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CA 2507069 A1 2006/11/11

(21) 2 507 069

(12) DEMANDE DE BREVET CANADIEN
CANADIAN PATENT APPLICATION

(13) A1

(22) Date de dépôt/Filing Date: 2005/05/11

(41) Mise à la disp. pub./Open to Public Insp.: 2006/11/11

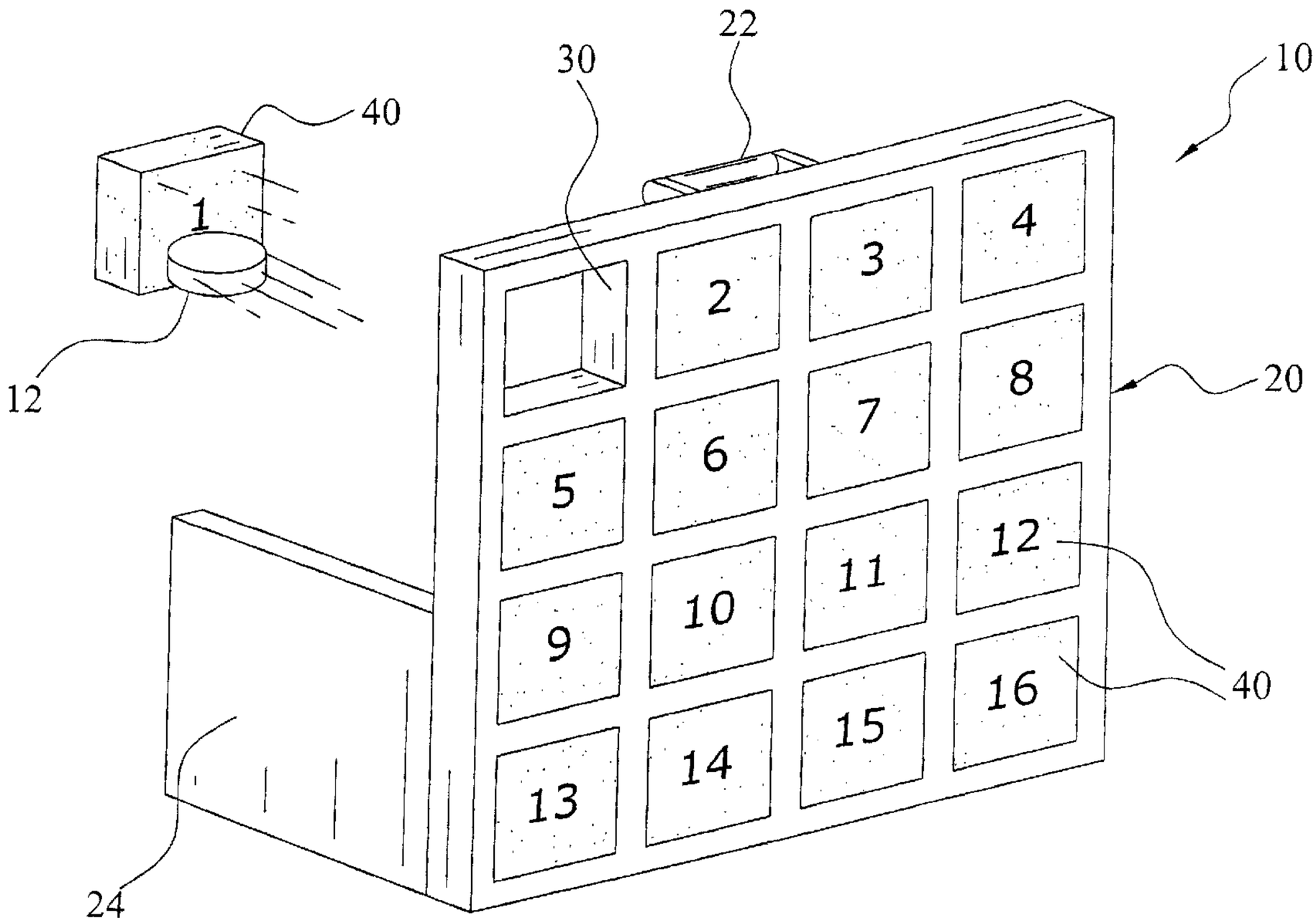
(51) Cl.Int./Int.Cl. *A63B 69/00* (2006.01),
A63B 63/00 (2006.01)

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(54) Titre : SYSTEME D'ENTRAINEMENT AU HOCKEY
(54) Title: HOCKEY PRACTICE SYSTEM



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:
A hockey practice system for improving a hockey player's shooting skills in an entertaining manner. The hockey practice system includes a panel having a plurality of openings, a first support and a second support pivotally attached to the sides of the panel, and a plurality of targets removably positionable within the openings. The targets are preferably comprised of a resilient material for frictionally engaging within the openings of the panel. A goalie member may be attached to the front of the panel.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A hockey practice system for improving a hockey player's shooting skills in an entertaining manner. The hockey practice system includes a panel having a plurality of openings, a first support and a second support pivotally attached to the sides of the panel, and a plurality of targets removably positionable within the openings. The targets are preferably comprised of a resilient material for frictionally engaging within the openings of the panel. A goalie member may be attached to the front of the panel.

TITLE: HOCKEY PRACTICE SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[001] The present invention relates generally to a hockey shooting skills practice apparatus and more specifically it relates to a hockey practice system for improving a hockey player's shooting skills in an entertaining manner.

Description of the Related Art

[002] Hockey players typically practice by shooting at an empty hockey goal or against a wall. There has been previously attempted puck shooting ranges (U.S. Patent No. 5,707,304), target assemblies (U.S. Patent No. 4,842,283) and panel silhouettes positionable in front of a hockey goal (U.S. Patent No. 4,168,062).

[003] While these devices may be suitable for the particular purpose to which they address, they are not as suitable for improving a hockey player's shooting skills in an entertaining manner. Conventional hockey shooting practice devices do not simultaneously provide entertainment while encouraging the hockey player to aim for specific locations of the goal.

[004] In these respects, the hockey practice system according to the present invention substantially departs from the conventional concepts and designs of the prior art, and in so doing provides an apparatus primarily developed for the purpose of improving a hockey player's shooting skills in an entertaining manner.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[005] In view of the foregoing disadvantages inherent in the known types of hockey shooting practice systems now present in the prior art, the present invention provides a new hockey practice system construction wherein the same can be utilized for improving a hockey player's shooting skills in an entertaining manner.

[006] The general purpose of the present invention, which will be described subsequently in greater detail, is to provide a new hockey practice system that has many of the advantages of the hockey practice devices mentioned heretofore and many novel features that result in a new hockey practice system which is not anticipated, rendered obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art hockey practice devices, either alone or in any combination thereof.

[007] To attain this, the present invention generally comprises a panel having a plurality of openings, a first support and a second support pivotally attached to the sides of the panel, and a plurality of targets removably positionable within the openings. The targets are preferably comprised of a resilient material for frictionally engaging within the openings of the panel. A goalie member may be attached to the front of the panel.

[008] There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and that will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

[009] In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of the description and should not be regarded as limiting.

[0010] A primary object of the present invention is to provide a hockey practice system that will overcome the shortcomings of the prior art devices.

[0011] A second object is to provide a hockey practice system for improving a hockey player's shooting skills in an entertaining manner.

[0012] Another object is to provide a hockey practice system that is portable.

[0013] An additional object is to provide a hockey practice system that is easy to setup, use and store.

[0014] A further object is to provide a hockey practice system that assists a hockey player in developing their shooting techniques and accuracy (e.g. shot release, shot follow through).

[0015] Another object is to provide a hockey practice system that creates a fun and entertaining environment for practicing a hockey player's shooting skills.

[0016] A further object is to provide a hockey practice system that may be utilized in either an ice rink or a non-ice environment.

[0017] Another object is to provide a hockey practice system that does not require a second person to serve as a goalie.

[0018] Other objects and advantages of the present invention will become obvious to the reader and it is intended that these objects and advantages are within the scope of the present invention.

[0019] To the accomplishment of the above and related objects, this invention may be embodied in the form illustrated in the accompanying drawings, attention being called to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only, and that changes may be made in the specific construction illustrated and described within the scope of the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0020] Various other objects, features and attendant advantages of the present invention will become fully appreciated as the same becomes better understood when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference characters designate the same or similar parts throughout the several views, and wherein:

[0021] FIG. 1 is an upper perspective view of the present invention with a target being removed by a puck.

[0022] FIG. 2 is an upper perspective view of the present invention.

[0023] FIG. 3 is an upper perspective view of the present invention with the targets removed.

[0024] FIG. 4 is a front view of the present invention.

[0025] FIG. 5 is a top view of the present invention.

[0026] FIG. 6 is a top view of the present invention with the support members folded.

[0027] FIG. 7 is a side view of the present invention.

[0028] FIG. 8 is a front view of an alternative embodiment illustrating a goalie figure in front of the panel.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

A. Overview

[0029] Turning now descriptively to the drawings, in which similar reference characters denote similar elements throughout the several views, FIGS. 1 through 8 illustrate a hockey practice system **10**, which comprises a panel **20** having a plurality of openings **30**, a first support **24** and a second support **26** pivotally attached to the sides of the panel **20**, and a plurality of targets **40** removably positionable within the openings **30**. The targets **40** are preferably comprised of a resilient material for frictionally engaging within the openings **30** of the panel **20**. A goalie member **50** may be attached to the front of the panel **20**.

B. Panel

[0030] Figures 1 through 4 best illustrate the panel **20**. The panel **20** is preferably positionable in an upright substantially vertical position as shown in Figures 1, 2, 3 and 7 of the drawings. The panel **20** may be comprised of a any conventional rigid material such as but not limited to plastic, metal, composite, wood or the like.

[0031] The panel **20** includes a plurality of openings **30** as best shown in Figure 3 of the drawings. The openings **30** may have various shapes, however it is preferable to have the opening comprised of a square shape. The openings **30** are preferably sufficient in size to allow a puck **12**, ball or other object being engaged with a hockey stick to pass through as shown in Figure 1 of the drawings.

[0032] The plurality of openings **30** are preferably comprised of at least two vertical rows and/or at least two horizontal rows as shown in Figure 3 of the drawings. Other configurations for the openings **30** may be achieved depending upon the purpose as shown in Figure 8 wherein the goalie member **50** covers a portion of the openings **30**. Figure 3 illustrates that it is preferable that 16 openings **30** extend through the panel **20** forming a 4x4 structure.

[0033] Figures 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 illustrate a handle **22** preferably attached to an upper portion of the panel **20**. The handle **22** may be grasped by the user to transport the panel **20** to various locations. The handle **22** may have various structures other than illustrated in the drawings.

C. Supports

[0034] As shown in Figures 5 and 6 of the drawings, a first support **24** and a second support **26** are preferably pivotally attached to the side portions of the panel **20** for providing support to the panel **20** in a vertical manner. The first support **24** and the second support **26** preferably pivot inwardly substantially parallel to the panel **20** to form a compact storage position as best shown in Figure 6 of the drawings. When the first support **24** and the second support **26** are fully extended as shown in Figure 5 of the drawings, the supports **24, 26** prevent the panel **20** from falling forwardly or rearwardly.

D. Targets

[0035] The plurality of targets **40** each preferably are comprised of a square shape positionable within the plurality of openings **30** as shown in Figures 1 through 4 of the drawings. The plurality of targets **40** are preferably comprised of a resilient material such as but not limited to sponge, foam, rubber and the like. The plurality of targets **40** are preferably larger than the plurality of openings **30** to allow for frictional engagement of the targets **40** within the openings **30**.

[0036] An indicia (e.g. number, letter) is preferably positioned upon each of the plurality of targets **40** as shown in Figures 1, 2 and 4 of the drawings. The panel **20** also preferably includes a corresponding number of indicia adjacent each of the openings **30** that correspond to the indicia on the targets **40** thereby indicating where the targets **40** are to be positioned within the panel **20**. The targets **40** may also have different colors such as the even numbered targets **40** having a first color and the odd numbered targets **40** having a second color.

E. Goalie Member

[0037] A goalie member **50** may also be attached to a front portion of said panel **20** as shown in Figure 8 of the drawings. The goalie member **50** is preferably shaped to represent an actual goalie thereby illustrating the desired targets **40** to shoot at with the puck **12**.

F. Operation of Invention

[0038] In use, the user preferably lays the panel **20** flat on the ground surface. The user then inserts the targets **40** into the corresponding openings **30** within the panel **20** thereby ensuring that the front surface of the targets **40** will be aligned with the front surface of the panel **20** as shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings. The user then manipulates the panel **20** into an upright position as shown in Figures 1, 2 and 4 of the

drawings. The hockey player thereafter shoots at the targets **40** with the intention of driving one of the targets **40** from the panel **20** as shown in Figure 1 of the drawings.

[0039] Various games may be played with the present invention. For example, one of the targets **40** may be identified as the "last target" wherein the player who knocks out this identified target **40** is the winner of the game. Another game that may be played includes each player taking a specific color or even/odd numbered group of targets **40** with the goal of driving out their respective targets **40** within the group. Another game includes each player being dealt a plurality of cards with each card corresponding to one of the targets **40** (e.g. Ace to 1, 2 to 2, 3 to 3) where each player attempts to drive out the targets **40** corresponding to the cards in their hand. Another game includes utilizing two panels **20** instead of goaltenders. It can be appreciated that various other games may be played with the present invention.

[0040] What has been described and illustrated herein is a preferred embodiment of the invention along with some of its variations. The terms, descriptions and figures used herein are set forth by way of illustration only and are not meant as limitations. Those skilled in the art will recognize that many variations are possible within the spirit and scope of the invention, which is intended to be defined by the following claims (and their equivalents) in which all terms are meant in their broadest reasonable sense unless otherwise indicated. Any headings utilized within the description are for convenience only and have no legal or limiting effect.

THE EMBODIMENT OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A hockey practice system, comprising: a panel including a plurality of openings each comprised of a square shape, wherein said plurality of openings are comprised of at least two vertical rows and/or at least two horizontal rows; a first support and a second support pivotally attached to side portions of said panel for providing support to said panel in a vertical manner; a plurality of targets each comprised of a square shape positionable within said plurality of openings, wherein said plurality of targets are comprised of a resilient material and wherein said plurality of targets are larger than said plurality of openings; a handle attached to an upper portion of said panel; and an indicia positioned upon each of said plurality of targets, wherein each of said plurality of targets has a different indicia.

2. The hockey practice system of claim 1, wherein said panel includes a corresponding number of indicia adjacent each of said plurality of openings that indicate where each of said targets are to be positioned.

3. A method of practicing hockey shooting utilizing the system of claim 1 said method comprising the steps of: positioning said targets within said openings of said panel; positioning said panel in a substantially vertical state; providing at least one hockey puck; and shooting said at least one hockey puck towards at least one of said plurality of targets for the purpose of hitting and dislodging at least one of said plurality of targets with said hockey puck.

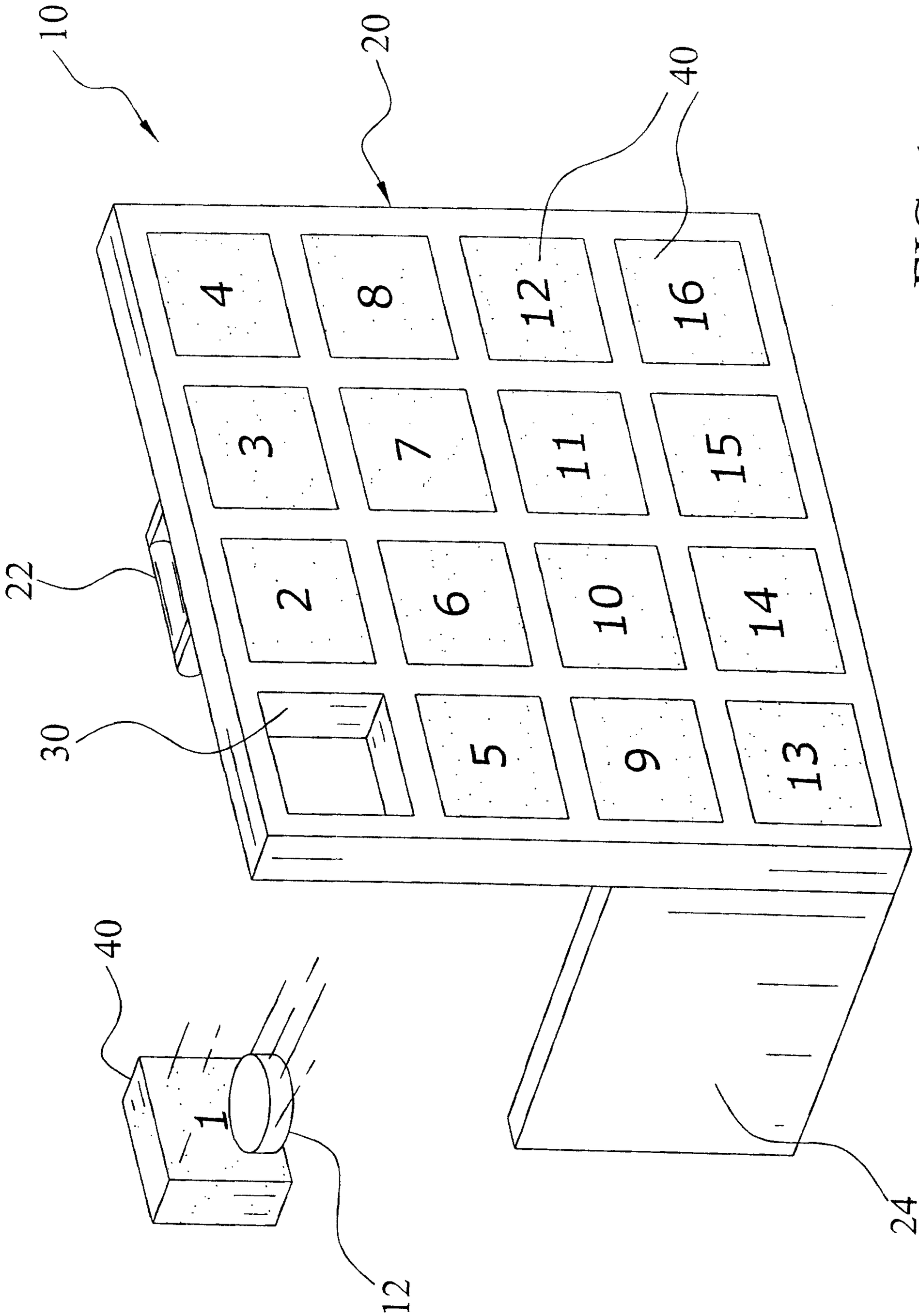


FIG. 1

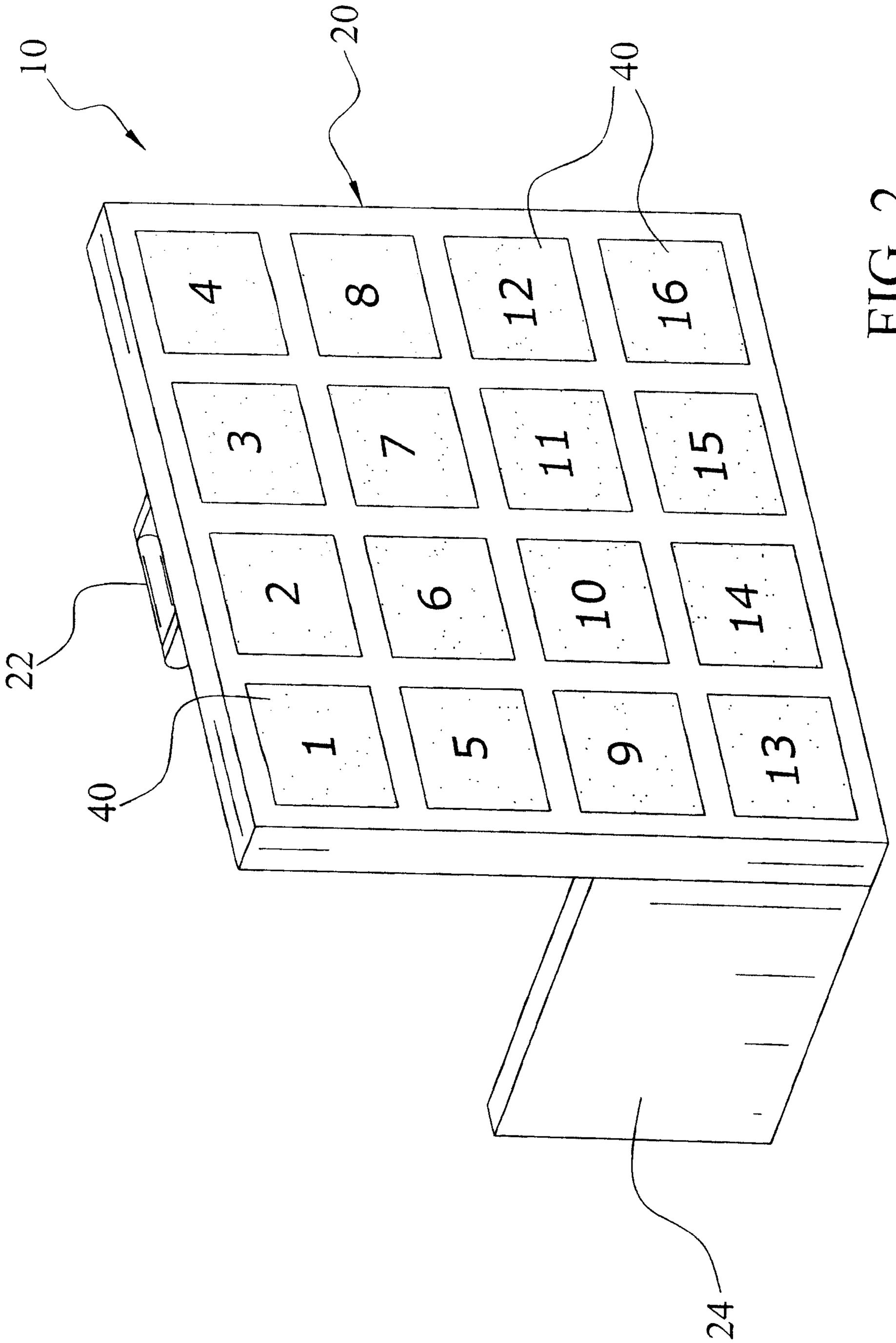


FIG. 2

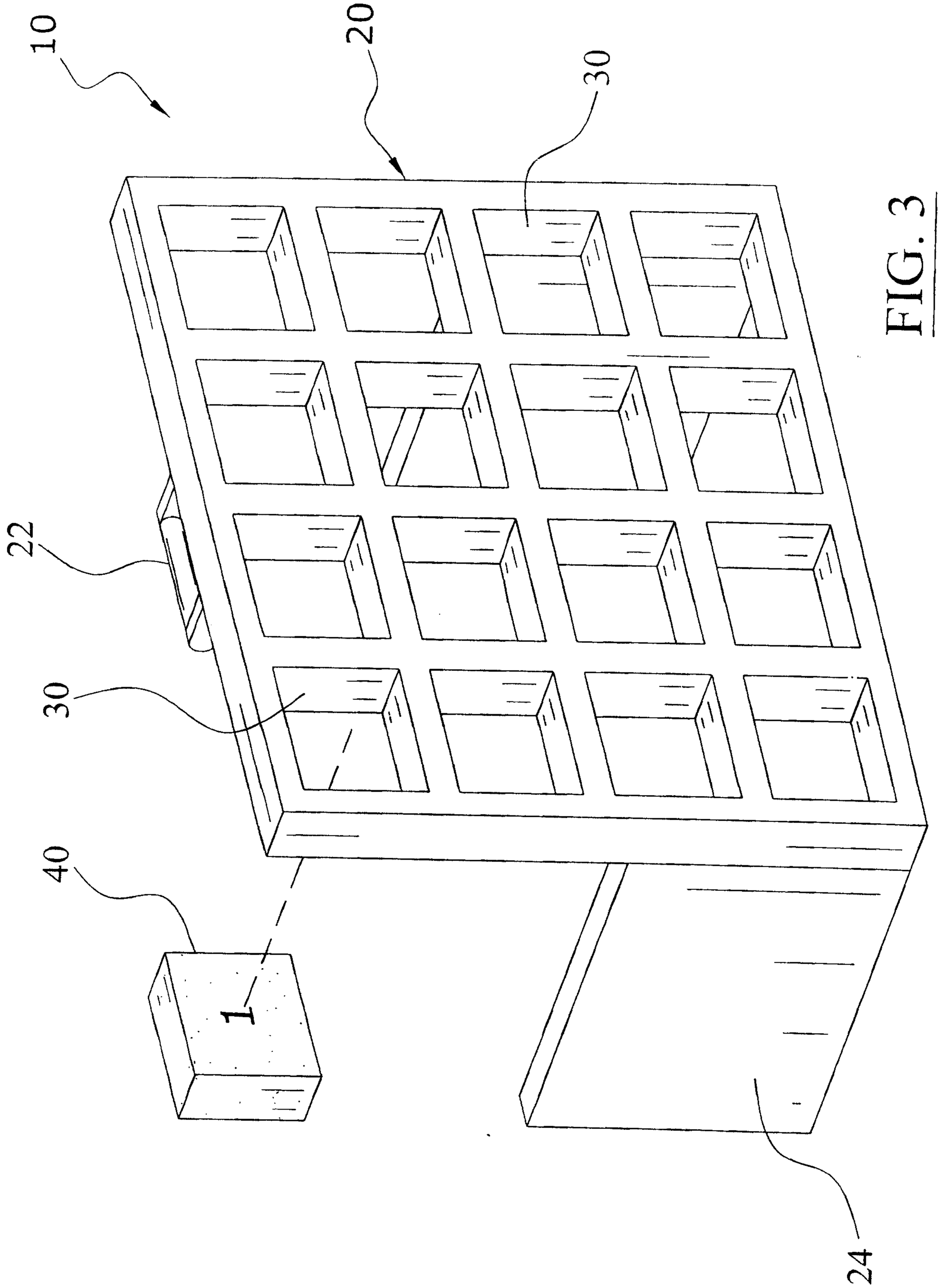


FIG. 3

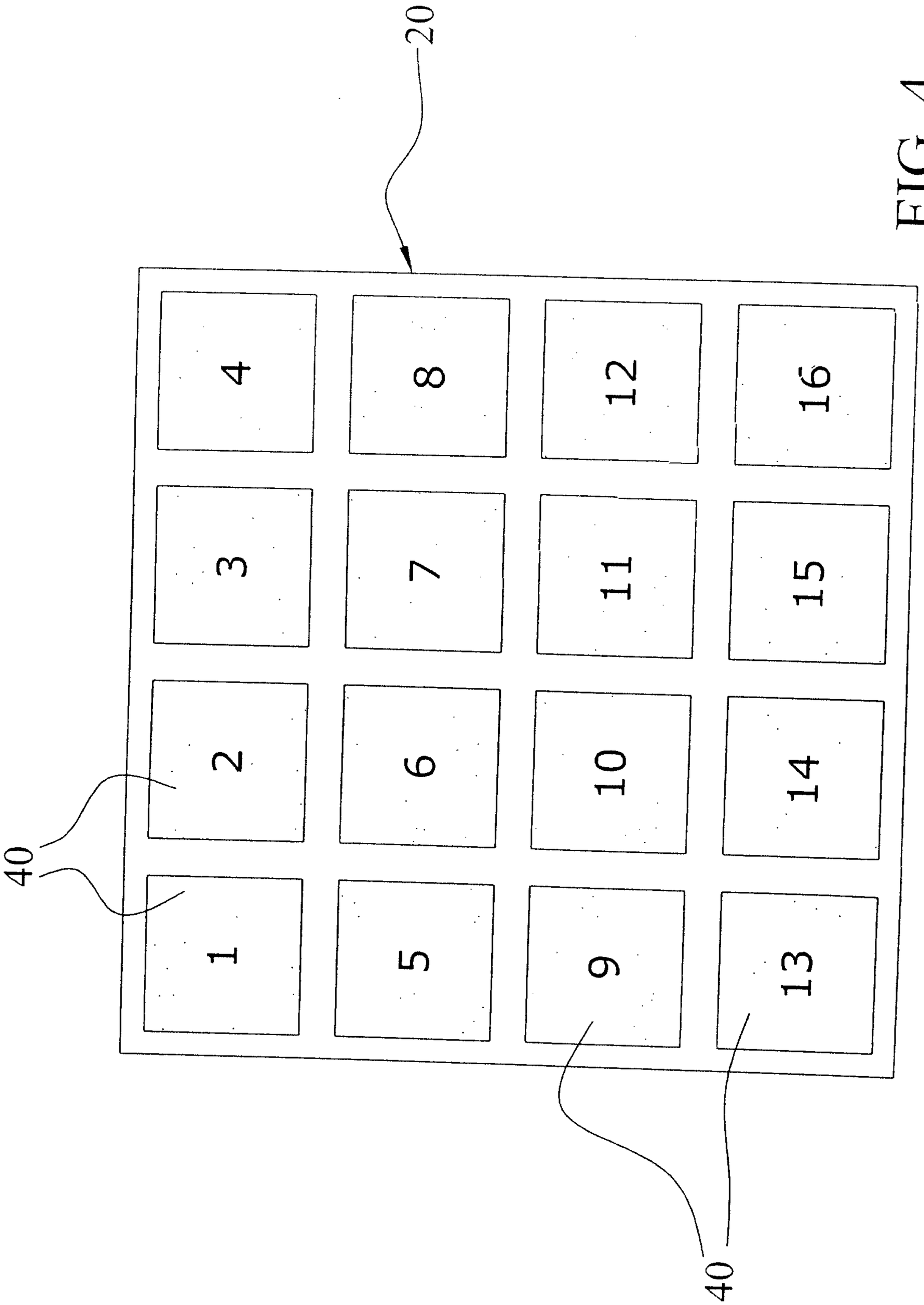


FIG. 4

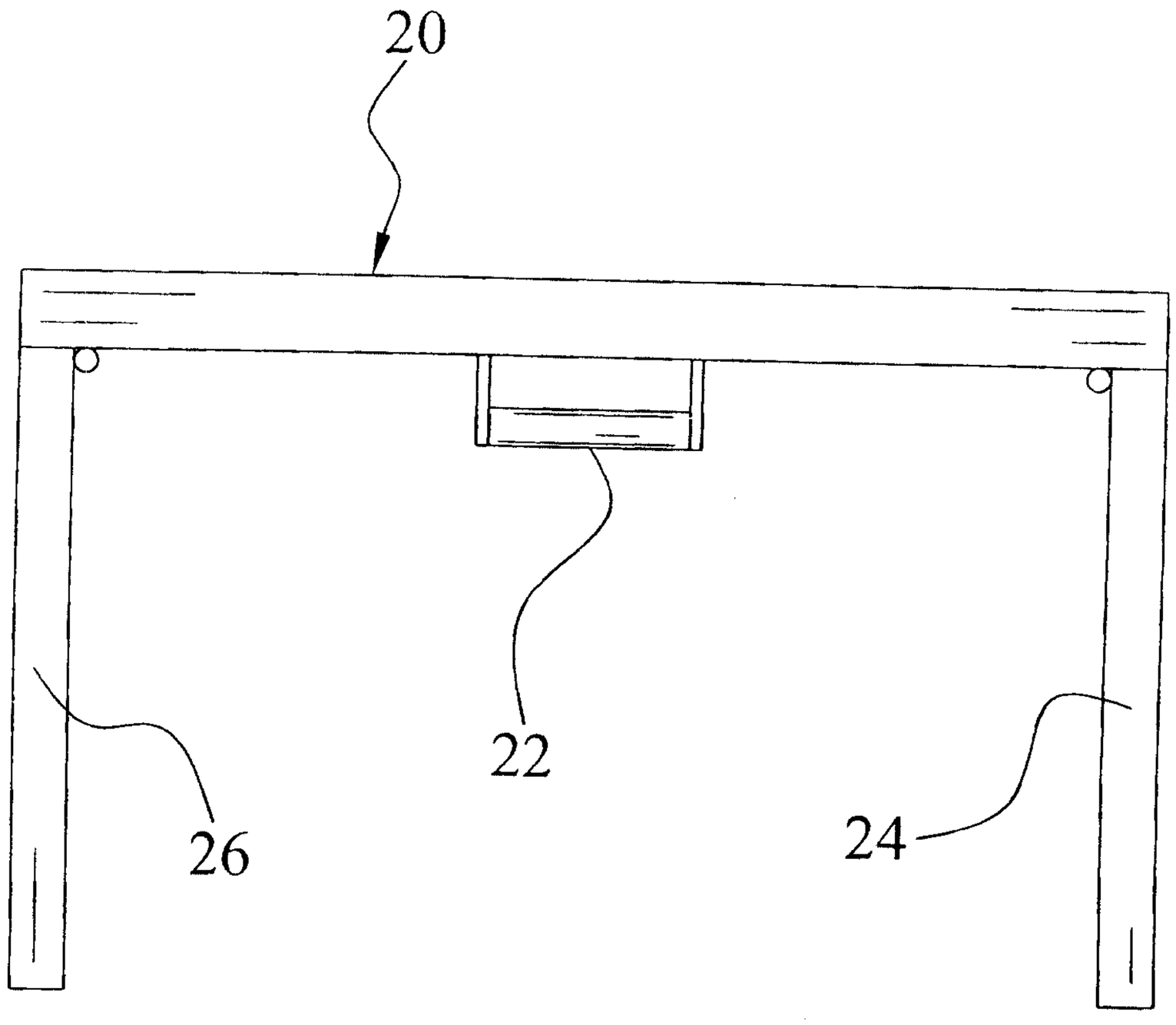


FIG. 5

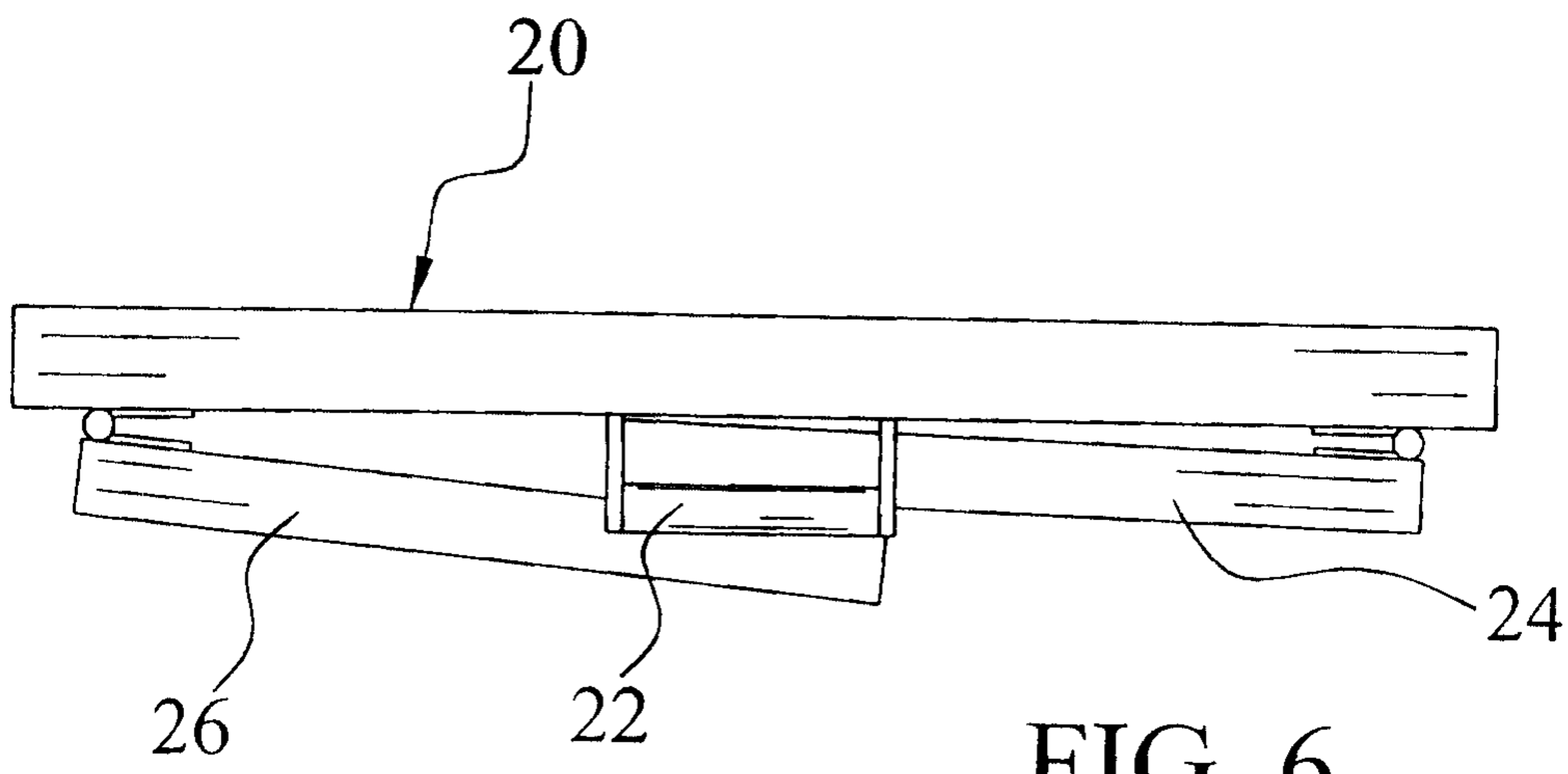


FIG. 6

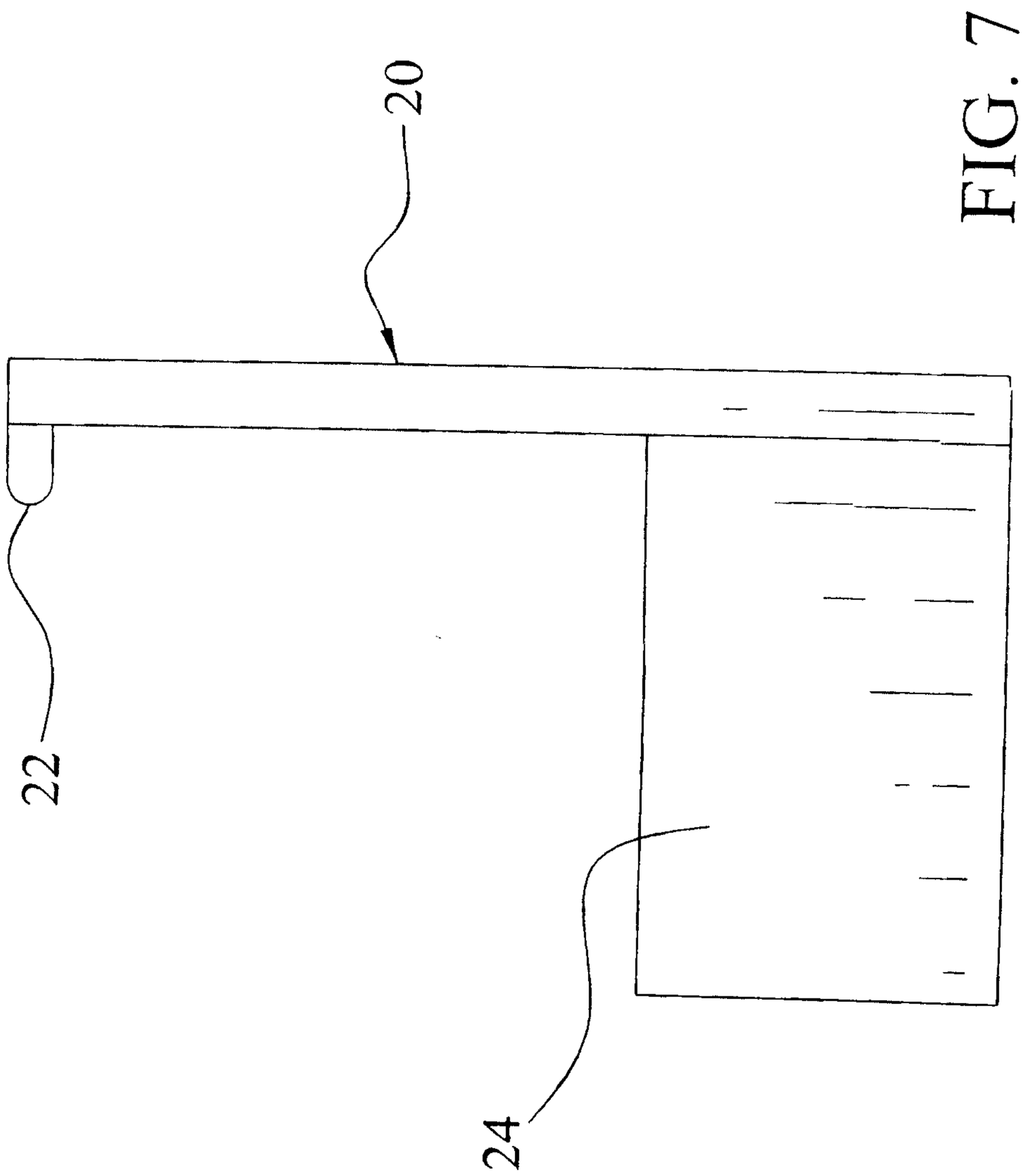


FIG. 7

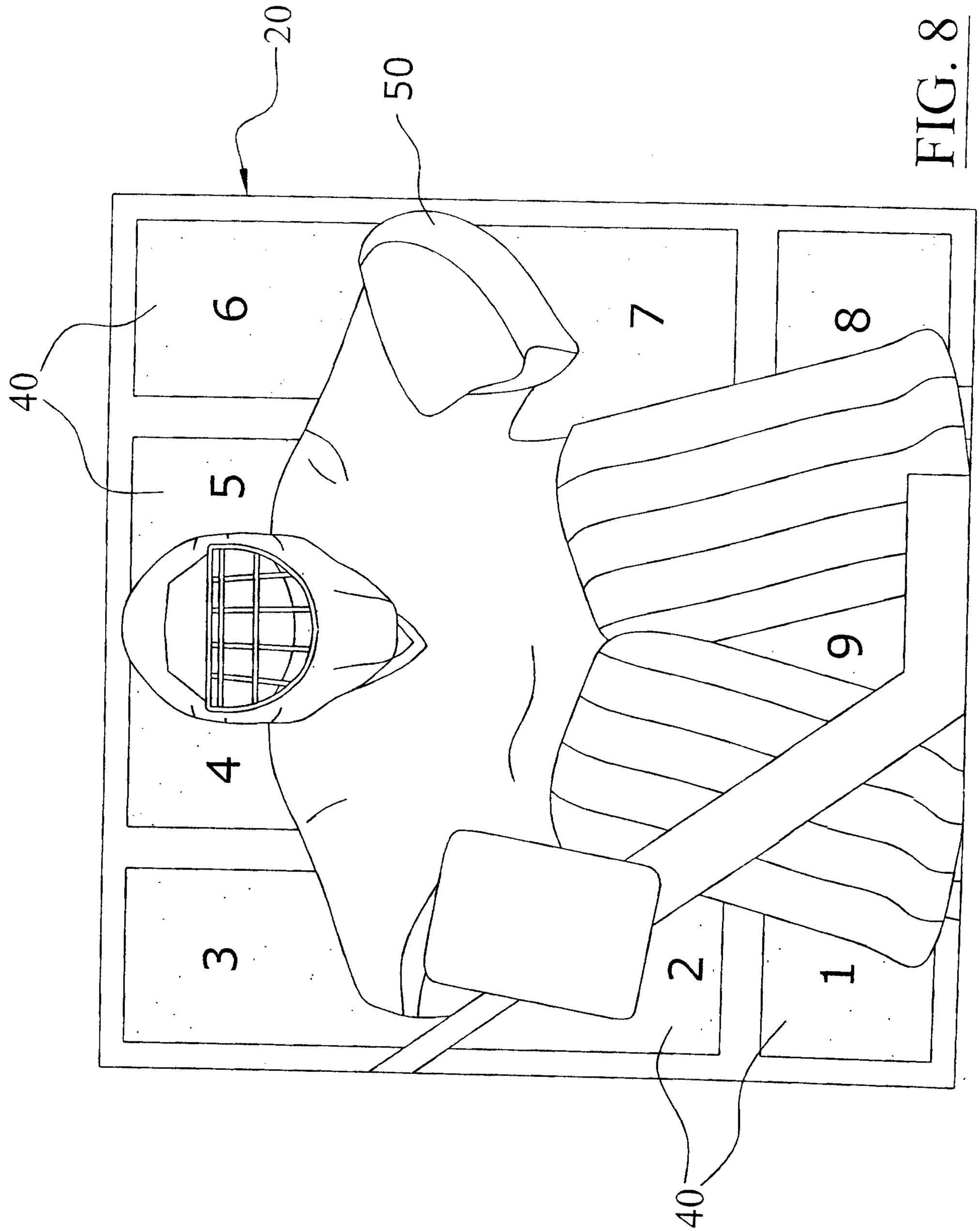
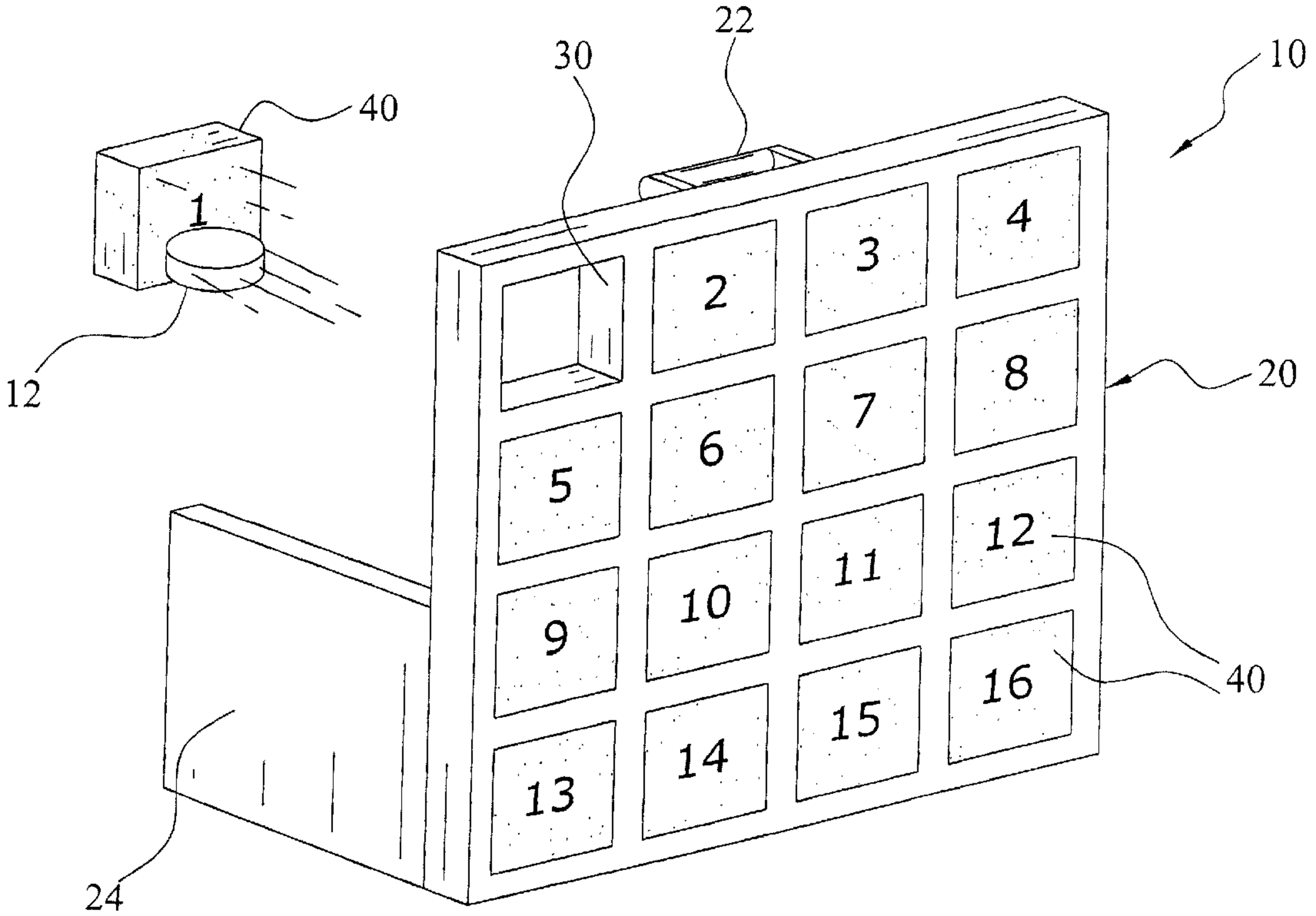


FIG. 8


22
30
10
40
1
12
2
3
4
20
5
6
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8
9
10
11
12
13
14
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16
40
24