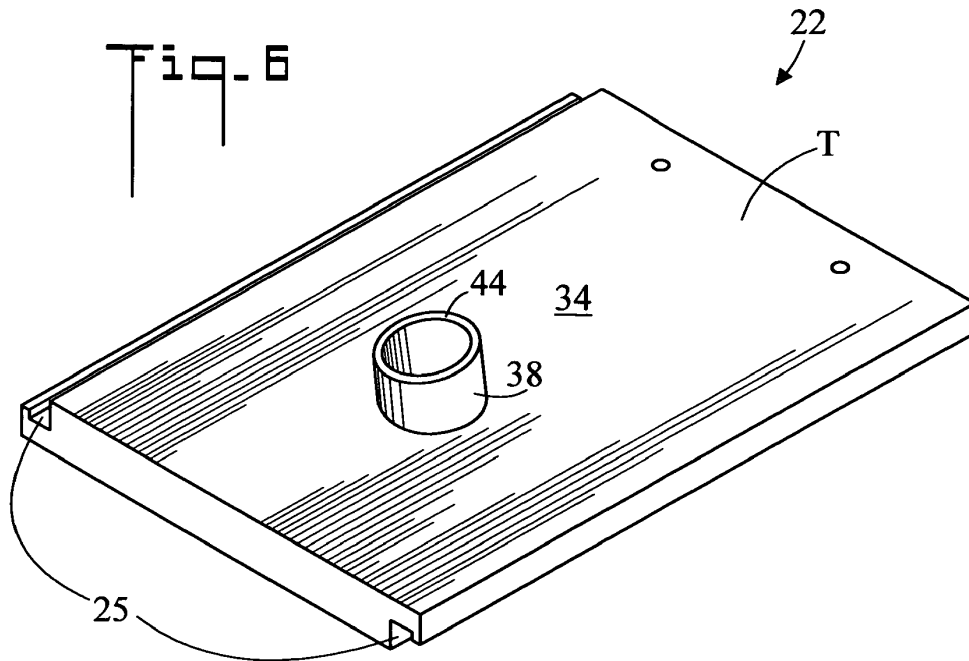
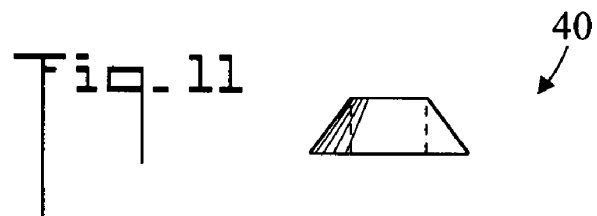
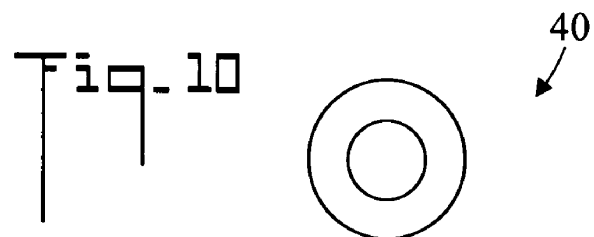
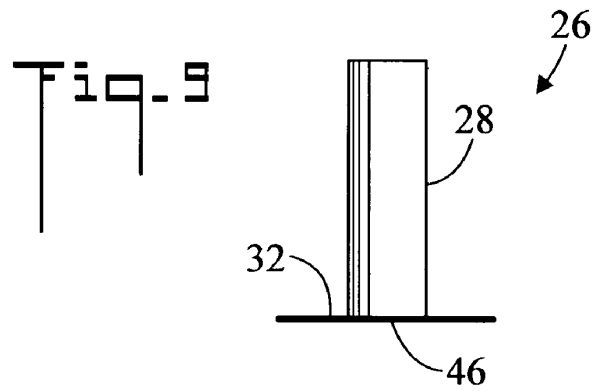
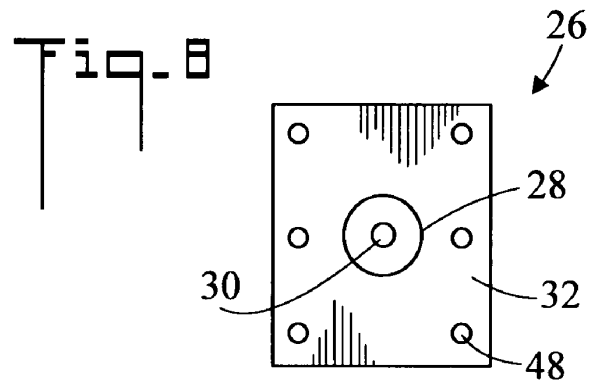


Fig. 5





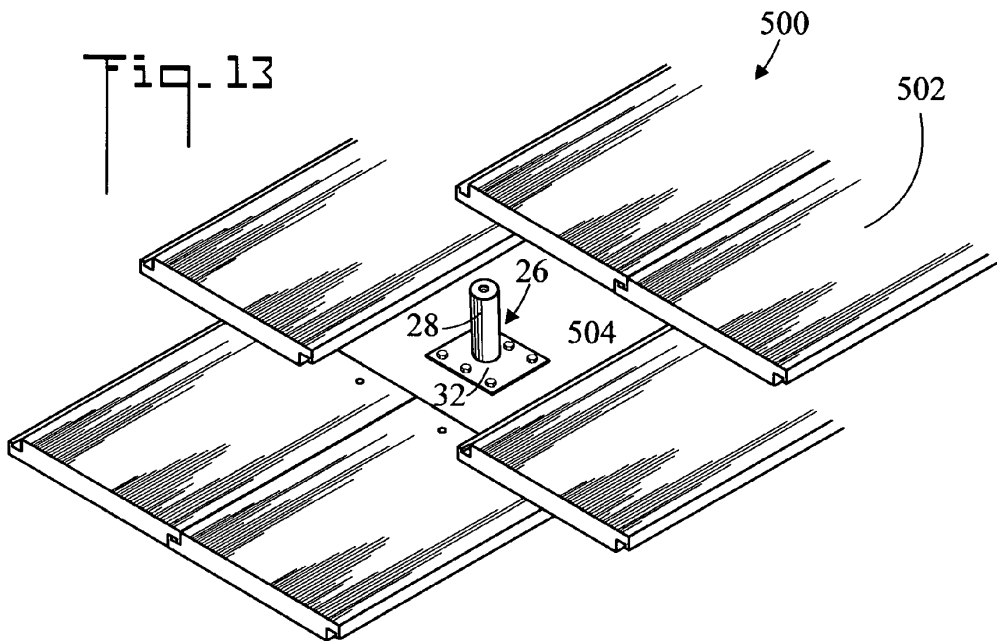
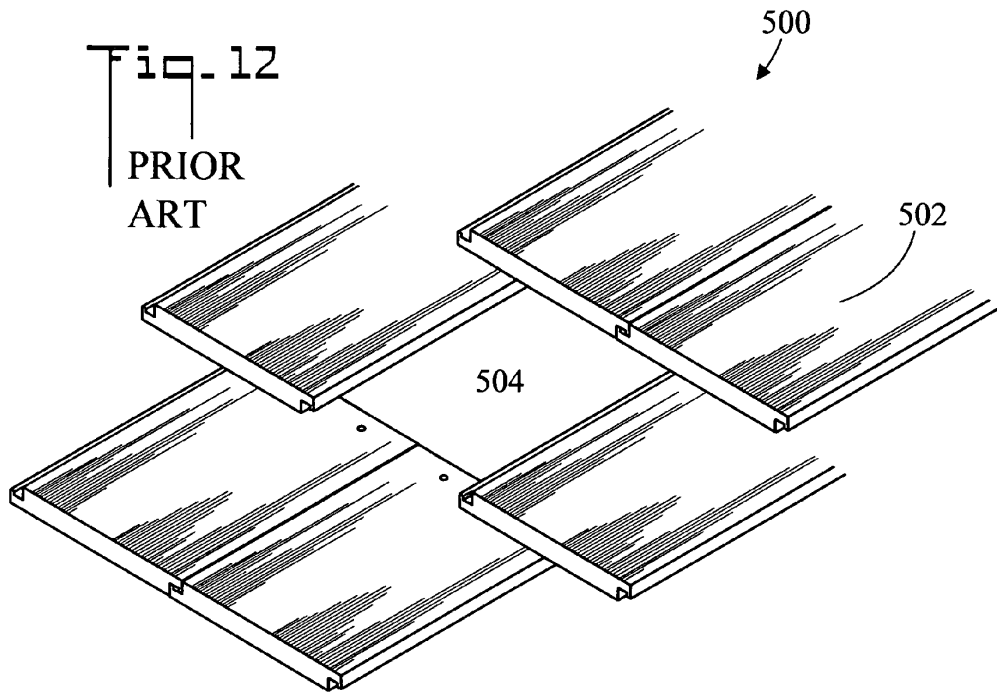


Fig. 14

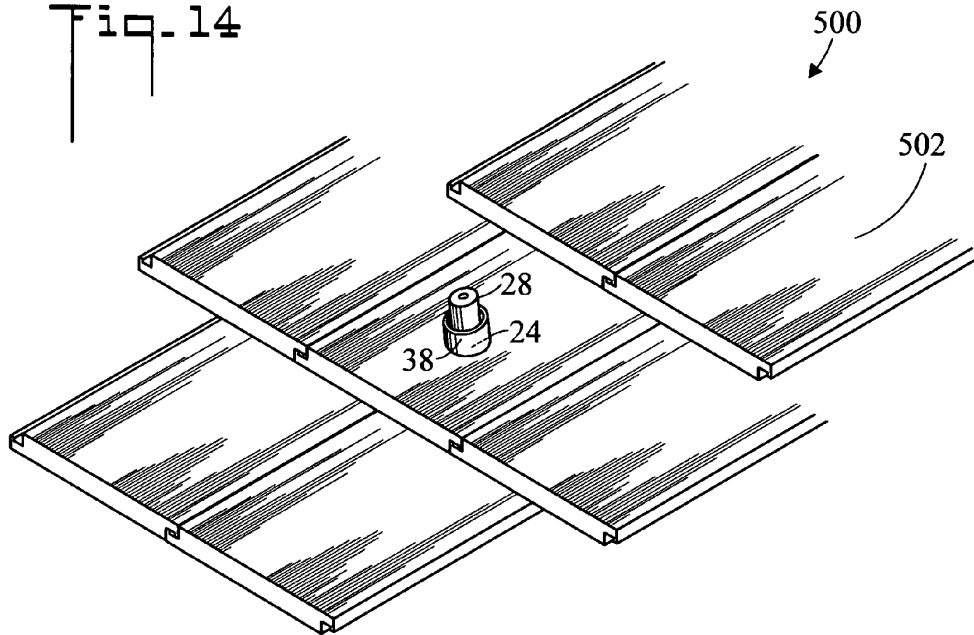
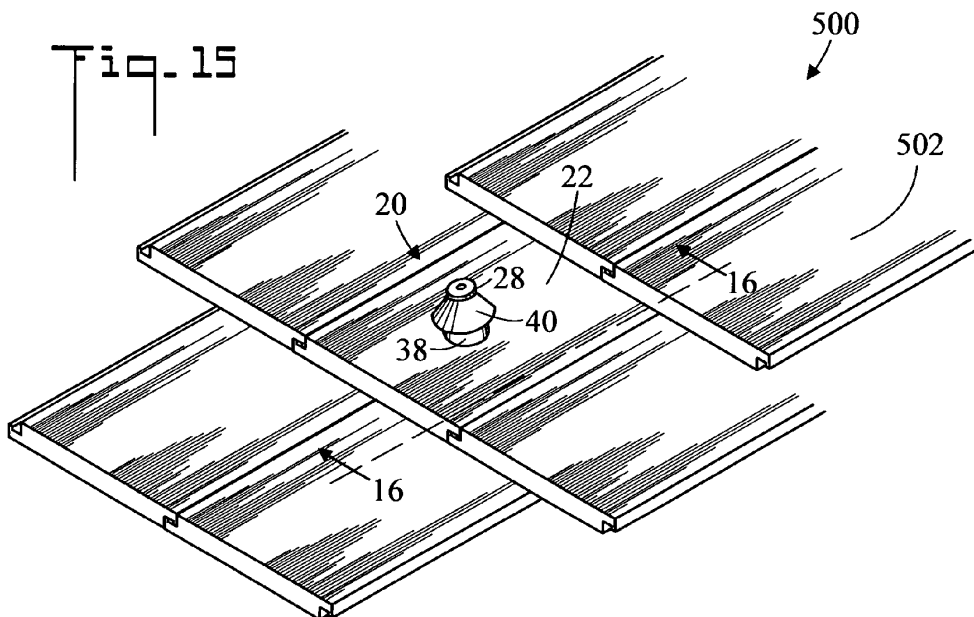
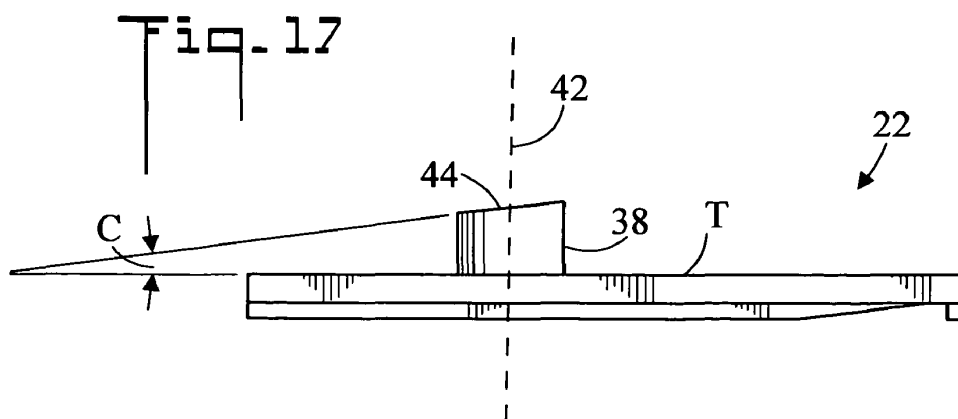
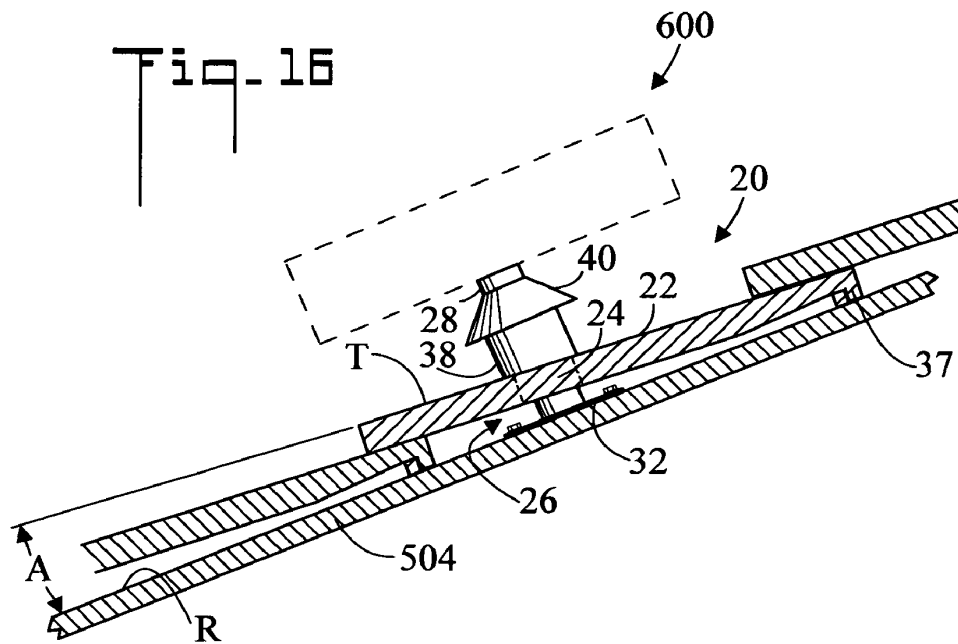


Fig. 15





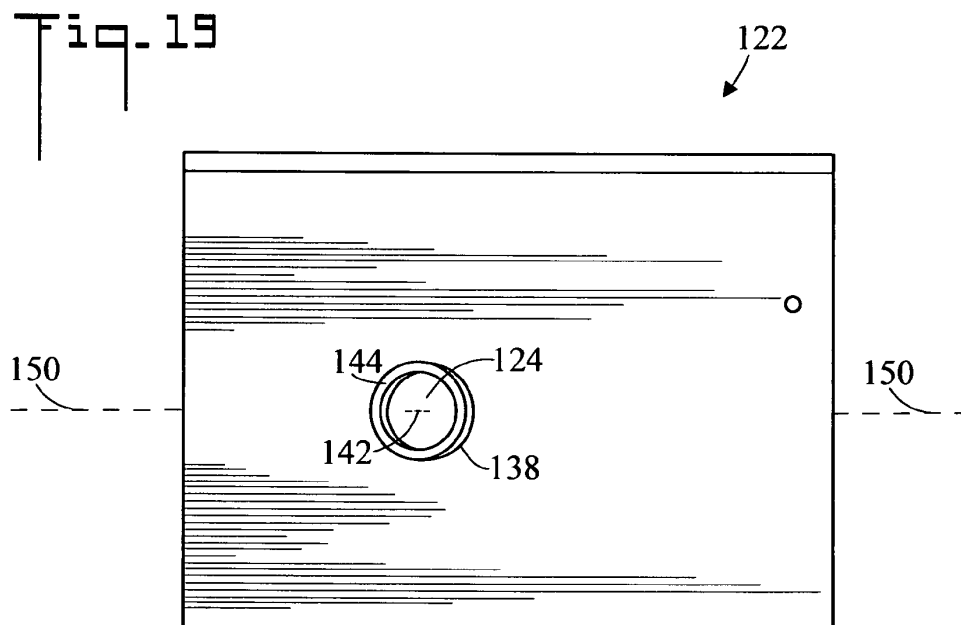
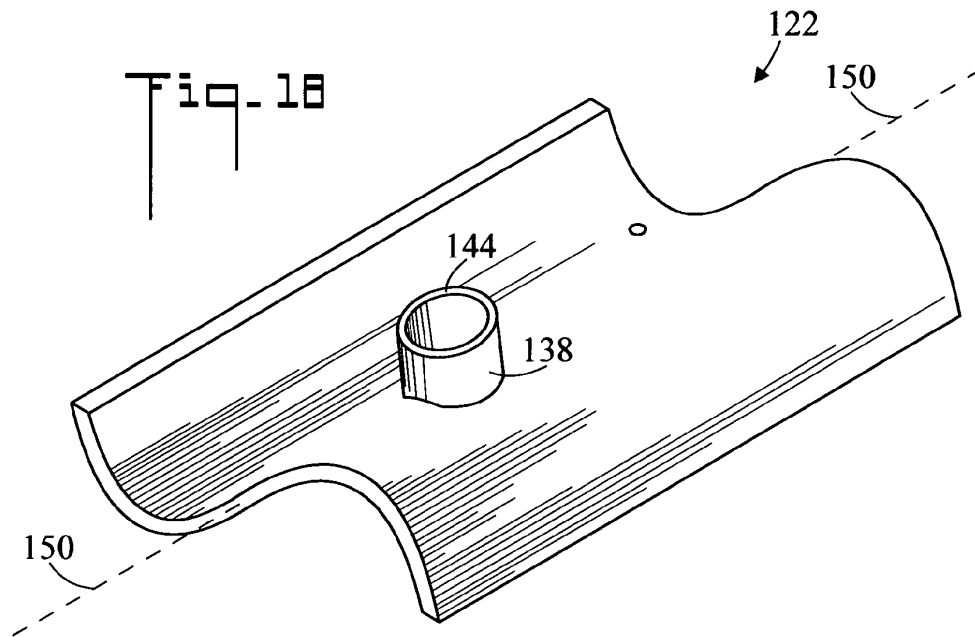


Fig. 20

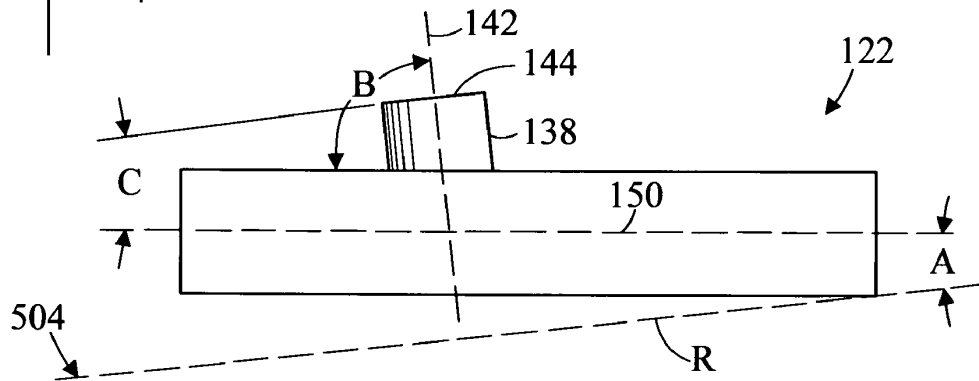
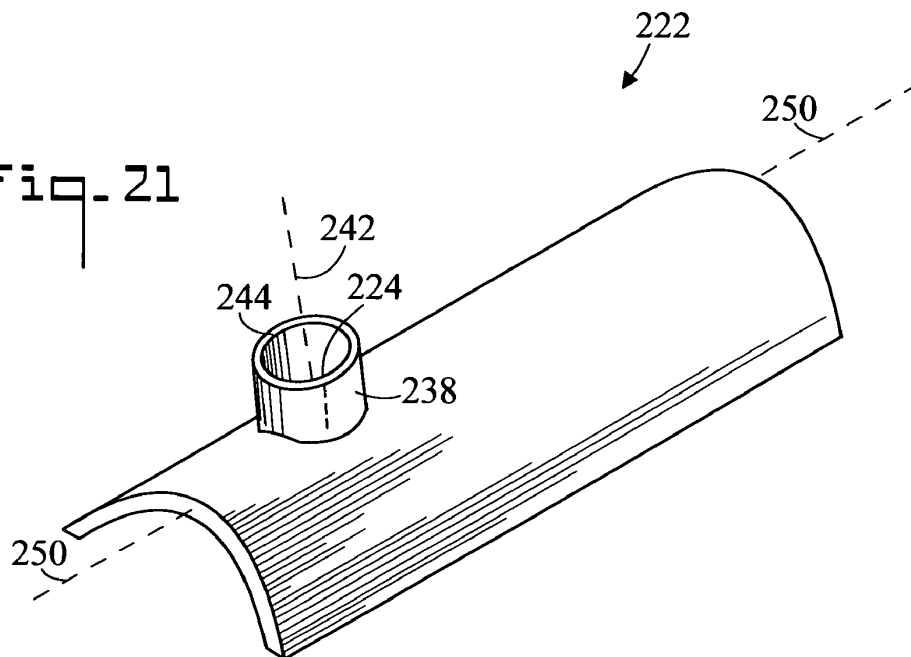


Fig. 21



1

METHOD FOR INSTALLING A STANCHION ON A TILE ROOF AND SYSTEM THEREFOR

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention pertains generally to roofs, and more particularly to a method and system for installing a stanchion on a tile roof while maintaining waterproof integrity.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Many roofs comprise a plurality of individual overlapping roof tiles which are installed over a roof sheathing. With such tile roofs it is troublesome to install stanchions to support roof fixtures such as solar panel structures. The current method of adding a stanchion comprises removing several tiles, attaching a stanchion to the roof, waterproofing the stanchion at the subroof (sheathing), reinstalling the tile around the mount by cutting away the one or two tiles around the stanchion, and flashing the hole around the stanchion with metal flashing. An installation of a solar system usually requires multiple points of contact to comply with building codes. In many instances, it is easier and less expensive to actually remove an entire section of roof, and then reinstall the roof with flashings after the stanchions are in place.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a method and system for installing a stanchion on a tile roof. The system includes a replacement tile which has an aperture and a stanchion which is shaped and dimensioned to be received by the aperture. An existing roof tile is removed and the stanchion is connected to the roof sheathing exposed by the removed existing tile. The tile of the present invention is then placed over the stanchion at the location of the removed existing tile. The stanchion projects up through the tile and is therefore available for connecting a roof fixture. The principles of the present invention may be applied to both flat and curved tiles.

In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, a system for installing a stanchion on a roof having tiles disposed on top of roof sheathing includes a tile having an aperture. A stanchion is shaped and dimensioned to be received by the aperture, and is connectable to the roof sheathing.

In accordance with an aspect of the invention, the tile is disposable over the stanchion so that the stanchion projects through the aperture.

In accordance with another aspect of the invention, the stanchion includes a flange for connecting the stanchion to the roof sheathing.

In accordance with another aspect of the invention, the tile has a top surface and an opposite bottom surface. The tile includes a sleeve which connected to the top surface of the tile and surrounds the aperture. The tile is disposable over the stanchion so that the stanchion projects through the sleeve.

In accordance with another aspect of the invention, the roof sheathing defines a roof plane, and the top surface of the tile defines a tile plane. When the tile is installed on the roof, the tile plane forms an angle A with the roof plane. The sleeve has a central axis, and when the tile is viewed from the side, the central axis forms an acute angle B with the tile plane, wherein angle B is approximately equal to 90° minus angle A. In accordance with another aspect of the invention, angle B is about 84° .

2

In accordance with another aspect of the invention, the sleeve has a top surface. The top surface of the sleeve forms an angle C with the tile plane, wherein angle C is approximately equal to angle A.

In accordance with another aspect of the invention, a seal is provided for sealing a space between the stanchion and the sleeve.

In accordance with another aspect of the invention, the roof sheathing defines a roof plane, and the tile has a central longitudinal axis. When the tile is installed on the roof, the central axis of the tile forms an angle A with the roof plane. The sleeve has a central axis, and when the tile is viewed from the side, the central axis of the sleeve forms an acute angle B with the central axis of the tile, wherein angle B is approximately equal to 90° minus angle A.

In accordance with another aspect of the invention, the sleeve has a top surface. The top surface of the sleeve forms an angle C with the central axis of the tile, wherein angle C is approximately equal to angle A.

Other aspects of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, which illustrate, by way of example, the principles of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a fragmented perspective view of a prior art tile roof;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged exploded perspective view of a system for installing a stanchion on a roof having tiles disposed on top of roof sheathing in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 3 is an enlarged top plan view of a tile in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 4 is an enlarged side elevation view of the tile;

FIG. 5 is an enlarged bottom plan view of the tile;

FIG. 6 is an enlarged top perspective view of the tile;

FIG. 7 is an enlarged bottom perspective view of the tile;

FIG. 8 is an enlarged top plan view of a stanchion;

FIG. 9 is an enlarged side elevation view of the stanchion;

FIG. 10 is an enlarged top plan view of a seal;

FIG. 11 is an enlarged side elevation view of the seal;

FIG. 12 is a fragmented perspective view of the prior art roof with one of the existing tiles removed;

FIG. 13 is a fragmented perspective view of the stanchion installed on the roof sheathing;

FIG. 14 is a fragmented perspective view of a tile installed over the stanchion;

FIG. 15 is a fragmented perspective view of the seal installed on the stanchion and tile;

FIG. 16 is a cross sectional view along the line 16-16 of FIG. 15;

FIG. 17 is an enlarged side elevation view of a second embodiment of the tile;

FIG. 18 is an enlarged top perspective view of a second embodiment tile;

FIG. 19 is an enlarged top plan view of the second embodiment tile;

FIG. 20 is an enlarged side elevation view of the second embodiment tile; and,

FIG. 21 is an enlarged top perspective view of a third embodiment tile.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring initially to FIG. 1, there is illustrated a fragmented perspective view of a prior art tile roof, generally

3

designated as **500**. Tile roof **500** (also known as a tile roof system) includes a plurality of existing tiles **502** disposed on top of roof sheathing **504** (refer to FIGS. 2 and 16). Tiles **502** are typically fabricated from concrete, ceramic, or a polymer. In the shown embodiment tiles **502** have interlocking edges **506**, however non-interlocking tiles **502** can also be used in conjunction with the present invention. Roof sheathing **504** (also known as sub-roofing) typically comprises sheets of planar material such as plywood which are placed on top of the rafters of a building to serve as the support for tiles **502**. Referring also to FIG. 16, roof sheathing **504** defines a roof plane R.

Now referring to FIG. 2, there is illustrated an enlarged exploded perspective view of a system for installing a stanchion on a roof having tiles **502** disposed on top of roof sheathing **504** in accordance with the present invention, generally designated as **20**. System **20** includes a tile **22** having an aperture **24** (also refer to FIG. 3). System **20** further includes a stanchion **26** which is shaped and dimensioned to be received by aperture **24** in tile **22** (also refer to FIGS. 14 and 16). Tile **22** is disposable over stanchion **26** so that stanchion **26** projects through aperture **24** (also refer to FIGS. 14 and 16). In the shown embodiment, stanchion **26** includes an upstanding post **28** which is received by and projects through aperture **24** (also refer to FIG. 14). Post **28** has a threaded portion **30** for connecting solar panels or other roof fixtures **600** (also refer to FIG. 16). Stanchion **26** also includes a flange **32** for connecting stanchion **26** to the roof sheathing **504** with bolts or screws (refer to FIG. 13).

Tile **22** includes a top surface **34** and an opposite bottom surface **36** (refer also to FIG. 5). Tile **22** includes a sleeve **38** which is connected to top surface **34** of tile **22** and surrounds aperture **24**. In the shown embodiment sleeve **38** is an integral portion of tile **22**. Tile **22** is disposable over stanchion **26** so that stanchion **26** projects through sleeve **38** (refer also to FIGS. 14 and 16). It is noted that it is post **28** of stanchion **26** which projects through aperture **24** and sleeve **38**.

System **20** also includes a weatherproofing seal **40** for sealing the space between stanchion **26** and sleeve **38** (also refer to FIGS. 15 and 16). In the shown embodiment, seal **40** is a collar fabricated from a resilient material such as rubber which tightly fits over post **28** of stanchion **26** and sleeve **38** to effect a water tight seal between post **28** and sleeve **38**.

FIGS. 3 through 7 are enlarged top plan, side elevation, bottom plan, top perspective, and bottom perspective views respectively of tile **22**, showing aperture **24**, sleeve **38**, and top surface **34**. Referring to FIG. 4, top surface **34** of tile **22** defines a tile plane (viewed on edge) Referring to FIGS. 4 and 16, when tile **22** is installed on roof **500**, tile plane T forms an angle A with roof plane R (viewed on edge, refer also to FIG. 16). Sleeve **38** has a central axis **42**. Central axis **42** forms an acute angle B with tile plane T, wherein angle B is approximately equal to 90° minus angle A. In an embodiment of the invention, angle B is about 84° . Sleeve **38** also has a top surface **44** which forms an angle C with tile plane T. Angle C is approximately equal to angle A. As is shown in FIGS. 6 and 7, tile **22** includes interlocking edges **25** which are interlockable with interlocking edges **506** of adjacent existing tiles **502** as is shown in 14, and 15 (refer also to FIG. 1). Also, as shown in FIG. 7, a transverse lip **37** is disposed on the bottom of tile **22** (also refer to FIG. 17).

FIGS. 8 and 9 are enlarged top plan and side elevation views respectively of stanchion **26** showing post **28**, threaded portion **30**, and holes **48** for connecting stanchion **26** to roof sheathing **504** (refer also to FIG. 13). In an embodiment of the

4

invention, the bottom of flange **32** includes double sided tape **46** to mechanically strengthen the connection to roof sheathing **504**.

FIGS. 10 and 11 are enlarged top plan and side elevation views respectively of seal **40**. Referring also to FIG. 15, seal **40** snugly fits over post **28** of stanchion **26** to provide a weatherproof seal between post **28** and sleeve **38**.

FIG. 12 is a fragmented perspective view of prior art roof **500** with one of the existing tiles **502** removed thereby exposing roof sheathing **504**.

FIG. 13 is a fragmented perspective view of stanchion **26** installed on a roof sheathing **504** showing post **28** threaded portion **30** and flange **32**. Before stanchion **26** is connected to roof sheathing **504**, its position is defined (measured) so that stanchion **26** is in the correct location to be received by sleeve **38** of tile **22** when tile **22** is placed over stanchion **26** to replace the existing tile **502** (refer to FIG. 14). If roof sheathing **504** is covered with tar paper or other material, that material is removed prior to installing stanchion **26**.

FIG. 14 is a fragmented perspective view of tile **22** installed over stanchion **26** showing aperture **24**, sleeve **38**, and post **28**. Tile **22** has been placed in the previous location of removed existing tile **502** (refer to FIG. 12) so that post **28** of stanchion **26** projects through aperture **24** and sleeve **38**. In this position, stanchion **26** is now available for connecting solar panels or other roof fixtures **600** (also refer to FIG. 16).

FIG. 15 is a fragmented perspective view of seal **40** installed stanchion **26** and tile **22**. Seal **40** ensures a watertight connection between post **28** of stanchion **26** and sleeve **38** of tile **22**.

FIG. 16 is a cross sectional view along the line 16-16 of FIG. 15 showing roof sheathing **504**, tile **22**, aperture **24**, sleeve **38**, stanchion **26**, post **28**, flange **32**, and seal **40**. Angle A is the angle between tile plane T and roof plane R. A roof fixture **600** is connected to post **28** of stanchion **26**.

FIG. 17 is an enlarged side elevation view of a second embodiment of tile **22**. In this embodiment central axis **42** of sleeve **38** does not form an acute angle B with tile plane T as in FIG. 4, but is rather substantially perpendicular to tile plane T. The top surface **44** of sleeve **38** is inclined so that it forms an angle A with tile plane T. This facilitates the installation of seal **40**.

FIGS. 18-20 are enlarged top perspective, enlarged top plan, and enlarged side elevation views respectively of a second embodiment tile, generally designated **122**. Tile **122** has a double curve as opposed to the flat tile of tile **22**. As with tile **22**, tile **122** includes an aperture **124**, a sleeve **138** which surrounds aperture **124** and which has a top surface **144** and a central axis **142**. Tile **122** also includes a central longitudinal axis **150**. When tile **122** is installed on roof **500**, central axis **142** of tile **122** forms an angle A with roof plane **504**. When tile **122** is viewed from the side (FIG. 20), central axis **142** of sleeve **138** forms an acute angle B with central axis **150** of tile **122**, wherein angle B is approximately equal to 90° minus angle A. In an embodiment of the invention, angle B is about 84° . Sleeve **138** has a top surface **144**. Top surface **144** forms an angle C with central axis **142** of tile **138**, wherein angle C is approximately equal to angle A. It is noted that, tile **122** cooperates with stanchion **26** and seal **40** in the same manner as is described above for tile **22**. That is, post **28** of stanchion **26** projects through aperture **124** and sleeve **138**, and seal **40** seals the space between stanchion **26** and sleeve **138**.

FIG. 21 is an enlarged top perspective view of a third embodiment tile, generally designated as **222**. Tile **222** is a variation of tile **122** which has only one curve. Tile **222** includes sleeve **238** having a top surface **244**, an aperture **224**, and a central longitudinal axis **250**. The angular relationships

5

discussed above for tile 122 also apply to tile 222. Tile 222 cooperates with stanchion 26 and seal 40 in the same manner as is described above for tile 22.

In terms of use, a method for installing a stanchion 26 on a roof 500 includes:

(a) providing a roof 500 having a plurality of existing tiles 502 disposed on top of roof sheathing 504;

(b) providing a system 20 for installing a stanchion 26 on roof 500 including:

a tile 22 having an aperture 24;

a stanchion 26 shaped and dimensioned to be received by aperture 24;

(c) removing one of the existing tiles 502;

(d) defining a position where stanchion 26 is to be connected to roof sheathing 504;

(e) connecting stanchion 26 to roof sheathing 504 at the position of step (d); and,

(f) placing tile 22 at the previous location of the removed existing tile 502 of step (c) and over stanchion 26 so that stanchion 26 projects through aperture 24.

The method further including:

in step (b), stanchion 26 including a flange 32 for connecting stanchion 26 to roof sheathing 504; and,

in step (e), using flange 32 to connect stanchion 26 to roof sheathing 504.

The method further including:

in step (b), tile 22 having a top surface 34 and an opposite bottom surface 36;

tile 22 has a sleeve 38 connected to top surface 34 of tile 22 and surrounding aperture 38; and,

in step (f), stanchion 26 projecting through sleeve 38.

The method further including:

in step (a), roof sheathing 504 defining a roof plane R;

in step (b), top surface 34 of tile 22 defining a tile plane T;

in step (f), tile plane T forming an angle A with roof plane R;

in step (b), sleeve 38 having a central axis 42; and,

in step (b), when tile 22 is viewed from the side, central axis 42 forming an acute angle B with tile plane T, wherein angle B is approximately equal to 90° minus angle A.

The method further including:

in step (b), angle B being about 84°.

The method further including:

in step (b), sleeve 38 having a top surface 44; and,

in step (b), top surface 44 of sleeve 38 forming an angle C with tile plane T, wherein angle C is approximately equal to A.

The method further including:

in step (b), a seal 40 for sealing a space between stanchion 26 and sleeve 38; and,

after step (f), installing seal 40 over stanchion 26.

The method further including:

in step (a), roof sheathing 504 defining a roof plane R;

in step (b), tile 122 (or 222) having a central axis 150 (or 250);

in step (f), central axis 150 (or 250) of tile 122 (or 222) forming an angle A with roof plane R;

in step (b), sleeve 138 (or 238) has a central axis 142 (or 242); and,

6

in step (b), when tile 122 (or 222) is viewed from the side, central axis 142 (or 242) of sleeve 138 (or 238) forms an acute angle B with central axis 142 (or 242) of tile 122 (or 222), wherein angle B is approximately equal to 90° minus angle A.

The method further including:

in step (b), angle B being about 84°.

The method further including:

in step (b), sleeve 138 (or 238) having a top surface 144 (or 244); and,

in step (b), top surface 144 (or 244) of sleeve 138 (or 238) forming an angle C with central axis 142 (or 242) of tile 122 (or 222), wherein angle C is approximately equal to A.

The preferred embodiments of the invention described herein are exemplary and numerous modifications, variations, and rearrangements can be readily envisioned to achieve an equivalent result, all of which are intended to be embraced within the scope of the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A method for installing a stanchion on a roof, comprising:

(a) providing a roof having a plurality of existing tiles disposed in overlapping relationship on top of roof sheathing;

(b) providing a system for installing a stanchion on said roof, including:

a tile having an aperture and a top surface, said tile including a sleeve which is connected to said top surface and which surrounds said aperture, said sleeve being an integral portion of said tile;

a stanchion which includes (1) a post which is shaped and dimensioned to be received by said aperture and said sleeve, and (2) a flange for connecting said stanchion to said roof sheathing;

(c) removing one of said existing tiles;

(d) defining a position where said stanchion is to be connected to said roof sheathing;

(e) connecting said flange to said roof sheathing at said position of step (d); and,

(f) after step (e), placing said tile at the previous location of said removed existing tile of step (c) so that said post of said stanchion projects through said aperture and said sleeve.

2. The method of claim 1, further including:

in step (e), said connection of said flange to said roof sheathing being with bolts or screws.

3. The method of claim 1, further including:

in step (b), said tile having a down slope edge and an up slope edge;

in step (b), said sleeve not longitudinally centered on said tile, with said sleeve being closer to said down slope edge than to said up slope edge.

4. The method of claim 1, further including:

in step (b), a seal for sealing a space between said stanchion and said sleeve; and,

after step (f), installing said seal over said stanchion.

* * * * *