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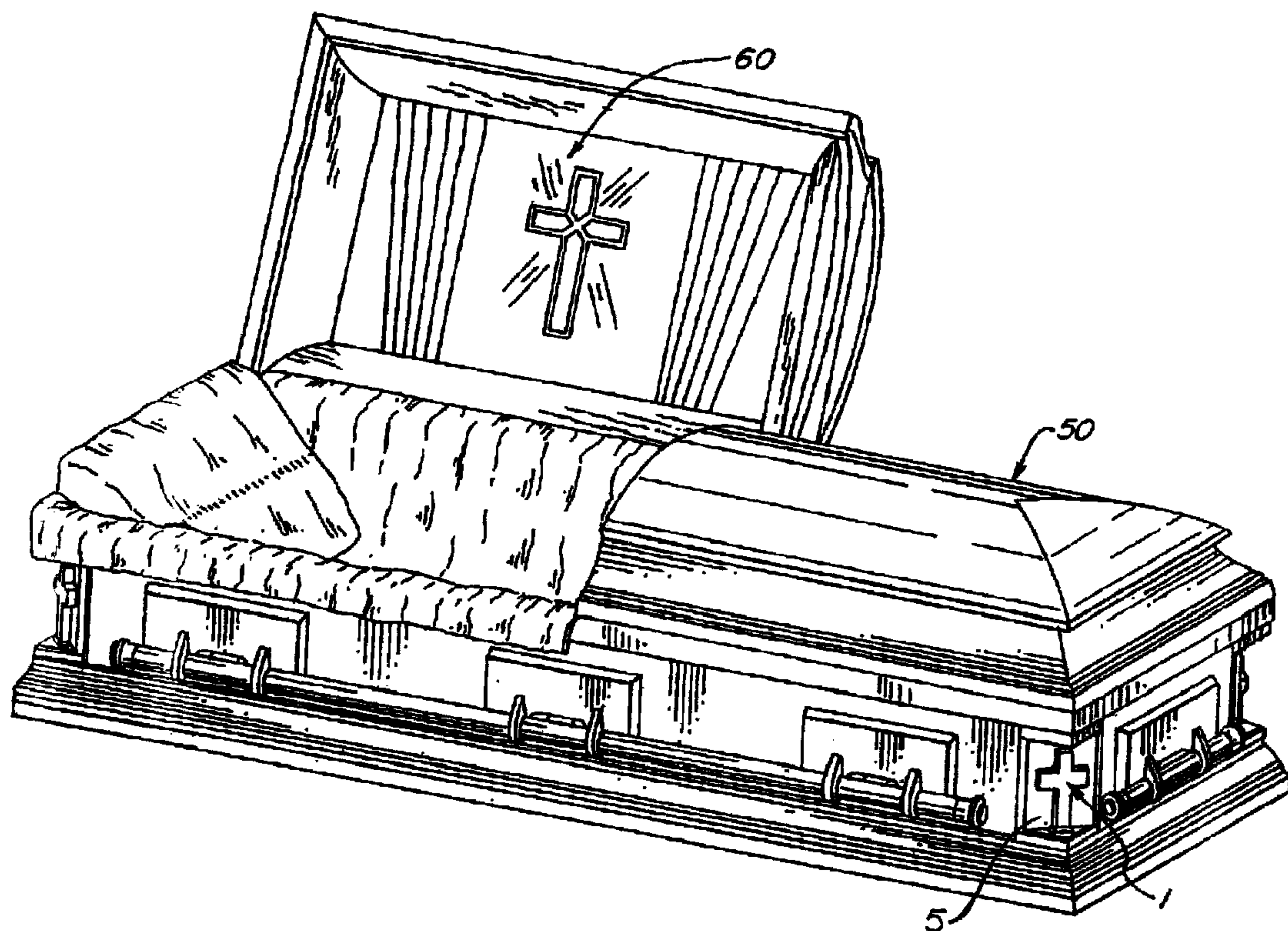
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(54) Titre : ENSEMBLE DE CERCUEIL ET D'URNE THEMATIQUE

(54) Title: A THEMATIC CASKET AND URN ASSEMBLY



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

A thematic assembly for a casket, including a casket, an urn, a panel to be placed on a crown of the casket, a display shelf and at least one removable corner ornament for a casket including fasteners allowing the corner ornament to be readily removed from the casket without requiring the use of any tools. The purpose for providing such assembly is to allow the family of the deceased to execute a more personal and thematic funeral ceremony according to the deceased's wishes or according to the family's preferences. The elements composing the assembly are readily removable so that relative and/or close friends of the deceased may retain them after the funeral ceremony in remembrance of the latter.

ABSTRACT

A thematic assembly for a casket, including a casket, an urn, a panel to be placed on a crown of the casket, a display shelf and at least one removable corner ornament for a casket including fasteners allowing the corner ornament to be readily removed from the casket without requiring the use of any tools. The purpose for providing such assembly is to allow the family of the deceased to execute a more personal and thematic funeral ceremony according to the deceased's wishes or according to the family's preferences. The elements composing the assembly are readily removable so that relative and/or close friends of the deceased may retain them after the funeral ceremony in remembrance of the latter.

A THEMATIC CASKET AND URN ASSEMBLY

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to casket ornaments. More precisely, it relates to removable corner ornaments for a casket and to a kit
5 incorporating the same.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

It is known in the art to provide a casket with angled corners in order to place corner ornaments there. Families of the deceased can then choose between a number of different ornaments with which to adorn the
10 casket, according to their own taste or to the deceased's wishes.

These corner ornaments have a design on the front face thereof, and are provided with an extending pin at the rear thereof. The pin is inserted into a hole provided on the angled corner for that purpose. The ornament is held in place with fastening means, such as a butterfly nut, from the inside
15 of the casket. This is a major inconvenience, since should the family wish to keep the corner ornaments, these can only be removed from the inside of the casket. It is most undesirable, when the casket is at the cemetery, to have a person reach into the casket (while the body lies therein) and manually unscrew the butterfly nuts in order to remove the ornaments.
20 Furthermore, even if there was a delicate way of removing the ornaments, the existence of the protruding pin makes it difficult for the family to expose the ornaments in their home, or elsewhere.

In order to obviate this problem, one solution is to provide the ornaments with a pair of male fasteners, having an enlarged head, which
25 matingly cooperate with a corresponding female opening in order to removably fasten the ornament to the corner. However, the use of such an

arrangement does not provide for adequate retention, since the ornaments can fall off, and can cause misalignment problems because the tolerance required to properly align the ornaments is high.

Furthermore, there is a need for permitting the family to choose and
5 arrange the ornaments as they choose, and for permitting the family to retain the ornaments and expose them properly.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a thematic casket
10 assembly for ornamenting a funeral ceremony. The casket is of the type having four corner surfaces, each of which are at an angle with respect to a side wall of the casket. The thematic casket assembly according to the present invention comprises a panel to be placed on a crown of the casket, a display shelf and at least one removable corner ornament adapted to be
15 attached to a corresponding corner on surface of the casket. The display shelf and the at least one corner ornament are provided with a thematic design on the front face thereof whereby during the funeral ceremony, the panel is placed on the crown of the casket and the corner ornaments are secured on the display shelves which are mounted on a corresponding
20 corner surfaces of the casket.

The present invention is also concerned with a thematic urn
assembly comprising a decorative panel to be placed nearby the urn and a ornament adapted to be attached on the surface of the urn. The thematic
25 urn assembly also comprises a display shelf for receiving and displaying the ornament when it is removed from the urn.

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It is another object of the present invention to provide a removable corner ornament for a casket that may be readily detachable from the casket that is without the use of any tools.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a kit for ornamenting a casket, comprising at least one corner ornament to be placed on the casket. The corner ornaments are provided with a design on the front face thereof and attaching means on the rear face thereof for fixing the corner ornament on a corner surface of the casket. The kit also comprises a display shelf for receiving and displaying at least one corner ornament when it is detached from the casket.

In accordance with the present invention it is also possible to use the removable corner ornament as a decorative base of an urn.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a thematic casket assembly for ornamenting a casket in a funeral ceremony, wherein the casket has corner surfaces. At least one of the corner surfaces has a first part of a fastening assembly. The thematic casket assembly comprises: at least one removable corner ornament having a second part of the fastening assembly, the first and the second parts of the fastening assembly being engageable for removably securing the at least one removable corner ornament to a corresponding corner surface of the casket during the funeral ceremony, the at least one removable corner ornament being provided with a thematic design on the front face; and at least one auxiliary display shelf separate from the casket and engageable with the second part of the fastening assembly for removably securing one of the at least one removable corner ornament thereto after the one removable corner ornament has been

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removed from the casket, whereby once the funeral ceremony is over, the corner ornament mounted to the auxiliary display shelf can be offered to the family of the deceased.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a kit for ornamenting a casket. The kit comprises: at least one corner ornament adapted to be placed on the casket and being provided with a design on a front face, the at least one corner ornament having first attaching means on a rear face thereof for removably fixing the at least one corner ornament on a corresponding corner surface of the casket; and an auxiliary display shelf, separate from the casket, for receiving and displaying the at least one corner ornament when dismounted from the corner surface of the casket.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a kit for ornamenting a casket having corner surfaces, at least one of the corner surfaces having a first fastening aid. The kit comprises: at least one corner ornament to be placed on the casket, the at least one corner ornament being provided with a design on a front face thereof, the at least one corner ornament having a second fastening aid on a rear face thereof, the second fastening aid being one of a groove and a tongue and being engageable with the first fastening aid for removably mounting the at least one corner ornament to the casket; and a panel to be placed on a crown of the casket during the funeral ceremony, the panel being provided with a thematic design on the front face thereof.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a method for personalizing a funeral ceremony. The method comprises: a) securing at least one corner ornament on a surface of a casket, the at least one corner ornament having a thematic design on the front face; b) performing the funeral ceremony; c) removing the at least one corner ornament from the

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casket at the end of the funeral ceremony; d) securing the corner ornament removed at step c) on an auxiliary display shelf, separate from the casket; and e) offering the corner ornament secured on the auxiliary display shelf to the family of the deceased.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a thematic casket assembly for ornamenting a casket in a funeral ceremony, wherein the casket has corner surfaces. At least one of the corner surfaces has a groove. The thematic casket assembly comprises: at least one removable corner ornament having opposed flanges, the groove and the flanges being engageable for removably securing the at least one removable corner ornament to one of the at least one corner surface of the casket during the funeral ceremony; and at least one auxiliary display shelf separate from the casket and engageable with the flanges for removably securing one of the at least one removable corner ornament thereto after the one removable corner ornament has been removed from the casket, whereby once the funeral ceremony is over, the corner ornament mounted to the auxiliary display shelf can be offered to the family of the deceased.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a thematic casket which comprises: a corner surface with an elongated groove; and at least one removable corner ornament having opposed elongated flanges engageable into the elongated groove for removably securing the at least one removable corner ornament to a corresponding corner surface of the casket.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a kit for ornamenting a casket, which comprises: at least one corner ornament adapted to be placed on the casket and being provided with a design on a front face thereof, the at least one corner ornament having elongated flanges

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on a rear face thereof for removably mounting the at least one corner ornament to the casket; and an auxiliary display shelf, separate from the casket, having a groove for receiving the elongated flanges of the at least one corner ornament when dismounted from the casket.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a kit for ornamenting a casket having corner surfaces, at least one of the corner surfaces being provided with a groove, the kit comprising: at least one corner ornament to be mounted to the casket and having opposed flanges on a rear face thereof, the flanges being engageable with the groove for removably mounting the at least one corner ornament to the corner surfaces of the casket.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a method for personalizing a funeral ceremony. The method comprises: securing at least one corner ornament on a surface of a casket by engaging elongated flanges into an elongated groove, the at least one corner ornament having a thematic design on a front face thereof; and performing the funeral ceremony.

It should be understood that more than one type of ornament may be placed on a casket, and the kit provides for this selection.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention and its advantages will be more easily understood after reading the following non-restrictive description of preferred embodiments thereof, made with reference to the following drawings in which:

5 Figure 1 is a schematic representation of a thematic casket assembly according to a preferred embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2 is an exploded view of a removable corner ornament according to a preferred embodiment of the invention;

Figure 3 is a rear view thereof;

10 Figure 4 is a cross-sectional view thereof;

Figure 5 is a schematic representation of the manner of removing a corner ornament from a casket;

Figure 6 is a perspective view of a display shelf and a removed ornament;

15 Figure 7 is a perspective view of the display shelf of Fig. 6, with the ornament placed thereon;

Figures 8a to 8g are schematic representations of various ornaments which can be used according to the present invention; and

Figure 9 is a perspective view of a thematic urn assembly according to the preferred embodiment of the invention.

20 **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

Figure 1 shows a thematic casket assembly according to the present invention. As can be seen, the casket assembly comprises a panel (60) that is

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adapted to be placed on the crown of a casket (50). The casket assembly further comprises at least one corner ornament (1) which is secured on a display shelf (5). The removable corner ornament is placed on a corner of the casket. The casket (50) is of the type comprising four corner surfaces, each of which are
5 at an angle with respect to the sidewall of the casket (50).

Therefore, during the funeral ceremony, the panel (60) is installed on the crown of the casket (50), the corner ornament (1) is secured on a display shelf (5), which is in turn mounted on a corresponding corner surface of the casket (50).

10 Since the casket assembly is composed of elements which are readily removable, at the end of the funeral service, at least one of the removable corner ornaments (1) and the panel (60) can be instantly removed from the casket (50) and presented to the family of the deceased.

15 Such thematic casket assembly allows the family of the deceased to execute a more personal and thematic funeral ceremony according to the deceased wishes or according to the family's preferences.

According to a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the thematic casket assembly may comprise four corner ornaments (1) wherein each of the corner ornament (1) is provided with identical thematic designs on the front
20 thereof. Alternatively, at least two of the four corners ornament (1) may be provided with identical thematic design on the front face thereof.

Hence it should be also noted that the four ornaments (1) need not all be identical, and that a selection of more than one ornament (1) can be placed on the display shelves (5) or corners.

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Referring now to Figure 2, it is shown the basic structure of a removable corner ornament (1) according to the present invention. The ornament (1) is provided with a fastener (20) for securing the ornament (1) to a corner of a casket (50). It can be seen that the groove (23) has a length greater than a length of the
5 flanges (21).

As shown in Figures 3 and 4, the fastener (20) may comprise a pair of longitudinal outwardly projecting flanges (21) adapted to be inserted in an opening which consists essentially of a longitudinal groove (23) on the corner surface of the display shelf (5). The longitudinal groove (23) has a width slightly smaller than
10 the one defined by the outwardly projecting flanges (21).

Preferably, the fastener is placed at a bottom portion (25) of the removable corner ornament (1) so to allow proper alignment on the corner of the casket (50).

In a preferred embodiment, the fastener (20) forms an integral part of the removable corner ornament (1).

15 In an other preferred embodiment, the fastener (20) is permanently fixed to the back of the ornament (1) such as by gluing or stapling. Referring to FIGS. 8(a), 8(d), and 8(e), it will be seen that the ornament (1) can be in two parts, one being a back plate (110) provided with the extruded PVC (20), having at the front thereof a design which is glued or otherwise fastened thereto.

20 In any case, the fastener (20) may be made of a piece of extruded polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

Figures 5 and 6, is a schematic representation of the manner to place and remove the ornament (1) on a casket (50) according to the invention. The removable corner ornament (1) may be readily snapped in the opening of the
25 respective corner surface. Since the width defined by the groove (23) is smaller than the width defined by the flanges (21), it serves to maintain the ornament (1)

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in position to the corner. Accordingly, the corner ornament (1) is removed by simply pulling it away in the opposite direction. It should be noted that sufficient force is required, so that the ornament (1) will not accidentally fall off the display shelf (5).

5 Figure 7 is a front view of a removable corner ornament (1) when it is removed from the casket (50) at the end of the funeral ceremony.

Accordingly, a casket (50) provided with the appropriate display shelf (5), can accept a variety of ornaments (1) which can be placed on the casket (50) during the ceremonies, and removed therefrom to provide the family or friends of
10 the deceased with an appropriate memento.

Figure 8 shows different types of ornaments (1), which can be placed, on a corner according to the invention.

It should be noted that the ornament (1) can be directly provided with, for example, a recess (40) to receive the extruded PVC piece (20), as shown on FIG.
15 3.

As mentioned above, the ornament (1) may be used as a decorative item such as a base for an urn. When the ornaments (1) are removed from the casket (50), they can be placed on a display shelf (120), which is provided with a longitudinal groove (23) for receiving the flange (21) of the corner ornament (1),
20 as better shown on Figs. 6 and 7. As shown in Fig. 1, the panel (60) which is placed on the crown and which can bear the same design as the ornament (1), or could bear a different design.

Referring to Figure 9, it is shown a thematic urn assembly according to the present invention. The thematic urn assembly comprises an urn (70) having a
25 front face wherein an ornament (1) may be installed.

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The display shelf and ornament (1) are readily detachable so that at the end of the funeral ceremony, the ornament (1) and display shelf may be removed from the urn and given to the family of the deceased. Similarly, the decorative panel (60) may be removed from its location and presented to the
5 family of the deceased.

The thematic casket assembly for ornamenting in a funeral ceremony described above can include a panel (60) to be placed on a crown of the casket (50); at least one removable corner ornament (1) adapted to be attached to a corresponding corner surface of the casket (50); and an auxiliary display shelf.
10 The panel (60) and the at least one corner ornament (1) are provided with respectively a first and a second thematic designs on their front face. During the funeral ceremony, the panel (60) is placed on the crown of the casket (50) and the at least one corner ornament (1) is secured on a corresponding corner surface of the casket (50). When the funeral ceremony is over, at least one of the
15 removable corner ornaments (1) is placed on the auxiliary display shelf and is given to the family of the deceased. The thematic assembly can include four corner ornaments (1) which can be provided with identical first thematic designs on their front face. One skilled in the art will also appreciate that at least two of the four corner ornaments (1) can be provided with identical first thematic designs
20 on their front face.

The removable corner ornament (1) can be used as an ornament on an urn.

In another embodiment, the thematic casket assembly for ornamenting in a funeral ceremony described above can include a panel (60) to be placed on a
25 crown of the casket (50), a display shelf adapted to be removably installed on at least one of the four corner surfaces of the casket (50) and at least one

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removable corner ornament (1) adapted to be attached to a corresponding corner surface of the casket (50). The panel (60) and the at least one corner ornament (1) are provided with respectively a first and a second thematic designs on their front face.

5 The thematic urn assembly for ornamenting a funeral ceremony described above can include an urn; a removable ornament (1) adapted to be attached on a corresponding surface of the urn; and a display shelf adapted to receive the removable ornament (1). When the funeral ceremony is over, the removable ornament (1) is removed from the urn and placed on a corresponding surface of
10 the display shelf to be given to the family of the deceased.

 The kit for ornamenting a casket (50) described above can include comprising at least one corner ornament (1) to be placed on the casket (50), each corner ornament (1) being provided with a design on its front face and attaching means on a rear face thereof for removably fixing the corner ornament (1) on a
15 corner surface of the casket (50); and a display shelf for receiving and displaying the at least one corner ornament (1). The kit can further include a panel (60) adapted to be placed on a crown of the casket (50).

 Although the present invention has been explained hereinabove by way of a preferred embodiment thereof, it should be pointed out that any modifications to
20 this preferred embodiment within the scope of the present description is not deemed to alter or change the nature and scope of the present invention.

CLAIMS

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

1. A thematic casket assembly for ornamenting a casket in a funeral ceremony, wherein said casket has corner surfaces, at least one of the corner surfaces having a groove, said thematic casket assembly comprising:

at least one removable corner ornament having opposed flanges, the groove and the flanges being engageable for removably securing the at least one removable corner ornament to one of the at least one corner surface of said casket during the funeral ceremony; and

at least one auxiliary display shelf separate from the casket and engageable with the flanges for removably securing one of the at least one removable corner ornament thereto after said one removable corner ornament has been removed from the casket, whereby once the funeral ceremony is over, the corner ornament mounted to the auxiliary display shelf can be offered to the family of the deceased.

2. A thematic casket assembly according to claim 1, wherein the at least one removable corner ornament comprises a fastening member including the flanges and the fastening member is received in a recess in a rear face of the at least one removable corner ornament.

3. A thematic casket assembly according to one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the flanges project outwardly from one another and the groove has a width smaller than the one of the outwardly projecting flanges.

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4. A thematic casket assembly according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the groove has a length greater than a length of the flanges.

5. A thematic casket assembly according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the flanges include a resilient material.

6. A thematic urn assembly for ornamenting a urn in a funeral ceremony, wherein said urn has a surface having a groove, said thematic urn assembly comprising:

at least one removable ornament having opposed flanges, the groove and the flanges being engageable for removably securing the removable ornament to the surface of the urn during the funeral ceremony; and

at least one auxiliary display shelf separate from the urn and engageable with the flanges for removably securing the removable ornament thereto after said removable ornament has been removed from the urn, whereby once the funeral ceremony is over, the ornament mounted to the auxiliary display shelf can be offered to the family of the deceased.

7. A kit for ornamenting a casket comprising:

at least one corner ornament adapted to be placed on said casket and being provided with a design on a front face thereof, the at least one corner ornament having elongated flanges on a rear face thereof for removably mounting the at least one corner ornament to said casket; and

an auxiliary display shelf, separate from the casket, having a groove for receiving said elongated flanges of the at least one corner ornament when dismounted from the casket.

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8. A kit according to claim 7, further comprising a panel adapted to be mounted to a crown of said casket.

9. A kit according to one of claims 7 and 8, wherein the at least one removable corner ornament comprises a fastening member including the elongated flanges and the fastening member is received in a recess in the rear face of the at least one removable corner ornament.

10. A kit according to any one of claims 7 to 9, wherein the groove has a length greater than the length of the elongated flanges.

11. A kit according to any one of claims 7 to 10, wherein the elongated flanges include a resilient material.

12. A thematic casket assembly for ornamenting a casket in a funeral ceremony, wherein said casket has four corner surfaces, each of the corner surfaces being at an angle with respect to a side wall of said casket, said assembly comprising:

a panel to be placed on a crown of said casket;

at least one display shelf provided with one of said four corner surfaces, which has a continuous elongated groove; and

at least one removable corner ornament provided with a fastener having a pair of elongated longitudinal flanges and which is adapted to be removably attached to one of the four corner surfaces of said casket;

wherein said groove has a length greater than a length of said longitudinal flanges;

said panel and said at least one corner ornament being provided with a thematic design on a front face thereof

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whereby during said funeral ceremony, said panel is placed on said crown of said casket, said at least one corner ornament is secured on a corresponding corner surface of said casket upon insertion of the fastener into the groove; and whereby when said funeral ceremony is over, at least one removable corner ornament is placed on said display shelf and given to the family of the deceased.

13. A thematic casket assembly according to claim 12, further comprising three more corner ornaments, wherein each of the four corner surfaces receives the removable corner ornament.

14. A thematic casket assembly according to any one of claims 12 to 13, wherein each of said corner ornaments are provided with an identical thematic design on the front face thereof.

15. A thematic casket assembly according to any one of claims 12 to 13, wherein at least two of said four corner ornaments are provided with identical thematic design on the front face thereof.

16. A thematic casket assembly comprising a casket and a kit for ornamenting said casket in a funeral ceremony, wherein said casket has four corner surfaces, each of the corner surfaces being at an angle with respect to a side wall of said casket, said kit comprising:

a panel to be placed on a crown of said casket,

a display shelf having a continuous elongated groove and at least one removable corner ornament adapted to be attached to one of the four corner surfaces of said casket,

said panel and said at least one corner ornament being provided with a

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thematic design on a front face thereof; and

a fastener attached to said at least one corner ornament for removably fixing said at least one corner ornament to said one of the four corner surfaces, said fastener including a pair of elongated longitudinal flanges spaced from one another at a distance greater than said width of the groove, and wherein said groove has a length greater than a length of said longitudinal flanges.

17. A casket assembly comprising a casket and a kit for ornamenting said casket, said kit comprising

at least one corner ornament to be placed on said casket, said corner ornament being provided with a design on a front face thereof and a fastener on a rear face thereof for removably fixing the corner ornament on a corner surface of said casket and

a display shelf for receiving and displaying said at least one corner ornament, said display shelf having a continuous elongated longitudinal groove having a width,

said fastener being provided with a pair of elongated longitudinal flanges spaced from one another at a distance greater than said width of the groove, wherein said groove has a length greater than a length of said longitudinal flanges.

18. A kit according to claim 17, further comprising a panel adapted to be placed on a crown of said casket.

19. A kit according to any one of claims 17 to 18, wherein said kit further comprises three more corner ornaments, wherein each of corner surfaces receives a respective movable corner ornament.

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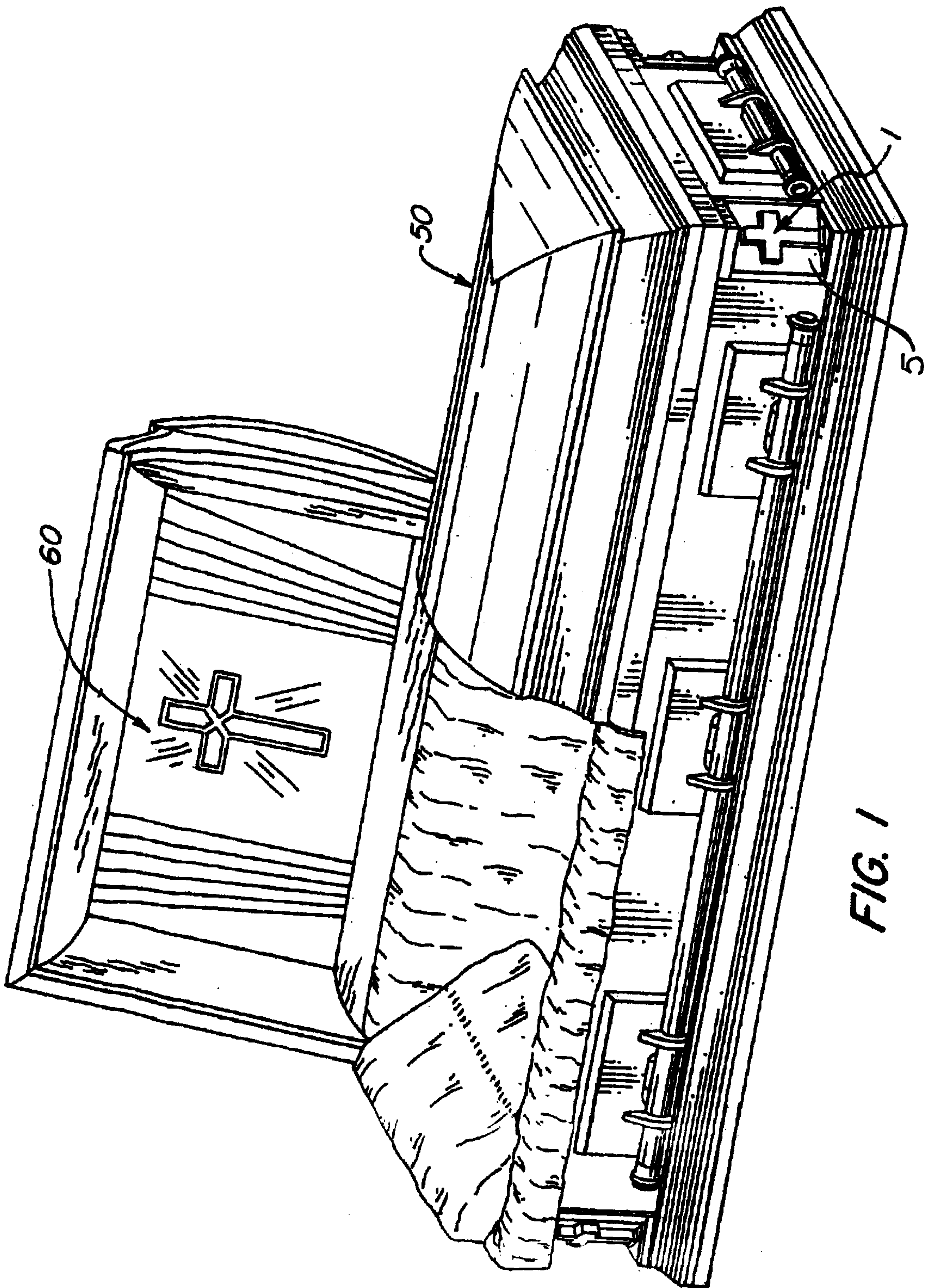
20. A kit according to claim 19, wherein at least two of said four corner ornaments are provided with an identical design on the front face thereof.

21. A kit according to claim 20, wherein each of said four corner ornaments are provided with an identical design on the front face thereof.

22. A kit for ornamenting a urn comprising:

a ornament adapted to be placed on said urn and being provided with a design on a front face thereof, the ornament having elongated flanges on a rear face thereof for removably mounting the ornament to said urn; and

an auxiliary display shelf, separate from the urn, having a groove for receiving said elongated flanges of the ornament when dismounted from the urn.



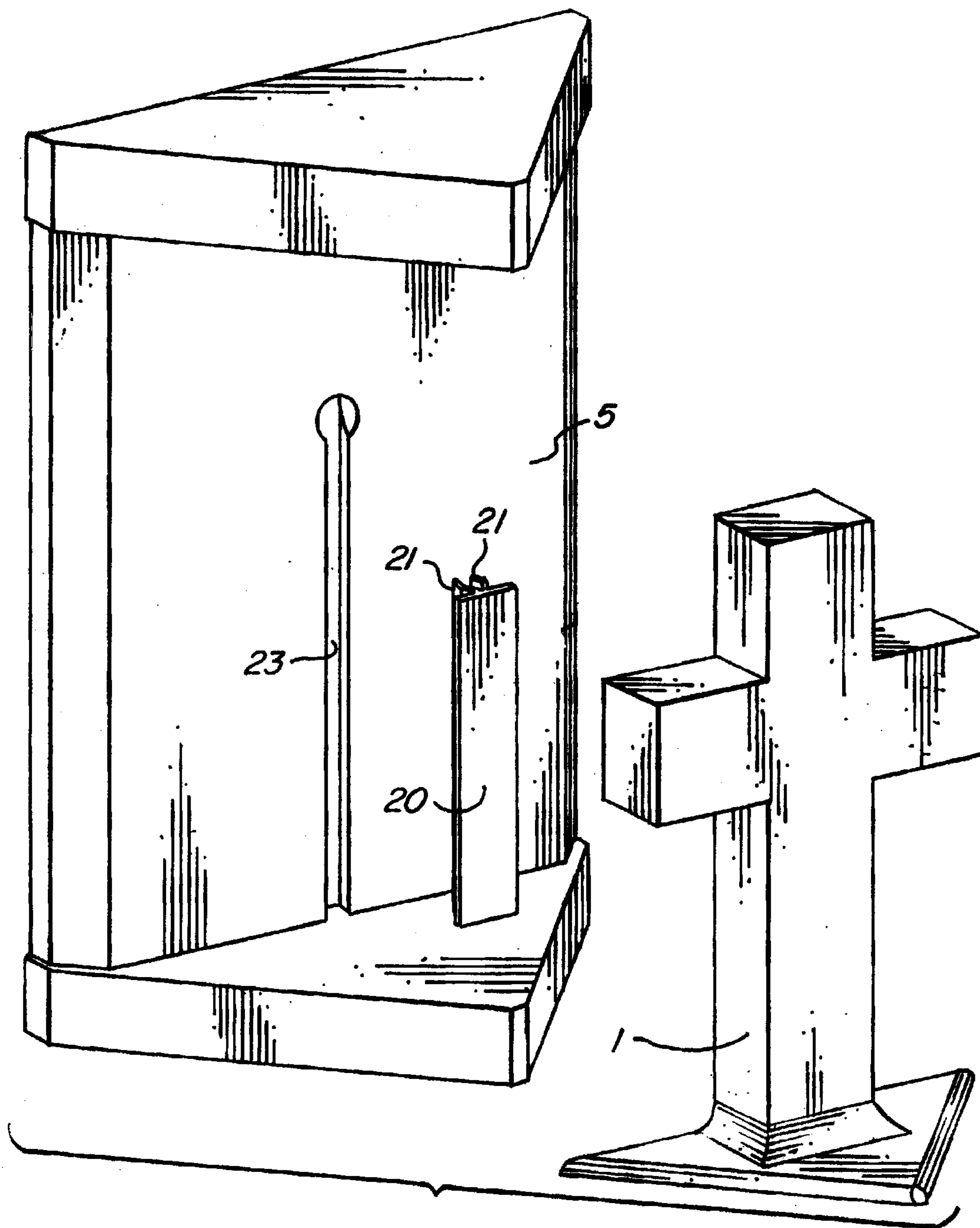


FIG. 2

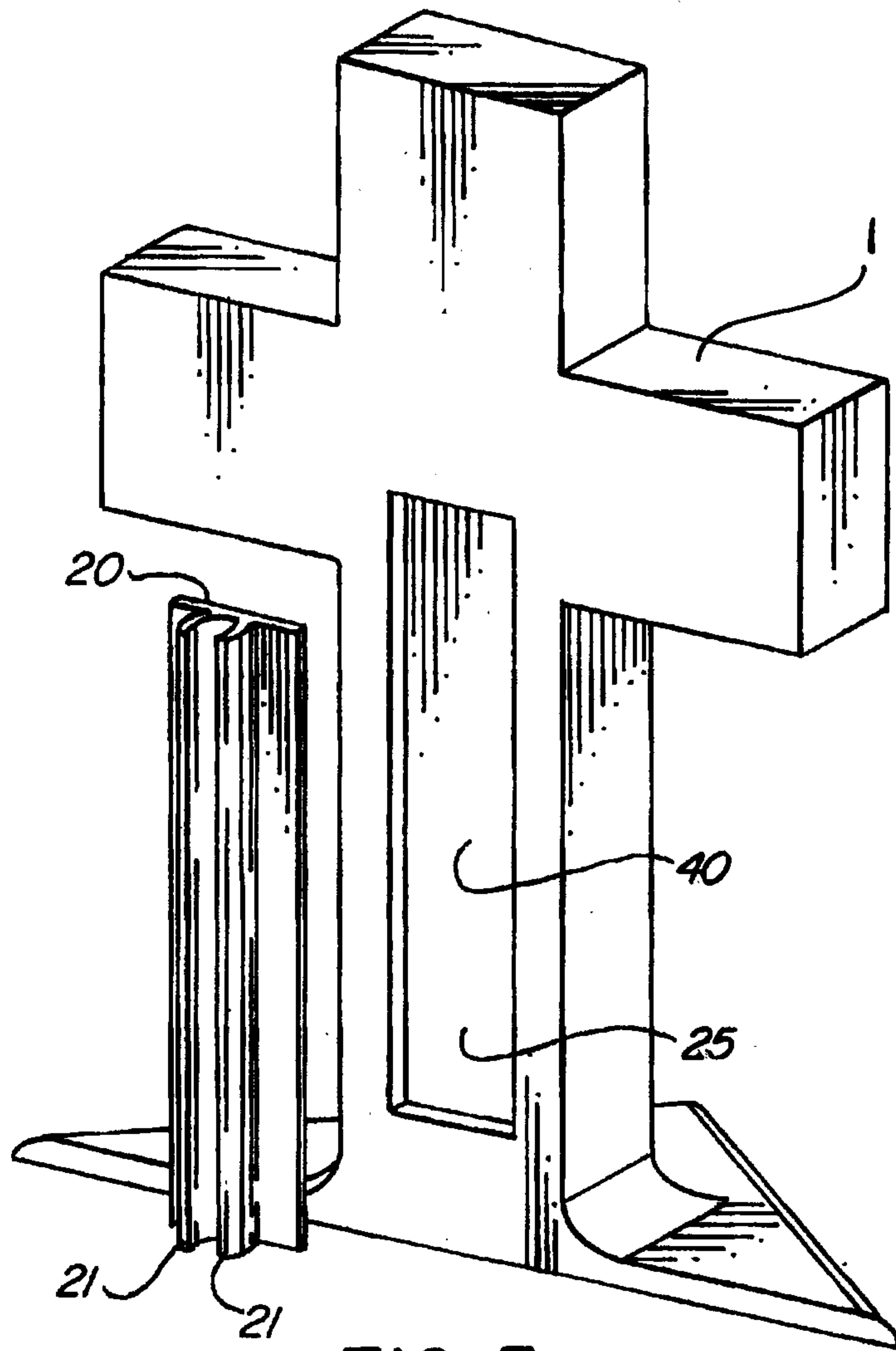


FIG. 3

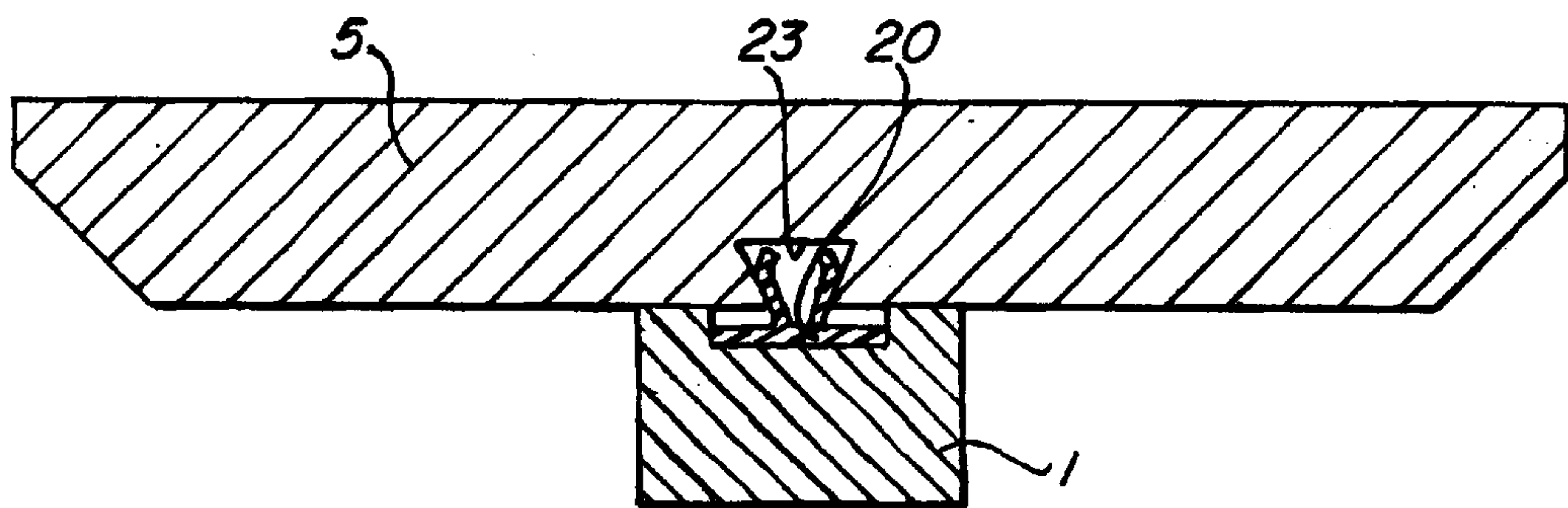


FIG. 4

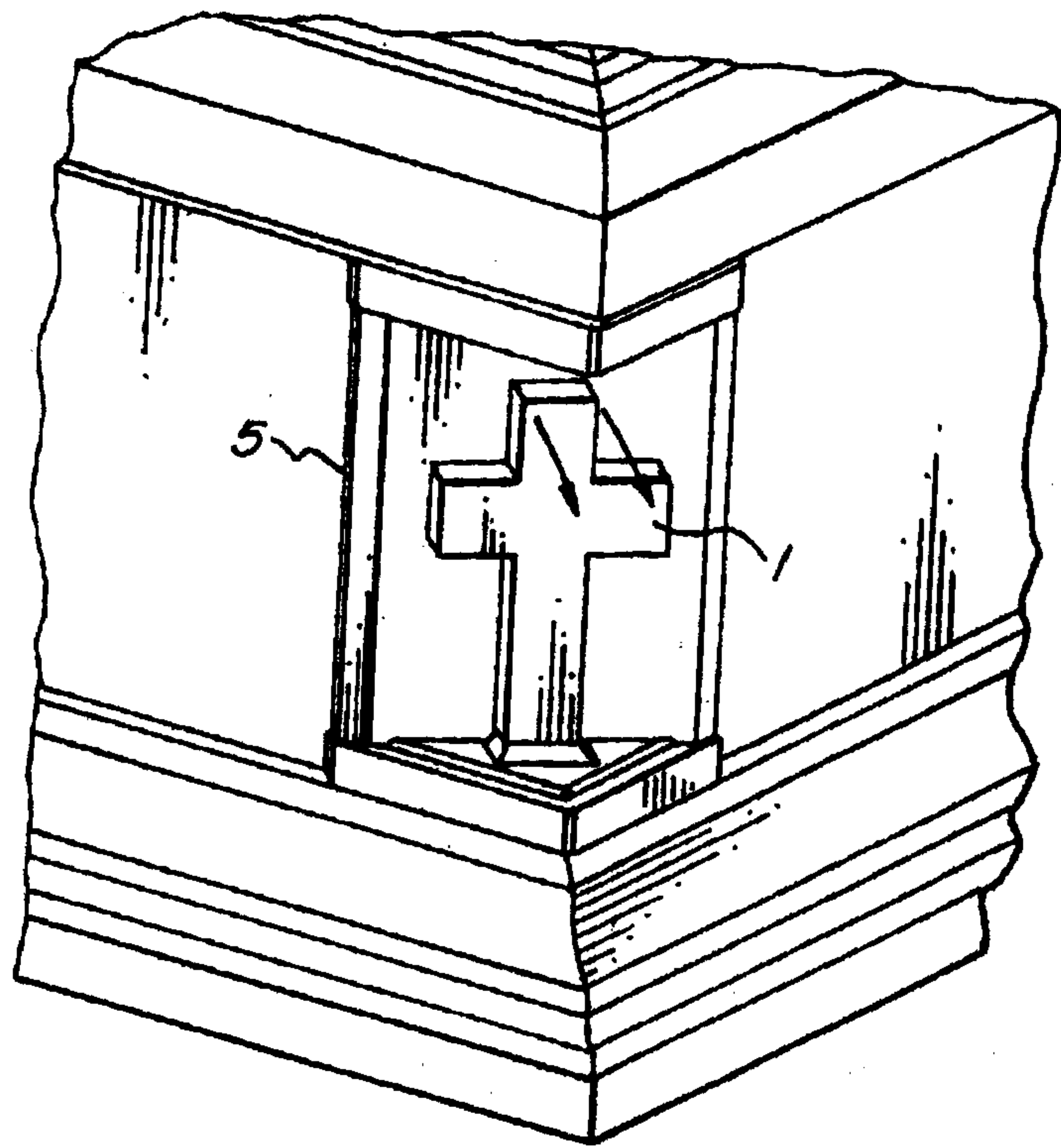


FIG. 5

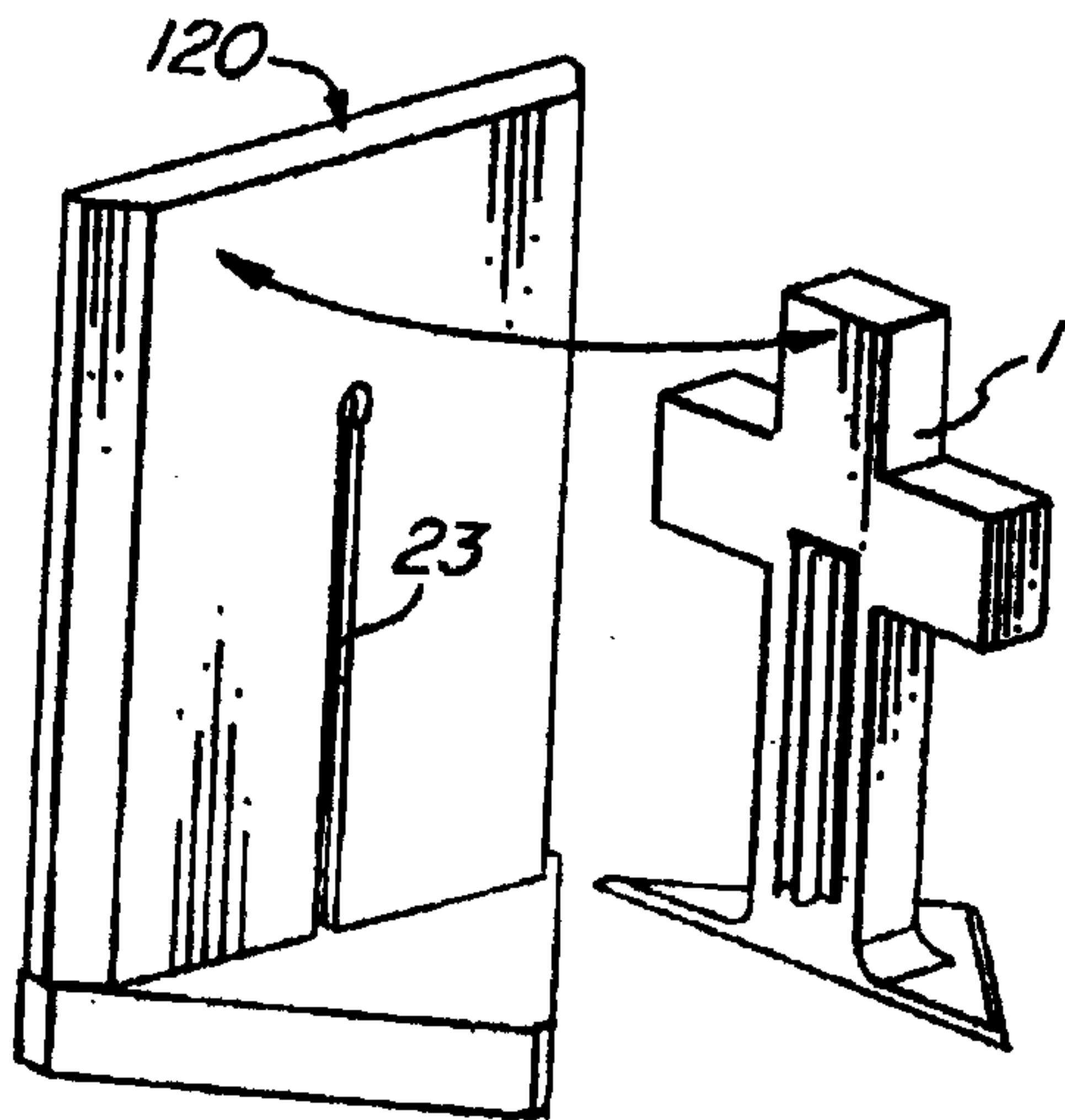


FIG. 6

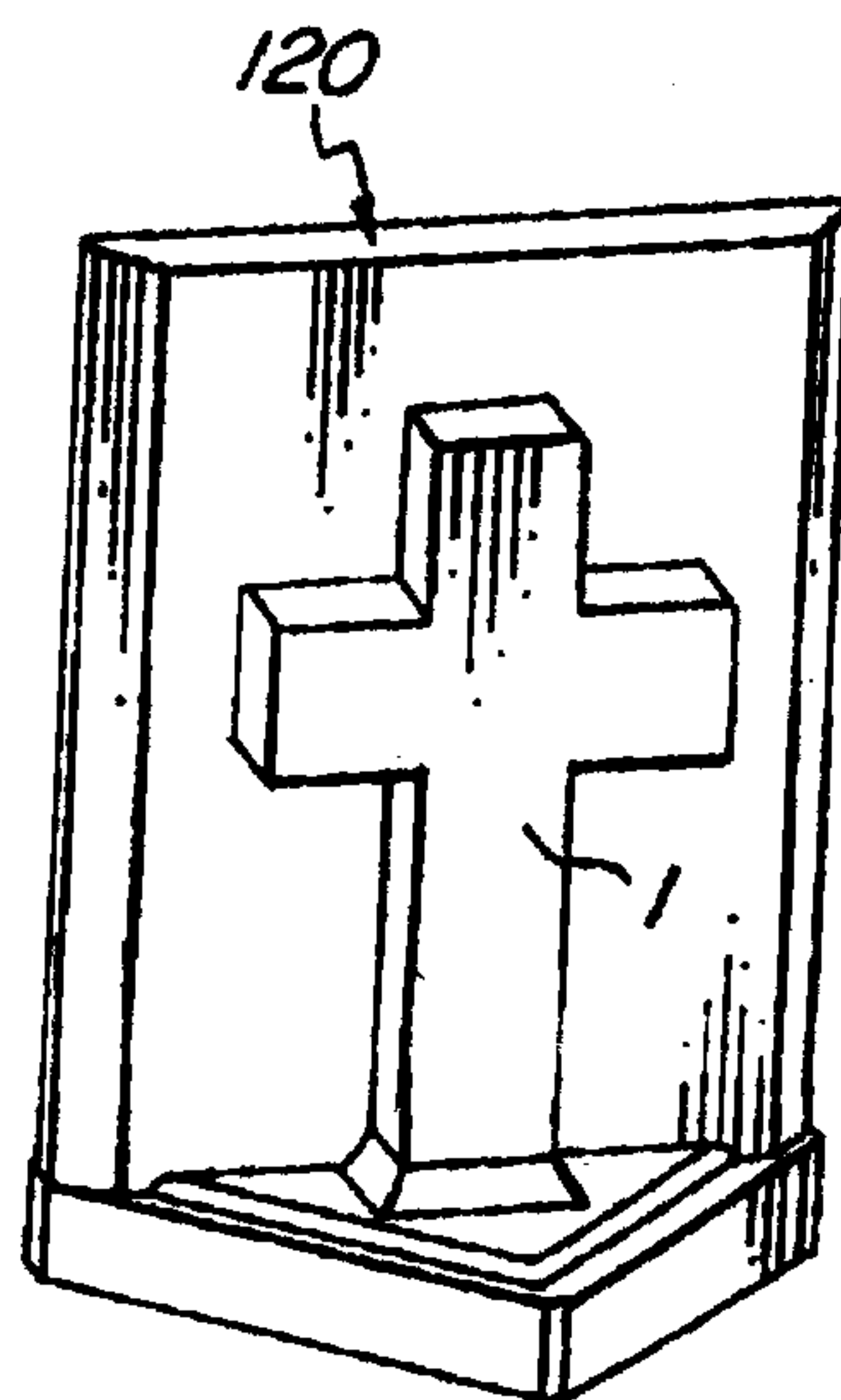


FIG. 7

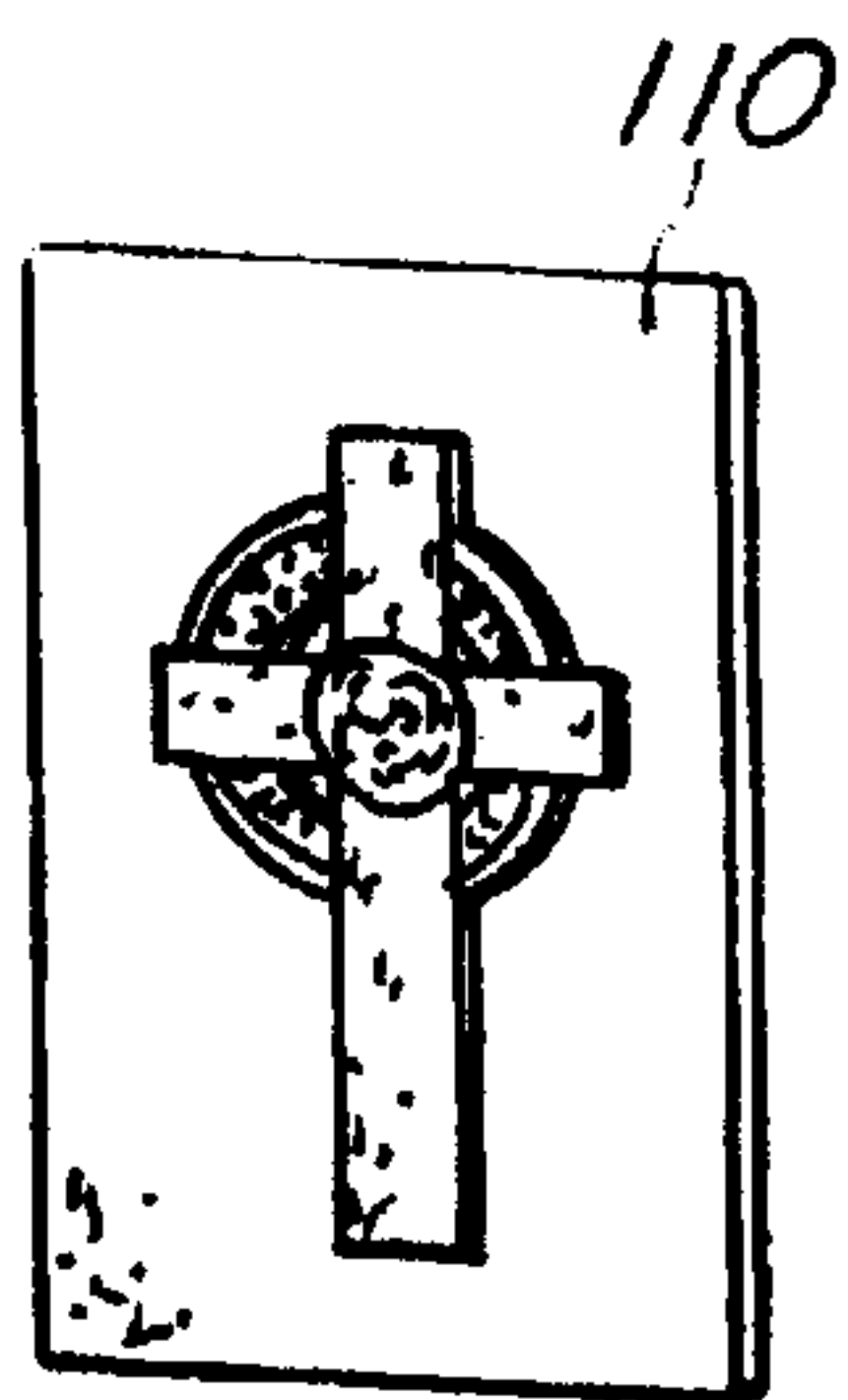


FIG. 8(a)



FIG. 8(b)

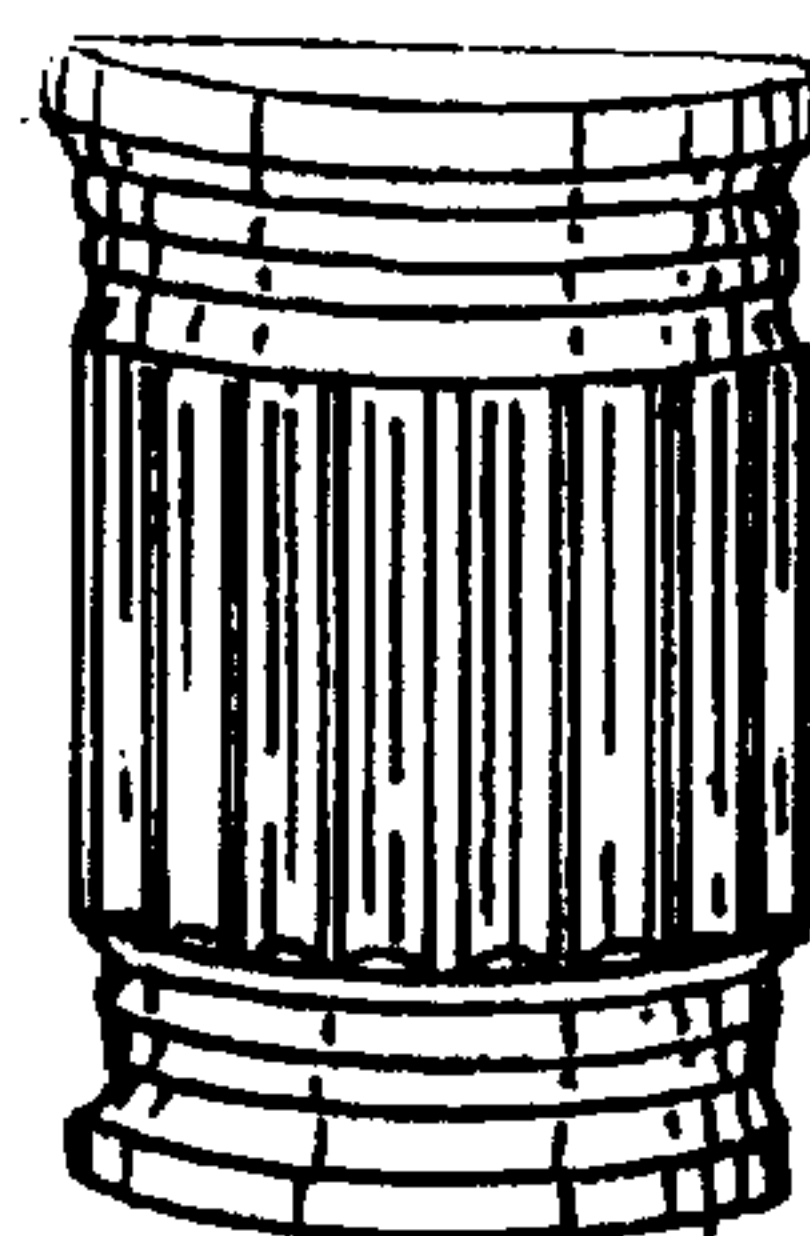


FIG. 8(c)

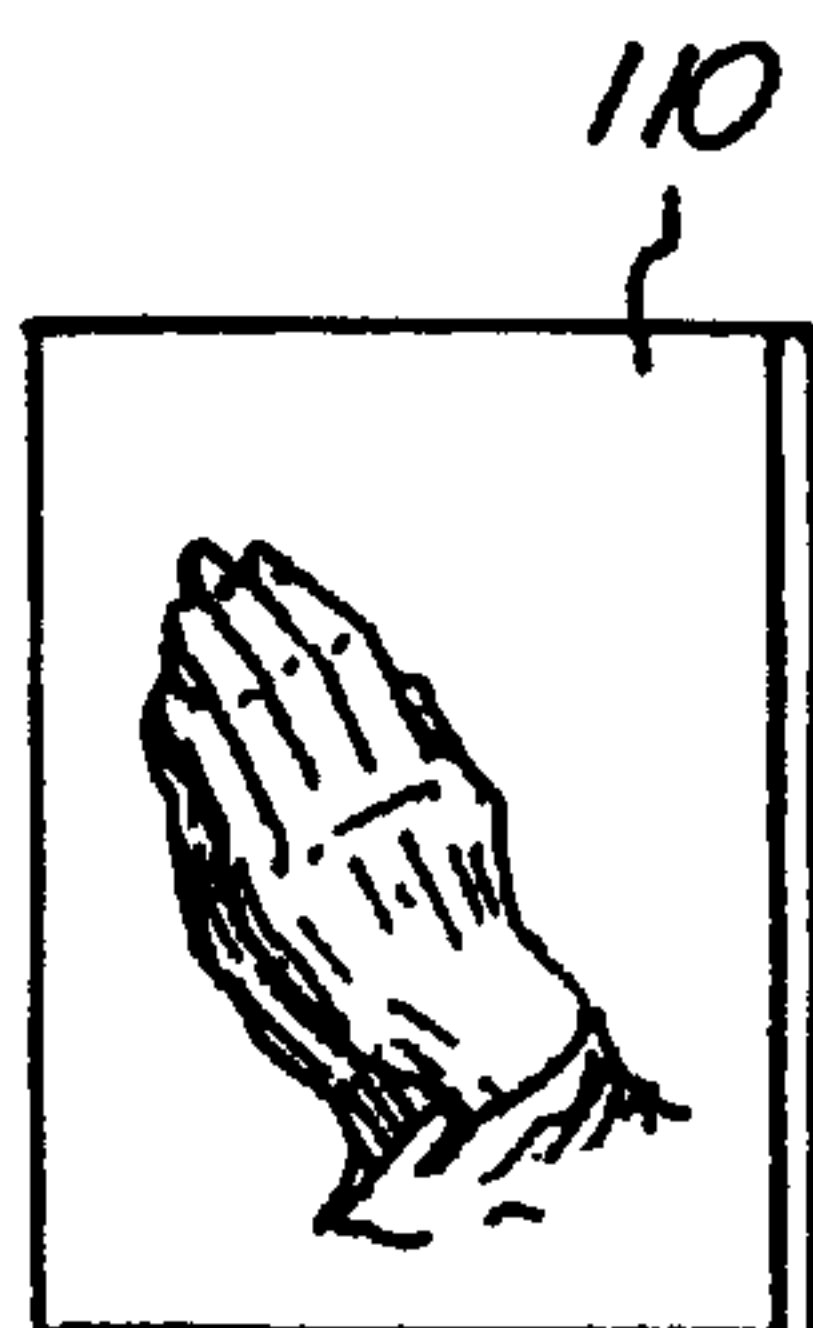


FIG. 8(d)

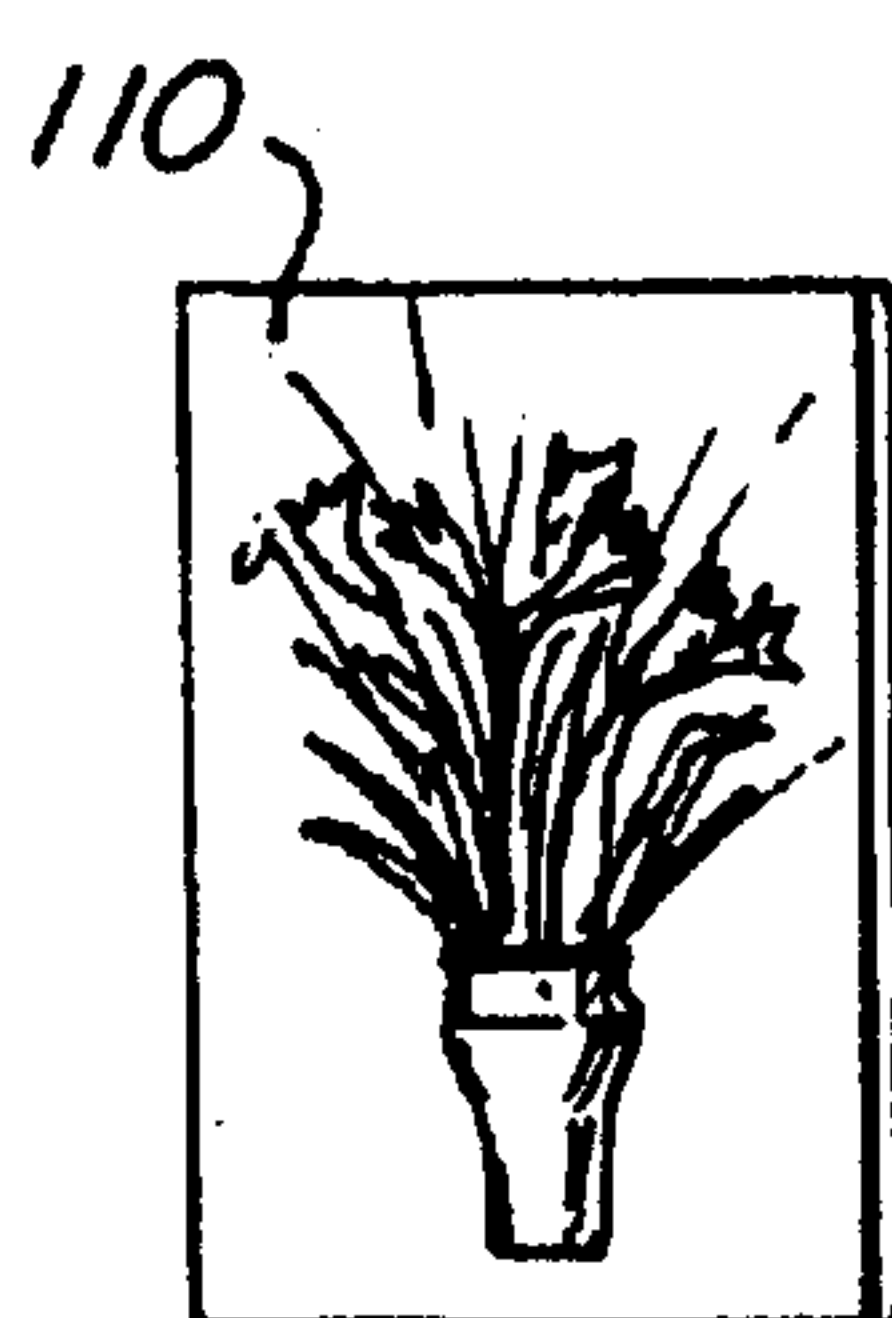


FIG. 8(e)



FIG. 8(f)

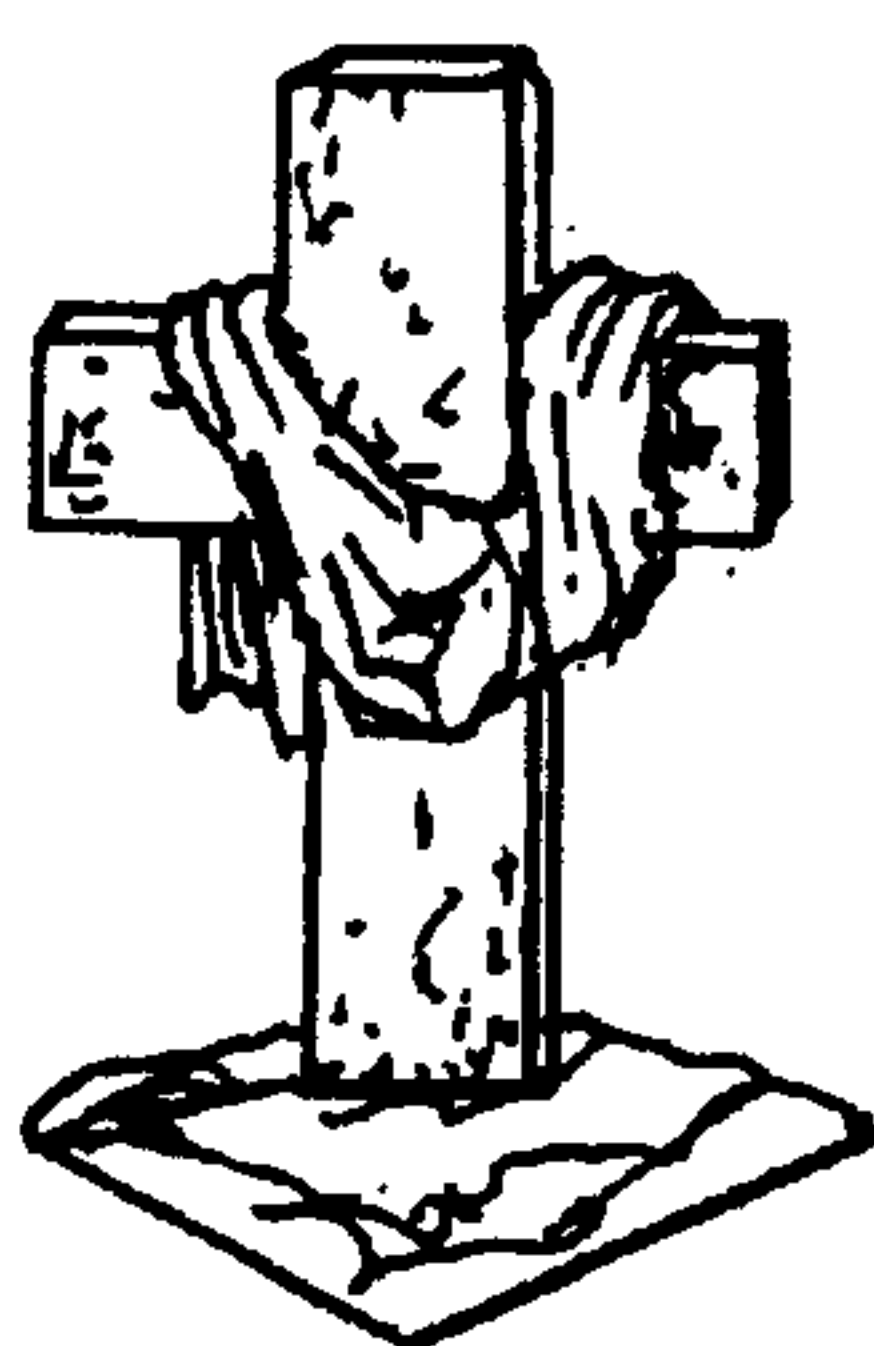


FIG. 8(g)

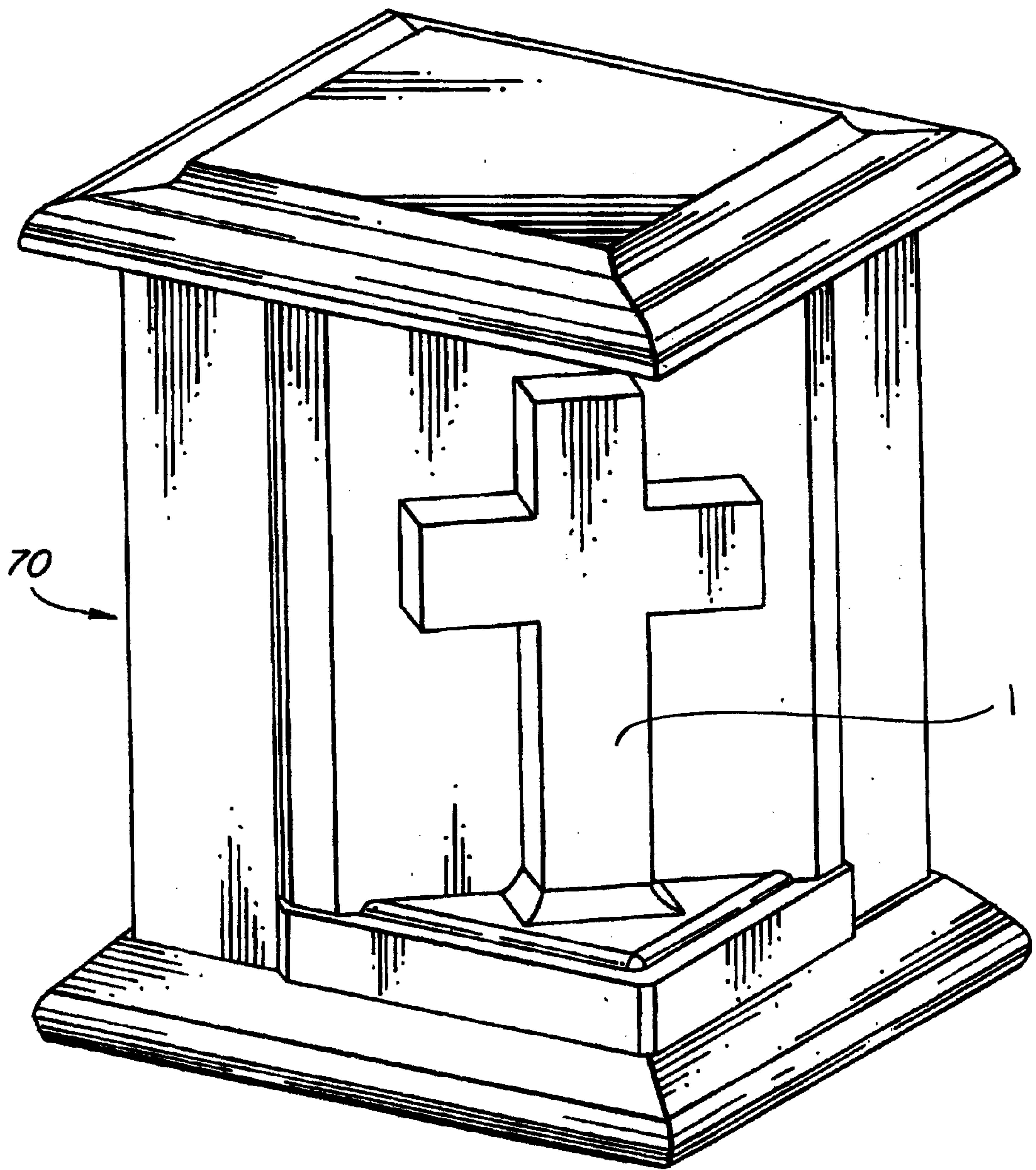


FIG. 9

