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(54) **ARTIFICIAL SURFACE DIVIDER**

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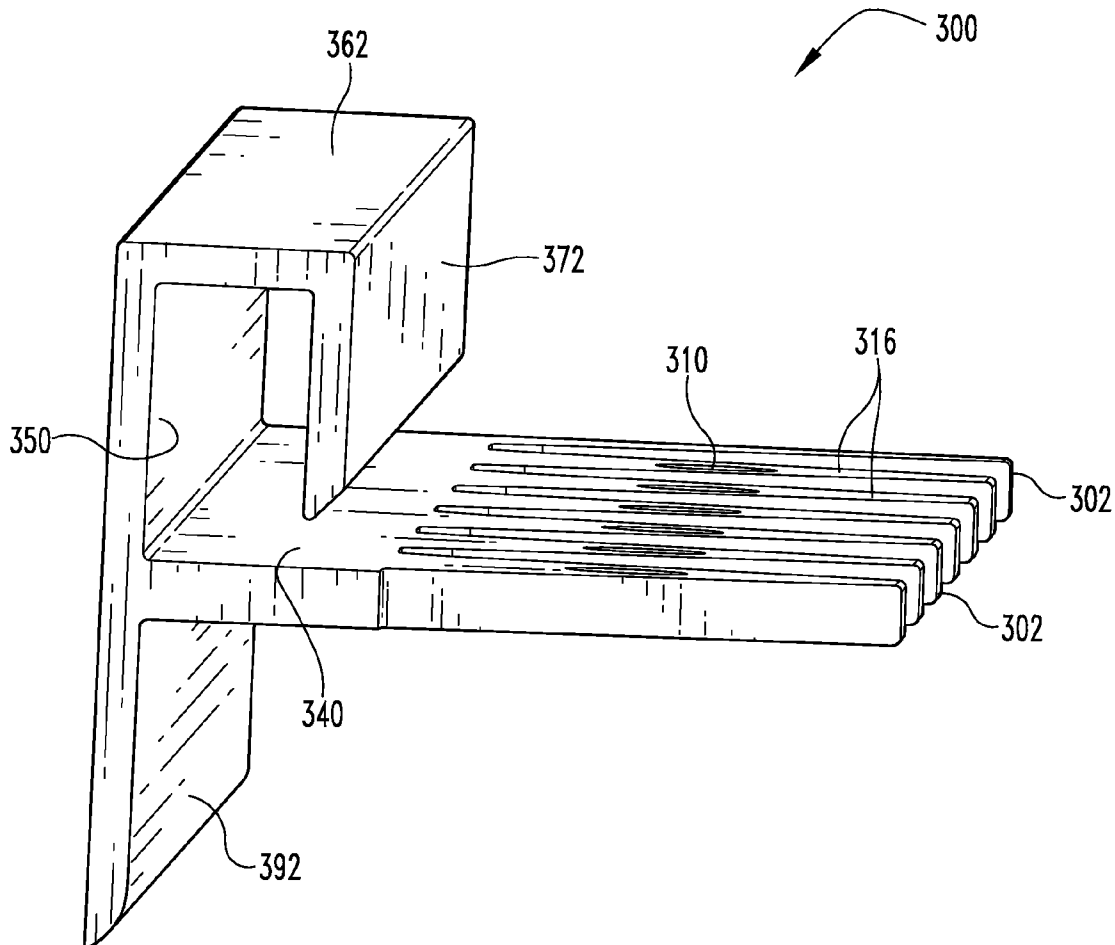
(57) **ABSTRACT**

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An artificial surface divider comprising a floor having a plurality of pads spaced apart from one another, the plurality of pads being mounted to a longitudinal housing having an overhang at least partially defining a longitudinal channel and a longitudinal gap that is open to the longitudinal channel, the longitudinal gap extending between an edge of the overhang and a floor of the longitudinal housing, where a longitudinal dimension of the artificial surface divider is the dominant dimension.

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(60) Provisional application No. 61/437,178, filed on Jan. 28, 2011.



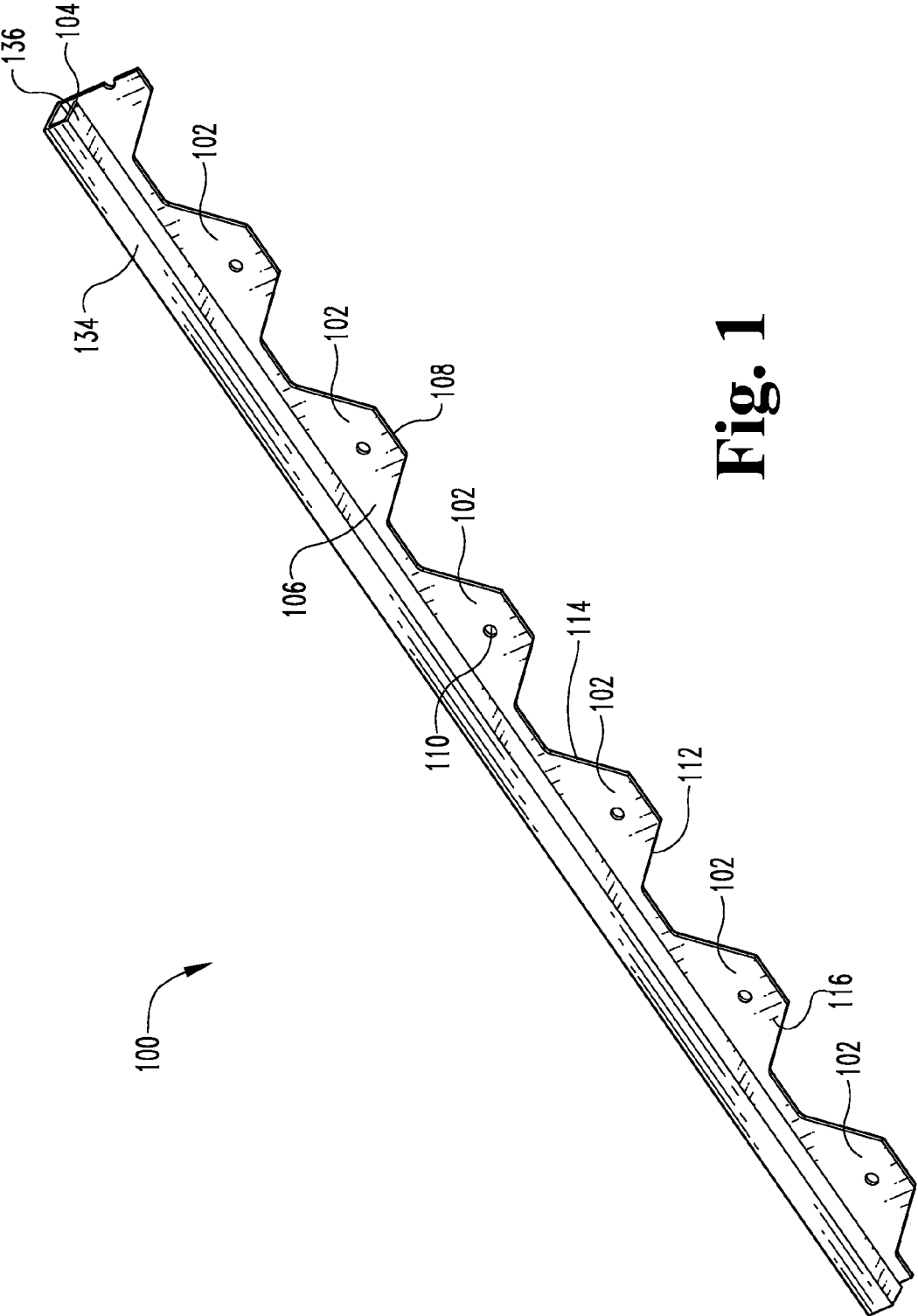
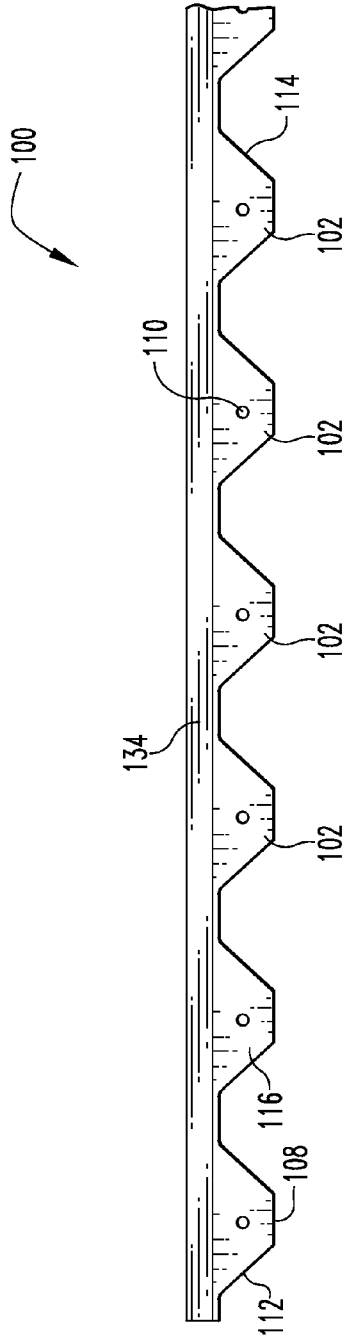
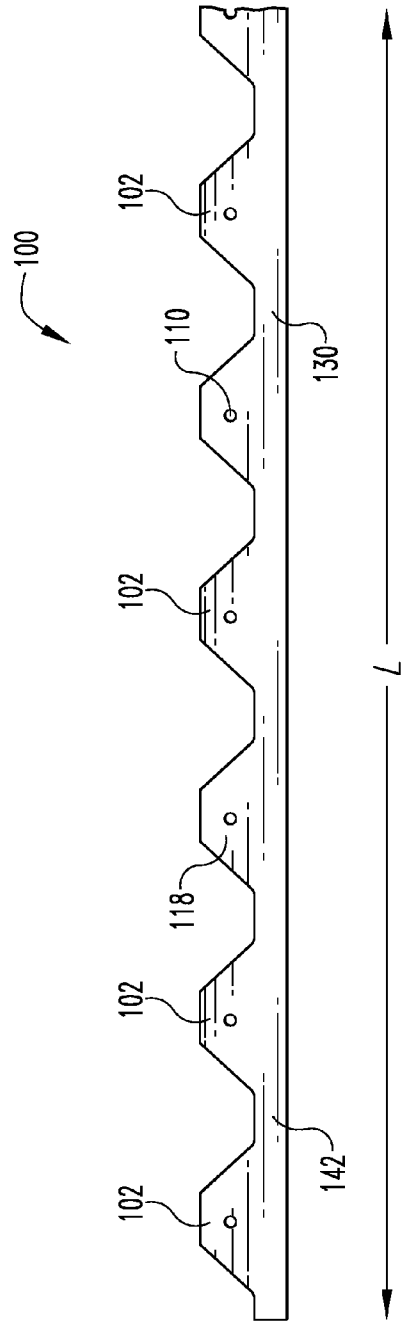


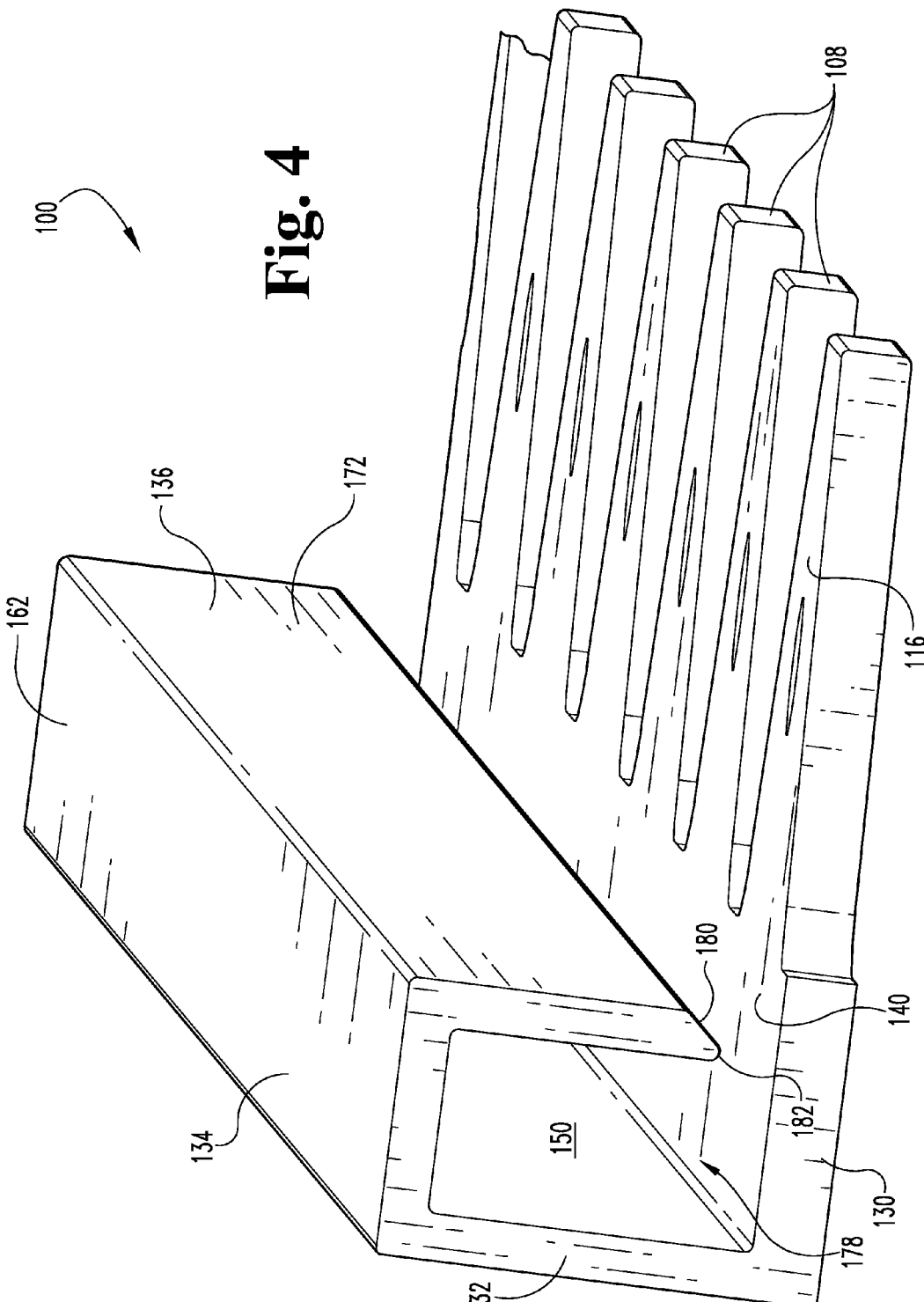
Fig. 1



**Fig. 2**



**Fig. 3**



**Fig. 4**

100

162

136

172

134

150

132

180

182

178

130

140

116

108

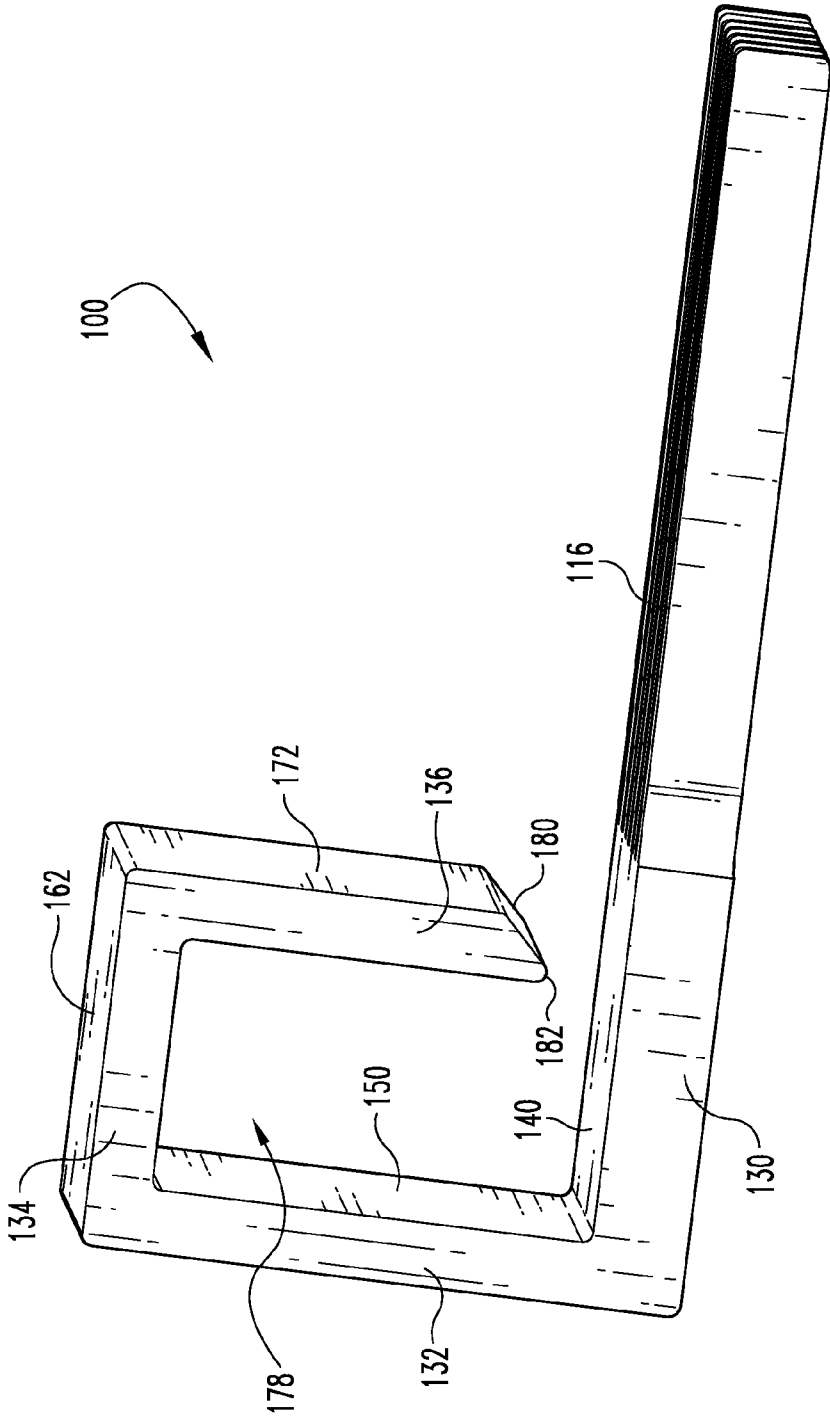
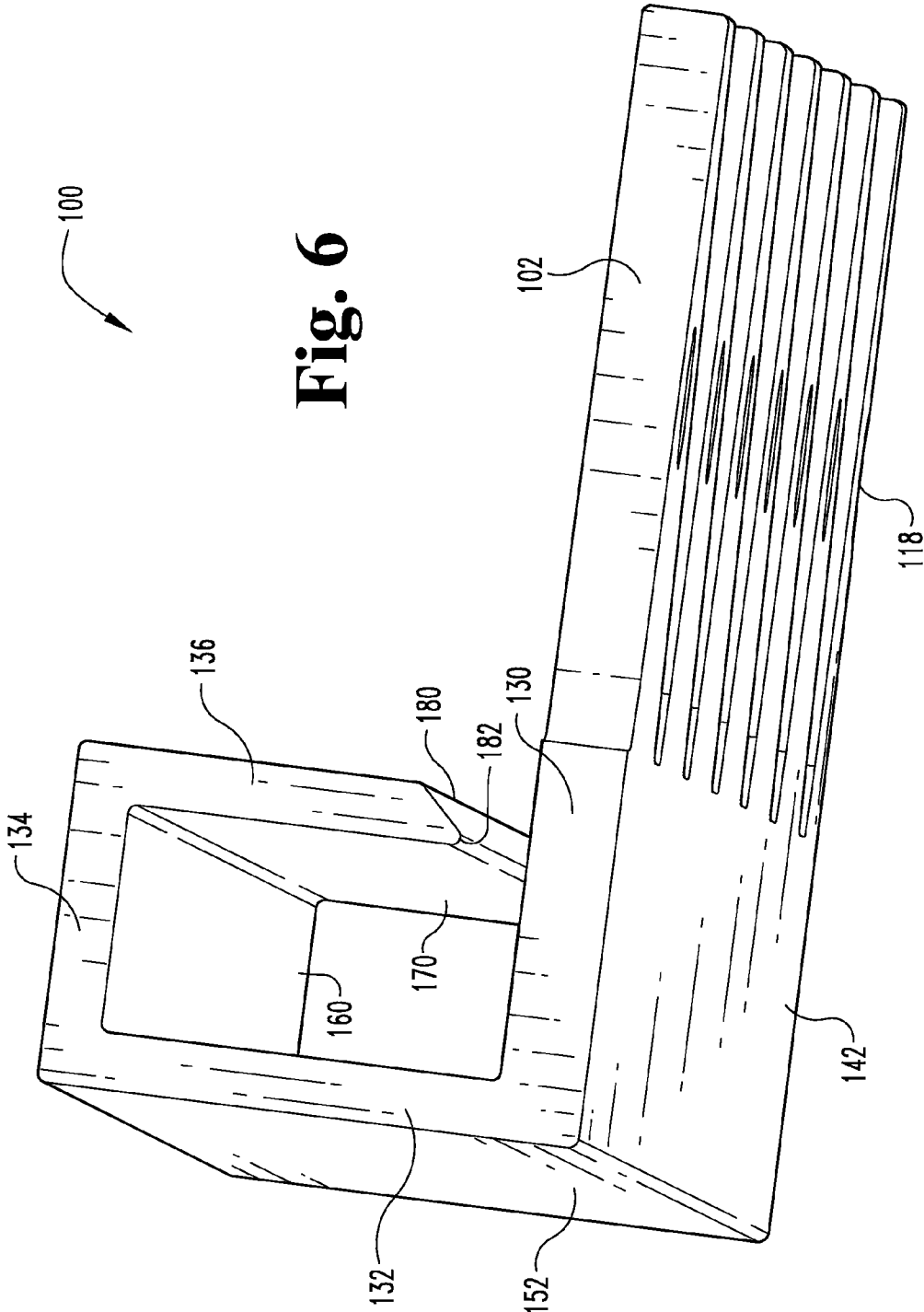
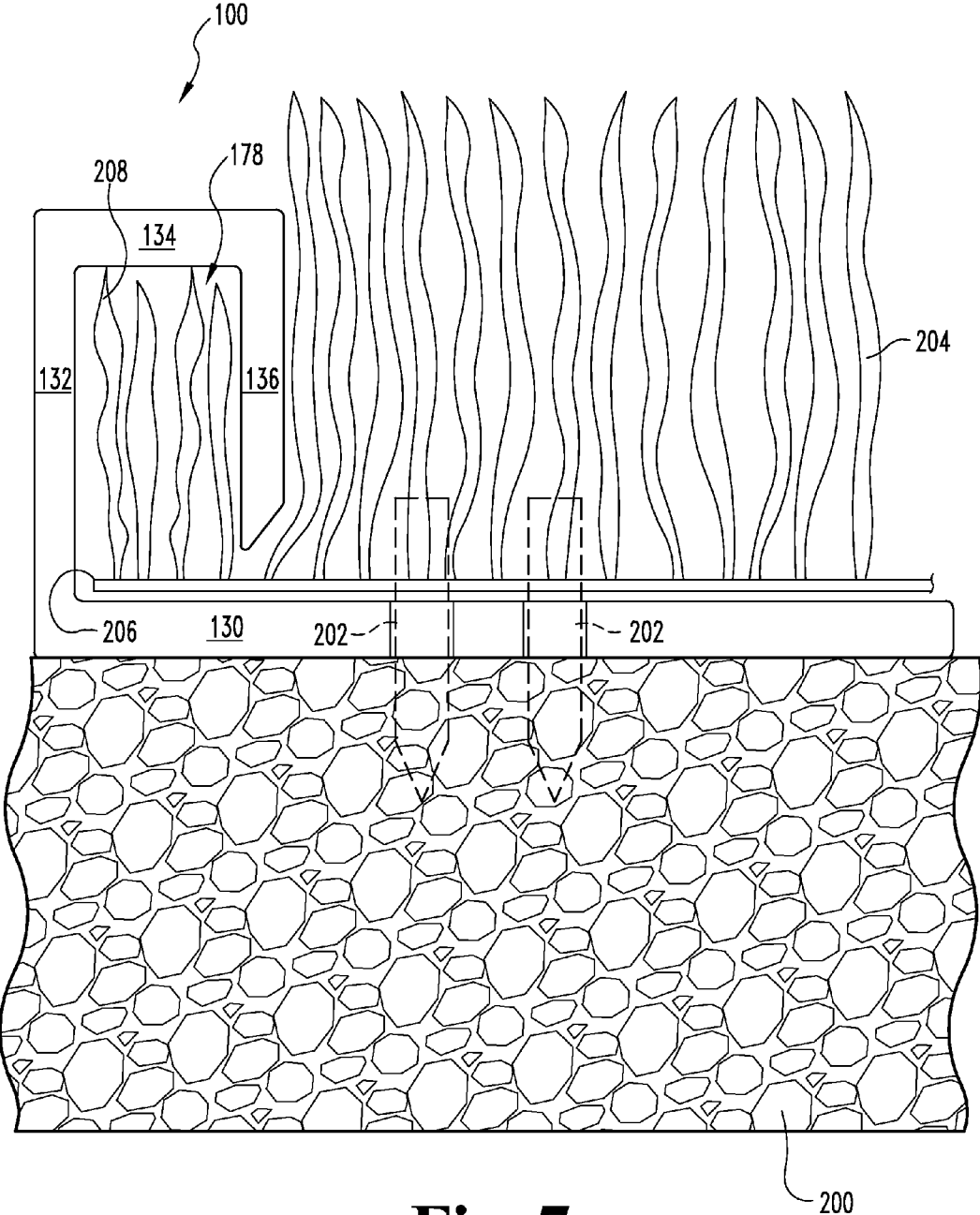


Fig. 5



**Fig. 6**



**Fig. 7**

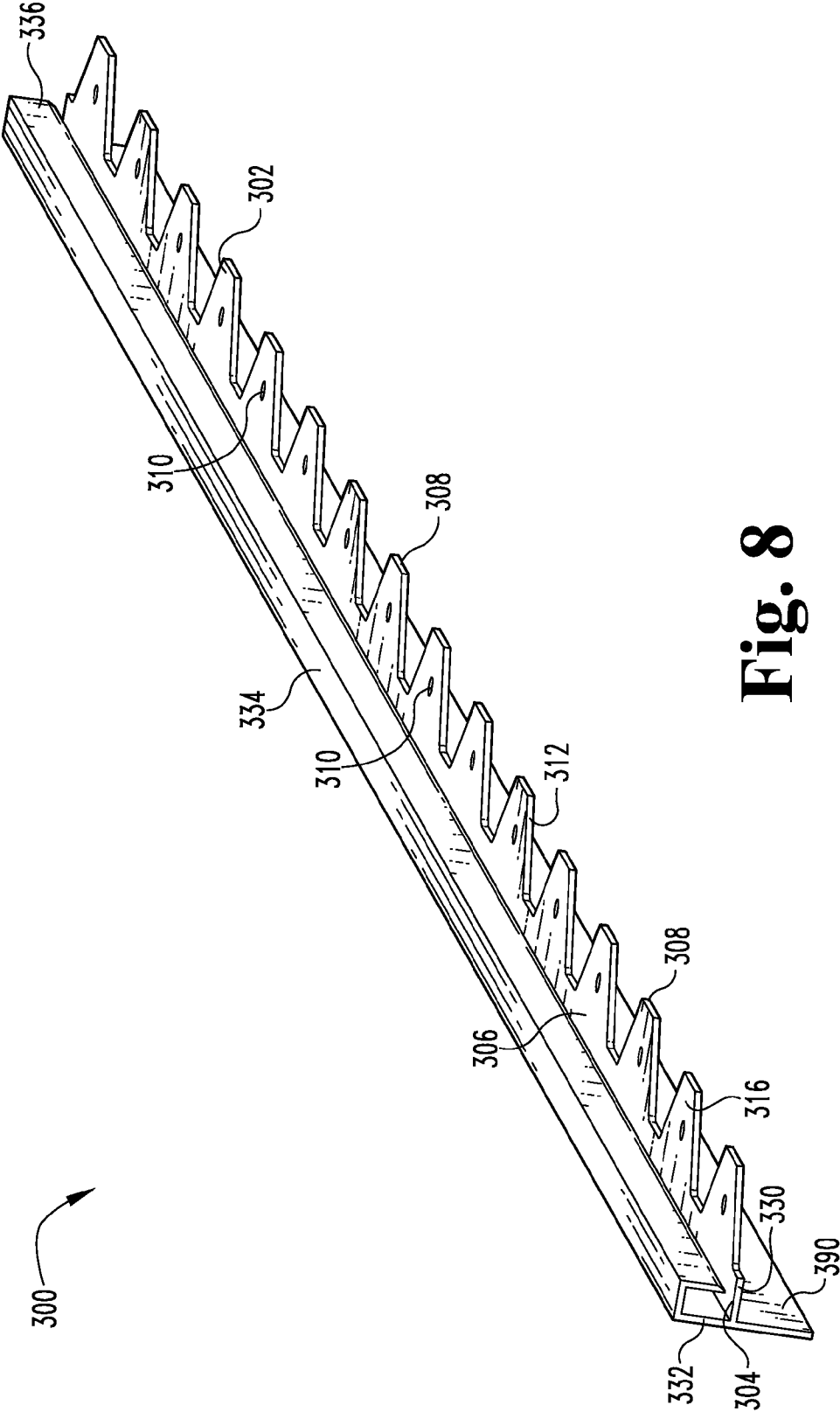


Fig. 8



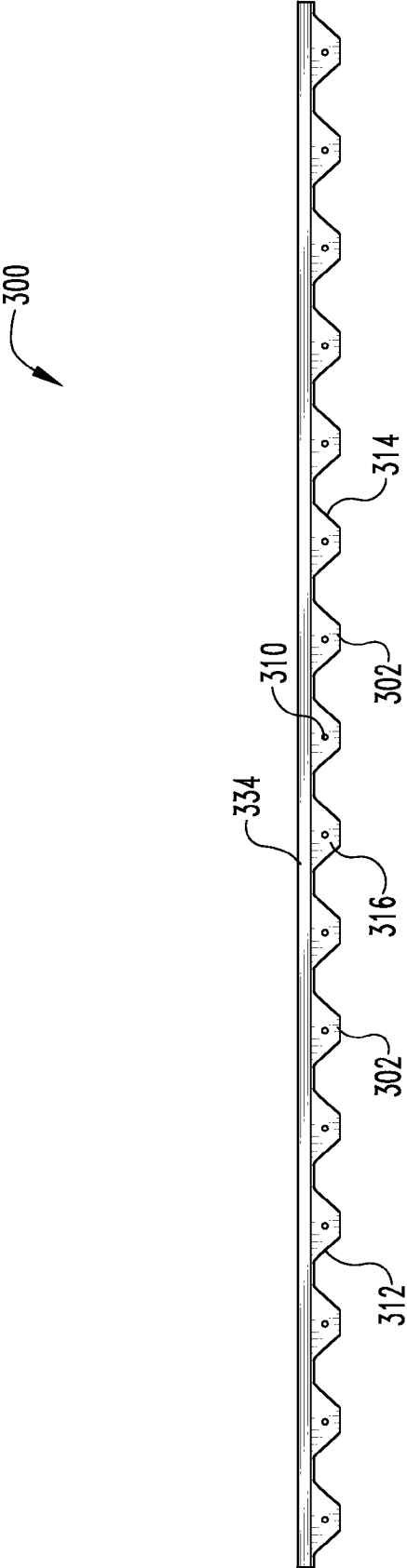
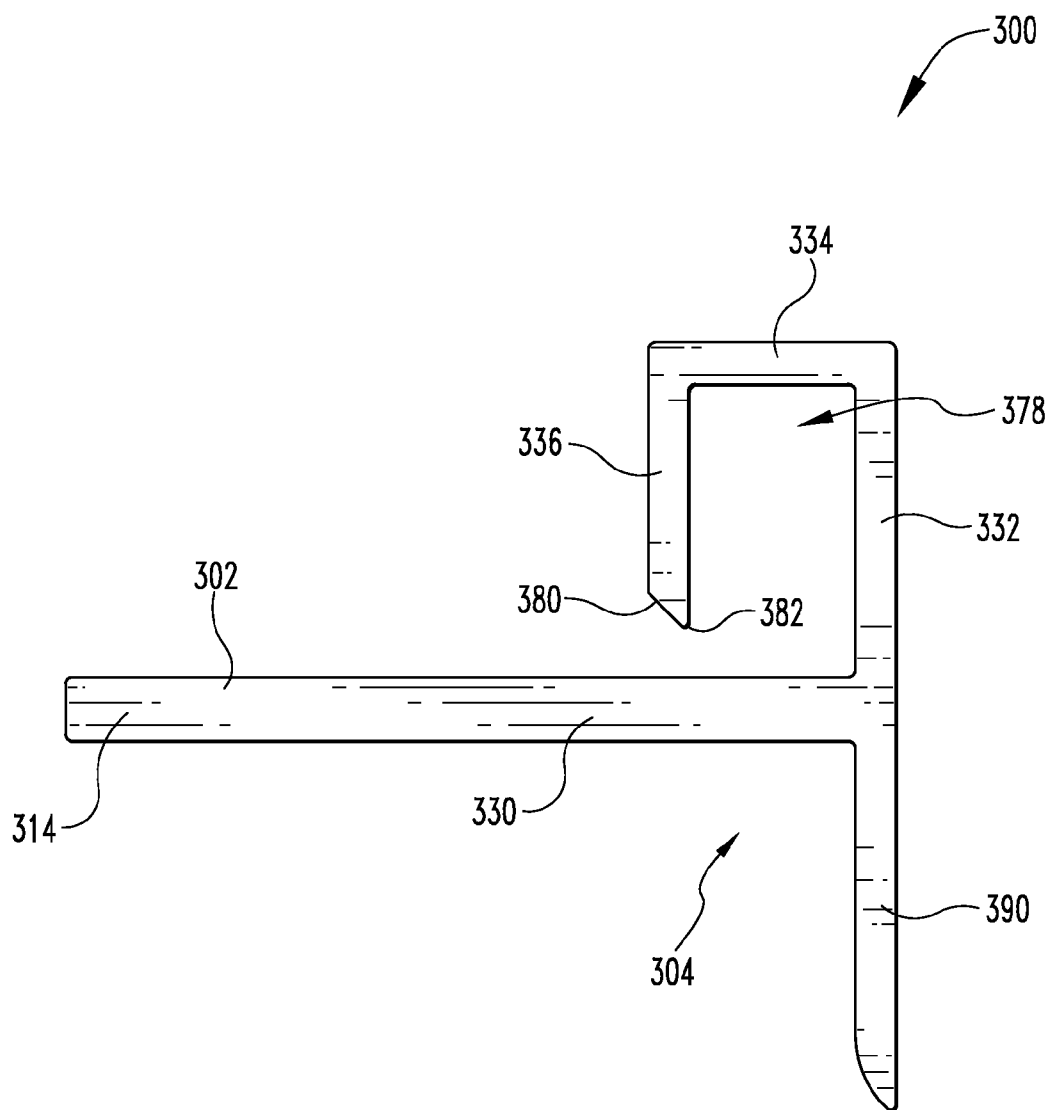
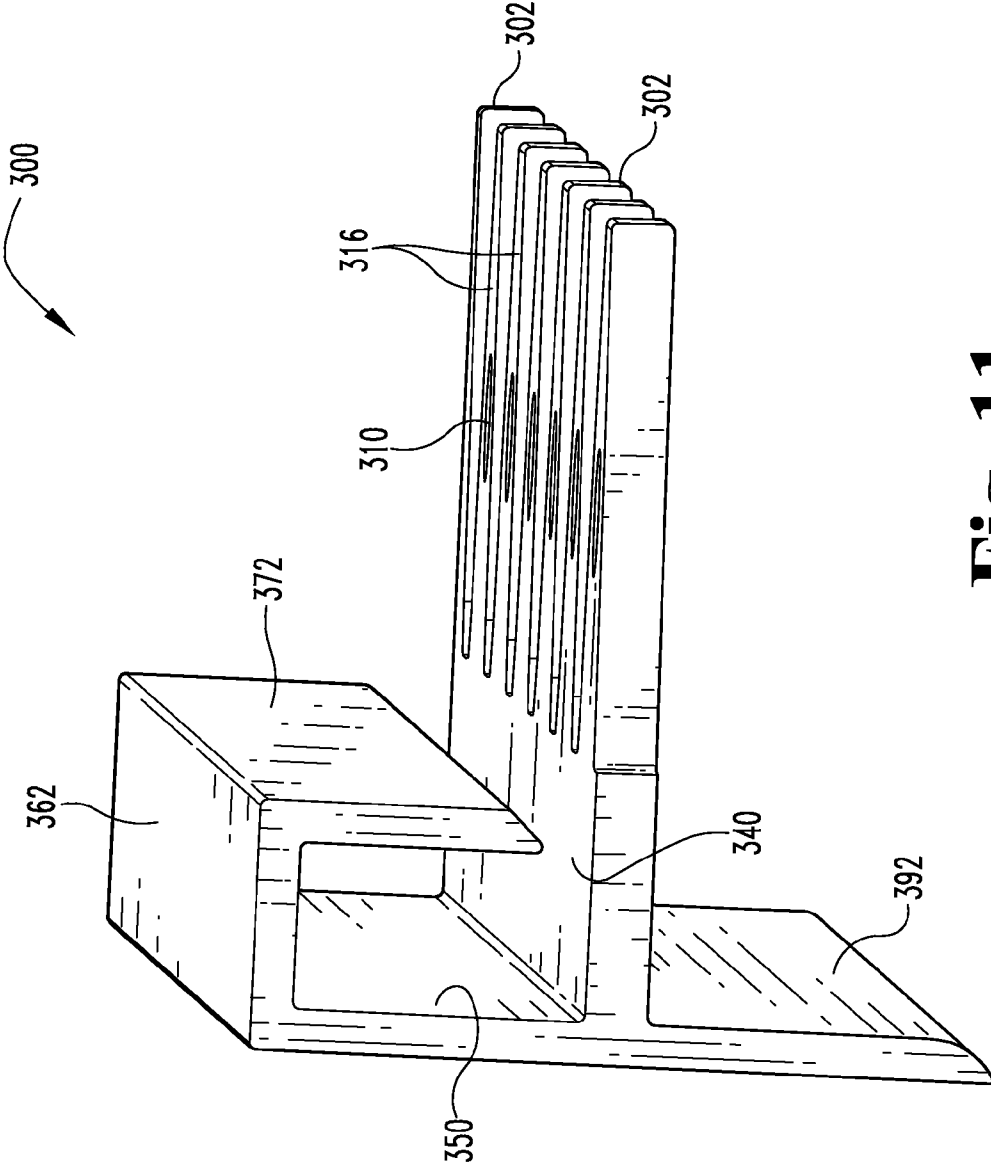


Fig. 9



**Fig. 10**



**Fig. 11**

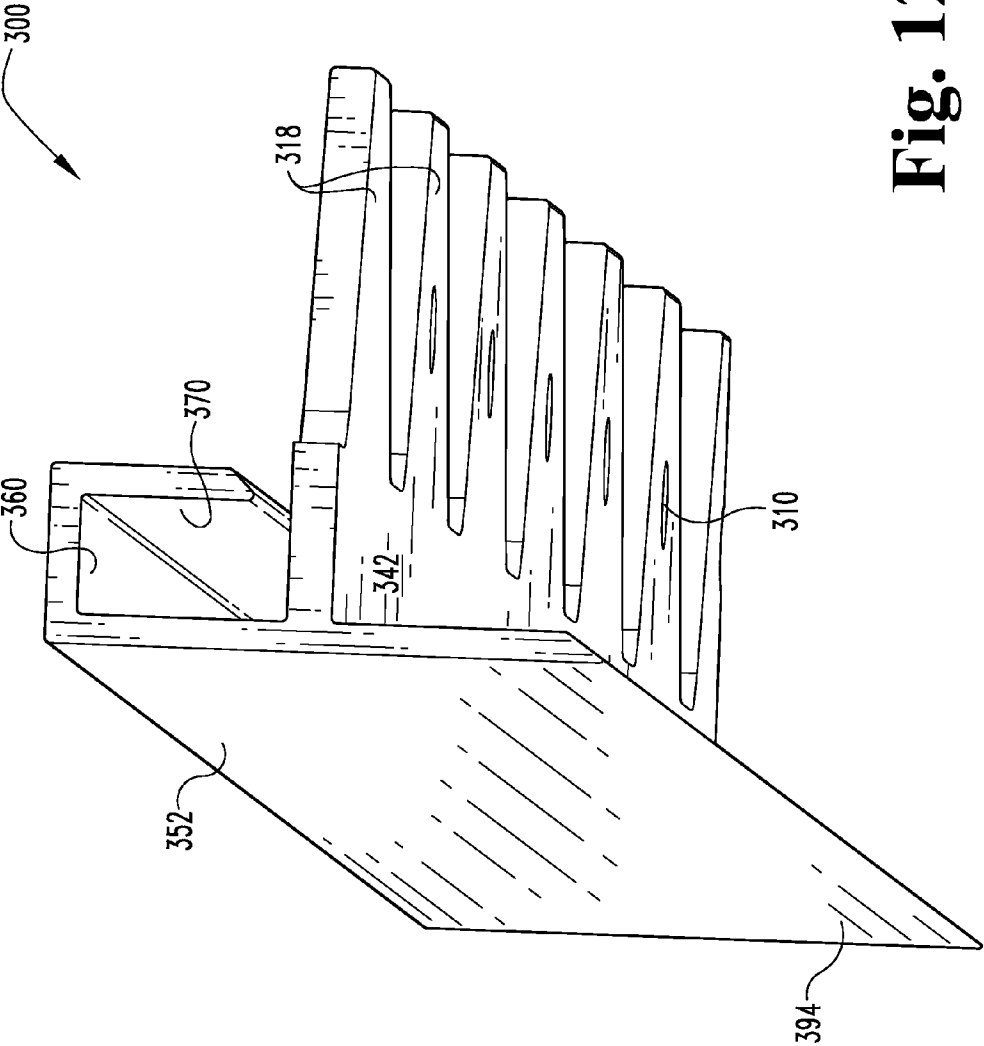
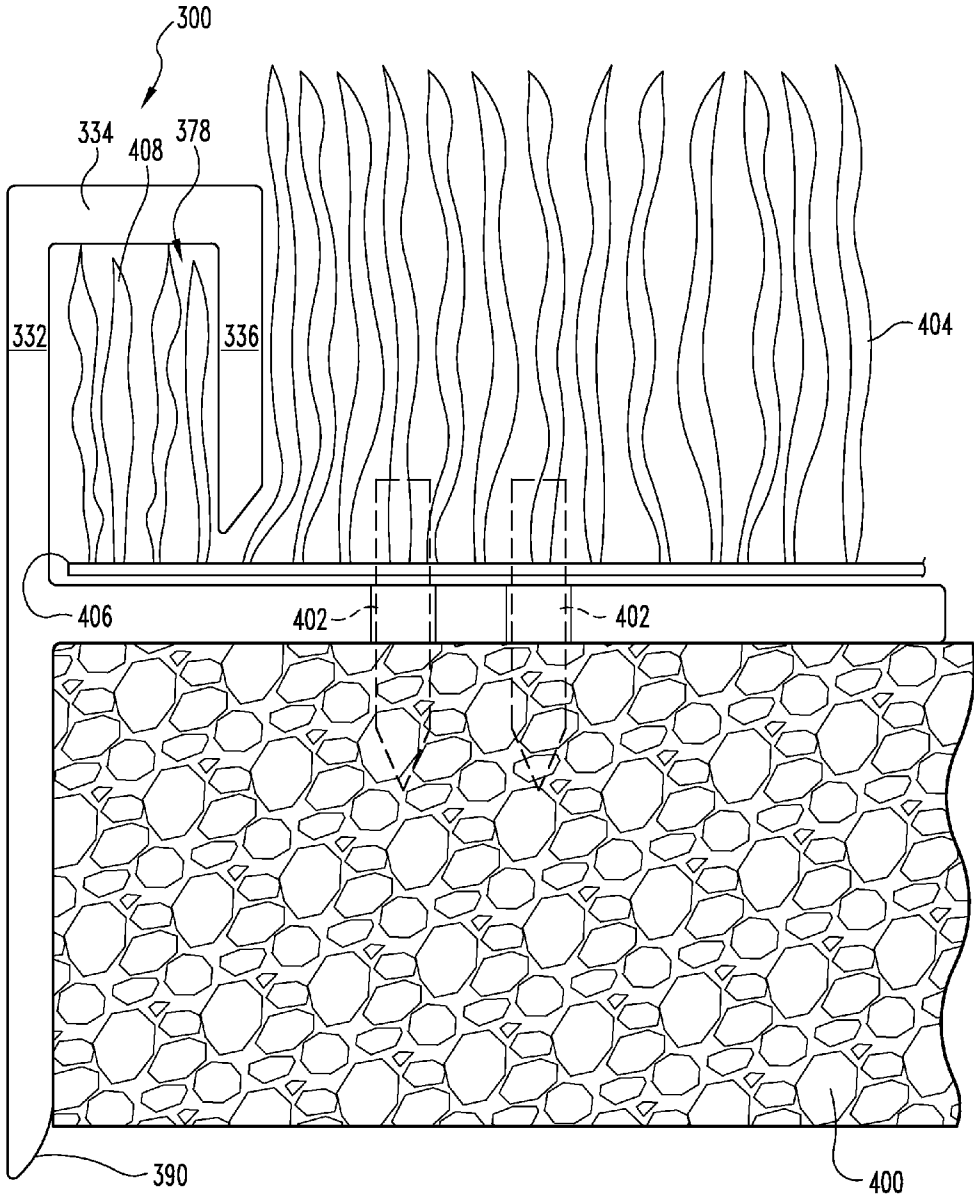


Fig. 12



**Fig. 13**

**ARTIFICIAL SURFACE DIVIDER**

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

**[0001]** The present application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/437,178, entitled, "TURF DIVIDER," filed Jan. 28, 2011, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

**RELATED ART**

**[0002]** 1. Field of the Invention

**[0003]** The present invention is directed to an artificial surface divider that may be used with artificial surface installation.

**[0004]** 2. Brief Discussion of Related Art

**[0005]** Artificial turf, commonly referred to as "synthetic grass," is a viable alternative to natural sod and other ground covers due to its realistic appearance and its water conservation attributes, particularly for drought afflicted regions.

**[0006]** For artificial turf to be installed properly, it requires a hard edge or border for the turf material to butt against. If the artificial turf is installed without a hard edge or border, the installation is subject to weakening over time because the ends of the turf material are exposed. This exposure of the artificial turf ends commonly results in the turf pulling up and unravelling. Moreover, the base material under the artificial turf has a greater propensity to erode as water and wind can get under the exposed edge of the artificial turf.

**[0007]** Currently, installers of artificial turf are using simple landscape and garden edging devices, such as flexible bender boards and paver restraints, in an attempt to create a firm edge. Some of these devices, while operative to temporarily create a firm edge are very time consuming and labor intensive to install. In contrast, L-shaped paver restraints are easier to install, but these L-shaped paver restraints are less aesthetically pleasing and do not provide a durable solution.

**INTRODUCTION TO THE INVENTION**

**[0008]** The present invention is directed to an artificial surface divider that may be used with artificial surface installation.

**[0009]** It is a first aspect of the present invention to provide an artificial surface divider comprising a floor having a plurality of pads spaced apart from one another, the plurality of pads being mounted to a longitudinal housing having an overhang at least partially defining a longitudinal channel and a longitudinal gap that is open to the longitudinal channel, the longitudinal gap extending between an edge of the overhang and a floor of the longitudinal housing, wherein a longitudinal dimension of the artificial surface divider is the dominant dimension.

**[0010]** In a more detailed embodiment of the first aspect, at least one of the plurality of pads comprises a frustopyramidal pad integrally formed with the longitudinal housing. In yet another more detailed embodiment, at least one of the plurality of pads comprises a triangular pad integrally formed with the longitudinal housing. In a further detailed embodiment, the longitudinal housing includes a longitudinal floor, a longitudinal rear wall, a longitudinal roof, and a longitudinal front wall, and the longitudinal front wall is spaced apart from the longitudinal floor to provide the longitudinal gap. In still a further detailed embodiment, the longitudinal floor is perpendicular with respect to the longitudinal rear wall, and the

longitudinal front wall is perpendicular with respect to the longitudinal floor. In a more detailed embodiment, the longitudinal channel spans a first vertical length, the longitudinal gap spans a second vertical length, and the first vertical length is greater than the second vertical length. In a more detailed embodiment, the longitudinal housing includes a flange extending away from the overhang.

**[0011]** It is a second aspect of the present invention to provide an artificial surface divider comprising: (a) a base having a floor; (b) an upstanding wall mounted to the base; (c) an eave mounted to the upstanding wall and elevated vertically above the base, where the base, upstanding wall, and the eave cooperate to define a channel that is not entirely enclosed along a longitudinal length thereof, where a longitudinal gap exists between the eave and the floor, where the base extends perpendicularly beyond the eave, and where a vertical height of the gap is less than a vertical height of the longitudinal channel.

**[0012]** In a more detailed embodiment of the second aspect, the floor includes a plurality of pads longitudinally spaced apart from one another. In yet another more detailed embodiment, the base, the vertical wall, and the eave defining the channel have a vertical cross-section comprising a discontinuous rectangular shape. In a further detailed embodiment, the eave includes a lip nearest to the floor, a gap spacing comprises the shortest distance between the lip and the floor, and the channel comprises a vertical height greater than the gap spacing. In still a further detailed embodiment, the embodiment further includes a descending wall extending in a direction away from the upstanding wall. In a more detailed embodiment, the upstanding wall is perpendicular with respect to the base, and the descending wall is perpendicular with respect to the base. In a more detailed embodiment, the base includes a plurality of pads extending away from the channel, the plurality of pads comprising at least one of a triangular cross-section and a frustopyramidal cross-section. In another more detailed embodiment, the floor is substantially planar, the upstanding wall comprises a vertical wall perpendicularly oriented with respect to at least a portion of the base, and the overhang comprises an L-shaped section having a first wall perpendicularly mounted to a second wall.

**[0013]** It is a third aspect of the present invention to provide an artificial surface divider comprising: (a) a base having a substantially planar floor with a dominant longitudinal dimension; and, (b) an overhang with a dominant longitudinal dimension that is operatively coupled to the base, the overhang cooperating with the floor to define a recessed cavity extending longitudinally and accessible via a gap extending longitudinally between the overhang and the floor, wherein a vertical height of the gap is less than a vertical height of the cavity.

**[0014]** It is a fourth aspect of the present invention to provide an artificial surface divider comprising a horizontal floor extending longitudinally and laterally, the horizontal floor including at least one opening adapted to receive an artificial surface retainer, the horizontal floor coupled to an upright flange extending longitudinally and vertically away from the horizontal floor, the upright flange being coupled to an overhang extending longitudinally, vertically, and laterally so that an edge of the overhang nearest the horizontal floor is vertically spaced apart from the horizontal floor to provide a vertical gap therebetween and laterally spaced apart from the upright flange, where at least a portion of the horizontal floor,

at least a portion of the upright flange, and at least a portion of the overhang cooperate to define a longitudinal cavity.

**[0015]** It is a fifth aspect of the present invention to provide a method of manufacturing an artificial surface divider, the method comprising: (a) extruding a material through a die having an orifice with a cross-section comprising: (i) a horizontal opening, (ii) an upright opening connected to the horizontal opening and extending vertically away from the horizontal opening, (iii) an overhang opening connected to the upright opening and extending horizontally away from the upright opening, the overhang opening extending toward the horizontal opening; (b) cooling the material after the material exits the die to solidify the material; and, (c) cutting the solidified material into segments having a predefined length.

**[0016]** In a more detailed embodiment of the fifth aspect, the upright opening extends vertically above and below the horizontal opening. In yet another more detailed embodiment, the upright opening extends vertically above the horizontal opening and does not extend vertically below the horizontal opening. In a further detailed embodiment, the upright opening is perpendicular with respect to the horizontal opening. In still a further detailed embodiment, cooling the material after it exits the die to solidify the material results in: (A) a horizontal floor extending longitudinally and laterally; (B) an upright flange connected to the horizontal floor, the upright flange extending vertically and longitudinally; (C) an overhang connected to the upright flange, the overhang extending longitudinally, laterally and vertically; (D) a gap extending longitudinally and vertically between at least a portion of the horizontal floor and at least a portion of the overhang; and, (E) a longitudinal cavity cooperatively defined by the horizontal floor, the upright flange, and the overhang. In a more detailed embodiment, the method further includes the step of repetitively removing segments of the horizontal floor to create a plurality of cut-outs, where each of the cut-outs has the same shape and is equidistantly spaced apart in a repeating fashion from adjacent cut-outs.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

**[0017]** FIG. 1 is an elevated perspective view of a first exemplary artificial surface divider in accordance with the instant disclosure

**[0018]** FIG. 2 is a top view of the exemplary artificial surface divider of FIG. 1.

**[0019]** FIG. 3 is a bottom view of the exemplary artificial surface divider of FIG. 1.

**[0020]** FIG. 4 is an elevated perspective view of an end of the exemplary artificial surface divider of FIG. 1.

**[0021]** FIG. 5 is a side view of the exemplary artificial surface divider of FIG. 1.

**[0022]** FIG. 6 is an underneath perspective view from the end of the exemplary artificial surface divider of FIG. 1.

**[0023]** FIG. 7 is a side view showing the exemplary artificial surface divider of FIG. 1 when installed as part of an artificial turf installation.

**[0024]** FIG. 8 is an elevated perspective view of a second exemplary artificial surface divider in accordance with the instant disclosure

**[0025]** FIG. 9 is a top view of the exemplary artificial surface divider of FIG. 8.

**[0026]** FIG. 10 is a side view of the exemplary artificial surface divider of FIG. 8.

**[0027]** FIG. 11 is an elevated perspective view of an end of the exemplary artificial surface divider of FIG. 8.

**[0028]** FIG. 12 is an underneath perspective view from the end of the exemplary artificial surface divider of FIG. 1.

**[0029]** FIG. 13 is a side view showing the exemplary artificial surface divider of FIG. 1 when installed as part of an artificial turf installation.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**[0030]** The exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure are described and illustrated below to encompass artificial surface dividers and methods of manufacturing artificial surface dividers. Of course, it will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that the embodiments discussed below are exemplary in nature and may be reconfigured without departing from the scope and spirit of the present disclosure. However, for clarity and precision, the exemplary embodiments as discussed below may include optional steps, methods, and features that one of ordinary skill should recognize as not being a requisite to fall within the scope of the present disclosure.

**[0031]** Referencing FIGS. 1-6, an exemplary artificial surface divider **100** comprises a plurality of ground pads **102** that extend outward from a common rail **104**. Each ground pad **102** has a frustopyramidal shape with a wide base **106** that connects to the rail **104**. The base **106** tapers as it extends outward from the rail **104** until reaching a flat end **108**. Interposing the flat end **108** and the base **106** is an orifice **110** that is generally centered between the flat end and the base, as well as being centered between a medial side **112** and a lateral side **114** of the pad **102**. As will be discussed in greater detail hereafter, the orifice is adapted to receive a ground spike or other retainer in order to mount the artificial surface divider **100** to an underlying base material such as dirt or packed clay. Each pad **102** includes a top surface **116** and an opposed bottom surface **118** that are substantially planar. In this exemplary embodiment, the bottom surface **118** is adapted to contact the underlying base material, while the top surface **116** is adapted to contact the underside of a section of artificial turf.

**[0032]** The rail **104** comprises four rail segments **130**, **132**, **134**, **136** that are mounted to one another. The first rail segment **130** is mounted to each of the ground pads **102** and extends laterally away from the grounds pads in an opposite direction. The first rail segment **130** includes a top planar surface **140** and an opposed bottom planar surface **142** that extend longitudinally to define a lengthwise dimension L of the artificial surface divider **100**. In this exemplary embodiment, the first rail segment **130** is seamlessly mounted to each of the ground pads **102** so that the top surfaces **116** of the ground pads are co-planar with the top surface **140**, while the bottom surfaces **118** of the ground pads are co-planar with the bottom surface **142**. In this manner, the thickness of the ground pads **102** is generally the same as that of the first rail segment **130**, though it does not need to be.

**[0033]** The second rail segment **132** is mounted to the first rail segment **130** along corresponding edges so that the segments **130**, **132** are perpendicular. The second rail segment **132** includes opposed top and bottom surfaces **150**, **152** that extend longitudinally along its length. Accordingly, the top surfaces **140**, **150** of the first and second rail segments **130**, **132** are perpendicular with respect to one another. So too are the bottom surfaces **152**, **142** perpendicular with respect to one another. In this manner, the segments **130**, **132** provide an L-shaped vertical cross-section. But this L-shaped cross-section does not account for the third rail segment **134**.

[0034] The third rail segment 134 is mounted to the second rail segment 132 along corresponding edges so that the segments 132, 134 are perpendicular. The third rail segment 134 includes opposed top and bottom surfaces 160, 162 that extend longitudinally along its length. Accordingly, the top surfaces 150, 160 of the second and third rail segments 132, 134 are perpendicular with respect to one another, while the top surfaces 140, 160 of the first and third segments face one another. Likewise, the bottom surfaces 152, 162 of the second and third segments 132, 134 are perpendicular with respect to one another, while the bottom surfaces 142, 162 of the first and third segments 130, 134 face away (i.e., opposite) one another. In this manner, the segments 130, 132, 134 provide block C-shaped vertical cross-section. But this block C-shaped cross-section does not account for the fourth rail segment 136.

[0035] The fourth rail segment 136 is mounted to the third rail segment 136 along corresponding edges so that the segments 134, 136 are perpendicular. In this exemplary embodiment, the fourth rail segment 136 does not extend to contact the top surface 140 of the first rail segment 130. Instead, an edge 180 of the fourth rail segment 136 stops short of the bottom surface 142 of the first rail segment 130, thereby creating a longitudinal gap. The fourth rail segment 136 also includes opposed top and bottom surfaces 170, 172 that extend longitudinally along its length. Accordingly, the top surfaces 160, 170 of the third and fourth rail segments 134, 136 are perpendicular with respect to one another, while the top surfaces 150, 170 of the second and fourth segments 132, 136 face one another. In addition, the top surfaces 140, 170 of the first and fourth rail segments 132, 136 are perpendicular with respect to one another. Similarly, the bottom surfaces 162, 172 of the third and fourth segments 134, 136 are perpendicular with respect to one another, while the bottom surfaces 152, 172 of the second and fourth segments 132, 136 face away (i.e., opposite) one another. And the bottom surfaces 142, 172 of the first and fourth segments 130, 136 are perpendicular with respect to one another. In this manner, the segments 130, 132, 134, 136 provide a near-rectangular vertical cross-section delineating a near-rectangular longitudinal cavity 178.

[0036] The discontinuity in the near-rectangular cross-section occurs as a result of the edge 180 not reaching the top surface 140 of the first rail segment 130. In this exemplary embodiment, the edge 180 is tapered from the bottom surface 172 to the top surface 170 to form a point 182 along the edge adjacent the top surface. The spacing between the point 182 and the top surface 140 of the first rail segment 130 allows for insertion of the edge of an artificial turf section into the longitudinal cavity 178.

[0037] The instant artificial surface divider 100 may be manufacturing in a number of ways. In exemplary form the artificial surface divider 100 comprises an extruded thermoplastic section cut to a predetermined length. This section is the result of extruding a thermoplastic through a die having the vertical cross-section shown in FIG. 5. After the section has been extruded, a punch press may be used to remove material to form the cavities 184 in between respective ground pads 102, and optionally simultaneously punching the through orifice 110 in each ground pad.

[0038] Referring to FIG. 7, installation of the instant artificial surface divider 100 includes compacting an aggregate sub-base 200. After the aggregate sub-base 200 has been compacted, the artificial surface divider 100 is fastened to the

sub-base 200 using heavy-duty metal nails or spikes 202 that extend through the orifices 110. The position of the artificial surface divider 100 signifies the end of the artificial turf 204, which is cut to size and hidden behind the fourth rail segment 136. In order to fit the end 206 of the artificial turf 204 into the longitudinal cavity 178, a predetermined length of artificial turf blades 208 are trimmed. It should be noted, however, that the end blades 208 need not be trimmed, particularly if the height of these blades is less than the height of the longitudinal cavity 178. The artificial turf 204 is subsequently nailed to the artificial surface divider 100 and the sub-base 200 using more nails or spikes 202.

[0039] Exemplary dimension for the instant artificial surface divider 100 include a  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch diameter for the through orifice 110. The ground pad 102 base is 4.5 inches long, whereas the flat end is 1.5 inches long. Each medial and lateral side 112, 114 of the ground pad is 2.3 inches long. The distance between the top and bottom surfaces 116, 118, 140, 142 of the first rail segment 130 and the ground pads 102 is  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch. The distance between the top and bottom surfaces 150, 152, 160, 162, 170, 172 of the second, third, and fourth rail segments 132, 134, 136 is  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch. The distance between the top surfaces 140, 160 of the first and third rail segments 130, 134 is  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch. The distance between the top surfaces 150, 170 of the second and fourth rail segments 132, 136 is  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch. And an exemplary distance from the point 182 to the top surface 140 of the first rail segment 130 is  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch.

[0040] Referencing FIGS. 8-12, an exemplary artificial surface divider 300 comprises a plurality of ground pads 302 that extend outward from a common rail 304. Each ground pad 302 has a frustopyramidal shape with a wide base 306 that connects to the rail 304. The base 306 tapers as it extends outward from the rail 304 until reaching a flat end 308. Interposing the flat end 308 and the base 306 is an orifice 310 that is generally centered between the flat end and the base, as well as being centered between a medial side 312 and a lateral side 314 of the pad 302. As will be discussed in greater detail hereafter, the orifice is adapted to receive a ground spike or other retainer in order to mount the artificial surface divider 300 to an underlying base material such as dirt or packed clay. Each pad 302 includes a top surface 316 and an opposed bottom surface 318 that are substantially planar. In this exemplary embodiment, the bottom surface 318 is adapted to contact the underlying base material, while the top surface 316 is adapted to contact the underside of a section of artificial turf.

[0041] The rail 304 comprises five rail segments 330, 332, 334, 336, 390 that are mounted to one another. The first rail segment 330, also known as a floor, is mounted to each of the ground pads 302 and extends laterally away from the ground pads in an opposite direction. The first rail segment 330 includes a top planar surface 340 and an opposed bottom planar surface 342 that extend longitudinally to define a lengthwise dimension L of the artificial surface divider 300. In this exemplary embodiment, the first rail segment 330 is seamlessly mounted to each of the ground pads 302 so that the top surfaces 316 of the ground pads are co-planar with the top surface 340 of the first rail segment, while the bottom surfaces 318 of the ground pads are co-planar with the bottom surface 342 of the first rail segment. In this manner, the thickness of the ground pads 302 is generally the same as that of the first rail segment 330, though it does not need to be.

[0042] The second rail segment 332 is mounted perpendicularly to the first rail segment 330 along corresponding edges. The second rail segment 332 includes opposed top and



bottom surfaces **350**, **352** that extend longitudinally along its length. Accordingly, the top surfaces **340**, **350** of the first and second rail segments **330**, **332** are perpendicular with respect to one another. So too are the bottom surfaces **352**, **342** perpendicular with respect to one another. In this manner, the segments **330**, **332** provide an L-shaped vertical cross-section. But this L-shaped cross-section does not account for the third rail segment **334**.

[0043] The third rail segment **334** is mounted perpendicularly to the second rail segment **332** along corresponding edges. The third rail segment **334** includes opposed top and bottom surfaces **360**, **362** that extend longitudinally along its length. Accordingly, the top surfaces **350**, **360** of the second and third rail segments **332**, **334** are perpendicular with respect to one another; while the top surfaces **340**, **360** of the first and third segments face one another. Likewise, the bottom surfaces **352**, **362** of the second and third segments **332**, **334** are perpendicular with respect to one another, while the bottom surfaces **342**, **362** of the first and third segments **330**, **334** face away (i.e., opposite) one another. In this manner, the segments **330**, **332**, **334** provide block C-shaped vertical cross-section. But this block C-shaped cross-section does not account for the fourth rail segment **336**.

[0044] The fourth rail segment **336** is mounted perpendicularly to the third rail segment **336** along corresponding edges. In this exemplary embodiment, the fourth rail segment **336** does not extend to contact the top surface **340** of the first rail segment **330**. Instead, an edge **380** of the fourth rail segment **336** stops short of the bottom surface **342** of the first rail segment **330**, thereby creating a longitudinal gap. The fourth rail segment **336** also includes opposed top and bottom surfaces **370**, **372** that extend longitudinally along its length. Accordingly, the top surfaces **360**, **370** of the third and fourth rail segments **334**, **336** are perpendicular with respect to one another, while the top surfaces **350**, **370** of the second and fourth segments **332**, **336** face one another. In addition, the top surfaces **340**, **370** of the first and fourth rail segments **332**, **336** are perpendicular with respect to one another. Similarly, the bottom surfaces **362**, **372** of the third and fourth segments **334**, **336** are perpendicular with respect to one another, while the bottom surfaces **352**, **372** of the second and fourth segments **332**, **336** face away (i.e., opposite) one another. And the bottom surfaces **342**, **372** of the first and fourth segments **330**, **336** are perpendicular with respect to one another. In this manner, the segments **330**, **332**, **334**, **336** provide a near-rectangular vertical cross-section delineating a near-rectangular longitudinal cavity **378**.

[0045] The discontinuity in the near-rectangular cross-section occurs as a result of the edge **380** not reaching the top surface **340** of the first rail segment **330**. In this exemplary embodiment, the edge **380** is tapered from the bottom surface **372** to the top surface **370** to form a point **382** along the edge adjacent the top surface. The spacing between the point **382** and the top surface **340** of the first rail segment **330** allows for insertion of the edge of an artificial turf section into the longitudinal cavity **378**.

[0046] The fifth rail segment **390** is mounted perpendicularly to the first rail segment **330** along corresponding edges. The fifth rail segment **390** includes opposed top and bottom surfaces **392**, **394** that extend longitudinally along its length. At the same time, an exposed edge **396** of the fifth rail segment **390**, which is opposite the second rail segment **332**, may be tapered or rounded to facilitate easier insertion of the artificial surface divider **300** into a sub-base or ground loca-

tion. Accordingly, the top surfaces **340**, **392** of the first and fifth rail segments **330**, **390** are perpendicular with respect to one another. So too are the bottom surfaces **342**, **394** perpendicular with respect to one another. Conversely, the fifth rail segment **390** is mounted coaxially to the second rail segment **332** along corresponding edges. In this manner, the top surfaces **350**, **392** of the second and fifth rail segments **332**, **390** are coaxial and co-planar with respect to one another. So too are the bottom surfaces **352**, **394** coaxial and co-planar with respect to one another. In this manner, the first, second, and fifth segments **330**, **332**, **390** provide a T-shaped vertical cross-section. But this T-shaped cross-section does not account for the third and fourth rail segments **334**, **336**.

[0047] The instant artificial surface divider **300** may be manufacturing in a number of ways. In exemplary form the artificial surface divider **300** comprises an extruded thermoplastic section cut to a predetermined length. This section is the result of extruding a thermoplastic through a die having the vertical cross-section shown in FIG. 10. After the section has been extruded, a punch press may be used to remove material to form the cavities **384** in between respective ground pads **302**, and optionally simultaneously punching the through orifice **310** in each ground pad.

[0048] Referring to FIG. 13, installation of the instant artificial surface divider **300** may include compacting an aggregate sub-base **400** or other ground material. After the aggregate sub-base **400** has been compacted or whatever other ground preparation is carried out, the artificial surface divider **300** is inserted into the ground (in exemplary form, the sub-base **400**) so that the exposed edge **396** of the fifth rail segment **390** is inserted initially into the ground while the fifth rail segment is oriented vertically. Continued movement of the fifth rail segment **390** vertically downward eventually results in the surface of the ground **400** coming in contact with the bottom planar surface **342** of the first rail segment **330** and bottom surfaces **318** of the ground pads **302**. Thereafter, heavy-duty metal nails, spikes or some other fastener **402** may extend through the orifices **310** of the ground pads **302** in order to secure the artificial surface divider **300** to the ground **400**.

[0049] Presuming the artificial surface divider **300** is used with artificial turf/grass **404**, the installed position of the artificial surface divider signifies the end or boundary of the artificial turf. In other words, the artificial turf **404** is cut to the appropriate size and at least one of its edges **406** is inserted through the gap between the first and fourth segments **330**, **336** and into the longitudinal cavity **378** to hide this edge. In exemplary form, in order to fit the edge **406** of the artificial turf **404** into the longitudinal cavity **378**, a predetermined length of artificial turf blades **408** may be trimmed. It should be noted, however, that the end blades **408** need not be trimmed, particularly if the height of these blades is less than the height of the longitudinal cavity **378**. The edge **406** of the artificial turf **404** is inserted through the gap and positioned to abut or closely approximate the top surface **350** of the second rail segment **332** in order for the edge to be housed within the longitudinal cavity **378**. Thereafter, the artificial turf **404** is fastened to the artificial surface divider **300** and the sub-base **400** using more nails, spikes or other fasteners **402**.

[0050] Exemplary dimension for the instant artificial surface divider **300** include a  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch diameter for the through orifice **310**. The ground pad **302** base is 4.5 inches long, whereas the flat end is 1.5 inches long. Each medial and lateral side **312**, **314** of the ground pad is 2.3 inches long. The

distance between the top and bottom surfaces **316, 318, 340, 342** of the first rail segment **330** and the ground pads **302** is  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch. The distance between the top and bottom surfaces **350, 352, 360, 362, 370, 372** of the second, third, and fourth rail segments **332, 334, 336** is  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch. The distance between the top surfaces **340, 360** of the first and third rail segments **330, 334** is  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch. The distance between the top surfaces **350, 370** of the second and fourth rail segments **332, 336** is  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch. And an exemplary distance or gap from the point **382** to the top surface **340** of the first rail segment **330** is  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch. The vertical length of the fifth rail is three inches. But it should be understood that these dimensions are only representative of an example, not of the entire invention.

[0051] Fabrication of either artificial surface divider **100, 300** may take many forms and steps. But, for purposes of exemplary explanation only, a method of fabricating either or both artificial surface dividers **100, 300** will now be discussed. In exemplary form, a die (not shown) is created to embody the cross-section in either FIG. 5 or FIG. 10. This die is then injected with molten material, such as molten thermoplastic material, which is extruded to draw out a longitudinal shape having a uniform cross-section as shown in FIG. 5 or FIG. 10. After the molten material exits the die, it remains temporarily in a viscous state that may be further deformed. In order to preserve the shape imparted by the die, liquid water is sprayed on the material exiting the die to solidify the material and create longitudinal lengths having the prescribed cross-section. Thereafter, the solidified material is cut into predefined longitudinal lengths, such as ten and eight foot sections, and readied for further processing.

[0052] In particular, when the solidified material exits the die, the ground pads **102, 302** are not yet completed. Rather, the solidified material includes a continuous flange that needs to be shaped (cut out in this case) in order to form the ground pads **102, 302**. In exemplary form, after the material is cut into predetermined lengths, each predetermined length is fed into a cutting press (not shown) in order to make several cuts at once and remove the requisite material to delineate the frustopyramidal or triangular (other shapes for the ground pads may be created) ground pads **102, 302**. At the same time, the cutting press may also form the openings **110, 310** through the ground pads that are adapted to receive fasteners such as lawn nails or garden spikes.

[0053] Following from the above description and invention summaries, it should be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that, while the methods and apparatuses herein described constitute exemplary embodiments of the present invention, it is to be understood that the inventions contained herein are not limited to the above precise embodiment and that changes may be made without departing from the scope of the invention as defined by the following proposed points of novelty. Likewise, it is to be understood that it is not necessary to meet any or all of the identified advantages or objects of the invention disclosed herein in order to fall within the scope of the invention, since inherent and/or unforeseen advantages of the present invention may exist even though they may not have been explicitly discussed herein.

What is claimed is:

1. An artificial surface divider comprising a floor having a plurality of pads spaced apart from one another, the plurality of pads being mounted to a longitudinal housing having an overhang at least partially defining a longitudinal channel and a longitudinal gap that is open to the longitudinal channel, the longitudinal gap extending between an edge of the overhang

and a floor of the longitudinal housing, wherein a longitudinal dimension of the artificial surface divider is the dominant dimension.

2. The artificial surface divider of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of pads comprises a frustopyramidal pad integrally formed with the longitudinal housing.

3. The artificial surface divider of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of pads comprises a triangular pad integrally formed with the longitudinal housing.

4. The artificial surface divider of claim 1, wherein: the longitudinal housing includes a longitudinal floor, a longitudinal rear wall, a longitudinal roof, and a longitudinal front wall; and,

the longitudinal front wall is spaced apart from the longitudinal floor to provide the longitudinal gap.

5. The artificial surface divider of claim 4, wherein: the longitudinal floor is perpendicular with respect to the longitudinal rear wall; and,

the longitudinal front wall is perpendicular with respect to the longitudinal floor.

6. The artificial surface divider of claim 1, wherein: the longitudinal channel spans a first vertical length; the longitudinal gap spans a second vertical length; and, the first vertical length is greater than the second vertical length.

7. The artificial surface divider of claim 1, wherein the longitudinal housing includes a flange extending away from the overhang.

8. An artificial surface divider comprising: a base having a floor; an upstanding wall mounted to the base; and, an eave mounted to the upstanding wall and elevated vertically above the base;

wherein the base, upstanding wall, and the eave cooperate to define a channel that is not entirely enclosed along a longitudinal length thereof;

wherein a longitudinal gap exists between the eave and the floor;

wherein the base extends perpendicularly beyond the eave; and,

wherein a vertical height of the gap is less than a vertical height of the longitudinal channel.

9. The artificial surface divider of claim 8, wherein the floor includes a plurality of pads longitudinally spaced apart from one another.

10. The artificial surface divider of claim 8, wherein the base, the vertical wall, and the eave defining the channel have a vertical cross-section comprising a discontinuous rectangular shape.

11. The artificial surface divider of claim 8, wherein: the eave includes a lip nearest to the floor;

a gap spacing comprises the shortest distance between the lip and the floor; and,

the channel comprises a vertical height greater than the gap spacing.

12. The artificial surface divider of claim 8, further comprising a descending wall extending in a direction away from the upstanding wall.

- 13.** The artificial surface divider of claim **8**, wherein:  
the upstanding wall is perpendicular with respect to the base; and,  
the descending wall is perpendicular with respect to the base.
- 14.** The artificial surface divider of claim **8**, wherein the base includes a plurality of pads extending away from the channel, the plurality of pads comprising at least one of a triangular cross-section and a frustopyramidal cross-section.
- 15.** The artificial surface divider of claim **8**, wherein:  
the floor is substantially planar;  
the upstanding wall comprises a vertical wall perpendicularly oriented with respect to at least a portion of the base; and,  
the overhang comprises an L-shaped section having a first wall perpendicularly mounted to a second wall.
- 16.** An artificial surface divider comprising:  
a base having a substantially planar floor with a dominant longitudinal dimension; and,  
an overhang with a dominant longitudinal dimension that is operatively coupled to the base, the overhang cooperating with the floor to define a recessed cavity extending longitudinally and accessible via a gap extending longitudinally between the overhang and the floor, wherein a vertical height of the gap is less than a vertical height of the cavity.
- 17.** An artificial surface divider comprising a horizontal floor extending longitudinally and laterally, the horizontal floor including at least one opening adapted to receive an artificial surface retainer, the horizontal floor coupled to an upright flange extending longitudinally and vertically away from the horizontal floor, the upright flange being coupled to an overhang extending longitudinally, vertically, and laterally so that an edge of the overhang nearest the horizontal floor is vertically spaced apart from the horizontal floor to provide a vertical gap therebetween and laterally spaced apart from the upright flange, where at least a portion of the horizontal floor, at least a portion of the upright flange, and at least a portion of the overhang cooperate to define a longitudinal cavity.
- 18.** A method of manufacturing an artificial surface divider, the method comprising:  
extruding a material through a die having an orifice with a cross-section comprising:  
a horizontal opening,  
an upright opening connected to the horizontal opening and extending vertically away from the horizontal opening,  
an overhang opening connected to the upright opening and extending horizontally away from the upright opening, the overhang opening extending toward the horizontal opening;  
cooling the material after the material exits the die to solidify the material; and,  
cutting the solidified material into segments having a pre-defined length.
- 19.** The method of claim **18**, wherein the upright opening extends vertically above and below the horizontal opening.
- 20.** The method of claim **18**, wherein the upright opening extends vertically above the horizontal opening and does not extend vertically below the horizontal opening.
- 21.** The method of claim **18**, wherein the upright opening is perpendicular with respect to the horizontal opening.
- 22.** The method of claim **18**, wherein cooling the material after it exits the die to solidify the material results in:  
a horizontal floor extending longitudinally and laterally;  
an upright flange connected to the horizontal floor, the upright flange extending vertically and longitudinally;  
an overhang connected to the upright flange, the overhang extending longitudinally, laterally and vertically;  
a gap extending longitudinally and vertically between at least a portion of the horizontal floor and at least a portion of the overhang; and,  
a longitudinal cavity cooperatively defined by the horizontal floor, the upright flange, and the overhang.
- 23.** The method of claim **22**, further comprising the step of repetitively removing segments of the horizontal floor to create a plurality of cut-outs, where each of the cut-outs has the same shape and is equidistantly spaced apart in a repeating fashion from adjacent cut-outs.

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