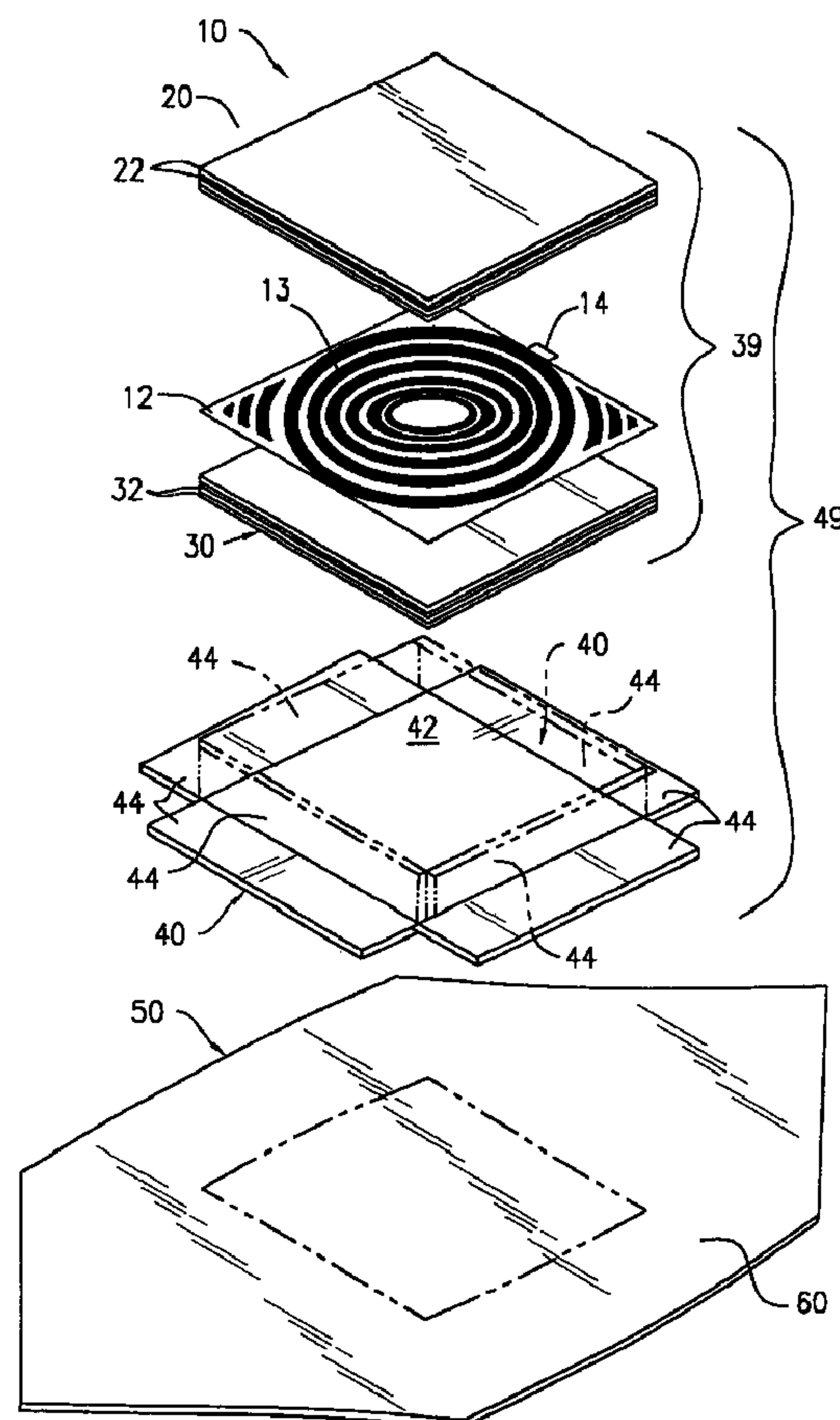




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(54) Titre : DISPOSITIF DESTINE A TESTER LE NIVEAU DE VIDE POUR STERILISATEUR
(54) Title: STERILIZER VACUUM TEST PACK



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

A test pack for testing the adequacy of air removal in a prevacuum sterilizer. The test pack includes an indicator (12) contained between a first plurality of planar sheets (20, 22) and a second plurality of planar sheets (30, 32). The test pack also includes a tray



(57) **Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):**

(40) wherein the tray, first and second plurality of planar sheets and indicator define an assembly (49). An organizer (50, 50') is disposed all about the periphery of the assembly to maintain the sheets and tray in spatial relationship.

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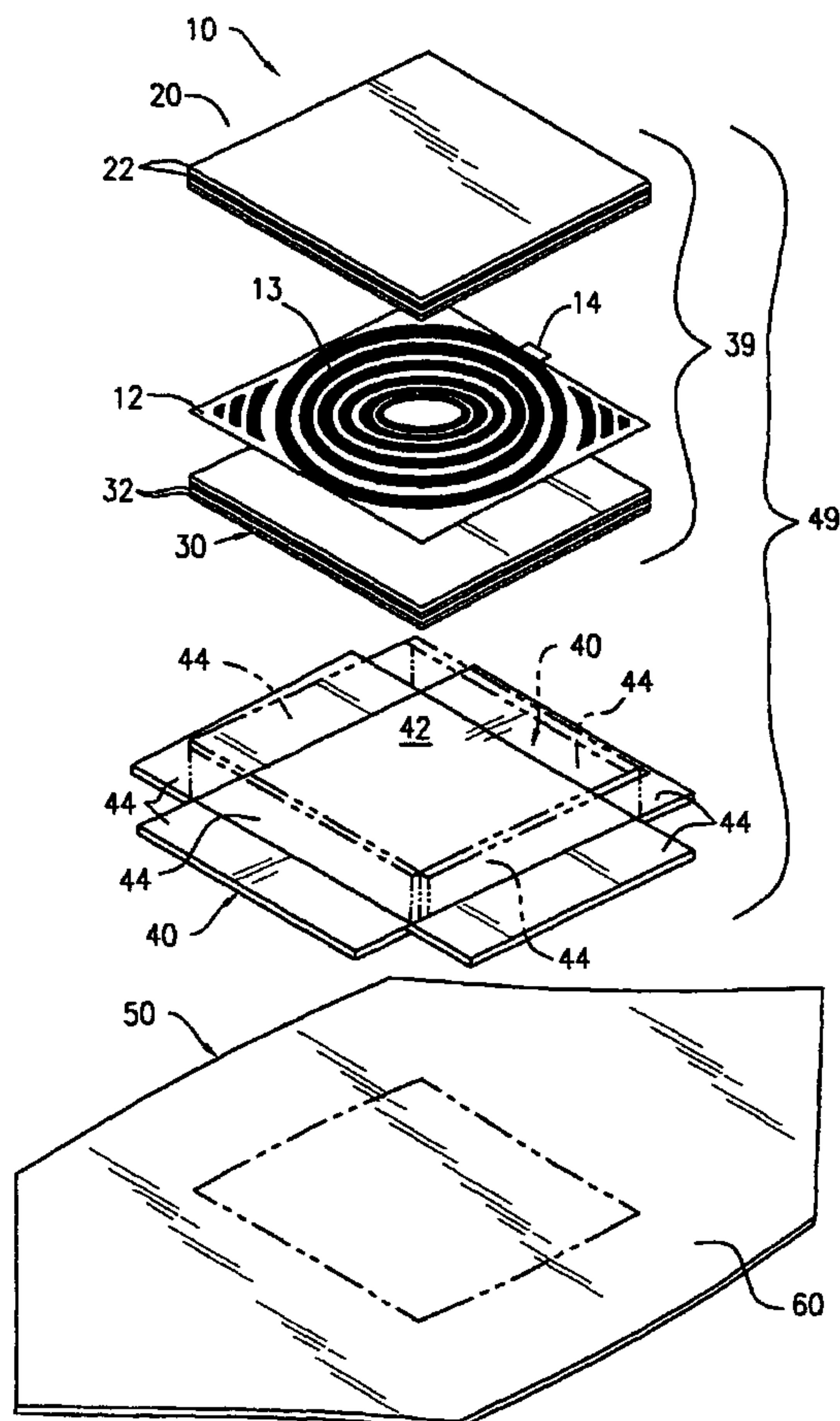
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **STERILIZER VACUUM TEST PACK**



(57) Abstract: A test pack for testing the adequacy of air removal in a prevacuum sterilizer. The test pack includes an indicator (12) contained between a first plurality of planar sheets (20, 22) and a second plurality of planar sheets (30, 32). The test pack also includes a tray (40) wherein the tray, first and second plurality of planar sheets and indicator define an assembly (49). An organizer (50, 50') is disposed all about the periphery of the assembly to maintain the sheets and tray in spatial relationship.

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STERILIZER VACUUM TEST PACK

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to devices for testing the adequacy of air removal in a sterilization apparatus, and in particular, a prevacuum sterilization apparatus utilized for sterilizing medical equipment. Even more particularly, the present invention relates to a test pack having a steam reactive chemical indicator to determine the efficacy of air removal in a sterilization apparatus. The present invention is particularly useful, although not exclusively useful, for the testing of air removal in prevacuum sterilization equipment used for the steam sterilization of hospital medical equipment.

The sterilization of medical equipment by exposure to sterilization gas such as steam is typically accomplished by using an autoclave. Normally the equipment to be sterilized is placed into the autoclave and a vacuum may or may not be drawn depending on the particular procedure being followed. The sterilization medium, steam, is then introduced into the autoclave to permeate the equipment and sterilize it.

In the gravity displacement steam sterilizer, a sterilizer chamber, with objects to be sterilized within, is subjected to steam for a predetermined period of time. The steam inlet to the chamber is typically located in the middle of the rear wall of

