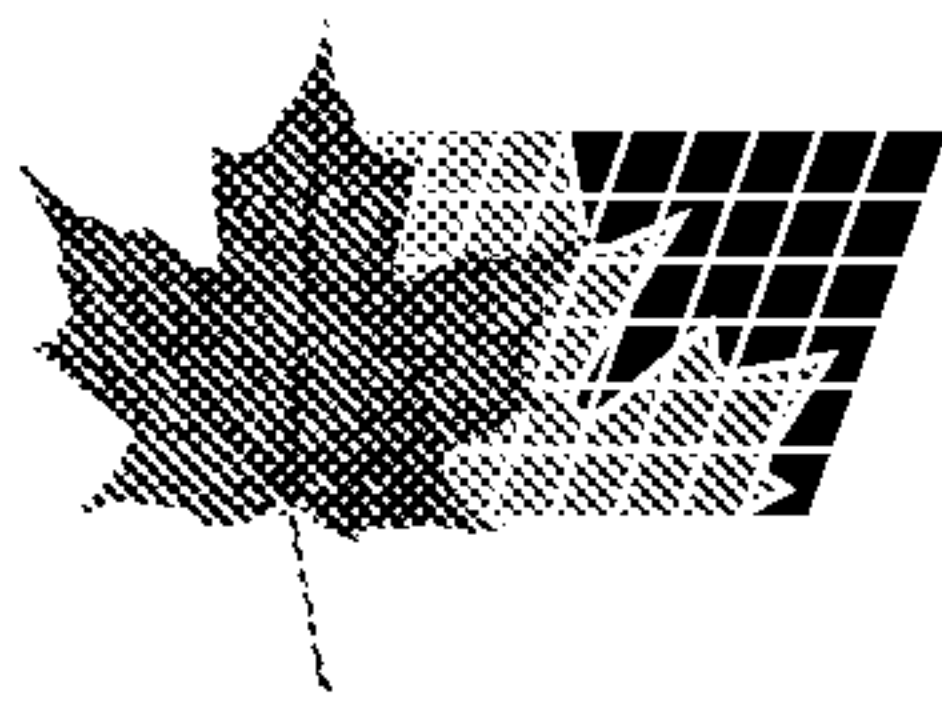




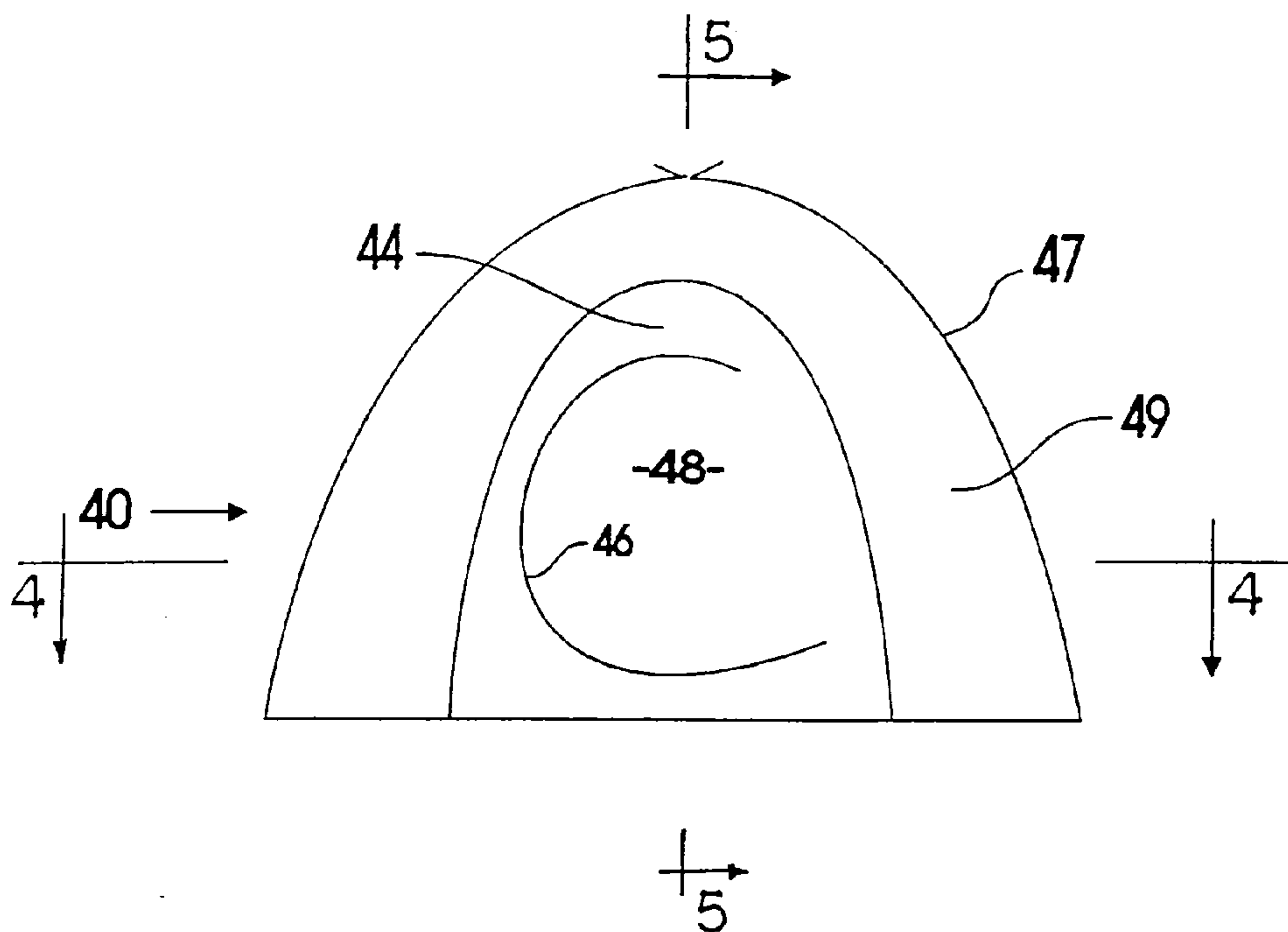
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(54) **PORTE A DOME ANTI-NEIGE**

(54) **SNOW DOME DOOR**



(57) A door is used with a snow shelter having an entranceway. The door includes a fabric door panel with an inverted U-shaped edge along the sides and top. An arcuate zipper around a centre section of the panel defines an openable door. A door frame extends along the top and sides of the door panel. The frame is a strip consisting of two inverted, U-shaped panels of textile fabric fastened around the top and sides of the door panel. The outer edges of the fabric panels are joined by two zippers that close from the bottom up. The frame panels are wider at the base to provide a stable base for supporting the door. To set up the door, the zippers are progressively closed from the bottom up. This forms a tube that is filled and packed with snow as it is closed to create a rigid frame. In use, the door leans against the shelter around the entranceway.

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ABSTRACT

A door is used with a snow shelter having an entranceway. The door includes a fabric door panel with an inverted U-shaped edge along the sides and top. An arcuate zipper around a centre section of the panel defines an openable door. A

5 door frame extends along the top and sides of the door panel. The frame is a strip consisting of two inverted, U-shaped panels of textile fabric fastened around the top and sides of the door panel. The outer edges of the fabric panels are joined by two zippers that close from the bottom up. The frame panels are wider at the base to provide a stable base for supporting the door. To set up the door, the zippers are

10 progressively closed from the bottom up. This forms a tube that is filled and packed with snow as it is closed to create a rigid frame. In use, the door leans against the shelter around the entranceway.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to snow shelters and more particularly to a novel door structure for snow shelters.

BACKGROUND

5 The applicant's Canadian patent application 2,095,294, filed 30 April, 1993 discloses a method and apparatus for making snow domes for use as shelters and the like. That application describes a door for such a shelter. The door has an inverted U-shaped frame of pipe sections and a fabric panel supported by the frame. Zippers in the panel allow the door to be opened. In use, the frame is embedded in
10 the snow as the dome is formed, and then the dome is excavated through the door.

The present invention relates to a novel form of door for a snow shelter. The shelter may be formed according to the above referenced patent application, or it may be a shelter of another sort, e.g. a conventional quinzhee or igloo.

SUMMARY

15 According to the present invention there is provided a door for a snow shelter comprising:

a door panel having an edge along the sides and top of the panel;

a frame extending along and secured to said edge, the frame comprising a strip of flaccid material and means for progressively connecting
20 opposite edges of the strip to form a tube along said edge.

To set up the door for use, the frame strip edges are progressively connected and the resultant frame tube is filled progressively with packed snow. When the frame tube is full, it is a rigid support for the door panel. The complete door may be stood in front of the doorway and leaned against the shelter.

25 The door panel is preferably a flaccid panel with an openable section. A zipper fastener may be used to close the opening section of the panel. The frame

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strip may be formed as two U-shaped panels connected along their inner edges to the edge of the door panel. The means for connecting the frame panel outer edges may constitute a zipper or zippers extending along the edges.

5 The door panel and frame are preferably made from a flaccid material, most preferably a light weight textile fabric.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the accompanying drawings which illustrate an exemplary embodiment of the present invention:

Figures 1, 2 and 3 are front views showing a door being assembled;

10 Figure 4 is a view along line 4-4 of Figure 3;

Figure 5 is a view along line 5-5 of Figure 3;

Figure 6 is a front elevation of a shelter with the door assembly installed; and

Figure 7 is a cross section along line 7-7 of Figure 6.

15 DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring to the accompanying drawings, there is illustrated a door 40 for use with a snow shelter 32. In the Figures 6 and 7, this shelter is a unitary dome of packed snow 32 with a central cavity 36 and an entranceway 34. The door includes a fabric door panel 44 with an inverted U-shaped edge along the sides and top. An arcuate zipper 46 around a centre section of the panel defines an openable door 48. A door frame 49 extends along the top and sides of the door panel. The frame is a strip consisting of two inverted, U-shaped panels 50 of textile fabric fastened around the top and sides of the door panel 44. The outer edges of the fabric panels are joined by two zippers 47 that close from the bottom up. The frame panels are wider at the base to provide a stable base for supporting the door.

To set up the door, the zippers 47 are progressively closed from the

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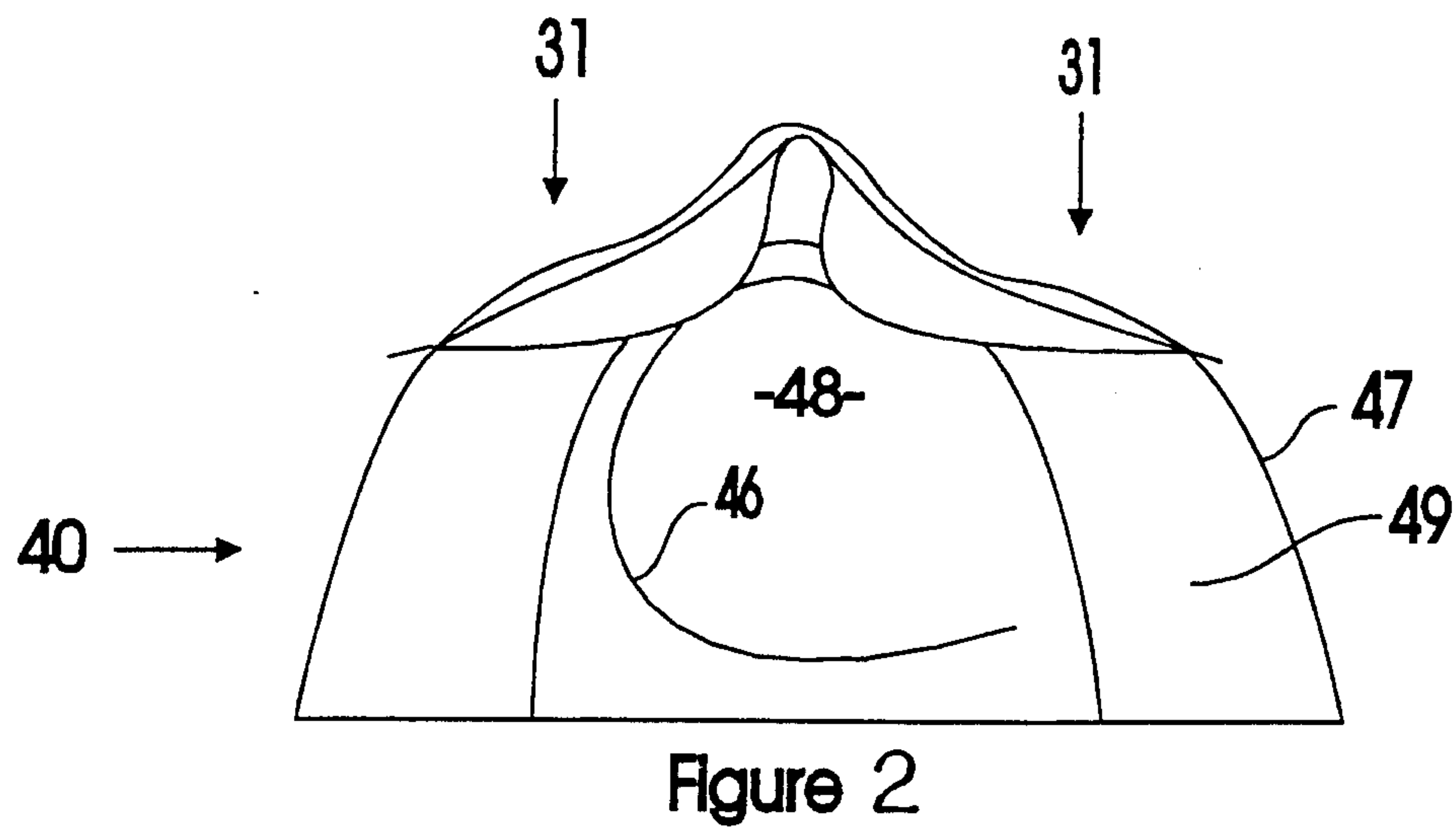
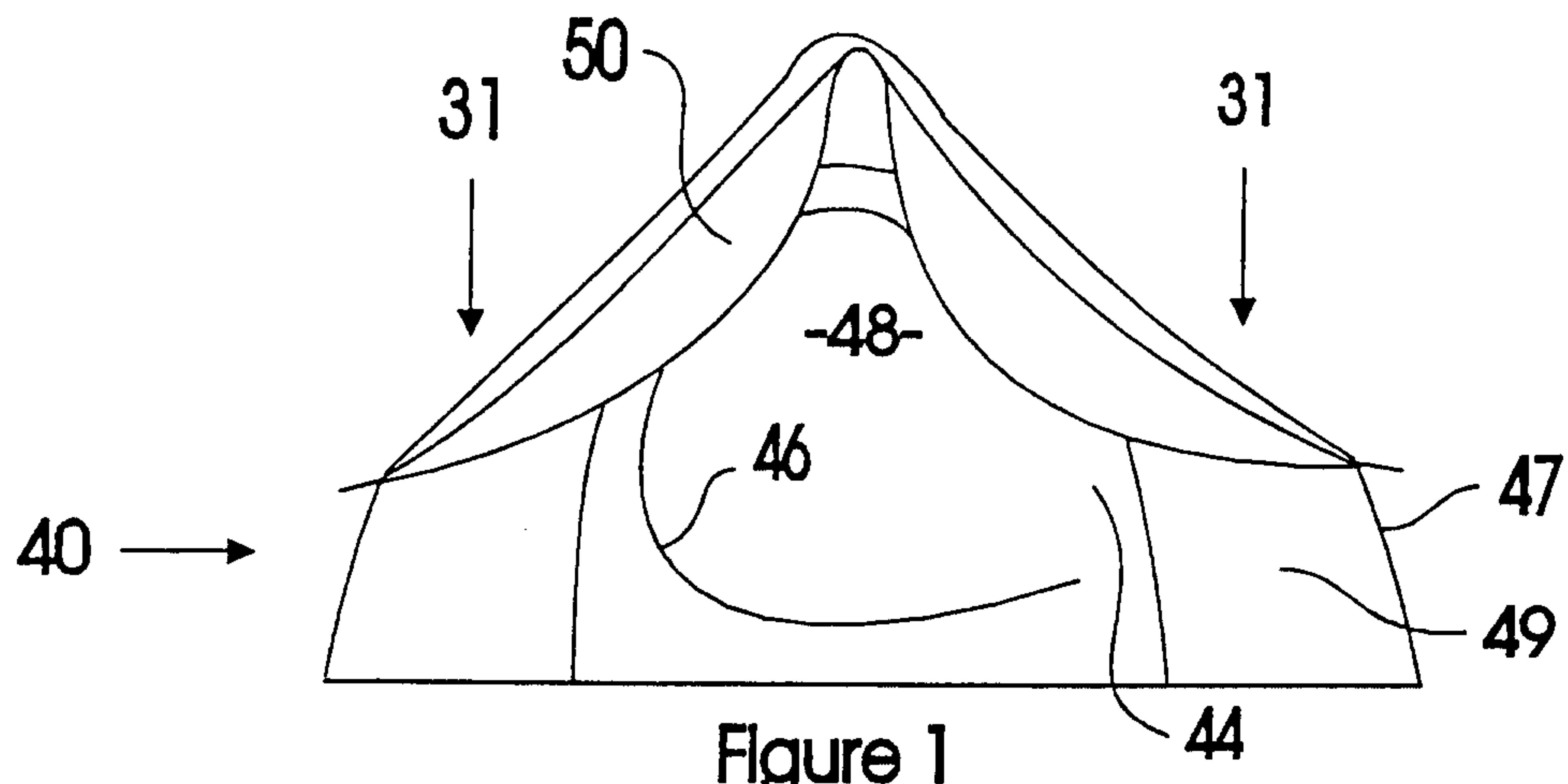
bottom up, as shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3. This forms a tube that is filled and packed with snow 31 as it is closed to create the rigid tubular frame 49 as illustrated in Figure 3. In use, the door leans against the opening 34 as illustrated in Figures 6 and 7.

5 As will be appreciated from the foregoing, modifications in the door are possible without departing from the scope of the present invention. Fasteners other than zippers may be used to close the door panel and the frame. The invention is therefor to be construed as limited solely by the scope of the appended claims.

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CLAIMS

1. A door for a snow shelter comprising:
a door panel having an edge along the sides and top of the panel;
a frame extending along and secured to said edge, the frame
5 comprising a strip of flaccid material and means for progressively connecting
opposite edges of the strip to form a tube along said edge.
2. A door according to Claim 1 wherein the door panel is a flaccid
material.
3. A door according to Claim 2 including an elongate fastener in the door
10 panel providing an openable section of the door panel.
4. A door according to Claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the frame strip comprises
two U-shaped panels connected along their inner edges to the edge of the door
panel.
5. A door according to Claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein the means for connecting
15 the frame panel outer edges comprise two zippers extending along the edges and
closable from respective bottom ends of the door panel edges towards the top.
6. A door according to any preceding claim wherein the door panel and
frame are made from a textile fabric.
7. A door according to any preceding claim wherein the frame tube widens
20 from the top of the door panel to a bottom edge of the door panel.



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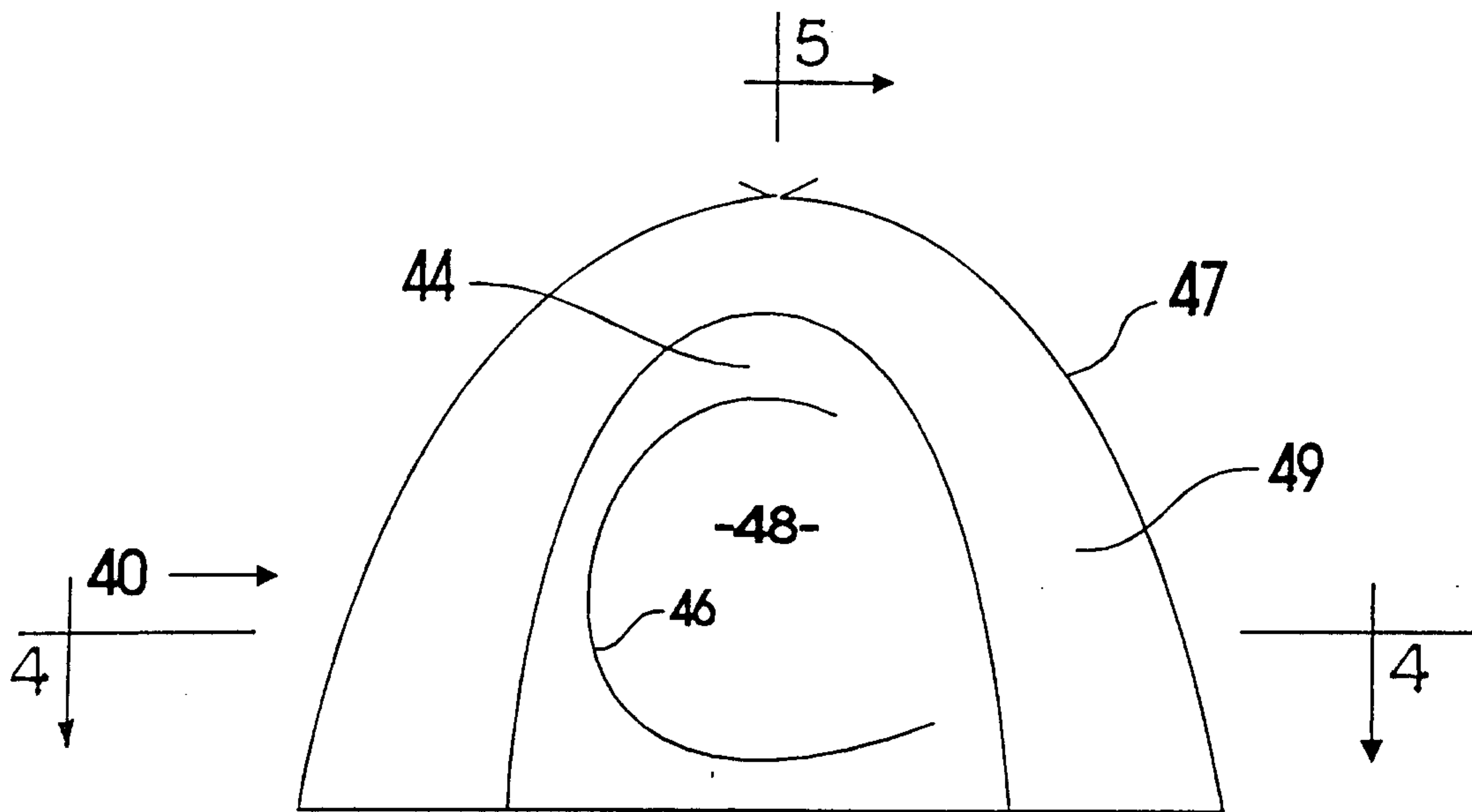


Figure 3

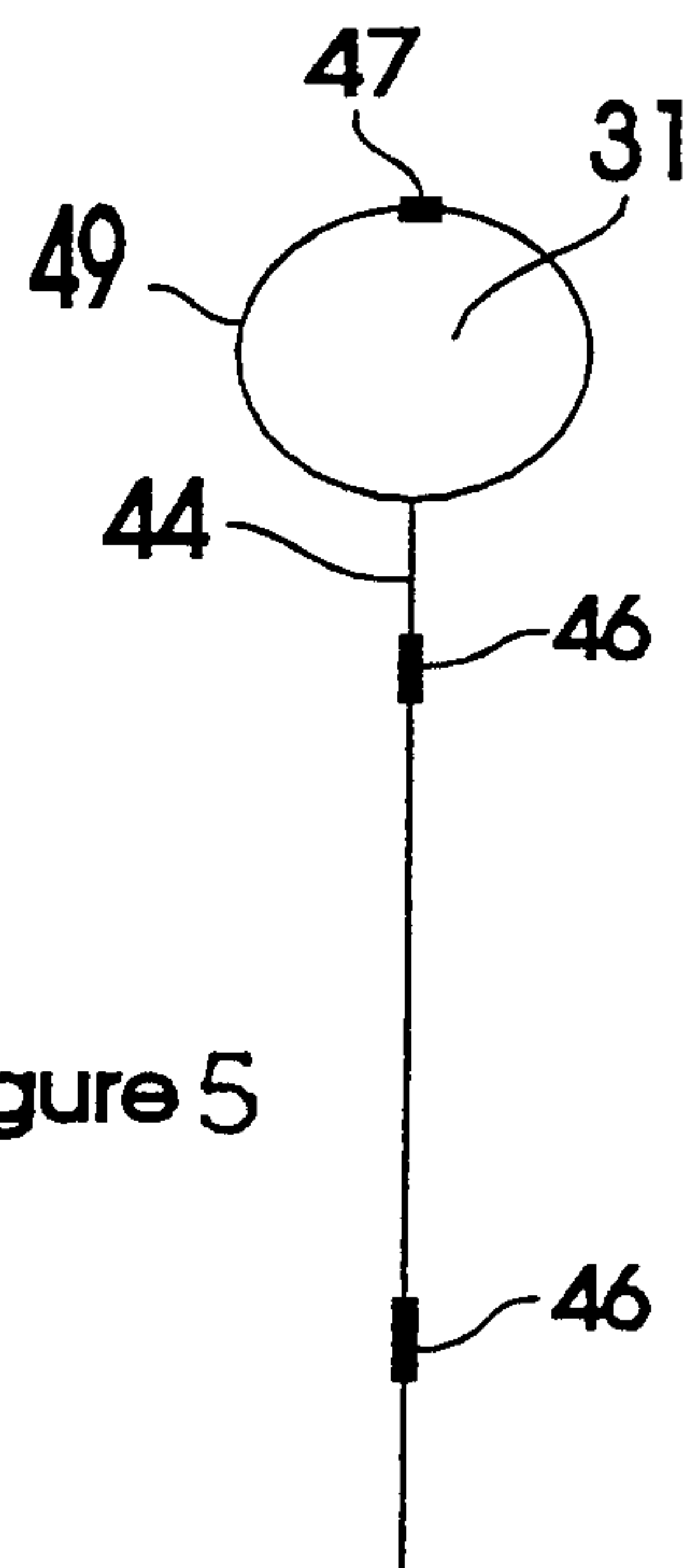
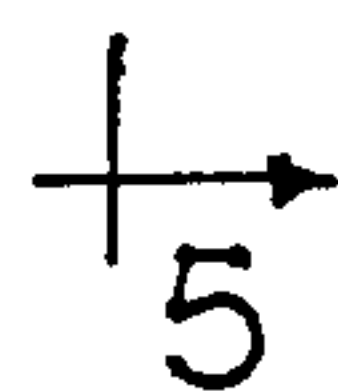


Figure 5

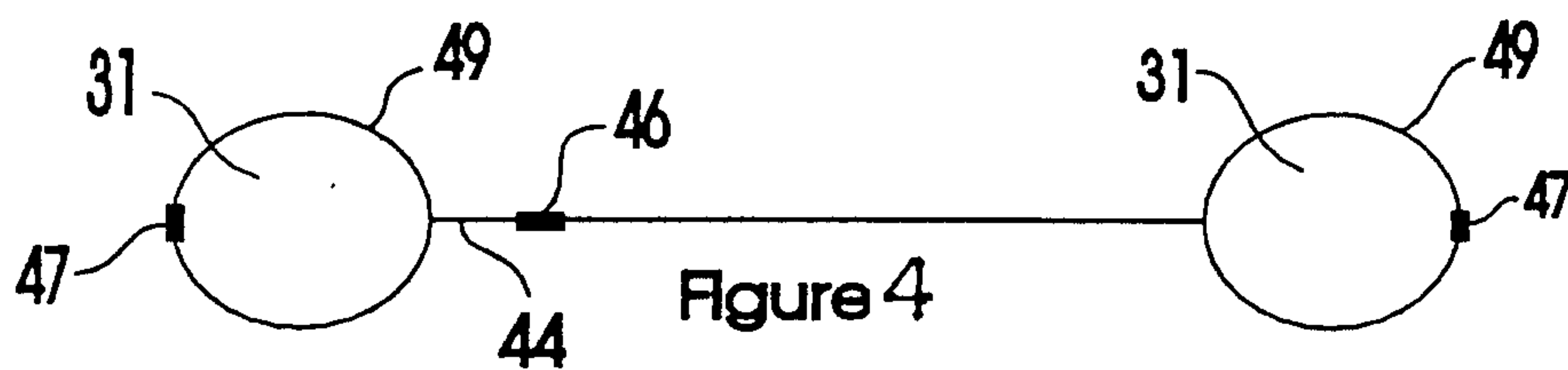


Figure 4

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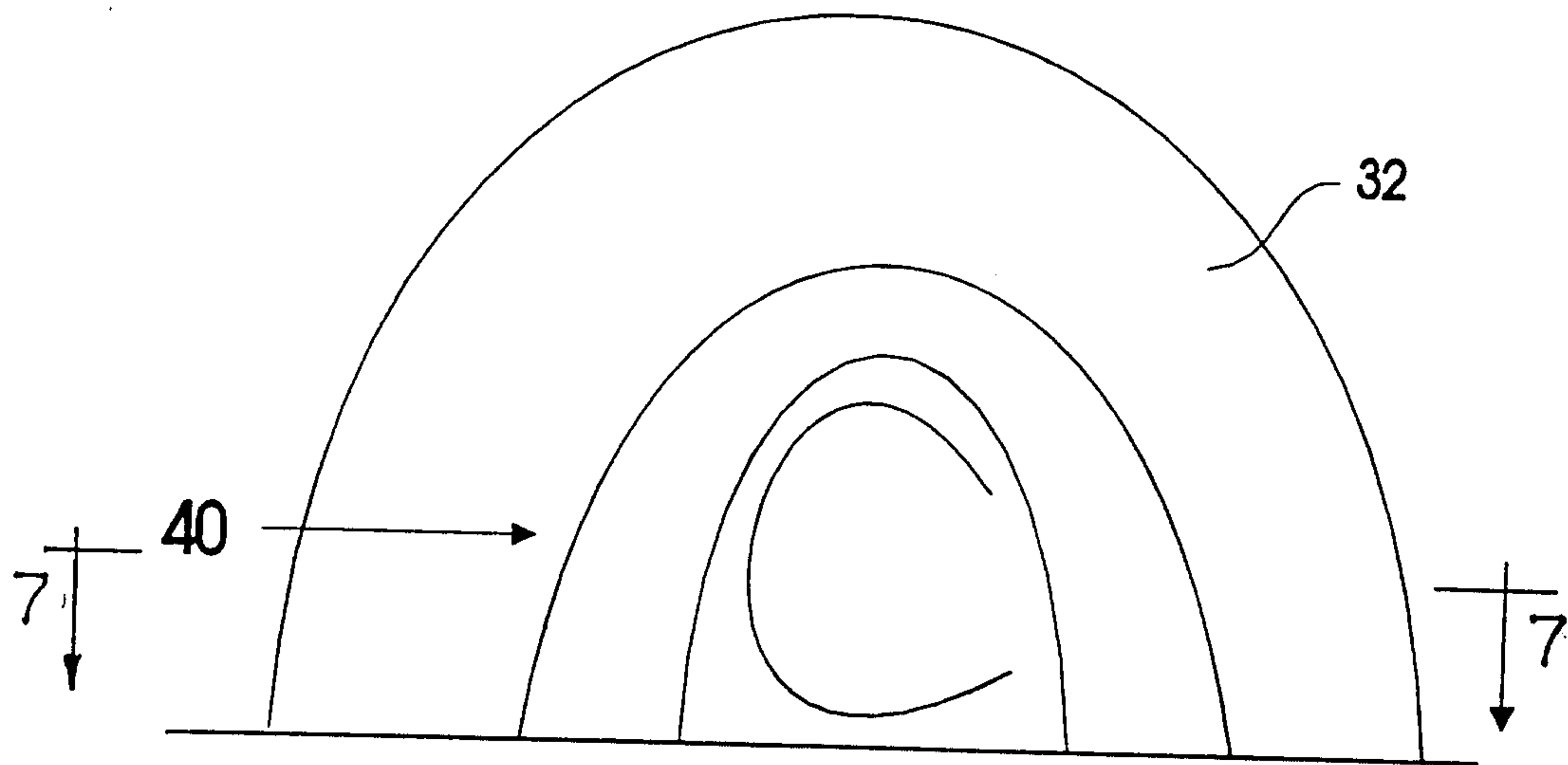


Figure 6

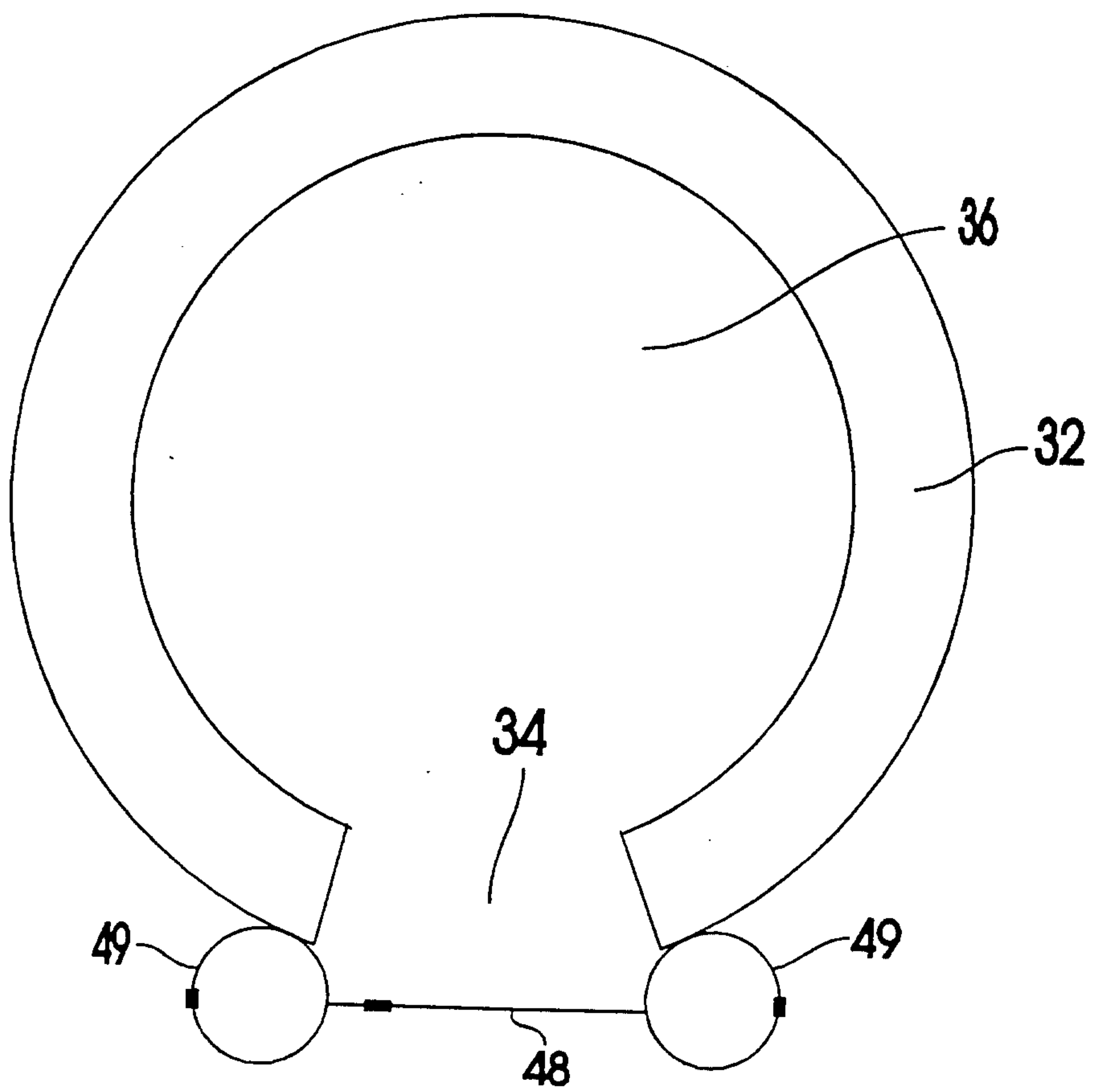


Figure 7

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