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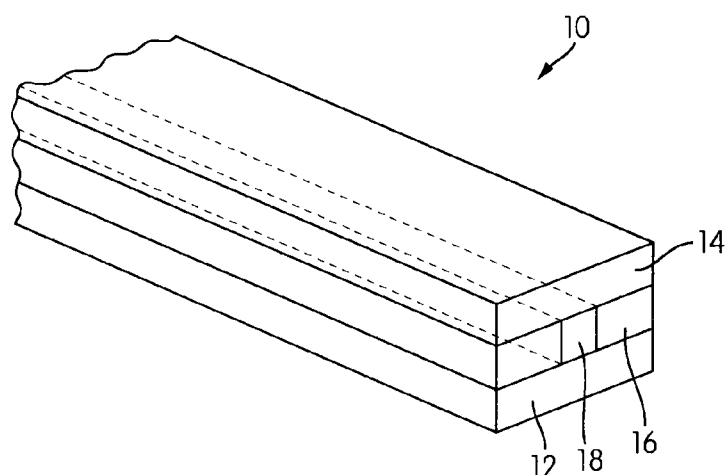


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Hydrophilic adhesive compositions are disclosed that contain a surfactant that is miscible, but not fully soluble in the polymer matrix of the adhesive. This permits the surfactant to continuously replenish at the surface of the adhesive as other surfactant is removed, such as when it is carried away by an aqueous sample flowing over that surface in an in-vitro diagnostic device, resulting in adhesive compositions that are inherently hydrophilic on their surfaces and do not rely on the bloom mechanism of known hydrophilic adhesives. This provides greater design options for in-vitro diagnostic device manufacturers, including the use of hydrophilic adhesive spacers in lieu of or in combination with hydrophilic top covers.