



US00D445893S

(12) **United States Design Patent**  
**Remer et al.**

(10) **Patent No.:** **US D445,893 S**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **\*\* Jul. 31, 2001**

(54) **EARPLUG**  
(75) **Inventors:** **Dean M. Remer**, Woodbury; **Paul A. Martinson**, Maplewood, both of MN (US)

5,044,463 9/1991 Carr .  
5,701,348 12/1997 Shennib et al. .  
5,781,272 \* 7/1998 Bright et al. .... 351/123  
5,811,742 \* 9/1998 Leight ..... 181/135  
6,129,175 \* 10/2000 Tutor et al. .... 181/135

(73) **Assignee:** **3M Innovative Properties Company**, St. Paul, MN (US)

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

10314213 2/1998 (JP) .

(\*\*) **Term:** **14 Years**

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

(21) **Appl. No.:** **29/132,306**  
(22) **Filed:** **Nov. 6, 2000**

U.S. application No. 09/608,911 to Remer et al. filed Jun. 30, 2000, for *Articulating Earplug*.  
U.S. Design application No. 29/132,307 to Remer et al. filed Nov. 6, 2000, for *Earplug*.

(51) **LOC (7) Cl.** ..... **24-04**  
(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **D24/106**  
(58) **Field of Search** ..... D24/106; 181/130, 181/131, 129, 135; 128/864, 867, 865, 860

\* cited by examiner

*Primary Examiner*—Ian Simmons  
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Michaele A. Hakamaki

(56) **References Cited**

(57) **CLAIM**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

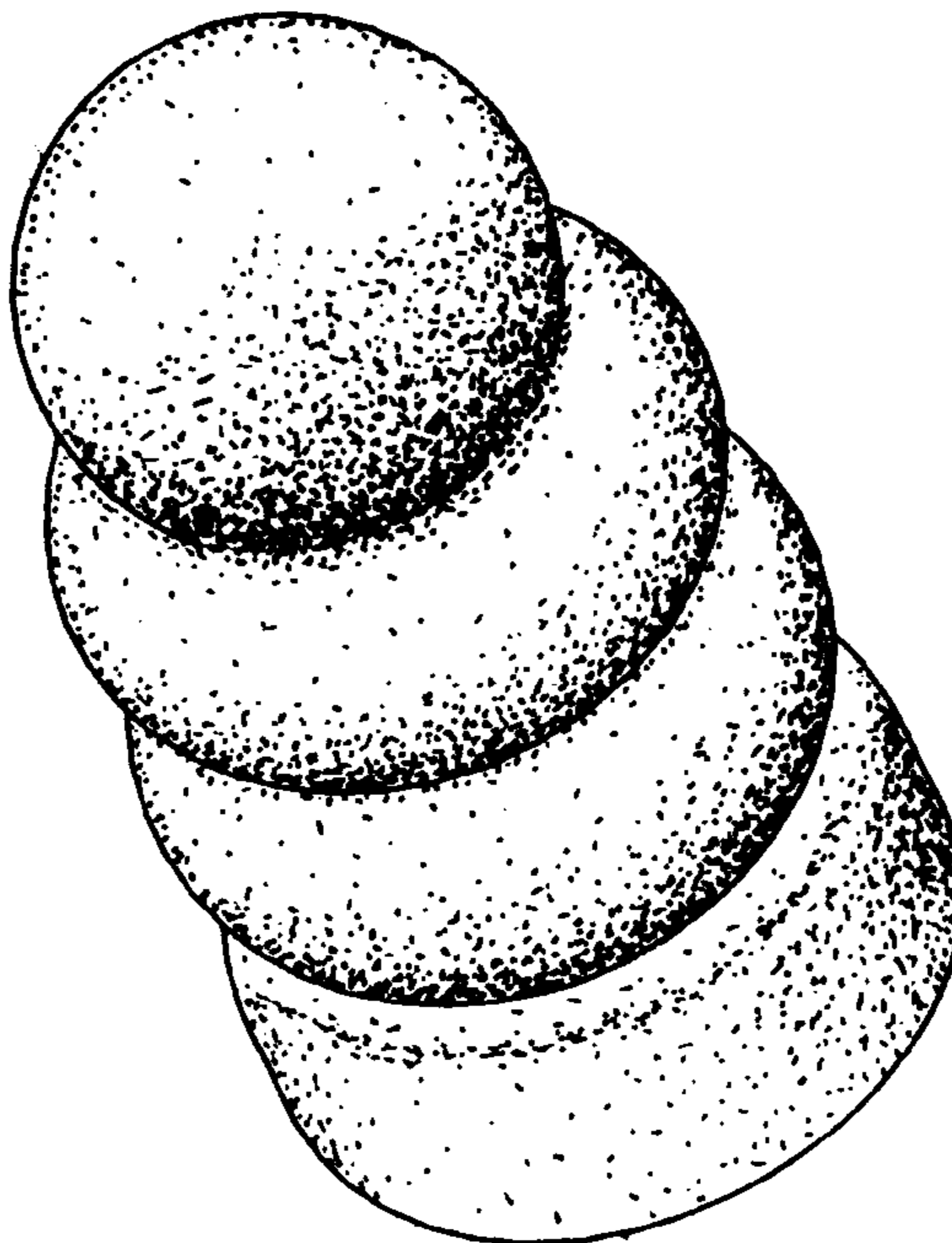
The ornamental design for an earplug, as shown and described.

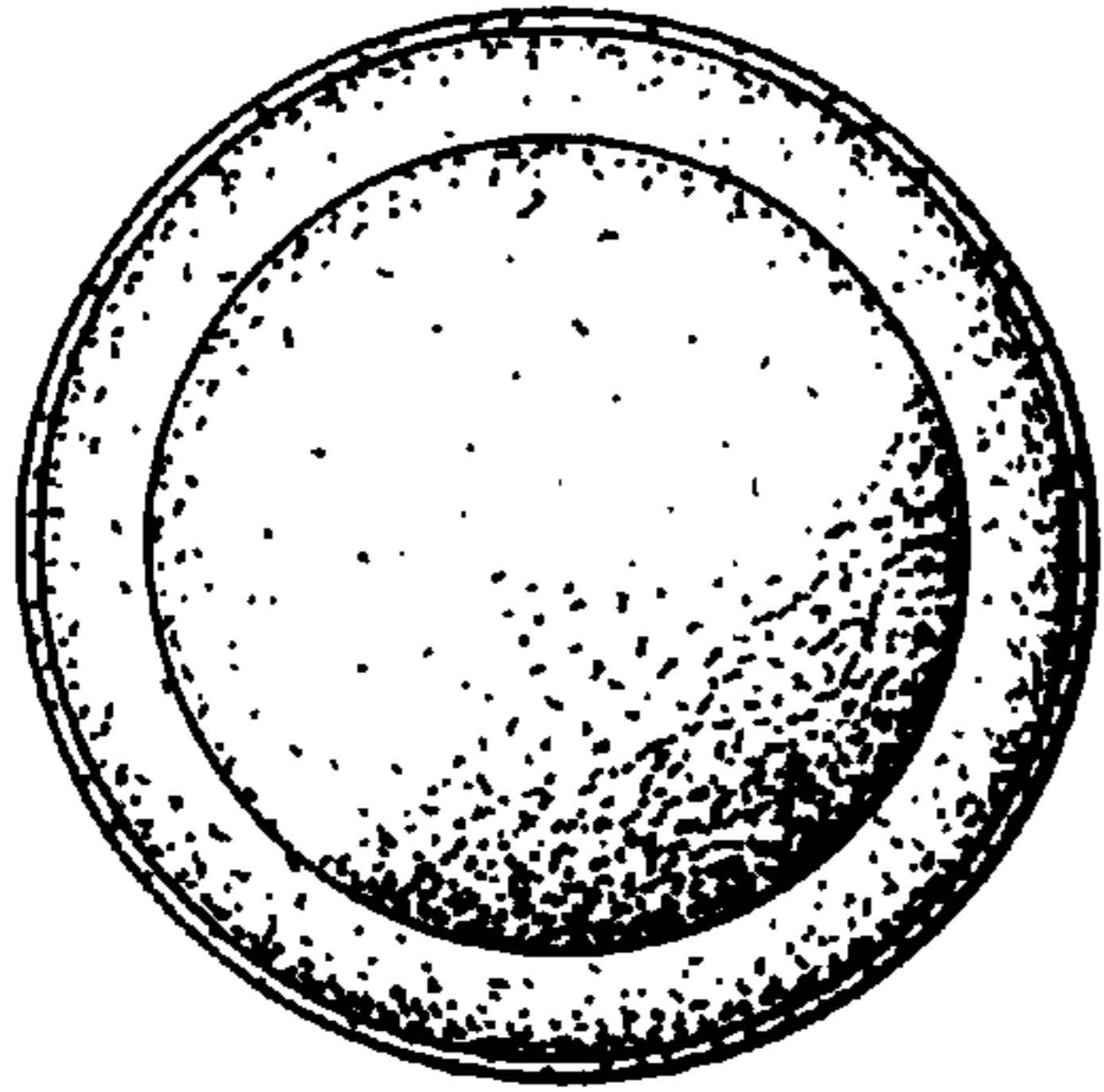
- D. 242,743 12/1976 Leight .
- D. 340,282 10/1993 Leight .
- D. 358,463 5/1995 Falco .
- D. 371,193 6/1996 Myers et al. .
- 2,446,707 8/1948 Leight .
- 2,487,038 11/1949 Baum .
- 2,538,339 1/1951 Thomas .
- 2,804,072 8/1957 Genzer .
- 3,811,437 5/1974 Gardner .
- 4,094,315 6/1978 Leight .
- 4,490,857 1/1985 Leight et al. .
- 4,671,265 6/1987 Andersson .
- 4,819,624 4/1989 Leight et al. .

**DESCRIPTION**

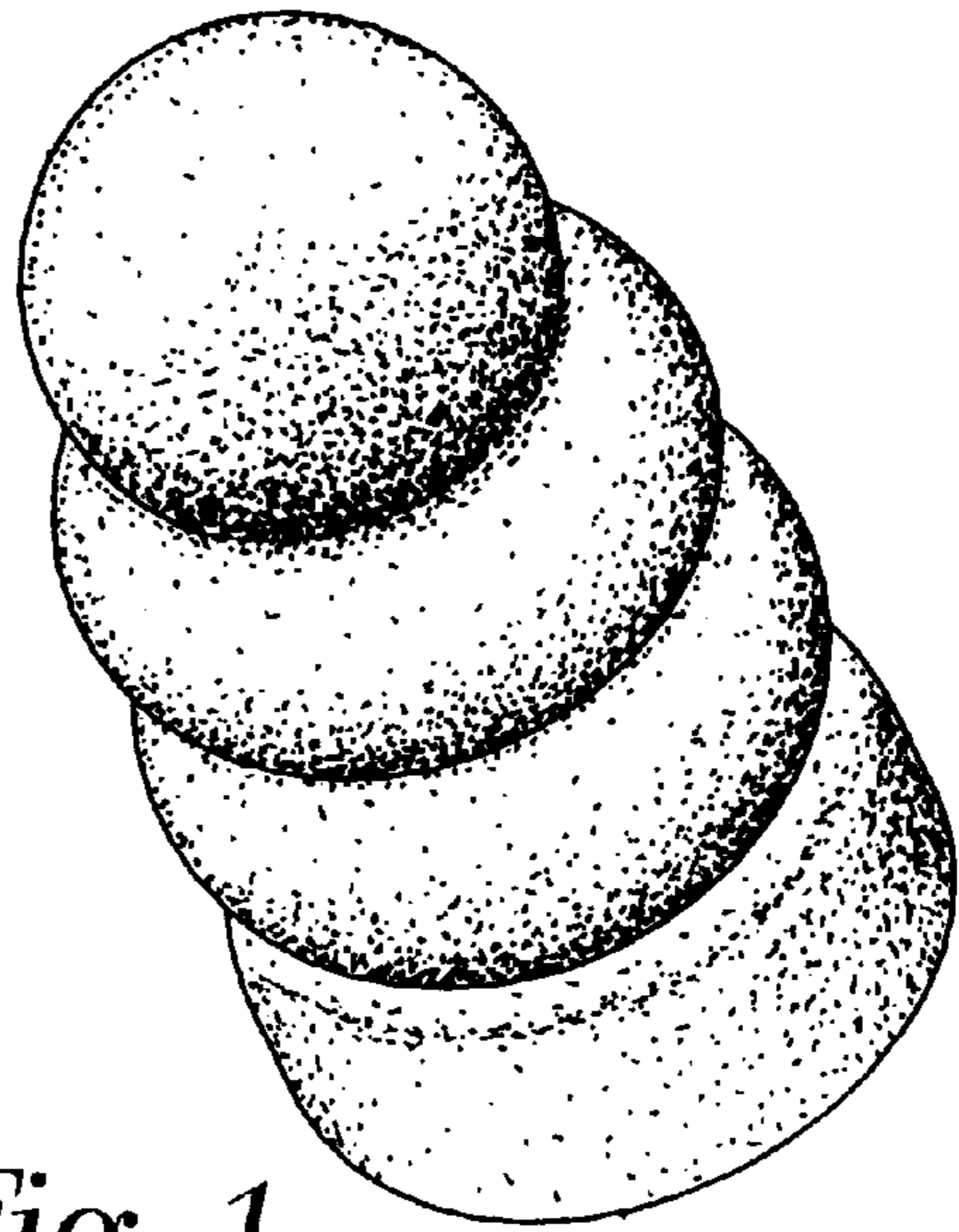
FIG. 1 is a perspective view, showing the new design for an ear plug.  
FIG. 2 is a top view thereof.  
FIG. 3 is a side view thereof. All other side views look the same as FIG. 3; and,  
FIG. 4 is a bottom view thereof.  
The shading shown in the drawings is provided merely to illustrate contour; it is not indicative of texture, etc.

**1 Claim, 1 Drawing Sheet**

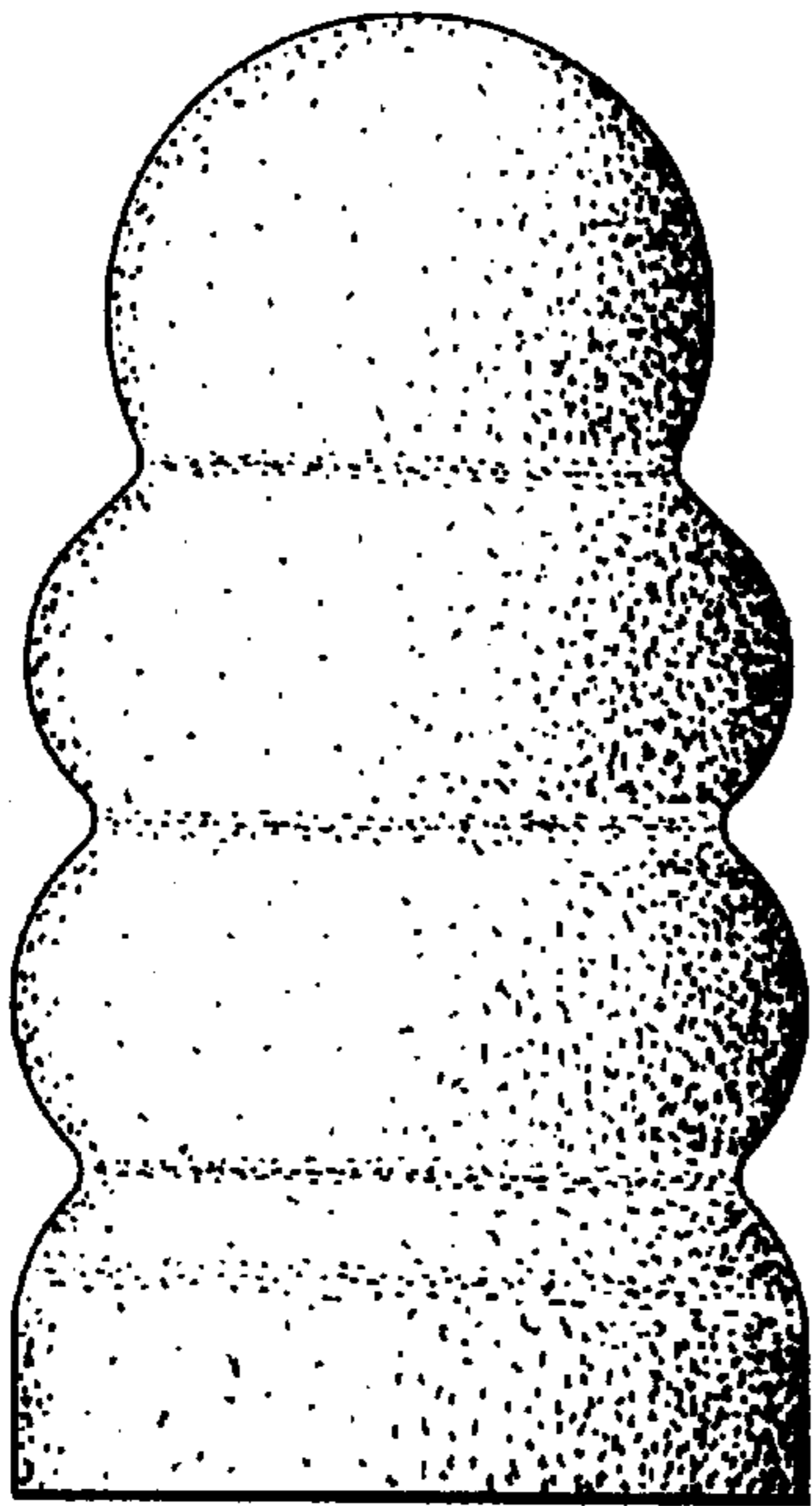




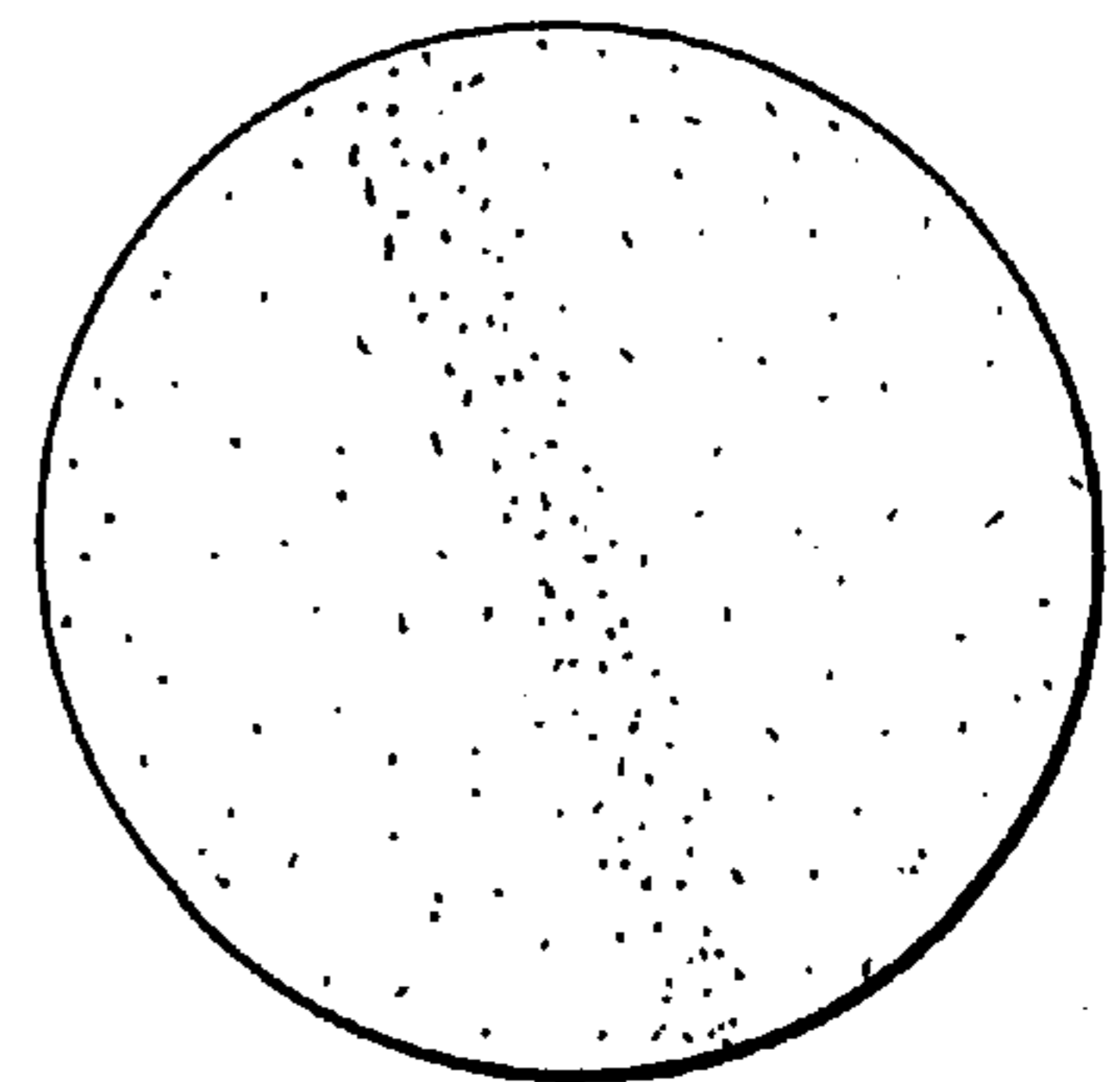
*Fig. 2*



*Fig. 1*



*Fig. 3*



*Fig. 4*