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## Description

### TECHNICAL FIELD

The invention relates to containers of the type used for packaging and shipping goods in bulk and is collapsible to reduce the space required for them to be shipped after use by stacking the empty compacted containers.

### BACKGROUND ART

Durable collapsible or foldable container assemblies have been used by the shipping and packaging industries. An example of such containers is disclosed in United States Patent No. 4,591,065 to Dennis M. Foy. This foldable container includes a molded plastic base having four side walls extending vertically upward from each side of the base. The walls are vertically spaced for folding one side wall over the base and another side wall over the former one and into overlapping vertical spaced relationship to one another. The hinges on two of the side walls have an associated link having slots therein for allowing the side wall to move vertically relative to the base for locking and unlocking the walls from one another. Also, the tops of the side walls have projections for coacting with legs extending from the base to relatively position and stack the containers one upon another.

The deficiency in such containers is that the base only has legs extending downwardly and outwardly from it, and no means is provided for guiding the forks of a forked lift into the base for raising and lowering the container assembly. Moreover, the tops of the side walls must include a projection which coacts with the legs to stack the container assembly on the tops of the side walls only.

DE-A-3,500,427 describes a foldable container assembly having the features of the preamble of Claim 1. Such a construction requires manual latching of the door provided in one of the side walls of the container.

EP-A-0,211,116 describes a collapsible container which also incorporates manually operable latches similar in operation to those of DE-A-3,500,427.

### STATEMENT OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES

The invention seeks to provide an improved foldable container assembly which facilitates erection of the container in practical situations.

The invention provides a foldable container assembly as claimed in Claim 1.

Preferred embodiments of the invention are included in the claims 2 to 8.

### FIGURES IN THE DRAWINGS

Other advantages of the present invention will be readily appreciated as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the container with the walls in a vertically locked position;

Figure 2 is a perspective view wherein a door in the first wall has been unlocked and folded outward;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the folded container taken from substantially the same angle as Figure 2;

Figure 4 is an enlarged plan view of the wall locking means with adjacent side walls locked in the vertical position;

FIGURE 5 is an enlarged elevational view of the wall locking means in the locked position; and

FIGURE 6 is a perspective view of the underside of the base for stacking the container.

FIGURE 7 is an enlarged exploded view of the hinge means illustrating the interaction of the tongue and groove hinge.

FIGURE 8 is a cross-sectional view taken substantially along lines 8-8 of FIGURE 7.

FIGURE 9 is a cross-sectional view taken substantially along lines 9-9 of FIGURE 7.

FIGURE 10 is a cross-sectional view taken substantially along lines 10-10 of FIGURE 7.

FIGURE 11 is an enlarged top plan view of the door locking means with the door locked in the vertical closed position.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

A foldable or collapsible container assembly is generally shown at 10 in Figure 1. The assembly 10 includes a base, generally indicated at 12, and a plurality of sides or side walls 14, 16, 18, 20 with at least one side wall 14, 16, 18, 20 extending vertically upwardly from each side of the base 12. The tops 22 of the side walls 14, 16, 18, 20 are all aligned in a horizontal plane as shown in Figure 1. The assembly 10 includes wall hinge means, generally indicated at 24, interconnecting each of the side walls 14, 16, 18, 20 to the base 12 with the wall hinge means 24 for a first side wall 14, being in a vertically spaced horizontal plane from the wall hinge means 24 for a second side wall 16 for folding the first 14 and second 16 side walls over the base 12 and into overlapping vertically spaced relationship to one another.

The wall hinge means 24 includes a series of tongue and grooves along the bottom edge of the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20 and the top edge of the

base 12 wherein the tongues of the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20 are disposed in the grooves of the base 12 and visa versa, as shown in Figure 7. The wall hinge means 24 further includes a series of hinge holes or apertures 26 along the bottom edge of the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20 and the top edge of the base 12 in the tongue and groove arrangement. A rod 28 is disposed in the apertures 26 of the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20 and the base 12 and has a lock washer 30 on each end thereof to secure the tongues in the grooves and to allow pivotal movement of the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20 relative to the base 12. In other words, a rod 28 is disposed in a series of apertures 26 along the bottom edge of the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20 and the top edge of the base 12 to allow pivotal movement of the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20 relative to the base 12. The rod 28 may be a protruded fiber glass rod with a resin-enriched surface. The resin-enriched surface of the rod prolongs the life of the rod and prevents wear. The rod 28 is essentially unbreakable and is capable of sustaining substantial deformation without failure. As disposed in the hinge means 24, however, the rod 28 resists deformation because the stresses applied to it are isolated due to the tongue and groove arrangement. In other words, each tongue may apply a stress from internal or external forces only over a small cross section of the rod 28. The rod 28 resists the stresses over a small cross section and is substantially rigid as disposed in the hinge means 24. This adds strength to the hinge. Further, the tongue and groove of the hinge means 24 is arranged such that the thickness of the hinge means 24 at the base 12 is greater than the thickness of the hinge means 24 at the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20. More specifically, the tongue and groove of the base 12 may be as much as twice as thick or more than the tongue and groove of the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20. This arrangement is much stronger than previous hinges employed in collapsible containers and transforms an area of weakness into a strength. Figures 8, 9 and 10 illustrate the relationships between the apertures 26 in the base 12 and the rod 28 at various points along the tongue and groove hinge means 24.

The wall hinge means 24 for the first 14 and second 16 side walls lie in vertically spaced horizontal planes, whereas the wall hinge means 24 for the third 18 and fourth 20 of the side walls are in the same horizontal plane above the horizontal plane of the wall hinge means 24 for the second side wall 16. The third and fourth side walls 18, 20 extend from their associated hinge means 24 to the tops 22 thereof a distance less than one half the distance between the wall hinge means 24 for the third and fourth side walls 18, 20. That is to say, the opposing side walls 18 and 20 do not overlap when folded downward, instead lying flat on top of

the folded walls 14 and 16 as illustrated in Figure 3.

The assembly 10 includes interconnecting means, generally indicated at 32, for releaseably interconnecting the side edge of each side wall 14, 16, 18, 20 to the side edge of the adjacent side wall when in the vertical position. As illustrated in Figure 2, the interconnecting means 32 includes a plurality of vertically spaced lugs 34 disposed along one edge of one side wall and a lug receiving openings 36 disposed along the adjacent edge of the adjacent side wall opposite the spaced lugs 34. In operation, the side walls 18, 20 are raised to the vertical position and on either side wall 14 or 16 is directly pivotally rotated about the axis of the rod 28 of the wall hinge means 24 to the vertical position where the lug receiving openings 36 engage the spaced lugs 34. In other words, the side walls 14, 16, 18, 20 are pivoted from the folded position on the base 12 about the axis of the rod 28 to the vertical position and vice versa.

The side walls 14, 16, 18, 20 have planar interior sheets 30 with ribs generally indicated at 40 extending outwardly therefrom and in spaced relationship with respect to each other. The ribs 40 are disposed closer to one another at the tops 22 of the side walls 14, 16, 18, 20 and at the base 12 to provide greater support to the side walls, 14, 16, 18, 20 near these areas. More specifically, the ribs 40 include horizontal ribs 41 and vertical ribs 43. The horizontal ribs 41 are disposed vertically closer together at the tops 22 and at the base 12 and spaced further apart from one another near the middle of the side walls 14, 16, 18, 20. The vertical ribs 43 are disposed horizontally closer together at the tops 22 and at the base 12 and spaced further apart from one another near the middle of the side walls 14, 16, 18, 20. Further, a side wall 14, 16, 18, 20 may include diagonal ribs 45 extending diagonally across a portion of the walls 14, 16, 18, 20. Together, the ribs 40, 41, 43 and 45 form a support matrix for providing greater support at the tops 22 of the side walls 14, 16, 18, 20 and near the base 12 of the container assembly 10 and insures the structural integrity of the assembly 10 under various loading stresses.

The assembly 10 includes wall locking means generally indicated at 42, for releaseably locking the side edge of each side wall 14, 16, 18, 20 to the side edge of the adjacent side wall when in the vertical position. As illustrated in Figures 4 and 5, the wall locking means 42 includes a latch member 44 connected to at least one edge of the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20 by a fastening means such as welds 45 and having a projection 46 extending outwardly from one side thereof. Preferably, the side walls 14, 16, include a latch member 44 connected to both edges or sides of the side walls 14, 16. The wall

locking means 42 includes a longitudinal groove or slot 48 along the edge of an adjacent side wall opposite the projection 46 of the latch member 44. Preferably, the side walls 18, 20 include a longitudinal groove 48 along each side edge of the side walls 18, 20. The latch member 44 also includes a cavity portion 50. A biasing means 52 is disposed in the cavity portion 50 of the latch member 44 for biasing the projection 46 of the latch member 44 into engagement and disengagement with the groove 48. The biasing means 52 comprises a spring 52. The latch member 44 further includes a flange 54 acting as a handle to allow a person to manually actuate the latch member 44 by hand. In operation, the latch member 44 is slideably moved by engaging the flange 54 and moving the latch member 44 along the side wall 14, 16 in a plane substantially parallel to the side wall 14, 16 to move the projection 46 into engagement and disengagement with the groove 48 of the adjacent side wall 18, 20. This is known in the art as a "slam latch".

The assembly 10 further includes a door means, generally indicated at 58, disposed in an opening 60 in at least one of the side walls 14, 16, 18, 20 for opening and closing the opening 60 to allow access to the inside of the container assembly 10 through the side walls 14, 16, 18, 20 when the side walls 14, 16, 18, 20 are in the vertical position. In other words, when the container assembly 10 is stacked one upon another, the door means 58 disposed in the opening 60 of the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20 allows access to the inside of the container assembly 10 through the side walls 14, 16, 18, 20 when the side walls 14, 16, 18, 20 are in the vertical position. The door means 58 includes a door 62 disposed within the opening 60 of the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20 and a door hinge means, generally indicated at 64, connected to one, preferably the bottom, edge of the door 62 and the adjacent edge, preferably the bottom, of the opening 60 for allowing pivotal movement of the door 62 relative to the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20.

The door hinge means 64 includes a flexible C-shaped member 66 to allow the door 62 to pivot outwardly with respect to the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20 as illustrated in Figure 2. In other words, the flexible C-shaped member has one 66 flange connected to the bottom of the opening 60 and the other flange connected to the bottom of the door 62 to allow the door 62 to be pivotally rotated from a closed position within the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20 to an open position outwardly from the container assembly 10. When the door 62 is in the fully open position, it extends downwards in a vertical plane which is adjacent the vertical plane of the side wall, 14, 16, 18, 20. When the door 62 is in the fully open position, it extends downwardly in a vertical

plane which is adjacent the vertical plane of the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20.

The assembly 10 includes a door locking means, generally indicated at 68, for releaseably engaging the door 62 with the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20 in a locked condition to prevent pivotal movement of the door 62 relative to the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20 and releaseably disengaging the door 62 from the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20 in an unlocked condition to allow pivotal movement of the door 62 relative to the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20. The door locking means 68 as shown in Figure 11 is similar to the wall locking means 42. The door locking means 68 includes a latch member 70 mounted on the door 62 and having projections 72 extending outwardly from one side thereof and slideably disposed in a groove 74 of the opening 60. The projections 72 are biased outwardly from the door 62 and into engagement with the groove 74 by a biasing means 73 such as a spring. The spring 73 is disposed between the door 62 and the latch member 70 and exerts a force on the latch member 70 to urge the projections 72 outward. The projection 72 include a chamfer 75 on its inward side nearest to the inside of the container assembly (10) and a flat side 77 which extends parallel to the side wall of the groove 74. Both the chamfer 75 and the flat side 77 are disposed at the distal end of the projection 72 and opposite one another. When the door 62 is in the vertical, upright, closed and locked position, the door may only be opened by manually disengaging the door locking means 68. This may occur by pulling the latch member 70 to place the spring 73 in further compression until the projection 72 has been retracted out of the groove 74. The door 62 may then be opened. However, closing the door 62 requires only that the door be shut with a sufficient force to drive the projection 72 into retraction when the chamfer 75 of the projection 72 comes into contact with the opening 60. Said another way, the door locking means 68 includes a snap-in feature attendant upon closing the door 62 but not upon opening the door 62. The chamfer facilitates the automatic retraction of the projection 72 upon closing the door 62 without manual manipulation of the latch member 70. After the projection 72 has been retracted and the door 62 placed in the fully upright and closed position, the projection 72 is urged into the groove 74 by the spring 73. Preferably, the door 62 includes a door latch member 70 on each side of the door 62 and an adjacent groove 74 along each side of the opening 60. The disposition of the latch member 70 on either side of the door 62 allows an operator to unlock the door 62 and control the door 62 as it opens without need to readjust or remove his grip on the door. Said another way, if the latch 70 was disposed on a side wall 14, 16, 18, 20

contrary to the subject invention, and the groove 74 located in the door 62, when an operator unlocked the door 62 by manipulating the latch member 70, the door would fall open freely and possibly strike the operator. The operator is less likely to control the door as it opens because his hands are located on the latch 70 of the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20 and not on the door 62 of the present invention. The present invention avoids this occurrence. The operation of the door locking means 68 is similar to the wall locking means 42. The opening 60 includes a flange 76 acting as a stop to prevent pivotal movement of the door 62 past the side wall 14, 16, 18, 20 to the inside of the container assembly 10.

The base 12 of the assembly 10 is generally convexed with respect to a flat support surface. Said another way, the base 12 is not generally flat or substantially parallel to a flat support surface. The base 12 includes a rigid top member 80 and a support means, generally indicated at 82, connected to the top member 80 for supporting the top member 80 upon a support surface and defining channels 84 therein for guiding the forks of a lifting means such as a forked lift into the channels 84 and for inserting the base 12 within the perimeter or opening formed by the side walls 14, 16, 18, 20 in the vertical position of another assembly 10 to allow vertical stacking of the container assemblies 10 one upon another. The support means 82 includes a corner support member 86 at each of the four corners of the top member 80 and a perimeter support element 88 near the perimeter of the top member 80 about midway between adjacent pairs of corner support elements 86, and a center support element 90 near the center of the top member 80. In other words, support elements 86, 88, and 90 are similar to legs extending downwardly from the top member 80 to space the top member 80 from a support surface. The support means 82 includes a spacer means, generally indicated at 92, for integrally interconnecting the corner support elements 86 and the perimeter support elements 88 and the center support element 90 to form a bottom member similar to the top member 80. Hence, the base 12 is similar to a pallet. The spacer means 92 structurally reinforces and supports the support elements 86, 88, 90 and forms a bottom member. Said another way, the spacer means 92 interconnects a corner support element 86 with a perimeter support element 88 and a center support element 90 with the perimeter support element 88 to form a bottom member substantially similar to the top member. The spacer means 92 includes a strip member 94 being defined as a plate. The strip member 94 is substantially the same width as the support elements 86, 88, and 90 to form four rectangular-like openings in

the bottom member. Both the top member 80 and strip member 94 include longitudinal slots 96 therein. The strip member 94 includes a flange 98 along one edge thereof extending downwardly and outwardly from the strip member 94 for abutting the interior edge of the side walls 14, 16, 18, 20 when the side walls 14, 16, 18, 20 are in the vertical position for vertically stacking the container assemblies 10 one upon another. In other words, the flange 98 of the strip member 94 forms a perimeter similar to the opening formed when the side walls 14, 16, 18, 20 are in the vertical position so that the flange 98 fits inside the opening to prevent movement of the container assembly 10 when vertically stacking the container assemblies 10 upon one another. Accordingly, any combination of folded and unfolded containers may be stacked upon one another.

The corner support element 86 and the perimeter support element 88 define a pair of forked channels 84 for receiving and guiding the forks of a forked lift for mechanically raising and lowering the container assembly 10. The corner support elements 86 and the perimeter support elements 88 each have planar exterior side surfaces 100 along the perimeter of the top member 80 and parallel interior surfaces 102 extending diagonally inwardly from the exterior side surfaces 100 to guide the forks of the forked lift in the channels 84. The flange 98 includes a chamfer 104 to guide the forks of the forked lift upwardly into the channels 84. However, when the door 62 is in the fully open position, the door partially blocks the channels 84 and thereby prevents the container assembly 10 from being moved when the door is in the open position.

Accordingly, any combination of folded and unfolded containers may be stacked upon one another.

The invention has been described in an illustrative manner, and it is to be understood that the terminology which has been used is intended to be in the nature of words of description rather than of limitation.

Obviously, many modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings. It is, therefore, to be understood that within the scope of the appended claims wherein reference numerals are merely for convenience and are not to be in any way limiting, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described.

## Claims

1. A foldable container assembly (10) comprising a base (12) having a plurality of sides, side walls (14,16,18,20) extending vertically upwardly

dly from each side of said base and including wall hinge means (24) interconnecting each of said side walls to said base, at least one of said side walls including an opening (60) therein, and including a door (62) disposed in said opening of said side wall for opening and closing said opening to allow access to the inside of the container assembly (10) through said aide walls when said side walls are in the vertical position, and door locking means (68) disposed on said door for releasably engaging said door with said side wall in a locked position to prevent pivotal movement of said door relative to said side wall and releasably disengaging said door from said side wall in an unlocked condition to allow pivotal movement of said door relative to said side wall and said door locking means including a latch member (70) mounted on said door having a projection (72) extending outwardly from one side thereof and a groove (73) in said opening opposite said projection, said projection (72) being slidably disposed in said groove when said door is in a closed and locked position characterized in that said projection includes a chamfer (75) disposed on the distal end of said projection (72), and biasing means (73) for urging said projections of said latch member into engagement with said groove when said door is in a closed and locked position, said biasing means and said chamfer on said projections allowing said door to be moved from an open position and snapped into a closed position without manual manipulation of said latch member of said door locking means to allow said door to be moved from an open position and snapped into a closed position without manual manipulation of the latch member of the door locking means.

2. An assembly according to Claim 1 further characterized by said projection including a flat side (77) disposed at the distal end of said projection opposite said chamfer, said chamfer disposed at the distal end of said projection on its inward side nearest the inside of the assembly.
3. An assembly according to Claim 1 or 2 characterized in that said biasing means is a spring (73) disposed between said door and said latch member.
4. An assembly according to any of the preceding claims characterized in that it includes wall locking means for releaseably locking the side edge of each of said side walls to the side edge of the adjacent side wall when in the

vertical position.

5. An assembly according to Claim 4 characterized in that said wall locking means includes a latch member (44) connected to at least one edge of one of said side walls and having a projection (46) extending outwardly from one side thereof, and a longitudinal groove (48) in the edge of an adjacent side wall, said projection being slidably disposed in said groove.
6. An assembly according to Claim 5 characterized in that it includes biasing means (52) for biasing said projection (46) in said groove (48).
7. An assembly according to Claim 6 characterized in that said biasing means (52) comprises a spring.
8. An assembly as set forth in Claim 7 characterized in that said latch member (44) includes a flange (54) to actuate said latch member.

#### Revendications

1. Assemblage de récipient (10) pliable comprenant une base (12) comportant une pluralité de côtés, des parois latérales (14,16,18,20) s'étendant verticalement vers le haut à partir de chaque côté de ladite base et incluant des moyens d'articulation de paroi (24) interconnectant chacune desdites parois latérales à ladite base, au moins une desdites parois latérales incluant en elle une ouverture (60), et incluant une porte (62) disposée dans ladite ouverture de ladite paroi latérale pour ouvrir et fermer ladite ouverture pour permettre l'accès à l'intérieur de l'assemblage de récipient (10) à travers lesdites parois latérales quand lesdites parois latérales sont en position verticale, et des moyens de verrouillage de porte (68) disposés sur ladite porte pour engager de façon libérable ladite porte avec ladite paroi latérale dans une position de verrouillage pour empêcher le mouvement de pivotement de ladite porte relativement à ladite paroi latérale et désengager de façon libérable ladite porte de ladite paroi latérale dans un état de déverrouillage pour permettre le mouvement de pivot de ladite porte par rapport à ladite paroi latérale et lesdits moyens de verrouillage de porte incluant un élément de blocage (70) monté sur ladite porte ayant un prolongement (72) s'étendant vers l'extérieur à partir d'un de ses côtés et une rainure (73) dans ladite ouverture opposée audit prolongement, caractérisé en ce que ledit prolongement inclut un chanfrein (75) disposé sur l'extrémité dista-

le dudit prolongement (72), ledit prolongement (72) étant disposé de façon à pouvoir coulisser dans ladite rainure quand ladite porte est dans une position fermée et verrouillée ,  
 et des moyens de déviation (73) pour pousser lesdits prolongements dudit élément de blocage en engagement dans ladite rainure quand ladite porte est dans une position fermée et verrouillée, lesdits moyens de déviation et ledit chanfrein sur lesdits prolongements permettant à ladite porte d'être déplacée de sa position d'ouverture et fermée avec un claquement sec en position de fermeture sans manipulation manuelle dudit élément de blocage desdits moyens de verrouillage de porte afin de permettre à ladite porte d'être déplacée d'une position d'ouverture et fermée avec un claquement sec en position de fermeture sans manipulation manuelle de l'élément de blocage des moyens de verrouillage de porte.

2. Assemblage selon la revendication 1 caractérisé en plus par ledit prolongement incluant un côté plat (77) disposé à l'extrémité distale dudit prolongement opposée audit chanfrein, ledit chanfrein étant disposé à l'extrémité distale dudit prolongement sur son côté dirigé vers l'intérieur le plus proche de l'intérieur de l'assemblage.
3. Assemblage selon la revendication 1 ou 2 caractérisé en ce que lesdits moyens de déviation sont un ressort (73) disposé entre ladite porte et ledit élément de blocage.
4. Assemblage selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes caractérisé en ce qu'il inclut des moyens de verrouillage de paroi pour verrouiller de façon libérable le bord latéral de chacune desdites parois latérales au bord latéral de la paroi latérale adjacente si en position verticale.
5. Assemblage selon la revendication 4 caractérisé en ce que lesdits moyens de verrouillage incluent un élément de blocage (44) connecté a au moins un bord d'une desdites parois latérales et comportant un prolongement (46) s'étendant vers l'extérieur à partir d'un de ses côtés, et une rainure longitudinale (48) dans le bord d'une paroi latérale adjacente, ledit prolongement étant disposé de façon à pouvoir coulisser dans ladite rainure.
6. Assemblage selon la revendication 5 caractérisé en ce qu'il inclut des moyens de déviation (52) pour amener ledit prolongement (46) dans ladite rainure (48).

7. Assemblage selon la revendication 6 caractérisé en ce que lesdits moyens de déviation (52) comprennent un ressort.

8. Assemblage selon la revendication 7 caractérisé en ce que ledit élément de blocage (44) inclut un rebord (54) pour actionner ledit élément de blocage.

## 10 Patentansprüche

1. Zusammenfaltbare Behälteranordnung (10), bestehend aus einem Bodenteil (12) mit einer Mehrzahl von Seitenkanten, von welchen sich Seitenwandungen (14, 16, 18, 20) nach oben erstrecken, wobei diese Seitenwandungen mittels Scharnierelementen (24) mit dem Bodenteil verbunden sind und wobei wenigstens eine Seitenwandung eine Öffnung (60) aufweist, innerhalb welcher eine Türe (62) angeordnet ist, mit welcher die betreffende Öffnung geöffnet und geschlossen werden kann, um in der vertikalen Position der Seitenwandungen durch dieselben Zugang in die Behälteranordnung (10) zu erlangen, und wobei an der Türe ein Türschloß (68) vorgesehen sind, welcher in der verriegelten Position einen lösbaren Eingriff der Türe gegenüber der Seitenwandung ergeben, um eine Verschwenkung der Türe im Bezug auf die Seitenwandung zu verhindern, und welches in der entriegelten Position die Türe gegenüber der Seitenwandung freigibt, um eine verschwenkbare Bewegung der Türe in Bezug auf die Seitenwandung zu erlauben, und wobei dieses Türschloß einen Riegel (70) aufweist, welcher an der Türe befestigt ist und einen Ansatz (72) besitzt, der sich von der Seitenwandung nach außen erstreckt, während gleichzeitig in der Öffnung gegenüberliegend zu dem Ansatz eine Rinne (73) vorgesehen ist, in welche in der geschlossenen und verriegelten Position der Türe der Ansatz (72) verschiebbar zum Eingreifen gelangt, dadurch **gekennzeichnet**, daß der Ansatz (72) an seinem distalen Ende eine Schrägfläche (75) aufweist, und daß dieser Ansatz des Riegels in der geschlossenen Position der Türe mittels eines Federelementes in Eingriff mit der Rinne gelangt, so daß die Türe auf Grund des Federelementes und der Schrägfläche des Riegels aus der geöffneten Position in die geschlossene Position klappbar und dort zum Einrasten bringbar ist, ohne daß dabei der Riegel des Türschlosses manuell bedient werden müßte.
2. Behälteranordnung nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das distale Ende des An-

satzes gegenüberliegend zu der Schrägkante eine gerade Fläche (77) aufweist, und daß die am distalen Ende des Ansatzes vorhandene Schrägfläche auf der Innenseite der Anordnung vorgesehen ist.,

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3. Behälteranordnung nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß zwischen der Türe und dem Riegel eine Feder (73) vorgesehen ist.

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4. Behälteranordnung nach einem der vorangehenden Ansprüche, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß zusätzliche Schloßelemente vorgesehen sind, um in der vertikalen Position die Seitenkanten der Seitenwänden gegenüber den Seitenkanten der jeweils benachbarten Seitenwandung zu verriegeln.

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5. Behälteranordnung nach Anspruch 4, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die weiteren Schloßelemente jeweils einen Riegel (44) aufweisen, welcher nahe der einen Kante der einen Seitenwandung angesetzt ist und einen Ansatz (46) aufweist, der sich von der einen Seite nach außen erstreckt, während entlang der Kante der benachbarten Seitenwandung eine Längsrinne (48) vorgesehen ist, in welche der Ansatz verschiebbar zum Eingriff gelangt.

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6. Behälteranordnung nach Anspruch 5, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Ansätze (46) mittels Federelementen (52) in den entsprechenden Rinnen (48) gehalten sind.

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7. Behälteranordnung nach Anspruch 6, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Federelemente (52) als Federn ausgebildet sind.

8. Behälteranordnung nach Anspruch 7, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Riegel (44) jeweils einen Flansch (54) aufweisen, mit welchem der jeweilige Riegel betätigbar ist.

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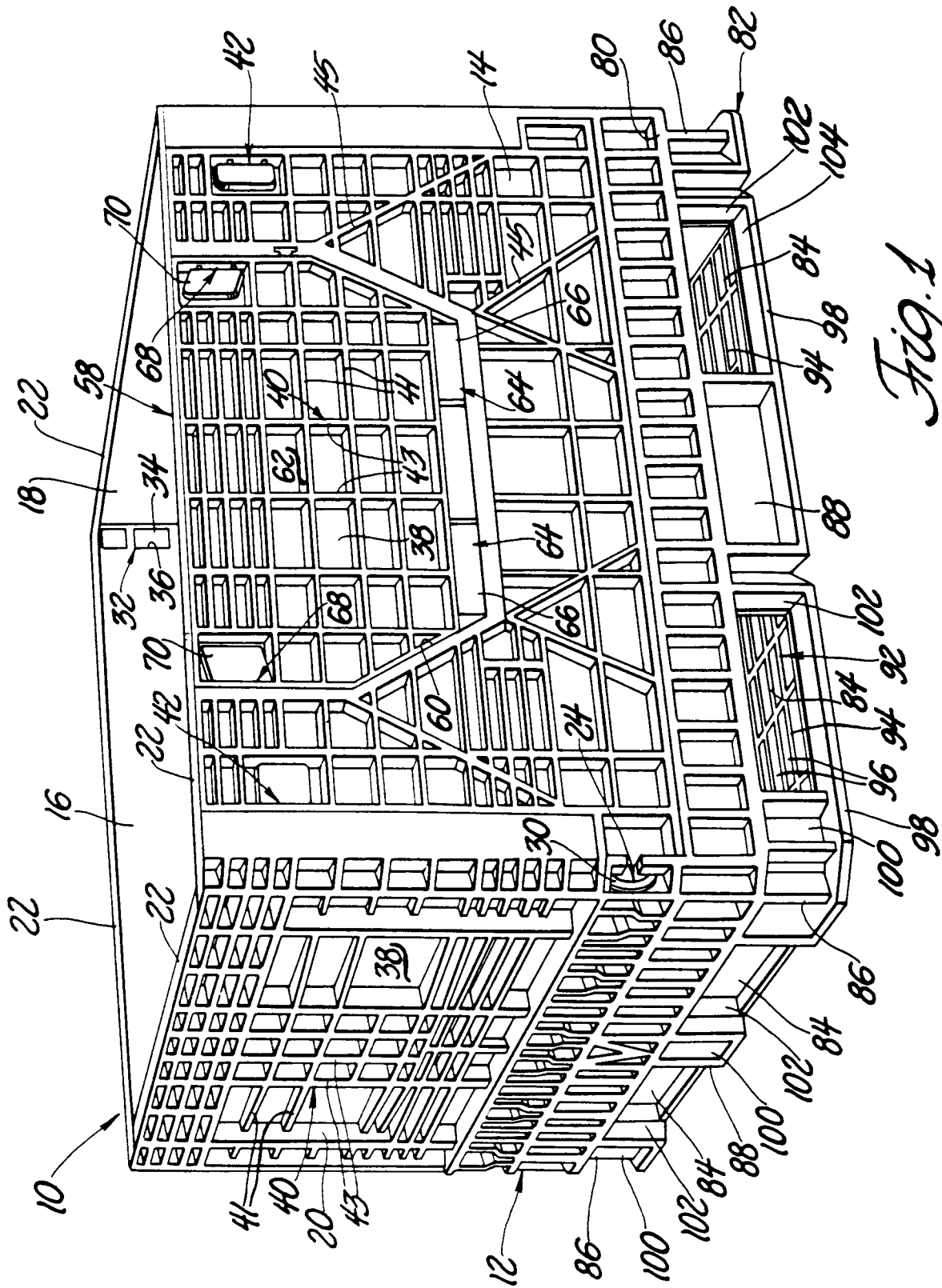


Fig. 1

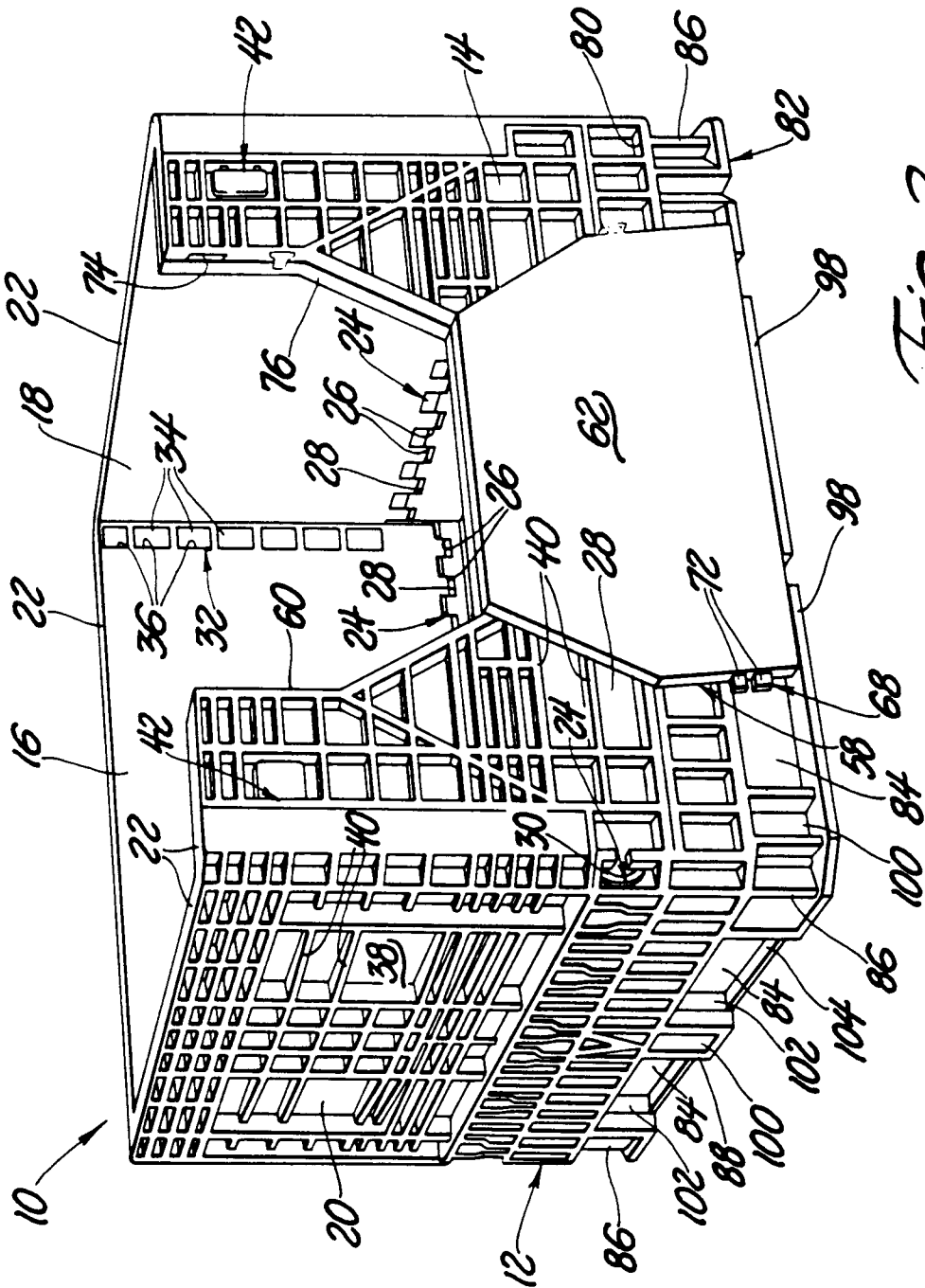


Fig. 2

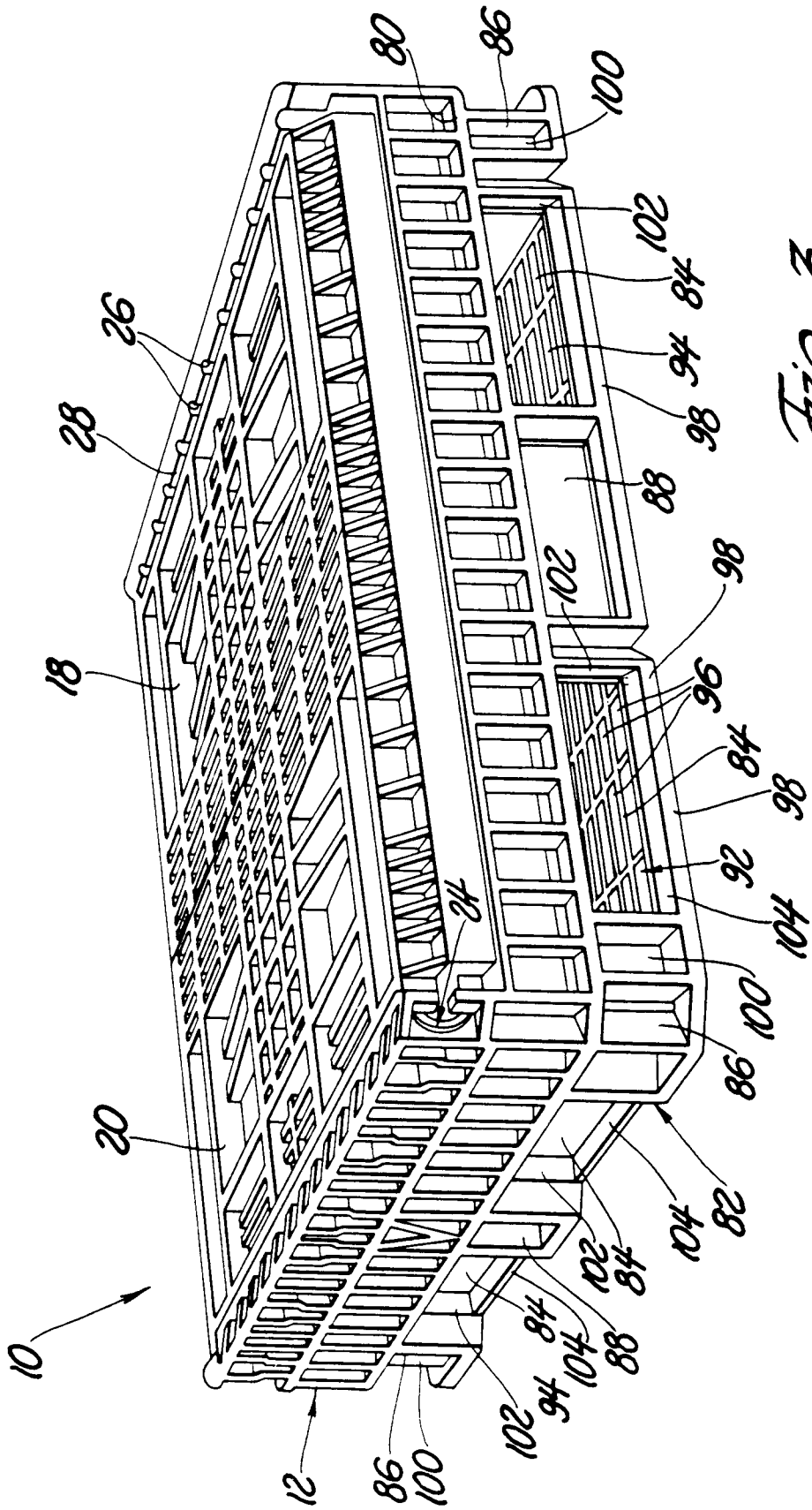
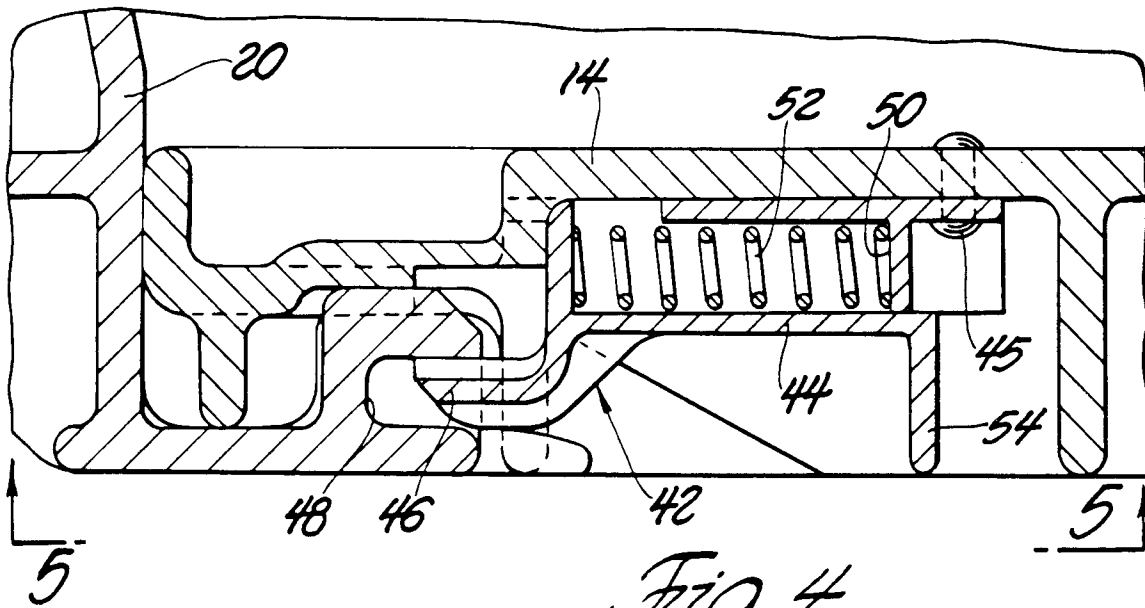
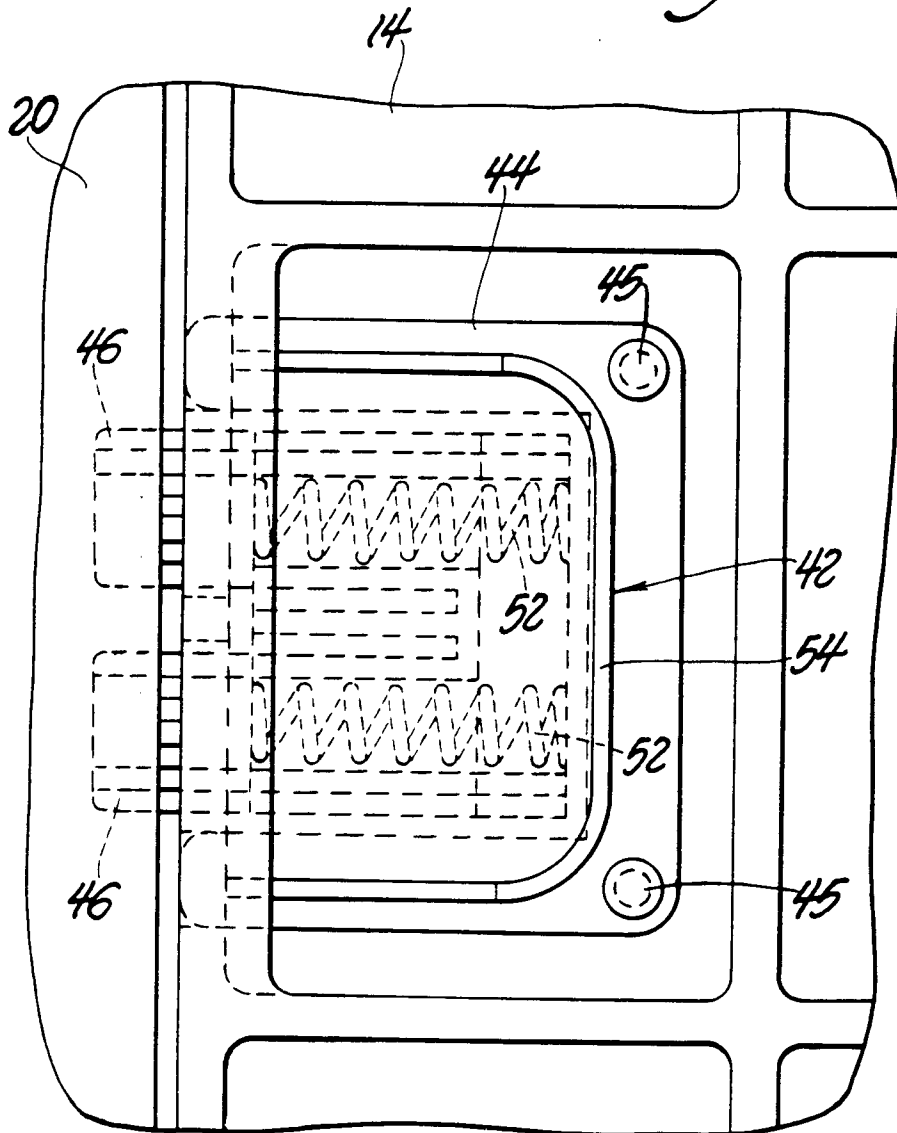


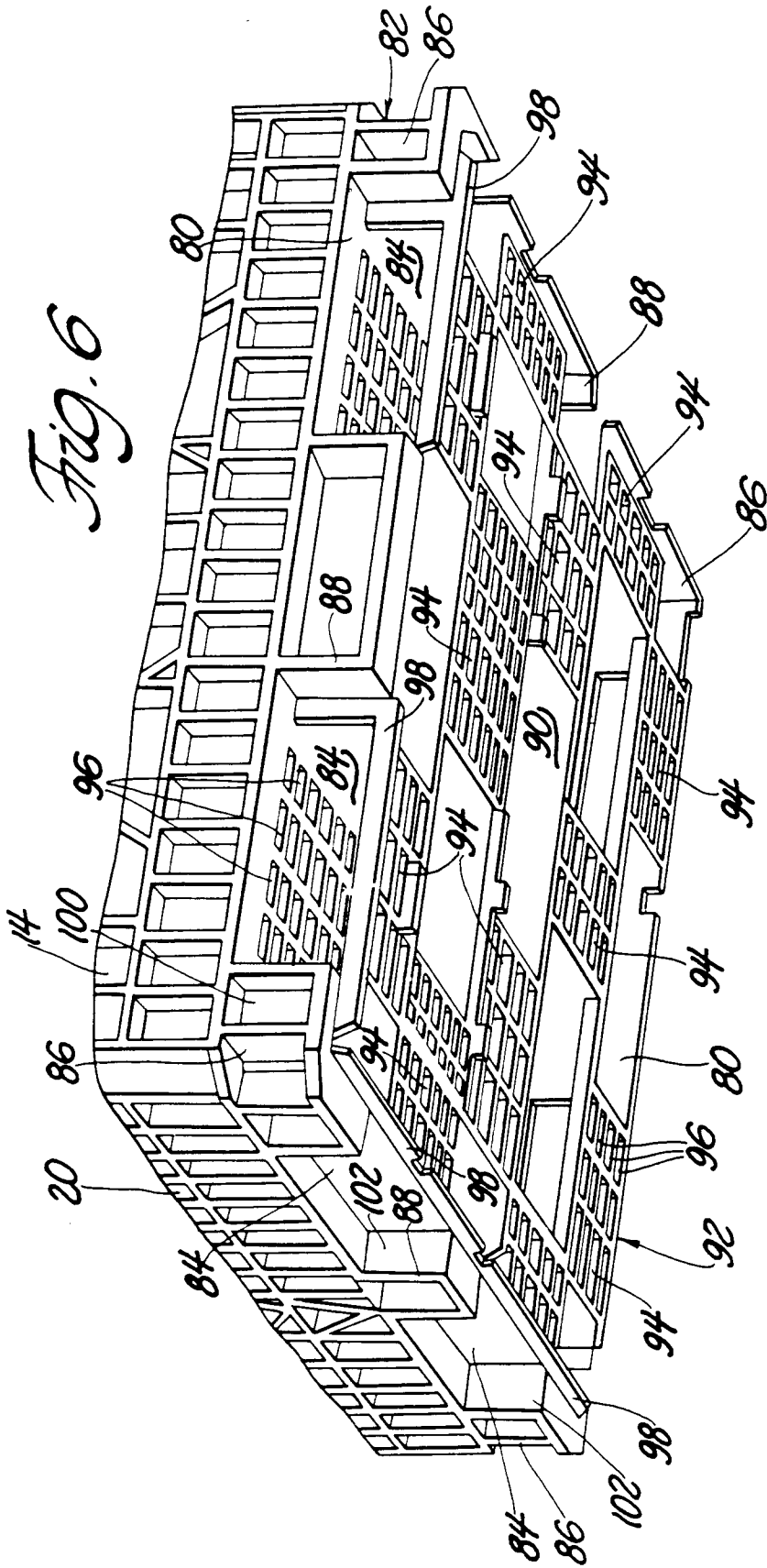
Fig. 3

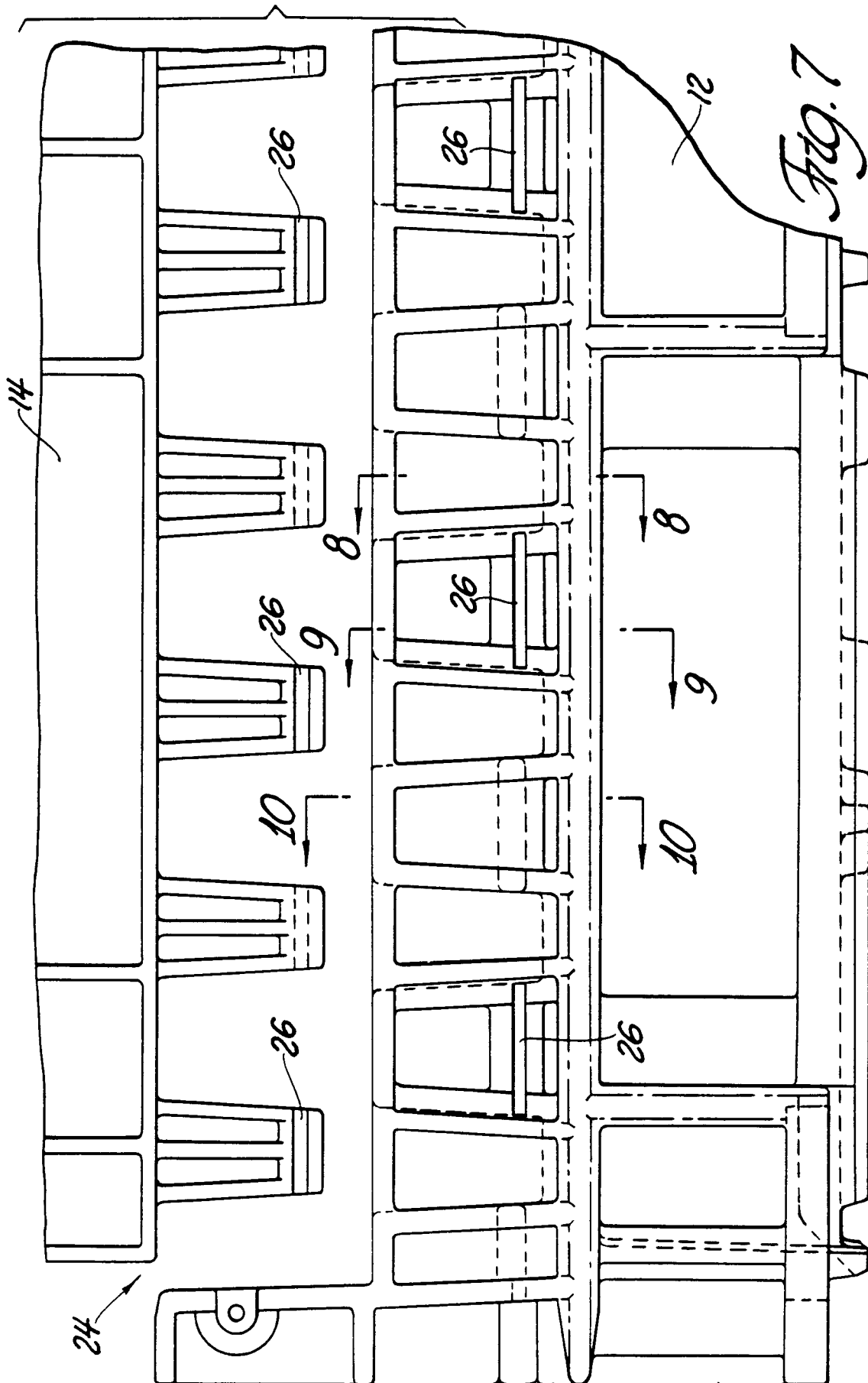


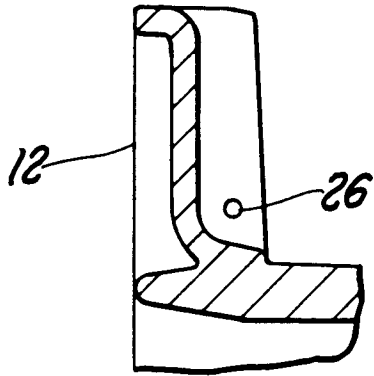
*Fig. 4*



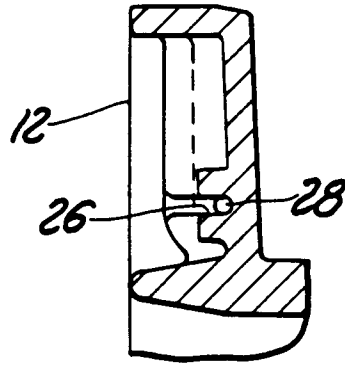
*Fig. 5*



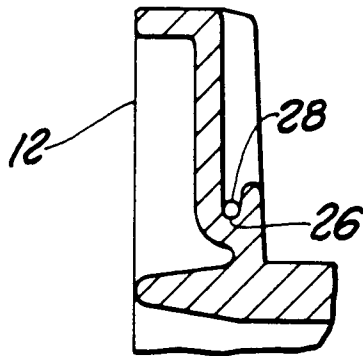




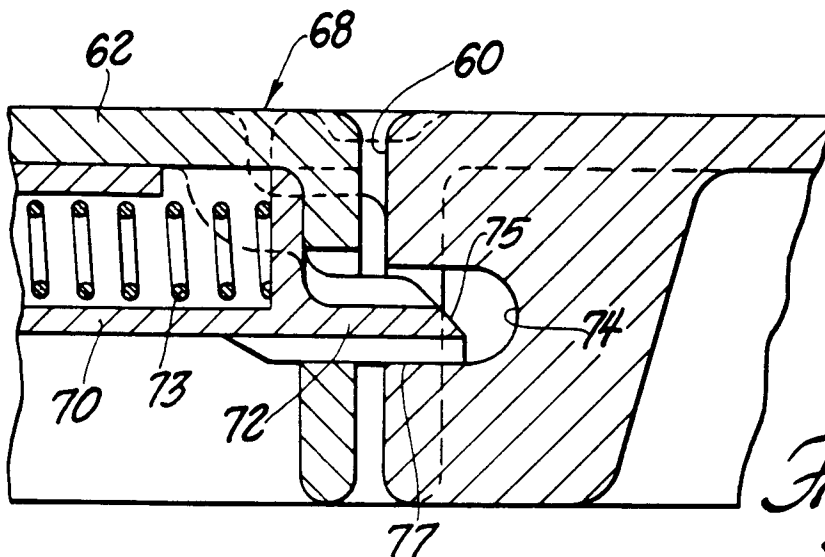
*Fig. 8*



*Fig. 9*



*Fig. 10*



*Fig. 11*