

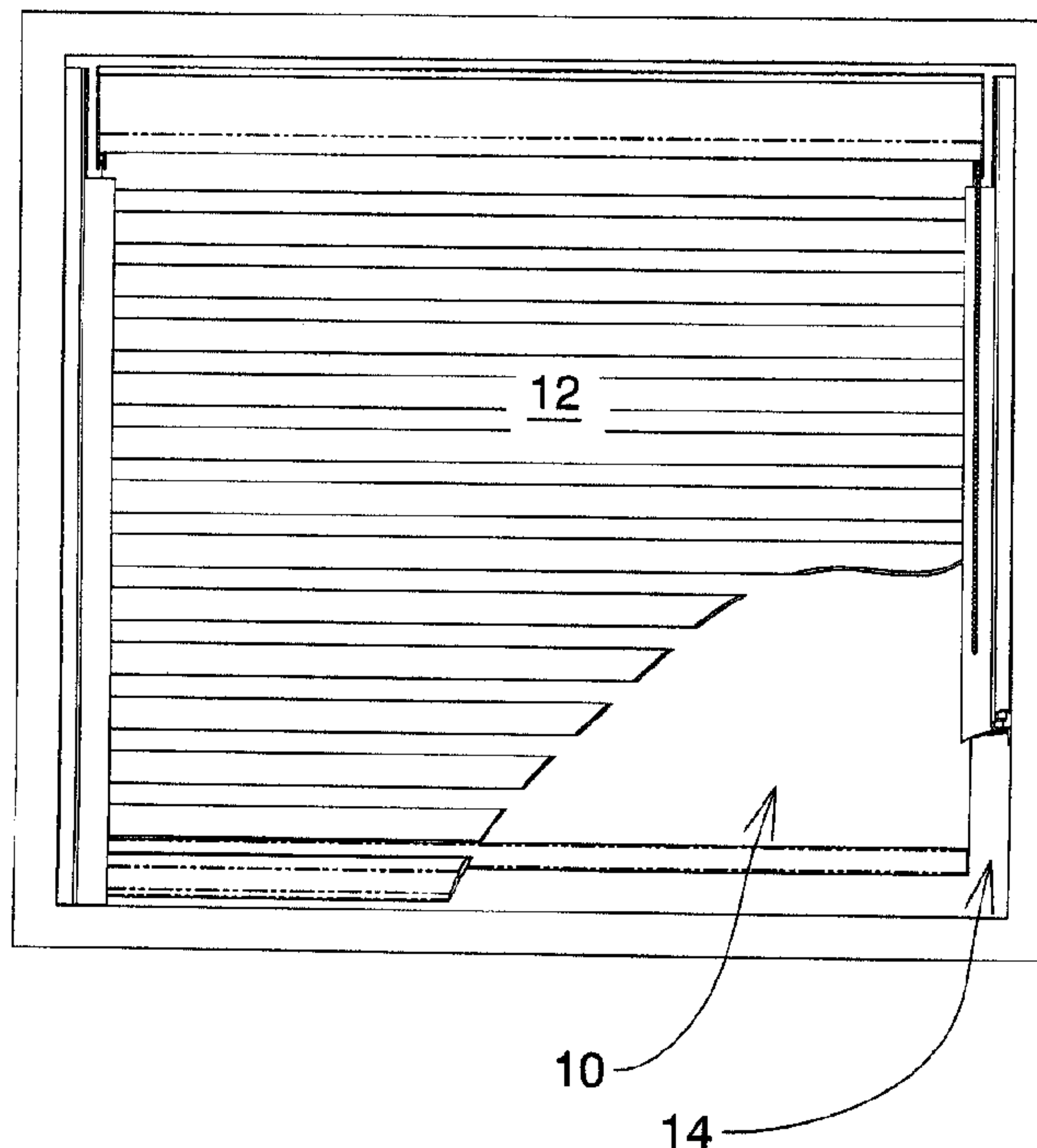


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(54) Title: WINDOW EDGE SPACE FILLER AND WINDOW COVERING

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(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

A window opening space filler for use with a window having a window opening of predetermined opening width surrounded by a window frame , to adjust the predetermined opening width to fit a window covering having a predetermined covering width, less than the opening width , and having an attachment member for attachment to the widow frame , and, a filler member separate from the attachment member and attachable to the attachment member and extending across the window opening, so that a user can reduce the width of a window opening down each side edge make the window covering fit the reduced width window opening

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A window opening space filler for use with a window having a window opening of predetermined opening width surrounded by a window frame , to adjust the predetermined opening width to fit a window covering having a predetermined covering width, less than the opening width , and having an attachment member for attachment to the widow frame , and, a filler member separate from the attachment member and attachable to the attachment member and extending across the window opening, so that a user can reduce the width of a window opening down each side edge make the window covering fit the reduced width window opening .

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This application claims priority based on the filing of US Provisional Application serial No 61/573 058 title WINDOW EDGE SPACE FILLER AND WINDOW COVERING, inventor Mario M Marocco, filed August 22 2011.

The invention relates to a window covering and to edge space fillers, for filling the space along either side of a non standard window opening to permit installation of a standard width window covering, by filling the space between the side edges of the window opening, and the side edges of the window covering..

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 Window openings may be of any width, depending on the building itself.

These are not usually made to any industry standard width.

Window coverings, such as shutters , shades, and blinds, must fill the width of the window space, as well as extending from top to bottom.

In the past simpler blinds and shades have been sold in a range standard widths.

Usually the range of widths covered widths , for example, of every 4 inches, ie, 30 inch, 34 inch, 38 inch, and so on. Ranges have varied from one maker to another.

The customer would specify the width of the window opening and the blind required.

The store assistant would then select an oversize blind.

20 The assistant would then cut down the width of the blind to the window opening width specified by the customer. The customer would then take the covering home and install it himself.

This system had the advantage that standard width coverings could be made,

and sold , at lower prices.

The filling of the window opening from top to bottom was not usually a problem. The standard coverings could simply be made with excess length , which would not be apparent, once the covering was installed.

In some cases, with Venetian blinds, it was possible for the customer to adjust the length of the blind , if desired, in a relatively simple operation..

However this system , of trimming the width of coverings , involved the stores in buying special cut down machines. Assistants had to be trained in their use. Mistakes were made. Time was wasted.

10 Custom made coverings would solve these problems, but the costs were much higher, and customers were not willing to incur the expense.

This invention provides window opening edge space fillers. These are vertical strips, or extrusions which can attach to the side edges of the window frame (or even to the glass), and reduce the width of the window.

The fillers are adjustable and can enable the customer to reduce the width of the window opening , to one of the standard widths for window coverings, and thus accept a standard width covering.

This will mean there is no need for an assistant to cut the blind down to size.

20 The customer simply buys the covering and the window space fillers and installs them himself.

This will save the stores from maintaining cut down machines, and training staff.

This will also provide the store with an extra sale, ie the window space filler, each time the customer buys a standard width blind.

A further advantage is that it will now become possible for stores to stock a wider range of window coverings of different designs, and materials, all in ranges of standard widths. Coverings adaptable to this system may include Venetians, vertical blinds, shutters, shades, and roman shades, balloon shades , accordion pleat shades, and others

Such a variety of blinds , in many cases , simply could not be supplied to stores as standards and then "cut down" , under the old system, at all.

This will still further increase the sales volume of the stores.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one embodiment of the invention there is a space filler member such as an extrusion of synthetic plastic material, or a milled wooden product, or even sheet metal, with sides which can be broken away along preset break lines, to enable the customer to make the fillers fit his window and thus reduce the width of the opening.

The filler members will be secured to the window side frames.

In this way the filler members can reduce the width , along either side of the window opening , to a standard width. A window opening space filler for use with a window having a window opening of predetermined opening width surrounded by a window frame , to adjust said predetermined opening width to fit a window covering having a predetermined covering width, less than said opening width whereby said window opening width corresponds to said window covering width and comprising ;
an attachment member for attachment to said widow frame ; and,
a filler member separate from said attachment member and attachable to said

attachment member and extending across said window opening, whereby a user can reduce the width of said window opening down each side edge make the window covering fit said reduced width window opening .

Preferably the invention provides a window opening space filler for use with a window having a window opening of predetermined opening width surrounded by a window frame , to adjust said predetermined opening width to fit a window covering having a predetermined covering width, less than said opening width whereby said window opening width corresponds to said window covering width and comprising ;
an attachment member for attachment to said widow frame ; and,

10 a filler member separate from said attachment member and attachable to said attachment member and extending across said window opening, whereby a user can reduce the width of said window opening down each side edge make the window covering fit said reduced width window opening .

The covering can then be installed between the two edge space filler members .

The filler members may be a Z- shaped design, with an adjustable filler portion which can be positioned at the desired width. The filler members may also be a box like shape in section, with side walls which can be broken away, to provide side edge fillers of the desired width.

In another embodiment , the invention provides a simple flat mounting strip which can
20 be fastened flat to the edge of the window frame. A space filler strip is hinged to the mounting strip. It will extend at right angles , and lie on the glass, and in effect reduce the width of the window opening.

The hinge permits the space strip to be swung away from the glass for cleaning.

In this design the blind edges would simply overlap the space strip, leaving a gap along each edge where the blind does not meet the width of the window frame.

In yet another variation the filler can be formed in two components.

A first component would be secured to the window frame, and be provided with an attachment portion, typically either a channel or possibly an abutment .

A second component would be formed as a flat strip, with a cooperating attachment, and with break lines for adjusting the width of the flat strip.

This embodiment would have the advantage that the flat strip can be extruded in long rolls, and then simply cut to length to fit a particular window.

10 The various features of novelty which characterize the invention are pointed out with more particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure. For a better understanding of the invention, its operating advantages and specific objects attained by its use, reference should be made to the accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which there are illustrated and described preferred embodiments of the invention.

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IN THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a perspective of a window covering, in this case a simple blind, showing a

window opening defined by a window frame, and a blind stored in a header , and edge space fillers down each side of the window frame;

Figure 2 is a section of a first embodiment of the invention;

Figure 3 is a section of the Fig 2 embodiment showing the side filler secured by an attachment button;

Figure 4 is a section of the Fig 2 embodiment showing an alternate shape for a portion of the edge filler

Figure 5 is an exploded section of a second embodiment , showing a two part space filler, with one part being swing able away from the window opening for cleaning;

10 Figure 6 is a section showing the swingable part in one position;

Figure 7 is a section showing the swingable part in another position;

Figure 8 is a section showing this embodiment secured by a attachment button;

Figure 9 is a section of a further embodiment showing a side edge filler having a box like shape in section;

Figure 10 is a section of a further embodiment in which the filler is formed as two components , the second component being a flat strip with break lines, for adjusting it to the correct width for a window space; and,

Figure 11 is a perspective of the flat strip of Fig 10.

DESCRIPTION OF A SPECIFIC EMBODIMENT

20 Referring to Fig 1 it will be seen that this shows, as an example, a window opening (10) and a simple roller type basic blind (12), shown by way of example and without limitation. Such a blind may be a simple roller blind. The roller may be stored in a header. These features are well known and require no special description.

The blind (12) has a preset standard width. The width of the window opening is “non-conforming”, ie it does not conform to the blind width and is greater than the blind width. There are gaps (14) down each side between the edges of the blind, and the edges of the window opening . Space filler strips, described below are shown generally as (16) . These strips fill the gaps down each side of the blind (12) .

Figs 2 to 4 show a first embodiment of strip (16) .

In this case there is side edge filler , in this example, is in the form of an extrusion (20) , shown by way of example only and without limitation, of generally Z-shape in section.

The side edge filler may be a wood milled member, or even a sheet metal. strip, or any suitable material.

It defines a mounting wall (22) , and intermediate wall (24) , and a face wall (26) .

The mounting wall (22) has a plurality of friction ridges and grooves (28) .

Two clip legs (30) extend from wall (24) and wall (26) .

The mounting strips can be secured to the window frame, or building , by for example, screws, adhesive, hook-and-

pile tape, and other systems known per se.

In this example , clip buttons (32) Fig 3, may be secured (eg by screws) to the window frame.

Clip legs (30) snap fit over the buttons.

A filler wall (34) has grooves (36) . Filler wall (34) can be inserted between walls (22) and (24) and can be adjusted in or out to provide the desired space filling function.

Break lines (38) enable a user to reduce the width of the strip as desired.

Filler wall (34) , may be formed with right angle bends as shown in Fig 4

A second embodiment is shown in Figs 5 to 8.

In this case a mounting wall (40) has clip legs (42) for holding buttons (44) similar to Fig 2 to 4.

A generally cylindrical hinge core (46) is formed on wall (40). Core (46) has a friction groove (48) and a slit opening (50), to provide a spring function and provide friction.

A filler wall (52), has a generally semi-cylindrical hinge sleeve (54). Sleeve (54) can be sprung open and fitted onto core (46). Sleeve (54) has a friction ridge (56), which mates with groove (48) to hold wall (52) in a preset position (Fig 7).

10 The filler strip can be swung over the window (Fig 6) to provide the space filling function, and can be swung open (Fig 7) for cleaning.

Fig 9 shows a further embodiment.

In this case a mounting strip is provided by a generally U-shaped channel defined by side walls (60) and a base wall (62).

Screws not shown can be passed through wall (62) into a window frame, to secure it.

Side walls (60) have enlarged cylindrical members (64) formed thereon.

A filler is provided by a fastening wall (66) having two semi-cylindrical channels (68), which can be fitted onto the members (64). This provides a generally hollow rectangular box-like section. (The drawings are not to scale, but the function can be well understood.)

20 A filler strip (70) is formed on wall (66). Strip (70) extends laterally, and covers a side portion of the window opening. Strip (70) has grooves (72) and can be separated along one of the grooves, thus providing a filler of the desired width for a specific application.

Figures 10 and 11 show a further embodiment consisting of a first support component (80) and a second spacer component (82) .

The first component (80) has , in this example, a generally L - shaped section , forming a right angle. The flat edge (84) can be secured to a window frame .

An attachment member in the form of a channel (86) extends from the edge portion (84) , in an orientation generally across the width of the window space.

Trim formations (88) in the form of parallel semi circular shapes , are formed integral with channel (86) to provide an aesthetic appearance facing towards the interior of the building.

10 The second component (82) is essentially a flat strip having an attachment edge portion (90) of somewhat bulbous shape in section , cooperating with channel (86) of the first component (80) .

A series of spaced apart parallel break lines (92) are formed in second component or strip (82) .

The break lines enable a user to simply trim the width and thus adjust the strip to fit a particular window space .

It will also be understood that these various embodiments can also be applied to the lower horizontal edge of a window frame, where the window covering does not quite extend down the full length of the window opening.

20 The use of this embodiment is believed to be self explanatory. After attaching the first component , the user then measure the window opening. He then breaks the strip (if necessary) along a selected break line, and inserts the attachment edge (90) in the attachment channel (86) . This will then reduce the width of the window opening

to the width desired for a particular standard width window covering.

The foregoing is a description of a preferred embodiment of the invention which is given here by way of example only. The invention is not to be taken as limited to any of the specific features as described, but comprehends all such variations thereof as come within the scope of the appended claims.

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THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH A SPECIFIC PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS.

1. A window opening space filler for use with a window having a window frame enclosing a window opening of predetermined opening width to adjust said predetermined opening width to fit receive a window covering having a predetermined covering width, less than said opening width and comprising:
an attachment member for attachment to said window frame wherein said attachment member includes a generally L-shaped portion for fitting along an edge of a said window frame and a filler connection portion, normal to said L-shaped portion, and,
a filler member separate from said attachment member and attachable to said filler connection portion of said attachment member and extending across said window opening,
wherein said filler member comprises a generally flat strip of material, defining length and width and break lines formed longitudinally in said flat strip whereby a user can break said strip lengthwise along a break line to adjust the width of said strip as required to reduce said window opening width.
2. The window opening space filler as claimed in claim 1 wherein said filler connection portion includes a channel portion for receiving said flat strip.
3. The window opening space filler as claimed in claim 2 wherein said strip defines an enlarged edge portion of generally bulbous shape adapted to be received in said channel portion .

4. The window opening space filler as claimed in claim 3

including generally semi-circular trim formations integral with said channel, and extending inwardly with respect to said window opening.

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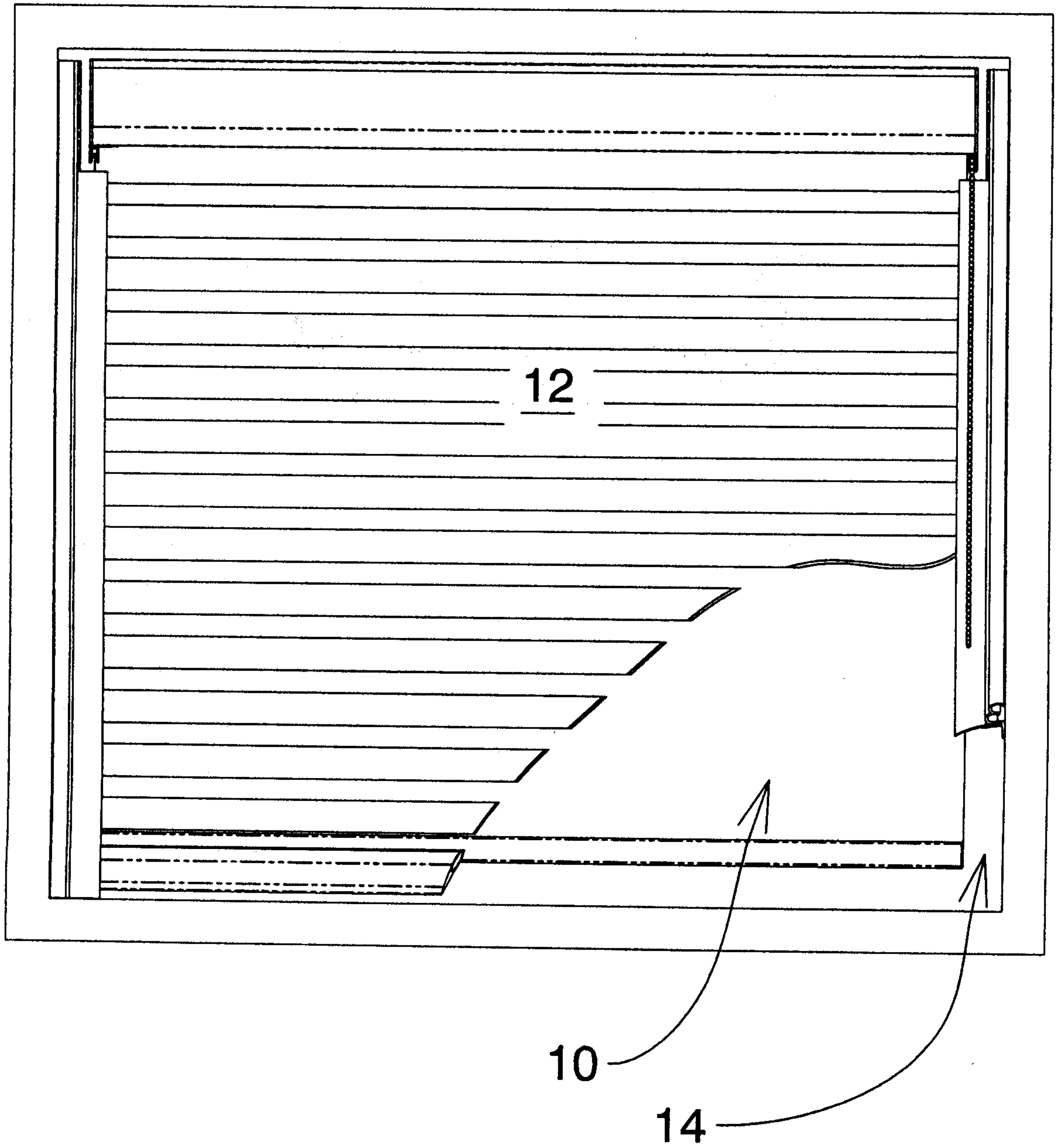
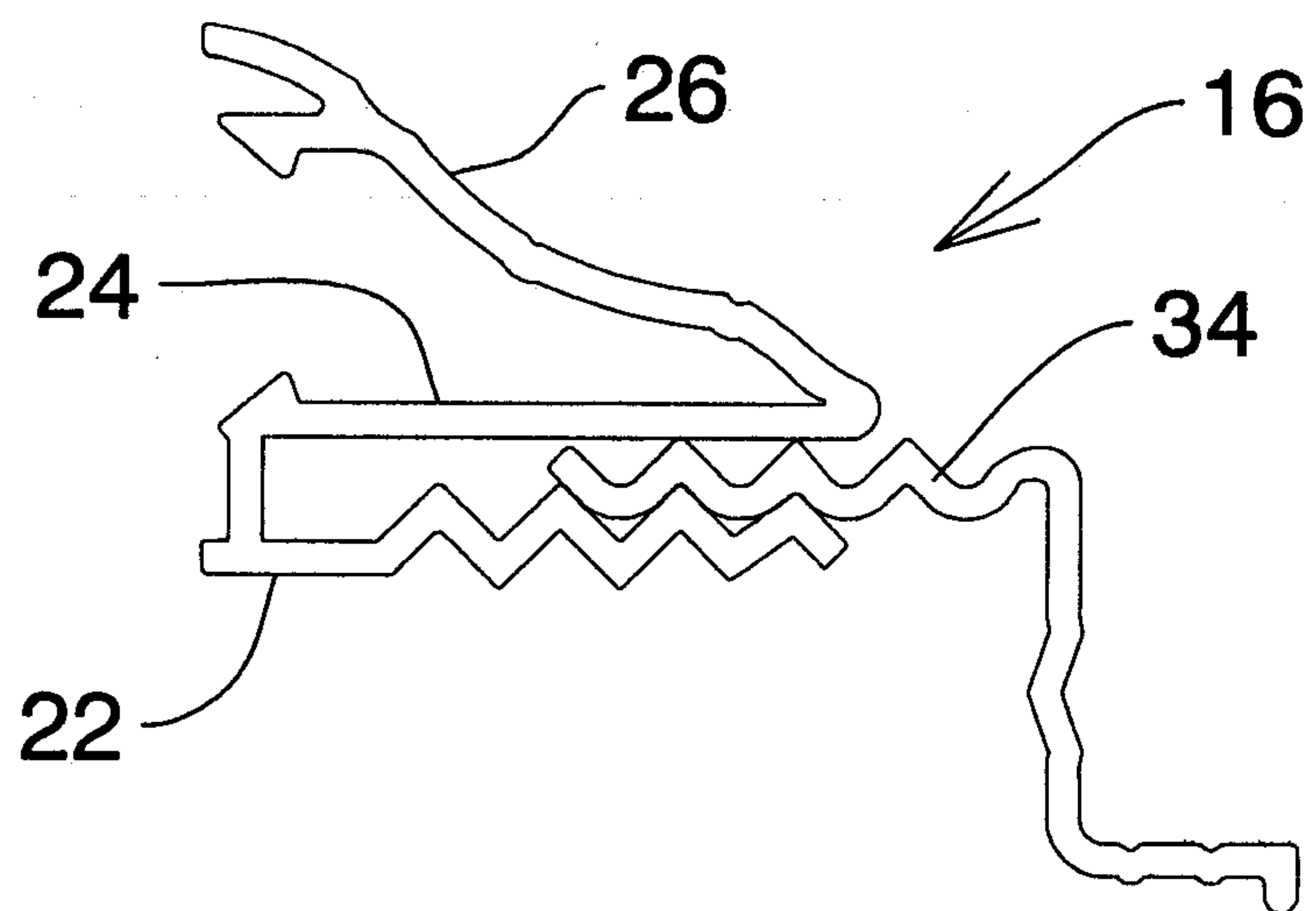
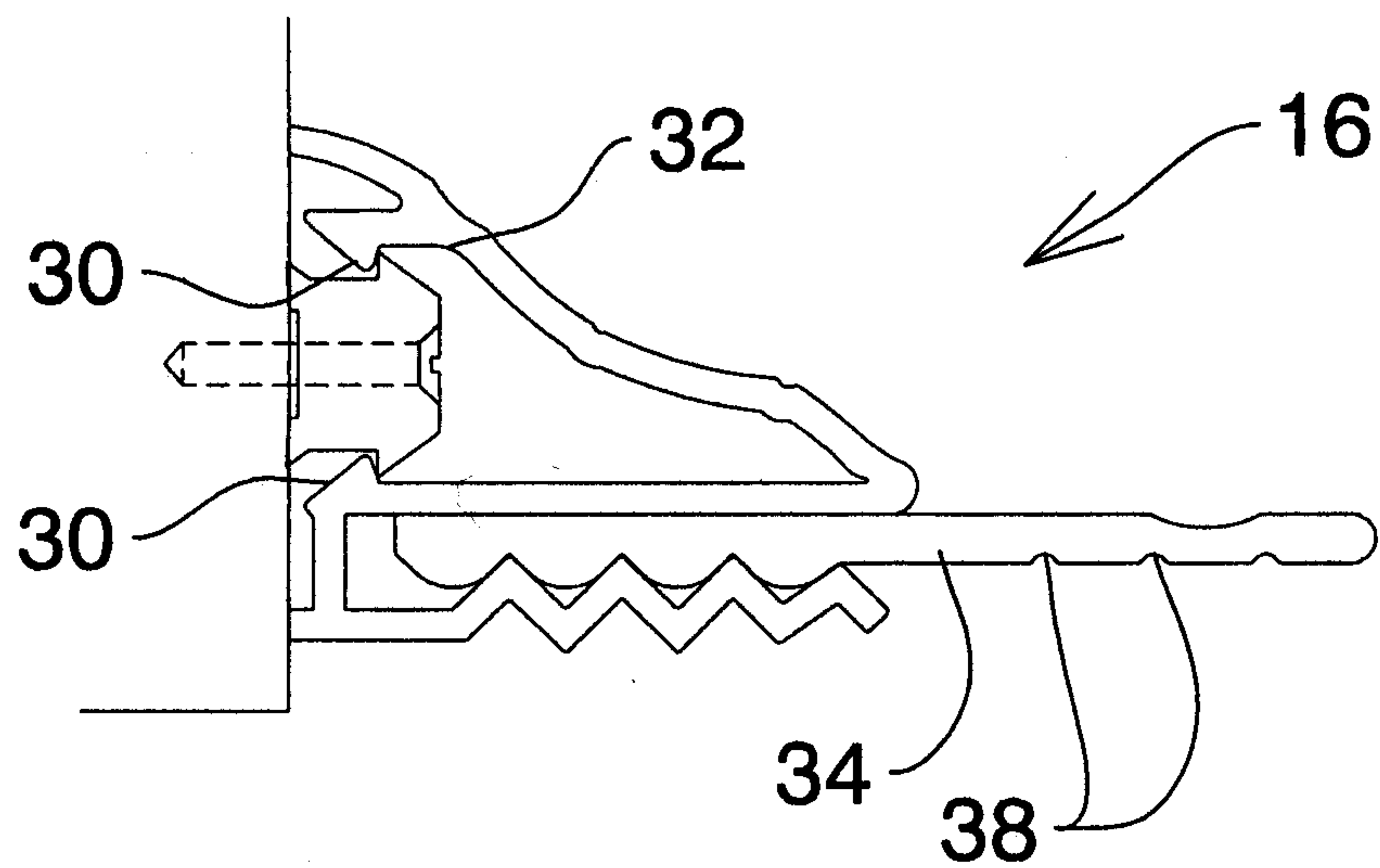
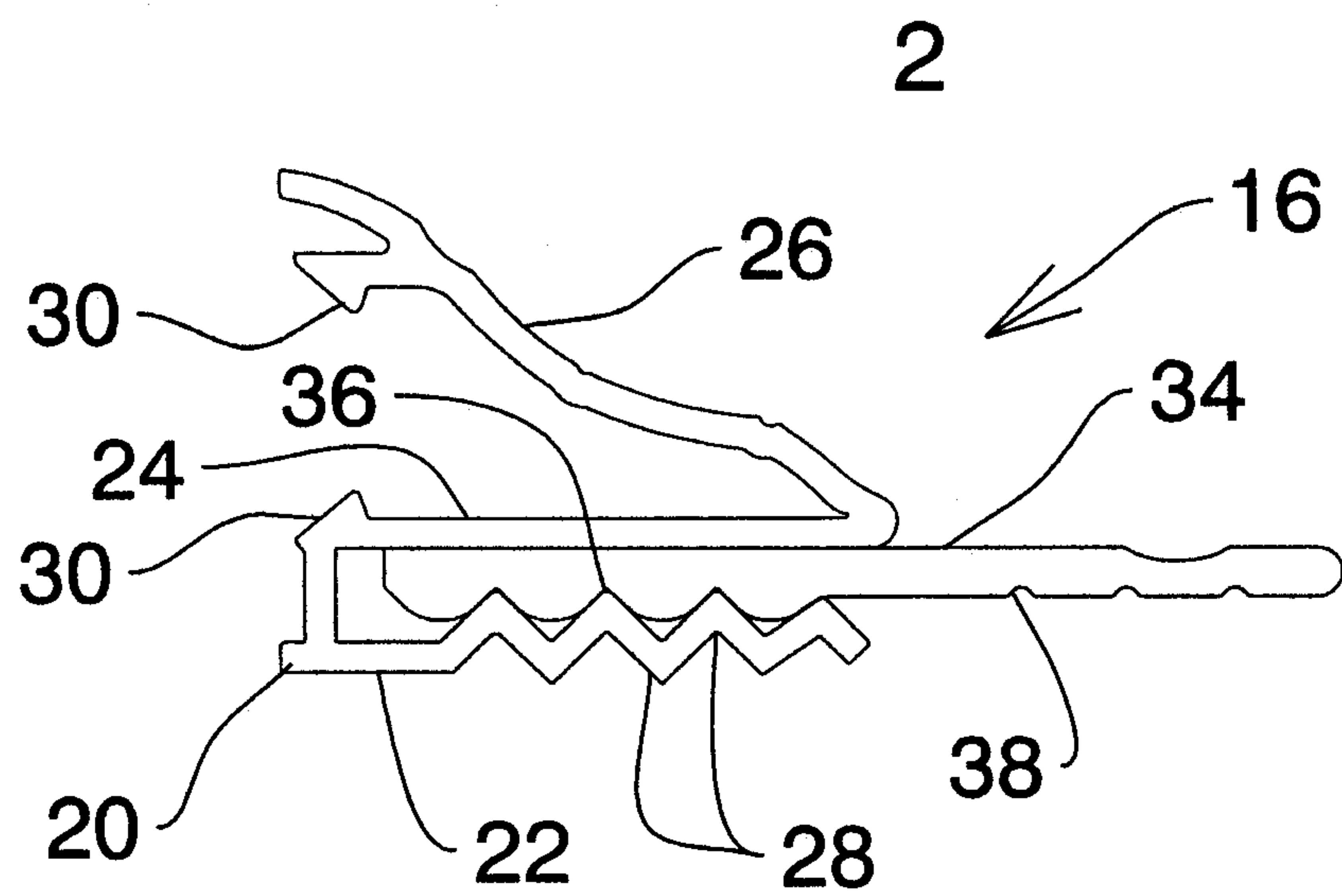


Fig. 1



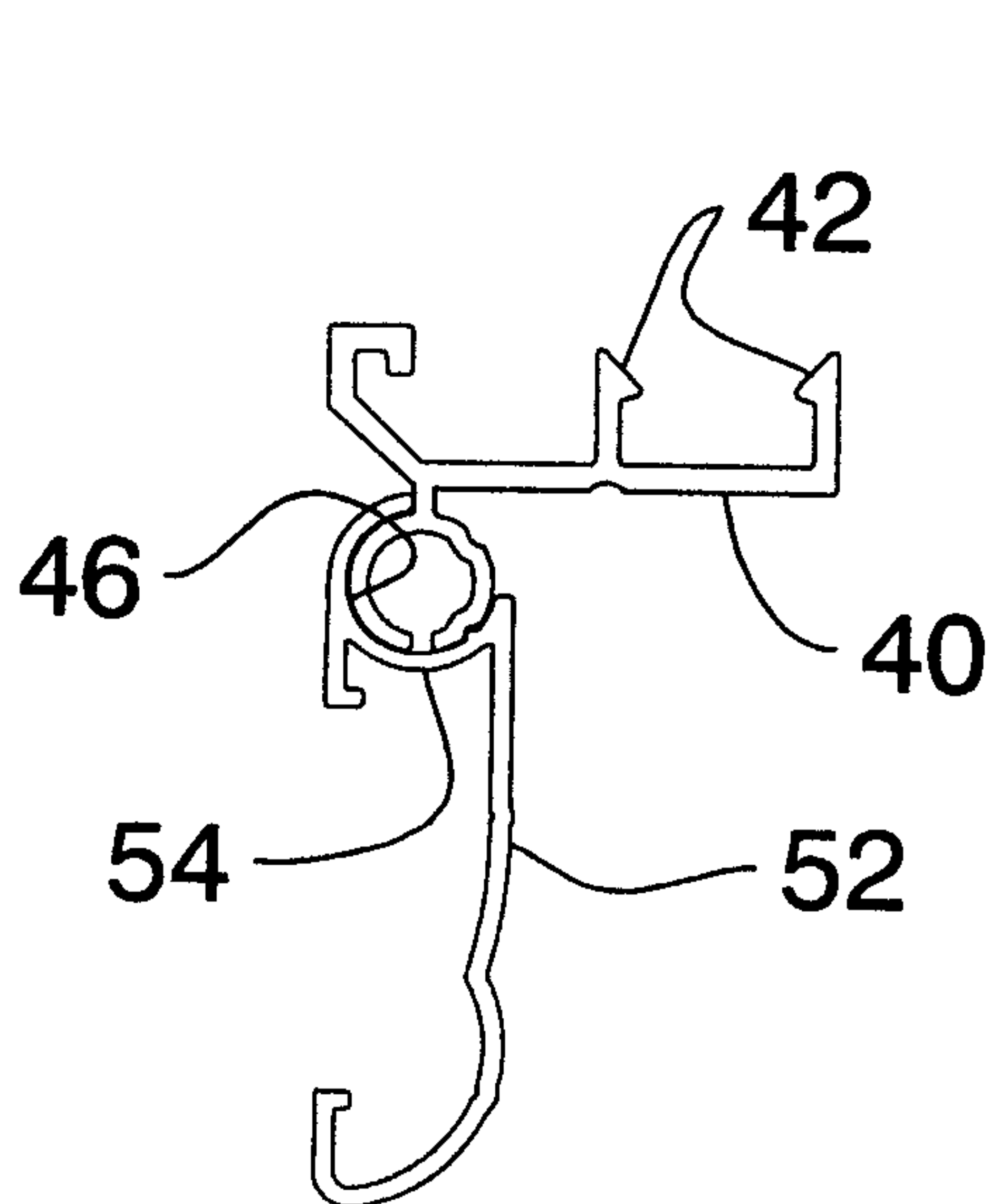
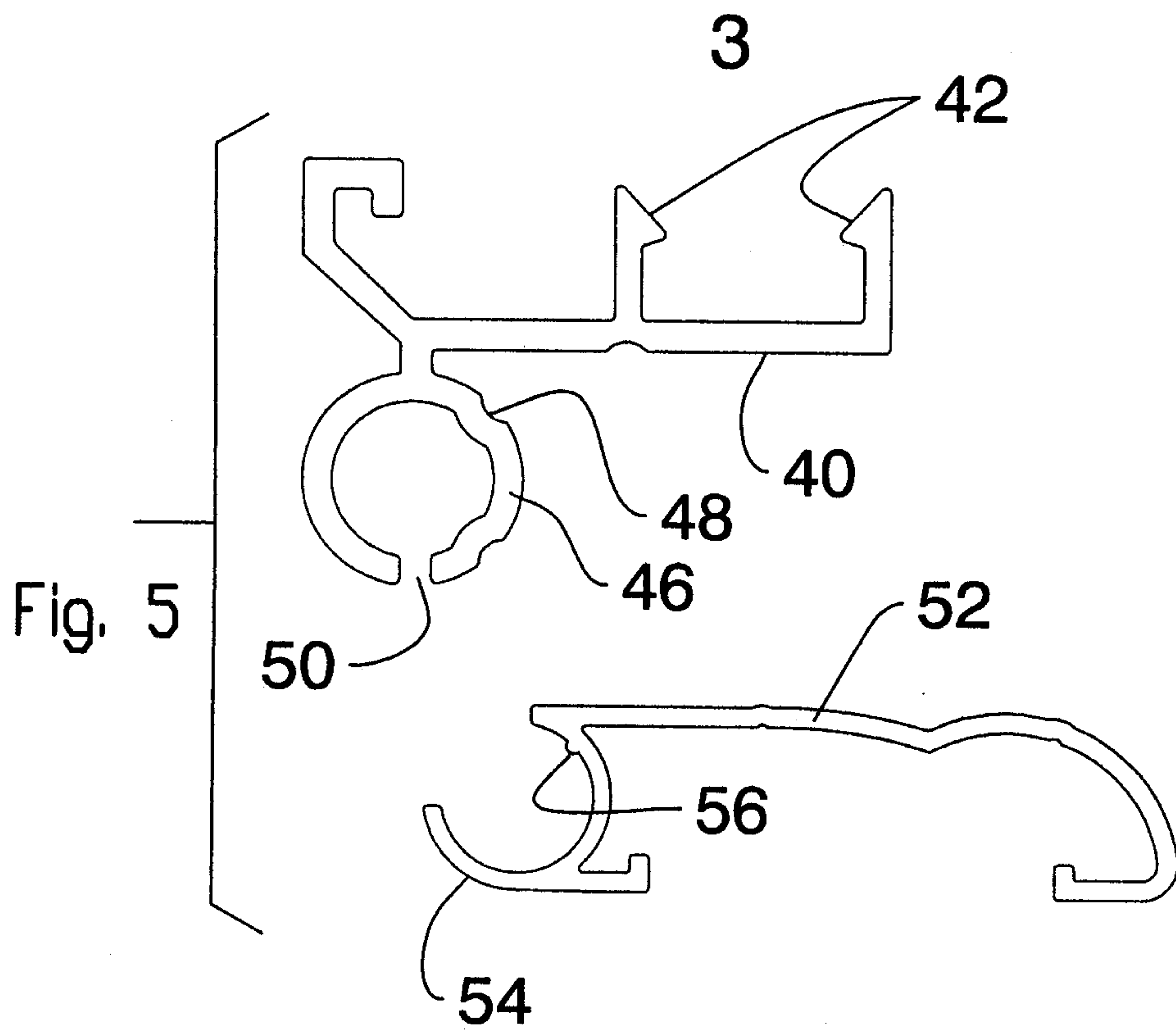


Fig. 6

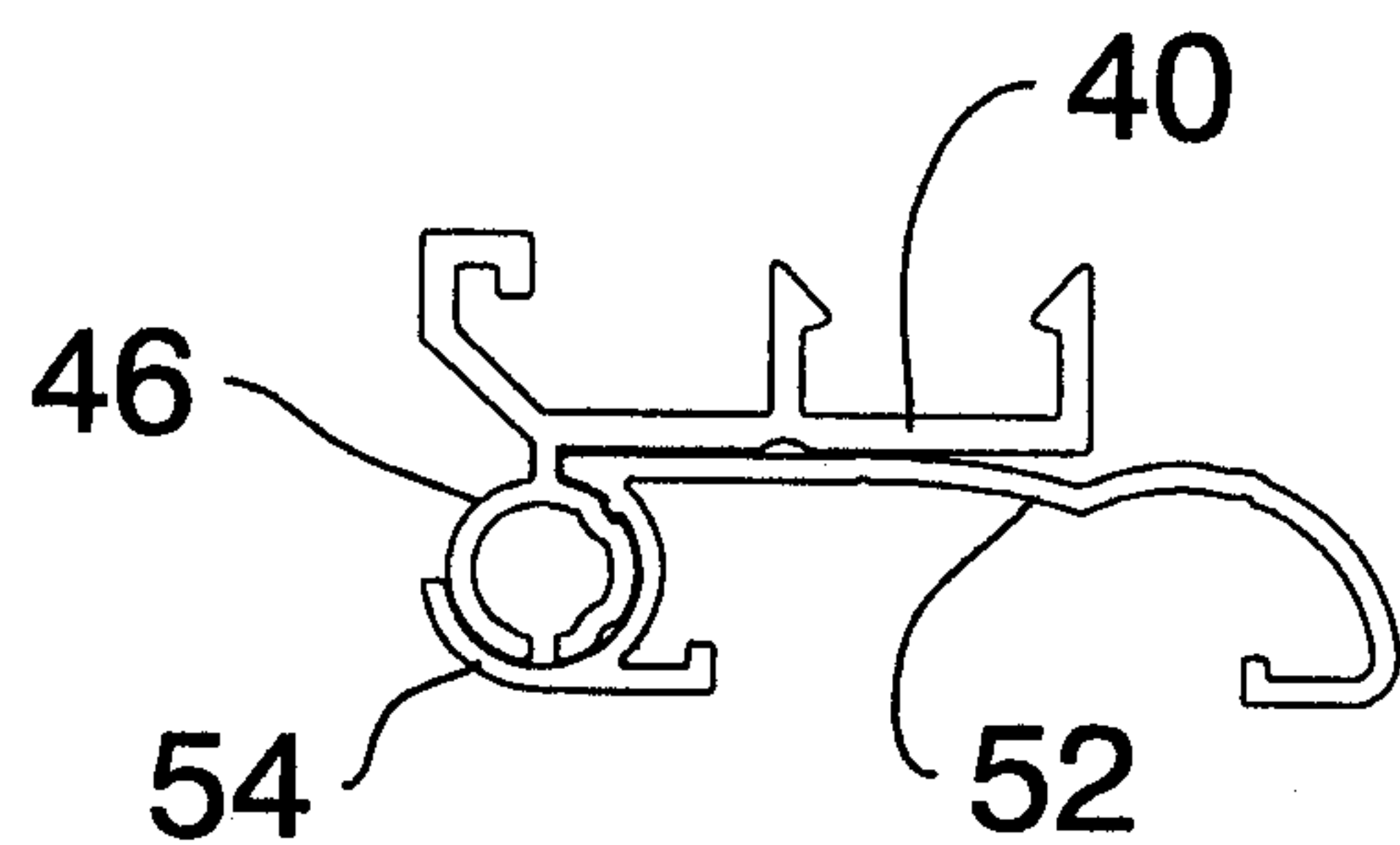


Fig. 7

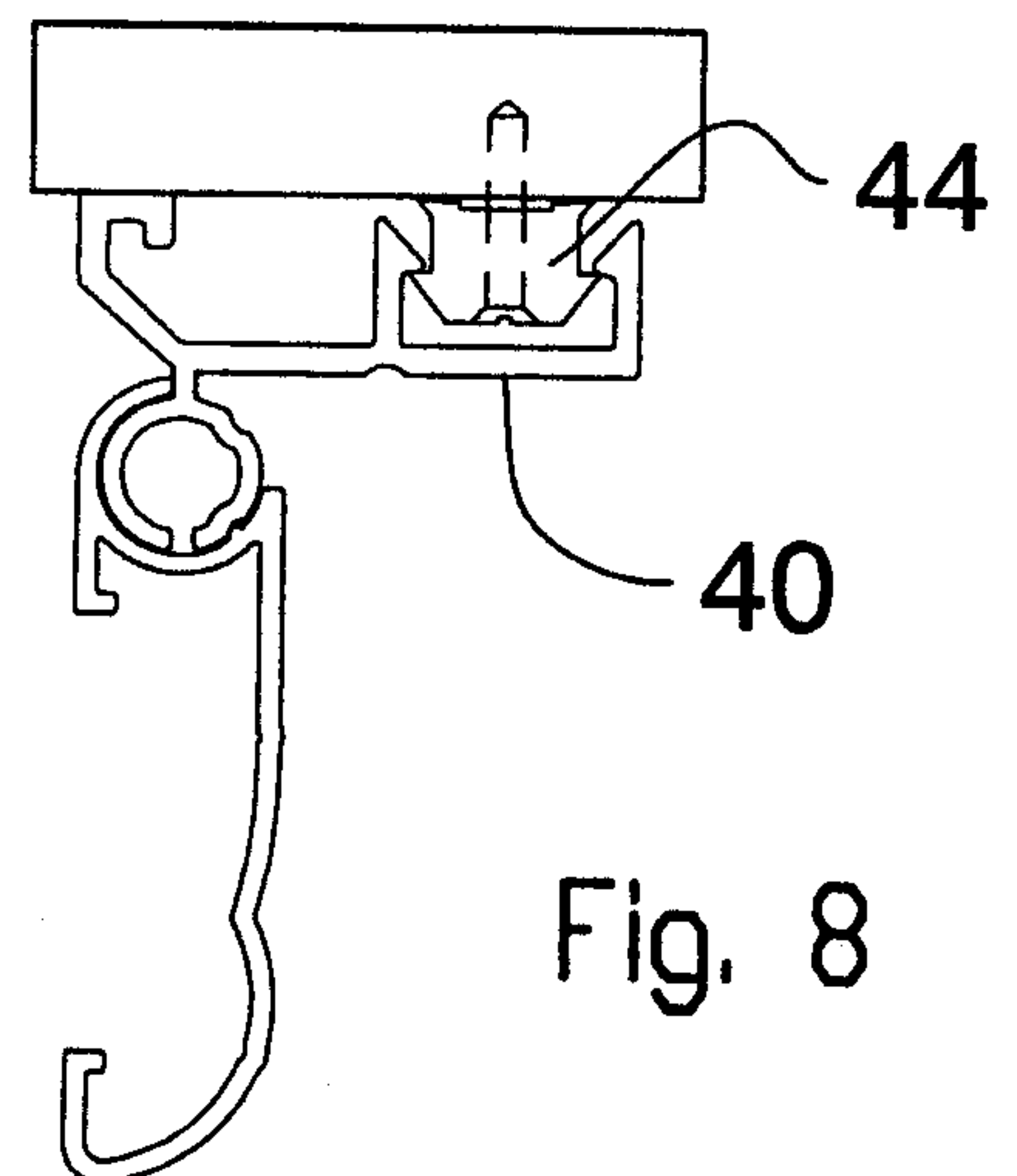
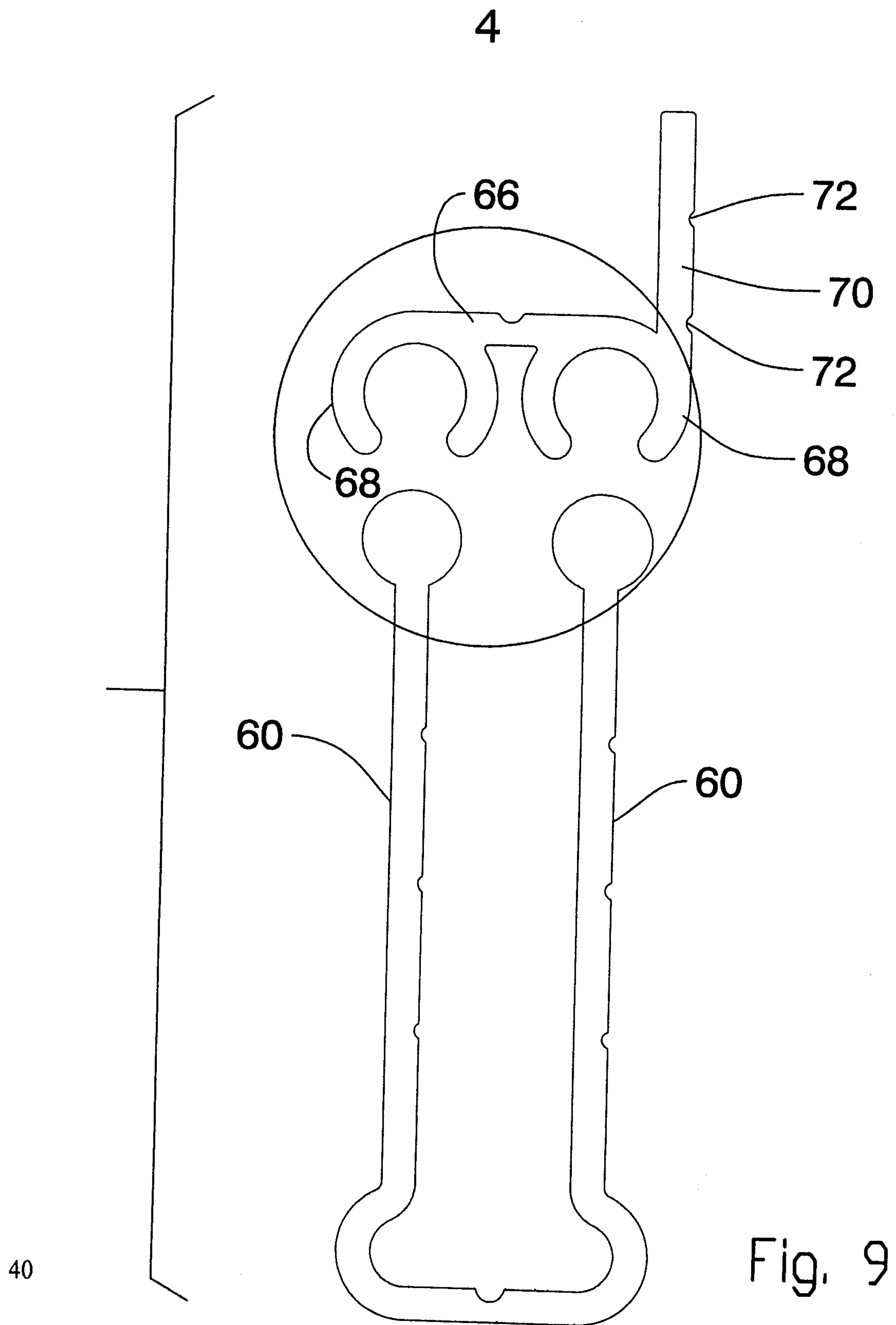


Fig. 8



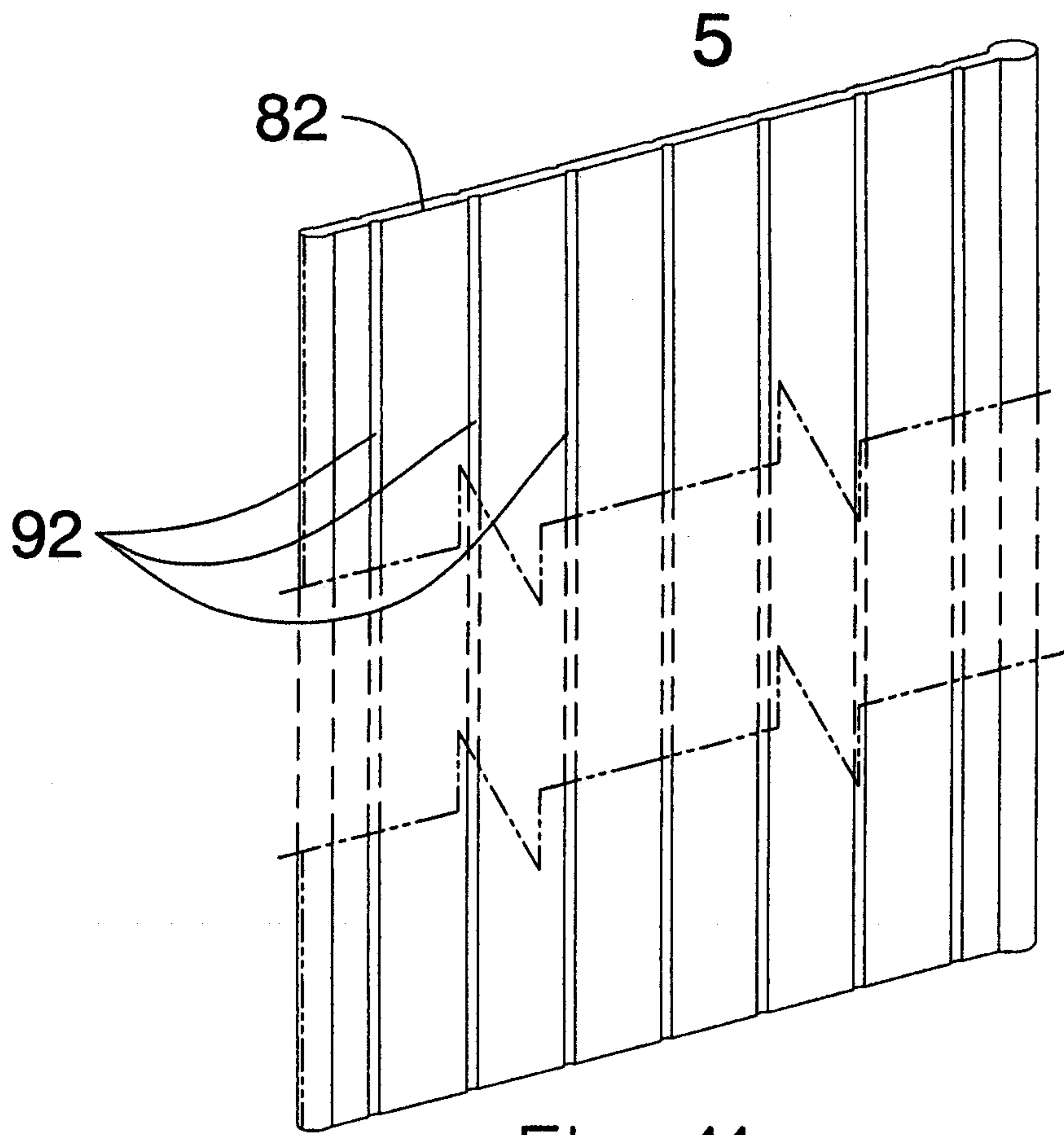


Fig. 11

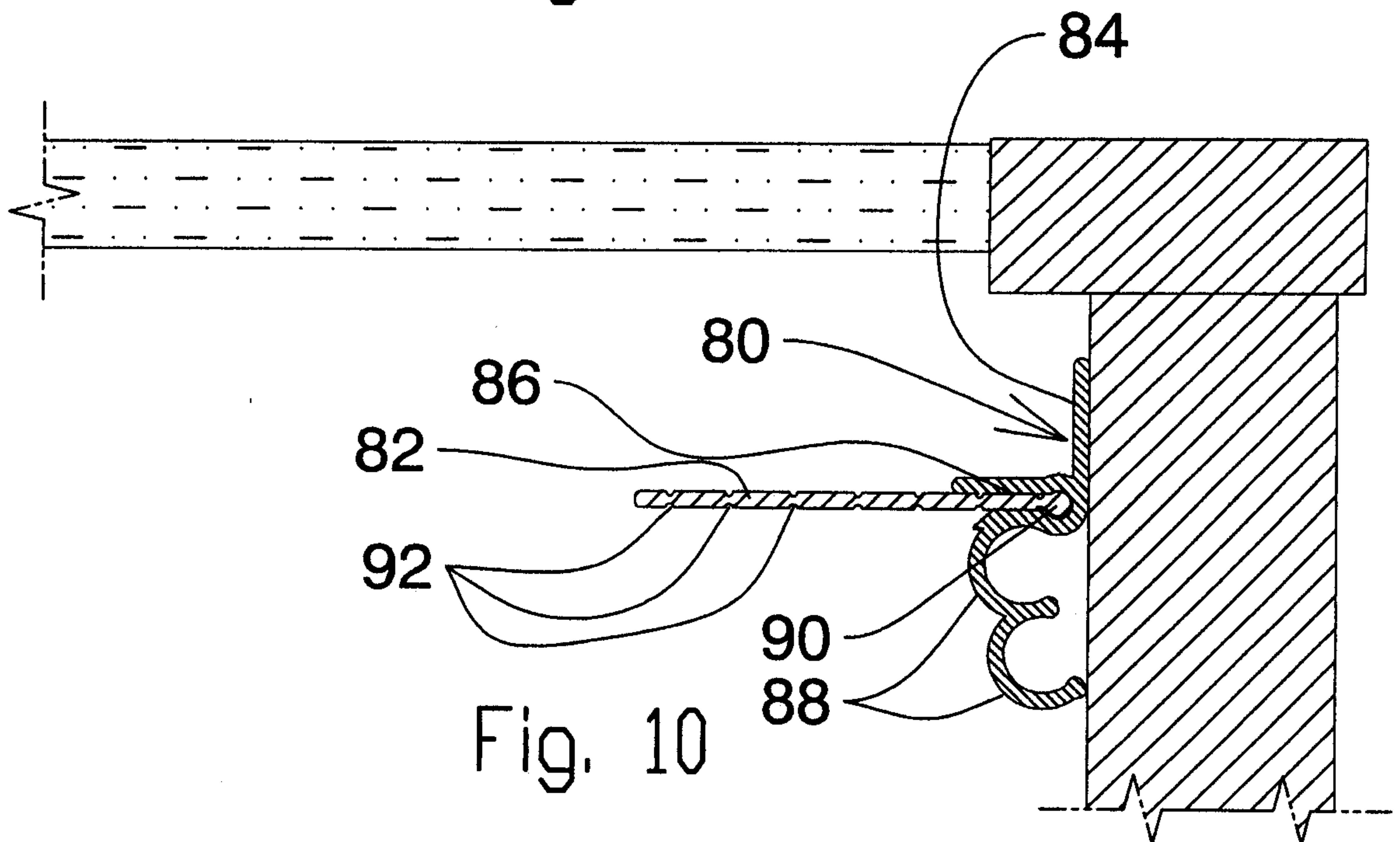


Fig. 10

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