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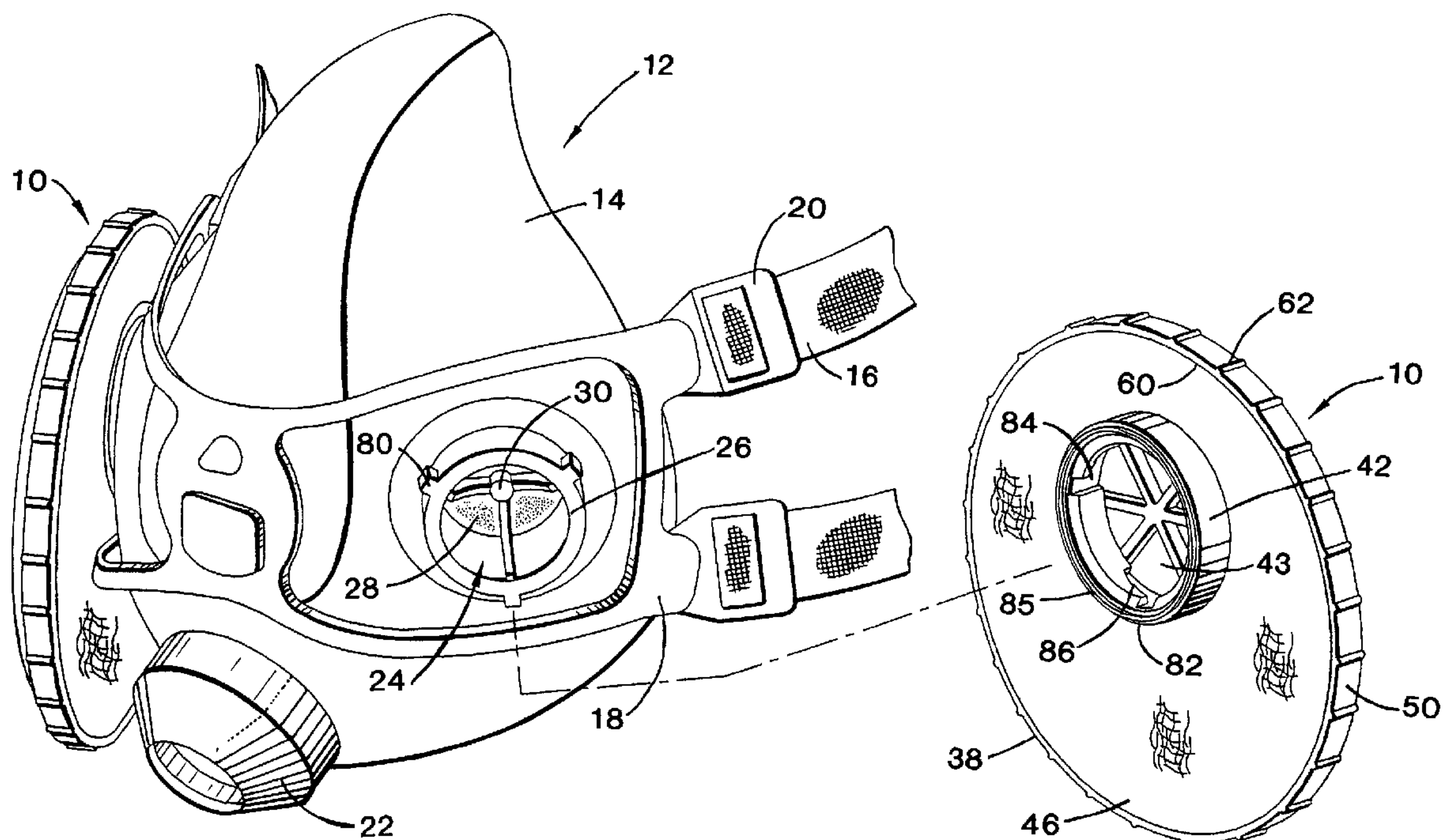
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(54) Titre : DISPOSITIF DE FILTRATION POUR RESPIRATEUR

(54) Title: RESPIRATOR FILTRATION DEVICE



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

A novel filtration device having a substantially rigid frame comprised of an outer peripheral band connected by a plurality of spacers to an inner breather tube, wherein filter pads are secured over both sides of the frame and separated by the spacers to form an enclosed central air pocket accessible only through the breather tube. The breather tube is adapted to be detachably connected to an inlet port in a respirator face mask so as to provide a closed channel for air flow from the central air pocket to the interior of the face mask.

ABSTRACT

A novel filtration device having a substantially rigid
5 frame comprised of an outer peripheral band connected by a
plurality of spacers to an inner breather tube, wherein filter pads
are secured over both sides of the frame and separated by the
spacers to form an enclosed central air pocket accessible only
through the breather tube. The breather tube is adapted to be
10 detachably connected to an inlet port in a respirator face mask so
as to provide a closed channel for air flow from the central air
pocket to the interior of the face mask.

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RESPIRATOR FILTRATION DEVICEBACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**Field of the Invention**

5 The present invention is directed to a detachable filtration device for use with a respirator, wherein the filtration device has a rigid frame structure that enhances overall performance and use of the respirator.

10 Description of Related Art

 Respirators are commonly employed to filter the air inhaled by a user under hazardous breathing conditions such as in environments having noxious vapors or particulates suspended in the air. A conventional respirator includes a face mask which covers
15 the nose and mouth of the user. This face mask has one or more inlet valves through which air is drawn as the user inhales, and an outlet valve through which air exits the face mask as the user exhales. A filtration device is connected (either integrally or detachably) over the inlet valve so as to form a closed air channel
20 between the filtration device and the interior of the face mask. In this manner, air is first drawn through the filtration element and filtered as the user inhales.

 A key consideration in designing respirator filtration devices is filtering efficiency. The filtration device must be
25 capable of removing a sufficient amount of contaminants from the air so as to supply "safe" breathing air to the user as prescribed by applicable statutes and regulations. Enhanced filtering

1 efficiency is often obtained by utilizing highly efficient filter
materials such as a tightly webbed or woven materials and to use
multiple layers of the filter material. However, by using these
tightly webbed and multiple layers of material, the effort required
5 by the user to draw a sufficient volume of air through the material
(also known as breathing resistance) is likewise increased.

Thus, a competing interest or consideration in designing
filtration devices has been to reduce the amount of breathing
resistance provided by the filtration device. Breathing resistance
10 has been quantified as the pressure drop across the filtration
element -- the larger the difference in pressure between the air
outside the filter and the air inside the filter at a given
volumetric flow rate, the greater the breathing resistance
experienced by the user.

15 In order to reduce this pressure drop, more recent
designs have attempted to increase the overall filtration surface
area of the device. This has been accomplished by providing a
device comprised of two filter pads secured along their outer edges
to face opposing directions. (See, e.g., U.S. Re. 35,062). The
20 filter pads are separated by spacers or a baffle to form an
interior region in which the air may be drawn through the filters.
A breather tube is provided through one of the pads to connect this
interior region with the inlet valve of the respirator face mask.
As the user inhales, air is drawn through the surfaces of both
25 filter pads into the interior region then drawn through the
breather tube into the face mask via the inlet valve.

1 While this prior art design is useful in reducing
breathing resistance without significantly detracting from
filtration efficiency, a need remains in the art to develop even
better designs having improved performance and use characteristics.
5 For instance, the filtration device is generally secured to and
disconnected from the respirator face mask by connecting the
breather tube to the respirator using a threaded or bayonet type
fitting. In doing so, the user must grasp and touch the filter
pads and twist or otherwise manipulate the device to make the
10 connection. This means that any soil on the user's hands can
contaminate the filter pads, potentially blocking a portion of the
available filtration surface area and reducing filtration
efficiency in use. In disconnecting a spent device from the
respirator, the user's hands may come into contact with potentially
15 harmful material deposited on the used filter pads. Handling the
filters may also cause particles on the pads to flake off and/or
become airborne so as to present harm to a bystander or to the user
who has removed his or her respirator while replacing the
filtration device.

20 In twisting or otherwise manipulating the device for
connection or disconnection with the respirator face mask, the
pliable filter material tends to be rotated or turned further than
the relatively stiff breather tube being connected, thereby
placing stress on the filter material surrounding the breather
25 tube. This relative rotational stress on the filter material can
potentially lead to tearing or other damage of the material and

1 possibly even separation of the filter material from the breather
tube.

Thus, preventing user contact with the filter material,
bending of the filter material during removal and attachment, and
5 relative rotation between the filtration material and the breather
tube are desirable objectives to enhance the overall performance
and use of the filtration device. Of course, it is likewise an
important objective to maintain filtration efficiency while
reducing breathing resistance, and to increase the overall
10 filtering surface area while making the filtration element
relatively compact so as not to obstruct the user's view or
otherwise frustrate the user's ability to work when wearing the
respirator.

15 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

These and other objectives are met by a novel filtration
device having a substantially rigid frame comprised of an outer
peripheral band connected by a plurality of spacers to an inner
breather tube, wherein filter pads are secured over both sides of
20 the frame and separated by the spacers to form an enclosed central
air pocket accessible only through the breather tube. The
breather tube is adapted to be detachably connected to a valve
regulated inlet port in a respirator face mask so as to provide a
closed channel for air flow from the central air pocket to the
25 interior of the face mask.

The rigid spacers keep the filter pads separated so as to
maintain good air flow and prevent collapse of the filter pads into

1 the central air pocket. This assures that the pressure drop across
the filtration device and associated breathing resistance is
minimized. Separating the filter pads also prevents premature
loading (an increased concentration of filtered contaminants) of
5 the filter material immediately opposite the breather tube.

The filter pads are preferably secured within the
confines of the outer peripheral band so that the filtration device
can be grasped along the band without contacting the filter pads,
and most preferably are secured such that the outer edges of the
10 filter pads are covered by the band. The outer peripheral band may
include exterior ridges, protrusions or other surface texture to
assist the user in holding the filtration device. Insofar as the
outer band is rigidly connected to the breather tube via the
spacers, the filtration device can be connected to and disconnected
15 from the respirator face mask without twisting or otherwise
manipulating the filter pads.

In one embodiment of the invention, the filtration device
is disk shaped, wherein the outer band comprises an outer ring.
The breather tube is provided in an offset position remote from the
20 central axis of the frame so that when the filtration device is
connected to the respirator face mask, a large portion of the
filtration device is positioned downward away from the user's line
of vision. The spacers extend radially outward from the breather
tube to the outer band so as to provide a rigid and stable frame,
25 while maintaining as much open space within the central air pocket
as possible.

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In a preferred embodiment, at least a portion of the rigid spacers have a diamond shaped cross section so that only the sharp edge of the spacer actually comes into contact with the filter material. The spacers therefore
5 maintain the filter pads separated without significantly blocking and reducing the overall filtration surface area.

The invention may be summarized according to a first broad aspect as a filtration device for use with a respirator, wherein the device comprises: a rigid frame
10 having a front face and a rear face, wherein the frame includes an outer peripheral band connected by a plurality of spacers to an inner breather tube projecting from the rear face of the frame for attachment with the respirator; a front filter pad secured to the rigid frame and configured
15 to cover the front face of the frame; and a rear filter pad secured to the rigid frame and configured to cover a portion of the rear face of the frame extending from the peripheral band to the inner breather tube.

The present invention further encompasses a novel
20 respirator having a respirator face mask with an exhalation port to permit the flow of air out of the respirator, at least one inhalation port to permit the flow of air into the respirator, and a means for securing the face mask over the mouth and nose of the user. Each inhalation port is
25 connected to a filtration device as described above to permit the flow of air through the filtration device and into the interior of the respirator face mask as the user inhales.

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According to a second broad aspect the invention provides a respirator including a face mask with an exhalation valve, and means for securing the face mask to the face of a user, and at least one inhalation valve closed
5 by a filtration device, wherein the filtration device comprises: a rigid frame having a front face and a rear face, wherein the frame includes an outer peripheral band connected by a plurality of spacers to an inner breather tube projecting from the rear face of the frame for
10 attachment with the respirator; a front filter pad secured within the confines of the outer peripheral band and configured to cover the front face of the frame; and a rear filter pad secured within the confines of the outer peripheral band and configured to cover a portion of the
15 rear face of the frame extending from the peripheral band to the inner breather tube.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other features, advantages, and objects will appear from the following Detailed Description when
20 considered in connection with the accompanying drawings showing a preferred embodiment of the invention, in which similar reference characters denote similar elements throughout the several views and wherein:

FIG. 1 is a partially exploded perspective view of
25 a respirator utilizing two filtration devices made in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

1 FIG. 2 is a front side elevational view of one of the
filtration devices of Fig. 1 having a portion of the front filter
pad partially removed;

5 FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the filtration device
of Fig. 2 taken along line 3-3;

 FIG. 4 is a fragmentary cross-sectional view of the
filtration device of Fig. 2 taken along line 4-4; and

 FIG. 5 is a fragmentary perspective view of a spacer of
the filtration device of Fig. 2.

10 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

 With specific reference to Fig. 1, two filtration devices
made in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present
invention are each generally designated by the numeral 10, and
15 shown adapted for detachable use with a conventional respirator 12.
Respirator 12 comprises a face mask 14 configured to cover a user's
nose and mouth and to create an airtight seal against the
surrounding facial area of the user. Face mask 14 may be secured
to the user by resilient straps 16 which attach to a flexible
20 bracket 18 provided along the outer edge of the face mask. Straps
16 are preferably adapted to expand and fit around the head of the
user thereby securing the face mask over the face of the user. The
straps are preferably adjustable in length using a buckle or cinch
means 20 as is known in the art. It should, of course, be
25 understood that the filtration device of the present invention may
be adapted for use with any conventional respirator. While the
respirator is shown having two filtration devices, it is

1 contemplated that a single filtration device may be used in some applications.

Face mask 14 includes an exhalation port 22 centrally located adjacent the user's mouth when in use and having a one-way
5 valve through which exhaled air is permitted to exit but not enter the respirator. The face mask additionally includes two inlet ports 24 positioned on either side of the respirator so as to be positioned adjacent the user's cheeks when in use. Each inlet port 24 comprises an opening formed by rigid tubular port wall 26
10 extending outward from the front of the face mask. A one-way inhalation valve 28, preferably comprising a flexible diaphragm valve, is secured at the central axis of three leg attachment member 30 to cover the opening in a manner to allow air to be drawn into the interior of the face mask, but to prevent air from exiting
15 through the opening. As is described in more detail below, filtration device 10 is adapted to be secured to port wall 26 so as to provide a closed channel for air flow from the filtration device through inlet port 24 into the interior of the face mask.

With reference to Figs. 2 and 3, filtration device 10
20 comprises a round disk having a front face 32 which faces forward when secured to the respirator face mask and a rear face 34 which faces the mask when secured in position. Device 10 has a substantially rigid frame 36 comprised of an outer ring-like band 38 connected by a plurality of spacers 40 to an inner breather tube
25 42 which projects outwardly from rear face 34 of device 10 for attachment to the respirator. Filter pads 44 & 46 are secured over the front and rear faces 32 & 34 of frame 36 respectively separated

1 by spacers 40 so as to form an enclosed central air pocket 48 in
communication with breather tube 42. The breather tube is
adapted to be detachably connected to port wall 26 in a manner to
provide a closed passageway for air flow from the central air
5 pocket to the interior of the face mask through inlet port 24.

Frame 36 may be constructed of any rigid relatively inert
material known in the art including wood, metal, plastic or any
combination of the same. The frame is preferably formed as a
unitary component from a plastic material that can be easily molded
10 or otherwise mass produced. In a preferred embodiment, the frame
is molded as a single unit from a thermoplastic material such as
polystyrene, polypropylene or polyethylene so that conventional
ultrasonic welding and heat sealing techniques may be used to
secure filter pads 44 & 46 to the frame.

15 Band 38 has an outer surface 50 which may be grasped by
the user to hold the filtration device, an internal surface 52 to
which spacers 40 are connected, and front and rear sidewalls 54 &
56 corresponding in direction to the front and rear faces 32 & 34
of the device respectively. Looking specifically to Fig. 3, band
20 38 is t-shaped in transverse cross-section so as to provide a
peripheral groove 58 along the sidewalls 54 & 56 adjacent internal
surface 52 of the band. A peripheral flange 60 is therefore formed
by each sidewall 54 & 56 adjacent the outer surface 50 of band 38.

As shown in Fig. 1, outer surface 50 of band 38 includes
25 a plurality of equally spaced apart ridges 62 which assist the user
in grasping the filtration device. Of course other forms of

1 surface texture including knurling, depressions, or other
protrusions may be used for this purpose.

Breather tube 42 forms a tubular opening 43 projecting
from the rear face 34 of the device and includes a circular
5 mounting base 64 forming a peripheral flange along the inner end of
the tube. Spacers 40 extending radially outward from mounting base
64 are connected to the internal surface 52 of band 38. The
spacers 40 are configured to keep filter pads 44 & 46 separated
when in use so as to maintain the central air pocket 48. A series
10 of air channels 66 are formed in central air pocket 48 by the
spacers 40 and each channel 66 opens into that region of air pocket
48 immediately adjacent breather tube opening 43. In order to
enable filtered air to flow from channels 66 to breather tube
opening 43, divided spacer 68 is secured over opening 43 along the
15 inner surface of mounting base 64 to prevent front filter pad 44
from collapsing over the breather tube opening.

Looking to Fig. 2, in the preferred embodiment of this
invention, spacers 40 may be divided along their length into a
first inner section 70 and a second outer section 72. Inner
20 section 70 has a diamond shaped cross section as shown in Fig. 4
such that opposing pointed edges 74 & 76 are positioned in contact
with filter pads 44 & 46 respectively. Thus, the spacer and filter
pads contact along a fine line such that the available filtration
surface area is not significantly blocked or reduced by the
25 spacers.

Looking to Fig. 5, pointed edges 74 & 76 in contact with
the filter pads are gradually leveled or shaved within outer

1 section 72 of the spacer as it approaches connection with outer
band 38 thereby having a hexagonal cross section. The distance
between the edges of the spacer in contact with the filter pads is
therefore reduced so as to equal the transverse width of the
5 interior surface 52 of band 38 at the point of connection. In this
manner, filter pads 44 & 46 are brought closer together along the
outer edges of the pads to assist in securing pads 44 & 46 to the
outer band.

Filter pads 44 & 46 may be constructed of one or more
10 layers of any known filter material. The type of filter material
used will depend upon design factors such as the environment in
which the filtration device is to be used, the type and amount of
contaminates to be removed from the inhaled air, and any applicable
statutory or regulatory requirements. While it is possible to
15 utilize only a single layer of filter material, a plurality of
layers enclosed by an outer scrim is preferred for high performance
filtration devices. By using a plurality of layers of filter
material, web irregularities which could lead to premature
penetration of particles through a single layer of filter material
20 are minimized.

Examples of suitable filter material include non-woven
web, fibrillated film web, air-laid web, sorbent-particle-loaded
fibrous web, glass, filter paper, or combinations thereof. The
filter material may further comprise polyolefins, polycarbonate,
25 polyesters, polyurethanes, glass, cellulose, carbon, lumina, or
combinations thereof. Electrically charged non-woven microfiber
webs may also be utilized.

1 Front filter pad 44 is configured to cover the entire
front face 32 of frame 36 and rear filter pad 46 is configured to
cover that portion of the rear face 34 of the frame extending from
outer band 38 to breather tube 42. The filter pads are preferably
5 seated into peripheral groove 58 such that the outer edges of pads
44 & 46 are covered by corresponding flange 60. Note that where
the filter pads comprise multiple layers of material, the layers
are tightly bound along the outer edges of the pads and flanges 60
are of sufficient dimension to assure that the outer edges of the
10 filter pads are not exposed.

Filter pads 44 & 46 are secured to the sidewalls 54 & 56
of band 38 respectively by any means known in the art for providing
an air tight seal including ultrasonic welding, heat sealing,
gluing and mechanical pinch fitting. Rear filter pad 46 is also
15 secured to form an air tight seal to the outer surface of mounting
base 64 surrounding breather tube 42. In a preferred embodiment
where frame 36 is constructed of a thermoplastic material, filter
pads 44 & 46 are secured to sidewalls 54 & 56 and mounting base 64
by ultrasonic welding. In this embodiment, sharp protrusions 78
20 formed within peripheral groove 58 and on the outer surface of
mounting base 64 serve as energy directors for welding attachment
of the pads to the frame.

As shown in Fig. 1, breather tube 42 is detachably
secured to the forward end of port wall 26 using a bayonet type
25 fitting to provide a closed air channel between the face mask and
central air pocket 48 of filtration device 10. Tabs 80 provided
along the outer periphery of port wall 26 are configured to mate

1 with slots 82 formed within the outer edge of the interior wall of
breather tube 42. The breather tube is secured over the port wall
by fitting each tab 80 into a corresponding slot 82 and turning the
device such that tab 80 is conveyed along a track 84 extending from
5 the inner end of slot 82 along the inner edge of breather tube 42.
In this manner, the filtration device is pulled inwardly toward the
respirator for a more secure attachment. Tab 80 is pushed over a
step 86 provided along track 84 to snap tab 80 into a locking
position against the end of track 84. Step 80 serves to prevent
10 the filtration device from becoming inadvertently loosened wherein
the step blocks accidental movement of the tab from the locking
position. A peripheral ridge 85 extends outwardly along the outer
end of breather tube 42 so as to form an air tight seal with the
outer end of port wall 26.

15 In the preferred embodiment shown in the drawings,
breather tube 42 is positioned asymmetrically or offset from the
central axis of frame 36, and spacers 40 are of varying length in
order to accommodate this offset position. By positioning the
breather tube to be in this offset position, the breather tube may
20 be secured to the face mask such that a significant portion of the
device is positioned upwardly, downwardly, or to the side of the
mask. In this embodiment, tabs 80 and slots 82 are preferably
spaced symmetrically such that the individual user may choose the
most desired orientation of the filtration device for use. For
25 example, the user may desire to position a majority of the
filtration device to the lower extent of the mask when being used
with a welding helmet or to the side of the mask when being used

1 with a face shield. Alternatively, tabs 80 and slots 82 may be
asymmetrically spaced, so that the filtration device will attach to
the respirator in only one pre-determined orientation.

5 To attach filtration device 10 to the respirator, the
user grasps the device by outer band 38. The user then properly
aligns tabs 80 and slots 82 of breather tube 42 and port wall 26
respectively. The user then rotates the filtration device 10 until
tabs 80 lock into the locking position. Because frame 36 is
substantially rigid, there is no relative rotation between outer
10 band 38 and breather tube 42. This prevents any type of stress or
twisting which could cause tearing or other damage to the filter
material. With the filtration device 10 connected to respirator
12, no air can enter into the respirator except through the
filtration device. As a user inhales, air is drawn from the
15 surrounding environment through filter pads 44 & 46 and into the
central air pocket 48. The filtered air is then drawn through the
breather tube 42 into the interior of face mask 14 through inlet
port 24.

To remove the filtration device, the user again grasps
20 outer band 38 and rotates the device 10 to snap tabs 80 over step
86 and remove filtration device 10 from the respirator. Because
the frame is rigid, the act of grasping and rotating the filtration
device does not bend the filter pads or cause relative rotation
between the outer band and the breather tube. Therefore,
25 contaminants deposited on the filter pads are not disturbed and the
integrity of the filter material is maintained.

1 While preferred embodiments and particular applications
of this invention have been shown and described, it is apparent to
those skilled in the art that many other modifications and
applications of this invention are possible without departing from
5 the inventive concepts herein.

For example, it should be understood that while the
filtration device is shown in the drawings as having a circular or
disk shaped configuration, the filtration device may be of any
shape including octagonal, rectangular, or elliptical. In
10 addition, while the preferred embodiment discloses attaching the
breather tube to the inlet port using a bayonet type fitting, other
means of attachment known in the art to provide a closed air
channel between the face mask and the central air pocket of the
filtration device are considered suitable for purposes of the
15 invention. Furthermore, there may be certain situations where the
filtration device will be made integral with the respirator.

It is, therefore, to be understood that, within the scope
of the appended claims, this invention may be practiced otherwise
than as specifically described, and the invention is not to be
20 restricted except in the spirit of the appended claims. Though
some of the features of the invention may be claimed in dependency,
each feature has merit if used independently.

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CLAIMS:

1. A filtration device for use with a respirator,
wherein the device comprises:

a rigid frame having a front face and a rear face,
5 wherein the frame includes an outer peripheral band
connected by a plurality of spacers to an inner breather
tube projecting from the rear face of the frame for
attachment with the respirator;

a front filter pad secured to the rigid frame and
10 configured to cover the front face of the frame; and

a rear filter pad secured to the rigid frame and
configured to cover a portion of the rear face of the frame
extending from the peripheral band to the inner breather
tube.

15 2. The filtration device according to claim 1,
wherein the front filter pad and rear filter pad are secured
to the frame in an air tight manner.

3. The filtration device according to claim 2,
wherein the front filter pad and rear filter pad are secured
20 within the confines of the outer peripheral band.

4. The filtration device according to claim 2,
wherein the front filter pad and rear filter pad are
separated by the spacers to provide a central air pocket and
wherein the breather tube provides an opening into the
25 central air pocket.

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5. The filtration device according to claim 1, wherein the breather tube is adapted for detachable attachment with an inlet port of the respirator.
6. The filtration device according to claim 1,
5 wherein the outer band comprises an outer surface by which the user may grasp the device, an internal surface to which the spacers are connected, and front and rear sidewalls.
7. The filtration device according to claim 6,
10 wherein the outer surface of the outer band has a textured surface.
8. The filtration device according to claim 7, wherein the textured surface comprises ridges, protrusions, depressions, knurling or a combination thereof.
9. A filtration device according to claim 6, wherein
15 a peripheral groove is provided within the front and rear sidewalls of the band adjacent the internal surface of the band to form a peripheral flange along the front and rear sidewalls adjacent the outer surface of the band.
10. The filtration device according to claim 9,
20 wherein the front and rear filter pads are respectively seated into the peripheral groove of the front and rear sidewalls of the band such that an outer edge of each filter pad is covered by the peripheral flange of the band.
11. The filtration device according to claim 1,
25 wherein the breather tube has a mounting base extending peripherally outward from an inner end of the breather tube and the spacers extend radially from the mounting base to an interior surface of the outer peripheral band.

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12. The filtration device according to claim 11, wherein the spacers provide air channels within the central air pocket which are in communication with the opening formed by the breather tube.

5 13. The filtration device according to claim 12, wherein an additional divided spacer is provided over the opening formed by the breather tube.

14. The filtration device according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of each spacer has a diamond
10 shaped cross section forming sharp edges for contact with the filter pads.

15. The filtration device according to claim 1, wherein said frame is formed as a unitary frame and said outer band is rigidly connected to said inner breather tube.

15 16. A filtration device for use with a respirator, wherein the device comprises:

a rigid frame having a front face and a rear face, wherein the frame includes an outer peripheral band connected by a plurality of spacers to an inner breather
20 tube projecting from the rear face of the frame for attachment with the respirator;

a front filter pad secured within the confines of the outer peripheral band and configured to cover the front face of the frame; and

25 a rear filter pad secured within the confines of the outer peripheral band and configured to cover a portion of the rear face of the frame extending from the peripheral band to the inner breather tube, wherein the front filter

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pad and rear filter pad are secured to the frame in an air tight manner peripherally and around the breather tube, and wherein the front filter pad and rear filter pad are separated by the spacers to provide a central air pocket
5 such that the breather tube provides an opening into the central air pocket.

17. The filtration device according to claim 16, wherein the breather tube is adapted for detachable attachment with an inlet port of the respirator.

10 18. The filtration device according to claim 16, wherein the outer band comprises:

an outer surface by which the user may grasp the device;

an internal surface to which the spacers are
15 connected; and

front and rear sidewalls, wherein a peripheral groove is provided within the front and rear sidewalls of the band adjacent the internal surface of the band to form a peripheral flange along the front and rear sidewalls
20 adjacent the outer surface of the band, the front and rear filter pads being respectively seated into said peripheral groove such that an outer edge of each filter pad is covered by the peripheral flange of the band.

19. The filtration device according to claim 16,
25 wherein at least a portion of each spacer has a diamond shaped cross section forming sharp edges for contact with the filter pads.

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20. The filtration device according to claim 17,
wherein said breather tube includes a peripheral ridge
extending outwardly along an outer end of the breather tube
for contact with said respirator so as to form an airtight
5 seal around said inlet port.

21. A respirator including a face mask with an
exhalation valve, and means for securing the face mask to
the face of a user, and at least one inhalation valve closed
by a filtration device, wherein the filtration device
10 comprises:

a rigid frame having a front face and a rear face,
wherein the frame includes an outer peripheral band
connected by a plurality of spacers to an inner breather
tube projecting from the rear face of the frame for
15 attachment with the respirator;

a front filter pad secured within the confines of
the outer peripheral band and configured to cover the front
face of the frame; and

a rear filter pad secured within the confines of
20 the outer peripheral band and configured to cover a portion
of the rear face of the frame extending from the peripheral
band to the inner breather tube.

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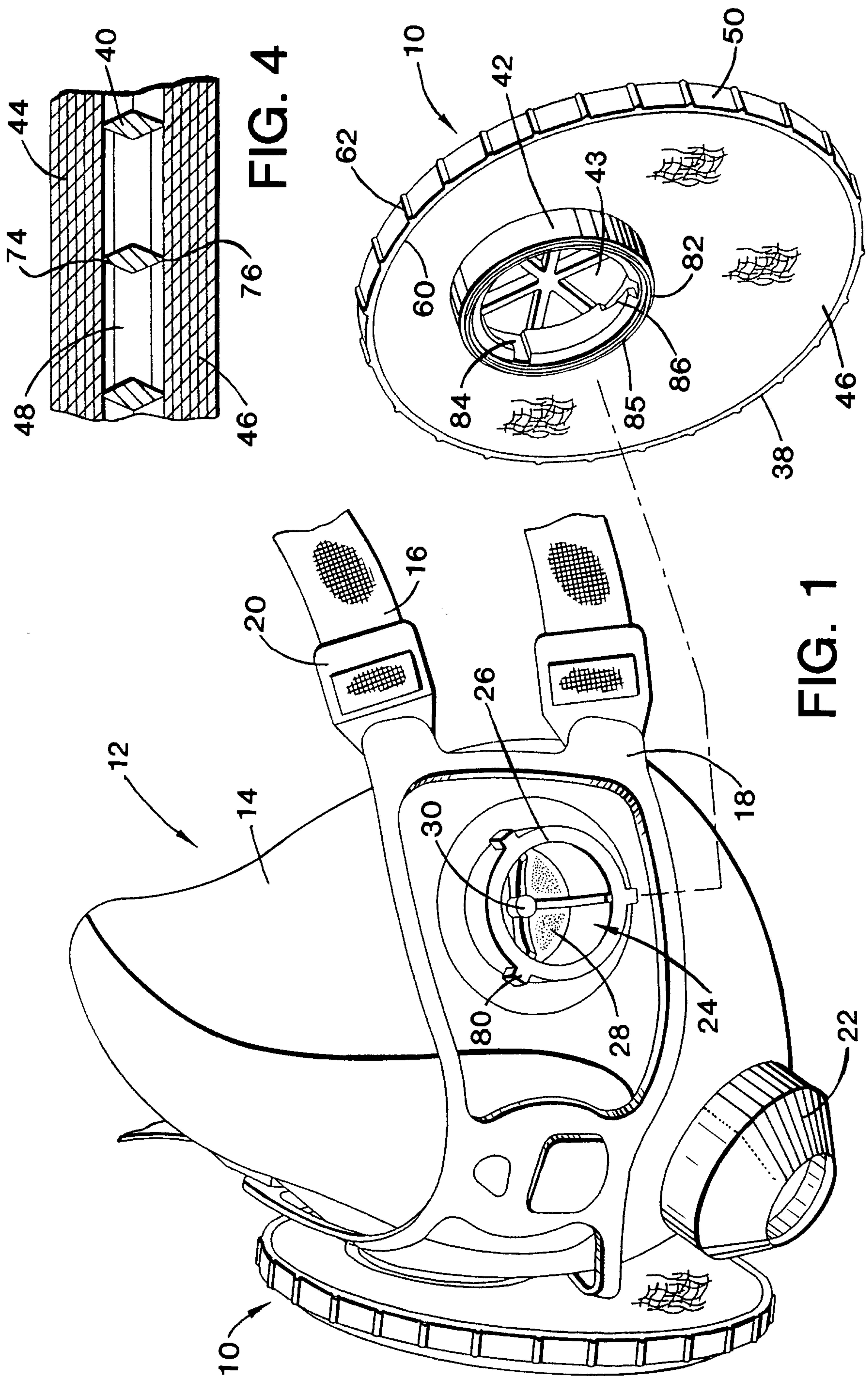


FIG. 4

FIG. 1

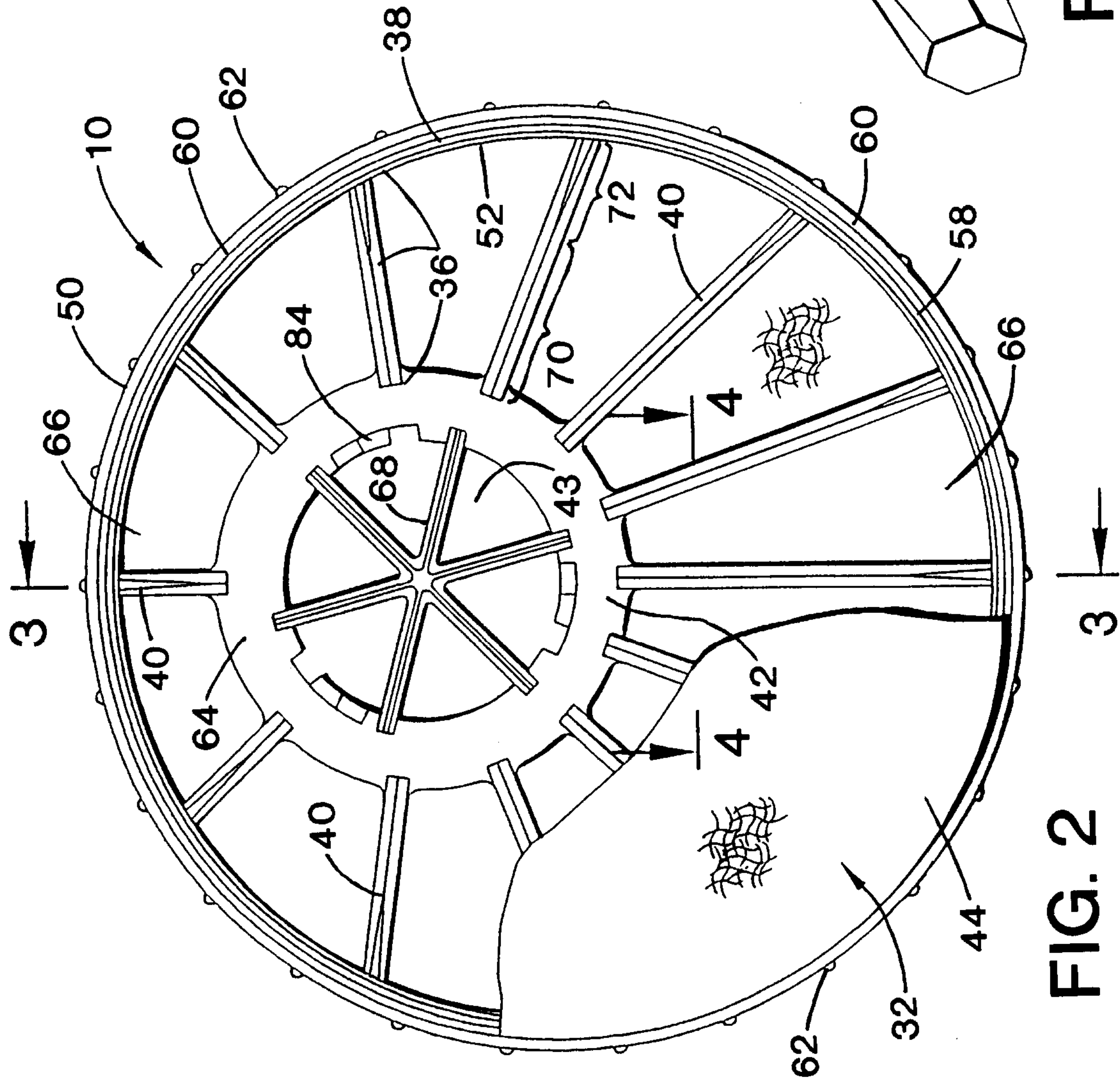


FIG. 2

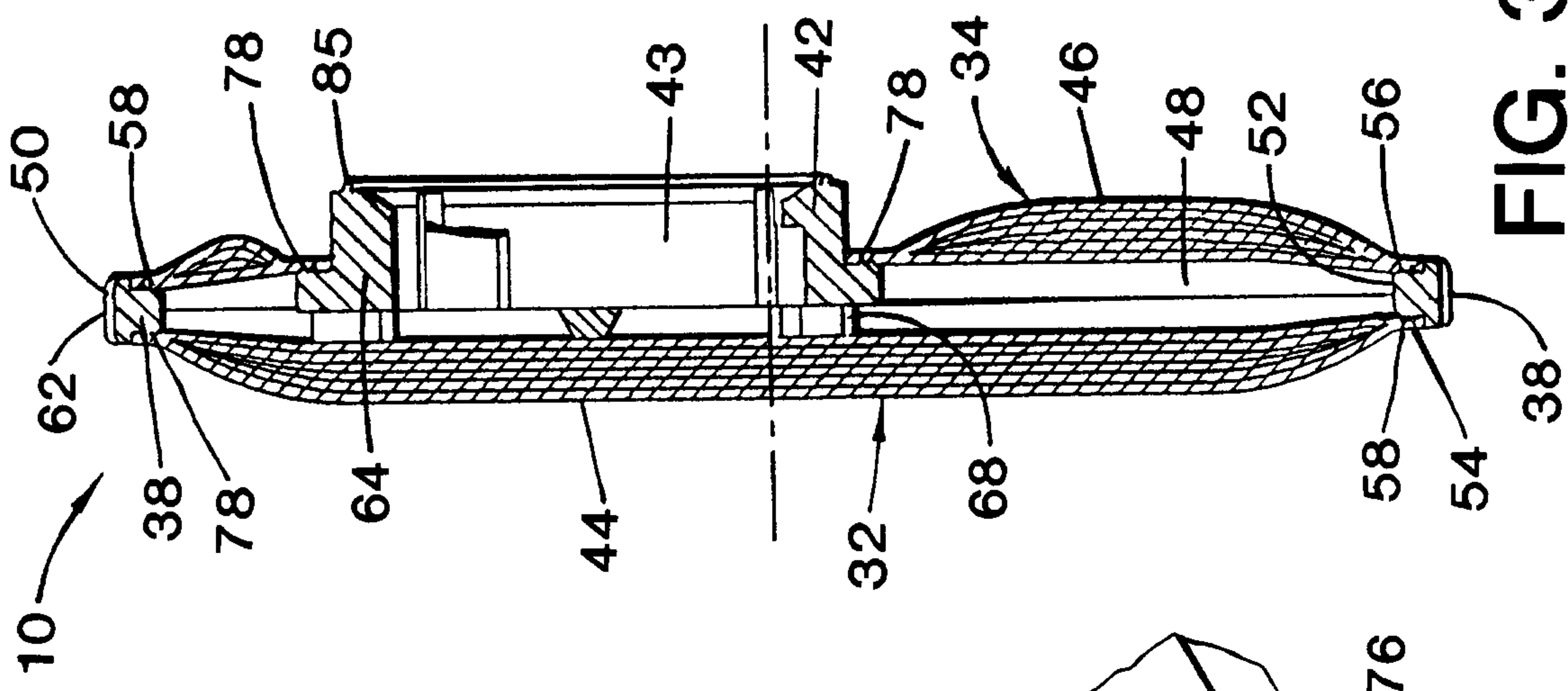


FIG. 3

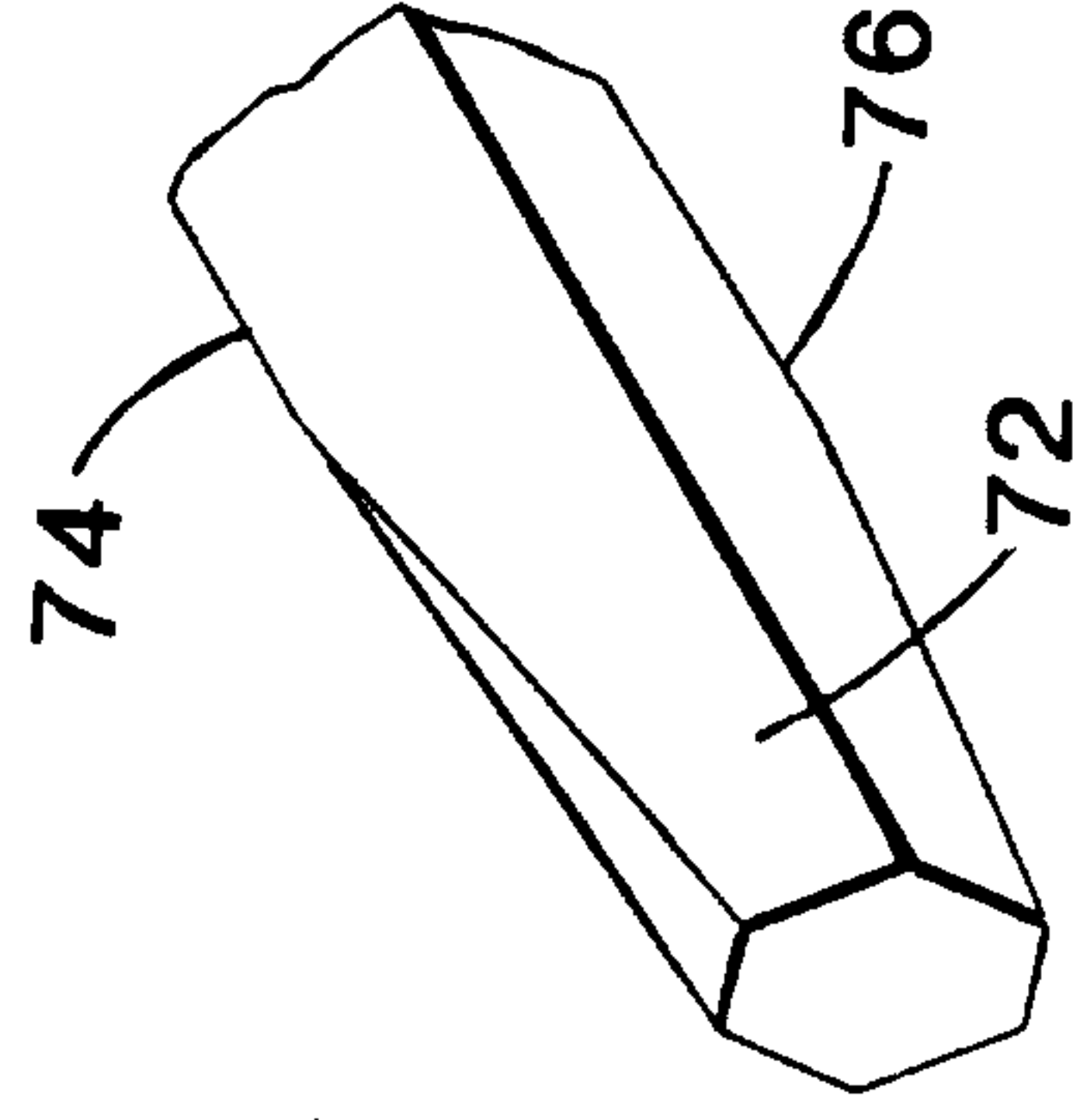


FIG. 5

