

April 10, 1951

G. F. WATKINS

2,548,275

VENTILATING HIVE COVER

Filed April 3, 1947

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

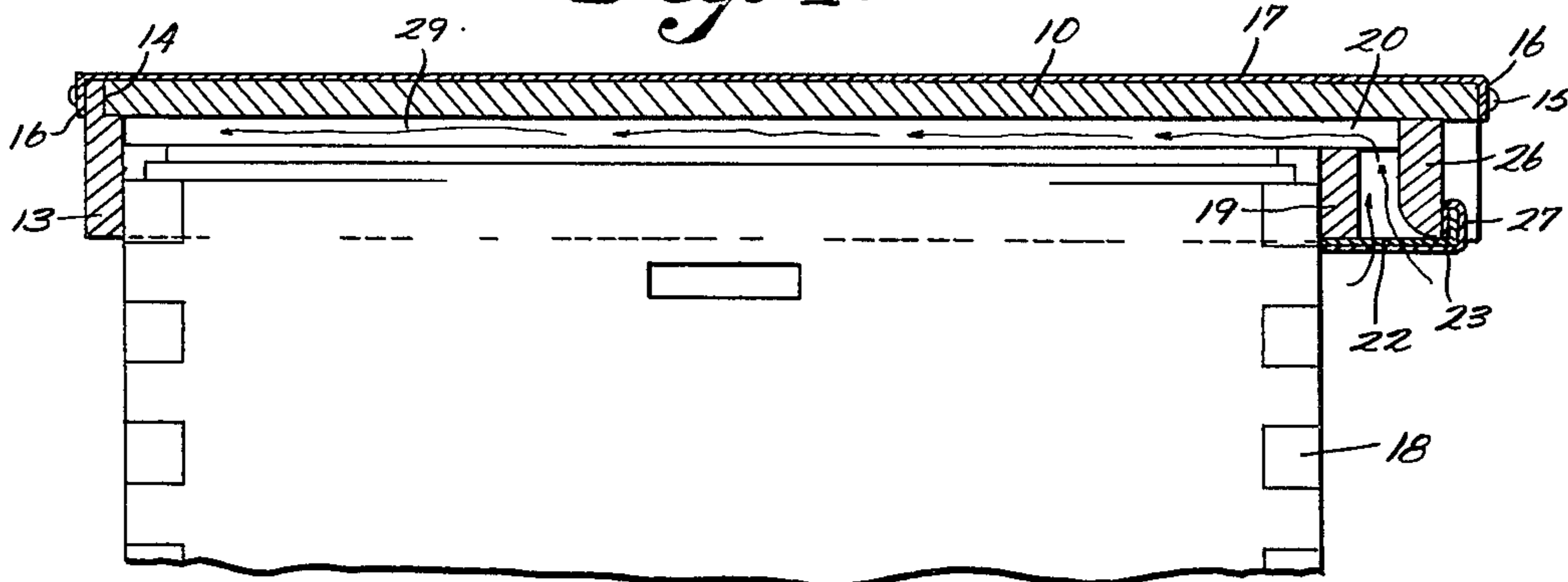


Fig. 2.

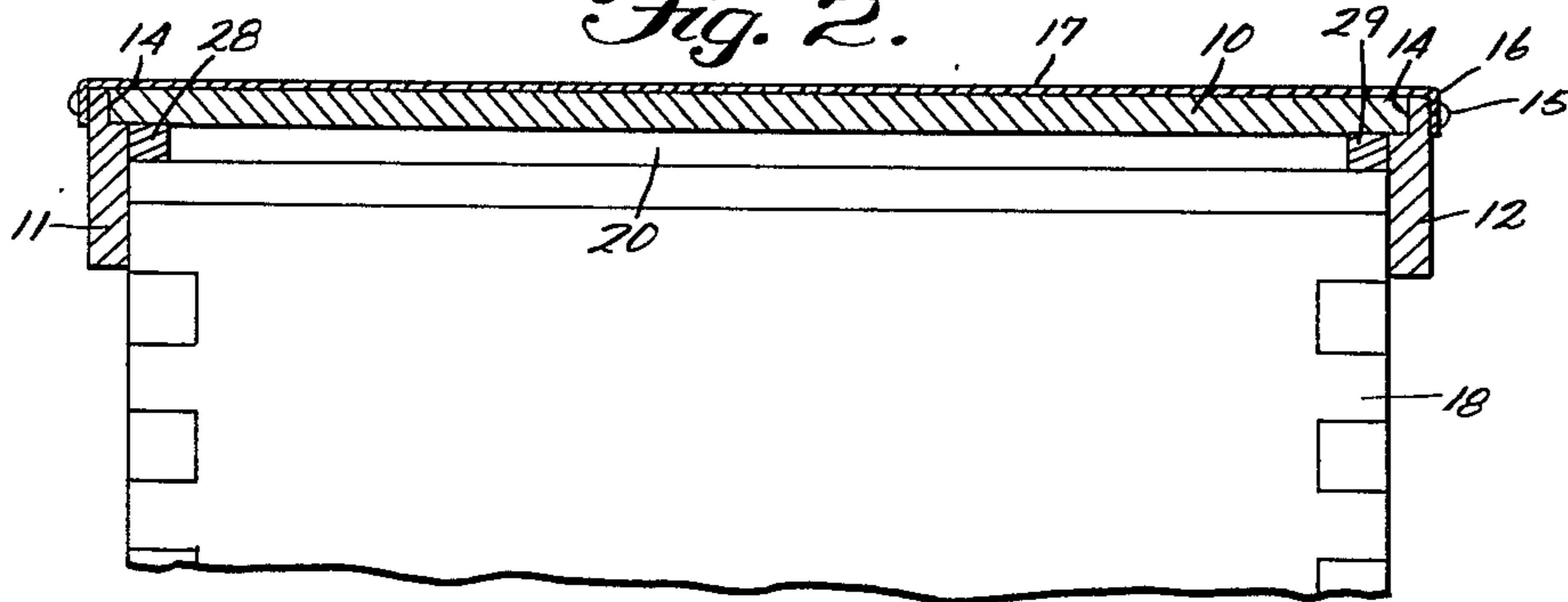


Fig. 3.

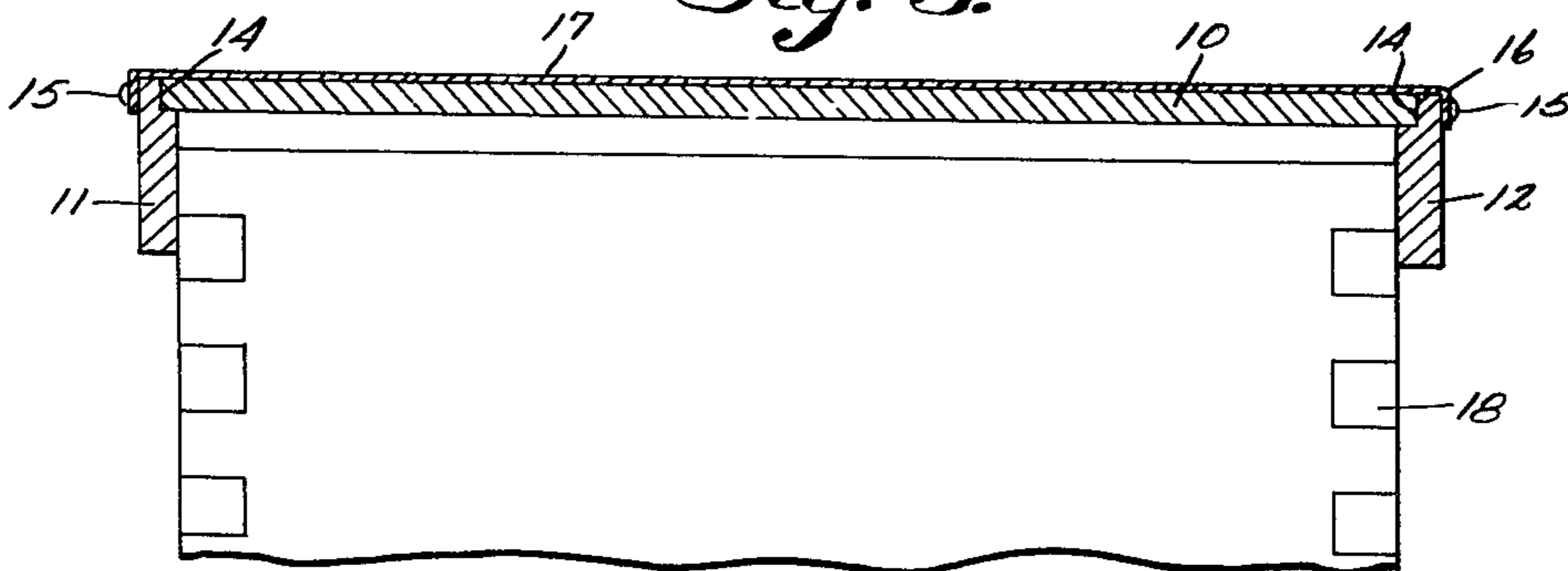
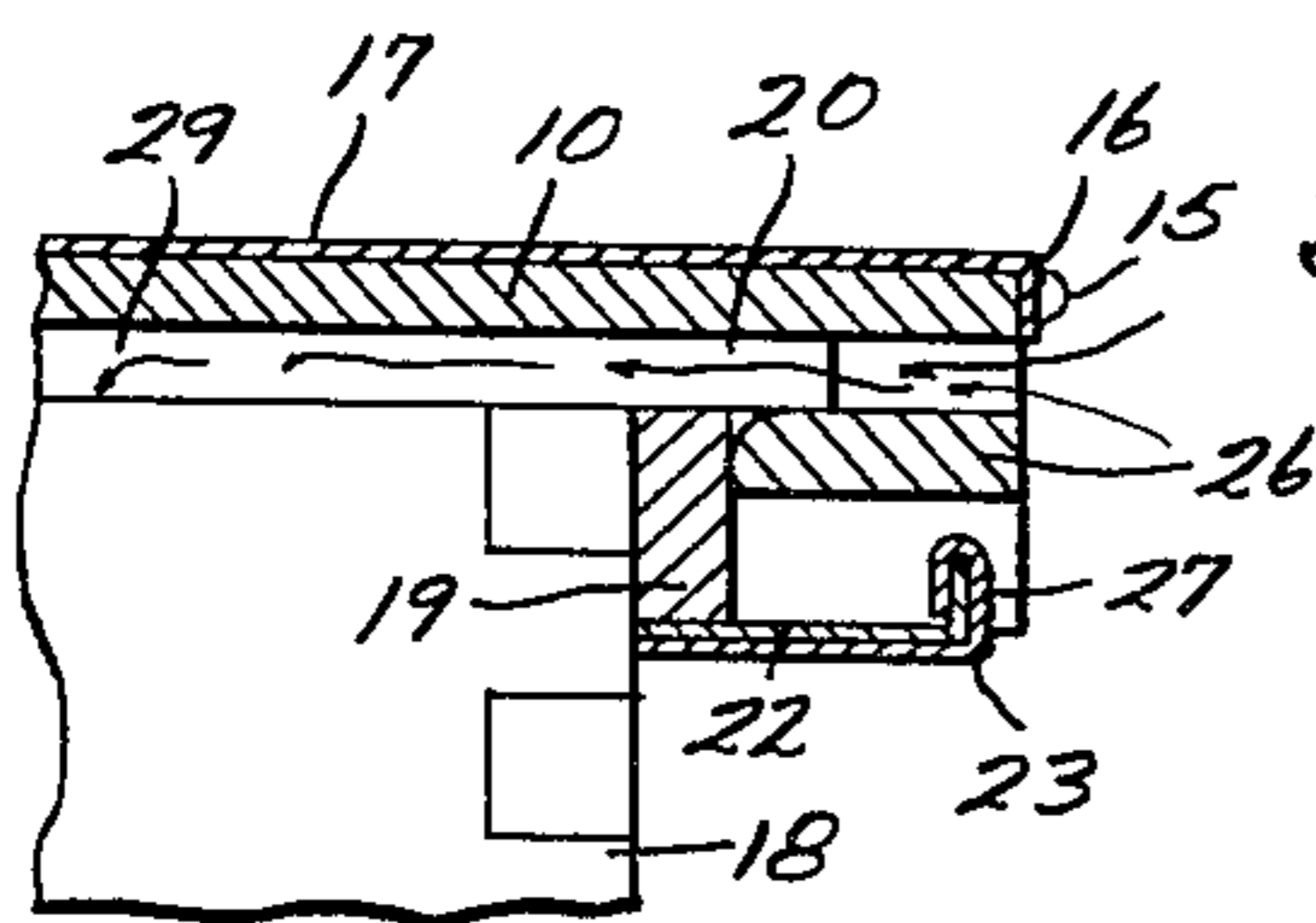


Fig. 4.



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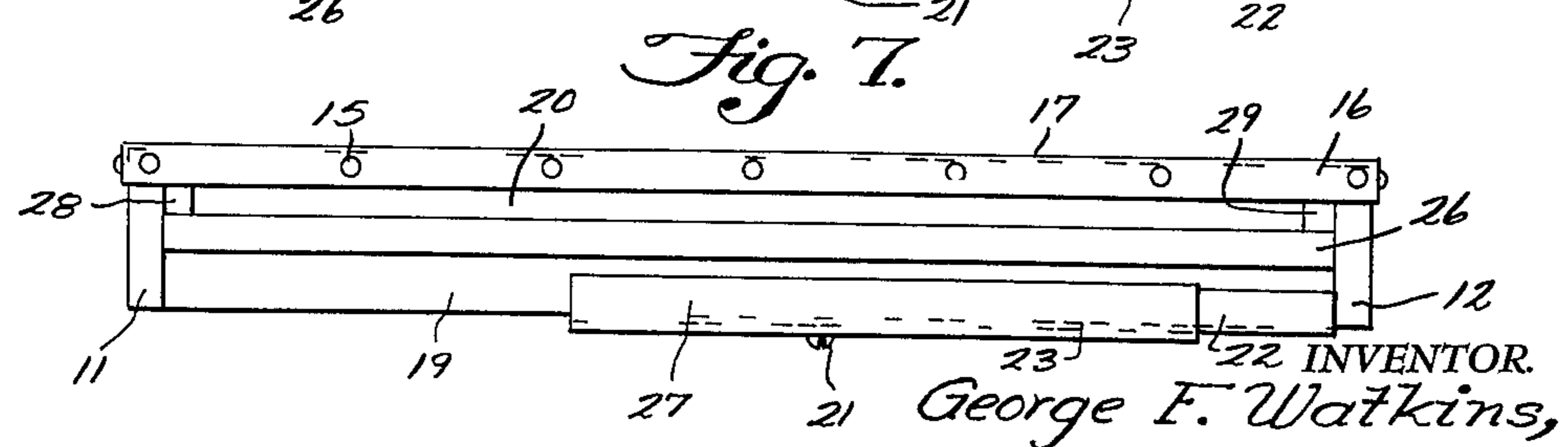
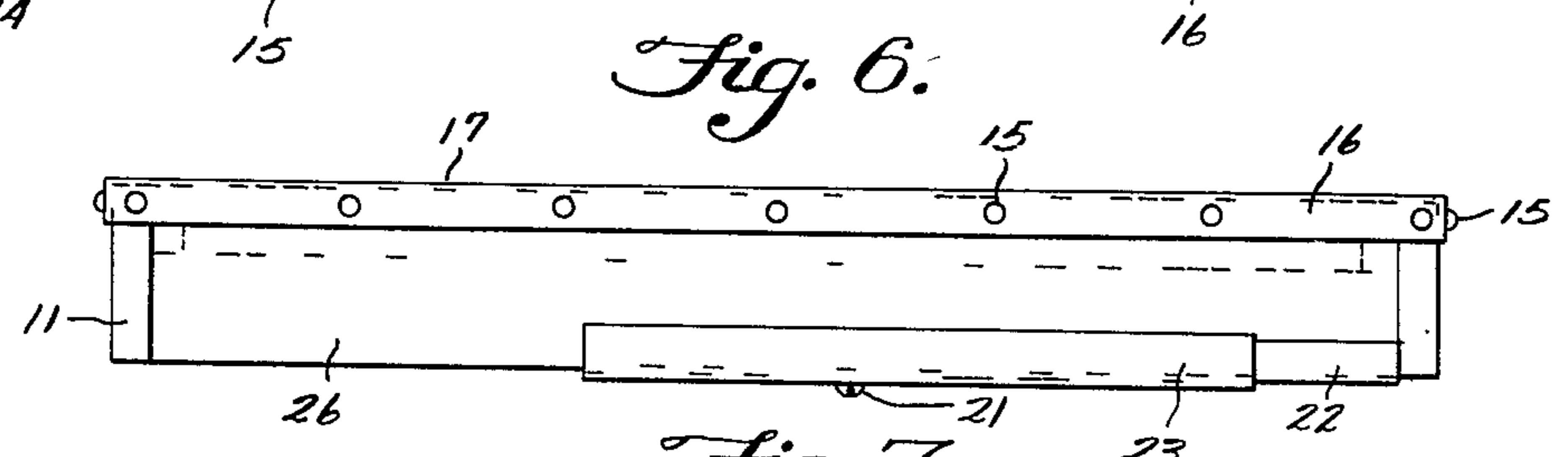
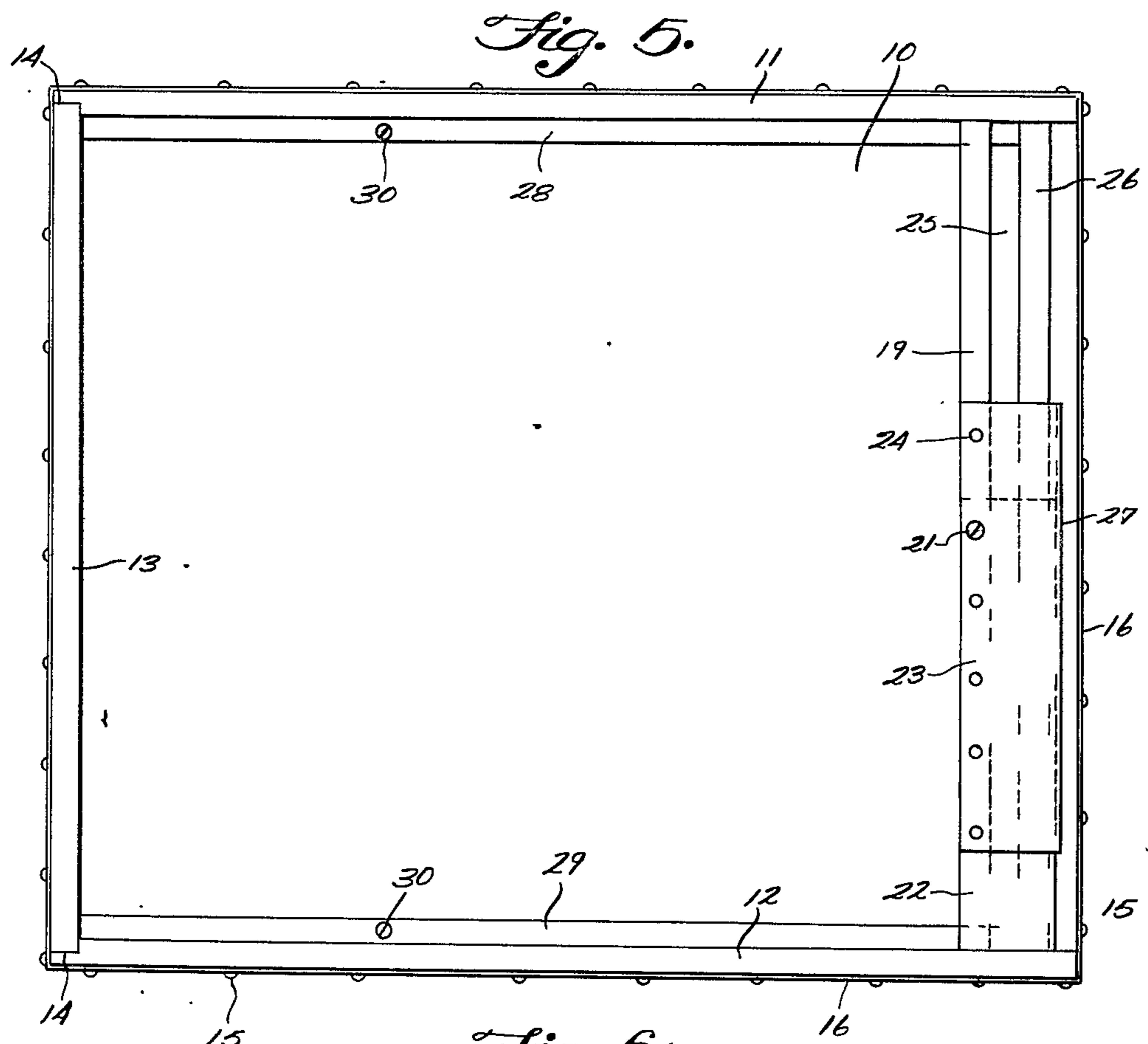
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2 Sheets-Sheet 2



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VENTILATING HIVE COVER

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2 Claims. (Cl. 6—1)

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This invention relates to a ventilating cover for a bee hive.

An object of the invention is to provide a cover of this character that will permit control of the amount of top ventilation for a bee hive.

Such a cover eliminates the usual practice of having holes in the cover or hive, or altering a conventional hive in any way to provide ventilation therefor.

Another object of the invention is to provide a landing board for the bees which is of the full width of the hive.

Another object of the invention is to provide a cover that permits ventilation of the hive, yet prevents sun, rain or snow from entering the hive through the ventilator.

A hive equipped with the type of cover embodying the invention is ideal for a two queen system, as it gives the upper colony of bees the same advantages as the lower colony, since an opening is provided for the upper colony that gives the colony free exit and entrance means without having to seek holes that have been bored in the hive, or notches that have been cut therein with a saw.

A hive equipped with a cover of this character is ideal for packing bees in the winter. It is a great labor saver over the old practice of summer ventilation, and the cover cannot be blown off of the hive.

With the above and other objects and advantages in view, the invention consists of the novel details of construction, arrangement and combination of parts more fully hereinafter described, claimed and illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a longitudinal sectional view of a cover embodying the invention, showing winter ventilation of the hive;

Figure 2 is a transverse sectional view of the cover closed for winter ventilation;

Figure 3 is a transverse sectional view with the cover closed tight without ventilation;

Figure 4 is a detailed sectional view showing summer ventilation;

Figure 5 is a bottom plan view of the cover;

Figure 6 is a front view closed for winter ventilation and

Figure 7 is a front view open for summer ventilation.

Referring more in detail to the invention, the cover embodying the invention comprises a top board 10, side boards 11 and 12 respectively, and an end board 13, which are all joined by mortised joints, as shown at 14. Secured to the top and

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upper ends of the side boards and end boards, respectively, by means of fasteners 15 entering the depending annular flange 16, formed integrally therewith, is a weather impervious covering 17 which may be made of plywood, pressed wood, plastic or sheet metal.

The cover is of a size to permit the side boards and end board to fit over the hive 18 to prevent air or the elements from entering between the top edges of the hive and the cover.

The side boards 11 and 12 have secured thereto, at their ends, opposite to their ends connected to the end board 13, a cross bar 19, which is of less width than the end board 13, providing a space 20 extending transversely of the cover to permit ventilation of the hive, and the board engages the side of the hive opposite to the side engaged by the end board to prevent horizontal movement of the cover on the hive.

Secured to this bar 19, on the lower surface thereof, by a fastener 21, are telescoping L-shaped baffles 22 and 23 respectively, and these baffles may be adjusted by rows of spaced openings 24 in the baffle 23 into which the fasteners 21 may enter to close the space 25 commensurate with the space 20 for the ventilation of the hive.

Pivotally secured to the side boards 11 and 12, forwardly of the cross bar 19, is a louver board 26 which, when in vertical position, as shown in Figure 1, only permits ventilation through the space 25 which is regulated by the baffles 22 and 23. This type of ventilation is used for winter time. When the board 26 is in horizontal position, as shown in Figure 4, direct communication between the space 20 and the atmosphere is obtained for summer ventilation. The board 26 is of a width when in vertical position, to engage the top 10 on its upper edge, and the upwardly flared ends 27 of the baffles, so air will not enter the hive except through space 25. In summer, the board 26 closes space 25, but permits space 20 to have free access to the atmosphere, as previously stated.

The cover is supported on the hive 18 by cleats or strips 28 and 29 respectively, which are secured to the top 10 in longitudinal engagement with the side boards 11 and 12 by fasteners 30, and if it is desired to cut off all top ventilation to the hive, then strips are removed and the top is placed flush with the upper edges of the hive, as shown in Figure 3.

With the board 26 in the position shown in Figure 1, air may enter the hive without permitting rain or snow to enter the hive and damage the bees, and the less ventilation desired, the

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smaller the space provided at 25 by adjustment of the baffles 22 and 23.

The covers are made to fit hives of standard size, but any size covers can be made, as desired.

There has thus been provided a cover which, it is believed will accomplish the objects of the invention, and it is believed that from the foregoing description, the operation and construction of the cover will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

It is also to be understood that changes in the minor details of construction, arrangement and combination of parts may be resorted to, provided they fall within the spirit of the invention and the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is:

1. A cover for a bee hive, comprising a top having secured thereto, sideboards and an end board that are adapted to encompass the hive on three sides thereof, a cross bar secured to the sideboards in opposed relation to the end board to engage the remaining side of the hive, the upper longitudinal edge of said cross bar being spaced

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from said top to permit ventilation of said hive, cleats secured to said top in longitudinal relation with said side boards to support said top on said hive, baffles adjustably secured to the lower longitudinal edge of said cross bar to control the ventilation of said hive, and a louver board pivotally mounted intermediate of said side boards forwardly of and parallel to said cross bar that is adapted to be moved into horizontal vertical or inclined relation with respect to said baffles, to provide ventilation for said hive in addition to the ventilation controlled by said baffles.

2. The invention as in claim 1, wherein a weather impervious covering is secured to said top and the upper edges of said side boards.

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REFERENCES CITED

The following references are of record in the file of this patent:

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