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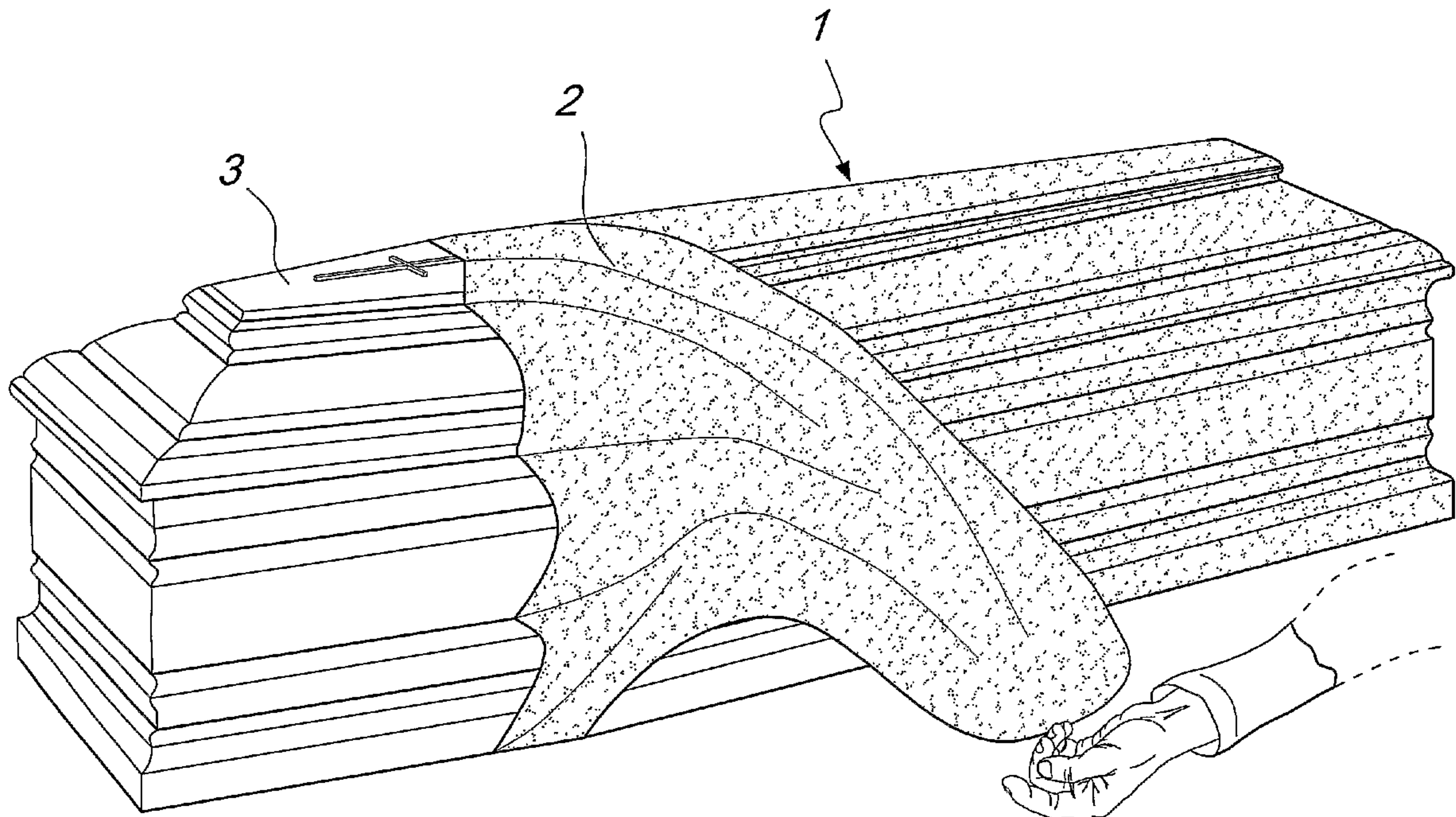
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(54) Title: EXTERNAL COVERING FOR COFFINS, SARCOPHAGI, CINERARY URNS AND THE LIKE



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

An external covering for coffins, sarcophagi, cinerary urns and the like, whose particularity resides in that it comprises at least one adhesive film (2) that can be applied uniformly over the entire outer surface of a coffin (3) and the like.

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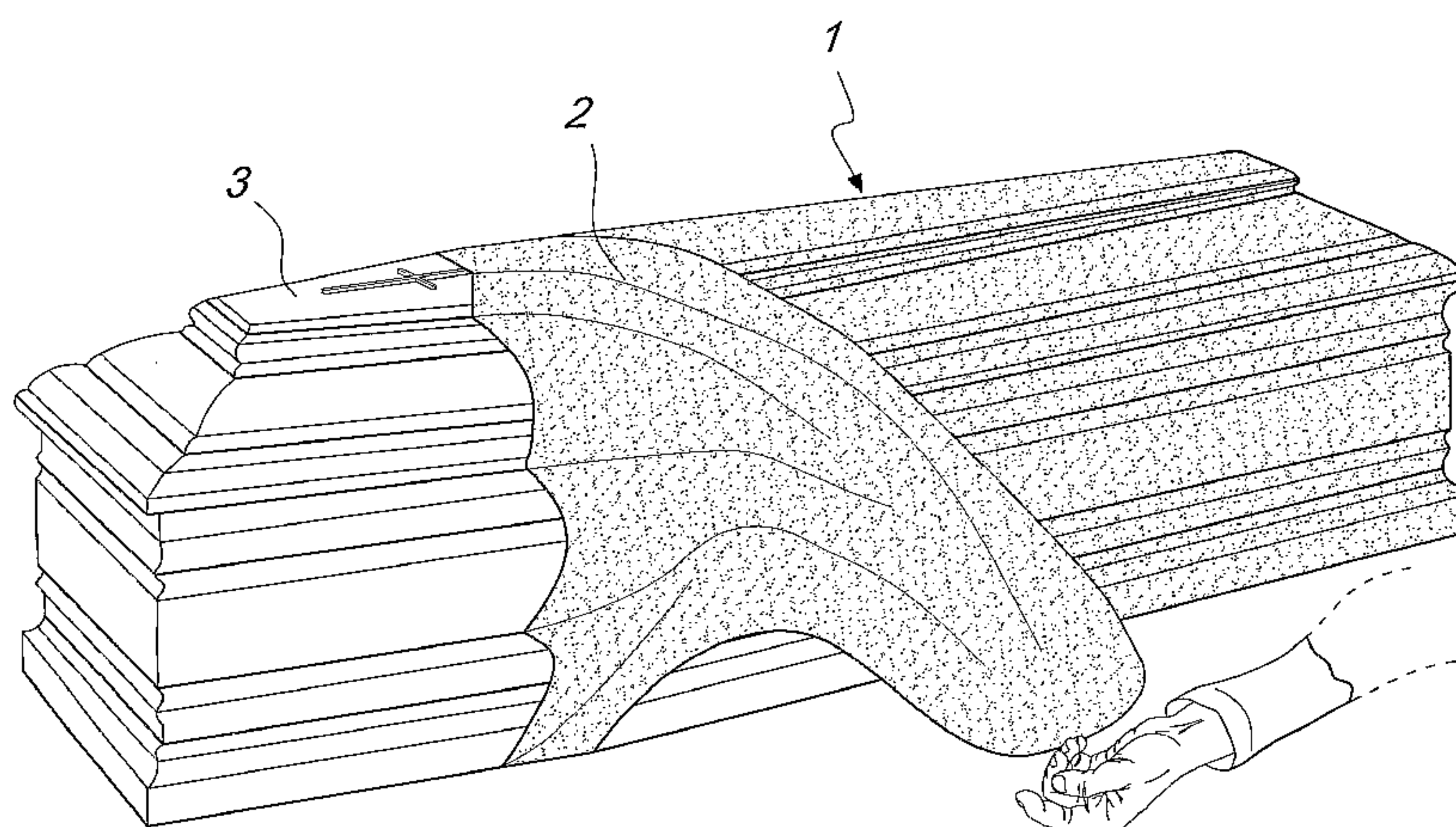


Fig. 6

(57) Abstract: An external covering for coffins, sarcophagi, cinerary urns and the like, whose particularity resides in that it comprises at least one adhesive film (2) that can be applied uniformly over the entire outer surface of a coffin (3) and the like.

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EXTERNAL COVERING FOR COFFINS, SARCOPHAGI, CINERARY URNS AND THE LIKE

Technical field

The present invention relates to an external covering for coffins,
5 sarcophagi, cinerary urns and the like.

Background art

In the field of undertaking and the like, known types of coffin
currently used are generally made of wood and subsequently painted for
decoration according to the requirements of the person who orders the
10 coffin.

These painted coffins are not free from drawbacks, which include the
fact that the paints used are toxic both for the environment and for the
painting workers who use them during the process for painting said coffin.

This toxicity is further observed in the areas neighboring the factory
15 where the coffins are manufactured.

The competent local health services in fact detect a high rate of
pollution and toxicity related to the emissions of vapors released by the
paints of coffins.

For example, considering an annual productivity, in the Italian market
20 alone, equal to 550,000 coffins per year, and considering an average
consumption of 4 kilograms of paint to paint a single coffin, there is a total
consumption of 2,200,000 kilograms of highly toxic substances which are
dispersed into the environment, into the atmosphere or into the ground,
depending on whether the coffin is cremated or buried.

25 More precisely, if the coffin is buried or placed in a loculus, it is not
disposed of but remains toxic and harmful for a period of time that
currently, by law, in Italy is equal to ten years.

Once this period of time has elapsed, the coffins are exhumed and are
disposed of with difficulty, very often by means of a process that does not
30 safeguard the environment.

As regards coffins designed for cremation, they are burned in crematoriums, thus emitting toxic fumes into the atmosphere caused by the Burning of the paints with which they are painted, thus contributing to pollution.

5 Another drawback of known types of coffin consists in that continuous use of wood to build them contributes to global exploitation of the environment and of nature, reducing ever more the number of particularly valuable trees, such as for example larch and durmast oak.

10 In addition to the consumption of wood used directly to provide the coffin, one must consider the fact that a large amount of wood is rejected or otherwise not used due to the presence of surface defects that are not appreciated by consumers, such as for example knots and imperfections caused by the grain.

Summary of the invention

The aim of the present invention is to provide an external covering for coffins, sarcophagi and the like that solves the problems of the background art.

15 Within this aim, an object of the present invention is to provide a coffin, including a box-like body made of rough or reclaimed wood and at least one external covering applied to the outer surface of said body, wherein that said external covering is an adhesive film made of a plastic material or environmentally friendly paper, said external covering having on one side thereof an adhesive layer by which it is directly applied on
20 said outer surface of the body, and is applied on the body in such a way to adhere to the outer surface of the body for at least partially replacing the painting of said outer surface.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an external covering for coffins that makes it possible to use, in order to provide the coffin, even wood that is normally considered second choice and therefore not usable.

25 Another object of the present invention is to reduce drastically the processes for preparing the wood used to prepare coffins, such as planing and sanding with various grains and passes.

Another object of the present invention is to make the coffin entirely suitable for cremation.

30 This aim, these objects and others that will become better apparent

hereinafter are achieved by an external covering for coffins, sarcophagi and the like, characterized in that it comprises at least one adhesive film that can be applied uniformly over the entire outer surface of a coffin and the like.

Brief description of drawings

5 Further characteristics and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the description of a preferred but not exclusive embodiment, of an external covering for coffins, sarcophagi and the like according to the invention, illustrated by way of non-limiting example in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

10 Figure 1 is a plan view of a coffin to which the covering according to the invention is applied;

Figure 2 is a lateral elevation view of the coffin shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the coffin shown in Figure 1;

15 Figure 4 is a perspective view of the coffin shown in Figure 1, with two enlargements on two details;

Figure 5 is a sectional view of part of the coffin shown in Figure 1;

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the coffin shown in Figure 1 during the step for removal of the outer covering.

Ways of carrying out the invention

20 With reference to the figures, according to the invention, the external covering for coffins, sarcophagi and the like, generally designated by the reference numeral 1, comprises at least one adhesive film 2, which can be applied uniformly to the entire outer surface of a coffin 3 and the like even on particularly complex surfaces, such as for example in the presence of
25 edges, moldings and other geometric shapes.

More precisely, the adhesive film 2 can be applied to the surfaces of the coffin 3 by way of the adhesive layer that is present on one side thereof.

As described in greater detail hereinafter, the adhesive layer of the adhesive film 2 is such as to allow the operator of the crematorium to easily
30 remove the adhesive film 2 from the coffin 3 before cremating it, so as to

allow the recycling of the material of which the adhesive film 2 is made.

Advantageously, said adhesive film 2, which in two mutually alternative possible variations is made of plastic material or environmentally friendly paper, is made of a recyclable material.

5 Conveniently, the adhesive film can be made for example of polypropylene, homopolymer, copolymer, polystyrene, polyethylene, ethylene, polyvinyl chloride, polymethyl methacrylate, styrene acrylonitrile, or any other similar material.

10 In order to withstand the effects of weather to which the coffin 3 is subjected during its use and otherwise, the adhesive film 2, which can bear decorations of various kinds depending on the preferences of the buyer, such as for example fantastic, naturalistic, military, abstract, religious, artistic, photographic decorations, with or without lettering, can be waterproof, light-tight and resistant to wind and heat.

15 The decorations can be provided by using plant- and animal-derived dyes which are edible and therefore not harmful and adhesives that are likewise plant- and/or animal-derived.

Finally, the adhesive film 2 can be monochrome or multicolored, smooth or rough, glossy or opaque, breathable or conspicuous.

20 The film is applied by laying it on the various parts of the coffin or the like, eliminating the excess parts with a cutter. By using a source of hot air, some parts of the film are heated in order to make it adhere better and therefore align with edges and corners of any geometric shape that are present on the coffin. Any bubbles can be eliminated with the aid of
25 appropriately provided spatulas.

The adhesive film 2 can be a thermoadhesive, heat-shrink film, which can be applied to the coffin with the "vacuum" technique.

In practice it has been found that the external covering for coffins, sarcophagi and the like according to the present invention fully achieves the
30 intended aim and objects, since it makes it possible to cover completely and

uniformly coffins or sarcophagi by using one or more adhesive films, which can also be drawn with a pantograph or generated with a plotter (this expression refers to cuts for pre-spaced techniques etcetera). Essentially, if the coffin is indeed covered with the film described above, it is possible to
5 apply patterns and ornaments over said film without them having the same quality.

More precisely, this adhesive covering fully or partially replaces the paint with which coffins are commonly painted, and other than said paint hides any defects or flaws of the wood with which the coffin is made,
10 making it assume a pleasant appearance even if it is made with rough wood or reclaimed wood, such as for example boards or pieces of solid wood of low quality, with knots and imperfections caused by visible grain, laminated wood, chipwood, plywood, or cellulose-derived materials.

In this manner it is possible to protect nature against the exploitation
15 of trees and against atmospheric pollution.

Another advantage of the covering according to the present invention is that since the adhesive film is decorated by means of a printing process, it is possible to represent thereon the grain of a quality wood, improving the aesthetics of the coffin to which it is applied and refining it, even though the
20 coffin is made of a material that in itself is of low value.

Another advantage of the covering according to the present invention is that the removed adhesive films are not thrown away but can be recognized as 100% fully recyclable material.

Accordingly, at the sites of crematoriums, prior to the cremation
25 procedure, it is possible to remove and recover the adhesive films, keeping only the rough 100% wood coffin, which does not cause pollution.

The covering according to the invention can conveniently comprise a certification element that is associated with one of the two surfaces of the covering or is inserted therein such as a watermark, hologram or reflector
30 and the like. The certification element attests that the film used as a

covering does not leave residues. Recognition of this particularity is a check that must be performed by the operator who presently, prior to cremation, removes the brass parts (crosses, handles, etcetera) from coffins before introducing them in the cremation oven.

Another advantage of the covering according to the present invention
5 consists in being economically advantageous with respect to what is provided in the background art, since there is a saving that is equal to the cost of the paints, to the cost of the application of the paint, to the cost of disposal of the pollutants contained in the paints, to any penalties due to an excess of harmful substances introduced in the environment, and to the difference in cost between inexpensive wood and valuable
10 wood.

Furthermore, all the details may be replaced with other technically equivalent elements.

In practice, the materials used, as long as they are compatible with the specific use, as well as the contingent shapes and dimensions, may be any according to requirements
15 and to the state of the art.

Where technical features mentioned in any claim are followed by reference signs, those reference signs have been included for the sole purpose of increasing the intelligibility of the claims and accordingly such reference signs do not have any limiting effect on the interpretation of each element identified by way of
20 example by such reference signs.

CLAIMS

1. A coffin, comprising a box-like body made of rough or reclaimed wood and at least one external covering applied to the outer surface of said body, wherein that said external covering is an adhesive film made of a plastic material or environmentally friendly paper, said external covering having on one side thereof an adhesive layer by which it is directly applied on said outer surface of the body, and is applied on the body in such a way to adhere to the outer surface of the body for at least partially replacing the painting of said outer surface.

2. The coffin according to claim 1, wherein said external covering is applied uniformly on the entire outer surface of the box-like body as an at least partial replacement of the finishing paint of said body.

3. The coffin according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said external covering, once applied, is suitable to be easily removed from the box-like body.

4. The coffin according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein said external covering is made of a recyclable material.

5. The coffin according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein said external covering is waterproof.

6. The coffin according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein said external covering is impermeable to light.

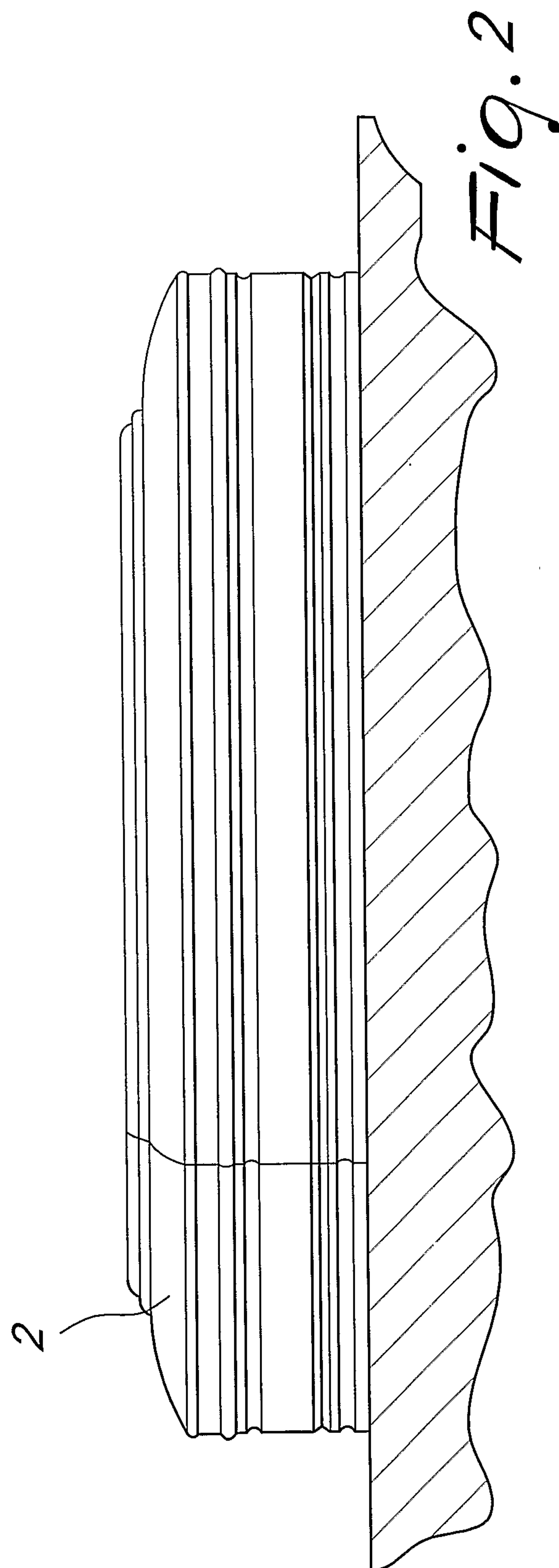
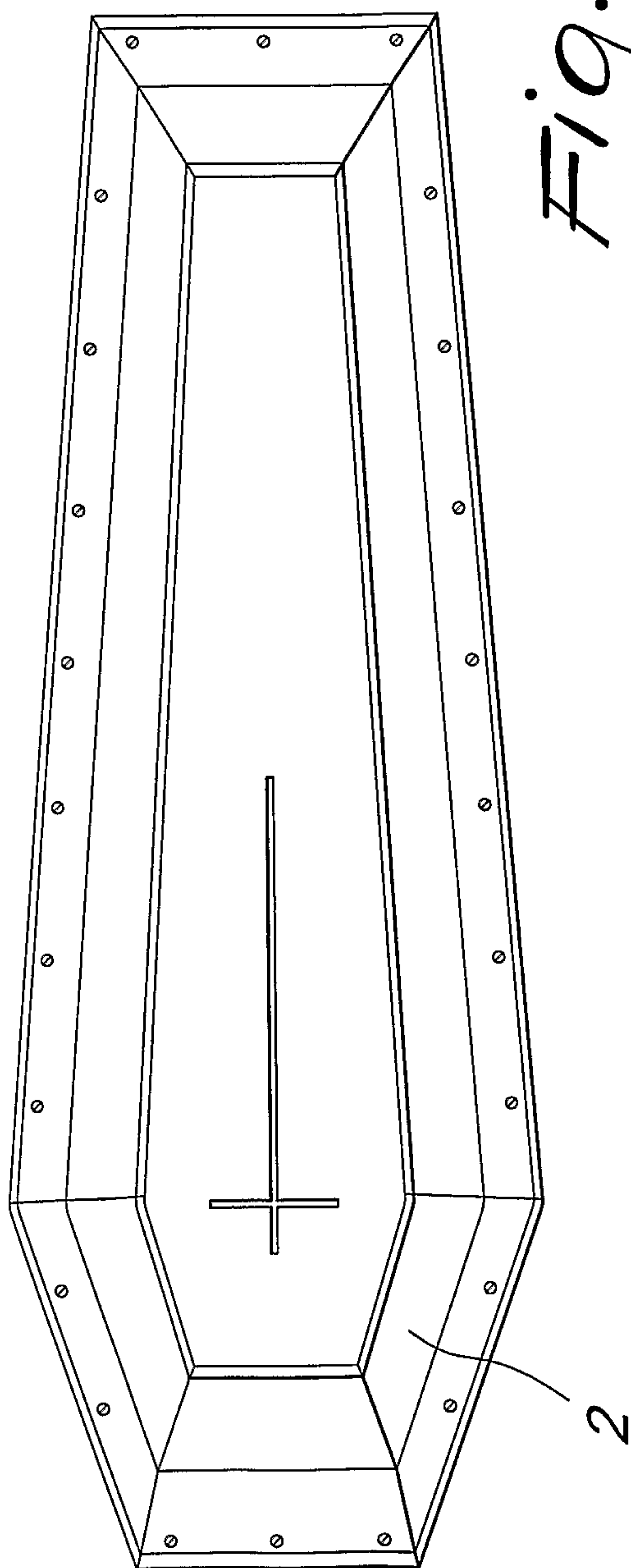
7. The coffin according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein said external covering is impermeable to wind.

8. The coffin according to any one of claims 1-7, wherein said external covering is a heat-shrink film.

9. The coffin according to any one of claims 1-8, wherein said covering film is made of edible dyes.

10. The coffin according to any one of claims 1-9, wherein the covering film comprises a certification element that is associated with it and is suitable to be applied to one face or the other of said covering film or within said covering film.

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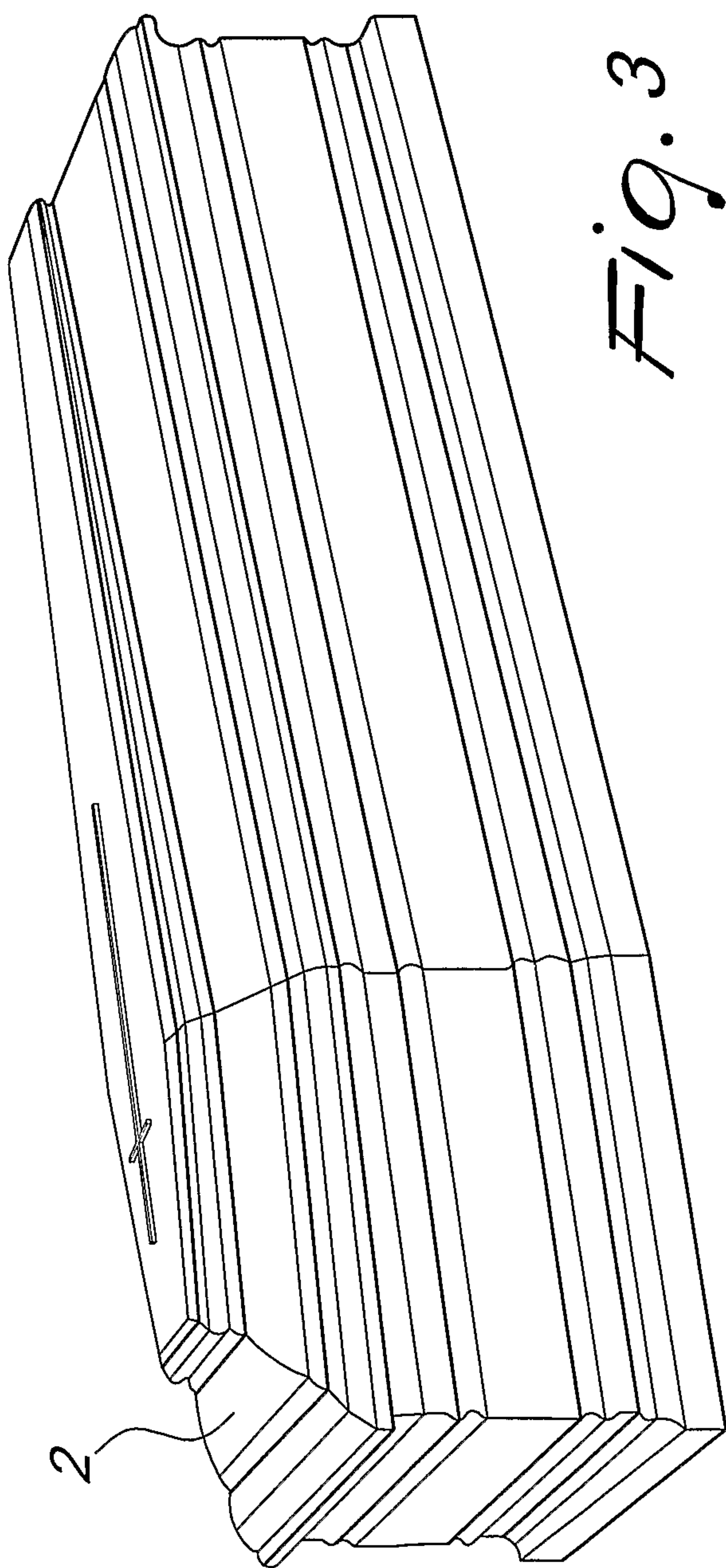


Fig. 3

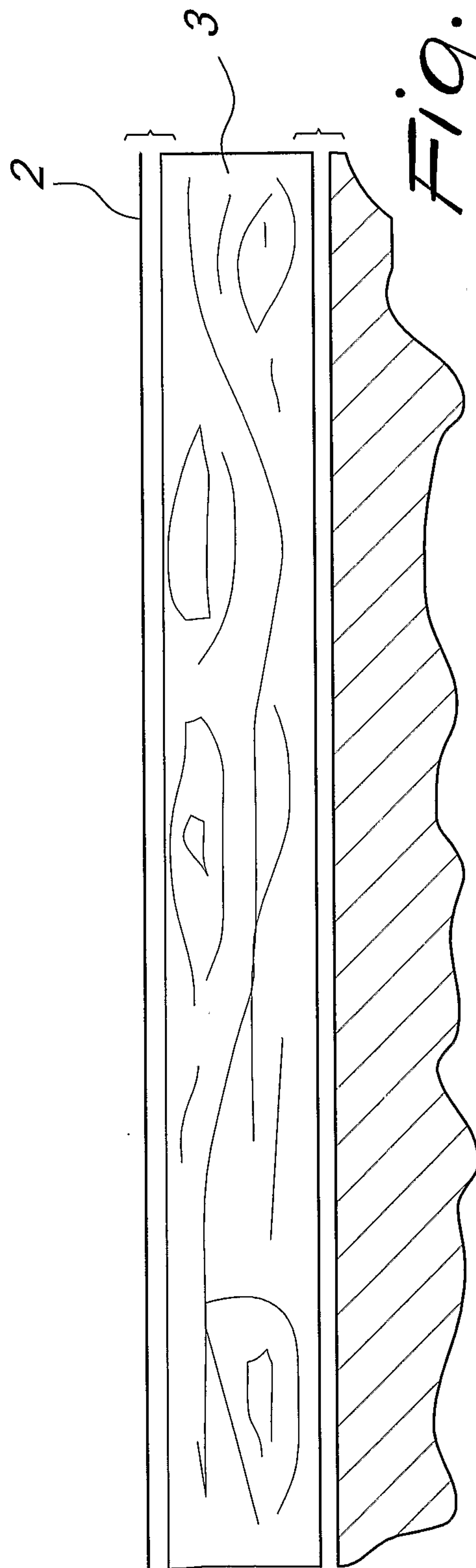
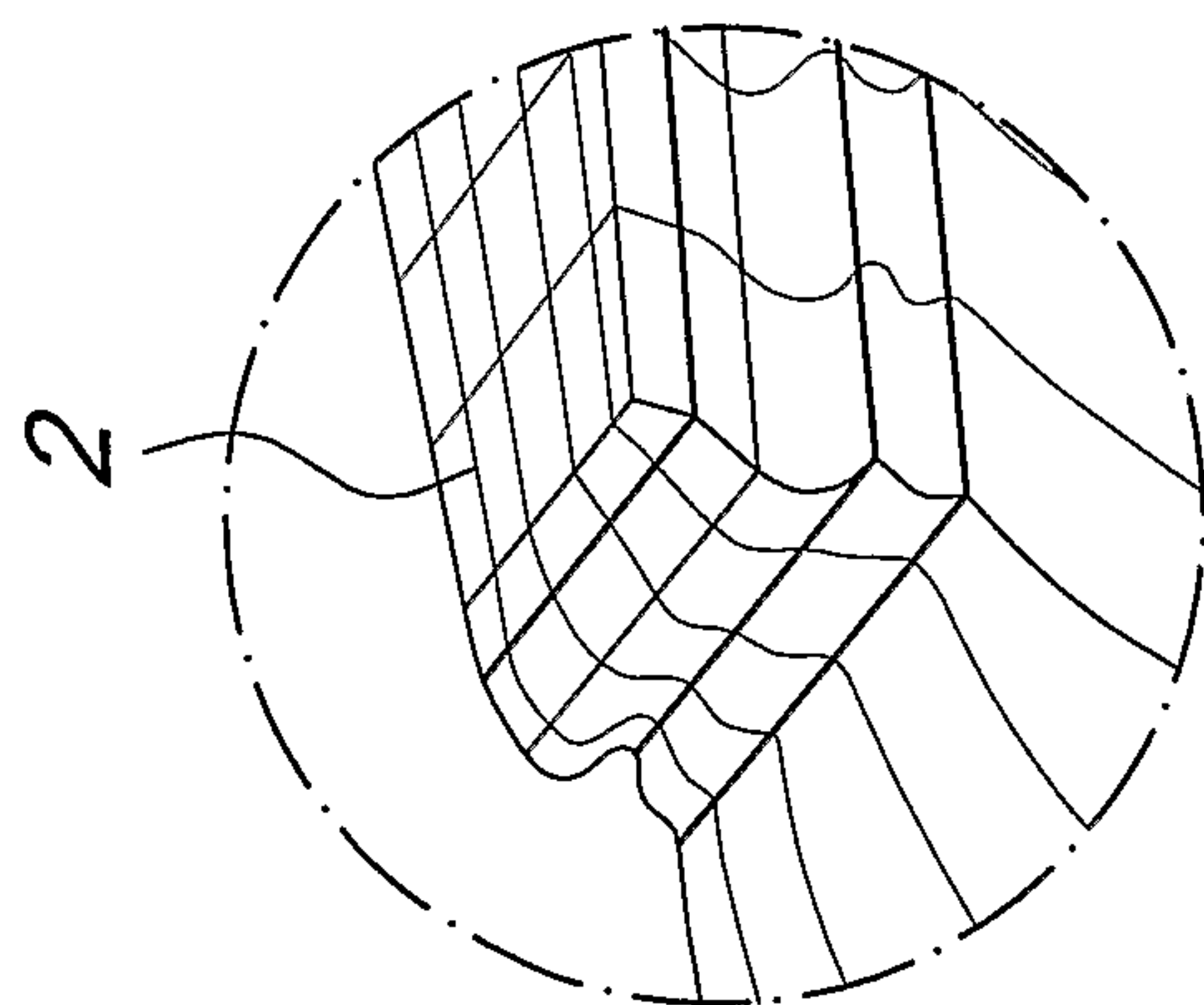
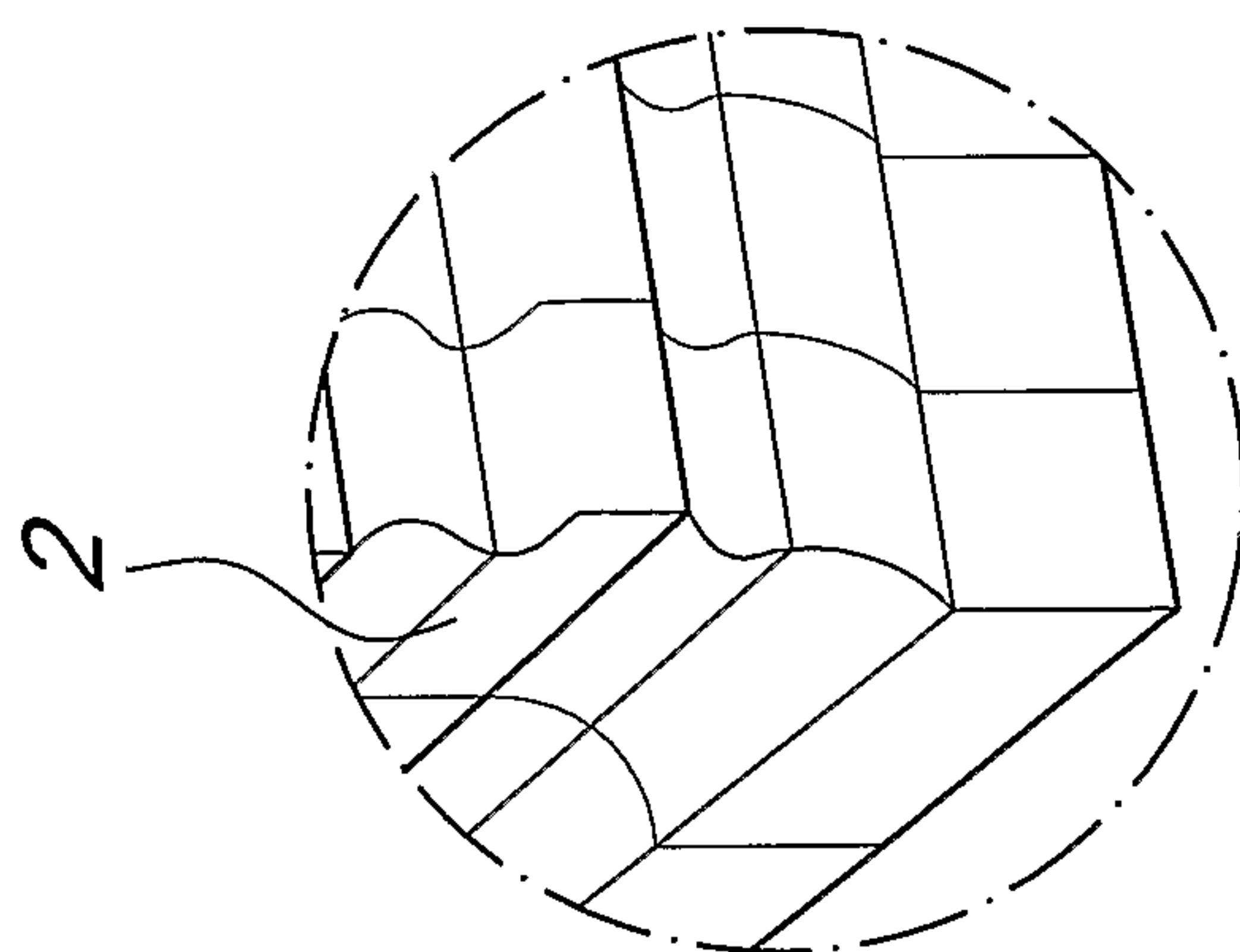
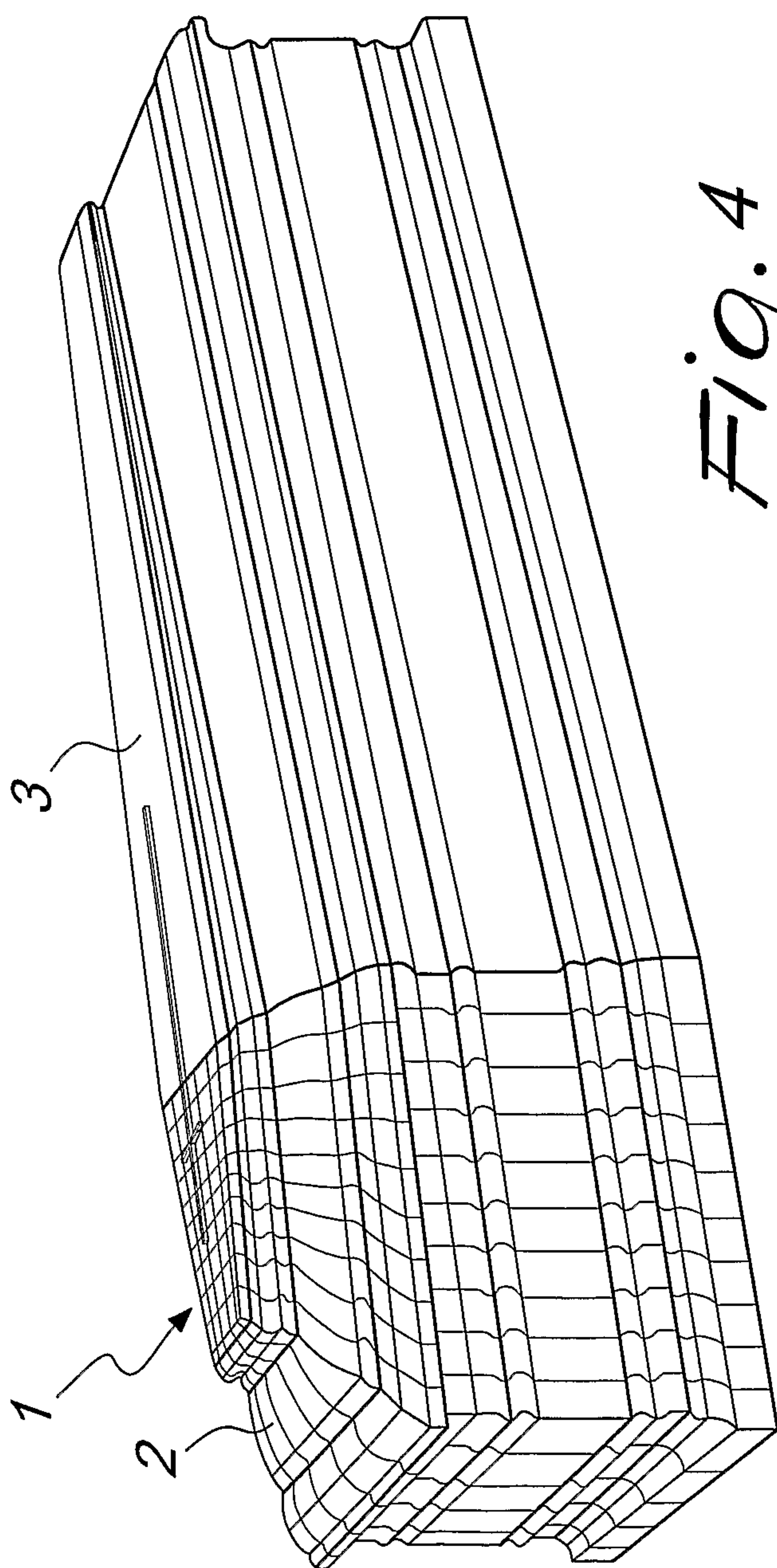
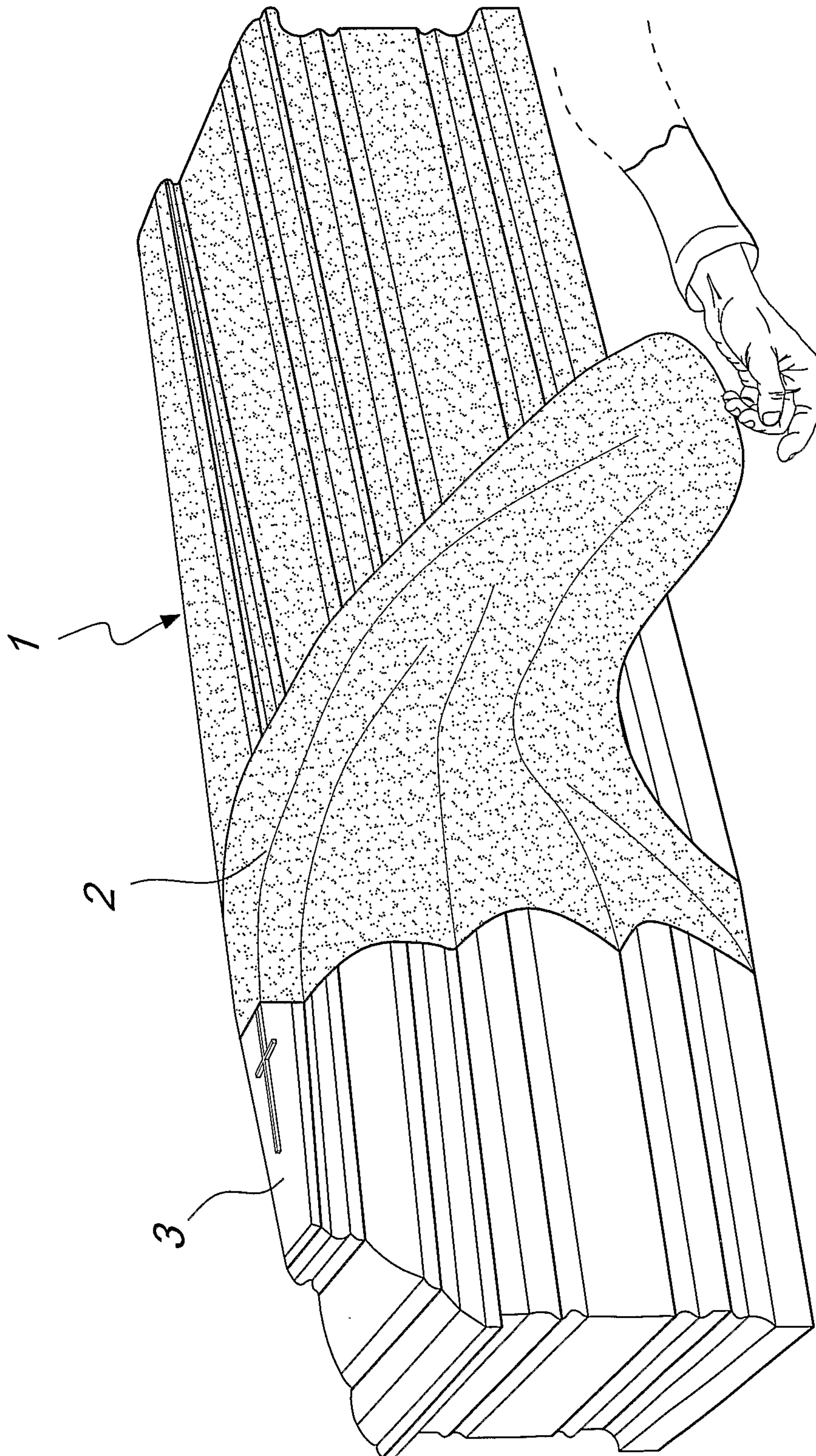


Fig. 5



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*Fig. 6*

