

No. 883,627.

PATENTED MAR. 31, 1908.

W. A. CREW.  
GRAVE VAULT.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 25, 1907.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1

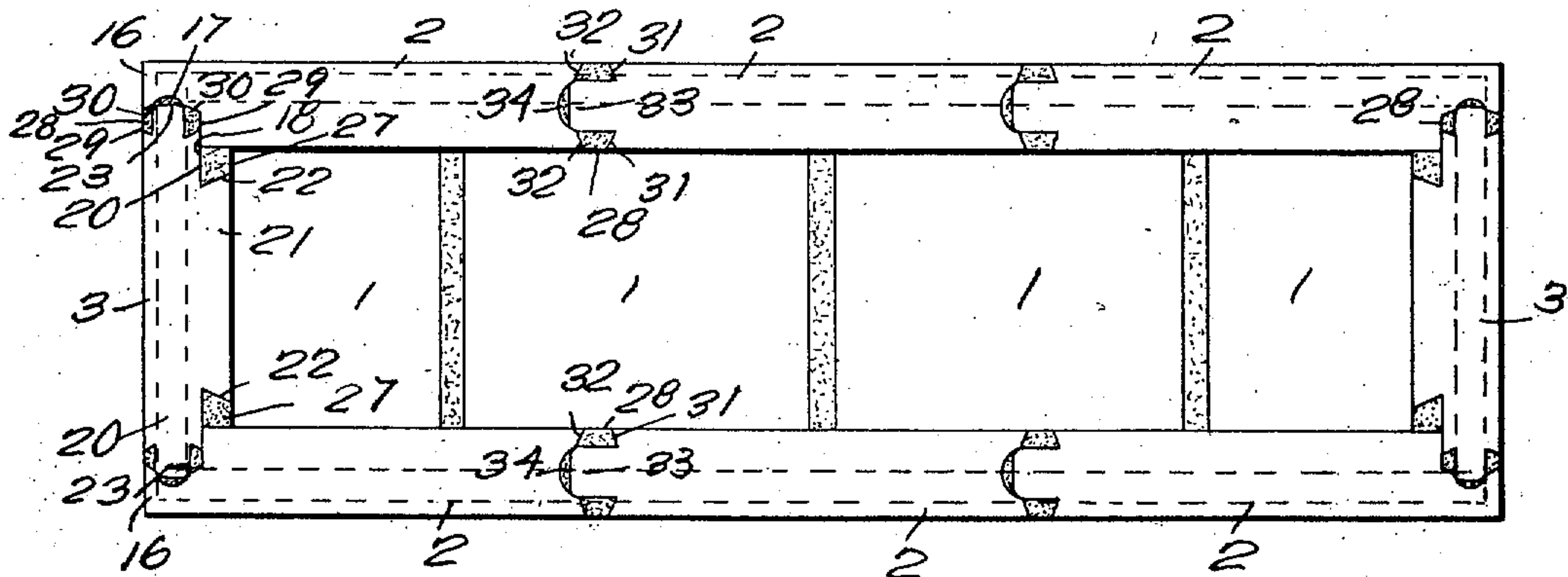


Fig. 2

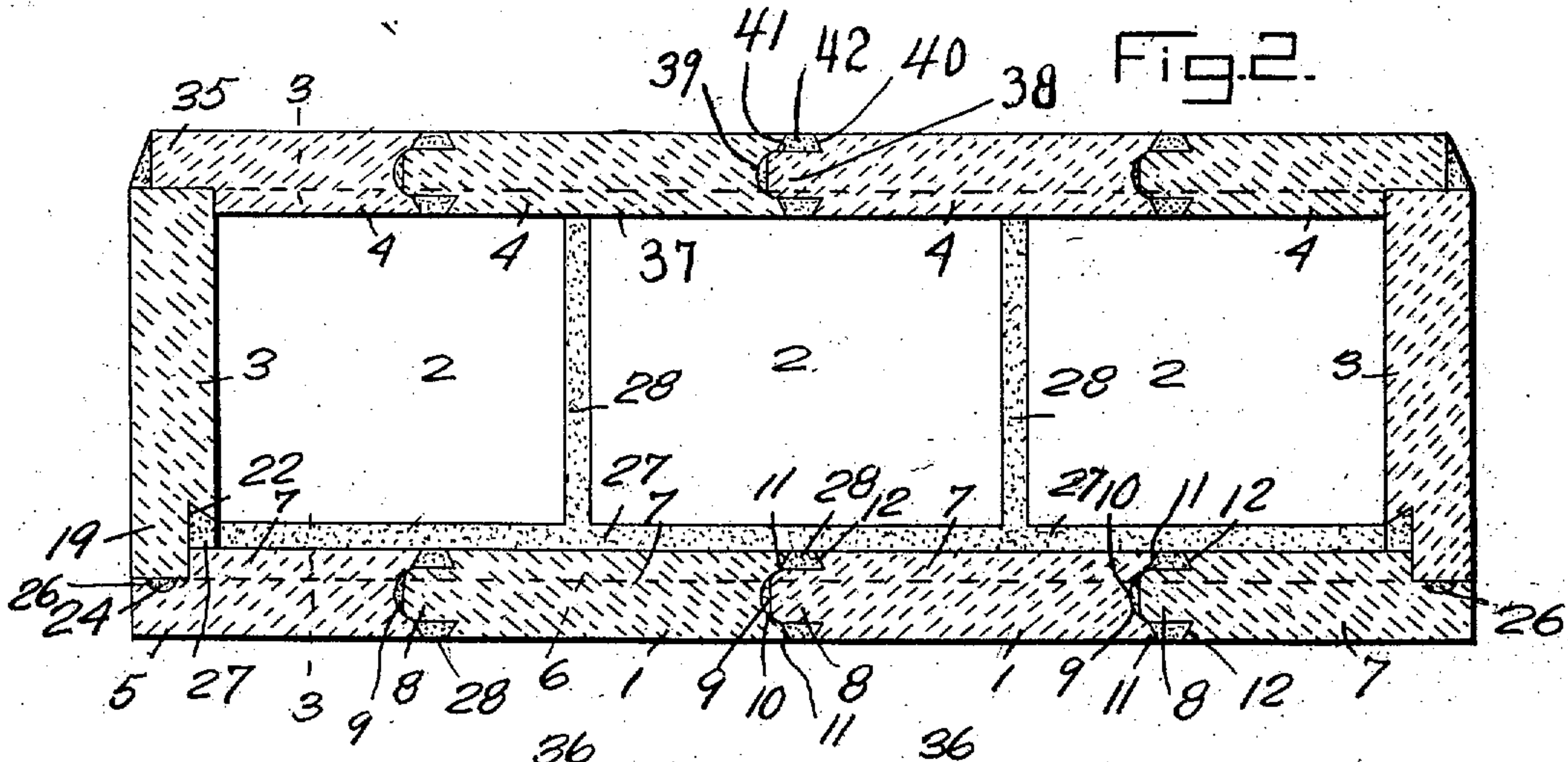
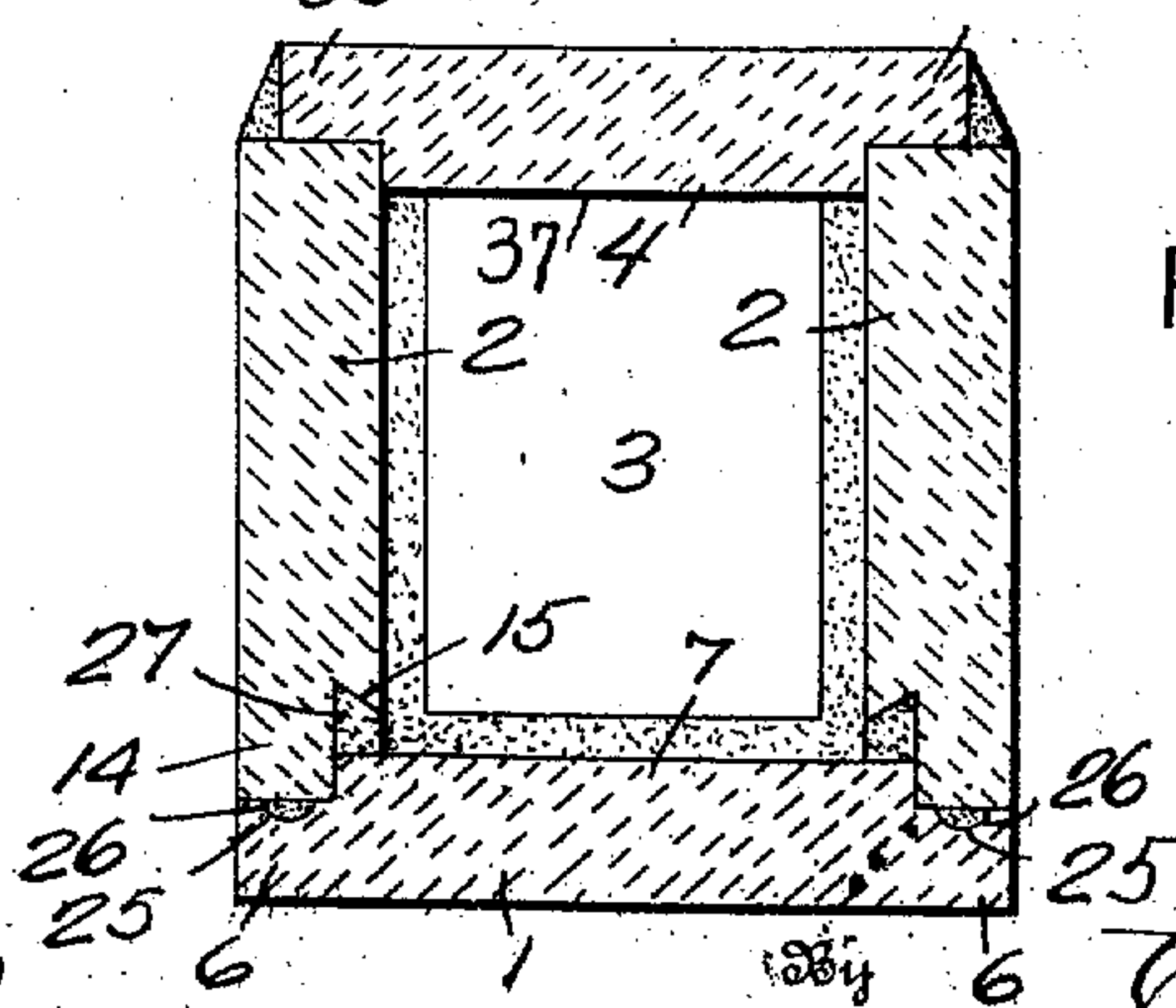


Fig. 3



Witnesses  
G. R. Thomas  
W. F. Miller.

Inventor  
W. A. Crew

Attorneys  
Dandlet Dandlet

No. 883,627.

PATENTED MAR. 31, 1908.

W. A. CREW.  
GRAVE VAULT.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 25, 1907.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 4.

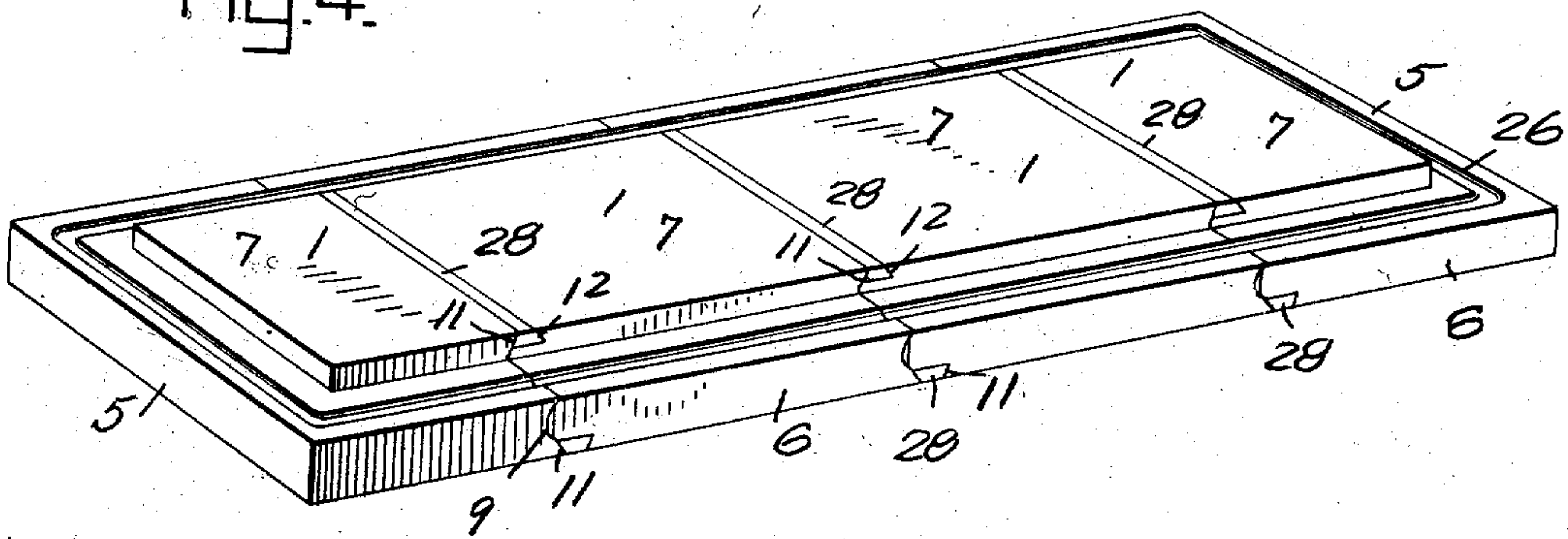


Fig. 6.

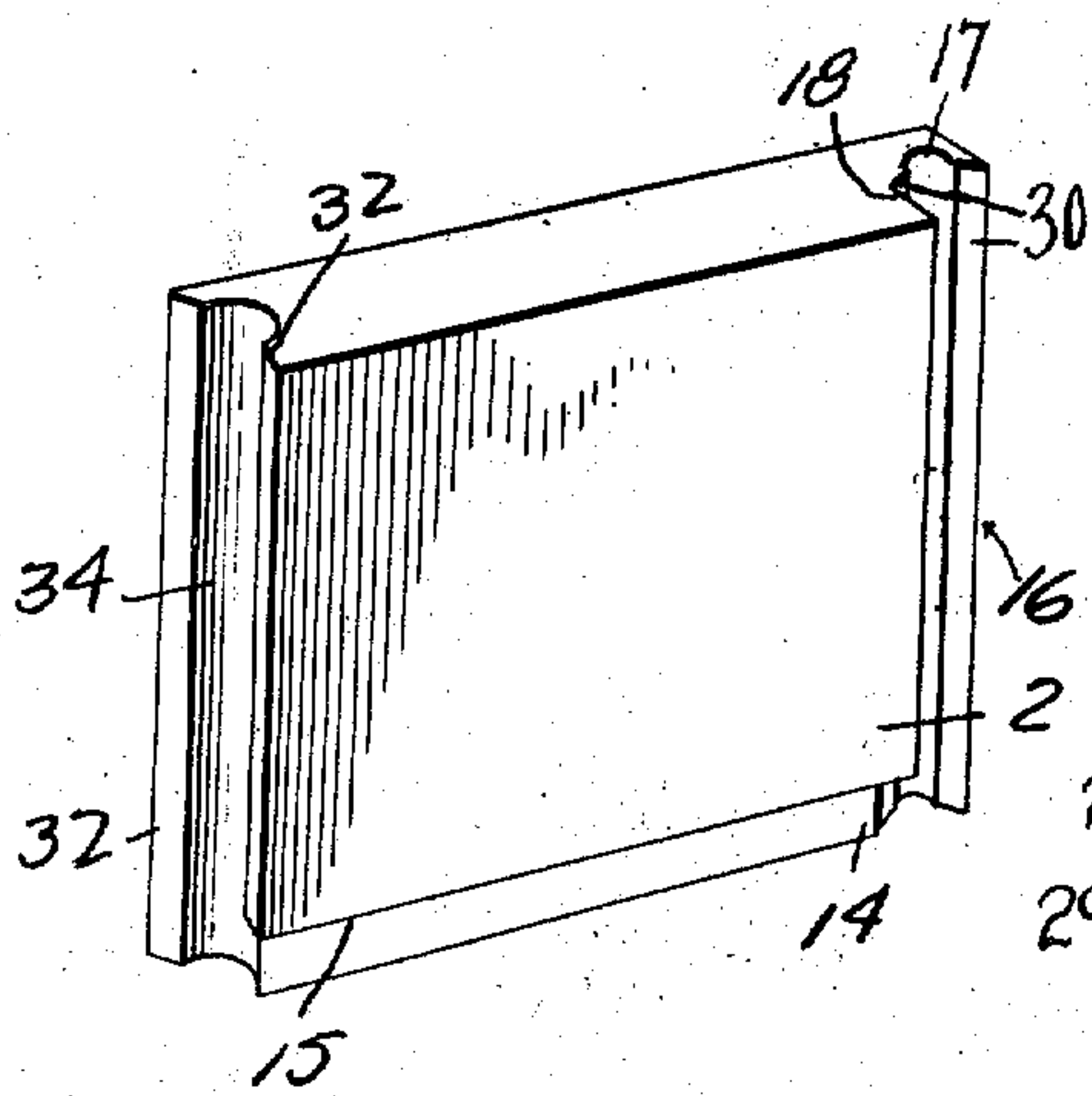
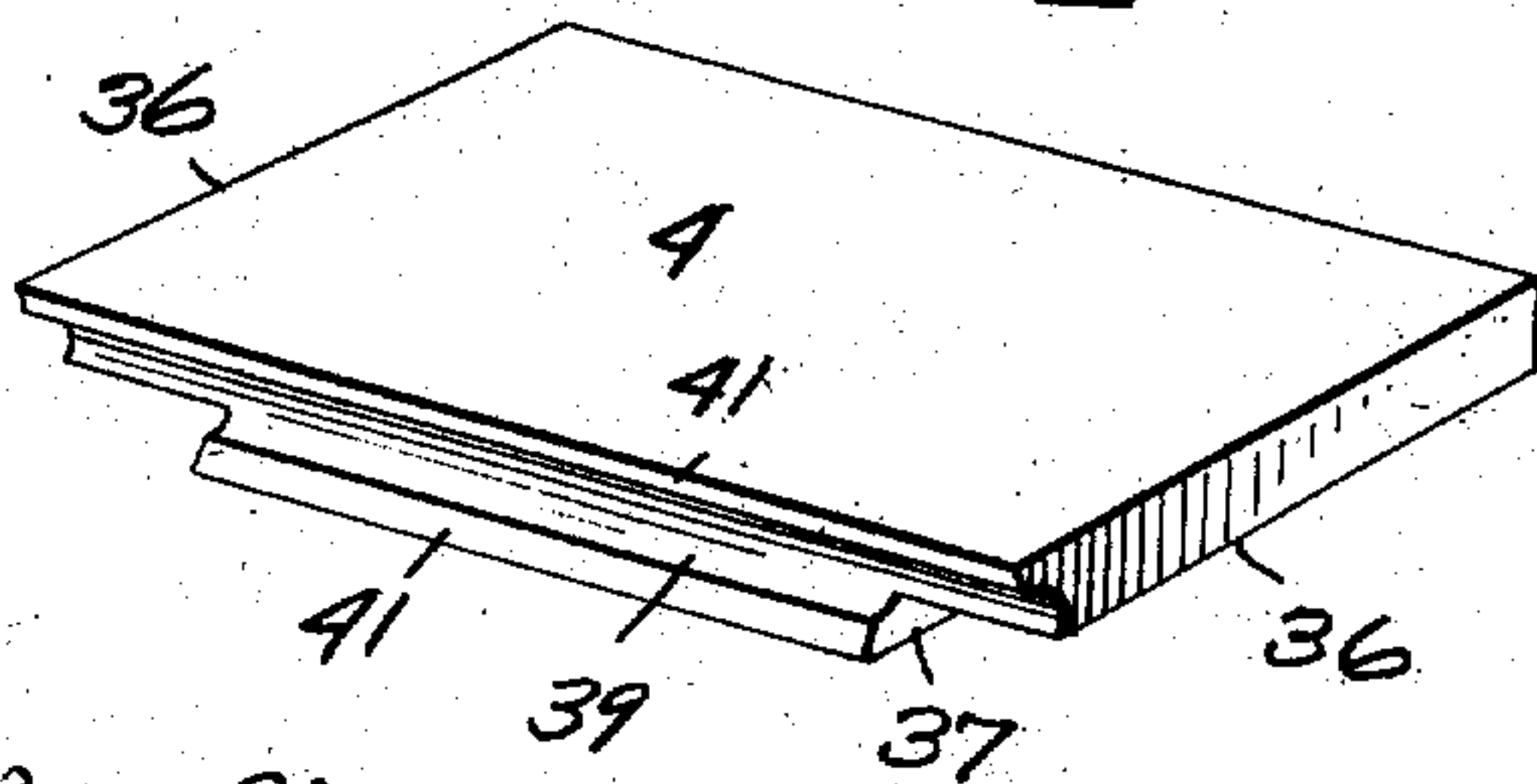
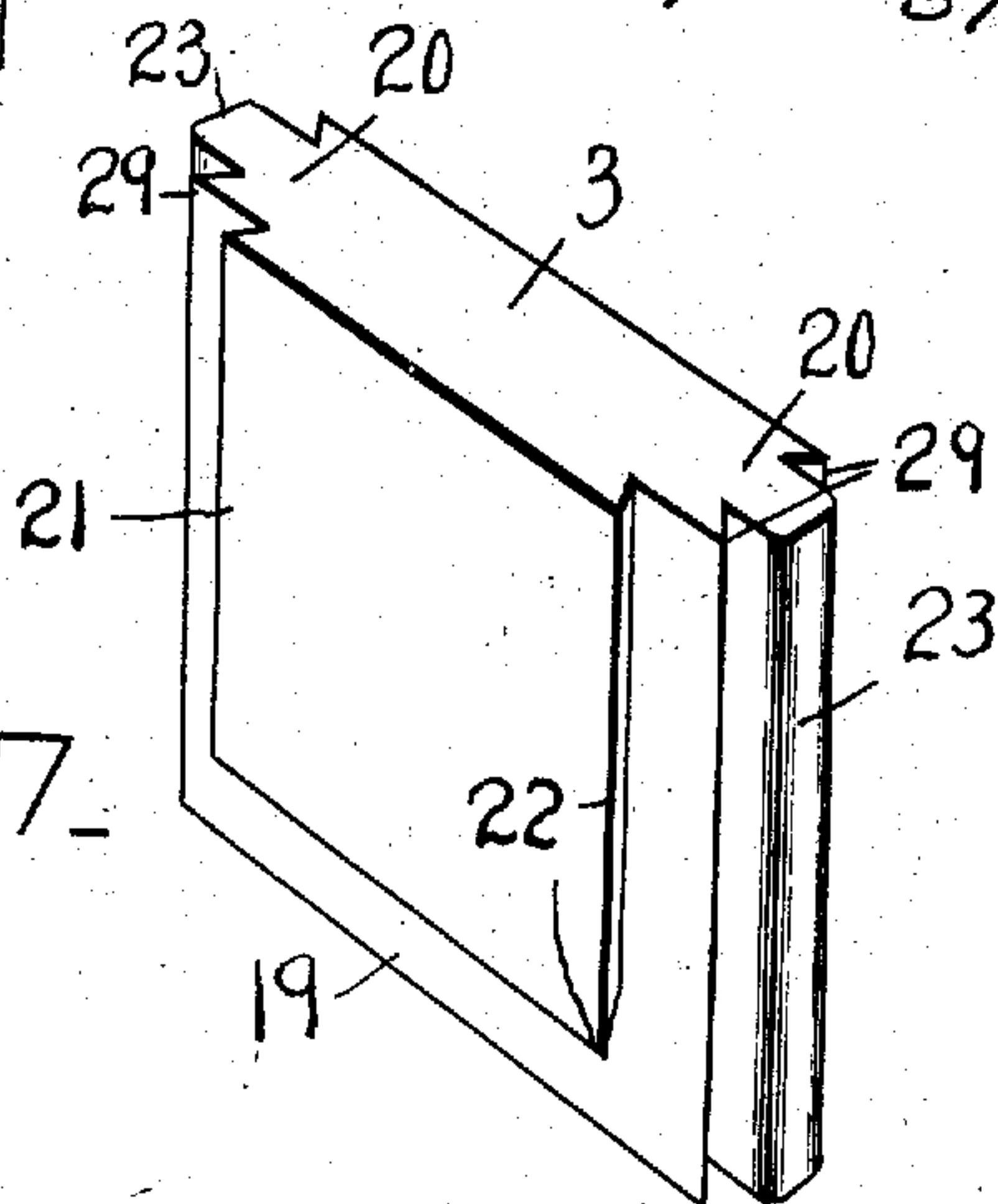


Fig. 5.

Fig. 7.



Inventor

W. A. Crew

Witnesses

G. R. Thomas  
John B. Davis

By

Charles Chandler

Attorneys



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM A. CREW, OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND.

## GRAVE-VAULT.

No. 883,627.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 31, 1908.

Application filed March 25, 1907. Serial No. 364,466.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. CREW, a citizen of the United States, residing at Salisbury, in the county of Wicomico, State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Grave-Vaults; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in grave vaults, and has particular reference to a grave vault constructed of interchangeable sections which may be readily packed and transported.

The invention aims as a primary object to provide a vault in which the lower edges of the inner faces of the side and end blocks are undercut, to form inclined overhanging shoulders which afford a more perfect retaining means for the cement in the joint between said blocks and the base blocks; in the formation of tenons on the base and cover blocks, the side and end blocks being constructed to fit against the shoulders afforded by said tenons, thereby preventing any inward movement on said blocks due to pressure of the earth thereagainst; and in the provision of an improved rabbet joint between the adjacent sections of the cover, sides, ends and base of the vault, said rabbeted joint including a substantial dove-tail retaining groove to prevent the gravitating displacement of the cement employed to articulate the parts.

The detailed construction will appear in the course of the following description, in which reference is had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, like characters of reference designating similar parts throughout the several views, wherein,

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a vault constructed in accordance with this invention, the vault cover being removed, Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical section with the cover in place. Fig. 3 is a transverse vertical section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a detailed perspective view of the bottom of the vault, the sides and top thereof being removed. Fig. 5 is a detailed perspective view of one of the end blocks of the side walls of the vault, the other end blocks being similar in construction. Fig. 6 is a detailed perspective view of one of the end blocks em-

ployed in the top of the vault, the other end block being a substantial duplicate in construction. Fig. 7 is a detailed perspective view of one of the end blocks employed in the formation of the body of the vault.

The vault as constituted in the present invention comprises in its construction base blocks 1, side blocks 2, end blocks 3 disposed between the side blocks and supported on the end base blocks, and cover blocks 4 supported on the end and adjacent side blocks, the relative arrangement thereof being shown in Fig. 2. The following description will treat of the blocks with reference to their individual construction, and also with reference to their assembled relation constituting the vault as an entirety.

By reference to Fig. 4, it will be noted that the end base blocks 1 are formed with end tenons 5 and with side tenons 6, which afford a continuous seat or shelf extending around three sides of said end blocks. The blocks 1 intervening between the end blocks are provided with side tenons 6, which are aligned with the side tenons on the end blocks, to complete the above mentioned shelf, so that it extends wholly around the four sides of the base of the vault. It will thus be seen that central raised portions 7 are provided between the side tenons 6. The transverse edges of the blocks 1 are correspondingly formed with curved ribs 8 and with curved grooves 9, to receive the respective adjacent ribs, and to constitute a locking joint. The joint thus formed is of novel construction in that the ribs 8 are so proportioned as not to wholly fill the spaces formed by the grooves 9 whereby when said ribs are engaged in said grooves transverse spaces 10 occur therebetween for the introduction of a binding agent.

The outer edges of the grooves 9 are beveled, as at 11, to extend forwardly with relation to said grooves and the edges of the raised portions 7 of the underneath portion of the blocks 1 adjacent the ribs 8 are beveled, as at 12, in convergent relation to the beveled edges 11. It will thus be seen that the edges 12 and 11 afford a substantial dove-tail groove, which affords a perfect retaining means for the cement employed as a binding agent between the blocks 1 in their assembled relation.

The side blocks 2 are constructed with depending tenons 14, each formed with an undercut shoulder 15 adapted to overhang the raised portion 7 of the blocks 1 to retain the



binding agent interposed between the same and said raised portion. The end side blocks 2 are formed with vertical end tenons 16, as is clearly shown in Fig. 5. The end tenons 16 are provided with vertical grooves 17, similar in construction and proportion to the grooves 9. The tenons 16 afford vertical end shoulders 18, which constitute stops for the end blocks 3. The latter are each formed with depending tenons 19 and with vertical side tenons 20. Between the side tenons 20 a central raised portion 21 is afforded, the side and lower edges of which are beveled, as at 22, to afford a projection overhanging the blocks 1 and 2 adjacent thereto. The tenons 20 engage the shoulders 18 as stops, to prevent the inward movement of said end blocks under pressure. The vertical edges of the end blocks 3 are provided with ribs 23, similar in construction to the ribs 8, and interfitting the grooves 17, as will be readily understood. While it is preferred to employ the rib and groove joint between the end blocks 3 and the side blocks 2, such construction is not essential to the perfect articulation of the parts comprising the vault, and the edges of the tenons 20, as well as the adjacent edges of the tenons 16 may be plain. The tenons 14 of the blocks 2 and the tenons 19 of the blocks 3 are imposed upon the respective tenons 6 and 5 of the adjacent base blocks 1. It is preferred in this disposition of the parts to provide a positive locking means between the supporting tenons 5 and 6 and the depending tenons 14 and 19. To this end the tenons 5 and 6 are respectively provided with grooves 24 and 25 on their upper surfaces and extend longitudinally of said tenons. The grooves 24 and 25 register to afford a continuous rectangular groove extending about the base of the block, and a cementitious binding agent 26 is introduced into said grooves and grips the lower edges of the tenons 14 and 19. The lower beveled edge 22 of the raised portion 21 affords a shoulder overhanging the end of the adjacent raised portion 7, similar to the shoulder 15 overhanging the sides of said raised portions. A cementitious binding agent 27 is introduced between said shoulders 15 and 22 and the raised portions 7 to seal the parts and to effect a locking joint therebetween. In like manner, a binding agent 28 is introduced into the inner and outer dove-tail grooves afforded between the beveled edges 11 and 12 between the similar edges 29 and 30 of the ribs 23 and the grooves 17, and between the beveled edges 31 and 32 of the ribs 33 and grooves 34, extending vertically along the under edges of the side blocks 2, and similar in construction, proportions and functions to the ribs 8 and 9 and the edges 11 and 12 thereof.

The cover blocks 4 are similar in construction to the base blocks 1, the end blocks 4

being provided with end tenons 35 and with side tenons 36, and the blocks intervening between the end blocks also being provided with said tenons 36 aligned with the similar side tenons of the end cover blocks 4. Between the tenons thus provided depending central portions 37 are provided, which bear against the sides of the adjacent blocks 2 and 3, the tenons 35 and 36 constituting a suspension means for the blocks 4, said central portions being likewise provided with ribs and grooves 38 and 39 similar in every respect to the ribs and grooves 8 and 9, and formed on the transverse ends of said blocks. The ribs and grooves 38 and 39 have confronting beveled edges 40 and 41, similar to the edges 11 and 12, between which a binding agent 42 is introduced. The binding agent 28 is designed to be also introduced in the spaces between the several ribs and grooves 8 and 9, 23 and 17, and 33 and 34, and the binding agent 42 is likewise introduced in the spaces between the ribs 38 and the grooves 39.

The manner of use will be readily apparent from the foregoing description. The base formed by the blocks 1 is assembled as an entirety, and the side blocks 2, after being articulated to form continuous side walls, are imposed upon said base in the manner described, the joints between the side walls and the base being sealed and locked by the binding agent 27. The end blocks 3 are then projected between the end side blocks 2 and imposed upon the base 1 in the manner described, the joint between said end blocks 3 and the base 1 being likewise sealed and locked by the binding agent 27.

The blocks 4 are assembled to constitute the cover as an entirety, and such cover is then imposed on the upper edges of the side blocks 2 and the end blocks 3, the tenons 35 and 36 constituting suspension means. It will, of course, be understood that the binding agent 28 is introduced when the sides and base of the vault are individually assembled.

The various blocks employed may be inexpensively molded from cement or like material, and prior to use may be conveniently packed for shipping in a comparatively small space. The provision of the raised portions 7 and the similar portions on the side and end blocks in coaction with the tenons abutting the same, completely prevents any inward movement of the end or side blocks, and this holds the entire structure in shape, while the joints between the overhanging edges 15 and 22 and the raised portions 7 adjacent thereto, forms a rigid tie extending entirely around the vault on the inside thereof.

Owing to the provision of inner and outer grooves between each pair of adjacent blocks, a more perfect water-tight joint is obtained than if there were a single groove, as there are practically two separate joints in each in-



stance, thus giving double adhesiveness. The outer edges of the cover blocks do not extend as far as the sides and ends of the vault, thus leaving room for another layer of cement extending entirely around the top of the vault. It is preferred to provide the upper end of the several blocks with a layer of cement between the same and the cover blocks 4, to effect a sealed joint.

10 While the elements herein shown and described are well adapted to serve the functions set forth, it is obvious that various minor changes may be made in the proportions, shape, and arrangement of the several parts, without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention, as defined in the appended claim.

What is claimed, is—

In a portable grave vault, the combination of base and cover blocks and side and end 20 blocks, said blocks having their meeting edges respectively formed with grooves and ribs, said grooves affording a seat for said ribs and being respectively provided with confronting converging spaced beveled edges adjacent said respective grooves and ribs to afford a dove-tail seat for a sealing composition.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM A. CREW.

Witnesses:

ISAAC L. PRICE,  
A. MORRISON TULL.