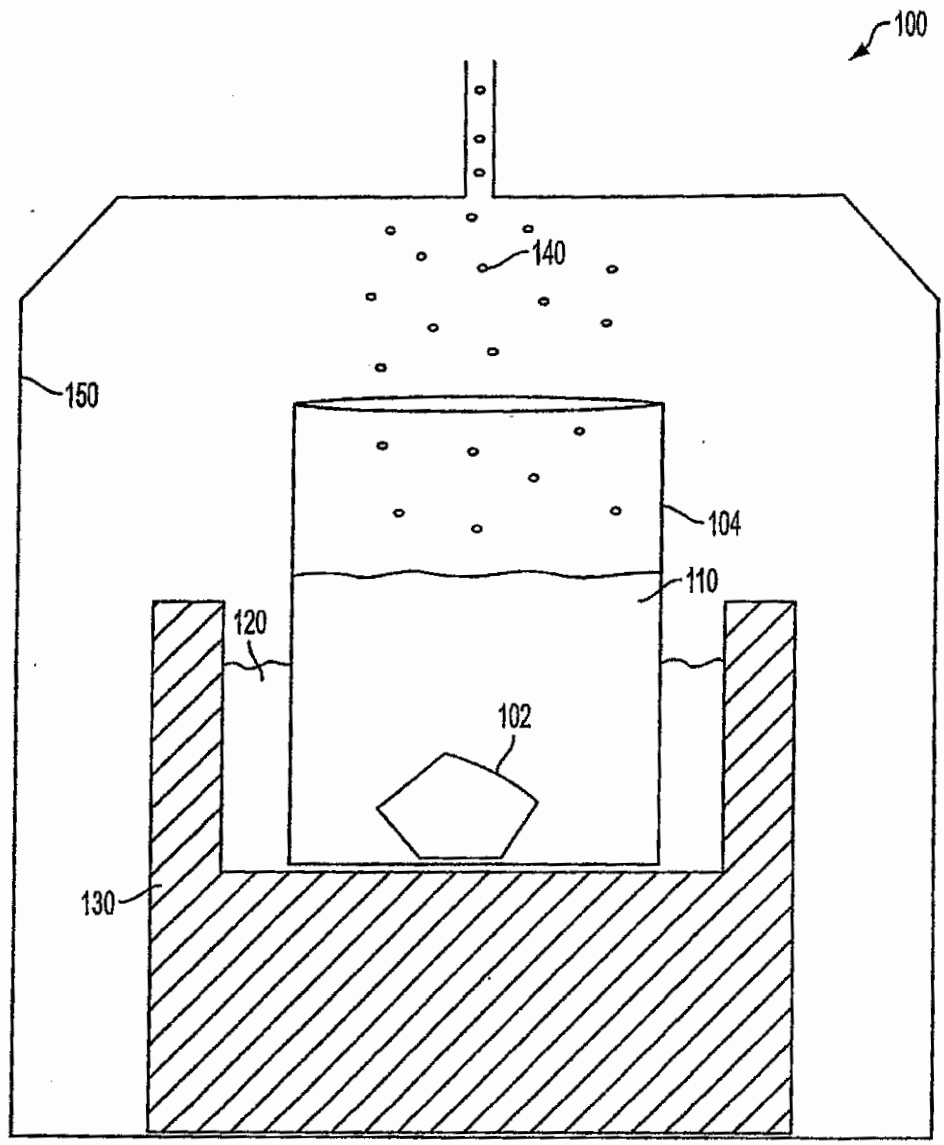


FIG. 1
PRIOR ART

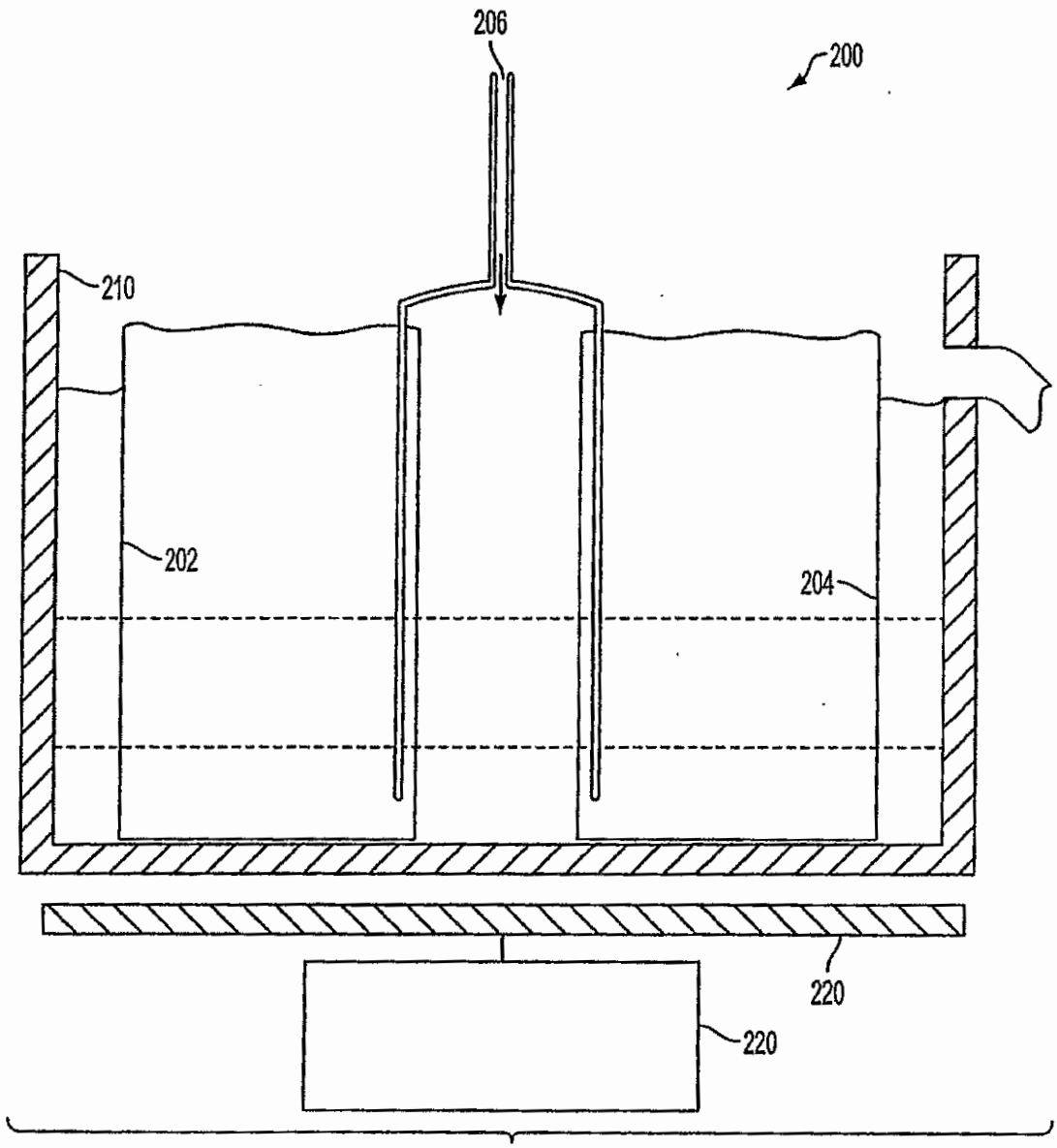


FIG. 2
PRIOR ART

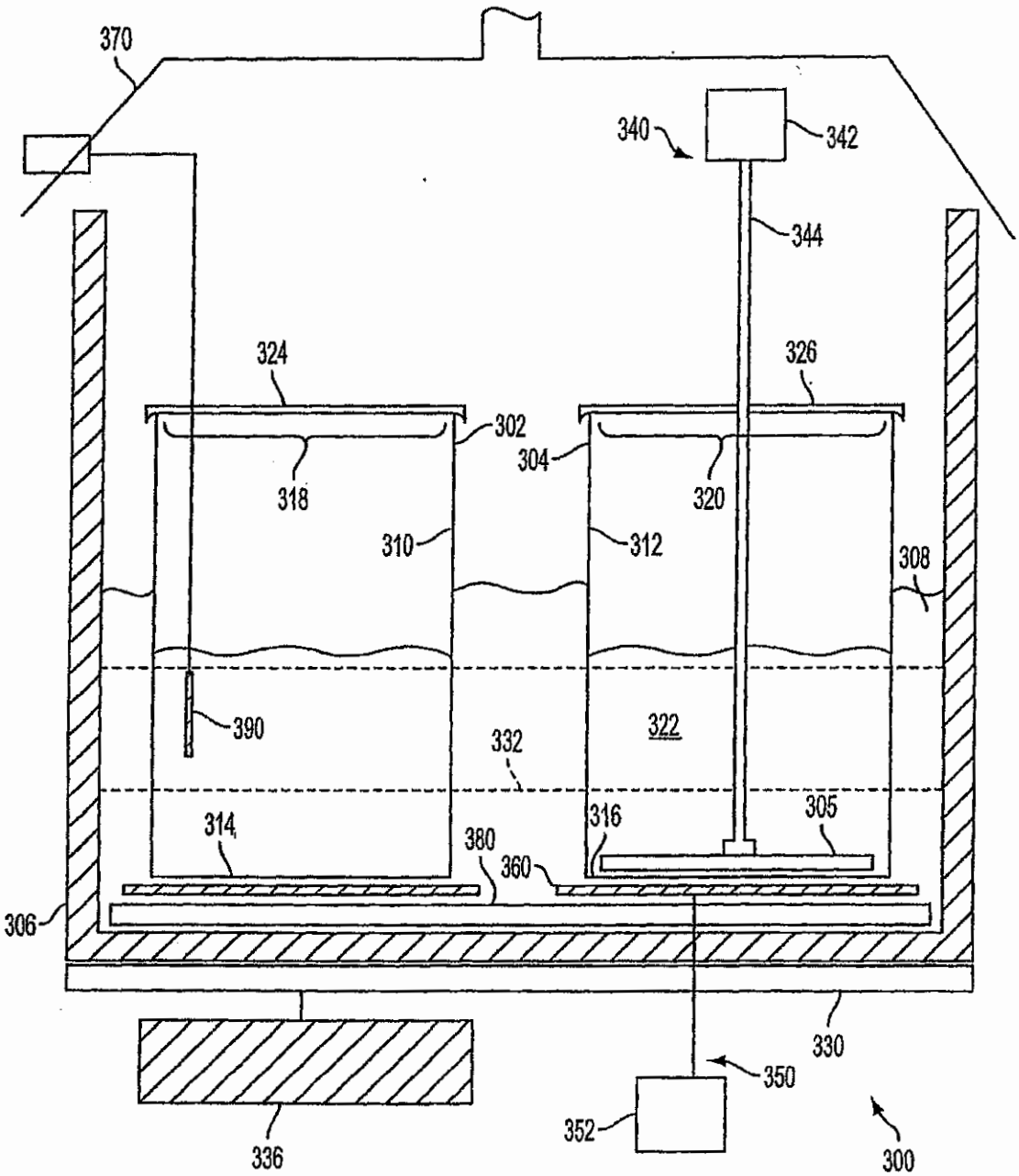

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FIG. 3A

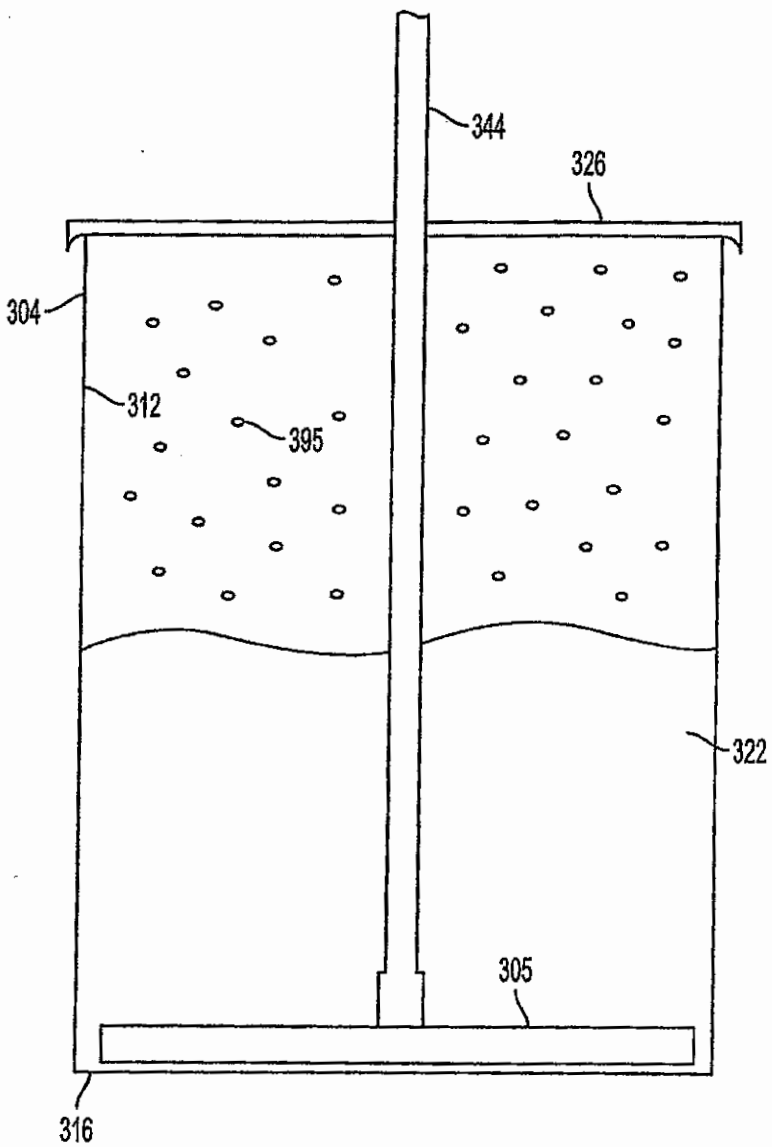


FIG. 3B

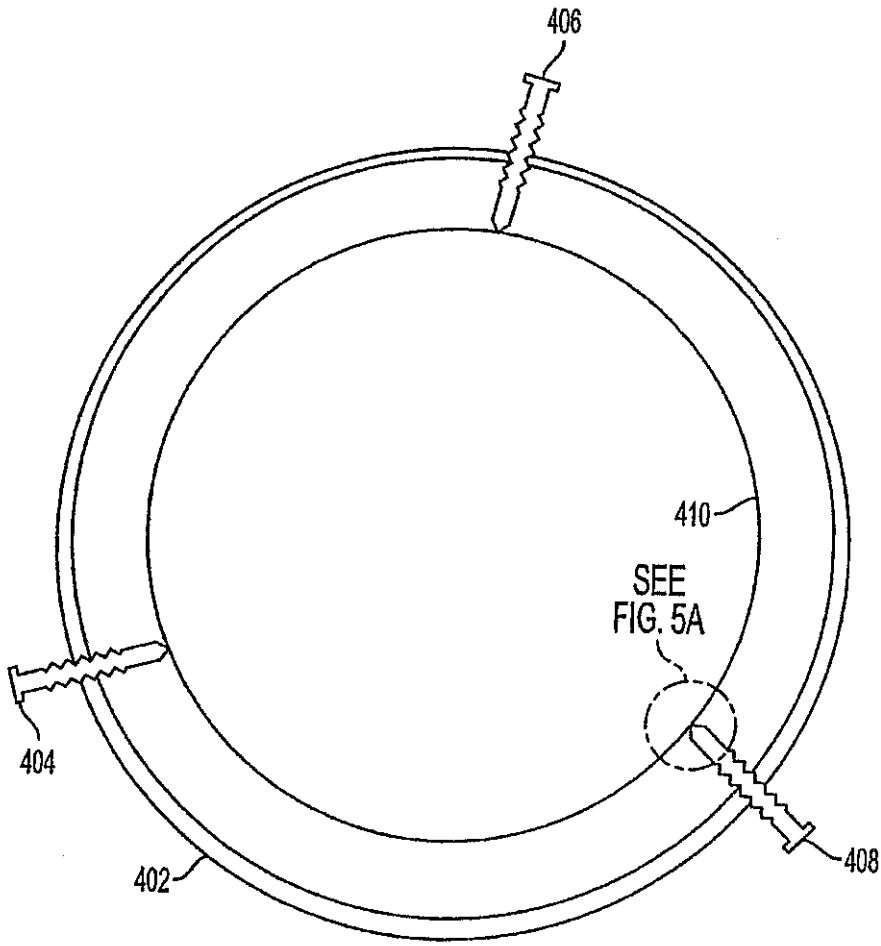


FIG. 4

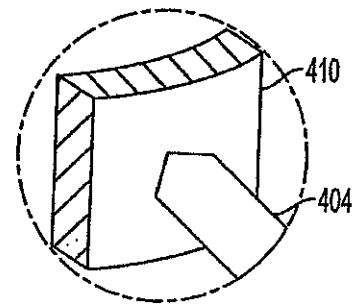


FIG. 5A

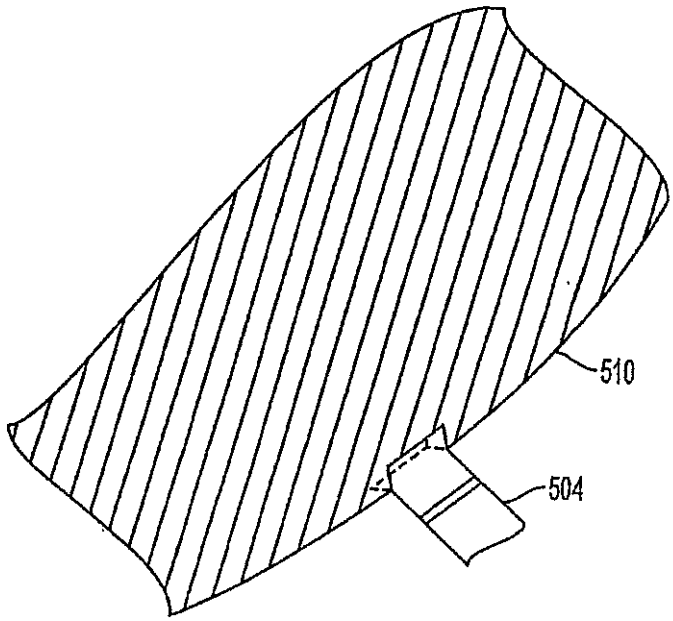


FIG. 5B

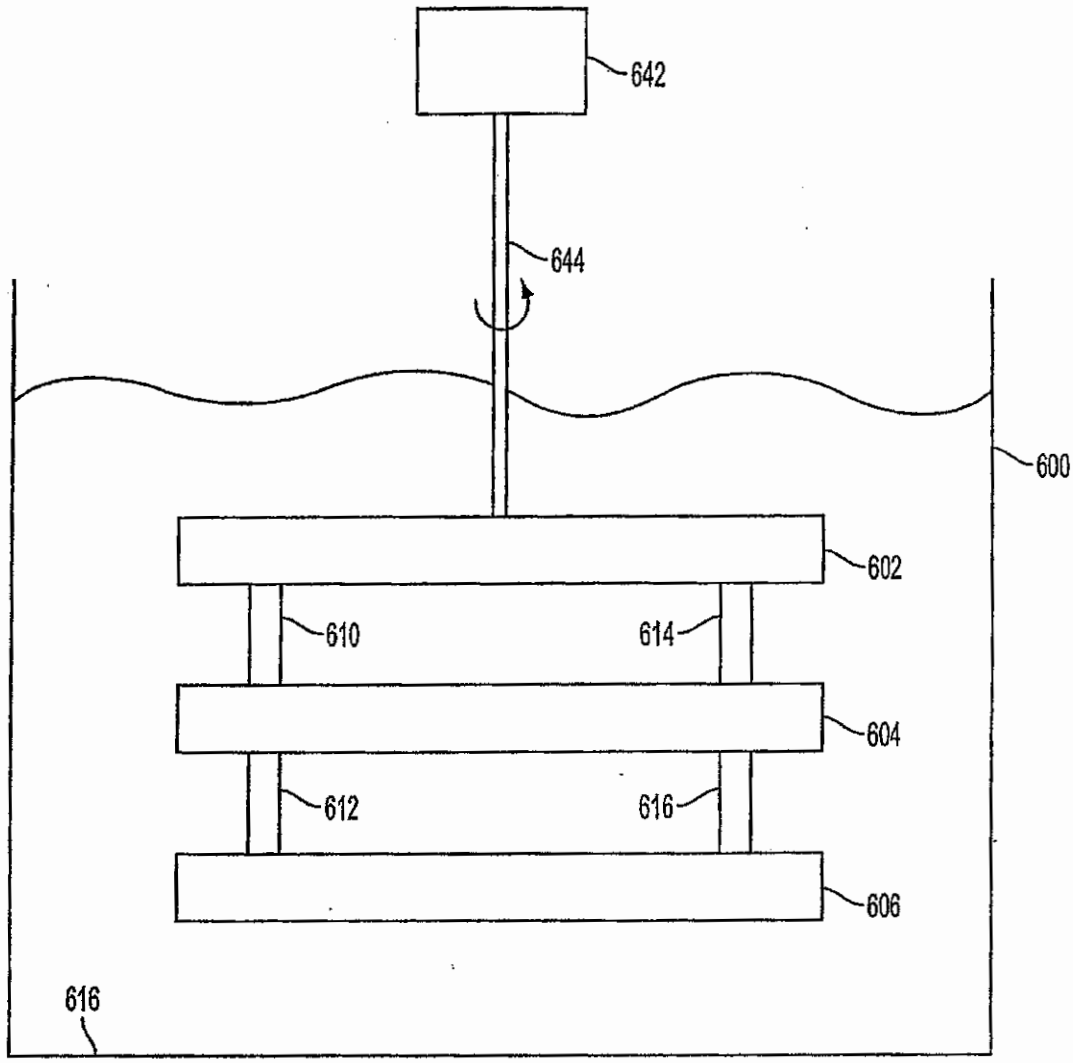


FIG. 6A

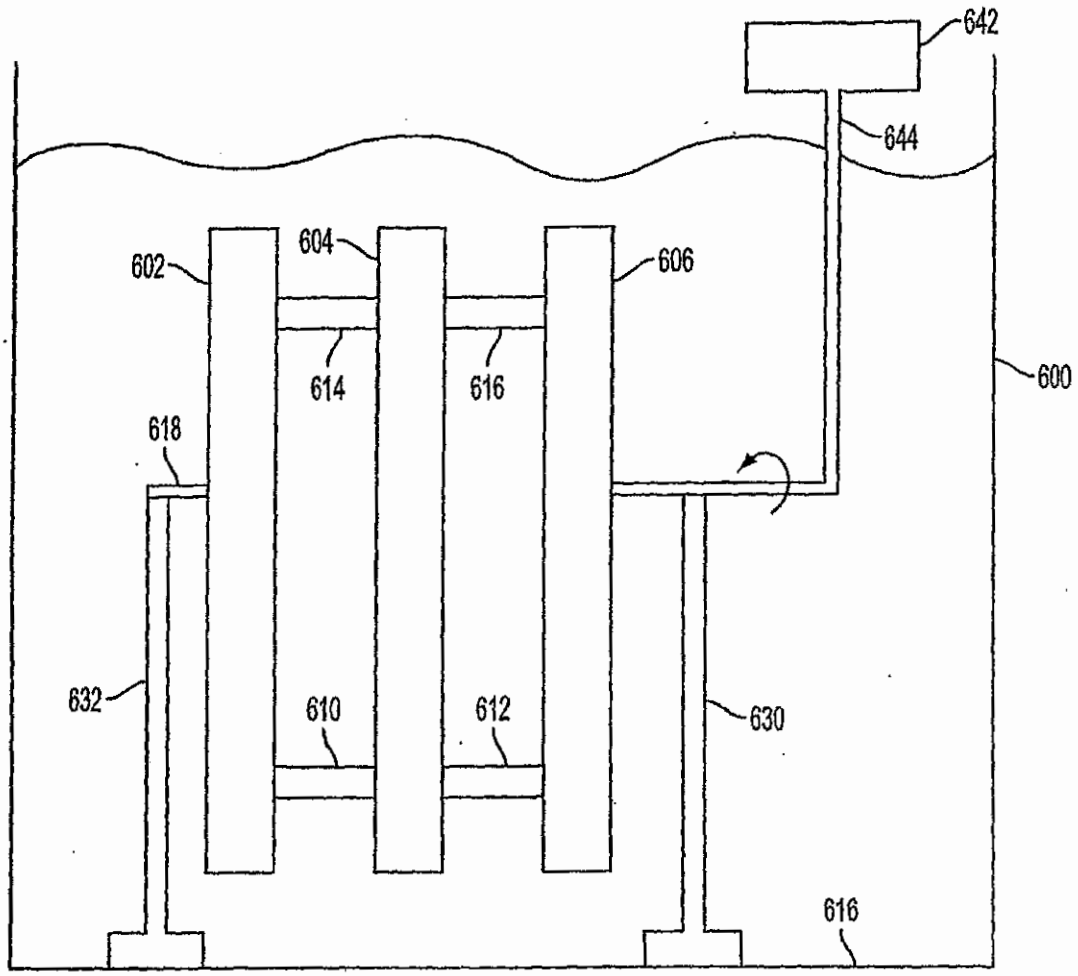


FIG. 6B

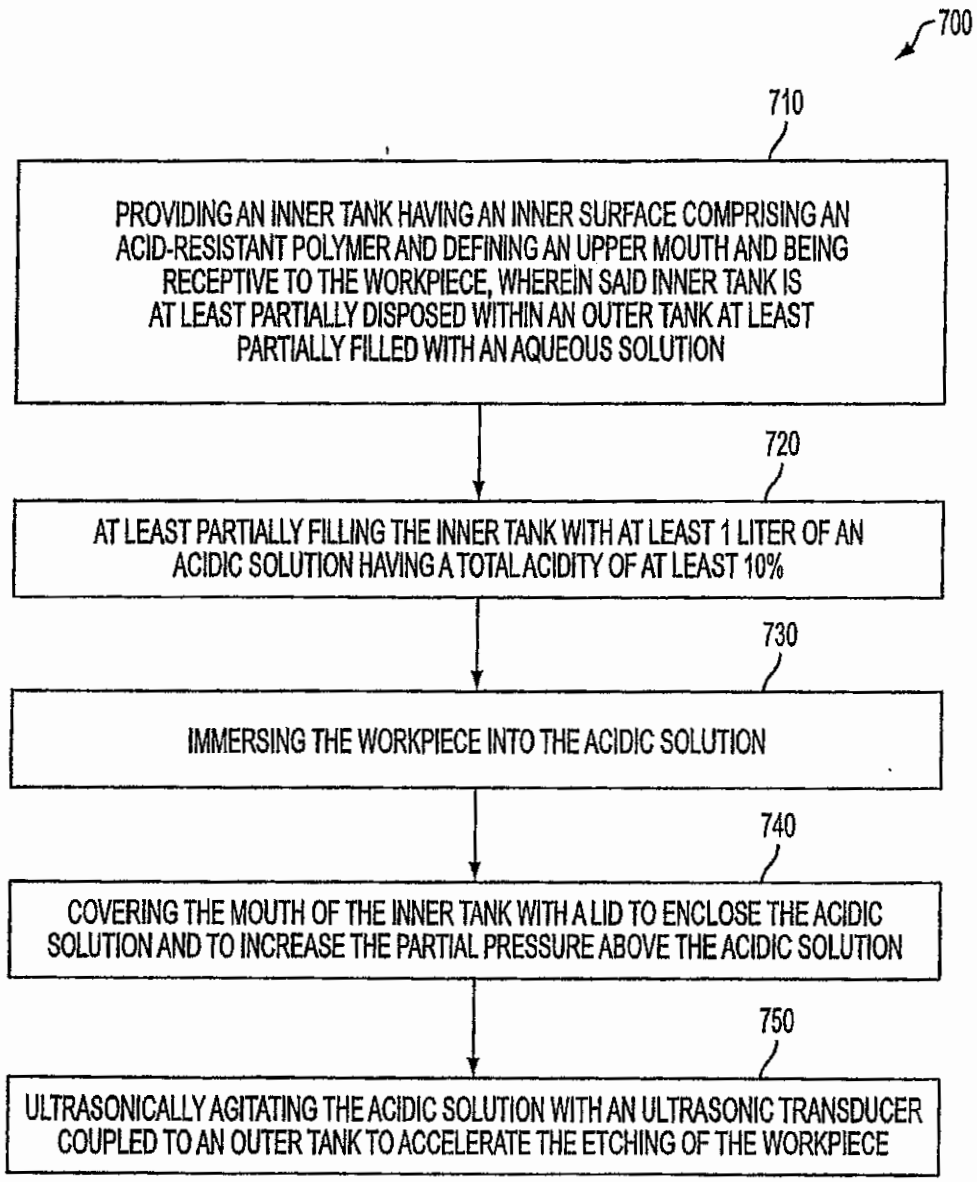

700
710
PROVIDING AN INNER TANK HAVING AN INNER SURFACE COMPRISING AN ACID-RESISTANT POLYMER AND DEFINING AN UPPER MOUTH AND BEING RECEPTIVE TO THE WORKPIECE, WHEREIN SAID INNER TANK IS AT LEAST PARTIALLY DISPOSED WITHIN AN OUTER TANK AT LEAST PARTIALLY FILLED WITH AN AQUEOUS SOLUTION
720
AT LEAST PARTIALLY FILLING THE INNER TANK WITH AT LEAST 1 LITER OF AN ACIDIC SOLUTION HAVING A TOTAL ACIDITY OF AT LEAST 10%
730
IMMERSING THE WORKPIECE INTO THE ACIDIC SOLUTION
740
COVERING THE MOUTH OF THE INNER TANK WITH A LID TO ENCLOSE THE ACIDIC SOLUTION AND TO INCREASE THE PARTIAL PRESSURE ABOVE THE ACIDIC SOLUTION
750
ULTRASONICALLY AGITATING THE ACIDIC SOLUTION WITH AN ULTRASONIC TRANSDUCER COUPLED TO AN OUTER TANK TO ACCELERATE THE ETCHING OF THE WORKPIECE

FIG. 7