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(54) **Ventilation Apparatus**

Ventilator

Appareil de ventilation

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**Description**

**[0001]** The present invention relates to a vent for venting a building structure, typically venting an external, atmospheric space outside of a building to an internal space within the building, a filter for use with the same, and a wind stop for use with the same to regulate air flow through the vent in the event of external winds or wind gusts.

**[0002]** Vents, such as wall vents, for venting a building structure to an external, atmospheric space outside of the building structure are known. However, the present invention aims to provide an improved vent, and especially a vent which facilitates removal of internal components, such as a filter and a wind stop.

**[0003]** US-A-2005/0202778 discloses a vent for a duct terminating proximate a wall with a self-levelling feature.

**[0004]** EP-A-2383401 discloses a smoke vent assembly for the roof of a building which has a panel hinged to a frame, for movement between open and closed positions under the action of a powered actuator.

**[0005]** The present invention provides a wall vent according to claim 1.

**[0006]** In one embodiment the support member includes first and second pivot couplings, the cover panel includes first and second counterpart pivot couplings, and the linkage comprises first and second elongate arms which are pivotally coupled to respective ones of the pivot couplings, optionally the linkage further comprises an interconnecting member which interconnects the arms, whereby the arms move in unison.

**[0007]** In one embodiment the linkage allows the cover panel to be moved between a closed position, in which the cover panel substantially closes the outlet of the duct, and a plurality of open positions, in which the cover panel is open to a plurality of different extents, optionally the support member includes at least one engagement element and the cover panel includes at least one counterpart engagement element which interengages with the engagement element of the support member and enables the cover panel to be fixed in the closed position or one of the plurality of open positions, optionally the engagement element of one of the support member and the cover panel comprises a lug and the engagement element of the other of the cover panel and the support member comprises a toothed section having a plurality of teeth which selectively engage the lug of the counterpart engagement element of the one of the support member and the cover panel and thereby enable the position of the cover panel to be set in the closed position or one of the plurality of open positions, optionally the support member includes first and second engagement elements and the cover panel includes counterpart first and second engagement elements which interengage with the engagement elements of the support member.

**[0008]** Preferred embodiments of the present invention will now be described hereinbelow by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings, in

which:

Figure 1 illustrates a front perspective view from above of a wall vent in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 2 illustrates a front perspective view from below of the wall vent of Figure 1;

Figure 3 illustrates a rear perspective view of the wall vent of Figure 1;

Figure 4 illustrates a front perspective view of the wall vent of Figure 1, with the cover panel in a raised position to allow access to the filter and the wind stop;

Figure 5 illustrates a front perspective view of the wall vent of Figure 1, with the cover panel in a raised position and the filter and the wind stop removed;

Figure 6 illustrates an exploded perspective view of the wall vent of Figure 1;

Figure 7 illustrates a vertical sectional view (along section I-I in Figure 1) of the wall vent of Figure 1, with the cover panel in a first position;

Figure 8 illustrates a vertical sectional view (along section I-I in Figure 1) of the wall vent of Figure 1, with the cover panel in a second position;

Figure 9 illustrates a vertical sectional view (along section II-II in Figure 1) of the wall vent of Figure 1, with the cover panel in the first position;

Figure 10 illustrates a horizontal sectional view (along section III-III in Figure 1) of the wall vent of Figure 1, with the cover panel in the first position;

Figure 11(a) illustrates a front perspective view of the wind stop of the wall vent of Figure 1;

Figure 11(b) illustrates a rear perspective view of the wind stop of Figure 11(a);

Figure 11(c) illustrates an exploded perspective view of the wind stop of Figure 11(a);

Figure 11(d) illustrates a front view of the wind stop of Figure 11(a);

Figure 11(e) illustrates a rear view of the wind stop of Figure 11(a);

Figure 11(f) illustrates a side view of the wind stop of Figure 11(a);

Figure 11(g) illustrates an underneath plan view of

the wind stop of Figure 11(a);

Figure 12(a) illustrates a perspective view from one end of the filter of the wall vent of Figure 1;

Figure 12(b) illustrates a perspective view from the other end of the filter of Figure 12(a);

Figure 12(c) illustrates a first side view (along direction A in Figure 12(b)) of the filter of Figure 12(a);

Figure 12(d) illustrates a second side view (along direction B in Figure 12(b)) of the filter of Figure 12(a);

Figure 12(e) illustrates one end view of the filter of Figure 12(a), with the filter element removed for ease of illustration; and

Figure 12(f) illustrates a longitudinal sectional view (along section IV-IV in Figure 12(d)) of the filter of Figure 12(a).

**[0009]** The wall vent comprises a body 3 which is located within an opening in a building, such as through a wall.

**[0010]** In this embodiment the body 3 comprises a duct 5 which extends through the opening in the building and includes an inlet 7 which is fluidly connected to a first, environmental space, here the external atmosphere from which a supply of fresh air is drawn, and an outlet 9 which is fluidly connected to a second space, here a space internal to the building.

**[0011]** In this embodiment the duct 5 comprises a tubular element and includes a detent 10 at the inlet 7, which engages a counterpart detent 63 on a wind stop 51, as will be described in more detail hereinbelow.

**[0012]** In this embodiment the body 3 further comprises an attachment member 11, here at the outlet 9, which allows for attachment of the body 3 to the building and receives a support member 17 of a cover panel assembly 15, as will be described in more detail hereinbelow.

**[0013]** In this embodiment the attachment member 11 comprises a flange, here of rectangular shape, which extends about the periphery of the outlet 9 of the duct 5.

**[0014]** In this embodiment the body 3 further comprises a collar 12 which is located about the periphery of the inlet 7 of the duct 5 and defines an inwardly-directed flange 14 which provides a stop for a wind stop 51, as will be described in more detail hereinbelow.

**[0015]** The wall vent further comprises a cover panel assembly 15 which is fluidly connected to the outlet 9 of the duct 5, in this embodiment being attached to the attachment member 11 of the body 3.

**[0016]** In this embodiment the cover panel assembly 15 comprises a support member 17 which is attached to the attachment member 11 of the body 3, here clipped thereto, a cover panel 19 which is coupled to the support member 17, and a linkage 21 which hingeably connects

the cover panel 19 to the support member 17.

**[0017]** In this embodiment the support member 17 includes first and second pivot couplings 23, here at an upper section thereof, and the cover panel 19 includes counterpart first and second pivot couplings 25, here at an upper section thereof, and the linkage 21 pivotably couples the respective ones of the pivot couplings 23, 25.

**[0018]** In this embodiment the linkage 21 comprises first and second arms 27 which are pivotally coupled to respective ones of the pivot couplings 23, 25, and an interconnecting member 31 which interconnects the arms 27, whereby the arms 27 move in unison.

**[0019]** With this pivotable coupling, the cover panel 19 can be moved between a closed position, in which cover panel 19 is juxtaposed the support member 17 and the outlet 9 of the duct 5 is closed, and various open positions, in which the cover panel 19 is open to different extents, as illustrated in Figures 7 and 8.

**[0020]** Furthermore, with this pivotable coupling, the cover panel 19 can be raised clear of the support member 17 and allow unimpeded access to the duct 5, which enables removal of the wind stop 51 and a filter 81, as illustrated in Figures 4 and 5.

**[0021]** In this embodiment the support member 17 includes first and second engagement elements 35, here at a lower section thereof, and the cover panel 19 includes counterpart first and second engagement elements 37, here at a lower section thereof, which interengage with the engagement elements 35 of the support member 17, and enable the cover panel 19 to be fixed in the closed position or one of the plurality of set open positions.

**[0022]** In this embodiment the engagement elements 35 of the support member 17 each comprise a lug 41 and the engagement elements 37 of the cover panel 19 each comprise a toothed section 43 having a plurality of teeth 45 which selectively engage the lug 41 of the counterpart engagement element 35 of the support member 17, and thereby enable the position of the cover panel 19 to be set in one of the plurality of positions.

**[0023]** In this embodiment the cover panel 19 comprises an outer panel element 47 and an inner insulation element 49 which opposes the outlet 9 of the duct 5.

**[0024]** The wall vent further comprises a wind stop 51 which is disposed at the inlet 7 of the duct 5 and acts to regulate the flow rate of the incoming air in the event of winds and wind gusts.

**[0025]** The wind stop 51 comprises a body member 53 which includes a plurality of apertures 55 through which an air flow is drawn, and a plurality of flow regulators 57, which act to regulate the flow rate of the incoming air in the event of winds and wind gusts.

**[0026]** In this embodiment the apertures 55 are arranged in a rectangular, grid pattern, but could have other forms.

**[0027]** In this embodiment the body member 53 comprises an annular element 61 which has an outer diameter corresponding to the internal diameter of the duct 5,

and the annular element 61 is seated at the flange 14 of the collar 12.

**[0028]** In this embodiment the annular element 61 includes a detent 63 which engages the detent 10 on the duct 5 in order to provide that the wind stop 51 is oriented with a desired orientation.

**[0029]** In this embodiment the body member 53 further comprises a plurality of supports 67 which support the respective ones of the flow regulators 57.

**[0030]** In this embodiment the supports 67 each include an elongate channel 69 which receives the respective flow regulator 57.

**[0031]** The flow regulators 57 each comprise at least one flexible element 71 which, in the absence of any wind or wind gust, adopts a configuration in a direction away from the apertures 55 in the body member 53, and, in the event of a wind or wind gust, flexes towards the apertures 55 in the body member 53 so as to restrict the flow path to the apertures 55, and thereby reduce the flow through the duct 5. In one embodiment the flexible element 71 could be pre-shaped such as to include a spine which is configured to fit within the channel 69 and with the flap sections 77, 79 inclined thereto.

**[0032]** In this embodiment the flexible elements 71 of the flow regulators 57 are configured such as substantially to close the apertures 55 in the body member 53 when in the fully-flexed configuration.

**[0033]** In this embodiment the flow regulators 57 each comprise a single flexible flap element 71 which is fixed in the channel 69 of the respective support 67 by an elongate engagement element 75 which is located in the channel 69, with the flap element 71 providing first and second flap sections 77, 79 to opposite sides of the support 67.

**[0034]** In this embodiment the engagement element 75 has a shaped head 76, here having a taper, which determines the angle of the flap sections 77, 79 in relation to the longitudinal axis of the duct 5 in the absence of any wind or wind gust.

**[0035]** In this embodiment the first and second flap sections 77, 79 have a different shape and size, thereby providing for different response characteristics in response to winds or wind gusts.

**[0036]** In this embodiment the first and second flap sections 77, 79 are formed from a common sheet material, here of a silicone rubber.

**[0037]** In this embodiment the flap sections 77, 79 are formed from a sheet having a thickness of from about 0.2 mm to about 1.0 mm, optionally from about 0.25 mm to about 0.6 mm, optionally from about 0.3 mm to about 0.5 mm.

**[0038]** In an alternative embodiment the first and second flap sections 77, 79 could be formed differently, such as from sheet materials of different thickness, in order to provide for different response characteristics in response to winds or wind gusts.

**[0039]** In one embodiment the flap sections 77, 79 of the flap elements 71 of the first and second flow regula-

tors 57 could be formed differently, such as from sheet materials of different thickness, in order to provide for different response characteristics in response to winds or wind gusts.

**[0040]** The wall vent further comprises a filter 81 which acts to filter the incoming air and is disposed within the duct 5 downstream of the wind stop 51.

**[0041]** In this embodiment the filter 81 comprises a tubular filter case 83 which defines an inner cavity 84, and a filter element 85 which is supported within the cavity 84 of the filter case 83.

**[0042]** In this embodiment the filter case 83 has an outer diameter corresponding to the inner diameter of the duct 5.

**[0043]** In this embodiment the filter case 83 has an inlet 91 which is fluidly connected to the wind stop 51 and an outlet 93 which is fluidly connected to the outlet 9 of the duct 5, such that the incoming air flow is directed through the cavity 84 of the filter case 83 and the filter element 85 which is supported therein.

**[0044]** In this embodiment the filter case 83 includes a trap element 97 which is located within the cavity 84 thereof and extends over at least a lower section of the filter case 83, here at the outlet 93, such as to provide a dam or weir which prevents water, which is trapped by the filter element 85 and collects within the filter case 83, from passing forwardly out of the wall vent through the cover panel 19. The present inventors have recognized that, by arranging the filter element 85 to deliver any collected water to the a lower section of the filter case 83, and providing the trap element 97 to prevent the escape of this collected water, water can be prevented from passing forwardly out of the wall vent through the cover panel 19 and thereby enables the collected water to evaporate over time.

**[0045]** In this embodiment the trap element 97 comprises a rearwardly and upwardly inclined flange, which acts to support a lower edge of the filter element 85.

**[0046]** In this embodiment the filter case 83 further includes a support element 99 which is located within the cavity 84 thereof and extends over at least an upper section of the filter case 83, and acts to support the filter element 85.

**[0047]** In this embodiment the support element 99 comprises a forwardly and downwardly inclined flange, which acts to support an upper edge of the filter element 85, whereby the filter element 85 is held in an inclined orient between the trap element 97 and the support element 99.

**[0048]** In this embodiment the filter element 85 comprises a porous web having an average pore density of at most 20 pores per inch, optionally at most 15 pores per inch, here 10 pores per inch.

**[0049]** In this embodiment the filter case 83 includes a plurality of apertures 101 in the peripheral wall thereof. In this embodiment the apertures 101 are arranged in a grid pattern. In one embodiment the filter case 83 has an open area of at least 50%. This construction allows for

sound attenuation where the duct 5 is formed from a sound attenuating material, which acts to reduce noise created by the incoming air flow.

[0050] Finally, it will be understood that the present invention has been described in its preferred embodiments and can be modified in many different ways without departing from the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

## Claims

1. A wall vent comprising a body (3) which provides a duct (5) which includes an inlet (7) and an outlet (9), and a cover panel assembly (15) comprising a support member (17), a cover panel (19) which covers the outlet (9) of the duct (5), **characterized in that** the wall vent comprises a linkage (21) which hingebly connects the cover panel (19) to the support member (17), wherein the linkage (21) is configured to allow the cover panel (19) to be hinged clear of the support member (17) and allow access to the duct (5); wherein the support member (17) includes at least one pivot coupling (23), the cover panel (19) includes at least one counterpart pivot coupling (25) and the linkage (21) comprises at least one elongate arm (27) which pivotably couples the pivot couplings (23, 25).
2. The wall vent of claim 1, wherein the support member (17) includes first and second pivot couplings (23), the cover panel (19) includes first and second counterpart pivot couplings (25) and the linkage (21) comprises first and second elongate arms (27) which are pivotally coupled to respective ones of the pivot couplings (23, 25).
3. The wall vent of claim 2, wherein the linkage (21) further comprises an interconnecting member (31) which interconnects the arms (23, 25), whereby the arms (23, 25) move in unison.
4. The wall vent of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the linkage (21) allows the cover panel (19) to be moved between a closed position, in which the cover panel (19) substantially closes the outlet (9) of the duct (5), and a plurality of open positions, in which the cover panel (19) is open to a plurality of different extents.
5. The wall vent of claim 4, wherein the support member (17) includes at least one engagement element (35) and the cover panel (19) includes at least one counterpart engagement element (37) which interengages with the engagement element (35) of the support member (17) and enables the cover panel (19) to be fixed in the closed position or one of the plurality of open positions.

6. The wall vent of claim 5, wherein the engagement element (35, 37) of one of the support member (17) and the cover panel (19) comprises a lug (41) and the engagement element (35, 37) of the other of the cover panel (19) and the support member (17) comprises a toothed section (43) having a plurality of teeth (45) which selectively engage the lug (41) of the counterpart engagement element (35, 37) of the one of the support member (17) and the cover panel (19) and thereby enable the position of the cover panel (19) to be set in the closed position or one of the plurality of open positions.
7. The wall vent of claim 6, wherein the support member (17) includes first and second engagement elements (35) and the cover panel (19) includes counterpart first and second engagement elements (37) which interengage with the engagement elements (35) of the support member (17).
8. The wall vent of any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a wind stop (51) which is disposed at the inlet (7) of the duct (5).
9. The wall vent of claim 8, further comprising a filter (81) which is disposed within the duct (5) downstream of the wind stop (51).
10. The wall vent of claim 9, wherein the wind stop (51) and the filter (81) in combination are slideably disposed within and removable from the duct (5).

## Patentansprüche

1. Wandlüfter mit einem Körper (3), der einen Kanal (5) bereitstellt, der einen Einlass (7) und einen Auslass (9) umfasst, und einer Abdeckplattenanordnung (15), die ein Trägerelement (17) und eine Abdeckplatte (19) umfasst, die den Auslass (9) des Kanals (5) abdeckt, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** der Wandlüfter umfasst:  
einen Verbindungsaufbau (21), der die Abdeckplatte (19) gelenkig mit dem Trägerelement (17) verbindet, worin der Verbindungsaufbau (21) so ausgestaltet ist, dass die Abdeckplatte (19) von dem Trägerelement (17) weggeschwenkt werden kann und Zugang zu dem Kanal (5) ermöglicht, worin das Trägerelement (17) mindestens eine Schwenkkupplung (23) aufweist, die Abdeckplatte (19) mindestens eine Gegenschwenkkupplung (25) aufweist und der Verbindungsaufbau (21) mindestens einen langgestreckten Arm (27) aufweist, der die Schwenkkupplungen (23, 25) schwenkbar koppelt.
2. Wandlüfter nach Anspruch 1, worin das Trägerelement (17) eine erste und eine zweite Schwenkkupplung (23) aufweist, die Abdeckplatte (19) eine erste

- und eine zweite Gegenschwenkkupplung (25) aufweist und der Verbindungsaufbau (21) einen ersten und einen zweiten langgestreckten Arm (27) aufweist, die schwenkbar mit den jeweiligen Schwenkkupplungen (23, 25) verbunden sind.
3. Wandlüfter nach Anspruch 2, worin der Verbindungsaufbau (21) ferner ein Verbindungselement (31) umfasst, das die Arme (23, 25) miteinander verbindet, wodurch sich die Arme (23, 25) im Gleichklang bewegen.
4. Wandlüfter nach einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche, worin der Verbindungsaufbau (21) es ermöglicht, die Abdeckplatte (19) zwischen einer geschlossenen Position, in der die Abdeckplatte (19) den Auslass (9) des Kanals (5) im Wesentlichen verschließt, und mehreren offenen Positionen zu bewegen, in denen die Abdeckplatte (19) zu mehreren unterschiedlichen Ausmaßen geöffnet ist.
5. Wandlüfter nach Anspruch 4, worin das Trägerelement (17) mindestens ein Eingriffselement (35) und die Abdeckplatte (19) mindestens ein Gegeneingriffselement (37) aufweist, das mit dem Eingriffselement (35) des Trägerelements (17) ineinandergreift und es ermöglicht, die Abdeckplatte (19) in der geschlossenen Position oder einer der mehreren offenen Positionen zu fixieren.
6. Wandlüfter nach Anspruch 5, worin das Eingriffselement (35, 37) von entweder dem Trägerelement (17) oder der Abdeckplatte (19) eine Nase (41) umfasst und das Eingriffselement (35, 37) des anderen von der Abdeckplatte (19) oder dem Trägerelement (17) einen gezahnten Abschnitt (43) mit mehreren Zähnen (45) umfasst, die selektiv in die Nase (41) des Gegeneingriffselements (35, 37) des Trägerelements (17) oder der Abdeckplatte (19) eingreifen und dadurch ermöglichen, dass die Position der Abdeckplatte (19) in die geschlossene Position oder eine der mehreren offenen Positionen eingestellt werden kann.
7. Wandlüfter nach Anspruch 6, worin das Trägerelement (17) ein erstes und ein zweites Eingriffselement (35) aufweist und die Abdeckplatte (19) ein entsprechendes erstes und zweites Eingriffselement (37) aufweist, die mit den Eingriffselementen (35) des Trägerelements (17) ineinandergreifen.
8. Wandlüfter nach einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche, welcher ferner einen Windstopper (51) aufweist, der am Einlass (7) des Kanals (5) angeordnet ist.
9. Wandlüfter nach Anspruch 8, welcher ferner einen Filter (81) aufweist, der innerhalb des Kanals (5)

stromabwärts des Windstoppers (51) angeordnet ist.

10. Wandlüfter nach Anspruch 9, worin der Windstopper (51) und der Filter (81) in Kombination gleitend in dem Kanal (5) angeordnet und aus diesem herausnehmbar sind.

## Revendications

1. Événement mural comprenant un corps (3) qui fournit un conduit (5) qui comporte une entrée (7) et une sortie (9), et un ensemble panneau de couverture (15) comprenant un élément de support (17), un panneau de couverture (19) qui couvre la sortie (9) du conduit (5), **caractérisé en ce que** l'événement mural comprend une liaison (21) qui raccorde de manière articulée le panneau de couverture (19) à l'élément de support (17), dans lequel la liaison (21) est configurée pour permettre au panneau de couverture (19) d'être articulé libre de l'élément de support (17) et permettre l'accès au conduit (5) ; dans lequel l'élément de support (17) comporte au moins un accouplement pivotant (23), le panneau de couverture (19) comporte au moins un accouplement pivotant homologue (25) et la liaison (21) comprend au moins un bras allongé (27) qui accouple de façon pivotante les accouplements pivotants (23, 25).
2. Événement mural selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'élément de support (17) comporte des premier et deuxième accouplements pivotants (23), le panneau de couverture (19) comporte des premier et deuxième accouplements pivotants homologues (25) et la liaison (21) comprend des premier et deuxième bras allongés (27) qui sont accouplés de façon pivotante à des accouplements respectifs des accouplements pivotants (23, 25).
3. Événement mural selon la revendication 2, dans lequel la liaison (21) comprend en outre un élément de raccordement mutuel (31) qui raccorde mutuellement les bras (23, 25), moyennant quoi les bras (23, 25) se déplacent à l'unisson.
4. Événement mural selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel la liaison (21) permet au panneau de couverture (19) d'être déplacé entre une position fermée, dans laquelle le panneau de couverture (19) ferme sensiblement la sortie (9) du conduit (5), et une pluralité de positions ouvertes, dans lesquelles le panneau de couverture (19) est ouvert sur une pluralité d'étendues différentes.
5. Événement mural selon la revendication 4, dans lequel l'élément de support (17) comporte au moins un élément de mise en prise (35) et le panneau de couverture (19) comporte au moins un élément de mise en

prise homologue (37) qui vient mutuellement en prise avec l'élément de mise en prise (35) de l'élément de support (17) et permet au panneau de couverture (19) d'être fixé dans la position fermée ou l'une de la pluralité de positions ouvertes.

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6. Événement mural selon la revendication 5, dans lequel l'élément de mise en prise (35, 37) d'un de l'élément de support (17) et du panneau de couverture (19) comprend une languette (41) et l'élément de mise en prise (35, 37) de l'autre du panneau de couverture (19) et de l'élément de support (17) comprend une section dentée (43) ayant une pluralité de dents (45) qui viennent sélectivement en prise avec la languette (41) de l'élément de mise en prise homologue (35, 37) de l'un de l'élément de support (17) et du panneau de couverture (19) et permet ainsi à la position du panneau de couverture (19) d'être définie dans la position fermée ou l'une de la pluralité de positions ouvertes.
7. Événement mural selon la revendication 6, dans lequel l'élément de support (17) comporte des premier et deuxième éléments de mise en prise (35) et le panneau de couverture (19) comporte des premier et deuxième éléments de mise en prise homologues (37) qui viennent mutuellement en prise avec les éléments de mise en prise (35) de l'élément de support (17).
8. Événement mural selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, comprenant en outre un coupe-vent (51) qui est disposé à l'entrée (7) du conduit (5).
9. Événement mural selon la revendication 8, comprenant en outre un filtre (81) qui est disposé à l'intérieur du conduit (5) en aval du coupe-vent (51).
10. Événement mural selon la revendication 9, dans lequel le coupe-vent (51) et le filtre (81) en combinaison sont disposés de manière coulissante à l'intérieur du conduit (5) et sont amovibles par rapport à celui-ci.

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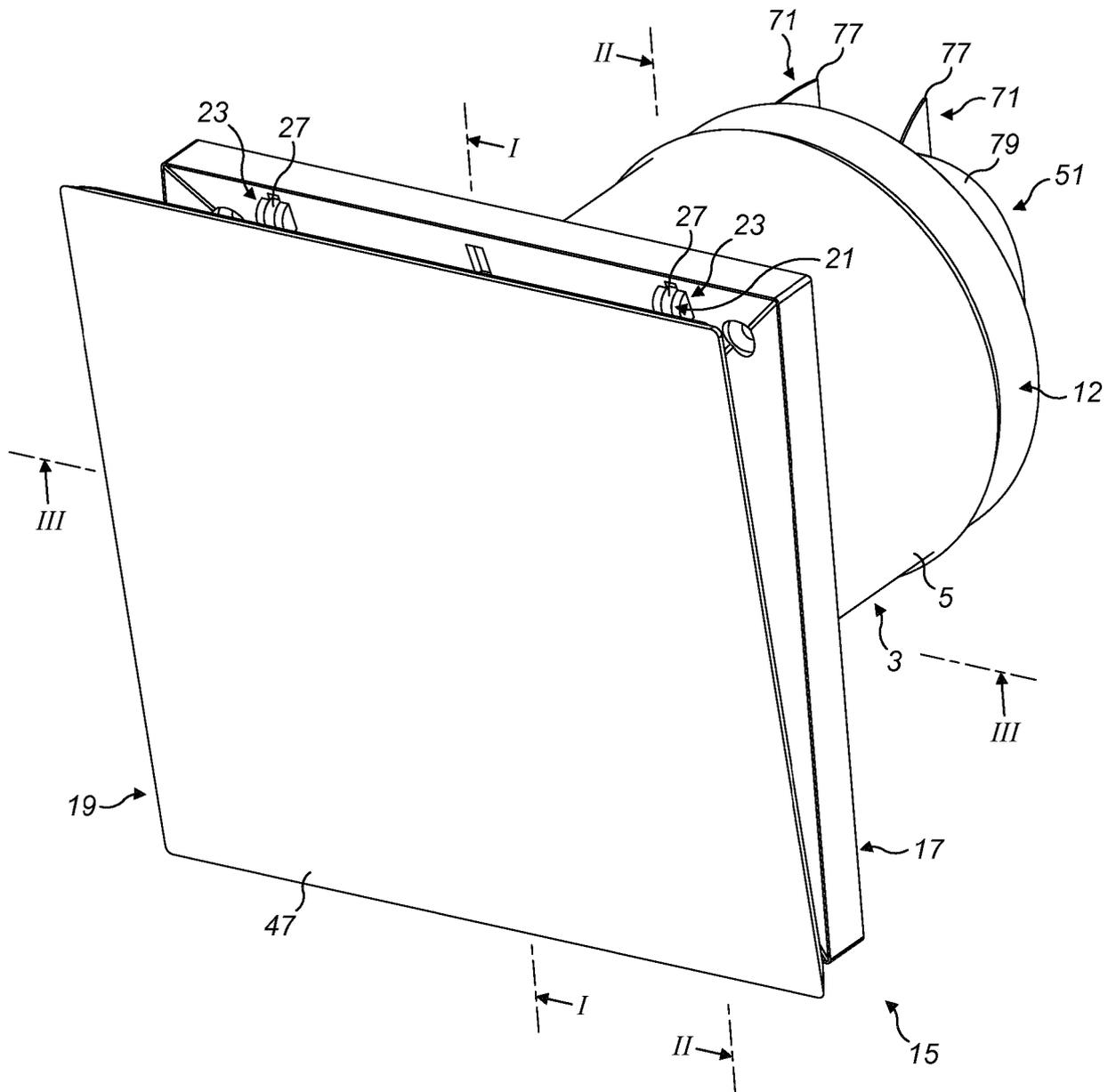
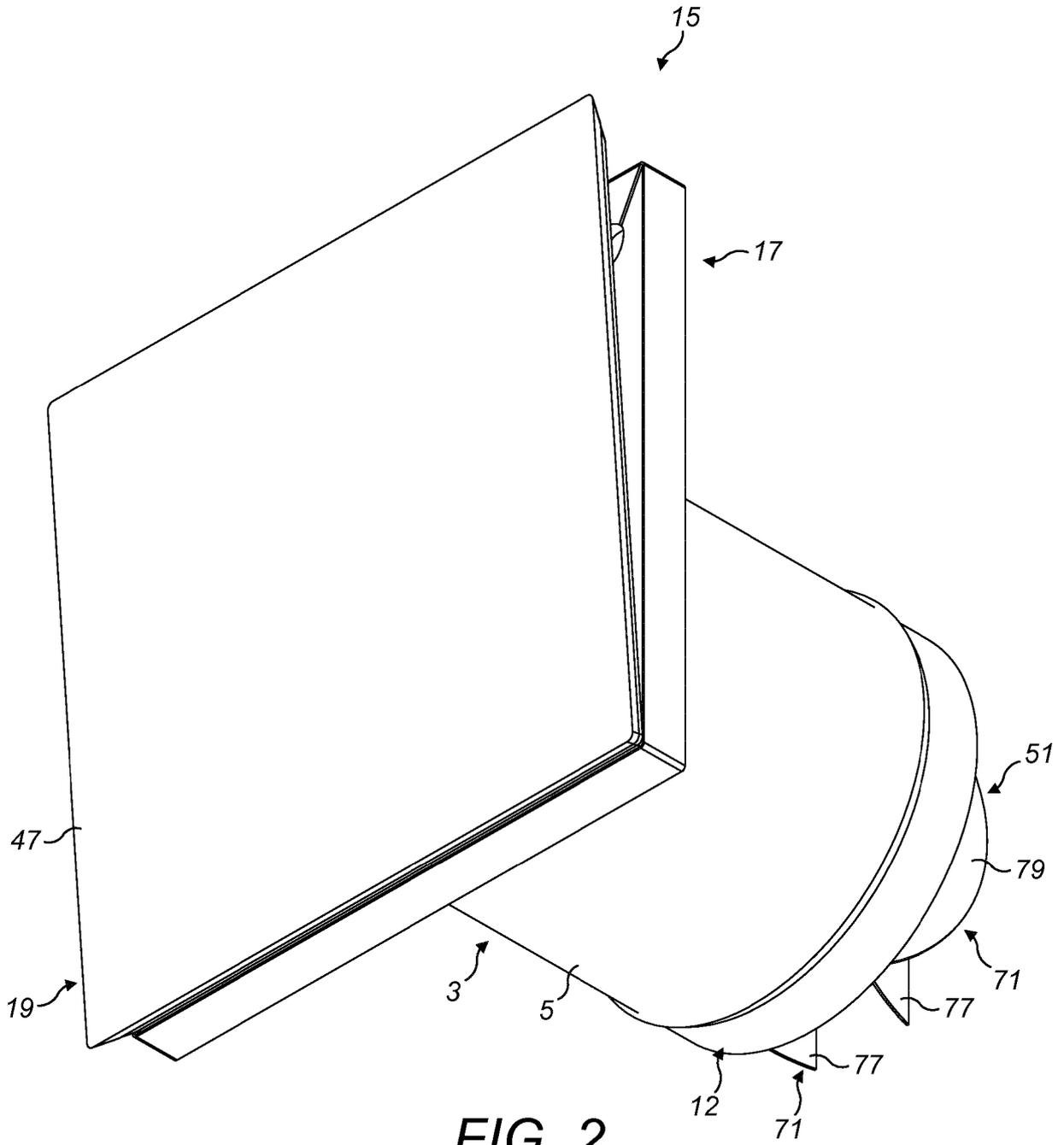


FIG. 1







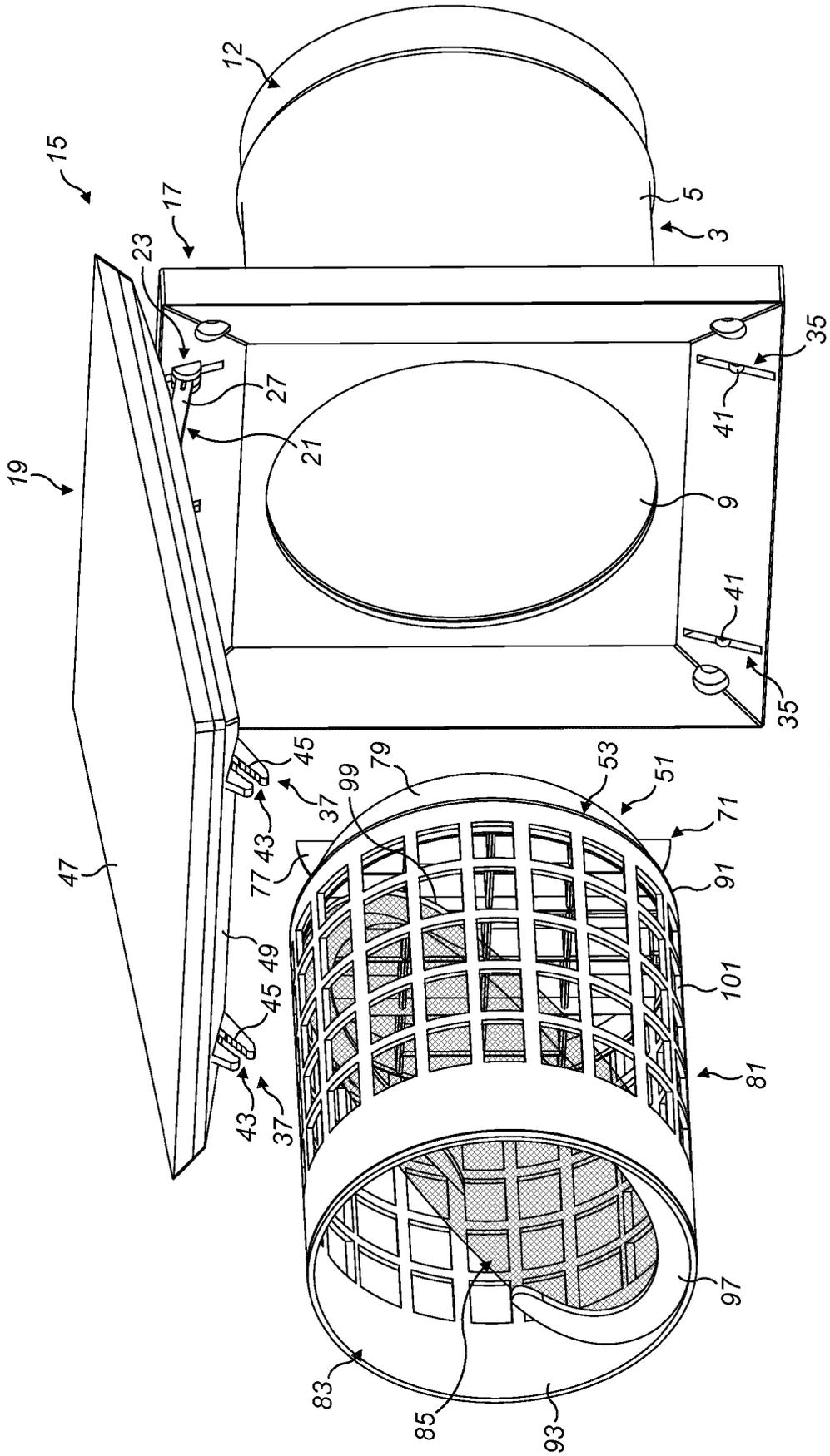


FIG. 5

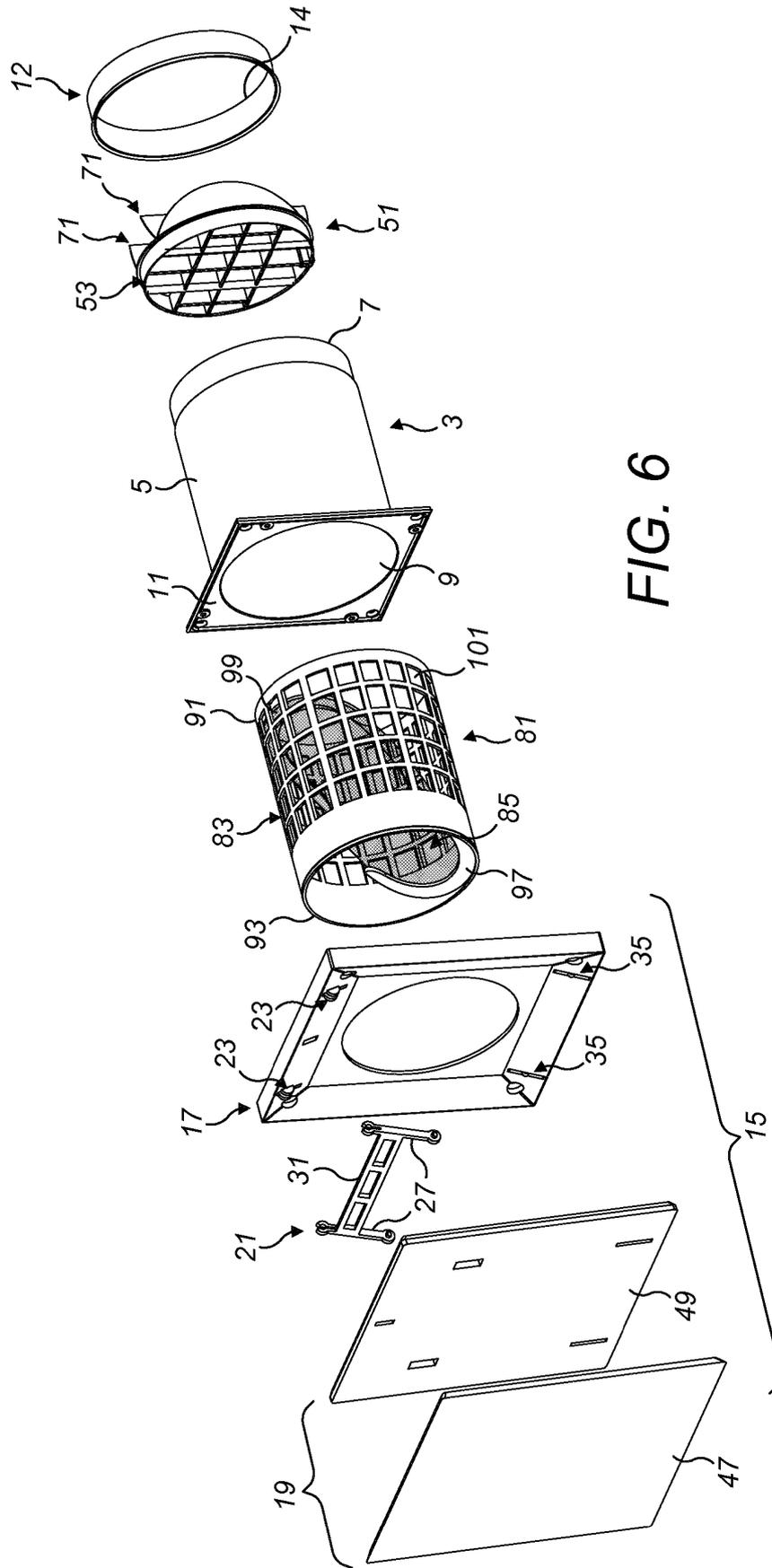


FIG. 6

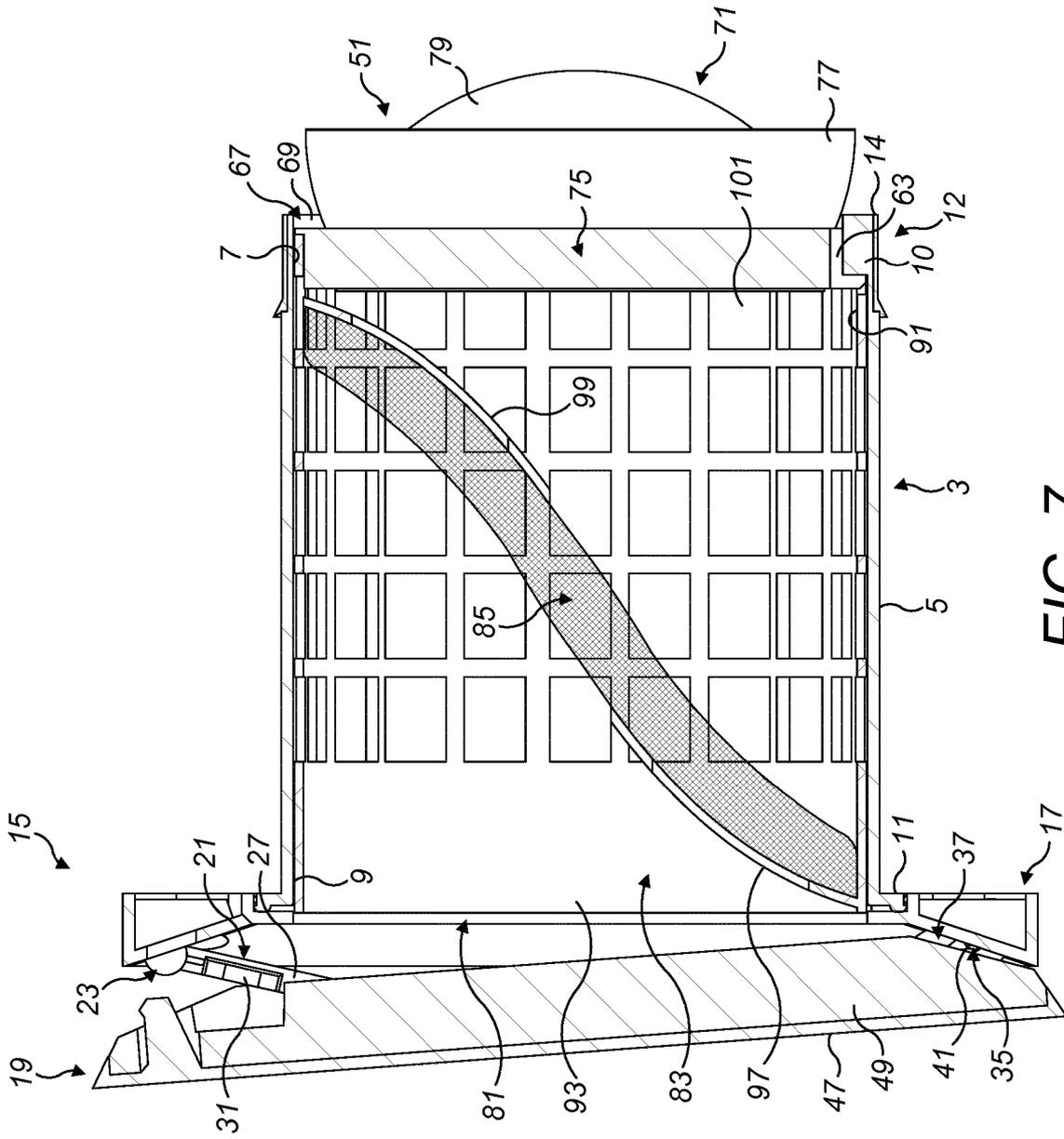


FIG. 7



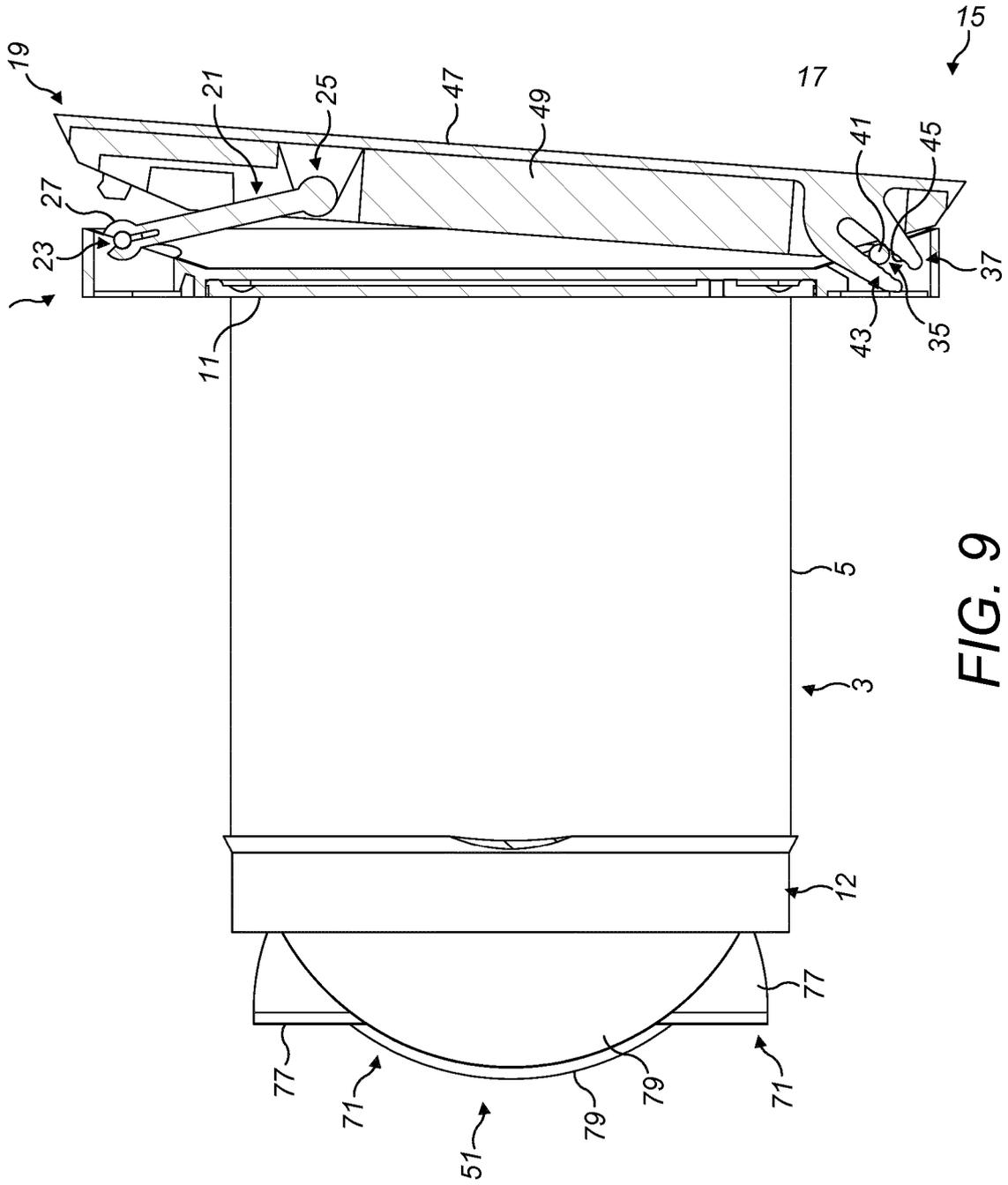


FIG. 9

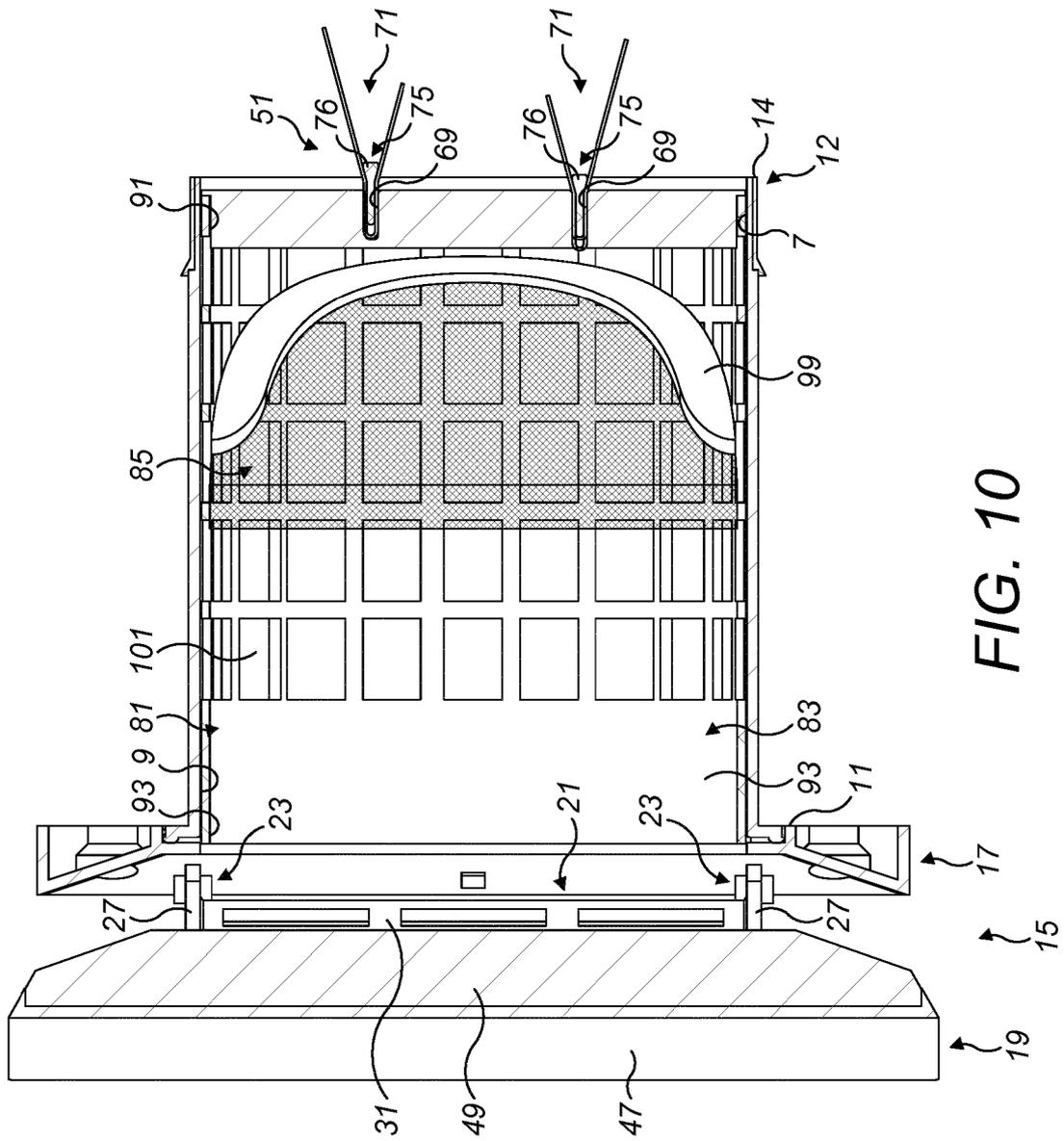


FIG. 10

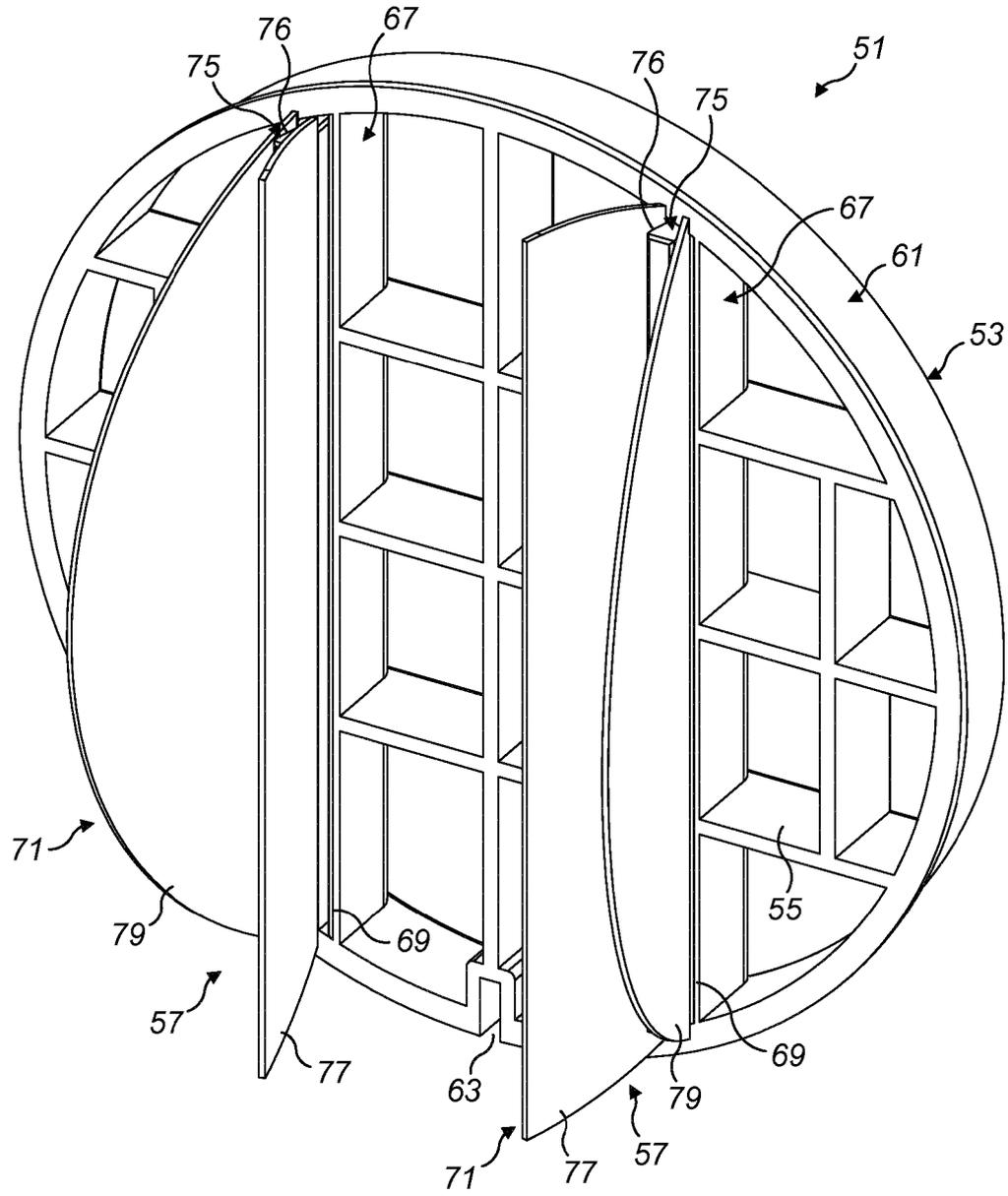


FIG. 11(a)

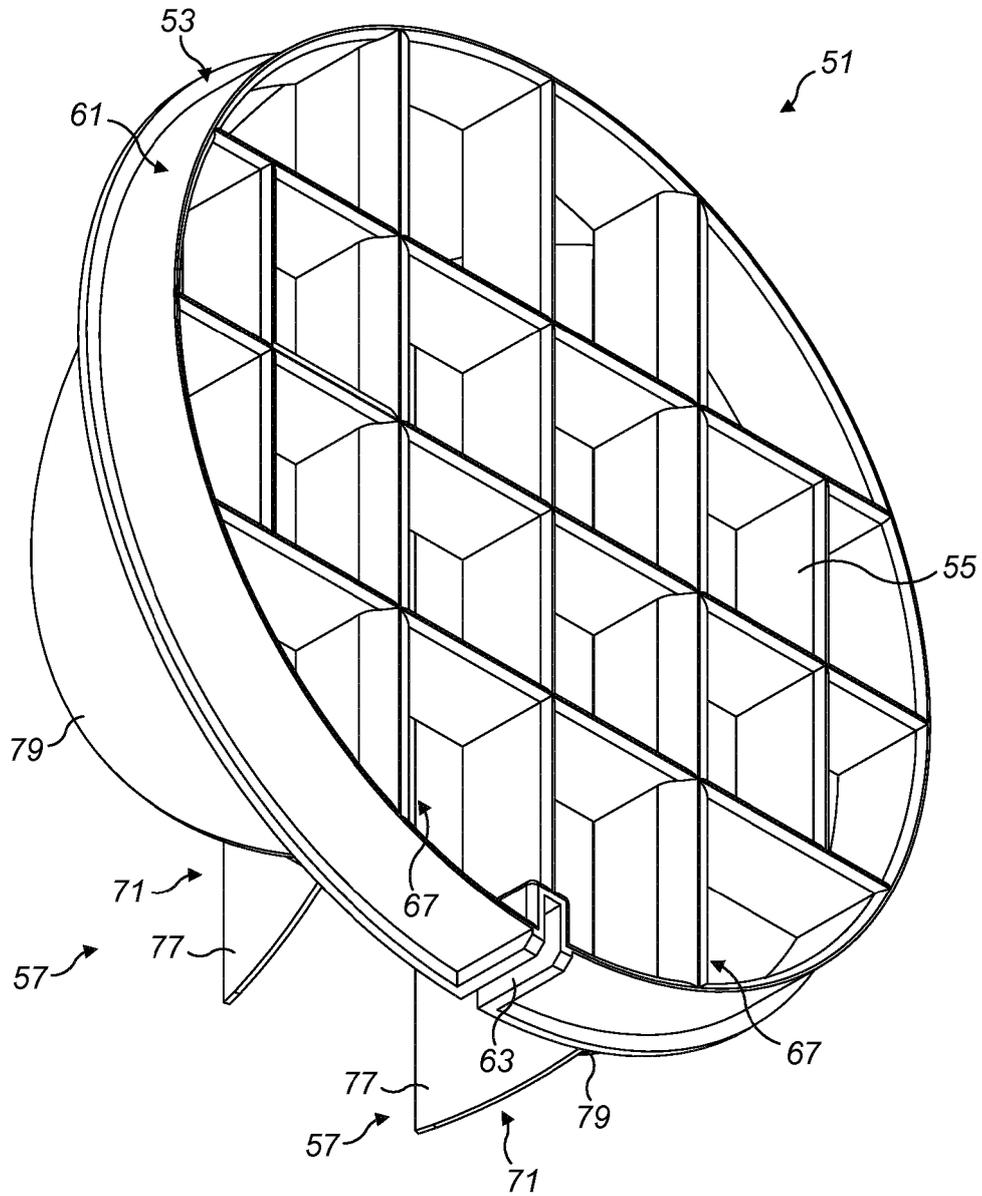


FIG. 11(b)

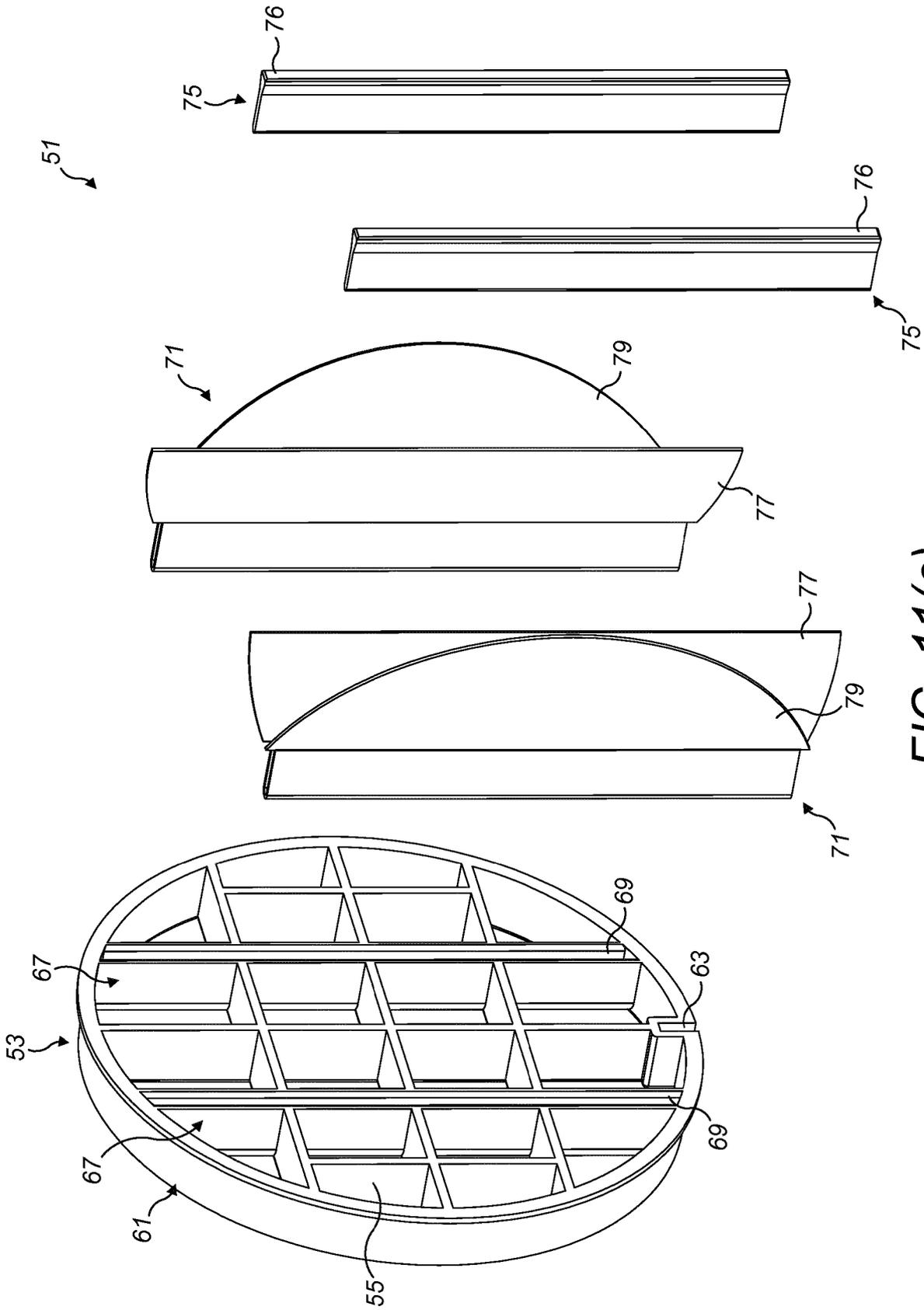
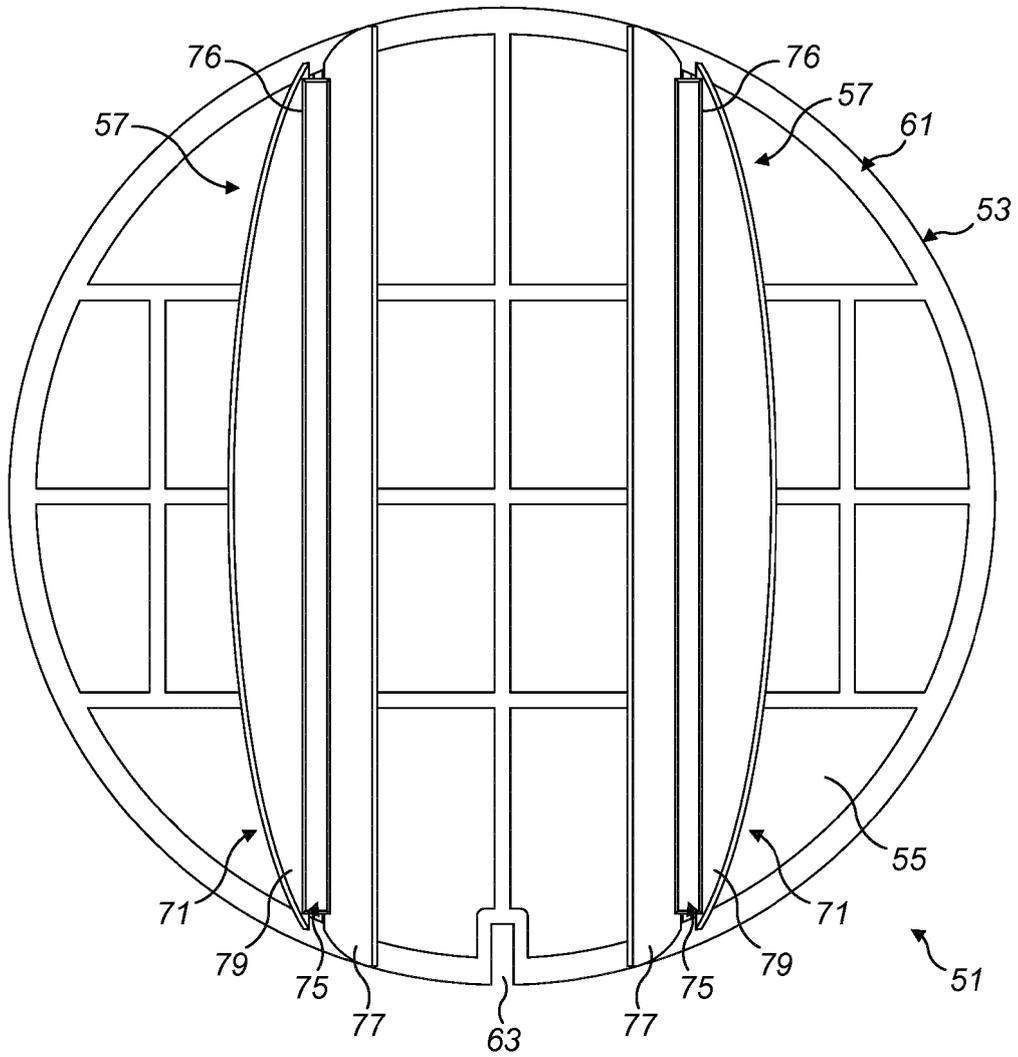
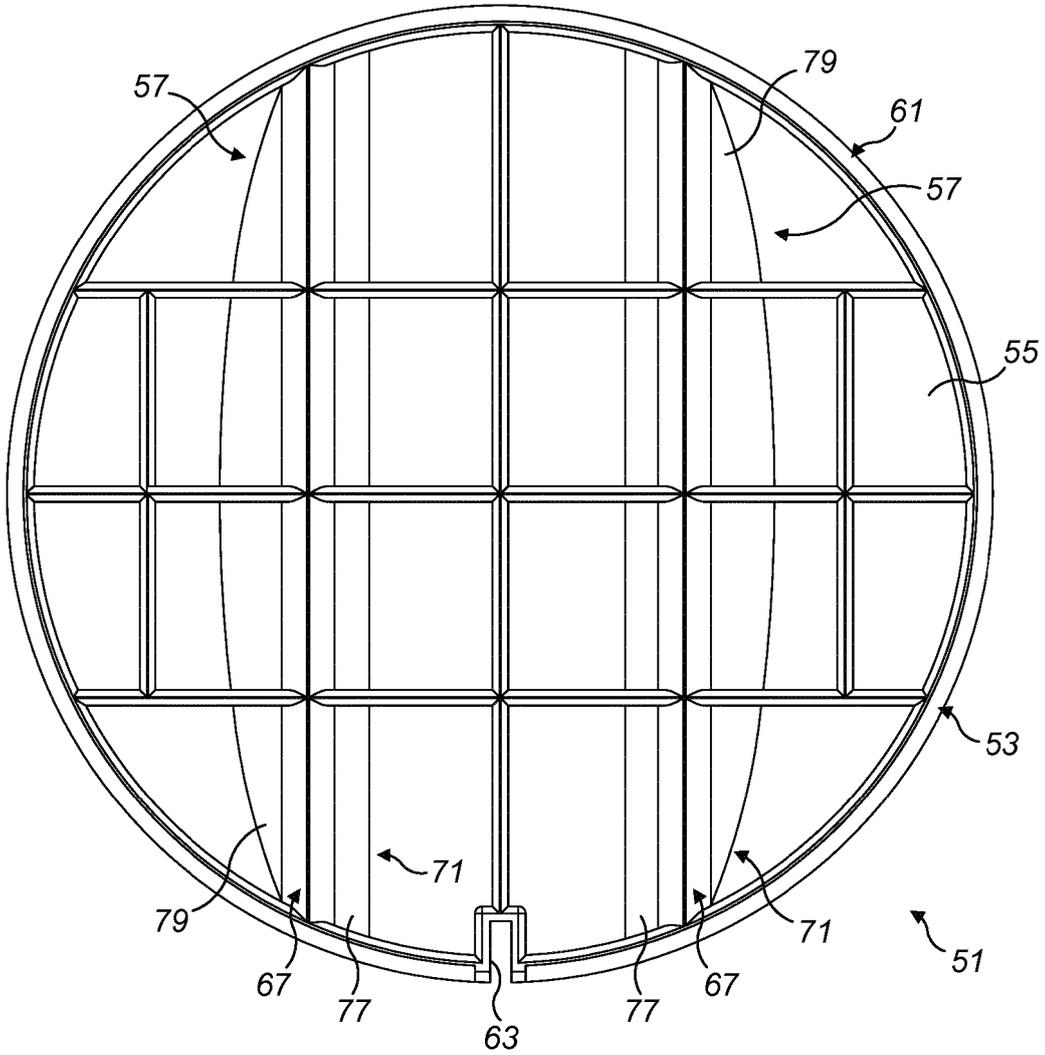


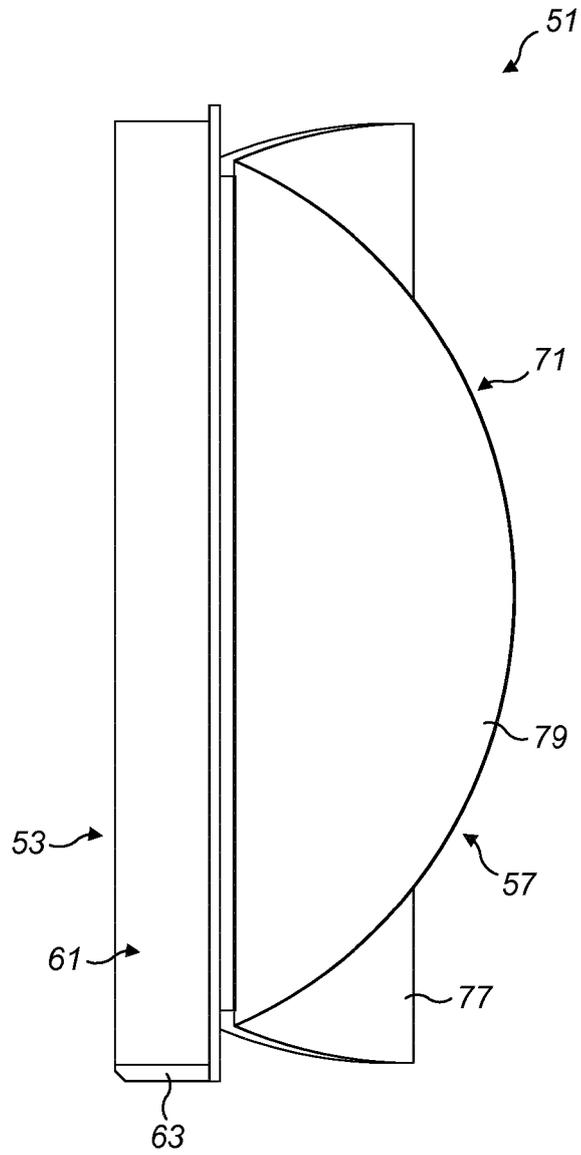
FIG. 11(c)



**FIG. 11(d)**



**FIG. 11(e)**



**FIG. 11(f)**

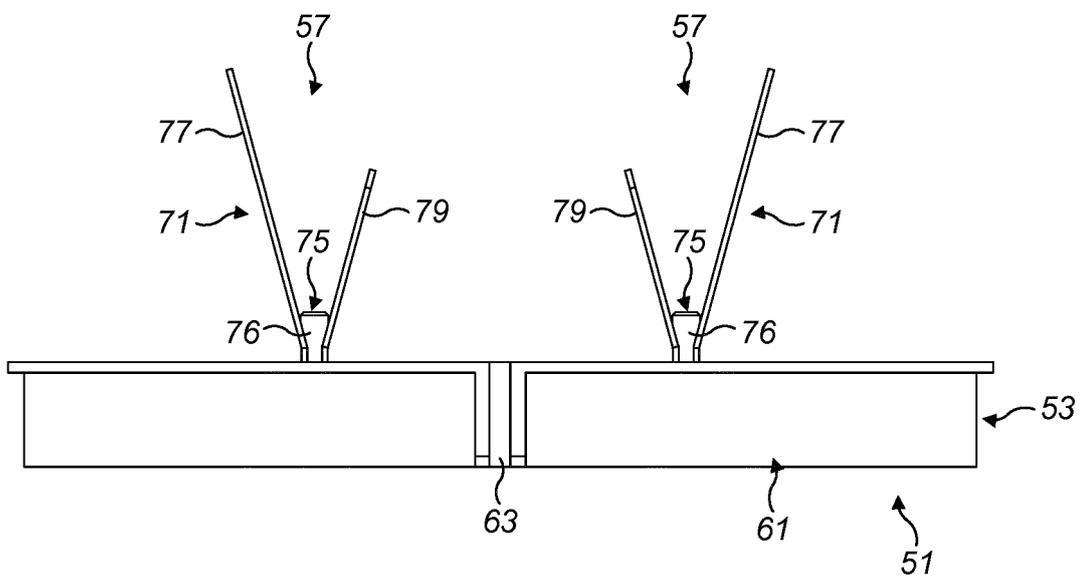


FIG. 11(g)

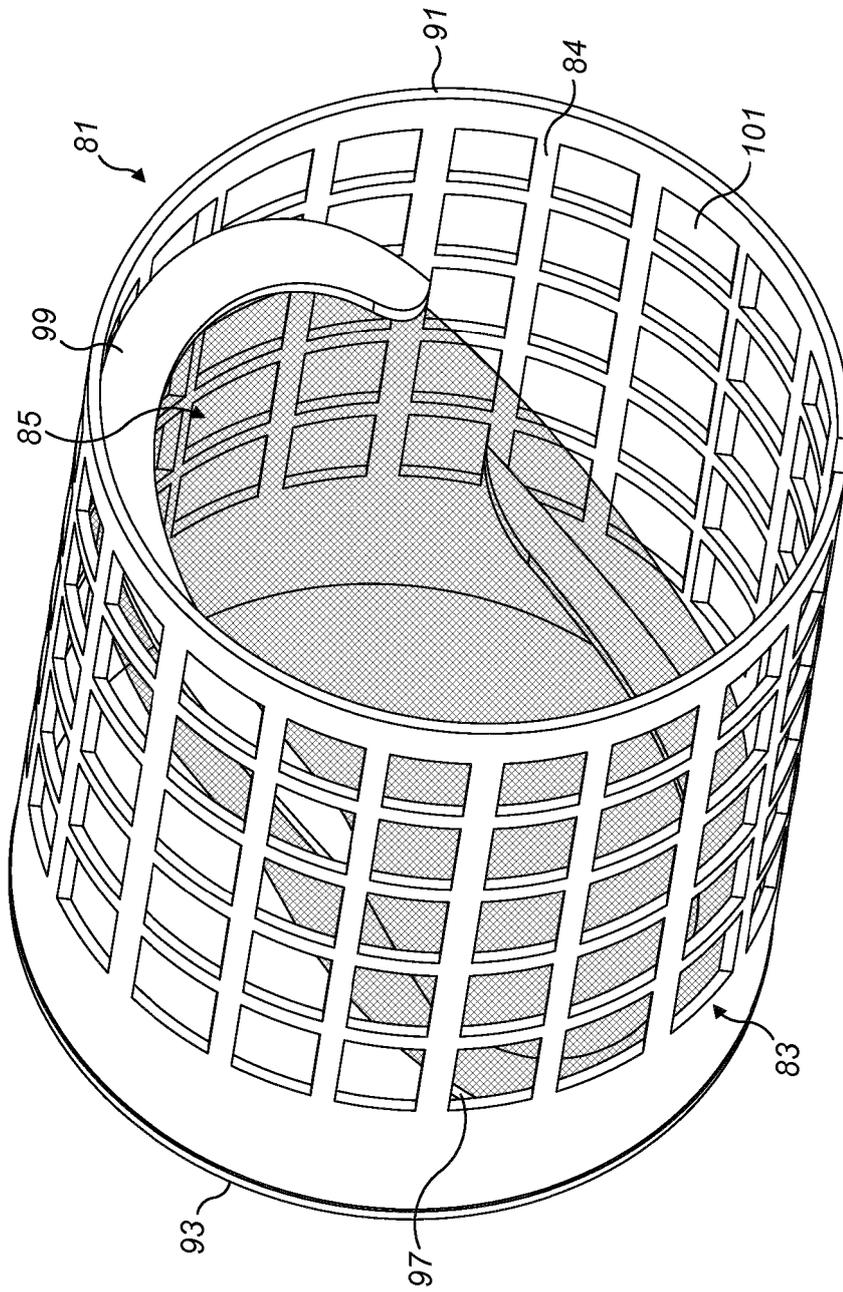


FIG. 12(a)

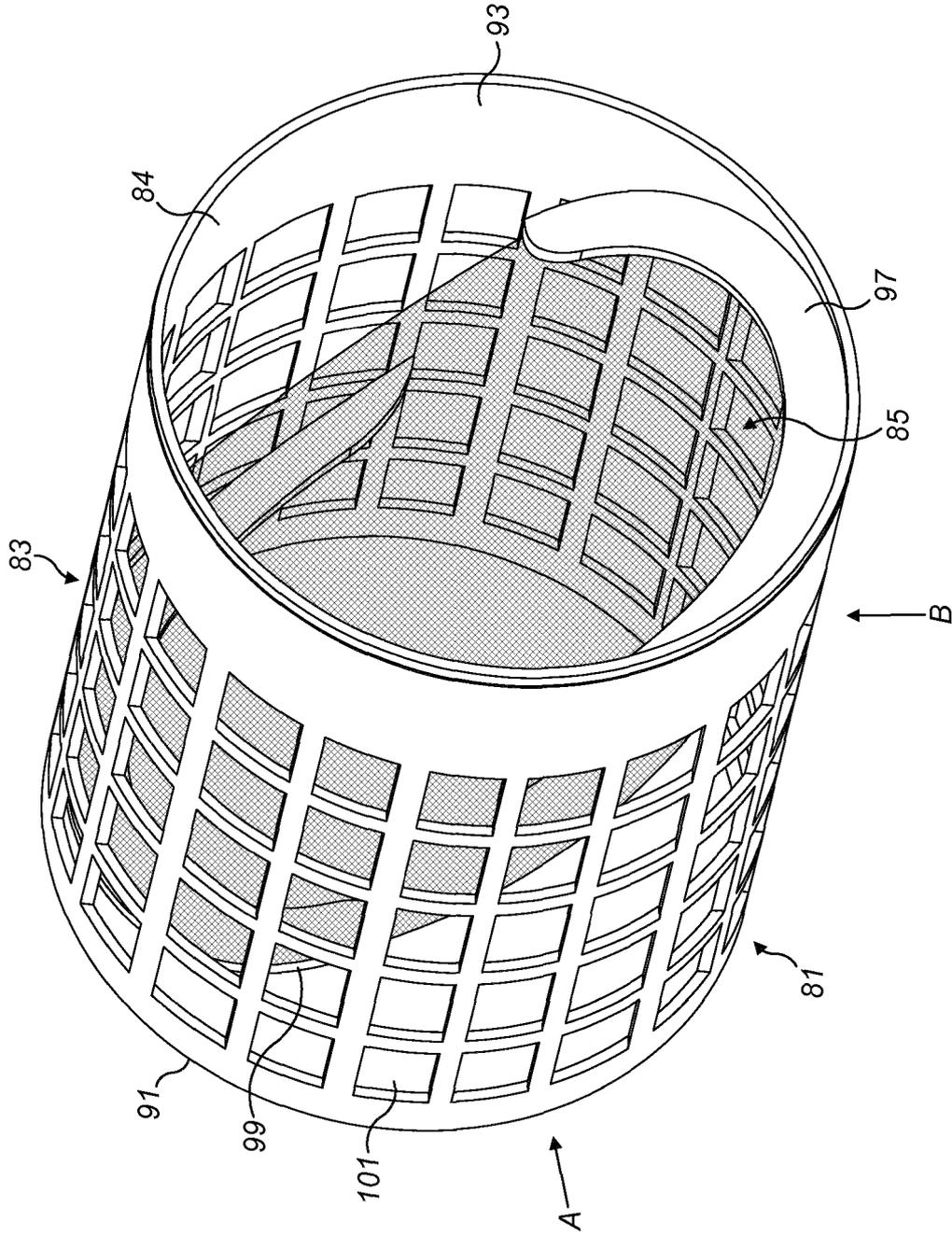


FIG. 12(b)

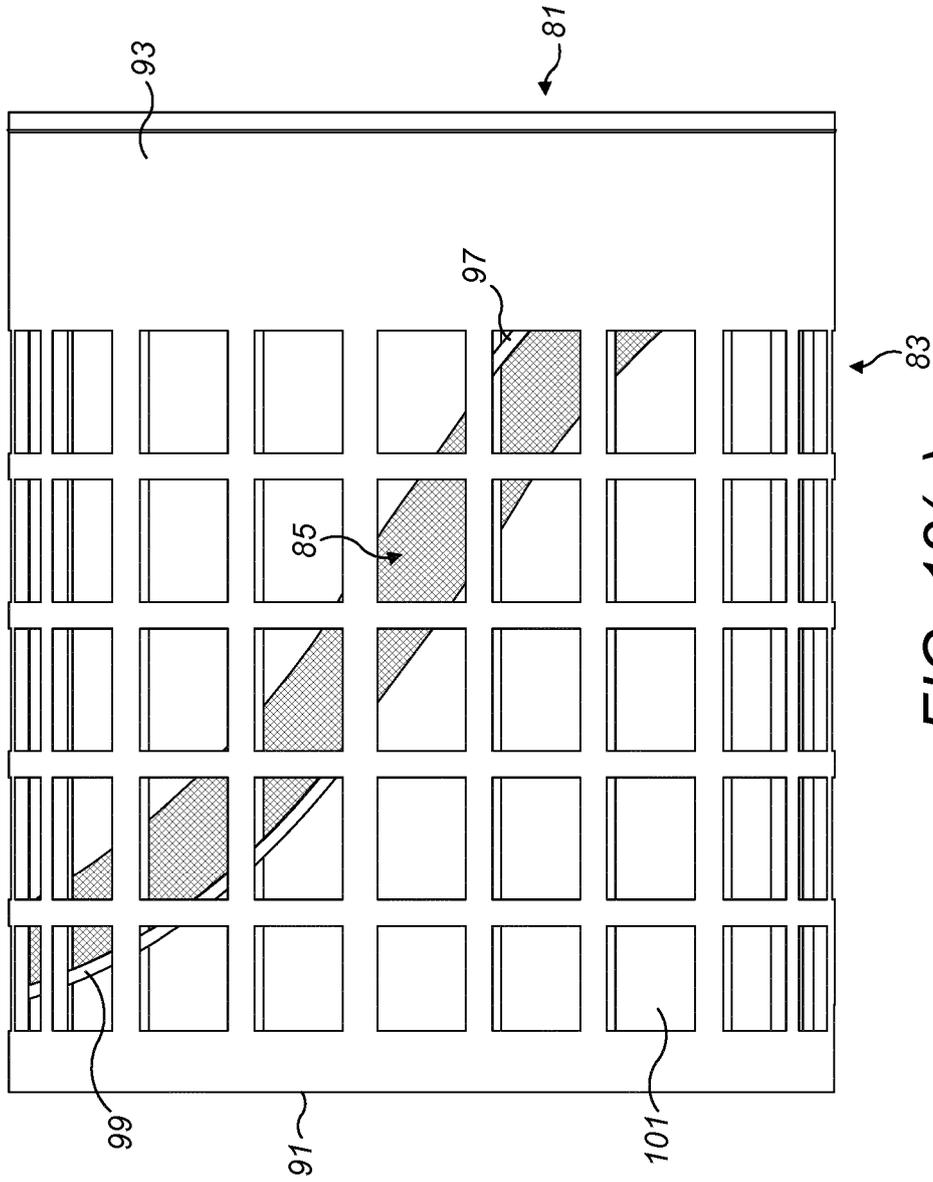


FIG. 12(c)

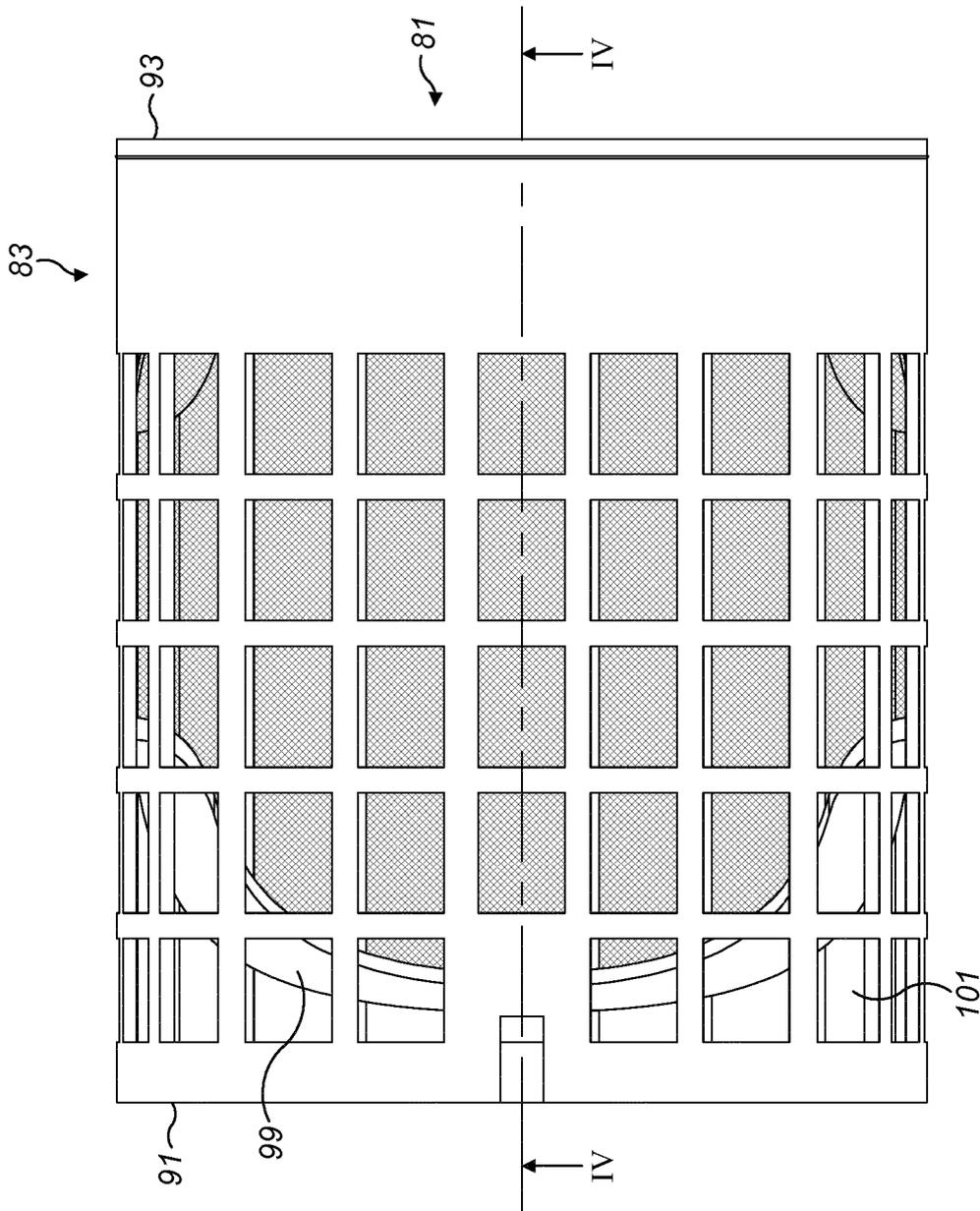
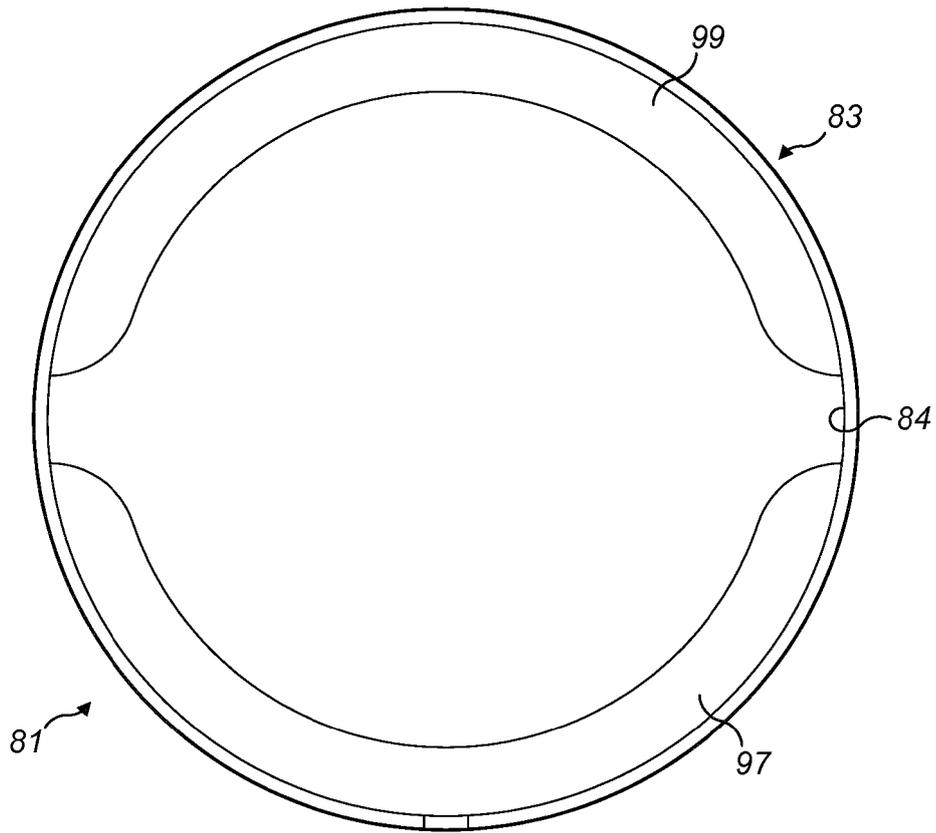
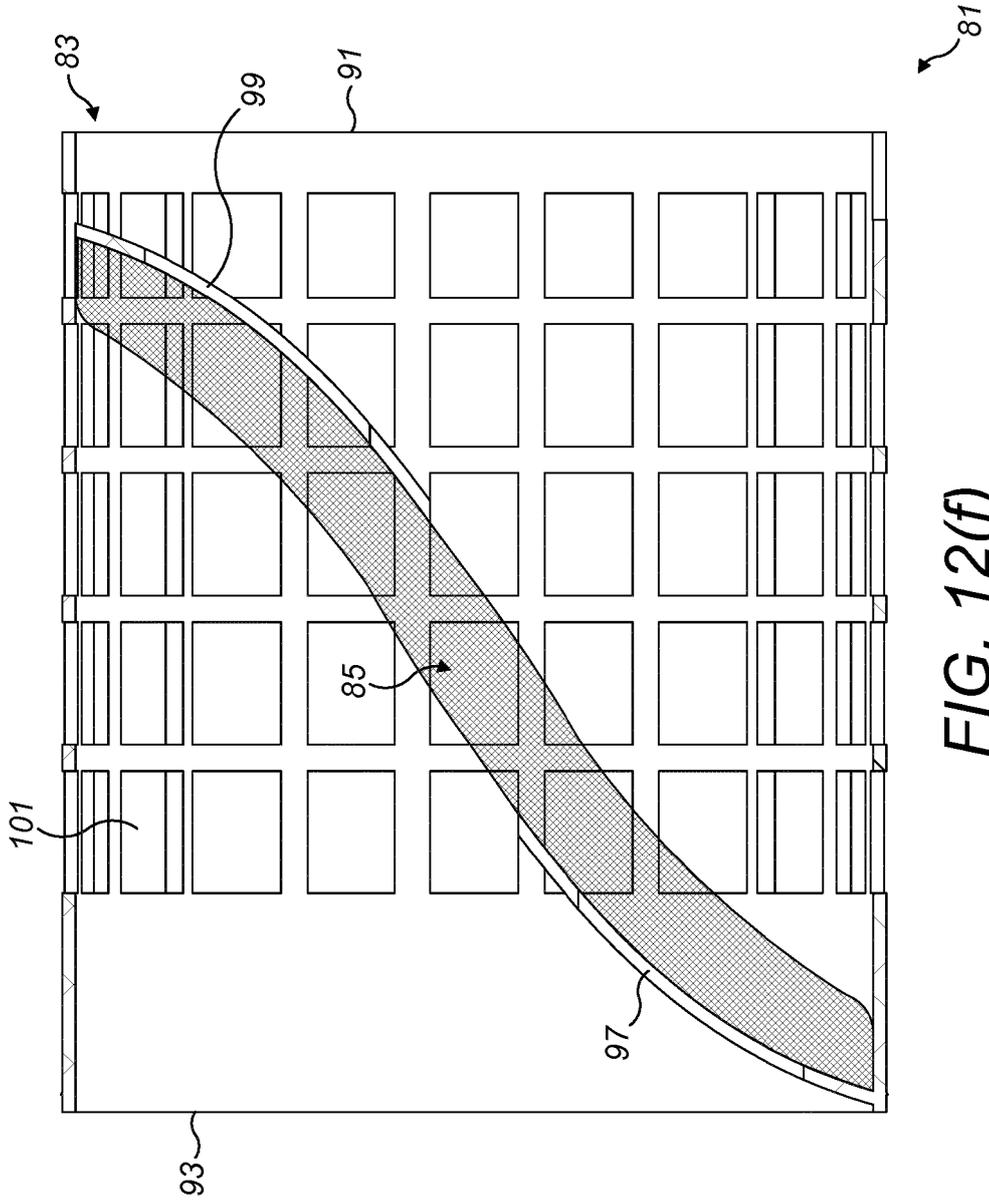


FIG. 12(d)



**FIG. 12(e)**



**REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION**

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**Patent documents cited in the description**

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