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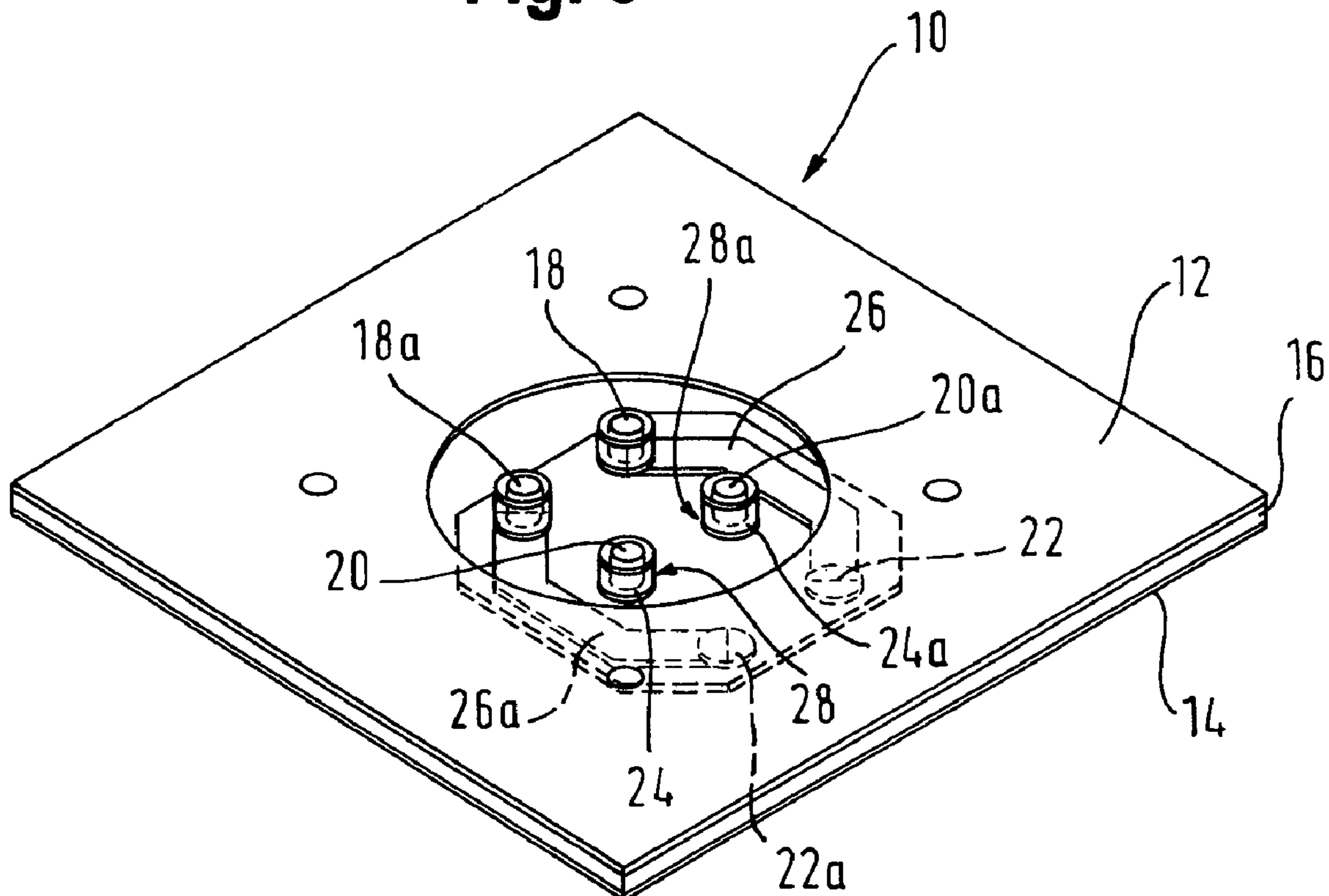
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(54) Title: ELECTRICAL INTERFACE

**Fig. 3**



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

The invention relates to an electric interface, in particular an interposer, comprising a first connection plane with at least one first contact surface pair, each of which comprises a first and second contact surface, and a second connection plane with at least one

**(57) Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):**

second contact surface pair, each of which comprises a third and a fourth contact surface. For each of a first and second contact surface pair, a first electric connection electrically connects the first contact surface of the first connection plane to the third contact surface of the second connection plane, and a second electric connection electrically connects the second contact surface of the first connection plane to the fourth contact surface of the second connection plane. The first electric connection between the first and third contact surface has a specified first geometric length, and the second electric connection between the second and fourth contact surface has a specified second geometric length, the first and second geometric length being different.

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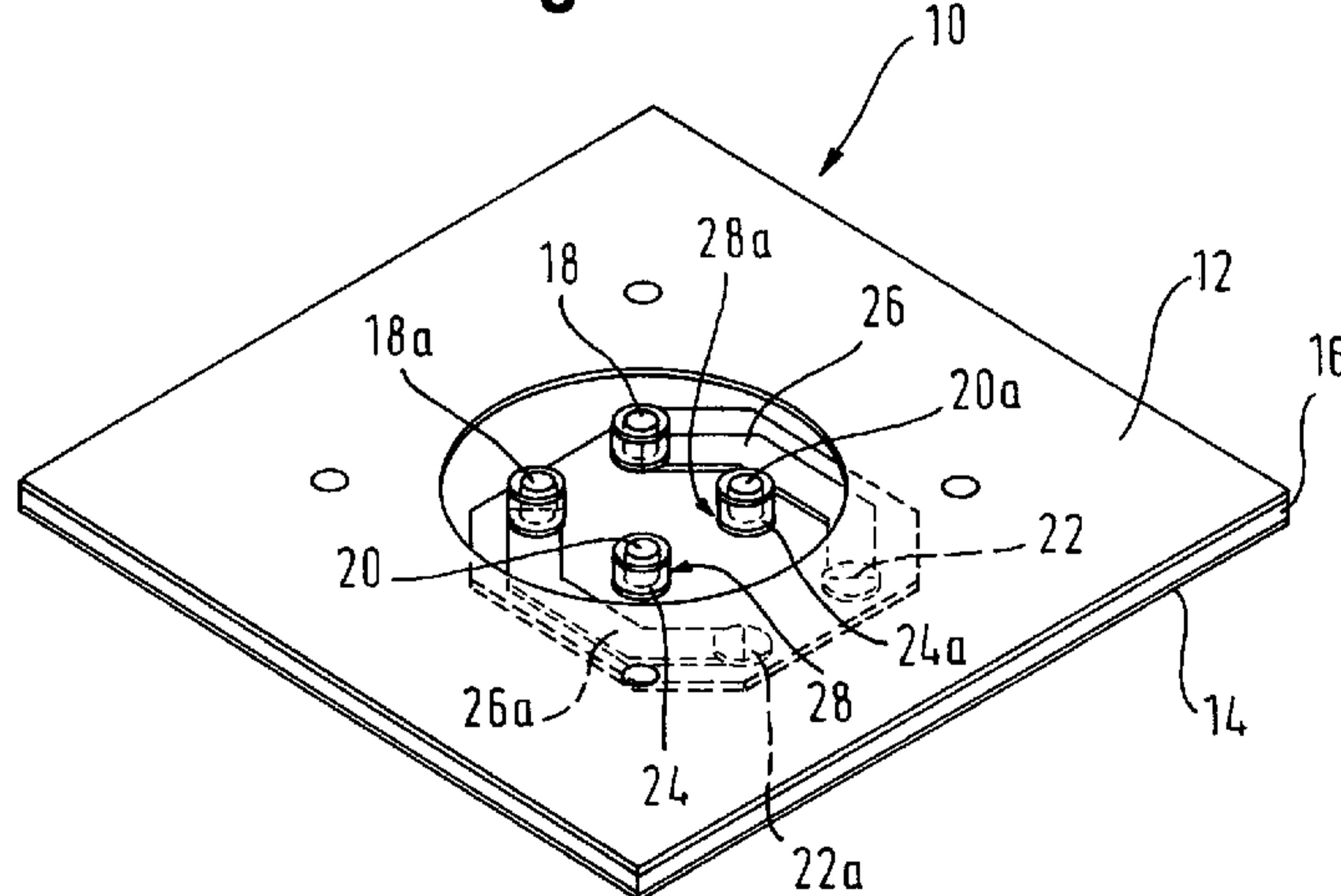
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[Fortsetzung auf der nächsten Seite]

(54) Title: ELECTRIC INTERFACE

(54) Bezeichnung : ELEKTRISCHES INTERFACE

Fig. 3



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to an electric interface, in particular an interposer, comprising a first connection plane with at least one first contact surface pair, each of which comprises a first and second contact surface, and a second connection plane with at least one second contact surface pair, each of which comprises a third and a fourth contact surface. For each of a first and second contact surface pair, a first electric connection electrically connects the first contact surface of the first connection plane to the third contact surface of the second connection plane, and a second electric connection electrically connects the second contact surface of the first connection plane to the fourth contact surface of the second connection plane. The first electric connection between the first and third contact surface has a specified first geometric length, and the second electric connection between the second and fourth contact surface has a specified second geometric length, the first and second geometric length being different.

(57) Zusammenfassung:

[Fortsetzung auf der nächsten Seite]

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Die vorliegende Erfindung betrifft ein Elektrisches Interface, insbesondere Interposer, mit einer ersten Anschluss-Ebene mit mindestens einem ersten Kontaktflächenpaar mit jeweils einer ersten und zweiten Kontaktfläche sowie einer zweiten Anschluss-Ebene mit mindestens einem zweiten Kontaktflächenpaar mit jeweils einer dritten und vierten Kontaktfläche, wobei für jeweils ein erstes und zweites Kontaktflächenpaar eine erste elektrische Verbindung die erste Kontaktfläche der ersten Anschluss-Ebene mit der dritten Kontaktfläche der zweiten Anschluss-Ebene und eine zweite elektrische Verbindung die zweite Kontaktfläche der ersten Anschluss-Ebene mit der vierten Kontaktfläche der zweiten Anschluss-Ebene elektrisch verbindet, wobei die erste elektrische Verbindung zwischen der ersten und dritten Kontaktfläche eine vorbestimmte erste geometrische Länge und die zweite elektrische Verbindung zwischen der zweiten und vierten Kontaktfläche eine vorbestimmte zweite geometrische Länge aufweist, wobei die erste und zweite geometrische Länge unterschiedlich ausgebildet sind.

### Electrical interface

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The present invention relates to an electrical interface, in particular an interposer, comprising a first connection plane with at least one first contact surface pair, each of which comprises a first and second contact surface, and a second connection plane with at least one second contact surface pair, each of which 15 comprises a third and a fourth contact surface, wherein for each of a first and second contact surface pair, a first electric connection electrically connects the first contact surface of the first connection plane to the third contact surface of the second connection plane, and a second electric connection electrically connects the second contact surface of the first connection plane to the fourth 20 contact surface of the second connection plane, according to the preamble of claim 1.

In large computer systems it is usual that several processor boards, each forming a server, in the form of populated printed circuit boards, also known as 25 "blades", are connected electrically and mechanically via plug-in slots with a so-called "backplane", which is itself also a populated printed circuit board. For this purpose, angle connectors are provided which establish contact between plug connectors or connection points on the blades on the one hand and plug connectors or connection points on the backplane on the other hand in order to 30 establish corresponding data transmission channels between the respective blade and the associated backplane.

- However, the electrical connection via the angle connector gives rise to various different problems which affect the high-frequency signal transmission properties of the electrical connections. For example, the conductors in the printed circuit board plug connectors should all have an identical impedance of 85 Ohm. However, due to the geometrical circumstances, not all conductors in an angle plug connector have an identical geometric length, if these are arranged directly on the shortest paths running from the first plane to the second. However, phase differences in the transmission of high-frequency signals via the conductors of the angle connector need to be avoided, for which reason the conductors are frequently laid in a wavelike manner within the angle connectors, so that all conductors have an identical geometric length and thus also electric length. However, this has the disadvantage that the desired characteristic impedance of 85 Ohm is not present at each point between two adjacent conductors due to the distance changing in a wavelike manner. Since the conductors within a printed circuit board plug connector influence one another, for example during the differential transmission of high-frequency signals, this changing characteristic impedance over the course of the conductors leads to significant limitations in terms of the maximum transmittable bandwidth and bit rate.
- The invention is based on the problem of improving an electrical interface of the aforementioned type such that high bandwidths and bit rates are achieved during the transmission of high-frequency signals.
- According to the invention, this problem is solved through an electrical interface of the aforementioned type with the characterising features of claim 1. Advantageous embodiments of the invention are described in the further claims.
- According to the invention, in an electrical interface of the aforementioned type, the first electrical connection between the first and third contact surface has a specified first geometric length and the second electrical connection between the second and fourth contact surface has a specified second geometric length, the first and second geometric length being different.

This has the advantage that, with the electrical interface, runtime or phase differences, for example due to circuits adjacent the electrical interface, between a first electrical signal component which is transmitted via the first and third 5 contact surface and a second electrical signal component which is transmitted via the second and fourth contact surface are deliberately influenced and in particular compensated to a difference of zero.

In order to compensate runtime or phase differences of signals which are 10 transmitted via an electrical angle connector, the electrical interface is designed to be interposed between a flat end surface of an electrical angle connector which has at least one conductor pair for the differential transmission of data signals and a connection point with contact surfaces on a printed circuit board.

15 An arrangement of the contact surfaces in the manner of a star quad cable, or configured to make contact with end surfaces of a star quad cable, is achieved in that two first and second contact surface pairs are provided, wherein the first and second contact surfaces of the two first contact surface pairs on the first connection plane are arranged at the corners of a square such that a first and 20 second contact surface of a first contact surface pair are in each case arranged diagonally opposite one another, wherein the third and fourth contact surfaces of the two second contact surface pairs on the second connection plane are arranged at the corners of a square such that a third and fourth contact surface of a second contact surface pair are in each case arranged diagonally opposite 25 one another.

An identical compensation of runtime or phase differences for all conductors or contact surface pairs is achieved in that all first electrical connections have an identical geometric length relative to one another and that all second electrical 30 connections have an identical geometric length relative to one another.

An electrical interface requiring little construction space is achieved in that the first and second connection plane are arranged parallel to one another.

A geometric length for the second electrical connection with a value of substantially zero is achieved in that the second electrical connection is a through-connection running from the first to the second connection plane in a 5 direction perpendicular to the connection planes.

A particularly good impedance-controlled electrical interface is achieved in that the second and fourth contact surface of a first and second contact surface pair are arranged so as to align with one another in a direction perpendicular to the 10 connection planes, wherein the first and third contact surface of a first and second contact surface pair are spaced apart from one another in a direction perpendicular to the connection planes.

A particularly electrically and mechanically simple and functionally reliable 15 structure is achieved in that a third plane is formed which is arranged between the first and second connection plane, wherein the first electrical connection and the second electrical connection are formed in the third plane.

A compact structure which can be controlled well electrically, particularly in terms 20 of impedance, is achieved in that the third plane is formed parallel to the first and/or second connection plane.

A particularly simple and electrically functionally reliable runtime or phase difference compensation is achieved in that the first electrical connection is 25 designed as a flat conductor track which runs parallel to the first and/or second connection plane.

The invention is explained in the following with reference to the drawing, in which:

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Fig. 1 shows an exemplary embodiment of an electrical interface according to the invention in a view from above,

Fig. 2 shows the electrical interface according to Fig. 1 in a side view,

Fig. 3 shows the electrical interface according to Fig. 1 in an isometric view,

5 Fig. 4 shows the electrical interface according to Fig. 1 in a view from above, with the underside omitted,

10 Fig. 5 shows the electrical interface according to Fig. 1 in a view from above, with the upper side omitted, so that only the underside is illustrated from above,

Fig. 6 shows the electrical interface according to Fig. 1 used with an angle connector and

15 Fig. 7 shows a detail view of the angle connector according to Fig. 6.

The preferred embodiment of an electrical interface 10 illustrated in Figs. 1 to 5 has a first connection plane 12, a second connection plane 14 and a third plane 16 which are all oriented parallel to one another, wherein the third plane 16 is 20 arranged between the first and second connection plane 12, 14. Two first contact surface pairs 19, 19a, each with a first contact surface 18, 18a and a second contact surface 20, 20a, are arranged in the first connection plane 12. Two second contact surface pairs 23, 23a, each with a third contact surface 22, 22a and a fourth contact surface 24, 24a, are arranged in the second connection 25 plane 14. In this context the term "plane" means a delimited level or flat surface considered as a two-dimensional object in three-dimensional space. In the exemplary embodiment described in the following, the "planes" 12, 14, 16 are flat (i.e. without curvature), square surfaces.

30 The first contact surface 18 of one first contact surface pair 19 in the first connection plane 12 is connected electrically with the third contact surface 22 of a second contact surface pair 23 in the second connection plane 14 via a first electrical connection 26. The second contact surface 20 of the first contact

surface pair 19 in the first connection plane 12 is connected electrically with the fourth contact surface 24 of a second contact surface pair 23 in the second connection plane 14 via a second electrical connection 28.

- 5 The first contact surface 18a of the other first contact surface pair 19a in the first connection plane 12 is connected electrically with the third contact surface 22a of the other second contact surface pair 23a in the second connection plane 14 via a further first electrical connection 26a. The second contact surface 20a of the other first contact surface pair 19a in the first connection plane 12 is connected
- 10 electrically with the fourth contact surface 24a of the other second contact surface pair 23a in the second connection plane 14 via a further second electrical connection 28a.

In other words, in the interface 10, one first contact surface pair 19 in the first connection plane 12 is transposed to one second contact surface pair 23 in the second connection plane 14 and the other first contact surface pair 19a in the first connection plane 12 is transposed to the other second contact surface pair 23a in the second connection plane 14.

- 20 The two first electrical connections 26, 26a are flat conductors which are arranged in the third plane 16 and run substantially parallel to the first and second connection plane 12, 14. The two second electrical connections 28, 28a are through-connections running from the first connection plane 12, through the third plane 16, to the second connection plane 14 and run substantially perpendicular to the three planes 12, 14, 16. The geometric lengths of the first electrical connections 26, 26a are identical and at the same time longer than the geometric lengths of the respective second electrical connections 28, 28a. The geometric lengths of the second electrical connections 28, 28a are also identical to one another.
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The first and second contact surfaces 18, 18a, 20, 20a in the first connection plane 12 are arranged at the corners of an imaginary square 40 (Fig. 4) in the first connection plane 12 such that the contact surfaces 18, 20 or 18a, 20a of a

contact surface pair 19 or 19a are arranged diagonally opposite one another. Thus, in the illustrated embodiment, the first and second contact surface 18, 20 of one first contact surface pair 19 are arranged diagonally opposite one another in relation to the imaginary square 40 (Fig. 4) and the first and second contact 5 surface 18a, 20a of the other first contact surface pair 19a are arranged diagonally opposite one another in relation to the imaginary square 40 (Fig. 4).

Analogously, in the second connection plane 14 the third and fourth contact surfaces 22, 24 or 22a, 24a of the second contact surface pairs 23 or 23 are 10 arranged diagonally opposite one another at the corners of an imaginary square 50 (Fig. 5) in the second connection plane 14. Thus, in the illustrated embodiment the third and fourth contact surface 22, 24 of a second contact surface pair 23 are arranged diagonally opposite one another in relation to the imaginary square 50 (Fig. 5) and the third and fourth contact surface 22a, 24a of 15 the other second contact surface pair 23a are arranged diagonally opposite one another in relation to the imaginary square 50 (Fig. 5).

The arrangement or the so-called "footprint" of the first and second contact surfaces 18, 20 and 18a, 20a in the first connection plane 12 described above is 20 transposed via the invented interface 10 to the arrangement or "footprint" of the third and fourth contact surfaces 22, 24 or 22a, 24a in the second connection plane 14 described above with identical dimensions and arrangement, but displaced in a direction perpendicular to the planes 12, 14, 16. At the same time, by means of the first electrical connection 26, 26a providing an electrical 25 connection between a first contact surface 18 and 18a and a third contact surface 22, 22a, the geometric paths and thus the electrical paths for a transmitted high-frequency signal are lengthened in comparison with the second electrical connections 28, 28a between a second contact surface 20, 20a and a fourth contact surface 24, 24a.

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The arrangement of the contact surfaces 18/20, 18a/20a, 22/24, 22a/24a of the contact surface pairs 19, 19a, 23, 23a corresponds to the arrangement of conductors in a so-called star quad transmission cable, which is in particular

- suitable for the differential transmission of high-frequency signals. The interface according to the invention hereby serves as an interposer between an angle connector 30, as illustrated in Fig. 6, and a printed circuit board (not illustrated). As can be seen from Fig. 7, the angle connector illustrated in Fig. 6 contains two 5 pairs of conductors 32, 34 and 32a, 34a, which are arranged in the manner of a star quad cable, wherein in each cross section of the angle connector 30 the conductors are arranged at the corners of a imaginary square 36, wherein two conductors 32, 34 or 32a, 34a of a conductor pair are always arranged diagonally opposite one another in relation to the imaginary square 36. In other 10 words, on the one hand the conductors 32, 34 are arranged diagonally opposite one another in relation to the imaginary square 36 and on the other hand the conductors 32a, 34a are arranged diagonally opposite one another in relation to the imaginary square 36.
- 15 The angle connector 30 shown in Fig. 6 has a angle of 90°, so that the conductors 34, 34a have a shorter geometric length, from one end to the other end of the angle connector 30, than the conductors 32, 32a, since the conductors 34, 34a run along an inside track and the conductors 32, 32a run along an outside track around the 90° angle of the angle connector 30. The 20 interface 10 is arranged, as a so-called interposer, between the angle connector 30 and the (not illustrated) printed circuit board such that the conductors 34, 34a with the shorter geometrical paths in the angle connector 30 each meet on the two first contact surfaces 18 and 18a in the first connection plane 12, so that one first contact surface 18 makes electrical contact with the conductor 34 and the 25 other first contact surface 18a makes electrical contact with the conductor 34a. At the same time, the conductor 32 makes electrical contact with one second contact surface 20 and the conductor 32a makes electrical contact with the other second contact surface 20a in the first connection plane 12. While the electrical signals transmitted via the conductors 32 and 32a are transmitted directly from 30 the second contact surfaces 20, 20a by means of the through-connections 28, 28a, by the shortest path through the interface 10, to the fourth contact surfaces 24, 24a in the second connection plane 14, the signals transmitted from the conductors 34, 34a are transmitted via the long first electrical connections 26,

- 26a to the third contact surfaces 22, 22a. The first electrical conductors 26, 26a are thereby so designed in terms of their geometric length that a phase or runtime shift relative to the signals transmitted on the other conductors 32, 32a is compensated. In other words, a phase or runtime shift between the geometrically
- 5 shorter conductors 34, 34a in the angle connector 30 relative to the geometrically longer conductors 32, 32a in the angle connector 30 is compensated by means of the first electrical connection 26, 26a. The compensation in each case takes place for a conductor pair 32, 34 or 32a, 34a arranged diagonally opposite one another in the angle connector 30, so that the phase or runtime shift of a signal
- 10 in the conductor 34 relative to the conductor 32 is compensated through one first electrical connection 26 and the phase or runtime shift of a signal in the conductor 34a relative to the conductor 32a is compensated through the other first electrical connection 26a.
- 15 Each conductor 32, 34, 32a and 34a has a copper wire 42 with a diameter of for example 0.3 mm as well as a coating 44, for example made of Teflon. The four conductors 32, 34, 32a and 34a are embedded in a dielectric 46, which for example has a diameter of 1.7mm. The dielectric is for example manufactured from the material polyoxymethylene (abbreviation: POM).
- 20 The connection planes 12, 14 are for example manufactured from an epoxy resin laminate with the designation NELCO® N4000-13 and have a thickness of for example 4 mm.

Claims:

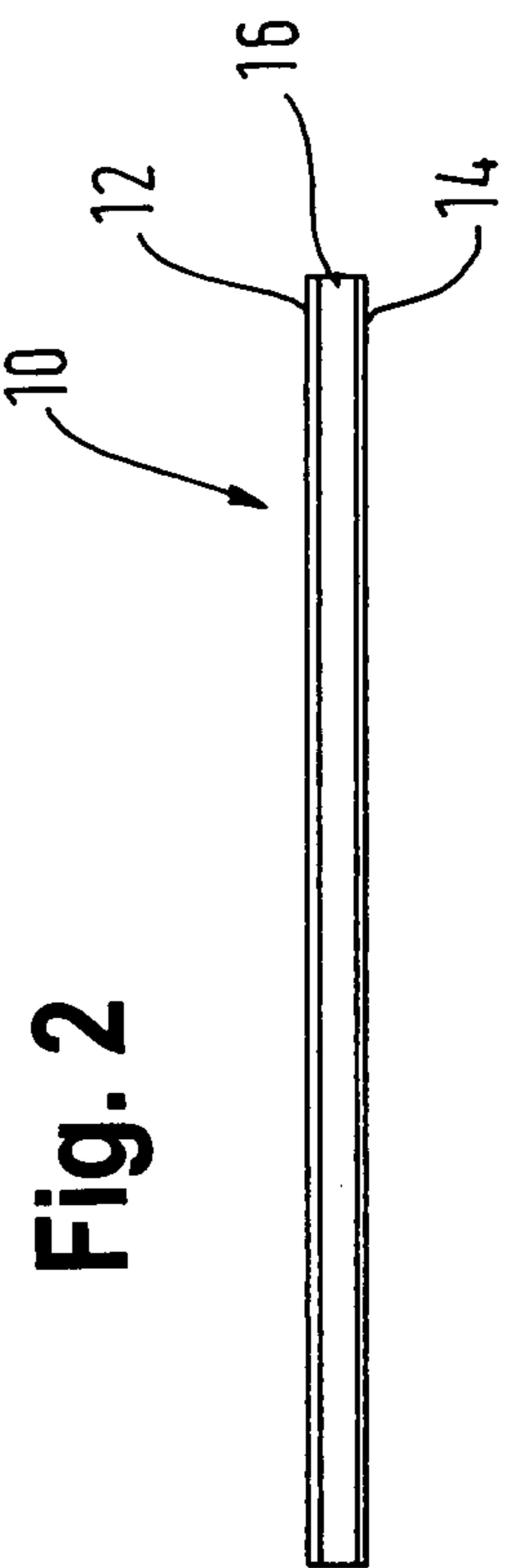
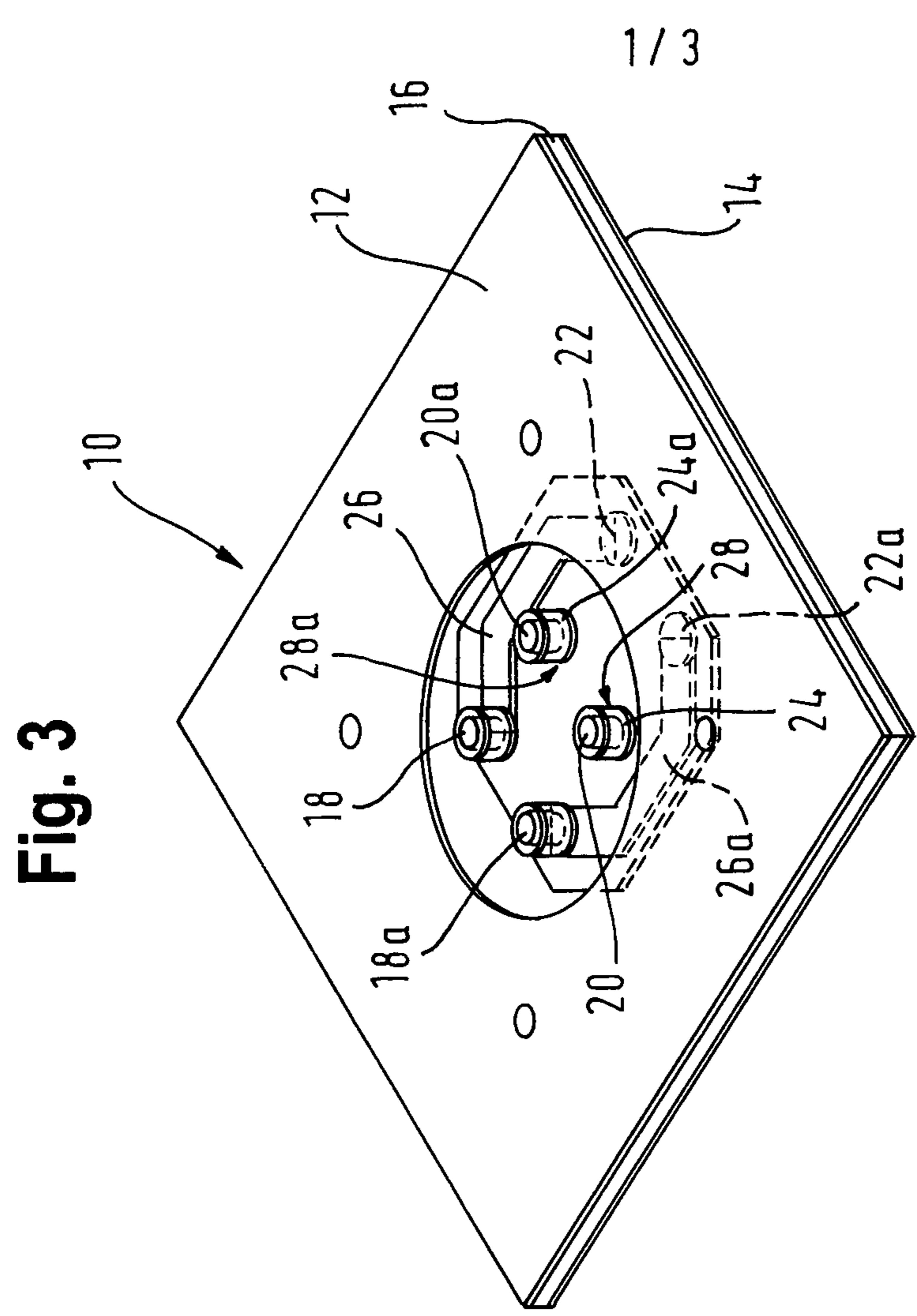
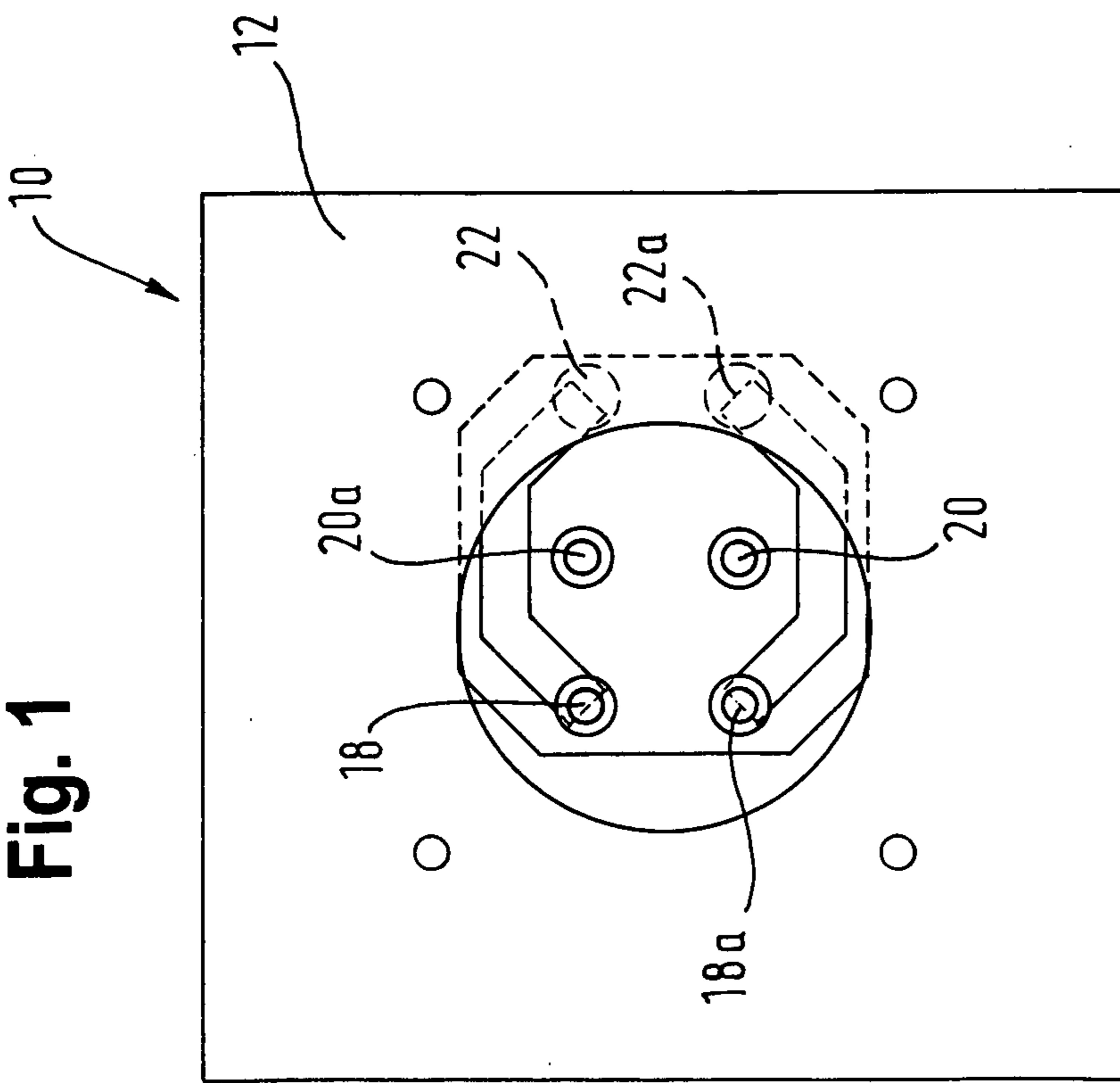
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1. Electrical interface (10), in particular an interposer, comprising a first connection plane (12) with at least one first contact surface pair (19, 19a), each of which comprises a first and second contact surface (18, 20, 18a, 20a), and a second connection plane (14) with at least one second contact surface pair (23, 23a), each of which comprises a third and fourth contact surface (22, 24, 22a, 24a), wherein, for each of a first and second contact surface pair (18, 20, 18a, 20a), a first electrical connection (26, 26a) electrically connects the first contact surface (18, 18a) of the first connection plane (12) with the third contact surface (22, 22a) of the second connection plane (14) and a second electrical connection (28, 28a) electrically connects the second contact surface (20, 20a) of the first connection plane (12) with the fourth contact surface (24, 24a) of the second connection plane (14),  
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characterised in that  
the first electrical connection (26, 26a) between the first and third contact surface (18, 18a, 22, 22a) has a specified first geometric length and the second electrical connection (28, 28a) between the second and fourth contact surface (20, 20a, 24, 24a) has a specified second geometric length, the first and second geometric lengths being different.  
2. Electrical interface (10) according to claim 1, **characterised in that** the electrical interface (10) is designed to be interposed between a flat end surface of an electrical angle connector (30) which has at least one conductor pair (23, 34, 32a, 34a) for the differential transmission of data signals and a connection point with contact surfaces on a printed circuit board.  
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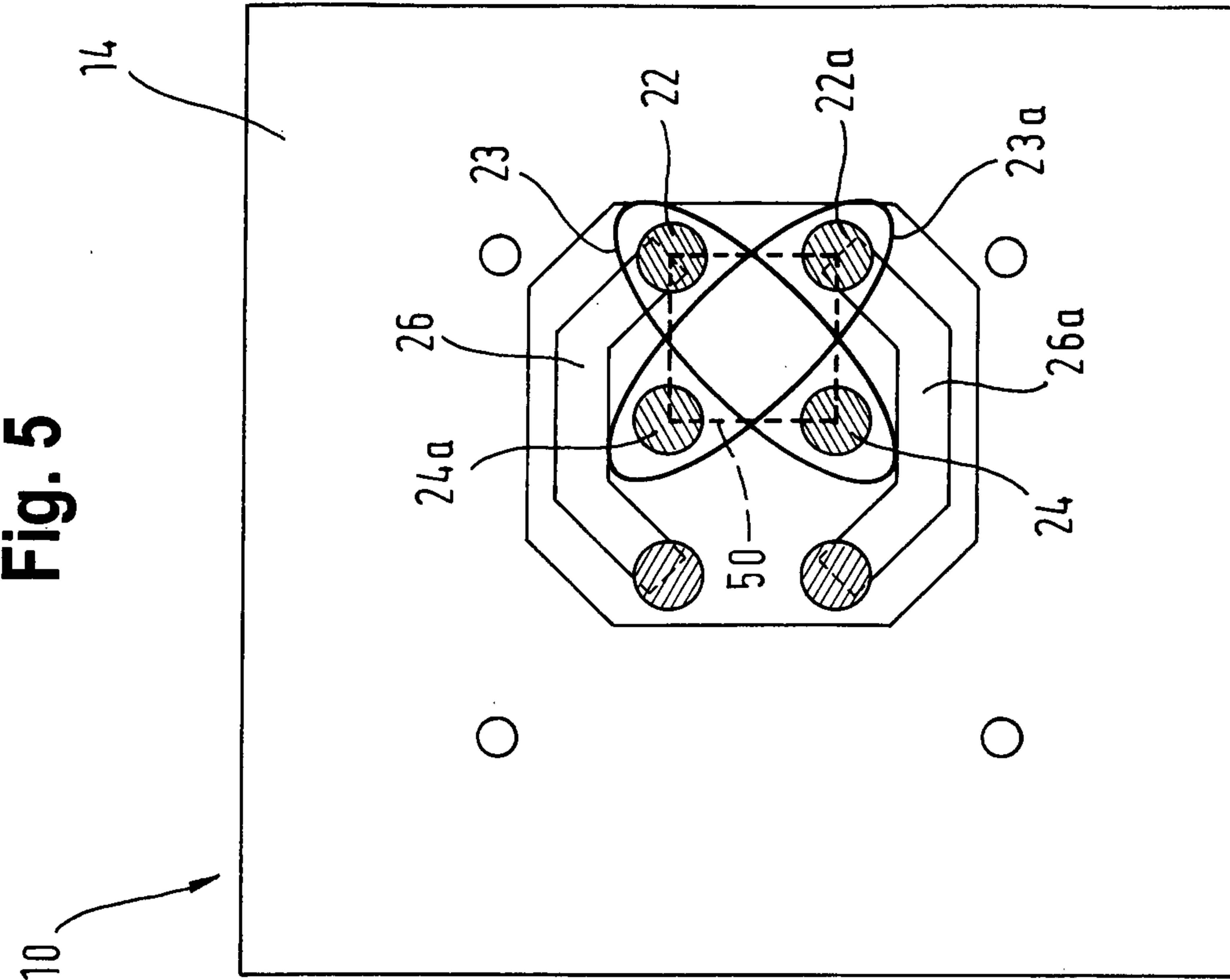
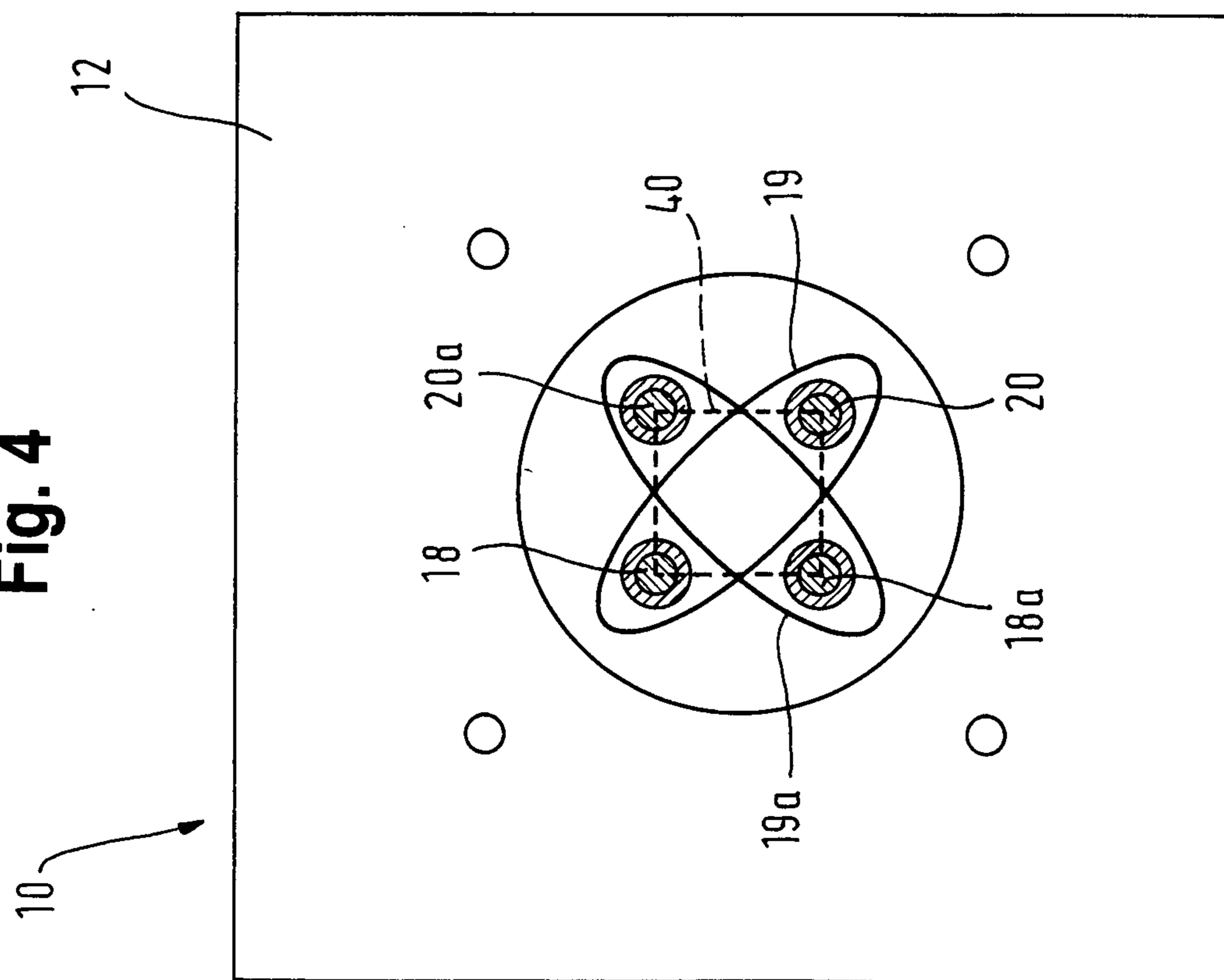
3. Electrical interface (10) according to claim 1 or 2, **characterised in that** two first and second contact surface pairs (19, 19a) are provided, wherein the first and second contact surfaces (18, 20, 18a, 20a) of the two first contact surface pairs (19, 19a) on the first connection plane (12) are arranged at the corners of a square (40) such that a first and second contact surface (18, 20, 18a, 22a) of a first contact surface pair (19, 19a) are in each case arranged diagonally opposite one another, wherein the third and fourth contact surfaces (22, 24, 22a, 24a) of the two second contact surface pairs (23, 23a) on the second connection plane (14) are arranged at the corners of a square (50) such that a third and fourth contact surface (22, 24, 22a, 24a) of a second contact surface pair (23, 23a) are in each case arranged diagonally opposite one another.  
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4. Electrical interface (10) according to at least one of the preceding claims, **characterised in that** all first electrical connections (26, 26a) have an identical geometric length relative to one another and that all second electrical connections (28, 28a) have an identical geometric length relative to one another.  
15
- 20 5. Electrical interface (10) according to at least one of the preceding claims, **characterised in that** the first and second connection plane (12, 14) are arranged parallel to one another.
- 25 6. Electrical interface (10) according to claim 5, **characterised in that** the second electrical connection (28, 28a) is a through-connection running from the first to the second connection plane (12, 14) in a direction perpendicular to the connection planes (12, 14).
- 30 7. Electrical interface (10) according to claim 5 or 6, **characterised in that** the second and fourth contact surface (20, 24, 20a, 24a) of a first and second contact surface pair (19, 23, 19a, 23a) are arranged so as to align with one another in a direction perpendicular to the connection planes (12, 14), wherein the first and third contact surface (18, 22, 18a, 22a) of a first and

second contact surface pair (19, 23, 19a, 23a) are spaced apart from one another in a direction perpendicular to the connection planes (12, 14).

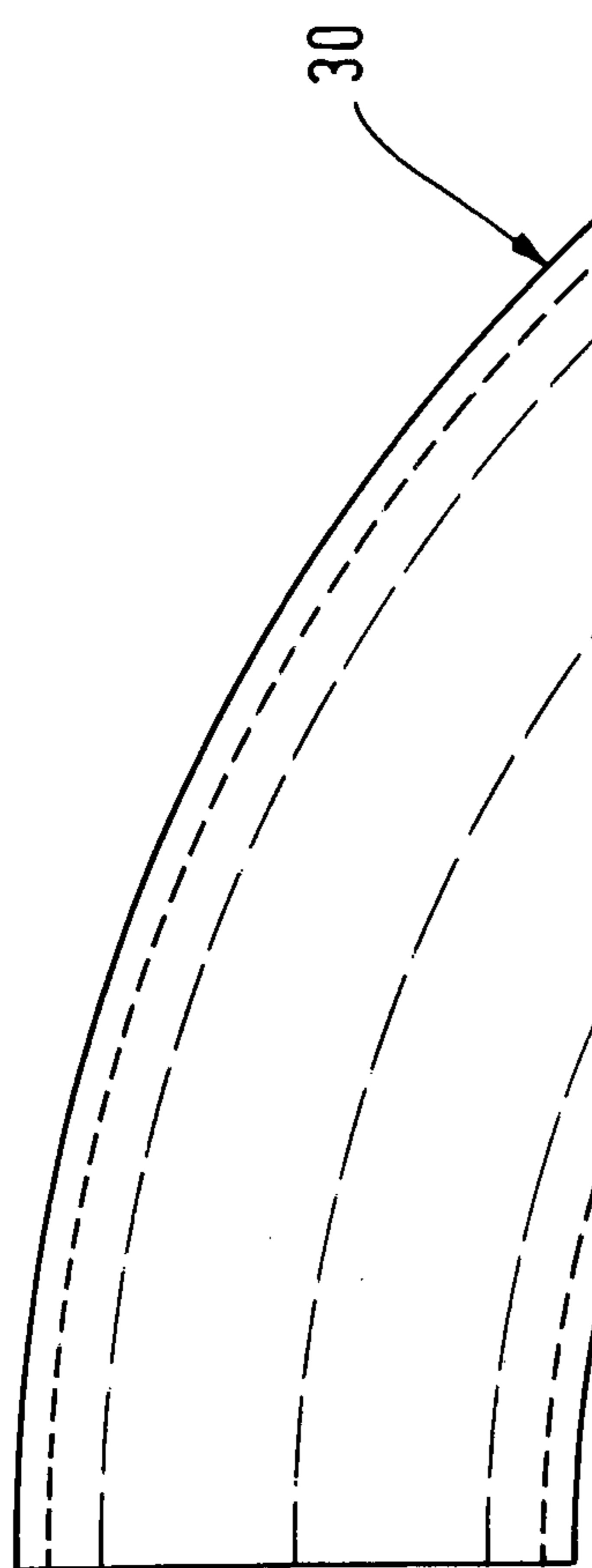
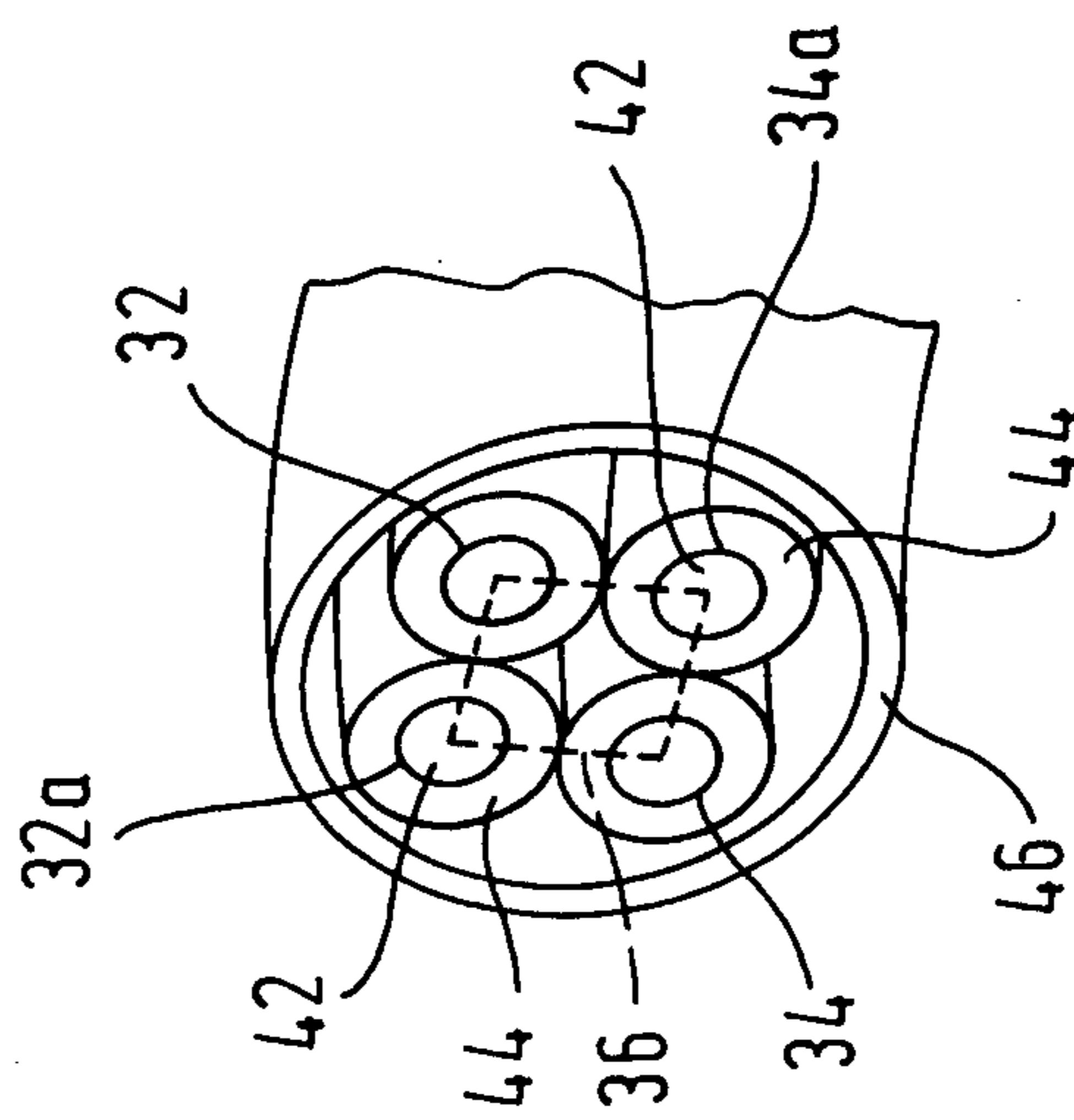
8. Electrical interface (10) according to at least one of the preceding claims,  
5 **characterised in that** a third plane (16) is formed which is arranged between the first and second connection plane (12, 14), wherein the first electrical connection (26, 26a) and the second electrical connection (28, 28a) are formed in the third plane (16).
- 10 9. Electrical interface (10) according to claim 8, **characterised in that** the third plane (16) is formed parallel to the first and/or second connection plane (12, 14).
- 15 10. Electrical interface (10) according to at least one of the preceding claims,  
**characterised in that** the first electrical connection (26, 26a) is designed as a flat conductor track which runs parallel to the first and/or second connection plane (12, 14).

**Fig. 1**

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**Fig. 5****Fig. 4**

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**Fig. 6****Fig. 7**

**Fig. 3**

