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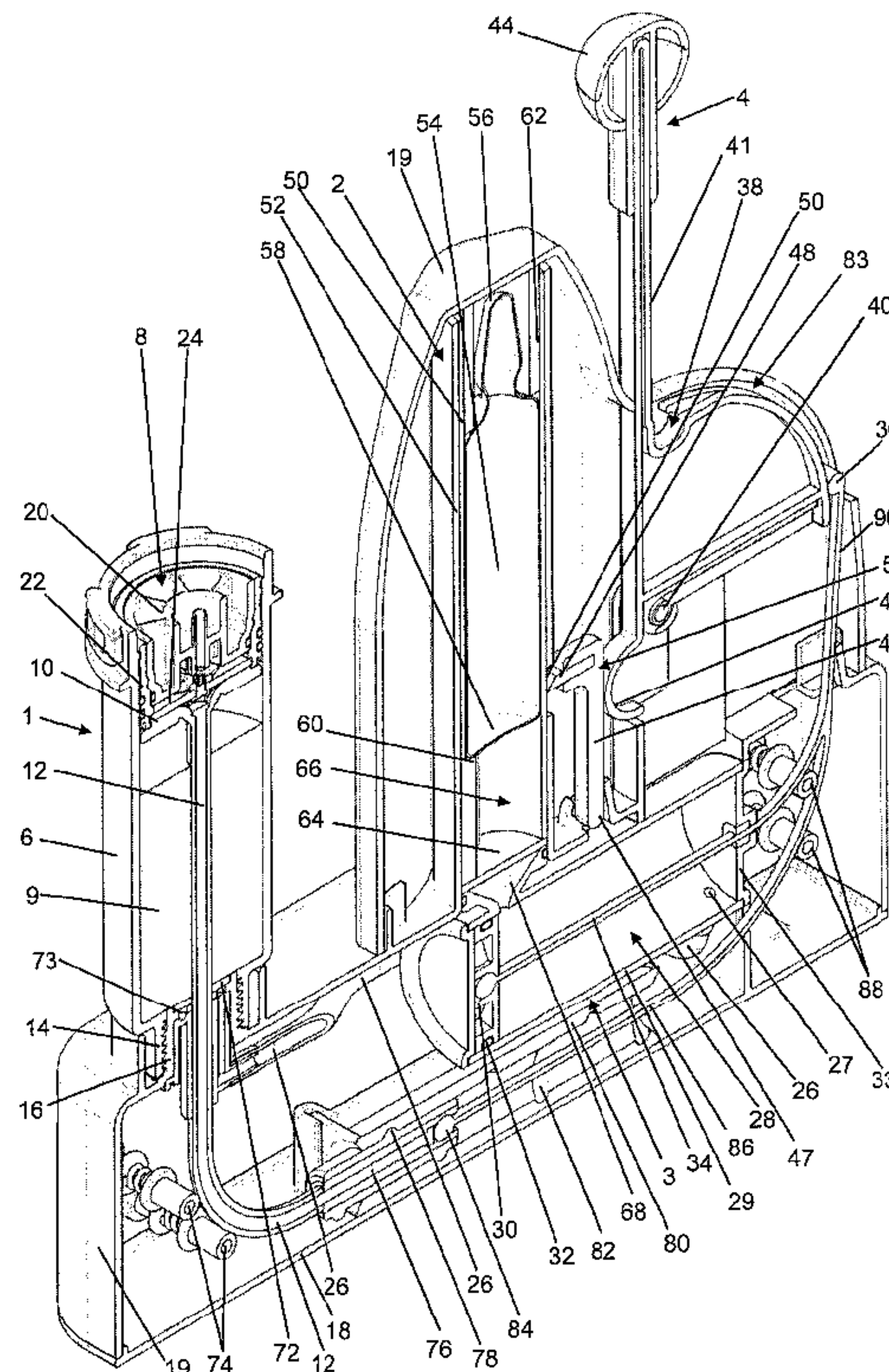
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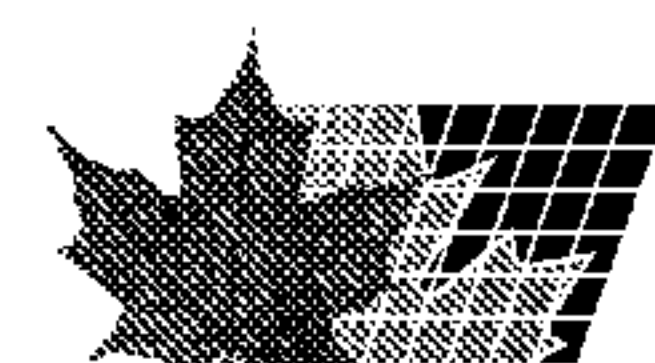
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(54) Title: MIXING DEVICE WITH OPERATING ELEMENT AND PRESSURE PUMP FOR MIXING
POLYMETHYLMETHACRYLATE BONE CEMENT



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

The invention relates to a mixing device for mixing PMMA bone cement from a monomer liquid and a cement powder (9), the mixing device comprising at least one cartridge (6) having an evacuable interior for mixing of the bone cement (96), a mixing device



(57) Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):

(10) for mixing the content in the interior of the at least one cartridge (6), which is arranged movably in the interior, a receptacle (2) for receiving a separate container (54) containing the monomer liquid or comprising an integrated container containing the monomer liquid, an opening device (5), which is arranged in the region of the receptacle (2) in a manner movable relative to the receptacle (2) so that, by moving the opening device (5), a separate container (54) arranged in the receptacle (2) is openable by means of the opening device (5), or the opening device (5) is arranged in the region of the integrated container in a manner movable relative to the integrated container so that, by moving the opening device (5), the integrated container is openable by means of the opening device (5), a pressure pump (3), in which a movable plunger (30) for conveying a liquid is arranged and delimits a pump chamber (28) of the pressure pump (3) and a connection line (26), which connects the interior of the at least one cartridge (6) to the pump chamber (28) of the pressure pump (3), wherein the mixing device comprises an operating element (4) that is operatable from outside, wherein the plunger (30) in the pressure pump (3) is movable manually by means of the operating element (4), and wherein the opening device (5) is to be moved relative to the receptacle (2) or relative to the integrated container by means of the same operating element (4), and the mixing device (10) in the interior of the cartridge (6) is movable by means of the same operating element (4) in order to mix the content in the interior of the cartridge (6). The invention also relates to a method for mixing PMMA bone cement.

Abstract

The invention relates to a mixing device for mixing PMMA bone cement from a monomer liquid and a cement powder (9), the mixing device comprising at least one cartridge (6) having an evacuable interior for mixing of the bone cement (96), a mixing
5 device (10) for mixing the content in the interior of the at least one cartridge (6), which is arranged movably in the interior, a receptacle (2) for receiving a separate container (54) containing the monomer liquid or comprising an integrated container containing the monomer liquid, an opening device (5), which is arranged in the region of the receptacle
10 device (5), a separate container (54) arranged in the receptacle (2) is openable by means of the opening device (5), or the opening device (5) is arranged in the region of the integrated container in a manner movable relative to the integrated container so that, by moving the opening device (5), the integrated container is openable by means
15 of the opening device (5), a pressure pump (3), in which a movable plunger (30) for conveying a liquid is arranged and delimits a pump chamber (28) of the pressure pump (3) and a connection line (26), which connects the interior of the at least one cartridge (6) to the pump chamber (28) of the pressure pump (3), wherein the mixing device
20 comprises an operating element (4) that is operatable from outside, wherein the plunger (30) in the pressure pump (3) is movable manually by means of the operating element (4), and wherein the opening device (5) is to be moved relative to the receptacle (2) or relative to the integrated container by means of the same operating element (4), and the mixing device (10) in the interior of the cartridge (6) is movable by means of the same operating element (4) in order to mix the content in the interior of the cartridge (6).

The invention also relates to a method for mixing PMMA bone cement.

MIXING DEVICE WITH OPERATING ELEMENT AND PRESSURE PUMP FOR MIXING POLYMETHYLMETHACRYLATE BONE CEMENT

Description

The invention relates to a mixing device for the mixing of polymethylmethacrylate bone
5 cement (PMMA bone cement) from two starting components, in particular for the mixing
of a medical bone cement and for storage of the starting components. The invention
further relates to a method for the mixing of polymethylmethacrylate bone cement.

Accordingly, the subject matter of the invention is a mixing device for the storage,
mixing, and, if applicable, dispensing of polymethylmethacrylate bone cement. The
10 invention further relates to a method for the transferring of monomer liquid into the
mixing device and to a method for the mixing of the components of
polymethylmethacrylate bone cement.

Polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) bone cements are based on the pioneering work of Sir
Charnley. PMMA bone cements consist of a liquid monomer component and a powder
15 component. The monomer component generally contains the monomer,
methylmethacrylate, and an activator (N,N-dimethyl-p-toluidine) dissolved therein. The
powder component, which is also referred to as bone cement powder, comprises one or
more polymers, which are produced on the basis of methylmethacrylate and
comonomers, such as styrene, methylacrylate or similar monomers by means of
20 polymerisation, preferably by suspension polymerisation. The bone cement powder
additionally comprises a radiopaquer and the initiator dibenzoylperoxide. During the
mixing of powder component and monomer component, swelling of the polymers of the
powder component in the methylmethacrylate generates a dough that can be shaped
plastically and is the actual bone cement. During the mixing of powder component and
25 monomer component, the activator, N,N-dimethyl-p-toluidine, reacts with
dibenzoylperoxide while forming radicals. The radicals thus formed trigger the radical
polymerisation of the methylmethacrylate. Upon advancing polymerisation of the
methylmethacrylate, the viscosity of the cement dough increases until the cement
dough solidifies.

Methylmethacrylate is the monomer used most commonly in polymethylmethacrylate bone cements. Redox initiator systems usually consist of peroxides, accelerators and, if applicable, suitable reducing agents. Radicals are formed only if all ingredients of the redox initiator systems interact. For this reason, the ingredients of the redox initiator system in the separate starting components are arranged appropriately such that these cannot trigger a radical polymerisation. The starting components are stable during storage provided their composition is adequate. Only when the two starting components are mixed to produce a cement dough do the ingredients of the redox initiator system, previously stored separately in the two pastes, liquids or powders, react with each other, forming radicals which trigger the radical polymerisation of the at least one monomer. The radical polymerisation then leads to the formation of polymers while consuming the monomer, whereby the cement dough is cured.

PMMA bone cements can be mixed by mixing the cement powder and the monomer liquid in suitable mixing beakers with the aid of spatulas. One disadvantage of said procedure is that air inclusions may be present in the cement dough thus formed and can cause destabilisation of the bone cement later on.

In order to avoid air inclusions in the bone cement dough, a large number of vacuum cementing systems have been disclosed of which the following shall be listed for exemplary purposes: US 6 033 105 A, US 5 624 184 A, US 4 671 263 A, US 4 973 168 A, US 5 100 241 A, WO 99/67015 A1, EP 1 020 167 A2, US 5 586 821 A, EP 1 016 452 A2, DE 36 40 279 A1, WO 94/26403 A1, WO 00/35506 A1, EP 1 005 901 A2, US 5 344 232 A. In the vacuum cementing systems thus specified, there is a need to connect an external vacuum pump to generate the negative pressure. These are generally operated by compressed air utilising the Venturi principle. The compressed air required for operation of the vacuum pumps is supplied either by stationary compressed air facilities or by electrically-operated compressors. In addition, it is also feasible to use electrically-operated vacuum pumps to generate vacuum.

Cementing systems in which both the cement powder and the monomer liquid are already packed in separate compartments of the mixing systems and are mixed with each other in the cementing system only right before application of the cement, are a

development of cementing technology. Such full-prepacked mixing systems were proposed through EP 0 692 229 A1, DE 10 2009 031 178 B3, US 5 997 544 A, US 6 709 149 B1, DE 698 12 726 T2 and US 5 588 745 A. Patent DE 10 2009 031 178 B3 discloses a vacuum mixing device having a two-part dispensing plunger that can also be used for a mixing device according to the invention. Here, a combination of a gas-permeable sterilisation plunger and a gas-impermeable sealing plunger is used.

Document WO 00/35506 A1 proposes a device in which PMMA bone cement powder is stored in a cartridge, wherein the cement powder fills the entire volume of the cartridge and the gaps between the particles of the cement powder are of a volume corresponding to the volume of the monomer liquid necessary for the production of bone cement dough together with the cement powder stored in the cartridge. This device is constructed such that, as a result of the effect of a vacuum, the monomer liquid is introduced from above into the cartridge, wherein for this purpose a vacuum is applied at a vacuum connection at the underside of the cartridge. The monomer liquid is thus drawn through the cement powder, wherein the air disposed in the gaps between the cement particles is displaced by the monomer liquid. Here, there is no mechanical mixing of the formed cement dough by means of an agitator.

A disadvantage of this system is that cement powders, which swell quickly when exposed to the monomer liquid, cannot be mixed with this device, because the rapidly swelling cement powder particles, once the monomer liquid has penetrated the cement powder by approximately 1 to 2 cm, form a gel-like barrier and prevent the migration of the monomer liquid through the entire cement powder. In addition, under the influence of a vacuum, it cannot be ruled out that, after complete penetration of the cement powder by the monomer liquid, the monomer liquid might be sucked up via the vacuum connection. There then would be insufficient monomer liquid available for curing by radical polymerization, or the mixing ratio might be modified unintentionally, and therefore also the consistency of the bone cement. It is also problematic that the air enclosed between the cement powder particles will be displaced from top to bottom by the monomer liquid, because the air, which specifically is lighter than the monomer

liquid, will seek to move upwardly in the cement powder on account of the effect of gravity rather than migrating downwardly in the direction of the vacuum connection.

If mixing devices are used for cementing, external vacuum pumps need to be provided. Said vacuum pumps are expensive and need to be cleaned after use. Moreover, vacuum hoses for connecting the vacuum pumps to the mixing devices are required. Said vacuum hoses need to be enclosed with the mixing devices. Accordingly, prior to the mixing using a mixing device, the vacuum pump needs first to be set up in the operating theatre (OP theatre) and must be connected to an energy source, such as compressed air, or to an electrical power source. Then, the vacuum pump is connected to the mixing device by means of a vacuum hose. Said installation steps take up costly OP time and are potentially error-prone. The vacuum pump and connecting lines to the mixing device and to external energy sources and supply lines take up space and constitute potential tripping hazards and obstacles that can disturb the often hectic procedure during surgery.

A further interesting concept has been proposed through EP 1 886 647 A1. Here, the cement powder is stored in an evacuated cartridge and the monomer liquid is situated in a separate container. The cartridge, which is kept at a negative pressure, being opened causes the monomer liquid to be aspirated into the cartridge without any ingress of air. A bone cement dough free of air inclusions is thus produced. Said concept requires the cartridge to remain closed in vacuum-tight manner during the storage before use such that no non-sterile air can enter into the cartridge. For this purpose, the cartridge must be sealed in a stable hermetic manner. Accordingly, one associated disadvantage is that the design is quite elaborate and that the content in the cartridge cannot be mixed by an externally-operated mixing system after aspiration of the monomer since a feedthrough for a mixing rod or for a mixing tube would not readily be permanently vacuum-tight. In the case of known full-prepacked mixing systems, a vacuum or a negative pressure is usually used to transfer the monomer liquid into the cement powder.

Accordingly, it is the object of the invention to overcome the disadvantages of the prior art. Specifically, the disadvantages of the known vacuum mixing devices as full-

prepacked systems having an external vacuum source are to be overcome without having to maintain a negative pressure over a long period of time. It is the object of the invention, inter alia, to develop a simple, closed device, in which polymethylmethacrylate bone cement powder (cement powder) and monomer liquid can be stored in separate compartments and can then be mixed. The polymethylmethacrylate bone cement powder is to be combined and mixed with the monomer liquid within the vacuum mixing device by the medical user, without both components coming into contact with the medical user. Contact between the medical user and the polymethylmethacrylate bone cement powder and the monomer liquid is to be ruled out to the greatest possible extent. The device to be developed is a full-prepacked mixing system. The device is to be designed so that the monomer liquid can be transferred into the polymethylmethacrylate bone cement powder without the use of external pumps driven by compressed air or compressors. It is also important that the device ensures the production of bone cement dough in a functional and reliable manner without external energy sources, such as compressed air, vacuum or electrical current, even under the simplest external conditions. The device is also intended to do without additional technical equipment.

The mixing device will be simplified to the greatest possible extent and will be capable of enabling a transfer of monomer liquid from a monomer container into a cartridge filled with cement powder. Moreover, a method is then to be provided that enables a monomer transfer and a mixing of the components in full-prepacked mixing devices. Moreover, the mixing device is to be developed shall be able to be manufactured mainly from an inexpensive plastics material.

A further object of the invention is to develop a simple, closed prepacked mixing device with which polymethylmethacrylate bone cement powder and monomer liquid can be stored in separate compartments, and then mixed. It will be possible to transfer the monomer liquid into the cement powder just before the mixing of the components, without use of external vacuum sources, external electric drives and external compressed air drives. With the prepacked mixing device it will be possible to produce polymethylmethacrylate bone cement purely

by manual actuation, independently of additional external devices. Here, the manual actuation is to be simplified to the greatest possible extent. The opening of the monomer ampoule, or monomer ampoules, the monomer transfer, and the mixing of the cement components is to be caused preferably by a simple movement of an operating element, where possible, which has to be repeated particularly preferably only a few times, for example 3 to 5 times. The use of the mixing device for the user is thus to be simplified to the greatest possible extent, such that costly training can be limited or spared. Furthermore, operation of the mixing device simplified to the greatest possible extent is intended to minimize potential operating errors, thus increasing patient safety.

The polymethylmethacrylate bone cement powder can be combined and mixed with the monomer liquid within the mixing device by the medical user, without both cement components coming into contact with the medical user. Contact between the medical user and the polymethylmethacrylate bone cement powder and the monomer liquid must be ruled out. The mixing device to be developed is a full-prepacked mixing device. The mixing device is to be designed so that the monomer liquid is transferred into the polymethylmethacrylate bone cement powder without the use of external vacuum pumps. Furthermore, the mixing device is to ensure the production of bone cement dough in a functional and reliable manner without external energy sources, such as compressed air, vacuum or electrical current, even under the simplest external conditions. The mixing device is also intended particularly preferably to do without an internal energy store, such as batteries or also mechanical energy stores, to the greatest possible extent. The mixing device is intended to be usable autonomously, without additional technical equipment.

Moreover, a device that is inexpensive to manufacture and that works reliably for the mixing of a medical cement and, if applicable, for storage of the starting components, and a method for the mixing of the bone cement is to be devised, in which the simplest possible manual operation can be used to mix the starting components.

The main component of the polymethylmethacrylate bone cement, as mixing material, shall be a powder and the second component shall be present in the form of a liquid. Preferably, it shall be possible to store the two starting components of the bone cement separately from each other in the mixing device and to combine them safely through the use of the device.

The objects of the invention are achieved by a mixing device for the mixing of polymethylmethacrylate bone cement from a monomer liquid and a cement powder, the mixing device comprising

at least one cartridge having an evacuable interior for mixing of the bone cement

a mixing device for mixing the content in the interior of the at least one cartridge, which mixing device is arranged movably in the interior,

a receptacle for receiving a separate container containing the monomer liquid or comprising an integrated container containing the monomer liquid,

an opening device, which is arranged in the region of the receptacle in a manner

movable relative to the receptacle so that, by moving the opening device, a separate container arranged in the receptacle is openable by means of the opening device, or the

opening device is arranged in the region of the integrated container in a manner movable relative to the integrated container so that, by moving the opening device, the

integrated container is openable by means of the opening device,

a pressure pump, in which a movable plunger for conveying a liquid is arranged and delimits a pump chamber of the pressure pump, and

a connection line, which connects the interior of the at least one cartridge to the pump chamber of the pressure pump, wherein

the mixing device comprises an operating element that is operatable from outside,

wherein the plunger in the pressure pump is movable manually by means of the operating element, and wherein the opening device is to be moved relative to the

receptacle or relative to the integrated container by means of the same operating element, and

the mixing device in the interior of the cartridge is movable by means of the same

operating element in order to mix the content in the interior of the cartridge.

The mixing device is preferably also suitable for storing the starting components of the polymethylmethacrylate bone cement. The monomer liquid and/or the cement powder are particularly preferably contained in the mixing device. The starting components of the polymethylmethacrylate bone cement are the cement powder and the monomer liquid, wherein the monomer liquid is preferably contained in a glass ampoule, which is arranged as a separate container in the receptacle. However, the monomer liquid can also be contained in a film bag as separate container or can be contained in the integrated container, which is formed by the receptacle or the mixing device itself.

The term "mixing device" is to be understood in the sense that the starting components of the bone cement, i.e. the monomer liquid and the cement powder, can be mixed inside the device.

On account of the specific requirements, such as the small volume of the interior of the cartridge, there is no need for more elaborate pressure pumps or transfer systems.

Provision can be made preferably so that the pressure pump is integrated in the mixing device.

Provision can also be made in accordance with the invention preferably so that the cement powder is contained in the interior of the cartridge. The cement powder then does not have to be filled into the interior of the cartridge.

By coupling the opening device to the operating element, the container in the receptacle or the integrated container is openable by means of the opening device by manually operating the operating element.

The mixing device comprises either a receptacle into which a separate container, such as a glass ampoule or a film bag, which contains the monomer liquid can be inserted, or an integrated container which is formed as an integral part of the mixing device and in which the monomer liquid is already contained.

Provision can also be made so that more than one cartridge is provided, each of which has an interior, wherein a mixing device is then provided in each interior and each interior is connected to the pump chamber of the pressure or to a corresponding pump chamber of a plurality of separate pressure pumps via a connection line.

The receptacle is also preferably suitable and intended for fixing a glass ampoule or the glass ampoule in the receptacle. The glass ampoule for this purpose clearly must be shaped appropriately. By way of example, the glass ampoule can be plugged into the receptacle by means of a press fit.

- 5 Provision can be made in accordance with the invention so that the receptacle is closed on one side by means of a lid. Here, at least one gas-permeable opening can preferably be provided in the lid, through which opening gas can flow into the receptacle or can flow in once the monomer liquid flows out from the receptacle. This is intended to avoid the formation of a negative pressure in the receptacle, which negative pressure
10 counteracts the flow of the monomer liquid into the pump chamber.

The cartridge preferably has a fluid-tight or pressure-tight feedthrough, through which a bar, a cable or a mixing shaft is passed, by means of which the mixing device is movable from outside the cartridge. For this purpose, the bar, the cable, or the mixing shaft is preferably mounted in the feedthrough rotatably and displaceably in the
15 longitudinal direction. The content in the cartridge can be well mixed by means of the mixing device.

Preferred embodiments can be characterised in that the mixing device has a total weight less than 10 kg, particularly preferably has a total weight less than 2 kg, particularly preferably less than 1 kg.

- 20 These low weights are possible with the structure according to the invention of the mixing device with manually operable operating element and the pressure pump. The low weight has the advantage that the mixing device is portable and transportable and usable without connection to supply lines and without great preparation efforts.

Provision can be made in accordance with the invention so that a sieve and/or a filter
25 are/is arranged below the receptacle, the separate container, or below the integrated container so that the content in the opened integrated container or separate container flows through the sieve and/or the filter.

Glass splinters, film snippets, or other residues of the closure or of the separate or integrated container created when the separate or integrated container is opened by

means of the opening device can thus be held back. A clogging of the connection line to the interior of the cartridge and a blocking of the pressure pump and a contamination of the bone cement to be produced is thus prevented.

Mixing devices according to the invention are characterised in that they do without an electric drive. Provision can thus be made in accordance with the invention so that the mixing device does not have an electric drive or at least the pressure pump, the opening device and the mixing device are not driven by means of an electric drive. Instead, these component parts are driven in accordance with the invention via the manually operable operating element. Mixing devices according to the invention can also be constructed without electronics or electronic component parts. A mixing device according to the invention can thus also be characterised in that no electronics are installed therein or no electronics or electronic component parts are used at least in order to drive the pressure pump, the opening device, and the mixing device. Electric motors or compressors therefore are not required in order to construct mixing devices according to the invention.

Furthermore, provision can be made in accordance with the invention so that the mixing device does not have any energy stores, in particular no electrical energy stores, such as a primary battery or a rechargeable battery, and no compressed gas store, such as a CO₂ compressed gas cartridge, or so that at least no energy stores, preferably no electrical energy stores or compressed gas stores, are used in order to drive the pressure pump, the opening device, and the mixing device. The mixing device, however, preferably also does not have any resilient energy stores, such as tensioned springs.

In the case of mixing devices according to the invention, provision can be made so that the operating element is connected or connectable to the plunger in such a way that the plunger is movable manually in the pressure by operation of the operating element, preferably is movable manually in at least one direction, particularly preferably is movable manually in one direction.

As a result of this, the plunger is movable, in particular directly, by means of the operating element. Here, provision can be made so that the plunger is connected to the

operating element only after a first operation of the operating element, in such a way that the plunger in the pressure pump is moved by a further operation of the operating element. Here, a lever is particularly well suited for the embodiment of the operating element, which lever can be pulled or pushed or pivoted back and forth about an axis so that the separate container in the receptacle or the integrated container is opened after a first movement of the lever and in so doing the plunger and/or the mixing device are/is connected to the operating element in such a way that the plunger in the pressure pump and/or the mixing device in the interior of the cartridge are/is moved in the event of a reverse movement of the lever. In addition, large forces can be transferred manually into the mixing device without difficulty by means of a lever.

Furthermore, provision can be made so that the receptacle, at least in regions, has closed side walls for receiving a glass ampoule as separate container, wherein the receptacle has at least one deformable closed side wall and a supporting element is provided opposite the deformable side wall, wherein the opening device is pressable via the operating element against the deformable side wall of the receptacle so that the deformable side wall deforms in such a way that a matching glass ampoule arranged in the receptacle can be broken open by means of the opening device.

As a result of this measure, the receptacle can be largely closed outwardly. In addition, it can be ensured as a result that a glass ampoule can also be opened within the closed receptacle without further monomer liquid being able to escape from the mixing device, whereby the risk of contamination of the surroundings of the mixing device with the content in the cartridge, in particular with the monomer liquid, can be ruled out or the risk of this is at least significantly reduced.

With a development of the present invention it is proposed for the opening device to have a first lever which is mounted rotatably about a first axis in relation to the receptacle or the integrated container, wherein a free end of the first lever is pushable against a deformable side wall of the receptacle or the integrated container, wherein the operating element is formed by a second lever which is mounted pivotably about a second axis in relation to receptacle or the integrated container, wherein the second axis divides the second lever into a short lever arm and a long lever arm, wherein an

end of the short lever arm is to be pushed by manual operation of the long lever arm against the first lever so that the free end of the first lever pushes against the deformable side wall and deforms this in such a way that a separate container disposed in the receptacle is openable, or pushes the free end of the first lever against the integrated container so that the integrated container opens towards a connection into the pump chamber.

Here, provision can be made so that the separate container is a glass ampoule which matches the receptacle and which can be broken open by the pressure of the free end of the first lever or is a film bag which is arranged in the receptacle and which can be pierced or slit open or torn open by the pressure of the free end of the first lever.

Provision can also be made in such embodiments so that an edge is arranged at the free end of the first lever on the side facing towards the receptacle. The length ratio of the long lever arm to the short lever arm is preferably at least 5 to 1. Furthermore, provision can be made so that the second lever is to be rotated in the same plane as the first lever, wherein the movement of the second lever engages in the movement of the first lever. Provision can also be made preferably so that the second axis of the second lever is arranged above the first axis of the first lever, wherein the first axis of the first lever and the second axis of the second lever are preferably arranged parallel to one another.

With mixing devices of this type with glass ampoule, it is possible to break open a glass ampoule over a large area within the device or the cementing device, such that the monomer liquid flows out from the glass ampoule within a short period of time, flows into the pump chamber of the pressure pump, and is thus made available for mixing with the medical bone cement powder. With the aid of the two levers, which interact with one another, it is possible to direct the pressure on the glass ampoule in the direction in which the glass ampoule sits in the receptacle so that the glass ampoule cannot escape from the receptacle. At the same time, a very accurately defined local pressure can be exerted onto the glass ampoule, by means of which the glass ampoule in the mixing device can be broken open. With the aid of the deformable side wall, is possible to ensure that the force is transferred through this side wall into the interior of the

receptacle and onto the glass ampoule, wherein the receptacle remains closed. An escape of the monomer liquid from the receptacle can thus be ruled out. With the aid of the sieve and/or the filter, glass splinters possibly created as the glass ampoule is opened can be held back. The monomer liquid can then be used for mixing with the
5 bone cement powder.

The particular advantage of the device according to the invention also lies in the fact that any glass ampoules, regardless of the ampoule length and the geometry of the ampoule head, can be safely opened when the ampoule diameter is equal to or slightly greater than the inner diameter of the ampoule holder or the receptacle. It is also a
10 particular advantage that when breaking the ampoule wall in the region of the ampoule base, the liquid contained in the glass ampoule immediately flows out completely, independently of the surface tension. By contrast, in the case of conventional ampoule breakers, the liquid flows out through the relatively narrow cross-section of the ampoule neck, after separation of the ampoule head, significantly more slowly. Here, reasonably
15 high outflow speeds are attained only when the cross-section of the ampoule neck is large enough so that the surface tension of the liquid cannot hold the meniscus of the liquid in the ampoule neck.

The receptacle is preferably a hollow cylinder. The receptacle likewise preferably consists of an elastomer or comprises an insert made of an elastomer, such as an
20 ethylene propylene diene (EPDM) rubber.

Provision can also be made here so that a shoulder for supporting the glass ampoule is arranged in the receptacle, wherein the shoulder is smaller than half the area of the ampoule base or the ampoule cross-section. Here, provision can in turn be made preferably so that the shoulder is arranged in the receptacle in such a way that the
25 distance between the shoulder and a sieve and/or filter arranged therebelow is the same size as or greater than the outer diameter of the glass ampoule to be inserted.

With a mixing device that can be provided particularly easily and economically, it is proposed for the operating element to be manually movable, preferably to be a lever pivotable about an axis, wherein the operating element is operatively connected so as
30 to be brought into operative connection with the opening device, the pressure pump,

and the mixing device in such a way that with a first operation of the operating element a separate container in the receptacle or the integrated container is to be opened, and with a further operation of the operating element the plunger in the pressure pump is to be driven, and the mixing device in the interior is to be driven.

- 5 A force which is to be applied manually and which acts on the operating element, in particular the lever, can hereby be used in order to firstly open the separate or integrated container and then drive or move the pressure pump, and the mixing device by means of the same operating element. Levers as operating elements are particularly well suited for transferring manual force into the mixing device. This is also the case
10 because it is possible to increase the usable force via the length of the lever arm.

Here, provision can be made so that the plunger of the pressure pump, and/or the mixing device are/is to be driven via a flexible cable and/or a rod, wherein a detent means is provided on the flexible cable and/or the rod and after first-time operation of the operating element engages with a mating detent means on the operating element or
15 with a mating detent means connected to the operating element so that, with operation of the operating element subsequent to the latching, the plunger of the pressure pump and/or the mixing device are/is to be driven via the cable and/or the rod by means of the operating element.

The force can thus be transferred from the operating element to the plunger and/or the
20 mixing device. The flexible cables are particularly well suited for the transfer of force, since the direction of the force can be deflected therewith without complex mechanics. The flexible cable is preferably sufficiently stiff or rigid so that the mixing device can be moved back and forth in both directions. The cable can be guided and/or supported for this purpose. By way of example, the cable for this purpose can be guided in a channel,
25 or can be supported and/or deflected at suitable points by a housing and by struts and/or deflection rollers in the housing. Due to the use of the detent means and the mating detent means, it is possible to ensure that the separate container in the receptacle or the integrated container is firstly opened and the monomer liquid flows completely or largely into the pump chamber, before the pressure pump or the plunger
30 of the pressure pump and/or the mixing device is operated. By way of example, it is thus

possible to prevent the pressure pump from being operated before the monomer liquid is available.

Is also proposed for the mixing device to be axially movable in the interior in the longitudinal direction by operation of the operating element.

- 5 A very comprehensive mixing of the interior is hereby achieved in particular for a cylindrical interior. At the same time, the mixing device can be constructed in a compact manner, since it does not have to extend along the entire length of the interior.

Provision can also be made preferably so that the mixing device is rotatable about the longitudinal axis of the interior by operation of the operating element in the interior,
10 whereby preferably for this purpose a cylinder connected to the mixing device and having an external thread moves in a stationary sleeve having a matching internal thread so that, when the cylinder moves along the longitudinal direction within the sleeve, a rotation of the cylinder is enforced, wherein the rotation of the cylinder transfers to the mixing device in the interior of the cartridge.

- 15 An even more thorough mixing of the content in the interior is achieved hereby. Bone cement clinging to the wall of the interior can also be effectively mixed as a result. The bone cement is thus mixed more quickly and more effectively.

With a development of the present invention provision can also be made so that the pump chamber of the pressure pump is liquid-tight and is arranged in the interior of the
20 pressure pump, wherein the plunger is manually drivable via the operating element in at least one direction, such that the pump chamber is to be made smaller by the movement of the plunger and the content in the pump chamber, in particular the monomer liquid in the pump chamber, is pushable into the interior of the at least one cartridge by means of the decreasing volume of the pump chamber.

- 25 A particularly good pumping effect of the pressure pump is hereby achieved. The monomer liquid can thus be driven particularly effectively and by operation of the operating element from the pump chamber into the interior of the cartridge.

Here, provision can be made so that the volume reduction of the pump chamber with a full stroke of the plunger is at least as large as the volume of the monomer liquid to be

pressed into the interior of the cartridge, and preferably the volume reduction of the pump chamber with a full stroke of the plunger is at least as large as the sum of the volume of the monomer liquid to be pressed into the interior of the cartridge and the connection line.

- 5 It is thus ensured that the pressure pump transfers a sufficient or an exactly matching and predetermined amount of the monomer liquid into the interior of the cartridge. This preferably occurs with just one stroke of the plunger.

Furthermore, provision can be made so that the plunger is mounted axially movably in a hollow cylinder, wherein the hollow cylinder is closed on a first side opposite the plunger
10 or is closed apart from a feedthrough for a rod or cable connected to the operating element and the plunger, in particular is closed by a closure, wherein the pump chamber is preferably formed in the hollow cylinder between the plunger and the first closed side, wherein the hollow cylinder is particularly preferably open on a second side.

- 15 The pump chamber and the plunger preferably have a cylindrical geometry. As a result of these measures and also as a result of the cylindrical geometry, a pressure pump that is particularly easily and inexpensively manufactured is proposed, which is easily operated and is particularly unsusceptible to malfunctions.

In the case of mixing devices with a hollow cylinder, provision can also be made so that
20 the plunger of the pressure pump is to be driven via a flexible cable and/or a rod, wherein a first part of the cable and/or the rod runs through the pump chamber and is guided out from the pump chamber on the first side through a liquid-tight feedthrough, in particular is guided out from the pump chamber through a liquid-tight feedthrough through the closure, wherein the plunger is to be drawn in the direction of the first side
25 of the hollow cylinder by operation of the operating element by means of the flexible cable and/or the rod, such that the pump chamber is made smaller.

The plunger can thus be drawn with great force in order to reduce the size of the pump chamber on the opposite first side. Tensile forces are easier to convey in particular via flexible cables, such that the monomer can be transferred from the pump chamber at

great force and the monomer liquid can thus be pushed into the interior of the cartridge at great force, whereby the distribution of the monomer liquid in the interior of the cartridge or in the cement powder is improved. Since the monomer is to be transferred preferably with a single stroke or pull of the plunger, it must not be possible for the plunger to be returned again by means of the cable. Provision can even be made preferably so that the plunger is to be driven only in one direction.

It is also proposed that the plunger is connected or connectable to the operating element via a rod and/or a cable, and preferably for the plunger to be moved in the pressure pump by operation of the operating element.

A particularly simple mixing device is hereby provided, with which there is no risk of possible interruptions. The direct connection of the operating element to the plunger via the cable and/or the rod can be provided with a one-part injection-moulded part made of plastics material. Alternatively, a transmission or a gearing can also be provided, by means of which the force exerted onto the operating element is transmitted to the plunger in order to enable a more powerful movement of the plunger.

In a further development of the mixing device, provision can be made so that a movable dispensing plunger for dispensing the mixed bone cement from the cartridge is arranged in the interior of the cartridge, wherein the dispensing plunger is preferably releasably locked or lockable in order to prevent a movement of the dispensing plunger under the action of the negative pressure.

The operation of the mixing device is simplified by the dispensing plunger.

Here, provision can be made so that the dispensing plunger has a passage with a gas-permeable pore plate, which is impermeable for cement powder, wherein the passage with the pore plate connects the interior of the cartridge to the connection line and/or the surroundings or to a vacuum connection in a gas-permeable manner, wherein the passage can be closed in a gas-tight manner, preferably can be closed in a gas-tight manner by means of a sealing plunger of the dispensing plunger.

With the pore plate it is possible to ensure that the interior of the cartridge with the cement powder therein can be sterilised with the aid of a gas, such as ethylene oxide,

without there being any risk that the cement powder will pass from the interior of the cartridge externally into the surroundings. A vacuum can be generated in the interior of the cartridge via the vacuum connection, such that the content in the mixing chamber can be mixed under vacuum.

- 5 Provision can also be made preferably so that the cartridge is a cement cartridge filled with cement powder and a separate container containing a monomer liquid is arranged in the receptacle or a monomer liquid is contained in the integrated container, wherein the receptacle or the integrated container is preferably connected to the pump chamber of the pressure pump in a liquid-impermeable manner by a separating element that is to
10 be opened.

The monomer liquid from the separate or integrated container is thus already contained in the mixing device and can be transferred into the interior of the cartridge by means of a pumping movement of the pressure pump or of the plunger of the pressure pump. The pressure generated manually by the pressure pump is used here at the same time to
15 press the monomer liquid into the cartridge. In particular, a separating element which is to be opened as appropriate is openable in accordance with the invention by means of the operating element, preferably once the integrated container or the separate container has been opened.

Provision can also be made so that the cartridge, the pressure pump and all lines and
20 also the receptacle or the integrated container are fixedly and/or releasably connected to a common base part and/or a housing, wherein the pressure pump and all lines as well as the receptacle or the separate container are preferably fixedly connected to the base part and/or the housing, and the cartridge is releasably connected to the base part and/or the housing.

- 25 A mixing device of this type can be easily placed and can be easily operated. The use of the mixing device is thus simplified. Merely a flat substrate for setting up the mixing device must be provided at the site of use, which in most OP areas does not pose any problems.

In accordance with one embodiment provision can be made so that the separate container containing the monomer liquid is a film bag which can be cut open or torn open in the receptacle by means of the opening device, or is a glass ampoule which can be broken open in the receptacle by means of the opening device.

- 5 Commercially available packaging options for the monomer liquid can thus be used, without having to open these outside the mixing device.

Provision can be made so that a connection for introducing the monomer liquid into the pump chamber is arranged below the receptacle or the integrated container.

- 10 With a development of the present invention, it is also proposed for a pressure to be exerted onto the monomer liquid contained in the pump chamber as a result of the movement of the plunger in the pressure pump, wherein the monomer liquid is to be pushed through the connection line into the interior of the at least one cartridge by means of the pressure.

A particularly simple and unsusceptible design is hereby provided.

- 15 Provision can also be made in accordance with the invention so that the pressure pump is constructed with a hollow cylinder, wherein the hollow cylinder is connected or connectable to the interior of the cartridge, a liquid-tight closure at one hollow cylinder end, the plunger, which is arranged in the hollow cylinder in a liquid-tight and axially movable manner, wherein the plunger in the pressure pump is movable by means of the
20 manually operable operating element, wherein, with a movement of the plunger by means of the manually operable operating element, the plunger is movable axially in the direction of the closure and a monomer liquid in the pump chamber can thus be pushed into the interior of the cartridge, wherein the operating element is operatively connected to the opening device, and wherein the operating element is connected to the mixing
25 device in the interior of the cartridge in such a way that the mixing device in the interior of the cartridge is movable with operation of the operating element.

This design is particularly simple, and the parts essential for it can be manufactured from plastics material by injection moulding.

With a particularly preferred embodiment of the present invention, provision can be made so that the pressure pump, the opening device, and the mixing device are drivable via the movement of the operating element, wherein the operating element is preferably moved by the action of manual force.

- 5 The mixing device therefore does not require any energy stores or any electric or electronic drives. This is desirable since the mixing device is intended for one-time use and in this way can be recycled more easily. In addition, the mixing device is ready for use in principle, and does not require any connections, such as cables or compressed gas tubes, in order to be used.
- 10 The objects forming the basis of the present invention are also achieved by a method for mixing polymethylmethacrylate bone cement in an interior of a cartridge of a mixing device, in particular a mixing device of the type described above, in which method an operating element is operated and an integrated container of the mixing device or a separate container, which is arranged in a receptacle of the mixing device, is thus
- 15 opened, wherein a monomer liquid contained in the integrated container or the separate container then flows as first component of the bone cement into a pump chamber of a pressure pump, by means of a subsequent, further operation of the operating element, a movement of a plunger of the pressure pump of the mixing device is driven by the further operation of the operating element, wherein the monomer liquid is pushed from
- 20 the pump chamber of the pressure pump, through a connection line, into the interior of the cartridge by means of the movement of the plunger, wherein a bone cement powder as second component of the bone cement is already disposed in the interior of the cartridge, and a mixing device in the interior of the cartridge is moved as a result of the operation of the operating element and a bone cement dough in the interior of the
- 25 cartridge formed from cement powder and the monomer liquid is mixed as a result of the movement of the mixing device.

Here, provision can be made so that the volume of a pump chamber of the pressure pump is made smaller by the manual movement of the plunger and the monomer liquid is pushed into the interior of the cartridge by means of the pressure created as a result.

- 30 The pressure pump can thus be provided in a simple way.

Provision can also be made in accordance with the invention so that a cement powder is contained in the interior of the cartridge and a monomer liquid is introduced into the interior of the cartridge, wherein gas is pushed out, or displaced, from the interior of the cartridge through the pore plate and the vacuum connection by introduction of the monomer liquid, and the monomer liquid is mixed with the cement powder in the evacuated interior of the cartridge due to a movement of the mixing device.

A design that can be provided particularly easily and reliably can be achieved as a result of the specified combination and interaction of the method steps.

Furthermore, provision can be made so that the plunger of the pressure pump is moved by means of the operating element, whereby the monomer liquid contained in the pump chamber is pushed through a connection line into the interior of the cartridge, the mixing device in the interior of the cartridge is then moved by operation of the same operating element, and in so doing the cement powder is mixed with the monomer liquid, the cartridge containing the mixed cement dough is removed, and the cement dough is pressed out from the cartridge by means of an axial movement of a dispensing plunger.

The method is hereby enhanced such that, at the end, a cement cartridge containing a bone cement dough mixed under vacuum is provided and can be used immediately.

Lastly, provision can also be made so that the cement powder is arranged in the cartridge, the monomer liquid is arranged in a receptacle separate from the cartridge, wherein the monomer liquid is contained in an integrated container or in a separate container, preferably in a glass ampoule in the receptacle, the integrated container or the separate container is opened by operation of the operating element and a resultant movement of the opening device, and the monomer liquid flows from the container into the pump chamber, before the plunger is driven by a further operation of the operating element, and the plunger is then moved axially in a hollow cylinder, whereby the monomer liquid disposed in the pump chamber is pushed through the connection line into the interior of the cartridge.

The method is thus further enhanced.

Methods according to the invention can also be characterised by the intended application or use of component parts of mixing devices according to the invention.

The invention is based on the surprising finding that it is possible with a single operating element to operate or drive the pressure pump and the mixing device and also to
5 operate the opening device. This has the advantage that there is no need for any complicated handling instructions for the operating individual. All sequences can be controlled and driven by operation of the sole operating element. The mixing device is thus simplified to the greatest possible extent. At the same time, there is no need for any energy stores for the drive, and there is no need for any electrical or electronic
10 control unit in order to drive and control the pressure pump, the mixing device and the opening device.

At the same time, it is possible with the aid of the pressure pump to provide a mixing device that is independent of internal and external power sources and other supply lines. The mixing device according to the invention can be constructed in a compact,
15 simple and space-saving manner. The pressure pump, the opening device, and the entire mixing device can be constructed using the simplest means, such that the entire mixing device can be used as a disposable system. An additional vacuum pump or the suitably modified pressure pump can also be used, and in accordance with the invention preferably are also used to evacuate the interior of the cartridge. The two components
20 of the PMMA bone cement can then be mixed in the vacuum or in the negative pressure.

A device for transferring the monomer liquid into the interior of the cartridge is contained in the cementing systems according to the present invention and is suitable for the temporary generation of a pressure for transporting a liquid monomer component of the
25 polymethylmethacrylate bone cement.

The idea forming the basis of the invention is based on the finding that only a relatively small amount of energy and therefore a low manual application of force is necessary in order to open the container for the monomer liquid in order to transfer the monomer component into the interior of the cartridge and in order to move the mixing device for
30 mixing the bone cement dough in the interior of the cartridge. This small amount of

energy can be applied readily by operation of a lever as operating element. The mixing device hereby can be handled in a simple manner and is easily operated and is also independent of internal and external energy stores. Due to a suitable structure, the order of the sequences can also be controlled, specifically the monomer container can be opened first and only then can the pressure pump, and the mixing device be driven.

The idea of the invention is also based on the fact that an overpressure is generated in a hollow cylinder of the pressure pump by manual actuation of an operating element with a plunger connected thereto in a hollow cylinder of the pressure pump, wherein the monomer liquid is pushed via a line means into the interior of the cartridge, in which cement powder is disposed. The cement components are then mixed manually with the aid of a mixing device, which is to be driven simultaneously via the same operating element.

By way of example, the invention can be implemented by means of the following method, in which the following functions are performed in the mixing device by activation with a manually operated lever or more generally a manually operated operating element:

1st step: actuation of the manual lever or operating element and breaking of the ampoule or ampoules, leakage of the monomer liquid within 1 to 2 seconds in a hollow cylinder; latching of a resilient rod into a mating detent means of the lever at the stop point of the lever, wherein the rod is forked into a first part and a second part;

2nd step: return movement of the manual lever or operating element into the starting position, wherein a plunger in the hollow cylinder is moved by the resilient rod, wherein the monomer liquid is pressed via a line means and a nozzle into the cement powder; unhooking of the plunger from a first part of the resilient rod; movement of a second part of the resilient rod, which is rotatably connected to a first sleeve, which has at least one outermost lobe, which is arranged movably in a steep thread of a second sleeve, such that a resilient stirring bar (as mixing shaft) is fixedly connected to the first sleeve so that the first sleeve is rotated by engagement of the lobe in the steep thread in the event of an axial movement of the first sleeve through the second sleeve, whereby the stirring bar rotates and moves axially in the cartridge;

3rd step: further actuation of the manual lever or operating element, movement of the first sleeve in the second sleeve, axial movement of the stirring bar in the cartridge with rotation about the longitudinal axis;

4th step: repetition of the 3rd step until the cement dough is homogeneously mixed;

5 5th step: releasing of the cartridge or cartridge system by a unscrewing and removal of the mixing bar (of the mixing shaft) with the mixing element, and collapsing of the mixing elements (the mixing blades of the mixing device).

The key advantage of the invention is that a prepacked mixing system is proposed which can be used in the simplest manner possible, without specific training measures,
10 by the medical user by means of simple manual actuation in order to produce a polymethylmethacrylate bone cement dough within a few seconds (for example within 40 seconds). It is also advantageous that are minimised on account of the maximally simplified operation, thus resulting in an improvement in patient safety.

The mixing device according to the invention can be provided substantially
15 inexpensively using simple plastics material parts to be produced by plastics material injection moulding. The particular advantage of the device according to the invention lies in the fact that the device is operatable without external aids, such as vacuum pumps and vacuum tubes, and without energy sources, such as compressed air or batteries. The mixing device according to the invention can be used autonomously and
20 can be used even under the simplest or most difficult operation conditions. A closed full-prepacked vacuum cementing system for price-sensitive markets is provided by means of the mixing device according to the invention.

Further exemplary embodiments of the invention will be explained hereinafter on the basis of eight schematically illustrated Figures, without, however, intending to limit the
25 invention hereto. In the Figures:

Figure 1: shows a schematic perspective view of a mixing device according to the invention;

Figure 2: shows a schematic perspective view of the mixing device according to Figure one with open housing;

Figure 3: shows a schematic perspective cross-sectional view of the mixing device according to Figure 1 in the starting state;

Figure 4: shows a schematic cross-sectional view of the mixing device according to Figures 1 to 4 in the starting state;

5 Figure 5: shows a schematic cross-sectional view of the mixing device according to Figures 1 to 4 with a plane of section perpendicular to the section of Figures 3 and 4;

Figure 6: shows a schematic cross-sectional view of the mixing device according to Figures 1 to 5 during the operation with broken-open glass ampoule;

10 Figure 7: shows a schematic cross-sectional view of the mixing device according to Figures 1 to 6 during the operation with latched cable or latched rod; and

Figure 8 shows a schematic cross-sectional view of the mixing device according to Figures 1 to 7 during the operation at the time of pumping and mixing.

15 Figures 1 to 8 show various views of a mixing device according to the invention before and during operation. The mixing device consists fundamentally of five parts, specifically a cartridge system 1, a liquid container 2, a pressure pump 3, which is to be driven manually, an operating element 4, and an opening device 5.

20 A central part of the cartridge system 1 is a cartridge 6 having a cylindrical interior which is closed at its upper side by a two-part dispensing plunger 8 which is arranged movably in a longitudinal direction in the cylindrical interior of the cartridge 6. The cartridge 6 thus has a cylindrical interior with circular base area. The cartridge 6 contains a cement powder 9 as starting component for a bone cement.

25 A mixing device 10 having two or more mixing blades 10 is also arranged in the interior of the cartridge 6, wherein the mixing device 10 is mounted rotatably and displaceably in the longitudinal direction in the interior of the cartridge 6 and is secured to a mixing shaft 12 or to a cable 12, which is guided rotatably and displaceably in the longitudinal direction through a feedthrough in the underside of the cartridge 6 into the interior of the cartridge 6. The feedthrough is pressure-tight for this purpose. The mixing shaft 12 can also be embodied as a flexible rod 12.

The cartridge system 1 is connected to the liquid container 2 and the pressure pump 3 via a base part 18 and a housing 19. The liquid container 2, the pressure pump 3, part of the operating element 4, and the opening device 5 are surrounded by the housing 19, wherein part of the operating element 4 protrudes from the housing 19, whereas the cartridge system 1 is screwed onto the housing 19. The cartridge 6 ends at its underside in a connection piece having an internal thread 14, which is screwed onto an external thread 16 on a connection piece of the housing 19. The base part 18 here forms the stand 18 of the compact mixing device. The cartridge 6 is thus releasable from the housing 19 and therefore the rest of the mixing device. When the bone cement 96 (see Figure 8) is mixed to a finished state in the interior of the cartridge 6 by means of the mixing device, the cartridge 6 can thus be unscrewed from the housing 19, and a dispensing pipe (not shown) can be screwed into the internal thread 14, through which pipe the finished bone cement dough 96 (see Figure 8) can be driven out by advancing the dispensing plunger 8 in the direction of the internal thread 14. A static mixer can be provided in the dispensing pipe, which mixer provides an additional mixing of the bone cement dough 96.

The two-part dispensing plunger 8 has a sealing plunger 20 and a sterilisation plunger 22. The sterilisation plunger 22 has a membrane or pore plate 24, which is permeable for a sterilising gas, but is not permeable for the cement powder 9. The sterilisation plunger 22 is inserted into the cartridge 6 once the cement powder 9 has been filled therein and closes the interior of the cartridge 6 with respect to the outside. The content in the cartridge 6 can then be sterilised with ethylene dioxide through the gas-permeable membrane or pore plate 24.

This sealing plunger 20 can be pushed into the sterilisation plunger 22 and can be connected thereto in a gas-tight and pressure-tight manner. The plunger parts 20, 22 secured to one another then together form the dispensing plunger 8, by means of which the content in the cartridge 6 can be pressed out through the opening in the connection piece having the internal thread 14. The sterilisation plunger 22 is initially locked on the side opposite the side with the opening in the connection piece having the internal thread 14 (at the top in Figures 3, 4 and 6 to 8), wherein the locking is releasable. As a

result of the locking, the sterilisation plunger 22 is prevented from moving undesirably during the sterilisation of the interior of the cartridge 6 and also the cement powder 9.

The mixing blades 10 inside the cartridge 6, i.e. in the interior of the cartridge 6, can be rotated via the mixing shaft 12 or the cable 12 and are movable in the longitudinal
5 direction of the cartridge 6.

A feedthrough is provided in the sealing plunger 20, through which the interior of the cartridge 6 can be evacuated. For this purpose, a vacuum pump (not shown) can be connected via a vacuum line (not shown) as part of the mixing device to the feedthrough. This vacuum pump is preferably also operated and driven by means of the
10 operating element 4. The sealing plunger 20 is otherwise closed in a pressure-tight manner with the cartridge 6.

In the base of the cartridge 6 (at the bottom in Figures 2 to 4 and 6 to 8), a connection line 26 opens out into the interior of the cartridge. The connection line 26 opens out via a mouth 27 into a pump chamber 28 of the pressure pump 3. The pressure pump 3 has
15 a stable hollow cylinder 29, which delimits the cylindrical pump chamber 28. The hollow cylinder 29 is separated in a pressure-tight manner into two parts via a plunger 30. For this purpose, the plunger 30 has a peripheral seal 32, which terminates with the inner wall of the hollow cylinder 29. The plunger 30 is connected to a cable 34 or a flexible rod 34 made of a stable, resilient plastics material or made of a metal, such as steel,
20 which leads through a feedthrough in a rear-side closure 33. The closure 33, the plunger 30, and the hollow cylinder 29 delimit the pump chamber 28. On the front side, the pressure pump 3 is closed by a front-side closure, in which there are disposed openings so that air can flow through. The front-side closure can also be omitted and the pressure pump 3 can be formed fully open on this side. The connection line 26 is
25 guided into the pressure pump 3 as far as the mouth 27, such that the feedthrough into the interior of the cartridge 6 is connected in a liquid-tight manner to the pressure pump 3, more specifically to the pump chamber 28 of the pressure pump 3, via the connection line 26.

The cable 34 is connected to a detent means 36, which can latch with a mating detent
30 means 38 (see Figures 7 and 8). The mating detent means 38 is part of the operating

element 4, which is constructed as a lever 4 which can be rotated or pivoted about an axis 40. The lever 4 comprises two lever arms 41, 42, which extend from the axis 40 in different directions. The actual operating part of the lever 4 is formed by the first lever arm 41, which ends in a handle 44, which can be manually operated from outside. The first lever arm 41 thus protrudes out from the housing 19, and the handle 44 is arranged outside the housing 19 and can be manually operated by the user of the mixing device. Here, a considerable force can be transferred into the interior of the mixing device via the first lever arm 41 and is sufficient and is used in accordance with the invention to drive the opening device 5, the pressure pump 3, and the mixing device 10.

The second lever arm 42, as the lever 4 is pivoted or as the lever 4 is pushed down, pushes against the opening device 5 and drives this. For this purpose, the opening device 5 is constructed with a lever 46, which is mounted so as to be rotatable or pivotable about an axis 47. At the end of the lever 46 opposite the axis 47, an insert having an edge 48 is provided, which bears against the receptacle 2 or the liquid container 2.

The liquid container 2 or the receptacle 2 comprises an inner resilient insert 50, which were example can consist of a rubber, and a rigid hollow cylinder 52 made of a plastics material, such as plastic. A glass ampoule 54 containing a monomer liquid is inserted into the receptacle 2 or the liquid container 2. The monomer liquid forms a bone cement dough 96 together with the cement powder 9 from the cartridge 6 when these are mixed together. The inner walls of the resilient insert 50 bear against the glass ampoule 54. The glass ampoule 54 has an ampoule head 56 and an ampoule base 58 opposite the ampoule head 56. The glass ampoule 54 sits via the ampoule base 58 on a support 60, which is formed as a shoulder 60 of the resilient insert 50. At the upper side, a hollow cylinder 62 made of a gas-permeable foam material and which is secured to the inner side of the housing 19 pushes the glass ampoule 54 against the support 60. Openings are provided between the hollow cylinder 52 and the housing 19, through which openings air or gas from the surroundings of the receptacle 2 and the mixing device can flow into the receptacle 2. The monomer liquid can thus flow out from the receptacle 2 more easily. The openings between the hollow cylinder 52 and the housing 19 are

formed in such a way that they are arranged in the lateral cylinder wall of the hollow cylinder 52 in a manner bordering the upper base area of the hollow cylinder 52. The hollow cylinder 52 thus bears only in regions against the housing 19. Air can flow therebetween into the interior of the receptacle 2.

5 In the region of the ampoule base 58 or the support 60, the hollow cylinder 52 has a recess, within which the edge 48 bears against the resilient insert 50, such that the ampoule base 58 is broken open by the opening device 5 and therefore the glass ampoule 54 can be opened. The ampoule head 56 of the glass ampoule 54 is usually broken open in order to open the glass ampoule 54. Since the glass ampoule 54 is thin
10 at the neck, this means that the monomer liquid can run out only slowly from the glass ampoule 54 and therefore the user must wait until they can perform the next steps for operating the mixing device. This is not suitable in the case of the largely automated method, which is driven by operation of the lever 4 or the operating element 4, since it is not possible to ensure that the monomer liquid from the glass ampoule 54 will be
15 available yet when the pressure pump 3 is driven via the operating element 4.

The glass ampoule 54 pushes into the insert 50 made of the deformable material. The insert 50 together with the hollow cylinder 52 forms the essential parts of the receptacle 2 for the glass ampoule 54. The glass ampoule 54 can be pushed into the insert 50 of the liquid container 2 only as far as the ampoule base 58 on account of the shoulder 60.

20 The liquid container 2 has a lateral opening, in which the insert 50 forms a deformable side wall. At this point, the glass ampoule 54 can be opened or broken open by application of a pressure onto the glass ampoule 54 by the deformable side wall 50 just above the ampoule base 58. When the ampoule base 58 of the glass ampoule 54 is broken open or the glass ampoule 54 is opened, the monomer liquid can flow out from
25 the open glass ampoule 54 over the entire cross-section, such that the monomer liquid is quickly available in its entirety for further processing within the mixing device.

In order to deform the deformable side wall 50 and thus break open the glass ampoule 54, the lever 42 is used, which can be operated via the lever 4 and which can be rotated about the axis 40. The lever 4 is mounted pivotably or rotatably about the axis 40
30 relative to the housing 19. The axis 40 divides the lever 4 into a long lever arm 41, to

which the handle 44 is secured, and a short lever arm 42, which is arranged inside the housing 19. At the start, the long lever arm 41 can only be moved away from the liquid container 2 and not towards said container, since the long lever arm 41 bears at the top against the opening of the housing 19 and thus prevents a further movement in this direction.

The short lever arm 42 of the lever 4 bears on its side facing towards the liquid container 2 against the lever 46 of the opening device 5, which is connected to the base part 18 or the housing 19 of the mixing device via a joint 47 or the axis 47 in a manner rotatable about the axis 47. This lever 46 of the opening device 5 is arranged inside the housing 19. The free lever end of the lever 46 in the housing 19 is movable by means of the short lever arm 42. At the tip of the free lever end, the edge 48 is secured and bears against the deformable side wall 5. The axis 47 of the lever 46 is arranged here such that the free lever end and therefore the edge 48 moves in the direction of the deformable side wall 5 and in the direction of the base part 18. The force that can be exerted from the edge 48 through the deformable side wall 50 onto the glass ampoule 54 thus also pushes the glass ampoule 54 lightly in the direction of the shoulder 60 and thus presses the glass ampoule 50 into the receptacle 2.

A sieve 64 and/or a filter 64 are/is arranged below the shoulder 60, by means of which sieve and/or filter glass splinters of the opened or broken-open glass ampoule 54 are held back. The distance between the shoulder 60 and the sieve 64 and/or filter 64 is greater than the outer diameter of the glass ampoule 54, such that the dropping ampoule base 58 can rotate in this gap 66 and the flow of monomer liquid from the opened glass ampoule 54 is not hindered (see Figures 6 to 8). A funnel 68 is arranged below the sieve 54 and/or filter 64 and opens out into the pump chamber 28 when the plunger 30 bears against the front-side closure, i.e. is arranged opposite the closure 33. The monomer liquid thus flows, once the glass ampoule 54 has been opened, through the gap 66, the sieve 64 and/or the filter 64, and the funnel 68 into the pump chamber 28.

The front side of the cartridge 6 (at the bottom in Figures 1 to 4 and 6 to 8) is connected in a liquid-tight manner to the gap 66 or the funnel 68 of the liquid container 2 by the base part 18 and the housing 19 via the connection line 26.

5 The cartridge 6 is releasably secured perpendicularly on the housing 19. The connection line 26 opens out in the connection piece having the external thread 16 through a filter 72 impermeable to powder but permeable for the monomer liquid into the interior of the cartridge 6. An annular channel 73 (denoted only in Figures 3 and 8, but also visible in Figures 4, 6 and 7) is formed beneath the filter 72 and is open towards the filter 72, such that the filter 72, which is likewise annular, covers the annular channel
10 73. The annular channel 73, into which the connection line 26 opens out and which strictly speaking also belongs to the connection line 26, and the annular filter 72 surround the passage in which the mixing shaft 12 or the cable 12 is guided in the interior of the cartridge 6. Seals (not shown) or at least scrapers (not shown) can be provided in the passage for this purpose. As a result of the annular channel 73, the
15 monomer liquid is introduced through the filter 72 around the mixing shaft 12 into the interior of the cartridge 6. A nozzle (not shown) can also be provided at the entry of the connection line 26 into the interior of the cartridge 6, which nozzle distributes the monomer liquid in the interior or in the cement powder 9.

The liquid container 2 is closed upwardly by means of the housing 19 once the glass
20 ampoule 54 has been inserted into the liquid container 2. So that the monomer liquid can run out or run off from the glass ampoule 54 and the gap 66 without difficulty, a number of passages (not shown) can additionally be provided in the part of the housing 19 covering the liquid container 2, through which air from outside can flow into the liquid container 2. Once the glass ampoule 54 has been broken open, the monomer liquid
25 flows in the pump chamber 28 and can be pushed by means of the plunger 30 through the connection line 26 into the interior of the cartridge 6. The pressure necessary for this is generated by means of the pressure pump 3 in that the plunger 30 is drawn by means of the cable 34 or the rod 34 towards the closure 33, wherein the pump chamber 28 of the pressure pump 3 is made smaller. In the interior of the cartridge 6, the monomer
30 liquid can then be mixed with the cement powder 9 with the aid of the mixing device 10

in order to produce the bone cement 96 or a bone cement dough 96. The mixing can be performed under vacuum or under negative pressure in that a vacuum pump (not shown) or another negative pressure source is connected at the vacuum connection on the sealing plunger 20.

5 The mixing device 10 is used to mix the content in the interior of the cartridge 6. The cable 12 or the mixing shaft 12, via which the mixing device 10 is rotated in the interior and is moved up and down in the longitudinal direction of the interior, is deflected via pins 74 or deflection rollers 74 in the direction of a cylinder 76. The deflection rollers 74 can be reconstructed with spring-mounted tubes or deflection sleeves. Here, the springs
10 serve merely to fix the deflection rollers 74 or deflection sleeves. The cable 12 or the mixing shaft 12 is rigidly connected to the cylinder 76. The cylinder 76 has a steep external thread 78 on the outer side. The cylinder 76 is arranged in a sleeve 80 having an internal thread 82 matching the external thread 78. As the cylinder 76 is moved in the sleeve 80 in the longitudinal direction (of the cylinder axis), the mixing device 10 is
15 thus moved via the cable 12 or the mixing shaft 12 in the longitudinal direction of the interior of the cartridge 6 and at the same time is rotated about the mixing shaft 12 on account of the threads 78, 82, and the content in the interior is thus mixed. Alternatively to the external thread 78 on the sleeve, one or more protrusions or one or more lobes 78 can also be provided, which run in the internal thread 82 and thus rotate the cylinder
20 76 in the sleeve 80.

The cylinder 76 is connected via a ball joint or a ball joint head 84 to a rigid cable 86 or a flexible rod 86, which is constructed similarly to the cable 34 or the flexible rod 34 for the pressure pump 3. The ball joint head 84 can thus move within a receptacle for the ball joint head 84 of the cylinder 76 and can rotate therein. It is thus made possible, as
25 the cable 86 moves, for a rotation of the cylinder 76 in the sleeve 80 to be enforced at the same time. The cable 86, which is connected to the cylinder 76, and the cable 34, which is connected to the plunger 30 of the pressure pump 3, are connected to one another, wherein both are positioned via pins 88 or deflection rollers 88. The deflection rollers 88 are constructed similarly to the deflection rollers 74. The connection of the
30 cable 34 to the plunger 30 can also be constructed by means of a ball joint. The two

cables 34, 86 or flexible rods 34, 86 are joined together to form a cable 90 or a flexible rod 90 which is guided upwardly to the lever 4 or to the operating element 4, wherein the cable 90 or the flexible rod 90 ends there in the detent means 36. The cable 90 is also constructed similarly to the cable 34 for the pressure pump 3, or the flexible rod 90 is constructed similarly to the flexible rod 34 for the pressure pump 3. The cables 34, 86, 90 connected in a forked manner or the forked rods 34, 86, 90 can be produced from a plastics material by injection moulding, or be common forked cable 34, 86, 90 or the forked dropped 34, 86, 90 can be produced from a plastic material by injection moulding. The detent means 36 at the end of the cable 90 is mounted here and pretensioned such that it engages with the mating detent means 38 and latches therewith when the lever 4 is rotated or pivoted or when the mating detent means 38 is pivoted at the height of the detent means 36.

The maximum stroke, which is determined by a rounded portion on the lever 4 formed as an involute 83, the cable 90 or the flexible rod 90 being brought up to the involute 83 following successful latching, is sufficient for the mixing device 10 to be passed through the interior of the cartridge 6 over the entire length thereof. This can be seen in Figures 3, 4, 6 and 7 in comparison with Figure 8, since with a complete stroke of the lever 4, which is illustrated in Figure 8, the mixing device 10 or the mixing blades 10 bears/bear on the filter 72 at the front side of the interior of the cartridge 6, whereas without stroke, as illustrated in Figure 7, the mixing device 10 or the mixing blades 10 bears/bear against the dispensing plunger 8 or the sterilisation plunger 22 and the pore plate 24 on the rear side of the interior of the cartridge 6. A complete mixing of the interior of the cartridge 6 with the mixing device 10 is thus made possible. The mating detent means 38 is for this purpose arranged at the end of the involute 83 facing away from the pulling direction of the cables 90, 34, 86 or the flexible rods 90, 34, 86 so that the cable 90 or the flexible rod 90 can be brought up over a wide area of the involute 83.

Instead of connecting the cable 34 or other flexible rod 34 of the pressure pump 3 and the cable 86 or the flexible rod 86 of the cylinder 76 to one another to form the cable 90 or the flexible rod 90, on which the detent means 36 is arranged, each of the cables 34, 86 or each of the flexible rods 34, 86 can just as easily have its own detent means,

which engages with the mating detent means 38 or the two different mating detent means at the end of the involute 83 or the lever 4 and latches therewith.

In an alternative embodiment of a mixing device according to the invention, the cable 12 can be directly connected to the cable 86, or the two cables 12, 86 can be formed as a
5 common continuous cable, or the flexible rod 12 can be formed in one part with the flexible rod 86. The cylinder 76, the sleeve 80, and the threads 78, 82 are then superfluous and are not provided. This leads to the mixing device 10 no longer being rotated by the mixing shaft 12 in the interior of the cartridge 6. A mixing of the interior of the cartridge 6 is then still achieved only by the movement up and down of the mixing
10 device 10 in the longitudinal direction. By means of a suitable inclination of the mixing blades 10 or some of the mixing blades 10 and/or by a guidance of at least one protrusion (not shown) on the mixing device 10 in at least one spiralled groove (not shown) in the inner wall of the cartridge 6, a rotation of the mixing device 10 in the cartridge 6 can also be enforced in another way, provided the rotation of the mixing
15 device 10 in the cartridge 6 is not easily foregone.

Figure 5 shows a schematic cross-sectional view of the mixing device according to Figures 1 to 4 and 6 to 8 with a plane of section perpendicular to the section of Figures 3 and 4 and also 6 to 8.

The mixing device is characterised in accordance with the invention by the applicability
20 of the following exemplary method according to the invention. The monomer liquid is provided in the liquid contained 2 by breaking open the glass ampoule 54 by means of the opening device 5, as explained above. For this purpose, the lever 4, which is disposed originally in an upright position (see Figures 1 to 4) is pushed down (see Figure 6). Whilst the monomer liquid flows out and fills the pump chamber 28 of the
25 pressure pump 3, the lever 40 is rotated or pivoted further, until the mating detent means 38 is rotated at the height of the detent means 36 and both latch with one another (see Figure 7). By means of the latching of the detent means 36 with the mating detent means 38, the pressure pump 3 can now be moved or driven by means of the lever 4 via the cable 34, 90 or the flexible rod 34, 90, and the mixing device 10 can be
30 driven by means of the lever 4 via the cable 86, 90 or the flexible rod 86, 90, the

cylinder 76, and the cable 12 or the mixing shaft 12. For this purpose, the lever 4 is rotated or pivoted away from the lower stop, back into the starting position (Figures 2 to 4).

The pressure pump 3 is used in that the plunger 30 is drawn by means of the operating
5 element 4 via the cable 34, 90 or via the flexible rod 34, 90 away from the front-side closure in the direction of the closure 33. In so doing, the pump chamber 28 inside the pressure pump 3 becomes smaller. Due to the reduction in size of the pump chamber 28, the monomer liquid is pushed from the pump chamber 28 and the connection 26 into the interior of the cartridge 6.

10 The plunger 30 is moved as far as the end of the hollow cylinder 29 (on the right in Figures 3 to 4 and 6 to 8). This arrangement is shown in Figure 8. The volume decrease of the pump chamber 28 can preferably be sufficient to push the monomer liquid from the liquid container 2 fully into the interior of the cartridge 6, such that just one stroke of the plunger 30 is sufficient to transfer the monomer liquid into the interior of the
15 cartridge 6. The expanded pump chamber 28 for this purpose can preferably be larger than or the same size as the volume of the monomer liquid in the glass ampoule 54. Alternatively to the transfer of the monomer liquid by means of a single stroke of the plunger 30, the monomer liquid can also be pushed into the interior of the cartridge 6 by means of a number of strokes of the plunger 30 by repeated operation of the lever 4
20 (pivoting of the lever 4 to and fro). For this purpose, the plunger 30 has to be constructed slightly differently compared to that shown in Figures 3 to 8. The plunger 30 should for this purpose always close the connection to the funnel 68, apart from in the starting position (see Figures 3 to 7), i.e. should be lengthened at least in this region. Monomer liquid is then prevented from flowing easily into the free region next to the
25 plunger 30 into the pressure pump 3.

At the same time as the movement of the plunger 30, the cylinder 76 in the sleeve 80 is moved in the longitudinal direction via the cable 86, 90 or the rod 86, 90 and the ball joint 84, and, in so doing, is rotated via the threads 72, 82. The movement in the longitudinal direction and the rotation is transferred via the mixing shaft 12 or the cable
30 12 through the feedthrough onto the mixing device 10 in the interior of the cartridge 6.

As a result of multiple pivoting of the lever 4 in both directions and thus movement of the mixing device 10 in the interior of the cartridge 6, the content, specifically the bone cement powder 9 and the pushed-in monomer liquid, is mixed, thereby producing a bone cement dough 96 in the interior of the cartridge 6.

- 5 When the starting components have been mixed in the interior of the cartridge 6 by means of the mixing blades 10, the cartridge system 1 is unscrewed from the housing 19 or the external thread 16 of the housing 19, and the cable 12 or the mixing shaft 12 comprising the mixing device 10 is removed from the interior of the cartridge 6. In so doing, the mixing blades 10 collapse upwardly. For this purpose, tapered material
10 portions as predetermined bending points are provided at the point of connection of the mixing blades 10 to the mixing shaft 12.

Once the cartridge system 1 has been unscrewed, a dispensing pipe (not shown) having a matching external thread is screwed into the internal thread and the mixed bone cement 96 can be applied through said pipe. The conveying plunger 8 or
15 dispensing plunger 8 assembled from the sterilisation plunger 22 and the sealing plunger 20 is unlatched and can be driven inside the cartridge 6 by means of an application device (not shown). The content in the cartridge 6, i.e. the mixed bone cement dough 96, is thus pressed out from the opposite opening and through the screwed-on dispensing pipe.

- 20 The components of the mixing device, apart from the glass ampoule 54, the filters 64, 72, and the starting components of the bone cement, can be produced from plastics material by injection moulding.

The connection line 26 and the cables 34, 86, 90 or the forked rod 34, 86, 90 are arranged in the housing 19 made of plastics material, which is fixedly connected to the
25 base part 18, wherein the base part 18 has a flat base so that the mixing device can be placed on a flat substrate.

Instead of the glass ampoule 54 used with the exemplary embodiment described, another monomer liquid container can also be used. By way of example, a film bag containing the monomer liquid can be used as container for the monomer liquid in a

modified receptacle. The film bag by way of example can be a plastics material bag coated with aluminium which is chemically sufficiently resistant to the monomer liquid. In the alternative receptacle 2, a mandrel or better still a blade can be provided, which is to be pushed and moved against the film bag by means of the opening device 5 so that the film bag is pierced or slit open by means of the mandrel or the blade via the opening device 5, such that the monomer liquid then runs out from the film bag and is available in the receptacle 2. The container for the monomer liquid can also be fixedly integrated in the receptacle 2 and therefore in the mixing device and can be opened towards the filter 64 and/or sieve 64 or towards the funnel 68.

- 10 The variant with glass ampoule 54 as container for the monomer liquid is preferred, however, in accordance with the invention, since the glass ampoules 54 filled with monomer liquid are commercially available inexpensively and in addition glass ampoules 54 are particularly well suited for long-term storage of the monomer liquid. Here, it is particularly preferred for the glass ampoule 54 to be contained already in the
15 receptacle 2 of the mixing device.

With the described mixing device, the two starting components of the bone cement can be stored and mixed at any later moment in time under vacuum. Here, the mixing device does not have to be connected to an external supply (power, water or compressed gas). There is no need for an internal energy store, such as a battery, a
20 compressed gas cartridge or a tension spring, for driving the mixing device or the pressure pump 3, the mixing device 10, and the opening device 5. The energy necessary to transfer the monomer liquid is also applied manually, such as the force necessary to open the glass ampoule 54 and the force necessary to move the mixing device 10.

- 25 The features of the invention disclosed in the above description and in the claims, Figures and exemplary embodiments can be essential, both individually and in any combination, for the implementation of the invention in its various embodiments.

List of reference signs

	1	cartridge system
	2	receptacle
	3	pressure pump
5	4	operating element/lever
	5	opening device
	6	cartridge/cartridge wall/hollow cylinder
	8	dispensing plunger
	9	cement powder
10	10	mixing device/mixing blades
	12	mixing shaft/cable
	14	internal thread
	16	external thread
	18	base part/stand
15	19	housing
	20	sealing plunger
	22	sterilisation plunger
	24	pore plate
	26	connection line/vacuum line
20	27	mouth
	28	pump chamber
	29	hollow cylinder
	30	plunger
	32	seal/O-ring
25	33	closure
	34	cable/flexible rod
	36	detent means
	38	mating detent means
	40	axis
30	41	lever arm
	42	lever arm

	44	handle
	46	lever
	47	axis
	48	edge
5	50	resilient insert
	52	hollow cylinder
	54	glass ampoule with monomer liquid
	56	ampoule head
	58	ampoule base
10	60	support/shoulder
	62	hollow cylinder
	64	filter/sieve
	66	gap
	68	funnel
15	72	powder-impermeable and liquid-permeable filter
	73	annular channel
	74	pin/deflection roller
	76	cylinder
	78	external thread/lobe
20	80	sleeve
	82	internal thread
	83	involute
	84	ball-joint head
	86	cable/flexible rod
25	88	pin/deflection roller
	90	cable/flexible rod
	96	bone cement dough

Claims

1. A mixing device for mixing polymethylmethacrylate bone cement from a monomer liquid and a cement powder (9), the mixing device comprising at least one cartridge (6) having an evacuable interior for mixing of the bone cement (96),
5 a mixing device (10) for mixing the content in the interior of the at least one cartridge (6), which is arranged movably in the interior,
a receptacle (2) for receiving a separate container (54) containing the monomer liquid or comprising an integrated container containing the monomer liquid,
10 an opening device (5), which is arranged in the region of the receptacle (2) in a manner movable relative to the receptacle (2) so that, by moving the opening device (5), a separate container (54) arranged in the receptacle (2) is openable by means of the opening device (5), or the opening device (5) is arranged in the region of the integrated container in a manner movable relative to the integrated
15 container so that, by moving the opening device (5), the integrated container is openable by means of the opening device (5),
a pressure pump (3), in which a movable plunger (30) for conveying a liquid is arranged and delimits a pump chamber (28) of the pressure pump (3), and
a connection line (26), which connects the interior of the at least one cartridge (6)
20 to the pump chamber (28) of the pressure pump (3), wherein
the mixing device comprises an operating element (4) that is operatable from outside, wherein the plunger (30) in the pressure pump (3) is movable manually by means of the operating element (4), and wherein
the opening device (5) is movable relative to the receptacle (2) or relative to the
25 integrated container by means of the same operating element (4), and
the mixing device (10) in the interior of the cartridge (6) is to be moved by means of the same operating element (4) in order to mix the content in the interior of the cartridge (6).
- 30 2. The mixing device according to claim 1, characterised in that

the operating element (4) is connected or connectable to the plunger (30) in such a way that the plunger (30) is movable manually in the pressure pump (3) by operation of the operating element (4).

- 5 3. The mixing device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that
- 10 the receptacle (2), at least in regions, has closed side walls (50, 52) for receiving a glass ampoule (54) as separate container (54), wherein the receptacle (2) has at least one deformable closed side wall (50) and a supporting element is provided opposite the deformable side wall (50), wherein the opening device (5) is pressable via the operating element (4) against the deformable side wall (50) of the receptacle (2) so that the deformable side wall (50) deforms in such a way that a matching glass ampoule (54) arranged in the receptacle (2) can be broken open by means of the opening device (5).
- 15
4. The mixing device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that
- 20 the opening device (5) has a first lever (46) which is mounted rotatably about a first axis (47) in relation to the receptacle (2) or the integrated container, wherein a free end (48) of the first lever (46) is pushable against a deformable side wall (50) of the receptacle (2) or the integrated container, wherein the operating element (4) is formed by a second lever (4), which is mounted rotatably about a second axis (40) in relation to the receptacle (2) or the integrated container, wherein the second axis (40) divides the second lever (4) into a short lever arm (42) and a long lever arm (41), wherein an end of the short lever arm (42) is to be pushed by manual operation of the long lever arm (41) against the first lever (46) so that the free end of the first lever (46) pushes against the deformable side wall (50) and deforms this in such a way that a separate container (54) disposed in the receptacle (2) is openable, or pushes the first end of the first lever (46) against the integrated container so that the integrated container opens towards a connection to the pump chamber (28).
- 25
- 30

5. The mixing device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that
the operating element (4) is manually movable, preferably is a lever (4) pivotable
5 about an axis (40), wherein the operating element (4) is operatively connected to
or is to be brought into operative connection with the opening device (5), the
pressure pump (3), and the mixing device (10) in such a way that with a first
operation of the operating element (4) a separate container (54) in the receptacle
(2) or the integrated container is to be opened, and with a further operation of the
10 operating element (4) the vacuum plunger (30) in the vacuum pump (3) is to be
driven, the plunger (30) in the pressure pump (3) is to be driven, and the mixing
device (10) in the interior is to be driven.
6. The mixing device according to claim 5, characterised in that
15 the plunger (30) of the pressure pump (3) and/or the mixing device (10) are to be
driven via a flexible cable (34, 86, 90) and/or a rod, wherein a detent means (36)
is provided on the flexible cable (34, 86, 90) and/or the broad and after first-time
operation of the operating element (4) engages with a mating detent means (38)
on the operating element (4) or with a mating detent means (38) connected to the
20 operating element (4) so that, with operation of the operating element
subsequent to the latching, the plunger (30) of the pressure pump (3) and/or the
mixing device (10) are/is to be driven via the cable (34, 86, 90) and/or the rod by
means of the operating element (4).
7. The mixing device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in
25 that
the mixing device (10) is axially movable in the interior in the longitudinal
direction by operation of the operating element (4).
8. The mixing device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in
30 that

the mixing device (10) is rotatable about the longitudinal axis of the interior by operation of the operating element (4), wherein preferably for this purpose a cylinder (76) connected to the mixing device (10) and having an external thread (78) moves in a stationary sleeve (80) having a matching internal thread (82) so that, when the cylinder (76) moves along the longitudinal direction within the sleeve (80), a rotation of the cylinder (76) is enforced, wherein the rotation of the cylinder (76) transfers to the mixing device (10) in the interior of the cartridge (6).

9. The mixing device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that

the pump chamber (28) of the pressure pump (3) is liquid-tight and is arranged in the interior of the pressure pump (3), wherein the plunger (30) is manually drivable via the operating element (4) in at least one direction, such that the pump chamber (28) is to be made smaller by the movement of the plunger (30) and the content in the pump chamber (28), in particular the monomer liquid in the pump chamber (28), is pushable through the connection line (26) into the interior of the at least one cartridge (6) by means of the resultant reducing volume of the pump chamber (28).

10. The mixing device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that

the plunger (30) is mounted axially movably in a hollow cylinder (29), wherein the hollow cylinder (29) is closed on a first side opposite the plunger (30) or is closed apart from a feedthrough for a rod (34) or cable (34) connected to the operating element (4) and the plunger (30), in particular is closed by a closure (33), wherein the pump chamber (28) is preferably formed in the hollow cylinder (29) between the plunger (30) and the first closed side, wherein the hollow cylinder (29) is particularly preferably open on a second side.

11. The mixing device according to claim 10, characterised in that

the plunger (30) of the pressure pump (3) is to be driven via a flexible cable (34, 90) and/or a rod, wherein a first part of the cable (34) and/or the rod runs through the pump chamber (28) and is guided out from the pump chamber (28) on the first side through a liquid-tight feedthrough, in particular is guided out from the pump chamber (28) through a liquid-tight feedthrough through the closure (33), wherein the plunger (30) is to be drawn in the direction of the first side of the hollow cylinder (29) by operation of the operating element (4) by means of the flexible cable (34, 90) and/or the rod, such that the pump chamber (28) is made smaller.

12. The mixing device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that

the plunger (30) is connected or connectable to the operating element (4) via a rod (34, 90) and/or a cable (34, 90) and the plunger (30) is preferably to be moved by operation of the operating element (4) in the pressure pump (3).

13. The mixing device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that

a movable dispensing plunger (8) for discharging the mixed bone cement (96) from the cartridge (6) is arranged in the interior of the cartridge (6), wherein the dispensing plunger (8) is preferably releasably locked or lockable in order to prevent a movement of the dispensing plunger (8) under the action of a negative pressure.

14. The mixing device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that

the cartridge (6) is a cement cartridge (6) filled with cement powder (9) and a separate container (54) containing a monomer liquid is arranged in the receptacle (2) or a monomer liquid is contained in the integrated container, wherein the receptacle (2) or the integrated container is preferably connected in

a liquid-impermeable manner to the pump chamber (28) of the pressure pump (3) by means of a separating element that is to be opened.

15. The mixing device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in
5 that

the cartridge (6), the pressure pump (3) and all lines (26, 70) and also the receptacle (2) or the integrated container are fixedly and/or releasably connected to a common base part (18) and/or a housing (19), wherein the pressure pump (3) and all lines (26, 70) as well as the receptacle (2) or the separate container
10 (54) are preferably fixedly connected to the base part (18) and/or a housing (19) and the cartridge (6) is releasably connected to the base part (18) and/or a housing (19).

16. The mixing device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in
15 that

the separate container (54) containing the monomer liquid is a film bag which can be cut open or torn open in the receptacle (2) by means of the opening device (5), or as a glass ampoule (54) which can be broken open in the receptacle (2) by means of the opening device (5).

17. The mixing device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in
20 that

a connection for introducing the monomer liquid into the pump chamber (28) is arranged beneath the receptacle (2) or the integrated container.

18. The mixing device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in
25 that

a pressure is to be exerted onto the monomer liquid contained in the pump chamber (28) as a result of the movement of the plunger (30) in the pressure
30 pump (3), wherein the monomer liquid is to be pushed through the connection

line (26) into the interior of the at least one cartridge (6) by means of the pressure.

19. The mixing device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in
5 that

the pressure pump (3) is constructed with

a hollow cylinder (29), wherein the hollow cylinder (29) is connected to or is connectable to the interior of the cartridge (6),

a liquid-tight closure (33) at one hollow cylinder,

- 10 the plunger (30), which is arranged in the hollow cylinder (29) in a liquid-tight and axially movable manner, wherein

the plunger (30) in the pressure pump (3) is movable by means of the manually operable operating element (4), wherein

- 15 with a movement of the plunger (30) by means of the manually operable operating element (4), the plunger (30) is movable axially in the direction of the closure (33) and a monomer liquid can thus be pushed from the pump chamber (28) into the interior of the cartridge (6), wherein

the operating element (4) is operatively connected to the opening device (5), and wherein

- 20 the operating element (4) is connected to the mixing device (10) in the interior of the cartridge (6) in such a way that the mixing device (10) in the interior of the cartridge (6) is movable with operation of the operating element (4).

20. The mixing device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in
25 that

the pressure pump (3), the opening device (5) and the mixing device (10) are drivable via the movement of the operating element (4), wherein the operating element (4) is preferably moved by the action of manual force.

21. A method for mixing polymethylmethacrylate bone cement in an interior of a cartridge (6) of a mixing device, in particular a mixing device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that

an operating element (4) is operated and an integrated container of the mixing device or a separate container (54), which is arranged in a receptacle (2) of the mixing device, is thus opened, wherein a monomer liquid contained in the integrated container or the separate container (54) then flows as first component of the bone cement (96) into a pump chamber (28) of a pressure pump (3),

by means of a subsequent, further operation of the operating element (4), a movement of a plunger (30) of the pressure pump (3) of the mixing device is driven by the further operation of the operating element (4), wherein the monomer liquid is pushed from the pump chamber (28) of the pressure pump (3) through a connection line (26) into the interior of the cartridge (6), wherein a bone cement powder (9) as second component of the bone cement (96) is already disposed in the interior of the cartridge (6), and

a mixing device (10) in the interior of the cartridge (6) is moved as a result of the operation of the operating element (4) and a bone cement dough (96) in the interior of the cartridge (6) formed from the cement powder (9) and the monomer liquid is mixed as a result of the movement of the mixing device (10).

22. The method according to claim 21, characterised in that

the volume of a pump chamber (28) of the pressure pump (3) is made smaller by the manual movement of the plunger (30) and the monomer liquid is pushed into the interior of the cartridge (6) due to the pressure created as a result.

23. The method according to any one of claims 21 to 22, characterised in that

the plunger (30) of the pressure pump (3) is moved by means of the operating element (4) whereby the monomer liquid contained in the pump chamber (28) is pushed through a connection line (26) into the interior of the cartridge (6),

the mixing device (10) in the interior of the cartridge (6) is then moved by operation of the same operating element (4), and in so doing the cement powder (9) is mixed with the monomer liquid,

the cartridge (6) containing the mixed cement dough (96) is then removed, and
5 the cement dough (96) is pressed out from the cartridge (6) by means of an axial movement of a dispensing plunger (8).

24. The method according to any one of claims 21 to 23 characterised in that

the cement powder (9) is arranged in the cartridge (6),

10 the monomer liquid is arranged in a receptacle (2) separate from the cartridge (6), wherein the monomer liquid is contained in an integrated container or in a separate container (54), preferably in a glass ampoule (54) in the receptacle (2), the integrated container or the separate container (54) is opened by operation of the operating element (4) and a resultant movement of the opening device (5)
15 and the monomer liquid flows from the container into the pump chamber (28), before the plunger (30) is driven by a further operation of the operating element (4), and

the plunger (30) is then moved axially in a hollow cylinder (29), whereby the monomer liquid disposed in the pump chamber (28) is pushed through the
20 connection line (26) into the interior of the cartridge (6).

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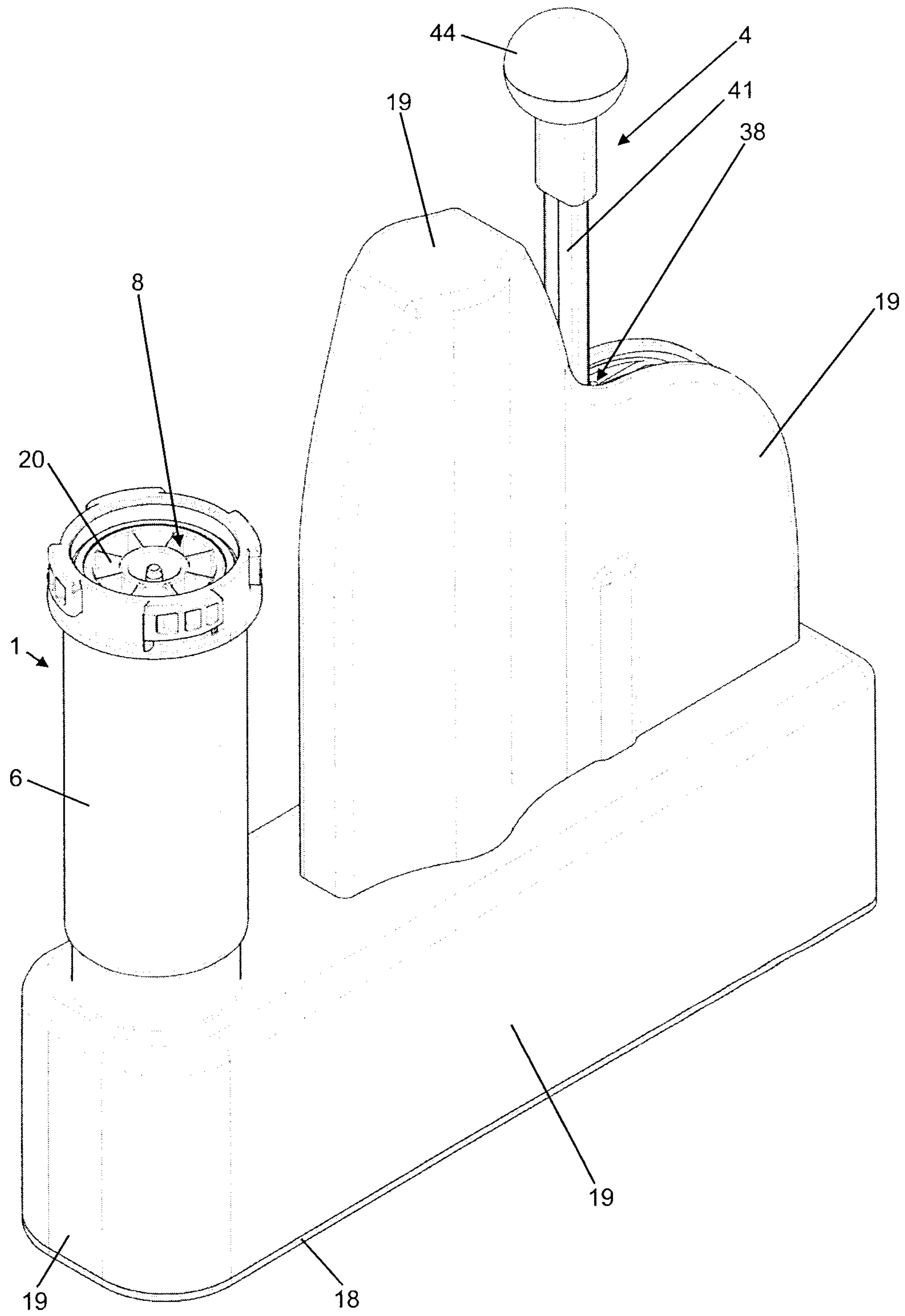


Figure 1

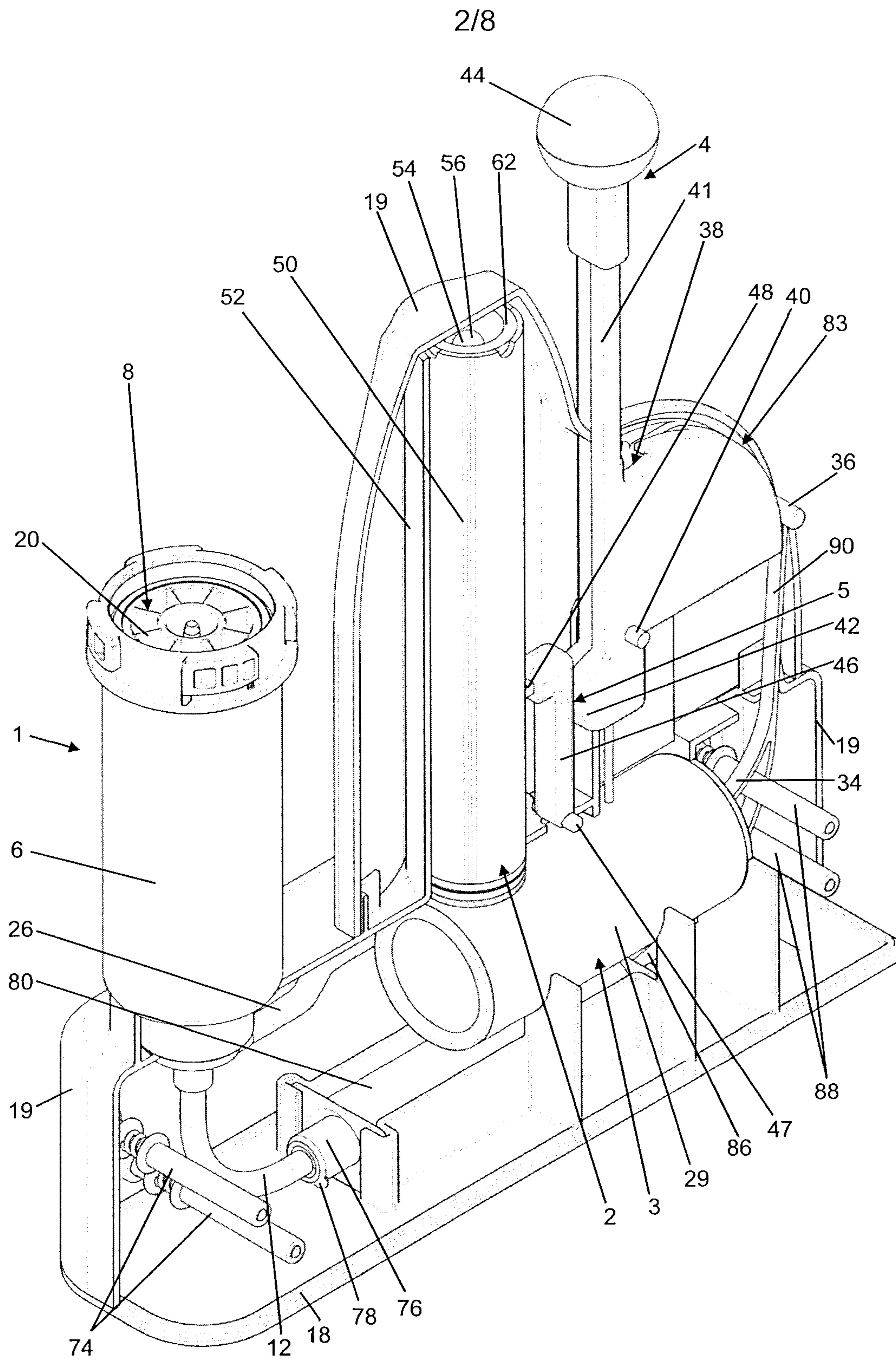


Figure 2

3/8

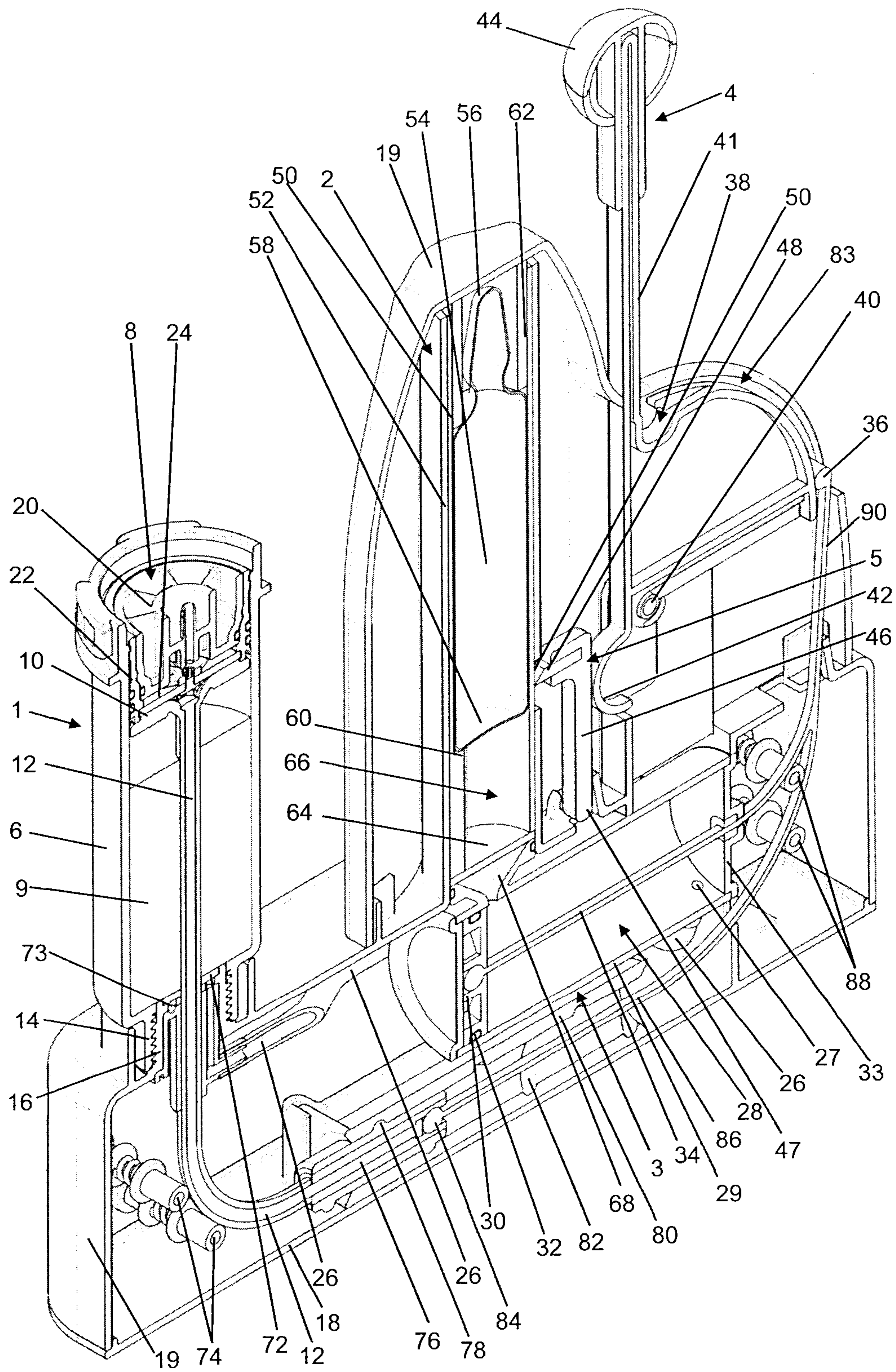


Figure 3

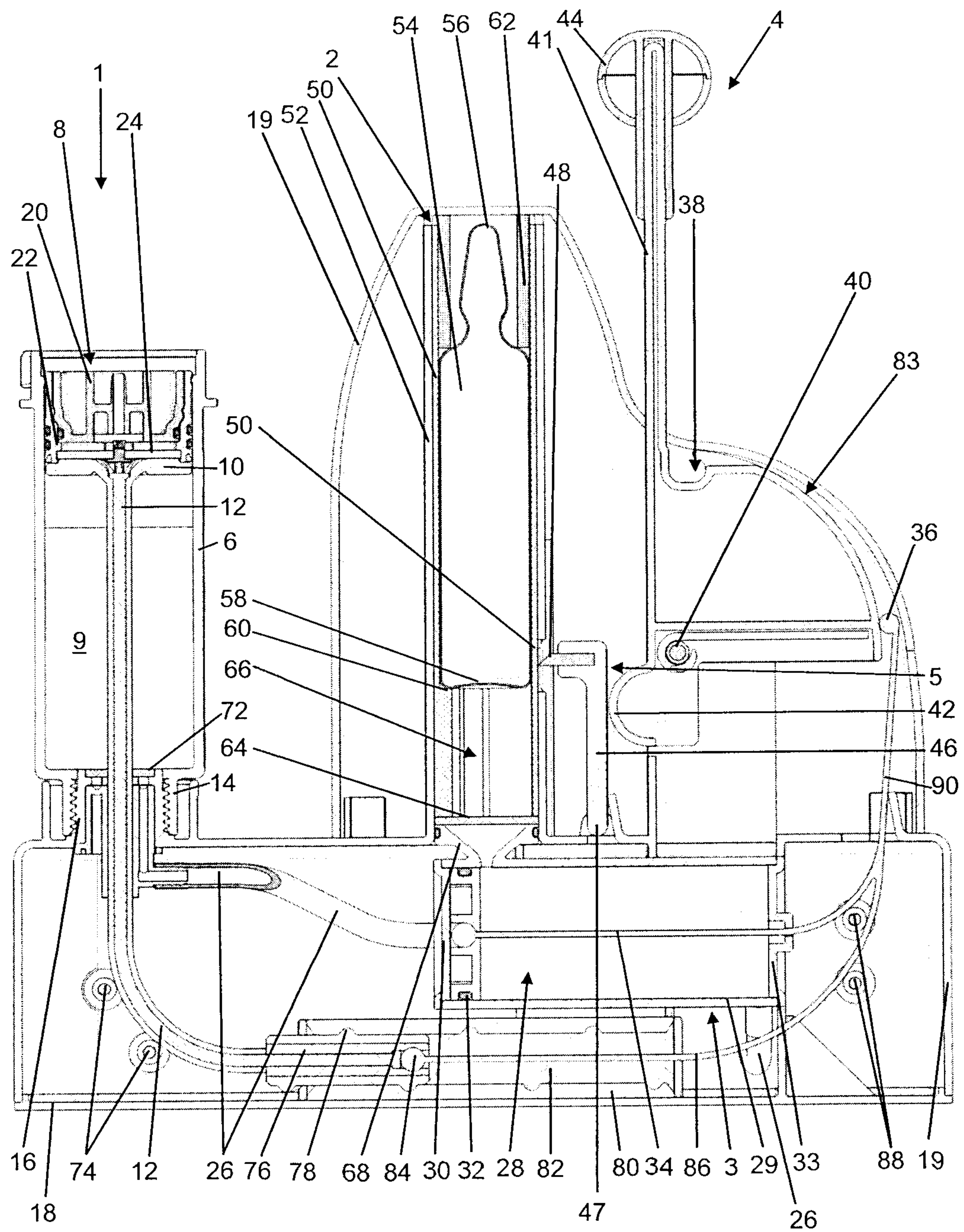


Figure 4

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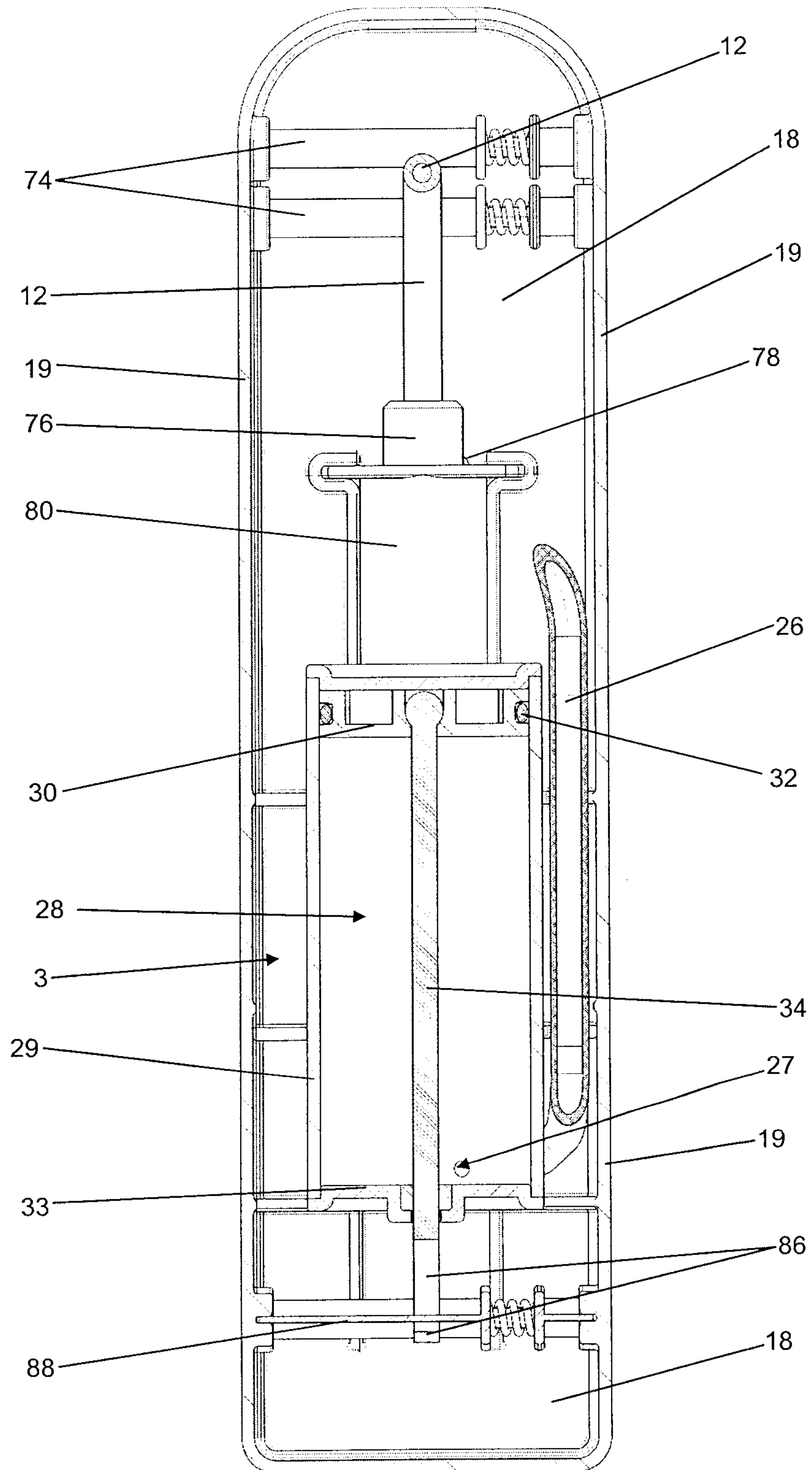


Figure 5

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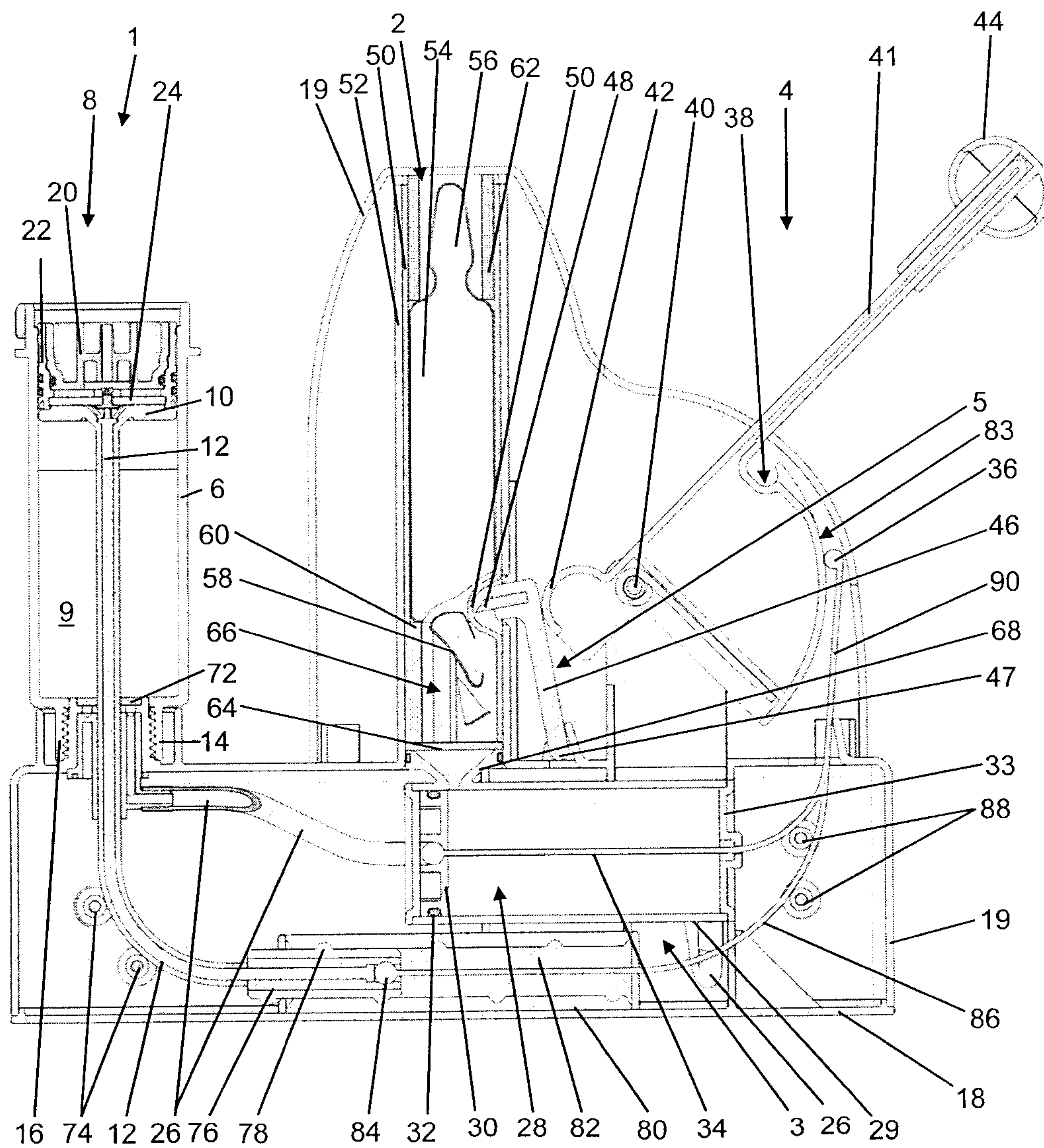


Figure 6

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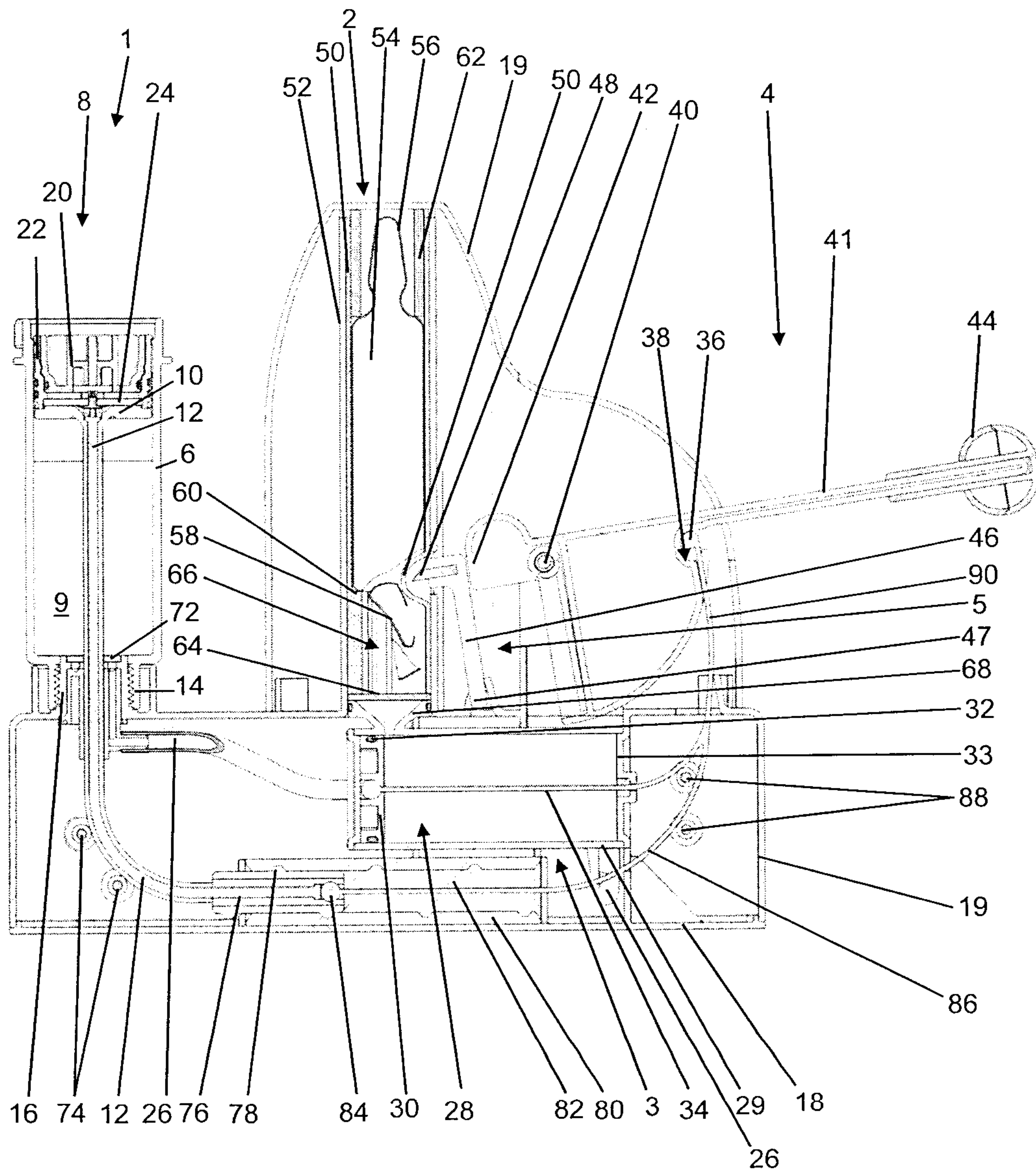


Figure 7

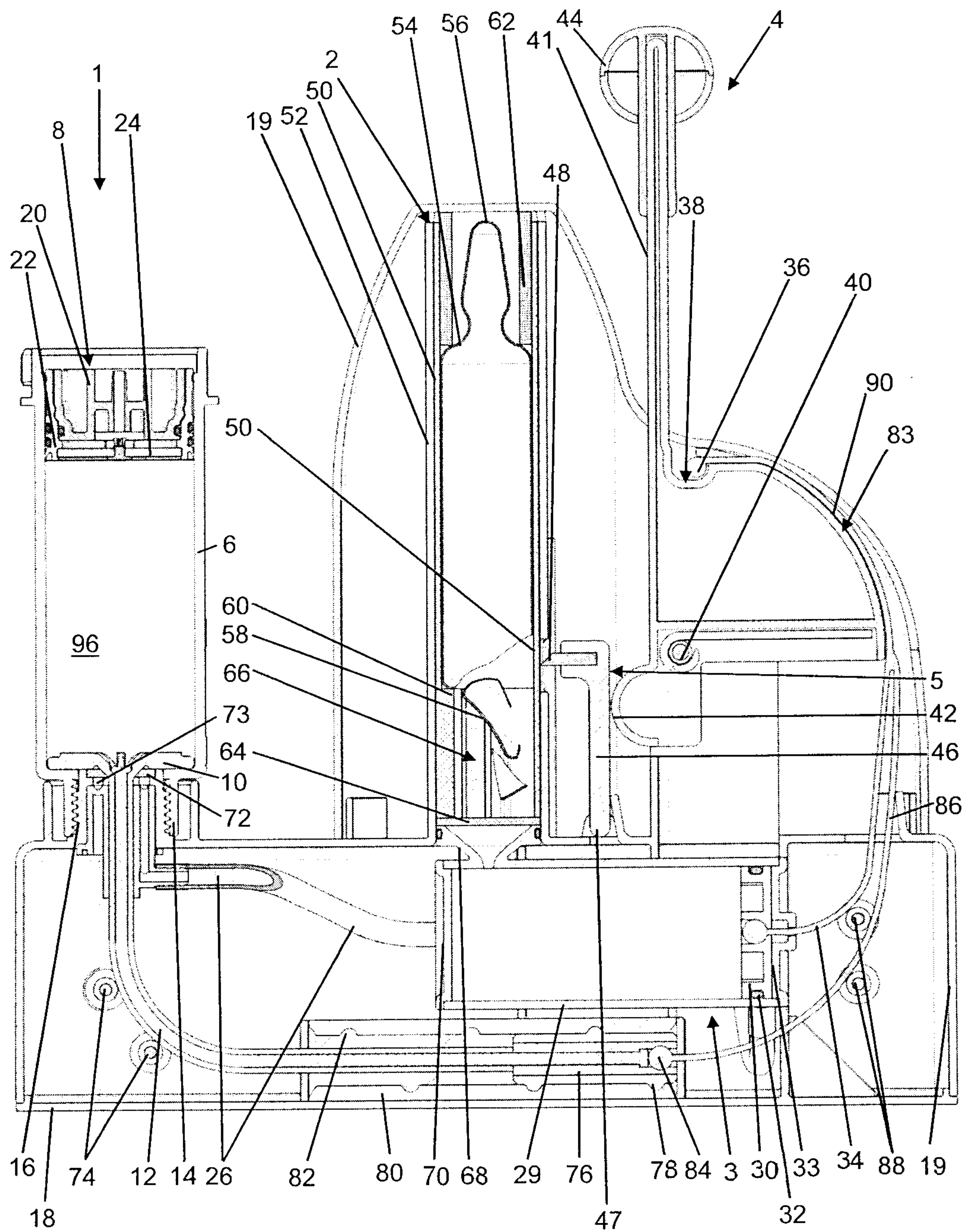


Figure 8

