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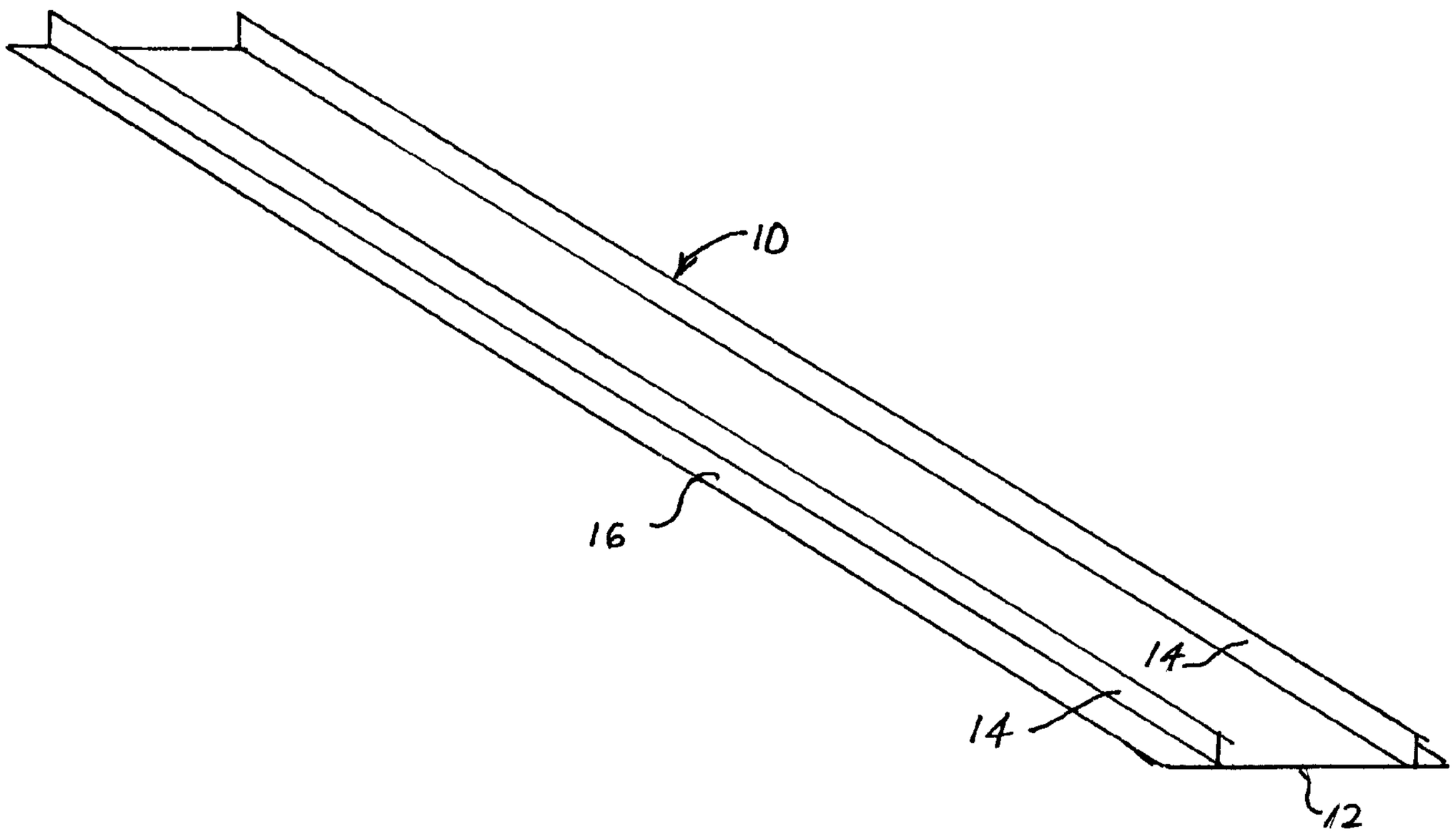
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(54) Title: ROOF RAIN CHANNEL



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:
According to the invention there is provided a rain channel for protecting a roof from water flowing out of a downspout. The rain channel comprises a base formed by an elongated sheet of flat, water impervious material, and a pair of upstanding, spaced-apart barrier tabs extending a length of the base.

ABSTRACT

According to the invention there is provided a rain channel for protecting a roof from water flowing out of a downspout. The rain channel comprises a base formed by an elongated sheet of flat, water impervious material, and a pair of upstanding, spaced-apart barrier tabs extending a length of the base.

ROOF RAIN CHANNEL

FIELD:

The present invention relates to a channel or guide for preventing water which flows down a downspout from an upper roof from contacting a lower roof level as it drains to a gutter along a bottom edge of the roof.

BACKGROUND:

One major cause of deterioration of roofs covered by asphalt shingles is a hardy type of algae called Gloeocapsa Magma. This algae feeds on the crushed limestone that is used in asphalt shingles. Rain spreads the algae down the roof causing the black streaks which prevent the shingles from reflecting heat properly and causing them to fail prematurely. When rain water hitting an upper roof level is collected by a gutter running along a lower edge of that roof and subsequently transported down to a lower level of an asphalt roof by a downspout, the water that flows out of the downspout to the gutter, results in algae spreading and build-up which damages the area of the asphalt roof over which the water flows and ultimately causes leaks. One solution has been to use the downspout tube along the roof by attaching one end of it to a lower end of the downspout and positioning the other end over the gutter. However, having a relatively large tube running along one's roof is somewhat unsightly.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to the invention there is provided a rain channel for protecting a roof from water flowing out of a downspout. The rain channel comprises a base formed by

an elongated sheet of flat, water impervious material, and a pair of upstanding, spaced-apart barrier tabs extending a length of the base.

Preferably, the barrier tabs are spaced apart at least a width of the downspout wherein all of the water emanating from an open end of the downspout flows down the rain channel.

Advantageously, the base and tabs are formed from a single sheet of the flat material.

A height of the tabs is between a half-inch and an inch.

The tabs are formed by folding one section of material back on itself so that the resulting elongated tabs are perpendicular to the base and the rain channel is made of a single unitary piece of material.

In another aspect of the invention there is provided a method of making a rain channel for positioning between a lower open end of a downspout and a gutter of a roof, comprising selecting a length of rigid foldable sheet material so that it spans a roof from an upstanding wall down a slope of said roof to an elongated gutter, and folding said material to form two spaced apart, upstanding, elongated tabs along the length of the material.

The tabs are spaced apart by at least a width of said downspout.

The sheet material may be a metal such as aluminum.

BRIEF DESCRIPTI0N OF THE DRAWINGS

Further features and advantages will be apparent from the following detailed description, given by way of example, of a preferred embodiment taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the rain channel; and

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a portion of the multi-level asphaltic roof with the rain channel in place.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION WITH REFERENCE TO THE DRAWINGS

Referring to Fig. **1** the rain channel **10** is an elongated base **12** of flat sheet material formed with two upstanding, spaced-apart barriers **14** along its sides **16**. Ordinarily the rain channel **10** is made of the same material from which the gutters are made, namely, tin, aluminum or plastic. Roof shingles made of asphalt or wood are vulnerable to water damage by streams of water flowing over top of them into a gutter positioned around a lower perimeter of a roof.

As seen in Fig. **2, t**he rain channel **10** is employed by placing one end beneath an open bottom end **24** of a downspout **18**. The downspout **18** is held against a vertical wall **22** of a residential building by straps **20**. The other end is positioned over an open trough **28** of a gutter **26**. Water flowing down the downspout **18** enters the channel

between the two barriers **14** and flows down the channel into the gutter **26**. The water does not come into contact with the asphalt shingles of the roof **30** and so cannot damage the asphalt shingles. The rain channel **10** may be fastened to the roof shingles by applying a bead of silicone along an underside of the flat surface of the elongated base **12**.

Accordingly, while this invention has been described with reference to illustrative embodiments, this description is not intended to be construed in a limiting sense. Various modifications of the illustrative embodiments, as well as other embodiments of the invention, will be apparent to persons skilled in the art upon reference to this description. It is therefore contemplated that the appended claims will cover any such modifications or embodiments as fall within the true scope of the invention.

I CLAIM:

1. A rain channel for protecting a roof from water flowing out of a downspout, comprising:

(a) a base formed by an elongated sheet of flat, water impervious material; and

(b) a pair of upstanding, spaced-apart barrier tabs extending a length of said base.

2. The rain channel of claim 1, wherein said barrier tabs are spaced apart at least a width of said downspout wherein all of the water emanating from an open end of said downspout flows down said rain channel.

3. The rain channel of claim 1, wherein said base and tabs are formed from a single sheet of said flat material.

4. The rain channel of claim 1, wherein said material is metal.

5. The rain channel of claim 1, wherein a height of said tabs is between a half-inch and an inch.

6. The rain channel of claim 1, wherein said tabs are formed by folding one section of material back on itself so that the resulting elongated tabs are perpendicular to said base and said rain channel is made of a single unitary piece of material.

7. A method of making a rain channel for positioning between a lower open end of a downspout and a gutter of a roof, comprising selecting a length of rigid foldable sheet material so that it spans a roof from an upstanding wall down a slope of said roof to an elongated gutter, and folding said material to form two spaced apart, upstanding, elongated tabs along said length of said material,

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said tabs are spaced apart by at least a width of said downspout.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said sheet material is metal.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein said sheet material is aluminum.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein an adhesive is applied to an underside of said base and said base pressed against said shingles.

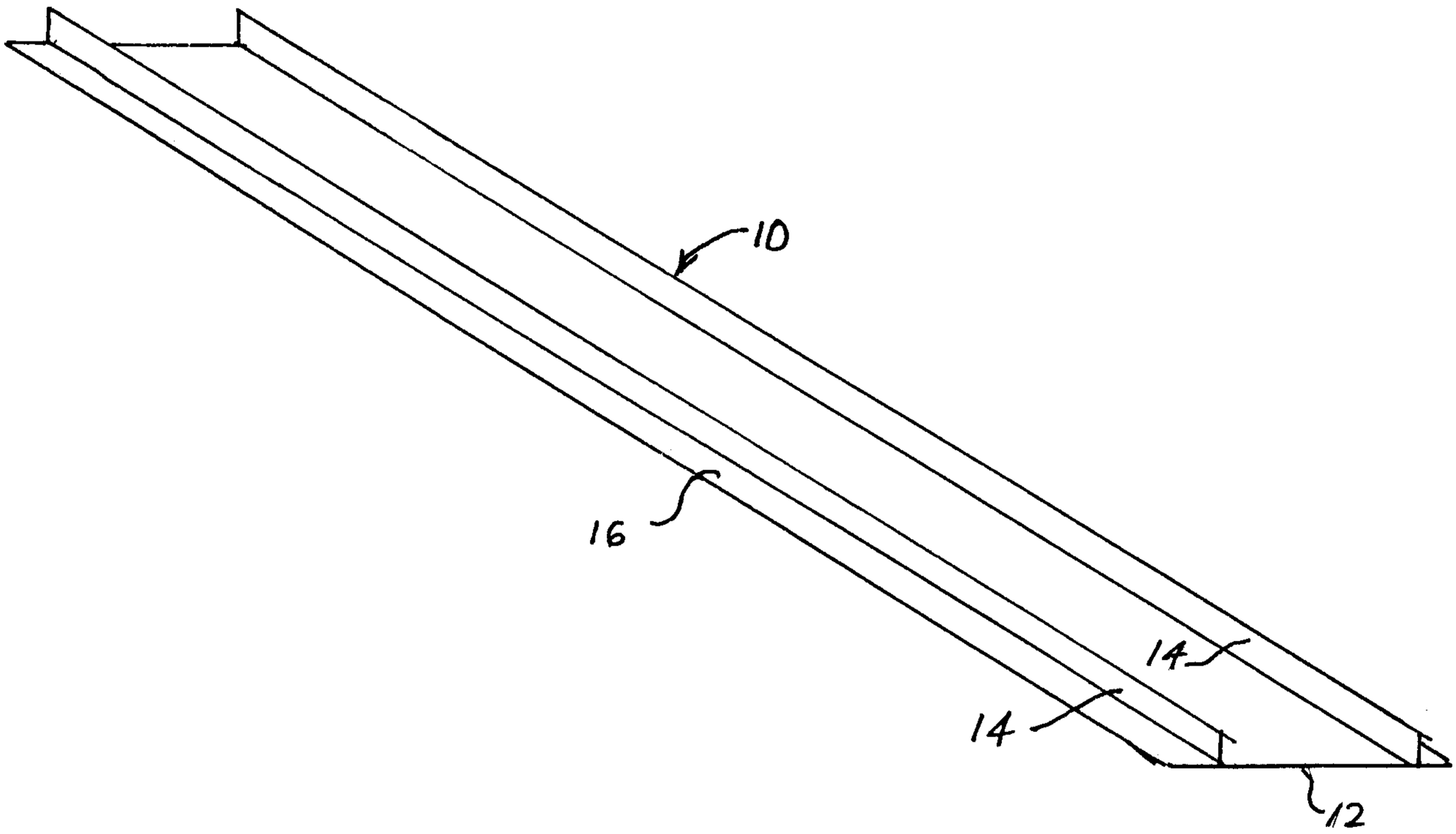


Fig. 1

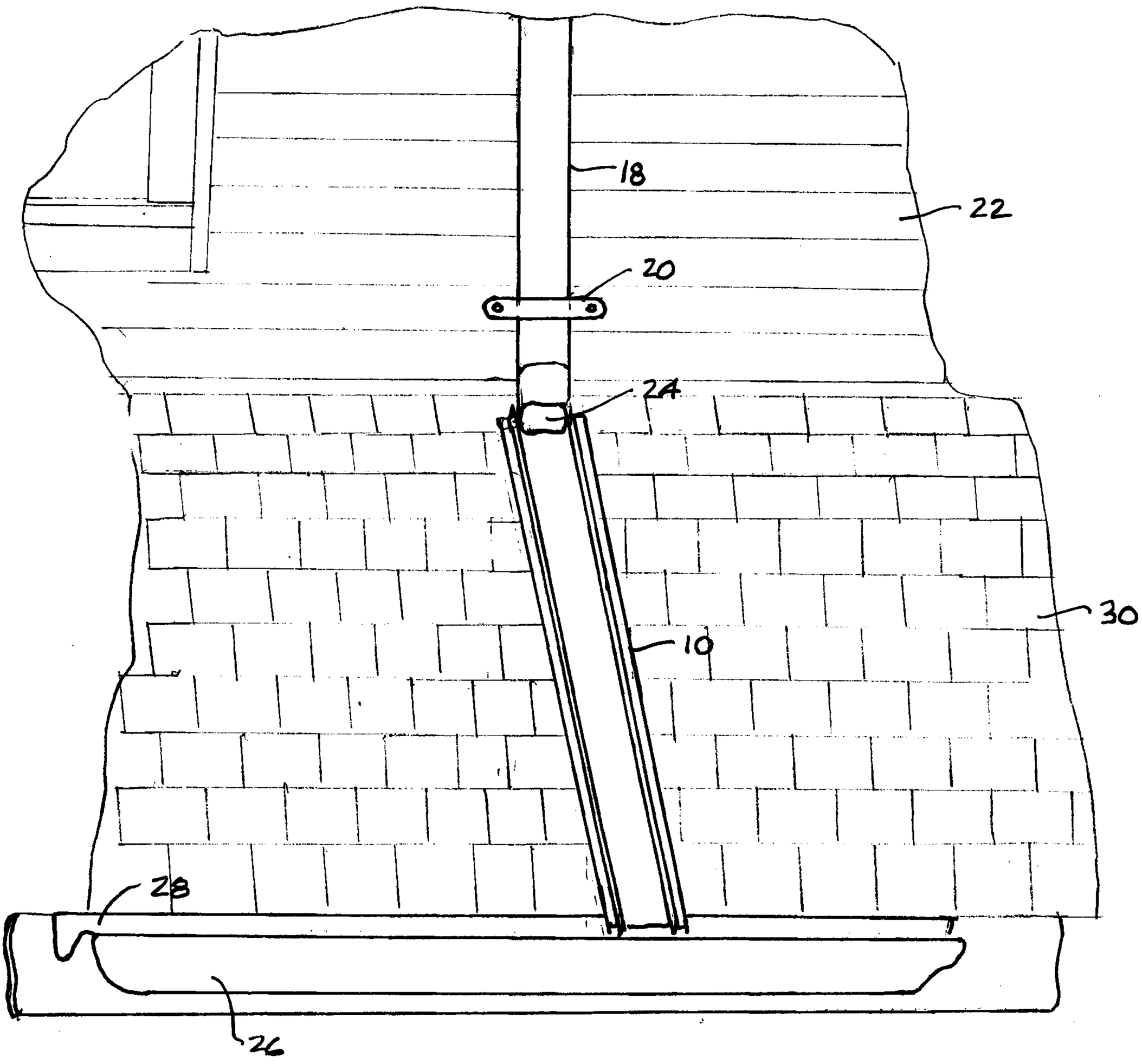
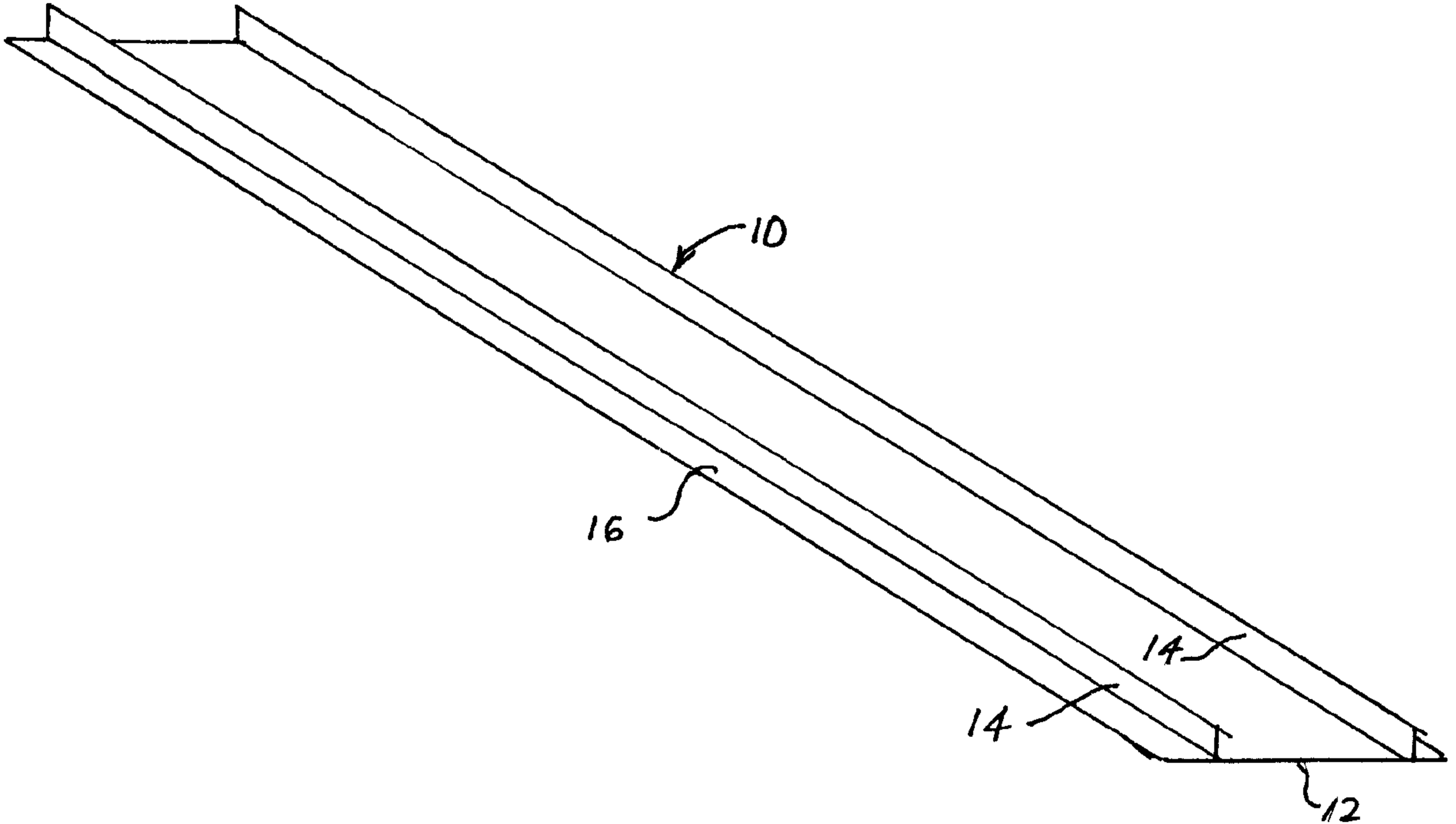


Fig. 2


10
16
14
14
12