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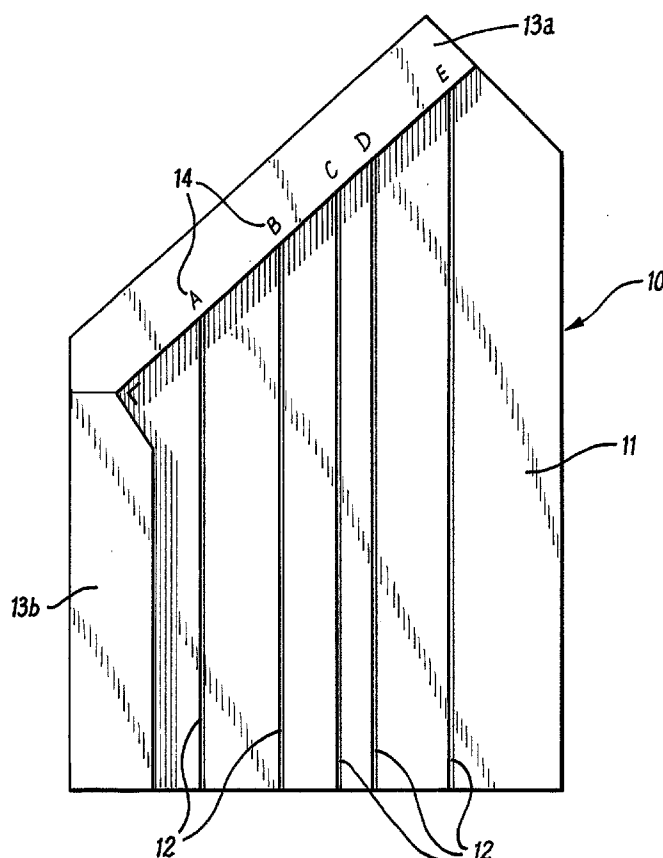
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(54) Title: ENVELOPE MAKING DEVICE



(57) Abstract: A device useful in the formation of handcrafted envelopes comprises a board (10) with a planar surface (11) wherein the planar surface is provided with at least one guide means (12), and at least one abutting surface (13) that allows an envelope material such as paper or card to be positioned on the planar surface at a defined angle with respect to the guide means such that the paper or card can be folded to the guide means to form an envelope.

1 **ENVELOPE MAKING DEVICE**

2
3 The present invention relates to a device for use as an
4 aid in the formation of envelopes and a method for using
5 the device. In particular, the invention relates to a
6 device for use in the preparation of handcrafted
7 envelopes.

8
9 It is known in the art to provide templates to assist in
10 the preparation of handcrafted envelopes. These
11 products, such as described in US5,626,551, generally
12 comprise templates that can be used to draw or score the
13 outline of an envelope of predetermined size and shape
14 onto a suitable material, such as paper or card. The
15 paper or card is then cut to the outline and glued to
16 form the envelope. A disadvantage of this template type
17 is that only one size and shape of envelope can be made
18 to each template.

19
20 Another known type of envelope-making device comprises a
21 plate that can be used as a guide in the folding process.
22 Using a device of this type, the paper or card is first
23 cut to size using a template and then positioned and

1 folded around the plate to form the envelope. Such a
2 device is described in US5,685,816, in which a template
3 is combined with two centre pieces to produce envelopes.
4 Again, this device is limited by the primary and
5 auxiliary centre pieces which dictate the sizes and
6 shapes of the ensuing envelopes.

7
8 The present invention identifies the drawbacks of
9 conventional envelope-making devices and techniques and
10 proposes an envelope-making device and method which
11 mitigates one or more of the problems currently
12 associated with envelope-making.

13
14 The present invention in one of its aspects provides an
15 improved enveloping-making device that can be used to
16 produce envelopes of different sizes and shapes.

17
18 The aims and objects of the invention will become
19 apparent from reading the following description.

20
21 According to a first aspect of the present invention
22 there is provided an envelope-making aid comprising a
23 board defining a planar surface wherein the planar
24 surface is provided with at least one guide means, and at
25 least one abutting surface is provided projecting from
26 the planar surface and wherein an angle substantially at
27 45 degrees along the planar surface is defined between the
28 guide means and the abutting surface.

29
30 The term board is used to mean a piece of substantially
31 flat and substantially solid material. This can include
32 boards of plastic, metal or wood etc.

33

1 The term abutting surface is used to mean a surface
2 against which the edges of an envelope material, such as
3 paper or card, can be located so as to correctly position
4 the envelope material with respect to the guide means on
5 the planar surface of the board.

6
7 Preferably the envelope-making aid comprises a first
8 abutting surface and a second abutting surface.

9
10 Providing multiple abutting surfaces allows multiple
11 edges of the envelope material, e.g. card or paper, to be
12 easily located at the correct positions.

13
14 Preferably an angle substantially at 90 degrees along the
15 planar surface is defined between the first abutting
16 surface and the second abutting surface.

17
18 As the envelope material will typically be a
19 parallelogram, the 90 degree angle allows for easy
20 location of two sides of the material on the board.

21
22 Preferably, the first abutting surface and the second
23 abutting surface are conjoined.

24
25 This allows for easy positioning of a corner section of
26 the envelope material.

27
28 Optionally, the first abutting surface and the second
29 abutting surface are not conjoined.

30
31 Where the first abutting surface and the second abutting
32 surface are not conjoined, the abutting surfaces still
33 facilitate positioning of two edges of the material.

1

2 Preferably the board comprises a plurality of guide
3 means.

4

5 The guide means act to show the user where to fold the
6 envelope material to produce an envelope.

7

8 Preferably, the plurality of guide means is provided
9 along the planar surface of the board such that the guide
10 means are arranged in a parallel fashion.

11

12 Preferably the guide means comprises a groove.

13

14 Advantageously, providing the guide means in the form of
15 a groove allows the envelope material to be scored along
16 the groove to facilitate subsequent folding. Typically
17 the envelope material can be scored along the guide means
18 by use of a suitable tool such as a craft knife, scissors
19 or scoring blade. The envelope material is preferably
20 paper or card although any suitable material, such as
21 acetate, can also be used.

22

23 Optionally, the guide means comprises a double groove.

24

25 Advantageously, providing the guide means in the form of
26 a double groove, allows the envelope material to be
27 scored along both of the grooves so that when folded, the
28 envelope material comprises a narrow margin which can be
29 used to produce envelopes of greater depth.

30

31 Alternatively the guide means comprises a marked line.

32

33 Alternatively the guide means comprises a raised ridge.

1
2 Preferably, the board is formed of a plastic material.

3
4 Most preferably, the board is formed of Acrylonitrile
5 Butadiene Styrene (ABS).

6
7 Alternatively the board is formed of wood.

8
9 Optionally the board is formed of any suitable solid
10 material.

11
12 Preferably, the board also comprises additional markings
13 to facilitate the envelope-making process.

14
15 The additional markings can assist the user in
16 determining the order in which the guide means should be
17 followed with reference to instructions.

18
19 More preferably, the additional markings are provided on
20 the abutting surface or surfaces.

21
22 Most preferably, the additional markings comprise alpha-
23 numeric characters.

24
25 Optionally, the additional markings may be provided in
26 Braille.

27
28 Optionally, the envelope-making aid can be provided
29 integral with other similar craft aids in a multi-purpose
30 craft device.

31

1 Optionally, the envelope-making aid can be provided
2 integral with at least one of a box-making aid and a
3 scoring aid.
4

5 According to a second aspect of the invention there is
6 provided a method for making envelopes comprising
7 providing the envelope-making aid according to the first
8 aspect of the present invention, positioning a suitable
9 material on the planar surface of the envelope-making aid
10 such that the edges of the material abut against at least
11 a first abutting surface of the aid, and folding the
12 material along the guide means of the aid to form an
13 envelope.
14

15 Preferably the suitable material is paper or card.
16

17 According to a third aspect of the invention there is
18 provided a method for making envelopes comprising
19 providing the envelope-making aid according to the first
20 aspect of the present invention, positioning a suitable
21 material on a planar surface of the envelope-making aid
22 such that the edges of the material abut against at least
23 a first abutting surface of the aid, using a suitable
24 scoring tool to score the material along the grooved
25 guide means and folding the material along the scored
26 lines to form an envelope.
27

28 According to a fourth aspect of the invention there is
29 provided a substantially flat board having a groove or
30 plurality of substantially parallel grooves in its upper
31 work surface, and at least one edge guide positioned on
32 or against the work surface of the board in angular
33 relationship to the said groove or plurality of

1 substantially parallel grooves, the edge guide having a
2 face that is substantially at right angles to the plane
3 of the board so as to facilitate the location of paper or
4 card onto the work surface and against the face of the
5 edge guide.

6
7 Preferably the device includes an edge guide that is
8 releasably positioned on or against the work surface of
9 the board so that it's angular position can be adjusted,
10 in the plane of the board, relative to the groove or
11 plurality of substantially parallel grooves in the work
12 surface of the board.

13
14 The device may include a first edge guide and a second
15 edge guide positioned on or against the work surface of
16 the board - the first and second edge guides being
17 positioned in angular relationship to each other and to
18 the groove or plurality of substantially parallel grooves
19 in the work surface of the board, each edge guide having
20 a face that is substantially at right angles to the plane
21 of the board so as to facilitate the location of paper or
22 card onto the work surface and simultaneously against the
23 face of each of the two edge guides.

24
25 Preferably the device includes a first edge guide and a
26 second edge guide that are releasably positioned on or
27 against the work surface of the board so that they can be
28 independently adjusted, in the plane of the board,
29 relative to each other and to the groove or plurality of
30 substantially parallel grooves in the work surface of the
31 board.

32

1 Preferred embodiments of the invention will now be
2 described with reference to the accompanying drawings in
3 which:

4

5 Figure 1 shows a plan view of the envelope-making aid
6 according to an aspect of the invention;

7

8 Figure 2 shows a plan view of an alternative embodiment
9 of the envelope-making aid according to an aspect of the
10 invention;

11

12 Figure 3 shows a plan view of a further alternative
13 embodiment of the device;

14

15 Figure 4 shows a sectional view (X-X) of the embodiment
16 of Figure 3;

17

18 Figure 5 shows an isometric view of the embodiment of
19 Figure 3;

20

21 Figure 6 shows a plan view of a further alternative
22 embodiment of the device;

23

24 Figure 7 shows a plan view of yet another embodiment of
25 the device;

26

27 Figure 8 shows a plan view of another embodiment of the
28 device.

29

30 Referring firstly to Figure 1, the device comprises a
31 substantially flat board generally depicted at (10)
32 defining a planar surface (11). In use, the envelope
33 material is placed on the planar surface (11) of the

1 board (10). The planar surface is provided with a
2 plurality of guide means (12) in the form of narrow
3 parallel grooves. The narrow grooves allow a suitable
4 scoring tool (not shown) to be run across the envelope
5 material along the trajectory of the groove to create a
6 scored line or crease in the envelope material. The
7 planar surface (11) of the board (10) is provided with a
8 first abutting surface (13a) and a second abutting
9 surface (13b) which project up from the planar surface.
10 The first abutting surface (13a) and the second abutting
11 surface (13b) each define an angle substantially at 45
12 degrees along the planar surface between the guide means
13 (12) and the abutting surface (13a,b). The first
14 abutting surface (13a) and the second abutting surface
15 (13b) define between them an angle of substantially 90
16 degrees along the planar surface. Additional markings
17 (14) in the form of lettering are provided along the
18 first abutting surface (13a) to facilitate instruction of
19 the envelope-making.

20
21 While the above description is written in the context of
22 paper as the envelope material it can be envisaged that
23 any suitable material such as card, foil, acetate or
24 light plastic could also be employed.

25
26 In use, a piece of suitable envelope material such as
27 paper or card is laid flat along the planar surface (11)
28 of the board (10) such that the edges of the paper abut
29 against the abutting surfaces (13a,b) of the board (10).
30 These abutting surfaces (13a,b) ensure that the material
31 is kept in the correct position on the board (10) with
32 respect to the guide means (12). Once the envelope
33 material has been correctly positioned, the material is

1 sequentially scored along the appropriate guide means
2 (12) with reference to the instructions provided. After
3 each scoring, the abutting surfaces (13a,b) allow the
4 material to be replaced correctly in position on the
5 board (10) so that the subsequent scoring operation can
6 be performed. The material can then be folded against
7 the edges of the abutting surfaces (13a,b) to form an
8 envelope.

9
10 Advantageously, the plurality of guide means (12)
11 provided at the planar surface (11) allows a variety of
12 envelope sizes and shapes to be formed from a single
13 envelope-making aid. Using the instructions provided
14 with the envelope-making aid, the envelope material can
15 be folded at positions corresponding to various guide
16 means (12) to form envelopes in a variety of different
17 sizes.

18
19 An alternative embodiment of the invention is depicted in
20 Figure 2. In this embodiment, the guide means (22) are
21 provided as a series of double narrow grooves. In use, a
22 piece of suitable envelope material is placed along the
23 planar surface (21) of the board (20) as in the previous
24 embodiment such that the edges of the paper abut against
25 the abutting surfaces (23a,b) of the board (20). Once
26 the envelope material has been correctly positioned, the
27 material is sequentially scored along the appropriate
28 guide means (22) with reference to the instructions
29 provided. If an envelope of increased depth is required,
30 for example to facilitate an ornate or decoupage greeting
31 card, or a large number of writing sheets, the envelope
32 material is scored along both of the grooves of the
33 appropriate double-grooved guide means (22). This

1 creates a margin or a lip within the material which can
2 be used to form the base of the envelope when folded
3 correctly.
4

5 In this second embodiment, the first abutment surface
6 **(23a)** and the second abutment surface **(23b)** are not
7 conjoined. However, the angle defined along the planar
8 surface **(21)** between the first abutment surface **(23a)** and
9 the guide means **(22)** is still substantially 45 degrees.
10

11 Whilst in the depicted embodiment five guide means **(22)**
12 are depicted it will be understood that the number of
13 guide means **(22)** can be adjusted within the scope of the
14 invention to allow a variety of envelopes to be produced.
15 Furthermore, while in the depicted embodiments two
16 abutments surfaces are depicted; it will be evident that
17 an envelope-making aid comprising a single abutment
18 surface or more than two abutment surfaces can also be
19 envisaged under the workings of the invention such as in
20 alternative embodiments described below.
21

22 Referring now to Figures 3, 4 and 5, these Figures show
23 an alternative embodiment of the device where only one
24 abutment surface **(31)** is provided. The device comprises
25 a board **(30)** that has a planar or upper work surface **(31)**
26 in which is provided a plurality of substantially
27 parallel grooves **(32)**. On or against the work surface
28 **(31)** is positioned an edge guide, or abutment surface
29 **(33)** having a face **(37)** that is presented substantially
30 at right angles to the work surface **(31)**, the edge guide
31 **(33)** being positioned in angular relationship, in the
32 plane of the board, to the single groove or plurality of
33 substantially parallel grooves **(32)** in the work surface

1 (31). Although in this embodiment the face (37) of the
2 abutment surface is presented at substantially right
3 angles to the work surface (31), it will be understood
4 that the face of the abutment surface can be provided at
5 any angle to the work surface (31) so long as it
6 continues to function as an abutment, and allows for the
7 envelope material to be correctly positioned
8 thereagainst.

9
10 Referring to Figures 6, 7 and 8, the device is shown to
11 include a second edge guide (43b) positioned in angular
12 relationship to the first edge guide (43a) and to the
13 groove or plurality of substantially parallel grooves
14 (42) in the plane of the board, the second edge guide
15 (43b) having a face (47b) that, as with the first edge
16 guide (43a), is presented substantially at right angles
17 to the work surface (41). The purpose of the faces
18 (47a,b) is to provide location for one edge or two
19 adjacent edges of the paper or card being scored or
20 creased.

21
22 The groove or plurality of grooves (42) in the work
23 surface (41) of the device (40) facilitate the use of a
24 separate scoring tool (not shown) during the creation of
25 a crease or creases in the paper or card. The paper or
26 card to be scored or creased should ideally be of square
27 outline, i.e. with sides of equal length.

28
29 The device (10, 20, 30, 40) can be used to create simple
30 handcrafted envelopes of different sizes, depending upon
31 the particular groove or grooves selected by the user,
32 the position of the or each edge guide on relation to the

1 groove or grooves and to each other, and the overall size
2 of the paper or card being used.

3
4 It will be evident that various modifications and
5 improvements could be made to the above-described sole
6 within the scope of the invention. For example, the
7 above embodiments depict markings on the abutting
8 surfaces of the board. However, the invention equally
9 encompasses markings on the board in Braille. As another
10 example, the above embodiments depict the guide means as
11 grooves. It will be understood that the guide means can
12 be provided as a marked line or raised ridge and that the
13 envelope material may simply be folded to the guide means
14 without a separate scoring step. Furthermore, while the
15 depicted embodiments describe a stand-alone envelope-
16 making tool, the device can be provided integral with
17 devices that assist handcrafters to produce other
18 handcraft items such as box bases, box lids and greeting
19 cards.

20
21 Further modifications may be made without departing from
22 the scope of the invention herein intended.

23

24

1 Claims

2 1. An envelope-making aid comprising a board defining a
3 planar surface wherein the planar surface is provided
4 with at least one guide means, and at least one abutting
5 surface is provided projecting from the planar surface
6 and wherein an angle substantially at 45 degrees along the
7 planar surface is defined between the guide means and the
8 abutting surface.

9 2. An envelope-making aid as claimed in Claim 1,
10 wherein the envelope-making aid comprises a first
11 abutting surface and a second abutting surface.

12 3. An envelope-making aid as claimed in Claim 2,
13 wherein an angle substantially at 90 degrees along the
14 planar surface is defined between the first abutting
15 surface and the second abutting surface.

16 4. An envelope-making aid as claimed in Claim 2 or 3,
17 wherein the first abutting surface and the second
18 abutting surface are conjoined.

19 5. An envelope-making aid as claimed in Claim 2 or
20 Claim 3, wherein the first abutting surface and the
21 second abutting surface are not conjoined.

22 6. An envelope-making aid as claimed in any one of the
23 previous Claims, wherein the board comprises a plurality
24 of guide means.

25 7. An envelope-making aid as claimed in Claim 6,
26 wherein the plurality of guide means is provided along
27 the planar surface of the board.

- 1 8. An envelope-making aid as claimed in Claim 7,
2 wherein the plurality of guide means are arranged in
3 parallel.
- 4 9. An envelope-making aid as claimed in any one of the
5 previous Claims, wherein the guide means comprises a
6 groove.
- 7 10. An envelope-making aid as claimed in any one of
8 Claims 1 to 8, wherein the guide means comprises a double
9 groove.
- 10 11. An envelope-making aid as claimed in any one of
11 Claims 1 to 8, wherein the guide means comprises a marked
12 line.
- 13 12. An envelope-making aid as claimed in any one of
14 Claims 1 to 8, wherein the guide means comprises a raised
15 ridge.
- 16 13. An envelope-making aid as claimed in any one of the
17 previous Claims, wherein the board is formed of a
18 plastics material.
- 19 14. An envelope-making aid as claimed in Claim 13,
20 wherein the board is formed of Acrylonitrile Butadiene
21 Styrene (ABS).
- 22 15. An envelope-making aid as claimed in any one of
23 Claims 1 to 12, wherein the board is formed of wood.
- 24 16. An envelope-making aid as claimed in any one of
25 Claims 1 to 12, wherein the board is formed of a rigid
26 solid material.
- 27 17. An envelope-making aid as claimed in any one of the
28 previous Claims, wherein the board also comprises

1 additional markings selected from material positioning
2 marks, material folding marks, material scoring, slitting
3 or cutting marks, sizing or measurement marks, and step-
4 sequence markings to facilitate the envelope-making
5 process.

6 18. An envelope-making aid as claimed in Claim 17,
7 wherein the additional markings are provided on the
8 abutting surface or surfaces.

9 19. An envelope-making aid as claimed in Claim 17 or 18,
10 wherein the additional markings comprise alpha-numeric
11 characters.

12 20. An envelope-making aid as claimed in Claim 17 or 18,
13 wherein the additional markings are provided in Braille.

14 21. An envelope-making aid as claimed in any one of the
15 previous Claims, wherein the envelope-making aid is
16 provided integral with other similar craft aids in a
17 multi-purpose craft device.

18 22. An envelope-making aid as claimed in Claim 21,
19 wherein the envelope-making aid is provided integral with
20 at least one of a box-making aid and a scoring aid.

21 23. A device for making envelopes comprising providing
22 the envelope-making aid according to any one of Claims 1
23 to 22, positioning a selected material on the planar
24 surface of the envelope-making aid such that the edges of
25 the material abut against at least a first abutting
26 surface of the aid, and folding the material along the
27 guide means of the aid to form an envelope.

28 24. A method for making envelopes comprising providing
29 the envelope-making aid according to the any one of

1 Claims 1 to 22, positioning a selected material on a
2 planar surface of the envelope-making aid such that the
3 edges of the material abut against at least a first
4 abutting surface of the aid, using a suitable scoring
5 tool to score the material along the grooved guide means
6 and folding the material along the score lines to form an
7 envelope.

8 25. A method according to Claim 24, wherein the material
9 is selected from paper or card.

10 26. A device comprising a substantially flat board
11 having a groove or plurality of substantially parallel
12 grooves in its upper work surface, and at least one edge
13 guide positioned on or against the work surface of the
14 board in angular relationship to the said groove or
15 plurality of substantially parallel grooves, the edge
16 guide having a face that is substantially at right angles
17 to the plane of the board so as to facilitate the
18 location of paper or card onto the work surface and
19 against the face of the edge guide.

20 27. A device as claimed in Claim 26, wherein the device
21 includes an edge guide that is releasably positioned on
22 or against the work surface of the board so that its
23 angular position can be adjusted, in the plane of the
24 board, relative to the groove or plurality of
25 substantially parallel grooves in the work surface of the
26 board.

27 28. A device as claimed in Claim 26 or Claim 27, wherein
28 device includes a first edge guide and a second edge
29 guide positioned on or against the work surface of the
30 board wherein the first and second edge guides are

1 positioned in angular relationship to each other and to
2 the groove or plurality of substantially parallel grooves
3 in the work surface of the board, each edge guide having
4 a face that is substantially at right angles to the plane
5 of the board so as to facilitate the location of paper or
6 card onto the work surface and simultaneously against the
7 face of each of the two edge guides.

8 29. A device as claimed in any one of Claims 26 to 28,
9 wherein the device includes a first edge guide and a
10 second edge guide that are releasably positioned on or
11 against the work surface of the board so that they can be
12 independently adjusted, in the plane of the board,
13 relative to each other and to the groove or plurality of
14 substantially parallel grooves in the work surface of the
15 board.

16

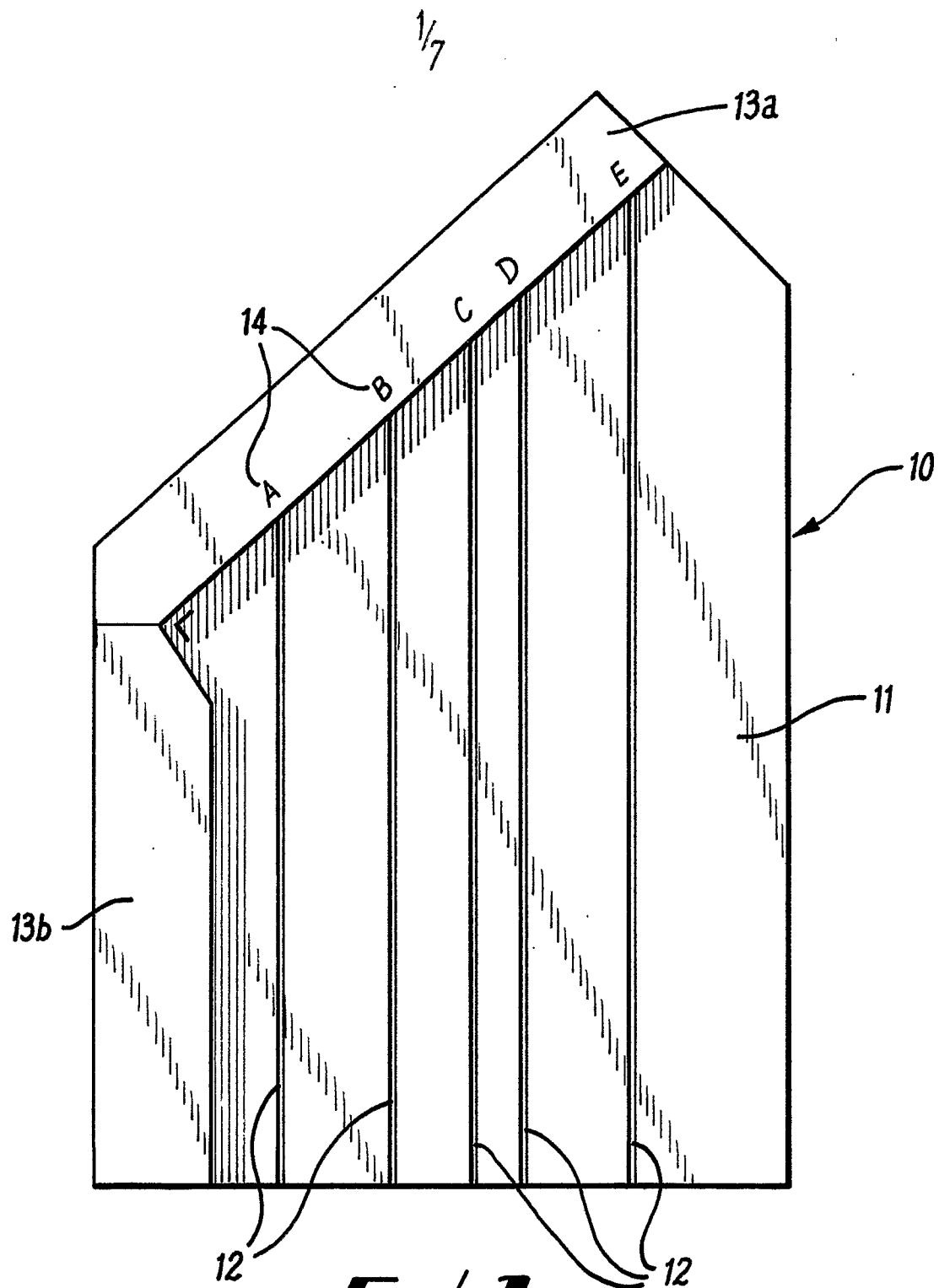


FIG. 1

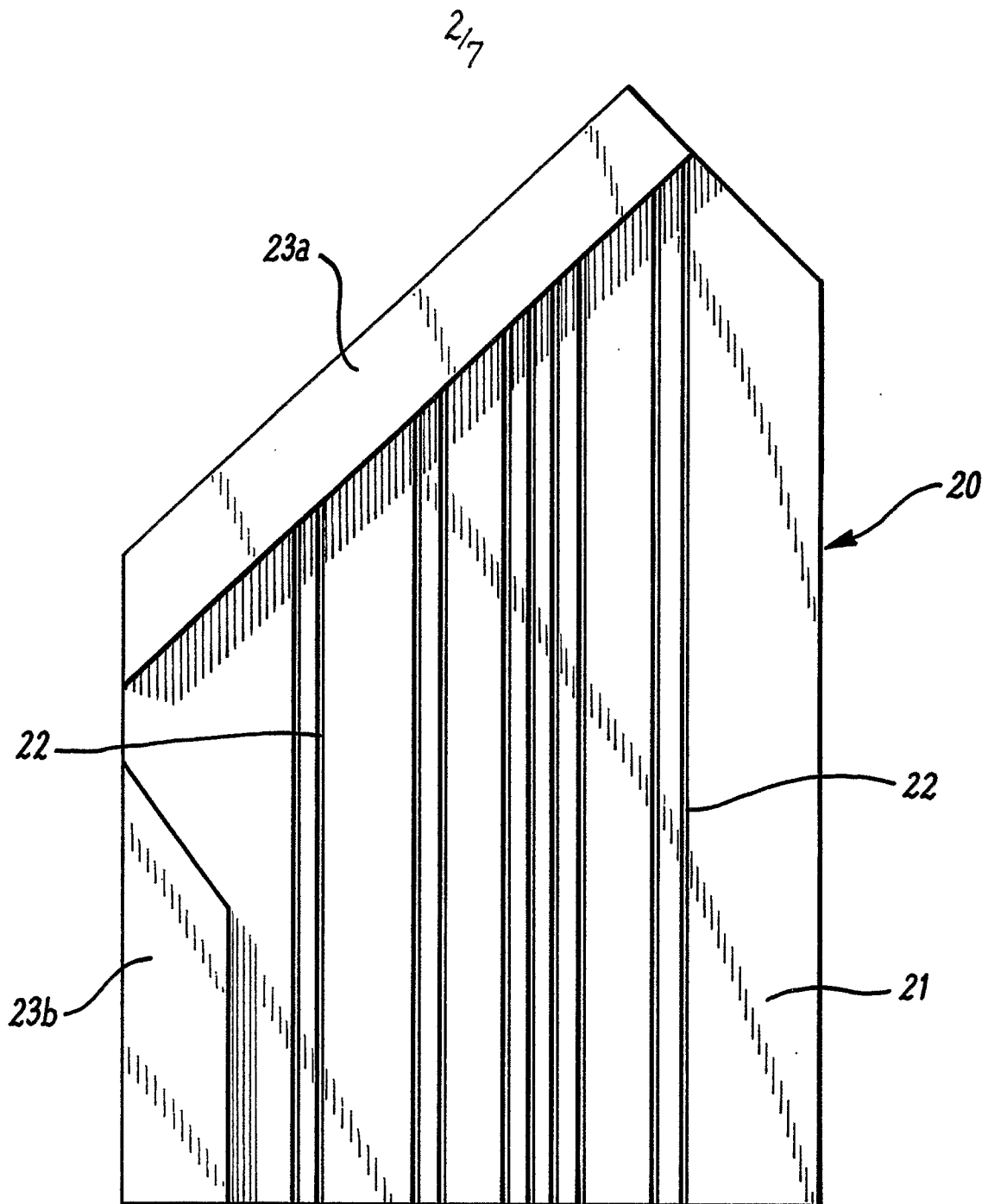


FIG. 2

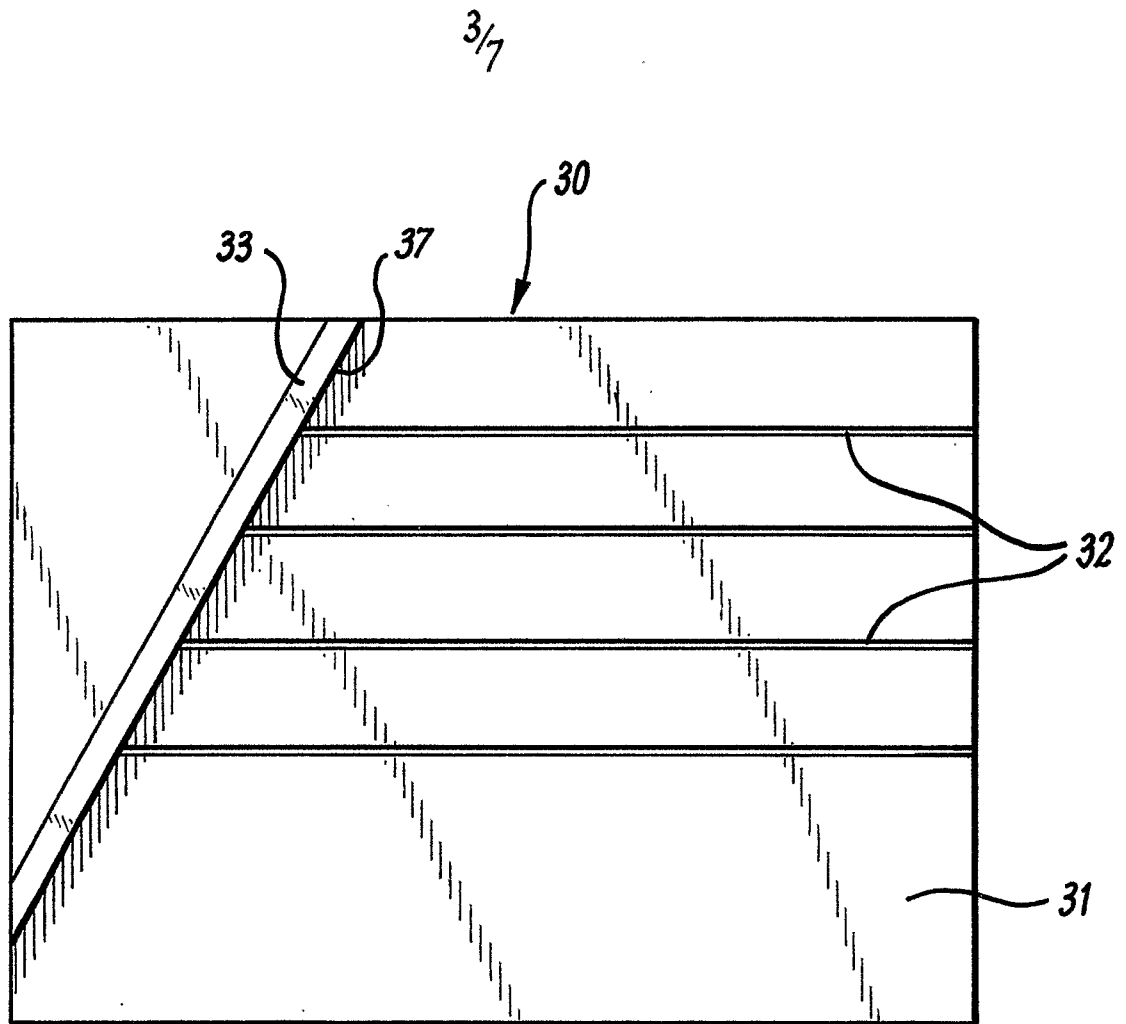


FIG. 3

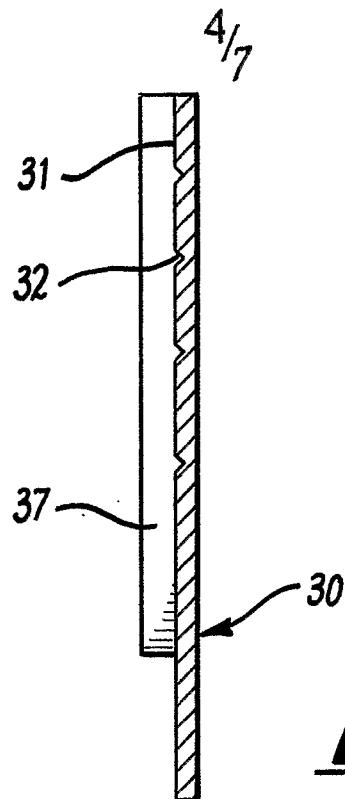


FIG. 4

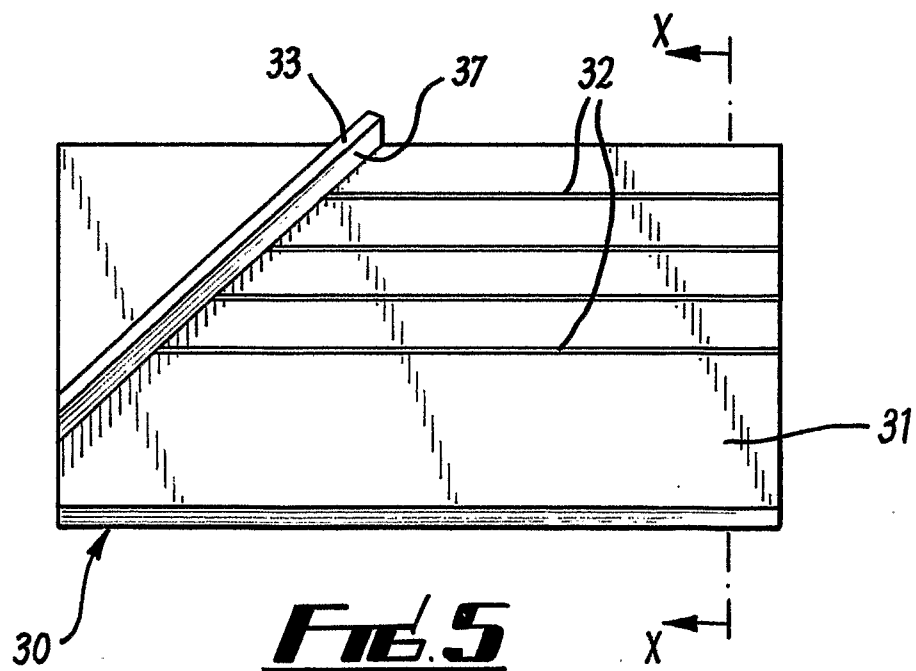


FIG. 5

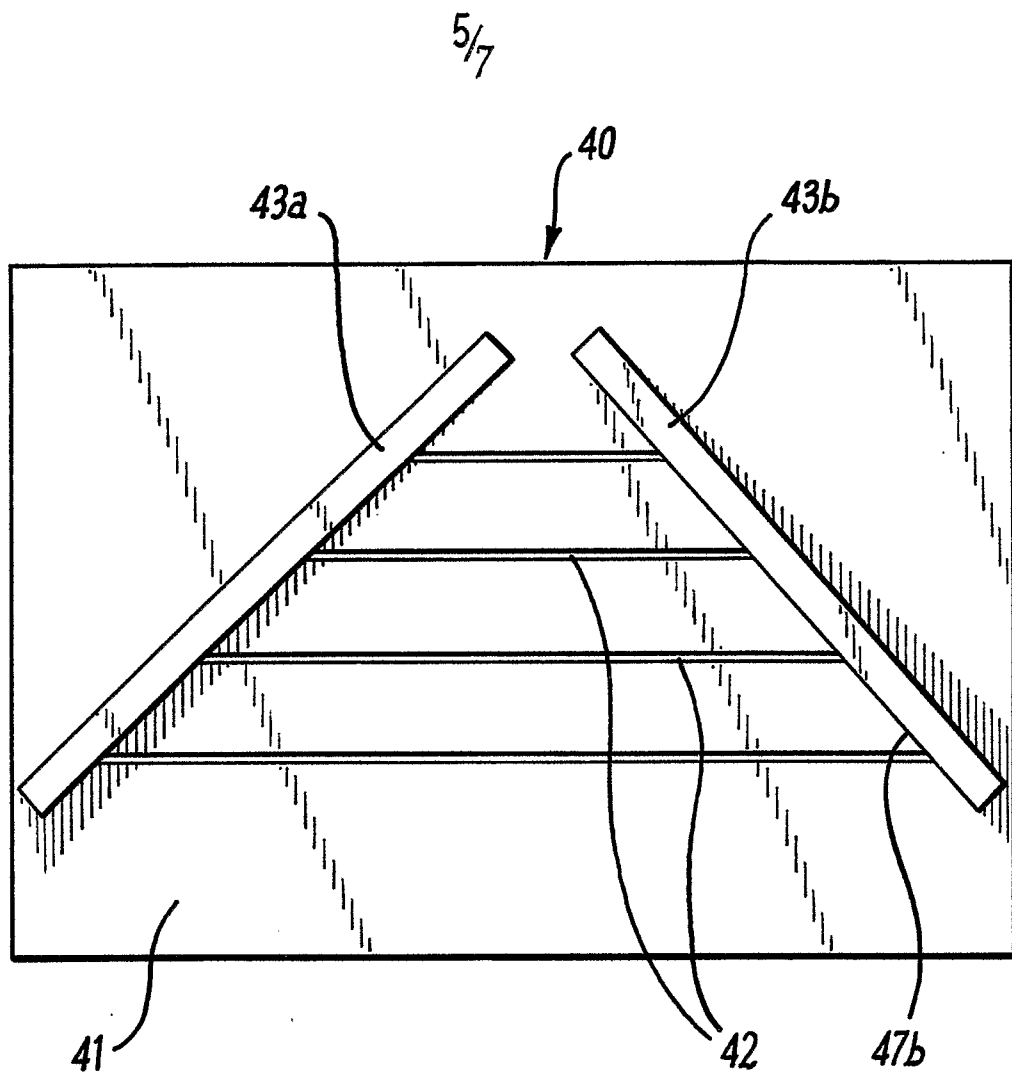
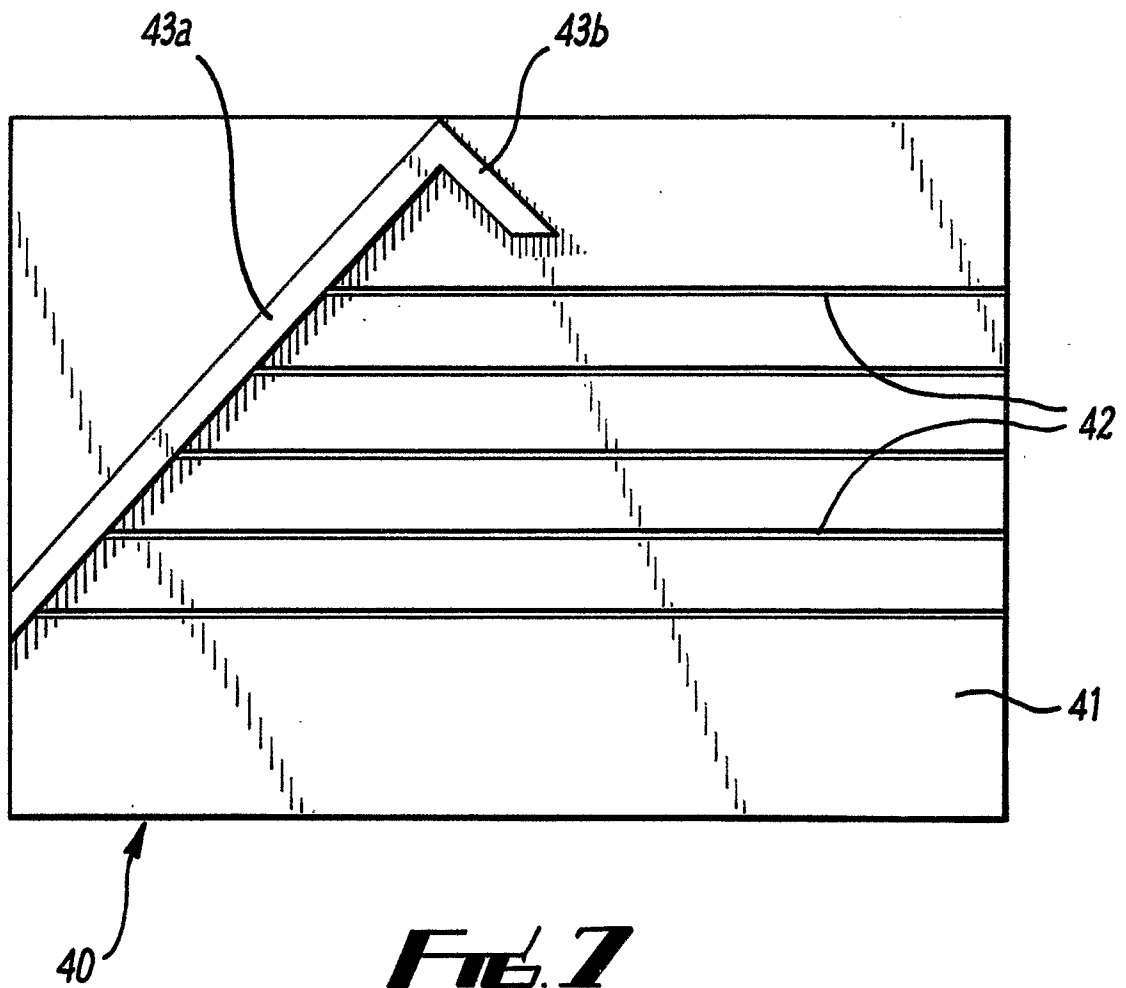


FIG. 6

6/7



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