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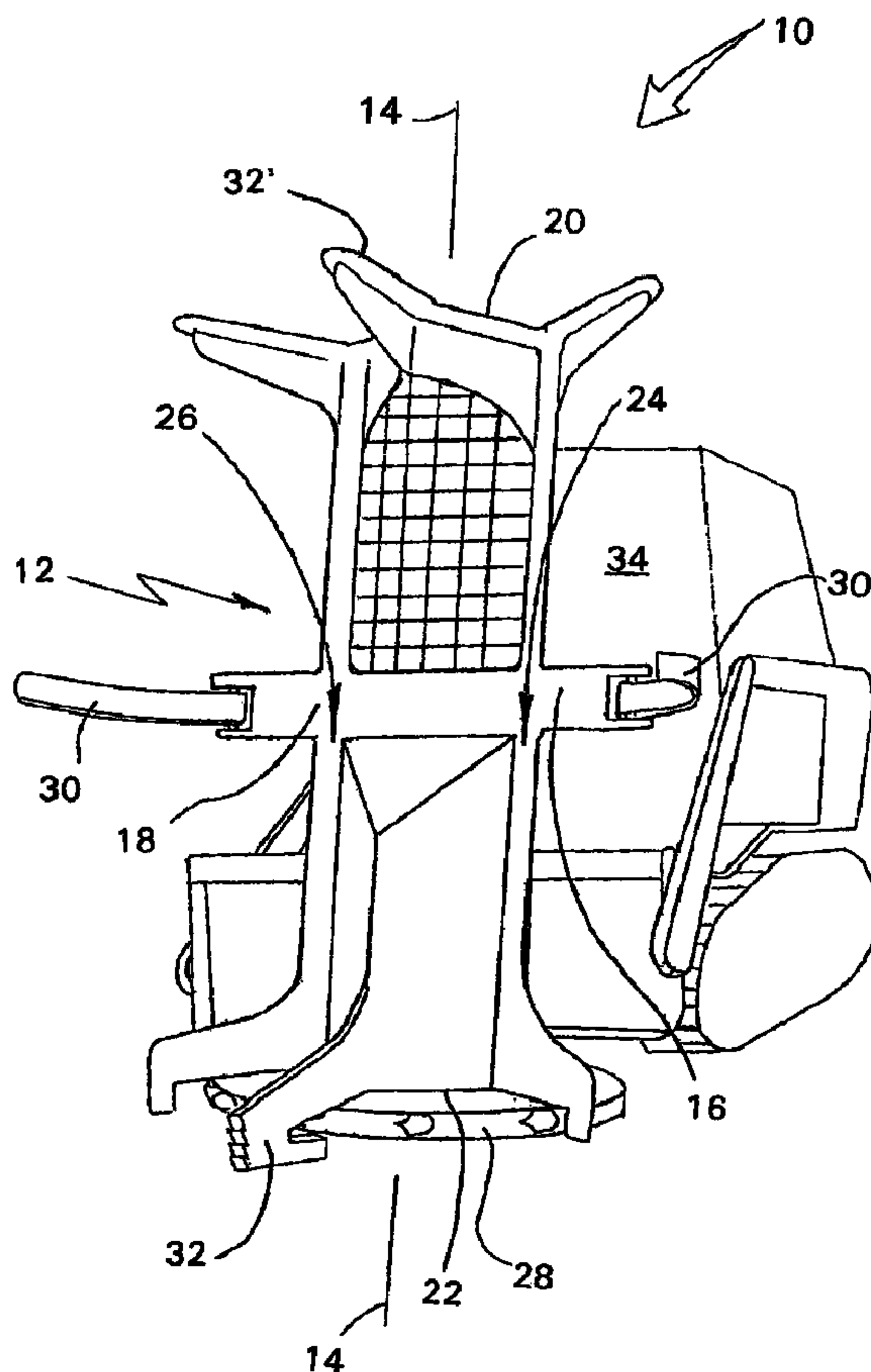
(72) Inventeurs/Inventors:  
FENTON, BARRY DAVID, CA;  
FENTON, DAVID STANLEY, CA

(73) Propriétaires/Owners:  
FENTON, DAVID STANLEY, CA;  
FENTON, BARRY DAVID, CA

(74) Agent: THOMPSON, DOUGLAS B.

(54) Titre : ABATTEUSE-EMPILEUSE

(54) Title: FELLER BUNCHER



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

A feller buncher includes an elongate support having an axis, a first side, a second side, a first end and a second end. A first tree receiving cavity is positioned along the first side of the support. A second tree receiving cavity is positioned along the second side of

(57) **Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):**

the support. A circular saw is positioned at the second end of the support. The plane of the saw is transverse to the axis of the vertical support. Movable grapple arms are positioned on each of the first side and the second side of the support above the circular saw. The grapple arms are adapted to hold trees while they are being felled and then maintain bunches of felled trees in each of the first tree receiving cavity and the second tree receiving cavity.

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A feller buncher includes an elongate support having an axis, a first side, a second side, a first end and a second end. A first tree receiving cavity is positioned along the first side of the support. A second tree receiving cavity is positioned along the second side of the support. A circular saw is positioned at the second end of the support. The plane of the saw is transverse to the axis of the vertical support. Movable grapple arms are positioned on each of the first side and the second side of the support above the circular saw. The grapple arms are adapted to hold trees while they are being felled and then maintain bunches of felled trees in each of the first tree receiving cavity and the second tree receiving cavity.

**TITLE OF THE INVENTION:**

Feller Buncher

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

5 The present invention relates to a feller buncher used in the logging industry to fell and then simultaneously bunch together trees.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

10 United States Patents 5,975,166 (MacLennan 1999) and 6,374,877 (Wildey 2002) are examples of feller bunchers. Each of these feller bunchers has an elongate support. A saw is positioned at a bottom of the support, with the plane of the saw transverse to the axis of the support. Grapples are  
15 positioned above the saw. The grapples hold individual trees as they are being felled and hold several felled trees against the support to form a bunch.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

20 The present invention relates to a new configuration of feller buncher which has some functional advantages over existing feller buncher configurations.

25 According to the present invention there is provided a feller buncher which includes an elongate support having an axis, a first side, a second side, a first end and a second end. A first tree receiving cavity is positioned along the first side of the support. A second tree receiving cavity is positioned along the second side of the support. A circular  
30 saw is positioned at the second end of the support. The plane of the saw is transverse to the axis of the vertical support. Movable grapple arms are positioned on each of the first side and the second side of the support above the circular saw. The grapple arms are adapted to hold trees

while they are being felled and then maintain bunches of felled trees in each of the first tree receiving cavity and the second tree receiving cavity.

The innovation of having a first tree receiving cavity along the first side of the support and a second tree receiving cavity along the second side of the support, provides a number of advantages. One advantage is that trees may be more readily felled from either the first side or the second side of the feller buncher. Another advantage relates to the operation of the circular saw. Having two tree receiving cavities results in two sides of the circular saw being used, rather than just the center area of the saw. This serves to double the capacity of the saw. It also enables a smaller diameter of saw blade to be used.

Although beneficial results may be obtained through the use of the feller buncher, as described above, even more beneficial results may be obtained when a rigid horn is centrally positioned between the first tree receiving cavity and the second tree receiving cavity adjacent to the second end of the support. The rigid horn projects outwardly from the support and can be used for such tasks as clearing debris or lining up logs in a pile.

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

These and other features of the invention will become more apparent from the following description in which reference is made to the appended drawings, the drawings are for the purpose of illustration only and are not intended to in any way limit the scope of the invention to the particular embodiment or embodiments shown, wherein:

**FIGURE 1** is a perspective view of a feller buncher constructed in accordance with the teachings of the present

invention.

**FIGURE 2** is a top plan view of the feller buncher illustrated in **FIGURE 1**, in the process of felling a tree.

**FIGURE 3** is a side elevation view of the feller buncher illustrated in **FIGURE 1**, in the process of using the horn to line up logs in a pile.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

10 The preferred embodiment, a feller buncher generally identified by reference numeral 10, will now be described with reference to FIGS. 1 through 3.

Structure and Relationship of Parts:

15 Referring to FIG. 1, feller buncher **10** includes an elongate support **12** having an axis **14**, a first side **16**, a second side **18**, a first end **20** and a second end **22**. Referring to FIG. 2, a first tree receiving cavity **24** is positioned along first side **16**. A second tree receiving cavity **26** is positioned along second side **18**. Referring to FIG. 1, a circular saw **28** is positioned at second end **22** of elongate support **12** such that the plane of circular saw **28** is in transverse relation to axis **14**. Moveable grapple arms **30** are positioned on each side of first side **16** and second side **18**, above circular saw **28**.  
25 Elongate support is further adapted with a rigid horn (divider) **32** positioned adjacent to second end **22**, a second divider **32'** is positioned adjacent the first end **20**. Referring to FIG. 2, rigid horn **32** is centrally positioned between first tree receiving cavity **24** and second tree receiving cavity **26**. Although not part of the inventive concept, referring to FIG. 1, feller buncher is shown attached to a tractor **34** by way of hydraulic arms **36** as  
30 illustrated in FIG. 3. Referring to FIGS. 2 and 3, trees **38**

are illustrated.

Operation:

5 The use and operation of feller buncher **10** will now be described with reference to FIGS. 1 through 3. Referring to FIG. 1, in the illustrated embodiment, tractor **34** transports and manipulates feller buncher **10**. It will be appreciated that other means of transport and manipulation may be used.

10 Referring to FIG. 2, a user may position either first tree receiving cavity **24** or second tree receiving cavity **26** such that circular saw **28** engages a tree **38**. The selection of which of first tree receiving cavity **26** or second tree receiving cavity **28** is used is based upon the best

15 opportunity and orientation that the user may come upon to fell a tree. In the illustrated embodiment, tree **38** is positioned within first tree receiving cavity **24**. Once positioned, moveable grapple arms **30** enclose (as shown in dotted lines) tree **38** in receiving cavity **24**, grasping and

20 holding tree **38** while circular saw **28** cuts it. Once cutting is finished, tree **38** continues to be held by moveable grapple arms **30**, as feller buncher **10** is positioned and manipulated by tractor **34** to cut other trees until a bunch of trees has been accumulated. The bunches of trees may then

25 be left in a pile. Referring to FIG. 3, rigid horn **32** may be projected into a pile of trees **38** in order to sort them and arrange them in piles.

30 In this patent document, the word "comprising" is used in its non-limiting sense to mean that items following the word are included, but items not specifically mentioned are not excluded. A reference to an element by the indefinite article "a" does not exclude the possibility that more than one of the element is present, unless the context clearly

requires that there be one and only one of the elements.

It will be apparent to one skilled in the art that modifications may be made to the illustrated embodiment without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as hereinafter defined in the claims.



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

- 5 1. A feller buncher, comprising:  
an elongate support having an axis, a first side, a  
second side, a first end and a second end;  
a first tree receiving cavity positioned along the  
first side of the support;  
10 a second tree receiving cavity positioned along the  
second side of the support;  
the first tree receiving cavity and the second tree  
receiving cavity being formed by a first divider at the  
first end of the support and a second divider at the second  
15 end of the support;  
a circular saw positioned at the second end of the  
support, the plane of the saw being transverse to the axis  
of the vertical support; and  
movable grapple arms shared by the first tree receiving  
20 cavity and the second tree receiving cavity, the grapple  
arms being positioned on each of the first side and the  
second side of the support above the circular saw, the  
grapple arms being adapted to hold trees while they are  
being felled and then maintain bunches of felled trees in  
25 each of the first tree receiving cavity and the second tree  
receiving cavity.
2. A feller buncher, comprising:  
an elongate support having an axis, a first side, a  
30 second side, a first end and a second end;  
a first tree receiving cavity positioned along the  
first side of the support;  
a second tree receiving cavity positioned along the  
second side of the support;  
35 a circular saw positioned at the second end of the

support, the plane of the saw being transverse to the axis of the vertical support;

movable grapple arms positioned on each of the first side and the second side of the support above the circular  
5 saw, the grapple arms being adapted to hold trees while they are being felled and then maintain bunches of felled trees in each of the first tree receiving cavity and the second tree receiving cavity; and

10 a rigid horn centrally positioned between the first tree receiving cavity and the second tree receiving cavity adjacent to the second end of the support, and the rigid horn projecting outwardly from the support.

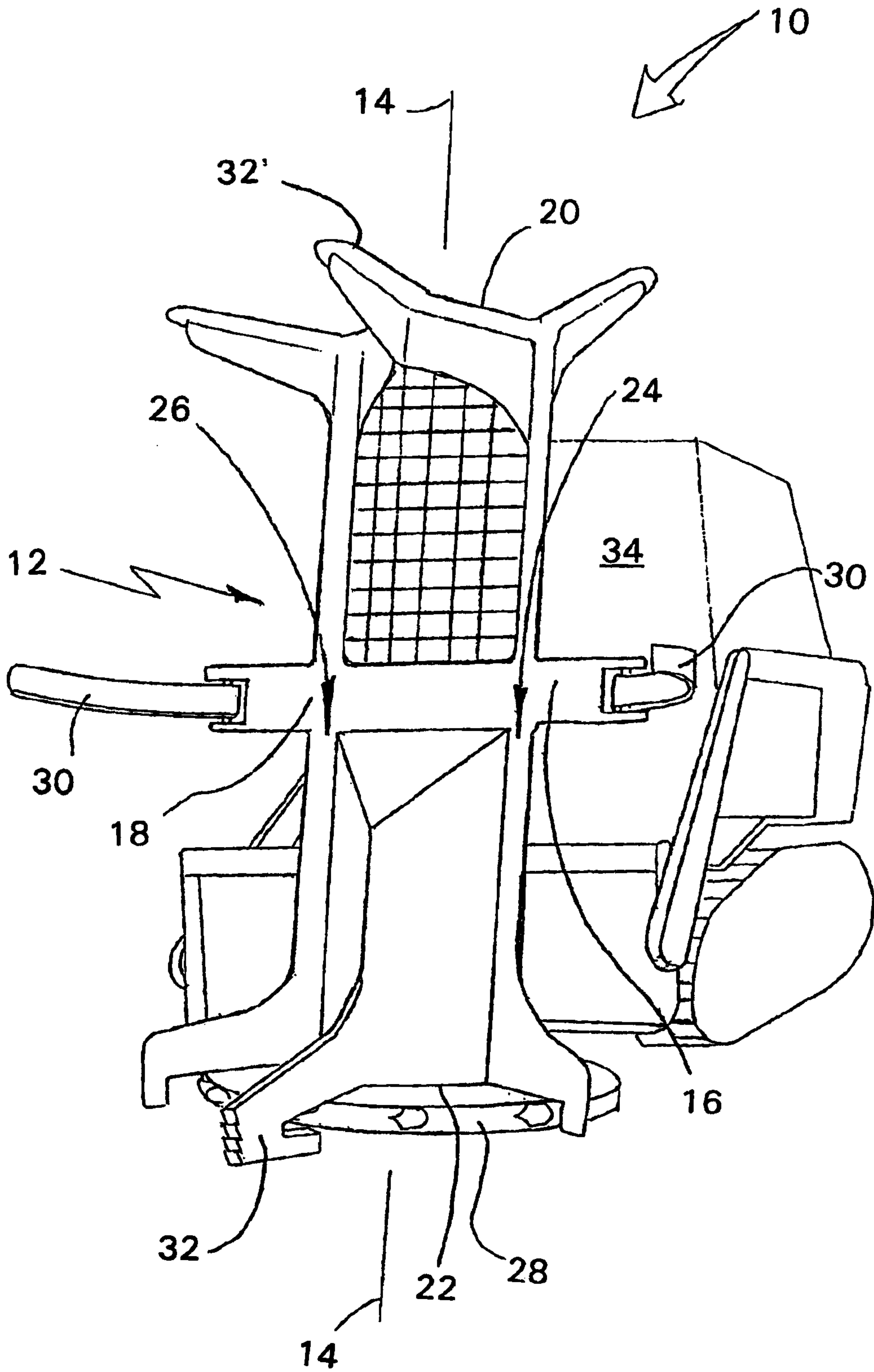


Fig. 1

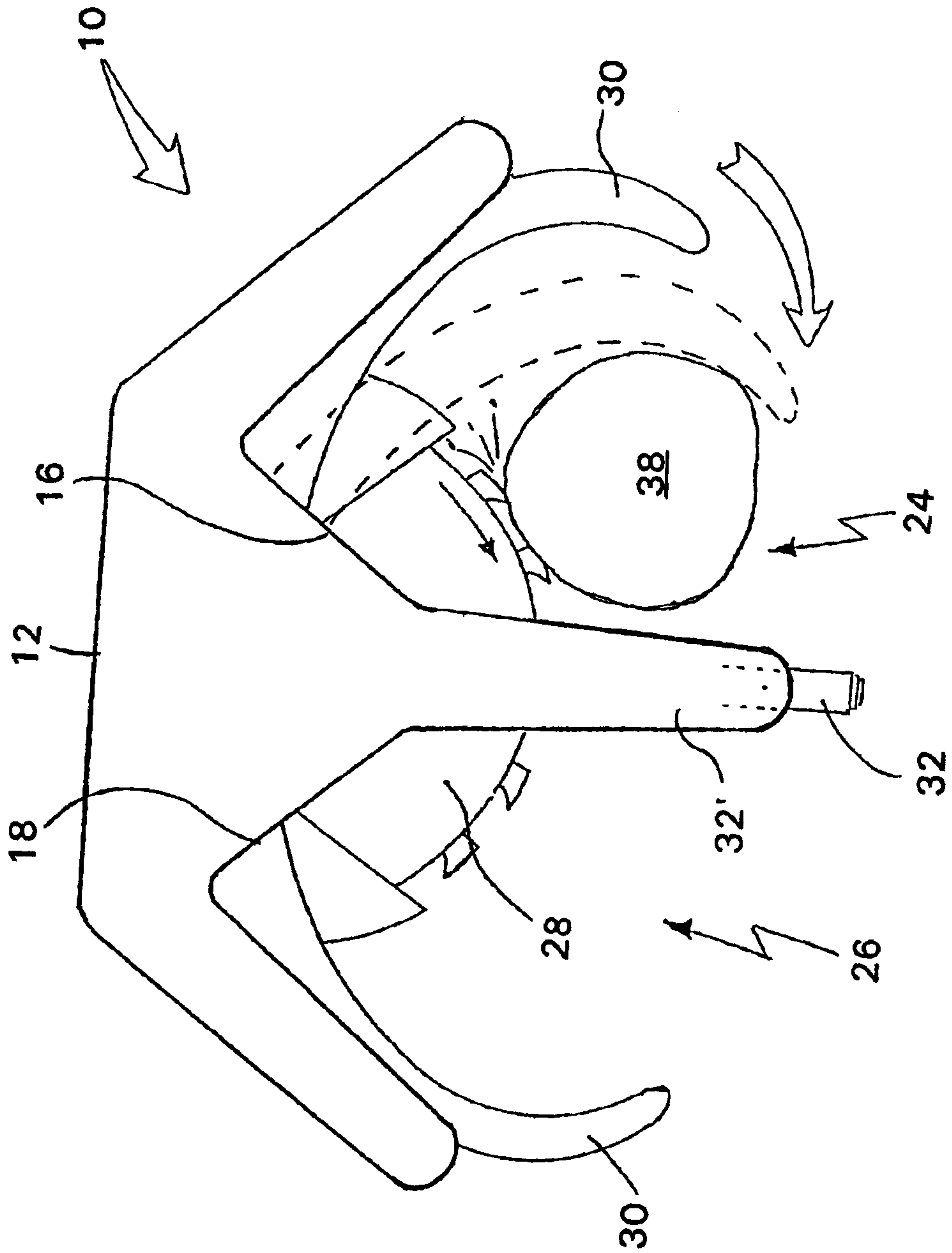


Fig. 2

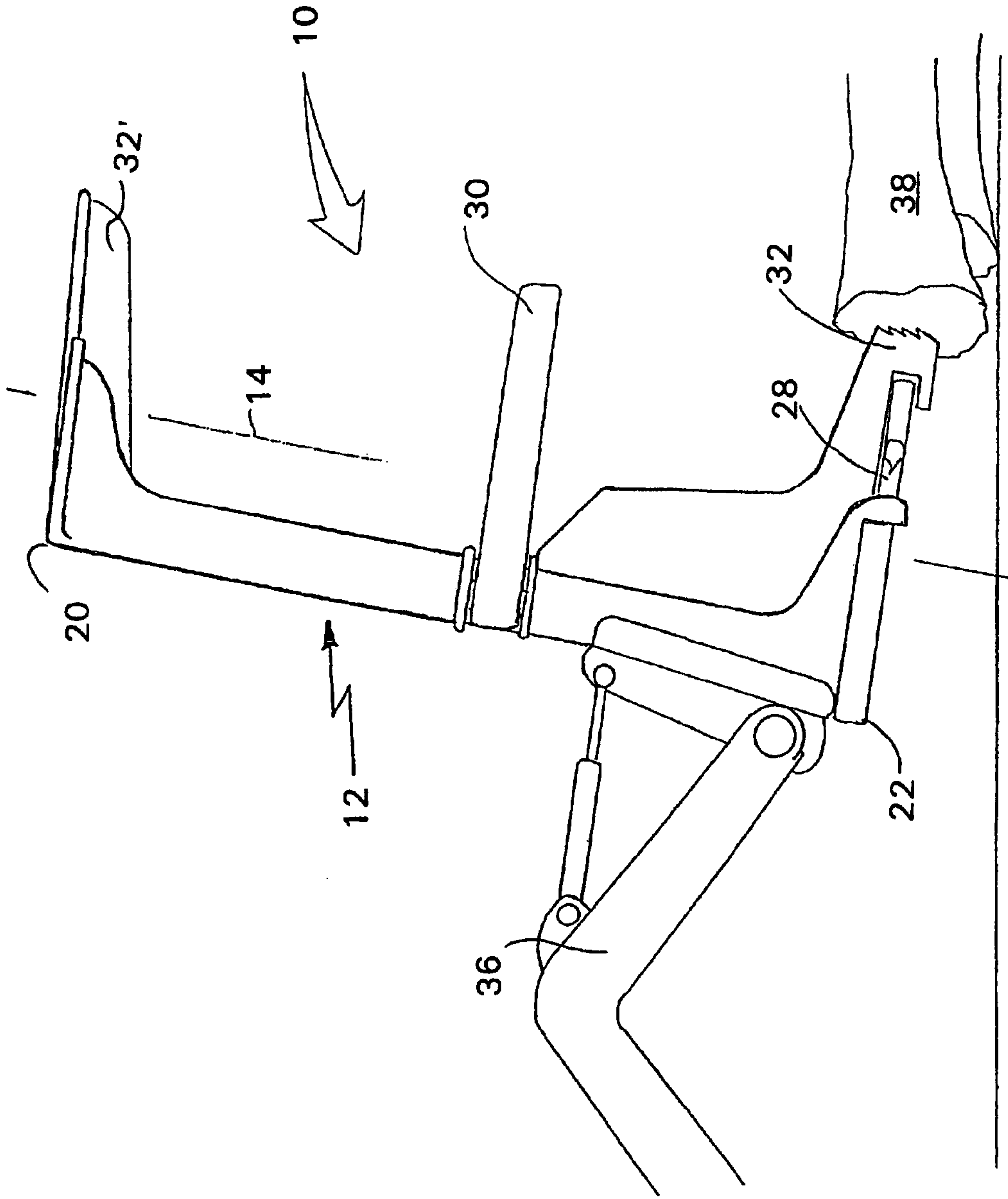


Fig. 3

