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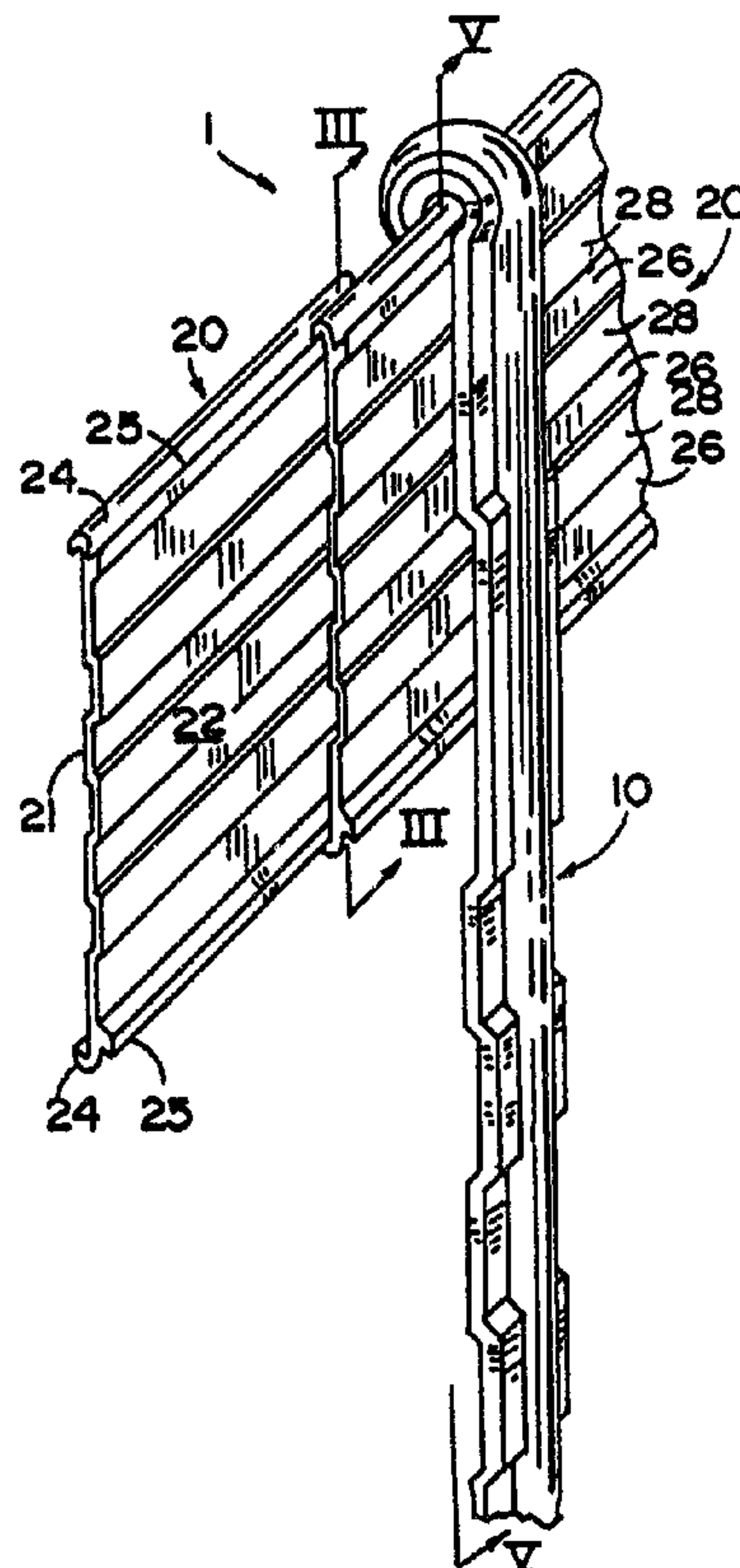
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(54) Titre : BANDE PERMETTANT DE FORMER DES BORDURES

(54) Title: LANDSCAPE EDGING SYSTEM



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

An area edging system comprising a self-coupling edging strip two ends of which can be slidably connected together on either sides of each other. Also provided is a novel support stake that can be snap fastened to an edging strip and securely fastened thereto and securely held in the ground. Also provided are modular coupling members for forming sharp radius curves, sharp angle corners and mid-span coupling.



ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1

5

An area edging system comprising a self-coupling edging strip two ends of which can be slidably connected together on either sides of each other. Also provided is a novel support stake that can be snap fastened to an edging strip and securely fastened thereto and securely held in the ground. Also provided are modular coupling members for forming sharp radius curves, sharp angle corners and mid-span coupling.

1 LANDSCAPE EDGING SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

 The present invention relates to devices for
defining a border between one area and an adjacent area
5 which are useful in landscaping and has other useful
purposes.

 Typical edging systems generally comprise a
plurality of edging strips which are connected together or
one strip which is curved in a geometrical shape (such as a
10 circle) which requires the ends of the strip to be connected
together. Many different shapes of edging strips have been
conceived for connecting the ends of strips together, many
of them requiring a separate connector coupling or a
specific relationship of the edging ends to the stakes which
15 hold the edging in the ground. To our knowledge, none of
these edging strips have been satisfactory particularly
because of the requirements of providing a separate
connecting means for connecting two ends together in the
installation of the edging strips in the ground.

20 Such requirement is particularly evident when
using one strip curved so that the two ends thereof are to
be connected together. To avoid the use of a separate
connector, some edges provide specially-prepared ends of
different configuration which permit the ends to be spliced
25 to one another. However, such designs require predetermined
special lengths for different shapes and sizes of
installations since they preclude cutting the edging strips
at any desired length at the location of the installation.

30 Further, edging systems typically "sink" into or
"float" out of the ground as it heaves and shifts, with
changes in the weather. Also, prior art stakes used to hold

1 the strips in the ground are usually difficult to install
and, once installed, they are difficult to separate from the
edging.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 The edging system of the present invention uses an
edging strip which has longitudinal corrugations to resist
"floating" or "sinking." The present edging strip also has
two distinct sides, so-called male and female sides. This
difference in sides allows two ends of edging to be
10 self-splicing by merely engaging the male side of one end
with the female side of another end. These ends are not
specially prepared and a strip of edging can be cut in
mid-span to fit a particular application without defeating
the self-splicing function and without requiring any
15 different orientation of the ends. Further, a sufficiently
long strip of this differentially-sided edging can encompass
a closed area and still self-splice the two ends together.

This edging system includes securing stakes which
also present a corrugated profile to "grab" the earth and
20 preclude "floating" or "sinking." The top portion of a
stake is bent over forming a long leg and a short leg and
defining a keyhole-like slot. The end of the short leg is
flared away from the long leg to facilitate insertion of the
edging into the slot. The system is not biased in this
25 regard, that is, one edge of the edging is accommodated as
easily as the other, thus the edging does not need to be
positioned in the ground with a particular orientation. The
flare of the short leg of the stake helps to expand the slot
as the edging is snapped into the keyhole slot. Also, this
30 flare facilitates the prying of the short leg with a hammer

claw or the like if the stake is to be removed from the edging strip.

The edging system of the present invention also includes versatile modular coupling members which can be used to enhance architectural designs where sharp corners and small radius curves are desired. A sharp corner coupler can be placed in mid-span to couple two pieces of edging in a generally T-configuration or the same coupler can couple two ends of edging to form a corner. Further, a short piece of the edging itself can be used mid-span to couple two strips of edging at a tangent point between two arcs.

More particularly, in accordance with a first aspect of the invention there is provided, an area edging system, useful in landscaping, comprising:

an elongated edging strip having a length, two ends and a top edge;

said edging strip throughout its length having a first side including spaced apart projecting ridges configured to provide a male portion and a second side including spaced apart grooves configured to provide a female portion, said configurations of said sides being such that said male portion is receivable in said female portion whereby the two ends of said edging strip can be coupled together by engaging said male portion of said first side with said female portion of said second side;

a plurality of securing stakes used in cooperation with said edging strip to secure said edging strip;

said stakes having a top portion which is bent over, forming a long leg and a short leg and defining a slot, such that said stakes can be snapped onto said edging strip by sliding said top edge of said edging strip into said slot of said top portion.

In accordance with a second aspect of the invention there is provided, an area edging system, useful in landscaping, comprising:

an elongated edging strip;

said edging strip having a first side including spaced apart projecting ridges configured to provide a male portion and a second side including spaced apart grooves configured to provide a female portion, said configurations of said sides being such that said male portion is receivable in said female portion whereby the two ends of said edging can be coupled together by engaging said male portion of said first side with said female portion of said second side.

In accordance with a third aspect of the invention, there is provided, a stake for an area edging system, useful in securing landscaping edging comprising an elongated bar having a top portion bent over and forming a long leg and a short leg defining a slot therebetween, said slot adapted to receive the top edge of an edging strip and having a reduced slot entrance portion leading to a slot capture portion adapted to encapture the top edge of an edging strip whereby said stake can be fastened to said edging by sliding a top edge of said edging through said slot entrance portion into said capture portion.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 shows a perspective of a single length of edging with its ends self-spliced to define a closed area around a tree;

Fig. 2 shows a perspective of two ends of edging joined together with a securing stake snapped onto one piece of edging;

Fig. 3 is an elevational, cross-sectional view taken along the plane III-III of Fig. 1 through two coupled pieces of edging;

Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional view similar to Fig. 3 but with the edging ends engaging each other on opposite sides to demonstrate that there is no designated top and bottom or front and back to the edging;

1 Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional view taken through a
piece of edging disclosure an elevational view of a stake
snapped over the edging;

5 Fig. 6 is an elevational perspective view of a
sharp corner coupler coupling two pieces of edging in a
generally T-configuration;

10 Fig. 7 is a plan view of two coupling members
connecting pieces of edging together and illustrating
different methods of coupling with alternative coupling
members;

Fig. 8 is an enlarged partial, side elevational
view of that portion of the system encircled in Fig. 5; and

15 Fig. 9 is an enlarged partial, side elevational
view of the top edge of the edging strip, the bottom edge
being identical.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring generally to Figs. 1, 2, 5 and 6, the
edging system 1 of the preferred embodiment comprises edging
strip 20 and securing stakes 10.

20 Each securing stake 10 has a top portion or head
12 which is bent over to form a short leg or lip 11, a long
leg 13 and a cavity or slot 15 (Fig. 5). Stake 10 is
generally of a flat bar configuration having multiple
recesses 16 to enhance its gripping ability and having a rib
25 18 for stiffening. Slot 15 presents a keyhole configuration
with an upper cylindrical portion 15a and a lower slot
portion 15b which is narrower than the diameter of
cylindrical portion 15. Leg 11 has sufficient resilience so
as to flex when the leg is forced over the top edge of an
30 edging strip such as edging strip 20 and has sufficient
memory to prevent the edging strip from coming out of slot

1 15 except by forcing the lip open with an instrument such as
the claw of a hammer. Short leg 11 includes a flared end or
lip 14 which enhances the insertion and removal of edging
strip 20.

5 The recesses 16 of stake 10 include two longer
recesses 16a and 16b and shorter recesses 16c, 16d, 16e and
16f. Recess 16a provides a bearing surface 17 which spans
three recesses (Fig. 5) of the edging strip 20 and recess
16b provides clearance for the enlarged bottom edge of the
10 edging strip 20. Thus, the edging strip 20 is held flush
and parallel to the stake 10.

Edging strip 20 is a thin strip of extruded
aluminum in the preferred embodiment with longitudinal
grooves 26 and ridges 28 giving a corrugated appearance.
15 Edging strip 20 has a female side 21 and a male side 22.
Female side 21 has longitudinal hook-shaped ridges 24 near
each top and bottom edge, not found on male side 22. Ridge
24 includes the rounded knob like top surface 24a provided
to facilitate insertion into the slot 15b. Surface 24a is
20 tapered and terminates at the inclined surface 24b providing
a recess for receiving the flange 25 on the male side 22.

Located on the male side 22 is a flange 25 having
an inclined surface 25a forming a longitudinal edge groove
25b on each edge of edging strip 20. An arcuate and
25 inclined surface 25c is provided opposite surface 25a for
facilitating the removal of stake 10, it being understood
flange 25 extending a distance from the face of strip 20
holds the strip within cavity 15 unless a force is applied
to lip 11 as above described. Grooves 26, ridges 28, hook
30 shaped ridges 24 and flanges 25 extend the entire length of
the edging strip 20.

1 The ends of edging strip 20 are self-splicing by
simply engaging the flange 25 of the male side of one end of
edging strip 20 with the hook shaped ridge 28 of the female
side of another end of edging strip 20 (Fig. 2). As seen in
5 Figs. 3 and 4, hooks 24 on female side 21, at each edge of
edging strip 20, engage flanges 25 at each edge of edging
strip 20. When so engaged, surfaces 24b and 25a engage each
other (Fig. 9). Further, because the transverse cross
10 section of edging strip 20 is vertically symmetrical, there
is not a designated top edge and bottom edge per se and a
specific orientation is not required other than the edging
strip be vertical (see Figs. 3 and 4). Because edging strip
20 includes a female side 21 and male side 22 and has
vertical symmetry, either sides of the ends of two sections
15 of edging strip 20 can engage each other for connecting the
two sections together. Therefore, it is possible to border
a closed area with a single piece of edging strip 20 of
sufficient length (Fig. 1).

 Stakes 10 are fastened to edging strip 20 by
20 sliding an edge of edging strip 20 between short leg 11 and
long leg 13. The flare of lip 14 and the rounded surface
24a facilitates this process by offering a sufficiently wide
opening for an edge of edging strip 20 to enter slot 15 and
thereby spread short leg 11 and long leg 13 apart as edging
25 strip 20 slides into slot 15. Stakes 10 can also be forced
down alongside edging strip 20, already positioned, such
that the upper edge of edging strip 20 engages slot 15 as
stake 10 is forced down. Once in place, the longitudinal
corrugation of edging strip 20 and recesses 16 of each stake
30 10 "grip" the earth to maintain the position of edging

1 system 1 relative to the earth, minimizing the possibility
for "floating" or "sinking."

5 As disclosed in Fig. 5, when the stake is in place
holding the edging strip 20 in the ground, the lip 11 bears
against the surface 26a of the strip immediately below the
enlarged edge formed by hook 24 and flange 25 which is
captured by the slot portion 15a. Surface 17 of stake 10
bears against the two surfaces 26b and 26c formed
immediately below surface 26a. The lower enlarged edge
10 extends a short distance into the recess 16b. With this
arrangement, the edging strip is flush and parallel to stake
10.

15 If a stake 10 is to be removed from edging strip
20, this procedure is also facilitated by the flare of lip
14 which offers a lip under which one can pry short leg 11
away from long leg 13, widening slot 15 to ease the removal
of edging strip 20 therefrom.

20 Figs. 6 and 7 disclose various types of couplers
for coupling pieces of strips 20 together. A right angle
coupler 30 is shown in Fig. 6 essentially comprising two
short sections of edging strip 20 fastened together whereby
coupler 30 has the same transverse section as edging strip
20, having a male side 22 and a female side 21. As seen in
Fig. 7, various alternative coupling members, each having
25 the same transverse section as edging strip 20, can be used,
such as small radius coupler 36 or wide angle coupler 34, to
create architectural interest.

30 As mentioned above, various couplers 30, 34 and 36
can be used for sharp angle and small radius corners. As
shown in Fig. 6, a right angle coupler 30, for example, is
placed mid-span along a piece of edging 21 and coupled with

1 an end of a piece of edging strip 20' to form a "T."
Alternatively, coupler 30 can be used at an end of edging
strip 20 and coupled with an end of edging strip 20 to form
a corner. Because the sectional profile of each coupler is
5 the same as the sectional profile of edging strip 20, edging
strip 20 can couple with either side of each coupler as
shown in Fig. 7 regarding coupler 34, just as an end of
edging strip 20 can be coupled on either side of another end
of edging strip 20. Further, any coupler can be coupled
10 with another coupler (not shown) as might be desired and a
short length of edging strip 20 can also be applied as a
coupler for specific applications.

The above description is considered that of
preferred embodiments only. Modifications of the invention
15 will occur to those who make or use the invention.
Therefore, it is understood that the embodiment shown in the
drawings and described above is merely for illustrative
purposes and is not intended to limit the scope of the
invention, which is defined by the following claims.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows.

-1-

1 An area edging system, useful in landscaping, comprising:

 an elongated edging strip having a length, two ends and a top edge;

5 said edging strip throughout its length having a first side including spaced apart projecting ridges configured to provide a male portion and a second side including spaced apart grooves configured to provide a female portion, said configurations of said sides being such that said male portion is receivable in said female portion whereby the two ends of said edging strip can be coupled together by engaging said male portion of said first side with said female portion of said second side;

10 a plurality of securing stakes used in cooperation with said edging strip to secure said edging strip;

15 said stakes having a top portion which is bent over, forming a long leg and a short leg and defining a slot, such that said stakes can be snapped onto said edging strip by sliding said top edge of said edging strip into said slot of said top portion.

-2-

1 The edging system of claim 1 wherein said edging strip includes a longitudinal flange at each of the top and bottom edges on said first side and a longitudinal ridge near each said top and bottom edges on said second side;

5 each said ridge projecting from said second side and forming a hook-shaped ridge with a longitudinal groove, said hook-shaped ridges cooperating with said flanges whereby two

ends of said edging strip can be coupled together by engaging said hook-shaped ridges over said flanges.

-3-

1 The edging system of claim 1 wherein said long leg of said stakes comprises a corrugated flat bar having transverse ridges and grooves and having a longitudinal rib.

-4-

1 The edging system of claim 1 wherein said short leg of said stakes includes an end which is flared away from said long leg to facilitate the insertion of said edging strip between said long leg and said short leg to facilitate prying said short leg away from said long leg to facilitate the removal of said edging strip from between said long leg and
5 said short leg.

-5-

1 The edging system of claim 1 wherein said slot at said top portion of said stakes is keyhole-shaped formed by an upper capture portion and a lower slot entrance portion, such that a top edge of a piece of said edging strip, inserted between said short leg and said long leg of a said stake forcibly slides through said channel portion and comes to rest in said capture portion of said keyhole slot whereby said top edge is captured by said keyhole slot and said stake is
5 fastened to said edging strip.

-6-

1 The edging system of claim 1 having coupling means for coupling at least two pieces of said edging strip, said coupling means having first and second sides of the same configurations as said two pieces of said edging strips so
5 as to interfit with said first and second sides of said pieces of said edging strips, respectively.

-10-

-7-

1 The edging system of claim 6 wherein said coupling means includes a coupling device having two portions formed at an angle to each other whereby two pieces of said edging strip can be coupled to form an angle between them.

-8-

1 The edging system of claim 6 wherein said coupling means includes a coupling device having an arc of small radius in plan view whereby at least two pieces of said edging strip can be coupled.

-9-

1 The edging system of claim 2 having coupling means for coupling at least two pieces of said edging strip, said coupling means having first and second sides of the same configurations as said two pieces of said edging strips so
5 as to interfit with said first and second sides of said pieces of said edging strips, respectively.

-10-

1 The edging system of claim 9 wherein said coupling means includes a coupling device having two portions formed at an angle to each other whereby two pieces of said edging strip can be coupled to form an angle between them.

-11-

1 An area edging system, useful in landscaping, comprising:

 an elongated edging strip;

 said edging strip having a first side including spaced apart projecting ridges configured to provide a male portion and a second side including spaced apart grooves
5 configured to provide a female portion, said configurations of said sides being such that said male portion is receivable in said female portion whereby the two ends of said edging can be coupled together by engaging said male portion of said first side with said female portion of said second side.

-11-

-12-

1 The edging strip of claim 11 in which the male and
female portions of said strip in vertical cross section are
symmetrical about the longitudinal center line of said
strip.

-13-

1 The edging system of claim 11 wherein said edging
strip includes a longitudinal flange at each of the top and
bottom edges on said first side and a longitudinal ridge
near each said top and bottom edges on said second side;
5 each said ridge projecting from said second side and forming
a hook-shaped ridge with a longitudinal groove, said
hook-shaped ridges cooperating with said flanges whereby two
ends of said edging strip can be coupled together by
engaging said hook-shaped ridges over said flanges.

-14-

1 The edging system of claim 11 having coupling
means for coupling two pieces of said edging strip, said
coupling means having first and second sides of the same
configurations as said two pieces of said edging strips so as
to interfit with said first and second sides of said pieces of
5 said edging strips, respectively.

-15-

1 The edging system of claim 14 wherein said
coupling means includes a coupling device having two
portions formed at an angle to each other whereby two pieces
of said edging strip can be coupled to form an angle between
5 them.

-12-

-16-

1 The edging system of claim 14 wherein said
coupling means includes a coupling device having an arc of
small radius in plan view whereby at least two pieces of
said edging strip can be coupled.

-17-

1 The edging system of claim 13 having coupling means
for coupling two pieces of said edging strip, said coupling
means having first and second sides of the same configurations
as said two pieces of said edging strip so as to interfit with
5 said first and second sides of said pieces of said edging
strip, respectively.

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1 The edging system of claim 17 wherein said
coupling means includes a coupling device having two
portions formed at an angle to each other whereby two pieces
of said edging strip can be coupled to form an angle between
5 them.

-19-

1 The edging system of claim 17 wherein said
coupling means includes a coupling device having an arc of
small radius in plan view whereby at least two pieces of
said edging strip can be coupled.

-20-

1 The edging strip of claim 11 in which the strip
has longitudinal ridges and grooves to provide strength to
the strip and to assist in retaining the strip in the
ground.

1

-13-

-21-

5 A stake for an area edging system, useful in
securing landscaping edging comprising an elongated bar having
a top portion bent over and forming a long leg and a short leg
defining a slot therebetween, said slot adapted to receive the
top edge of an edging strip and having a reduced slot entrance
portion leading to a slot capture portion adapted to encapture
10 the top edge of an edging strip whereby said stake can be
fastened to said edging by sliding a top edge of said edging
through said slot entrance portion into said capture portion.

-22-

1 The stake of claim 21 wherein said long leg of
said stake comprises a corrugated flat bar having transverse
ridges and grooves and having a longitudinal rib.

-23-

1 The stake of claim 22 wherein said short leg of
said stake includes an end which is flared away from said
long leg to facilitate the insertion of said edging between
said long leg and said short leg and to facilitate prying
5 said short leg away from said long leg to facilitate the
removal of said edging from between said long leg and said
short leg.

-24-

1 The stake of claim 23 wherein said slot at said
top portion of said stake is keyhole-shaped, formed by said
upper capture portion and a lower slot entrance portion,
such that a top edge of a piece of said edging, inserted
5 between said short leg and said long leg of said stake,
forcibly slides through said channel portion and comes to
rest in said capture portion of said keyhole slot whereby
said top edge is captured by said keyhole slot and said
stake is fastened with said edging.

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-25-

1 The stake of claim 21 wherein said slot at said
top portion of said stake is keyhole-shaped, formed by said
upper capture portion and a lower slot entrance portion,
such that a top edge of a piece of said edging, inserted
5 between said short leg and said long leg of said stake,
forcibly slides through said channel portion and comes to
rest in said capture portion of said keyhole slot whereby
said top edge is captured by said keyhole slot and said
stake is fastened with said edging.

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1 The stake of claim 21 wherein said short leg of
said stake includes an end which is flared away from said
long leg to facilitate the insertion of said edging between
said long leg and said short leg and to facilitate prying
5 said short leg away from said long leg to facilitate the
removal of said edging from between said long leg and said
short leg.

-27-

1 The stake of claim 28 wherein said slot at said
top portion of said stake is keyhole-shaped, formed by said
upper capture portion and a lower slot entrance portion,
such that a top edge of a piece of said edging, inserted
5 between said short leg and said long leg of said stake,
forcibly slides through said channel portion and comes to
rest in said capture portion of said keyhole slot whereby
said top edge is captured by said keyhole slot and said
stake is fastened with said edging.

-28-

1 The edging system of claim 9 wherein said coupling
means includes a coupling device having an arc of small

-15-

radius in plan view whereby at least two pieces of said edging strip can be coupled.

-29-

- 1 The edging strip of claim 1 in which the male and female portions of said strip in vertical cross section are symmetrical about the longitudinal center line of said strip.

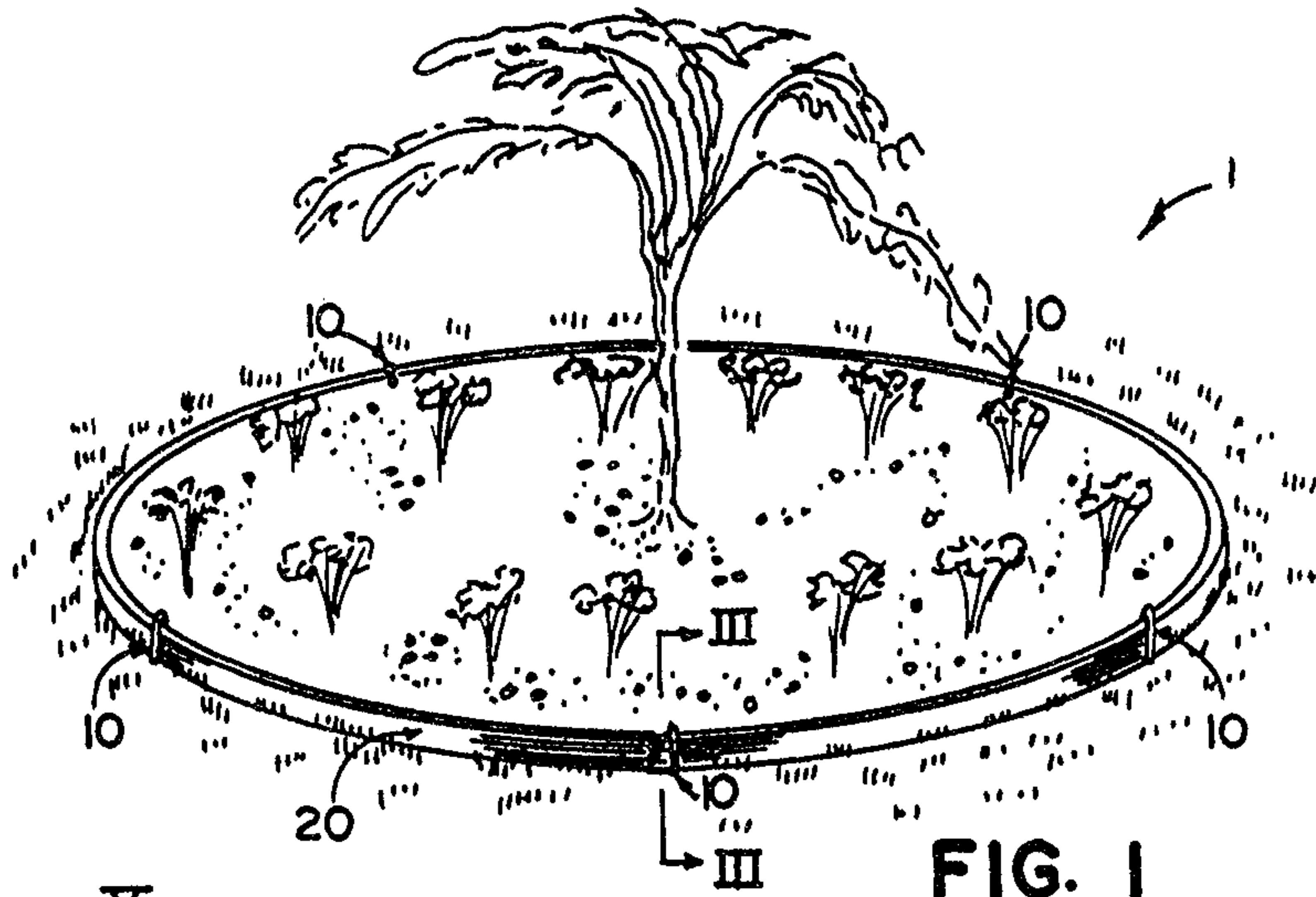


FIG. 1

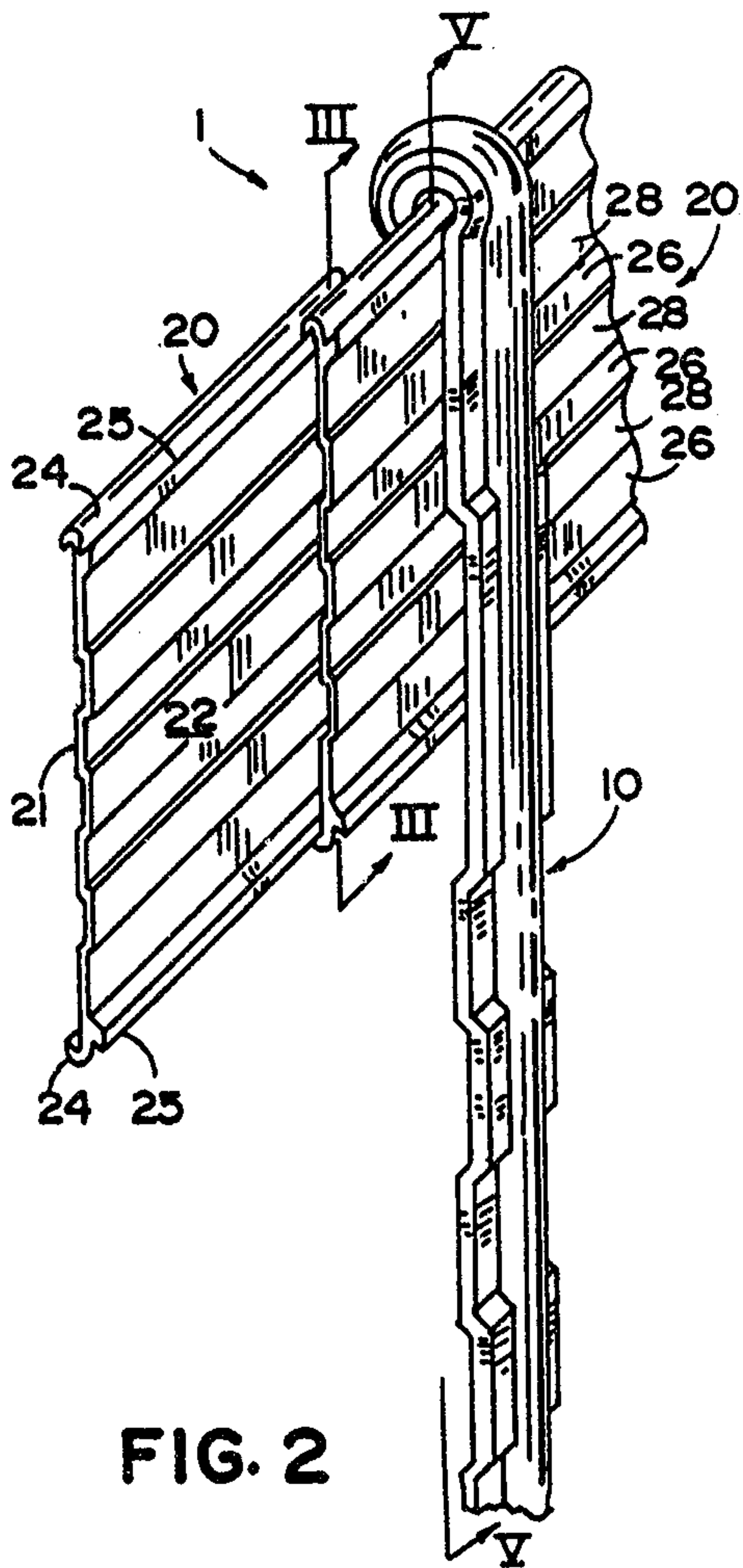


FIG. 2

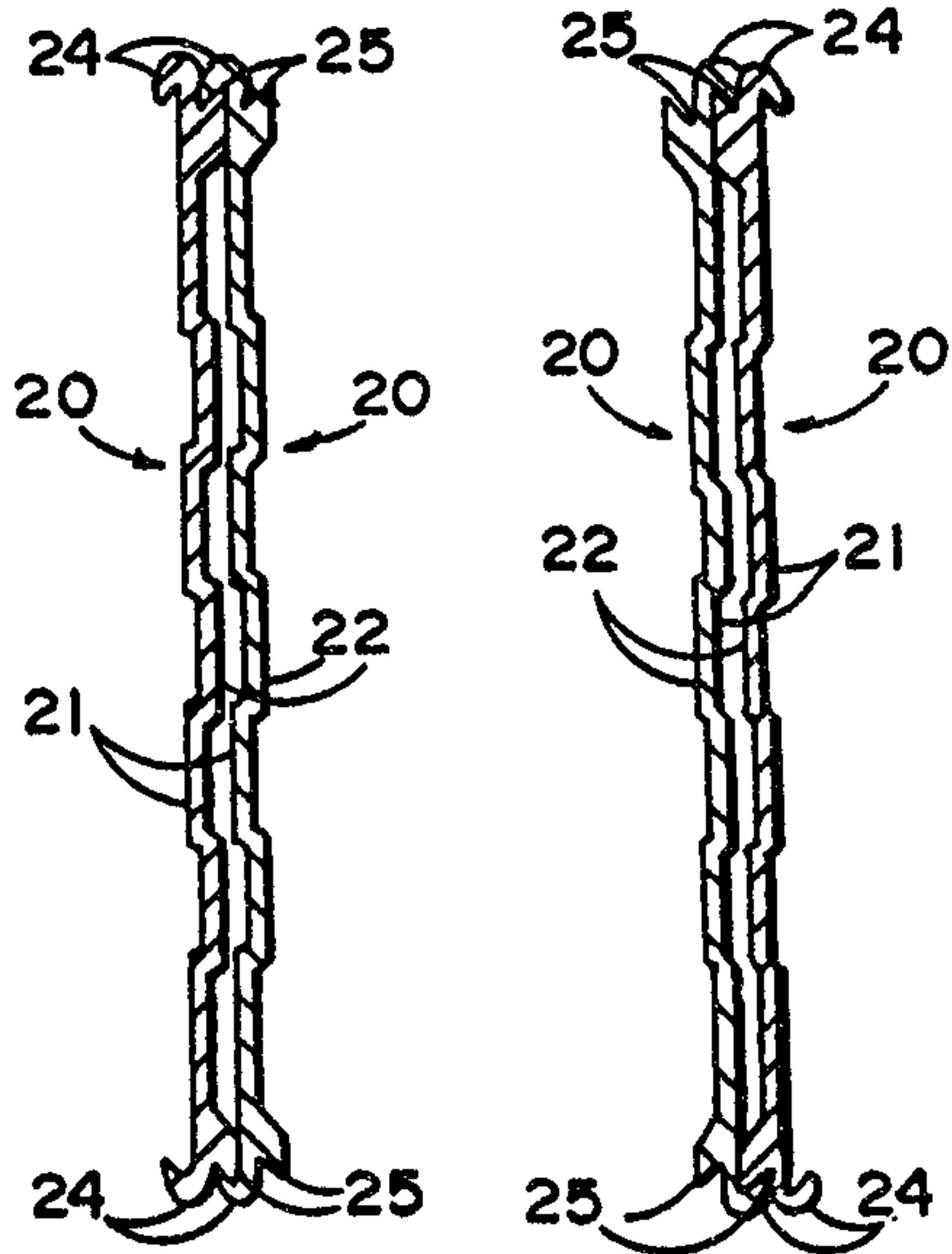


FIG. 3

FIG. 4

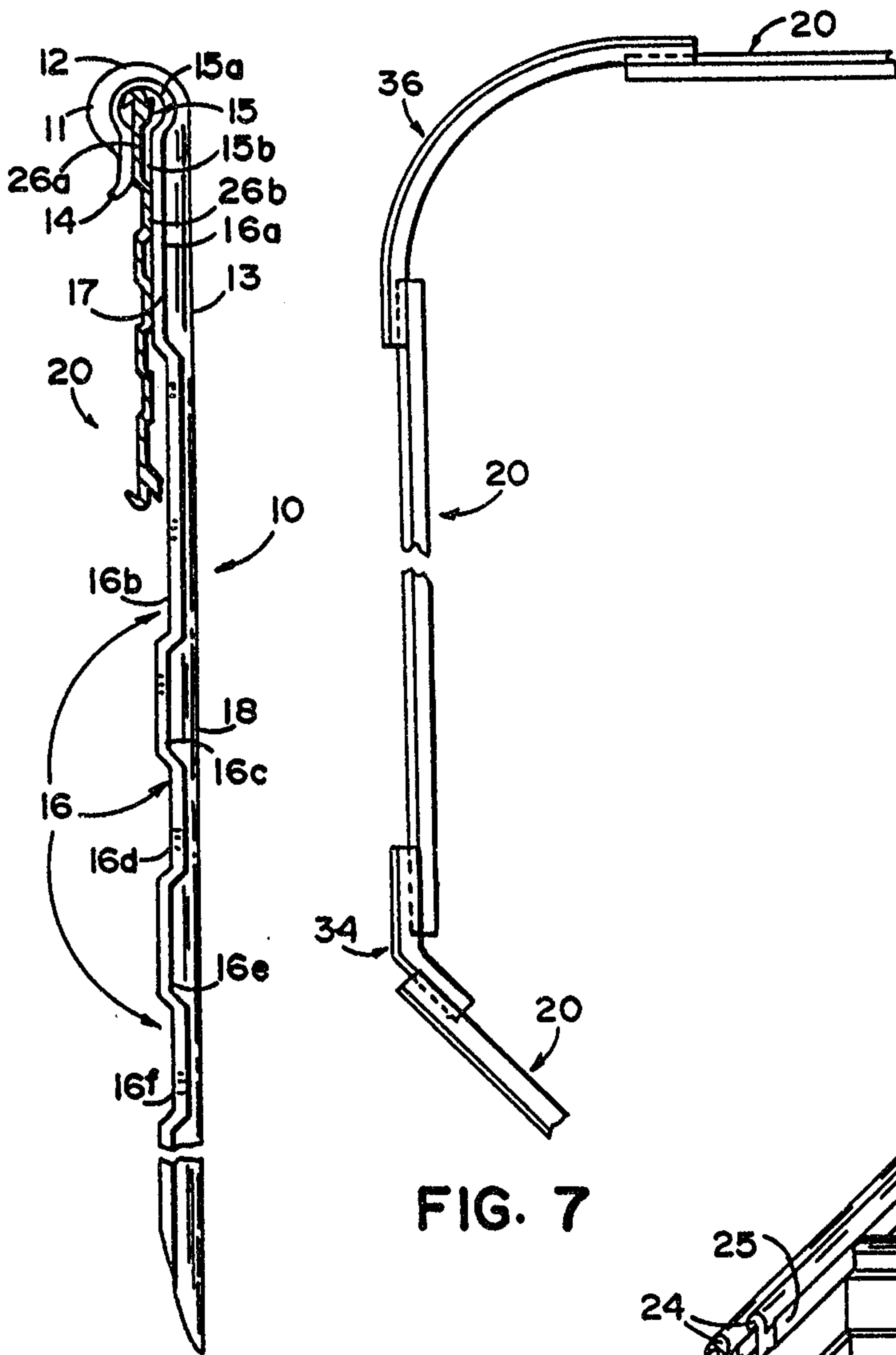


FIG. 5

FIG. 7

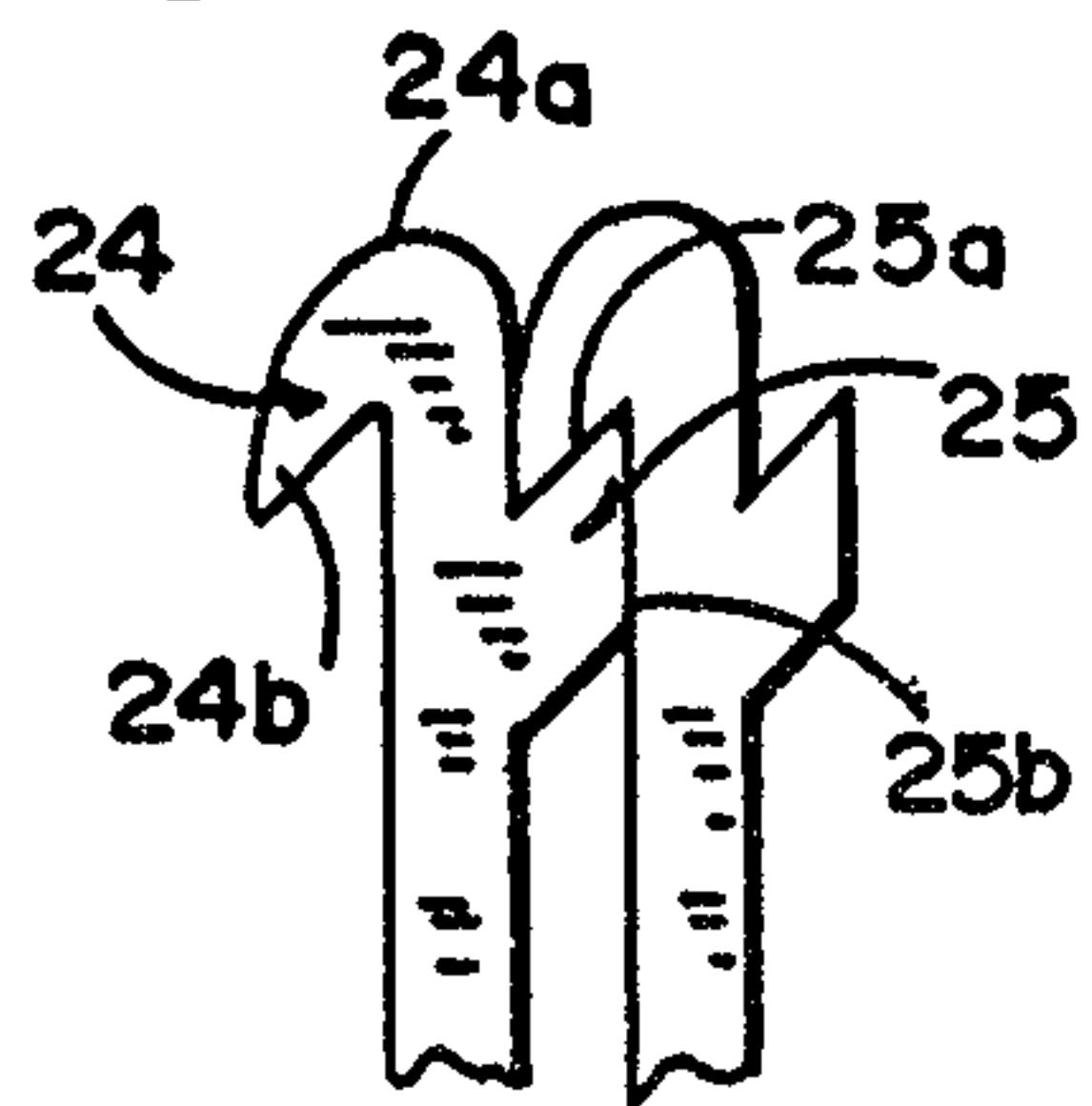


FIG. 9

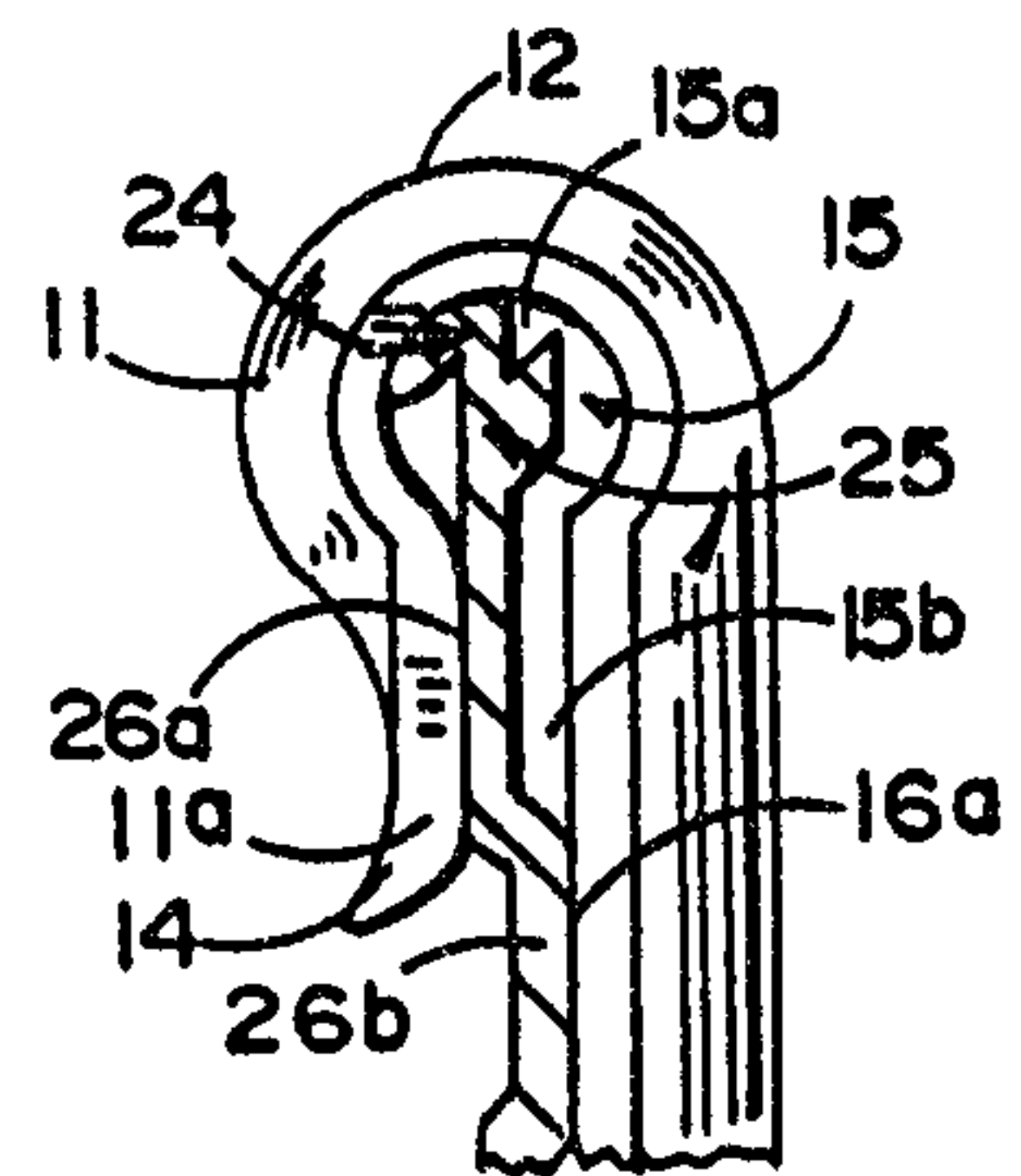


FIG. 8

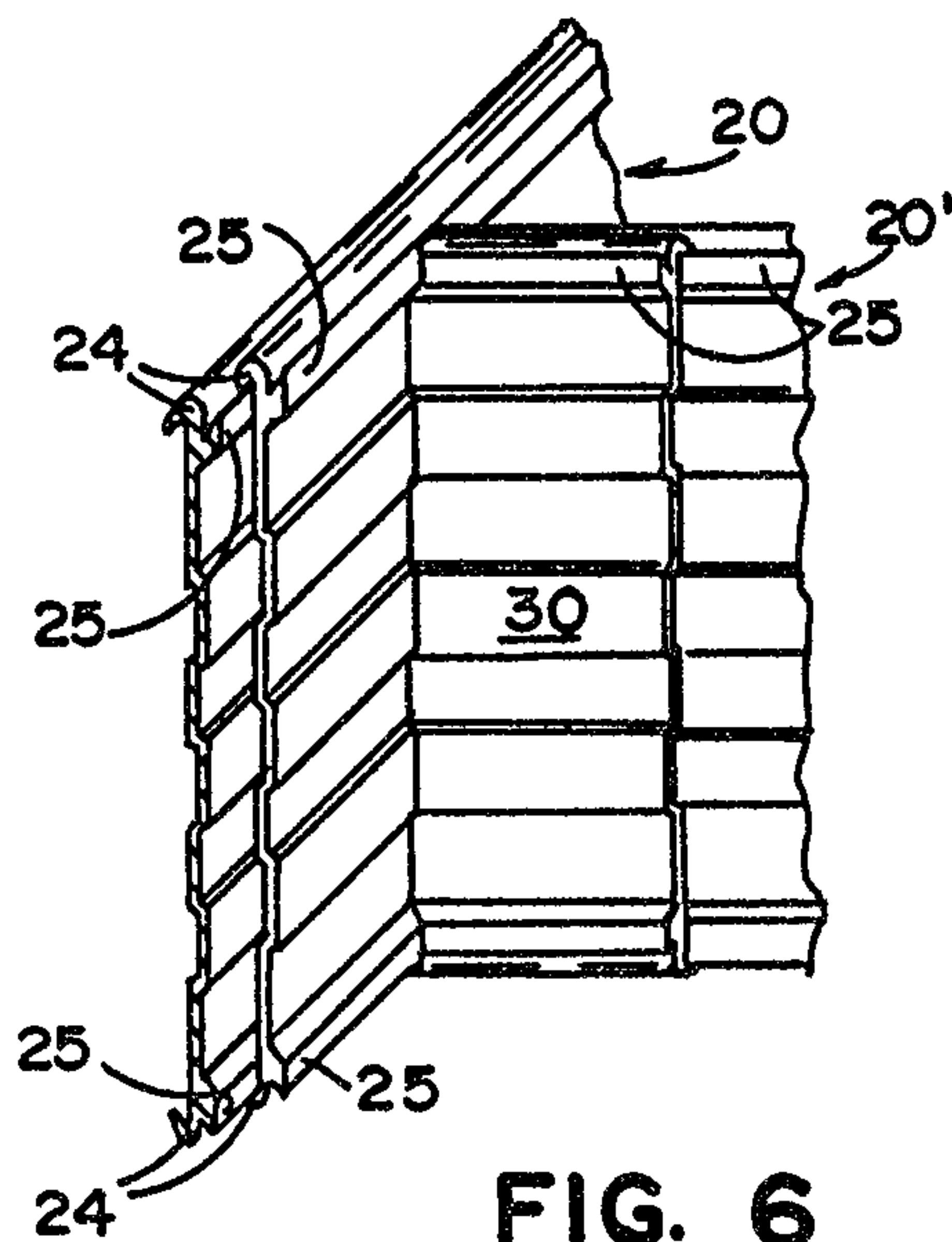


FIG. 6

