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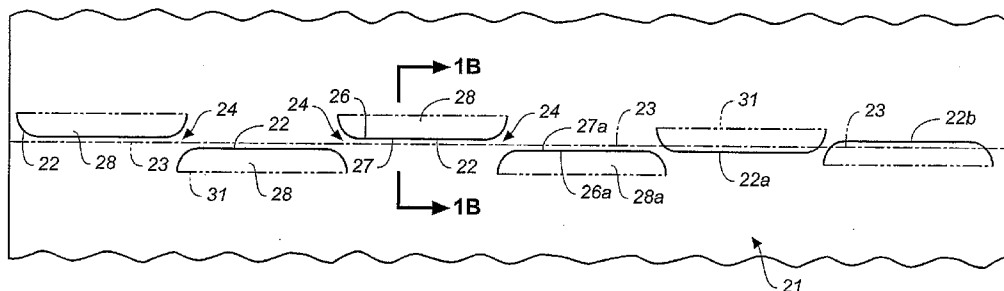
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- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SHEET METAL WITH BEND CONTROLLING DISPLACEMENTS AND METHOD FOR FORMING THE SAME



(57) Abstract: A method of preparing a sheet of material for bending along a bend line comprising the step of forming of at least one displacement in the thickness direction of the sheet of material with a portion of the periphery of the displacement closest to the bend line providing an edge and opposed face configured in position to produce edge-to-face engagement of the sheet on opposite sides of the periphery during bending. The forming step is preferably accomplished using one of a stamping process, a punching process, a roll-forming process and embossing process. A sheet of material suitable for bending using the process also is disclosed, as are the use of coatings, shin gaurds and displacing the area of the sheet between bending inducing slits.



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