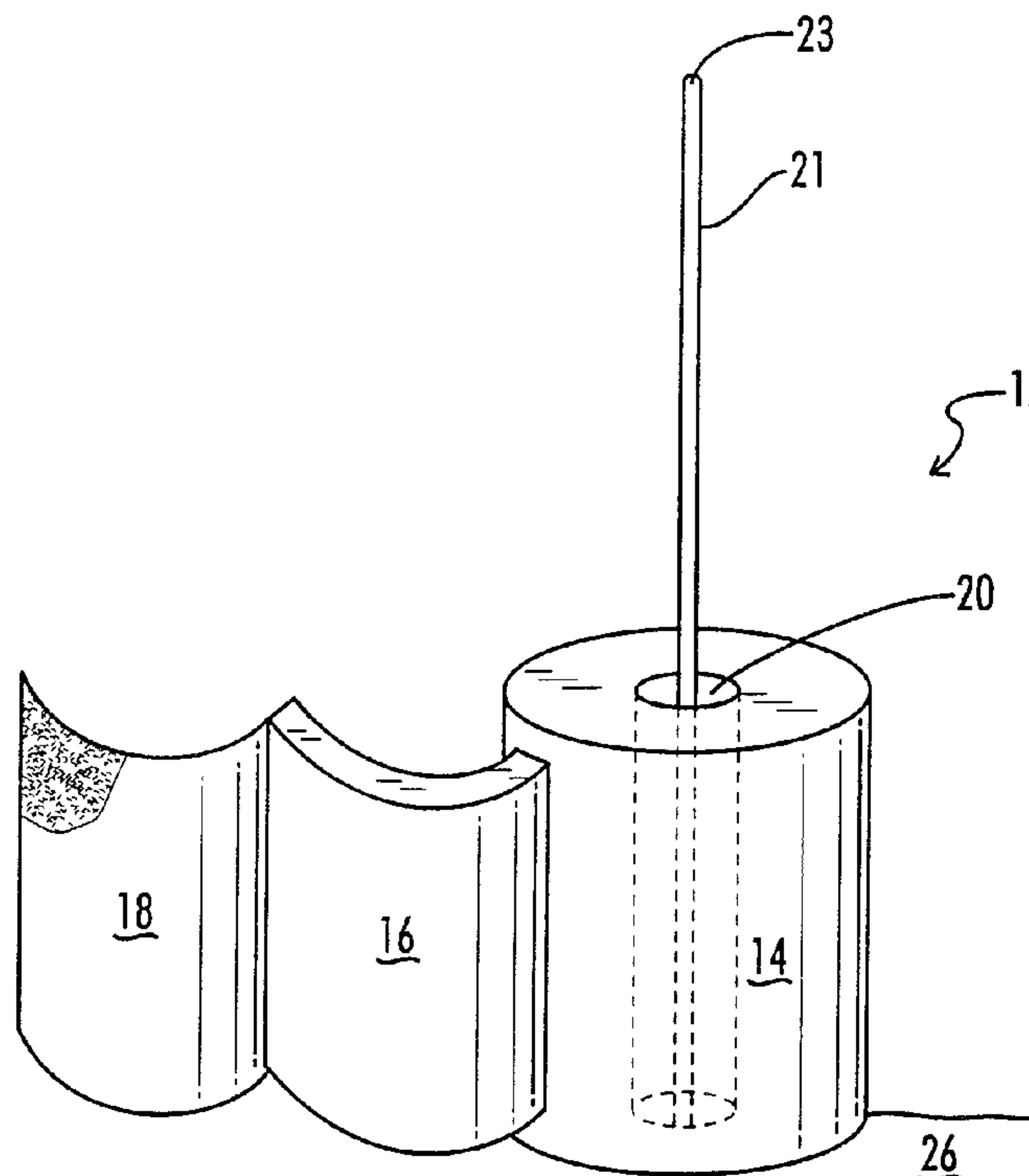




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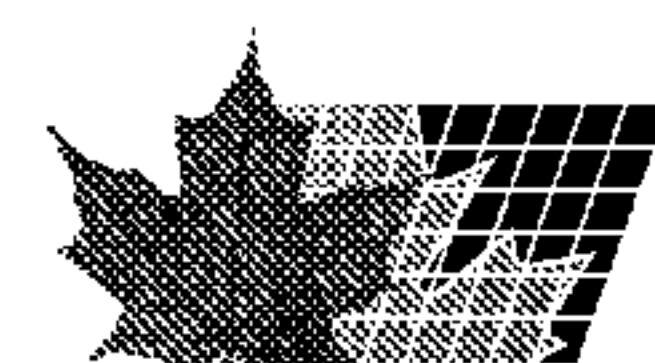
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(54) Title: GOLF GAME WITH A THREE DIMENSIONAL TARGET



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

A golf game (10) with a three dimensional target (12) that utilizes hook and loop material (18) and includes a club (28), a ball (30) with hook and loop material (32), and a mat (50). When the ball (30) contacts the target (12) it adheres thereto.



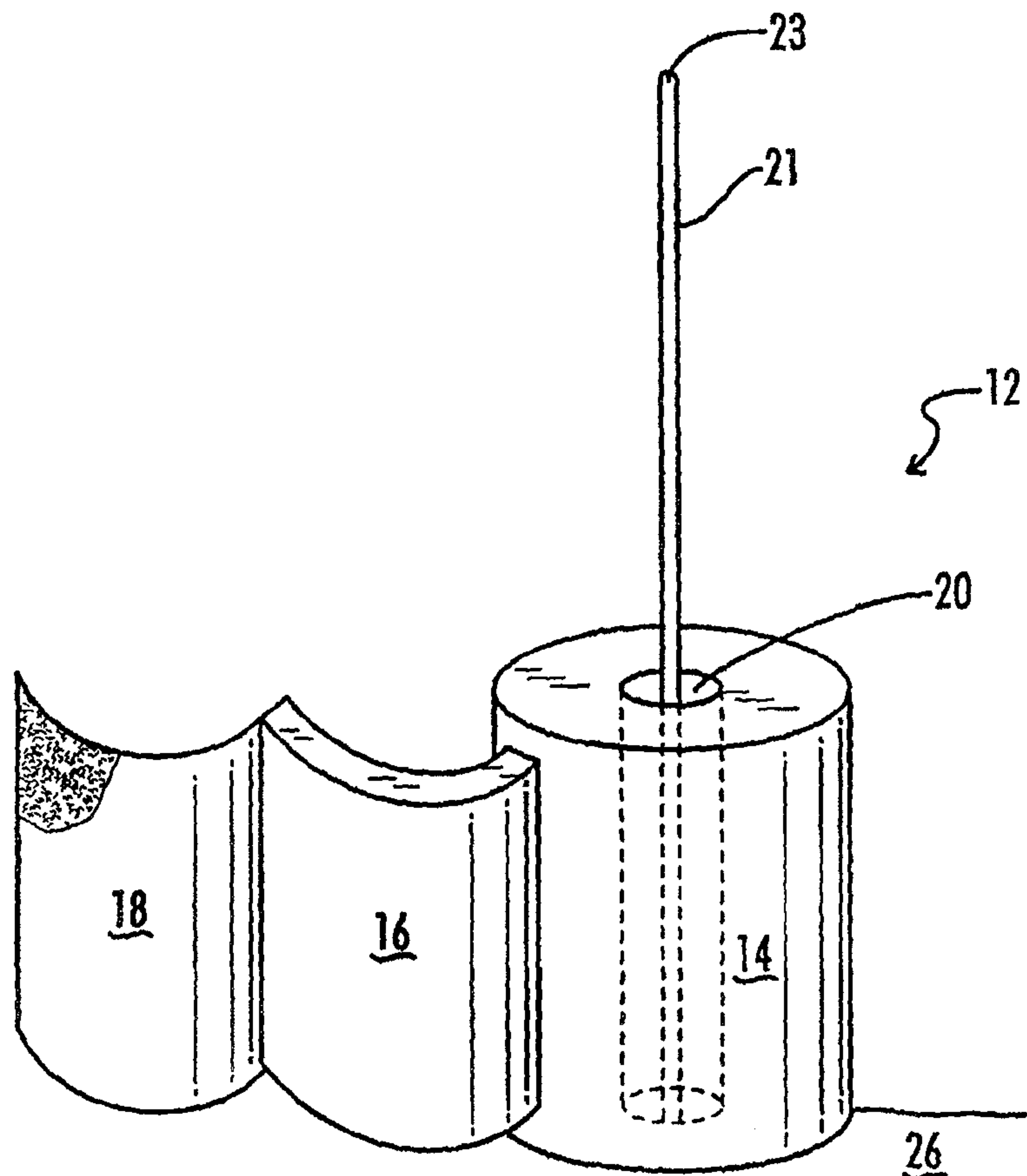
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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/08063 (22) International Filing Date: 27 March 2000 (27.03.00) (30) Priority Data: 09/280,406 29 March 1999 (29.03.99) US (71)(72) Applicants and Inventors: ARMSTRONG, Walter, E. [US/US]; 135 Lamorak Lane, Maitland, FL 32751 (US). ANTON, Terrence, P. [US/US]; 5812 Bent Grass Drive, Valrico, FL 33594 (US). (74) Agent: SHOUSE, Emily, A.; Waddey & Patterson, 414 Union Street, Suite 2020, Bank of America Plaza, Nashville, TN 37219 (US).		(81) Designated States: AU, CA, JP, NZ, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: GOLF GAME WITH A THREE DIMENSIONAL TARGET**(57) Abstract**

A golf game (10) with a three dimensional target (12) that utilizes hook and loop material (18) and includes a club (28), a ball (30) with hook and loop material (32), and a mat (50). When the ball (30) contacts the target (12) it adheres thereto.



DESCRIPTION

GOLF GAME WITH A THREE DIMENSIONAL TARGET

TECHNICAL FIELD

5 The present invention relates to a golf game, and more particularly to a golf game having a three dimensional target surrounded by a hook and loop material for engaging a ball also surrounded by a hook and loop material.

BACKGROUND ART

10 U. S. Patent No. 5,538,253 issued to Foster describes a simulation golf game that uses a hook and loop material. The game includes a sheet of material that has the same texture as a conventional golf green, as well as a ball and a golf club. A patch of hook and loop material (commonly referred to as Velcro®) is
15 attached to an area of the sheet and an additional patch of hook and loop material is attached to the ball. The object of the game is for the player to hit the ball so that it will roll onto the patch of hook and loop material on the sheet. When the ball does make contact with the patch of hook and loop material, the ball will become
20 attached to that patch, and play of that hole is completed. This design, however, fails to provide a target that is three dimensional to aid the player in locating the target and hitting the target. Furthermore, this game is not designed to be used with in conjunction with an existing hole at a golf course.

25 What is needed, then, and not found in the prior art, is an improved golf game providing a three dimensional target and a ball, the golf game further having a means by which to affix the ball to the three dimensional target when the ball comes into contact with the three dimensional target.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The current invention is a game similar to the conventional game of golf. The game includes a three dimensional target, a hitting mat, a ball, and one or more clubs. The three dimensional
5 target is preferably cylindrical, but can also be other conventional three dimensional shapes (such as a cone) as desired by the player. A sheet of hook and loop material, commonly referred to as Velcro®, is attached to the three dimensional target.

To play the game, the player hits the ball with the club in the
10 direction of the three dimensional target. The object of the game is for the player to hit the ball so that it makes contact with the three dimensional target. The score is kept in the same manner as a conventional golf game, with the player counting each time that the ball is struck until the ball makes contact with the three
15 dimensional target. The player who has the fewest strokes is the winner of the competition.

The objects and advantages of the present invention will become more readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art after reviewing the following detail description and accompanying
20 drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is an expanded view of a three dimensional target of the golf game of the present invention.

Figure 2a is a top view of the three dimensional target of the present invention.

25 Figure 2b is a top view of the three dimensional target of the present invention, with the three dimensional target including a cushion.

Figure 3 is an expanded view of a second embodiment of the three dimensional target, whereby the three dimensional target
30 includes a rod having a spiked end.

Figure 4 is an expanded view of a third embodiment of the three dimensional target, whereby the three dimensional target includes a rod having a cup-shaped end.

Figure 5a is a side view of the ball of the golf game of the present invention.

Figure 5b is a section I-I view of the ball shown in Figure 5a.

Figure 6 is a plan view of one golf club of the golf game of the present invention.

Figure 7a is a plan view of a second golf club of the golf game of the present invention.

Figure 7b is a top view of the second golf club of the golf game of the present invention.

Figure 8a is a top view of the mat used in the golf game of the present invention.

Figure 8b is a side view of the mat used in the golf game of the present invention.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Referring to Figure 1, a game apparatus 10 includes a three dimensional target 12, one or more clubs 28, a mat 50 and a ball 30. To play the game with the above named elements, a player (not shown) places the ball 30 on the mat 50 and strikes the ball 30 with the club 28 in the direction of the three dimensional target 12. The player continues to hit the ball 30 with the club 28 until the ball 30 comes in contact with the three dimensional target 12. The player keeps score in a manner similar to the conventional game of golf, wherein each strike at the ball 30 counts as one stroke. Once the player causes the ball 30 to come in contact with the three dimensional target 12, the player has his score for that hole. In a competition with a number of players, the player with the lowest

number of strokes for the designated number of holes (typically nine or eighteen) is the winner.

In the preferred embodiment, the three dimensional target **12** is a cylinder (as shown in Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4). Looking at Figure 5
2a, the three dimensional target **12** typically has a base **14** and a target attachment material **18** surrounding the base **14** to form a receiving surface. The base **14** is preferably made of foam, but could also be made of other materials such as plastic. The target attachment material **18** is preferably one element of a hook and loop
10 material, which is commonly sold under the trademark Velcro®. More specifically, the target attachment material **18** typically includes the hooks that interact with the loops of the hook and loop material.

Additionally, looking at Figure 2b, the three dimensional
15 target **12** could include a cushion **16** fitted between the base **14** and the target attachment material **18**. The cushion **16** is a pad typically made of a soft material, such as foam, so that the ball **30** will not bounce off of the three dimensional target **12** when the ball **30** makes contact with the three dimensional target **12**. The
20 cushion **16** is typically used when the base **14** is made of plastic or some other material having a hard surface.

Looking at Figure 5a, the ball **30** of the game apparatus **10** is typically slightly smaller than a conventional tennis ball (approximately 2.5 inches in diameter), although the size can be
25 varied according to the choice of the player. Looking at Figure 5b, the ball **30** is a rubber sphere **31** having a ball attachment material **32** affixed to the outside surface of the sphere **31**. The sphere **31** encompasses a hollow area **33** which allows the ball to be compressed when forces are applied to the outside surface of the

ball **30**. Additionally, the approximate weight of the ball **30** is two ounces.

The ball attachment material **32** creates an engaging surface, and is the other element of the hook and loop material not used as
5 the target attachment material **18**. The ball attachment material **32** is chosen such that it will interact with the target attachment material **18**. For example, if the target attachment material **18** includes the hooks, then the ball attachment material **32** will include the loops that interact with the hooks to secure the ball **30**
10 to the three dimensional target **12**. Therefore, when the ball **30** comes in contact with the three dimensional target **12**, the ball **30** will stay affixed to the surface contacted.

The preferred embodiment of the game apparatus **10** further includes at least one club **40** to hit the ball **30**, such as a
15 conventional golf club (see Figure 6). Each club **40** has a shaft **42** (typically made of fiberglass) connected to a head **44** and a rubber grip **46** surrounding a portion of the shaft **42**. The player thereby holds the club **40** by the rubber grip **46** attached to the shaft **42** to hit the ball **30** with the head **44**. The head **44** is typically made of a
20 hard and smooth material such that it can contact the ball **30** and ball attachment material **32** without forming a bond with the ball attachment material **32** surrounding the ball **30**.

In the preferred embodiment, the game apparatus **10** includes two clubs: one club **40** having an angled head **44**, such as a
25 driver from a conventional set of golf clubs (see Figure 6) and the other club **41** having a vertical head **48**, such as a conventional putter golf club (see Figures 7a and 7b). The club **40** with the angled head **44** is therefore used to engage the ball **30** to lift and propel the ball **30** into the air so that it will travel a long distance
30 towards the three dimensional target **12**. The club **41** with the

vertical head 44 is used to engage the ball 30 to roll the ball 30 a short distance towards the three dimensional target 12.

Looking at Figures 8a and 8b, the mat 50 of the preferred embodiment includes a non-skid surface 52 and a turf layer 54. The non-skid surface 52 is typically made of rubber, and the turf layer 54 is made of an artificial turf material. The turf layer 54 is attached to the top of the non-skid surface 52 so that the player can stand on the mat 50 to hit the ball 30. Additionally, a tee hole 56 is located in the turf layer 54 through which a tee 58 is positioned. The tee 58 (which is typically made of rubber) is designed so that the ball 30 can be placed on it. The ball 30 can then be hit from the tee 58 or directly from the turf layer 54 of the mat 50. Furthermore, a handle 60 is an integrated part of mat 50. The handle 60 aids the player in transporting the mat 50 as needed.

Looking further at Figures 1, 2a, and 2b, the three dimensional target 12 includes a hollow core 20 that extends through the three dimensional target 12. There are various ways in which to securely position the three dimensional target 12 on the ground surface 26. One means for securing the three dimensional target 12 to the ground surface 26 is through using a rod 21 (shown in Figures 1, 3, and 4). This embodiment of the game apparatus 10 is designed so that the three dimensional target 12 can be placed around the rod 21 through the core 20. The rod 21 therefore provides two functions for the golf game apparatus 10. First, the rod 21 stabilizes the three dimensional target 12 at the location desired by the player. Second, the rod 21 also serves as a visual guide for the player to help the player determine the position of the three dimensional target 12 and how far it is away from the player.

Looking further at Figure 3, one embodiment of the rod 21 is shown to have a spiked end 22 and a blunt end 23. In this

embodiment, the spiked end **22** of the rod **21** is designed so that it can be inserted into a ground surface **26** so as to secure the three dimensional target **12** to the ground **26**. This design allows the player to be able to choose where the three dimensional target **12** will be located according to hardness of the surface **26** and according to the desires of the players.

Looking at Figure 4, a second embodiment of the rod **21** is shown to have a cup-shaped end **24** and a blunt end **23**. In this embodiment, the cup-shaped end **24** of the rod **21** is designed to completely fit into a hole (not shown) used in a conventional golf course. The diameter of the cup-shaped end **24** is such that it fits snugly into the hole so that the rod **21** will make a secure connection with the hole. In this embodiment, the player is able to arrange the three dimensional target **12** in the position according to where an established hole is located on an existing golf course. Consequently, the player aims for the three dimensional target **12** positioned in the location of the existing hole, and is able to play a hole on an existing golf course with the knowledge of the preexisting dimensions of the golf course.

A third method to secure the three dimensional target **12** to the ground surface **26** is by adjusting the size and weight of the three dimensional target **12**. The size of the three dimensional target **12** determines the stability of the three dimensional target **12** on the surface **26** upon which it is placed. Looking at the cylindrical three dimensional target **12** of Figure 1, the diameter of the base **14** is sufficient such that the three dimensional target **12** is stable on a flat surface, and does not require a rod **21** for stability. However, if the diameter of the base **14** is smaller, the three dimensional target **12** would require the rod **21** in the core **20** to prevent the base **14** from being toppled when the ball **30** makes

contact with the three dimensional target **12**. Furthermore, the base **14** itself can be hollow such that the base **14** can be filled with a weighting material (not shown), such as water or sand, to provide weight to obtain additional stability for the three dimensional
5 target **12** without using a rod **21**.

The size of the three dimensional target **12** can be varied not only to increase stability of the three dimensional target **12**, but to also change the difficulty of the game. For example, the smaller the three dimensional target **12**, the more difficult it is for the player to
10 contact the three dimensional target **12** with the ball **30**. Conversely, the greater the diameter of the three dimensional target **12**, the easier it is for the player to make contact with the three dimensional target **12**.

Moreover, the three dimensional target **12** of the current
15 invention is not required to be cylindrical in shape in order to play the game. Examples of alternative shapes of the three dimensional object **12** include a sphere, a cube, or a cone. The alternative shapes must be designed such that the three dimensional target **12** continues to have a base **14**, a cushion **16**, and a target attachment
20 material **18**, as directed above. Further, the three dimensional target **12** will continue to maintain a hollow core **20** through which a rod **21** is insertable for securing the three dimensional target **12**.

The present invention has been described in connection with a preferred embodiment thereof, and it will be understood that
25 many modifications and variations will be readily apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention and that the invention is not to be taken as limited to all of the details herein. Therefore, it is manifestly intended that this invention be limited only by the claims and the
30 equivalents thereof.

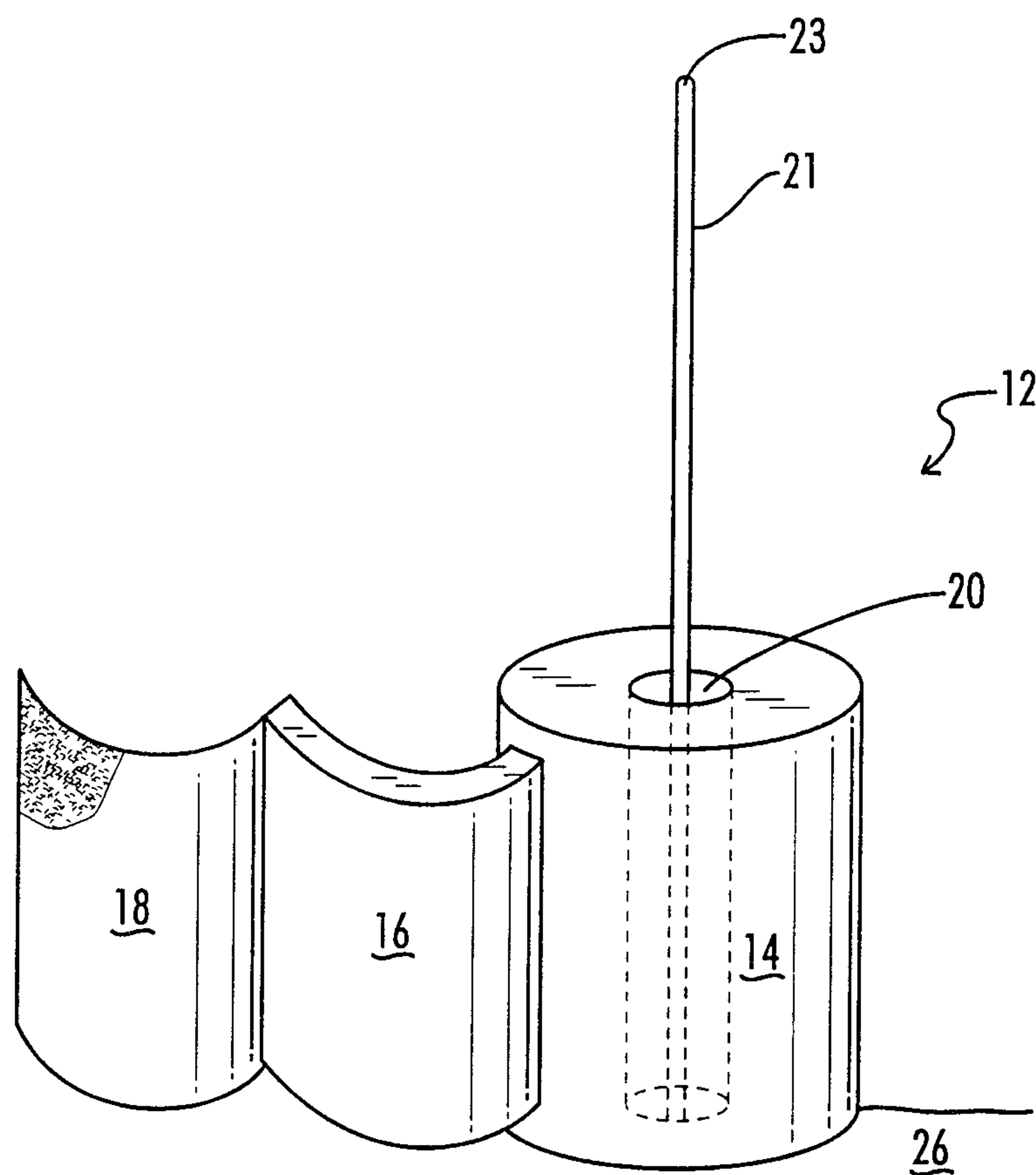
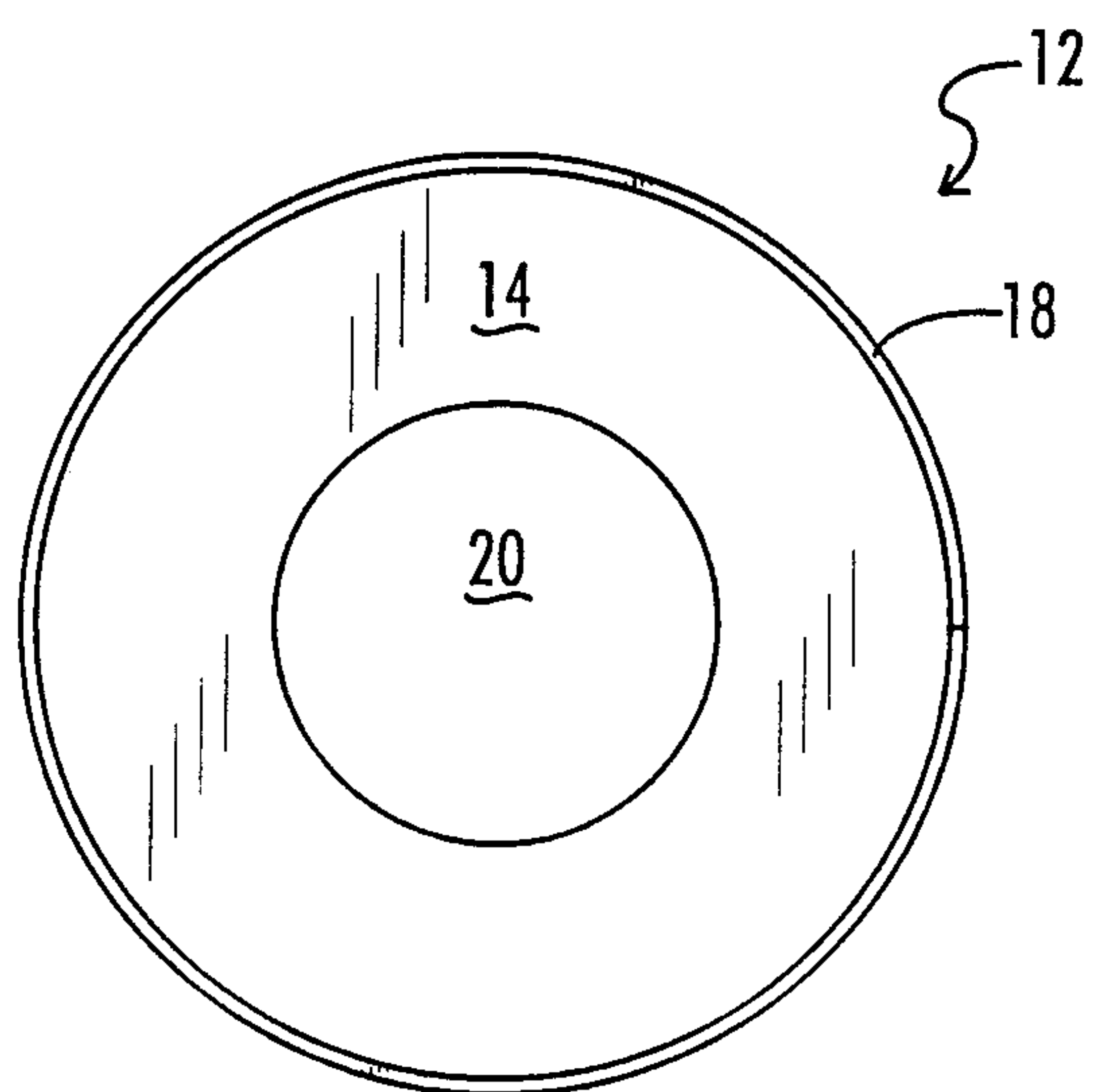
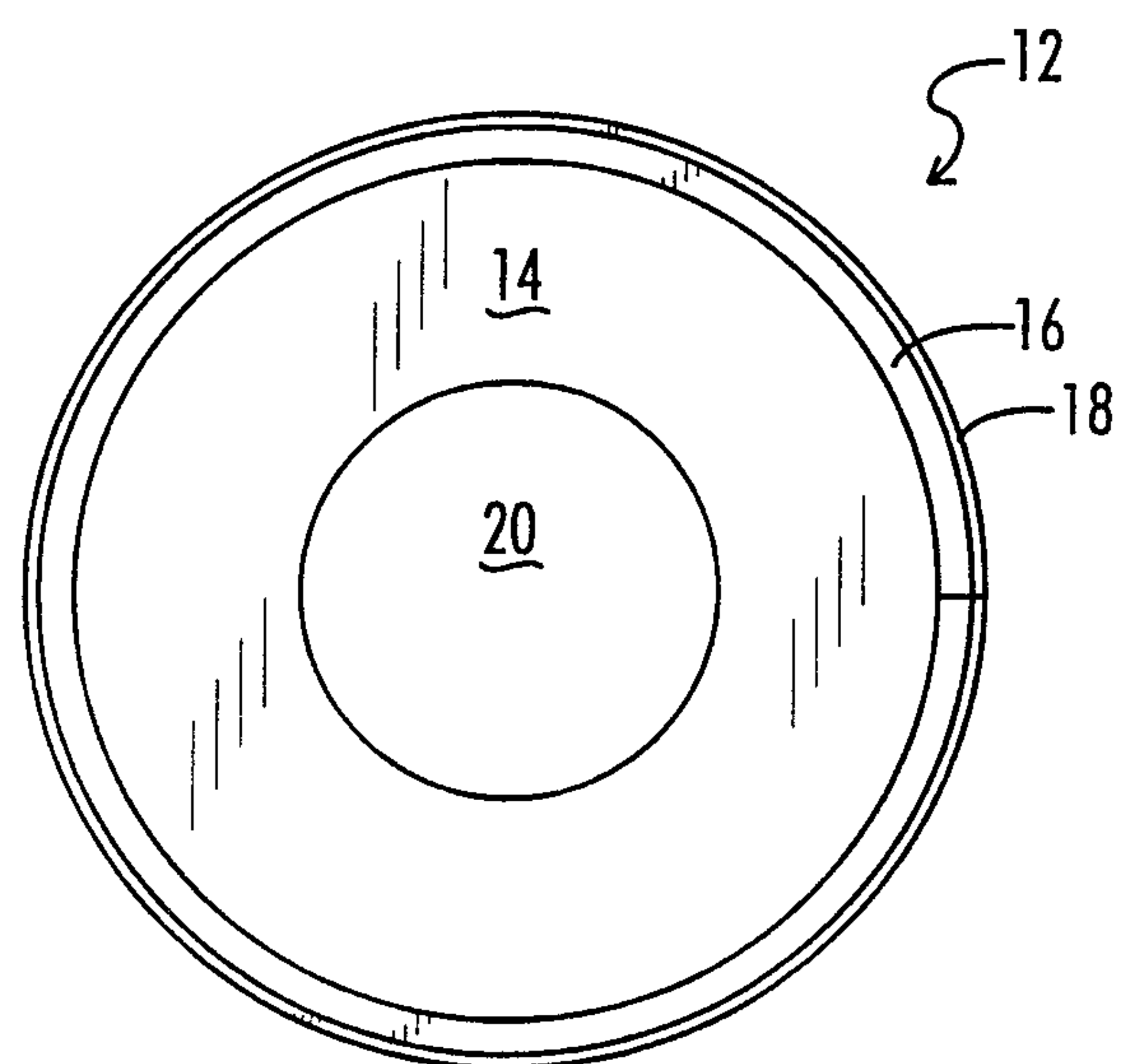
CLAIMS

1. A golf game comprising:
 - a three dimensional target and a target attachment material,
 - 5 said target attachment material affixed to said three dimensional target;
 - a ball and a ball attachment material, said ball attachment material affixed to said ball, wherein said ball attachment material is constructed to stick to said target attachment material when said
 - 10 ball contacts said three dimensional target; and
 - a club for engaging said ball to propel said ball toward said three dimensional target.
2. The golf game of claim 1 wherein the target attachment material has a plurality of hooks.
- 15 3. The golf game of claim 1 wherein the ball attachment material has a plurality of loops.
4. The golf game of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a rod; and
 - a hollow core extending through said three dimensional
 - 20 target;
 - said rod extending through said core to position said three dimensional target.
5. The golf game of claim 4 wherein said rod comprises a blunt end and a spiked end, wherein said spiked end engages a ground
- 25 surface.
6. The golf game of claim 4 further comprising:
 - a hole in a ground surface for inserting said rod; and
 - wherein said rod further comprises a blunt end and a cup-shaped end, said cup-shaped end being inserted into said hole to
 - 30 secure said rod in said hole.

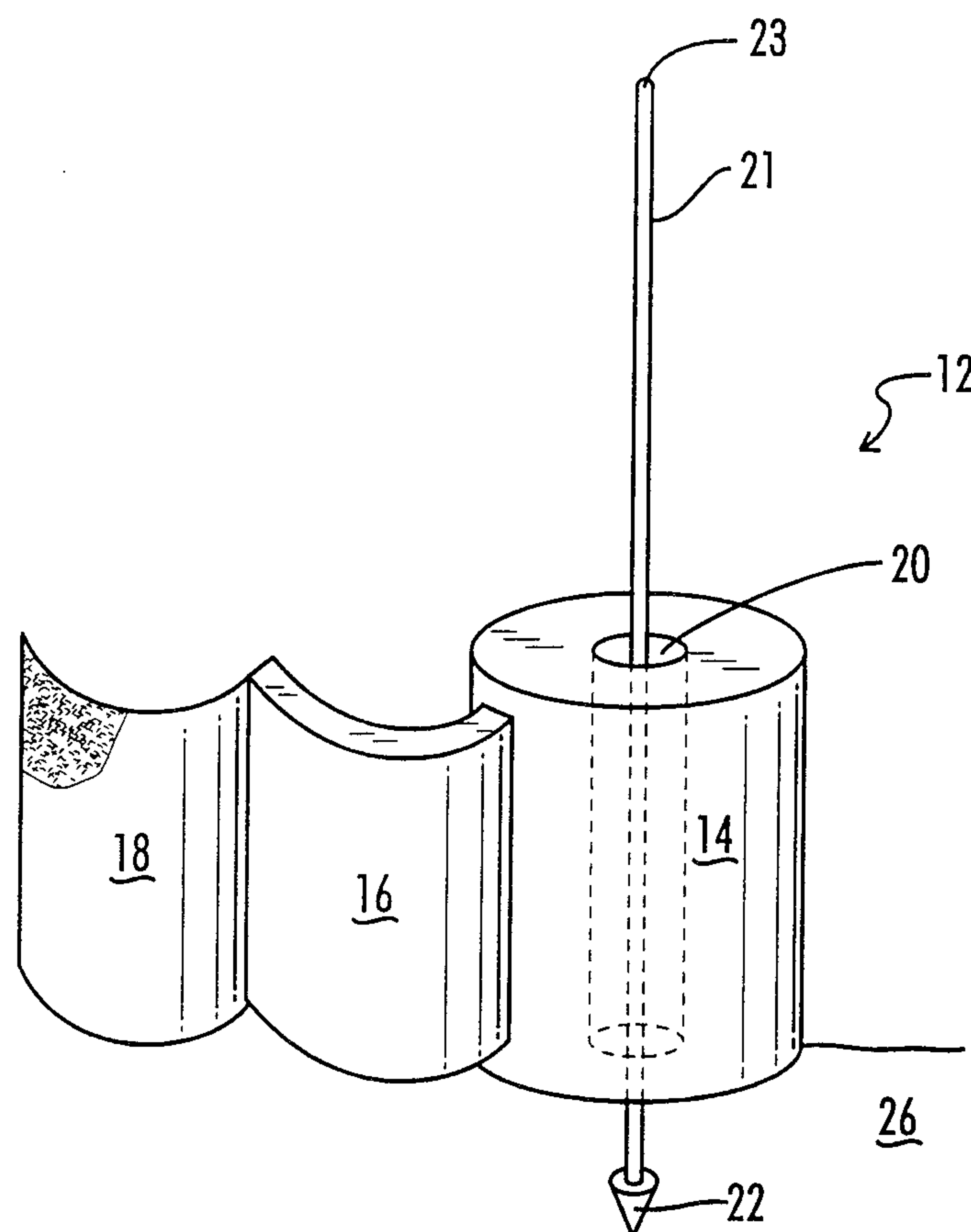
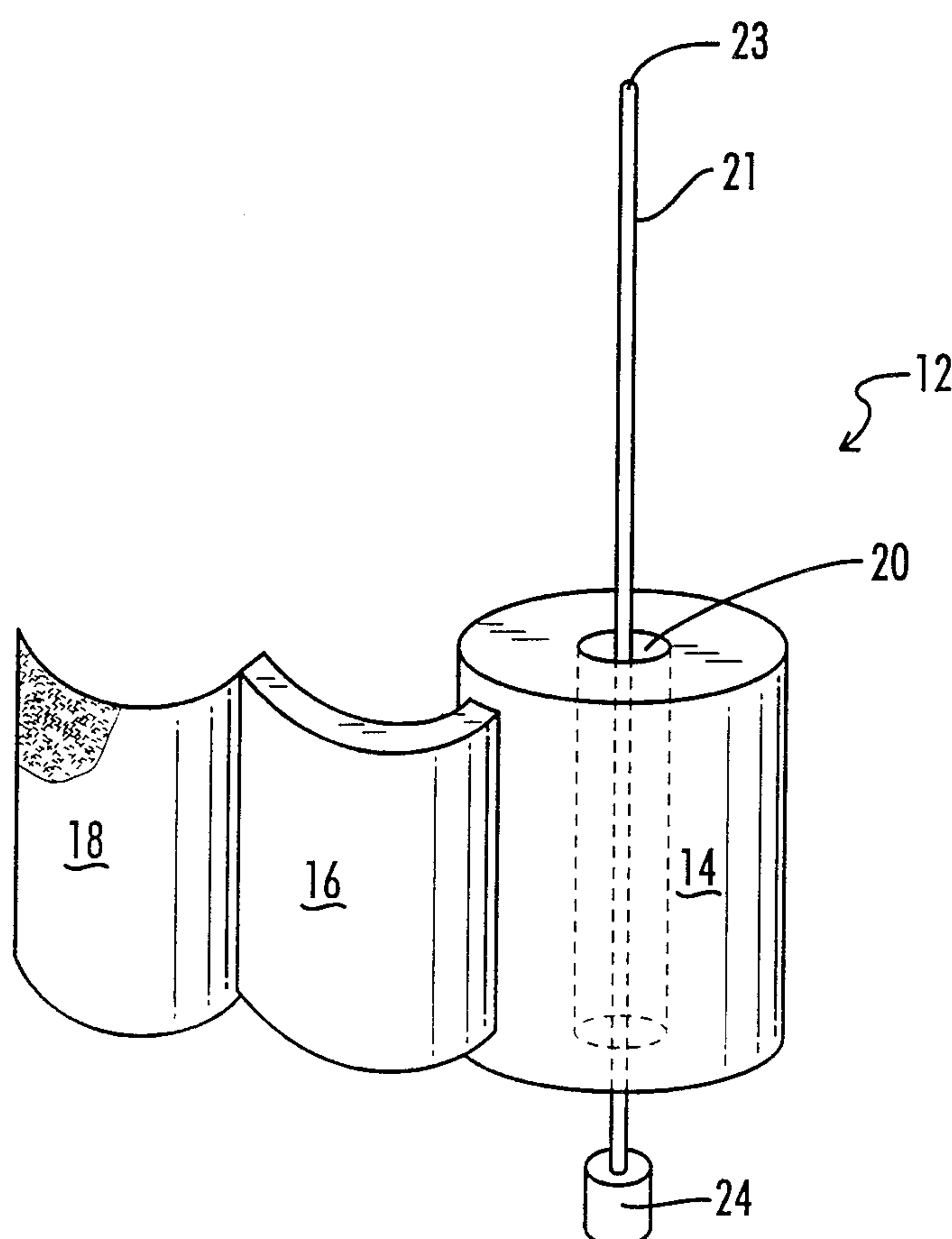
7. The golf game of claim 1 wherein said three dimensional target is made of foam.
8. The golf game of claim 1 wherein said three dimensional target is made of plastic.
- 5 9. The golf game of claim 1 further comprising a cushion, said cushion positioned between said three dimensional target and said target attachment material.
- 10 10. A method for playing a golf game comprising the steps of:
providing a three dimensional target having a receiving
surface;
providing a ball having an engaging surface;
hitting said ball with a club toward said three dimensional target; and
impacting said three dimensional target with said ball, said
15 engaging surface of said ball interacting with said receiving surface of said three dimensional target to secure said ball to said three dimensional target.
- 20 11. A game apparatus comprising:
a cylinder;
a target attachment material affixed to said cylinder;
a ball;
a ball attachment material affixed to said ball wherein said ball attachment material sticks to said target attachment material when said ball contacts said cylinder to position said ball on said
25 cylinder.
12. The game of claim 12 further comprising a club for contacting said ball to propel said ball toward said cylinder.
13. The game of claim 12 wherein the target attachment material includes a plurality of hooks.

14. The game of claim 12 wherein the ball attachment material includes a plurality of loops.
15. The game of claim 12 further comprising:
a rod; and
5 a hollow core extending through said cylinder;
said rod extending through said core.
16. The game of claim 15 wherein said rod comprises a first and second end, said second end being pointed for insertion into a ground surface.
- 10 17. The game of claim 15 further comprising:
a hole in a ground surface for inserting said rod; and
wherein said rod further includes a first and second end;
wherein a securing disc is attached to said second end of said
rod;
15 said securing disc attached to said rod being inserted into
said hole to brace said rod in said hole.
18. The game of claim 12 further comprising a pad, said pad positioned between said cylinder and said target attachment material.
- 20 19. The game of claim 12 wherein said cylinder is made of foam.
20. The game of claim 12 wherein said cylinder is made of plastic.

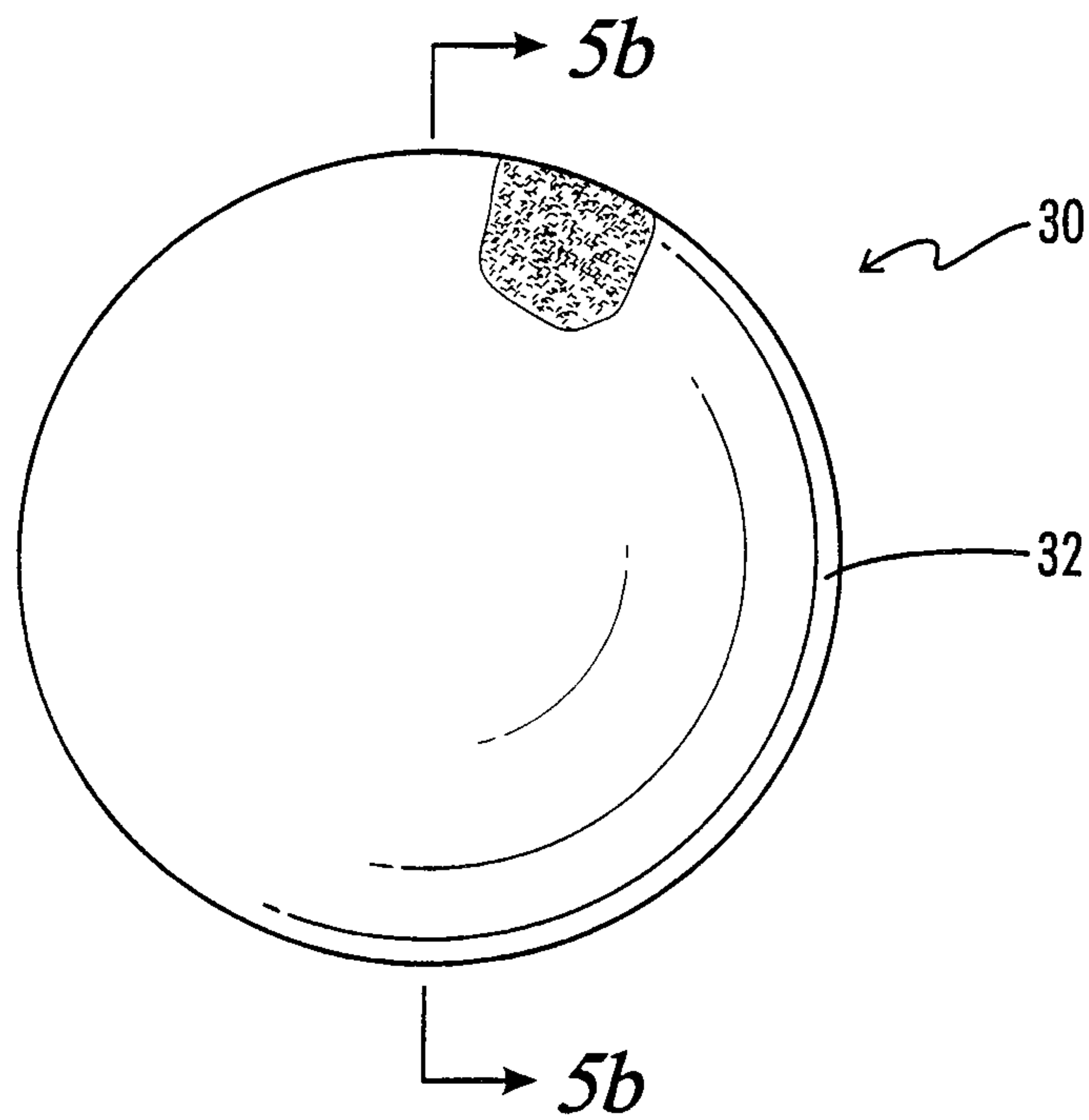
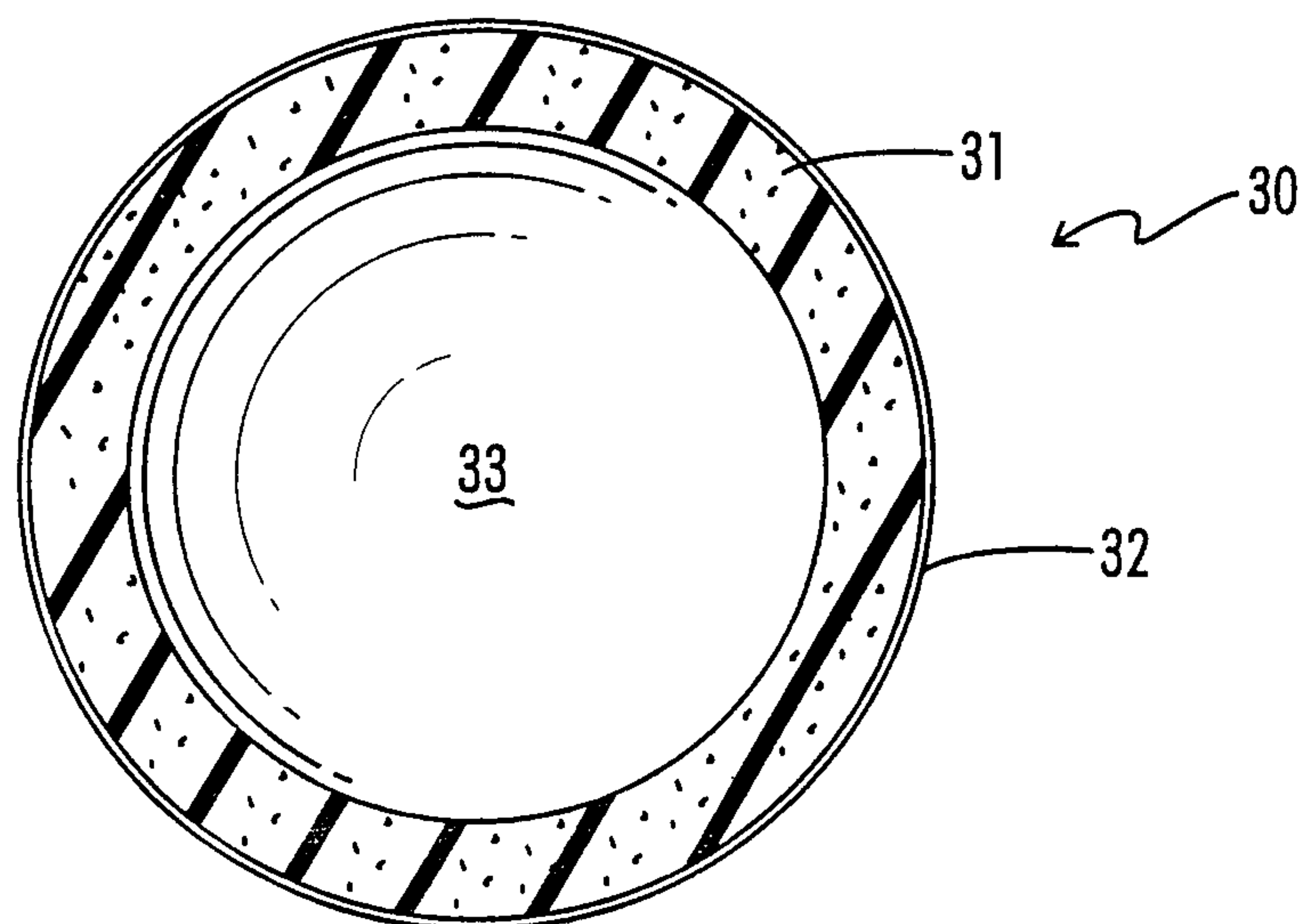
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*FIG. 1**FIG. 2a**FIG. 2b*

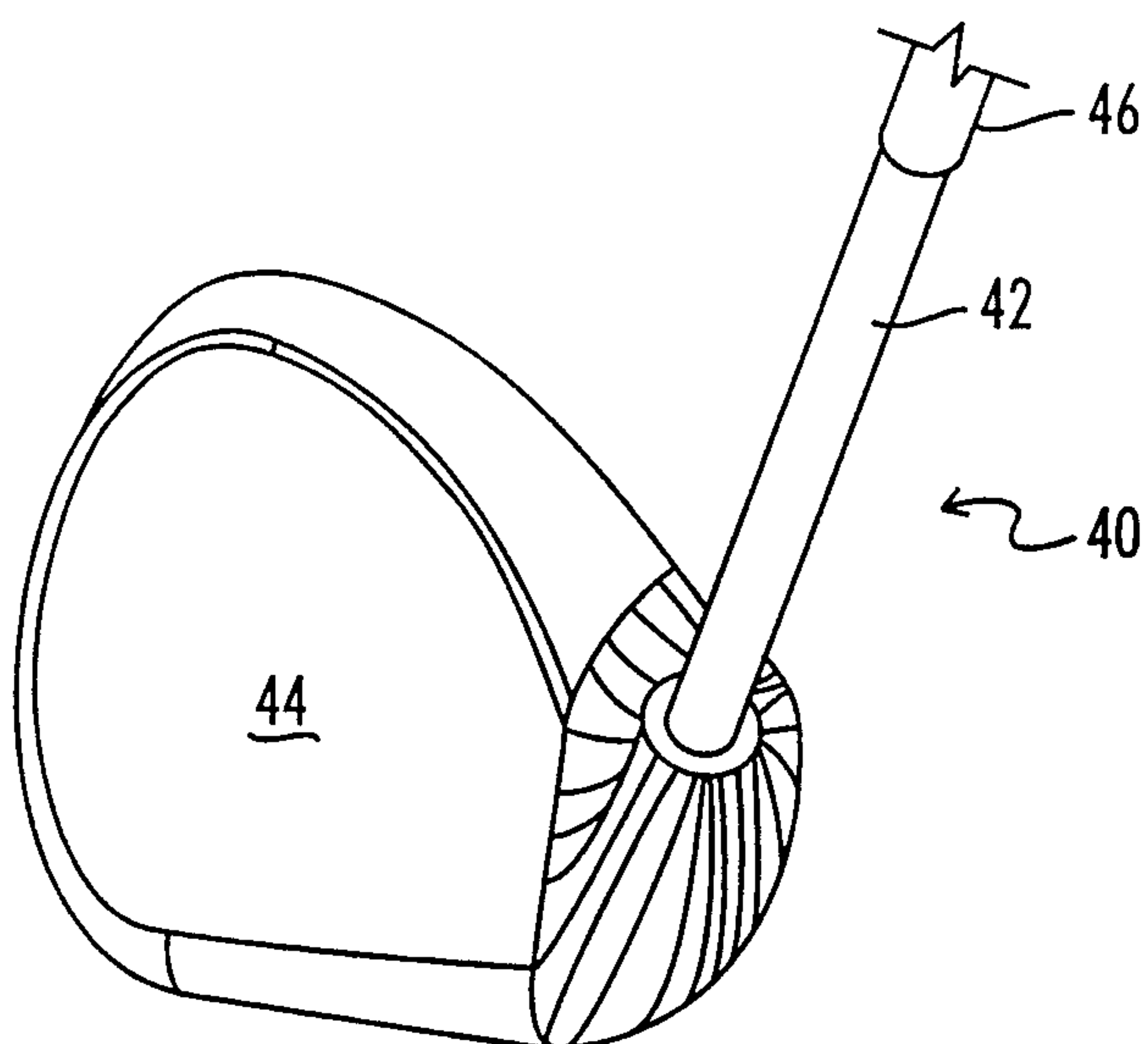
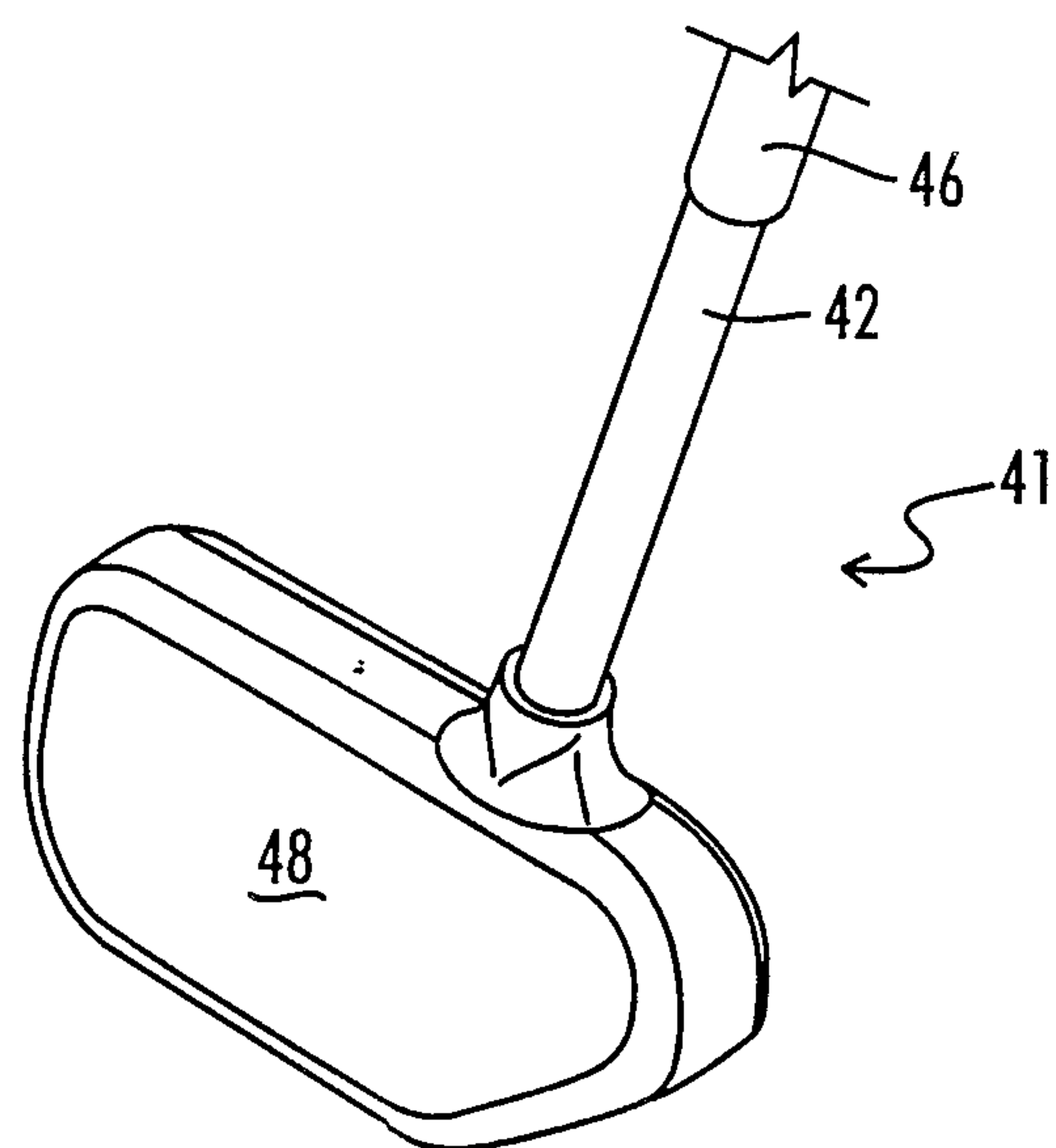
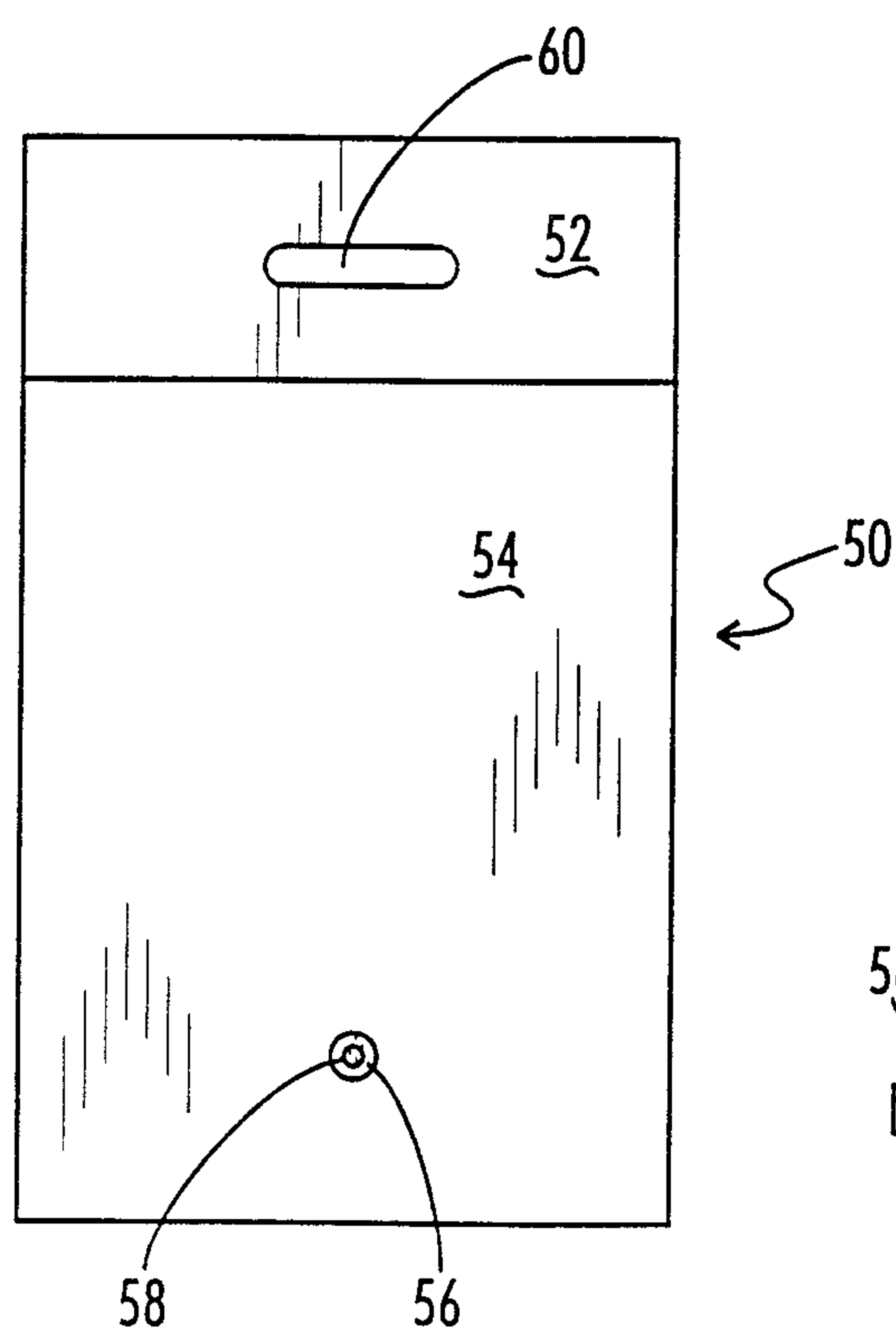
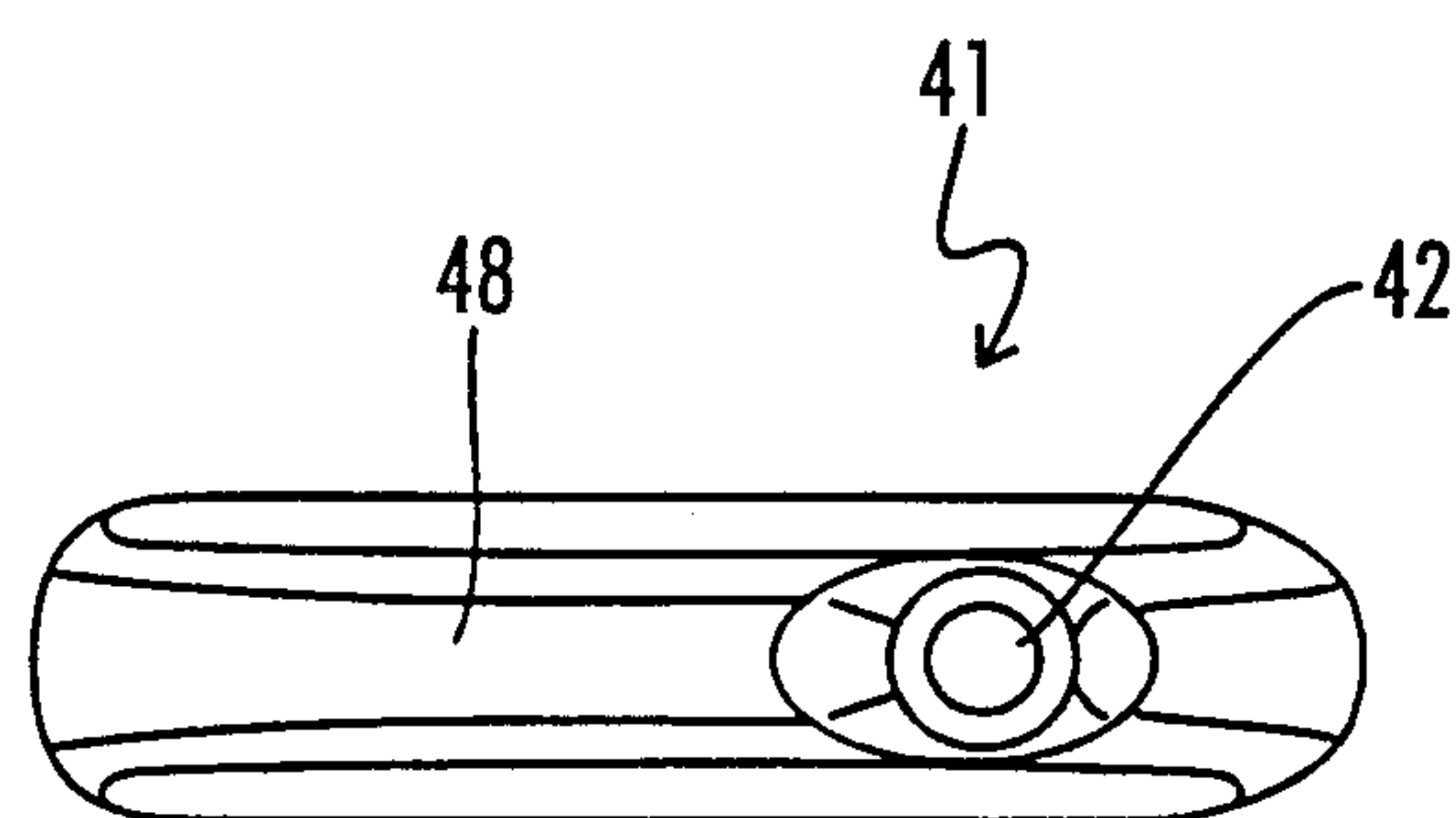
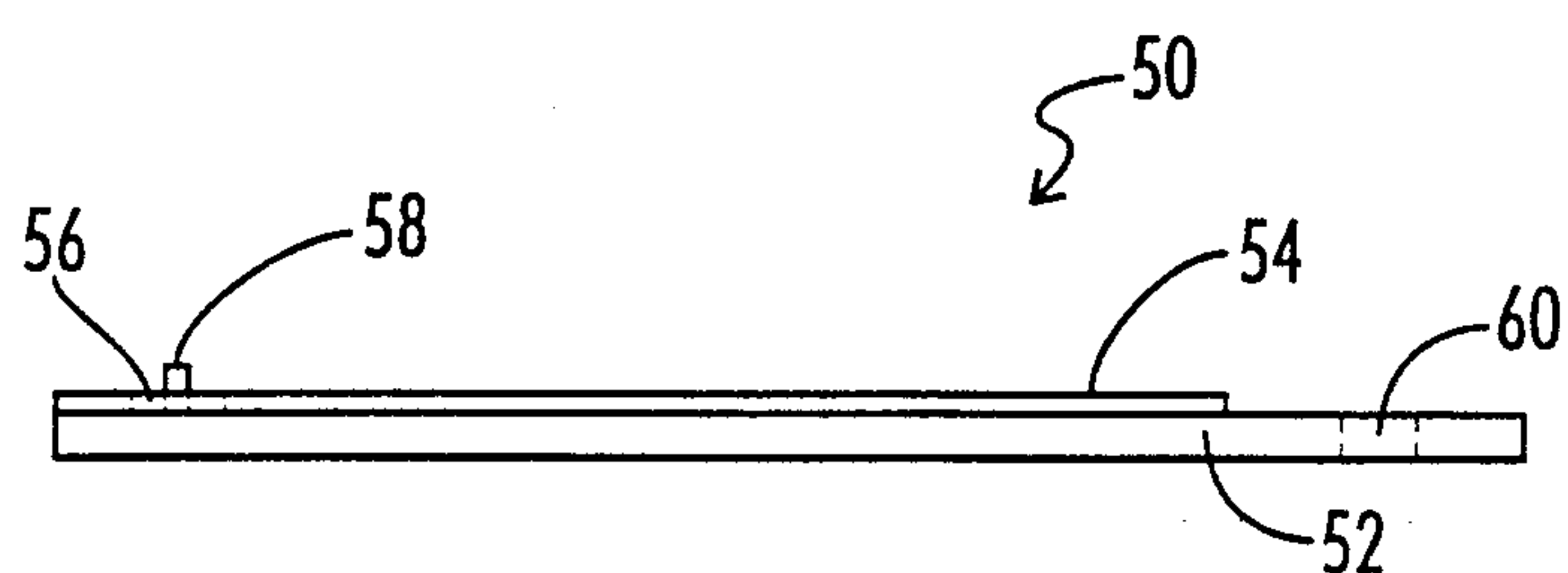
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FIG. 3*FIG. 4*

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*FIG. 5a**FIG. 5b*

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*FIG. 6**FIG. 7a**FIG. 8a**FIG. 7b**FIG. 8b*

