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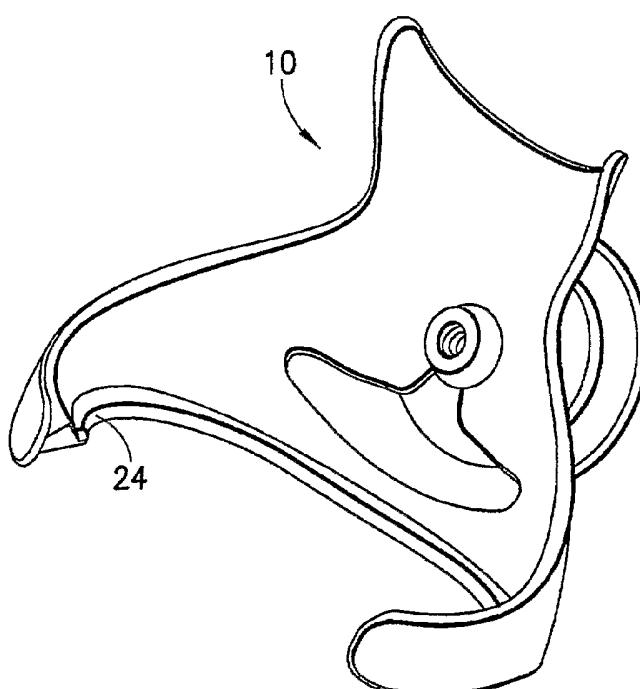
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(54) Title: WALL MOUNTABLE RAZOR HOLDER



(57) **Abstract:** A wall mountable razor holder is provided. The razor holder has two pairs of curved arms (16, 17, 40, 42) extending from a back plate (12) and wall mounting structure, such as a suction cup (14). The razor holder retains a safety razor (50) at least one of two alternate positions. A head down position will ensure adequate drainage from the razor (50) to ensure an erodible shaving aid body member (72) of the razor (50) will not soften from unnecessary contact with water. A head up position will be more familiar to a user.

Background of the Invention

1. Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to safety razors in general and, more particularly, to wall mountable holders for safety razors.

2. Background Information

[0002] Modern safety razors comprise a razor cartridge mounted to a handle. Some modern safety razors, especially those marketed for women, may be sold with a wall mountable holder so that the razor may be conveniently stored close to where it is used, for instance on the wall of a shower or bathroom.

[0003] Many existing wall mountable holders fall into three broad groups. In a first group a holder of bifurcated construction takes advantage of characteristics of the razor shape to suspend the razor. Many razors are generally T-shaped or at least have one end, most usually the razor cartridge itself or razor cartridge end of the handle, wider than the opposing end of the handle. In this first group a pair of horizontally spaced arms extends from a wall mounting structure and simply suspends the razor from the wide part of the razor and with the widest end, usually the cartridge end, at the top. Examples of this first group include holders disclosed in US A 4,773,158; US D,333,583 and US D,294,903. In a second group a simple cup extends from a wall mounting structure and the razor is simply placed in the cup, usually with the razor cartridge end of the razor at the top and facing out of the cup to prevent the razor blades of the razor cartridge contacting any internal part of the cup that might cause damage to the razor blades and result in an uncomfortable shave or lead to nicks and cuts for the user. Examples of this second group include US D,464,222 and US D,423,845 and US D,370,375. In a third group a single prong extends from a wall mounting structure and this prong mates with a recess or hole in the handle to suspend the razor. In this group it is convenient to position the hole or recess in the handle at the handle end opposite the razor cartridge, consequently the razor is suspended with the razor cartridge end of the handle at the bottom. Examples of this third group are disclosed in US D,277,434 and US D,495,179 and US D,494,795.

[0004] In a new type of razor, a relatively large body of erodable shaving aid material is further mounted to the handle and may surround the razor cartridge. The shaving aid body softens when exposed to water for extended periods and its wear rate is dramatically increased

relative to the wear rate of a non-softened shaving aid body. Consequently the useful life of the shaving aid is greatly reduced which may lead to customer dissatisfaction. A softened shaving aid body is also highly susceptible to damage if the razor is accidentally dropped. Furthermore, this new type of razor is customarily provided with a protective cover. The protective cover conveniently protects the razor cartridge and shaving aid in travel but may act to retain moisture or water vapor in the vicinity of the shaving aid body that will prematurely soften the shaving aid body and result in an increased wear rate.

[0005] A disadvantage of holders of the first and second groups when used in conjunction with a razor of this new type is that the razor is stored with the razor cartridge at the top and water may not adequately drain from the razor after use. This may prevent the shaving aid body from adequately drying between uses. A disadvantage of holders of the third group when used in conjunction with a razor of this new type is that the holder's mating to the razor occurs in a region of the handle away from the razor cartridge and shaving aid body. Consequently it is possible that the user of this type of holder may store her razor with the protective cover in place as there is no adjacent interfering structure to prevent this. This can be seen in Fig 6 of US D 277,434 where it is clearly shown that the razor holder is distantly spaced from the razor cartridge part of the razor, shown in broken line therein. The protective cover will retain moisture or water vapor in the vicinity of the shaving aid body that will prematurely soften the shaving aid body. A further disadvantage of holders of this third group is that the holder's functional feature is a prong. This provides less positive retention of the razor than holders of the first two groups. If the razor is accidentally bumped it may tend to fall from the holder.

[0006] GB A 1,243,413 discloses a razor tray for locating on a horizontal surface. The tray includes a holder with two pairs of upwardly directed areas between which the neck and end portions of a razor handle are arranged in order to prevent undesired lateral movements of the razor handle when resting on the holder.

[0007] There is a need in the art to provide a wall mountable holder for a safety razor that will provide improved drainage for the razor; will only permit a razor to be retained without a protective cover and that will provide improved retention of the razor if the razor is accidentally bumped.

Summary of the Invention

[0008] The present invention provides a combination of a safety razor and a wall mountable razor holder as defined in claim 1. Individual embodiments of the invention are the subject matter of the dependent claims.

[0009] The wall mountable razor holder of the present invention comprises a back plate. The back plate defines a height and has a wall mounting structure. A first pair of preferably curved arms, horizontally spaced, extends forwardly from the back plate with their free ends directed toward one another. This first pair of arms defines a first width between their free ends. Each arm has a lip extending inwardly from the arm and the lip has an inner edge. A second pair of preferably curved arms, horizontally spaced, extends forwardly from the back plate with their free ends directed forwardly of the back plate. This second pair of arms defines a second width between their free ends. The second pair of arms is disposed higher on the back plate than the first pair of arms. Preferably, the first width is greater than the second width.

[00010] In a further aspect of the present invention the wall mountable holder removably retains a safety razor. The razor comprises a handle having a first end, a mid section and a second end and a razor cartridge removably coupled to the first end of the handle. The razor may further comprise an erodable shaving aid body removably coupled to the first end of the handle. The handle has a supportable surface at the first end. The razor can be removably retained in the razor holder with the first end of the razor at a lower elevation than the second end (first position). The first pair of arms partially surrounds the first end of the razor and the supportable surface abuts the lip of the razor holder. The second pair of arms partially surrounds the mid section of the razor. The location of the center of mass of the razor is such that a moment is caused to urge the mid section of the handle generally toward the second pair of arms.

[00011] In a further aspect of the present invention, the wall mountable holder can removably retain the safety razor also in a second position. In this second position the first end of the razor is at a higher elevation than the second end. In this second position, the first pair of arms partially surrounds the first end of the handle and the inner edge of the lip abuts the first end of the handle to suspend the razor.

[00012] In a still further aspect of the present invention, the wall mounting structure of the wall mountable holder comprises preferably one or more suction cups, or one or more screwed fasteners or double-sided adhesive tape.

[00013] The above features and advantages of the present invention will be more fully understood with reference to the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

[00014]

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a top view of an embodiment of the razor holder of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is an isometric view from above of an embodiment of the razor holder of the present invention.

Fig. 3 is a front view of an embodiment of the razor holder of the present invention.

Fig. 4 is a side view of an embodiment of the razor holder of the present invention partially cut away, with a razor retained therein.

Fig. 5 is an underside view of an embodiment of the razor holder of the present invention with a razor retained therein.

Fig. 6 is a partial front view of an embodiment of the razor holder of the present invention with a razor retained therein, showing the razor holder sectioned along lines 6-6 of Fig. 4.

Fig. 7 is an exploded isometric view of an embodiment of the razor holder of the present invention showing alternative wall mounting structure embodiments.

Fig. 8 is an isometric view of an embodiment of the razor holder of the present invention with a razor retained therein in a second position.

(a) Detailed Description of the Invention

[00015] Referring now to the drawings and in particular Figs 1-3, the wall mountable razor holder (10) comprises a back plate (12). The back plate defines a height and has a wall mounting structure. In the depicted embodiment the wall mounting structure is at least one suction cup (14). A first pair of preferably curves arms (16, 17), horizontally spaced, extends forwardly from the back plate (12) with their free ends (20, 22) directed toward one another. This first pair of arms (16,17) defines a first width between their free ends (20,22). Each arm has a lip

(24) extending inwardly from the arm (16,17). The lip (24) has an inner edge (26). A second pair of preferably curved arms (40, 42), horizontally spaced, extends forwardly from the back plate (12) with their free ends (44, 46) directed forwardly of the back plate. This second pair of arms (40,42) define a space therebetween and a second width between their free ends (44,46). The second pair of arms (40,42) is disposed higher on the back plate (12) than the first pair of arms (16,17). In the preferred embodiment the first width is greater than the second width. The razor holder (10) is preferably a molded thermoplastic, more preferably a commodity thermoplastic such as polypropylene, most preferably Cosmoplene AY564 sold by TPC. One of skill in the art will understand alternative materials or methods of manufacture may also be employed. Although the razor holder (10) is shown as a one-piece molding, one of skill in the art will realize this could equally be made from two or more moldings permanently joined together.

[00016] Referring now to Figs 4-6, a safety razor (50) is shown removably retained in the razor holder (10) in a first position. The razor (50) comprises a handle (51) having a first end (52), a mid section (56) and a second end (54). The razor (50) further comprises a razor cartridge (60) and an erodable shaving aid body (70) both removably coupled to the first end (52) of the handle (51). The erodable shaving aid body has a side surface (72) and an upper surface (74). The handle (51) has a supportable surface (80) at its first end (52 see Fig.6). The razor (50) is removably retained in the razor holder with the first end (52) of the razor (50) at a lower elevation than the second end (54). Further, the upper surface (74) of the erodable shaving aid body(70) is at a lower elevation than the first pair of arms (16,17) and the side surface of the erodable shaving aid body (72) is spaced apart from the inner edge of the lip (26). The first pair of arms (16,17) partially surrounds the first end (52) of the razor handle (51) and the supportable surface (80) abuts the lip (26). The second pair of arms (42, 44) partially surrounds the mid section (56) of the razor handle (51). The location of the center (90) of mass of the razor (50) is such that a moment is caused to urge the mid section (56) of the handle (51) generally toward the space between the second pair of arms (42,44), pictorially shown as arrow A in Fig. 4. Furthermore this moment will overcome any small rotational displacement, for example 45° , of the second end (54) of the handle (51) in the direction of arrow B and this moment will return the razor (50) to its retained position.

[00017] Referring now to Fig 7, alternative wall mounting structures are shown, in the alternative, in exploded format. Alternative wall mounting structure may be at least one screwed fastener 100. Further alternative wall mounting structure may be at least one piece of double-sided or double-faced adhesive tape 110.

[00018] Referring now to Fig 8, a safety razor (50) is shown removably retained in the razor holder (10) in a second position. In this second position, the first end (52) of the handle (51) is at a higher elevation than the second end (54). The first pair of arms (16,17) partially surrounds

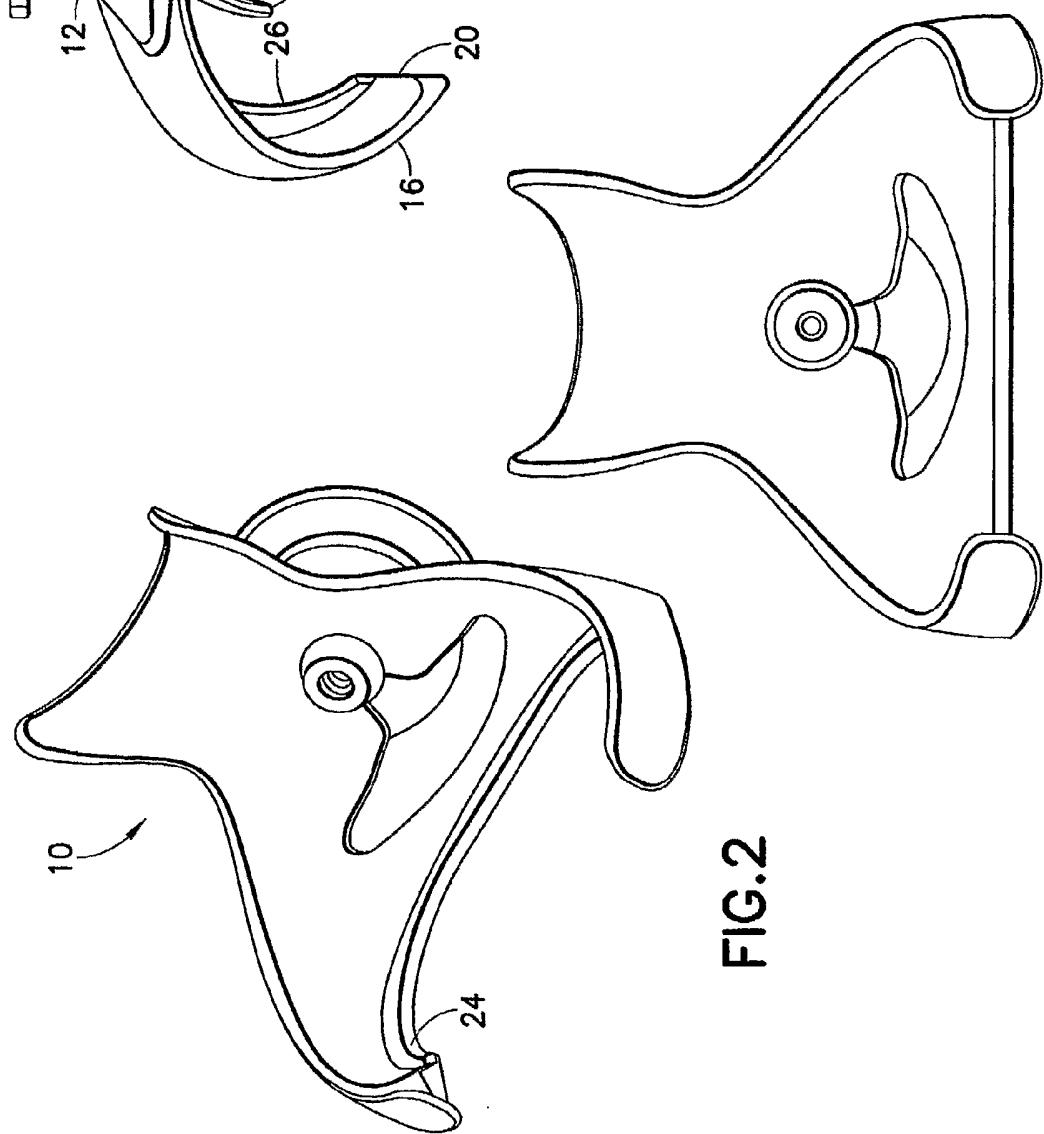
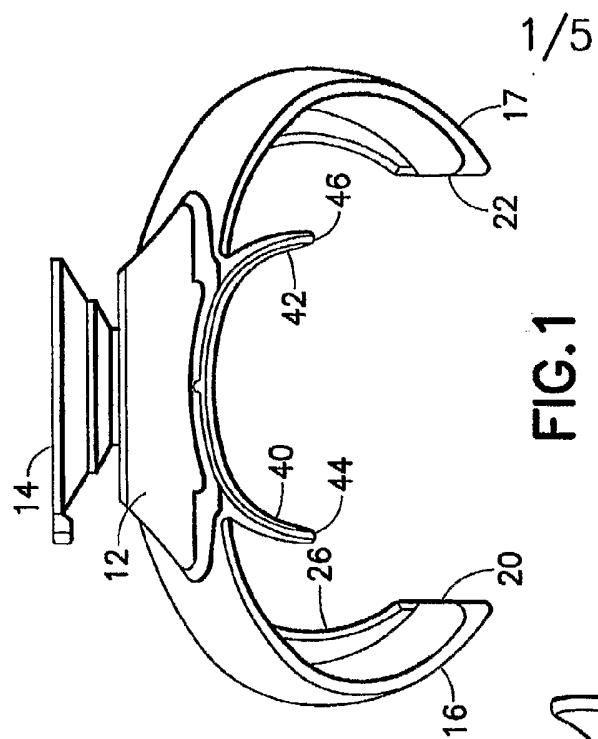
[00019] the first end (52) of the handle (51) and the inner edge of the lip of the first pair of arms (16,17) abuts the first end (52) of the handle (51) to suspend the razor (50).

[00020] It is to be understood that the present invention is by no means limited to the particular construction herein disclosed and/or shown in the drawings, but also comprises any modifications or equivalents within the definition of the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A combination of a safety razor and a wall mountable razor holder for holding the safety razor,
the razor holder comprising:
a back plate having a wall mounting structure and defining a height in the condition of being mounted at a wall,
a first pair of horizontally spaced arms, the arms extending forwardly from the back plate with their free ends directed toward one another and defining a first width between the free ends thereof, each arm having a lip extending inwardly from the arm, the lip having an inner edge, and
a second pair of horizontally spaced arms extending forwardly from the back plate with their free ends directed forwardly of the back plate and defining a space therebetween and a second width between the free ends thereof, the second pair of arms being disposed higher on the back plate than the first pair of arms,
the safety razor comprising
a handle, the handle having a first end, a mid section, a second end and a supportable surface at the first end; and a razor cartridge removably coupled to the first end of the handle , wherein in the condition of the back plate being mounted at a wall, the razor holder is adapted to removably retain the safety razor in two positions, namely a first position or a second position;
wherein in the first position the razor is removably retained in the razor holder with the first end of the handle at a lower elevation than the second end , wherein the first pair of arms partially surrounds the first end of the handle and the supportable surface abuts the lip and wherein the second pair of the arms partially surrounds the mid section of the handle , and
wherein in the second position the razor is removably retained in the razor holder with the first end of the handle at a higher elevation than the second end , wherein the first pair of the arms partially surrounds the first end of the handle and at least a part of the inner edge of the lip abuts the first end of the handle.
2. The combination according to claim 1, wherein the first width is greater than the second width.

3. The combination according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the first pair of arms are curved.
4. The combination according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the second pair of arms are curved.
5. The combination according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the position of the center of mass of the safety razor (retained in the razor holder causes a moment to urge the mid section of the handle generally toward the space between the second pair of arms.
6. The combination according to any one of claim 1 to 5, wherein the safety razor further includes a shaving aid body removably coupled to the first end of the handle.
7. The combination according to claim 6, wherein the shaving aid body has a side surface and an upper surface and wherein the safety razor in the first position is removably retained in the razor holder with the upper surface at a lower elevation than the first pair of arms.
8. The combination according to claim 7, wherein the side surface of the shaving aid body is spaced from the inner edge of the lip.
9. The combination according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the razor holder is a molded thermoplastic.
10. The combination according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the wall mounting structure includes at least one suction cup.
11. The combination according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the wall mounting structure includes at least one screwed fastener.
12. The combination according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the wall mounting structure includes double-sided adhesive tape.



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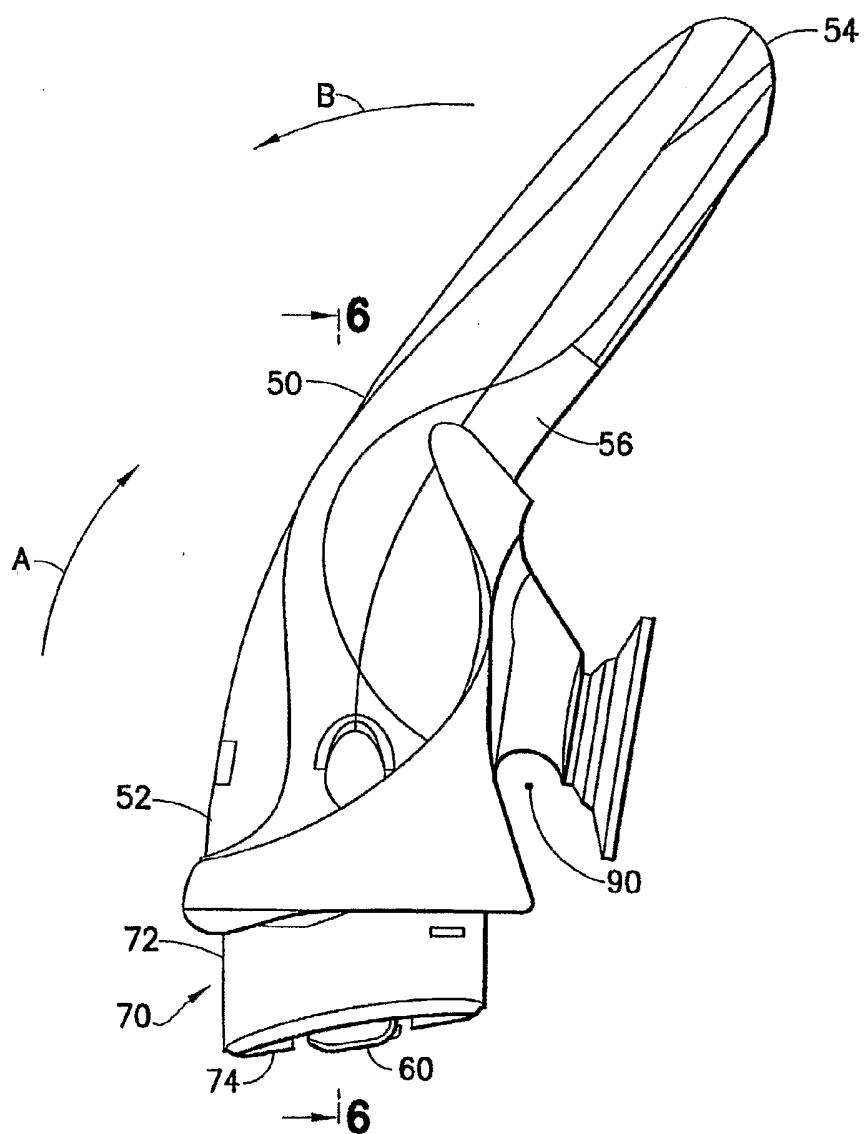


FIG.4

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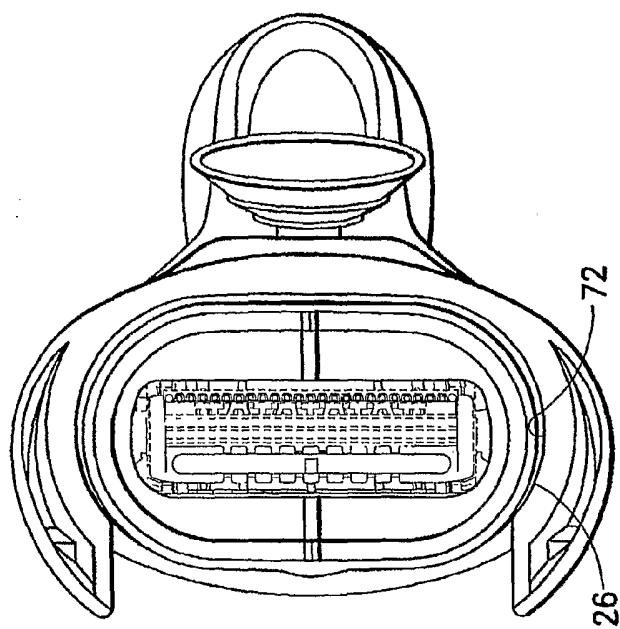


FIG.5

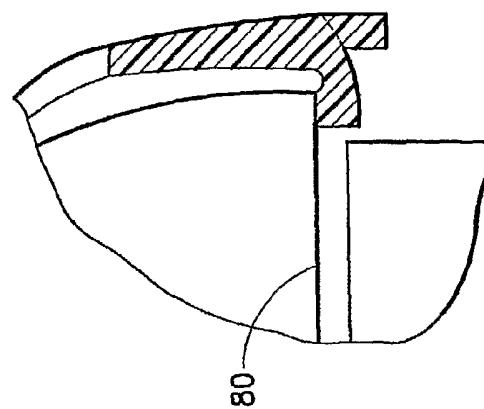
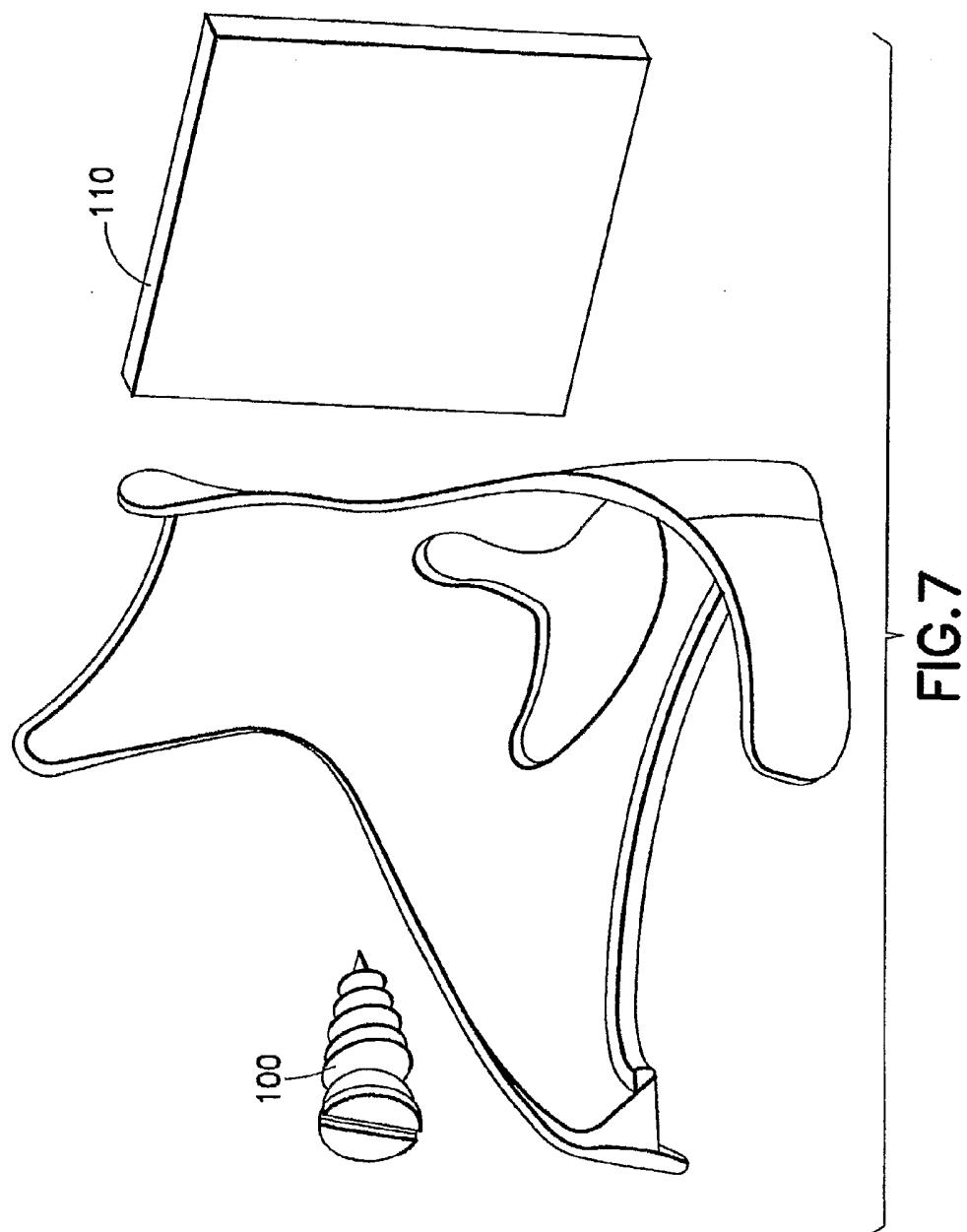


FIG.6

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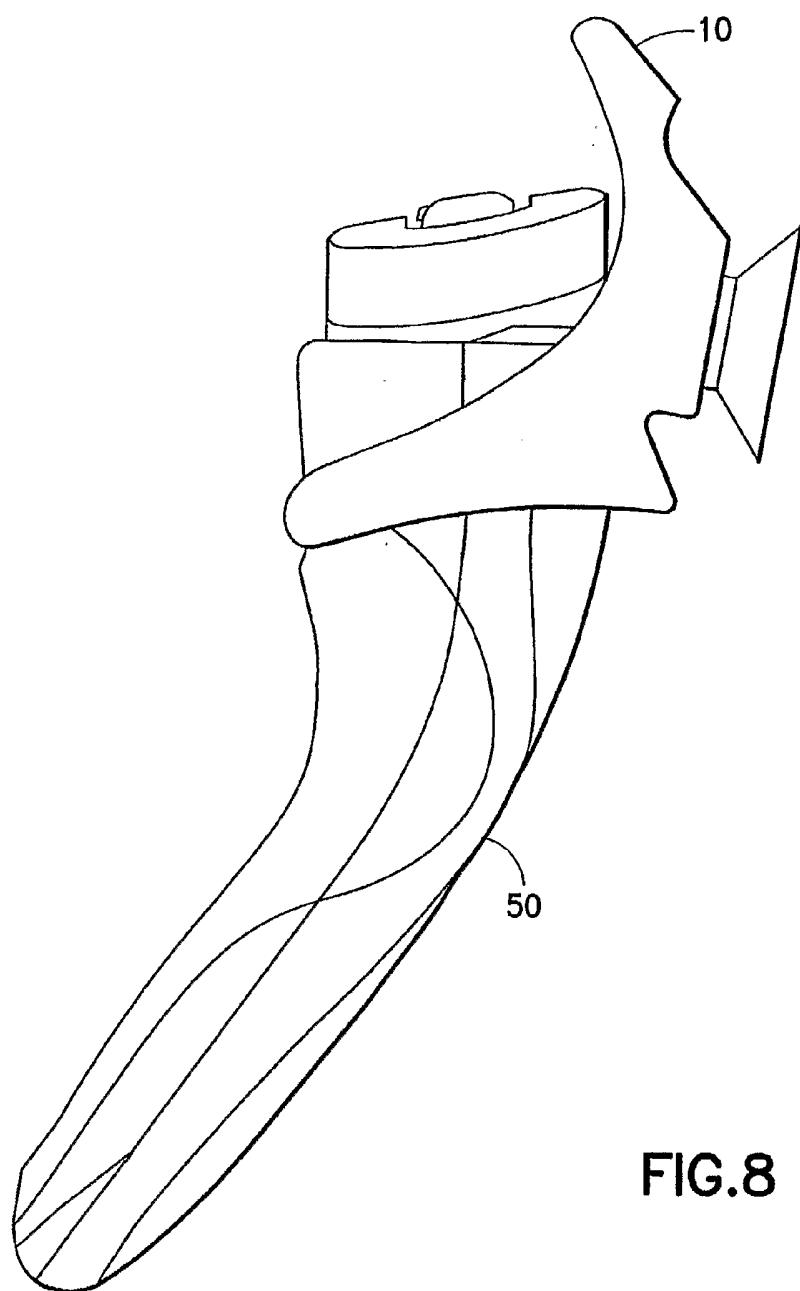


FIG.8