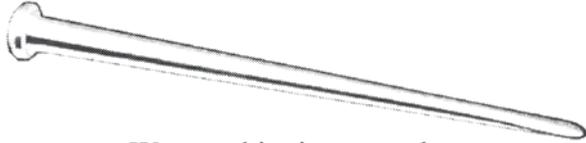


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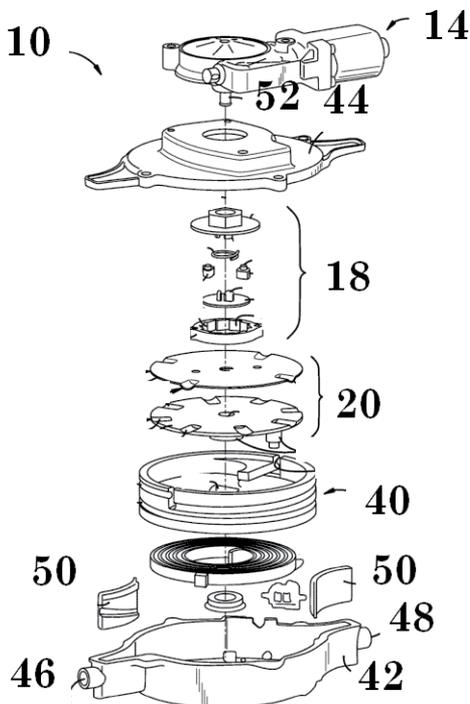
on sport utility vehicles, some hatchbacks station wagons and the like, or for doors or other components associated with vehicle access openings. The remainder of this description will refer to a tailgate 16, although the control

system 10 may be used in other applications.

A lower portion of the tailgate 16 may be connected to the vehicle body for pivoted motion of the tailgate relative to the remainder of the vehicle between open and closed positions. As the cable 12 is released or paid out from the control system 10, the tailgate 16 may move toward the open position and as the cable 12 is taken up by the control system 10, the tailgate 16 may move toward the closed position. The control system 10 also includes two clutches 18, 20 (figures 12 and 13) that permit movement of the tailgate 16 relative to the drive 14 or when the drive is not operating. For example, the tailgate 16 may be moved between its opened and closed positions manually if the drive 14 is not operable or when manual operation is preferred.

As shown in figures 9 and 10, the cable 12 may be one continuous length of cable, or two discrete lengths of cable, that is/are simultaneously taken up or paid out by the control system 10. Whether in one piece or more than one piece, the cable 12 may be considered to have two segments 22, 24 with a first segment 22 extending from the control system 10 to a free end 26 that is attached to the vehicle adjacent to one side of the tailgate 16 and the second segment 24 extending from the control system 10 to a free end 28 that is attached to the vehicle adjacent to the other side of the tailgate 16. To protect and guide the cable 12 relative to the tailgate 16 and the control system 10, one or more tubular conduits may be provided with the cable slidably received within the conduits.

In the example shown, two conduits are provided with the first cable segment 22 extending through a first conduit 30 and the second cable segment 24 extending through a sec-



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Figure 13: Exploded view of the cable control assembly.

continued on next page