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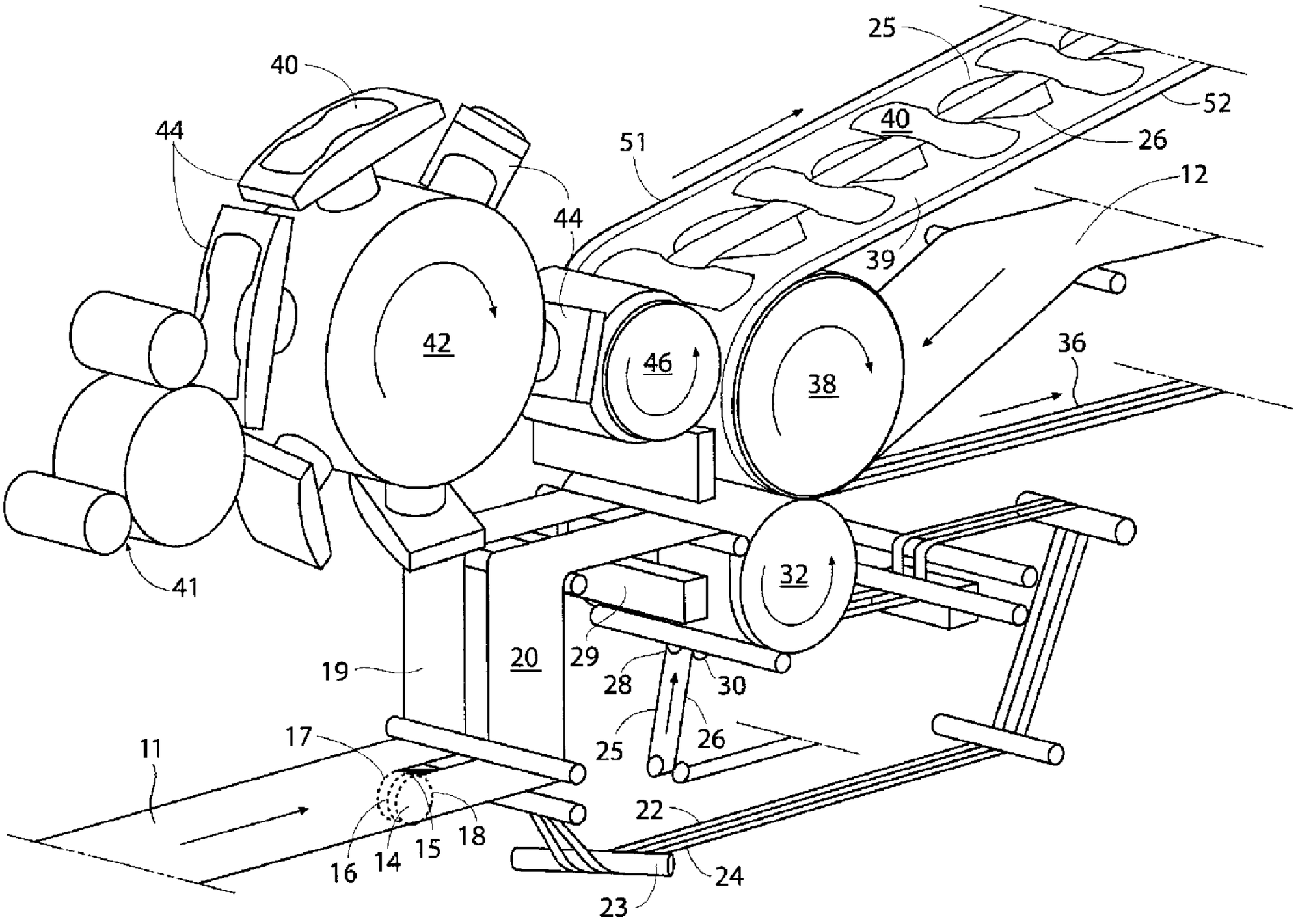
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(54) Titre : APPAREIL ET PROCEDE POUR APPLIQUER DES ELASTIQUES EVASES PARALLELES SUR DES PRODUITS JETABLES ET PRODUITS JETABLES CONTENANT DES ELASTIQUES EVASES PARALLELES

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR APPLYING PARALLEL FLARED ELASTICS TO DISPOSABLE PRODUCTS AND DISPOSABLE PRODUCTS CONTAINING PARALLEL FLARED ELASTICS



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:
A series of elastic break brakes are provided throughout a travel path of elastics in a machine operation. Elastic strands thread through each individual brake mechanism, and if an elastic strand breaks downstream, a natural snap back of the elastic, which

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(57) Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):
ordinarily travels through the system under tension, drives an immediately upstream cam mechanism back, and holds the elastic thread in place at the elastic break brake immediately upstream of the break as to minimize rethreading required downstream of the elastic break brake.

Abstract

A series of elastic break brakes are provided throughout a travel path of elastics in a machine operation. Elastic strands thread through each individual brake mechanism, and if an elastic strand breaks downstream, a natural snap back of the elastic, which ordinarily travels through the system under tension, drives an immediately upstream cam mechanism back, and holds the elastic thread in place at the elastic break brake immediately upstream of the break as to minimize rethreading required downstream of the elastic break brake.

Apparatus and Method For Applying Parallel Flared Elastics to Disposable Products and Disposable Products Containing Parallel Flared Elastics

Related Applications

This application claims the benefit of pending provisional application Serial Nos. 61/637,365 filed 24 April 2012 and 61/645,867 filed 11 May 2012.

Background of the Invention

The invention relates to disposable garments, and more particularly, a pants-type diaper, which is equipped with elastic strips effectively encircling the leg-holes without traversing the crotch region and to a method for producing such diapers.

Disposable diapers of the children's training pant type, or of the adult incontinence type, are typically equipped with elastic strands, which encircle the leg-holes. These strands of elastic are typically captured with adhesive between two layers of non-woven materials. Various methods are used to position these elastic strands so that they produce the desired encircling effect.

In one method of manufacture, the diapers are produced in an orientation whereby product flow is in the form of a single continuous web and the direction of travel is at a right angle with respect to what would be described as the crotch line of the diaper, i.e., the normal direction of product flow is parallel to the waist

as opposed to parallel to the crotch.

One method of creating the desired effect of encircling the leg holes of the pant with elastics is to interleave two swaths of elastic strands, each curving across the face of the traveling web, encircling about one half of the leg-hole areas and crossing the path of the other. As a pair, they create a boundary around each leg-hole cutout, which resembles a circle or ellipse. In practice, however, the lateral excursions of the elastic lay-down device are speed-limited. As the traveling web is moving at some speed in one direction, and as the elastic lay-down device has speed and acceleration limits in the cross-direction, there is a limit to the steepness of the oblique angle which it is possible to form between the two. The result of this limitation is usually seen in the form of apparent incompleteness in the formation of the leg-hole-encircling pattern, particularly at the crotch line, where the two swaths cross each other.

From the point on the web at which one leg-hole pattern has been completed to the point at which the next can be begun, the elastic laydown device must reposition itself to a favorable starting point. This period of repositioning occurs as the crotch region passes the laydown device. As a result, the elastic strands must also cross this region of the product, at which they may or may not be attached by means of adhesives to the carrier webs. Various means are used to control or limit the positional relationships of the elastic strands in this region. The two sets of strands may cross over each other, creating an "X" pattern, or, they may loop back over to their respective sides, creating an "O" at the center of the crotch region. Alternatively, they may be mechanically stopped and prevented from crossing each other, creating two sets of generally parallel lines at the crotch The lay-down pattern used at the crotch will

determine the final appearance of the product in this area.

The shirring effect created by elastic strands when laminated with any flexible fabric is well known. However, to have this shirring effect applied to the crotch of a pant-type garment can be undesirable. The elastics create a contractile force, which tends to distort the garment at this location, thereby reducing the garment's aesthetic appeal, effectiveness and comfort. Thus various methods of reducing or eliminating the effects of the elastic tension normally occurring at the crotch have been attempted. These methods include the elimination of the adhesive bond between the strands and the liner materials described in U.S. Patent 5,745,922 as "unsecured space" as well as various methods of cutting the strands to eliminate their effects.

As mentioned, one method of eliminating the undesired effects of the elastic strands which cross the crotch region is to sever them. This method is described in U. S. Patent 5,660,657. Unfortunately, such severing usually requires the introduction of a transversely extending cut, which can result in a loss of web tension in the severed part of the carrier web. This also creates an undesirable opening in the diaper backsheet. A proposed solution for this problem is taught in U. S. Patent 5,707,470, wherein an ultrasonic device is used to sever the elastic members, while the carrier webs which encapsulate the elastics are left intact. See, also, U. S. Patent 5,643,396. Another problem associated with such severing lies in the tendency of the unsecured severed ends of elastic to retract to some point beyond the limits of any adhesive pattern. Thus, the elastic strands are not controlled or anchored near the ends of the adhesion pattern and may snap back to further into the adhesive pattern. This results in an incomplete

elastic pattern and poor product characteristics.

One method of compensating for the incompleteness of the encircling pattern entails insertion of an additional set of elastic strips, running parallel to the crotch line and transverse to the web path. See U. S. Patents 5,634,917 and 5,660,657. Typical products of this type are provided with an outer laminate, which is formed of an inner liner material and an outer backsheet material, between which the leg-hole elastics are disposed.

Often, leg elastics or other types of continuous ribbons are applied to running webs in a sinusoidal pattern by a roll-fed web process. Roll-fed web processes typically use a constant infeed rate, which in the case of a sinusoidal ribbon application, can result in necking, or undesirable narrowing of the ribbon toward the inner and outer portions of the sine curve in the cross-machine direction. This is because the infeed rate of the ribbon web does not match with the velocity of the substrate it is being laid upon in the machine direction. Instead, the ribbon material is stretched somewhat at the extremities of the sine curve.

Roll-fed web processes typically use splicers and accumulators to assist in providing continuous webs during web processing operations. A first web is fed from a supply wheel (the expiring roll) into the manufacturing process. As the material from the expiring roll is depleted, it is necessary to splice the leading edge of a second web from a standby roll to the first web on the expiring roll in a manner that will not cause interruption of the web supply to a web consuming or utilizing device.

In a splicing system, a web accumulation dancer system may be employed, in which an accumulator collects a substantial length of the first web. By using

an accumulator, the material being fed into the process can continue, yet the trailing end of the material can be stopped or slowed for a short time interval so that it can be spliced to leading edge of the new supply roll. The leading portion of the expiring roll remains supplied continuously to the web-utilizing device. The accumulator continues to feed the web utilization process while the expiring roll is stopped and the new web on a standby roll can be spliced to the end of the expiring roll.

In this manner, the device has a constant web supply being paid out from the accumulator, while the stopped web material in the accumulator can be spliced to the standby roll. Examples of web accumulators include that disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 11/110,616, which is commonly owned by the assignee of the present application, and incorporated herein by reference.

Examples of curved elastic application are disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 6,482,278, incorporated herein by reference. Other examples include U.S. Patent Nos. 8,100,173 and 8,025,652.

During the use of elastics in manufacturing disposable products, a continuous web of elastic is often threaded through numerous pieces of machinery upstream of a deposition point and adhesion of the elastic to another running web, such as a nonwoven material. If for some reason an elastic strand breaks during machine operation, it is necessary to re-thread the elastic through all of the machinery both upstream and downstream of the break.

Summary of the Invention

Provided are methods and an apparatus for applying parallel flared elastics to a substrate used to form a disposable product, and severing elastics contained in a laminate from a leg hole opening. Other novel laydown patterns of elastics are also disclosed.

A series of elastic break brakes are provided throughout a travel path of elastics in a machine operation. Elastic strands thread through each individual brake mechanism, and if an elastic strand breaks downstream, a natural snap back of the elastic, which ordinarily travels through the system under tension, drives an immediately upstream cam mechanism back, and holds the elastic thread in place at the elastic break brake immediately upstream of the break as to minimize rethreading required downstream of the elastic break brake.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figs. 1a-1c, collectively, are perspective views showing a preferred embodiment of the invention in somewhat diagrammatic fashion;

Fig. 2 is a diagrammatic view of the equipment and process shown in Figs. 1a -1c;

Figs. 3a-3b are, collectively, a perspective view showing in somewhat diagrammatic fashion an alternative embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 4 is a diagrammatic view further illustrating the process and equipment shown in Figs. 3a-3b;

Fig. 5 is a top plan view of a ribbon application sequence of the present invention;

Fig. 6 is a top view of an exemplary pair of swinging arms for applying elastic in a wave (or other) pattern on a running web;

Fig. 7 is a perspective view showing a preferred embodiment of the invention in somewhat diagrammatic fashion, used to create a pant-type diaper with waist band elastics and parallel flared elastics, with a portion of the curved elastics removed by a chip in a leg opening section of the pant-type diaper;

Fig. 8 is a plan view of a pant-type diaper

with waist band elastics and curved elastics, with a portion of the curved elastics removed by a chip in a leg opening section of the pant-type diaper prior to bonding a front portion of the diaper with a rear (or back) portion of the diaper;

Fig. 9 is a plan view of a portion of a pant-type diaper showing a side seam bond between and front and a rear portion of the diaper, showing parallel flared elastics extending to a die cut leg cutout area, where the parallel flared elastics are removed;

Figs. 10 - 12 are in-process top views of pant type diapers with varying applications of straight and curved elastics;

Fig. 13 is a perspective view showing in somewhat diagrammatic fashion an application of the elastic break brake invention, with a series of elastic break brakes applied throughout the travel path of introduced elastic webs;

Fig. 14 is a side view of elastic break brakes of the present invention, carrying an elastic strand between a rotating cam and a base;

Fig. 15 is a side view of a series of elastic break brakes of the present invention, carrying an elastic strand;

Fig. 16 is a side view of elastic break brakes of the present invention, carrying an elastic strand between a rotating cam and a base, with a break in the elastic strand upstream of a series of the elastic break brakes, the elastic break brake immediately upstream of the break rotating counterclockwise to cinch the elastic strand between the rotating cam and the base and holding the elastic strand such that only re-threading downstream of this elastic break brake is required;

Fig. 17 is a side view similar to Fig. 16, with a break in the elastic strand between two elastic break

brakes, the elastic break brake immediately upstream of the break rotating counterclockwise to cinch the elastic strand between the rotating cam and the base and holding the elastic strand such that only re-threading downstream of the first elastic break brake is required;

Figs. 18 - 23 are top views of pant type diapers with varying applications of straight and parallel flared elastics.

Description of the Preferred Embodiment

Although the disclosure hereof is detailed and exact to enable those skilled in the art to practice the invention, the physical embodiments herein disclosed merely exemplify the invention which may be embodied in other specific structures. While the preferred embodiment has been described, the details may be changed without departing from the invention, which is defined by the claims.

Referring first to Figures 1a, 1b and 1c, one of the preferred embodiments of the process of this invention and related apparatus are illustrated. The process utilizes two main carrier webs; a non-woven web 11 which forms an inner liner web, while web 12 forms an outwardly facing layer in the finished diaper. In this embodiment, non-woven web 11 is slit, at slitter station 15, by rotary knives 14 along three lines. One of these, line 16, is on approximately the centerline of web 11 and two additional lines 17 and 18 are parallel to and spaced a short distance from centerline 16. The effect is twofold, first, to separate web 11 into two halves, as also seen in Figure 5b. One half, 19, will become the inside of the front of the diaper 50 and the second half, 20, will become the inside of the back of that garment. Second, two separate, relatively narrow strips 22 and 24 are formed which are subsequently used to cover and entrap portions of the leg- hole elastics 25 and 26.

Strips 22 and 24 are separated physically by an angularly disposed spreader roll 23 and aligned laterally with their downstream target positions on the inner edges of webs 19 and 20.

This invention relates particularly to a variation in the way that leg elastics 25 and 26 (which can be ribbons) are applied. In particular, the infeed rate of leg elastics or ribbons 25 and 26 is sped up at the outer extremities of the sine curve in the machine direction so that the vertical component of the velocity of the ribbon placement is at or near the velocity of the substrate web 20 to which the ribbon is applied. This results in little to no tension upon the elastics or ribbons 25 and 26.

Adhesive patterns are applied to the liner webs 20 in target areas for the leg-hole elastics 26. A spray gun assembly 29 of a type known in the art is preferably used to apply the adhesive patterns. Two sets of leg-hole, elastic strands 26 are introduced through laydown guides 30, which reciprocate from side to side past each other. The strands 26 are glued to the web sections 20, their laydown patterns following a serpentine or sinusoidal path. Laydown guides 30 then apply the strands 26, which form leg-hole elastics as the web sections 20 are carried along the face of a drum or roll 32.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the elastics 25 and 26 are laid down in a smooth repetitive oscillation, with a centerline along an line in the machine, and an amplitude in the cross-machine direction. In a preferred embodiment, the infeed velocity of the elastics is increased as the waveform reaches maximum amplitude, then decreases again until the laydown passes the centerline, increasing again until minimum amplitude. This variation decreases neckdown.

Elastic laydown guides 28 and 30 are provided with the ability to make side-to side excursions, and the infeed of elastic 25 and 26 is provided with the ability of variable infeed speed. Elastic laydown guides 28 and 30 can be provided with the ability to make side-to side excursions by an arm that generally travels side to side e.g., by a swinging motion, or slides side to side. The side-to-side excursions of the leg-hole elastic laydown guides 28 and 30 result in generally arcuate segments of elastic strands extending on each side of the web centerline. After the nonwoven strips 22 and 24 have been applied to cover and entrap those parts of the elastics 26 that run nearest to and parallel to the inner edges of the webs 20, a second pair of slitter knives 34 is used to trim away a portion of the narrow nonwoven strips 22, 24, along with that part of the inner liner webs 20 to which they are laminated. This also removes those portions of the elastic strands 26 which are contained within the laminations. The resultant trimmed scrap strips 36 are removed from the process for disposal elsewhere.

The effect of the last-described step is to remove the cut away portions of the elastic, eliminating its corresponding unwanted gathering effect from the crotch region of the garments 50. The remaining portions of the curved elastic strands create a gathering effect around the leg openings of the finished garments 50.

Subsequent to the combining and trimming of the inner webs 20 and the cover strips 22, 24, the combining drum 32 carries the webs to a nip with a second combining drum 38, where the web sections 20, with their respective curved elastic patterns exposed, are transferred to and laminated adhesively against the inside face of outer liner web 12. This process entraps the curved elastic patterns 26 between the inner liners

20 and outer web 12 thereby forming a composite web 39.

The composite web 39 is then provided with a pattern of adhesive in preparation to receive an absorbent insert or patch 46. The patch 46 is cut from a provided patch web 40 by a cooperation of a cutter 41 and an anvil surface on a vacuum roll 42 and rotated into position for transfer to the composite web 39 by a patch applicator 105. If the patch 46 is to be applied to the web 39, a determination explained more fully below, the patch applicator 105 forces the web 39 against the patch 46, thereby adhering the patch 46 to the web 39.

Leg-hole materials 48, if not previously removed, are cut at a cutting station 47, thereby removing the material 48 contained within an approximate perimeter defined by the curved pattern of the elastics 26 and defining one half of a leg opening (with the other half of a leg opening provided in an adjacent leg-hole opening). The running composite chassis web 39 is folded, before or after cutting out of the leg holes, longitudinally along its centerline, thereby generally aligning its front waist edge with its back waist edge. The regions 53 which are to become the side seams 54 of the garments 50 are then welded by a sealing device 49 either ultrasonically or by heat. Note that the leg holes are preferably cut out before this point, leaving only a narrow zone for welding. The weld pattern is preferably wide enough to extend into both the left side seam of one garment and the right side seam of the adjacent garment. The garments 50 are then separated by passing through a cut-off knife assembly 55, which severs the web along the transverse axis of the side seam weld 53.

As described above, the laydown guides 30 used to apply the leg-hole elastics 26 to the liner web 20 oscillate from side to side to apply the leg-hole elastic 26 to the liner web 20 in a generally wave-like pattern.

It should be understood that due to the oscillating motion of the laydown guides 28 and 30, it is desirable to change the rate at which the leg-hole elastic 25 and 26 is introduced to the liner web 20. As shown in Figure 5, the velocity of the leg-hole elastic 26 has both a vertical (machine direction) component Vy and a horizontal (cross-machine direction) component Vx. It is contemplated that the vertical component of the velocity of the leg-hole elastic 25 and 26 is equal to, and in the same direction as, the velocity of the liner web 20 on which the leg-hole elastic 26 is being applied.

The incoming ribbon has variable speed, with the incoming ribbon increasing in velocity as the incoming ribbon is deposited in the curved pattern from the centerline to the maximum amplitude (its greatest distance from the centerline in the cross-machine direction towards a first boundary of the web), decreasing as the incoming ribbon is deposited in the curved pattern from the maximum amplitude to the centerline, and increasing as the incoming ribbon is deposited in the curved pattern from the centerline to the minimum amplitude (its greatest distance from the centerline in the cross-machine direction towards the other boundary of the web).

In a preferred elastic laydown pattern such as shown in Figure 5, two lanes of elastic 25 and 26 are laid down in separate lanes, with both minimum amplitudes in the same position in the machine direction.

At least one web accumulator (not shown) can be located upstream of, or before, the leg-hole elastic guides 30, as shown in Figure 1a. The accumulator can take any form, such as a servo driven roller that speeds up and slows down, an alternate roller configuration, a rocking roller configuration, or any different means of accumulating the web, such as a miniature accumulator, or

a device similar to a diaper cross-folder, or a tucker blade.

In this manner, the rate at which the leg-hole elastics 26 are being fed to the liner web 20 can be altered while the rate at which the leg-hole elastics 26 is fed to a rate adjustment apparatus 314 (not shown) remains the same.

It is further contemplated that the system may include a tension control device (not shown). The tension control device is preferably sized and configured to eliminate tension in the leg-hole elastic 26 prior to applying the leg-hole elastic 26 to the liner web 20. In this manner when the leg-hole elastic 26 is applied to the liner web 20, the leg-hole elastic will not become misshapen as it would if the leg-hole elastic 26 were under tension. The tension control device can takes the form of a web accumulator, or any form known in the art capable of performing such a function.

In this manner, the leg-hole elastic 26 is accumulated in the tension control device when the rate of application of the leg-hole elastics 26 to the liner web 20 is slowed as described above. It is contemplated that the above-described system will provide active tension control and feed approach to change the feed of the leg-hole elastics 26 to the liner web 20 so that the leg-hole elastic is not under tension when it is applied to the liner web 20. This will result in leg-hole elastics 26 that are applied to the liner web 20 in an undistorted manner.

Referring now to Figure 6, a top view of an exemplary pair of swinging arms 90 for applying elastics 25 and 26 is shown. The swinging arms can be programmed or operated to apply the elastics in a wave pattern (see, e.g., Figure 5) on a running web such as shown in Fig. 1.

It should be understood that the above-

described arrangement may be used to apply any type of material to a moving web in a curved pattern. In the illustrated example, the material is leg-hole elastics 26 taking the form of elastic strands; however it is contemplated that the material could take the form of elastic tape. It is further contemplated that the material could take the form of non-elastic strands or non-elastic tape.

Referring now to Figure 7, a perspective view showing a preferred embodiment of an alternative embodiment of the present invention is shown. This embodiment is used to create a pant-type diaper with waist band elastics and curved elastics, with a portion of the curved elastics removed by a chip in a leg opening section of the pant-type diaper.

In this embodiment, two or more series of leg band elastics 210 and 212 are laid down. Preferably waistband elastics 210 run parallel to one another, while another sequence of leg and waist elastics 212 are laid down in a curved pattern inboard of the waistband elastics 210. Preferably, the leg and waist elastics 212 are applied in a curved fashion. At what will become the leg hole opening of the diaper, the leg and waist elastics 212 are generally parallel, and each of the independent the leg and waist elastics 212 are then curved towards absorbent insert or patch 46, and increasingly separated in distance from one another the closer the leg and waist elastics 212 get to the absorbent insert or patch 46.

As described above, sliding laydown guides 30 can be used to apply the leg and waist elastics 212 to the liner web 20, the laydown guides oscillates from side to side to apply the leg and waist elastics 212 to the liner web 20 in a generally wave-like pattern. Alternatively, a swing arm or series of swing arms 90

such as shown in Fig. 6 can be used to apply the leg and waist elastics 212. The swing arms 28 and 30, or the sliding layding guides 30 can be programmed to move in a predetermined fashion in order to lay down a straight line of elastics 26 in a machine direction by remaining in a constant position, or can lay down a patterned shape of elastics 26 by moving from side to side as desired.

Referring now to Figures 8 and 9, plan views of a pant-type diaper with parallel waist band elastics 210 and flared leg and waist elastics 212 is shown.

Similar to the configuration shown in Fig. 1b, leg-hole materials 48, if not previously removed, are cut at a cutting station 47 (Fig. 7), thereby removing the material 48 and forming a leg opening contour 216 on both the left and the right sides of the product. Referring particularly to Fig. 9, it can be seen that the leg and waist elastics 212 do not occupy what later will become seam 53, but instead pass through leg opening contours 216 for removal at cutting station 47 (Fig. 7).

Referring now to Figs. 10 - 12, these figures show in-process top views of pant type diapers with varying applications of straight and curved elastics.

As shown in Fig. 10, in one embodiment, parallel waist elastics 210 are applied to both the front and the back, and a series of parallel leg and waist elastics 212 are provided on a front of the product, while curved leg and waist elastics 212 are provided on the rear of the product. The curved leg and waist elastics 212 of the rear of the product would cross a secondary leg contour 216 of the product, and those elastics would not be contained within the side seam bond 53.

Referring to Figure 11, parallel waist elastics 210 are applied to both the front and the back, and a series of parallel leg and waist elastics 212 are

provided on a front of the product, while curved leg and waist elastics 212 are provided on the rear of the product. The curved leg and waist elastics 212 of the rear of the product would cross a secondary leg contour 216 of the product, and those elastics would not be contained within the side seam bond 53. Similarly, a portion of the parallel leg and waist elastics 212 of the front of the product would enter a tertiary leg contour 216, and some of those parallel leg and waist elastics 212 would be severed during chip removal.

In the embodiment shown in Figure 12, curved leg and waist elastics 220 are provided on the front of the product, and curved leg and waist elastics 212 which do not enter the side seams 53 are provided on the rear of the product. These and other elastic lay down variations, including following the leg cut in a tight group, a combination of a flared feature on the back (or front); and the opposing sides with elastics are tightly grouped together following a leg cut die and going through the leg cut die; or no elastics in those portions, are all contemplated.

Referring now to Figs. 13-16 generally, a series of elastic break brakes 300 are provided throughout a travel path of elastics (such as elastic 26) in a machine operation. Elastic strands thread through each individual brake mechanism 300, and if an elastic strand breaks downstream, a natural snap back of the elastic, which ordinarily travels through the system under tension, drives an immediately upstream cam mechanism back, and holds the elastic thread in place at the elastic break brake 300 immediately upstream of the break as to minimize rethreading required downstream of the elastic break brake.

Referring generally to Figs. 13-17, an elastic break brake 300 to allow downstream travel of an elastic

thread during machine operation and to stop unwanted elastic travel is disclosed. A rotating weight 310 is carried by a pin 308 coupled to a base 306. A base elastic retaining surface 312 spaced apart from said rotating cam weight 310. The rotating cam weight 310 is rotatable by the force of elastic 26 traveling under tension between said rotating cam weight 310 and said base elastic retaining surface 312. The force of the traveling elastic 26 causes the cam weight 310 to be slightly rotated in a downstream machine direction allowing passage of said elastic 26 during machine operation. If a break in the elastic 26 occurs, the elastic goes limp and therefore the force of the traveling elastic 26 is no longer enough to hold the rotating cam weight 310 in its slightly downstream rotated position. Instead, the cam weight 310 rotates back upstream due to gravity and the absence of the force from elastic 26 traveling under tension. The elastic 26 is then trapped between the cam weight 310 and the elastic retaining surface 312. This prevents unwanted elastic 26 travel, and makes the task of re-threading the elastic 26 far shorter.

Referring now to Fig. 13, a perspective view of a representative elastic travel sequence is shown in somewhat diagrammatic fashion. A series of elastic break brakes 300 are provided throughout the travel path of introduced elastic webs, and through each elastic break brake 300, the continuous web of elastic is threaded.

Referring to Fig. 14, a side view of elastic break brakes 300 of the present invention are shown carrying an elastic strand 26. A securing mechanism(s) 304 holds the elastic break brakes 300 in place. The elastic is threaded between a rotating cam weight 310 and a base elastic retaining surface 312, which is very closely spaced apart from the rotating cam weight 310.

The rotating cam weight 310 is carried by pin 308 coupled to a base back 306 generally depending from base 302.

During routine operation, the elastic 26 is traveling under tension, and at speed, sufficient to cause the cam weight 310 to be slightly rotated in the downstream (machine) direction. Elastic 26 is allowed to and capable of passing between the cam weight 310 and the base elastic retaining surface 312.

Referring now to Fig. 15, should a break in the elastic strand 26 occur upstream of a series of the elastic break brakes 300, the elastic break brake immediately upstream of the break in the elastic would, due to gravity or otherwise (e.g., a spring mechanism, or motor controlled) rotate counterclockwise to cinch the elastic strand 26 between the cam weight 310 and the base elastic retaining surface 312. By maintaining control of the elastic 26 just upstream of the break point of the elastic 26, only re-threading downstream of the activated elastic break brake 300 is required.

Similarly, as shown in Fig. 16, should a break in the elastic strand 26 occur between two elastic break brakes 300, the elastic break brake 300 immediately upstream of the break would due to gravity or otherwise (e.g., controlled) rotate counterclockwise to cinch the elastic strand 26 between the cam weight 310 and the base elastic retaining surface 312. By maintaining control of the elastic 26 just upstream of the break point of the elastic 26, only re-threading downstream (in the machine direction) of the activated elastic break brake 300 would be required.

Referring now to Figs. 18 - 23, top views of pant type diapers with varying applications of straight and curved elastics are shown.

Referring to Fig. 18, a series of flared elastics 400 are provided on a front and a back of a pant

type diaper. On the back side, a single straight elastic strand 402 is provided, which is crossed over by the flaring elastics 400 of the back side of the pant.

In Fig. 19, multiple straight elastic strands 402 are provided on the rear of the diaper, which are crossed over by the flaring elastics 400.

Referring to Fig. 20, another novel elastic laydown pattern is shown. In this embodiment, the distance between successive strands of the flared elastics 400 on the rear side decreases towards the center of the diaper. A similar embodiment is shown in Fig. 21, but the flaring elastics 400 on the rear stop well short of a centerline CL of the product and are discontinued across the crotch portion of the product.

Referring to Figs. 22 and 23, the elastics 400 do not fan, but instead are parallel to one another generally along a leg cutout 216, and then run parallel to each other through the centerline CL of the product. This configuration is a flared configuration. In this arrangement, the elastics 400 run from near the disposable product side areas 410 (when worn about the waist of a user) and run parallel from there, toward the crotch portion of the diaper, and particularly toward the absorbent core 46 crossing the centerline CL. In this sense, the elastics 400 generally are running in a direction that is skew to the machine direction. Each of the elastics 400 eventually turns to the centerline CL and next runs in the machine direction for a segment. At the centerline. Throughout the elastic laydown sequence, elastics 400 will be parallel, but spaced apart based on the time the elastic departs from the generally parallel to the leg cutout 216 direction, to the machine direction. At the parallel to the leg cutout 216 direction, the plurality of elastic strands 400 are considered running in parallel skew to the machine

direction, that is neither in the machine direction or the cross machine direction. Still running in parallel, the elastic 400 pattern is mirrored, and the elastics return the flare to a second side area 410 of the product, resulting in a parallel flared elastic pattern. Additionally, at least one of the front or back set of elastics 400 could run entirely curved and parallel along their traverse of the front or back panel.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Furthermore, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described. While the preferred embodiment has been described, the details may be changed without departing from the invention, which is defined by the claims.

We Claim:

1. disposable product comprising:

at least one web of material comprising a front and a back portion of a disposable product, said front and back portions of said disposable product having side areas when worn about the waist of a user;

a plurality of elastic strands coupled to at least one of said front and said back portions of said disposable product;

said plurality of elastic strands running in parallel skew to a machine direction, from at or near a first side area of said front or said back portion of said disposable product in a first region towards a crotch portion of said disposable product;

said plurality of elastic strands running in parallel in said machine direction across a second, center region of said disposable product;

said plurality of elastic strands running in parallel away from said crotch portion of said disposable product to a third region towards at or near a second side area of said front or said back portion of said disposable product to define a parallel flared elastic pattern.

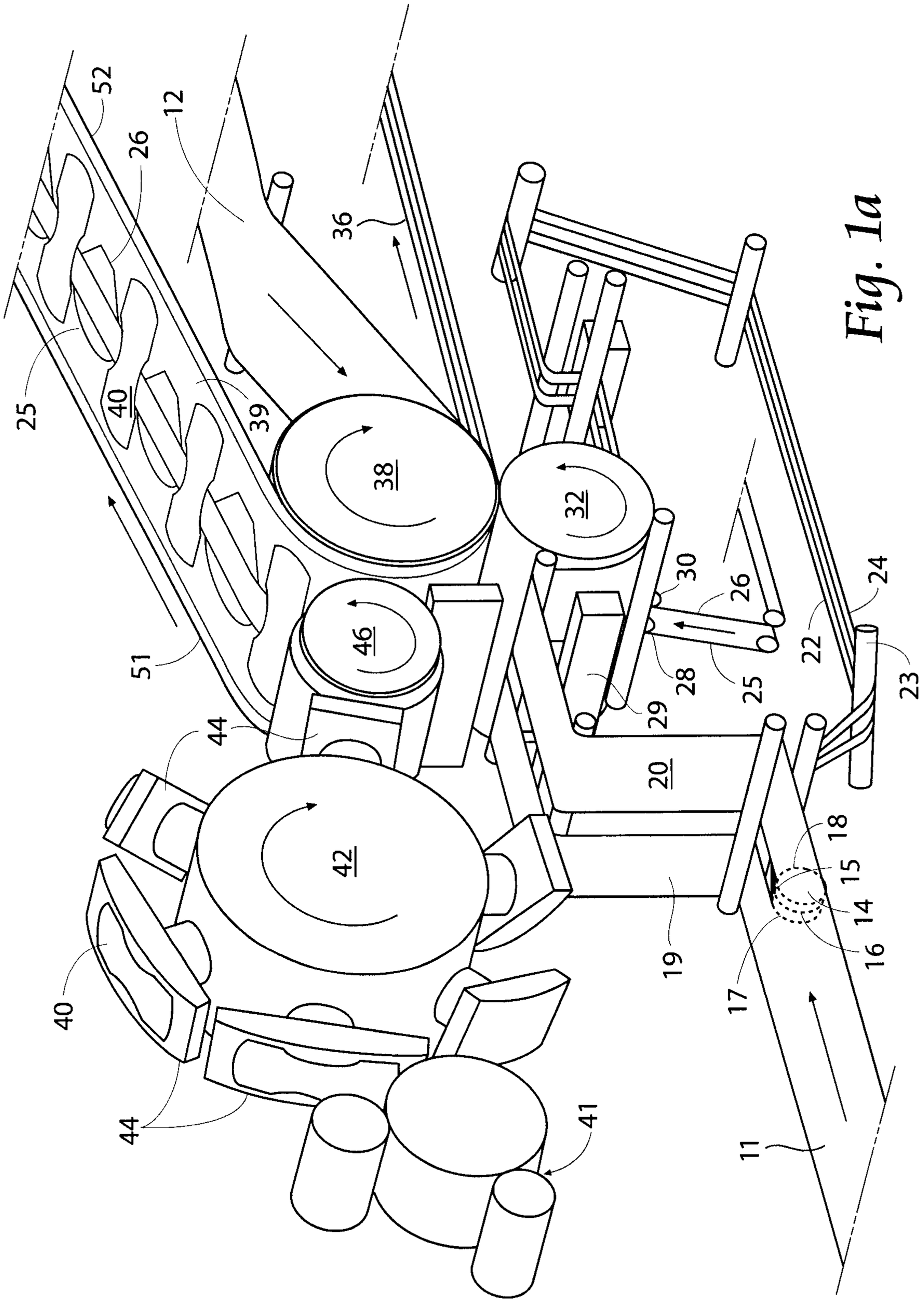

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Fig. 1a

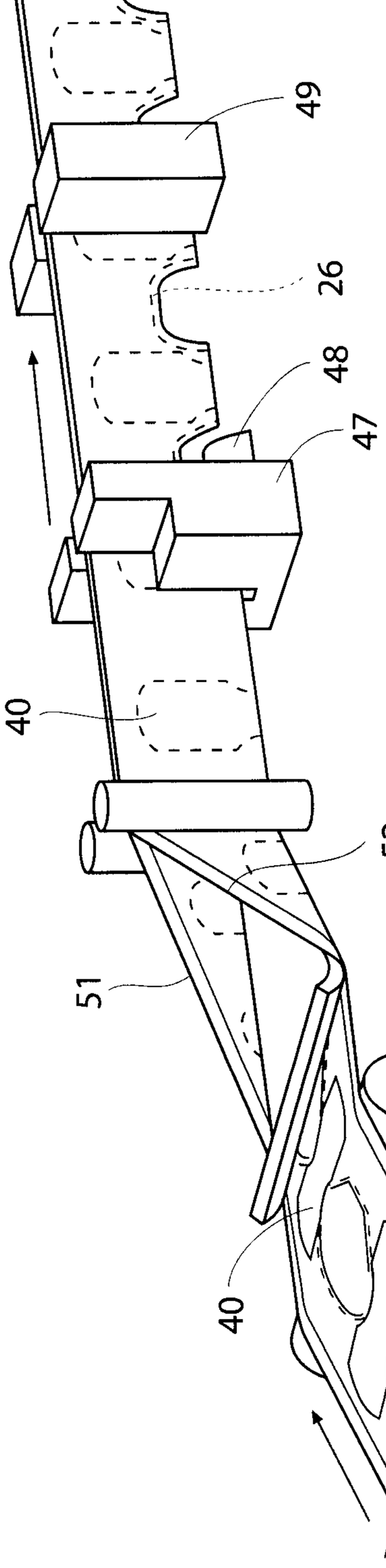


Fig. 1b

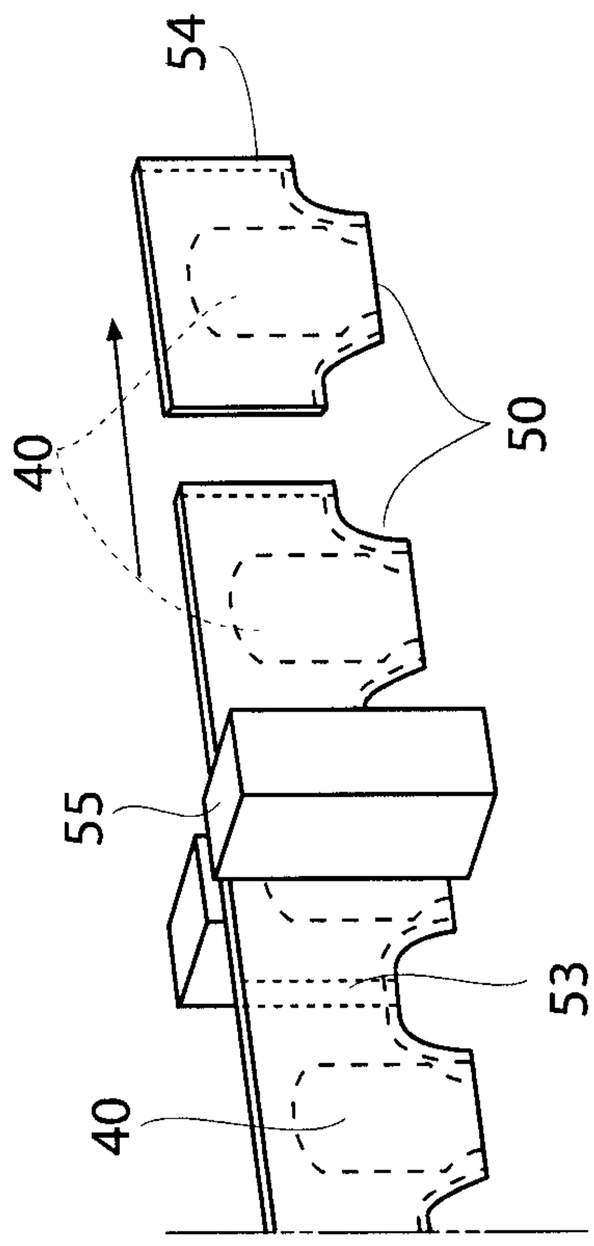


Fig. 1c

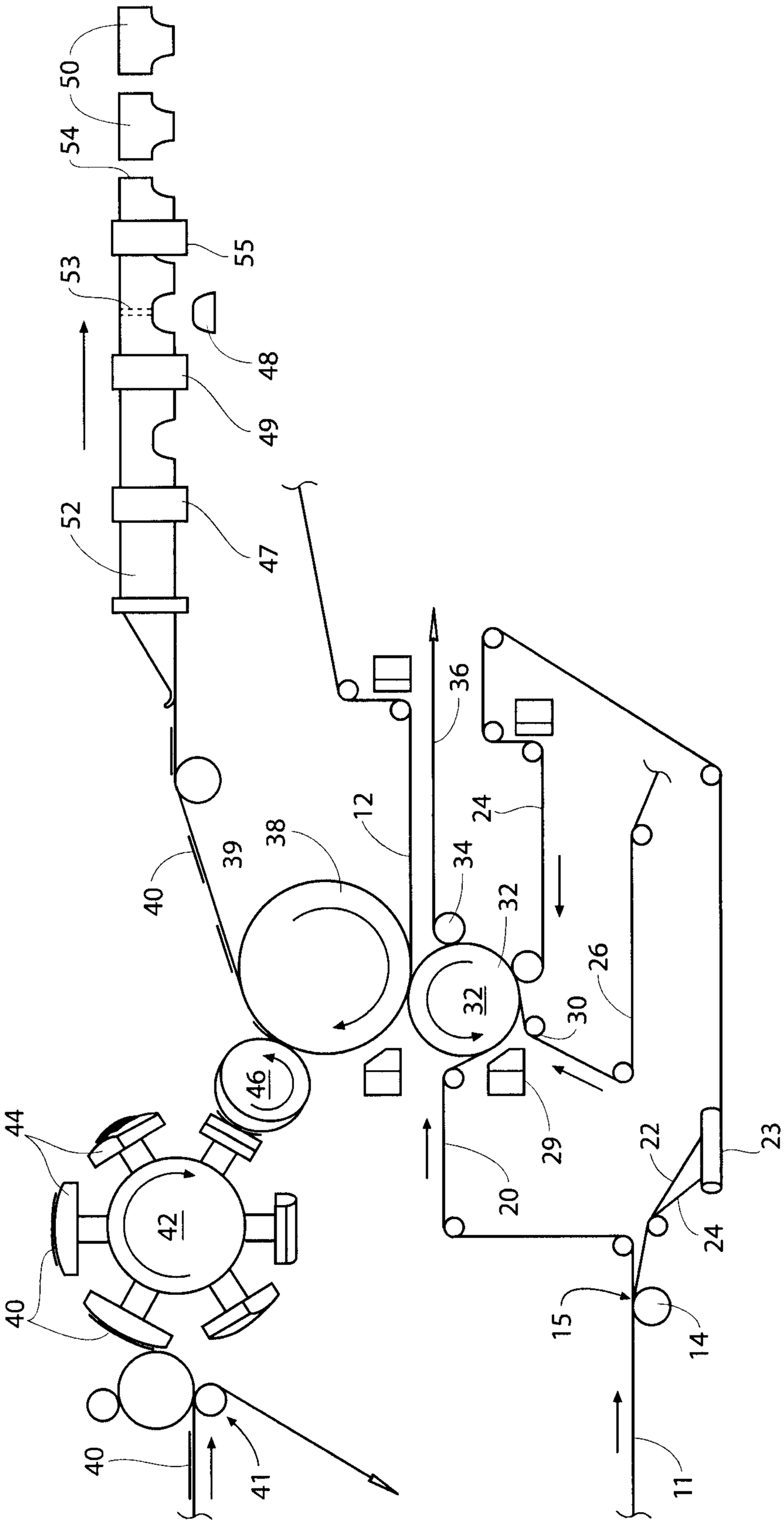

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Fig. 2

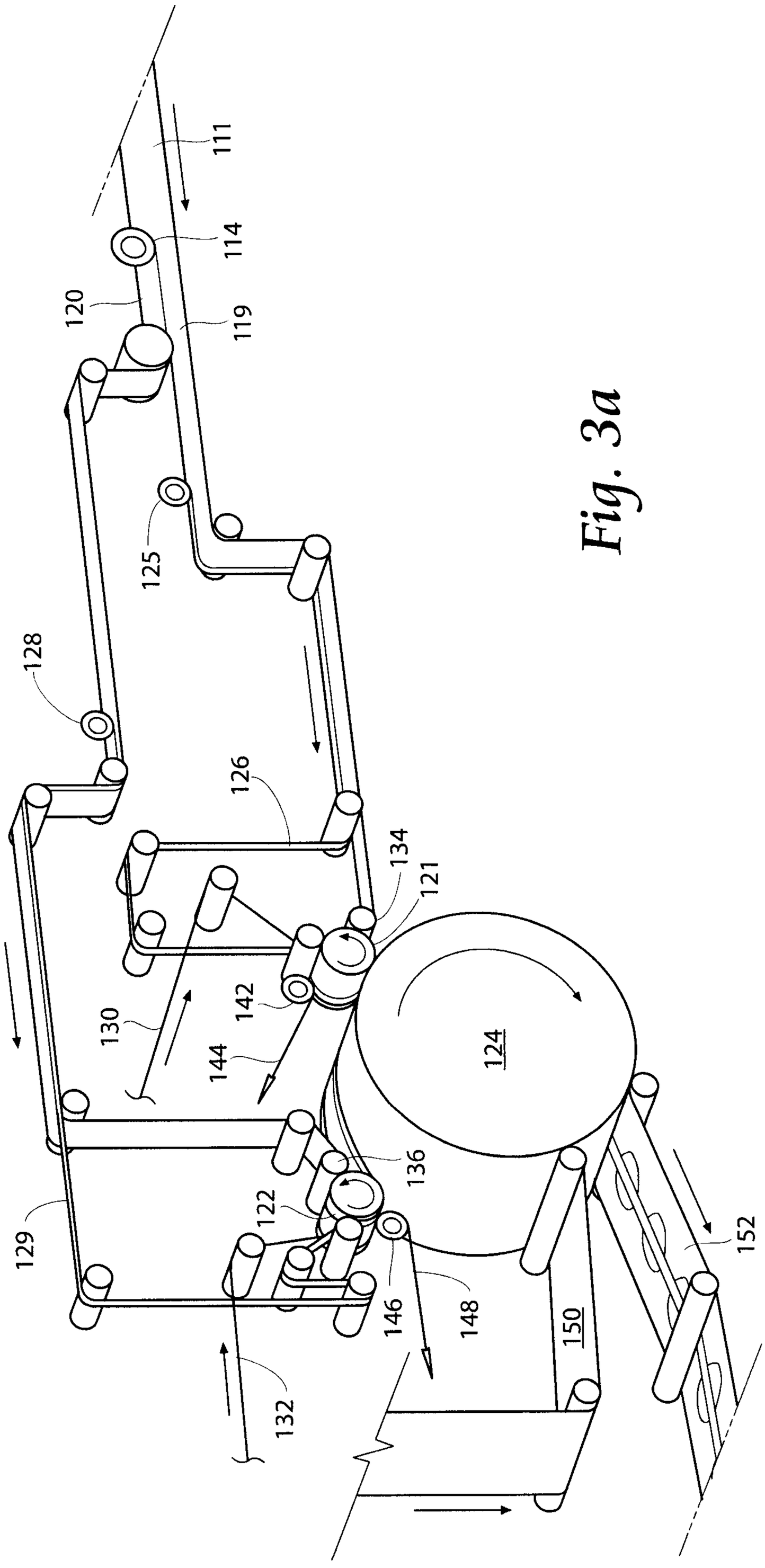

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Fig. 3a

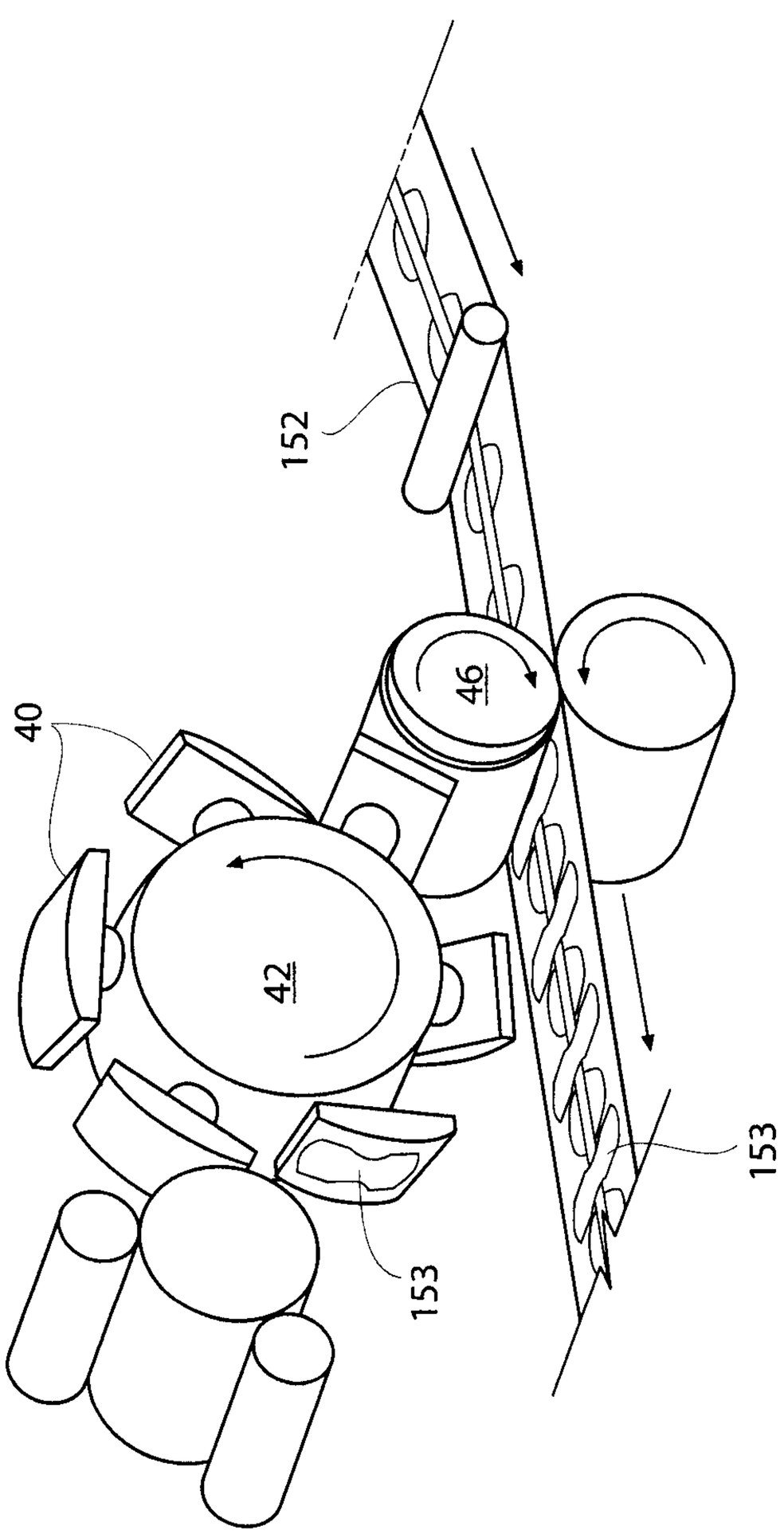


Fig. 3b

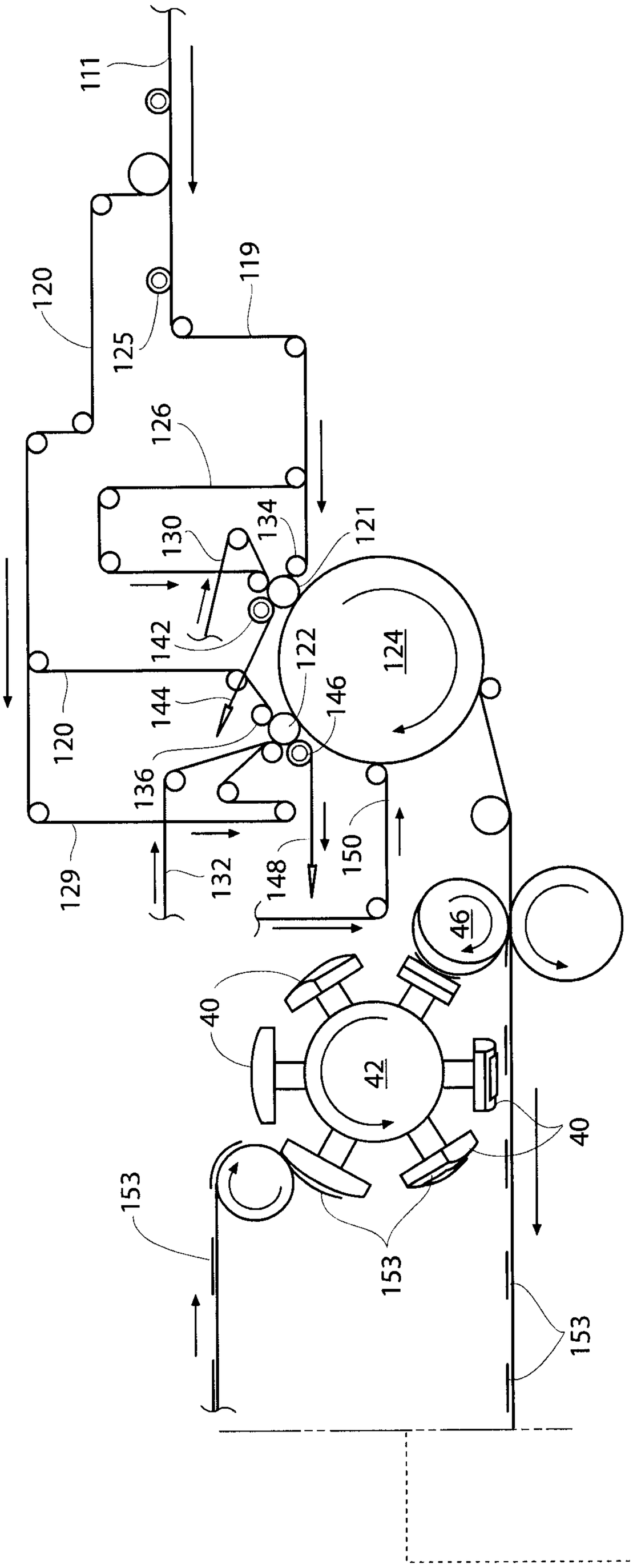

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Fig. 4

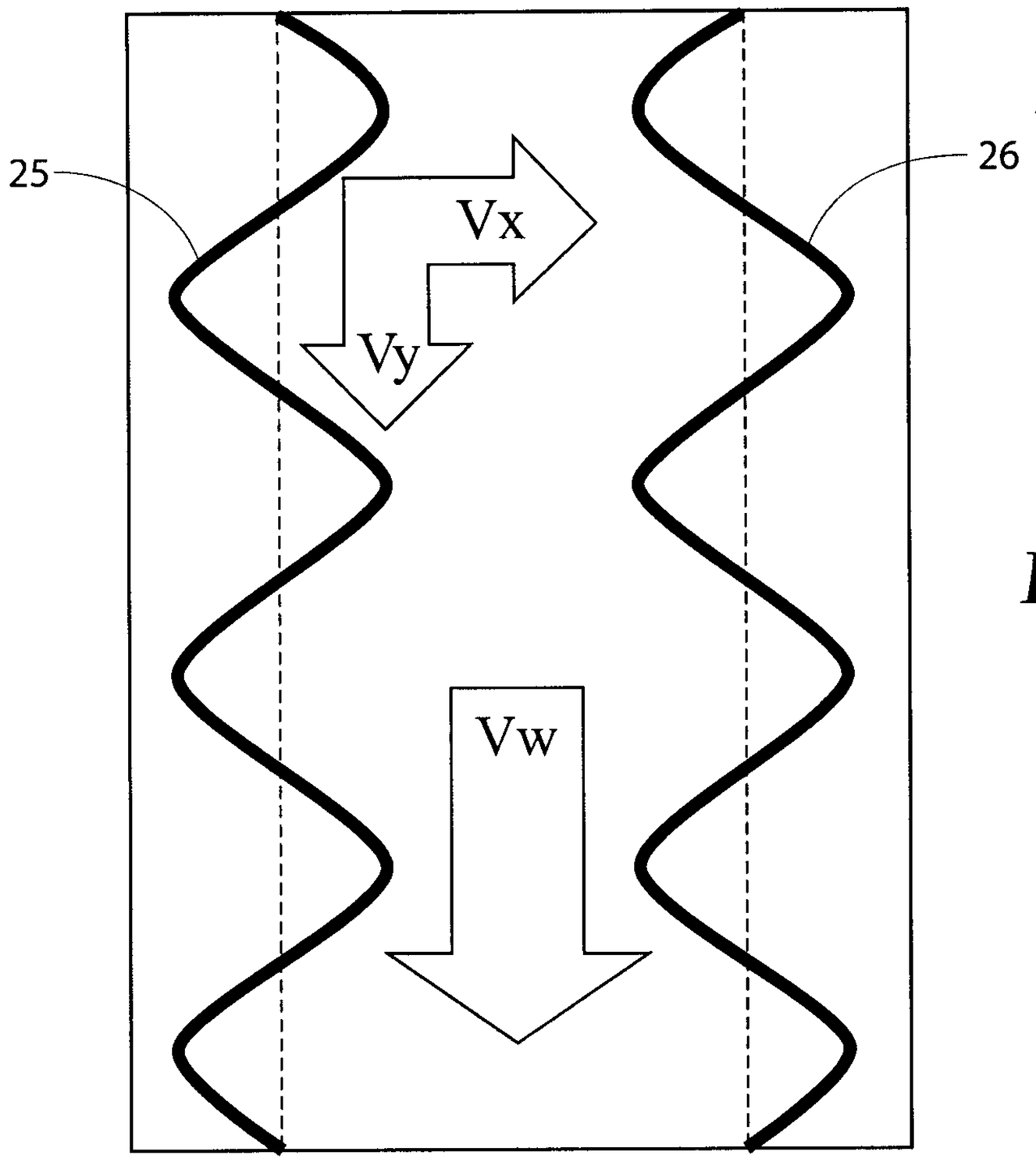


Fig. 5

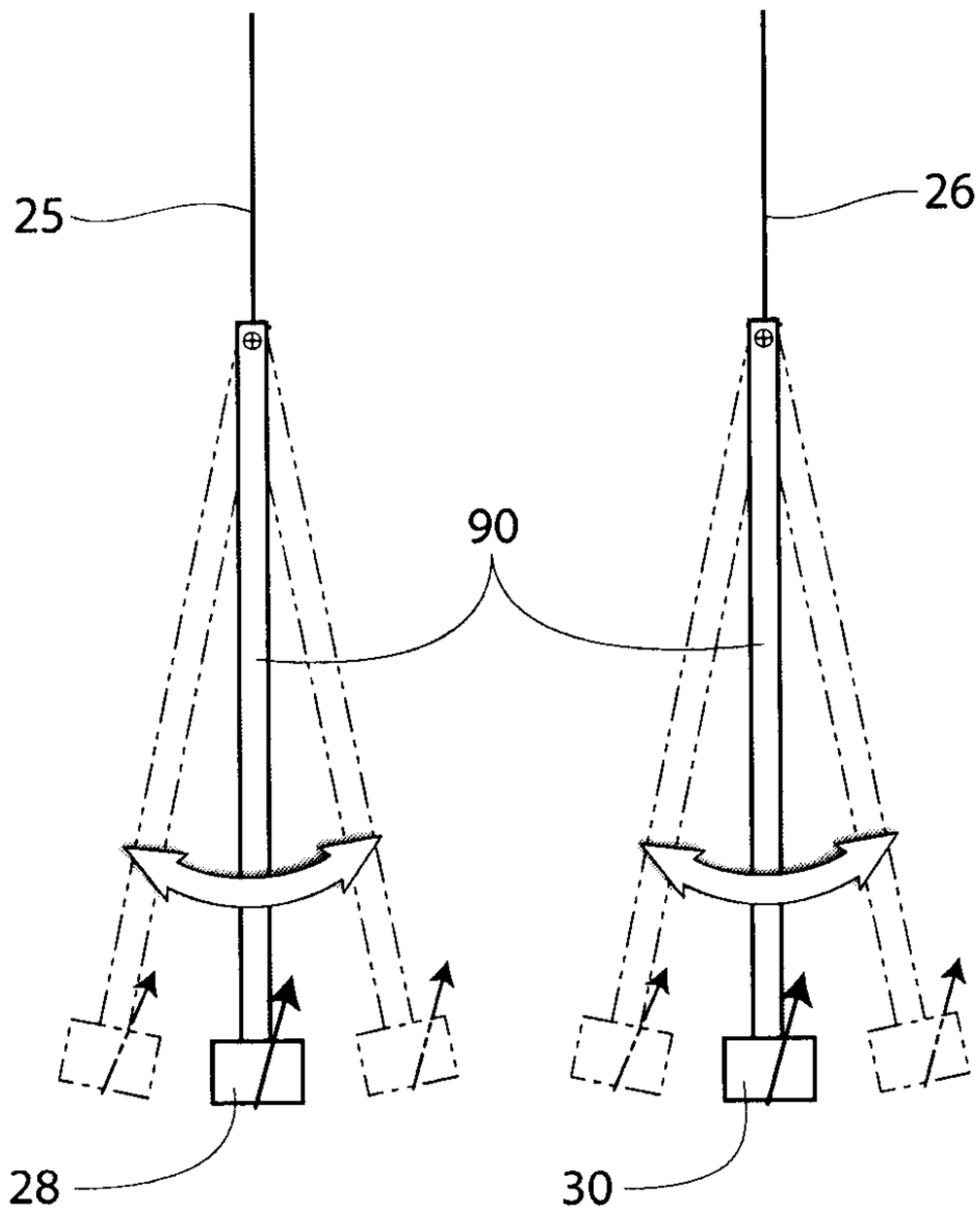


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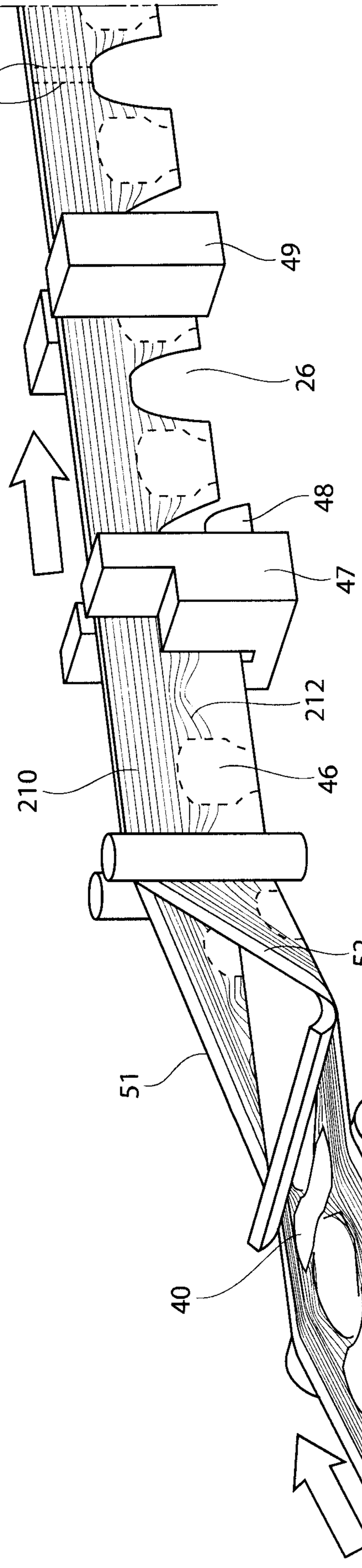


Fig. 7

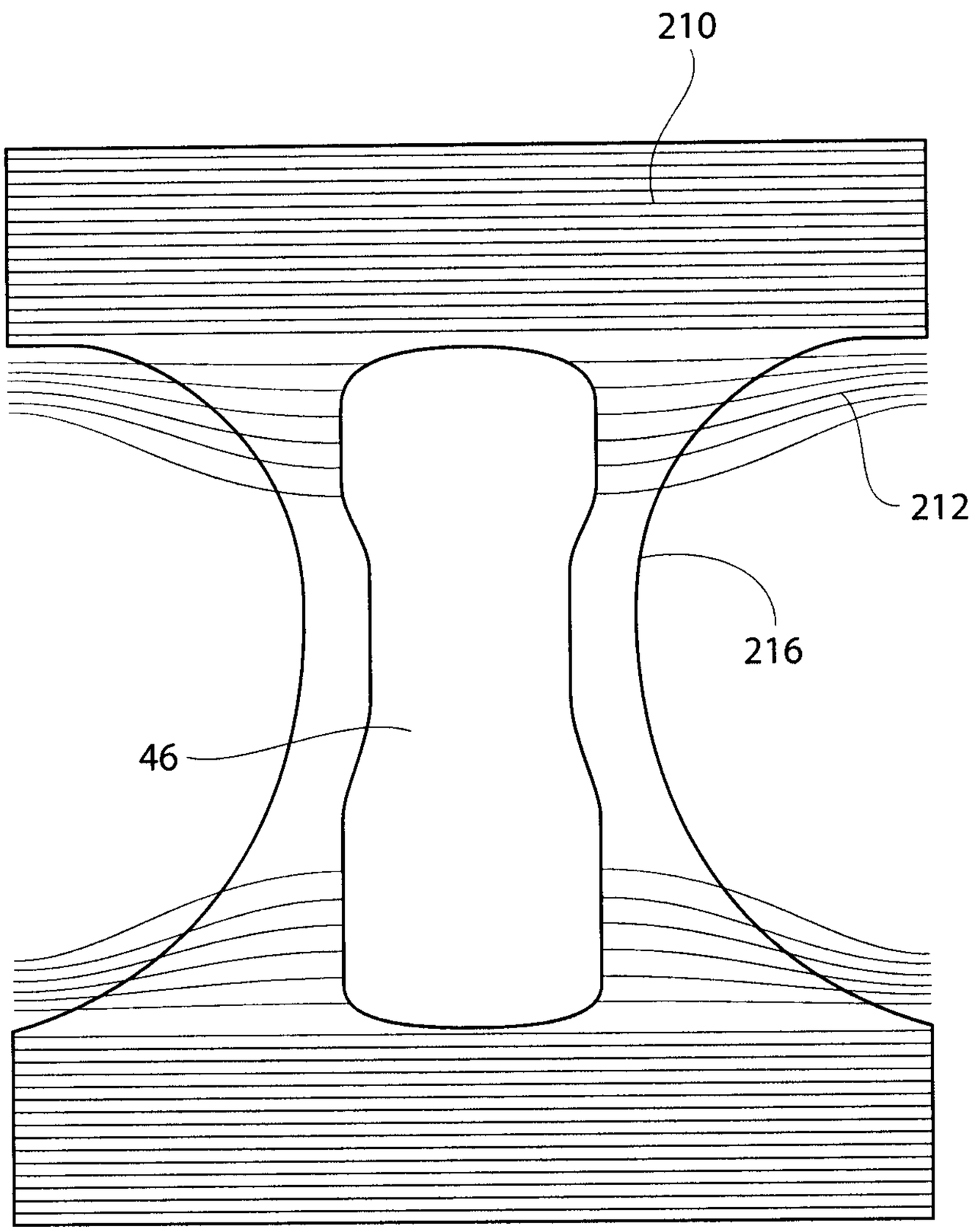


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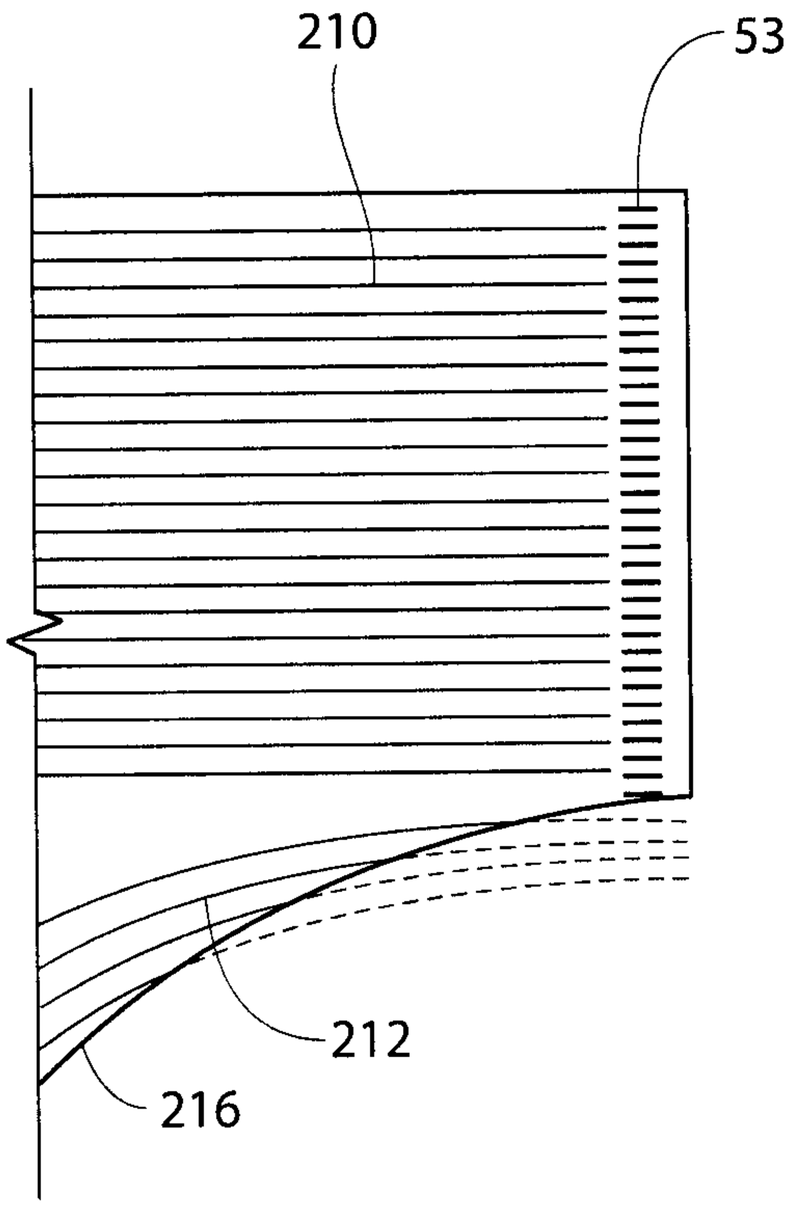


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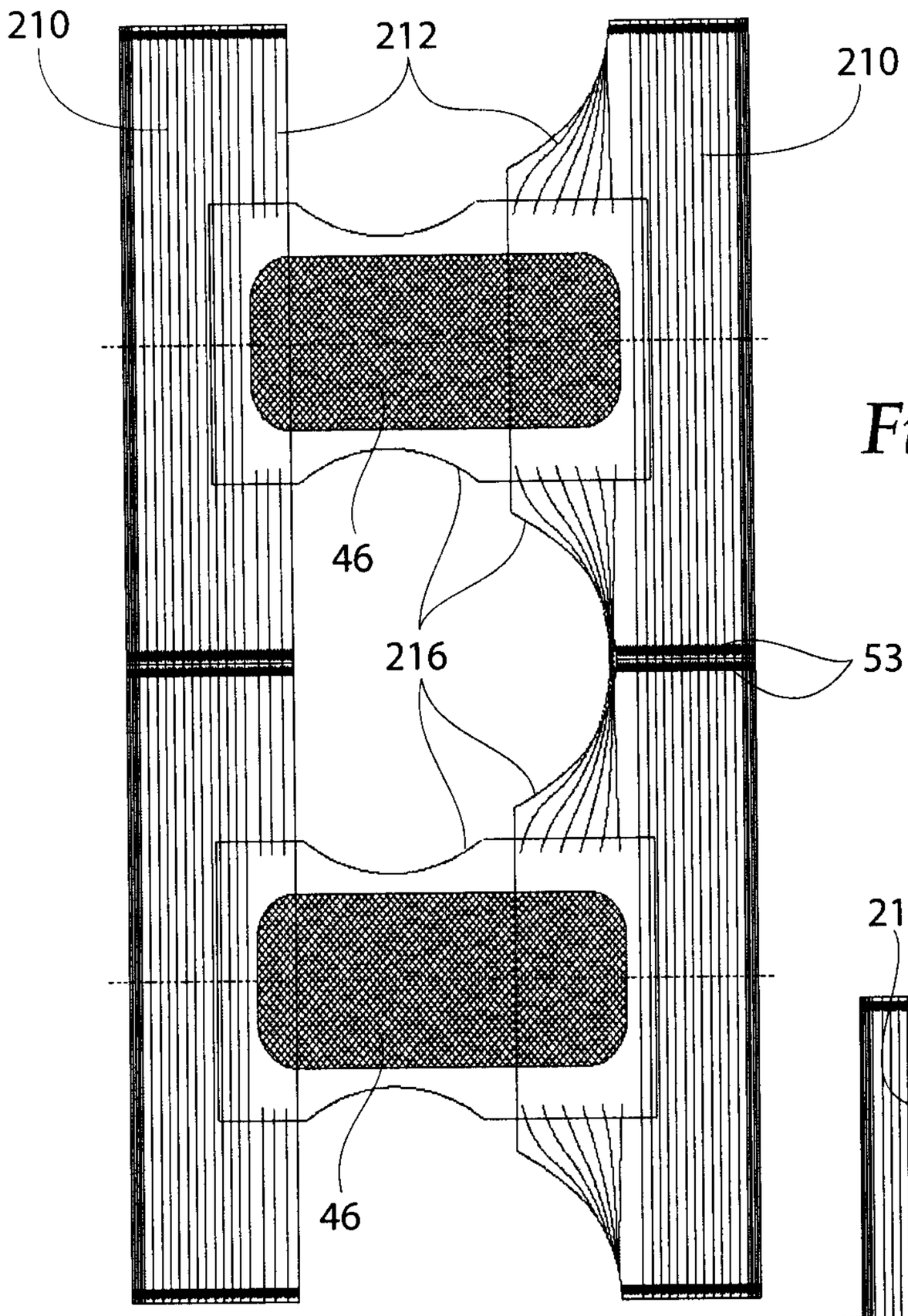


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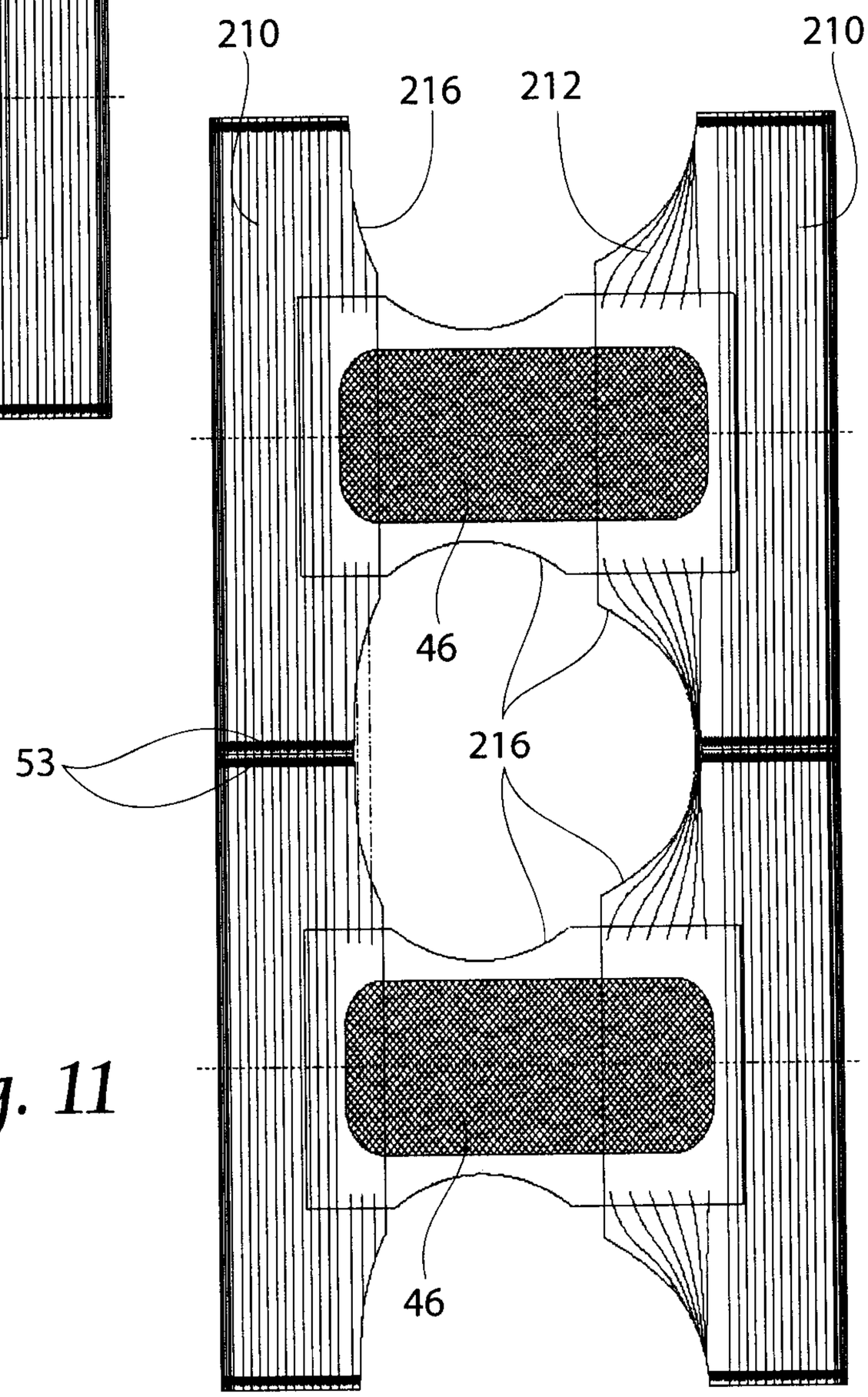


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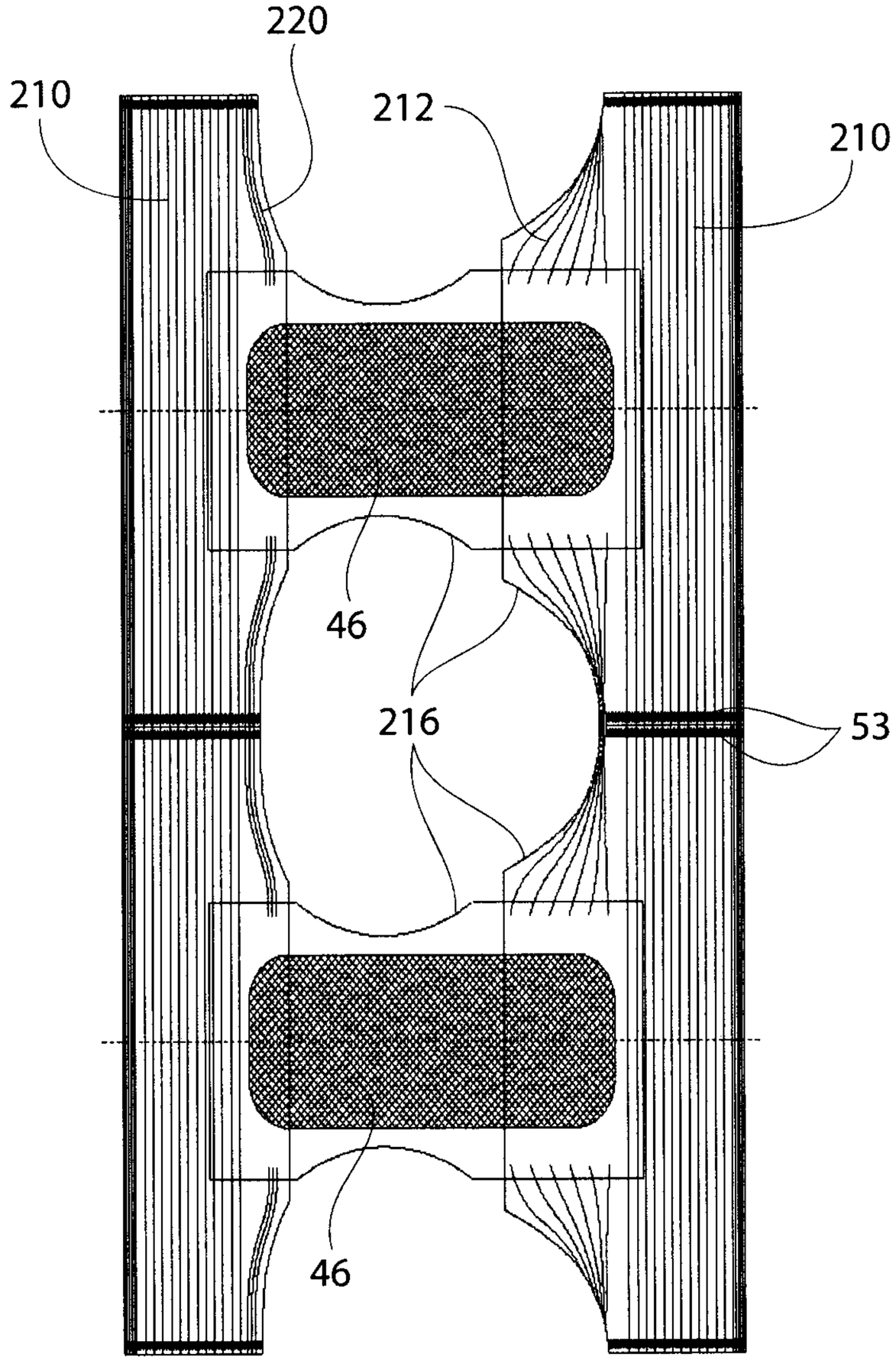


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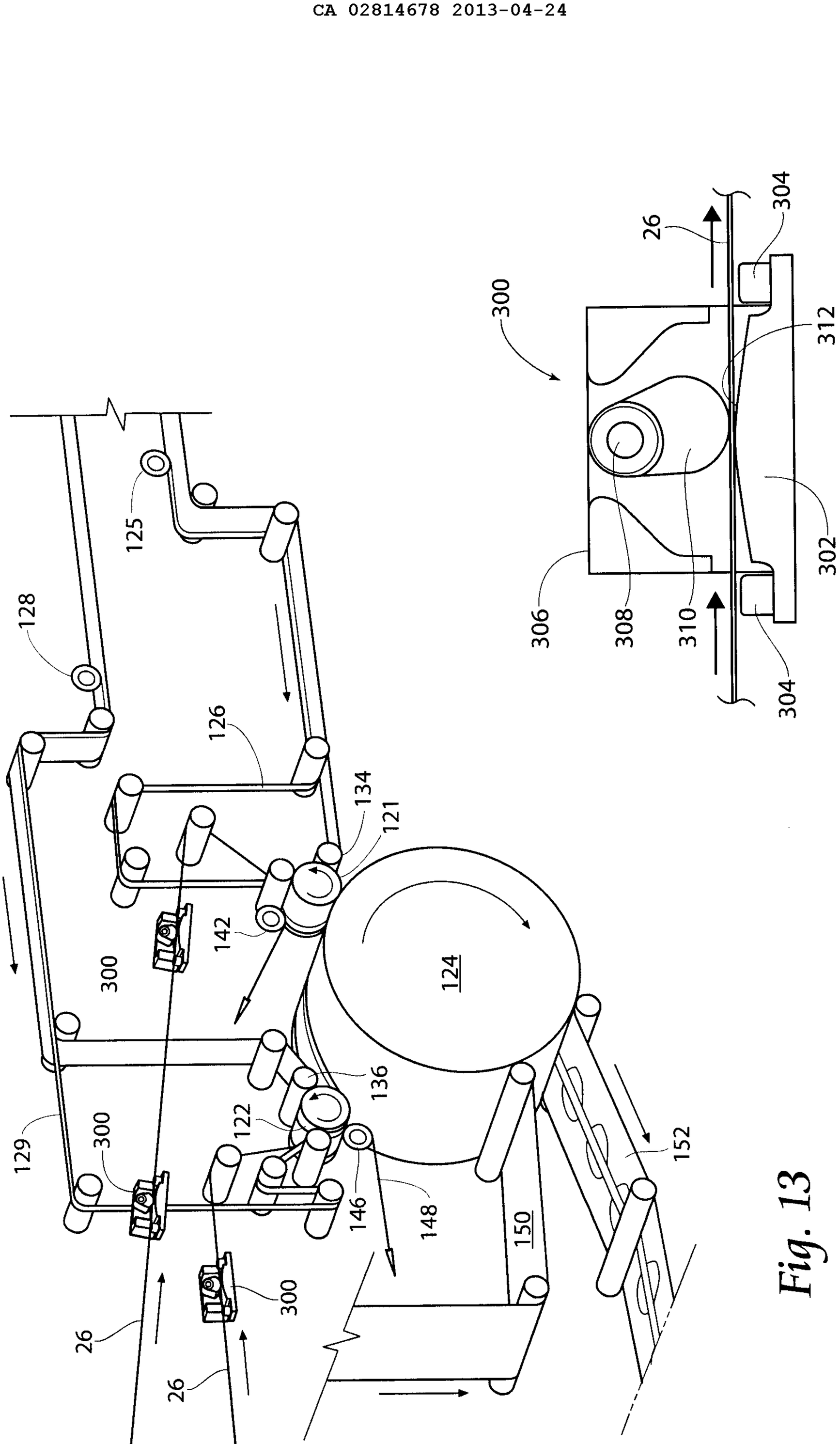

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Fig. 14

Fig. 13

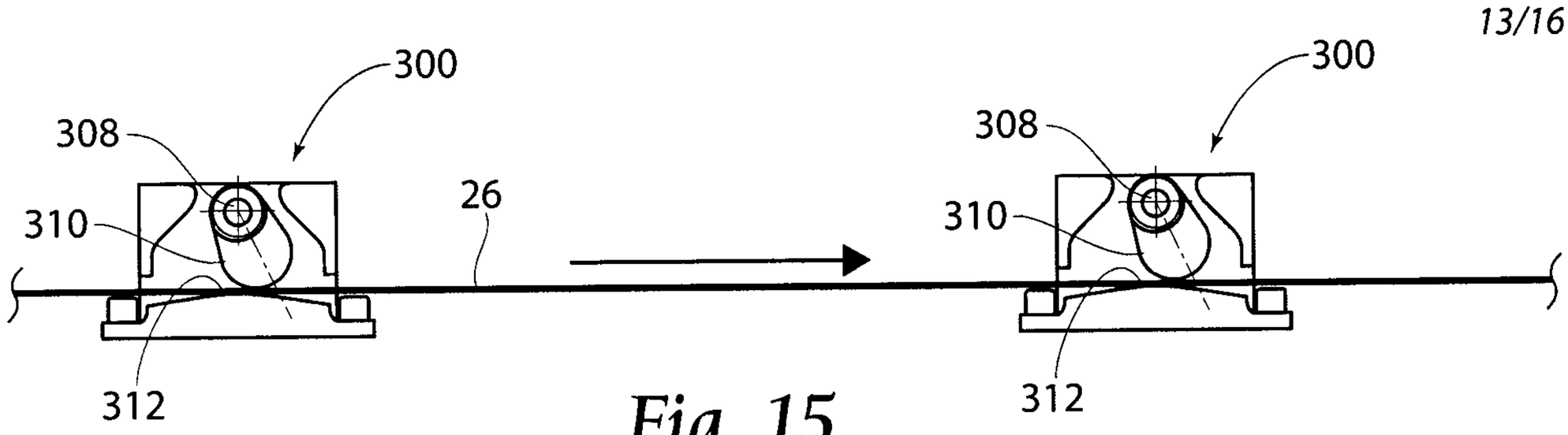


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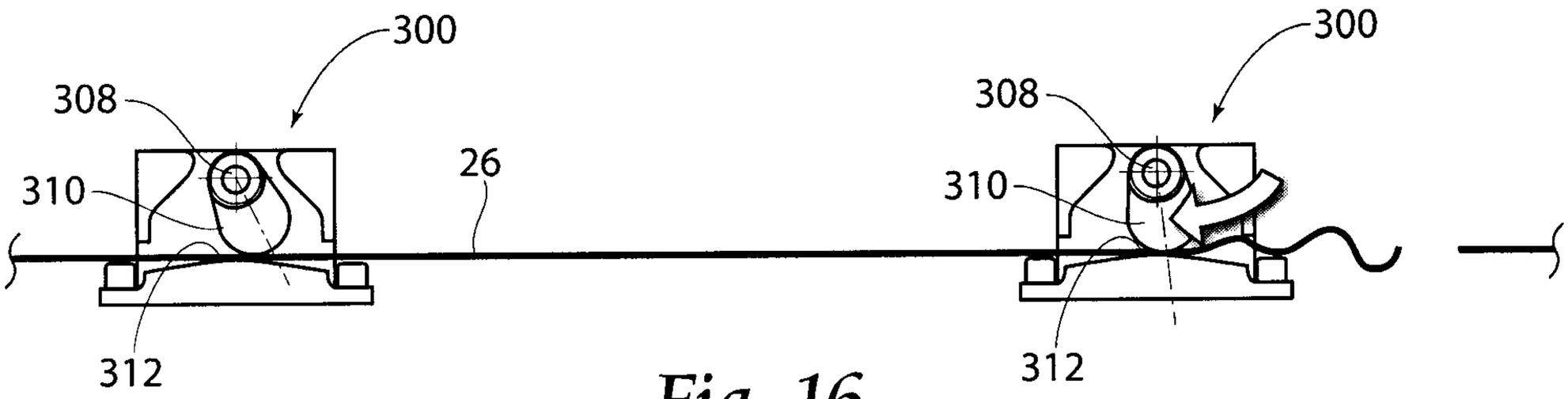


Fig. 16

Fig. 17

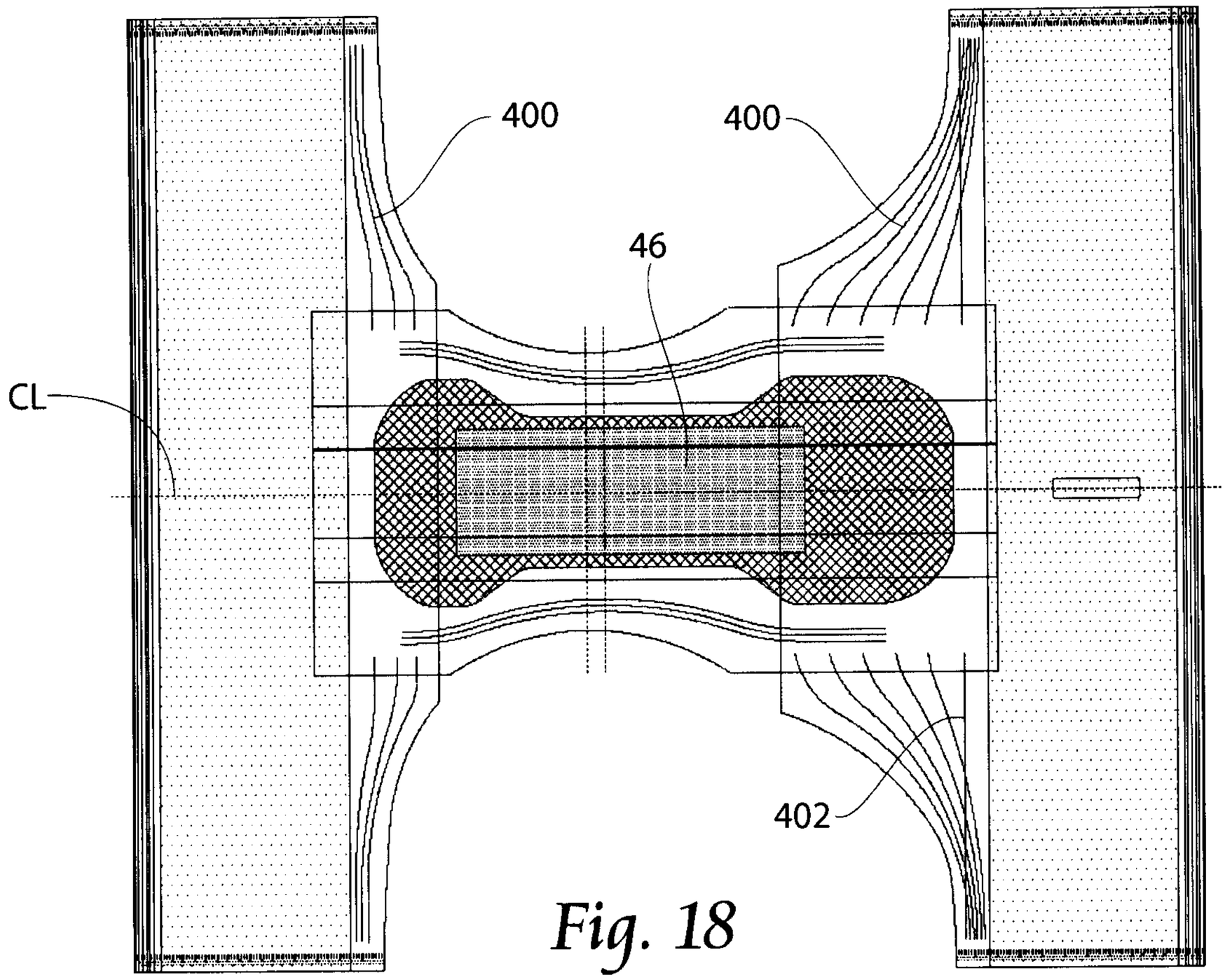


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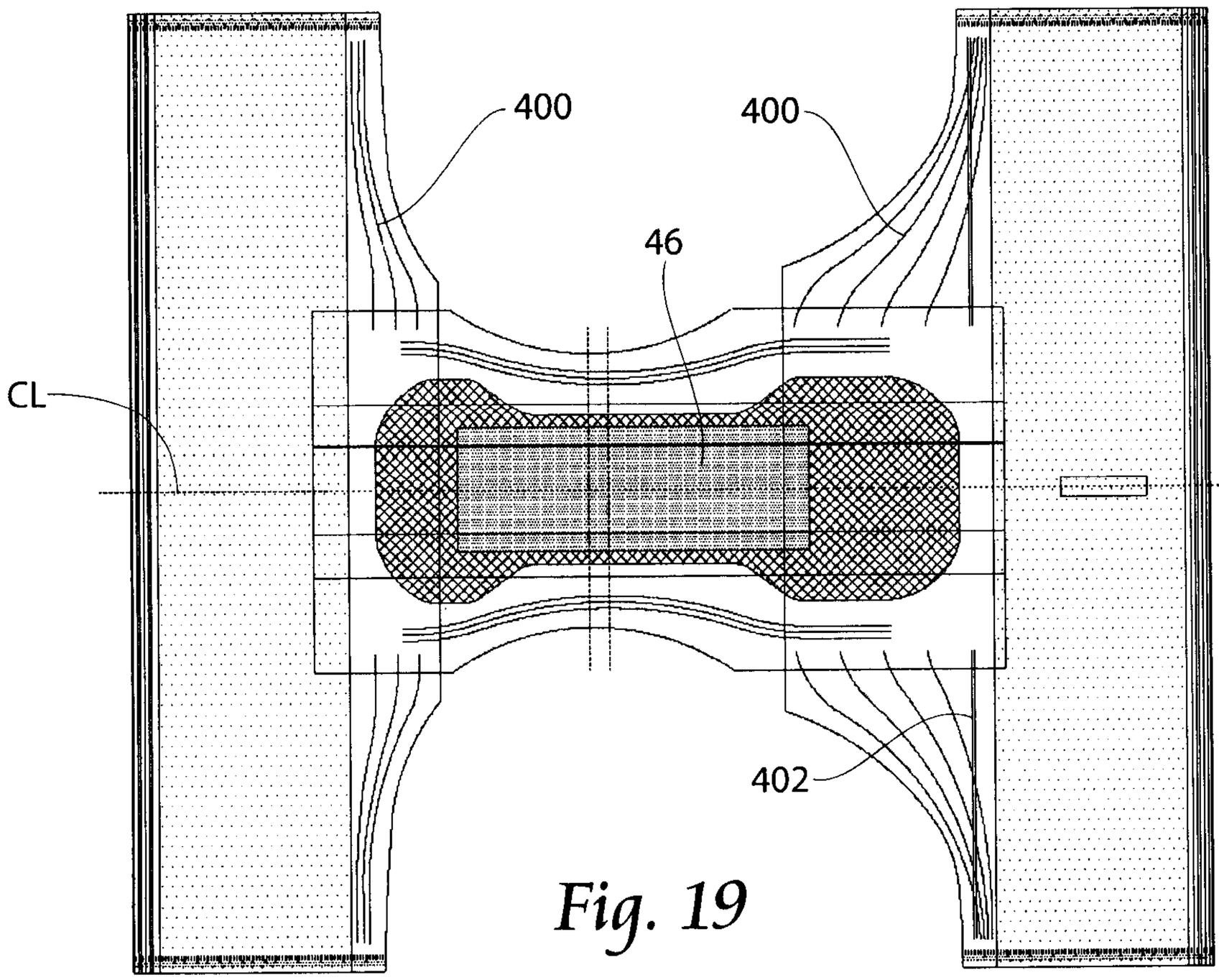


Fig. 19

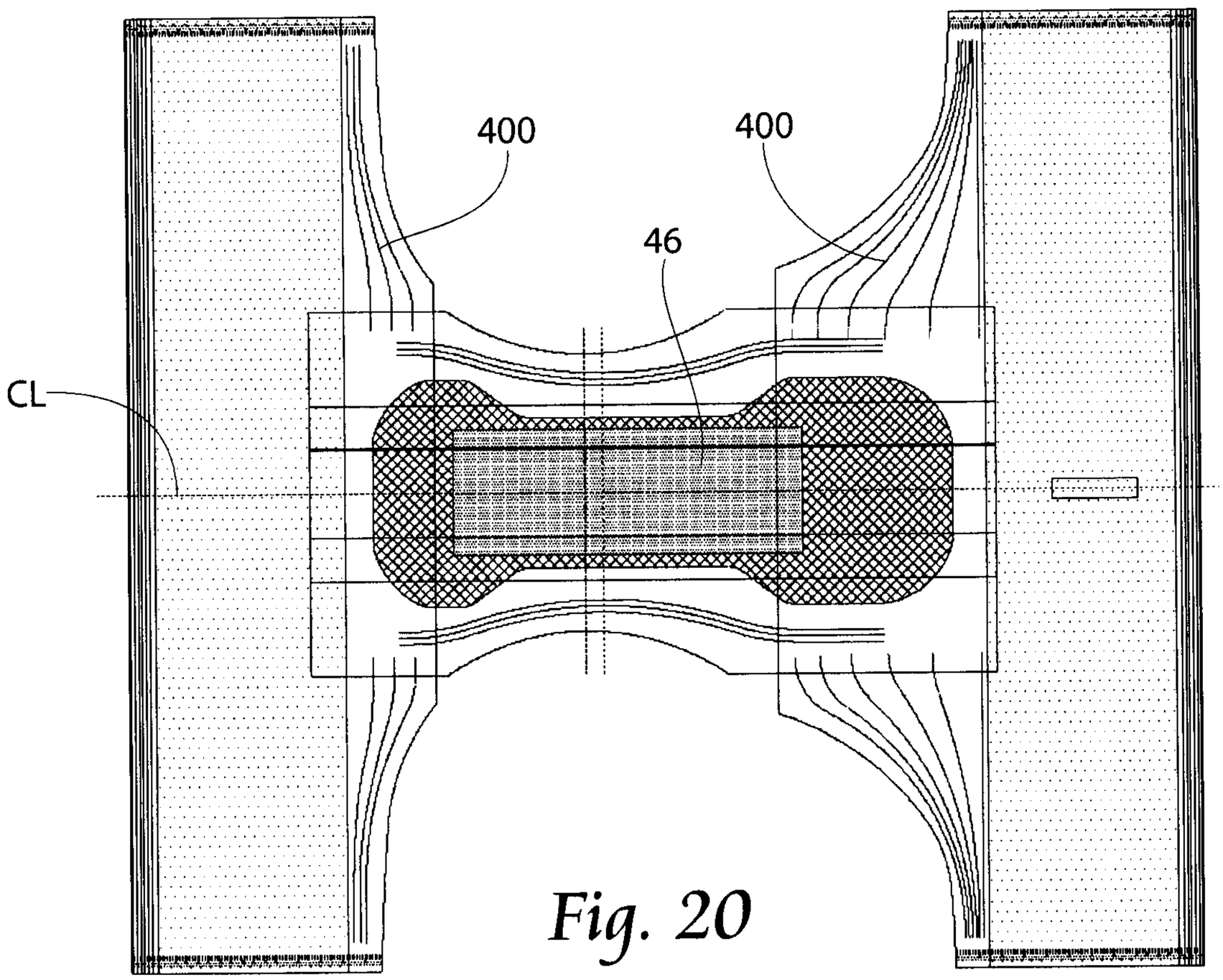


Fig. 20

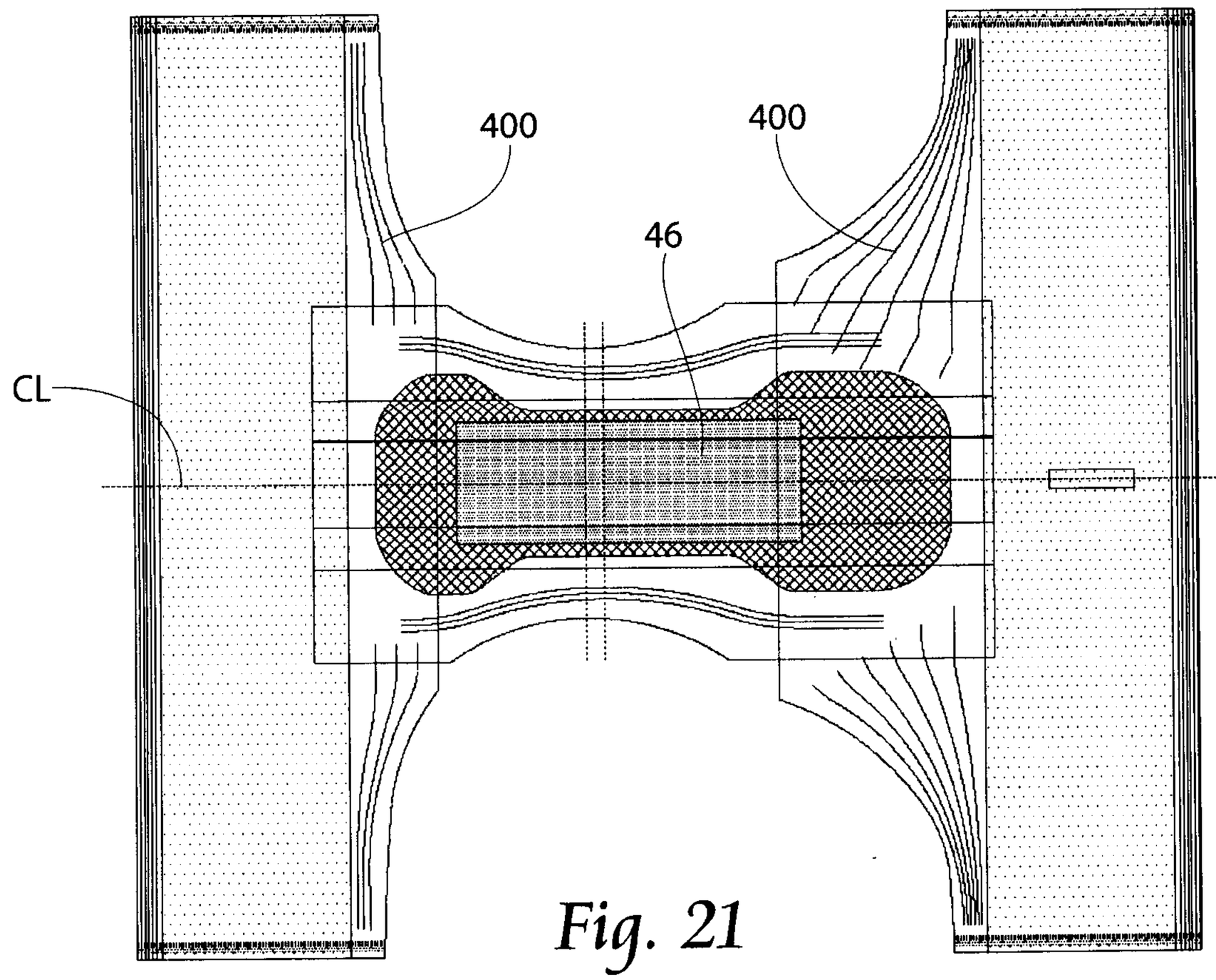


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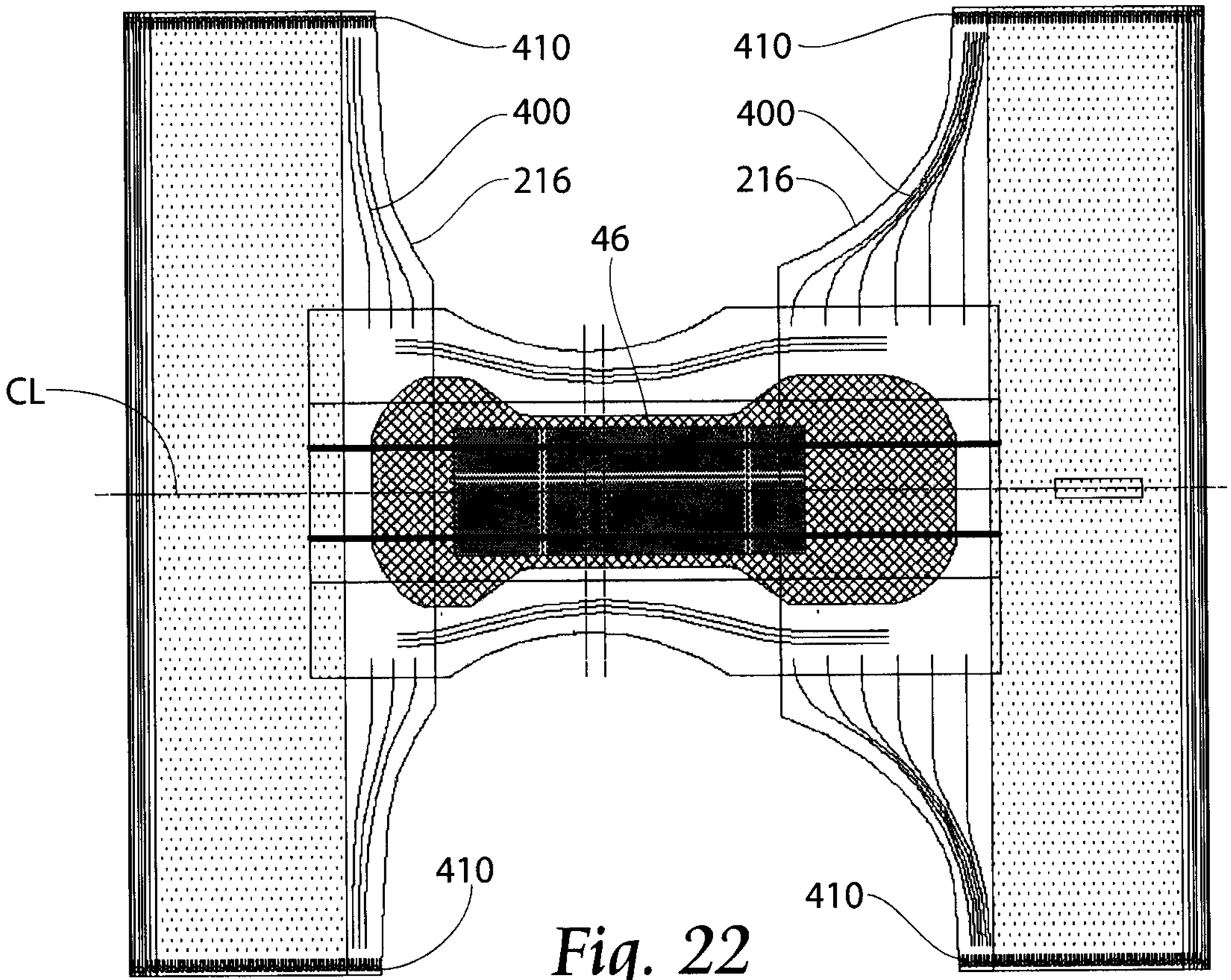


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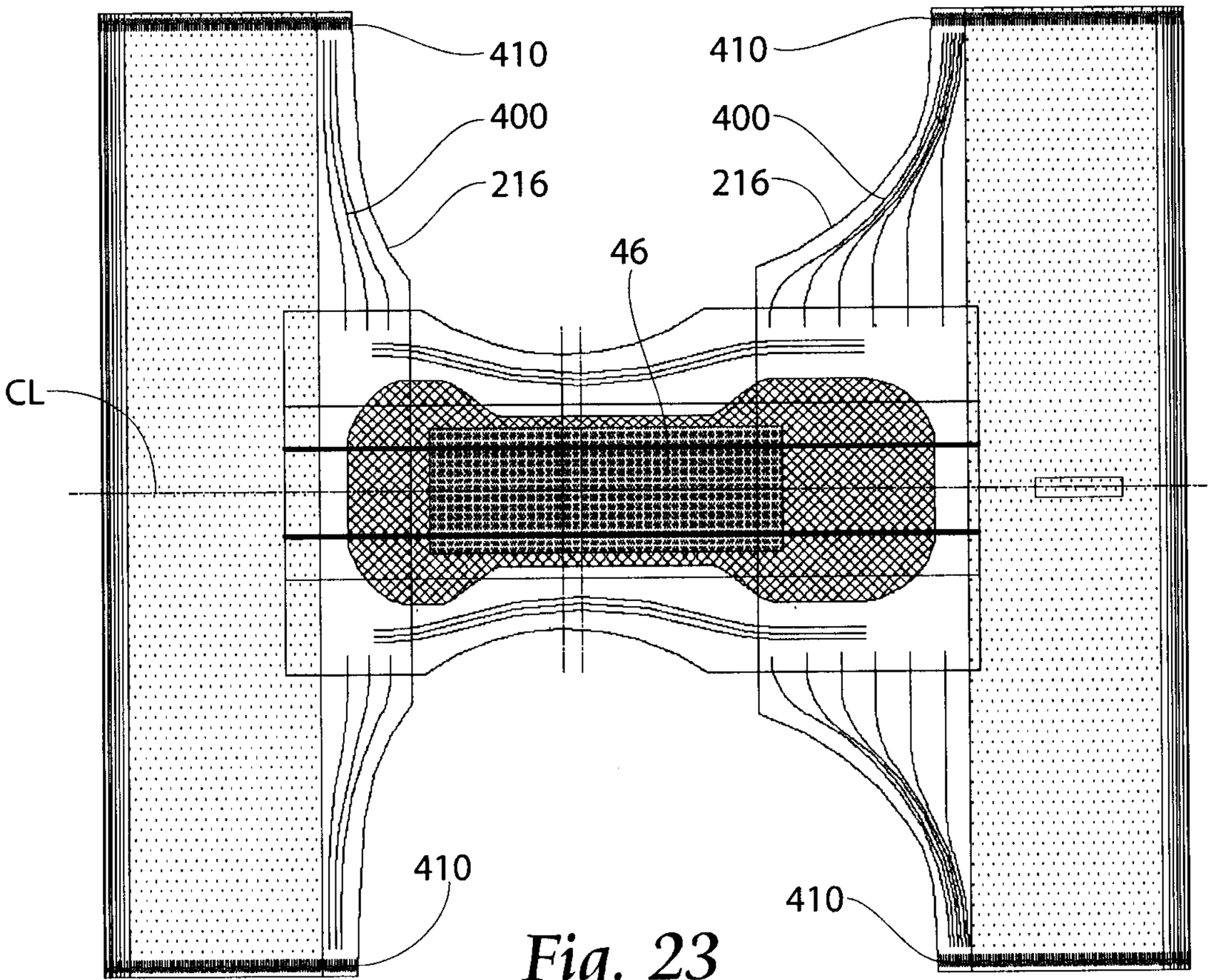
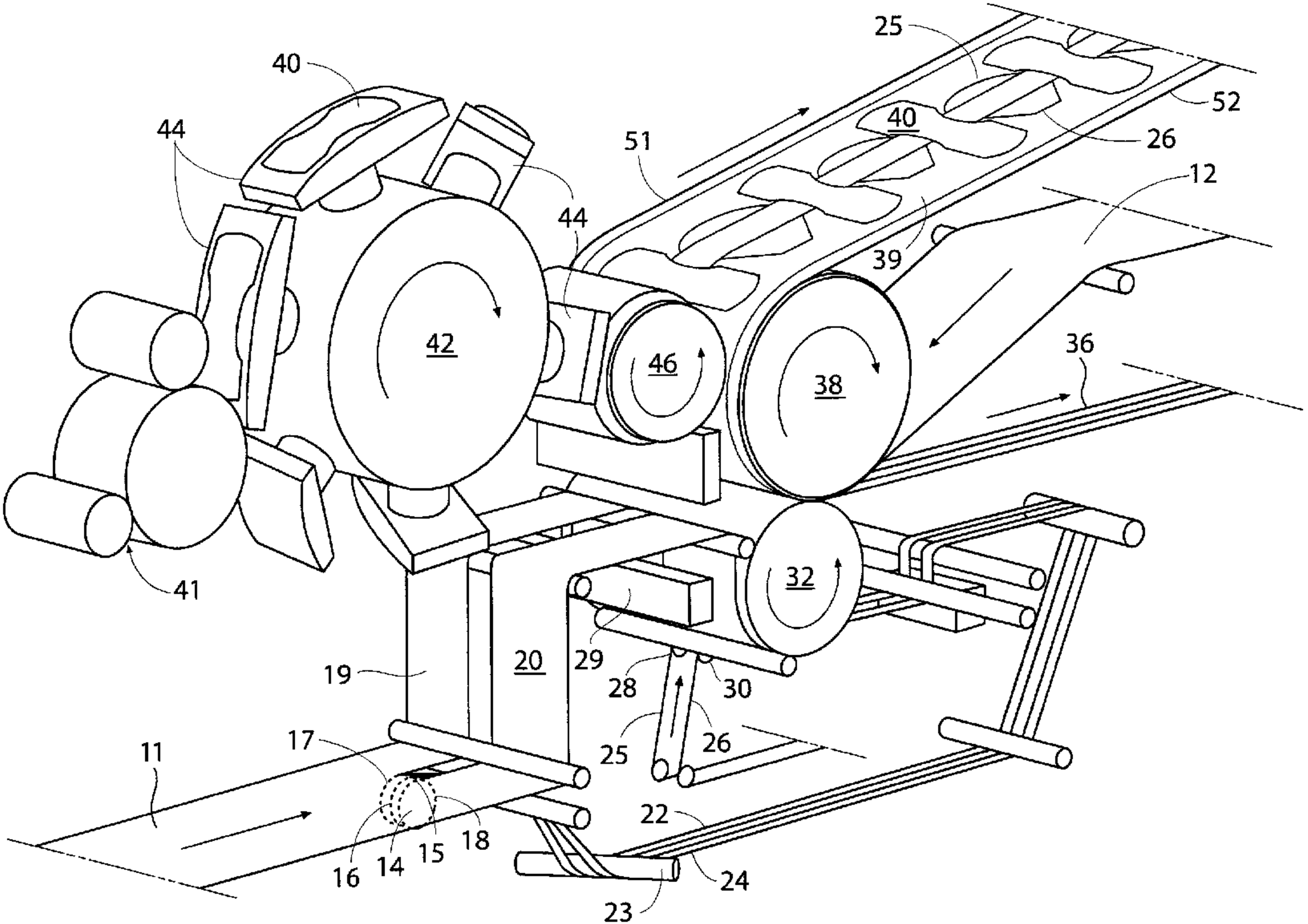


Fig. 23


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