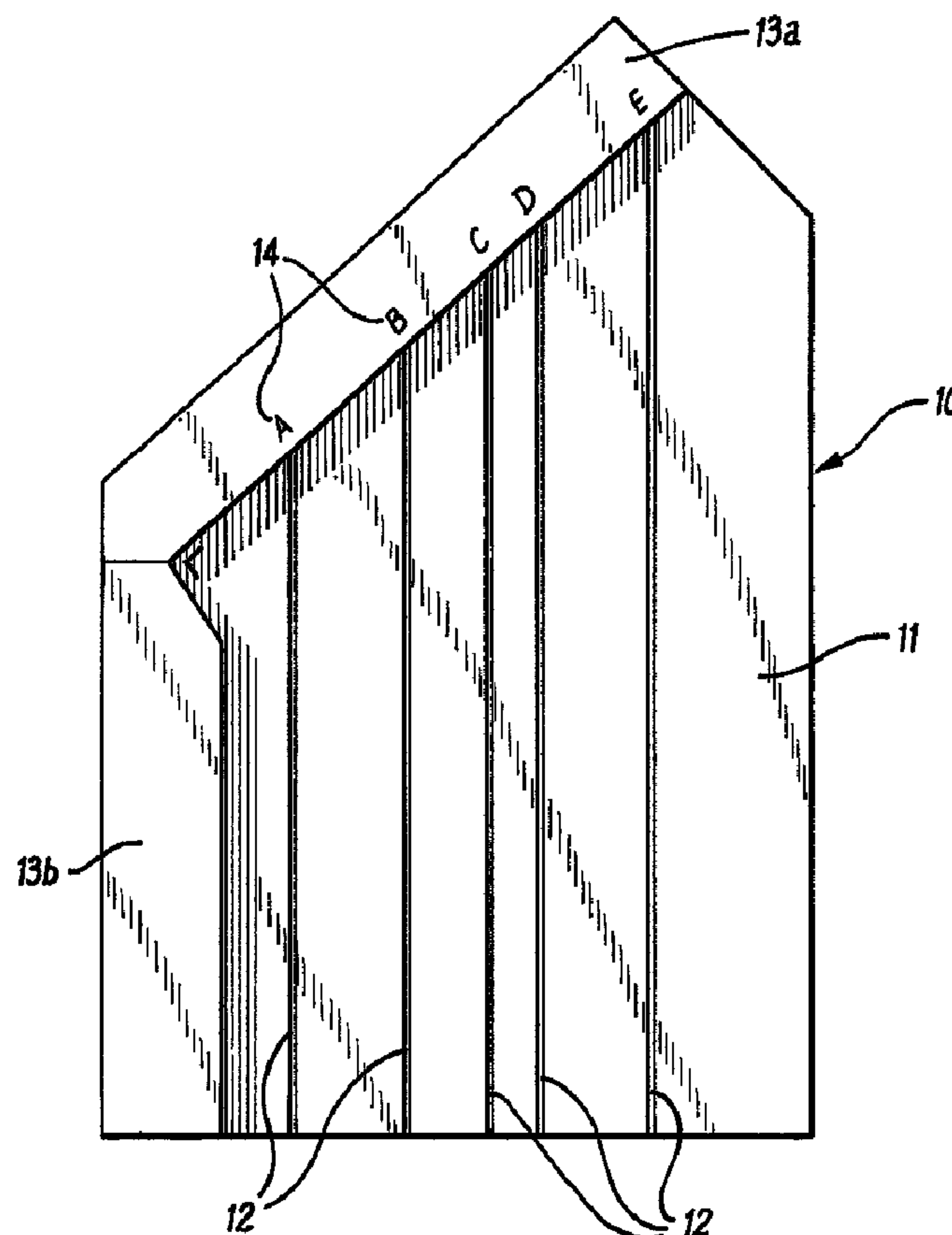




(86) Date de dépôt PCT/PCT Filing Date: 2006/07/17  
(87) Date publication PCT/PCT Publication Date: 2007/01/25  
(45) Date de délivrance/Issue Date: 2013/11/19  
(85) Entrée phase nationale/National Entry: 2008/01/11  
(86) N° demande PCT/PCT Application No.: GB 2006/002646  
(87) N° publication PCT/PCT Publication No.: 2007/010228  
(30) Priorité/Priority: 2005/07/15 (GB0514561.0)

(51) Cl.Int./Int.Cl. *B31B 47/00* (2006.01),  
*B31B 1/25* (2006.01)  
(72) Inventeur/Inventor:  
JOHNSON, SARA, GB  
(73) Propriétaire/Owner:  
SARA & SIMON LIMITED, GB  
(74) Agent: SEABY & ASSOCIATES

(54) Titre : DISPOSITIF DE FABRICATION D'ENVELOPPES  
(54) Title: ENVELOPE MAKING DEVICE



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

A device useful in the formation of handcrafted envelopes comprises a board (10) with a planar surface (11) wherein the planar surface is provided with at least one guide means (12), and at least one abutting surface (13) that allows an envelope material such

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

as paper or card to be positioned on the planar surface at a defined angle with respect to the guide means such that the paper or card can be folded to the guide means to form an envelope.

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date  
25 January 2007 (25.01.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2007/010228 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification:

**B31B 47/00** (2006.01) **B31B 1/25** (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/GB2006/002646

(22) International Filing Date: 17 July 2006 (17.07.2006)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

0514561.0 15 July 2005 (15.07.2005) GB

(71) Applicant and

(72) Inventor: **JOHNSON, Sara** [GB/GB]; Crafters Companion, Collingwood House, Collingwood Street, Coundon DL14 8LG (GB).(74) Agent: **KENNEDYS PATENT AGENCY LIMITED**;  
185 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5QD (US).(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM,

AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

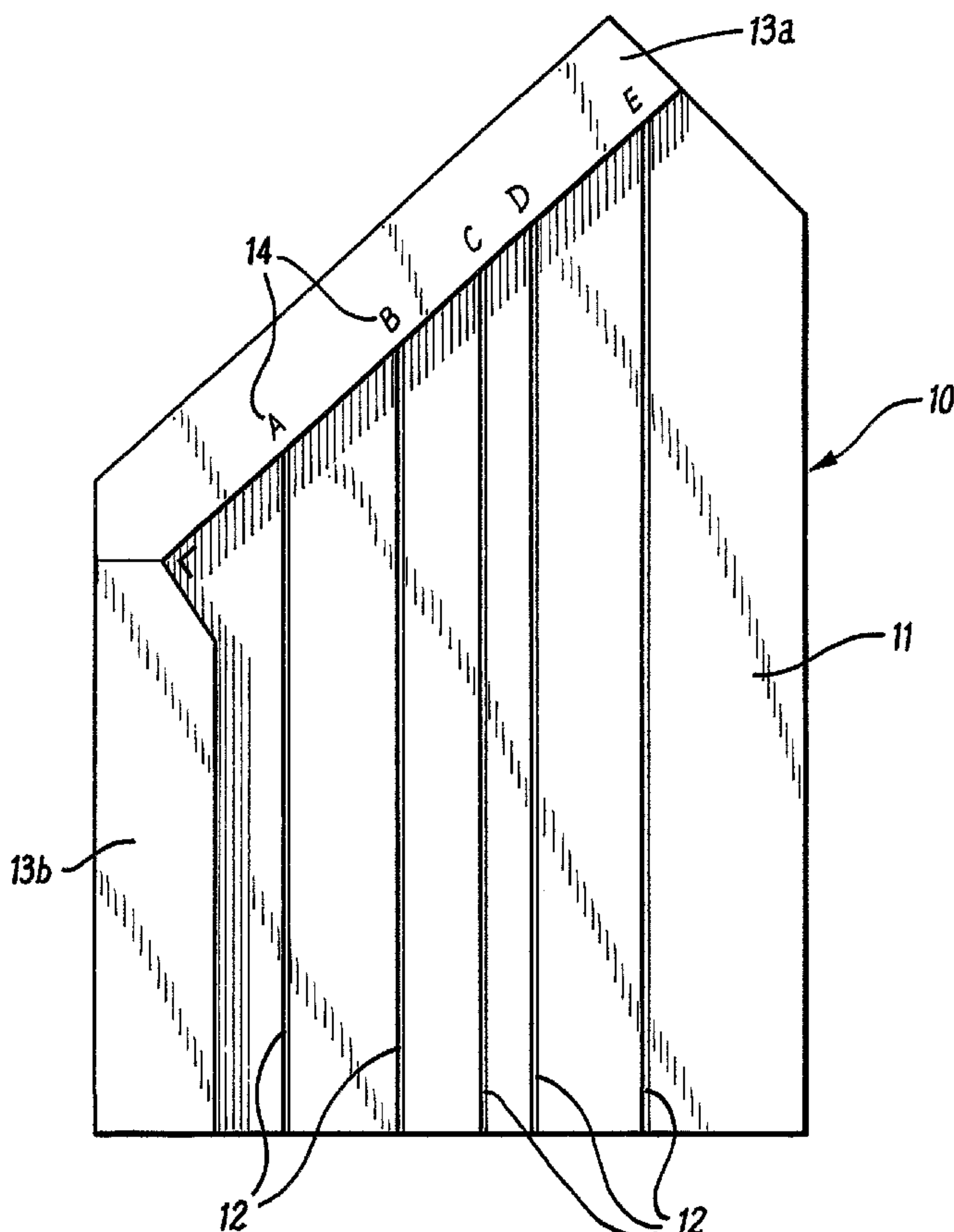
Published:

— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
12 April 2007

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ENVELOPE MAKING DEVICE



(57) Abstract: A device useful in the formation of handcrafted envelopes comprises a board (10) with a planar surface (11) wherein the planar surface is provided with at least one guide means (12), and at least one abutting surface (13) that allows an envelope material such as paper or card to be positioned on the planar surface at a defined angle with respect to the guide means such that the paper or card can be folded to the guide means to form an envelope.

  
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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

1 **ENVELOPE MAKING DEVICE**

2  
3 The present invention relates to a device for use as an  
4 aid in the formation of envelopes and a method for using  
5 the device. In particular, the invention relates to a  
6 device for use in the preparation of handcrafted  
7 envelopes.

8  
9 It is known in the art to provide templates to assist in  
10 the preparation of handcrafted envelopes. These  
11 products, such as described in US5,626,551, generally  
12 comprise templates that can be used to draw or score the  
13 outline of an envelope of predetermined size and shape  
14 onto a suitable material, such as paper or card. The  
15 paper or card is then cut to the outline and glued to  
16 form the envelope. A disadvantage of this template type  
17 is that only one size and shape of envelope can be made  
18 to each template.

19  
20 Another known type of envelope-making device comprises a  
21 plate that can be used as a guide in the folding process.  
22 Using a device of this type, the paper or card is first  
23 cut to size using a template and then positioned and



1 folded around the plate to form the envelope. Such a  
2 device is described in US5,685,816, in which a template  
3 is combined with two centre pieces to produce envelopes.  
4 Again, this device is limited by the primary and  
5 auxiliary centre pieces which dictate the sizes and  
6 shapes of the ensuing envelopes.

7  
8 The present invention identifies the drawbacks of  
9 conventional envelope-making devices and techniques and  
10 proposes an envelope-making device and method which  
11 mitigates one or more of the problems currently  
12 associated with envelope-making.

13  
14 The present invention in one of its aspects provides an  
15 improved enveloping-making device that can be used to  
16 produce envelopes of different sizes and shapes.

17  
18 The aims and objects of the invention will become  
19 apparent from reading the following description.

20  
21 According to a first aspect of the present invention  
22 there is provided an envelope-making aid comprising a  
23 board defining a planar surface wherein the planar  
24 surface is provided with at least one guide means, and at  
25 least one abutting surface is provided projecting from  
26 the planar surface and wherein an angle substantially at  
27 45 degrees along the planar surface is defined between the  
28 guide means and the abutting surface.

29  
30 The term board is used to mean a piece of substantially  
31 flat and substantially solid material. This can include  
32 boards of plastic, metal or wood etc.

33

1 The term abutting surface is used to mean a surface  
2 against which the edges of an envelope material, such as  
3 paper or card, can be located so as to correctly position  
4 the envelope material with respect to the guide means on  
5 the planar surface of the board.

6  
7 Preferably the envelope-making aid comprises a first  
8 abutting surface and a second abutting surface.

9  
10 Providing multiple abutting surfaces allows multiple  
11 edges of the envelope material, e.g. card or paper, to be  
12 easily located at the correct positions.

13  
14 Preferably an angle substantially at 90 degrees along the  
15 planar surface is defined between the first abutting  
16 surface and the second abutting surface.

17  
18 As the envelope material will typically be a  
19 parallelogram, the 90 degree angle allows for easy  
20 location of two sides of the material on the board.

21  
22 Preferably, the first abutting surface and the second  
23 abutting surface are conjoined.

24  
25 This allows for easy positioning of a corner section of  
26 the envelope material.

27  
28 Optionally, the first abutting surface and the second  
29 abutting surface are not conjoined.

30  
31 Where the first abutting surface and the second abutting  
32 surface are not conjoined, the abutting surfaces still  
33 facilitate positioning of two edges of the material.

1

2 Preferably the board comprises a plurality of guide  
3 means.

4

5 The guide means act to show the user where to fold the  
6 envelope material to produce an envelope.

7

8 Preferably, the plurality of guide means is provided  
9 along the planar surface of the board such that the guide  
10 means are arranged in a parallel fashion.

11

12 Preferably the guide means comprises a groove.

13

14 Advantageously, providing the guide means in the form of  
15 a groove allows the envelope material to be scored along  
16 the groove to facilitate subsequent folding. Typically  
17 the envelope material can be scored along the guide means  
18 by use of a suitable tool such as a craft knife, scissors  
19 or scoring blade. The envelope material is preferably  
20 paper or card although any suitable material, such as  
21 acetate, can also be used.

22

23 Optionally, the guide means comprises a double groove.

24

25 Advantageously, providing the guide means in the form of  
26 a double groove, allows the envelope material to be  
27 scored along both of the grooves so that when folded, the  
28 envelope material comprises a narrow margin which can be  
29 used to produce envelopes of greater depth.

30

31 Alternatively the guide means comprises a marked line.

32

33 Alternatively the guide means comprises a raised ridge.



1

2 Preferably, the board is formed of a plastic material.

3

4 Most preferably, the board is formed of Acrylonitrile  
5 Butadiene Styrene (ABS).

6

7 Alternatively the board is formed of wood.

8

9 Optionally the board is formed of any suitable solid  
10 material.

11

12 Preferably, the board also comprises additional markings  
13 to facilitate the envelope-making process.

14

15 The additional markings can assist the user in  
16 determining the order in which the guide means should be  
17 followed with reference to instructions.

18

19 More preferably, the additional markings are provided on  
20 the abutting surface or surfaces.

21

22 Most preferably, the additional markings comprise alpha-  
23 numeric characters.

24

25 Optionally, the additional markings may be provided in  
26 Braille.

27

28 Optionally, the envelope-making aid can be provided  
29 integral with other similar craft aids in a multi-purpose  
30 craft device.

31

1 Optionally, the envelope-making aid can be provided  
2 integral with at least one of a box-making aid and a  
3 scoring aid.  
4

5 According to a second aspect of the invention there is  
6 provided a method for making envelopes comprising  
7 providing the envelope-making aid according to the first  
8 aspect of the present invention, positioning a suitable  
9 material on the planar surface of the envelope-making aid  
10 such that the edges of the material abut against at least  
11 a first abutting surface of the aid, and folding the  
12 material along the guide means of the aid to form an  
13 envelope.  
14

15 Preferably the suitable material is paper or card.  
16

17 According to a third aspect of the invention there is  
18 provided a method for making envelopes comprising  
19 providing the envelope-making aid according to the first  
20 aspect of the present invention, positioning a suitable  
21 material on a planar surface of the envelope-making aid  
22 such that the edges of the material abut against at least  
23 a first abutting surface of the aid, using a suitable  
24 scoring tool to score the material along the grooved  
25 guide means and folding the material along the scored  
26 lines to form an envelope.  
27

28 According to a fourth aspect of the invention there is  
29 provided a substantially flat board having a groove or  
30 plurality of substantially parallel grooves in its upper  
31 work surface, and at least one edge guide positioned on  
32 or against the work surface of the board in angular  
33 relationship to the said groove or plurality of

1 substantially parallel grooves, the edge guide having a  
2 face that is substantially at right angles to the plane  
3 of the board so as to facilitate the location of paper or  
4 card onto the work surface and against the face of the  
5 edge guide.

6  
7 Preferably the device includes an edge guide that is  
8 releasably positioned on or against the work surface of  
9 the board so that it's angular position can be adjusted,  
10 in the plane of the board, relative to the groove or  
11 plurality of substantially parallel grooves in the work  
12 surface of the board.

13  
14 The device may include a first edge guide and a second  
15 edge guide positioned on or against the work surface of  
16 the board - the first and second edge guides being  
17 positioned in angular relationship to each other and to  
18 the groove or plurality of substantially parallel grooves  
19 in the work surface of the board, each edge guide having  
20 a face that is substantially at right angles to the plane  
21 of the board so as to facilitate the location of paper or  
22 card onto the work surface and simultaneously against the  
23 face of each of the two edge guides.

24  
25 Preferably the device includes a first edge guide and a  
26 second edge guide that are releasably positioned on or  
27 against the work surface of the board so that they can be  
28 independently adjusted, in the plane of the board,  
29 relative to each other and to the groove or plurality of  
30 substantially parallel grooves in the work surface of the  
31 board.

32



1 Preferred embodiments of the invention will now be  
2 described with reference to the accompanying drawings in  
3 which:

4

5 Figure 1 shows a plan view of the envelope-making aid  
6 according to an aspect of the invention;

7

8 Figure 2 shows a plan view of an alternative embodiment  
9 of the envelope-making aid according to an aspect of the  
10 invention;

11

12 Figure 3 shows a plan view of a further alternative  
13 embodiment of the device;

14

15 Figure 4 shows a sectional view (X-X) of the embodiment  
16 of Figure 3;

17

18 Figure 5 shows an isometric view of the embodiment of  
19 Figure 3;

20

21 Figure 6 shows a plan view of a further alternative  
22 embodiment of the device;

23

24 Figure 7 shows a plan view of yet another embodiment of  
25 the device;

26

27 Figure 8 shows a plan view of another embodiment of the  
28 device.

29

30 Referring firstly to Figure 1, the device comprises a  
31 substantially flat board generally depicted at **(10)**  
32 defining a planar surface **(11)**. In use, the envelope  
33 material is placed on the planar surface **(11)** of the



1 board (10). The planar surface is provided with a  
2 plurality of guide means (12) in the form of narrow  
3 parallel grooves. The narrow grooves allow a suitable  
4 scoring tool (not shown) to be run across the envelope  
5 material along the trajectory of the groove to create a  
6 scored line or crease in the envelope material. The  
7 planar surface (11) of the board (10) is provided with a  
8 first abutting surface (13a) and a second abutting  
9 surface (13b) which project up from the planar surface.  
10 The first abutting surface (13a) and the second abutting  
11 surface (13b) each define an angle substantially at 45  
12 degrees along the planar surface between the guide means  
13 (12) and the abutting surface (13a,b). The first  
14 abutting surface (13a) and the second abutting surface  
15 (13b) define between them an angle of substantially 90  
16 degrees along the planar surface. Additional markings  
17 (14) in the form of lettering are provided along the  
18 first abutting surface (13a) to facilitate instruction of  
19 the envelope-making.

20  
21 While the above description is written in the context of  
22 paper as the envelope material it can be envisaged that  
23 any suitable material such as card, foil, acetate or  
24 light plastic could also be employed.

25  
26 In use, a piece of suitable envelope material such as  
27 paper or card is laid flat along the planar surface (11)  
28 of the board (10) such that the edges of the paper abut  
29 against the abutting surfaces (13a,b) of the board (10).  
30 These abutting surfaces (13a,b) ensure that the material  
31 is kept in the correct position on the board (10) with  
32 respect to the guide means (12). Once the envelope  
33 material has been correctly positioned, the material is

1 sequentially scored along the appropriate guide means  
2 **(12)** with reference to the instructions provided. After  
3 each scoring, the abutting surfaces **(13a,b)** allow the  
4 material to be replaced correctly in position on the  
5 board **(10)** so that the subsequent scoring operation can  
6 be performed. The material can then be folded against  
7 the edges of the abutting surfaces **(13a,b)** to form an  
8 envelope.

9  
10 Advantageously, the plurality of guide means **(12)**  
11 provided at the planar surface **(11)** allows a variety of  
12 envelope sizes and shapes to be formed from a single  
13 envelope-making aid. Using the instructions provided  
14 with the envelope-making aid, the envelope material can  
15 be folded at positions corresponding to various guide  
16 means **(12)** to form envelopes in a variety of different  
17 sizes.

18  
19 An alternative embodiment of the invention is depicted in  
20 Figure 2. In this embodiment, the guide means **(22)** are  
21 provided as a series of double narrow grooves. In use, a  
22 piece of suitable envelope material is placed along the  
23 planar surface **(21)** of the board **(20)** as in the previous  
24 embodiment such that the edges of the paper abut against  
25 the abutting surfaces **(23a,b)** of the board **(20)**. Once  
26 the envelope material has been correctly positioned, the  
27 material is sequentially scored along the appropriate  
28 guide means **(22)** with reference to the instructions  
29 provided. If an envelope of increased depth is required,  
30 for example to facilitate an ornate or decoupage greeting  
31 card, or a large number of writing sheets, the envelope  
32 material is scored along both of the grooves of the  
33 appropriate double-grooved guide means **(22)**. This



1 creates a margin or a lip within the material which can  
2 be used to form the base of the envelope when folded  
3 correctly.

4  
5 In this second embodiment, the first abutment surface  
6 **(23a)** and the second abutment surface **(23b)** are not  
7 conjoined. However, the angle defined along the planar  
8 surface **(21)** between the first abutment surface **(23a)** and  
9 the guide means **(22)** is still substantially 45 degrees.

10  
11 Whilst in the depicted embodiment five guide means **(22)**  
12 are depicted it will be understood that the number of  
13 guide means **(22)** can be adjusted within the scope of the  
14 invention to allow a variety of envelopes to be produced.  
15 Furthermore, while in the depicted embodiments two  
16 abutments surfaces are depicted; it will be evident that  
17 an envelope-making aid comprising a single abutment  
18 surface or more than two abutment surfaces can also be  
19 envisaged under the workings of the invention such as in  
20 alternative embodiments described below.

21  
22 Referring now to Figures 3, 4 and 5, these Figures show  
23 an alternative embodiment of the device where only one  
24 abutment surface **(31)** is provided. The device comprises  
25 a board **(30)** that has a planar or upper work surface **(31)**  
26 in which is provided a plurality of substantially  
27 parallel grooves **(32)**. On or against the work surface  
28 **(31)** is positioned an edge guide, or abutment surface  
29 **(33)** having a face **(37)** that is presented substantially  
30 at right angles to the work surface **(31)**, the edge guide  
31 **(33)** being positioned in angular relationship, in the  
32 plane of the board, to the single groove or plurality of  
33 substantially parallel grooves **(32)** in the work surface

1 (31). Although in this embodiment the face (37) of the  
2 abutment surface is presented at substantially right  
3 angles to the work surface (31), it will be understood  
4 that the face of the abutment surface can be provided at  
5 any angle to the work surface (31) so long as it  
6 continues to function as an abutment, and allows for the  
7 envelope material to be correctly positioned  
8 thereagainst.

9  
10 Referring to Figures 6, 7 and 8, the device is shown to  
11 include a second edge guide (43b) positioned in angular  
12 relationship to the first edge guide (43a) and to the  
13 groove or plurality of substantially parallel grooves  
14 (42) in the plane of the board, the second edge guide  
15 (43b) having a face (47b) that, as with the first edge  
16 guide (43a), is presented substantially at right angles  
17 to the work surface (41). The purpose of the faces  
18 (47a,b) is to provide location for one edge or two  
19 adjacent edges of the paper or card being scored or  
20 creased.

21  
22 The groove or plurality of grooves (42) in the work  
23 surface (41) of the device (40) facilitate the use of a  
24 separate scoring tool (not shown) during the creation of  
25 a crease or creases in the paper or card. The paper or  
26 card to be scored or creased should ideally be of square  
27 outline, i.e. with sides of equal length.

28  
29 The device (10, 20, 30, 40) can be used to create simple  
30 handcrafted envelopes of different sizes, depending upon  
31 the particular groove or grooves selected by the user,  
32 the position of the or each edge guide on relation to the



1 groove or grooves and to each other, and the overall size  
2 of the paper or card being used.

3

4 It will be evident that various modifications and  
5 improvements could be made to the above-described sole  
6 within the scope of the invention. For example, the  
7 above embodiments depict markings on the abutting  
8 surfaces of the board. However, the invention equally  
9 encompasses markings on the board in Braille. As another  
10 example, the above embodiments depict the guide means as  
11 grooves. It will be understood that the guide means can  
12 be provided as a marked line or raised ridge and that the  
13 envelope material may simply be folded to the guide means  
14 without a separate scoring step. Furthermore, while the  
15 depicted embodiments describe a stand-alone envelope-  
16 making tool, the device can be provided integral with  
17 devices that assist handcrafters to produce other  
18 handcraft items such as box bases, box lids and greeting  
19 cards.

20

21

22

23

24

## CLAIMS:

1. An envelope-making aid comprising a board defining a planar surface wherein the planar surface is provided with at least one envelope folding guide having a longitudinal axis, and a first abutting surface and a second abutting surface each provided projecting from the planar, wherein the first and second abutting surfaces each have an axis which together converge to a point and which axis are each separately bisected by the longitudinal axis of the guide so as to define a closed polygon which is substantially defined on the planar surface and wherein the first and second abutting surfaces ensure that a piece of envelope material placed on the planar surface during an envelope folding process is maintained in correct position with respect to one of the envelope folding guides through simultaneous engagement of edges of the piece in order to fold the envelope material into an envelope.
2. An envelope-making aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein an angle substantially at 90 degrees along the planar surface is defined between the first abutting surface and the second abutting surface.
3. An envelope-making aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first abutting surface and the second abutting surface are conjoined.
4. An envelope-making aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first abutting surface and the second abutting surface are not conjoined.
5. An envelope-making aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the board comprises a plurality of envelope folding guide.
6. An envelope-making aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the envelope folding guide is provided along the planar surface of the board.

7. An envelope-making aid as claimed in claim 5, wherein the plurality of envelope folding guide are arranged in parallel.
8. An envelope-making aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the envelope folding guide comprises a groove.
9. An envelope-making aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the envelope folding guide comprises a double groove.
10. An envelope-making aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the envelope folding guide comprises a marked line.
11. An envelope-making aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the envelope folding guide comprises a raised ridge.
12. An envelope-making aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the board is formed of a plastics material.
13. An envelope-making aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the board is formed of Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS).
14. An envelope-making aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the board is formed of wood.
15. An envelope-making aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the board is formed of a rigid solid material.
16. An envelope-making aid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the board also comprises additional markings selected from material positioning marks, material folding marks, material scoring, slitting or cutting marks, sizing or measurement marks, and step-sequence markings to facilitate the envelope-making process.
17. An envelope-making aid as claimed in claim 16, wherein the additional markings are provided on the abutting surface or surfaces.



18. An envelope-making aid as claimed in claim 16, wherein the additional markings comprise alpha-numeric characters.
19. An envelope-making aid as claimed in claim 16, wherein the additional markings are provided in Braille.
20. A method for making envelopes comprising providing the envelope-making aid according to claim 1, positioning a selected material on the planar surface of the envelope-making aid such that the edges of the material abut against the first and second abutting surfaces of the aid, and folding the material along the of the aid to form an envelope.
21. A method for making envelopes comprising providing the envelope-making aid according to claim 1, positioning a selected material on a planar surface of the envelope-making aid such that the edges of the material abut against the first and second abutting surfaces of the aid, using a suitable scoring tool to score the material along the grooved guide and folding the material along the score lines to form an envelope.
22. An envelope making aid comprising a substantially flat board having a groove or plurality of substantially parallel grooves in its upper work surface, and at least one edge guide positioned on or against the work surface of the board in an acute angular relationship to the said groove or plurality of substantially parallel grooves, the edge guide having a face that is substantially at right angles to the plane of the board so as to facilitate the location of paper or card onto the work surface and against the face of the edge guide, and the edge guide being configured to keep said paper or card in a correct position on the work surface with respect to said groove or plurality of substantially parallel grooves during an envelope folding process through simultaneous engagement of an edge of said paper or card in order to fold said paper or card into an envelope.



23. An envelope making aid as claimed in claim 22, wherein the device includes an edge guide that is releasably positioned on or against the work surface of the board so that its angular position can be adjusted, in the plane of the board, relative to the groove or plurality of substantially parallel grooves in the work surface of the board.

24. An envelope making aid as claimed in claim 22, wherein device includes a first edge guide and a second edge guide positioned on or against the work surface of the board wherein the first and second edge guides are positioned in angular relationship to each other and to the groove or plurality of substantially parallel grooves in the work surface of the board, each edge guide having a face that is substantially at right angles to the plane of the board so as to facilitate the location of paper or card onto the work surface and simultaneously against the face of each of the two edge guides.

25. An envelope making aid as claimed in claim 22, wherein the device includes a first edge guide and a second edge guide that are releasably positioned on or against the work surface of the board so that they can be independently adjusted, in the plane of the board, relative to each other and to the groove or plurality of substantially parallel grooves in the work surface of the board.

26. An envelope-making aid comprising a board defining a planar surface wherein the planar surface is provided with at least one envelope folding guide, and a first abutting surface and a second abutting surface each provided projecting from the planar surface, wherein an internal angle substantially at 45 degrees along the planar surface is defined between the guide and the abutting surfaces and wherein the first and second abutting surfaces are configured to keep a paper or card placed on said planar surface in a correct position on said planar surface with respect to said at least one envelope folding guide during an envelope folding process through

simultaneous engagement of edges of the paper or card in order to fold the envelope material into an envelope.

27. An envelope-making aid as recited in claim 26, wherein the envelope folding guide is selected from the group consisting of a groove, a double groove, a marked line, and a raised ridge.

28. A method for making an envelope comprising the steps of:

providing a board defining a planar surface;

providing a first abutting surface and a second abutting surface projecting from the planar surface;

defining at least one envelope folding guide having a longitudinal axis on the planar surface, wherein the first and second abutting surfaces each have an axis which together converge to a point and which axis are each separately bisected by the longitudinal axis of the guide so as to define a closed polygon which is substantially defined on the planar surface; and

using the board, first abutting surface, second abutting surface and folding guide to form an envelope from a piece of envelope material;

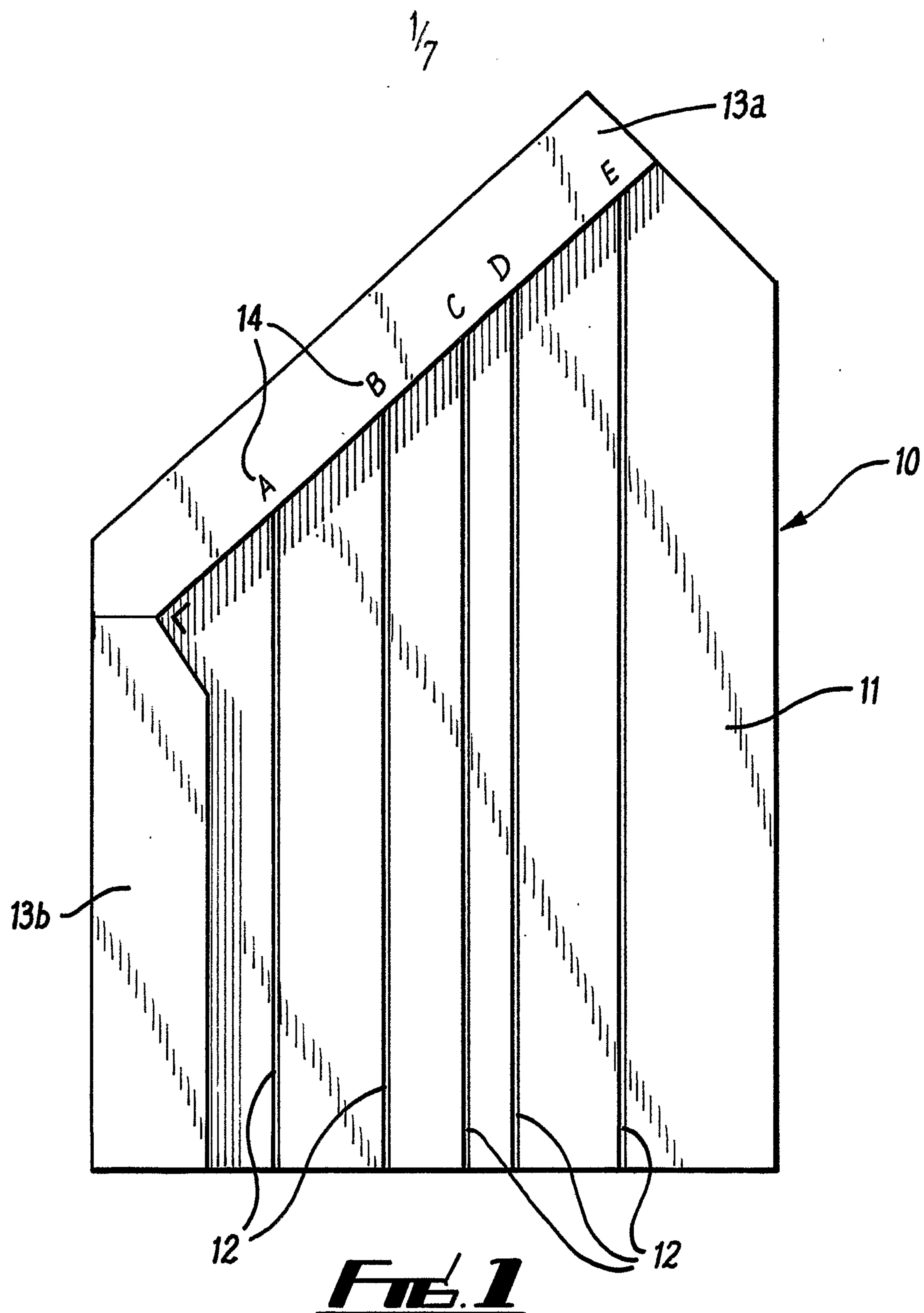
wherein the first and second abutting surfaces ensure that a piece of envelope material placed on the planar surface during an envelope folding process is maintained in correct position with respect to one of the envelope folding guides through simultaneous engagement of edges of the piece in order to fold the envelope material into an envelope.

29. An envelope-making kit comprising:

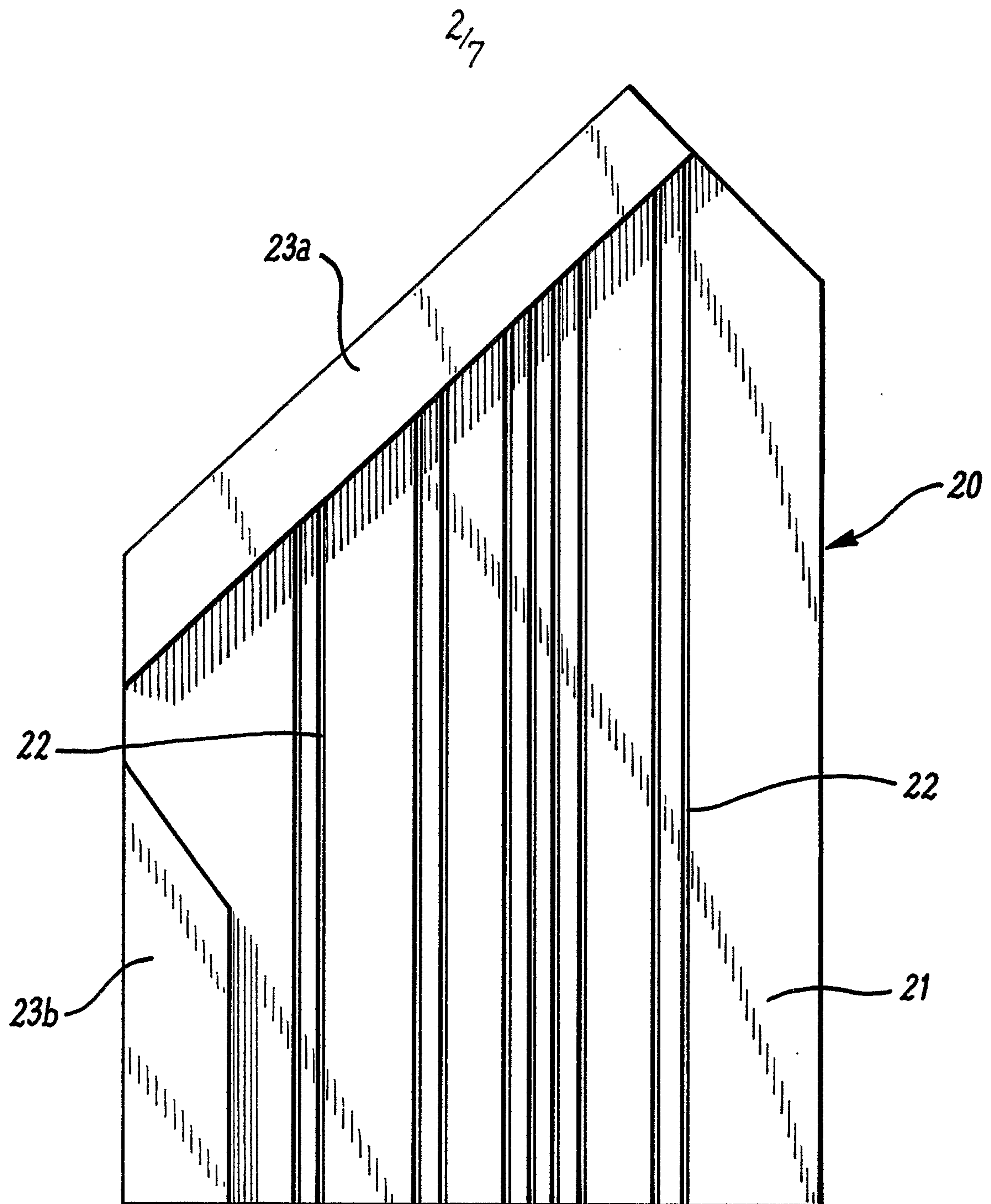
an envelope-making aid comprising a board defining a planar surface wherein the planar surface is provided with at least one envelope folding guide means, and a first and second abutting surface wherein the first and second abutting surfaces each have an axis which together

converge to a point and which axis are each separately bisected by the longitudinal axis of the guide means so as to define a closed polygon which is substantially defined on the planar surface, and

a scoring tool for creating a crease in a piece of envelope material placed on the planar surface along the at least one envelope folding guide means.

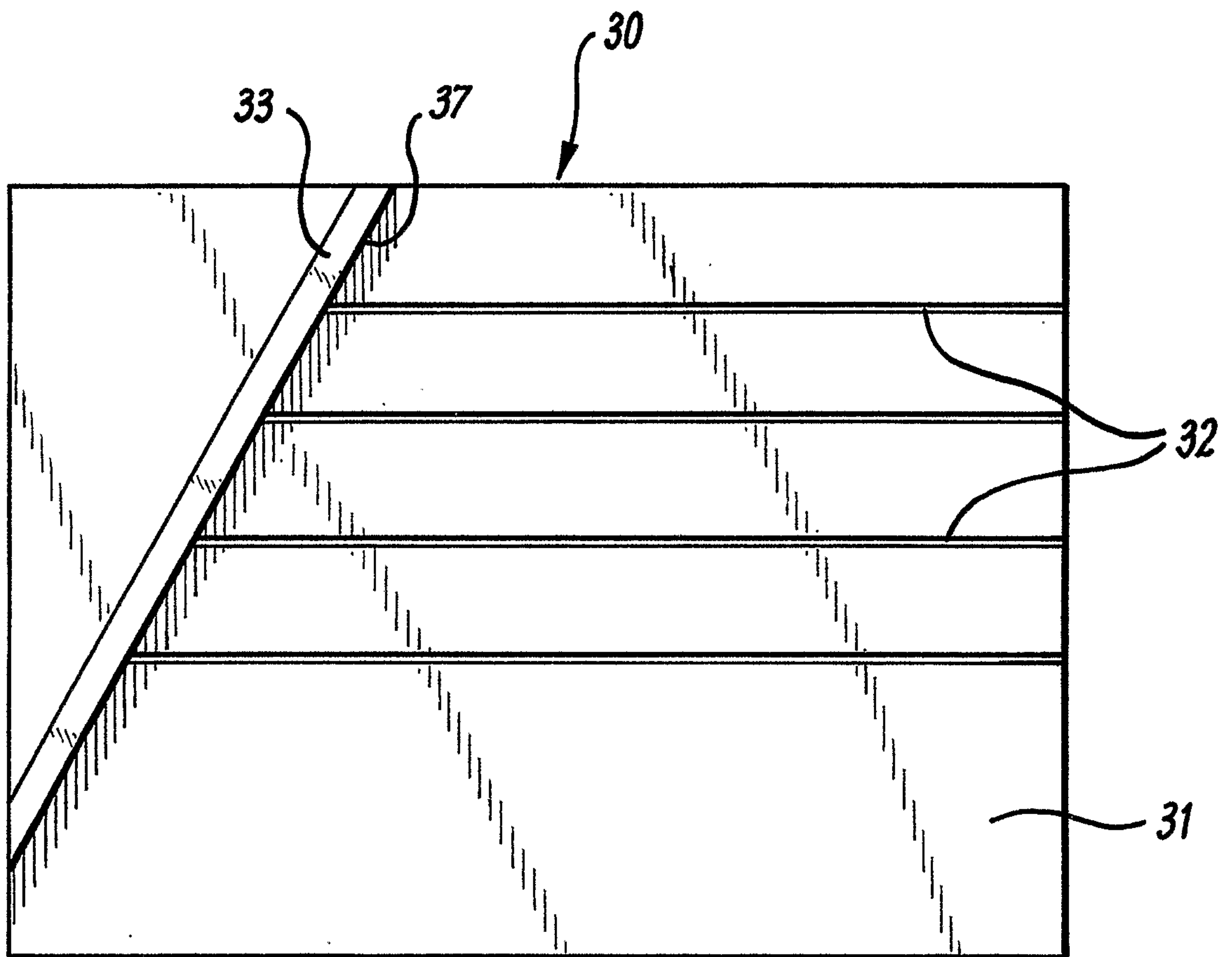


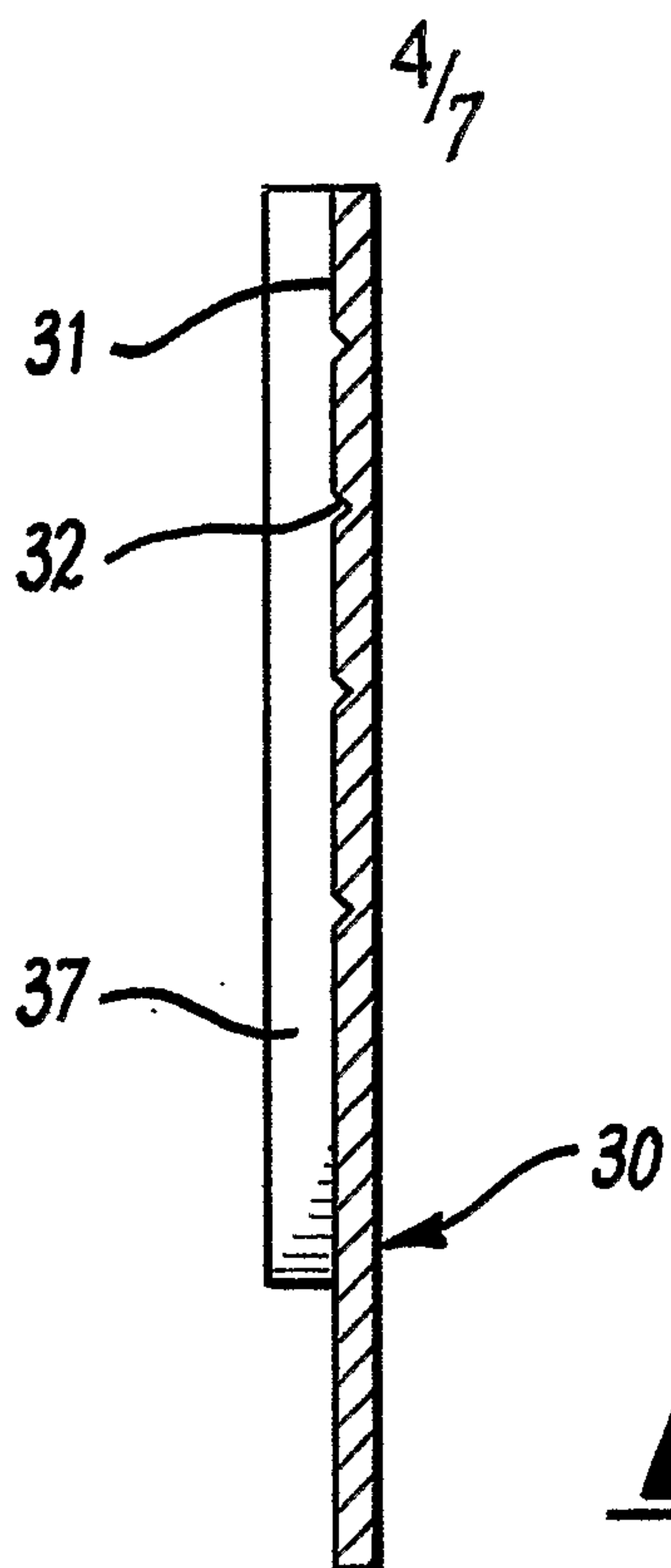
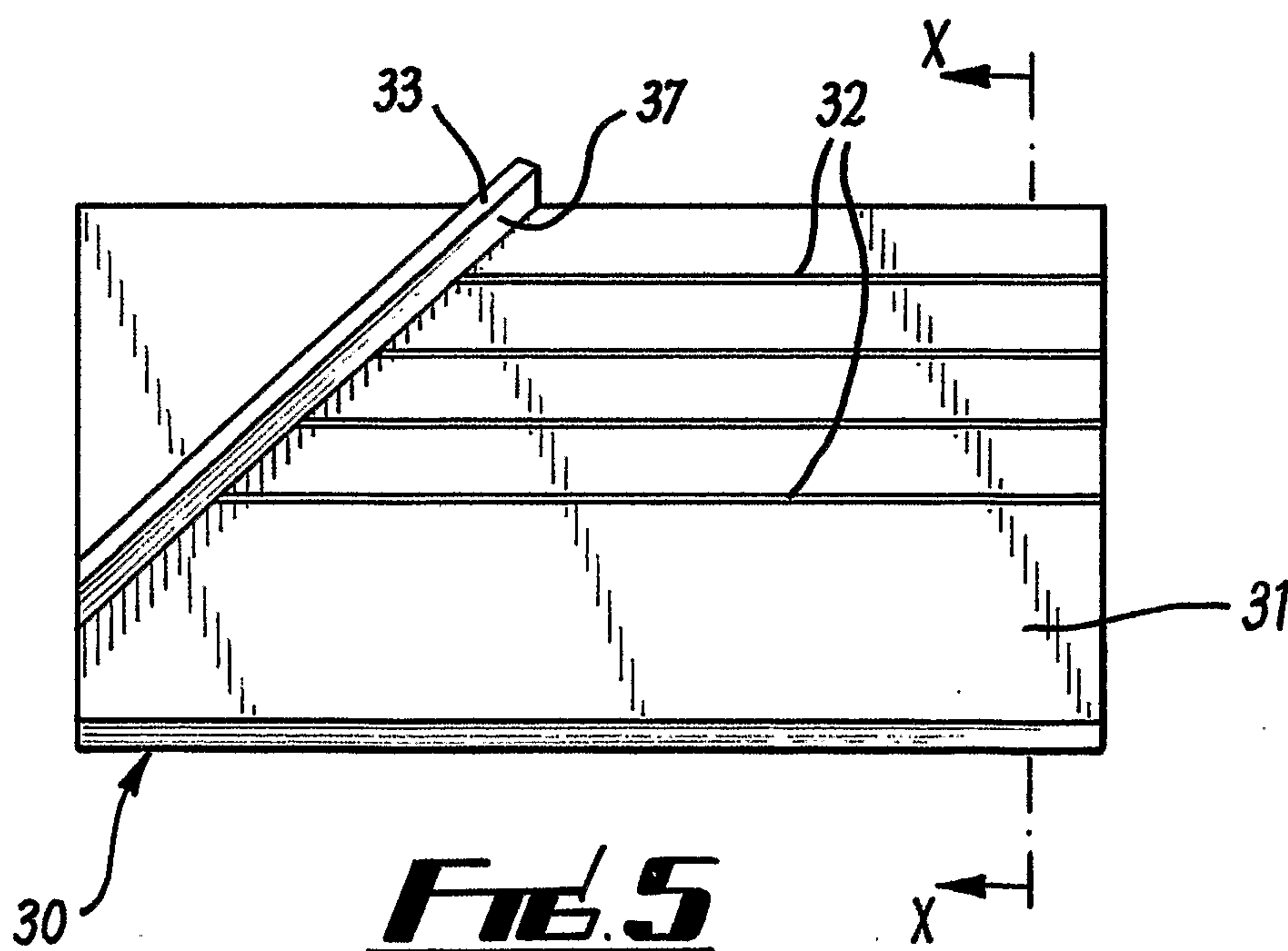




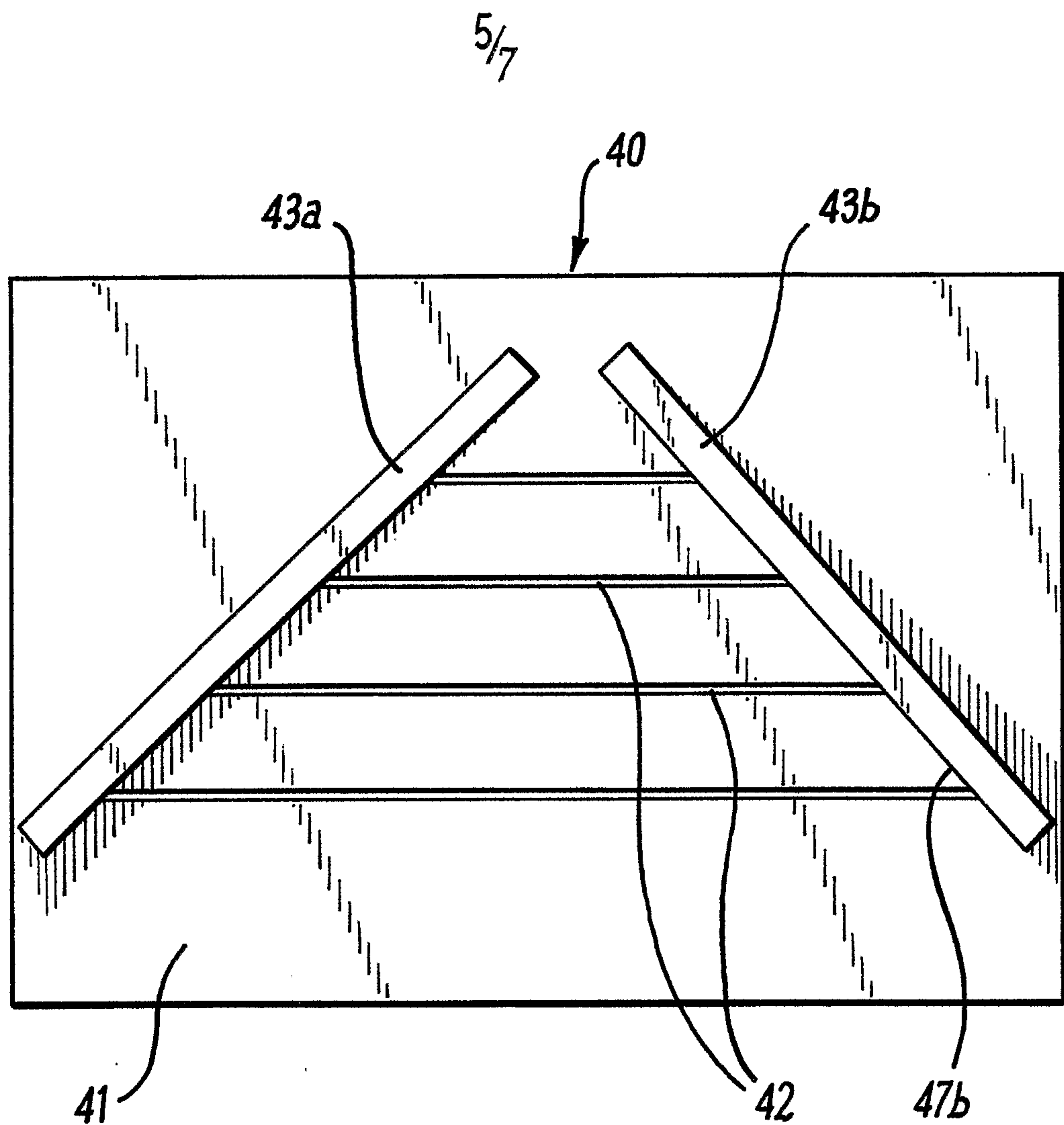
**FIG. 2**

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**FIG. 3**

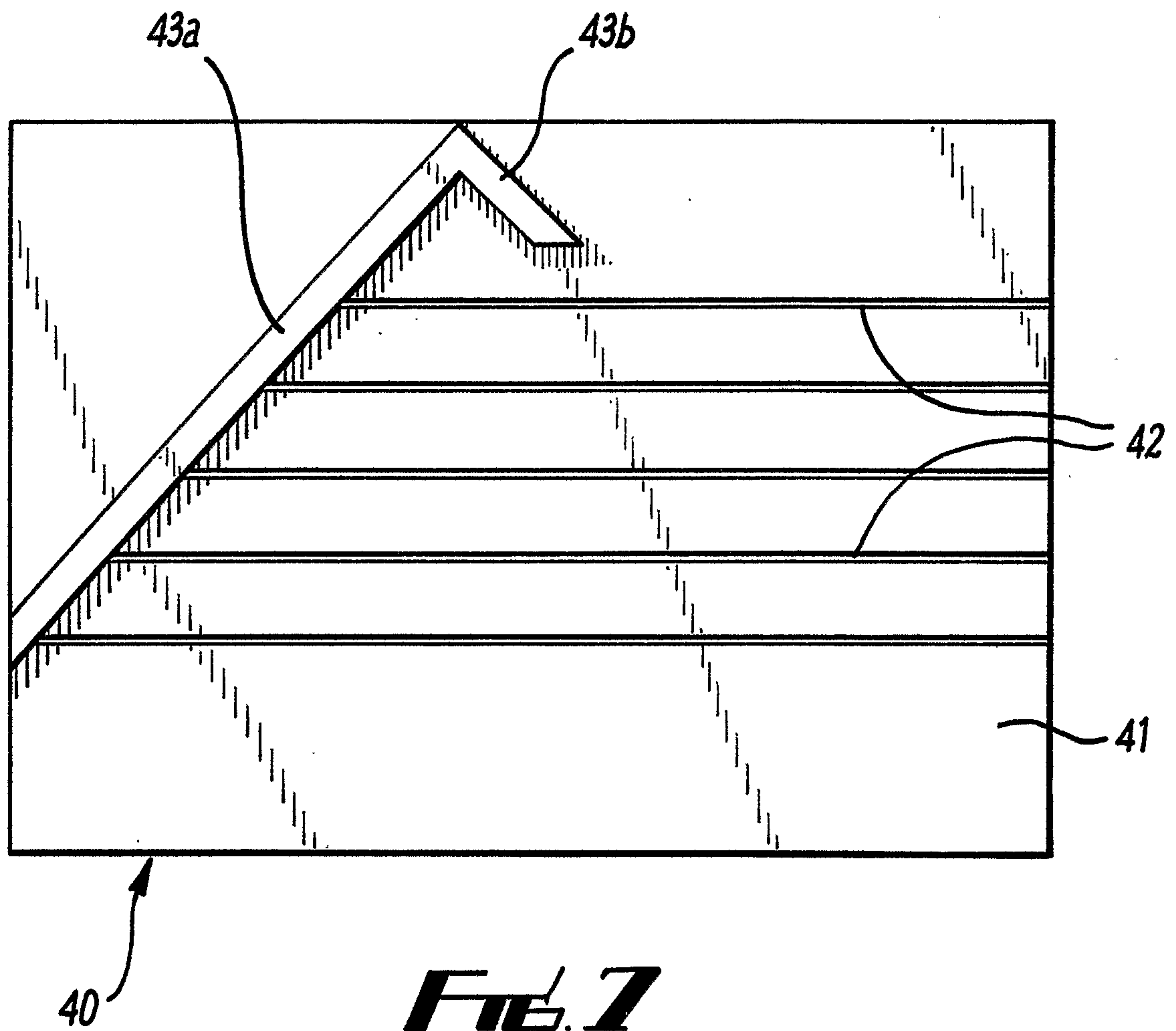
**FIG. 4****FIG. 5**



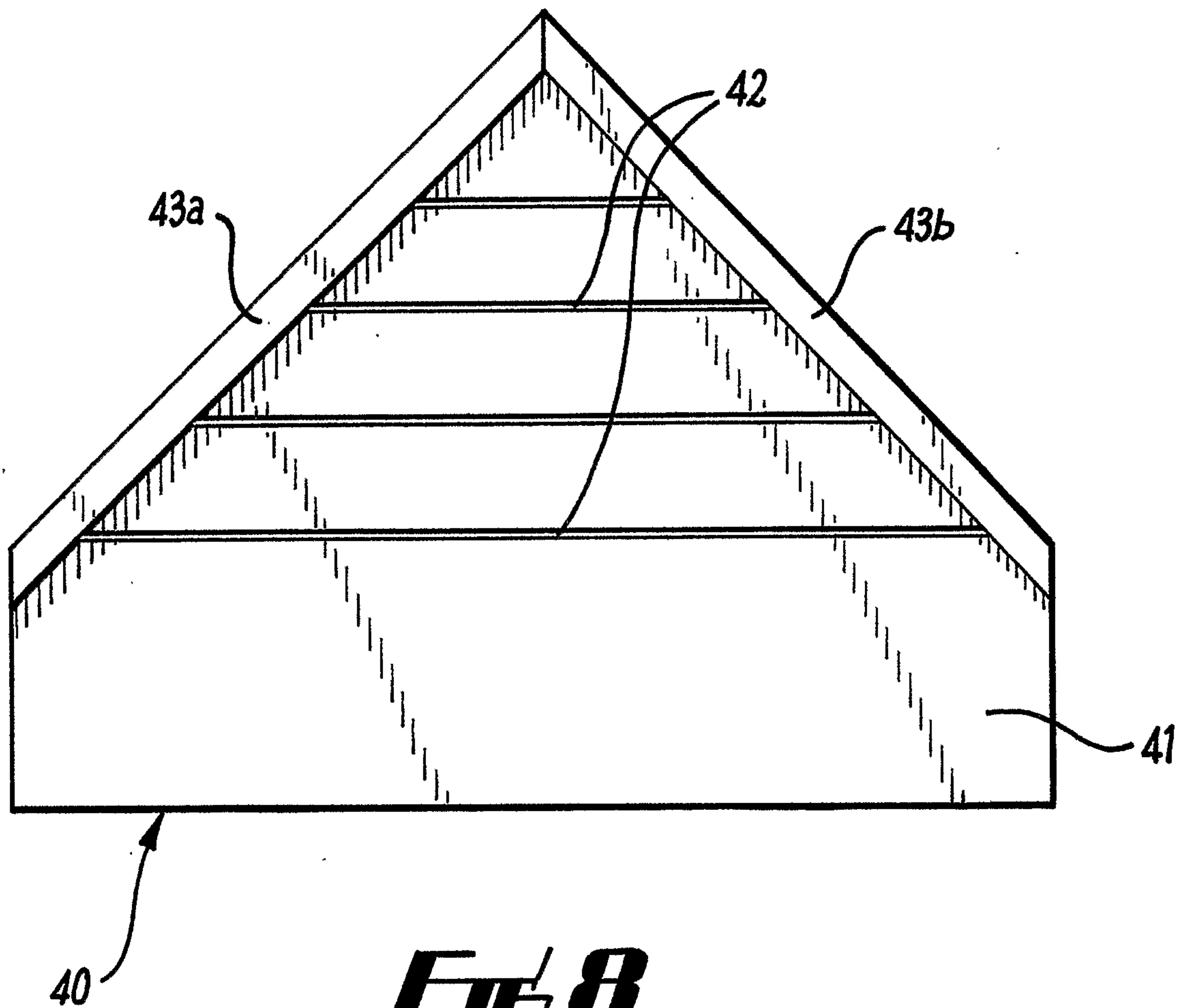


**FIG. 6**

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**FIG. 8**



