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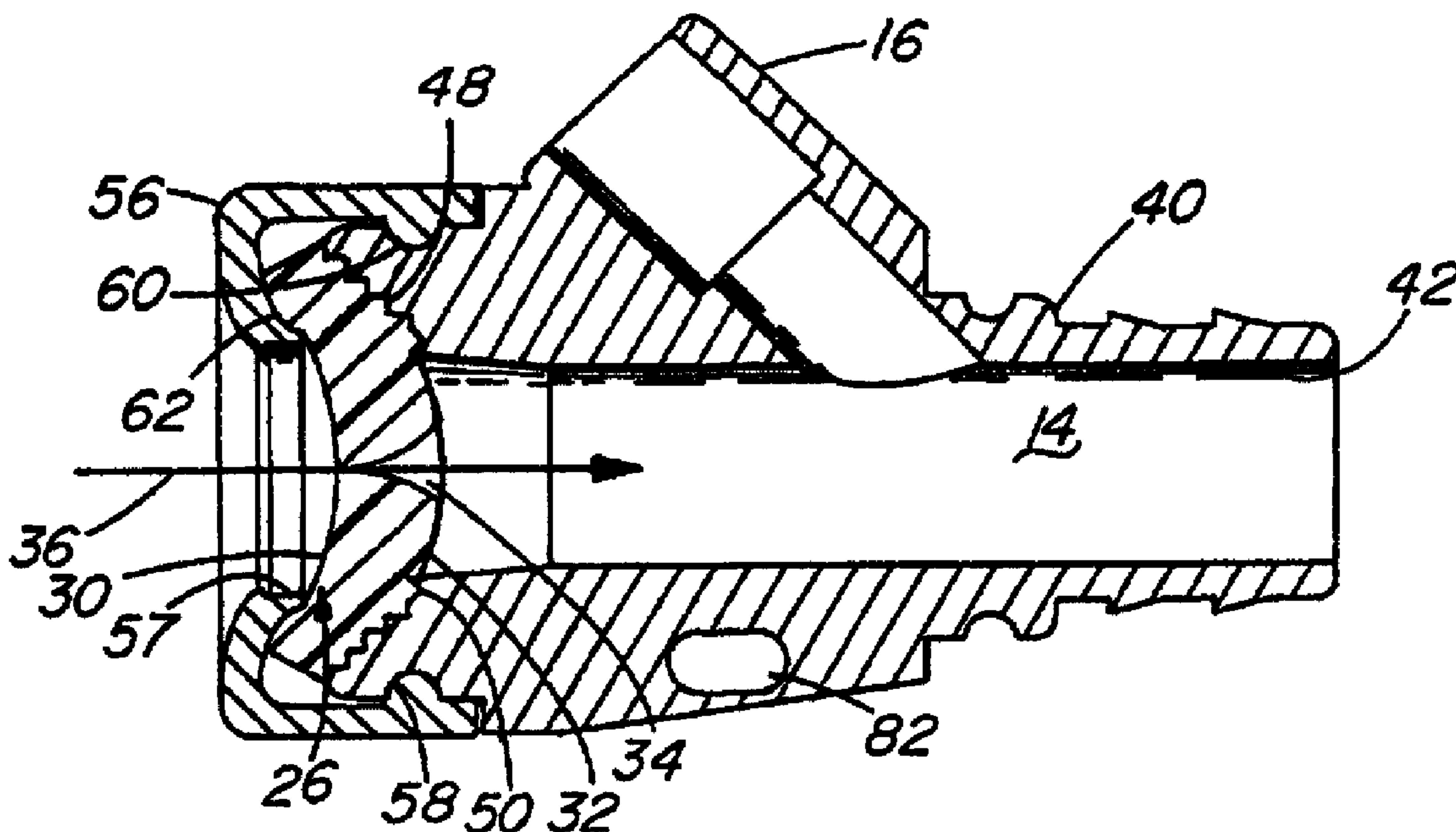
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(54) Titre : CLAPET DE REGLAGE DE FLUIDE A USAGE MEDICAL

(54) Title: MEDICAL FLUID FLOW CONTROL VALVE



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

A valve (10) useful as a fluid flow check valve or as a self-sealing, penetrable, hemostatic valve for sealing a catheter introducer (12) includes a seal (26) which is highly resistant to tearing and leakage, yet is capable of accepting repeated penetrations by devices of a wide variety of diameters. The seal (26) is disk-shaped and is composed of a thermoplastic styrenic elastomer, such as a styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene block copolymer, of low durometer (a hardness of no more than about 30 Shore A). The seal (26) is preferably contained in a valve body (40) and is compressed between a valve seat (48) in the valve body (40) and a cap (56) connected to the valve body (40). The seal (26) includes at least one perforation (34) closed by such compression. This compression also provides the seal (26) with a proximal or upstream concave surface (30), making it highly resistant to inversion during repeated removals and manipulations of interventional devices passing through the valve (10). The valve (10) of the present invention is particularly advantageous in that it seals the introducer (12) with a high degree of effectiveness when no interventional device lies across its seal (26), and in that it offers a high resistance to tearing when penetrated by devices of large diameter. The valve (10) also allows the easy passage of devices without interfering with tactile feedback ("feel") from them.



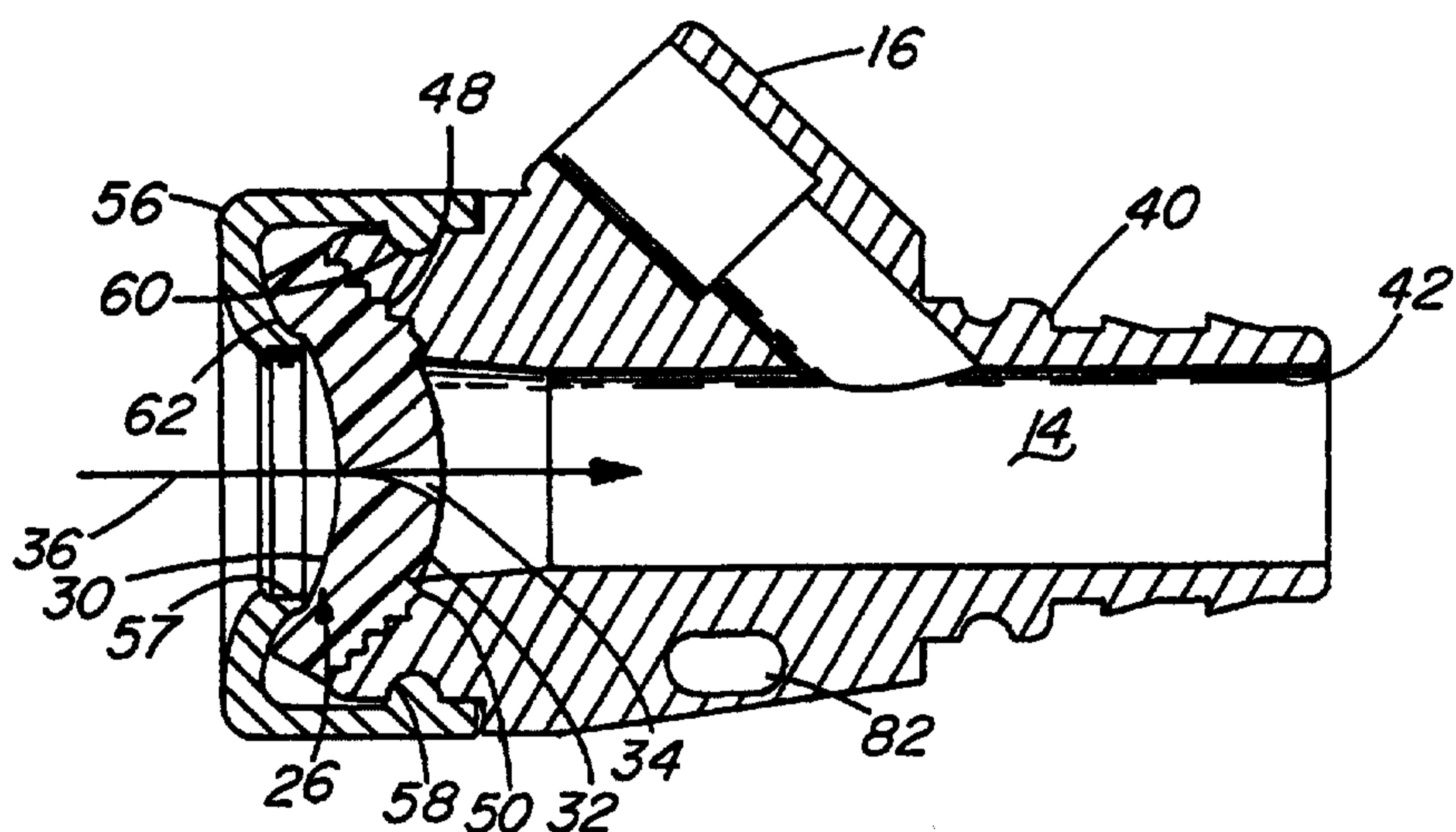
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(54) Title: MEDICAL FLUID FLOW CONTROL VALVE



(57) Abstract

A valve (10) useful as a fluid flow check valve or as a self-sealing, penetrable, hemostatic valve for sealing a catheter introducer (12) includes a seal (26) which is highly resistant to tearing and leakage, yet is capable of accepting repeated penetrations by devices of a wide variety of diameters. The seal (26) is disk-shaped and is composed of a thermoplastic styrenic elastomer, such as a styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene block copolymer, of low durometer (a hardness of no more than about 30 Shore A). The seal (26) is preferably contained in a valve body (40) and is compressed between a valve seat (48) in the valve body (40) and a cap (56) connected to the valve body (40). The seal (26) includes at least one perforation (34) closed by such compression. This compression also provides the seal (26) with a proximal or upstream concave surface (30), making it highly resistant to inversion during repeated removals and manipulations of interventional devices passing through the valve (10). The valve (10) of the present invention is particularly advantageous in that it seals the introducer (12) with a high degree of effectiveness when no interventional device lies across its seal (26), and in that it offers a high resistance to tearing when penetrated by devices of large diameter. The valve (10) also allows the easy passage of devices without interfering with tactile feedback ("feel") from them.

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MEDICAL FLUID FLOW CONTROL VALVE

Description

Technical Field

This invention relates generally to surgical devices, and more particularly to medical devices for controlling the flow of fluids through catheter introducers and other sheaths, cannulae, catheters, trocars, scopes and the like.

5

Background of the Invention

It is now well known to perform a variety of surgical procedures by the introduction of an interventional device into the body, for example, into an arterial or venous blood vessel, or into a laparoscopic or other cavity artificially maintained in 10 the body. Typical of the former type of procedure are coronary angiography (e.g., where an X-ray contrast fluid is inserted into the coronary artery) and percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA). These and other procedures involve the introduction of an interventional device, such as a catheter (open or closed end), a wire guide, a balloon, a stent, an atherectomy device, or the like into the vessel or 15 cavity in question. The single generic term "catheter" should be understood herein to include all of such interventional devices, unless the context limits the meaning of the term.

Procedures for introducing a catheter into a blood vessel include the cut-down method and the Seldinger technique. The Seldinger technique is well known, 20 and first involves opening a blood vessel with a needle, inserting a guide wire into the vessel through the lumen of the needle, withdrawing the needle and inserting a dilator over the guide wire. The dilator is located inside an associated sheath which is also inserted into the vessel, and the dilator is sealed to the sheath by a hemostasis or hemostatic valve through which the dilator passes. The dilator is 25 removed, and the catheter inserted through the sheath and hemostatic valve into the vessel.

During the performance of the Seldinger technique and other procedures, care must be taken to avoid the undesirable introduction of air into the vessel (air

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embolism) and the undesirable leakage of blood, other fluids or a cavity-pressurizing gas from the patient (as much for the protection of health care practitioners as of the patient). As procedures for introducing catheters and other interventional devices have become more widely accepted, the procedures have also become more diverse, 5 and the variety of sizes and types of devices employed has grown dramatically. The risks of inward or outward leakage thus become greater.

Because of such variety in the sizes and types of catheters and other devices to be handled, it would be highly desirable to have a hemostatic seal or other check valve which seals an introducer sheath or other device with a high degree of 10 effectiveness when no catheter or other interventional device lies across the seal or valve, and which is also capable of providing an acceptable seal to catheters and other interventional devices having a wide range of diameters. High resistance to tearing when penetrated by catheters and other interventional devices of large diameter is very desirable as well. It would also be valuable to have a hemostatic 15 seal or other check valve which allowed the easy passage through the seal or valve of devices of a very wide range of diameters, without interfering with tactile feedback from the catheter or other interventional device. Such tactile feedback is also known simply as "feel." It would also be desirable to have a hemostatic seal or other check valve which tolerated repeated insertions and withdrawals of catheters 20 or other interventional devices without any appreciable decrease in the performance characteristics of the seal or valve, especially with respect to leakage and "feel."

A variety of prior devices are known to act as hemostatic or check valves. For example, U.S. Patent No. 5,273,546 (McLaughlin et al., Dec. 28, 1993) discloses a hemostasis valve including an elastomeric gasket, the gasket having at 25 least one concave surface and a pin hole or slits through the central region of the gasket. The gasket is preferably composed of polyisoprene, but could also be composed of silicone rubber, natural rubber or a thermoplastic elastomer, such as an injection moldable synthetic rubber compound. The gasket material has a hardness of 30-50 Shore A, preferably 35-45 Shore A. One drawback of silicone rubbers and other materials of similar hardness is that such materials offer an inadequately soft 30 and compliant texture, so that the "feel" of the catheter or other interventional device

is less than adequate when the catheter or device is rotated or advanced. Selecting a silicone rubber of lower hardness is inadequate because the very low durometer silicone materials (below a hardness of 30 Shore A) do not currently offer the degree of resistance to tearing which would make the valve acceptably durable for surgical use.

5 U.S. Patent No. 5,141,498 (Christian, Aug. 25, 1992) is directed to a flexible valve which includes a body having a cylindrical wall with a central bore therein, and at least three flexible leaflets adjoining the central wall. The valve body is composed of an elastomeric material, for example, a urethane compound having a hardness of 20-50 Shore A, preferably 35 Shore A. The patent notes that a "rubber-like" compound identified as "Krayton" can also be used. The valve of the 10 reference is intended to remedy the specific drawbacks associated with the so-called "duckbill" type of valve having only two of such leaflets. Duckbill valves are well known to be subject to several drawbacks, not all of which are mentioned in the 15 patent. First, duckbill valves sometimes invert when relatively large diameter catheters or other interventional devices are inserted through them and then withdrawn. Moreover, they sometimes possess a large well behind them which can trap air or blood therein; this well cannot be flushed out in the conventional manner, that is, by injection through the side arm (or extension tube) commonly present in 20 devices incorporating hemostatic valves. Finally, duckbill valves commonly are unable to maintain a seal under a negative pressure or vacuum. This is seen, for example, when a health care practitioner draws on a syringe connected to the side arm; air is undesirably drawn through the valve and into the syringe and the body containing the valve. The Christian patent thus uses compounds of a specific type 25 (along with the additional leaflet) to cure problems associated with a specific valve construction, and makes no general teachings about such compounds which would apply to other types of valves. Moreover, the patent does not appear to disclose or suggest that all of the indicated compounds were in fact useful over the entire range of hardness specified.

30 U.S. Patent No. 5,025,829 (Edwards et al., Jun. 25, 1991) is directed to a parenteral check valve including a preloaded, perforate disk made of a thermoplastic

elastomer, an elastomeric material or a thermoplastic material having a hardness of 35 to 100 Shore A. An example of such a material is a "KRATON" brand thermoplastic elastomer. ("KRATON" is believed to be a registered trademark of Shell Chemical Company.) The disk seals against a circular flange or ring on a 5 perforate seat in the valve; fluid pressure moves the disk away from the flange to allow fluid flow through the perforations in the disk.

Finally, U.S. Patent No. 5,342,315 (Rowe et al., Aug. 30, 1994, incorporating by reference the application leading to U.S. Patent No. 5,545,142, Stephens et al., Aug. 13, 1996) discloses a variety of trocar seals made from 10 elastomeric materials such as silicon, latex, rubber, polyurethane, "Kraton" (specifically, a thermoplastic elastomer of A-B-A type, in particular, styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer) or the like. It is believed that S-I-S type block copolymers typically have a hardness of 30 to 40 Shore A, comparable to the other identified elastomers, all of which lack the durability and resistance to splitting desirable for 15 hemostatic valves and other check valves.

Again, it would be highly desirable to have a hemostatic valve or other check valve which overcomes the various drawbacks associated with these and other devices, as noted above.

According to the present invention, there is a valve arrangement for 20 controlling the flow of fluid through a medical device, wherein the arrangement comprises a seal to be disposed in the fluid flow, at least one aperture to be found in the seal to permit fluid flow through the seal, and means for causing the material of the seal at least in the region of the or each perforation to close the perforation(s). The said material can be compressible, and the said means can be designed to 25 compress the said material of the seal, at least in the region of the or each perforation, in order to close the perforation(s). The seal can be mounted in order to be changed between one state and another state, so that when the seal is in the said one state, the aperture(s) is open to permit fluid flow, and when the other state, the aperture(s) is closed to prevent fluid flow, and in which the said means serves to 30 transfer the seal between the said states. The said material can be of low durometer thermoplastic. Alternatively, in another aspect of the invention, the material of the

seal can be of resilient material whereby the seal can be moved between a concave state and a convex state, and wherein the or each aperture is formed in such a manner that the aperture(s) is open in one of the states and closed in the other of the states.

5 Each aperture can be rectangular in shape and can be lined with a softer material in order to ensure total closure of the aperture, even when instruments are passed therethrough.

10 In yet another aspect of the invention, the foregoing problems are solved and a technical advance is achieved in an illustrative fluid flow check valve, or valve for sealing catheter introducers and the like. The valve of the present invention includes a perforate disk seal which is compressed so as to possess a concave face in the proximal or upstream direction. The disk seal is composed of a low durometer thermoplastic material, preferably a styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene block copolymer, having a hardness of no more than about 30 Shore A. Unexpectedly, the 15 seal of the present invention is highly resistant to tearing or splitting when repeatedly penetrated by catheters or other interventional devices which would render silicone or other rubber seals of similar hardness useless. Not only is the seal of the present invention resistant to such splitting, the seal also maintains a very good fluid seal against the periphery of the catheter or other inserted device. The present invention 20 is particularly advantageous over the prior art in that it achieves these functions while simultaneously permitting the health care practitioner very good "feel" of the catheter or other device introduced through the seal.

25 In one aspect, then, the present invention is directed to a valve for a fluid flow path of a medical device, comprising: a seal disposed in the fluid flow path, the seal being composed of a very low durometer thermoplastic styrenic elastomer having a hardness of no more than about 30 Shore A, and the seal having an uncompressed condition in which the seal is shaped generally as a disk and has opposed first and second faces and at least one perforation extending through the seal from the first face to the second face; and means connected to the fluid flow 30 path for compressing the seal so as to close the at least one perforation in the seal.

The first and second faces of the seal define a distal or downstream preferred direction of movement through the at least one perforation through the seal. Such movement is by a catheter or other interventional device when the valve of the present invention is incorporated into an introducer sheath or the like, or by 5 fluid when the valve is a fluid flow check valve.

Preferably, the seal is composed of a thermoplastic styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene (SEBS) block copolymer having a hardness between about 2 Shore A and 30 Shore A, and more preferably, a hardness of about 13 Shore A to 10 15 Shore A. Such thermoplastic elastomeric block copolymers have been found to withstand repeated penetrations by catheters and other interventional devices of a wide variety of sizes without tearing or leaking. Materials incorporating "KRATON" G polymers have been found particularly useful for this purpose. (As noted above, "KRATON" is believed to be a trademark of Shell Chemical Company for polymers.)

Also preferably, the compressing means imparts a concave shape to the 15 first face of the seal, that is, the face that faces outwardly from the valve and which is first penetrated by the catheter or other interventional device. Such a shape has been found to be very important in preventing inversion of the seal during or after 20 rotation or distal movement of the catheter or other device, thereby avoiding undesired leakage from the introducer sheath. A convenient compressing means for shaping the seal in this manner comprises a valve body defining at least part of the flow path, a valve seat formed in the valve body and a cap engageable with the valve body adjacent to the valve seat. The seal is received between and compressed between the cap and the valve body, preferably, between the cap and the valve seat.

The concave shape of the seal can be maintained or augmented by a facing 25 pair of annular flanges located one each on the cap and valve seat, each of the flanges abutting a face of the seal. The cap flange can be formed integrally, that is, as a unit with the remainder of the cap. It is convenient, however, to form the flange on a separate ring received in the cap. The ring is positioned in the opening in the cap through which the catheter or other interventional device is inserted into the flow 30 path.

It is highly preferred that the valve seat is formed as a series of steps in the valve body, the steps decreasing in radius in the distal or downstream direction.

It is also highly preferred that, when the seal is in its uncompressed condition, the at least one perforation through the seal is wider at the second face of the seal (the distal or downstream face) than it is at the first face (the proximal or upstream face). The at least one perforation can be Y-shaped in cross-section but can possess a substantial length transverse to that cross-section. Such a perforation is referred to as "Y-shaped." The at least one perforation can alternatively be circular or oval in shape.

10 In another aspect, the present invention is directed to a device of the type disclosed above, comprising a number of the distinct elements described above. In particular, in this aspect the present invention is directed to a valve for a fluid flow path, comprising: a seal disposed in the fluid flow path, the seal being composed of a very low durometer thermoplastic elastomeric styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene block copolymer having a hardness of no more than about 30 Shore A, and the seal having an uncompressed condition in which the seal is shaped generally as a disk and has opposed first and second faces and at least one perforation extending through the seal from the first face to the second face; and means connected to the fluid flow path for compressing the seal so as to close the at least one perforation in the seal; wherein the compressing means comprises a valve body defining at least part of the flow path, a valve seat formed in the valve body and a cap engageable with the valve body, the seal being compressed between the cap and the valve seat; and wherein the cap and the valve seat each include respective annular cap and valve seat flanges facing each other and abutting the first and second faces of the seal, respectively, imparting a concave shape to the first face of the seal; wherein the first and second faces of the seal define a preferred direction of movement through the at least one perforation, and wherein the compressing means imparts a concave shape to the first face of the seal facing opposite the preferred direction of movement through the at least one perforation; and wherein when the seal is in its uncompressed condition, the at least one perforation is wider at the second face of the seal than at the first face of the seal.

In yet another aspect, the present invention is directed to an improvement in a valve for a fluid flow path, the valve including a perforate elastomeric disk closing the flow path, the improvement wherein the disk is composed of a thermoplastic styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene block copolymer having a hardness of no more than about 30 Shore A.

In still another aspect, the present invention is directed to an improvement in a self-sealing, penetrable, hemostatic valve for an introducer for a catheter or other interventional device, the catheter or other interventional device having a proximal end, and the valve including a generally disk-shaped seal receiving and sealing around the periphery of the catheter or other interventional device when inserted in the introducer, the improvement wherein the seal is composed of a thermoplastic styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene block copolymer having a hardness of no more than about 30 Shore A, and wherein the seal is compressed so as to present a concave face towards the proximal end of the catheter or other interventional device.

The valve of the present invention is particularly advantageous over prior seals in that it possesses a high degree of effectiveness when no catheter or other interventional device lies across the seal or valve, and simultaneously provides an acceptable seal to catheters and other interventional devices having a wide range of diameters. The valve of the present invention also possesses a high resistance to tearing when penetrated by catheters or other interventional devices of large diameter. The valve of the present invention allows the easy passage devices of a very wide range of diameters without interfering with tactile feedback from them. The valve of the present invention seals well against vacuum or a negative pressure. The valve of the present invention tolerates repeated insertions and withdrawals of catheters or other interventional devices without any appreciable decrease in the performance characteristics of the seal or valve, especially with respect to leakage and "feel." Finally, the valve of the present invention is advantageous in that the compression placed upon the seal prevents undue inversion of the seal surface despite repeated removals and manipulations of devices lying across the valve.

Brief Description of the Drawings

A better understanding of the present invention will now be had upon reference to the following detailed description, when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, wherein like reference characters refer to like parts throughout the several views, and in which:

5 FIG. 1 is a side view of the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is an exploded view of a portion of the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

10 FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view taken in the plane of FIG. 2, with the cap fitted to the body, and with the seal omitted for clarity;

FIG. 4 is a detail of part of the view of FIG. 3;

15 FIG. 5A is a rear, distal view of a seal employed in the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 5B is a cross-sectional view taken along line 5B - 5B of FIG. 5A;

FIG. 5C is a cross-sectional view taken along line 5C - 5C of FIG. 5A;

20 FIG. 6A is a front, proximal view of a seal employed in the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 6B is a cross-sectional view taken along line 6B - 6B of FIG. 6A;

FIG. 6C is a cross-sectional view taken along line 6C - 6C of FIG. 6A;

25 FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view similar to that of FIG. 3, but with the seal shown in position between the cap and the body;

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view of a portion of another preferred embodiment of the present invention;

25 FIG. 9A is a front, proximal view of another seal employed in the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 9B is a cross-sectional view taken along line 9B - 9B of Fig. 9A;

FIG. 10 is a front, proximal view of another seal employed in the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

30 FIG. 11 is a cross-sectional view of another seal employed in the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

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FIG. 12 depicts a cross-sectional view of another embodiment of the present invention and in particular a flexible seal with an aperture extending therethrough when the seal is in a concave position; and

5 FIG. 13 depicts the seal of FIG. 12 when it is flexed into a convex position, thus closing the aperture extending therethrough.

Detailed Description

With reference first to FIG. 1 illustrating a preferred embodiment of the present invention, a valve 10 useful as a check valve in a fluid flow path of a medical device, or as a hemostatic valve for an introducer for a catheter or other interventional device, is thereshown. More particularly, the valve 10 is shown as incorporated into a catheter introducer 12, and as such finds particular utility as a self-sealing, penetrable, hemostatic valve. The valve 10 is employed in the conventional fashion. For example, a guide wire 18 is first advanced through the valve 10, in a distal or downstream direction indicated by arrow 36, and into and through a conventional sheath 46 incorporated in the introducer 12. When the guide wire 18 is suitably positioned, an interventional device (exemplified by a catheter 20) is distally advanced over the guide wire 18 by fitting the distal end 24 of the catheter 20 over the proximal end of the guide wire 18. The catheter 20 conveniently includes a proximal end 22 adapted for connection to other medical treatment devices as appropriate. A side arm 16 is provided for its usual functions, as is a suture hole 82 for securing the introducer 12 to a patient or to patient bedding.

With reference now to FIGs. 2 and 3, the valve 10 of the present invention first comprises a seal 26 disposed in a fluid flow path 14. The seal 26 is preferably composed of a low durometer thermoplastic styrenic elastomer having a hardness of no more than about 30 Shore A. Other materials exhibiting equivalent properties are contemplated. Preferably, the styrenic elastomer is selected to possess a resistance to tearing equivalent to that possessed by a thermoplastic styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene block copolymer elastomer having a hardness of no more than about 30 Shore A. Also preferably, the hardness of the elastomer ranges between about 30 Shore A and 2 Shore A. More preferably, the hardness of the

elastomer is about 13 Shore A to about 15 Shore A. Most preferably, the elastomer is a styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene block copolymer. "KRATON" G, and materials containing it, for example, "DYNAFLEX" G, are especially preferred as elastomers for the seal 26 of the present invention. ("DYNAFLEX" is believed to be a trademark of 5 GLS Corporation, Cary, IL.)

The seal 26 is conveniently formed by thermoplastic molding, and the details of processes of thermoplastic molding should be well known to those skilled in this area; accordingly, no detailed description of the manufacture of the seal 26 need be given here. The seal 26 possesses an initial, uncompressed condition in 10 which the seal 26 is generally shaped as a disk 28 having opposed first 30 and second 32 faces. Although, other geometric configurations, other than a disk, are clearly contemplated so as to conform with any medical device fluid flow path configurations. The seal 26 also possesses at least one (and, when the valve 10 is employed as a hemostatic valve, preferably only one) perforation 34 extending 15 through it from the first face 30 to the second face 32.

The valve 10 of the present invention also comprises a means 38 connected to the fluid flow path 14 for compressing the seal 26 so as to close the at least one perforation 34. The compressing means 38 first comprises a valve body 40 defining at least part of the flow path 14 therein, for example, by a fluid bore 42 formed in the valve body 40. The valve body 40 is composed of a suitable medical grade synthetic or other material. The compressing means 38 also comprises a cap 56 engageable with the valve body 40, composed of the same or a different medical grade synthetic or other material. The seal 26 is positioned between the cap 56 and the valve body 40 so that, when the cap 56 is engaged with the valve body 40, the seal 26 is compressed between the cap 56 and the valve body 40. The cap 56 is retained on the valve body 40 by the mating engagement of an inwardly depending 20 annular bead 58 on the interior of the cap 56 with an annular groove 60 on the outside of the valve body 40. The compressing means 38 also preferably comprises a valve seat 48 formed in the valve body 40. The seal 26 is abutted against the 25 valve seat 48 when the cap 56 is engaged with the valve body 40.

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In another aspect of the present invention, the valve 10 can be characterized as a valve arrangement for controlling the flow of fluid through or medical device, wherein the arrangement comprises a seal 26 to be disposed in the fluid flow. At least one aperture is found in the seal to permit fluid flow through the seal. The arrangement also includes means 38, 58 for causing the material of the seal at least in the region of or each perforation to class the perforation(s).

The first 30 and second 32 faces of the seal 26 define a distal, downstream or insertion direction, the same direction as arrow 36, which is a preferred direction for movement either of a fluid through the at least one perforation 34 of the seal 26 (when the valve 10 is configured for use as a check valve), or of the catheter 20 or other interventional device during insertion into the introducer 12. The compressing means 38 imparts a concave shape to the first face 30 of the seal 26 (FIG. 7), a shape which faces in a direction opposite to the preferred direction of movement (that is, opposite the arrow 36) through the at least one perforation 34. This opposite direction is therefore the upstream direction when the valve 10 is configured as a check valve, and the proximal direction when the valve 10 is incorporated in the catheter introducer 12.

This concave shape imparted to the first face 30 of the seal 26 is important for the achievement of several of the advantages of the present invention. The compressing means 38 therefore preferably comprises several further features for maintaining the concave shape of the first face 30 of the seal 26. For example, the cap 56 preferably includes an annular flange 62 extending towards the valve body 40. The cap flange 62 abuts the first face 30 of the seal 26, to impart a concave shape to the first face 30 of the seal 26. Similarly, the valve seat 48 also includes an annular flange 50 extending away from the valve body 40, abutting the second face 32 of the seal 26. The valve seat flange 50 serves to impart a concave shape to the first face 30 of the seal 26, as well as to impart a convex shape to the second face 32 of the seal 26. To further ensure that the upstream, proximal, first face 30 of the seal 26 is concave in shape, the valve seat 48 is preferably formed as a series of annular steps 54 recessed in the valve body 40, the steps 54 being of decreasing radius in the preferred direction of movement through the at least one seal

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perforation 34 (FIG. 4). These ridged steps 54 serve to prevent the seal 26 from being displaced during introduction, advancement or removal of the catheter 20 or another interventional device from the valve 10.

As more clearly shown in FIGs. 5A-5C (as well as in FIGs. 6A-6C), when 5 the seal 26 is in its uncompressed condition, that is, when not compressed between the cap 56 and the valve body 40, the at least one perforation 34 is wider at the second face 32 (the eventual downstream or distal face) than it is at the first face 30 (the eventual upstream or proximal face). This ensures that the at least one 10 perforation will in fact close when the seal 26 is compressed by the compressing means 38. Preferably, the at least one seal perforation 34 is Y-shaped when the seal 26 is in its uncompressed condition. The "Y" is of course the cross-sectional shape 15 of the at least one perforation 34 shown in FIG. 5C; as shown in FIG. 5B, however, the at least one perforation 34 has a significant width. Alternatively, as shown in FIGs. 6A-6C, the at least one perforation 34 can be oval in shape, possessing an increasing cross-section from the first seal face 30 to the second seal face 32.

FIG. 12 depicts a cross-sectional view of an alternative embodiment of the present invention in which flexible seal 28 is positioned in a concave position with open aperture 34 extending therethrough. The material of this alternative embodiment seal can be different from that previously described. It can be stiff yet 20 resilient, but aperture 34 could have a soft lining. As a result, this alternative embodiment seal can be incorporated in a valve arrangement, similar to that of FIG. 3, in which there are two facing valve seals 48 and eliminating flange 62. Cap 56 can be pushed into two positions; one position for the concave position or state of 25 the seal and a second state representing the convex position of the seal depicted in FIG. 13.

FIG. 13 depicts seal 28 of FIG. 12 with the seal positioned in a second state or convex position as shown. In this second state or convex position, aperture of 34 is closed thus preventing the flow of fluid therethrough. In this alternative embodiment seal, the seal is operated between at least two different 30 positions or configurations, whereas the aperture 34 changes configuration between

an open and a closed position as a result of varying the seal between its different positions or configurations.

Use of the valve 10 of the present invention is remarkably straightforward. The introducer sheath 12 in which the valve 10 is contained is suitably positioned with respect to the patient. The guide wire 18, the catheter 20 or other interventional device is distally advanced in the direction of arrow 36 until it passes through a central opening 57 in the cap 56, then engages and passes through the at least one opening 34 in the seal 26. The fact that the first face 30 of the seal 26 is concave in shape aids such engagement and passing. The concave shape also prevents or substantially prevents inversion of the shape of the seal 26 when the guide wire 18, the catheter 20 or other interventional device is rotated or manipulated within the valve 10, or moved in a proximal direction opposite to the arrow 36.

The particularly disclosed arrangement of the cap 56 and valve body 40 has the advantage during use that it provides some space for the displacement of the material of the seal 26 when larger diameter catheters 20 or other devices are inserted; the seal 26 will expand during such insertion. Advantageously, a single size of seal 26 is useful for the entire range of sheath or catheter sizes from 9.5 Fr to 16 Fr. The disk 28 of the seal 26, by way of example, is preferably about 0.535 in. (13.6 mm) in diameter and 0.110 in. (2.8 mm) thick, with the at least one perforation sized in the proportions shown in the Figures. In such a case, hemostasis (sealing) is maintained not only for 0.020 in. (0.51 mm) diameter guide wires, but for diameters up to 16 Fr. catheters, balloons, dilators, stent introducers and other devices. A different sized valve is not required for each different French size, in contrast to several prior devices.

Alternate constructions for the cap 56, the valve body 40 or valve seat 48, and the seal 26 may facilitate manufacture or use of the valve 10. For example, as shown in FIG. 8, the flange 62 of the cap 56, which abuts the first face 30 of the seal 26, does not have to be formed integrally with the cap 56. Instead, the cap flange 62 can be formed as a separate ring 64 received in the cap 56, for example, press fit into the opening 57 of the cap 56. The apex of the cap flange 62 can

conveniently lie at the inside diameter of the ring 64. The inside diameter of the cap flange 62 can be greater than or equal to the inside diameter of the seat flange 50, but as shown in FIG. 7 is preferably less than the inside diameter of the seat flange 50. Additional rings (not shown) can be added at the annular corners where the seal 26 meets the cap 56 and/or the valve body 40 or valve seat 48. Such rings would 5 serve to further support or further shape the seal 26.

As shown in FIGs. 9A-11, the compressing means 38 can include a portion 66 carried by the low durometer seal 26 itself. For example, as shown in FIGs. 9A and 9B, the seal 26 can comprise a low durometer central portion 68 surrounded by 10 an outer ring 70 composed of a material having a greater hardness. Indeed, the outer ring 70 conveniently can be, but need not necessarily be, composed of a thermoplastic elastomer. Alternatively, the seal can comprise the low durometer central portion 68 and a pair of metal forms or wings 72 embedded in or affixed to a face of the central portion 68 (FIG. 10). The wings 72 can be composed of 15 stainless steel, nitinol alloy, or another medical grade material more rigid than the low durometer central portion 68.

FIG. 11 shows a T-shaped seal 74 serving the same function as the seal 26, having a central body 78 with the at least one perforation 34 extending through it, and an annular outer, turned-over edge 76 spaced from but surrounding the central body 78. The body 78 and edge 76 are composed of the same elastomer as the seal 26. However, like the embodiments in FIGs. 9A-10, the seal 74 includes a portion 66 of the compressing means 38 on it. In particular, the portion 66 is an outer band or ring 80 surrounding the central body 78 but positioned radially inward of the outer edge 76 of the seal 74. The outer ring 80 can be composed of a thermoplastic elastomer having a hardness greater than that of the central body 78 (for example, a silicone band having a hardness of about 30 to 50 Shore A), or can be configured as a wire wrap or coil composed of stainless steel, nitinol alloy or another medical grade material. The ring 80 would be sufficiently strong to provide enough radial compression to close the at least one perforation 34 by itself. In use, the outer edge 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100 105 110 115 120 125 130 135 140 145 150 155 160 165 170 175 180 185 190 195 200 205 210 215 220 225 230 235 240 245 250 255 260 265 270 275 280 285 290 295 300 305 310 315 320 325 330 335 340 345 350 355 360 365 370 375 380 385 390 395 400 405 410 415 420 425 430 435 440 445 450 455 460 465 470 475 480 485 490 495 500 505 510 515 520 525 530 535 540 545 550 555 560 565 570 575 580 585 590 595 600 605 610 615 620 625 630 635 640 645 650 655 660 665 670 675 680 685 690 695 700 705 710 715 720 725 730 735 740 745 750 755 760 765 770 775 780 785 790 795 800 805 810 815 820 825 830 835 840 845 850 855 860 865 870 875 880 885 890 895 900 905 910 915 920 925 930 935 940 945 950 955 960 965 970 975 980 985 990 995 1000 1005 1010 1015 1020 1025 1030 1035 1040 1045 1050 1055 1060 1065 1070 1075 1080 1085 1090 1095 1100 1105 1110 1115 1120 1125 1130 1135 1140 1145 1150 1155 1160 1165 1170 1175 1180 1185 1190 1195 1200 1205 1210 1215 1220 1225 1230 1235 1240 1245 1250 1255 1260 1265 1270 1275 1280 1285 1290 1295 1300 1305 1310 1315 1320 1325 1330 1335 1340 1345 1350 1355 1360 1365 1370 1375 1380 1385 1390 1395 1400 1405 1410 1415 1420 1425 1430 1435 1440 1445 1450 1455 1460 1465 1470 1475 1480 1485 1490 1495 1500 1505 1510 1515 1520 1525 1530 1535 1540 1545 1550 1555 1560 1565 1570 1575 1580 1585 1590 1595 1600 1605 1610 1615 1620 1625 1630 1635 1640 1645 1650 1655 1660 1665 1670 1675 1680 1685 1690 1695 1700 1705 1710 1715 1720 1725 1730 1735 1740 1745 1750 1755 1760 1765 1770 1775 1780 1785 1790 1795 1800 1805 1810 1815 1820 1825 1830 1835 1840 1845 1850 1855 1860 1865 1870 1875 1880 1885 1890 1895 1900 1905 1910 1915 1920 1925 1930 1935 1940 1945 1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015 2020 2025 2030 2035 2040 2045 2050 2055 2060 2065 2070 2075 2080 2085 2090 2095 2100 2105 2110 2115 2120 2125 2130 2135 2140 2145 2150 2155 2160 2165 2170 2175 2180 2185 2190 2195 2200 2205 2210 2215 2220 2225 2230 2235 2240 2245 2250 2255 2260 2265 2270 2275 2280 2285 2290 2295 2300 2305 2310 2315 2320 2325 2330 2335 2340 2345 2350 2355 2360 2365 2370 2375 2380 2385 2390 2395 2400 2405 2410 2415 2420 2425 2430 2435 2440 2445 2450 2455 2460 2465 2470 2475 2480 2485 2490 2495 2500 2505 2510 2515 2520 2525 2530 2535 2540 2545 2550 2555 2560 2565 2570 2575 2580 2585 2590 2595 2600 2605 2610 2615 2620 2625 2630 2635 2640 2645 2650 2655 2660 2665 2670 2675 2680 2685 2690 2695 2700 2705 2710 2715 2720 2725 2730 2735 2740 2745 2750 2755 2760 2765 2770 2775 2780 2785 2790 2795 2800 2805 2810 2815 2820 2825 2830 2835 2840 2845 2850 2855 2860 2865 2870 2875 2880 2885 2890 2895 2900 2905 2910 2915 2920 2925 2930 2935 2940 2945 2950 2955 2960 2965 2970 2975 2980 2985 2990 2995 3000 3005 3010 3015 3020 3025 3030 3035 3040 3045 3050 3055 3060 3065 3070 3075 3080 3085 3090 3095 3100 3105 3110 3115 3120 3125 3130 3135 3140 3145 3150 3155 3160 3165 3170 3175 3180 3185 3190 3195 3200 3205 3210 3215 3220 3225 3230 3235 3240 3245 3250 3255 3260 3265 3270 3275 3280 3285 3290 3295 3300 3305 3310 3315 3320 3325 3330 3335 3340 3345 3350 3355 3360 3365 3370 3375 3380 3385 3390 3395 3400 3405 3410 3415 3420 3425 3430 3435 3440 3445 3450 3455 3460 3465 3470 3475 3480 3485 3490 3495 3500 3505 3510 3515 3520 3525 3530 3535 3540 3545 3550 3555 3560 3565 3570 3575 3580 3585 3590 3595 3600 3605 3610 3615 3620 3625 3630 3635 3640 3645 3650 3655 3660 3665 3670 3675 3680 3685 3690 3695 3700 3705 3710 3715 3720 3725 3730 3735 3740 3745 3750 3755 3760 3765 3770 3775 3780 3785 3790 3795 3800 3805 3810 3815 3820 3825 3830 3835 3840 3845 3850 3855 3860 3865 3870 3875 3880 3885 3890 3895 3900 3905 3910 3915 3920 3925 3930 3935 3940 3945 3950 3955 3960 3965 3970 3975 3980 3985 3990 3995 4000 4005 4010 4015 4020 4025 4030 4035 4040 4045 4050 4055 4060 4065 4070 4075 4080 4085 4090 4095 4100 4105 4110 4115 4120 4125 4130 4135 4140 4145 4150 4155 4160 4165 4170 4175 4180 4185 4190 4195 4200 4205 4210 4215 4220 4225 4230 4235 4240 4245 4250 4255 4260 4265 4270 4275 4280 4285 4290 4295 4300 4305 4310 4315 4320 4325 4330 4335 4340 4345 4350 4355 4360 4365 4370 4375 4380 4385 4390 4395 4400 4405 4410 4415 4420 4425 4430 4435 4440 4445 4450 4455 4460 4465 4470 4475 4480 4485 4490 4495 4500 4505 4510 4515 4520 4525 4530 4535 4540 4545 4550 4555 4560 4565 4570 4575 4580 4585 4590 4595 4600 4605 4610 4615 4620 4625 4630 4635 4640 4645 4650 4655 4660 4665 4670 4675 4680 4685 4690 4695 4700 4705 4710 4715 4720 4725 4730 4735 4740 4745 4750 4755 4760 4765 4770 4775 4780 4785 4790 4795 4800 4805 4810 4815 4820 4825 4830 4835 4840 4845 4850 4855 4860 4865 4870 4875 4880 4885 4890 4895 4900 4905 4910 4915 4920 4925 4930 4935 4940 4945 4950 4955 4960 4965 4970 4975 4980 4985 4990 4995 5000 5005 5010 5015 5020 5025 5030 5035 5040 5045 5050 5055 5060 5065 5070 5075 5080 5085 5090 5095 5100 5105 5110 5115 5120 5125 5130 5135 5140 5145 5150 5155 5160 5165 5170 5175 5180 5185 5190 5195 5200 5205 5210 5215 5220 5225 5230 5235 5240 5245 5250 5255 5260 5265 5270 5275 5280 5285 5290 5295 5300 5305 5310 5315 5320 5325 5330 5335 5340 5345 5350 5355 5360 5365 5370 5375 5380 5385 5390 5395 5400 5405 5410 5415 5420 5425 5430 5435 5440 5445 5450 5455 5460 5465 5470 5475 5480 5485 5490 5495 5500 5505 5510 5515 5520 5525 5530 5535 5540 5545 5550 5555 5560 5565 5570 5575 5580 5585 5590 5595 5600 5605 5610 5615 5620 5625 5630 5635 5640 5645 5650 5655 5660 5665 5670 5675 5680 5685 5690 5695 5700 5705 5710 5715 5720 5725 5730 5735 5740 5745 5750 5755 5760 5765 5770 5775 5780 5785 5790 5795 5800 5805 5810 5815 5820 5825 5830 5835 5840 5845 5850 5855 5860 5865 5870 5875 5880 5885 5890 5895 5900 5905 5910 5915 5920 5925 5930 5935 5940 5945 5950 5955 5960 5965 5970 5975 5980 5985 5990 5995 6000 6005 6010 6015 6020 6025 6030 6035 6040 6045 6050 6055 6060 6065 6070 6075 6080 6085 6090 6095 6100 6105 6110 6115 6120 6125 6130 6135 6140 6145 6150 6155 6160 6165 6170 6175 6180 6185 6190 6195 6200 6205 6210 6215 6220 6225 6230 6235 6240 6245 6250 6255 6260 6265 6270 6275 6280 6285 6290 6295 6300 6305 6310 6315 6320 6325 6330 6335 6340 6345 6350 6355 6360 6365 6370 6375 6380 6385 6390 6395 6400 6405 6410 6415 6420 6425 6430 6435 6440 6445 6450 6455 6460 6465 6470 6475 6480 6485 6490 6495 6500 6505 6510 6515 6520 6525 6530 6535 6540 6545 6550 6555 6560 6565 6570 6575 6580 6585 6590 6595 6600 6605 6610 6615 6620 6625 6630 6635 6640 6645 6650 6655 6660 6665 6670 6675 6680 6685 6690 6695 6700 6705 6710 6715 6720 6725 6730 6735 6740 6745 6750 6755 6760 6765 6770 6775 6780 6785 6790 6795 6800 6805 6810 6815 6820 6825 6830 6835 6840 6845 6850 6855 6860 6865 6870 6875 6880 6885 6890 6895 6900 6905 6910 6915 6920 6925 6930 6935 6940 6945 6950 6955 6960 6965 6970 6975 6980 6985 6990 6995 7000 7005 7010 7015 7020 7025 7030 7035 7040 7045 7050 7055 7060 7065 7070 7075 7080 7085 7090 7095 7100 7105 7110 7115 7120 7125 7130 7135 7140 7145 7150 71

fluid bore 42 of the valve body 40 directly. The valve seat 48 could then be omitted, or moved to a suitable location.

While disclosed as having particular utility as a hemostatic valve in an introducer sheath for a catheter or other interventional device, it should be apparent that the valve 10 of the present invention would also useful as an in-line check valve in the flow path of a medical fluid. The compression on the seal 26, providing the proximal surface 30 of the seal 26 with a concave shape, would prevent the reversal of flow of a fluid through the perforation 34. This prevention of flow would exist even if fluid were present on the proximal side of the seal 26. The valve 10 could most easily be adapted to serve as an in-line check valve by simply replacing the cap 56 with a coupling or connector which is in turn connected to a supply of fluid. (The fluid bore 52 in the side arm 16, of course, should either be sealed or be connected to a suitable device or fluid coupling.) Other ways of adapting the valve 10 as a check valve in other structures should immediately be apparent to those skilled in this area, in light of the description of the valve provided above. Moreover, the valve 10 as disclosed could find good use in laparoscopic introducers, neuroendoscopic ports, or introducers for transthoracic surgical procedures, among a variety of others.

It is clear from the foregoing disclosure that the valve 10 of the present invention is particularly advantageous over prior check valves or introducer sheath seals in that it possesses a high degree of effectiveness when no catheter or other interventional device lies across the seal or valve, and provides an acceptable seal to catheters and other interventional devices having a wide range of diameters. The valve of the present invention also possesses a high resistance to tearing when penetrated by catheters or other interventional devices of large diameter. Use of a single seal eliminates the problem of trapped air or blood encountered in duckbill or combination disk/duckbill arrangements, and allows the valve of the present invention to hold vacuum or a negative pressure quite well. The valve of the present invention allows the easy passage devices of a very wide range of diameters without interfering with tactile feedback from them. The valve of the present invention well tolerates repeated insertions and withdrawals of catheters or other interventional devices without any appreciable decrease in the performance characteristics of the

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seal or valve, especially with respect to leakage and "feel." Finally, the valve of the present invention is advantageous in that the compression placed upon the seal prevents undue inversion of the seal surface despite repeated removals and manipulations of devices lying across the valve.

5 The details of the construction or composition of the various elements of the valve 10 not otherwise disclosed are not believed to be critical to the achievement of the advantages of the present invention, so long as the elements possess the strength or flexibility needed for them to perform as disclosed. The selection of such details of construction are believed to be well within the ability of
10 one of even rudimentary skills in this area, in view of the present disclosure.

Claims

1. A valve arrangement for controlling a flow of fluid therethrough, wherein the arrangement comprises a seal to be disposed in the fluid flow, the seal having at least one perforation to permit insertion of a medical device therethrough for fluid flow through the seal, where the perforation is open prior to medical device insertion and when the seal is unstressed prior to assembly of the valve, the seal further comprising a material, and the valve further includes a means for causing portions of the seal inwardly from a periphery thereof to be deflected in a direction farther into the valve in a manner sufficient to close the at least one perforation upon engagement of the means with the seal, whenever the seal is unpenetrated by the medical device.
2. The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the seal is mounted so that it can be changed between one state and an other state, wherein when the seal is in the one state, the sidewalls of the at least one perforation are spaced apart, and when in the other state, the seal is deflected and the at least one perforation is closed to prevent fluid flow whenever the seal is unpenetrated by the medical device, and wherein the means serves to transfer the seal from the open state to the closed state.
3. The arrangement according to claim 2, wherein the material of the seal is sufficiently resilient to enable the seal to move between a concave state and a convex state, and wherein the at least one perforation is formed in such a manner that the at least one perforation is open in one of the states and closed in the other of the states.
4. The arrangement according to claim 3, wherein the means engages the first face of the seal and deflects the seal from a convex state to a concave state with respect to the first face.
5. The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the material of the seal comprises low durometer thermoplastic.
6. The arrangement according to claim 5, wherein the material comprises a durometer of between 2 Shore A and 30 Shore A hardness.

7. The valve according to claim 5, wherein the material comprises a durometer of between 13 Shore A and 15 Shore A hardness.
8. The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the material is compressible, and in that the means is designed to compress the material of the seal, at least in the 5 region of the at least one perforation, in order to close the at least one perforation.
9. The arrangement according to claim 1, wherein when the seal is unstressed prior to valve assembly and insertion of a medical device therethrough, sidewalls of the perforation are spaced apart from the first face to the second face, and upon engagement of the seal by the means, the cross-sectional shape of the seal becomes 10 deformed and the sidewalls of the perforation are also deformed to become closed at least at one location between the first face to the second face.
10. A valve for a fluid flow path, comprising:
 - a seal disposed in the fluid flow path, the seal being composed of a low durometer thermoplastic material having a hardness of no more than about 15 30 Shore A,
 - and the seal having an undeflected condition in which the seal is shaped generally as a disk and the seal having a first and a second opposed face, the seal further having at least one perforation extending through the seal from the first face to the second face where the perforation is open prior to medical device insertion 20 therethrough and when the seal is unstressed prior to assembly of the valve; and
 - means disposed about the fluid flow path for deflecting the seal so as to close the at least one perforation upon engagement of the means with the seal whenever the seal axially is unpenetrated by the medical device.
11. The valve according to claim 10, wherein the deflecting means comprises a 25 valve body defining at least part of the fluid flow path.
12. The valve according to claim 11, wherein the deflecting means further comprises a valve seat formed in the valve body against which the seal is abutted.

13. The valve according to claim 12, wherein the deflecting means further comprises a cap engageable with the valve body, a periphery of the seal being compressed and clamped between the cap and the valve seat.
14. The valve according to claim 13, wherein the cap and the valve seat each include respective annular cap and valve seat flanges facing each other and abutting the first and second faces of the seal, respectively, with the annular valve seat flange having a diameter larger than that of the annular cap flange, whereby upon abutment with the seal the annular cap and valve seat flanges cooperate to impart a concave shape to the first face of the seal.
5
- 10 15. The valve according to claim 12, wherein the valve seat includes an annular flange extending toward the valve body and abutting the first face of the seal, imparting a concave shape to the first face of the seal.
16. The valve according to claim 12, wherein the first and second faces of the seal define a preferred direction of movement through the at least one perforation, and
15 wherein the valve seat is formed as a series of steps in the valve body, the steps being of decreasing radii in the preferred direction of movement through the at least one perforation.
17. The valve according to claim 11, wherein the deflecting means further comprises a cap engageable with the valve body, a periphery of the seal being compressed and clamped between the cap and the valve body.
20
18. The valve according to claim 17, wherein the cap includes an annular flange extending towards the valve body and abutting the first face of the seal, imparting a concave shape to the first face of the seal.
19. The valve according to claim 8, wherein the annular cap flange comprises a
25 ring received in the cap.

20. The valve according to claim 10, wherein the low durometer thermoplastic material has a resistance to tearing equivalent to that possessed by a thermoplastic styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene block copolymer elastomer having a hardness of no more than about 30 Shore A.

5 21. The valve according to claim 20, wherein the material comprises a durometer of between 2 Shore A and 30 Shore A hardness.

22. The valve according to claim 20, wherein the material comprises a durometer of between 13 Shore A and 15 Shore A hardness.

10 23. The valve according to claim 10, wherein the first and second faces of the seal define a preferred direction of movement through the at least one perforation, and wherein the deflecting means imparts a concave shape to the first face of the seal facing opposite the preferred direction of movement through the at least one perforation.

15 24. The valve according to claim 10, wherein when the seal is in its undeflected condition and prior to insertion of a medical device through the perforation, the at least one perforation is open and is wider at the second face of the seal than at the first face of the seal.

20 25. The valve according to claim 10, wherein the at least one perforation is open and is Y-shaped when the seal is in its undeflected condition.

26. The valve according to claim 10, wherein the at least one perforation is open and is oval and possesses an increasing cross-section from the first face of the seal to the second face of the seal, when the seal is in its undeflected state.

27. The valve according to claim 10, wherein the seal comprises a thermoplastic styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene block copolymer.

28. The valve according to claim 10, wherein a portion of the compressing means is affixed to the seal prior to valve assembly and is carried by the seal.

29. A self-sealing, penetrable, hemostatic valve for an introducer for an interventional device, the interventional device having a proximal end, and the valve 5 including a generally disk-shaped seal receiving and sealing around the periphery of the interventional device when inserted in the introducer,

the generally disk-shaped seal comprising a thermoplastic styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene block copolymer having a hardness of no more than about 30 Shore A, and wherein the valve includes a body for deflecting the generally 10 disk-shaped seal so as to present a concave face towards the proximal end of the interventional device.

30. The hemostatic valve according to claim 29, wherein the material comprises a durometer of between 2 Shore A and 30 Shore A hardness.

31. The hemostatic valve according to claim 29, wherein the material comprises a 15 durometer of between 13 Shore A and 15 Shore A hardness.

32. The hemostatic valve according to claim 29, wherein the seal presents a nonconcave face towards the proximal end prior to compression during assembly of the valve.

33. The hemostatic valve according to claim 29, wherein the seal presents a 20 convex face towards the proximal end prior to compression during assembly of the valve.

34. A valve having a fluid flow path therethrough, the valve comprising a perforated elastomeric disk closing the fluid flow path, wherein the disk further comprises a thermoplastic styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene block copolymer having 25 a hardness of no more than about 30 Shore A; and

the perforated elastomeric disk having an undeflected condition with the perforated elastomeric disk further having an opposed first and a second faces and at

least one perforation extending through the perforated elastomeric disk from the first face to the second face, the perforation having sidewalls that in the unstressed condition are spaced apart between the first face and the second face thereby being open prior to both assembly of the valve and insertion of a medical device

5 therethrough; and

means connected to the fluid flow path for deflecting the disk so as to close the at least one perforation in the perforated elastomeric disk axially upon deflection of the seal and prior to medical device insertion therethrough.

35. The valve according to claim 34, wherein the material comprises a durometer 10 of between 2 Shore A and 30 Shore A hardness.

36. The valve according to claim 34, wherein the material comprises a durometer of between 13 Shore A and 15 Shore A hardness.

37. A valve defining a fluid flow path therethrough, comprising:

15 a seal to be disposed in the fluid flow path, the seal being composed of a very low durometer thermoplastic elastomeric styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene block copolymer having a hardness of no more than about 30 Shore A, and the seal having an undeflected condition in which the seal is shaped generally as a disk and the seal further having an opposed first and a second faces and at least one perforation 20 extending through the seal from the first face to the second face where the perforation is open prior to medical device insertion therethrough and when the seal is unstressed prior to assembly of the valve; and

means connected to the fluid flow path for deflecting the seal so as to close the at least one perforation in the seal upon engagement of the means with the seal and prior to medical device insertion therethrough;

25 wherein the deflecting means comprises a valve body defining at least part of the flow path, a valve seat formed in the valve body and a cap engageable with the valve body, a periphery of the seal being compressed and clamped between the cap and the valve seat; and wherein the cap and the valve seat each include respective

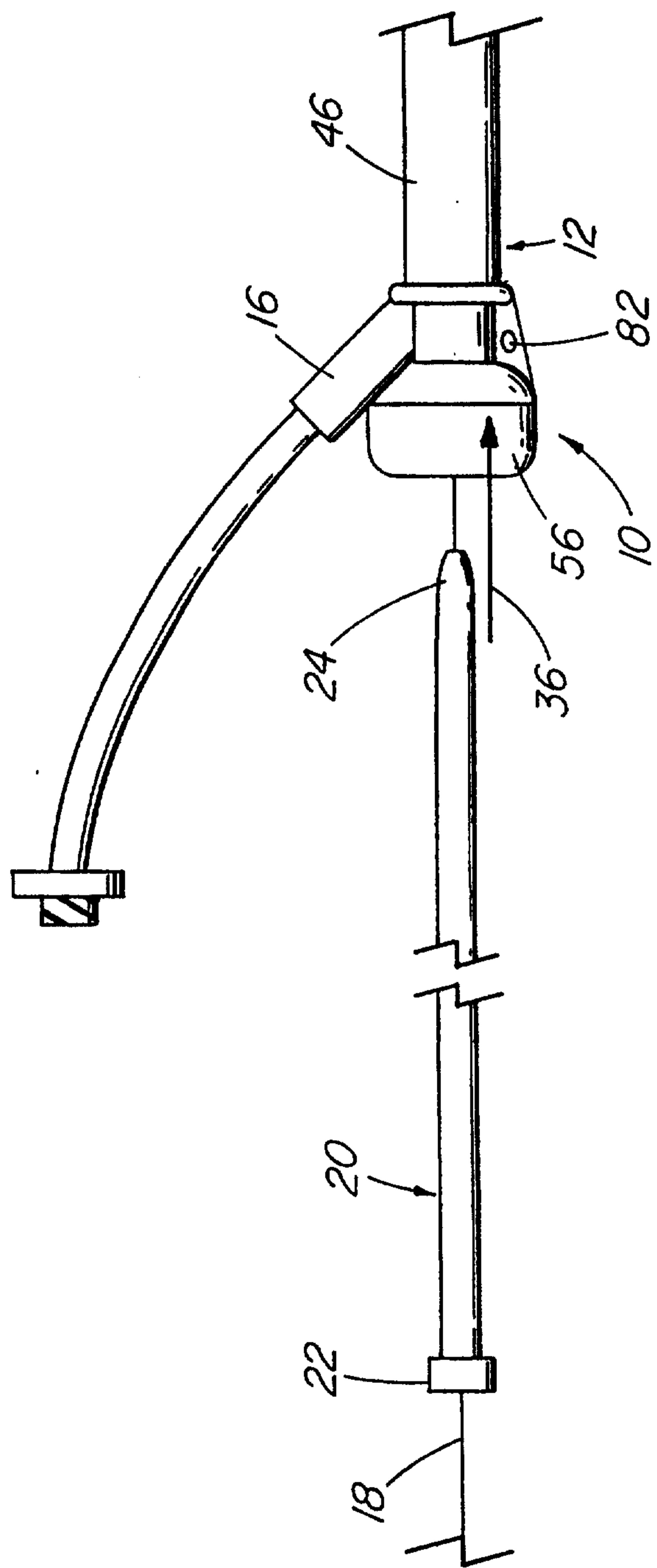
annular cap and valve seat flanges facing each other and abutting the first and second faces of the seal, respectively, imparting a concave shape to the first face of the seal;

wherein the first and second faces of the seal define a preferred direction of movement through the at least one perforation, and wherein the deflecting means

- 5 imparts a concave shape to the first face of the facing opposite the preferred direction of movement through the at least one perforation; and

wherein when the seal is in its unstressed condition, the at least one perforation is open and is wider at the second face of the seal than at the first face of the seal.

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FIG. 2

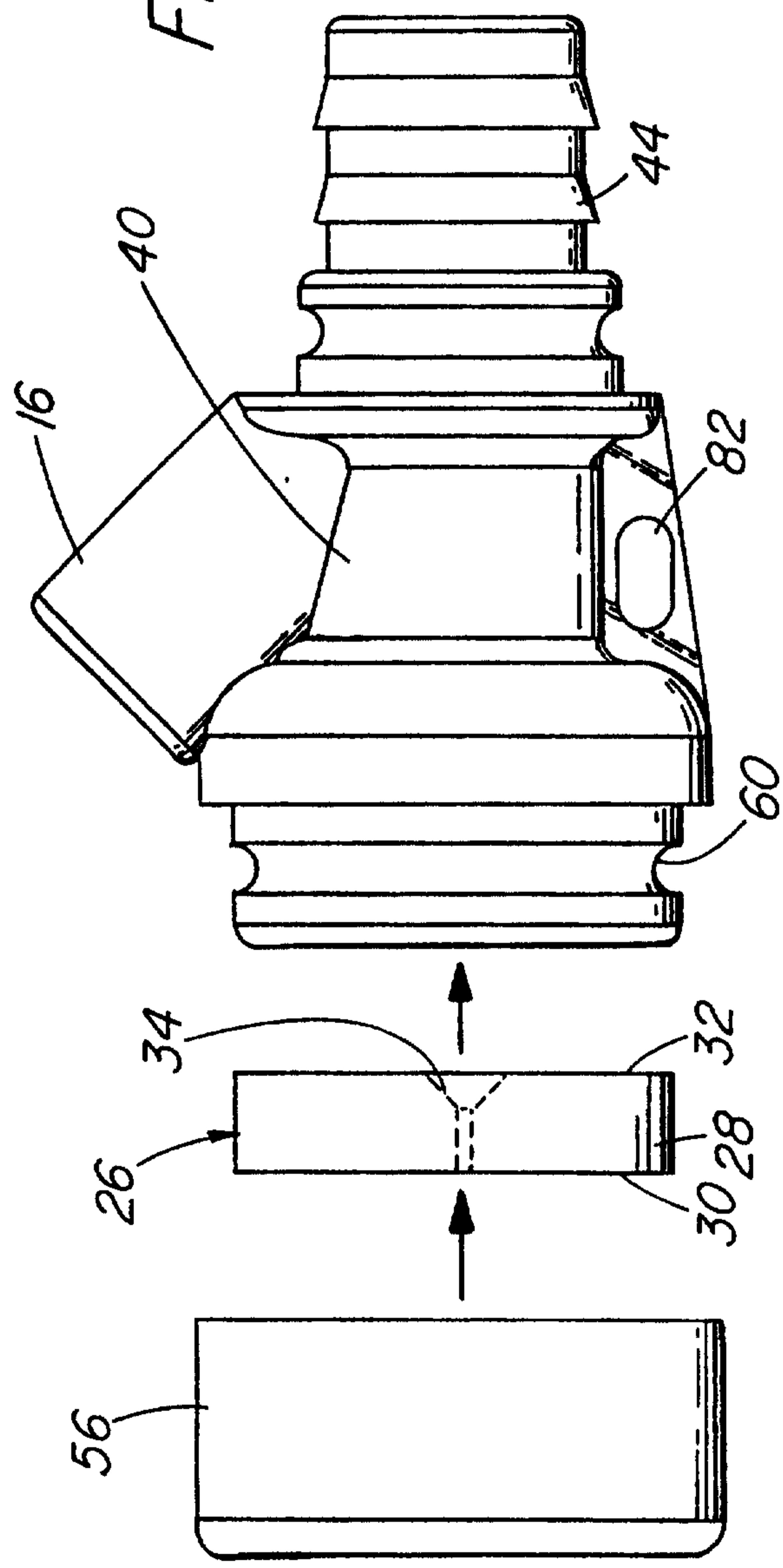


FIG. 4

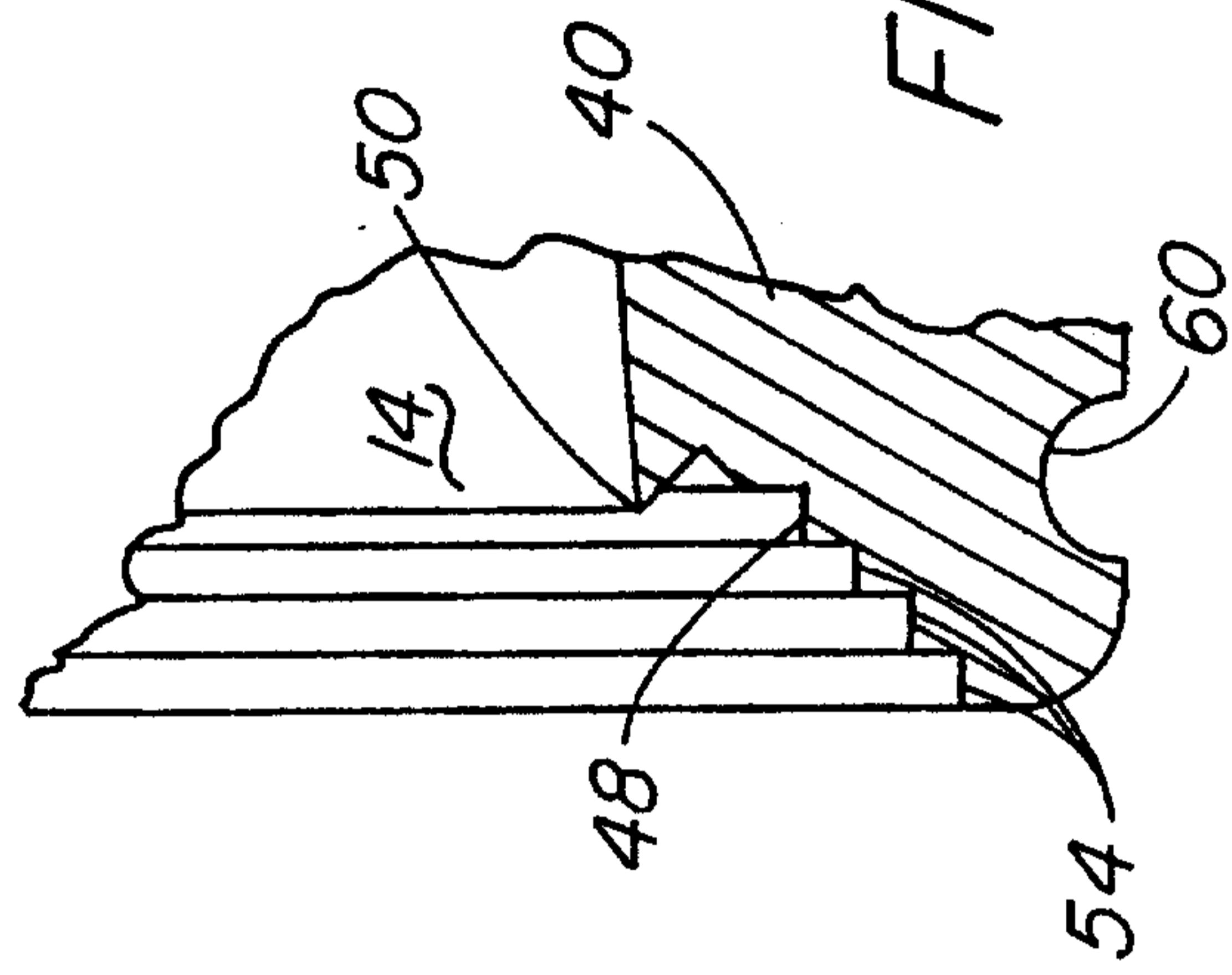
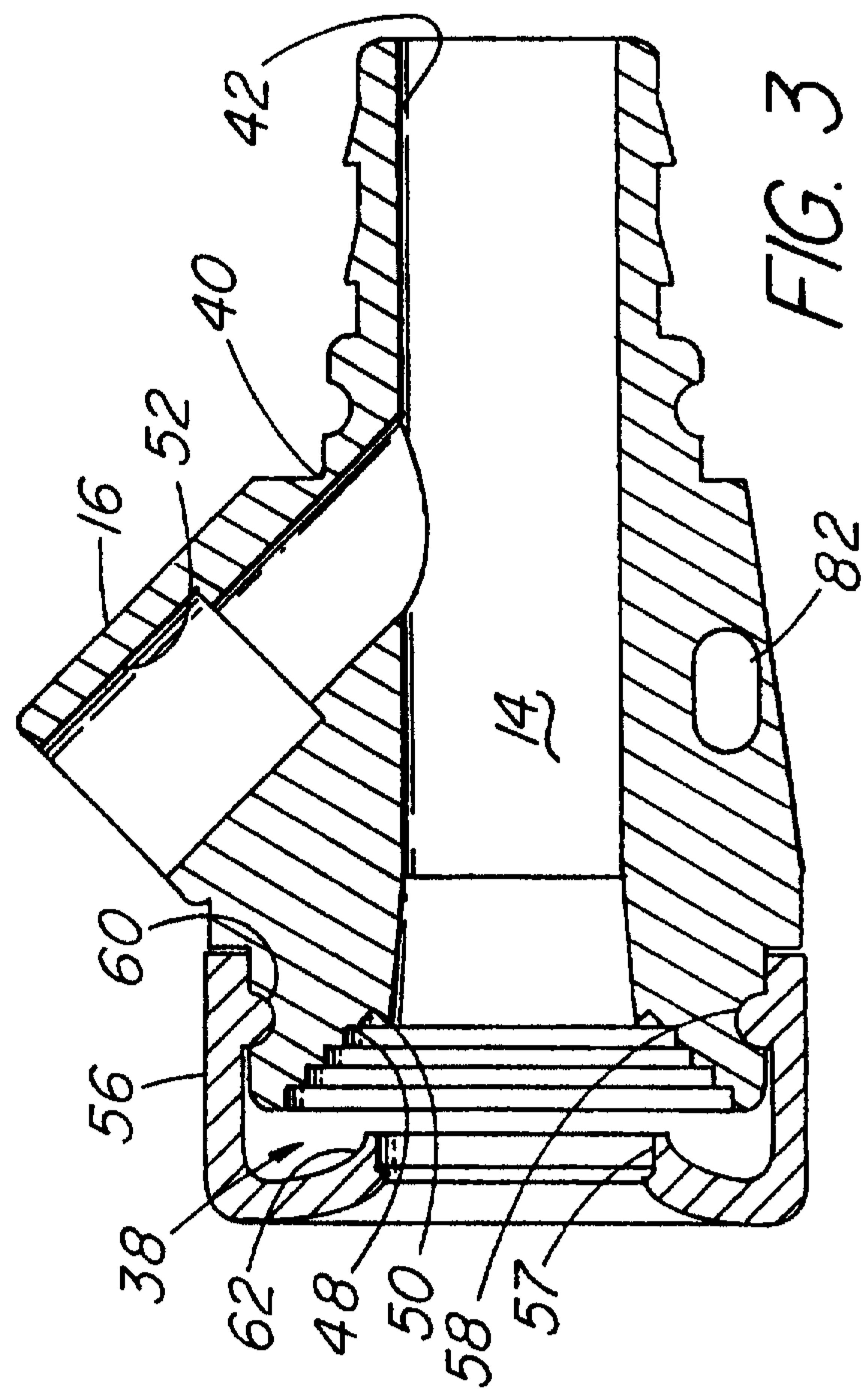


FIG. 3



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FIG. 5C

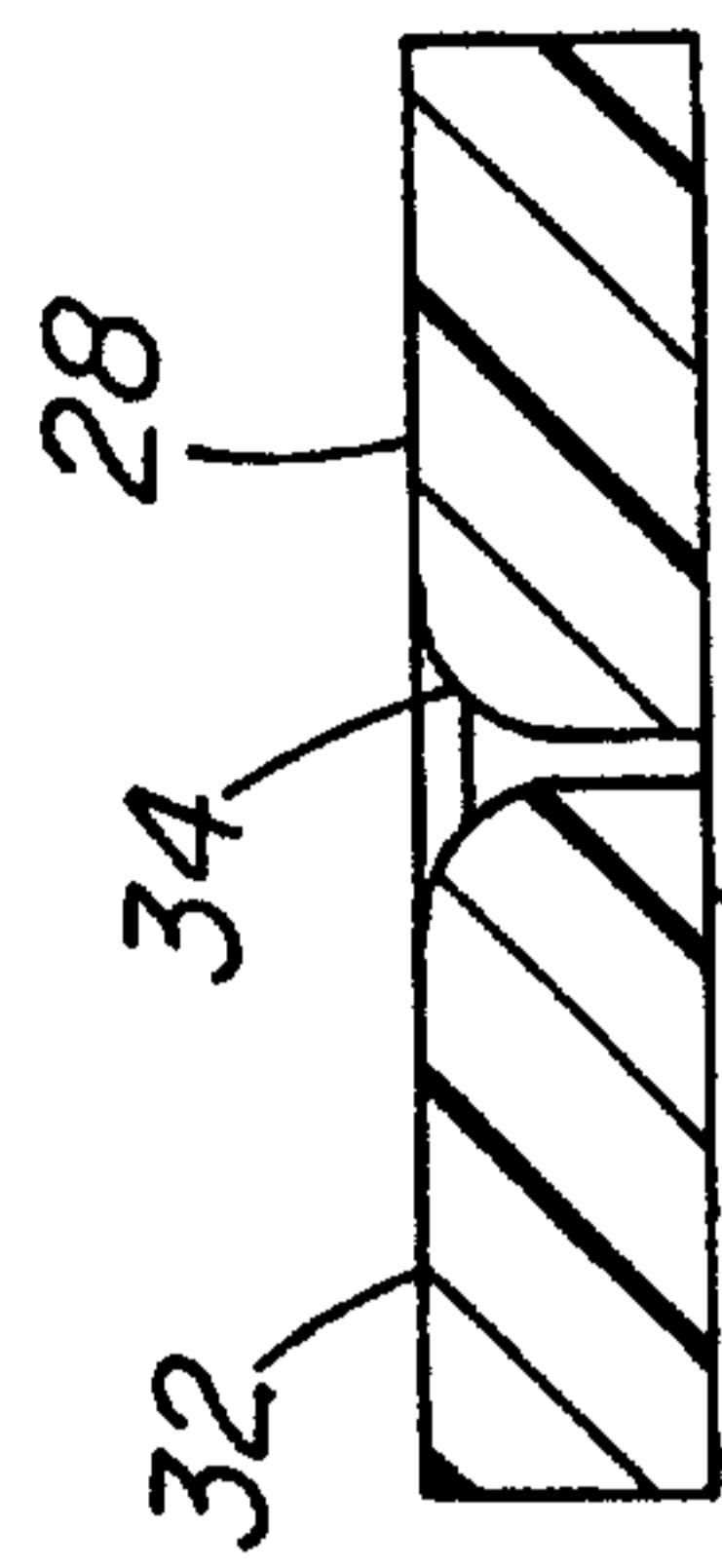


FIG. 5B

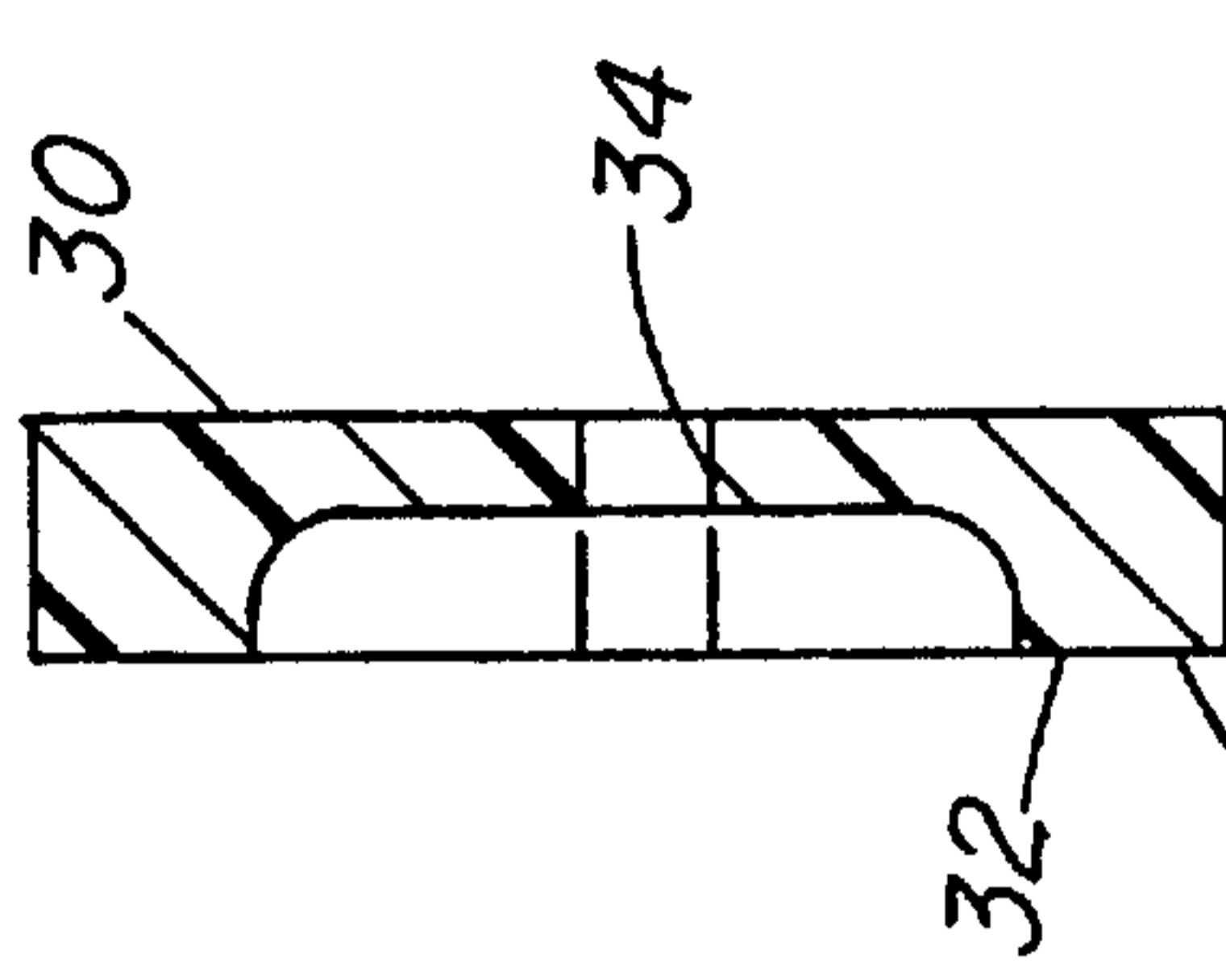


FIG. 5A

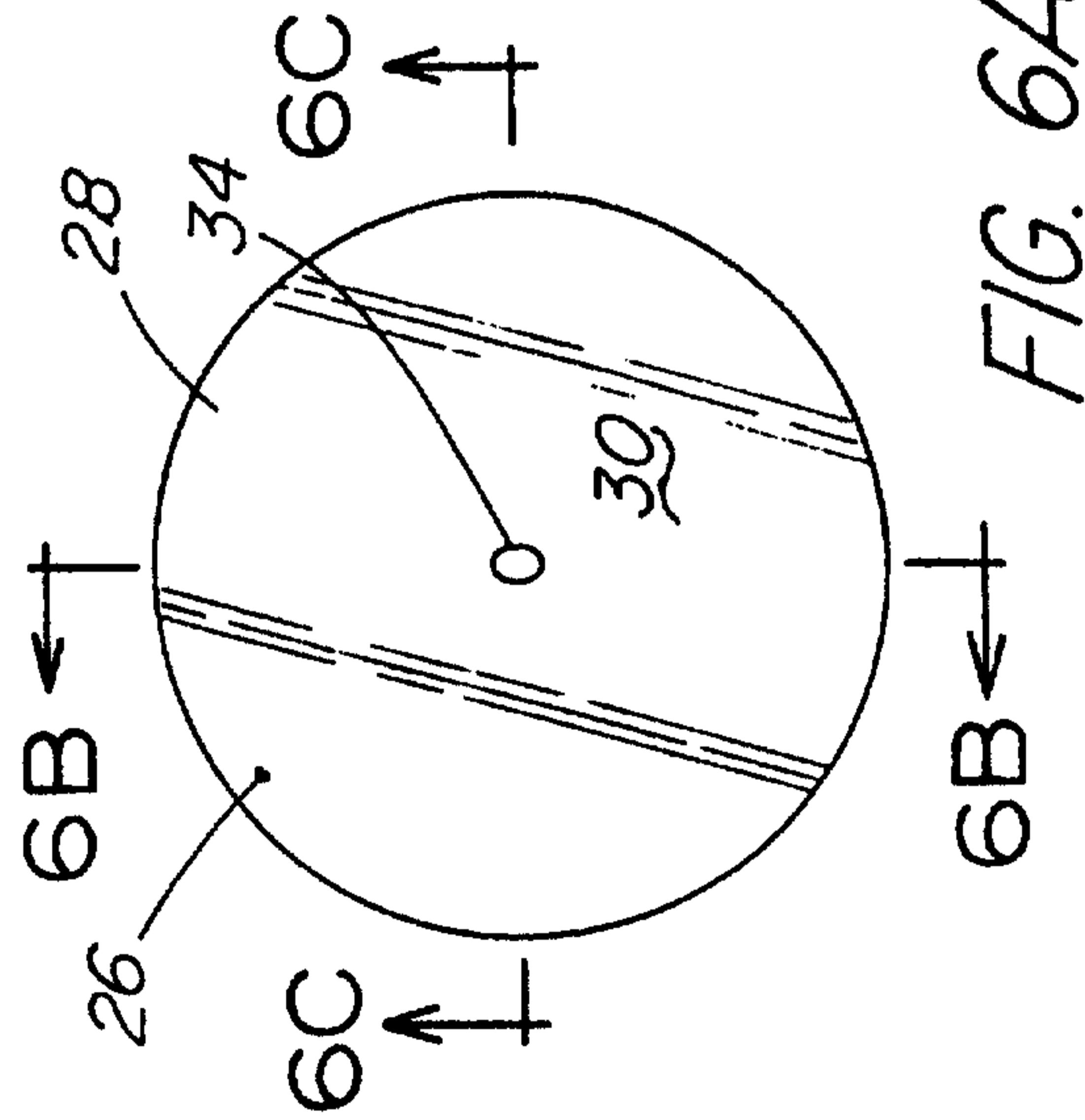
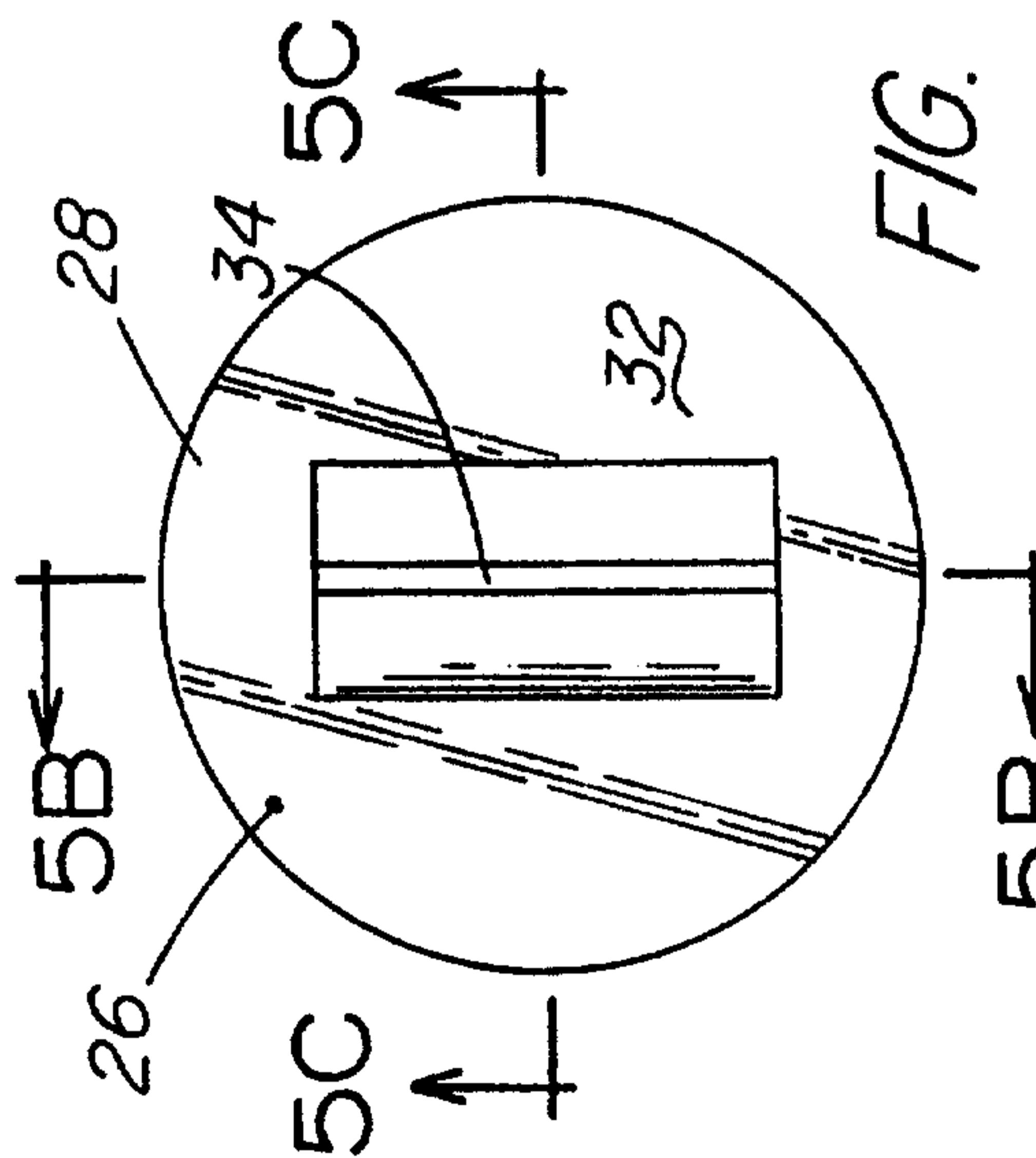


FIG. 6A

FIG. 6B

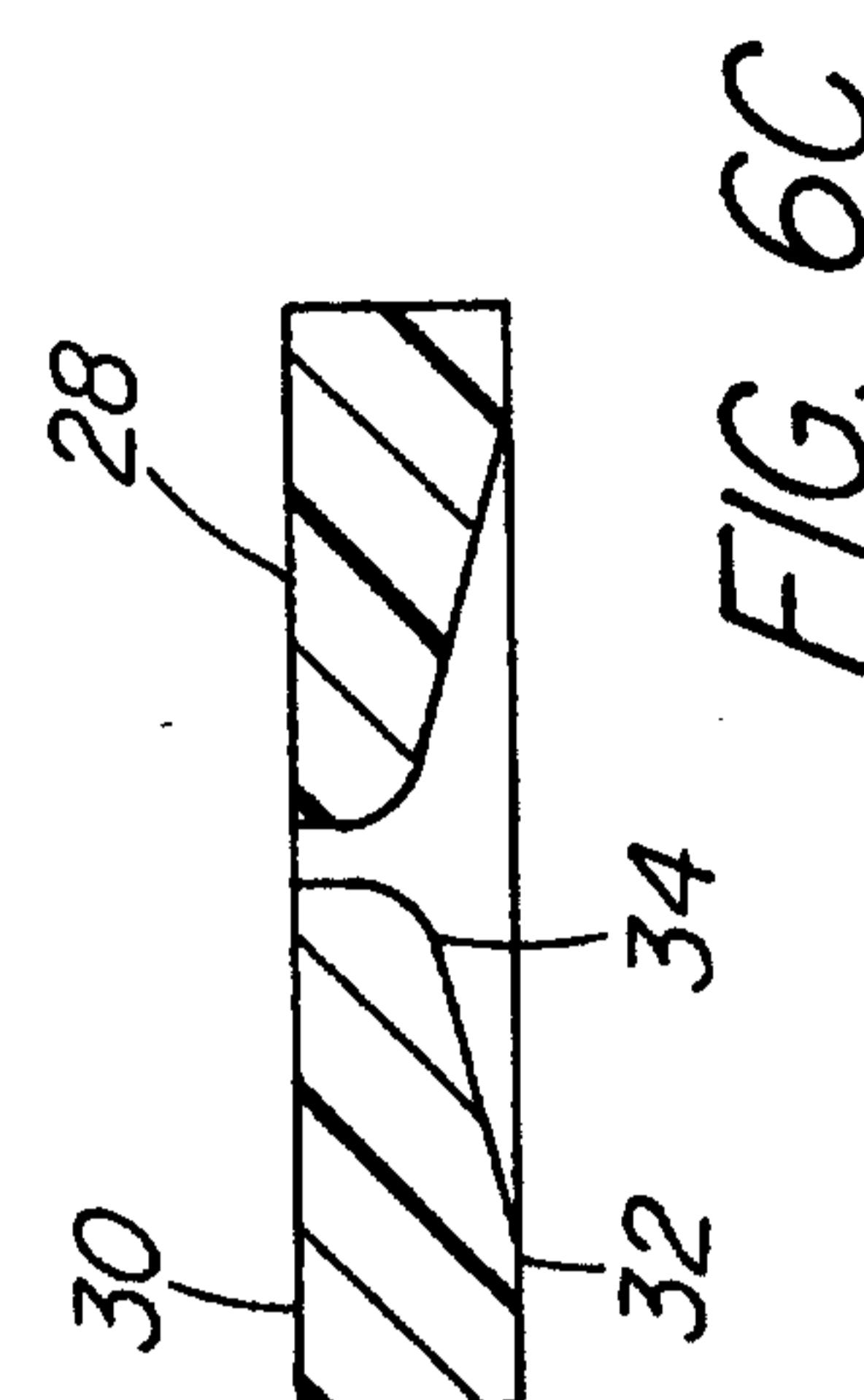
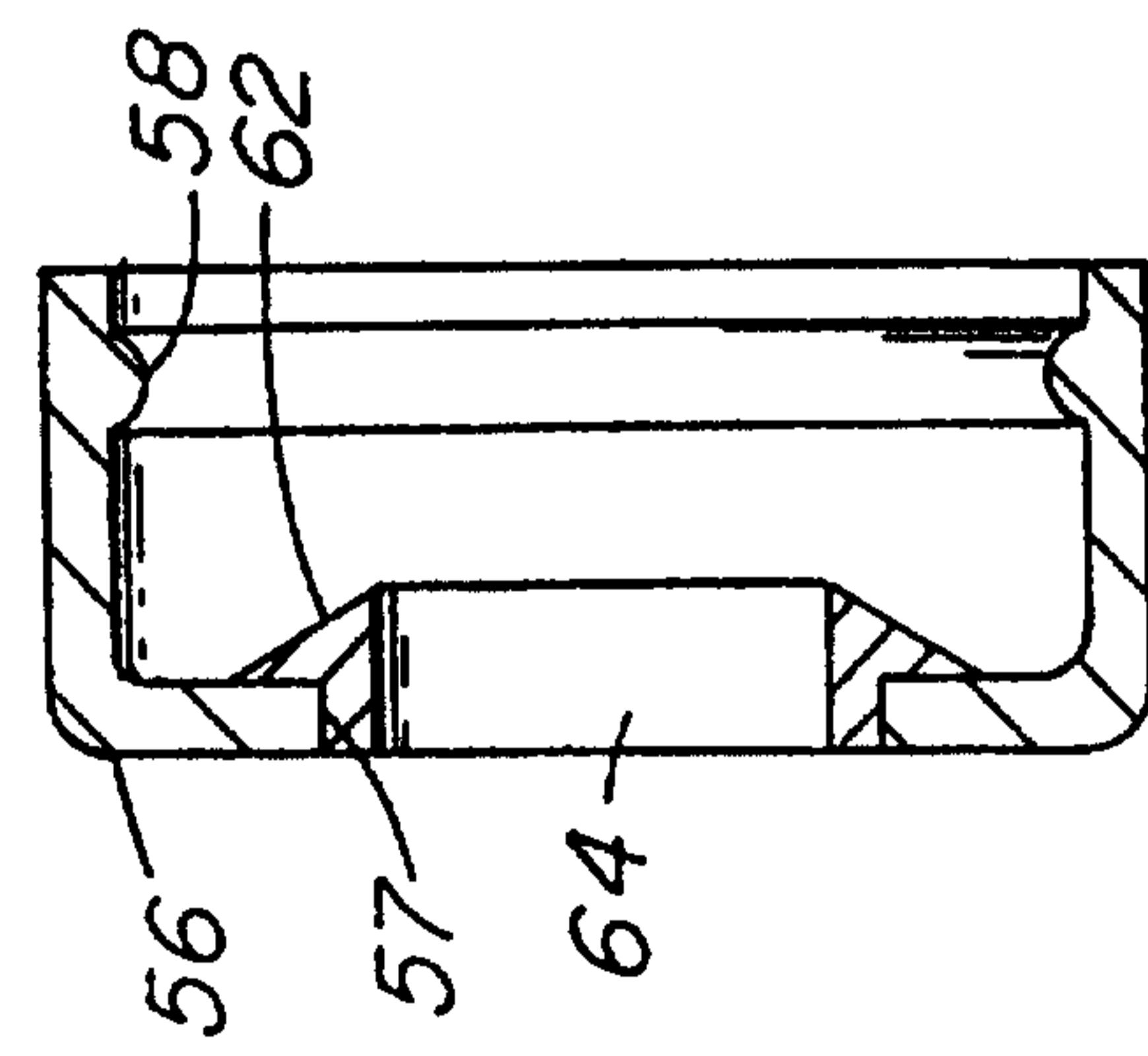
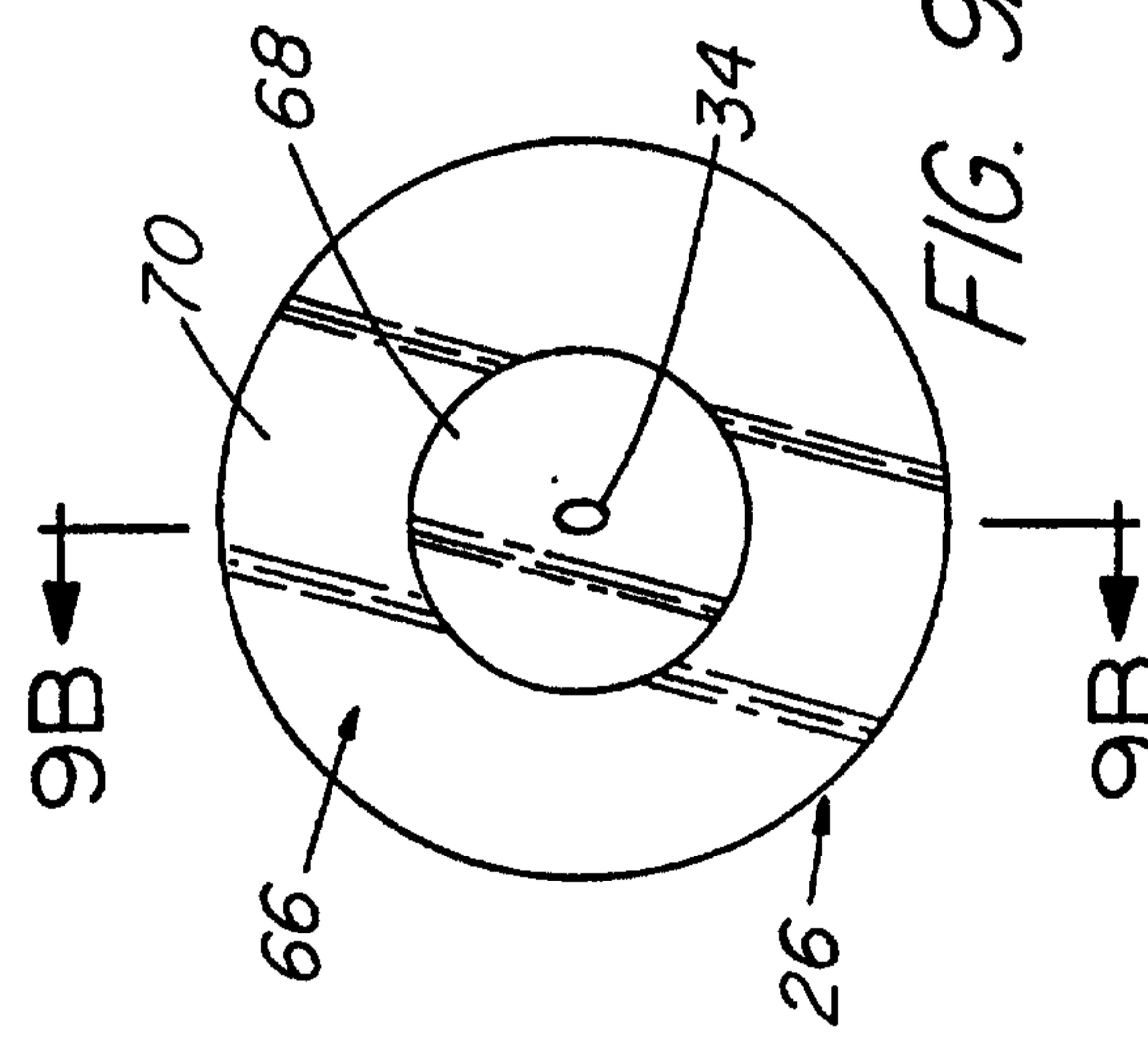
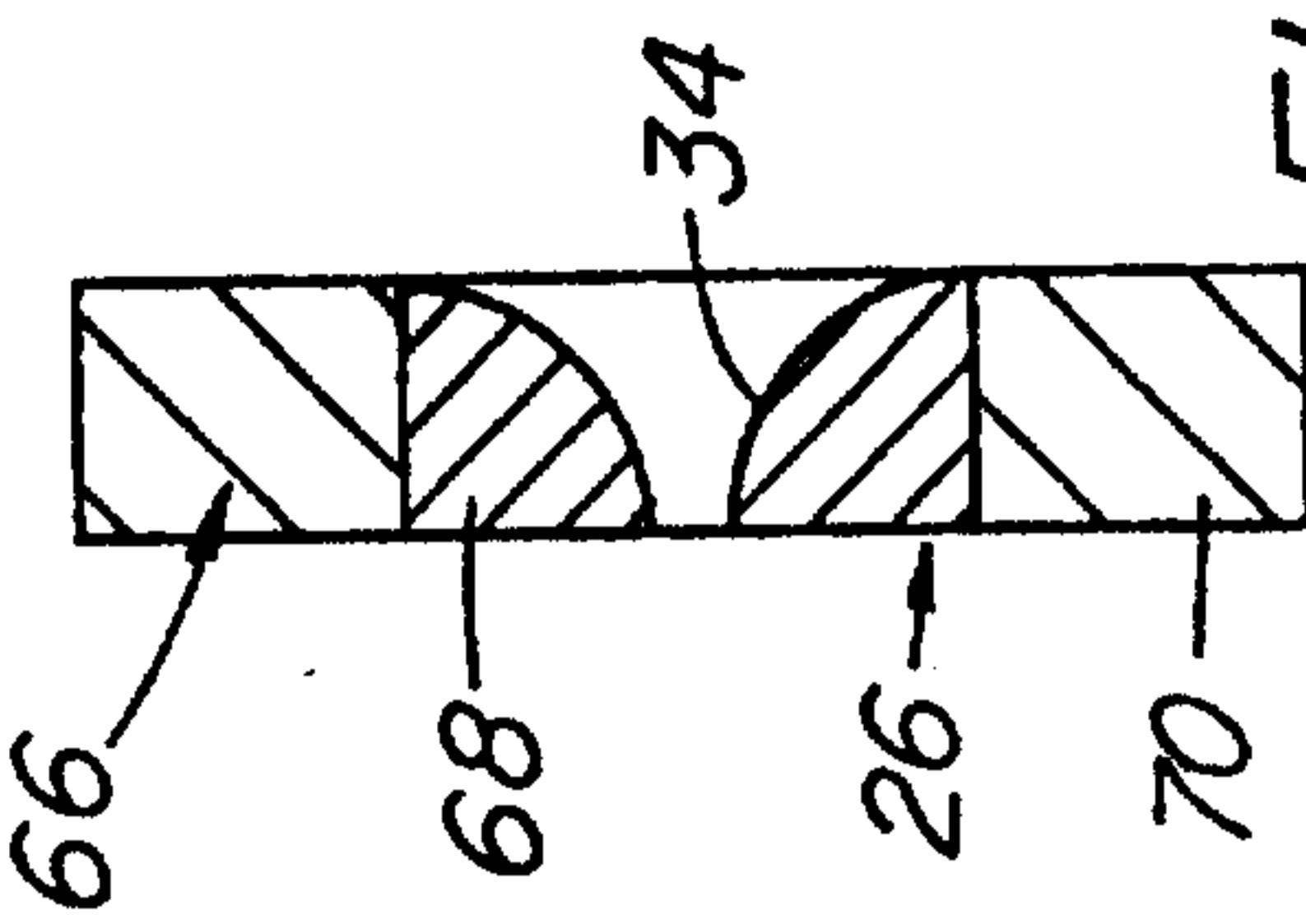
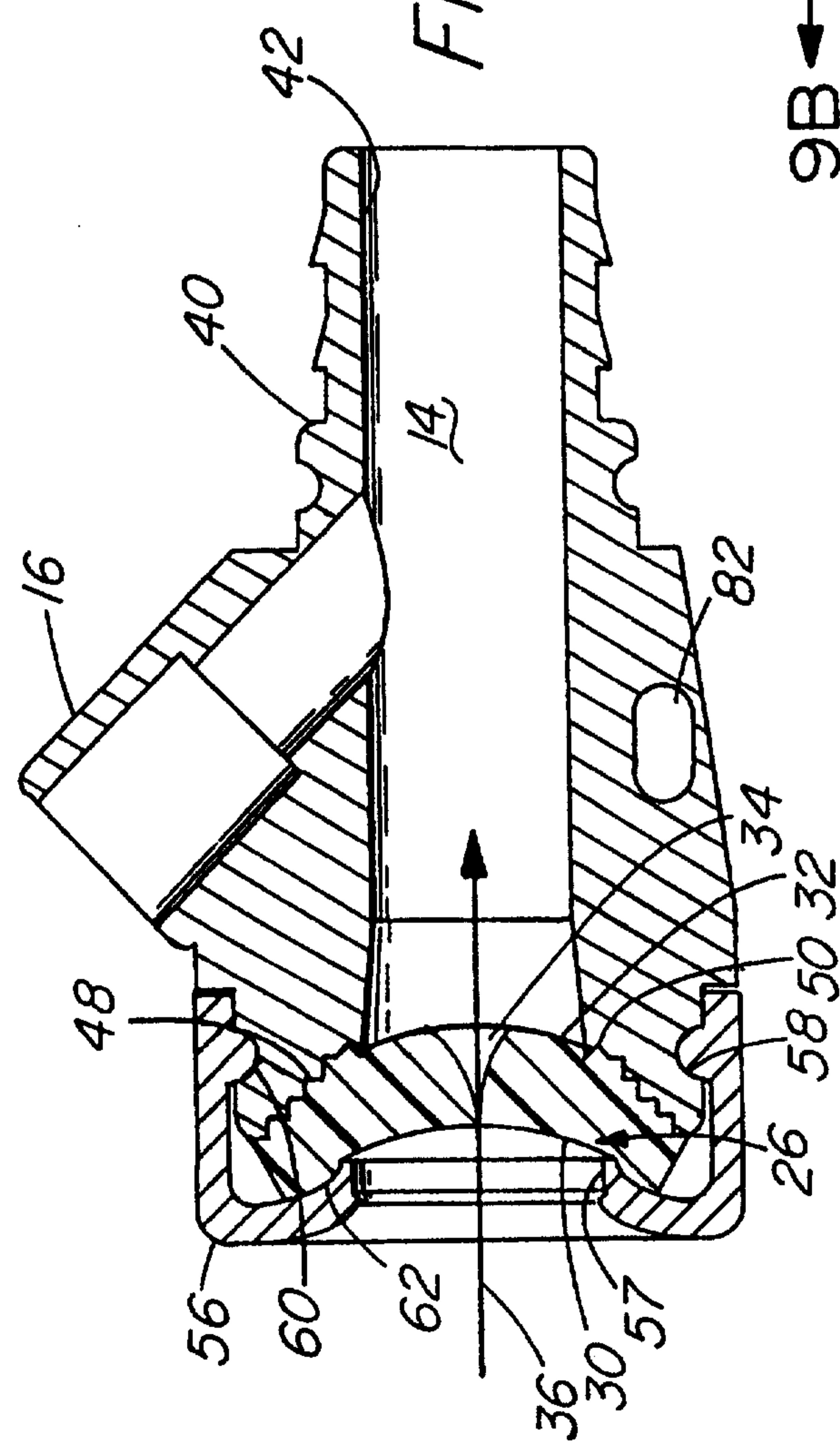


FIG. 6C

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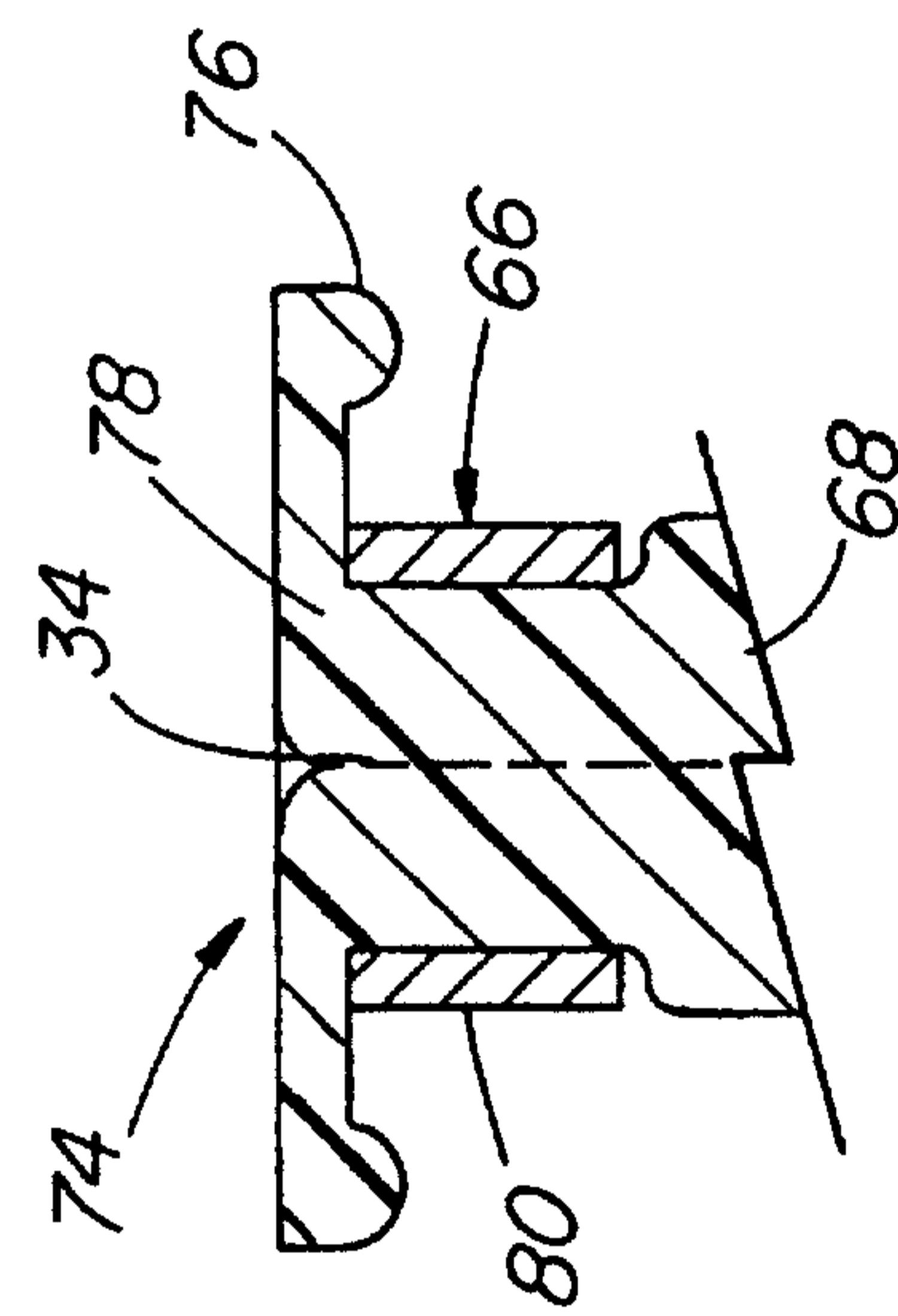


FIG. 11

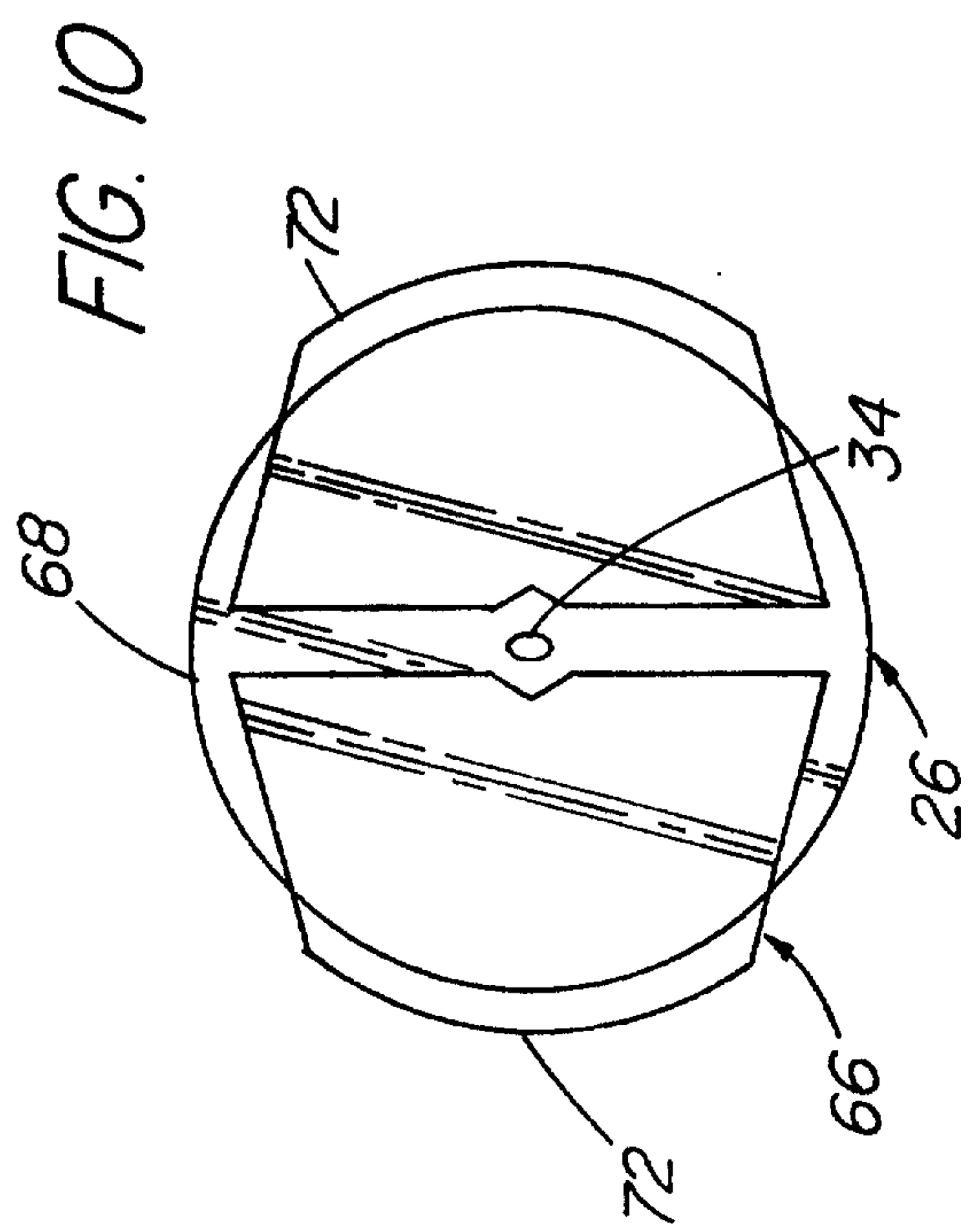


FIG. 10

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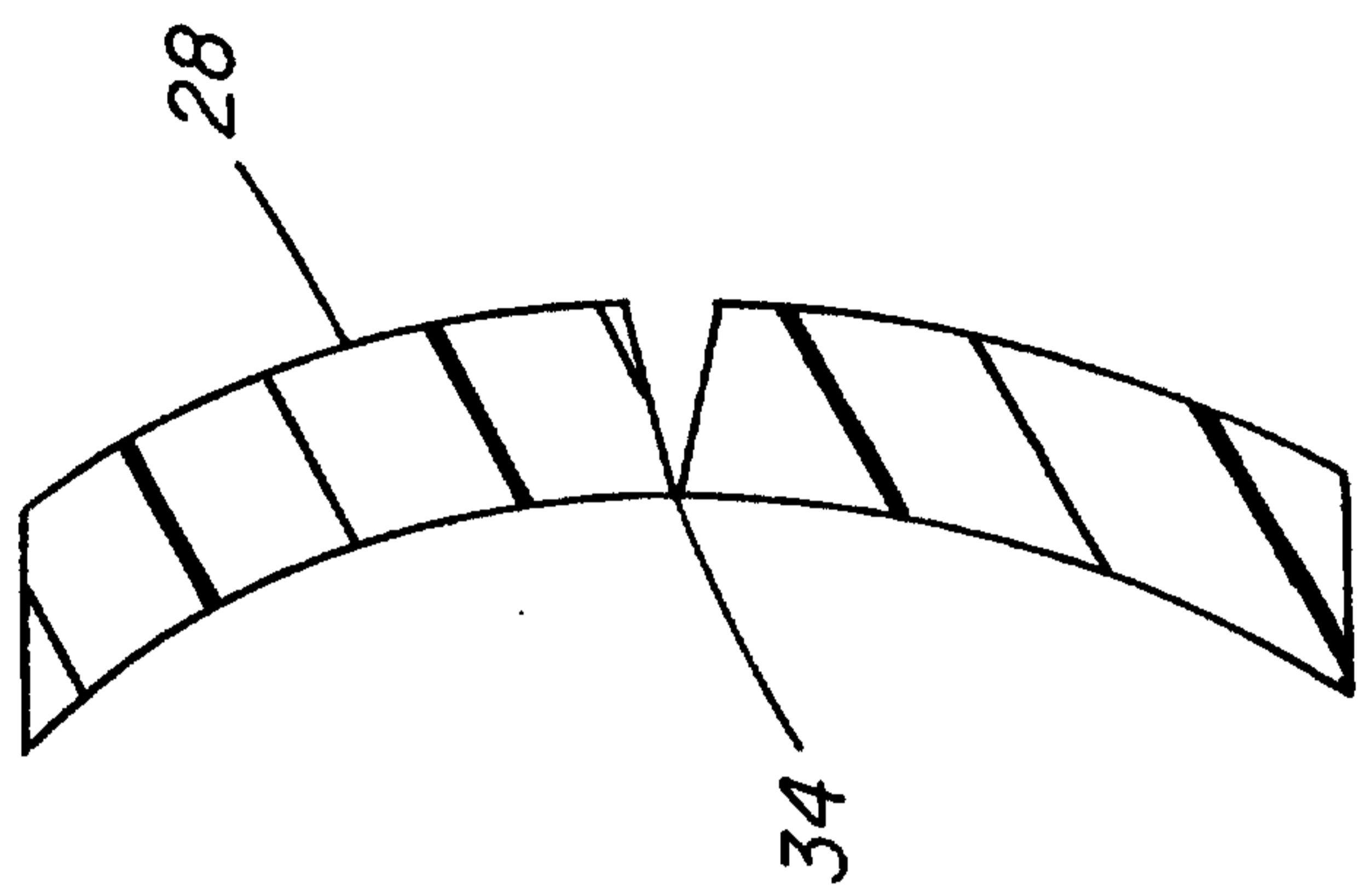


FIG. 13

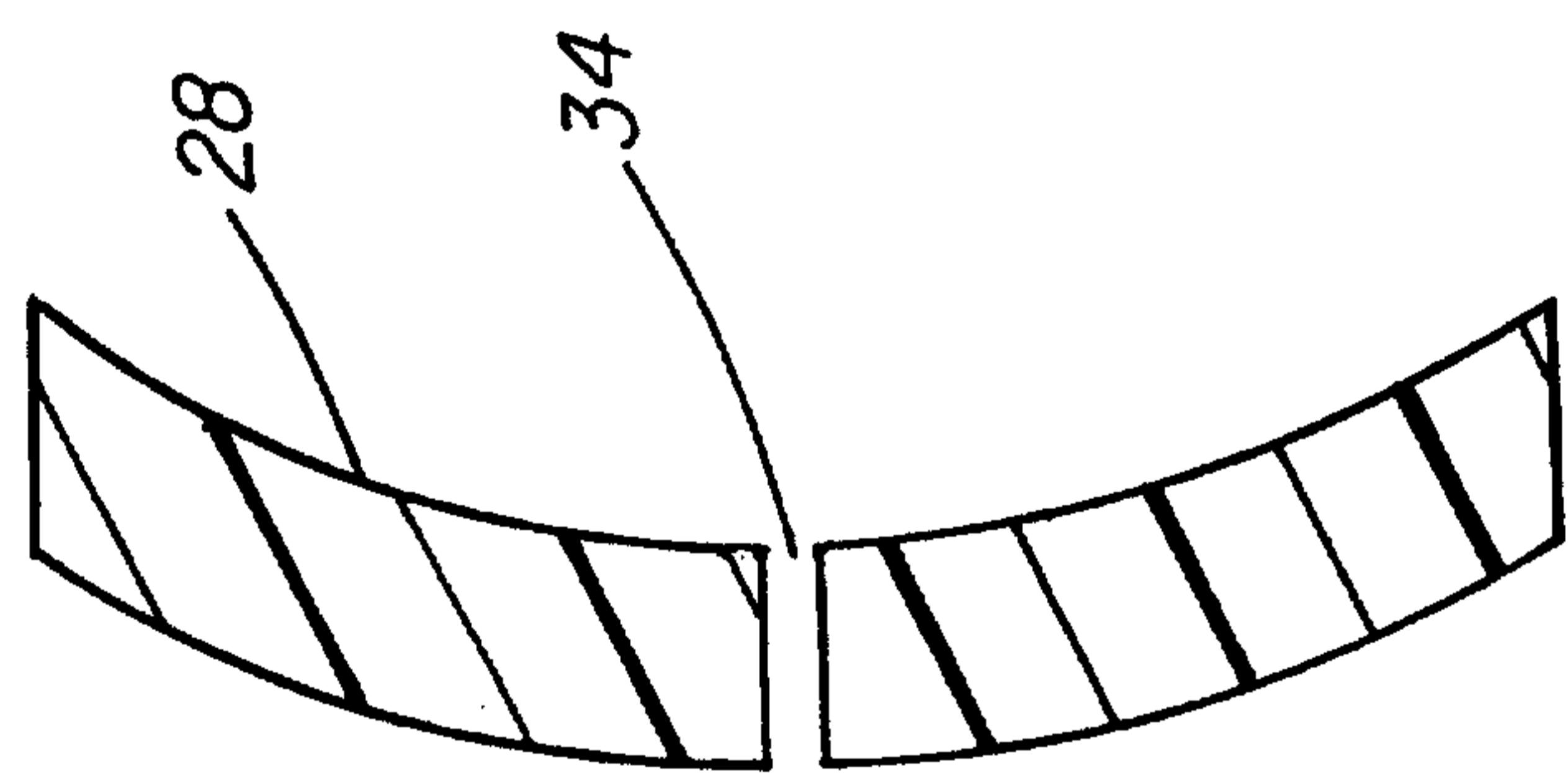


FIG. 12

