



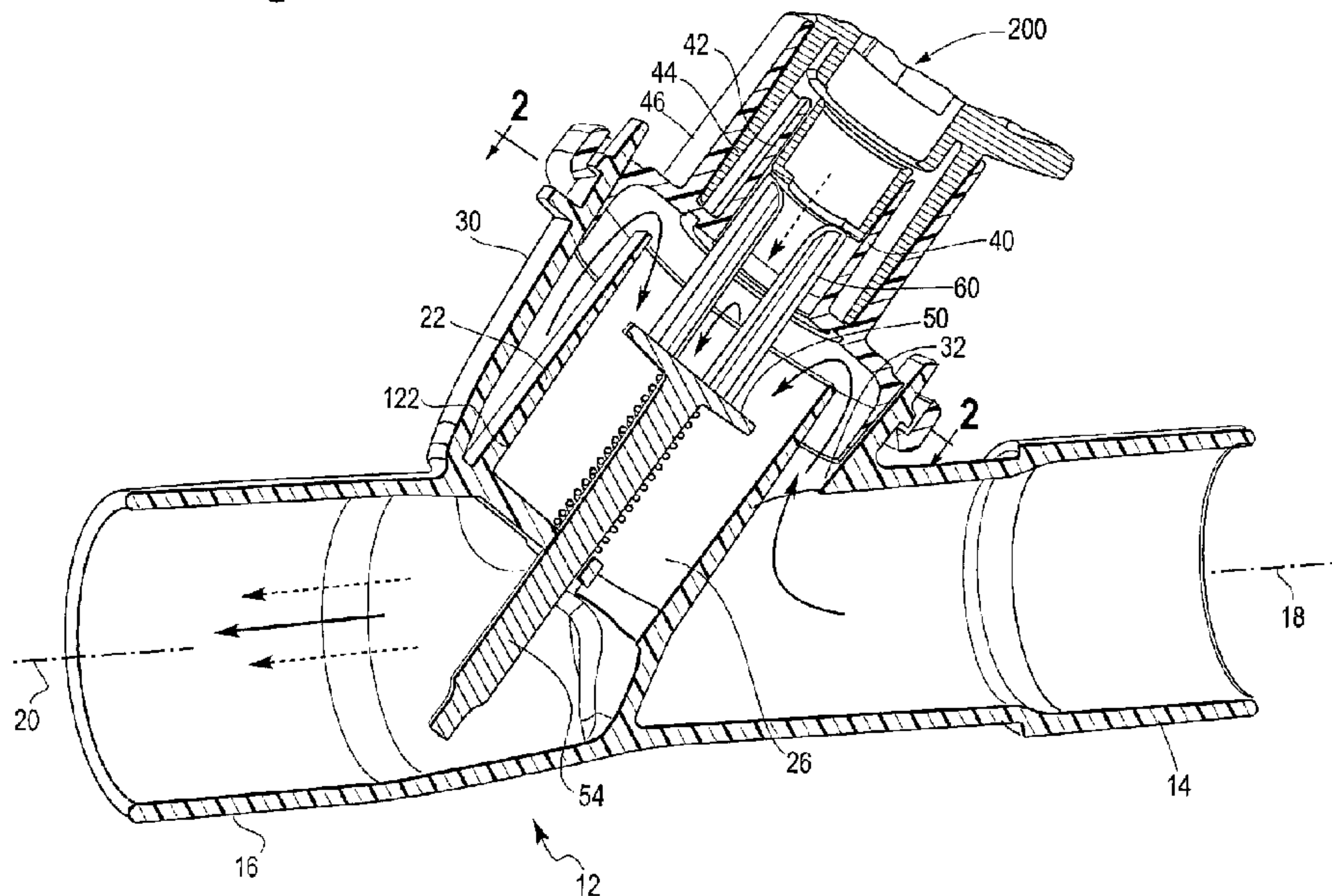
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(71) **Demandeur/Applicant:**
TRUDELL MEDICAL INTERNATIONAL, CA
(72) **Inventeurs/Inventors:**
ALIZOTI, NERITAN, CA;
SCHMIDT, JAMES, CA
(74) **Agent:** GOODMAN LLP

(54) **Titre : CIRCUIT DE VENTILATEUR, ADAPTATEUR UTILISE DANS LE CIRCUIT DE VENTILATEUR ET LEURS PROCEDES D'UTILISATION**

(54) **Title: VENTILATOR CIRCUIT, ADAPTER FOR USE IN VENTILATOR CIRCUIT AND METHODS FOR THE USE THEREOF**

Fig. 1



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

An adapter includes a housing having an inlet port defining a flow path and an outlet port. An interior wall has an inner surface defining an interior passageway communicating with the outlet port and an exterior surface defining an exterior passageway communicating with the inlet port. The interior wall defines a mouth communicating between the interior and the exterior passageways. The interior wall is positioned transverse to the flow path of the inlet port. A medicament delivery port opens into the mouth. A valve is moveable between a closed position, wherein the valve closes the medicament delivery port, and an open position, wherein the medicament delivery port is open. A ventilator circuit and method of delivering a medicament are also provided.



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(71) Applicant: **TRUDELL MEDICAL INTERNATIONAL**
[CA/CA]; 725 Third Street, London, Ontario N5V 5G4
(CA).

(72) Inventors: **ALIZOTI, Neritan**; 594 Mapledale Ave., London ON, N5X 2B8 (CA). **SCHMIDT, James**; 45 Weybourne Crescent, London, Ontario N6H 4H2 (CA).

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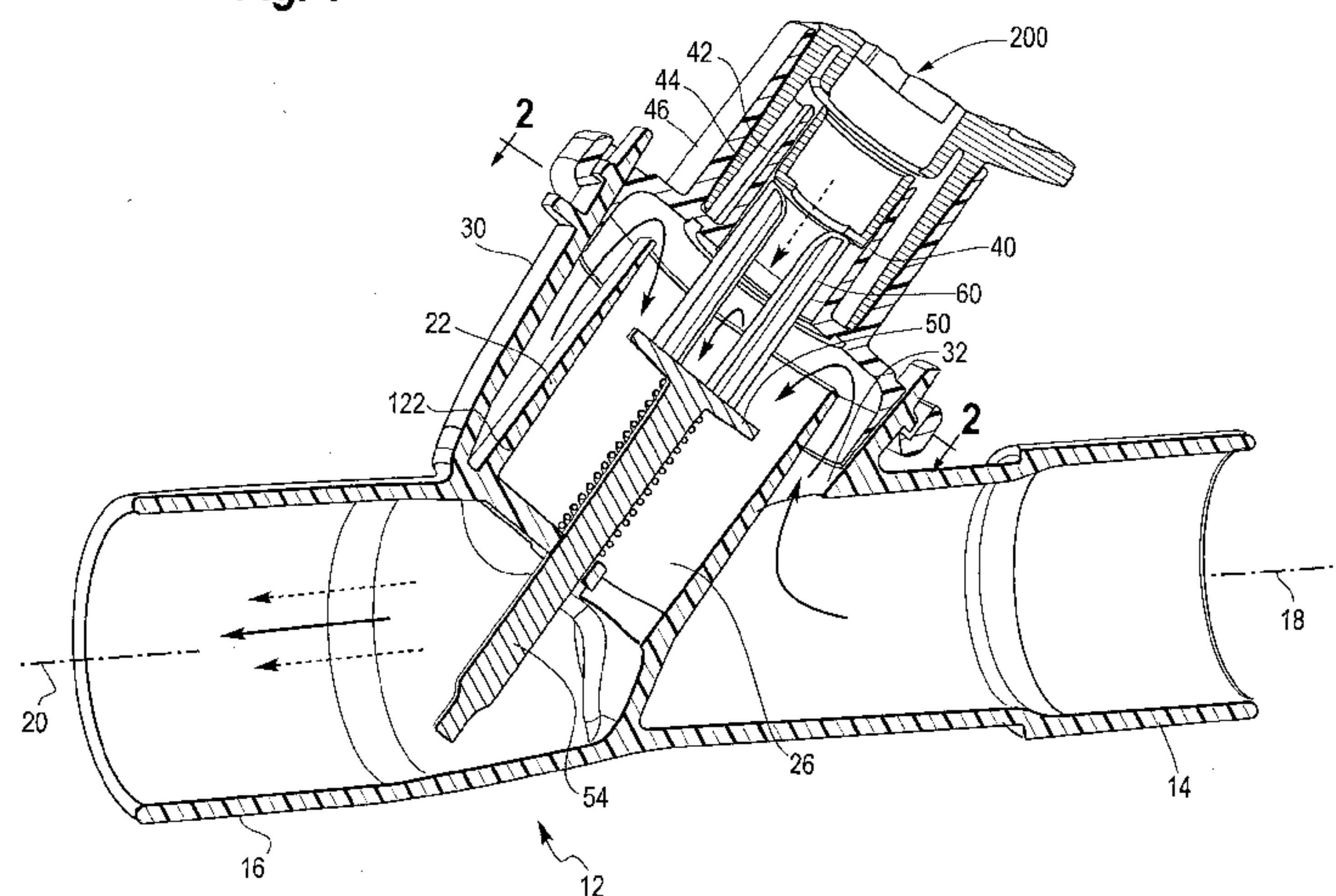
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(54) Title: VENTILATOR CIRCUIT, ADAPTER FOR USE IN VENTILATOR CIRCUIT AND METHODS FOR THE USE THEREOF

Fig. 1



(57) Abstract: An adapter includes a housing having an inlet port defining a flow path and an outlet port. An interior wall has an inner surface defining an interior passageway communicating with the outlet port and an exterior surface defining an exterior passageway communicating with the inlet port. The interior wall defines a mouth communicating between the interior and the exterior passageways. The interior wall is positioned transverse to the flow path of the inlet port. A medicament delivery port opens into the mouth. A valve is moveable between a closed position, wherein the valve closes the medicament delivery port, and an open position, wherein the medicament delivery port is open. A ventilator circuit and method of delivering a medicament are also provided.

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VENTILATOR CIRCUIT, ADAPTER FOR USE IN VENTILATOR CIRCUIT AND METHODS FOR THE USE THEREOF

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/791,904, filed March 15, 2013, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] The present invention relates generally to an adapter for delivering a medicament in ventilator circuit, and to a ventilator circuit and methods for the use thereof.

BACKGROUND

[0003] It is well known to deliver aerosolized medicaments to a patient via various devices, including nebulizers and aerosol dispensing devices, such as pressurized Metered Dose Inhalers (PMDI's), in order to treat various conditions and diseases, including but not limited to various respiratory conditions and diseases such as asthma. Often, it is desirable and necessary to deliver such medicaments to a patient interfacing with a ventilator circuit. To provide such medicaments, an adapter may be positioned within the circuit to provide access for a medicament delivery device. Known adapters, however, are not suitable for interfacing with various medicament delivery devices Respimat Soft Mist Inhaler. In addition, such adapters typically are not self-sealable, but instead require a sealing cap to be re-placed after each use in order to seal the ventilator circuit from leaks or contamination.

[0004] In addition, while some known adapters may allow for the introduction of a medicament into a ventilator gas flow, the medicament may not be fully entrained or mixed, thereby reducing the amount of uniformity in the drug delivery to the patient.

SUMMARY

5 [0005] Briefly stated, in one aspect, one embodiment of an adapter includes a housing having an inlet port defining a flow path and an outlet port. An interior wall has an inner surface defining an interior passageway communicating with the outlet port and an exterior surface defining an exterior passageway communicating with the inlet port. The interior wall defines a mouth communicating between the interior and the exterior passageways. The interior wall is positioned transverse to the flow path of the inlet port. A medicament delivery port opens into the mouth. A valve is moveable between a closed position, wherein the valve closes the medicament delivery port, and an open position, wherein the medicament delivery port is open.

10 [0006] In another aspect, one embodiment of a ventilator circuit includes an oxygen supply communicating with the inlet port and an a user interface communicating with the outlet port. A medicament delivery device may be in communication with the medicament delivery port.

15 [0007] In another aspect, a method of delivering a medicament includes introducing a gas to an inlet port of an adapter along a flow path, circulating the gas around an exterior passageway defined by an exterior surface of an interior wall, wherein the interior wall is positioned transverse to the flow path of the inlet port, and passing the gas through a mouth of the interior wall into an interior passageway defined by an inner surface of the inner wall. The method further includes introducing a medicament through a medicament delivery port opening into the mouth and thereby entraining the medicament with the gas, and delivering the medicament to a user through an outlet port of the adapter communicating with the interior passageway.

20 [0008] The present embodiments of the invention, together with further objects and advantages, will be best understood by reference to the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

25
30 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- 5 [0009] FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view of an adapter with a medicament delivery device inserted therein.
- [0010] FIG. 2 is a top cross-sectional view taken along line 2-2 of Figure 1.
- [0011] FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the adapter shown in Figure 1 with the valve closed.
- [0012] FIG. 4 is a perspective view of one embodiment of an adapter.
- [0013] FIG. 5 is a view showing an adapter in a ventilator circuit.
- [0014] FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view of one embodiment of an adapter with a valve in a closed position.
- 10 [0015] FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view of one embodiment of an adapter with a valve in a open position.
- [0016] FIGS. 8A-F show different valve actuator embodiments.
- [0017] FIG. 9 shows a biasing spring for the valve.
- [0018] FIG. 10 shows a perspective view of another embodiment of an adapter.
- 15 [0019] FIG. 11 shows the adapter of FIG. 10 in a ventilator circuit.
- [0020] FIGS. 12A-E show a cross-sectional view, and side, top, front and rear biews, of the adapter shown in Figure 10 with the valve in a closed position.
- [0021] FIGS. 13A and B show cross-sectional views of the adapter shown in Figure 10 with the valve in an open position in Figure 13A.
- 20 [0022] FIG. 14 shows a cross-sectional view taken along line 14-14 in Figure 13.
- [0023] FIG. 15 shows a cross-sectional view of an adapter with a valve in an open position.
- [0024] FIG. 16 shows a cross-sectional view of an adapter with a valve in a closed position.
- 25 [0025] FIG. 17 shows a cross-sectional view of an adapter with a valve in an open position.
- [0026] FIG. 18 shows an exploded view of one embodiment of an adapter.
- [0027] FIGS. 19A-C show a side view, partial top view and isometric view of the adapter shown in Figure 18.
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- 5 **[0028]** FIG. 20 shows an exploded perspective view of one embodiment of an adapter.
- [0029]** FIG. 21 shows a cross-sectional view of an adapter with a valve in a closed position.
- [0030]** FIGS. 22, and 22A-C, show a cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment of an adapter, and various components thereof.
- [0031]** FIG. 23 shows a cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment of an adapter.
- 10 **[0032]** FIG. 24 shows a cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment of an adapter.
- [0033]** FIG. 25 shows a cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment of an adapter.
- [0034]** FIG. 26 shows a cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment of an adapter.
- 15 **[0035]** FIGS. 27A-C show a cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment of an adapter, and various views of a cap
- [0036]** FIG. 28 shows a cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment of an adapter.
- [0037]** FIG. 29 shows a cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment of an adapter.
- 20 **[0038]** FIG. 30 shows a cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment of an adapter.
- [0039]** FIGS. 31A and B show a cross-sectional view and a side view of an alternative embodiment of an adapter.
- 25 **[0040]** FIG. 32 shows a cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment of an actuator.
- [0041]** FIG. 33 shows a cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment of an adapter.
- [0042]** FIG. 34 shows a cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment of an adapter.
- 30

[0043] FIG. 35 shows a cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment of an adapter.

[0044] FIG. 36 shows an alternative embodiment of an adapter coupled to a pressurized metered dose inhaler.

5 [0045] FIG. 37 shows a cross-sectional view of the embodiment shown in Figure 36.

[0046] FIG. 38 shows an alternative embodiment of an adapter coupled to a pressurized metered dose inhaler.

[0047] FIG. 39 shows a side view of the embodiment shown in Figure 38.

10 [0048] FIG. 40 shows a cross-sectional view of the embodiment taken along line 40-40 of Figure 39.

[0049] FIG. 41 shows an end view of the embodiment shown in Figure 28.

[0050] FIG. 42 shows a cross-sectional view of the embodiment taken along line 42-42 of Figure 41.

15 [0051] FIG. 43 shows a perspective view of a valve.

[0052] FIG. 44 shows a cross-sectional view of the valve taken along line 44-44 of Figure 43.

[0053] FIG. 45 shows a cross-sectional view of one embodiment of an adapter with an inhaler inserted therein.

20 [0054] FIG. 46 shows a cross-sectional view of the adapter in Figure 45 without an inhaler inserted therein.

[0055] FIG. 47 shows a cross-sectional view of one embodiment of an adapter with an inhaler inserted therein.

25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENTLY PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0056] It should be understood that the term "plurality," as used herein, means two or more. The term "coupled" means connected to or engaged with, whether
30 directly or indirectly, for example with an intervening member, and does not require the engagement to be fixed or permanent, although it may be fixed or

permanent. It should be understood that the use of numerical terms “first,” “second,” “third,” etc., as used herein does not refer to any particular sequence or order of components; for example “first” and “second” ports may refer to any sequence of such members, and is not limited to the first and second ports of a particular configuration unless otherwise specified. It should be understood that the terms “input port” and “outlet port” refer to the function of the ports during an inhalation phase, and that the ports may serve the opposite function (removal or exit) during an exhalation phase. It should be understood that the term “communicates” refers to a fluid communication, and may be direct or indirect, for example through an intervening passageway.

[0057] Referring to FIGS. 5 and 10, a ventilator circuit 2 is shown as including a ventilator 4 providing a gas supply, such as oxygen. Inlet and outlet lines 8, 10 may communicate with the ventilator 4. A user interface 6, such as a mask, tracheotomy tube, or mouthpiece is in communication with the gas supply.

[0058] Referring to FIGS. 1-7, 10-26, 31-42, and 45-47 the ventilator circuit also includes an adapter 12, 112 inserted in the flow path between the ventilator and the user interface. The adapter 12, 112 includes a housing having an inlet port 14, 114 defining a flow path and communicating with the ventilator 4, and an outlet port 16, 116 communicating with the user interface 6. The inlet port 14, 114 defines a flow path 18 that may be parallel to the flow path 20 of the outlet port as shown in FIG. 1, or extending transversely thereto, for example in an orthogonal relationship as shown in FIG. 4.

[0059] Referring to FIGS. 1-7, 10-26, 33-35, 40, 42 and 45-47 the housing further includes an interior wall 22, 122 having an inner surface 24, 124 defining an interior passageway 26, 126 communicating with the outlet port and an exterior surface 28, 128 defining an exterior passageway 32, 132 communicating with the inlet port. An outer wall 30, 130 surrounds the inner wall and further defines the exterior passageway. The interior wall has a free end 34, 134 defining a mouth 36, 136 communicating between the interior and exterior passageways. The interior wall 22 is positioned transverse to at least a portion of the flow path 18 of the inlet

port. The term “transverse” means lying or being across, for example the wall extends across the flow path of the inlet port, and is not limited to an orthogonal relationship. For example, the interior wall may extend orthogonal to the flow path as shown in FIG. 4, or may form an acute angle α (e.g. between about 40 and 60 degrees in various embodiments, and about 50 degrees in one embodiment) relative thereto as shown in FIG. 1. The wall may extend across the entirety of the cross-section of the flow path of the inlet port, as shown for example in FIGS. 4 and 12, or may extend across only a portion thereof.

[0060] Referring to FIGS. 1-7, 10-26, 33-42, and 45-47, the adapter housing further includes a medicament delivery port 40 opening into at least one of the exterior and interior passageways 26, 32, for example at the mouth 36, above the mouth, or below the mouth. The port 40, 140 may include a central channel defining the delivery opening formed by an annular wall 42, 142, and a surrounding peripheral channel 44, 144 formed by another wall 46, 146. A valve 50 is moveable between a closed position, wherein the valve is seated on a valve seat 52 and closes the opening of the delivery port as shown in FIGS. 3, 6, 12, 16, 21, 23, 28, 33 and 46, and an open position wherein the medicament delivery port is open as shown in FIGS. 1, 2, 13, 15, 17, 24-26, 29, 30, 34, 35, 37, 42 and 45. The valve includes a stem 54 that moves axially relative to a baffle or guide 56, 156 formed between the interior passageway 26, 126 and the outlet port 16, 116. A spring 58 is disposed around the valve stem 54 and biases the valve to a closed position against the seat 52 on the medicament delivery port. The port 40 may be configured as a cap member that closes the stop of the exterior passageway as shown in FIG. 20.

[0061] Referring to FIGS. 1-7, 10-26 and 33-37, the exterior passageway 32, 132 extends around an entire periphery of the internal wall 22, 122, which means in one embodiment, the exterior passageway completely encircles the wall, formed as an annular wall, providing a 360 degree passageway around the wall.

[0062] An actuator 60 is attached to the end of the valve 50. In various embodiments, the actuator includes at least one side opening 64 formed therein.

The actuator may be configured with a plurality of arms 62 (shown as two or three, although it could be more) defining a plurality of side openings 64 therebetween. A collar 66 may join the ends of the arms. The collar 66, or free ends 68 of the arms, engage an end of the medicament delivery device 200.

5 **[0063]** Referring to FIGS. 18-20, a cap 70 may be tethered to the adapter with a retaining ring 72 and lanyard 74, and may be moved from an off position to an on position, wherein the cap covers the medicament delivery port 40 in the on position. The tethered cap 70 helps to maintain the ventilator circuit free from pressure leaks and dust particles. As shown in FIGS. 27 B and C, the port may be
10 configure with a non-cylindrical outer wall 46, for example an oval or elliptical shape, which surrounds the inner wall 42, which may be configure as a cylinder. In addition, one or more ribs or guards 307 may extend from the cap in a spaced apart relationship to the port as to protect the valve 50 and port 40.

15 **[0064]** The end 66, 68, 69 of the actuator 60 and/or port 40 may be configured to engage different types and shapes of medicament delivery devices 200, including various nebulizers, a Hudson RCI Micro Neb nebulizer, an Aerogen AeroNeb Solo nebulizer, a Respimat inhaler, and/or other delivery devices. For example, as shown in FIG. 32, an actuator 80 is provided with two engagement members 82, 84, shown as an end portion and a shoulder, which are dimensioned
20 to be engaged by different types of delivery devices. Various delivery device and adapters 90 may be configured with first ends 92 that fit into the port 40 and actuate the valve, and second ends 94 that are shaped to receive the particular delivery device. Other delivery devices interact directly with the port, for example with an annular flange that is inserted into a channel 144 formed around the port or inside the port as shown. Referring to FIGS. 22A, 23 and 47, the actuator
25 includes an L-shaped end portion 69 that engages a delivery device.

30 **[0065]** For example, and referring to FIGS. 36-44, a pressurized metered dose inhaler (pMDI) is configured with a medicament container 304 that dispenses an aerosolized medicament, and an actuator boot configured with a housing 300 and an outlet 302, configured as a mouthpiece in one embodiment. A support block

306 extends interiorly of the housing and engages a valve stem 308 extending from the container. When the container 304 is depressed, a dose of medicament is dispensed through an orifice in the support block 306 and through the outlet 302. The mouthpiece 302 is engaged with an end 182 of the actuator 60, which moves the actuator 60 and valve 50 from a closed position to an open position against the force of the spring 58. As shown in FIGS. 43 and 44, the valve 50 includes a nose portion 303 that fits inside the mouthpiece and channels the medicament into the passageway 26. The actuator defines a ledge 303, against which the mouthpiece 302 engages. Once the valve 50 is open, the container may be actuated by moving it relative to the housing, thereby releasing a dose of medicament 177 through the mouthpiece 302, the nose portion 303 and into the interior passageway 26. The medicament 177 flow is mixed with the gas flowing from the exterior passageway 32 to the interior passageway 26, and thereafter to the outlet port 16. The housing 300 is coupled to a cap 183 of the adapter. For example, the mouthpiece 302 is inserted into the port 40, defined by the cap, and coupled thereto with a ring shaped connector or collar 180, made for example of rubber. The cap 183 is releasably coupled to the adapter housing with a pair of tabs 320 inserted through openings in the cap 183. As shown in FIGS. 38-40, a rubber cap 301 may be positioned over the end of the actuator boot to avoid leakage.

[0066] Referring to FIGS. 27-30, an adapter housing 312 has first and second mouths 36, 236 communicating between the exterior passageway 32 and the interior passageway 26 on opposite ends of the interior wall 22. First and second medicament delivery ports 40, 340 are positioned adjacent the first and second mouths. The ports may have different dimensions and shapes to accommodate different types of medicament delivery devices, for example with the port 46 having a channel shaped to receive the end of one type of device and the port 346 configured to receive the device therein. A second valve 350 is configured to move between a closed position wherein second valve closes the second medicament delivery port and an open position wherein the second medicament delivery port is open. As shown, the second valve 350 is in a closed position when

the first valve 50 is in an open position, and the first valve is in a closed position when the second valve is in an open position. It should be understood, however, that both valves may be moved to the open position simultaneously. The first and second valves may have interfacing valve stems 54, 354, with one stem moveable within the other, and with a spring 58 acting between the valve stems to bias the valves to the closed position.

[0067] In operation, and referring to FIGS. 1-7, 10-31 and 33-37, the adapter 12, 112, 312 is inserted into a ventilator circuit 2. A gas flows along the flow path 18 through the inlet port 14, 114, circulates around the internal wall 22, 122 in the exterior passageway 32, 132 and passes over the edge 34, 134 and through the mouth 36, 136 to the interior passageway 26, 126, and then to the outlet port 16, 116, whereinafter the gas may be communicated to the patient through the user interface 6.

[0068] When a caregiver desires to deliver a medicament to the patient, a medicament delivery device 200, whether a nebulizer 202, inhaler 204 or other device, is inserted into the medicament delivery port 40, 140. The insertion causes the medicament delivery device, or an adapter connected thereto, to engage the actuator 60 and press it inwardly against the biasing force of the spring 58, thereby opening the valve 50 as it is moved off of the seat 52. The medicament may thereafter be administered by actuating the medicament delivery device 200, or the insertion and actuation of the device against the valve may administer the medicament. The medicament is dispensed into the flow of gas. Because of the circumferential flow, e.g., 360 degree flow, around the wall and through the mouth, the medicament is thoroughly and uniformly mixed with the gas. The flow eliminates any unnecessary turbulence in the flow, thereby increasing the performance of the device. The configuration of the wall 22, and its interface with the inlet port 18, helps to collect water created by humidity in the circuit, in a pooling area 19 at the bottom of the wall such that the water does not adversely affect the drug performance. After the treatment, the medicament delivery device

200 may be removed from the medicament delivery port 40, with the valve 50 thereafter closing the medicament delivery port opening.

5 **[0069]** The adapter thereby provides a high efficiency drug delivery method in a closed ventilation circuit, and is robust and simple including only an adapter and medicament delivery device. The system can be installed, and thereafter used, in a quick and easy fashion. The valve ensures a low microbiological risk. The valve prevents contaminants from entering the system at an earlier point of the inhaler insert passage way. The ventilator circuit is kept sealed from outside contamination at all times with or without the medicament delivery device in place, and the adapter can be a permanent feature of the ventilator circuit, thereby eliminating the need to temporarily break the circuit and disconnect the patient from the ventilator. By having a permanent connection, any losses in pressure are minimized. Also hospital personnel cross contamination is minimized. The spring loaded valve when closed is fully seated and out of the way of the air stream, minimizing any resistance to the flow, and or any leaks to the outside of the ventilator circuit.

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[0070] The adapter may be made of polypropylene and/or MABS/Terlux, and the valve spring may be made of stainless steel, or plastic.

20 **[0071]** When a medicament delivery device is not seated in the port, the inspiratory air stream produced by the ventilator flows around and over the 360 degree cylindrical chamber, defined by the wall, under the fully seated actuator valve around the spring, and through the three spoke actuator guide to the outlet port.

25 **[0072]** When a medicament delivery device 200 is inserted into the port 46, friction with the wall of the port holds the device in in place. The device pushes down the actuator and valve compressing the spring, and opening the passage where the drug flows out of the device. The inspiratory air stream produced by the ventilator flows around and over the 360 degree cylindrical chamber and carries the drug released by the inhaler. The air and drug mixture travel out of the

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An adapter housing comprising:
an inlet port defining a flow path;
an outlet port;
5 an interior wall having an inner surface defining an interior passageway communicating with said outlet port and an exterior surface defining an exterior passageway communicating with said inlet port, and wherein said interior wall defines a mouth communicating between said interior and said exterior passageways, wherein said interior wall is positioned substantially transverse to at
10 least a portion of said flow path of said inlet port;
a medicament delivery port opening into at least one of said exterior passageway and said interior passageway; and
a valve moveable between a closed position wherein said valve closes said medicament delivery port and an open position wherein said medicament delivery
15 port is open.
2. The adapter housing of claim 1 wherein said exterior passageway extends around an entire periphery of said internal wall.
- 20 3. The adapter housing of claim 2 wherein said exterior passageway extends 360 degrees around said internal wall.
4. The adapter housing of claim 1 wherein said valve comprises a spring biasing said valve to said closed position.
- 25 5. The adapter housing of claim 1 wherein said internal wall extends orthogonal to said flow path.
6. The adapter housing of claim 1 wherein said internal wall forms an
30 acute angle relative to said flow path.

7. The adapter housing of claim 1 wherein said valve comprises an actuator having at least one side opening formed therein.

8. The adapter housing of claim 7 wherein said actuator comprises a plurality of arms defining a plurality of side openings therebetween.

9. The adapter housing of claim 7 wherein said actuator comprises a first engagement surface adapted to engage a first medicament delivery device and a second engagement surface adapted to engage a second medicament delivery device.

10. The adapter housing of claim 1 wherein said mouth comprises a first mouth, and wherein said interior wall further defines a second mouth communicating between said interior and said exterior passageway opposite said first mouth, and wherein said medicament delivery port comprises a first medicament delivery port, and further comprising a second medicament delivery port opening into said second mouth, and wherein said valve comprises a first valve, and further comprising a second valve moveable between a closed position wherein said valve closes said second medicament delivery port and an open position wherein said second medicament delivery port is open.

11. The adapter housing of claim 1 wherein said second valve is in a closed position when said first valve is in an open position, and wherein said first valve is in a closed position when said second valve is in an open position.

12. A ventilator circuit comprising:
 an oxygen supply;
 a user interface; and
 an adapter comprising:
 an inlet port defining a flow path and in flow communication with said oxygen supply;
 an outlet port in flow communication with said user interface;

an interior wall having an inner surface defining an interior passageway communicating with said outlet port and an exterior surface defining an exterior passageway communicating with said inlet port, and wherein said interior wall defines a mouth communicating between said interior and said exterior passageways, wherein said interior wall is positioned substantially transverse to at least a portion of said flow path of said inlet port;

a medicament delivery port opening into at least one of said exterior passageway and said interior passageway; and

a valve moveable between a closed position wherein said valve closes said medicament delivery port and an open position wherein said medicament delivery port is open.

13. The ventilator circuit of claim 12 wherein said exterior passageway extends around an entire periphery of said internal wall.

14. The ventilator circuit of claim 13 wherein said exterior passageway extends 360 degrees around said internal wall.

15. The ventilator circuit of claim 12 wherein said valve comprises a spring biasing said valve to said closed position.

16. The ventilator circuit of claim 12 wherein said internal wall extends orthogonal to said flow path.

17. The ventilator circuit of claim 12 wherein said internal wall forms an acute angle relative to said flow path.

18. The ventilator circuit of claim 12 wherein said valve comprises an actuator having at least one side opening formed therein.

19. The ventilator circuit of claim 12 wherein said actuator comprises a plurality of arms defining a plurality of side openings therebetween.

20. The ventilator circuit of claim 12 wherein said actuator comprises a first engagement surface adapted to engage a first medicament delivery device and a second engagement surface adapted to engage a second medicament delivery device.

21. The ventilator circuit of claim 12 wherein said mouth comprises a first mouth, and wherein said interior wall further defines a second mouth communicating between said interior and said exterior passageway opposite said first mouth, and wherein said medicament delivery port comprises a first medicament delivery port, and further comprising a second medicament delivery port opening into said second mouth, and wherein said valve comprises a first valve, and further comprising a second valve moveable between a closed position wherein said valve closes said second medicament delivery port and an open position wherein said second medicament delivery port is open.

22. The ventilator circuit of claim 12 wherein said second valve is in a closed position when said first valve is in an open position, and wherein said first valve is in a closed position when said second valve is in an open position.

23. The ventilator circuit of claim 12 further comprising a medicament delivery device communicating with said medicament delivery port.

24. The ventilator circuit of claim 23 further comprising a collar connecting the medicament delivery device with said medicament delivery port.

25. The ventilator circuit of claim 24 wherein said medicament delivery device comprises a metered dose inhaler.

26. A method of delivering a medicament comprising:
introducing a gas to an inlet port of an adapter along a flow path;

circulating said gas around an exterior passageway defined by an exterior surface of an interior wall, wherein said interior wall is positioned substantially transverse to at least a portion of said flow path of said inlet port;

5 passing said gas through a mouth of said interior wall into an interior passageway defined by an inner surface of said inner wall;

introducing a medicament through a medicament delivery port opening into at least one of said exterior passageway and said interior passageway and thereby entraining said medicament with said gas; and

10 delivering said medicament to a user through an outlet port of said adapter communicating with said interior passageway.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein said exterior passageway extends around an entire periphery of said internal wall.

15 28. The method of claim 27 wherein said exterior passageway extends 360 degrees around said internal wall.

29. The method of claim 26 further comprising removing a medicament delivery device from said medicament delivery port opening and closing said
20 medicament delivery port opening with a valve.

30. The method of claim 26 wherein said internal wall extends orthogonal to said flow path.

25 31. The method of claim 26 wherein said internal wall forms an acute angle relative to said flow path.

32. The method of claim 29 wherein said valve comprises an actuator having at least one side opening formed therein, wherein said actuator is engaged
30 by said medicament delivery device.

33. The method of claim 32 wherein said actuator comprises a plurality of arms defining a plurality of side openings therebetween.

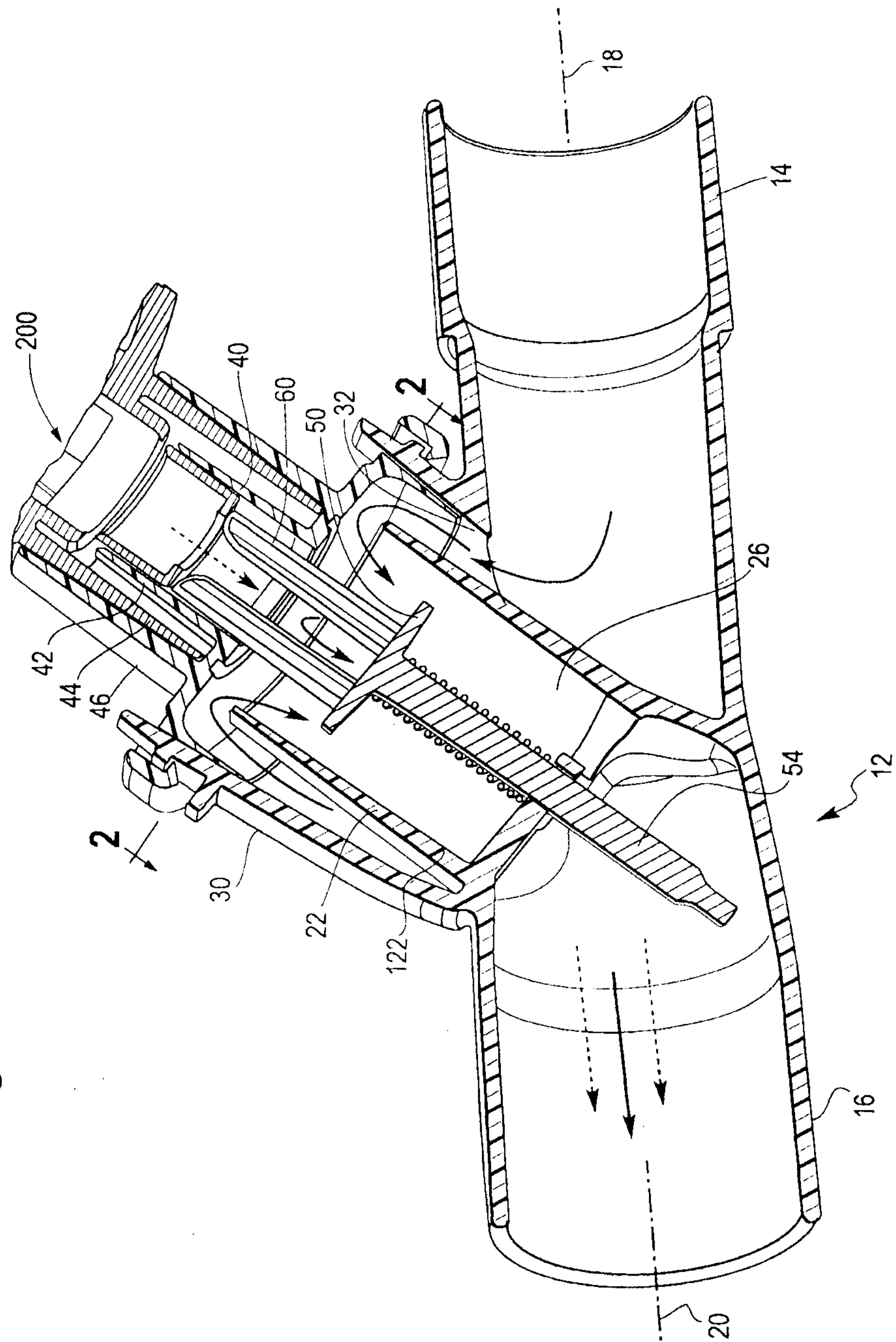
34. The method of claim 26 wherein said actuator comprises a first engagement surface adapted to engage a first medicament delivery device and a second engagement surface adapted to engage a second medicament delivery device.

35. The method of claim 26 wherein said mouth comprises a first mouth, and wherein said interior wall further defines a second mouth communicating between said interior and said exterior passageway opposite said first mouth, and wherein said medicament delivery port comprises a first medicament delivery port, and further comprising a second medicament delivery port opening into said second mouth, and wherein said valve comprises a first valve, and further comprising a second valve moveable between a closed position wherein said valve closes said second medicament delivery port and an open position wherein said second medicament delivery port is open.

36. The method of claim 26 wherein said second valve is in a closed position when said first valve is in an open position, and wherein said first valve is in a closed position when said second valve is in an open position.

37. The method of claim 32 further comprising connecting said medicament delivery device to said medicament delivery port with a collar and thereby opening said valve by engaging said actuator with said medicament delivery device.

Fig. 1



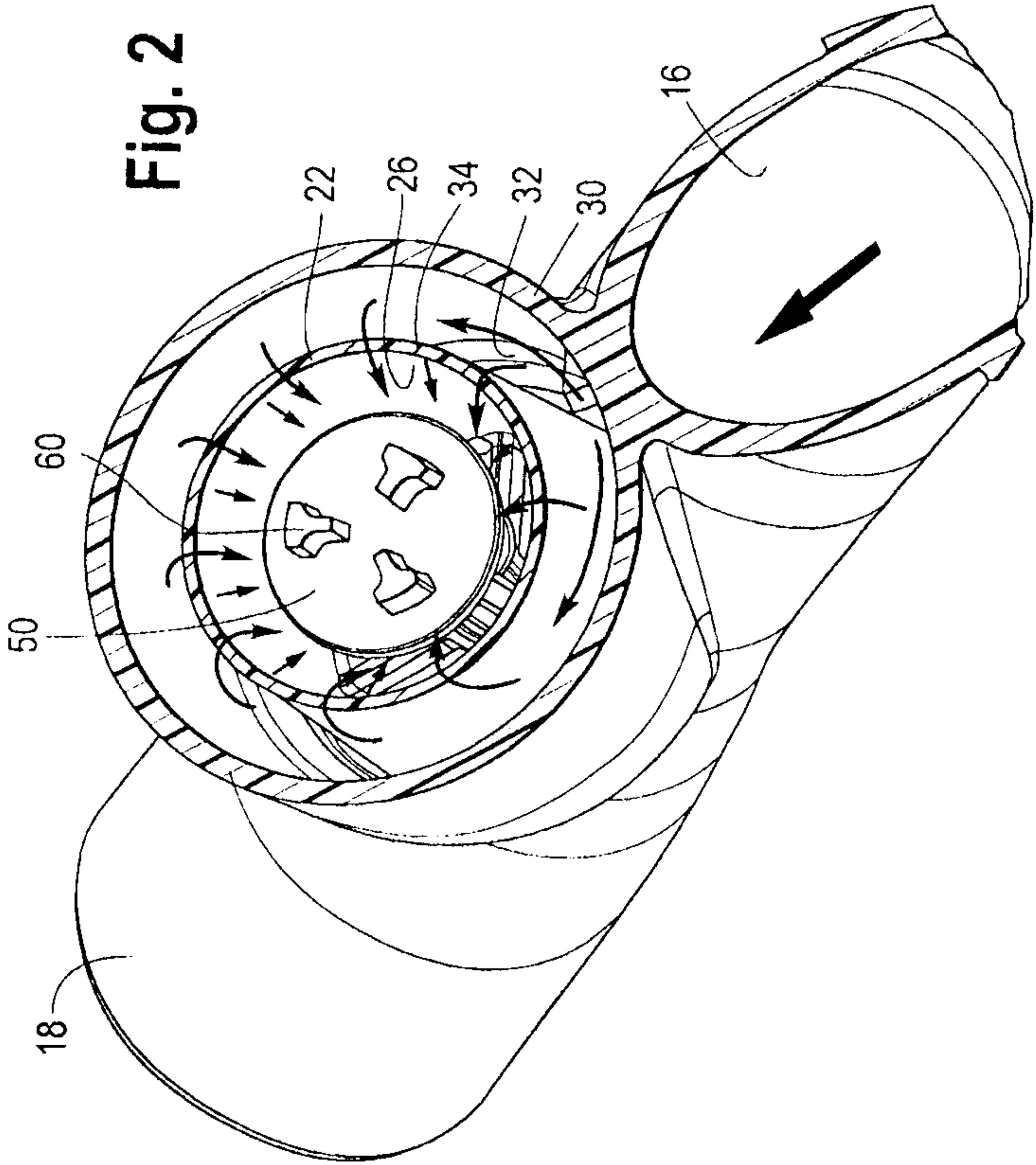
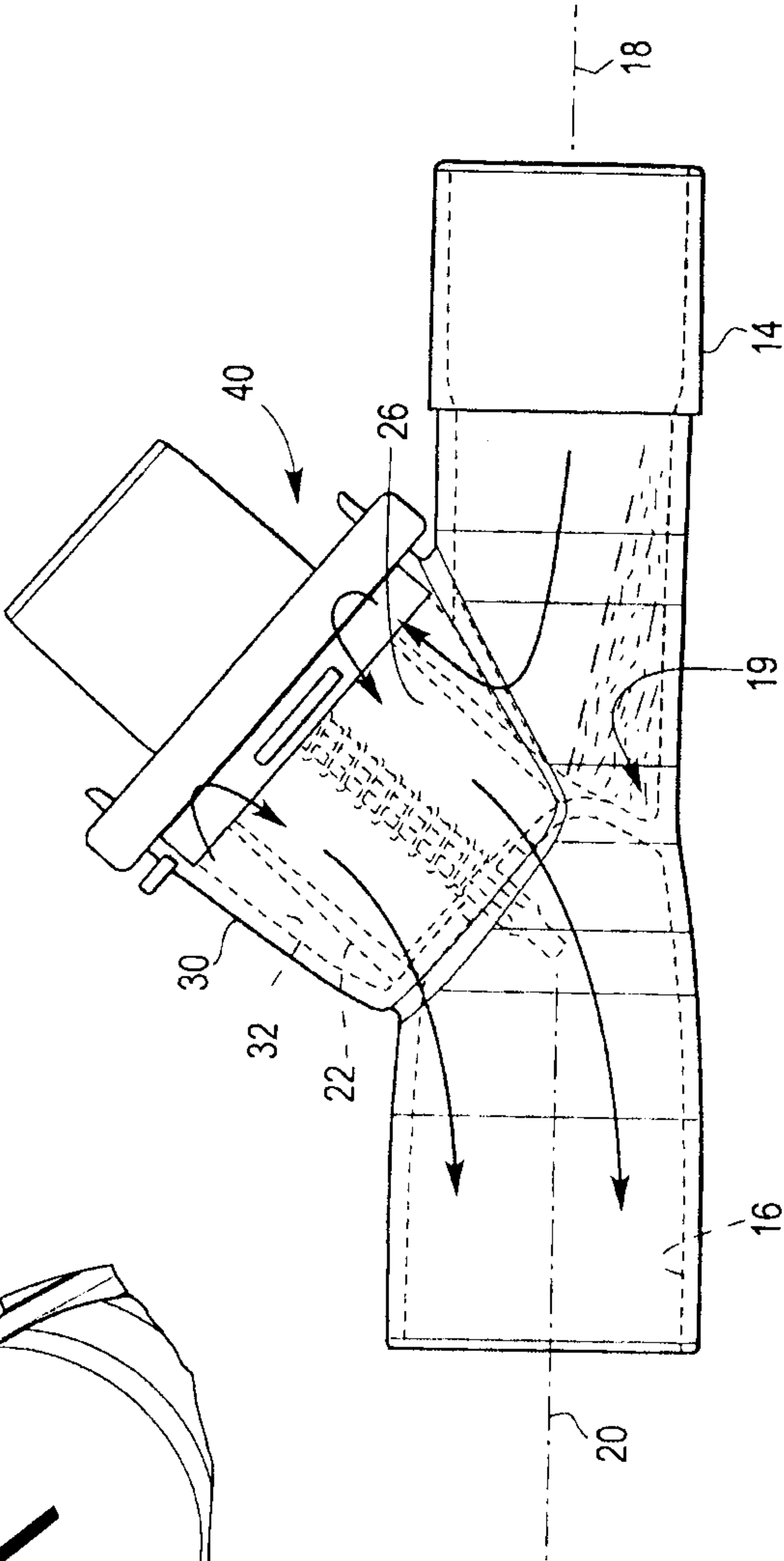
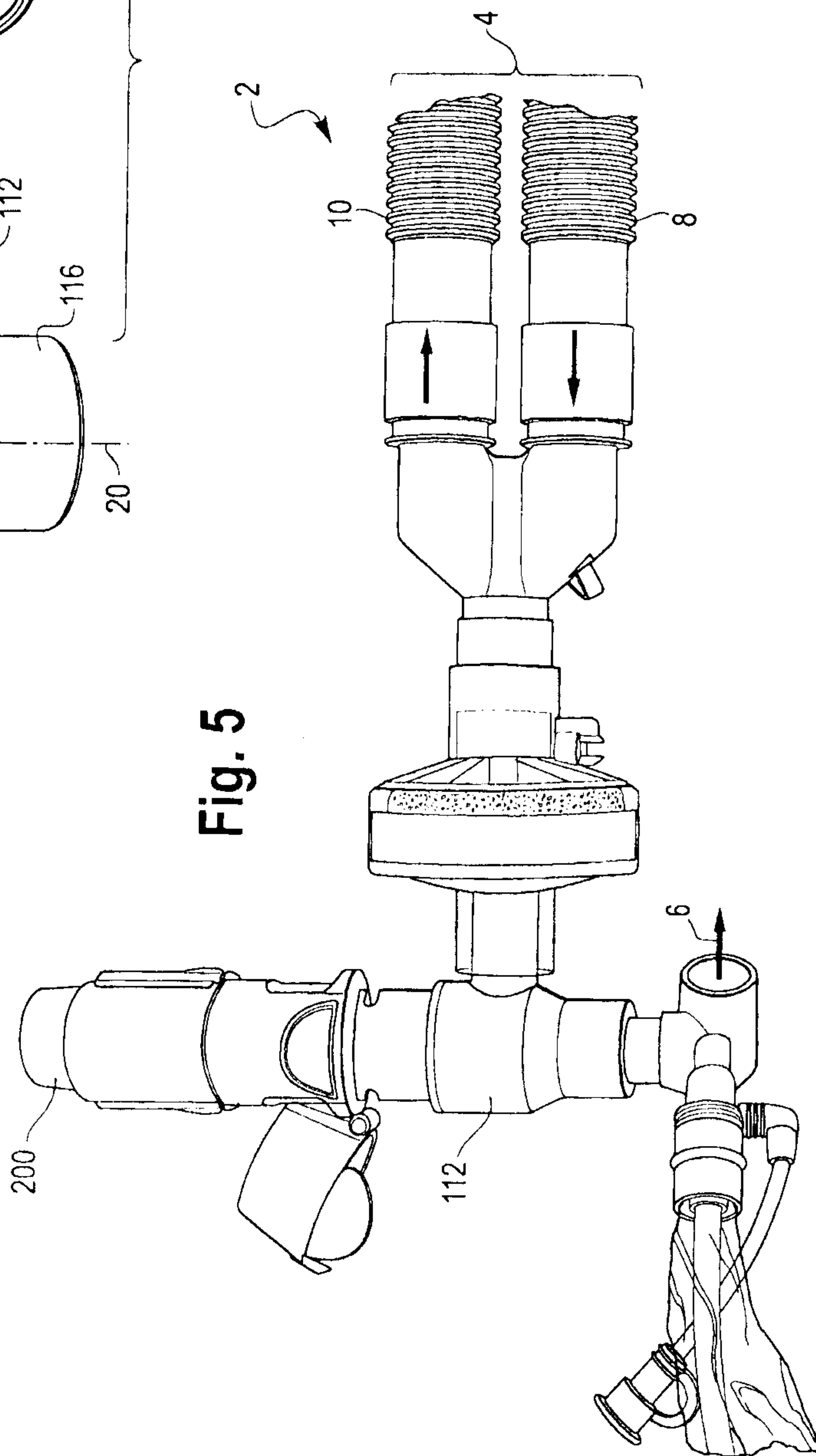
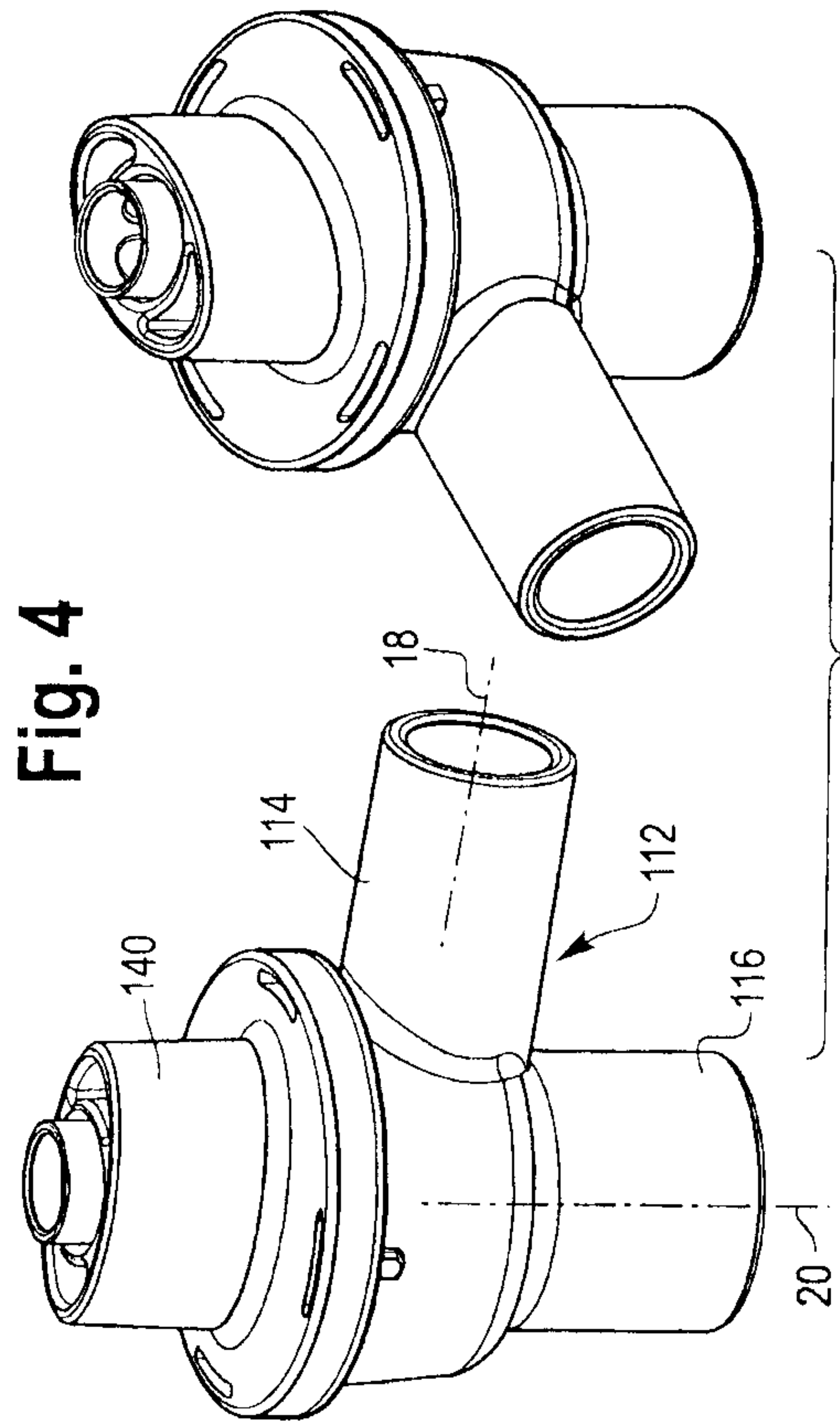
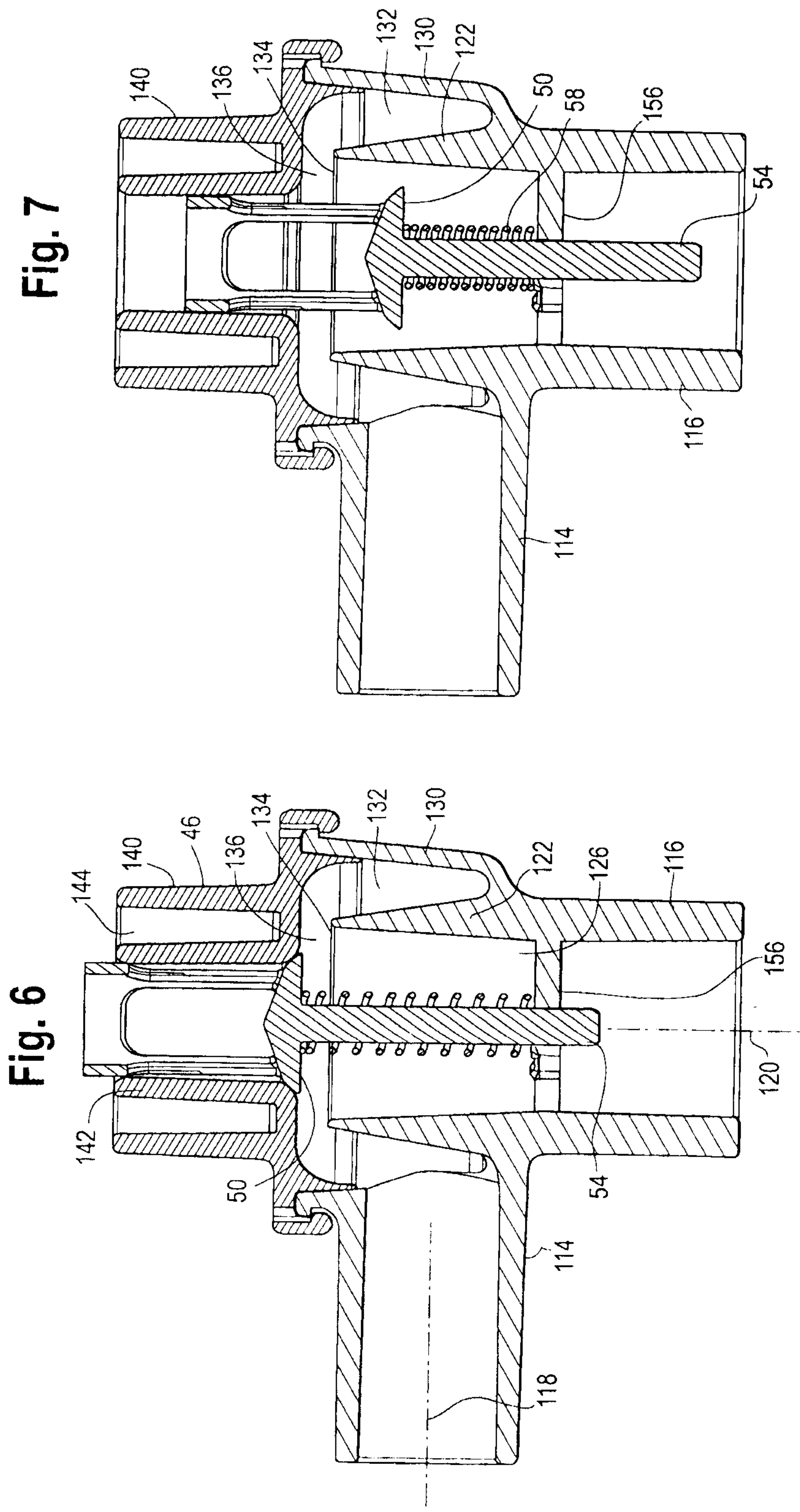


Fig. 3







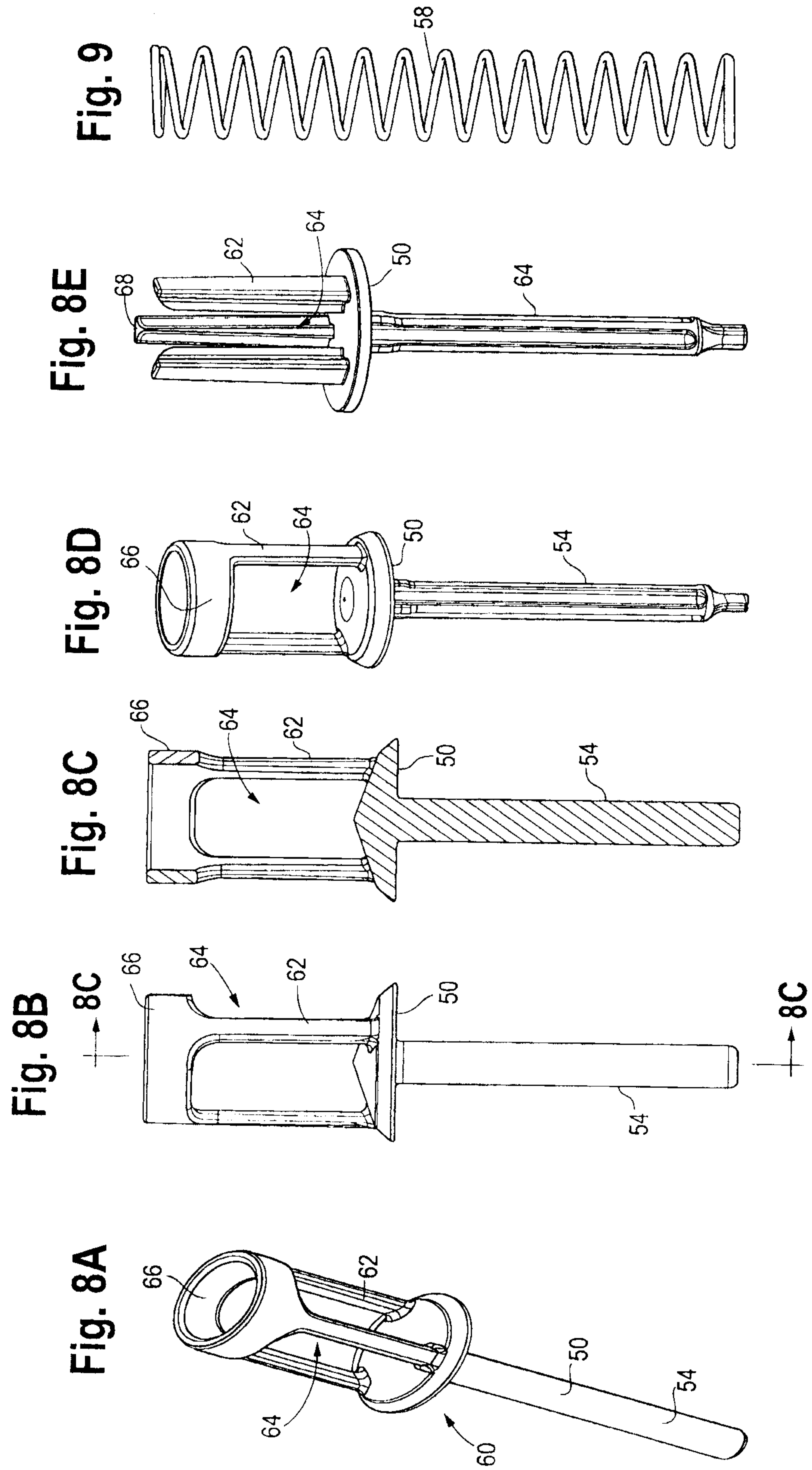


Fig. 11

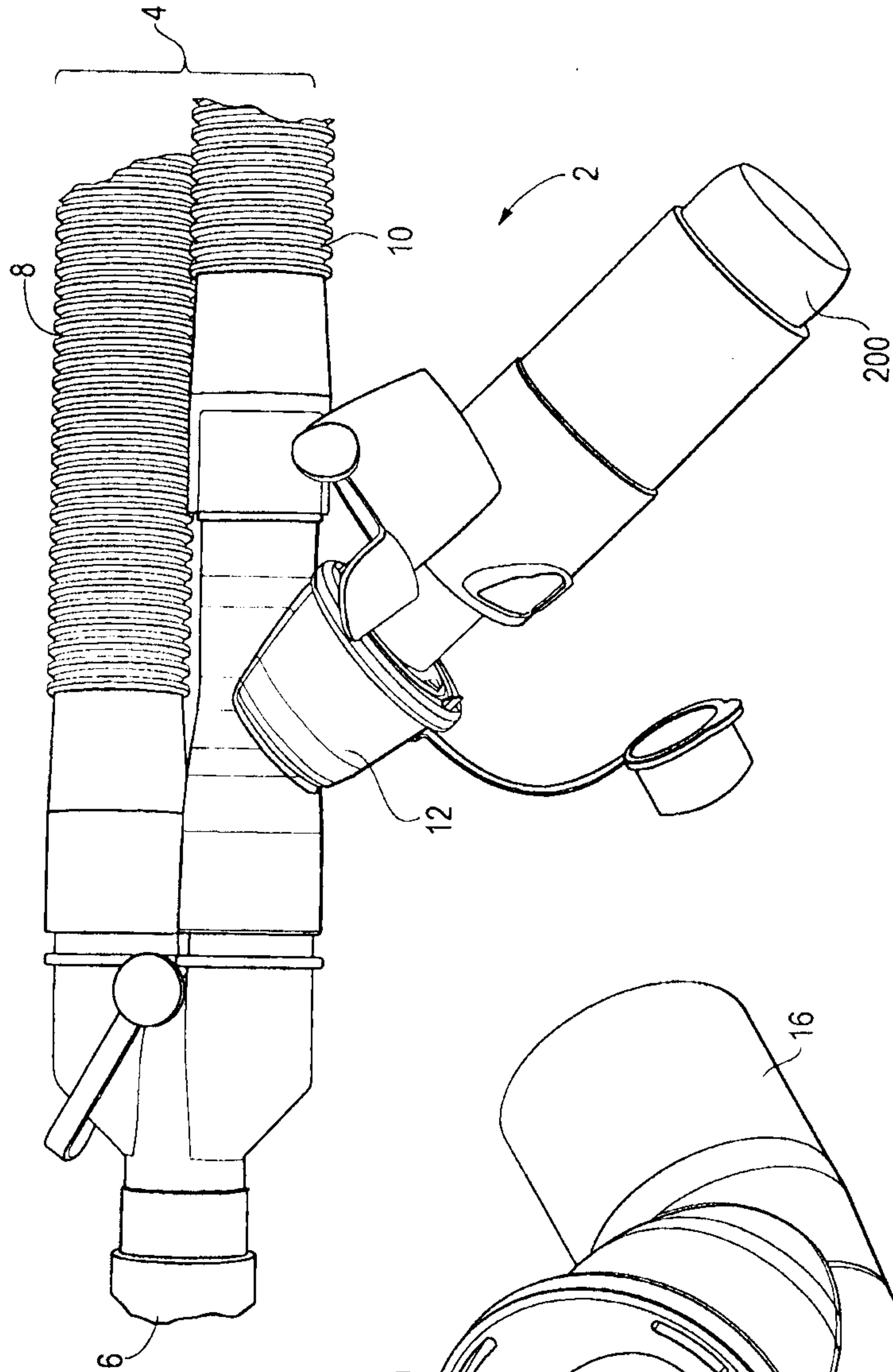


Fig. 10

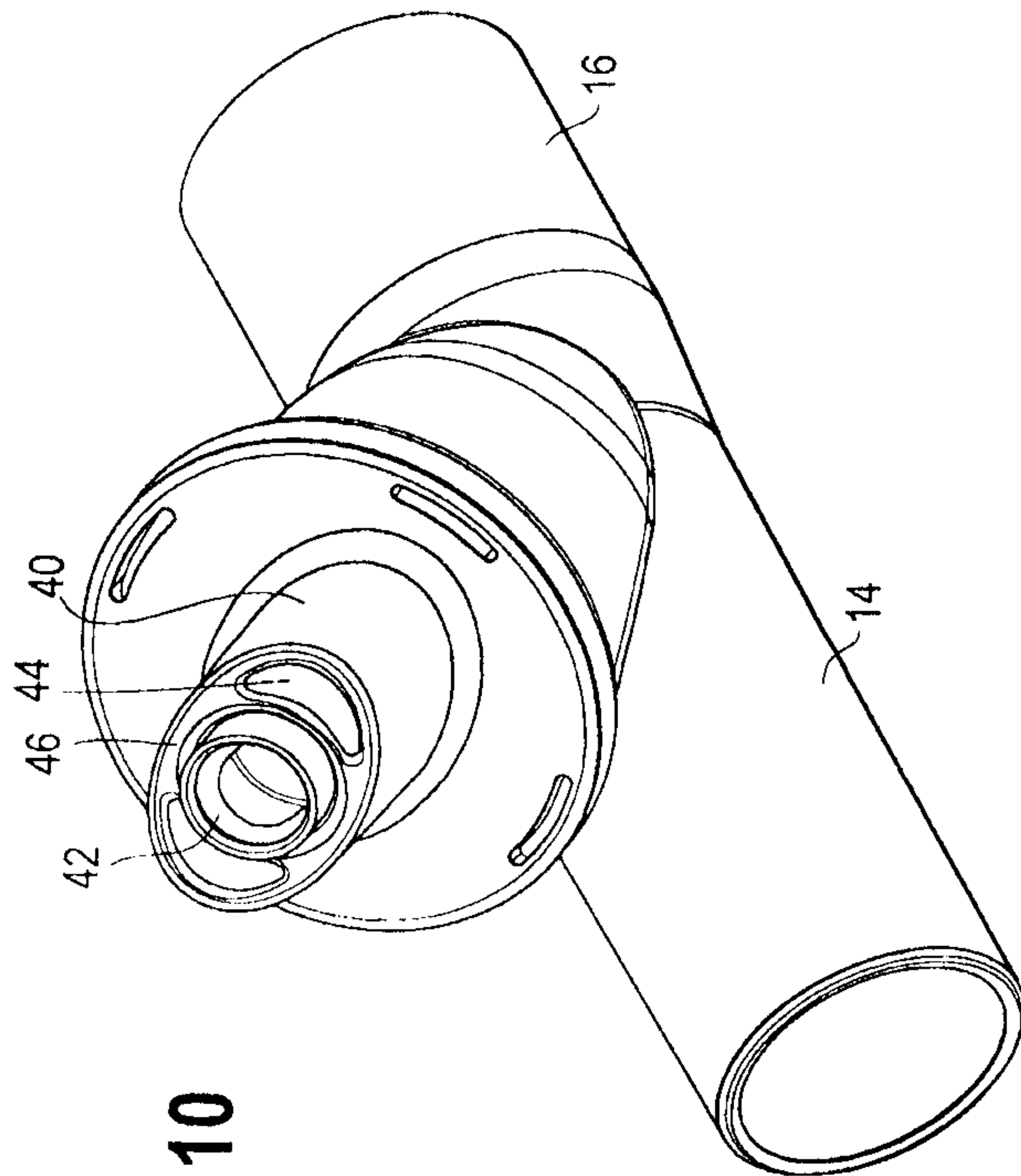


Fig. 12B

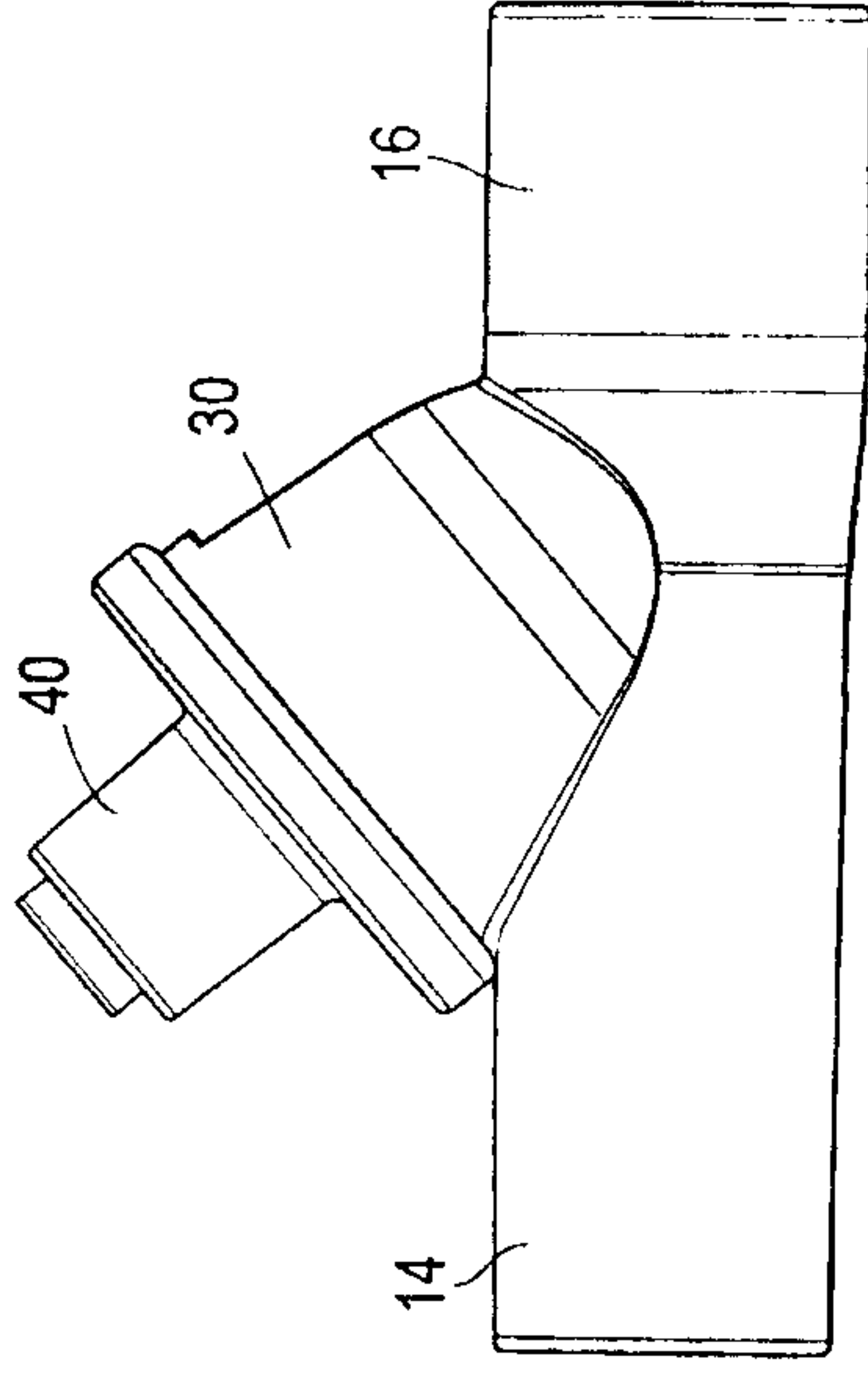


Fig. 12A

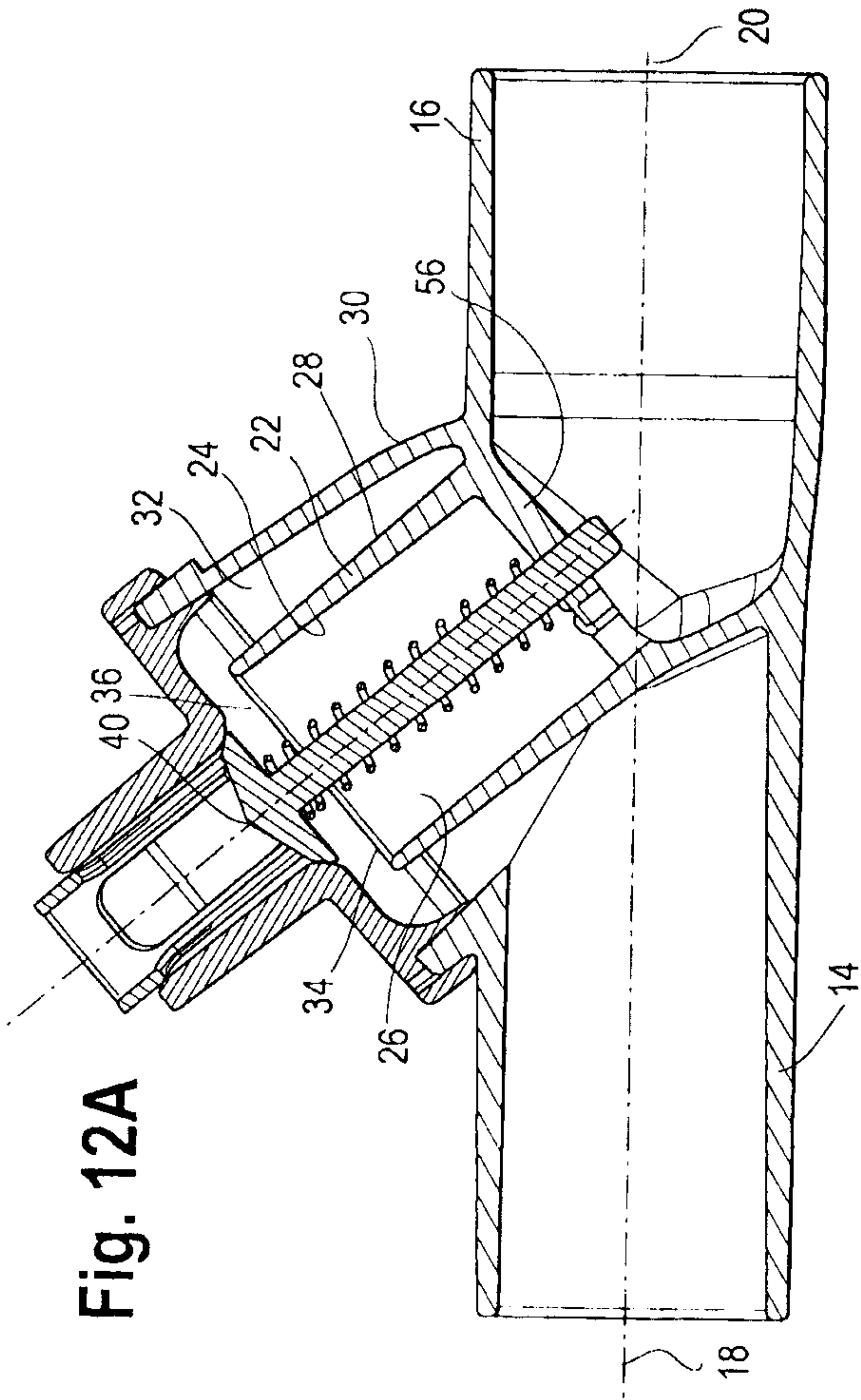


Fig. 12E

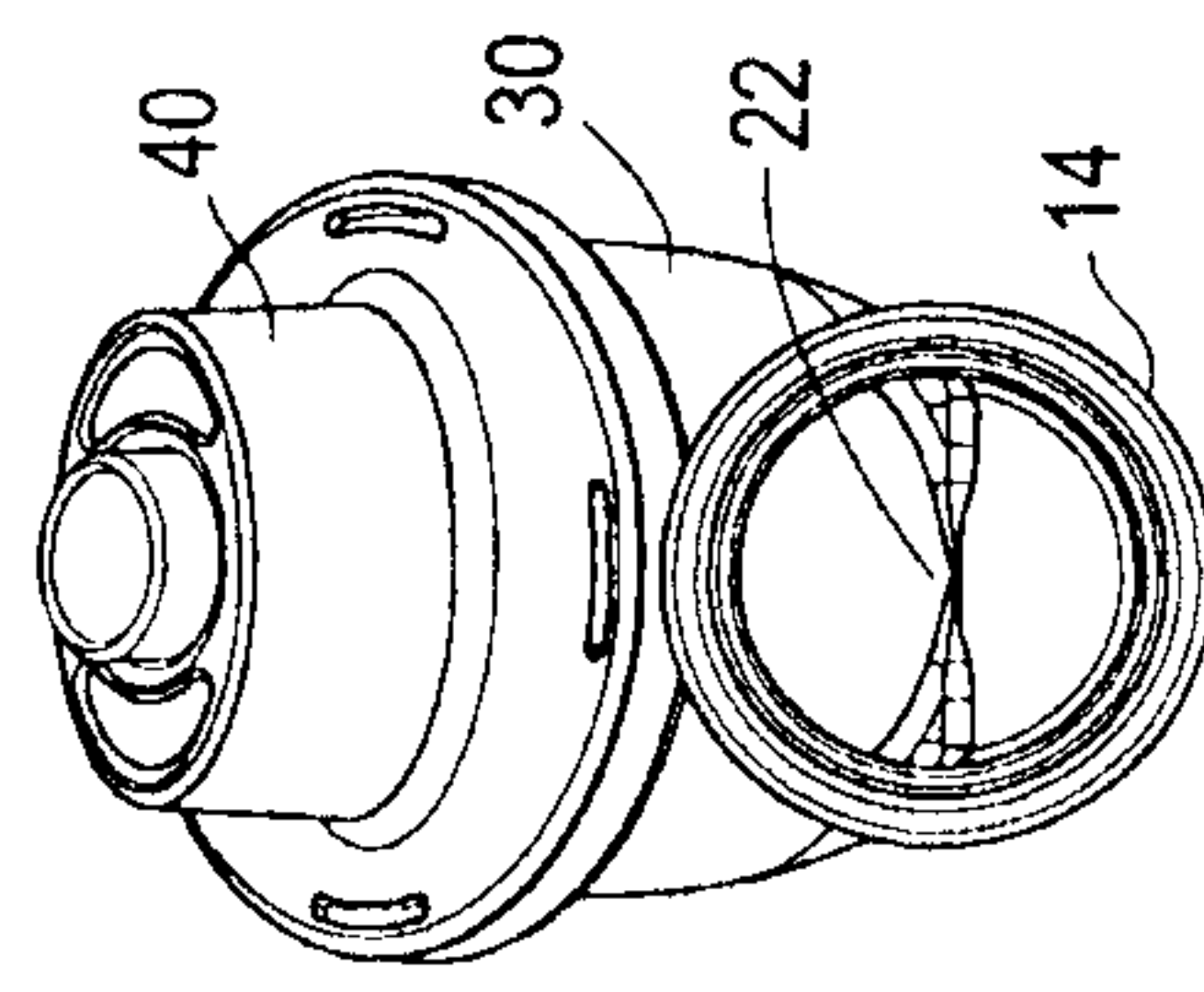


Fig. 12C

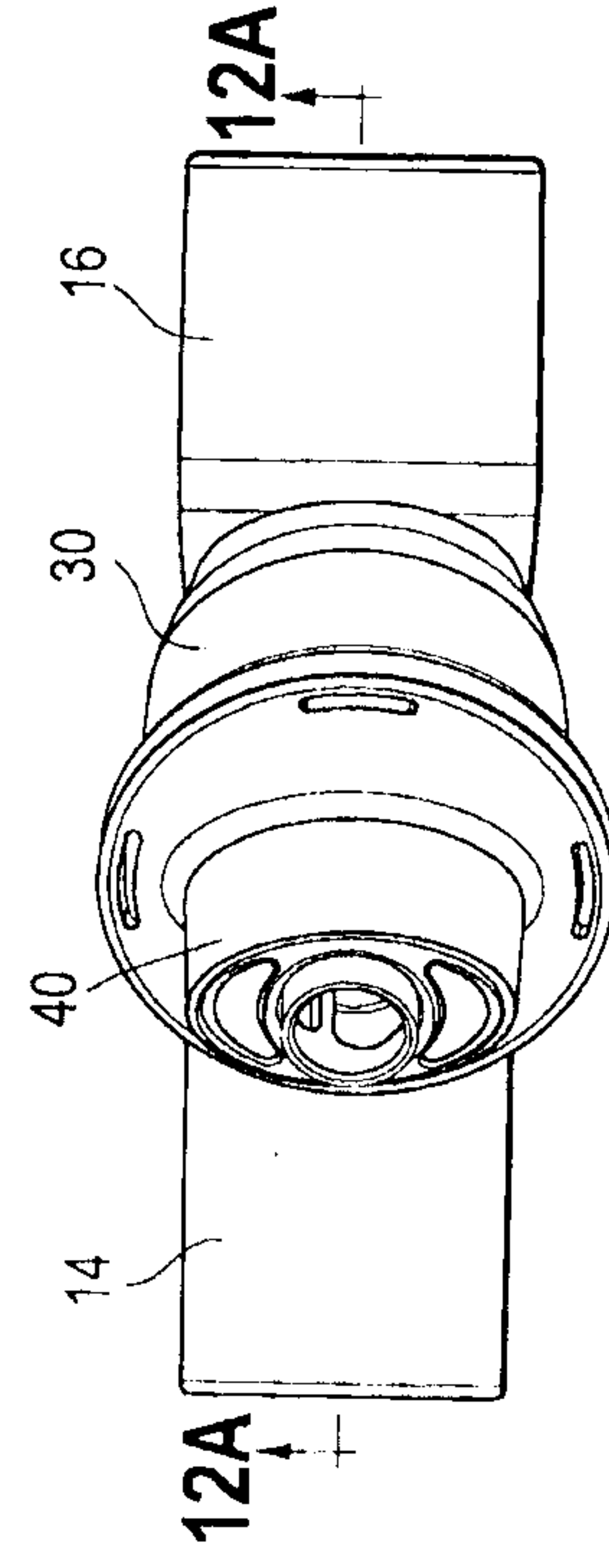
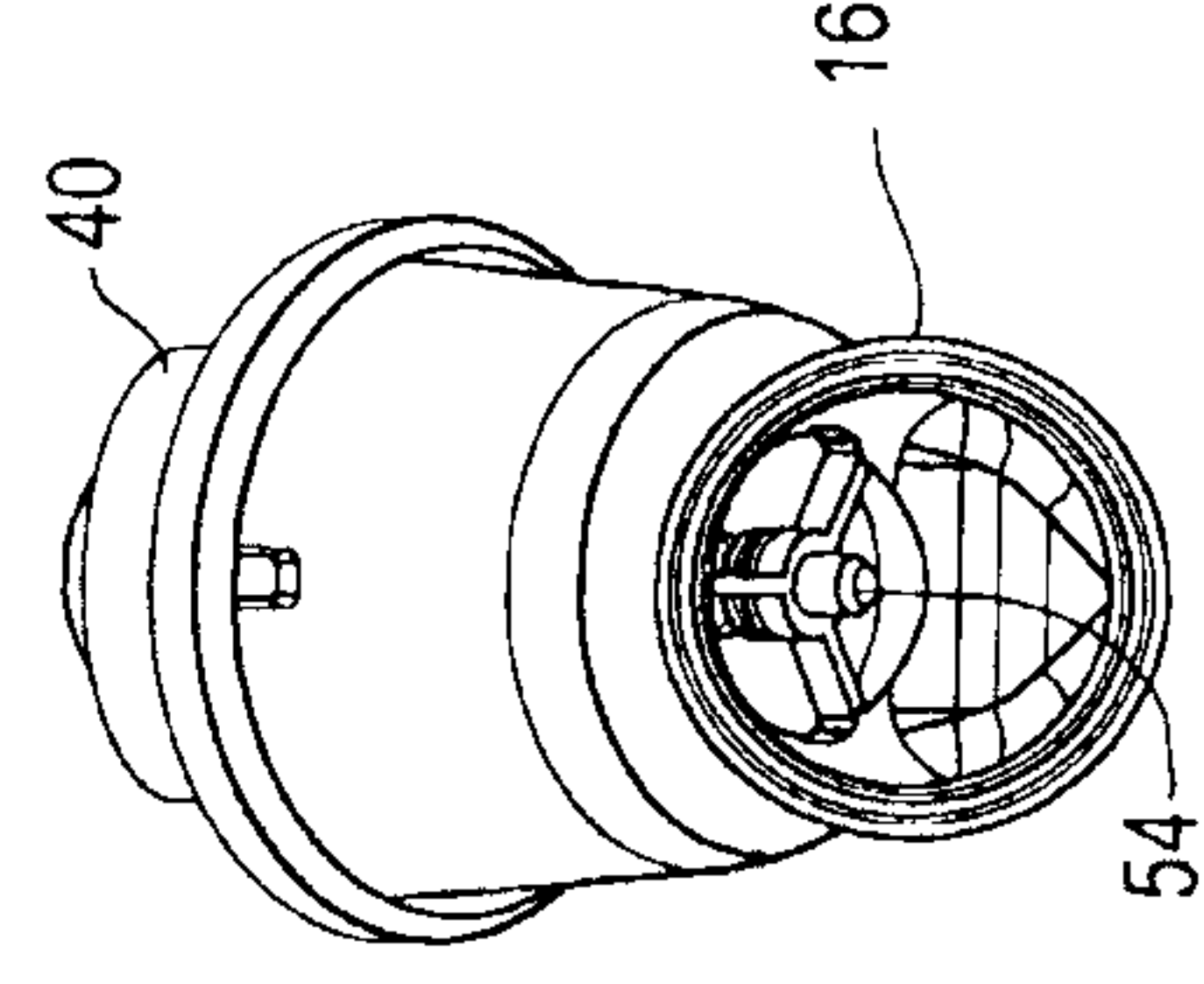


Fig. 12D



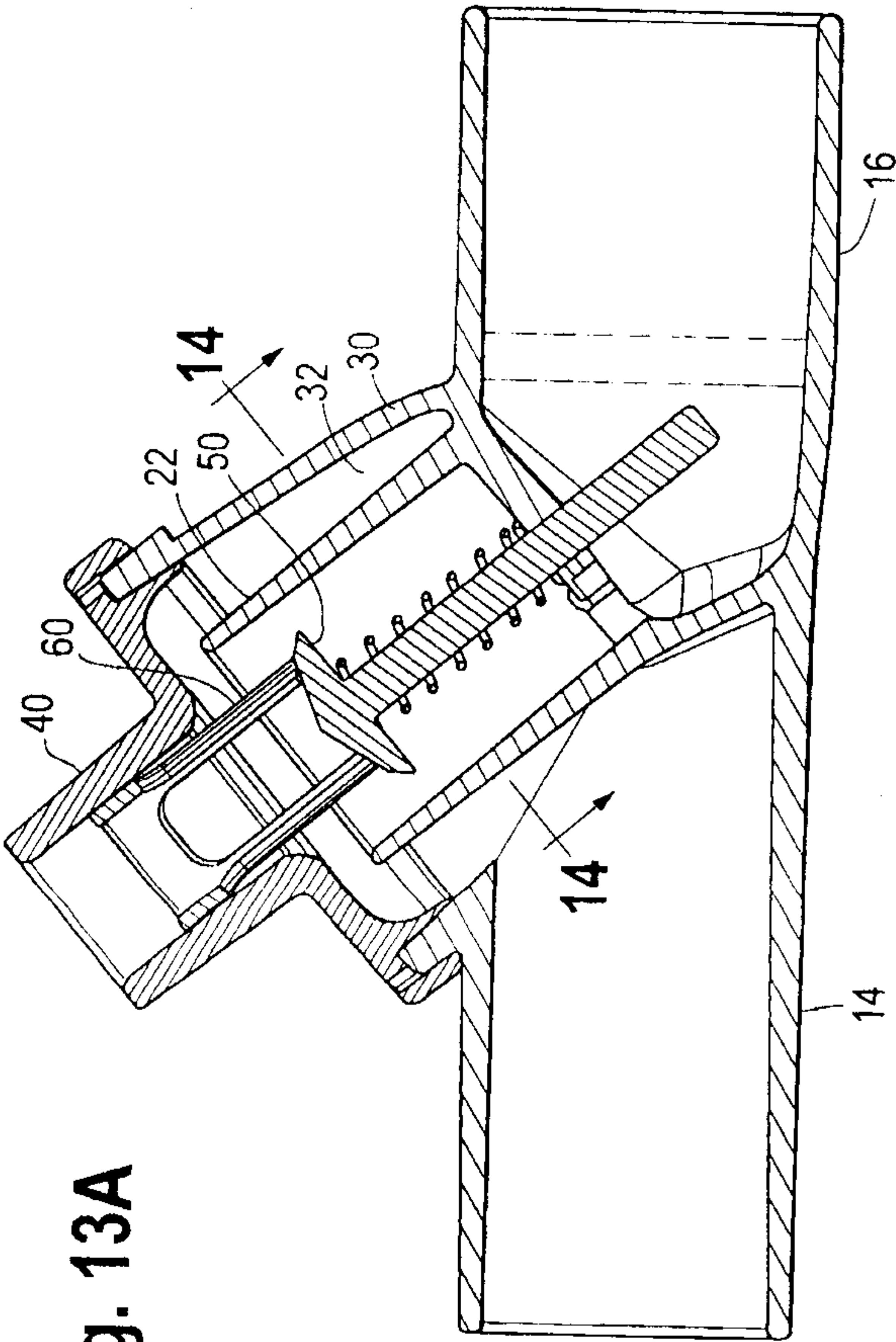


Fig. 13A

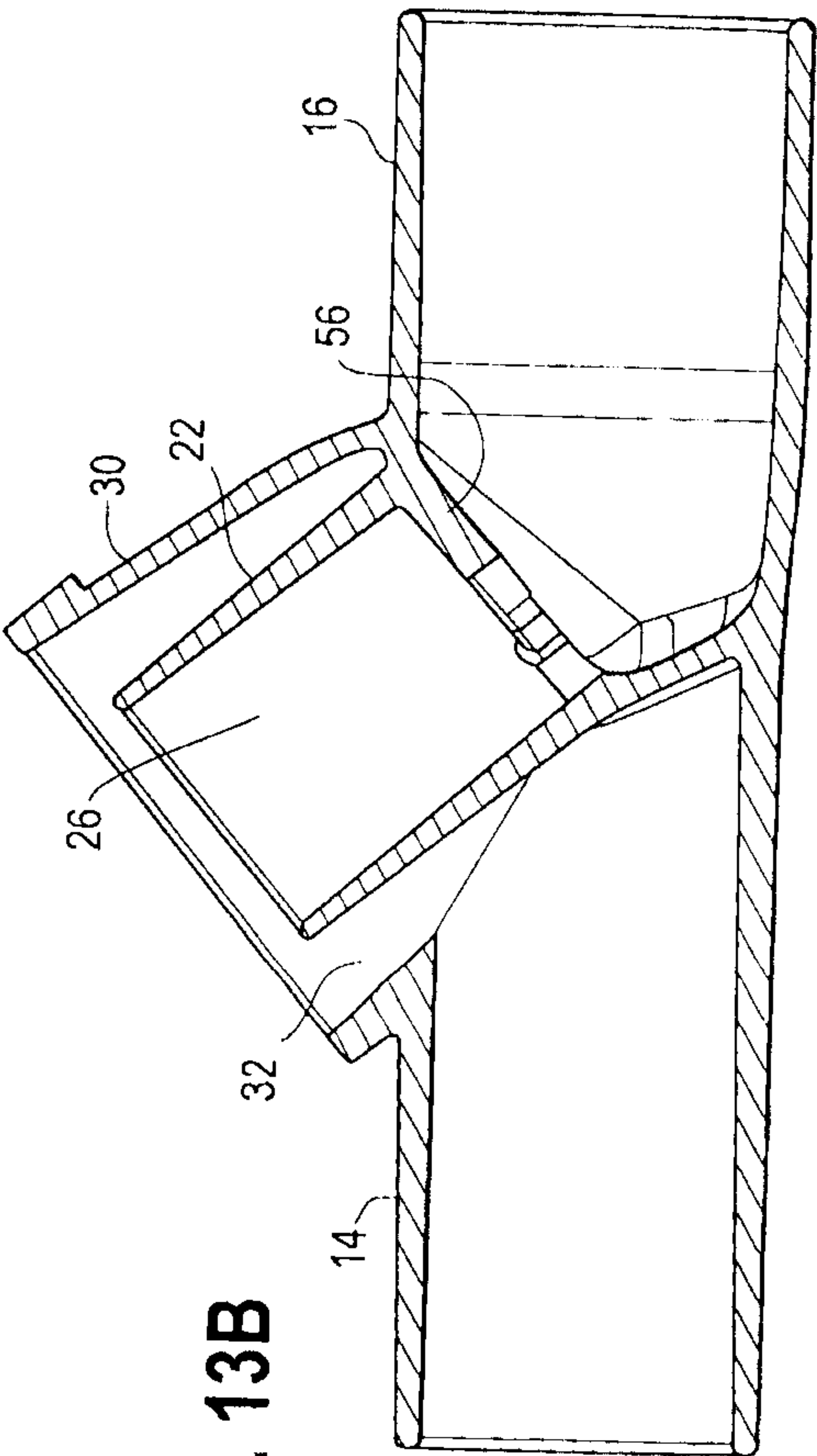
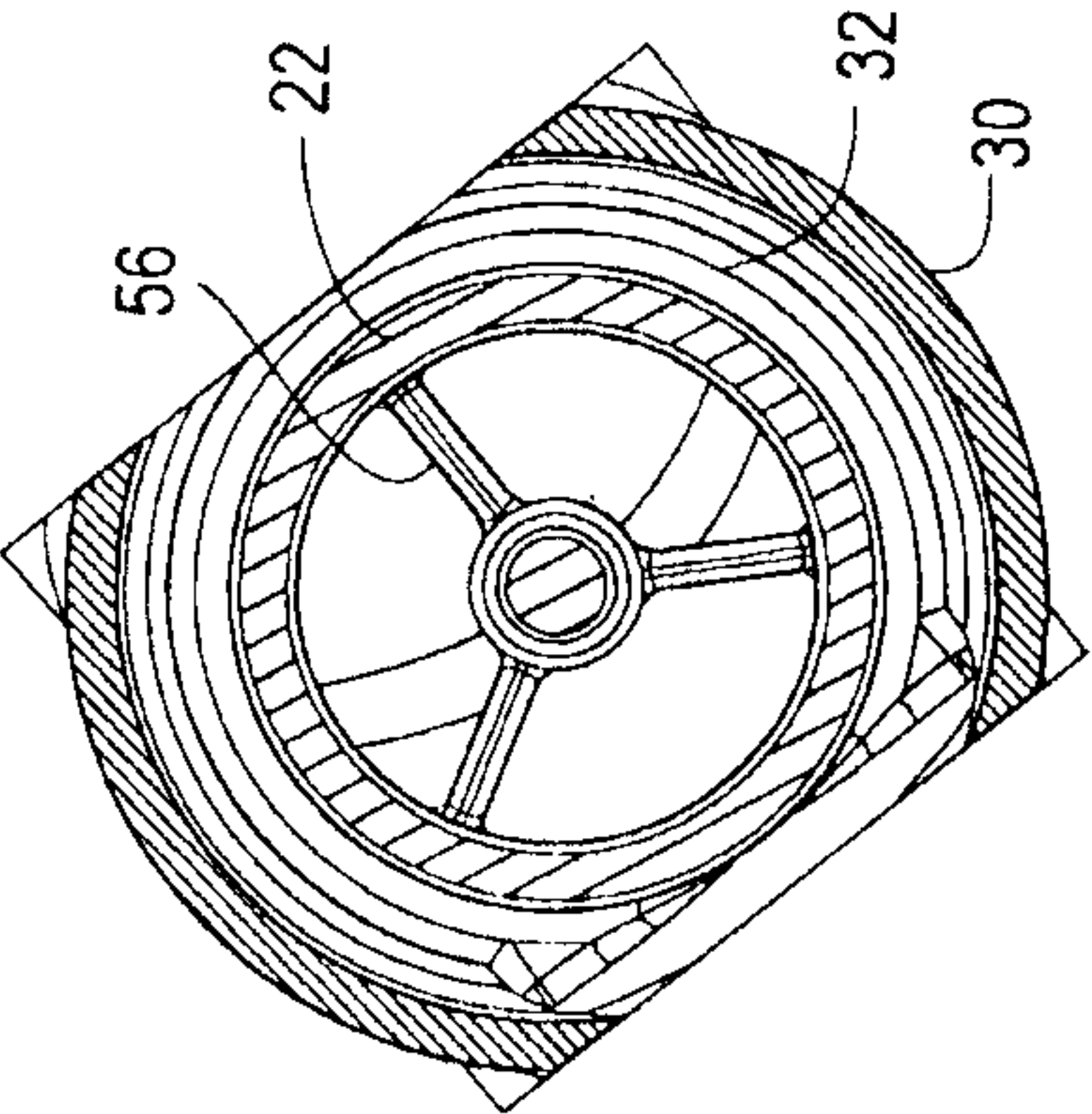


Fig. 13B

Fig. 14



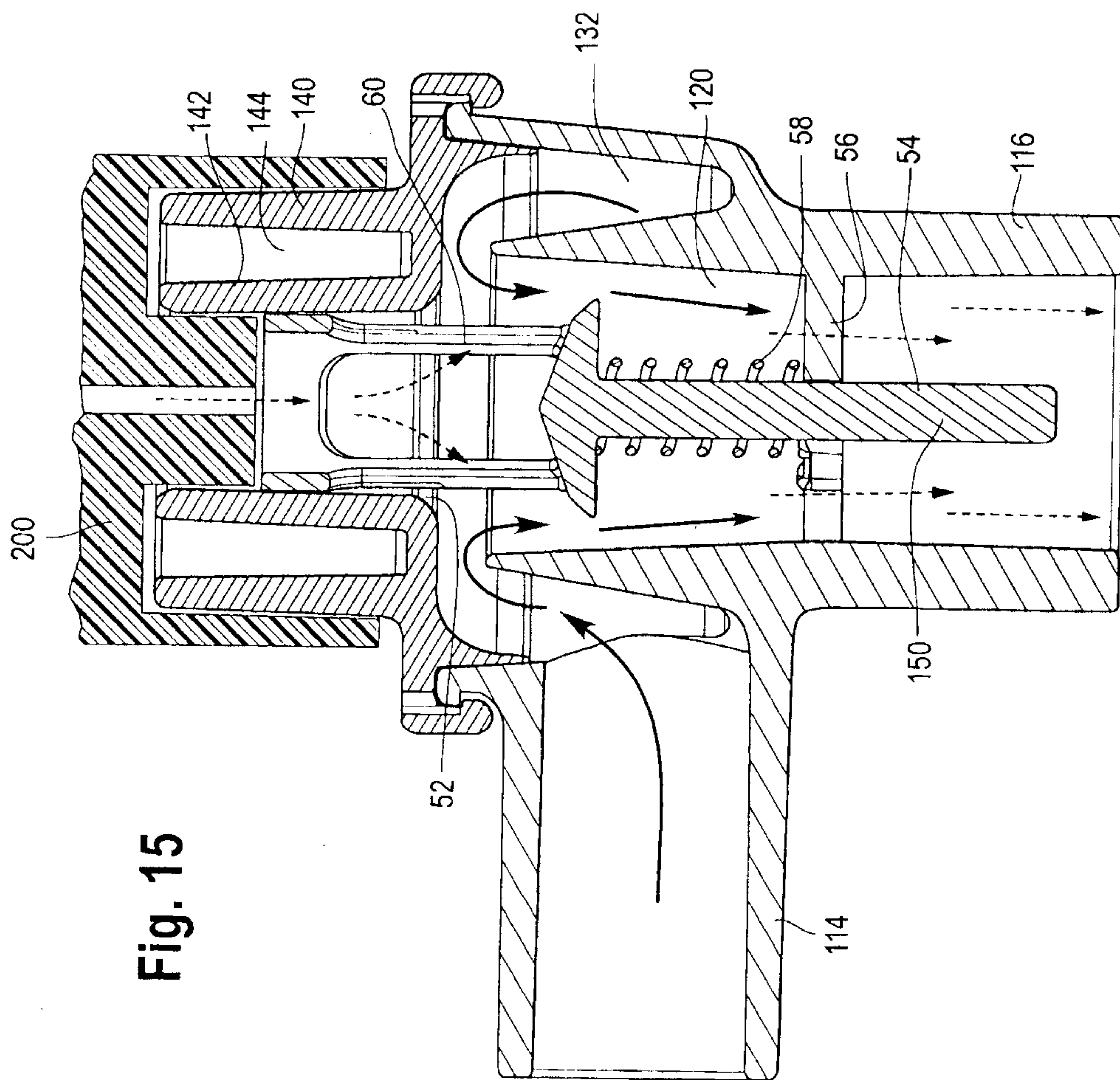
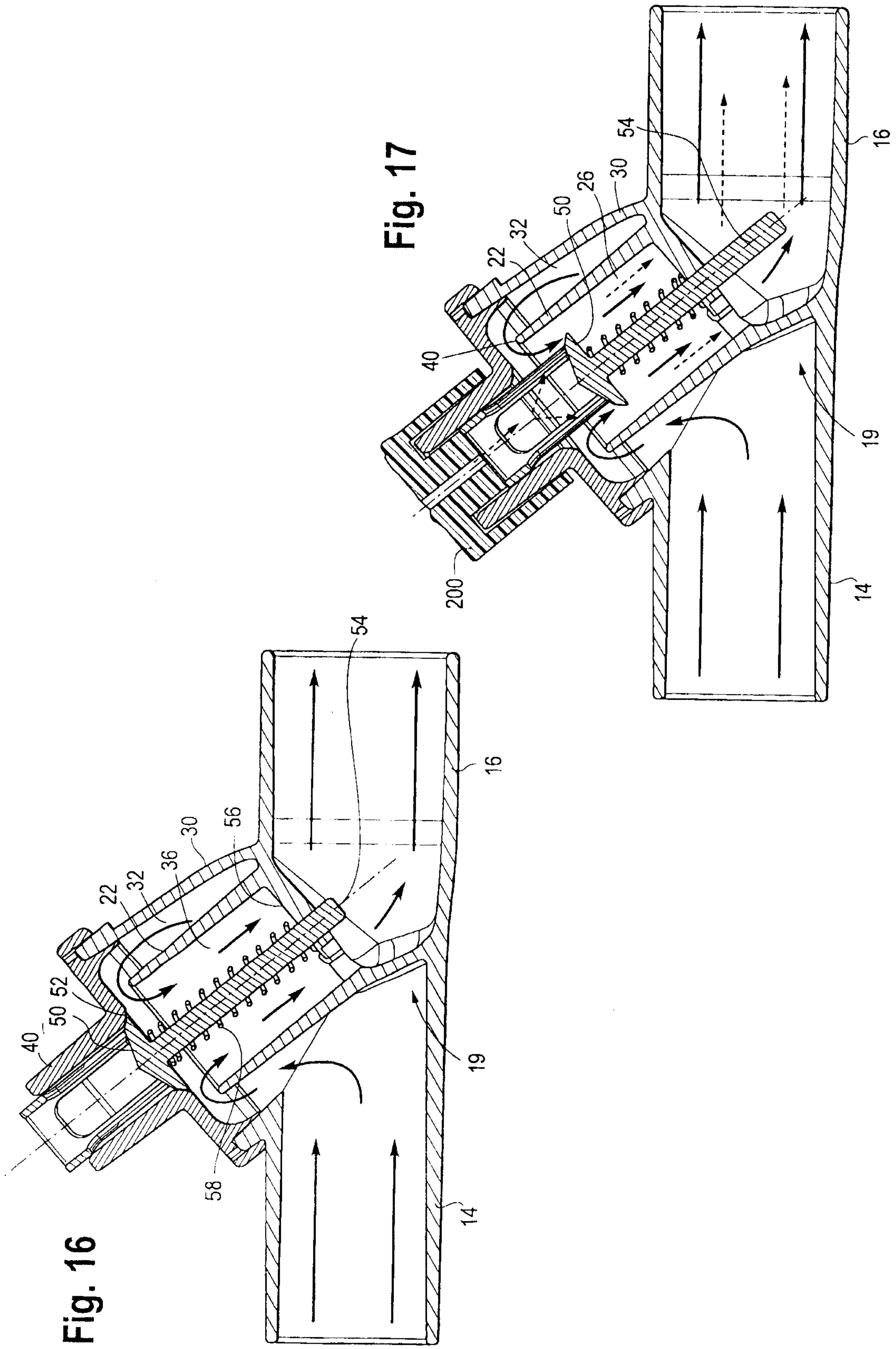


Fig. 15



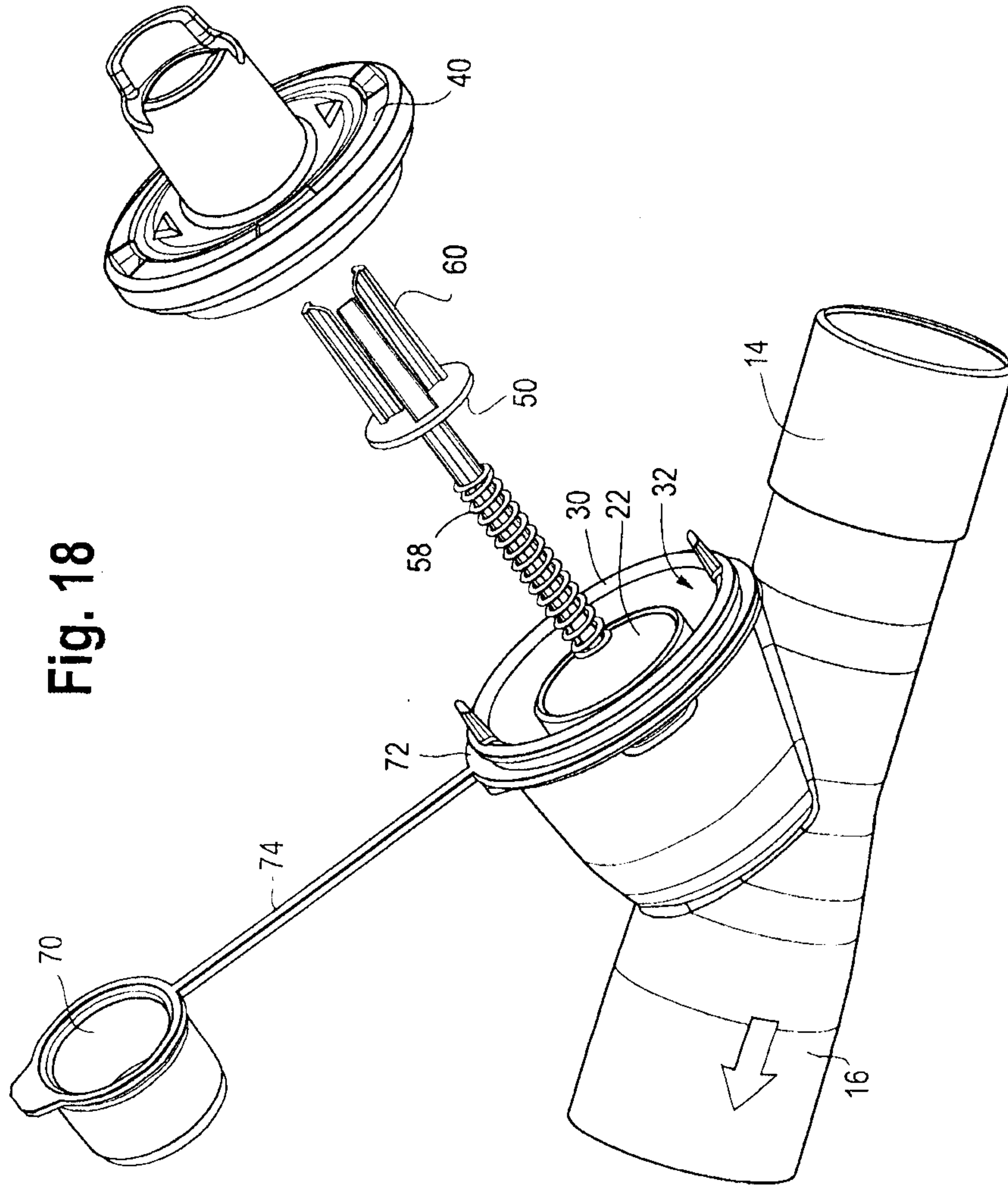


Fig. 19B

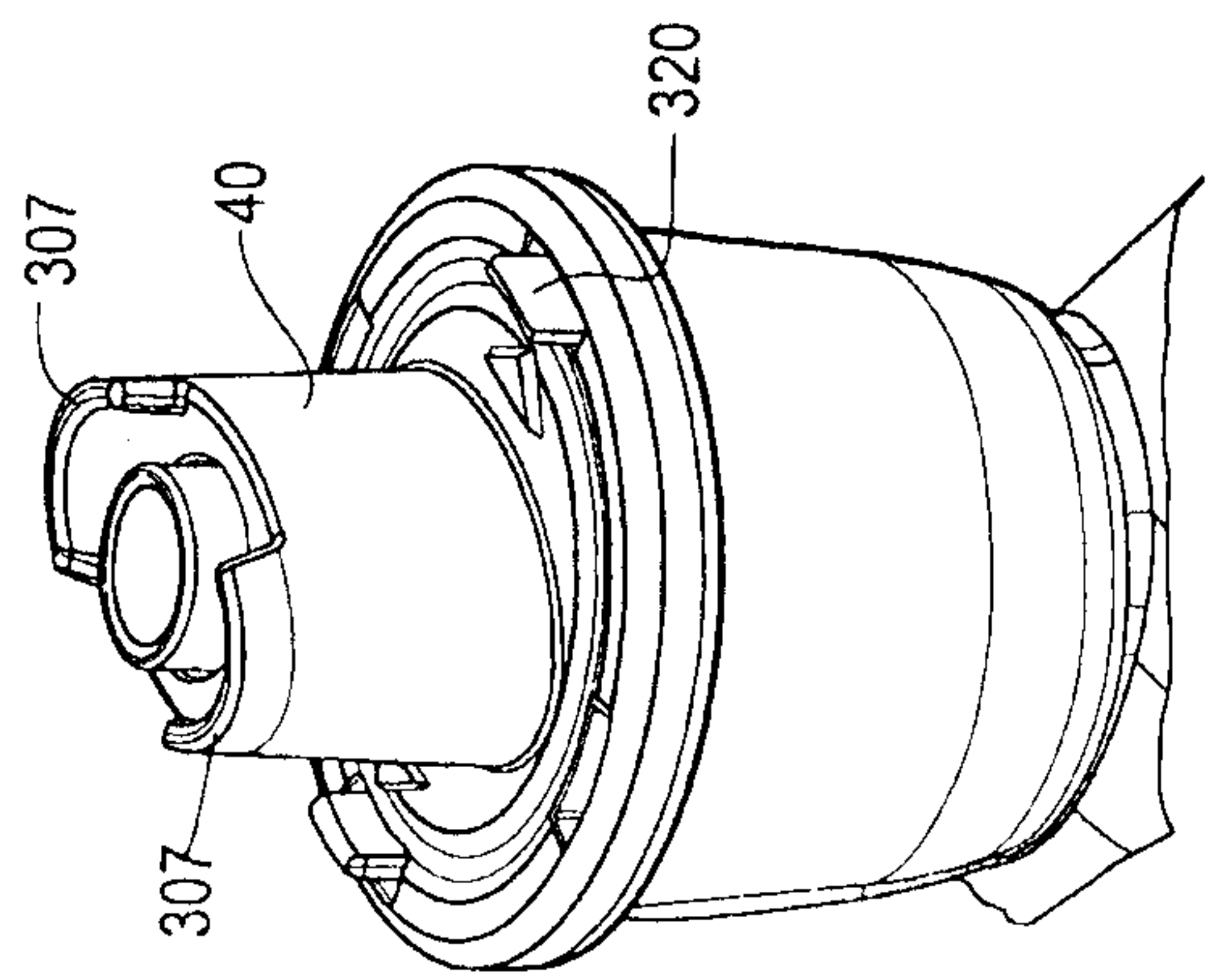


Fig. 19C

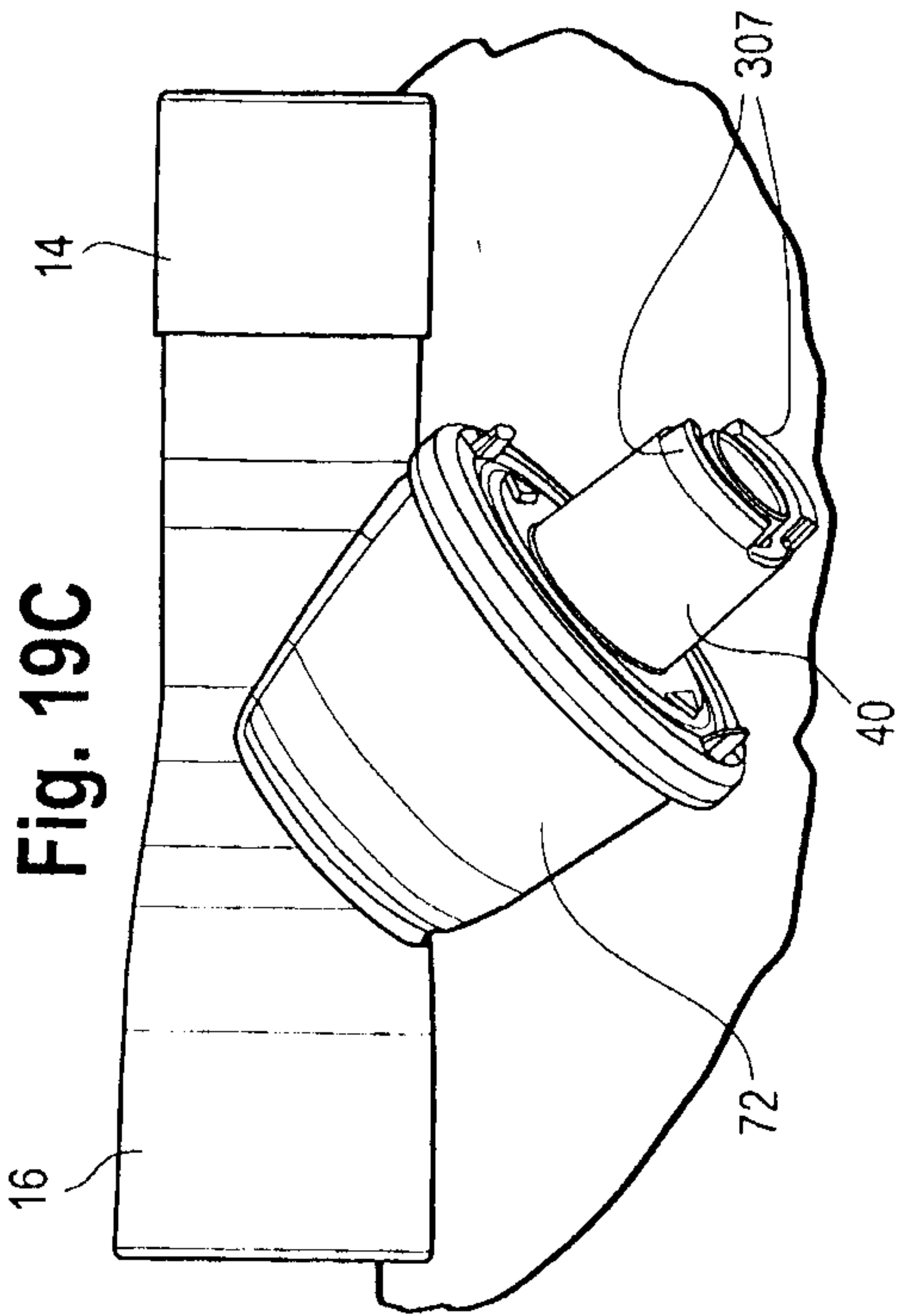
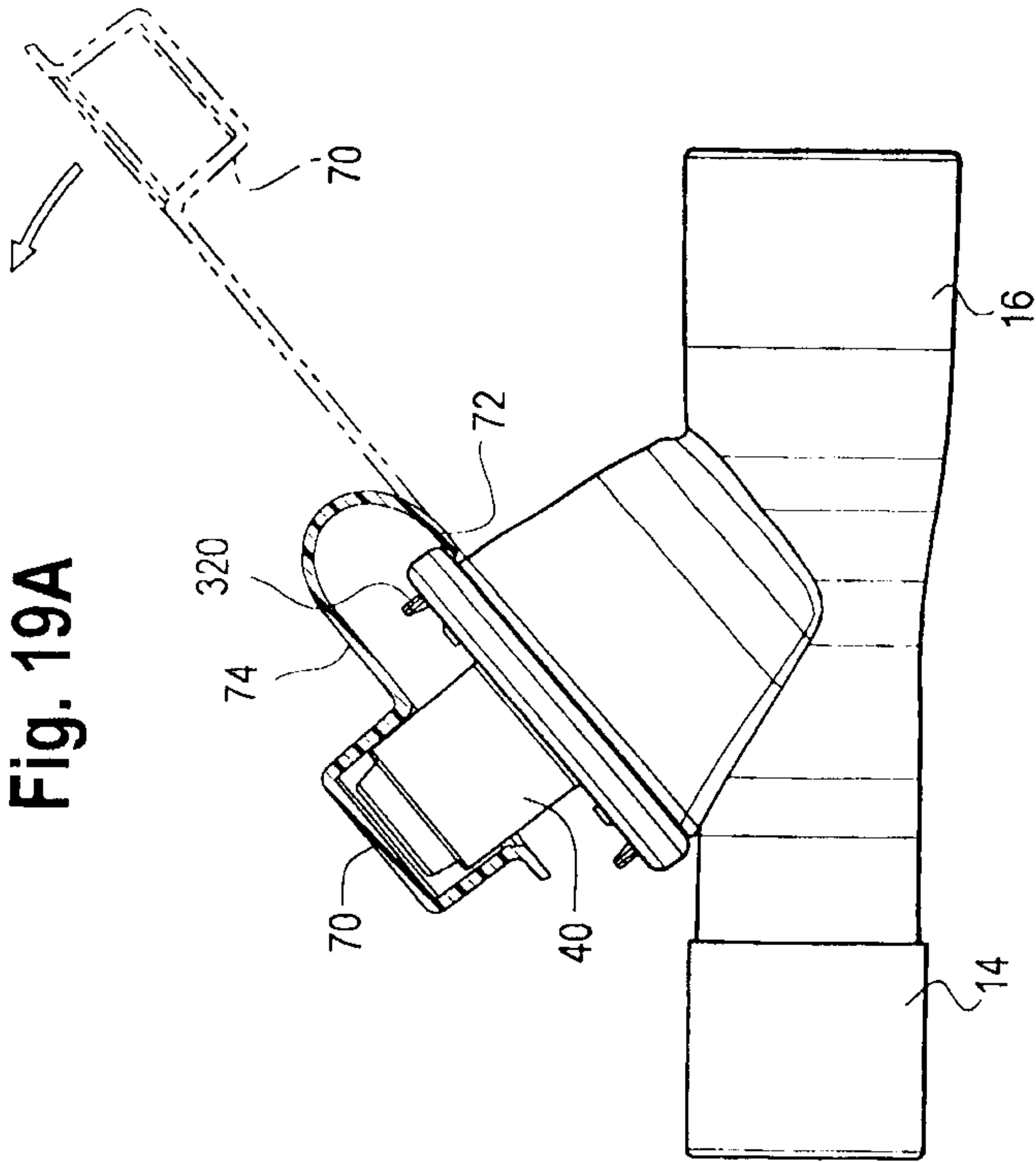


Fig. 19A



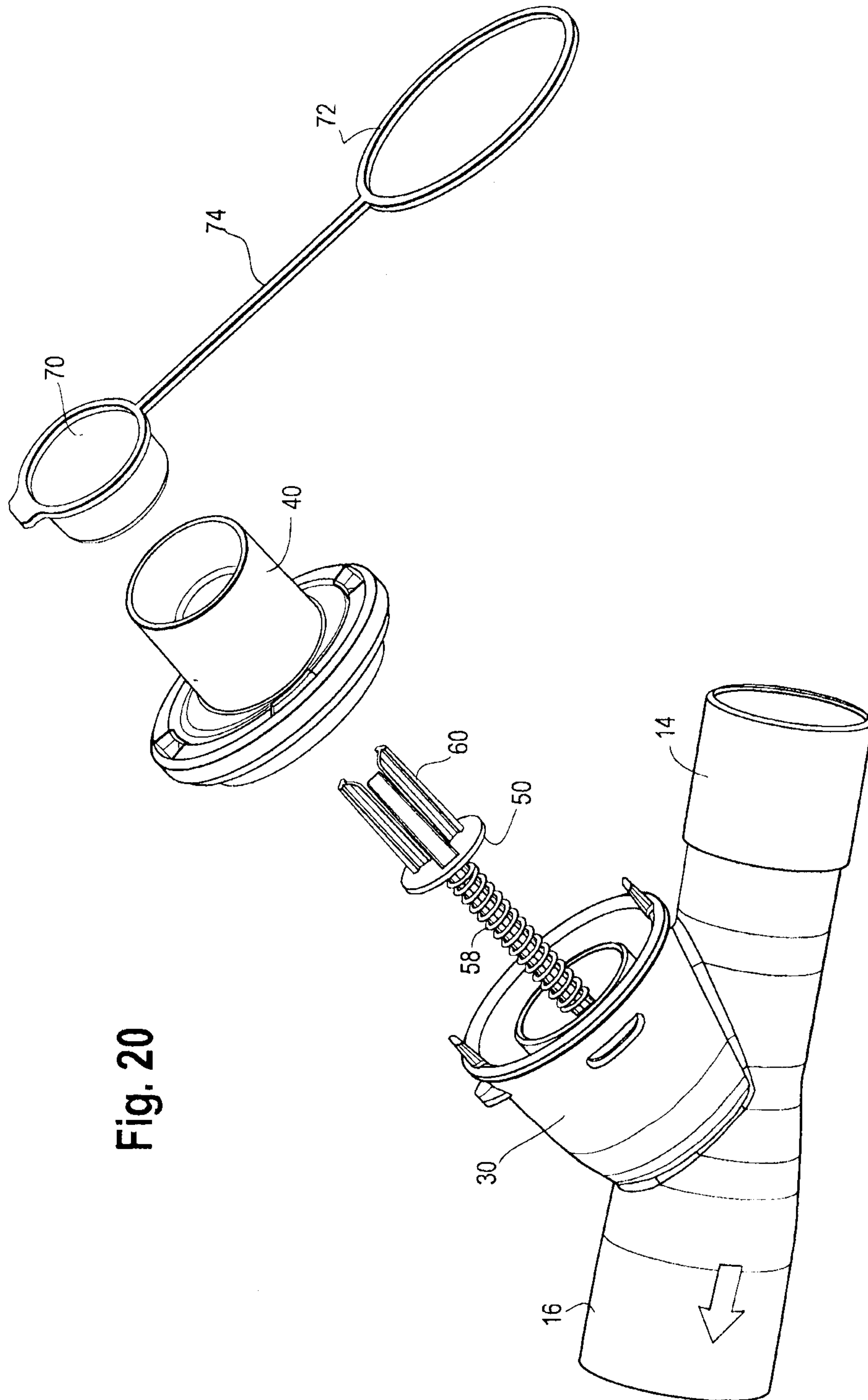
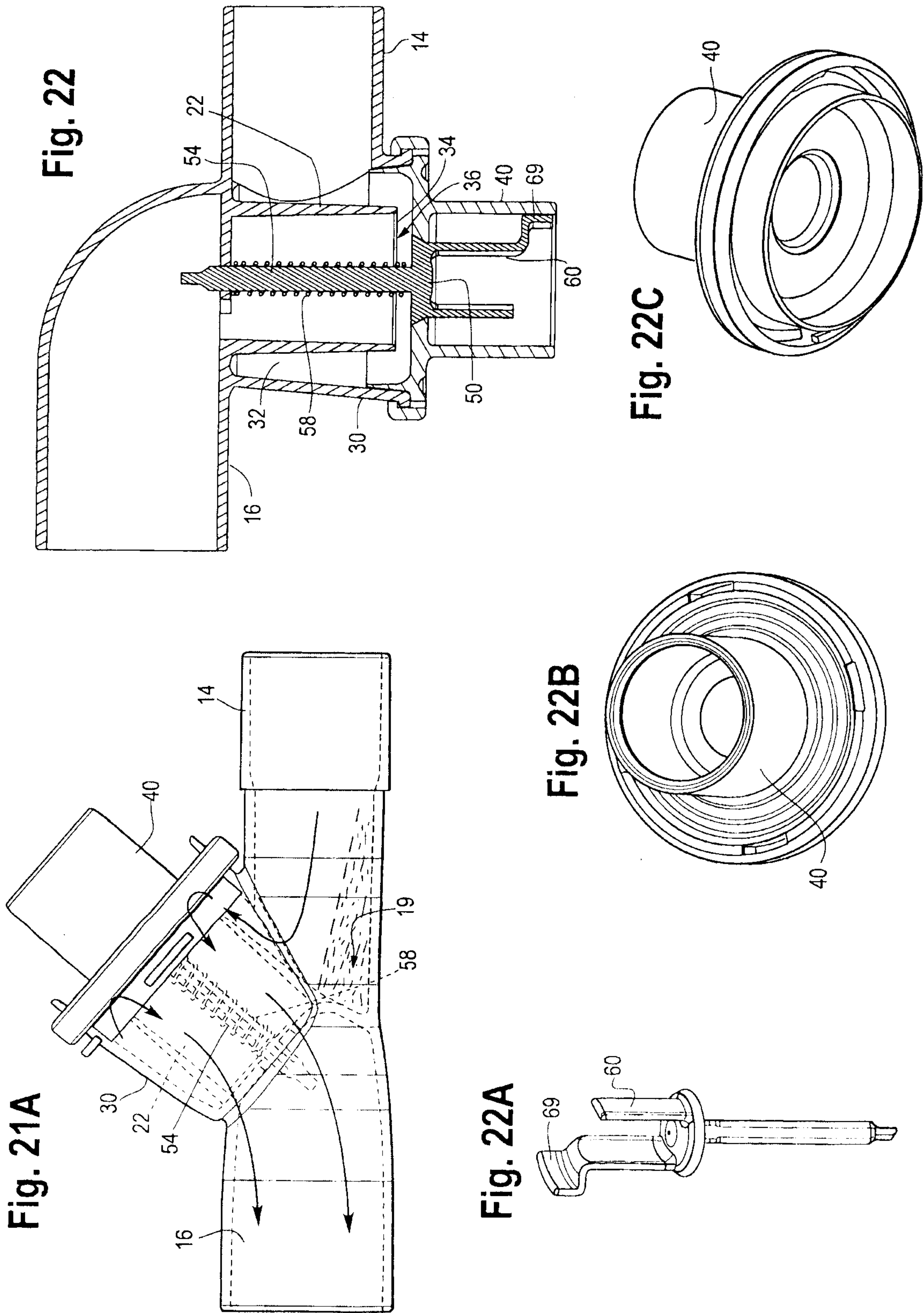
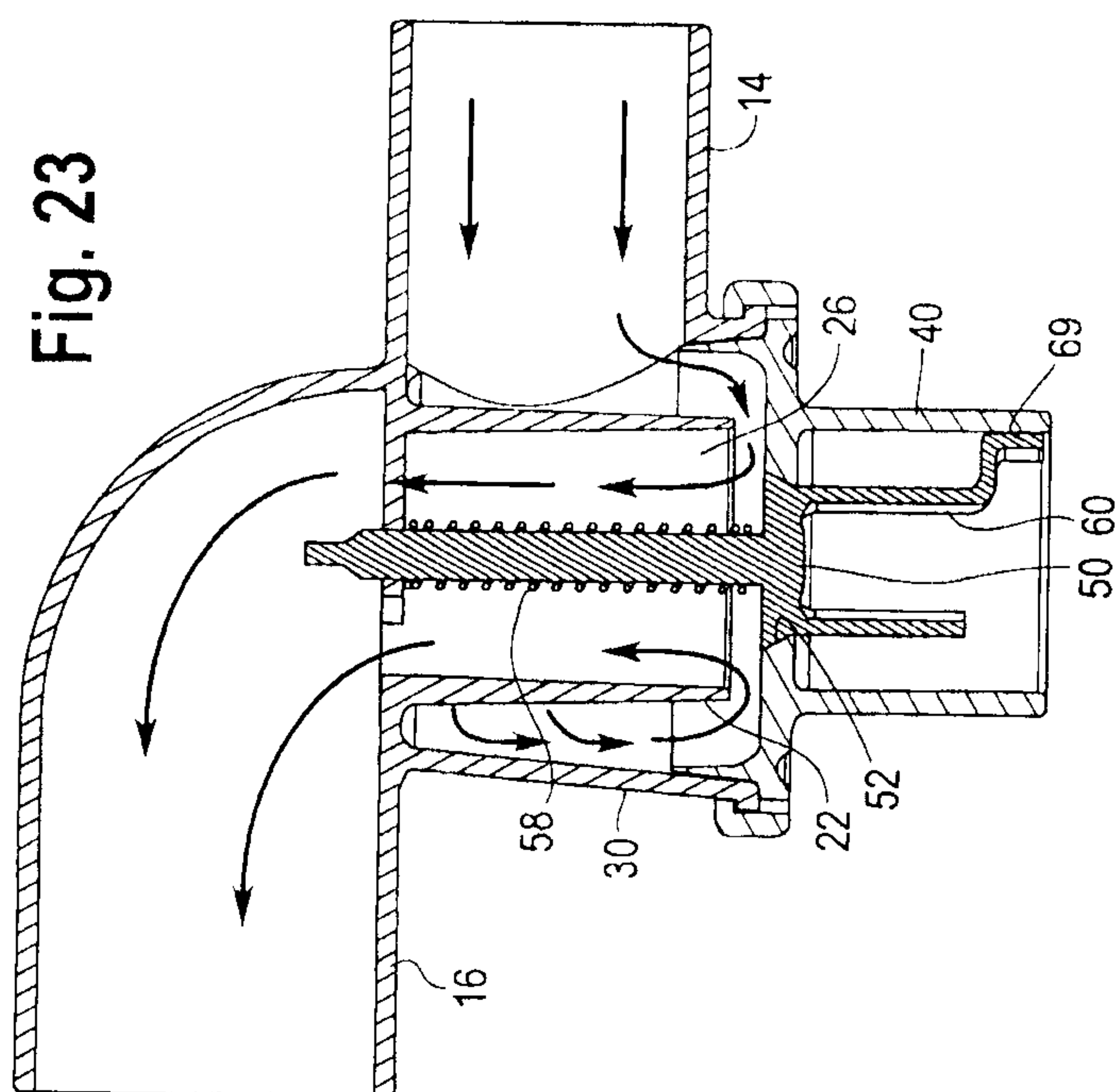
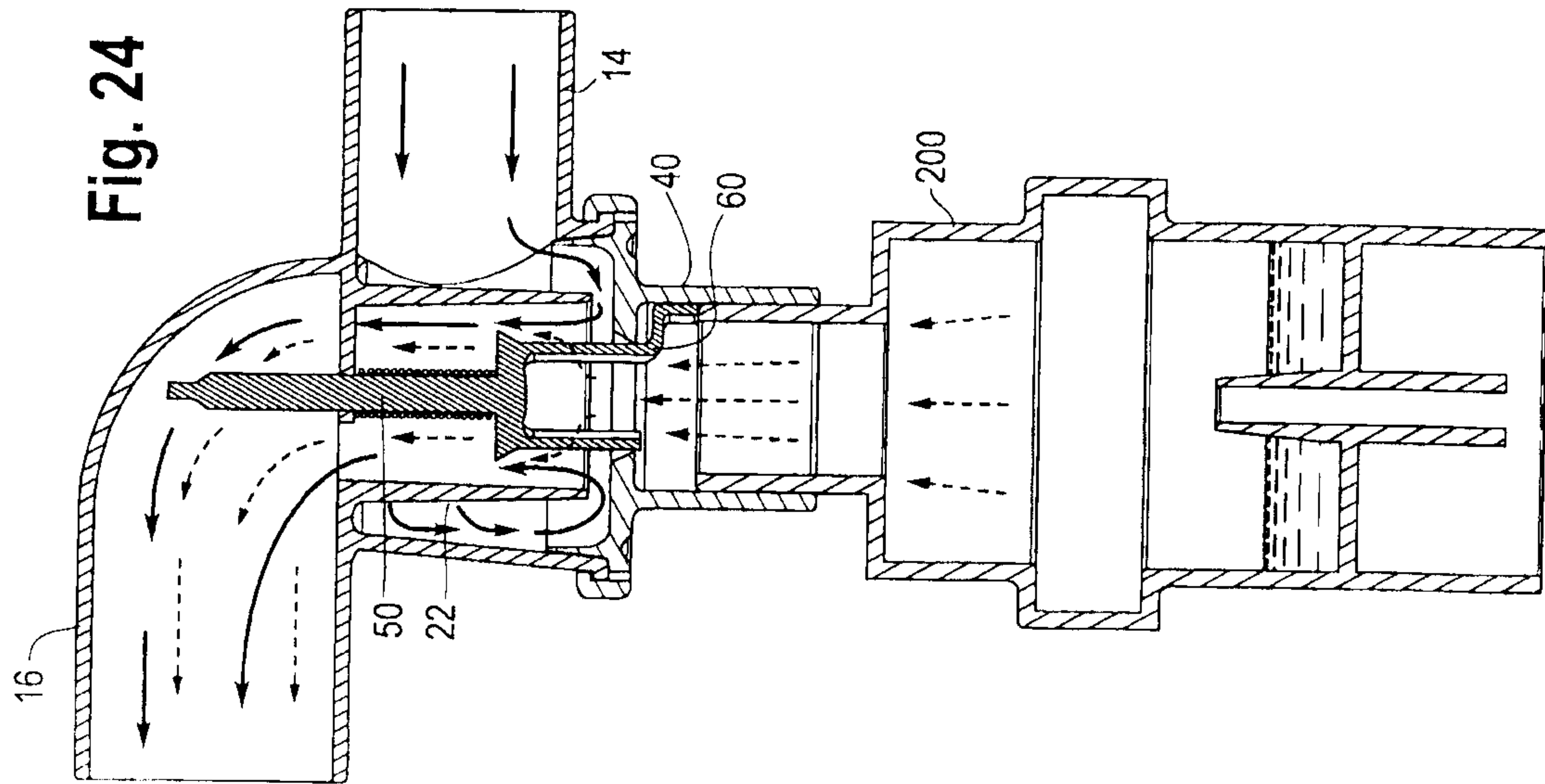
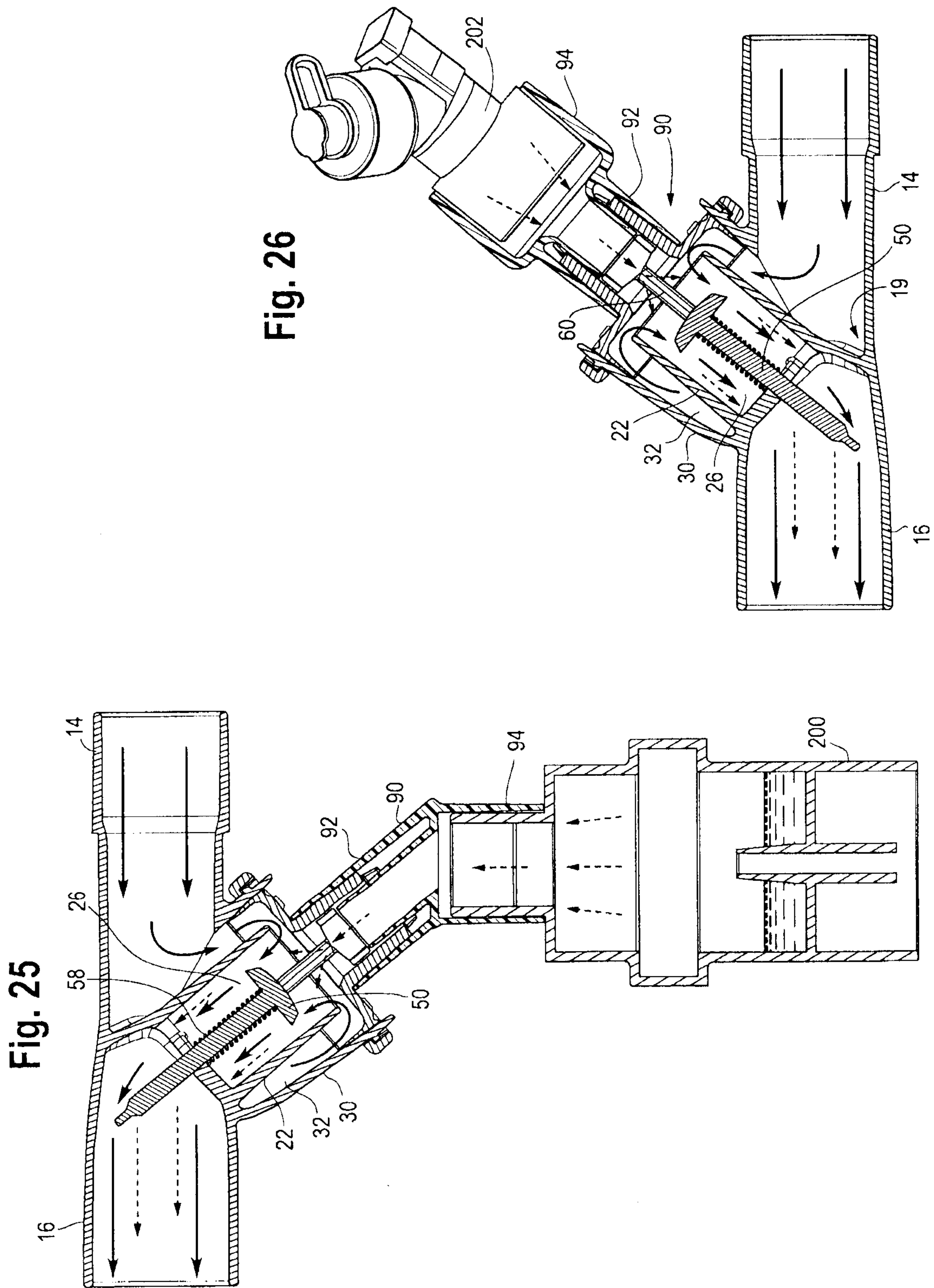


Fig. 20







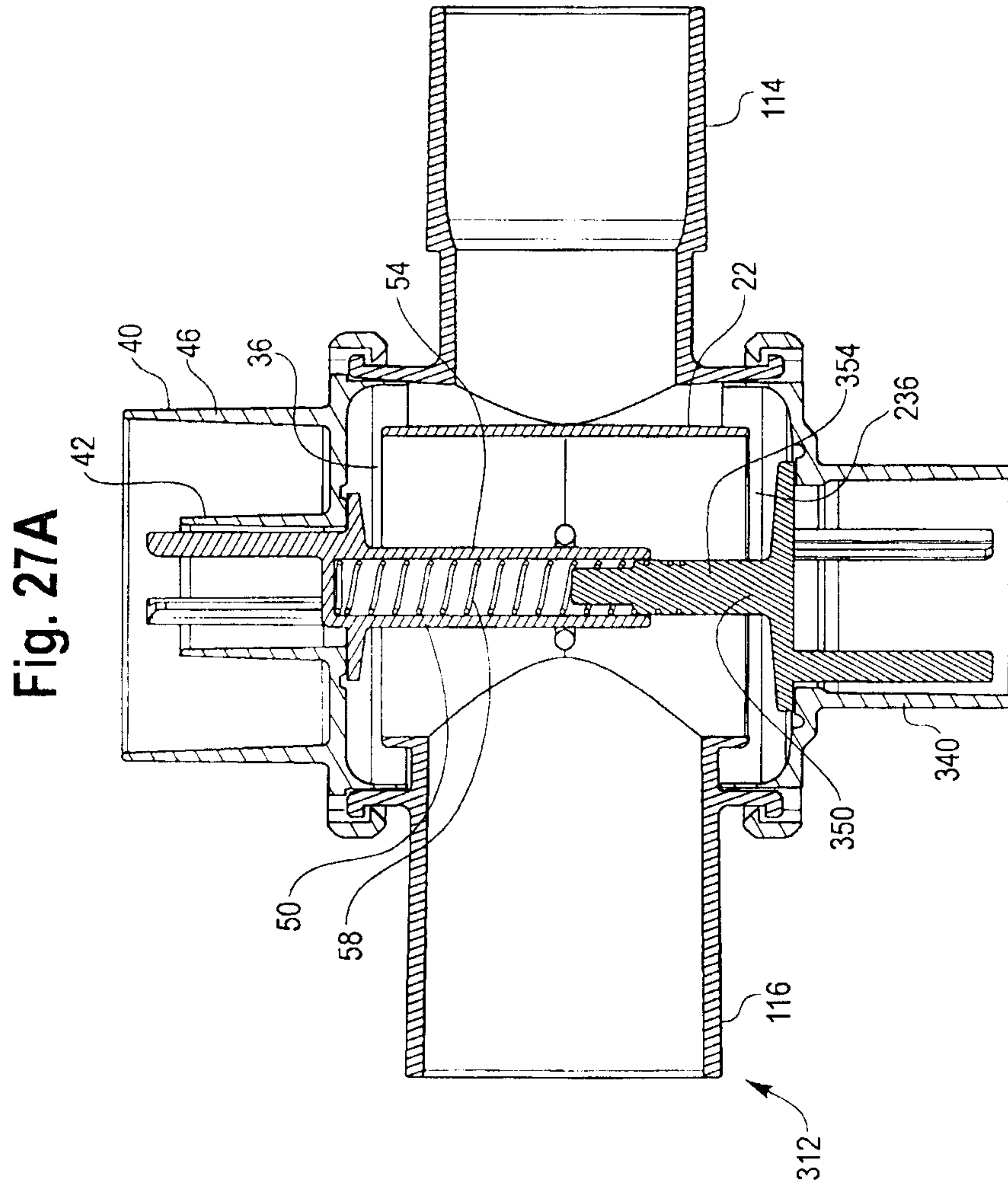
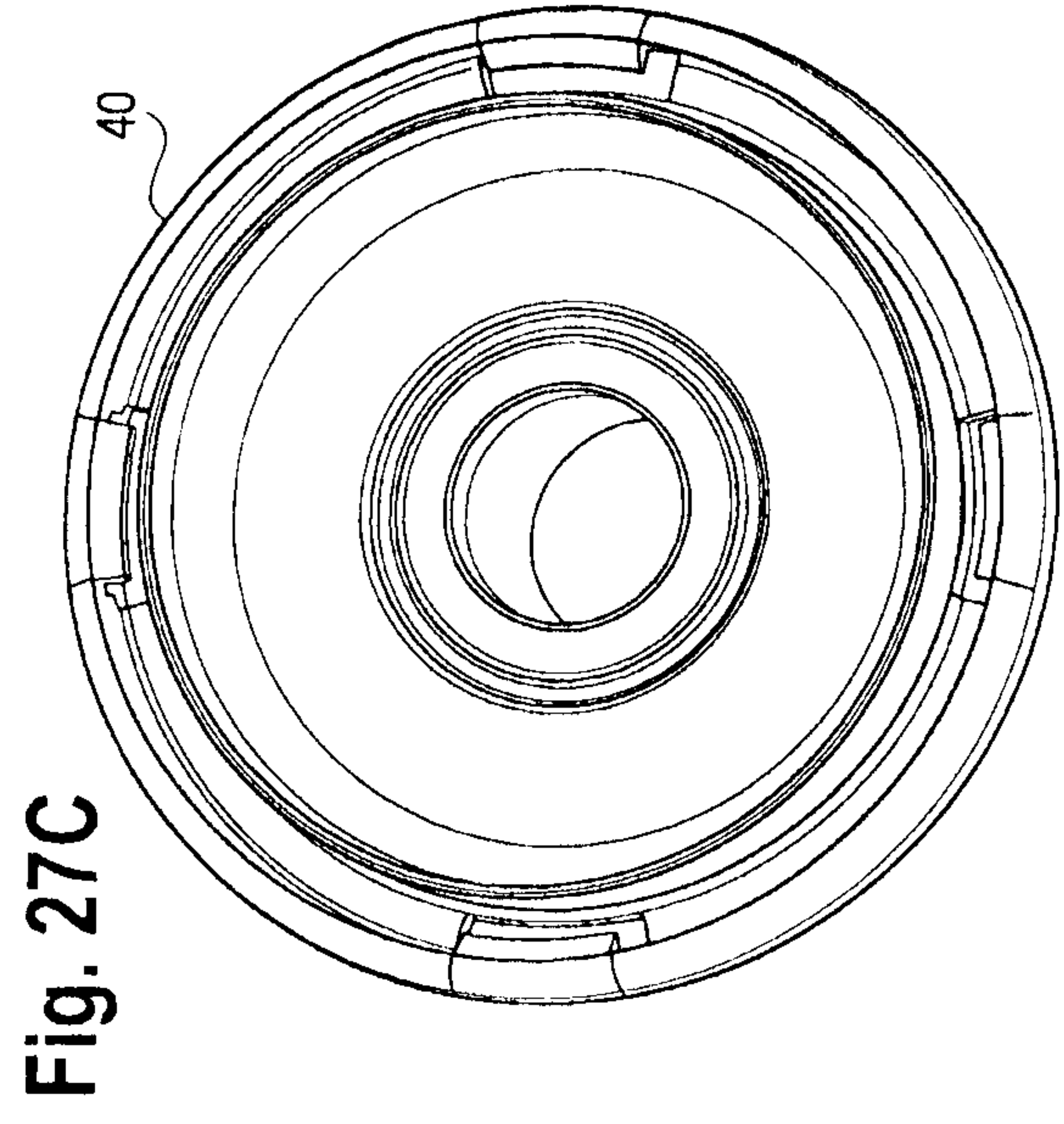
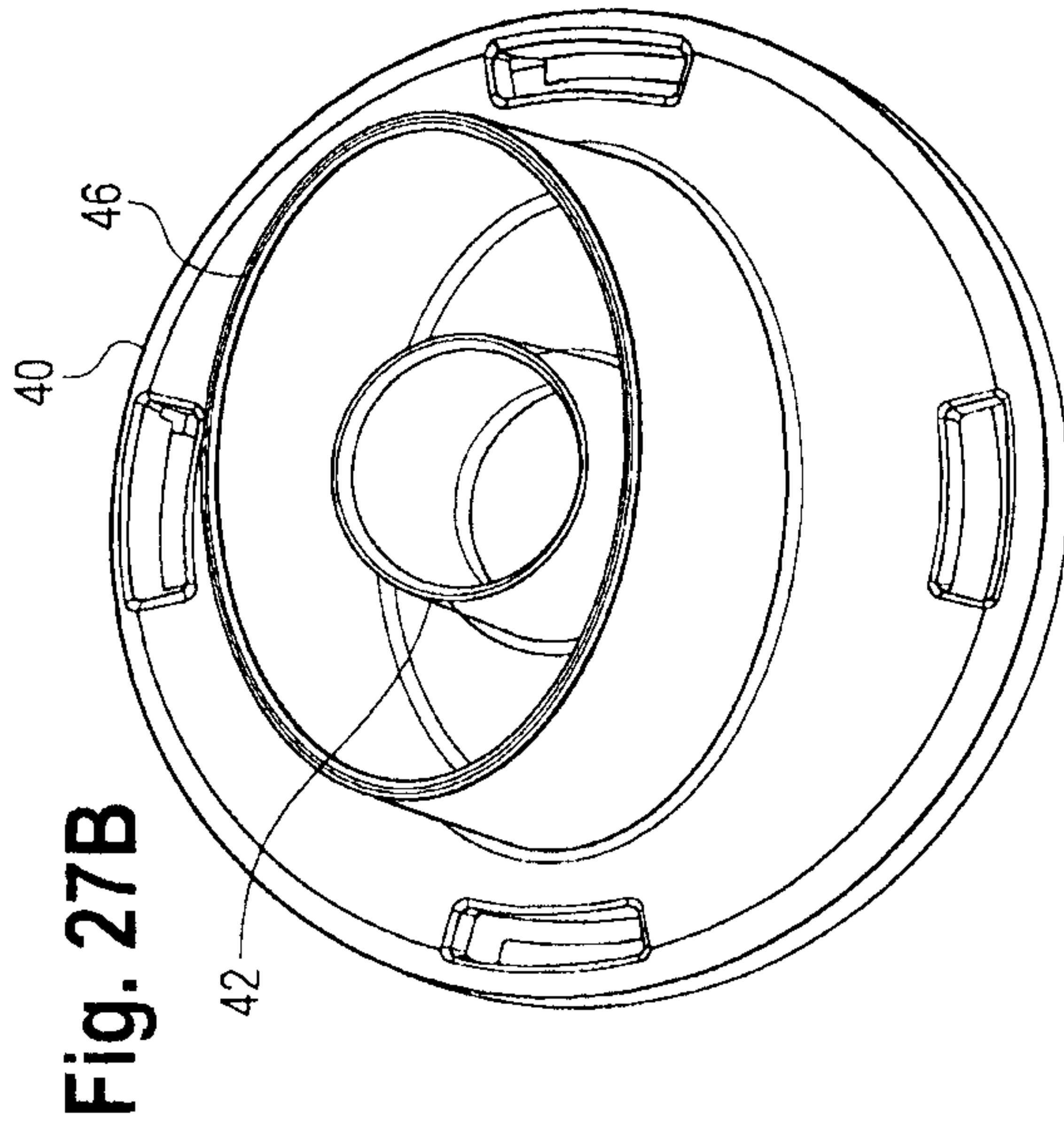
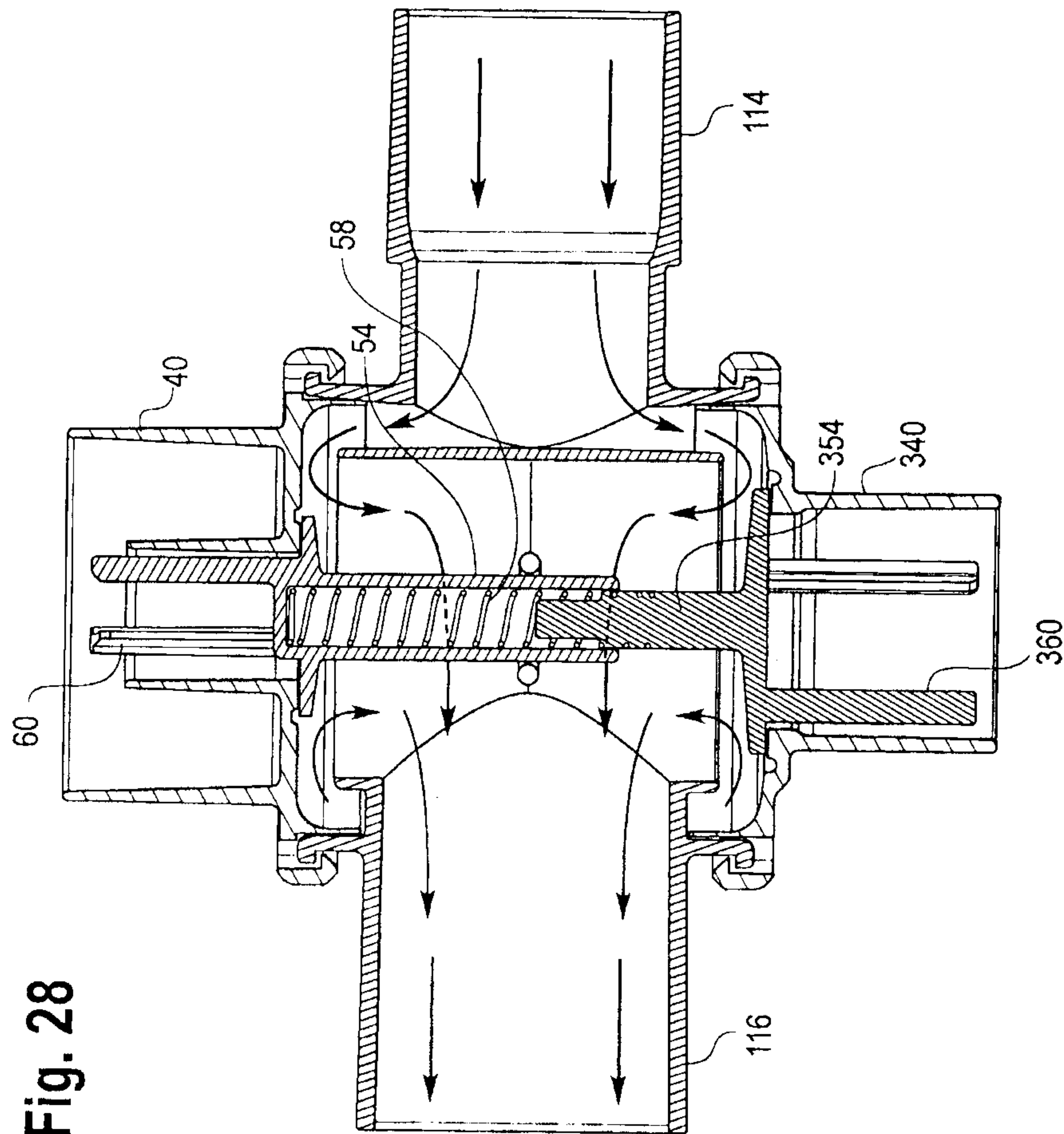


Fig. 28



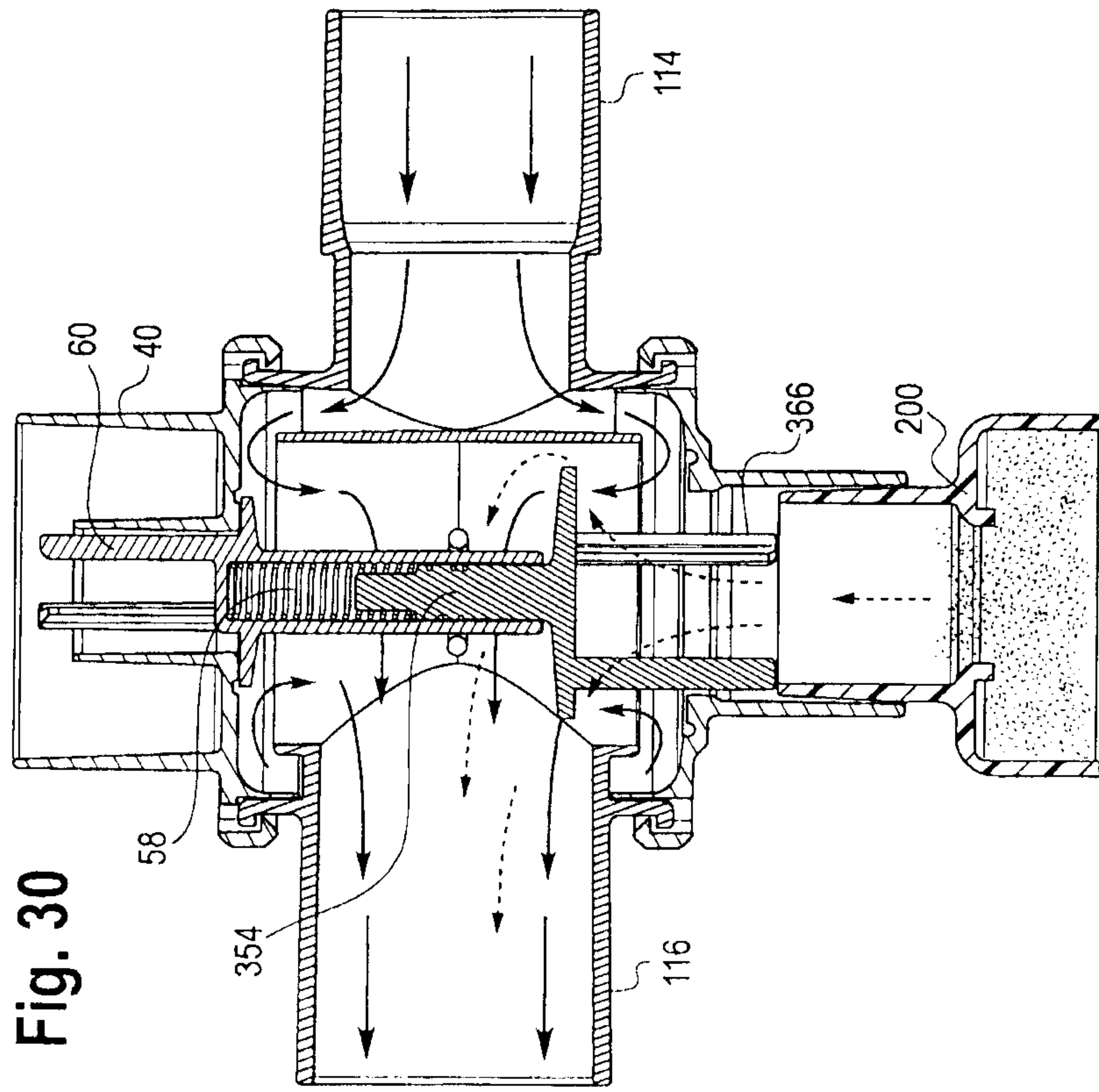


Fig. 30

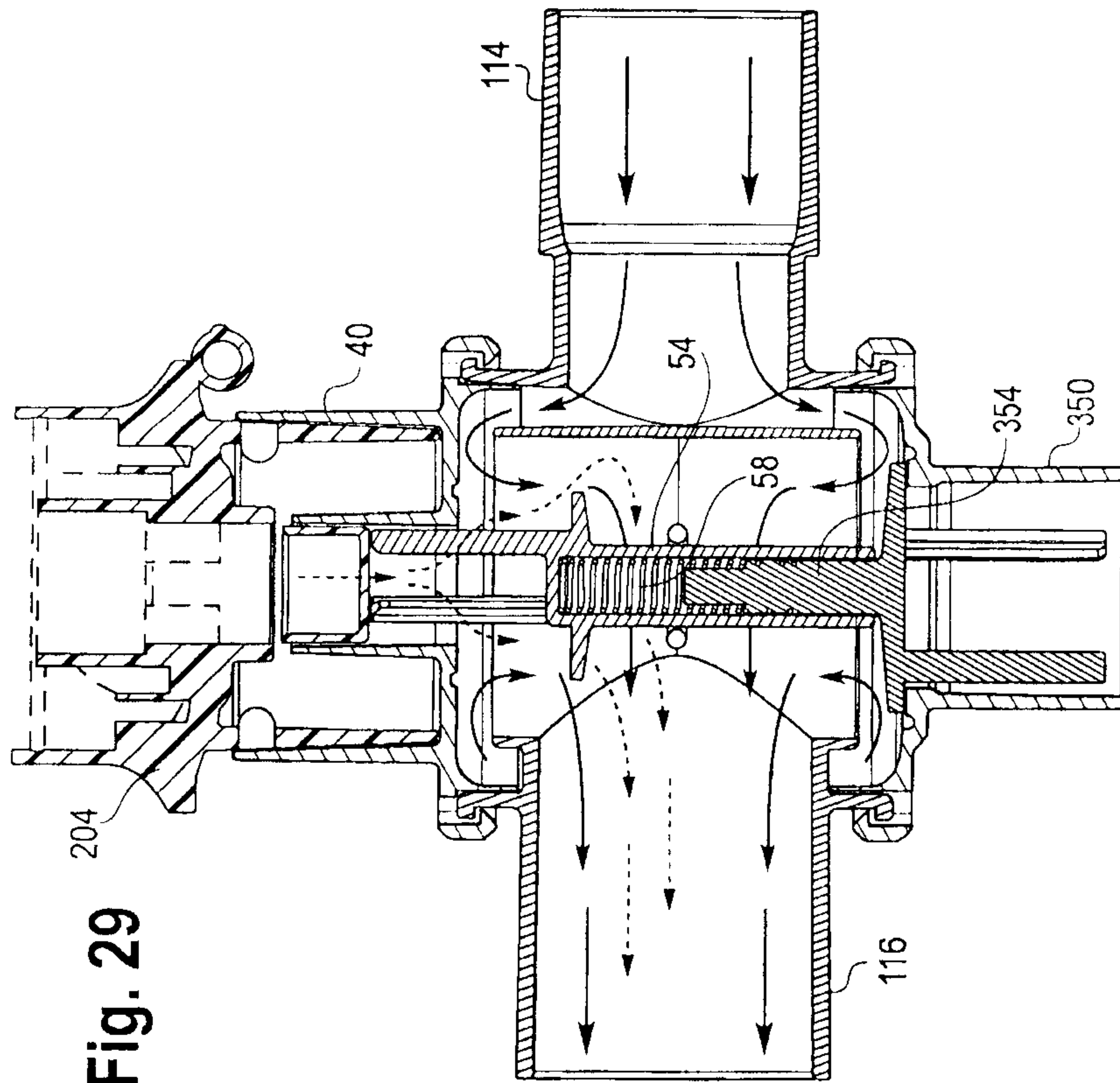


Fig. 29

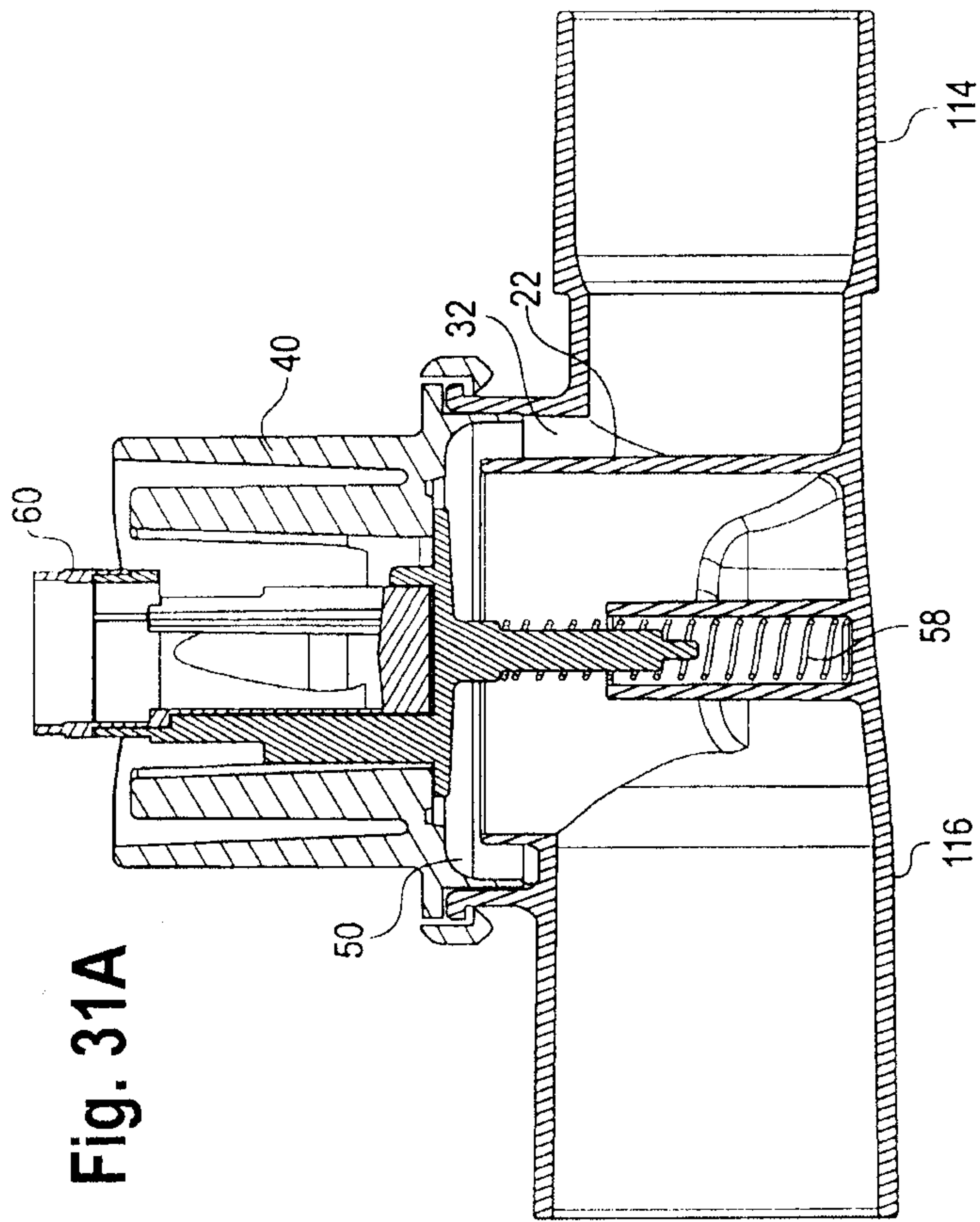


Fig. 31B

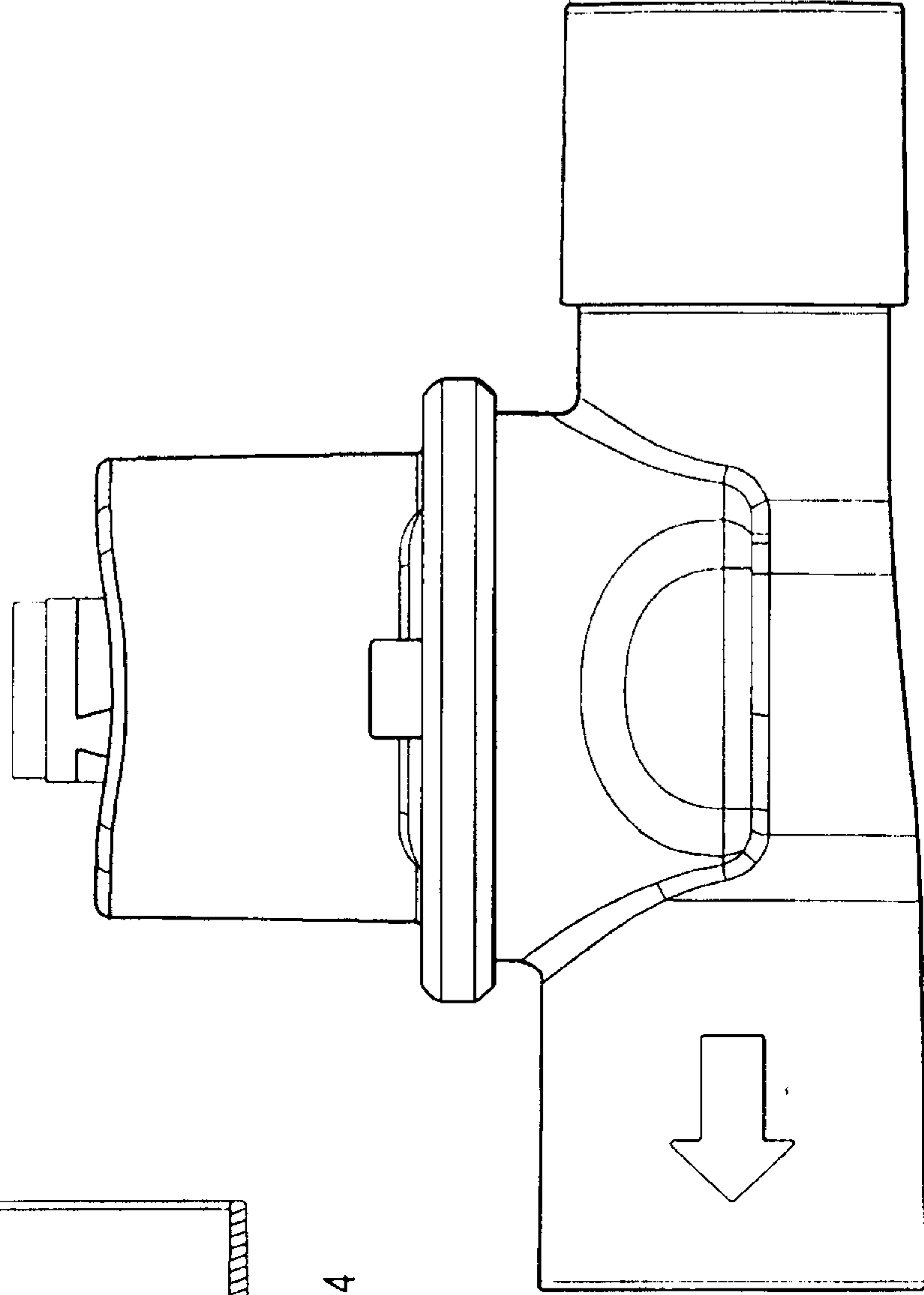


Fig. 33

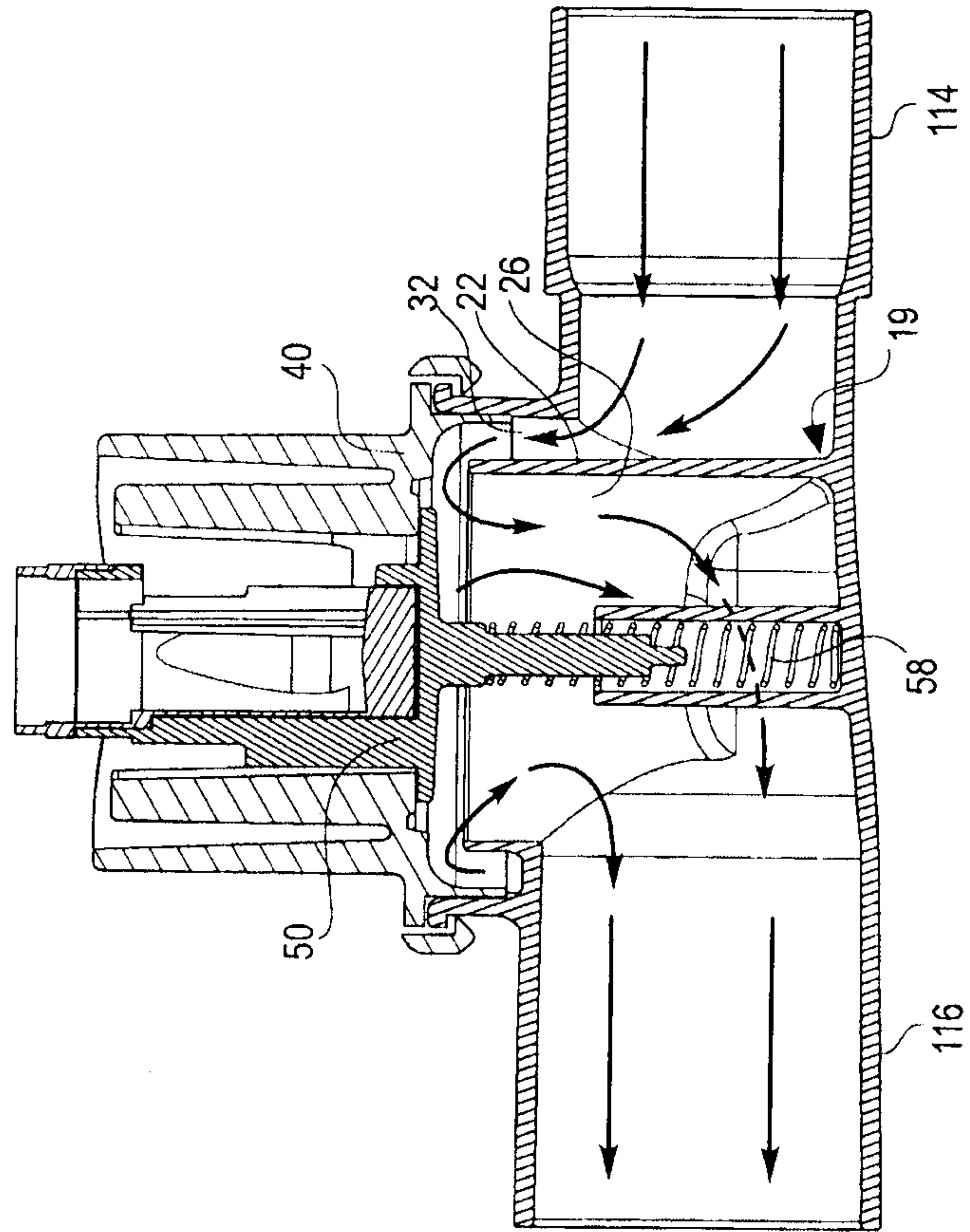


Fig. 32

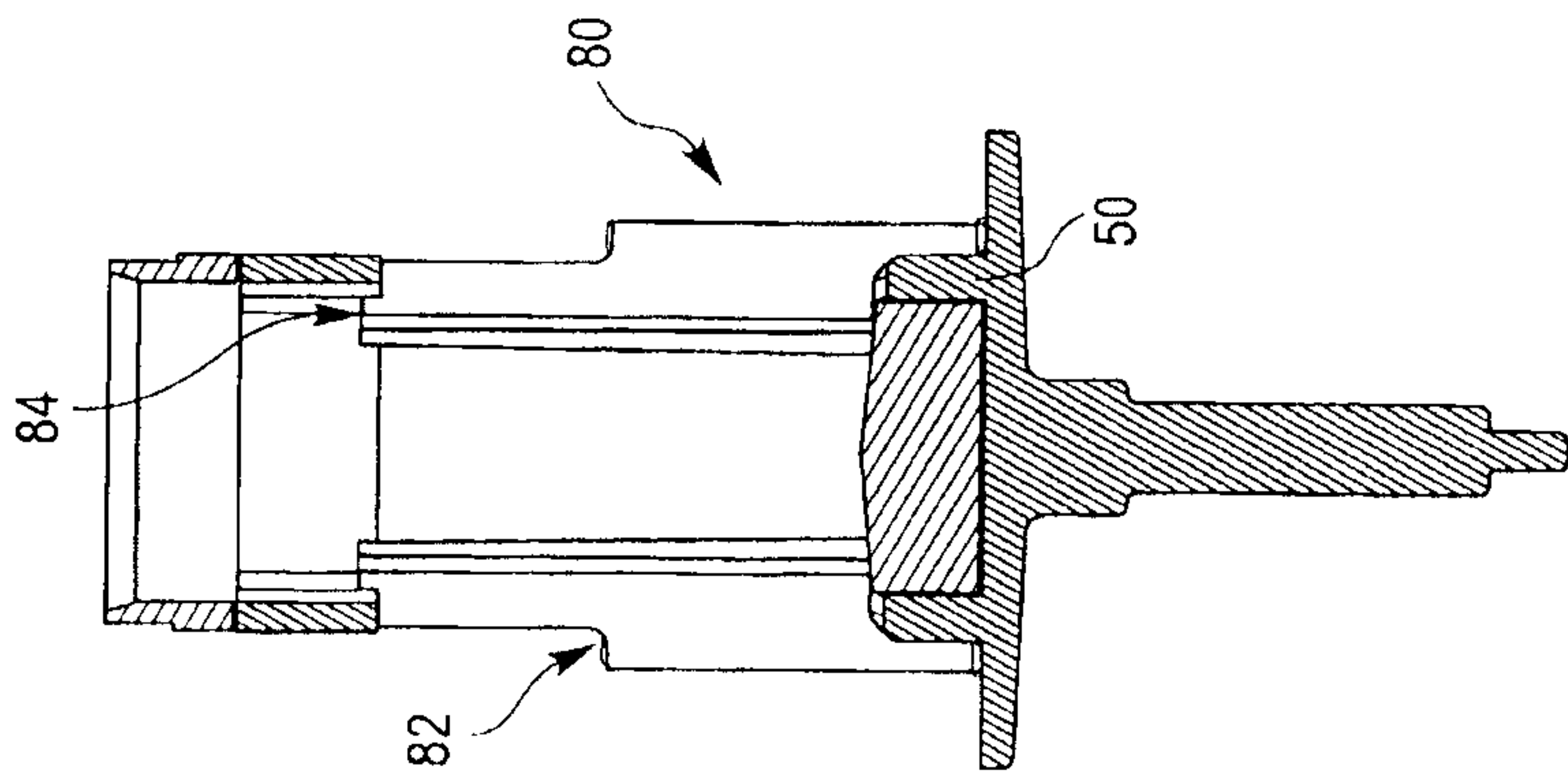


Fig. 35

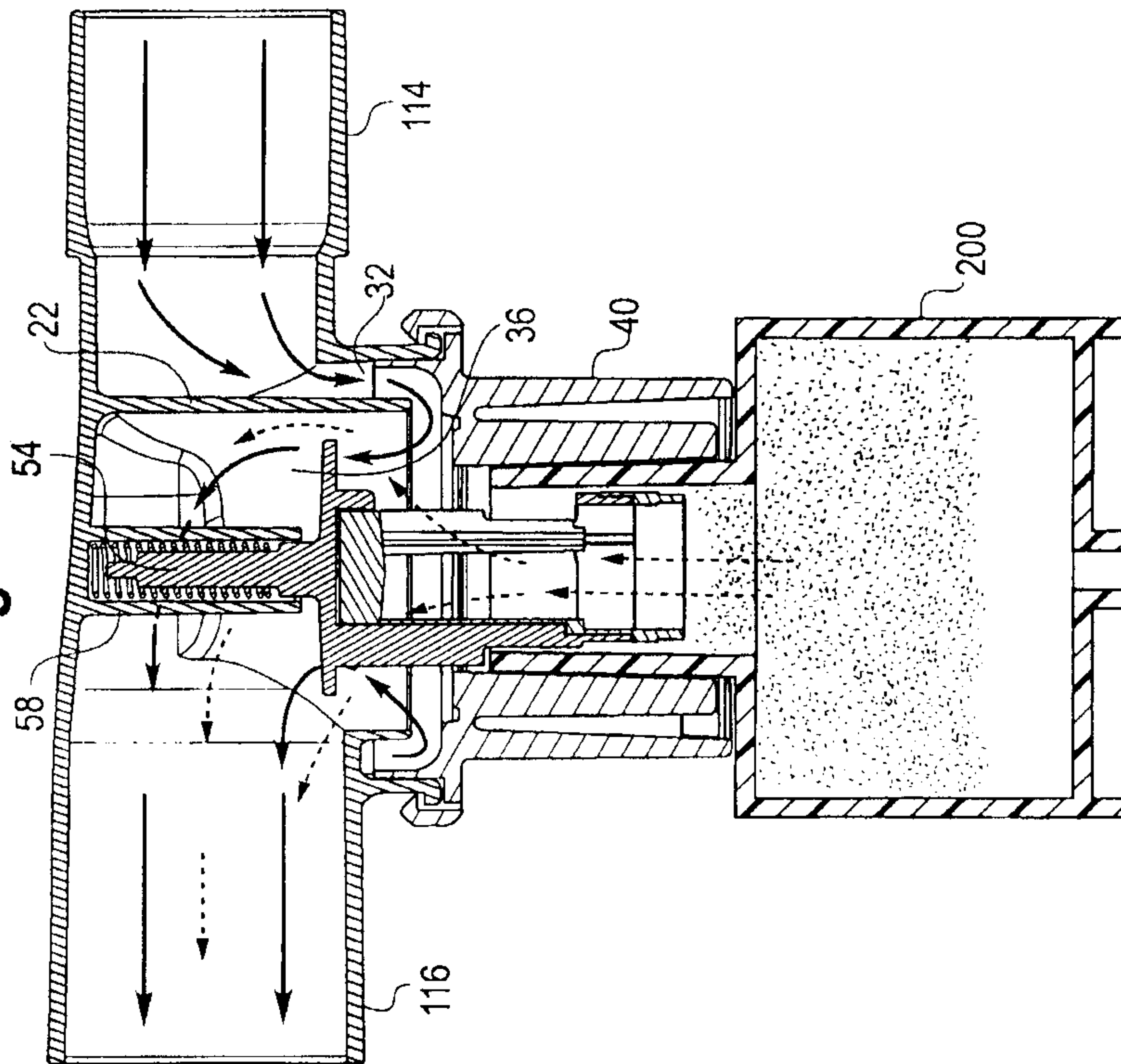
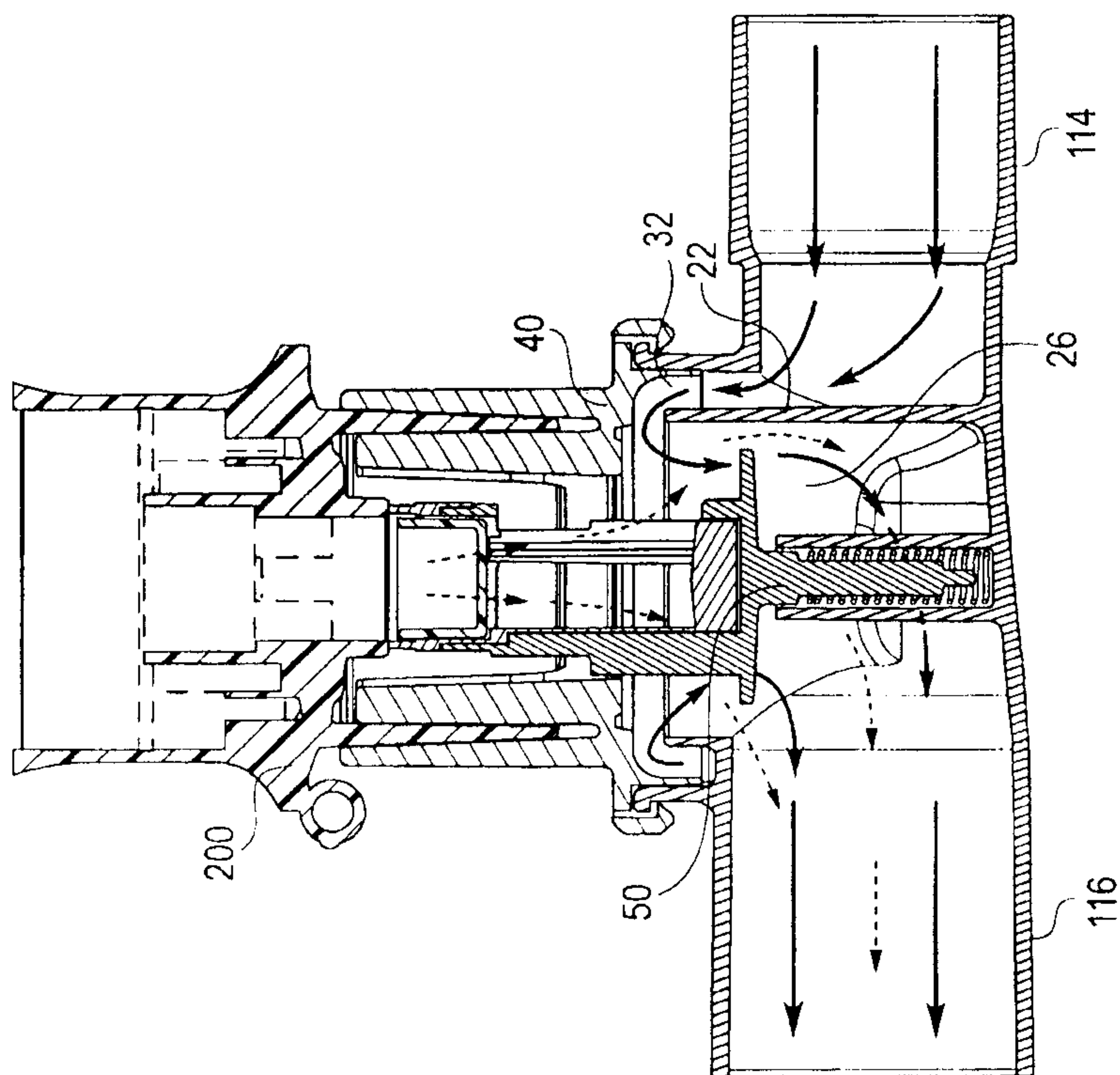


Fig. 34



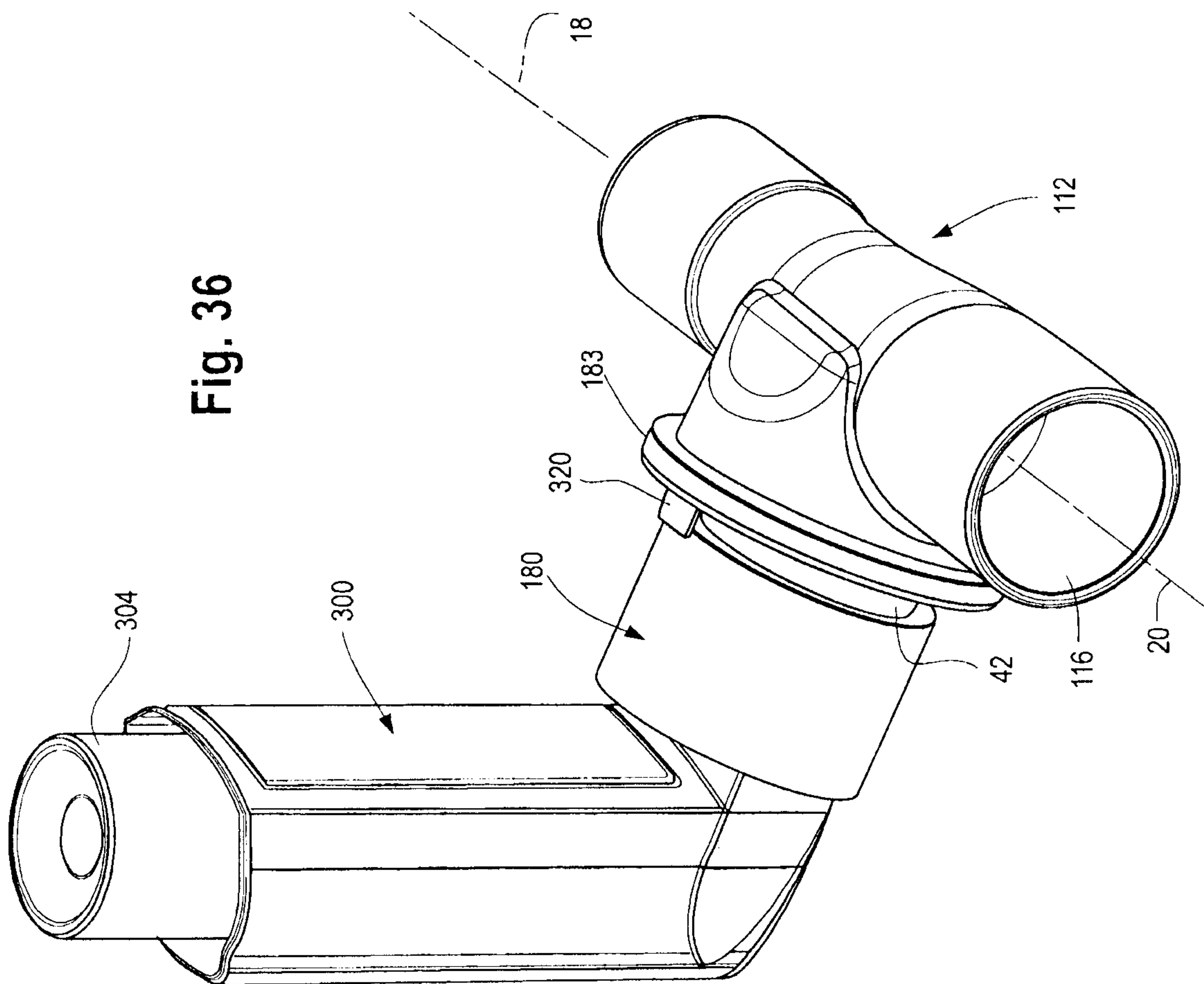
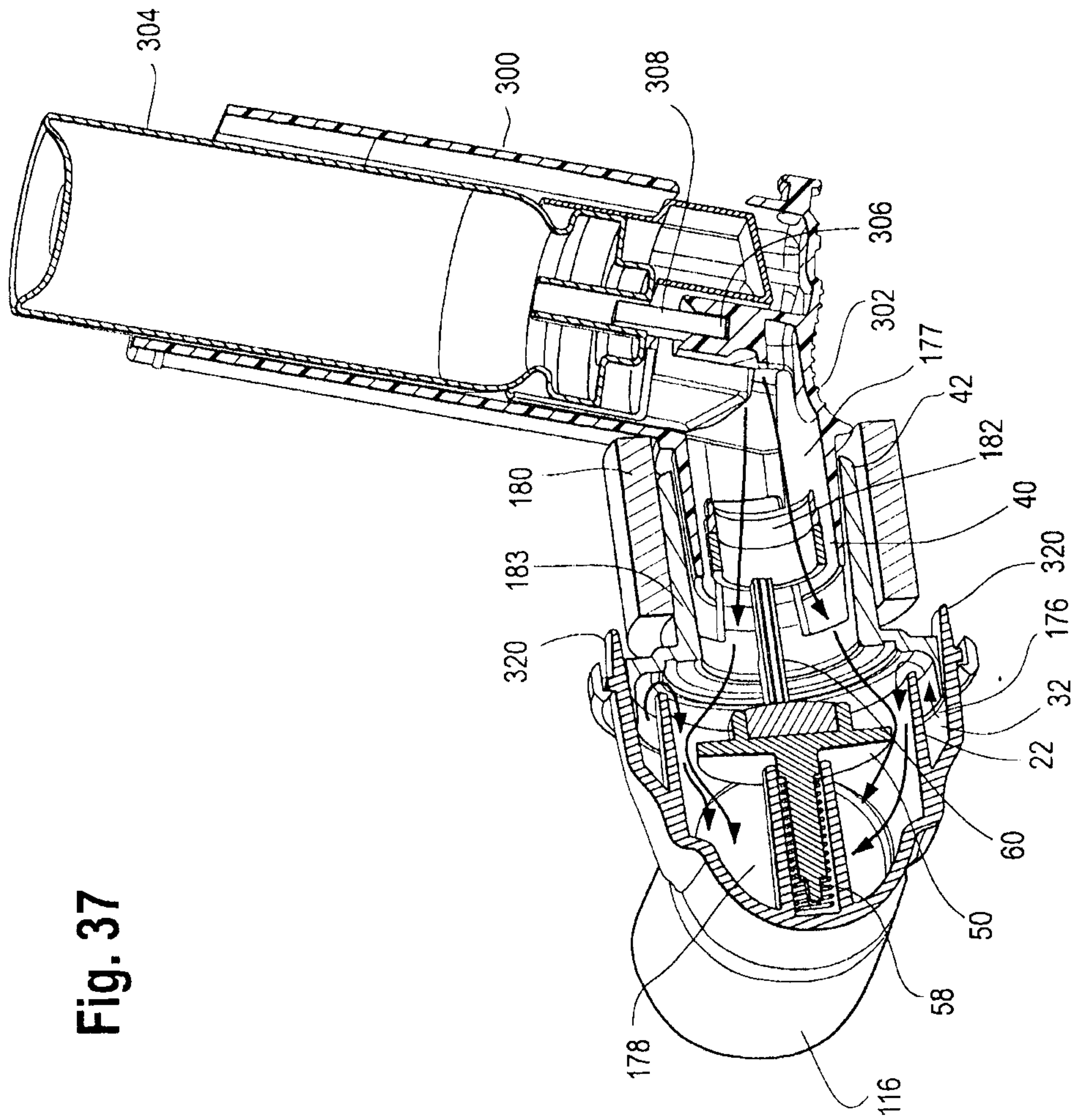
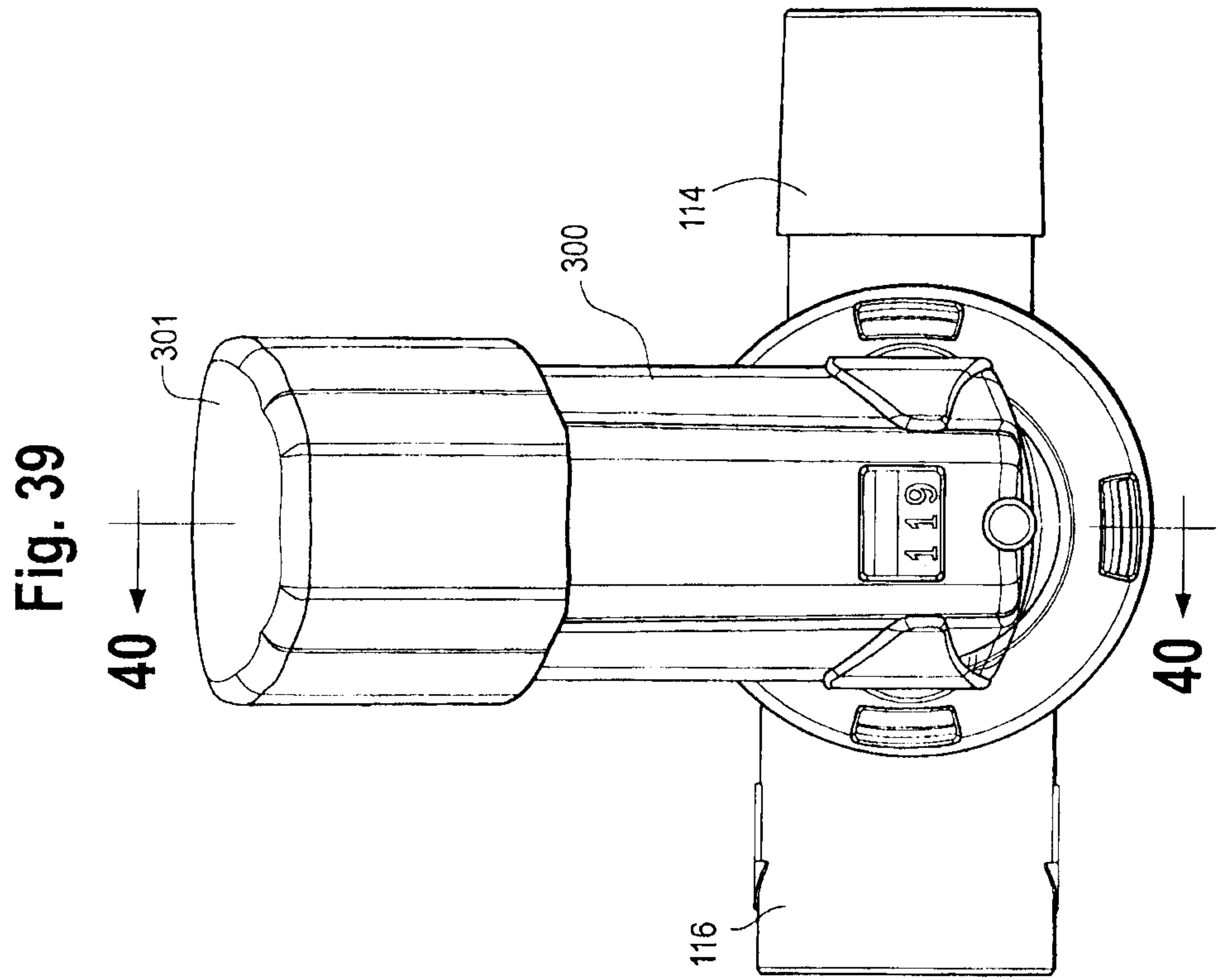
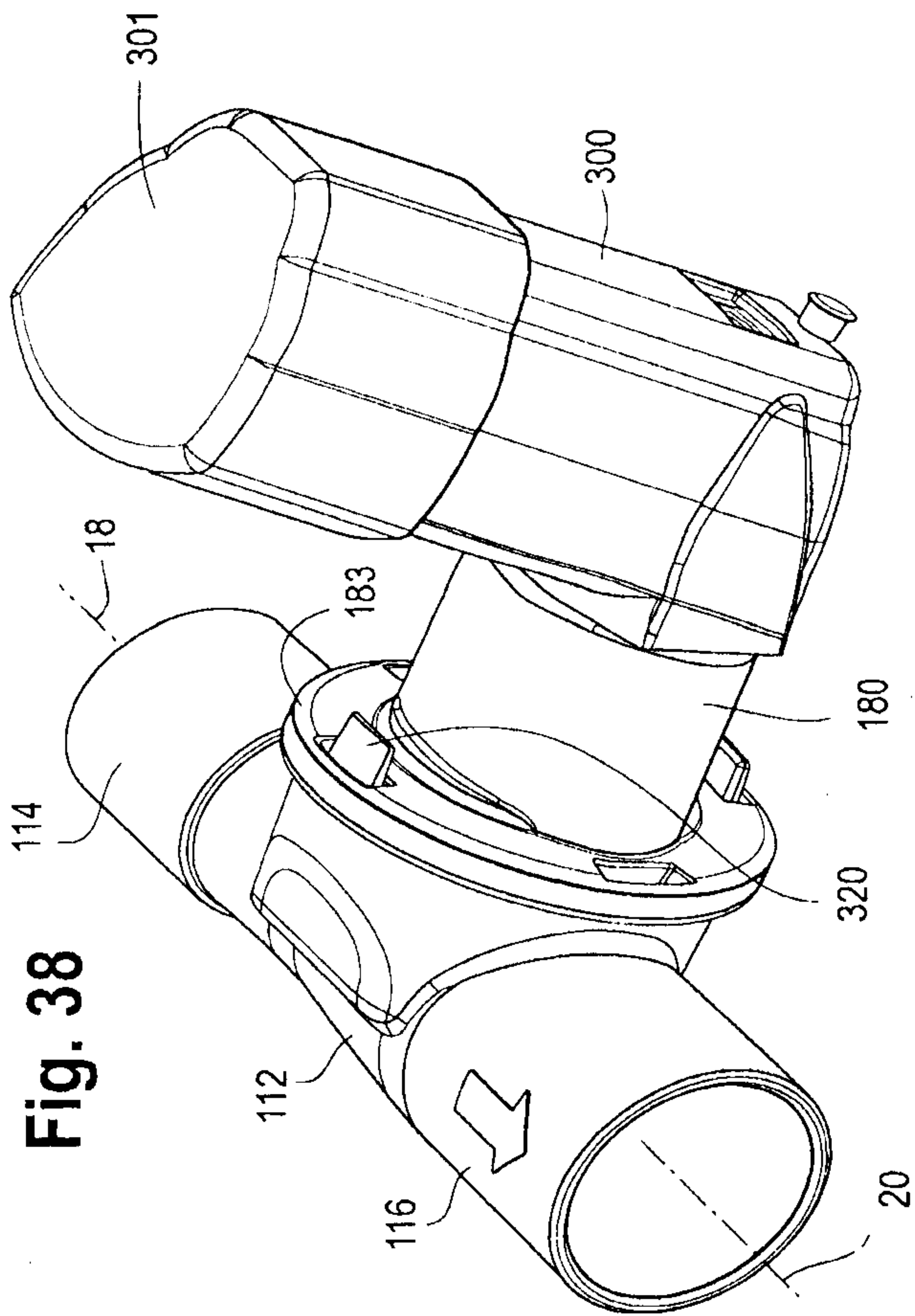


Fig. 37





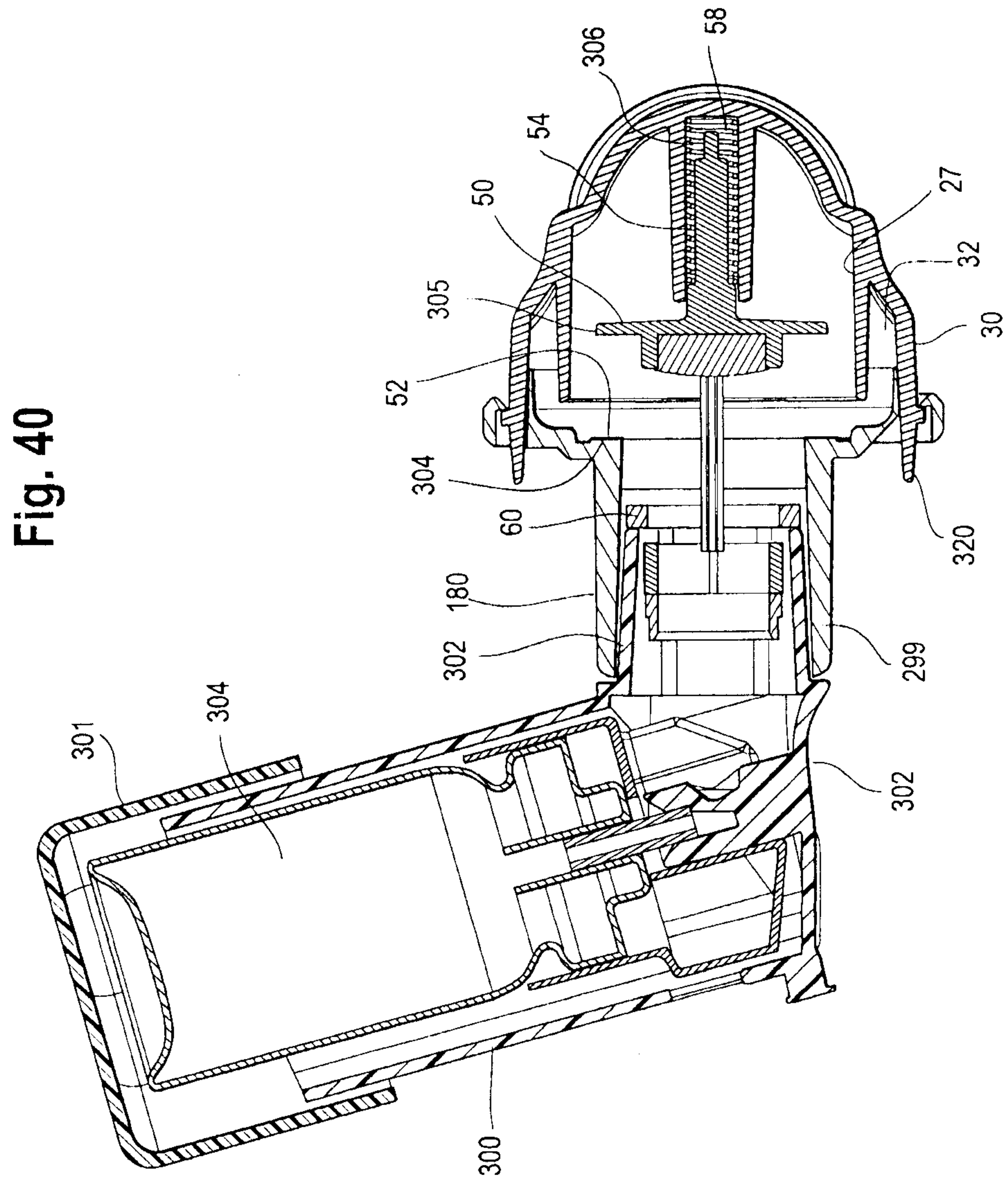


Fig. 41

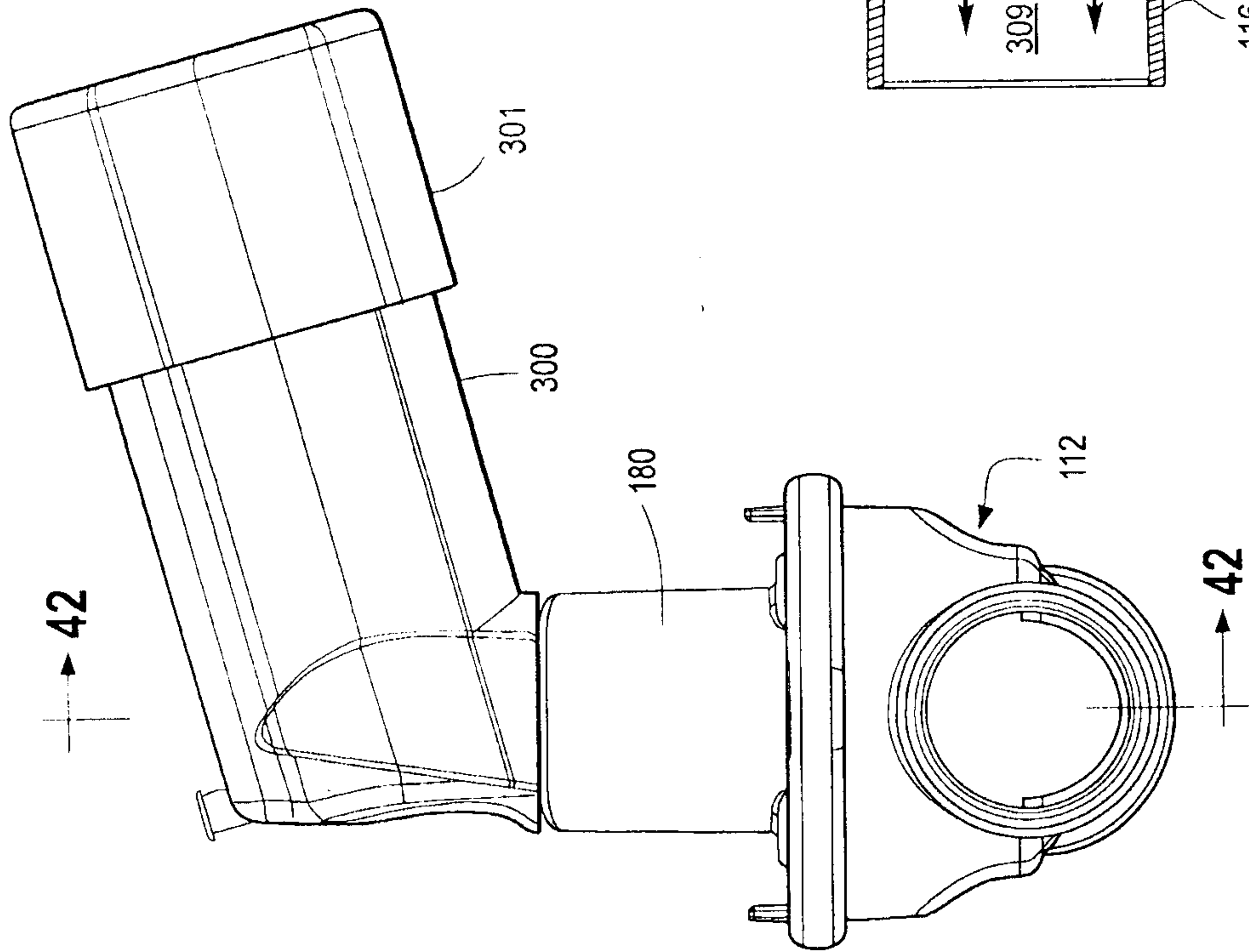
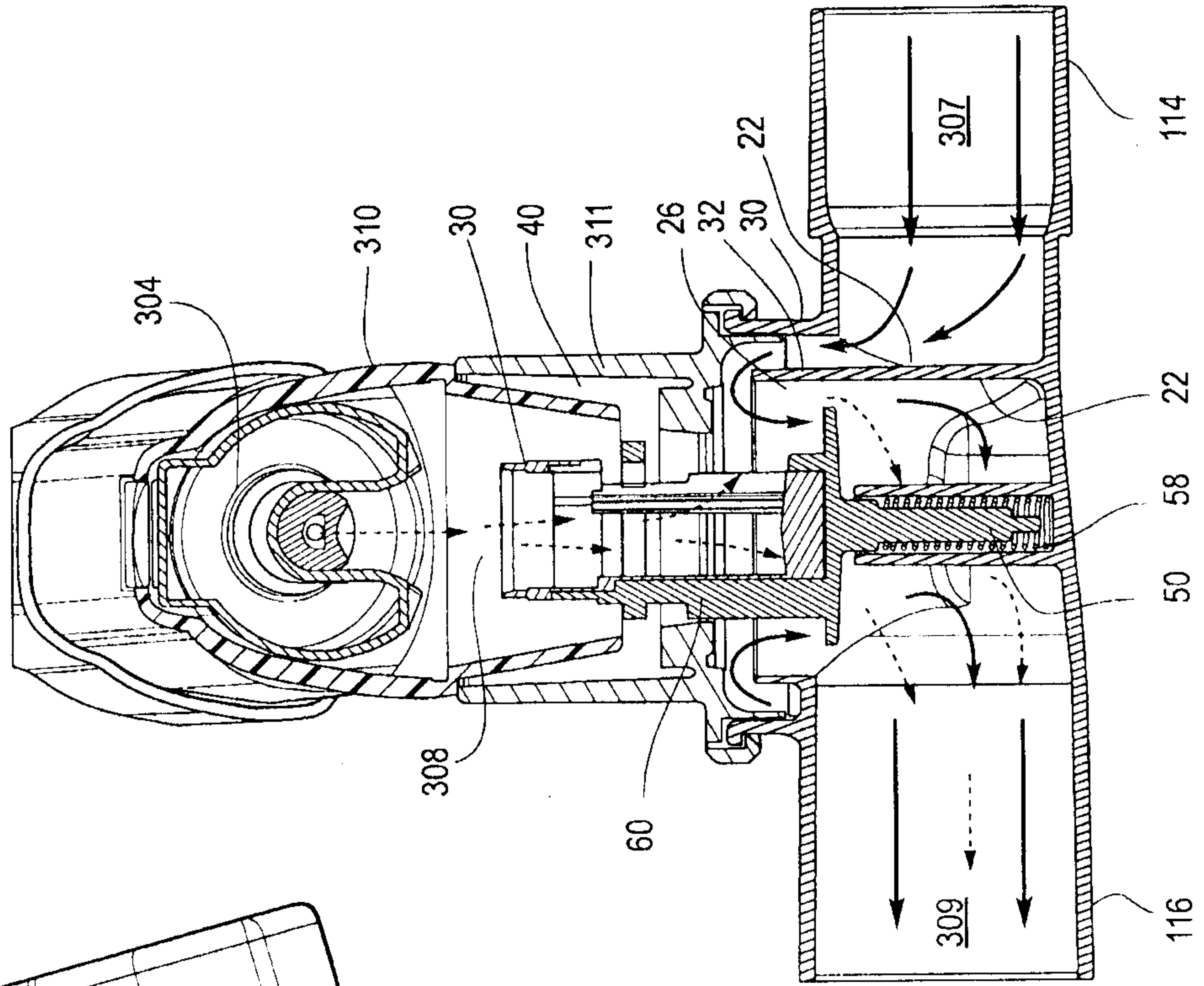
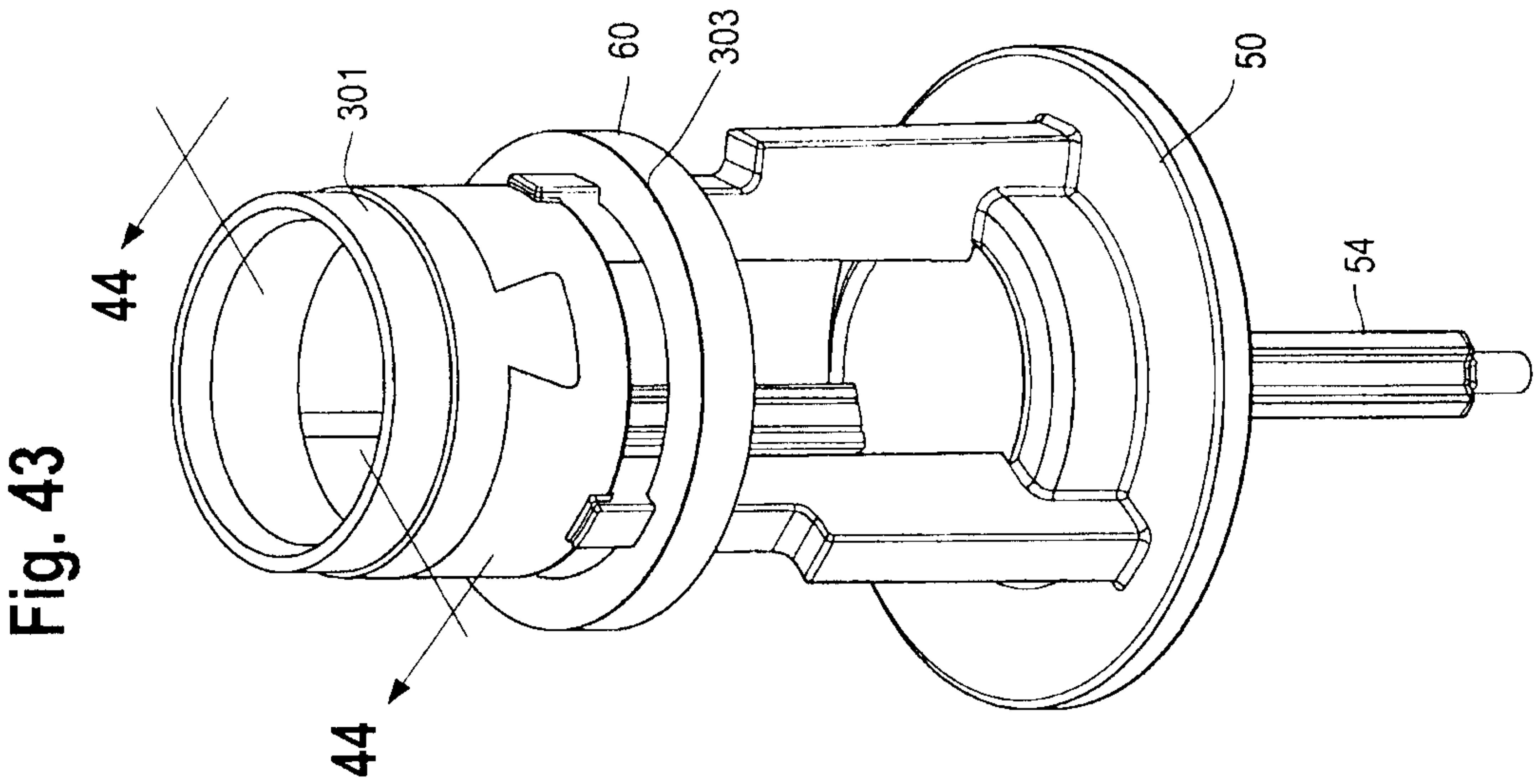
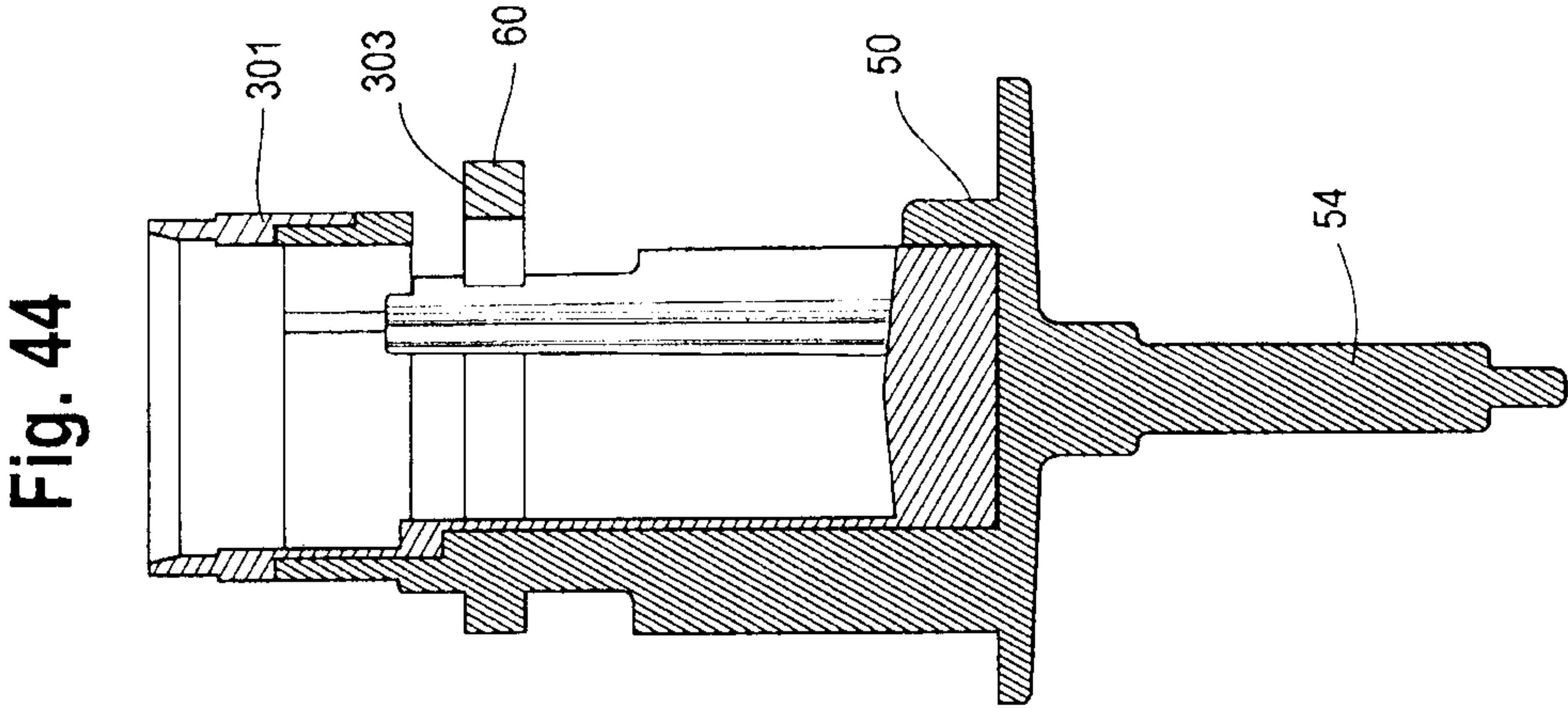


Fig. 42





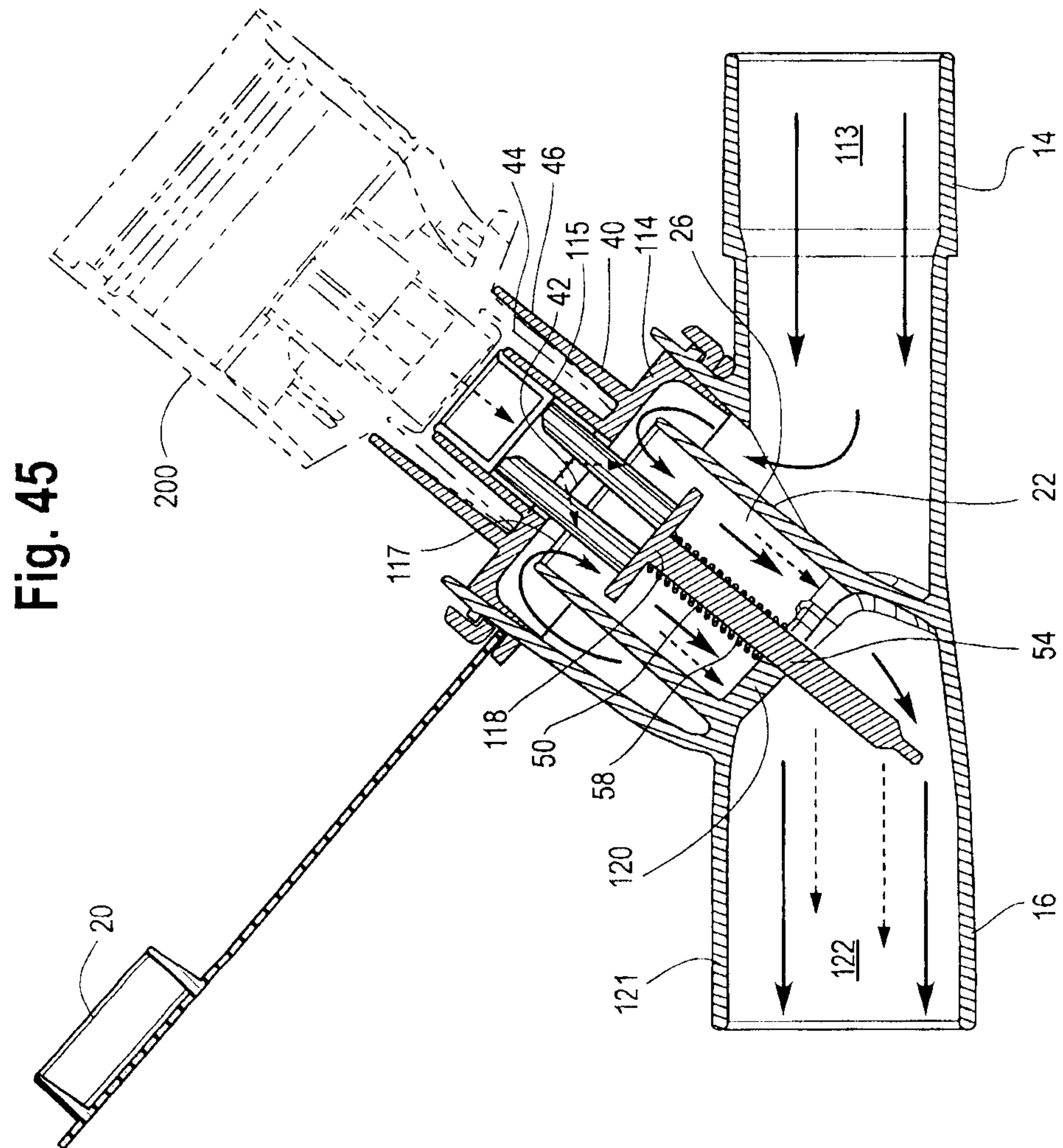
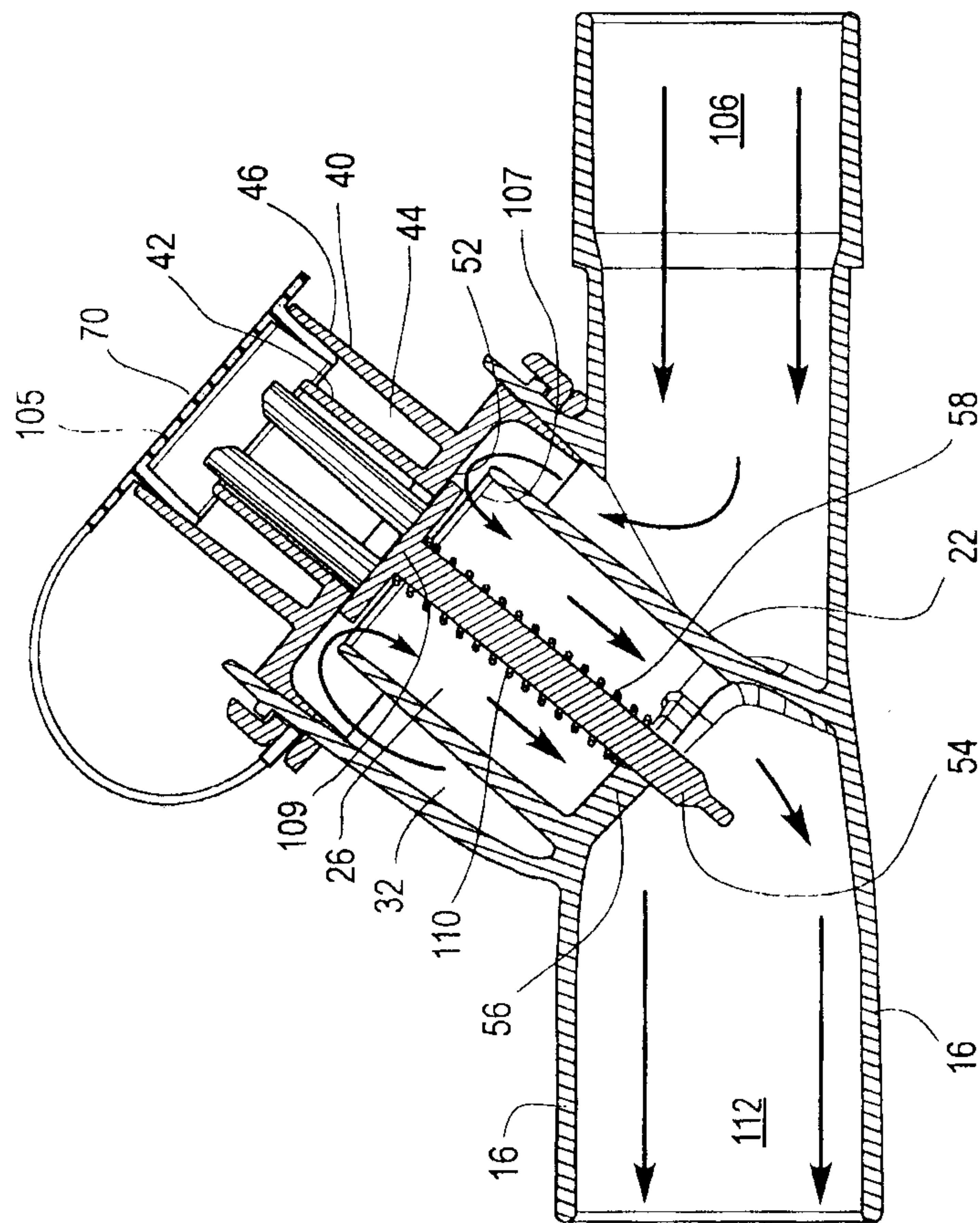


Fig. 46



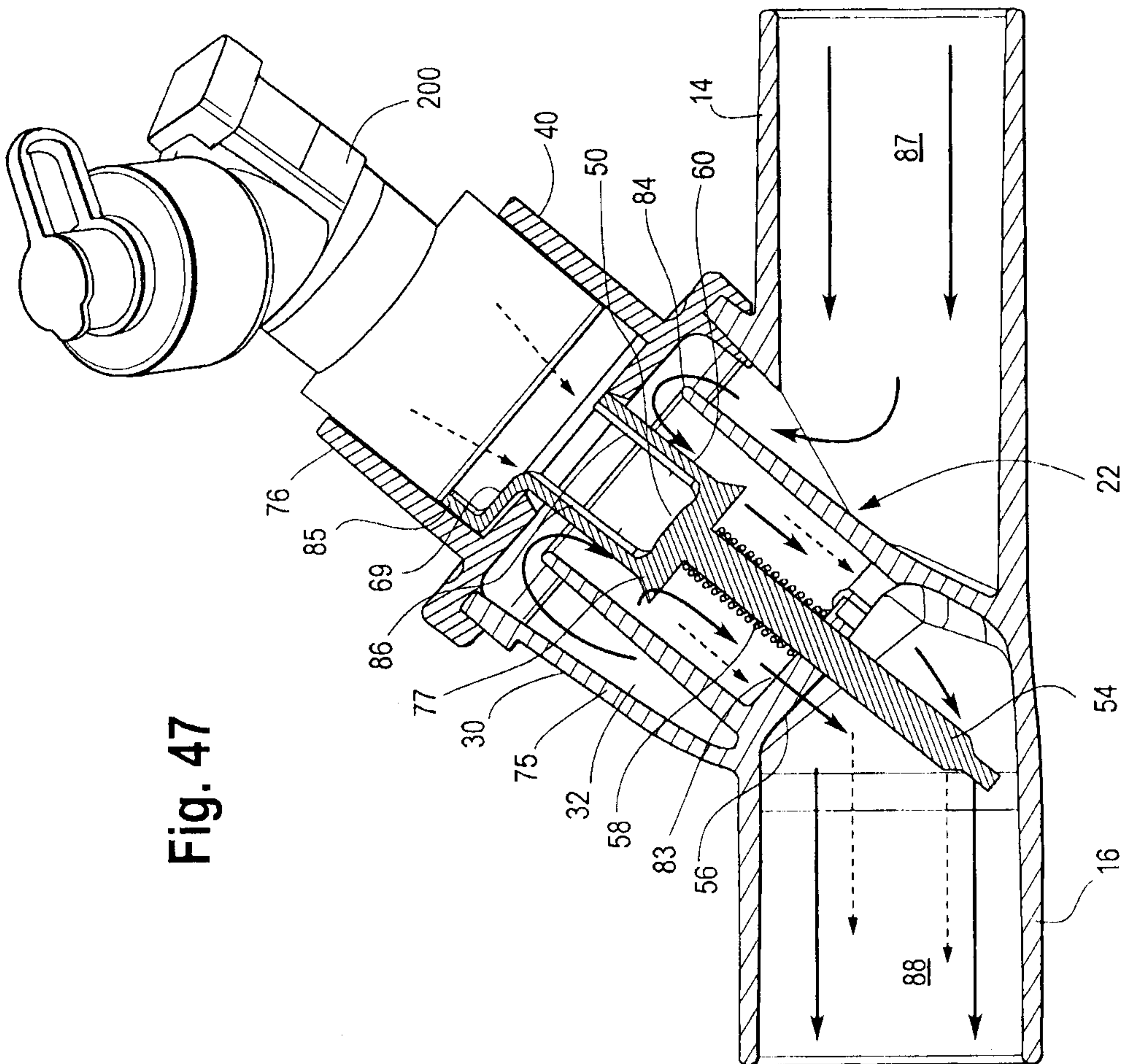


Fig. 47

Fig. 1

