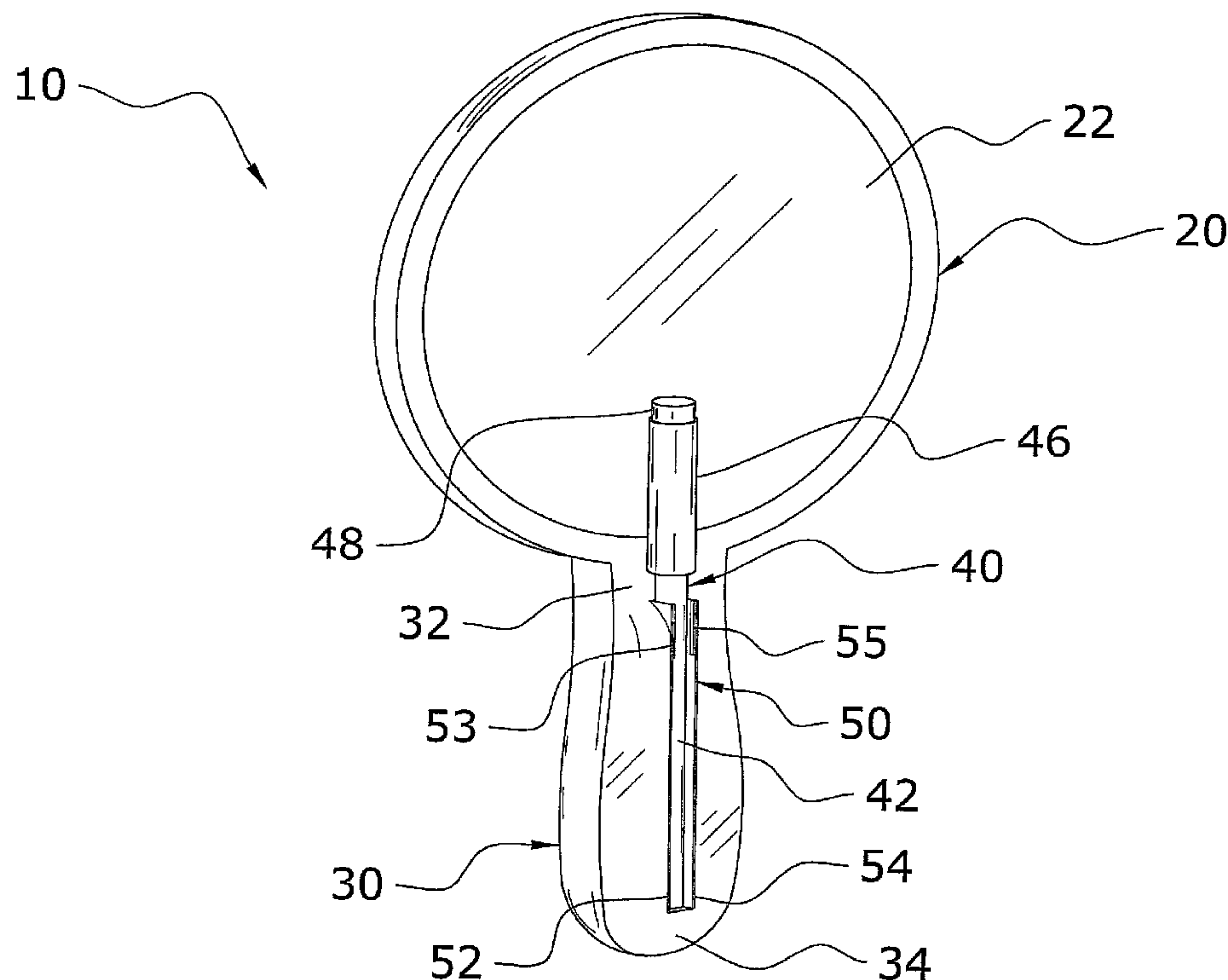




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(72) Inventeur/Inventor:
RHODES, JULIA, US
(73) Propriétaire/Owner:
RHODES, JULIA, US
(74) Agent: RICHES, MCKENZIE & HERBERT LLP

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(54) Title: HAND-HELD DRY-ERASE BOARD SYSTEM



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

A hand-held dry-erase board system for efficiently storing a writing instrument in the handle of a portable dry-erase board. The hand-held dry-erase board system includes a frame including a writable surface, a handle, wherein the handle includes an upper end and a lower end and wherein the upper end of the handle is attached to the frame and a clip, wherein the clip is attached to the handle and wherein the clip secures a marker.

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(71) Applicant and

(72) Inventor: **RHODES, Julia** [US/US]; 150 Lower Sunset,
Sonora, CA 95370 (US).

(74) Agent: **NEUSTEL, Michael**; Neustel Law Offices, Ltd.,
2534 South University Drive, Suite 4, Fargo, ND 58103
(US).

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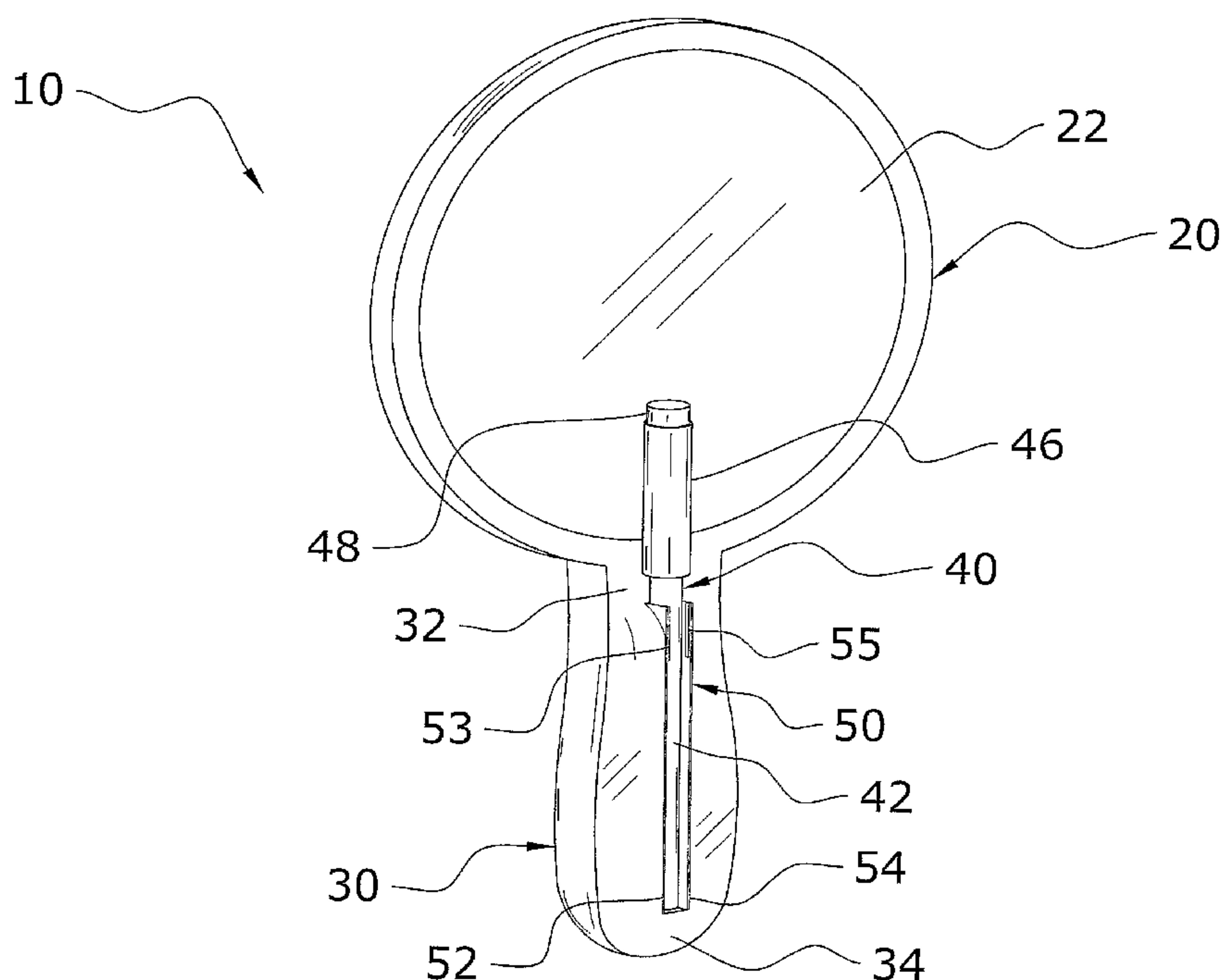
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(54) Title: HAND-HELD DRY-ERASE BOARD SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A hand-held dry-erase board system for efficiently storing a writing instrument in the handle of a portable dry-erase board. The hand-held dry-erase board system includes a frame including a writable surface, a handle, wherein the handle includes an upper end and a lower end and wherein the upper end of the handle is attached to the frame and a clip, wherein the clip is attached to the handle and wherein the clip secures a marker.

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Hand-Held Dry-Erase Board System

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to learning aids and more specifically it relates to a hand-held dry-erase board system for efficiently combining a dry-erase board, a marker and an eraser into one package.

1 **Description of the Related Art**
2
3

4 Any discussion of the prior art throughout the specification should in no way
5 be considered as an admission that such prior art is widely known or forms part of
6 common general knowledge in the field.
7

8 Learning aids have been in use for years. Typically, learning aids have
9 included items such as flashcards, small chalk boards and small dry-erase boards.
10 When using flashcards, a student or teacher will read the question on one side of the
11 flashcard and, when ready, flip it over to read the answer. Portable chalk boards and
12 dry-erase boards usually include a board along with a piece of chalk or dry-erase
13 marker and then a separate eraser. The student or teacher may write a question on one
14 side of the board and then either erase it, or if the board has two sides, flip it over to
15 reveal the answer (providing the answer was previously written on the back).
16

17 A disadvantage with flashcards is that they are not usually able to be modified
18 and are generally not written on. This can hinder the student's learning ability as the
19 flash card may not adequately describe the solution to the given problem. Portable
20 chalk boards pose the problem of leaving messy chalk dust and small pieces of chalk
21 everywhere. Chalk boards can also be difficult to read from a distance (i.e. the back
22 of a classroom). A problem with past portable dry-erase boards is that it can be
23 cumbersome to carry around a separate board, marker and eraser simultaneously.

1 While these devices may be suitable for the particular purpose to which they
2 address, they are not as suitable for efficiently combining a dry-erase board, a marker
3 and an eraser into one package. Past chalk boards and dry-erase boards have posed a
4 significant problem in that it can be very cumbersome to carry around a board, a
5 marker or chalk and an eraser at one time.
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In these respects, the hand-held dry-erase board system according to the present invention substantially departs from the conventional concepts and designs of the prior art, and in so doing provides an apparatus primarily developed for the purpose of efficiently combining a dry-erase board, a marker and an eraser into one convenient package.

1

2 **BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

3

4 The invention relates to a hand-held writing system which includes a frame, a
5 handle, and a clip. At least one writing surface, and optionally a second writing surface on
6 the opposing surface to the first writing surface, may also be located within the frame. The
7 system includes a handle which is attached to the frame at one end. A clip is attached to
8 the handle to permit a writing instrument to be removably retained to the handle.

9

10 In one embodiment, the writing surface of the system includes a smooth laminate
11 finish which is suitable for writing with a dry-erase marker. The surface would thus be a
12 write on-wipe off surface. Such a marker would include a marker handle and a writing tip,
13 and preferably includes a cap which is removably attached to the marker and covers the
14 writing tip when not in use. The dry-erase marker may further include an eraser suitable
15 for erasing markings from the writing surface of the system. The eraser may be attached to
16 the cap or to the end of the marker distal to the writing tip.

17

18 The handle of the system of the present invention may be designed of a specific size
19 and shape to be held comfortably by a user and may have an ergonomic gripping structure
20 and configuration. In a particular embodiment, the handle may include a second clip on the
21 side of the handle opposing the side containing the first clip. In this way, the handle may
22 be capable of supporting a second writing instrument simultaneously with the first. The
23 clips are comprised of first and second ribs within which the writing instruments may be
24 stored when not in use. The ribs may be positioned below the surface of the handle to
25 prevent the clip from interfering with a user gripping the handle. Each rib may include first
26 and second locking members at a distance slightly smaller than the diameter of the writing
27 instruments. The locking members permit the writing instrument may be removably
28 fastened between the ribs to keep the instruments affixed to the handle when not in use.

29

1 In one aspect, the present invention provides a hand-held writing system
2 comprising: a frame including at least one writable surface; a handle including an
3 upper end and a lower end, wherein said upper end of said handle is attached to said
4 frame with the lower end unattached to said frame, forming an ergonomic gripping
5 structure and configuration; at least one clip attached to said handle, wherein said
6 clip removably retains a writing instrument; and wherein the handle has an outer
7 surface, said at least one clip of said handle extends into said handle to define a
8 channel, a portion of the channel being below the outer surface and coplanar with the
9 writable surface.

10
11 In a further aspect, the present invention provides a hand-held writing system
12 comprising: a frame including at least one writable surface; a handle including an
13 upper end and a lower end, wherein said upper end of said handle is attached to said
14 frame with the lower end unattached to said frame, forming an ergonomic gripping
15 structure and configuration; at least one clip attached to said handle, wherein said clip
16 removably retains a writing instrument; and wherein said at least one clip includes a
17 first clip and a second clip, wherein said first clip is attached to a first side of said
18 handle and wherein said second clip is attached to an opposite side of said handle as
19 said first clip.

20
21 In yet a further aspect, the present invention provides a hand-held writing
22 system, comprising: a frame including a writable surface, wherein said writable
23 surface includes a first writable surface and a second writable surface, wherein said
24 first writable surface and said second writable surface are on opposite sides of said
25 frame and wherein said first writable surface and said second writable surface are
26 comprised of a substantially similar structure and configuration; a handle, wherein
27 said handle includes an upper end and a lower end and wherein said upper end of
28 said handle is attached to said frame and wherein said handle includes a structure and
29 configuration wherein said handle may be easily gripped; a pair of clips, wherein
30 said pair of clips each include a first rib, a second rib, wherein said first rib includes a

1 first locking member and said second rib includes a second locking member, further
2 wherein said first rib and second rib of said pair of clips protrude into said handle at a
3 depth where a most inner side of said first rib and said second rib lays along the same
4 vertical line as said writable surface of said frame; wherein said pair of clips are each
5 attached to opposite sides of said handle; and a pair of writing instruments, wherein
6 said pair of writing instruments each include a marker handle and a writing tip,
7 wherein said marker handle is secured against said handle and in-between said first
8 rib and said second rib by said first locking member and said second locking member
9 of said pair of clips; wherein said pair of writing instruments each include a cap,
10 wherein said cap includes an eraser and wherein said cap is connectable to said
11 marker handle and covers said writing tip; wherein said pair of writing instruments
12 are substantially parallel to one another and to said handle when secured within said
13 pair of clips.

14

15 To the accomplishment of the above and related objects, this invention may
16 be embodied in the form illustrated in the accompanying drawings, attention being
17 called to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only, and that changes
18 may be made in the specific construction illustrated and described within the scope
19 of the appended claims.

1
2 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**
3

4 Various other objects, features and attendant advantages of the present
5 invention will become fully appreciated as the same becomes better understood when
6 considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like reference
7 characters designate the same or similar parts throughout the several views, and
8 wherein:
9

10 FIG. 1 is an upper perspective view of the present invention.
11

12 FIG. 2 is an upper exploded perspective view of the present invention.
13

14 FIG. 3 is a front view of the present invention with a question written on the
15 first surface.
16

17 FIG. 4 is a rear view of the present invention with a solution written on the
18 second surface.
19

20 FIG. 5 is a side view of the present invention with the marker attached to the
21 handle.
22
23

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

A. Overview

Turning now descriptively to the drawings, in which similar reference characters denote similar elements throughout the several views, FIGS. 1 through 5 illustrate a hand-held dry-erase board system **10**, which comprises a frame **20** including a writable surface, a handle **30**, wherein the handle **30** includes an upper end **32** and a lower end **34** and wherein the upper end **32** of the handle **30** is attached to the frame **20** and a clip **50**, wherein the clip **50** is attached to the handle **30** and wherein the clip **50** secures a marker unit **40**.

B. Frame

The frame **20** is preferably comprised of a circular structure and configuration as shown in Figures 1 through 4; however it is appreciated that the frame **20** may be comprised of various shapes rather than the preferred embodiment, such as but not limited to square, rectangular and triangular. The frame **20** is preferably comprised of a stiff material (i.e. wood, masonite, plastic, etc.) and is suitable for holding a writable surface.

The writable surface is preferably comprised of a first surface **22** and a second surface **24**, where the first surface **22** and the second surface **24** are preferably on opposite sides of the frame **20**, as shown in Figures 3 and 4. The first surface **22** and the second surface **24** are preferably of a substantially similar configuration. The first surface **22** and the second surface **24** are also preferably of a circular structure and configuration. The size and shape of the first surface **22** and the second surface **24** are preferably similar, but slightly smaller in diameter, to the circular configuration of the frame **20**.

1 The first surface **22** and the second surface **24** are preferably comprised of a
2 smooth laminate coating (i.e. porcelain, epoxy-coated film, ultraviolet cured liquid,
3 varnish, etc.) or any coating that can be written on and erased with dry-erase markers
4 and erasers, as shown in Figures 3 and 4. The coating used for the first surface **22** and
5 the second surface **24** is preferably substantially similar. The first surface **22** and the
6 second surface **24** may also have a pre-printed outline of any form of indicia (i.e.
7 basketball court, line up of football players, etc.).
8

9 **C. *Handle***

10 The handle **30** is preferably comprised of a material as to be easily gripped by a
11 user (i.e. dense foam, plastic, rubber, etc.), as shown in Figures 1 through 5. The
12 handle **30** is preferably an integrally formed structure with the frame **20**; however the
13 handle **30** may be comprised of a separate structure from the frame **20**. The handle **30**
14 is also preferably comprised of an ergonomic gripping design structure and
15 configuration.
16

17 The handle **30** preferably includes a clip **50** on the same side of the hand-held
18 dry-erase board system **10** as the first surface **22**, where the clip **50** securely holds the
19 marker unit **40**, as shown in Figures 1 through 3. The handle **30** preferably is formed
20 to include a clip **50** on both sides of the handle **30** to allow the user to secure two
21 markers **40** to the hand-held dry-erase board system **10** as illustrated in Figures 3
22 through 5.
23

24 The clip **50** preferably includes a first rib **52** and a second rib **54**. The first rib
25 **52** and the second rib **54** are preferably of a substantially similar structure and
26 configuration. The first rib **52** and the second rib **54** are preferably comprised of
27 channel structures that extend into the handle **30**, as not to be in the way from gripping
28 the handle **30**, as shown in Figures 1 through 5. The portion of the clip **50** furthest
29 below the outer surface of the handle **30** is preferably coplanar with the edge of the

1 first surface 22 as shown in Figure 5. In this way, the marker unit 40 rests in a
2 horizontal position within the clip 50 when the hand-held dry-erase board system 10 is
3 laid on a horizontal surface, such as a table or a desk.
4

5 The first rib 52 preferably includes a first locking member 53 and the second
6 rib 54 preferably includes a second locking member 55. The first locking member 53
7 and the second locking member 55 are preferably positioned towards the upper end 32
8 of the handle 30 on the clip 50. The first locking member 53 and the second locking
9 member 55 extend towards one another to create a slightly smaller width between the
10 first locking member 53 and the second locking member 55 than the width between the
11 first rib 52 and the second rib 54 near the lower end 36 of the handle 30. This to
12 provide a secure holding place for the marker unit 40, when the marker handle 42 is in
13 the clip 50, as shown in Figure 1.
14

15 *D. Marker Unit*

16 The marker unit 40 is preferably of a structure and configuration of a dry-erase
17 marker. The marker unit 40 includes a writing tip 44 and the marker handle 42, as
18 shown in Figure 2. The writing tip 44 is used to write on the first surface 22 and the
19 second surface 24. The marker unit 40 also preferably includes a cap 46, where the
20 cap 46 connects to the marker handle 42 and covers the writing tip 44 from outside
21 elements. It is also appreciated that the marker unit 40 may be comprised of a
22 configuration rather than a dry erase marker, such as but not limited to a chalk
23 configuration or pencil configuration.
24

25 The cap 46 also preferably includes an eraser 48, as shown in Figures 1, 2 and
26 5. The eraser 48 is preferably positioned at the top of the cap 46 at the furthest point
27 from the marker handle 42. The eraser 48 is preferably of a structure and
28 configuration to erase writing on the first surface 22 and the second surface 24 from
29 the writing tip 44. The eraser 48 is preferably comprised of a configuration of a

1 standard dry erase board eraser; however it is appreciated that the eraser 48 may be
2 comprised of various configurations rather than the preferred embodiment, such as but
3 not limited to a chalk board eraser configuration or pencil eraser configuration.
4

5 *E. Operation of Invention*

6 The teacher or student first grasps the handle 30 in a way to not cover the
7 marker unit 40. The marker unit 40 is then removed from the first locking member 53
8 and the second locking member 55 of the clip 50. The cap 46 from the marker unit 40
9 is then removed from the marker handle 42. The teacher may then firmly grasp the
10 marker handle 42 and write a question (i.e. $3+1$), using the writing tip 44, on the first
11 surface 22, as shown in Figure 3. The teacher may also write the appropriate answer to
12 the given question, at this time, on the second surface 24 (i.e. $3+1=4$), as shown in
13 Figure 4.
14

15 The teacher then replaces the cap 46 back on the marker handle 42 and then
16 places the marker handle 42 back into the first locking member 53 and the second
17 locking member 55 of the clip 50. The teacher now holds up the hand-held dry-erase
18 board system 10 for his/her class to view. This is done in a manner so that the class
19 may only see the first surface 22 of the hand-held dry-erase board system 10.
20

21 Once an individual in the class, or the entire class, guesses the answer to the
22 question the teacher turns around the hand-held dry-erase board system 10 to reveal the
23 second surface 24 and the answer to the question. The teacher may now remove the
24 marker unit 40 from the first locking member 53 and the second locking member 55 of
25 the clip 50, and rub the eraser 48 over the writing on the first surface 22 and the
26 second surface 24. The eraser 48 erases the writing on the first surface 22 and the
27 second surface 24 so that the teacher may now write a new question for his/her class.
28 Every student in the class may also utilize the hand-held dry-erase board system 10 to

1 to respond to the teachers question with their individual response. To write a new
2 question, the above process is simply repeated.

3

4 Although the present invention has been described in connection with certain
5 preferred embodiments, it is to be understood that the scope of the claims should not
6 be limited by the preferred embodiments set forth in the example, but should be
7 given the broadest interpretation consistent with the description as a whole.

8

9

CLAIMS:

1. A hand-held writing system comprising:
 - a frame including at least one writable surface;
 - a handle including an upper end and a lower end, wherein said upper end of said handle is attached to said frame with the lower end unattached to said frame, forming an ergonomic gripping structure and configuration;
 - at least one clip attached to said handle, wherein said clip removably retains a writing instrument; and
 - wherein the handle has an outer surface, said at least one clip of said handle extends into said handle to define a channel, a portion of the channel being below the outer surface and coplanar with the writable surface.

2. A hand-held writing system comprising:
 - a frame including at least one writable surface;
 - a handle including an upper end and a lower end, wherein said upper end of said handle is attached to said frame with the lower end unattached to said frame, forming an ergonomic gripping structure and configuration;
 - at least one clip attached to said handle, wherein said clip removably retains a writing instrument; and
 - wherein said at least one clip includes a first clip and a second clip, wherein said first clip is attached to a first side of said handle and wherein said second clip is attached to an opposite side of said handle as said first clip.

3. A hand-held writing system, comprising:
 - a frame including a writable surface, wherein said writable surface includes a first writable surface and a second writable surface, wherein said first writable surface and said second writable surface are on opposite sides of said frame and wherein said first writable surface and said second writable surface are comprised of a substantially similar structure and configuration;
 - a handle, wherein said handle includes an upper end and a lower end and wherein said upper end of said handle is attached to said frame and wherein said

handle includes a structure and configuration wherein said handle may be easily gripped;

a pair of clips, wherein said pair of clips each include a first rib, a second rib, wherein said first rib includes a first locking member and said second rib includes a second locking member, further wherein said first rib and second rib of said pair of clips protrude into said handle at a depth where a most inner side of said first rib and said second rib lays along the same vertical line as said writable surface of said frame;

wherein said pair of clips are each attached to opposite sides of said handle; and

a pair of writing instruments, wherein said pair of writing instruments each include a marker handle and a writing tip, wherein said marker handle is secured against said handle and in-between said first rib and said second rib by said first locking member and said second locking member of said pair of clips;

wherein said pair of writing instruments each include a cap, wherein said cap includes an eraser and wherein said cap is connectable to said marker handle and covers said writing tip;

wherein said pair of writing instruments are substantially parallel to one another and to said handle when secured within said pair of clips.

4. The hand-held writing system of claim 3, wherein said first writable surface and said second writable surface include a smooth laminate coating.

5. The hand-held writing system of claim 3, wherein said first writable surface and said second writable surface are comprised of a dry-erase write on-wipe off surface.

6. The hand-held writing system of claim 3, wherein said pair of writing instruments are comprised of a dry-erase marker.

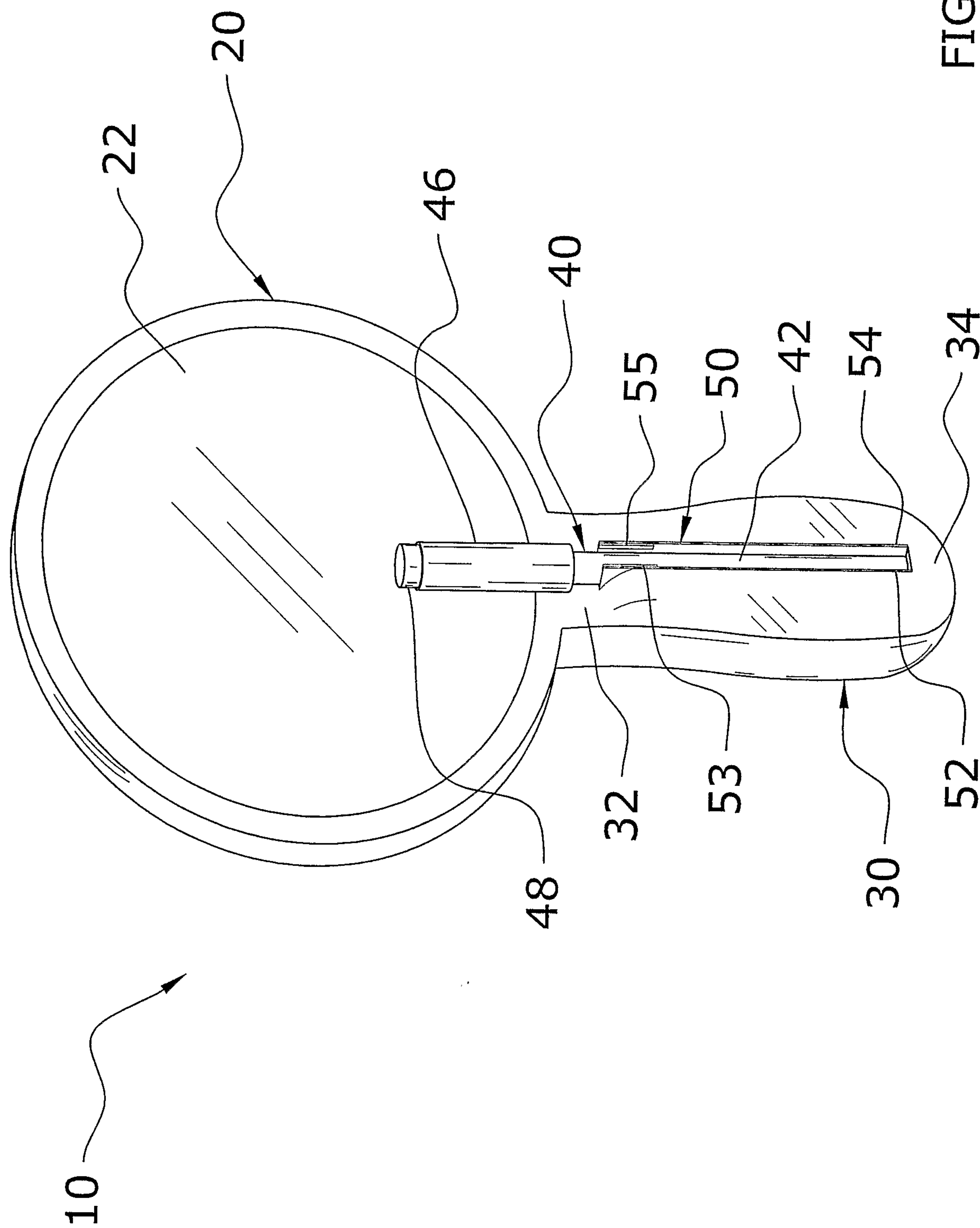
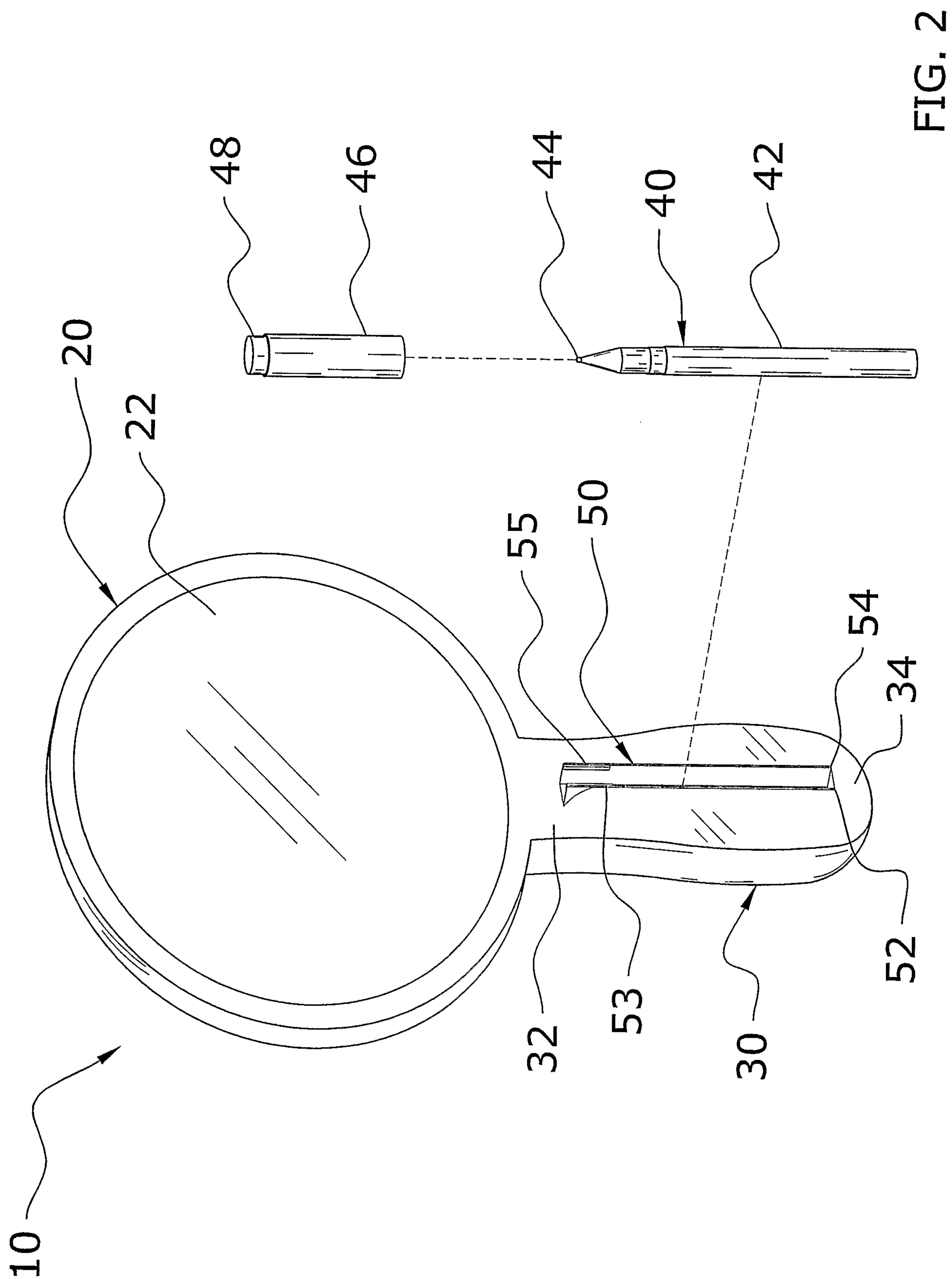


FIG. 1



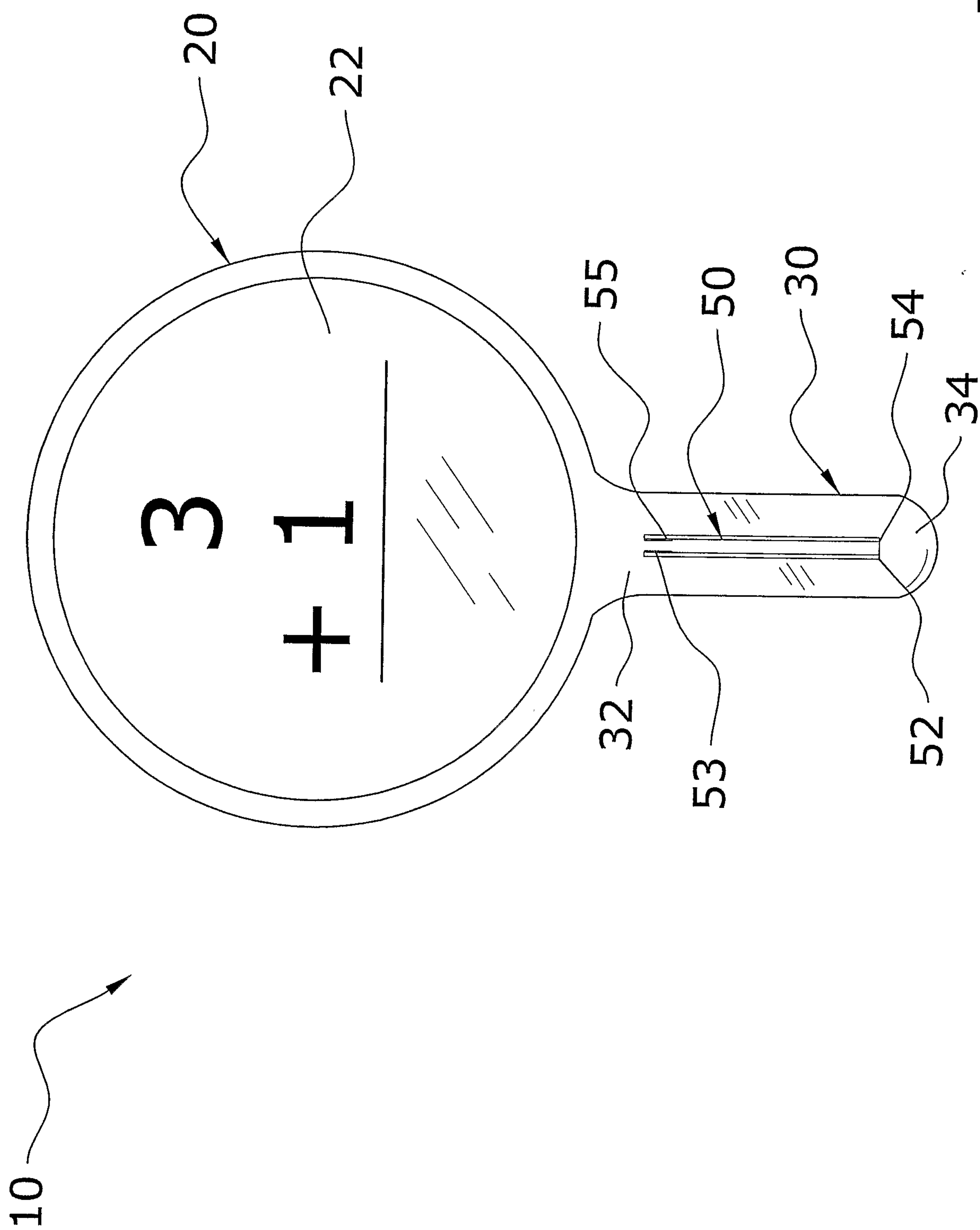
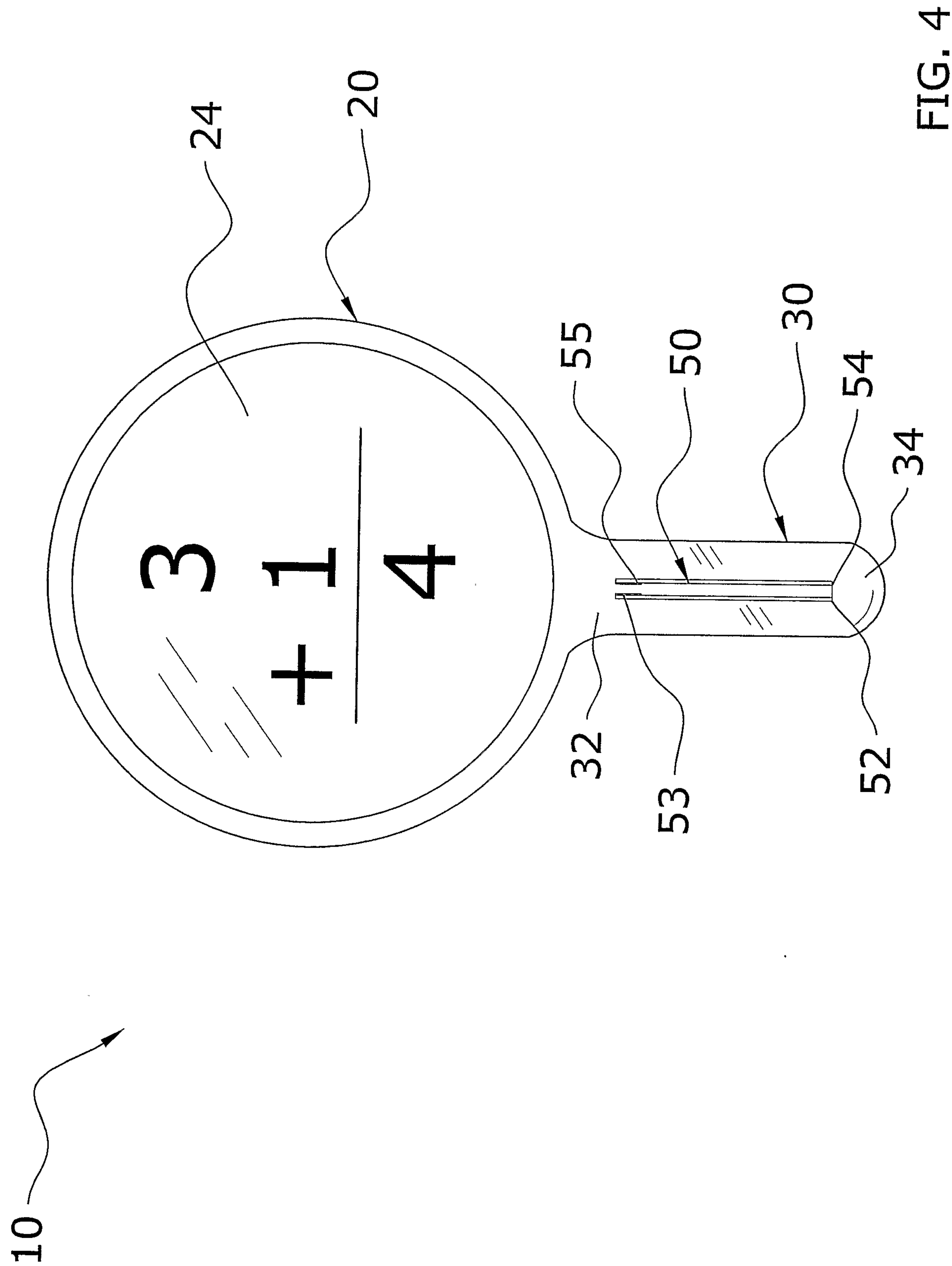


FIG. 3



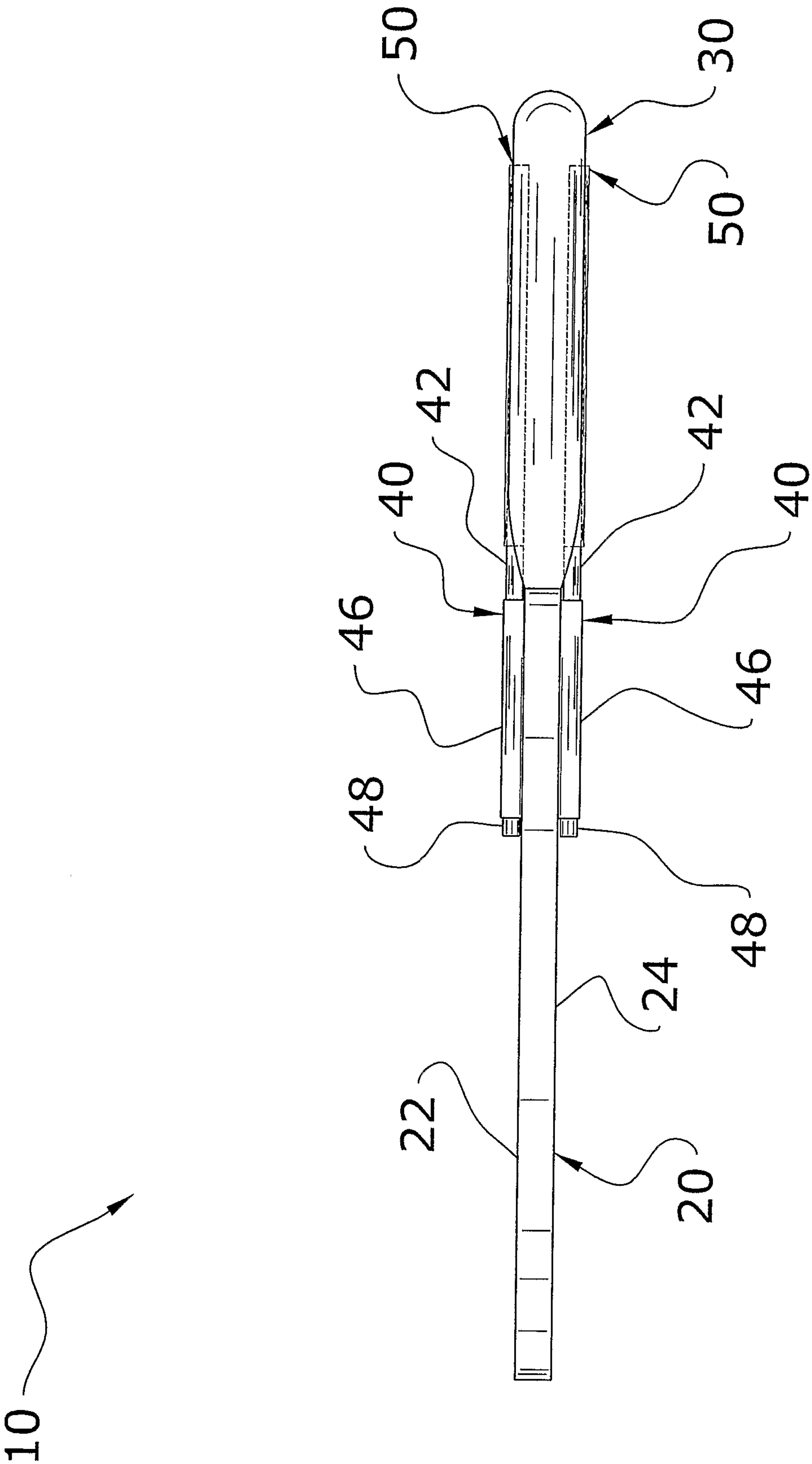


FIG. 5

10

