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(54) **Title:** APPARATUS FOR ACCUMULATING A FLUID

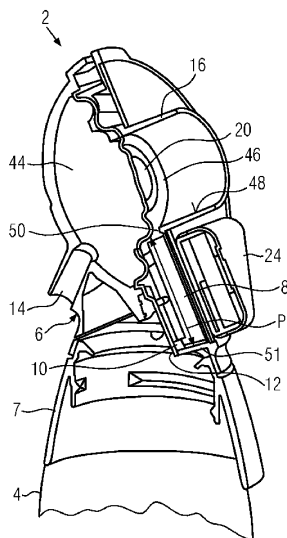


FIG. 2

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention relates to an apparatus (2) for accumulating a fluid, the apparatus (2) comprising a drain bottle (4) for containing the fluid, a reservoir (8) having an outlet (10) towards the drain bottle (4), the reservoir (8) and the drain bottle (4) communicating with each other via a valve (12) provided in the outlet (10), a suction aperture (14) connectable with a suction pump for creating a vacuum in the reservoir (8), an optical sensing device (22) operably coupled to the reservoir (8) and adjusted to measure the volume of the fluid standing in the reservoir (8), the optical sensing device (22) comprising a light source (26) and a detector (28), wherein the light source (26) is configured to emit light towards the reservoir (8) and the detector (28) is configured to detect an intensity of the light emanating from the reservoir (8), and at least one light directing means (30, 32) for directing the light on its path from the light source (26) to the detector (28).

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