



(22) Date de dépôt/Filing Date: 2003/07/31

(41) Mise à la disp. pub./Open to Public Insp.: 2005/01/31

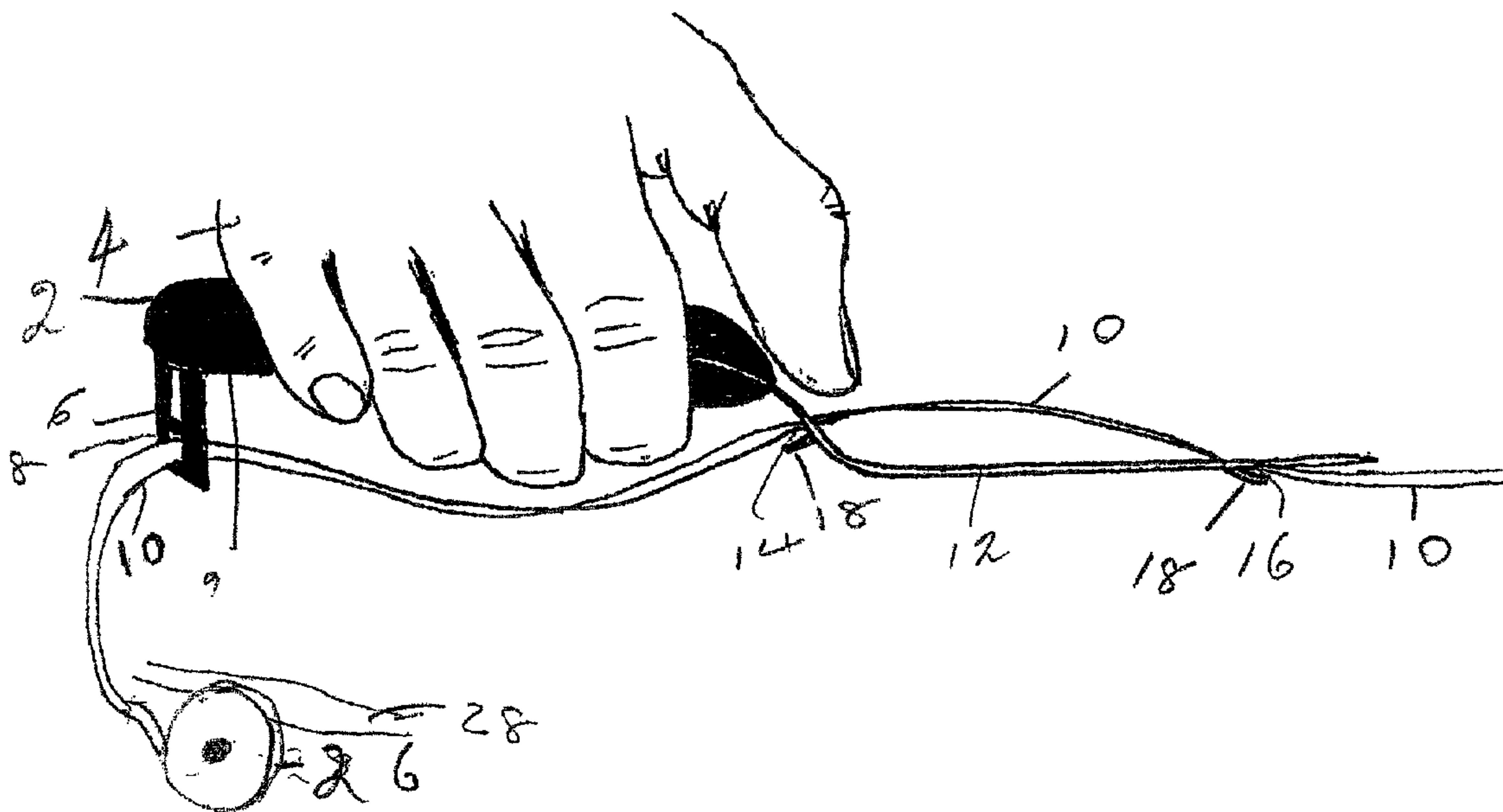
(51) Cl.Int.<sup>7</sup>/Int.Cl.<sup>7</sup> E04F 21/165, E04G 23/02

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(54) Titre : METHODE ET APPAREIL D'APPLICATION DE RUBAN DE JOINTOYAGE POUR CLOISONS SECHES  
(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR APPLYING DRYWALL TAPE



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

Apparatus and method for applying and embedding drywall tape in joint compound along a drywall joint which includes an applicator, or use thereof, for guiding the tape along the joint and provided with a handle structure and a blade portion having slots to guide the tape.

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Apparatus and method for applying and embedding drywall tape in joint compound along a drywall joint which includes an applicator, or use thereof, for guiding the tape along the joint and provided with a handle structure and a blade portion having slots to guide the tape.

## **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR APPLYING DRYWALL TAPE**

### **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

This invention relates to the forming of joints between drywall sheets and, more particularly, to methods and apparatus for embedding drywall tape in joint compound.

### **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Joints between drywall panels require joint compound to be applied to the gap between each two panels and this has to be spread and smoothed. Tape is then applied to the joint by hand and is manually pressed down to adhere to the compound using a bladed tool. The exposed face of the tape must then be cleaned. The whole process is very time-consuming.

### **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

From one aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of applying and embedding drywall tape in joint compound along a drywall joint, comprising guiding the tape through a first slot at a rear end of a handle structure, guiding said tape through a second slot in an extended blade portion of said handle structure at the opposite end of said handle structure to said one end, guiding said tape through a third slot in said extended portion remote from said handle structure, pressing the guided tape onto the joint compound along the drywall joint with sufficient force to spread the joint compound and simultaneously moving said upstanding extended portion along the drywall joint, thereby continually embedding the tape in the drywall compound along the drywall joint and spreading the joint compound contacted by the tape.

From another aspect of the invention there is provided apparatus for applying and embedding drywall tape in joint compound along a drywall joint, comprising a

handle structure having a first slot at a rear end for guiding drywall tape under the handle structure and parallel thereto, an extended blade portion extending from said handle at its opposite end to said rear end, a second slot in said blade portion for passage of said tape upwards therethrough, a third slot forward of said second slot for passage of said tape downwards therethrough to facilitate application to a drywall joint with sufficient force applied to the outer end of said blade portion to embed the tape in the drywall joint.

### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Embodiments of the invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a side view of apparatus for applying and embedding drywall tape,

Figure 2 is a plan view of the apparatus,

Figure 3 is a side view of the apparatus according to a second embodiment,  
and

Figure 4 is a plan view of the apparatus of figure 3.

The same reference numerals will be used in different figures to denote the same elements.

### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

Referring to figures, the apparatus for applying and embedding drywall tape in joint compound along a drywall joint includes a handle structure 2 shaped and constructed to facilitate grasping by a worker's fingers 4. The handle structure 2 has a depending portion 6 having a slot 8 for the passage therethrough of drywall tape 10.

At the end of handle structure 2 an integral scraper-like blade portion 12 is provided. This may be made of metal or a suitable plastic and is provided with slots 14 and 16 whereby the tape 10 can pass therethrough. Each of the slots 14 and 16 is provided with a small guide protrusion 18 to guide the tape 10 in a proper manner through the respective slot.

In figures 3 and 4 the blade portion 12 is of a different shape in that it is longer and has upwardly-upstanding wing portions 20 and 22 and terminates in a point 24. This arrangement is of special utility when using the apparatus in corners.

In use the tape 10 is fed from a storage reel 26 which is on the belt 28 of a worker (not shown).

The tape 10 is fed through slot 8 in depending portion 6, passes underneath handle 2 and upwards through slot 14. The tape 10 is then fed over the top of blade portion 12 and down through slot 16 under the extremity of blade portion 12 and, in figure 3, under the wing portions 20 and 22. The worker then applies joint compound along the joint between two drywall panels. The worker then takes the apparatus shown in figure 1 or figure 3 and presses the tape 10 into the drywall joint using sufficient force to spread the joint compound and embed the tape therein. The tape is continually applied, as the tool is moved along the drywall joint, and is embedded in the joint compound which is continually spread. Slot 8 guides the tape 10 and helps to keep the tape 10 straight. The worker uses his free hand to hold the tape initially in place and then moves the tool or applicator carefully down the wall.

Using the tool illustrated in figure 3, the flared ends or upstanding wing portions 20 and 22 conveniently fit within a corner to deposit tape correctly in the corner.

When not used as a tape applicator, the blade portion 12 of figure 1 may be used as a conventional scraper, being rinsed in water.

The apparatus can also be used to apply fibreglass tape or any other similar material.

While the invention has been described with reference to specific embodiments, modifications and variations of the invention may be constructed without departing from the scope of the invention, which is defined in the following claims.

## CLAIMS

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A method of applying and embedding drywall tape in joint compound along a drywall joint, comprising:
  - (a) guiding the tape through a first slot at a rear end of a handle structure,
  - (b) guiding said tape through a second slot in an extended blade portion of said handle structure at the opposite end of said handle structure to said rear,
  - (c) guiding said tape through a third slot in said extended portion remote from said handle structure,
  - (d) pressing the guided tape onto the joint compound along the drywall joint with sufficient force to spread the joint compound and simultaneously moving said extended portion along the drywall joint, thereby continually embedding the tape in the drywall compound along the drywall joint and spreading the joint compound contacted by the tape.
  
2. A method of applying and embedding drywall tape in joint compound along a drywall joint, comprising:
  - (a) guiding the tape through a first slot at a rear end of a handle structure,

- (b) guiding said tape through a second slot in an extended blade portion of said handle structure at the opposite end of said handle structure to said rear,
- (c) guiding said tape through a third slot in said extended portion remote from said handle structure,
- (d) providing said extended portion with upstanding wing portion remote from said handle structure.
- (e) pressing the guided tape onto the joint compound along the drywall joint with sufficient force to spread the joint compound and simultaneously moving said extended portion along the drywall joint, thereby continually embedding the tape in the drywall compound along the drywall joint and spreading the joint compound contacted by the tape.

3. Apparatus for applying and embedding drywall tape in joint compound along a drywall joint, comprising:

- (a) a handle structure having a first slot at a rear end for guiding drywall tape under the handle structure and parallel thereto,
- (b) an extended blade portion extending from said handle structure at its opposite end to said rear end,
- (c) a second slot in said blade portion for passage of said tape upwards therethrough,
- (d) a third slot forward of said second slot for passage of said tape downwards therethrough to facilitate application to a drywall

joint with sufficient force applied to the outer end of said blade portion to embed the tape in the drywall joint.

4. Apparatus according to claim 3 in which said first slot is in a depending portion of said handle structure.
5. Apparatus according to claim 3 or 4 wherein said extended blade portion has upstanding wing portions to facilitate pressing of said tape.
6. Apparatus according to claim 3, 4 or 5 wherein a guide protrusion to facilitate guiding of said tape.

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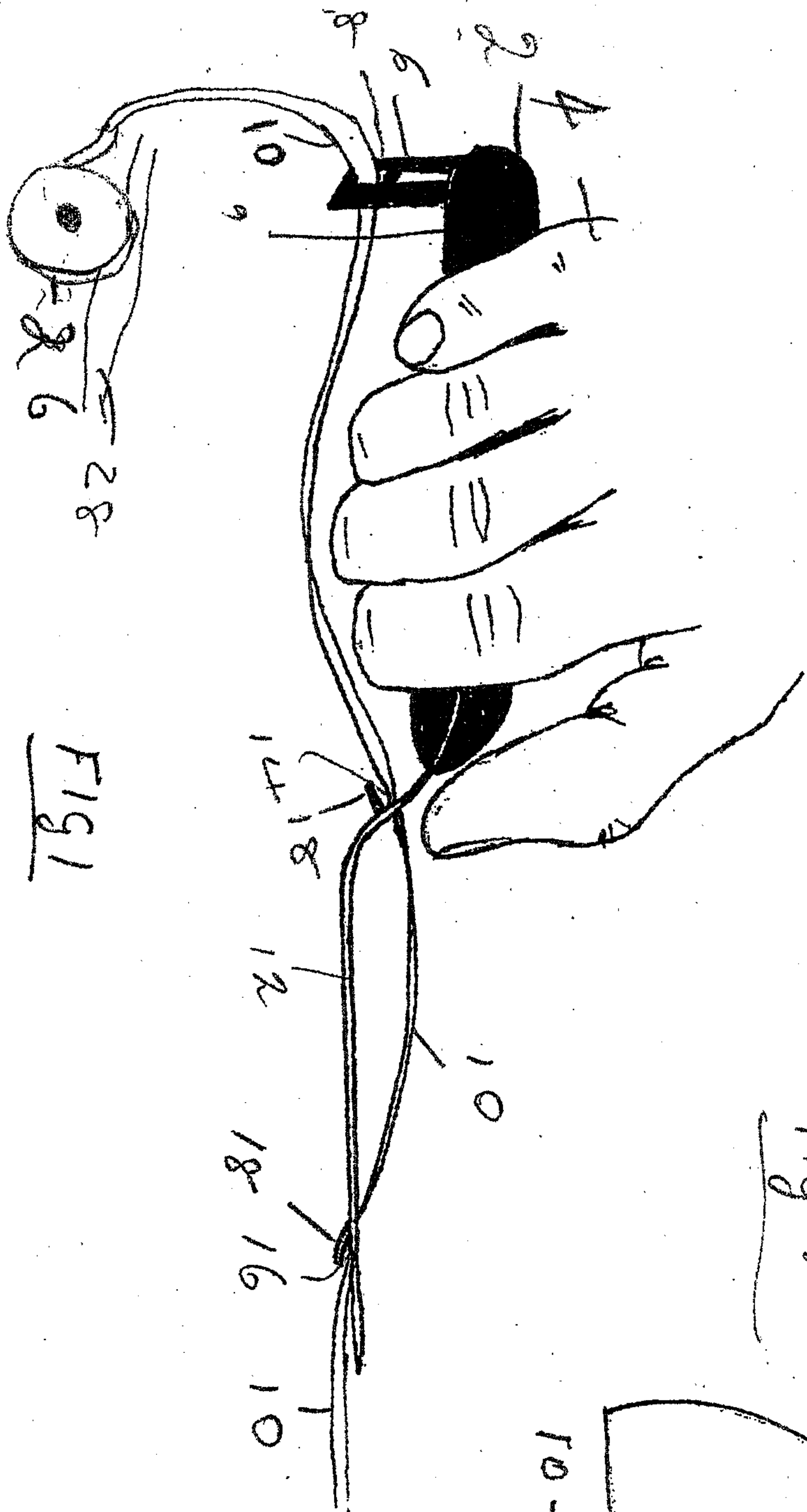


FIG 1

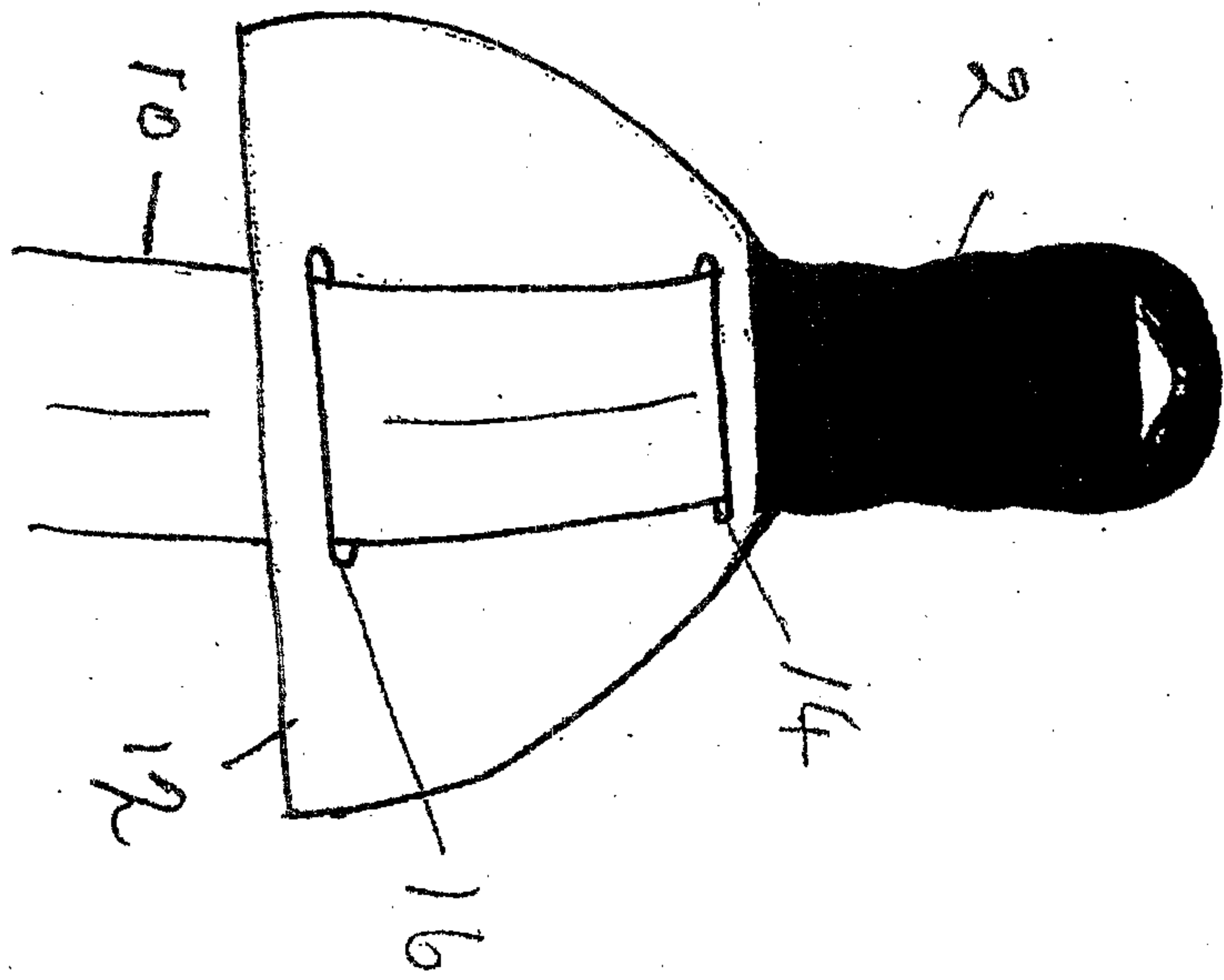


Fig. 2

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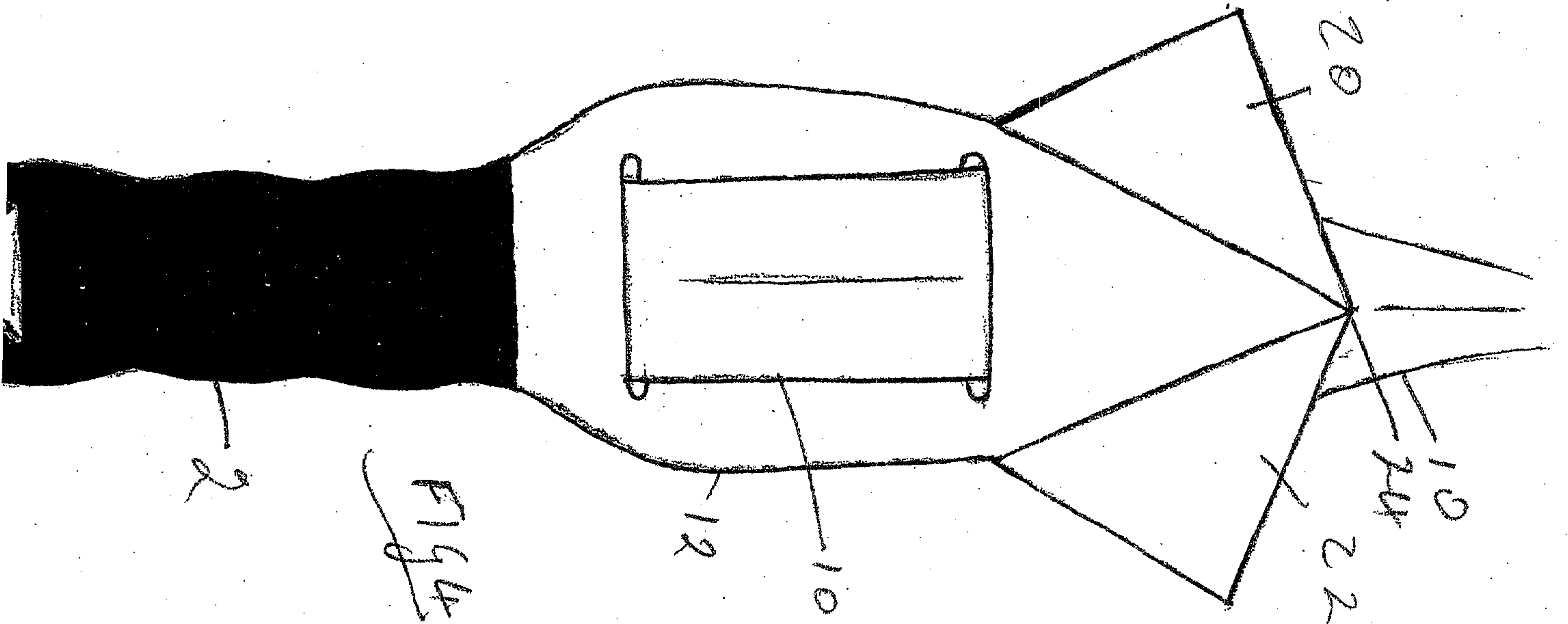


FIG 4

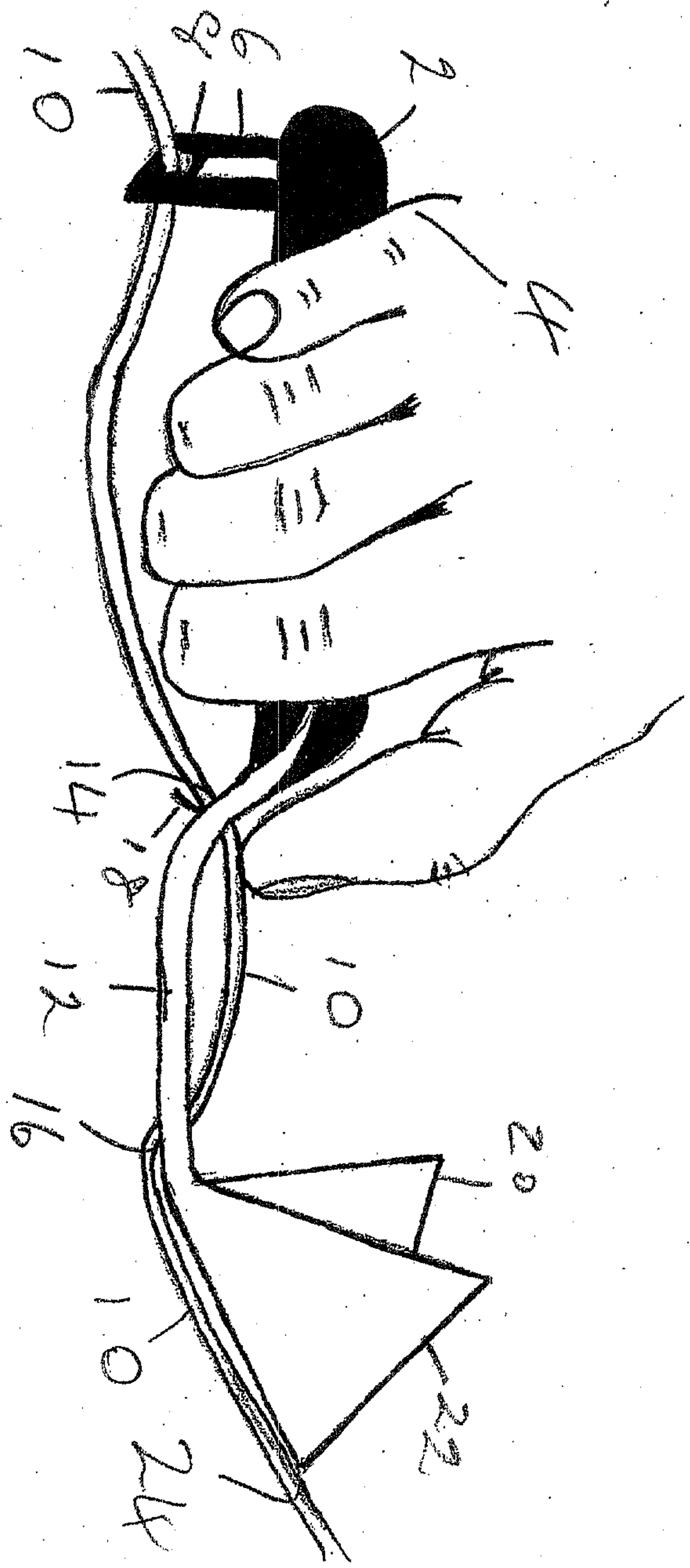


FIG 3

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