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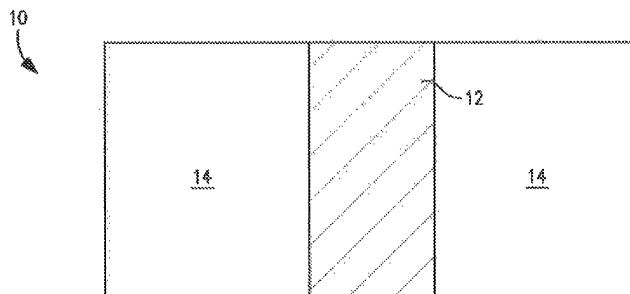
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(54) Title: TECHNIQUE FOR SELECTIVELY CONTROLLING THE POROSITY OF A POLYMERIC MATERIAL

**FIG. 1**

(57) Abstract: A method for selectively controlling the degree of porosity in a polymeric material is provided. The material is formed from a thermoplastic composition containing a microinclusion additive and nanoinclusion additive that are dispersed within a continuous phase of a matrix polymer in the form of discrete domains. At least a portion of the polymeric material is strained so that a porous network is formed therein. Further, at least a portion of the strained polymeric material is heat treated so that it exhibits a Sower pore volume than the material prior to heat treatment, in this manner, the polymeric material can exhibit a high degree of initial flexibility, but this flexibility can be selectively reduced when desired.