(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
12 September 2013 (12.09.2013)

WIPO | PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2013/133883 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:
*B65D 23/12* (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2012/069838

(22) International Filing Date:
14 December 2012 (14.12.2012)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
61/608,966 9 March 2012 (09.03.2012) US

(72) Inventor; and
(71) Applicant : **GLUCK, Robert** [US/US]; 7 Sealy Drive, Lawrence, New York 11559 (US).

(74) Agents: **MUELLER, Robert, W.** et al.; Greenblum & Bernstein, P.L.C., 1950 Roland Clarke Place, Reston, Virginia 20191 (US).

(81) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)*: ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

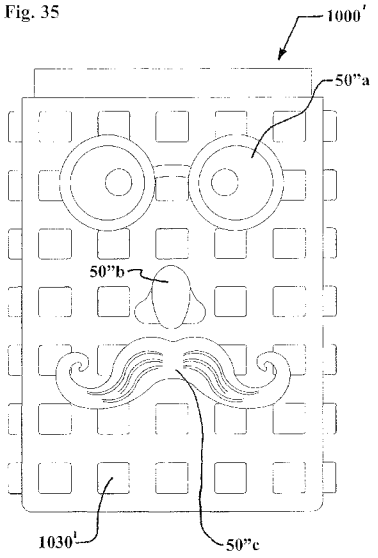
**Published**:

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*

WO 2013/133883 A1

(54) Title: CONTAINER SLEEVE WITH CONNECTION INTERFACE FOR ATTACHING THREE-DIMENSIONAL ELEMENTS AND METHOD OF MAKING AND USING THE SAME

Fig. 35




(57) Abstract: The invention provides for a sleeve (1020) for a container (1010), e.g., a food or beverage container, which includes a sleeve body sized to receive therein a portion of the container. Plural connection elements (1030) are arranged on an outer surface of the sleeve body. At least one three-dimensional element (50) is removably connectable to the sleeve body via at least one of the plural connection elements (1030).

# CONTAINER SLEEVE WITII CONNECTION INTERFACE FOR ATTACHING THREE-DIMENSIONAL ELEMENTS AND METHOD OF MAKING AND USING THE SAME

## CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

**[0001]** The instant application is an International Application based on U.S. provisional application No. 61/608,966, filed March 9, 2012, the disclosure of which is hereby expressly incorporated by reference hereto in its entirety.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

**[0002]** The invention relates to a container sleeve for a container, e.g., a food or drink container, to which one or more three-dimensional parts/elements can be attached. A method of making and using the container sleeve is also disclosed as is a method of decorating the container with such parts/elements.

2. Discussion of Background Information

**[0003]** Food and drink containers are well known. Such devices are disclosed in, e.g. US D465,973, US 7,540,833, US 6,145,553, as well as the following list of US patents: US 7,556,425, US D575,103, US D563,723, US D554,433, US D547,122, US D546,625, US D544,304, US D543,416, US D535,152, US D534,770, US D534,762, US D527,576, US D518,333, US D491,020, US D489,940, US D483,613, US D479,671, US D479,437, US D462,575, US D458,082, and US D457,395. The disclosure of each of these listed documents is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety as though set forth in full.

**[0004]** An improved container, however, would include a sleeve and/or other external interface to allow a user to attached, e.g., removably attach, to the same (or decorate the same with) one or more elements or parts. The container can thereby assume or be converted into a toy or decoratable container.

**[0005]** It is submitted that there is a need for such a container and which is lacking in known devices.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

**[0006]** In accordance with one non-limiting embodiment, there is provided a sleeve for a food or beverage container comprising a sleeve body sized and contained to receive therein a portion of the container. Plural connection elements are arranged on an outer surface of the sleeve body. At least one three-dimensional element is removably connectable to the sleeve body via at least one of the plural connection elements.

**[0007]** In embodiments, the container is one of: a cup, a can, a drink vessel, a mug; and a conventionally know container that can contain an edible drinking substance.

**[0008]** In embodiments, the container is one of: a food bowl, a soup bowl, a cereal bowl, and a conventionally know container that can contain an edible eating substance.

**[0009]** In embodiments, the at least one three-dimensional element is attachable via a snap connection.

**[0010]** In embodiments, the at least one three-dimensional element is one of: a decorative element, a toy element, an object resembling a portion of a man-made structure, and an object resembling a portion of a living thing.

**[0011]** In embodiments, the at least one three-dimensional element is one of: a letter, a number, an inanimate object, and an object resembling an inanimate object.

**[0012]** In embodiments, the at least one three-dimensional element is one of: a head of an animal, a face of an animal, a body of an animal, and a portion of an animal.

**[0013]** In embodiments, the plural connection elements comprise one of: snap connectors, projections insertable into openings, and recesses receiving projections.

**[0014]** In embodiments, the sleeve body comprises open upper and lower ends.

**[0015]** In embodiments, the sleeve body comprises open upper and lower ends and the lower end is smaller in diameter than the upper end.

**[0016]** In embodiments, the sleeve body comprises an open upper end and a closed lower end.

**[0017]** In embodiments, the sleeve body is structured and arranged to be removably mounted onto a container.

**[0018]** In embodiments, the sleeve body is structured and arranged to be non-removably mounted onto a container.

**[0019]** In embodiments, the sleeve body comprises a generally flexible material.

**[0020]** In embodiments, the sleeve body comprises a synthetic resin material.

**[0021]** In embodiments, there is provided a container comprising a container sized to contain

therein an edible substance and the sleeve as described above .

[0022] In embodiments, there is provided a method of decorating the container described above, wherein the method comprises attaching at least one three-dimensional element to the sleeve body.

[0023] According to one non-limiting embodiment, there is provided a method of decorating a container, wherein the method comprises removably attaching at least one three-dimensional element to a sleeve body arranged on the container via at least one of a plural connection elements.

[0024] According to another non-limiting embodiment, there is provided a container comprising a container body and a sleeve body. The sleeve body is sized and contained to receive therein a portion of the container and comprising plural connection elements arranged on an outer surface of the sleeve body. At least one three-dimensional element is removably connectable to the sleeve body via at least one of the plural connection elements.

[0025] According to another non-limiting embodiment, there is provided a container comprising a container body and plural connection elements arranged on an outer surface of the container body.

[0026] In embodiments, the container may further comprise at least one of at least one three-dimensional element having at least one complementary connection element, the outer surface comprises a silicone material, and the plural connection elements are generally equally spaced projections.

[0027] Other exemplary embodiments and advantages of the present invention may be ascertained by reviewing the present disclosure and the accompanying drawing.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0028] The present invention is further described in the detailed description which follows, in reference to the noted plurality of drawings by way of non-limiting examples of exemplary embodiments of the present invention, in which like reference numerals represent similar parts throughout the several views of the drawings, and wherein:

Figs. 1-3 show a non-limiting example of a conventional container that can be utilized with the sleeve according to the invention;

Fig. 4 is a side view of the container of Fig. 1 but with a sleeve installed thereon in accordance with the invention and to which one or more three-dimensional elements can be attached. The external attaching interfaces of the sleeve are not shown;

Fig. 5 is a top view of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a side view of the container of Fig. 1 before the sleeve of Fig. 7 is installed thereon;

Fig. 7 is a side view of the sleeve installable on the container of Fig. 6 when flattened into a planar sheet and shows one example of the external attaching interfaces that can be utilized;

Fig. 8 shows an enlarged portion of the sleeve of Fig. 7;

Fig. 9 shows a side cross-section view of section A-A in Fig. 8;

Fig. 10 shows a side cross-section view of section B-B in Fig. 8;

Fig. 11 is a side view of another embodiment of a sleeve installed on a container of the type shown in Fig. 6. Unlike the sleeve of Fig. 4, the sleeve of Fig. 11 has a lower portion that extends under the container bottom;

Fig. 12 is a side view of the container of Fig. 11 before the sleeve of Fig. 13 is installed thereon;

Fig. 13 is a side view of the sleeve shown in Fig. 11 before it is installed on the container of Fig. 12;

Figs. 14 and 17 respectfully show rear and front views of an exemplary attachable element that can be removably attached to the sleeved containers shown in Figs. 4 or 11. In this embodiment, the attachable element resembles a lego-type element having receiving recesses sized and shaped to attachably engage with comparable external projections arranged on the sleeve of the container;

Fig. 15 shows a side cross-section view of section C-C in Fig. 14;

Fig. 16 shows a side cross-section view of section D-D in Fig. 17;

Fig. 18 shows a front view of an exemplary attachable element of the type shown in Fig. 17 before it is attached to the sleeved container shown in Fig. 19;

Fig. 19 shows one exemplary location (illustrated in cross-hatching) on the sleeved container where the exemplary attachable element of Fig. 18 can be removably positioned;

Fig. 20 shows a side view of another embodiment of a sleeve and container and illustrates how the container can be slid into the upper open end of the sleeve during installation;

Fig. 21 shows a side view of the fully assembled container made up of the components shown in Fig. 20;

Figs. 22 and 23 respectfully show front and side views of another exemplary attachable element that can be removably attached to the sleeved containers shown in Figs. 4, 11 or 21. In this embodiment, the attachable element resembles a lego-type element having receiving recesses sized and shaped to attachably engage with comparable external projections arranged on the sleeve of the container and also includes sheet layer having one or more symbols, letters, numbers, etc.;

Fig. 24 shows a side view of another exemplary sleeved container;

Fig. 25 shows the sleeved container of Fig. 24 rotated 180 degrees so that one can visualize a designed projection-free space (identified as a broken line rectangle) on the sleeve. In exemplary embodiments, this designated space can be used to, e.g., print a logo or trademark;

Fig. 26 shows a side view of another embodiment of a sleeve that can be used on a container in accordance with the invention;

Fig. 27 shows a top cross-section view of section E-E in Fig. 26 and illustrates how the sleeve bottom can have a central opening so as not to cover all of the bottom of the container when installed;

Fig. 28 shows a side cross-section view of section F-F in Fig. 26;

Figs. 29 and 30 respectfully show front and review views of another exemplary attachable element having the form of a pair of pair of glasses arranged over eyes;

Figs. 31 and 32 respectfully show front and review views of another exemplary attachable element having the form of a nose;

Figs. 33 and 34 respectfully show front and review views of another exemplary attachable element having the form of a curly mustache;

Fig. 35 shows an exemplary sleeved container in accordance with the invention decorated with the attachable elements shown in Figs. 29-34;

Fig. 36 shows a side view of a portion of another embodiment of a sleeve that can be used on a container in accordance with the invention. In this embodiment, each attachment projection includes a central opening which renders the projections as hollow projections;

Fig. 37 shows a side view of a portion of still another embodiment of a sleeve that can be used on a container in accordance with the invention. In this embodiment, each attachment projection is generally circular in shape instead of generally square as shown in Fig. 11;

Fig. 38 shows a side view of a portion of still another embodiment of a sleeve that can be used on a container in accordance with the invention. In this embodiment, each attachment projection is generally triangular in shape; and

Figs. 39-48 respectively show front and back views of other non-limiting attachment/attachable three-dimensional elements, i.e., a circular-shaped element, a rectangular donut-shaped element, a square-shaped element, a hand-shaped element, and a heart-shaped element.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

**[0029]** With reference to Figs. 1-3, it can be seen that a conventional container **10** having a dual wall construction and a cover **40** can be utilized in the invention. The cover **40** and the container **10** can be any size, shape or type and need not be similar to that shown in Figs. 1-3. Moreover, the container **10** can also be single wall or can be other than duel wall type shown in Fig. 3. Non-limiting examples of a container (including container sizes, shapes and configurations) which can be utilized in any of the herein disclosed embodiments include any of those discussed above in the Background section.

**[0030]** With reference to Figs. 4-10, there is shown a first non-limiting embodiment of the invention. In this embodiment, a sleeved container **1** includes a container **10** of the type described above and a sleeve **20**. The sleeve **20** is sized and configured to slide onto the container **10** (or vice versa) and to frictionally engage the outer surface of the container **10**. In this embodiment, the sleeve **20** as a tapered shape generally corresponding to the tapered shape of the container **10** and includes an open upper end and a smaller diameter open lower end. The sleeve **20** also includes a plurality of attachment elements **30** which are sized and spaced in a manner which can allow a user to attach to the sleeve **20** one or more three-dimensional elements as will be described in detail below. In the example shown in Figs. 2-10, the plurality of attachment elements **30** are polygonal shaped, e.g., square shaped, projections arranged on an outer surface of the sleeve **20**. The elements **30** are identically sized and generally spaced apart from each other by the same amount. The arrangement shown in Fig. 7, for example, represents equally spaced rows and columns of elements **30**. As is apparent from Figs. 8-10, the sleeve **20** can be a one-piece member in which the elements **30** are integrally formed solid projections.

**[0031]** In the embodiment of Figs. 4-10, the sleeve **20** can be made of a synthetic resin material, e.g., a flexible resin or silicone material, and can also be removably mounted to the container **10** or alternatively can be a more rigid resin material and can be non-removably secured thereto using, e.g., an adhesive connection. The sleeve **20** may also be any combination of these features.

**[0032]** With reference to Figs. 11-13, there is shown another non-limiting embodiment of the invention. In this embodiment, a sleeved container **100** includes a container **10** of the type described above and a sleeve **120**. The sleeve **120** is sized and configured to slide onto the container **10** (or vice versa) and to frictionally engage the outer surface of the container **10**. In this embodiment, the sleeve **120** as a tapered shape generally corresponding to the tapered shape of the container **10** and includes an open upper end and a closed or substantially closed lower end. The sleeve **120** also

includes a plurality of attachment elements **130** which are sized and spaced in a manner which can allow a user to attach to the sleeve **120** one or more three-dimensional elements as will be described in detail below. In the example shown in Figs. 11-13, the plurality of attachment elements **130** are polygonal shaped, e.g., square shaped, projections arranged on an outer surface of the sleeve **120**. The elements **130** are identically sized and generally spaced apart from each other by the same amount. The arrangement shown in Fig. 13, for example, represents equally spaced rows and columns of elements **130**. As is the previous embodiment, the sleeve **120** can be a one-piece member in which the elements **130** are integrally formed solid projections.

**[0033]** In the embodiment of Figs. 11-13, the sleeve **120** can be made of a synthetic resin material, e.g., a flexible resin or silicone material, and can also be removably mounted to the container **10** or alternatively can be a more rigid resin material and can be non-removably secured thereto using, e.g., an adhesive connection. The sleeve **120** may also be any combination of these features.

**[0034]** Figs. 14-17 show one non-limiting example of a three-dimensional element **50** that can be attached to the sleeve in accordance with the invention. In the embodiment of Fig. 14-17, the element **50** can be made of a synthetic resin material, e.g., either a rigid or a flexible resin or silicone material, and can include one or more attachment elements **70**. In the example shown in Figs. 14-17, the plurality of attachment elements **70** are polygonal shaped, e.g., square shaped, recesses sized and shaped to receive therein the projections, e.g., projections **30** and/or **130**. The elements **70** are identically sized and generally spaced apart from each other by the same amount. As can be seen in Figs. 18 and 19, each element **50** can be removably mounted to the container **100** via frictional engagement between the elements **70** and the elements **130**. This frictional engagement can be characterized as a lego-type connection.

**[0035]** With reference to Figs. 20 and 21, there is shown another non-limiting embodiment of the invention. In this embodiment, a sleeved container **1000** includes a container **1010** and a sleeve **1020**. The sleeve **1020** is sized and configured to slide onto the container **1010** (or vice versa) and to frictionally engage the outer surface of the container **1010**. In this embodiment, the sleeve **1020** as a generally cylindrical shape generally corresponding to the shape of the container **1010** and includes an open upper end and a closed or substantially closed lower end. The sleeve **1020** also includes a plurality of attachment elements **1030** which are sized and spaced in a manner which can allow a user to attach to the sleeve **1020** one or more three-dimensional elements as discussed and as will be described in detail below. In the example shown in Figs. 20 and 21, the plurality of attachment elements **1030** are polygonal shaped, e.g., square shaped, projections arranged on an outer surface of

the sleeve **1020**. The elements **1030** are identically sized and generally spaced apart from each other by the same amount. The arrangement shown in Fig. 21, for example, represents equally spaced rows and columns of elements **1030**. As is the previous embodiment, the sleeve **1020** can be a one-piece member in which the elements **1030** are integrally formed solid projections.

**[0035]** In the embodiment of Figs. 20 and 21, the sleeve **1020** can be made of a synthetic resin material, e.g., a flexible resin or silicone material, and can also be removably mounted to the container **1010** or alternatively can be a more rigid resin material and can be non-removably secured thereto using, e.g., an adhesive connection. The sleeve **1020** may also be any combination of these features.

**[0037]** Figs. 22 and 23 show another non-limiting example of a three-dimensional element **50'** that can be attached to the sleeve in accordance with the invention. In the embodiment of Fig. 22 and 23, the element **50'** can be made of a synthetic resin material, e.g., either a rigid or a flexible resin or silicone material, and can include one or more attachment elements as well as, e.g., a number, a letter, or indicia **60**. In the example shown in Figs. 22 and 23, the plurality of attachment elements are polygonal shaped, e.g., square shaped, recesses (similar to recesses **70** in Figs. 15-16) sized and shaped to receive therein the projections, e.g., projections **1030**. The indicia **60** can be, e.g., printed, on a layer of material arranged on or fixed to the element **50'**.

**[0038]** With reference to Figs. 24-35, there is shown another non-limiting embodiment of the invention. In this embodiment, a sleeved container **1000'** includes a container **1010'** and a sleeve **1020'**. The sleeve **1020'** is sized and configured to slide onto the container **1010'** (or vice versa) and to frictionally engage the outer surface of the container **1010'**. In this embodiment, the sleeve **1020'** as a generally cylindrical shape generally corresponding to the shape of the container **1010'** and includes an open upper end and a substantially closed lower end. As is shown in Fig. 27, the lower end is sized to extend under the container **1010'**, but has a centrally disposed through opening **TO**. The sleeve **1020'** also includes a plurality of attachment elements **1030'** which are sized and spaced in a manner which can allow a user to attach to the sleeve **1020'** one or more three-dimensional elements (see Figs. 29-34). A designated area LS of the sleeve **1020'** can be made free of elements **1030'** in order to provide a convenient location for desired indicia, e.g., a printed logo. In the example shown in Figs. 26 and 27, the plurality of attachment elements **1030'** are polygonal shaped, e.g., square shaped, projections arranged on an outer surface of the sleeve **1020'**. The elements **1030'** are identically sized and generally spaced apart from each other by the same amount. The arrangement shown in Fig. 26, for example, represents equally spaced rows and columns of elements **1030'**. As is the previous embodiment, the sleeve **1020'** can be a one-piece member in which the

elements **1030'** are integrally formed solid projections.

**[0039]** Figs. 29-34 show non-limiting examples of three-dimensional elements **50"a**, **50"b**, and **50"c** that can be attached to the sleeve as shown in Fig. 35. In the embodiment of Fig. 29-34, each element can be made of a synthetic resin material, e.g., either a rigid or a flexible resin or silicone material, and has the form of facial features. Thus, for example, element **50"a** has the form of a pair of glasses with eyes visible therein (on its front side) and includes one or more attachment elements **70"** (on its rear side). Element **50"b** has the form of a nose (on its front side) and includes one or more attachment elements **70"** (on its rear side). Element **50"c** has the form of a mustache (on its front side) and includes one or more attachment elements **70"** (on its rear side). In the example shown in Figs. 29-34, attachment elements **70"** are polygonal shaped, e.g., square shaped, recesses sized and shaped to receive therein the projections, e.g., projections **1030'**. As can be seen in Fig. 35, the elements of Figs. 29-34 can be removably mounted to the container **1000'** via frictional engagement between the elements **70"** and the elements **1030'** so as to decorate the container **1000'** in the non-limiting manner shown in Fig. 35. Other exemplary attachable elements are shown in Figs. 39-48. At least the elements shown in Figs. 38, 39 and 43-48 can optionally include layer of material arranged on its front generally planar side such as, e.g., a sticker, and can have, e.g., any desired printing, marking, or color.

**[0040]** With reference to Figs. 36-38, there are shown other non-limiting embodiments of the sleeve. In Fig. 36, the sleeve **1020"** includes plural attachment elements **1030"** having a generally polygonal shape and being partially hollowed out via a centrally disposed central blind opening or depression. In Fig. 37, the sleeve **1020'"** includes plural attachment elements **1030'"** having a generally circular shape and being otherwise solid in form. In Fig. 38, the sleeve **$1020^{IV}$** includes plural attachment elements **$1030^{IV}$** having a generally triangular shape and being otherwise solid in form.

**[0041]** Although various embodiments shows the sleeve having external projections that can connect to recesses formed in one or more attachment elements, the invention also contemplates that either the sleeve is integrally formed with the container or that the external attachment elements (instead of being formed on the sleeve) are formed on an outer surface of the container itself. These elements can be either projections of the type shown in the drawings or alternatively (or additionally) external recesses, depressions and/or blind openings.

**[0042]** Although various embodiments shows the sleeve having external projections that can connect to recesses formed in one or more attachment elements, the invention also contemplates a sleeve with external recesses, depressions and/or blind openings and with projections formed on the one or more attachable elements.

**[0043]** One or more of the herein disclosed embodiments can also include one or more features described in US Patent Application No. 13/364,886 filed on February 2, 2012, the disclosure of which is hereby expressly incorporated by reference in its entirety.

**[0044]** Further additional features can be utilized on the sleeve and/or container such one, more than one, or all of those described in US Provisional Patent Application No. 61/608,956 filed on March 9, 2012, the disclosure of which is hereby expressly incorporated by reference in its entirety.

**[0045]** It is noted that the foregoing examples have been provided merely for the purpose of explanation and are in no way to be construed as limiting of the present invention. While the present invention has been described with reference to an exemplary embodiment, it is understood that the words which have been used herein are words of description and illustration, rather than words of limitation. Changes may be made, within the purview of the appended claims, as presently stated and as amended, without departing from the scope and spirit of the present invention in its aspects. Although the present invention has been described herein with reference to particular means, materials and embodiments, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the particulars disclosed herein; rather, the present invention extends to all functionally equivalent structures, methods and uses, such as are within the scope of the appended claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sleeve for a food or beverage container comprising:
   a sleeve body sized and contained to receive therein a portion of a container;
   plural connection elements arranged on an outer surface of the sleeve body; and
   at least one three-dimensional element being removably connectable to the sleeve body via at least one of the plural connection elements.

2. The sleeve of claim 1, wherein the container is one of:
   a cup;
   a can;
   a drink vessel;
   a mug; and
   a conventionally know container that can contain an edible drinking substance.

3. The sleeve of claim 1, wherein the container is one of:
   a food bowl;
   a soup bowl;
   a cereal bowl; and
   a conventionally know container that can contain an edible eating substance.

4. The sleeve of claim 1, wherein the at least one three-dimensional element is attachable via a snap connection.

5. The sleeve of claim 1, wherein the at least one three-dimensional element is one of:
   a decorative element;
   a toy element;
   an object resembling a portion of a man-made structure; and
   an object resembling a portion of a living thing.

6. The sleeve of claim 1, wherein the at least one three-dimensional element is one of:
   a letter;
   a number;
   an inanimate object;
   an object resembling an inanimate object.

7. The sleeve of claim 1, wherein the at least one three-dimensional element is one of:
   a head of an animal;
   a face of an animal;
   a body of an animal;
   a portion of an animal.

8. The sleeve of claim 1, wherein the plural connection elements comprise one of:
   snap connectors;
   generally equally spaced projections;
   generally circular projections;
   generally polygonal projections;
   projections insertable into openings; and
   recesses receiving projections.

9. The sleeve of claim 1, wherein the sleeve body comprises open upper and lower ends.

10. The sleeve of claim 1, wherein the sleeve body comprises open upper and lower ends and the lower end is smaller in diameter than the upper end.

11. The sleeve of claim 1, wherein the sleeve body comprises an open upper end and a closed lower end.

12. The sleeve of claim 1, wherein the sleeve body is structured and arranged to be removably mounted onto a container.

13. The sleeve of claim 1, wherein the sleeve body is structured and arranged to be non-removably mounted onto a container.

14. The sleeve of claim 1, wherein the sleeve body comprises a generally flexible one-piece member.

15. The sleeve of claim 1, wherein the sleeve body comprises one of:
a synthetic resin material; and
a silicone material.

16. A container comprising:
a container sized to contain therein an edible substance; and
the sleeve of claim 1.

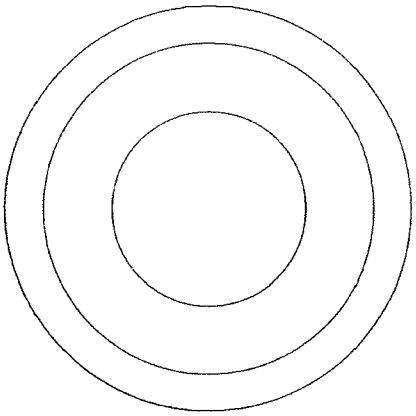
17. A method of decorating the container of claim 16, the method comprising:
attaching at least one three-dimensional element to the sleeve body.

18. A method of decorating a container, the method comprising:
removably attaching at least one three-dimensional element to a sleeve body arranged on the container via at least one of a plural connection elements.

19. A container comprising:
a container body;
plural connection elements arranged on an outer surface of the container body.

20. The container of claim 19, further comprising at least one of:
at least one three-dimensional element having at least one complementary connection element;
the outer surface comprises a silicone material; and
the plural connection elements are generally equally spaced projections.

Fig. 2



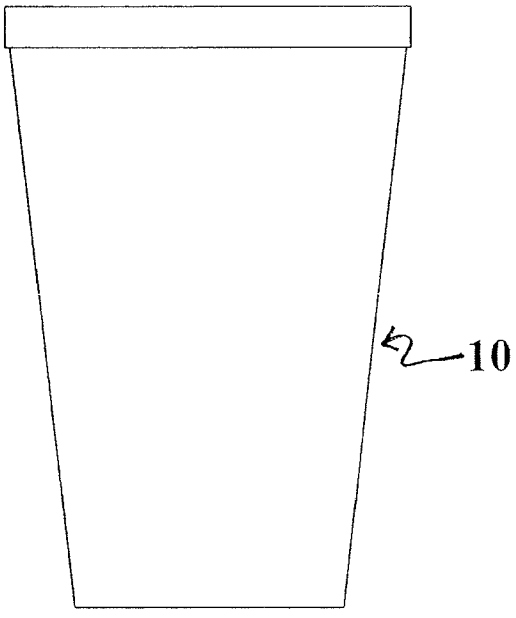



Fig. 1

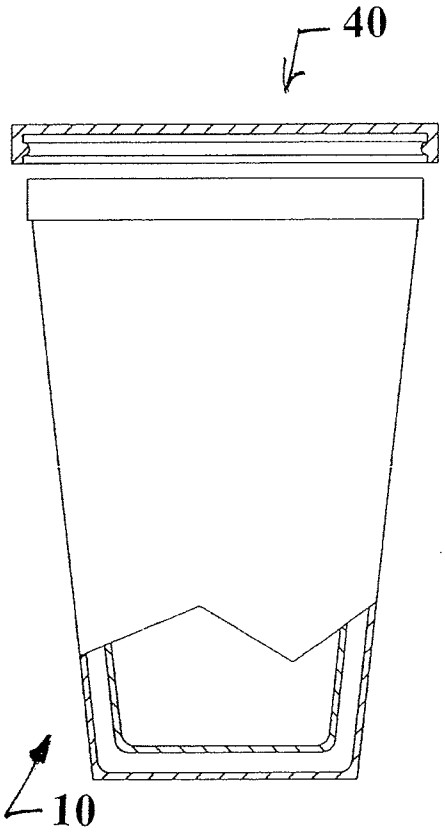
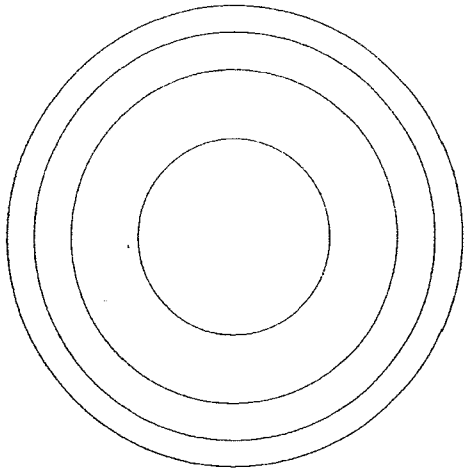



Fig. 3

Fig. 5



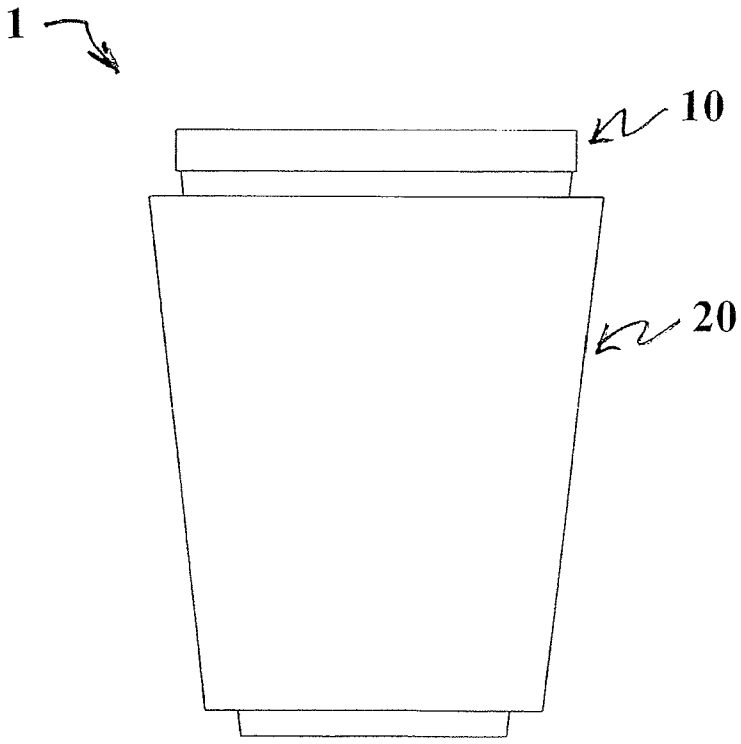
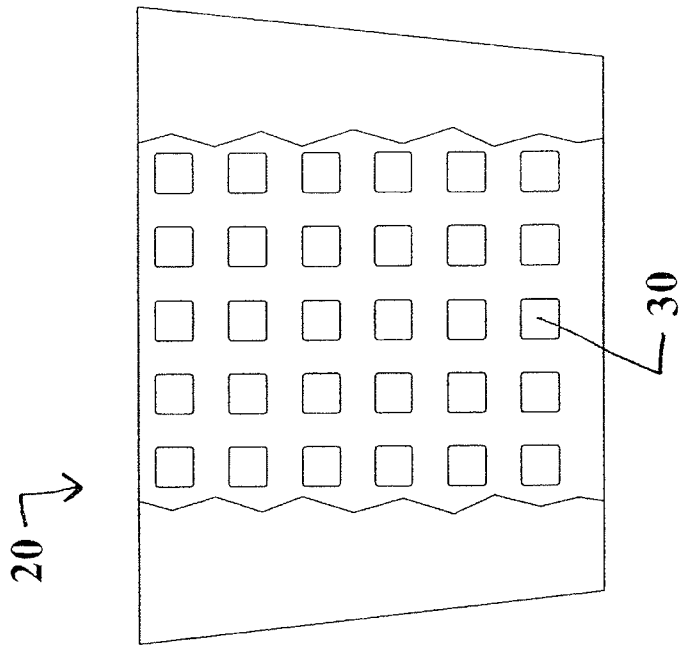



Fig. 4

Fig. 7

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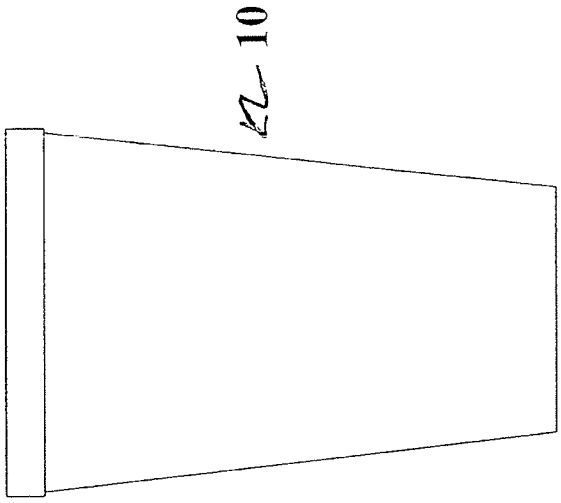

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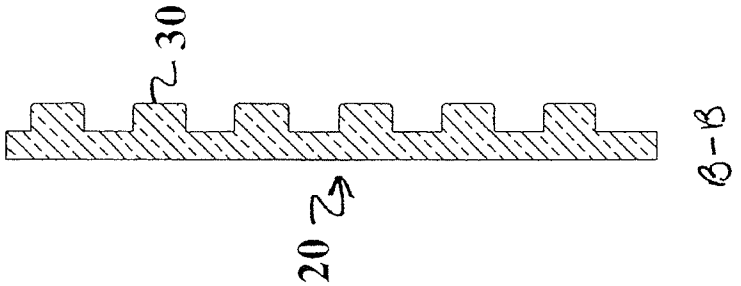


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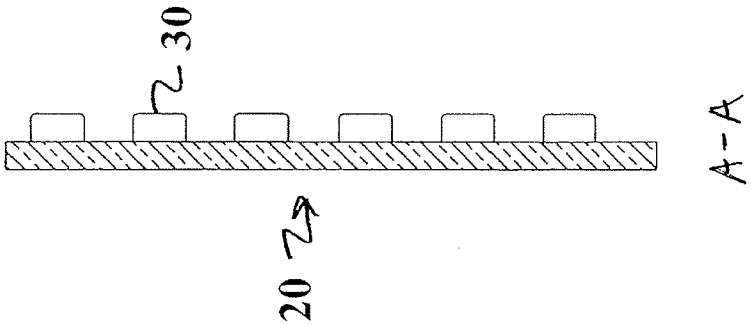


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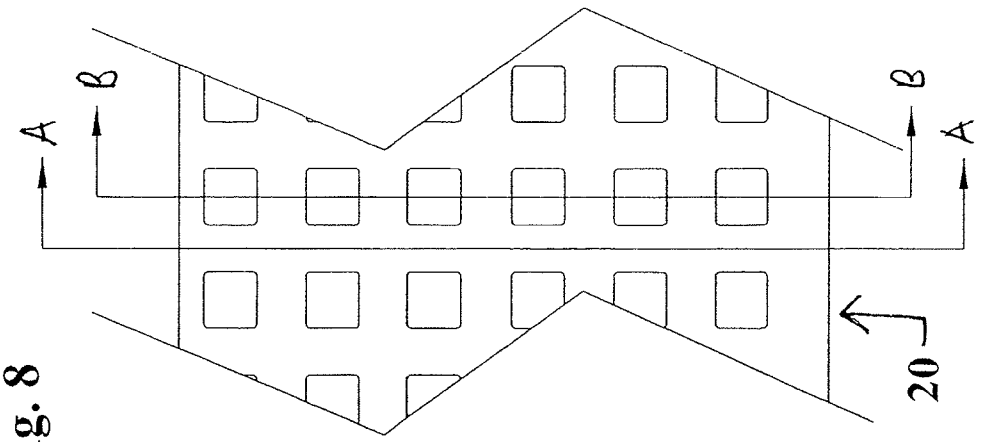

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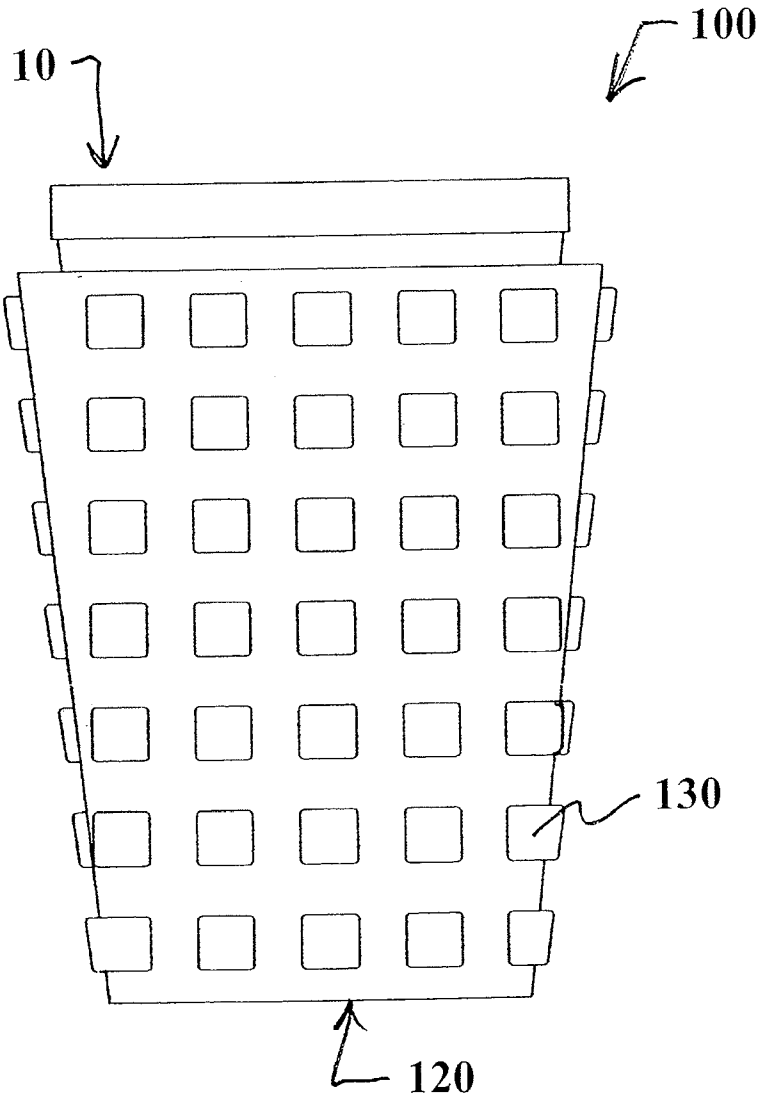

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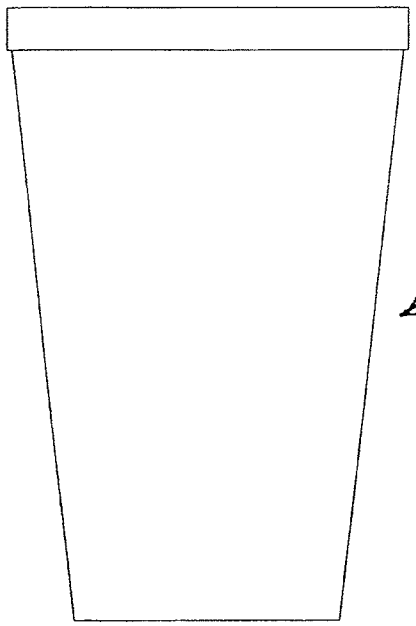


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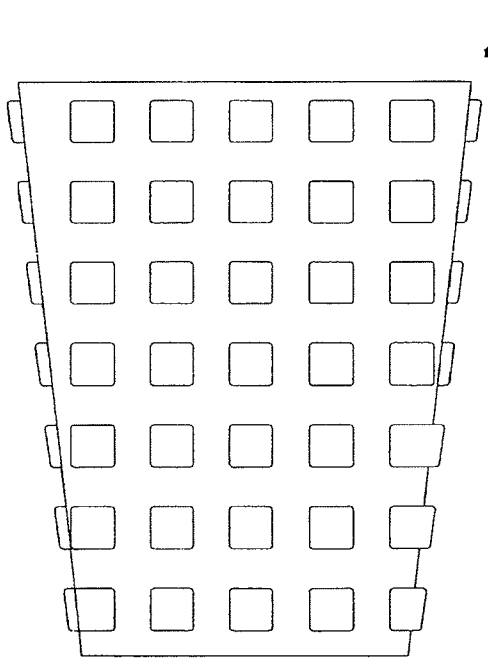

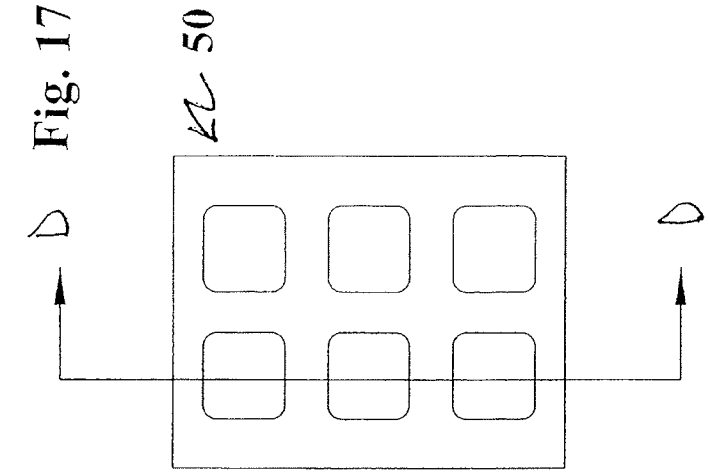


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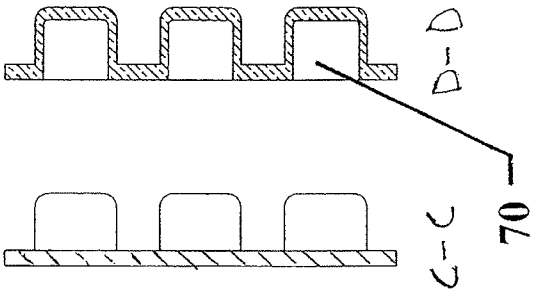
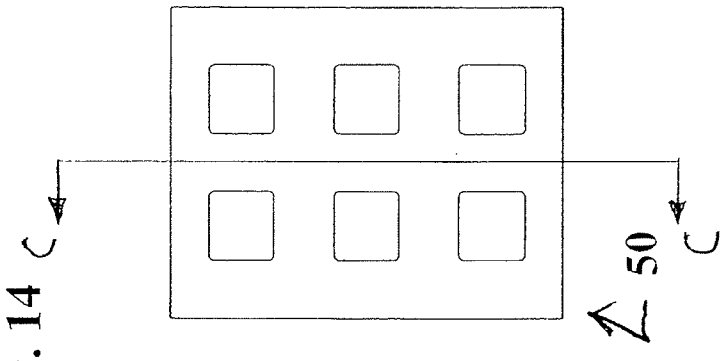



Fig. 16

Fig. 15

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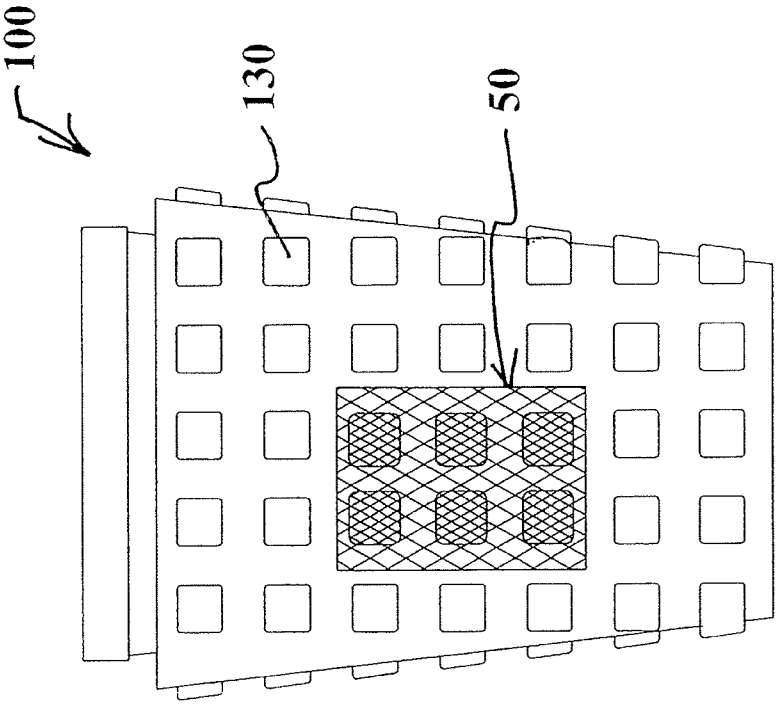


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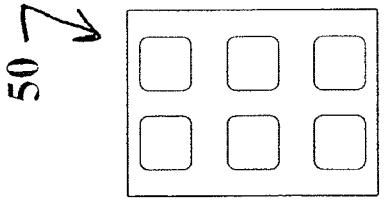
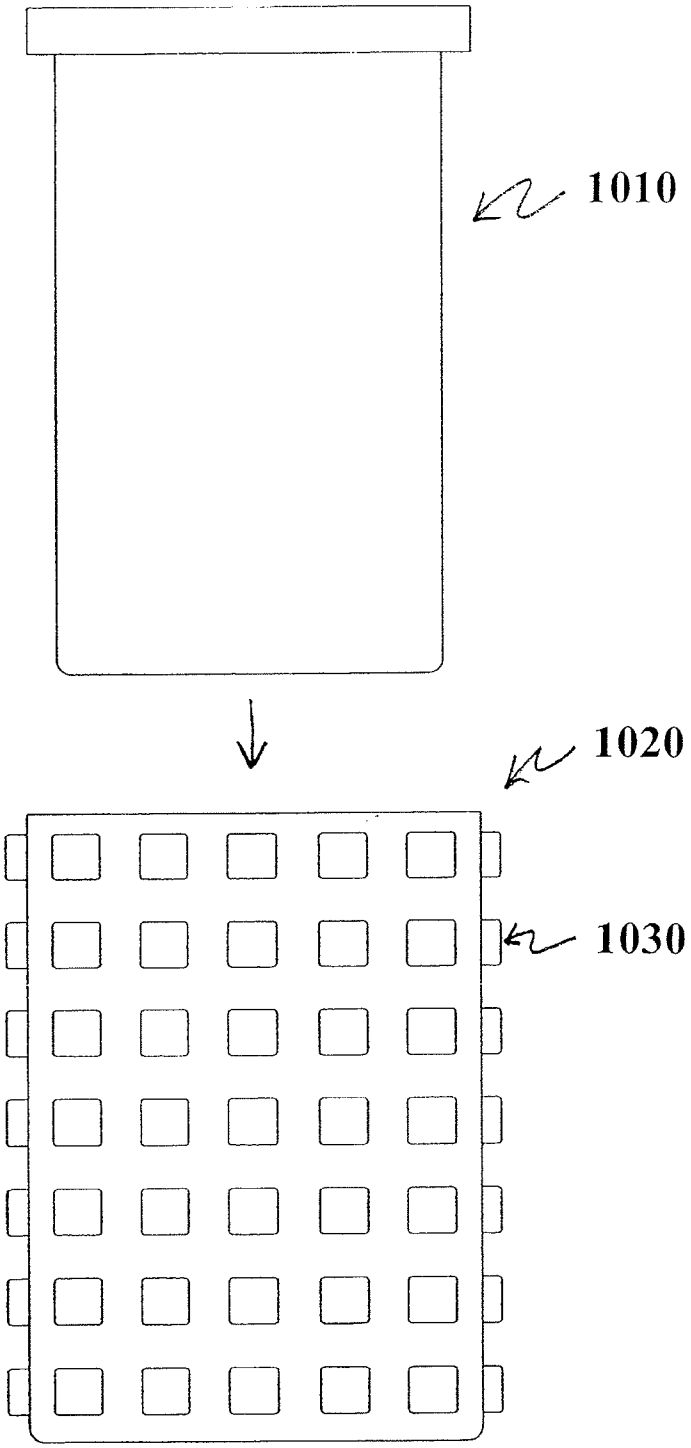
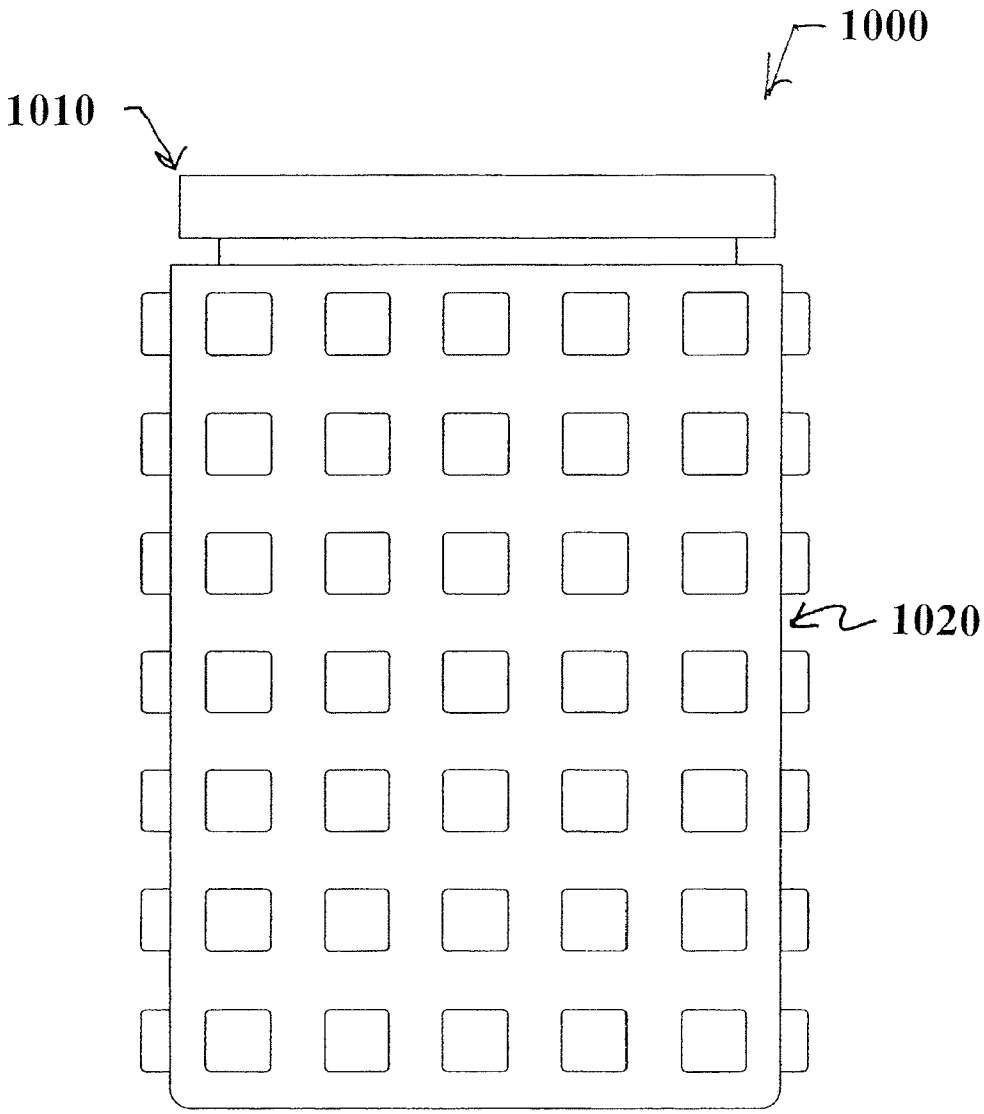



Fig. 18

Fig. 20



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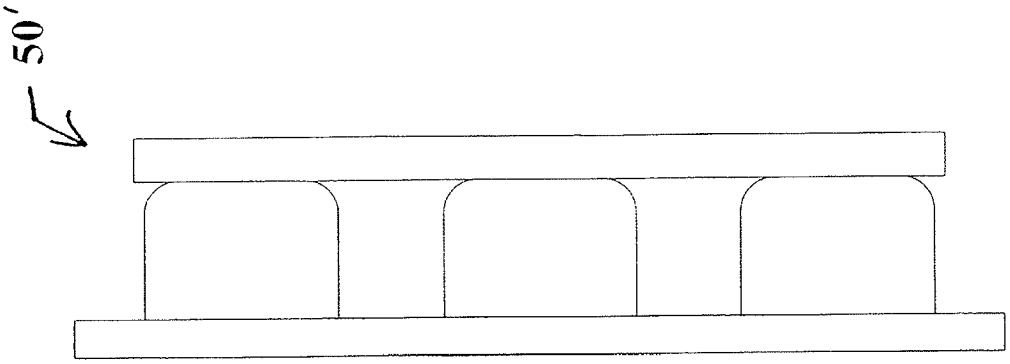


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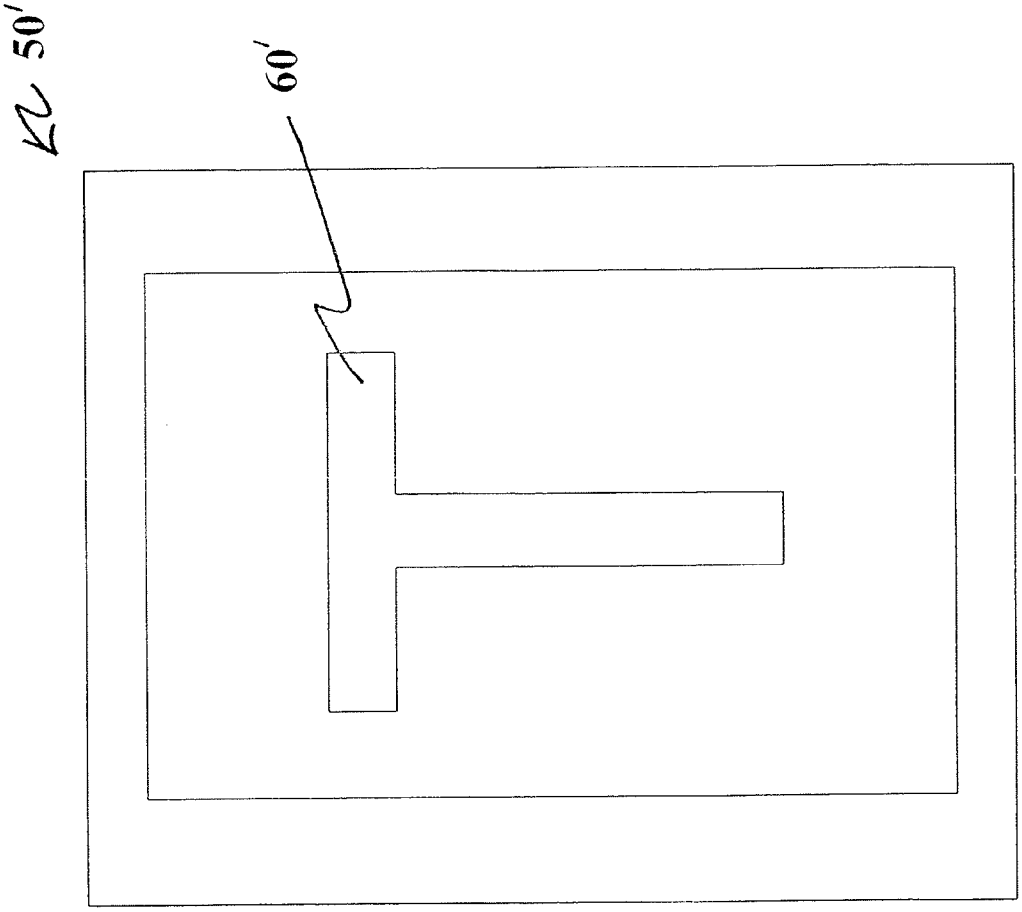
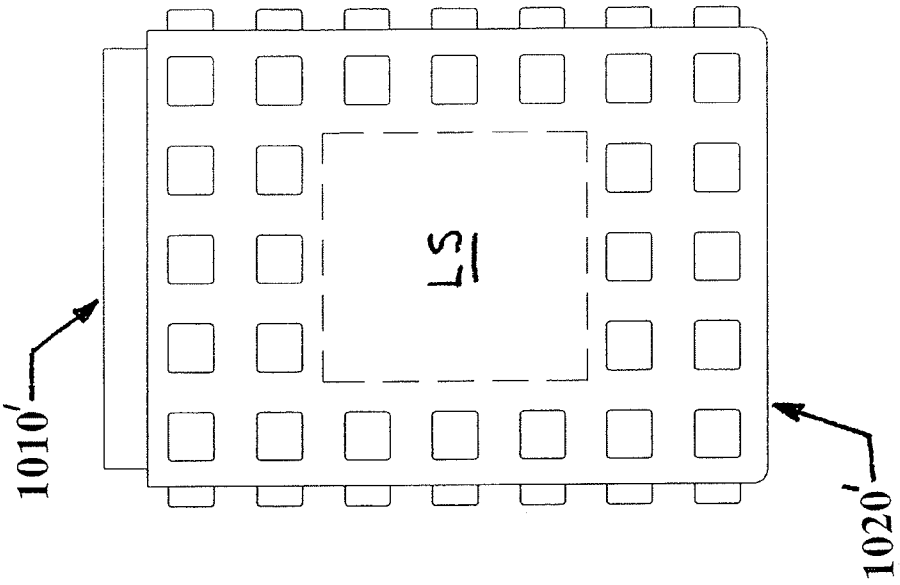



Fig. 22

Fig. 25

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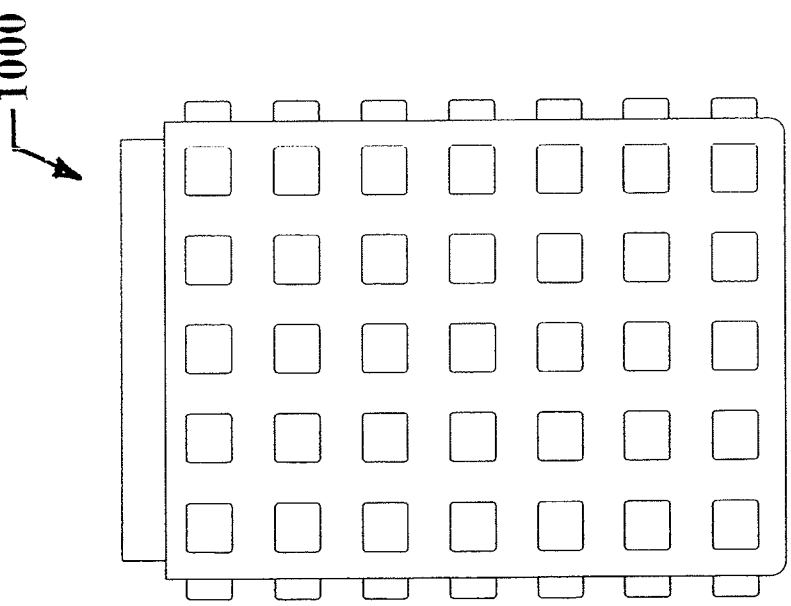

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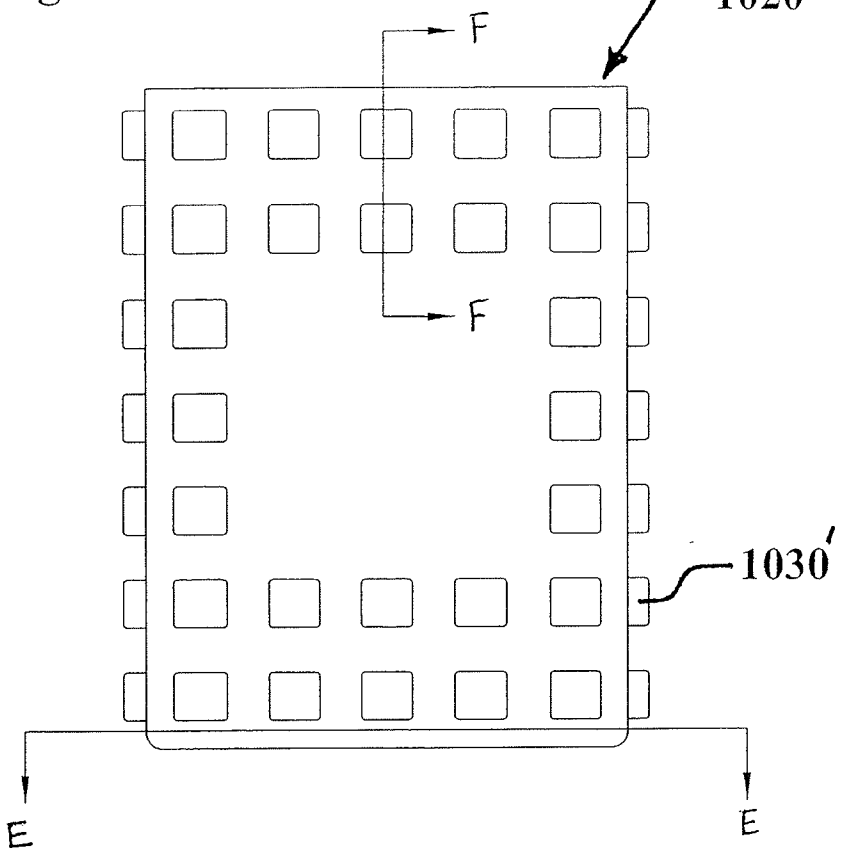


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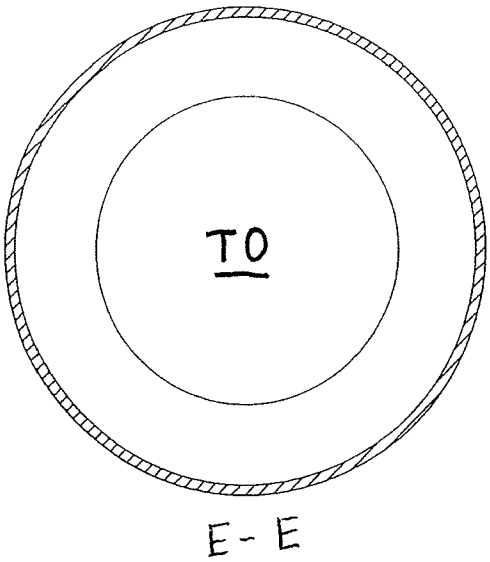


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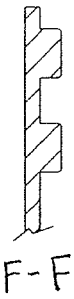

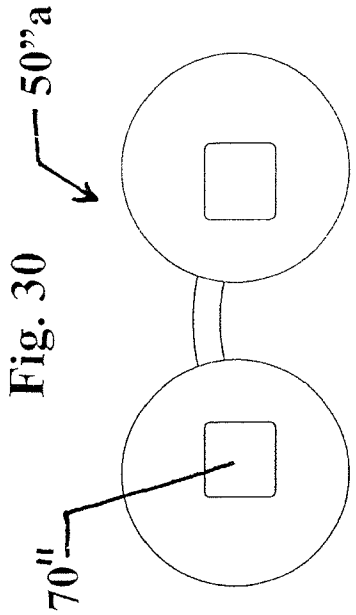


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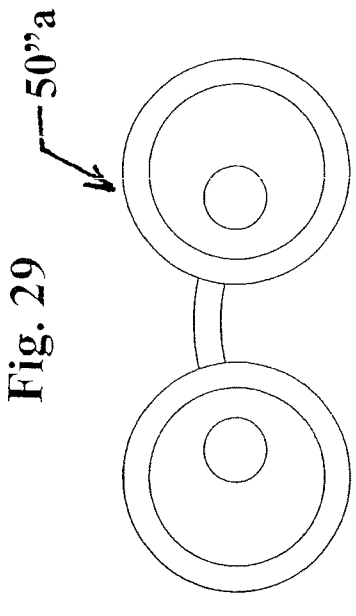


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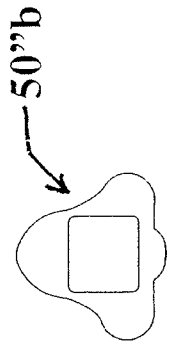


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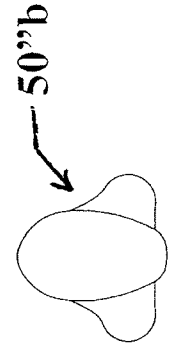


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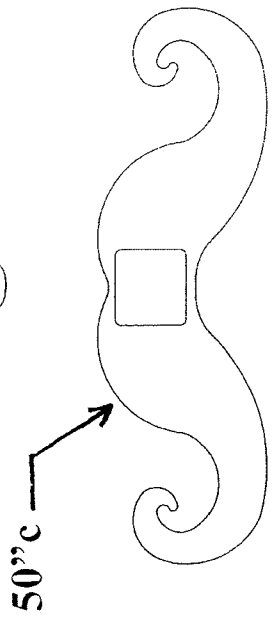


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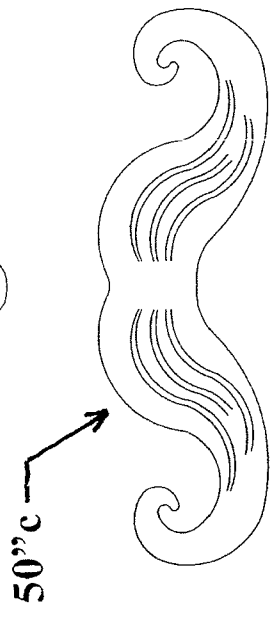
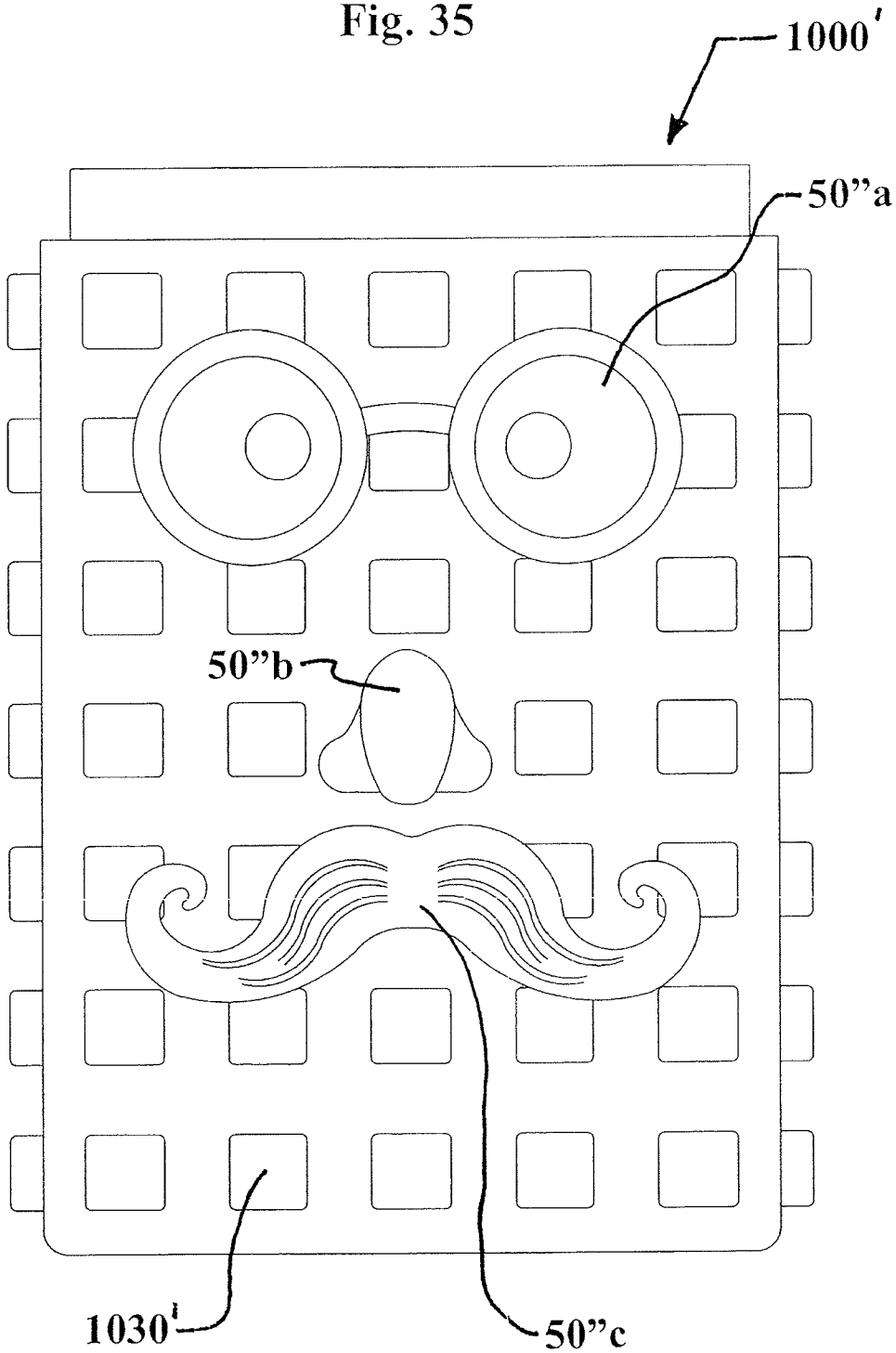



Fig. 33

Fig. 35



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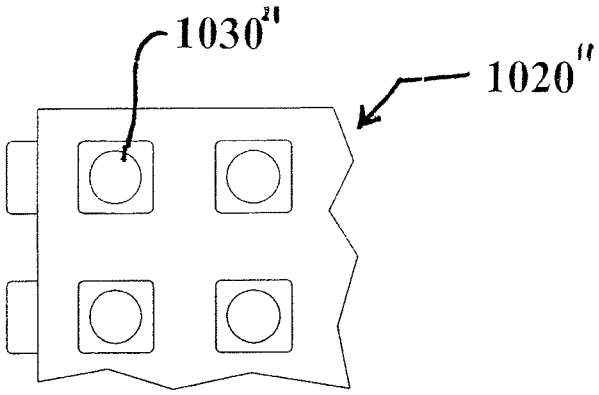


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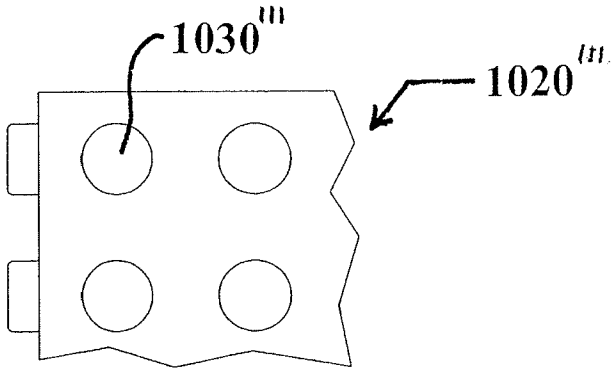


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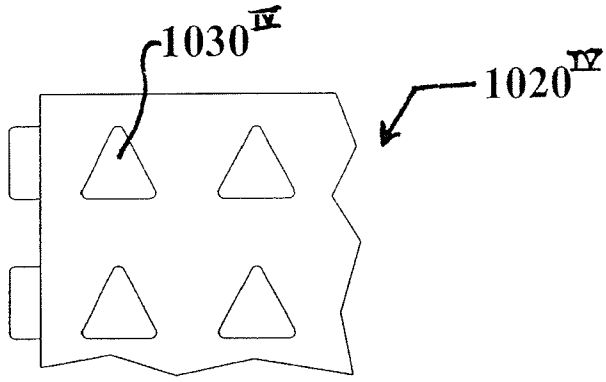

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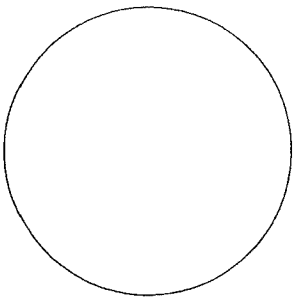

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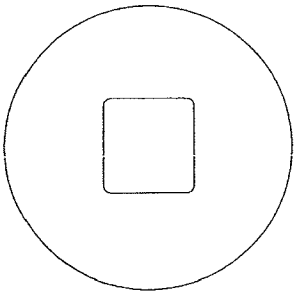

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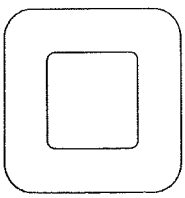

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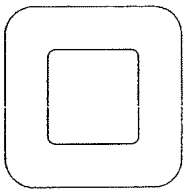

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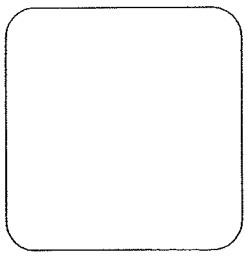

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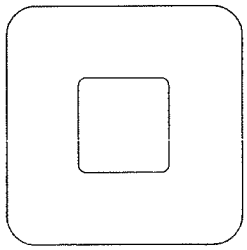

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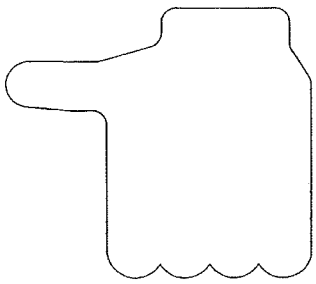

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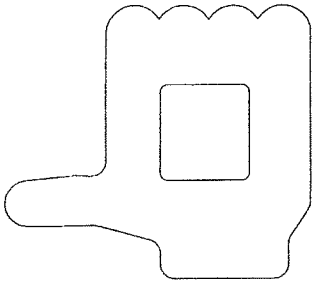

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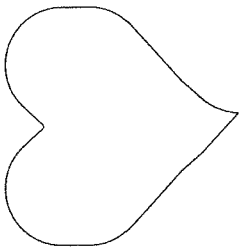

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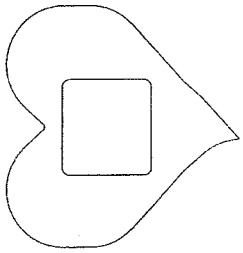

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2012/069838

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(8) - B65D 23/12 (2013.01)
USPC - 215/390
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC(8) - B65D 23/08, 23/12, 25/22, 25/26 (2013.01)
USPC - 206/433, 459.5, 215/11.6, 386, 390, 220/732, 735, 737, 739

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
CPC - B65D 23/08, 23/12, 25/22 (2013.01)

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
MicroPatent, Orbit.com, Google Patents, Google

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|---|---|---|
| X | US 2009/0057257 A1 (MARCUS et al) 05 March 2009 (05.03.2009) entire document | 1-20 |
| A | US 2006/186129 A1 (ALLNUTT et al) 24 August 2006 (24.08.2006) entire document | 1-20 |
| A | US 4,344,303 A (KELLY, JR.) 17 August 1982 (17.08.1982) entire document | 1-20 |

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"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"&" document member of the same patent family

| Date of the actual completion of the international search | Date of mailing of the international search report |
|---|---|
| 29 January 2013 | 12 FEB 2013 |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA/US<br>Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents<br>P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450<br>Facsimile No. 571-273-3201 | Authorized officer:<br>Blaine R. Copenheaver<br>PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300<br>PCT OSP: 571-272-7774 |

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