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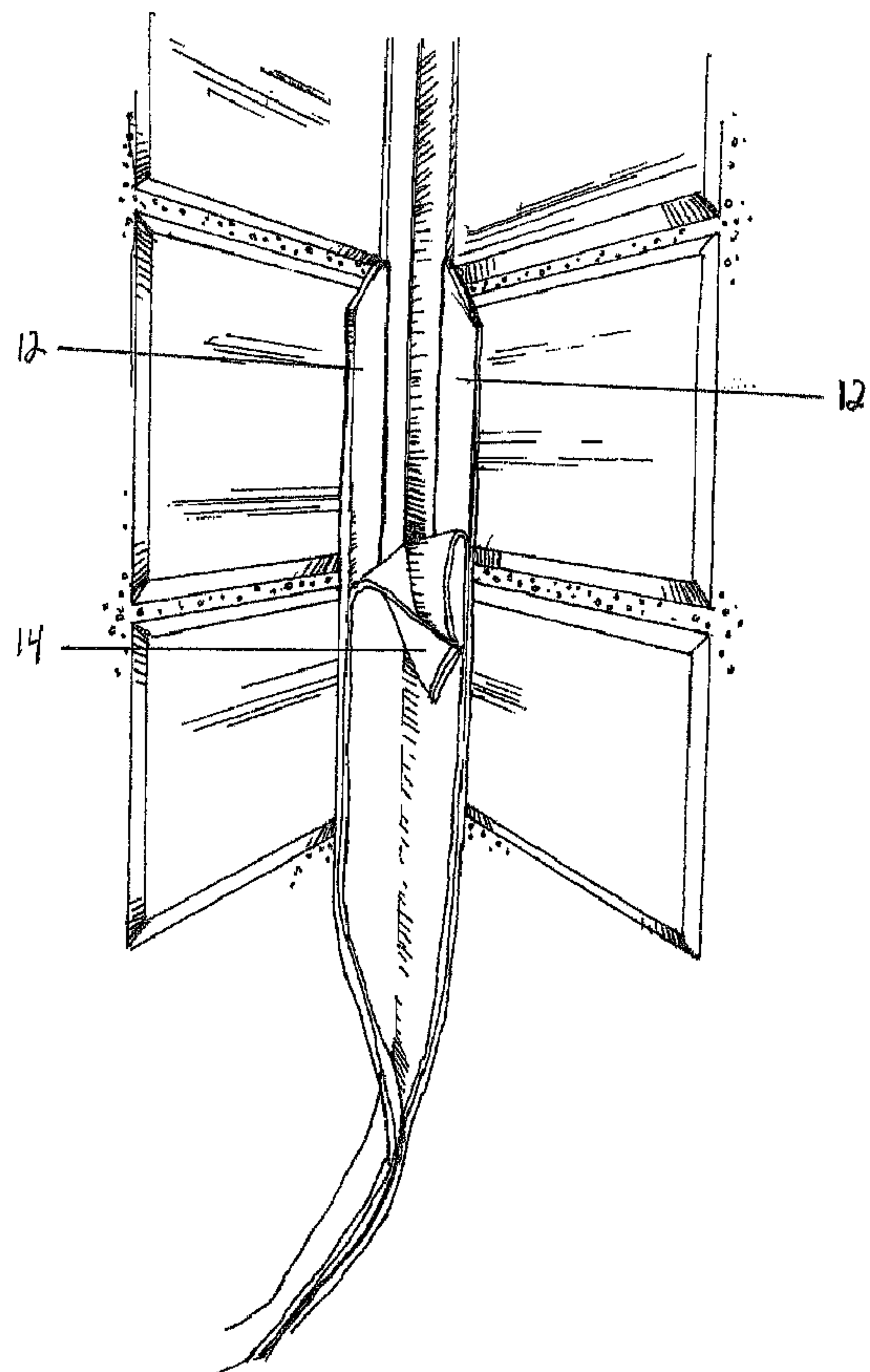
(72) Inventeur/Inventor:
LIAN, FRANK, NO

(73) Propriétaire/Owner:
LIAN, FRANK, NO

(74) Agent: ROBIC

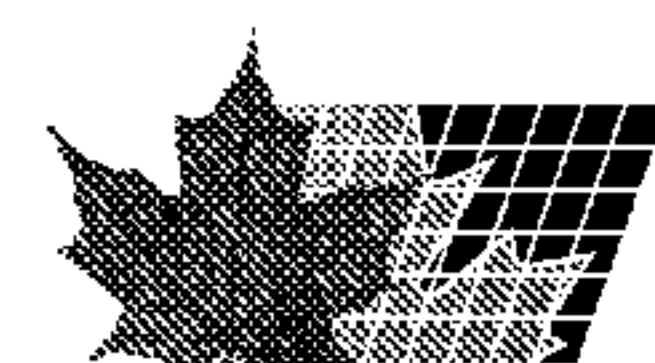
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(54) Title: ADHESIVE TAPE USED AS AN AID WHEN APPLYING CAULK OR GROUT IN CERAMIC TILE CORNERS



(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

A caulking or grouting aid comprising two identical, double-sided adhesive strips 12 and 12' attached to a backing strip 14 such that adhesive strip 12 and 12' are parallel to one another and are spaced apart forming a uniform, intermediate channel. The



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

backing strip is folded in half, such that the exposed edge of backing strip 14 can be inserted into the corner of a wall, then unfolded such that the front sides of the adhesive strips become adhered to the adjacent walls, forming a uniform channel into which caulk or grout can be applied.

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(71) Applicant and

(72) Inventor: **LIAN, Frank** [NO/NO]; Wesenbergsmauet 3B,
N-5003 Bergen (NO).

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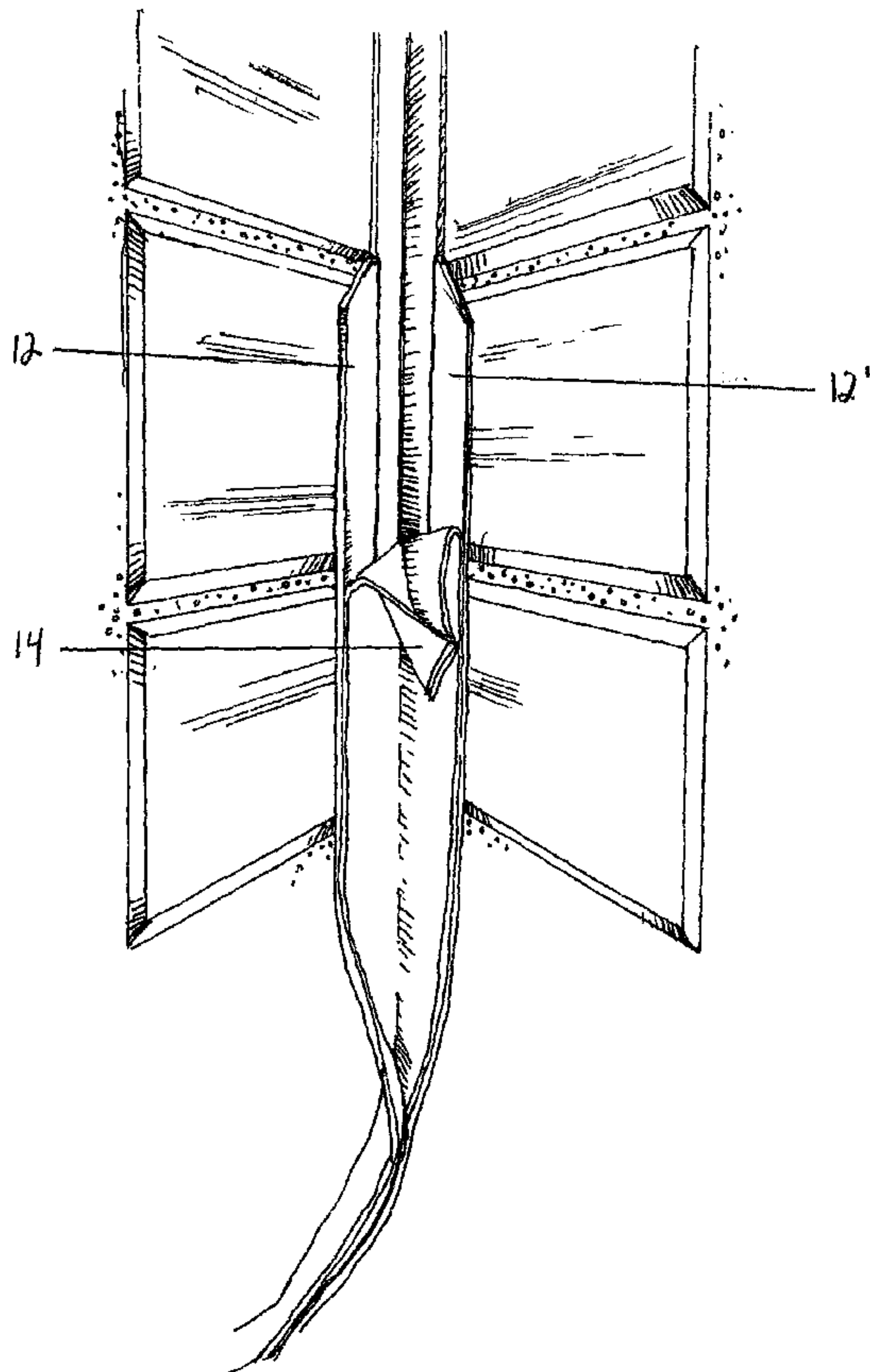
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(74) Agent: **ABEL, Christian**; Grahl-Madsen, Ingebrigtsen & Co., Postboks 333 Sentrum, N-5804 Bergen (NO).

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(54) Title: ADHESIVE TAPE USED AS AN AID WHEN APPLYING CAULK OR GROUT IN CERAMIC TILE CORNERS



(57) Abstract: A caulking or grouting aid comprising two identical, double-sided adhesive strips 12 and 12' attached to a backing strip 14 such that adhesive strip 12 and 12' are parallel to one another and are spaced apart forming a uniform, intermediate channel. The backing strip is folded in half, such that the exposed edge of backing strip 14 can be inserted into the corner of a wall, then unfolded such that the front sides of the adhesive strips become adhered to the adjacent walls, forming a uniform channel into which caulk or grout can be applied.



WO 03/024614 A1

WO 03/024614 A1



For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

Adhesive tape used as an aid when applying caulk or grout in ceramic tile corners.

Field of the invention

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This invention relates to adhesive tape, specifically to an adhesive tape useful for applying caulk or grout in ceramic tile corners.

10 Background

Ceramic tiles are a common wall and floor covering. It is obviously desirable that the tiles have the most attractive appearance possible. Ceramic tile is typically installed by
15 gluing the tiles to the surface, with great care being used to achieve a regular and uniform pattern. After the glue has dried, the spaces between the tiles are filled with a cement-like substance known as grout. The grout is spread out over the tile surface filling the spaces, and the
20 residue wiped away. When done properly, this technique provides a uniform and attractive result.

The corners between perpendicular walls present a problem however. The above-described grouting technique cannot be
25 employed in the corners. Here a caulking gun, or other similar device, is used to inject the grout. In bathrooms or other areas exposed to water, such corners are often filled with silicone rubber caulking, which as a practical matter can only be applied with a caulking gun.

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The installer uses a caulking gun by squeezing a trigger, which causes the caulking substance to flow from a pointed nozzle, while at the same time moving the nozzle along the corner. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to achieve a

uniform and attractive result using a caulking gun. The caulking substance flows from the nozzle more quickly when the trigger is first squeezed. If the installer does not precisely regulate the speed at which the caulking gun is moved along the wall, an irregular and unattractive result will be achieved.

One solution to this problem has been to adhere masking tape along each side of the corner. This is a very time-consuming and difficult procedure however. The two separate strips of tape must be applied at an equal distance from the corner and be kept parallel to each other along the entire length of the wall.

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There is therefore a need for an adhesive tape that can be easily adhered in the corner created by perpendicular walls, and which creates an evenly-spaced, parallel channel in which grout or caulk can be applied.

Summary of the Invention

To satisfy this need, the present invention provides a caulking or grouting aid comprising two identical, elongated strips of double-sided adhesive tape, namely a first strip and a second strip, said first and second strips of double-sided adhesive tape having a front side and a back side and being in parallel arrangement to one another, with the back sides of said strips of double-sided adhesive tape being affixed along the outer edges of a removable, non-adhesive flexible film having a width greater than the combined widths of said strips of double-sided adhesive tape such that a uniform channel is formed between said strips of double-sided adhesive tape when said strips are affixed to a surface and the flexible film is removed, and further wherein said flexible film is folded along the mid-line of the channel between said strips of double-sided adhesive tape such that the respective back sides of said strips of double-sided adhesive tape are brought together in vertical alignment with one another, thus leaving an exposed portion of non-adhesive film protruding past the edges of said strips of double-sided adhesive tape.

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The invention also provides a method for applying caulk or grout in a corner, the method comprising:

- a) providing a roll of a caulking or grouting,
- b) unrolling a length of tape from the roll and inserting the folded edge of the exposed portion of the non-adhesive film into the corner,
- c) affixing the tape to the corners of the wall by unfolding the flexible film, while the edge of the exposed portion remains in the corner, such that the first strip comes into contact with and adheres to a first adjacent wall of the corner and the second strip comes into contact with and adheres to a second adjacent wall of the corner, such that the first and second strips are parallel to each along each side of the corner,
- d) removing flexible film, thereby exposing a uniform channel intermediate the first and second strips,
- e) applying caulk or grout in the channel between the first and second strips, and
- f) removing the strips from their respective walls thereby creating a uniform length of caulk or grout in the corner having attractive and parallel edges.

Brief description of the drawings

20 The present invention will be further described with reference to the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a roll of tape according to the invention.

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a roll of tape according to the invention, with one end slightly open.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the tape applied in a corner.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a caulking gun in use with the tape of the invention.

Detailed description of the invention

As depicted in Fig.1, 2 and 4 the tape according to the invention is packaged as a roll 10. As will become evident below, this packaging is not only convenient, but is also important for the function of the invention.

The tape according to the invention comprises two identical, double-sided adhesive strips 12 and 12'. Adhesive strips 12 and 12' have a front side and a back side. As shown in Fig. 2 and 3, said backsides of said adhesive strips 12 and 12' are attached to a backing strip 14 such that adhesive strips 12 and 12' are parallel to one another. Backing strip 14 is preferably made of a flexible plastic film or other suitable nonadhesive material.

Adhesive strips 12 and 12' are affixed along the outer edges of backing strip 14 such that, when backing strip 14 is folded in half and packaged as roll 10, adhesive strips 12 and 12' are in vertical alignment with one another, with the now-folded backing strip 14 sandwiched between them as depicted in Fig. 1. As can be further appreciated from Fig.1, the width of backing strip 14 must be greater than two times the width of adhesive strip 12. This is in order to provide an exposed portion of backing strip 14 extending past the edges of adhesive strips 12 and 12' as shown in Fig. 1.

The tape according to the invention is used by first unrolling a length of tape from roll 10. The folded edge of the exposed portion of backing strip 14 is then inserted into a corner. As can be appreciated from Fig. 2 and 3, the tape is then unfolded and the front sides of adhesive

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strips 12 and 12' are pressed against the tiles. Because
backing strip 14 is nonadhesive and does not adhere to the
tiles, it can be easily removed as shown in Fig. 3. The
result is a perfectly straight, parallel channel that is
5 equidistant on both sides from the apex of the corner.

As shown in Fig. 4, a caulking gun 16 is then utilized to
apply the caulk or grout in the space between adhesive
strips 12 and 12'. Before the caulk or grout has dried,
10 adhesive strips 12 and 12' are removed. An attractive and
uniform result is thus achieved.

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CLAIMS

1. A caulking or grouting aid comprising two identical, elongated strips of double-sided adhesive tape, namely a first strip (12) and a second strip (12'), said first and second strips of double-sided adhesive tape having a front side and a back side and being in parallel arrangement to one another, with the back sides of said strips of double-sided adhesive tape being affixed along the outer edges of a removable, non-adhesive flexible film (14) having a width greater than the combined widths of said strips (12 and 12') of double-sided adhesive tape such that a uniform channel is
10 formed between said strips (12 and 12') of double-sided adhesive tape when said strips are affixed to a surface and the flexible film is removed, and further wherein said flexible film (14) is folded along the mid-line of the channel between said strips (12 and 12') of double-sided adhesive tape such that the respective back sides of said strips (12 and 12') of double-sided adhesive tape are brought together in vertical alignment with one another, thus leaving an exposed portion of non-adhesive film (14) protruding past the edges of said strips (12 and 12') of double-sided adhesive tape.
2. A caulking or grouting aid according to claim 1 whereby said caulking or grouting aid is in the form of a roll (10).
- 20 3. A method for applying caulk or grout in a corner, the method comprising:
 - a) providing a roll of a caulking or grouting aid according to claim 2,
 - b) unrolling a length of tape from the roll and inserting the folded edge of the exposed portion of the non-adhesive film (14) into the corner,
 - c) affixing the tape to the corners of the wall by unfolding the flexible film, while the edge of the exposed portion remains in the corner, such that the first strip (12) comes into contact with and adheres to a first adjacent wall of the corner and the second strip (12') comes into contact with and adheres to a

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second adjacent wall of the corner, such that the strips are parallel to each along each side of the corner,

- d) removing flexible film (14), thereby exposing a uniform channel intermediate the first and second strips (12 and 12'),
- e) applying caulk or grout in the channel between the first and second strips (12 and 12'), and
- f) removing the first and second strips (12 and 12') from their respective walls thereby creating a uniform length of caulk or grout in the corner having attractive and parallel edges.

Fig 1

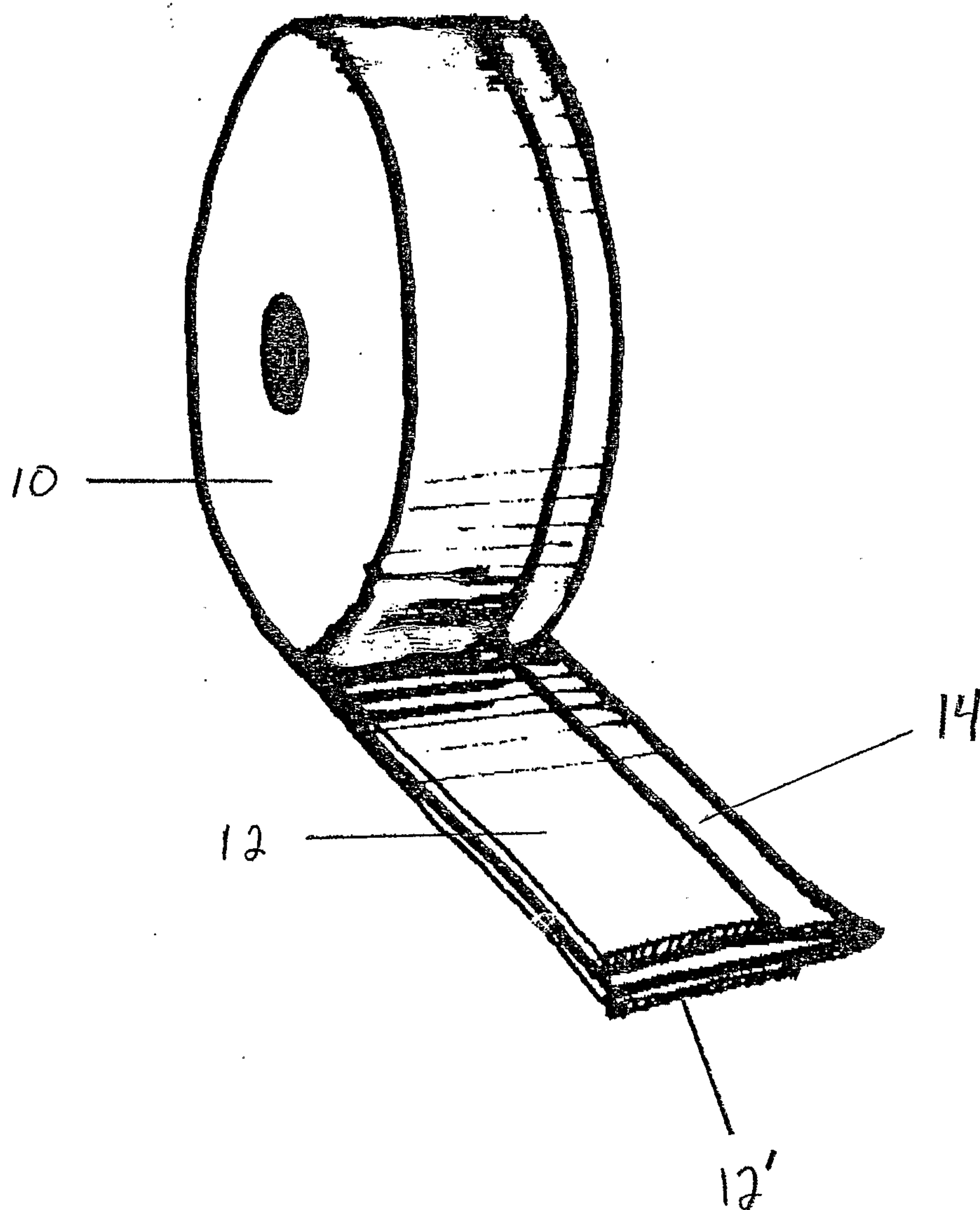


Fig 2

