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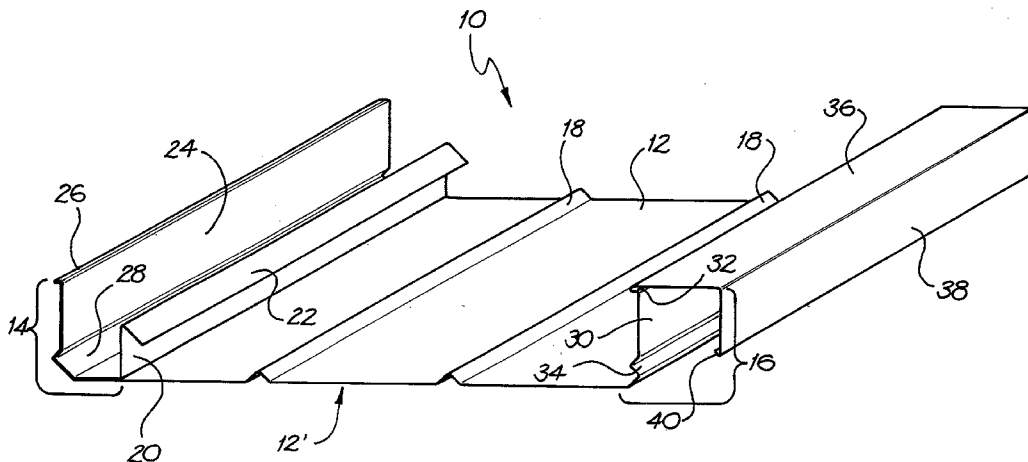
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(54) Title: A CLADDING ELEMENT



(57) **Abstract:** A cladding element (10) for use in a cladding element assembly. The cladding element (10) including a substantially flat web (12) having a pair of opposed longitudinal edges, a male rib formation (14) extending at least partially along one longitudinal edge and having a pair of spaced apart inner and outer upstanding ribs (20 and 24) and an engaging formation (22). The element (10) also includes a female rib formation (16) extending at least partially along the other longitudinal edge and having an inner upstanding rib (30), an outer depending rib (38) and a joining section (36), between the inner and outer ribs (38 and 34) and displaced from the plane of the web (12), and a corresponding engaging formation (40). At least one of the male or female rib formations (14 or 16) is at least partially resiliently flexible. The element (10) is adapted for assembly with a like element (10) by positioning of the male formation (14) substantially within the female formation (16) with their respective engaging formations (22 and 40) in engagement. The assembled male and female formations (14 and 16) together form a substantially rectangular closed channel (56) adapted for concealment of fixing means (44) used to fix the cladding elements (10, 10',.....) to a supporting structure.

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