onto the cable **23** after a hollow threaded turnbuckle nut **35** is slipped over the collar. The turnbuckle nut **35** is free to rotate about the collar **34**. A threaded stud **38** is crimped onto the other end of the cable and the lock nut **35** is threaded thereon. Thereafter, the turnbuckle nut **35** is threaded onto the stud **38** until the desired tension has been achieved. A pin **22** is shown enlarged in FIG. **4**.

FIG. **5** is a simplified line drawing illustrating the embodiment described hereinbefore with respect to FIG. **2**, with the tensioning device **24** omitted for clarity. FIG. **6** is a simplified line drawing of another embodiment which may be useful in situations, such as a very short stack having only a few fuel cells, as might be utilized in telecommunications and other low power applications. A short stack in which all of the manifolds are held to the stack by means of pins **22**, the cable **23**, and a tensioning device **24**, on both the front and back faces of the stack, is illustrated in FIG. **7**. The arrangement of FIG. **7** avoids the use of load cables **17**. This has an advantage in that there may be penetrations through the manifolds which do not leave space for the cables **17**. FIGS. **8-11** illustrate additional configurations of pins **22** and cables **23**. FIGS. **9** and **10** illustrate that the tensioning line **23** may extend between guides **22***a* disposed on the stack (such as on the end plate **8**) as well as structures **22** disposed on the manifolds **11**, **12**. The guides may be slipped over the tie bolts **15** perhaps held by additional nuts, or may be otherwise secured in place.

FIG. **14** is a fragmentary perspective illustrating that the tensioning line **23** may be looped about extensions **11***a*, **12***a* in lips **11***b*, **12***b* in manifolds **12***c*. (In FIG. **14**, the manifold **9** has been omitted for clarity.)

FIG. **15** illustrates that the tensioning device **23***a* may be a strap-like device, similar to the load cables **17**, or similar to cargo crate straps or hose clamp type of straps.

FIG. **16** illustrates that the cover plates other than manifolds **11**, **12** may comprise protective covers **11***d*, **12***d* drawn to the stack **7** by tensioning line **23** which is looped around extensions **11***e*, **12***e* of the protective covers **11***d*, **12***d*. This arrangement will be particularly useful when internal fluid manifolds **50-52** are utilized. The protective covers **11***d*, **12***d* will provide mechanical protection, but may be sealed to the edges of the fuel cells **14** and the end plates **8** to prevent entrance of unwanted gases or particulates into the fuel cells **14**.

Instead of a coated cable, the tensioning line may be a solid wire; a plastic, woven wire; a steel or composite strap; or other suitable line; and the term "tensioning line" is herein defined as any line which can transmit tension to the structures. The term "structure" is herein defined to include pins, posts, screws, bolts, eyelets, brackets, lips, extensions, or any other structure on the manifolds which can support the tension provided by the tensioning line, such as the cable **23**.

The aforementioned patent is incorporated herein by reference.

Thus, although the invention has been shown and described with respect to exemplary embodiments thereof, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that the foregoing and various other changes, omissions and additions may be made therein and thereto, without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

We claim:

1. A fuel cell stack comprising:

a plurality of contiguous fuel cells compressed between pressure plates into a fuel cell stack;

at least one pair of cover plates disposed on opposite sides of said fuel cell stack, said cover plates each having a respective end adjacent to each one of said pressure plates, said cover plates having surfaces contiguous with (a) said pressure plates and (b) edges of said fuel cells;

at least one structure extending outwardly from each end of each of said cover plates; and

a tensioning line extending under tension between each said at least one structure and at least one guide disposed on a corresponding one of said pressure plates.

2. A method for a fuel cell stack comprising a plurality of contiguous fuel cells compressed between pressure plates, at least one pair of cover plates disposed on opposite sides of said fuel cell stack, said cover plates each having a respective end adjacent to each one of said pressure plates, said cover plates having surfaces contiguous with (a) said pressure plates and (b) edges of said fuel cells; said method comprising:

providing at least one structure extending outwardly from each end of each said respective cover plate; and

extending a tensioning line under tension between each said at least one structure and at least one guide disposed on said pressure plate.

3. A method according to claim **2** wherein said step of providing comprises:

providing said at least one structure extending outwardly from an edge of a corresponding end surface, said end surface being adjacent to and perpendicular to a related one of said pressure plates.

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