



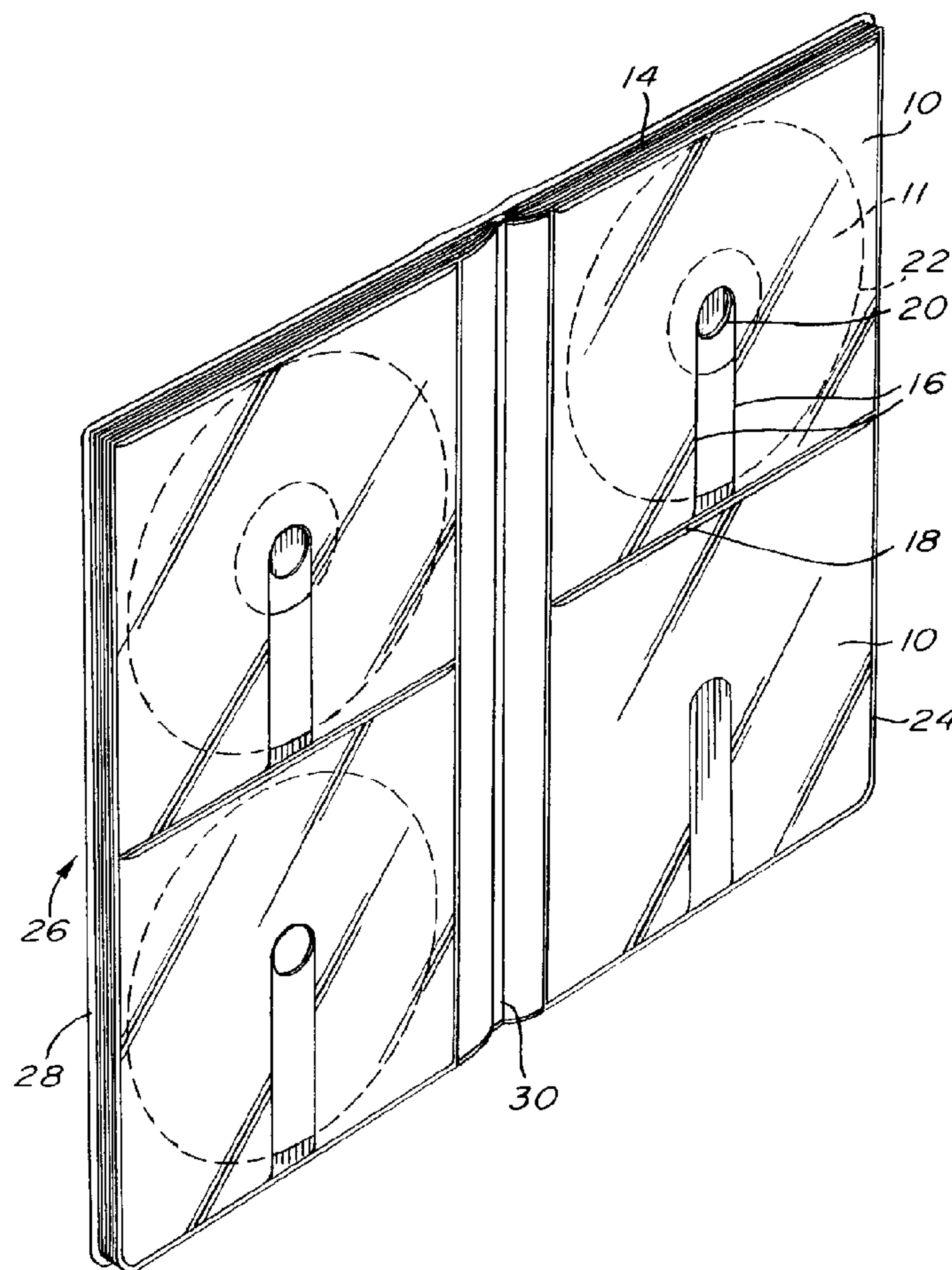
(72) DESMARAIS, Richard, CA

(71) ALBUMS DF LTÉE., CA

(51) Int.Cl.⁶ B42F 5/04, B65D 85/57

(54) **POCHETTE DE RANGEMENT DE DISQUES COMPACTS**

(54) **COMPACT DISC STORAGE POCKET**



(57) A compact disc storage apparatus comprising a plurality of storage pages provided with compact disc storage pockets. The pockets being defined by a front sheet affixed to a backing sheet along three sealed edges so as to define a generally square pocket having an opening on the fourth edge adapted to receive a compact disc. The front sheet being provided with an elongated slot extending between about the mid portion of the base of the sealed edge located opposite the opening and about the mid distance measured between the same sealed edge and the opening. The slot being dimensioned so as to allow insertion and sliding therein of an average human finger so as to allow contact between said finger and the compact disc so as to allow selective pushing of said compact disc up and partially out of said pocket when wishing to retrieve said compact disc from said pocket.



ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A compact disc storage apparatus comprising a plurality of storage pages provided with compact disc storage pockets. The pockets
5 being defined by a front sheet affixed to a backing sheet along three sealed edges so as to define a generally square pocket having an opening on the fourth edge adapted to receive a compact disc. The front sheet being provided with an elongated slot extending between about the mid portion of the base of the sealed edge located opposite the opening and about the
10 mid distance measured between the same sealed edge and the opening. The slot being dimensioned so as to allow insertion and sliding therein of an average human finger so as to allow contact between said finger and the compact disc so as to allow selective pushing of said compact disc up and partially out of said pocket when wishing to retrieve said compact disc from
15 said pocket.

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Compact Disc Storage Pocket

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to compact disc storage pockets.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 Since the introduction of compact discs (CD), it was found that compact disc storage devices are necessary to prevent scratches, dust or fingerprints on the disc's optical surface. For this reason, various compact disc storage devices have been developed.

15 It is to be understood that throughout this disclosure, the expression compact disc is meant to include similar devices such as digital video discs (DVD).

20 The most prevalent storage device is a hard plastic box known as the jewel which consists of two pieces of moulded plastic hinged together to permit opening of the box. Soon, it was found that these boxes suffered from serious disadvantages. It is difficult to open the box and to remove the compact disc from the box without bending the disc. In addition, the box would break easily when accidentally dropped.

25 As an alternative to the jewel box a flexible storage apparatus known as the CD-jockey (DataPax, Kennewick, Washington) was proposed. The CD-jockey is made of flexible material defining a booklet form having eight vinyl pockets on each side. The pockets have a clear front and a velour backing. The velour backing contacts the optical surface of the compact

disc while the clear front allows identification of the CD. This storage device had the disadvantage of building up static electricity and leaving lint on the optical surface. It also had the disadvantage of exposing the discs to dust when the device was opened. Also, it was necessary to flip through the
5 discs to find the desired one. Finally, one important drawback is that removal and insertion of the CD in the storage pockets caused fingerprints to be put on the optical surface of the CD. Thus, although this alternative solved the problems encountered with the jewel box (i.e. difficulty to open the box and remove the disc and fragile material), new problems were
10 associated with it (i.e. increased dust accumulation, difficulty to see the discs).

An ideal compact disc storage would be made of a material unlikely to break, would allow for easy removal and insertion of the disc and would
15 prevent dust, static electricity buildup, scratches and fingerprints.

US patent 4,850, 731 [hereinafter referred to as "patent '731"] approached this goal by providing a flexible half pocket which permits viewing of the printed surface. The front sheet of the pocket is shaped to leave a relatively
20 large area of the CD uncovered so as to permit simultaneous access to the edge and aperture of the compact disc for easy removal by the user. The removal is accomplished by grasping the CD with the hand by placing one's thumb in the aperture of the CD and at least another finger on the edge of the CD. This pocket shape required that a large area of the CD was left
25 exposed to dust, scratches, ect.

US patent 5,588,527 [hereinafter referred to as "patent '527"] also provides a flexible pocket allowing viewing of the printed surface. The front sheet of

the pocket is provided with a cut defining a flap portion allowing access to the compact disc area. When the flap is lifted up, simultaneous access is given to the edge and aperture of the compact disc. Because of the repeated lifting of the flap, there is a risk that the material at the hinges of the flap be
5 torn or that the flap retain an open posture.

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is therefore to overcome the drawbacks of the prior art and to provide a compact disc storage apparatus made of a
10 material unlikely to break or be torn, allowing easy removal and insertion of the disc, exhibiting a smaller surface of the compact disc exposed to dust, scratches and fingerprints.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

More specifically, in accordance with the present invention, there is provided a compact disc storage apparatus comprising a plurality of storage pages provided with compact disc storage pockets. The pockets being defined by a front sheet affixed to a backing sheet along three sealed edges
20 so as to define a generally square pocket having an opening on the fourth edge adapted to receive a compact disc. The front sheet being provided with an elongated slot extending between about the mid portion of the base of the sealed edge located opposite the opening and about the mid distance measured between the same sealed edge and the opening. The slot being
25 dimensioned so as to allow insertion and sliding therein of an average human finger so as to allow contact between said finger and the compact disc so as to allow selective pushing of said compact disc up and partially

out of said pocket when wishing to retrieve said compact disc from said pocket.

5 Other objects, advantages and features of the present invention will become more apparent upon reading of the following non restrictive description of preferred embodiments thereof, given by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 In the appended drawings:

Figure 1 is a front perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention wherein the preferred embodiment is a booklet having a plurality of CD pockets in accordance with the present invention, the booklet being shown open;

15

Figure 2 is a top view of a single sheet of CD pockets in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 3 is a front perspective view of a disc inserted in a pocket in accordance with prior art teachings;

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Figures 4 to 7 are front perspective views of a CD pocket in accordance with the present invention and showing the ease of removal by hand of the CD;

Figure 8 is a bottom view of the booklet of Fig. 1 wherein the booklet is shown closed.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Before describing the present invention in detail, it is to be noted and understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details

of method steps, construction and parts illustrated in the accompanying drawings and described herein. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practised in various ways. It is also to be understood that the phraseology or terminology used herein is for the purpose of description and not limitation.

Referring now to the drawings, starting with Fig. 1 the improved compact disc (CD) pocket will now be described in greater detail.

10 The present invention proposes a new CD pocket structure enabling not only easy access to the lateral edges and aperture of the compact disc but also providing reduced dust exposed disc surface.

Fig. 1 shows CD pockets 10 of the present invention adapted to store CDs
15 11. Referring to Fig. 2, CD pockets 10 are formed on both sides of a backing sheet 12. CD pockets 10 are formed of sheets 13 of flexible and transparent material welded or otherwise bound together on three sides of backing sheet 12 and dimensioned to accommodate the storage of a CD. In accordance with the embodiment shown, the top side 14 of pocket 10 is
20 unsealed to allow removal and insertion of the CD.

Each CD pocket 10 is provided with a narrow elongated slot 16 in the front sheet of pocket 10. Slot 16 extends from the bottom side 18 to slightly above the mid portion of the front sheet of pocket 10. When a CD is
25 inserted in pocket 10, the aperture 20 and edge 22 of CD 12 will line up with each extremity of slot 16.

Preferably, the CD pocket 10 will be part of a plurality of similar pockets welded together by ultrasonic, high frequency or thermal welding or otherwise bound together in sheets 24 so as to form a booklet 26 containing a plurality of such pockets. Advantageously, booklet 26 will be provided
5 with a wear resistant cover 28 inside of which sheets of pockets 10 will be welded bound or glued along a seam 30.

Preferably, pockets 10 are made of ENVIROPLAST™ (trademark of DF ALBUMS INC., Longueuil, Canada), and assembled using high frequency,
10 ultrasonic or thermal welding.

In a most preferred embodiment, pockets 10 are made of ENVIROPLAST™ (trademark of DF ALBUMS INC., Longueuil, Canada), and assembled using high frequency welding, in a two step process. In a first step, pockets 10
15 would be formed by high frequency welding of sheets of ENVIROPLAST™ or other suitable weldable material. In a second step, sheets of formed pockets would be stacked and high frequency welded inside cover 28. In a most preferred embodiment, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, seam 30 is provided with single layers of backing sheet 12 so as to facilitate the high
20 frequency welding of multiple layers of backing sheets 12. It is to be noted that the use of ENVIROPLAST™ is preferred since it provides strong, tear resistant bonds, is inert, will not transfer thereon printing inks which may be used on CDs, is not subject to cold cracking is non-abrasive and is antistatic.

25 In the prior art realisations, as shown in Fig. 2, the CD 11 presented a much larger exposed surface. This has the drawback of not adequately protecting the CD. As apparent from Fig. 2, the CD pocket 10' of the prior art left most of the top portion of the CD exposed to the elements.

Returning now to the described of the preferred embodiment of the present invention, In this preferred embodiment, as shown in Fig. 4, the narrow elongated slot 16 has a width that is large enough to permit a finger to contact CD 11 and perform a sliding motion through said opening to push
5 the CD 11 upwards (in the direction of the dotted arrow) and through the unsealed edge 14 of pocket 10. Slot 16 is sufficiently wide to provide an easy removal of the disc and sufficiently narrow to ensure that a minimal surface of the disc is exposed during storage.

10 Fig. 4 thus illustrates the way a person may position his or her hand to push the CD 11 partially out of pocket 10. Turning now to Fig. 5, there is shown CD 11 after one's finger has slid CD 11 upwards to the most exposed position permitted by the travel of one's finger in slot 16. At this point, a large portion of edge 22 and all of aperture 20 is exposed for easy grasping
15 of CD 11.

Fig. 6 shows a first convenient method of removing CD 11 once in its exposed position. In this method, a person's finger is placed in aperture 20 while another finger rests on edge 22 thereby eliminating any direct contact
20 with the optical reading surface of CD 11.

Fig. 7 shows a second convenient method of removing CD 11 by grasping CD 11 from two opposite points on edge 22. This method also eliminates direct contact with the optical reading surface of CD 11.

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Fig. 8 illustrates one preferred embodiment of the present invention. It shows a binder 26 containing pocket holding pages 24 and wherein the binder cover 28 made of a semi-rigid material and has a thickness that is

sufficient to enable it to close comfortably when all the the pocket holding pages increase in thickness when the discs are inserted.

5 Although the present invention has been described hereinabove by way of preferred embodiments thereof, it can be modified, without departing from the spirit and nature of the subject invention as defined in the appended claims.

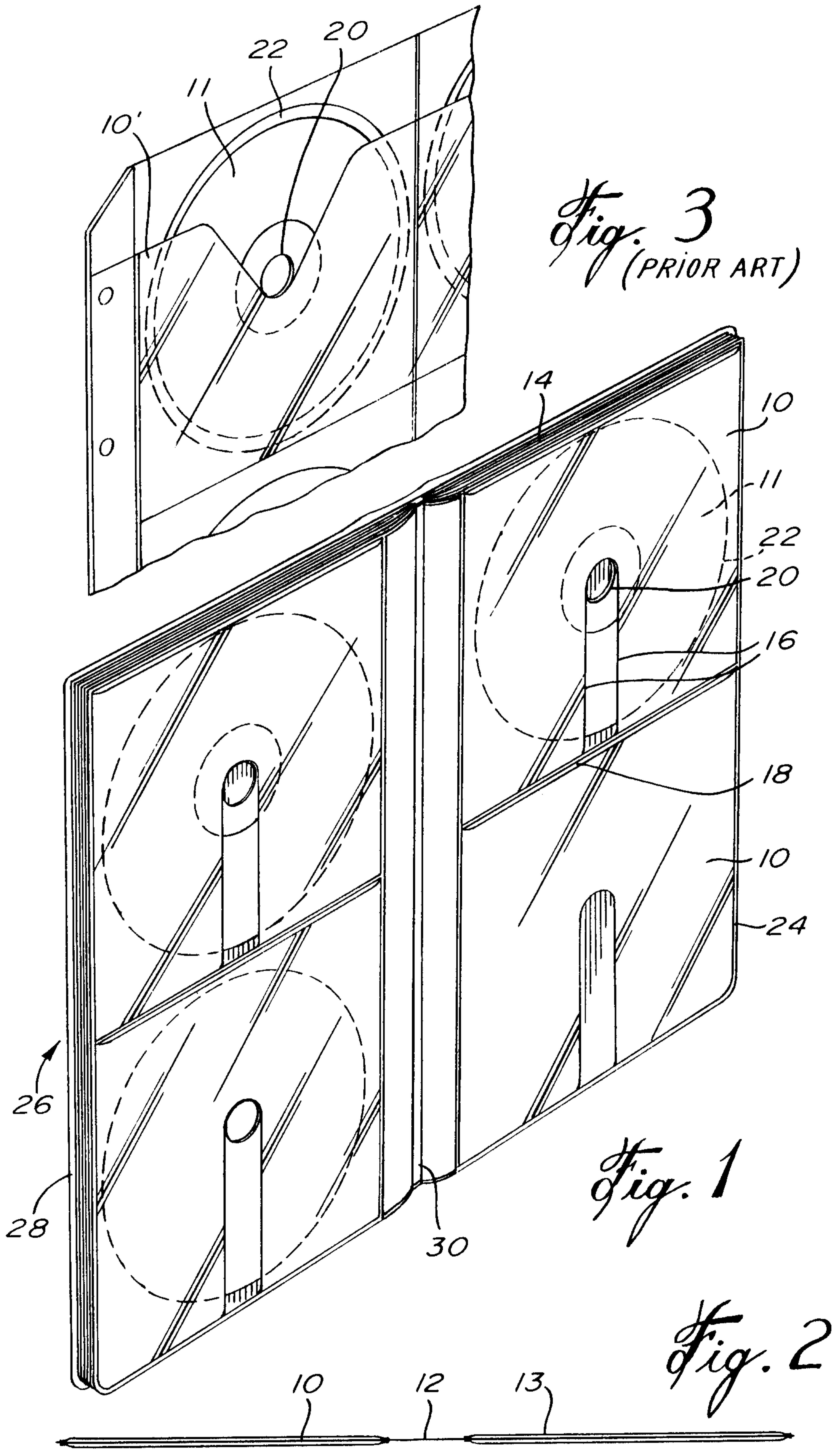
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compact disc storage apparatus comprising a plurality of storage pages, said storage pages being provided with compact disc storage pockets, the pockets being defined by a front sheet affixed to a backing sheet along three sealed edges so as to define a generally square pocket having an opening on the fourth edge, the storage pocket adapted to receive a compact disc through the opening on the fourth edge, the front sheet being provided with an elongated slot extending between about the mid portion of the base of the sealed edge located opposite the opening and about the mid distance measured between the same sealed edge and the opening, the slot being dimensioned so as to allow insertion and sliding therein of an average human finger so as to allow contact between said finger and the compact disc so as to allow selective pushing of said compact disc up and partially out of said pocket when wishing to retrieve said compact disc from said pocket.
2. The compact disc storage apparatus of claim 1 wherein said front sheets are transparent.
3. The compact disc storage apparatus of claim 2 wherein said front sheets and backing sheets are made of ultrasonically weldable thermoplastic material.
4. The compact disc storage apparatus of claim 3 wherein said sealed edges are high frequency welded edges.
5. The compact disc storage apparatus of claim 4 wherein said front sheets and backing sheets are made of ENVIROPLAST™ thermoplastic material.

6. The compact disc storage apparatus of claim 1 wherein said apparatus consists of an album containing a plurality storage pages joined at a central seam.

5 7. A compact disc storage page, said storage page being provided with at least one compact disc storage pocket, the pocket being defined by a front sheet affixed to a backing sheet along three sealed edges so as to define a generally square pocket having an opening on the fourth edge, the storage pocket adapted to receive a compact disc through the opening on the fourth edge, the front sheet being provided with an elongated slot extending between about the mid portion of the base of the sealed edge located opposite the opening and about the mid distance measured between the same sealed edge and the opening, the slot being dimensioned so as to allow insertion and sliding therein of an average human finger so as to allow contact between said finger and the compact disc so as to allow selective pushing of said compact disc up and partially out of said pocket when wishing to retrieve said compact disc from said pocket.

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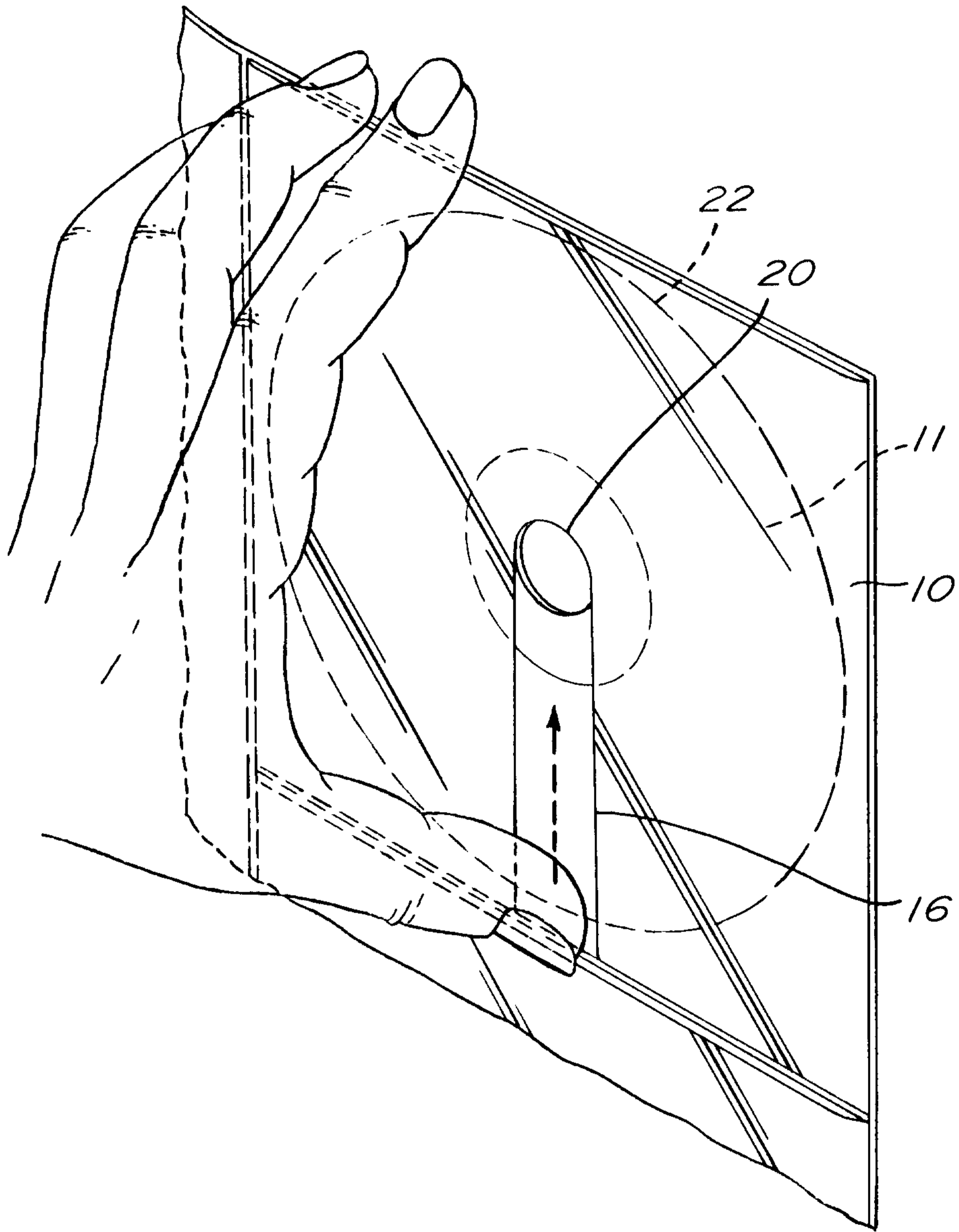


Fig. 4

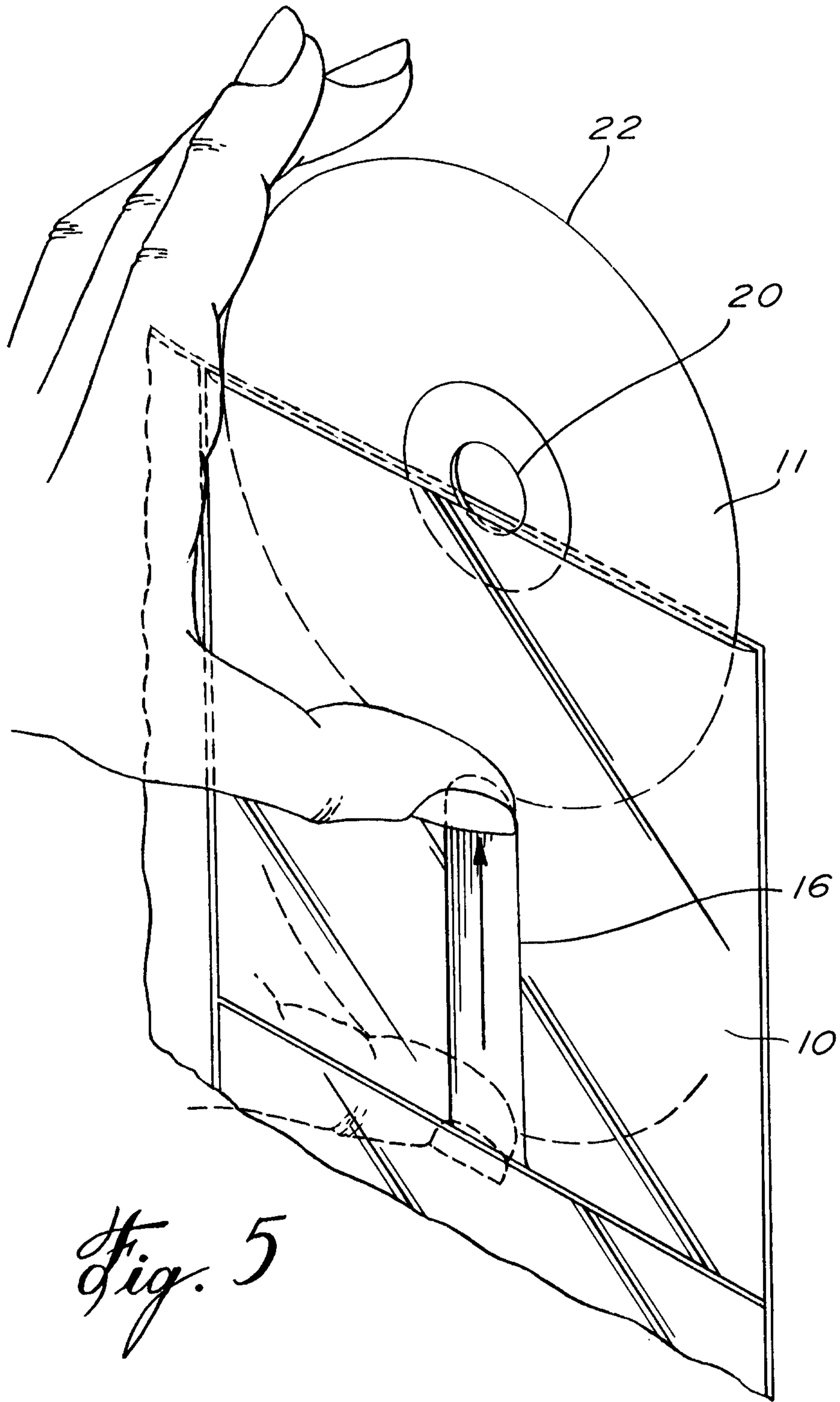


Fig. 5

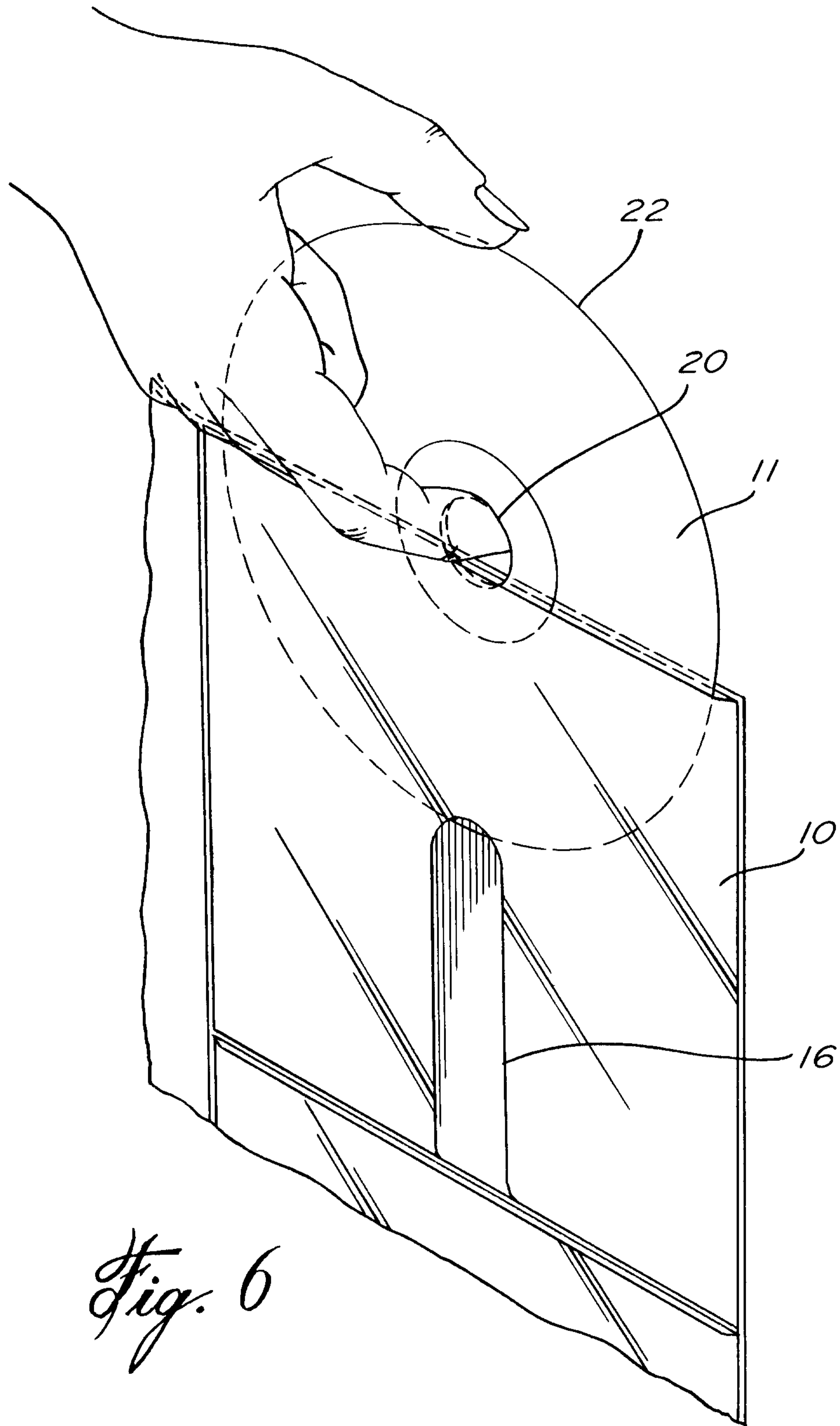


Fig. 6

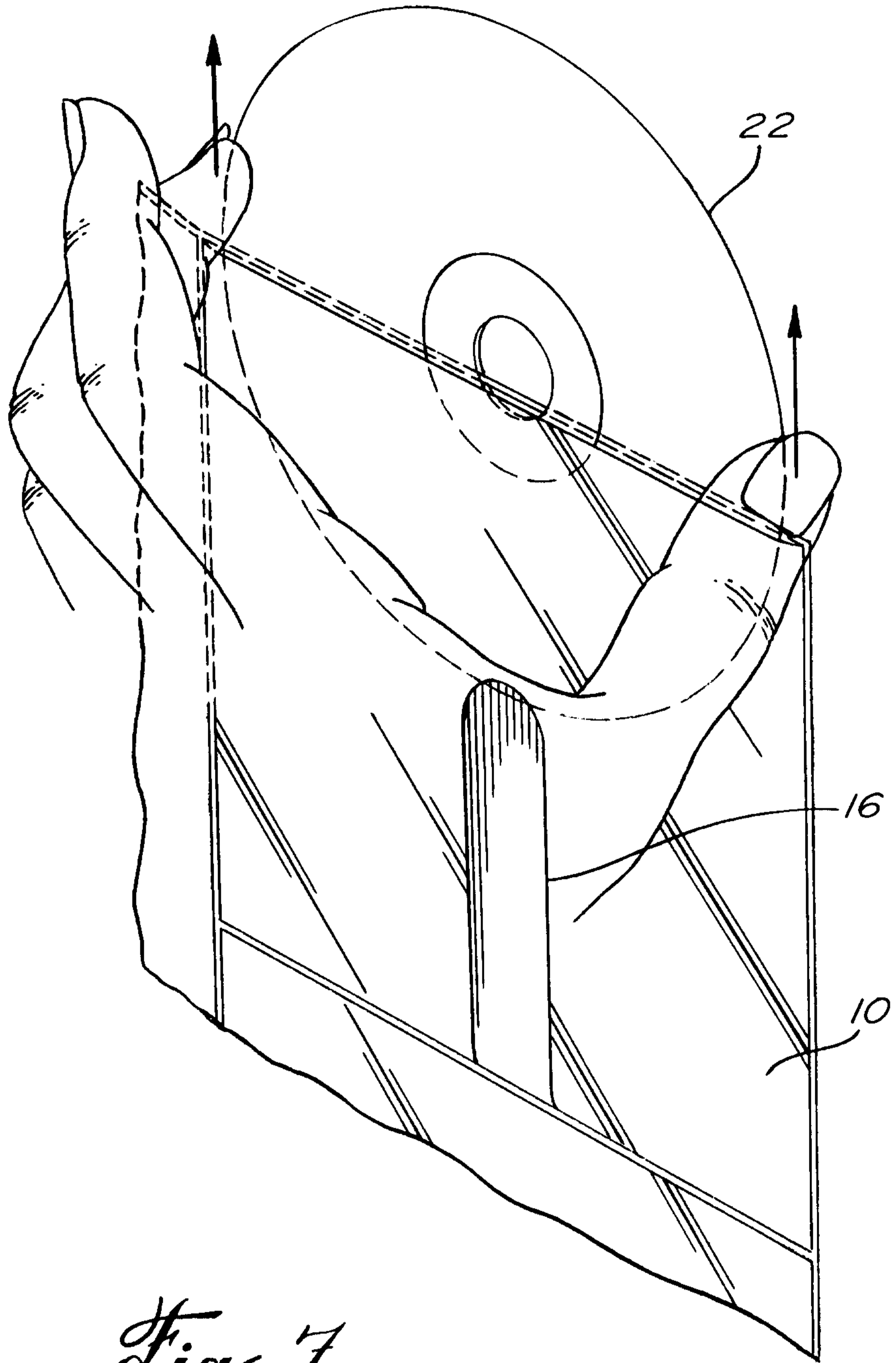


Fig. 7

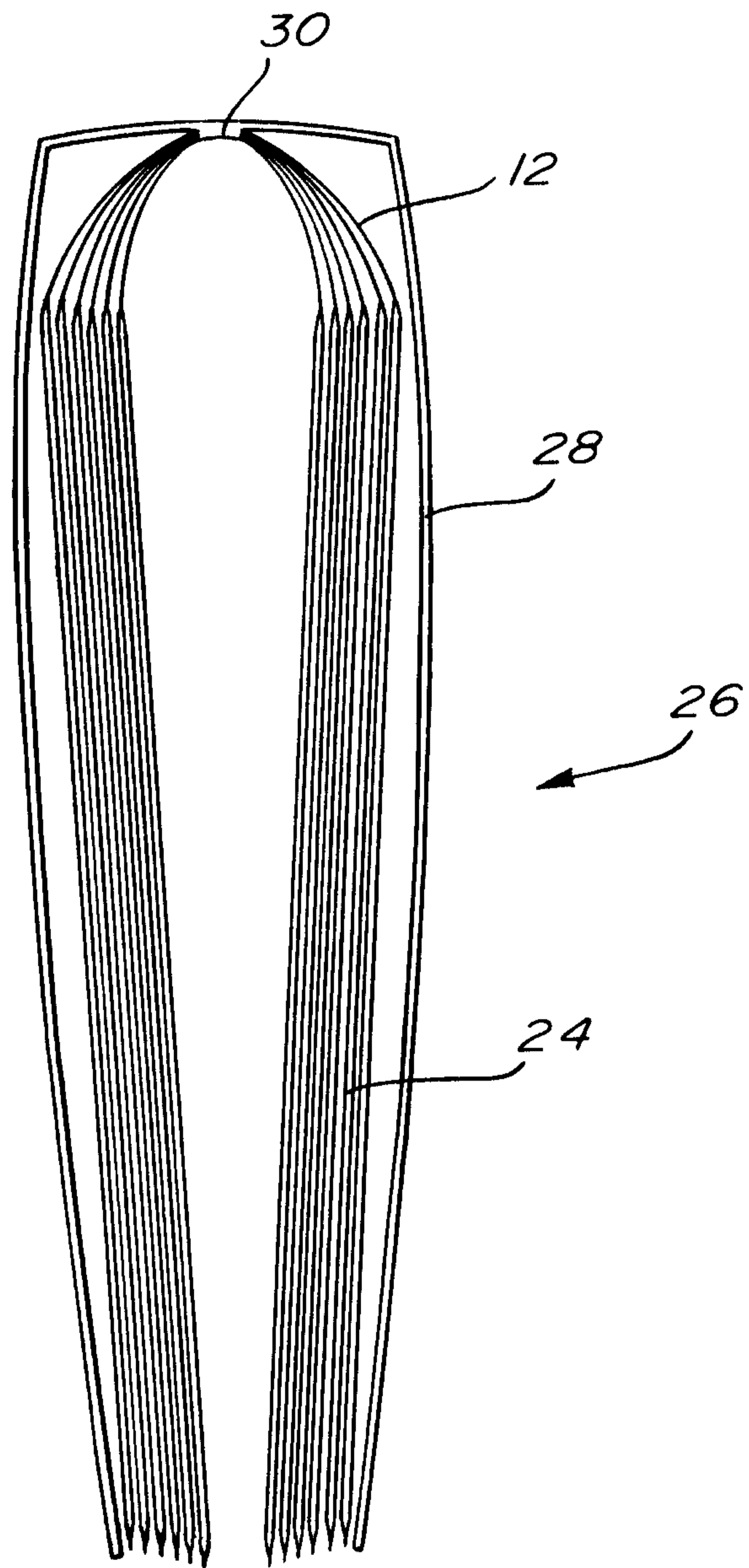


Fig. 8