



(22) Date de dépôt/Filing Date: 2011/09/27

(41) Mise à la disp. pub./Open to Public Insp.: 2012/03/30

(45) Date de délivrance/Issue Date: 2014/09/02

(30) Priorité/Priority: 2010/09/30 (US12/894,584)

(51) Cl.Int./Int.Cl. *A61F 13/51* (2006.01),
A61F 13/512 (2006.01), *A61L 15/26* (2006.01),
B32B 3/10 (2006.01), *B32B 5/18* (2006.01),
A61L 15/58 (2006.01)

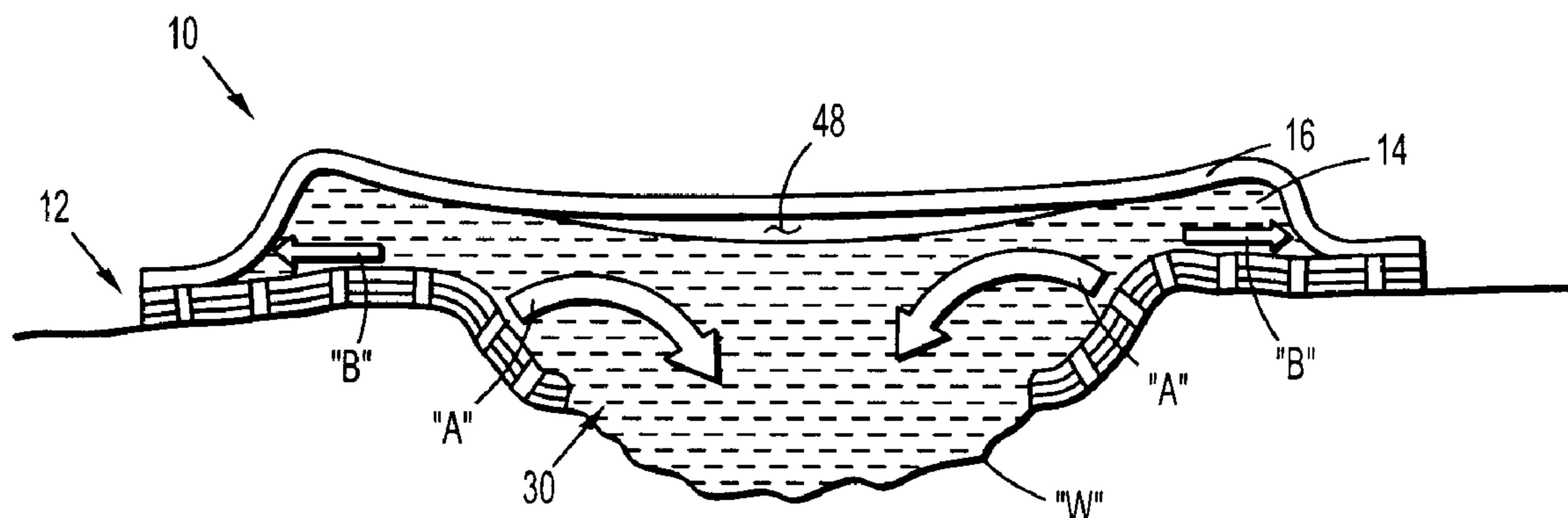
(72) Inventeurs/Inventors:
VITARIS, RONALD F., US;
CORLEY, KEVIN M., US

(73) Propriétaire/Owner:
TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP LP, US

(74) Agent: SMART & BIGGAR

(54) Titre : PANSEMENT POUR BLESSURE A CARACTERISTIQUE DE GESTION EVOLUEE DES FLUIDES

(54) Title: WOUND DRESSING WITH ADVANCED FLUID HANDLING



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

A wound dressing for managing wound fluids includes a porous contact layer for positioning adjacent a wound. An internal open window extends through the contact layer exposing a distal side of an absorbent member. The absorbent member is disposed in a superimposed relation to the window of the contact layer and is dimensioned to extend laterally beyond the window such that a portion of the absorbent member overlaps and is secured to the contact layer. A drape layer is disposed on a proximal side of the absorbent member, and is adhesively coated to fasten the drape layer to the absorbent member. A cover layer disposed over the drape layer defines an internal open window such that the open window is adjacent the absorbent member. A distal side of the cover layer is adhesively coated to secure the cover layer to the contact layer.



ABSTRACT

A wound dressing for managing wound fluids includes a porous contact layer for positioning adjacent a wound. An internal open window extends through the contact layer exposing a distal side of an absorbent member. The absorbent member is disposed in a superimposed relation to the window of the contact layer and is dimensioned to extend laterally beyond the window such that a portion of the absorbent member overlaps and is secured to the contact layer. A drape layer is disposed on a proximal side of the absorbent member, and is adhesively coated to fasten the drape layer to the absorbent member. A cover layer disposed over the drape layer defines an internal open window such that the open window is adjacent the absorbent member. A distal side of the cover layer is adhesively coated to secure the cover layer to the contact layer.

WOUND DRESSING WITH ADVANCED FLUID HANDLING

BACKGROUND

1. Technical Field

The present disclosure relates generally to wound dressings. In particular, the
5 disclosure relates to a wound dressing adapted for receiving fluids that exude from a wound, and
for directing and distributing the fluids within the dressing to promote healing of the wound.

2. Background of Related Art

Various techniques to promote healing of a wound involve covering the wound
with a bandage or dressing. The dressing typically provides a barrier that inhibits bacterial
10 migration from the ambient environment into the wound. Some dressings are equipped to absorb
or receive “wound exudates,” e.g., the fluid produced by the body that tends to accumulate in a
wound. Historically, such dressings have included an absorbent material attached to an adhesive
backing layer that provides a margin around the absorbent material. Thus the backing layer may
be employed to adhesively seal the dressing to the skin around the wound. In use, these
15 dressings may remain in place to receive and maintain the exudates in the absorbent material for
several days. Since wound exudates typically includes water, the exudates maintained may serve
to promote a moist wound environment, which may be particularly beneficial for dermal burns,
pressure ulcers, incised wounds, or similar ailments.

As a wound dressing receives exudates, the absorbent material may tend to swell
20 and distort the shape of the dressing. This distortion may undermine the effectiveness of the
bacterial barrier of the wound dressing by reducing the dressing’s ability to adhere to the skin.

Additionally the distortion may permit moisture that is drawn away from the wound by the absorbent material to settle in the periwound area, e.g. the area of skin laterally surrounding the wound. Moisture in the periwound area may induce further tissue deterioration.

SUMMARY

5 The present disclosure describes a wound dressing suitable for managing fluids such as wound exudates. The dressing includes a porous contact layer for positioning adjacent a wound. The porous contact layer defines a distal wound-facing surface, an opposed proximal surface, and an internal open window extending therethrough. An absorbent member is disposed in superimposed relation to the window of the contact layer, and is dimensioned to extend
10 laterally beyond the window such that a portion of the absorbent member overlaps and is secured to the proximal surface of the contact layer. A drape layer is disposed on a proximal side of the absorbent member. A distal side of the drape layer is adhesively coated to fasten the drape layer to the absorbent member. A cover layer defines an internal open window, and is disposed over the drape layer such that the open window is adjacent the absorbent member. A distal side of the
15 cover layer is adhesively coated to secure the cover layer to the contact layer.

At least about 50% of the surface area of a distal side of the absorbent member may be exposed to a distal side of the dressing through the internal open window of the contact layer. In some embodiments, at least about 85% of the surface area of the distal side of the absorbent member is exposed through the internal open window of the contact layer. The
20 absorbent member may define a generally rectangular shape, and the internal open window of the contact layer may define a generally circular or oval shape. The absorbent member may be constructed of an open-celled polyurethane foam.

The contact layer may include a layer of a cross linked, acrylic-based construction adhesive on a proximal side thereof that adheres the absorbent member to the contact layer. The distal side of the drape layer may be adhesively coated with a patterned coating of the construction adhesive.

5 The porous contact layer may include a plurality of perforations extending therethrough that exhibit a diameter in the range of about 200 to about 1000 microns, and are spaced such that the contact layer exhibits a perforation density in the range of about 50 to about 300 perforations per square inch. The perforations may exhibit a diameter of about 500 microns, and the perforation density of the contact layer may be about 85 microns per square inch. The
10 contact layer may be constructed as a composite including a thin film substrate component that is coated on a distal side with a pressure sensitive, wound-side adhesive component, and coated on a proximal side with a construction adhesive component. The plurality of perforations may extend through each of the component layers of the contact layer.

 Also disclosed is a wound dressing that includes an absorbent member defining a
15 distal wound-facing surface and an opposed proximal surface. The distal wound facing surface defines a surface area. A porous contact layer defines an internal open window extending therethrough. The porous contact layer includes a thin film membrane having a pressure sensitive, wound-side adhesive on a distal side thereof and a continuous coating of a construction adhesive on a proximal side thereof. The proximal side of the porous contact layer is adhered to
20 the distal wound facing surface of the absorbent member such that at least about 50 percent of the surface area of the distal side of the absorbent member is exposed to a distal side of the wound dressing through the internal open window. A backing layer includes a patterned coating

of the construction adhesive on a distal side thereof, and is adhered to the proximal side of the absorbent member by the patterned coating of the construction adhesive.

The patterned coating of the construction adhesive may be in the range of about 0.4 to about 0.6 grams of adhesive per 100 square inches of surface area of the backing layer.

5 The backing layer may be constructed as a composite including a drape layer adhered to the absorbent member by the patterned coating of the construction adhesive on a distal side thereof, and a cover layer defining an internal open window. The cover layer may be adhered to a proximal side of the drape layer by a continuous or patterned coating of the construction adhesive. An outer edge of the cover layer may be coincident with an outer edge of the porous
10 contact layer, and an outer edge of the drape layer may be coincident with an outer edge of the absorbent member.

According to an aspect of the invention there is provided a wound dressing, which comprises: an absorbent member defining a distal wound-facing surface and an opposed proximal surface, the distal wound facing surface defining a surface area; a porous contact layer
15 defining an internal open window extending therethrough, the porous contact layer including a thin film membrane having a pressure sensitive, wound-side adhesive on a distal side thereof and a continuous coating of a construction adhesive on a proximal side thereof, and wherein the proximal side of the porous contact layer is adhered to the distal wound facing surface of the absorbent member such that at least about 50 percent of the surface area of the distal side of the
20 absorbent member is exposed to a distal side of the wound dressing through the internal open window; and a backing layer including a patterned coating of the construction adhesive on a distal side thereof, the backing layer adhered to the proximal side of the absorbent member by

the patterned coating of the construction adhesive, the patterned coating of the construction adhesive being in the range of about 0.4 to about 0.6 grams of adhesive per 100 square inches of surface area of the backing layer.

According to another aspect of the invention there is provided a method of preparing a
5 wound dressing, comprising: providing an absorbent member defining a distal wound-facing surface and an opposed proximal surface, the distal wound facing surface defining a surface area; providing a porous contact layer defining an internal open window extending therethrough, the porous contact layer including a thin film membrane having a pressure sensitive, wound-side adhesive on a distal side thereof and a continuous coating of a construction adhesive on a
10 proximal side thereof, adhering the proximal side of the porous contact layer to the distal wound facing surface of the absorbent member such that at least about 50 percent of the surface area of the distal side of the absorbent member is exposed through the internal open window; providing a backing layer including a patterned coating of construction adhesive thereon, the patterned coating of construction adhesive being in the range of about 0.4 to about 0.6 grams of adhesive
15 per 100 square inches of surface area of the backing layer, and adhering the backing layer to the proximal side of the absorbent member by the patterned coating of construction adhesive.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the present disclosure and, together with the detailed
20 description of the embodiments given below, serve to explain the principles of the disclosure.

FIG. 1 is an exploded perspective view of a wound dressing including a backing layer, an absorbent member and a composite contact layer in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 2 is an enlarged perspective view of a corner portion of the composite
5 contact layer of **FIG. 1**;

FIG. 3 is a distal or a wound-facing side view of the backing layer of **FIG. 1**;

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view of the wound dressing of **FIG. 1** assembled over a wound in an initial configuration prior to the receipt of wound exudates into the absorbent member;

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view of the wound dressing of **FIG. 1** assembled over the wound in a second configuration subsequent to the receipt of wound exudates into the absorbent member; and

FIG. 6 is an exploded perspective view of an alternate embodiment of a wound dressing including a composite backing layer defining an internal open window in a cover layer thereof in accordance with the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The attached figures illustrate exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure and are referenced to describe the embodiments depicted therein. Hereinafter, the disclosure will be described in detail by explaining the figures wherein like reference numerals represent like parts throughout the several views.

Referring initially to **FIG. 1**, a wound dressing **10** includes a composite contact layer **12**, an intermediate absorbent member **14** and a backing layer **16**. These components **12**, **14**, **16** are superimposed and adhered with one another to form the unitary dressing **10**. The contact layer **12** is disposed on a distal or wound-facing side of the dressing **10**, and is adapted for contact with a patient to secure the dressing **10** over a wound “W” (see **FIG. 4**). The backing layer **16** is disposed on a proximal, or non-wound facing side of the dressing **10**, and extends laterally beyond the absorbent member **14**. As described in greater detail below, the

backing layer **16** may be adhesively coupled to a perimeter of the contact layer **12** such that the absorbent member **14** is sandwiched between the attachment and backing layers **12**, **16**.

The composite contact layer **12** is constructed of three distinct component layers including a wound-side adhesive layer **20**, a membrane or thin film layer **22**, and a construction adhesive layer **24**. The wound-side adhesive layer **20** is suitable for direct contact with a wound or the skin of a patient, and defines a distal surface of the contact layer **12**. A pressure sensitive, acrylic copolymer adhesive such Gelva® GMS 2495 provided by Cytec Industries of Woodland Park, NJ may be suitable for use as the wound side-adhesive. Other suitable adhesives for the wound-side adhesive layer **20** include Gelva® GMS 737, silicone adhesives, and any other commercially available medical adhesives. The film layer **22** provides a substrate to which the adhesive layers **20**, **24** may be adhered. An extensible, 1.0 mm thermoplastic urethane (TPU) film such as the commercially available Vacuflex® film 18411 manufactured by OMNIFLEX of Greenfield, Massachusetts may serve as the film layer **22**. Any thermoplastic film that can be perforated or otherwise made porous may be suitable for the construction of the film layer **22**. The construction adhesive layer **24** defines a proximal surface of the contact layer **12** and may be constructed of a continuous coating of an acrylic copolymer adhesive such Gelva® GMS 3101-03 provided Cytec Industries.

The three component layers **20**, **22** and **24** of the composite contact layer **12** are coextensive in that each of the component layers **20**, **22** and **24** share an outer lateral edge “E1” and an inner lateral edge “E2”. Laterally within the inner edge “E2”, the contact layer **12** defines an internal open window such as fluid access opening **30** extending through the contact layer **12**. The fluid access opening **30** is central to the contact layer **12**, as well as central to the

5 dressing 10. The shape of the central fluid access opening 30 may be generally round or oval as depicted, although alternative configurations and shapes, e.g., rectangular, may also be suitable.

A distal side of the absorbent member 14 is superimposed with and secured to the contact layer 12 by the construction adhesive layer 24 at a laterally interior portion "I" of the dressing 10. The interior portion "I" circumscribes the fluid access opening 30, and defines a boundary "B" that is coincident with an outer lateral edge "E3" of the absorbent member 14. Thus, the location of the boundary "B" and the size of the interior portion "I" are both defined by the lateral extent of the absorbent member 14. Only a fraction of the surface area of the distal side of the absorbent member 14 overlaps the construction adhesive layer 24. For example, about 50% or less of the surface area may overlap the construction adhesive layer 24 such that 50% or more surface area of the distal side of the absorbent member 14 is exposed to a distal side of the dressing through the fluid access opening 30. In some embodiments, about 15% of the surface area overlaps, while about 85% of the surface area of the distal side of the absorbent member 14 is exposed through the fluid access opening 30. The portion of the absorbent member 14 exposed through the fluid access opening 30 is substantially devoid of any adhesive.

The absorbent member 14 is intended to allow wound dressing 12 to absorb, capture, or transport wound exudates, and may be constructed of materials such as non-woven gauze, reticulated foam, or alginate fibers. In one embodiment, the absorbent member 14 may include a generally rectangular pad of CovidienTM AMD Antimicrobial Foam dressing. The CovidienTM AMD Foam dressing is polyurethane-based foam including the antiseptic agent polyhexamethylene biguanide (PHMB). A microstructured open-celled surface on the foam pad promotes absorption of exudates, and the added PHMB attacks bacteria on and within the dressing 10. The generally rectangular shape of the absorbent member 14 facilitates adhesion of

the absorbent member to the contact layer 12 when the fluid access opening 30 defines a generally circular or oval shape.

A distal side of the backing layer 16 is coupled to the absorbent member 14, and is also coupled to a perimeter region "P" of the dressing 10 by the construction adhesive layer 24. The perimeter region "P" extends laterally between the boundary "B" and the outer edge "E1" of the contact layer 12. An outer edge "E4" of the backing layer 16 may be coincident with the outer edge "E1" of the contact layer 12. The backing layer 16 may be constructed of a moisture vapor permeable membrane to promote the exchange of oxygen and moisture between the wound "W" and the ambient atmosphere. Membranes that provide a sufficient moisture vapor transmission rate (MVTR) include the transparent membranes sold under the trade names NOVOTEX AB5454, and also POLYSKIN®II by Tyco Healthcare Group LP (d/b/a Covidien), for example. A thin, tinted urethane film that promotes moisture vapor transmission therethrough may also be suitable for use as the backing layer 16. Higher rates of moisture vapor transmission between have been demonstrated to generally promote wound healing.

Referring now to FIG. 2, the contact layer 12 is porous to permit the transmission of wound fluids and moisture vapor therethrough. The contact layer 12 includes a plurality of perforations 32 extending through each of the component layers 20, 22 and 24. In the embodiment depicted in FIG. 2, the perforations 32 provide the porosity to the contact layer 32. Other embodiments are contemplated in which other structures such as a non-woven web or fabric (not shown) provides the porosity to the contact layer 32, and any type of porous membrane may also be suitable. The perforations 32 are generally circular in shape, and have a diameter in the range of about 200 to about 1000 microns. The perforations are spaced such that the contact layer 12 exhibits a perforation density in the range of about 50 to about 300

perforations **32** per square inch. In some embodiments, the perforations **32** exhibit a diameter of about 500 microns, and the perforation density of the contact layer **12** is about 85 microns per square inch. The perforations **32** permit transmission of wound exudates through the contact layer **12**, and promote moisture vapor transmission through the dressing **10**, particularly at the
5 perimeter region “P” (**FIG. 1**) of the dressing **10**.

Referring now to **FIG. 3**, the distal side of the backing layer **16** includes a patterned adhesive coating **38** disposed thereon. The adhesive coating **38** may be constructed of the same adhesive as the construction adhesive layer **24**, e.g. the acrylic based Gelva® GMS 3101-03 adhesive discussed above. The patterned adhesive coating **38** is applied such that
10 adhesive free areas **40** of the backing layer **16** form stretched or elongated diamond shapes. Alternatively, generally round, square or any other shape or pattern (not shown) of adhesive free areas on the backing layer **16** may be employed. The adhesive free areas **40** promote breathability and moisture vapor transmission through the backing layer **16**. The adhesive coating **38** is relatively light, e.g. in the range of about 0.4 to about 0.6 grams of adhesive per 100
15 square inches of surface area. The light adhesive coating facilitates a controlled detachment of the backing layer **16** from the absorbent member **14** as described below with reference to **FIG. 5**.

When the wound dressing **10** is assembled, the continuous construction adhesive layer **24** and the patterned adhesive coating **38** adhere the various layers **12**, **14**, **16** of the wound dressing **10** to one another. The shear strength of the adhesive bond generated between the
20 layers **12**, **14** and **16** may be enhanced by subjecting the dressing **10** to a radiation sterilization procedure such as electron beam, X-ray or gamma radiation. The acrylic based construction adhesive cross links when exposed to radiation, and thus the shear strength is enhanced. The shear strength of the adhesive bond generated generally increases with radiation dosage. The

enhanced shear strength enables the adhesive to become more resistant to de-bonding forces applied in a lateral direction. Lateral de-bonding forces may be generated by swelling of the absorbent member **14** as exudates are absorbed as discussed below with reference to **FIG. 5**. As discussed below, the enhanced shear strength of the construction adhesive discourages swelling
5 of the absorbent member **14** in the lateral direction and promotes swelling of the absorbent member **12** in a vertical direction.

Referring now to **FIG. 4**, the wound dressing **10** is depicted in an initial configuration as applied over a wound “**W**” prior to the receipt of wound exudates into the absorbent member **14**. The wound-side adhesive layer **20** of the composite contact layer **12**
10 adheres the dressing **10** to the skin “**S**”. A portion of the composite contact layer **12** may extend laterally into the wound “**W**” as depicted, or alternatively, the fluid access opening **30** may be dimensioned to circumscribe the entire wound “**W**”. The continuously coated construction adhesive layer **24** forms a sturdy bond between the backing layer **16** and the contact layer **12**. The absorbent member **14** is laterally constrained within the interior region “**I**” of the
15 dressing **10** by the bond generated between the backing layer **16** and the contact layer **12** in the perimeter region “**P**”. The patterned coating **38** (**FIG. 3**) on the distal, wound-facing side of the backing layer **16** maintains the absorbent member **14** in intimate contact with the backing layer **16**.

In the initial configuration, a void **44** may be established between the absorbent
20 member **14** and the wound “**W**”. The void **44** provides an area into which the absorbent member **14** may swell as exudates are absorbed. Unconstrained, the absorbent member **14** may have a tendency to swell uniformly in every direction. However, as assembled in the wound dressing **10**, the swelling of the absorbent member **14** is constrained by the backing

layer 16 and the contact layer 12. The fluid access opening 30 permits the absorbent member 14 to migrate or swell unobstructed, primarily in a vertical direction into the void 44.

Referring now to FIG. 5, the wound dressing 10 is depicted in a second configuration wherein wound exudates have been received into the absorbent member 14. As the wound "W" produces exudates, the exudates are directed through the perforations 32 in the contact layer 12, and/or are directly received into the absorbent member 14. As indicated by arrows "A", the exudates move into a central area of the dressing 10 as the absorbent member 14 swells. The absorbent member 14 swells primarily in a vertical direction, and moves into the area previously occupied by the void 44 (FIG. 4). The swelling occurs primarily in the vertical direction since the force required for swelling in any other constrained direction is significantly greater than the force required for swelling in the unconstrained direction through the fluid access opening 30. The swelling draws the absorbent member 14 into intimate contact with the wound "W", and thus, maintains the wound "W" in a moist condition.

The absorbent member 14 also swells in a lateral direction as indicated by arrows "B". The lateral swelling stretches the absorbent member 14 laterally outward, which generates a buckling force in the absorbent member 14. The buckling force induces the central regions of the absorbent member 14 to move in the vertical direction, and assists in the movement of the absorbent member 14 through the fluid access opening 30. This swelling of the absorbent member 14 draws backing layer 16 toward the wound "W". A dimple or depression forms in backing layer 16 that begins in the central region of the dressing 10 and expands laterally outward as the absorbent member 14 becomes saturated with exudates. The patterned adhesive coating 38 (FIG. 3) is sufficiently light to permit separation of backing layer 16 from the absorbent member 14 such that a proximal reservoir 48 develops in the dressing 10. The

proximal reservoir **48** provides a space into additional vertical swelling may occur, or into which exudates may flow. Thus, the configuration of the dressing **10** permits the dressing **10** to remain attached to the skin even after the absorbent member **14** is saturated.

Exudates in the proximal reservoir **48** exchange moisture vapor through the
 5 backing layer **16** at a higher rate than the portions of a moist pad layer attached to the backing layer **16**. Also, since the proximal reservoir **48** may freely receive exudates when the absorbent member **14** is saturated, the proximal reservoir **48** discourages pooling of the exudates at the periwound area, which might otherwise cause further tissue deterioration and undermine the adhesive bond of the contact layer **12** with the skin “**S**”. Thus, the configuration of the dressing
 10 **10** promotes healing of the wound “**W**”.

Referring now to **FIG. 6**, an alternate embodiment of a dressing **50** includes the composite contact layer **12** and the intermediate absorbent member **14** as described above with reference to **FIGS. 1** through **6**, and also includes a composite backing layer **52**. The composite backing layer **52** is constructed of two distinct component layers including a drape layer **56** and a
 15 proximal cover layer **58**. Both the drape layer **56** and the cover layer **58** may be constructed of a thin film substrate and a patterned adhesive coating **38** in the manner of the backing layer **16** described above. Alternatively, the cover layer **58** may include a continuous coating of the construction adhesive.

The drape layer **56** adheres to the absorbent member **14** such that an outer edge
 20 “**E5**” of the drape layer **56** is coincident with the outer edge “**E3**” of the absorbent member **14**. Alternatively, the drape layer **56** may extend laterally beyond the outer edge “**E3**” of the absorbent member **14**. The cover layer **58** adheres to the drape layer **56** and to the contact layer

12. An outer edge “E6” of the cover layer 58 is coincident with the outer edge “E1” of the composite contact layer 12, and an inner edge “E7” of the cover layer 58 is disposed laterally inward with respect to the outer edge “E5” of the drape layer 56. An internal window 60 is defined in the cover layer 58 such that the window 60 is disposed adjacent the absorbent member 14 when the dressing 50 is assembled.

The composite backing layer 52 provides rigidity to a lateral perimeter of the dressing 50, and thus, may prohibit lateral swelling of the absorbent member 14. The rigidity at the lateral perimeter also aids in maintaining the integrity of the dressing 50 as the absorbent member becomes saturated, and facilitates application of the dressing 50.

10 Although the foregoing disclosure has been described in some detail by way of illustration and example, for purposes of clarity or understanding, it will be obvious that certain changes and modifications may be practiced within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A wound dressing, which comprises:

an absorbent member defining a distal wound-facing surface and an opposed proximal surface, the distal wound facing surface defining a surface area;

a porous contact layer defining an internal open window extending therethrough, the porous contact layer including a thin film membrane having a pressure sensitive, wound-side adhesive on a distal side thereof and a continuous coating of a construction adhesive on a proximal side thereof, and wherein the proximal side of the porous contact layer is adhered to the distal wound facing surface of the absorbent member such that at least about 50 percent of the surface area of the distal side of the absorbent member is exposed to a distal side of the wound dressing through the internal open window; and

a backing layer including a patterned coating of the construction adhesive on a distal side thereof, the backing layer adhered to the proximal side of the absorbent member by the patterned coating of the construction adhesive, the patterned coating of the construction adhesive being in the range of about 0.4 to about 0.6 grams of adhesive per 100 square inches of surface area of the backing layer.

2. The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the backing layer is constructed as a composite including a drape layer adhered to the absorbent member by the patterned coating of construction adhesive, wherein the internal open window of the contact layer comprises a first internal open window and wherein a cover layer defines a second internal open window, the cover layer adhered to a proximal side of the drape layer by a coating of construction adhesive.

3. The wound dressing according to claim 2, wherein the cover layer is adhered to the proximal side of the drape layer by a patterned coating of the construction adhesive.

4. The wound dressing according to claims 2 or 3, wherein the cover layer is adhered to the proximal side of the drape layer by a continuous coating of the construction adhesive.

5. The wound dressing according to any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein an outer edge of the cover layer is disposed coincident with an outer edge of the porous contact layer and wherein an outer edge of the drape layer is disposed coincident with an outer edge of the absorbent member.

6. The wound dressing according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the porous contact layer includes a plurality of perforations extending therethrough, the perforations exhibiting a diameter in the range of about 200 to about 1000 microns and spaced such that the contact layer exhibits a perforation density in the range of about 50 to about 300 perforations per square inch.

7. The wound dressing according to claim 6, wherein at least about 85% of the surface area of the distal side of the absorbent member is exposed through the internal open window of the contact layer.

8. The wound dressing according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the absorbent member defines a generally rectangular shape, and wherein the internal open window of the contact layer defines one of a circular shape and an oval shape.

9. The wound dressing according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the absorbent member is constructed of an open-celled polyurethane foam.

10. The wound dressing according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the contact layer includes a layer of a cross linked, acrylic-based construction adhesive on a proximal side thereof, the construction adhesive adhering the absorbent member to the contact layer.

11. The wound dressing according to claim 6, wherein the contact layer is constructed as a composite including a thin film substrate component coated on a distal side with a pressure sensitive, wound-side adhesive component, and coated on a proximal side with a construction adhesive component, the plurality of perforations extending through each of the component layers.

12. A method of preparing a wound dressing, comprising:

providing an absorbent member defining a distal wound-facing surface and an opposed proximal surface, the distal wound facing surface defining a surface area;

providing a porous contact layer defining an internal open window extending therethrough, the porous contact layer including a thin film membrane having a pressure sensitive, wound-side adhesive on a distal side thereof and a continuous coating of a construction adhesive on a proximal side thereof,

adhering the proximal side of the porous contact layer to the distal wound facing surface of the absorbent member such that at least about 50 percent of the surface area of the distal side of the absorbent member is exposed through the internal open window;

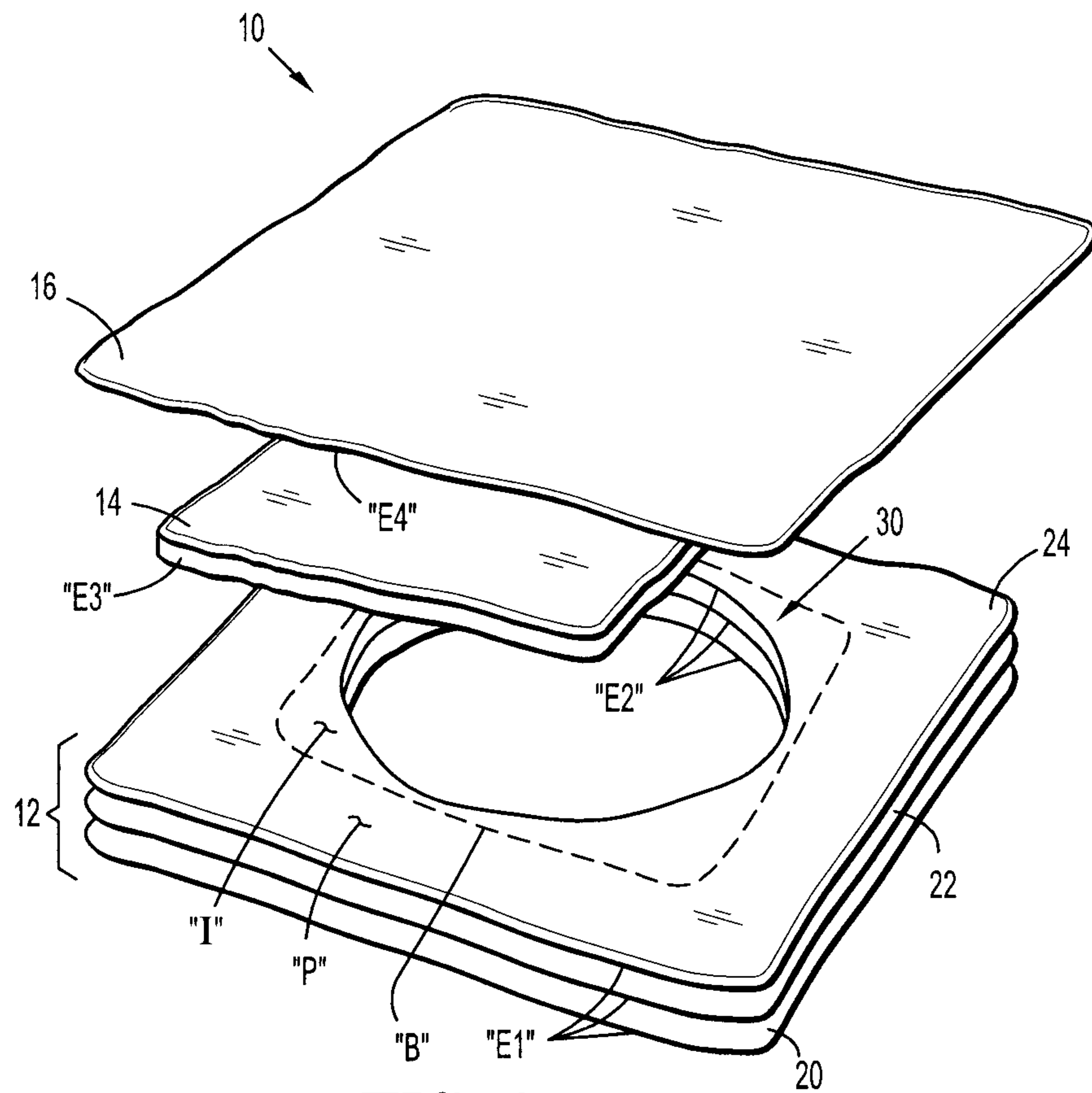
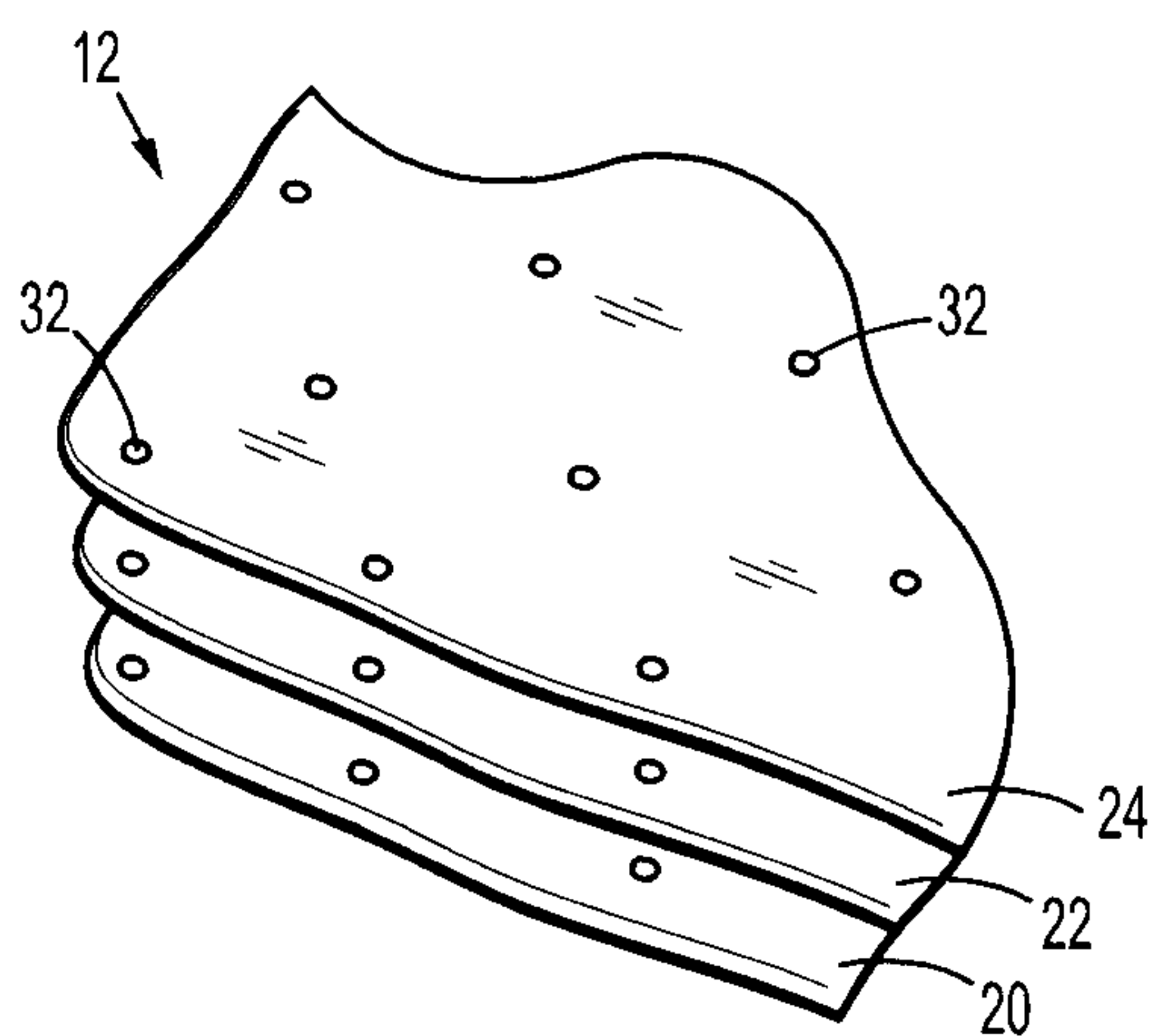
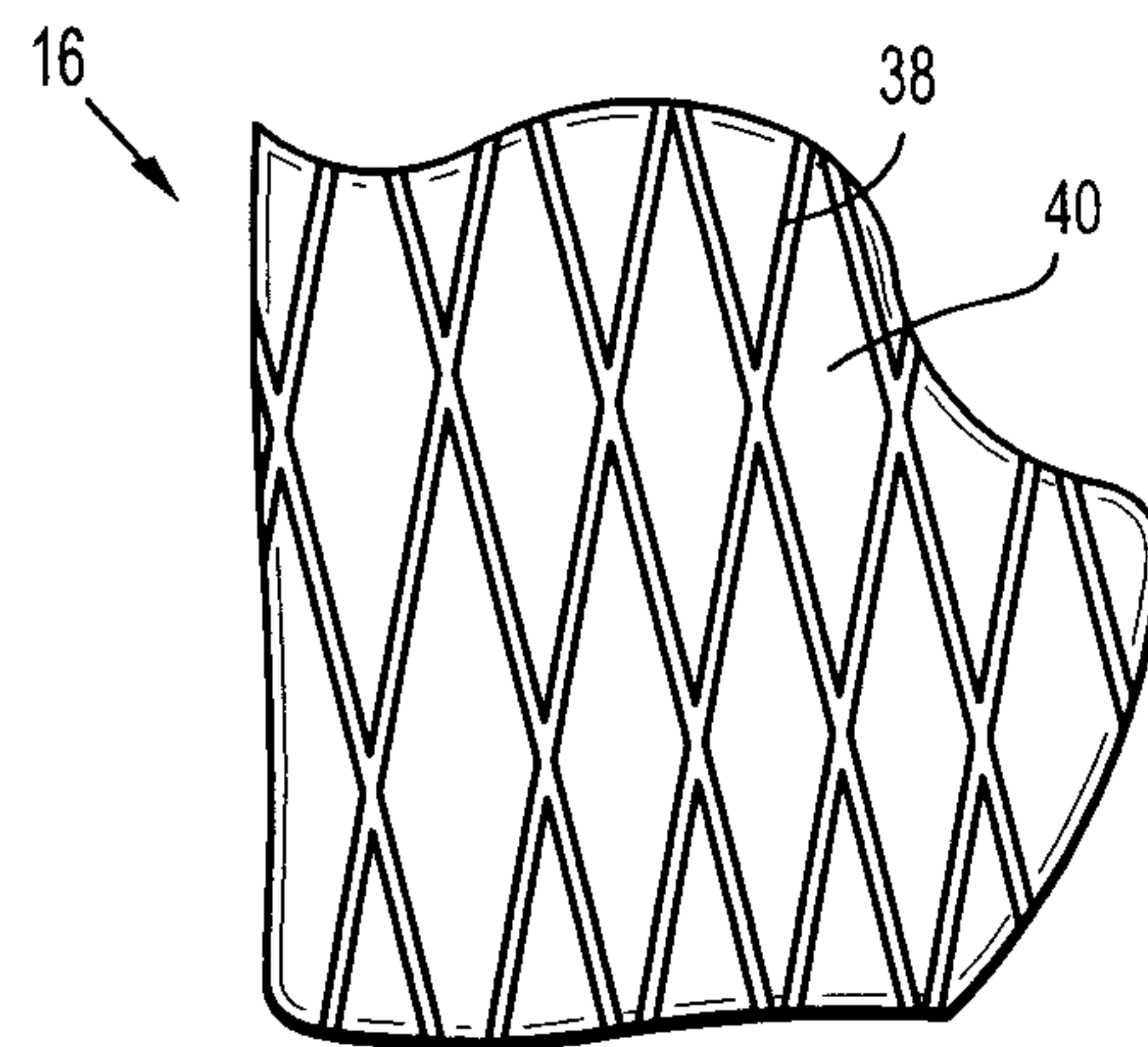
providing a backing layer including a patterned coating of construction adhesive thereon, the patterned coating of construction adhesive being in the range of about 0.4 to about 0.6 grams of adhesive per 100 square inches of surface area of the backing layer, and

adhering the backing layer to the proximal side of the absorbent member by the patterned coating of construction adhesive.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the porous contact layer includes a plurality of perforations extending therethrough, the perforations exhibiting a diameter in the range of about 200 to about 1000 microns and spaced such that the contact layer exhibits a perforation density in the range of about 50 to about 300 perforations per square inch.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein providing the porous contact layer comprises providing a composite including a thin film substrate component coated on a distal side with a pressure sensitive, wound-side adhesive component, and coated on a proximal side with a construction adhesive component, the plurality of perforations extending through each of the component layers.

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**FIG. 1****FIG. 2****FIG. 3**

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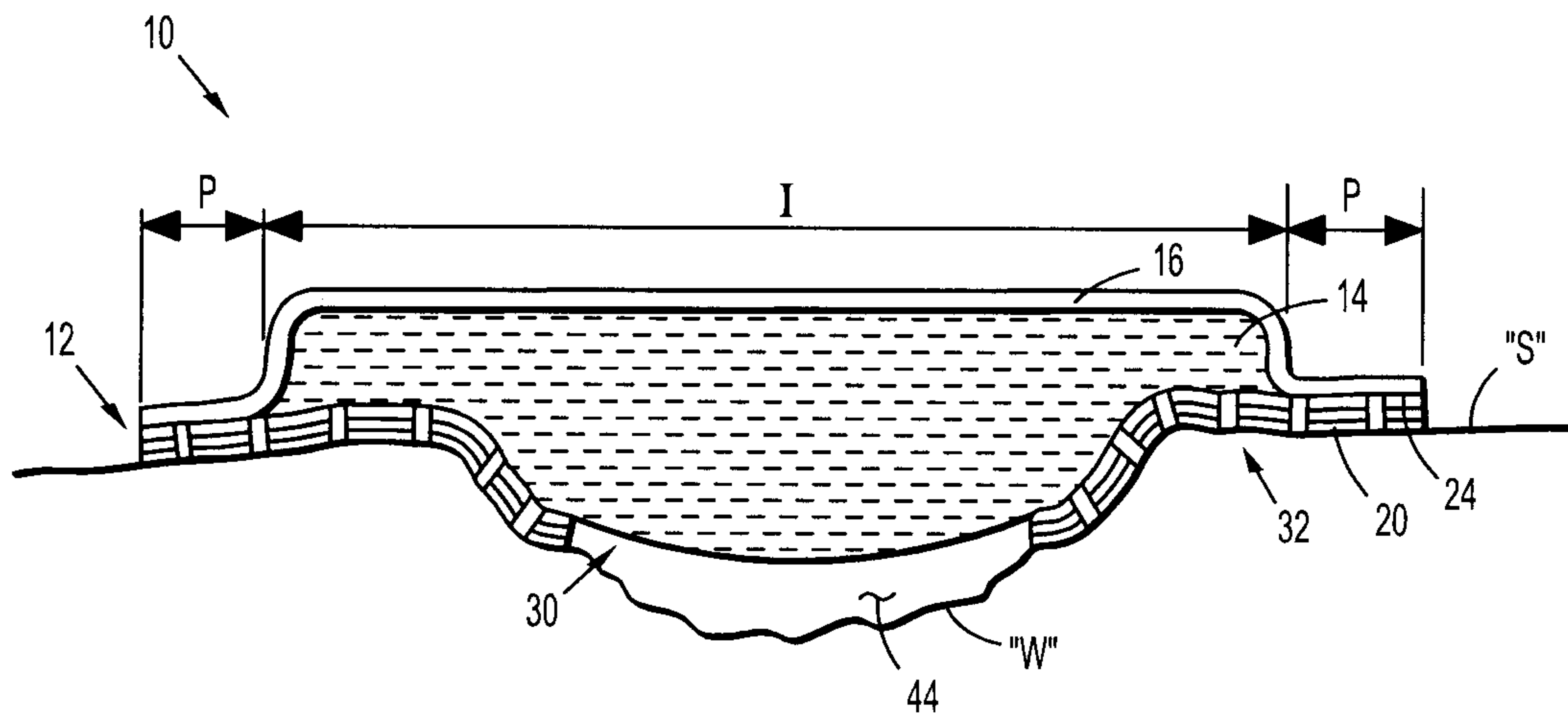


FIG. 4

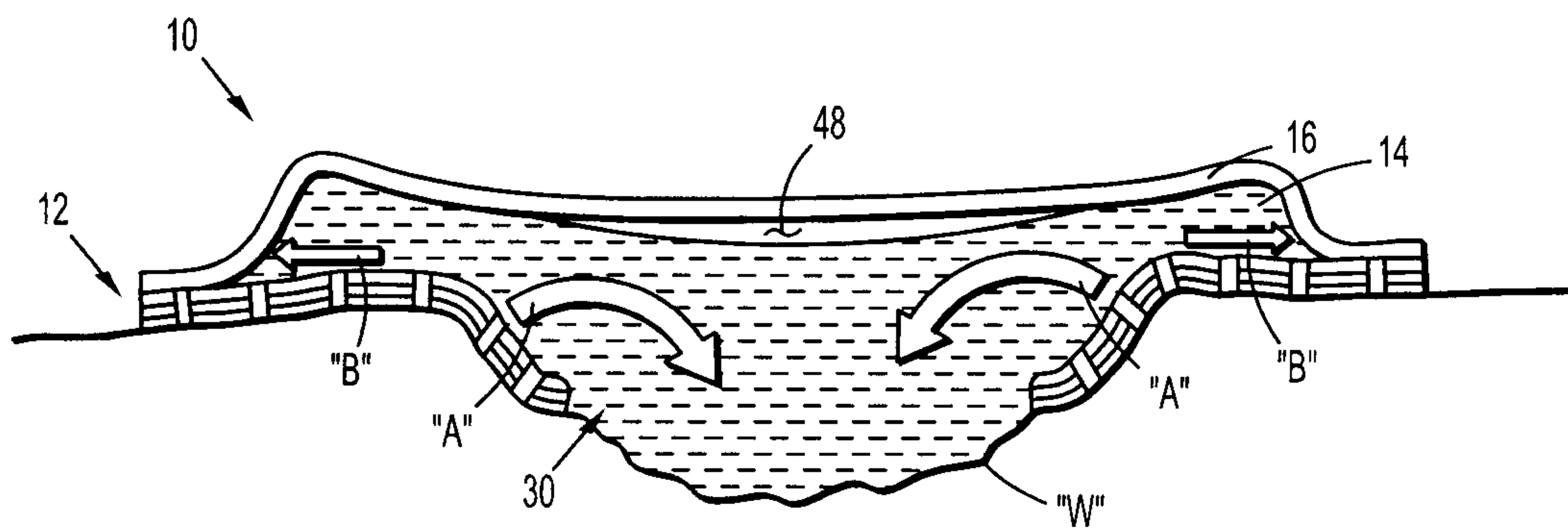
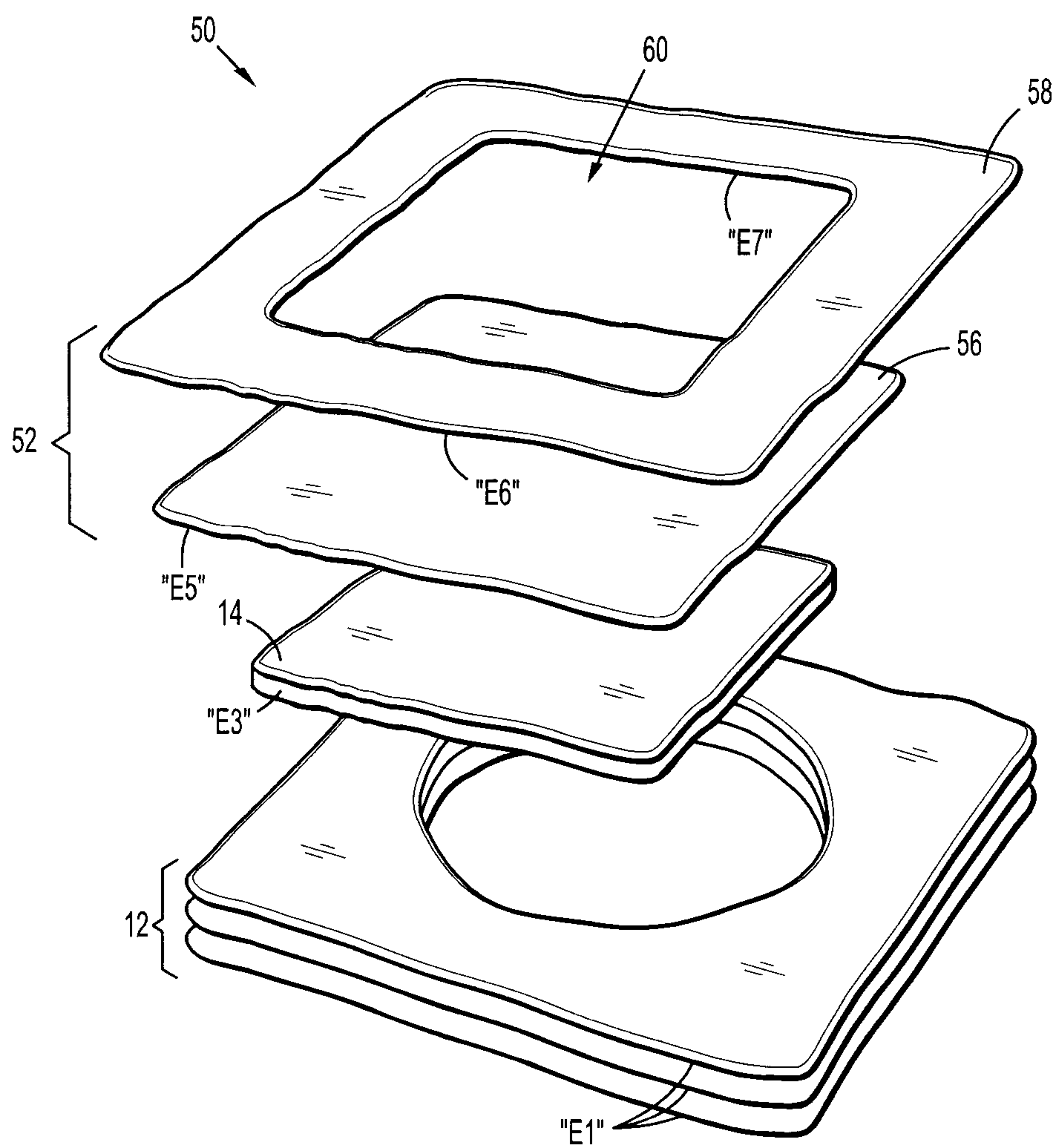


FIG. 5

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**FIG. 6**

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