



(22) Date de dépôt/Filing Date: 2003/08/18

(41) Mise à la disp. pub./Open to Public Insp.: 2005/02/18

(51) Cl.Int.⁷/Int.Cl.⁷ D06F 59/00, A47B 81/00, F26B 25/00

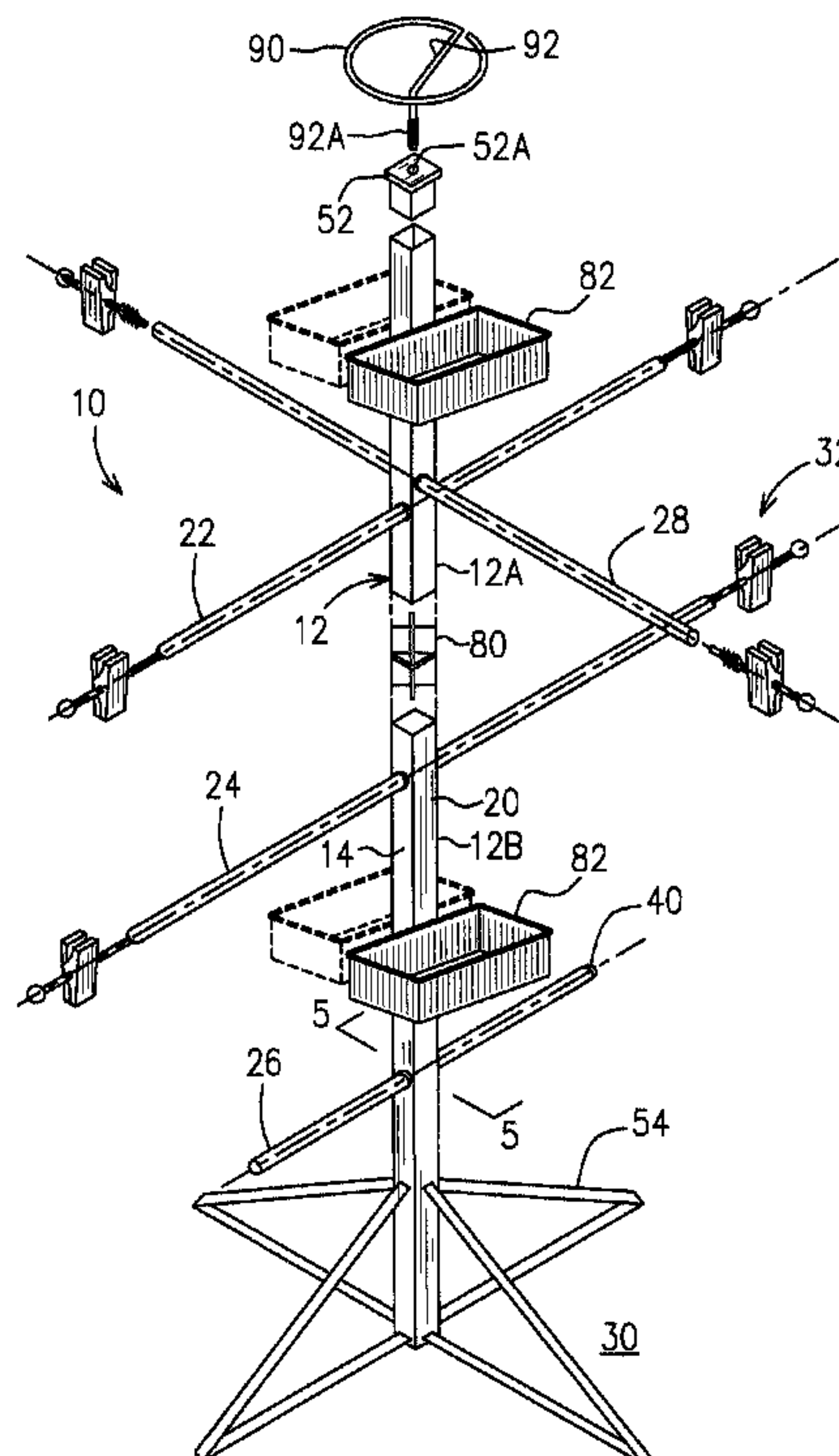
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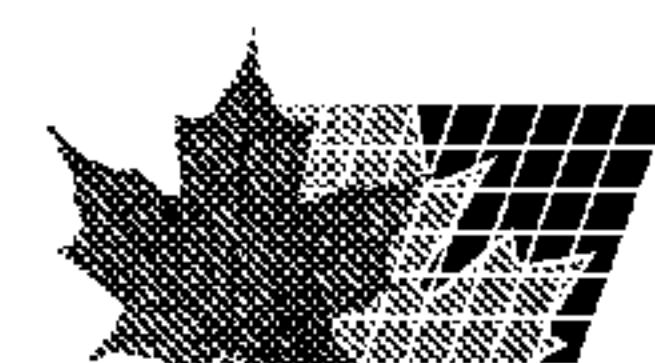
(54) Titre : SECHOIR DE VETEMENTS DE SPORT

(54) Title: SPORTS CLOTHES DRYING RACK



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

There is provided a sports equipment rack which has a central post divideable into upper and lower sections, a plurality of outwardly extending hanger members to receive an article of clothing or piece of sports equipment, and a plurality of outwardly and downwardly extending V-shaped base members for supporting the rack on a support surface. A plurality of pre-assembled clip assemblies are provided to be attached to the ends of hanger members. Baskets can be selectively attached to the central post for sports equipment accessories which can be conveniently placed therein. The rack further includes a ball holder which can either hold a ball or a helmet. The rack is conveniently provided in a kit. The sports equipment rack can be conveniently provided in a compact kit. for travel, and is easily assembled and more stably supported on the ground.



ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

There is provided a sports equipment rack which has a central post divideable into upper and lower sections, a plurality of outwardly extending hanger members to receive an article of clothing or piece of sports equipment, and a plurality of outwardly and downwardly extending V-shaped base members for supporting the rack on a support surface. A plurality of pre-assembled clip assemblies are provided to be attached to the ends of hanger members. Baskets can be selectively attached to the central post for sports equipment accessories which can be conveniently placed therein. The rack further includes a ball holder which can either hold a ball or a helmet. The rack is conveniently provided in a kit. The sports equipment rack can be conveniently provided in a compact kit for travel, and is easily assembled and more stably supported on the ground.

SPORTS CLOTHES DRYING RACK**TECHNICAL FIELD**

[0001] The present invention relates to equipment storage of sports accessories and more particularly, relates to a sports equipment rack which may be utilized for sports equipment including articles of clothing.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Some sports and more particularly contact sports such as hockey and football utilize a great deal of equipment which has to be stored. The equipment cannot be stored immediately after use as generally it must be aired and dried. This is also the case even in some non-contact sports such as skiing and the like.

[0003] If the equipment and clothing is not properly dried, mold and mildew and unpleasant odours can result.

[0004] The use of various types of racks for sports equipment is known in the art. One such sports equipment rack is disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,377,849. In this patent, there is taught a sports equipment rack which may be utilized for supporting different sports equipment in a spaced apart relationship. The rack is comprised of various support members which are interconnected together. The patentee teaches that the rack may be transported without disassembly. As shown in figure 3 of this patent, a number of different pieces or components are utilized in the assembly of the rack rendering it relatively complex and expensive.

[0005] Other devices for the purpose of supporting pieces of sports equipment are shown in Canadian Industrial Design Registrations 355,288 and 354,654. These devices show the use of a central support and fixed arms for the support of sports equipment.

[0006] There are also a number of different types of clothes stands or display racks which are designed for displaying equipment and/or clothing. Generally, each one of the display racks is designed for a particular type of clothing and is not adaptable for the drying and airing of sports equipment.

[0007] The applicant teaches in his Canadian Patent 2,204,977, issued March 28, 2000, a portable sports equipment rack which has a central post, a plurality of outwardly extending hanger members to receive an article of clothing or piece of sports equipment. At least one of the hanger members is moveable between a first storage position where the member lies at the junction of the central post and a second garment or equipment hanging position wherein the hanger member extends outwardly to receive a piece of clothing or sports equipment. An elasticized member preferably extends around the post and the moveable hanger members to retain the same in storage position when not wanted. A plurality of outwardly extending V-shaped base members support the central post in an upstanding position. Each base member has a first arm received in a bore in the post and a second arm secured by a screw to the underside of the post.

[0008] The applicant further teaches in his Canadian Patent Application 2,314,439, published March 28, 2000, improvements of the portable sports equipment rack. In the

improved rack, the V-shaped base members are conveniently attached in pairs of vertically spaced holes at the lower end portion of the central post. A plurality of clips are provided at opposed ends of slider bars which extend through openings in the central post. The racks for sports equipment described in the applicant's patent and patent application work well and are welcomed in the market. However, there is room for further improvement of the racks.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0009] It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a sports equipment rack which is designed to accept different pieces of equipment and/or clothing for the drying thereof.

[0010] It is another object of the present invention to provide a portable sports rack which may be carried by the athlete while traveling.

[0011] It is still a further object of the present invention to provide a compact and portable sports rack which can be conveniently assembled.

[0012] In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a sports equipment rack having a hollow central post, a plurality of outwardly extending hanger members to receive an article thereon and supported by the hollow central post, and a base structure attached to the lower end portion of the hollow central post for supporting the hollow central post on a support surface. The sports equipment rack comprises a support structure having a standing surface for supporting an object placed

thereon. The support structure includes an attachment device removably received in an opening in a wall of the hollow central post and abutting the inner surface of the wall such that the standing surface is substantially parallel to the support surface when the hollow central post is supported on the support surface.

[0013] In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a sports equipment rack having a central post, a plurality of outwardly extending hanger members to receive an article thereon and supported by the central post, and a base structure attached to a lower end portion of the central post for supporting the central post on a support surface. The sports equipment rack comprises a ball holder attached to the upper end of the central post for holding a ball placed thereon.

[0014] In accordance with a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a kit for assembly of a sports equipment rack. The kit comprises a central post of square tubing having a first set of post side walls and a second set of post side walls. The side walls define a plurality of openings therein. A plurality of slider tubes are provided to extend through pairs of openings in the side walls respectively, and thereby are supported by the central post to receive an article thereon. The kit includes a plurality of base members, each being adapted to be joined to one of the side walls of the central post in a vertical plane to support the central post on a support surface. The kit further includes at least one support structure having a standing surface for supporting an object placed thereon. The support structure includes an attachment device adapted to be removably received in a selected opening in one of the side walls of the central

post and to abut an inner surface of the side wall such that the standing surface is substantially parallel to the support surface when the central post is supported on the support surface.

[0015] In accordance with still a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a kit for assembly for a sports equipment rack. The kit comprises a central post of square tubing having a first set of post side walls and a second set of post side walls. A plurality of hanger members are provided to be supported by the central post to receive an article thereon. The kit includes a plurality of base members, each being adapted to be joined to one of the side walls of the central post in a vertical plane to support the central post on a support surface. The kit further includes a ball holder adapted for attachment to an upper end of the central post for holding a ball placed thereon.

[0016] The sports equipment rack of the present invention is not only more stably supported on the ground and can be easily assembled, but also can be more conveniently used for accommodating accessories relating to the sports equipment and holding a ball or helmet thereon. The advantages and the features of the present invention will be better understood with reference to the description of the preferred embodiment described hereinafter.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0017] Having thus generally described the nature of the present invention, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings by way of illustration showing a preferred embodiment, in which:

[0018] Figure 1 is a perspective and partially exploded view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

[0019] Figure 2 is an enlarged segmental perspective view of a central post with only one V-shaped base member assembled, showing the manner in which the V-shaped base member is secured to the central post;

[0020] Figure 3 is an side elevational view of Figure 2, showing the bearing point of the base member;

[0021] Figure 4 is a segmental view of the V-shaped base member, showing self-adhesive felt pads attached to the bearing point of the member;

[0022] Figure 5 is a segmental and cross-sectional view of the embodiment in Figure 1, taken along line 5-5, showing a plastic ring used to secure the slider tube to the side wall of the central post;

[0023] Figure 6A is a side elevational view of a basket which is attached to the rack of Figure 1;

[0024] Figure 6B is a side elevational view of an attachment device for attaching the basket of Figure 6A to the rack;

[0025] Figure 6C is a segmental and front view of the attachment device of Figure 6B;

[0026] Figure 7A is a side elevational view of a clip assembly which is attached to one of the opposed ends of the slider tubes of the rack of Figure 1;

[0027] Figure 7B is a side elevational view of a clip rod, showing the integrally formed stoppers;

[0028] Figure 7C is a cross-sectional view of the clip assembly taken along line 7C-7C of Figure 7A, the clip rod being removed to show the central hole of a frictional holding member;

[0029] Figure 8A is a side elevational view of an end cap used to close an open end of the slider tube;

[0030] Figure 8B is a cross-sectional view of the end cap taken along line 8B-8B of Figure 8A;

[0031] Figure 9A is a top plan view of a post connector used to interconnect upper and lower sections of the central post; and

[0032] Figure 9B is a side elevational view of the post connector of Figure 9A.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0033] Referring to the drawings, particularly to Figures 1 and 5, there is illustrated a sports equipment rack which is generally designated by reference numeral 10. The sports equipment rack 10 includes a central post 12 which is of a square configuration and has a first pair of opposed side walls 14 and 18 and a second pair of opposed side walls 16 and 20.

[0034] It is preferable to have the central post 12 divided into upper and lower sections 12A and 12B which are interconnected by a post connector 80. The post connector 80 will be further described hereinafter with reference to Figures 9A and 9B. The lower section 12B defines two pairs of holes 29 (See Figure 5) in one pair of side walls, either 14, 18, or 16, 20 in a spaced part relationship. The upper section 12A is preferably shorter than the lower

section 12B, and defines a pair of holes (not indicated, but similar to holes 30 in lower section 12B) in each pair of the opposed side walls 14, 18 and opposed side walls 16, 20 in a close relationship.

[0035] Sports equipment rack 10 further includes equipment hanger members including slider tubes 22, 24, 26 and 28 which are circular in cross-section. Slider tubes 22, 24 and 26 extend through the holes in side walls 14, 18 of central post 12, and slider tube 28 extends through the holes in side walls 16, 20 of central post 12. As being determined by the positions of the holes defined in the side walls 14, 16, 18 and 20 of the upper and lower sections 12A and 12B of central post 12, slider tubes 22, 24 and 26 are vertically spaced apart and parallel to one another, and slider tube 28 is normal to the slider tubes 22, 24 and 26 as shown in Figure 1.

[0036] A plurality of plastic rings 34 are provided for securing the respective slider tubes in the holes. Each of the plastic rings 34 includes a small flange 36 at an inner end and a larger flange 38 at a outer end thereof which abut the respective inner surface and outer surface of the side wall of the central post 12 so that the plastic ring 34 is securely attached to the side wall of central post 12, as shown in Figure 5. Plastic ring 34 has an internal diameter not greater than the external diameter of a slider tube, such as slider tube 26 as shown, so that the resilient property of the plastic ring 34 permits slider tube 26 to extend therethrough while frictionally securing slider tube 26 to central post 12.

[0037] Referring to Figures 1 - 4, central post 12 is held in a vertical position by means of base members 54. In

accordance with this embodiment, each of the base members 54 has an outwardly and downwardly extending V-shaped structure including first and second arms 56, 58 joined to one of side walls 14, 16, 18 and 20 of the lower section 12B of central post 12. The V-shaped base members 54 are identical and only one is illustrated in figure 2 to show the structural details thereof. First arm 56 is jointed to side wall 14 of the lower section 12B of central post 12 above a bottom end thereof and a second arm 58 is joined to side wall 14 above first arm 56. The distal end of first and second arms 56, 58 merges together to form the V-shaped structure and provide a bearing point 62 on first arm 56 remote from central post 12 to support central post 12 on a support surface 30, as shown in Figure 3.

[0038] Base member 54 is preferably made integrally of a metal band having a resilient property. One end 64 of first arm 56 is bent outwardly and received in a slot 66 in side wall 14 adjacent to bottom end 60 of the lower section 12B of central post 12. One end 68 of second arm 58 includes a tip bent outwardly (more clearly shown in Figure 3) and received in a bore 70 in side wall 14 of the lower section 12B of central post 12. First and second arms 56, 58 are precompressed and therefore, a tension state thereof maintains V-shaped base member 54 joined to side wall 14 of the lower section 12B of central post 12 while the respective bent ends 64, 68 prevent the respective ends 64, 68 from being forced out themselves from the slot 64 and the bore 70 by the tension state of first and second arms 56, 58.

[0039] The length of first and second arms 56, 58 and the distance 72 between slot 66 and bore 70 are selected to form a triangle relation therebetween so that both first

and second arms 56, 58 extend downwardly with respect to central post 12 to an extent that the bearing point 62 on the remote end of first arm 56 is below the bottom end 60 of the lower section 12B of central post 12, as more clearly shown in Figure 3. In such a manner the bottom end 60 of the lower section 12B of central post 12 is supported above the support surface 30 and only a small portion at the remote end, which is the bearing point 62, of each first arm 56 rests on the support surface 30. Bearing point 62 located at remote end of each first arm 56 insures the maximum support base for central post 12 and the maximum support base will not be affected by any displacement of first arm 56. Under a tension state, first arm 56 may not be maintained straight and may be bent inwardly or outwardly as illustrated by broken lines 74, 76, which is permitted and does not affect the maximum support base defined by bearing point 62 as long as the displacement, particularly shown by line 76, is within a tolerable range not substantially to change the radial position of the bearing point 62.

Base member 54 preferably further provides a self-leveling adjustment. Central post 12 is intended to move slightly downwards under load when sports equipment is hung on the slider bars because of the resilient property of the metal band which first and second arms 56, 58 are made of. If base members 54 are not perfectly leveled and bearing point 62 of one base member 54 is out of contact with the support surface 30, the bearing point 62 will slightly move down together with central post 12 while the other three base members resiliently displaced under a downward force produced by the load on central post 12 until all bearing points 62 of base members 54 firmly rest on the support surface 30.

[0040] It is optional to provide felt pads 78 which are self-adhesive and attached to bearing point 62 of base member 54. Felt pads 78 increase contact friction between bearing points 62 and the support surface to improve the supportive stability of a base member 54. In addition, additional felt pads may be added to further adjust the leveling of base members 54 if the uneven condition cannot be automatically solved by the leveling adjustment activated by load.

[0041] Referring to Figures 1 and 7A-7C, a plurality of clip assemblies 32 are provided. Each clip assembly 32 is removably attached to one end of the respective slider tubes 22, 24 and 28, and includes a clip rod 46 extending through a clip 48 and a frictional holding member 42. The clip 48 is the type for holding clothes and is well known in the art.

[0042] The frictional holding member is preferably made of plastic or rubber, including a cross-shaped body 42A with axially spaced-apart skirt members 42B which extend radially and outwardly from the body 42A, and a semi-spherical head 42C. A central hole 42D extends through the body 42A and the head 42C to receive the clip rod 46 extending therethrough.

[0043] The clip 48 and the frictional member 42 are held on the clip rod 46, axially restricted between two washers 47 which are prevented from being removed from the clip rod 46 by two stoppers 46A integrally formed at the opposed ends of the clip rod 46. The clip rod 46 is preferably made of metal material and the stoppers 46A are formed by deformation resulting from a pressing or punching process after the clip 48, the frictional holding member 42 and the

washers 47 are received on the clip rod 46. Thus, the clip assembly 32 will not be disassembled during storage or transportation, and is ready for use with the rack 10.

[0044] In use, the clip assembly 32 is attached to one end of the respective slider tubes 22, 24 and 28 by inserting the frictional holding member 42 into the open end of the slider tube until the skirt members 42B are frictionally received therein and the head 42C abuts the end edge of the slider tube. It is also preferable to provide a plastic or rubber cap 50 to firmly cover the outer end of the clip rod 46 for a pleasant appearance.

[0045] The slider tube 26 is located at a lower position and close to the support surface 30. Thus, the slider tube 26 is not provided with the clip assembly 32, and the opposed ends thereof are closed by the end caps 40. The end caps 40 are similar to the frictional holding member 42, including a cross-shaped body 40A, axially spaced-apart skirts 40B which extend radially and outwardly from the body 40A, and a semi-spherical head 40C. However, the end caps 40 are solid and do not define a central hole. The end caps 40 are inserted into the opposed ends of the slider tube 26 and are firmly secured therein, only the semi-spherical heads 40C appearing at the ends of the slider tube 26.

[0046] It is preferable to provide the sports equipment rack 10 with a support structure having a standing surface for objects such as sports equipment accessories which can be placed on the standing surface of the support structure. In this embodiment, the support structure includes two containers, such as baskets 82.

[0047] Referring to Figures 1 and 6A - 6B, each basket 82 is substantially rectangular and includes an open top 82A, a closed bottom 82B which defines the standing surface, and side walls 82C with openings 82D. The side walls 82C have an upper peripheral portion 82E with an outwardly projecting rim 82F at the top edge thereof.

[0048] The basket 82 is attached to central post 12 of the rack 10 preferably by an attachment device which, according to this embodiment, is a closed frame structure, such as a wire basket holder 84. The wire basket holder 84 includes a substantially rectangular frame structure for receiving the basket 82 therein. When the basket 82 is received in the wire basket holder 84, the upper peripheral portion 82E is snugly fixed therein and the rim 82F rests thereon.

[0049] The wire basket holder 84 further includes a pair of pins 86. Each pin 86 includes an upper section 86A, a middle section 86B and a lower section 86C. The pins 86 are in a substantially parallel relationship, and preferably made of a single piece of wire so that the lower sections 86C are integrally interconnected.

[0050] In each pin 86, the upper section 86A is substantially parallel to the lower section 86C and is spaced apart therefrom by the middle section 36B which is substantially perpendicular to the upper and lower sections 86A, 86C. The space between the upper and lower sections 86A, 86C is slightly greater than the thickness of the side walls of central post 12 which is shown by broken lines in Figure 6B. The pins 86 are affixed to a side of the wire basket holder 84 by for example, welding. Thus, when the pins 86 are received in a pair of holes 88 (only one is shown in Figure 6B) in a side wall of central post 12, the

upper sections 86A extend upwardly along and abut the inner surface of the side wall, the lower sections 86C extend downwardly along and abut the inner surface of the side wall, and the middle sections 86B extend through the respective openings 88 in the side wall. The wire basket holder 84 which is attached to central post 12 in such a manner, ensures that the standing surface, which is the bottom 82B of the basket 82, is substantially parallel to the support surface 30 when the basket 82 is attached to central post 12 and central post 12 is supported on the support surface 30.

[0051] Four pairs of openings 88 of Figure 6B are preferably defined on the respective opposed side walls 14 and 18, or 16 and 20, of central post 12, two pairs of openings 88 being at one level in the upper section 12A, the other two pairs of openings 88 being at one level in the lower section 12B. Therefore, two baskets 82 can be selectively attached to central post 12 to meet the personal requirement as shown in Figure 1 when two baskets 82 are provided with the rack 10. The baskets illustrated by broken lines show the alternative basket positions.

[0052] The number and locations of the clip assembly 32 and the baskets 82 are selective, and can be different from the above described embodiment, without departure from the principle of the present invention.

[0053] It is further preferable to provide a ball holder attached to the upper end of central post 12 for holding a ball placed thereon.

[0054] Referring to Figure 1, the ball holder is preferably made of a metal ring 90 for receiving a ball resting thereon. A support rod 92 is affixed to the ring

90 at one side thereof, and extends downwardly for attachment to the upper end of the upper sections 12A of central post 12. The ring 90 and the support rod 92 are preferably made of a single piece of metal rod and include a threaded end section 92A at the lower end of the support rod 92. A square end cap 52 is provided to cover the open upper end of the upper section 12A of central post 12. The square end cap 52 is preferably made of plastic or rubber and snugly received in the open upper end of the upper section 12A of central post 12. An opening 52A with corresponding threads is defined in the center of the square end cap 52 for engaging the threaded end section 92A of the support rod 92. In this embodiment a metal nut for threadedly engaging the threaded end section 92A is preferably affixed in the central hold 52A of the square end cap 52, which can provide strong and long-lasting threads for the engagement. The ball holder can be configured otherwise as long as it can hold a ball above the upper end of central post 12.

[0055] The sport equipment rack 10 is conveniently provided in a kit which includes the central post 12, slider tubes 22, 24, 26 and 28, and four base members 54 with a plurality of felt pads 78. The kit further includes six pre-assembled clip assemblies 32, eight plastic rings 34, two end caps 40, two baskets 82, two wire basket holders 84, one ball holder 92, and one square top cap 52. Central post 12 is provided as separate upper and lower sections 12A and 12B which can be contained in a relatively compact package. The post connector 80 is also included in the kit, which, as illustrated in Figures 9A-9B, is made of plastics and includes an elongate body having a cross-shaped cross section 80A. A central plate 80B having a square shape is positioned in the middle of and transverse

to the elongate body. In connection, the elongate body is inserted at the opposed ends thereof into the open lower and upper ends of the respective upper and lower sections 12A and 12B until the lower end of the upper section 12A and the upper end of the lower section 12B abut the central plate 80 at opposite sides thereof. The connector 80 frictionally interconnects the upper and lower sections 12A and 12B together to form central post 12.

[0056] The V-shaped base members 54 have been compressed to make them smaller for packaging purposes. In order to ensure that base members 54 be secured to central post 12 in a tensioned state, each base member 54 should be pulled outwardly and spread slightly wider than the distance 72 between slot 66 and bores 70 before it is installed to the central post. For installation of V-shaped base members 54 to the square central post 12, the upper and lower sections 12A and 12B are connected to form the central post 12, and end 60 of the lower section 12A of central post 12 should be located. Central post 12 is placed on the support surface 30, end 60 facing upwards. End 64 of first arm 56 is hooked into the slot 66 in one side wall of central post 12 and end 68 is squeezed slightly to place into bore 70 in the same side wall of central post 12. The steps are repeated until all base members 54 are joined to central post 12.

[0057] Central post 12 is now turned over and supported on the support surface by base members 54. Plastic rings 34 are placed into all holes in all side walls 14, 16, 18 and 20 by placing smaller flange end 36 of the plastic ring into the hole opening and pressing firmly until the ring snaps into position, as shown in Figure 5. The slider tubes are placed through respective plastic rings 34 in

central post 12. The short slider tube 26 is placed through a pair of the holes in a lower position of the lower section 12B of central post 12 as shown in Figure 1. The slider tubes should be held firmly in the assembler's hands when the end caps 40 and clip assemblies 32 are placed into position on the ends of slider tubes. Square plastic cap 52 is placed into the top of central post 12 and tapped into position. Optionally, self-adhesive felt pads 78 are placed to bearing points 62 of each face member 54. If the rack 10 is not sturdy, additional felt pads are added on either side.

[0058] Baskets 82 are placed within the respective wire basket holders 84. Each basket is then attached to a selected position by inserting the pair of pins 86 into the selected openings in the side walls of central post 12. Finally, ball holder 92 is attached to the upper end of central post 12 by engaging the threaded end section 92A of the support rod 92 with the threaded opening 52A in the square end cap 52.

[0059] It will be understood that the above described embodiments are for purposes of illustration only and that changes and modifications may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention which is solely defined by the appended claims.

I/WE CLAIM:

1. A sports equipment rack having a hollow central post, a plurality of outwardly extending hanger members to receive an article thereon and supported by the hollow central post, and a base structure attached to an lower end portion of the hollow central post for supporting the hollow central post on a support surface; comprising:

a support structure having a standing surface for supporting an object placed thereon, the support structure including an attachment device removably received in an opening in a wall of the hollow central post and abutting an inner surface of the wall such that the standing surface is substantially parallel to the support surface when the hollow central post is supported on the support surface.
2. The sports equipment rack as claimed in claim 1 wherein the hollow central post comprises a pair of openings and wherein the attachment device comprises a pair of pins in a parallel relationship, each including a first section substantially perpendicular to a second section thereof, the second section extending through one of the pair of openings in the wall of the hollow central post and the first section extending upwards and abutting the inner surface of the wall.
3. The sports equipment rack as claimed in claim 2 wherein the support structure comprising a basket.

4. The sports equipment rack as claimed in claim 3 wherein the attachment device is separable from the basket.
5. The sports equipment rack as claimed in claim 4 wherein the attachment device comprises a frame structure, the pins being affixed to the frame structure at one side thereof, the frame structure supporting an outwardly extending rim of the basket thereon.
6. The sports equipment rack as claimed in claim 5 wherein each pin comprises a third section extending downwardly and spaced apart by the second section from the first section, the pin being affixed at the third section to the frame structure.
7. The sports equipment rack as claimed in claim 1 wherein the hollow central post comprises a plurality of openings for selectively engaging the attachment device such that the support structure can be attached to the hollow central post at a selected one of positions of the openings.
8. The sports equipment rack as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a ball holder attached to an upper end of the central post for holding a ball placed thereon.
9. A sports equipment rack having a central post, a plurality of outwardly extending hanger members to receive an article thereon and supported by the central post, and a base structure attached to an

lower end portion of the central post for supporting the central post on a support surface; comprising:

a ball holder attached to an upper end of the central post for holding a ball placed thereon.

10. The sports equipment rack as claimed in claim 9 wherein the ball holder comprises a ring for receiving a ball resting thereon.
11. The sports equipment rack as claimed in claim 10 wherein the ball holder further comprises a support rod affixed to the ring at one side thereof and extending downwardly for removable attachment to an upper end of the central post, thereby supporting the ring above the upper end of the central post.
12. The sports equipment rack as claimed in claim 11 wherein the central post is made of a square tubing and comprises an upper end cap attached at the upper end thereof, the upper end cap including a threaded opening engaging a corresponding threaded section of the support rod of the ball holder.
13. A kit for an assembly of a sports equipment rack comprising:

a central post of square tubing having a first set of opposed side walls and a second set of opposed side walls, the side walls defining a plurality of openings therein;

a plurality of slider tubes adapted to extend through pairs of openings in the side walls respectively, thereby being supported by the central post to receive an article thereon;

a plurality of base members, each being adapted to be joined to one of the side walls of the central post in a vertical plane to support the central post on a support surface; and

at least one support structure having a standing surface for supporting an object placed thereon, the support structure including an attachment device adapted to be removably received in a selected opening in one of the side walls of the central post and to abut an inner surface of the side wall such that the standing surface is substantially parallel to the support surface when the central post is supported on the support surface.

14. The kit as claimed in claim 13 wherein the support structure comprises a container and a container holder having a pair of pins, the container holder being adapted for supporting the container when attached to the central post, each pin including an upper section adapted to enter into the opening, extending upwardly along and abutting the inner surface of the side wall.

15. The kit as claimed in claim 14 comprising a plurality of pre-assembled clip assemblies adapted to be attached to opposed ends of a number of the slider tubes, each of the clip assemblies including a clip rod extending through a clip and a frictional holding member, the frictional being adapted to be inserted into an end of one slider tube and frictionally secured therein.

16. The kit as claimed in claim 15 wherein each clip rod comprises at opposed ends thereof a stopper integrated therewith to prevent removal of the respective clip and the frictional holding member from the clip rod.
17. The kit as claimed in claim 13 wherein the central post comprises upper and lower sections and a post connector, the post connector being adapted to be inserted at opposed ends thereof into one end of the respective upper and lower sections, thereby frictionally interconnecting same.
18. The kit as claimed in claim 13 wherein the central post comprises an upper end cap adapted to be attached to the upper end of the central post for supporting a ball holder.
19. A kit for an assembly of a sports equipment rack comprising:
 - a central post of square tubing having a first set of opposed side walls and a second set of opposed side walls;
 - a plurality of hanger members adapted to be supported by the central post to receive an article thereon;
 - a plurality of base members, each being adapted to be joined to one of the side walls of the central post in a vertical plane to support the central post on a support surface; and

a ball holder adapted for attachment to an upper end of the central post for holding a ball placed thereon

20. A kit as claimed in claim 19 wherein the ball holder comprises a ring and a support rod affixed to the ring at one side thereof and extending downwardly for removable attachment to an upper end of the central post, thereby supporting the ring above the upper end of the central post.

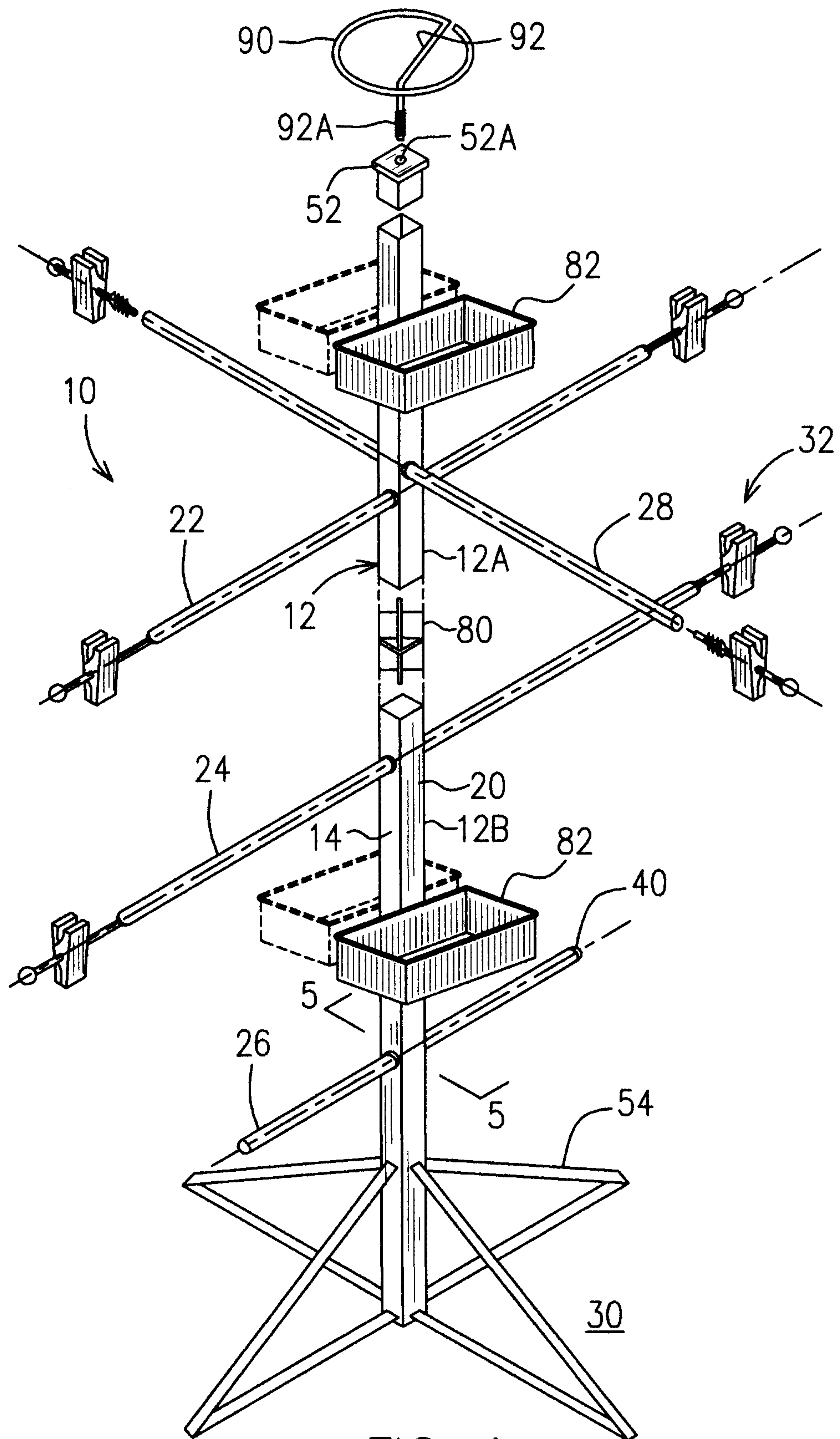
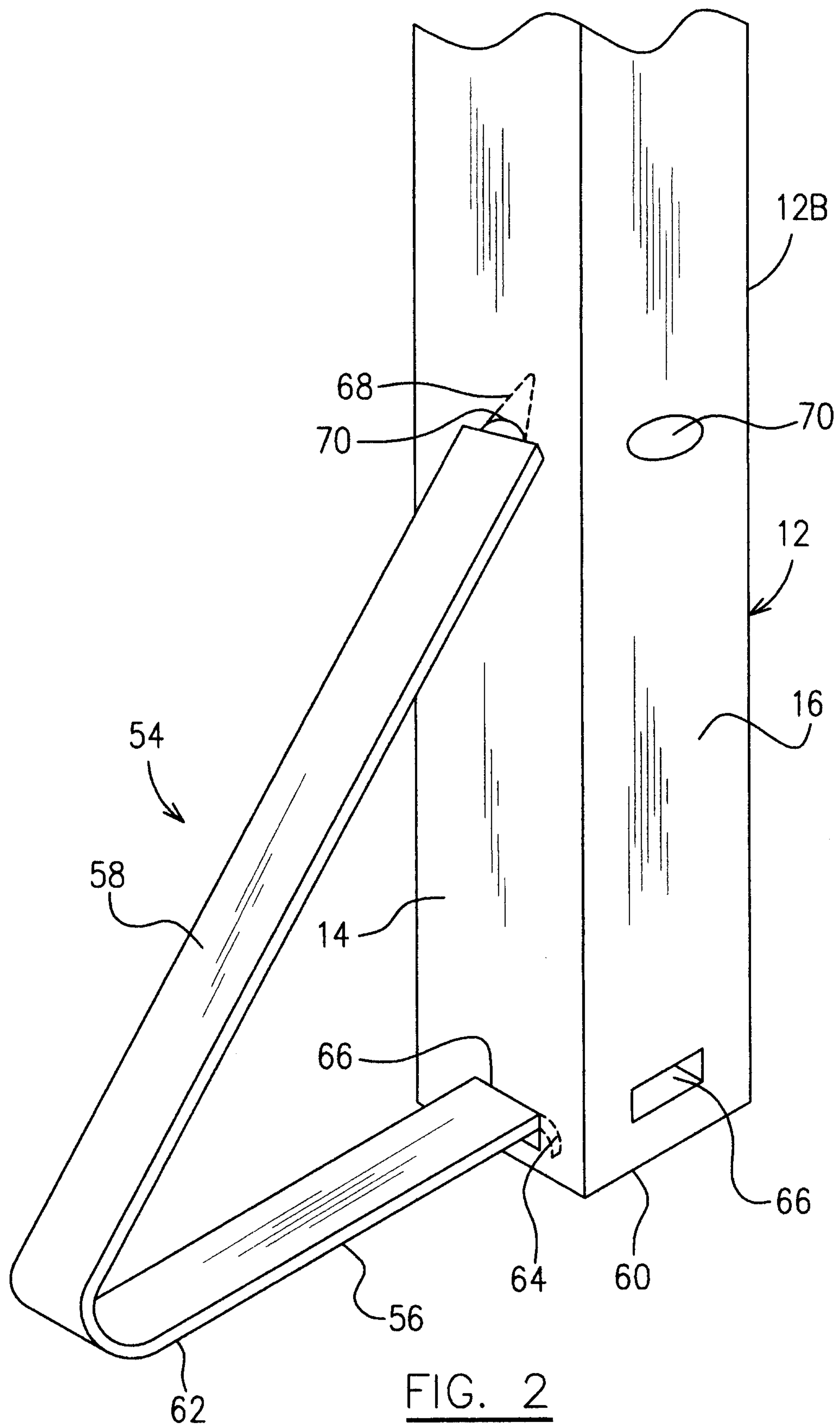
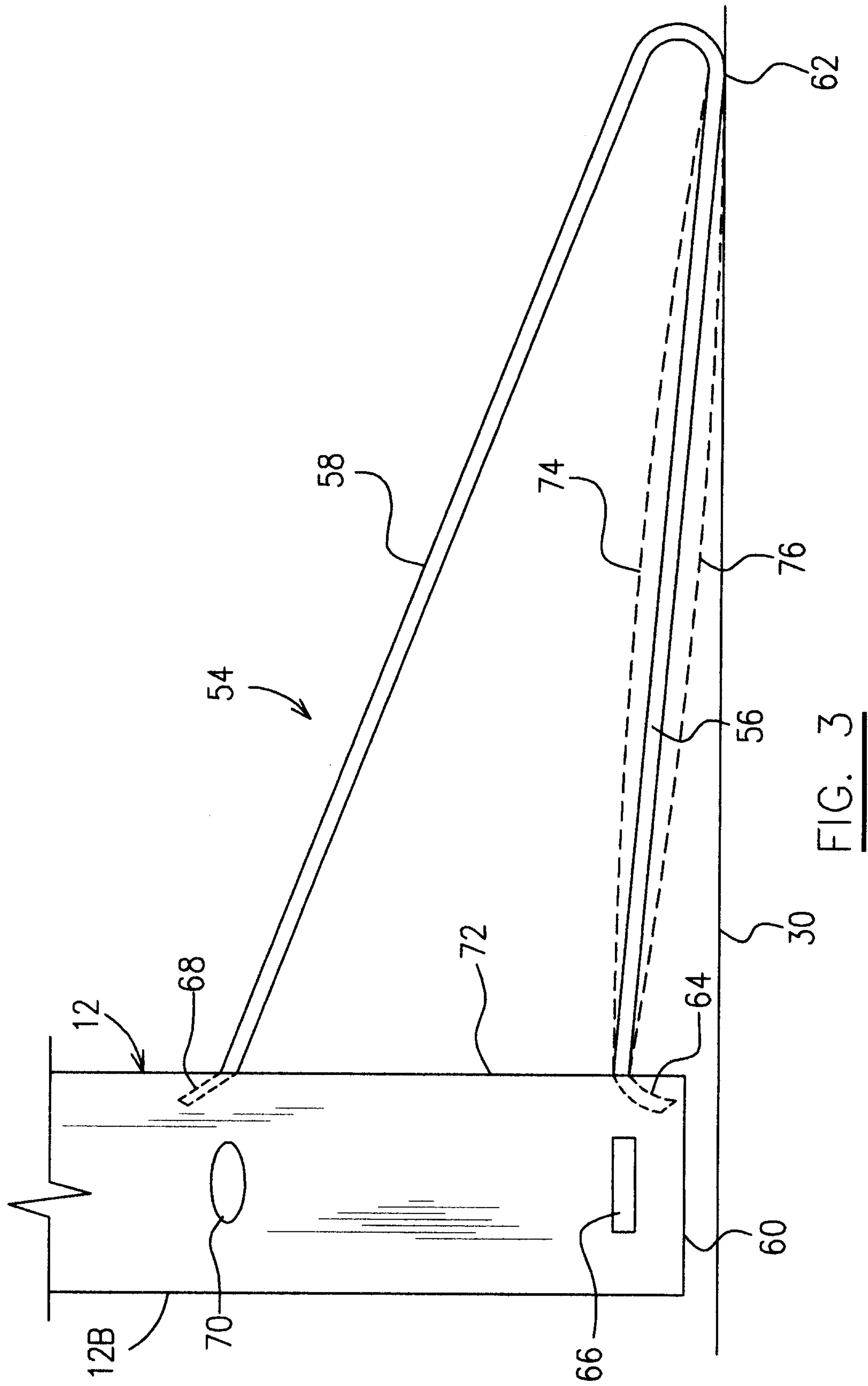


FIG. 1





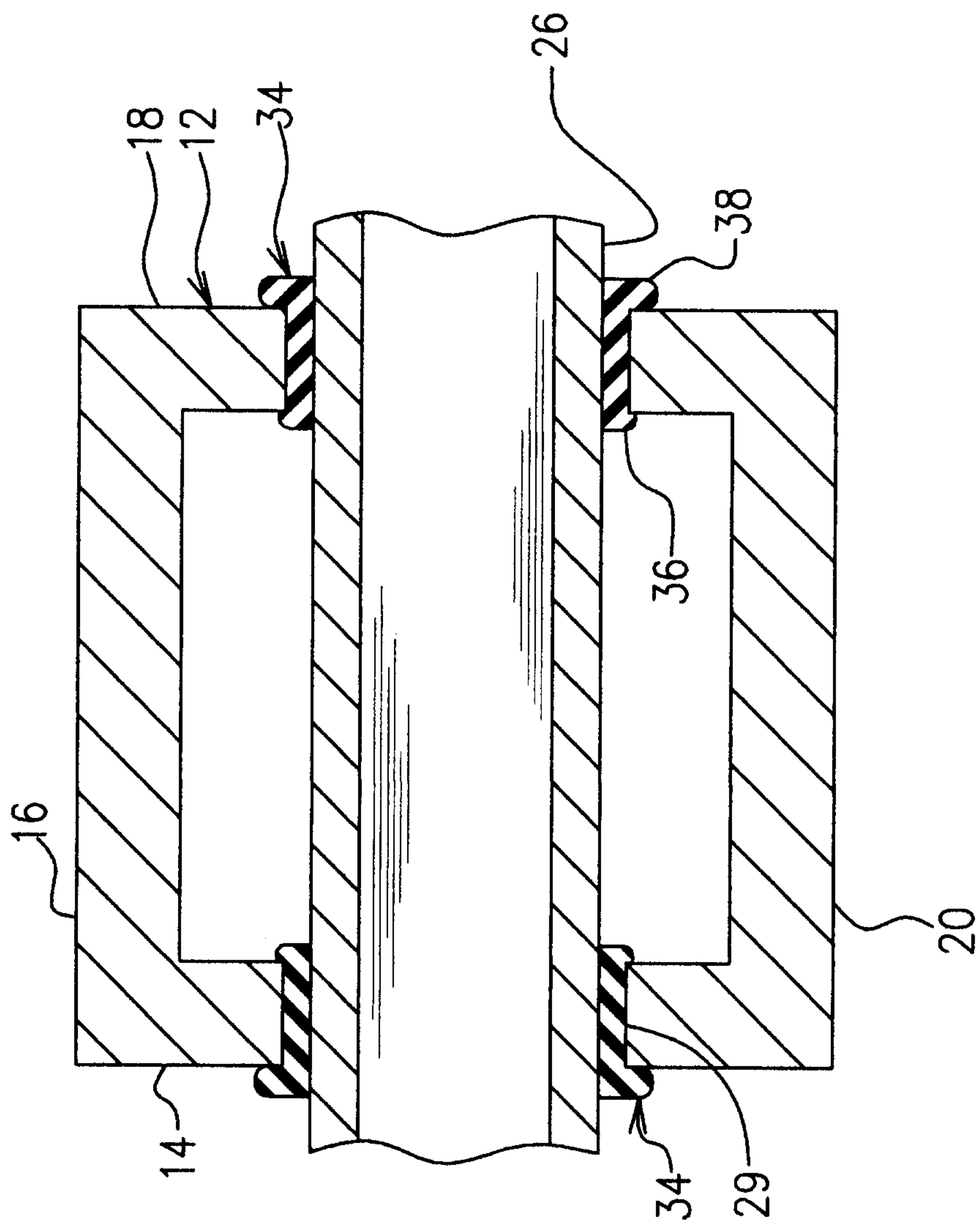


FIG. 5

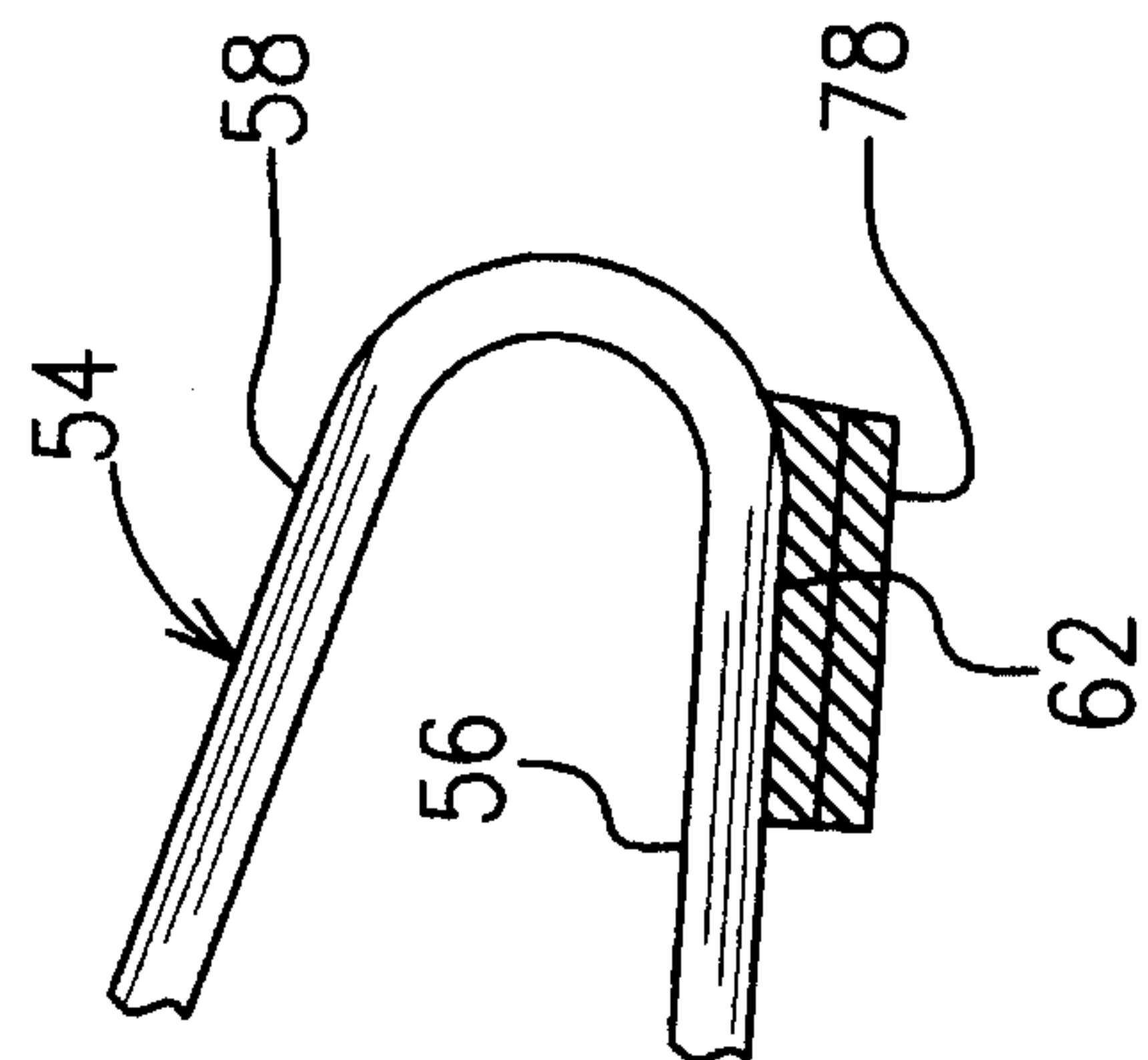
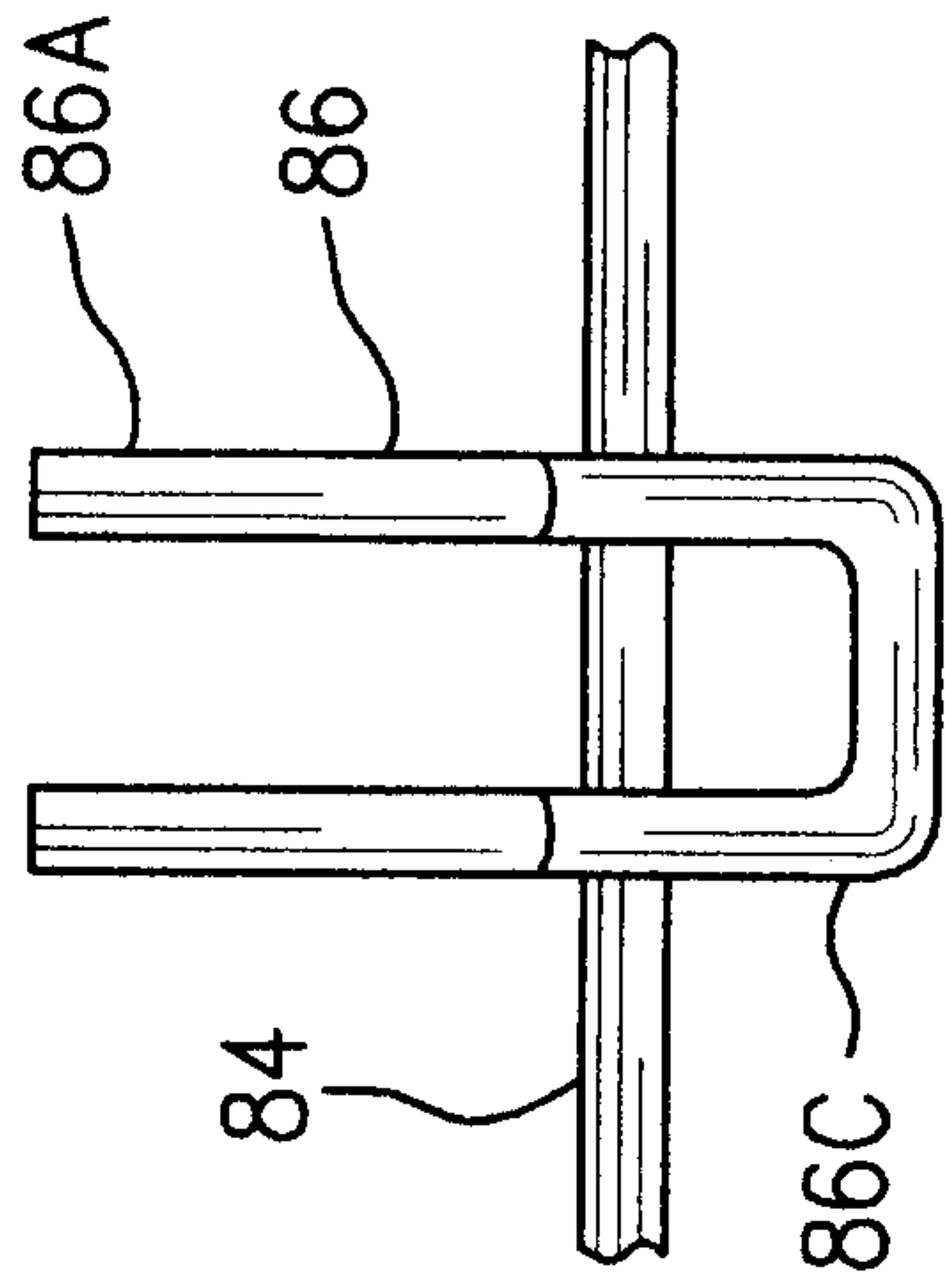
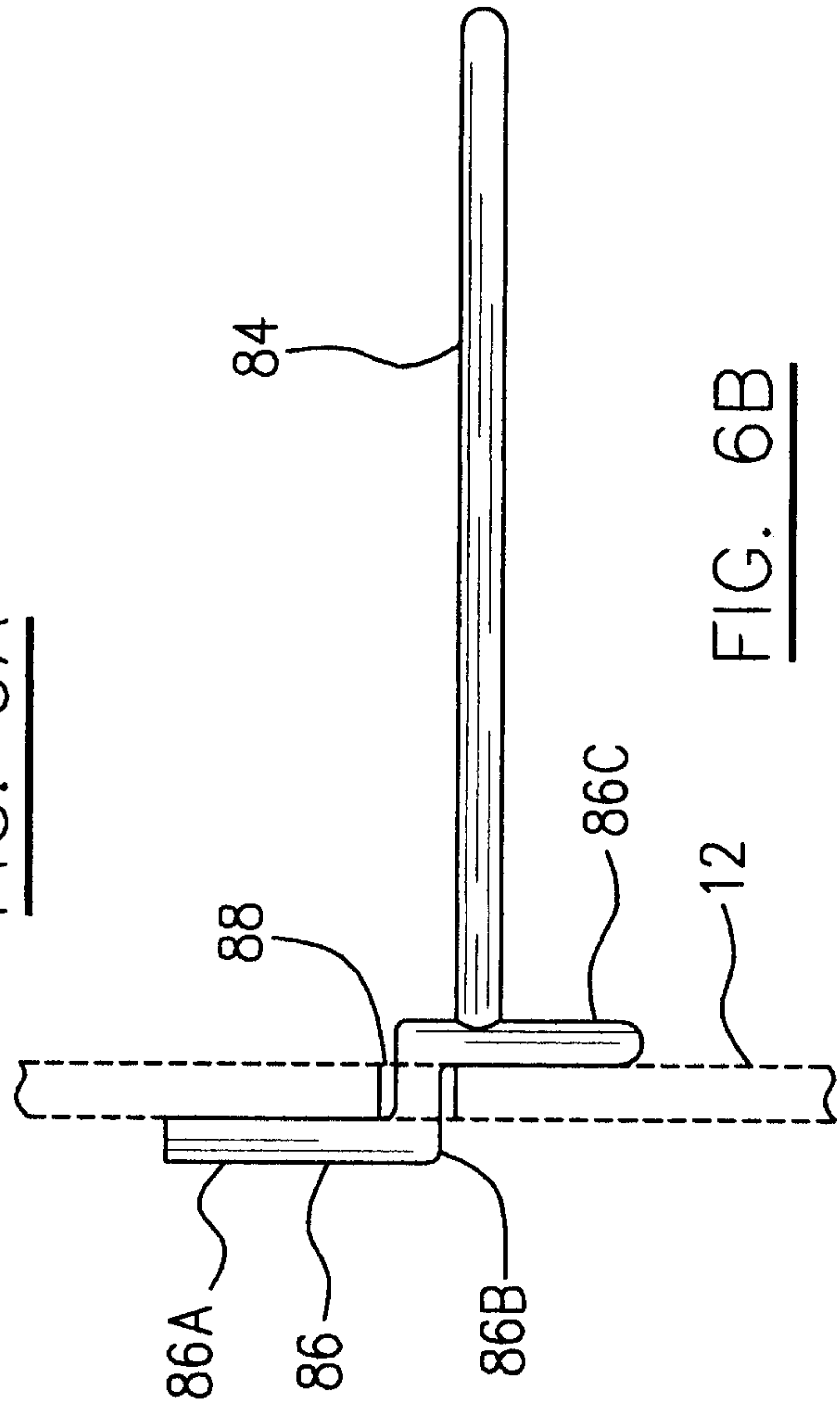
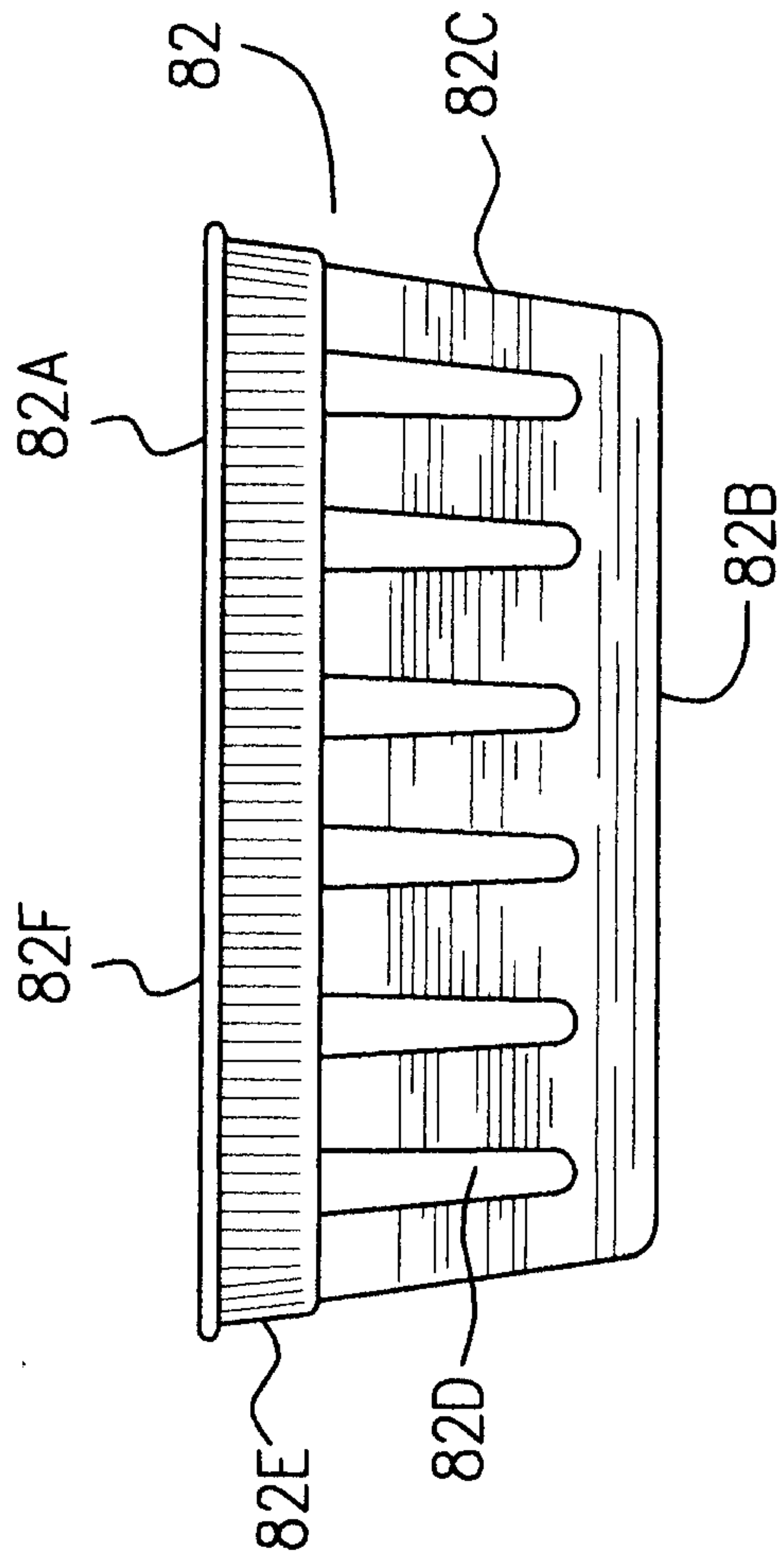


FIG. 4



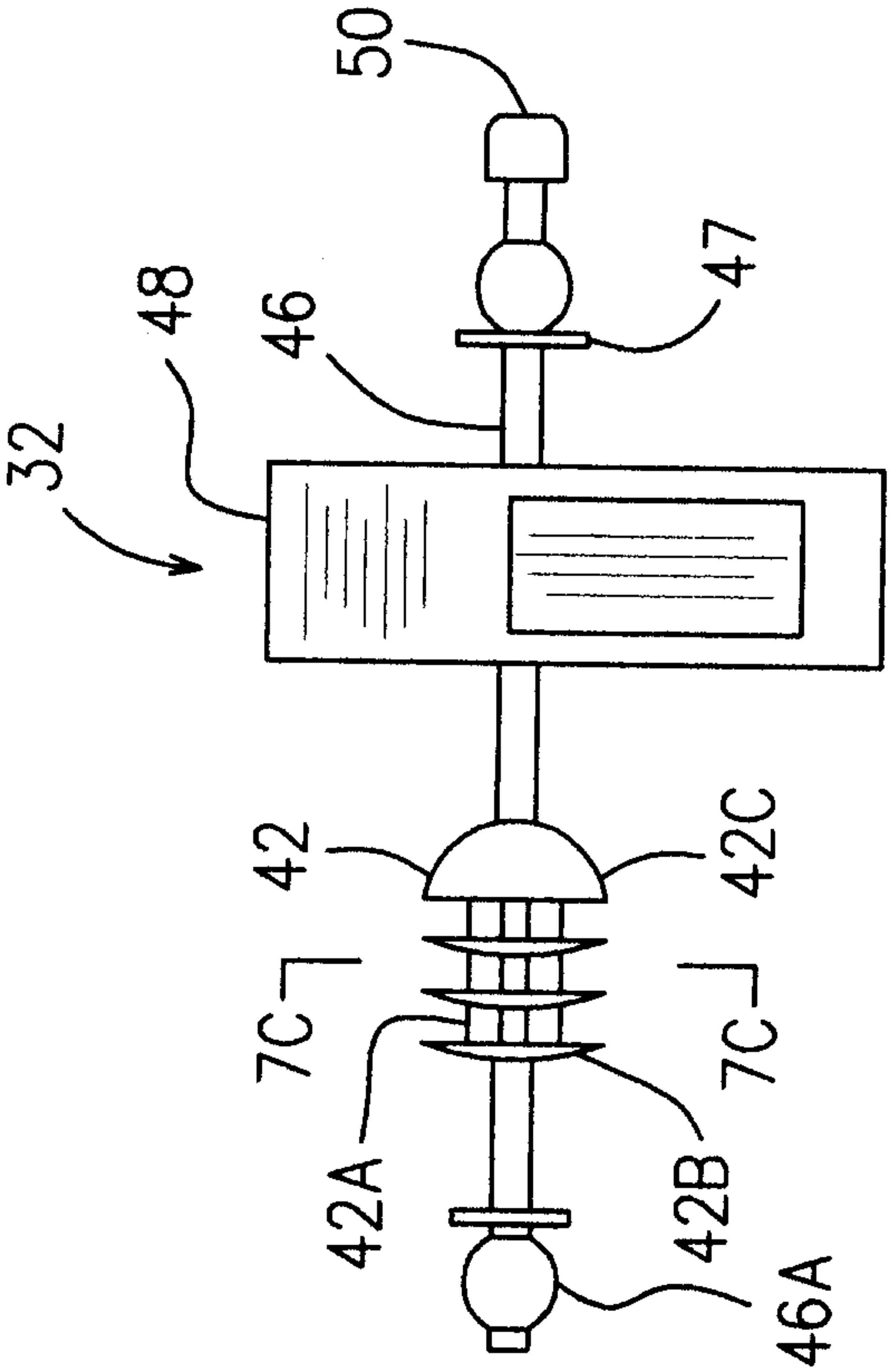


FIG. 7A

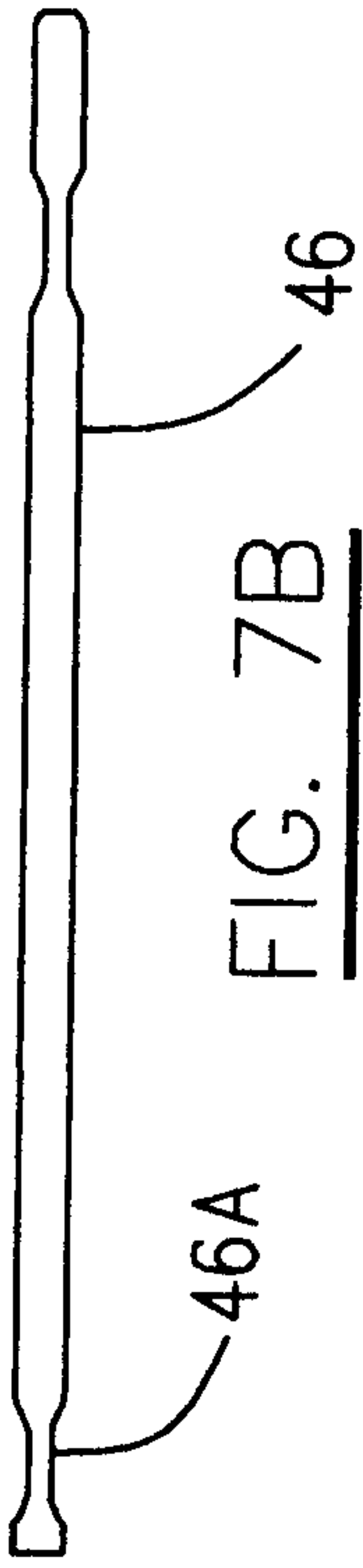


FIG. 7B

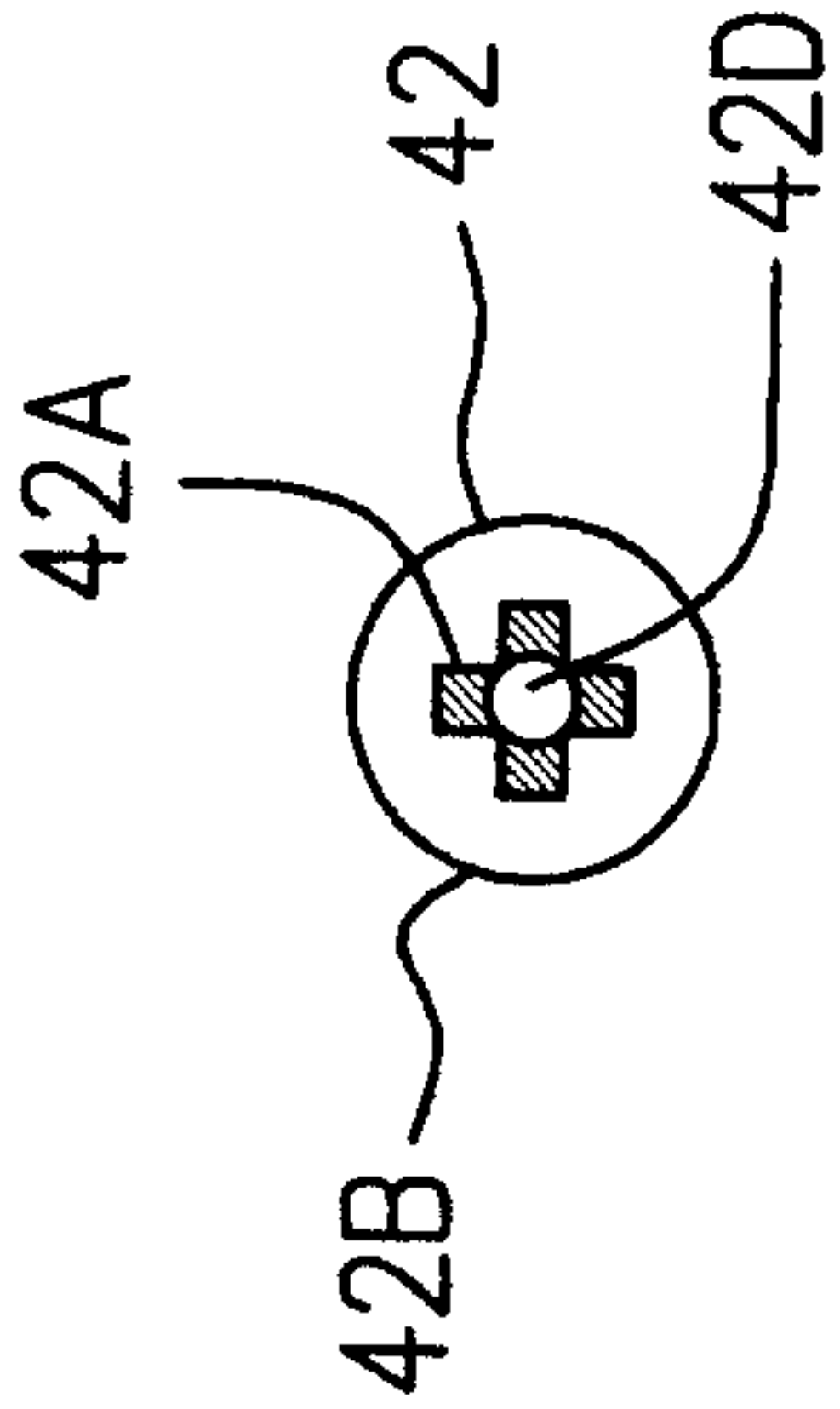


FIG. 7C

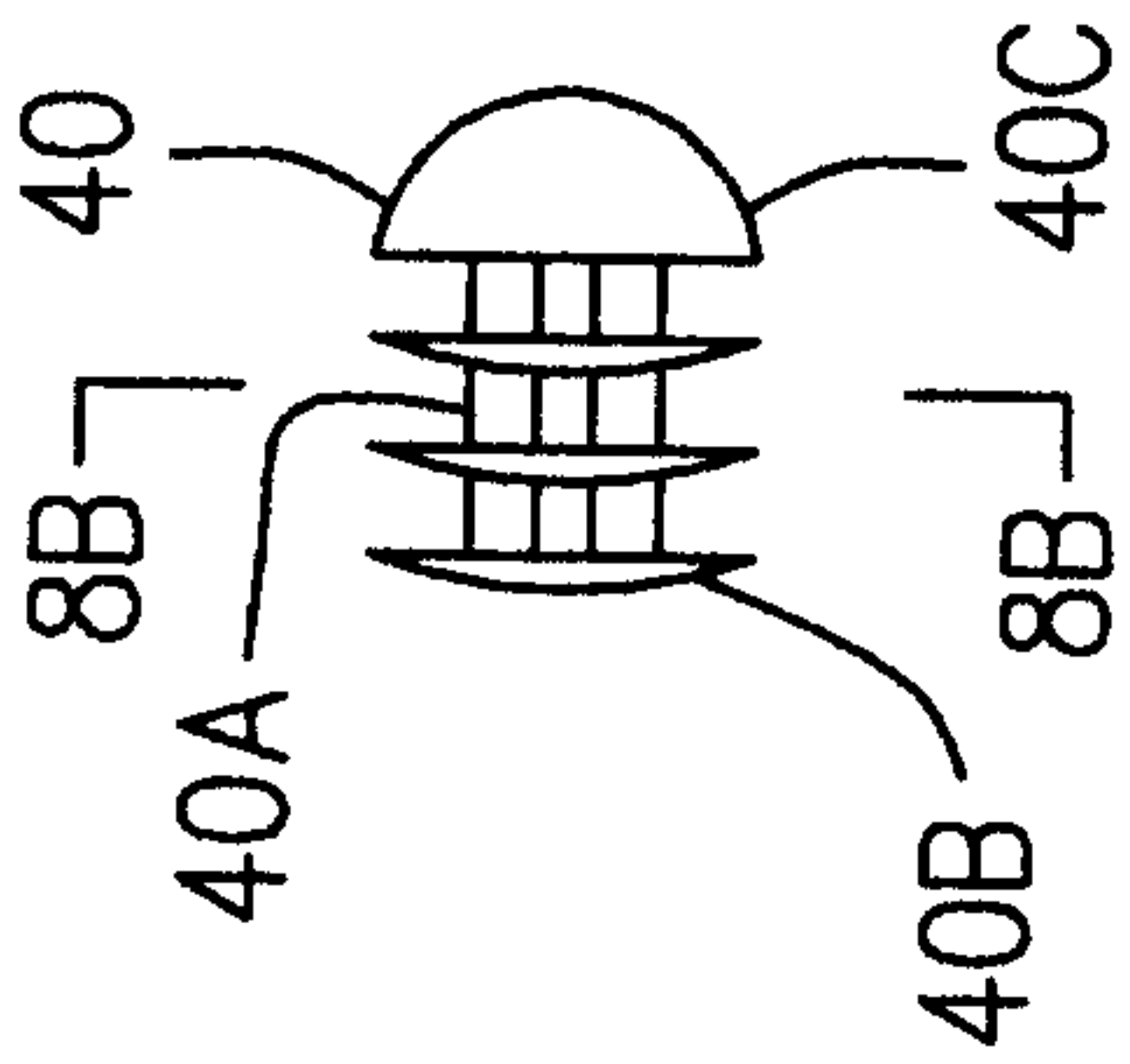


FIG. 8A

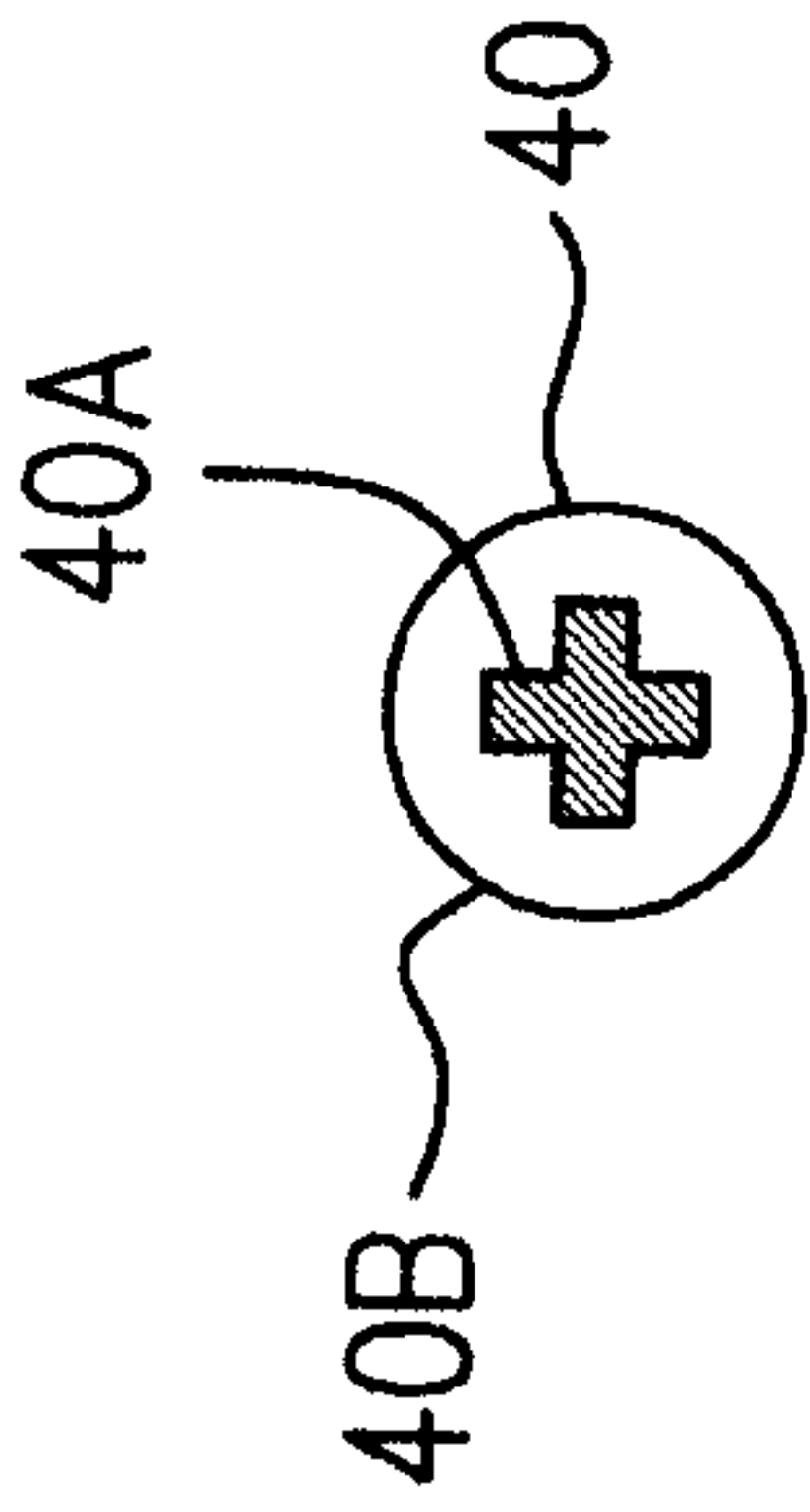


FIG. 8b

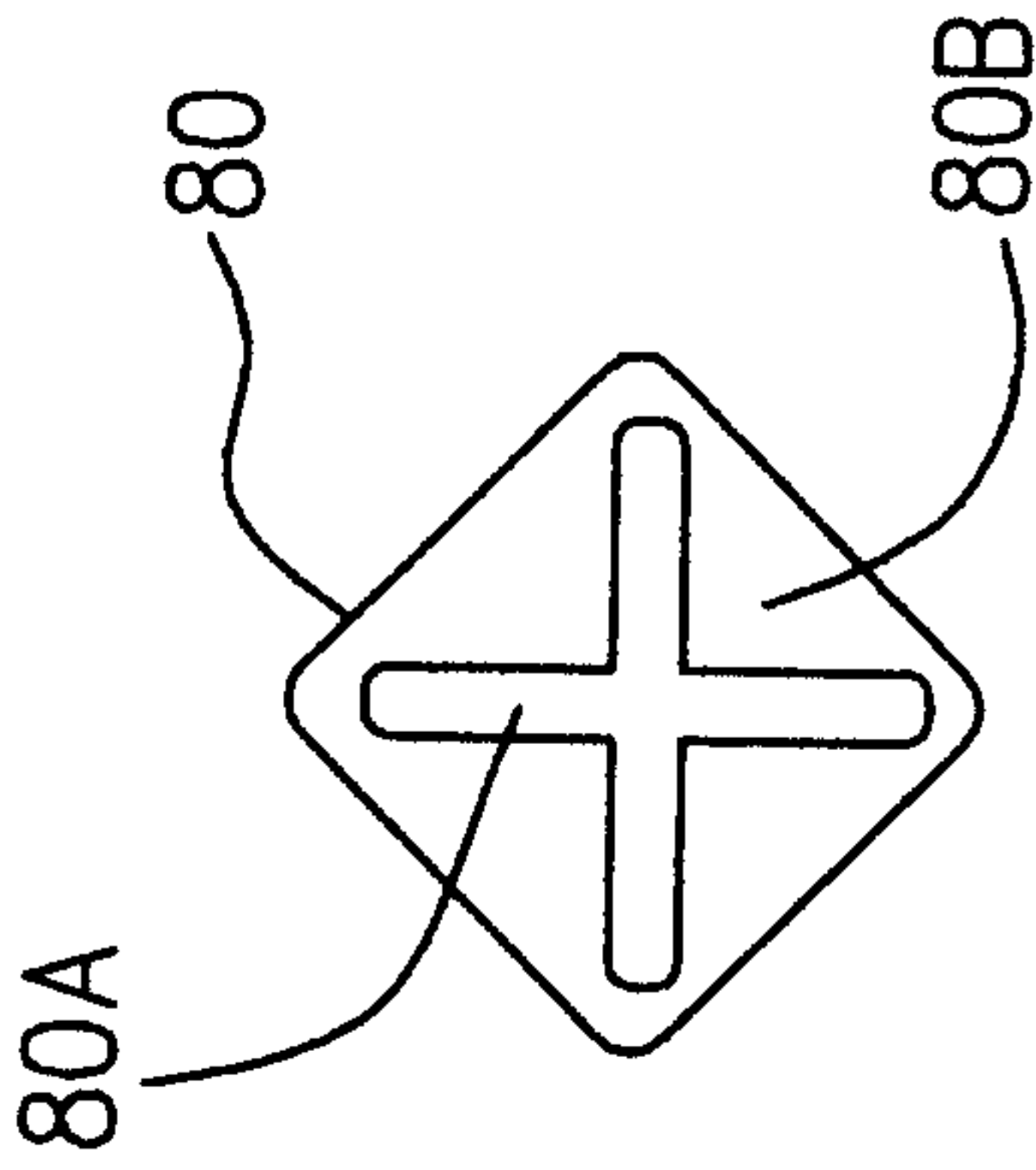


FIG. 9A

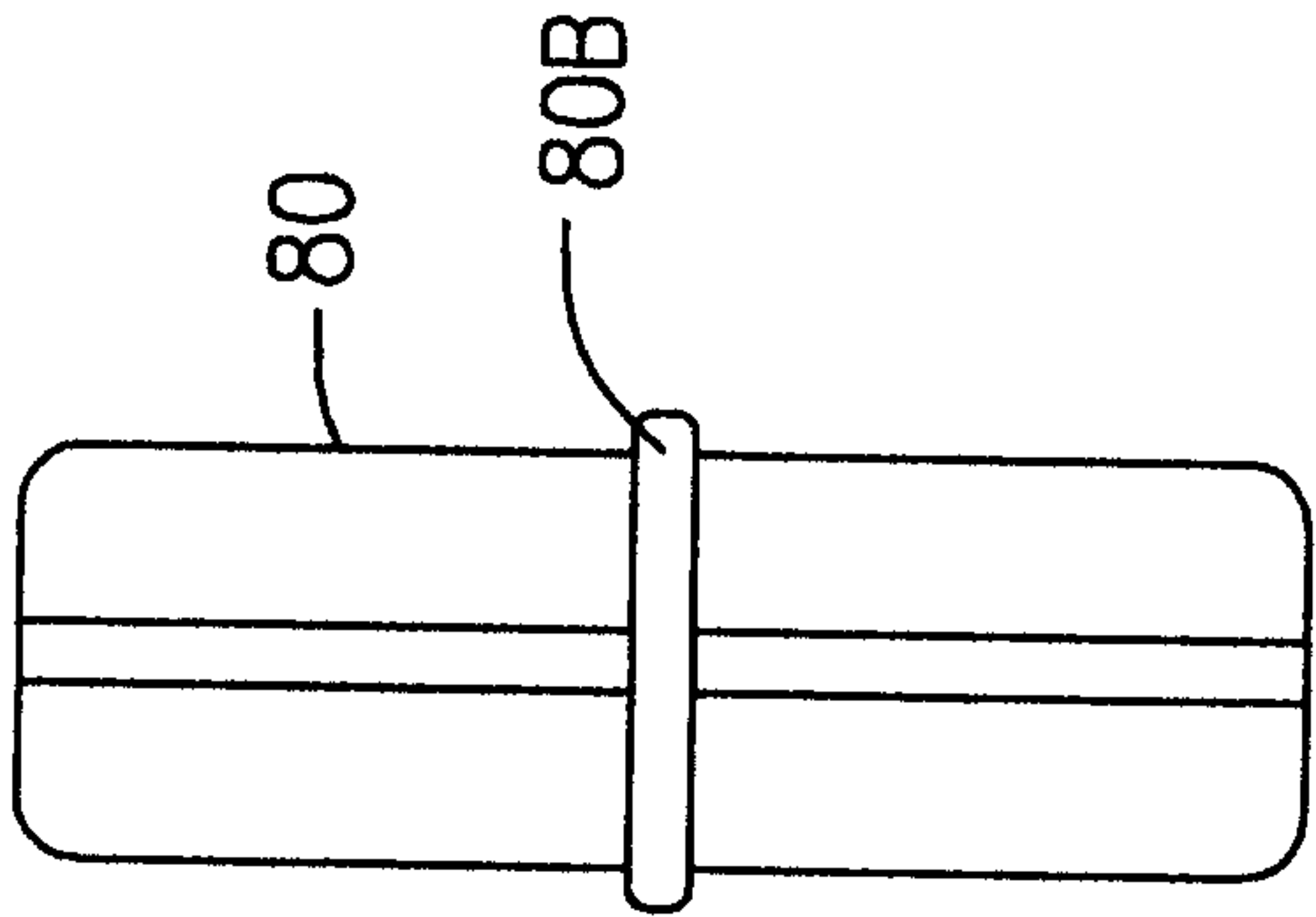


FIG. 9b

