



(22) Date de dépôt/Filing Date: 2000/06/13

(41) Mise à la disp. pub./Open to Public Insp.: 2001/12/13

(51) Cl.Int.⁷/Int.Cl.⁷ G07F 9/00, G07F 17/32, G07D 1/00

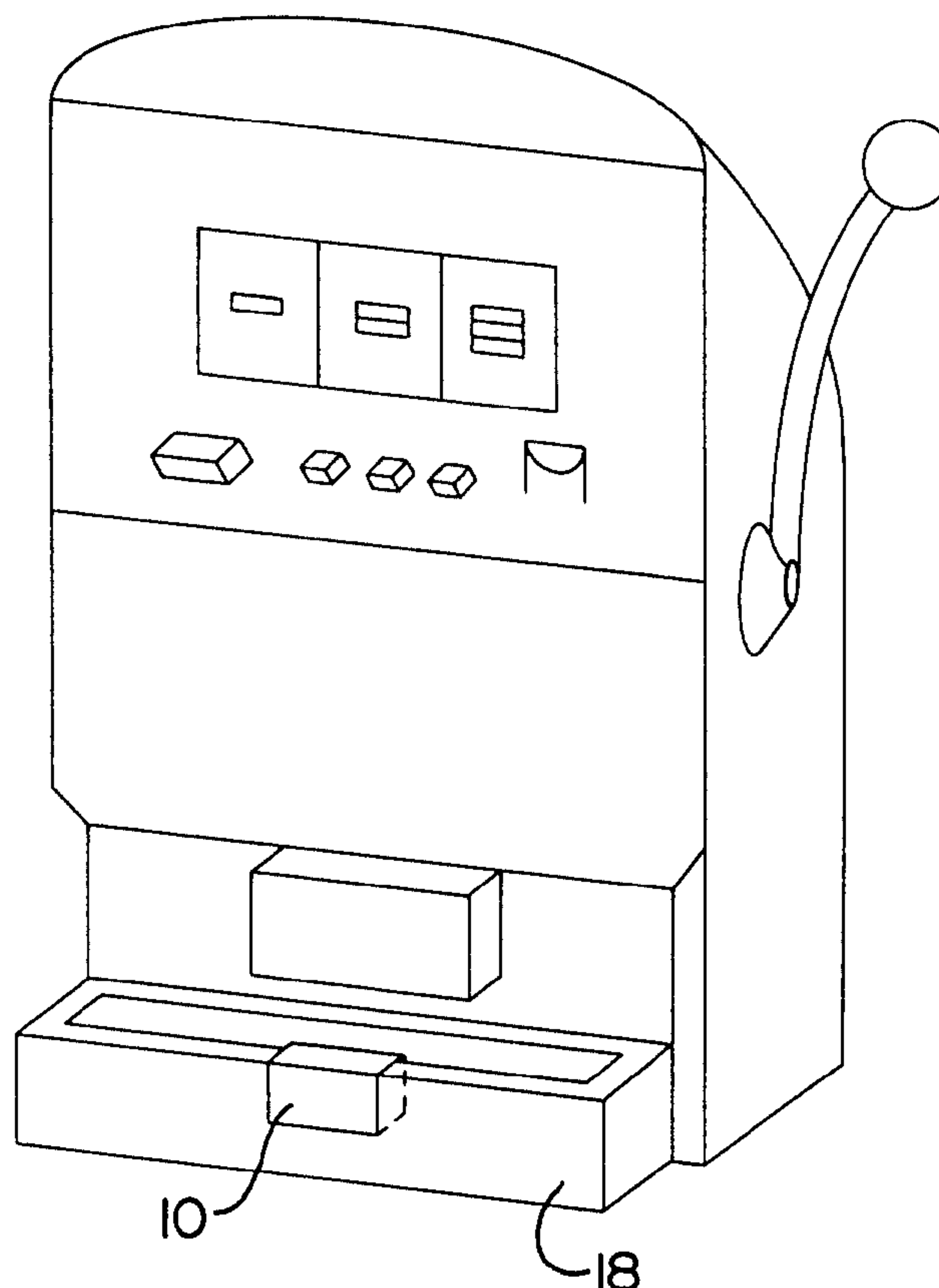
(71) Demandeur/Applicant:
FLORKEY, DONALD B., SR., US

(72) Inventeur/Inventor:
FLORKEY, DONALD B., SR., US

(74) Agent: MARKS & CLERK

(54) Titre : BAC COLLECTEUR DE MONNAIE POUR CASINO

(54) Title: CASINO MONEY BUCKET



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

A device for holding coins, the device comprising a body having a top opening and a chamber, and means for securing the body to a coin receiving tray of a slot machine, wherein the means for securing has means substantially leveling the body to prevent coins disposed within the chamber from spilling out when the chamber is substantially filled with coins.

Abstract

A device for holding coins, the device comprising a body having a top opening and a chamber, and means for securing the body to a coin receiving tray of a slot machine, wherein the means for securing has means substantially leveling the body to prevent coins disposed within the chamber from spilling out when the chamber is substantially filled with coins.

Our Ref: FDB-100-A-PCT

Patent

CASINO MONEY BUCKET

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

BACKGROUND

1. Field of Invention

The present invention pertains to containers for holding coins. More particularly, the present invention pertains to containers for holding coins that are removably attachable to a slot machine gaming device.

2. Prior Art

To hold and carry a large number of coins, present day casino patrons typically use a cup or other container when playing a slot machine or slot machine gaming device. The operators of the slot machines hold the cup in one hand while inserting coins into a slot machine with the second hand. The slot machine is then operated with either a pull of a handle or a push of a button.

Unfortunately, it is an inconvenience for the operators to hold the money cup in one hand while trying to do anything else, such as drinking a beverage or having a snack while operating the slot machine. Therefore, the money cup is often placed on a shelf, usually positioned between slot machines or on the floor. This creates an opportune moment for the cup and money to be either stolen or the money to spill out.

Theft of the money cup can easily occur when the slot machine operator is distracted and a thief reaches between the slot machines and takes the cup. It has also been discovered that thieves may work in pairs, such as when one thief distracts an unwary slot machine operator and the second thief takes the unguarded cup containing money.

U.S. Patent No. 5,826,743 discloses a coin tray that is attachable to the coin-accepting slot of a slot machine gaming device. This tray allows a slot machine operator to free his hands from holding a number of coins. The tray is disclosed as a shallow container having a concave upper surface and an opening that cooperates with the coin-accepting slot of a slot machine. The tray uses a screw bolt to clamp the tray onto the coin accepting slot of the slot machine.

The shape and construction of a tray, as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,826,743, has several drawbacks. First, the operation of the bolt-clamping device of the tray is an inconvenience to operate and may result in spillage of coins especially if the coins are not removed from the tray before the device is removed from the slot machine. Second, due to the positioning of the tray on the slot machine at the coin-accepting slot, the dimensions and size of the tray are inherently limited. The shallow, concave inner surface of the tray results in poor retention of coins and therefore does not provide a suitable device for carrying coins between machines. Thus, a cup is still necessary for transportation of coins within the casino. As such, the tray as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,826,743 does not address the long standing problems associated with theft. Additionally, due to the shape of the tray, the tray does not lend itself to be easily transported in multiple numbers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is an environmental perspective view of a money bucket in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional, perspective side-view of a second embodiment of a money bucket in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a side view of a money bucket in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a side-view of handle for a money bucket in accordance herewith;
and

SUMMARY

The present invention, to address the above stated problems and others, as is detailed hereinafter, enables an improved coin container or money bucket for use with a slot machine found in casinos. The money bucket, generally, comprises a bucket having a bottom portion, at least one sidewall extending upwardly from the bottom portion to form an interior chamber, and means for removably attaching the bucket to a coin-receiving tray of a slot machine.

In a preferred embodiment, the bottom portion comprises means for unevenly displacing a first layer of retained coins.

In more detail and referring now to Figs. 1 and 2, therein is generally depicted at 10 a money bucket in accordance with the present invention. The money bucket 10 comprises a bottom portion 12, at least one side wall 14 extending upwardly from the bottom portion 12 to form an interior chamber 15, and means 16 for removably attaching the money bucket 10 to a coin receiving tray 18 of a slot machine.

The money bucket 10 is formed of any durable material including plastic, metal, cardboard, etc. The money bucket 10 may be any shape, size or dimension, so long as the bucket is suitably formed for carrying a plurality of coins and removably attachable to a coin receiving tray of a slot machine. Thus, the money bucket is preferably about 3 ½ to 4 or more inches deep and 2 ½ or more inches wide. The money bucket 10 is a tapering rectangular design having a back wall 22, a first side wall 14, a second side wall 15, and a front wall 24. The tapering design is

preferred as it promotes ease of stacking. Of course, the bucket 10 may be any other shape that does not deviate from the objects of the invention, such as square, round, semi-circular, triangular, pentagonal etc.

The front wall 24 and the back wall 22 are attached to the bottom portion 12 of the bucket by any suitable means, or the walls 24, 22 may be made continuous and integral with the bottom portion 12. Thus, the money bucket 10 may be formed by any number of methods including injection molding or thermo-pressing for plastic construction; stamping for metal construction; or adhesives for cardboard construction. All of said techniques being generally known to those skilled in the respective arts.

The money bucket is preferably stackable as such, the front wall 24, back wall 22, first side wall 14 and second side wall 15 preferably taper or narrow down from a top portion 21 or opening 20 down to the bottom portion 12. Thus, the opening 20 is wider than the outer diameter of bottom portion 12. The size difference between the bottom portion 12 and opening 20 cooperate with the tapering of the walls to permit stacking of multiple money buckets for easy carrying, packaging and storage. For example, the top portion 21 may be nine and $\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide and the bottom portion 12 may be eight and a half inches wide. The inner diameter of the bucket gradually tapering until the bottom of the bucket lodges against walls of the inner chamber about a mid section of the bucket.

In a preferred embodiment the bottom portion 12 provides means 44 for unevenly displacing a first layer of retained coins. The means 44 for unevenly displacing is any structure that creates a space between coins and the surface of the bottom portion 12. As shown, the means 44 for unevenly displacing is a plurality of protuberances or bumps 18. The protuberances 18 allow for coins laying on the

bottom portion's 12 top surface to be slightly displaced therefrom, thus allowing for easy grasping of the coins.

The means 16 for removably attaching the money bucket to a coin receiving tray is any device or structure that removably supports the money bucket on the coin receiving tray of a slot machine gaming device. As shown, the means 16 for removably attaching comprises at least one hook member 28 attached to the back wall 22 of the money bucket. The hook member 28 is preferably attached proximate the top portion 36 of the back wall 22. The hook member 28 may be attached to the back wall 22 by any suitable means or made integral therewith. The hook member 28 is preferably made of a material suitable for removably attaching the money bucket to a coin receiving tray without scratching the tray. Examples of suitable materials include rubber, coated metal, plastic, etc.

In one aspect hereof, the hook member 28 comprises a middle portion 32 and a bent or claw portion 34. The middle portion extends at an angle for a distance from the back wall 22 suitable for hanging the money bucket on a coin-receiving tray 18. The middle portion 32 terminates at the bent portion or claw portion 34. The claw portion 34 extends from the middle portion 32 of the hook member 28 at an angle suitable for supporting the money bucket on a coin-receiving tray 18 when filled with coins. The claw portion has a length suitable for securing the money bucket to the tray 18. The length of the claw portion is preferably 0.5 inch or greater and preferably 1.0 inch or greater but less than about 20 inches.

Stacking of several money buckets can be accomplished in a number of ways. The tapering and rectangular shape of the walls, as mentioned above, allows several money buckets to be stacked such that the hook members of proceeding buckets do not interfere with one another. Stacking in this manner is accomplished

as the hook member 28 of a first bucket is positioned above a side of a preceding bucket without a hook member. Thus, stacking buckets in this manner results in the displacement of hook members about various sides of preceding buckets.

Alternatively and in a different embodiment, the hook member 28 may be formed to fit over a hook member of preceding stacked bucket. The hook member of the alternative embodiment has a claw portion 34 extending from the middle portion at an angle greater than 90 degrees. A claw portion extending from the middle portion 28 at an angle greater than 90 degrees permits interlocking of hook members of stacked buckets.

The means 16 for removably attaching may further comprise a means 50 for leveling the money bucket, when the money bucket is attached to a coin receiving tray. The means 50 for leveling includes a set of leveling bodies 52, 54 to balance the money bucket 10 on a casino money tray. As shown, the leveling bodies 52, 54 are a pair of wedges attached to or made integral with the outer back wall 22 of the money bucket 10.

In an alternative embodiment hereof, the means for leveling 50 comprises at least one slidably extendable bar 40 attached to a side wall. The bar 40 is seated within a track 48. The track 48 is attached to an inside wall 14 using suitable means, such as adhesives, welding or molded integrally therein. The bar 40 may additionally comprise a handle 46 for sliding the bar 40 along the track 48. The back wall 22 has a slit 56 for extending the bar 40 therethrough.

In practicing the alternative embodiment of the invention, the money bucket is hooked to a coin receiving tray and the handle 46 is pressed towards the back wall 22. Pressing the handle 46 forces the bar through the slit 56 in the back wall 22 to abut one end of the bar 40 against the side wall of the coin receiving tray. The

extended bar, thus, levels the money bucket on a coin receiving money tray even where the walls of the tray and the money bucket taper downward and away from each other.

In a first separate embodiment (not shown), the back wall may form means for leveling the money bucket on a coin receiving tray. The back wall in the first separate embodiment comprises an upper wall portion and a lower tapering wall portion. The upper wall portion is parallel to the bent or claws portion, thus forming a non-tapering wall portion to fit about the top edge of the coin receiving tray.

In another separate embodiment (not shown), the hook member may be at least one claw attached to a corresponding strap (not shown) and further attached to the money bucket through a corresponding aperture (not shown) in the side wall or back wall of the money bucket.

In practice, coins or cups containing money are placed into the money bucket and carried between slot machines. When the desired slot machine is chosen, the money bucket 10 is hooked onto the front wall of the slot machine coin receiving tray 18. The device for leveling 50 provides a reasonable level so that coins do not spill out of the money bucket. Coins are removed from or stored in the bucket by the slot machine operator. When the operator is ready to move to a different game or gaming device the bucket 10 is quickly and easily lifted off the tray 18 and carried to the next slot machine.

While the invention has been illustrated in detail in the drawings and the foregoing description, the same is to be considered as illustrative and not restrictive in character, it is understood that only the preferred embodiment has been shown and described fully and that all changes and modifications that come within the scope of the invention are desired to be protected.

It is to be appreciated from the preceding that there has been described herein a casino money bucket having a means for removably supporting the bucket to a slot machine coin receiving tray that conveniently stores, enhances security, and offers ease of use.

CLAIMS

1. A device for holding coins, the device comprising a body having a top opening and a chamber, and means for securing the body to a coin receiving tray of a slot machine, wherein the means for securing has means for substantially leveling the body to prevent coins disposed within the chamber from spilling out when the chamber is substantially filled with coins.

2. The device of claim 1 wherein the opening and the chamber of the body are adapted to hold a casino money cup and a beverage container.

3. The device of claim 1 wherein the means for securing comprises at least one hook member.

4. The device of claim 3 wherein the means for leveling comprises at least one wedge disposed upon a back wall of the body, wherein the wedge cooperates with the hook to substantially level the body

FIG 1

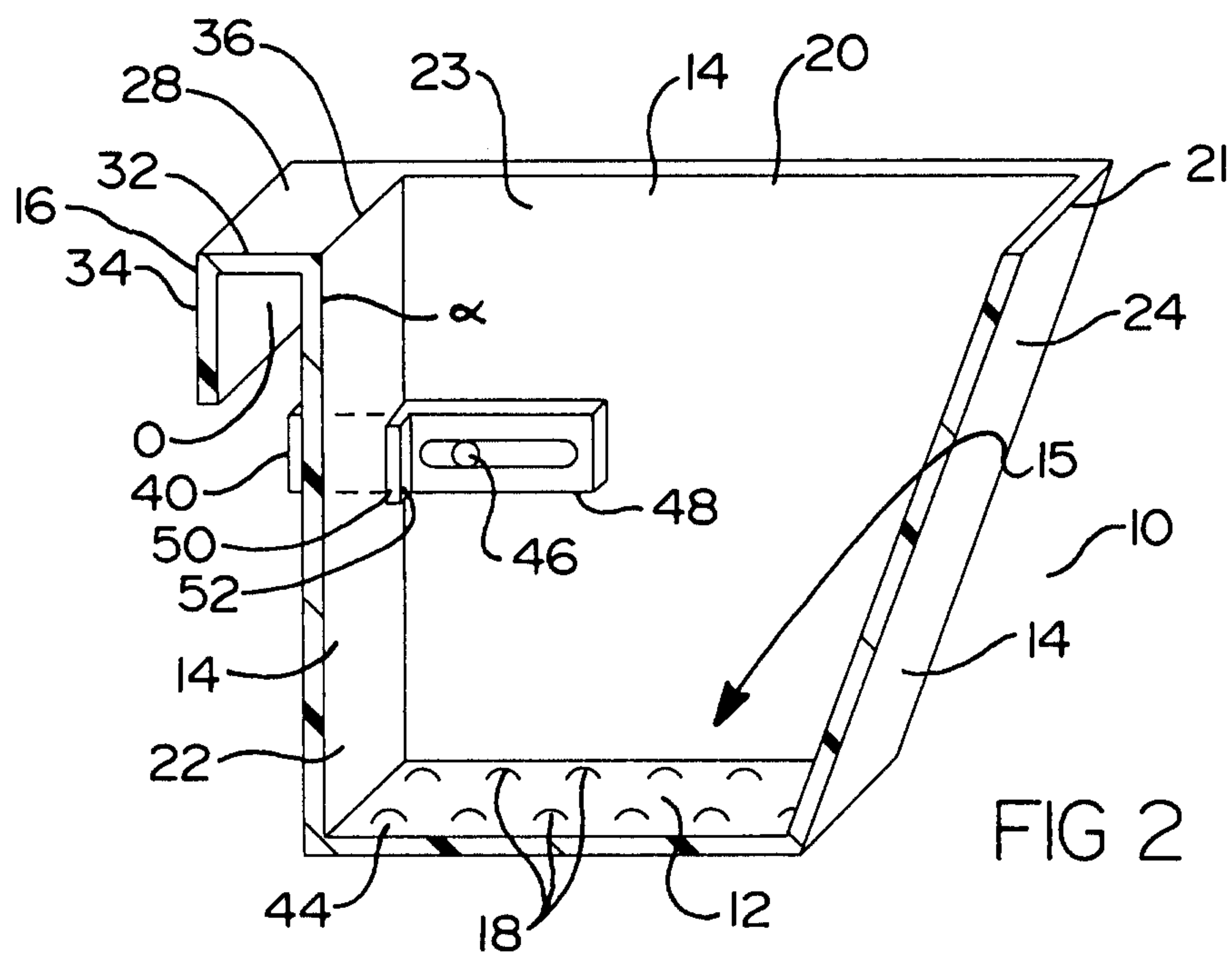
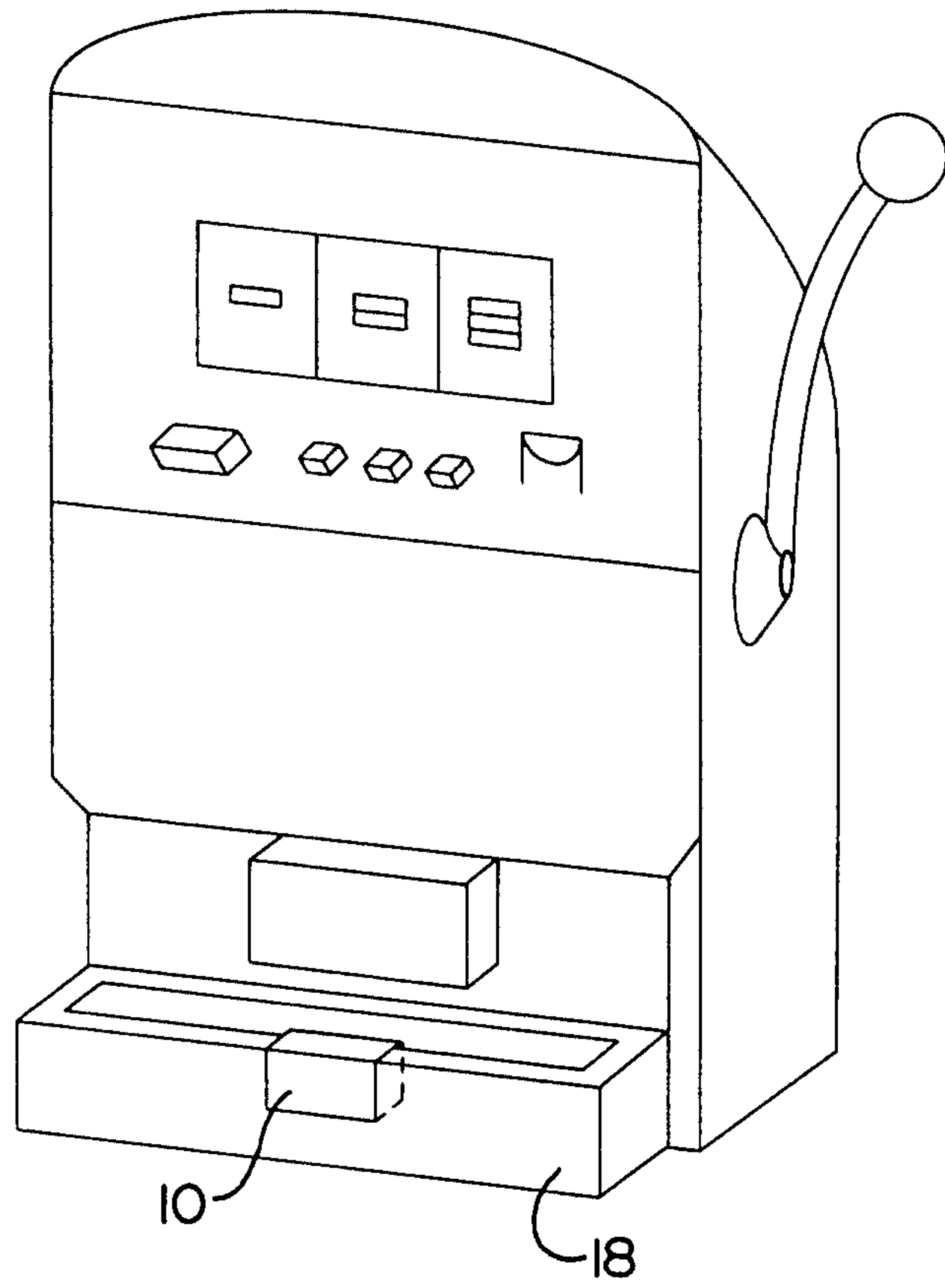


FIG 2

Mark. Clab.

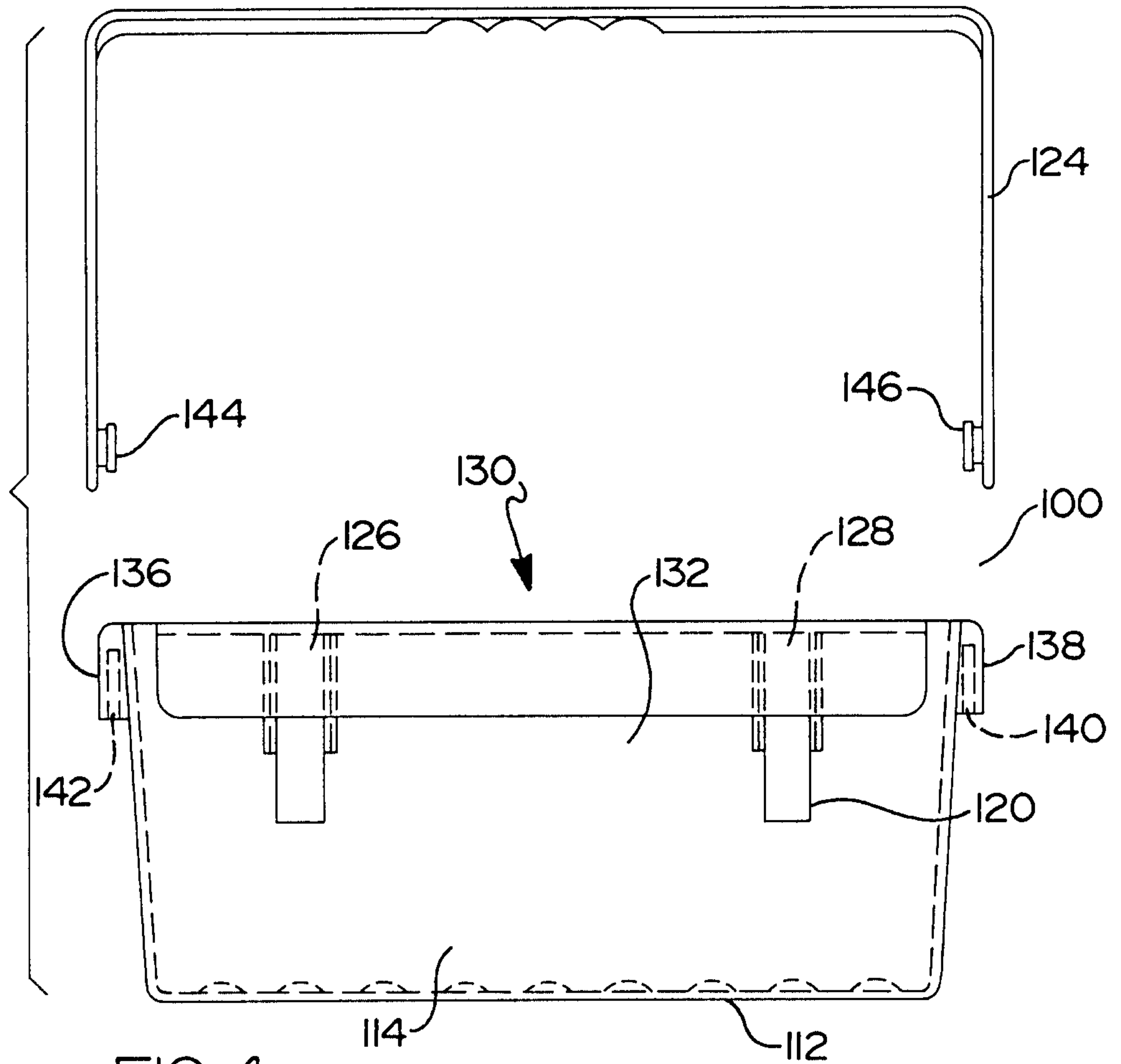
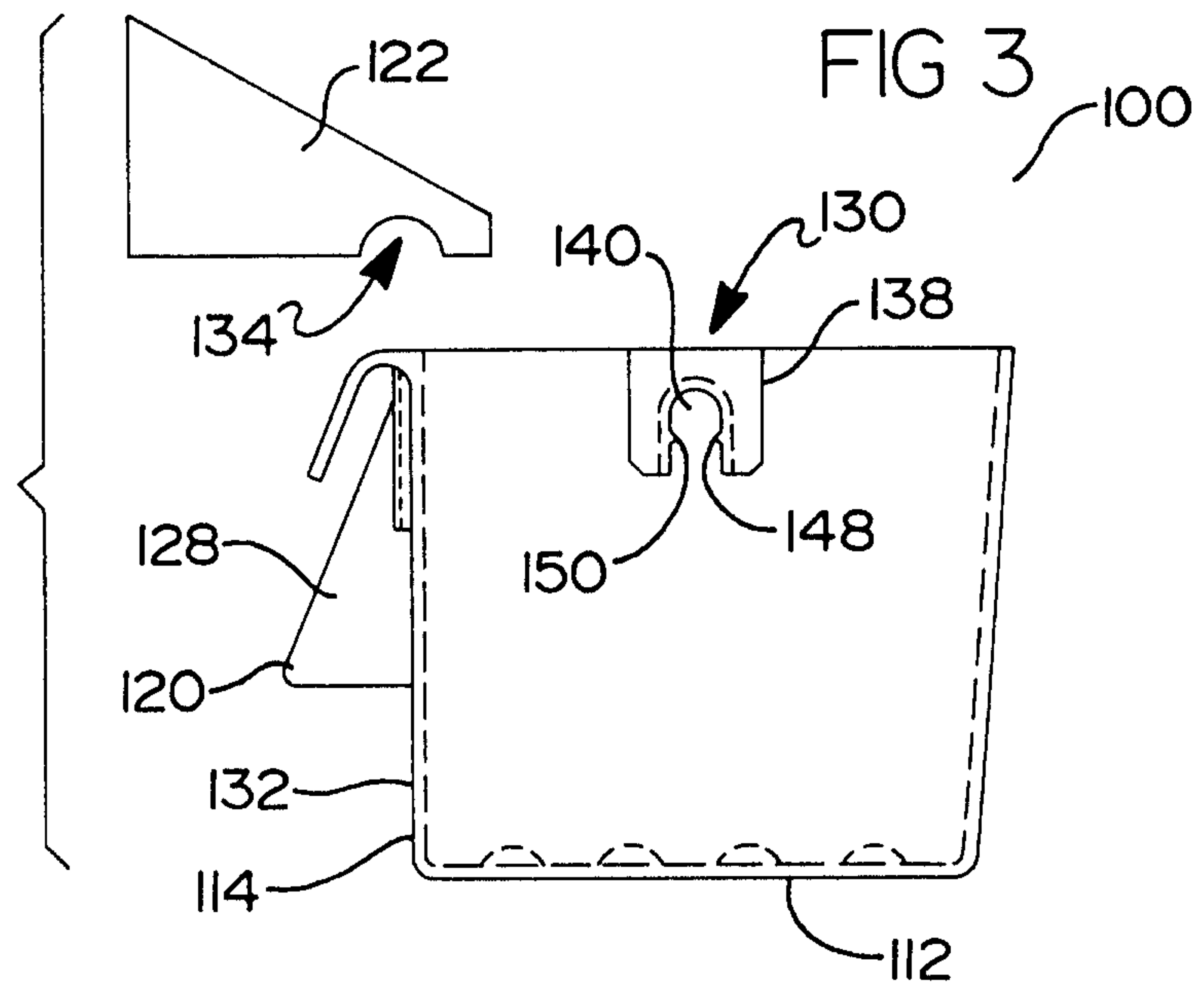


FIG 4

Wick - Clear

