



(86) Date de dépôt PCT/PCT Filing Date: 2003/02/20
 (87) Date publication PCT/PCT Publication Date: 2003/08/28
 (45) Date de délivrance/Issue Date: 2011/10/25
 (85) Entrée phase nationale/National Entry: 2004/08/17
 (86) N° demande PCT/PCT Application No.: IB 2003/000600
 (87) N° publication PCT/PCT Publication No.: 2003/070417
 (30) Priorité/Priority: 2002/02/21 (ZA2002/1473)

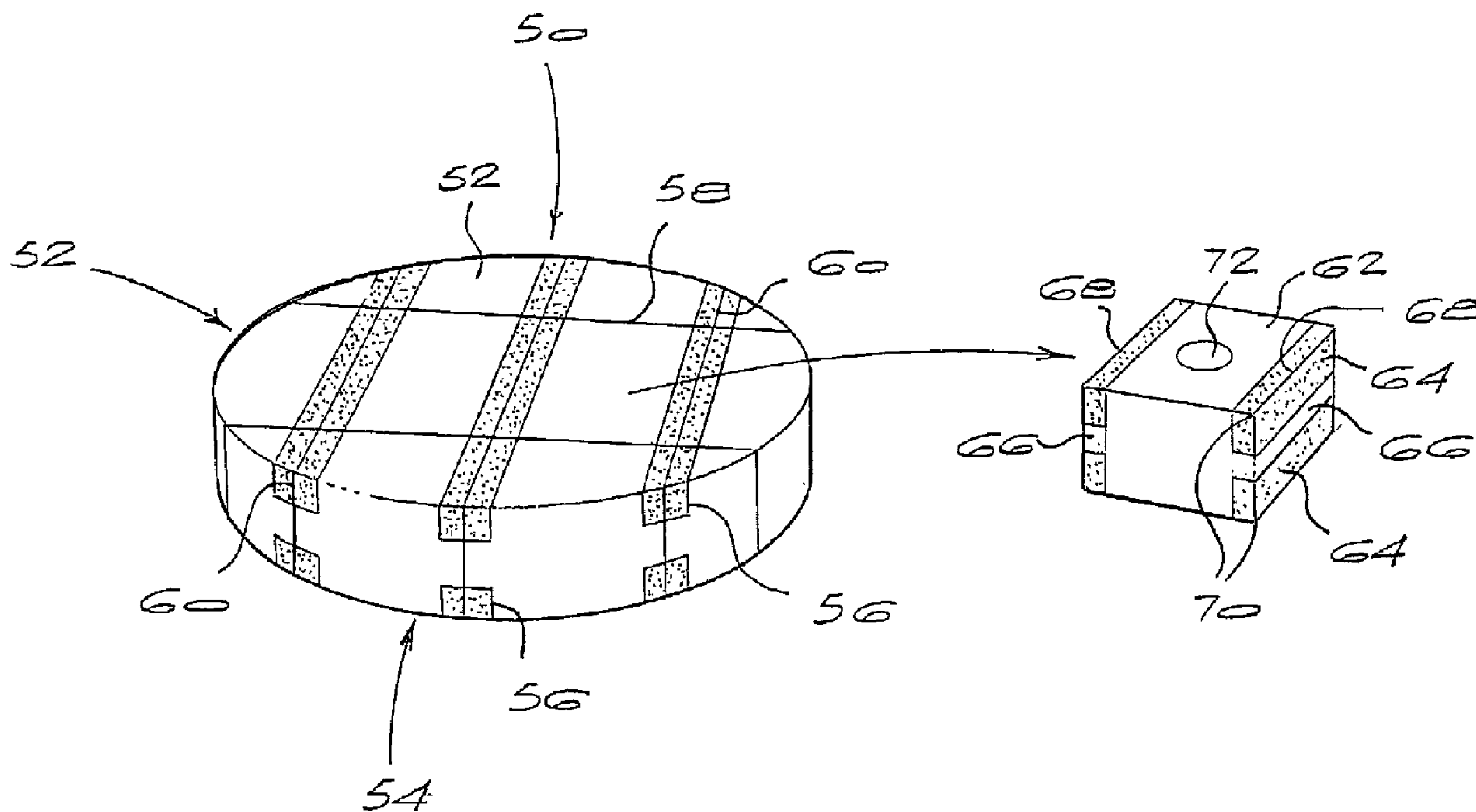
(51) Cl.Int./Int.Cl. *B23P 15/28* (2006.01),
B23B 27/14 (2006.01), *B23C 5/20* (2006.01)

(72) Inventeurs/Inventors:
 GOUDEMOND, IAIN PATRICK, ZA;
 CAN, NEDRET, ZA;
 REID, JAMES ALEXANDER, ZA;
 OZBAYRAKTAR, MEHMET SERDAR, ZA;
 COOK, MATTHEW WILLIAM, IE;
 ANDERSIN, STIG AKE, SE;

(73) Propriétaire/Owner:
 ELEMENT SIX (PTY) LTD., ZA

(74) Agent: NORTON ROSE OR S.E.N.C.R.L., S.R.L./LLP

(54) Titre : **PIECE RAPPORTEE D'OUTIL**
 (54) Title: **TOOL INSERT**



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

A method of producing a tool insert which comprises a central metal portion having edge regions of superabrasive material bonded thereto and presenting cutting edges or points for the tool insert is disclosed. A body (50) having major surfaces on each of opposite sides thereof, each having spaced strips (64) of superabrasive material, typically abrasive compact such as PCBN or PCD, for example, separated by a metal region or regions, such as cemented carbide, is provided. Each superabrasive strip of one major surface is arranged in register with a superabrasive strip of the opposite major surface. Alternatively, each superabrasive strip extends from one major surface to the opposite major surface. The body is severed from one major surface to the opposite major surface along at least two sets of planes intersecting at or in the respective superabrasive strips to produce the tool insert.

(72) Inventeurs(suite)/Inventors(continued): OLOFSSON, BO CHRISTER, SE; SANDSTROM, LEIF ANDERS, SE;
PERSSON, STEFAN MAGNUS OLOF, SE

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
28 August 2003 (28.08.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/070417 A1(51) International Patent Classification⁷: B23P 15/28,
B23B 27/14, B23C 5/20

(21) International Application Number: PCT/IB03/00600

(22) International Filing Date: 20 February 2003 (20.02.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
2002/1473 21 February 2002 (21.02.2002) ZA(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **ELEMENT SIX (PTY) LTD** [ZA/ZA]; Debid Road, Nuffield, 1559 Springs (ZA).

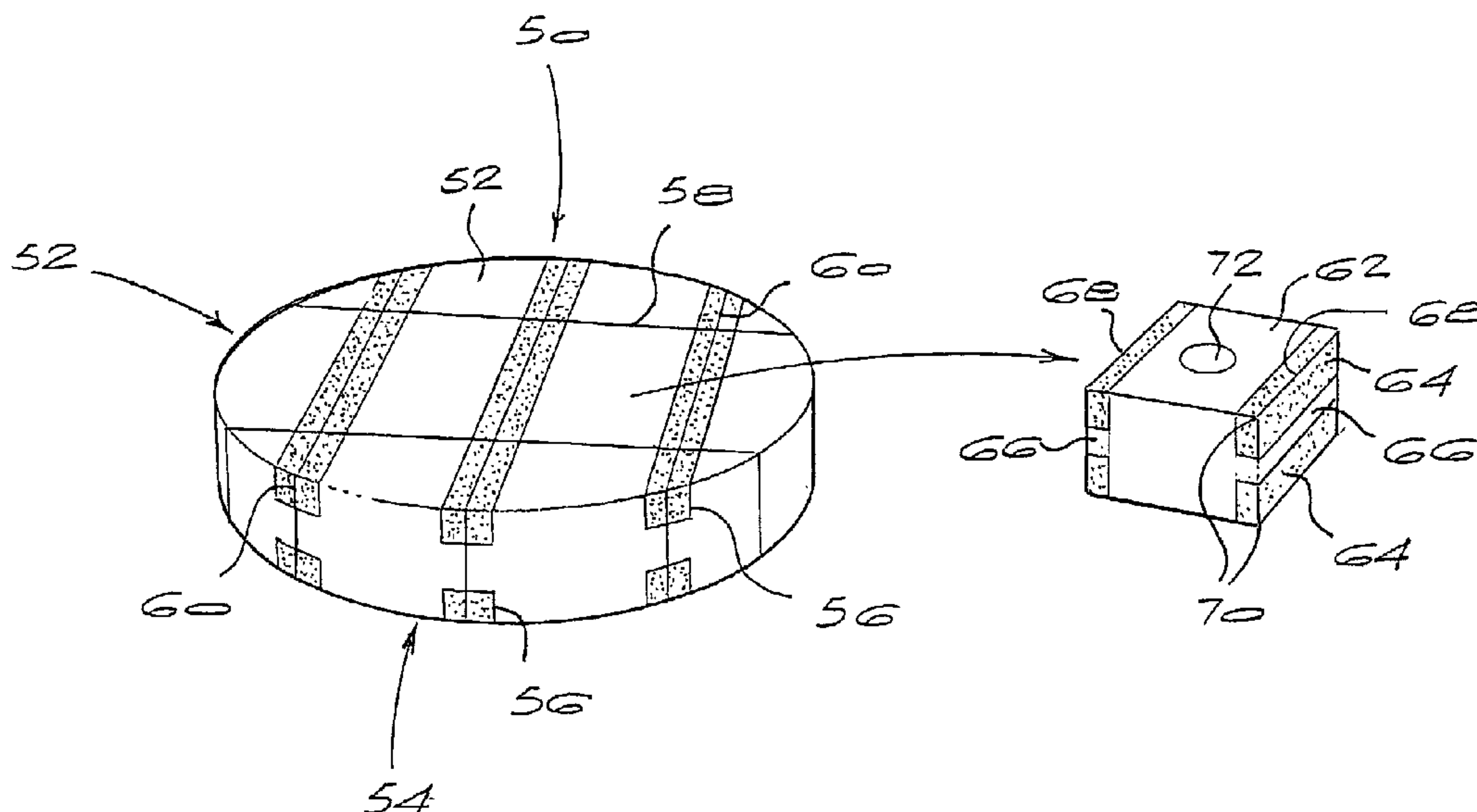
(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **GOUEMOND, Iain, Patrick** [ZA/ZA]; 6 Haldane Crescent, Wendywood, 2144 Sandton (ZA). **CAN, Nedret** [TR/ZA]; 11A 7thAvenue, 2193 Parktown North (ZA). **REID, James, Alexander** [GB/ZA]; 50 Victoria Street, Kensington B, 2194 Randburg (ZA). **OZBAYRAKTAR, Mehmet, Serdar** [TR/ZA]; 12 Frequency Turn, Radiokop Ext. 10, 1724 Roodepoort (ZA). **COOK, Matthew, William** [GB/IE]; Georgeeden House, Monanoe, Clare (IE). **ANDERSIN, Stig, Ake** [SE/SE]; Enebacken 28, S-915 32 Robertsfors (SE). **OLOFSSON, Bo, Christer** [SE/SE]; Dalkarla 121, S-918 94 Bygdea (SE). **SANDSTROM, Leif, Anders** [SE/SE]; Fallfors 34, S-915 92 Robertsfors (SE). **PERSSON, Stefan, Magnus, Olof** [SE/SE]; Istidsgatan 53, S-906 55 Umea (SE).(74) Agents: **GILSON, David, Grant** et al.; Spoor and Fisher, P.O. Box 41312, 2024 Craighall (ZA).

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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WO 03/070417 A1

WO 03/070417 A1



(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

Published:

— *with international search report*

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TOOL INSERT**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

This invention relates to a tool insert.

Abrasive compacts are polycrystalline masses of abrasive particles, generally ultra-hard abrasive particles, bonded into a hard coherent mass. Such compacts are generally bonded to a substrate, typically a cemented carbide substrate. Diamond abrasive compacts are also known as PCD and cubic boron nitride abrasive compacts are also known as PCBN.

US Patent 4,807,402 describes an article comprising a support mass such as a cemented carbide mass having layers of abrasive compact bonded to each of the upper and lower surfaces thereof.

EP 0 714 719 describes a tool insert comprising first and second layers of abrasive compact bonded to a central or intermediate layer of cemented carbide, ferrous metal or high melting point metal. The tool component is such that it provides a nose and flank of abrasive compact, the nose and flank providing cutting points and edges for the tool insert. Such tool inserts may be cut, for example, by electrodischarge machining from an article described in US 4,807,402.

US 5,676,496 describes a metal cutting insert comprising a carbide substrate, and at least one body of superhard abrasive material, such as PCD or PCBN,

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bonded to an edge surface of the substrate and extending from one side surface to the other side surface of the substrate. A plurality of superhard bodies may be disposed at respective corners of the substrate. Methods of making similar inserts are disclosed in US 5,598,621 and US 5,813,105.

A major drawback of the methods of making directly sintered, multicorned inserts described in the prior art is one of scale, with a small number of cutting tool inserts being produced during a single high pressure, high temperature cycle.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to one embodiment of the present invention, a method of producing a tool insert which comprises a central metal portion having edge regions of superabrasive material bonded thereto and presenting cutting edges or points for the tool insert, includes the steps of:

- (i) providing a body having major surfaces on each of opposite sides thereof, each major surface having a plurality of spaced strips of superabrasive material separated by a metal region or regions, each superabrasive strip of one major surface being in register with a superabrasive strip of the opposite major surface or each superabrasive strip extending from one major surface to the opposite major surface;
- (ii) severing the body from one major surface to the opposite major surface along at least two sets of planes intersecting at or in the respective superabrasive strips to produce the tool insert; and
- (iii) providing a severing pattern for severing the body to produce a multiple of tool inserts having a desired shape.

The severing of the body is carried out in such a manner as to expose the superabrasive strips to form a cutting tip or edge in the tool insert. For example, the severing of the body may take place along at least two lines through, and transverse to, at least two of the strips and also along lines essentially longitudinally through at least two adjacent strips.

The metal region may be a hard metal such as cemented carbide, a ferrous metal or a high melting point metal. The metal region is preferably cemented carbide.

The superabrasive material is typically an abrasive compact, preferably PCD or PCBN, most preferably PCBN.

The body will preferably have a disc shape. The disc will preferably have a diameter of from about 55 mm to about 125 mm, more preferably from about 80 mm to about 100 mm, and a thickness of from about 1.6 mm to about 30 mm, more preferably from about 2 mm to about 10 mm.

Severing may take place by known methods, e.g. laser cutting or electrodischarge machining.

According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a polyhedral tool insert having more than six plane surfaces comprising a central metal portion having major surfaces defined on opposite sides thereof, and at least one superabrasive strip bonded to each of the major surfaces or extending from the one major surface to the opposite major surface, each superabrasive strip providing the tool insert with a cutting tip or edge. The polyhedral tool insert is preferably star-shaped.

According to a further aspect of the invention, there is provided a tool insert comprising a central metal portion having major surfaces defined on opposite sides thereof, the central metal portion including central raised regions

extending from the respective major surfaces and scalloped edge regions located about the periphery of the raised regions, and a thin layer of superabrasive material in the form of a strip bonded to each of the major surfaces in the respective scalloped edge regions, each superabrasive strip providing the tool insert with a cutting tip or edge.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- Figure 1a** is a perspective view of an embodiment of a body for use in the method of the invention,
- Figure 1b** is a sectional side view of the body of Figure 1a,
- Figure 1c** is a perspective view of a tool insert produced by the method of the invention,
- Figures 2 to 9** illustrate further embodiments of the invention with the Figures "a" being perspective views of bodies for use in the method, Figures "b" being sectional side views of such bodies, Figures "c" being perspective views of tool insert embodiments and Figures "d" being sectional side views of tool insert embodiments.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

An embodiment of the invention will now be described with reference to Figure 1 of the accompanying drawings. Referring first to Figure 1a, a body 10 in the form of a circular disc comprises alternating regions 12 of cemented carbide and strips 14 of superabrasive material, in this case abrasive compact.

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The cemented carbide regions 12 and abrasive compact strips 14 are bonded to each other during a high pressure/high temperature sintering step. The body 10 has major flat surfaces 16, 18 on each of opposite sides thereof.

The body 10 is severed along spaced lines 20 transverse to the abrasive compact strips 14. The body is also severed along lines 22 longitudinally through each of the abrasive compact strips 14. Severing takes place right through the body from one major surface 16 to the other major surface 18. The product or tool insert which is produced is illustrated by Figure 1c. This insert has a central portion 24 of cemented carbide to which are bonded longitudinal edge strips 26 of abrasive compact. The edge strips 26 extend continuously from the one major surface 16 to the other major surface 18. A hole 28 may be formed through the central portion 24 for mounting the tool insert in a tool. The edges 30 and corners 32 of the abrasive compact strips 26 provide the cutting edges or points for the tool insert.

The body 10 may be made by providing the components, in particulate form, necessary to produce the cemented carbide regions 12, for example tungsten carbide regions, and the strips 14, for example PCBN, bonded into coherent form by means of a binder such as an organic binder. The body may also be assembled using presintered strips of the hard metal. A green state body is produced by suitably locating the regions and strips in a capsule. The capsule is placed in the reaction zone of a conventional high temperature/high pressure apparatus. Subjecting the green state body to suitable elevated temperature and pressure conditions, for example, those at which the abrasive present in the strips is crystallographically stable, results in a sintered hard and bonded body as illustrated by Figures 1a and 1b being produced.

The embodiments of Figures 2 to 4 are similar to that of Figure 1 and like parts carry like numerals. In these embodiments, alternative sever line configurations of patterns are illustrated to produce, respectively, a triangular

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insert (Figure 2c), a polyhedral tool insert having four cutting tips with included angles less than 90 degrees (Figure 3c) and a rhombohedral insert (Figure 4c). Once again the edge strips 26, or sections thereof, extend continuously from the one major surface 16 to the other major surface 18.

A further embodiment of the invention will now be described with reference to Figure 5. Referring first to Figure 5a, a cemented carbide body 50 is of disc shape having major flat surfaces 52, 54 on each of opposite sides thereof. Each major flat surface has a series of parallel spaced grooves 56 formed therein. Each groove 56 has located therein a strip of superabrasive material, in this case abrasive compact which is bonded to the cemented carbide body.

A tool insert is produced by first severing the body 50 along spaced lines 58 which are transverse to the abrasive compact filled grooves 56 from one major surface 52 to the opposite major surface 54. Thereafter, the body is severed in a transverse direction along lines 60 which pass longitudinally through each of the grooves 56. Again, severing takes place from one major surface 52 to the opposite major surface 54.

The product or tool insert which is produced is illustrated by Figure 5c. This insert has a rectangular or square shape and a central portion 62 of cemented carbide to which are bonded strips 64 of abrasive compact. The strips 64 are provided along top and bottom edges of opposite sides of the tool insert. The strips on each side are separated by cemented carbide in the regions 66. The strips 64 each provide cutting edges 68 and cutting points 70. The central cemented carbide region 62 may have a hole 72 formed through it for mounting the tool insert in a tool.

The body 50 may be made by providing a disc shaped cemented carbide body, for example a tungsten carbide body, and cutting grooves 56 in the two major surfaces thereof. The components, in particulate form, necessary to produce

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the abrasive compact, for example PCBN, are placed in the grooves 56. These particles may be bonded into a coherent form by means of a binder such as an organic binder. The cemented carbide body, with the loaded grooves, is placed in the reaction zone of a conventional high temperature/high pressure apparatus. Subjecting the body to suitable elevated temperature and pressure conditions, for example, those at which the abrasive present in the strips is crystallographically stable, results in a sintered hard and bonded body as illustrated by Figures 5a and 5b being produced.

The embodiments of Figures 6 to 8 are similar to that of Figure 5 and like parts carry like numerals. In these embodiments, alternative sever line configurations of patterns are illustrated to produce, respectively, a triangular insert (Figure 6c), a polyhedral tool insert having low cutting tips with included angles less than 90 degrees (Figure 7c) and a rhombohedral insert (Figure 8c). Once again the edge strips 64, or sections thereof on each side are separated by cemented carbide in the regions 66.

A further embodiment of the invention is illustrated in Figure 9. A disc-shaped body of cemented carbide 100 is provided. The body 100 has major surfaces 102 and 104 on each of opposite sides thereof. Each surface has scalloped strips 106 formed therein, the scalloped strips defining a cross-hatch configuration. Each scalloped strip 106 has a thin layer of superabrasive material, in this case abrasive compact bonded to it. The body 100 is severed along lines 108 and transverse thereto, lines 110. The tool insert which is produced is illustrated by Figure 9c (perspective view) and Figure 9d (cross-section). The tool insert comprises a body 112 of cemented carbide having scalloped edge regions 114 each of which is provided with a thin layer 116 of abrasive compact. The edges 118 and corners 120 provide cutting edges and points for the insert. A centrally located hole 122 may be provided through the cemented carbide. The geometry of the tool insert of this embodiment provides for so-called "chip-breaking" in use.

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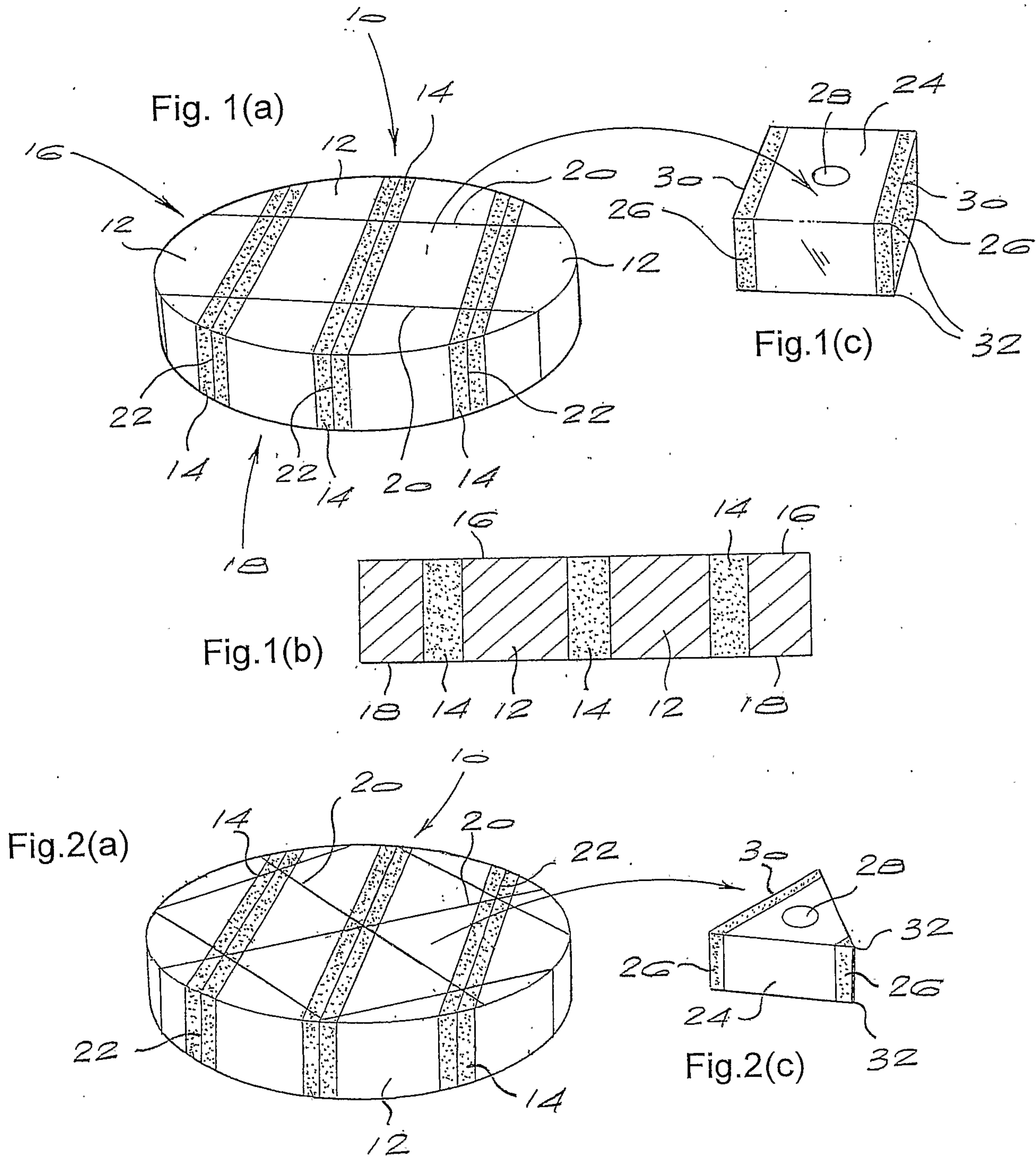
In the embodiments described above, the severing of the bodies may take place by methods known in the art, for example, laser cutting or electrodischarge machining.

CLAIMS

1. A method of producing a tool insert comprising a central metal portion having edge regions of superabrasive material bonded thereto and presenting cutting edges or points for the tool insert, includes the steps of:
 - (i) providing a body having major surfaces on each of opposite sides thereof, each major surface having a plurality of strips of superabrasive material separated by a metal region or regions, each superabrasive strip of one major surface being in register with a superabrasive strip of the opposite major surface or each superabrasive strip extending from one major surface to the opposite major surface;
 - (ii) severing the body from one major surface to the opposite major surface along at least two sets of planes intersecting at or in the respective superabrasive strips to produce the tool insert; and
 - (iii) providing a severing pattern for severing the body to produce a multiple of tool inserts having a desired shape.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the metal region is a hard metal selected from the group comprising a cemented carbide, a ferrous metal and a high melting point metal.
3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the superabrasive material is an abrasive compact.
4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the abrasive compact is PCD or PCBN.
5. A method according any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the body has a disc shape.

6. A method according to claim 5, wherein the diameter of the disc is from about 55 mm to about 125 mm and the thickness thereof is from about 1.6 mm to about 30 mm.
7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the diameter of the disc is from about 80 mm to about 100 mm and the thickness thereof is from about 2 mm to about 10 mm.

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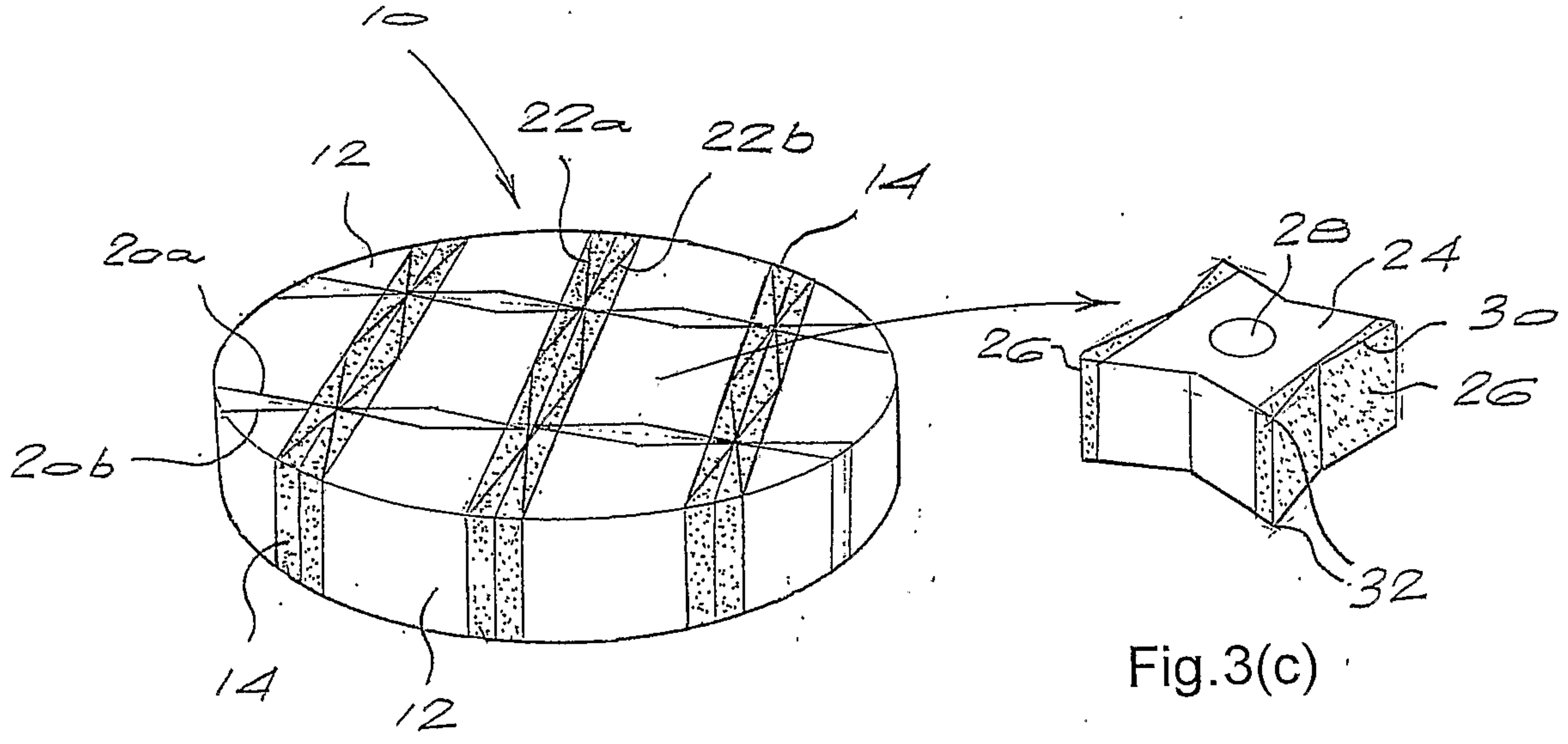


Fig.3(a)

Fig.3(c)

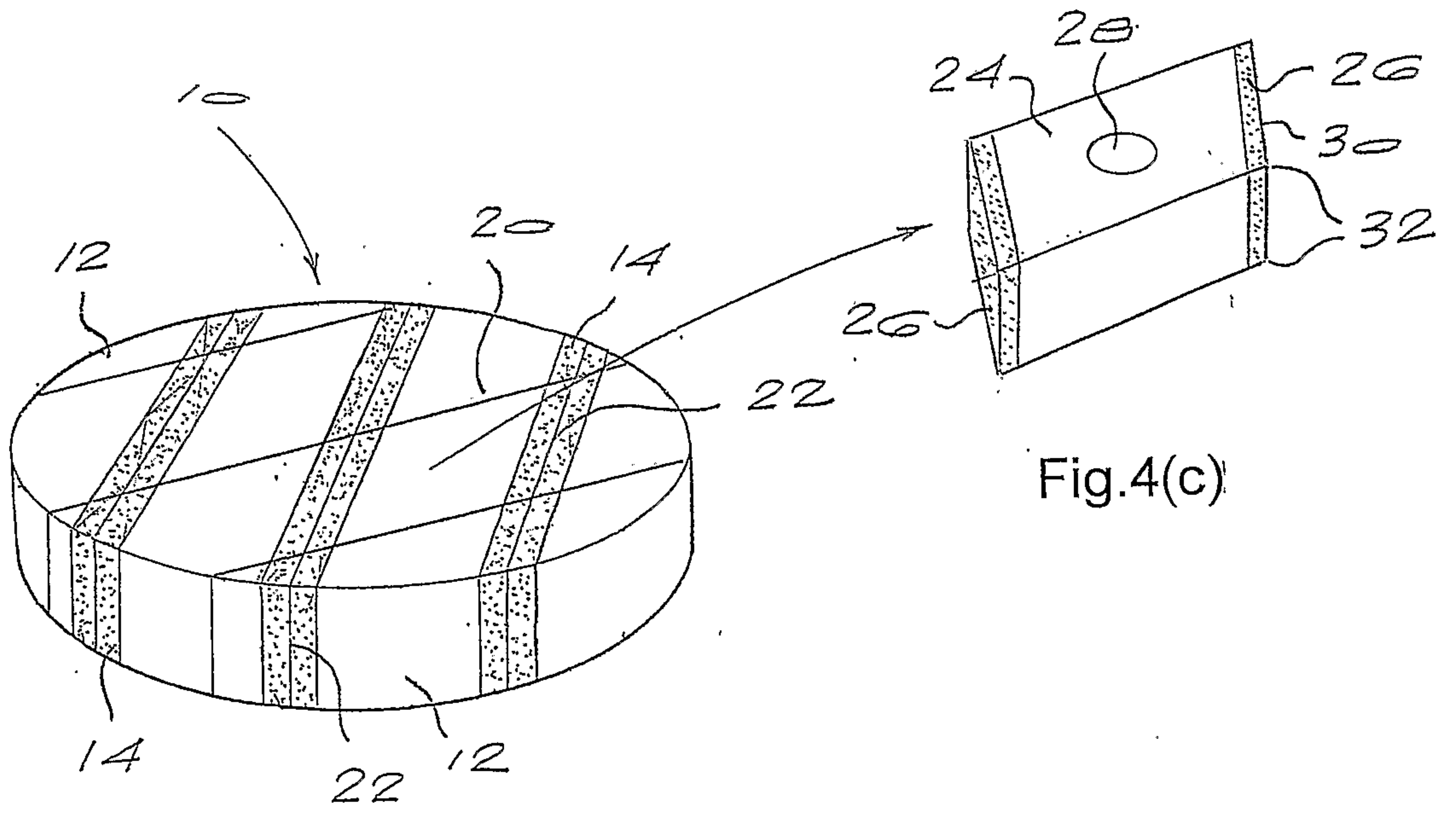
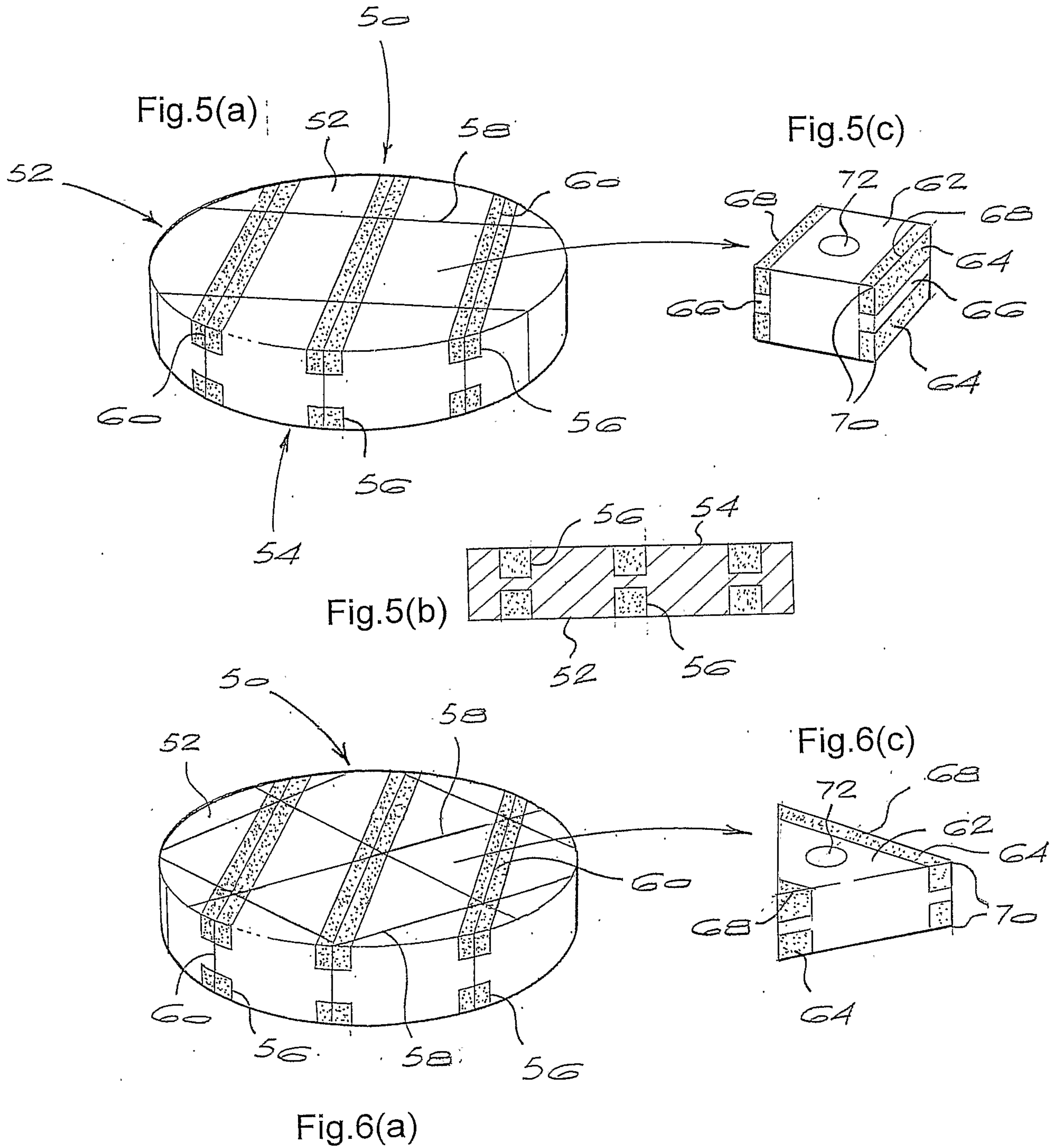


Fig.4(a)

Fig.4(c)



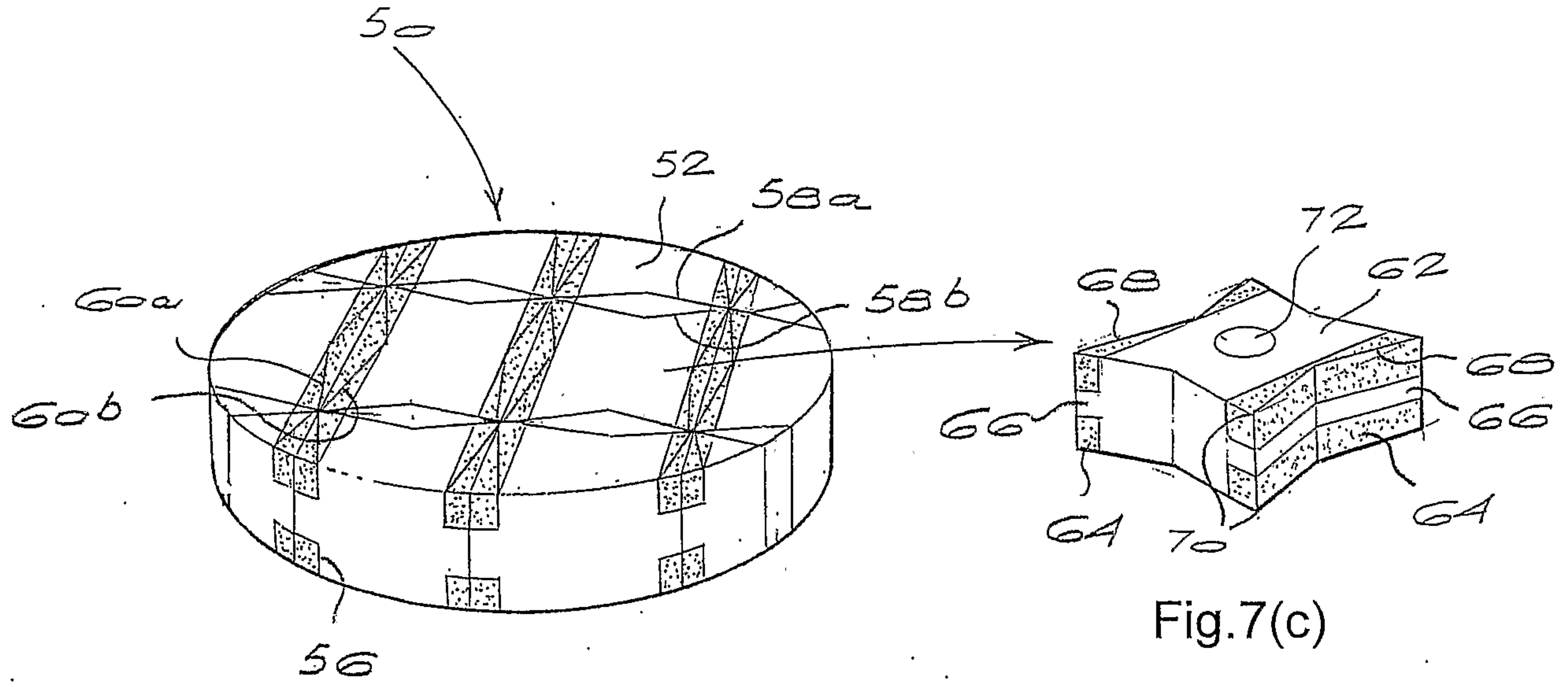


Fig.7(a)

Fig.7(c)

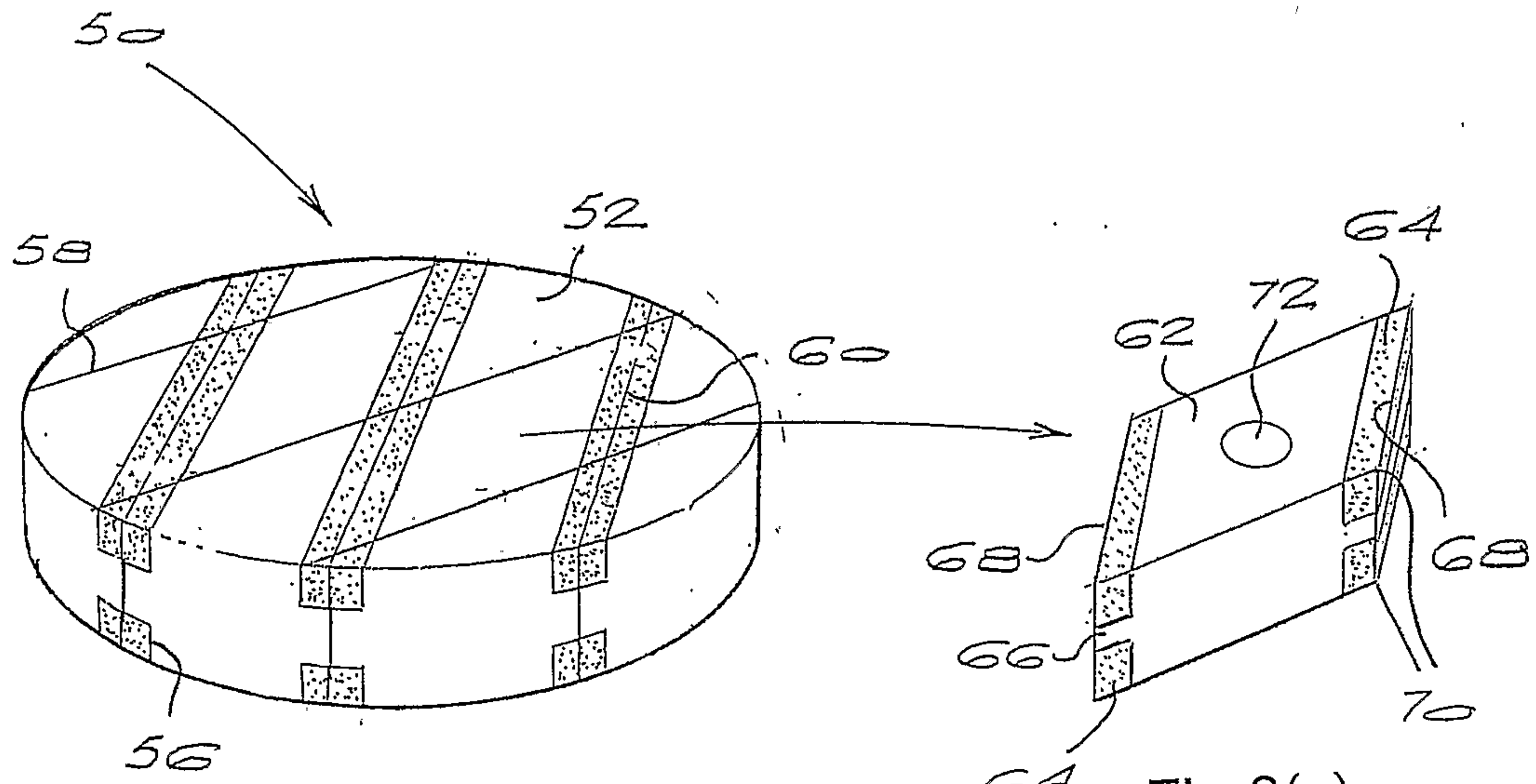


Fig.8(a)

Fig.8(c)

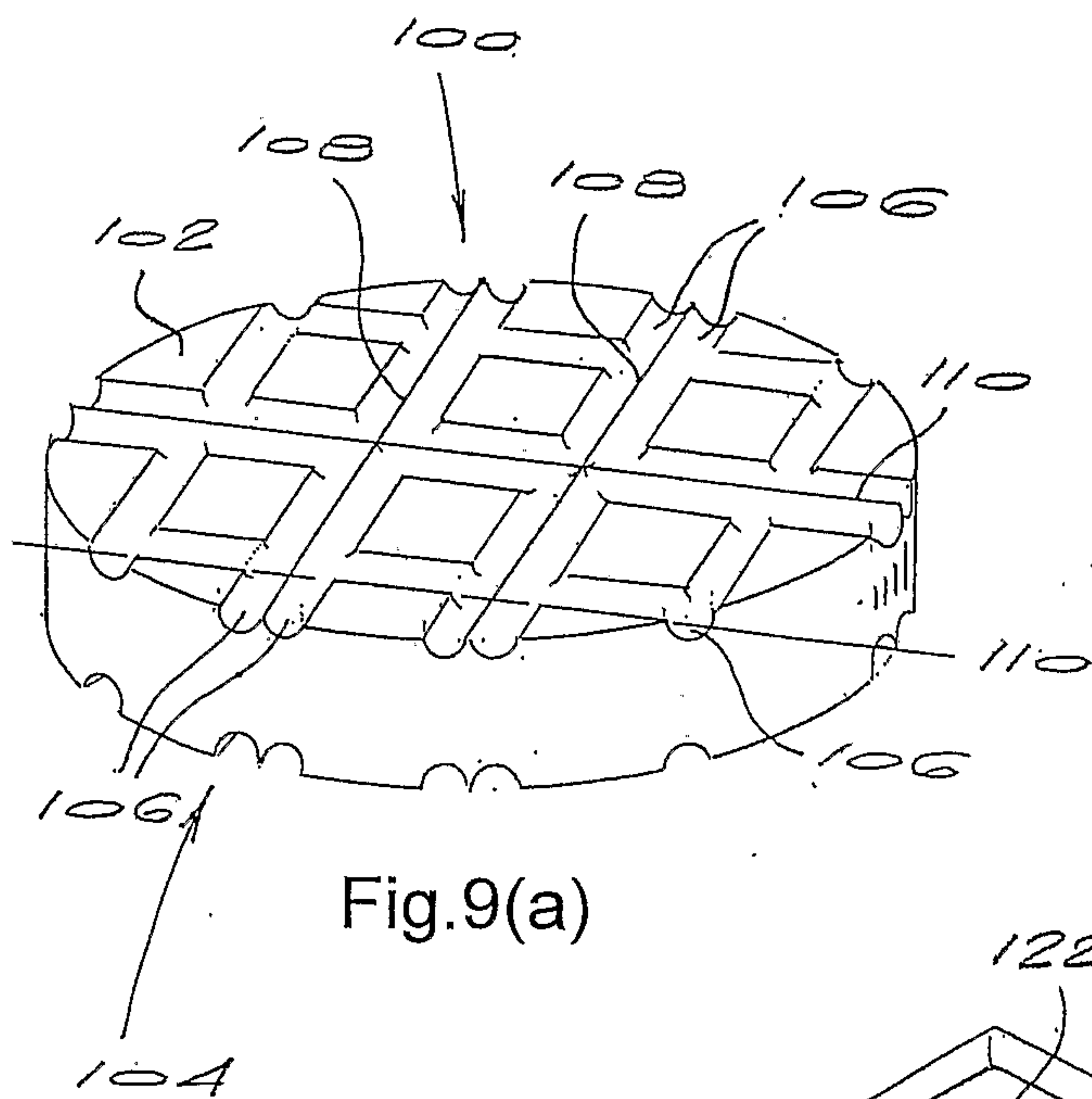


Fig.9(a)

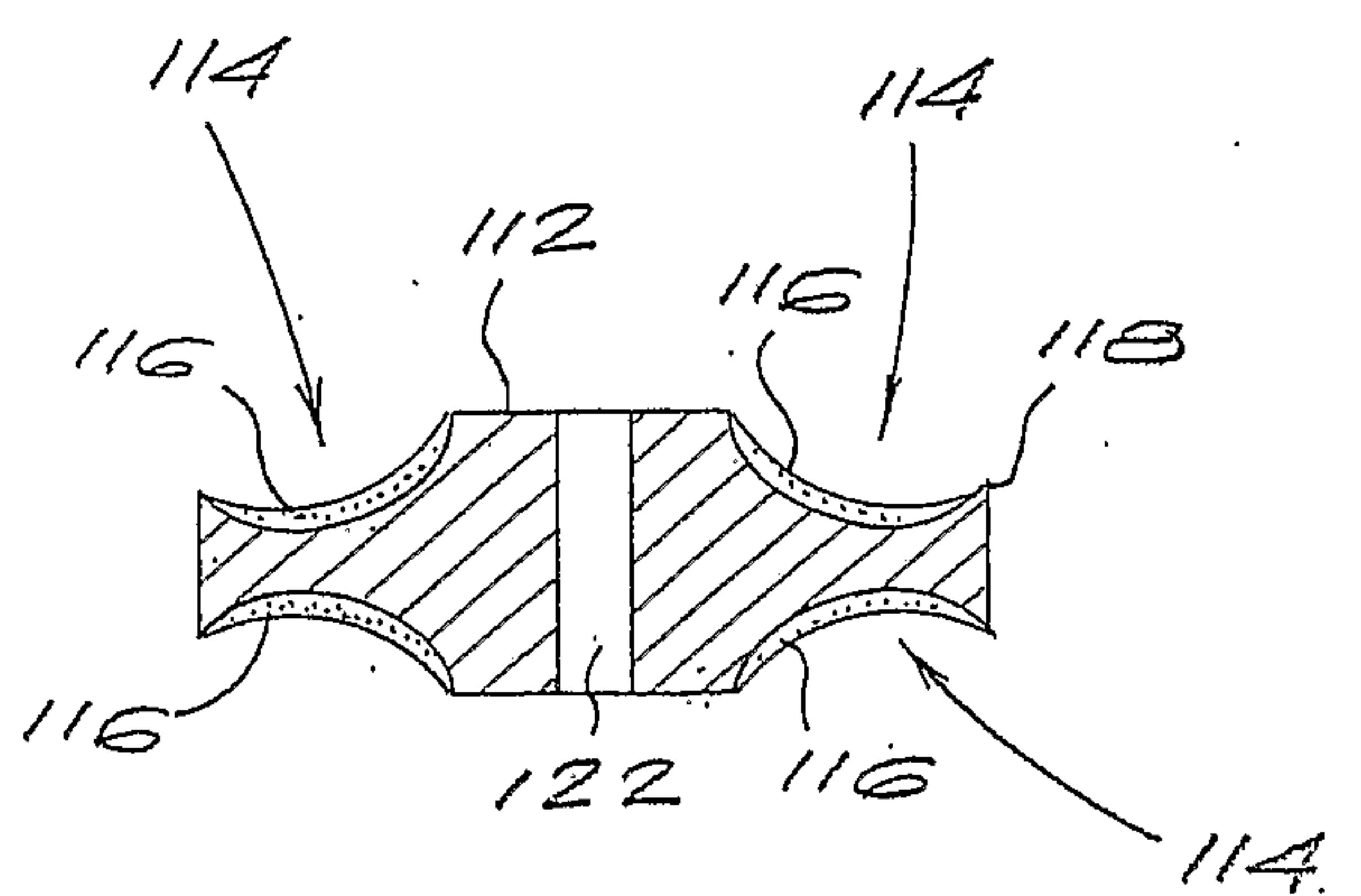


Fig.9(b)

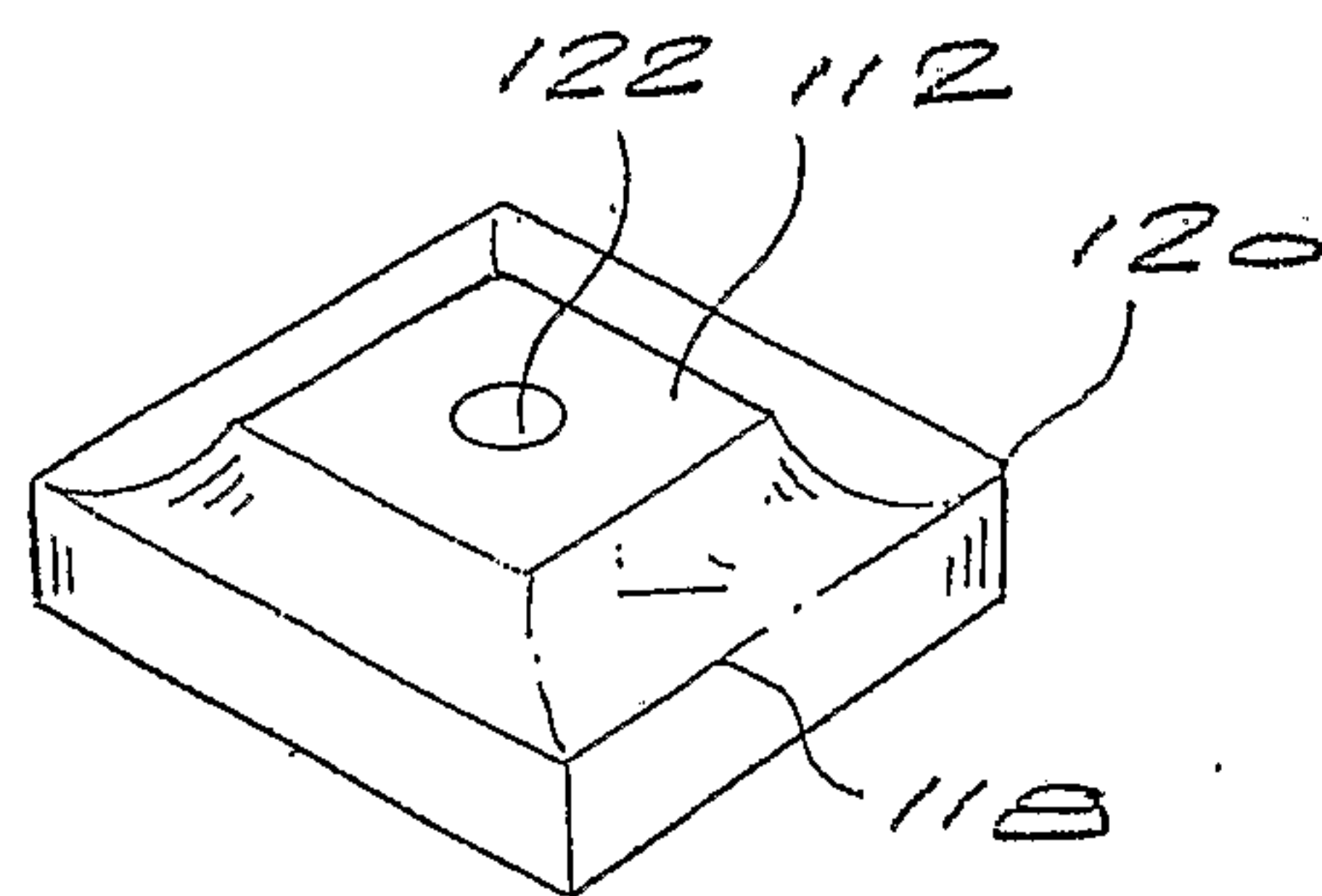


Fig.9(c)

