



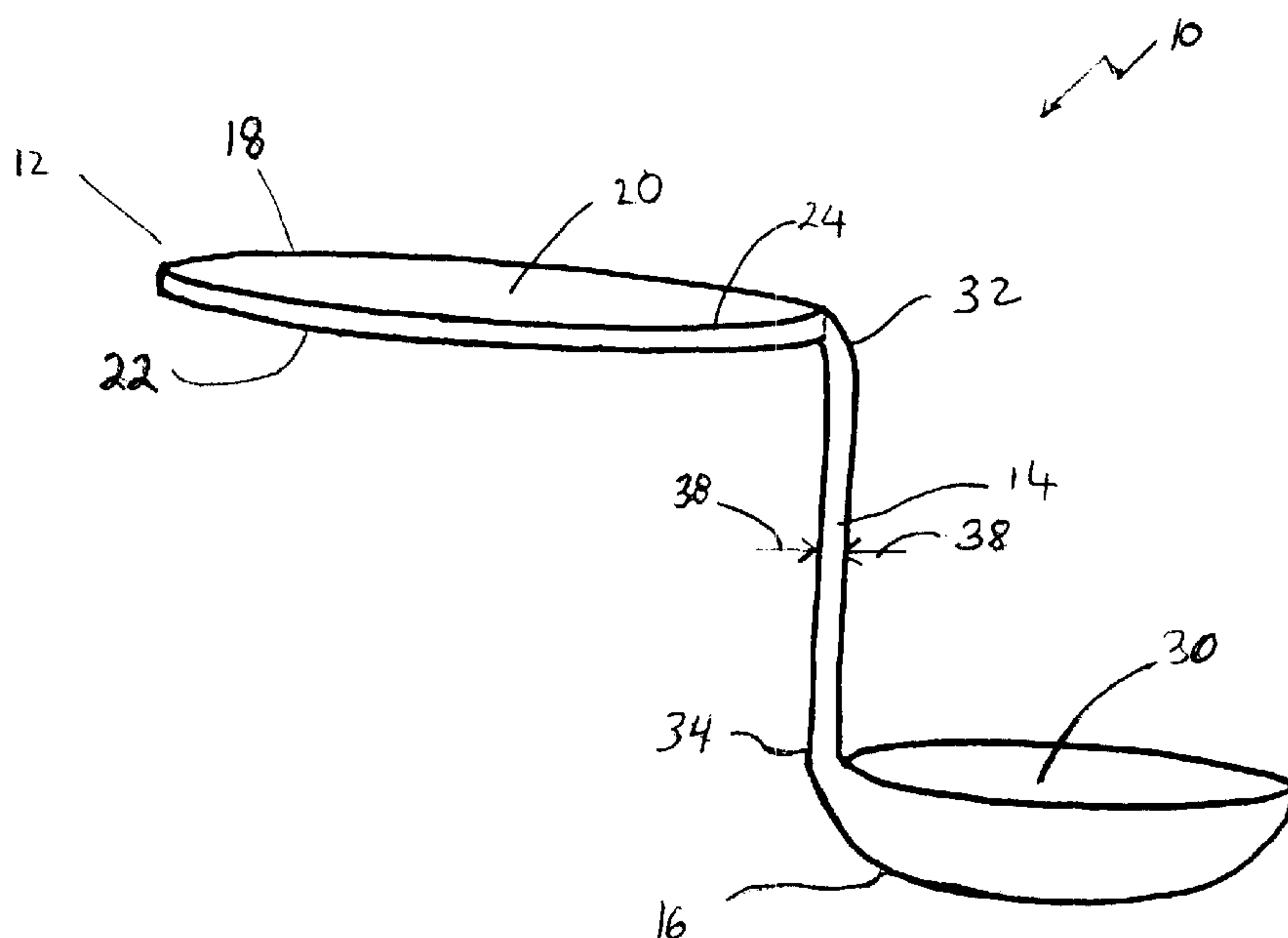
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(51) Int.Cl.<sup>6</sup> B67D 5/06, A47J 31/44

(54) **APPAREIL RAMASSE-GOUTTES POUR DISTRIBUTRICE DE  
BOISSON**

(54) **DRIP CATCHING APPARATUS FOR DRINK DISPENSER**



(57) A drip catching apparatus for a drink dispenser includes a base having a drink dispenser supporting surface and a liquid retaining container. An appendage has a first end secured to the base and a second end secured to the liquid retaining container. The appendage positions the liquid retaining container in relation to the base so that the liquid retaining container is positioned below a dispensing spout of a drink dispenser positioned on the drink dispenser supporting surface so as to catch any drips.

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A drip catching apparatus for a drink dispenser includes a base having a drink dispenser supporting surface and a liquid retaining container. An appendage has a first end secured to the base and a second end secured to the liquid retaining container. The appendage positions the liquid retaining container in relation to the base so that the liquid retaining container is positioned below a dispensing spout of a drink dispenser positioned on the drink dispenser supporting surface so as to catch any drips.

**TITLE OF THE INVENTION:**

Drip Catching Apparatus for Drink Dispenser

**NAME(S) OF INVENTOR(S):**

5 Herbert Pearce

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a drip catching apparatus for a drink dispenser, such as a coffee urn.

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**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Self serve drink dispensers, such as coffee urns, are commonly used to dispense drinks at public gatherings. For example, some churches serve coffee after the Sunday morning service to those members of the congregation who choose to stay and socialize. The coffee urns used are too large to pour; instead they have a gravity fed spout manually operated with a hand activated valve. As the valve seal becomes worn through usage, this valve tends to drip onto the floor. In addition, spillage onto the floor sometimes occurs due to human carelessness when dispensing coffee from the urn. If liquids from a drink dispenser drip onto the floor, it can stain carpet and create a potential hazard where a person might slip and fall on tile or linoleum.

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**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

What is required is a drip catching apparatus that can be used with a drink dispenser to catch liquids from before they drip onto the floor.

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According to the present invention there is provided a drip catching apparatus for a drink dispenser which includes a base having a drink dispenser supporting surface and a liquid retaining container. An appendage has a first end secured to the base and a second end secured to the liquid retaining container. The appendage positions the liquid retaining container in relation to the base so that the liquid retaining

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container is positioned below a dispensing spout of a drink dispenser positioned on the drink dispenser supporting surface so as to catch any drips.

5           The drip catcher, as described, is of simple construction and is easily installed merely by positioning a drink dispenser on the drink dispenser supporting surface. As there is no need for mechanical attachment of the drip catcher onto the drink dispenser, the drip catcher is suitable for use with drink  
10 dispensers from a wide variety of manufacturers.

          Once the teachings of the present invention are understood, the form and configuration of base and liquid retaining container are a matter of design choice.

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#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

          These and other features of the invention will become more apparent from the following description in which reference is made to the appended drawings, wherein:

20           **FIGURE 1** is a side elevation view of a drip catching apparatus constructed in accordance with the teachings of the present invention.

**FIGURE 2** is a top plan view of the drip catching apparatus illustrated in **FIGURE 1**.

25           **FIGURE 3** is a side elevation view of the drip catching apparatus illustrated in **FIGURE 1**, with a drink dispenser positioned on a drink dispenser supporting surface of a base of the drip catching apparatus.

30           **FIGURE 4** is a front elevation view of the drip catching apparatus illustrated in **FIGURE 1**, with a drink dispenser positioned on a drink dispenser supporting surface of a base of the drip catching apparatus.

#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT**

35           The preferred embodiment, a drip catching apparatus for a drink dispenser generally identified by reference numeral 10, will now be described with reference to **FIGURES 1** through **4**.

Referring to **FIGURE 1**, drip catching apparatus 10 includes a base 12, an appendage 14 and a liquid retaining container 16. Base 12 is in the form of a disk 18 having a drink dispenser supporting surface 20 and a lower surface 22. Disk 18 is of any shape capable of receiving and supporting a drink dispenser. For example, base 12 can be a substantially circular disk 18, as illustrated in **FIGURES 1** and **2**, or a rectangular plinth to fit onto a surface within a confining rectangular space, or an alternative shape to meet the physical requirements of the space in which said base will be placed or the aesthetic requirements of the user. A peripheral edge 24 of drink dispenser supporting surface 20 is either coplanar with said drink dispenser supporting surface 20 or raised to provide a retaining barrier. A retaining barrier may be desirable to ensure that drink dispenser 26 stays in the desired position on drink dispenser support surface 20. It may also be desirable to catch any leakage from drink dispenser 26. Lower surface 22 is either smooth to allow drip catching apparatus 10 to be moved readily along a table top or other surface on which said drip catching apparatus 10 is supported, or has a surface that provides resistance to such motion as a safety measure to prevent accidental dislodging of drip catching apparatus 10 from said table top. When drip catching apparatus 10 is to be used on a level table top or other surface, lower surface 22 is parallel to drink dispensing supporting surface 20.

Referring to **FIGURE 3**, a drink dispenser 26 is supported on drip catching apparatus 10. Drink dispenser 26 and drip catching apparatus 10 are mutually oriented so that dispensing spout 28 is located over liquid retaining container 16. A size of base 12 is at least sufficient to support a base 40 of drink dispenser 26 on base 12 as illustrated in **FIGURE 4**. From time to time a spillage will occur during filling or use of drink dispenser 26 when this occurs the spillage is caught by liquid retaining container 16.

Referring to **FIGURES 1 and 2**, liquid retaining container 16 is of a shape and size to retain liquid dripping from dispensing spout 28 of drink dispenser 26 supported on drip catching apparatus 10. Liquid retaining container 16 can be  
5 a shallow tray or bowl with a liquid retaining cavity 26 which can be substantially oval in shape, as illustrated in **FIGURES 1 and 2**, or another shape suitable for the physical and aesthetic requirements of the user.

10 Referring to **FIGURE 2**, appendage 14 has a first end 32 secured to base 12 and a second end 34 secured to liquid retaining container 16. Appendage 14 is substantially wider in a first direction, shown by a double arrow 36, than in a second direction, shown in **FIGURE 1** by a pair of arrows 38, at  
15 right angles to first direction. Referring to **FIGURES 3 and 4**, appendage 14 is of sufficient length to allow a cup, glass, mug or other receiving vessel to be inserted below dispensing spout 28 and above drip catching container 16. Referring again to **FIGURES 1 and 2**, the shape of appendage 14 confers  
20 sufficient flexibility to allow a limited degree of flexing in response to placement needs, and sufficient rigidity to retain liquid retaining container 16 on a plane spaced below and parallel to drink dispenser supporting surface 20 and adjacent to base 12. Liquid retaining container 16 thereby is retained  
25 in a position below dispensing spout 28 of drink dispenser 26 positioned on drink dispenser supporting surface 20.

The use and operation of drip catching apparatus 10 will now be described with reference to **FIGURES 1 through 4**. Drip  
30 catching apparatus 10, as described above and illustrated in **FIGURES 1 and 2**, is placed so that lower surface 22 is on a top surface of a table or other furniture from which a drink is to be dispensed and appendage 14 hangs over an edge of said table or other furniture. Drink dispenser 26 is placed on drink  
35 dispenser supporting surface 20 as illustrated in **FIGURES 3 and 4**. Dispensing spout 28 is positioned directly over liquid retaining container 16. Drink dispenser 26 is either prefilled

with a drink to be dispensed or filled after being positioned on drip catching apparatus 10. When it is necessary to fill or refill drink dispenser 26. When drink is dispensed from dispensing spout 28, or when dispensing spout 28 develops a leak, any drips from dispensing spout 28 are captured and retained by liquid retaining container 16.

From time to time it will be necessary to empty liquid from liquid retaining container 16 while drink dispenser 26 is in use. There are various ways the this can be done. A first way is to use an absorbent substrate, such as a sponge or paper towel. A second way is to remove drink dispenser from drip catcher 10, so that drip catcher 10 can be taken to a sink or other place where the liquid can be poured out. A third way is to place a receiving vessel (not shown) under liquid retaining container 16. Appendage 14 can be made resiliently bendable under an applied manual bending force so that liquid is decanted from liquid retaining container 16 into said receiving vessel. When liquid retaining container 16 has been emptied bending force on appendage 14 is released and liquid retaining container 16 is thereby returned to the operating position illustrated in **FIGURES 3 and 4**.

It will be apparent to one skilled in the art that modifications may be made to the illustrated embodiment without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as hereinafter defined in the Claims.

**THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:**

- 5 1. A drip catching apparatus for a drink dispenser,  
comprising:  
a base having a drink dispenser supporting surface;  
a liquid retaining container;  
an appendage having a first end secured to the base and  
10 a second end secured to the liquid retaining container, the  
appendage positioning the liquid retaining container in  
relation to the base so that the liquid retaining container is  
positioned below a dispensing spout of a drink dispenser  
positioned on the drink dispenser supporting surface.
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2. The drip catching apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein  
the base has a lower surface that is parallel to the drink  
dispenser supporting surface.
- 20 3. The drip catching apparatus as defined in Claim 2, wherein  
the base is a disk.
4. The drip catching apparatus as defined in Claim 2, wherein  
the base is a plinth.
- 25
5. The drip catching apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein  
the liquid retaining container is a shallow tray.
6. The drip catching apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein  
30 the liquid retaining container is a bowl.
7. The drip catching apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein  
the liquid retaining container is held by the appendage on a  
plane parallel to and spaced below the drinks dispenser  
35 supporting surface and adjacent to the base.



8. A drip catching apparatus for a drink dispenser, comprising:

5 a base in the form of a disk having a drink dispenser supporting surface;

a liquid retaining container;

10 an appendage having a first end secured to the base and a second end secured to the liquid retaining container, the appendage positioning the liquid retaining container on a plane spaced below and parallel to the drink dispenser supporting surface and adjacent to the base, so that the liquid retaining container is positioned below a dispensing spout of a drink dispenser positioned on the drink dispenser supporting surface.

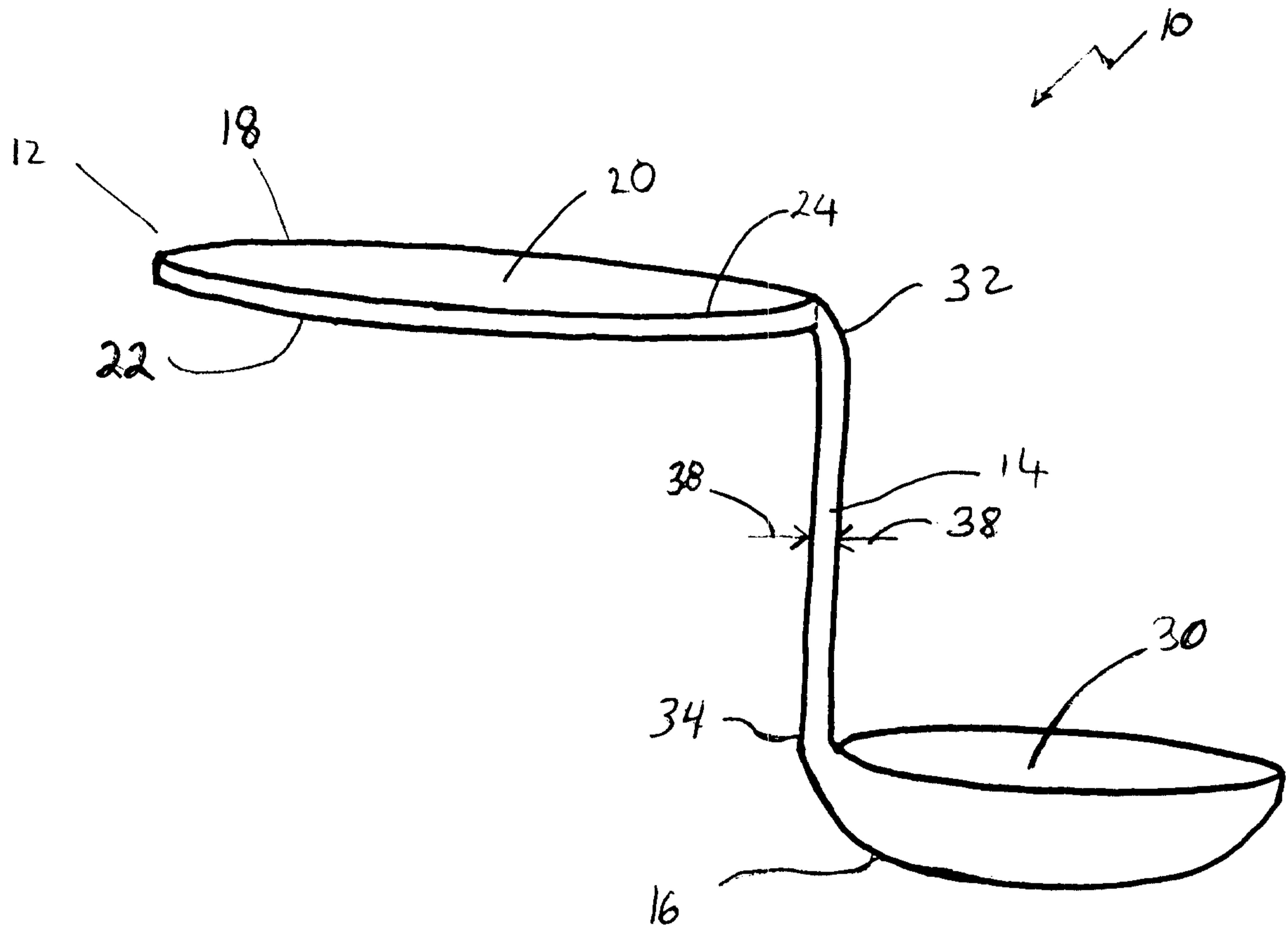


FIGURE 1

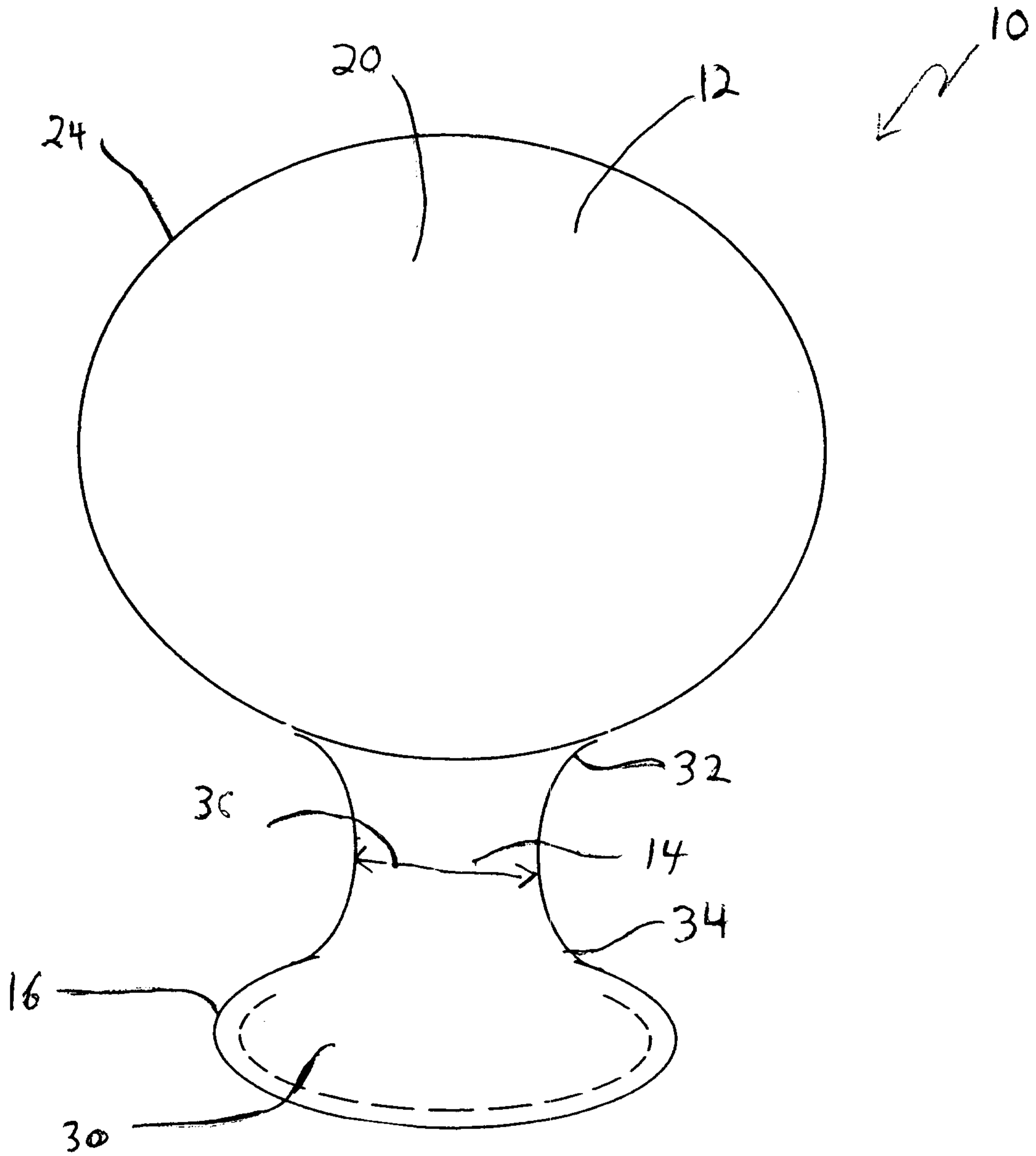


FIGURE 2

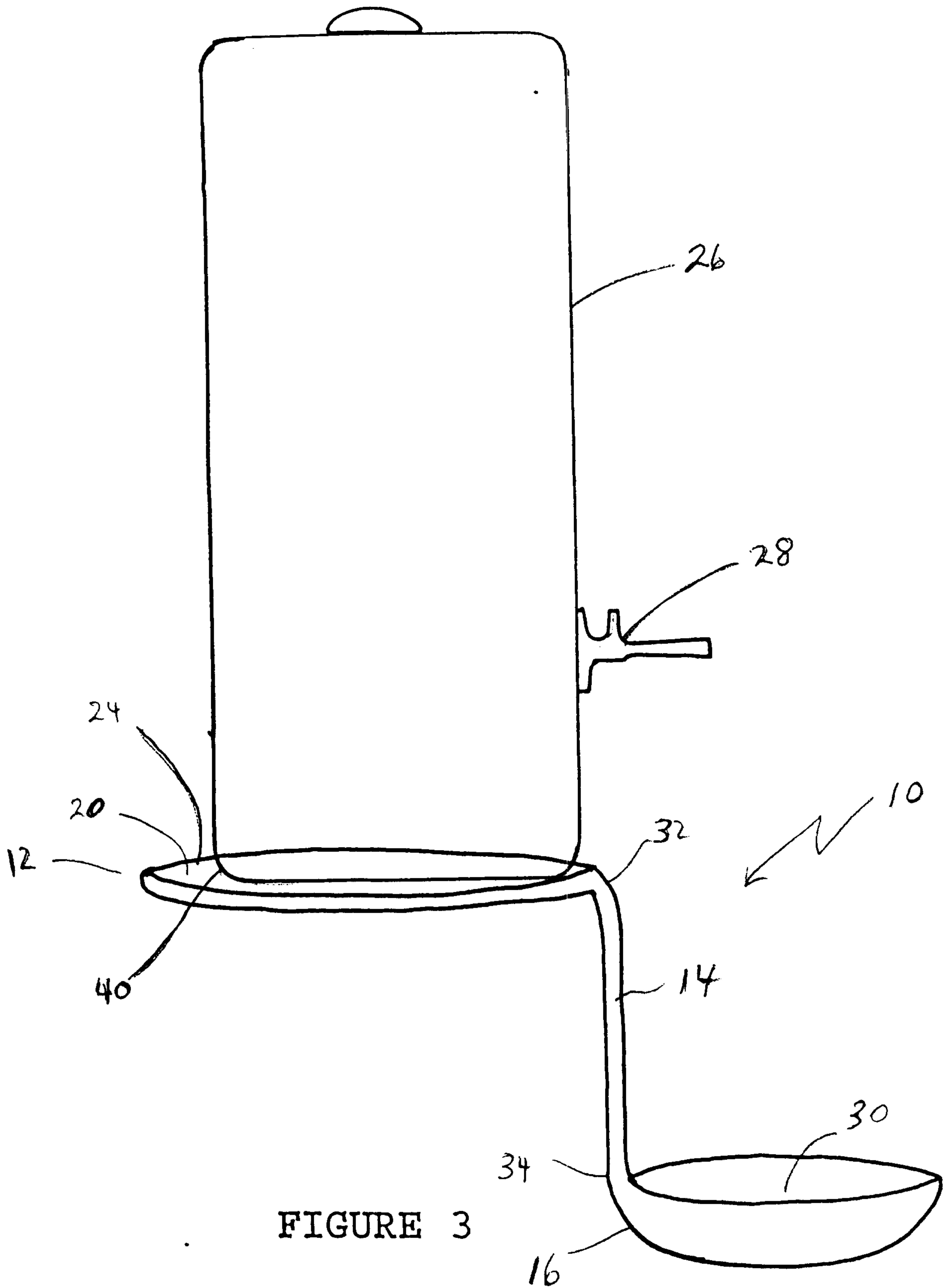


FIGURE 3

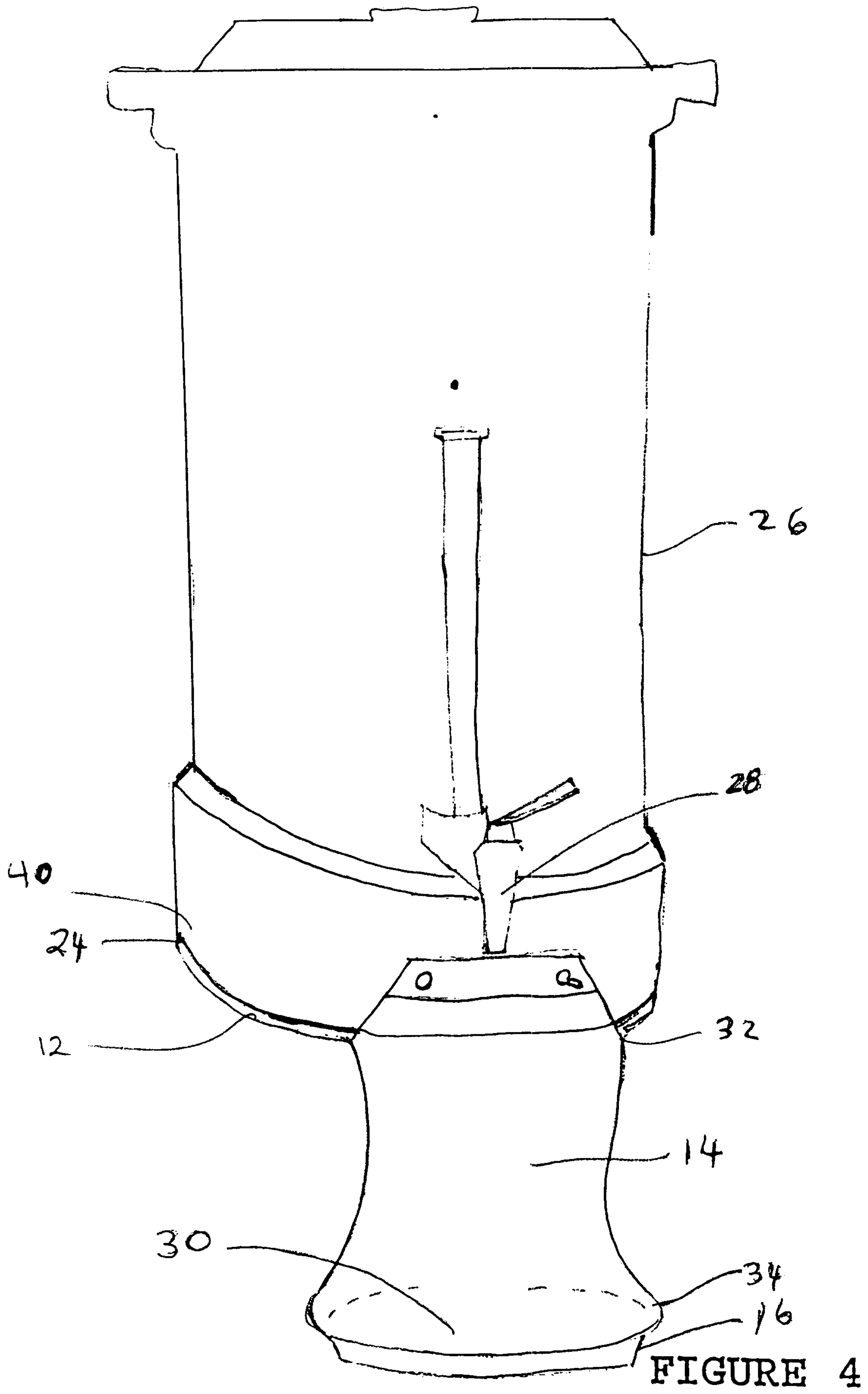


FIGURE 4