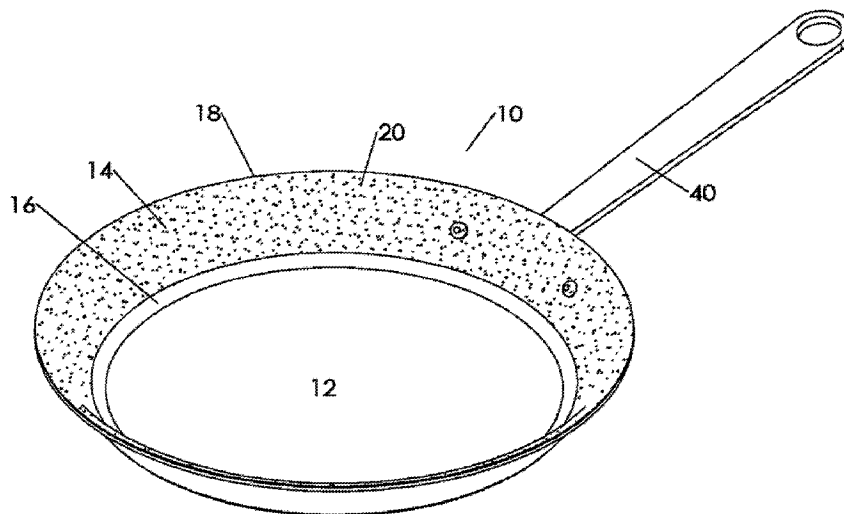




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(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

Cookware comprising a cooking surface of a bare metal and a sidewall extending upwardly from the cooking surface to a rim, wherein the sidewall is coated with a non-stick material.

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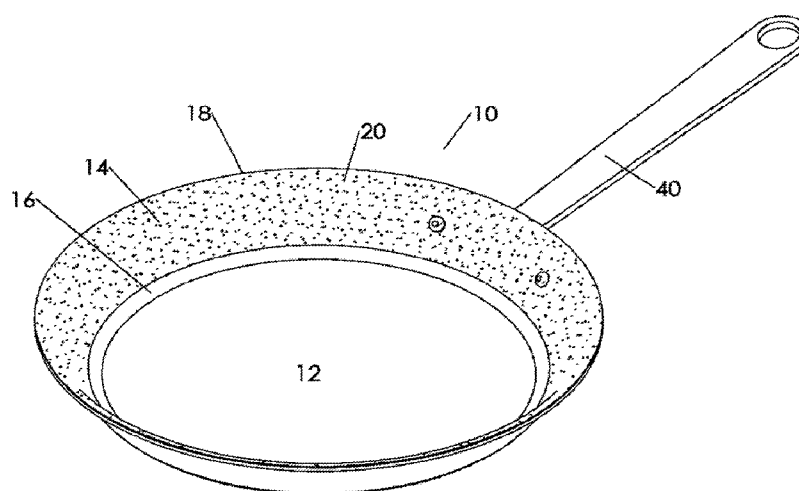


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Cookware comprising a cooking surface of a bare metal and a sidewall extending upwardly from the cooking surface to a rim, wherein the sidewall is coated with a non-stick material.

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## EASY CLEAN COOKWARE

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### Field of the Invention

**[0001]** The present invention relates generally to cookware and, more particularly, to cookware having a non-stick surface applied selectively to the interior sidewall surface of the cookware.

#### Description of Related Art

**[0002]** It is well known to apply a coating of a non-stick material such as polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) to the flat cooking surface and sloped sidewalls of a fry pan, for example, to provide extremely easy clean-up for cookware. The life and durability of PTFE-type non-stick surfaces, however, are limiting factors in the usefulness of these surfaces. The PTFE can be scratched or marred if metal kitchen tools are used or if abrasive materials are used during cleaning. These organic coatings also can degrade if overheated during cooking, which also shortens their useful life. An uncoated, bare stainless steel pan offers excellent durability during cooking and clean-up such that metal kitchen tools and steel wool will not scratch the cook surface during cooking or clean-up. Unfortunately, during frying, for example, grease or oil will tend to spatter from the flat cooking surface of the pan and deposit on the bare sidewalls of the fry pan. These localized areas of spatter deposits will form hardened spots on the sidewalls due to the heat conducted along the sidewall. This spatter on the sidewalls oftentimes proves more difficult to remove during clean-up than the cooking residue left along the bare cooking surface. This is due to the fact that the cooking surface usually has a layer of grease or cooking oil thereon which, to a large extent, prevents the formation of the hardened spots which reside on the sidewalls during frying.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

**[0003]** The present invention is directed to cookware that provides easy clean-up of a bare metal cooking surface with no spatter clean-up problems on the sidewall because the sidewall has a non-stick coating applied thereto.

**[0004]** In an embodiment of the present invention, there is a cookware including a cooking surface of a bare metal and a sidewall extending upwardly from the cooking surface to a rim,

wherein the sidewall is coated with a non-stick material. The cookware may be in the form of, for example, a fry pan, sauté pan, or chef's pan. The non-stick material may contain polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE).

**[0005]** The cooking surface may be substantially flat, and the sidewall may be flared outwardly toward the rim. The sidewall may be integral with the flat cooking surface by way of a radiused portion. The non-stick coating may be applied along the sidewall at a location at or above a radius of curvature of the radiused portion and extending upwardly toward the rim of the cookware.

**[0006]** The bare cooking surface may be one of stainless steel or aluminum.

**[0007]** In another embodiment, there is a fry pan including a flat, bare metal cooking surface with a sidewall extending upwardly from the cooking surface flaring outwardly to a rim, wherein the sidewall is coated with a non-stick material. The bare metal cooking surface may be stainless steel. The fry pan may be made from a bonded composite comprising an interior layer and an exterior layer of stainless steel and a core layer of aluminum or copper. The exterior layer may be a ferritic grade of stainless steel.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

**[0008]** In the drawings:

**[0009]** Fig. 1 is a perspective view of cookware of an embodiment of the present invention in the form of a fry pan;

**[0010]** Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the cookware illustrated in Fig. 1;

**[0011]** Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional, side view of the cookware taken along the section line III-III of Fig. 2; and

**[0012]** Fig. 4 is a partial, enlarged view of one lower corner of the cookware taken along the circular section depicted as "IV" in Fig. 3.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATED EMBODIMENT

**[0013]** With reference to Figs. 1 to 3 of the drawings, a piece of cookware is generally designated by reference numeral **10**. In this instance, the cookware **10** is in the form of a fry pan. The fry pan has a substantially flat bottom surface **12** which defines the cooking surface. The surface **12** is bare metal such as stainless steel or aluminum and has no non-stick surface coating applied thereto. At the outer perimeter of the flat cooking surface **12**, a radiused portion **16** is formed so as to provide a transition from the flat surface **12** to a sloped

sidewall **14** of the fry pan. The sidewall **14** extends from the radiused portion **16** to a top rim **18** of the cookware **10**. As illustrated, a conventional stick handle **40** is attached to the exterior of the sidewall **14**. However, other handle arrangements are possible. For example, a gripping loop handle (not shown) may be attached on the sidewall **14** instead of the stick handle **40** or in addition to the stick handle **40**.

[0014] The sidewall **14** of the cookware **10** has a non-stick coating **20** applied thereto on the interior of the pan from a location starting at or just above the radiused portion **16** extending preferably to the top rim **18** of the pan **10**. The starting location for the non-stick coating **20** may preferably be at the outer periphery of the cooking surface **12** or at the radius of curvature line “r” of radiused portion **16** shown in Fig. 4. In this manner, the flat cooking surface **12** remains bare and substantially free of non-stick material. The non-stick surface coating thus covers the sidewall **14** while the flat cooking surface **12** is left as uncoated, bare metal.

[0015] The bare metal cooking surface **12** is preferably stainless steel. In this manner, the sidewall **14** with the non-stick coating **20** will be exposed to grease/oil spatter from frying, for example, while the bare cooking surface **12** will collect the usual cooking residue experienced in a conventional fry pan. After cooking, clean-up is much easier using the cookware **10** of the present invention. The spatter deposited on the non-stick coating **20** is extremely easy to remove by washing in warm soapy water using a wash cloth or other non-abrasive means. The bare cooking surface **12** may be cleaned more aggressively using abrasive cleaning aids if needed to remove the cooking residue. This type of abrasive cleaning would not be possible if the cooking surface **12** had a non-stick coating. In addition, the bare cooking surface **12** permits the use of metal cooking tools during frying without the fear of damaging a non-stick surface.

[0016] The cookware **10** may be conventional (except for the non-stick coated sidewall) as to its metal construction and shape. The cookware **10** is preferably made from a multi-ply bonded composite of stainless steel, aluminum, and stainless steel layers, or other combinations including copper. In its preferred form, stainless steel layers form the inside and outside surfaces while the aluminum and copper layers form the core of the composite. The outside (or exterior) layer of stainless steel may be a ferritic grade so as to make the cookware **10** compatible with induction heating. Of course, in its simplest form, the cookware **10** may comprise a single layer of metal. The cookware **10** may be formed in various desired shapes, such as a fry pan, sauté pan, chef’s pan, and other cookware forms where sidewall spatter is a problem during cooking and subsequent clean-up.

**[0017]** The non-stick coating **20** may be also be a conventional non-stick coating, such as a PTFE or other non-stick material used in cookware. During application of the non-stick surface **20**, the cooking surface **12** of the cookware **10** may be masked to the desired location up to, at, or a location above the radiused area **16** where the non-stick surface **20** is to be formed. The pre-treatment application and post-application/curing treatment steps for forming non-stick surfaces such as PTFE and the like on cookware are, in themselves, well known and need no further explanation herein.

**[0018]** While specific embodiments of the invention have been described in detail, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that various modifications and alternatives to those details could be developed in light of the overall teachings of the disclosure. The presently preferred embodiments described herein are meant to be illustrative only and not limiting as to the scope of the invention which is to be given the full breadth of the appended claims and any and all equivalents thereof.

## **CLAIMS**

1. Cookware comprising a unitary structure having a cooking surface of a bare metal and a sidewall extending upwardly from the cooking surface to a rim, wherein an entire inner surface of the sidewall is coated with a non-stick material.
2. The cookware of claim 1 in the form of a fry pan, sauté pan, or chef's pan.
3. The cookware of claim 1 wherein the non-stick material contains polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE).
4. The cookware of claim 1 wherein the cooking surface is substantially flat and the sidewall is flared outwardly toward the rim and wherein the sidewall is integral with the flat cooking surface by way of a radiused portion.
5. The cookware of claim 4 wherein the non-stick coating is applied along the sidewall at a location at or above a radius of curvature of the radiused portion and extending upwardly toward the rim of the cookware.
6. The cookware of claim 1 wherein the bare cooking surface is one of stainless steel or aluminum.
7. A fry pan comprising a unitary structure having a flat, bare metal cooking surface and a sidewall extending upwardly from the cooking surface and flaring outwardly to a rim, wherein an entire inner surface of the sidewall is coated with a non-stick material.
8. The fry pan of claim 7 wherein the bare metal cooking surface is stainless steel.
9. The fry pan of claim 7 made from a bonded composite comprising an interior layer and an exterior layer of stainless steel and a core layer of aluminum or copper.
10. The fry pan of claim 9 wherein the exterior layer is a ferritic grade of stainless steel.

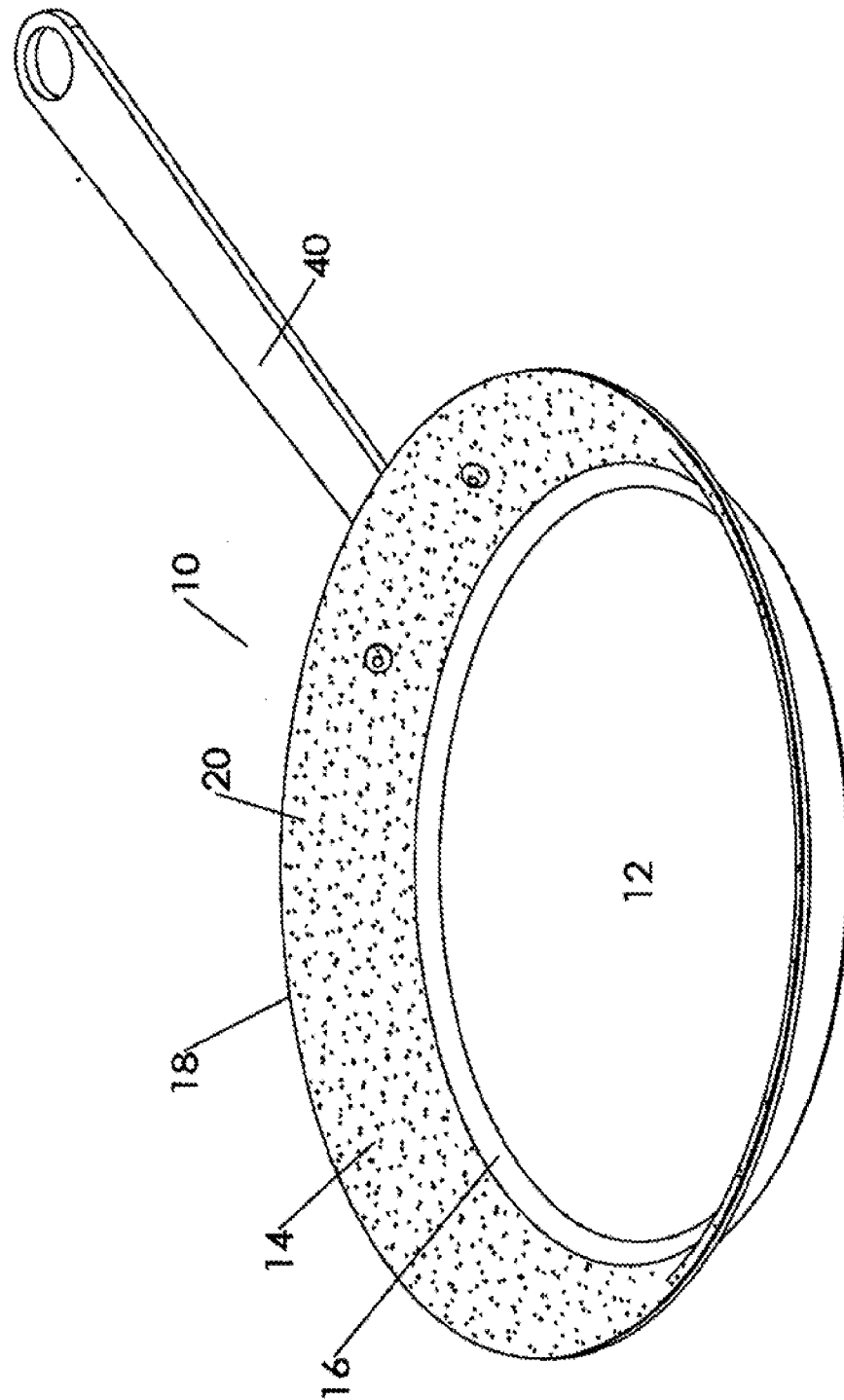


FIG. 1



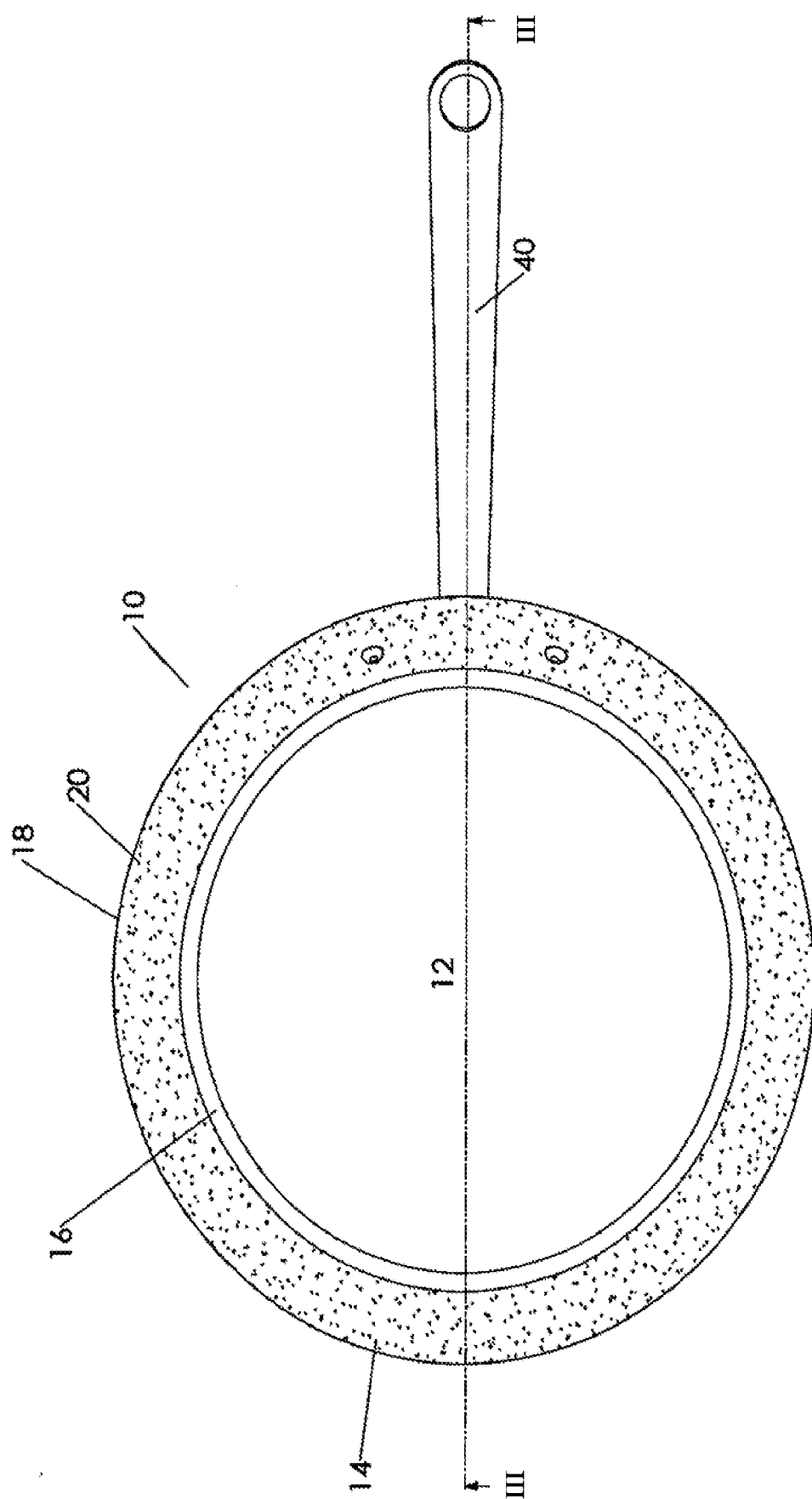
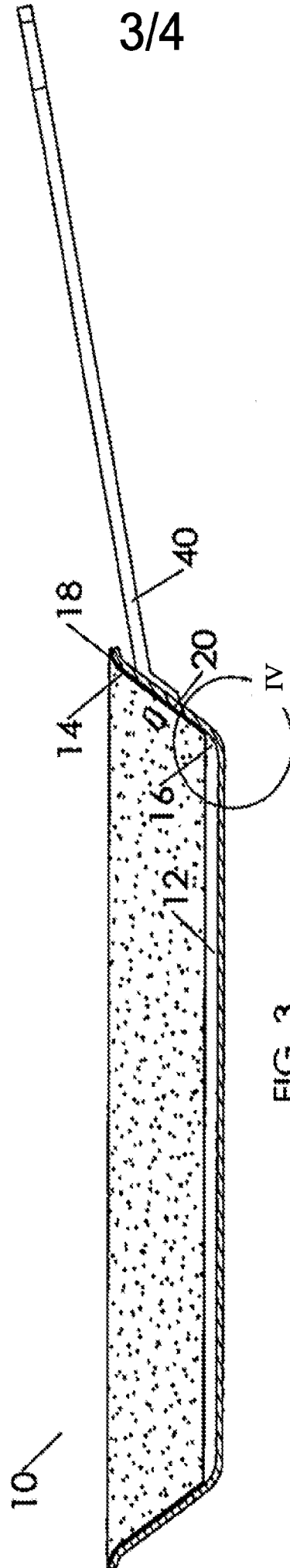


FIG. 2



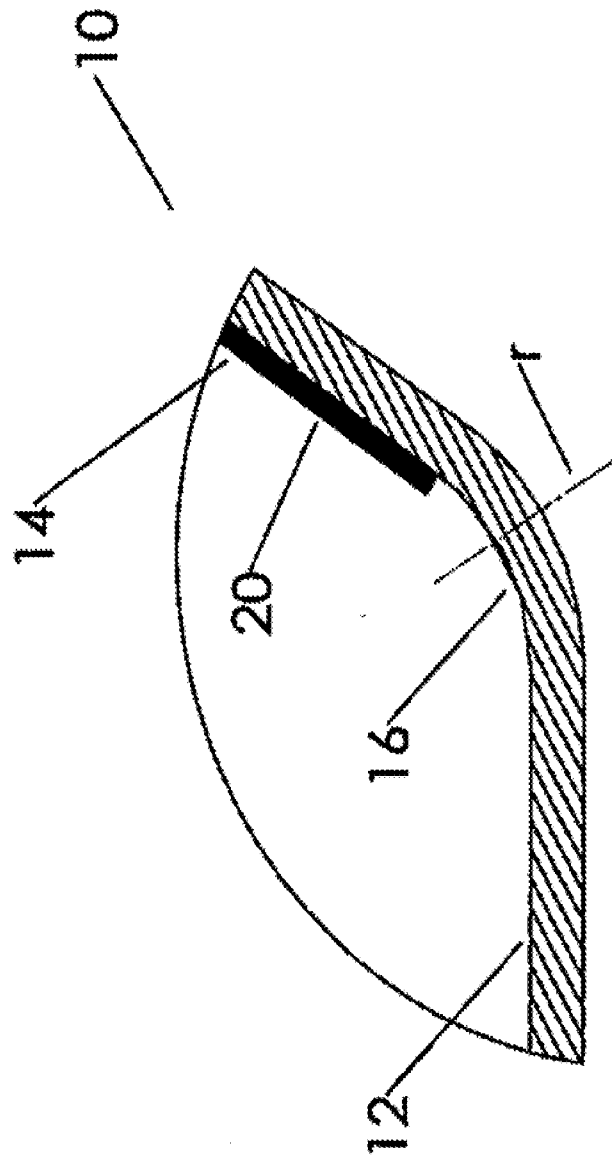


FIG. 4

