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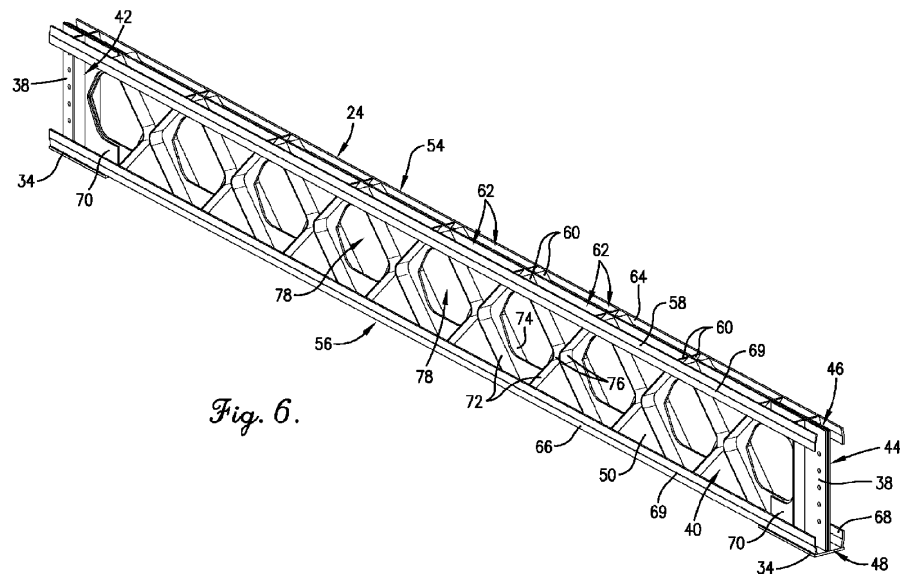
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(54) Title: SUPPORT BEAM FOR SUPPORTING INTERNALS WITHIN A MASS TRANSFER COLUMN



(57) Abstract: A support beam is provided for supporting an internal such as a structured or grid packing within a mass transfer column. The support beam has an elongated web and upper and lower open flanges respectively positioned at upper and lower edge portions of the web. Each of the upper and lower open flanges has reinforcement rails that extend along a longitudinal length of the web and are spaced from opposed first and second faces of the web by spacers to create open fluid flow channels between the reinforcement rails and the first and second faces of the web. The upper and lower open flanges strengthen the web against deflection while minimizing horizontal surfaces that may lead to accumulation and growth of solids that may interfere with fluid flow to and from the internal.

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