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(54) **DRAWER INTERLOCK FOR A FURNITURE ELEMENT**

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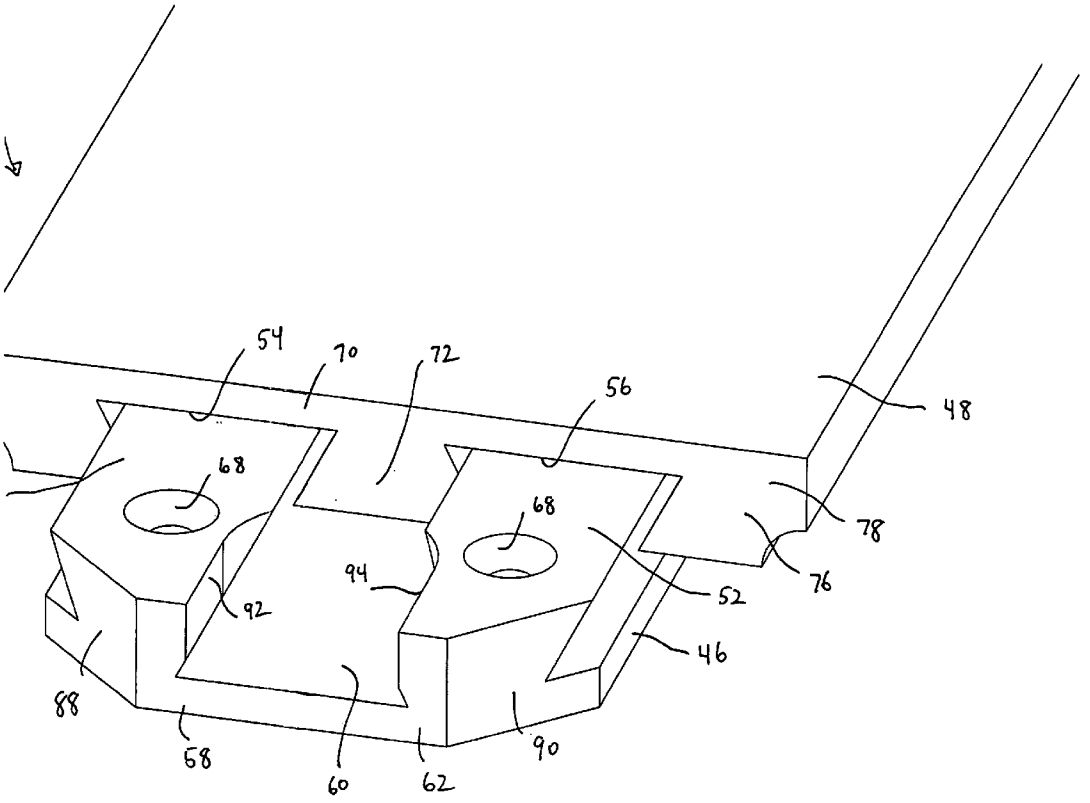
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A furniture element includes a housing, a drawer carried by the housing and movable between an extended position extending outwardly from the housing and a retracted position disposed within the housing, and a drawer interlock structured to slidably couple the drawer to the housing. The drawer interlock includes an elongated first interlocking structure mounted to the housing and an elongated second interlocking structure mounted to the drawer. One of the first and second interlocking structures includes first and second dovetail projections and the other of the first and second interlocking structures includes first and second dovetail recesses. The first and second dovetail projections slidably interlock with the first and second dovetail recesses in a cooperating relationship to slidably couple the drawer to the housing.



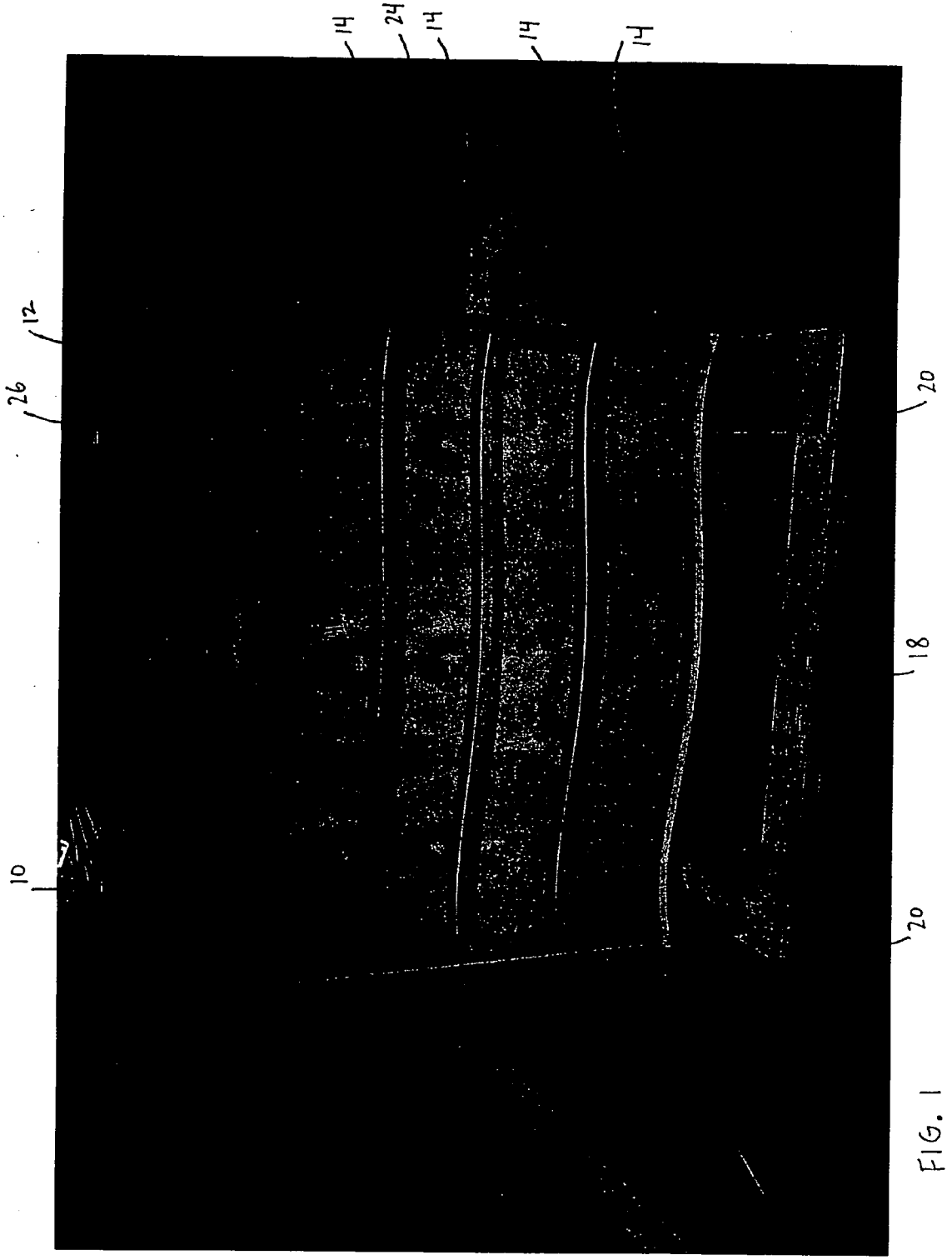


FIG. 1

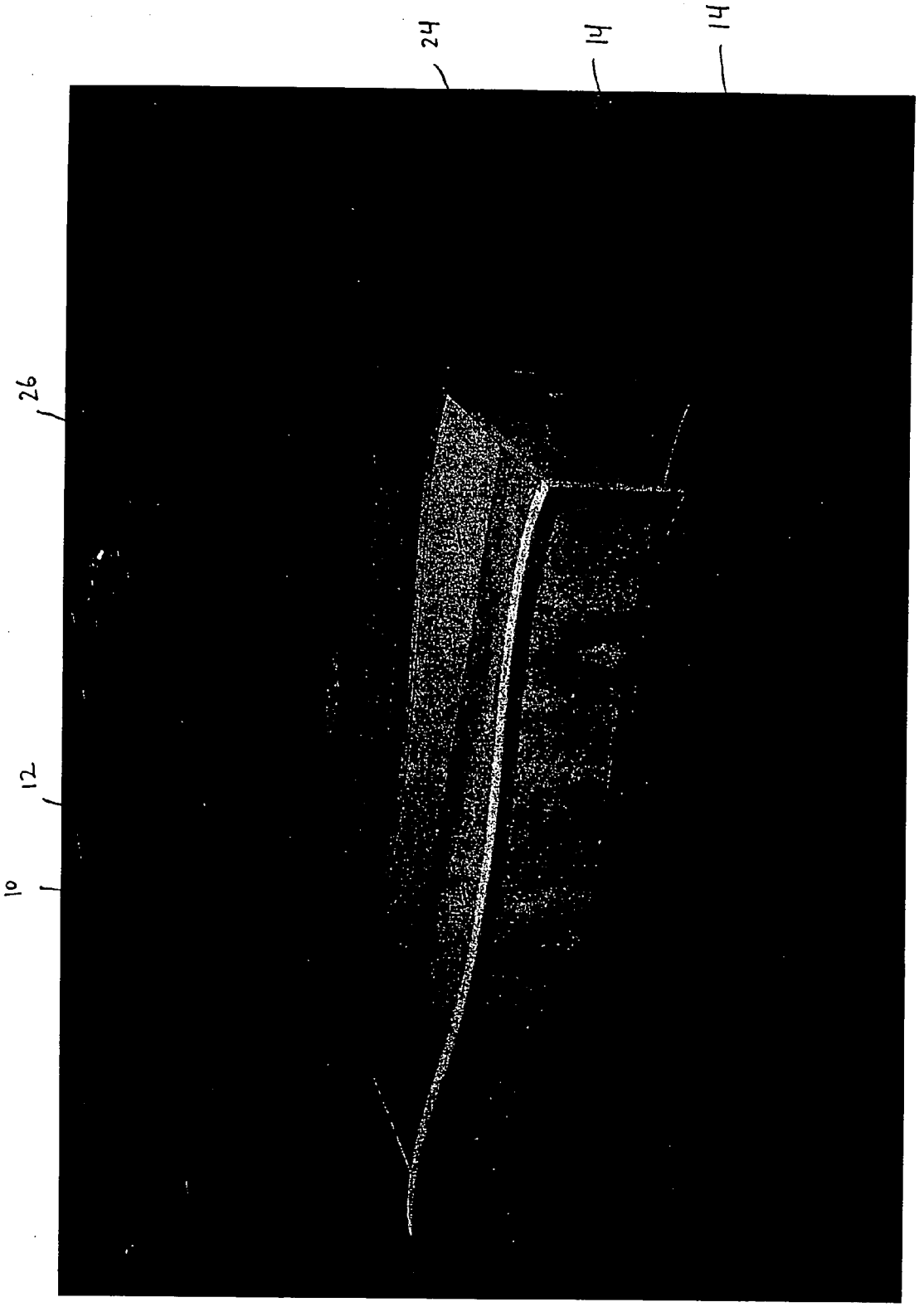


FIG. 2

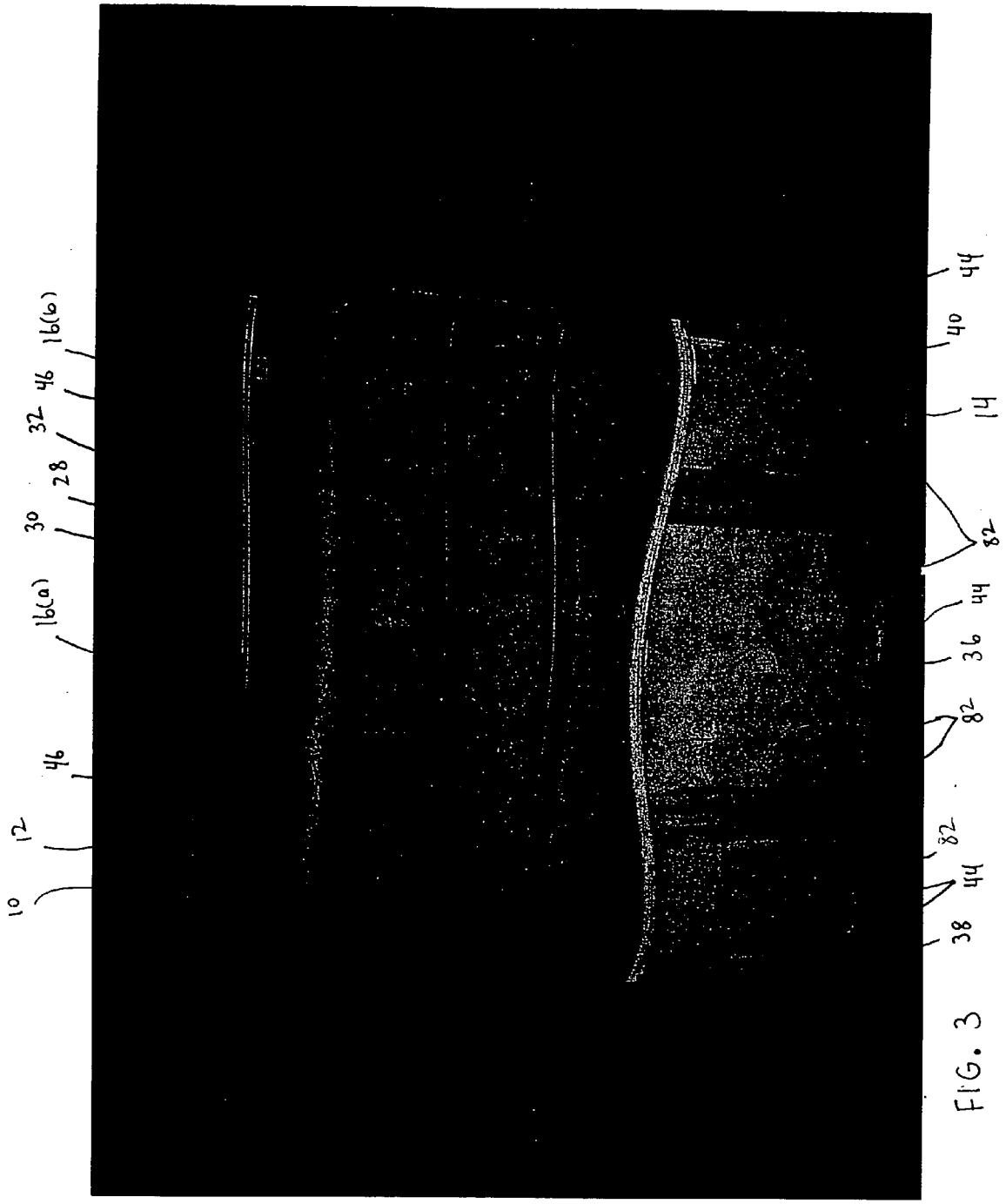


FIG. 3

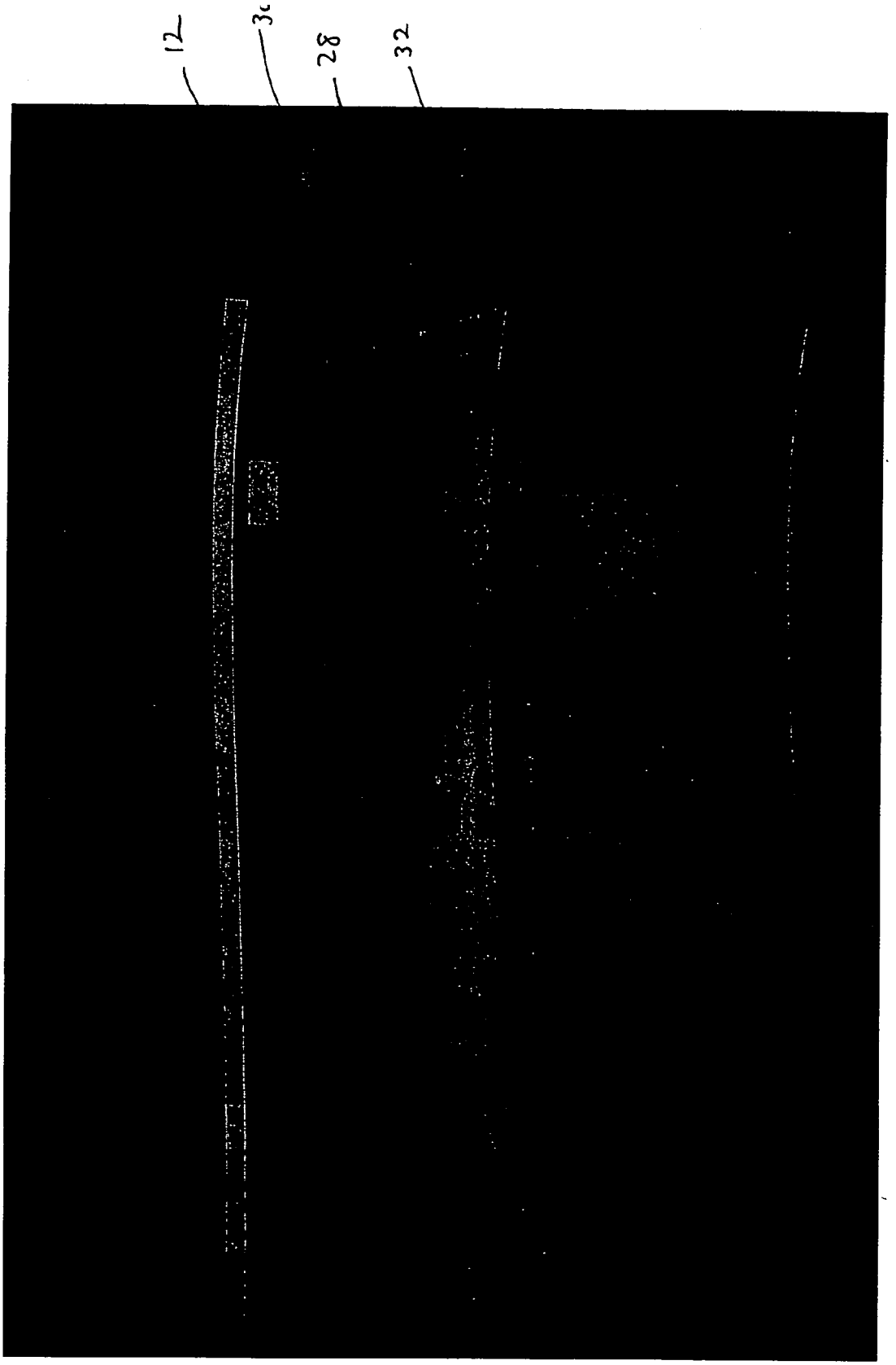


FIG. 4

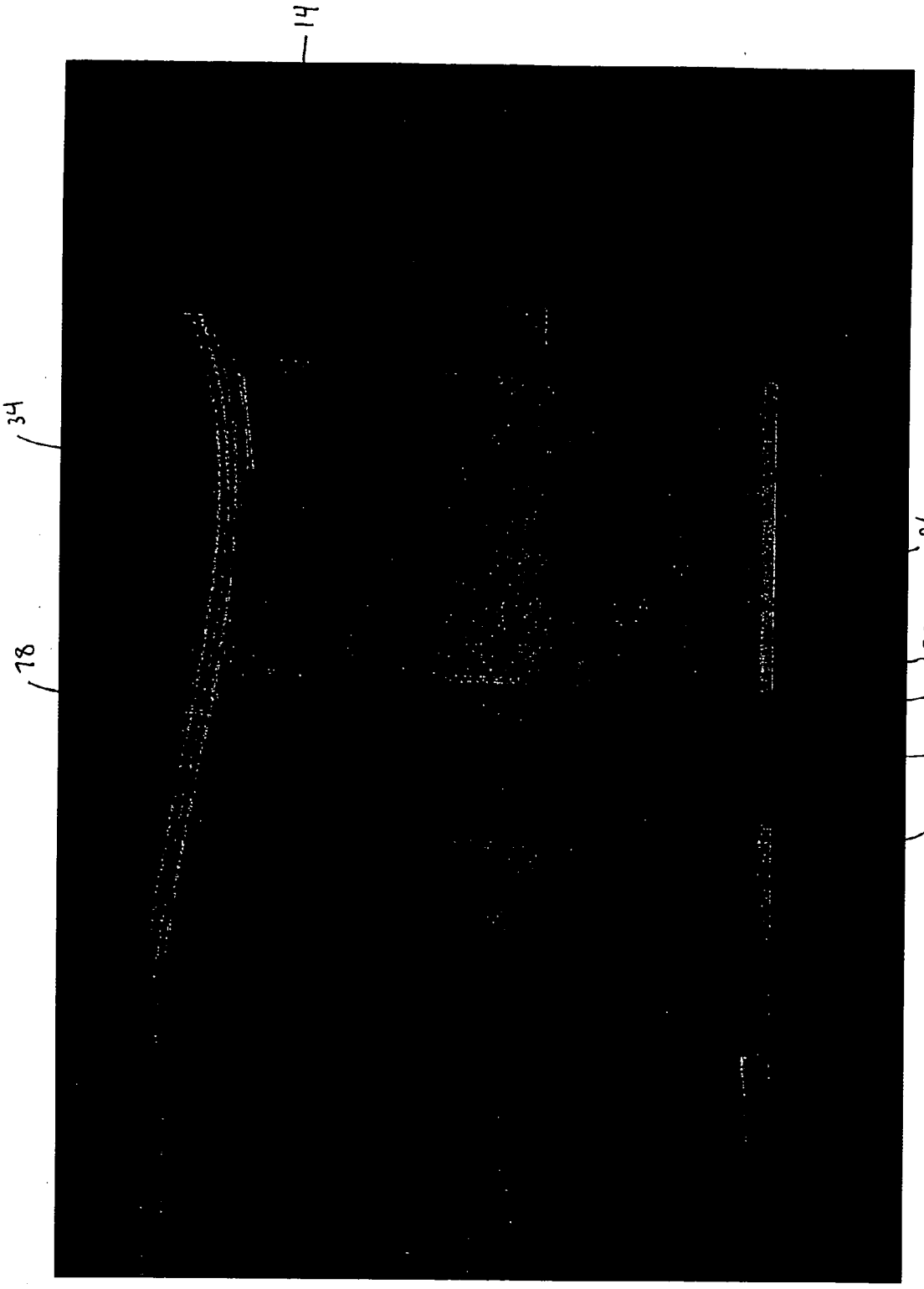


FIG. 5

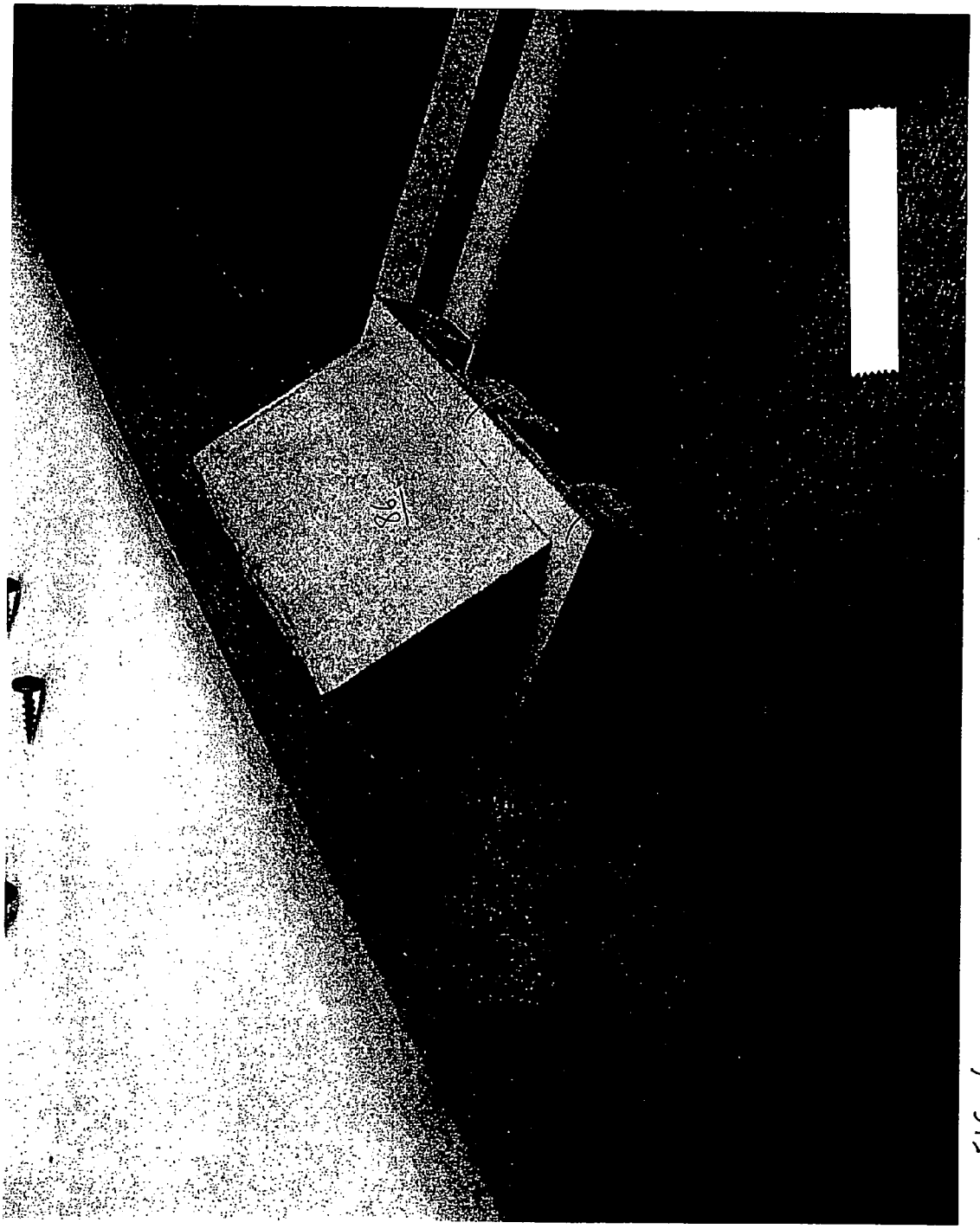


FIG. 6

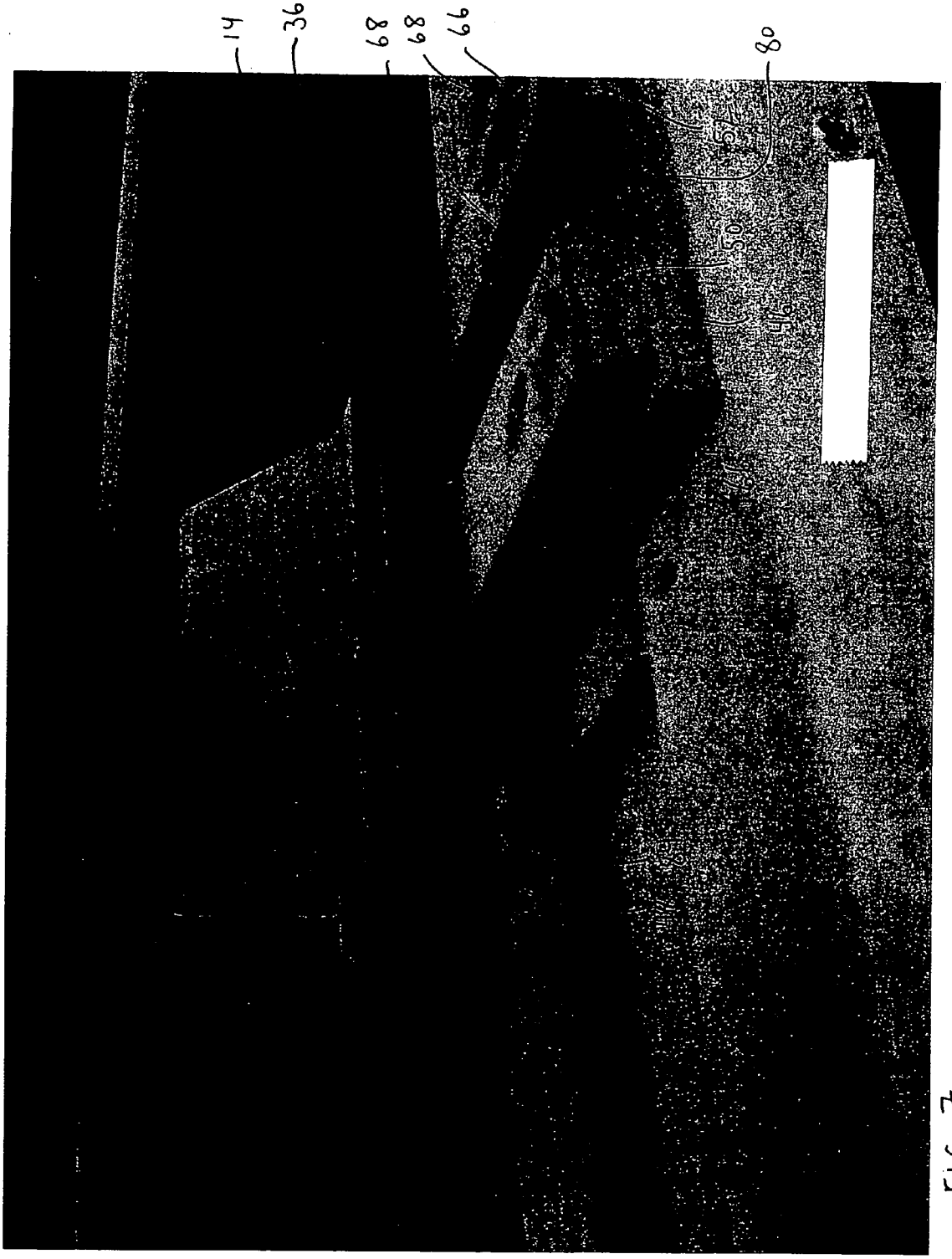


FIG. 7

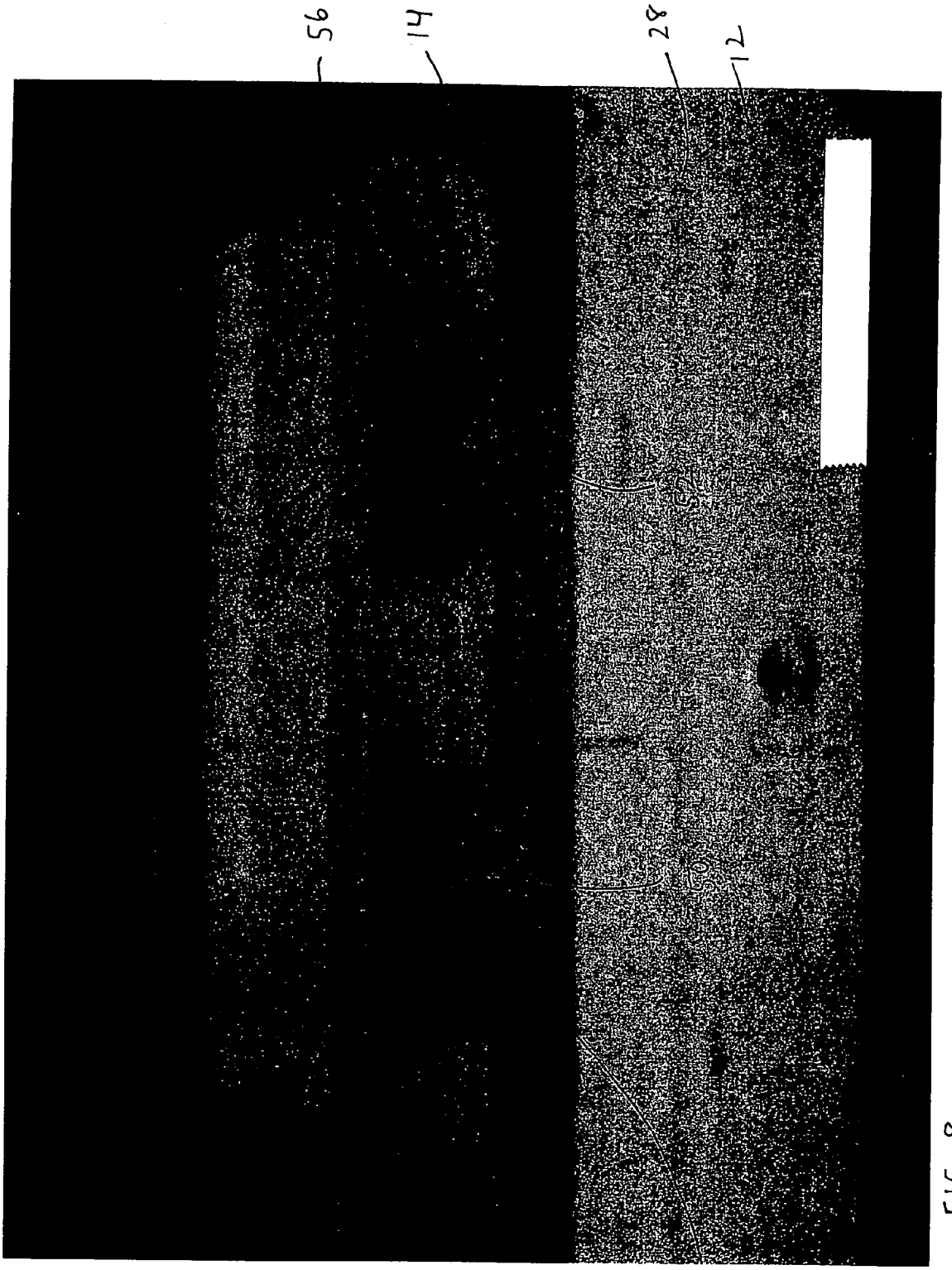


FIG. 8

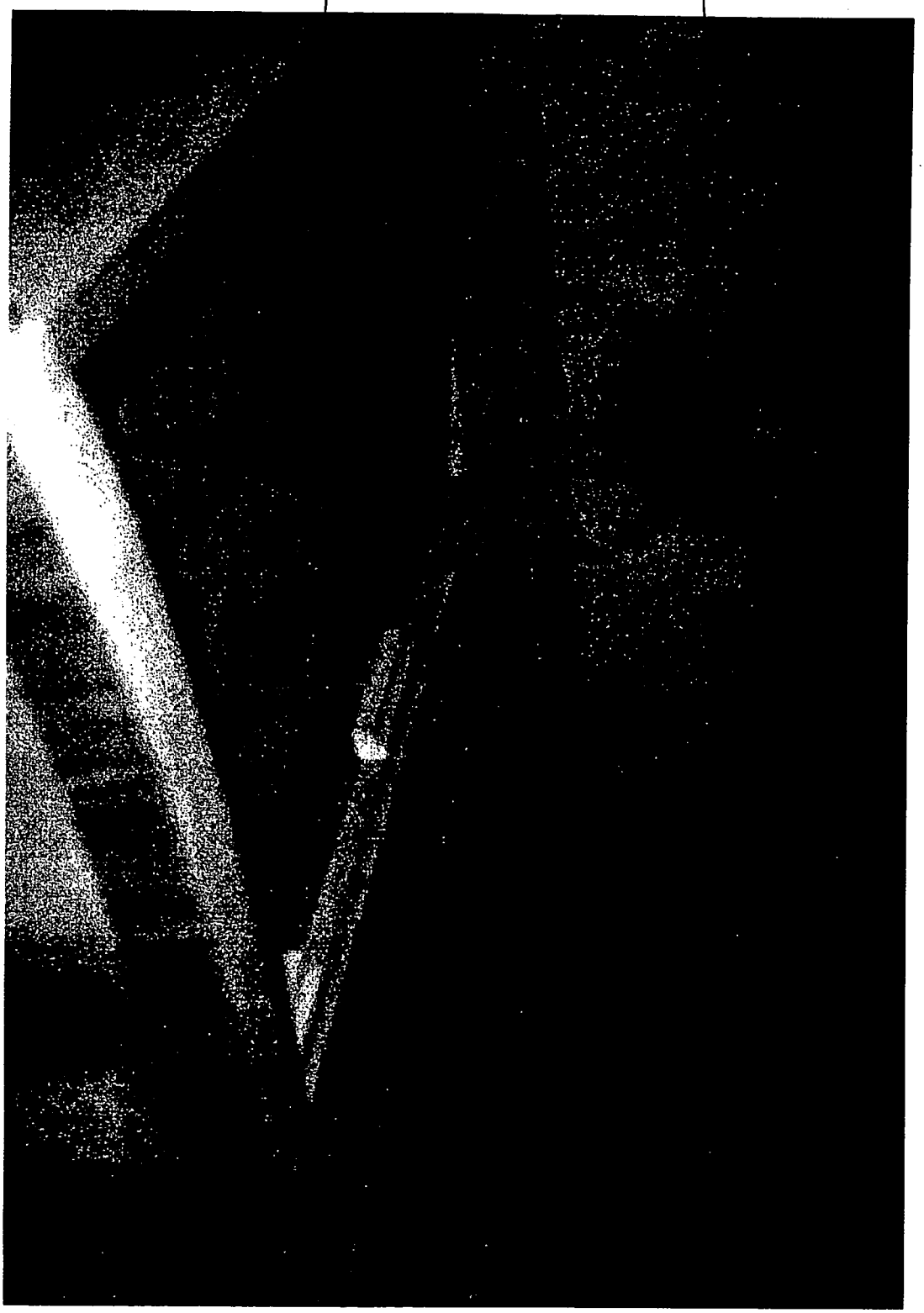


FIG. 9

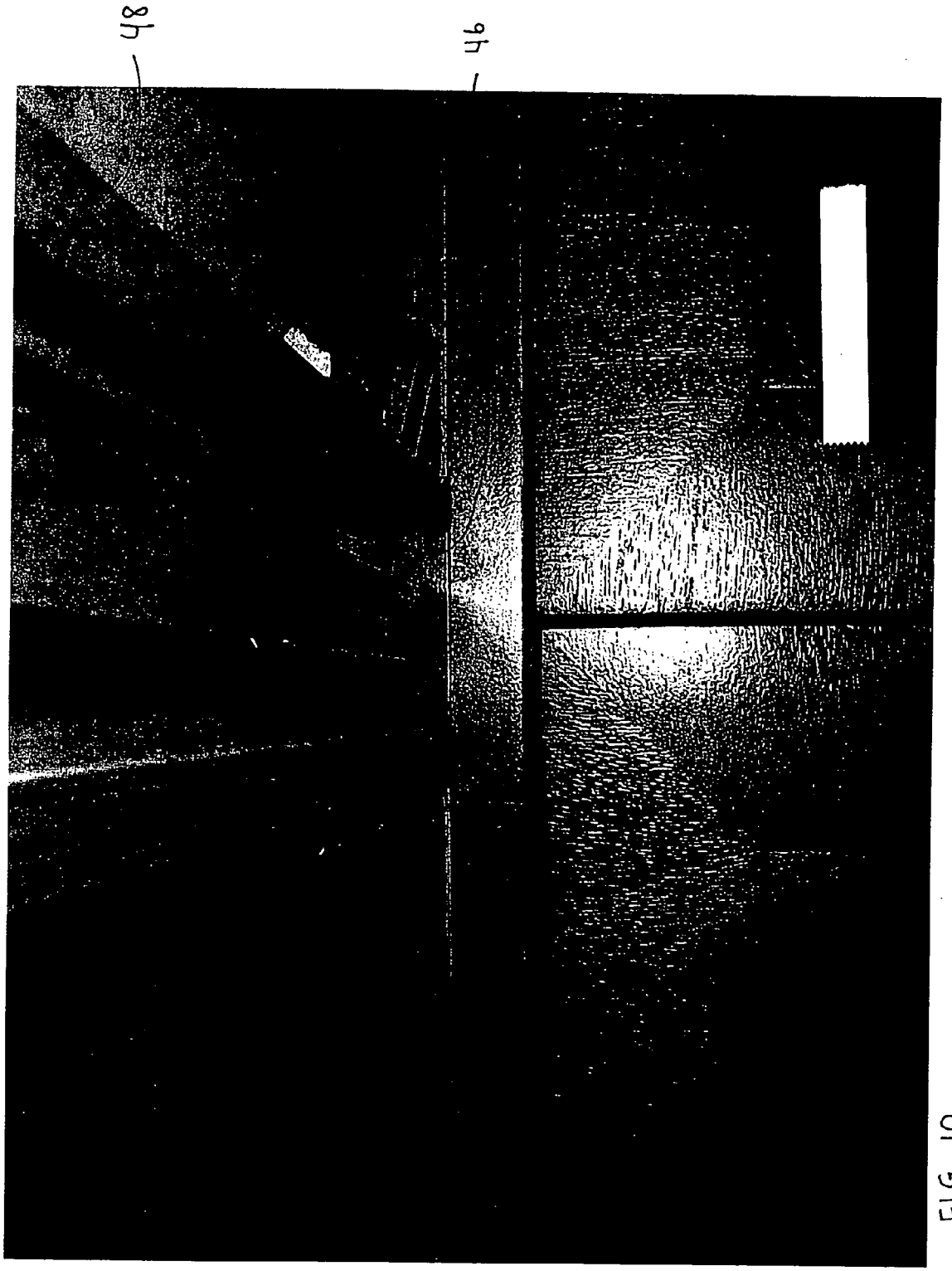


FIG. 10

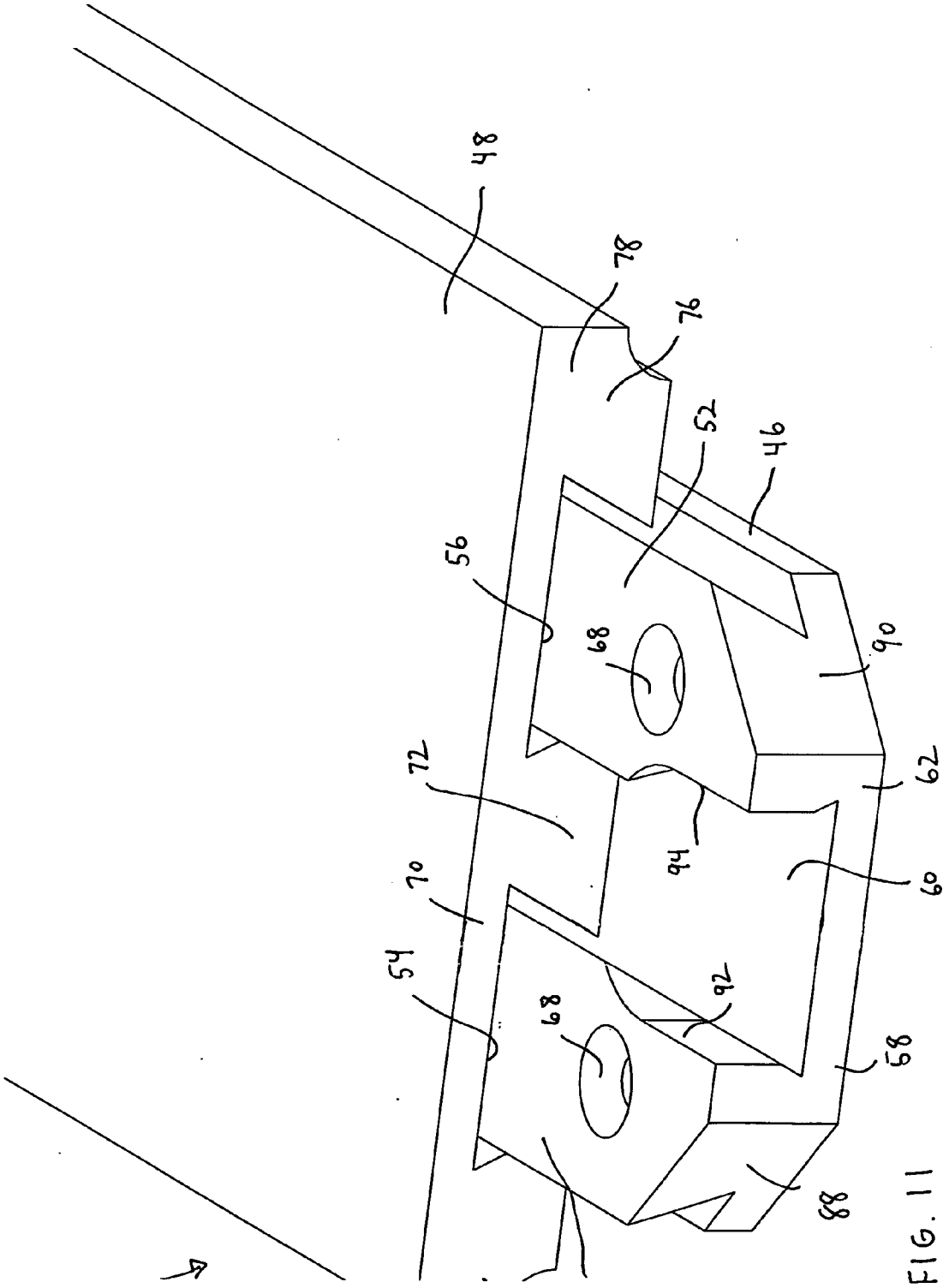


FIG. 11

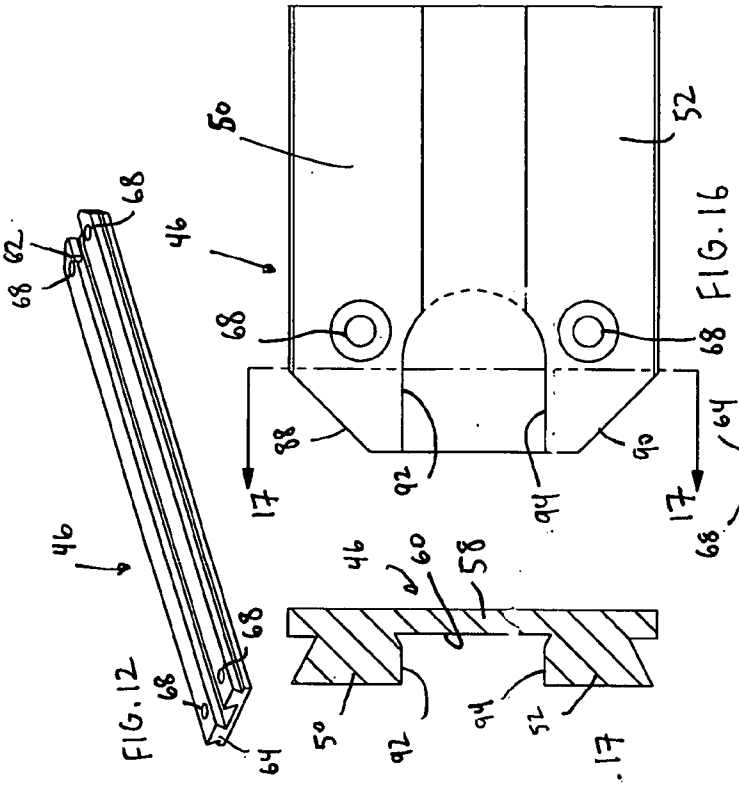


FIG. 16

FIG. 12

FIG. 17

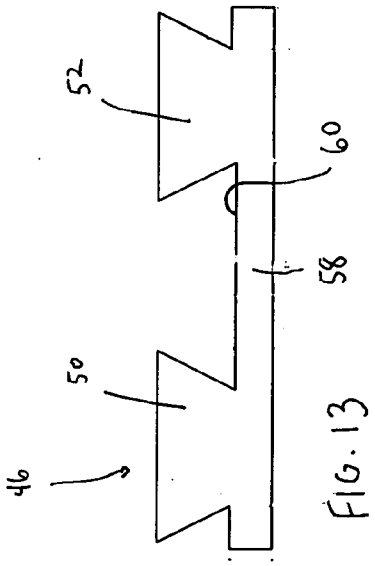


FIG. 13

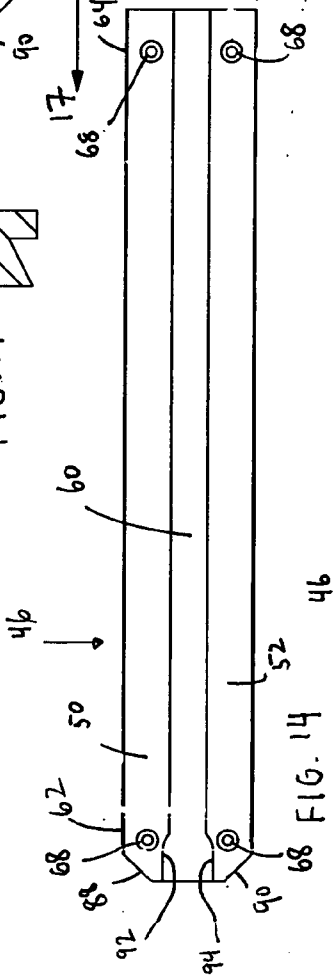


FIG. 14

FIG. 15

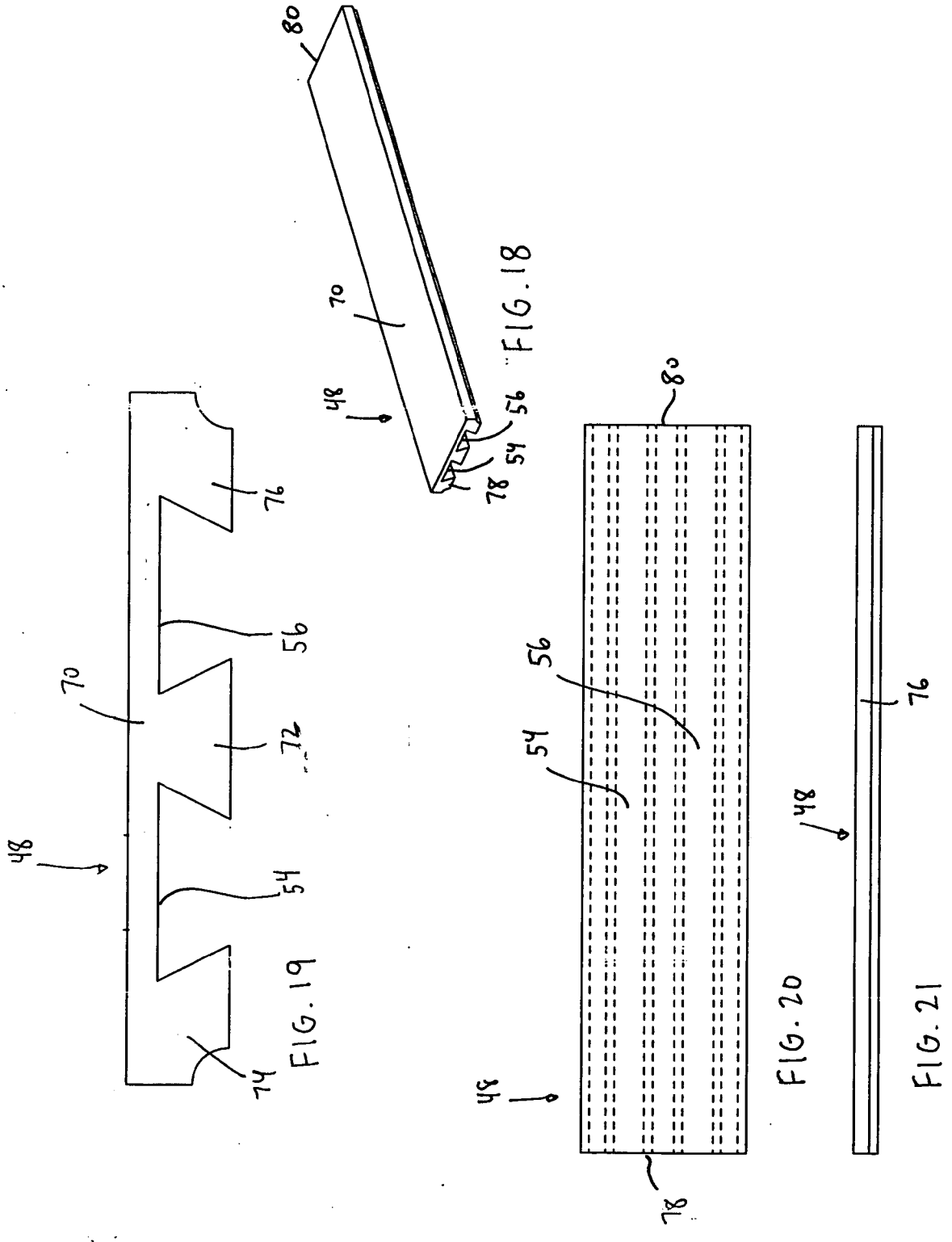

80
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FIG. 18
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FIG. 19
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FIG. 20
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FIG. 21

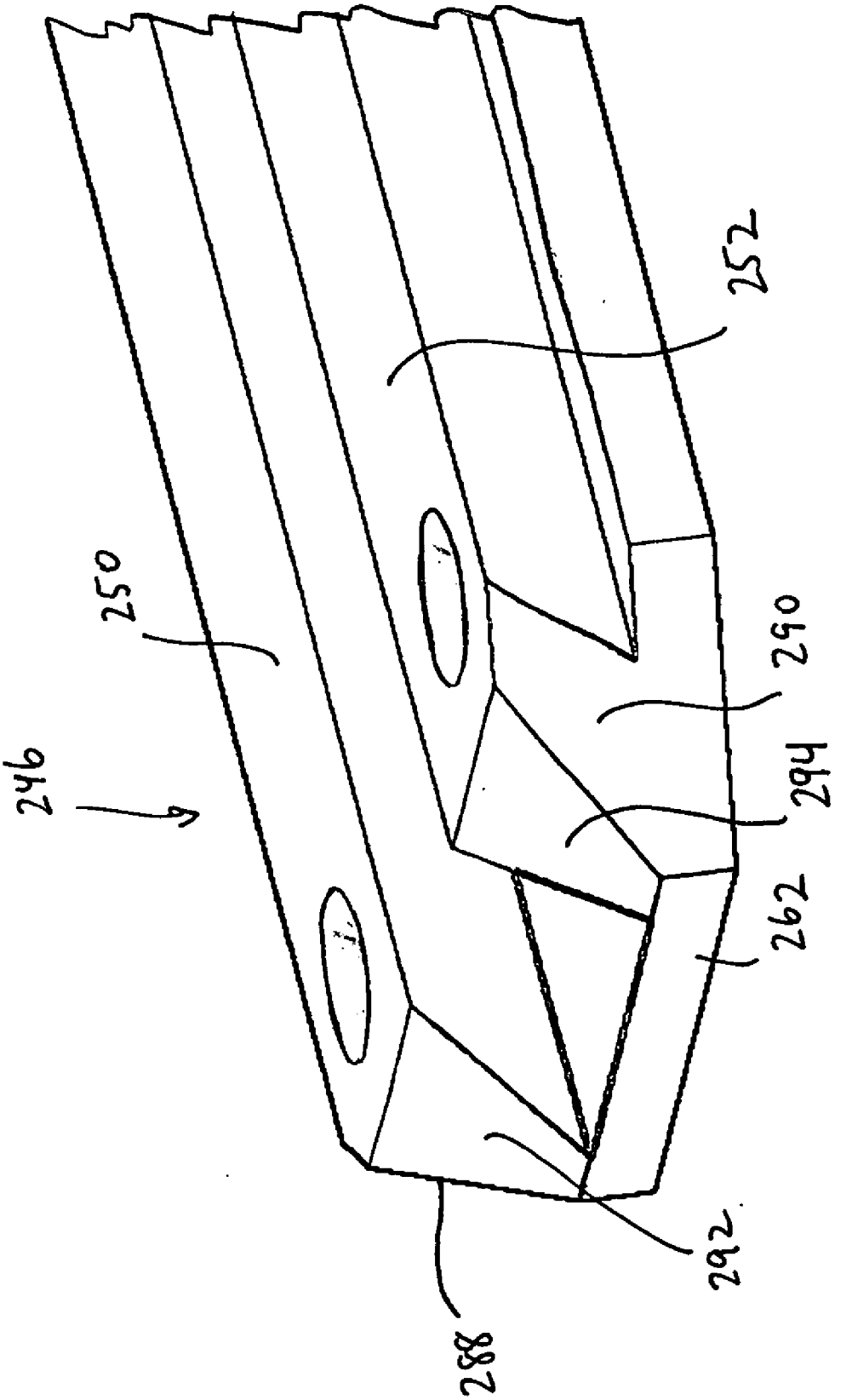

FIG. 22

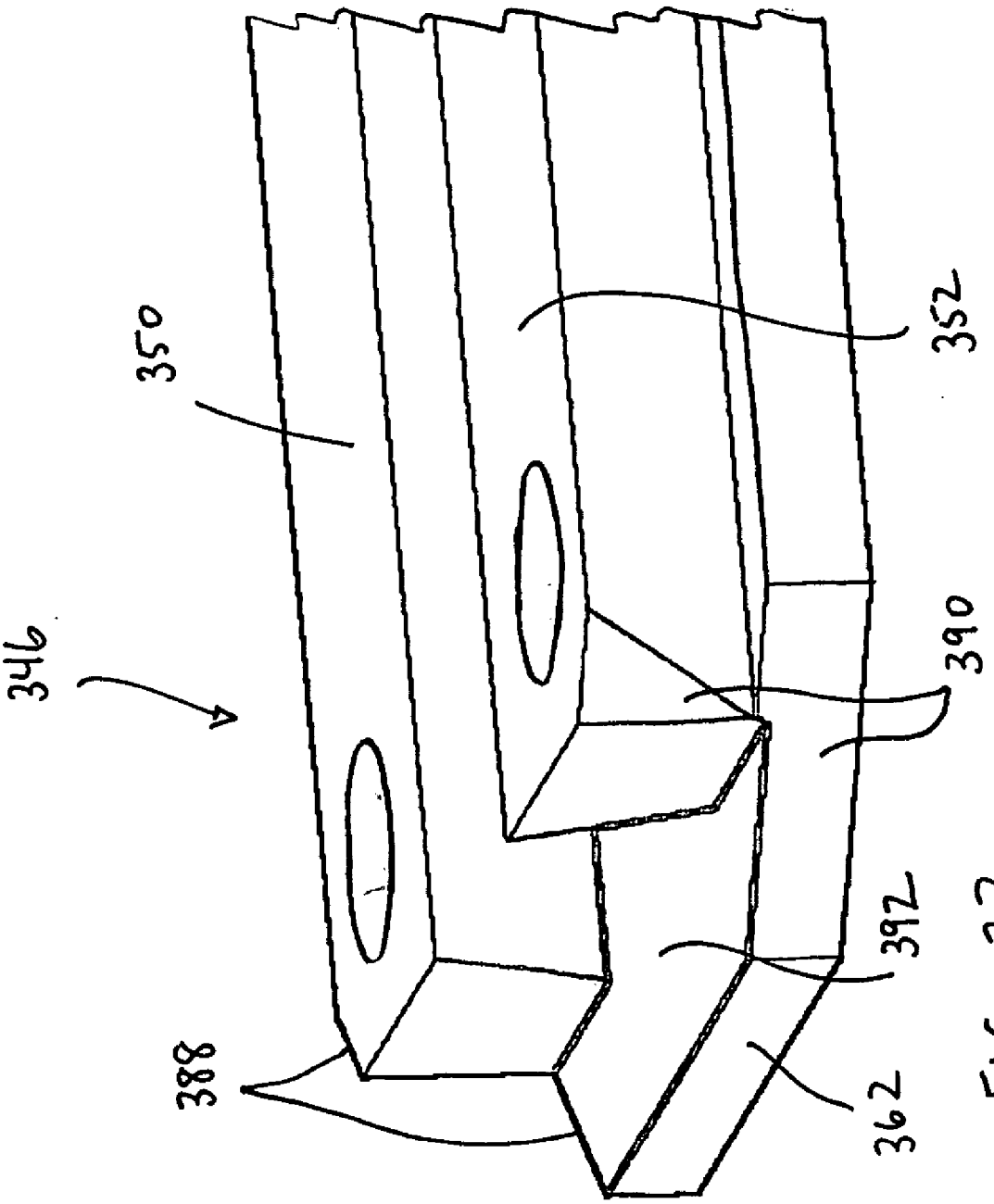

FIG. 23

DRAWER INTERLOCK FOR A FURNITURE ELEMENT

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to furniture elements having a housing and one or more drawers carried by the housing. More specifically, the present invention relates to drawer guides for guiding furniture drawers between extended and retracted positions with respect to a furniture housing.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Drawer guides for guiding furniture drawers are known in the art. The present invention provides improvements over known drawer guides to facilitate the mounting of the furniture drawers to the furniture housing, and to improve the sliding movement of the furniture drawers between extended and retracted positions.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] One aspect of the invention relates to a furniture element including a housing, a drawer carried by the housing and movable between an extended position extending outwardly from the housing and a retracted position disposed within the housing, and a drawer interlock structured to slidably couple the drawer to the housing. The drawer interlock includes an elongated first interlocking structure mounted to the housing and an elongated second interlocking structure mounted to the drawer. One of the first and second interlocking structures includes first and second dovetail projections and the other of the first and second interlocking structures includes first and second dovetail recesses. The first and second dovetail projections slidably interlock with the first and second dovetail recesses in a cooperating relationship to slidably couple the drawer to the housing.

[0004] Another aspect of the invention relates to a drawer interlock for use with a furniture element including a housing and a drawer carried by the housing and movable between an extended position extending outwardly from the housing and a retracted position disposed within the housing. The drawer interlock includes an elongated first interlocking structure adapted to be mounted to the housing, and an elongated second interlocking structure adapted to be mounted to the drawer. One of the first and second interlocking structures includes first and second dovetail projections and the other of the first and second interlocking structures includes first and second dovetail recesses. The first and second dovetail projections slidably interlock with the first and second dovetail recesses in a cooperating relationship to slidably couple the drawer to the housing.

[0005] Still another aspect of the invention relates to a method of manufacturing a furniture element including a housing and a drawer carried by the housing. The method includes: providing a drawer interlock including an elongated first interlocking structure and an elongated second interlocking structure, one of the first and second interlocking structures including first and second dovetail projections and the other of the first and second interlocking structures including first and second dovetail recesses; mounting the first interlocking structure to the housing; mounting the second interlocking structure to the drawer; and slidably interlocking the first and second dovetail projections with the first and second dovetail recesses in a cooperating relationship to slidably couple the drawer to the housing for movement between an extended position extending outwardly from the housing and a retracted position disposed within the housing.

[0006] These and other aspects, features, and advantages of this invention will become apparent from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, which are a part of this disclosure and which illustrate, by way of example, principles of this invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] The accompanying drawings facilitate an understanding of the various embodiments of this invention. In such drawings:

[0008] **FIG. 1** is a front perspective view of a furniture element having a housing and a plurality of drawers carried by the housing;

[0009] **FIG. 2** is a front perspective view of the furniture element shown in **FIG. 1** with one of the drawers in an extended position extending outwardly from the housing;

[0010] **FIG. 3** is a front perspective view of the furniture element shown in **FIG. 1** with one of the drawers removed from the housing to illustrate a drawer interlock constructed in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0011] **FIG. 4** is a perspective view illustrating a first interlocking structure of the drawer interlock mounted to the housing of the furniture element shown in **FIG. 1**;

[0012] **FIG. 5** is a perspective view illustrating a second interlocking structure of the drawer interlock mounted to a drawer of the furniture element shown in **FIG. 1**;

[0013] **FIG. 6** is a perspective view illustrating the second interlocking structure shown in **FIG. 5** protruding beyond a rear wall of the drawer;

[0014] **FIG. 7** is a perspective view illustrating the first and second interlocking structures of the drawer interlock slidably interlocked with one another;

[0015] **FIG. 8** is a rear view illustrating the first and second interlocking structures of the drawer interlock slidably interlocked with one another;

[0016] **FIG. 9** is a bottom perspective view illustrating the second interlocking structure mounted to the drawer;

[0017] **FIG. 10** is a bottom perspective view illustrating the first and second interlocking structures of the drawer interlock slidably interlocked with one another;

[0018] **FIG. 11** is an isolated perspective view of the first and second interlocking structures of the drawer interlock slidably interlocked with one another;

[0019] **FIG. 12** is an isolated perspective view of the first interlocking structure of the drawer interlock;

[0020] **FIG. 13** is a front view of the first interlocking structure shown in **FIG. 12**;

[0021] **FIG. 14** is a top view of the first interlocking structure shown in **FIG. 12**;

[0022] **FIG. 15** is a side view of the first interlocking structure shown in **FIG. 12**;

[0023] **FIG. 16** is an enlarged top view of a portion of the first interlocking structure shown in **FIG. 12**;

[0024] **FIG. 17** is a cross-sectional view through line **17-17** of **FIG. 16**;

[0025] **FIG. 18** is an isolated perspective view of the second interlocking structure of the drawer interlock;

[0026] **FIG. 19** is a front view of the second interlocking structure shown in **FIG. 18**;

[0027] **FIG. 20** is a top view of the second interlocking structure shown in **FIG. 18**;

[0028] **FIG. 21** is a side view of the second interlocking structure shown in **FIG. 18**;

[0029] **FIG. 22** is a perspective view of another embodiment of the first interlocking structure of the drawer interlock; and

[0030] **FIG. 23** is a perspective view of another embodiment of the first interlocking structure of the drawer interlock.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATED EMBODIMENTS

[0031] **FIG. 1** illustrates a furniture element **10** including a housing **12** and a plurality of drawers **14** carried by the housing **12**. In the illustrated embodiment, the housing **12** is structured to carry four drawers **14**. However, the housing **12** may be structured to carry any suitable number of drawers **14**, e.g., less than or more than four drawers **14**.

[0032] In the illustrated embodiment, the furniture element **10** is in the form of a cabinet. However, it should be understood that the furniture element **10** may be any suitable element structured to carry drawers, e.g., desk, shelf system, etc.

[0033] Each drawer **14** is slidably movable with respect to the housing **12** between an extended position extending outwardly from the housing **12** and a retracted position disposed within the housing **12**. **FIG. 1** illustrates all of the drawers **14** in the retracted position, and **FIG. 2** illustrates an upper one of the drawers **14** in an extended position. As will be further discussed in detail below, each drawer **14** is slidably coupled to the housing **12** by drawer interlocks **16**(*a*), **16**(*b*) (see **FIG. 3**). The drawer interlocks **16**(*a*), **16**(*b*) are structured to facilitate the mounting of each drawer **14** to the housing **12** and to improve the sliding movement of each drawer **14** between its extended and retracted positions.

[0034] As best shown in **FIGS. 1 and 2**, the housing **12** includes a base **18** having feet **20** that support the housing **12** on the ground, a pair of generally vertically extending side wall members **22**, **24** extending upwardly from the base **18**, a generally horizontally extending upper wall member **26** interconnecting the side wall members **22**, **24**, and a plurality of generally horizontally extending drawer support members **28** (also referred to as parting rails) between the base **18** and upper wall member **26** (one drawer support member **28** being shown in **FIGS. 3 and 4**). Also, a back panel (not shown) is supported by the members **22**, **24**, **26**, **28**. The members **22**, **24**, **26**, **28** cooperate to define a plurality of forwardly facing openings **30**, e.g., four openings, structured to receive a respective drawer **14** therein. Moreover, each drawer support member **28** has an generally upwardly facing support surface **32**.

[0035] As best shown in **FIGS. 1, 2, 3**, and **5**, each drawer **14** includes generally parallel spaced apart front and rear walls **34**, **36**, and generally parallel spaced apart side walls **38**, **40** that interconnect the front and rear walls **34**, **36**. A drawer bottom **42** is supported between the walls **34**, **36**, **38**, **40**, e.g., with a plurality of support members **44**. Each drawer **14** is received within a respective opening **30** provided in the housing **12**. As shown in **FIG. 1**, when the drawers **14** are in their retracted position, the front wall **34** of each drawer **14** covers the respective forwardly facing opening **30** of the housing **12**.

[0036] In the illustrated embodiment, the housing **12** and drawers **14** are constructed of wood. Also, the upper wall member **26** of the housing **12** and the front wall **34** of each drawer **14** includes an ornamental design. However, the housing **12** and drawers **14** may be made from any suitable material, and may include any suitable ornamental design.

[0037] As shown in **FIG. 3**, drawer interlocks **16**(*a*), **16**(*b*) slidably couple each drawer **14** to the housing **12**. In the illustrated embodiment, a first drawer interlock **16**(*a*) and a second drawer interlock **16**(*b*) spaced apart from the first drawer interlock **16**(*a*) slidably couple each drawer **14** to the housing **12**. However, each drawer **14** may be slidably coupled to the housing **12** by any suitable number of drawer interlocks, e.g., one drawer interlock or more than two drawer interlocks.

[0038] Each drawer interlock **16**(*a*), **16**(*b*) includes an elongated first interlocking structure **46** mounted to the housing **12** and an elongated second interlocking structure **48** mounted to the respective drawer **14**. As shown in **FIGS. 3 and 4**, the first interlocking structure **46** is mounted to the generally upwardly facing support surface **32** of the respective drawer support member **28**, and the second interlocking structure **48** is mounted to the lower surface of the drawer bottom **42**. More specifically, the first interlocking structures **46** of the first and second drawer interlocks **16**(*a*), **16**(*b*) are mounted in spaced apart relation to the drawer support member **28**, and the second interlocking structures **48** of the first and second drawer interlocks **16**(*a*), **16**(*b*) are mounted in spaced apart relation to the drawer bottom **42**.

[0039] In the illustrated embodiment, the first interlocking structure **46** includes first and second dovetail projections **50**, **52** (see **FIGS. 4, 7, 8, 11-16**), and the second interlocking structure **48** includes first and second dovetail recesses **54**, **56** (see **FIGS. 6-8**, **11**, and **18-21**). However, it is contemplated that the second interlocking structure may include the first and second dovetail projections and the first interlocking structure may include the first and second dovetail recesses. In use, the first and second dovetail projections **50**, **52** slidably interlock with the first and second dovetail recesses **54**, **56** in a cooperating relationship (see **FIGS. 7, 8, 10, 11**) to slidably couple each drawer **14** to the housing **12**.

[0040] Specifically, as best shown in **FIG. 13**, the first interlocking structure **46** of each drawer interlock **16**(*a*), **16**(*b*) includes a base **58**, and the first and second dovetail projections **50**, **52** extend upwardly from the base **58**. The

first and second dovetail projections **50**, **52** are spaced apart from one another to define a center dovetail recess **60**. The first interlocking structure **46** includes a first end **62** and a second end **64**. When mounted to the housing **12**, the first end **62** is adjacent the forwardly facing opening **30** of the housing **12** and the second end **64** is disposed within the housing **12**. As illustrated, the second end **64** of the first interlocking structure **46** has a straight trim, and the first end **62** is structured to faciliate alignment of the first and second interlocking structures **46**, **48**, as will be further discussed below.

[**0041**] The overall length of the first interlocking structure **46** is determined by the inner depth of the housing **12**. That is, the length of the first interlocking structure **46** is subject to the housing **12** it is mounted within. For example, in one embodiment, the first interlocking structure **46** is structured such that the second end **64** is positioned within about 0.25" from the inner surface of the back panel (or a physical member in the path of the first interlocking structure, e.g., post, partition, false panel).

[**0042**] In the illustrated embodiment, the first interlocking structure **46** is mounted to the housing **12** by fasteners. Specifically, the first interlocking structure **46** is mounted to the housing **12** by four screws **66** (see **FIG. 7**), e.g., wood screws, that extend through pre-formed generally circular-shaped openings **68** in the first interlocking structure **46** (see **FIGS. 12 and 14**). Two of the openings **68** are provided adjacent the first end **62** of the first interlocking structure **46**, and the other two openings **68** are provided adjacent the second end **64** of the first interlocking structure **46**. The openings **68** extend through the base **58** and respective first and second dovetail projections **50**, **52**.

[**0043**] The screws **66** pass thorough the first interlocking structure **46** such that no part of the screws **66**, e.g., the heads, protrudes outwardly from the outer surfaces defining the dovetail projections **50**, **52**. As a result, the screws **66** do not interfere with the sliding movement between the first and second interlocking structures **46**, **48** in use.

[**0044**] The openings **68** adjacent the first end **62** of the first interlocking structure **46** may be slot-shaped, e.g., elongated. The slot-shaped opening would allow lateral adjustment of the first end **62** of the first interlocking structure **46** during mounting to the housing **12**. The adjustment may be beneficial in positioning the first interlocking structure **46** such that the drawer **14** and second interlocking structure **48** thereof may be properly positioned within the housing **12**. That is, proper alignment of the first interlocking structure **46** within the housing **12** will ensure that the drawer **14** is guided parallel to its associated opening **30**. However, the openings **68** may have any suitable shape, and the openings **68** may be formed in any suitable manner.

[**0045**] Also, it should be understood that the first interlocking structure **46** of each drawer interlock **16**(*a*), **16**(*b*) may be mounted to the housing **12** in any other suitable manner, e.g. adhesive.

[**0046**] As shown in **FIGS. 18-21**, the second interlocking structure **48** of each drawer interlock **16**(*a*), **16**(*b*) includes a base **70**, a center dovetail projection **72** extending upwardly from the base **70**, and end projections **74**, **76** extending upwardly from the base **70**. The center dovetail projection **72** and end projections **74**, **76** cooperate to define the spaced apart first and second dovetail recesses **54**, **56**. In use, the first and second dovetail projections **50**, **52** slidably interlock with the first and second dovetail recesses **54**, **56**, and the center dovetail projection **72** slidably interlocks with the center dovetail recess **60**. As illustrated, the first and second ends **78**, **80** of the second interlocking structure **48** have a straight trim.

[**0047**] In the illustrated embodiment, the second interlocking structure **48** of each drawer interlock **16**(*a*), **16**(*b*) is mounted to the respective drawer **14** by an adhesive. Specifically, as best shown in **FIG. 5**, a plurality of support members **82** are mounted between the drawer bottom **42** of the drawer **14** and the second interlocking structure **48** by an adhesive to secure the second interlocking structure **48** to the respective drawer **14**.

[**0048**] Moreover, the second interlocking structure **48** is mounted to the respective drawer **14** such that it protrudes beyond the rear wall **36**, as shown in **FIGS. 5-7**. Specifically, as best shown in **FIG. 5**, when mounted to the respective drawer **14**, the first end **78** is adjacent the front wall **34** of the drawer **14** and the second end **80** protrudes beyond the rear wall **36**, e.g., by about 1.25".

[**0049**] The protruding portion **84** of the second interlocking structure **48** provides the extended length to seat a support member **86**, and also allows the respective drawer **14** to be pulled to an extended position and be stably supported by the housing **12**. As best shown in **FIGS. 6 and 7**, the support member **86** is mounted, e.g., by an adhesive, between the outer surface of the rear wall **36** and the protruding portion **84** of the second interlocking structure **48** that protrudes beyond the rear wall **36**. The support member **86** securely mounts the second interlocking structure **48** to the drawer **14**. The protruding portion **84** also strengthens the beam load of the second interlocking structure **48** and allows for more extension of the drawer **14** to an extended position, e.g. all the way open.

[**0050**] However, it should be understood that the second interlocking structure **48** of each drawer interlock **16**(*a*), **16**(*b*) may be mounted to each drawer **14** in any other suitable manner, e.g., fasteners.

[**0051**] As best shown in **FIGS. 11 and 14-17**, edges of the first end **62** of the first interlocking structure **46** are configured to facilitate alignment of the drawer **14** and second interlocking structure **48** thereof with the housing **12** and first interlocking structure **46** thereof. Specifically, the first end **62** includes beveled edges **88**, **90**. Also, edges **92**, **94** of the first and second dovetail projections **50**, **52** that define the center dovetail recess **60** are tapered at the first end **62**.

[**0052**] The tapered edges **92**, **94** are structured to allow the center dovetail projection **72** of the second interlocking structure **48** to seat onto the center dovetail recess **60** of the first interlocking structure **46**. Then, once the seat has taken place, advancement of the drawer **14** and the second interlocking structure **48** thereof onto the first interlocking structure **46** will allow the beveled edges **88**, **90** to align the first and second interlocking structures **46**, **48**. Thus, the edges **88**, **90**, **92**, **94** allow an initial self-alignment of the second interlocking structure **48** with the first interlocking structure **46** to allow the first and second interlocking structures **46**, **48** to interlock and function.

[0053] The beveled and tapered edges **88**, **90**, **92**, **94** may be formed in the first interlocking structure **46** in any suitable manner, e.g., machining.

[0054] The first end **62** of the first interlocking structure **46** may have any other suitable configuration to facilitate alignment of the drawer **14** with the housing **12**. For example, **FIGS. 22 and 23** illustrate alternative embodiments of the first end **62** of the first interlocking structure **46**.

[0055] In **FIG. 22**, the first interlocking structure **246** has a first end **262** with beveled edges **288**, **290**, and the forwardly facing ends of the first and second dovetail projections **250**, **252** also have beveled edges **292**, **294**. These beveled edges **288**, **290**, **292**, **294** help to guide the second interlocking structure **48** and drawer **14** into the first interlocking structure **246** and housing **12**.

[0056] In **FIG. 23**, the first interlocking structure **346** has a first end **362** with beveled edges **388**, **390**, and forward ends of the first and second dovetail projections **350**, **352** are removed to create a substantially flat guiding surface **392**. This configuration also helps to guide the second interlocking structure **48** into interlocking engagement with the first interlocking structure **346**.

[0057] The interlocking engagement between the first and second interlocking structures **46**, **246**, **346**, **48** prevents tilting of each drawer **14** with respect to the housing **12**. Further, the relatively large width of the first and second interlocking structures **46**, **246**, **346**, **48**, due to the first and second dovetail projections **50**, **250**, **350**, **52**, **252**, **352** and the first and second dovetail recesses **60**, adds strength and stability. That is, the relatively large width allows more surface of the second interlocking structure **48** to be adhered to the drawer **14** and allows four fasteners to be used for securing the first interlocking structure **46**, **246**, **346** to the housing **12**.

[0058] In the illustrated embodiment, the first and second interlocking structures **46**, **246**, **346**, **48** are constructed of wood. However, the first and second interlocking structures may be constructed from any other suitable material, e.g., plastic, metal. Also, outer surfaces of the first and second interlocking structures **46**, **246**, **346**, **48** may be provided with an anti-friction coating to facilitate sliding movement between the first and second interlocking structures in use.

[0059] Further, although the illustrated embodiments disclose a first interlocking structure with first and second dovetail projections slidably interlocked with a second interlocking structure with first and second dovetail recesses, it should be understood that the first and second interlocking structures may have any suitable number of dovetail projections and corresponding dovetail recesses, e.g., three dovetail projections and three dovetail recesses, four dovetail projections and four dovetail recesses, etc.

[0060] The foregoing embodiments have been provided to illustrate the structural and functional principles of the present invention, and are not intended to be limiting. To the contrary, the present invention is intended to encompass all modifications, alterations and substitutions within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A furniture element comprising:

a housing;

a drawer carried by the housing and movable between an extended position extending outwardly from the housing and a retracted position disposed within the housing; and

a drawer interlock structured to slidably couple the drawer to the housing,

the drawer interlock including an elongated first interlocking structure mounted to the housing and an elongated second interlocking structure mounted to the drawer, one of the first and second interlocking structures including first and second dovetail projections and the other of the first and second interlocking structures including first and second dovetail recesses, and the first and second dovetail projections slidably interlocking with the first and second dovetail recesses in a cooperating relationship to slidably couple the drawer to the housing.

2. The furniture element according to claim 1, wherein the first interlocking structure includes the first and second dovetail projections, and the second interlocking structure includes the first and second dovetail recesses.

3. The furniture element according to claim 1, wherein the housing includes a forwardly facing opening structured to receive the drawer therein, the forwardly facing opening defined by a generally horizontally extending drawer support member having a generally upwardly facing support surface, and wherein the first interlocking structure is mounted to the generally upwardly facing support surface.

4. The furniture element according to claim 1, wherein the housing carries a plurality of drawers, and a plurality of drawer interlocks are provided to slidably couple each of the plurality of drawers to the housing.

5. The furniture element according to claim 1, wherein the first interlocking structure is mounted to the housing by fasteners.

6. The furniture element according to claim 1, wherein the second interlocking structure is mounted to the drawer by an adhesive.

7. The furniture element according to claim 1, wherein the drawer includes generally parallel front and rear walls, the front wall covering the forwardly facing opening of the housing when the drawer is in the retracted position, and wherein the second interlocking structure is mounted to the drawer such that it protrudes beyond the rear wall.

8. The furniture element according to claim 7, further comprising a support member mounted between the outer surface of the rear wall and a protruding portion of the second interlocking structure that protrudes beyond the rear wall.

9. The furniture element according to claim 1, wherein the drawer interlock includes a first drawer interlock and a second drawer interlock spaced apart from the first drawer interlock, the first and second drawer interlocks slidably coupling the drawer to the housing.

10. The furniture element according to claim 1, wherein the first and second interlocking structures are constructed of wood.

11. The furniture element according to claim 1, wherein the first and second dovetail projections are spaced apart

from one another to define a center dovetail recess, and the first and second dovetail recesses are spaced apart from one another to define a center dovetail projection, wherein the center dovetail projection slidably interlocks with the center dovetail recess.

12. The furniture element according to claim 11, wherein the first interlocking structure includes the first and second dovetail projections that define the center dovetail recess, the first interlocking structure having a first end adjacent the forwardly facing opening of the housing and a second end disposed within the housing, and wherein the center dovetail recess includes a tapered edge adjacent the first end of the first interlocking structure to facilitate alignment of the drawer and second interlocking structure thereof with the housing and first interlocking structure thereof.

13. The furniture element according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of support members mounted between the drawer and the second interlocking structure to secure the second interlocking structure to the drawer.

14. A drawer interlock for use with a furniture element including a housing and a drawer carried by the housing and movable between an extended position extending outwardly from the housing and a retracted position disposed within the housing, the drawer interlock comprising:

an elongated first interlocking structure adapted to be mounted to the housing; and

an elongated second interlocking structure adapted to be mounted to the drawer,

one of the first and second interlocking structures including first and second dovetail projections and the other of the first and second interlocking structures including first and second dovetail recesses, and the first and second dovetail projections slidably interlocking with the first and second dovetail recesses in a cooperating relationship to slidably couple the drawer to the housing.

15. The drawer interlock according to claim 14, wherein the first interlocking structure includes the first and second dovetail projections, and the second interlocking structure includes the first and second dovetail recesses.

16. The drawer interlock according to claim 14, wherein the first interlocking structure is adapted to be mounted to the housing by fasteners.

17. The drawer interlock according to claim 14, wherein the second interlocking structure is adapted to be mounted to the drawer by an adhesive.

18. The drawer interlock according to claim 14, wherein the first and second interlocking structures are constructed of wood.

19. The drawer interlock according to claim 14, wherein the first and second dovetail projections are spaced apart from one another to define a center dovetail recess, and the first and second dovetail recesses are spaced apart from one another to define a center dovetail projection, wherein the center dovetail projection slidably interlocks with the center dovetail recess.

20. The drawer interlock according to claim 19, wherein the first interlocking structure includes the first and second dovetail projections that define the center dovetail recess, the first interlocking structure having a first end adjacent a forwardly facing opening of the housing and a second end disposed within the housing, and wherein the center dovetail recess includes a tapered edge adjacent the first end of the first interlocking structure to facilitate alignment of the drawer and second interlocking structure thereof with the housing and first interlocking structure thereof.

21. A method of manufacturing a furniture element including a housing and a drawer carried by the housing, the method comprising:

providing a drawer interlock including an elongated first interlocking structure and an elongated second interlocking structure, one of the first and second interlocking structures including first and second dovetail projections and the other of the first and second interlocking structures including first and second dovetail recesses;

mounting the first interlocking structure to the housing;

mounting the second interlocking structure to the drawer; and

slidably interlocking the first and second dovetail projections with the first and second dovetail recesses in a cooperating relationship to slidably couple the drawer to the housing for movement between an extended position extending outwardly from the housing and a retracted position disposed within the housing.

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein the first interlocking structure includes the first and second dovetail projections, and the second interlocking structure includes the first and second dovetail recesses.

23. The method according to claim 21, further comprising mounting the first interlocking structure to a generally upwardly facing support surface provided on a generally horizontally extending drawer support member of the housing.

24. The method according to claim 21, wherein the housing carries a plurality of drawers, and the method includes providing a plurality of drawer interlocks to slidably couple each of the plurality of drawers to the housing.

25. The method according to claim 21, wherein the mounting the first interlocking structure to the housing includes mounting the first interlocking structure to the housing by fasteners.

26. The method according to claim 21, wherein the mounting the second interlocking structure to the drawer includes mounting the second interlocking structure to the drawer by an adhesive.

27. The method according to claim 21, wherein the drawer includes generally parallel front and rear walls, the front wall covering the forwardly facing opening of the housing when the drawer is in the retracted position, and wherein the mounting the second interlocking structure to the drawer includes mounting the second interlocking structure to the drawer such that it protrudes beyond the rear wall.

28. The method according to claim 27, further comprising mounting a support member between the outer surface of the rear wall and a protruding portion of the second interlocking structure that protrudes beyond the rear wall.

29. The method according to claim 21, wherein the providing a drawer interlock includes providing a first drawer interlock and a second drawer interlock spaced apart from the first drawer interlock, and wherein the first and

second drawer interlocks slidably couple the drawer to the housing.

30. The method according to claim 21, further comprising constructing the first and second interlocking structures of wood.

31. The method according to claim 21, further comprising providing a tapered edge on the first interlocking structure to facilitate alignment of the drawer and second interlocking structure thereof with the housing and first interlocking structure thereof.

32. The method according to claim 21, mounting a plurality of support members between the drawer and the second interlocking structure to secure the second interlocking structure to the drawer.

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