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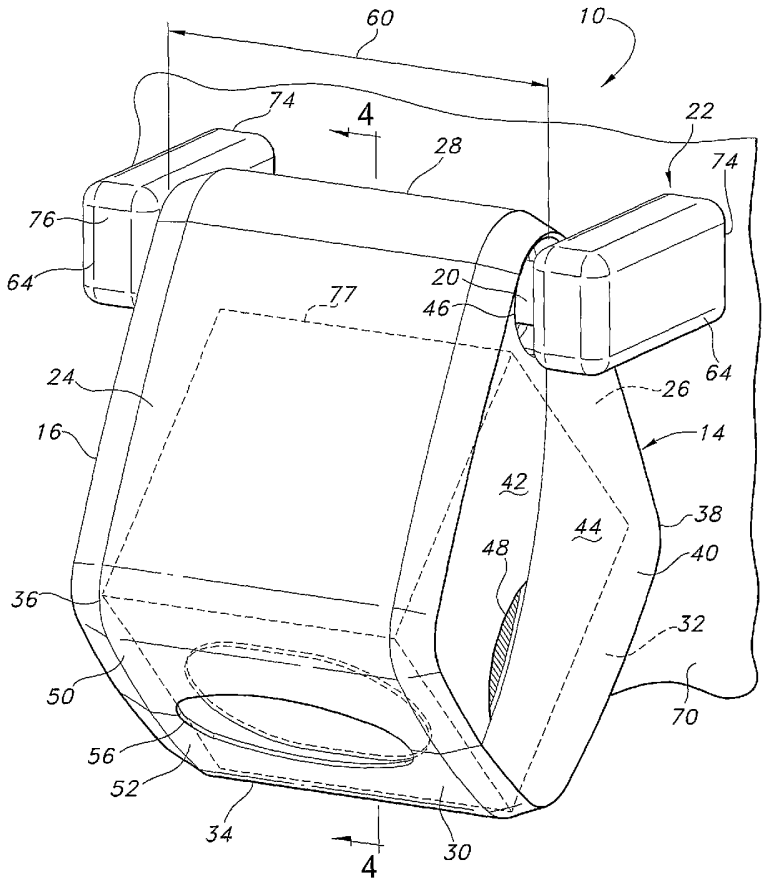
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A DISPENSER FOR SHEET MATERIAL



(57) Abstract: A dispenser containing sheets, for example, dry sheets and premoistened sheets is provided. The dispenser is adapted to be releasably coupled to a conventional rolled product fixture, such as one that holds a roll of toilet tissue in a bathroom. The dispenser may include a cartridge which is positioned in the housing of the dispenser which holds sheets. The sheets dispense from the cartridge and the dispenser.

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A DISPENSER FOR SHEET MATERIAL

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The use of single sheets provided as interfolded dry sheets for bath tissue has been widely accepted. Such single interfolded sheets often provide less waste than traditional rolled bath tissue. Similarly, the use of premoistened or "wet" sheets has gained wide acceptance for a variety of uses, particularly premoistened bathroom applications. The dry sheets and premoistened sheets are generally formed from an absorbent material such as a paper or a polymeric web, or combinations thereof, and may contain a disinfectant, medicant, deodorant, anti-microbial, anti-bacterial, cleansing agent, and so forth, in one or more combinations, on a dry sheet, or in a "wet" formulation on a premoistened sheet. Premoistened sheets are generally stored and dispensed from a sealable container to prevent the sheets from drying out.

Various dispenser designs for dry and/or premoistened sheets have been used with existing bathroom fixtures, such as fixtures for conventional rolled products. These dispensers are often cumbersome and bulky, and they are problematic with regard to space and mounting considerations. Refilling one or both dispensers can also be difficult.

Accordingly, it would be desirable to provide a dispenser capable of dispensing dry and/or premoistened sheets from a conventional rolled product fixture, such as a standard fixture for rolled bath tissue. Such a dispenser would provide a housing which is configured to accept a quantity of sheets and/or one or more cartridges providing dry and/or premoistened sheets.

DEFINITIONS

As used herein, the term "fasteners" means devices that fasten, join, connect, secure, hold, or clamp components together. Fasteners include, but are not limited to, screws, nuts and bolts, rivets, snap-fits, tacks, nails, loop fasteners, and interlocking male/female connectors, such as fishhook connectors, a fish hook connector includes a male portion with a protrusion on its circumference. Inserting the male portion into the female portion substantially permanently locks the two portions together.

As used herein, the term "hinge" refers to a jointed or flexible device that connects and permits pivoting or turning of a part to a stationary component. Hinges include, but are not limited to, metal pivotable connectors, such as those used to fasten a door to frame, and living hinges. Living hinges may be

constructed from plastic and formed integrally between two members. A living hinge permits pivotable movement of one member in relation to another connected member.

As used herein, the term "couple" includes, but is not limited to, joining, connecting, fastening, linking, or associating two things integrally or interstitially together.

These terms may be defined with additional language in the remaining portions of the specification.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In response to the difficulties and problems discussed above, a dispenser which is adapted to releasably couple to a conventional rolled product fixture is provided. The dispenser includes a housing having a compartment for holding sheets therein and the housing includes a dispensing opening therein. The housing is disposed at an oblique angle and positioned such that a first axis extends through a highest vertex and a lowest vertex of the housing. The housing is positioned such that a second axis extends through a depth dimension of the housing. The sheets dispense through the dispensing opening which is positioned between the first axis and the second axis, on a third axis.

In another aspect of the invention, a dispenser which is adapted to releasably couple to a conventional rolled product fixture is provided. The dispenser includes a housing having a compartment for holding sheets therein. The housing includes two spaced-apart and opposing sidewalls and at least a portion of a lower end. The housing also includes an upper end configured to releasably couple to a fixture. The housing is configured to have an opening into the compartment and has prong members positioned therein which are configured to releasably couple to a cartridge containing sheets which is positioned in the compartment.

In yet another aspect of the invention, a dispenser which is adapted to releasably couple to a conventional rolled product fixture is provided. The dispenser includes a housing which includes a compartment for holding sheets therein. The housing has a substantially parabolic cross-section. The housing includes a cover, and the housing and the cover each having an upper end which wraps about a substantial portion of a roll mount of a fixture to releasably couple it thereto. The upper end of the cover moves over the upper end of the housing to permit the cover to be opened to access the compartment. The housing is configured to hold a plurality of sheets having a

substantially polygonal configuration in the compartment. The housing includes a dispensing opening through which sheets are dispensed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of the dispenser of the present invention as it is releasably coupled to a conventional rolled product fixture attached to a vertical support surface, a cartridge of dry sheets illustrated by phantom lines;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of another embodiment of the dispenser of the present invention as it is releasably coupled to a conventional rolled product fixture, a cartridge containing dry sheets and a container of premoistened sheets illustrated by phantom lines;

Figure 3 is an exploded perspective view of the dispenser of Figure 1 releasably coupled to the fixture but being opened to show the compartment therein and the positioned in which the cartridge of dry sheets are to be disposed therein;

Figure 4 is a sectional view of Figure 1 taken along line 4-4, illustrating the position of the cartridge of dry sheets in the compartment;

Figure 5 is a sectional view of Figure 2 taken along line 5-5, illustrating the position of the cartridge including dry sheets and the container of premoistened sheets in the compartment;

Figure 6 is a perspective view of yet another embodiment of the dispenser of the present invention as it is releasably coupled to a conventional rolled product fixture attached to a vertical support surface, a cartridge of dry sheets illustrated by phantom lines;

Figure 7 is a perspective view of still yet another embodiment of the dispenser of the present invention as it is releasably coupled to a conventional rolled product fixture, a cartridge containing dry sheets and a container of premoistened sheets illustrated by phantom lines;

Figure 8 is a perspective view of the cartridge of dry sheets shown in phantom lines in Figure 6;

Figure 9 is a perspective view of the cartridge containing dry sheets and a container or premoistened sheets illustrated in phantom lines in Figure 7;

Figure 10 is an exploded perspective view of the dispenser of Figure 6, showing the open compartment and the positioned in which the cartridge of dry sheets are to be disposed therein;

Figure 11 is a sectional view of Figure 6 taken along line 11-11, illustrating the position of the cartridge of dry sheets in the compartment;

Figure 12 is a sectional view of Figure 7 taken along line 12-12, illustrating the position of the cartridge including dry sheets and the container of premoistened sheets in the compartment;

Figure 13 is a further embodiment of the dispenser of the present invention as it is releasably coupled to a conventional rolled product fixture attached to a vertical support surface, a cartridge of dry sheets illustrated by phantom lines;

Figure 14 is yet a further embodiment of the present invention as it is releasably coupled to a conventional rolled product fixture, a cartridge containing dry sheets and a container of premoistened sheets illustrated by phantom lines;

Figure 15 is an exploded perspective view of the dispenser of Figure 13, showing the open compartment and the positioned in which the cartridge of dry sheets are to be disposed therein;

Figure 16 is a sectional view of Figure 13 taken along line 16-16, illustrating the position of the cartridge of dry sheets in the compartment; and

Figure 17 is a sectional view of Figure 14 taken along line 17-17, illustrating the position of the cartridge including dry sheets and the container of premoistened sheets in the compartment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Reference will now be made in detail to one or more embodiments of the invention, examples of which are illustrated in the drawings. Each example and embodiment is provided by way of explanation of the invention, and is not meant as a limitation of the invention. For example, features illustrated or described as part of one embodiment may be used with another embodiment to yield still a further embodiment. It is intended that the invention include these and other modifications and variations as coming within the scope and spirit of the invention.

Referring to the Figures 1-17 in general, a dispenser is provided for storing and dispensing sheets. It should be appreciated that the present invention is not limited to any particular type of sheets. The dispenser, however, is well suited for dispensing individual stacked interfolded sheets, as generally illustrated in the figures. Non-limiting examples of dry sheets are disclosed in U.S. Pat No. 3,301,746 to Sanford et al., U.S. Pat. No. 3,322,617 to Osborne, U.S. Pat. No. 5,048,589 to Cook et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,399,412 to Sudall et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,607,551 to Farrington et al., and U.S. Pat. No. 5,672,248 to Wendt et al., all of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety. Non-limiting examples of premoistened sheets are disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,741,944 and 4,865,221, both to Jackson et. al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,629,081 to Richards et al., U.S. Pat.

No. 5,656,361 to Vogt et al., and U.S. Pat. No. 5,964,351 to Zander, all of which are incorporated by reference in there entirety herein. Such stacked, interfolded, and/or festooned configurations for dry sheets, such as toilet tissue sheets and/or premoistened sheets are well known to those of ordinary skill in the art and need not be described in great detail herein.

The dispenser shown in Figures 1, 3, and 4 discloses a dispenser which releasably couples to a conventional rolled product fixture and extends diagonally therefrom to provide dry sheets for bath or toilet tissue. The dispenser shown in Figures 2 and 5 is similar to the previous dispenser, but dispenses premoistened sheets as well as dry sheets therefrom.

Turning now to Figures 1, 3 and 4, a dispenser **10** according to the invention is provided for dispensing dry sheets **12**. The dispenser **10** includes a housing **14** which has a cover **16**. When the cover **16** is closed, the housing **14** and cover **14** cooperate to provide a compartment **18** from which dry sheets **12** may be positioned for dispensing therefrom. As illustrated in Figures 1, 3 and 4, the dispenser **10** is suspended from a roll mount **20** of a conventional rolled product fixture **22**.

As illustrated in Figures 1 and 4, the housing **14**, when in a closed, dispensing position includes front and back upper walls **24**, **26**, a portion of each connect at a junction and extend over the roll mount **20** to provide an upper vertex or upper corner **28** of the housing **14**. The front and back upper walls **24**, **26** are positioned relative to each other at an acute angle. The acute angle between the front and back upper walls **24**, **26** is desirably between about 25 to about 50 degrees. Similarly, the housing **14** also includes front and back lower walls **30**, **32** which connect at a junction to provide a lower vertex or lower corner **34** of the two lower walls **30**, **32**, respectively. The front and back lower walls **30**, **32** form angles of about 80 to about 100 degrees relative to each other. That is, the front and back lower walls **30**, **32** are desirably about perpendicular to each other. A front lateral corner **36** is provided at the junction of the front upper and front lower walls **24**, **36**. A back lateral corner **38** is provided at the junction of the back upper and back lower walls **26**, **32**. An obtuse angle of desirably between about 100 to about 150 degrees is formed at the junction of each upper wall to each lower wall. Spaced-apart side walls **40** are coupled to front and back upper and lower walls **30**, **32**. All walls **24**, **26**, **30**, **32** and **40** cooperate to provide both the housing **14** and the cover **16**.

Each side wall **40** may be separated in two separate front and back sections **42**, **44**, each of which extends from an opening **46** adjacent the upper corner 28 in each side wall **40**. In addition, the front and back sections **42**, **44** may cooperate to provide an aperture

48 which reveals the amount of dry sheets 12 remaining in the compartment 18. This aperture 48 provides an indication of whether there are sufficient dry sheets 12 remaining in the compartment 18, or whether a refill may be needed. Alternatively, the aperture may be formed in any portion of the dispenser 10 (not shown).

Further, the front lower wall 30 may be separated into upper and lower portions 50, 52. The upper portion 50 is desirably formed with each front section 42 of each side wall 40, while the lower portion 52 is formed with each back section 44 of each side wall 40. In this manner, these separated structures cooperate to provide an opening 54 into the housing 14 and cooperate to provide the cover 16 for the housing 14. The cover 16 provides access to the compartment 18 for disposing dry sheets 12 therein, as well as a closure for the housing 14, so that the dry sheets 12 may be dispensed therefrom. It will be appreciated that the housing 14 and the cover 16 may be connected together by hinges, such as living hinges, latches, fasteners, and so forth.

A dispensing opening 56 is desirably provided in a front lower wall 30 at the junction of the upper and lower portions 50, 52 of the front lower wall 30 to permit dispensing of the dry sheets 12 disposed in the housing 14. However, the dispensing opening 56 and any dispensing opening shown and/or described herein may be provided in any wall, portion of wall(s) any corner and/or any combination of thereof (not shown) of the housing 14 in any embodiment described and/or illustrated herein, however, to dispense any sheet shown and/or described herein. It will be appreciated that the dispensing opening 56 and any dispensing opening shown and/or described herein may assume any suitable shape or configuration.

Referring to Figure 1, at least the upper corner 28 of the housing 14 has a configuration with a width dimension 60 which extends between opposing side walls 40 which is less than the width dimension 62 between the support arms 64 provided by a conventional rolled fixture 22. The various dimensions of the housing 14 are desirably configured such that the dispenser 10 may be coupled to and supported by the conventional roll product fixture 22. Such fixtures are well known and a typical fixture is illustrated in Figures 1, 3 and 4. Desirably, the housing 14 also has a length dimension 66 which extends between upper and lower corners 28, 34. A first axis 67 extends through the upper and lower corners (vertices) 28, 34. A depth dimension 68 extends between the front and back lateral corners 36, 38. A second axis 69 extends through the front and back lateral corners 36, 38 as well.

Such a fixture 22 has at least a side support arms 64 mounted to and extending transversely from a generally vertically disposed support surface 70. Alternatively, the

support arms **64** are coupled to a base or back member (not shown). As shown in Figure 1, each of the side support arms **64** extend from a coupled end **74** to a free end **76** of the support arm **64**, which often has a recess (not shown). Typically, a roll mount **20** extends across the width dimension **62** of the support arms **64** to releasably couple to the support arms **64**, as shown in Figure 3. The roll mount **20** typically includes a protruding member on each end (not shown). The protruding member is desirably releasably positioned in the recess (not shown) to couple the roll mount **20** to the support arms **64**. The roll mount **20** in the present embodiment, for example, is a conventional spindle.

The roll mount **20** is positioned through the openings **46** in the sidewalls **40** provided near the upper corner **38** of the housing **14**, so that the dispenser **10** may be releasably coupled to the roll mount **20** and the fixture **22**. As used herein, the term "roll mount" includes a spindle, and also includes a pair of prongs mounted on each support arm in a confronting relationship, such that may be used with a coreless bath tissue roll, such as, by way of example and not limitation, the one illustrated and described in detail in U.S. Pat. No. 5,620,148 to J. Mitchell, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety herein.

In the embodiments illustrated herein, the width dimension **60** of the housing **14** permits at least a portion of the housing **14** to be positioned between the support arms **64** when the portion is coupled to the roll mount **20**. The width dimension between the support arms **64** is typically in a range of about 6.0 inches to about 4.0 inches.

The housing **14** desirably, as noted previously, has a width dimension **60** that permits it to fit between the support arms **64** of the fixture **22**. The width dimension **60** of the housing **14**, at least the portion of the housing **14** positioned between the support arms **64**, is desirably in a range of about 5.5 inches to about 4.7 inches. Even more desirably, the width dimension **60** is in a range of about 5.25 inches to about 4.6 inches. Yet even more desirably, the width dimension **60** is in a range of about 5.25 inches to about 4.5 inches.

The housing **14** or any housing shown and/or described herein may be formed from any conventional material. The housing may be formed from a relatively inexpensive material as well. In addition, the housing may be refillable; alternatively, the housing may be non-refillable, and may be disposed of when the last sheet is withdrawn. Materials for the housing **14** include, but not by way of limitation, metal, plastic, wood, fabric, fiber, paper, paperboard, cardboard, polymer film, cellophane, any combination thereof, and so forth. The housing **14** and any housing shown and/or described herein may be provided

in any shape or configuration, and the present embodiment is provided as a non-limiting example thereof.

The dispenser **10** may be opened when the cover **16** is moved away from the housing **14**, as illustrated in Figure 3, so that the dry sheets **12** may be positioned in the compartment **18**. Such dry sheets **12** are desirably provided as, by way of non-limiting example, a plurality of sheets, as illustrated in Figures 3 and 4. Such a plurality of dry sheets **12** may be provided as an unbound group or stack of sheets. Desirably, the dry sheets **12** are provided in a cartridge **77** of dry sheets **12**. Such a cartridge **77** may be provided by a band holding the plurality of sheets 12 together (not shown). Such a cartridge **77** may also be formed about the dry sheets **12** to provide upper and lower surfaces **78**, **79**, as well as front and back walls **80**, **81**. Optionally, the cartridge **77** may provide side walls (not shown). Such a cartridge **77** is provided so that an amount of dry sheets **12** that reasonably fills the compartment **18** is provided in a single group and held by the cartridge **77.**

An opening **84** is provided in at least one surface or wall of the cartridge **77**, in the present embodiment, the lower surface **79** of the cartridge **77**, to permit dispensing of the dry sheets **12**. It will be understood that the opening **84** may be provided in any wall, surface and/or structure of the cartridge **77**; it will be appreciated that the opening **84** may assume any shape or configuration. The opening **84** may be covered, for example, but not by way of limitation, by a plastic film **86** which has a slit **88** therein, as illustrated in Figure 3, and so forth. The opening **84** may be formed from perforated portions that, when removed, provide the opening (not shown), and so forth.

The cartridge **77** or any cartridge shown and/or described herein may be formed from any material, such as, by way of non-limiting example, paper, paperboard, plastic, polymer film, cellophane, and any combination(s) of the foregoing. While the dispenser **10** is designed to be filled by at least one cartridge **77**, it will be appreciated that the cartridge **77** may desirably be non-refillable and is therefore desirably disposable of when the last dry sheet **12** is withdrawn therefrom.

The cartridge **77** is positioned in the compartment **18** such that the opening **84** of the cartridge **77** in the lower surface **79** thereof is positioned adjacent the front lower wall **30** of the housing **14** and in alignment with the dispensing opening **56** therein, to permit dispensing of dry sheets **12** from both the cartridge **77** and the dispenser **10**. The cartridge **77** is desirably positioned at an oblique angle relative generally to the vertical support surface, as illustrated in Figure 4. However, the front wall **80** and upper surface **78** adjacent to the upper corner **28** of the housing **14** and the lower surface **79** and the

back wall **81** adjacent to the lower corner **34** of the housing **14** each may desirably be provided at about a 90 degree angle relative to each other. Similarly, the front wall **80** and the lower surface **79** adjacent to the front lateral corner **36** of the cartridge **77** and the upper surface **78** and the back wall **81** have adjacent to the back lateral corner **38** of the cartridge **77** may also desirably be provided at about a 90 degree angle relative to each other. The upper corner **28** of the housing **14** and the upper corner **90** of the cartridge **77** and lower corner **34** of the housing **14** and a lower corner **92** of the cartridge **77** may desirably be in an alignment along the first axis **67**. The front lateral corner **36** of the housing **14** and a front lateral corner **94** of the cartridge **77** may be in alignment with the back lateral corner **38** of the housing **14** and a back lateral corner **96** of the cartridge **77** along a second axis **69**. The first axis **67** and second axis **69** desirably may be, but not by way of limitation, oriented perpendicularly relative to each other. Desirably, but not by way of limitation, the cartridge **77** has a substantially polygonal configuration. The dry sheets **12** dispense in alignment with a third axis **97** which intersects and is positioned at an acute angle relative to the first axis **67** and the second axis **69**.

The housing **14** is provided such that the back lateral corner **38** is adjacent the vertical support surface **70**. All corners, that is the upper and lower corners **28**, **34** and the front and back lateral corners **36**, **38** are rounded to prevent any damage to the vertical support surface **70** and to provide safe surfaces for user safety.

In another embodiment of the invention, as illustrated in Figures 2 and 5, the dispenser **110** and housing **114** are very similar to the dispenser **10** and the housing **12** shown in Figures 1, 3 and 4, and previously described in detail herein. The dispenser **110**, however, is adapted to provide premoistened sheets **113** as well as dry sheets **12** in a single housing **114**. The compartment **118** contains a cartridge **177** of dry sheets **12** which also includes, by way of example and not limitation, a container **121** of premoistened sheets **113** as well. The container **121** of premoistened sheets **113**, as illustrated in Figure 5, may be formed as a part of the cartridge **177**. Alternatively, however, the container **121** of premoistened sheets **113** may be provided separately, without having any attachment to the cartridge of dry sheets (not shown), or it may be provided as a separate container which is coupled to the cartridge (not shown). The premoistened sheets **113** are dispensed from the container **121** within the cartridge **177** from openings (not shown) in the container **121** and cartridge **177** and through a first dispensing opening **155** in the housing **114**. The dry sheets **12** are dispensed from another opening in the cartridge **177** and through a second dispensing opening **156** in the housing, as shown in Figure 5.

The first dispensing opening **155** desirably is provided, by way of non-limiting example in an upper front wall **124**. The portion of the cartridge**177** having the container **121** of premoistened sheets **113** is exposed through the first dispensing opening **155**, which provides access thereto. The container **121** also includes an opening (not shown) which permits access to the premoistened sheets **113**.

As illustrated in Figures 2 and 5, the compartment **118** or any compartment shown and/or described herein may be an integral unit such that it contains a cartridge **177** having both the container **121** of premoistened sheets **113** and the group of dry sheets **12**, or, as previously described, one cartridge of dry sheets and a separate container of premoistened sheets (coupled to or uncoupled from the cartridge). However, alternatively, the housing **114** or any housing shown and/or described herein may include first and second compartments formed separately such that one compartment holds a container of dry sheets and another compartment holds premoistened sheets (not shown). Such compartments may be delineated by separate cartridges or containers, or, by way of non-limiting example, the housing may have at least a portion of an inner wall (not shown) in which to provide first and second compartments (not shown).

The premoistened sheets **113** may be encased in a liquid impermeable film, and this film may provide a portion, or all, of the container **121** as shown in Figure 5. In a further example, the container **121** may be formed from at least one other material, and the container **121** may be lined with the film (not shown).

As shown in Figure 2, a resealable cover **160** may be positioned over an opening in the cartridge **177** to the container **121** of premoistened sheet **113**. The resealable cover **160** is then accessed through the first dispensing opening **155** in the housing **114**, which is aligned over the resealable cover **160** (Figure 5), to permit dispensing of the premoistened sheets **113** disposed in the container **121** and the cartridge **177**. Alternatively, or, in addition thereto, the housing **114** may also include a resealable cover which is positioned over the first dispensing opening on the housing to permit access to the premoistened sheets as well (not shown).

The resealable cover **160** is used to maintain the moisture conditions within the container **121** and to prevent undesired drying out of the premoistened sheets **113**. In a non-limiting example of one possible resealable cover **160**, Figures 2 and 5 discloses a resealabe cover **160** which includes an upper flap **162** (Figure 5) which is coupled to a portion of a lower flap **164**, which has a slit or opening therein (not shown), through which the premoistened sheets **113** are withdrawn. The resealable cover **160** in this embodiment is positioned over the opening in the cartridge **177** and container **121**. The

upper flap **162** releasably engages the lower flap **164** to provide a releasable closure to the cartridge **177** and the container **121**. Such releasable and resealable features between the upper and lower flaps **162, 164** is provided, by way of non-limiting example, by an adhesive, such as a pressure sensitive adhesive, a cohesive adhesive, such as a latex or other natural rubber material, and so forth. Other resealable mechanisms, such as, by way of non-limiting example, snap-fit, hinged cover and lid, and so forth are known in the art may be used; any resealable mechanism known in the art may be used with the housing and/or over the openings to the cartridge and/or the container.

The premoistened sheets **113** dispense at an acute angle relative to the first axis **67** and the second axis **69**. The premoistened sheets **113** dispense along a fourth axis **198** which may be about perpendicular to the third axis **97**. The fourth axis intersects the first axis **67**, the second axis **69** and the third axis **198**.

It will be understood that the position of the premoistened sheets **113** and dry sheets **12** within the housing **114** or any housing shown and/or described herein may be reversed, and they need not be in a specific configuration, and may take on any suitable arrangement, including a stacked arrangement, a side-by-side arrangement, a coaxial arrangement, and so forth. Any number of configurations may be used for simultaneously dispensing dry sheets **12** and premoistened sheets **113** from a single housing **114**. All such configurations are within the scope and spirit all embodiments of the present invention shown and/or described herein. In addition, any housing shown and/or described herein may use or incorporate any feature, element and/or characteristic shown and/or described herein.

Another embodiment of the present invention is illustrated in Figures 6, 8, 10 and 11. The dispenser discloses a housing which releasably couples to a conventional rolled product fixture. The housing acts as a shield and a holder for a cartridge of dry sheets for use as toilet tissue. The dispenser disclosed in Figures 7 and 12 (and the cartridge in Figure 9) are similar, but the dispenser is configured to dispense premoistened sheets as well as dry sheets.

Turning to Figures 6, 8, 10 and 11, a dispenser **210** according to another aspect of the invention is provided for dispensing dry sheets **12**. The dispenser **210** includes a housing **214** which may be open on one side thereof for receiving the dry sheets **12** in a compartment 218 formed in the housing**12**. Desirably, the dry sheets **12** are provided in a cartridge **277**. The dispenser **210** is suspended from a roll mount **20** of a conventional rolled product fixture **22** having support arms **64**.

The housing **214** has an upper end **223** and a curved front wall **224** which are curved along an obtuse angle relative to each other. The angle is desirably between about 91 and about 175 degrees. Even more desirably, the angle is between about 95 and about 150 degrees. Even more desirably, the angle is between about 95 and about 145 degrees. Two spaced-apart sidewalls **240** are provided with the curved front wall **224**. Each sidewall **240** has at least one opening **246** provided therein for a roll mount **20** to extend therethrough. A second opening **246** may also be provided, in each sidewall **240** to accommodate different lengths of support arms **64** of the fixture **22**.

The front wall **224** includes the upper end **223** having a narrow dimension **258** sized to fit between two support arms **64** of a conventional rolled product fixture **22**. The front wall **224** tapers outward from the upper end **223** to a wider dimension **228** at a lower end **230**. Similarly, each sidewall **240** follows the tapered dimension of the front wall **224**. Each sidewall **240** may desirably be curved along an outer edge **239**.

The compartment **218** (Figure 10), which is configured to support a cartridge **277**, may have one or a plurality of support ribs (only one support rib designated by the numeral **250**) to assist in holding the cartridge **277** of dry sheets **12** in a dispensing position. The housing **214** as illustrated, but not by way of limitation, may be provided without a back wall. Further, the housing **214** may also include as a lower end **252** at least a portion of a shelf **254** which provides the portion of a lower end **252** and supports the cartridge **277** of dry sheets **12** thereon. Alternatively, the housing **214** may have a complete lower end which may have one or more openings therein (not shown). The housing **214** may also include, but not by way of limitation, at least one, and desirably a pair of connecting members or prongs **256** which permit the cartridge **277** to be releasably coupled to the housing **214**. The prongs **256** may be L-shaped, however, the prongs **256** may assume any configuration so long as they operate in the manner shown and/or described herein.

Referring to Figure 6, at least the upper end **223** of the housing **214** has a configuration which has a width dimension **258** which extends between opposing sidewalls **240** which is less than the width dimension **60** (Figure 1) of the support arms **64** provided with the conventional rolled product **22**. The width dimension **258** of the upper end **223** maybe less than the width dimension **228** of the lower end **230** of the front wall **224**. The various dimensions of the housing **214** are desirably configured such that the dispenser **210** may be coupled to and supported by the fixture **22**, as illustrated in Figures 6 and 11. Desirably, the housing **214** also has a length dimension **260** (Figure 11) which

extends from the upper end **223** of the housing **214** to a lower end **252**, and a depth dimension **262** which extends between the front and back of each sidewall **240**.

The width dimension **258** of the housing **214**, at least the portion of the housing positioned between the support arms **64**, is desirably in a range of about 5.5 inches to about 4.7 inches. Even more desirably, the dimension **258** is in a range of about 5.25 inches to about 4.6 inches. Yet even more desirably, the dimension **258** is in a range of about 5.25 inches to about 4.5 inches.

The housing **214** and the cartridge **277** may be formed from any material or combination of materials previously described herein. The housing **214** and the cartridge **277** may be provided in any shape or configuration, and the present embodiment is provided as a non-limiting example thereof. The housing **214** and the cartridge **277** may include any characteristic or feature shown and/or described herein.

The dispenser **210** is removed from the roll mount **20** and turned to illustrate its compartment **218**, as shown in Figure 10. Desirably, the dry sheets **12** are provided in a cartridge **277** of dry sheets **12** shown in Figure 8 that is similar to the cartridge **77** and cartridge **177** previously illustrated and described in detail herein. Such a cartridge **277** is formed about the dry sheets **12** and may include upper and lower surfaces **276**, **278**, and front and back walls **280**, **282**. The cartridge **277** may also includes spaced apart side walls **283**, and apertures **284** therein which show a user the amount of dry sheets **12** remaining in the cartridge **277**.

A dispensing opening **285** is provided in at least one structure of the cartridge **277**, in the present embodiment, the lower surface **278** of the cartridge **277**, to permit dispensing of the dry sheets **12**. It will be understood that the opening **285** may be provided in any structure or combinations of structures in the cartridge **277**.

The cartridge **277** is positioned in the compartment **218** such that the dispensing opening **285** of the cartridge **277** in the lower surface **278** thereof is positioned adjacent the shelf **254** which provides at least a portion of a lower end **238** of the housing **214**. The shelf **254** along with the ribs **250** support the cartridge **277** in a position for dispensing dry sheets **12** therefrom while the cartridge **277** is positioned in the housing **214**. The cartridge **277** as shown in Figure 11, specifically the back wall 282 thereof, is desirably positioned generally parallel to the vertical support surface **70**, as illustrated in Figure 11. The upper surface 276 is desirably positioned perpendicular to the vertical support surface 70. Desirably, but not by way of limitation, the cartridge **277** has a substantially polygonal configuration.

The cartridge **277** is desirably constructed from a resilient material and may include at least one opening **286** positioned in each sidewall **283**. When the cartridge **277** is inserted into the compartment **218**, as shown in Figures 6 and 10 , the prongs **256** move along an outer surface of the cartridge **277** and the resilient material is pushed inward slightly until the prongs **256** engage and are pushed into the openings **286** to hold the cartridge **277** firmly buy releasably in the compartment **218** of the housing **214**. When the cartridge **277** is empty, the resilient material of the cartridge **277** is squeezed slightly by a user until each prong **256** emerges from the opening **286**, and the cartridge **277** is then withdrawn from the compartment **218**.

The housing **214** may be provided such that a back outer edge **239** of each sidewall **240** is curved, to permit a portion of the cartridge **277** to be seen by a user. Desirably, the portion of the cartridge **277** provides at least one aperture **284** which permits a user to see the amount of dry sheets **12** remaining in the cartridge **277**. In addition, the housing **214** of the dispenser **210** desirably includes rounded corners for user safety.

In another embodiment of the invention, as illustrated in Figures 7, 9 and 12, the dispenser **310** and housing **314** are very similar to the dispenser **210** and the housing **214** shown in Figures 6, 8, 10 and 11, and previously described in detail herein. The dispenser **310**, however, is adapted to provide premoistened sheets **113** as well as dry sheets **12** in a single housing **314**. A compartment **318** may contain a cartridge **377** of dry sheets **12** which also includes a container **321** of premoistened sheets **113** as well. The container **321** of premoistened sheets **113**, as illustrated in Figure 12, may be formed as a part of the cartridge **377**. Alternatively, however, the container **321** of premoistened sheets **113** may be provided separately, without having any attachment to the cartridge **377** of dry sheets **12** (not shown), or it may be provided as a separate container which is coupled to the cartridge (not shown). The premoistened sheets **12** are dispensed from the container **321** within the cartridge **377** from openings (not shown) in the container **321** and cartridge **377** and through a first dispensing opening **355** in the housing **314**. The dry sheets **12** are dispensed from another opening **385** in the cartridge **314** (not shown). It will be appreciated that the housing **314** may have any number of openings to permit dispensing of dry sheets **12** and/or premoistened sheets **113** therefrom. Such openings may be provided in any structure of combination of structures, and may be any configuration.

The first dispensing opening **355** desirably is provided, by way of non-limiting example, in the front wall **324**. The portion of the cartridge **377** having the container **321**

of premoistened sheets **113** is exposed through the first dispensing opening **355**, which provides access thereto.

As shown in Figure 7, a resealable cover **160** may be positioned over the opening in the cartridge **314** and the container **321** of premoistened sheets **113**. The resealable cover **160** and the premoistened sheets **113** are then accessed through the first dispensing opening **355** in the housing **314**. The resealable cover **160** is aligned over the first dispensing opening **355** to permit dispensing of the premoistened sheets **113** disposed in the cartridge **377** and the container **321**. Alternatively, or, in addition thereto, the housing **314** may also include a resealable cover (not shown) which is positioned over the first dispensing opening **355** to permit access to the premoistened sheets **113** as well. The resealable cover **160** and its features, elements and characteristics has been shown and described herein in detail.

The dispenser **314** includes prongs **256**. Similarly, the cartridge **377** includes openings **386** similar to openings **286**, to permit the cartridge **377** to be releasably coupled to the housing **314**. The cartridge **377** releasably couples to the housing **314** in the same manner previously shown and/or described herein. The dispenser **314** and the cartridge **377** may include any feature or characteristic of any dispenser or cartridge shown and/or described herein.

In yet another embodiment of the invention, as illustrated in Figures 13, 15 and 16, the dispenser discloses a housing which releasably couples to a conventional rolled product fixture and extends therefrom to provide dry sheets desirably contained in a cartridge for use as toilet tissue. The dispenser shown in Figures 14 and 17 is similar, but it is configured to dispense premoistened sheets as well as dry sheets.

Turning to Figure 13, 15 and 16, a dispenser **410** according to the invention is provided for dispensing dry sheets **12**. The dispenser **410** is similar to the dispenser **10** shown in Figures 1, 3 and 4 and described in detail previously. The dispenser includes a housing **414** which has a cover **416**. When the cover **416** is positioned adjacent to the housing **414** in a closed dispensing position (Figure 13), the housing **414** and cover **416** cooperate to provide a compartment **418** from which dry sheets **12** may be dispensing. As illustrated in Figures 13 and 16, the dispenser **410** is suspended from a roll mount **20** of a conventional rolled product fixture **22**.

The housing **414** includes a front wall **424** having an upper end **427** which extends over adjacent at least a portion of the roll mount **20** to connect the housing **414** to the roll mount **20**. Two side walls **440** are provided adjacent to the front wall **424** in a spaced-apart configuration. The at least a portion of the sidewalls **440** and a portion of the cross-

section of the housing **414**, as shown in Figure 16, have generally a tear-drop or parabolic configuration. A back wall **430** is also provided adjacent to the sidewalls **440**, and includes an upper end **431** which includes a pair of flanges **432.** The upper end **431** extends over the roll mount **20**. The upper end **427** of the cover **416** includes tracks **433** which are formed to movably mate with the flanges **432** to permit the upper end **427** and the cover **416** to rotate over the flanges **432** to permit the housing **414** to be opened. The upper ends **427**, **431** of the front and back walls **424**, **430** hook over the roll mount **20**. The dispenser **410** may alternatively provide openings in the sidewalls (not shown), as shown and described herein in previous embodiments. A lower end **434** cooperates with the sidewalls **440** and the front and back walls **424**, **430** to provide a closure to the housing **414**. A dispensing opening **456** is provided in the lower end **434**. It will be appreciated that the dispensing opening may be provided in any wall, structure and/or any combination of thereof (not shown) of the housing in any embodiment described and/or illustrated herein, however, to dispense any sheet shown and/or described herein. It will be appreciated that the dispensing opening may take on any suitable shape or configuration.

Each side wall **440** may be provided in two separate front and back sections **442**, **444** (Figure 13). Similarly, the lower end **434** of the housing **414** is provided in a front and back section **486, 487**. A latch assembly (Figures 15 and 16) is provided to permit closure to the housing **414**. The front section **486** of the lower end **434** includes a lip **458** which, in the closed position, abuts a flange **460** on the back section **487** of the lower end **434.** The lip **458** is releasably positioned over a ridge **462** provided on the outer surface **464** of the front section **486** of the lower end **434** of the housing **414**.

The front wall **424** and the front portion **442** of each sidewall **440** cooperates to provide the cover **416** for the dispenser **410**. The cover **416** cooperates with the housing **414** to provide an opening into the compartment **418** in position for disposing dry sheets **12** therein as well as a closure to the housing **414** for dispensing dry sheets **12** therefrom. It will be appreciated that the housing **414** and cover **416** may be connected by one or more hinges, such as living hinges, fasteners, latches, and so forth, to permit access and closure to the compartment **418**. In the present embodiment, the upper end **427** of the front wall **424** of the cover **416** is positioned to slide over an adjacent upper end **431** of the back wall **430** of the housing **414** when the cover **416** is lifted to access the compartment **418**, as illustrated in Figure 15. To close the cover **416**, the upper end **428** of the cover **416** is moved back into its dispensing position and it is latched closed (Figure 16).

Referring to Figure 13, at least the upper end **427** housing **414** has a configuration with a width dimension **472** which extends between opposing side walls **440** which is less than the width dimension **62** of the support arms **64** (Figure 1) provided with a conventional rolled product fixture **22**. The various dimensions of the housing **414** are desirably configured such that the dispenser **410** may be coupled to and supported by the fixture **22**. The fixture **22**, roll mount **20**, support arms **64**, and structures and elements thereof have been shown and described in detail herein.

The width dimension **472** of the housing **414** is desirably in a range of about 5.5 inches to about 4.7 inches. Even more desirably, the width dimension **472** is in a range of about 5.25 inches to about 4.6 inches. Yet even more desirably, the width dimension **472** is in a range of about 5.25 inches to about 4.5 inches.

The dispenser **410** is opened when the cover **416** is moved away from the housing **414**, as illustrated in Figure 15, so that the dry sheets **12** may be positioned in the compartment **418**. Dry sheets **12** may be provided as an unbound stack or dry sheets **12** (not shown). Desirably, the dry sheets **12** are desirably provided in a cartridge **477** of dry sheets **12**. Such a cartridge **477** is formed to include upper and lower surfaces **476**, **478**, as well as front and back walls **480**, **482**. The cartridge **477** may provide side walls **483** as well. Any cartridge shown and/or described herein may be utilized.

An opening **484** may be provided in at least one surface or wall of the cartridge **477**, such as in a lower surface **478** of the cartridge **477**. The opening **484** in the cartridge desirably is positioned to be aligned with the dispensing opening **456** in the housing **414** to permit dispensing of the dry sheets **12** from the cartridge **477**. It will be understood that the opening **484** may be provided in any structure or combinations of structures; it will be appreciated that the opening may assume any shape or configuration.

The cartridge **477** or an unbound stack of sheets (not shown) is desirably positioned generally parallel relative to the adjacent vertical support surface **70** as illustrated in Figure 16. In addition, the upper and/or lower surfaces **476**, **478** of the cartridge **477** is positioned perpendicular relative to the adjacent vertical support surface **70**. Desirably, but not by way of limitation, the cartridge **477** may have a substantially polygonal configuration.

The housing **414** is provided such that corners are rounded. Such structure is provided for user safety.

An aperture which reveals the amount of tissue in the compartment may be provided near the lower end of the housing **414** (not shown). Such an aperture provides an indication of whether there is sufficient tissue in the compartment, or whether a refill

may be needed. Alternatively, at least a portion of the housing may be clear or tinted to show the amount of sheets remaining in the compartment (not shown).

The housing **414** and cartridge **477** may be formed from any material shown and/or described herein. The housing **414** and the cartridge **477** may have any feature or characteristic shown and/or described herein. The housing **414** and cartridge **477** may be provided in any shape or configuration, and the present embodiment is provided as a non-limiting example thereof.

In another embodiment of the invention, as illustrated in Figures 14 and 17, the dispenser **510** and housing **514** are very similar to the dispenser **10**, **410** and the housing **14**, **414** shown in Figures 2, 5, 13, 15, and 16 and previously described in detail herein. The dispenser **510**, however, is adapted to dispense premoistened sheets **113** as well as dry sheets **12** from a single housing **514**. The compartment **518** contains a cartridge **577** of dry sheets **12** which also includes, by way of non-limiting example, a container **521** of premoistened sheets **113** as well. The container **521** of premoistened sheets **113**, as illustrated in Figures **17**, may be formed as a part of the cartridge **577**. Alternatively, however, the container **521** of premoistened sheets **113** may be provided separately, without having any attachment to the cartridge **577** (not shown), or it may be provided as a separate container which is coupled to the cartridge (not shown). The premoistened sheets **113** are dispensed from the container **521** within the cartridge **577** through openings in the container **521** and cartridge **577** (not shown) and through a first dispensing opening **555** in the housing **514**. The dry sheets **12** are dispensed from an opening **584** in the cartridge **577** and through a second dispensing opening **556** in the housing **514**, as shown in Figure 17.

The first dispensing opening **555** desirably is provided in the housing **514**, by way of non-limiting example, in the front wall **524**. The portion of the cartridge **577** having the container **521**of premoistened sheets **113** is exposed through the first dispensing opening **555** of the housing **514**, which provides access thereto.

As shown in Figures 14 and 17, a resealable cover **160** may be positioned over the opening in the cartridge **577** and the container **521** of premoistened sheets **113**. The resealable cover **160** is positioned in alignment with the first dispensing opening **555** in the housing **514** to permit dispensing of the premoistened sheets **12** disposed in the cartridge **577** and container **521**. Alternatively, or, in addition thereto, the housing **514** may also include a resealable cover **160** which is positioned over the first dispensing opening **555** on a surface of the housing **514** to permit access to the premoistened sheets

113 as well (not shown). The elements, features, and characteristics of the resealable cover **160** have been described previously herein.

The premoistened sheets **113** and the container **521** may include any feature and/or characteristic shown and/or described herein. The container may be formed from any material shown and/or described herein.

The cartridge **577** or an unbound stack of sheets (not shown) is desirably positioned generally parallel relative to the adjacent vertical support surface **70** as illustrated generally by dispenser **410** and cartridge **477** in Figure 16. In addition, the upper and/or lower surfaces of the cartridge **577** is positioned perpendicular relative to the adjacent vertical support surface **70**. Desirably, but not by way of limitation, the cartridge **577** may have a substantially polygonal configuration.

The housing **514** and cartridge **577** may be formed from any material shown and/or described herein. The housing **514** and the cartridge **577** may have any feature or characteristic shown and/or described herein. The housing **514** and cartridge **577** may be provided in any shape or configuration, and the present embodiment is provided as a non-limiting example thereof.

While the present invention has been described in connection with certain preferred embodiments, it is to be understood that the subject matter encompassed by way of the present invention is not to be limited to those specific embodiments. On the contrary, it is intended for the subject matter of the invention to include all alternatives, modifications and equivalents as can be included within the spirit and scope of the following claims.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A dispenser adapted to releasably couple to a conventional rolled product fixture, the dispenser comprising :

a housing having a compartment for holding sheets therein and including a dispensing opening, the housing disposed at an oblique angle and positioned such that a first axis extends substantially vertically through a highest vertex and a lowest vertex of the housing, the housing positioned such that a second axis extends substantially horizontally through a depth dimension of the housing, the sheets dispensed through the dispensing opening on a third axis which is positioned between the first axis and the second axis.

2. A dispenser adapted to releasably couple to a conventional rolled product fixture, the dispenser comprising:

a housing which is configured to be disposed diagonally relative to a fixture, the housing having at least two upper walls positioned at an acute angle relative to each other, the housing having at least two lower walls, a portion of each lower wall positioned against a portion of each upper wall, an obtuse angle formed at a junction of each upper and lower wall, the housing providing a compartment configured to hold sheets therein, the housing having at least one dispensing opening through which sheets are dispensed.

3. A dispenser assembly wherein a dispenser is adapted to releasably couple to a conventional rolled product fixture, the dispenser assembly comprising:

dispenser having a housing which is configured to be disposed diagonally relative to a fixture, the housing having at least two upper walls positioned at an acute angle relative to each other, the housing having at least two lower walls, a portion of each lower wall positioned against a portion of each upper wall, an obtuse angle formed at a junction of each upper and lower wall, the housing providing a compartment configured to hold sheets therein, the housing having at least one dispensing opening through which sheets are dispensed; and

a cartridge configured to be positioned in the compartment, the cartridge having a plurality of sheets therein, the cartridge having a dispensing opening from which sheets dispense which is aligned with the dispensing opening of the housing when the cartridge is positioned in the compartment.

4. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the upper walls include a portion which provides a portion of the highest vertex, the upper walls configured at an acute angle relative to each other.

5. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein the acute angle of the upper walls is in a range of about 25 degrees to about 50 degrees.

6. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein the lower walls are positioned at an angle relative to each other, and provide a lowest vertex.

7. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 6, wherein the angle of the lower walls is in a range of about 80 degrees to about 100 degrees.

8. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein at a junction of each upper wall to each lower wall an obtuse angle is formed which is in a range of about 100 to about 150 degrees.

9. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein the dispenser is releasably coupled to a fixture, and the housing is positioned diagonally with respect to its connection with a fixture.

10. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein the sheets comprise a plurality of sheets in a cartridge.

11. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 10, wherein the cartridge includes a band positioned about a plurality of sheets.

12. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 10, wherein the cartridge substantially covers a plurality of sheets, the cartridge including at least one dispensing opening.

13. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein the housing includes a cover, and wherein the cover is connected to the housing by one of fasteners, hinges, latches, and any combination thereof.

14. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein the sheets are one of dry sheets, premoistened sheets, and both dry sheets and premoistened sheets.

15. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 14, wherein the sheets are positioned in the housing are one of stacked, interfolded, and festooned.

16. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 14, wherein premoistened sheets are disposed in a container, and wherein the container of premoistened sheets is provided as a portion of a cartridge.

17. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein the housing includes a first axis and a second axis which are substantially perpendicular to one another.

18. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 17, wherein the sheets include premoistened sheets which dispense in alignment with a fourth axis which intersects the first axis, the second axis and a third axis.

19. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein the housing is constructed of paper, paperboard, plastic, polymer film, cellophane, wood, metal, fabric, fiber, and any combination thereof.

20. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the housing includes openings which permit it to be releasably coupled to a fixture.

21. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the housing is one of non-refillable and refillable.

22. A dispenser adapted to releasably couple to a conventional rolled product fixture, the dispenser comprising :

a housing having a compartment for holding sheets therein, the housing including two spaced-apart and opposing sidewalls and at least a portion of a lower end, the housing including an upper end and configured to couple to a fixture, an obtuse angle provided at a junction of the upper end and a front wall, the housing configured to have an opening into the compartment and having positioned on an inner surface at least one

connecting member configured to releasably couple to a cartridge containing sheets which is positioned in the compartment.

23. A dispenser assembly adapted to releasably couple to a conventional rolled product fixture, the dispenser assembly comprising :

a dispenser having a housing including a compartment for holding sheets therein, the housing including two spaced-apart and opposing sidewalls and at least a portion of a lower end, the housing having an upper portion configured to couple to a fixture, the housing having an inner surface and having at least one connecting member including a prong which extends therefrom configured to releasably couple to a cartridge positioned in the compartment; and

a cartridge configured to be positioned in the compartment, the cartridge having a plurality of sheets therein, the cartridge having a dispensing opening from which sheets are dispensed, the cartridge having an aperture therein, the aperture aligned with the connecting member when the cartridge is positioned in a dispensing position in the housing such that the cartridge is firmly but releasably coupled to the housing when the cartridge is positioned therein.

24. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 22 or 23, wherein the front wall tapers outward from an upper portion to a lower portion thereof at an angle in a range of about 95 degrees to about 150 degrees.

25. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 22 or 23, wherein the housing does not include a wall adjacent a substantially vertical support surface.

26. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 22 or 23, wherein the opening into the compartment in the housing is provided in the portion of the housing adjacent the substantially vertical support surface.

27. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 22 or 23, wherein the internal surface of the housing includes a plurality of support ribs are provided thereon to support a cartridge in a dispensing position.

28. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 22 or 23, wherein the connecting member includes at least one prong.

29. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 22 or 23, wherein the housing includes a dispensing opening.

30. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 22 or 23, wherein the housing includes a plurality of openings which permit it to be releasably coupled to a fixture.

31. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 22 or 23, wherein a cartridge includes a plurality of sheets and the cartridge is configured to be inserted into the compartment of the housing to dispense sheets therefrom.

32. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 31, wherein the plurality of sheets includes premoistened sheets in a container and dry sheets.

33. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 31, wherein the cartridge has a dispensing opening therein.

34. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 31, wherein the sheets include one of stacked sheets, interfolded sheets and festooned sheets.

35. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 31, wherein the plurality of sheets are dry sheets.

36. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 22 or 23, wherein the dispenser or dispenser assembly is configured to hold a cartridge having premoistened sheets as well as dry sheets, and wherein a resealable cover is positioned over an opening in the cartridge through which premoistened sheets are dispensed.

37. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 22 or 23, wherein the cartridge includes apertures which show sheets remaining in the cartridge.

38. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the housing is constructed of paper, paperboard, cardboard, plastic, polymer film, cellophane, wood, metal, fabric fiber, and any combination thereof.

39. A dispenser adapted to releasably couple to a conventional rolled product fixture, the dispenser comprising :

a dispenser having a housing including a compartment for holding sheets therein, the housing having a substantially parabolic cross section, the housing including a cover, the housing and cover each having an upper end which wraps about a substantial portion of a roll mount of a fixture to releasably couple it thereto, the upper end of the cover cooperatively positioned against a portion of the upper end of the housing to permit the cover to be opened to access the compartment, the housing configured to hold a plurality of sheets having a substantially polygonal configuration in the compartment, the housing including a dispensing opening through which sheets are dispensed.

40. A dispensing assembly adapted to releasably couple to a conventional rolled product fixture, the dispensing assembly comprising:

a dispenser having a housing including a compartment for holding sheets therein, the housing having a substantially parabolic cross-section, the housing including a cover, the housing and cover each having an upper end which wraps about a substantial portion of a roll mount of a fixture to releasably couple it thereto, the upper end of the cover rotating over the upper end of the housing to permit the cover to be opened to access the compartment, the housing configured to hold a plurality of sheets having a substantially polygonal configuration in the compartment, the housing including a dispensing opening through which sheets are dispensed; and

a cartridge configured to be positioned in the compartment, the cartridge having a plurality of stacked sheets therein and having a substantially polygonal configuration, the cartridge having a dispensing opening through which sheets are dispensed which is positioned to be in alignment with the dispensing opening in the housing.

41. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 39 or 40, wherein the upper end of the cover includes a track and which is formed and mated with a flange of the upper end of the housing to permit the upper end of the cover to rotate over the upper end of the housing when the cover is opened.

42. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 40 or 41, wherein the cover is releasably coupled to the housing by one of fasteners, hinges, latches, and any combination thereof.

43. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 40 or 41, wherein the housing is constructed from paper, paperboard, cardboard, plastic, polymer film, cellophane, wood, metal, fabric, fiber, and any combination thereof.

44. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 40 or 41, wherein the sheets comprise a plurality of sheets disposed in a cartridge.

45. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 44, wherein the sheets include dry sheets.

46. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 44, wherein the sheets include dry sheets and premoistened sheets.

47. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 44, wherein the cartridge is positioned in the dispenser and is substantially parallel to the vertical support surface.

48. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 44, wherein the cartridge includes a band positioned about a plurality of sheets.

49. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 44, wherein the cartridge covers a plurality of sheets and the cartridge includes at least one dispensing opening.

50. A dispenser or dispenser assembly as in claim 39 or 40, wherein the dispensing opening includes a resealable cover.

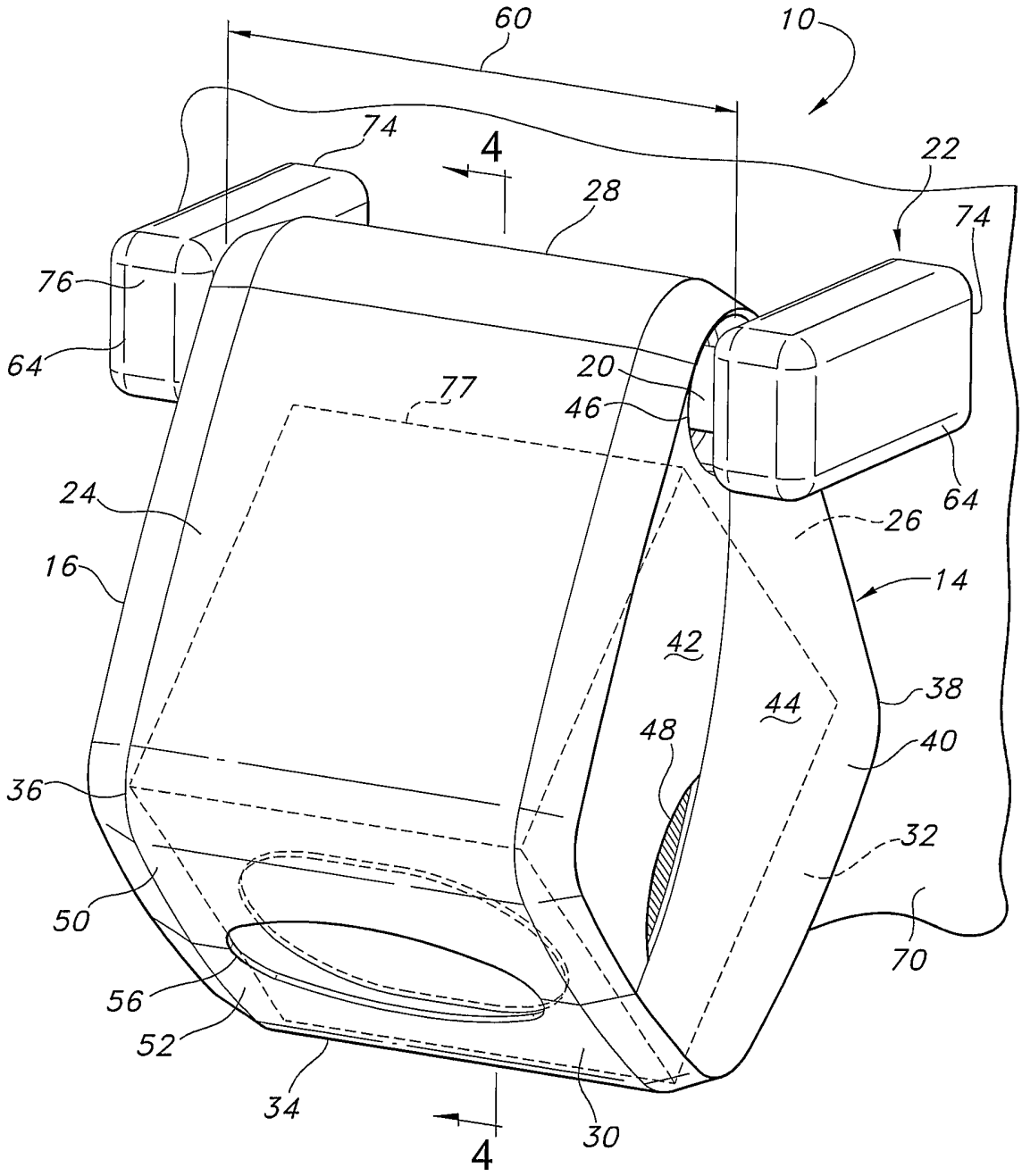

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FIG. 1

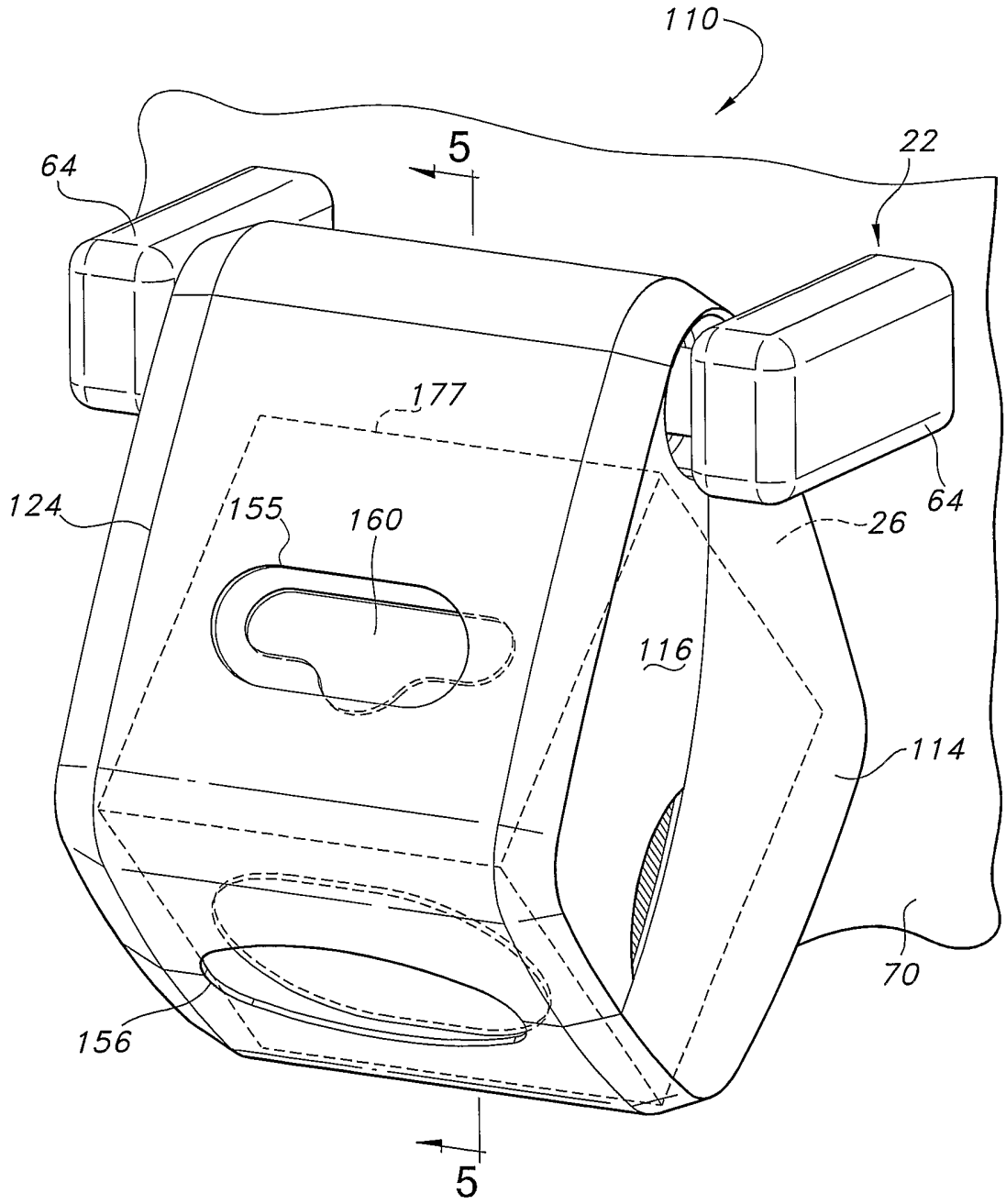


FIG. 2

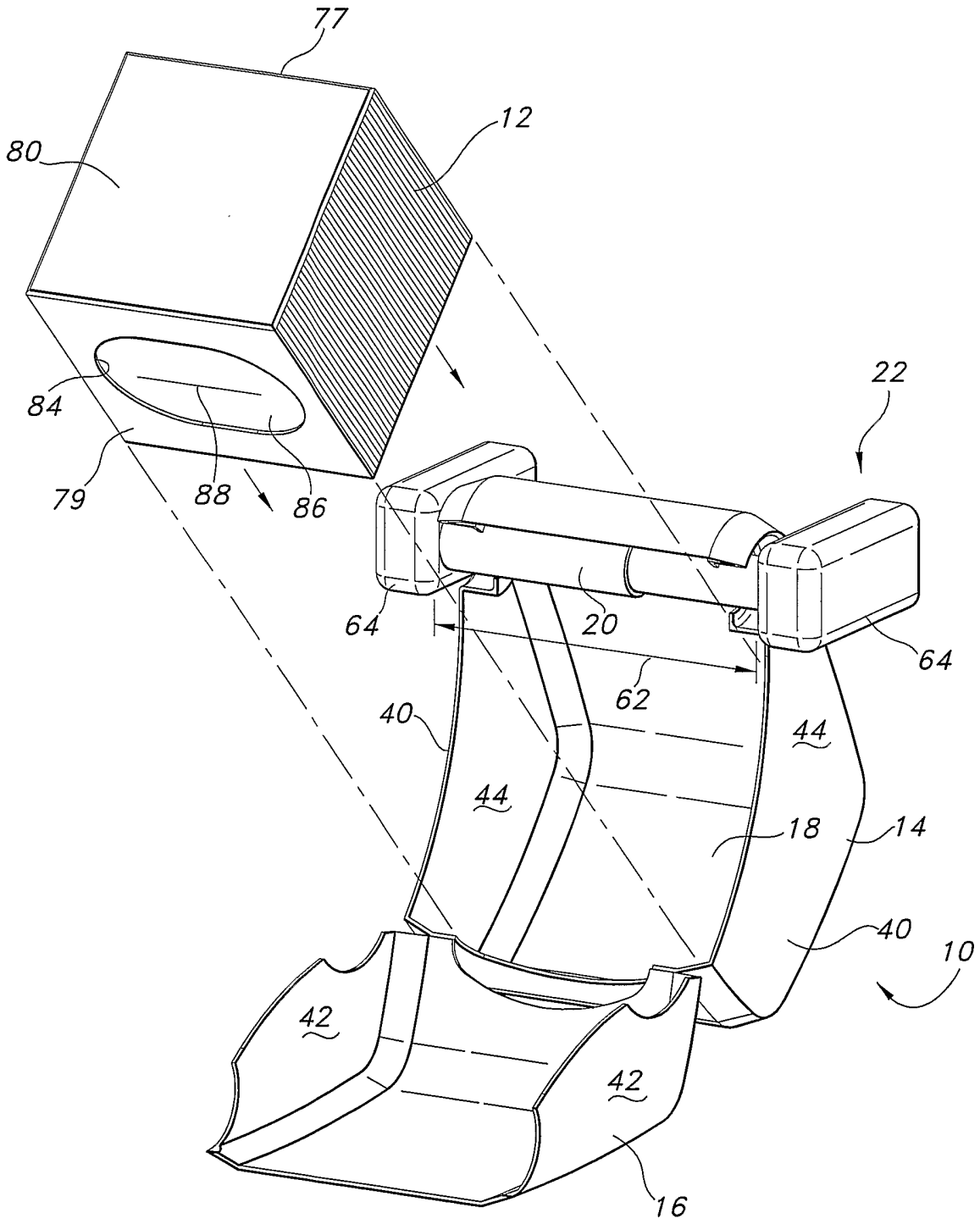


FIG. 3

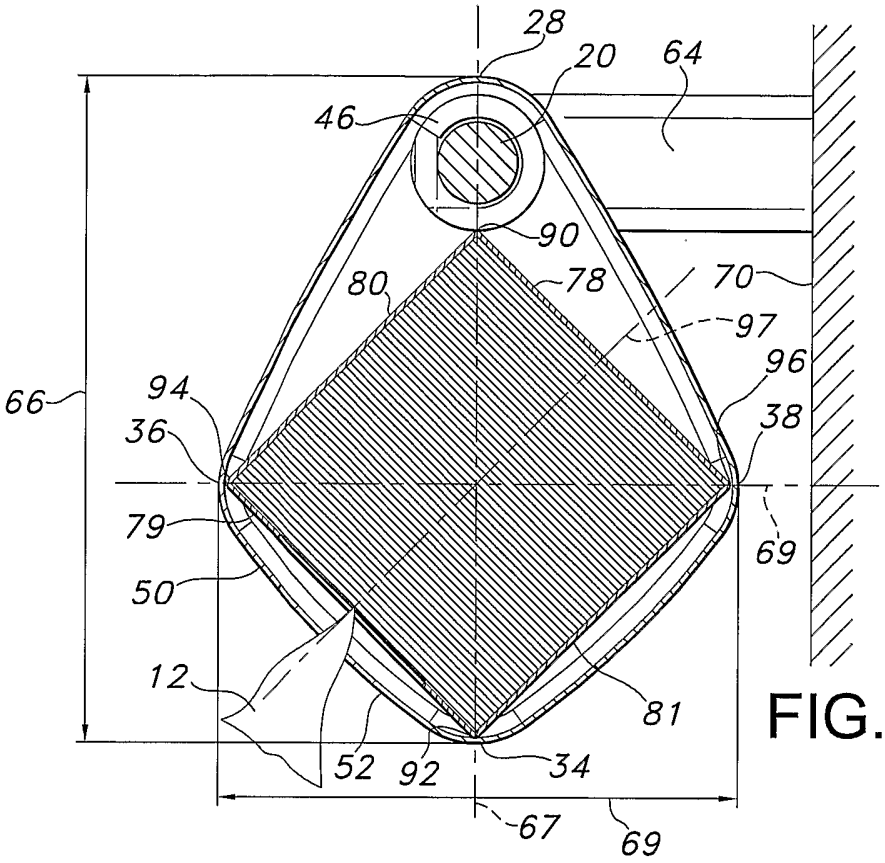

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FIG. 4

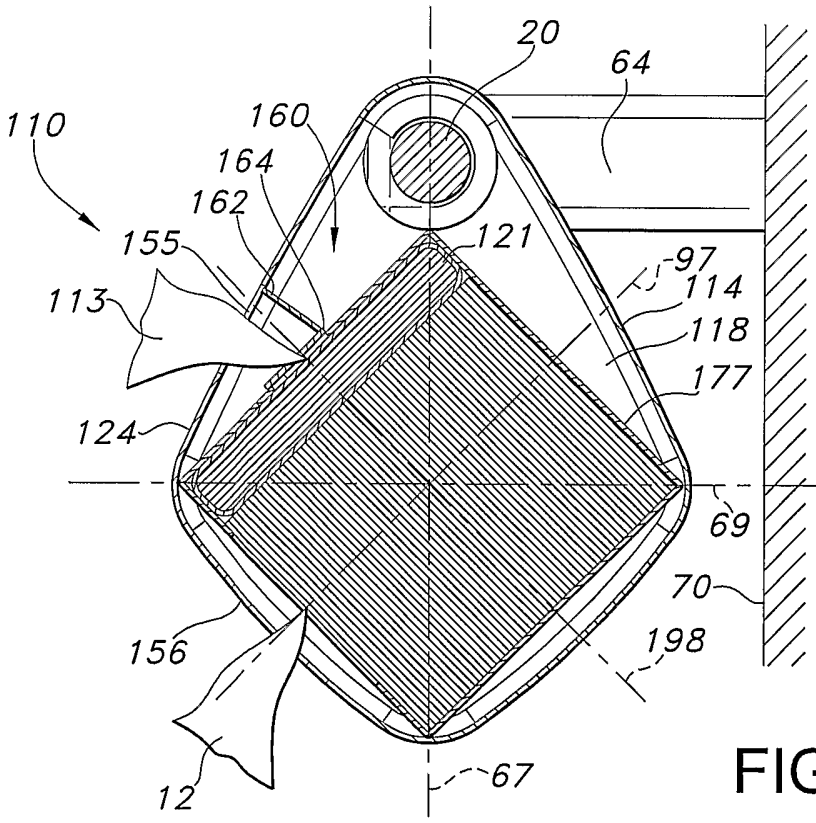

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FIG. 5

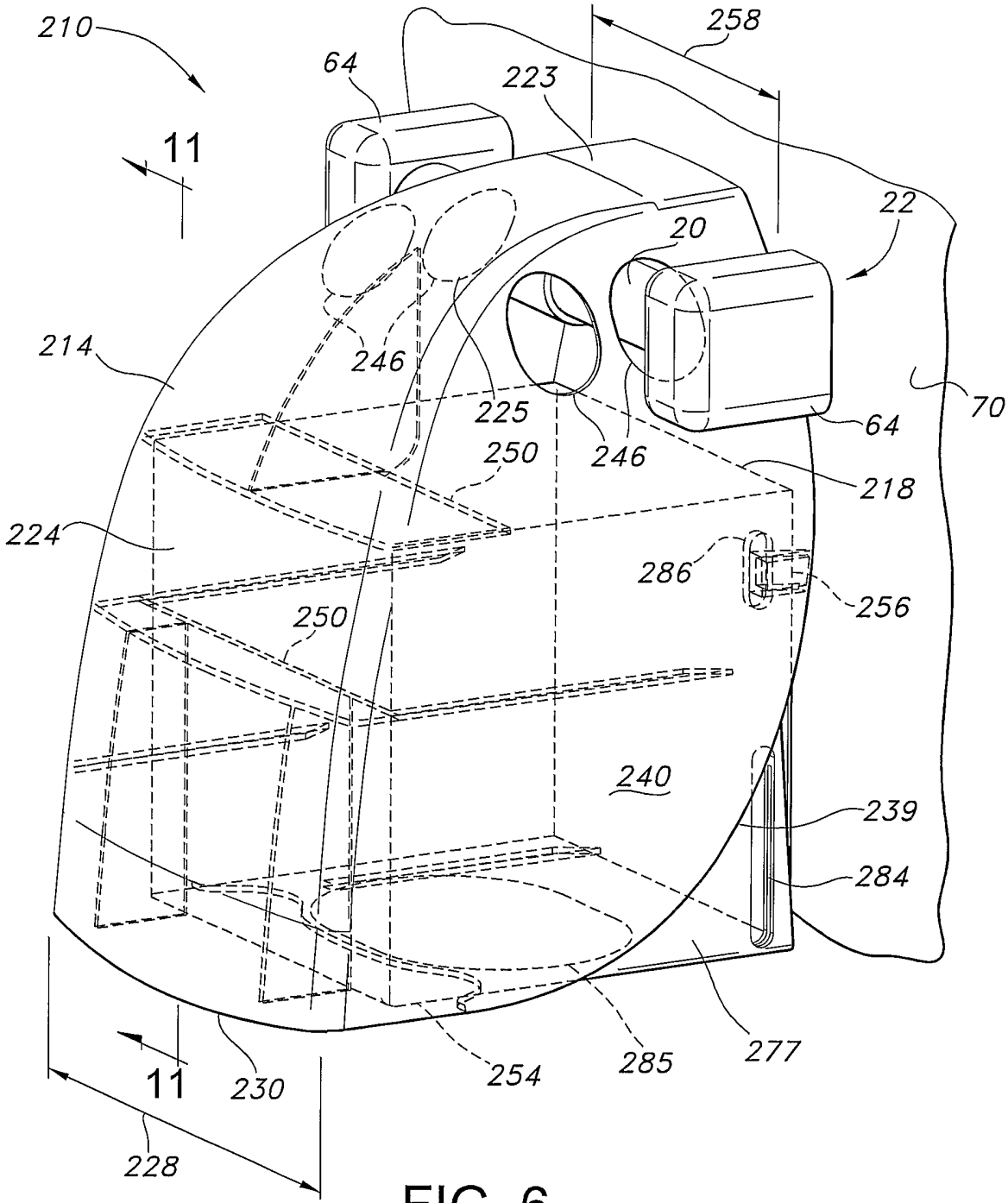

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FIG. 6

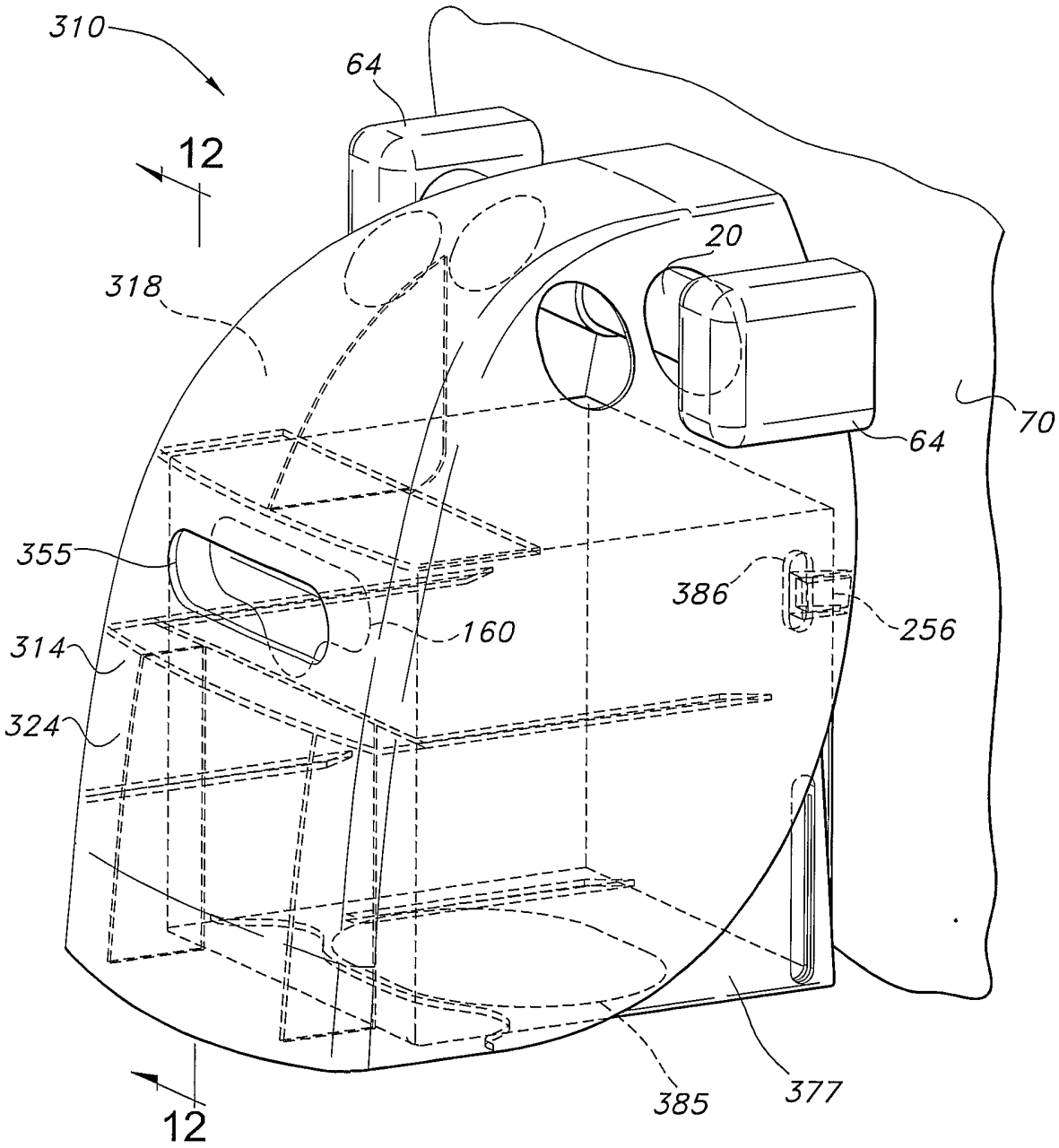


FIG. 7

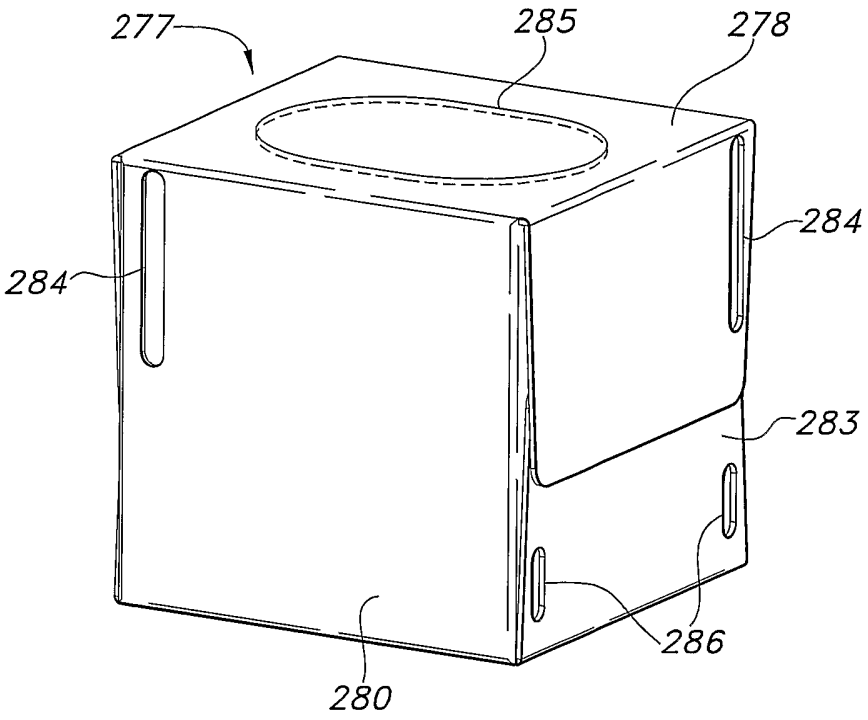


FIG. 8

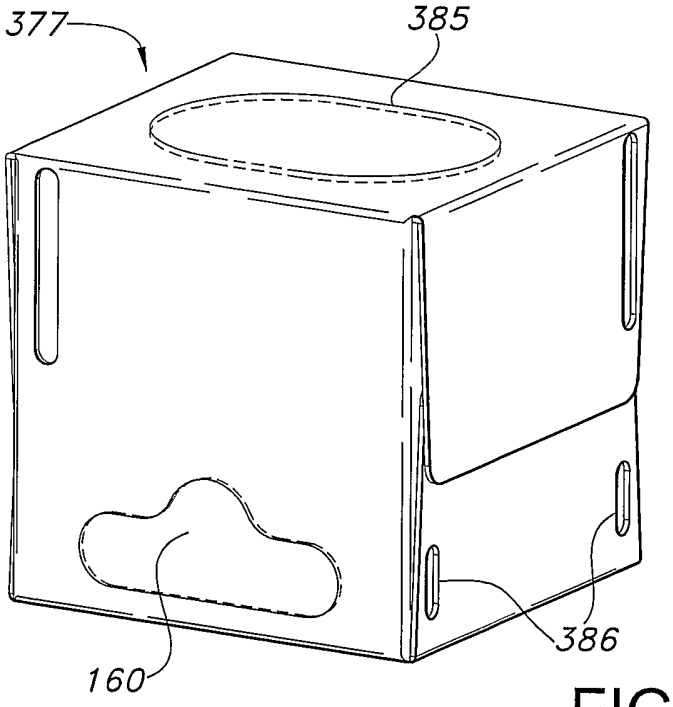


FIG. 9

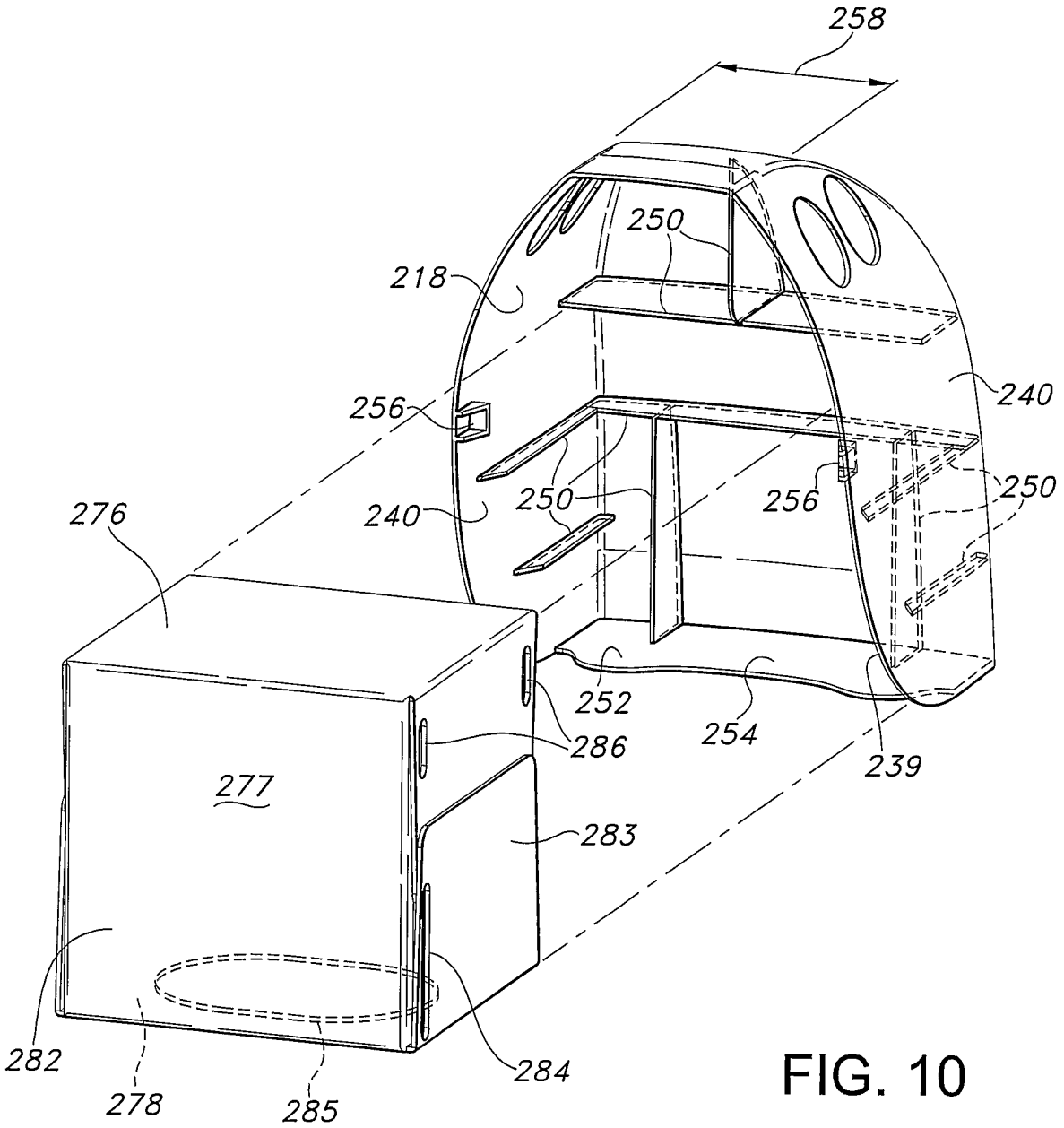

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FIG. 10

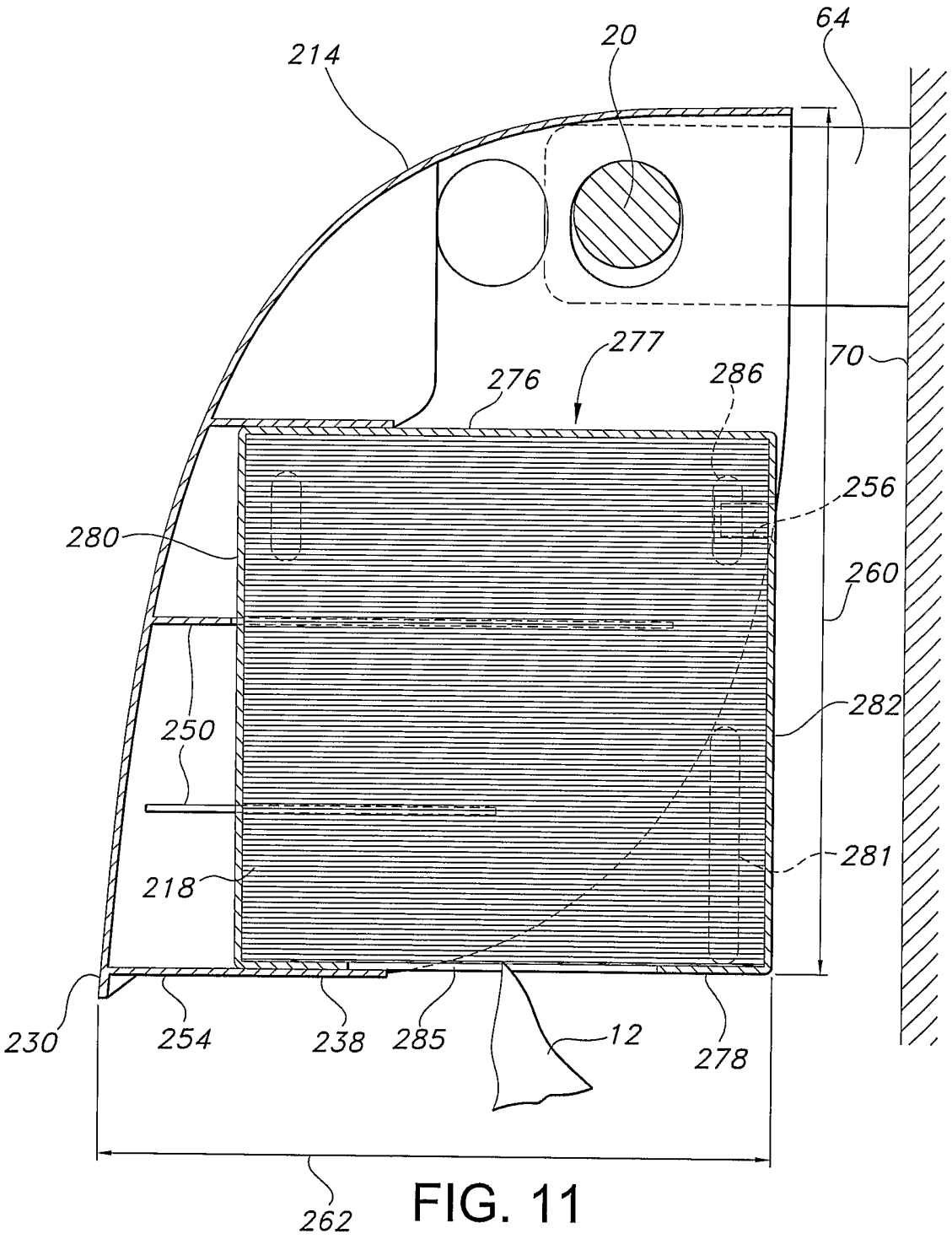

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FIG. 11

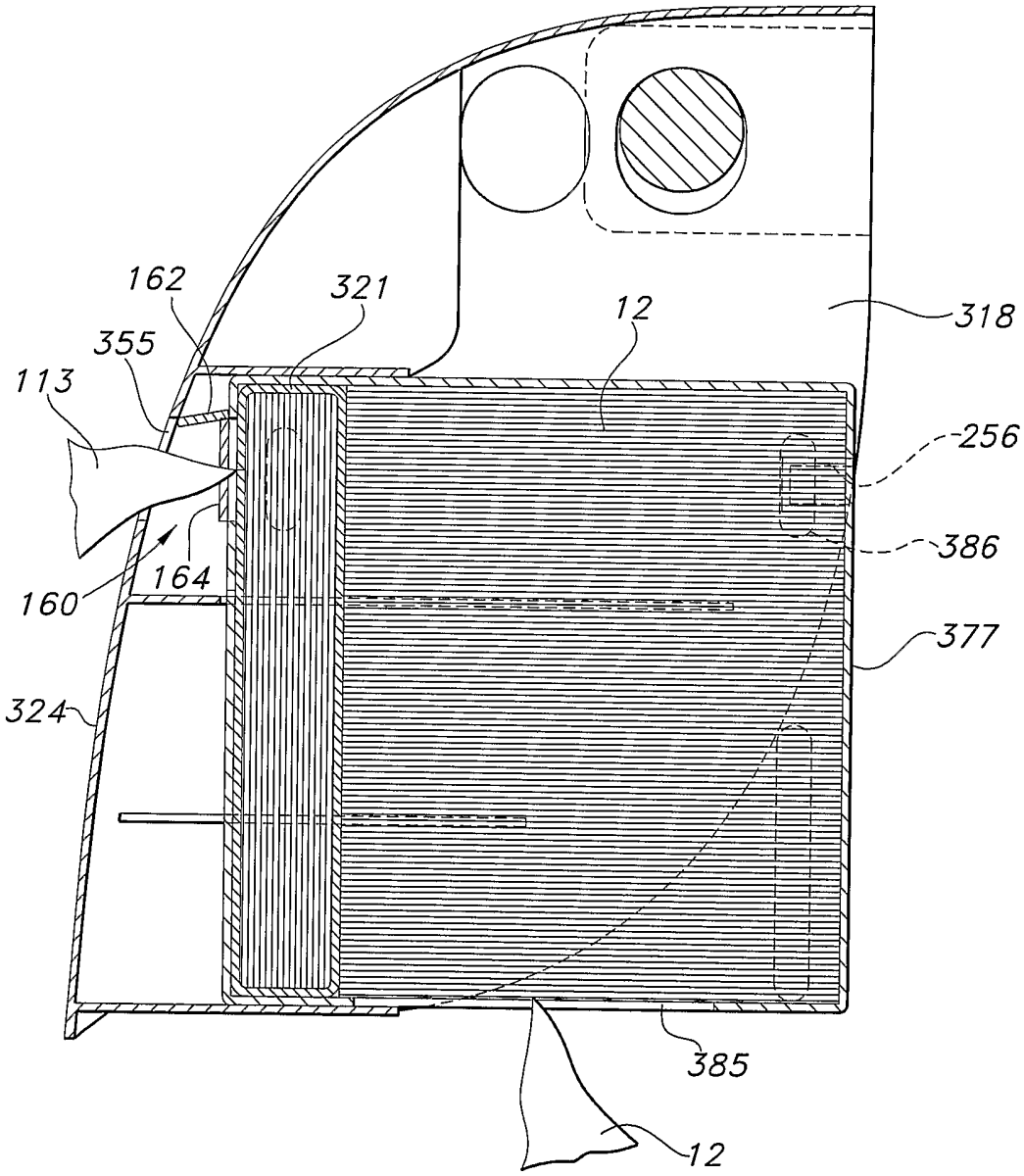


FIG. 12

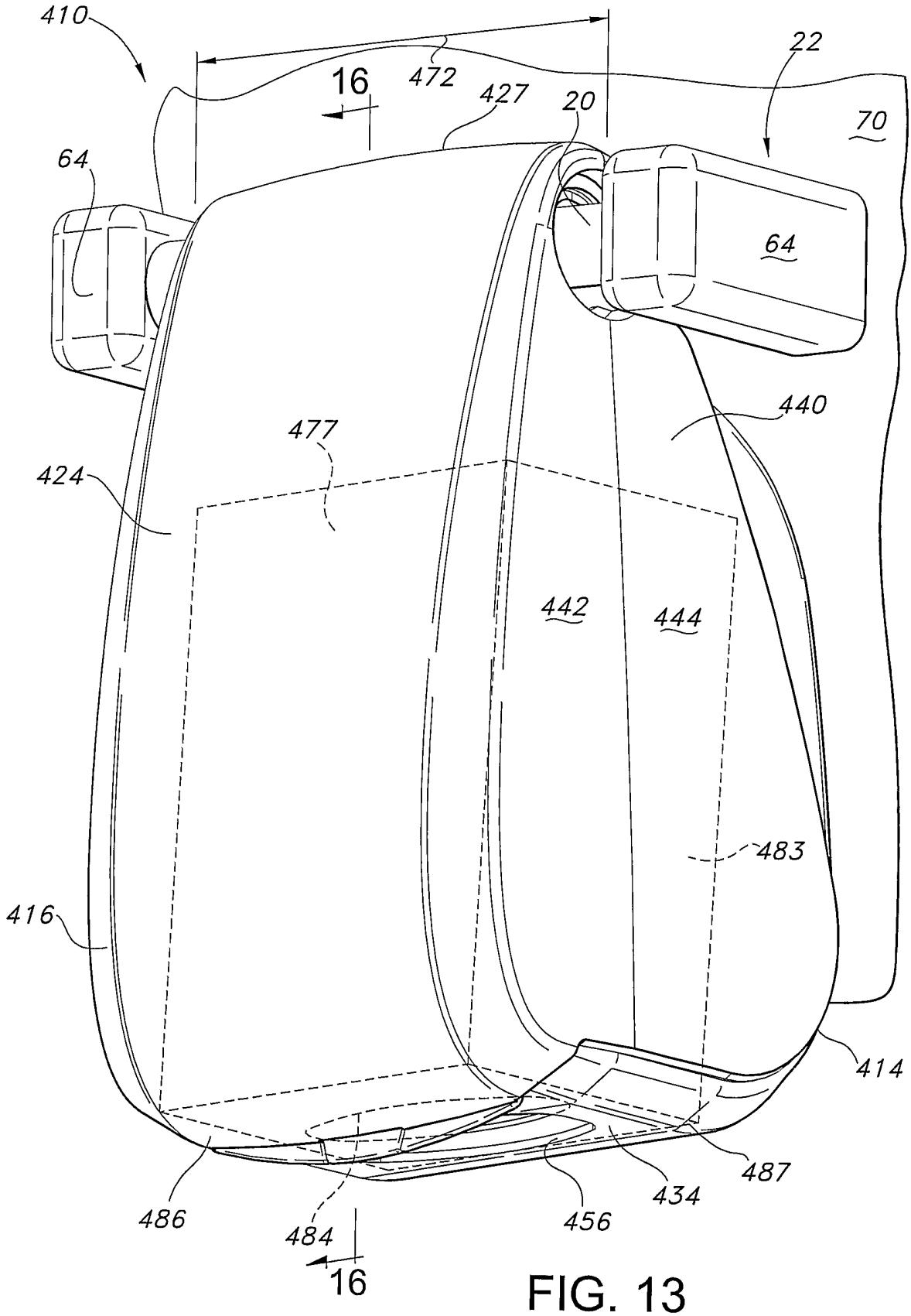

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FIG. 13

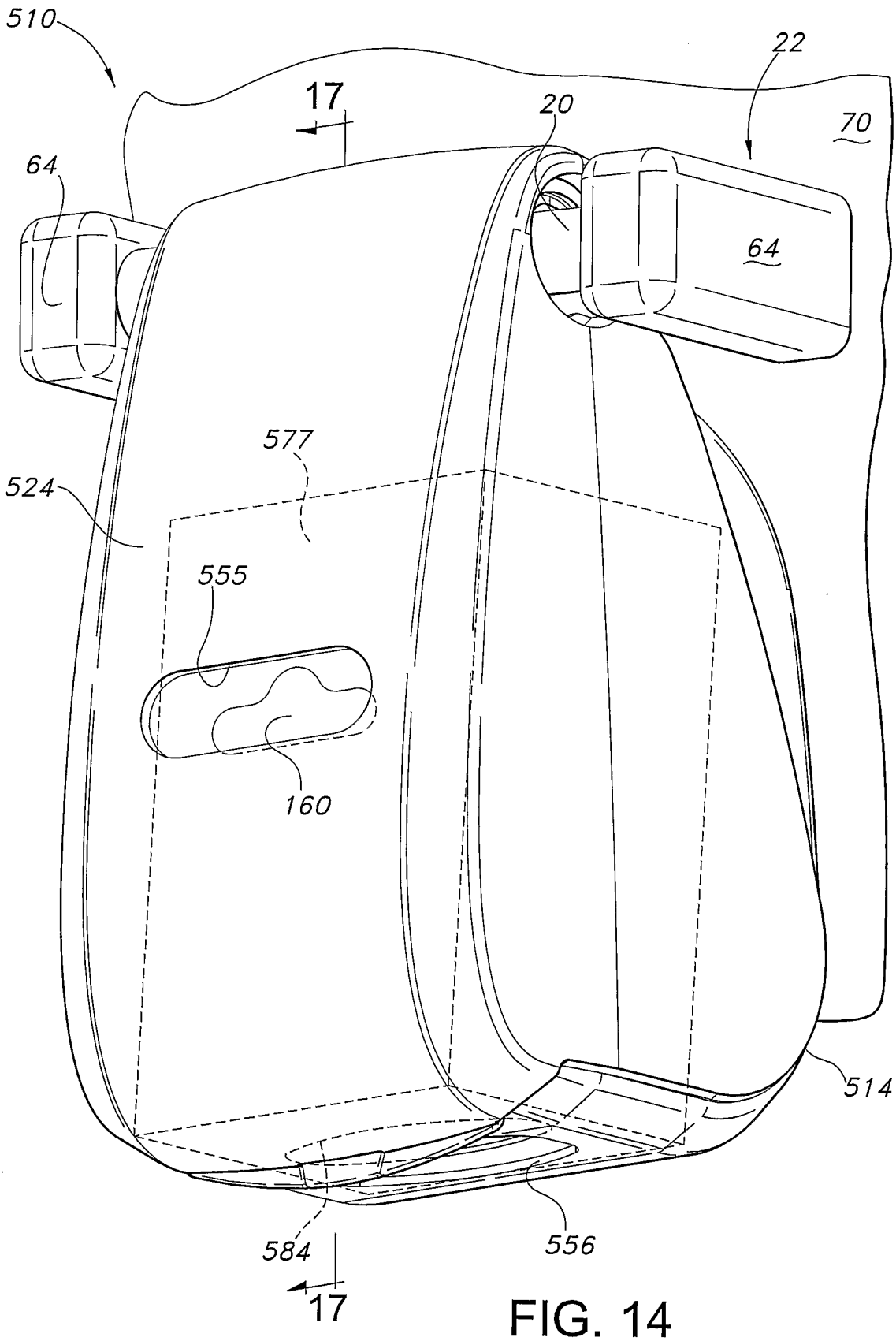


FIG. 14

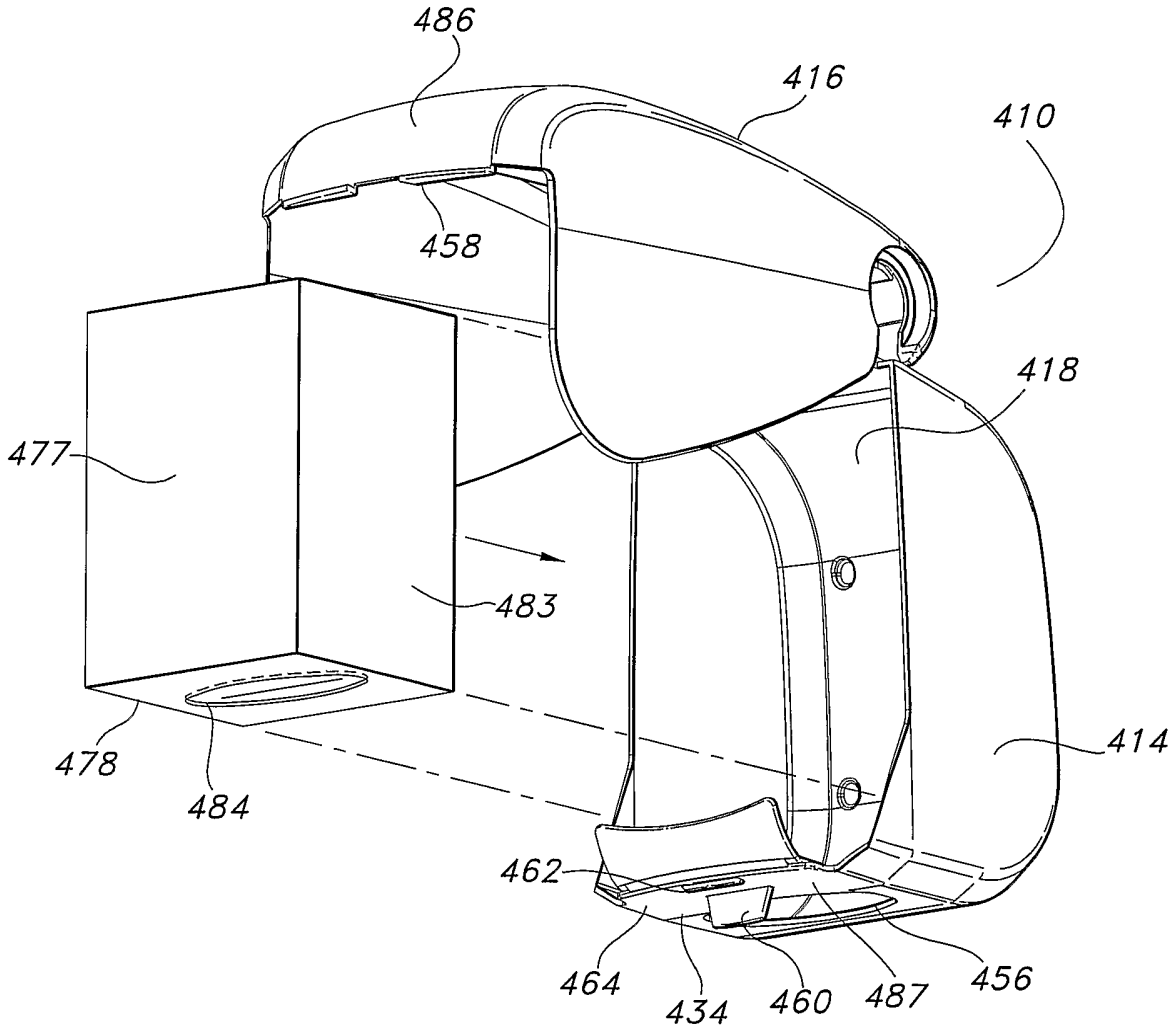


FIG. 15

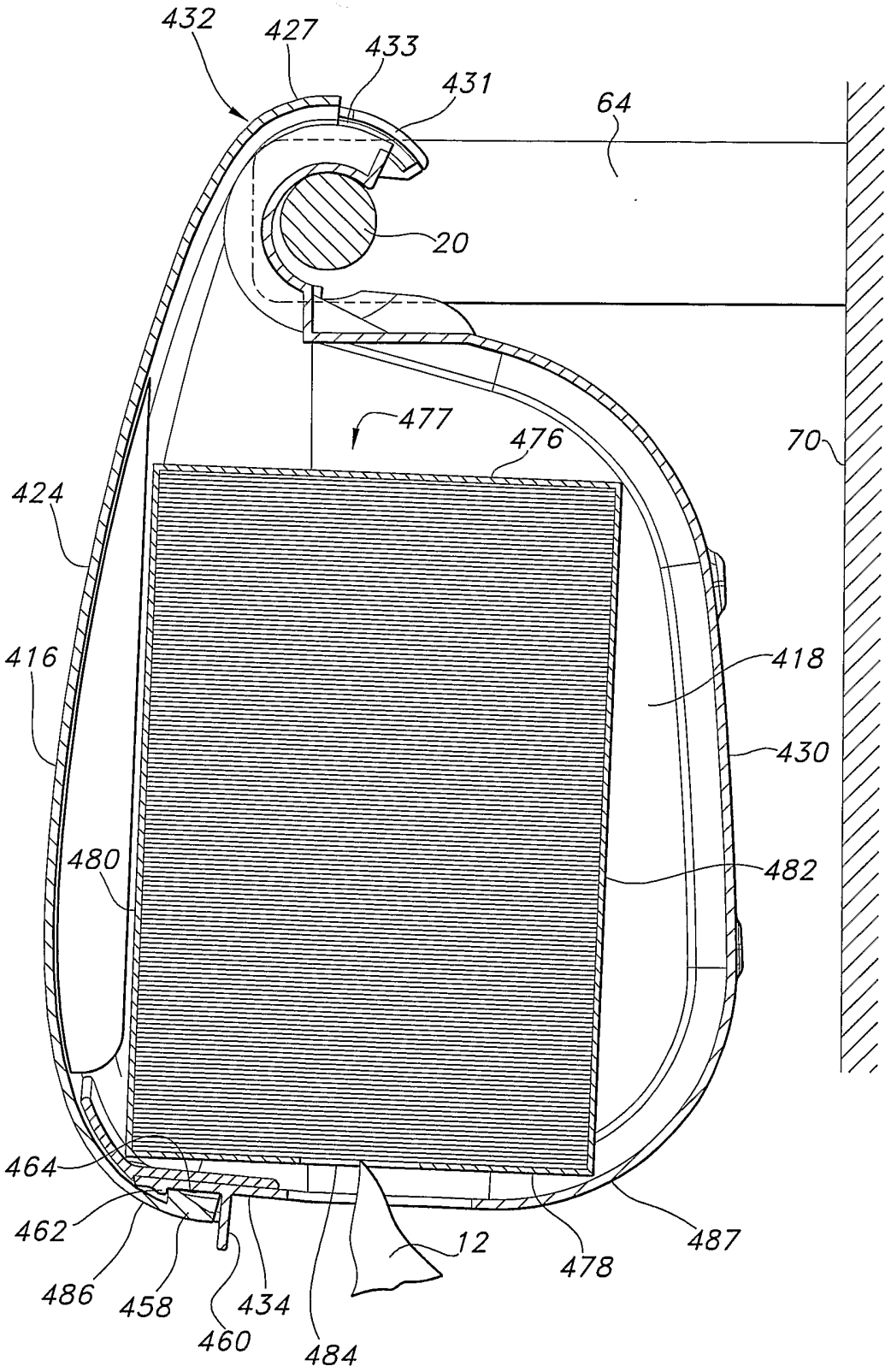

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FIG. 16

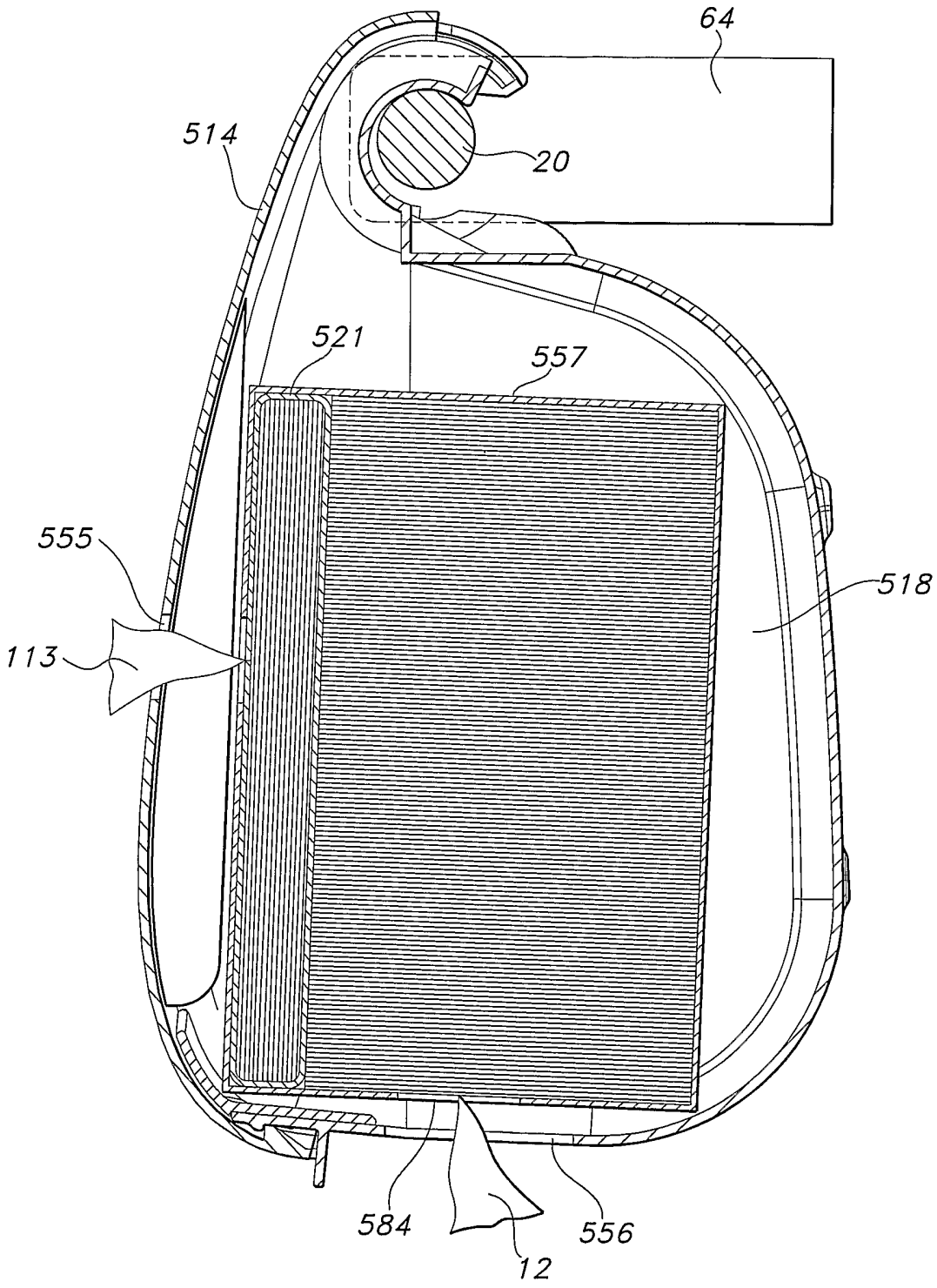


FIG. 17

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US2004/005107

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A47K10/42

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A47K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 01/76439 A (KIMBERLY CLARK CO) 18 October 2001 (2001-10-18) page 17, line 22 - page 18, line 2; figures 16,17,66-68	1-50
X	GB 2 270 901 A (FORT STERLING LIMITED) 30 March 1994 (1994-03-30) page 5, line 6 - page 7, line 14; figures 1-7	1-50

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
20 July 2004	27/07/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Zuurveld, G

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No
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