

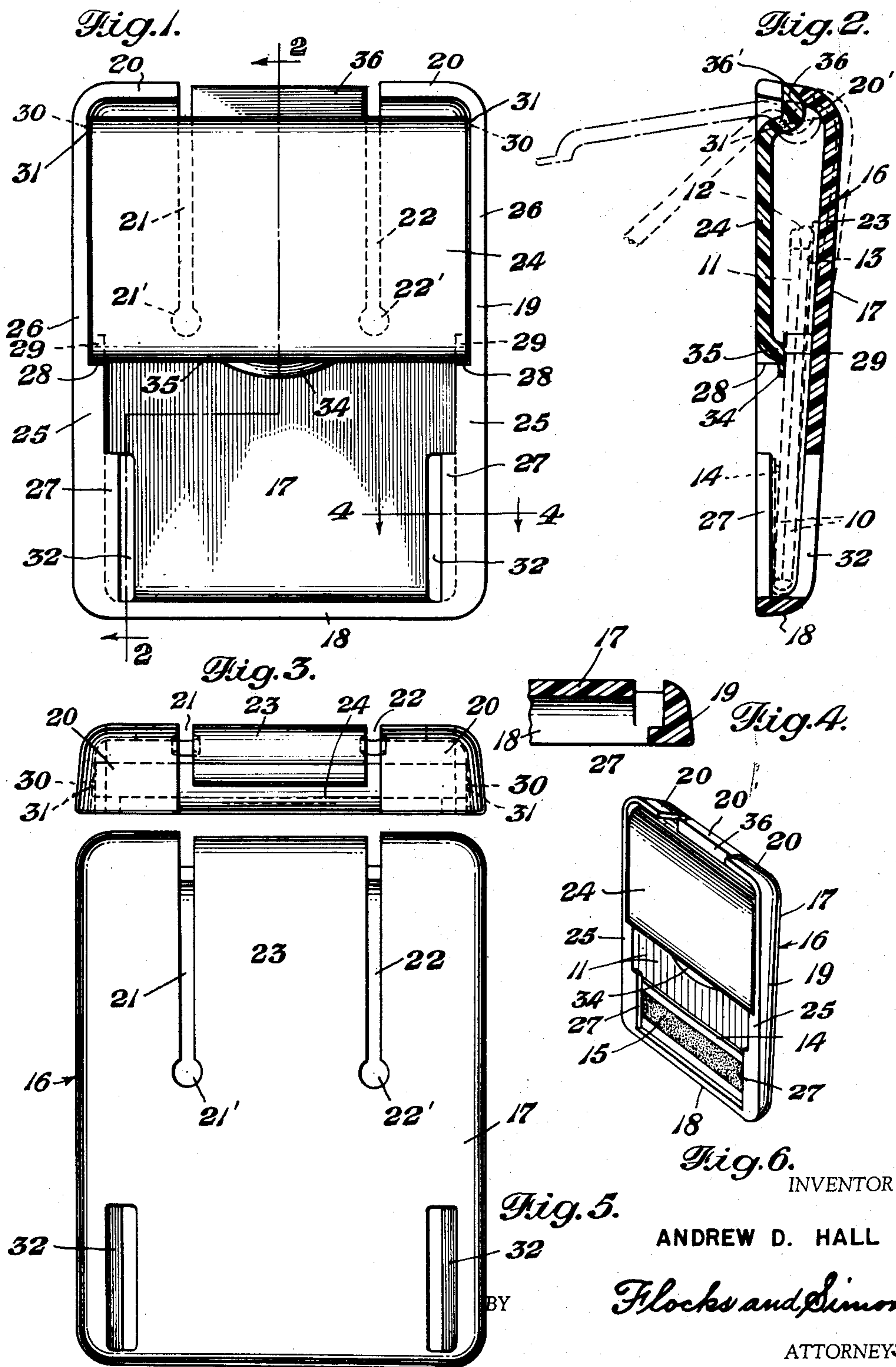
Sept. 29, 1953

A. D. HALL
MATCH BOOK HOLDER

2,653,705

Filed July 14, 1950

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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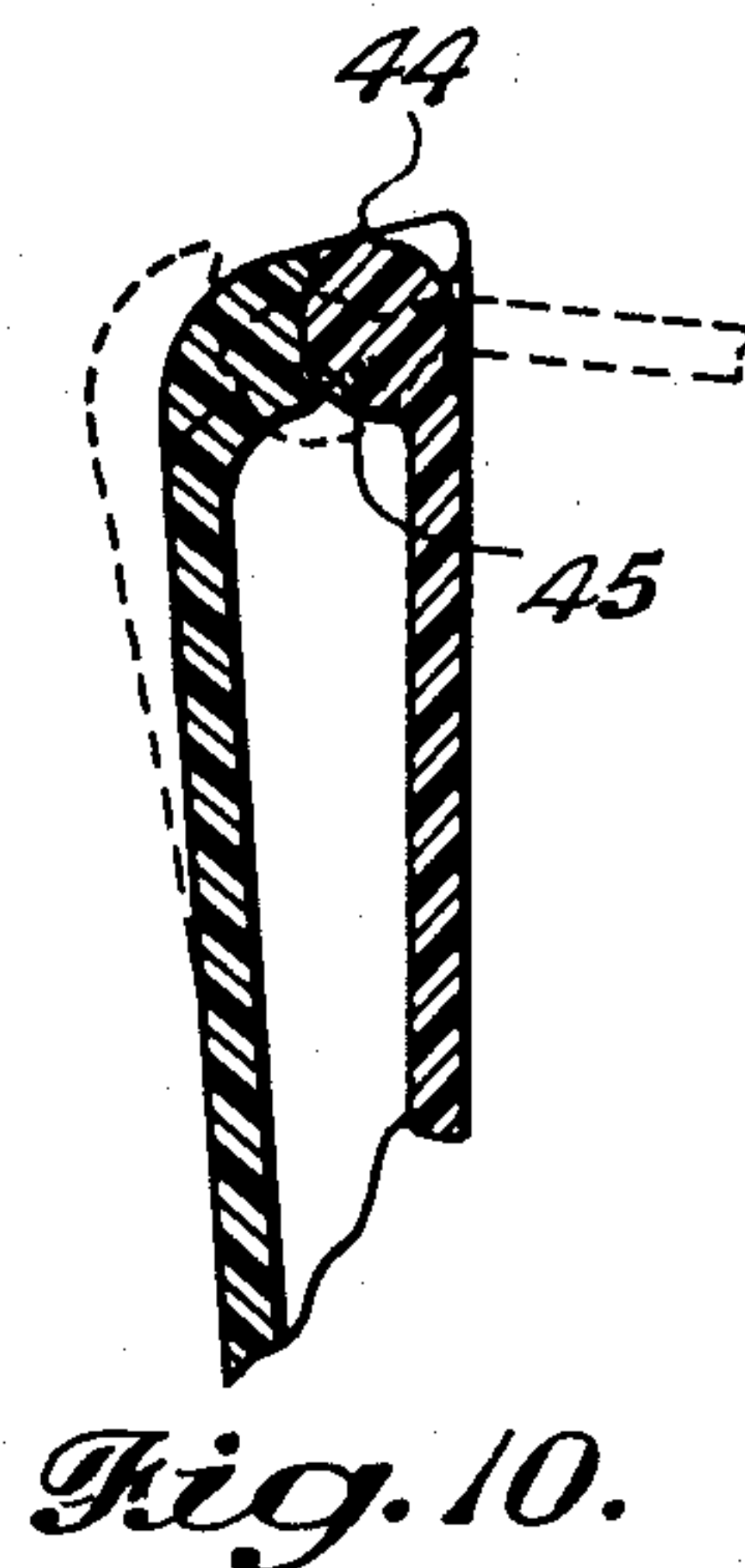
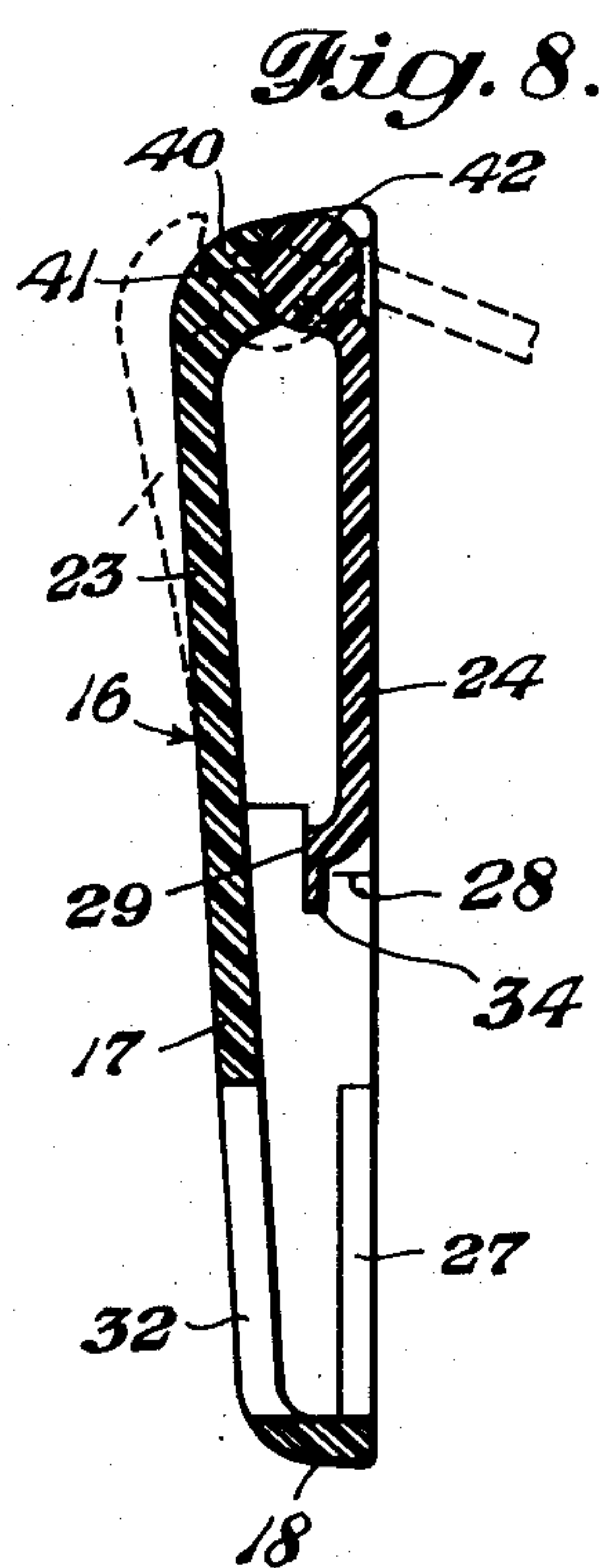
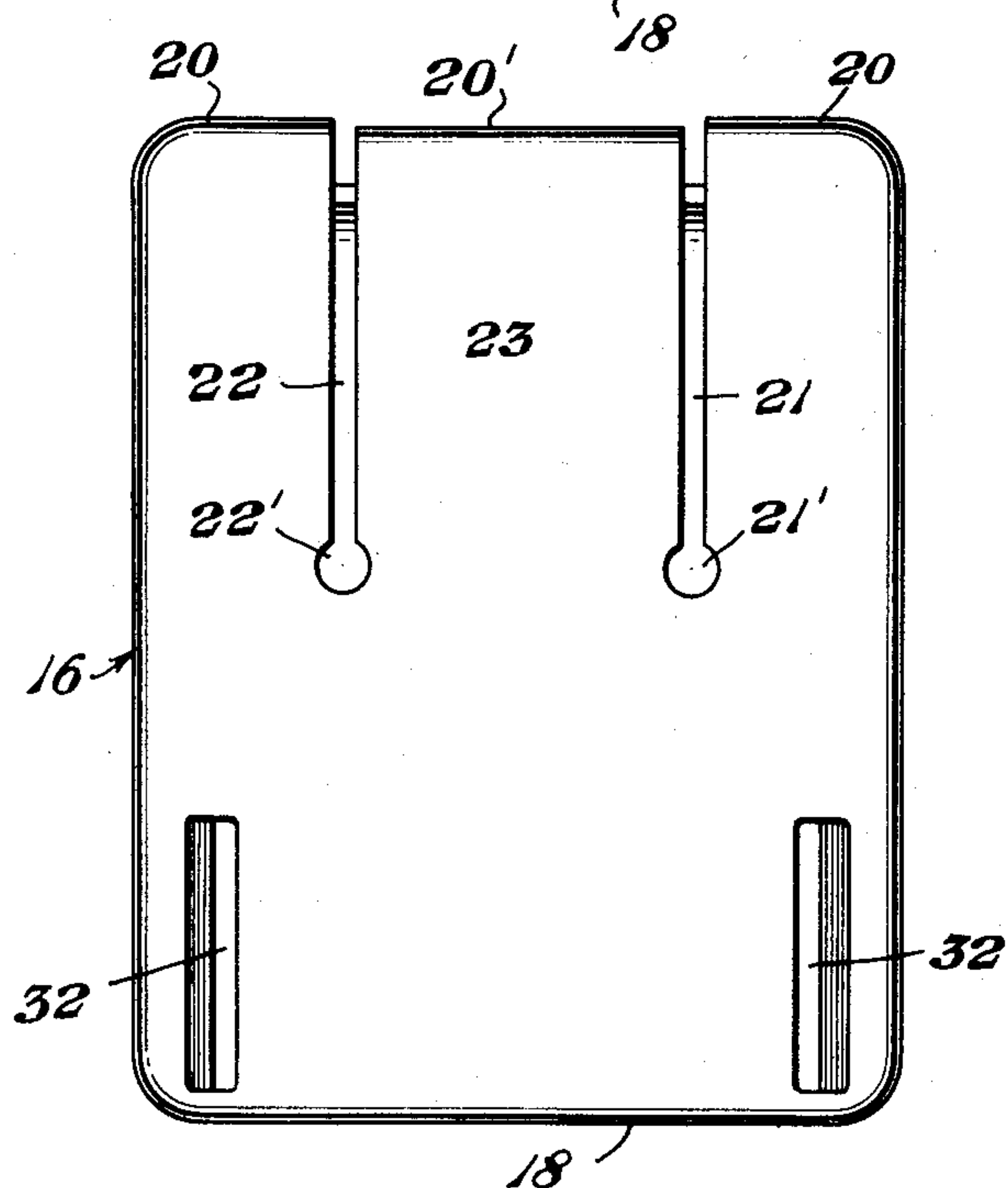
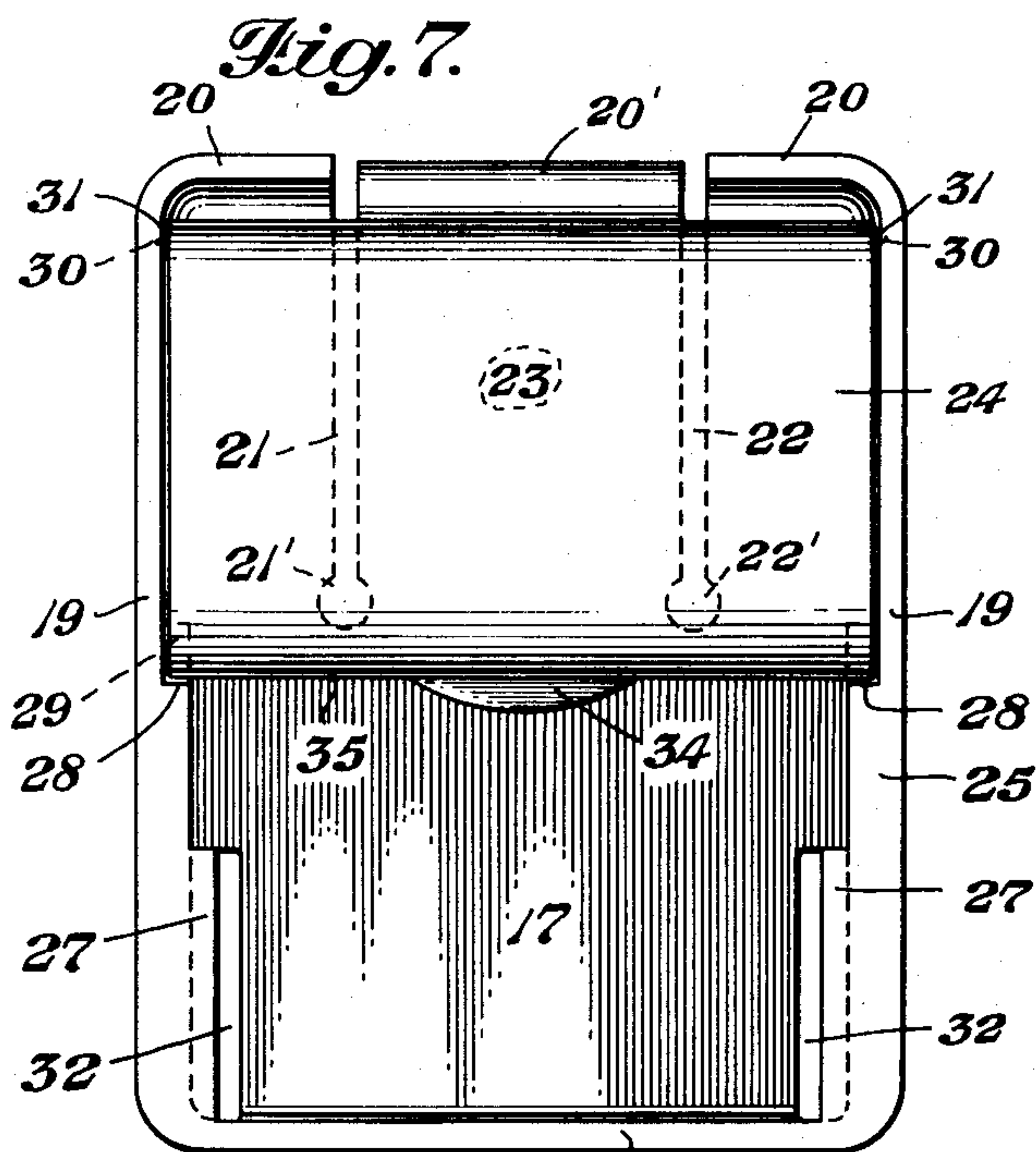
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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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MATCH BOOK HOLDER

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1 Claim. (Cl. 206—33)

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This invention relates to cases for match packets and more particularly to cases wherein the main body is provided with a hinged cover to enclose the heads of the matches.

At the present time, book matches are commonly used which are made of cardboard and secured in package form within an envelope or container, adapted to be folded with its tab or free end below a fixed portion and having upon its outer exposed surface an igniting compound upon which the head of the match is scratched when being lit. Such matches are commonly used as advertising devices and the packets being thin and compact are easily carried in the pocket; however, they collect dust, become bent, mingle with other articles disadvantageously and if subjected to moisture deteriorate and become useless; furthermore the igniting surface, being of paper, does not possess the desirable rigidity that a striking surface should.

An object of the present invention is to provide a case for match packets comprised of only two pieces adapted to receive the match packets and permitting matches to be extracted as desired.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a case for matches having a pivoted cover which normally encloses the heads of the matches, in which the cover is actuated by a spring that is integral with the case.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide an all plastic case for matches comprised of two parts which may be readily and inexpensively molded and assembled into the final form.

Other objects and the nature and advantages of the instant invention will be apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a front elevational view of the case;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken along line 2—2 of Fig. 1 showing the match packet therein and the cover shown in dotted lines in the open position;

Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the case;

Fig. 4 is a detail section along the line 4—4 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a rear elevational view of the case;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the case showing the match packet therein;

Fig. 7 is a front elevational view of a modified form of the invention;

Fig. 8 is a sectional view taken along line 8—8 of Fig. 7 wherein the cover is shown in the open position in dotted lines;

Fig. 9 is a rear elevational view of the modified form of case shown in Fig. 7; and

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Fig. 10 is a sectional view similar to Fig. 8 showing a still further modified form of the invention.

Referring to the drawings in detail, the match packet shown in Figs. 2 and 6 comprises sheets of heavy paper or cardboard 10 which are slitted to form the match splints 11 which are provided in turn at their outer ends with the heads 12. A packet cover 13 is on the match packet, being formed at its lower end into a short flap 14 which is bent over the lower ends of the paper sheets 10, being usually fastened to these sheets by means, such as a staple, which holds them all together. The heads of the matches are adapted to ignite upon being forcibly passed over the surface of igniting material 15 disposed on the short flap 14.

These parts are of ordinary construction and do not constitute any part of the invention which will now be described.

The body portion 16 of the case is tapering in form to accommodate the match packet described above. The body 16 includes a back wall 17, bottom wall 18, side walls 19 and top wall 20. The body 16 is molded from a plastic material and may be transparent or colored as desired. It is desirable that the plastic material used be non-inflammable for safety purposes.

The back wall 17 of the body 16 is slotted at 21 and 22, each slot beginning at the top and extending down about one-half the length of the case. Each slot is rounded at the bottom thereof as shown at 21', 22'. The center portion 23 of the back wall between the two slots 21, 22 acts as a spring which is utilized for maintaining the cover 24 of the case in closed position. The top wall 20' of the portion 23 is shorter than the remainder of the top wall 20 and extends forward only about one-half the distance that the remainder of the top wall does.

The side walls 19 are thicker at the lower portion as shown at point 25 than at the upper portion 26. At the bottom portion, the side walls 19 are each provided with a projecting shoulder 27, best shown in Fig. 4. The lower end of the match packet is inserted between the shoulders 27 and the back wall 17 of the case, and the shoulders 27 serve to retain the match packet in position. At approximately the middle portion of the side walls, there is provided a shoulder 28 extending back to about one-half the depth of the side wall. A stop 29 rises from the shoulder 28 a short distance, and acts as the surface against which the lower end of the cover is in contact when in the closed position. The side walls 19 decrease in thickness at the shoulder 28 and stop 29 from that shown at 25 to the thickness at 26.

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Each side wall 19 is provided with a small round indentation 30 near the top thereof located at a point nearer to the front of the side wall than to the rear wall 17. The indentations 30 are adapted to receive the pins 31 on the cover 24 and act as pivot points about which the cover rotates. An opening 32 is provided in the back wall 17 behind each of the shoulders 27. The openings 32 are necessary to provide the shoulders 27 in the molding process.

The cover 24 may likewise be molded of plastic material. The cover fits into the space between the thin side wall portions 26 and extends from the shoulders 28 in the side walls to the top of the body adjacent the indentations 30. A pin 31 is formed integral with the cover 24 extending outwardly at each side thereof near the top of the body. The pins 31 are adapted to fit into the indentations 30 in each of the side walls. Due to the slots 21, 22 in the back wall, the upper end of the body 16 at each side is somewhat resilient and may be forced outwardly a sufficient amount to enable the pins 31 to be inserted into the indentations 30, after which the body returns to its original position preventing the removal of the cover from the body. The cover pivots about the pins 31 so that when the cover is lifted about the pivots the match heads are uncovered and permit the removal of a match when desired. An extension 34 is provided at the center portion of the bottom of the cover 24 to serve as a handle to facilitate the lifting of the cover. The bottom surface 35 of the cover contacts the top surface 29 when in the closed position.

In the form of the invention shown in Figs. 1 to 6, a cam 36 is formed integral with the top of the cover 24 extending upwardly from the center portion of the cover fitting between the slots 21 and 22. The cam 36 extends into the space in front of the shorter portion of the top wall 20' and is in contact therewith. The cam is so shaped and positioned that when the cover is in the closed position as shown in full lines in Fig. 2 the curved surface of the cam 36 is in contact with the outer edge of the top wall 20'. As the cover 24 is raised to the intermediate dotted line position of Fig. 2, the curved cam surface forces the spring portion 23 of the back wall to the rear so that when the cover is released, the spring will tend to return to its original position and will thus force the cover closed. If the cover is raised to the upper position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2, the cam will force the spring 23 still further back until the pointed end 36' of the cam comes into engagement with the inner surface of the top wall 20', and the cover is thus retained in the open position until it is manually lowered to the point where the pointed end of the cam will clear the inner surface of the top wall 20'. The spring action of the back wall 23 will then force the cover to close so that the lower end 35 comes in contact with the stop surface 29.

If desired, the stop surface 29 could be placed adjacent the shoulder 27 and the cover made longer so as to enclose the match packet down to the striking surface 15 thereon. In place of a plastic material, the case could be fabricated from metal or other suitable material.

In operation, the cover of the case is raised while the packet of matches is inserted into the case in such a manner that the ignition surface 15 extends between the two shoulders 27 at the lower end of the case, and the upper end of the packet is beneath the cover 24. The cover is then snapped back to closed position. Before insert-

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ing the match packet, it is desirable to tear off the front portion of the match packet container so that the matches will be exposed. When it is desired to use a match, the cover is swung open about its pivots against the action of the spring portion of the case. A match is extracted and the cover is released to snap shut due to the spring action. The match can now be ignited by striking on the friction surface. If it is desired to maintain the cover locked in the open position, as for convenience in refilling the case, the cover is opened until the pointed end of the cam thereon engages the spring portion of the case at which time the cover is held in the open position until the pointed end is released, so that the cover will swing shut actuated by the spring member.

A modified form of the invention is shown in Figs. 7 to 9 in which the same reference numerals used in Figs. 1-6 refer to corresponding parts. In this form of the invention, the cover 24 will snap back into the closed position when released and cannot be retained automatically in the open position. The body 16 of the case is similar to that previously described with the exception of the construction of the spring portion 23. The upper end 20' of the spring 23 becomes thicker as indicated at 40, ending in a substantially vertical front surface 41. The surface 41 curves inwardly and is adapted to be engaged by the cam surface 42 at the upper end of the cover 24. The cam surface 42 is somewhat elliptical shaped in cross section.

The pins 31 extending outwardly at each side of the cover 24 are located near the lower end of the ends of the cam surface 42 of the cover so that when the cover is opened by pivoting the cover about the pins 31, the cam surface 42 of the cover will engage the surface 41 of the spring 23 forcing it outwardly as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 8. When the cover is released, the spring 23 will return to its normal position forcing the cover to its closed position.

Fig. 10 shows a form of the invention similar to that shown in Fig. 8 with additional means provided to retain the cover in the fully open position if so desired. This is accomplished by providing a projection 44 on the upper surface of the cam portion 42 of the cover, and an indentation 45 in the surface 41 of the spring 23. The projection 44 and the indentation 45 are so located relative to one another so that when the cover is in the fully open position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 10, the projection 44 engages the indentation 45 and prevents the cover from returning to the closed position until the projection is released.

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention and therefore the invention is not limited to what is shown in the drawings and described in the specification but only as indicated in the appended claim.

I claim:

In a match case, a hollow body shaped to hold a packet of matches therein, said hollow body including a back wall, side walls, a top wall, and a bottom wall, said top wall and the upper portion of said back wall having spaced slots formed therein to form end sections and a center resilient section, the end sections of said top and back walls being formed integral with said side walls, a projecting shoulder at the lower end of each of said side walls extending parallel to said

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back wall for retaining the lower end of the packet of matches in said match case, an indented shoulder and stop surface positioned above said projecting shoulder, a cover covering the heads of the matches and pivotally mounted on the upper portion of the side walls, the lower surface of said cover contacting said stop surface when in the closed position, a cam formed on the upper end of said cover and provided with a projection, said projection engaging an indentation formed in said center resilient section so that as the cover is raised the projection on said cam forces the center resilient section of said top and back walls rearwardly against the spring action thereof, said cover being retained in the open position by further pivotal movement of said cover upwardly whereby the projection formed on the cam forces said center resilient section more

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rearwardly to lock said projection in the indentation in said center resilient section.

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