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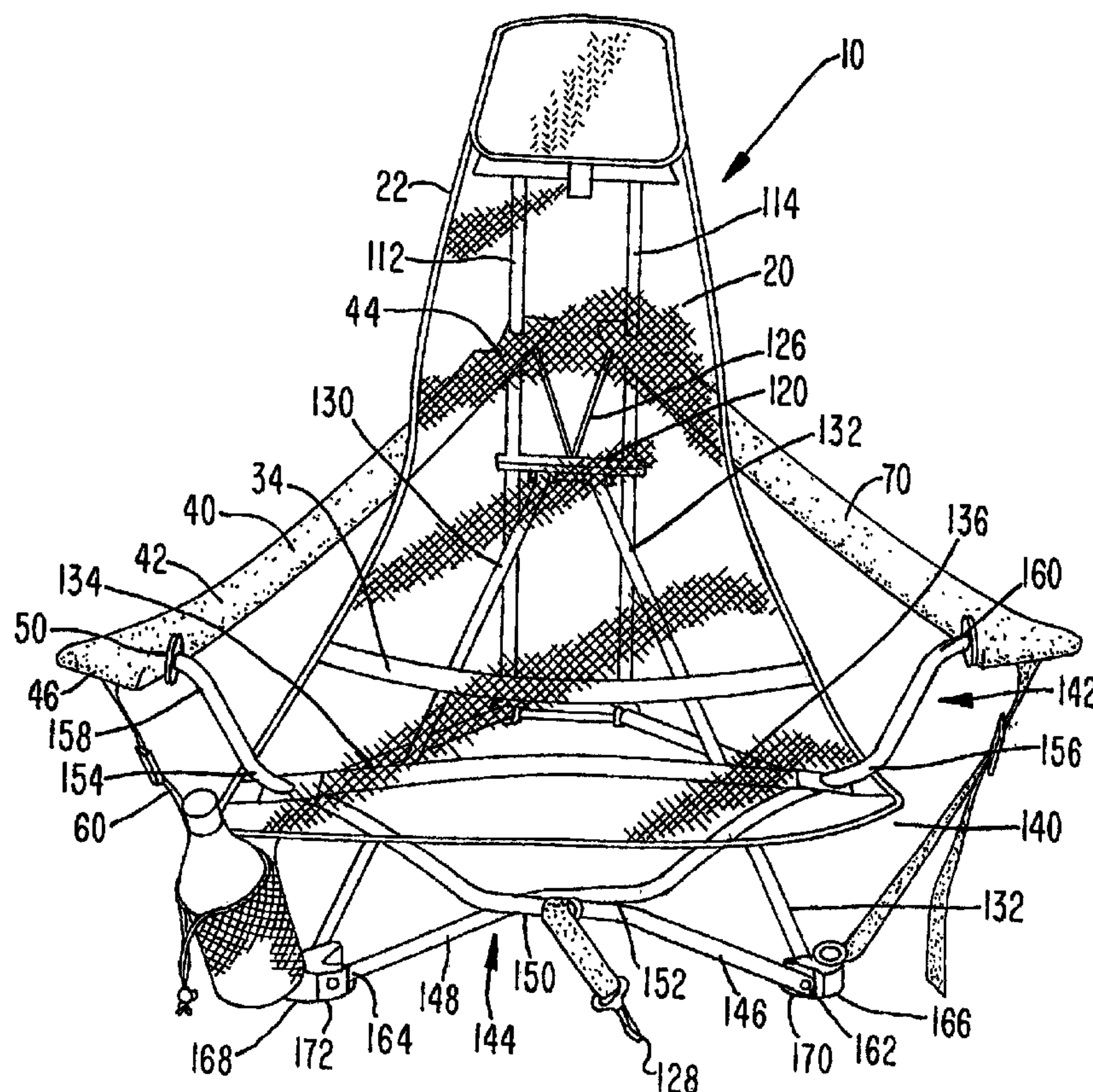
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A support including a frame having a tension member coupled to the frame is disclosed. The frame has a collapsed configuration and an expanded configuration. The tension member is disposable in a first position to provide support for an arm of a user and a second position to be carried on a shoulder of the user.

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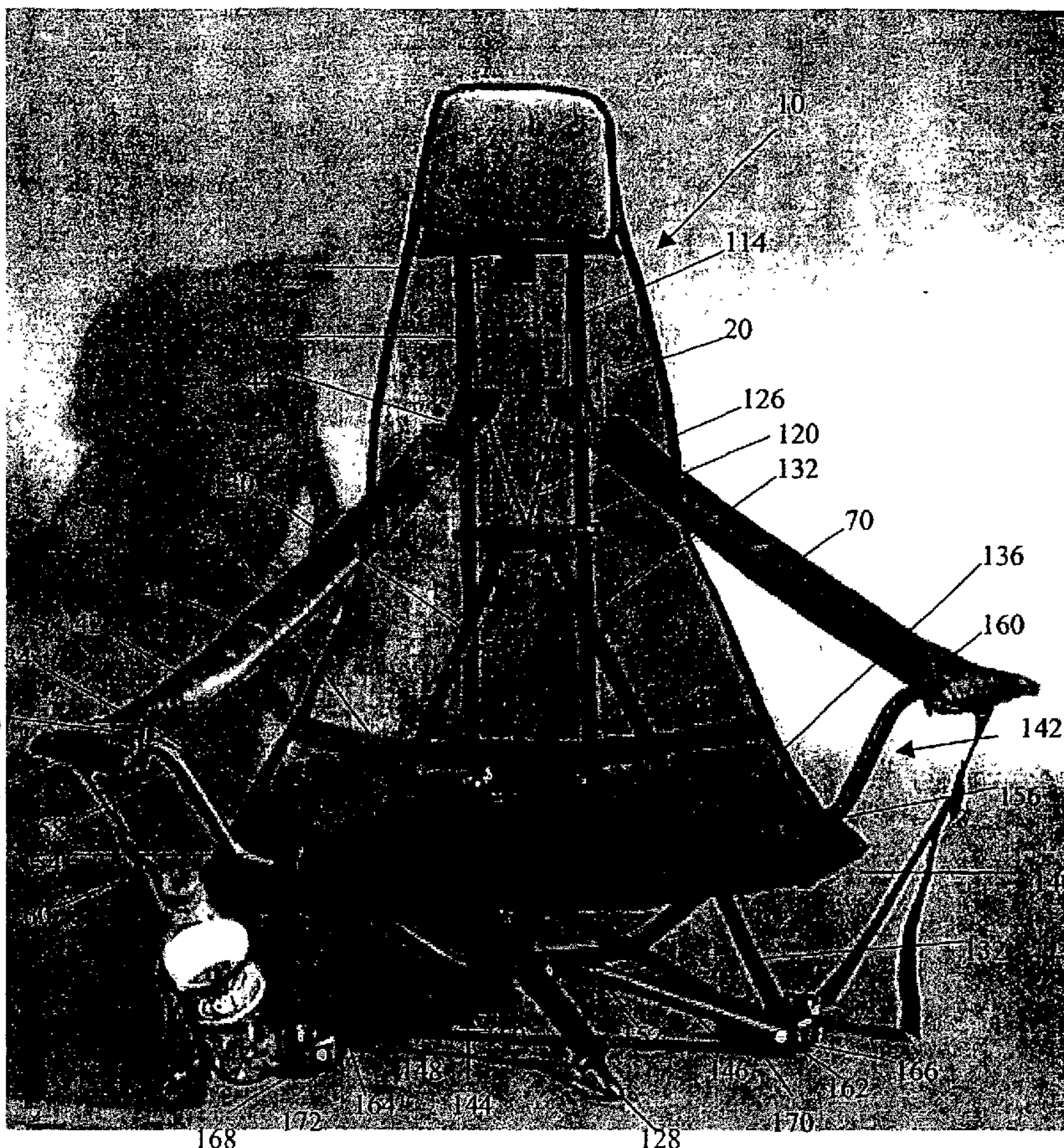
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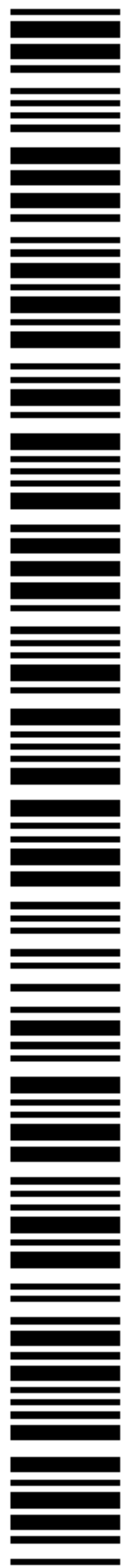
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(57) Abstract: A support including a frame having a tension member coupled to the frame is disclosed. The frame has a collapsed configuration and an expanded configuration. The tension member is disposable in a first position to provide support for an arm of a user and a second position to be carried on a shoulder of the user.



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COLLAPSIBLE SUPPORT AND METHODS OF USING THE SAME

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates generally to a support having multiple configurations, and
5 in particular, to a support that can be positioned in an expanded configuration and a
collapsed configuration.

Some conventional supports can be used as chairs to support a user. Such chairs
are often transported and used in various outdoor settings. Difficulty exists in
transporting a chair. For example, conventional chairs cannot be easily collapsed and
10 transported due to the shape and weight of the chairs.

The need exists for a collapsible support that can be easily transported to
various locations.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

15 A support includes a frame and a tension member. The support can be
positioned in a collapsed configuration and an expanded configuration. In one
embodiment, the support can be used with a cover that can be positioned around a
portion of the frame.

In one embodiment, the support includes a seat portion coupled to the frame. In
20 the open or expanded configuration, a user can sit on the support and the frame is self-
supporting.

When the frame is in its expanded configuration, the tension member is coupled
to the frame to provide support for an arm of the user. When the frame is in its
collapsed configuration, a cover can be placed over a portion of the frame or support.
25 In this configuration, the tension member is not contained by and extends from the
cover, thereby enabling a user to place the tension member over the user's shoulder for
transporting the support.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

30 Fig. 1 illustrates a side view of a support according to an embodiment of the
invention.

Fig. 2 illustrates a front view of the support of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 illustrates a rear perspective view of the support of Figs. 1 and 2.

Fig. 4 illustrates a portion of a tension member of the support of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 illustrates a portion of a tension member of the support of Fig. 1.

5 Fig. 6 illustrates a bottom coupler of the rear frame portion of the support of Fig. 1.

Fig. 7 illustrates a front view of a portion of the rear frame portion of the support of Fig. 1.

Fig. 8 illustrates a cover according to an embodiment of the invention.

10 Figs. 9-15 illustrate a process, according to an embodiment of the present invention, by which the support can be transformed from an expanded configuration to a collapsed configuration.

Figs. 16-18 illustrate the movement of the tension members relative to the rear frame portion.

15 Fig. 19 illustrates a storage bag of the support of Fig. 1.

Figs. 20-21 illustrate a support and a pillow according to an embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 22 illustrates an alternative embodiment of a pillow according to the present invention.

20 Fig. 23 illustrates a combination of a support and a shade according to the present invention.

Figs. 24-28 illustrate alternative embodiments of a shade according to the present invention.

25 Fig. 29 illustrates an alternative embodiment of a support according to the present invention.

Figs. 30-32 illustrate a combination of a support and a storage device according to the present invention.

Fig. 33 illustrates an alternative embodiment of a storage device according to the present invention.

30 Fig. 34 illustrates an alternative embodiment of a support according to the present invention.

Figs. 35-36 illustrate alternative embodiments of a support according to the present invention.

Fig. 37 illustrates a side view of a support according to an alternative embodiment of the invention.

5 Fig. 38 illustrates a perspective view of a rear portion of the support of Fig. 37.

Fig. 39 illustrates a top view of a rear portion of the support of Fig. 37.

Figs. 40a-40d illustrate cross-sectional views of a rear portion of the support of Fig. 37.

10 Fig. 41 illustrates a rear perspective view of a support according to an alternative embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 42 illustrates a side view of the support of Fig. 41 in a collapsed configuration.

Fig. 43 shows a perspective view of a rear portion of a support in an upright position, according to an embodiment of the invention.

15 Fig. 44 shows a perspective view of the rear portion of the support shown in Fig. 43 in a reclined position,

Figs. 45a and 45b show a side view of the rear portion of the support shown in Fig. 43 while in an upright position and collapsible position.

20 Fig. 46 shows a perspective view of a rear portion of a support in an upright position, according to another embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 47 shows a perspective view of the rear portion of the support shown in Fig. 46 in a reclined position,

Fig. 48 illustrates a front perspective view of a combination of a support and a shade according to an alternative embodiment of the invention.

25 Fig. 49 illustrates a rear perspective view of the combination of Fig. 48.

Fig. 50 illustrates a front view of the support member in a collapsed configuration, according to the embodiment shown in Fig. 49.

Fig. 51 illustrates a front perspective view of the shade of Fig. 48.

Fig. 52 illustrates a front perspective view of the combination of Fig. 48.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

A support includes a seat portion, a frame, and a tension member. The frame can be positioned in a collapsed configuration and an expanded configuration in which the frame is self-supporting. The tension member is disposable in a first position to provide support for an arm of a user and a second position to be carried on a shoulder of a user. When the frame is in its collapsed configuration, the tension member can be placed over a user's shoulder to transport the support. When the frame is in its expanded configuration, the tension member can be disposed in its first position to support an arm of a user.

10 A support according to an embodiment of the invention is illustrated in Figs. 1-5. Fig. 1 illustrates a side view of the support or support assembly 10 in a deployed or expanded configuration. In one embodiment, support 10 can be used as a chair in its expanded configuration.

In the illustrated embodiment, the support 10 includes a seat portion 20, tension members 40, 70, and a frame 100. The seat portion 20 and the tension members 40, 70 are coupled to the frame 100.

In the illustrated embodiment, the frame 100 includes a rear frame portion 110 and a front frame portion 140, which are coupled together by upper side support bars 130, 132 and lower side support bars 134, 136.

20 Each of the support members 130, 132, 134, 136 are pivotally coupled to the front and rear frame portions 110, 140. Upper side support member 130 is pivotally coupled to lower side support member 134 proximate their midpoints. Similarly, upper side support member 132 is pivotally coupled to lower side support member 136.

In one embodiment, the upper ends of lower side support members 134, 136 are bent with respect to the remainder of the support members 134, 136. The bent portions of the lower side support members 134, 136 are located proximate to the seat portion 20. When the frame 100 is in its expanded configuration, the upper ends of the lower side support members 134, 136 do not extend into the seat portion 20 and engage the user on the support 10.

30 In the illustrated embodiment, the rear frame portion 110 includes support members 112, 114, and a coupler 120. The support members 112, 114 are coupled

together at their upper and lower ends by an upper coupler 116 and a lower coupler 118, respectively. Additionally, the lower coupler 118 is pivotally coupled to the ends of lower side support members 134, 136. The rear frame portion 110 has a bottom surface 128 proximate the lower coupler 118. The bottom surface 128 is adapted to rest on a supporting surface.

In the illustrated embodiment, the support members are hollow, metal tubes, such as steel tubes. Support members can be formed of any material and configured in any cross-sectional shape that provides sufficient structural strength to support a user. For example, the support members can be aluminum tubes, plastic tubes, solid metal or plastic bars, etc.

In one embodiment, the coupler 120 is a plate that includes holes 122, 124 and is slidably mounted to support members 112, 114. As shown in Fig. 3, support members 112, 114 extend through holes 122, 124, respectively. The holes 122, 124 are sized to slide along the length of support members 112, 114. Slide plate 120 is pivotally coupled to the upper ends of the upper side support members 130, 132.

As shown in Figs. 2 and 3, the support 10 includes an extension member 126 coupled to the slide plate 120. In one embodiment, the extension member 126 is a cord. The cord 126 is used to collapse the support 10 from its expanded configuration. The cord 126 is threaded through apertures (not shown) in the upper coupler 116 and connected to the plate 120. The function of the extension member is discussed in further detail below.

While the slide plate is formed of plastic in the disclosed embodiment, any suitable material may be used. Similarly the shape of the slide plate may be varied so long as the slide plate can move along the rear frame portion.

In the illustrated embodiment, the front frame portion 140 includes elongated support members or support members 146, 148 that are pivotally coupled to each other. Support members 146, 148 include upper ends 158, 160 and lower ends 162, 164 and form an "X" structure.

In one embodiment, support members 146, 148 include portions 154, 156 as illustrated in Fig. 2. Portions 154, 156 are substantially linear. When the frame 100 is

in its expanded configuration, portions 154, 156 are oriented substantially horizontal and are positioned beneath the membrane 22 to provide support.

In one embodiment, support members 146, 148 include portions 150, 152 as illustrated in Fig. 2. Portions 150, 152 are substantially linear. In this embodiment, the support members 146, 148 are pivotally coupled together at portions 150, 152.

The lower ends 162, 164 of the support members 146, 148 are pivotally coupled to front feet 166, 168, respectively. Each of the front feet 166, 168 has a bottom surface 170, 172 that can engage the surface on which the support 10 is placed. Front feet 166, 168 are pivotally coupled to upper side support members 130, 132.

Support members 146, 148 are coupled to the seat portion 20 and to the lower side support members 134, 136. The seat portion 20 includes apertures or holes 30, 32 through which the support members 146, 148 can be inserted. The upper end of lower side support member 134 is pivotally coupled to the second planar portion 154 of support member 146. Similarly, lower side support member 136 is pivotally coupled to the second planar portion 156 of support member 148.

The front frame portion 140 has an upper portion 142 and a lower portion 144. The upper front frame portion 142 includes the front frame portion 140 located above the seat portion 20. The lower front frame portion 140 includes the front frame portion 140 located below the seat portion 20 in Fig. 2.

In the illustrated embodiment, the frame 100 is a self-supporting structure. When the frame 100 is in its expanded configuration, the weight of the components of the frame 100 hold the frame 100 in its expanded configuration. The frame 100 does not need the seat portion 20 or one of the tension members 40, 70 to remain in its expanded configuration.

In the illustrated embodiment, the seat or seat portion 20 includes a membrane 22 that is supported on the frame 100. The seat portion 20 includes a strip 24 along the perimeter of the membrane 22. The membrane 22 has ends 26, 28 and holes 30, 32 that are located proximate to end 28. End 26 of the membrane 22 is coupled to the rear frame portion 110. End 28 is releasably coupled to the front frame portion 140.

As shown in Fig. 2, the upper end 158 of the support member 146 is inserted through hole 30. Similarly, the upper end 160 of support member 148 is inserted

through hole 32. Membrane 22 is supported on the second planar portions 154, 156 of each support member 146, 148.

In the illustrated embodiment, the membrane 22 is darted at regions 33 on either side of the seat portion 20. A triangular notch is cut in membrane 22 in each region 33. The membrane 22 is collected together to close the notch, thereby causing the membrane 22 to form a cup-like shape as illustrated in Fig. 1. The straps 34, 36 are secured to the membrane 22 in regions 33 to cover up the notch and to reinforce regions 33. The straps 34, 36 are also coupled to the membrane 22 to provide support to the seat portion 20. In the illustrated embodiment, strip 24 and straps 34, 36 are sewn to the membrane 22. However, the components of seat portion 20 can be coupled together using any known method of coupling items.

The term “membrane” is used herein to include, but is not limited to, a layer of material. For example, the membrane can be a piece of fabric such as nylon or neoprene.

In the illustrated embodiment, the support 10 includes tension members 40, 70 that are coupled to the frame 100. While the tension members 40, 70 are illustrated as substantially similar, the tension members do not have to be similar. Similarly, it is not necessary that the support has two tension members. Only one tension member will be discussed in detail below to simplify the description of the invention.

In the illustrated embodiment, the tension member is an elongated fabric strap. Alternatively, the strap can be a rope, cord, webbing, or any other structure that can provide a tensile force.

In the illustrated embodiment, the tension member includes a padded portion 42, and a strap portion 60. Tension member 40 is coupled to the rear frame portion 110 and the front frame portion 140.

One end of tension member 40 includes a hole 48 through which support member 112 is inserted. Accordingly, the tension member 40 is slidably coupled to the support member 112 of the rear frame portion 110. The opposite end of the tension member 40 is connected to the front frame portion 140 at front foot 162.

In the illustrated embodiment, the tension member 40 is releasably coupleable to the front frame portion 140. As illustrated in Fig. 4, the padded portion 42 of the

tension member 40 includes ends 44, 46 and a coupler 50 having an opening or hole 52 therein. Coupler 50 and hole 52 are located proximate end 46. The hole 52 is configured to receive a portion of the upper end 158 of the support member 146. Upper end 158 is inserted into and is seated in coupler 50.

5 As illustrated in Fig. 5, the strap portion 60 of tension member 40 includes ends 62, 64, a fixed portion 66, and an adjustable portion 68. One end 62 of the strap portion 60 is coupled to end 46 of the padded portion 42. The strap portion 60 also includes a tensioner 70 that couples the fixed portion 66 to the adjustable portion 68. Tensioner 70 can be adjusted to change the length of the strap portion 60.

10 In the illustrated embodiment, tensioner 70 is a buckle that is coupled to a free end of the fixed portion 66. Tensioner 70 can be any mechanism that can be used to retain two points on the strap portion together to vary the distance between the ends of the strap portion. For example, tensioner 70 can include a pair of buckles, a pair of clips, hook and loop fasteners, etc.

15 In an alternative embodiment, adjustment of the tension member can adjust the disposition of the frame. For example, the coupler can be sized to permit movement of the tension member relative to the upper end of the support member. Since the tension member is coupled to the rear frame portion, the tension member and the rear frame portion are pulled forwardly as the strap portion is shortened. When the rear frame
20 portion is pulled forwardly, the angle that the rear frame portion is reclined relative to the supporting surface varies. Accordingly, the user can adjust the recline position of the support by adjusting the strap portion of the tension member.

An embodiment of a lower coupler is illustrated in Fig. 6. Lower coupler 118 includes mounting portions 180, 190 and a bottom portion 186. In the illustrated
25 embodiment, the mounting portions 180, 190 and the bottom portion 186 are integrally formed.

Mounting portions 180, 190 include side walls 183, 184 and 193, 194, respectively. Mounting portion 180 includes coupling portions 181, 182. Coupling portion 181 can be referred to as straight section or portion 181. Coupling portion 182
30 can be referred to as angled section or portion 182. As illustrated in Fig. 6, coupling portion 181 is oriented at an angle relative to coupling portion 182. Similarly,

mounting portion 190 includes coupling portions or straight section 191 and angled section 192.

As illustrated in Fig. 6, rear support members 112, 114 are coupled to mounting portions 180, 190 by fasteners 185, 195, respectively. Fasteners 185, 195 can be any
5 type of fastener that allows relative movement between the rear support members and the lower coupler.

Side support members 134, 136 are coupled to mounting portions 180, 190 by fasteners 185, 195. In the illustrated embodiment, the side support members 134, 136 are coupled to the angled sections 182, 192 of the mounting portions 180, 190. Rear
10 support members 112, 114 are coupled to the straight sections 181, 191 of the mounting portions 180, 190.

When the frame is moved from its expanded configuration to its collapsed configuration, side support members 134, 136 pivot about fasteners 185, 195 in different planes. Since the angled sections 182, 192 are oriented at angles with respect
15 to the coupler 118 as shown in Fig. 6, the planes in which the side support members 134, 136 move intersect each other.

Since the connections of the side support members 134, 136 to the lower coupler 118 are in front of and at angles to the connections of the rear support members 112, 114 to the lower coupler 118, the torque on the connections at the lower coupler
20 118 generated by the collapsing of the frame 100 is lower than the torque generated in conventional supports. Similarly, since the fasteners connecting a side support member and a rear support member to a particular mounting portion are not parallel, the torque generated in the fasteners during the collapsing or expanding of the frame is reduced.

The bottom portion 186 of the lower coupler 118 includes openings 196, 198.
25 When the support 10 is placed on a surface with loose material, such as sand or dirt, the loose material can pass through openings 196, 198.

Fig. 7 illustrates a front view of an embodiment of the upper portion of the rear frame portion. The extension member 126 is coupled to the slide plate 120 and extends through openings in the upper coupler 116. The extension member 126 also passes
30 through openings in the tension members 40, 70 behind the holes through which the rear support members 112, 114 extend.

In one embodiment, the extension member 126 includes two knots 125, 127. Each knot 125, 127 is positioned below and provides support for the end of one of the tension members 40, 70. Above the tension members 40, 70, the extension member 126 warps around each of the rear support members 112, 114 and passes through
5 openings in the upper coupler 116 on the outside of the support members 112, 114. The operation of the extension member is discussed in greater detail below in Figs. 16-18.

An embodiment of a cover is illustrated in Fig. 8. Cover 200 includes a membrane 202 having an edge 204 that defines an opening 206. An elastic band 208 is
10 sewn along edge 204. In the illustrated embodiment, the membrane is a nylon material.

Figs. 9-15 illustrate a process, in ascending order, according to an embodiment of the present invention, by which a collapsible support can be changed or transformed from an expanded configuration to a collapsed configuration. It should be understood
15 that the process can be reversed to transform the support from its collapsed configuration to its expanded configuration by following Figs. 9-15 in reverse order.

As shown in Fig. 9, the user releases the tension in the tension member 40 by increasing the length of the strap portion 60. The user then removes or decouples the upper end 158 of the support member 146 from the tension member 40 as illustrated in
20 Fig. 10. These steps, releasing the tension and removing the tension member 40, are repeated for the second tension member 70.

As shown in Figs. 11-12, the user grasps and pulls upwardly on the cord 126 while holding onto the upper coupler 116. When the user pulls the cord 126, the slide plate 120 slides upwardly along support members 112, 114. As the slide plate 120
25 moves upwardly, the ends of the support members 130, 132 connected to the slide plate 120 move upwardly. As a result, the lower ends of the upper side support members 130, 132 are drawn toward the rear frame portion 110 and the lower side support members 134, 136 pivot about their lower ends. The scissor-like movement of the side support members 130, 132, 134, 136 draws the front frame portion 140 towards the rear
30 frame portion 110. The movement also causes the front feet 162, 164 to move together and the upper ends 158, 160 to move together.

Once the frame 100 is collapsed, the user then secures the support 10 in its collapsed configuration by fastening the clip 128 that is coupled to the front frame portion 140 to cord 126 as illustrated in Fig. 13.

Cover 200 can be placed over the collapsed support 10 as illustrated in Figs. 13-14. The cover 200 is configured to receive a portion of the collapsed support 10. In particular, the cover 200 encloses a portion of the frame 100. The tension members 40, 70, however, are not enclosed by and extend from the cover 200. As illustrated in Fig. 15, the tension members 40, 70 can be supported on the shoulders of the user. Figs. 16-18 illustrate the rotation of the tension members during the collapsing of the frame. Line 111 represents a plane defined by the rear support members 112, 114. The direction in which the support 10 is facing is illustrated by the arrow F.

In Fig. 16, the support 10 is illustrated in its expanded configuration. As the user grasps the extension member 126 and pulls it upwardly, the tension members 40, 70 and the location of the knots 125, 127 rotate around the rear frame member 110. As illustrated in Figs. 17 and 18, tension member 40 rotates around rear support member 112. Tension member 70 rotates in an opposite direction about rear support member 114. The rotation of the tension members 40, 70 is caused by the wrapping of the extension member 126 around each rear support member 112, 114.

Referring to Fig. 7, as the extension member 126 is pulled higher and advances upwardly along the rear frame portion 110, the relative positions of the knots 125, 127 move around the rear support members 112, 114. The wrapping movement of the extension member 126 around members 112, 114 causes the tension members 40, 70 to move between a position in which they provide support to a user's arm and a position on the rear of the frame 100 in which they can be carried on the shoulders of a user. The positions of the tension members 40, 70 relative to the frame 110 during the collapsing process are illustrated in Figs. 11 and 12.

In one embodiment, the support 10 can include a pouch 220 as illustrated in Fig. 19. The pouch 220 is coupled proximate to the end 28 of the seat portion 20. The pouch 220 includes an attachment strap 222, a fabric portion 224, and a draw string 226. The attachment strap 222 is coupled to the seat portion 20 and supports the fabric

portion 224 of the pouch 220. A draw string 226 is provided at the upper surface of the fabric portion 224 to close the opening 228.

While the illustrated fabric portion is made from a mesh material, the fabric portion can be any material that can be used to support and retain an article. Similarly,
5 the fabric portion can be any size or shape that enables the pouch to hold articles.

In one embodiment, the support 10 includes a pillow 80. As illustrated in Figs. 20-21, the pillow 80 includes a body with a front surface 82 and a rear surface 84. The front surface 82 of the pillow 80 can be used to support a portion of a user's body, such as a head, neck, or back. The pillow 80 includes a fabric loop 86 mounted on its rear
10 surface 84.

The pillow 80 is slidably coupled to an elongated strap 90 that extends along the back portion of the seat portion 20. Strap 90 is inserted into loop 86, thereby allowing the pillow 80 to slide along strap 90. The pillow 80 can slide between upper and lower position as illustrated in Fig. 20. In the upper position, the pillow 80 is a head cushion
15 for the support 10.

The strap 90 includes ends 92, 94. End 92 is coupled to end 26 of the membrane 22. The other end 94 of the strap 90 includes a fastener 96 and can be selectively attached to the membrane 22. In the illustrated embodiment, fastener 96 is a hook fastener that can be coupled to the membrane 22 of the seat portion. Thus, the
20 pillow 80 can be disposed in a plurality of positions on the membrane 22 as determined by the strap 90.

In one embodiment, the strap 90 can be flipped over the upper coupler 116 and rest against or be secured to the back of the support 10. When the support 10 is collapsed, the pillow 80 can be positioned along strap 90 so that it is positioned
25 between the frame 100 and the user when the support 10 is carried on the user's back.

In the illustrated embodiment, the pillow is filled with a stuffing material. In an alternative embodiment, the pillow can be a pouch with a sealable opening into which material can be inserted. As illustrated in Fig. 22, pillow 240 may include a flexible membrane 242 that defines an opening 244. The pillow 240 can include a closing
30 mechanism 246, such as a zipper or a hook and loop fastener, to close the opening 244.

When the support 10 is in its expanded configuration, the cover 200 can be stuffed into the pillow 240 to enable the pillow 240 to be used as a support.

Figs. 23-28 illustrate several alternative embodiments of shades that can be used with a support according to the present invention. Shades can be utilized with any type
5 of support, including the support illustrated in Figs. 1-3.

In the illustrated embodiments, each of the shades is releasably coupled to a support with tethering lines 314 and coupling elements 316. Coupling mechanisms other than tethering lines and coupling elements can be used to secure the shades to the supports. For example, straps with buckles, clips, or slide on pockets can be used.
10 Alternatively, a shade can utilize sand anchors to position the shade relative to a chair, instead of coupling the shade to the chair.

Also, while the tethering lines are illustrated as secured to the shades via holes, the coupling mechanisms can be clipped, adhered, sewn, or connected to the shades using any other method of coupling items. The arrangement of the coupling
15 mechanisms, including the holes on the shades, can vary depending on the desired arrangement.

In one embodiment, a support can include a shade 300 coupled thereto. In Fig. 23, shade 300 is coupled to the support 10 at three locations. Shade includes a membrane 340, a frame 320, and ends 302, 304. An opening 310 is formed in
20 membrane 340 proximate to end 302. A fabric material 312, such as mesh, covers opening 310, which provides ventilation.

The membrane 340 is coupled to the frame 320 that provides support for the shade. In the illustrated embodiment, the frame 320 is a flexible band, such as a thin metal band. An example of a shade is disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No.
25 09/764,059, entitled "Collapsible Sunshade and Methods of Using the Same", filed January 19, 2001, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein.

The coupling mechanisms 316 are releasably secured to mounting elements that are connected to the support as illustrated. In one embodiment, the support 10 can include mounting elements 326, 328 located on the front frame portion 140.

As shown in Figs. 23-28, the shape and features of the shade embodiments can vary. In Fig. 24, shade 400 includes a membrane 410, a frame member 420, and flaps
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430, 432. The frame member 420 is a flexible metal band that provides support to the membrane 410. In this embodiment, the frame member 420 does not extend around the perimeter of the shade 400. The flaps 430, 432 are provided on the side of the center portion of the membrane 410.

5 Additional embodiments of a shade are illustrated in Figs. 25-28. In Fig. 25, shade 500 includes flaps 530, 532. Shade 500 is substantially similar to shade 400, which is shown in Fig. 19, with the exception of the shapes of the flaps. In Fig. 26, shade 600 includes ends 602, 604, one of which has an inwardly curved shape. In Fig. 27, shade 700 includes ends 702, 704, one of which has an outwardly curved shape.

10 In Fig. 28, shade 800 has a hexagonal shape with several flaps 802, 804, 806 located on its perimeter.

The shapes of the shades, including the flaps, can be varied depending on the desired amount of protection from the sun, rain, etc. The frame member of a shade provides support and can be located in different portions of the shade, depending on the
15 desired flexibility of the shade.

The support 10 can also include a storage bag 900 as illustrated in Fig. 29. The bag 900 includes a wall 910 that defines an opening 906 into which articles can be inserted. The opening 906 can be adjusted using a drawstring 914. The bag 900 includes a rod 912 along a portion of the wall 910. When the support 10 is in its
20 expanded configuration the weight of the rod 912 causes the bag 900 to lean to one side of the support 10 to bias the bag 900 into an open position.

The support 10 is releasably coupled to the frame 100. In the illustrated embodiment, the support includes mounting element 904 that can be coupled to coupler 902 on the frame 100.

25 Alternatively, the support 10 can include a storage device 1000 as illustrated in Figs. 30-33. The storage device 1000 includes mounting elements 1010, 1012, 1014, 1016, a mesh compartment 1030, a cooler compartment 1034, and pockets 1040, 1042, 1044. The support 10 includes couplers 1020, 1022, 1024, 1026 that can interact with the mounting elements 1010, 1012, 1014, 1016 to releasably couple the storage device
30 1000 to the support 10. For example, the storage device 1000 can be supported on the

frame 100 when it is connected to primary mounting elements 1010, 1012, and one or both of the secondary mounting elements 1014, 1016.

As illustrated in Fig. 30, when the support 10 is in its expanded configuration, the storage device 1000 can be positioned on one side of the support 10 to allow for
5 easy access to the cooler compartment 1034 and the pockets 1040, 1042, 1044.

As illustrated in Figs. 31-32, when the support 10 is in its collapsed configuration, the storage device 1000 can be coupled to the support 10 opposite the tension members 40, 70. The connection of the storage device 1000 and the support 10 allows for easy transportation of the storage device 1000 with the support 10.

10 In one embodiment of the storage device 1000, as illustrated in Figs. 30 and 32, the storage device 1000 includes a stake 1060 and a sleeve 1062. The stake 1060 is stored in the sleeve 1062 when the support 10 is in its collapsed configuration.

The stake 1060 can extend through the sleeve 1062 when the support 10 is in its expanded configuration. When the stake 1060 extends from the sleeve 1062, the stake
15 1060 engages a support surface to provide support for the storage compartment 1000.

As illustrated in Fig. 31, storage device 1100 includes frame members 1050, 1052 and an anchor 1120. The frame members 1050, 1052 are mounted in sleeves 1054, 1056 and provide rigidity to the storage device 1110. The anchor 1120 can be used to support the storage device 1100 when the support 10 is in its expanded
20 configuration.

The anchor 1120 can be releasably coupled to the frame members as illustrated in Fig. 31, or can be coupled at any point along the bottom or side of the storage device 1100.

In one embodiment, two anchors 1116, 1118 can be coupled to a single strap
25 1117 that is slidably threaded through loop 1110. In one embodiment, the storage device can include two or more loops through which the strap is threaded. Depending on the orientation of the storage device 1100, anchor 1116 or anchor 1118 can be pulled out to one side to be engaged with a supporting surface and to secure the storage device 1100. Strap 1117 can be any flexible, elongated member that can be positioned along
30 the storage device 1110.

Many possible variations on the particular embodiments described above would be consistent with the principles of the invention. Several additional variations are described below.

In one embodiment, the support 1200 can include floatation devices. As
5 illustrated in Fig. 34, support 1200 includes floatation devices 1210, 1212 coupled to the tension members 40, 70. Additional floatation devices can be coupled to the support 10 at different locations to increase the buoyancy of the support 1200. For example, a floatation device can be positioned beneath part of the seat portion.

In the illustrated embodiment, floatation devices are inflatable members that are
10 coupled to the tension members. The floatation devices can be any device that can float (i.e., has a density less than that of water).

In one embodiment, the support 10 can also include wheels coupled to support members that are pivotally coupled to the frame. As illustrated in Fig. 35, a wheel 1300 is rotatably mounted to a wheel support member 1310 that is coupled to the frame. The
15 wheel support member 1310 can be moved between an upper position and a lower position as represented by the arrow in Fig. 35. Thus, when the support 10 is in its expanded configuration the wheel 1300 can be pivoted into and out of contact with the support surface. A user can lift up the front frame portion of the support so that only the wheels contact the support surface. Accordingly, the user can easily pull the
20 support to a different location.

In another embodiment, the support 10 can include wheels 1400, 1402 as illustrated in Fig. 36. In this embodiment, the wheels 1400, 1402 are rotatably mounted to an axle positioned proximate to the lower coupler 118. A locking mechanism (not shown) can be provided to lock the wheels 1400, 1402.

25 Another embodiment of the invention is illustrated in Figs. 37-40. In this embodiment, a support 1500 has a frame 1550, a seat 1540, and tension members 1560 (although two are present only one is shown in Fig. 37). Similar to the above-described embodiments, the frame 1550 can be placed in an expanded configuration and in a collapsed configuration. The frame 1550, while in an expanded configuration, can be
30 placed in an upright position and in a reclined position. The frame 1550 has a rear

frame portion 1510 that includes a pair of support members 1512 and 1514, a pair of extension members 1520 and 1522, a coupler 1532 and guide plate 1502.

In the illustrated embodiment, the support members are hollow metal tubes, but as described above for support members 112 and 114, the support members 1512 and 1514 can be made of different materials and have different cross-sectional shapes.

The extension members 1520 and 1522 are similar in structure and function, thus only extension member 1522 will be discussed in detail. The extension member 1522 is elongated in shape. Extension member 1522 has a first end 1528 and a second end 1530. The first end 1528 of the extension member 1522 is pivotally coupled to the lower end 1518 of the support member 1514. The second end 1530 of the extension member 1522 is pivotally coupled to the coupler 1532.

In the illustrated embodiment, the extension member 1522 is pivotally coupled to support member 1514 and to the coupler 1532 via rods 1580 and 1582, respectively, that extend through the coupled components. For example, rod 1580 extends from one side of the extension member 1522, through the support member 1514 (via through holes 1584), and through another side of the extension member. In an alternative embodiment, the extension member is pivotally coupled to the support member and to the coupler via rivets, brads, or another connection device known in the art that would provide a pivotal connection between the coupled components.

As best illustrated in Figs. 40a-40d, the rear frame portion 1510 can be pivoted with respect to the coupler 1532 to convert the frame 1550 from an upright position to a reclined position. Support member 1512 and elongate member 1520 function in a similar manner as support member 1514 and elongate member 1522, thus only the movements of support member 1514 and elongate member 1522 are illustrated and discussed in detail. To recline the frame 1550, the support member 1514 can be lifted from its initial upright position on the coupler 1532. Then the extension member 1522 can be pivoted with respect to the coupler 1532, and the support member 1514 can be pivoted with respect to the extension member 1520. These steps can then be repeated for support member 1512 and extension member 1520 to place the frame 1550 in a reclined position. The steps of this process can be reversed to convert the frame 1550 from a reclined position to an upright position.

Note that as support 1600 is moved between the upright position and the reclined position, the support members 1512 and 1514 slide through holes 1504 and 1505 of guide plate 1502. The diameters of the holes 1504 and 1505 are greater than the diameters of support members 1512 and 1514, respectively. Consequently, as the support 1500 is moved between the upright position and the reclined position, the incline of support members 1512 and 1514 can change while still allowing the support members 1512 and 1514 to be capable of slidely moving within guide plate 1502. For example, support members 1512 and 1514 can slide within guide plate 1502 when moving support 1500 into a collapsed configuration.

Another embodiment of the invention is illustrated in Figs. 41-42. In this embodiment, a support 1600 has a frame 1601, a coupler 1670, a seat 1680, tension members 1610 and 1612, elongate members 1630 and 1632, guide plate 1605 and guide-plate member 1606. Frame 1601 also includes members 1690 and 1692. Similar to the above-described embodiments, the frame 1601 can be placed in an expanded configuration and in a collapsed configuration. Also similar to the above-described embodiments, each of the tension members 1610 and 1612 can be placed in two positions. The tension members 1610 and 1612 can be placed in a first position when the frame 1601 is in its expanded configuration to provide supports for the arms of a user. In addition, the tension members 1610 and 1612 can be placed in a second position when the frame is in its collapsed configuration to serve as shoulder straps while support 1600 is being transported on the user's back.

Tension members 1610 and 1612 are functionally and structurally similar. Thus, although only tension member 1610 is discussed in detail, the same features are present for tension member 1612. Tension member 1610 has a first end 1614 that is coupled to a rear frame portion 1602 of the frame 1601 and a second end 1616. The vertical position of first end 1614 of tension member 1610 can be maintained by support 1607. In other words, the extent to which the first end 1614 of tension member 1610 slides down its respective the support member is defined by the support 1607. Tension member 1610 also has a sleeve 1622 that is located near the second end 1616 of the tension member. The sleeve 1622 is configured to selectively couple the second end 1616 of the tension member 1610 to a front frame portion 1604 of the frame 1601

when the frame is its expanded configuration. In this position, tension member 1612 provides support for an arm of a user. In an alternative embodiment, the tension member does not include a sleeve, but rather includes another coupling device, such as a strap or a clip, that can be used to selectively couple the second end of the tension member to the front frame portion.

Elongate members 1630 and 1632 can be structurally similar. Thus, although only elongate member 1630 is discussed in detail, the same features are present for elongate member 1632. Elongate member 1630 has a first end 1634 and a second end 1636. The first end 1634 of the elongate member 1630 is coupled to the front frame portion 1604. The second end 1636 of the elongate member 1630 is configured to be selectively coupled to the second end 1616 of the tension member 1610. Thus, when the frame 1601 is in its collapsed configuration, the second end 1636 of the elongate member 1630 can be coupled to the second end 1616 of the tension member 1610 to form a strap that can be placed over a shoulder of a user to retain the support 1600 on the user.

Because the first end 1634 of elongate member 1630 is coupled the front frame portion 1604, the second end 1636 of elongate member 1630 drawn inwardly when the support 1600 is moved from the collapsed configuration to the expanded configuration. This allows the connector 1654 also to be drawn inwardly so that it is disposed close to the support 1600 and out of the way of the user when in the expanded configuration. When the support 1600 is moved from an expanded configuration to a collapsed configuration, the elongate member 1630 can be drawn outwardly to provide a greater overall length to the strap formed by tension member 1610 coupled to elongate member 1630.

Note that although the elongate members 1630 and 1632 are shown as straps, elongate members can be cables, cords or any appropriate type of material that can be slidably coupled to coupler 1670 and can be used to form a shoulder strap. In an alternative embodiment, the elongate members are not coupled to the front frame portion, but rather are fixedly coupled to the rear frame portion; the particular length of the elongate members can be selected so that distance from the rear frame portion is

minimized while optimizing the shoulder strap length when the support is in a collapsed configuration.

In the illustrated embodiment, a coupling mechanism 1650 is used to selectively couple the second end 1636 of the elongate member 1630 to the second end 1616 of the tension member 1610. The coupling mechanism has a female portion 1658 coupled to the second end 1616 of the tension member 1610 and a male portion 1654 coupled to the second end 1636 of the elongate member 1630. The male portion 1658 and the female portion 1654 can be coupled to the respective ends of the members via any known method, such as by sewing or gluing the portion to the member.

In an alternative embodiment, the coupling mechanism 1650 is a hook and loop device, a lock and key mechanism, a fastener, a clip, a button or another item by which the tension member 1610 can be removably coupled to the elongate member 1630.

A coupling mechanism 1652, which is similar to coupling mechanism 1650, is used to couple tension member 1612 to elongate member 1632.

In the illustrated embodiment, the elongate members 1630 and 1632 are slidably coupled to the coupler 1670, however the elongate members need not be slidably coupled to the coupler or to any other portion of the support 1600. In an alternative embodiment, the elongate members are slidably coupled to the frame of the support.

Fig. 42 shows the support in a collapsed configuration. As shown in Fig. 42, the guide-plate member 1606 can be pulled over the end of the frame member 1690 and 1692 to maintain the support in the collapsed configuration and prevent it from unfolding.

In alternative embodiment of the support is shown Figs. 43-45. In the shown embodiment, the support member 1814 is pivotably coupled to collar 1828 by rod 1880. Collar 1828 is slidably attached to coupler 1832. The support is in an upright position when the collar 1828 is positioned as shown in Figs. 43 and 45a. The support is in a reclined position when the collar 1828 is positioned as shown in Figs. 44 and 45b. As the support moves between the upright position and the reclined position, member 1814 has a range of motion pivoting around rod 1880.

Yet other alternative embodiment of the support is shown Figs. 46-47. In the shown embodiment, the support member 1914 includes rod 1980. Coupler 1932

includes grooves 1934 and 1935. Rod 1980 is slidably coupled to coupler 1932 and has a range of motion within grooves 1934 and 1935. The support is in an upright position when the rod 1980 is in the rear position within grooves 1934 and 1935, as shown in Fig. 47. The support is in a reclined position when the rod 1980 is in the front position within grooves 1934 and 1935. Fig. 46 shows the rod 1980 in an intermediate position near the front position.

Another embodiment of the invention is illustrated in Figs. 48-52. In this embodiment, a support 1700 has a frame 1702, a seat 1704, tension members 1706 and 1708, and a shade 1710. The shade 1710 includes a first end 1711, a second end 1713, a membrane portion 1712, a frame portion 1714, and a resilient or shape-retention portion 1716. The frame portion 1714 is a flexible band that provides support to the membrane portion 1712 to keep the membrane portion relatively taut within the interior area defined by the frame portion. In the illustrated embodiment, the frame portion 1714 extends around the entire perimeter of the membrane portion 1712. In an alternative embodiment, the frame portion extends around only a portion of the perimeter of the membrane portion.

The shade can be placed in an expanded configuration and in a collapsed configuration. Similar to the shade disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 6,595,227, when the shade 1710 is in its collapsed configuration, the frame portion 1714 forms a plurality of concentric, substantially circular rings. As shown in Figs. 48, 49, and 50, the shade 1710 can be releasably coupled to the support 1700 when the shade is in its expanded configuration.

The shade 1710 includes a coupling sleeve 1720 (shown in Fig. 51) and a pair of tethering lines 1740 and 1742 to releasably couple the shade to the support 1700. The coupling sleeve 1720 is coupled to the first end 1711 of the shade 1710. Any known method can be used to couple the coupling sleeve 1720 to the shade 1710. In one embodiment, the coupling sleeve 1720 is sewn to the shade 1710.

The coupling pocket 1720 is configured to receive and couple to a portion of the frame 1702. The coupling pocket 1720 has an upper cap 1724 and a pair of retention flaps 1726 and 1728 that define a cavity 1722 into which a portion of the rear frame

portion 1703 can be inserted. In the illustrated embodiment, support members 1750 and 1752 are inserted into the cavity 1722. The retention flaps 1726 and 1728 include a coupler 1730 that is configured to releasably couple one of the retention flaps to the other, thereby securing the coupling sleeve 1720 to the rear frame portion 1703. In the
5 illustrated embodiment, the coupler 1730 is a hook and loop type coupler, where hook type material is coupled to one of the retention flaps and loop type material is coupled to the remaining retention flap.

In an alternative embodiment, the retention flaps are coupled together via another releasable coupling device, such as a snap, a button, or a hook. In another
10 alternative embodiment, the retention flaps are coupled together via a more permanent method, such as adhesive, or stitching. In yet another alternative embodiment, the retention flaps are integrally formed by a single piece of material. In yet another embodiment, the upper cap can be a strap configured to define a top portion of the cavity in which the frame is retained. Alternatively, each retention flap can be one or
15 more straps or cords that individually wrap around a respective support member of the frame to maintain the position of the shade relative to the frame.

The tethering lines 1740 and 1742 are configured to couple the shade 1710 to the front frame portion 1705 of the support 1700. First ends 1739 and 1741 of each of the tethering lines 1740 and 1742, respectively, are coupled to the second end 1713 of
20 the shade 1710. Any known method can be used to couple the first ends 1739 and 1741 of the tethering lines 1740 and 1742 to the shade 1710. In one embodiment, the tethering lines 1740 and 1742 are sewn to the shade 1710. In another embodiment, the tethering lines 1740 and 1742 are removably coupled to the shade 1710.

In the illustrated embodiment, second ends 1737 and 1743 of the tethering lines
25 1740 and 1742, respectively, are releasably coupled to the support 1700. Any known method can be used to couple the tethering lines 1740 and 1742 to the support 1700. In one embodiment, the tethering lines 1740 and 1742 are tied to the support 1700. In another embodiment, the tethering lines 1740 and 1742 include couplers, such as clips or hooks, that releasably fasten the tethering lines to the support 1700. In an alternative
30 embodiment, the tethering lines 1740 and 1742 extend to a support surface on which

the support 1700 rests, and the second ends 1743 and 1737 include devices, such as anchors, that releasably couple the tethering lines to the support surface.

As illustrated in Fig. 49, the shade 1710 has a longitudinal line 1780 that extends between ends 1711 and 1713. The shade 1710 also has a lateral line 1782 that
5 extends substantially perpendicularly to the longitudinal line 1780. When the shade 1710 is in an expanded configuration, the shade has a surface that is defined by the longitudinal and lateral lines 1780 and 1782. The shade 1710 can have a shape defined so that the shade 1710 is maintained off the user's head while the user is sitting in the support.

10 In the illustrated embodiment, the resilient portion 1716 provides support to the shade 1710 and stiffens the shade 1710 so as to increase the resistance of the shade 1710 to bending or sagging out of its expanded configuration surface. In particular, the resilient portion 1716 increases the stiffness of the shade 1710 along the longitudinal line 1780. The resilient portion 1716 can increase the stiffness along all or only a
15 portion of the shade 1710 along the longitudinal line 1780. Similarly, the resilient portion 1716 increases the stiffness of the shade 1710 along the lateral line 1782. The resilient portion 1716 can increase the stiffness along all or only a portion of the shade 1710 along the horizontal line 1782.

In the illustrated embodiment, the resilient portion 1716 is made from a
20 different material than the membrane portion of the shade 1710. In one embodiment, the resilient portion 1716 made of a flexible material, such as rubber. In other embodiments, the resilient portion is made of a semi-rigid or rigid material, such as plastic or metal. In other embodiments, the resilient portion can be a metal frame, flexible hoop or multiple separate components (e.g., batten-like rods). While the
25 resilient portion is illustrated as being substantially circular, the resilient portion can have any geometric shape, such as oval, rectangular, or square.

In an alternative embodiment, the resilient portion may be a separate member that can be releasably or fixedly coupled to the shade. In another alternative embodiment, the frame portion is configured to provide sufficient stiffness to the shade
30 along the longitudinal and horizontal lines such that a resilient portion is not necessary.

Support member 1790 also supports to the shade 1710 and stiffens the shade 1710 so as to increase the resistance of the shade 1710 to bending or sagging out of its expanded configuration surface. In particular, the support member 1790 increases the stiffness of the shade 1710 along the lateral line 1782. The resilient portion 1716 can
5 increase the stiffness along all or only a portion of the shade 1710 along the horizontal line 1782. Support member 1790 can be, for example, a rod made of appropriate material such as plastic or metal. Fig. 50 shows an example where the support member 1790 is a collapsible rod having an elastic member inside the hollow tubing. Note that support member 1790 can be used with or without resilient member 1716. Similarly,
10 the resilient member 1716 can be used alone without support member 1790.

While the invention has been described in detail and with reference to specific embodiments thereof, it will be apparent to one skilled in the art that various changes and modifications can be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope thereof. Thus, it is intended that the present invention covers the modifications and
15 variations of this invention provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. A support assembly for a chair in which a user can be seated comprising:
a frame having a collapsed configuration and an expanded configuration, said
5 frame including a front frame portion and a rear frame portion;
a seat portion coupled to said rear frame portion at a first elevation and
coupled to said front frame portion at a second elevation, said first elevation being
higher than said second elevation when said frame is in said expanded configuration;
and
10 a tension member coupled to said frame at a first location and a second
location, said first location being on said rear frame portion, said second location
being on said front frame portion, said tension member being selectively disposable
on said frame in:
a first position when said frame is in said expanded configuration to
15 provide support for an arm of the user, said tension member being disposed in said
first position when coupled to said frame at a third location, said third location being
on said front frame portion, said tension member extending substantially horizontally
between said first location and said third location when the tension member is
disposed in said first position, said tension member extending substantially vertically
20 between said third location and said second location when the tension member is
disposed in said first position, and
a second position when said frame is in said collapsed configuration to
be carried on a shoulder of the user.
- 25 2. The support assembly of claim 1, wherein said seat portion is coupled to said
front frame portion between said second location and said third location and
supported on said frame.
3. The support assembly of claim 2, wherein said seat portion is formed of fabric.
- 30 4. The support assembly of claim 1, wherein said front frame portion includes an
upper portion and a lower portion, said second location is on said lower portion, and
said third location is on said upper portion.

5. The support assembly of claim 4, wherein said front frame portion includes first and second support members pivotally coupled to each other to form an "X" structure.
- 5 6. The support assembly of claim 4, wherein said tension member has an opening and said upper portion of said front frame portion is disposed in said opening when said tension member is in said first position.
7. The support assembly of claim 1, wherein said front frame portion includes a
10 bottom surface adapted to rest on a support surface, and said second location is proximate said bottom surface.
8. The combination of the support assembly of claim 1 and a cover, said cover configured to receive a portion of said frame when said frame is in said collapsed
15 configuration, said tension member extending from said cover when said portion of said frame is disposed in said cover and said tension member is in said second position.
9. The support assembly of claim 1, wherein said tension member is adjustable in
20 length.
10. The support assembly of claim 1, wherein said seat portion having a plurality of apertures therein, and said front frame portion includes first and second support members, and each of said first and second support members extending through one
25 of said apertures.
11. The support assembly of claim 10, wherein said first support member includes a first end and a second end, said tension member has an opening, and said first end of said first support member extends into said opening when said tension member is in
30 said first position.
12. The combination of the support assembly of claim 1 and a shade member, said shade member including a coupling pocket and a pair of tethering lines configured to selectively couple said shade member to said support assembly.

13. The combination of claim 12, wherein said coupling pocket is located at one end of said shade member and said tethering lines are located at an opposite end of said shade member.
- 5 14. The combination of the support assembly of claim 1 and a shade member, said shade member including:
- a coupling pocket configured to selectively couple said shade member to said support assembly;
- a membrane portion; and
- 10 a frame portion coupled to said membrane portion.
15. The combination of claim 14, wherein said frame portion extends around at least a portion of a perimeter of said membrane portion.
- 15 16. The combination of claim 14, wherein said shade member further includes a resilient portion configured to provide support to said shade member when said shade member is coupled to said support assembly.
17. The combination of claim 16, wherein said resilient portion is substantially
- 20 circular in shape.
18. The support assembly of claim 1, wherein said rear frame portion having a pair of support members pivotally coupled to a coupler, when said frame is in said expanded configuration said pair of support members being selectively disposable in:
- 25 an upright position; and
- a reclined position.
19. The support assembly of claim 4, wherein:
- at least one of said second end of said upper portion and said second end of
- 30 said lower portion includes a coupling mechanism configured to couple said second end of said upper portion and said second end of said lower portion together to form a frame- carrying strap when said frame is in said collapsed configuration on a shoulder of the user.

20. The support assembly of claim 19, wherein the support assembly further includes an elongate member having a first end coupled to said frame at a third location and a second end.
- 5 21. The support assembly of claim 19, wherein the support assembly further includes an elongate member having a first end coupled to said frame substantially at the second location.
- 10 22. A method of transporting a collapsible chair having a frame including a front frame portion and a rear frame portion and being disposable in a collapsed configuration and an expanded configuration, a seat coupled to said frame and supported on said frame when said frame is in said expanded configuration, the seat being coupled to the rear frame portion at a first elevation and coupled to the front frame portion at a second elevation, the first elevation being higher than the second elevation when the frame is in the expanded configuration, and a tension strap being
15 coupled to said rear frame portion at a first location and coupled to said front frame portion at a second location and selectively coupleable to said front frame portion at a third location, the tension strap extending substantially horizontally between the first location and the third location, the tension strap extending substantially vertically
20 between the third location and the second location, the method comprising:
uncoupling said strap from said third location of said frame;
collapsing said frame; and
disposing said strap on a shoulder of a user to support said chair on the user.
- 25 23. The method of claim 22, wherein said strap is adjustable in length, and in a shortened position is under tension, the method further comprising:
lengthening said strap to reduce tension before uncoupling said strap from said third location of said frame.
- 30 24. The method of claim 22, further comprising:
adjusting the length of said strap to fit the user.
25. A method of transporting a collapsible chair having a frame being disposable in a collapsed configuration and an expanded configuration, a seat coupled to said

- frame and supported on said frame when said frame is in said expanded configuration, a tension strap having a first end coupled to the frame at a first location and a second end configured to be selectively coupled to said frame at a second location, an elongate member having a first end coupled to the frame at a third location and a
- 5 second end, the method comprising:
- uncoupling the second end of the tension strap from the second location of the frame;
 - collapsing the frame;
 - coupling the second end of the tension strap to the second end of the elongate
- 10 member; and
- disposing the tension strap on a shoulder of a user to support the chair in the collapsed configuration on the user.
26. The method of claim 25, further comprising:
- 15 adjusting the length of the strap to fit the user.

FIG. 1

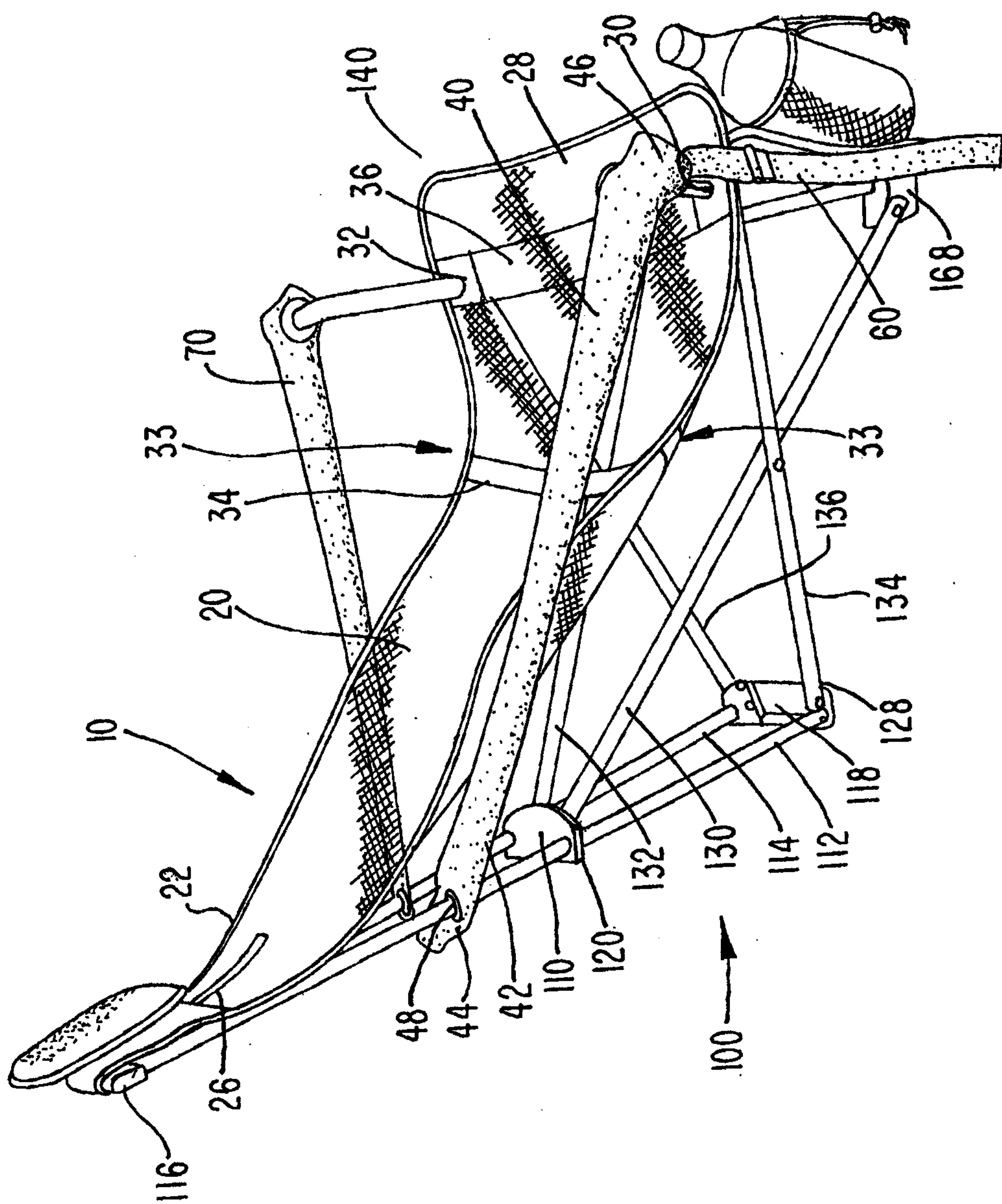


FIG. 2

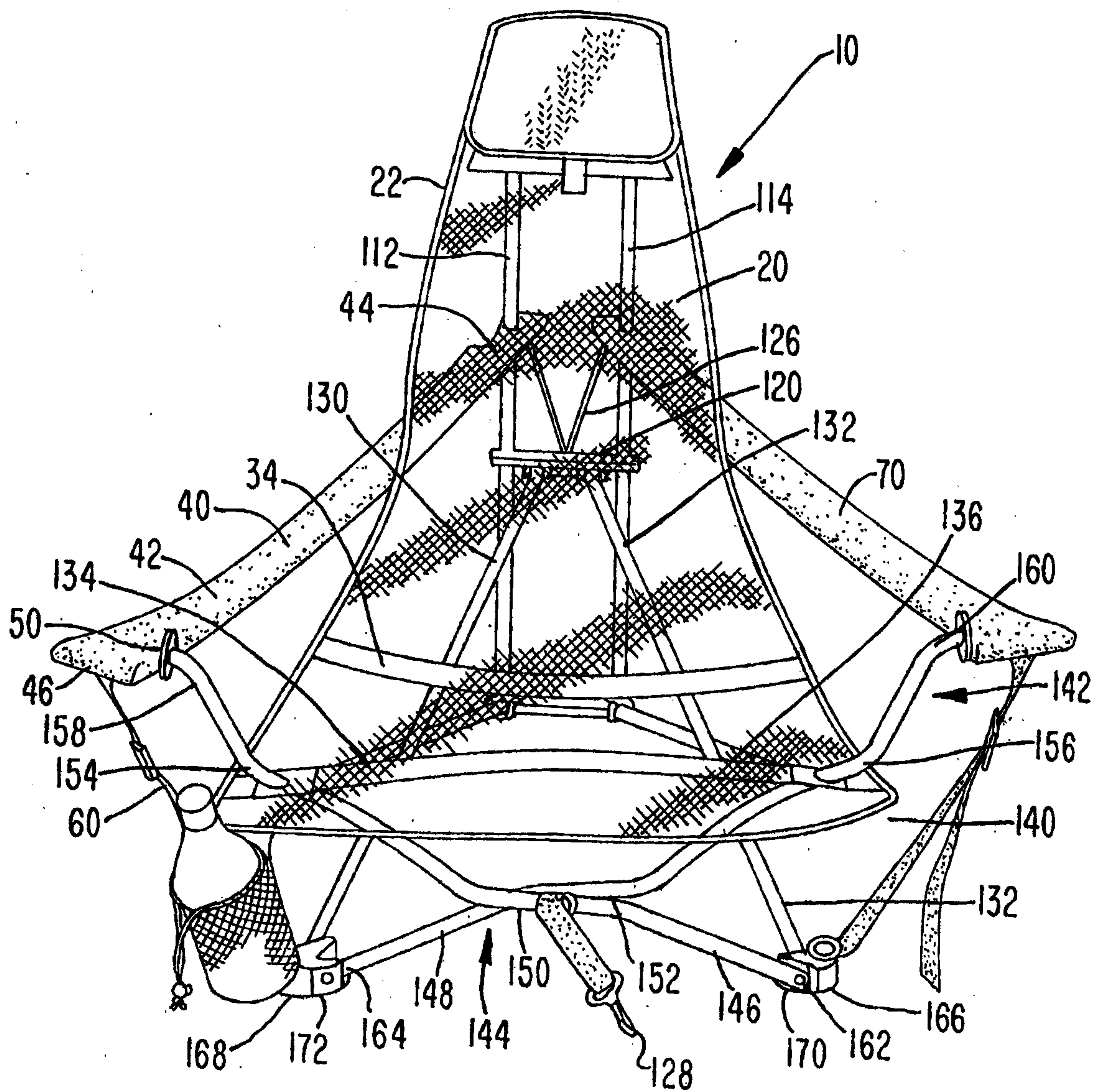
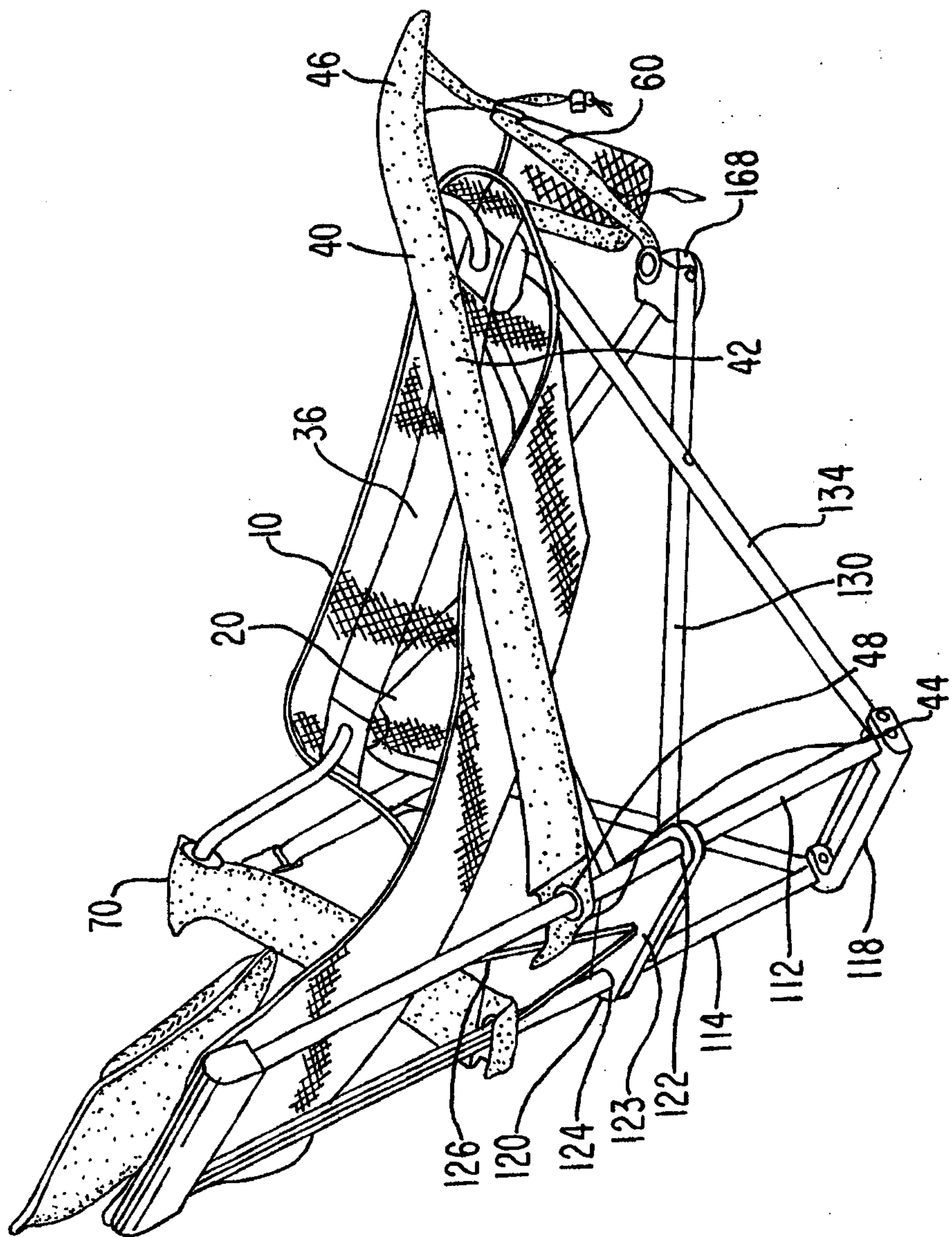


FIG. 3



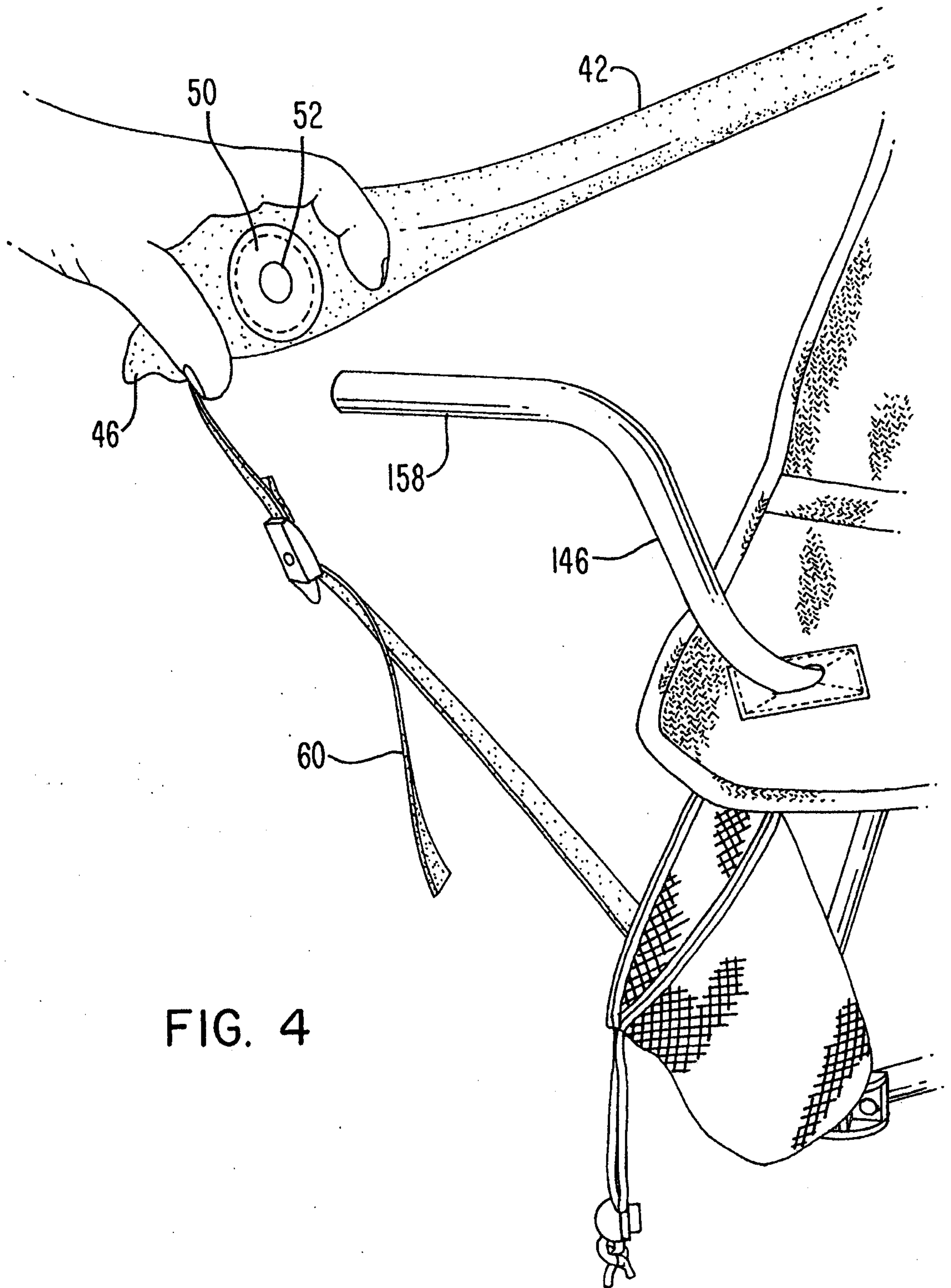


FIG. 4

FIG. 5

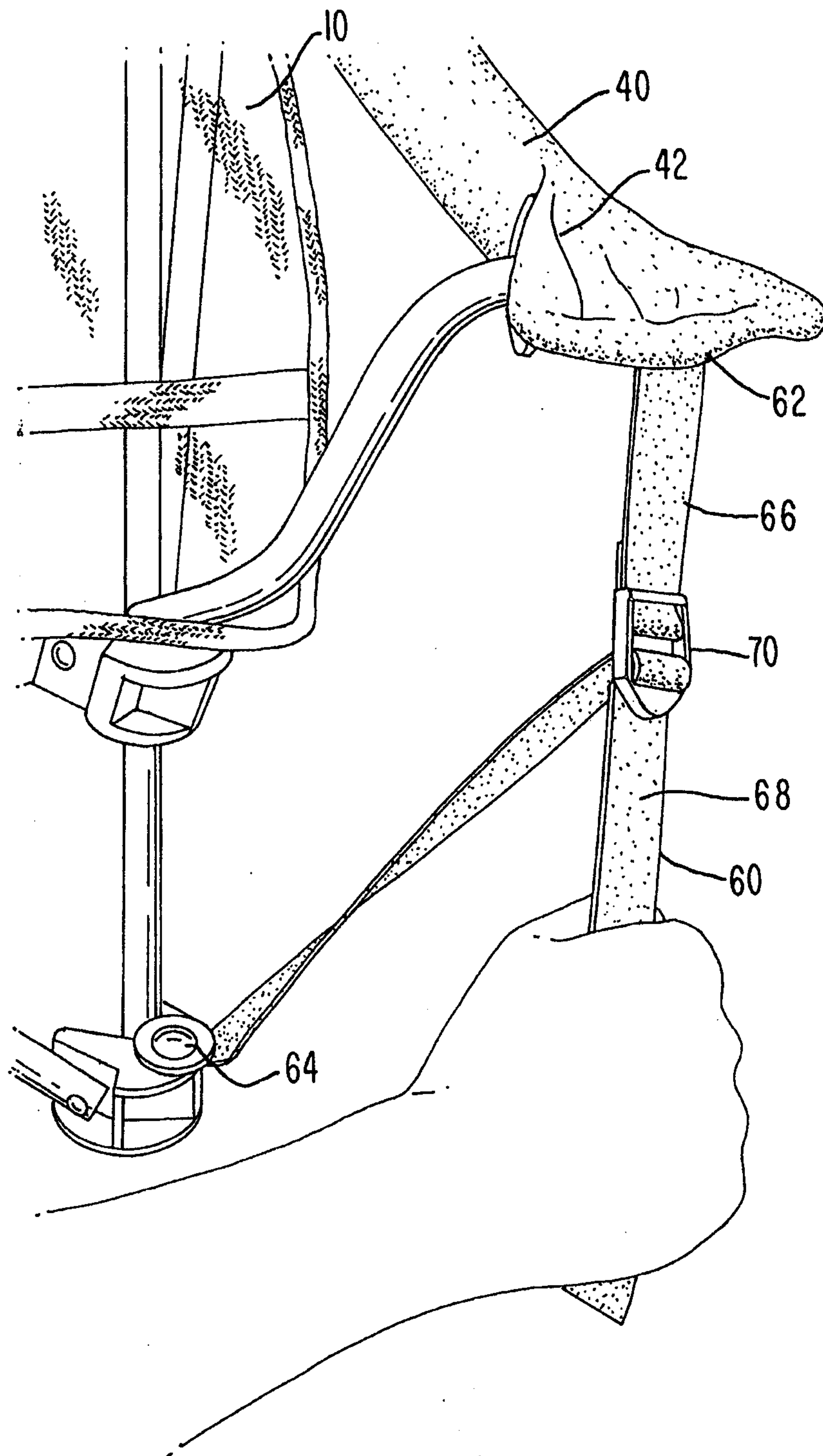


FIG. 6

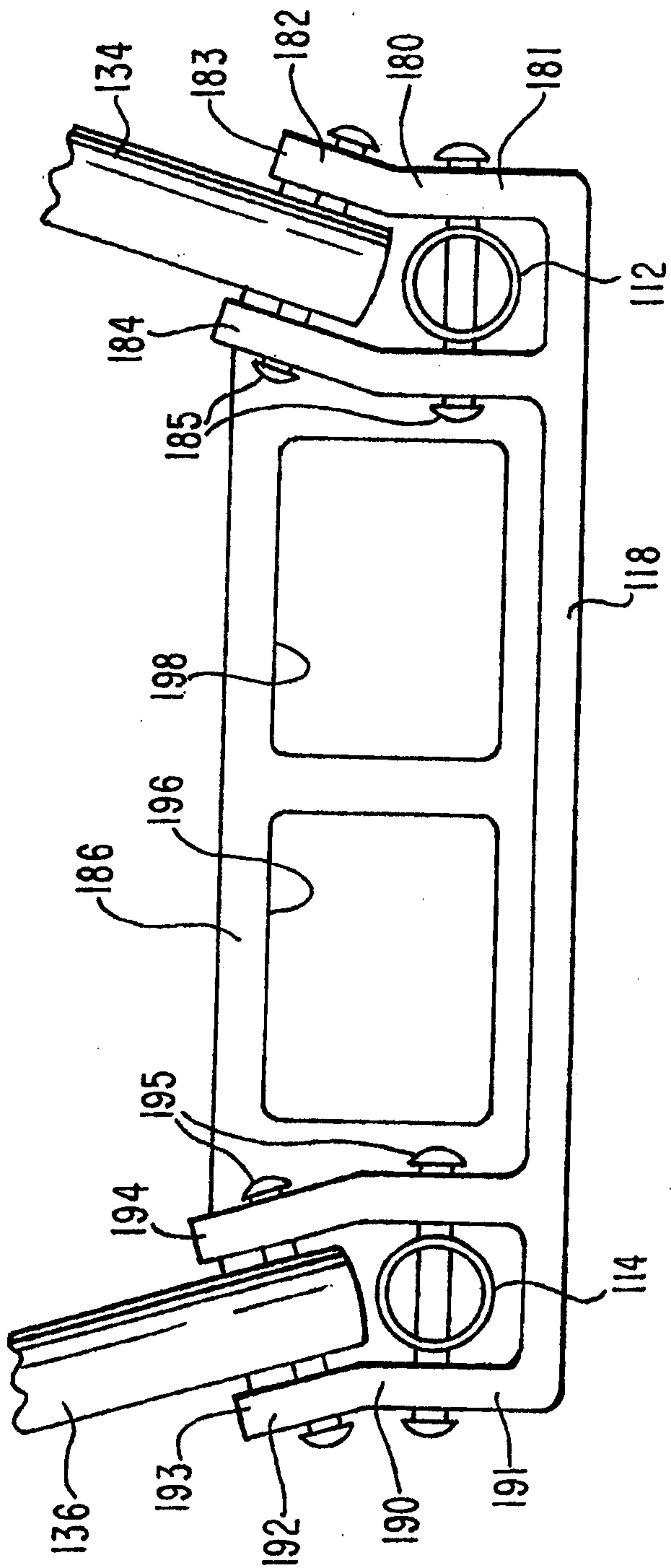


FIG. 7

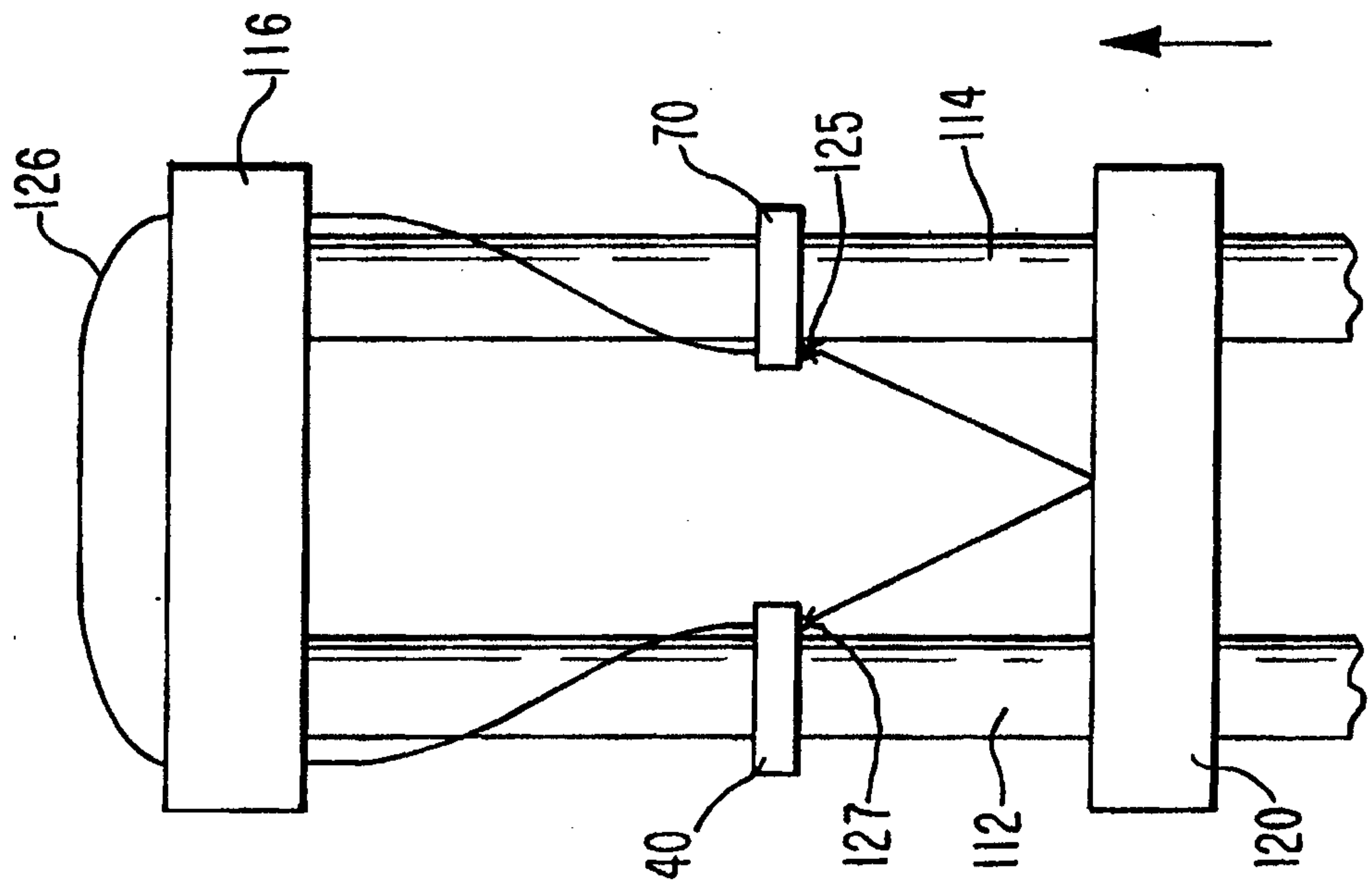
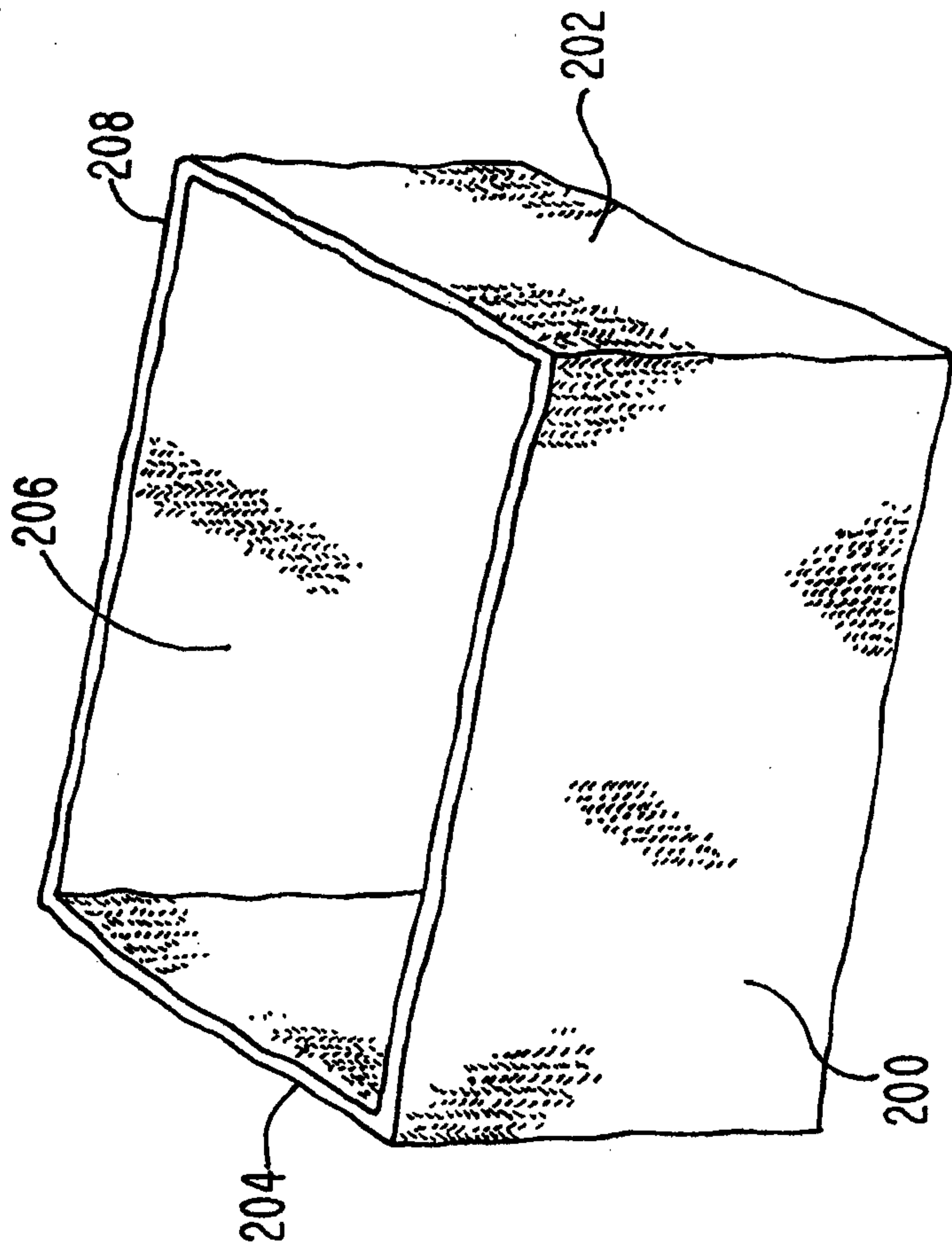


FIG. 8



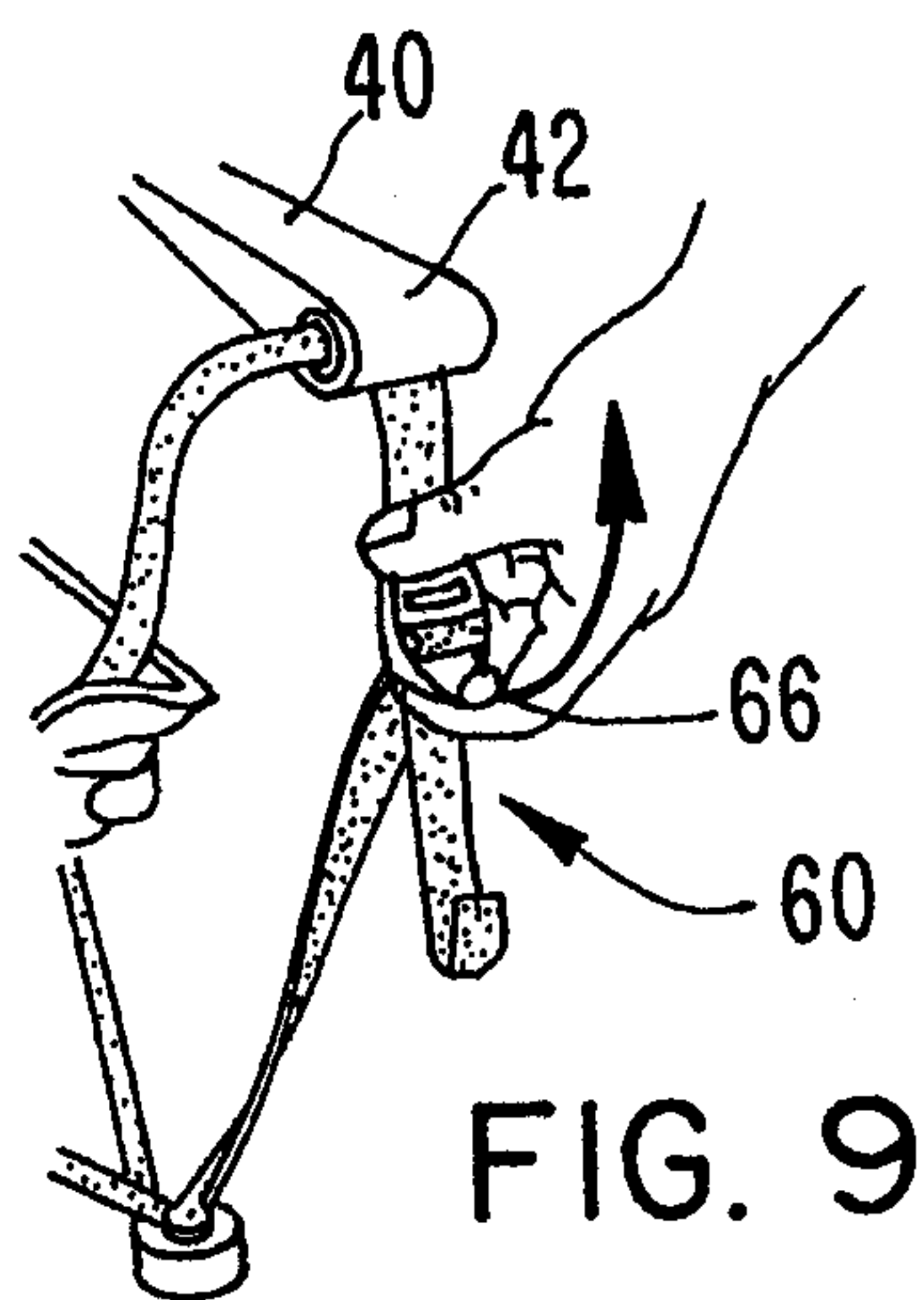


FIG. 9

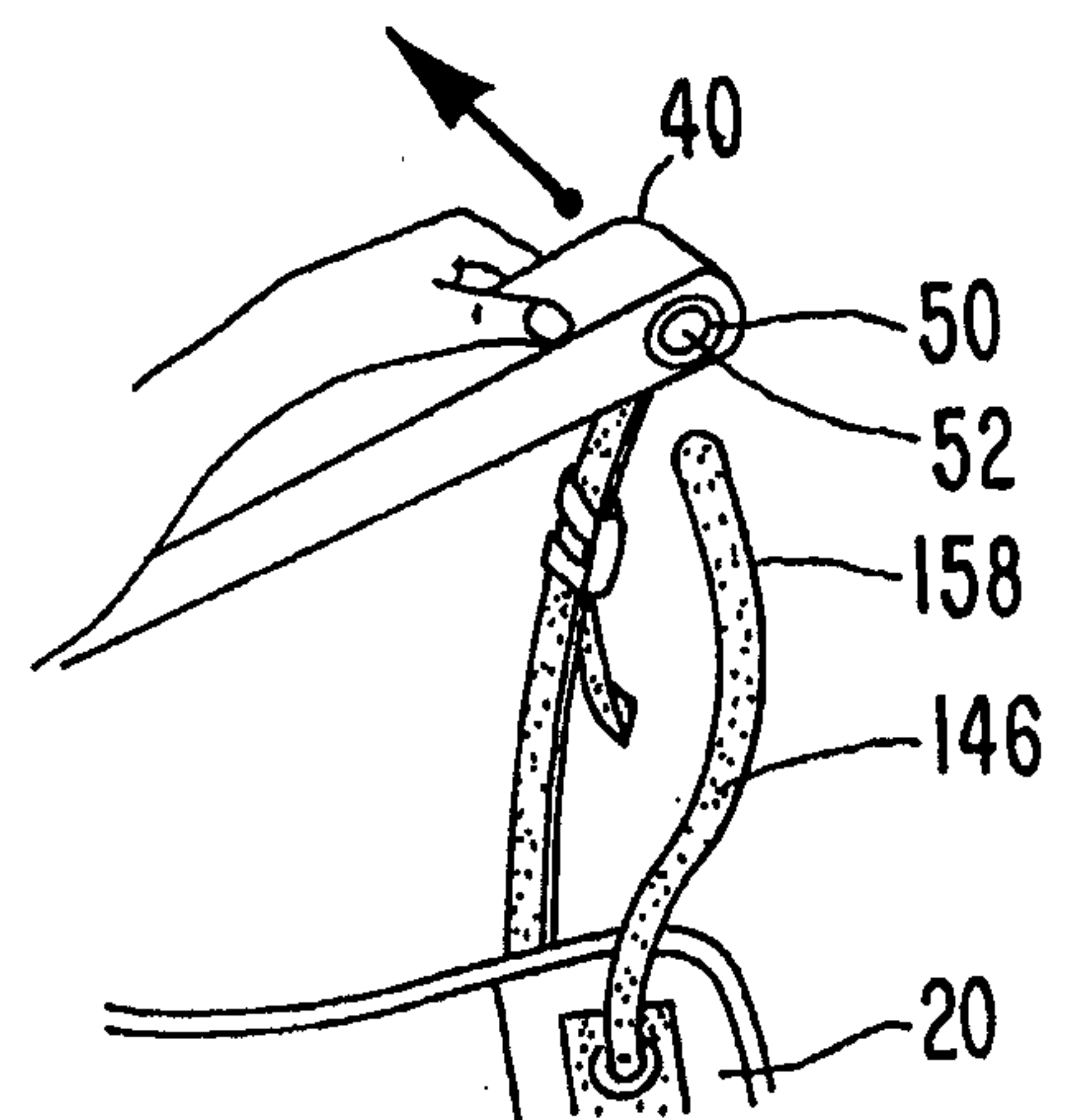


FIG. 10

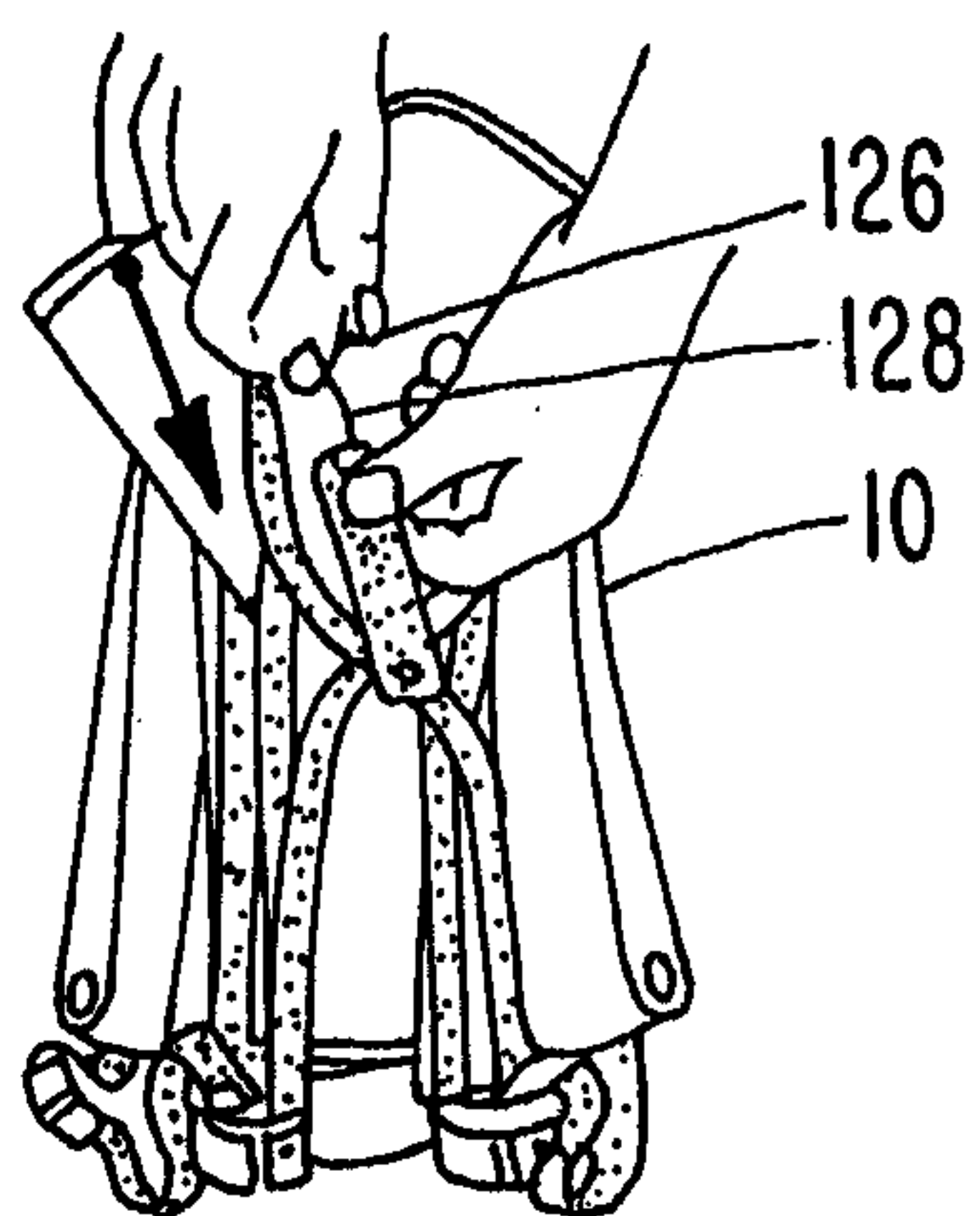


FIG. 13

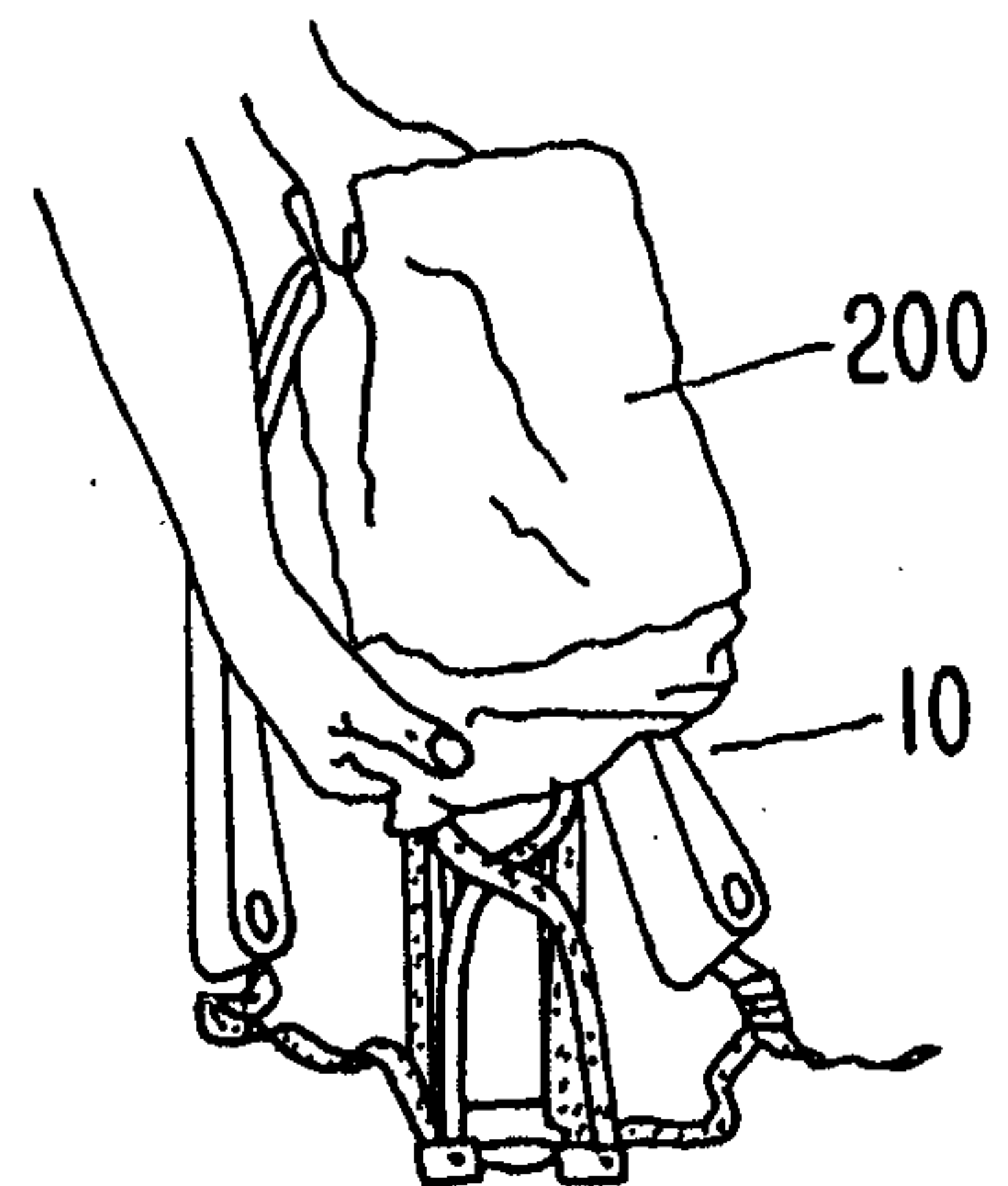


FIG. 14

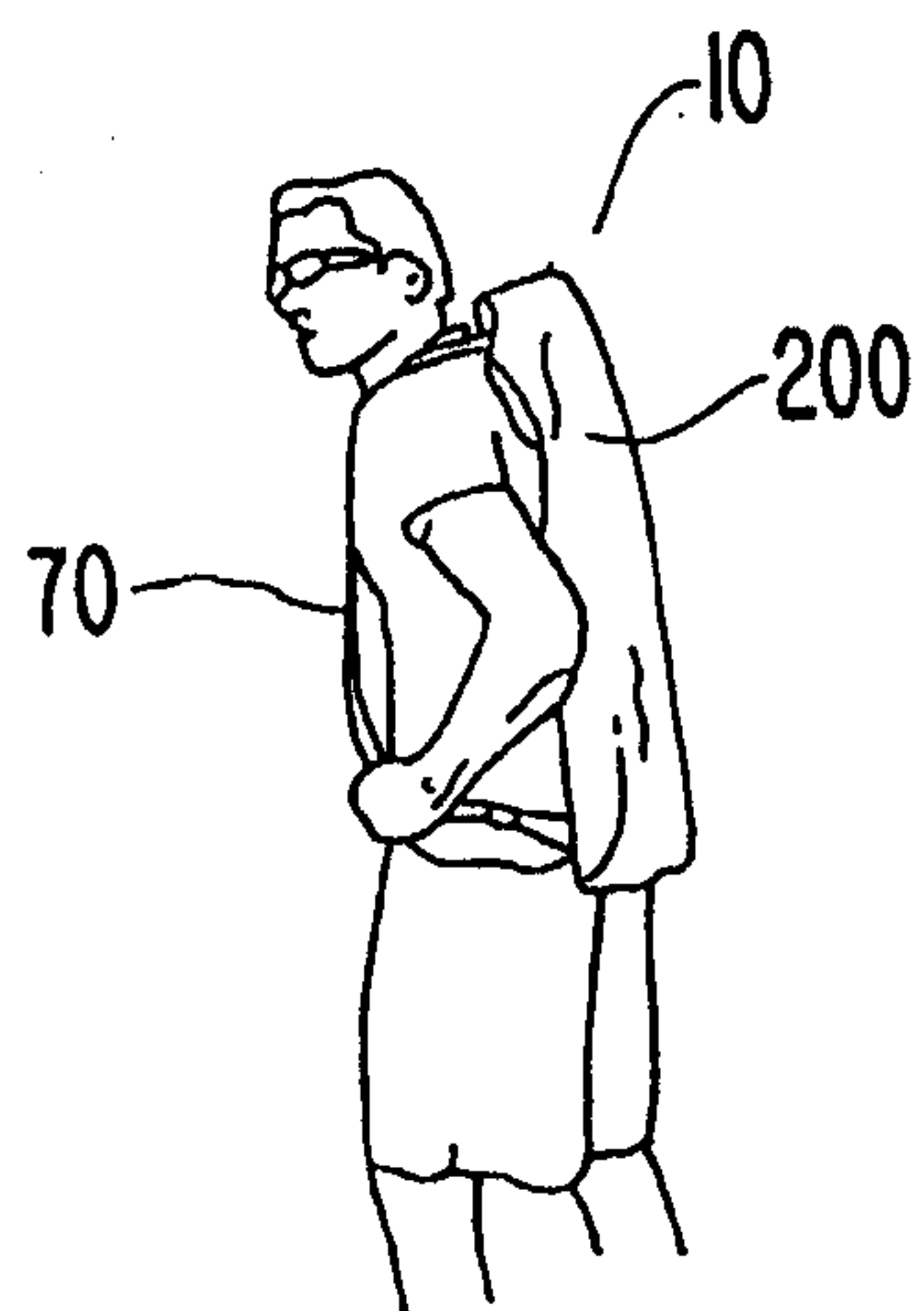


FIG. 15

FIG. II

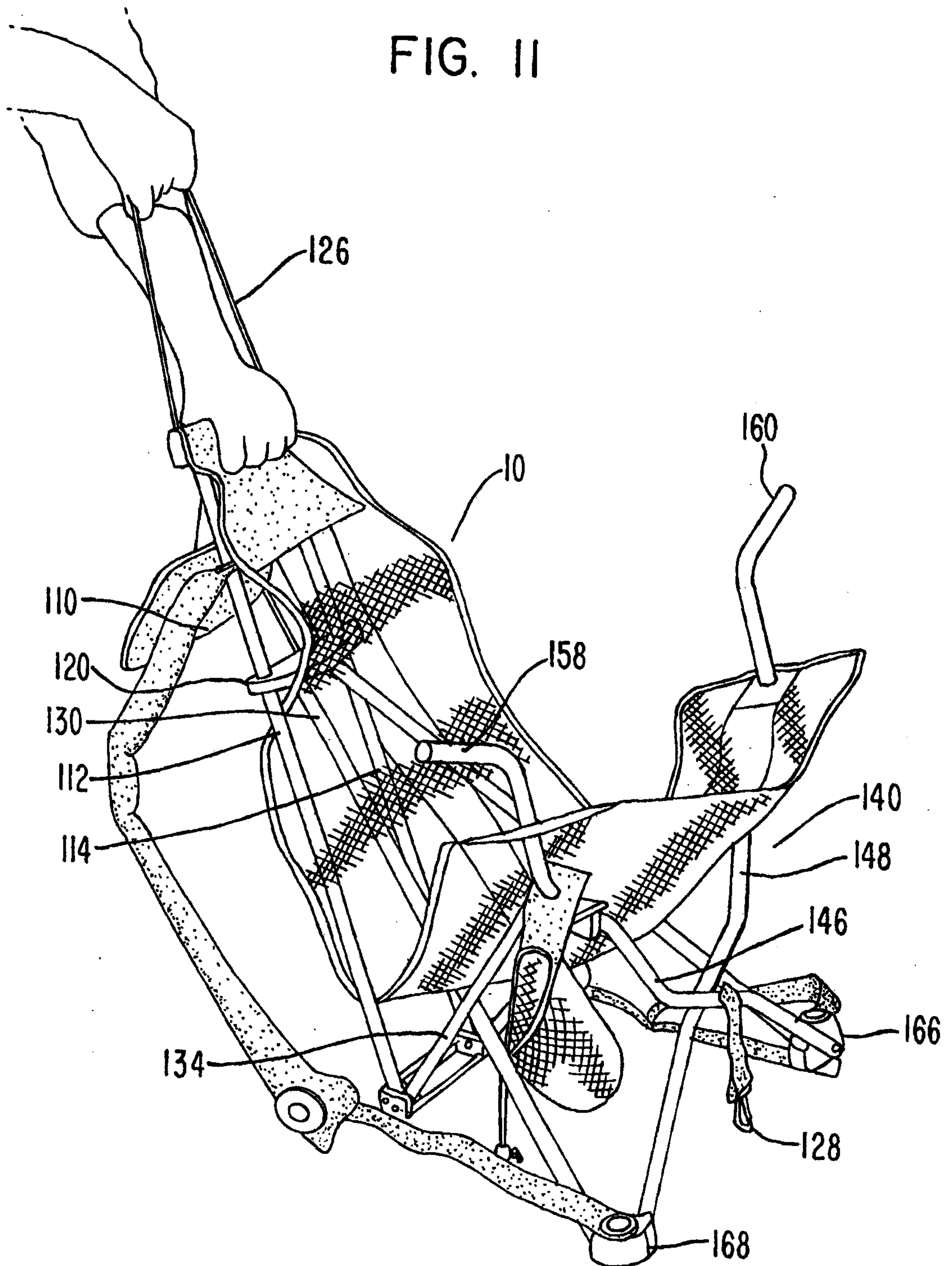
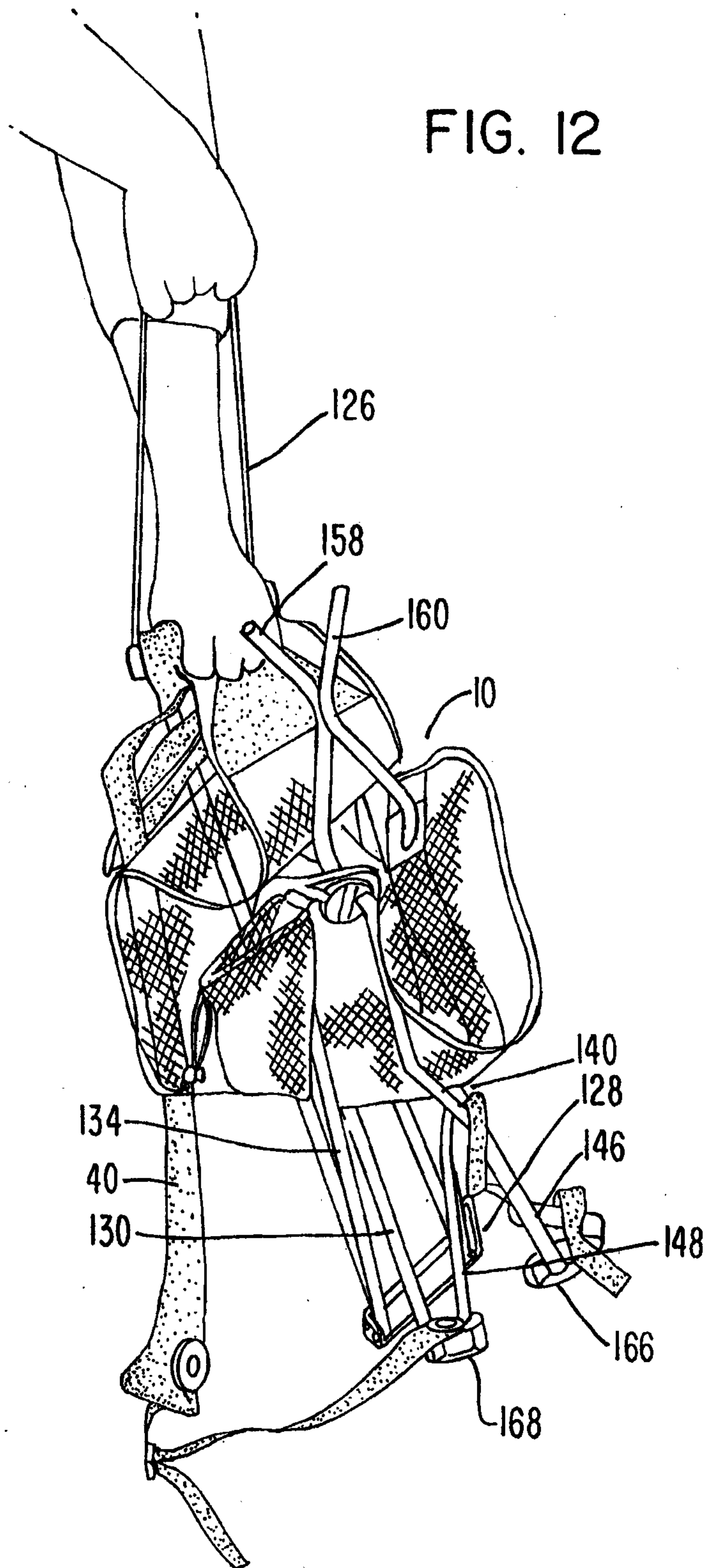


FIG. 12



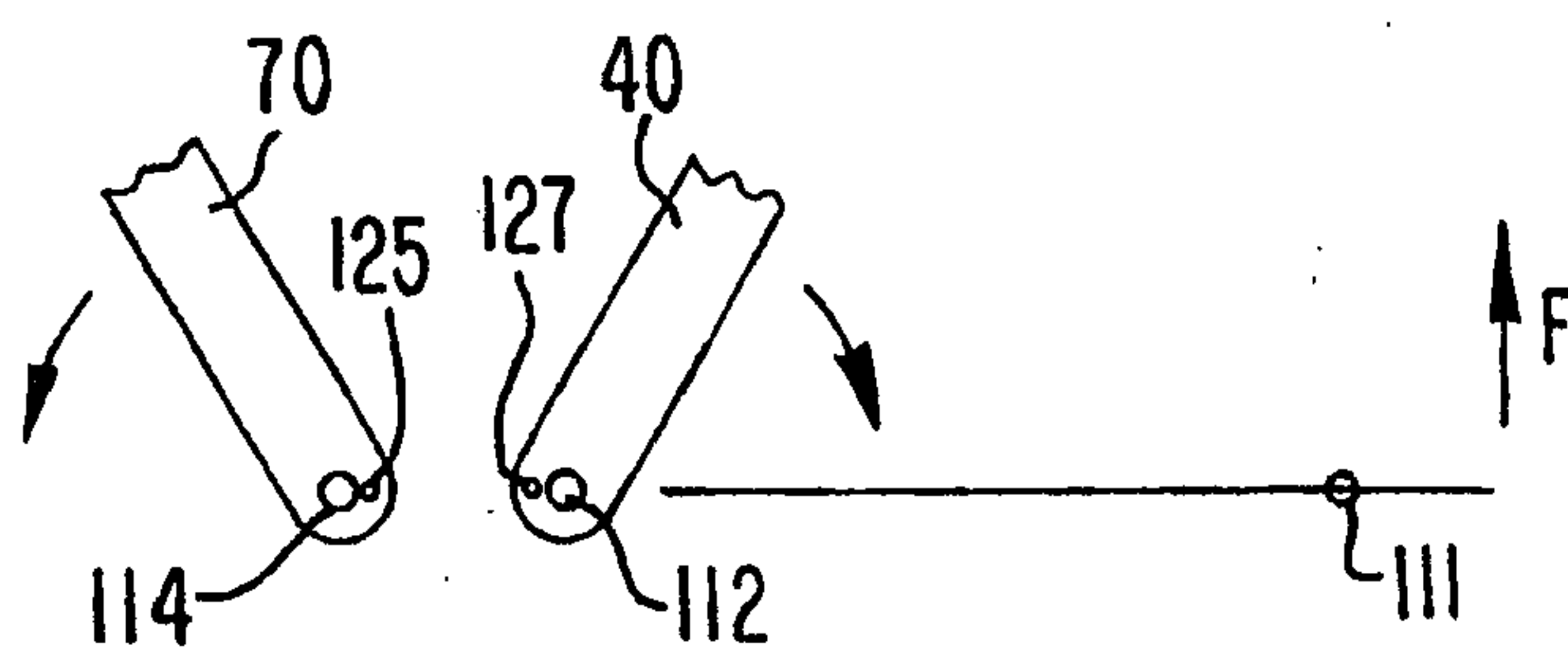


FIG. 16

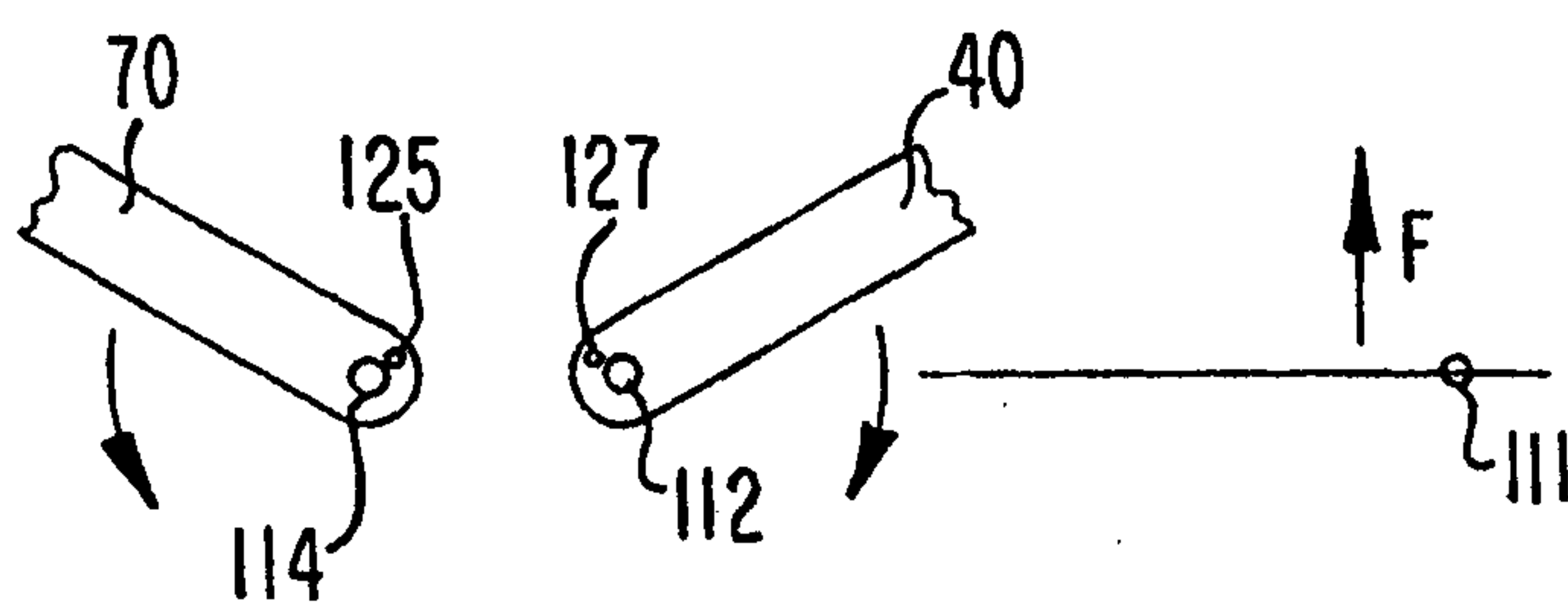


FIG. 17

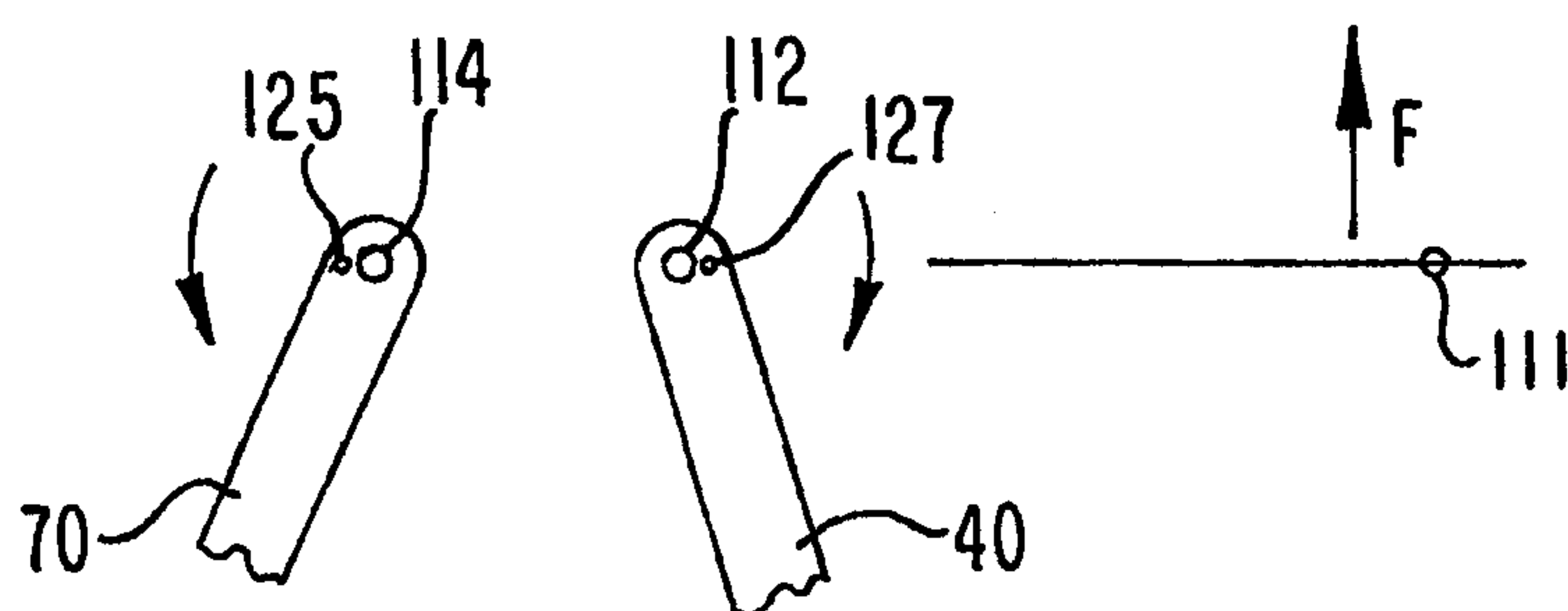


FIG. 18

FIG. 19

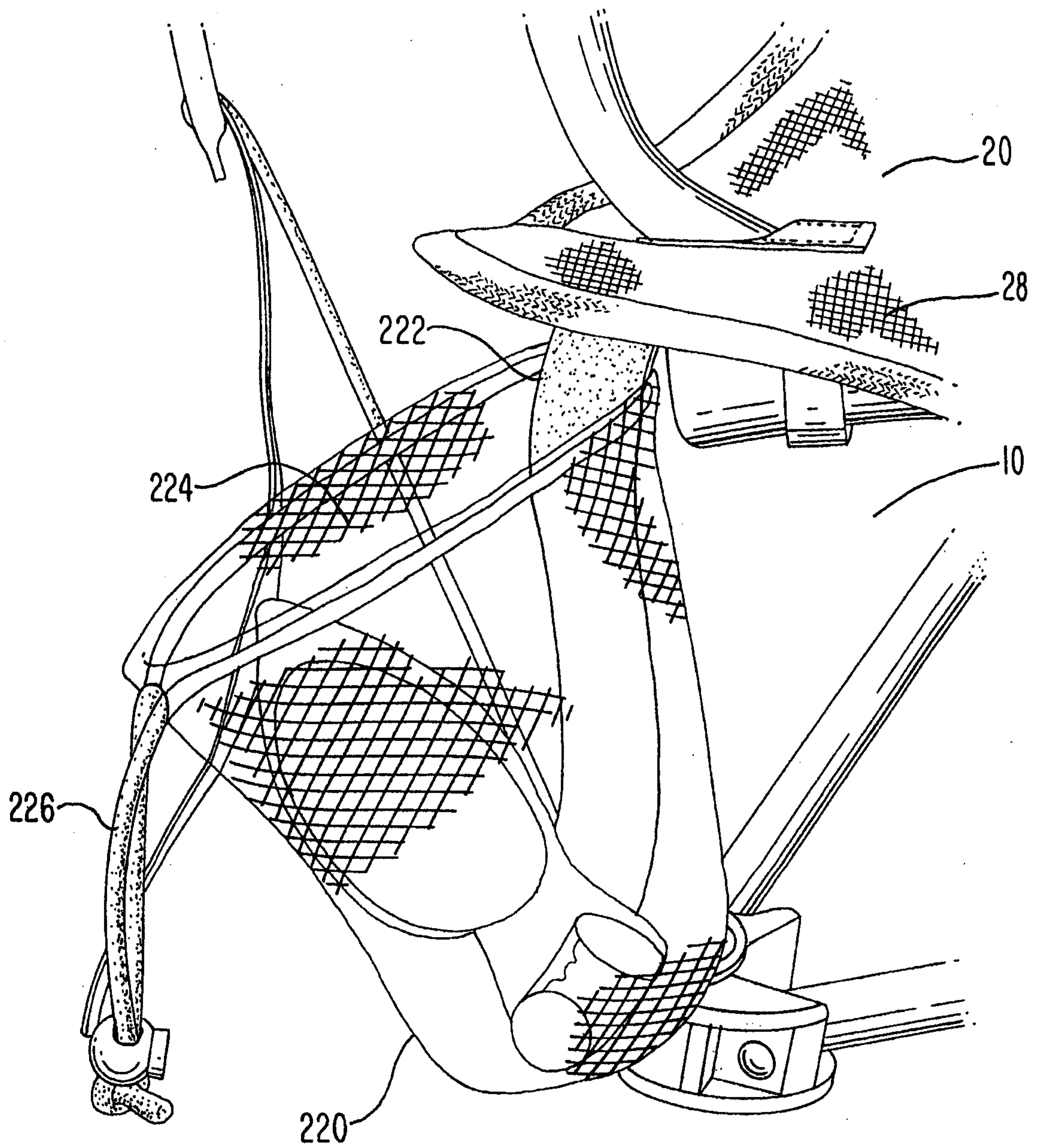


FIG. 20

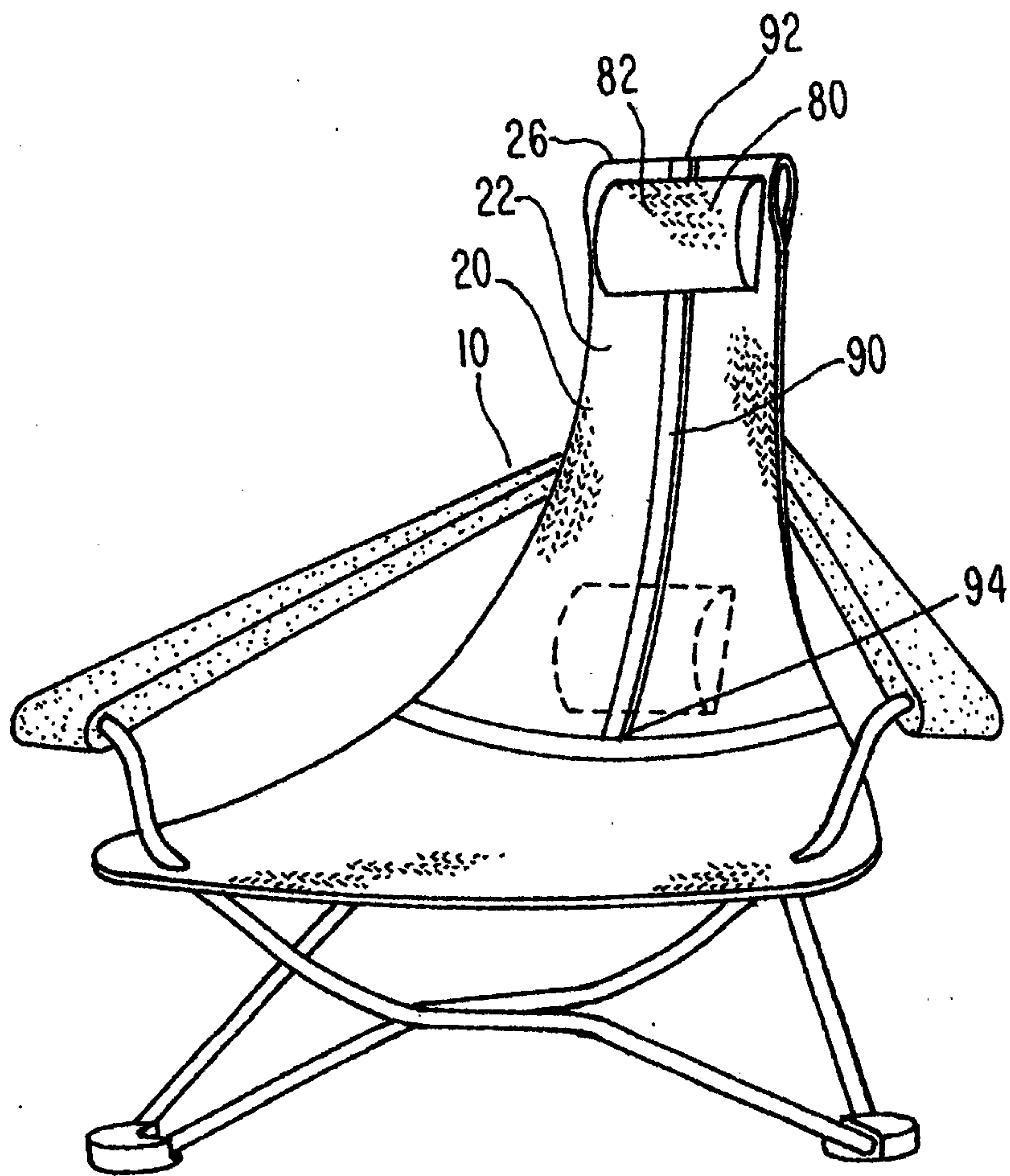


FIG. 21

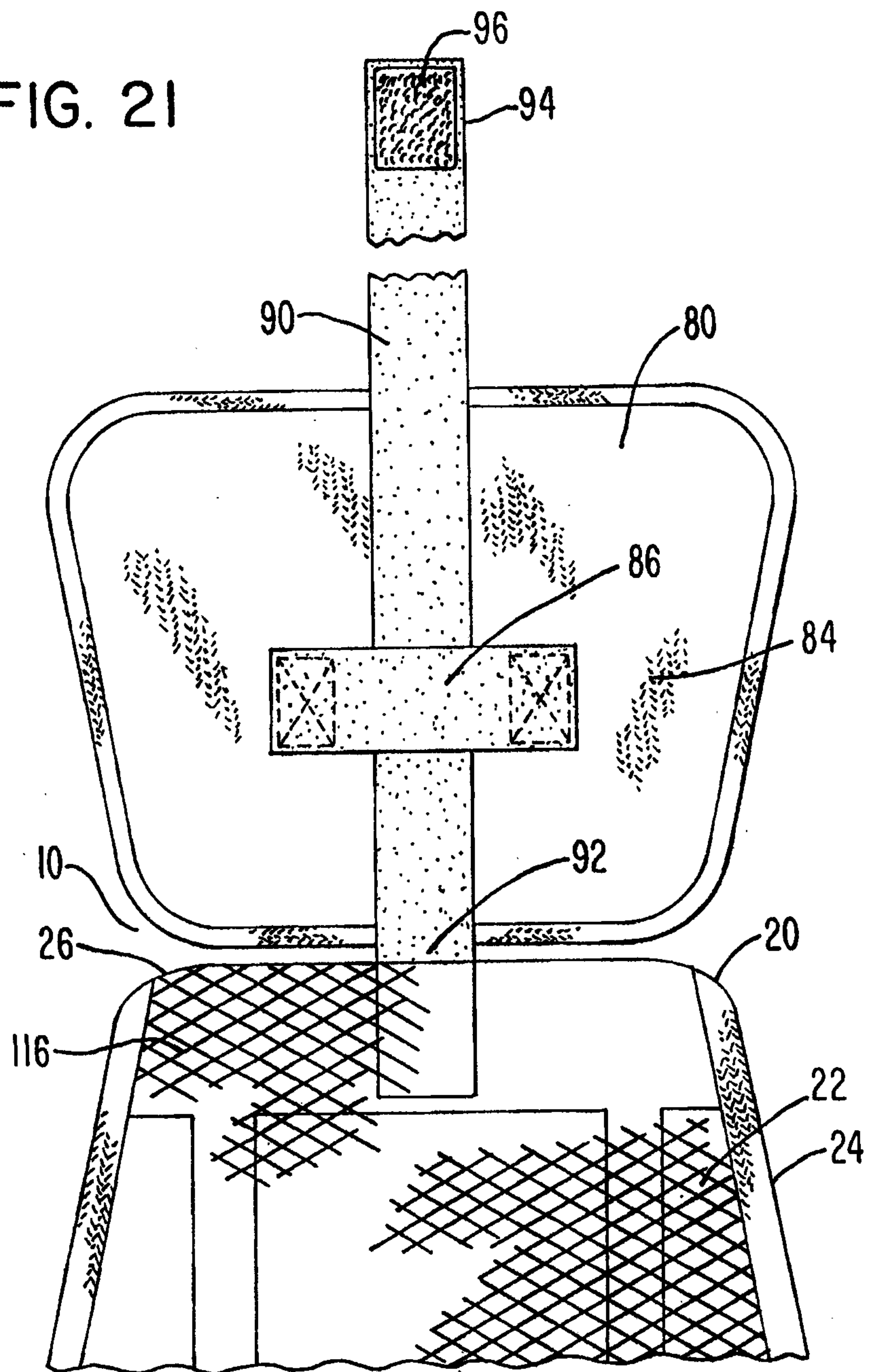


FIG. 22

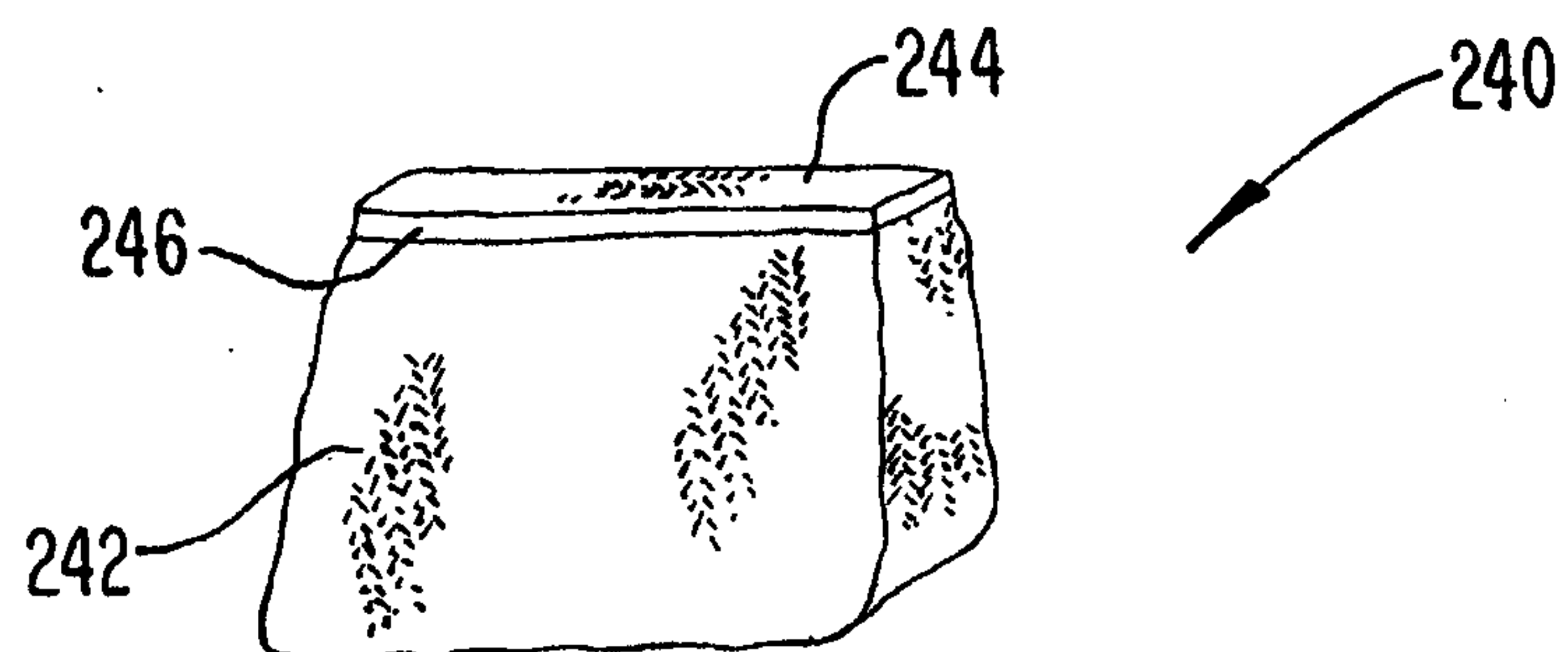


FIG. 24

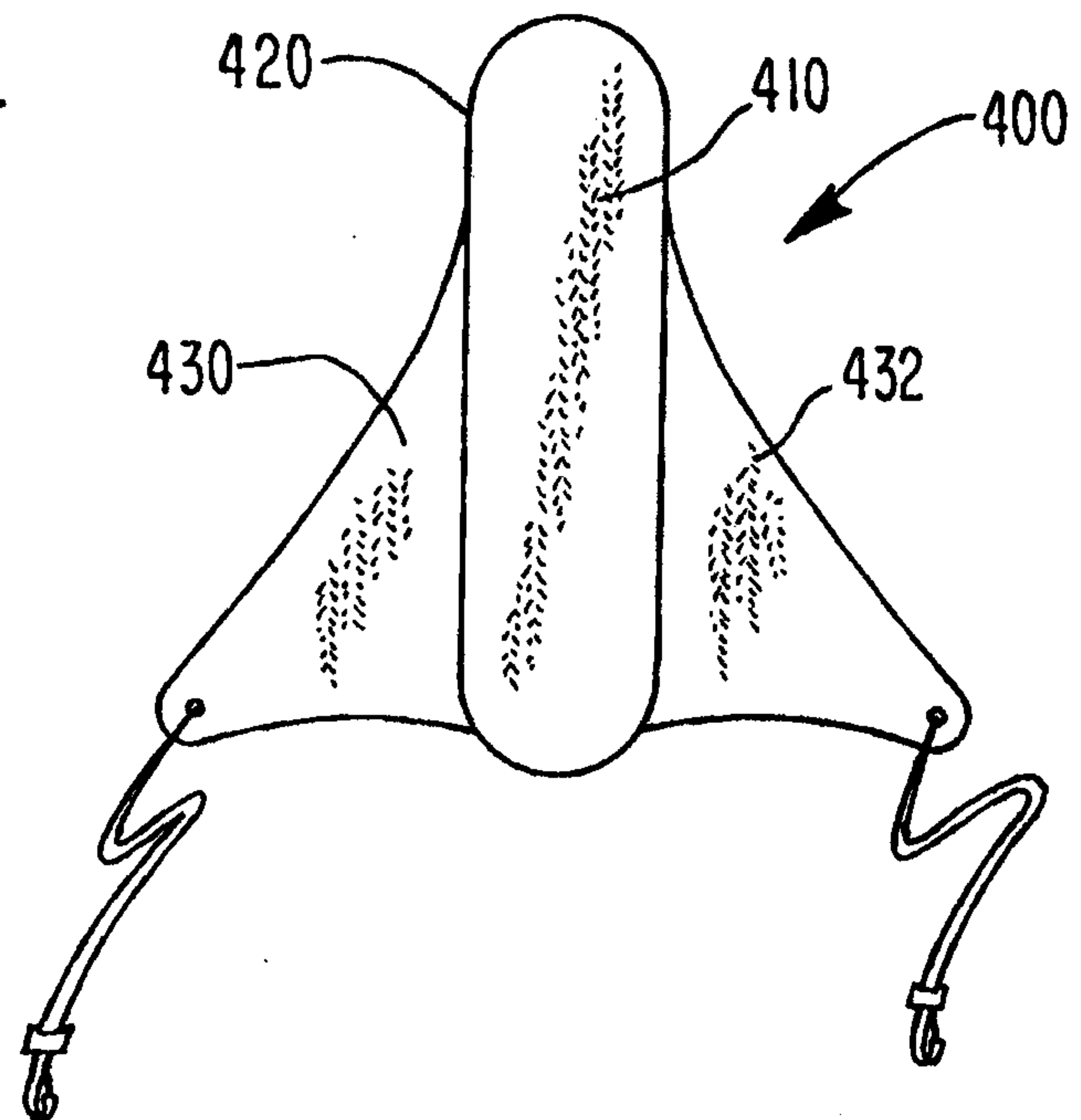
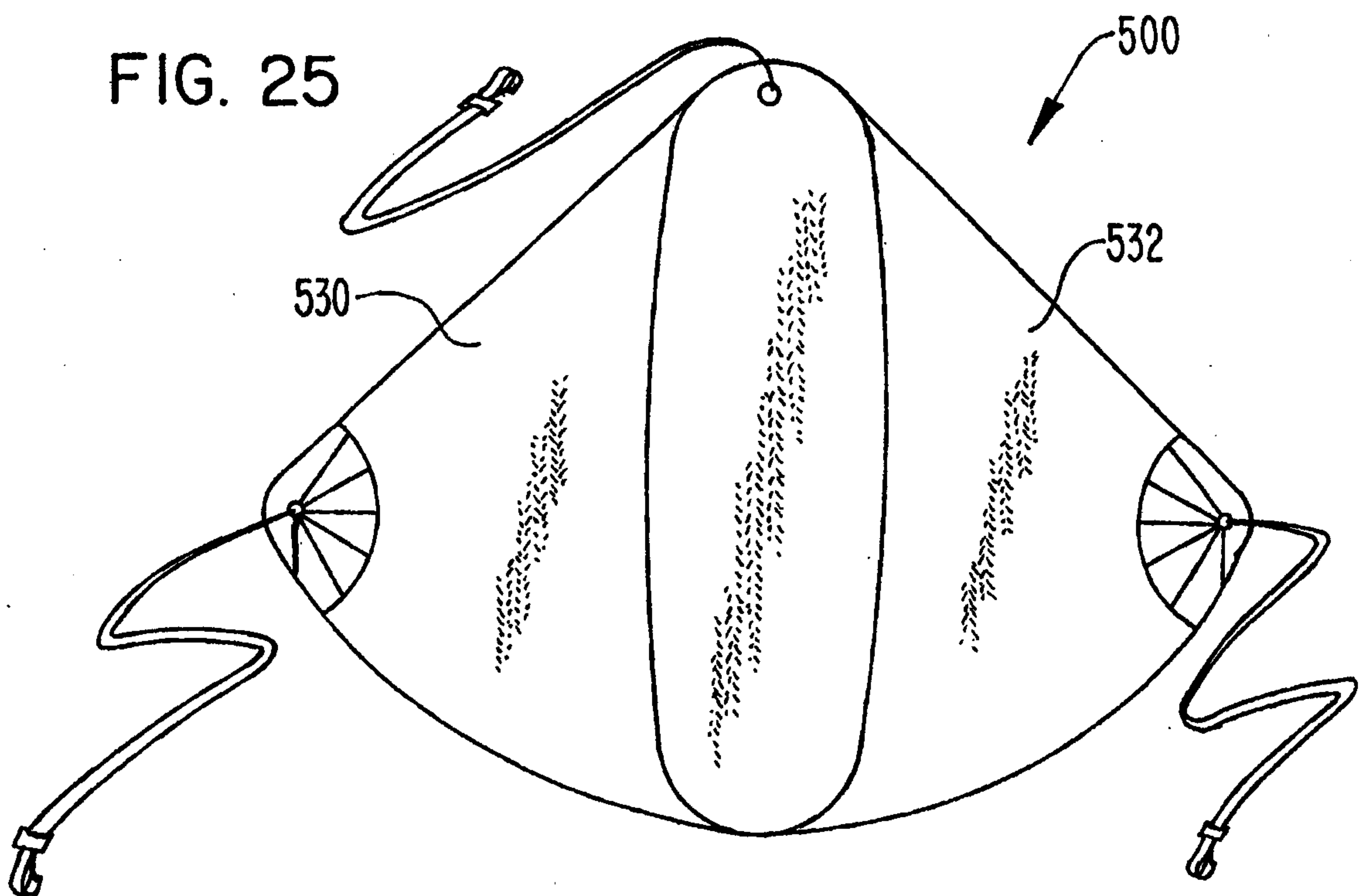


FIG. 25



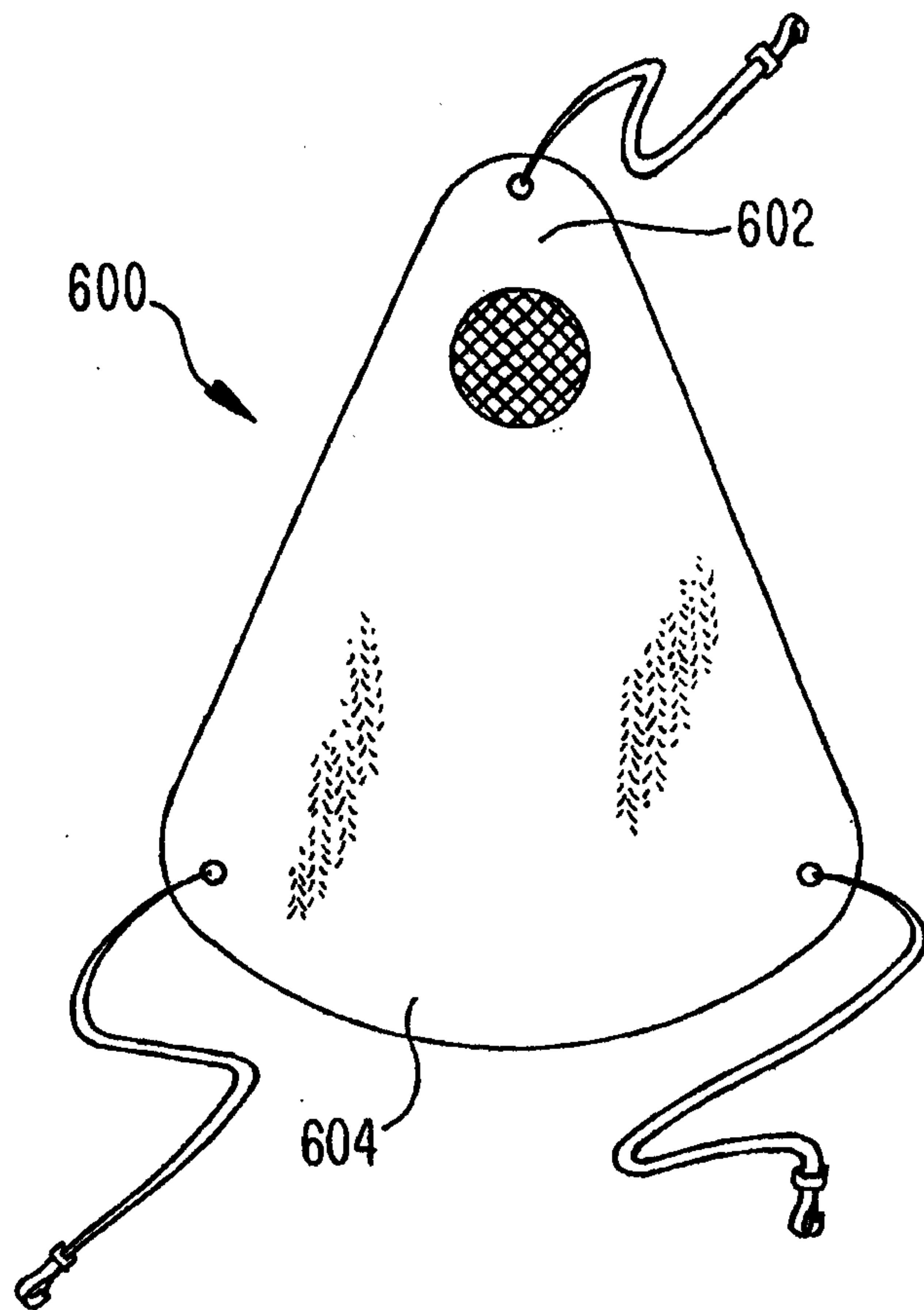


FIG. 26

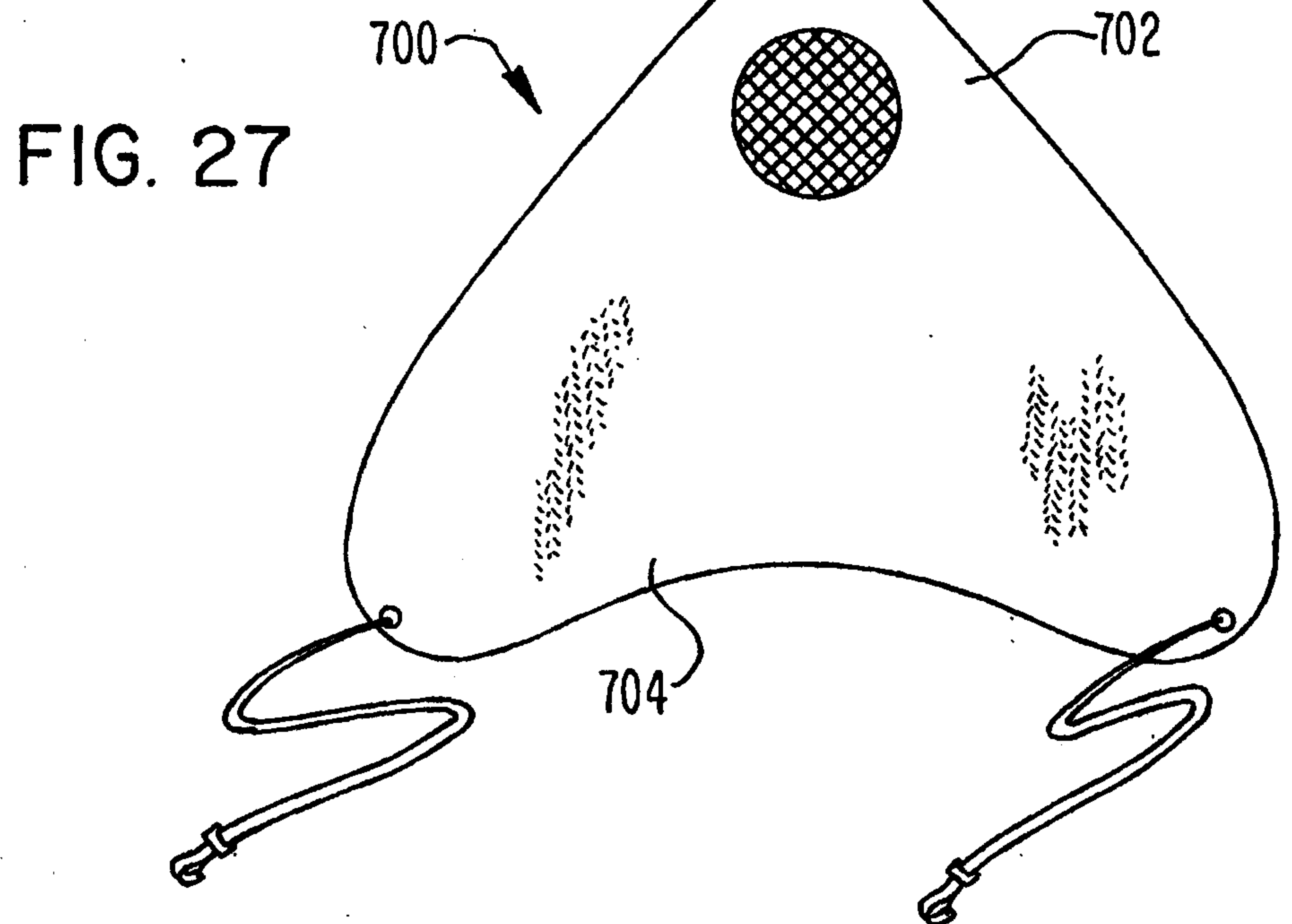


FIG. 27

FIG. 28

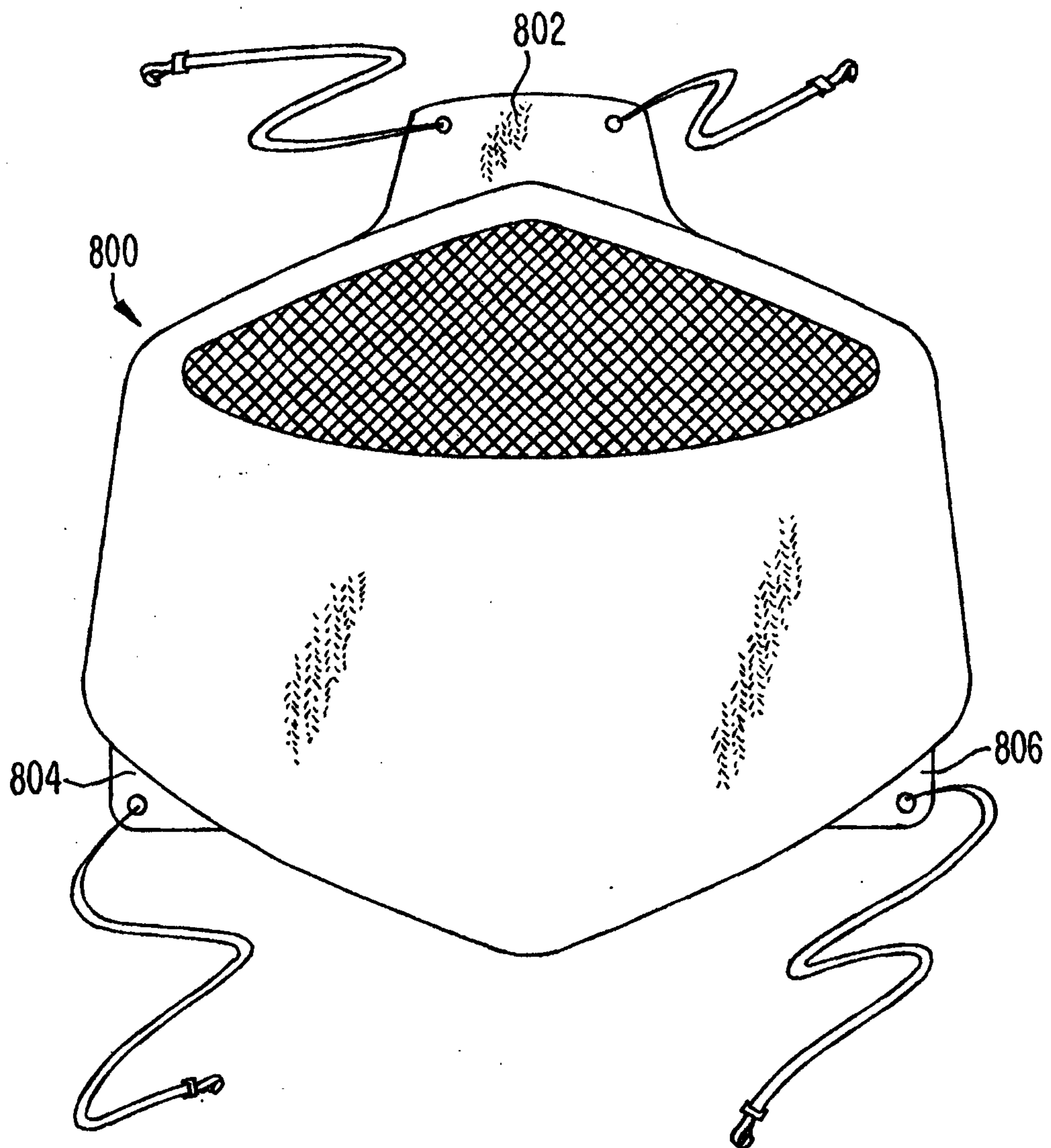


FIG. 29

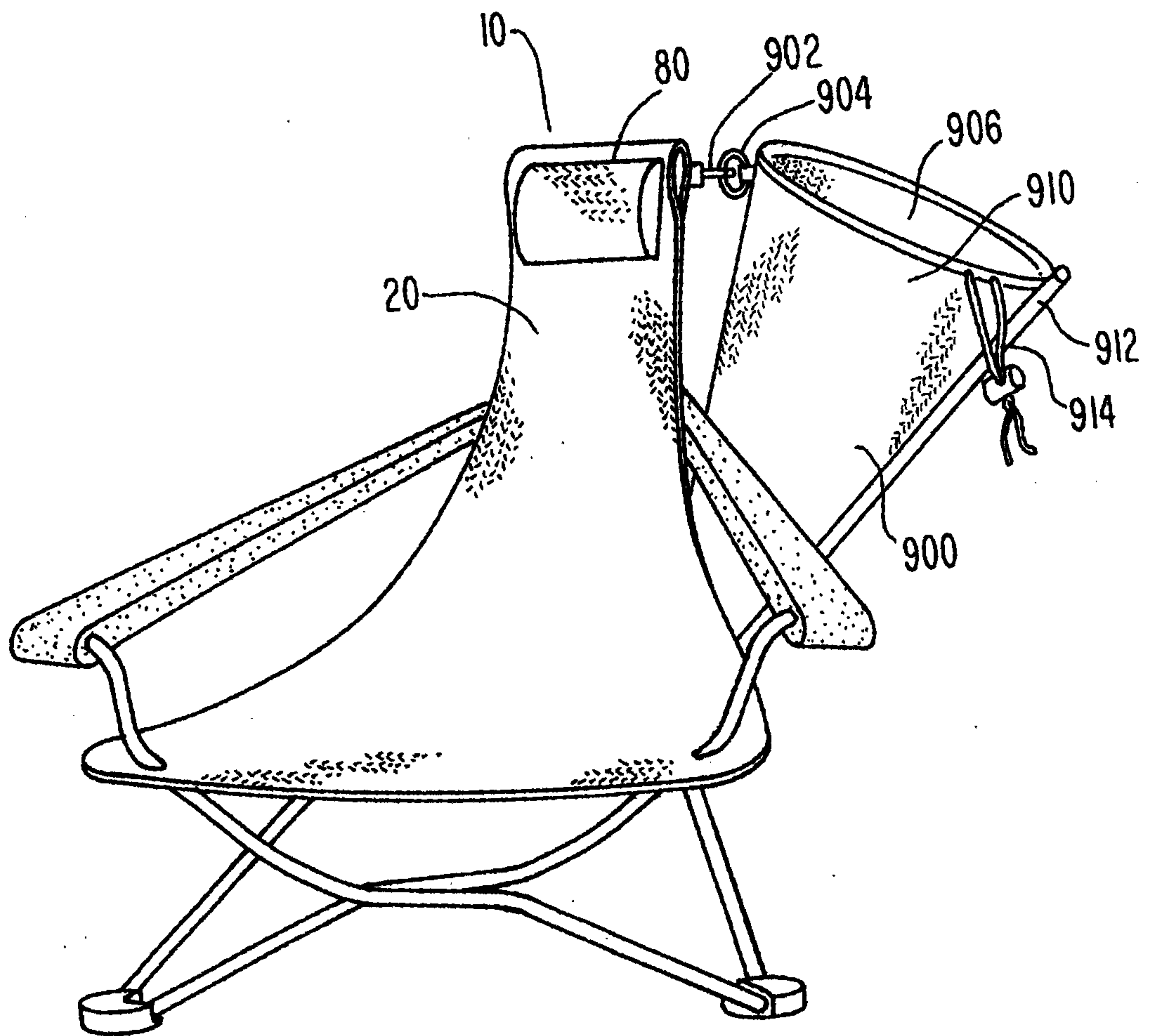


FIG. 30

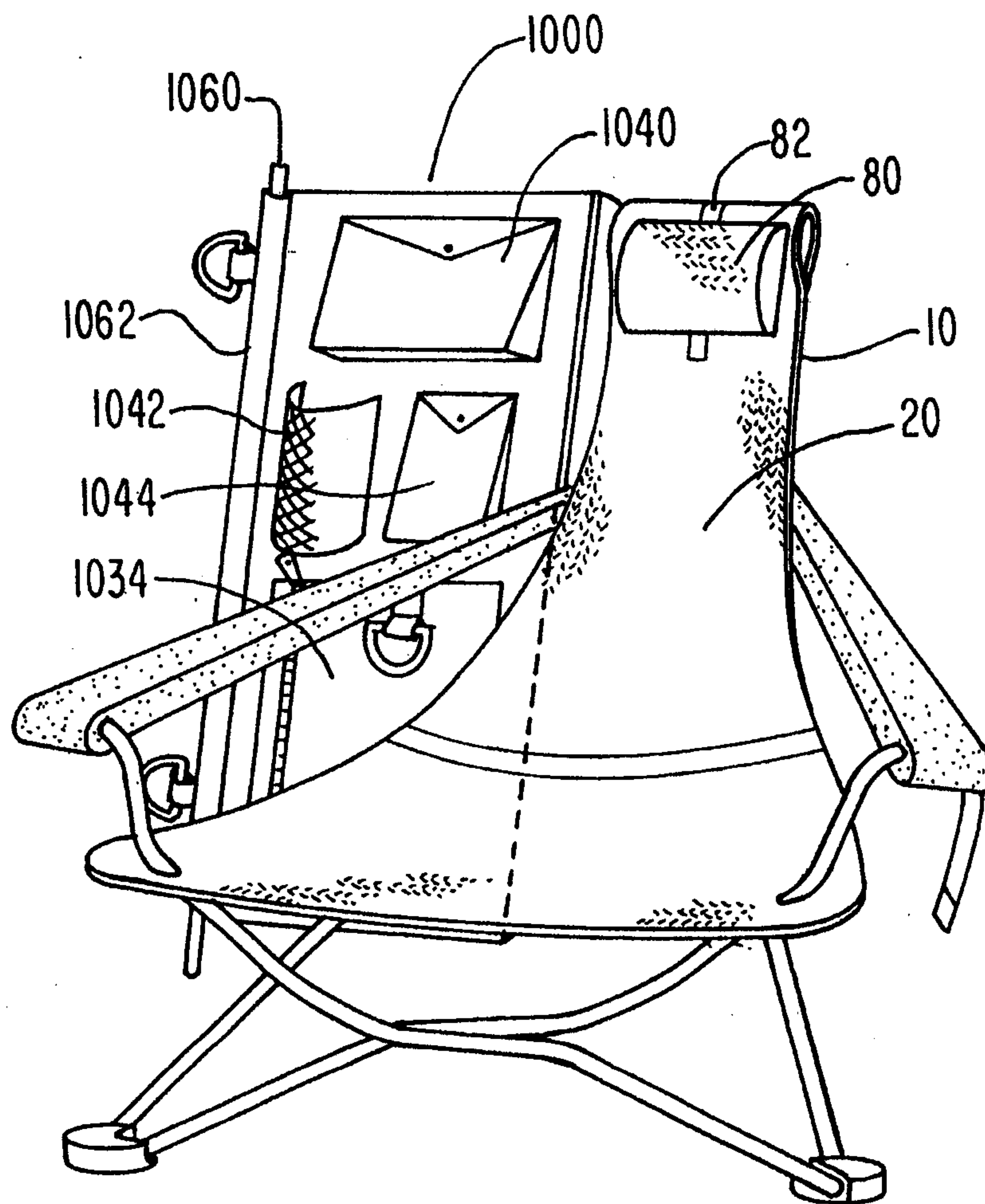
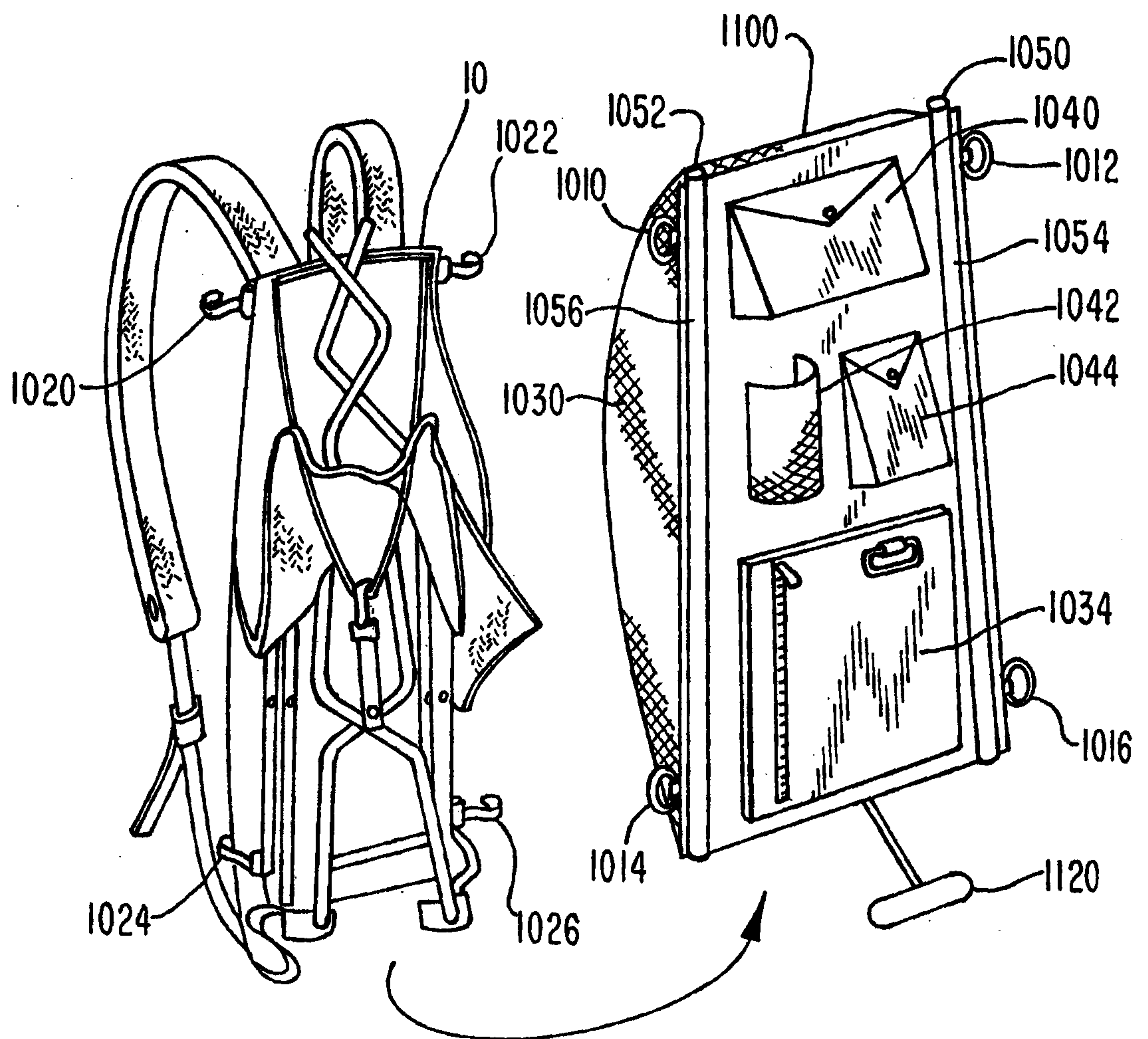


FIG. 31



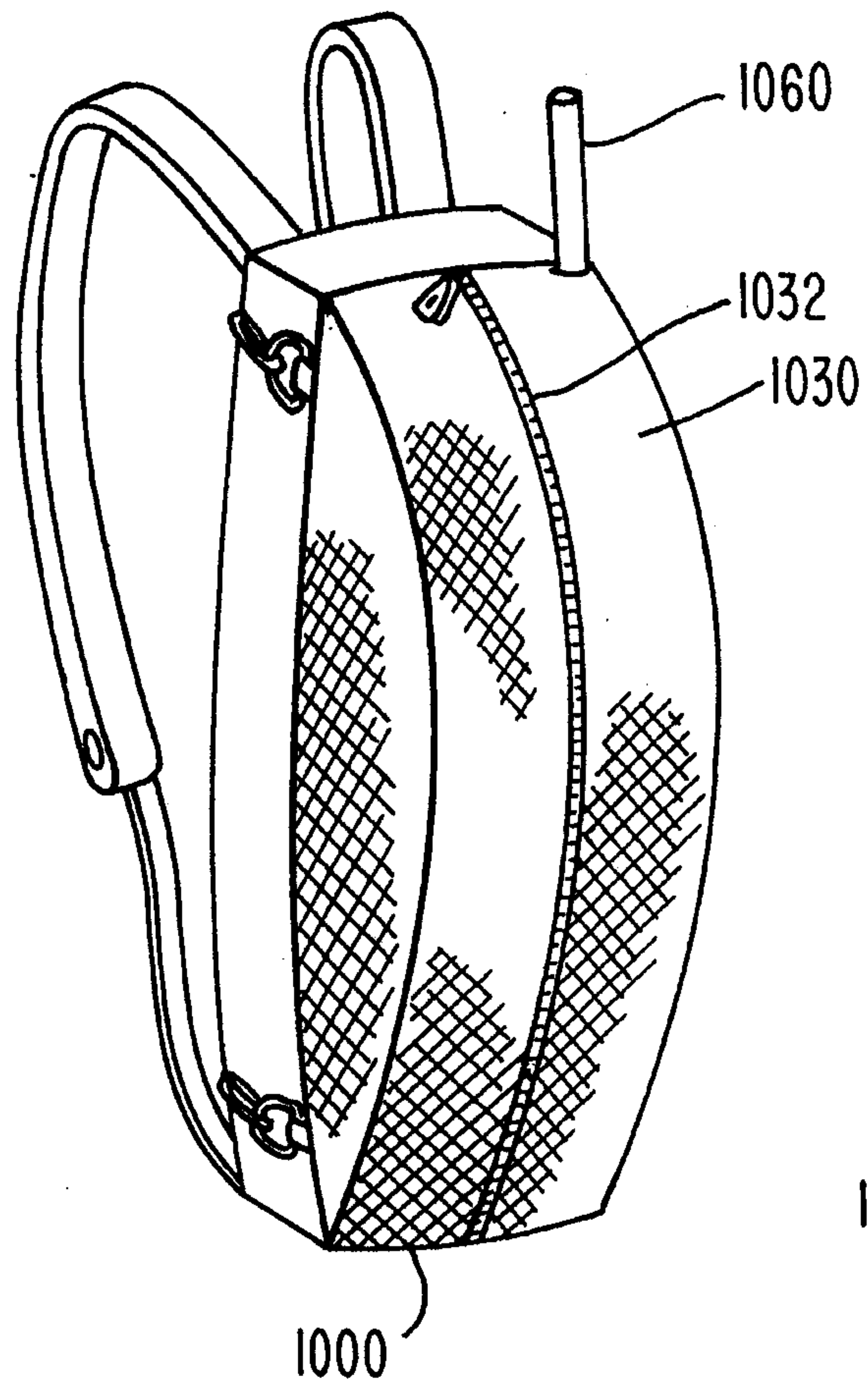


FIG. 32

FIG. 33

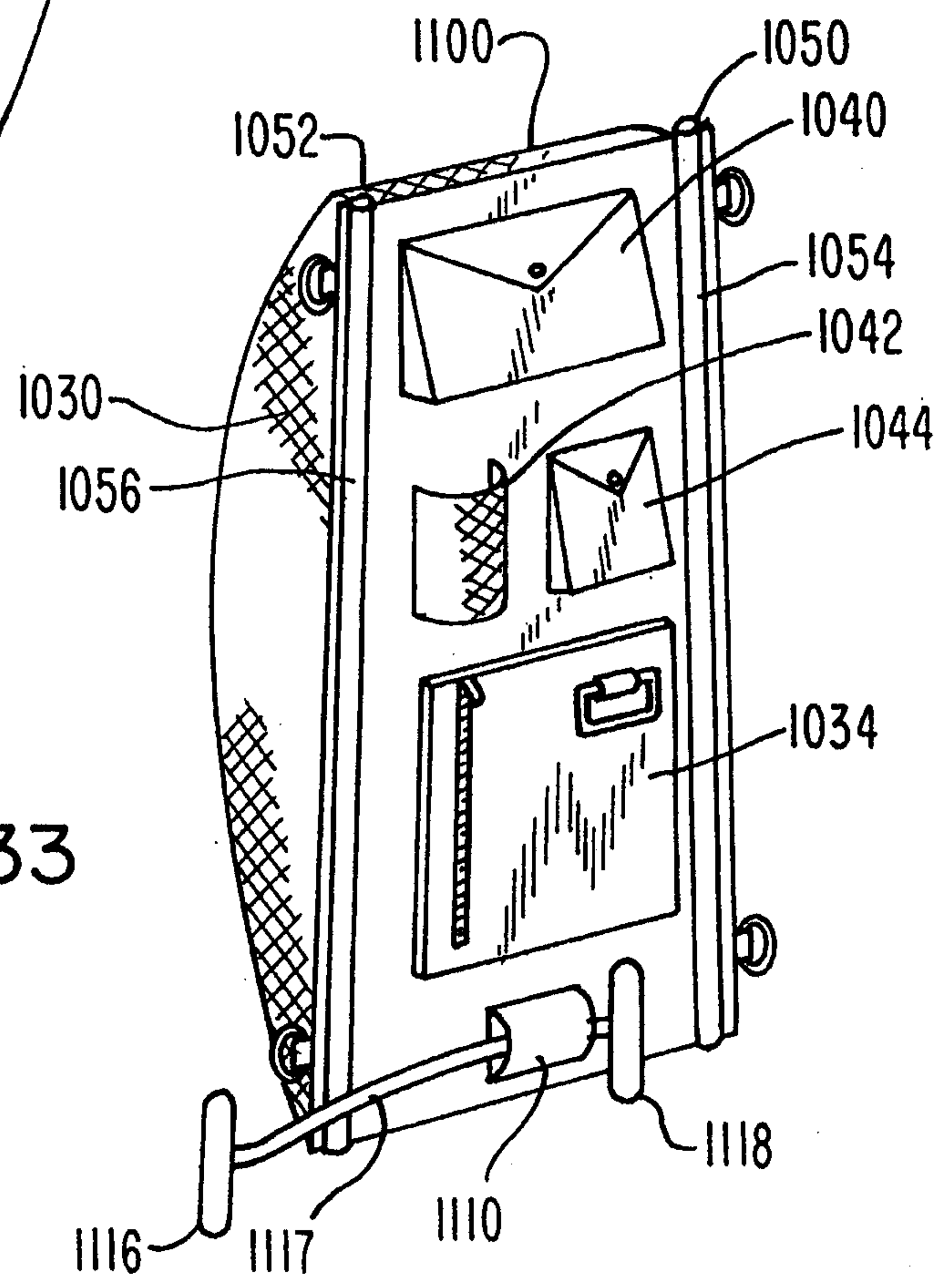
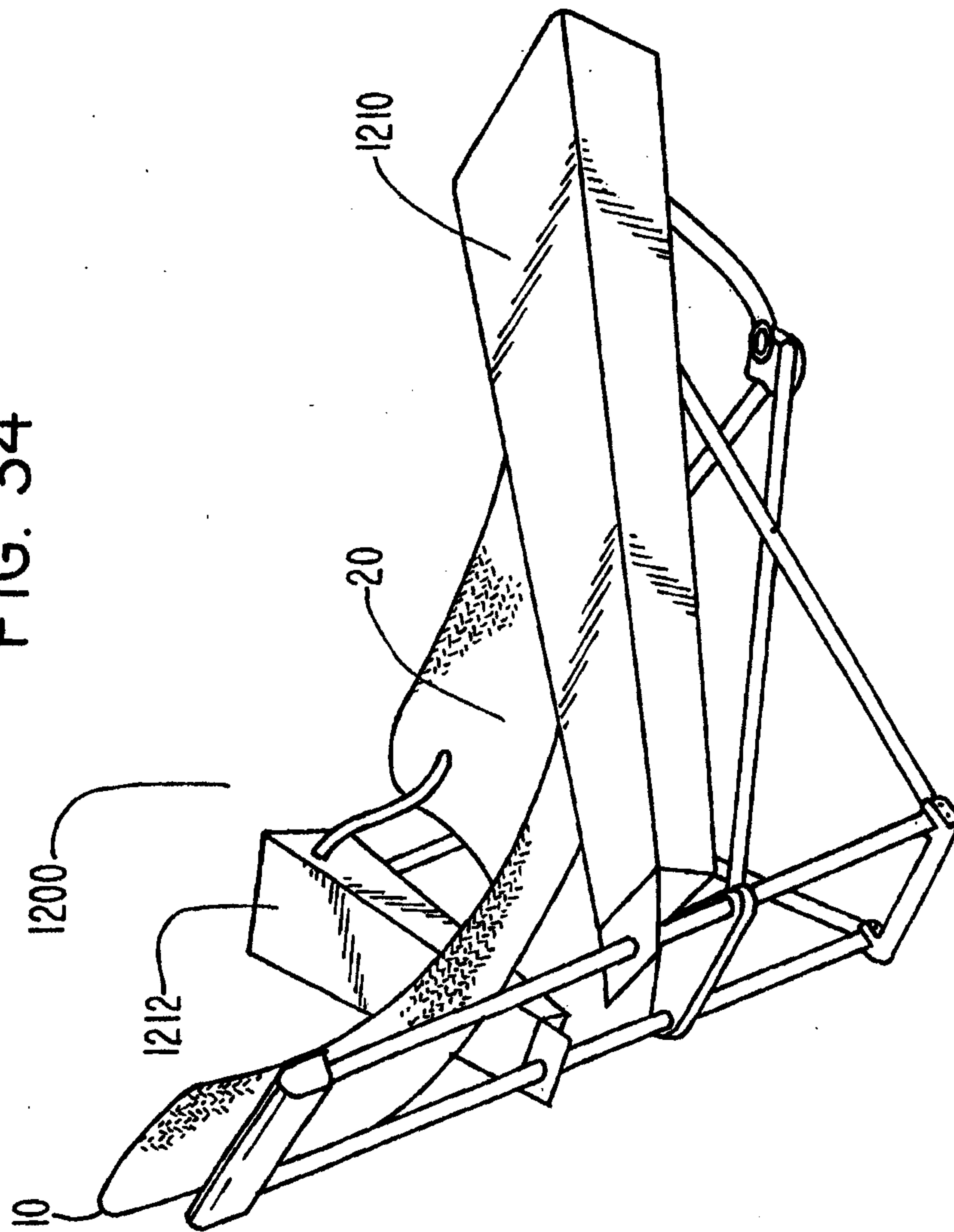


FIG. 34



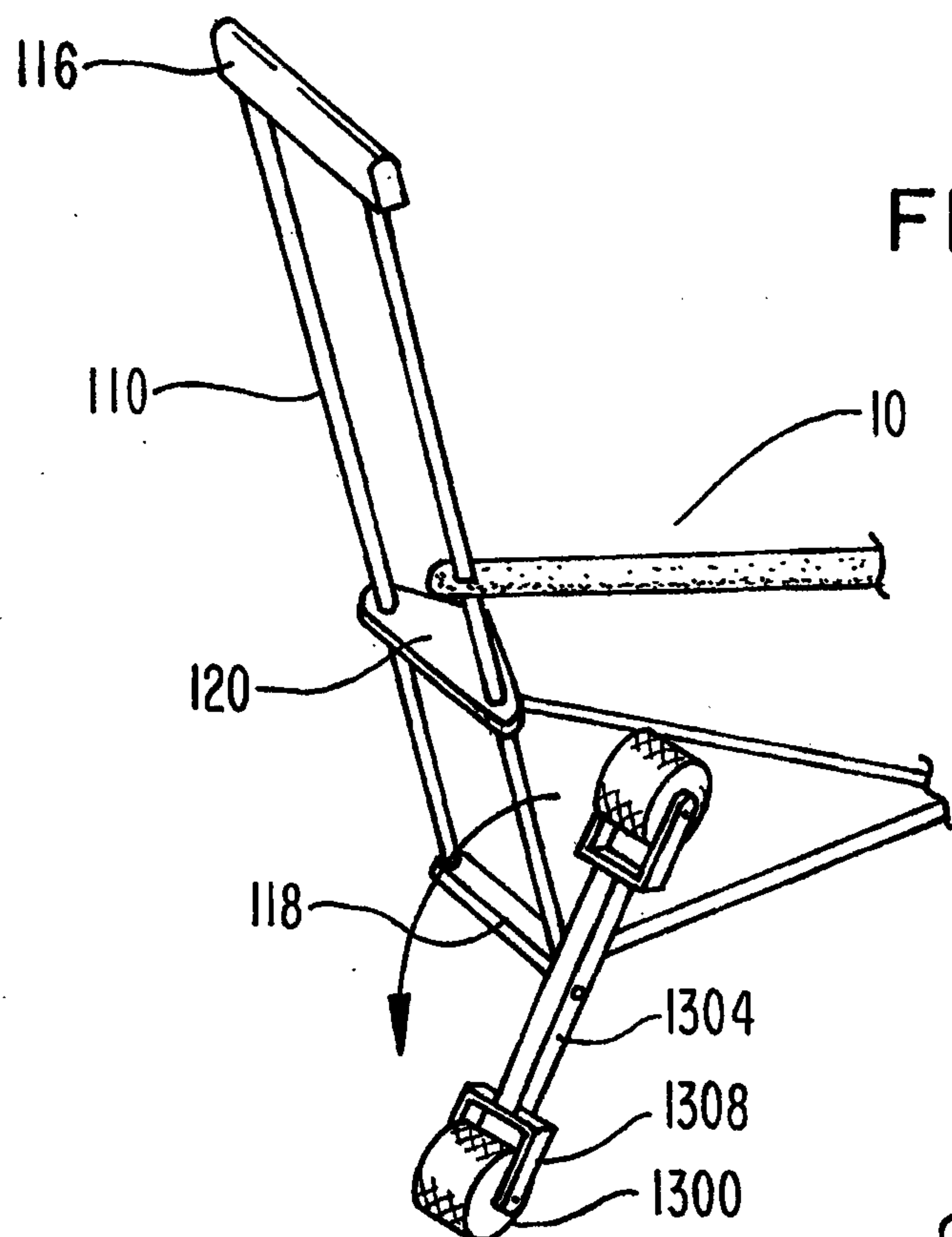


FIG. 36

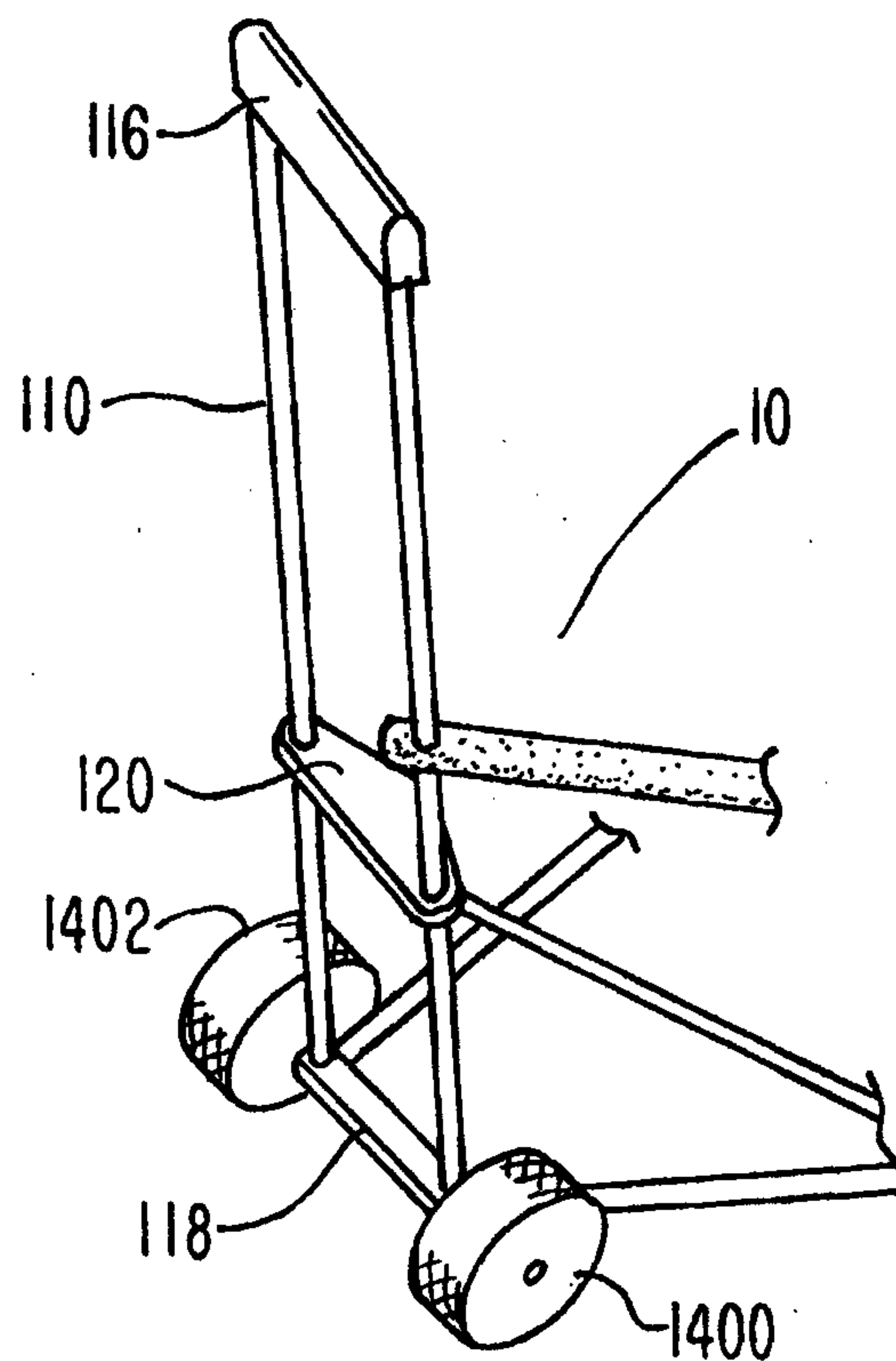


FIG. 37

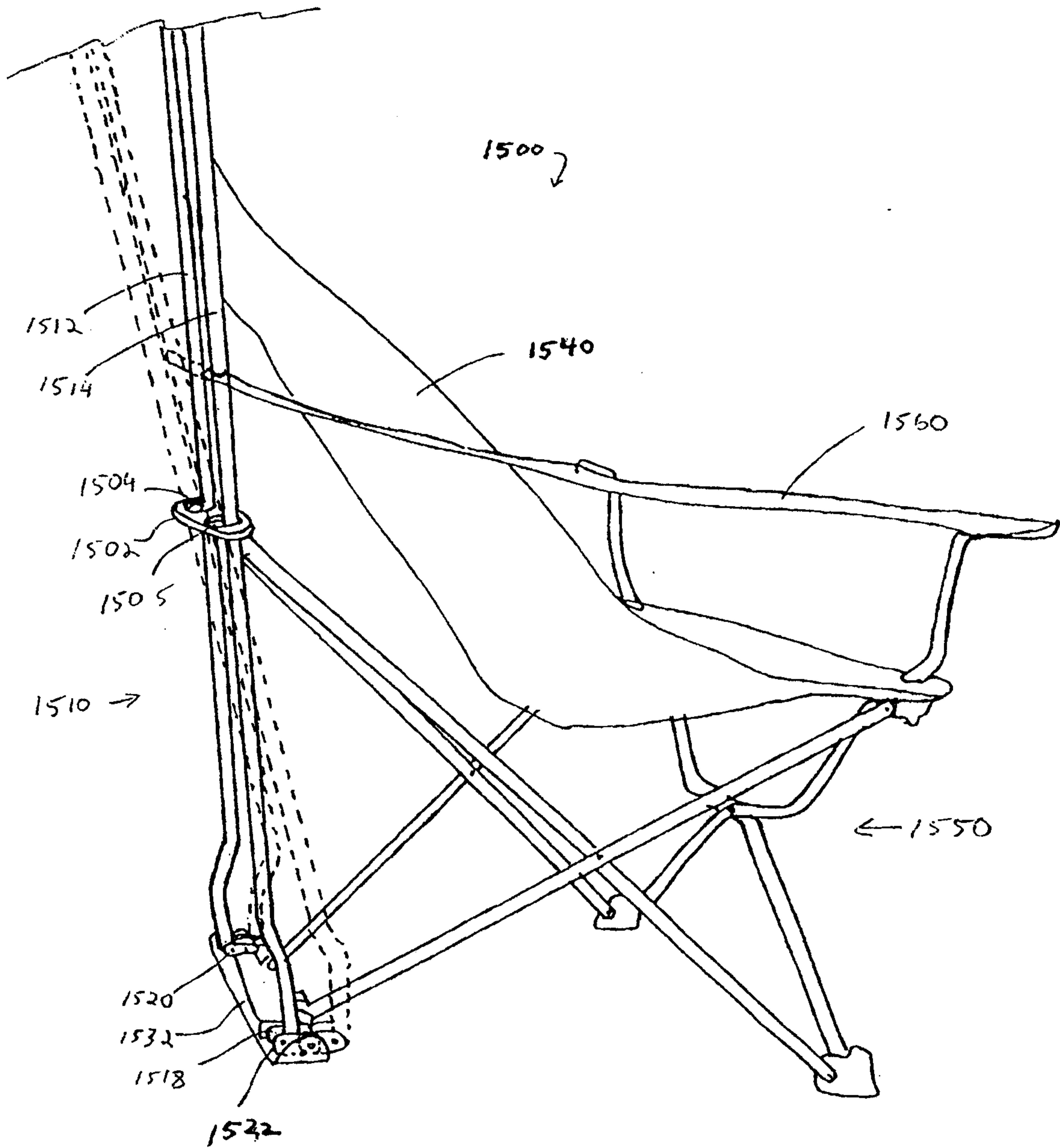
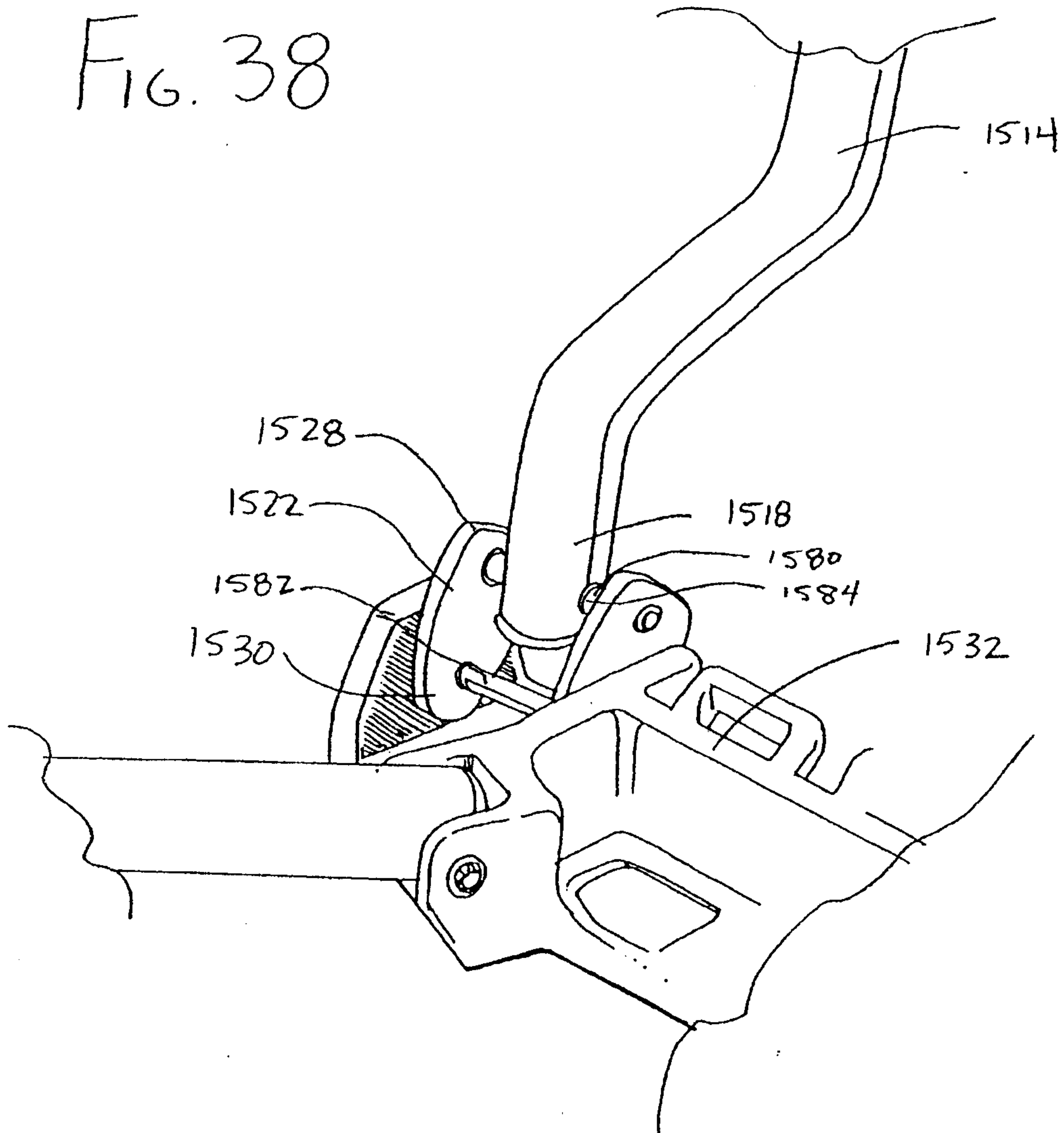


FIG. 38



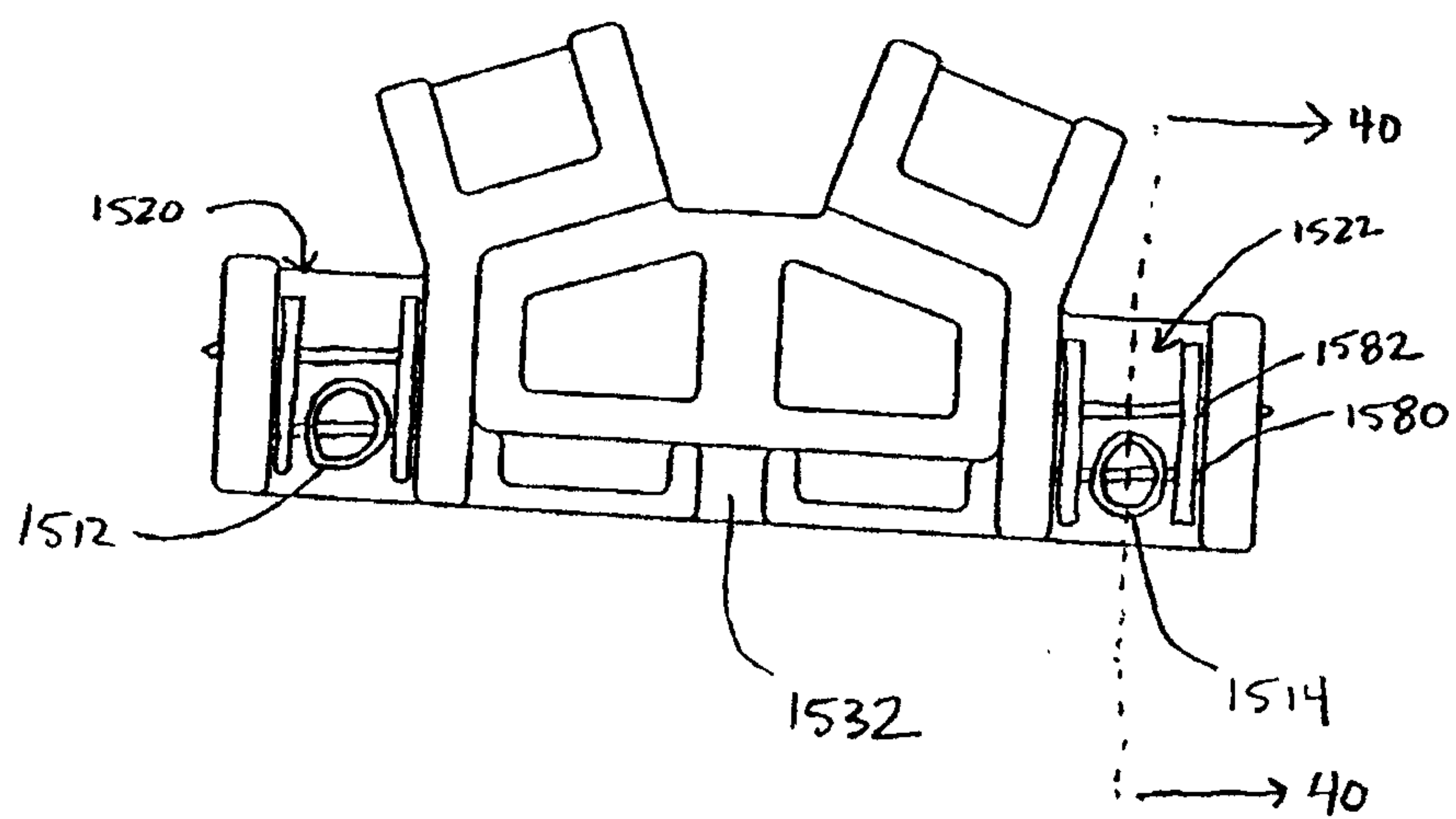


FIG. 39

FIG. 40 A

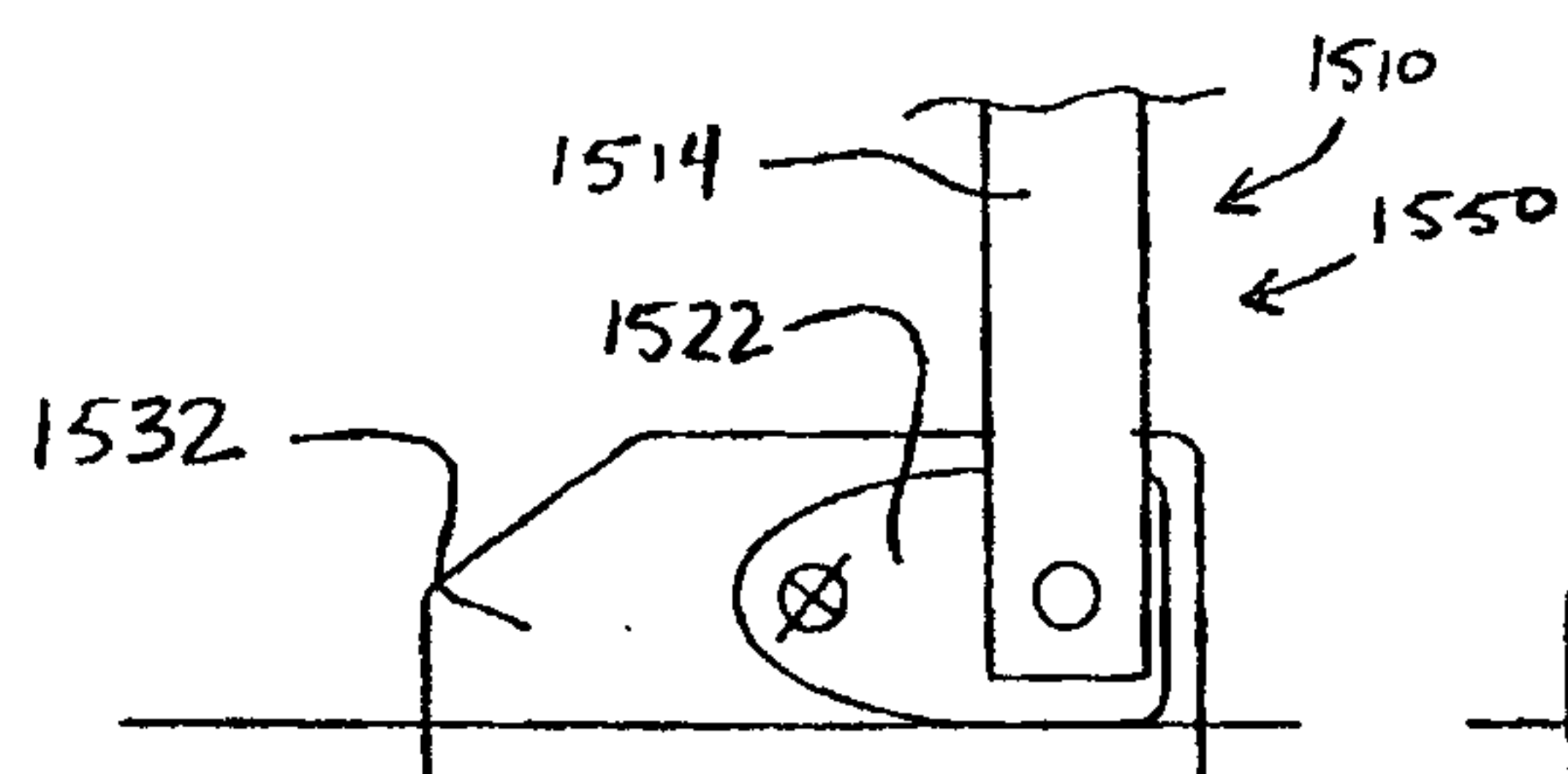


FIG. 40 B

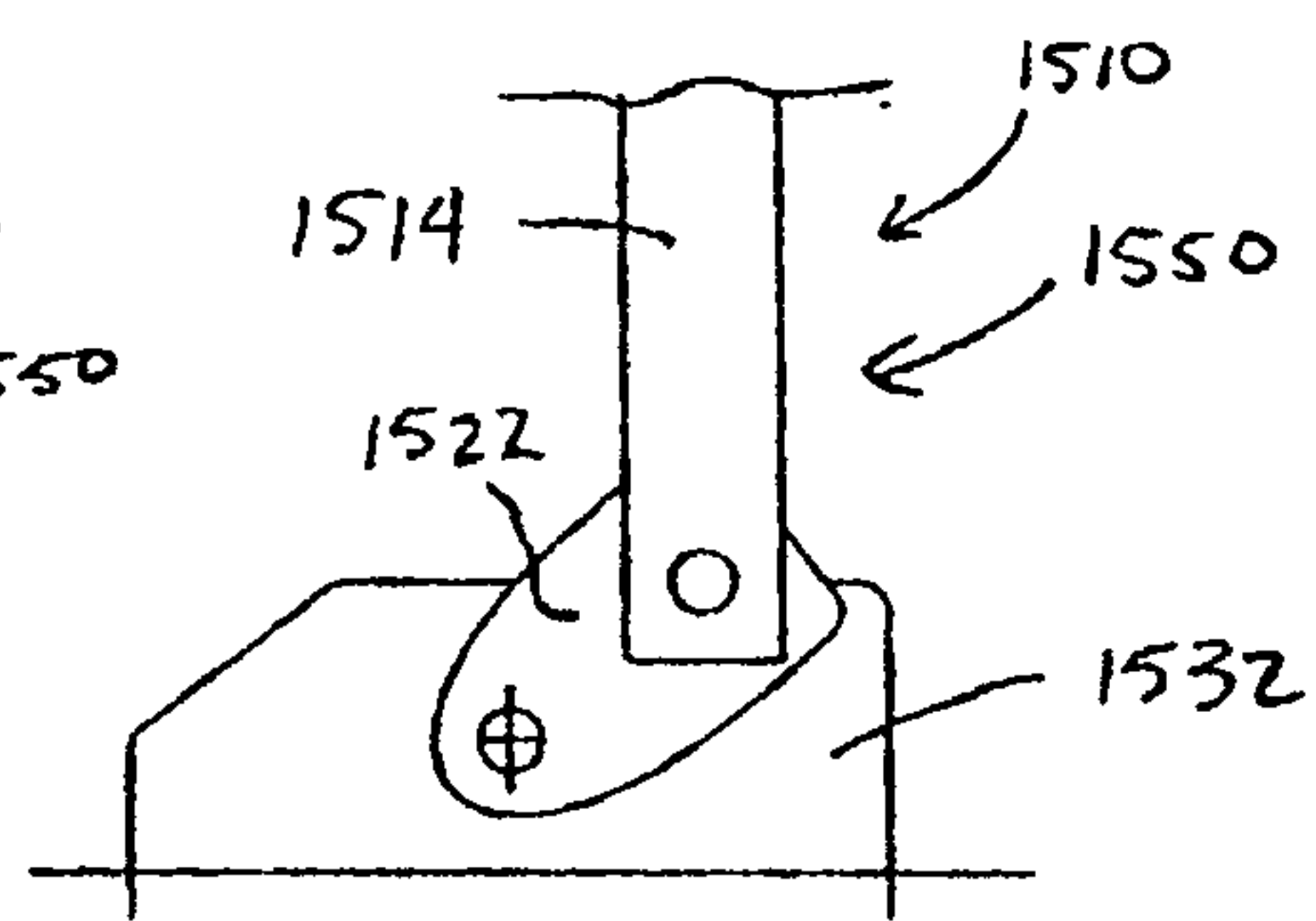


FIG. 40 C

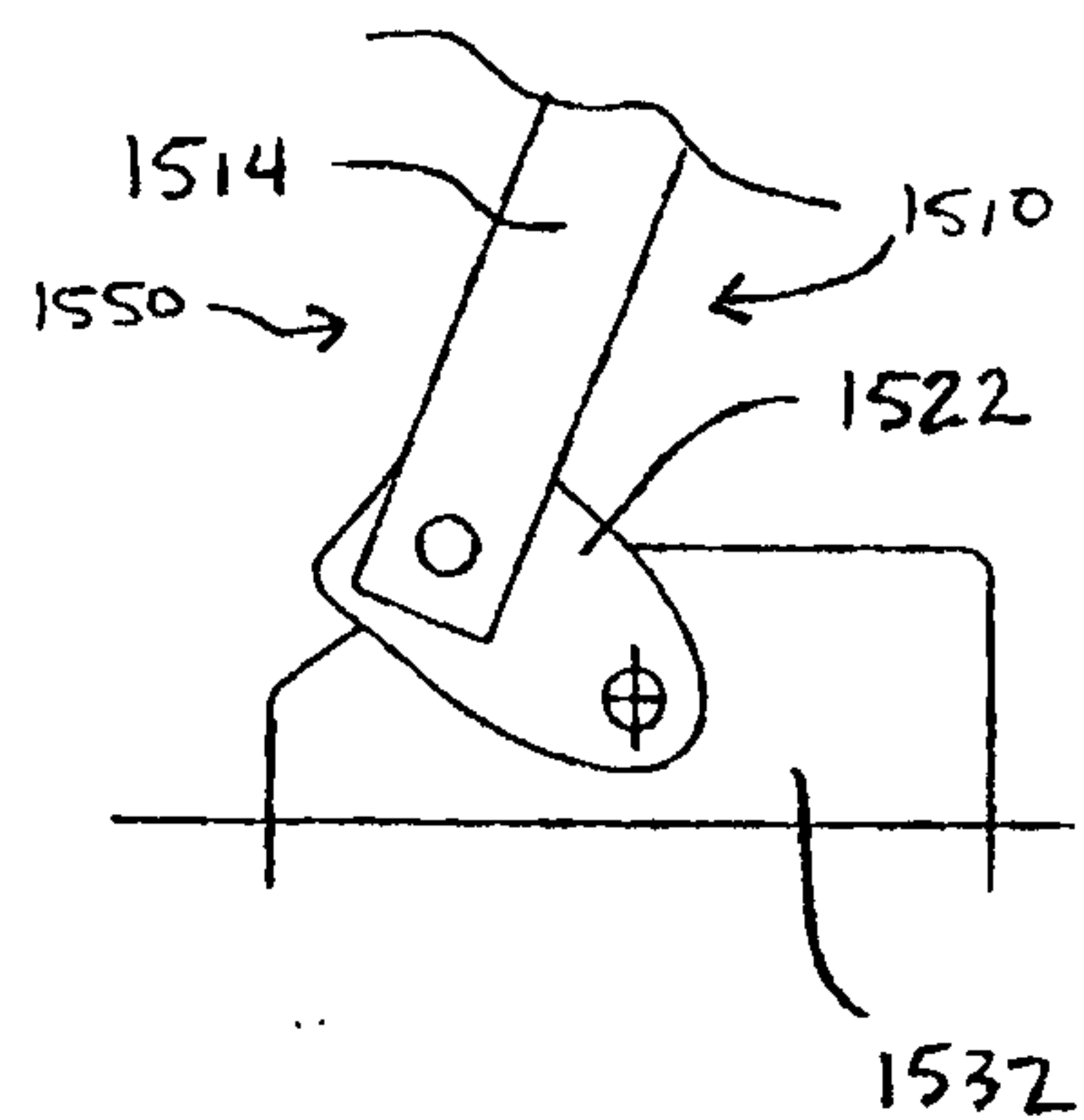


FIG. 40 D

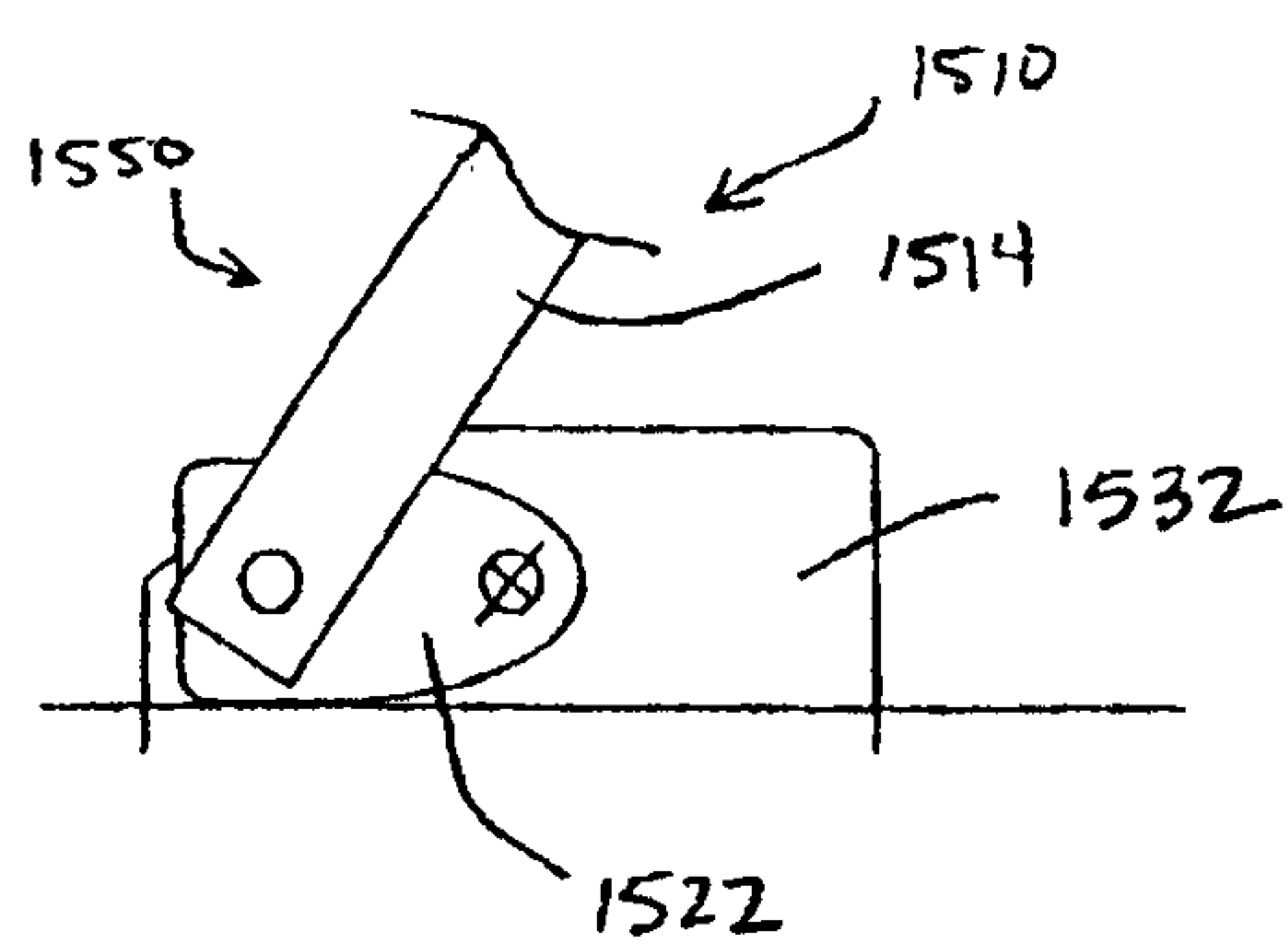


FIG. 41

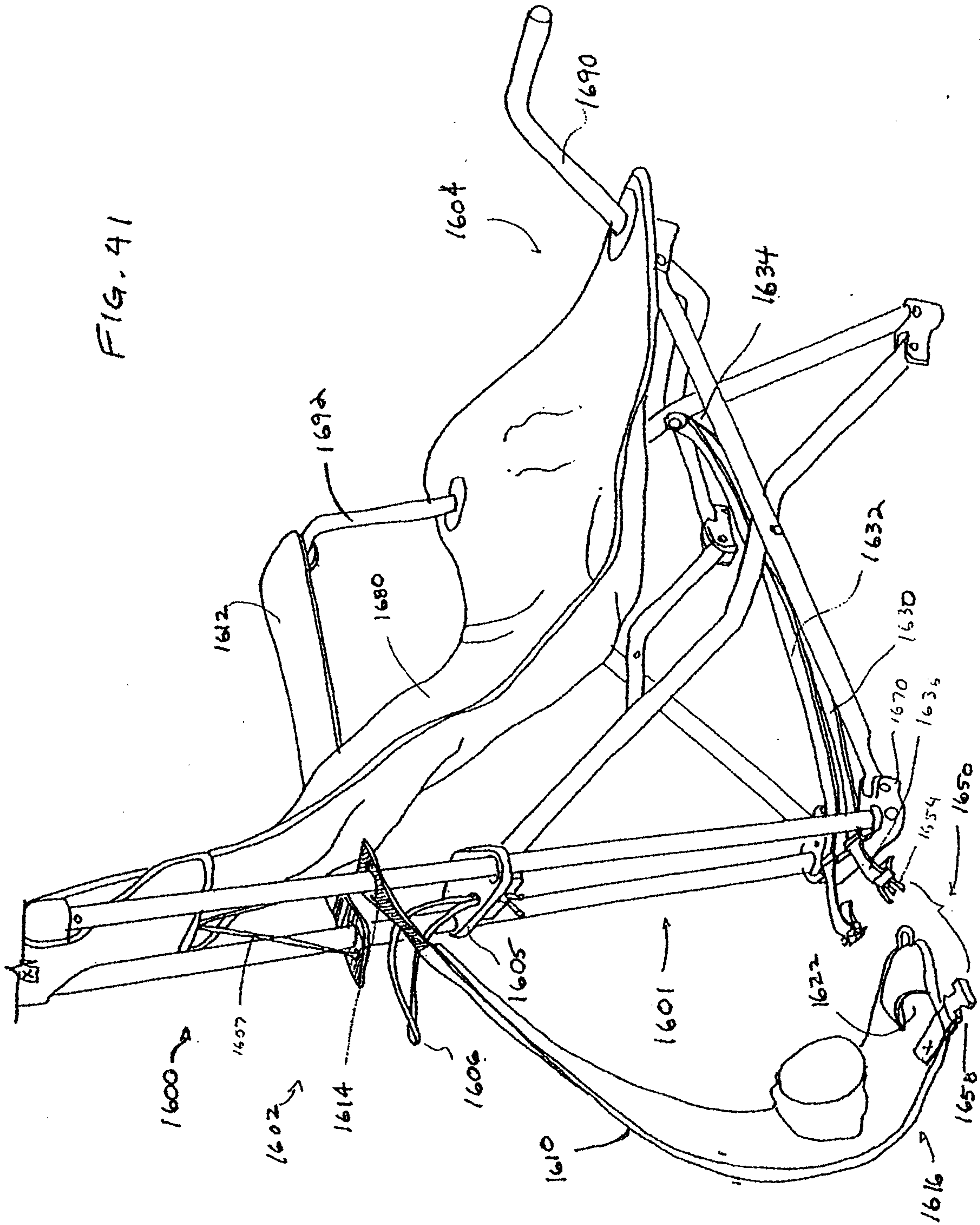
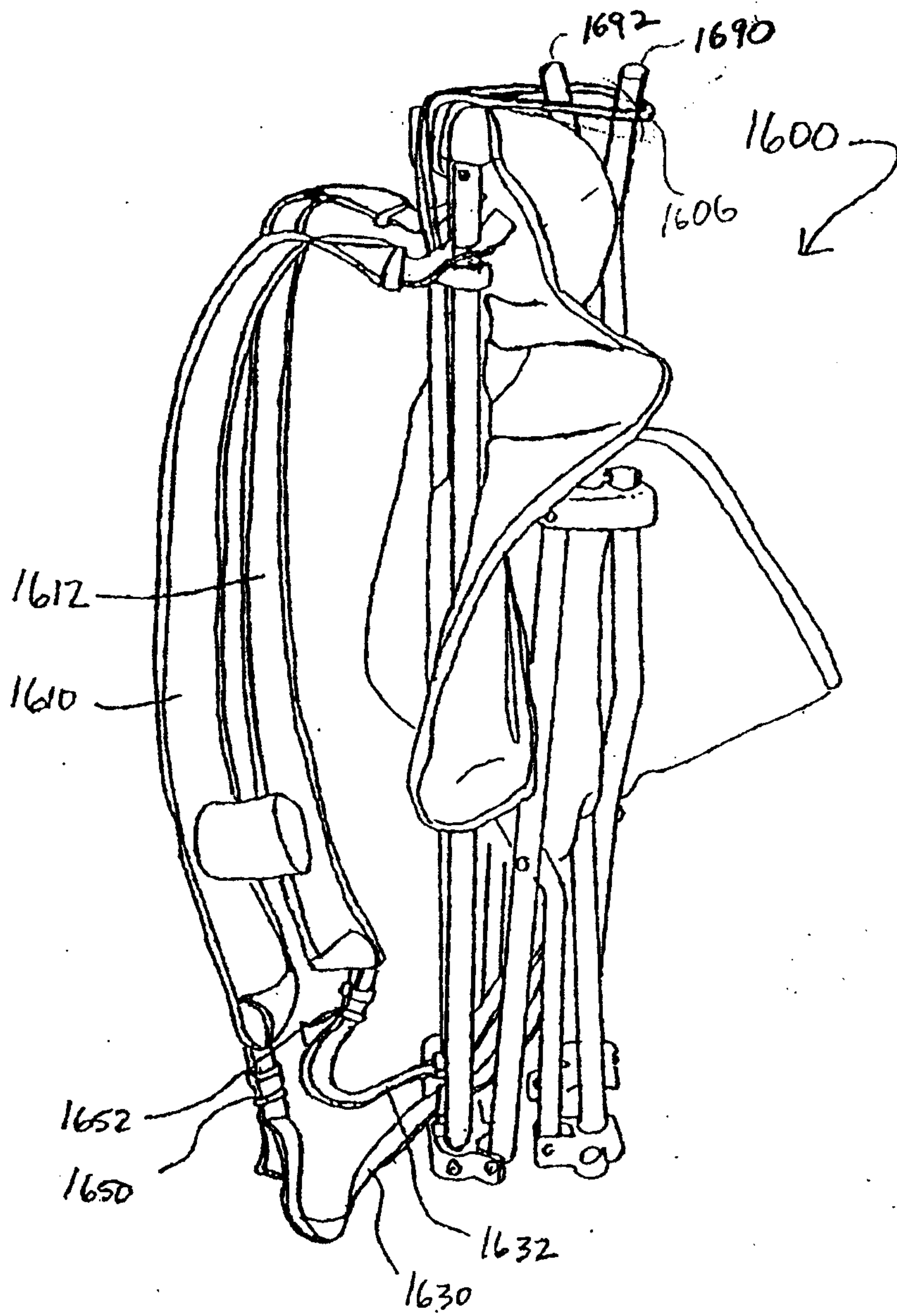


FIG. 42



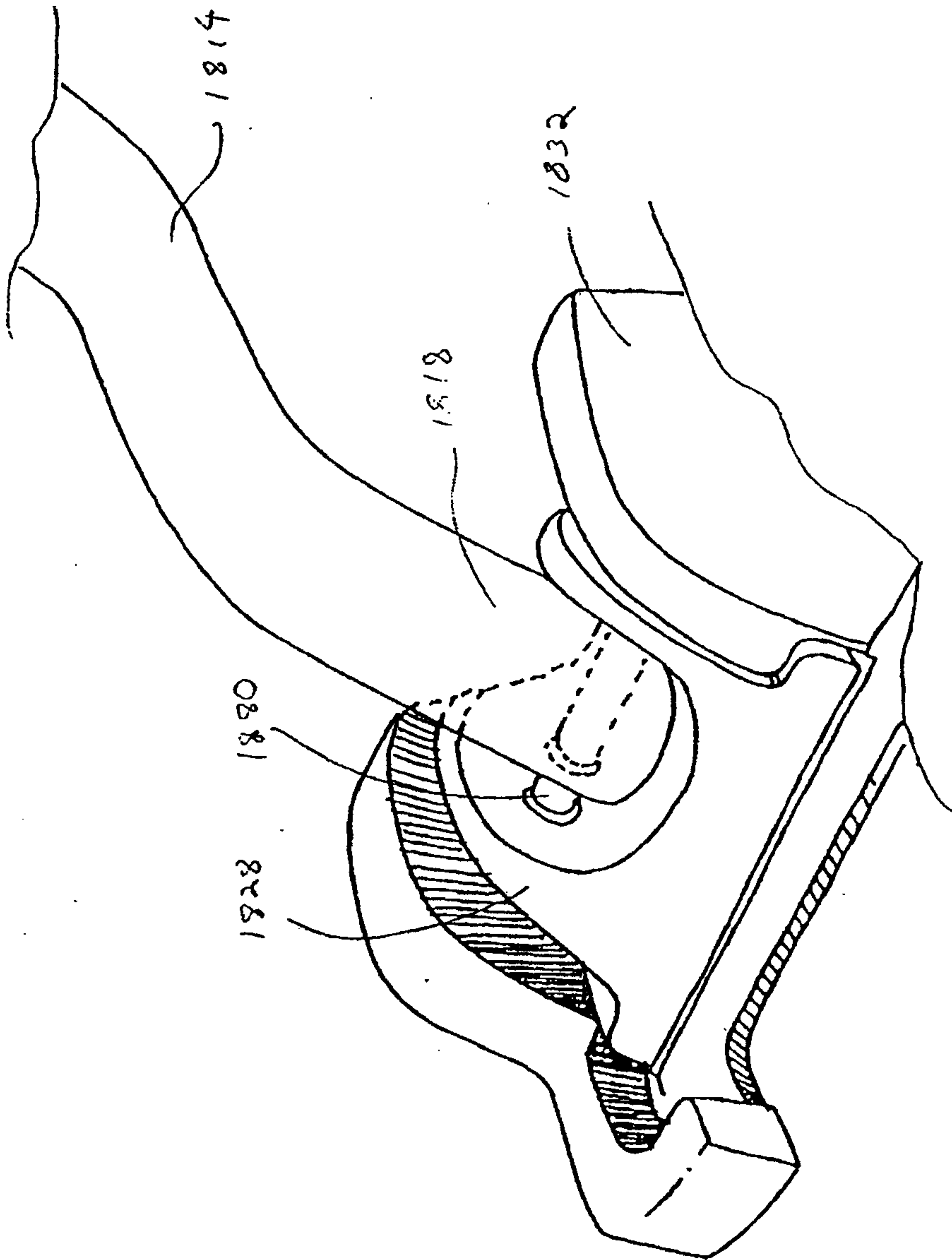


FIG. 43

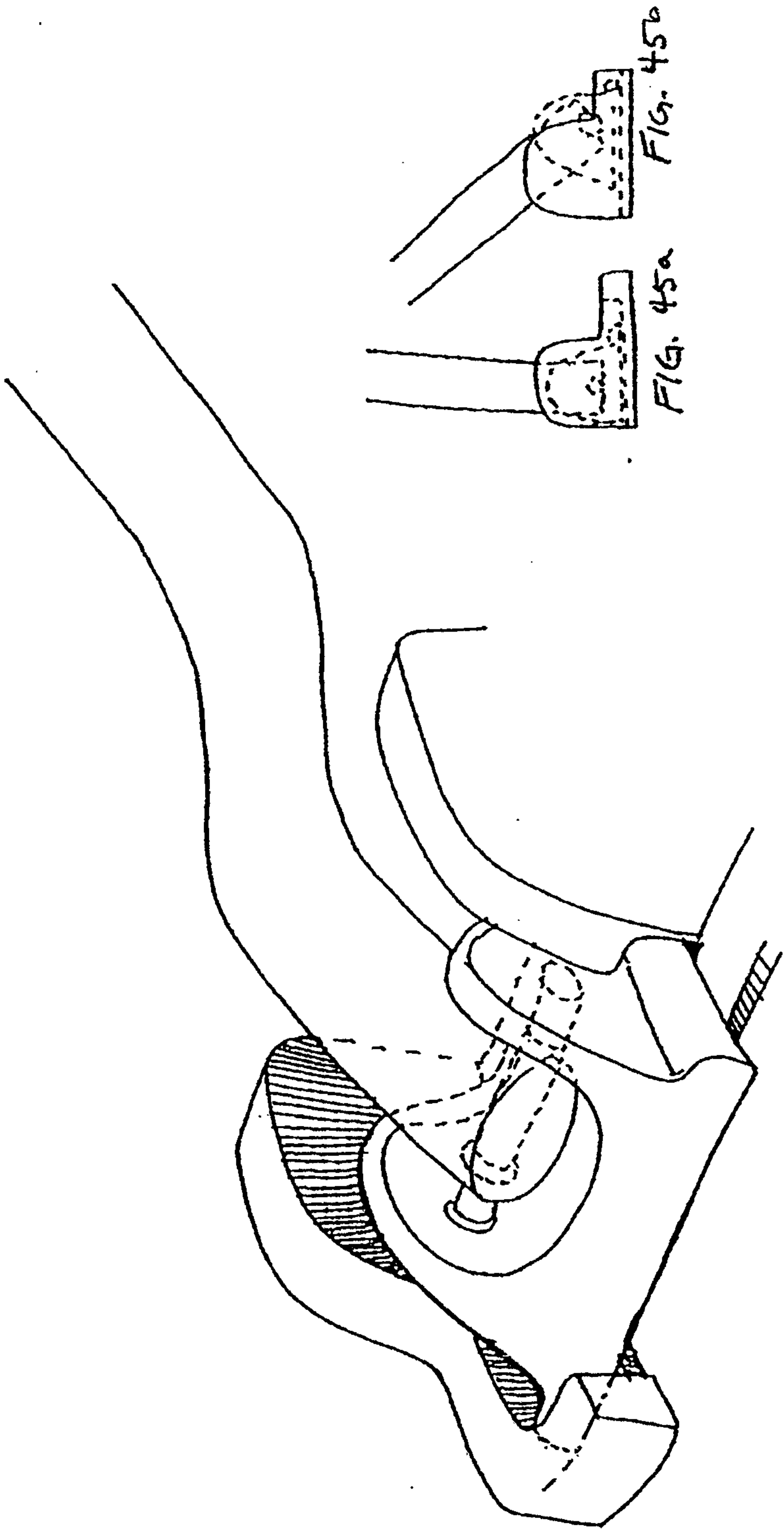


FIG. 44

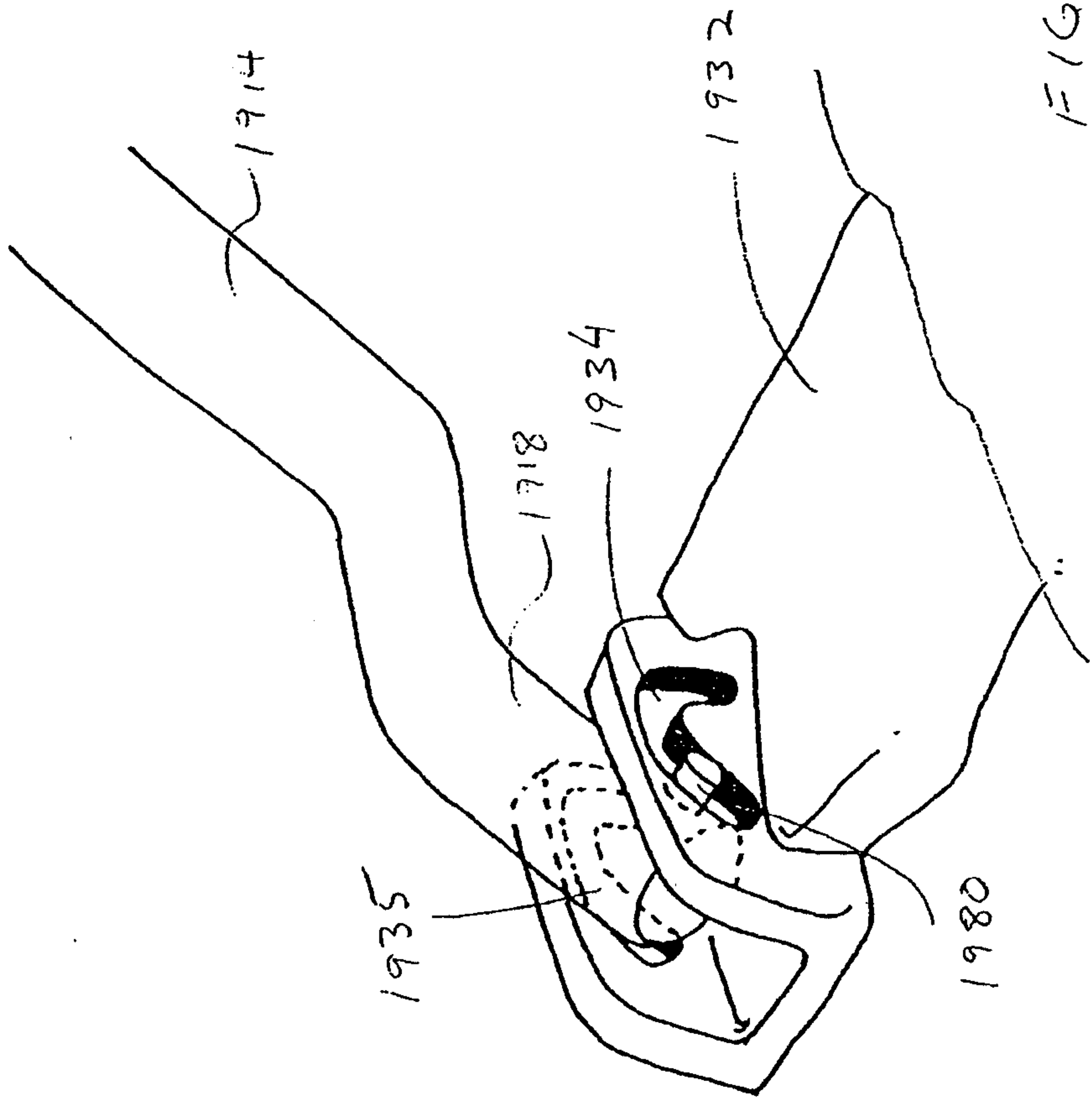


FIG. 46

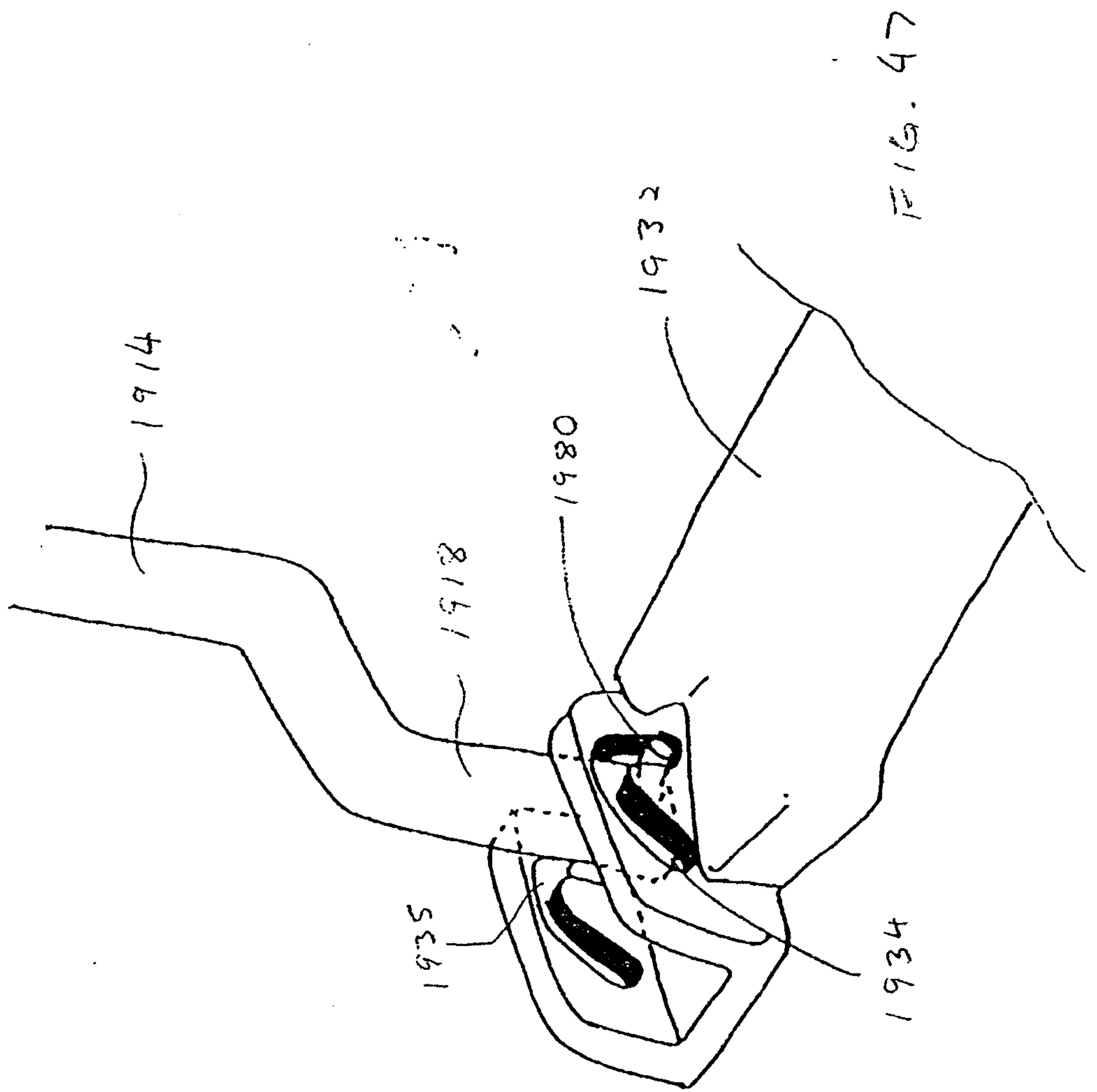


FIG. 49

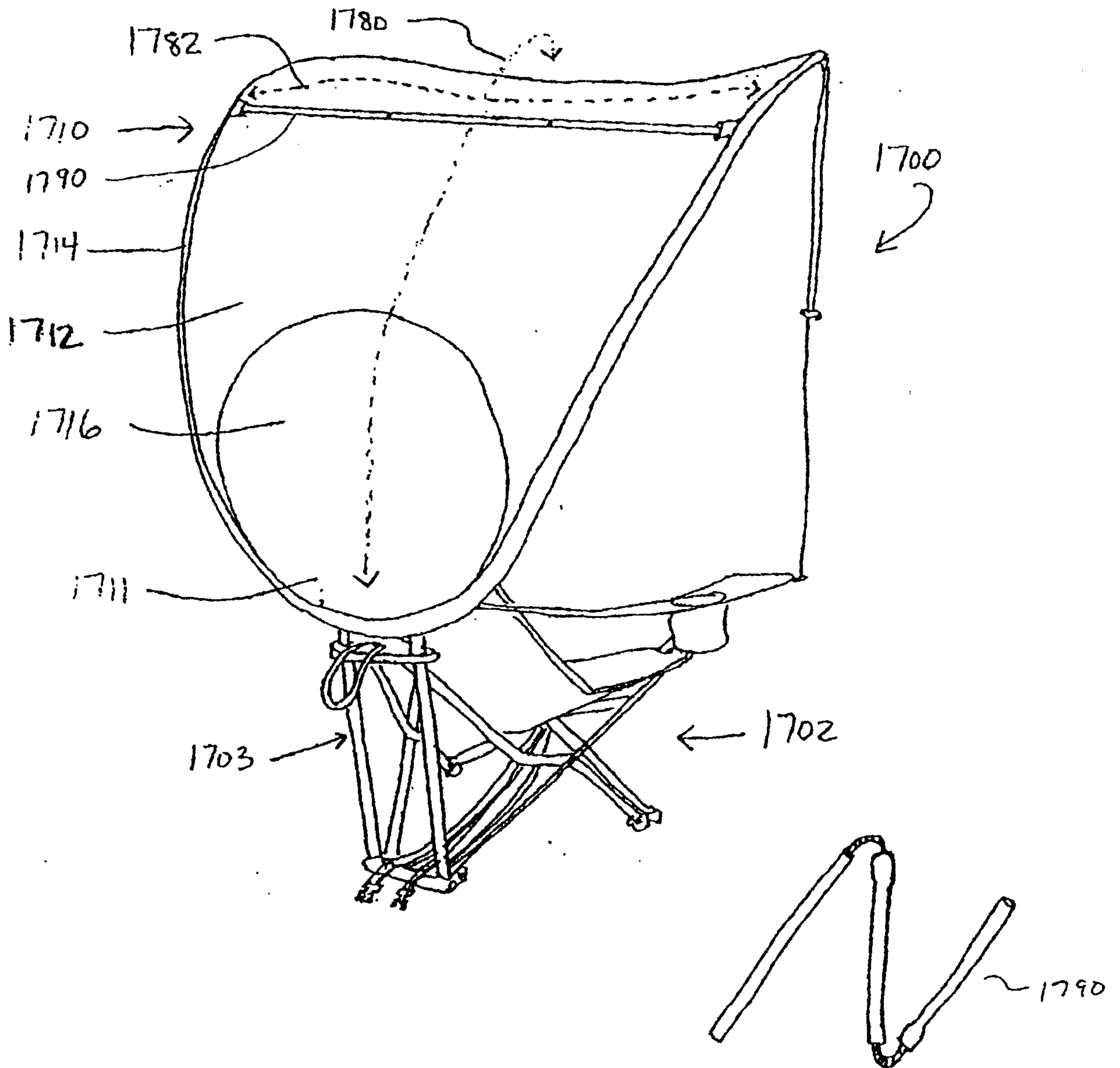


FIG. 50

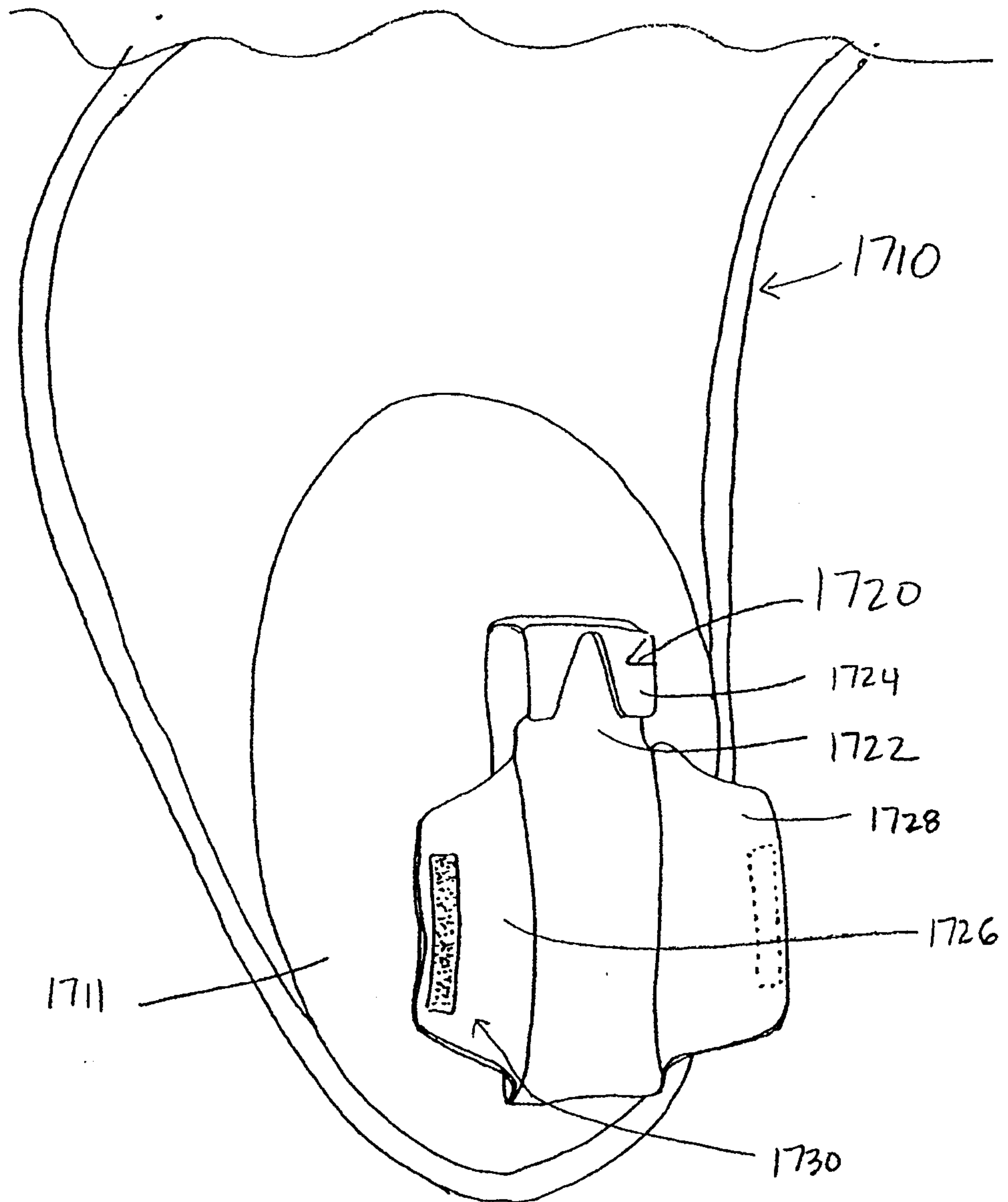


FIG. 51

