



(22) Date de dépôt/Filing Date: 2010/08/25

(41) Mise à la disp. pub./Open to Public Insp.: 2010/11/16

(45) Date de délivrance/Issue Date: 2011/08/09

(51) Cl.Int./Int.Cl. *E01F 9/00* (2006.01),
G09F 7/18 (2006.01)

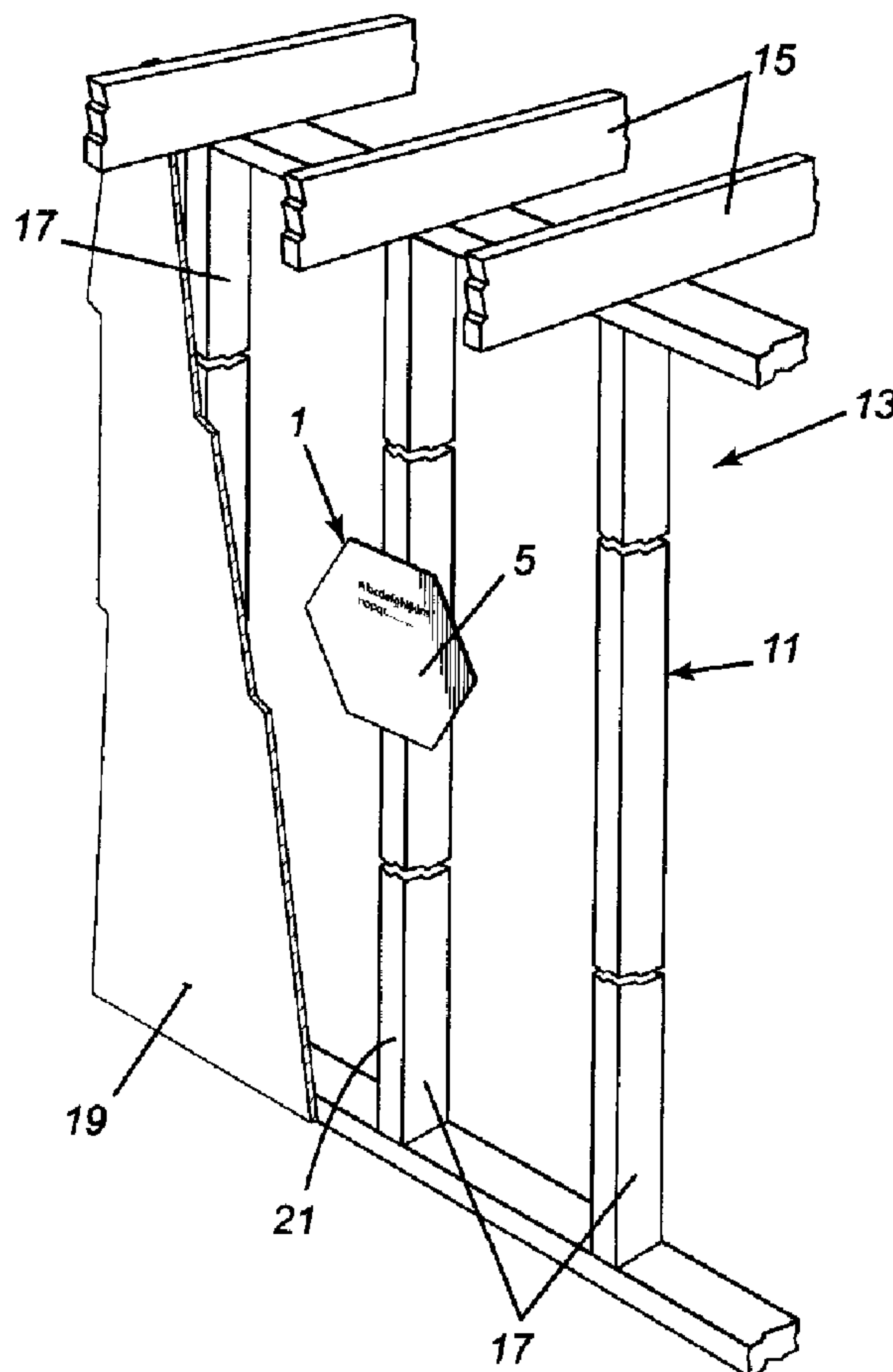
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(54) Title: WARNING SIGN



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

A warning sign for attachment to a load bearing wall in a building, the wall having an inner supporting structure covered with an outer, finishing layer. The sign is mountable on the supporting structure of the wall before the structure is covered with the outer



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

layer of material so that the sign is not normally visible. The sign becomes visible only on removal of the outer layer such as during renovation. The sign has a message on it's side facing outwardly from the structure, when the sign is attached to the structure, to warn a person viewing the sign when the sign is visible. The message warns the viewer that the wall is a load bearing wall and that the removal of the wall could have dangerous consequences. The invention is also directed toward a building incorporating the sign and to a method for installing the sign.

ABSTRACT

A warning sign for attachment to a load bearing wall in a building, the wall having an inner supporting structure covered with an outer, finishing layer. The sign is mountable on the supporting structure of the wall before the structure is covered with the outer layer of material so that the sign is not normally visible. The sign becomes visible only on removal of the outer layer such as during renovation. The sign has a message on it's side facing outwardly from the structure, when the sign is attached to the structure, to warn a person viewing the sign when the sign is visible. The message warns the viewer that the wall is a load bearing wall and that the removal of the wall could have dangerous consequences.

The invention is also directed toward a building incorporating the sign and to a method for installing the sign.

WARNING SIGN

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

TECHNICAL FIELD

[1000] This invention relates to a warning sign. The invention is also directed toward a building provided with the warning sign and to a method for installing the sign in the building.

BACKGROUND ART

[1001] Some people, who do their own renovating, are not aware that some walls in buildings, particularly interior walls, are load bearing, the load bearing walls being used to support structure above them. When they tear down a load bearing wall during renovations to provide open space, or for other reasons, without realizing that the wall is a load bearing wall, the structure that was supported by the wall can fail leading to severe injury to themselves and/or others and to costly repairs.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[1002] It is the purpose of the present invention to provide a warning sign to be mounted on a load bearing wall, which sign becomes visible when renovation or demolition of the wall begins. The sign will deter the renovator from continuing with the dismantling of the wall until steps are taken to prevent possible damage to the building.

[1003] In accordance with the present invention a warning sign is provided with the message that the wall the sign appears on is a load bearing wall and that the removal of the wall could cause damage to the building. The sign is adapted to be mounted on the load bearing wall under the finishing outer layer on the wall during the initial construction of the wall. Thus the sign is not

ordinarily visible. However when a renovator, in the process of tearing down the wall, removes the finishing outer layer to expose the underlying supporting structure of the wall, the sign, mounted on the structure, warns the renovator about danger in proceeding.

[1004] The sign is big enough to provide space for the message in easy-to-read size. The sign can be made of any suitable material that does not disintegrate with age, such as a metal, plastic, or plastic reinforced paper by way of example. The sign is thin enough so as not to cause a noticeable bulge in the outer covering of the wall. The sign can be mounted on the wall in any manner, but firmly enough so that it is not dislodged during removal of the outer layer. The sign could be mounted on the interior supporting structure of the wall, at around eye level, with adhesive, fasteners, or prongs formed in the body of the sign.

[1005] The invention is particularly directed to a warning sign for attachment to the interior supporting structure of a load bearing wall in a building, the sign being mounted on the supporting structure before it is covered with an outer layer of material so that the sign is not normally visible, the sign becoming visible only on removal of the outer layer. The sign has a message on one side, visible to the viewer when the outer layer is removed, warning the viewer that the wall the sign is mounted on is a load bearing wall.

[1006] The invention is also directed toward a building having the sign mounted therein. The invention is further directed toward a method of constructing the building with the sign.

DESCRIPTION OF SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

[1007] Fig. 1 is front view of the sign;

[1008] Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the sign mounted on a load bearing wall of a building;

[1009] Fig. 3 is front view of a modified sign;

[1010] Fig. 4 is a perspective view of another modified sign; and

[1011] Fig. 5 is a perspective view of yet another modified sign.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[1012] The warning sign 1, as shown in Fig. 1 is a thin piece of material, preferably rigid enough to keep its shape. The sign can be made from one or a combination of various materials such as metal, plastic, or reinforced paper, The sign can be made in one of various shapes such as round, square, rectangular, hexagonal, or, preferably, octagonal to mimic the outline of a traffic stop sign. The sign 1 would be large enough to have a warning message 3, on one side 5 of the sign, in letters large enough to be easily read by a person a step or two away from the sign. The sign could be about six inches wide to carry the message. The message 3 could be printed, stamped, painted, embossed or otherwise affixed to the one side 5 of the sign. The background of the front of the sign could be coloured red, which colour implies danger, or yellow, which colour implies caution.

[1013] The sign 1 is adapted to be mounted on the interior supporting structure 11 of a load bearing wall 13 in a building during construction of the building as shown in Fig. 2. The building is usually a residential structure and the interior

supporting structure of the wall is usually wood framing. The load bearing wall 13 is a wall that supports a structural load such as the roof or ceiling joists 15. If the wall 13 is removed, the roof or ceiling joists 15 could collapse. The supporting structure 11 of the wall is typically a framework of wood using 2 x 4's or 2 x 6's as the vertical studs 17. However the supporting structure 11 could also be made of other materials such as a metal framework with metal studs, or a masonry structure, made of cinder blocks or the like. Once the supporting structure 11 is complete, it is covered with an outer layer 19 of finishing material. The outer layer 19 is usually a gypsum board applied in panels or sections to cover the supporting structure and provide a neat appearance. Other known materials can be used in place of the gypsum board.

[1014] The warning sign 1 is attached to the supporting structure 11 of the load bearing wall 13 before the outer layer 19 is applied. The sign 1 is preferably attached to the edge 21 of one of the studs 17 so it will be parallel to the outer layer 19. The message 3 on the side 5 of the sign will face out from the structure 11.

[1015] The sign 1 can be attached in one of several ways. It could be glued on or attached with fasteners such as nails or screw. If attached with fasteners the sign 1 could have attachment holes 23 already formed in it to receive the fasteners as shown in Fig. 3. The sign 1 could be provided with a u-shaped channel section 25 at its back side 27, as shown in Fig. 4. The channel section 25 slips over the edge 21 of a stud 17, the channel section 25 then nailed to the sides 29 of the stud 17 through the side walls 31 of the section. If the sign 1 is made of metal, it could have teeth 35 stamped out of it and bent to be perpendicular

to the back side 27 of the sign, as shown in Fig. 5. The teeth 35 extend rearwardly from the back side 27 of the sign 1 and are adapted to be driven into the edge of the stud. If the supporting structure is masonry the sign could be bent to have its bent section attached, during construction of the wall, in the cement holding the masonry members together with the main body of the sign flat against the wall. Once the sign 1 is applied the wall 13 it is covered up with the outer layer 19. The sign 1 is thin enough that it does not noticeably deform the outer layer 19.

[1016] As is apparent from above, the method of installing the sign involves the steps of first constructing the supporting structure of the load bearing wall; then affixing one or more of the warning signs to each side of the supporting structure; and finally, covering up the supporting structure, including covering the warning signs on the supporting structure, with a finishing cover layer.

[1017] The sign has been described as being attached to a single stud on the edge of the stud. The sign could also be attached to the supporting structure in other ways. The sign could, for example, be made long enough to extend between two adjacent studs and attached to both studs. The sign could also be attached to the side of a stud, spaced inwardly from the outer covers. Such a sign could have the same message on both sides and does not necessarily have to be thin.

[1018] The message 3 on the sign is one which warns the viewer directly or indirectly that the wall the sign is affixed to, is a load bearing wall. The sign can further include the information

that the removal of the wall could damage the building. The sign could advise the viewer to seek professional help to deal with the wall. The message on the sign could be simple or detailed. The main idea to be conveyed by the message however is to warn the viewer that the wall the sign is on is a load bearing wall and that the wall's removal could have dangerous consequences.

[1019] With the sign installed, if the building owner decides to renovate and his renovation plans, because of his lack of knowledge of building structures, calls for the removal of a load bearing wall in the building, the removal of the outer layer 19 of the wall 13 will reveal the warning sign 1 so that the renovator can stop and get help to decide what to do with the bearing wall before continuing and possibly severely injuring someone and/or damaging the building.

[1020] Each load bearing wall in a building can have several signs on each side of the wall, the signs normally being at about eye-level and spaced about four feet apart. The loading bearing wall can be a complete wall forming one side of a room, or just a partial wall extending from one wall into a large room. The load bearing wall could even comprise one or more aligned, spaced-apart columns.

I claim:

1. A warning sign for mounting on a load bearing wall in a building, the load bearing wall having an inner supporting structure covered with an outer, covering layer; the sign being essentially two dimensional with a viewing surface on one side of the sign and a mounting surface on the other side of the sign, the sign having a warning message on it's viewing surface, the message warning the viewer that the wall the sign is on is a load bearing wall and that the removal of the wall could have dangerous consequences; the sign adapted to be mounted with its mounting surface on the supporting structure of the wall and the viewing surface on the sign facing outwardly from the structure, the supporting structure and the sign being covered with the covering layer so that sign is not visible; the sign becoming visible only on removal of the outer, covering layer.
2. A warning sign as claimed in claim 1 including attachment means on the sign for use in attaching the sign to the supporting structure.
3. A warning sign as claimed in claim 2 wherein the attachment means comprises a least one hole in the sign for receiving a fastener.
4. A warning sign as claimed in claim 2 wherein the attachment means has a u-shaped channel fastened to the back of the sign, the channel adapted to be slipped onto a framing member forming part of the supporting structure, and fastening means for attaching the channel to the framing member when mounted thereon.
5. A warning sign as claimed in claim 2 wherein the attachment means comprises teeth formed from the sign to extend from the side of the sign opposite to the one side carrying the message, the teeth adapted to penetrate the supporting structure

6. A load bearing wall in a building, the wall having an inner supporting structure, the inner structure covered with a outer layer, at least one warning sign mounted on the inner structure, the sign normally covered by the outer layer and not visible; the sign becoming visible when the outer layer is removed; the sign having a message on it's side facing outwardly from the inner structure to warn a person viewing the sign when the sign is visible; the message warning the viewer that the wall the sign is on is a load bearing wall and that the removal of the wall could have dangerous consequences.

7. A load bearing wall as claimed in claim 6 wherein the load bearing wall is an interior wall in the building.

8. A load bearing wall as claimed in claim 6 wherein the inner supporting structure of the load bearing wall is a wood frame structure that has vertical, spaced-apart, studs, the studs positioned to have their narrow edges facing outwardly, the sign adapted to be mounted on the outwardly facing edge of one of the studs.

9. A load bearing wall as claimed in claim 8 including attachment means on the sign for use in attaching the sign to the facing edge of said one stud.

10. A load bearing wall as claimed in claim 9 wherein the attachment means comprises a least one hole in the sign for receiving a fastener.

11. A load bearing wall as claimed in claim 9 wherein the attachment means has a u-shaped channel fastened to the other side of the sign, the channel adapted to be slipped onto the said one stud over its facing edge, the channel fastened to the stud with fastening means.

12. A load bearing wall as claimed in claim 9 wherein the attachment means comprises teeth formed from the sign to extend from the other side of the sign opposite to the one side carrying the message, the teeth penetrating the facing edge of the said one stud.

13. A method of building a load bearing wall in a building with a warning sign therein, the warning sign providing a warning to a person who is unknowingly starting to tear down a load bearing wall that the wall is a load bearing wall, the load bearing wall being of the type having an inner supporting structure and an outer covering layer on the supporting structure, the method comprising the steps of: constructing the inner supporting structure of the wall; placing at least one warning sign on each side of the inner supporting structure in a position where the sign can be easily viewed; each sign carrying the message that the wall the sign is on is a load bearing wall and removal of the wall could have dangerous consequences; and covering the inner supporting structure, including the signs, with the outer covering layer.

14. The use of a warning sign on a load bearing wall, the load bearing wall having an inner supporting structure and an outer covering layer covering the supporting structure, the warning sign mounted on the supporting structure under the covering layer and only becoming visible on removal of the covering layer covering the sign, the sign having a message thereon warning the person removing the covering layer that the wall the sign is on is a load bearing wall the removal of which could have dangerous consequences.

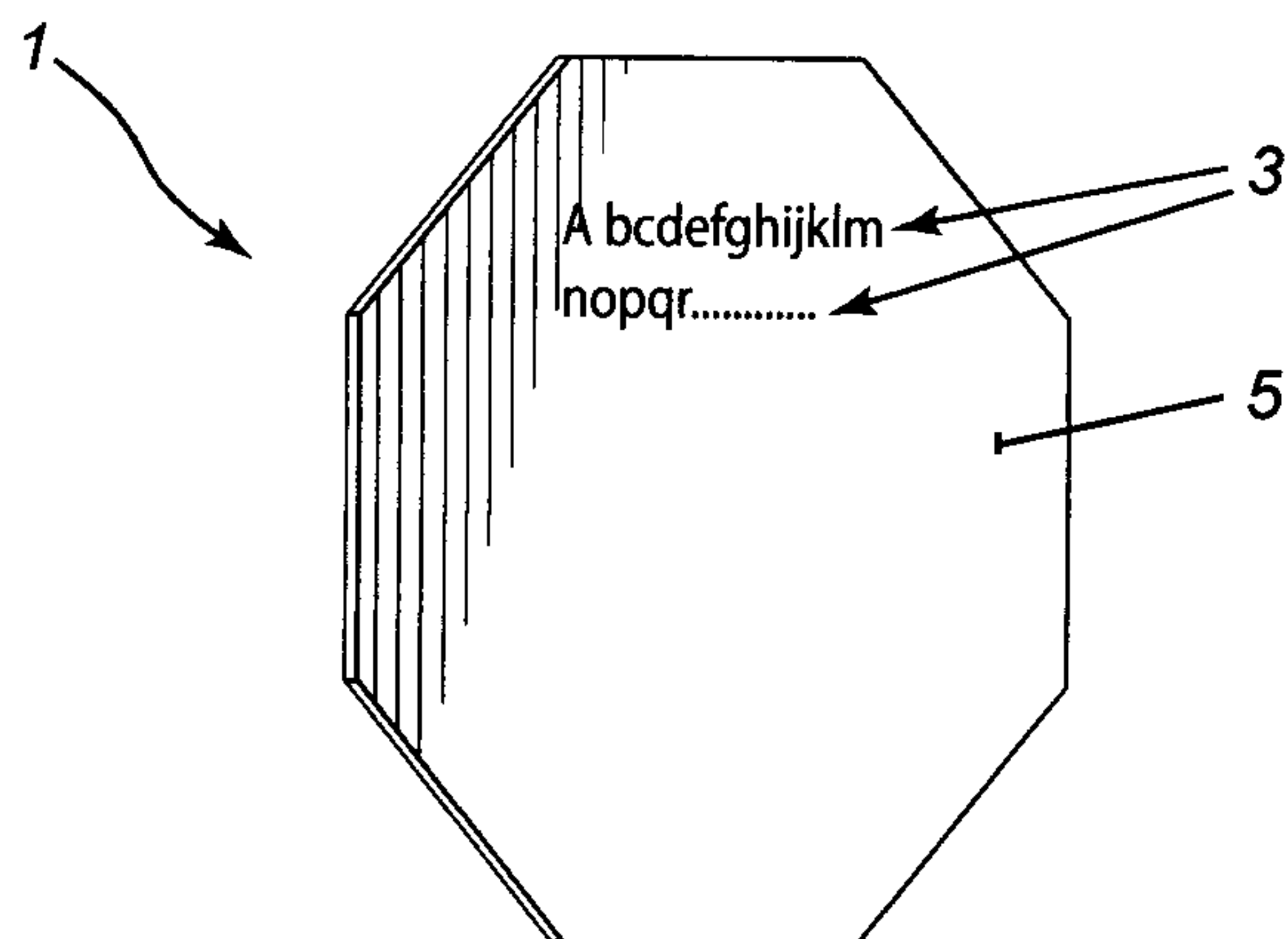


FIG. 1

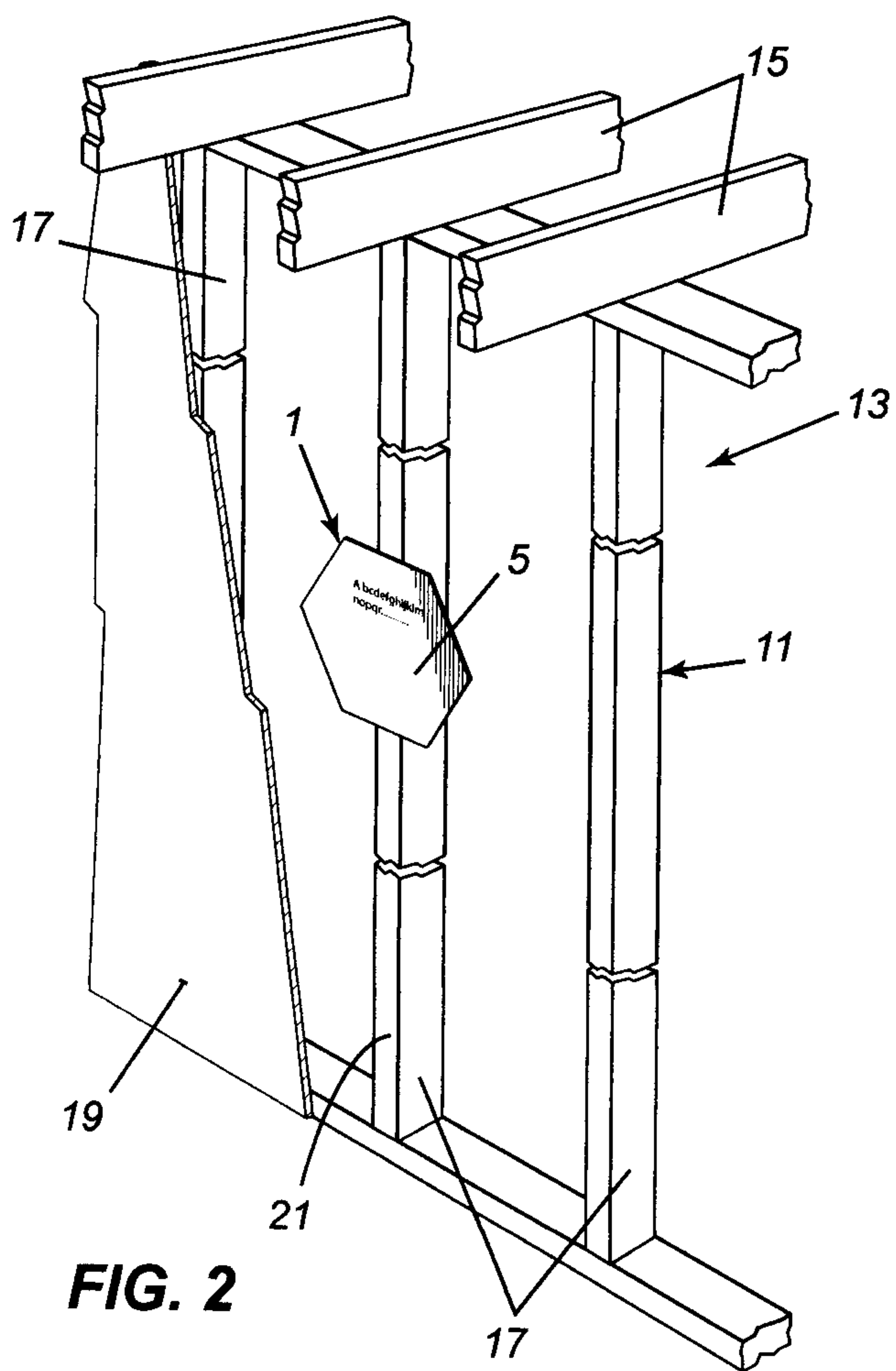


FIG. 2

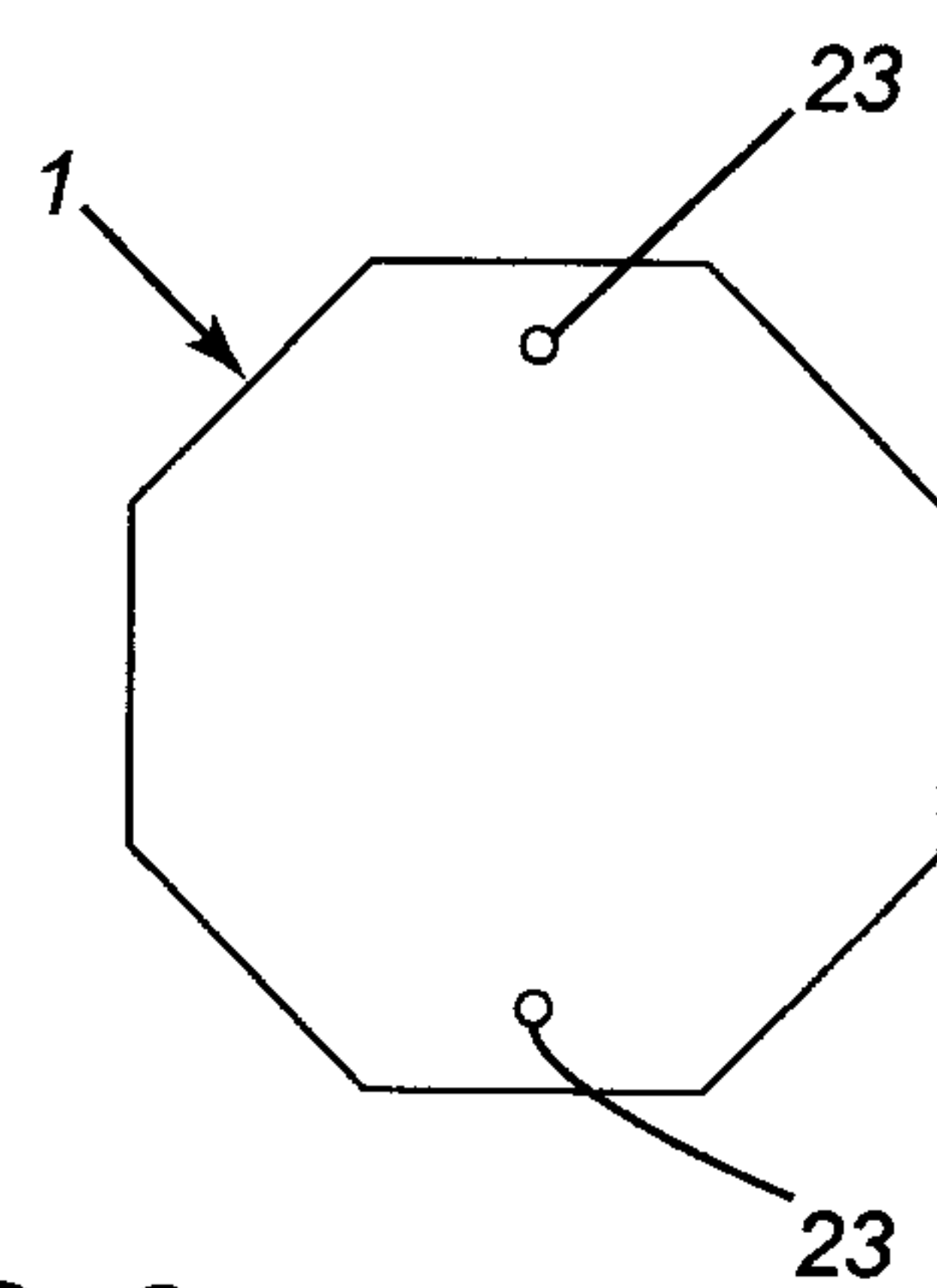


FIG. 3

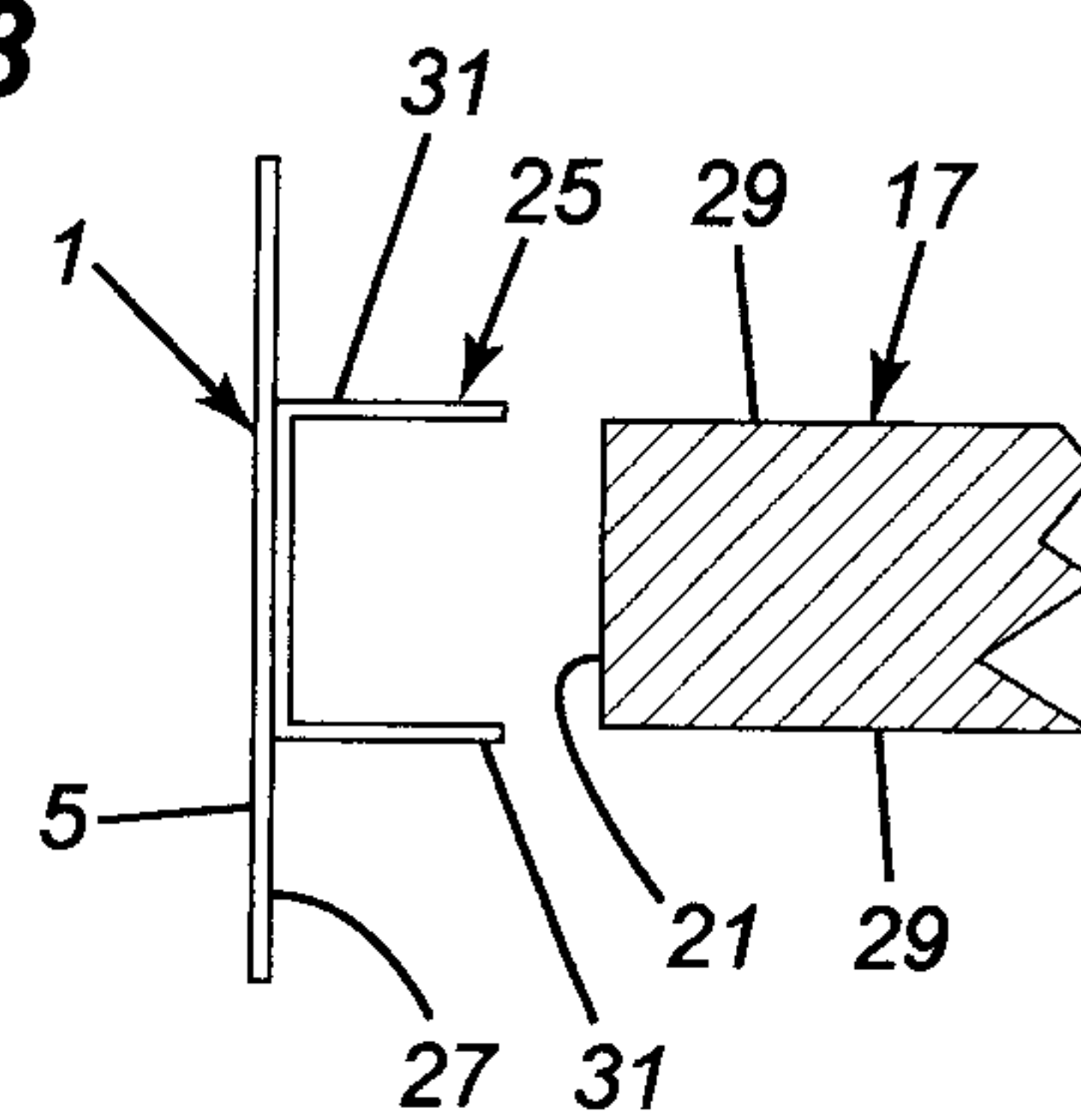


FIG. 4

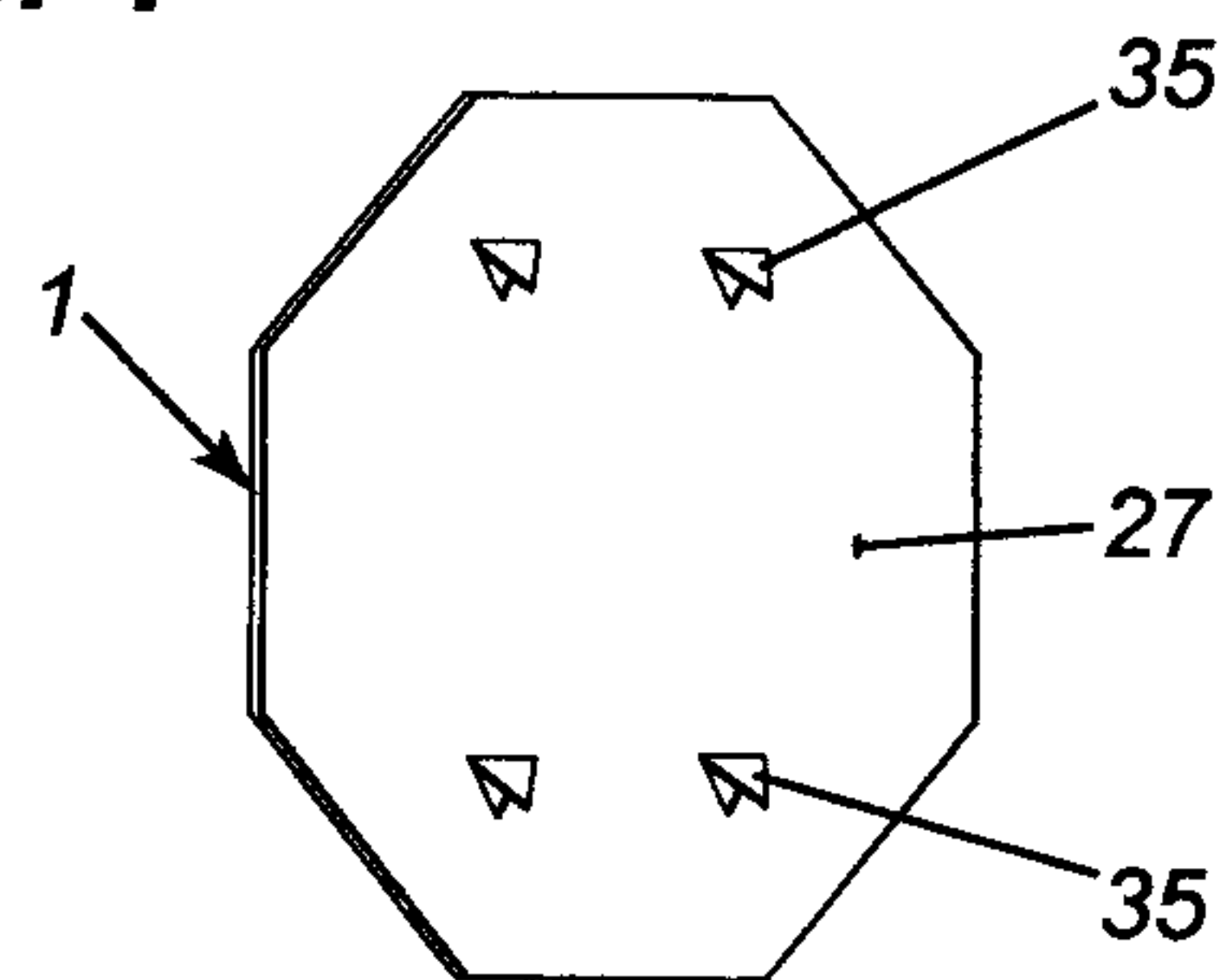


FIG. 5

