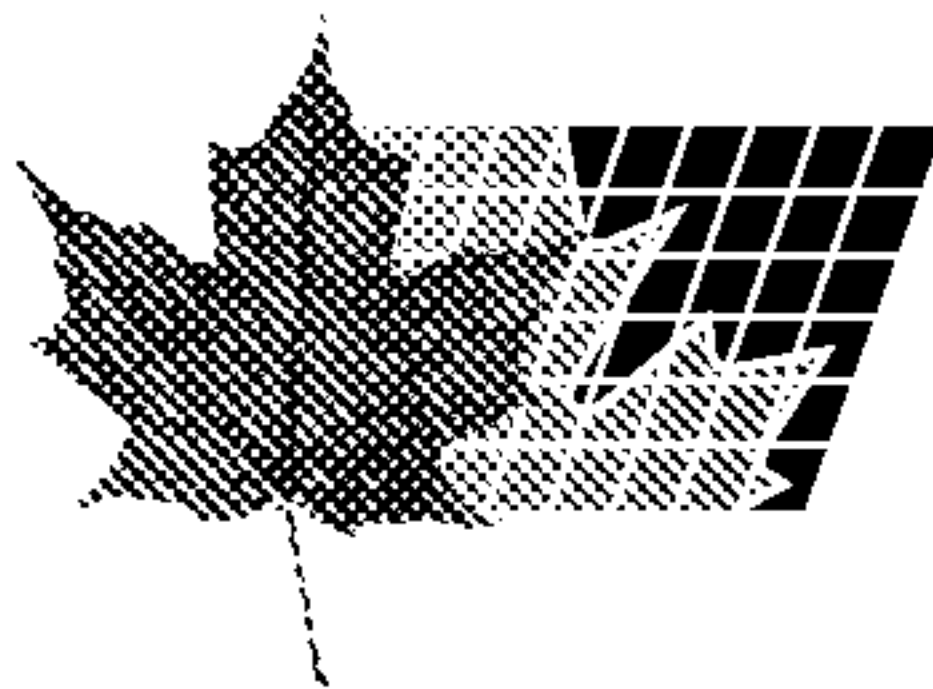




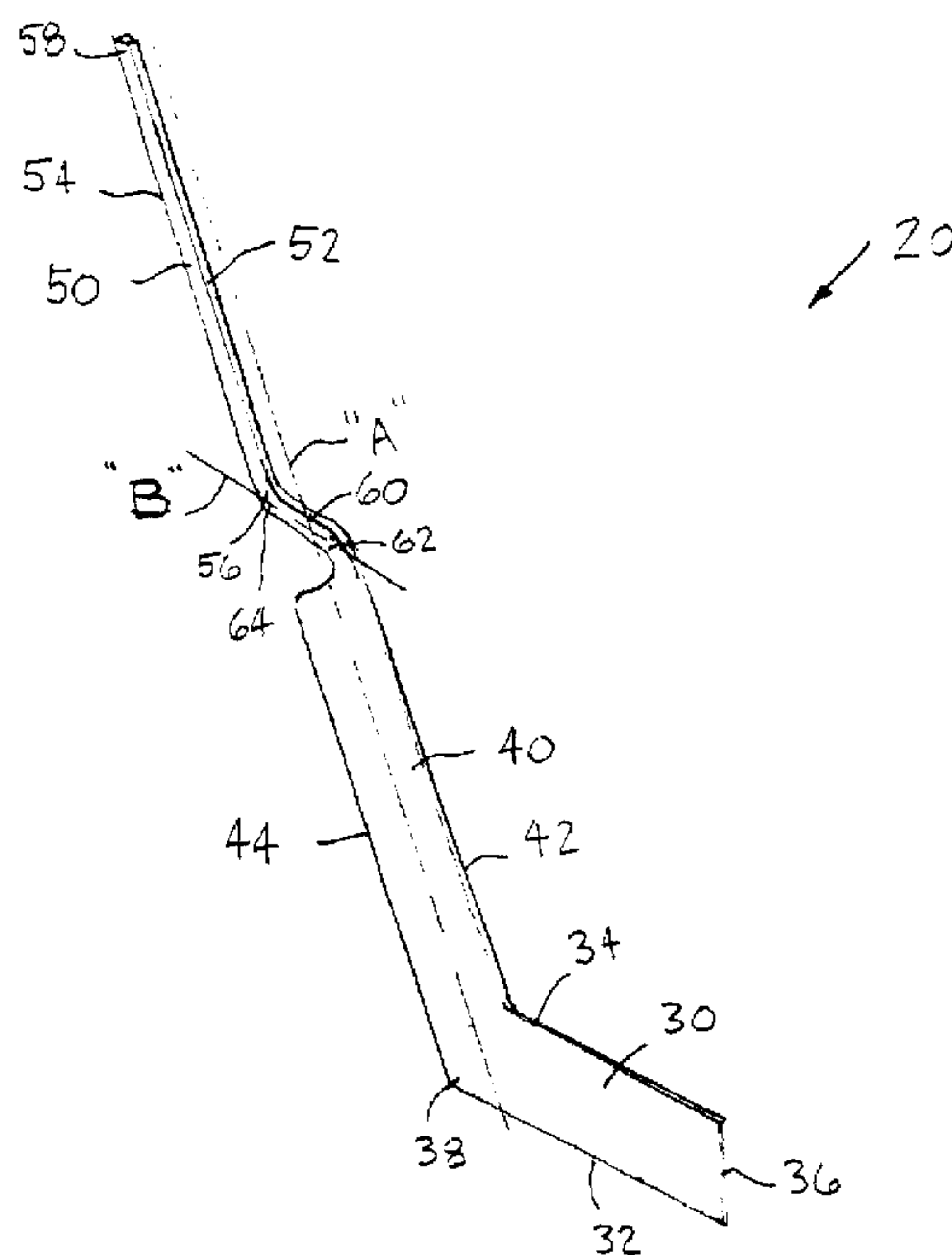
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(51) Int.Cl.<sup>7</sup> A63B 59/14

(54) **BATON DE HOCKEY POUR GARDIEN DE BUT**

(54) **HOCKEY STICK FOR USE BY A GOALTENDER**



(57) A hockey stick for use by a goaltender comprises a blade having a bottom edge, and a blocking portion extending angularly upwardly from the blade and having opposed inner and outer edges and defines a medial longitudinal axis. A shaft extends upwardly from the blocking portion and has inner and outer edges, a lower end and an upper end. A hand grip has an inner end an outer end and is operatively disposed on at least one of the blocking portion and the shaft such that the inner end is disposed between the inner edge of the blocking portion and the medial longitudinal axis and the outer end is disposed toward the outer edge of the blocking portion with respect to the inner end. The hand grip also defines a hand grip axis extending between the inner and outer ends of the hand grip. Alternatively, the hand grip defines a hand grip axis that is oriented at an angle of less than twenty degrees with respect to said bottom edge of said blade.



**ABSTRACT**

A hockey stick for use by a goaltender comprises a blade having a bottom edge, and a blocking portion extending angularly upwardly from the blade and having opposed inner and outer edges and defines a medial longitudinal axis. A shaft extends upwardly from the blocking portion and has inner and outer edges, a lower end and an upper end. A hand grip has an inner end an outer end and is operatively disposed on at least one of the blocking portion and the shaft such that the inner end is disposed between the inner edge of the blocking portion and the medial longitudinal axis and the outer end is disposed toward the outer edge of the blocking portion with respect to the inner end. The hand grip also defines a hand grip axis extending between the inner and outer ends of the hand grip. Alternatively, the hand grip defines a hand grip axis that is oriented at an angle of less than twenty degrees with respect to said bottom edge of said blade.



**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to hockey sticks, and more particularly to hockey sticks for use by a goaltender.

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**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Hockey is in a game played by two opposing teams having, during normal play, three forward players, to defense of players, and one goaltender. The forward and defensive players each use a hockey stake that is relatively thin and lightweight so as to permit easy manipulation of the hockey stick for purposes of passing and shooting, and alike.

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In contrast, goaltenders use a specially designed goaltender's hockey stick that has an ice contacting blade having a high blade height, a widened blocking portion extending angularly upwardly from the blade, and a handle extending upwardly from the central area of the blocking portion. While the handles of most hockey sticks used by goaltenders are straight, one goaltender's hockey stick has a handle with a specially designed shape. This particular prior art goaltender's hockey stick is taught in United States patent 4,544,157, issued to Curtis, which patent is

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incorporated herein by reference. The goaltender's stick as taught in the Curtis patent, comprises a blade with a shaft connected to the heel end of the blade, with the blade extending to one side of the shaft. The shaft has a widened lower portion and a narrowed upper portion, with the widened lower portion being widened in the plane of the blade. The narrowed upper portion includes a bent region adjacent the widened lower portion, with the bent region having, in seriatim, an initial straight handle portion, a bend, a reverse bend, and an upper straight portion. The purpose of the bend and the reverse bend is to align the upper straight portion with the outer edge of the widened lower portion, so that a goaltender can place the stick on an ice surface with the upper straight portion and the outer edge of the widened lower portion both contacting the ice, thereby precluding a puck from going underneath the goaltender's stick.

One very significant problem with all prior art hockey sticks for use by a goaltender, including conventional goaltender sticks and the goaltender stick that is the subject of the Curtis patent, is that the handle, which is disposed at the lower end of the shaft and immediately above the blocking portion is oriented straight and along the longitudinal axis of the handle of the goaltender's stick. Accordingly, in order to grip the handle of the goaltender's stick during play, the goaltender's hand must be oriented at an extreme angle, which is very physically stressful to



the goaltender's wrist. It is quite common, especially in the case of young goaltenders, for the wrist to become fatigued during play, thus making it difficult to hold the stick. As a result, it is common for goaltenders to straighten out their wrists during play while holding a goaltender's stick, thus causing the blade of the goaltender's stick to be oriented upwardly at an angle with respect to the ice surface, which is unacceptable.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a hockey stick for use by a goaltender, which hockey stick is more comfortable than prior art hockey sticks for use by a goaltender.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a hockey stick for use by a goaltender, which hockey stick is easier to grip during use than prior art hockey sticks for use by a goaltender.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a hockey stick for use by a goaltender, which hockey stick is less fatiguing to use than prior art hockey sticks for use by a goaltender.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a hockey stick for use by a goaltender, which hockey stick



precludes a goaltender from inadvertently angling the blade of the stick off the ice surface.

5 It is still another object of the present invention to provide a hockey stick for use by a goaltender, which hockey stick permits a goaltender to be able to place the stick on an ice surface with most of the shaft and the outer edge of the blocking portion both contacting the ice, thereby precluding a puck from going underneath the goaltender's stick.

#### 10 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

15 In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a novel hockey stick for use by a goaltender. The hockey stick comprises a blade having a bottom edge; a blocking portion extending angularly upwardly from the blade and having opposed inner and outer edges and defines a medial longitudinal axis; a shaft extending upwardly from the blocking portion and 20 having inner and outer edges, a lower end and an upper end; and, a hand grip having an inner end an outer end and being operatively disposed on at least one of the blocking portion and the shaft such that the inner end is disposed between the inner edge of the blocking portion and the medial longitudinal axis and the outer end



is disposed toward the outer edge of the blocking portion with respect to the inner end, and defining a hand grip axis extending between the inner and outer ends of the hand grip.

5 In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a novel hockey stick for use by a goaltender. The hockey stick comprise a blade having a bottom edge; a blocking portion extending angularly upwardly from the blade and having opposed inner and outer edges and defines a medial longitudinal axis; a hand grip having an inner end and an outer end and being  
10 operatively disposed on at least one of said blocking portion and said shaft such that said outer end is disposed toward said outer edge of said blocking portion with respect to said inner end, and defining a hand grip axis extending between the inner and outer  
15 ends of the hand grip; and, a shaft extending upwardly from the blocking portion and having inner and outer edges, a lower end and an upper end.

## 20 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The novel features which are believed to be characteristic of the hockey stick for use by a goaltender, according to the present invention, as to its structure and use, together with further



objectives and advantages thereof, will be better understood from the following drawings in which a presently preferred embodiment of the invention will now be illustrated by way of example. It is expressly understood, however, that the drawings are for the purpose of illustration and description only, and are not intended as a definition of the limits of the invention. In the accompanying drawings:

**Figure 1** is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the hockey stick for use by a goaltender, according to the present invention;

**Figure 2** is a front elevational view of the preferred embodiment of the hockey stick for use by a goaltender, of Figure 1;

**Figure 3** is an inner side elevational view of the preferred embodiment of the hockey stick for use by a goaltender, of Figure 1;

**Figure 4** is a front elevational view of a first alternative and, embodiment of the hockey stick for use by a goaltender, according to the present invention; and,



**Figure 5** is a front elevational view of a second alternative and, embodiment of the hockey stick for use by a goaltender, according to the present invention.

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#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED AND ALTERNATIVE EMBODIMENTS**

Reference will now be made to Figures 1 through 3, which show a first preferred embodiment of the hockey stick for use by a goaltender, according to the present invention, which hockey stick is indicated by the general reference numeral 20. The goaltender's hockey stick 20 comprises a blade 30 having a bottom edge 32 and a top edge 34 that are opposed one to the other, an end edge 36, and a heel 38. The blade 30 may be flat or curved, as desired. A substantially flat blocking portion 40 extends angularly upwardly from the blade 30 and has inner edge 42 and an outer edge 44 that are opposed one to another. Further, the blocking portion 40 defines a medial longitudinal axis "A".

A substantially straight shaft 50 has an inner edge 52 and an outer edge 54, a lower end 56 and an upper end 58. The shaft 50 extends upwardly from the blocking portion 40. In the preferred embodiment, as illustrated, the shaft 50 extends upwardly from the



blocking portion 40 at the inner edge 42 of the blocking portion 40.

5 A hand grip 60 having an inner end 62 an outer end 64 is  
operatively disposed on the shaft 50, adjacent to the lower end 52  
of the shaft 50 adjacent the blocking portion 40. More  
specifically, the inner end 62 of the hand grip 60 is disposed  
adjacent the lower end 56 of the shaft 50, immediately above the  
blocking portion 40. Further, the inner end 62 of the hand grip 60  
10 is disposed between the inner edge 42 of the blocking portion 40  
and the medial longitudinal axis "A". The outer end 64 of the hand  
grip 60 is disposed toward the outer edge 44 of the blocking  
portion 40 with respect to the inner end 42. The hand grip 40 also  
defines a hand grip axis "B" extending between the inner end 62 and  
15 the outer end 64 of the hand grip 60. In the preferred embodiment,  
as illustrated, the hand grip axis "B" is oriented at an angle of  
less than twenty degrees with respect to the bottom edge 32 of the  
blade 30. In this manner, the hand of a goaltender is in a neutral  
orientation while holding the goaltender's hockey stick 20. As a  
20 result, the hockey stick 20 for use by a goaltender is more  
comfortable, is easier to grip during use, is less fatiguing to  
use, than prior art hockey sticks for use by a goaltender.  
Further, the hockey stick 20 for use by a goaltender precludes a  
goaltender from inadvertently angling the blade 30 of the stick off  
25 the ice surface.



Further, in the preferred embodiment as illustrated, the outer edge 54 of the shaft 50 and the outer edge 44 of the blocking portion 40 are substantially parallel one with the other and are substantially aligned one with the other, thereby permitting a goaltender to be able to place the stick 20 on an ice surface with most of the outer edge of shaft 50 and the outer edge 44 of the blocking portion 40 both contacting the ice, thereby precluding a puck from going underneath the goaltender's stick 20.

Reference will now be made to Figure 4, which shows a first alternative embodiment of the hockey stick for use by a goaltender, which hockey stick is indicated by the general reference numeral 120. The goaltender's hockey stick 120 has a hand grip 122 that is operatively disposed on the shaft 124 and the blocking portion 126, essentially the same location and orientation as in the preferred embodiment; however, there is an additional straight portion 128 that extends the shaft 124 straight to the blocking portion 126.

Reference will now be made to Figure 5, which shows a second alternative embodiment of the hockey stick for use by a goaltender, which hockey stick is indicated by the general reference numeral 220. The goaltender's hockey stick 220 has a hand grip 222 that is operatively disposed on the blocking portion 224, instead of on the shaft 226, as in the preferred embodiment, although in essentially the same location and orientation as in the preferred embodiment.



Other variations of the above principles will be apparent to those who are knowledgeable in the field of the invention, and such variations are considered to be within the scope of the present invention. Further, other modifications and alterations may be used in the design and manufacture of the apparatus of the present invention without departing from the spirit and scope of the accompanying claims.



## I CLAIM:

1. A hockey stick for use by a goaltender, said hockey stick comprising:

a blade having a bottom edge;

5 a blocking portion extending angularly upwardly from said blade and having opposed inner and outer edges and defines a medial longitudinal axis;

a shaft extending upwardly from said blocking portion and having inner and outer edges, a lower end and an upper end; and,

10 a hand grip having an inner end an outer end and being operatively disposed on at least one of said blocking portion and said shaft such that said inner end is disposed between said inner edge of said blocking portion and said medial longitudinal axis and said outer end is disposed toward said outer edge of said blocking portion with respect to said inner end, and defining a hand grip  
15 axis extending between said inner and outer ends of said hand grip.

2. The hockey stick of claim 1, wherein said shaft extends upwardly from said blocking portion, as aforesaid, at the inner edge of said blocking portion.



3. The hockey stick of claim 2, wherein said hand grip is disposed on said shaft.
4. The hockey stick of claim 3, wherein said hand grip is disposed on said shaft adjacent to said lower end of said shaft.
5. The hockey stick of claim 4, wherein said inner end of said hand grip is disposed adjacent said blocking portion.
6. The hockey stick of claim 5, wherein said inner end of said hand grip is disposed adjacent the lower end of said shaft.
7. The hockey stick of claim 6, wherein said shaft is substantially straight.
8. The hockey stick of claim 7, wherein said outer edge of said shaft and said outer edge of said blocking portion are substantially parallel one with the other.
9. The hockey stick of claim 8, wherein said outer edge of said shaft and said outer edge of said blocking portion are substantially aligned one with the other.



10. The hockey stick of claim 1, wherein said hand grip axis is oriented at an angle of less than twenty degrees with respect to said bottom edge of said blade.

11. The hockey stick of claim 1, wherein said blocking portion is substantially flat.

12. A hockey stick for use by a goaltender, said hockey stick comprising:

a blade having a bottom edge;

5 a blocking portion extending angularly upwardly from said blade and having opposed inner and outer edges and defines a medial longitudinal axis;

10 a hand grip having an inner end and an outer end and being operatively disposed on at least one of said blocking portion and said shaft such that said outer end is disposed toward said outer edge of said blocking portion with respect to said inner end, and defining a hand grip axis extending between said inner and outer ends of said hand grip, which hand grip axis is oriented at an angle of less than twenty degrees with respect to said bottom edge of said blade; and,



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a shaft extending upwardly from said blocking portion and having inner and outer edges, a lower end and an upper end.

13. The hockey stick of claim 12, wherein said inner end of said hand grip is disposed between said inner edge of said blocking portion and said medial longitudinal axis.

14. The hockey stick of claim 13, wherein said hand grip extends at said inner end angularly upwardly from said blocking portion.

15. The hockey stick of claim 14, wherein said hand grip extends angularly upwardly from said blocking portion at the inner edge of said blocking portion.

16. The hockey stick of claim 15, wherein said inner end of said hand grip is disposed adjacent said blocking portion.

17. The hockey stick of claim 16, wherein said shaft is substantially straight.

18. The hockey stick of claim 17, wherein said outer edge of said shaft and said outer edge of said blocking portion are substantially parallel one with the other.



19. The hockey stick of claim 18, wherein said outer edge of said shaft and said outer edge of said blocking portion are substantially aligned one with the other.

20. The hockey stick of claim 12, wherein said blocking portion is substantially flat.



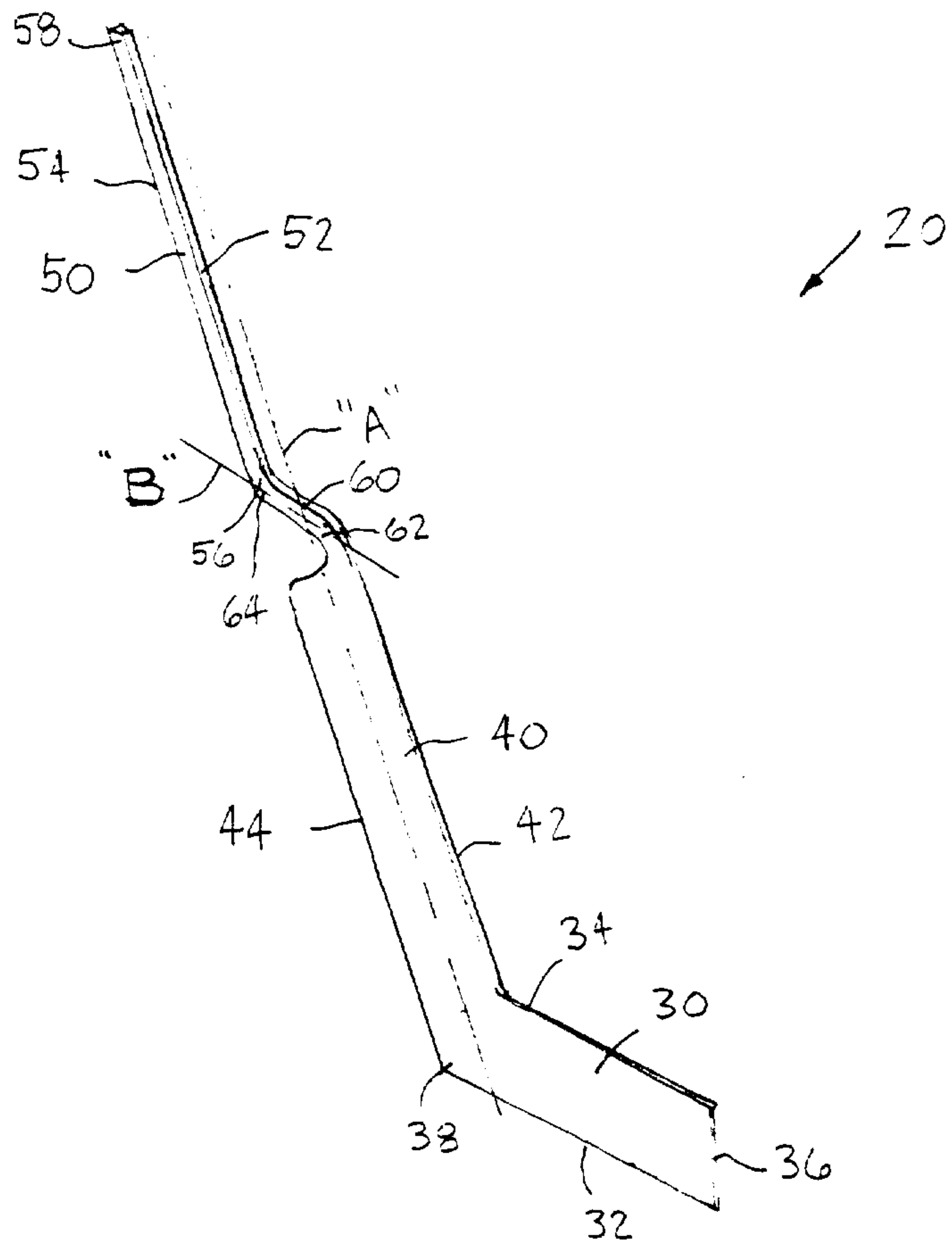


FIG 1



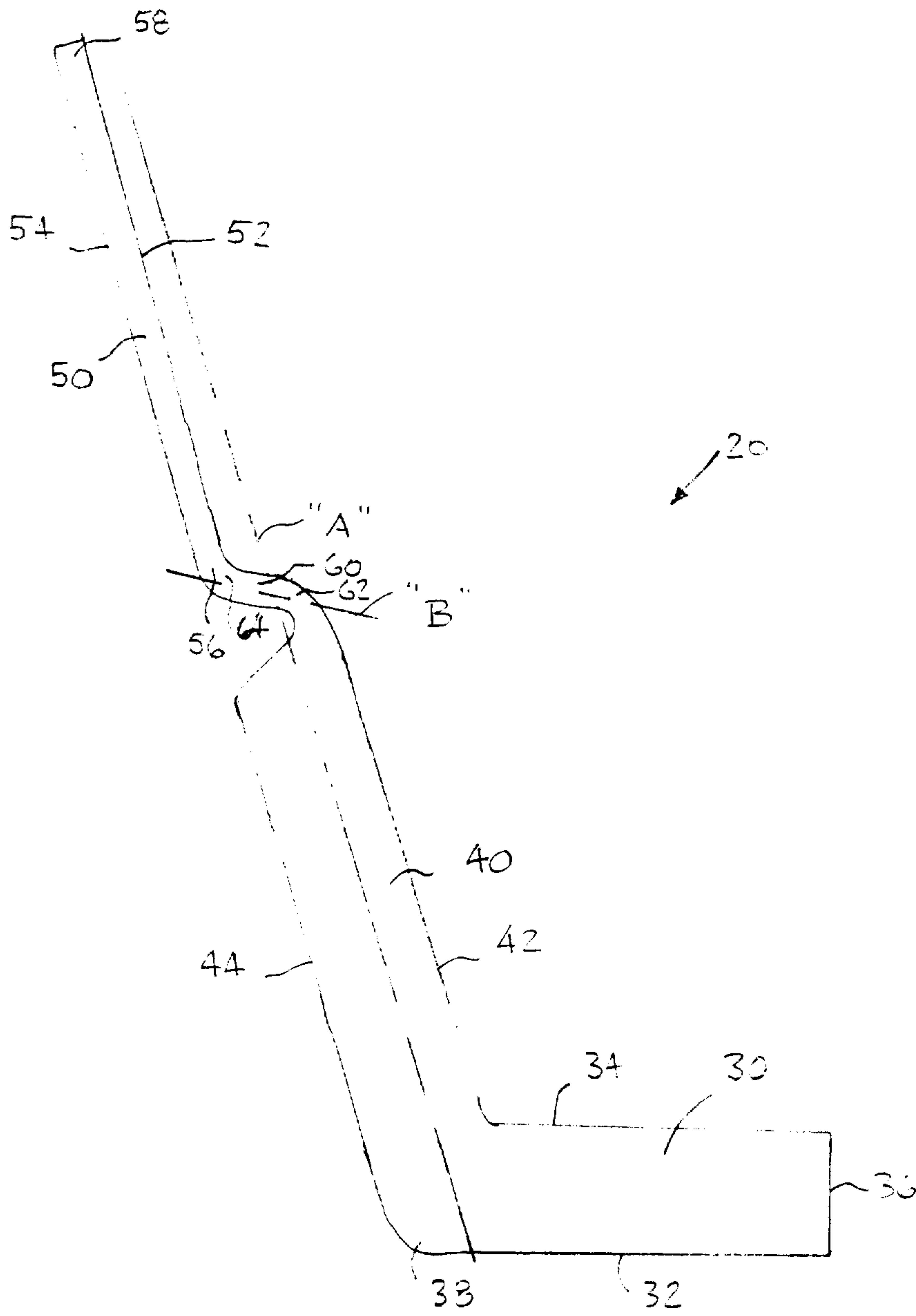


FIG 2

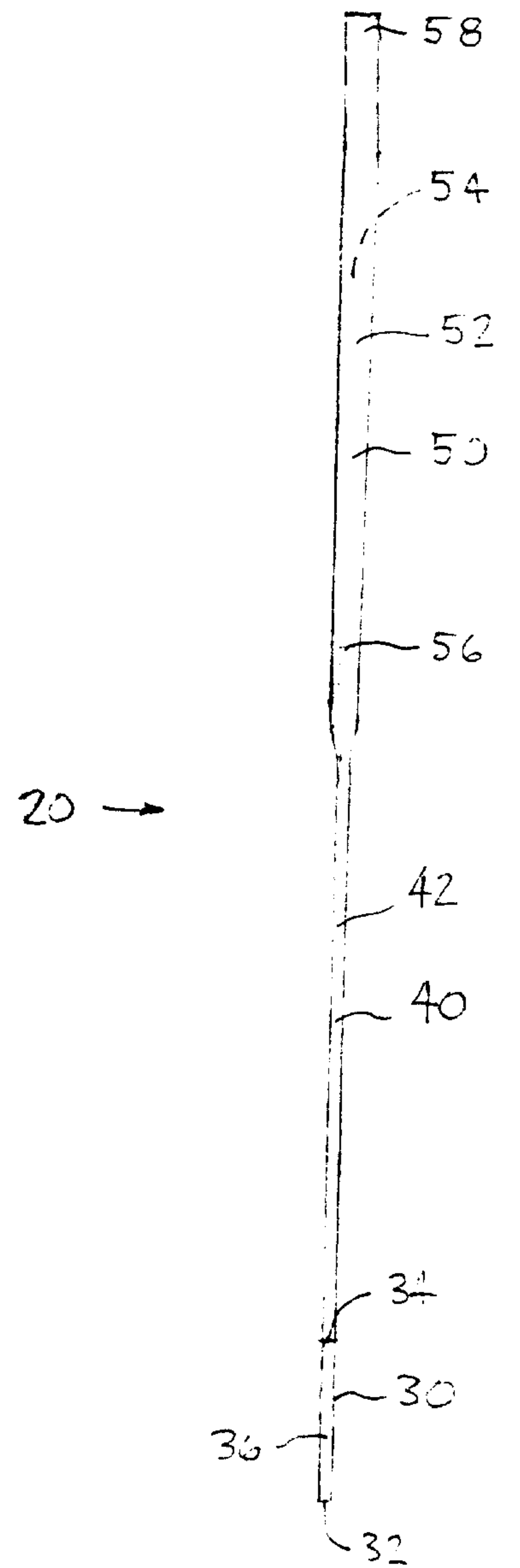


FIG 3



FIG 5

FIG 4

