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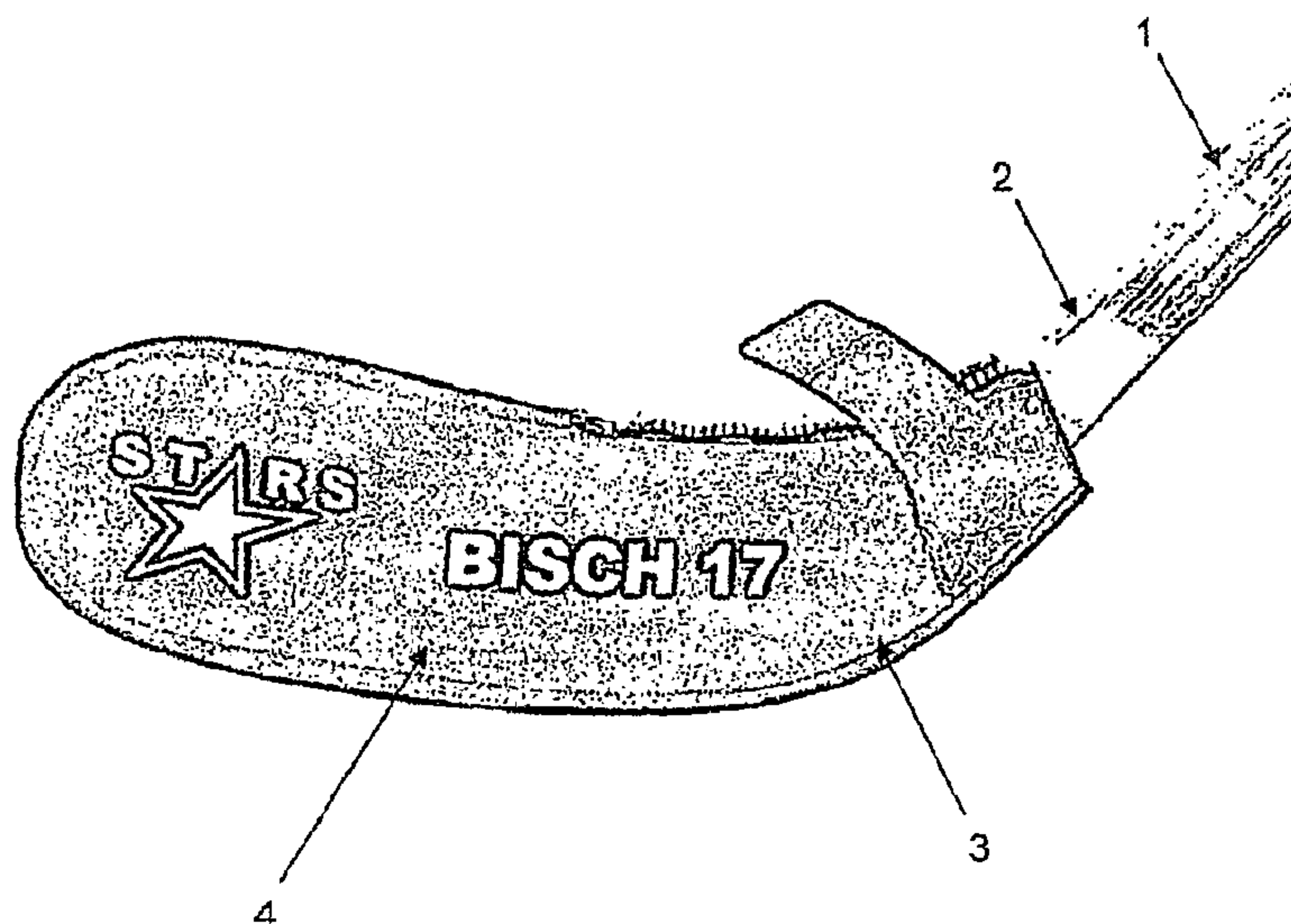
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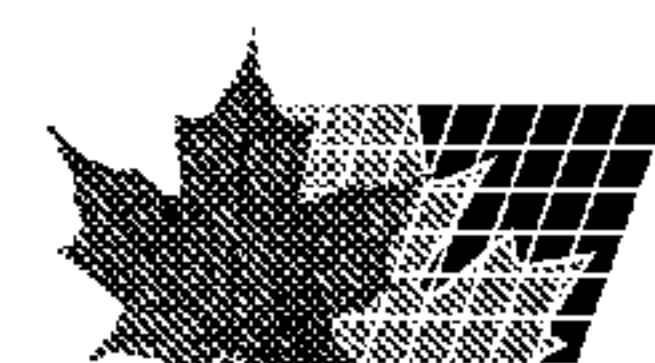
(54) **Titre : REVETEMENT DE PROTECTION POUR LAME DE BATON DE HOCKEY**

(54) **Title: PROTECTIVE COVERING FOR A HOCKEY STICK BLADE**



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

A protective covering for a hockey stick blade is provided to protect the blade and taper portions of a hockey stick from wear not typical of an ice hockey game. The cover includes an elongated sleeve and has an opening along the top edge thereof for receiving the blade and taper portion of the hockey stick. The sleeve and taper portion of the covering are at an angle corresponding to the angle between the taper portion and the blade of the hockey stick. One or more fasteners are provided about the opening for securing the cover to the hockey stick. A felt insert located within the sleeve further assists to protect and extract moisture from the blade after use.



ABSTRACT

A protective covering for a hockey stick blade is provided to protect the blade and taper portions of a hockey stick from wear not typical of an ice hockey game. The cover includes an elongated sleeve and has an opening along the top edge thereof for receiving the blade and taper portion of the hockey stick. The sleeve and taper portion of the covering are at an angle corresponding to the angle between the taper portion and the blade of the hockey stick. One or more fasteners are provided about the opening for securing the cover to the hockey stick. A felt insert located within the sleeve further assists to protect and extract moisture from the blade after use.

PROTECTIVE COVERING FOR A HOCKEY STICK BLADE

TECHNICAL FIELD

The invention refers to a protective covering for the blade of an ice hockey stick, specifically to cover the blade and taper portion which come into contact with non-hockey related surfaces.

BACKGROUND

An ice hockey stick is a part of the player's equipment, primarily used to shoot, pass and move the puck. Ice hockey sticks shall not exceed sixty-three inches (160 cm) in length from the heel of the blade to the end of the shaft. The blade is the part of the stick used to make contact with the puck; it is twelve and one half inches (31.75 cm) in length from heel to the tip (also known as toe). The blade shall not be more than three inches (7.62 cm) in width at any point between the heel and the tip of the blade, nor less than two inches (5.08 cm). All edges of the blade are beveled.

The blade is positioned at an angle from the axis of the shaft, giving the stick a partly "L-shaped" appearance; this angle is called a "lie". The shaft of the stick is somewhat rigid, but it has some flexibility to benefit different types of shots.

Apart from normal purposes, hockey sticks are frequently subjected to substantial neglect and abuse. Today's composite sticks can also be damaged simply by being dropped or knocked against a hard surface from travel and improper storage, of the biggest issues with composite ice hockey sticks is that the blades chip and they can break very easily. The more you pay for a one-piece composite ice hockey stick, the easier it will be to break. This is because the less expensive one-piece composite ice hockey sticks are made with more fiberglass materials, and so they are a little bit stronger, however they are much heavier. The more expensive one-piece composite ice hockey sticks are made with carbon fiber materials and as a result they are more fragile. One-piece composite ice hockey sticks are about five times more expensive than wood ice hockey sticks and more expensive one-piece composite ice hockey sticks are up to ten times more expensive than the average wood ice hockey stick. Manufacturer

warranties also do not cover stick/shaft/replacement blade breakage due to misuse or abuse.

In addition, ice hockey stick blades are commonly wrapped with friction tape, a cotton tape that has been impregnated with an adhesive so that it is somewhat sticky to keep the puck from sliding off the blade. Some players will also apply wax to the tape in order to increase the adhesion. The presence of the tape and wax on the blade causes a variety of problems including markings left on adjacent surfaces when the blade makes contact. Depending on the surface (vinyl, cloth etc.) the markings are very difficult to remove.

Additionally, it is important to keep these same surfaces from damaging the tape, reducing its effectiveness on the ice when the stick comes in contact with the puck.

One form of protection available for a hockey stick is the hockey stick bag CA 2236909. The bag is elongated and shaped generally to conform to the dimensions and shape of the hockey stick. The bag completely encompasses the hockey stick. These bags are fundamentally bulky, difficult to use and close leading to non-use of the bags. There are different hockey stick blade coverings available but none that cover and protect the entire blade from toe to heel. These are disclosed in Canadian patent literature CA 2329228, CA 2250287, CA 2148386, CA 2176046, CA 2675203, CA 2127038. These are also disclosed in USA patent literature US 6,612,944 B1. The covers have various drawbacks including difficulty in application of the cover to the hockey stick blade and failure to protect the entire blade from damage.

Therefore, there is a need for a covering that protects the entire hockey stick blade from damage that could result in weakening of the blade and injury. To protect surfaces that will come in contact with the tape and wax on the blade, be inexpensive and readily manufactured.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a side view of a cover for a hockey stick blade constructed in agreement with a preferred embodiment of the present invention and illustrated with the blade and shank portion of the hockey stick within the cover, fasteners in an open position.

FIG. 2A is a side view of a hockey stick, blade and shank portion.

FIG. 2B is a top view of a hockey stick, blade and shank portion.

FIG. 3A is a top view of the cover in FIG. 1 in the open position.

FIG. 3B is a top view of the cover in FIG. 1 in the closed position.

5 FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the cover with the blade and shank portion received within a fastened cover from the heel end.

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of the cover with the blade and shank portion received within an unfastened cover from the forward or toe end.

10 FIG. 6 illustrates a further view of the lower portion of the heel open and ready to receive the hockey stick blade.

FIG. 7A illustrates a view of the felt sleeve insert seamed together.

FIG. 7B illustrates a view of the felt sleeve insert formed from a single piece of fabric material.

15 FIG. 8A and FIG. 8B illustrate a view of the logos, names, numbers, designs etc., by various applications applied to the preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 9 is a plan view of the pieces of the cover to be formed in accordance with preferred embodiment of the present invention.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

20 In agreement with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a cover for a hockey stick blade including an extended sleeve for receiving the blade, and an extension of the sleeve at the heel end to cover the shank section of the hockey stick blade. The cover is formed of a durable, waterproof, flexible material such as tear resistant vinyl but may be formed of other similar types of flexible materials. The
25 cover may also be formed out of rigid materials such as Kevlar™, plastic and fiberglass. The sleeve of the cover fully envelopes the blade and overlies the black friction tape on the blade, forming a barrier preventing contact between the tape with wax and adjacent surfaces.

30 In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the sleeve is closed at a forward or toe end, with an opening starting at the top edge of the extension heel end of

the sleeve to the mid-point or thereabouts of the top edge of the lengthened sleeve. The extension at the heel end of the sleeve angles from the sleeve at the same angle as the shank of the hockey stick blade. The heel end extension includes one or more fasteners, for example, Velcro™ strips, snaps, magnets, elastic band and zipper so that the hockey stick blade can be inserted into the top edge of the heel end with the fastener(s) closing the top edge of the heel end of the sleeve on the stick, therefore precluding removal and protecting the hockey stick blade. In a preferred form, a strap of material is provided on the extension heel section of the sleeve to assist the holding of the zipper in a closed position.

In still another preferred form of the present invention the cover may be formed to provide either top or bottom entry of the hockey stick blade and shank portion of the stick into the cover. For top entry, the upper edge of the sleeve at the extension heel end may be open. Once the blade and shank are inserted through the opening, the fasteners are closed about the top edge of the heel end of the sleeve in a protective relation to the hockey stick to preclude the removal of the blade. For bottom entry, the edge along the back of the sleeve along the extension lower heel section may be opened and secured with fasteners such that the cover cannot be removed from the hockey stick blade without release of said fasteners such as Velcro™ strips, snaps, magnets, elastic band and zipper or the like.

In a preferred embodiment according to the present invention, there is provided an article for covering the blade of a hockey stick comprising a cover including a sleeve that includes the toe and heel. The sleeve being closed at the toe or forward end, the sleeve being open at the extension heel end with an opening along the top edge of the heel end of the cover to receive the hockey stick blade and shank, the sleeve generally conforming to the shape of the hockey stick blade and having an overall length to envelope the blade, the extension at the closed heel end of the sleeve angles from the sleeve at a predetermined angle similar to the blade and shank section of the hockey stick. The heel end includes one or more fasteners, for example, Velcro™ strips, snaps, magnets, elastic band and zipper so that the hockey stick blade can be inserted into the top edge of the heel end of the sleeve with the fasteners closing about the top edge of the heel end of the sleeve in a protective relation to the hockey stick to preclude the

removal of the blade from the sleeve after the blade has been inserted and fastened into the sleeve. The sleeves being formed of flexible vinyl or similar materials and rigid materials such as Kevlar™, plastic and fiberglass can accommodate the curve of the hockey stick blade in either direction, i.e., for left handed or right handed hockey
5 players. Also the cover can be manufactured in different sizes for junior or senior hockey stick blade sizes.

In a further preferred embodiment according to the present invention, there is provided a cover for the blade of a hockey stick comprising an extended sleeve being closed at one end having an extension extending at an angle corresponding to the
10 angle between the blade and shaft section of the hockey stick. When received into the sleeve, the sleeve and extension at the heel end having an opening along the upper edge of the cover for receiving the blade and shank within the sleeve and extension which includes one or more fasteners, for example, Velcro™ strips, snaps, magnets, elastic band and zipper carried by the sleeve for closing the opening to retain the blade
15 and shank effectively producing a cover.

In still a further preferred embodiment according to the present invention, there is provided a removable felt insert within the present invention for covering the blade of a hockey stick comprising an extended sleeve that includes the toe and heel. The felt insert sleeve being closed at the toe or forward end, the sleeve being open at the heel
20 end with an opening along the top edge of the heel end of the insert to receive the hockey stick blade and shank, the felt insert sleeve generally conforming to the shape of the hockey stick blade and having an overall length to envelope the blade, the extension at the closed heel end of the felt sleeve insert angles from the sleeve at the same angle as the shank of the hockey stick blade. The removable felt insert sleeve can be inserted
25 into the top edge of the heel end of the present invention sleeve with the fasteners closing about the top edge of the heel end of the sleeve on the stick in a protective relation to the hockey stick to preclude the removal of the blade from the sleeve after the blade has been inserted and fastened into the sleeve therefore providing a protective cover.

30 In still a further preferred embodiment according to the present invention, there is provided a cover for the blade of a hockey stick comprising an extended sleeve being

closed at one end having an extension extending at an angle corresponding to the angle between the blade and shank portions of the hockey stick. The extended sleeve from heel end to toe end may be adorned with logos, names, numbers, designs etc., by various applications including, silk screen, embroidery, sewing pre-made letters and
 5 numbers, heat transfer etc.

In still a further preferred embodiment according to the present invention, there is provided an article for covering the lengthened blade and a section of the shank of a hockey stick comprising: a cover including a lengthened sleeve and extension of sleeve forming a fixed angle with the sleeve prior to receiving the blade and the shank section
 10 in the cover, the sleeve being closed at a forward or toe end, the cover forming an opening starting at the top edge of the extension heel end of the sleeve to approximately a mid-point of the top edge of the lengthened sleeve enabling the sleeve and the extension at the heel end to receive the blade and shank portion, respectively, of the hockey stick; the cover in general conforming to the shape of the blade and shank
 15 section, the sleeve and the extension having a combined length to envelop the blade and shank section of the hockey stick respectively; the extension extending at an angle to and from the sleeve matching an angle between the blade and shank section of the hockey stick whereby the extension at the heel end extends at least in part along the shank section of the hockey stick blade upon inserting the blade into the sleeve; at least
 20 one fastener carried by the cover to at least in part close the opening starting at the top edge of the extension heel end to prevent the removal of the hockey stick blade from the sleeve once the blade has been inserted into the sleeve; and an insert sleeve disposed within the cover for covering the blade of a hockey stick comprising an extended sleeve that includes the toe and heel, the insert sleeve being closed at the toe
 25 or forward end, the insert sleeve being open at the extension heel end with an opening along the top edge of the heel end of the insert sleeve to receive the hockey stick blade and shank, the insert sleeve conforming to the shape of the hockey stick blade and having an overall length to envelope the blade.

In still a further preferred embodiment according to the present invention, there is
 30 provided an article for covering the lengthened blade and a section of the shank of a hockey stick comprising: a cover including a lengthened sleeve and extension of the

sleeve forming a fixed angle with the sleeve prior to receiving the blade and the shank section in the cover, the sleeve being closed at a forward or toe end, the cover forming an opening starting at the top edge of the extension heel end of the sleeve to approximately a mid-point of the top edge of the lengthened sleeve enabling the sleeve and the extension at the heel end to receive the blade and shank portion, respectively, of the hockey stick; the cover conforming to the shape of the blade and shank section, the sleeve and the extension having a combined length to envelop the blade and shank section of the hockey stick in that order; the extension extending at an angle to and from the sleeve matching an angle between the blade and shank section of the hockey stick whereby the extension at the heel end extends at least in part along the shank section of the hockey stick blade upon inserting the blade into the sleeve; at least one fastener carried by the cover to at least in part close the opening starting at the top edge of the extension heel to prevent the removal of the hockey stick blade from the sleeve once the blade has been inserted into the sleeve; and an insert sleeve disposed within the cover for covering the blade of a hockey stick comprising an extended sleeve that includes the toe and heel, the insert sleeve being closed at the toe or forward end, the insert sleeve being open at the extension heel end with an opening along the top edge of the heel end of the insert sleeve to receive the hockey stick blade and shank, the insert sleeve conforming to the shape of the hockey stick blade and having an overall length to envelope the blade; wherein the cover is adorned with logos, names, numbers or designs applied by silk screen, embroidery, sewing pre-made letters and numbers or heat transfer.

In still a further preferred embodiment according to the present invention, there is provided a cover for the blade of a hockey stick comprising: a lengthened sleeve closed at one end and having an extension extend at a predetermined fixed angle to the sleeve matching an angle between the blade and the shank section of the hockey stick to extend at least in part along the shank section of the stick when the blade and shank section are received within the sleeve and the extension at the heel end, respectively; the sleeve being closed at the toe or forward end, the sleeve being open at the extension heel end, with an opening along the top edge of the heel end of the cover to receive the hockey stick blade and shank section within the extension; at least one

fastener carried by the cover for at least in part closing the opening to retain the blade and shank section of the hockey stick within the extension and sleeve, in that order, thereby affording a protective cover for the entire blade; and a felt insert sleeve disposed within the cover for covering the blade of a hockey stick comprising an
5 extended sleeve that includes the toe and heel, the felt insert sleeve being closed at the toe or forward end, the sleeve being open at the extension heel end with an opening along the top edge of the heel end of the felt insert sleeve to receive the hockey stick blade and shank, the felt insert sleeve conforming to the shape of the hockey stick blade and having an overall length to envelope the blade.

10 In still a further preferred embodiment according to the present invention, there is provided a cover for the blade of a hockey stick comprising: a lengthened sleeve closed at one end and having an extension extend at a predetermined fixed angle to the sleeve matching an angle between the blade and the shank section of the hockey stick to extend at least in part along the shank section of the stick when the blade and shank
15 section are received within the sleeve and the extension at the heel end, respectively; the sleeve being closed at the toe or forward end, the sleeve being open at the extension heel end, with an opening along the top edge of the heel end of the cover to receive the hockey stick blade and shank section within the extension; at least one fastener carried by the cover for at least in part closing the opening to retain the blade
20 and shank section of the hockey stick within the extension and sleeve, in that order, thereby affording a protective cover for the entire blade; and a felt insert sleeve disposed within the cover for covering the blade of a hockey stick comprising an extended sleeve that includes the toe and heel, the felt insert sleeve being closed at the toe or forward end, the sleeve being open at the extension heel end with an opening
25 along the top edge of the heel end of the felt insert sleeve to receive the hockey stick blade and shank, the felt insert sleeve conforming to the shape of the hockey stick blade and having an overall length to envelope the blade; the cover being formed of vinyl fabric material, the opening remaining in a partially open position along the top edge of the heel end, and in part, closing the opening after the blade has been inserted
30 into and fastened into the sleeve to prevent the removal of the blade from the sleeve.

In still a further preferred embodiment according to the present invention, there is provided a cover for the blade of a hockey stick comprising: a lengthened sleeve closed at one end and having an extension extend at a predetermined fixed angle to the sleeve matching an angle between the blade and the shank section of the hockey stick to

5 extend at least in part along the shank section of the stick when the blade and shank section are received within the sleeve and the extension at the heel end, respectively; the sleeve being closed at the toe or forward end, the sleeve being open at the extension heel end, with an opening along the top edge of the heel end of the cover to receive the hockey stick blade and shank section within the extension; at least one

10 fastener carried by the cover for at least in part closing the opening to retain the blade and shank section of the hockey stick within the extension and sleeve, in that order, thereby affording a protective cover for the entire blade; and a felt insert sleeve disposed within the cover for covering the blade of a hockey stick comprising an extended sleeve that includes the toe and heel, the felt insert sleeve being closed at the

15 toe or forward end, the sleeve being open at the extension heel end with an opening along the top edge of the heel end of the felt insert sleeve to receive the hockey stick blade and shank, the felt insert sleeve conforming to the shape of the hockey stick blade and having an overall length to envelope the blade; the cover being formed of a vinyl fabric material, opposite sides of the sleeve being spaced from each other a

20 sufficient distance to contain the blade of a hockey stick curve.

In still a further preferred embodiment according to the present invention, there is provided a cover for the blade of a hockey stick comprising: a lengthened sleeve closed at one end and having an extension extend at a predetermined fixed angle to the sleeve matching an angle between the blade and the shank section of the hockey stick to

25 extend at least in part along the shank section of the stick when the blade and shank section are received within the sleeve and the extension at the heel end, respectively; the sleeve being closed at the toe or forward end, the sleeve being open at the extension heel end, with an opening along the top edge of the heel end of the cover to receive the hockey stick blade and shank section within the extension; at least one

30 fastener carried by the cover for at least in part closing the opening to retain the blade and shank section of the hockey stick within the extension and sleeve, in that order,

thereby affording a protective cover for the entire blade; and a felt insert sleeve disposed within the cover for covering the blade of a hockey stick comprising an extended sleeve that includes the toe and heel, the felt insert sleeve being closed at the toe or forward end, the sleeve being open at the extension heel end with an opening
 5 along the top edge of the heel end of the felt insert sleeve to receive the hockey stick blade and shank, the felt insert sleeve conforming to the shape of the hockey stick blade and having an overall length to envelope the blade; the cover being formed of a vinyl fabric material, opposite sides of the sleeve being spaced from each other to contain a curved blade of a hockey stick without significant flex of the vinyl fabric sleeve.

10

DESCRIPTION

Referring at this time to the drawings:

FIG. 1: There is illustrated a hockey stick, designated 1, having a shank section 2, heel section 3 and a hockey stick blade 4 extending at an angle in relation to the
 15 shank section 2.

The cover is preferably formed of abrasion resistant, water resistant and tear resistant material such as vinyl. It will be understood however that other types of fabrics may be used. Also the cover may be formed of rigid material such as Kevlar™, plastic and fiberglass.

20 FIG. 2A and FIG. 2B: Friction tape, a cotton tape that has been impregnated with an adhesive as illustrated at 5 is applied to the blade. A cover, normally designated 6 (FIG. 3A), constructed in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, overlies the taped hockey stick blade 4, heel section 3 of the shank 2 of the hockey stick 1.

25 As illustrated in FIG. 1, FIG. 2 and FIGS. 3A and 3B, the sleeve 8, heel section 3 and extension 14 are angularly related one to the other in the same way as the hockey stick blade 4 and shank section 2 are angularly related to one another.

FIG. 3A and FIG. 3B: The cover 6, has an opening along the top edge of the heel end and includes a lengthened sleeve 8 having a closed forward end or toe section 10.

30 The opposite end, or heel section 3 (FIG. 4) being open at the top and forming part of

the heel end opening 9 of the cover 6. Forming part of the sleeve 8 at the heel section 3 (FIG. 4) is an extension 14. Extension 14 is open along its top edge and forms a part of the heel end opening 9 of cover 6.

FIG. 4: The top edge of heel section 3 and extension 14 forming the heel end opening 9 have duo fastening elements such that 9 can be closed by fasteners about the top edge of the shank section 2 of the hockey stick blade 4 when received within the cover. To achieve this, one or more fasteners includes, for example, a strap 22 extending from one side of extension 14 and having one magnet 24 (FIG. 8B) located within the strap 22 for cooperation with another magnet 26 (FIG. 8B) secured within the opposite side (FIG. 8B) of the extension 14 thereby securing by the fastener(s), the cover on the hockey stick blade. Other types of fasteners may be used such as Velcro™ strips, snaps, magnets, elastic band and zipper or the like.

FIG. 5: By opening the one or more straps 22 and releasing the zipper 7 along the top edge of the heel end extension, the shank portion 2 of the hockey stick 1 is released by the fastener(s), removing the cover from the hockey stick.

FIG 6: Referring now to the embodiment of FIG. 6, wherein like reference numbers are applied to like parts as in prior embodiments followed by the suffix "a", the cover 6a is similar to the cover 6 in (FIG. 1) except that the lower portion of the heel end 3a of the sleeve is open and ready to receive the hockey stick blade 4 and secure the cover 6a to the hockey stick blade 4 (FIGS. 2A and 2B).

In this form, the toe section 10a, hockey stick blade 4 (FIGS. 2A and 2B) and shank portion 2 (FIGS. 2A and 2B) of the hockey stick blade are inserted into the sleeve respectively with fasteners such as Velcro™, zipper 7a, snaps, elastic band and magnets 24 and 26 (FIG. 8B) closing around the shank section 2 (FIGS. 2A and 2B), securing the cover firmly to the hockey stick blade 4 (FIGS. 2A and 2B).

FIG. 7A and FIG. 7B: It will be appreciated that the felt insert 23 can be formed from a single piece of fabric material 27. The material 27 is folded along the midpoint of the lower edge of the insert and stitched along the opposite and forward edges to form the upper edge and toe section 10 of the insert respectively. Additionally, the edges of the material are also stitched to each other along the heel section 3 to form the extension 14.

The seams 25 are formed by a sewing operation.

Alternatively, the felt insert 23 may be formed of two similar pieces of material 27; one forming the exact mirror image of the other. Additionally, the edges of the material 27 are also seamed to one and other along the forward end or toe section 10 and heel section 3 of the extension 14. The felt insert seam 25 being illustrated in FIGS. 7A and 7B.

FIGS. 8A and 8B: Referring now to the cover 6 from heel section 3 to toe end 10. The cover may be adorned with logos 18, names 19, numbers 20, designs 21 etc., by various applications including, silk screen, embroidery, sewing pre-made letters and numbers, heat transfer etc. It will be appreciated that should the need exist licensing approvals will be required from sporting teams regarding trade marking of logos and names.

FIG. 9: It will be appreciated that the cover 6 can be formed from multiple pieces of material 11. The cover may be formed of two pieces of material 11; one forming the exact mirror image of the other. Piping 13 is sewn to the edge of each piece of material 11.

An additional piece of material 17 is sewn in between the two pieces 11, together with the piping 13, to form both the upper and lower edges. The sleeve seam 15 is illustrated in FIGS. 3A and 3B along the upper edge of the sleeve 8. Additionally, the edges of the material 11 are also seamed to one and other along the forward end or toe section 10 and heel section 3 of the extension 14. The seams 16 being illustrated in FIG. 5.

The seams 15 and 16 are preferably formed by a sewing operation but, depending upon the type of materials selected, other seams, for example heat sealed seams can be used, should a rigid material such as Kevlar™, plastic and fiberglass be chosen.

Alternatively, the cover can be formed out of a single piece of material folded along a mid-line and seamed together along the edges.

To apply the cover with felt insert to the hockey stick blade with the fastener(s) open, the top edge of heel section 3 and extension 14 forming the heel end opening 9 is open to receive the hockey stick blade 4 as illustrated in FIG. 5. The hockey stick blade

4 may then be inserted into and through the open cover, with the tip of the blade moving forward to the closed toe section 10 of the cover 6, the cover then encompassing the toe section 10, hockey stick blade 4 and shank section 2 of the hockey stick. With the blade inserted to its maximum forward position and secured by one or more fasteners, 5 the cover cannot be removed from the hockey stick blade without release of said fasteners such as zippers 7, snaps, elastic band, magnets 24 or the like (FIG. 4).

It will be appreciated from the foregoing disclosure that the cover is easily applied to the hockey stick in a way that the lengthened sleeve of the cover completely encompasses the blade of the hockey stick. As a result, a barrier of cover material is 10 provided between the tape on the blade and any surface in which it might make contact, therefore eliminating marking on any surfaces that might come in contact with the stick with taped blade. Also, the cover is formed of a very sturdy fabric material or of rigid material such as Kevlar™, plastic and fiber glass.

While the invention has been described in relation with what is at present 15 considered to be the most useful and preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that the invention is not to be limited to the disclosed embodiment, but contrary, it is intended to cover a variety of modifications and equivalent measures included within the scope of the appended claims.

The embodiments of the present invention for which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. An article for covering the lengthened blade and a section of the shank of a hockey stick comprising:

a cover including a lengthened sleeve and extension of sleeve forming a fixed angle with the sleeve prior to receiving the blade and the shank section in the cover, the sleeve being closed at a forward or toe end, the cover forming an opening starting at the top edge of the extension heel end of the sleeve to approximately a mid-point of the top edge of the lengthened sleeve enabling the sleeve and the extension at the heel end to receive the blade and shank portion, respectively, of the hockey stick;

the cover in general conforming to the shape of the blade and shank section, the sleeve and the extension having a combined length to envelop the blade and shank section of the hockey stick respectively;

the extension extending at an angle to and from the sleeve matching an angle between the blade and shank section of the hockey stick whereby the extension at the heel end extends at least in part along the shank section of the hockey stick blade upon inserting the blade into the sleeve;

at least one fastener carried by the cover to at least in part close the opening starting at the top edge of the extension heel end to prevent the removal of the hockey stick blade from the sleeve once the blade has been inserted into the sleeve; and

an insert sleeve disposed within the cover for covering the blade of a hockey stick comprising an extended sleeve that includes the toe and heel, the insert sleeve being closed at the toe or forward end, the insert sleeve being open at the extension heel end with an opening along the top edge of the heel end of the insert sleeve to receive the hockey stick blade and shank, the insert sleeve conforming to the shape of the hockey stick blade and having an overall length to envelope the blade.

2. The article according to claim 1, wherein the cover is formed of vinyl fabric material, an opening accommodates the fastener for a limited extent for insertion of the hockey stick blade and shank into the sleeve.

3. The article according to claim 2, wherein a strap of material is provided on the extension heel section of the sleeve to facilitate holding the fastener in a closed position, to preclude removal of the blade from the sleeve through said opening.

4. An article for covering the lengthened blade and a section of the shank of a hockey stick comprising:

a cover including a lengthened sleeve and extension of the sleeve forming a fixed angle with the sleeve prior to receiving the blade and the shank section in the cover, the sleeve being closed at a forward or toe end, the cover forming an opening starting at the top edge of the extension heel end of the sleeve to approximately a mid-point of the top edge of the lengthened sleeve enabling the sleeve and the extension at the heel end to receive the blade and shank portion, respectively, of the hockey stick;

the cover conforming to the shape of the blade and shank section, the sleeve and the extension having a combined length to envelop the blade and shank section of the hockey stick in that order;

the extension extending at an angle to and from the sleeve matching an angle between the blade and shank section of the hockey stick whereby the extension at the heel end extends at least in part along the shank section of the hockey stick blade upon inserting the blade into the sleeve;

at least one fastener carried by the cover to at least in part close the opening starting at the top edge of the extension heel to prevent the removal of the hockey stick blade from the sleeve once the blade has been inserted into the sleeve; and

an insert sleeve disposed within the cover for covering the blade of a hockey stick comprising an extended sleeve that includes the toe and heel, the insert sleeve being closed at the toe or forward end, the insert sleeve being open

at the extension heel end with an opening along the top edge of the heel end of the insert sleeve to receive the hockey stick blade and shank, the insert sleeve conforming to the shape of the hockey stick blade and having an overall length to envelope the blade;

wherein the cover is adorned with logos, names, numbers or designs applied by silk screen, embroidery, sewing pre-made letters and numbers or heat transfer.

5. The cover according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said opening is created at the lower edge of the extension heel end of the sleeve to approximately a mid-point of a lower edge of the lengthened sleeve.

6. The cover according to claim 5 wherein said sleeve is formed from a single piece of material.

7. The cover according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the sleeve and extension can be formed from two pieces of material that are essentially mirror images of each other with a third piece of material required in order to create the width for the cover to accept the blade and shank section regardless of left or right curve with piping along the edges and the three pieces of material seamed together.

8. The cover according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the insert sleeve within the cover is formed from a single piece of material.

9. The cover according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the insert sleeve within the cover is formed from two pieces of material that are mirror images of each other.

10. The cover according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the at least one fastener is a Velcro strip, a snap, a magnet, an elastic band or a zipper.

11. The cover according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the insert sleeve is felt material.

12. A cover for the blade of a hockey stick comprising:

a lengthened sleeve closed at one end and having an extension extend at a predetermined fixed angle to the sleeve matching an angle between the blade and the shank section of the hockey stick to extend at least in part along the shank section of the stick when the blade and shank section are received within the sleeve and the extension at the heel end, respectively;

the sleeve being closed at the toe or forward end, the sleeve being open at the extension heel end, with an opening along the top edge of the heel end of the cover to receive the hockey stick blade and shank section within the extension;

at least one fastener carried by the cover for at least in part closing the opening to retain the blade and shank section of the hockey stick within the extension and sleeve, in that order, thereby affording a protective cover for the entire blade; and

a felt insert sleeve disposed within the cover for covering the blade of a hockey stick comprising an extended sleeve that includes the toe and heel, the felt insert sleeve being closed at the toe or forward end, the sleeve being open at the extension heel end with an opening along the top edge of the heel end of the felt insert sleeve to receive the hockey stick blade and shank, the felt insert sleeve conforming to the shape of the hockey stick blade and having an overall length to envelope the blade.

13. A cover for the blade of a hockey stick comprising:

a lengthened sleeve closed at one end and having an extension extend at a predetermined fixed angle to the sleeve matching an angle between the blade and the shank section of the hockey stick to extend at least in part along the shank section of the stick when the blade and shank section are received within the sleeve and the extension at the heel end, respectively;

the sleeve being closed at the toe or forward end, the sleeve being open at the extension heel end, with an opening along the top edge of the heel end of the cover to receive the hockey stick blade and shank section within the extension;

at least one fastener carried by the cover for at least in part closing the opening to retain the blade and shank section of the hockey stick within the extension and sleeve, in that order, thereby affording a protective cover for the entire blade; and

a felt insert sleeve disposed within the cover for covering the blade of a hockey stick comprising an extended sleeve that includes the toe and heel, the felt insert sleeve being closed at the toe or forward end, the sleeve being open at the extension heel end with an opening along the top edge of the heel end of the felt insert sleeve to receive the hockey stick blade and shank, the felt insert sleeve conforming to the shape of the hockey stick blade and having an overall length to envelope the blade;

the cover being formed of vinyl fabric material, the opening remaining in a partially open position along the top edge of the heel end, and in part, closing the opening after the blade has been inserted into and fastened into the sleeve to prevent the removal of the blade from the sleeve.

14. A cover for the blade of a hockey stick comprising:

a lengthened sleeve closed at one end and having an extension extend at a predetermined fixed angle to the sleeve matching an angle between the blade and the shank section of the hockey stick to extend at least in part along the shank section of the stick when the blade and shank section are received within the sleeve and the extension at the heel end, respectively;

the sleeve being closed at the toe or forward end, the sleeve being open at the extension heel end, with an opening along the top edge of the heel end of the cover to receive the hockey stick blade and shank section within the extension;

at least one fastener carried by the cover for at least in part closing the opening to retain the blade and shank section of the hockey stick within the extension and sleeve, in that order, thereby affording a protective cover for the entire blade; and

a felt insert sleeve disposed within the cover for covering the blade of a hockey stick comprising an extended sleeve that includes the toe and heel, the felt insert sleeve being closed at the toe or forward end, the sleeve being open at the extension heel end with an opening along the top edge of the heel end of the felt insert sleeve to receive the hockey stick blade and shank, the felt insert sleeve conforming to the shape of the hockey stick blade and having an overall length to envelope the blade;

the cover being formed of a vinyl fabric material, opposite sides of the sleeve being spaced from each other a sufficient distance to contain the blade of a hockey stick curve.

15. A cover for the blade of a hockey stick comprising:

a lengthened sleeve closed at one end and having an extension extend at a predetermined fixed angle to the sleeve matching an angle between the blade and the shank section of the hockey stick to extend at least in part along the shank section of the stick when the blade and shank section are received within the sleeve and the extension at the heel end, respectively;

the sleeve being closed at the toe or forward end, the sleeve being open at the extension heel end, with an opening along the top edge of the heel end of the cover to receive the hockey stick blade and shank section within the extension;

at least one fastener carried by the cover for at least in part closing the opening to retain the blade and shank section of the hockey stick within the extension and sleeve, in that order, thereby affording a protective cover for the entire blade; and

a felt insert sleeve disposed within the cover for covering the blade of a hockey stick comprising an extended sleeve that includes the toe and heel, the

felt insert sleeve being closed at the toe or forward end, the sleeve being open at the extension heel end with an opening along the top edge of the heel end of the felt insert sleeve to receive the hockey stick blade and shank, the felt insert sleeve conforming to the shape of the hockey stick blade and having an overall length to envelope the blade;

the cover being formed of a vinyl fabric material, opposite sides of the sleeve being spaced from each other to contain a curved blade of a hockey stick without significant flex of the vinyl fabric sleeve.

16. The cover according to any one of claims 12 to 15, wherein the at least one fastener is a Velcro strip, a snap, a magnet, an elastic band or a zipper.

1/10

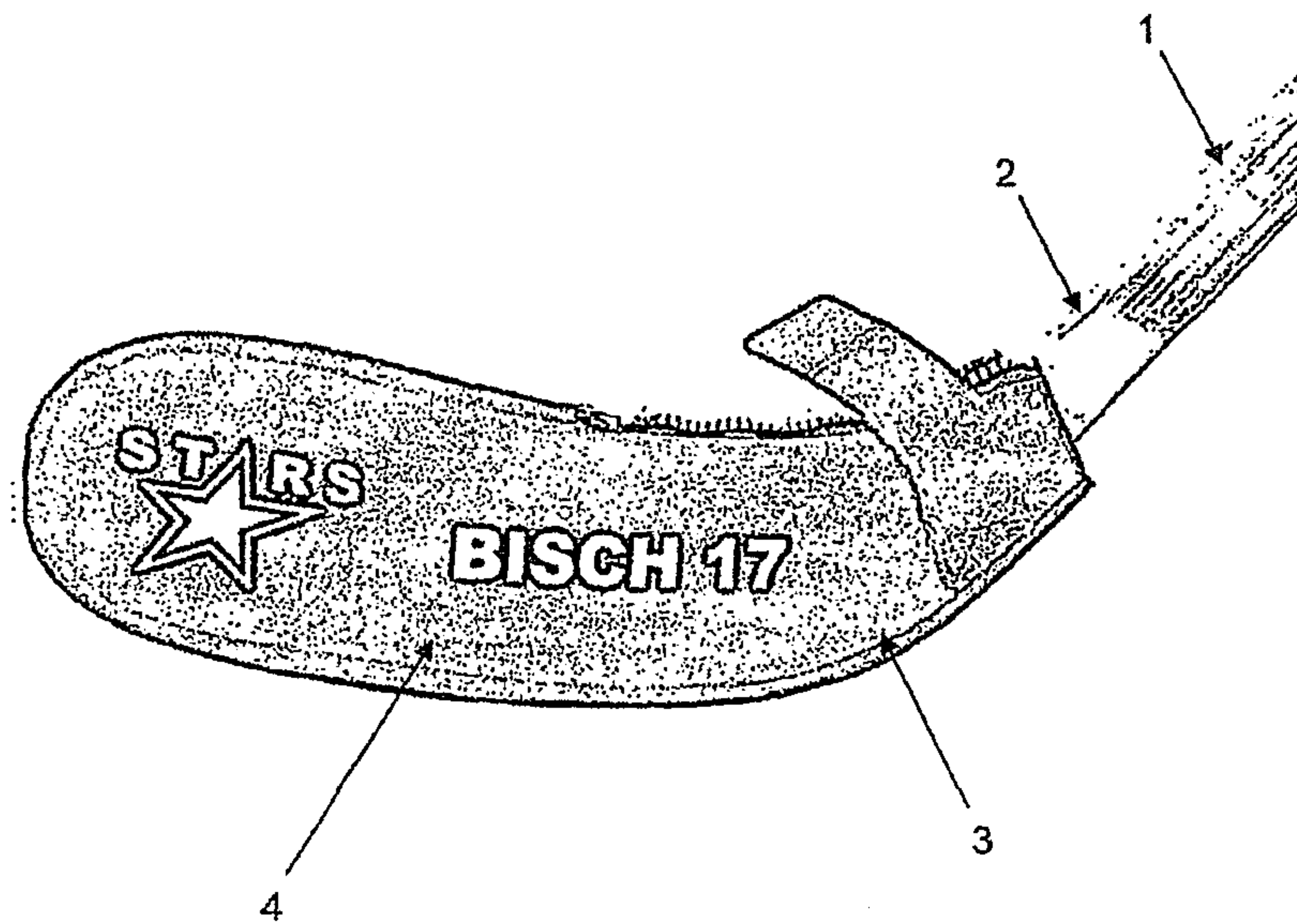


FIG. 1

2/10

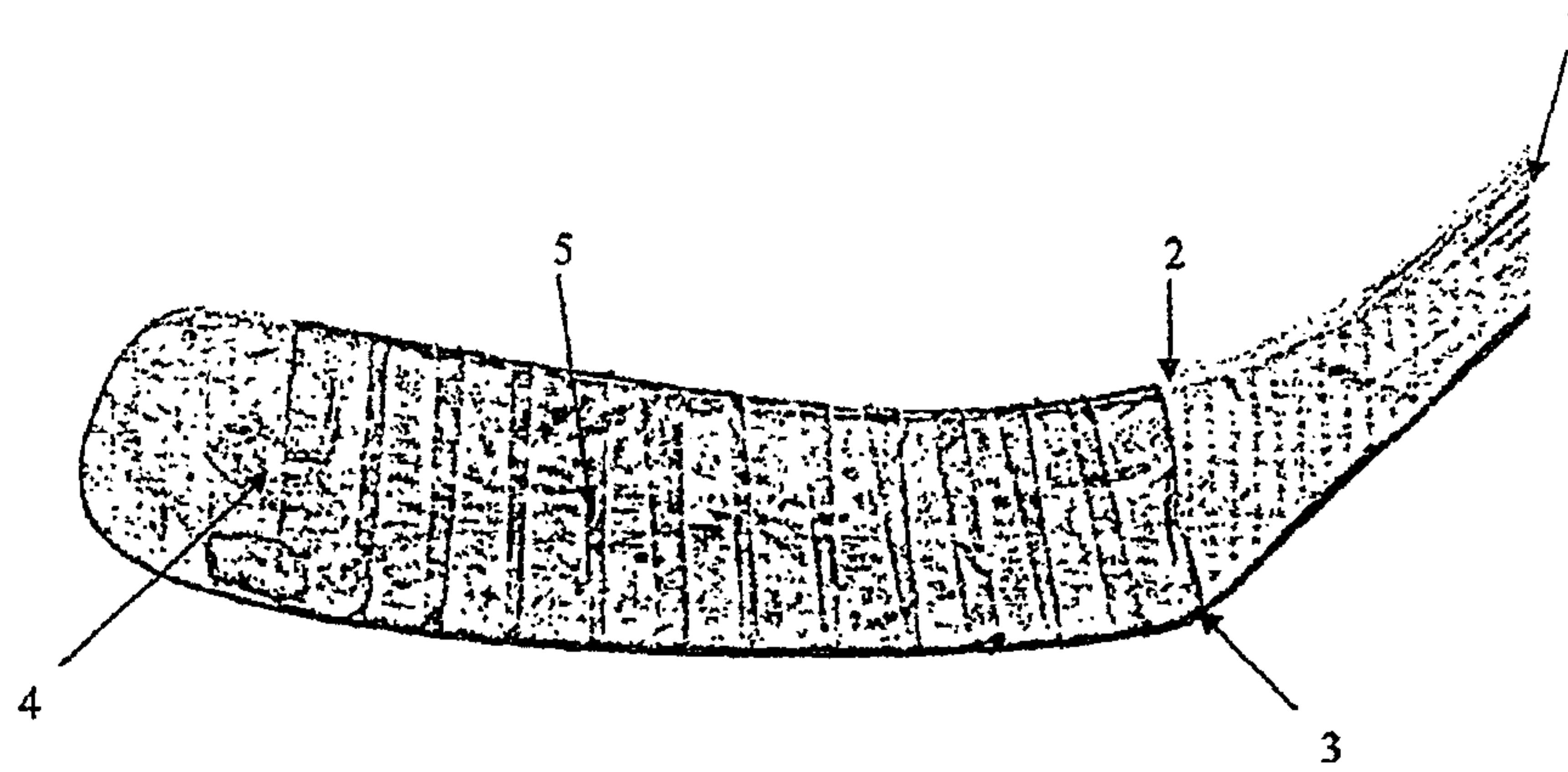


FIG. 2A

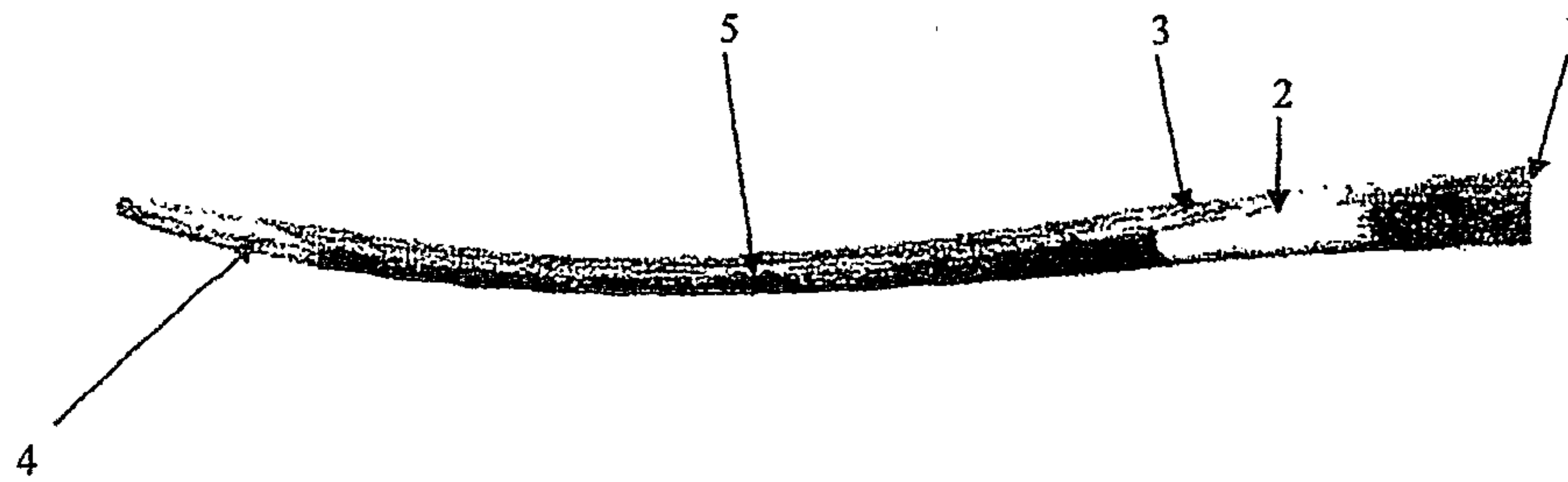


FIG. 2B

3/10

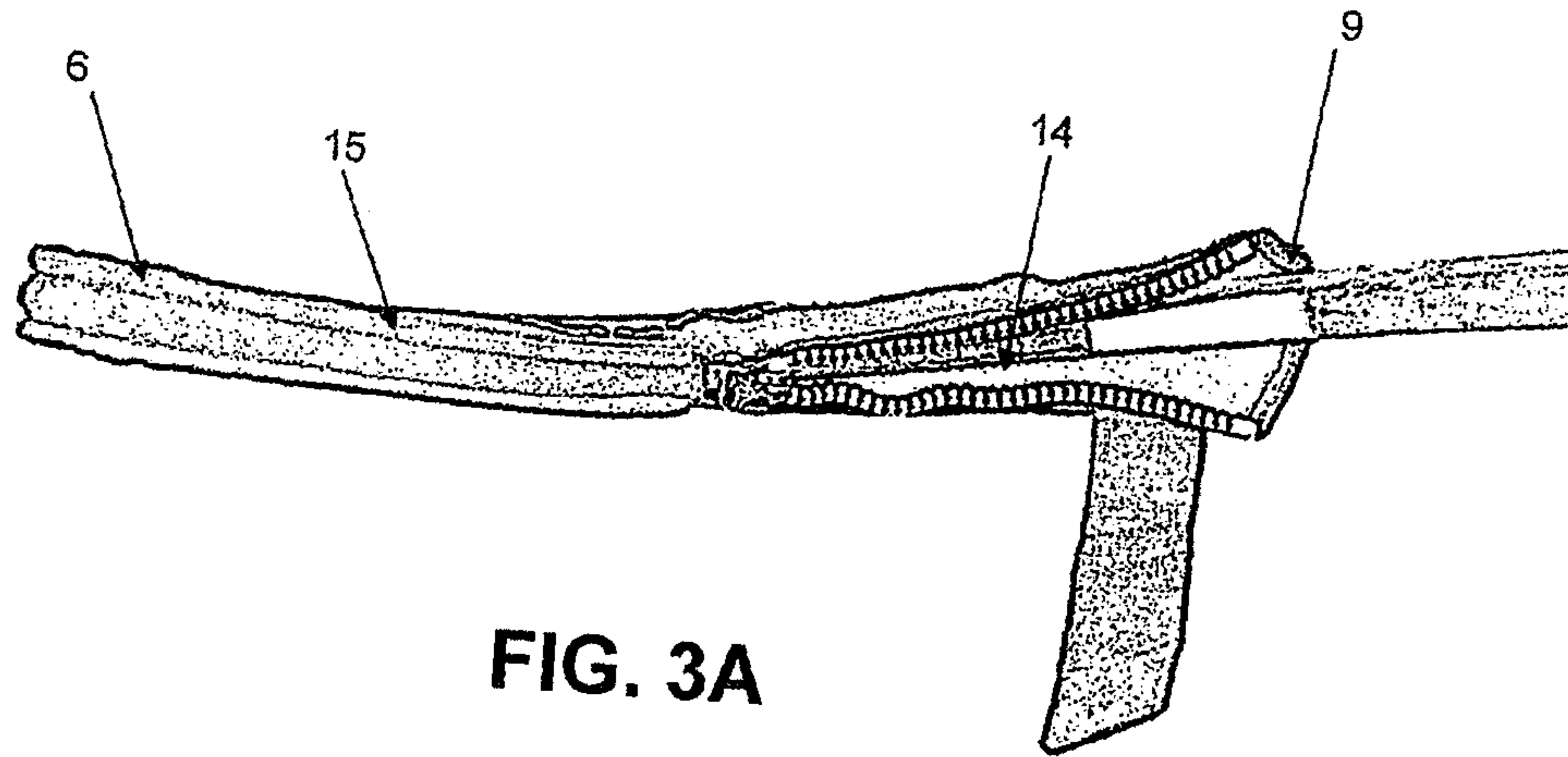


FIG. 3A

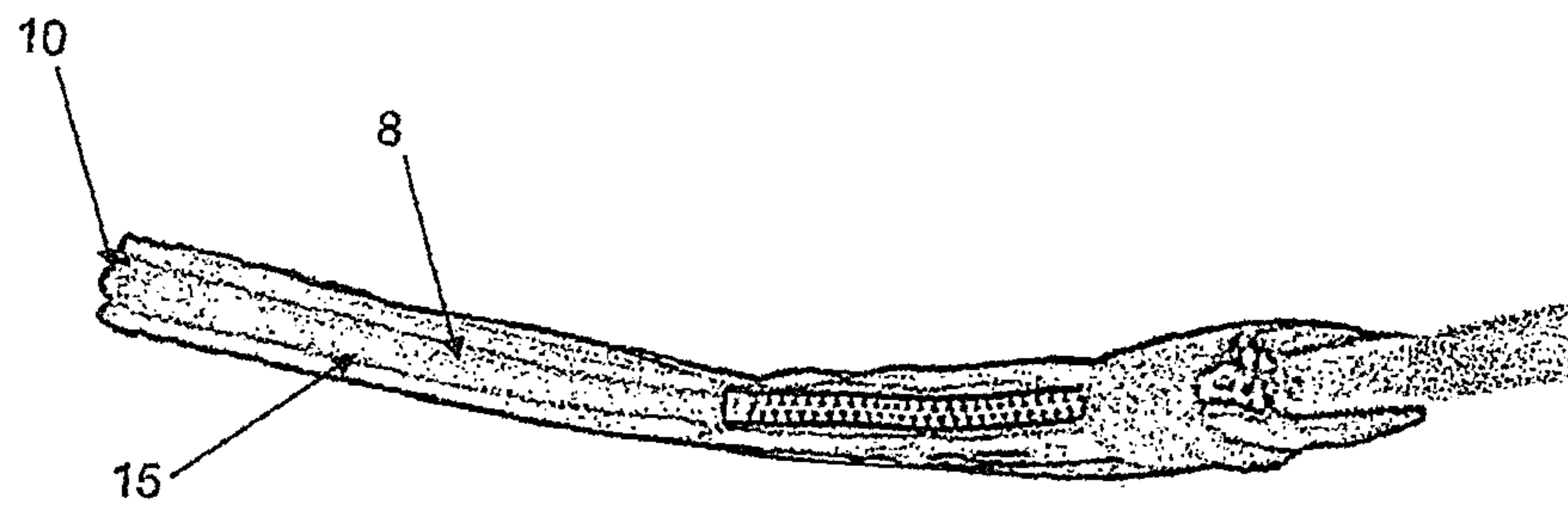


FIG. 3B

4/10

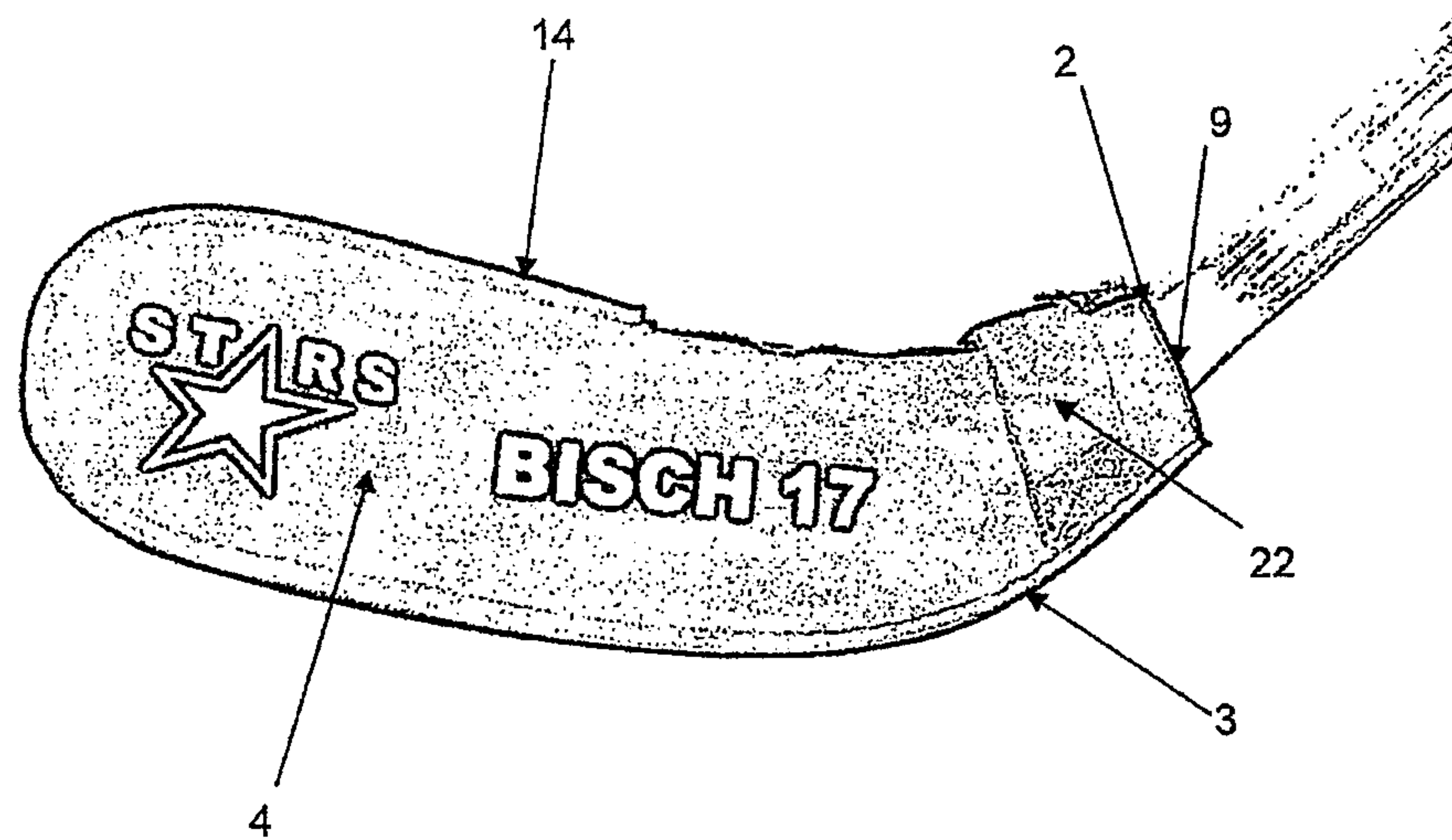


FIG. 4

5/10

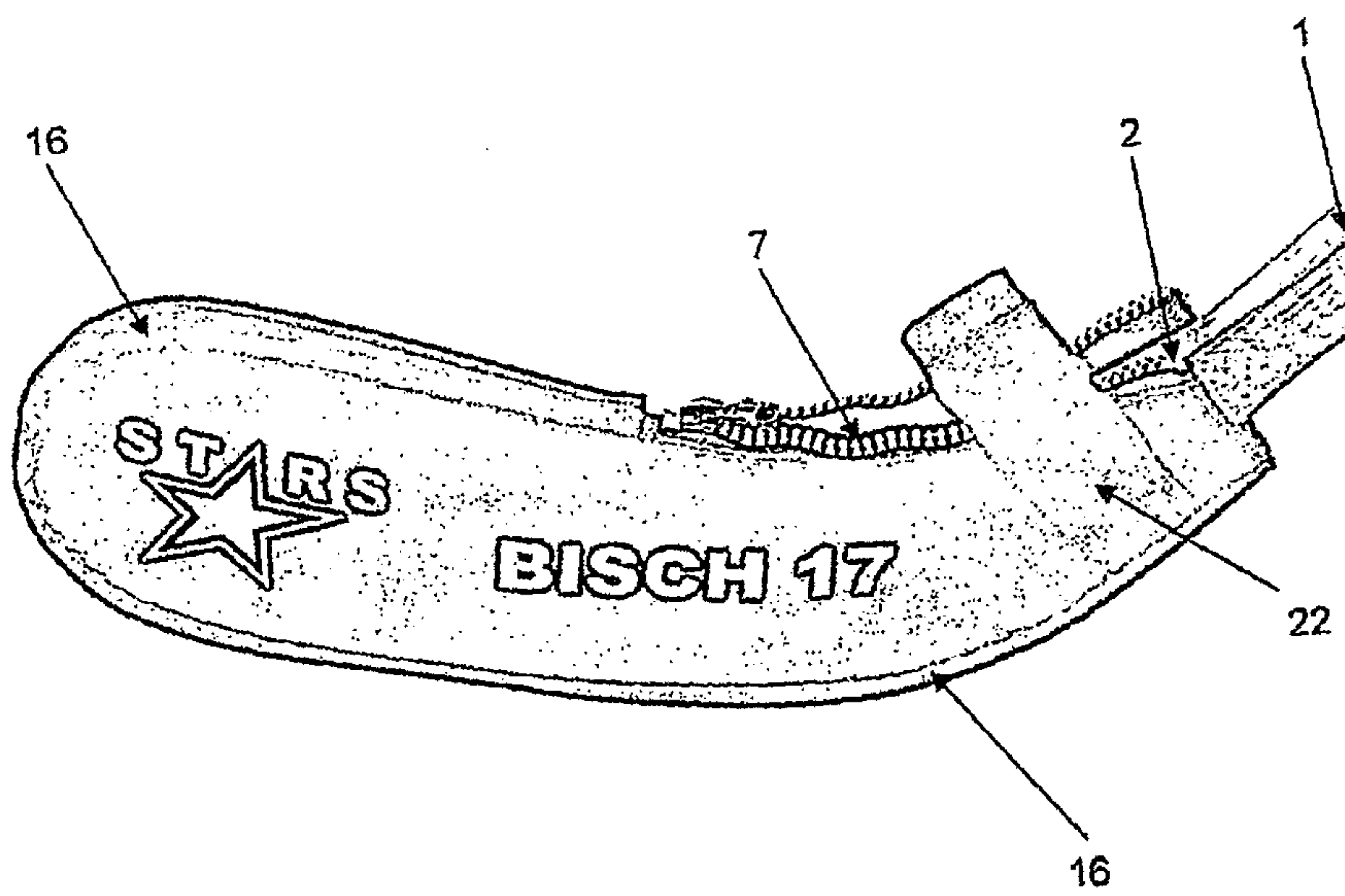


FIG. 5

6/10

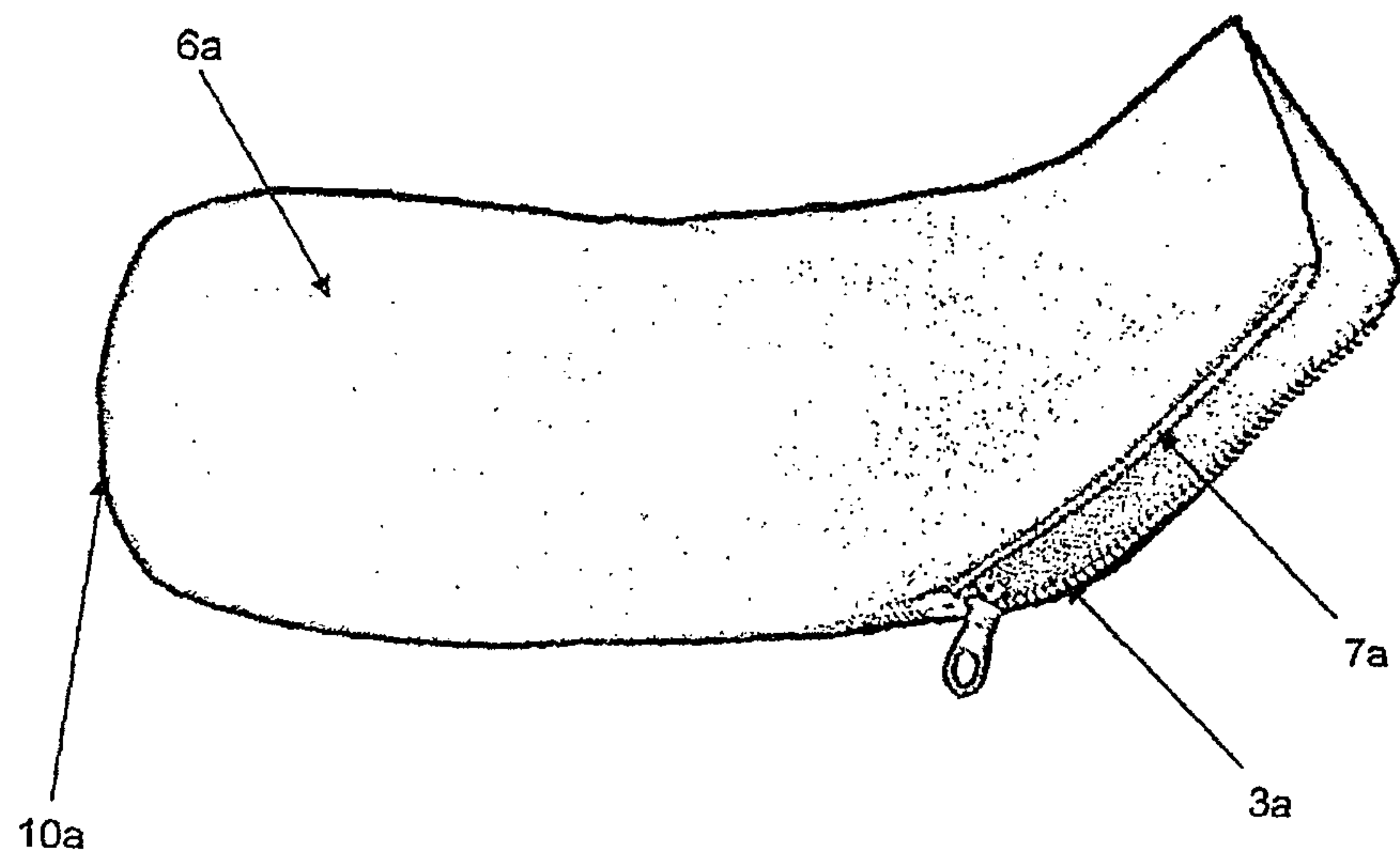


FIG. 6

7/10

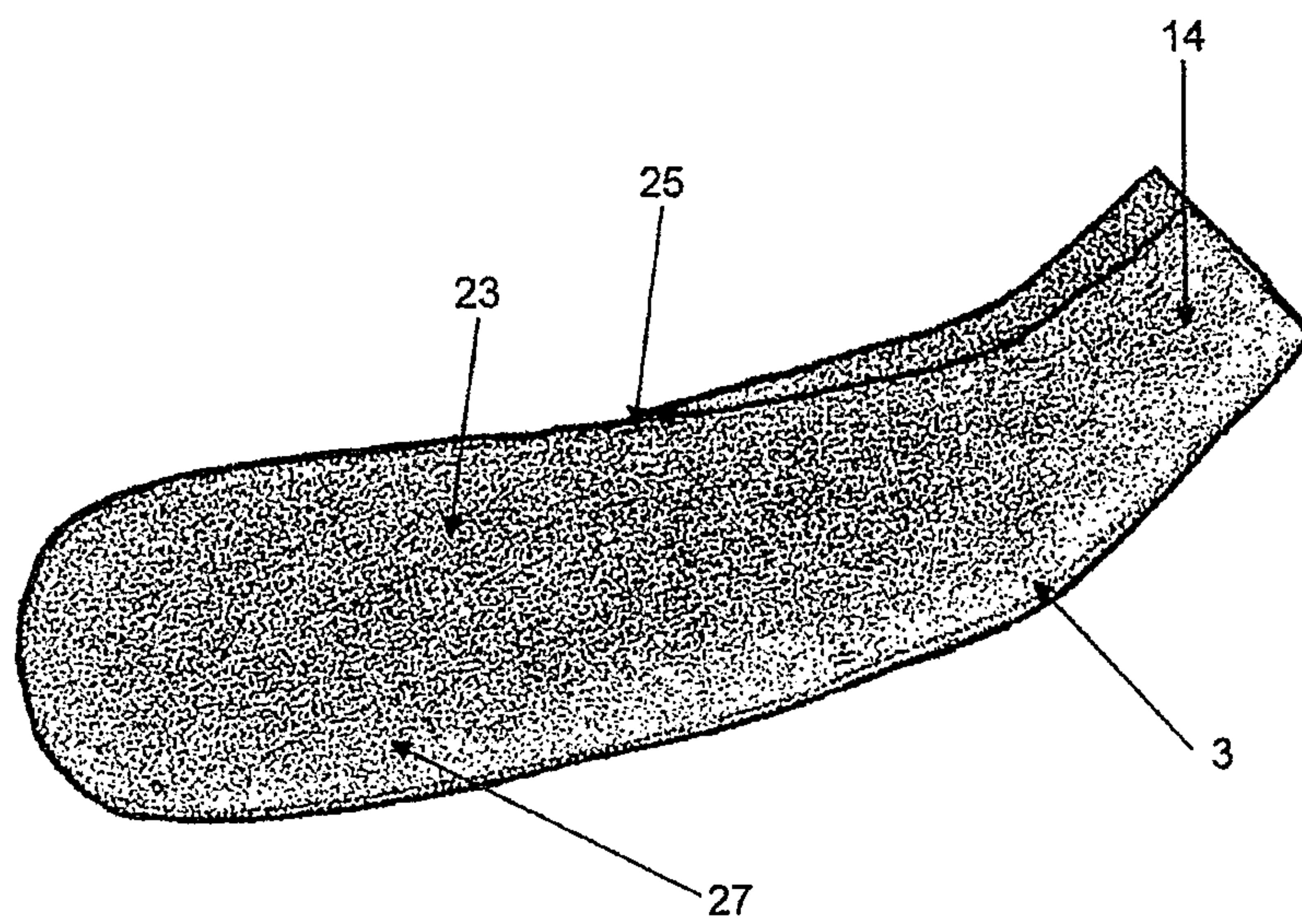


FIG. 7A

8/10

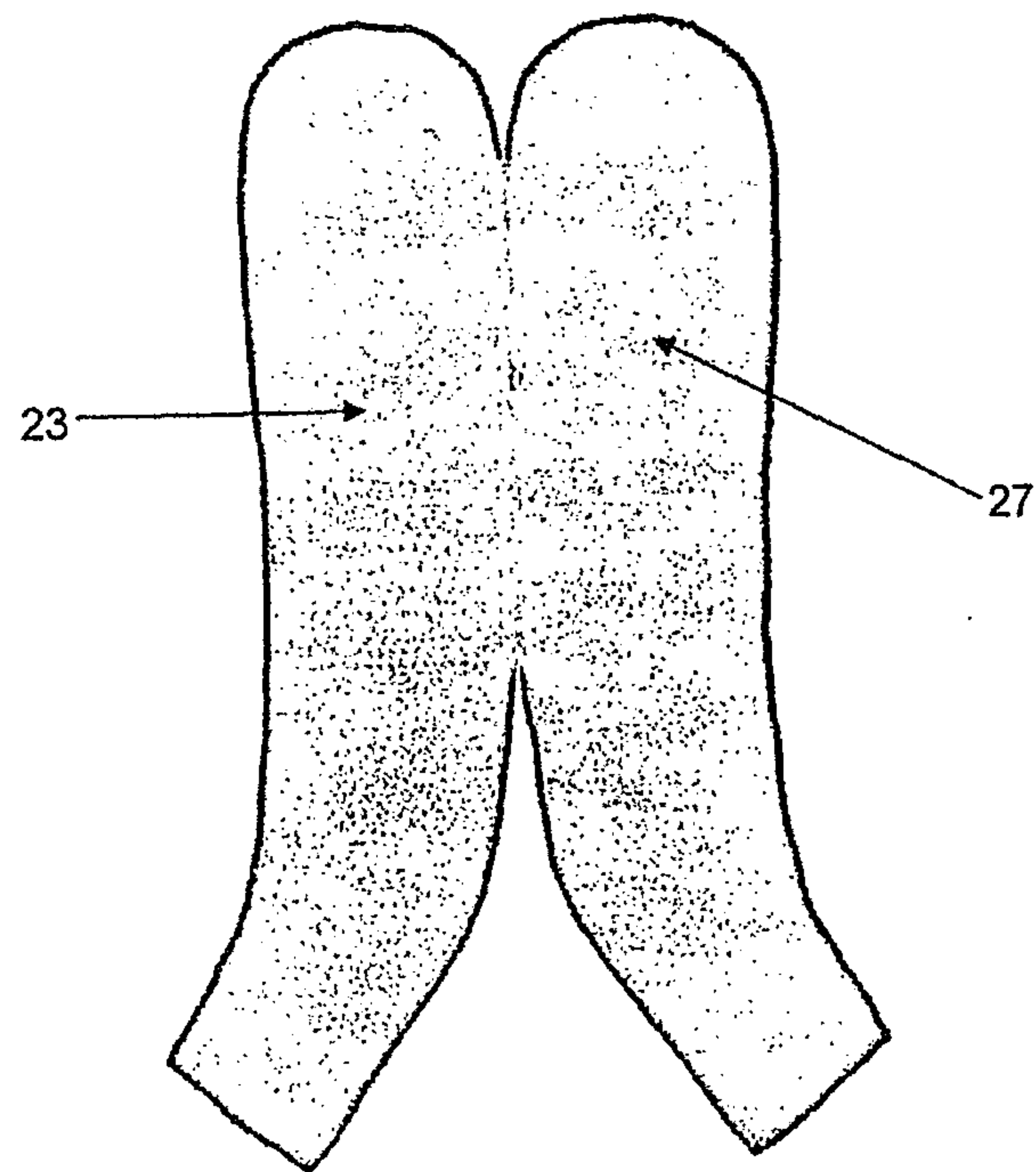


FIG. 7B

9/10

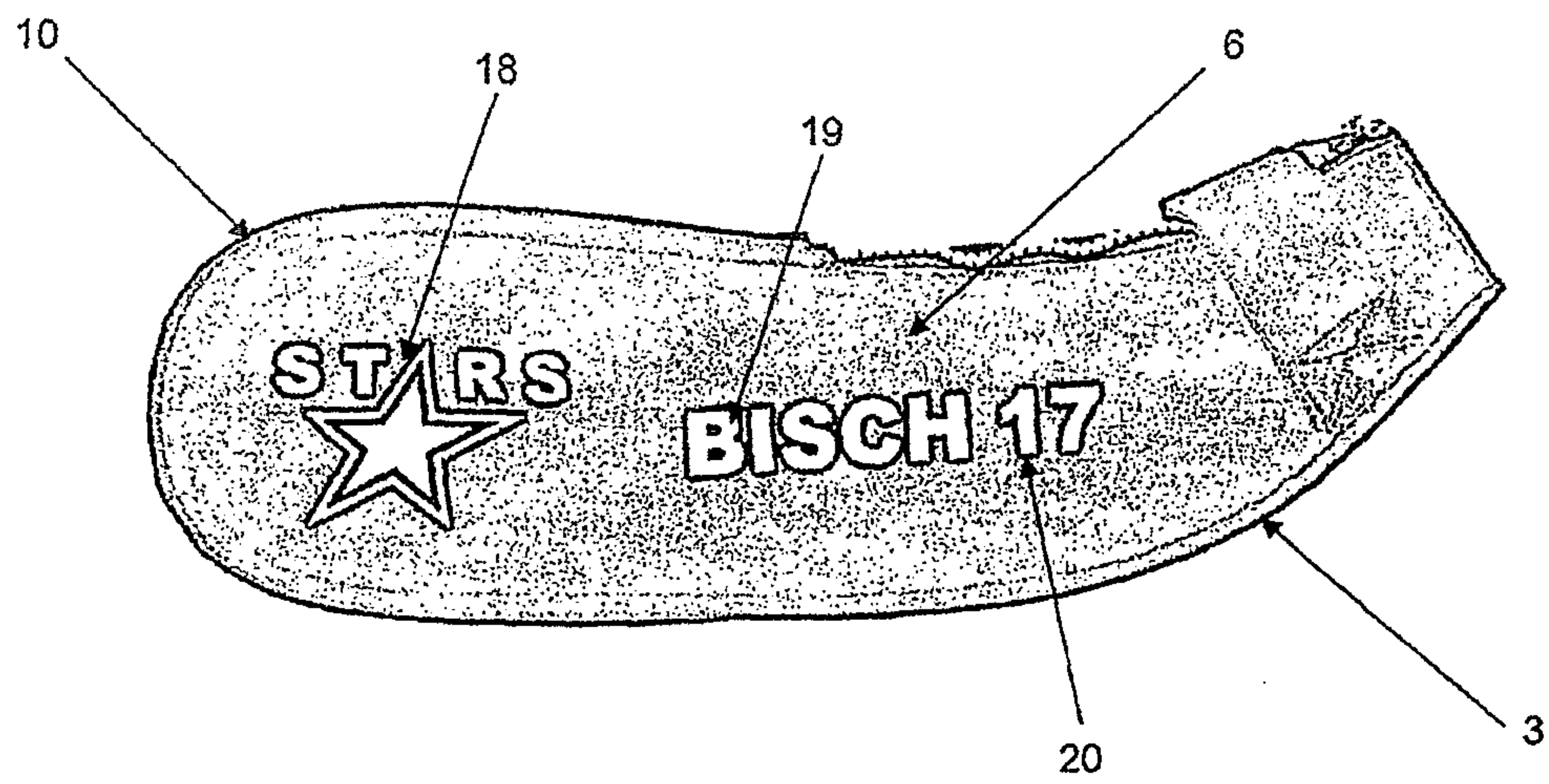


FIG. 8A

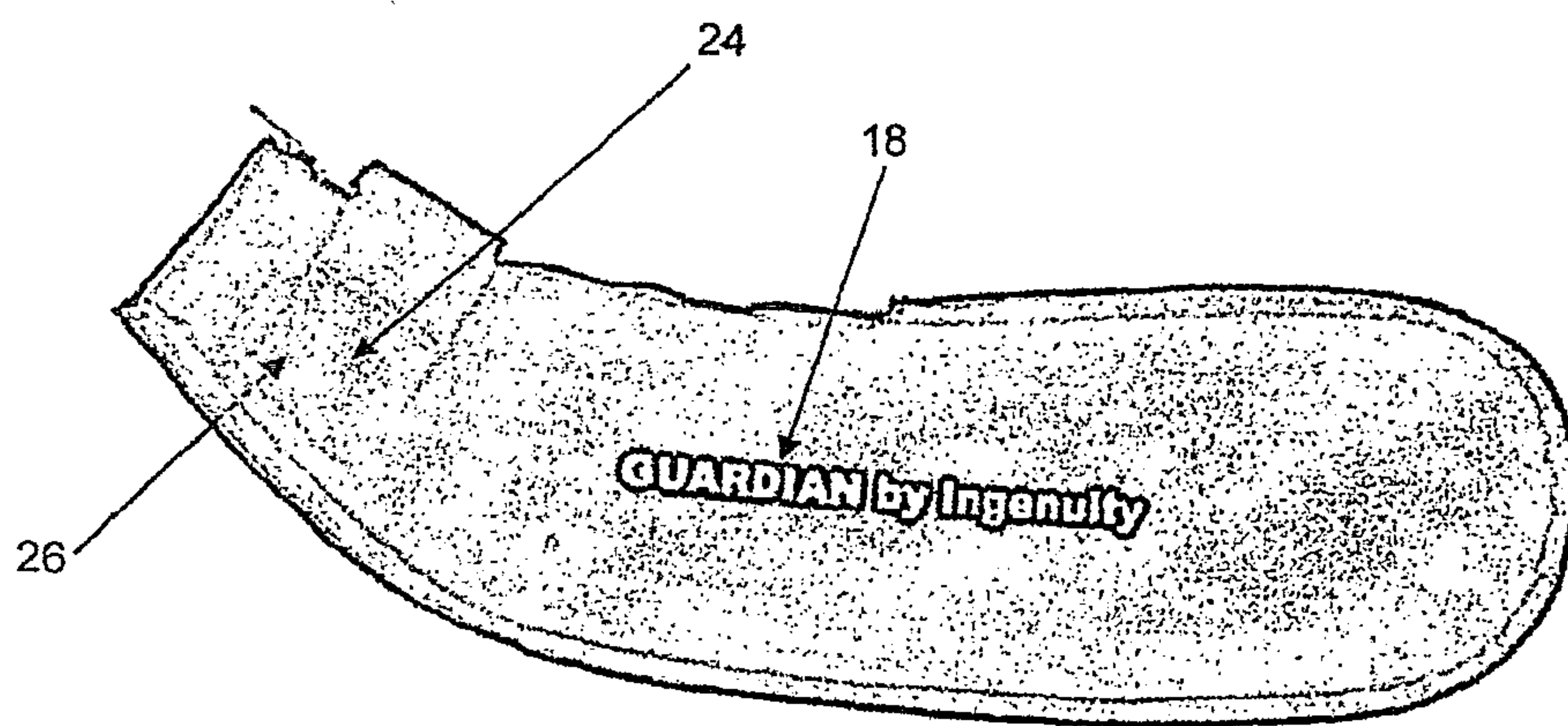


FIG. 8B

10/10

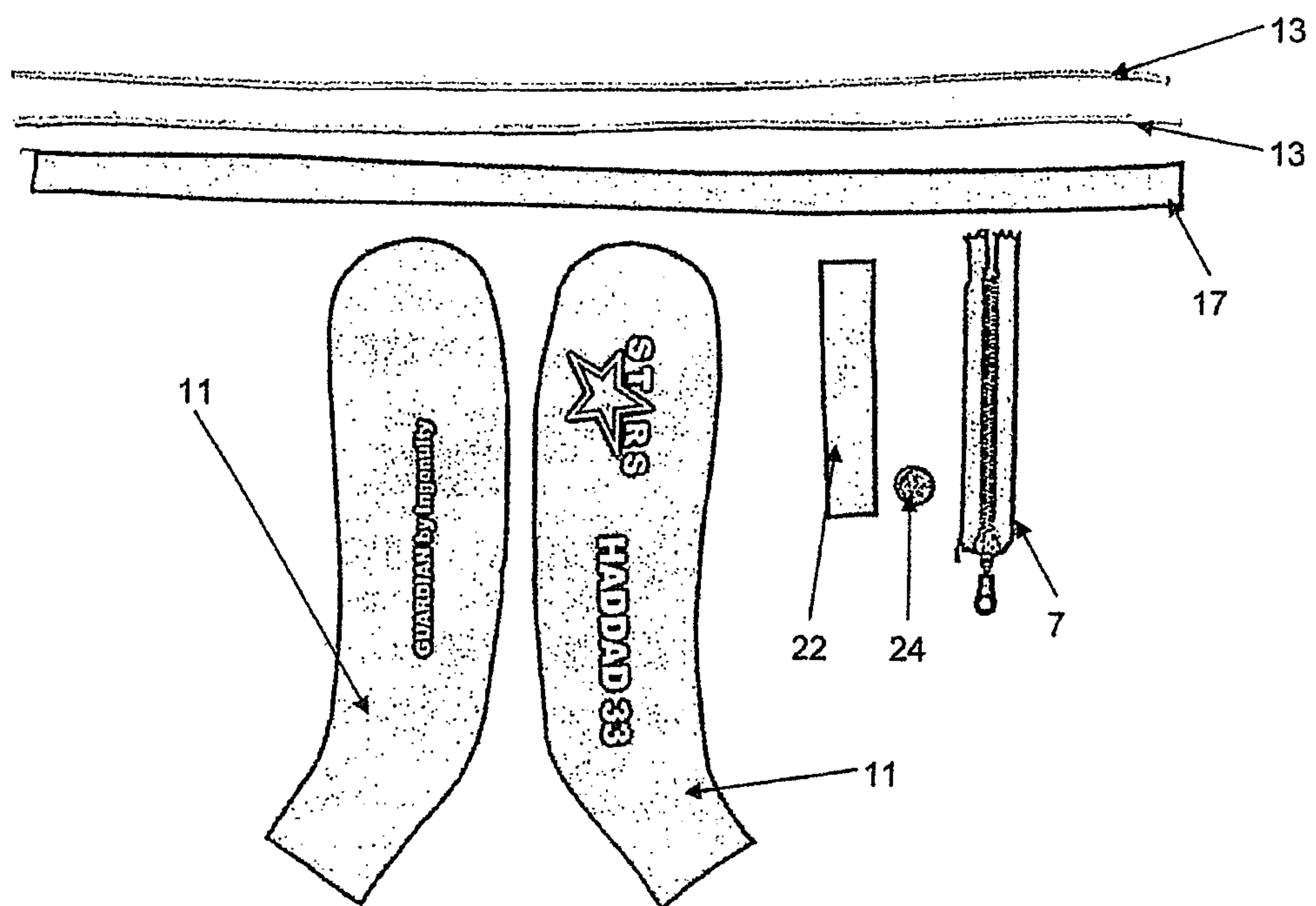


FIG. 9

