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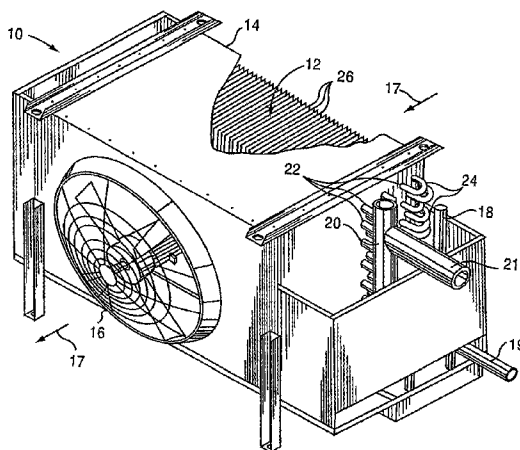
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(54) Title: HIGH-FREQUENCY, LOW-AMPLITUDE CORRUGATED FIN FOR A HEAT EXCHANGER COIL ASSEMBLY



(57) **Abstract:** A high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin for a heat exchanger assembly includes a plate member that extends horizontally and vertically to define a reference plane. The plate member has a plurality of conduit portions, a first and second series of corrugated segments formed in the plate member. The first and second series of corrugated segments undulate generally equidistantly relative to and from the reference plane as viewed in cross-section. The plurality of conduit portions is inter-dispersed throughout the plate member among the first and second series of corrugated segments. Each one of the first series of corrugated segments extends at a first angle relative to horizontal and each one of the second series of corrugated segments extend at a second angle relative to horizontal such that individual adjacent ones of the first and second series of corrugated segments form at least a generally chevron-shaped configuration as viewed in plan view.

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HIGH-FREQUENCY, LOW-AMPLITUDE CORRUGATED FIN FOR A HEAT EXCHANGER COIL ASSEMBLY

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a fin for a heat exchanger coil assembly. More specifically, the present invention is directed to high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin for a heat exchanger coil assembly

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Heat exchanger coil assemblies are well known in the art. One such heat exchanger assembly is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 6,889,759 to Derosier and illustrated in Figures 1-9. In Figure 1, a heat exchanger 10 includes a finned coil assembly 12, a housing 14 and a blower 16. Arrows 17 indicate a direction of air flow being drawn through the heat exchanger 10 by way of example only. The heat exchanger 10 includes an inlet manifold 18, an outlet manifold 20 and respective inlet and outlet pipes 19 and 21. Tubes 22 are joined by return bends 24. As is well-known in the art, an internal heat exchanger fluid is circulated from an inlet source through the inlet pipe 19 and the inlet manifold 18, then through the finned coil assembly 12, and then through the outlet manifold 20 and the outlet pipe 21 so that heat is exchanged between the internal heat exchange fluid in the coil assembly 12 and air that is drawn through the coil assembly 12 by the blower 16.

[0003] As shown in Figure 1, a plurality of fins 26 constitutes the finned coil assembly 12. Figure 2 discloses a single fin 26 fabricated from a plate material such as metal with acceptable heat exchange properties and is formed with a continuous series of corrugations 30 as best shown in Figure 3. Note that the continuous series of corrugations 30 extend horizontally across the plate yet some of the corrugations as they extend horizontally across the plate are interrupted periodically by a plurality of conduit portions 32 arranged in a matrix of columns and rows as shown in Figures 2 and 3. With reference to Figure 3, each conduit portion 32 has a flat piece 34 and a collar 36. Each flat piece 34 is generally disposed in an imaginary reference plane RP as shown in Figures 3 and 4. Each flat piece 34 has a hole 38 that is formed through the fin 26. A respective collar 36 is connected to and projects from a

corresponding one of the flat pieces 34 to define a transversely extending conduit 40 in communication with the hole 38.

[0004] With reference to Figure 5, each corrugation 30 projects from the reference plane RP as viewed in cross-section at a height "h" and criss-crosses the reference plane RF as viewed in cross-section at a width w. A ratio h:w is in a range of approximately 0.32 and 0.7. Also, a number of corrugations 30 per inch as viewed in cross-section is in a range of approximately 8 and 24. Such fin 26 is considered a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin because this fin 26 includes many corrugations 30 connected in sequence in an exemplary form as a sine wave configuration within a relatively short distance as viewed in cross-section and the height "h" of the corrugations 30 is rather small. In other words, the high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin 26 is a substantially continuous sequences of corrugations 30 occasionally interrupted by the conduit portions. Furthermore, a skilled artisan would comprehend that other cross-sectional configurations might be used such as a saw-toothed cross-sectional configuration, a trapezoidal cross-sectional configuration or other cross-sectional configurations known in the art.

[0005] The high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin 26 as illustrated in the drawing figures performs as designed in many heat exchange applications. For instance, the high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin 26 performs as designed when air flowing between facially-opposing fins 26 is to be heated. However, when the air flowing between facially-opposing fins 26 is to be cooled, particularly in a highly humid environment, there is a concern regarding moisture build-up on the high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fins 26. In a highly humid environment, if cooling of the air results in a temperature drop below the dew point, moisture can accumulate on the fins 26 resulting in a decrease of heat exchange efficiency. Furthermore, a sufficient amount of moisture can condense and accumulate within the valleys defined by the respective corrugations 30 forming water Wa in the valleys as shown by way of example in Figure 6 effectively creating a liquid insulation layer between the flowing air and the fins themselves. It is theorized that since the fins 26 are high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fins, the curved walls forming the corrugations 30 retain the water in the valleys as a result of the capillary action. A significant amount of water can be retained in the valleys of the corrugations 30 by

capillary action resulting in yet a further decrease of heat exchange efficiency of the finned coil assembly 12.

[0006] To overcome the problem of water being retained in the valleys of the high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fins 26, a modification can be made by orienting the corrugations 30 at an angle inclined relative to horizontal as shown in Figure 7. Empirical test results indicate the optimum inclined angle might be in a range of 15° and 25° although other angles can be used. Note all of the corrugations 30 extend linearly at an inclined angle "a" relative to a horizontal line HL. As a result, water accumulating in the valleys as a result of capillary action can now drain by flowing downwardly along the inclined corrugations 30 and over the peaks of the corrugations 30 towards the edge of the fin 26 as illustrated by way of example in Figure 7 by the multiple curving arrows CA.

[0007] In some applications, the high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin 26 with its corrugations 30 extending at an inclined angle relative to horizontal is satisfactory. However, in other applications, using this high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin 26 might be unsatisfactory. For example, in the processing plants such as meat processing plants which require refrigeration, government officials might shut down plant operations if water (most likely, in tiny droplet form) is carried outside of the housing 14. This situation might occur if the flowing air blows accumulated water off the outer vertical edges of the fins 26. To overcome this problem, two fins 26a and 26b with corrugations 30 oriented at inclined angles relative to horizontal could be used as the finned coil assembly 12 as shown in Figure 8. Fin 26a and fin 26b are arranged juxtaposed to one another with the corrugations 30a of fin 26a oriented at an inclined angle relative to horizontal that directs water that might have accumulated in the valleys toward fin 26b and with the corrugations 30b of fin 26b oriented at an inclined angle relative to horizontal that directs water that might have accumulated in the valleys toward fin 26a. With this arrangement of angled corrugations, water flows toward and drains in the center of the heat exchanger 10 indicated by arrow W.

[0008] However, arranging two high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fins 26a and 26b in this manner has drawbacks. First, it is difficult to abut the two opposing ends of fins 26a and 26b at the center of the heat exchanger 10 in complete registration. As a result, a crack 42 is formed between the fins 26a and 26b. Such

crack 42 increases the pressure drop of the air flowing from fin 26a to fin 26b resulting in reduced air flow, which, in turn, results in decreased heat exchange efficiency.

[0009] Furthermore, since complete registration of the two opposing ends of the fins 26a and 26b is difficult to achieve, the opposing corrugations 30a and 30b of the respective ones of the fins 26a and 26b might be positioned offset from one another as illustrated by way of example only in Figures 9A and 9B. Thus, fin 26b disposed offset from fin 26a effectively introduces structure into the air flow stream causing yet another pressure reduction, which, in turn, results in decreased heat exchange efficiency.

[0010] Also, although the juxtaposed fins 26a and 26b arranged as described above, might be a potential solution to draining away water accumulated in the valleys of the corrugations 30, in practice, fins with such angled corrugations are difficult to manufacture. It was noted during the manufacture of such fins with inclined-angled corrugations that the fin tended to move sideways through the forming tooling as it advanced therethrough resulting in the fin moving sideways off of the forming tooling.

[0011] It would be advantageous to provide a fin for a heat exchanger coil assembly that provides enhanced drainage for water that accumulates as a result of condensation. It would be preferable to provide a fin that permits water drainage between the opposing vertical edges of the fin and inhibits or minimizes water build-up on either one of the opposing vertical edges of the fin. It would also be advantageous to provide a fin for a heat exchanger coil assembly that drains water in a manner to inhibit water build-up in the valleys of the corrugations. The present invention provides these advantages.

OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0012] It is an object of the invention to provide a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin for a heat exchanger coil assembly that provides enhanced drainage for water that accumulates as a result of condensation in a humid environment.

[0013] It is another object of the invention to provide a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin that preferably permits water drainage between the opposing vertical edges of the high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin.

[0014] It is yet another object of the invention to provide a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin that preferably inhibits or minimizes water build-up on either one of the opposing vertical edges of the high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin.

[0015] A still further object of the invention is to provide a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin for a heat exchanger coil assembly that appropriately drains water formed by an accumulation of condensation thereby inhibiting water build-up in the valleys of the corrugations.

[0016] Yet still a further object of the invention is to provide a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin with improved heat transfer capacity.

[0017] Accordingly, a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin for a heat exchanger assembly of the present invention is hereinafter described. The high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin for the heat exchanger coil assembly includes a plate member extending horizontally in a horizontal direction and vertically in a vertical direction to define a reference plane. The plate member has a plurality of conduit portions, a first series of corrugated segments formed in the plate member and a second series of corrugated segments formed into the plate member. The first and second series of corrugated segments undulate generally equidistantly relative to and from the reference plane as viewed in cross-section. The plurality of conduit portions is inter-dispersed throughout the plate member among the first and second series of corrugated segments. Each conduit portion has a flat piece and a collar. Each flat piece is generally disposed in the reference plane and has a hole formed transversely therethrough. A respective collar is connected to and projects from a corresponding one of the flat pieces to define a transversely extending conduit in communication with the hole. Each one of the first series of corrugated segments extends at a first angle relative to the horizontal direction and each one of the second series of corrugated segments extend at a second angle relative to the horizontal direction such that individual adjacent ones of the first and second series of corrugated segments form a substantially chevron-shaped configuration as viewed in plan view.

[0018] These objects and other advantages of the present invention will be better appreciated in view of the detailed description of the exemplary embodiments of the present invention with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0019] Figure 1 is a perspective view of a conventional heat exchanger that includes a finned coil assembly, a housing covering the finned coil assembly and a blower among other conventional components.

[0020] Figure 2 is a front elevational view of a conventional high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin.

[0021] Figure 3 is an enlarged partial perspective view of the corrugated fin in Figure 2.

[0022] Figure 4 is an enlarged partial side elevational view of the corrugated fin taken a long line 4-4 in Figure 3.

[0023] Figure 5 is an enlarged partial side elevational view of the corrugated fin taken a long line 5-5 in Figure 4.

[0024] Figure 6 is an enlarged partial side elevational view of the corrugated fin in Figure 4 with water contained within the valleys of the corrugations.

[0025] Figure 7 is a front elevational view of another conventional high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin with its corrugations inclined at an angle.

[0026] Figure 8 is a front elevational view of two corrugated fins with corrugations inclined at an angle disposed adjacent to one another.

[0027] Figure 9A is a diagrammatic view of the two corrugated fins in Figure 8 illustrating an overlapping offset registration relative to one another.

[0028] Figure 9B is a diagrammatic view of the two corrugated fins in Figure 8 illustrating a side-by-side offset registration relative to one another.

[0029] Figure 10 is a front elevational view of a first exemplary embodiment of a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin of the present invention with a first series of corrugated segments and a second series of corrugated segments arranged in a chevron configuration.

[0030] Figure 11 is a partial perspective view of the corrugated fin of the present invention taken along line of 11-11 in Figure 10.

[0031] Figure 12 is a front elevational view of a second exemplary embodiment of a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin of the present invention with multiple first series of corrugated segments and multiple second series of corrugated segments arranged in multiple chevron configurations.

[0032] Figure 13 is a front elevational view of a third exemplary embodiment of a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin of the present invention with multiple first series of corrugated segments and multiple second series of corrugated segments arranged in multiple general chevron configurations.

[0033] Figure 14 is a partial perspective view of the corrugated fin of the present invention taken along line of 14-14 in Figure 13.

[0034] Figure 15 is a front elevational view of a fourth exemplary embodiment of a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin of the present invention with a first series of corrugated segments and a second series of corrugated segments arranged in an inverted chevron configuration.

[0035] Figure 16 is a front elevational view of a fifth exemplary embodiment of a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin of the present invention with multiple first series of corrugated segments and multiple second series of corrugated segments arranged in skewed chevron configurations.

[0036] Figure 17 is a front elevational view of a sixth exemplary embodiment of a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin of the present invention with multiple first series of corrugated segments and multiple second series of corrugated segments arranged in inverted, skewed chevron configurations.

[0037] Figure 18 is a front elevational view of a seventh exemplary embodiment of a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin of the present invention with multiple first series of corrugated segments and multiple second series of corrugated segments arranged in an alternating combination of V-shapes and inverted V-shapes forming multiple diamond patterns.

[0038] Figure 19 is a front elevational view of an eighth exemplary embodiment of a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin of the present invention with a plate member having a single zone with a single series of arcuate-shaped corrugated segments.

[0039] Figure 20 is a front elevational view of a ninth exemplary embodiment of a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin of the present invention with a first series of corrugated segments and a second series of corrugated segments arranged in a chevron configuration as shown in Figure 10 with a lower pitch.

[0040] Figure 21A is a front elevational view of a tenth exemplary embodiment of a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin of the present invention with a first

series of corrugated segments and a second series of corrugated segments arranged in a substantially chevron-shaped configuration that are intentionally and vertically misregistered with one another.

[0041] Figure 21B is a partial cross-sectional view of the high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin of the present invention taken along line 21-21 in Figure 21.

[0042] Figure 22 is a front elevational view of a eleventh exemplary embodiment of a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin of the present invention with a first series of corrugated segments and a second series of corrugated segments arranged in a substantially chevron-shaped configuration with a horizontal corrugation segment in lieu of a pointed apex.

[0043] Figure 23 is a front elevational view of a twelfth exemplary embodiment of a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin of the present invention with a first series of corrugated segments and a second series of corrugated segments arranged in a substantially chevron-shaped configuration with an arcuate apex.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

[0044] Hereinafter, embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to the attached drawings. The structural components common to those of the prior art and the structural components common to respective embodiments of the present invention will be represented by the same reference numerals and repeated description thereof is omitted.

[0045] A first exemplary embodiment of a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin 126 of the present invention for the finned coil assembly 12 is hereinafter described with reference to Figures 10 and 11. Rather than repetitively referring to the present invention as a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin, the present invention will be hereinafter referred to as "the fin". The fin 126 includes a plate member 128 that extends horizontally in a horizontal direction along horizontal line HL and vertically in a vertical direction along line VL to define the reference plane RP as best shown in Figure 11. The plate member 128 has a plurality of conduit portions 132, a first series of corrugated segments 130a formed in the plate member 128 and a second series of corrugated segments 130b formed into the plate member 128. By way of example only and not by way of limitation, the first and second series of corrugated segments 130a and 130b of the first exemplary

embodiment of the present invention respectively undulate generally equidistantly relative to and from the reference plane RP as viewed in cross-section and represented by distances "x" shown in Figure 11. The plurality of conduit portions 132 is inter-dispersed throughout the plate member 128 among the first and second series of corrugated segments 130a and 130b as shown in Figure 10. By way of example only and not by way of limitation, the plurality of conduit portions 132 are arranged in a plurality of vertical columns in which adjacent vertical columns are offset horizontally from one another.

[0046] Each conduit portion 132 has a flat piece 134 and a collar 136. Each flat piece 134 is generally disposed in the reference plane RP as best shown in Figure 11 and has a hole 138 formed transversely therethrough. A respective collar 136 is connected to and projects from a corresponding one of the flat pieces 134 to define a transversely extending conduit 140 in communication with the hole 138.

[0047] Each one of the first series of corrugated segments 130a extends at a first angle α relative to the horizontal line HL and each one of the second series of corrugated segments 130b extend at a second angle β relative to the horizontal line HL. By way of example only and not by way of limitation, the first angle α and the second angle β are at least substantially equal to each other. In the first exemplary embodiment of the present invention, individual adjacent ones of the first and second series of corrugated segments 130a and 130b form a chevron-shaped configuration as viewed in plan view at approximately the horizontal center of the plate member 128. More specifically, the individual adjacent ones of the first and second series of corrugated segments 130a and 130b are integrally connected together at adjacent opposing ends to form an apex A at each connection location. A skilled artisan would appreciate that, for the first exemplary embodiment of the fin 126 of the present invention, sequential individual adjacent ones of the first and second series of corrugated segments 130a and 130b form V-shaped corrugations representing a series of chevron configurations.

[0048] It is considered that the plate member 128 of the fin 126 of the first exemplary embodiment of the present invention has one zone Z1. The one zone Z1 of the plate member 128 has a first sub-zone Z1a and a second sub-zone Z1b. The first sub-zone Z1a is defined by the first series of corrugated segments 130a that includes four vertical columns of conduit portions 132 and the second sub-zone Z1b

is defined by the second series of corrugated segments 130b disposed juxtaposed to the first sub-zone Z1a that includes four vertical columns of conduit portions 132.

[0049] Note, in the event that condensation accumulates on the corrugations 130a and 130b sufficient to form running water, the running water would tend to migrate toward the vertical center of the fin 126 represented by the vertical line VL and water accumulating towards the vertical center of the fin 126 would drain downwardly therefrom at respective ones of the apexes A.

[0050] A second exemplary embodiment of a fin 226 of the present invention for the finned coil assembly 12 is illustrated in Figure 12. The second exemplary embodiment of the fin 226 is similar to the first exemplary embodiment of the fin 126 except that the fin 226 of second exemplary embodiment has sequential individual adjacent ones of the first and second series of corrugated segments 230a and 230b form an alternating sequence of V-shaped and inverted V-shaped corrugations and can be considered to have a plurality of zones Z1 through Z4. However, one of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that the fin 226 of the present invention might have a plurality of zones Z1 through Zn.

[0051] The plate member 226 has a series of juxtaposed zones Z1 through Z4 with individual ones of the first series of corrugated segments 230a in the first sub-zone Z1a of each one of the series of juxtaposed zones Z1 through Z4 and individual ones of the second series of corrugated segments 230b in the second sub-zone Z1b of each one of the series of juxtaposed zones Z1 through Z4 adjacent to the individual ones of the first series of corrugated segments 230a in the first sub-zone Z1 are oriented relative to one another to define a series of V-shaped corrugations representing a series of chevron configurations.

[0052] Although not by way of limitation, the first sub-zone Z1a is defined by the first series of corrugated segments 230a that includes one vertical column of conduit portions 132 and the second sub-zone Z1b defined by the second series of corrugated segments 130b disposed juxtaposed to the first sub-zone Z1a includes one vertical column of conduit portions 132.

[0053] A third exemplary embodiment of a fin 326 of the present invention is illustrated in Figures 13 and 14. The fin 326 includes a plate member 328 with individual adjacent ones of the first and second series of corrugated segments 330a and 330b being disposed apart from one another at adjacent opposing ends 330aa

and 330bb. In this embodiment, the plate member 328 includes a flat strip element 342. Although by way of example only and not by way of limitation, the flat strip element 342 is disposed in the reference plane RP and extends vertically as well as horizontally between the individual adjacent ones of the first and second series of corrugated segments 330a and 330b respectively between the adjacent opposing ends 330aa and 330bb. Even though the flat strip element 342 is disposed between the individual adjacent ones of the first and second series of corrugated segments 330a and 330b, the individual adjacent ones of the first and second series of corrugated segments 330a and 330b form a substantially chevron-shaped configuration as viewed in plan view in that the non-contacting adjacent opposing ends 330aa and 330bb do not form an apex. Thus, the term "substantially chevron-shaped" shall be defined as including "chevron-shaped" where the adjacent opposing ends 330aa and 330bb contact each other to form apexes as well as the configuration described immediately hereinabove where the non-contacting adjacent opposing ends do not contact each other but are disposed apart from yet relatively close to one another. Also, other "substantially chevron-shaped" adjacent ones of the first and second series of corrugated segments are illustrated by way of example only in Figures 21-23.

[0054] A fourth exemplary embodiment of a fin 426 of the present invention is illustrated in Figure 15. A plate member 428 of the fourth exemplary embodiment of the fin 426 of the present invention is similar to the first embodiment of the fin 126 shown in Figure 10 except that the first and second series of corrugated segments 430a and 430b respectively define inverted V-shapes or inverted chevron-shapes.

[0055] A fifth exemplary embodiment of a fin 526 of the present invention is illustrated in Figure 16. A plate member 528 of the fifth exemplary embodiment of the fin 526 of the present invention is somewhat similar to the first exemplary embodiment of the fin 126 shown in Figure 10 and the fourth exemplary embodiment of the fin 426 shown in Figure 15 except that the first and second series of corrugated segments 530a and 530b respectively define skewed V-shapes or skewed chevron shapes. Note that the first series of corrugated segments 530a extend at a first angle fa_2 relative to the horizontal line HL and each one of the second series of corrugated segments 530b extend at a second angle sa_2 relative to the horizontal line HL. One of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate the first angle

fa2 is different from the second angle sa2 and, in this particular case by way of example only, the first angle fa2 is less than the second angle sa2. Also, zone Z1 includes four vertical columns of conduit portions 132 with adjacent ones of the vertical columns of conduit portions 132 being horizontally offset from one another while sub-zone Z1a has three vertical columns of conduit portions 132 and sub-zone Z1b has one vertical column of conduit portions 132.

[0056] A sixth exemplary embodiment of a fin 626 of the present invention is illustrated in Figure 17. A plate member 628 of the sixth exemplary embodiment of the fin 626 of the present invention is similar to the fifth exemplary embodiment of the fin 526 shown in Figure 15 except that the first and second series of corrugated segments 630a and 630b define inverted skewed V-shapes or inverted chevron shapes. Note that the of the first series of corrugated segments 630a extends at a first angle fa3 relative to the horizontal line HL and each one of the second series of corrugated segments 630b extend at a second angle sa3 relative to the horizontal line HL. One of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate the first angle fa3 is different from the second angle sa3 and, in this particular case by way of example only, the first angle fa3 is less than the second angle sa3.

[0057] A seventh exemplary embodiment of a fin 726 of the present invention is illustrated in Figure 18. A plate member 728 of the seventh exemplary embodiment of the fin 726 of the present invention has two series of juxtaposed zones Z1 and Z2 with individual ones of the first series of corrugated segments 730a in the first sub-zone Z1a of each one of the series of juxtaposed zones Z1 and Z2 and individual ones of the second series of corrugated segments 730b in the second sub-zone Z1b of each one of the series of juxtaposed zones Z1 and Z2 adjacent to the individual ones of the first series of corrugated segments Z1a in the first sub-zone are oriented relative to one another to define an alternating combination of V-shapes (or chevron shapes) and inverted V-shapes (or inverted chevron shapes). By way of example only, the combination of V-shapes and inverted V-shapes in each zone Z1 and Z2 yields multiple diamond patterns.

[0058] An eighth exemplary embodiment of a fin 826 of the present invention is illustrated in Figure 19. The eighth exemplary embodiment of the fin 826 is similar to the ones discussed above. The difference is that a plate member 828 has a single zone Z1 with a single series of arcuate-shaped corrugated segments 830.

[0059] A ninth exemplary embodiment of a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin 926 of the present invention is illustrated in Figure 20. Note that a first series of corrugated segments 930a and a second series of corrugated segments 930b are arranged in a chevron configuration similar as to what is shown in Figure 10 except that the first series of corrugated segments 930a and a second series of corrugated segments 930b have a lower pitch.

[0060] A tenth exemplary embodiment of a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin 1026 of the present invention is illustrated in Figures 21A and 21B. A first series of corrugated segments 1030a and a second series of corrugated segments 1030b are arranged in a substantially chevron-shaped configuration but are intentionally and vertically misregistered with one another at respective apex locations AL.

[0061] An eleventh exemplary embodiment of a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin 1126 of the present invention is illustrated in Figure 22. A first series of corrugated segments 1130a and a second series of corrugated segments 1130b are arranged in a substantially chevron-shaped configuration with a series of horizontal corrugation segments 1130c that represent flattened apexes A'.

[0062] A twelfth exemplary embodiment of a high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin 1226 of the present invention is illustrated in Figure 23. A first series of corrugated segments 1230a and a second series of corrugated segments 1230b are arranged in a substantially chevron-shaped configuration with a series of arcuate apexes A''.

[0063] It is appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art that the above exemplary embodiments of the fin are not limited to the specific features set forth in the drawing figures. For example, at least one zone has a first sub-zone defined by the first series of corrugated segments that includes at least one vertical column of conduit portions and a second sub-zone defined by the second series of corrugated segments disposed juxtaposed to the first sub-zone that includes at least one vertical column of conduit portions. Also, each one of the first and second series of corrugated segments projects from the reference plane as viewed in cross-section at a height h and extends along the reference plane as viewed in cross-section at a width w and a ratio $h:w$ is in a range of approximately 0.32 and 0.7 as illustrated in

Figure 5 and the number of corrugated segments per inch as viewed in cross-section is in a range of approximately 8 and 24.

[0064] Furthermore, using those exemplary embodiments that direct the accumulated water towards the center of the housing reduces the likelihood of water accumulating on the outside edges of the fin and thereby reducing the likelihood that the flowing air will blow water droplets outside of the housing.

[0065] The present invention, may, however, be embodied in various different forms and should not be construed as limited to the exemplary embodiments set forth herein; rather, these exemplary embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete and will fully convey the scope of the present invention to those skilled in the art.

What is claimed is:

1. A high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin for a heat exchanger coil assembly, comprising:

a plate member extending horizontally in a horizontal direction and vertically in a vertical direction to define a reference plane, the plate member having a plurality of conduit portions and a first series of corrugated segments and a second series of corrugated segments formed into the plate member, the first and second series of corrugated segments undulating generally equidistantly relative to and from the reference plane as viewed in cross-section, the plurality of conduit portions being inter-dispersed throughout the plate member among the first and second series of corrugated segments, each conduit portion having a flat piece and a collar, each flat piece being generally disposed in the reference plane and having a hole formed transversely therethrough, a respective collar connected to and projecting from a corresponding one of the flat pieces to define a transversely extending conduit in communication with the hole,

wherein each one of the first series of corrugated segments extend at a first angle relative to the horizontal direction and each one of the second series of corrugated segments extend at a second angle relative to the horizontal direction such that individual adjacent ones of the first and second series of corrugated segments form a generally chevron-shaped configuration as viewed in plan view.

2. A high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin according to claim 1, wherein the individual adjacent ones of the first and second series of corrugated segments are integrally connected together at opposing ends to form an apex at each connection location.

3. A high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin according to claim 2, wherein sequential individual adjacent ones of the first and second series of corrugated segments form an alternating sequence of V-shaped and inverted V-shaped corrugations.

4. A high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin according to claim 1, wherein the individual adjacent ones of the first and second series of corrugated segments are disposed apart from one another at adjacent opposing ends.

5. A high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin according to claim 4, wherein the plate member includes a flat strip element disposed in the reference plane extending horizontally between the individual adjacent ones of the first and second series of corrugated segments.

6. A high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin according to claim 1, wherein each one of the first and second series of corrugated segments extend rectilinearly.

7. A high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin according to claim 1, wherein the plate member has at least one zone having a first sub-zone defined by the first series of corrugated segments that includes at least one vertical column of conduit portions and second sub-zone defined by the second series of corrugated segments disposed juxtaposed to the first sub-zone that includes at least one vertical column of conduit portions.

8. A high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin according to claim 7, wherein the plate member has a series of juxtaposed zones with individual ones of the first series of corrugated segments in the first sub-zone of each one of the series of juxtaposed zones and individual ones of the second series of corrugated segments in the second sub-zone of each one of the series of juxtaposed zones adjacent to the individual ones of the first series of corrugated segments in the first sub-zone are oriented relative to one another to define either a V-shape, an inverted V-shape, a skewed V-shape, an inverted skewed V-shape or an alternating combination of a V-shape and an inverted V-shape.

9. A high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin according to claim 1, wherein each one of the first and second series of corrugated segments projects from the reference plane as viewed in cross-section at a height h and extends along

the reference plane as viewed in cross-section at a width w and a ratio $h:w$ is in a range of approximately 0.32 and 0.7.

10. A high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin according to claim 1, wherein a number of corrugated segments per inch as viewed in cross-section is in a range of approximately 8 and 24.

11. A high-frequency, low-amplitude corrugated fin according to claim 1, wherein the first angle and the second angle is one of equal to one another and different from one another.

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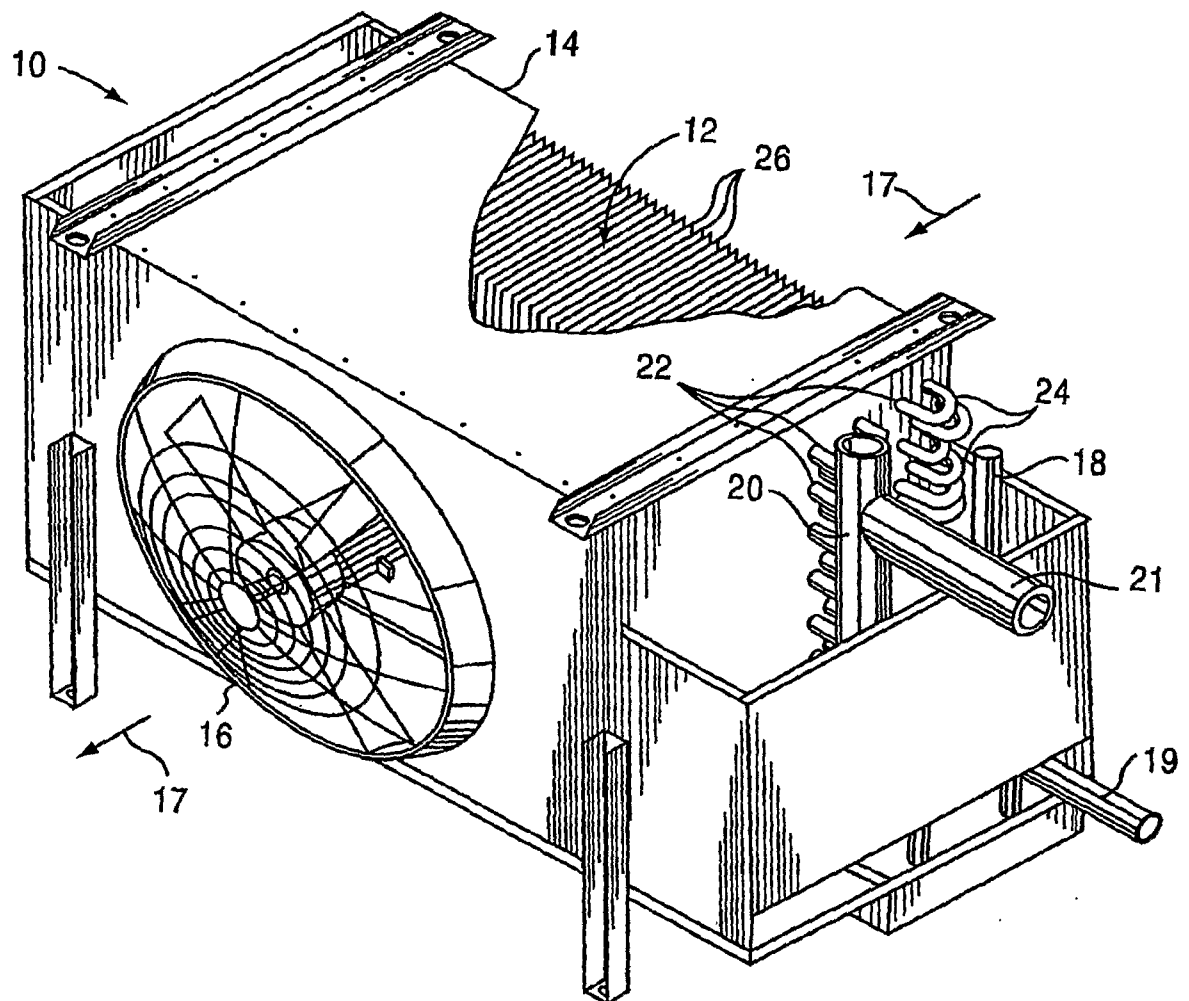


FIG. 1 PRIOR ART

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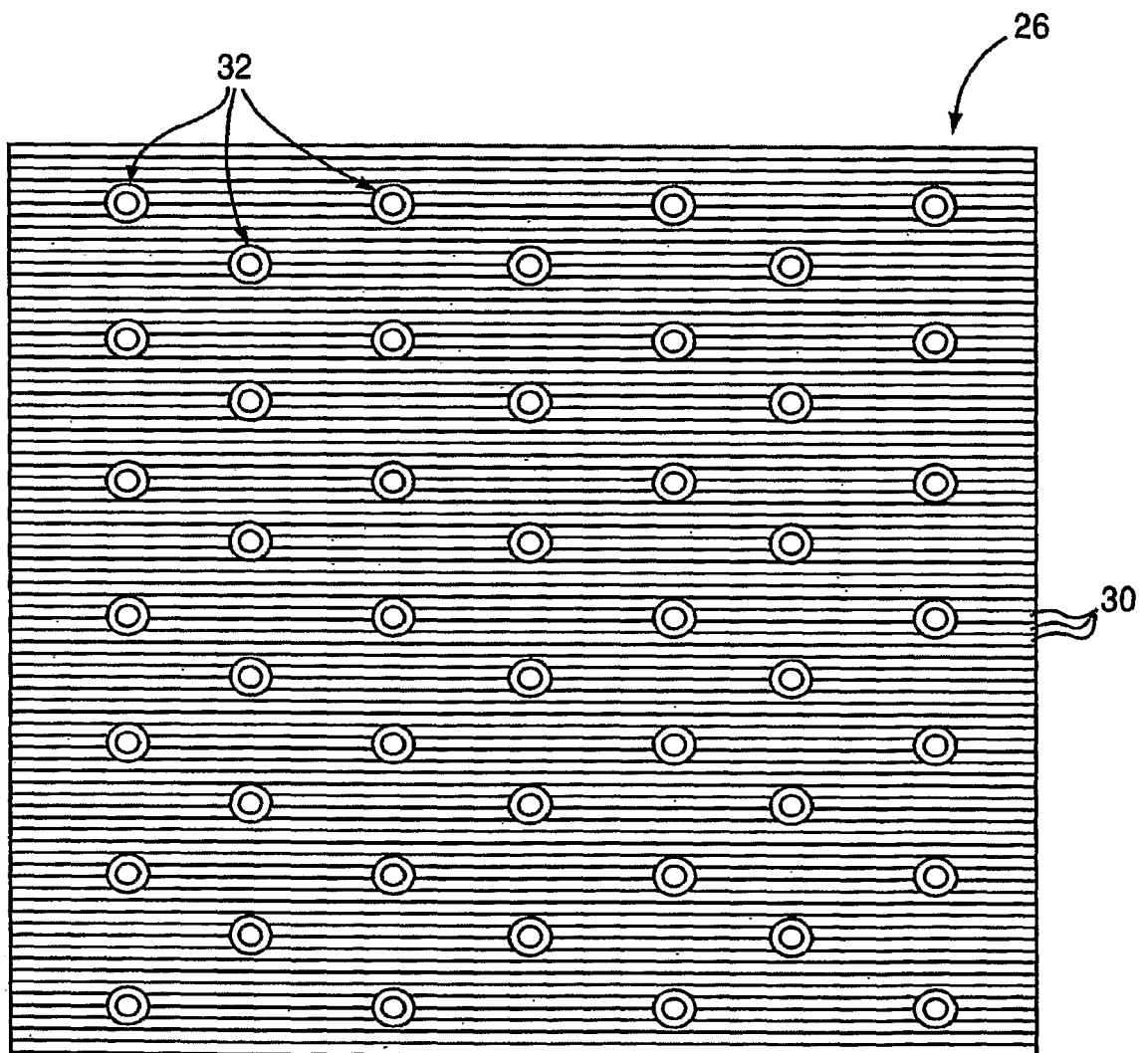


FIG. 2 PRIOR ART

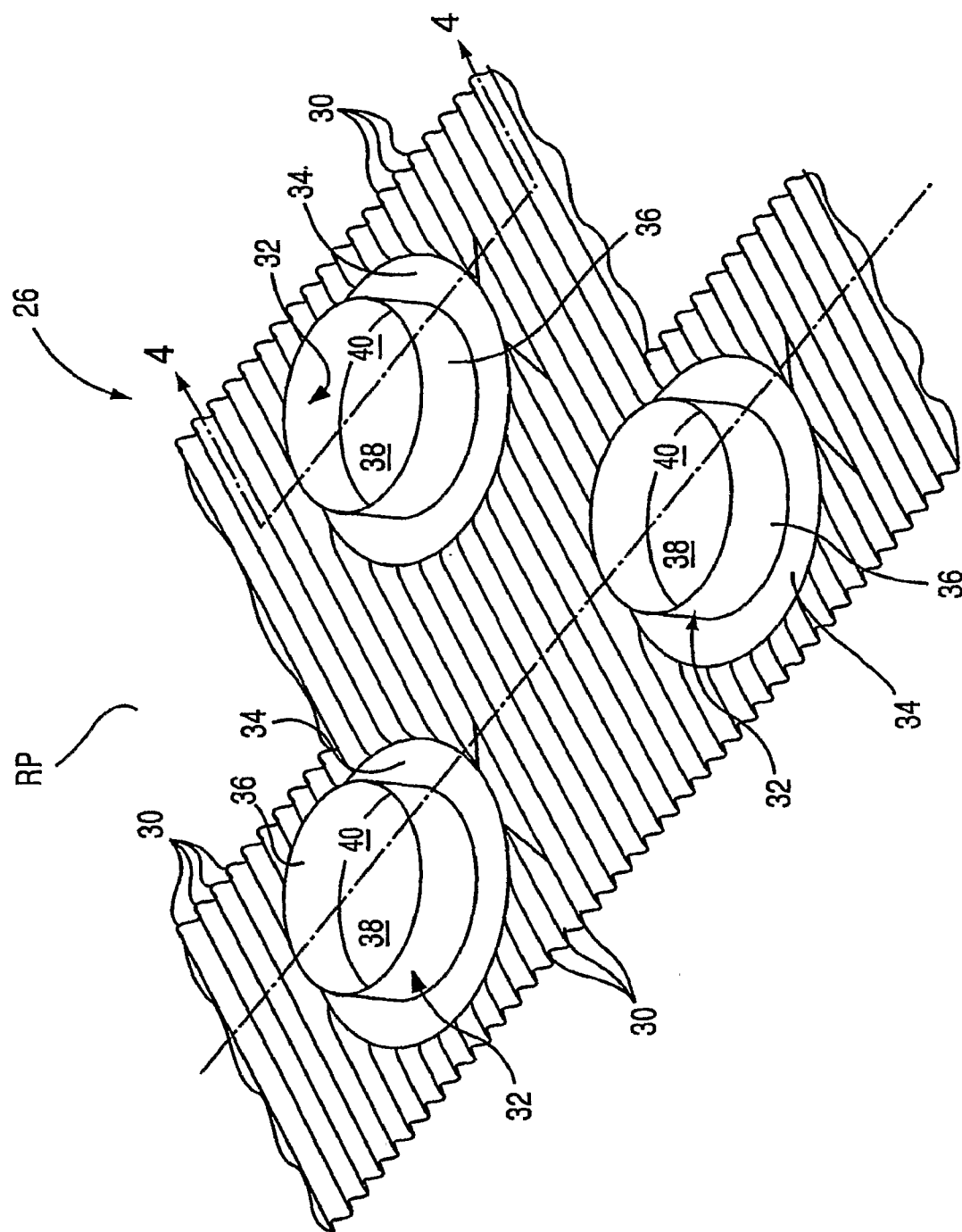


FIG. 3 PRIOR ART

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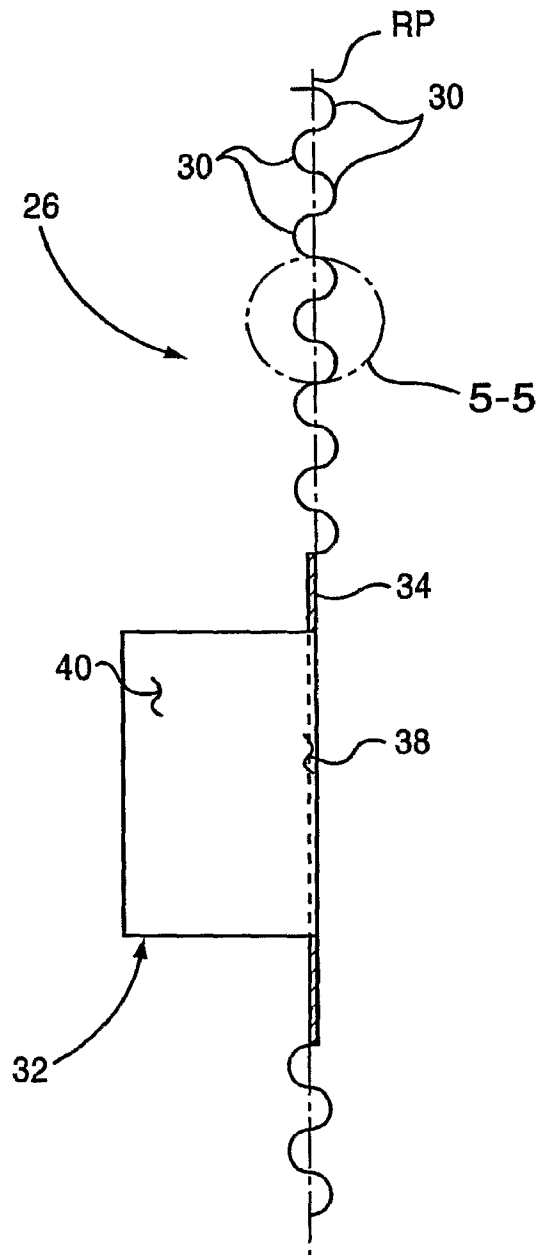


FIG. 4 PRIOR ART

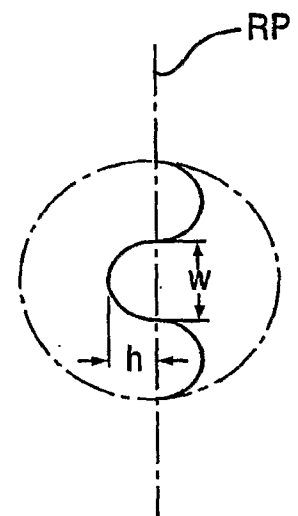


FIG. 5 PRIOR ART

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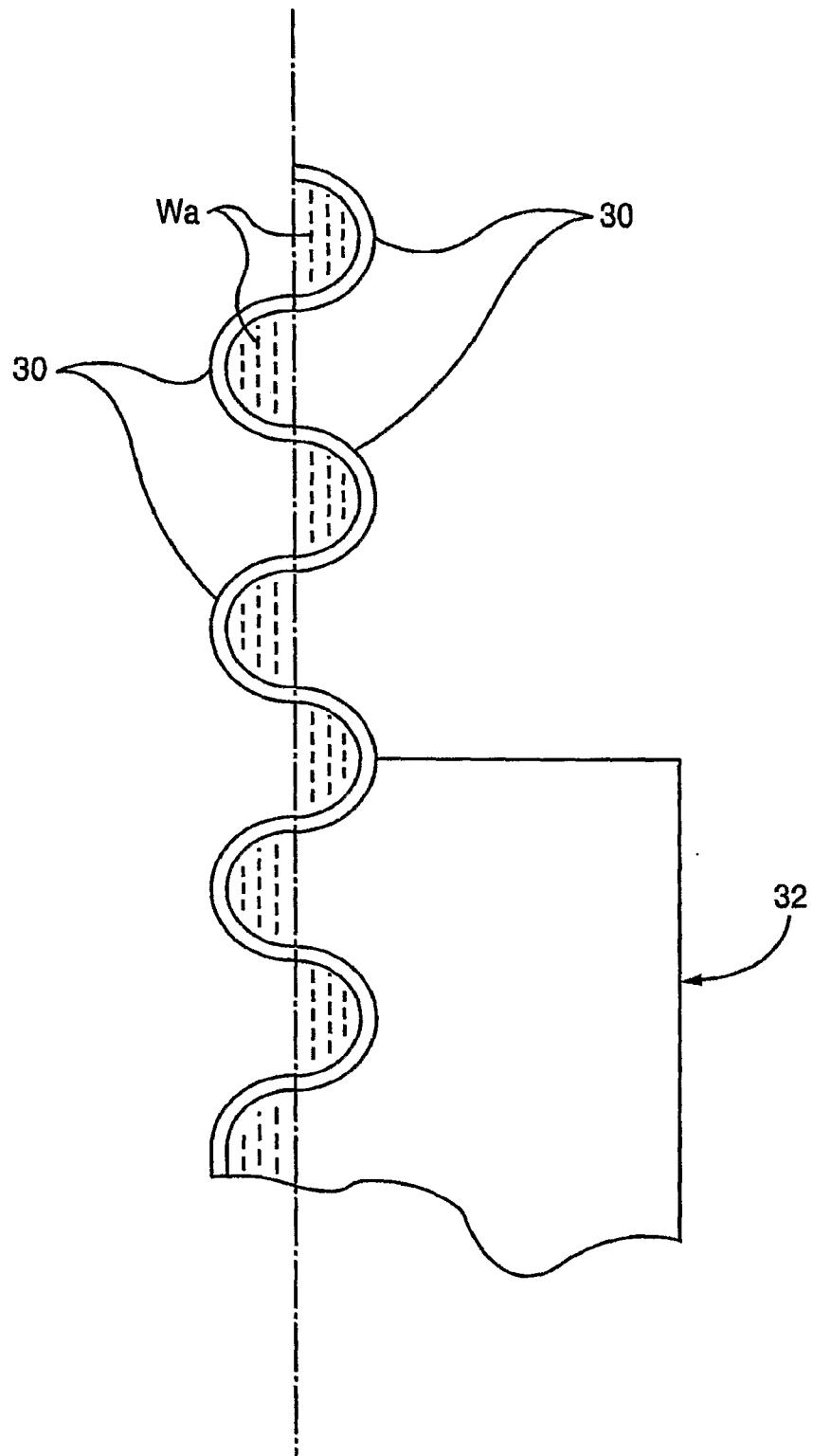


FIG. 6 PRIOR ART

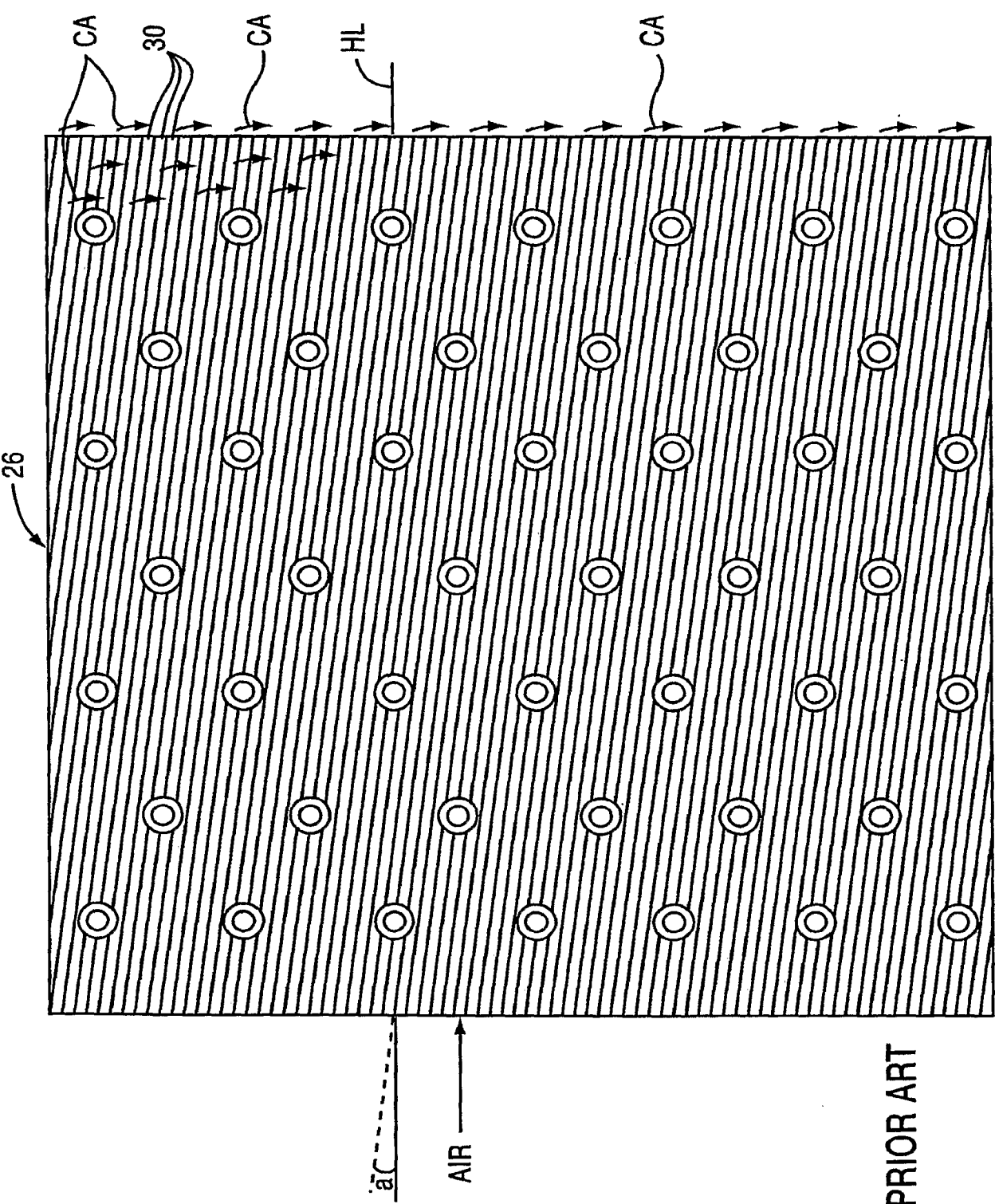


FIG. 7 PRIOR ART

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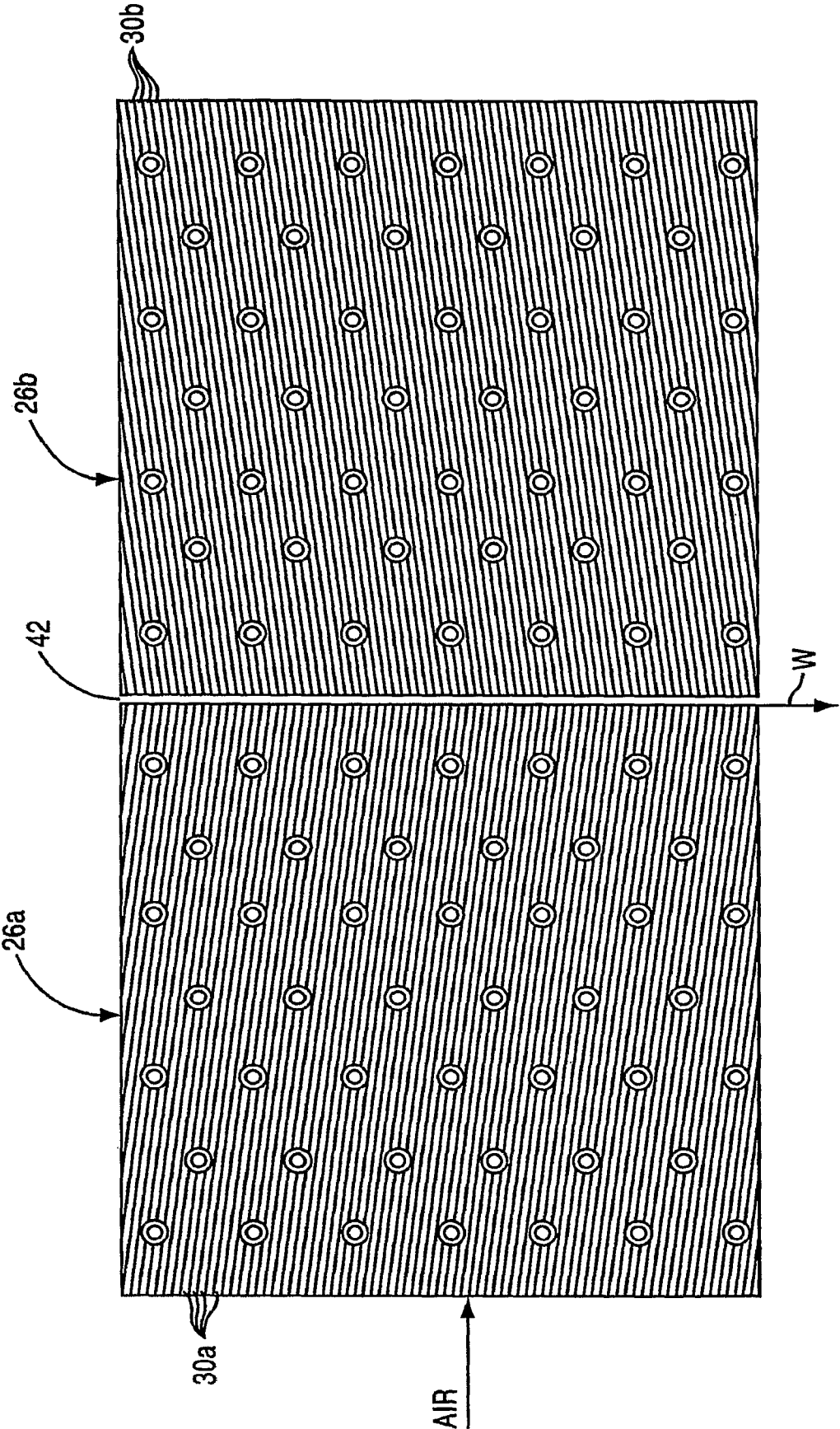


FIG. 8 PRIOR ART

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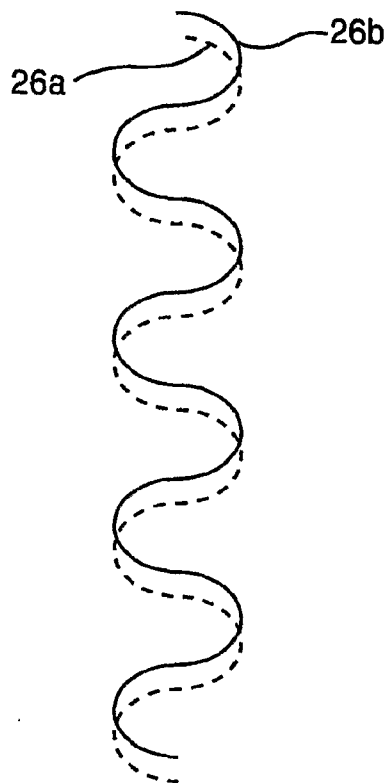


FIG. 9A PRIOR ART

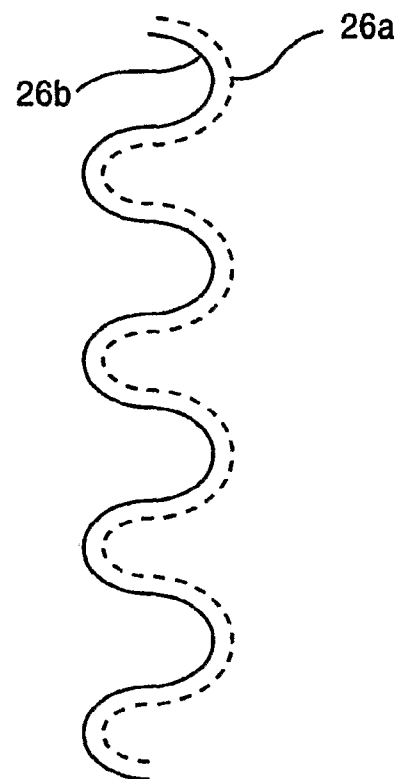


FIG. 9B PRIOR ART

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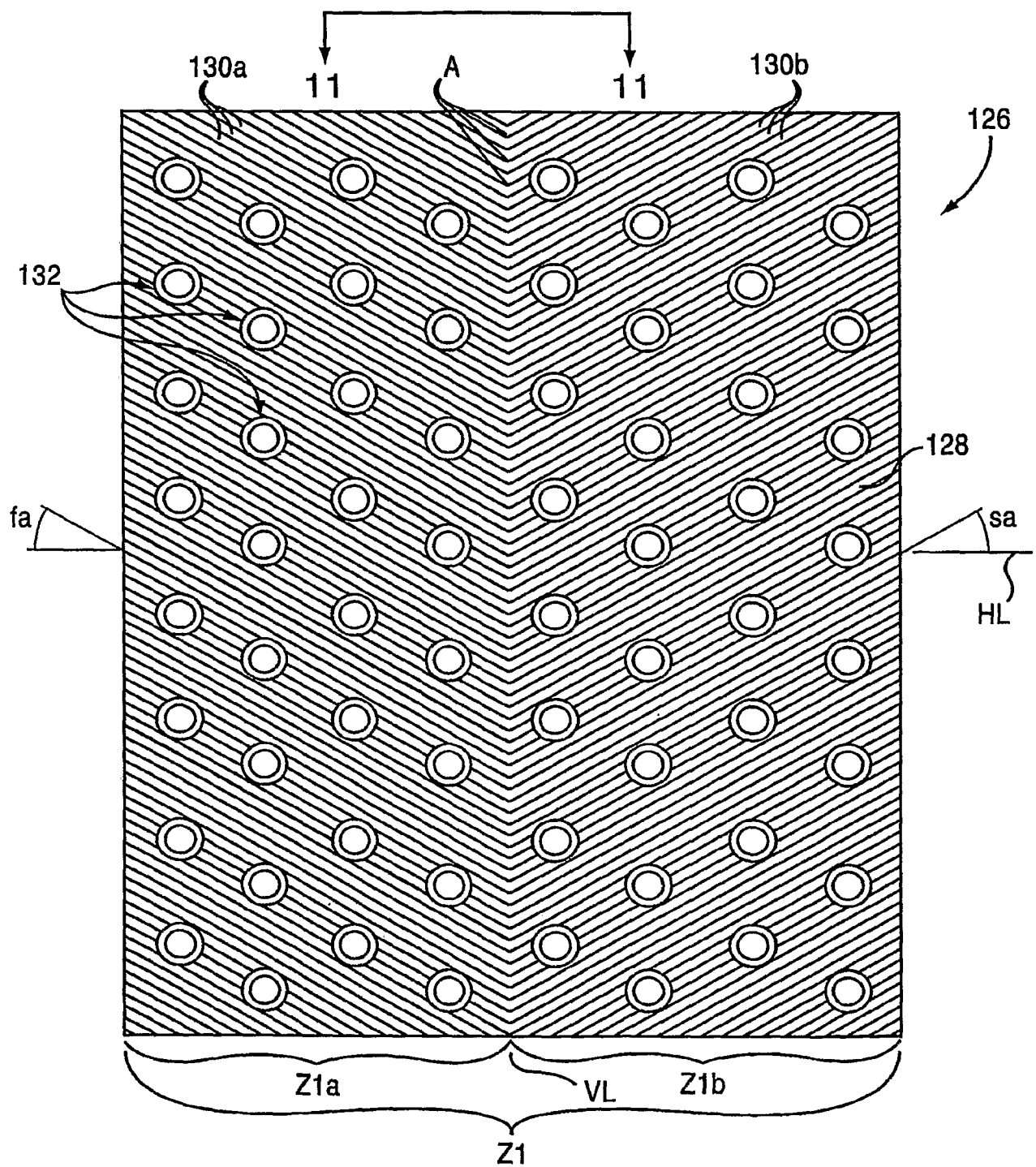
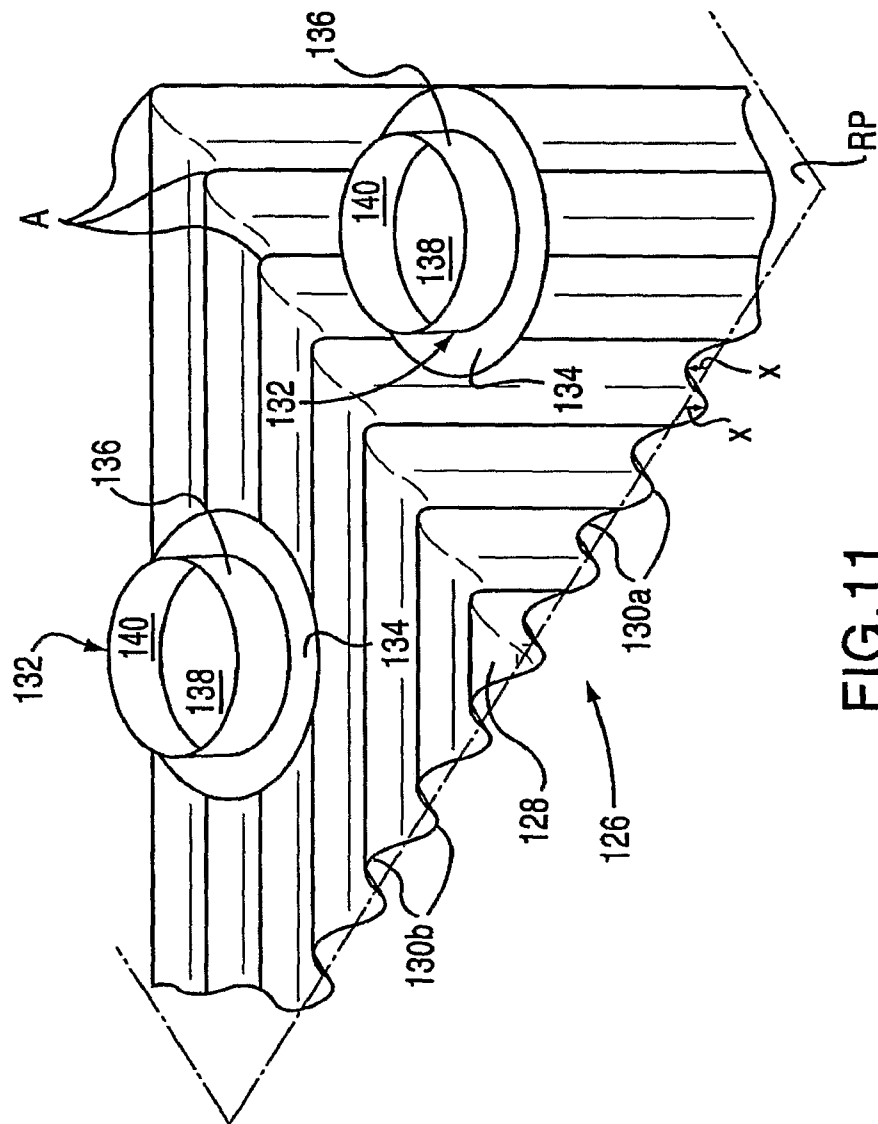


FIG. 10

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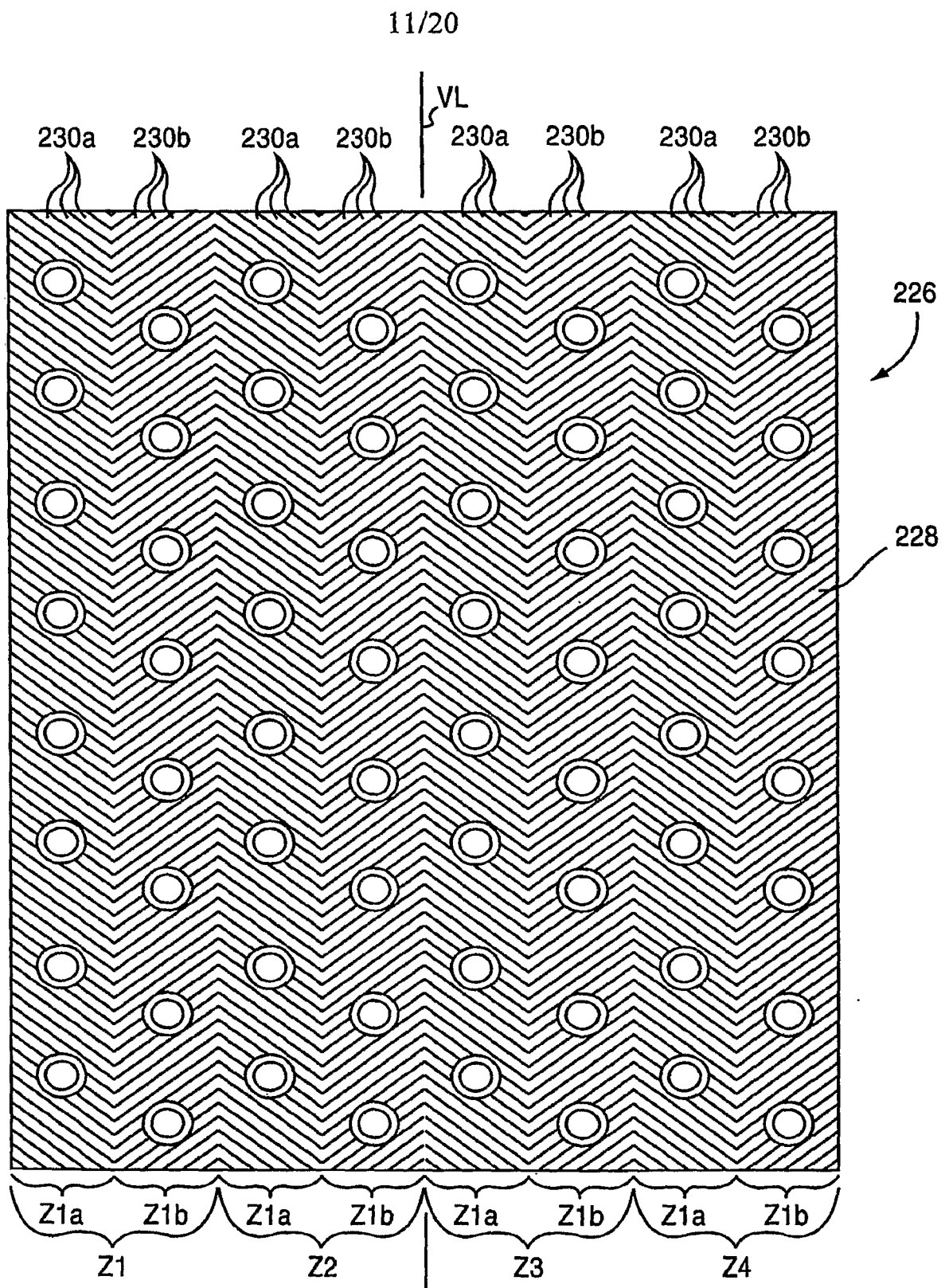


FIG. 12

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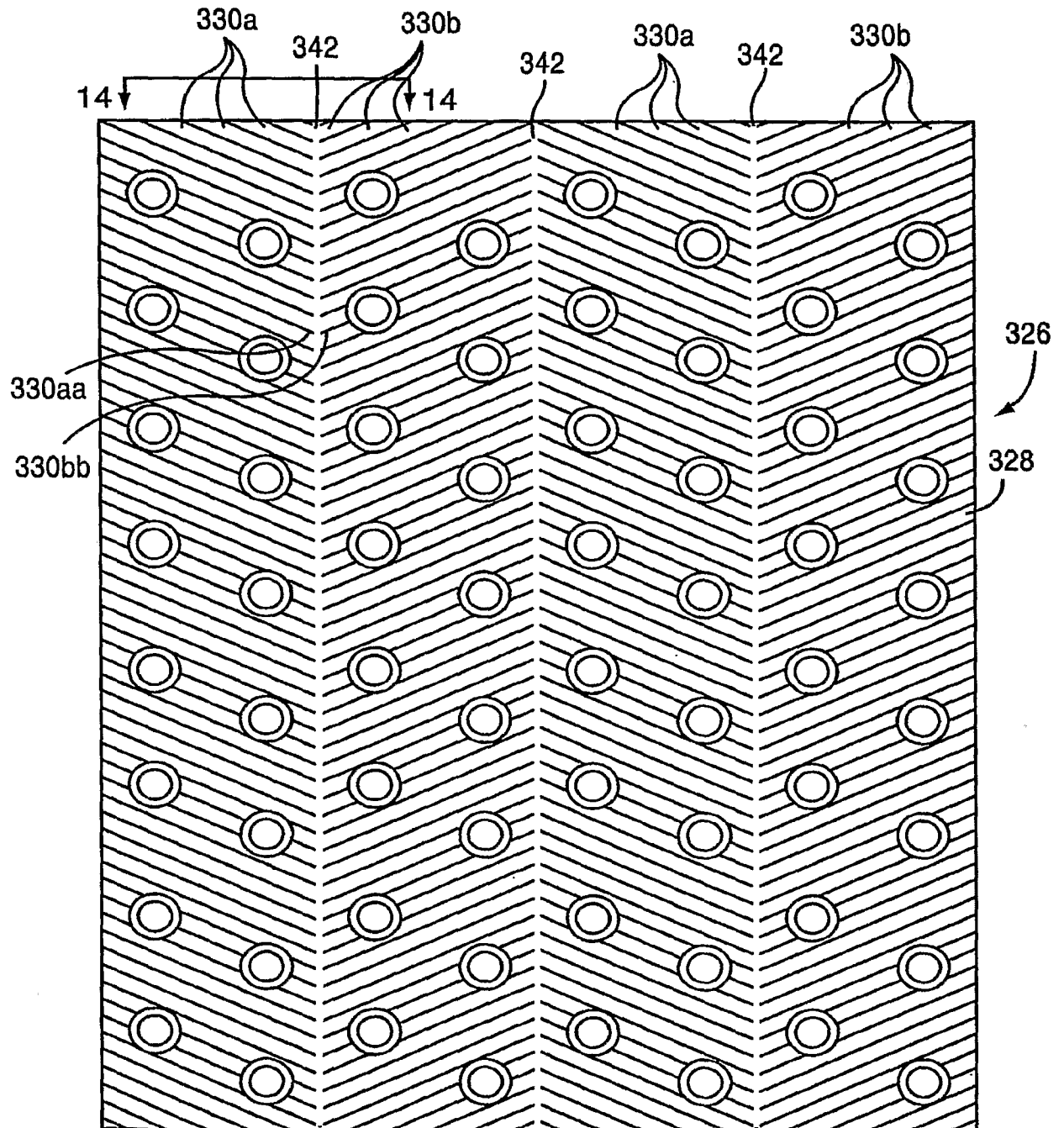


FIG. 13

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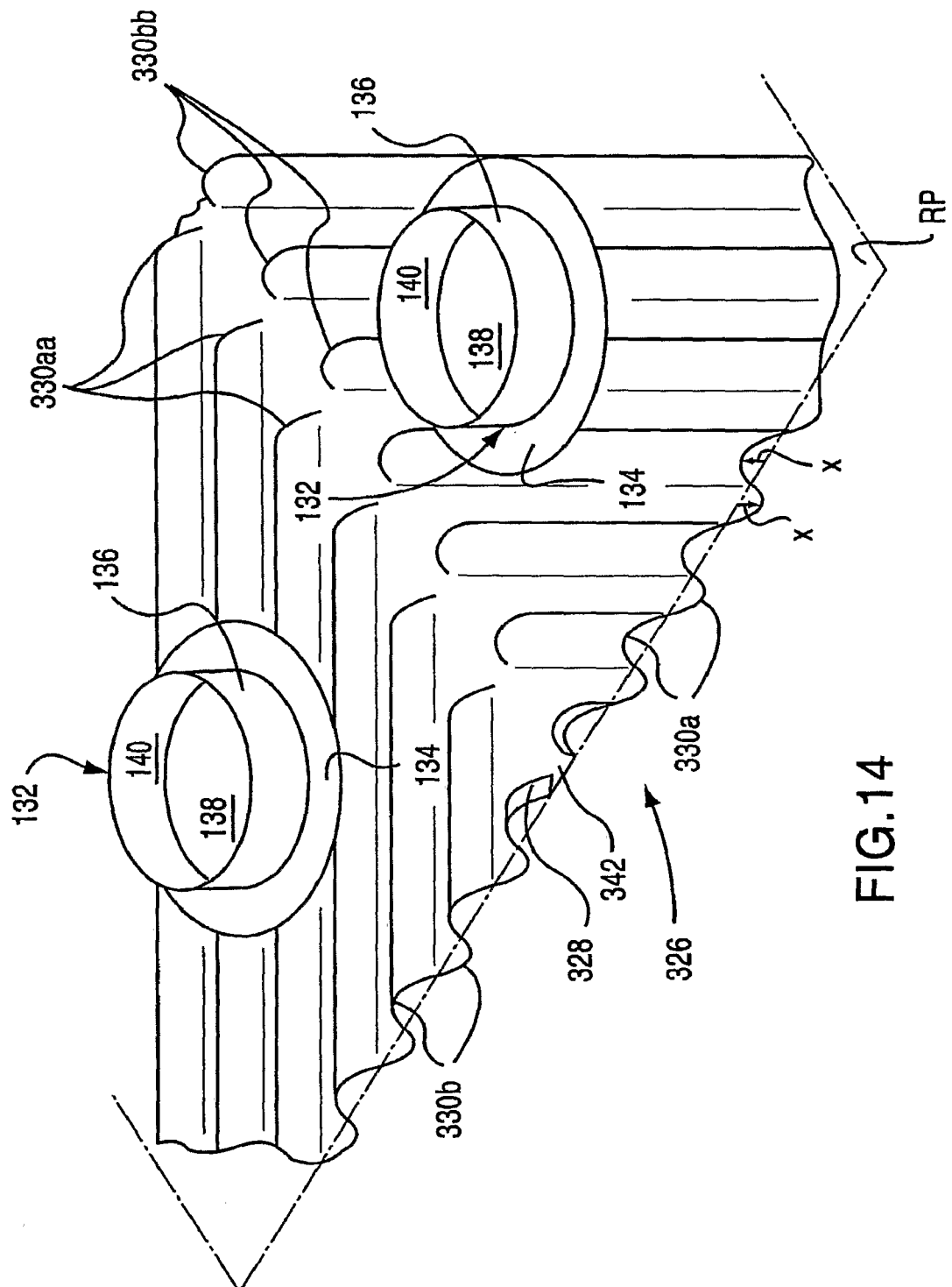


FIG.14

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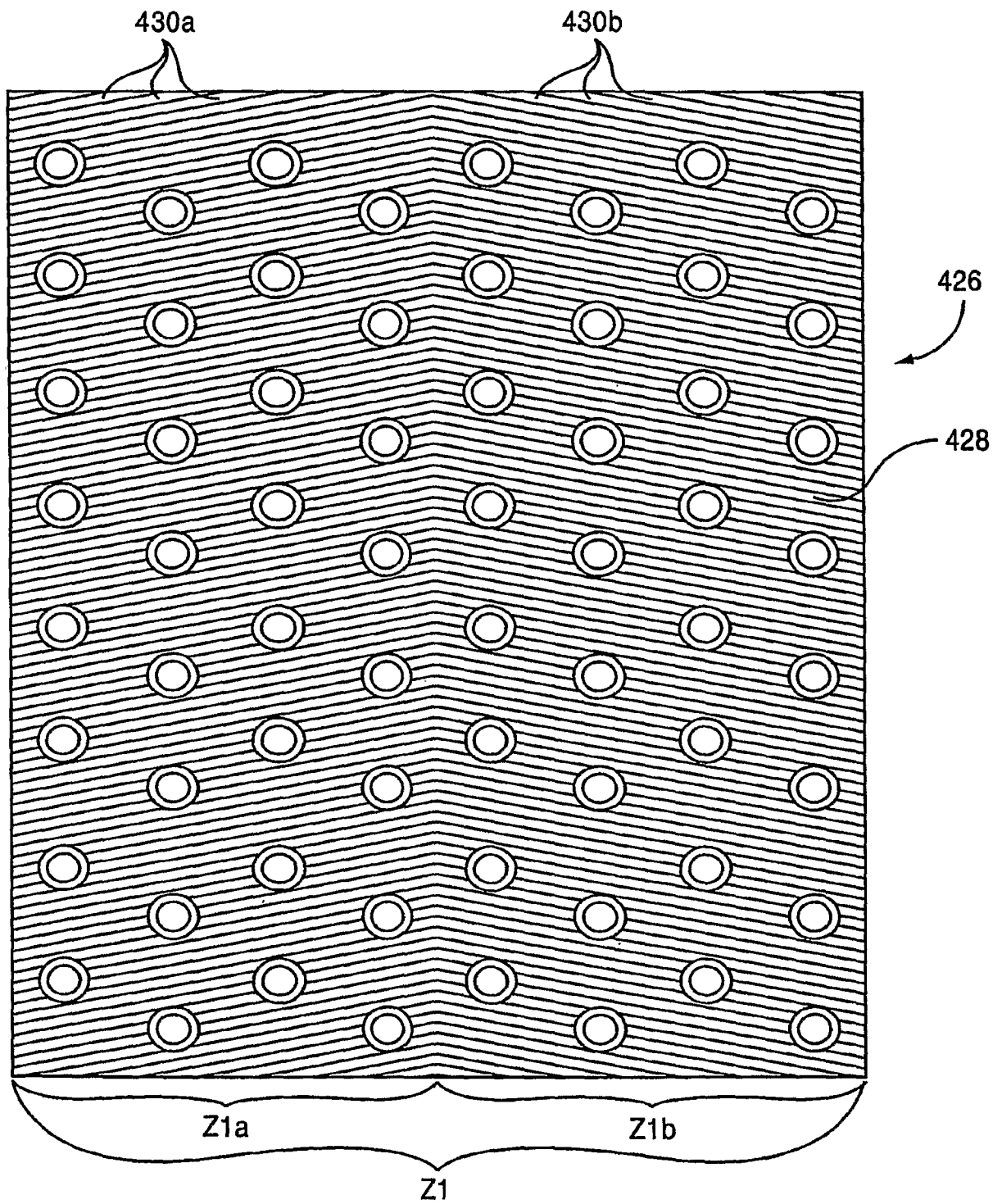


FIG. 15

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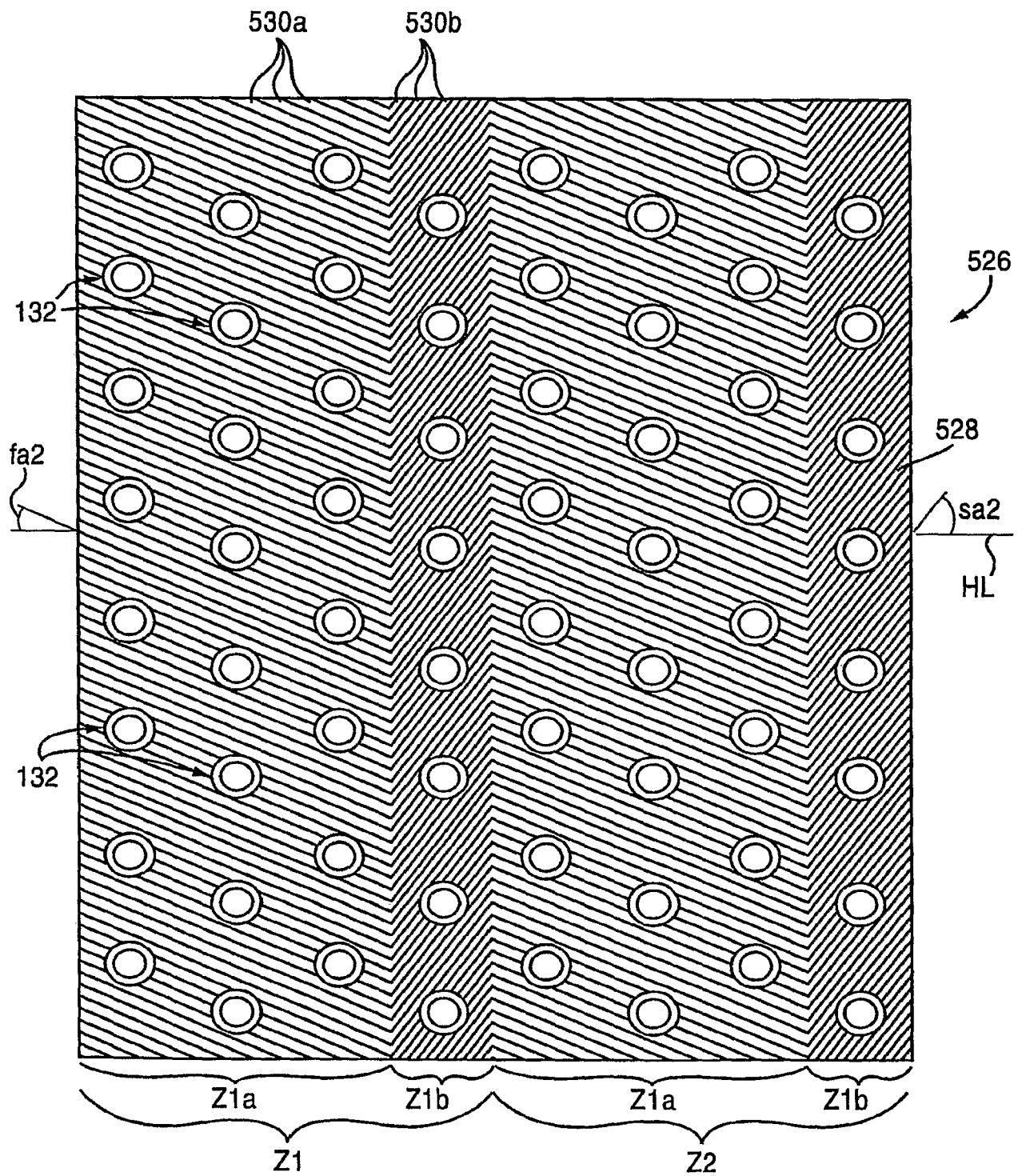


FIG.16

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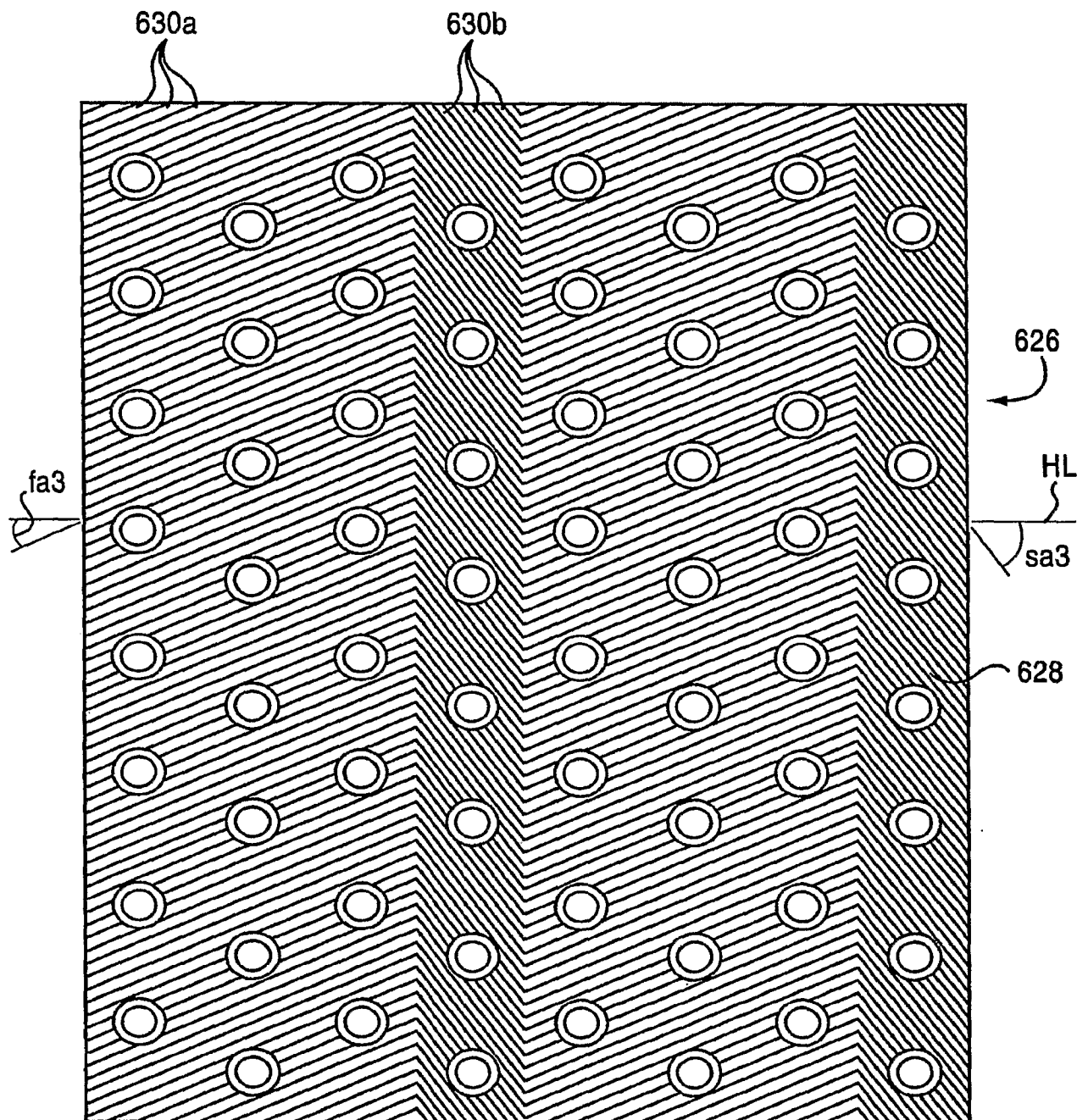


FIG.17

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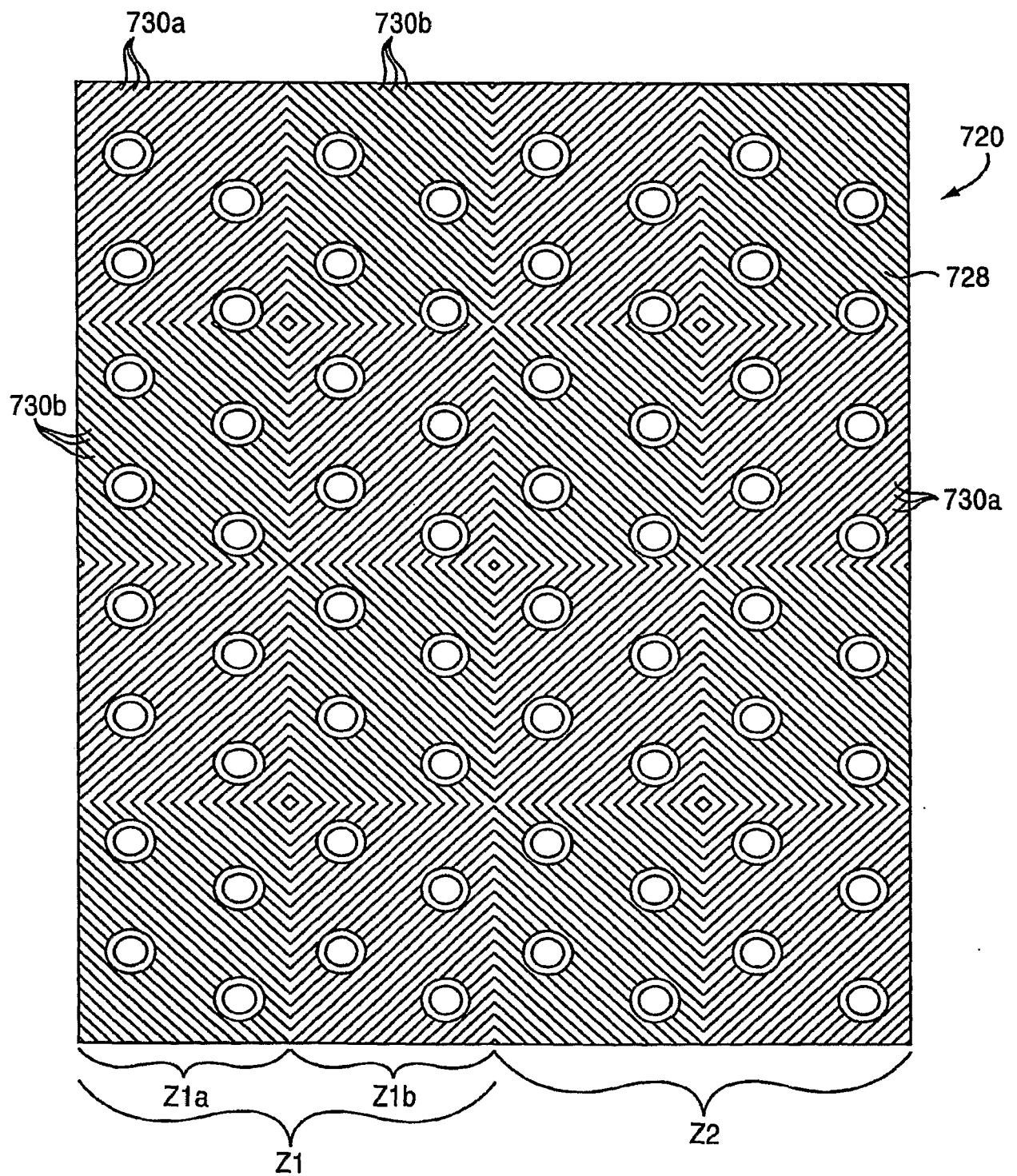


FIG. 18

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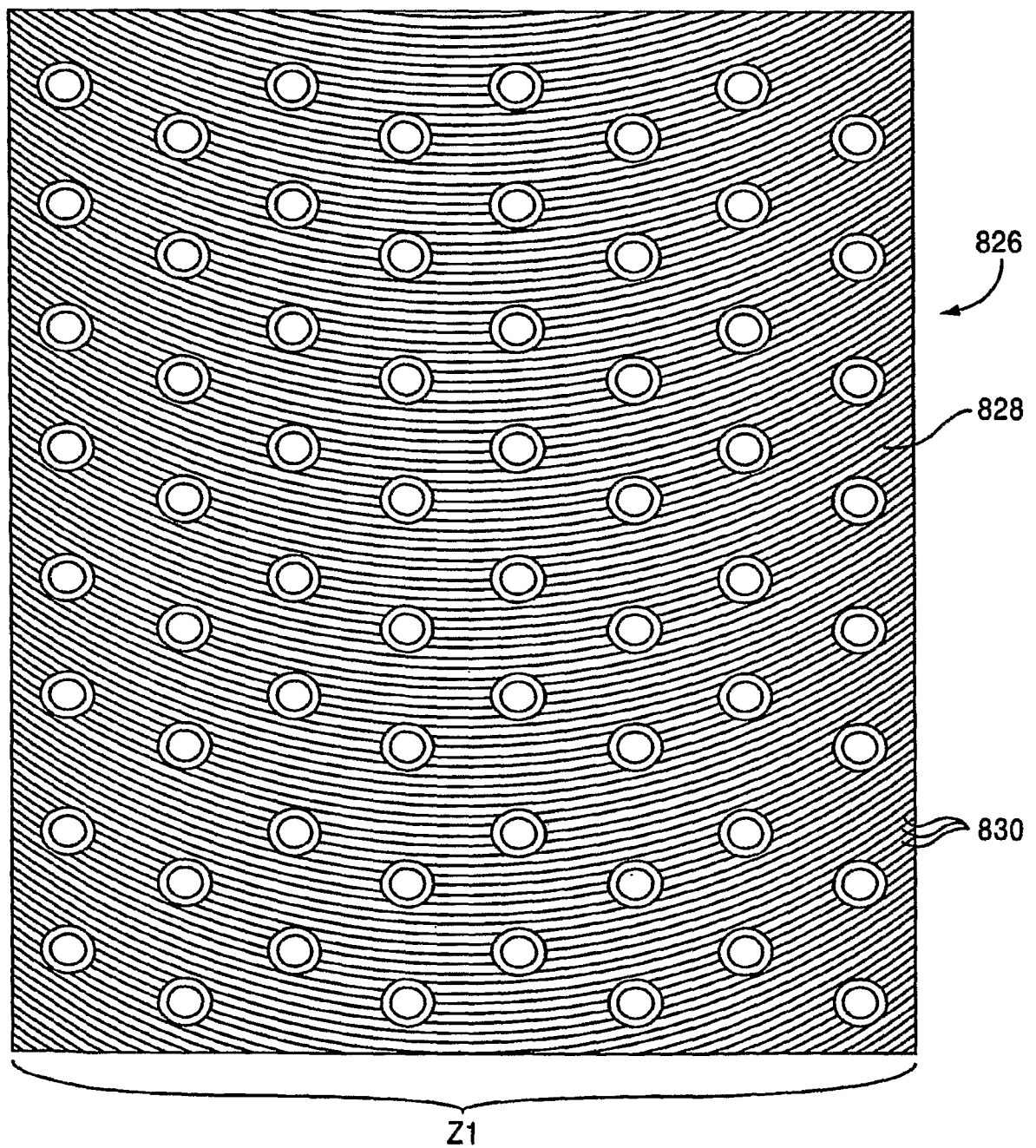


FIG. 19

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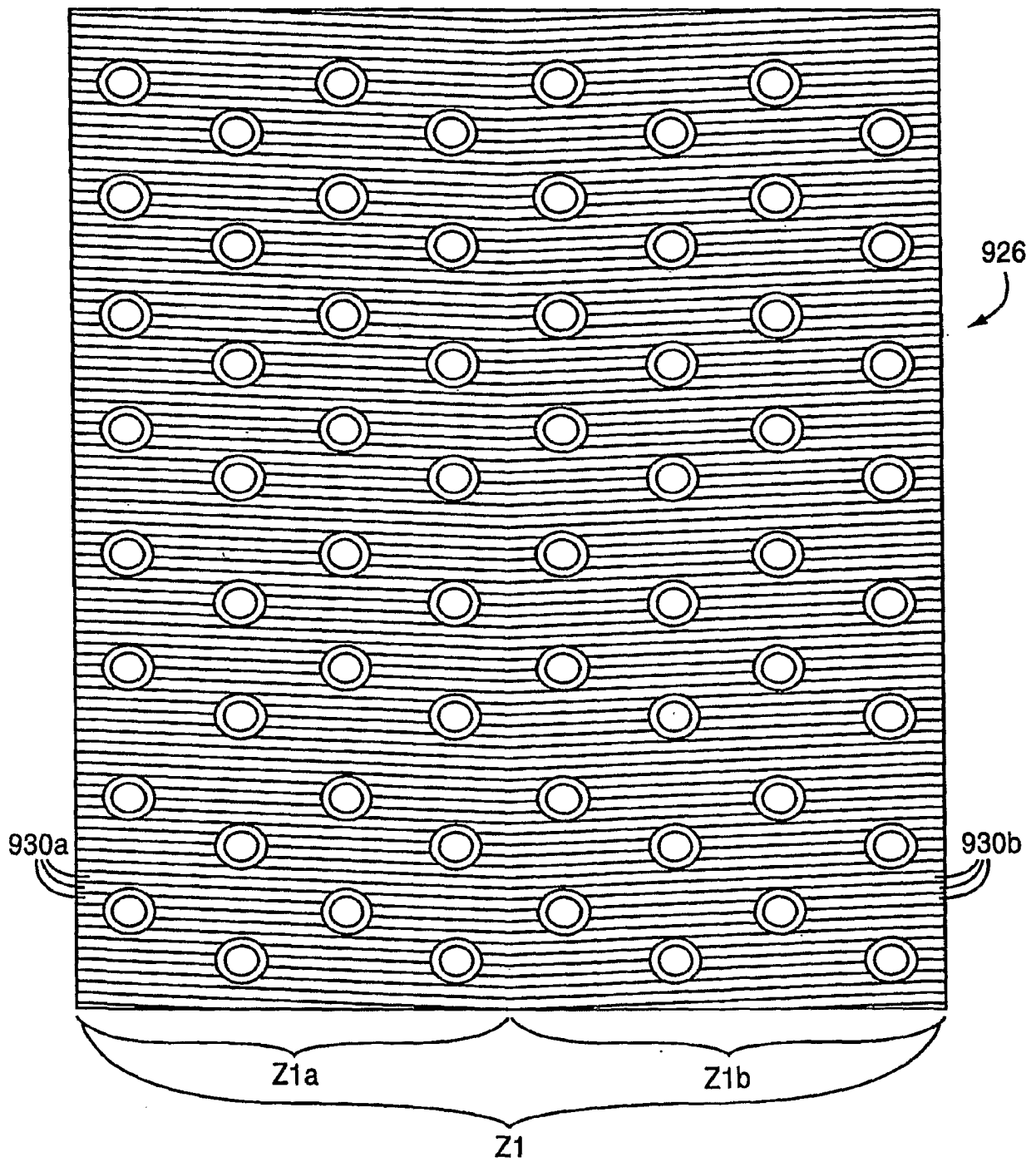


FIG. 20

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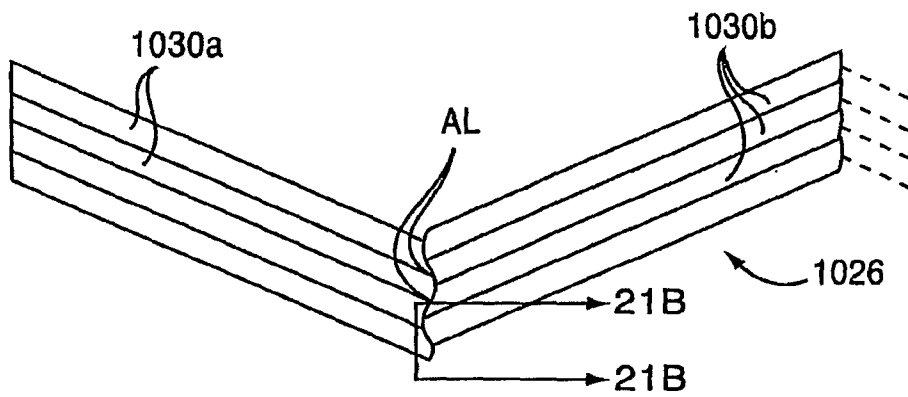


FIG. 21A

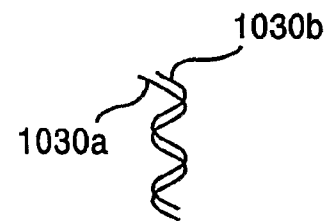


FIG. 21B

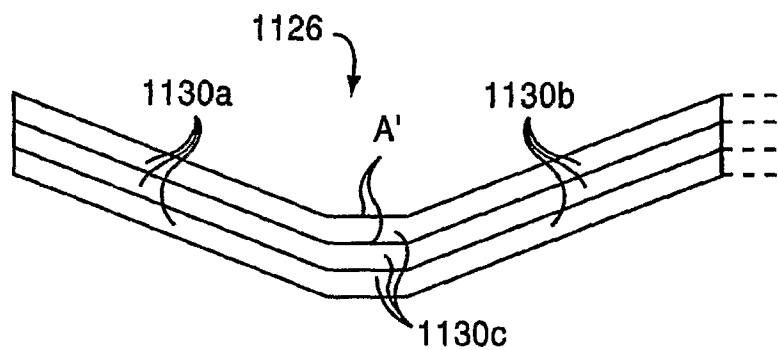


FIG. 22

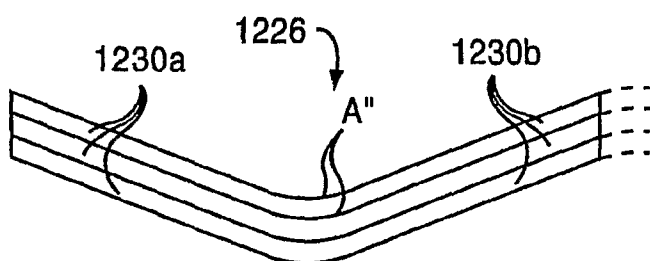


FIG. 23