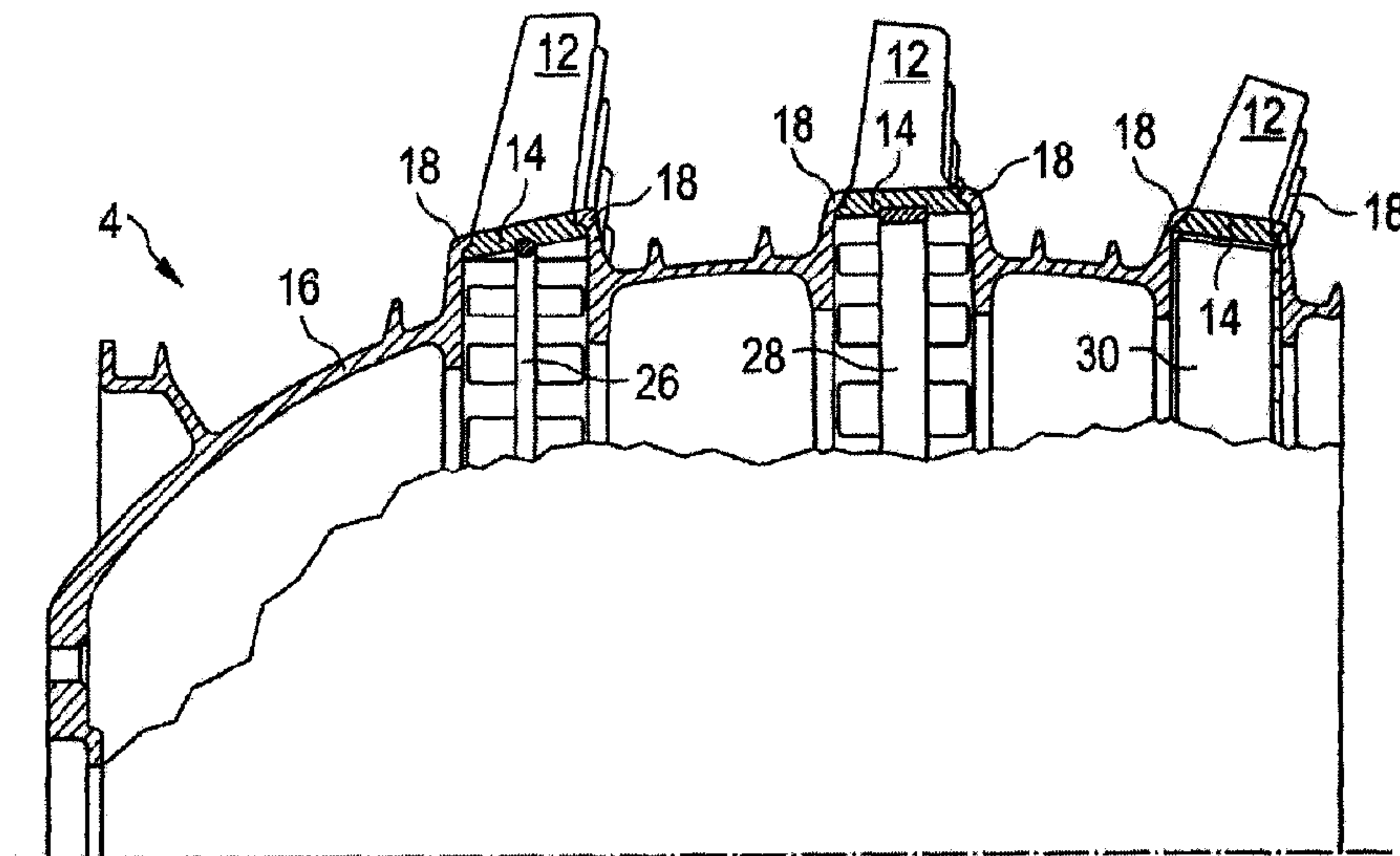




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(54) Titre : FIXATION DES PALES AU TAMBOUR D'UN TURBOCOMPRESSEUR AXIAL
(54) Title: ATTACHING THE BLADES TO THE DRUM OF AN AXIAL TURBOCOMPRESSOR



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

The design of rotor blades (12) of an axial turbomachine compressor (2), especially the method of attaching the blades (12) to the rotor (4). The blades (12) include an aerofoil portion and a platform (14) for attaching them to the rotor (4). The platform (14) has, along the main axis of the blade, a first layer forming a surface bounding the fluid stream and skirting the aerodynamic surfaces and a second layer, underneath the first layer with respect to the aerodynamic surfaces, designed to be able to mate with the inner face of a wall (18) of the rotor (4) around an aperture in the rotor for the purpose of attaching it.

Abstract

The design of rotor blades (12) of an axial turbomachine compressor (2), especially the method of attaching the blades (12) to the rotor (4). The blades (12) include an aerofoil portion and a platform (14) for attaching them to the rotor (4). The platform (14) has, along the main axis of the blade, a first layer forming a surface bounding the fluid stream and skirting the aerodynamic surfaces and a second layer, underneath the first layer with respect to the aerodynamic surfaces, designed to be able to mate with the inner face of a wall (18) of the rotor (4) around an aperture in the rotor for the purpose of attaching it.

Description**ATTACHING THE BLADES TO THE DRUM OF AN AXIAL TURBOCOMPRESSOR****Background**

[0001] The present disclosure relates to rotor blades of an axial turbomachine, more particularly to the compressor of an axial turbomachine. The disclosure relates to attaching these blades to the rotor of the turbomachine. The disclosure also relates to the rotor of a turbomachine designed to house the said blades.

Prior art

[0002] Patent US 3,385,512 A discloses a bladed rotor of an axial turbomachine compressor. The rotor comprises a drum supporting a plurality of blade rows. The drum comprises a mounting recess for each row of blades. A number of blades are arranged on a common carrier forming a segment. The latter is fixed to the rotor by insertion in the corresponding recess in the drum. The carrier comprises on its lower face, i.e. opposite the actual blades, a massive rib capable of being inserted into the recess in the drum. The rib comprises a groove on each of its opposite faces. The recess in the drum comprises two leaf springs extending circumferentially in the respective grooves in the recess of the drum. When inserting the carrier common to several blades, the front side of the rib comprises tapered faces surfaces designed to come into contact with the leaves and to slide along the latter so as to push them into their respective grooves against the elastic forces generated by their movement. Once the lateral grooves in the rib are opposite the leaves, then the latter may enter it by virtue of the elastic force they exert. The leaves, once in place, then straddle the corresponding recesses of the blade carrier and the drum, thus ensuring the blades are attached to the rotor. This method of attaching is of interest but has some drawbacks. It requires a significant amount of material in the carrier and the drum, which greatly affects the resulting mass of the engine and, more importantly, greatly increases the

centrifugal forces, which limits the diameter and maximum speed of the drum.

[0003] Patent US 2,944,326 A discloses a technique for attaching the blades of an axial turbomachine compressor to the rotor. The blades have a platform, reduced in size, whose cross section has a wedge-shaped profile. A groove is formed by coining each side face of the platform. The rotor wall comprises one aperture per blade, the profile of the aperture corresponding to that of the blade platform. Each blade is then inserted into an aperture in the rotor from which it is prevented from exiting in one direction because of the conical or wedge-shaped profile of the platform and of the aperture housing it. Press tools, such as a punch and a die are then used to exert high pressure on the face of the rotor directly adjacent to the edges of the aperture corresponding to the lateral grooves in the platform. The objective of this operation is to push back the material forming the aperture to the inside of the lateral grooves in the platform to ensure its grip, particularly in the direction opposite to that mentioned. The blade is thus held firmly in both directions radially with respect to the rotor. This method of attaching is of interest but has some drawbacks. It requires the rotor to be extremely thick at the point where it is attached to the blades. The principle of mounting the blades with a conical profile platform can only work with a certain thickness of material. This is also true in order to push back the material in a lateral groove. This method of attachment is not suitable for light drums which consist essentially of a thin wall forming the web of the drum.

[0004] Patent US 2,685,405 A discloses a bladed rotor of an axial compressor, in which the blades are hollow and in fluid communication with the rotor. Each blade comprises a platform forming a mounting recess. The rotor consists of several sections joined to each other. The mounting of the blades on the rotor is provided by two contiguous rings for each blade row. Each of these two rings has an edge with cut-outs matching the corresponding half of the profile of the mounting recess for the blades. The recesses and the blades are sandwiched between two mounting rings, the latter being mechanically attached to the remainder of the rotor. This type of rotor is designed for the rotor stages to be in fluid communication. As

with the previously detailed interpretations, this type of installation requires a great deal of material. Furthermore, it requires the manufacture of numerous components and considerable effort to assemble.

Summary of the disclosure

The technical problem

[0005] The aim of the present disclosure is to provide a simple and lightweight way of attaching the blades of an axial turbomachine to a rotor. More particularly, the disclosure aims to provide a lightweight and simple method of attaching the blades to a compressor drum.

Technical solution

[0006] The present disclosure relates to a rotor blade of an axial turbomachine, comprising: a platform for attaching the rotor; two aerodynamic surfaces opposite to each other and extending from the platform along the main axis of the blade; the surface bounding the fluid stream and skirting the aerodynamic surfaces; and a second layer, located below the first layer relative to the aerodynamic surfaces, for the attachment of the blade; wherein the second layer of the platform is configured to mate with the inside face of a rotor wall located around an aperture of the said rotor for the purpose of attaching it.

[0007] According to one embodiment of the disclosure, the second layer of the platform is configured to be able to mate directly and/or indirectly with layers of the inside face of the rotor wall located circumferentially on both sides of the aperture.

[0008] According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the second layer forms one or more shoulders protruding from the surface of the first layer.

[0009] According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the second layer extends at least substantially parallel to the first layer and protrudes from the surface of the said layer to form a shoulder on each of its edges.

[0010] According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the second layer protrudes from the lower face of the first layer and comprises a means of retention, such as an aperture preferably oriented circumferentially relative to the rotor, capable of engaging mechanically with an elongated means of attachment designed to be in contact with the inner surface of the wall.

- [0011] According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the lower surface of the first layer skirts the second layer and forms a support surface on the platform on a corresponding surface of the rotor wall.
- [0012] The disclosure also relates to a bladed rotor on an axial turbomachine, whereby the blades are in accordance with the disclosure.
- [0013] According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the rotor comprises an annular part of the wall having a row of blade mounting apertures, that part of the wall preferably being integral.
- [0014] According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the rotor structure is substantially made up of a wall forming a circular web, the annular part of the wall being raised relative to the web immediately upstream and/or downstream of the said annular part of the wall, the said annular part of the wall preferably corresponding to a single blade row and the web preferably comprising at least one annular rib designed to substantially seal against the inner surface of an inner shell of a stator blade stage.
- [0015] According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the wall includes at least one connecting layer extending mainly radially between the wall forming the shell and the annular part of the wall.
- [0016] According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the blades are in accordance with any one of Claims 3 and 4, the shape of the mounting apertures of the annular part of the wall correspond with that of the first layer of the blade platform, and the boundary surfaces of the fluid stream of the said layer are flush with the outer surface of the annular part of the wall.
- [0017] According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the rotor comprises a means of pressure acting on the inner face of the blade platforms to keep them in place, the said means preferably comprising at least a snap ring and/or a strip formed annularly.
- [0018] According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the rotor comprises a means of bonding, such as glue, between the blade platform shoulders and the rotor wall.
- [0019] According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the mounting apertures of the annular part of the wall and the blades, in particular their aerodynamic

surfaces, are constructed to enable the blades to be inserted through the apertures from the interior of the rotor for the purpose of fixing them.

[0020] According to an embodiment of the disclosure, the outer face of the annular part of the wall comprises a cavity around each mounting aperture designed to house the first layer of the blade platform, the second layer of the blade platform passes through the said aperture, and the means for attachment, such as one or more snap rings, mate with the means of retention of the blade platforms and with the interior surface of the said part of the wall, the said means being preferably arranged annularly.

[0021] The steps of the present disclosure enable means of attaching the blades of a turbomachine to the rotor. This means of assembly allows the blades and the rotor to be made of different materials especially where it is not possible to carry out welding operations between the two. The type of assembly also has the advantage that it is very light. It is compatible with a drum-shaped rotor, i.e. essentially consisting of a thin wall forming an ogival or drum-shaped shell, especially equipped with raised annular parts of the wall. These parts have the dual function of stiffening the drum and compensating for the difference in height required to accommodate the internal shells of the stator blades. The blades in accordance with the disclosure are particularly suited to this type of rotor. They make use of the raised parts of the wall designed for housing the blades for attaching them without requiring the addition of any material or reinforcement.

[0022] **Brief description of the drawings**

Figure 1 is a partial sectional view of the low-pressure compressor section of an axial turbomachine of a jet engine, the blades and the rotor being in accordance with a first embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0023] Figure 2 is a sectional view of the rotor of the turbomachine of Figure 1, showing the alternative methods of attachment of the rotor blades, according to a first embodiment of the disclosure.

[0024] Figure 3 is a perspective view of an exemplary embodiment of a blade in accordance with the first embodiment of the disclosure.

- [0025] Figure 4 is a partial sectional view of an axial turbomachine rotor in accordance with a second embodiment of the disclosure.
- [0026] Figure 5 is a perspective view of the rotor blade in Figure 4, in accordance with the second embodiment of the disclosure.
- [0027] Figure 6 is a sectional view of the bladed rotor of Figure 4, sectioned at 6-6.

Description of the embodiments

- [0028] Figure 1 shows the front of an axial turbomachine 2 of a jet engine. This shows the inlet fan 6 mounted on the rotor 4. Directly downstream from the fan 6 is the splitter nose 8 of the airflow passing through the fan 6. The flow in question is divided into a primary flow through the various compression stages of the compressor, and a secondary stream outside the primary stream and the compressor. The compressor comprises a series of stator stages made up of stator blades 10. The rotor 4 supports a series of rows of rotor blades 12, each row of rotor blades forming, together with the row of stator blades located directly downstream, a compression stage of the compressor.
- [0029] The rotor 4 is a drum formed mainly of a wall 16 symmetrical in revolution about its axis of rotation. The wall forms a shell corresponding to the general shape of an ogival drum. However, it has raised parts 18 corresponding to the rows where the blades 12 are fixed. These raised annular parts 18 enable the blades fixed there to expose their platforms 14 defining the primary flow through the compressor along the rotor wall up to the internal shells 20 of the adjacent stator vanes 10. The shells 20 are supported by the stator blades 12 and include an abradable material 22 substantially providing a seal with the lip seals 24 on the wall 16 of the rotor 4.
- [0030] The raised parts of the wall 18 comprise apertures into which the blades 12 are inserted and held. Each blade 12 comprises a platform 14 designed to mate with the inner or inside surface of the part of the wall 18 directly at the edge of the aperture in question. In fact, as can be seen in Figure 1, the platforms 14 of the rotor blades 12 comprise a lower layer forming a shoulder on the upstream and downstream edges, these shoulders

coming into contact with the inner surface of the wall. They provide mechanical retention of the blades in a radial direction. Such shoulders may also be present on other edges of the platform 14, i.e. circumferentially at the edges. They are not visible in Figure 1 because it is a longitudinal sectional view of the rotor.

- [0031] The rotor blades 12 are thus positioned by insertion from inside the drum; the blade aerofoil is first inserted into the corresponding aperture and then the platform is positioned by inserting it into the aperture with the retaining layers contacting the inner surface of the rotor wall. The rotor blades 12 may also be held in place by other means such as gluing. The shape of the retaining platforms 14 ensures radial retention of the blades in the direction corresponding to those of the centrifugal forces. During rotation, these forces are so large that they offset the other forces acting on the blades, such as the aerodynamic forces and the forces related to the blade's own weight. When stopped or even at low speeds, the centrifugal forces are zero or small and it is therefore important that the rotor blades are secured by other means. The forces to which the blades are subjected in these conditions are, however, significantly lower than the forces associated with the centrifugal forces.
- [0032] Note that the blade platforms and the housing apertures in the wall 18 can be sized so that there is a tight fit between the two. In this case, the edges of the platform and/or those of the apertures in the wall 18 may be tapered to ensure clamping when the rotor blades are being fitted.
- [0033] Figure 2 shows variants of the way the blades are attached to the rotor, in accordance with a first embodiment of the disclosure as illustrated in Figure 1. Figure 2 shows only the rotor in section.
- [0034] The first rotor blade row 12 is held in place by a snap ring 26 of circular cross-section accommodated in correspondingly shaped grooves on the inner sides of the platforms 14. The ring is preferably made of an elastic metallic material, such as spring steel. It is configured so that it is in a state of stress once in place so as to exert forces on the platforms, these forces being directed substantially radially outward from the rotor.
- [0035] The second rotor blade row 12 is also held in place by a snap ring, but this time one that is substantially rectangular in section 28. It is also housed in

grooves of corresponding shape formed on the inner sides of the platforms. It is also configured to be in a stressed state when in place supporting the platforms.

- [0036] The third rotor blade row 12 is held in place by a strip 30 extending over the major part of the length of the blade platforms. Given the width of the strip, corresponding grooves are not necessary.
- [0037] The means of attachment shown in Figure 2 are examples and can be combined with each other or with other means such as bonding and/or clamping.
- [0038] Figure 3 is a perspective illustration of a blade of the first embodiment of the present disclosure in Figures 1 and 2. The rotor blade 12 consists essentially of an aerodynamic layer 32 and a platform 14. The latter comprises a first upper layer 34 forming a surface of the fluid stream and skirting the aerodynamic layer 32. This surface can be parallelogram-shaped, or more specifically, of rectangular shape. Its thickness corresponds largely to that of the raised part of the wall 18 (Figures 1 and 2) of the rotor, more particularly the thickness of the rotor wall immediately at the edge of the aperture housing the blade. The platform 14 also includes a second layer 36 located directly below the first. The second layer 36 covers the extent of the first layer and forms a shoulder on at least two opposite edges of the first layer 34. In the specific case of Figure 3, the second layer forms shoulders on the four edges of the first layer. These shoulders are designed to come into contact with the inner surface of the wall, at the edge of the aperture housing the blade.
- [0039] A groove with a circular cross section 38 is formed transversely on the inner face of the platform 14, in this case on the inside of the second layer 36. This groove is designed to mate with a circular snap ring such as the snap ring 26 shown on the first rotor row of Figure 2.
- [0040] The second layer of the blade platform can take many forms as long as it provides a means of mechanically retaining the said blades. In fact, instead of covering the extent of the first layer, it may be limited to legs that define the shoulders.

- [0041] The upstream and downstream edges of the second layer 36 have curved surfaces conforming to the profile of the inside surface of the wall with which they come into contact.
- [0042] The blade platform and that part of the rotor wall mating with the blades are configured such that the surface of the first layer 34 forming the surface of the fluid stream is flush with the outer surface of the said part of the wall.
- [0043] Figures 4 to 6 illustrate a second embodiment of the present disclosure. Figure 4 is a partial sectional view of an axial turbomachine rotor, showing the fitting of a blade on its wall. Figure 5 is a perspective view of the blade shown in Figure 4. Figure 6 is a view of the bladed rotor of Figure 4 sectioned at 6-6.
- [0044] The reference numbers in Figures 1 to 3 of the first embodiment are also used in Figures 4 to 6 of the second embodiment, for the same or corresponding parts; however, these numbers are all increased by 100. For identical parts, the reference numbers refer to those of the first embodiment.
- [0045] The rotor 104 shown in Figure 4 is similar to that in Figures 1 and 2. However, it differs in the raised part of the wall 118 housing the blades 112. Instead of having holes of substantially constant section, the part of the wall 118 here comprises a cavity whose cross-section corresponds largely to that of the platform, and an aperture smaller than that of the cavity.
- [0046] The platform 114 of the blade 112 includes a first layer 134, similar to the first layer 34 (see Figure 3) of the platform in the first embodiment. It also includes a second layer 136 located directly below the first layer 134. The second layer 136 extends from the bottom of the first layer so as to protrude. It is designed to pass through the aperture in the raised part of the wall 118 so as to attach the blade. It includes an aperture 138 designed to mate with a means of attachment bearing on the inner face of the part of the wall 118. The aperture 138 is oriented circumferentially in the rotor. Figure 6 shows a snap ring 126 passing through the apertures of several adjacent blade platforms in a rotor blade row. The snap ring 126 may extend over the entire circumference, forming a plurality of turns or

may be segmented so as to mate with only a smaller number of blades in a row.

- [0047] The second layer protruding from the underside of the first layer can take other forms than those shown in Figures 4 to 6. The same is true for the means of retention on the second layer. The aperture may take other forms, including being oriented differently. It is also possible to provide several apertures in the second layer. The means of retention may also be formed by a suitable exterior profile of the second layer. The latter may, for example be a T-profile with which a snap ring or a correspondingly shaped locking bar can mate to ensure retention of the blade on the rotor.
- [0048] Means of clamping designed to exert a tensile force on the second layer may be provided. They can be integrated into the means of attachment (in this case the snap ring 126 in the example of Figures 4 to 6) mating with the means of retention (aperture 138 in this case). The means of attachment may have a taper on at least one contact surface with the second layer of the platform so as to exert a tractive force on the said second layer when positioning the said means of fixing. Alternatively, or additionally, the means of clamping can act as a support for the means of fixing on the inner face of the wall.
- [0049] The blades of the present disclosure, that is to say, in particular, the two embodiments described above, can be manufactured in a material different from that of the rotor. In particular, they can be manufactured in a composite material, in particular a composite material with an organic matrix. The rotor itself may be made of a metallic material such as titanium. The bladed rotor can thus be very light while providing optimum blade attachment, particularly suited to compensate for any differential expansion between the materials used.
- [0050] Blades made of a composite material can also include one or more metallic inserts, particularly in the second platform layer which can, in some cases, be subject to significant pressure, including during operation of the turbomachine.

What is claimed is:

1. A bladed rotor of an axial turbomachine, said bladed rotor comprising:
 - a wall forming a circular web, at least one annular portion of the wall being raised relative to the web immediately at least one of upstream and downstream of the at least one annular portion of the wall, the at least one annular portion of the wall being provided with a row of blade mounting apertures;
 - a plurality of rotor blades, each rotor blade comprising:
 - a platform; and
 - two aerodynamic surfaces opposite each other and extending from the platform along a main axis of the blade;
 - the platform comprising, along the main axis of the blade,
 - a first portion forming a surface bounding a fluid stream and skirting the aerodynamic surfaces, and
 - a second portion located below the first portion relative to the aerodynamic surfaces and designed for attaching the blade;
 - wherein the second portion of the platform mates with an inner face of the annular portion of the wall of the rotor around one of the mounting apertures; and
 - the second portion forms one or more shoulders projecting from the surface of the first portion; and
 - an element, in each of the least one annular portion of the wall, for exerting pressure on the inner face of the platforms of the rotor blades to hold them in place.

2. The bladed rotor in accordance with claim 1, wherein the second portion of the platform is designed to be able to mate directly with portions of the inner surface of the wall of the rotor located circumferentially on both sides of the aperture.
3. The bladed rotor in accordance with claims 1 or 2, wherein the second portion extends at least substantially parallel to the first portion and protrudes from the surface of the first portion to form a shoulder on each of its edges.
4. The bladed rotor in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein, the wall portion is integral.
5. The bladed rotor in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the web comprises at least one annular rib designed to mate sealingly with an inner surface of an inner shell of a stator blade stage.
6. The bladed rotor in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the wall comprises at least one connecting portion extending mainly radially between the wall forming the web and the annular portion of the wall.
7. The bladed rotor in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the shape of the mounting apertures in the annular portion of the wall corresponds to that of the first portion of the platform of the blades and the boundary surfaces of the fluid stream of the first portion are flush with the outer surface of the annular portion of the wall.

8. The bladed rotor in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the or each of the elements for exerting pressure comprises at least one of: at least one snap ring, and at least one strip arranged annularly.

9. The bladed rotor in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 8, further comprising a bonding material between the shoulders of the platforms of the blades and the wall of the rotor.

10. The bladed rotor in accordance with claim 9, wherein the bonding material comprises glue.

11. The bladed rotor in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the mounting apertures in the annular portion of the wall and the blades are designed so as to allow the insertion of the blades through the apertures from inside the rotor for the purpose of fixing them.

12. A bladed rotor of an axial turbomachine, said bladed rotor comprising:

a wall forming a circular web, an annular portion of the wall being raised relative to the web immediately at least one of upstream and downstream of the annular portion of the wall, the annular portion of the wall being provided with a row of blade mounting apertures;

a plurality of rotor blades, each rotor blade comprising:

- a platform; and

- two aerodynamic surfaces opposite each other and extending from the platform along a main axis of the blade;

the platform comprising, along the main axis of the blade,

- a first portion forming a surface bounding a fluid stream and skirting the aerodynamic surfaces, and
- a second portion located below the first portion relative to the aerodynamic surfaces and designed for attaching the blade;

wherein the second portion protrudes from a lower face of the first portion and comprises an aperture oriented circumferentially relative to the rotor capable of mechanically engaging with a snap ring designed to come into contact with an inner surface of the wall, and

wherein a lower surface of the first portion bypasses the second portion and forms a support surface on the platform on a corresponding surface of the wall of the rotor.

13. The bladed rotor in accordance with claim 12, wherein the outer surface of the annular portion of the wall comprises a cavity around each mounting aperture designed to house the first portion of the platform of the blades, the second portion of the platform of the blades extending through the aperture, and the snap ring mates with the apertures of the platforms of the blades and the inner surface of the portion of the wall, the snap ring being arranged annularly.

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FIG 1

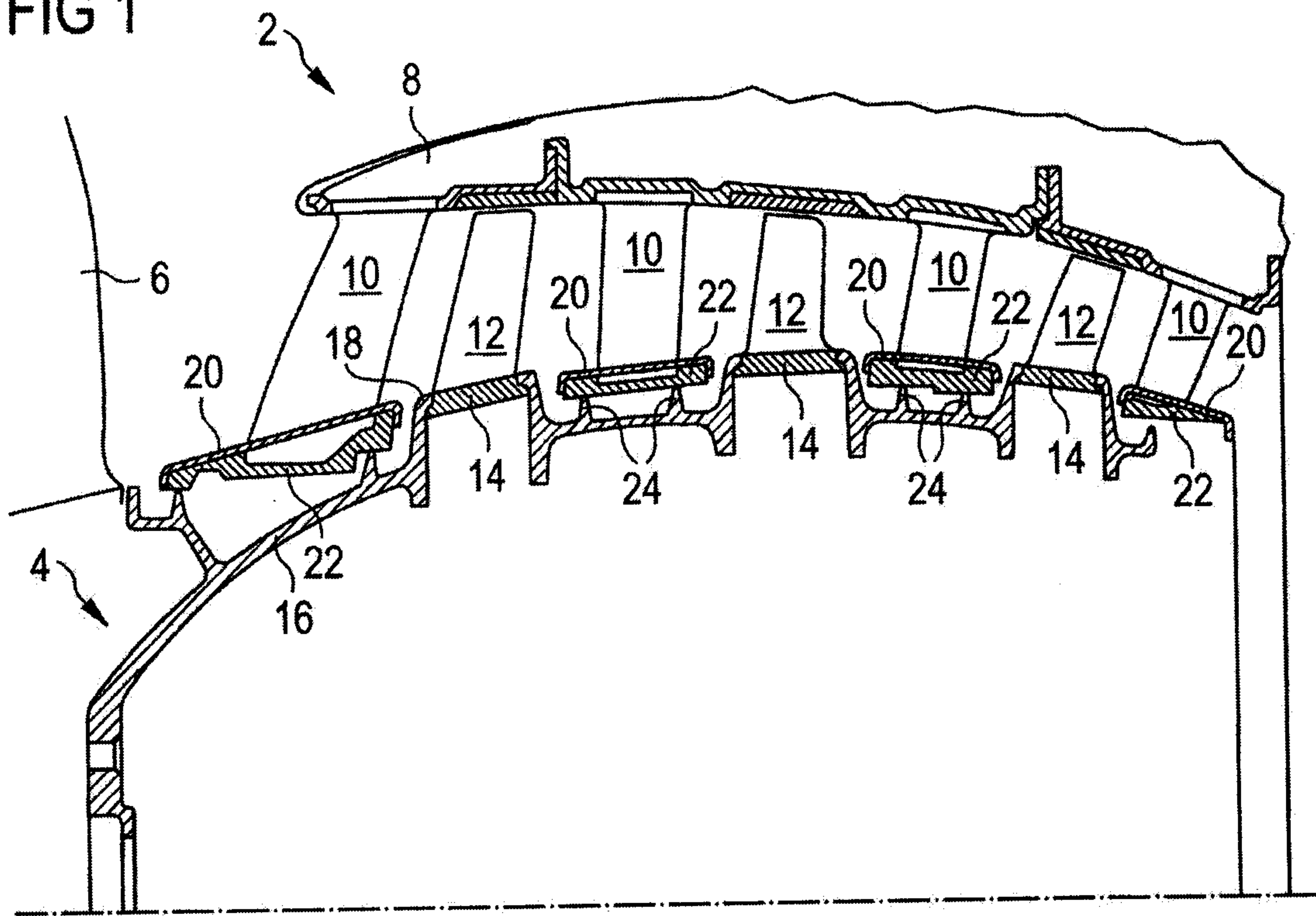
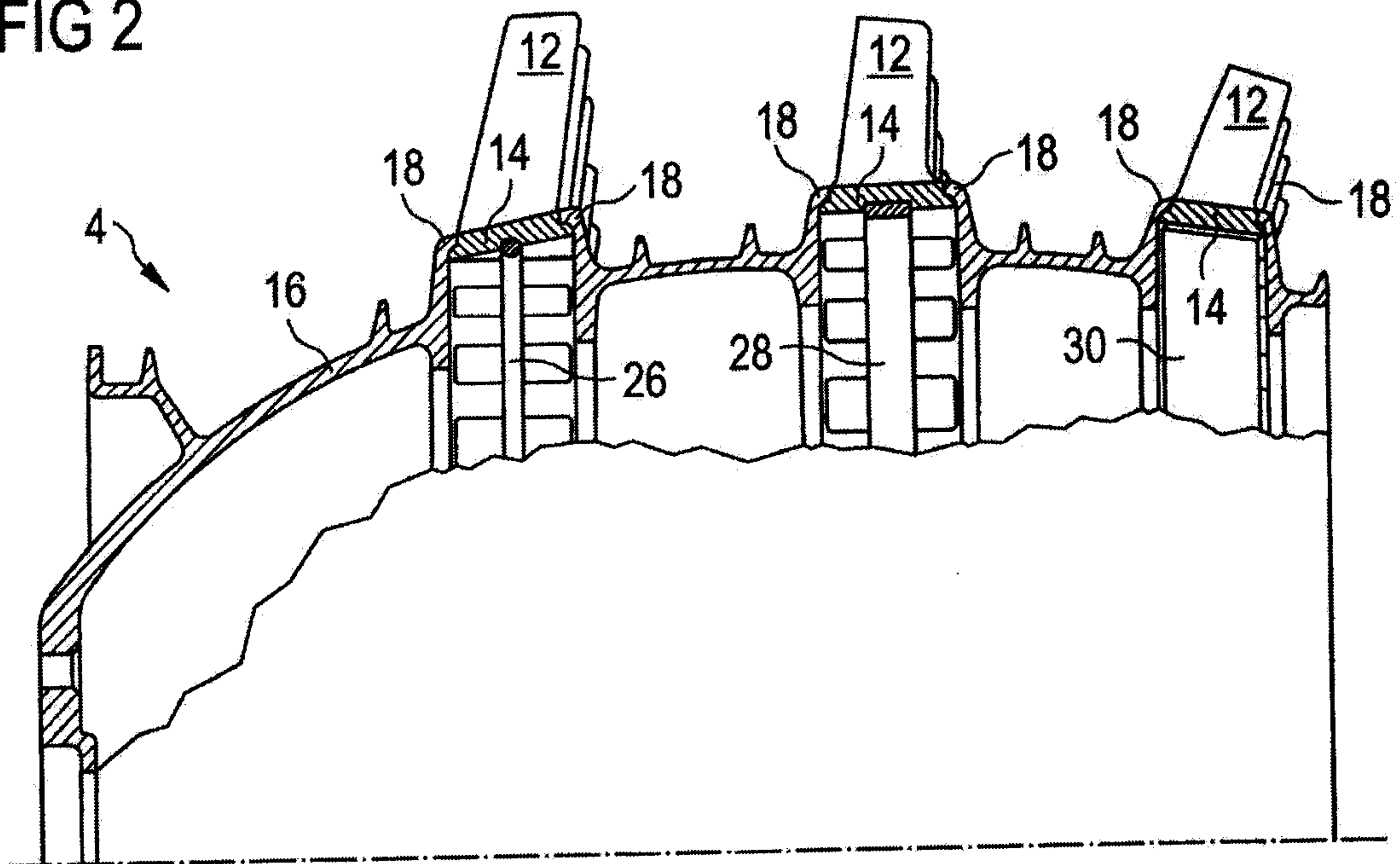


FIG 2



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FIG 3

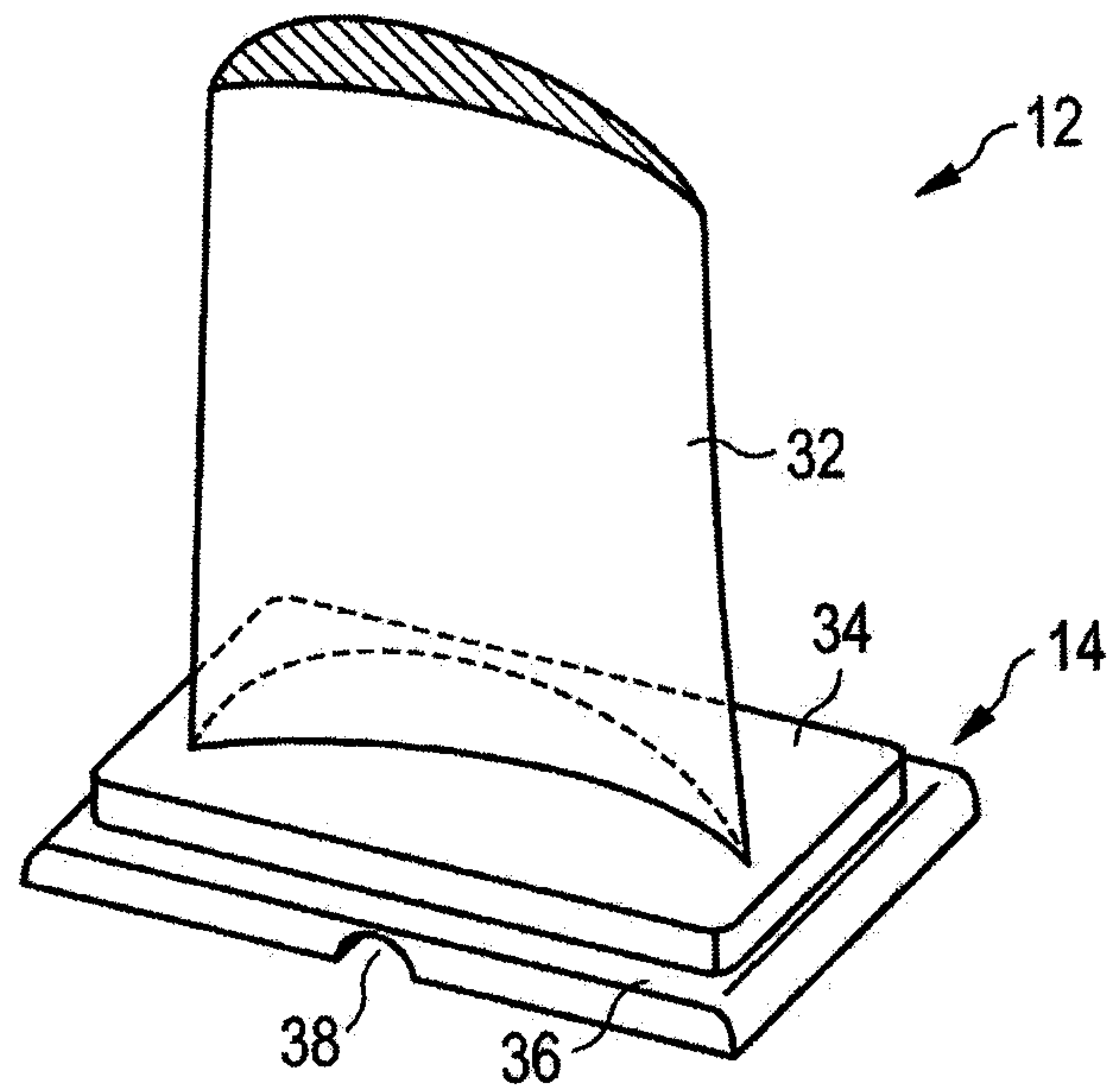
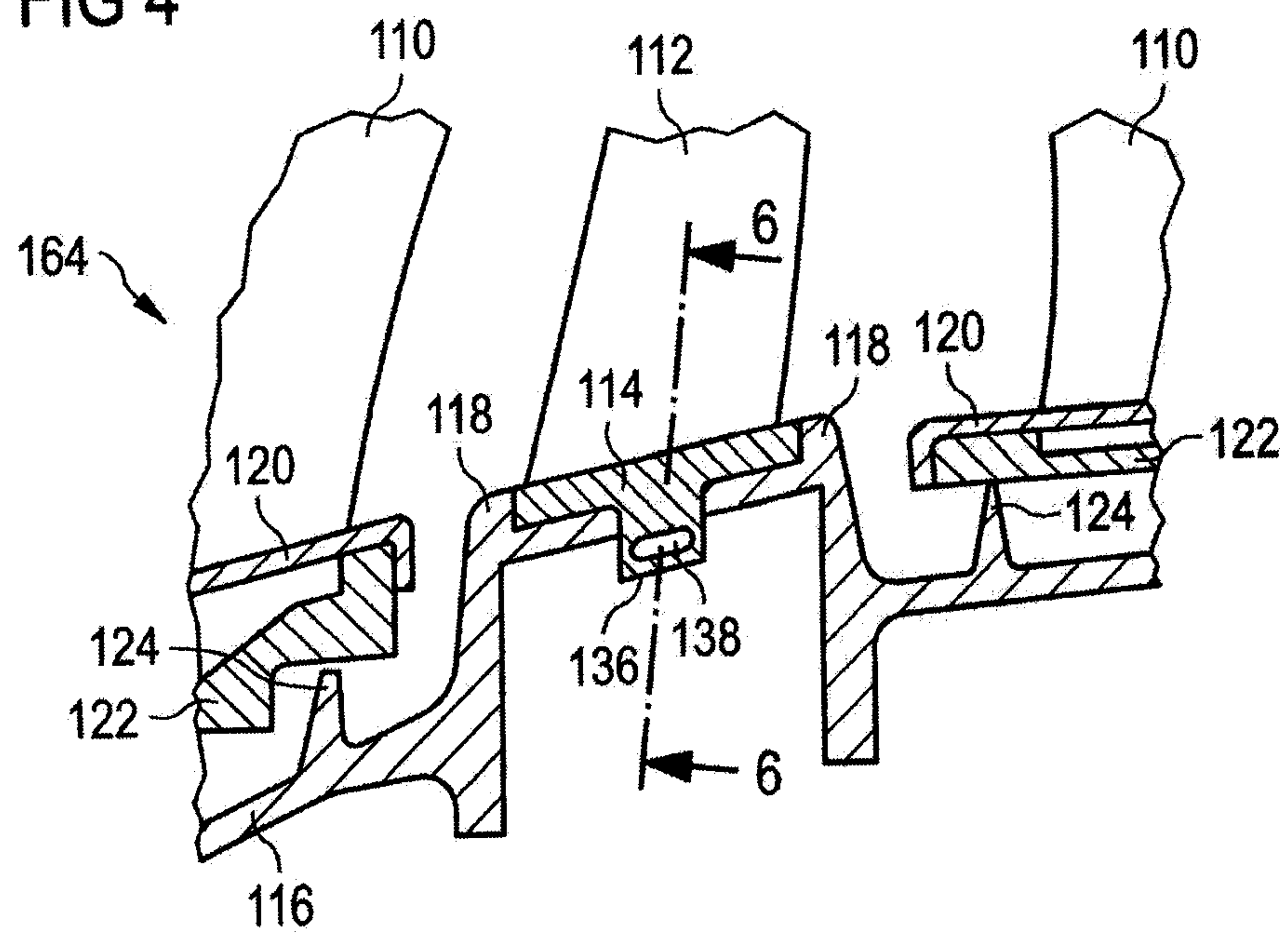


FIG 4



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FIG 5

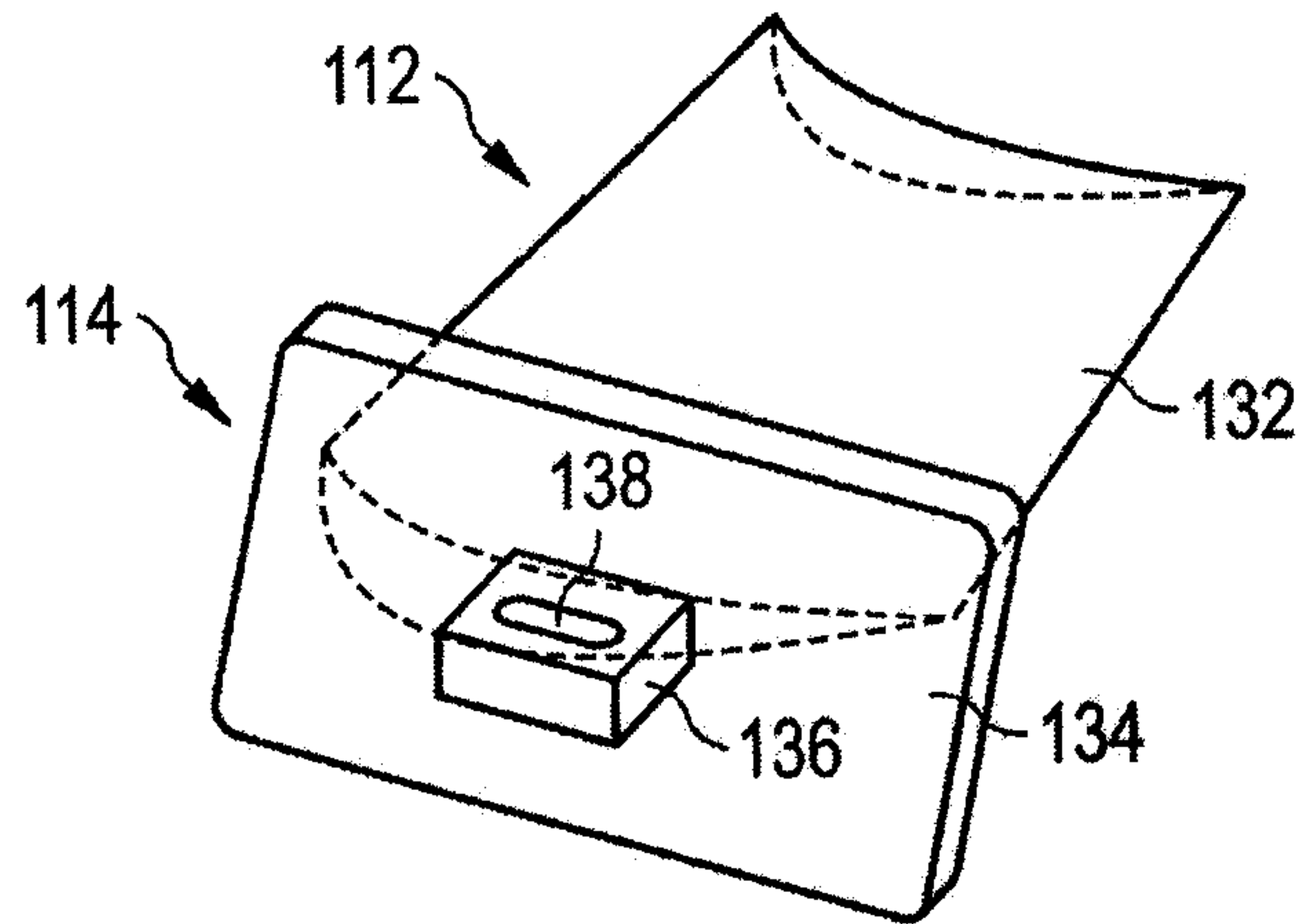


FIG 6

