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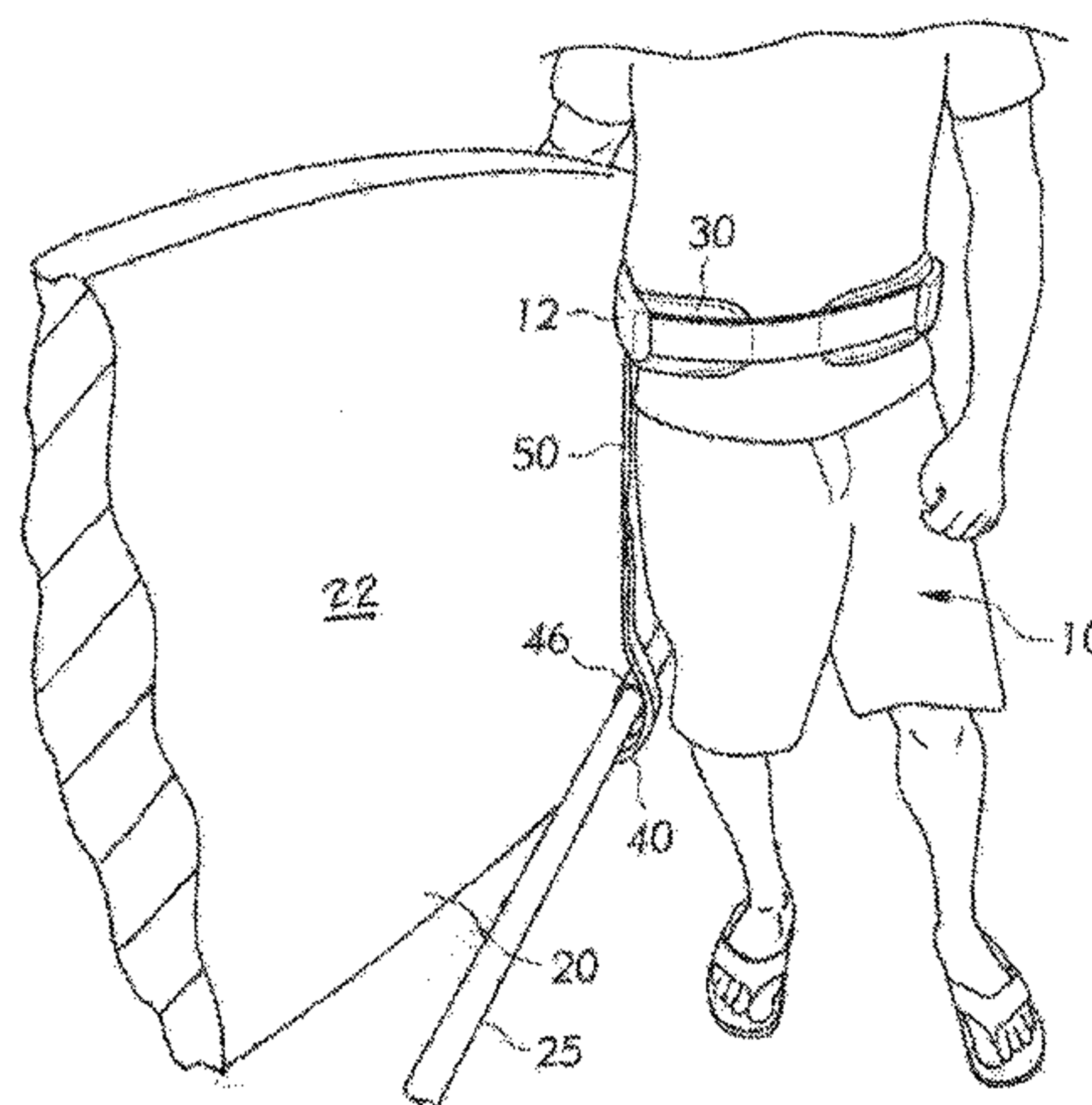


FIG. 1A

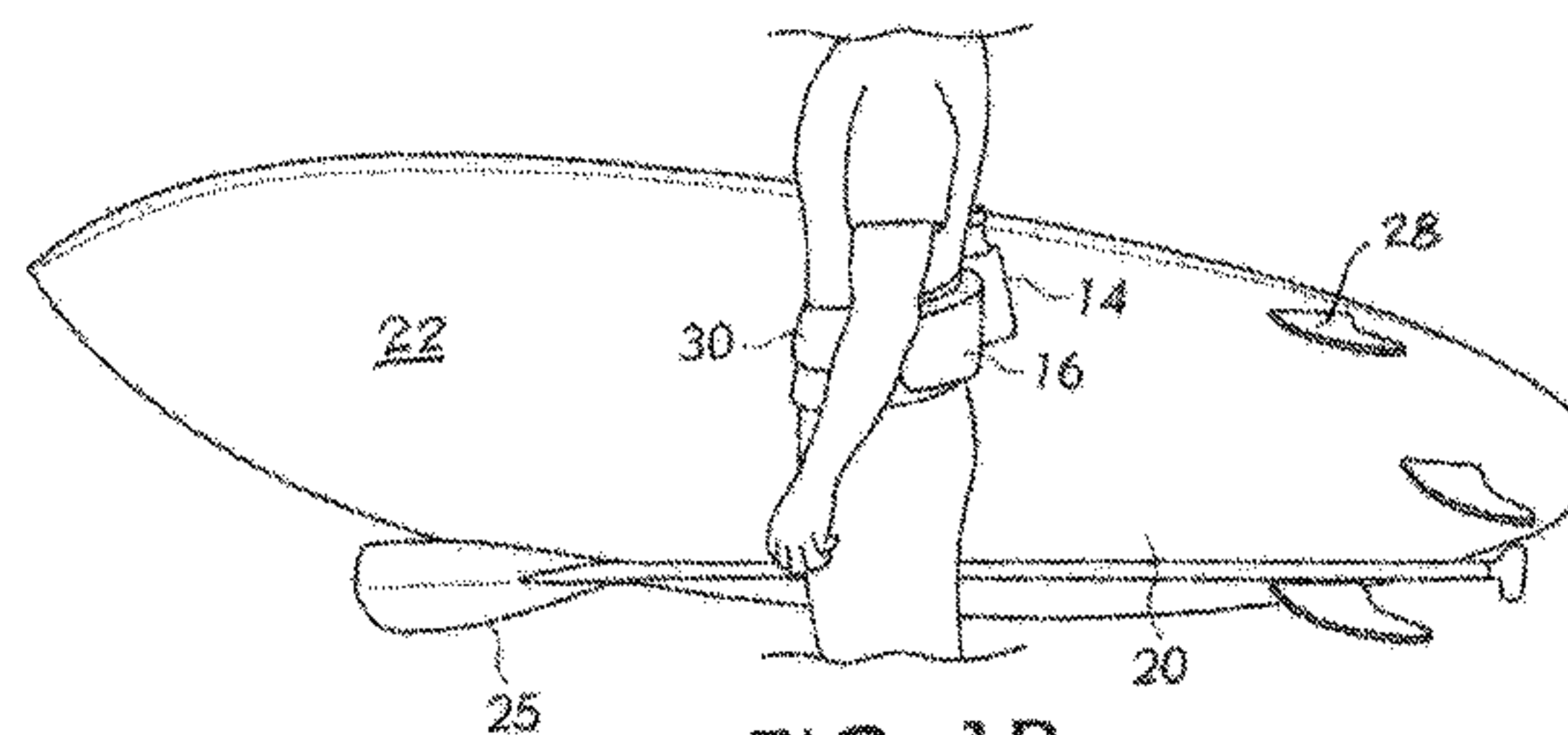


FIG. 1B

(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

A board carrier is secured to a person by a belt. A hook bag attached to the belt has a downwardly facing entry with a closure for securing a hook and straps within. Proximal and distal ends of the hook are joined to the belt by length-adjustable straps. A water board is positionable within the hook with three-points of mutual contact between the board and an inner surface of the hook. When not in use the hook and straps are placed within the hook bag.

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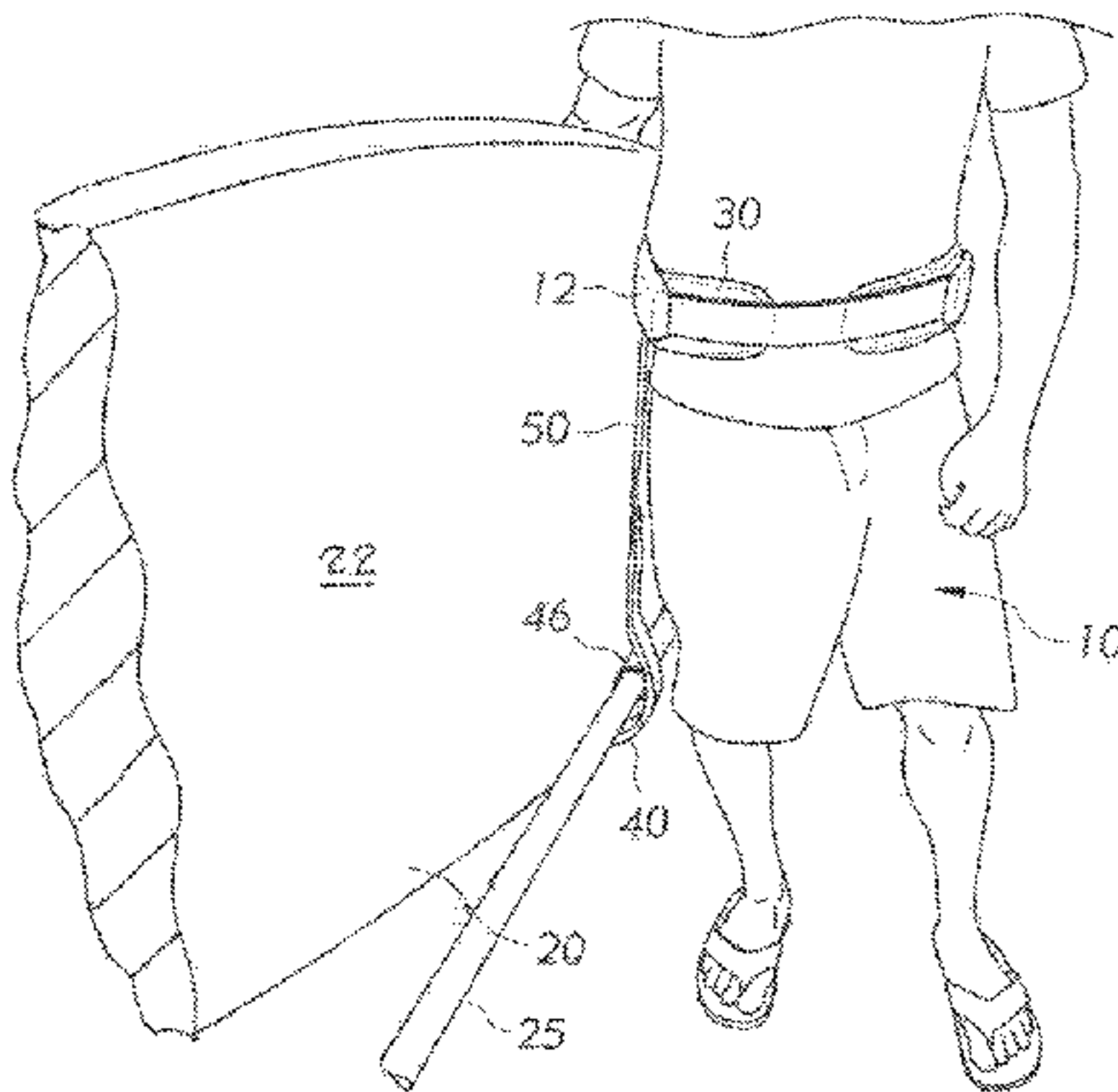


FIG. 1A

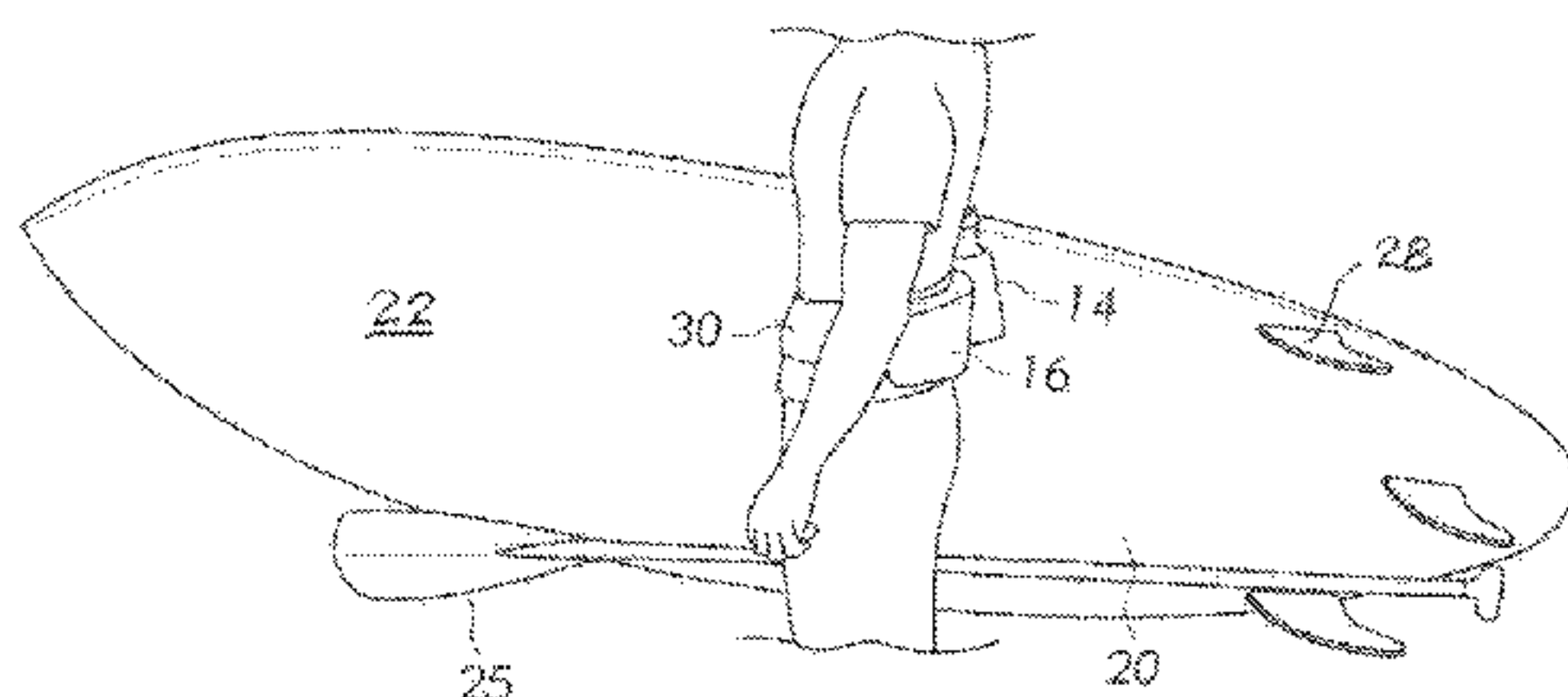


FIG. 1B

(57) Abstract: A board carrier is secured to a person by a belt. A hook bag attached to the belt has a downwardly facing entry with a closure for securing a hook and straps within. Proximal and distal ends of the hook are joined to the belt by length-adjustable straps. A water board is positionable within the hook with three-points of mutual contact between the board and an inner surface of the hook. When not in use the hook and straps are placed within the hook bag.

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- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*

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TITLE**BOARD CARRIER**

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BACKGROUND

[0001] The disclosed subject matter relates to the field of carriers that are strapped to a person and particularly to such carriers for surfboards, paddleboards, and the like used for making it easier to port such objects from place to place. For personally carrying ungainly or heavy objects, strap secured hooks are known as in US 603538 to Pettibone, US 2651441 to Rau et al, US 4699415 to Skovajsa, US 5361954 to Tura, US 5490618 to Davidson, US 5582338 to Tamura, US 7543726 to MacNaughton, PCT/US10/0187274 to Chock, Jr., Des. 321792 to MacNeary, and PCT/ WO07/058552 to Winter; as well as sling mounts as in US 3377007 to Gayler Jr., FR 2913891 to Cavallini, US 4804025 to Bear, PCT/US04/0056060 to Iannini et al, PCT/US09/0090754 to Haberlein, and US 4724989 to Silberberg. These devices are fastened by straps and harnesses to a person at the waist, shoulder, chest or other locations in order to distribute weight, free the hands, distribute weight and provide other benefits of convenience and necessity. However, what is needed in this field is not found in the prior art for a paddleboard or surfboard since these water sport items are being made in ever larger and heavier versions. Also, needed is a carrier that is quick and easy to employ, and yet is easy to store conveniently when not in use. The presently described apparatus distinguishes over the prior art in a number of ways and fulfills this need.

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SUMMARY

[0002] The following detailed description includes references to the accompanying illustrations which form a part of the detailed description. When carrying a water board to and from a body of water such as a lake, ocean, or river, for recreation, its weight and size requires a specialized carrier system to enable a person to easily handle this task. In breezy conditions such as at the beach, the large surface area of a board may cause it to catch the wind and, be difficult to handle without a specialized carrier system, and, after dismounting the board from its carrier it is desirable to stow the carrier system on the person so that it doesn't interfere with recreational use of the board and is not left on the beach, river bank, dock or pier. In summary, the carrier system

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5 should therefore be light-weight, relatively compact, easily stowed and inexpensive to manufacture. Example embodiments of the specialized carrier system are described herein in enough detail to enable those skilled in the art to practice the presented subject matter. However, once familiar with this disclosure it will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that the present apparatus may be practiced without some of the presented specific details. In other
10 instances, well-known methods, procedures and components may not be described in detail so as not to unnecessarily obscure aspects of the embodiments. The embodiments can be combined, other embodiments can be utilized or structural and logical changes can be made without departing from the scope of what is defined and claimed. The following detailed description is, therefore, not to be taken in a limiting sense, as the scope is defined by the appended claims and their
15 equivalents which are to be understood in their broadest possible sense.

[0003] In this document, the terms “a” or “an” are used, as is common in patent documents, to include one or more than one. Furthermore, the term “or” is used to refer to a nonexclusive “or,” such that “A or B” includes “A but not B,” “B but not A,” and “A and B,” unless otherwise indicated.

20

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0004] Embodiments of the described apparatus are illustrated by way of example in the figures of the accompanying drawing sheets, in which like references indicate the same or similar elements shown and in which:

25 [0005] Figure 1A is a front perspective view of a board and paddle mounted on a carrier strapped to a person;

[0006] Figure 1B is a side elevation view thereof demonstrating a manner of holding and carrying the board and paddle;

[0007] Figure 2 is a partial bottom perspective view of a belt of the carrier showing a pouch
30 mounted on the belt with the hook and straps folded and stored within;

[0008] Figure 3 is a front elevation view of the hook showing the board in section as inserted into the hook with proximal and distal straps attached to the hook and with paddles shown held in

5 place by spring clamps;

[0009] Figure 4 is a perspective view of an embodiment of the hook with opposing ends bent into misalignment;

[0010] Figure 5 is an elevation view of the carrier with the belt attached to the person, with the hook shown hanging downwardly from the belt by a proximal strap in a position for receiving the
10 board; and

[0011] Figure 6 is a partial perspective view of the carrier illustrating a portion of the board being secured by a distal strap.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

15 [0012] Disclosed in **Figs. 1A, 1B, and 2-6** are aspects of an apparatus **10** (board carrier) for carrying a water board **20**. Apparatus **10** is especially useful for porting a paddleboard and paddle, or a stand-up surfboard known as a longboard. Today boards **20** may have a medial width of from about 26 to 36 inches, an overall length of up to 14 feet and may weigh 25 pounds or more. The thickness of board **20** may be 8 inches or more. Boards **20** are typically transported to water
20 locations by vehicles and then carried or ported to and from the water's edge manually. Due to its weight, and size, such boards **20** are difficult to carry. Under breezy conditions board **20** may become difficult to control especially when carried as shown in **Figs. 1A and 1B**.

[0013] As shown in the figures apparatus **10** may include a belt **30** of Cordura® or similar fabric sewn around a molded foam insert and may have a nylon backing, whereas such construction
25 provides strength, durability and comfort. A hook bag **12**, water bottle holder **14** and gear bag **16** and other features may be attached to belt **30** as shown in Fig. **1B**, and may be made of ripstop nylon or similar material for flexibility and durability.

[0014] Belt **30** may be worn around the waist as shown in the figures, but other configurations may be adapted to be worn in other ways. Hook bag **12** may be in the form of a pouch, see **Fig.**
30 **2**, with a downwardly facing entry **34** including a closure **36** such as a zipper, Velcro® strips, spring mounted flaps, or otherwise. The downwardly facing entry **34** is novel, providing the convenience and utility of unloading contents directly as will be further described.

[0015] Apparatus **10** may include a u-shaped hook **40** of a straight type as shown in **Fig. 5** or

5 of a type shown in **Fig. 4**, having a modified contour wherein a distal end **44** is twisted to one side of a proximal end **42**. Both aligned and misaligned versions of hook **40** provide for advantageous support of board **20** with the twisted version demonstrating improved longitudinal stability of board **20**. Hook **40** may have a width of up to about 5 inches providing a stable support surface for board **20** while also fitting conveniently within hook bag **12**. Hook **40** may be covered by a
10 sleeve **45** of Cordura or similar material as shown in **Fig. 3**, and may have a neoprene or rubber outer surface **47** as also shown in part on **Fig. 3** for cushioning against board **20** as well as providing a non-slip surface. Proximal end **42** of sleeve **45** may be joined to a proximal end **52** of length-adjustable first strap **50**, while this strap's opposite end **54** may be joined to strap **55** which may be conducted into and fixed within hook bag **12** and to belt **30** as shown in **Fig. 5**, by stitching,
15 riveting, or by clamps, snaps, or other means. Hook **40** therefore may be let out of hook bag **12** and positioned directly below hook bag **12** hanging by strap **55** and first strap **50** as shown in **Fig. 5**. Lower end **52** of first strap **50** may be stiff and shaped so as to force hook **40** away from the person's leg thus preventing mutual contact making it easier to place board **20** into hook **40** and preventing interference while walking. Board **20** may be carried on the left side or on the right
20 side of an individual. As shown in **Fig. 1A** board **20** is carried with its bottom surface **22** facing the individual. This is advantageous since bottom surface **22** is near flat. Another advantage is that there is usually a hand-hold (not shown) on the top surface **24** (**Fig. 3**) of board **20** within reach of an individual's hand so that placing an arm over board **20**, as shown in **Fig. 1A**, and placing a hand in said hand hold can provide manual control of the attitude of board **20** especially
25 when traversing a grade or stairs and in breezy conditions. A further advantage is that the board's fins **28** face toward the individual carrying board **20** preventing accidents with passers-by. Hook **40** may be configured and shaped to receive board **20** therein with no more than three-points of mutual contact as shown in **Fig. 3**, i.e. points "A," "B," and "C." This is advantageous since with this three-point posture the weight of board **20** causes hook **40** to tend away from the individual's
30 leg. A distal, length-adjustable second strap **60** may be attached at one end **62** to distal end **44** of hook **40** (**Fig. 3**) while its opposite end, as shown in **Fig. 6**, may be attached to belt **30** through a D-ring and secured with hook and loop (Velcro®) fasteners thereby tightly lashing over board **20** to provide for hands-free carrying.

[0016] In an embodiment, hook **40** may have an integral hinge **45** whereby tightening of distal
35 second strap **60** may cause hook **40** to grip board **20** more tightly. In an alternate embodiment,

5 hook **40** may be made of spring steel with the distance between ends **42** and **44** smaller than the thickness of board **20** so that hook **40** may apply a clamping force on board **20** for securing it in place within hook **40**. As shown in **Fig. 3**, point **B** is below point **A** so that board **20** tends to tilt away from the individual carrying it thereby forcing hook **40** to clear the individual's legs.

[0017] Hook **40** is vertically positionable by adjustment of length-adjustable straps **50** and **60**
10 thereby enabling carrier **10** to be used by both short and tall individuals. Straps **50** and **60** may be made of heavy duty dive/scuba belt webbing material and may 3 or more inches in width providing lateral stability to board **20**.

[0018] As shown in **Figs. 1A** and **3**, hook **40** may have attached thereto a spring clip **46** which may provide a clamping force on a paddle **25** to hold it in place in a parallel attitude to board **20**.

15 [0019] Hook **40** may be fabricated of spring temper metal, or of an elastic plastic or rubber or a combination compound so as to selectively provide for spring flexibility. In this case proximal and distal ends of hook **40** may be flexibly-tensed apart when inserting board **20** so that compressive clamping forces are applied to board **20** to improve the holding power of hook **40** on board **20**.

20 [0020] In the foregoing description, embodiments are described as a plurality of individual parts, and this is solely for the sake of illustration. Accordingly, it is contemplated that some additional parts may be added, some parts may be changed or omitted, and the order of the parts may be re-arranged, without leaving the sense and understanding of the apparatus as claimed.

5

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

Claim 1. An apparatus for carrying a board, the apparatus comprising:

a belt for being worn by an individual about a waist of said individual;

10 a bag fixed to said belt;

a hook attached to said belt by a first strap, said first strap extensive downwardly from said belt wherein said hook is positioned below said bag; and

wherein said hook is configured and shaped for receiving said board therein in contact with said board at only three mutually spaced apart points.

15 Claim 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said bag has a downwardly facing entry from which said first strap is extendable.

Claim 3. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a second strap interconnecting said hook with said belt wherein said first and second straps are joined at opposing ends of said hook.

20 Claim 4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first strap is adjustable for setting a vertical distance between said belt and said hook.

Claim 5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein a paddle clip is attached to said hook for holding a paddle in parallel alignment with said board.

Claim 6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein opposing ends of said hook are misaligned.

25 Claim 7. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said bag is adapted for receiving said first and second straps and said hook through said downwardly facing entry of said bag.

Claim 8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said mutually spaced apart points are vertically and horizontally separated.

- 5 Claim 9. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said hook is U-shaped having spaced apart legs wherein a first one of said legs is curvilinear in conformation being bowed away from a second one of said legs.

Claim 10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said paddle clip is positioned within said hook in said bowed away aspect of said first one of said legs.

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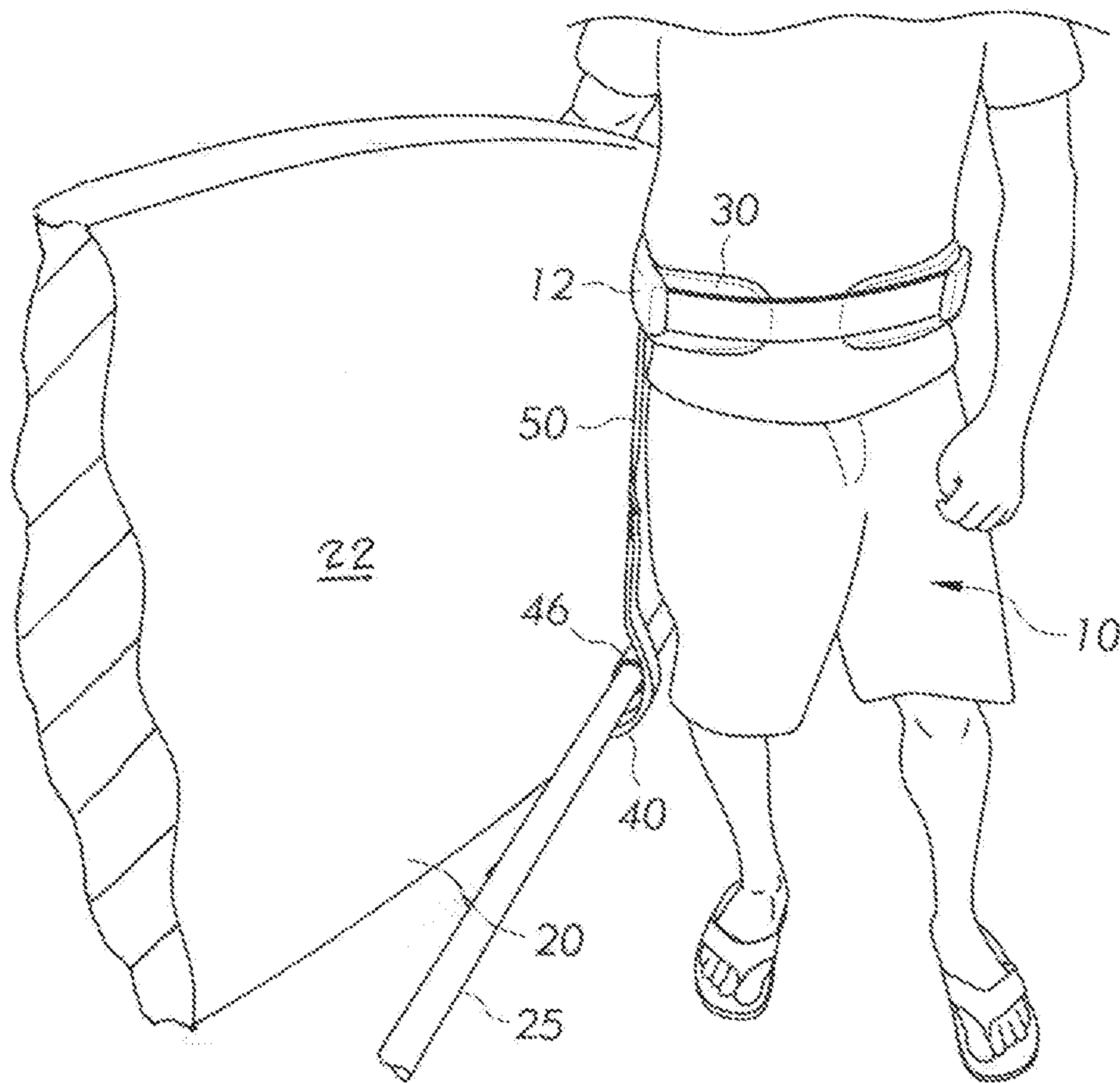


FIG. 1A

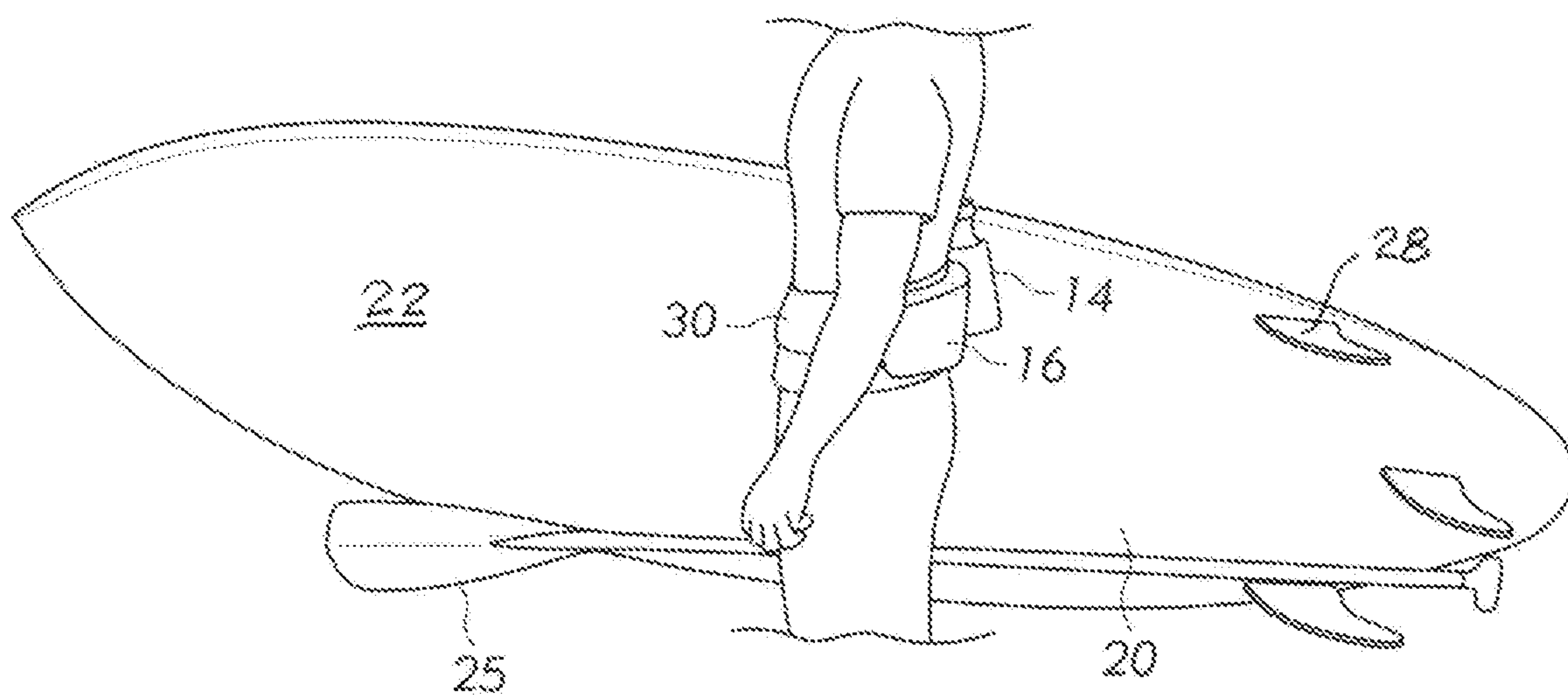


FIG. 1B

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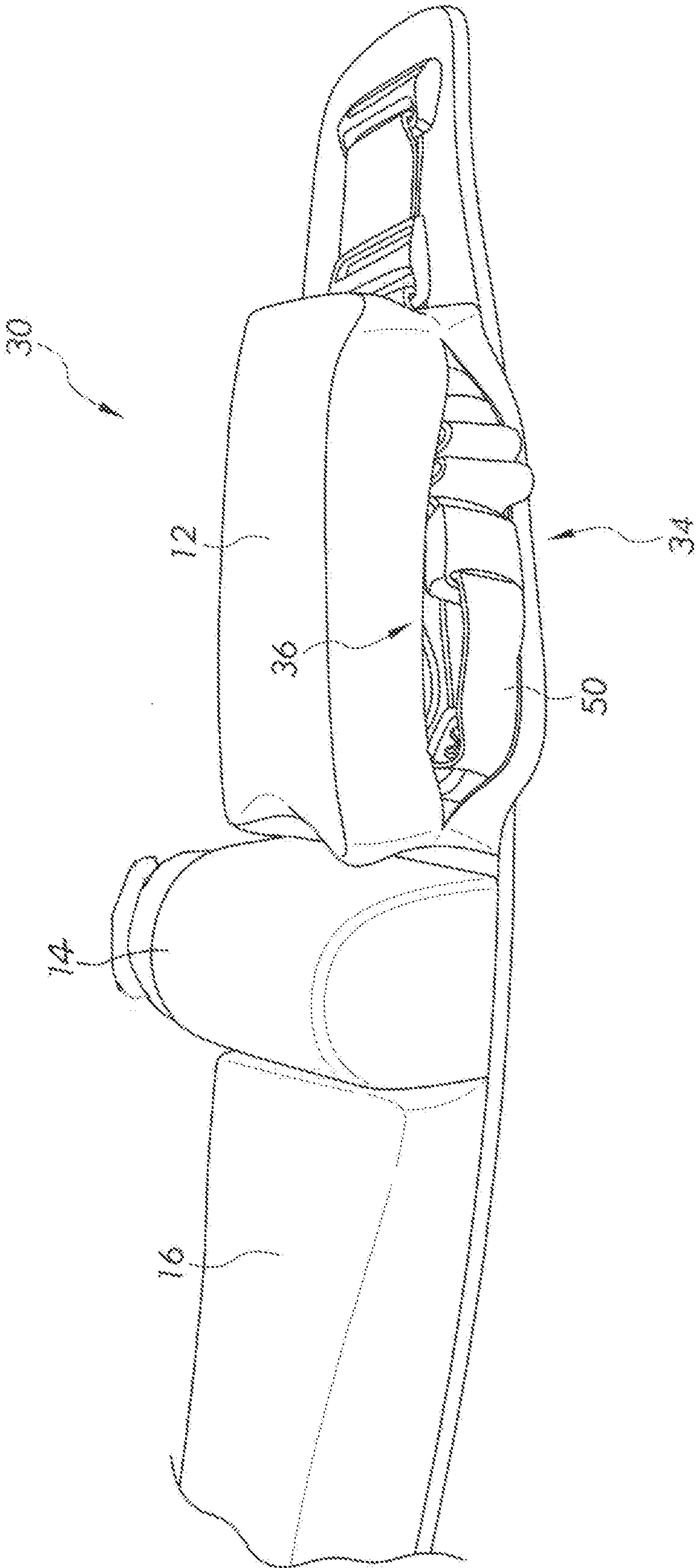


FIG. 2

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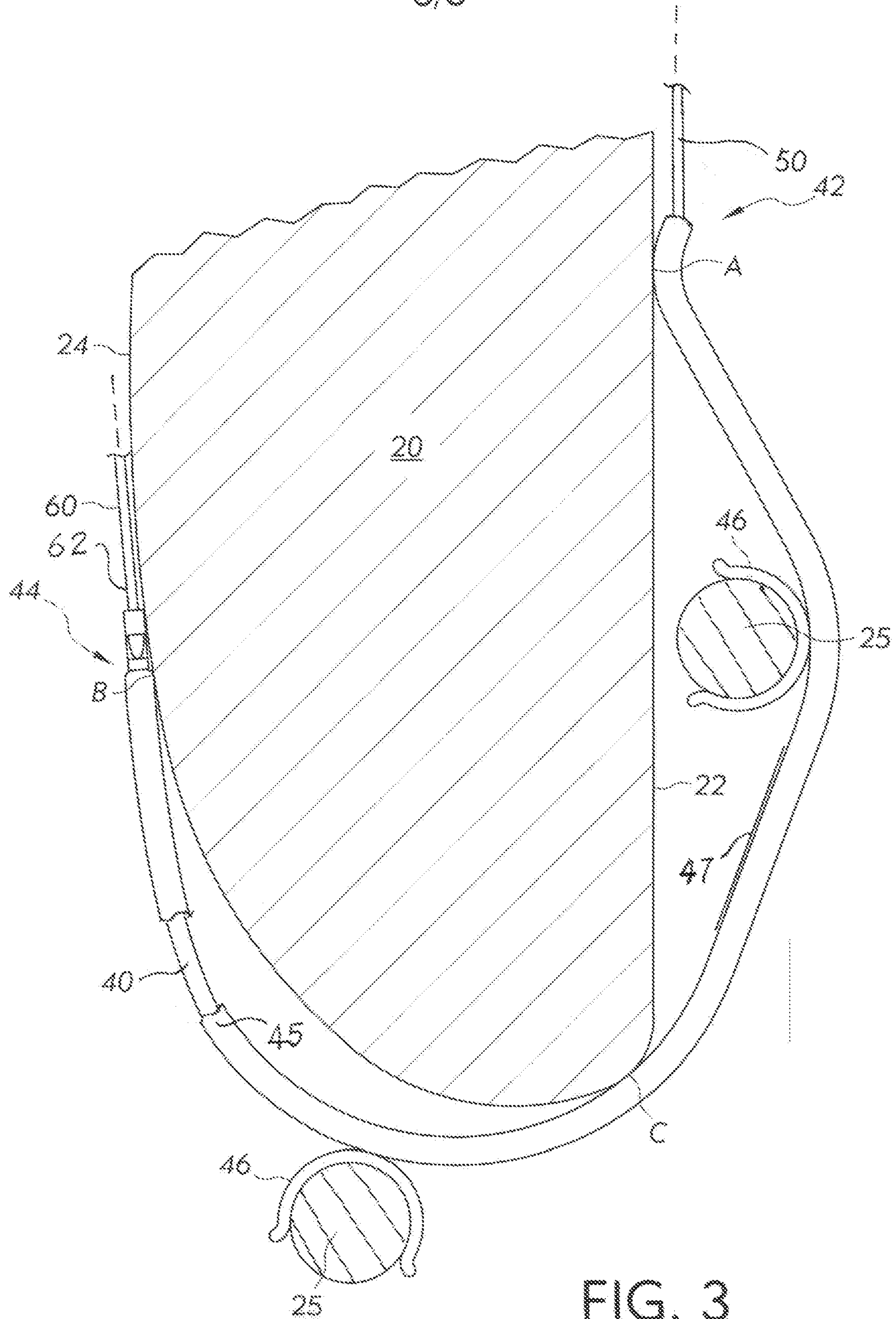


FIG. 3

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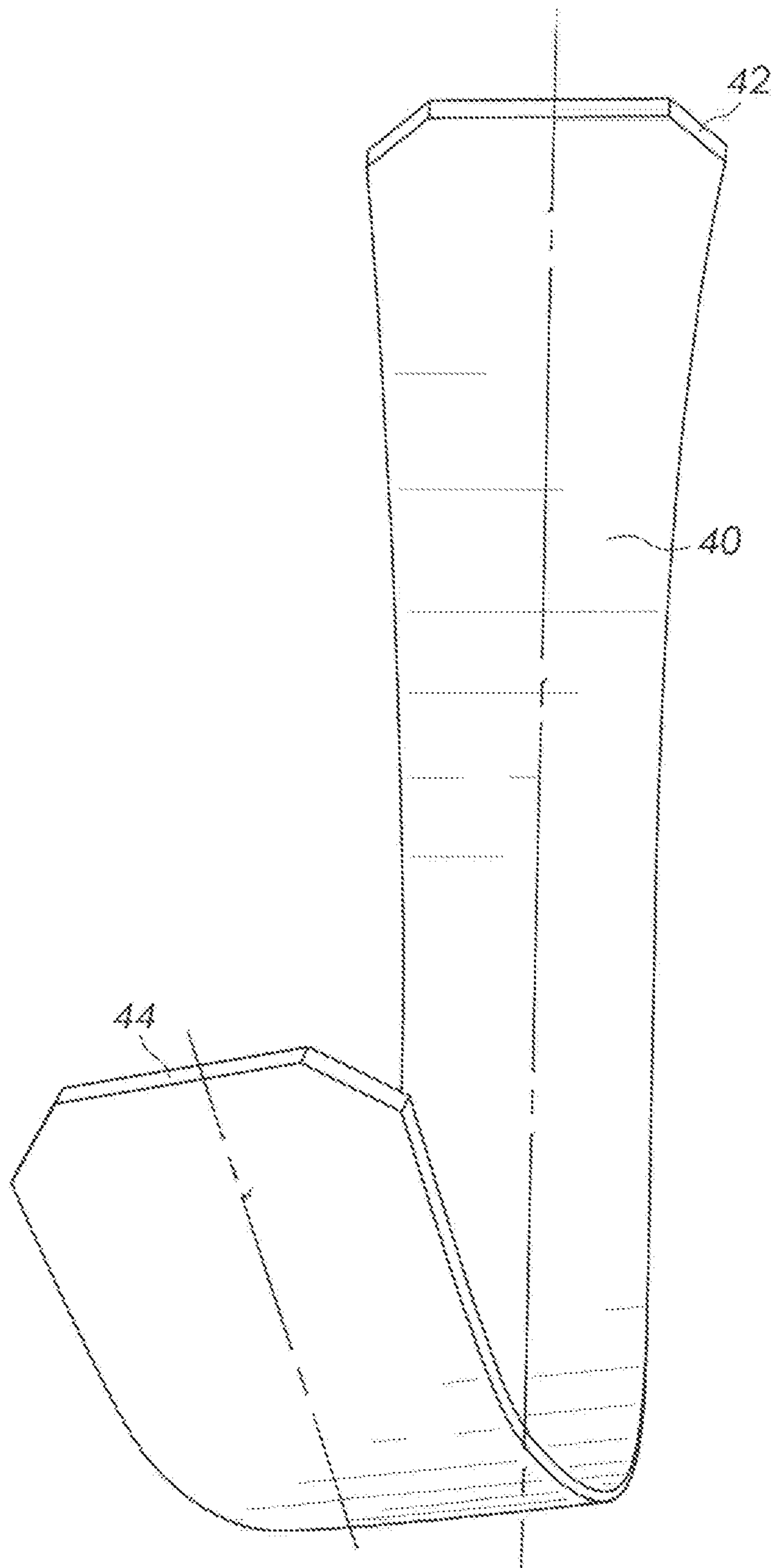


FIG. 4

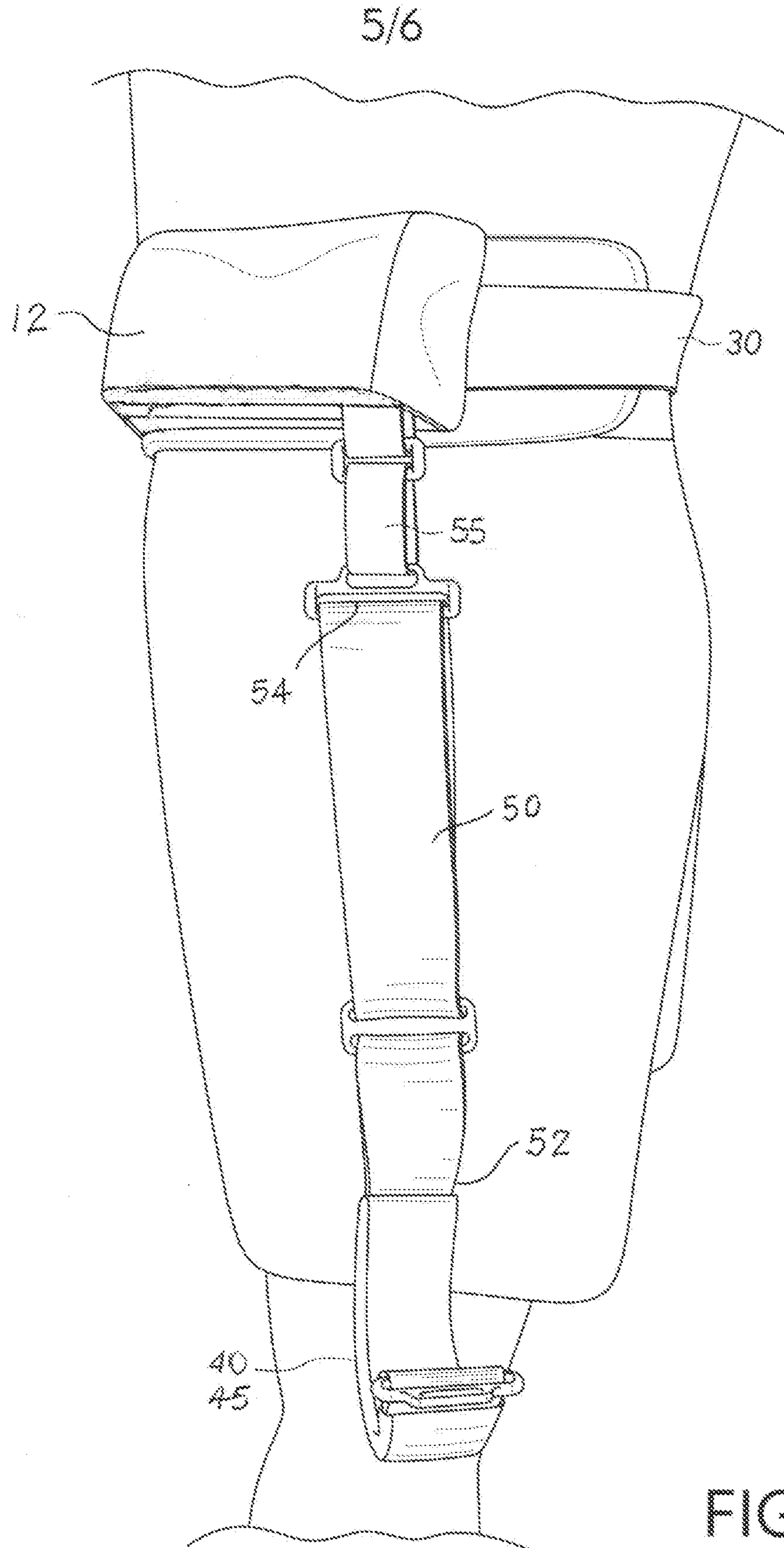


FIG. 5

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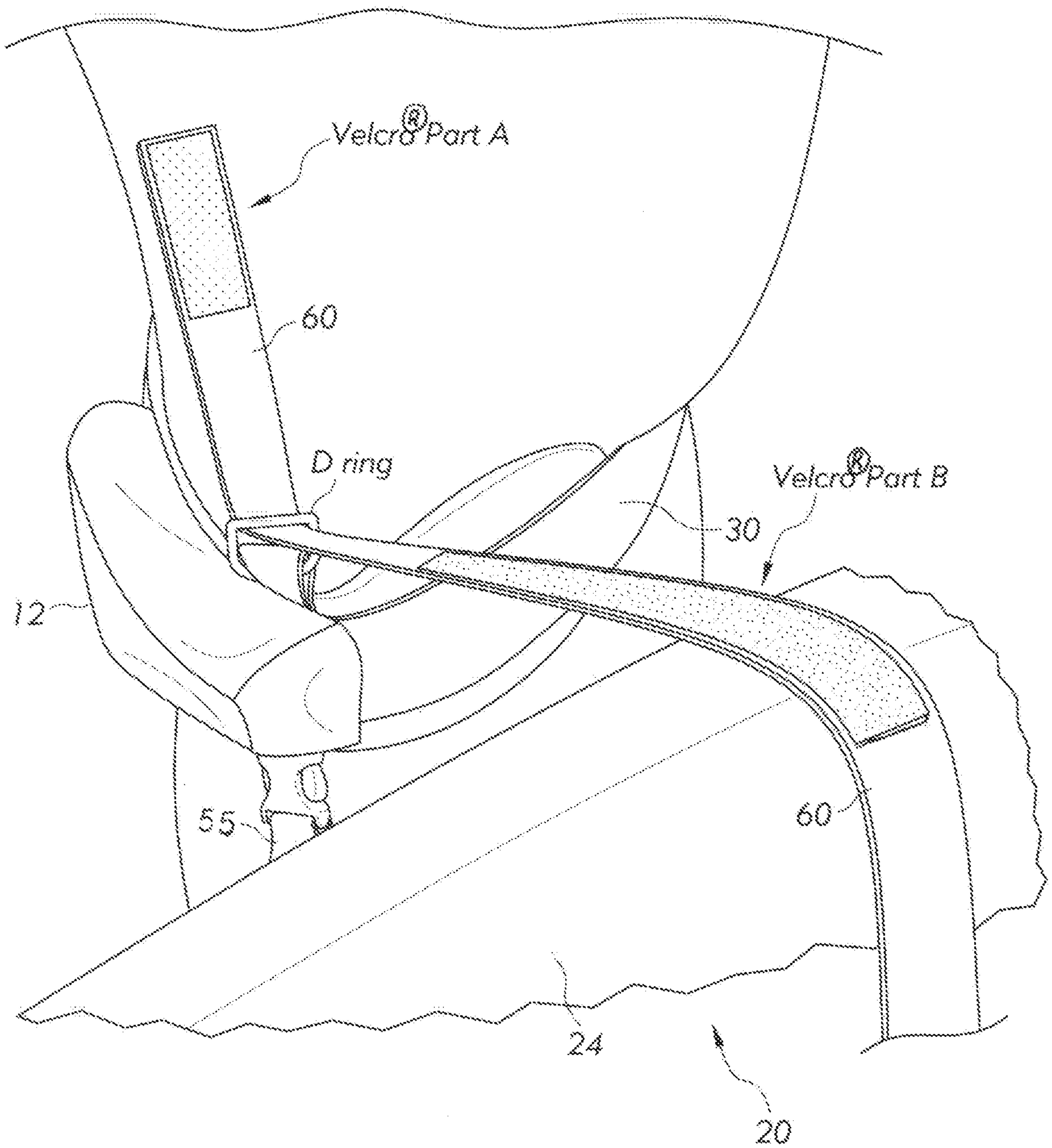


FIG. 6

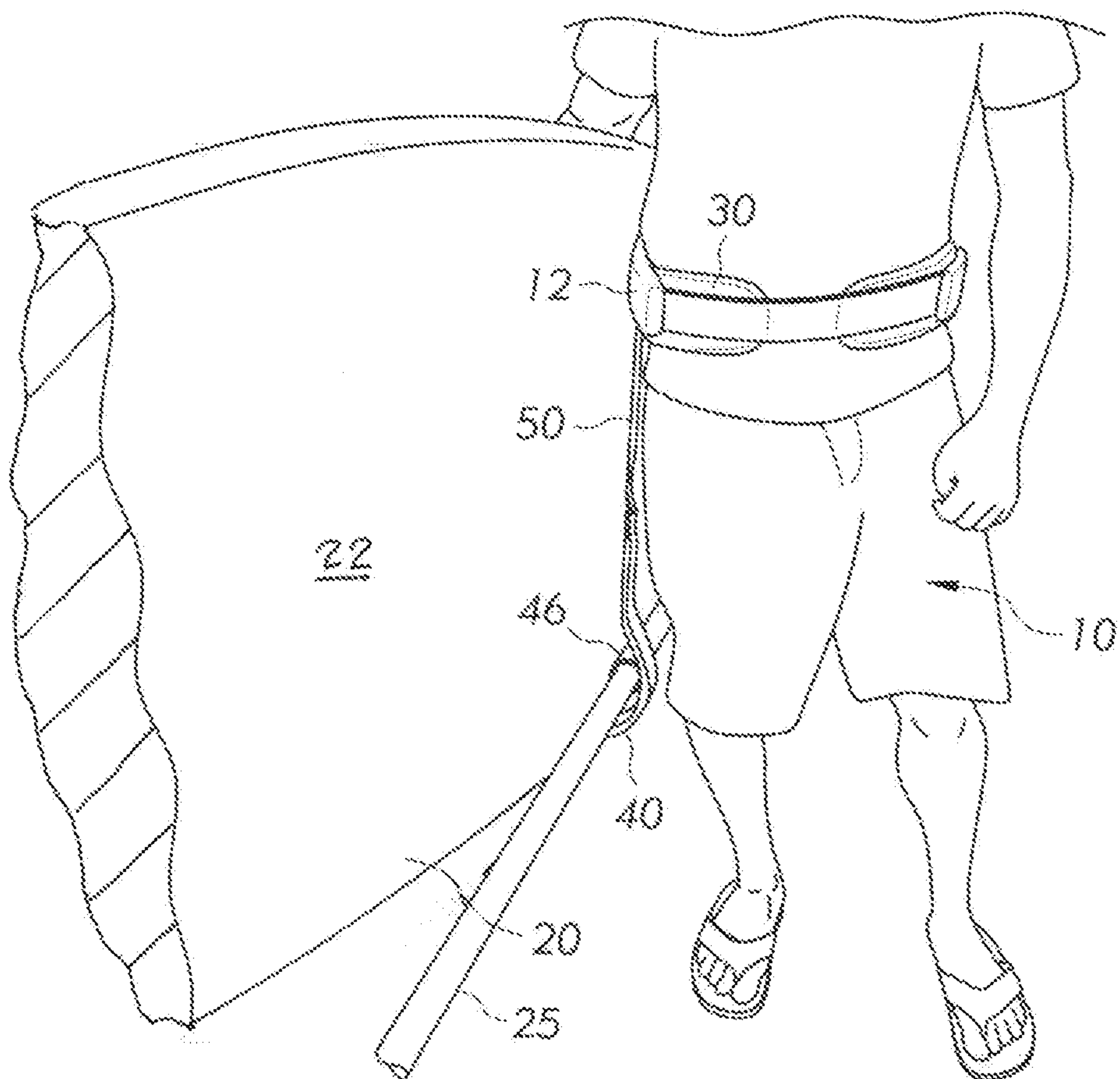


FIG. 1A

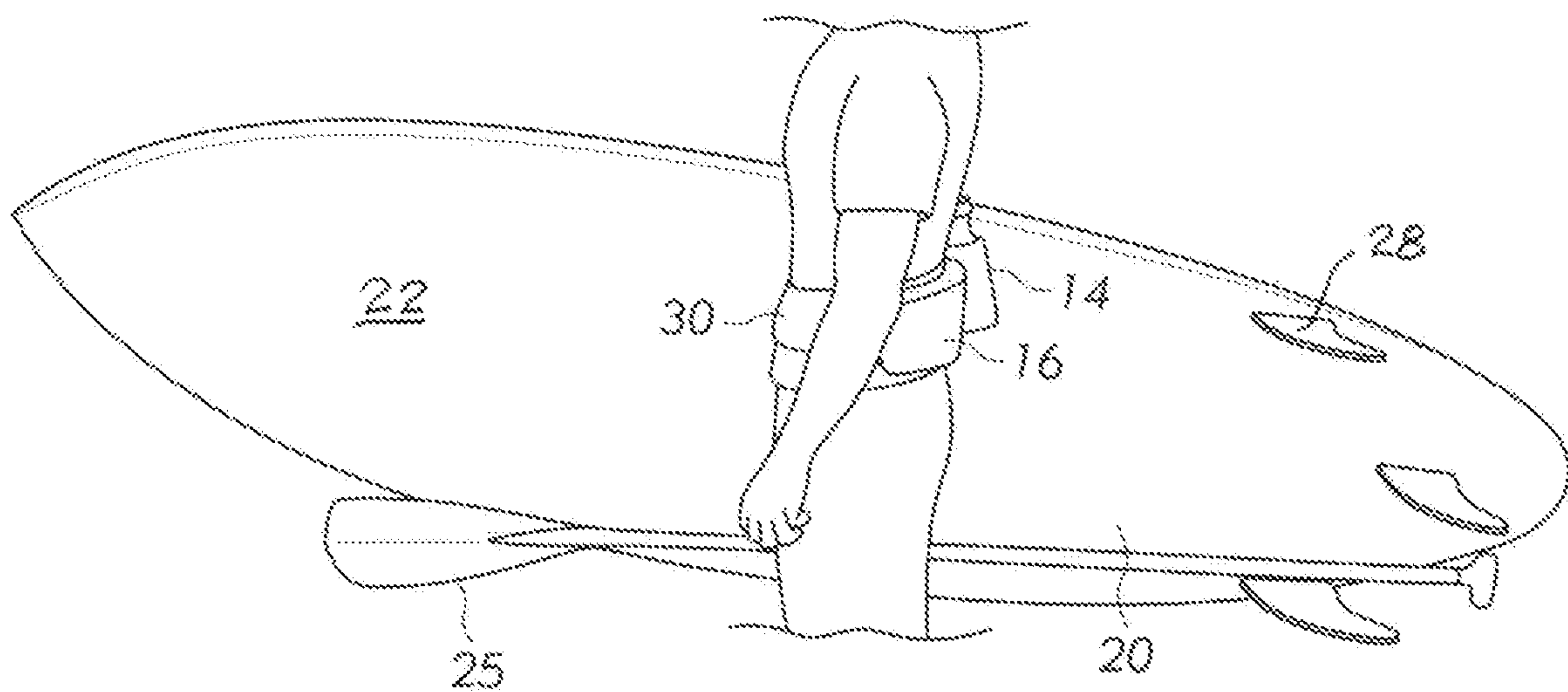


FIG. 1B