

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A roof vent for placement over a ventilation opening in a roof, comprising a one-piece cover plate having a first end and a second end, and a support structure extending from the cover plate for supporting at least a portion of the cover plate a distance above a surface of the roof. A portion of the support structure tapers towards the second end of the cover plate so that the distance that the cover plate is supported above a surface of the roof decreases from the cover plate's first end to its second end. The support structure defines air passageways to permit air to flow to the ventilation opening. A plurality of the roof vents can be used in overlapping fashion to provide venting along a roof ridge or hip, or the roof vents can be used to provide spot venting in the roof field.

ROOF VENT

This invention relates to vents, and in particular to devices for ventilating roof spaces, such as attics, crawl spaces, and the like.

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It is well known that roof spaces, such as attics, must be ventilated in most climates, or condensation or heat accumulation will cause considerable damage or discomfort or inefficient heating or cooling of the building usable space. One of the most common methods of ventilating a roof space used in the past is to provide dome or spot type ventilators which provide localized ventilation in the roof surface, and additional vent openings or louvres lower down on the roof in the area of the soffit and fascia or in the roof gables. A difficulty with this type of ventilation is that the dome type ventilators mounted on the roof are unsightly in appearance. Further, these dome ventilators are not as efficient as they could be, because they cannot usually be mounted at the best location which is usually at the peak or highest point on the roof.

As an improvement over the conventional dome ventilators, roof ridge ventilators have been used in the past. These ventilators are mounted right on the roof ridge with suitable vent openings being made in the roof ridge to allow air within the roof space to pass through the ridge and out through the ventilator. While these roof ridge ventilators used in the past are most efficient due to their mounting location, they also suffer the disadvantage of being unsightly in appearance. Further, many of the previously available ridge ventilators are not completely weatherproof or prevent the entry of pests as well as they should.

Accordingly, it is desirable to provide a roof vent system which is aesthetic in appearance, durable, easy to install, cost effective to manufacture,

and which prevents entry of water, snow, bugs and other contaminants into the roof space.

A plurality of roof vents of the present invention can be used in
5 overlapping fashion along the ridge or hip of a roof to provide ridge or hip ventilation. The roof vent of the present invention can also be used as a spot ventilator in the roof field.

According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a roof
10 vent for placement over a ventilation opening in a roof, comprising a one-piece cover plate having a first end and a second end, and a support structure extending from the cover plate for supporting at least a portion of the cover plate a distance above a surface of the roof when positioned on the roof. The support structure tapers towards the second end of the cover plate so that the distance
15 that the cover plate is supported above a surface of the roof decreases from the cover plate's first end to its second end, the support structure defining air passageways to permit air to flow to the ventilation opening.

According to a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a
20 roof vent system for a roof ridge or hip having ventilation openings for the passage of air through a roof surface. The roof vent system includes a plurality of roof vents for placement in overlapping fashion along the roof ridge or hip over the ventilation openings. At least some of the roof vents include a cover plate, and a support structure connected to the cover plate for mounting the cover
25 plate over at least one of the ventilation openings. The support structure has a first support portion positionable against an adjacent roof vent installed on the roof surface for supporting a portion of the cover plate a distance above the adjacent roof vent, and a second support portion positionable against the roof surface next to the adjacent roof vent. The support structure defines a plurality of

air passageways that allow air to pass under the cover plate and into at least one ventilation opening when the roof vent is installed on the roof.

According to still a further aspect of the present invention, there is
5 provided a roof vent for location over a roof ridge or hip having a ventilation opening for passage of air through a roof surface. The roof vent includes a cover plate having two opposable parts hingeably connected together along a hinge axis extending from a first end of the cover plate to a second end of the cover plate, and the cover plate is divided into a first cover plate portion and a second
10 cover plate portion along an axis that is transverse the hinge axis and located between the first and second ends of the cover plate. The roof vent also includes a support structure comprising a plurality of support members connected to a lower surface of the first and second cover plate portions for supporting the cover plate in relation to the roof surface when positioned on the roof ridge or
15 hip. The support members have free ends extending away from the cover plate portions for engaging support surfaces provided on the roof ridge or hip, the support members which extend from the second cover plate portion being configured such that the distance that the free ends of such members extend from the second cover plate portion tapers linearly towards the second end, the
20 support structure defining a plurality of air passageways to permit air to pass under the cover plate and into the ventilation opening.

Preferred embodiments of the invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

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Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portion of a roof ridge showing a plurality of the roof vents of the present invention installed thereon in overlapping fashion;

Figure 2 is a top plan view showing a preferred embodiment of a roof vent of the present invention before it is bent to conform to the roof and without any roofing material applied to its upper surface;

5 Figure 3 is a side view of the roof vent of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a front end view of the roof vent of Figure 2;

Figure 5 is a bottom plan view of the roof vent of Figure 2;

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Figure 6 is a perspective view illustrating installation of roof vents of the present invention along the hip of a roof;

Figure 7 is a bottom plan view showing a modification to the baffle
15 configuration of the roof vent of Figure 2;

Figure 8 is a perspective view of a portion of a roof ridge showing a plurality of the roof vents of Figure 7 installed thereon in overlapping fashion.

20 Figure 9 is a perspective view showing a further possible embodiment of the roof vent; and

Figures 10-12 are perspective views illustrating the installation and use of the roof vent of the present invention as a spot vent.

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Figure 1 shows a portion of a roof ridge wherein a plurality of roof vents 10, in accordance with one preferred embodiment of the invention, are installed in overlapping fashion along the roof ridge. As is typical in ridge ventilated roofs, the sheathing 14 on roof 12 does not extend completely to the ridge board

16 of the roof, thus providing a series of ventilation openings 18 between adjacent rafters 20 along both sides of the ridge board 16. The roof vents 10 are each configured to allow air to enter and egress through ventilation openings 18 into and out of the attic space that is enclosed by roof 12.

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Referring to Figures 2 through 5, each roof vent 10 comprises a one piece plastic body which is molded preferably by injection molding and includes a substantially planar cover plate 24 with a support structure 29 connected to a lower surface 28 of the cover plate 24. The support structure 29, which
10 comprises a number of support walls which are mounted integrally with the cover plate 24 and which extend in generally perpendicular fashion from its lower surface 28, functions to support most of the cover plate 24 in spaced relation to the roof 12 when the roof vent 10 is secured to the roof. In order to facilitate the overlapping of adjacent roof vents, the support structure 29 tapers
15 towards one end of the cover plate 24 so that when the roof vent is installed one end of the cover plate engages, or is located close to, the roof surface, and the other end of the cover plate is spaced above the roof surface, allowing it to overlay the cover plate of an adjacent roof vent (as shown in Figure 1).

20 The support structure 29 includes a first support portion 34 for supporting a rectangular first portion 30 of the cover plate 24 that begins at a first end 25 of the cover plate and ends at a transverse axis located between its first 25 and second 27 ends, as indicated by the dashed line 31 in Figure 2. The support structure 29 also includes a second support portion 36 for supporting a second
25 portion 32 of the cover plate 24 that begins where the first portion 30 ends (ie. line 31) and continues to the second end 27 of the cover plate 24. The above mentioned taper occurs along the second support portion 36, which is configured to engage roof surface and support the cover plate so that after installation on a roof the second end 27 of cover plate 27 rests on, or is located very close to the

roof surface and the rest of the cover plate 24 diverges away from the roof surface towards its first end 25. The first support portion 34 is configured to engage a support surface that will typically be provided by the upper surface of the cover plate of an adjacent roof vent.

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The cover plate 24 preferably includes an elongate ridge 38, extending along a central axis from the first end 25 to the second end 27 of the cover plate, which bisects the cover plate into two planar halves or parts 40. The ridge 38 functions as a hinge about which the two parts 40 of the cover plate 24 can be
10 folded downward, thus allowing the cover plate 24 to be bent about the ridge or hip of a roof to the desired angle for conforming the roof vent to the angle of the roof ridge 12 or hip.

As mentioned above, the support structure 29 includes a number of
15 support walls which extend in generally perpendicular fashion from the lower surface 28 of the cover plate 24. These include, as best seen in Figures 3-5, front end walls 42 and 44, side walls 46 and 48, and baffle walls 50, 52, 54, 56, 60, 70, 72 and 74.

20 All of the support walls of the support structure 29 have a free-end extending away from the surface 28 for engaging a support surface (which can be a portion of the roof, or part of a further roof vent, or as noted below, part of a starter member) in order to support the cover plate 24. The end walls 42 and 44 extend from surface 28 parallel and close to the first end 25 of the cover plate
25 24. One of the end walls 42 extends across one part 40 of the cover plate, and the other end wall 44 extends across the other part 40, and the end walls 42 and 44 are each set off a different distance from the front end 25 so that their adjacent end portions can overlap, rather than collide, with each other when the two parts 40 of the cover plate 24 are folded downwards about ridge 38.

Conveniently , the adjacent ends of the end walls 42 and 44 can extend at an angle from the cover plate 24 such that the lower ends of such adjacent ends overlap even when cover plate 24 is in a flat position, as best seen in Figures 4 and 5.

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The roof vent 10 preferably includes a plastic or steel flexible mesh portion 78 to help keep bugs from entering into the roof space through ventilation openings 18 when the roof vent 10 is installed. The mesh guard 78 extends along the lower portion of the vent guard 10 which is exposed to the 10 ventilation opening 18 in the roof 12 when the vent guard 10 is installed. The mesh 78 is preferably wide enough so that it will overlap the edges of any ventilation openings that the vent guard 10 is placed over. In order to hold the mesh 78 in place, the support structure 29 includes two support walls 80 which are located on either side of the ridge 38 and extend downwardly from the 15 surface 28 of the cover plate 24. One end of the mesh 78 is preferably secured by adhesive along the lower free ends of the mesh support walls 80 (which like end walls 42 and 44 are offset relative to each other on either side of ridge 38 to ensure that they overlap, rather than collide when the two parts 40 of the cover plate 24 are deformed to conform to the angle of a roof). The other end of the 20 mesh 78 is secured by adhesive to the lower surface 28 of the cover plate 24 adjacent its second end 27.

As best seen in Figures 3 and 5, the side walls 46 and 48, which are part of the second support portion 36, extend adjacent the opposite side edges of the 25 cover plate 24, and are tapered towards the second end 27 of the cover plate to permit a plurality of the roof vents 10 to be placed in overlapping fashion along the roof ridge 12. Similarly, baffle walls 70 and 60 are also tapered towards the second end 27 of the cover plate, as are the portions of baffle walls 50 which extend into the second support portion 36. Baffle walls 50, 52, 54, 60, 70, 72 and

74, in addition to supporting the cover plate 24 as part of the support structure 29, also define a plurality of air passageways, which are indicated generally by arrows 82 in Figure 5, through which air can flow from the two sides of the vent 10 under the cover plate 24, through the mesh 78 and into the ventilation opening over which the roof vent 10 is installed. In one preferred embodiment of the roof vent 10, these baffles are arranged so that no direct route is provided for air to flow from the sides of the roof vent 10 directly to the mesh 78 without first moving around some of the baffles. The baffle walls 50, 52 and 70 located on each part 40 of the cover plate 24 each have parallel portions that define the air passageways 82. "Hook" shaped structures 58 are provided on the baffle walls 50, 52 and 70 such that air entering the passageways 82 must flow around the hook structures 58, and also baffle walls 60 to reach the mesh 78. This configuration serves to reduce the amount of water which can enter the roof vent 10 and pass through mesh 78.

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Drain holes 76 are provided along the lower edges of end walls 42 and 44, and side walls 46 and 48 to allow any water which does get inside the roof vent 10 to drain out. The edges 84 of the cover plate 24 are at a slight angle to the plane of the cover plate 24 such that they will form an overhang as shown in Figure 4.

The roof vent 10 includes two tabs or interlocking members 86 which extend transversely from the upper surface 26 of the cover plate 24. As seen in Figure 2, a tab 86 is located near the second end 27 of each of the parts 40 of the cover plate 24. The tabs 86 facilitate connection of a plurality of the roof vents 10 in overlapping fashion, and in this regard each of the roof vents 10 also includes two downwardly opening receptacles 88 (see Figure 5), which extend from the lower surface 28 of the cover plate for engaging the tabs 86 of an adjacent roof vent 10.

As well as being used to provide ventilation along the ridge of a roof, the roof vents 10 can also be used to provide ventilation along the hip of a roof. With reference to Figure 6, the installation of roof vents along the hip of a roof will now be described in order to further explain the present invention.

5 (Installation along the roof ridge is performed in a similar manner). Figure 6 illustrates the manner in which two roof vents 10A and 10B can be installed along a portion of the length of a hip board 92 to take advantage of ventilation openings 94 which are provided along either side of the hip board 92.

10 Prior to installing the first roof vent 10A, it is desirable to install a starter member 96. The starter member 96 has a cover plate 98 which is longitudinally bisected into two parts by a flexible ridge 100. The two parts of the starter member can be folded about the ridge 100 to allow the starter member to be bent conform to the pitch of the roof on either side of the hip board 92. The starter
15 member 96 has a tapering profile from its first end 102 to its second end 104 so that starter member 96 can be used as a support surface for the first support portion 34 of the first roof vent 10A that is applied along hip 93. Starter member 96 is preferably molded from a single piece of plastic and includes a support structure comprising first end walls 106 and side walls 108 that are formed
20 integrally with the cover plate 98 and which have free ends extending away from the lower surface of cover plate 98 for engaging the roof hip 93. The side walls 108 are wedge shaped to provide the tapering profile of cover plate 98. The starter member includes two upwardly extending tabs 99 at its second end 104. The starter member 96 is first secured to the roof by nailing it to the hip ridge
25 93. Preferably, nails are driven through the starter member 96 on both sides of ridge 100 into the sheathing of the roof.

Once the starter member 96 is installed, the first roof vent 10A is positioned as indicated by lines 111 and lowered so that its first support

portion 34 rests on the cover plate 98 of the starter member 96, with the tabs 99 of the starter member 96 received within the receptacles 88 of the first roof vent 10A and the second support portion 36 of roof vent 10A rests directly on top of the roof surface (i.e. on top of the shingles), straddling the hip board 92, with
5 mesh 78 located over ventilation openings 94. In such position, the two parts of the cover plate 24 are folded about ridge 38 so that the ridge vent 10A takes the form of an inverted V and conforms to the angle of the roof on either side of the ridge board 92. In order to secure the ridge vent 10A in place, a nail 110 is
10 hammered through each half of the second portion 32 of the cover plate 24 and into the roof sheathing located along opposite sides of the ventilation openings 94.

In one preferred embodiment of the invention, an asphalt shingle 112 (or other suitable roofing material) is pre-applied with adhesive to the cover plate 24
15 of each of the roof vents 10. Alternatively, the roof vents 10 can be supplied without shingles 112 being pre-applied, in which case a ridge shingle 112 can be attached to the cover plate 24 at the same time that the ridge vent 10A is installed simply by driving nails 110 through both the shingle and the ridge vent 10A at the same time.

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Once the first roof vent 10A is installed, a second roof vent 10B is installed by overlapping its first support portion 34 over the second cover plate portion 32 of the roof vent 10A. When the first support portion 34 of the second roof vent 10B is lowered onto the second cover plate portion 32 of the roof vent
25 10A, the tabs 86 provided on the roof vent 10A are received within the tab receptacles 88 of the roof vent 10B, thereby assisting in the positioning of the roof vent 10B and helping to secure roof vent 10B in place. Nails are then used to secure roof vent 10B in place, and the process is repeated by installing additional roof vents 10 in overlapping fashion until a desired number of roof

vents have been installed. Once an air vent 10 is installed, air can flow through the air passageways 82 provided along the sides of the roof vent 10, and through mesh 78 into and out of the ventilation openings 94 provided on either side of the hip board 92.

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As can be seen in Figure 1, the roof vents 10 give the appearance of conventional ridge shingles, except with a higher profile, thereby providing a pleasing "3 D" look. Although it will be appreciated that the roof vents 10 could be produced in a variety of different sizes, they conveniently may be produced with a conventional imperial roof ridge shingle footprint of 12" x 12" or can also be made to have a footprint the same as that of conventional metric sized ridge shingles (approximately 13 1/8" by 13 1/2"). The end of the overlap (or first) portion 30 of the cover plate 24 and the start of the underlay (or second) portion 32 of the cover plate 24 occurs approximately half-way between its first 25 and second 27 ends. In one exemplary embodiment of the invention, the height of the roof vent 10 from the upper surface of the cover plate to the bottom of the support structure tapers linearly from approximately 0.9" at the start of the underlay portion 32 of the cover plate to just the thickness of the cover plate alone at the second end 27 of the cover plate. Of course, it will be appreciated that the roof vent could be constructed to have a height greater than or less than 0.9" at the start of the underlay portion, such as for example between 0.5" and 1.25", and in some cases, heights less than 0.5" or greater than 1.25" would be appropriate.

25 The interlocking members or tabs 86 may have a height and length (where length of each tab 86 is the distance that the tab runs parallel to the second end 27 of the cover plate) that is less than the height and length of the corresponding tab receptacles 88 so that the tabs 86 will fit in the receptacles 88 when the roof vents 10 are used with roofs of different pitches. In one preferred embodiment,

the tab 86 has a height that is $3/4$ the height of the receptacle 98, and a length that is $3/4$ the length of the receptacle 88. The thickness of each tab 86 (thickness being the distance the tab extends towards the first end 25 of plate 24 from the second end 27) is preferably close to that of each receptacle 88 to assist in
5 accurately locating the roof vents 10 in overlapping fashion during the installation procedure.

It will be appreciated that various modifications can be made to the roof vent of the present invention. For example, the support structure could take a
10 variety of configurations other than as noted above so long as it tapered towards one end of the cover plate 24 and provided an air passageway. By way of example, Figure 7 shows a roof vent 114 in accordance with a further preferred embodiment of the invention that is the same as the roof vent 10 except that its support structure 29 has a different configuration of baffle walls 116 and 118.
15 The baffle walls 116, which comprise part of the first support portion 34 of the support structure 29, all run parallel to the front edge 25 of the cover plate 24, and allow air to be drawn through mesh 78 from air passageways 132. Figure 8 illustrates a row of roof vents 114 installed in overlapping fashion along the ridge of roof 12.

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Figure 9 illustrates another possible embodiment of a roof vent 120 in accordance with the present invention. The roof vent 120 is identical to the roof vent 10 described above except that a rectangular cut-out 122 has been provided in the second portion of the cover plate 24 above the mesh 78 to allow
25 continuous air flow along and through a row of roof vents 120 which have been installed in overlapping fashion. Also, the first support portion 34 of the roof vent 120 has a slight taper in its height towards the second support portion 36. The degree of such taper is less than the degree of taper of the second support section 36 in order to permit overlapping of the roof vents 120.

Although the roof vent of the present invention is well suited for placement along the hip and ridge portions of a building, it can also be used to provide spot venting over a ventilation opening in practically any area of a roof, as illustrated in Figures 10, 11 and 12, which illustrate the installation and use of a roof vent 10 as a spot vent. Figure 10 shows a ventilation opening 124 through a roof 126. The rectangular vent opening 124 passes through the underlay portion of a shingle 130 and is located beneath the overlay portion of shingle 128. Prior to installing the roof vent 10, a starter member 96 is secured to the roof 28 over the overlay portion of shingle 130. In order to facilitate use of roof vent 10 for spot venting purposes, the connector tabs 86 provided on the upper surface of cover plate 24 are preferably scored at the point where they connect with the cover plate 24 so that they can be easily broken or cut off from the cover plate 24. With connector tabs 86 removed, the roof vent 10 can be positioned with its mesh portion 78 over the ventilation opening 124 and secured in place with nails located under the overlay portion of shingle 128. As illustrated in Figure 11, once the roof vent 10 is installed, air can flow through air passageways 82 located along the sides of the vent 10, through mesh 78 and into and out off ventilation opening 124.

20 The cover plate and support structure of the roof vents of the present invention are preferably constructed from PVC plastic. As the roof vents will typically be used with a shingle covering, exposure of the plastic to sun is negligible, thereby reducing the risk of breakdown of the plastic due to ultraviolet rays.

25 As will be apparent to those skilled in the art in the light of the foregoing disclosure, many alterations and modifications are possible in the practice of this invention without departing from the spirit or scope thereof. Accordingly, the scope of the invention is to be construed in accordance with the substance defined by the following claims.

Claims:

1. A roof vent for placement over a ventilation opening in a roof, comprising:

a one-piece cover plate having a first end and a second end; and

a support structure extending from the cover plate for supporting at least a portion of said cover plate a distance above a surface of the roof when positioned on the roof, a portion of said support structure tapering towards the second end of the cover plate so that the distance that said cover plate is supported above a surface of the roof decreases from the cover plate's first end to its second end, said support structure defining air passageways to permit air to flow to the ventilation opening.

2. A roof vent according to claim 1 wherein said support structure and cover plate are configured so that the cover plate's second end engages the roof and the remainder of the cover plate diverges away from the roof surface when the support structure is positioned on the roof.

3. A roof vent according to claim 1 wherein:

said cover plate has first and second portions each having a lower surface and an upper surface, said first portion extending from the first end of said cover plate to said second portion and said second portion extending from said first portion to the second end of said cover plate; and

said support structure includes:

(a) a first support portion extending from the lower surface of said first portion for engaging a first support surface located on the roof and supporting said first portion at a distance spaced apart from the first support surface; and

(b) a second support portion extending from the lower surface of said second portion for engaging a second support surface located on the roof and supporting at least part of said second portion at a distance spaced apart from the second support surface, said second support portion tapering towards the second end of the cover plate such that the distance that said second portion is spaced from the second support surface decreases towards the second end.

4. A roof vent according to claim 3 wherein said first support surface is provided by the second portion of the cover plate of an adjacent roof vent installed on the roof and said second support surface is provided by a part of the roof.

5. A roof vent according to any one of claims 1 to 4 for placement along a roof ridge or hip, said cover plate being bendable into two opposing parts about an axis extending from said first end to said second end.

6. A roof vent according to any one of claims 3 or 4 wherein said first support portion and said second support portion include a plurality of support walls that extend from said cover plate and which each have a free end extending away from said cover plate for engaging said support surfaces.

7. A roof vent according to claim 6 wherein at least some of said support walls function as baffles to define said air passageways.

8. A roof vent according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein said cover plate and said support structure are integrally formed together from plastic.

9. A roof vent according to any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein said roof vent includes an interlocking member extending from one surface of its cover plate,

and a receptacle for an interlocking member located on an opposite surface of its cover plate such that a plurality of said roof vents can be located along a roof ridge or hip in overlapping fashion with the interlocking member of one roof vent received within the interlocking member receptacle of an adjacent roof vent.

10. A roof vent system for a roof ridge or hip having ventilation openings for the passage of air through a roof surface, comprising:

a plurality of roof vents for placement in overlapping fashion along the roof ridge or hip over said ventilation openings, at least some of the roof vents including:

a cover plate;

a support structure connected to said cover plate for mounting said cover plate over at least one of said ventilation openings, said support structure having a first support portion positionable against an adjacent roof vent installed on the roof surface for supporting a portion of said cover plate a distance above the adjacent roof vent, and a second support portion positionable against the roof surface next to the adjacent roof vent, said support structure defining a plurality of air passageways that allow air to pass under said cover plate and into said at least one ventilation opening when the roof vent is installed on the roof.

11. A roof vent system according to claim 10 wherein said at least some roof vents each have an extending interlocking member for engaging an adjacent roof vent and an interlocking member receptacle for receiving the interlocking member of a further adjacent roof vent such that when the plurality of roof vents

are placed in overlapping fashion, the interlocking member of each roof vent is received within the interlocking member receptacle of an adjacent roof vent.

12. A roof vent system according to claim 10 or claim 11 wherein the cover plate of each of said at least some roof vents is divided along a transverse axis located between first and second ends of the cover plate into adjacent first and second cover plate portions, said first support portion extending downward from a lower surface of said first cover plate portion, and said second support portion extending downward from a lower surface of said second cover plate portion.

13. A roof vent system according to claim 12 said second support portion of each of said at least some roof vents tapers in height towards said second end of said cover plate.

14. A roof vent system according to claim 13 wherein said support structure and cover plate of said at least some roof vents are configured so that the cover plate's second end engages the roof surface and the remainder of the cover plate diverges linearly away from the roof surface when the support structure is positioned on the roof.

15. A roof vent system according to any one of claims 10 to 14 wherein said support structure of each of said at least some roof vents includes a plurality of support walls that extend from said cover plate and which each have a free end extending away from said cover plate, at least some of said support walls beings arranged as baffles to provide said air passageways.

16. A roof vent system according to any one of claims 12 to 14 wherein the cover plate of each of said at least some roof vents is bendable into two opposing parts about an axis extending from its first end to its second end so that the roof

vent system can be used with roof ridges and hips having a range of different roof pitches.

17. A roof ridge system according to claim 16 wherein an opening is provided through the second cover plate portion of each of said at least some roof vents to permit air to flow longitudinally through a row of roof vents installed in overlapping fashion on a roof ridge or hip.

18. A roof ridge system according to any one of claims 10 to 17 wherein the cover plate and support structure of each of said at least some roof vents are integrally formed together from plastic.

19. A roof ridge system according to any one of claims 10 to 18 further including a starter member having a tapering height for location on the roof surface under the first support portion of the first one of said at least some roof vents installed on the roof surface.

20. A roof vent for location over a roof ridge or hip having a ventilation opening for the passage of air through a roof surface, comprising:

a cover plate having two opposable parts hingably connected together along a hinge axis extending from a first end of said cover plate to a second end of said cover plate, said cover plate being divided into a first cover plate portion and a second cover plate portion along an axis that is transverse the hinge axis and located between said first and second ends; and

a support structure comprising a plurality of support members connected to a lower surface of the first and second cover plate portions for supporting said cover plate in relation to said roof surface when positioned on the roof ridge or

hip, said support members having free ends extending away from the cover plate portions for engaging support surfaces provided on the roof ridge or hip, the support members which extend from said second cover plate portion being configured such that the distance that the free ends of said members extend from the second cover plate portion tapers linearly towards said second end, said support structure defining a plurality of air passageways to permit air to pass under said cover plate and into the ventilation opening.

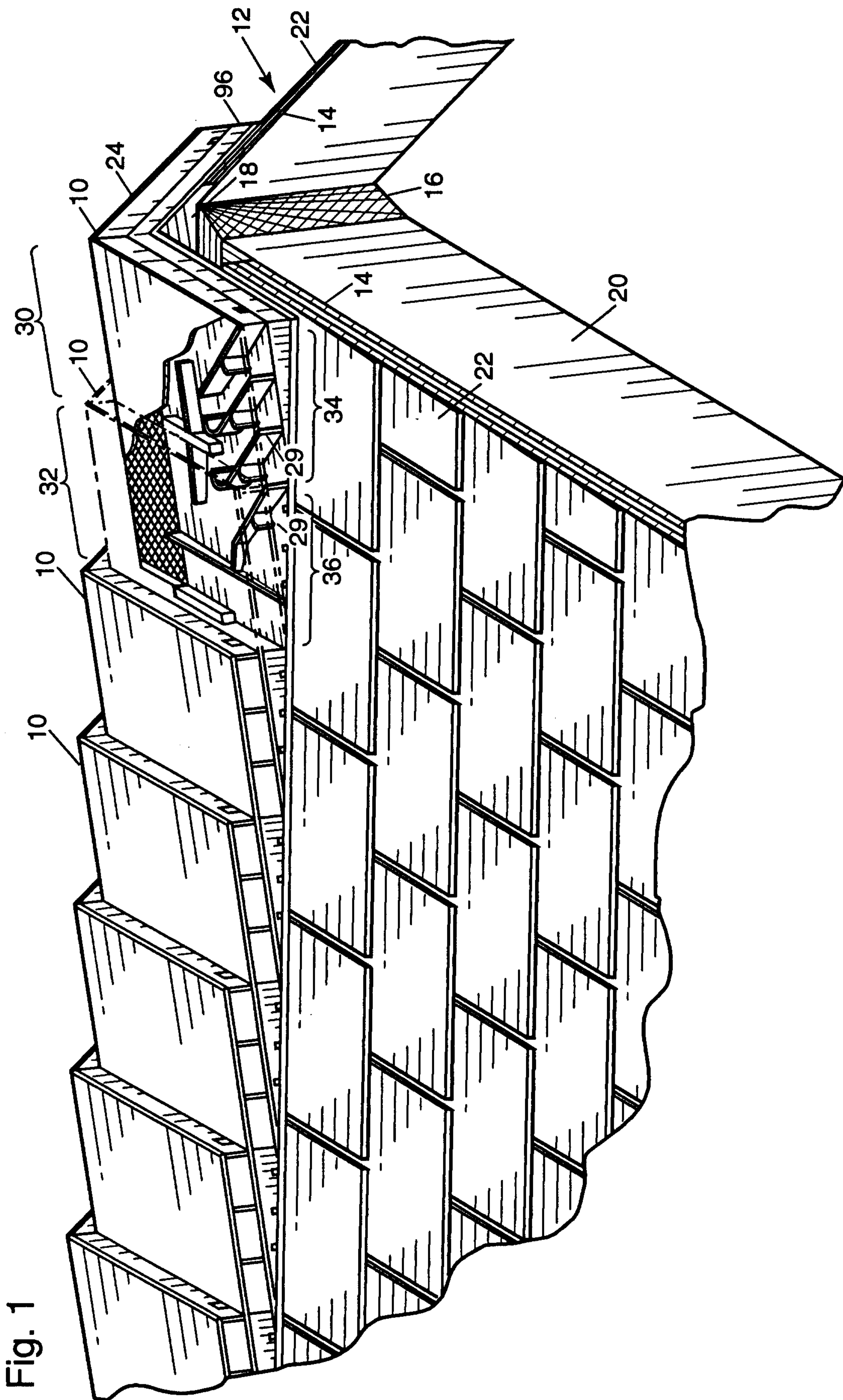


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

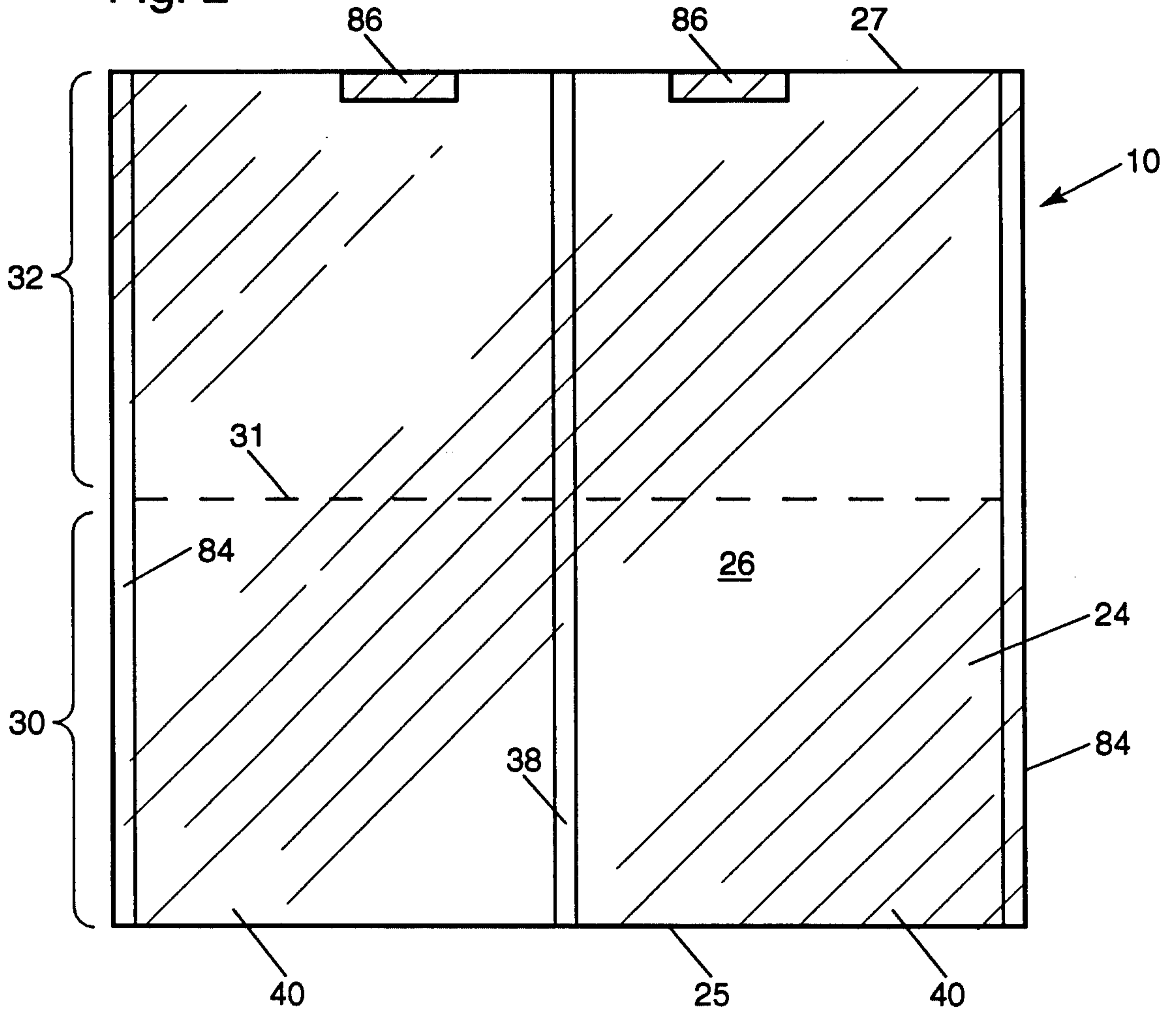


Fig. 3

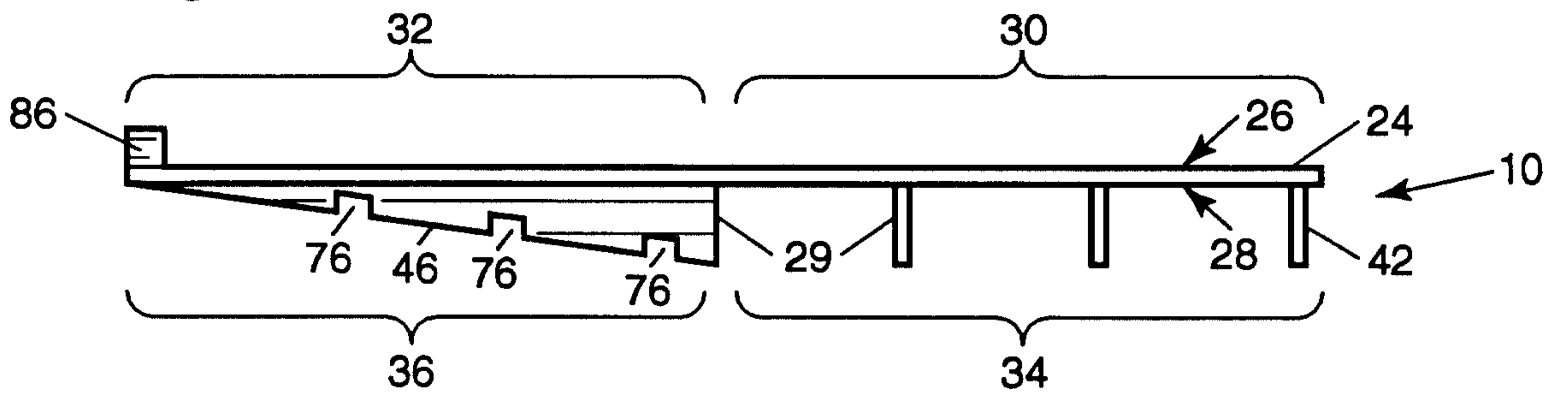


Fig. 4

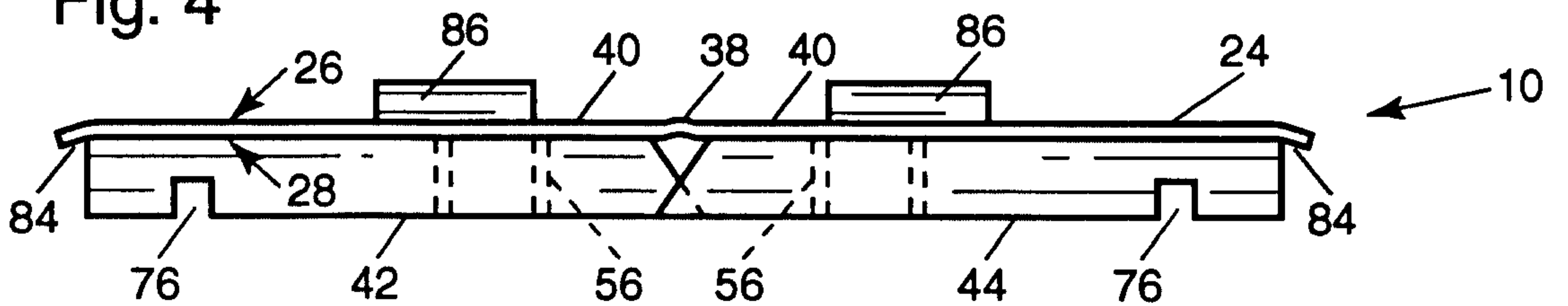


Fig. 7

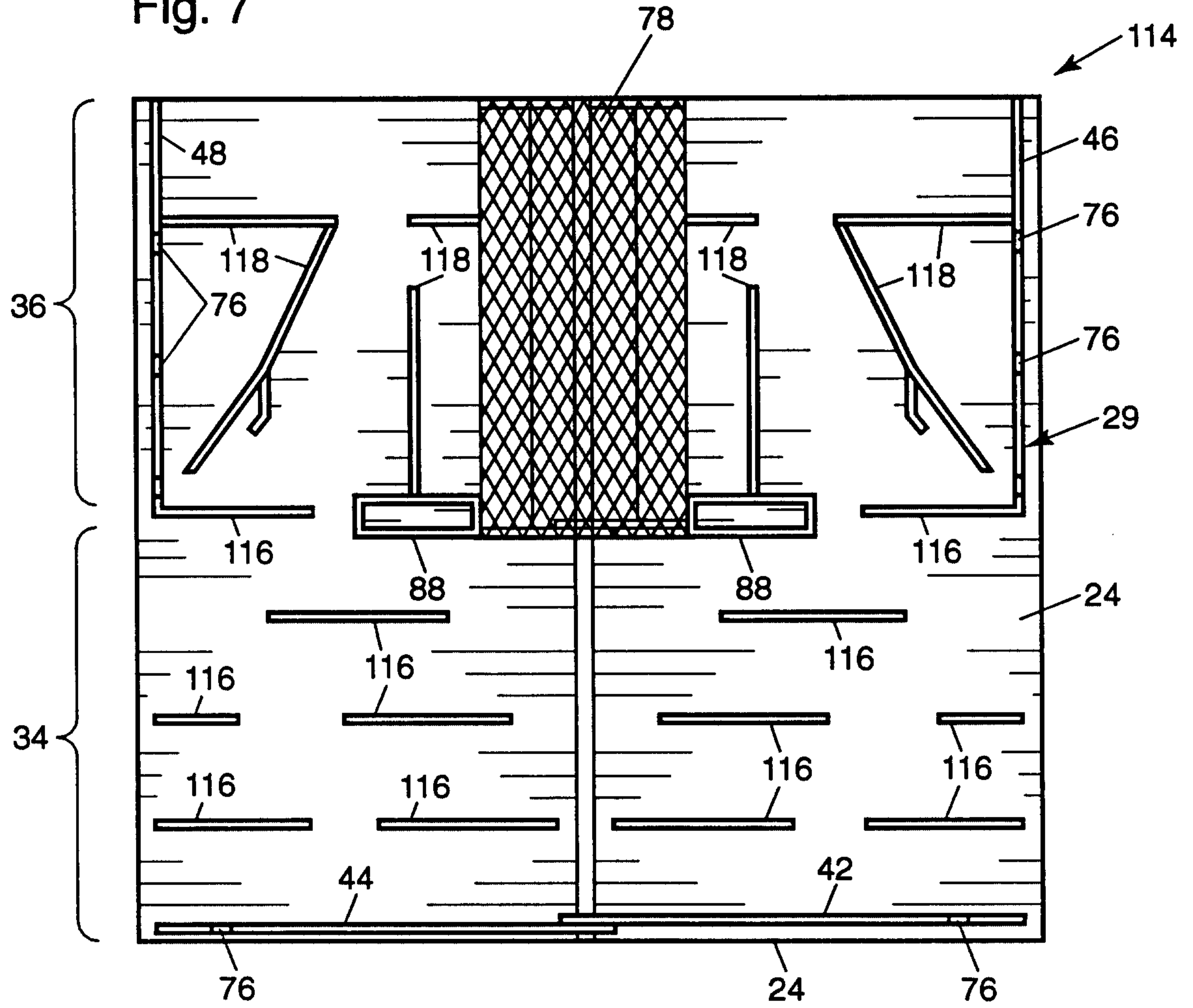
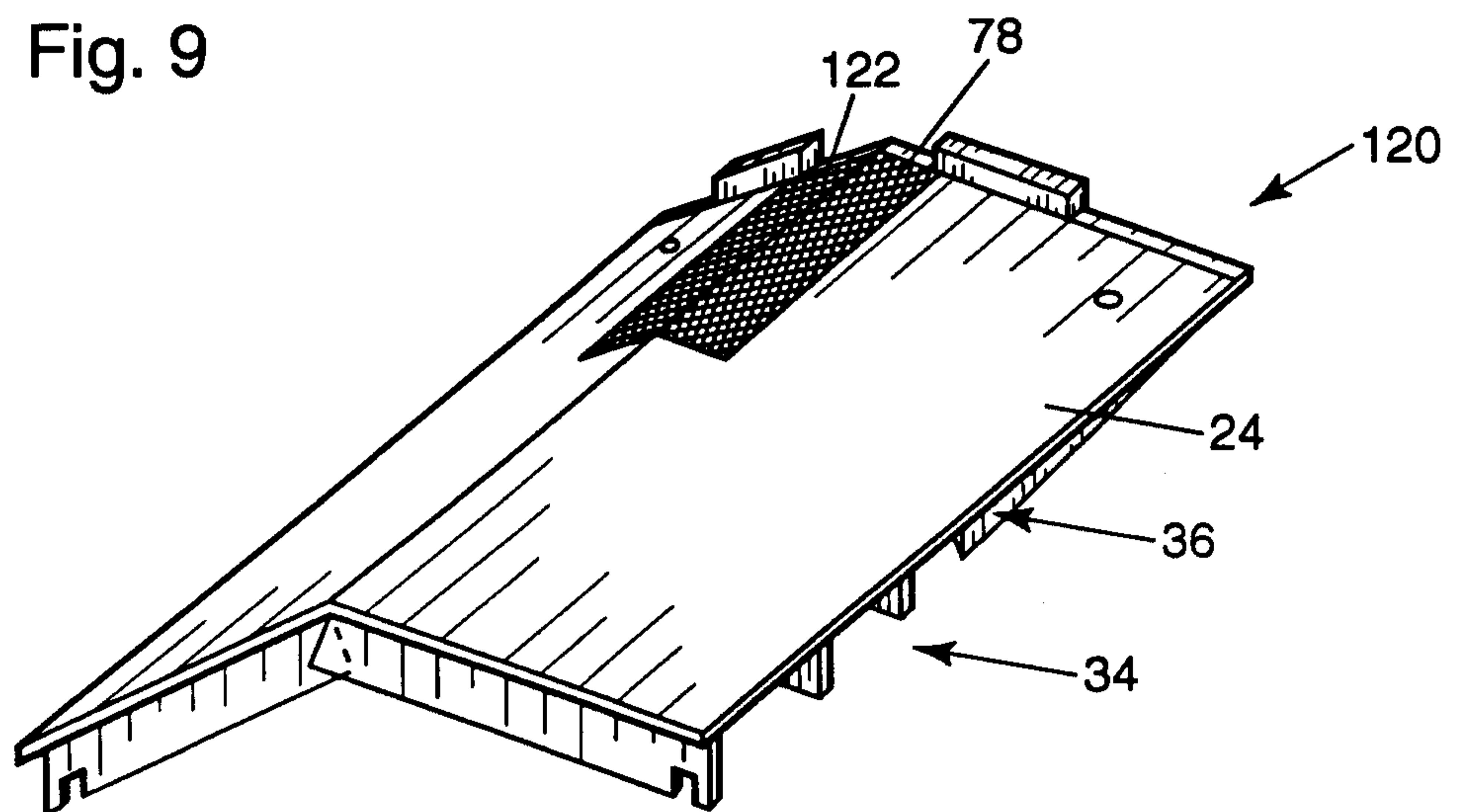


Fig. 9



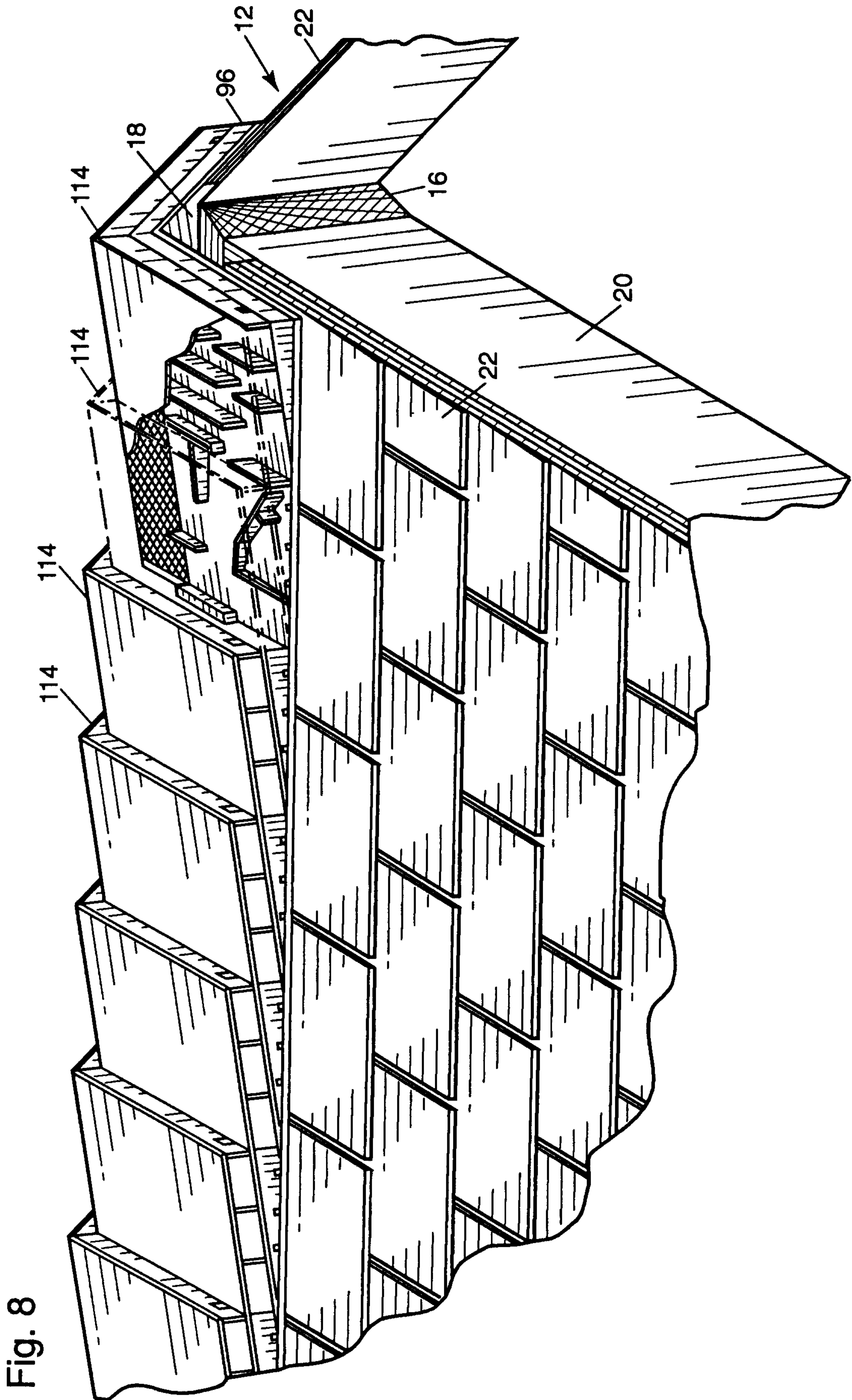


Fig. 8

Fig. 10

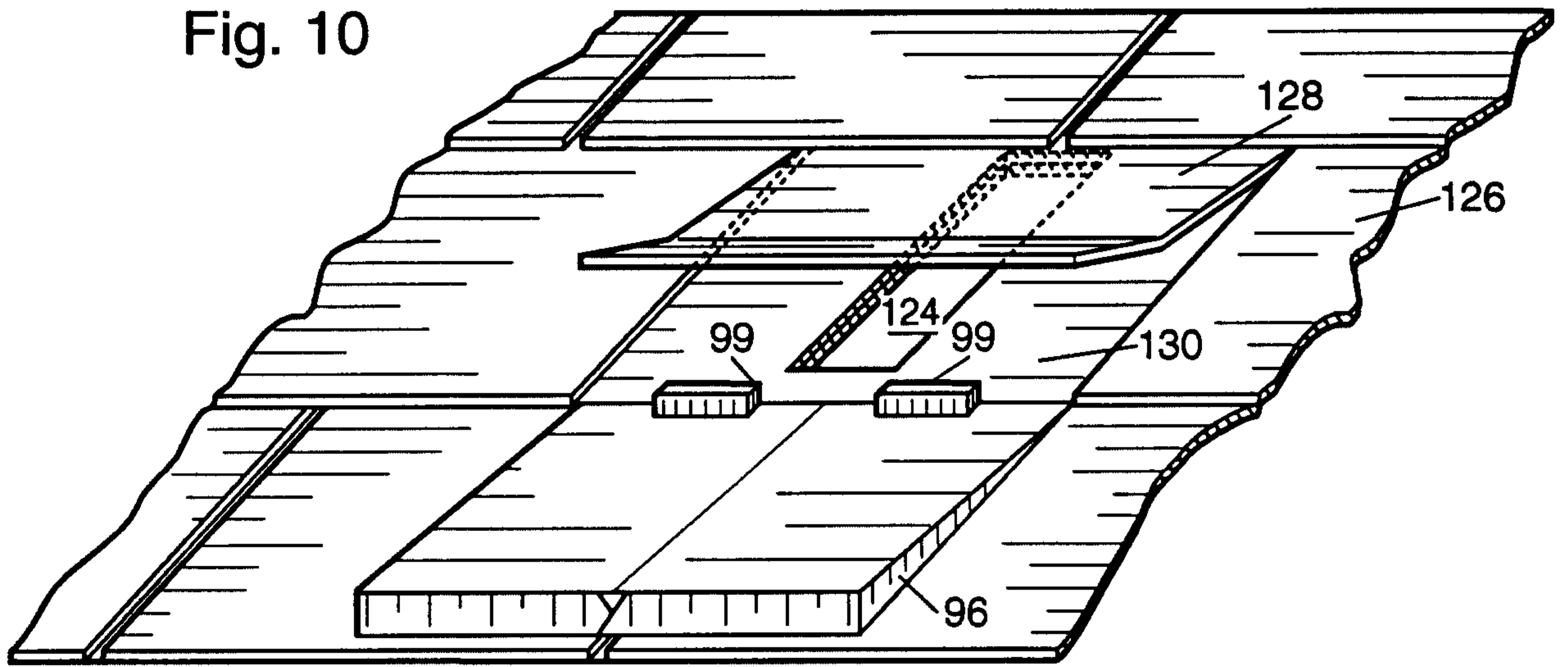


Fig. 11

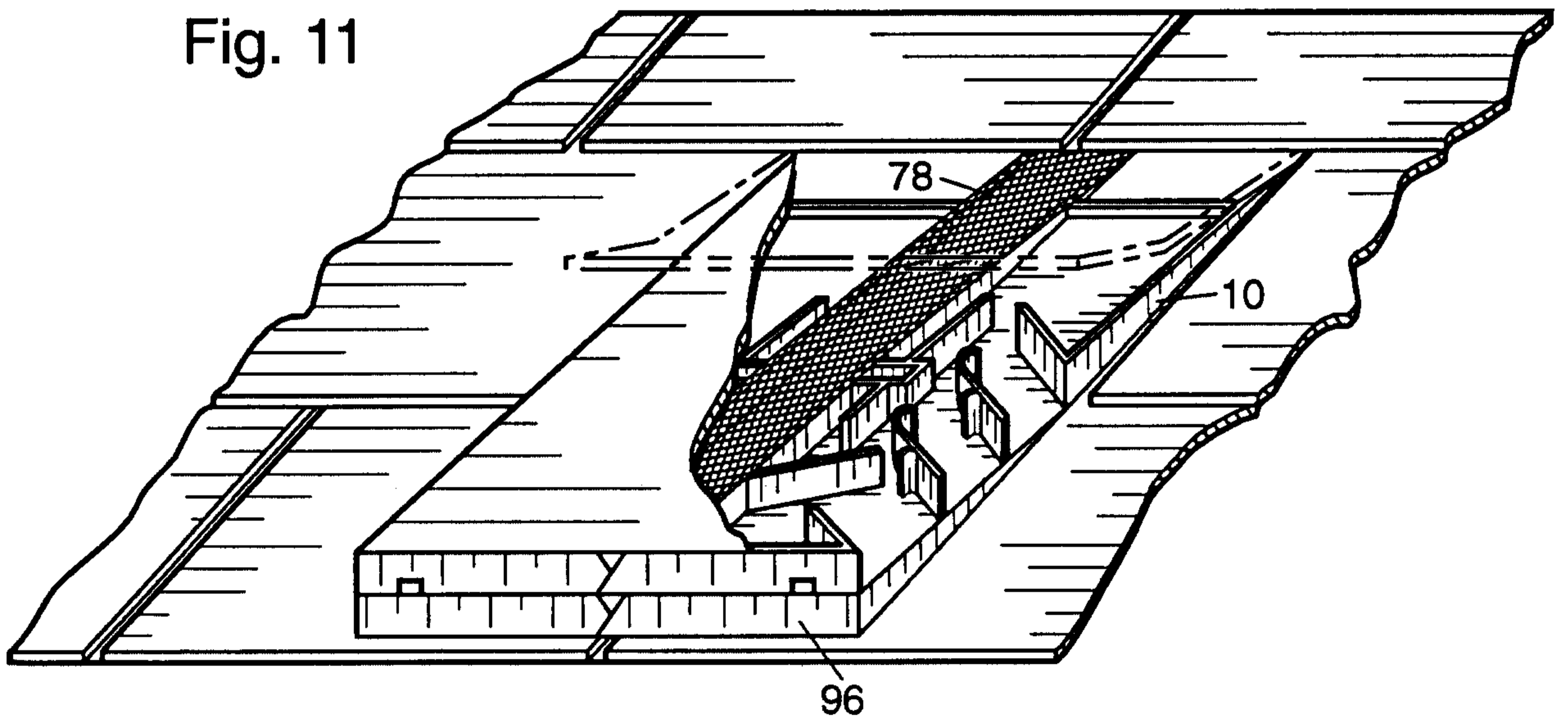


Fig. 12

