

Jan. 27, 1953

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2,626,473

SIGN STRUCTURE WITH HINGED FACE

Filed March 28, 1950

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1

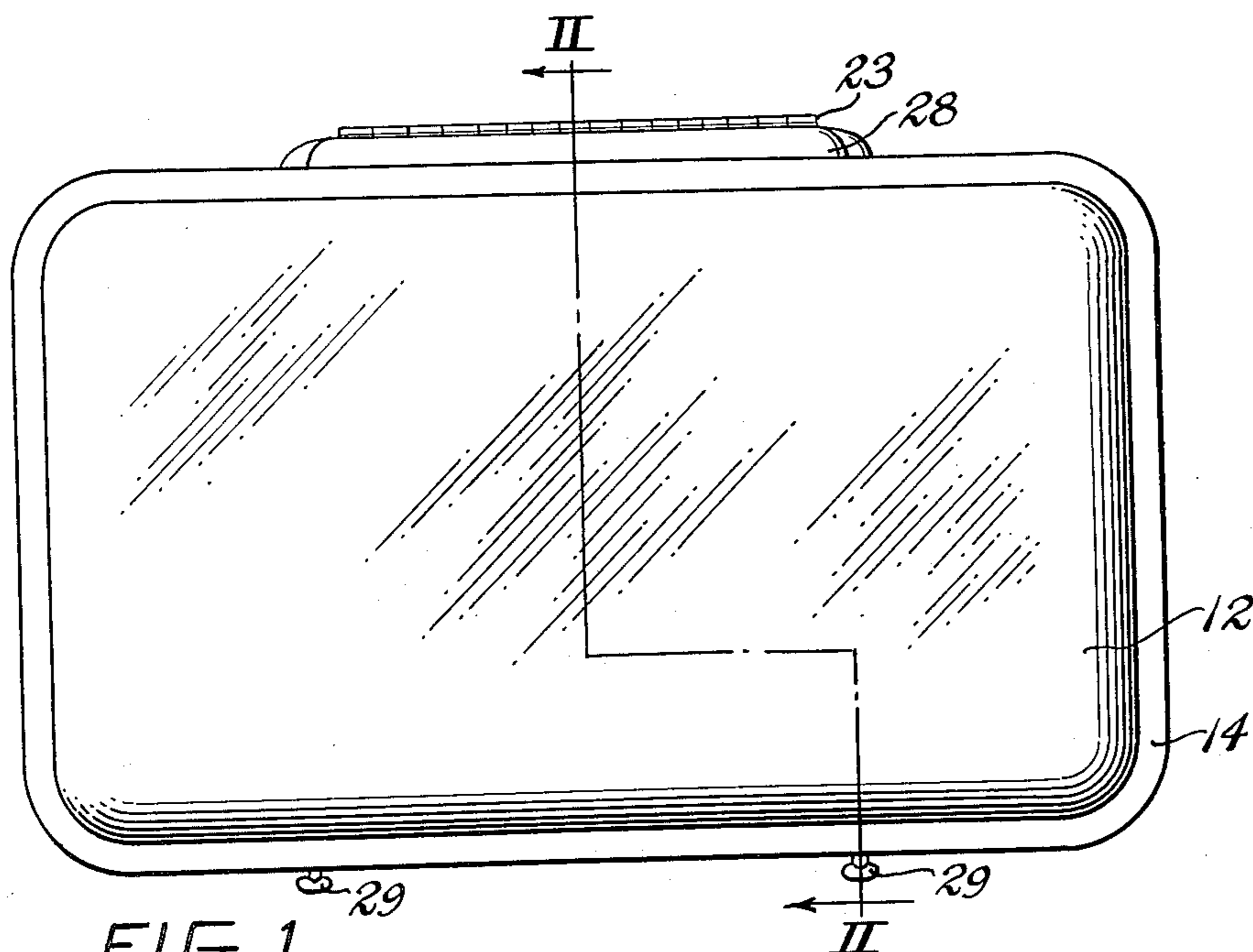


FIG. 1.

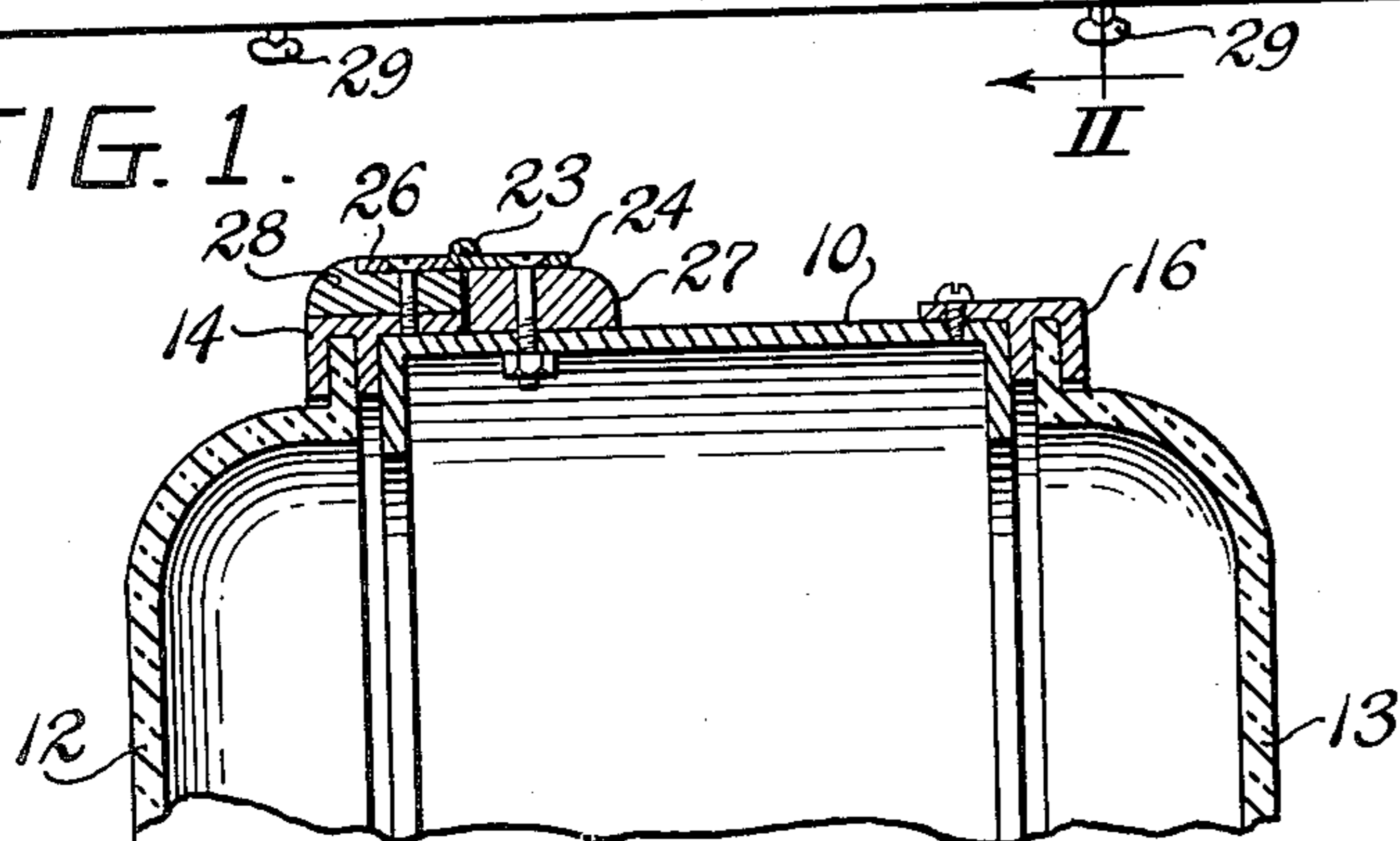


FIG. 2.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2

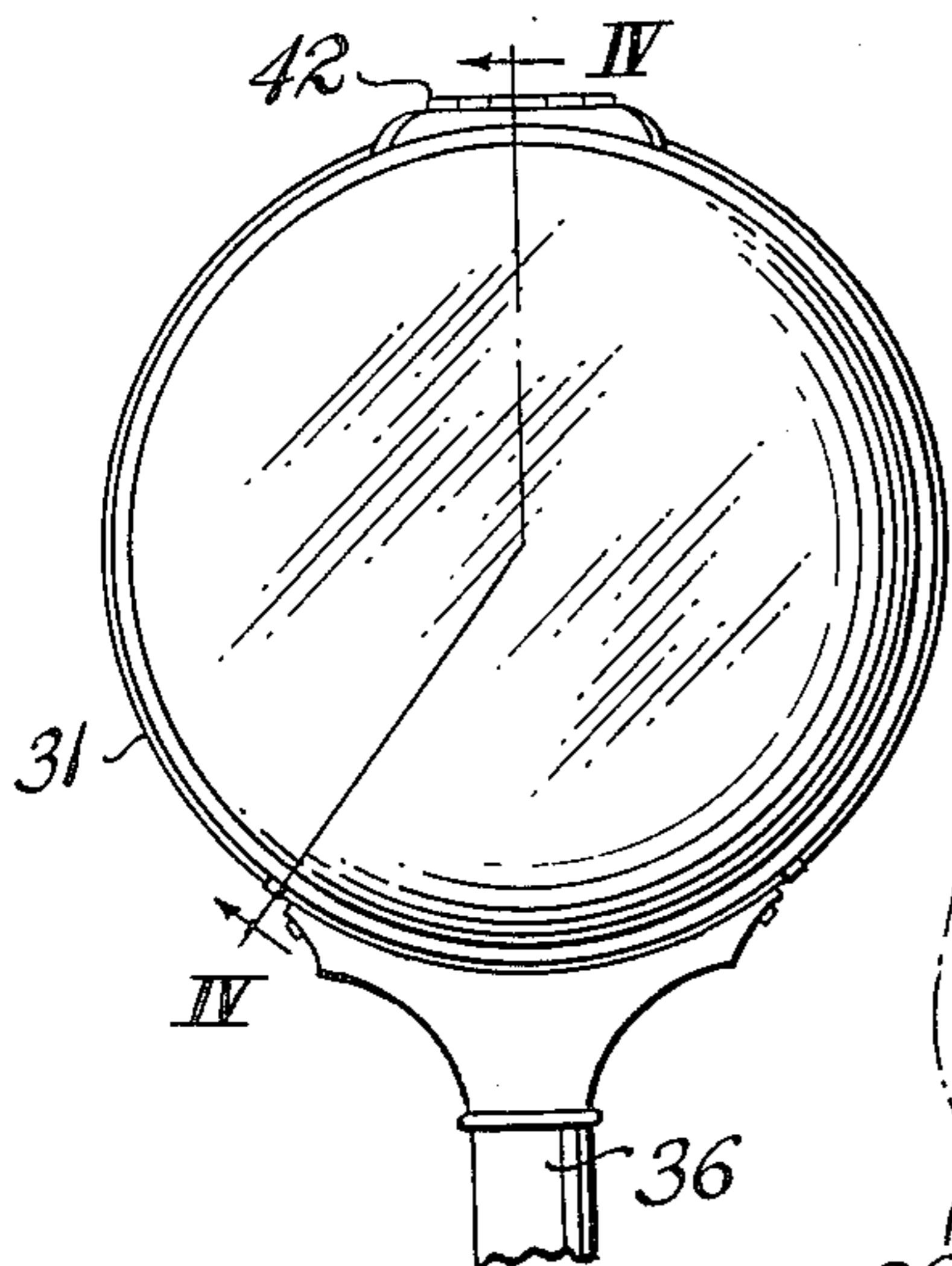


FIG. 3.

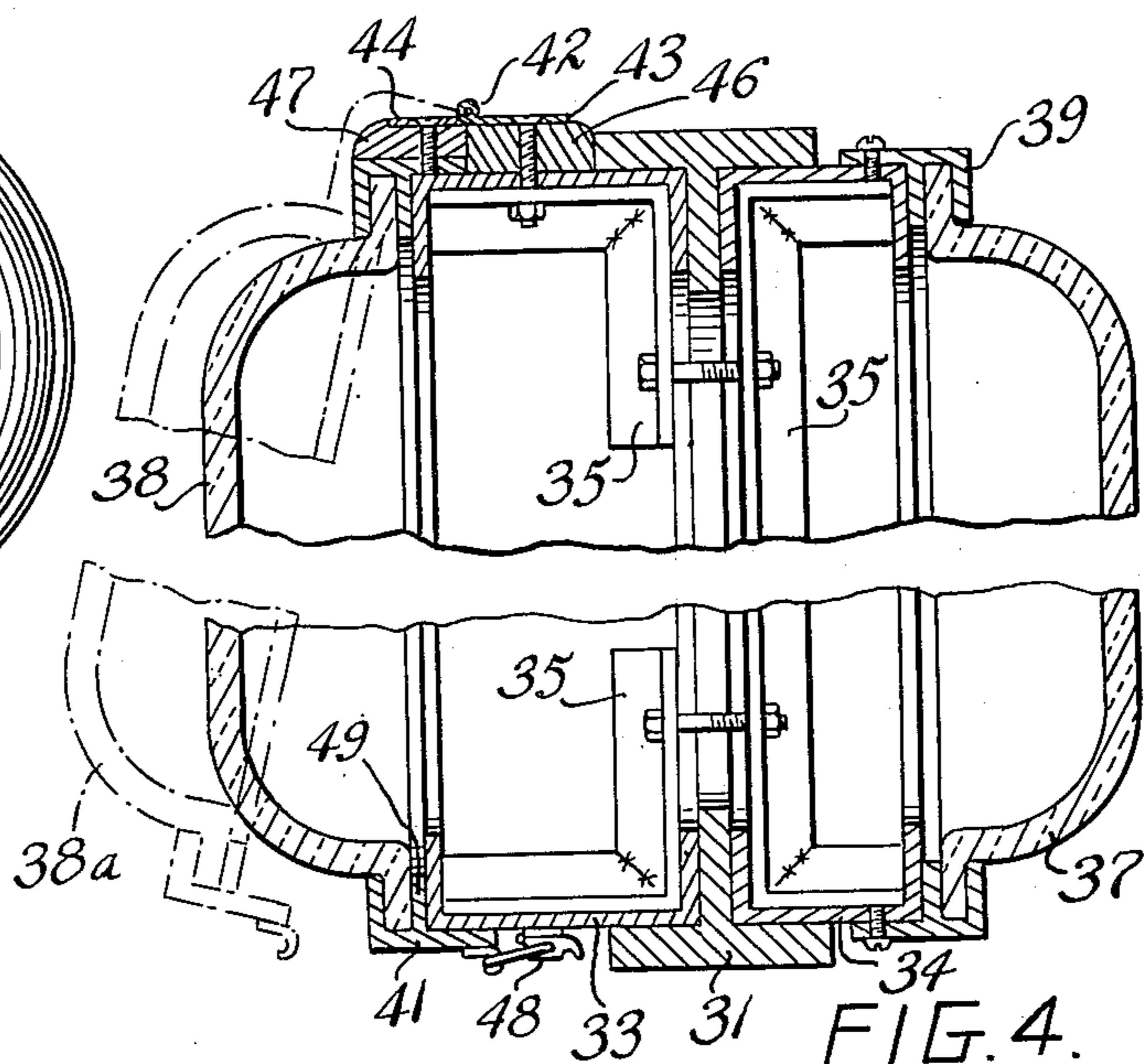


FIG. 4.

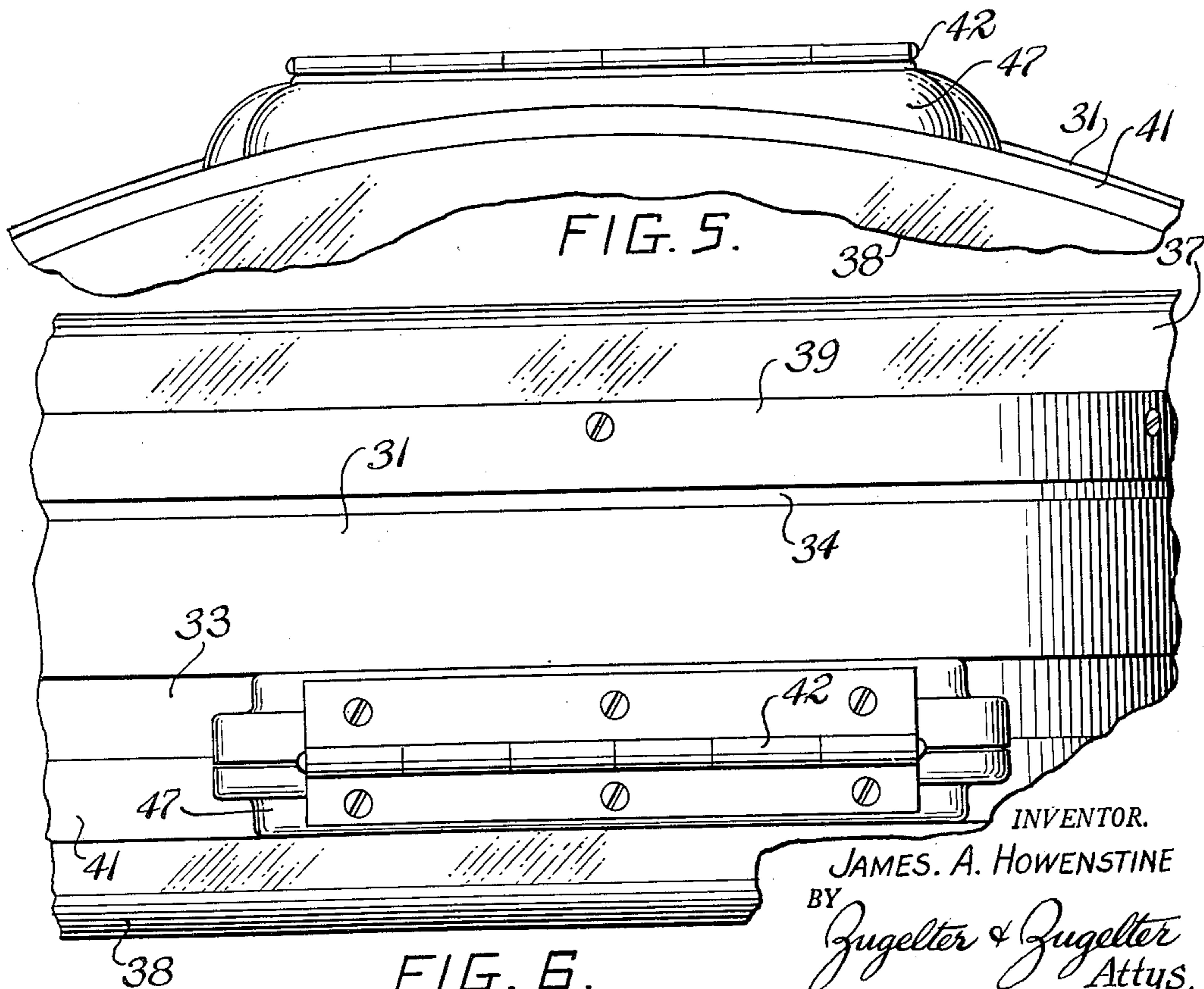


FIG. 5.

FIG. 6.

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,626,473

## SIGN STRUCTURE WITH HINGED FACE

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Application March 28, 1950, Serial No. 152,367

1 Claim. (Cl. 40—125)

1

This invention relates to sign structures and more particularly to sign structures having translucent faces and to a hinge construction for a translucent face of a sign.

An object of this invention is to provide a simple hinge structure for a translucent sign panel.

A further object of this invention is to provide an inexpensive and readily constructed hinge structure for a sign panel.

The above and other objects and features of the invention will in part be apparent and will in part be obvious from the following detailed description, and the drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a view in side elevation showing a sign having a hinge constructed in accordance with an embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 2 is a view in section taken along a line II—II in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a view in side elevation showing a sign constructed in accordance with a second embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged view in section along a line IV—IV in Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged fragmentary view in front elevation of the hinge of the sign illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4; and

Fig. 6 is an enlarged plan view of the hinge structure.

The sign structure illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 includes a housing frame indicated at 10. The housing frame is usually in the form of a band. Housing frame 10 is called a "filler" in the trade and determines the thickness of the sign. On the open sides of housing frame 10, translucent panels 12 and 13 are mounted. When panels 12 and 13 are attached to the housing frame, a closed hollow structure is formed which is illuminated from within by appropriate lighting units (not shown).

In conventional structures, moldings of L-shape in section are used for securing panels to a housing frame. Specially designed moldings 14 and 16 are employed for framing the translucent panels of the present invention. As shown in Fig. 2, each of the molding bands is of F-shape in cross-section. Molding band 14 includes a stem 17 and a pair of inwardly directed arms 18. Stem 17 is adapted to embrace a side edge of housing frame 10. Molding band 16 is of similar shape and includes a stem 19 which embraces and is attached to the other side of housing frame 10 and inwardly directed arms 20. The arms of molding band 14 hold a marginal flange 21 of panel 12 so that molding band 14 frames panel

2

12. Similarly, the arms of molding band 16 hold a marginal flange 22 of panel 13 so that molding band 16 frames panel 13.

Framed panel 12 is mounted on the housing frame or filler 10 by means of a specially designed hinge 23. Hinge 23 is mounted on the top of the sign structure and includes plates 24 and 26. Hinge plate 24 is attached to housing frame 10 while hinge plate 26 is attached to the stem of molding band 14. The hinge plates are spaced from the housing frame and from the molding band by blocks 27 and 28 respectively.

When panel 12 and its molding ring 14 are closed, they are held in place by thumb screws 29. When thumb screws 29 are released, panel 12 and its molding frame can be swung back to give access to the interior of the sign.

The sign structure illustrated in Figs. 3 to 6 inclusive comprises a sign supporting framework including a main frame band or ring 31 of T-shape in cross-section and a pair of adapter or filler bands 33 and 34 of channel shape in cross-section. Filler bands 33 and 34 fit on opposite sides of the flange of frame band 32 and may be held against the flange of the main frame band by appropriate brackets 35. The main frame band is supported by an upright pedestal 36 (Fig. 3).

The open side of filler band 34 (Fig. 4) is covered by a stationary translucent panel 37, while the open side of filler band 33 is covered by a hinged translucent panel 38. When panels 37 and 38 are in place, a closed hollow structure is formed which is illuminated from within by appropriate lighting units (not shown). Panel 37 is framed by a molding band 39 of F-shape in cross-section. As shown in Fig. 4, the stem of band 34 embraces and is attached to the web of filler band 34. Panel 38 is framed by a molding band 41 of F-shape in cross-section having a stem adapted to embrace the web of filler band 33.

Filler band 33 and molding band 41 are connected by a specially designed hinge 42. Hinge 42 includes a pair of flat hinge plates 43 and 44 which are attached to filler band 33 and molding band 41 respectively. Hinge plate 43 is spaced from filler band 33 by a spacer block 46, while hinge plate 44 is spaced from molding band 41 by a spacer block 47. Lower sides of blocks 46 and 47 are curved, as shown in Fig. 5, to fit around filler band 33 and molding band 41 respectively. The upper side of each spacer block is provided with a flat portion in engagement with one of the hinge plates.

Molding 41 and panel 38, which is framed

3

thereby, can swing on hinge 42 toward and away from the sign framework as shown in Fig. 4. The panel is illustrated at open position in dot-dash lines at 38a. Panel 38 may be held in closed position by a clamp 48 which is adapted to draw the stem of molding band 41 over the web of filler band 33 until the inner flange 49 of molding band 41 abuts filler band 33.

The hinge structure of the present invention makes it possible easily and quickly to gain access to the interior of an internally lighted sign having translucent faces when necessary to service lighting tubes and the like.

The general construction of the framework of the sign illustrated in Figs. 3 to 6 inclusive is described in greater detail and claimed in pending application Serial No. 154,317 filed April 6, 1950, of James A. Howenstine, now United States Patent No. 2,562,553 issued July 31, 1952. The general arrangement of the sign structure illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 is described in and claimed in pending application Serial No. 89,743 filed April 26, 1949 of James A. Howenstine, now Patent No. 2,505,673.

The sign structures of this invention are subject to structural modification without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claim.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

A sign structure which comprises an annular main frame band of T-shape in section, the leg of the T forming an inwardly extending flange, an annular closed loop filler frame band of channel shape in transverse section disposed inside the cross bar of the main frame band on each side of the leg thereof, the flanges of said channels extending inwardly from the webs thereof, means for holding one flange of each filler band in abutment with the leg of the main frame band, the

4

cross bar of the main frame band embracing the filler bands, a hinge having one plate attached to the web of one of the filler frame bands, an annular molding of substantially F-shape in section attached to the other plate of said hinge, the stem of said molding being adapted to embrace the web of said one of the filler bands with one of the bars of said molding abutting the other flange of said one of the filler bands, a second annular molding band of substantially F-shape in section attached to the other filler frame band with the stem of said other molding band embracing the web of said other filler frame band, one of the bars of said other molding band abutting the other flange of said other filler band, the bars of said molding bands forming inwardly facing closed loop channels, and a transparent panel having its marginal edge seated in each of said channels, the first mentioned molding and its associated panel swinging from an open position away from the frame bands to a closed position in which the stem of said one of the moldings embraces the web of said one of the filler frame bands and the panels close the open sides of the frame bands.

JAMES A. HOWENSTINE.

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