



US00D717937S

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

(10) **Patent No.:** **US D717,937 S**  
(45) **Date of Patent:** **\*\* Nov. 18, 2014**

- (54) **EARPLUG**
- (71) Applicant: **3M Innovative Properties Company**,  
St. Paul, MN (US)
- (72) Inventors: **Jeffrey L. Hamer**, Springville, IN (US);  
**Kenneth F. Teeters**, Zionsville, IN (US);  
**Ravi Thomas**, Avon, IN (US)
- (73) Assignee: **3M Innovative Properties Company**,  
St. Paul, MN (US)

5,044,463	A	9/1991	Carr	
5,195,539	A *	3/1993	Dyrud et al.	128/864
5,203,352	A	4/1993	Gardner, Jr.	
D358,882	S *	5/1995	Metz et al.	D24/112
5,609,164	A *	3/1997	Dyrud et al.	128/864
5,799,658	A	9/1998	Falco	
5,904,143	A	5/1999	Magidson	
D443,107	S *	5/2001	Friesenhahn	D28/8.1
6,484,726	B1	11/2002	Remer	
6,568,394	B2	5/2003	Falco	
6,820,717	B2	11/2004	Fleming	
6,931,885	B2 *	8/2005	Citrynell et al.	62/457.3

(Continued)

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

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

- (21) Appl. No.: **29/445,735**
- (22) Filed: **Feb. 15, 2013**
- (51) **LOC (10) Cl.** ..... **24-04**
- (52) **U.S. Cl.**  
USPC ..... **D24/106**
- (58) **Field of Classification Search**  
USPC ..... D24/105, 106, 173, 174; D14/205, 206,  
D14/223; 128/864, 865; 181/135; D29/112;  
381/380; D7/523  
See application file for complete search history.

DE	2252392	5/1974
EP	0 108 728	11/1983
GB	1 398 401	6/1975
JP	20021794	10/2002

*Primary Examiner* — Ian Simmons  
*Assistant Examiner* — Richelle G Shelton  
 (74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Craig A. Deutsch

(57) **CLAIM**  
 The ornamental design for an earplug, as shown and described.

**DESCRIPTION**

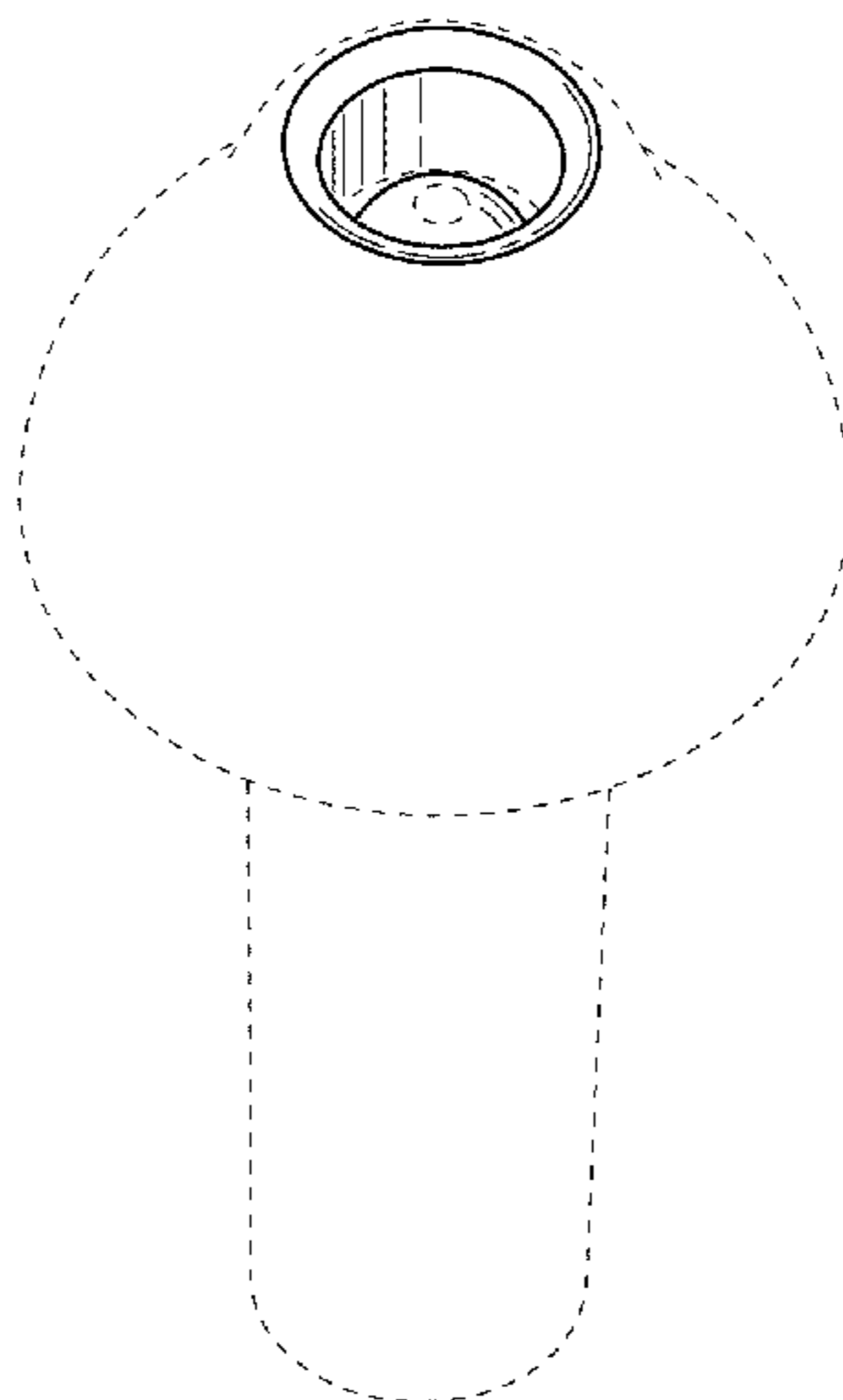
FIG. 1 is a top perspective view of a new, original, and ornamental design for an earplug.  
 FIG. 2 is a front view thereof, the rear view, left view and right view being identical thereto;  
 FIG. 3 is a top view thereof;  
 FIG. 4 is a bottom view thereof; and,  
 FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view taken at line 5-5 of FIG. 3.  
 The broken line showing portions of the article is included for the purpose of illustrating environmental structure and forms no part of the claimed design. Any shading is provided to illustrate contour only and is not an indication of surface texture.

(56) **References Cited**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

2,393,005	A	4/1944	Veneklasen	
2,538,339	A	9/1949	Thomas	
3,618,600	A	11/1971	Douglass	
3,736,929	A	6/1973	Mills	
3,935,401	A *	1/1976	Shore et al.	181/135
4,052,754	A	10/1977	Homsy	
4,055,233	A *	10/1977	Huntress	181/135
4,269,638	A	5/1981	Faranetta	
4,384,575	A	5/1983	Asker	
4,564,009	A	1/1986	Brinkhoff	
4,608,217	A	8/1986	Csiki	
4,638,790	A *	1/1987	Conway et al.	128/844
4,870,688	A	9/1989	Voroba	
5,002,151	A *	3/1991	Oliveira et al.	181/130

**1 Claim, 1 Drawing Sheet**



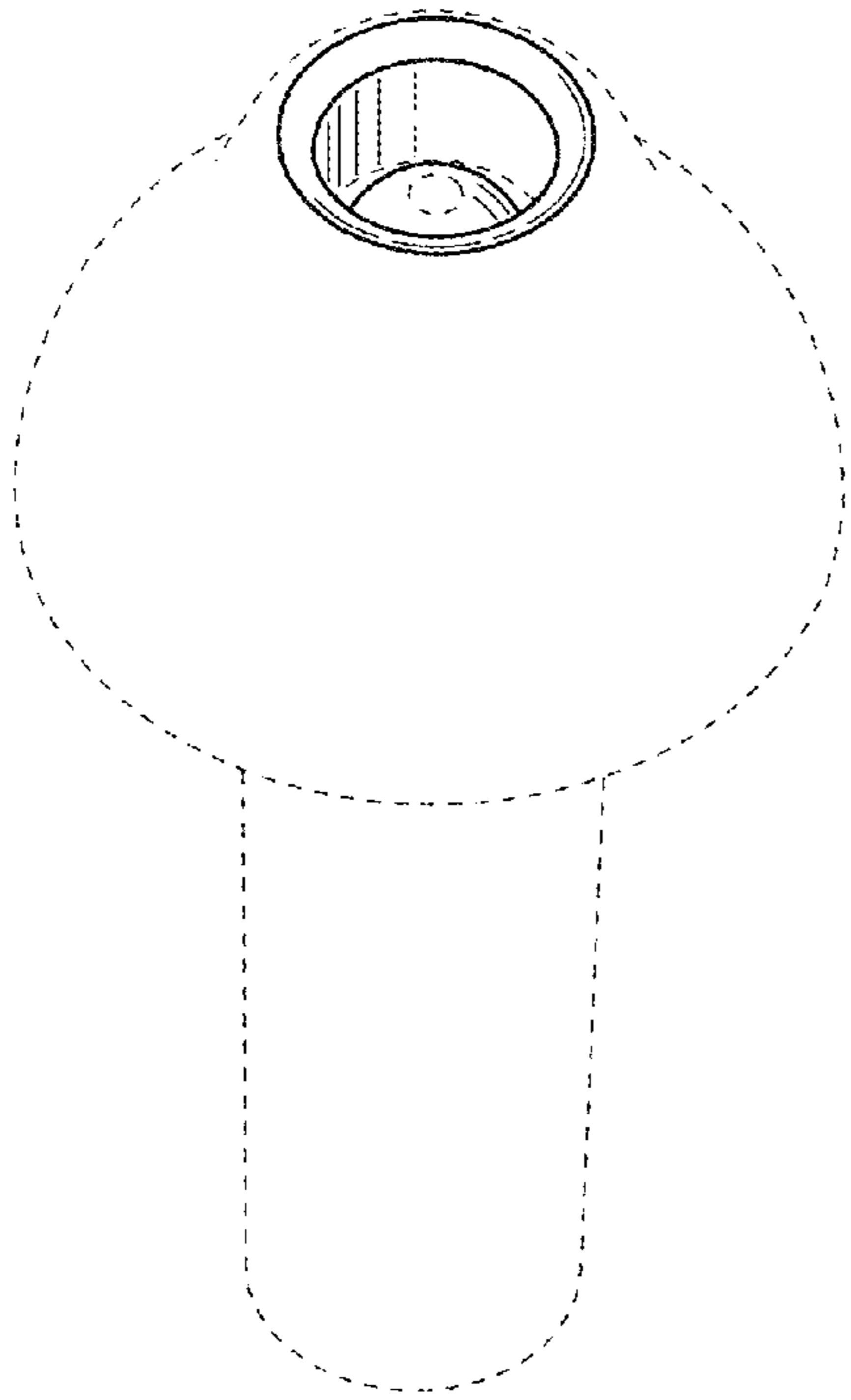
(56)

**References Cited**

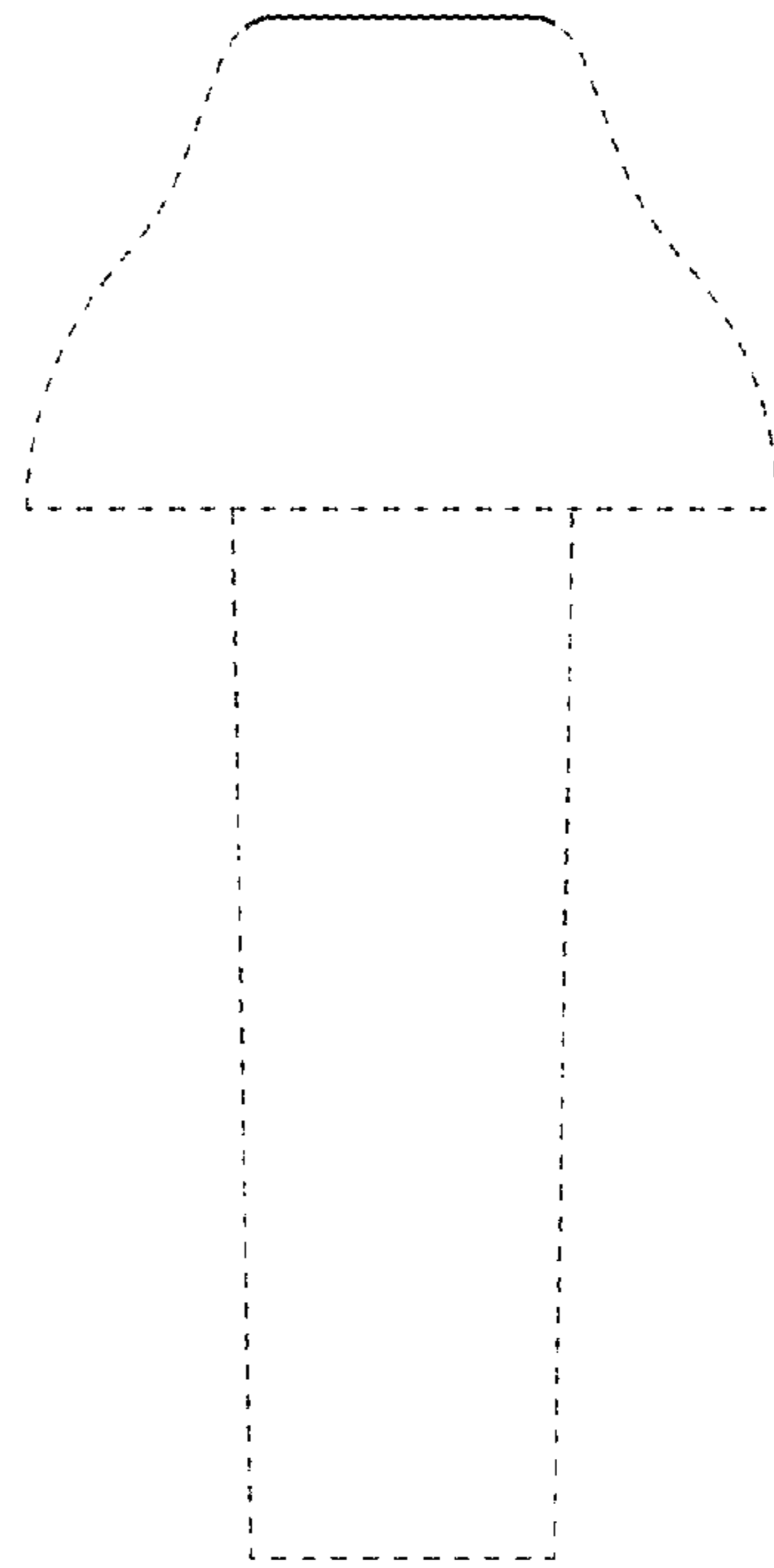
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

D514,094 S *	1/2006	Griffin .....	D14/223	7,984,716 B2	7/2011	Purcell	
6,981,504 B2	1/2006	Jenkins, Jr.		7,998,391 B1	8/2011	Koo	
7,010,935 B2 *	3/2006	Citrynell et al. ....	62/457.3	8,061,472 B2	11/2011	Tiemens	
7,022,272 B2	4/2006	Brossman		D649,836 S *	12/2011	Dooley et al. ....	D7/536
D589,135 S *	3/2009	Benner .....	D24/106	8,113,207 B2	2/2012	Gehling	
D595,837 S *	7/2009	Benner .....	D24/106	8,157,120 B2 *	4/2012	Yang .....	220/678
7,697,706 B2	4/2010	Doty		2006/0202375 A1	9/2006	Jenkins, Jr.	
7,712,469 B2	5/2010	Jenkins, Jr.		2008/0210694 A1 *	9/2008	Castonguay .....	220/592.17
D618,209 S *	6/2010	Andre et al. ....	D14/205	2008/0276945 A1	11/2008	Rosen	
7,886,744 B2	2/2011	Knauer		2009/0039555 A1	2/2009	Jenkins, Jr.	
7,975,616 B2 *	7/2011	Hill .....	102/526	2009/0071487 A1	3/2009	Keady	
				2010/0307514 A1	12/2010	Berg	
				2012/0046607 A1	2/2012	Syk	

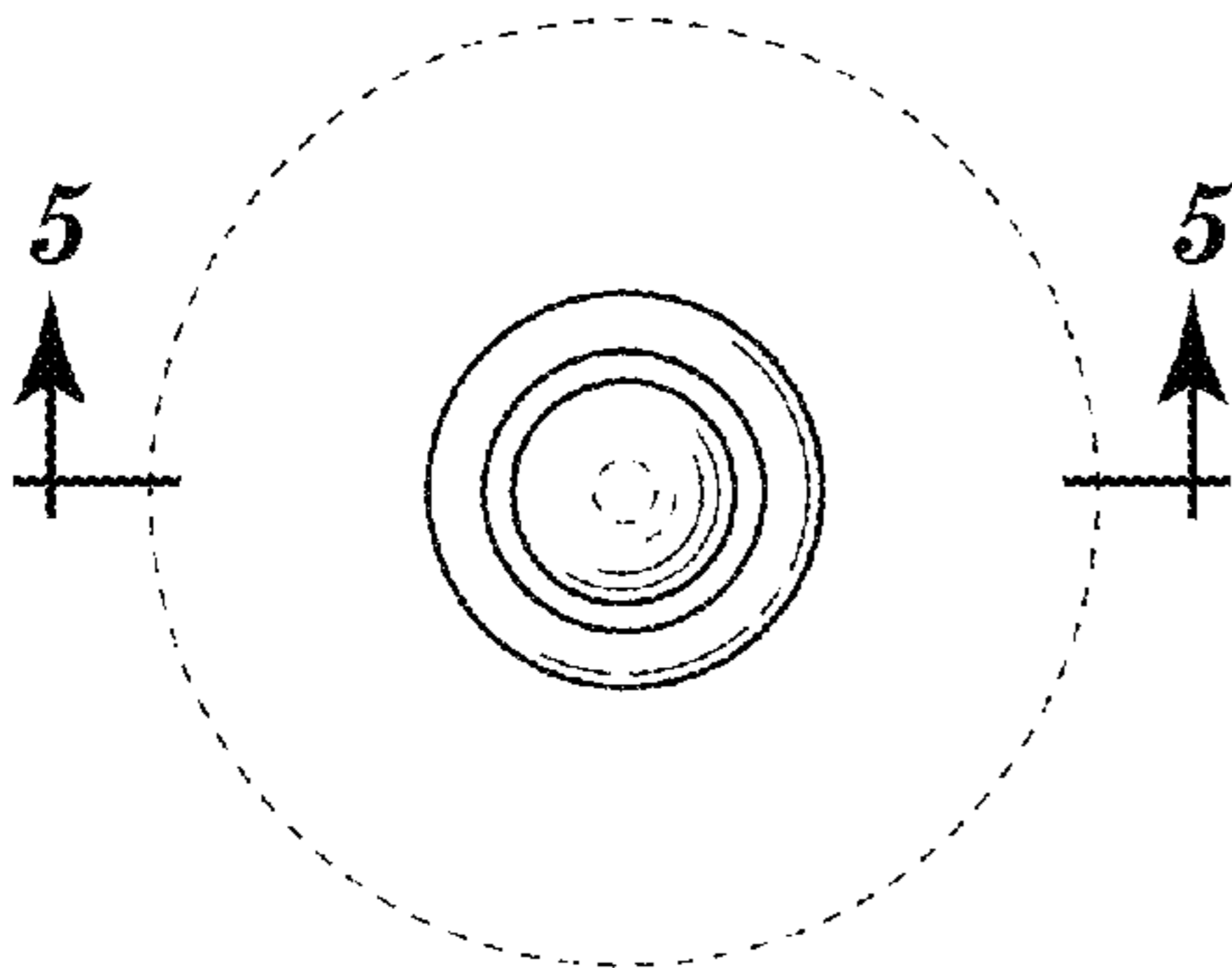
\* cited by examiner



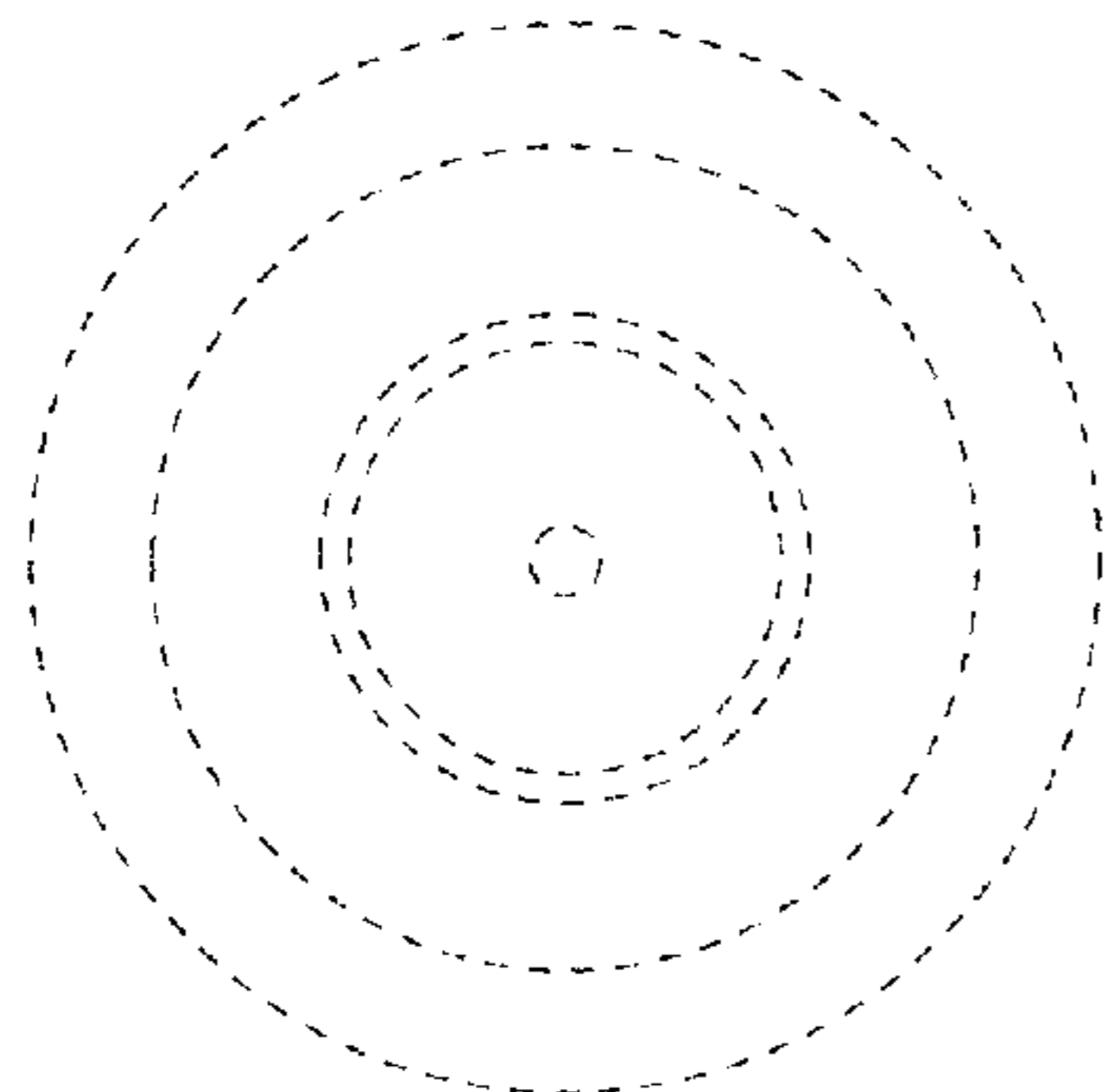
*Fig. 1*



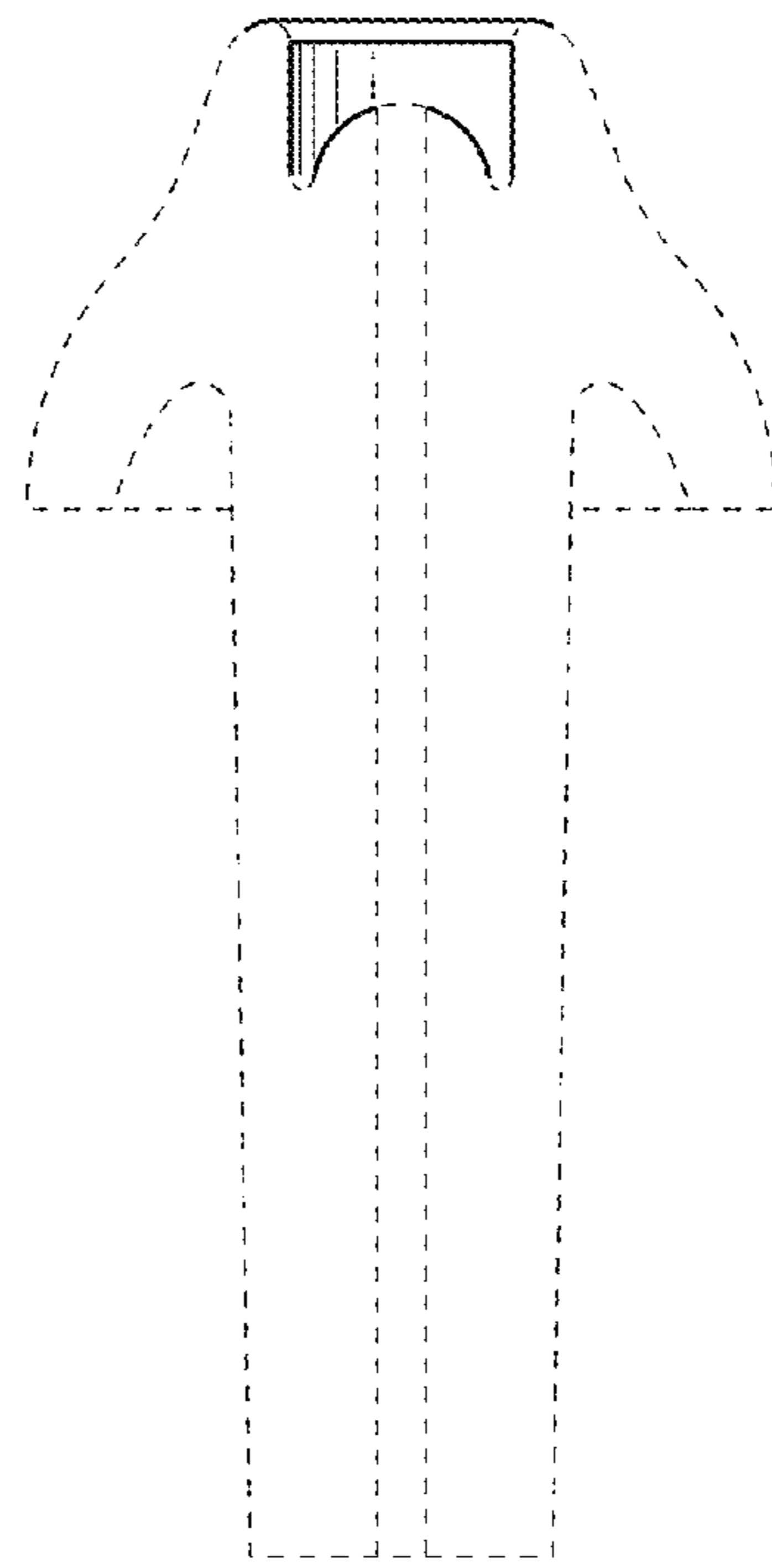
*Fig. 2*



*Fig. 3*



*Fig. 4*



*Fig. 5*