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PORTABLE BATHTUB

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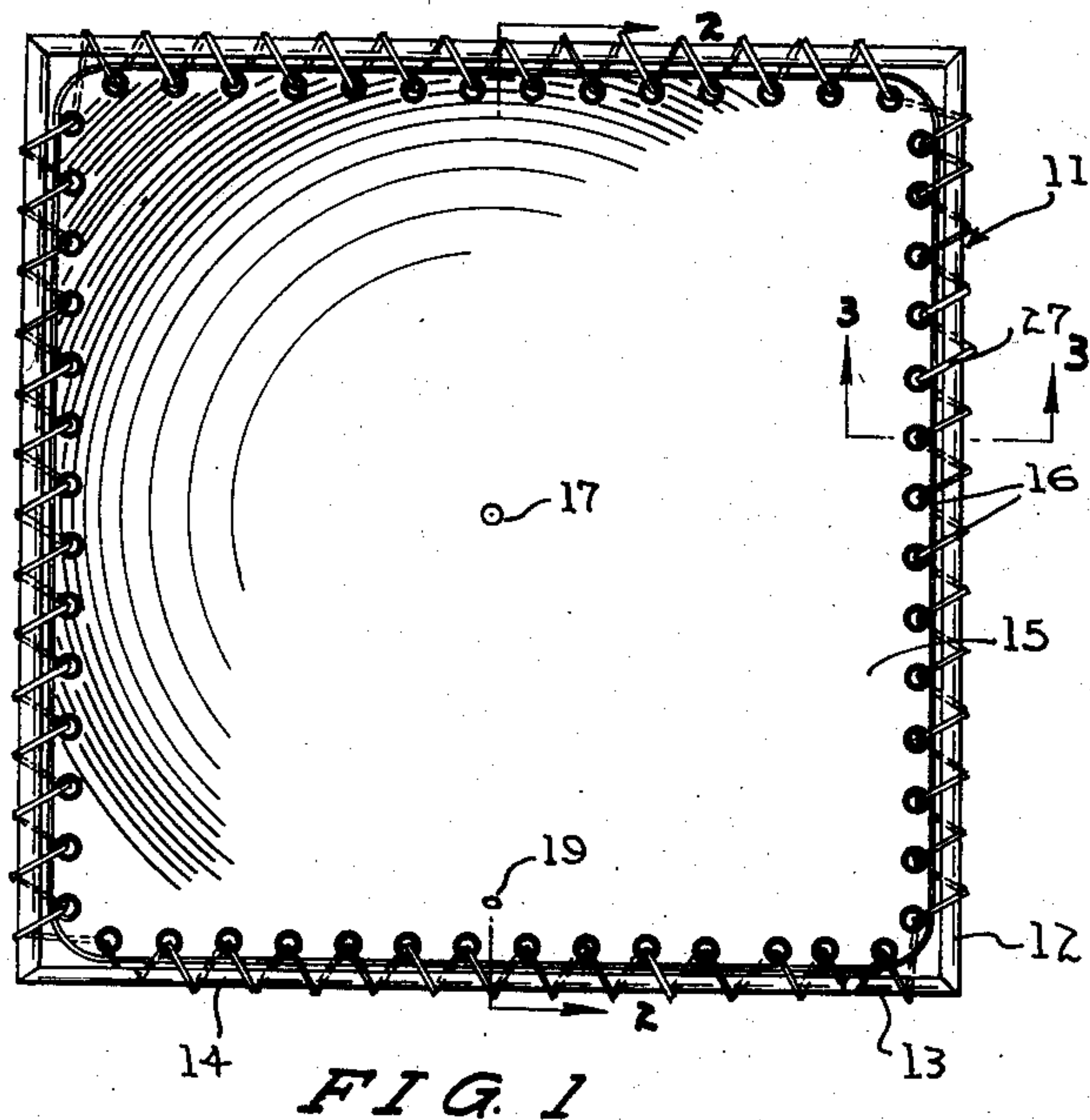


FIG. 1

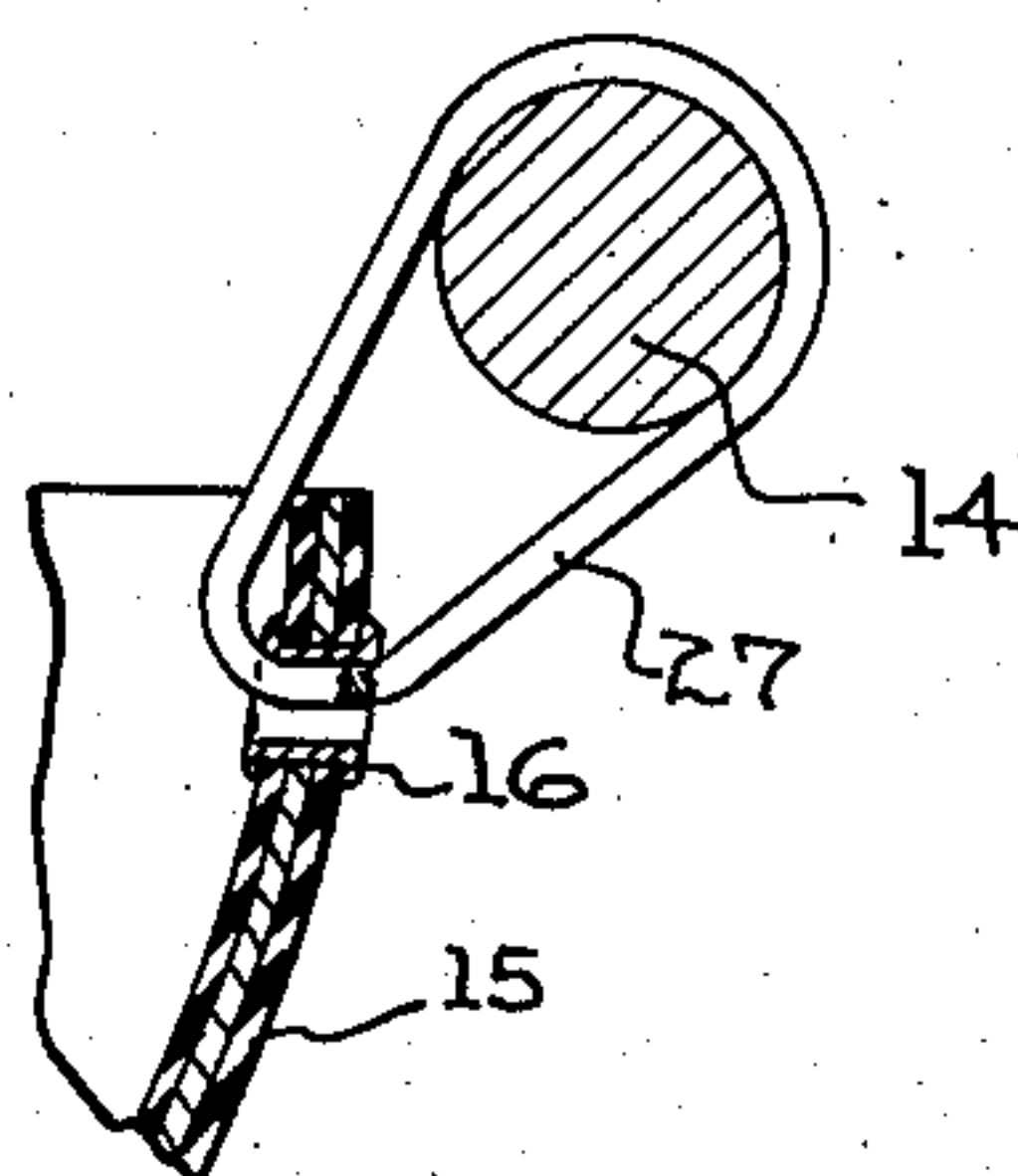


FIG. 3

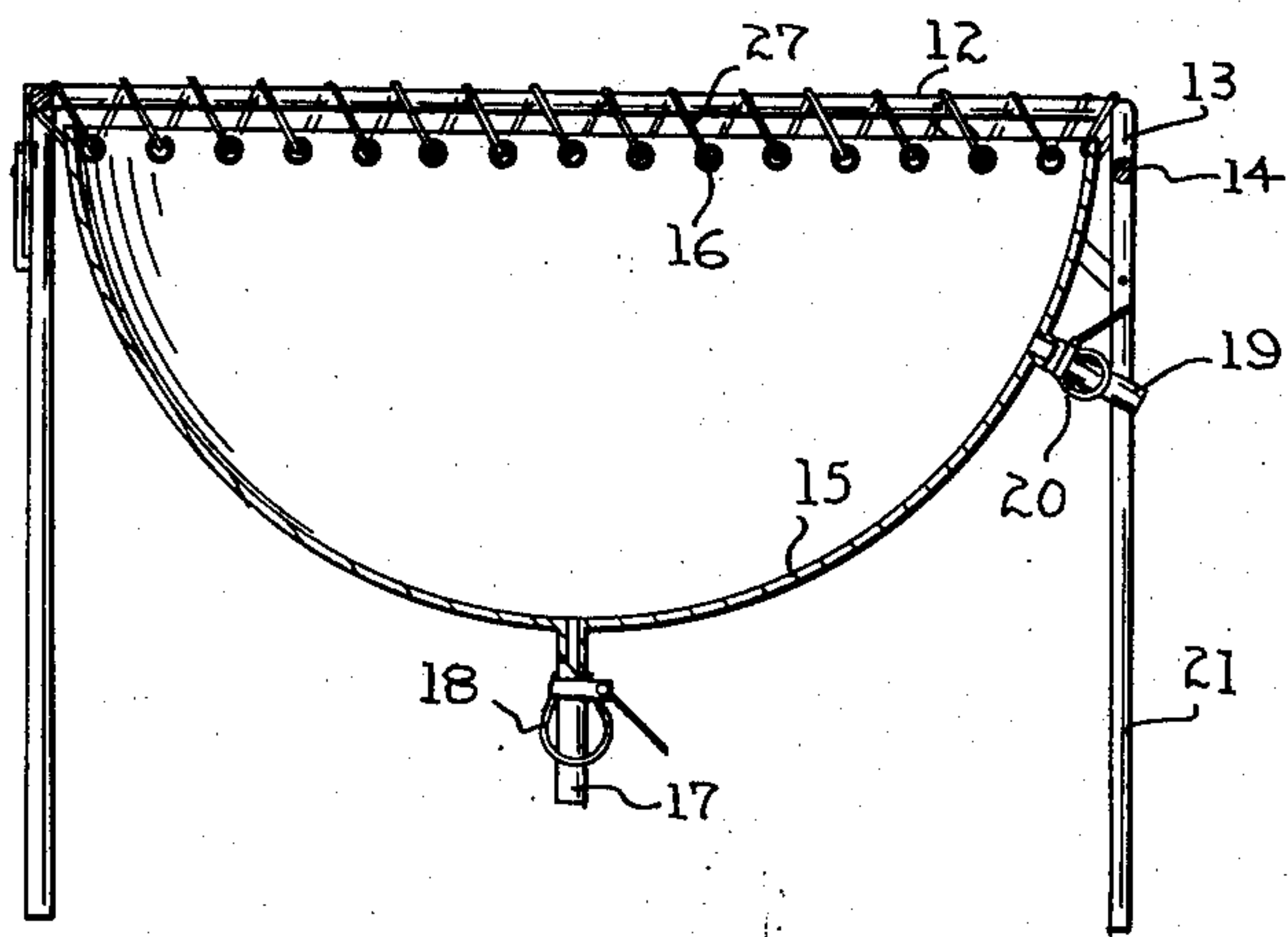


FIG. 2

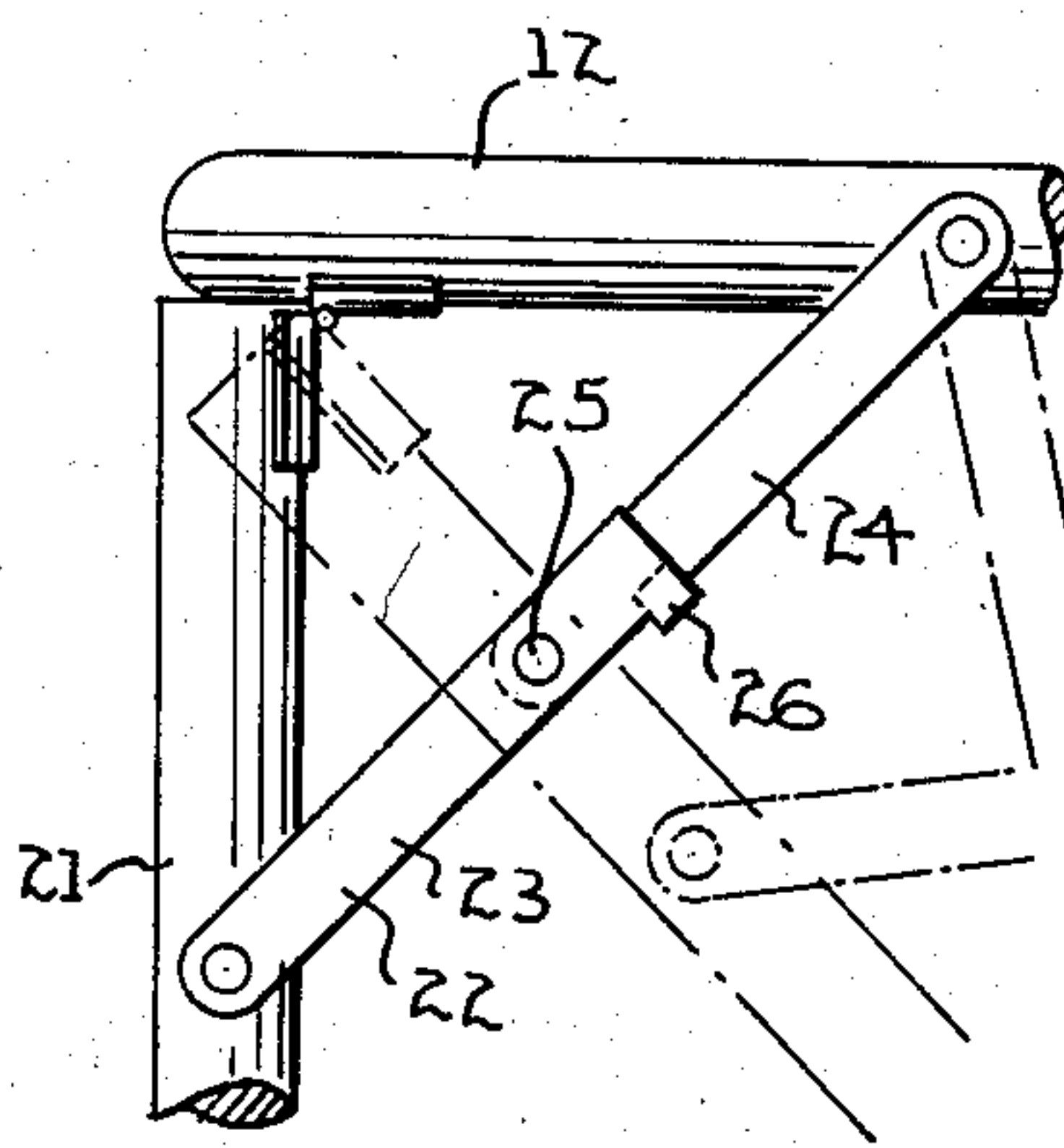


FIG. 4

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## PORTABLE BATHTUB

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## 1 Claim. (Cl. 4—177)

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This invention relates to bath tubs, and more particularly to a portable bath tub for use by invalids or other incapacitated persons for taking a bath in a sitting position.

A main object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved portable bath tub which may be employed by a patient who has undergone a surgical operation for the removal of hemorrhoids, or the like, whereby the patient may bathe in a sitting position to relieve rectal pain and to provide soothing treatment subsequent to an operation.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved portable bath tub for use by a patient in a sitting position, said bath tub being very simple in construction, being easy to set up, being very durable, enabling the patient to sit comfortably in the tub, and being suitable for use in a bedroom or adjacent to the patient's bed in a hospital.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description and claim, and from the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a top plan view of an improved portable bath tub constructed in accordance with the present invention;

Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view taken on line 2—2 of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is an enlarged cross-sectional detail view taken on line 3—3 of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is an enlarged fragmentary elevational detail view of a corner portion of the supporting frame of the bath tub of Figure 1, showing the locking means for securing the supporting leg of the frame in a depending position.

Referring to the drawings, the bath tub is designated generally at 11 and comprises a substantially square frame 12 of suitable rigid material, such as metal rod, one of the side members of the frame, designated at 13, being downwardly offset at its intermediate portion, as shown at 14, whereby the intermediate portion of the frame element 13 is generally U-shaped, for a purpose to be presently described.

Designated at 15 is a sheet of waterproof material, such as rubberized canvas, which is provided at its margins with spaced grommets 16 and which is fastened to the respective side elements of the frame 12 by leather thongs strung through the eyelets or grommets 16 and passing spirally around the side elements of the frame 12 in the manner shown in Figure 1, thereby securing the sheet to the frame at its margins. Connected to the center of the sheet

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15 is a depending drain spout 17 provided with a conventional clamping valve 18 for opening and closing the spout 17. Designated at 19 is an overflow spout connected to the sheet 15 at a location several inches below the level of the offset portion 14, as viewed in Figure 2, the spout 19 being provided with a clamping valve 20 similar to the valve 18.

Hinged to the respective corners of the frame 12 are the respective supporting legs 21, each leg being connected to the frame 12 by a lockable hinged brace 22 of conventional construction, said brace comprising the link elements 23 and 24 pivoted respectively to the legs 21 and the frame 12 and pivotally connected at 25, as shown in Figure 4. Each link 23 is provided with a stop lug 26 which cooperates with its associated link 24 to limit relative rotation of link 24 with respect to link 23 to the aligned positions of the links shown in Figure 4, whereby the leg 21 associated with each set of lockable links is releasably secured in a depending supporting position. The legs 21 may be folded inwardly under the frame 12, as shown in dotted view in Figure 4, by folding the links 23 and 24 inwardly, as further shown in dotted view in Figure 4.

As shown in Figure 1, the spirally wound fastening thong, designated at 27, follows the contour of the offset portion 14 of the frame element 13.

In using the device, the patient sits in the enclosure defined by the sheet 15 suspended in the frame 12, said enclosure being filled with water up to the level of the overflow spout 19. The offset portion 14 being of substantial width, the patient may sit with his legs extending through the space defined by the offset portion 14 in the same manner as in a conventional armchair. Since a patient who has undergone a surgical operation involving the removal of hemorrhoids, or the like, must sit in a hot bath for long periods of time, the improved bath tub of the present invention enables such a patient to undergo bath treatment with a substantial degree of comfort.

When it is necessary to drain the tub, this may be readily done by opening the valve 18 and allowing the water to drain from the outlet spout 17 into a suitable receptacle.

While a specific embodiment of an improved portable bath tub has been disclosed in the foregoing description, it will be understood that various modifications within the spirit of the invention may occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, it is intended that no limitations be placed



on the invention except as defined by the scope of the appended claim.

What is claimed is:

A portable bath tub for use by a patient in a sitting position comprising a rigid frame consisting of four rigid rod members of substantially equal length rigidly connected at their ends to define a square, one of the rod members being offset downwardly at its intermediate portion, respective supporting legs, means pivotally connecting said legs to the corners of said frame for rotation in the opposite side vertical planes of the frame, whereby said legs may be folded to positions adjacent to the respective rod members at the opposite sides of the frame, releasable locking means arranged to releasably lock the legs in depending supporting positions, a sheet of flexible waterproof material shaped to fit within the frame and to define receptacle therein, spaced eyelets secured in the margins of said sheet, a

spiral flexible thong extending through said eyelets and around said rigid rod members, securing the margins of said sheet within the frame, a downwardly directed drain spout at the central portion of said sheet, and an outwardly directed overflow spout in a side portion of the sheet located below the offset portion of said one of the rod members.

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