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(54) **RUGGED AND FAST POWER MOSFET AND IGBT**

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H01L 29/78 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **257/341; 257/401; 257/328; 257/329**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **257/341, 257/401, E29.027, E29.257, 328, 329**

See application file for complete search history.

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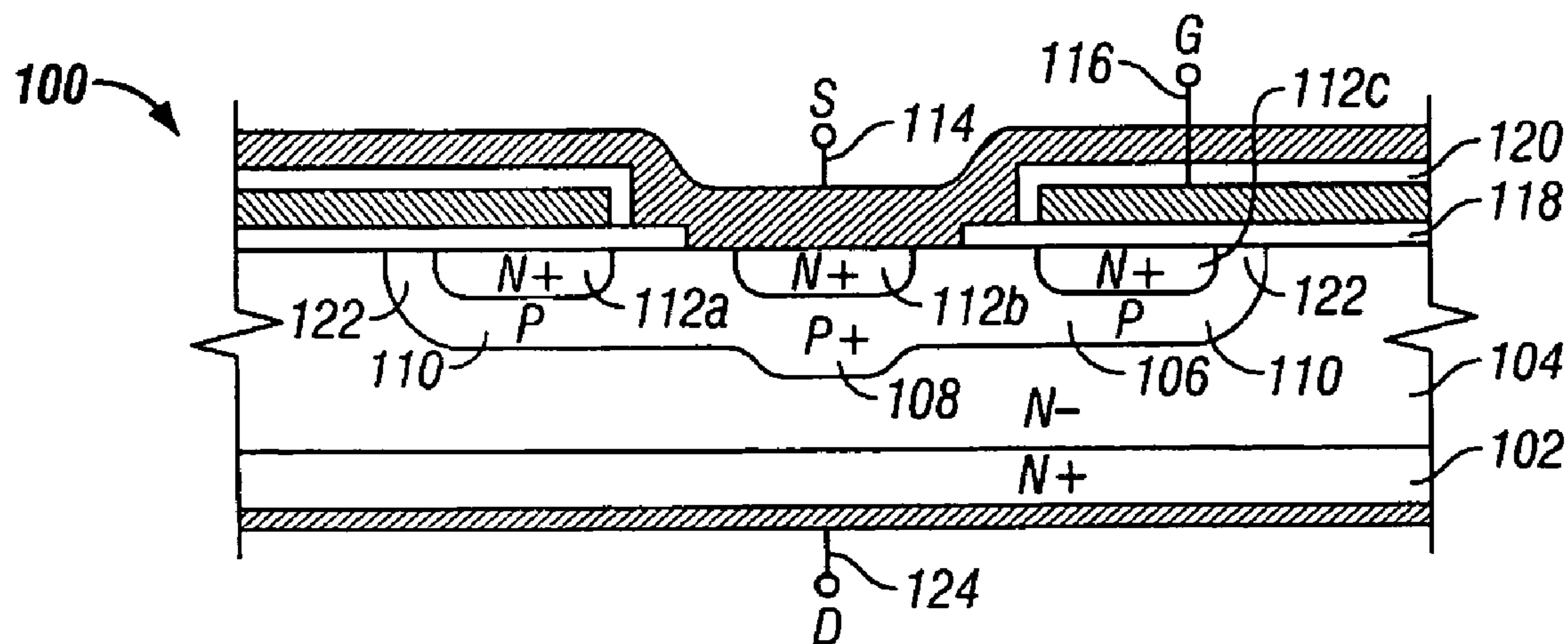
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A power semiconductor device includes a substrate having an upper surface and a lower surface. A source region of first conductivity is formed within a well region of second conductivity. The source region is provided proximate to the upper surface of the substrate. The well region has a non-polygon design. A gate electrode overlies the upper surface of the substrate. A drain electrode is provided proximate to the lower surface of the substrate.

29 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



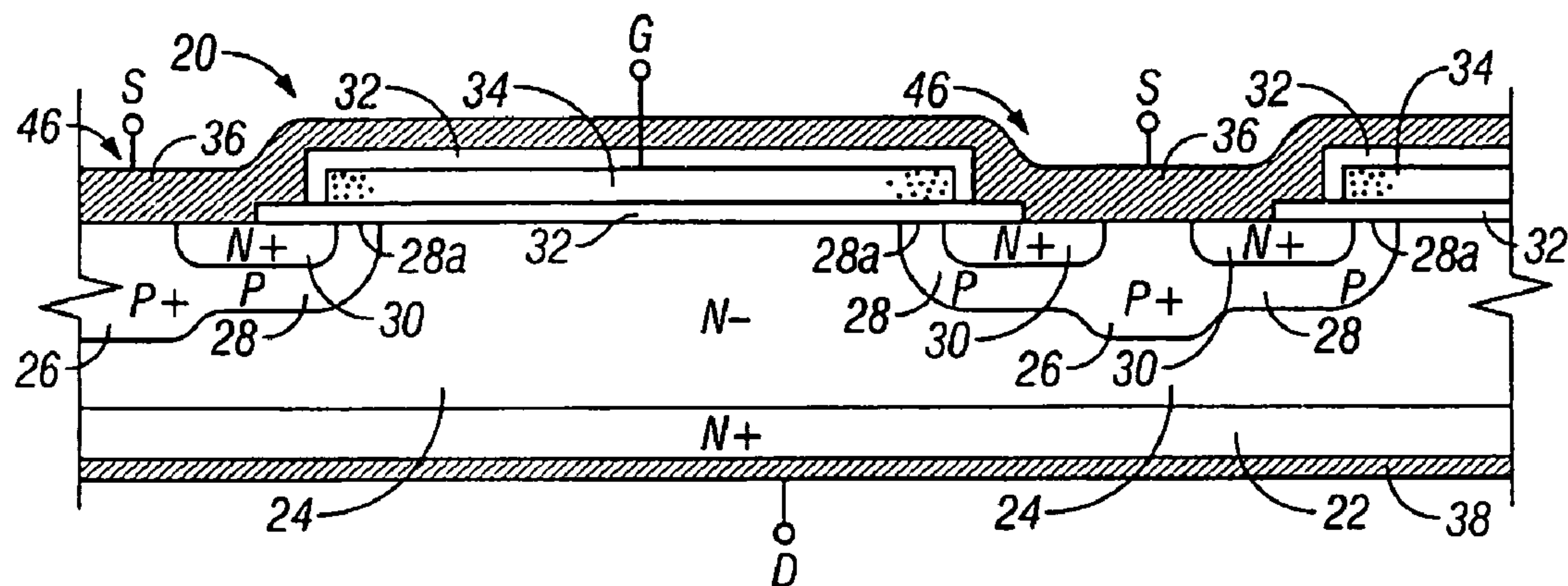


FIG. 1

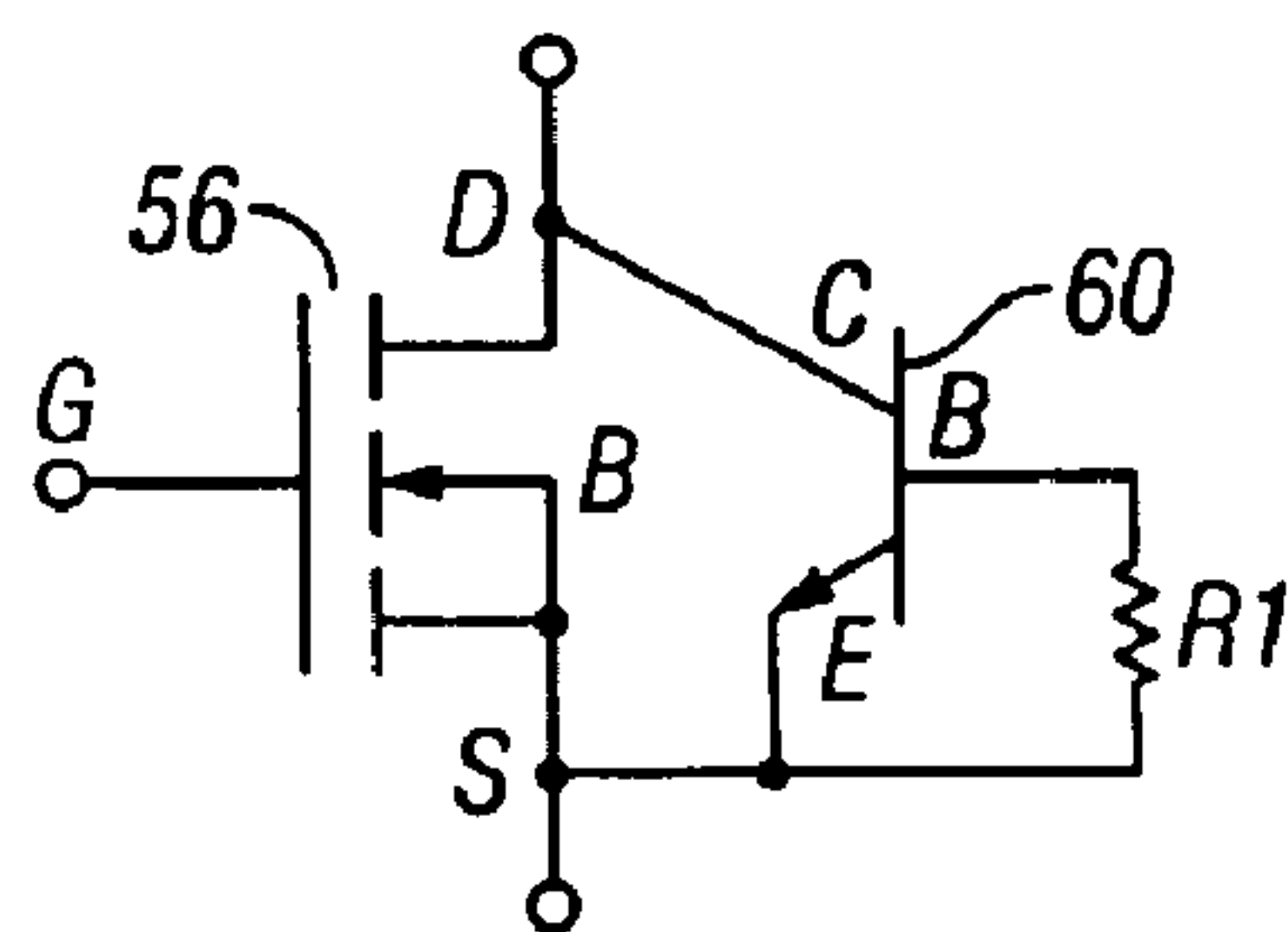


FIG. 2

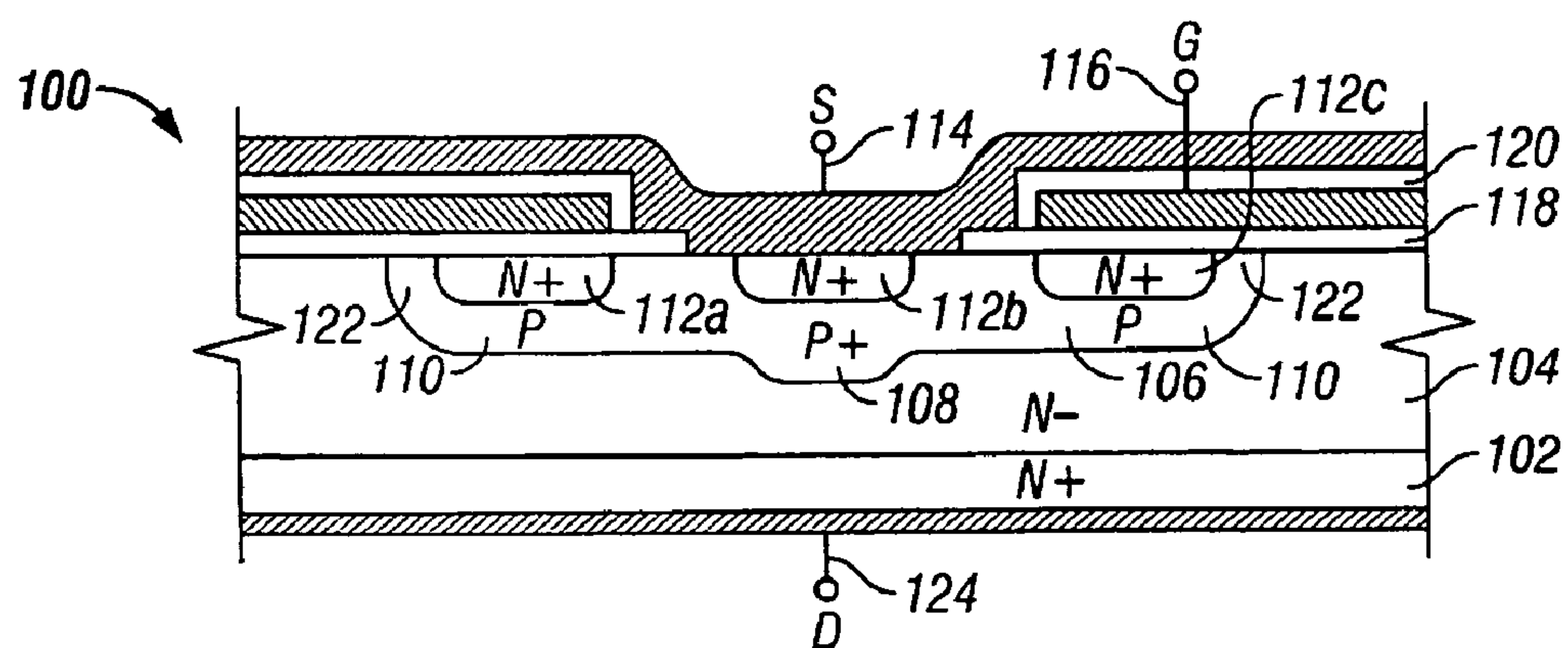


FIG. 3

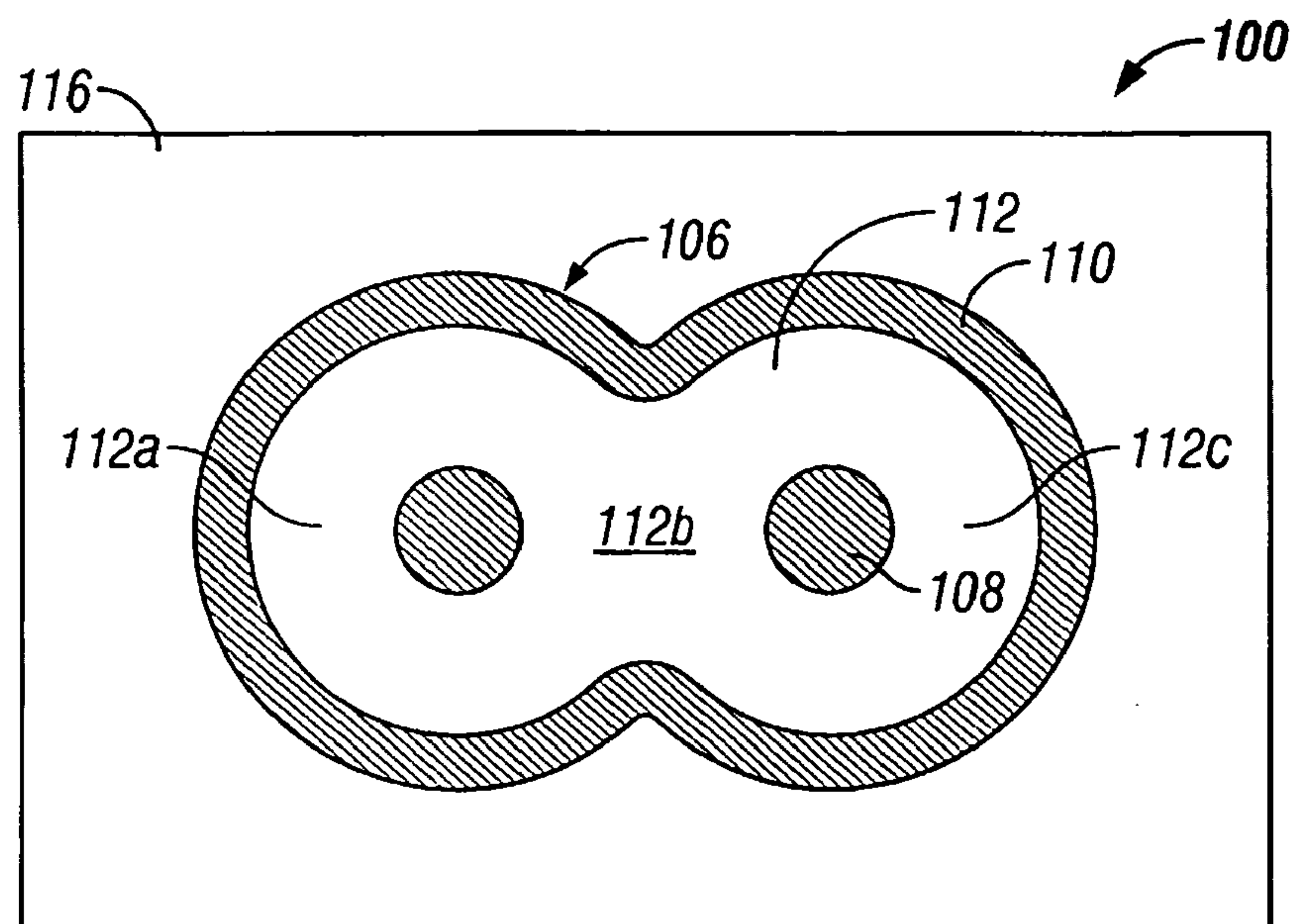


FIG. 4

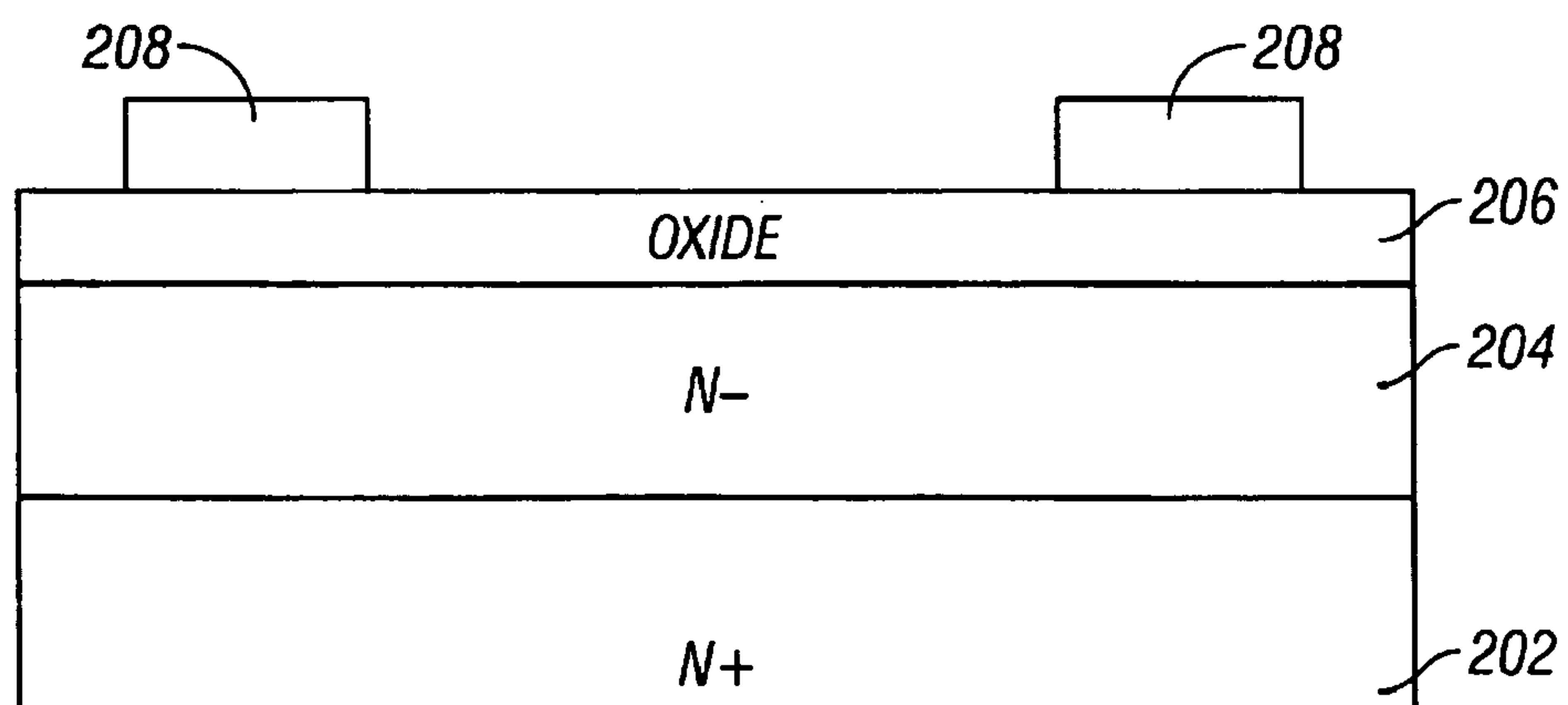


FIG. 5

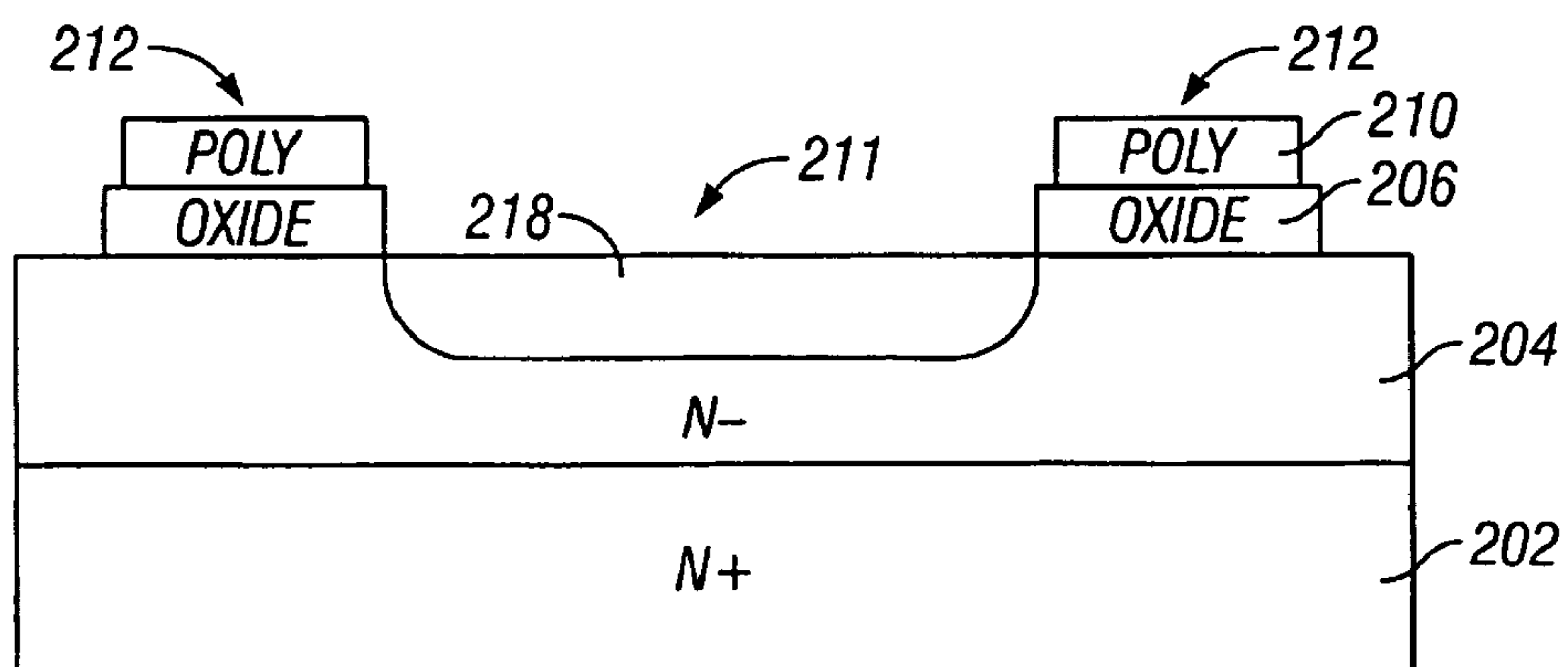


FIG. 6A

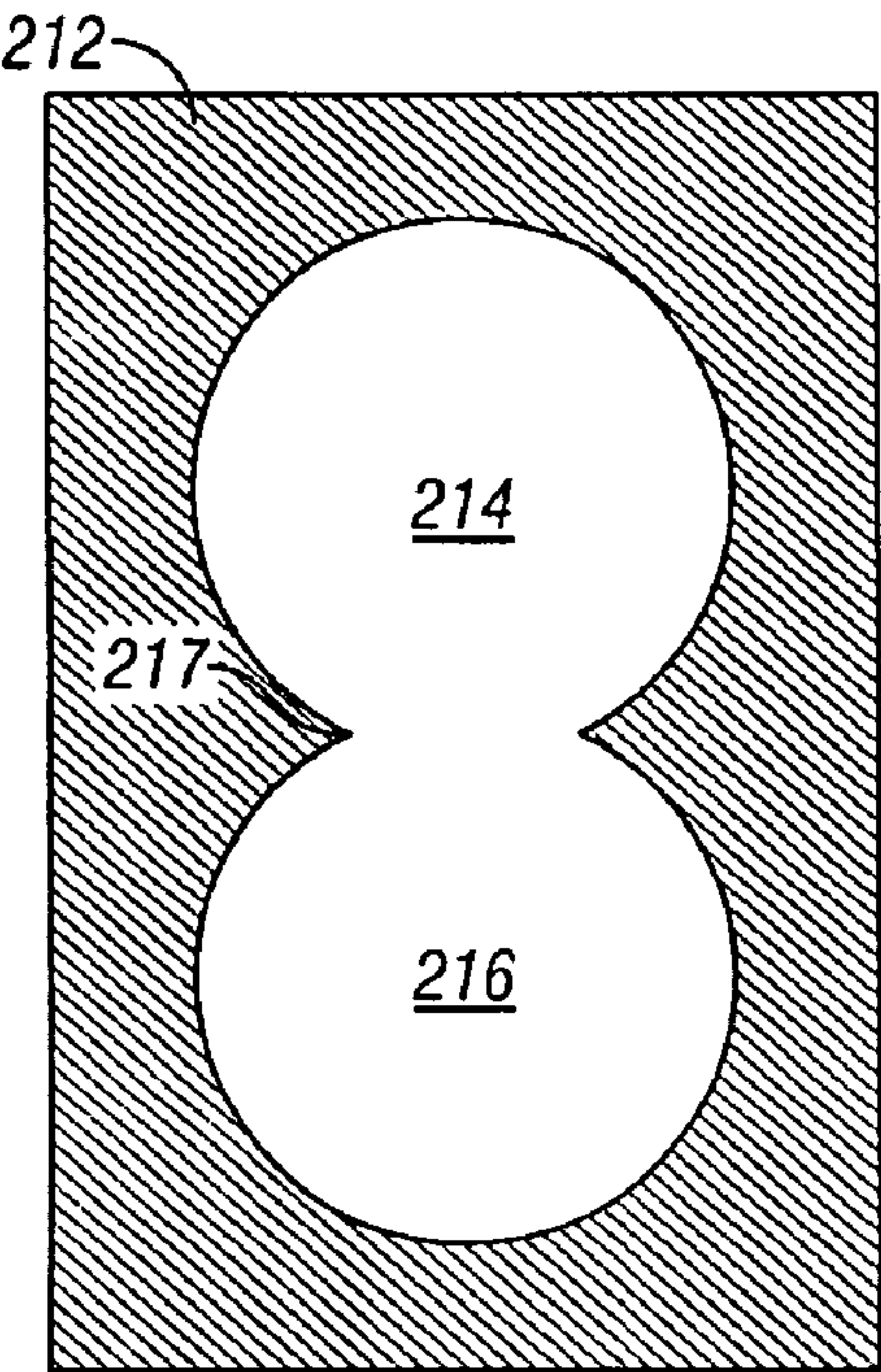


FIG. 6B

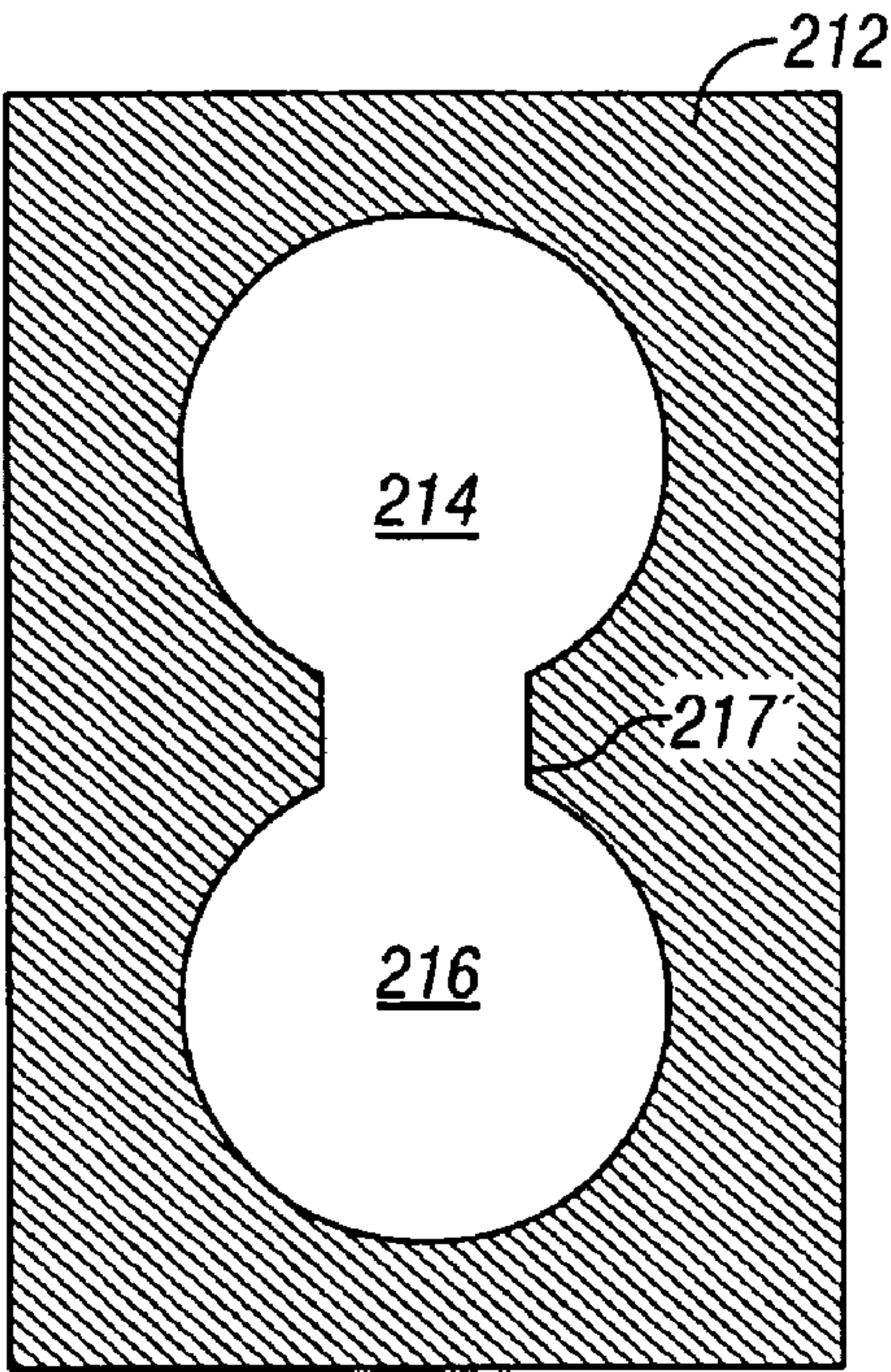


FIG. 6C

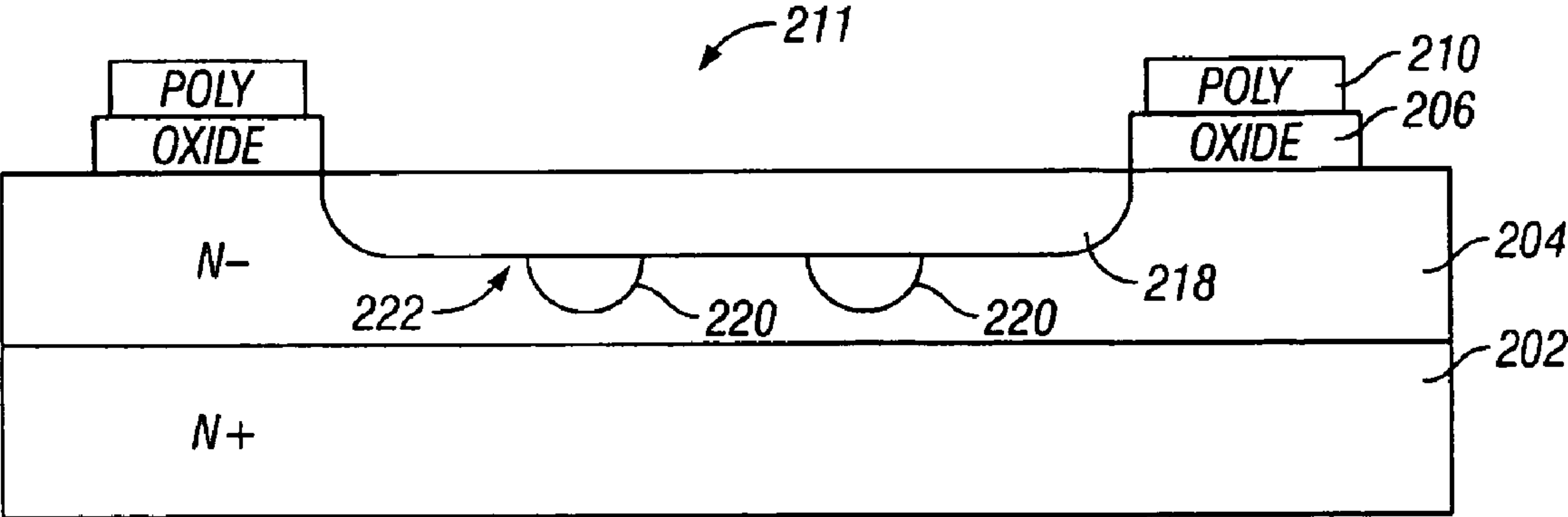


FIG. 7A

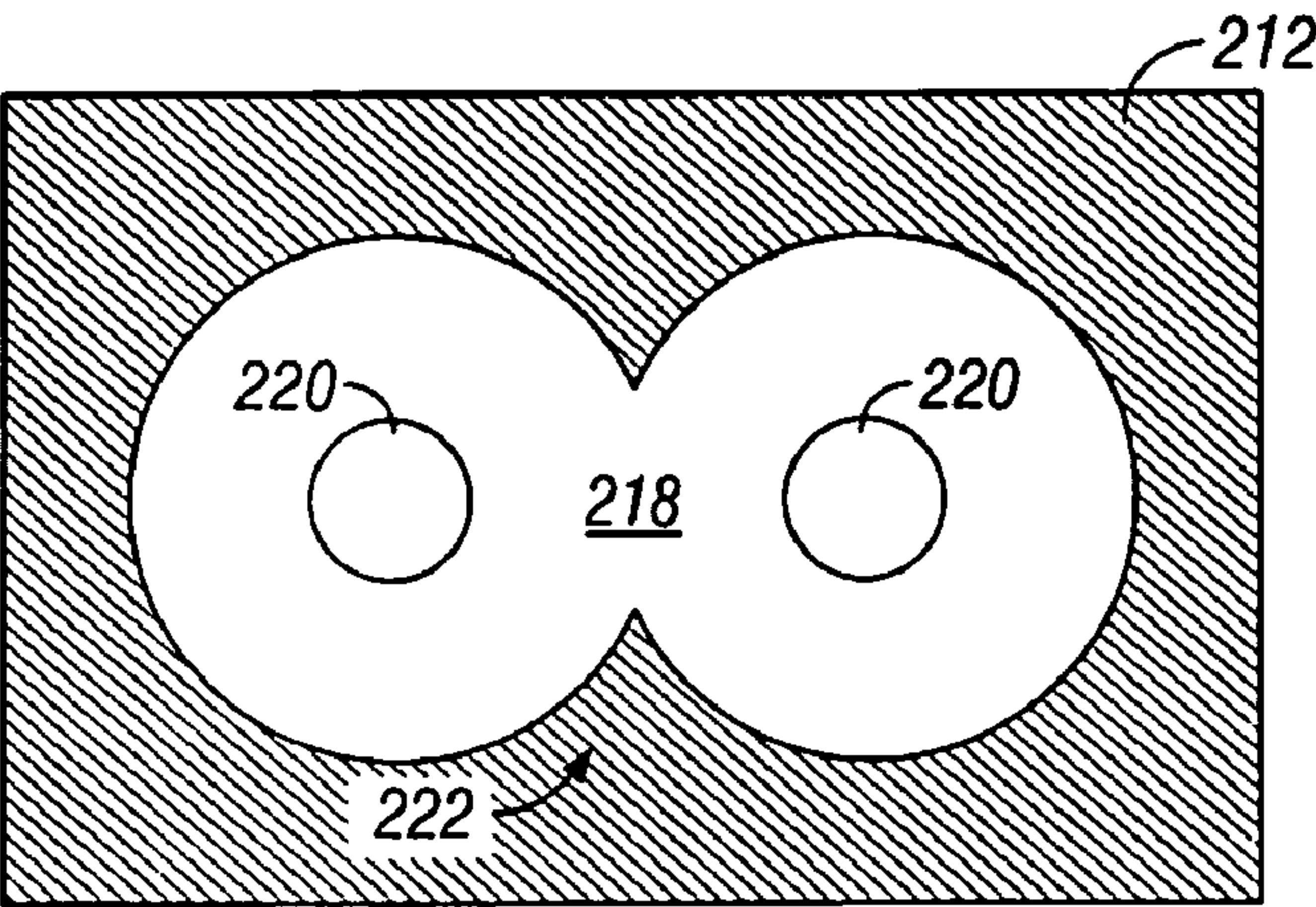


FIG. 7B

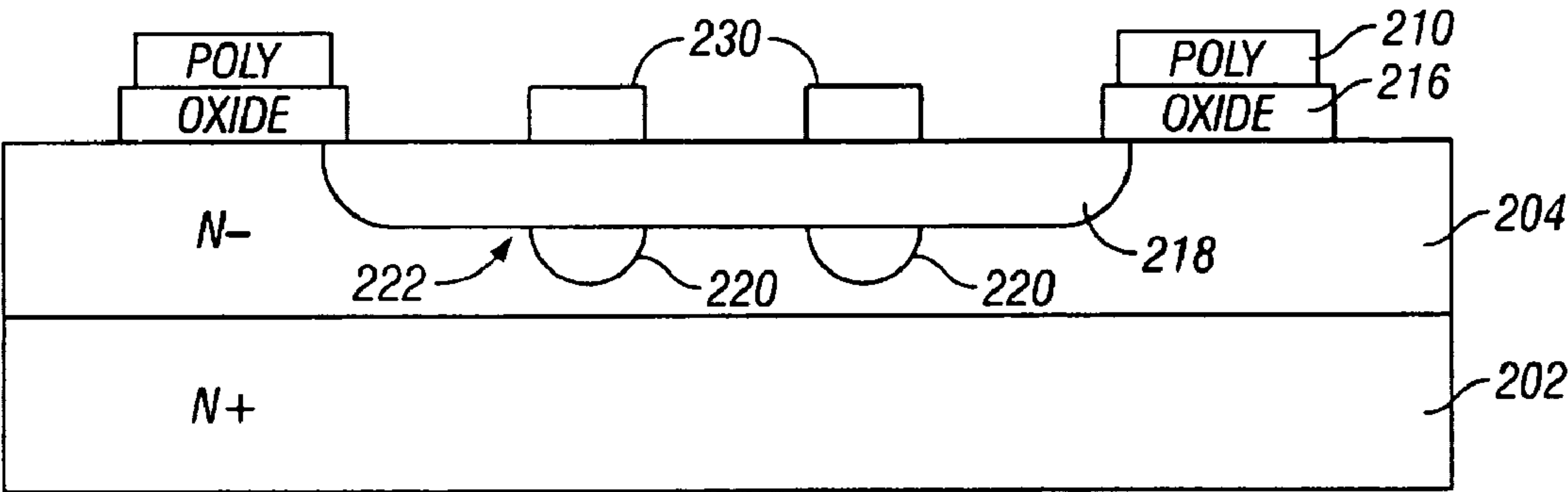


FIG. 8A

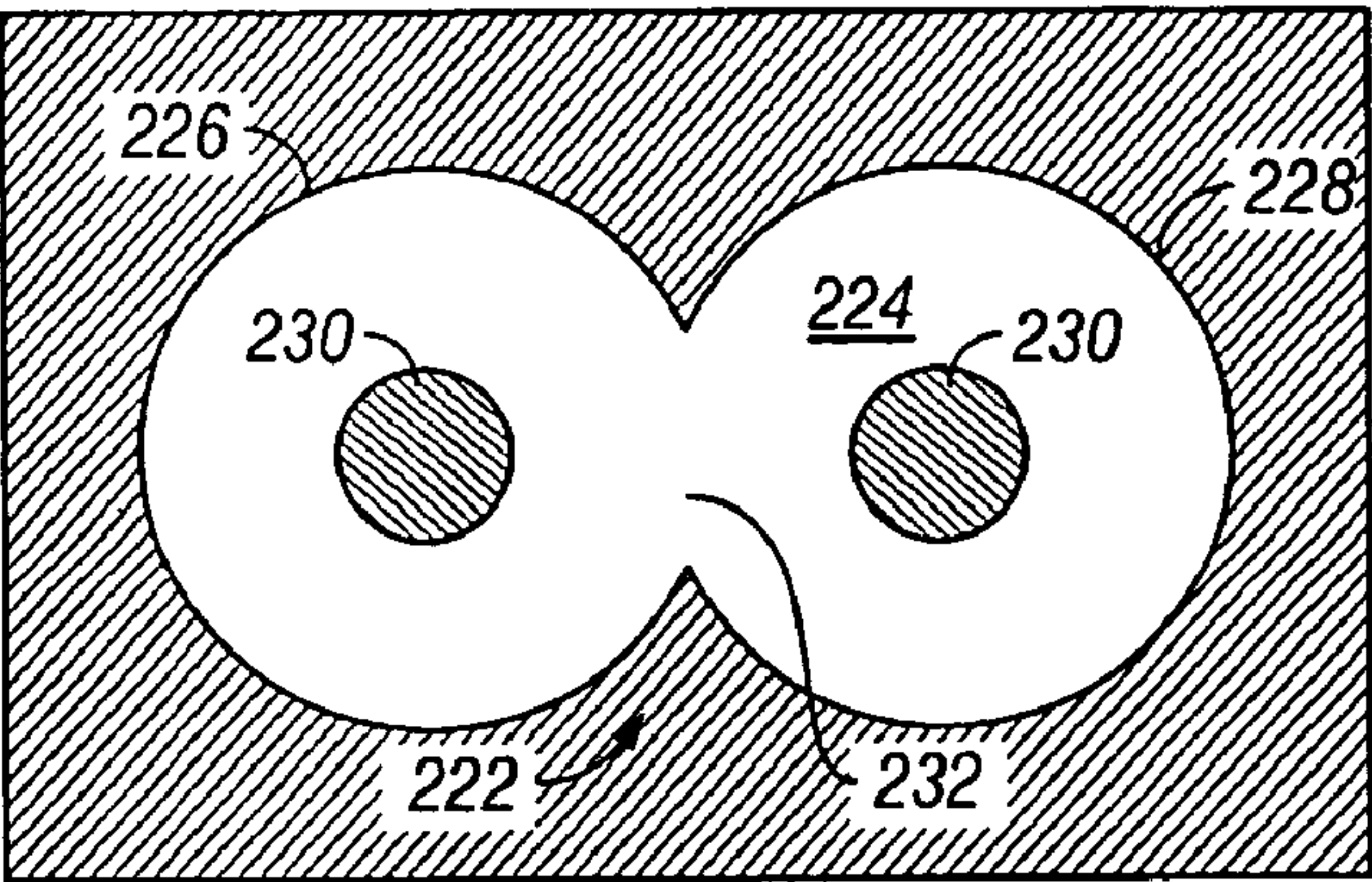


FIG. 8B

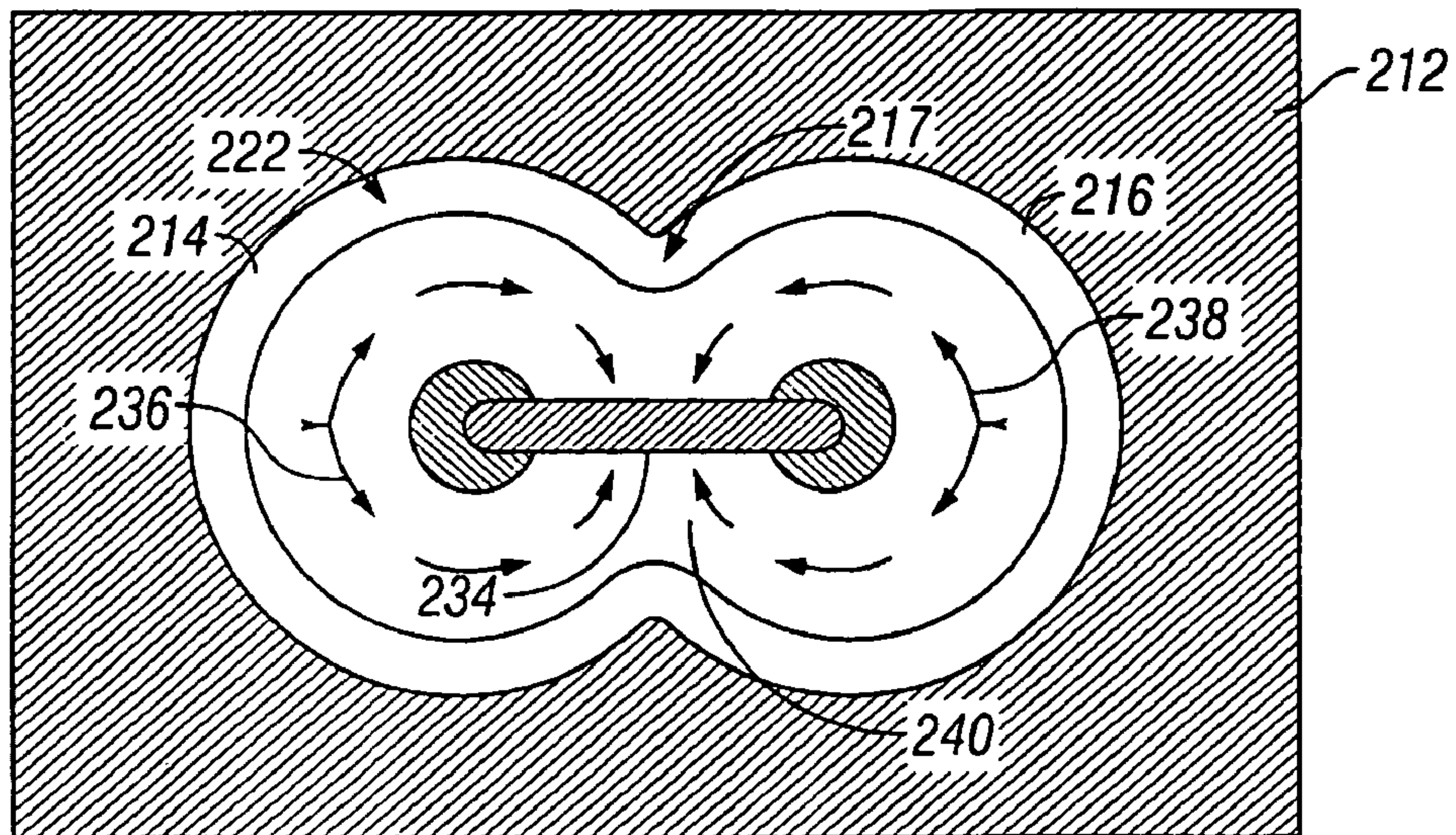


FIG. 9

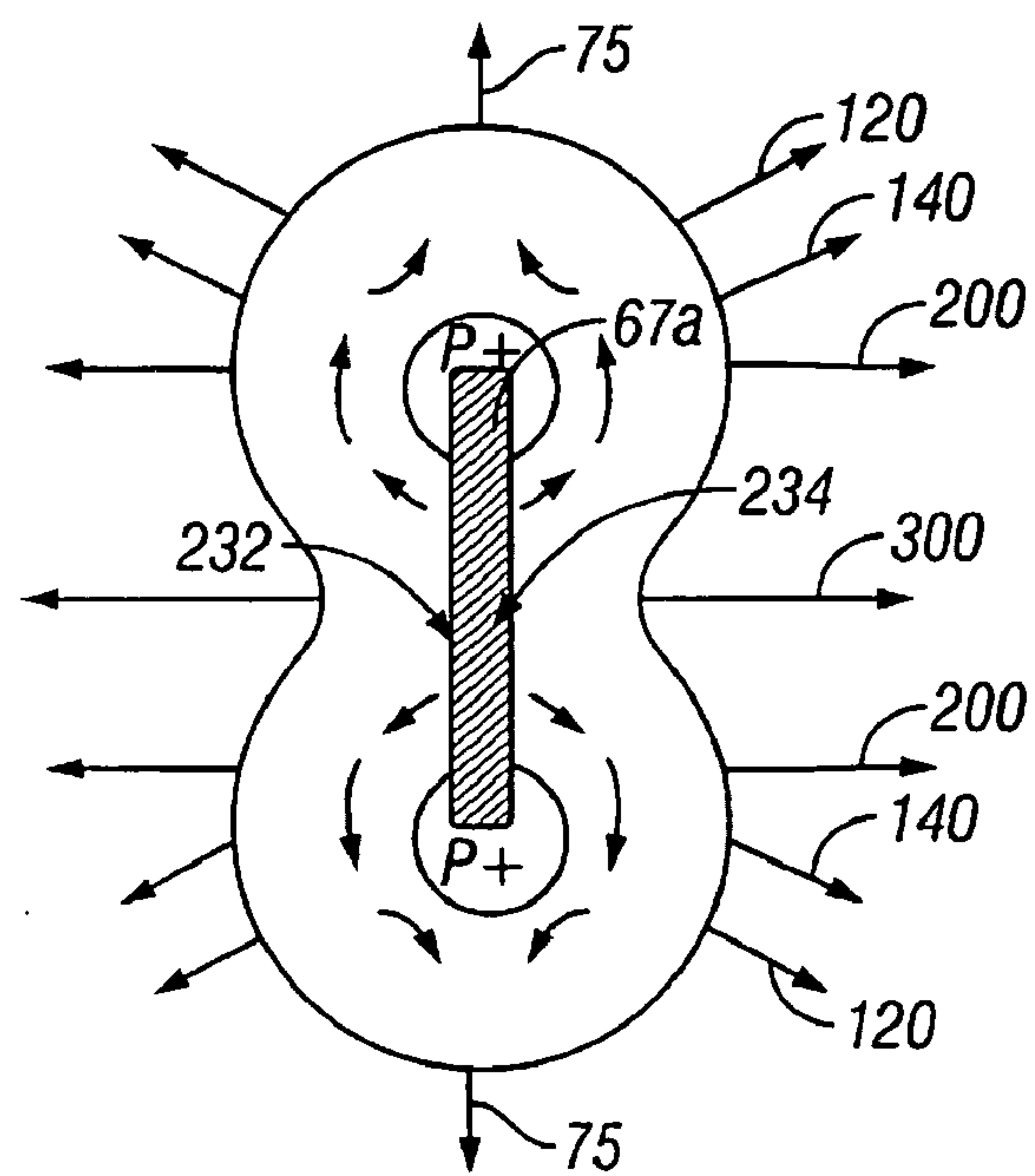


FIG. 10

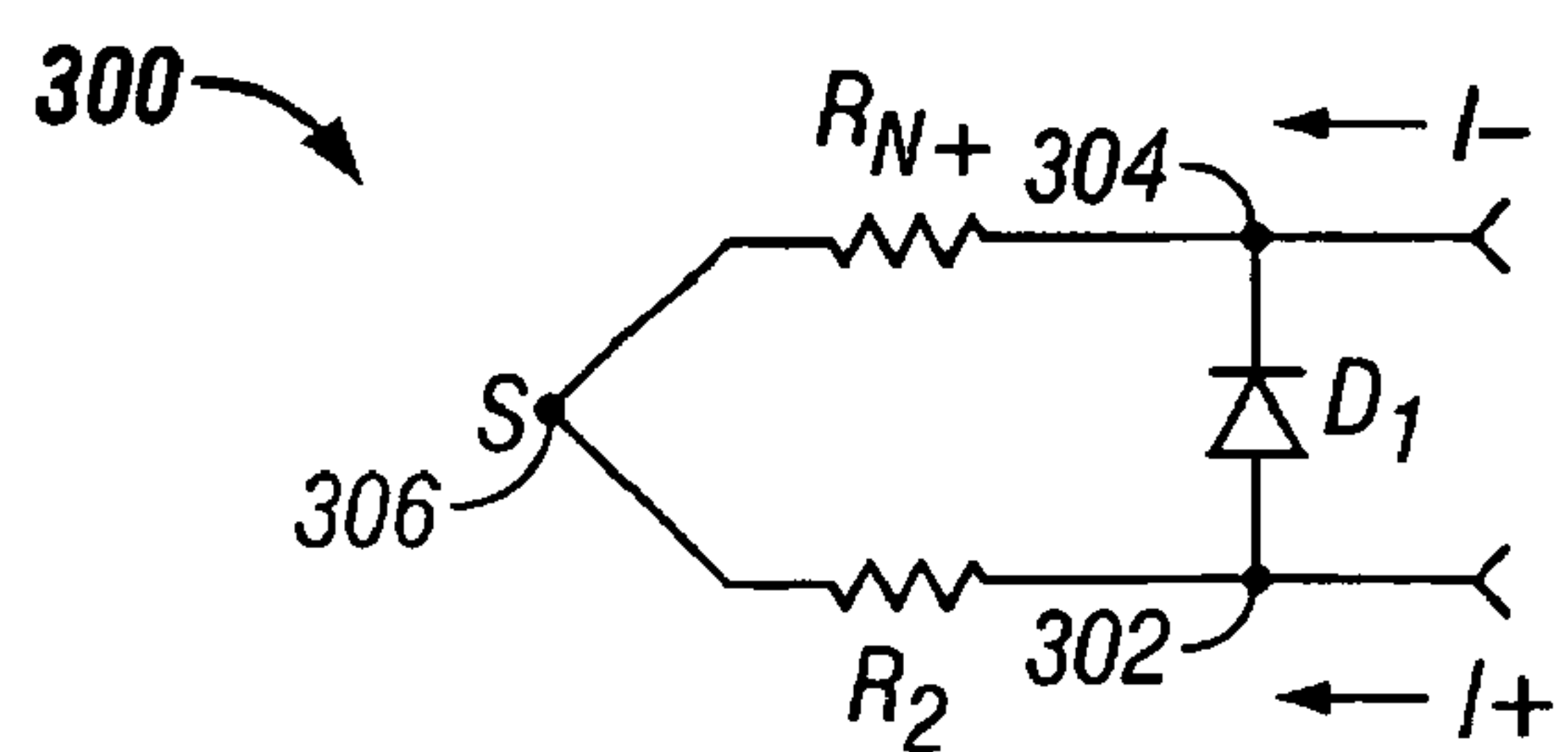


FIG. 11

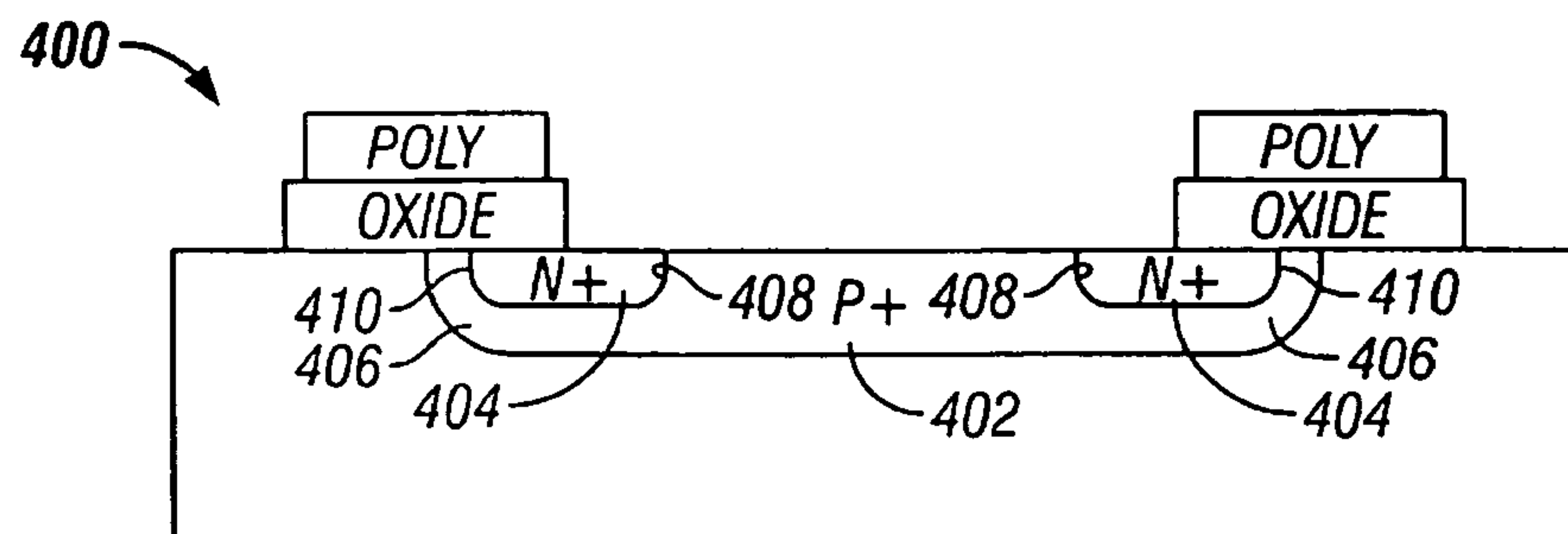


FIG. 12

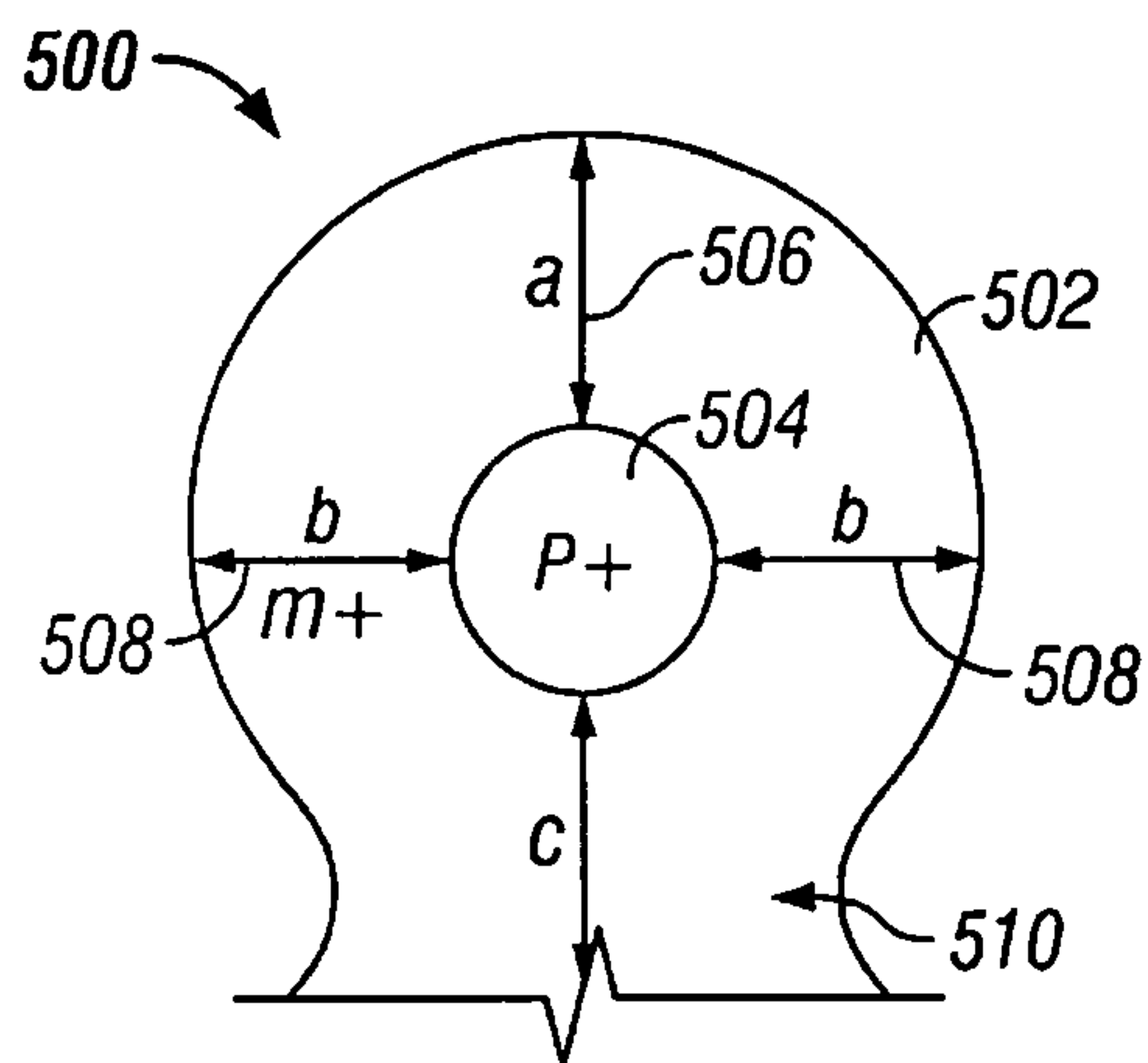


FIG. 13

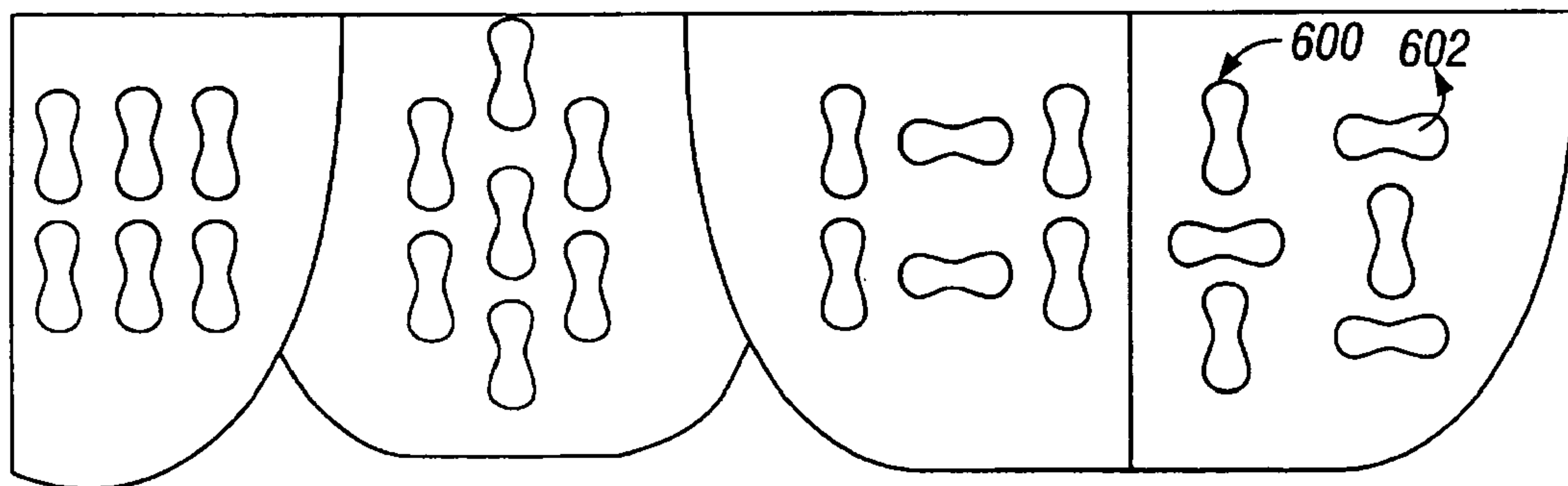


FIG. 14A

FIG. 14B

FIG. 14C

FIG. 14D

RUGGED AND FAST POWER MOSFET AND IGBT

Matter enclosed in heavy brackets [] appears in the original patent but forms no part of this reissue specification; matter printed in italics indicates the additions made by reissue.

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/317,823, filed on Sep. 7, 2001, which is incorporated by reference herein for all purposes.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to power semiconductor devices.

Power metal oxide semiconductor (MOS) transistors and insulated gate bipolar transistors (IGBTs) can be grouped as either enhancement-mode or depletion-mode devices. Depletion-mode devices inherently include a pair of P/N junctions that form a parasitic bipolar transistor. Generally, it is preferable to prevent the parasitic transistor from being turned on during operation of the power devices, so that the switching speed of the device is not degraded. Also, if the parasitic transistor does turn on, the primary bipolar device may become latched in the on state that may result in destruction of the device.

As used herein, the term "power device" or "power semiconductor device" refers to the power MOS transistor, an IGBT, or other power switching devices.

Attempts have been made to minimize the likelihood of turning on the parasitic transistor. One method has been to short the source electrode of the MOS device to the body region of the device. This effectively shorts the base and emitter of the parasitic transistor together at the surface of the device. However, because of series resistance in the device body, other portions of the base and emitter are not shorted but have a relatively high impedance bridging the two elements. A highly doped region can be added to reduce the effective resistance of the bridging impedance. Another method has been to provide a resistive path between a source contact area and a channel section to provide a ballast voltage, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 4,860,072, which is incorporated by reference herein for all purposes.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one embodiment, a power semiconductor device includes a substrate having an upper surface and a lower surface. A source region of first conductivity is formed within a well region of second conductivity. The source region is provided proximate to the upper surface of the substrate. The well region has a non-polygon design. A gate electrode overlies the upper surface of the substrate. A drain electrode is provided proximate to the lower surface of the substrate.

In another embodiment, a power device includes a substrate having an upper surface and a lower surface. A plurality of cells are provided proximate to the upper surface of the substrate. The cells have non-polygon shapes and include source regions defining narrow electrical path within the cells. A drain electrode is provided proximate to the lower surface of the surface.

In yet another embodiment, a power semiconductor device includes a substrate having an upper surface and a lower surface. A source region of N conductivity is formed within a well region of P conductivity. The source region is provided proximate to the upper surface of the substrate and has a first circular path, a second circular path, and a connecting portion connecting the first and second circular paths. A gate electrode overlies the upper surface of the substrate. A drain electrode is provided proximate to the lower surface of the substrate. The connecting portion is configured to provide an increase resistance in the source region. The well region has substantially no linear dimension.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates a schematic cross-sectional view of a power MOS transistor.

FIG. 2 illustrates a schematic diagram of a simplified equivalent circuit for the power MOS transistor of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a schematic cross-sectional view of a power semiconductor device or power MOS transistor according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 illustrates a schematic top view of the power MOS transistor of FIG. 3.

FIGS. 5-8B illustrate a method of forming a power semiconductor device or power MOS transistor according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 9 illustrates a flow of electrical current in a power semiconductor device or power MOS transistor according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 10 illustrates a flow of electrons in a power semiconductor device or power MOS transistor according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 11 illustrates a schematic diagram of a simplified equivalent circuit for a power semiconductor device or power MOS transistor according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 12 is a schematic cross-sectional view of a power semiconductor device or power MOS transistor according to another embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 13 is a schematic top view of a power semiconductor device or power MOS transistor having varying channel widths according to another embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 14A-14D are schematic top views of power semiconductor devices or power MOS transistors having various different cell arrangements according to another embodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SPECIFIC EMBODIMENTS

FIG. 1 shows a schematic representation of a power MOS transistor (MOSFET) 20. The MOSFET depicted is a double diffused N channel vertical enhancement mode MOSFET suitable for certain power applications. A single power transistor or device typically includes several hundred to several thousand low-current cells coupled in parallel to form a transistor having high current capabilities. Each cell includes a source electrode in the form of a source metallization 36 surrounded by a gate electrode 34. All the cells are coupled to a common drain electrode 38 that is formed at the bottom of the die. A single cell can function alone as a low current MOSFET. FIG. 1 shows approximately one and one-half cells 46.

MOSFET 20 is fabricated from a silicon wafer which is heavily doped N+. A lightly doped N- epitaxial layer 24 is

formed on the N+ substrate **22**. A thin oxide layer is formed on which a silicon nitride layer is deposited and patterned to define the active area. Then, the gate oxide is formed on which polysilicon **34** is deposited and patterned to define the P well area. Then, using the polysilicon as a mask, a shallow and light P doping is performed by ion implantation, followed by a heavier and deeper P+ implant step. A single diffusion step is then performed to form regions **28** and **26**, respectively. An oxide layer **32**, having a central opening associated with each cell, functions as a diffusion mask for P diffusion **28**. As shown in FIG. 1, diffusion **28** migrates laterally under the oxide and polysilicon layer to form a short channel section **28a** that extends around the periphery of the cell.

Diffusion **28** is followed by an N+ diffusion **30** utilizing an oxide mask. Diffusion **30** also extends laterally under the oxide and polysilicon layer, but to a lesser extent than diffusion **28**. Channel region **28a** is formed under oxide layer **32**, intermediate N+ region **30** and epitaxial N- layer **24**. N+ region **30**, which abuts the top surface of the wafer, forms the source region of the cell. A segment of P+ region **26** extends up through N+ region **30** to form a contact area for the body section of the cell. A source metallization **36** is formed over the exposed portion of the N+ source region **30** and P+ body region of each cell so as to provide a common source electrode. The highly doped silicon in combination with a metallization layer forms an ohmic (substantially non-rectifying) contact.

The polysilicon functions as a gate **34** and is positioned over channel region **28a** and is insulated from the channel region by oxide layer **32**. Gate electrode **34** extends over the surface of the device so as to form a common gate electrode for all cells **46** of the device. A metallization layer **38** is formed on the back of the die to form a drain electrode common to each cell **46** of the device.

When a positive potential is applied to the gate electrode **34**, with respect to source electrode **36**, electrons in body region **28** are attracted to the gate electrode. The excess electrons cause the channel region **28a** immediately below the gate electrode to invert from P to N type conductivity, thereby forming an electrical path between the source and drain. When the gate potential is removed, the inversion layer disappears and section **28a** is no longer conductive.

The FIG. 1 device is plagued with a parasitic bipolar transistor that is in parallel with the MOS device. In the case of the N channel MOS device **20**, the parasitic transistor is an NPN transistor. Source region **30**, regions **26/28**, and regions **22/24** form the emitter, base, and collector of the transistor, respectively. If the MOS device is P channel, the parasitic transistor would be a PNP transistor.

FIG. 2 schematically depicts the relationship between an N channel MOS transistor **56**, corresponding to the MOS transistor **20**, and an parasitic NPN bipolar transistor **60** associated with the MOS transistor **56**. The drain and collector of the two respective devices are effectively shorted, as are the source and emitter. The base (MOS body) of the bipolar transistor is connected to the emitter (MOS source) through an effective resistance represented by resistor **R1**.

If current through resistor **R1** is sufficiently large to forward bias the emitter/base junction of transistor **60** (about 0.7 volts), transistor **60** will turn on. This may occur because of current coupled to resistor **R1** by way of the effective drain region **24** to body region **26/28** junction capacitance. If parasitic transistor **60** is permitted to turn on while MOS transistor **56** is conducting, the relatively slow turn-off time of the bipolar device would degrade the operation of the MOS device. In some instances, the MOS device may even be destroyed.

FIG. 3 shows a schematic cross-sectional representation of a power MOS transistor (MOSFET) **100** according to one embodiment of the present invention. A single power transistor or device typically includes a plurality of low-current cells, e.g., thousands or more, coupled in parallel to form a transistor having high current capabilities. Each cell includes a source electrode in the form of a source electrode surrounded by a gate electrode, generally of polysilicon material. All the cells are coupled to a common drain electrode that is formed at the bottom of the die. A single cell, as shown in FIG. 3, can function alone as a low current MOSFET. The cells in the MOS device **100** is provided with a source region having a significant resistance R_{N+} to prevent forward biasing of and turning on the emitter/base regions of the parasitic transistor.

Power MOS device **100** is formed on an N+ substrate **102** on which an N- layer **104** is provided, e.g., by epitaxial growth. Alternatively, a MOS device may be formed on an N+ substrate that does not have an N- layer thereon. Referring back to MOS device **100**, a P well region **106** is formed within N- layer **104**. The P well region includes a P+ region **108** formed at a relatively deeper region and a P- region **110** formed at a relatively shallower region. An N+ well region or source region **112** (denoted as a left portion **112a**, a center portion **112b**, and right portion **112c**) is formed within the P well region. Although the source region appears as three discrete regions in FIG. 3, it is a continuous region to provide a continuous electrical path, as will be explained later.

A source electrode **114** is formed over an upper surface of the substrate and contacts center portion **112b** of the source region and a portion of P well region **106**. A gate electrode **116**, generally of polysilicon, is provided at the periphery of P well region **106** overlying the upper surface of the substrate. The gate electrode is electrically isolated from the substrate and P well region by a lower oxide layer **118** and from the source electrode by an upper oxide layer **120**. A channel region **122** is provided in the P well region below the gate electrode, so that an electrical path may be formed therein when a sufficient voltage is applied to the gate electrode. A drain electrode **124** is provided at a lower surface of the substrate.

FIG. 4 depicts a schematic top view of the MOS device of FIG. 3 that has been delayered to show N+ well region **112** having portions **112a**, **112b** and **112c** and P well region **106** having P+ region and P- region **110**. P well region **106**, representing the shape of a cell in MOS device **100**, has a non-polygon design and substantially no sharp edges. In one embodiment, the P well region resembles the shape of a peanut or two overlapping circles. The P well region is substantially bounded by a polysilicon layer or gate electrode **116**. The N+ region is formed within the P well region and has a non-polygon design. In particular, the N+ region is configured to resemble the shape of figure 8, where the centers of the two circular regions or lobes are of different conductivity; i.e., they are part of the P well region. Accordingly, the P well region bounds the N+ well region outwardly and inwardly, so that a narrow, extended electrical path is provided to increase the resistance of the N+ well or source region to prevent the parasitic transistor from turning on, as explained in more detail subsequently.

FIGS. 5-9 illustrate a fabrication process of MOS device **100** according to one embodiment of the present invention. A silicon substrate **202** having an N+ conductivity is provided, whereon a lightly doped N- epitaxial layer **204** is formed. A thin oxide layer **206** is formed on an upper surface of the N- layer. A silicon nitride layer **208** is deposited and patterned (FIG. 5). The oxide layer, in turn, is patterned using the

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patterned nitride layer to define the active area (FIG. 6A). A polysilicon layer **210** is deposited over the patterned oxide layer. The polysilicon layer is patterned to have an opening **211** and define a gate electrode **212** that corresponds to the gate electrode **116**. In another embodiment, the polysilicon layer **210** may be formed over an unpatterned oxide layer, so that the polysilicon is patterned before the oxide layer.

Referring to FIG. 6B, the shape of the opening defined by the pattern polysilicon layer or gate electrode **212** is a non-polygon, e.g., a peanut or two-overlapping circles. The opening includes a first substantially circular region or first circular lobe **214** and a second substantially circular region or second circular lobe **216** that together define an initial shape of a P+ well region to be formed. The opening further includes a narrow connecting region **217**. Its narrow width provides an increased the resistance in the N+ well region that is formed on top of the P well region, as explained in more detail later. In one embodiment, the connecting region may have a non-curved feature **217'** as in FIG. 6C. During the diffusion step, the non-curved feature is made to substantially resemble connecting region **217** due to the outward movement of the dopants. A power MOS device, such as MOS device **100**, has an array of such openings in the polysilicon layer, either equally spaced from each other or in a nonsymmetrical array. These openings correspond to cells of the MOS device.

Referring to FIGS. 6A and 6B, P type dopants, e.g., boron, are implanted lightly or at a first concentration level into opening **211** using a relatively low energy to form a shallow P- region **218**. As a next step, P type dopants are implanted into selected regions of the opening at a second or greater concentration using a relatively high energy to implant the dopants deeper into the N- layer, thereby forming P+ regions **220** (FIGS. 7A and 7B). A P well region **222** comprise these two regions: the P- and P+ regions.

The substrate is annealed to drive or diffuse the dopants in the P- and P+ regions. The dopants are driven vertically and horizontally in the N- layer; i.e., P well region **222** expands outwardly. As a result, a portion of the P well region extends underneath the gate electrode **212** to form a channel region, e.g., channel region **122** in FIG. 3, of the MOS device.

In the present embodiment, P+ regions **220** are provided to reduce the effective base resistance of the parasitic transistor to prevent it from being turned on during the operation of the MOS device. In one embodiment, the dopants from the P+ regions penetrate the MOS channel region to increase the threshold voltage of the device. A MOS device having a higher threshold voltage has higher noise immunity in power electronic circuits since it would require noise having higher energy to trigger the device on.

FIG. 8A depicts a schematic cross-sectional view of a cell in a partially completed MOS device, whereon an N+ region or source region is formed within the P well region. N dopants are implanted using relatively low energy to form a doped region abutting the upper surface of the N- layer. FIG. 8B depicts a schematic top view of FIG. 8A illustrating an N+ well region **224** that is configured to have a shape of the figure 8. That is, the N+ well region includes a first circular lobe **226** and a second circular lobe **228** that have been converted to an N type well. Each circular lobe is bounded inside by a portion of the P well region that has not been converted to a N type well.

In one embodiment, the portion of P well region **222** that has not been converted to the N type is positioned substantially at the center of each circular lobe **226**. A blocking mask, e.g., a patterned oxide layer **230**, is used to block the N dopants from being implanted at the central areas of the circular lobes **226** and **228**. The N+ well region, accordingly,

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is provided with two circular electrical path that is coupled at a connecting region **232** corresponding to center portion **112b** of the source region **112** in FIG. 3.

A source electrode (not shown) makes a contact **234** with the source region or N+ well region at the connecting region **232** and portions of the P well region (FIG. 9). A drain electrode (not shown) is formed at a lower surface of the substrate. Accordingly, MOS device **100** of FIG. 3 is formed. The fabrication process described above is merely one of plurality of methods that may be used to fabricate the MOS device. Other fabrication process having different sequence of steps or slightly different steps may be used.

Referring to FIGS. 3 and 9, electricity flows from drain electrode **124** through channel region **122**, through source region **224**, and exits to the source electrode **114** via the contact **234** contacting the source region at the connecting region **112b** or **232**. The source region having a shape of the figure 8 has two relatively narrow, elongated electrical paths **236** and **238** that add to on resistance of the source region. In addition, the narrow connecting region **217** of the P well region and a corresponding narrow connecting region **240** of the source region crowds the electrons flowing in electrical paths **236** and **238** which further increases the resistance of the source region. This resistance adds extra source ballasting effect that provides a more rugged power MOS device, as explained in more detail later in connection with FIG. 11.

FIG. 10 illustrates the flow of current in the cell in another way for further clarification. The electron flow streams from the source electrode **114** via its contact **234** at the connecting region **232**. The flow divides into two streams, one for each circular lobe of the source region. The electrons flow out of the source region through the channel region that is formed under the polysilicon gate when the device is turned on. As the electrons flow further away from the central region **232**, there are less and less electrons left since they are siphoned off to the surrounding P well region or channel. The net effect is that the flow of electrons through the MOS channel of said MOS cell is not uniform. This non-uniform electron flow through the channel is represented in FIG. 10 by the arrows that are pointing outward. The sizes of arrows represent approximately, not to scale, the electron current flow in the corresponding channel region. The numbers provided next to the arrows represent approximate magnitudes of the electron currents.

FIG. 11 depicts a schematic equivalent circuit **300** of the MOS device **100** according to one embodiment of the present invention. Diode D1 represents the base/emitter junction of the parasitic transistor. A node **302**, at the diode D1 anode, is located at the channel region **122** of the device. Node **302** is coupled to the source metallization **114** at a node **306** through resistance R2 resulting from the P+ and P regions **108** and **110**. Current flow through resistance R2 is in the form of positive (hole) carriers since the flow is through material of P type conductivity, and is represented accordingly by I+.

In addition, a significant series resistance R_{N+} is provided between nodes **304** and **306**. This resistance is formed in the N+ source region **112**. The narrow current paths **236** and **238** and the narrow connecting region **240** contributes to the increased resistance of R_{N+} . The current path from the contact **234** and the channel regions at the tips of the source regions are extended by the P well region provided at the central area of the circular lobes of the source region. Current flow through resistance R_{N+} is in the form of negative (electron) carriers and is represented accordingly by I-.

The electron flow I- through resistance R_{N+} creates a voltage drop which opposes the drop across resistance R2 and thus tends to reverse bias diode D1 thereby causing the para-

sitic transistor to remain turned off. Without resistance R_{N+} , the diode D1 is more likely to be forward biased and then turn on the parasitic transistor, thereby degrading the operation of the MOS device.

FIG. 12 depicts a cross-section of a MOS device 400 having a modified P+ region 402, so that it abuts an N+ region 404 according to another embodiment of the present invention. The N+ region or source region is provided on an upper surface of the P+ region of a P well region. Providing P+ region under the N+ region increases the selective compensation of the P+ doping with the N+ doping, the N+ region with higher resistance in areas where there is relatively high carrier compensation, which is in the vicinity close to the central area of the cell.

As a result, the depth of the N+ or source region varies as one moves from the center of P+ region 402 to a channel region 406. The N+ region at a first end 408 and a second end 410 have different depth. The first end 408 proximate to the center of P+ region 402 is shallower than the second end remote from the center of P+ region 402. The shallower, first end has relatively higher sheet resistance than the deeper, second end 410, thereby creating an added degree of ballasting effect for increased device ruggedness. In other words, the varying depths of the source region provides selectively higher resistance in a portion of the source region that are removed from the channel region. This configuration may be used to control the resistance in the N+ layer (or R_{N+} of FIG. 11) without significantly influencing the portion of the N+ region that acts as the source of the respective channel region.

Referring to FIG. 13, a MOS device 500 includes an N+ region 502 having varying width around a P well region 504 according to one embodiment of the present invention. An upper portion 506 of the N+ region has a first width, a side portion 508 has a second width, and a lower portion 510 has a third width. In one embodiment, the first, second and third widths are different or substantially the same. In another embodiment, the first width is smaller than the second width, and the second width is smaller than the third width. Alternatively, the second width and the third width may be substantially the same. A reduced width may be provided at the upper portion of the source region since the current at that part of the cell is the smallest, as shown by FIG. 10. The width along various parts of the source region may be adjusted according to the current magnitude indicated by FIG. 10 to from a MOS device having a smaller cell size or smaller overall P well region, which reduces the output capacitance of the device and improves its switching efficiency in high frequency operation.

FIGS. 14A-14D illustrate various the arrangements the non-polygon cell array configuration according to one embodiment of the present invention. The cells may be arranged in a substantially equal distance from each other or in variable distances from each other. The density of these cells can vary in different segment of said power MOSFET or IGBT according to the desired performance of the device. The cells can be packed at a higher density along the periphery of the device and at a lower density in the central areas of the device. Furthermore, the angular rotation of the cells relative to each other can also be varied. For example, FIG. 14D shows a 90 degree relative rotation of a cell 600 vs. a cell 602. The neighboring cells can be rotated at 60 degrees or 30 degrees to achieve the desired device performance. These geometrical degrees of freedom enable the designer to optimize the performance of the devices to breakdown voltage range, on resistance, capacitance, switching speed, and the like.

While the invention has been particularly illustrated and described with reference to specific embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that the foregoing and other changes in the form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Therefore, the scope of this invention should not be limited to the embodiments described above, and should instead be defined by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A power semiconductor device, comprising:
 - a substrate having an upper surface and a lower surface;
 - a source region of first conductivity formed within a continuous well region of second conductivity, the source region provided proximate to the upper surface of the substrate, the source region having a first region, a second region, and a third region, the well region having a non-polygon design *in a shape of one of a peanut or two overlapping circles*;
 - first and second gate electrodes overlying the upper surface of the substrate; and
 - a drain electrode provided proximate to the lower surface of the substrate,
 wherein the first region of the source region and the first gate electrode define a first channel, and the second region of the source region and the second gate electrode define a second channel[.],
 - wherein the first and second channels are defined within the well region.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the well region is a P well region and the source region is an N well region.
- [3. The device of claim 1, wherein the well region has a shape of peanut or two overlapping circles.]
4. The device of claim 1, wherein a plurality of the well regions are provided proximate to the upper surface wherein a plurality of the source regions are provided.
5. The device of claim 4, wherein the plurality of the well regions define cells of the power device, the cells being coupled to the drain electrode.
6. The device of claim 1, wherein the [gate electrode is] *first and second gate electrodes are formed by a patterned polysilicon layer, the [gate electrode having an opening that is substantially non-polygon] first and second gate electrodes defining an opening that is substantially non-polygonal.*
7. The device of claim 1, wherein the source region is an N+ region having a shape of figure 8.
8. The device of claim [7] 1, wherein the *source region is an N+ region and includes two circular lobes, each lobe having an outer perimeter and an inner perimeter that are both bounded by the well region to define a circular electron current path.*
9. The device of claim 8, wherein the well region includes a P+ region and a P region, wherein the P+ region is provided deeper into the substrate than the P region.
10. The device of claim 9, wherein the source region is provided overlying the P+ region.
11. The device of claim 1, wherein the well region includes a first circular lobe, a second circular lobe, and a connecting region joining the first and second lobes, wherein the connecting region is substantially narrower than a diameter of the first or second lobe to provide an electrical crowding effect at the connecting region.
12. A power device, comprising:
 - a substrate having an upper surface and a lower surface;
 - a plurality of cells provided proximate to the upper surface of the substrate, the cells having non-polygon shapes and including source regions defining narrow electrical path within the cells; and

a drain electrode provided proximate to the lower surface of the [surface] *substrate*, wherein the source region is formed within a continuous well region *having a shape of one of a peanut or two overlapping circles*, the source region including a *first* portion, a second portion, and a third portion, the first portion defining a first circular path, the second portion defining a second circular path, the third portion connecting the first and second circular paths to define a continuous current path.

13. A power semiconductor device, comprising:
a substrate having an upper surface and a lower surface;
a source region of N conductivity formed within a well region of P conductivity, the source region provided proximate to the upper surface of the substrate and having a first circular path, a second circular path, and a connecting portion connecting the first and second circular paths;

a gate electrode overlying the upper surface of the substrate; and

a drain electrode provided proximate to the lower surface of the substrate,

wherein the connecting portion is configured to provided an increase resistance in the source region,

wherein the well region has smooth profiles without angular edges *and is formed in a shape of one of a peanut or two overlapping circles*.

[14. The device of claim 13, wherein the well region has a shape of peanut or two overlapping circles.]

15. The device of claim 13, wherein the well region includes a first circular section, a second circular section, and a connecting section connecting the first and second circular sections, wherein the connecting section has a width that is substantially less than the a diameter of the first or second circular section.

16. The device of claim 15, wherein the well region defines a cell of the power device, where the power device has a plurality of cells.

17. The device of claim 13, wherein the gate electrode is polysilicon and is patterned to define the well region.

18. The device of claim 17, wherein the gate electrode includes an opening having a first circular opening, a second circular opening, and a connecting portion opening, wherein the connecting portion opening has a linear dimension.

19. The device of claim 13, wherein at least one path of the source region has a varying depth.

20. The device of claim 19, wherein the at least one path includes an inner side having a first depth and an outer side having a second depth, the outer side being proximate to a channel region of the device, the first depth being less than second depth.

[21. A power semiconductor device, comprising:
a substrate having an upper surface and a lower surface;
a source region of first conductivity formed within a continuous well region of second conductivity, the source region provided proximate to the upper surface of the substrate, the source region having a first region, a second region, and a third region;

first and second gate electrodes overlying the upper surface of the substrate; and

a drain electrode provided proximate to the lower surface of the substrate,

wherein the first region of the source region and the first gate electrode define a first channel, and the second region of the source region and the second gate electrode define a second channel.]

[22. The power device of claim 21, wherein the first, second, and third regions are a continuous region formed with the region and define a continuous path.]

[23. The power device of claim 21, wherein the well region includes a P+ region and a P region, wherein the P+ region is provided deeper into the substrate than the P region.]

24. A power semiconductor device, comprising:

a substrate having an upper surface and a lower surface;

a source region of N conductivity formed within a well region of P conductivity *having one of a peanut shape or two overlapping circles*, and the source region includes two circular regions, the source region provided proximate to the upper surface of the substrate and having a first circular path, a second circular path, and a connecting portion connecting the first and second circular paths;

a gate electrode overlying the upper surface of the substrate, the gate electrode including an opening having a first circular opening, a second circular opening, and a connecting portion opening, wherein the connecting portion opening has a linear dimension and is configured to provided an increase resistance in the source region; and

a drain electrode provided proximate to the lower surface of the substrate.

25. A power semiconductor device, comprising:

a substrate having an upper surface and a lower surface;
a P-well region formed by using a mask having a non-polygon-shaped opening, the P-well being provided proximate the upper surface of the substrate, wherein the P-well region has a shape of a peanut or two overlapping circles;

an N-type source region formed within P-well and having a first region, a second region, and a third region;
at least one gate electrode overlying the upper surface of the substrate; and

a drain electrode provided proximate to the lower surface of the substrate.

26. The device of claim 25, wherein the first region of the source region is associated with a first channel, and the second region of the source region is associated with a second channel, and wherein the first and second channels are defined within the P-well region.

27. The device of claim 25, wherein the mask used to form the P-well region comprises a patterned polysilicon layer.

28. The device of claim 27, wherein the patterned polysilicon layer defines the gate electrode, and wherein the P-well is formed by implanting P-type dopant through the opening of the mask.

29. The device of claim 28, wherein the source region has a non-polygon shape, and the opening in the patterned polysilicon includes a first circular region and a second circular region.

30. The device of claim 29, wherein the well-region has a peanut shape and the source region includes two circular regions.

31. The device of claim 25, wherein the opening in the mask defines the opening of a first circular section and a second circular section, and wherein the P-well is formed by implanting P-type dopants through the opening of the mask.

32. The device of claim 31, wherein the opening in the mask has a peanut shape.

33. The device of claim 31, wherein the source region has a non-polygon shape.

34. The device of claim 33, wherein the source region has a shape of a figure 8.