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(54) Title: POLYMER FOAM ARTICLES AND METHODS OF MAKING POLYMER FOAMS

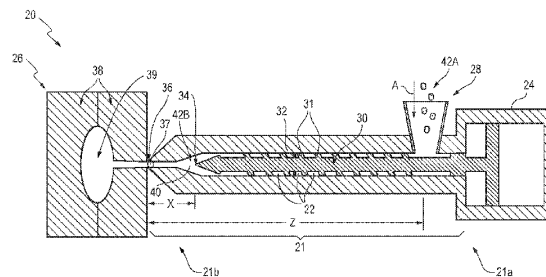


FIG. 1A

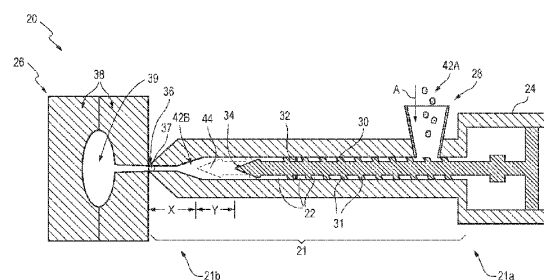


FIG. 1B

(57) Abstract: Molded polymer foam articles are described as having a novel a foam structure. The polymer foam articles include a continuous polymer matrix defining a plurality of pneumatocoles therein which is present throughout the entirety of the article, including in the surface region extending 500 microns beneath the surface of the article. The surface region is further characterized as having compressed pneumatocoles. The novel foam structure is achieved even when molding polymer foam articles comprising a thickness of more than 2 cm, a volume of more than 1000 cm³; or both a volume of more than 1000 cm³ and a thickness of more than 2 cm. Methods of making the molded polymer foam articles are also described.

[Continued on next page]

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