US 20070277863A1

(19) United States

(12) Patent Application Publication (10) Pub. No.: US 2007/0277863 A1

GORDON (43) Pub. Date: Dec. 6, 2007

(54) SELF-STANDING WALKING STICK WITH LIGHT

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(21) Appl. No.: **11/422,375**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 6, 2006**

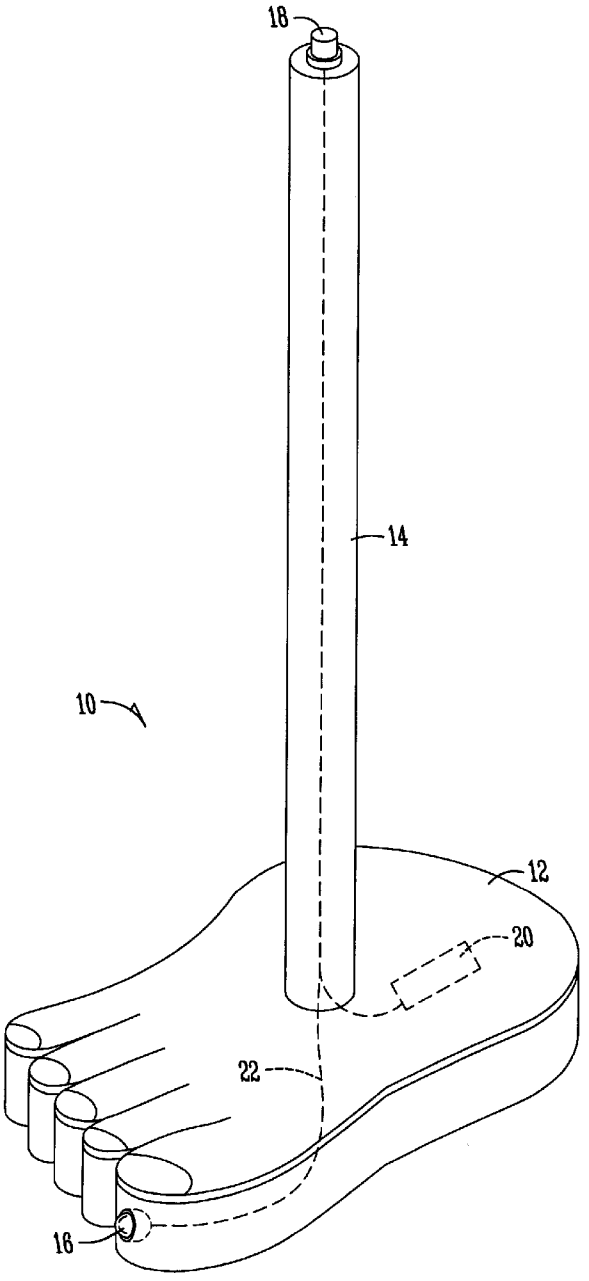
Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A45B 3/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **135/66**; 135/910

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A self-standing walking stick includes a base and a hollow tube or pole extending upwardly from the base. The pole may be detachably coupled to the base. A light is provided in the base, with a switch in the pole to control turning the light on or off. A battery is electrically coupled to the light and the switch to provide power to the light.



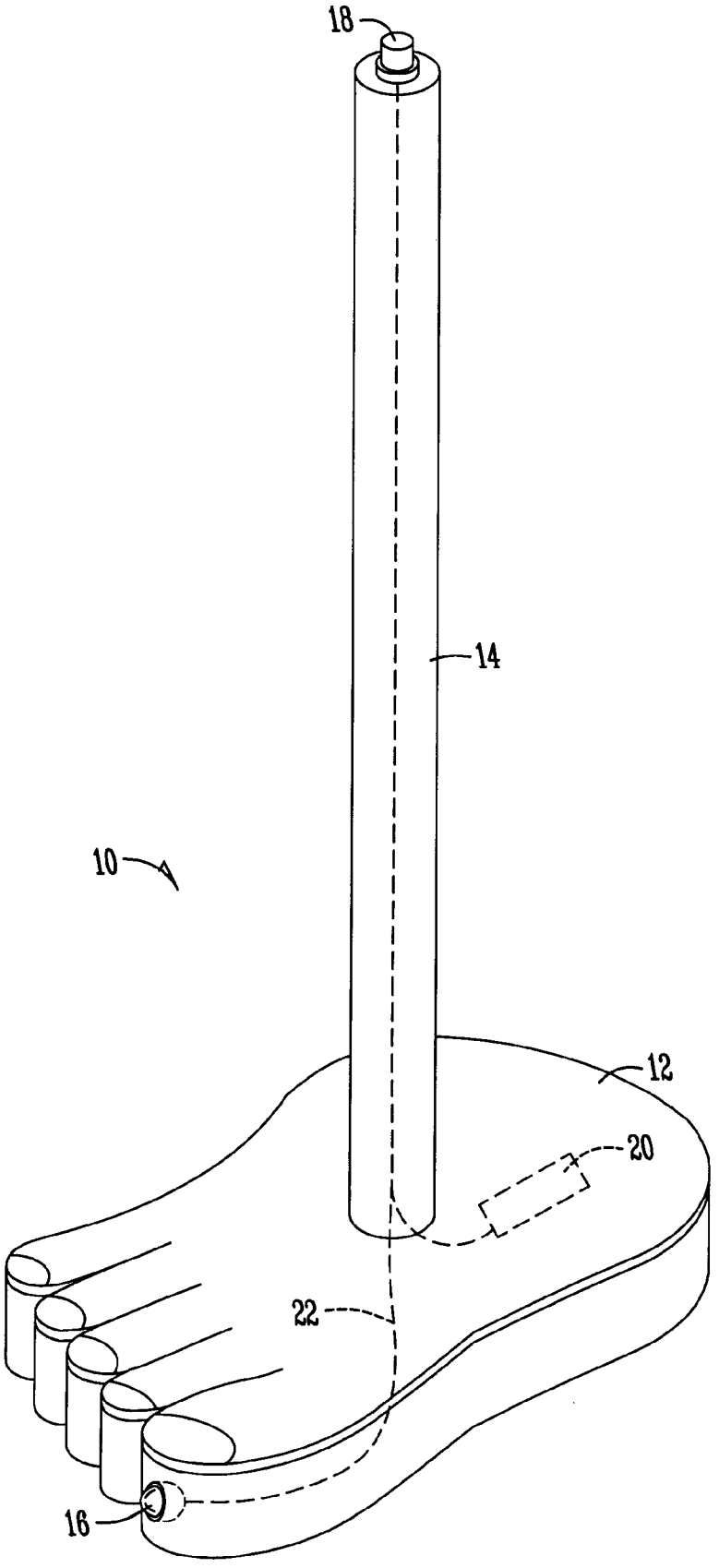


Fig. 1

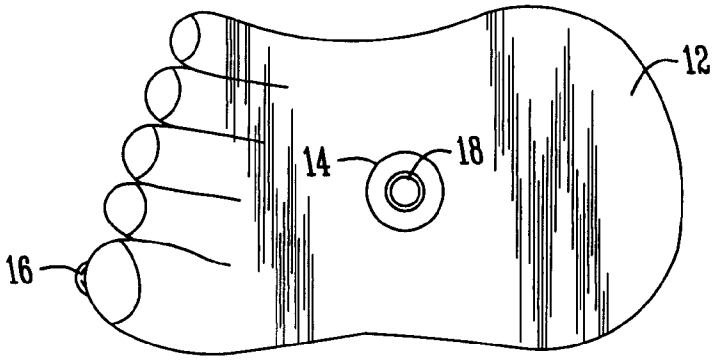


Fig. 2

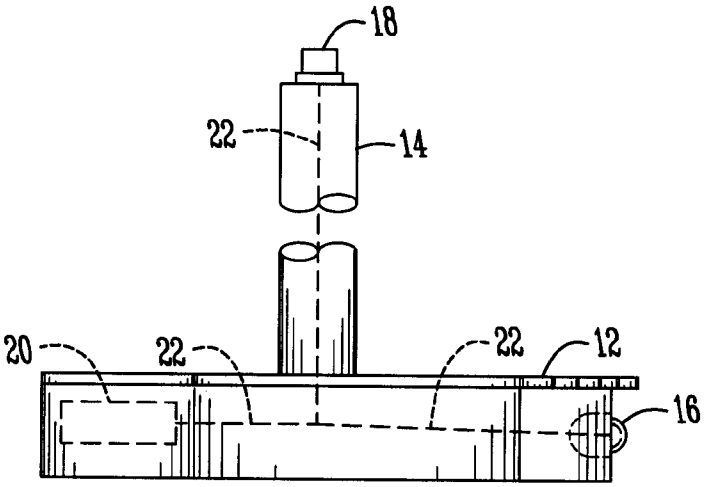


Fig. 3

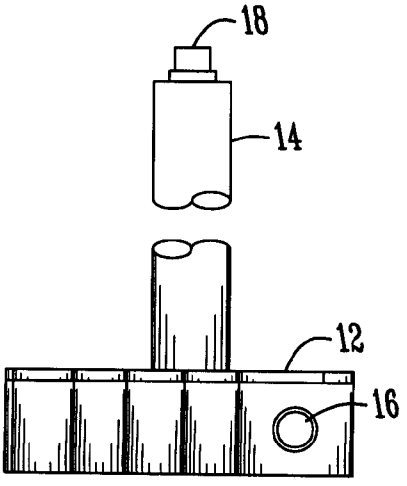


Fig. 4

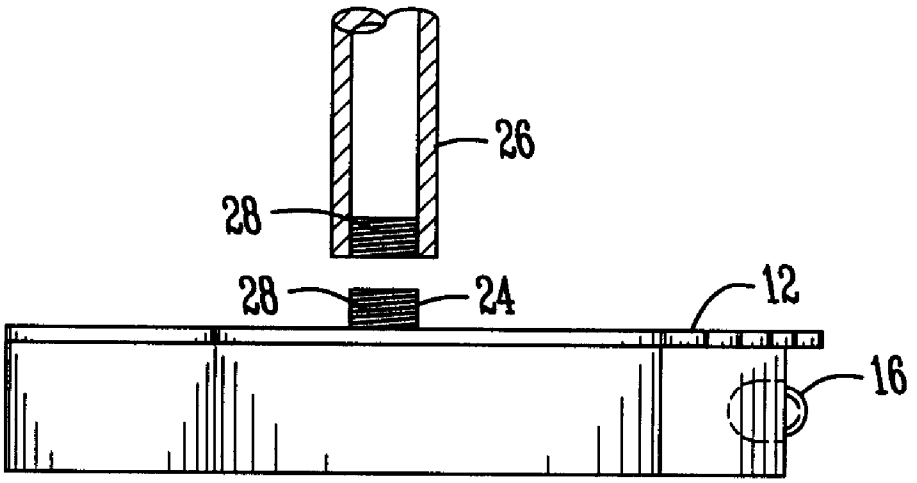


Fig. 5

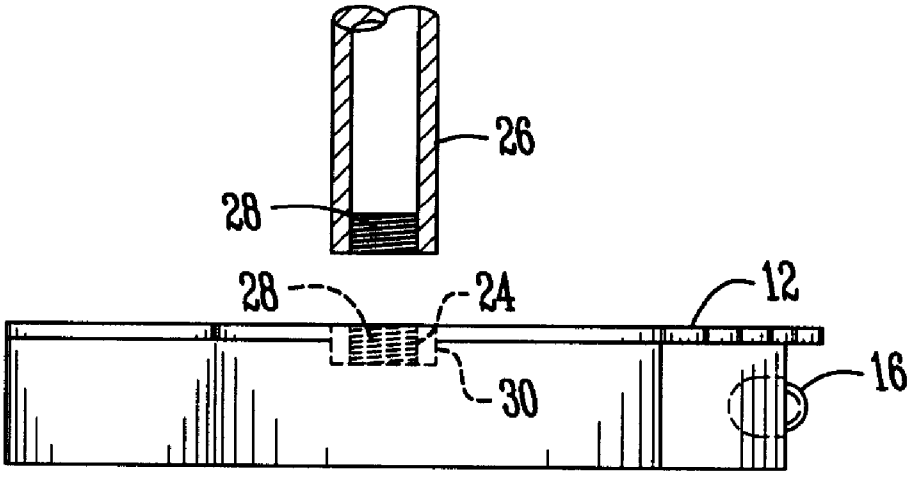


Fig. 6

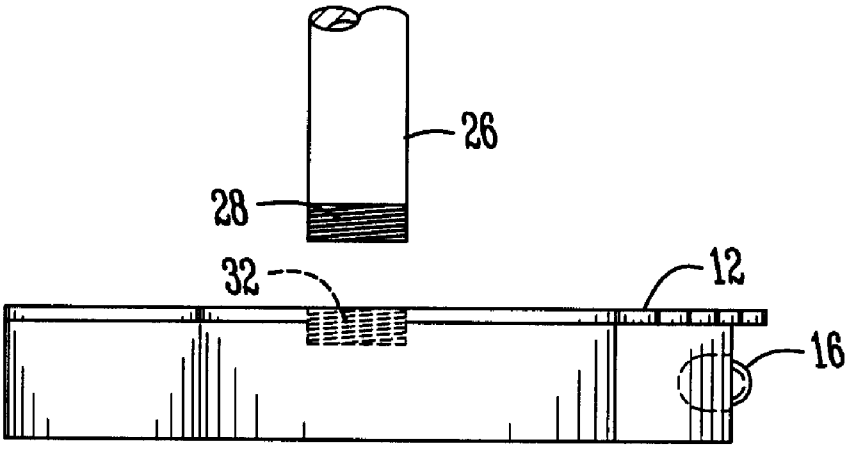


Fig. 7

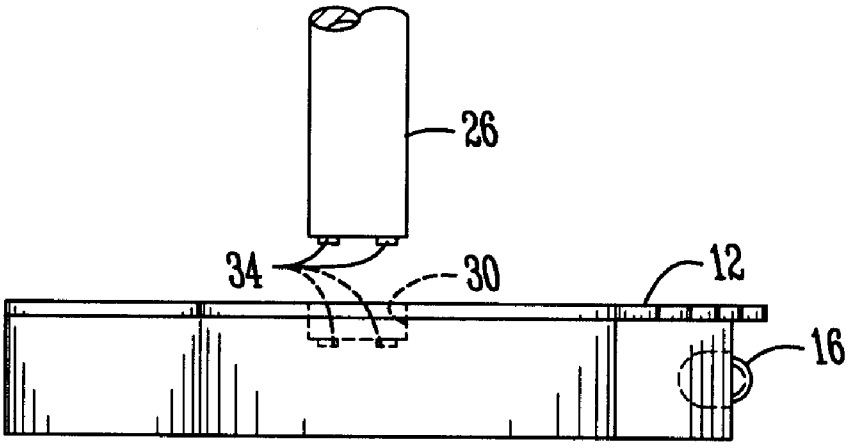


Fig. 8

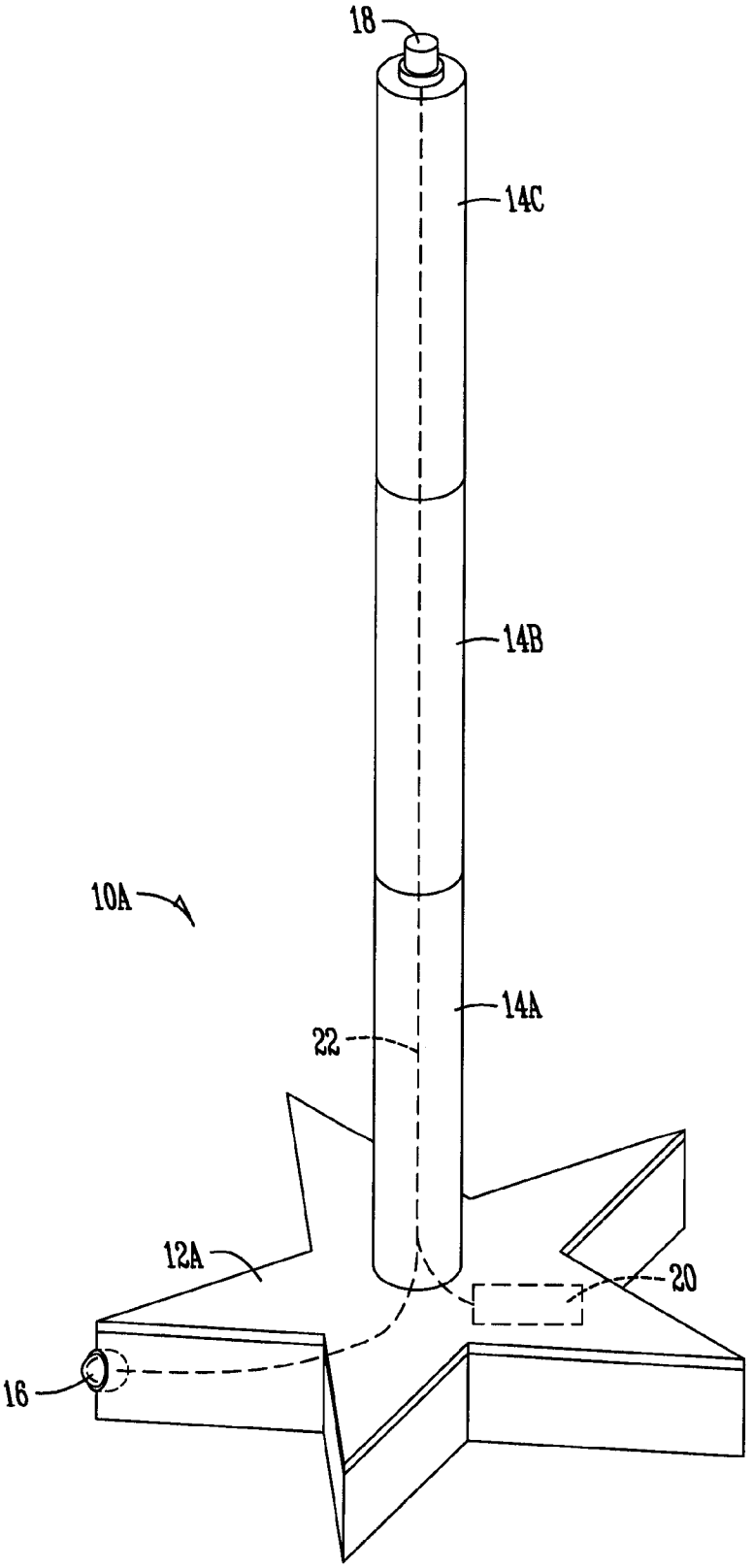


Fig. 9

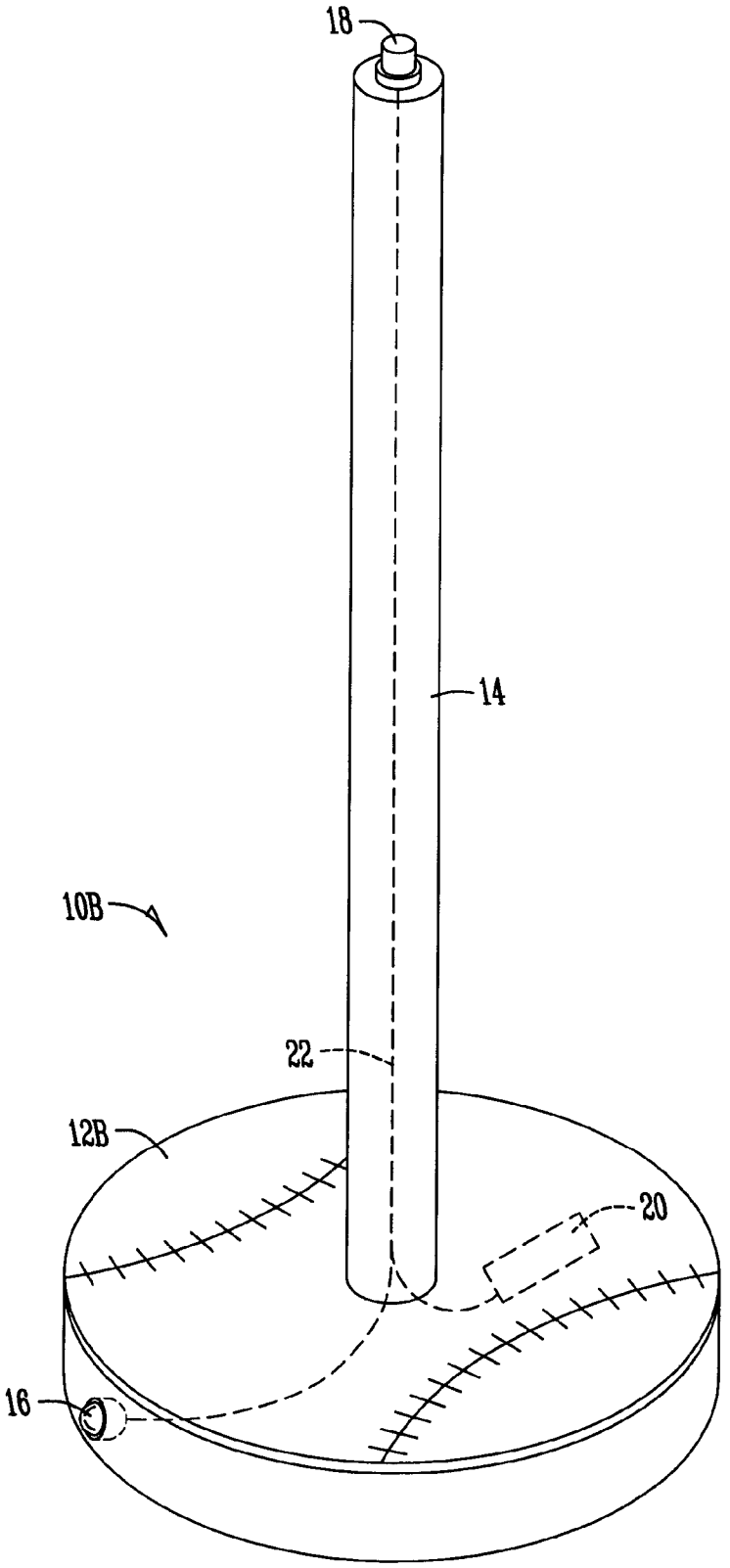


Fig. 10

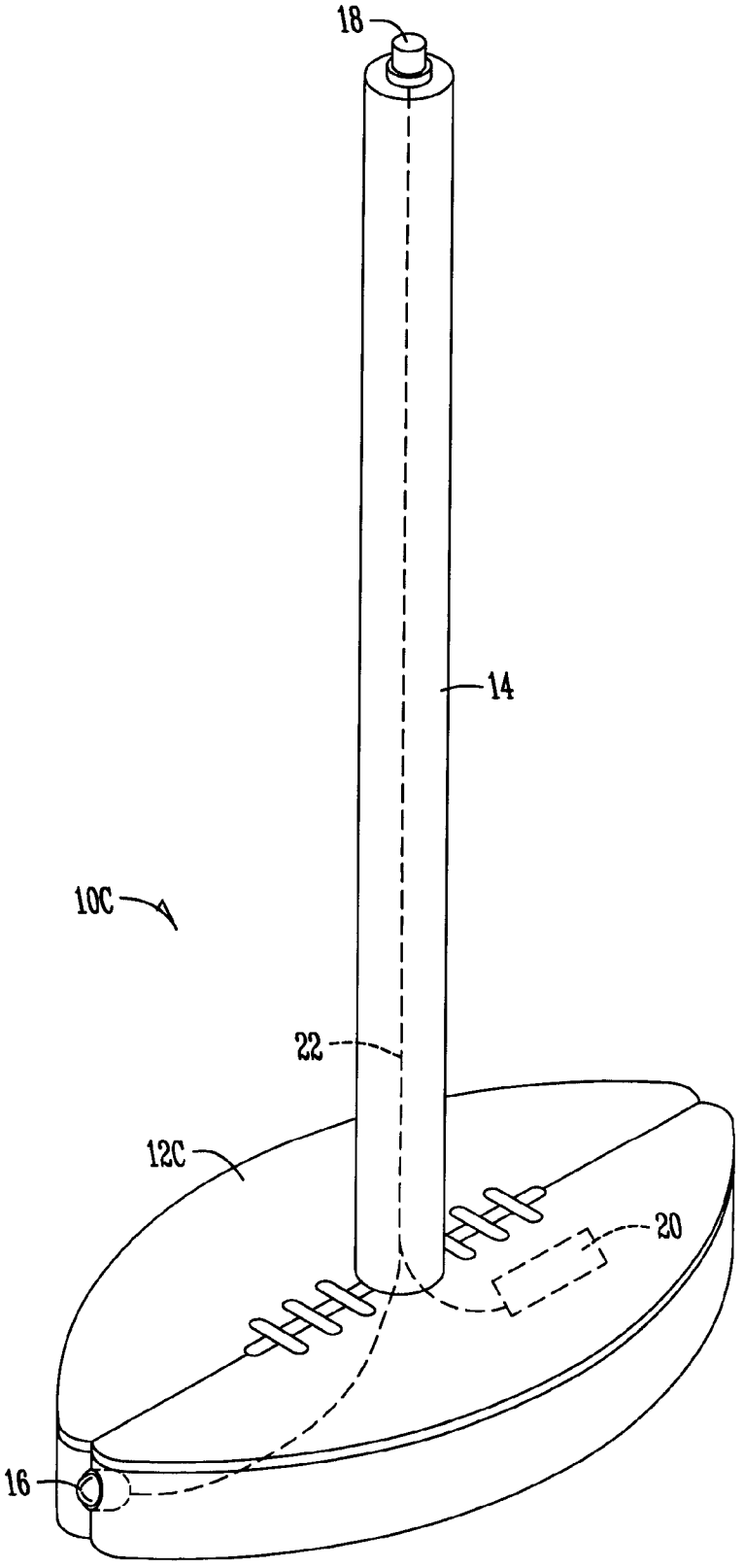


Fig. 11

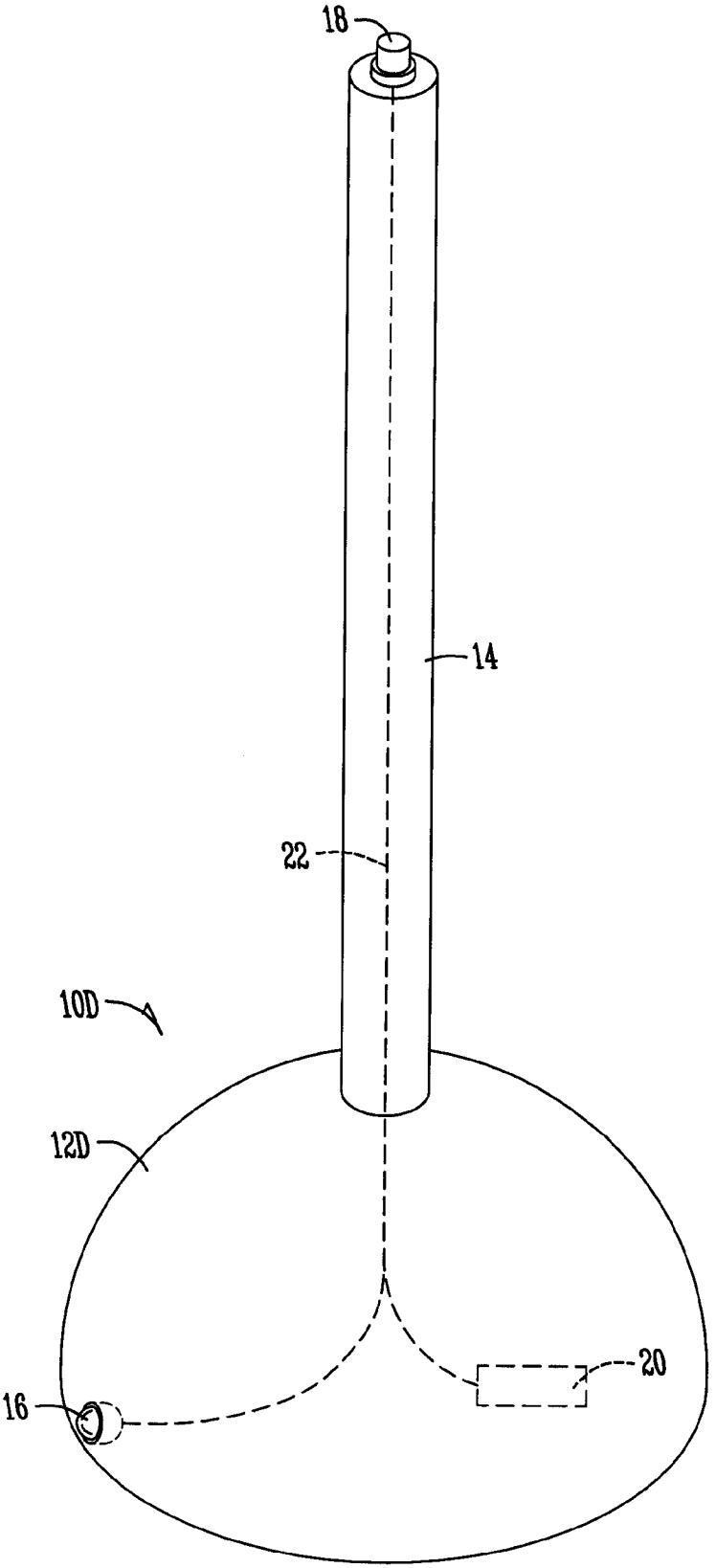


Fig. 12

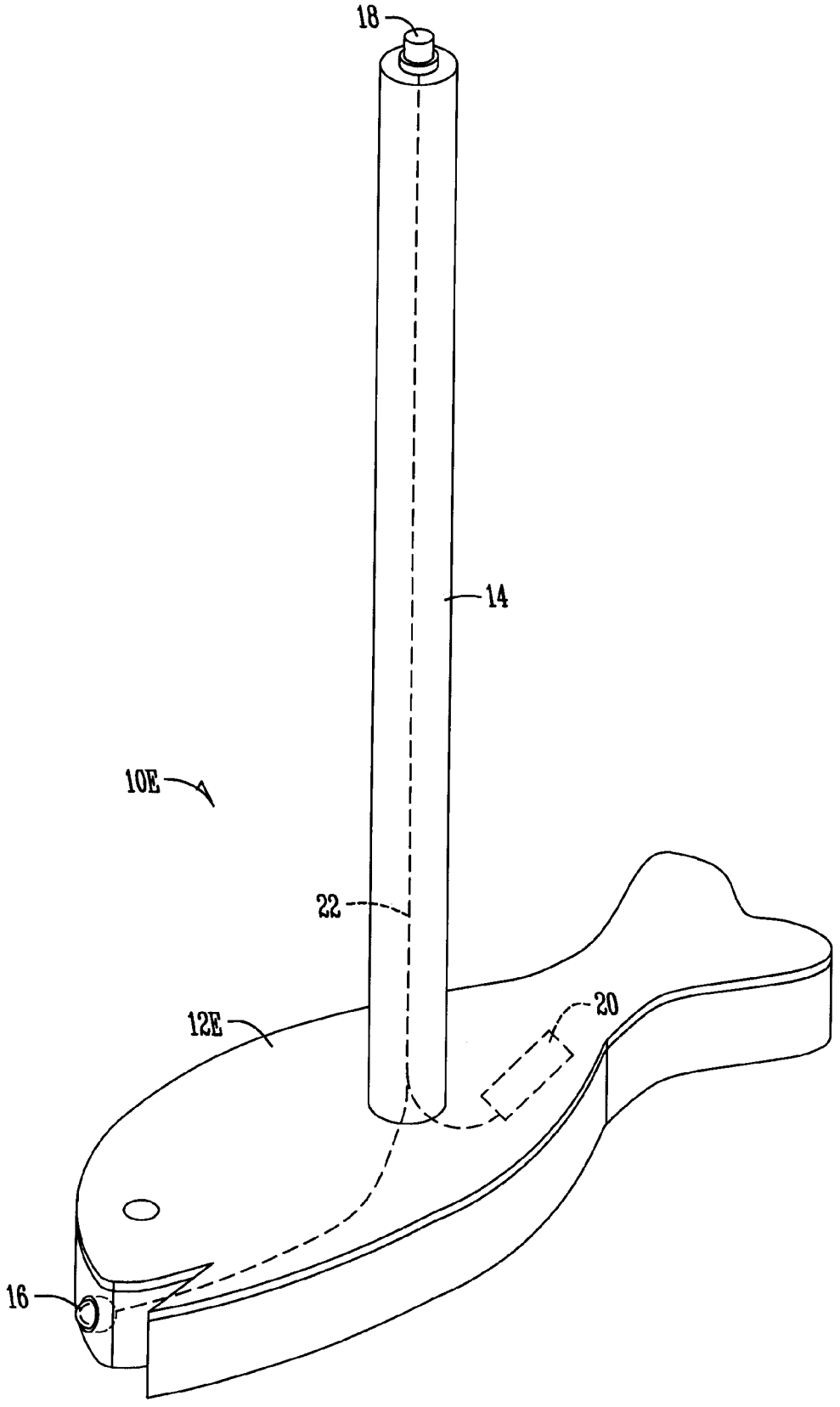


Fig. 13

SELF-STANDING WALKING STICK WITH LIGHT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] It is common for people to get up at night for various reasons, such as to check on a child, to use the restroom, or go to the kitchen. In such instances, light is needed for safe walking. However, often times it is undesirable to turn on ceiling lights, table lamps, or other relatively bright lights which may wake someone else in the room, or be too glaring for the person who is getting up. Normally, only a small amount of light is needed for safe movement from one room to another.

[0002] Canes and walking sticks having various features are well-known, including lighted canes and walking sticks. However, canes and sticks normally are not self-standing or supporting, but rather must be leaned against a wall, laid on the ground, or placed in a container. Also, the prior art lighted canes generally have a light bulb spaced above the ground in the upright pole or body of the cane, thus failing to direct light efficiently along the ground for a person using the cane.

[0003] Accordingly, a primary objective of the present invention is the provision of a self-supported, lighted walking stick or cane to provide a low level light for safe walking in a dark room.

[0004] A further objective of the present invention is the provision of an improved walking stick or cane having a light in the base in close proximity to the floor.

[0005] A further objective of the present invention is the provision of a lighted walking stick or cane having a broad base so that the stick or cane will stand upright while unattended.

[0006] Still another objective of the present invention is the provision of a cane or walking stick having a detachable base.

[0007] Yet another objective of the present invention is the provision of a lighted cane or walking stick having a handle or pole which is segmented for breakdown into short sections.

[0008] Another objective of the present invention is the provision of a self-standing, lighted walking stick which is economical to manufacture, durable in use, and provides for safe walking in a darkened environment.

[0009] These and other objectives will become apparent from the following description of the invention.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0010] A self-standing, lighted walking stick is provided with a base and a hollow tube extending upwardly from the base. A light is provided in the base adjacent the floor, and is electrically connected to a switch in the pole for activation by a user. The light is battery powered. The base has a flat bottom surface with an area substantially greater than the diameter of the pole, such that the pole will remain upright while the walking stick is unattended. The pole may be detachably coupled to the base for shipping, transportation, or storage. The pole may also be comprised of multiple sections which can be quickly and easily assembled. The multiple sections of the pole may be telescoping, collapsible, foldable, threadably coupled, or otherwise breakdown for compactness. The base may have various ornamental designs, such as a foot, a ball, a star, or an animal shape.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0011] FIG. **1** is a perspective view of the self-standing lighted walking stick of the present invention.

[0012] FIG. **2** is a top plan view of the walking stick.

[0013] FIG. **3** is a side elevation view of the walking stick.

[0014] FIG. **4** is a front elevation view of the walking stick.

[0015] FIGS. **5-8** are side elevation views showing various embodiments for coupling the pole to the base of the walking stick.

[0016] FIGS. **9-13** are views showing alternative embodiments of the base.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0017] The walking stick of the present invention is generally designated by the reference numeral **10** in the drawings. The walking stick **10** includes a base **12** and an upright hollow pole or tube **14**. The pole or tube **14** may be fixed to the base **12**, or detachably coupled thereto, as described below. The base has a flat bottom with a sufficiently large area, greater than the diameter of the pole **14**, so that the stick **10** is self-standing. The base **12** also includes a light source **16**, such as a small bulb, which is at least partially recessed in the base. A switch **18** is provided for activating the light source **16**. Preferably, the switch **18** is on the top of the pole **14**. It is understood that the switch **18** may also be located on the base **12**, or at a different location on the pole **14**. The switch **18** may be any type of switch, such as a push button switch, a slide switch, or a toggle switch. When the switch **18** is located on the pole **14**, the switch can be turned on and off by a user's hand. When the switch **18** is mounted on the base **12**, the switch can be operated with a user's foot. It is understood that the upper end of the pole **14** may include a handle of various shapes, for comfort and aesthetics.

[0018] A battery **20** provides power to the light source **16**. Preferably, the battery **20** is mounted in the base **12**. An access door (not shown) may be provided on the top or the bottom of the base **12** so that the battery **20** can be changed. The battery **20** is electrically connected via wires **22** to the light source **16** and the switch **18**. The battery **20** may be any conventional type of battery, and may be disposable or rechargeable.

[0019] Preferably, the pole **14** is detachably coupled to the base **12**. Various methods of coupling the base **12** and pole **14** are shown in FIGS. **5-8**. More particularly, in FIG. **5**, the base **12** includes a stud **24** over which the hollow lower end **26** of the pole **14** matingly fits. The stud **24** and the lower end **26** of the pole **14** may include threads **28**. Alternatively, the stud **24** may be recessed into a cavity **30** in the top of the base **12**, as shown in FIG. **6**. In both FIGS. **5** and **6**, the threads **28** are optional, but provide a more secure coupling, as compared to a press fit coupling without threads.

[0020] FIG. **7** shows another coupling technique, wherein the lower end **26** of the pole includes external threads **20** for threaded receipt into a cavity **32** in the upper surface of the base **12**. Again, the threads **28** may be deleted in the cavity **32** and on the lower end **26** of the pole **14**, which would simply press or friction fit together.

[0021] FIG. **8** shows a friction fit coupling between the lower end **26** of the pole and the cavity **30** in the base, with electrical contacts **34** completing the electrical circuitry between the light source **16**, the switch **18** and the battery **20**.

[0022] FIGS. **9-13** show various designs or configurations for the base **12**.

[0023] In FIG. **1**, the base **12** is shown to be in the shape of a foot. In FIG. **9**, the base **12**A is shown to be in the shape of a star. In FIG. **10**, the base **12**B is shown to be in the shape of a ball, such as a baseball. In FIG. **11**, the base **12**C is shown to be in the shape of a football. In FIG. **12**, the base **12**D is a hemisphere, thus depicting an object such as the sun or the moon. In FIG. **13**, the base **12**E is in the shape of a fish. It is understood that the base may take any other desired shape, including animals, geometric shapes, logos (such as a school mascot), and the like.

[0024] Preferably, the base **12** and pole **14** of the walking stick **10** are made of lightweight materials. For example, the base may be made of foam and the pole may be made of PVC plastic material. The recesses **30**, **32** may include a plastic or metal liner for rigidity and durability.

[0025] FIG. **9** also shows an alternative pole with segments **14**A, **14**B, and **14**C. The segments may be disassembled for shipping, storage or transportation. The segments **14**A-**14**C may be connected in any convenient manner, such as threads, male and female couplers, detents, and the like. The segments **14**A-**14**C may be telescoping, collapsible, foldable, or otherwise quickly and easily assembled and disassembled, as needed.

[0026] In use, the walking stick **10** stands next to a bed, chair, or other location where a user may need it in the night. The walking stick **10** is self-standing due to the large area of the base **12**. The pole or handle **14** can be easily grasped by a person getting out of bed or getting up from a chair. Light is directed toward the floor and walking path by the light source **16**, which has low wattage, to prevent excessive illumination of the room or hallway where the person is walking. Also, the position of the light source **16** close to the floor minimizes stray light projecting upwardly. The walking stick **10** can also be used when the person is walking from room to room in the event of a power outage.

[0027] The invention has been shown and described above with the preferred embodiments, and it is understood that many modifications, substitutions, and additions may be made which are within the intended spirit and scope of the invention. From the foregoing, it can be seen that the present invention accomplishes at least all of its stated objectives.

What is claimed is:

1. A self-standing, lighted walking stick, comprising:
a base;
a hollow tube extending upwardly from the base and having opposite upper and lower ends;
a light in the base;
a switch on the tube and electrically coupled to the light to turn the light on and off;
a battery in the base electrically coupled to the light and the switch; and
the base having a flat bottom surface with an area greater than the diameter of the pole and sufficiently large such that the tube will remain upright while the walking stick is unattended.

2. The walking stick of claim **1** wherein the pole and base are detachably connected together.

3. The walking stick of claim **2** wherein the pole is threadably coupled to the base.

4. The walking stick of claim **2** wherein the base has an upper surface with a recess for receiving the lower end of the pole.

5. The walking stick of claim **2** wherein the base and lower end of the pole have mating electrical contacts to provide electrical communication between the switch and the light.

6. The walking stick of claim **1** wherein the pole has multiple sections.

7. The walking stick of claim **6** wherein the sections are telescoping.

8. The walking stick of claim **6** wherein the sections are collapsible.

9. The walking stick of claim **6** wherein the sections are foldable.

10. The walking stick of claim **1** wherein the base has a shape selected from a group comprising a foot, a ball, a star and an animal.

11. A self-standing, lighted walking stick, comprising:
a base having a light recessed at least partially therein;
an upright pole detachably mounted to the base;
a switch to turn the light on and off;
the base having a horizontal bottom surface to engage a floor and to maintain the pole in a substantially vertical orientation.

12. The walking stick of claim **11** further comprising a coupling to detachably connect the base and pole together.

13. The walking stick of claim **12** wherein the coupling includes threads.

14. The walking stick of claim **12** wherein the coupling is friction fit.

15. The walking stick of claim **12** wherein the coupling includes a stud.

16. The walking stick of claim **12** wherein the coupling includes electrical connections for the light and switch.

17. The walking stick of claim **11** further comprising a battery in the base to provide power to the light.

18. The walking stick of claim **11** wherein the pole is hollow, and the switch is adjacent an upper end of the pole, with electrical wires extending from the switch and through the pole.

19. The walking stick of claim **11** wherein the pole has multiple sections.

20. The walking stick of claim **11** wherein the base includes a cavity for housing a battery.

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