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(54) Title: SHAVING ASSEMBLY DISPENSER

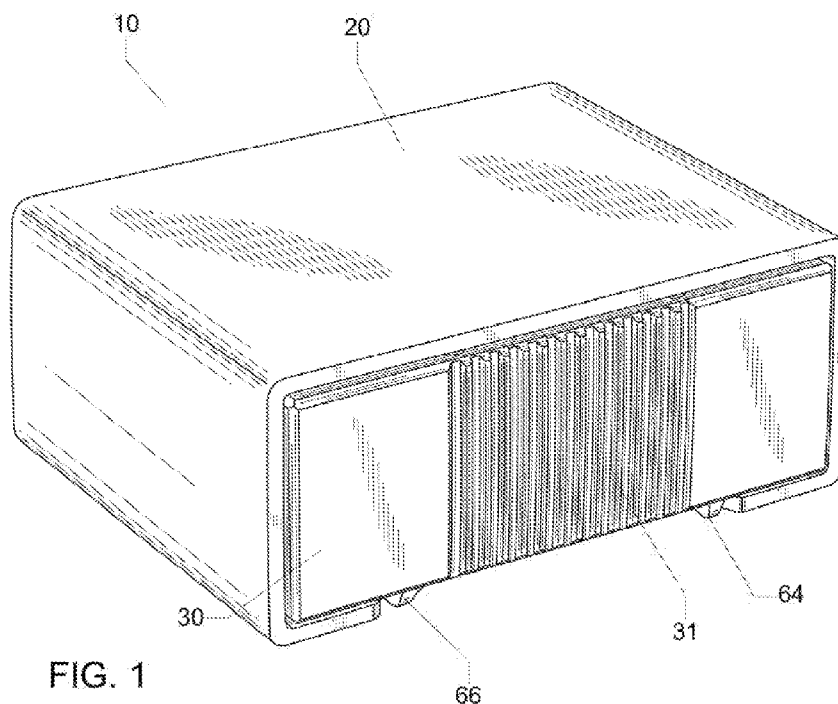


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Containers are described herein for the transportation and distribution of replaceable consumer products, e.g. interchangeable shaving assemblies. The containers described herein include a mechanism to securely hold the container in predetermined open and closed positions. The interior of the container may provided features which serve to hold and protect the shaving assemblies when not in use, e.g., during transport or storage.

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Shaving Assembly Dispenser

BACKGROUND

5 Some consumer shaving systems utilize detachable shaving assemblies that are adapted for use with a handle. The shaving assemblies can utilize a plurality of blades that dull from repeated use necessitating their eventual replacement. Replacement shaving assemblies can be purchased independently from the complete shaving system. Such replacement shaving assemblies are frequently packaged in a magazine configuration, i.e., is a container that serves to orient the shaving assembly to allow for proper engagement with the handle. The container protects the blades during transit and storage from damage by elevating the shaving assembly from the base of the container and holding the shaving assemblies removably in place in the container.

15 A shaving assembly dispenser that includes an outer container and an inner container slidably disposed within the outer container is disclosed in U.S. Patent Application No. 14/101,163, the full disclosure of which is incorporated herein. The preferred dispensers disclosed therein include cooperating features configured to releasably retain the inner container in various positions relative to the outer container, for example stop tabs extending from the bottom of the inner container that are received in corresponding openings in the bottom of the outer container.

SUMMARY

25 In general, the invention features containers for consumer products, e.g. replaceable shaving assemblies. The containers are configured to hold multiple replaceable shaving assemblies and individually dispense them. Like the dispensers disclosed in U.S. Patent Application No. 14/101,163, the containers include an outer container and an inner container slidably disposed within the outer container. However, in the present disclosure the outer container is generally C-shaped, and wraps around rather than fully enclosing the inner container. In preferred implementations, the

dispensers include cooperating features on the outer and inner containers that are configured to releasably retain the inner container in various positions relative to the outer container.

In one aspect the invention features a device comprising an outer container, and
5 a sectioned inner container defining at least two compartments, each compartment being dimensioned to hold a shaving assembly. The outer container is generally C-shaped, such that it includes an open area where a bottom surface of the inner container is exposed. The inner container is disposed within the outer container and is movable relative to the outer container between a closed position, a first open position in which
10 one of the shaving assemblies is exposed, and a second open position in which the other shaving assembly is exposed.

Some implementations include one or more of the following features.

The outer container may include a top wall, opposing side walls, and bottom portions extending inwardly from the side walls to opposing terminal edges. The inner
15 container may include guide rails, extending downwardly from the bottom surface of the inner container, disposed parallel to the terminal edges and positioned for sliding face-to-face engagement with the terminal edges.

The device may include an outer container and inner container which include cooperating features configured to releasably retain the inner container in each of its
20 positions relative to the outer container. In some cases, the cooperating features are oriented for face-to-face engagement in a plane that is generally parallel to the bottom surface of the inner container. In some embodiments, the retaining features on the outer container are disposed along edges of the outer container that define the open area, and the corresponding retaining features on the inner container are disposed on the guide
25 rails. The retaining features on the inner container may be, for example, tabs that extend generally perpendicular away from the bottom surface of the inner container and along the bottom surface toward the recesses in the outer container. The tabs may have features which correspond to complementary shaped recesses on the adjacent edge of the outer container.

30 In some implementations, each compartment of the inner container may include positioning features, e.g., angled features, configured to position the shaving assembly

within the compartment. The angled features may include support members configured to support blades of the shaving assembly above a floor surface of the compartment. The angled features may be configured to position the shaving assembly favorably for interaction with a razor handle during mounting of the shaving assembly on the handle.

5 In some implementations, the outer container may be configured with open ends. The inner container may be open on the top. The inner container may include an opening configured to allow drainage from the inner container. The outer container may be configured to allow controlled movement of the inner container.

10 In some implementations of the device the outer container may include lead-in features that are positioned to facilitate movement of the retaining features when the inner container is moved between its first or second positions and its closed position, or during the assembly of the inner container into the outer container.

15 The invention also features methods of using the devices described herein. For example, in one aspect the invention features a method that includes (a) providing a device for storing shaving assemblies, the device including a generally C-shaped outer container, and a sectioned inner container defining at least two compartments, each compartment being dimensioned to hold a shaving assembly, the inner container being disposed within the outer container and being movable relative to the outer container between a closed position, a first open position in which one of the shaving assemblies is exposed, and a second open position in which the other shaving assembly is exposed; (b) moving the inner container from its closed position into its first or second position; and
20 (c) mounting the exposed shaving assembly on a razor handle.

 The method may further include inserting a used shaving assembly into one of the compartments and moving the inner container to the closed position.

25 In another aspect, the invention features a shaving system comprising a generally C-shaped outer container, a sectioned inner container defining at least two compartments, and a shaving assembly in each compartment, the inner container being disposed within the outer container and being movable relative to the outer container between a closed position, a first open position in which one of the shaving assemblies is exposed, and a
30 second open position in which the other shaving assembly is exposed.

In some implementations, the shaving assemblies are free-floating within the compartments of the inner container, and the shaving assemblies are positioned in the compartments facing in opposite directions.

5

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the device in the closed position.

FIG. 2 is a bottom, planar view of the device in the closed position.

FIG. 2A is a perspective view of the outer portion of the device.

FIG. 3 is a sectional, planar view of the device loaded with two shaving
10 cartridges.

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of the device in a first open position loaded with a shaving cartridge.

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of the bottom of the device in a first open position.

FIG. 6 is a sectional, planar view of the device loaded with two shaving cartridges
15 in a first open position.

FIG. 7 is a sectional, perspective view of the device loaded with two shaving cartridges in a first open position.

FIG. 8 is a planar, sectional view of the device in a first open position loaded with a shaving cartridge.

FIG. 9 is a perspective view of the device in a second open position loaded with a
20 shaving cartridge.

FIG. 10 is a sectional, planar view of the device loaded with a shaving cartridge in the second open position.

FIG. 11 is a top, planar view of the inner portion.

FIG. 12 is a sectional view of the device loaded with a shaving cartridge.
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FIG. 13 is a top, perspective view of the device in the second open position.

FIG. 14 is a top, perspective view of device with a handle separated from a shaving cartridge.

FIG 14A is a top, perspective view of the device with a handle engaging the
30 shaving cartridge.

FIG. 15 is a top, perspective view of an alternate embodiment showing two drawers in the closed position.

FIG. 16 is a top, perspective view of the device of FIG. 15, showing the two drawers in a first open position loaded with a shaving cartridge.

5 FIG. 17 is a bottom, perspective view of the device of FIG. 15, showing the two drawers in two different open positions.

FIG. 18 is a perspective view of the outer portion of the device according to one embodiment.

10 FIG. 19 is a perspective view from below of an alternate embodiment of the device.

FIG. 20 is a bottom plan view of the inner portion of the device shown in FIG. 19.

FIG. 21 is a perspective view from below of another alternate embodiment of the device.

15

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present disclosure relates generally to consumer products and, in particular, to shaving systems with interchangeable shaving assemblies. In one embodiment, the present disclosure features a reusable consumer product system having a container that securely holds interchangeable shaving assemblies. The container is designed to protect
20 the shaving assemblies during transit, e.g., to the point of use, and storage, and to allow safe storage and disposal of used cartridges.

Referring to FIGs. 1, 2 and 2A, a container **10** includes a generally C-shaped outer portion **20** and an inner portion **30**. By "generally C-shaped," we mean that the outer portion wraps around the inner portion and includes an open area rather than
25 completely surrounding the inner portion. In the embodiment shown in FIGS. 1, 2 and 2A, the outer portion **20** has an upper wall **21**, opposing side walls **23** and **23A**, and bottom walls **24** and **25** extending inward from the side walls to opposing terminal edges **26** and **27**. The outer portion **20** may be formed with the side walls **23**, **23A** that are
30 generally perpendicular to a substantially planar upper wall, or may have other initial shapes, so long as the outer portion and inner portion interact generally as discussed below.

For example, the outer portion may be formed with a bowed upper wall **121** (e.g., as shown in FIG. 18) which is flattened out by outward deflection of the side walls during insertion of the inner portion into the outer portion. To produce this outward deflection and flattening, the side walls bend inward slightly rather than being substantially vertical.

5 In some implementations, in addition to or instead of the bowing of the upper wall, the bottom walls may bend up slightly toward the upper wall such that they deflect downward during insertion of the inner portion into the outer portion. The flattening out of the bowed upper wall and outward deflection of the side walls, and/or the downward deflection of the bottom walls, creates a pretensioning of the outer portion against the
10 inner portion, as will be discussed further below.

Referring to FIG. 2A, a plurality of open areas **28** are defined between the edges **26** and **27**. The inner portion **30** is configured to be received within the outer portion **20**, with the side walls **23**, **23A** and bottom walls **24**, **25** wrapping around the inner portion **30**. The central area of the bottom surface of the inner portion **30** is exposed by the open
15 area **28** of the outer portion **20**.

There are many inherent benefits to the generally C-shape of the outer portion **20** as compared to an outer portion that completely surrounds the inner portion. For instance, the outer portion can be easily manufactured, and requires less raw material. Moreover, less stringent dimensional tolerances are required between the inner and outer portions,
20 due to the flexible nature of the outer portion. In addition, drainage from the inner portion to the exterior of the container is improved, preventing damage to razor cartridges stored in the container and helping to keep the inner portion cleaner.

Referring to FIG. 2 and 2A, guide rails **64**, **66** extend downwardly from the bottom surface of the inner portion **30**, and are positioned for sliding engagement with
25 edges **26**, **27** of the outer portion **20**, to guide relative movement of the inner and outer portions. The pretensioning between the outer and inner portions, discussed above, may be employed to improve the controlled sliding engagement of the two portions.

Referring to FIGs. 2 and 2A, a tactile element **31**, e.g., in the form of alternating raised and recessed ridges, is configured in the center of the inner portion **30**. An
30 additional tactile element is configured on the opposite end of the inner portion **20**. The

outer portion **20** features four lead-in features **35** each that have an angled shape. The function of these lead-in features will be discussed in detail at a later point.

Referring to FIGs. 2 and 5, the edges **26** and **27** of the outer portion include retaining features that engage corresponding features extending from the bottom surface of the inner portion to releasably retain the inner container in various positions relative to the outer container. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 2A, the inner portion includes stop tabs **70** and the outer portion includes corresponding recesses **28** in its edges **26** and **27**. Stop tabs **70** protrude outwardly from guide rails **64**, **66**. Recesses **28** are positioned for face-to-face engagement with the corresponding stop tabs **70** when the inner portion is in various predetermined positions with respect to the outer portion. If the outer portion has an initially bowed upper wall and/or angled bottom walls, as discussed above, the pretensioning applied to the bottom walls urges the stop tabs **70** toward the recesses **28**, facilitating engagement of the stop tabs in the recesses. The interaction between these retaining features will be discussed in further detail below.

Referring to FIGs. 3 and 11, the inner portion **20** is divided into two equal sections by divider **32**, creating two distinct cavities **50A**, **50B** (FIG 11). The cavities **50A** and **50B** are mirror opposites of each other. The cavities **50A** and **50B** are each dimensioned to receive and hold a shaving assembly **12**. Each cavity has raised features **36**, **38**, **40** that orient the shaving assembly **12** in a predetermined position to allow for ease of alignment with handle (**60**) (FIG. 14). As shown, the shaving assemblies **12** are positioned facing opposite directions in inner portion **30**. There are two raised features **36** on the floor of the cavity **50B** that are positioned so as to be outboard of the blades of the blade unit and provide an open area **57** under the blades (FIGs. 8, 11, 12). Each of the raised features **36** has an angled surface **39** that positions the shaving assembly **12** at generally a 10° angle with respect to the plane of the floor. There are two raised features **38** on the back wall of the cavity **50B** that taper as they extend vertically. Each of the two raised features **38** has an angled surface **59** that positions the shaving assembly **12** at an angle with respect to the plane of the back wall. The angled surfaces **39** of raised features **36** are perpendicular to the angled surfaces **59** of raised features **38**.

As a result, the opening of the interface element **13** is positioned so that the appendage on the handle **62** (FIG. 14) can be easily inserted into the opening of the

interface element when the long axis of the handle is generally parallel to the top surface (e.g. within plus or minus 10°) of the outer portion **20** (FIG. 14A). This positioning is particularly advantageous when the shaving assembly **12** is attached to the handle by a magnetic force, e.g. as described in U.S. Application Number 13/802,546 filed on March 13th, 2013, the full disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein.

Referring to FIGs. 8, 10, and 11, each cavity **50A**, **50B** also includes two stop features **40** positioned to limit horizontal movement of the shaving assembly **12**. These features are included because the shaving assembly **12** is free floating within the cavities **50A**, **50B**. The lack of any retaining features within the cavity facilitates the use of magnetic force to attach the shaving assembly to the handle.

Referring to FIGs. 11 and 13, each cavity also includes two raised features **41** that extend into the cavity from the sidewalls. Raised features **41** eliminate lateral movement of the shaving assembly **12** within the cavity during shipment or storage. Stop features **40** and raised features **41** together maintain the shaving assembly **12** in a substantially stable position within the cavity, e.g., during transport, reducing the likelihood of damage to the shaving assembly due to excessive movement.

Referring to FIGs. 8, 11 and 12, raised features **36** hold the shaving assembly **12** in an elevated position with respect to the base of the cavities **50A**, **50B** creating an open area **57** between the blades and the bottom of the cavities. In addition, the raised features **36** help position the shaving assembly for handle insertion as seen in FIG. 16. This elevated position minimizes blade edge damage due to contact with the base of the cavity **50A**, **50B**. In addition, the elevated position created by the raised features **36** allows air to circulate more effectively around the shaving assembly **12** and allows for excess water to drain from the shaving assembly **12**. The raised features **36** are positioned to contact the shaving assembly **12** in such a manner that the blades are untouched, preventing damage to the blade edges due to contact with surfaces. Each cavity **50A**, **50B** also includes a cutout **33** in the floor in the open area **57** under the blades. This cutout **33**, which is in fluid communication with the open area **28** defined by the outer portion, serves as a portal for water and air, further enhancing water drainage and humidity equalization.

Referring to FIGs. 4 and 6, the inner portion **30** is shown in a first open position with respect to the outer portion **20**, in which a shaving assembly **12** is exposed. The

consumer moves the inner portion from the closed position, shown in FIG. 1, to the open position shown in FIG. 4, e.g., by pushing against tactile element **31** while restraining movement of the outer portion **20**.

When opening the container **10**, the side walls **23**, **23A** (FIG 2A) and bottom portions **24**, **25** of the outer portion deflect slightly to allow the two pairs of stop tabs **70** discussed above (FIG. 2) to be disengaged from a corresponding pair of retaining recesses **28**. The tabs **70** and recesses **28** are configured with angled shapes that limit unwanted movement, yet allow sliding engagement and disengagement. When the inner portion is moved in relation to the outer portion, the preload of the outer portion provides a return force so that edges **26**, **27** reengage tabs **70**.

Referring to FIGs. 4 and 5, to close the container **10** the user moves the inner portion **30** in the opposite direction, back into the outer portion **20**. This movement is assisted by lead-in features **35**, which are positioned on opposite edges of the base of outer portion **20**. Tabs **70** are configured with angled surfaces that are complementary to the lead-in features **35**. The angled surfaces of the tabs extend out from the guide rails **64**, **66** of the inner portion **30**. The guide rails **64**, **66** are disposed on the bottom surface of the inner portion **30** and extend generally perpendicularly from the bottom surface.

Referring to FIG. 5, when closing the container **10**, the lead-in features **35**, which are angled in shape, engage the surfaces **72** of tabs **70**, causing the bottom portions of the outer portion **20** to deflect outwardly and thus allowing tabs **70** to move into alignment with recesses **28**, retaining the dispenser in its closed position. When the container **10** is in the closed position, as shown in FIG. 2, there are four tabs **70** which are engaged in four corresponding recesses **28**. When the container **10** is in the open position, as shown in FIG. 6, only two tabs **70** are engaged in two corresponding recesses **28**.

Referring to FIGs. 7, 8, 9, and 10, the container **10** can be positioned in two distinct open positions in each of which a single shaving assembly **12** is exposed in a proper loading position. The lead-in features **35**, the recesses **28**, and the tabs **70** work together in concert to create the two distinct open positions and the distinct closed position. In each of these positions, the engagement of the cooperating recesses and tabs serves to maintain the inner portion **30** in a stable, fixed position relative to the outer portion **20** until pressure is applied by the consumer.

Referring to FIG. 2 and 5, the recesses **28** combined with the tabs **70** not only act to hold the inner portion **30** in the open and closed positions with respect to the outer portion **20**, but also act as stops to prevent inadvertent ejection of the inner portion from the outer portion when opening the device. Thus, these complementary features prevent undesired dis-assembly and provide user feedback when clicking into the fully open positions.

The amount of force necessary to disengage the engagement between the retaining features (e.g., tabs and recesses), can be varied by altering the configuration of the retaining features. For example, in the alternate embodiment shown in FIGs. 19-21 the inner portion includes open areas **90, 92** adjacent each of the tabs that allow the tabs to more easily flex, tending to reduce the force required to open the container. Other features can be provided to increase the force required, e.g., the pretensioning described above with reference to FIG. 18.

The container **10** is designed to be opened and closed multiple times. This allows a used shaving assembly to be returned to the container, e.g. between uses or for safe disposal.

Referring to FIGs. 2A and 11, outer portion **20** has two distinct raised rails **22** that extend from inner surface **29**. Rails **22** provide a bearing surface **55** of inner portion **30** that provides a sliding surface when moving the inner portion with respect to the outer portion. Furthermore, bearing surface **55** provides pivoting stability when the container is in the open position, limiting unwanted movement and/or pivoting between the inner portion **30** and outer portion **20** (FIG. 10).

In some implementations, the force needed to open the container **10** with all four stops engaged is approximately between 100 g to 300 g. With two stops engaged, as when closing the container **10**, the force would be approximately between 50 and 150 g. The force is measured using a linear force gauge to push on the center of the front wall of the inner portion while holding the outer portion in a fixed position until movement is achieved.

The container **10** can be made of any suitable material including, for example, polyethylene terephthalate (PET or PETE), high density (HD) PETE, thermoplastic polymer, polypropylene, oriented polypropylene, polyurethane, polystyrene, acrylonitrile

butadiene styrene (ABS), polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), polyester, metal, synthetic rubber, natural rubber, silicone, nylon, polymer, wood, antibacterial or antimicrobial materials, insulating, thermal, other suitable sustainable or biodegradable materials, or any combination thereof.

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OTHER EMBODIMENTS

A number of embodiments have been described. Nevertheless, it will be understood that various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosure.

10 For example, another embodiment could feature a container that is configured to hold and dispense other replaceable consumer products, e.g. toothbrush heads.

Alternate embodiments may feature alternative manners of inner and outer container deflection. For example, some embodiments may be configured so that just the outer container deflects when the inner container is moved between the open and closed
15 positions. Other embodiments may be configured so that aspects of the inner container deflect when the inner container is moved between the open and closed positions. Further embodiments may be configured so that both the inner and outer container deflect in concert to provide the desired releasable retention interaction when moving the container from the closed position to the open position and visa versa.

20 Another embodiment could feature a container that is configured to accommodate a greater number of shaving assemblies, e.g. more than two. This could be accomplished in a variety of ways, e.g., positioning two or more drawers next to each other wherein each drawer is configured to hold two shaving assemblies, e.g., as disclosed in U.S. Patent Application No. 14/101,163 and shown herein in FIGs. 15 -17. Referring to FIG.
25 15- 17, the central wall **100** may be dimensioned differently from the side walls, e.g., the central wall may need have a greater wall thickness to ensure proper engagement and disengagement of the retaining features previously discussed. In this case, the tabs and recesses may be scaled or otherwise altered as needed to accommodate the reduced flexing of the central wall as compared to the side walls.

30 An alternate embodiment could feature a single drawer that is configured to hold more than two shaving assemblies, e.g. four shaving assemblies which are positioned in

four separate compartments so that one pair of the shaving assemblies is oriented in the same direction while the other pair is oriented in the opposite direction. In addition, the container could be scaled to accommodate either larger or smaller dimensioned shaving assemblies. For example, shaving assemblies intended for used on large surface area
5 body parts, i.e. the legs, chest, back, etc.

Another embodiment could feature differently configured corresponding retaining features. For instance, the retaining features could be designed to be any complementary shape that would provide for the desired releasable locking interaction. For example, the retaining features could be spherical, arced, wave-shaped or any complementary shape
10 configuration that provides the desired interaction. Examples of alternative complementary retaining features are shown in FIGs. 19-21. Referring to FIG. 21, the retaining features are configured to function as springs, such that they return to a predetermined configuration after deflection, e.g. when the inner container is moved between the open configuration and the closed configuration, or visa versa.

15 An alternate embodiment could feature differently configured lead-in features to releasably secure the inner container when accessing a cartridge so that the device does not inadvertently disassemble, i.e. the inner portion does not separate from the outer container.

In addition, another embodiment could feature more or fewer retaining features.

20 Another embodiment could feature compartments that are of different sizes. The inner compartments could be configured to hold two differently sized shaving assemblies. For example, one cartridge could be smaller, intended for facial use, while the other cartridge could be larger, intended for use on larger, surface area body features, i.e. the chest, back, etc.

25 In another embodiment, the container could include only a single compartment, and/or contain only a single shaving assembly when sold. For example, the shaving system would be offered to the consumer with a replaceable shaving assembly already attached to the handle and a single, replacement shaving assembly would be housed in the container. A single-compartment container could also be used with larger shaving
30 assemblies, e.g., for female or body shaving. In some cases, these single compartment containers would closely resemble the two compartment containers discussed above in

terms of the arrangement of complementary stop features. Generally, so that the two open positions described above could still be provided, the inner portion of a single compartment or single shaving assembly container would include a region that would occupy approximately the same space as the second compartment in the containers
5 discussed above (e.g., an empty compartment for receiving a used cartridge, or a solid "blank" region.)

Another embodiment of the inner portion could feature alternatively configured raised elements to ensure proper positioning of the shaving assembly while in transit, during storage or during engagement with a handle.

10 In some cases, the lead-in features may be omitted, made smaller or altered in another manner if they are not necessary for initial assembly of the inner portion into the outer portion.

Accordingly, other embodiments are within the scope of the following claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device comprising:

a generally C-shaped outer container, and

a sectioned inner container defining at least two compartments, each compartment

5 being dimensioned to hold a shaving assembly, the inner container being disposed within the outer container and being movable relative to the outer container between a closed position, a first open position in which one of the shaving assemblies is exposed, and a second open position in which the other shaving assembly is exposed,

10 the outer container defining an open area where a bottom surface of the inner container is exposed.

2. The device of claim 1 wherein the outer container and inner container include cooperating retaining features configured to releasably retain the inner container in each of its positions relative to the outer container.

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3. The device of claim 2 wherein the cooperating features are oriented for face-to-face engagement in a plane that is generally parallel to the bottom surface of the inner container.

20 4. The device of claim 2 wherein the outer container includes a top wall, opposed side walls, and bottom portions, extending inwardly from the side walls to opposed terminal edges.

25 5. The device of claim 4 wherein the inner container includes guide rails, extending downwardly from the bottom surface of the inner container, disposed parallel to the terminal edges and positioned for sliding face-to-face engagement with the terminal edges.

30 6. The device of claim 5 wherein the retaining features of the outer container are disposed along the terminal edges of the bottom portions.

7. The device of claim 6 wherein the retaining features on the inner container are disposed on the guide rails.

8. The device of claim 7 wherein the retaining features comprise tabs and
5 recesses.

9. The device of claim 8 wherein the tabs are on the inner container and the recesses are on the outer container.

10. The device of claim 1 wherein each compartment of the inner container includes positioning features configured to position the shaving assembly within the compartment.

11. The device of claim 10, wherein the positioning features are angled.

12. The device of claim 11 wherein the angled features include support members configured to support blades of the shaving assembly above a floor surface of the compartment.

13. The device of claim 10 wherein the angled features are configured to position the shaving assembly favorably for interaction with a razor handle during mounting of the shaving assembly on the handle.

14. The device of claim 10 wherein the inner container includes an opening in the floor surface between the angled features to allow drainage from the inner container.

15. The device of claim 2 wherein the outer container is configured with lead-in features that are positioned to facilitate relative movement of the corresponding retaining features.

16. The device of claim 2, wherein the retaining features are configured on the inner container to function as springs.

17. The device of claim 2, wherein the retaining features are configured to prevent
5 disassembly of the device when in the open position.

18. A method comprising:

- (a) providing a device for storing shaving assemblies, the device including a generally C-shaped outer container, and a sectioned inner container defining at least two
10 compartments, each compartment being dimensioned to hold a shaving assembly, the inner container being disposed within the outer container and being movable relative to the outer container between a closed position, a first open position in which one of the shaving assemblies is exposed, and a second open position in which the other shaving assembly is exposed;
- 15 (b) moving the inner container from its closed position into its first or second position; and
- (c) mounting the exposed shaving assembly on a razor handle.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising inserting a used shaving assembly
20 into one of the compartments and moving the inner container to the closed position.

18. In another aspect, the invention features a shaving system comprising:
a generally C-shaped outer container,
a sectioned inner container defining at least two compartments, and
25 a shaving assembly in each compartment,
the inner container being disposed within the outer container and being movable relative to the outer container between a closed position, a first open position in which one of the shaving assemblies is exposed, and a second open position in which the other shaving assembly is exposed.

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FIG. 1

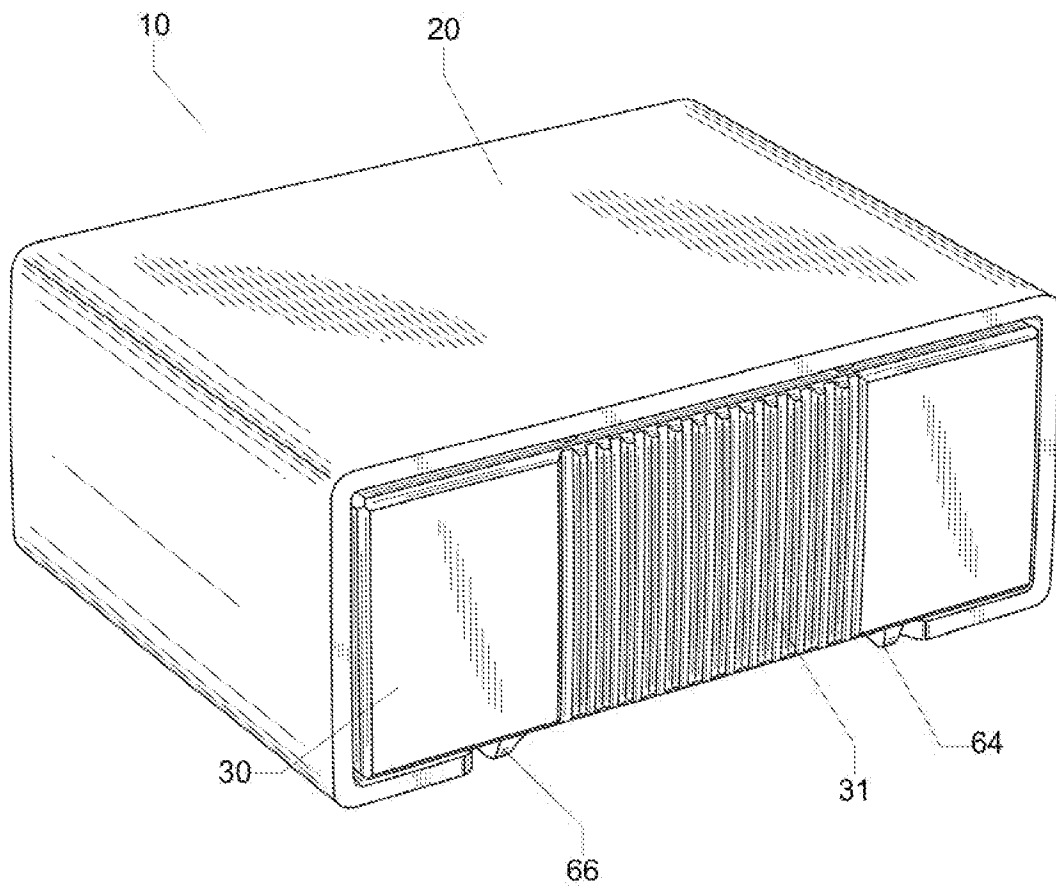


FIG. 2

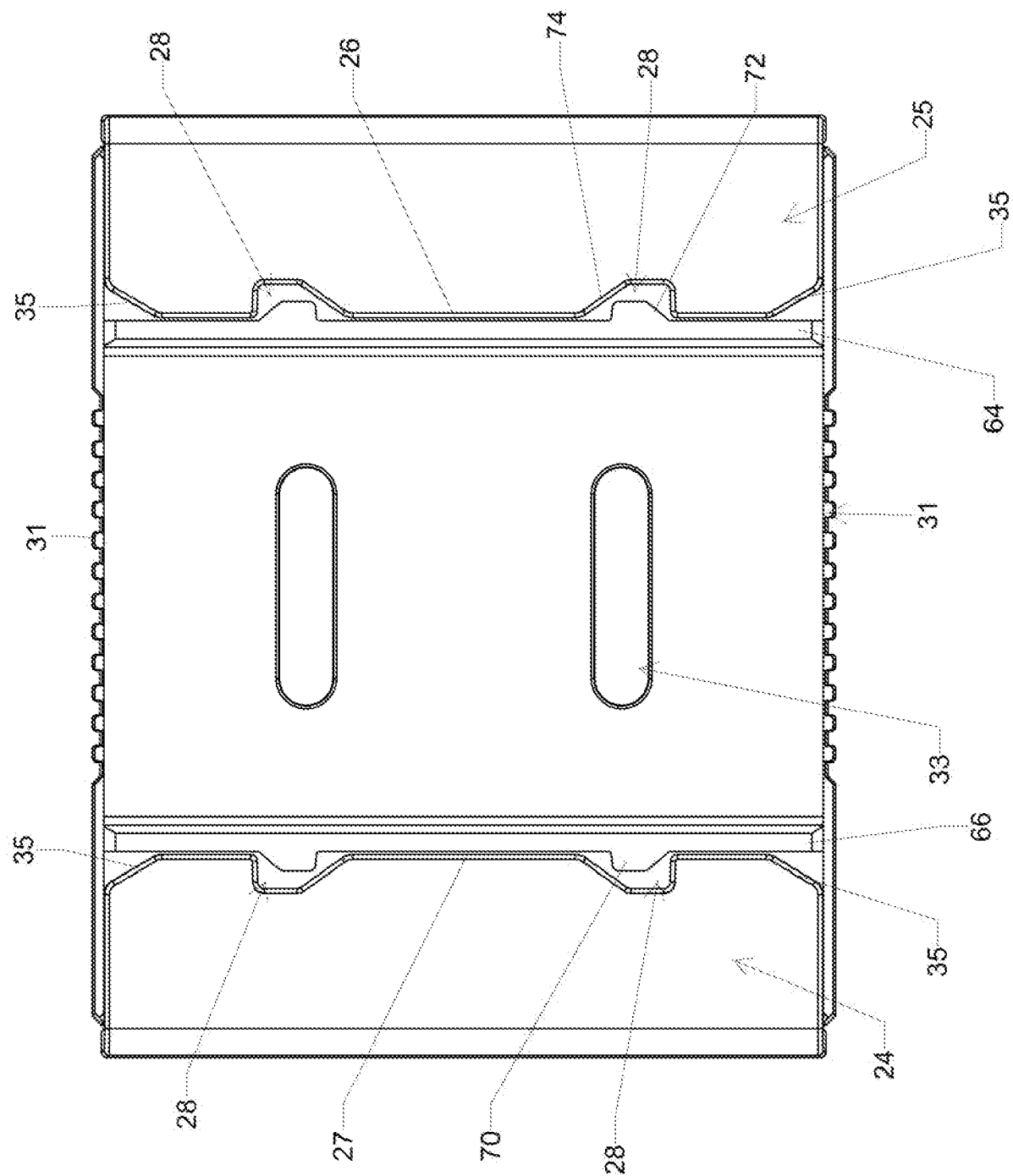


FIG. 2A

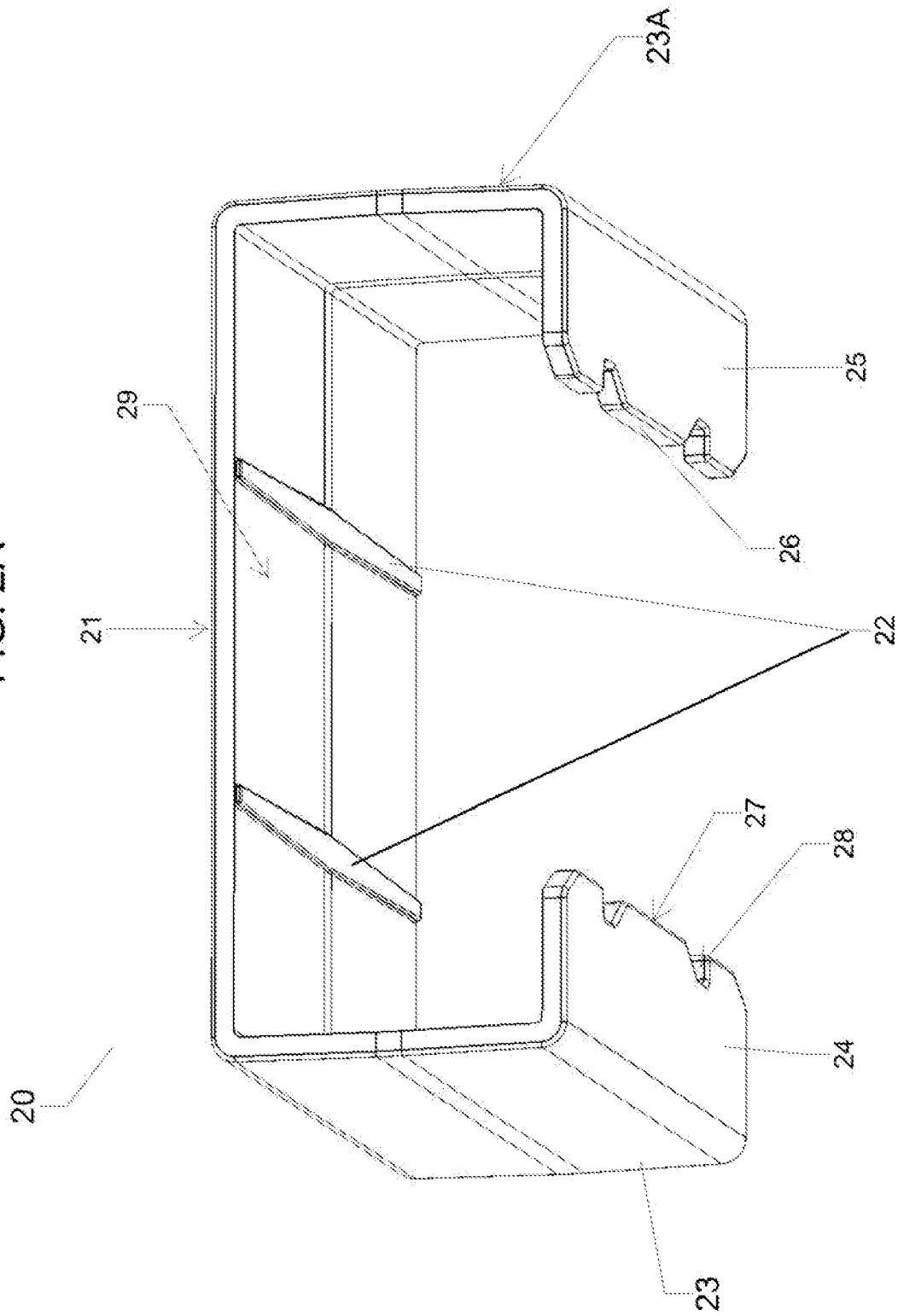


FIG. 3

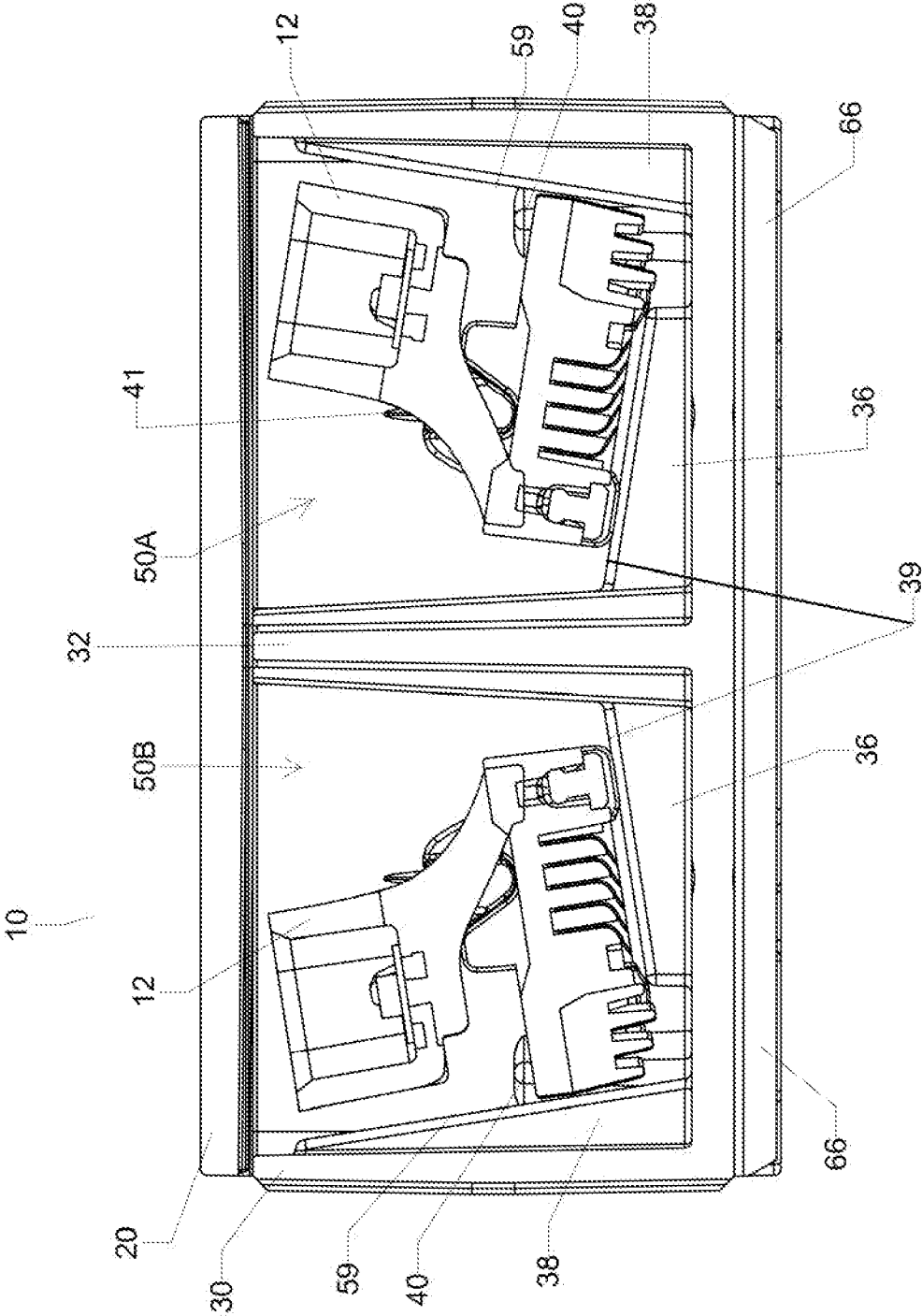


FIG. 4

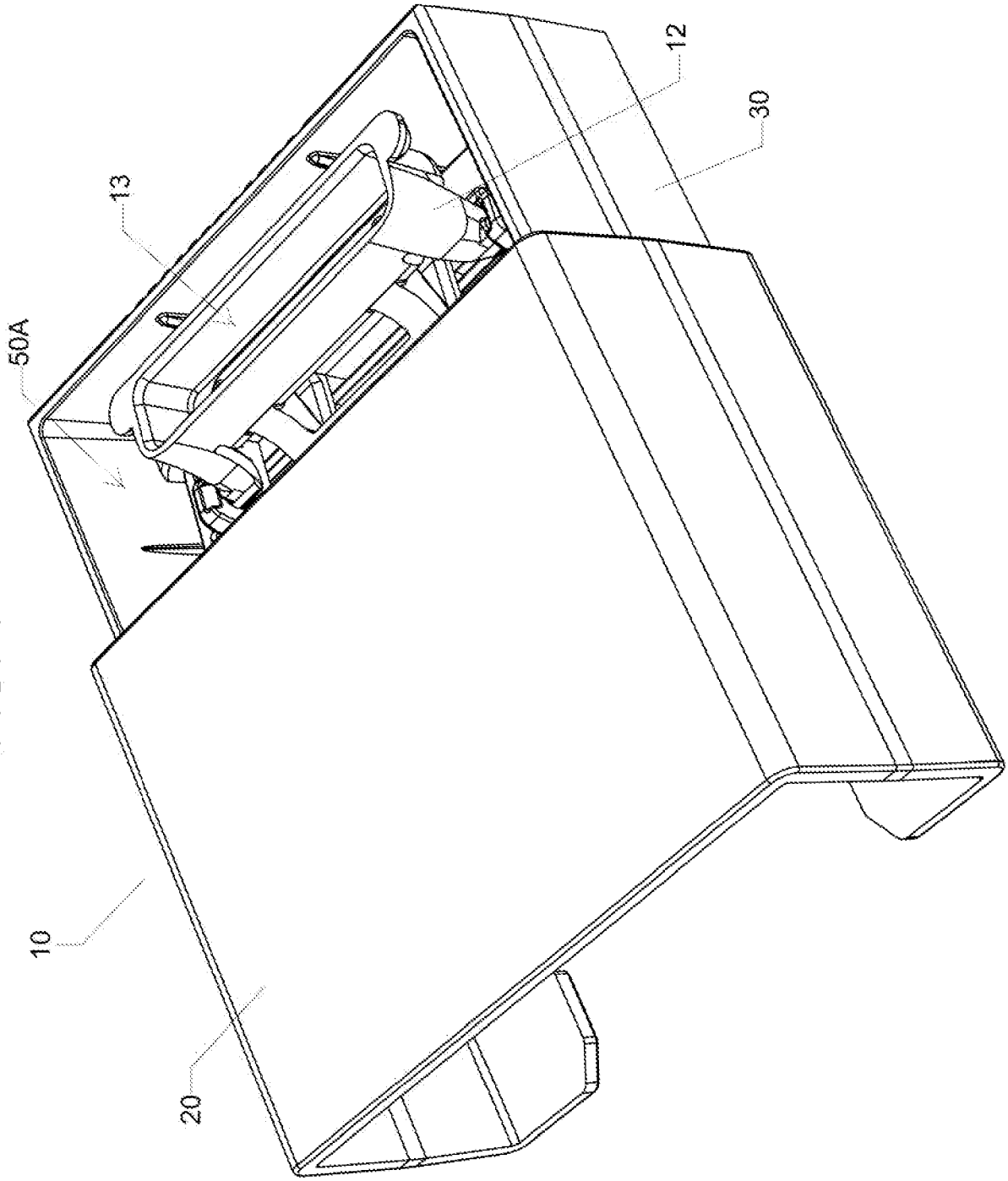
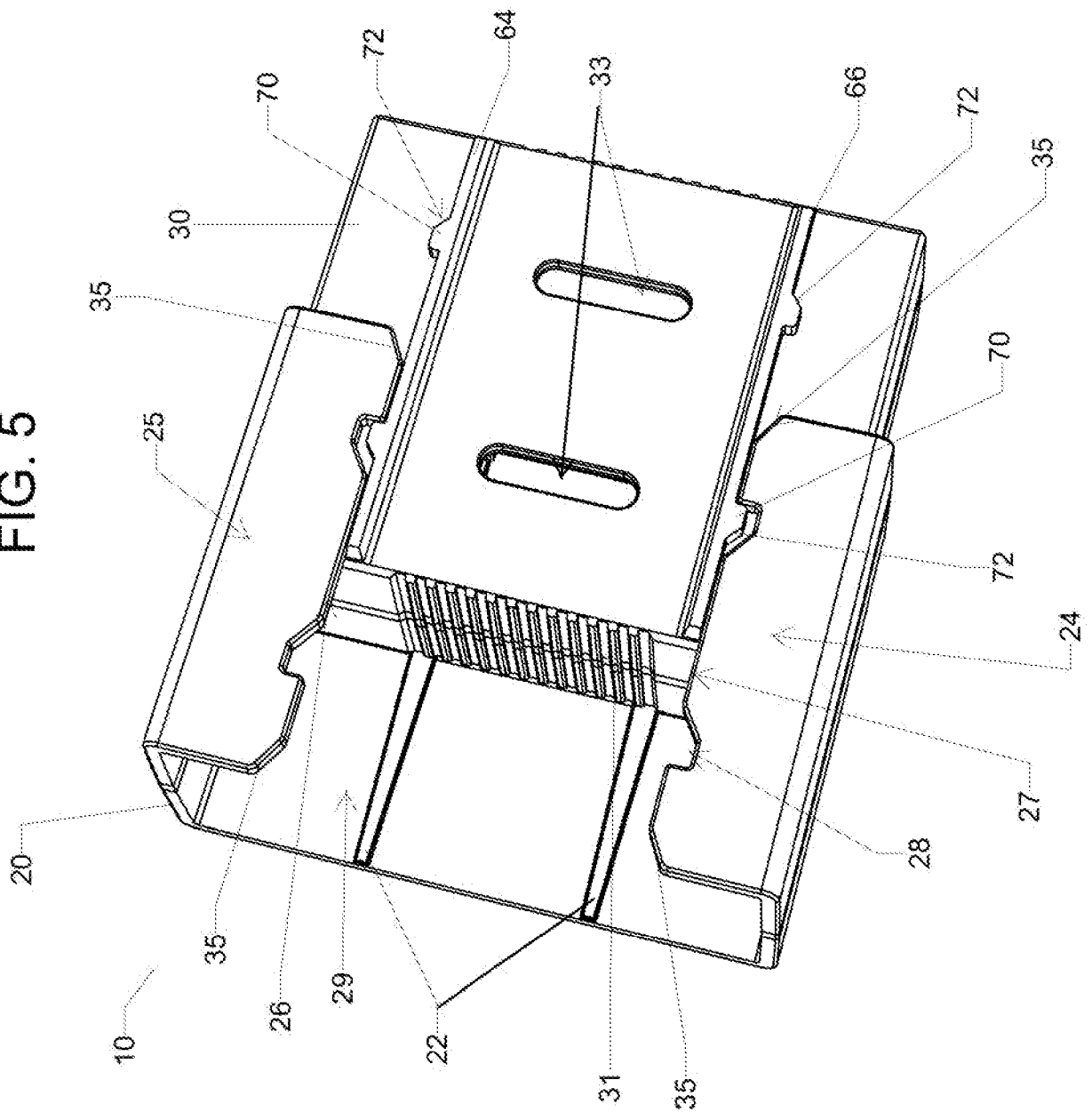


FIG. 5



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G
L

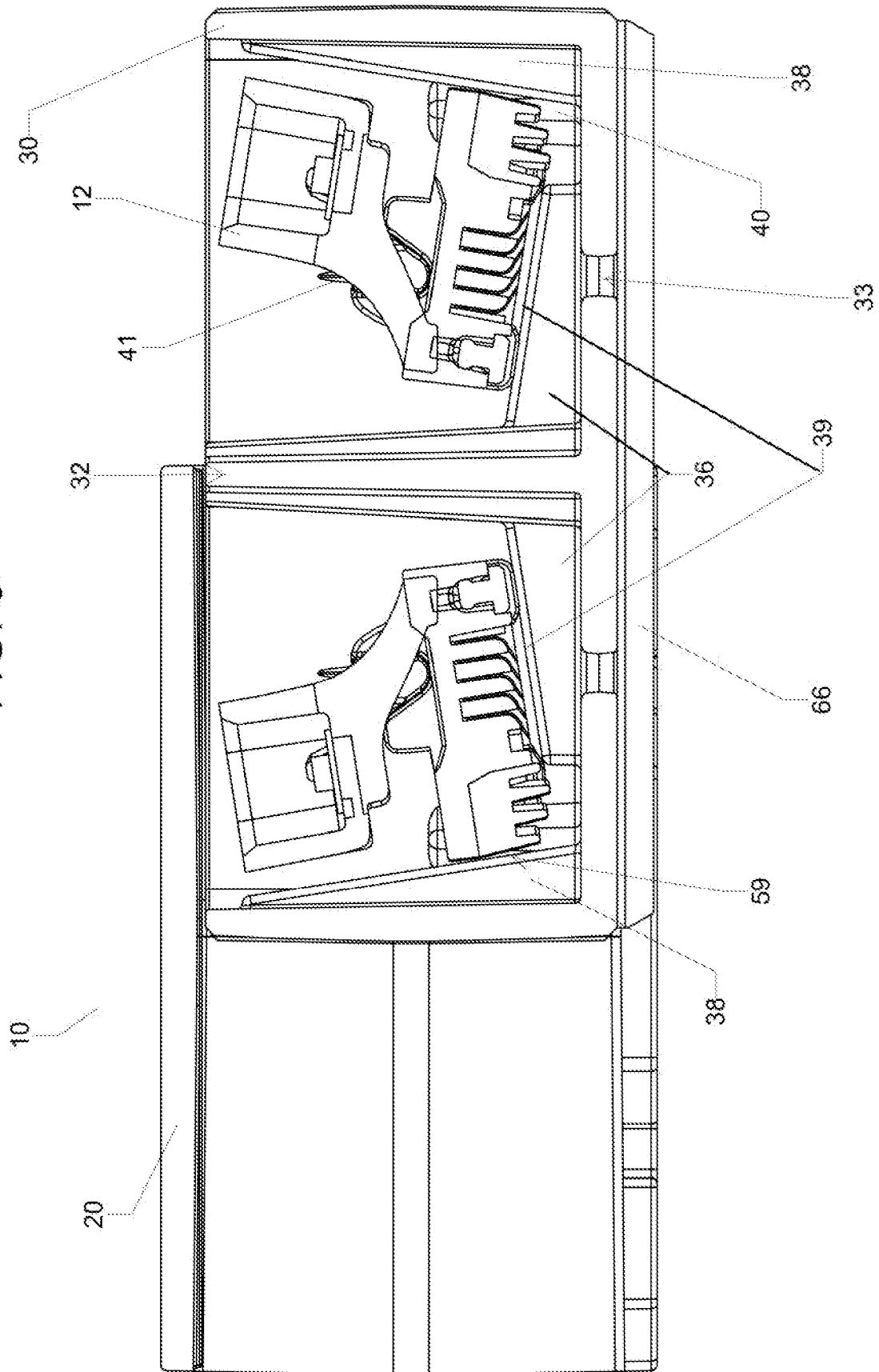
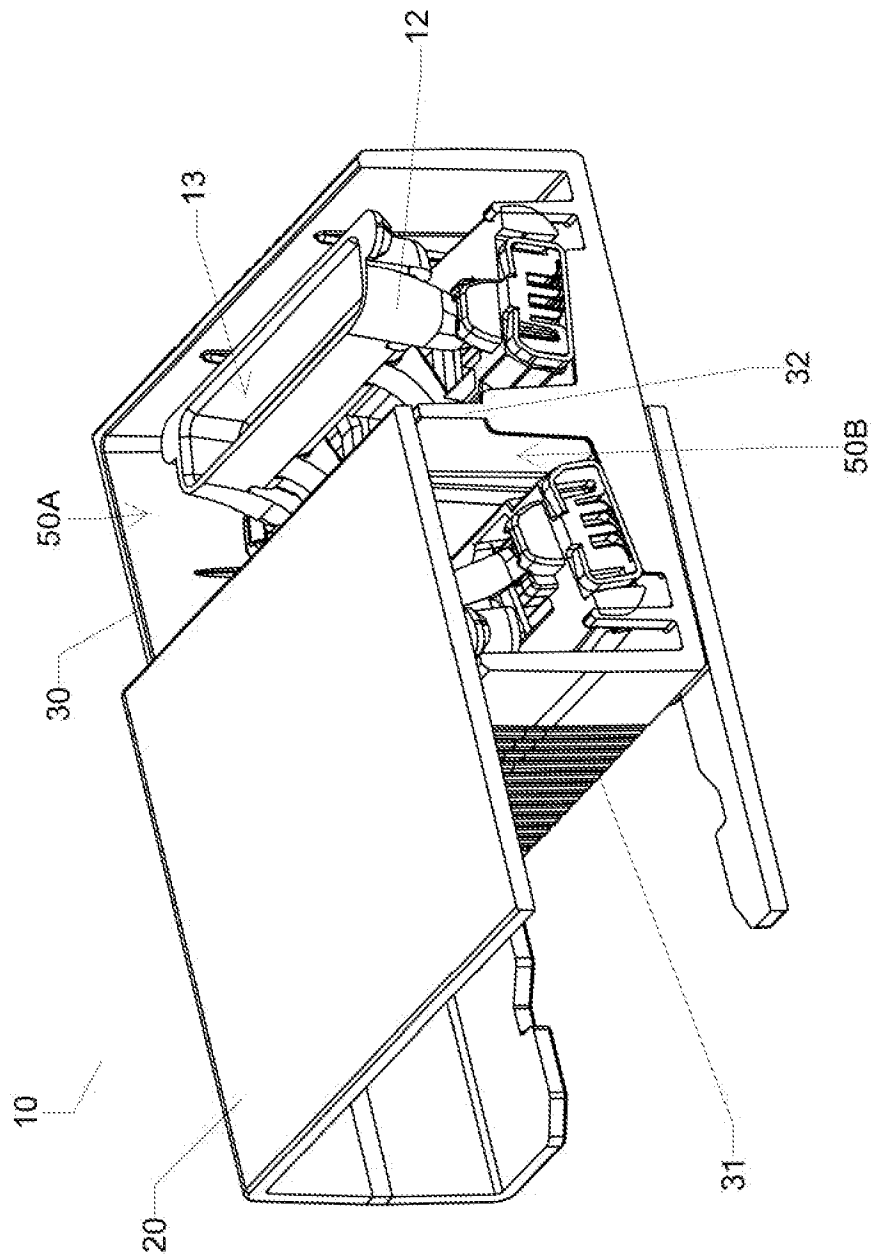


FIG. 7



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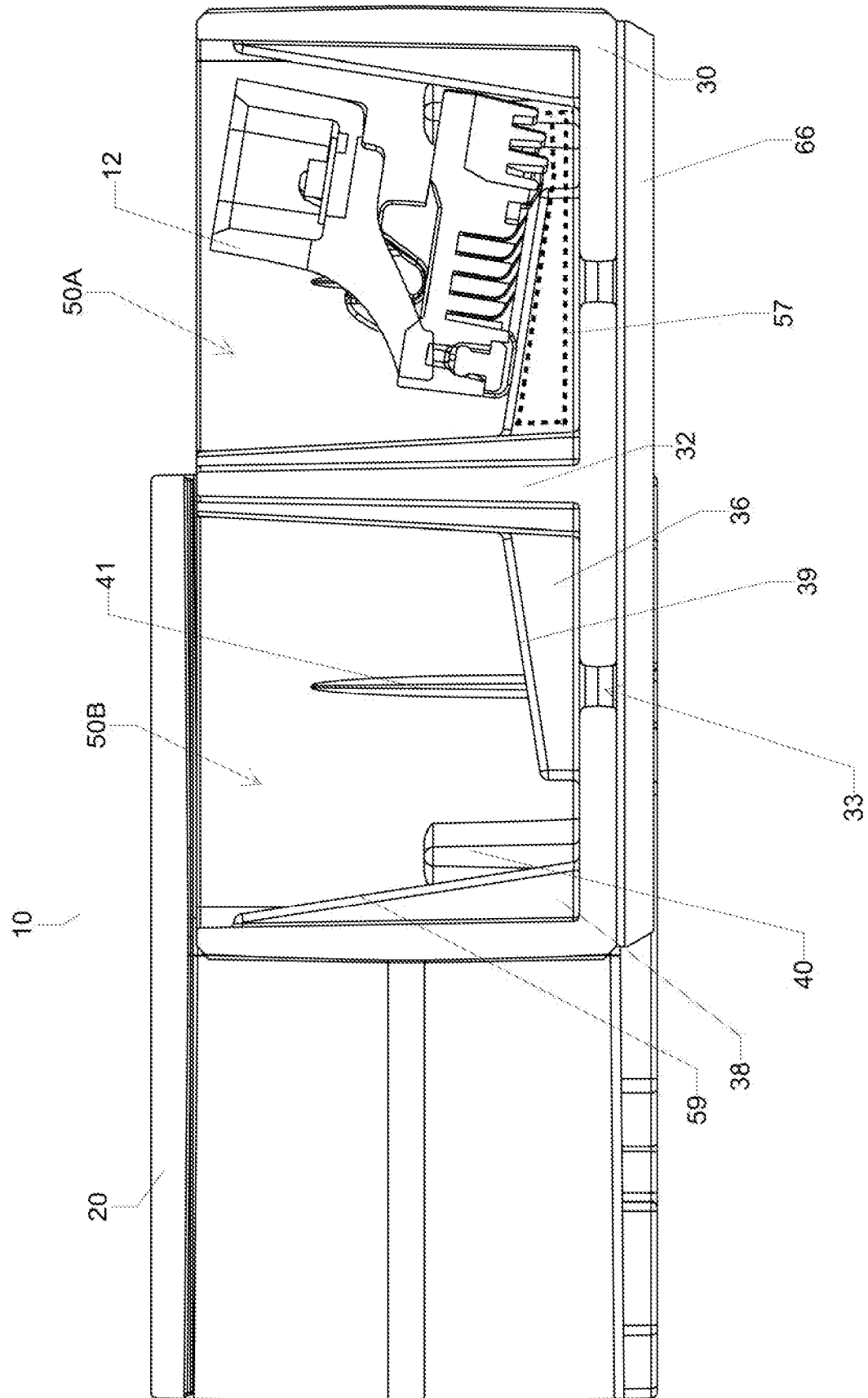


FIG. 9

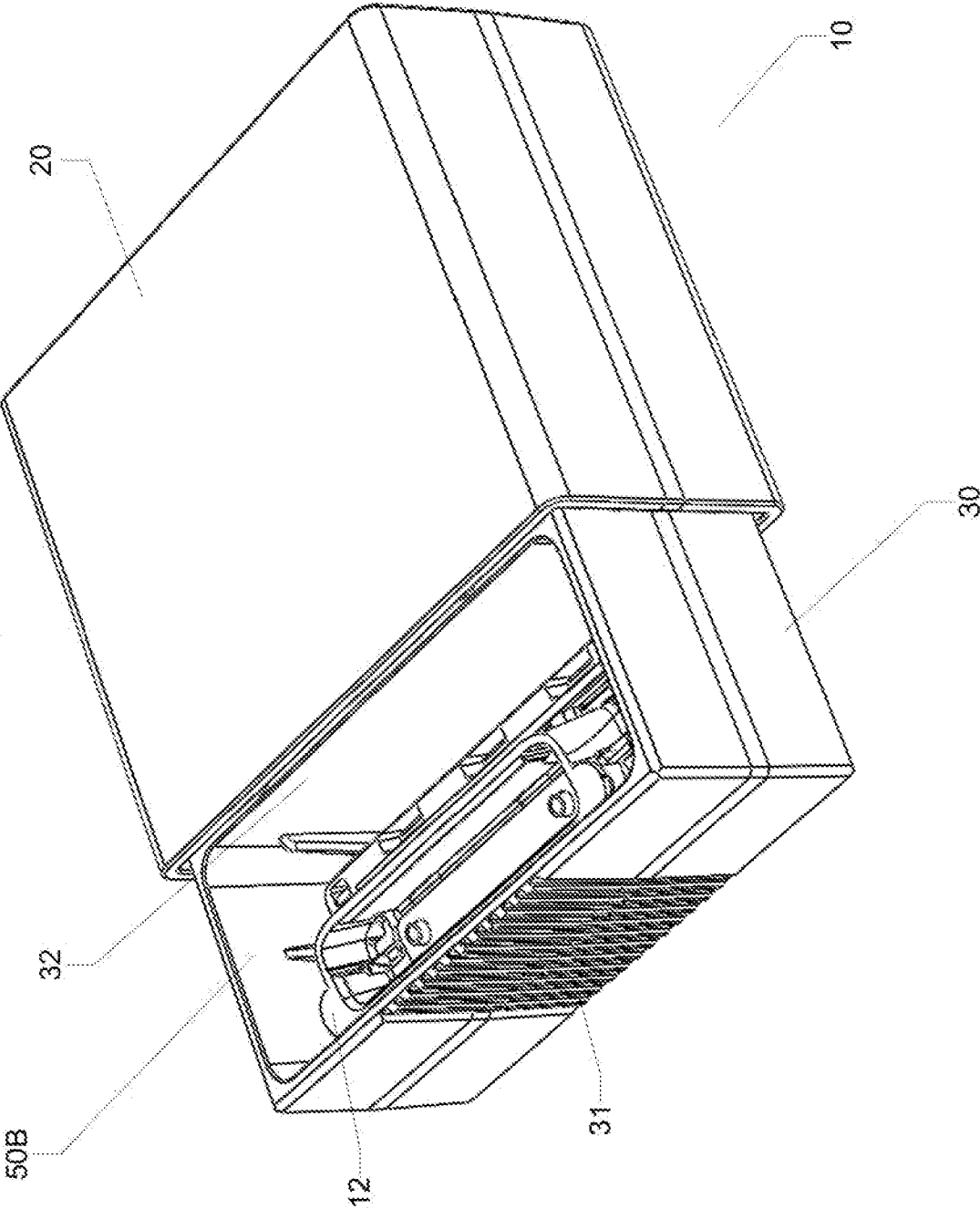


FIG. 10

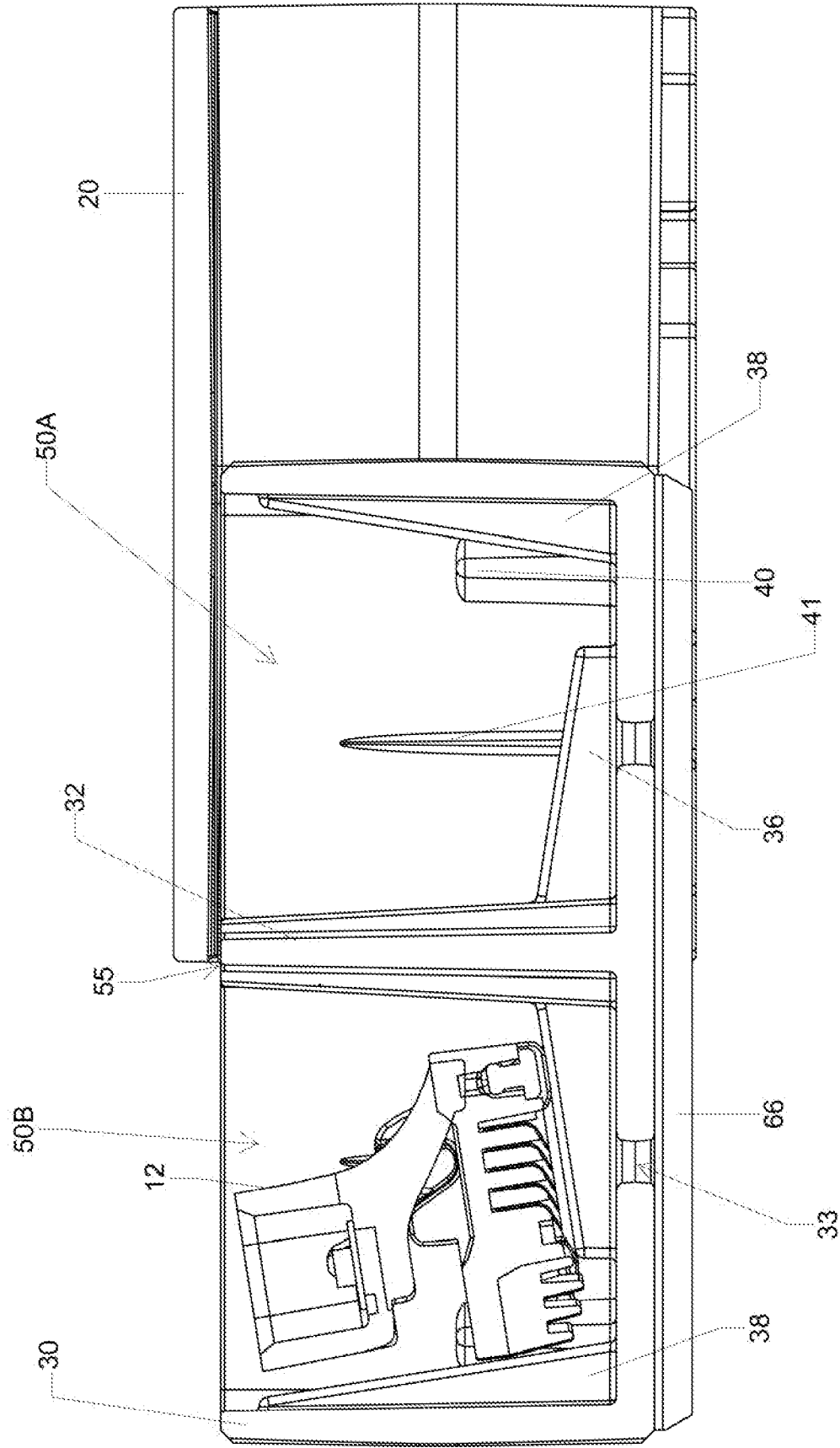


FIG. 11

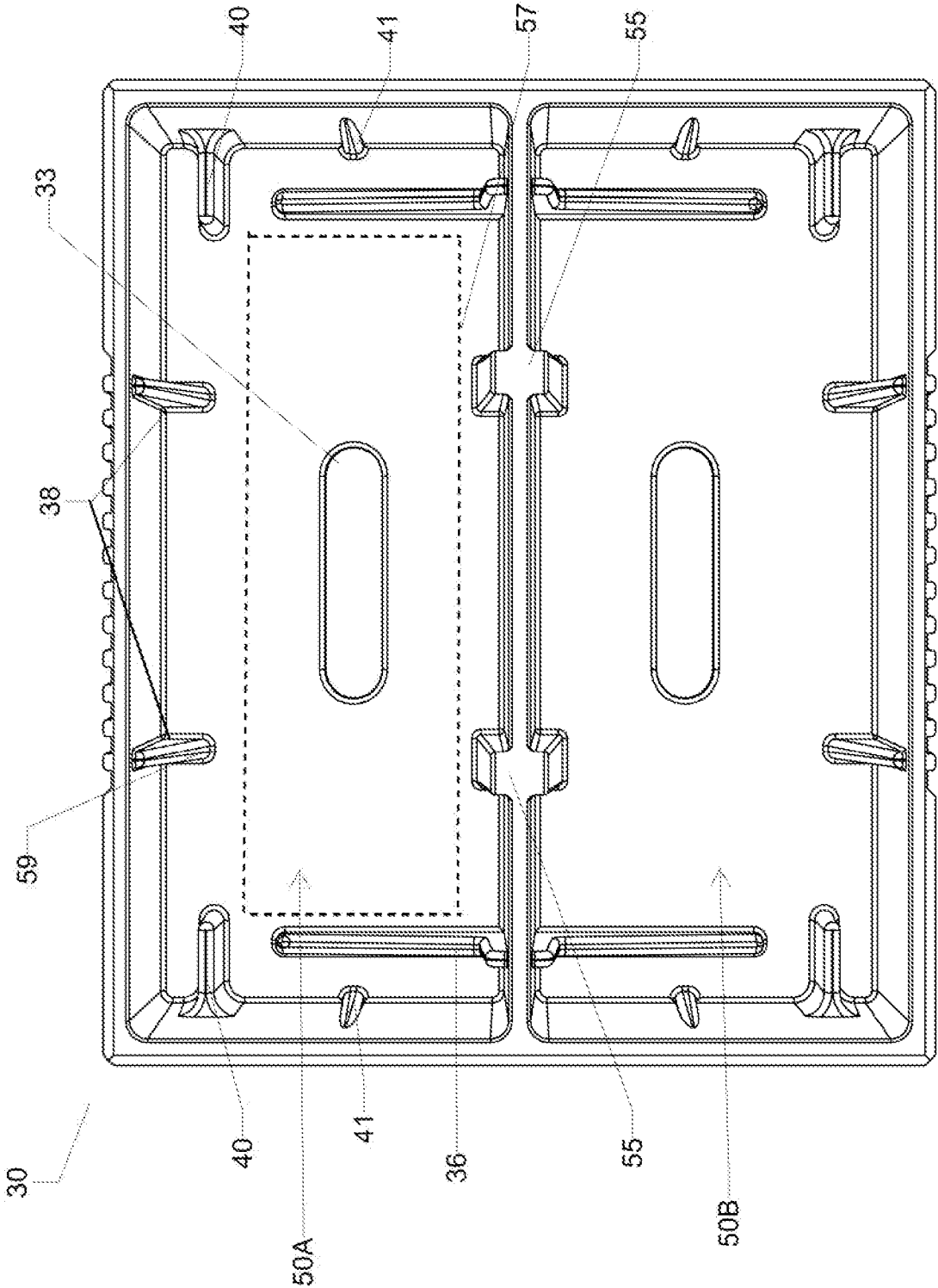


FIG. 12

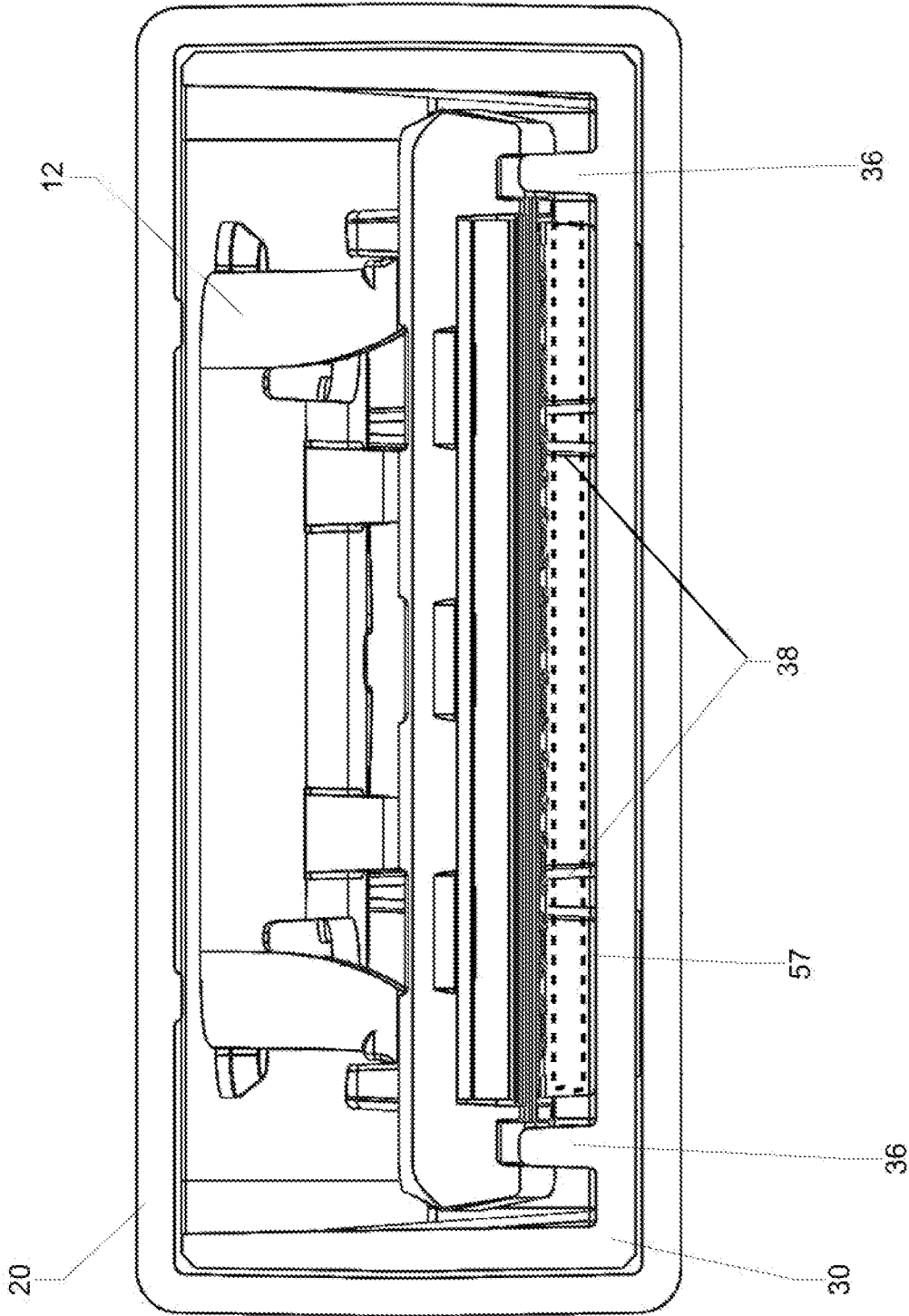


FIG. 13

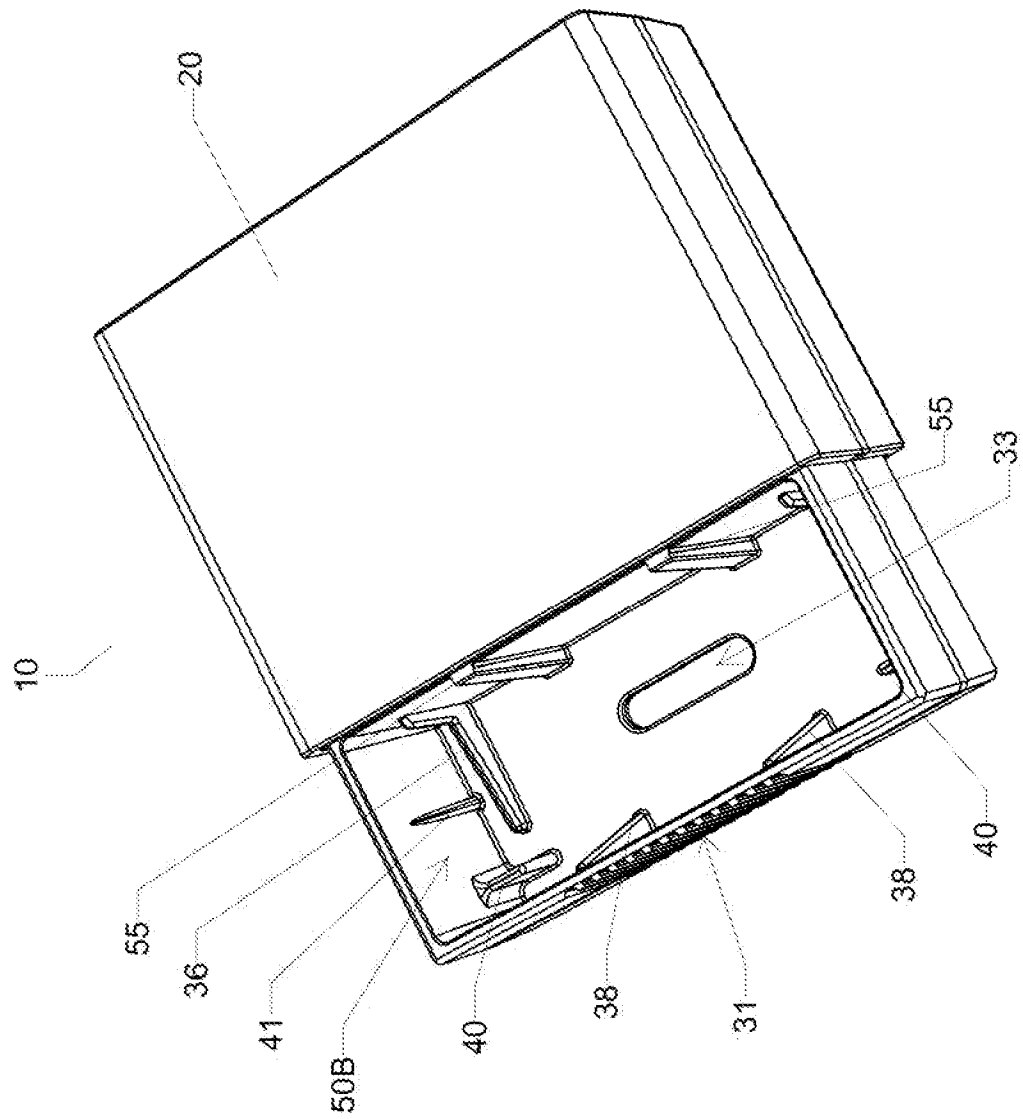


FIG. 14

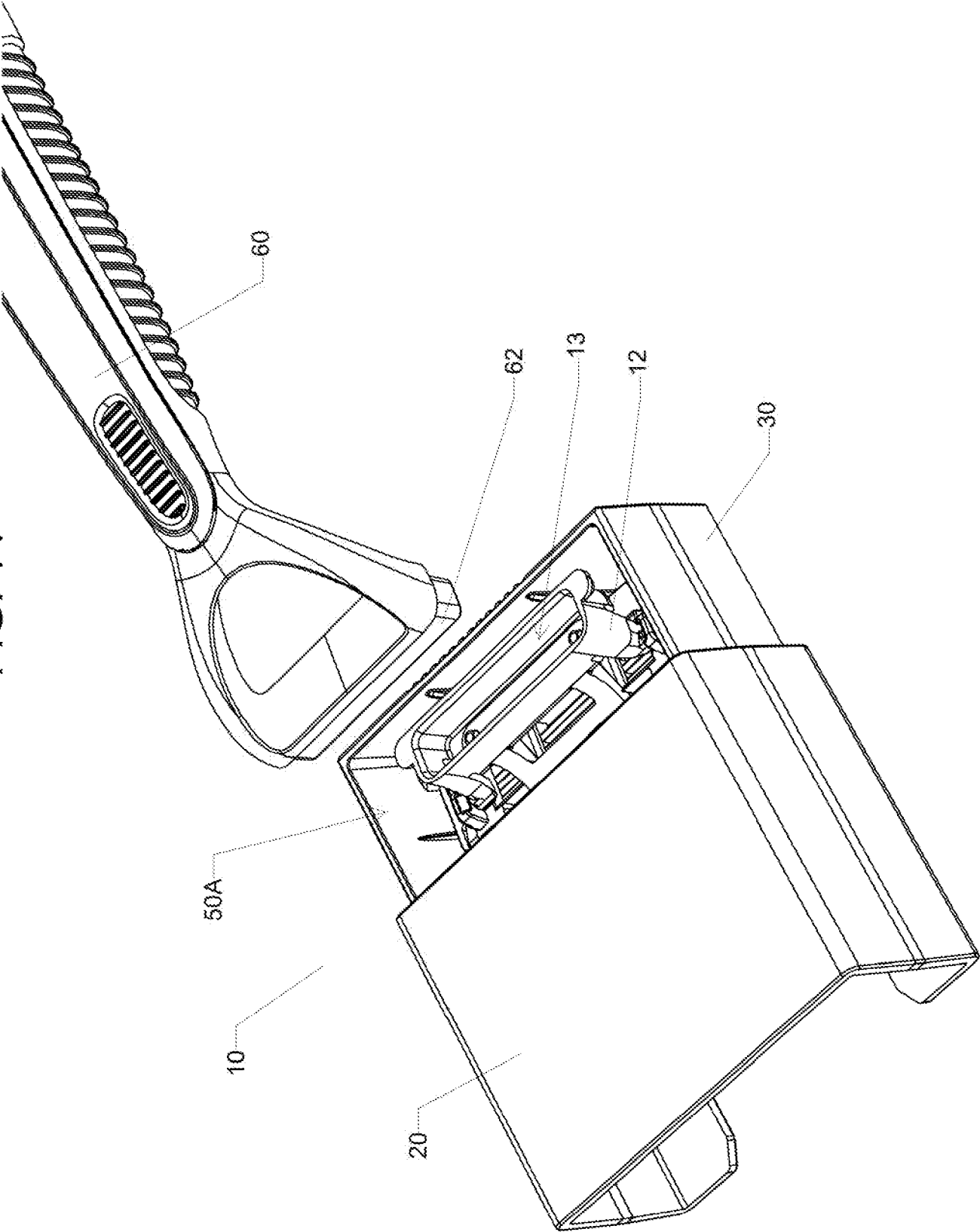


FIG. 14A

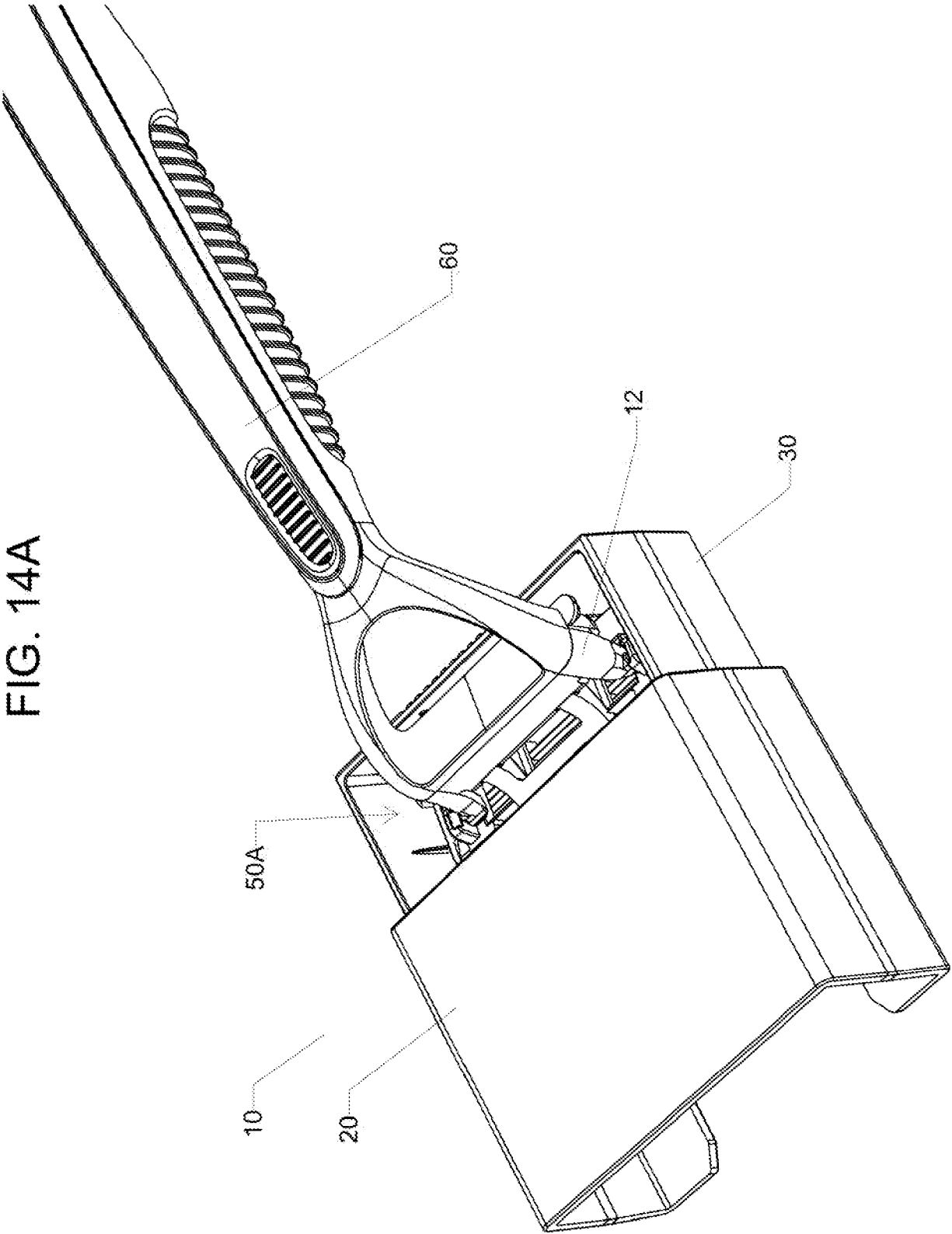
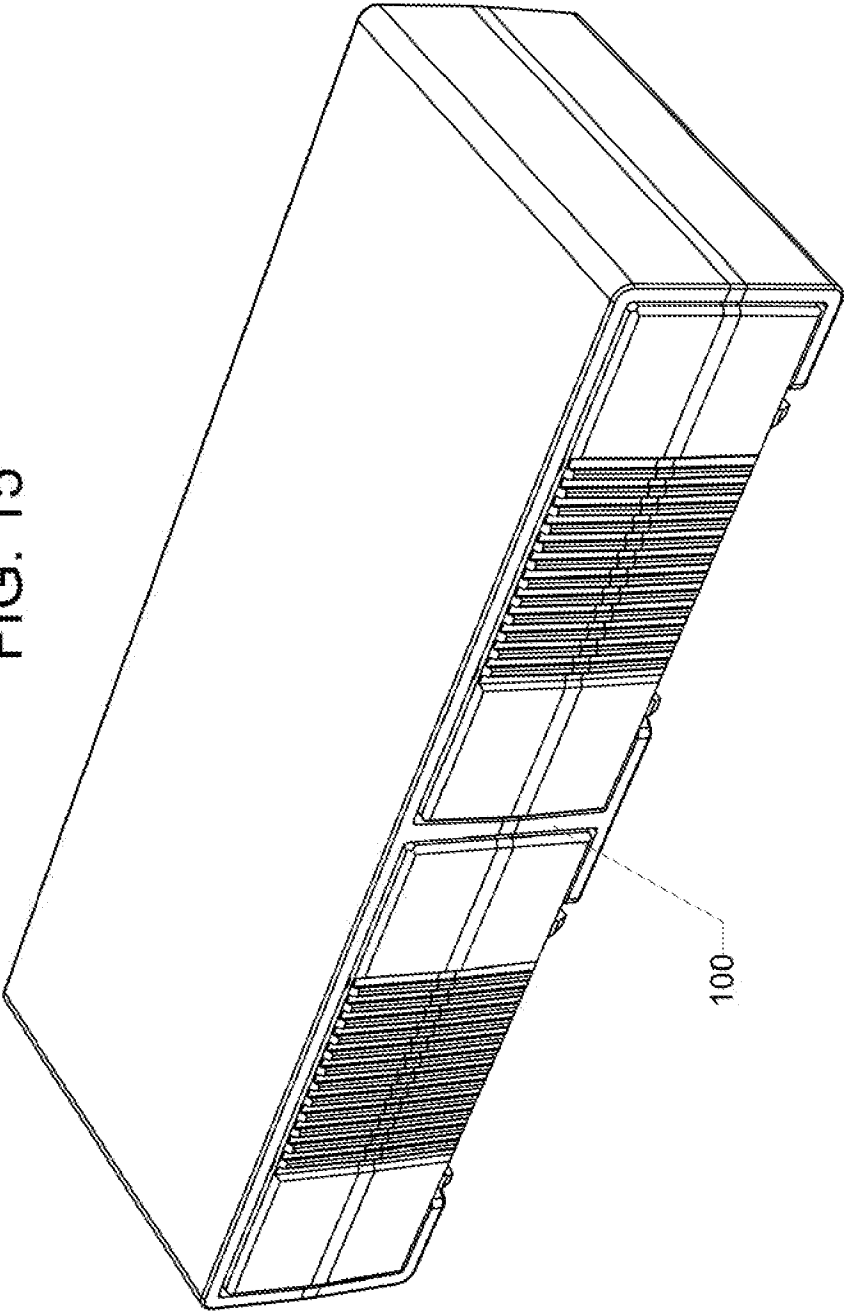


FIG. 15



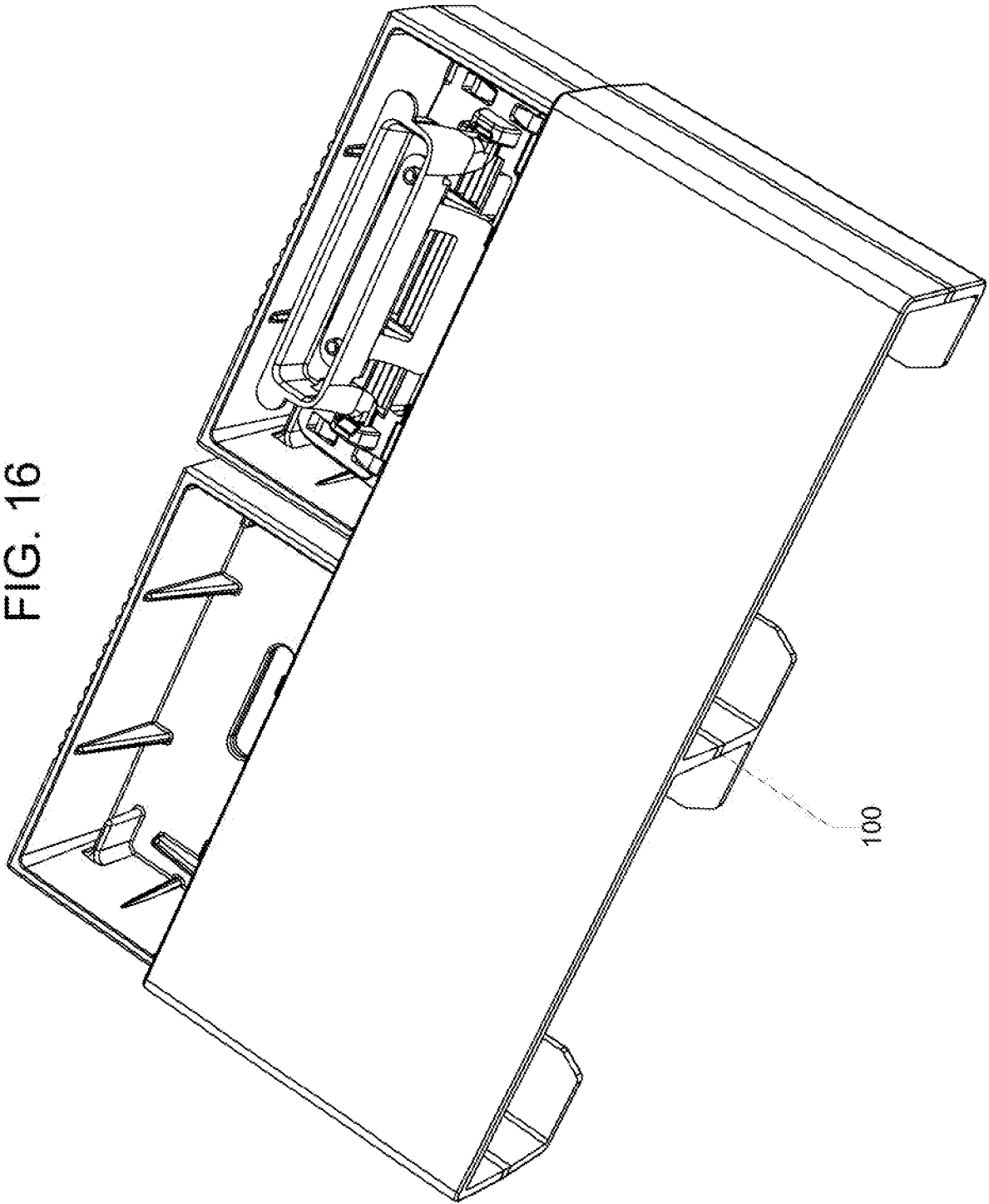


FIG. 16

FIG. 17

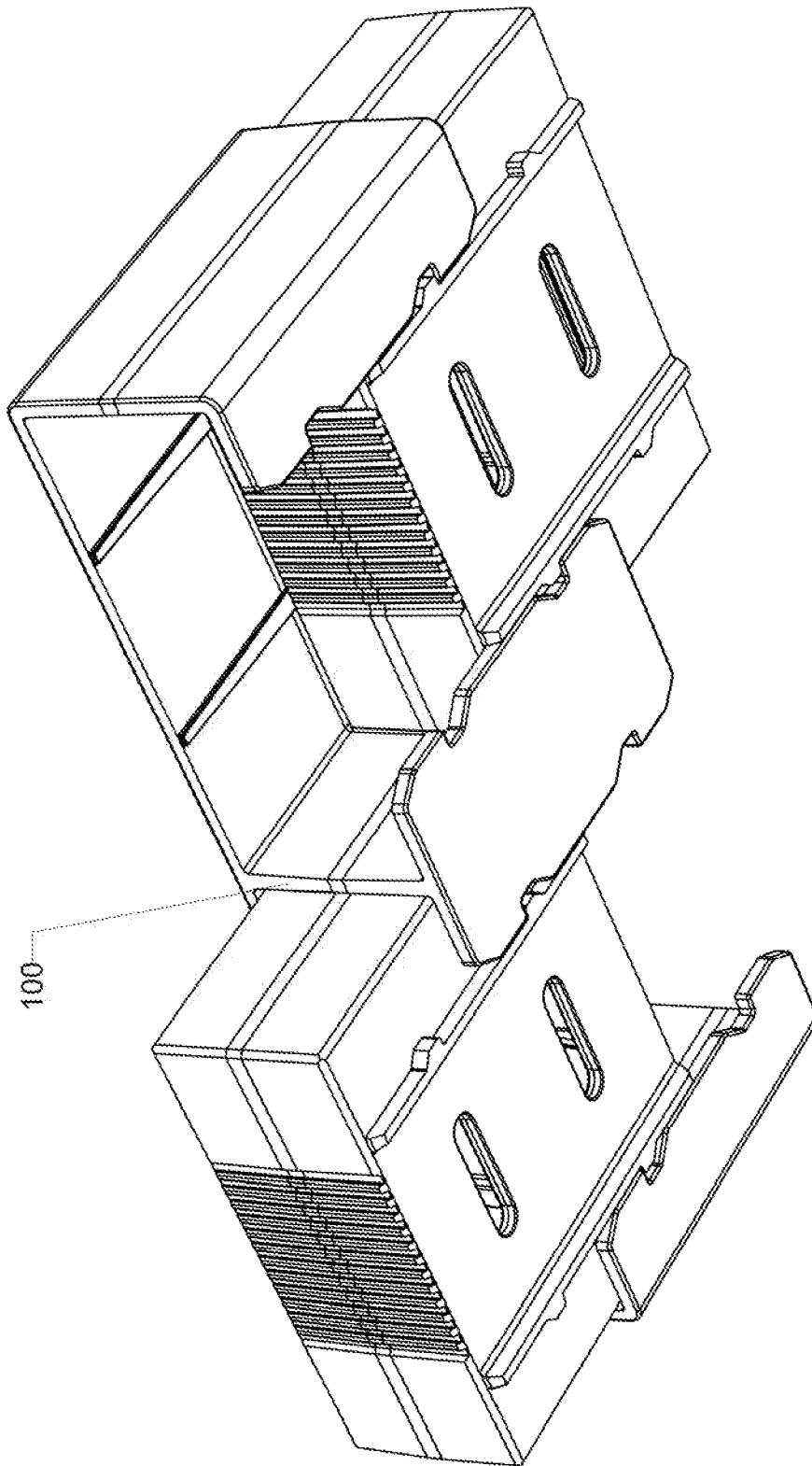


FIG. 18

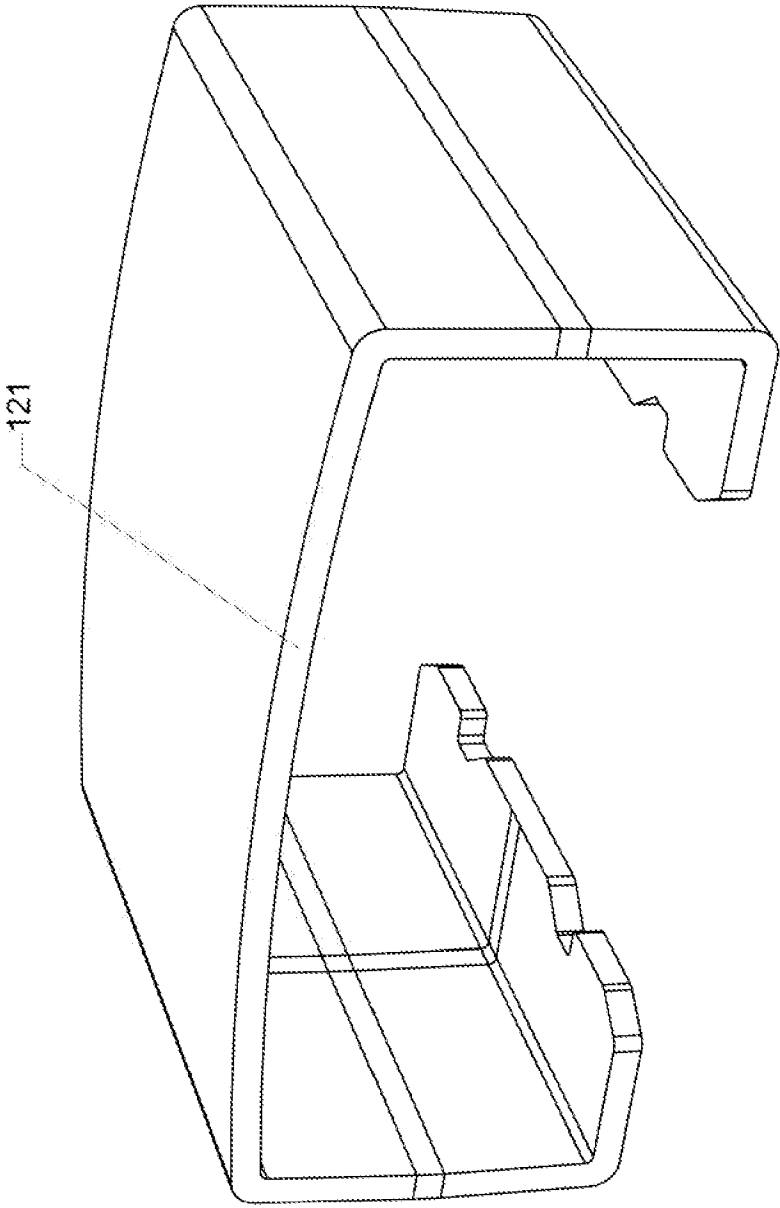


FIG. 19

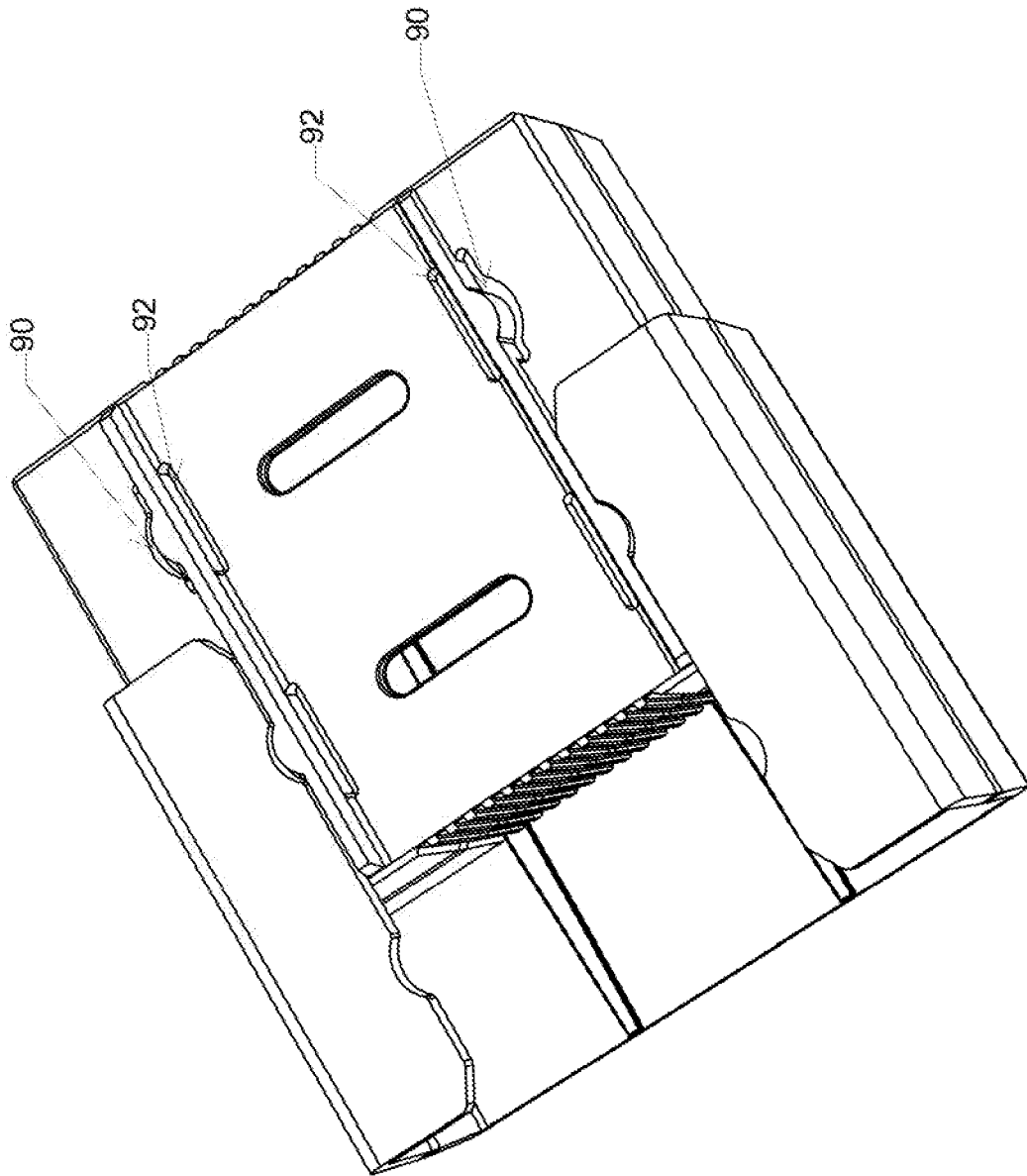


FIG. 20

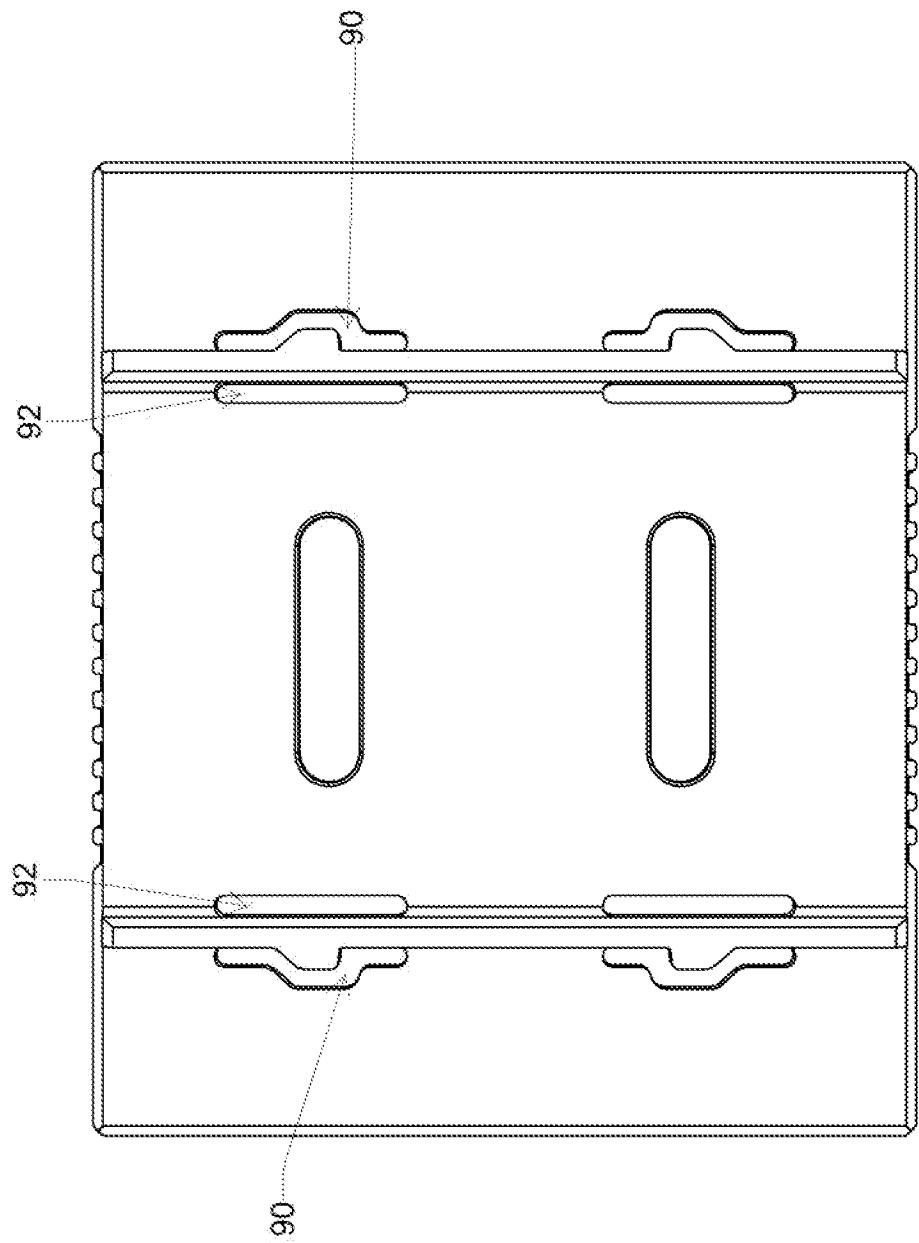
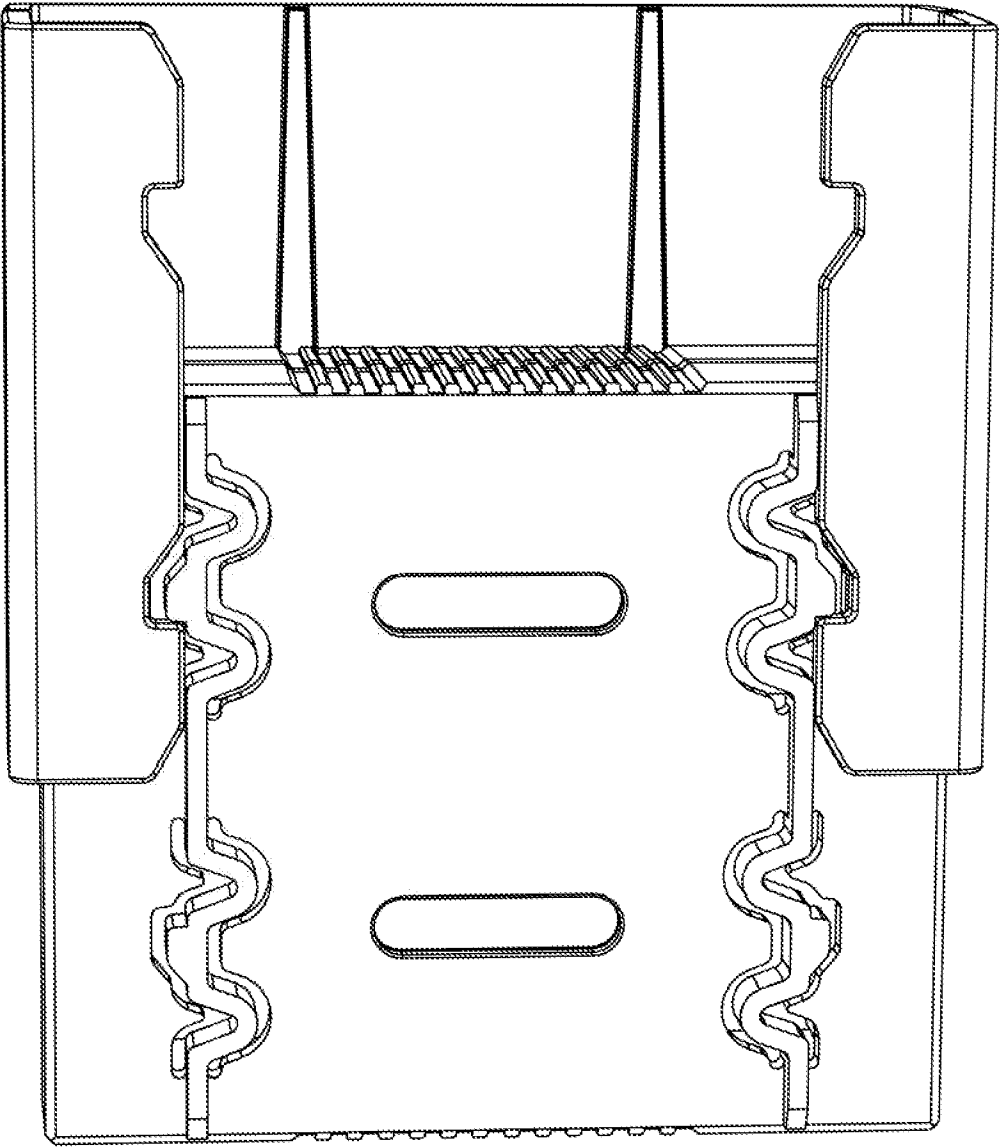


FIG. 21



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 15/39278

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - B65D 85/00 (2015.01)

CPC - B65D 85/00

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 (8) - B65D 85/00 (2015.01)

CPC - B65D 85/00

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

CPC - B65D 85/02, 85/04, 85/58, B26B 21/40

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

Google (Scholars, Patents); PatBase (All); Search terms: inner outer release c-shaped shave shaving shaver assembly cartridge dispenser holder method process retaining features

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4,333,567 A (LEONARD) 08 June 1982 (08.06.1982) entire document	1, 10
Y		2-9, 11-17
Y	US 2009/0152134 A1 (KATSIS) 18 June 2009 (18.06.2009) entire document, especially para [0020]-[0027]	2-9, 11-13, 15-17
Y	US 2010/0133140 A1 (BAILEY) 03 June 2010 (03.06.2010) entire document, especially para [0053]	14
A	US 2009/0056151 A1 (KOHRING et al.) 05 March 2009 (05.03.2009) entire document	1-17
A	US 2010/0133140 A1 (BAILEY et al.) 03 June 2010 (03.06.2010) entire document	1-17
A	US 5,275, 291 A (SLEDGE) 04 January 1994 (04.01.1994) entire document	1-17
A	US 4,007,828 A (MAYLED) 15 February 1977 (15.02.1977) entire document, especially Fig 1-5, col 2	1-17
A	US 5,080,222 A (MCNARY) 14 January 1992 (14.01.1992) entire document	1-17
A	US 2004/0069666 A1 (ZIEGER) 15 April 2004 (15.04.2004) entire document, especially para [0028]	1-17

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

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"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

26 October 2015 (26.10.2015)

Date of mailing of the international search report

07 DEC 2015

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. 571-273-8300

Authorized officer:

Lee W. Young

PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300
PCT OSP: 571-272-7774

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 15/39278

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I: Claims 1-17, directed to a shaving assembly dispenser device.

Group II: Claim 18(a), 19, & 18(b), directed to a method for using a shaving assembly device and a shaving system.

The inventions listed as Groups I-II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

---See extra page---

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
1-17

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

----Continued - Invention is Lacking Unity----

SPECIAL TECHNICAL FEATURES

The invention of Group I includes the special technical feature of the outer container defining an open area where a bottom surface of the inner container is exposed, not required by the claims of Group II.

The invention of Group II includes the special technical feature of a shaving assembly in each compartment and mounting the exposed shaving assembly on a razor handle, not required by the claims of Group I.

COMMON TECHNICAL FEATURES

Groups I-II share the common technical features of a shaving assembly dispenser. However, this shared technical feature does not represent a contribution over prior art as being obvious over US 4,007,828 A to Mayled (hereinafter 'Mayled') in view of US 2004/0069666 A1 to Zieger (hereinafter 'Zieger'), which discloses a generally C-shaped outer container (Zieger; tray 12; para [0028]; see Fig 1-3), a sectioned inner container (Mayled; the container 3 includes a plurality of compartments 7; col 2; lns 15-17) defining at least two compartments, and a shaving assembly in each compartment, the inner container being disposed within the outer container and being movable relative to the outer container between a closed position (Mayled; the interior dimensions of the enclosure 5 are such as to permit the enclosure to slidably receive container 3 in such a manner as to offer protection to the container and its contents; col 2; lns 23-25), a first open position in which one of the shaving assemblies is exposed, and a second open position in which the other shaving assembly is exposed.

As the common technical features were known in the art at the time of the invention, these cannot be considered special technical feature that would otherwise unify the groups.

Therefore, Groups I-II lack unity under PCT Rule 13 because they do not share a same or corresponding special technical feature.