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Crego

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(45) **Date of Patent:** **Sep. 4, 2012**

- (54) **SINGLE PLY ROOFING SYSTEM**
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- (*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 157 days.
- (21) Appl. No.: **12/718,757**
- (22) Filed: **Mar. 5, 2010**

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(65) **Prior Publication Data**
US 2010/0300011 A1 Dec. 2, 2010

Related U.S. Application Data
(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 12/476,827, filed on Jun. 2, 2009, now abandoned.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
E04D 1/36 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** 52/58; 52/60; 52/409; 52/588.1

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 52/58, 408, 52/409, 508.1, 394, 60, 30
See application file for complete search history.

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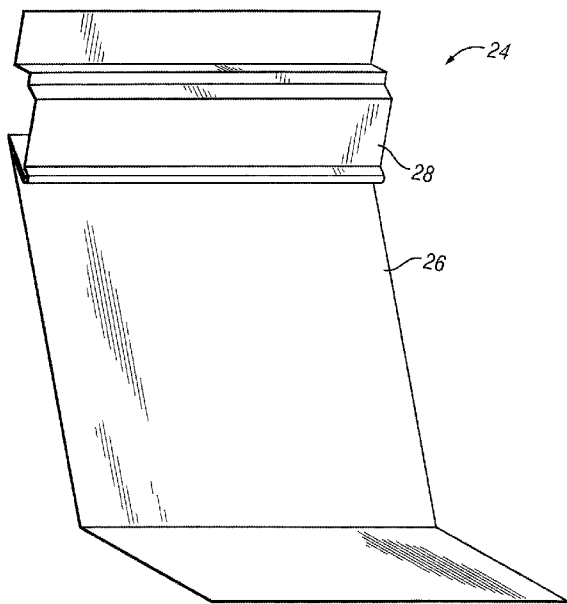
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(57) **ABSTRACT**
 A roofing system for application on a roofing substrate wherein flexible supports alleviate fatiguing of the roofing sheeting which typically occurs due to thermal expansion and contraction, thus enabling thicker roofing sheeting to be used and thus extending the usable life of the roofing sheeting.

17 Claims, 20 Drawing Sheets



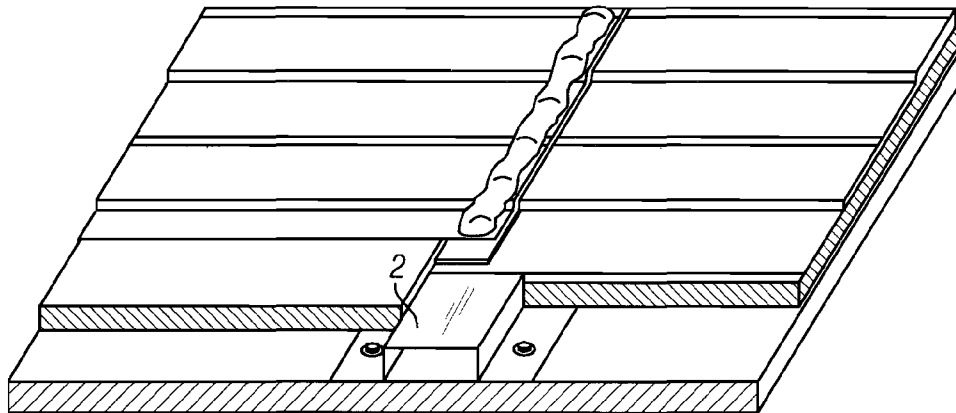


FIG. 1
(Prior Art)

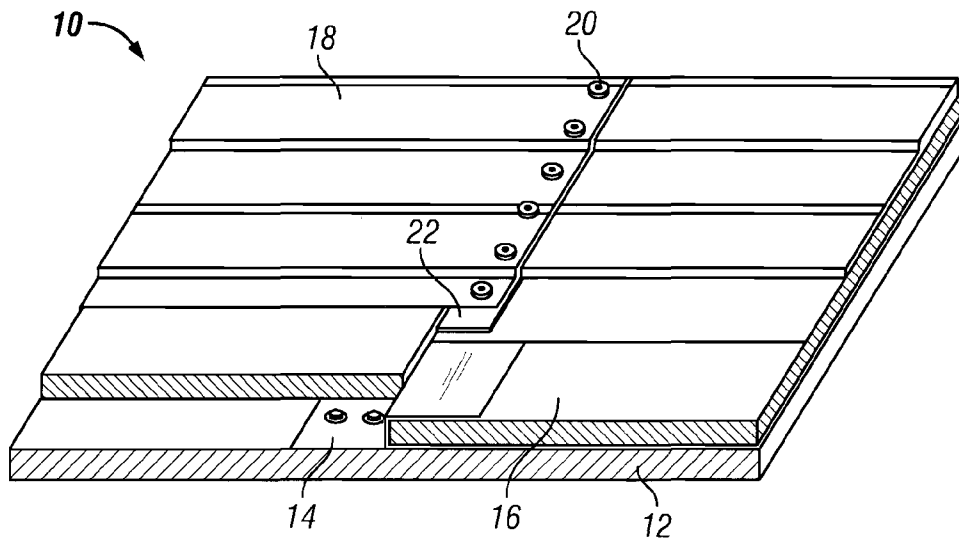


FIG. 2

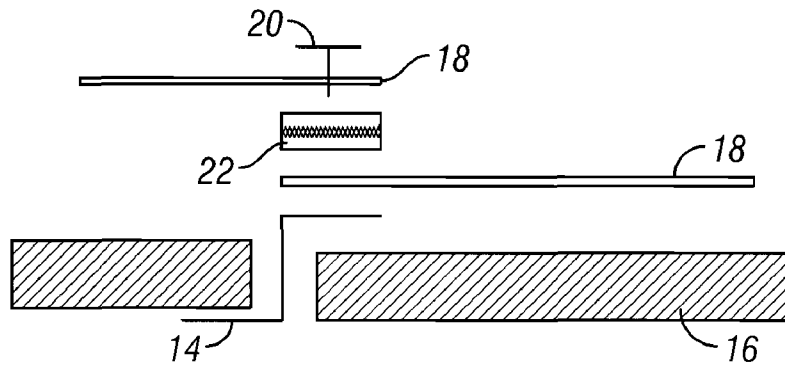


FIG. 3

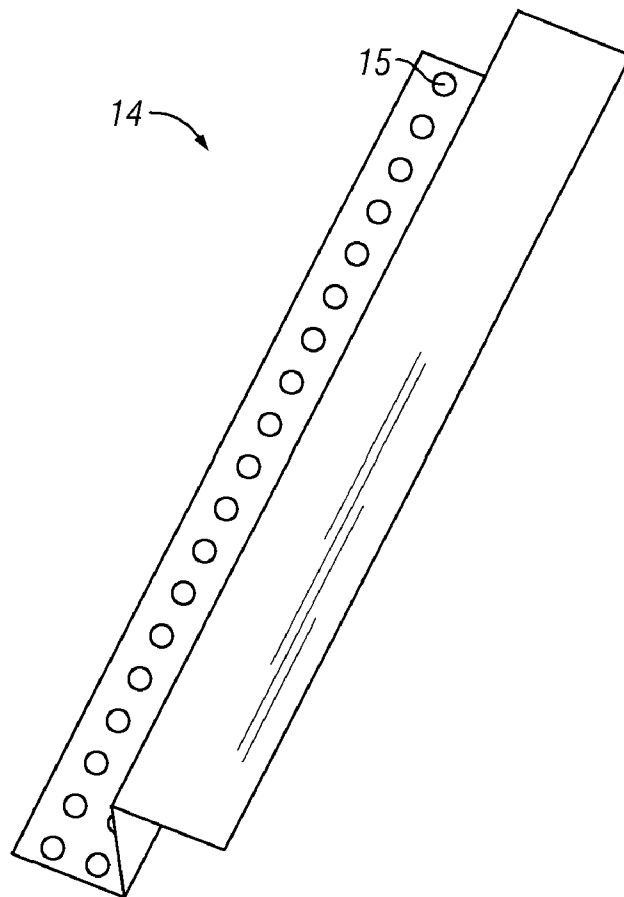


FIG. 4

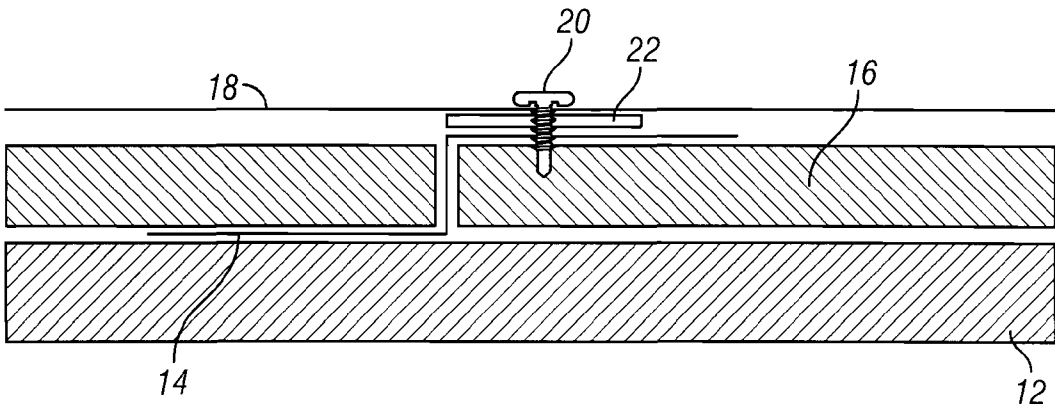


FIG. 5

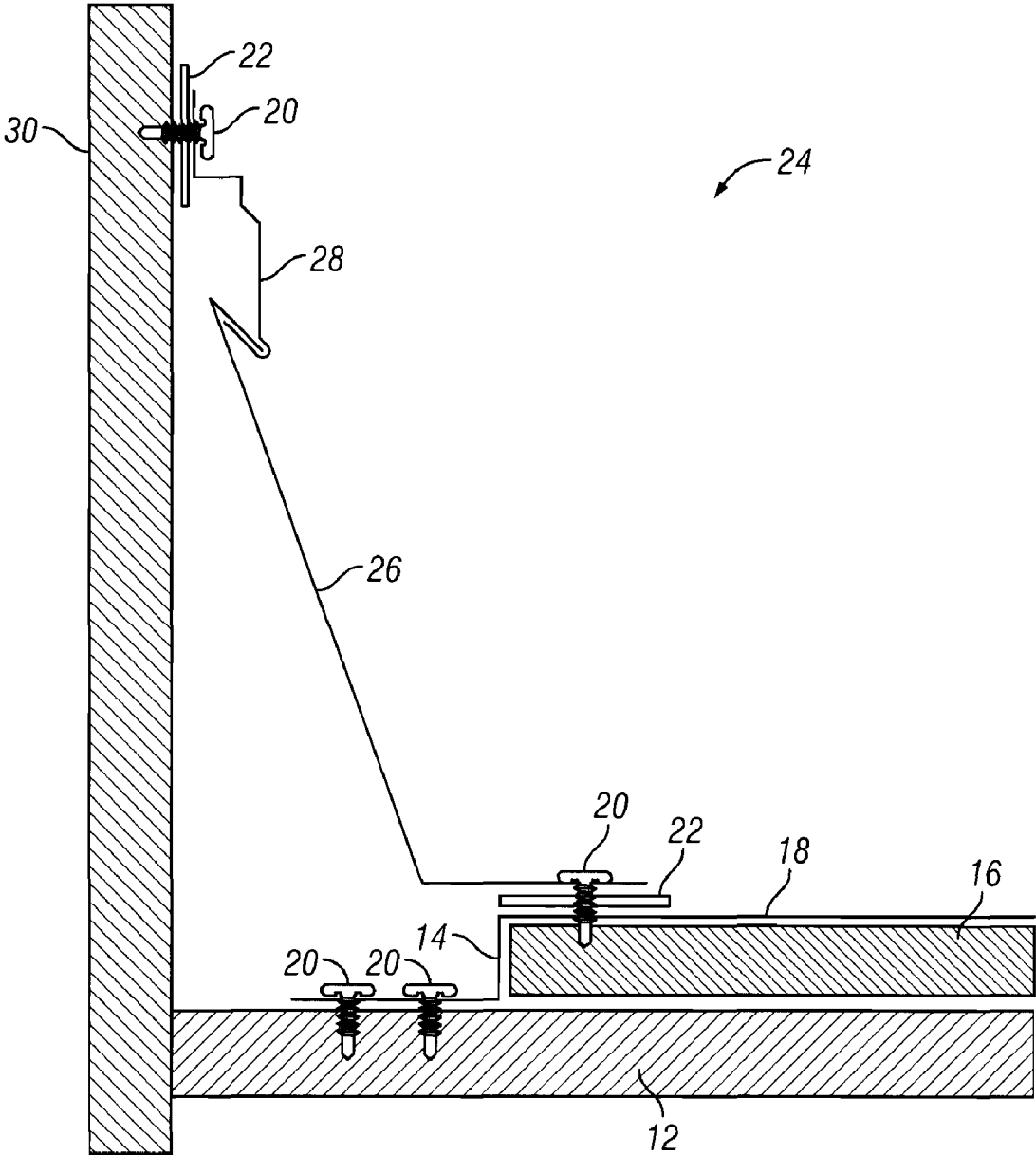


FIG. 6A

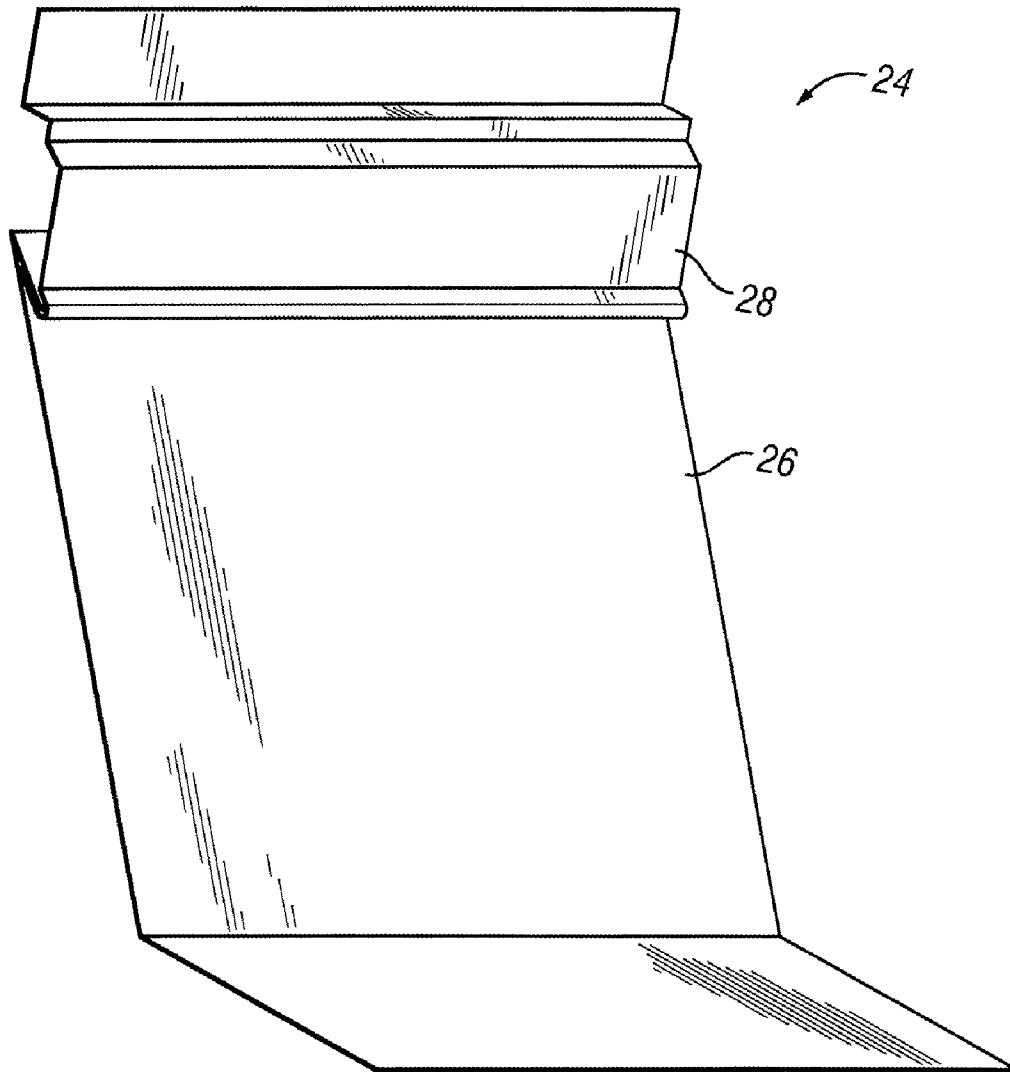


FIG. 6B

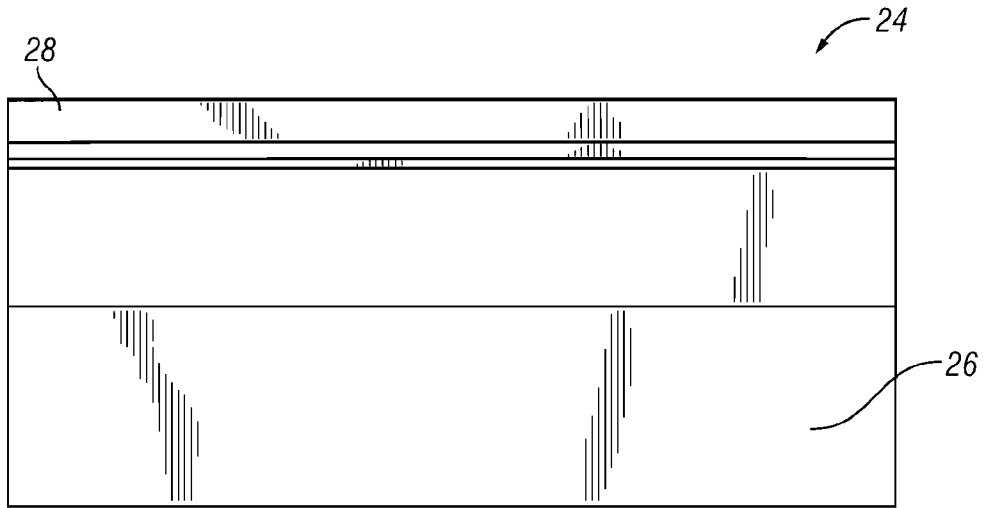


FIG. 6C

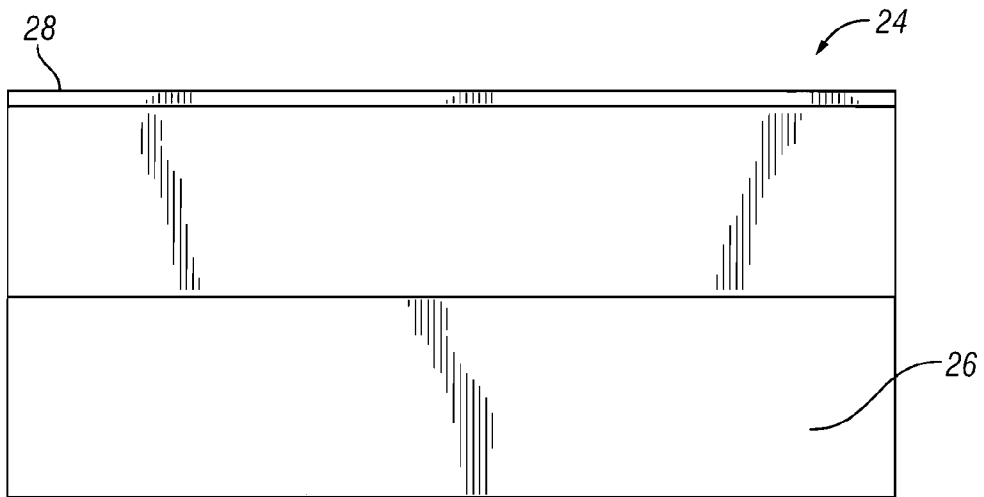


FIG. 6D

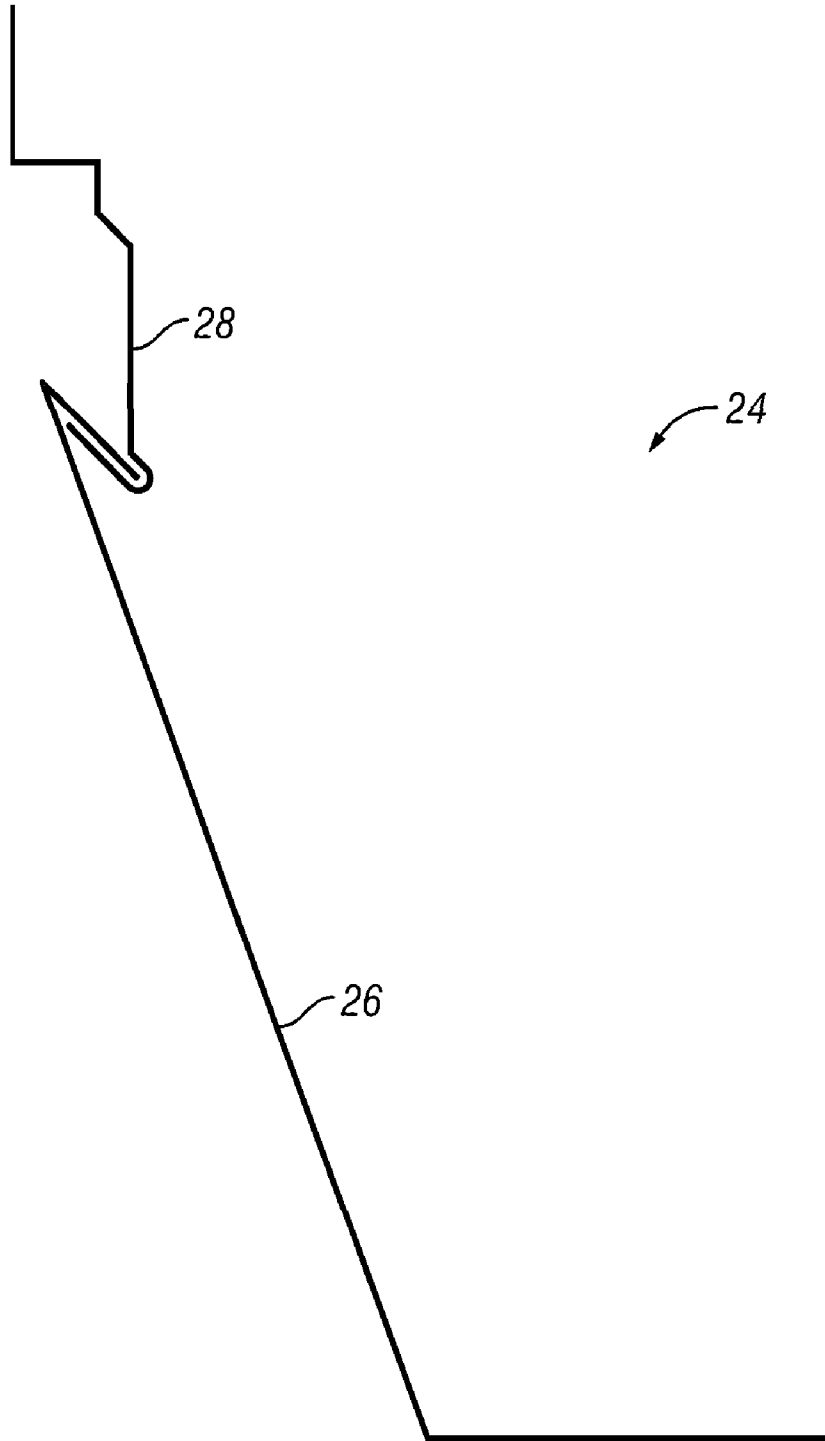


FIG. 6E

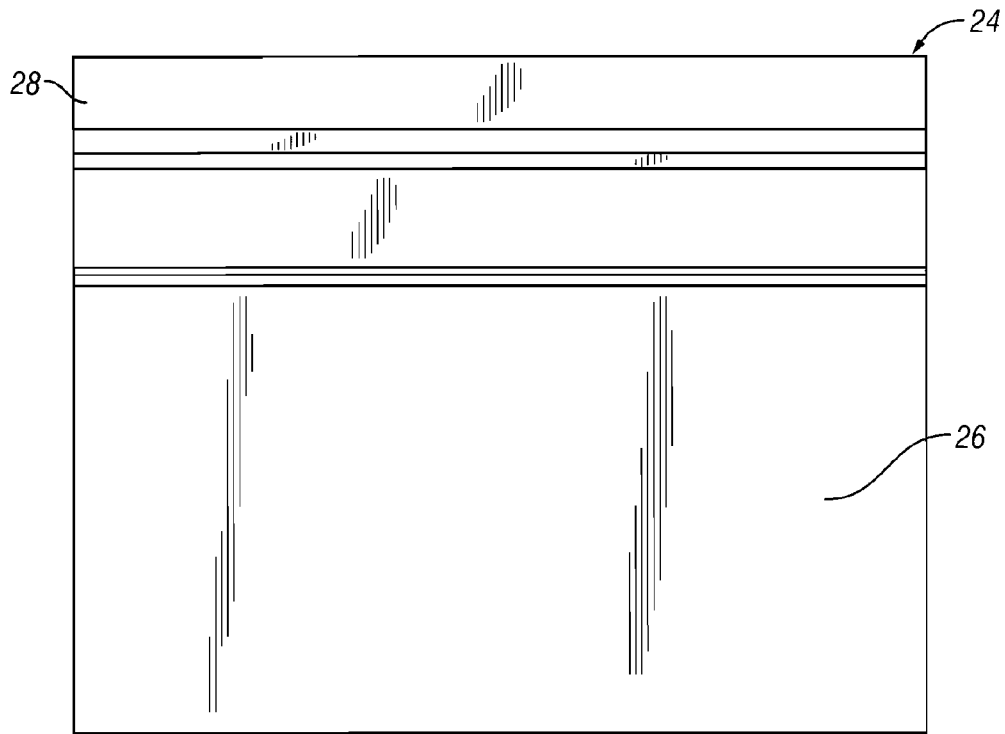


FIG. 6F

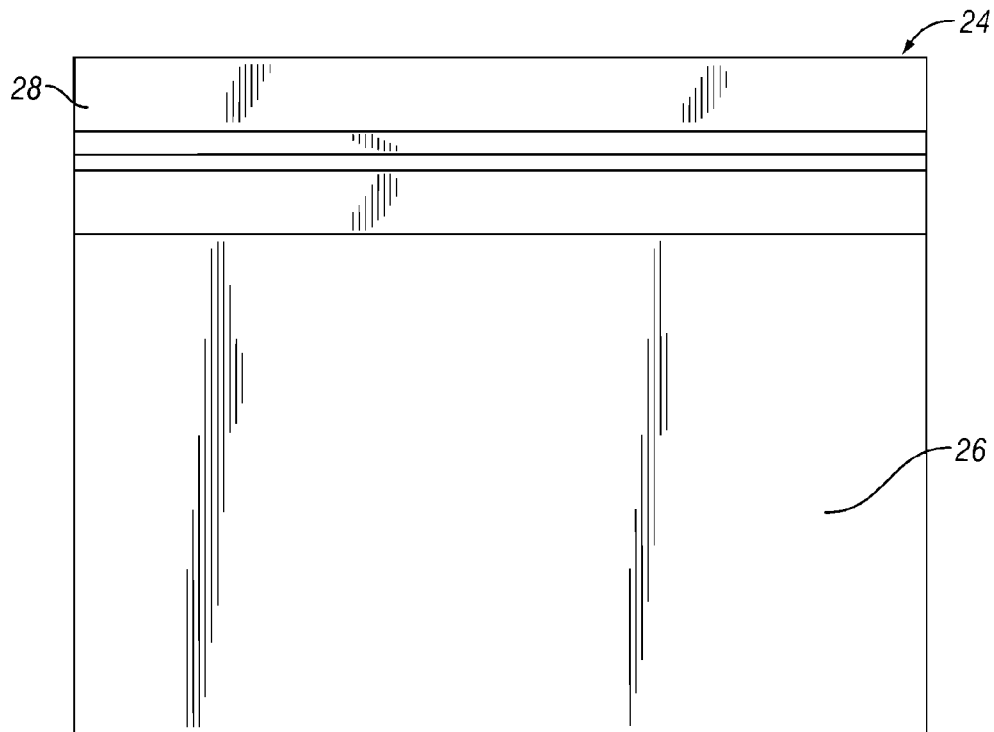


FIG. 6G

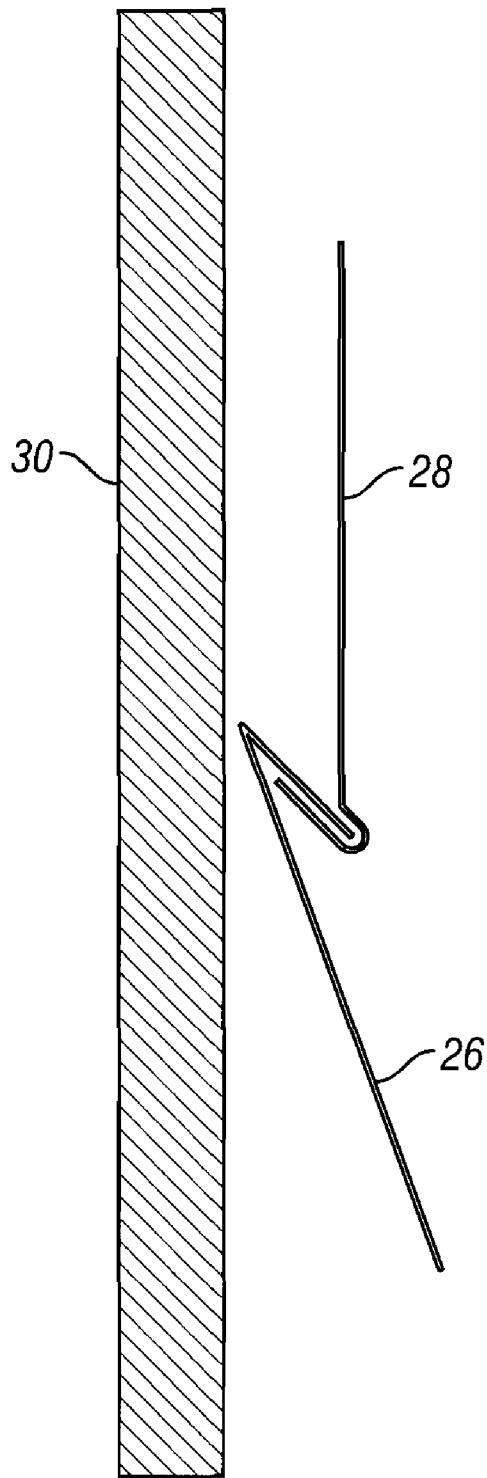


FIG. 7

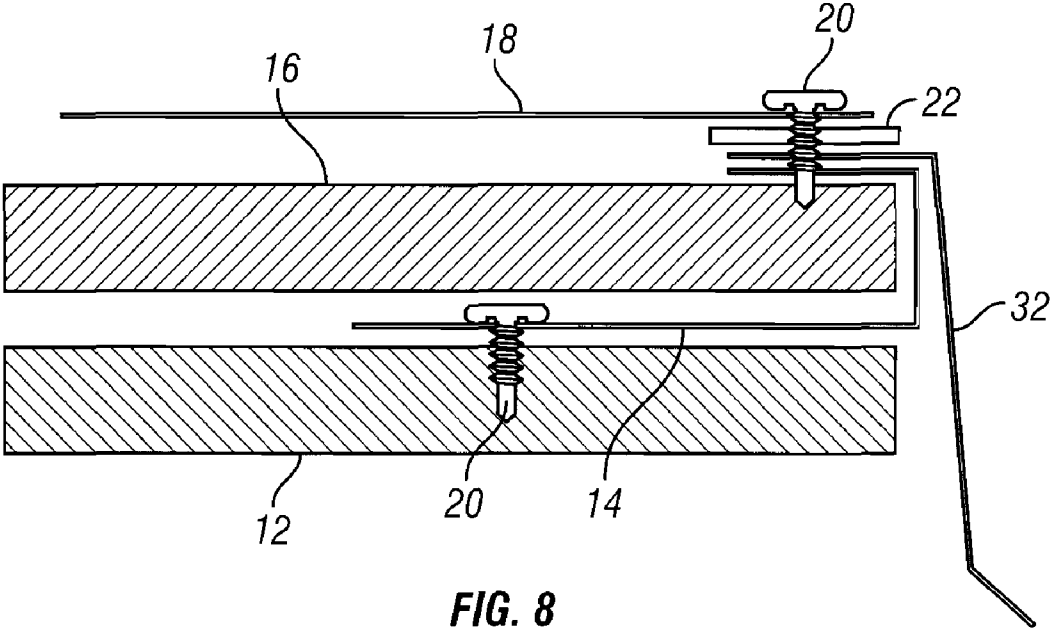


FIG. 8

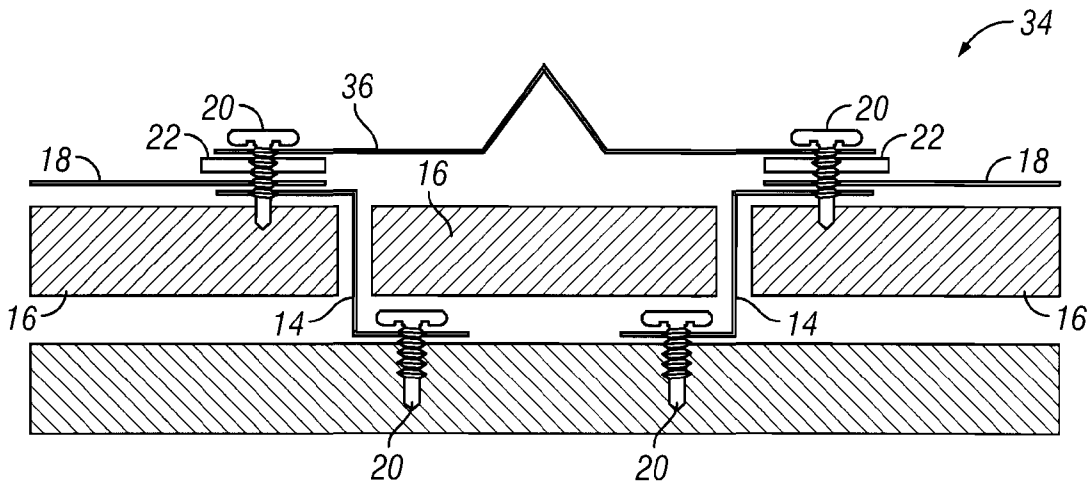


FIG. 9

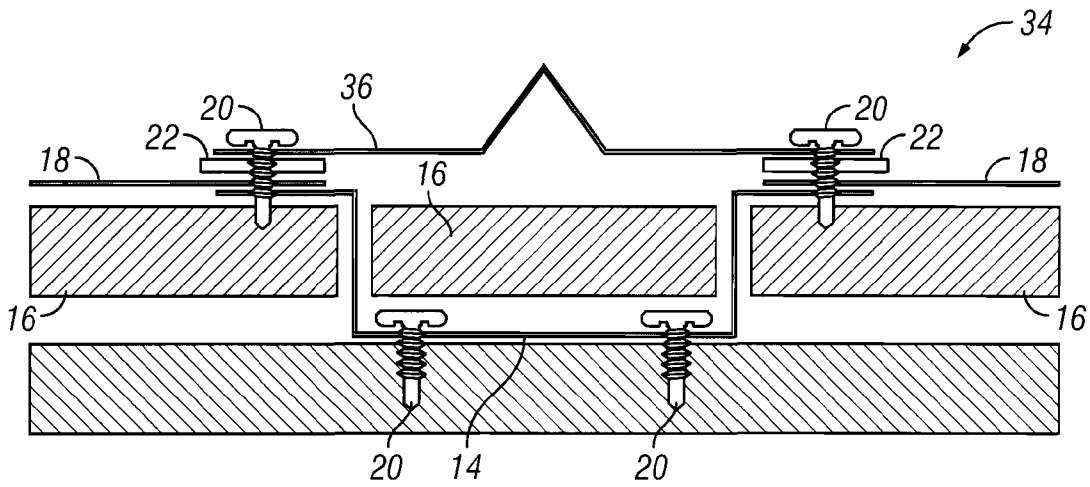


FIG. 10

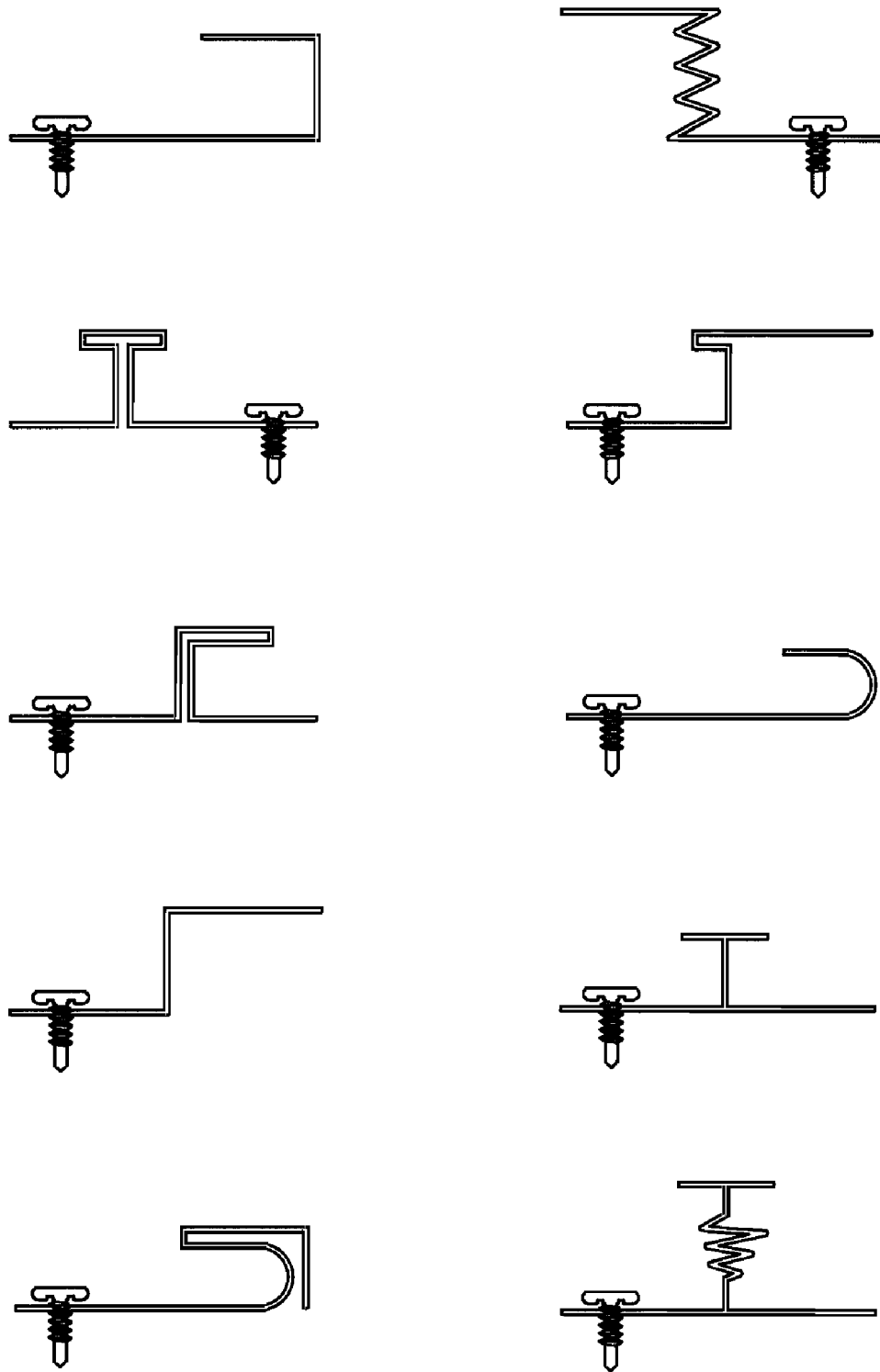


FIG. 11

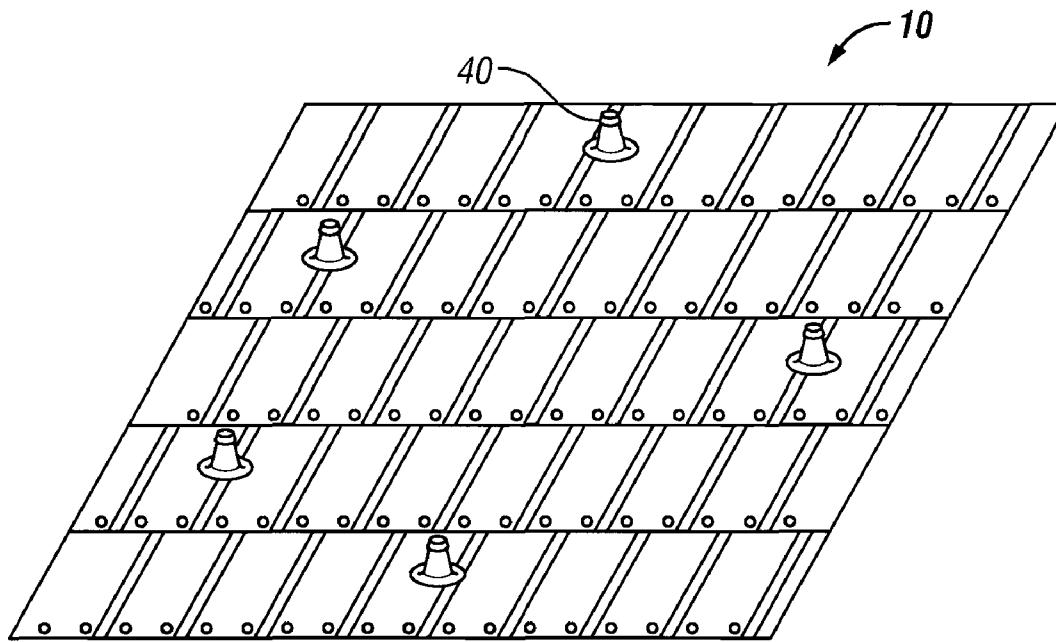


FIG. 12

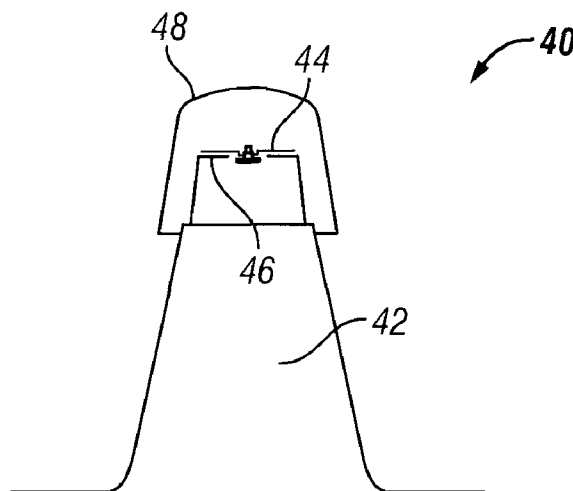


FIG. 13

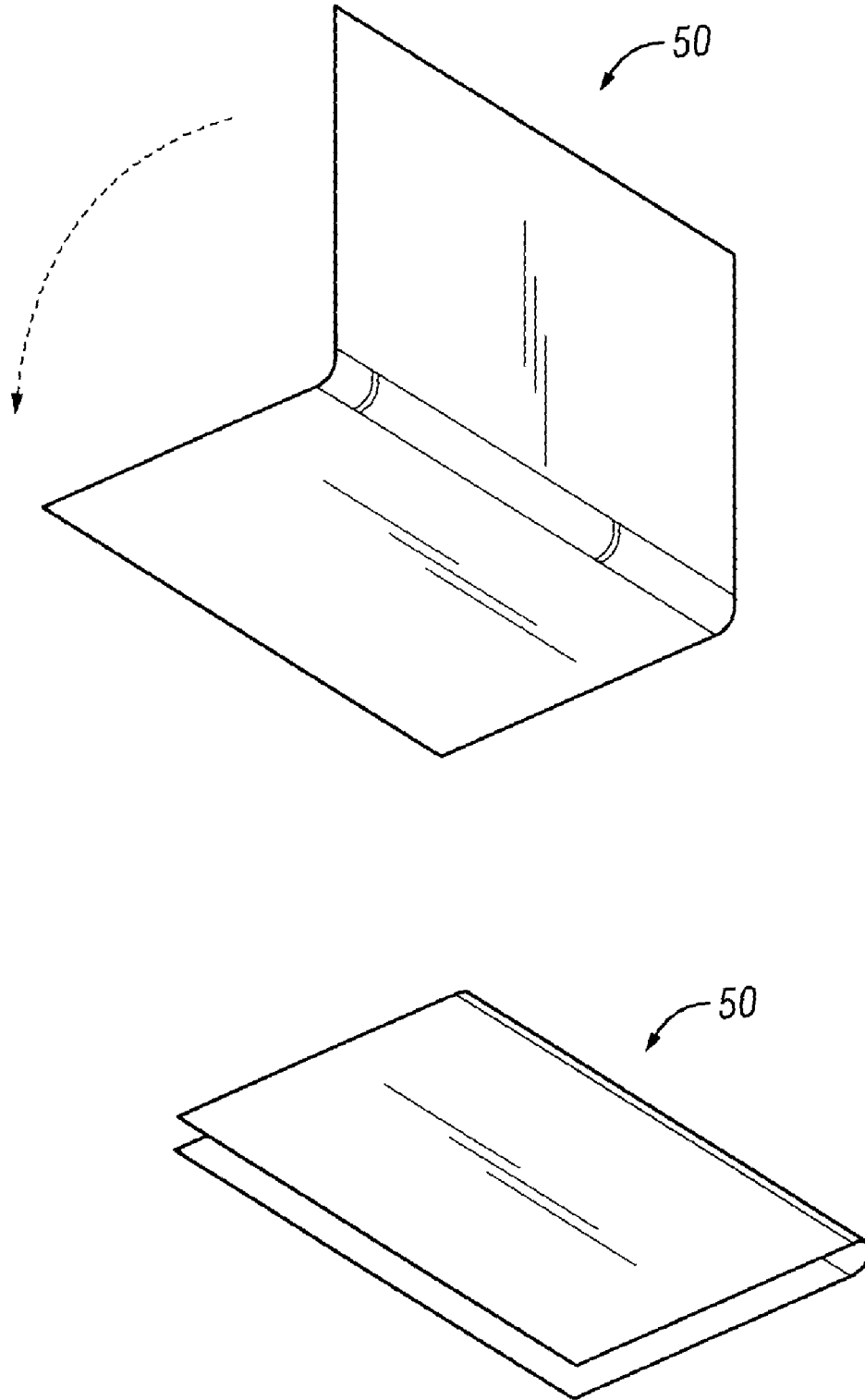


FIG. 14A

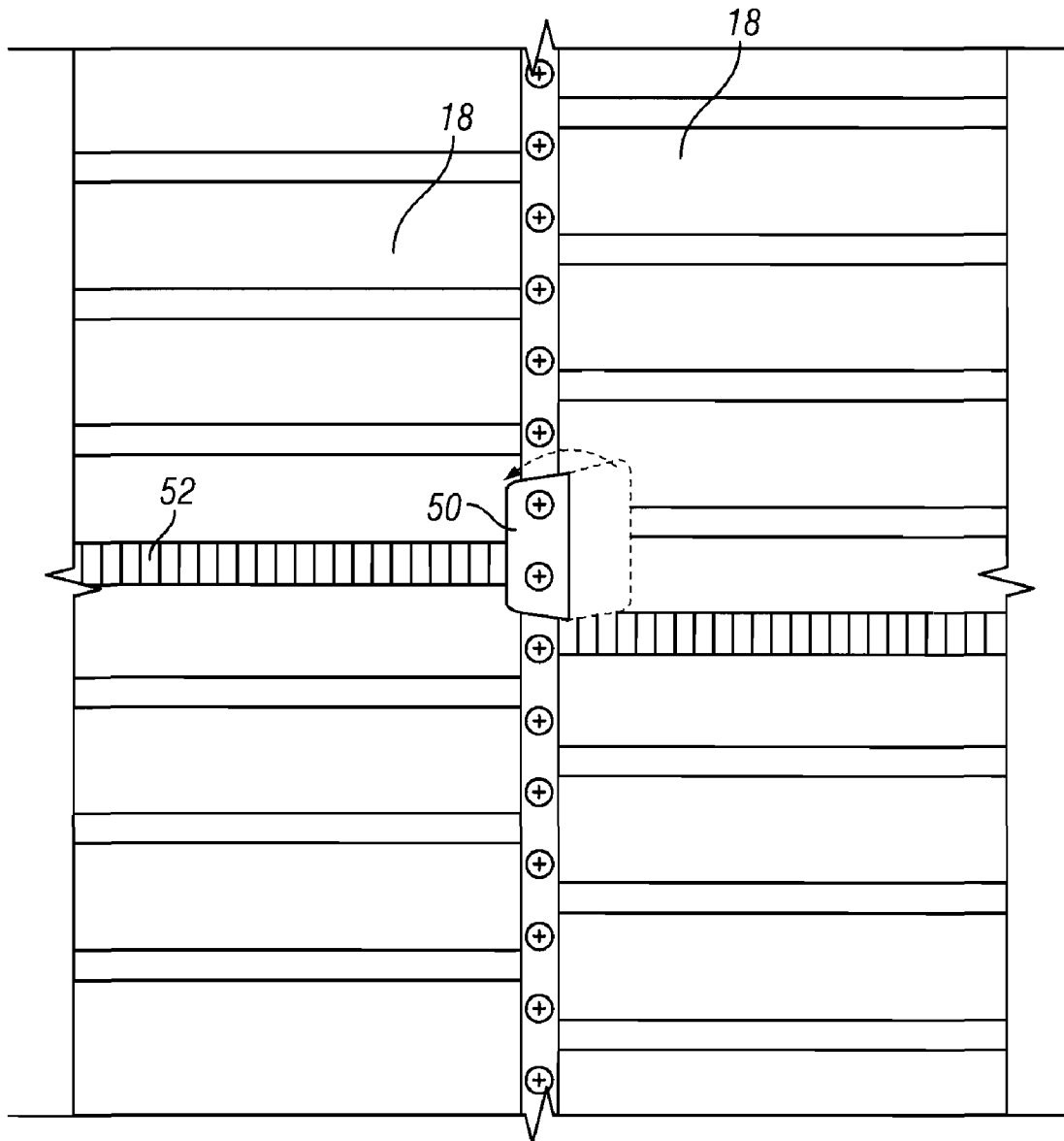


FIG. 14B

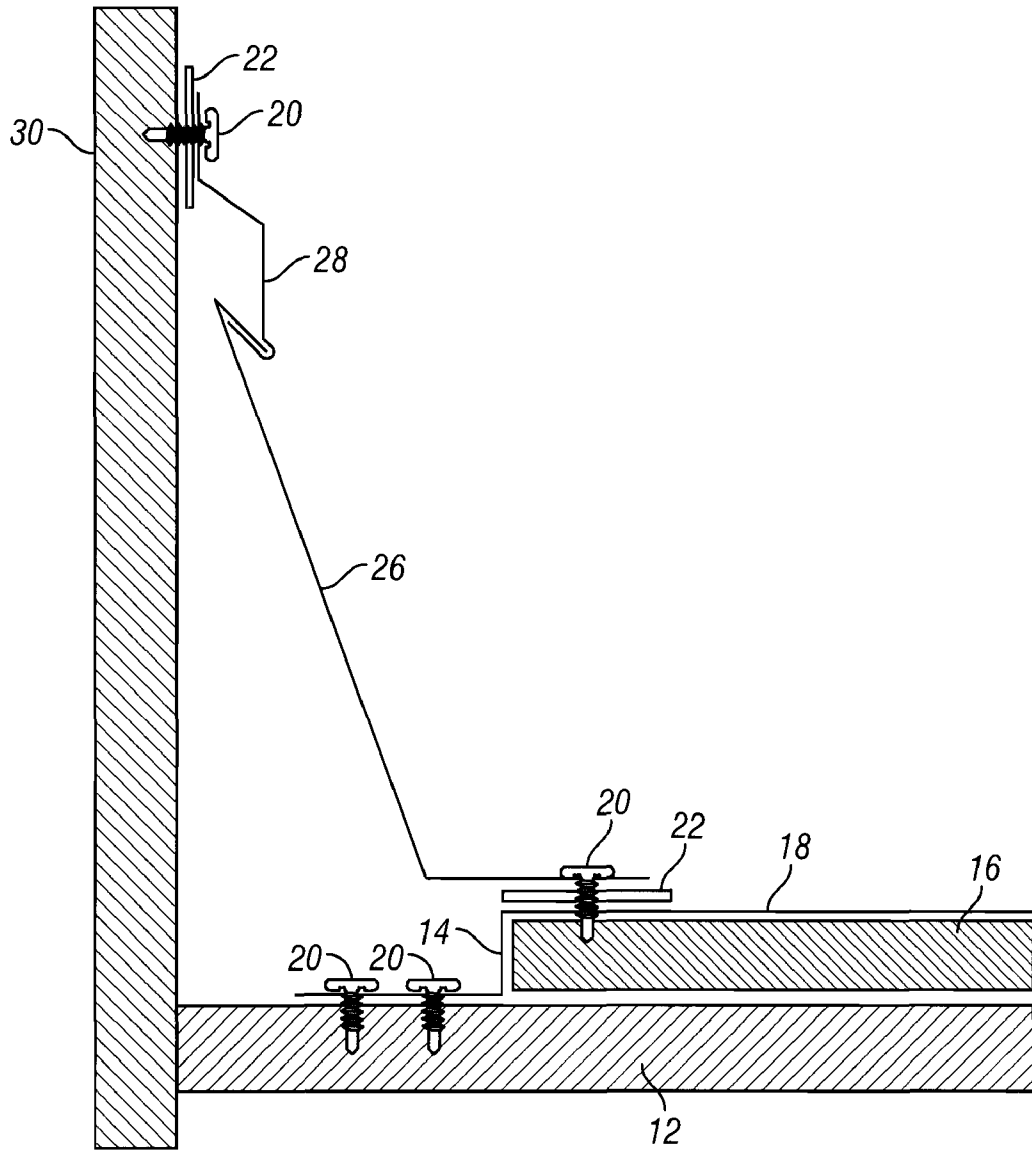


FIG. 15A

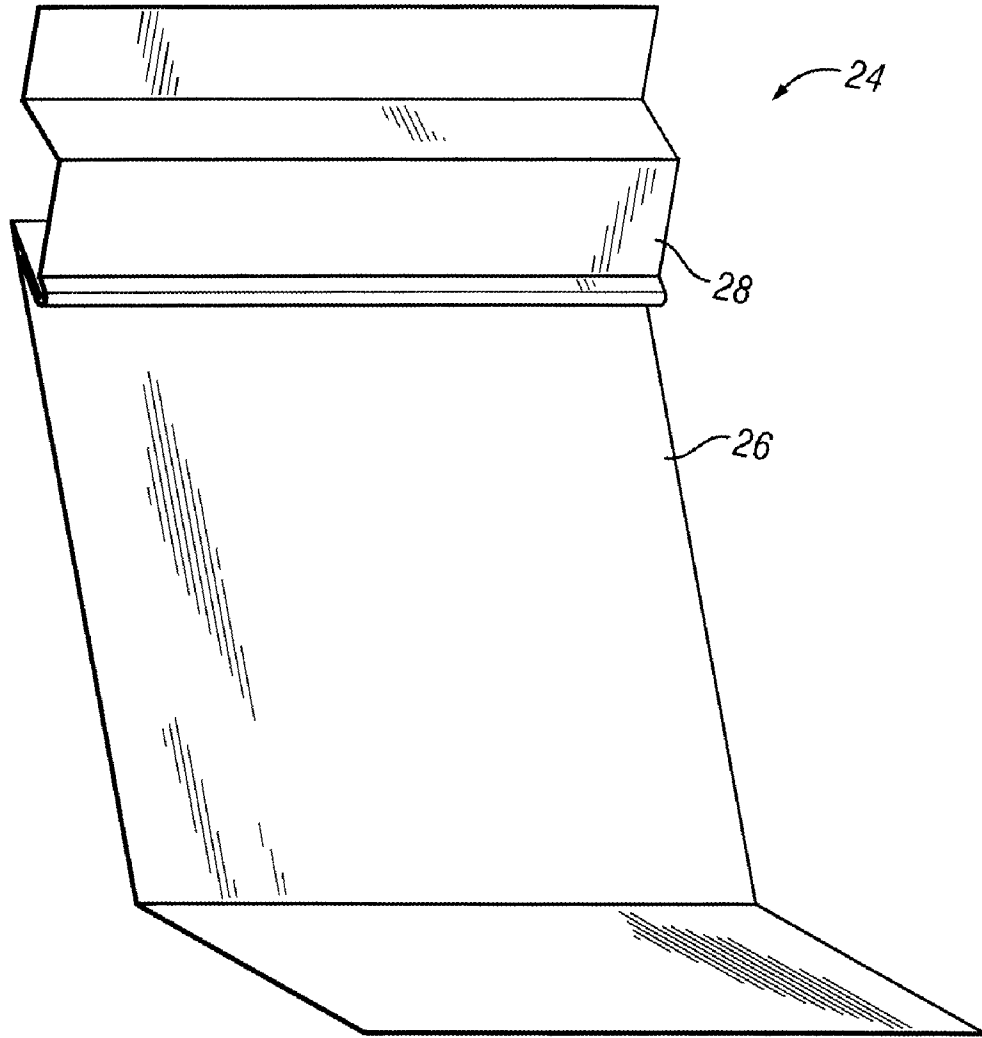


FIG. 15B

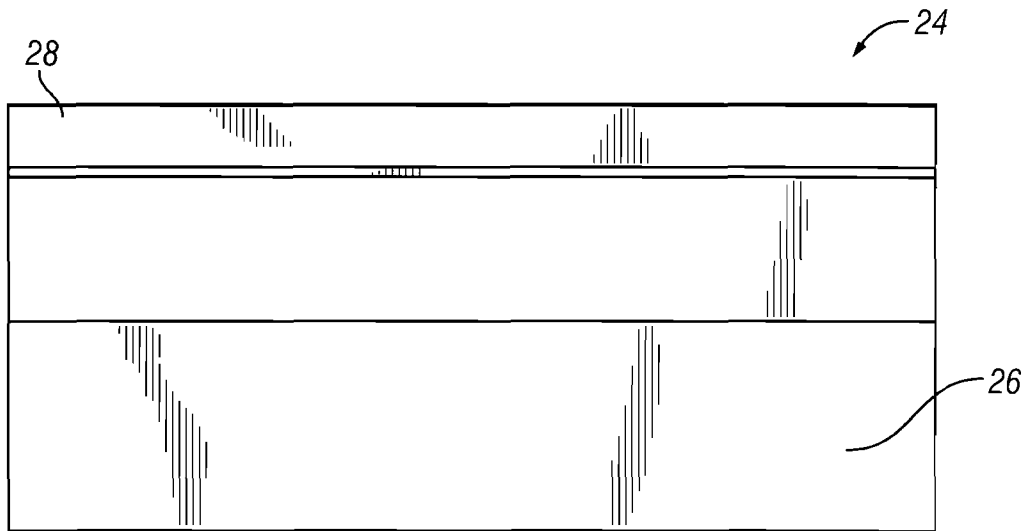


FIG. 15C

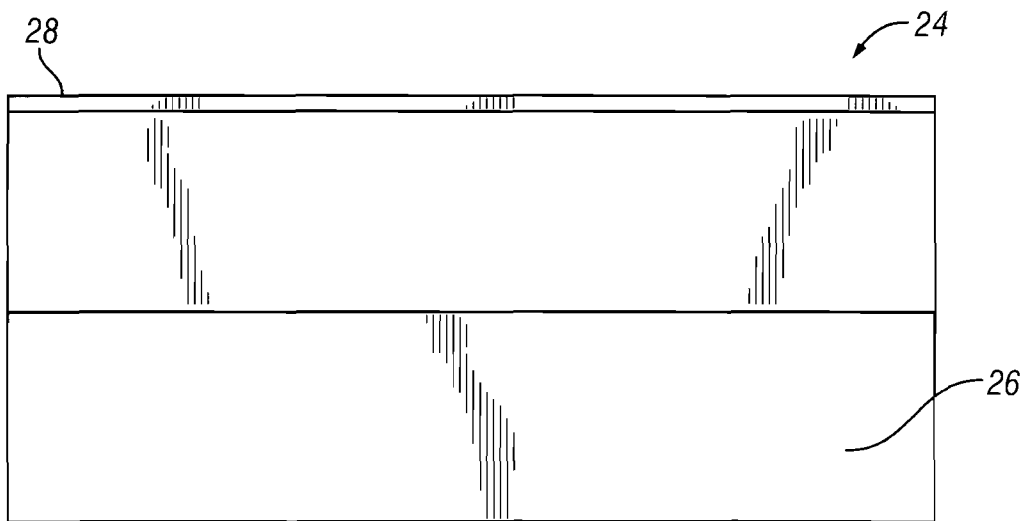


FIG. 15D

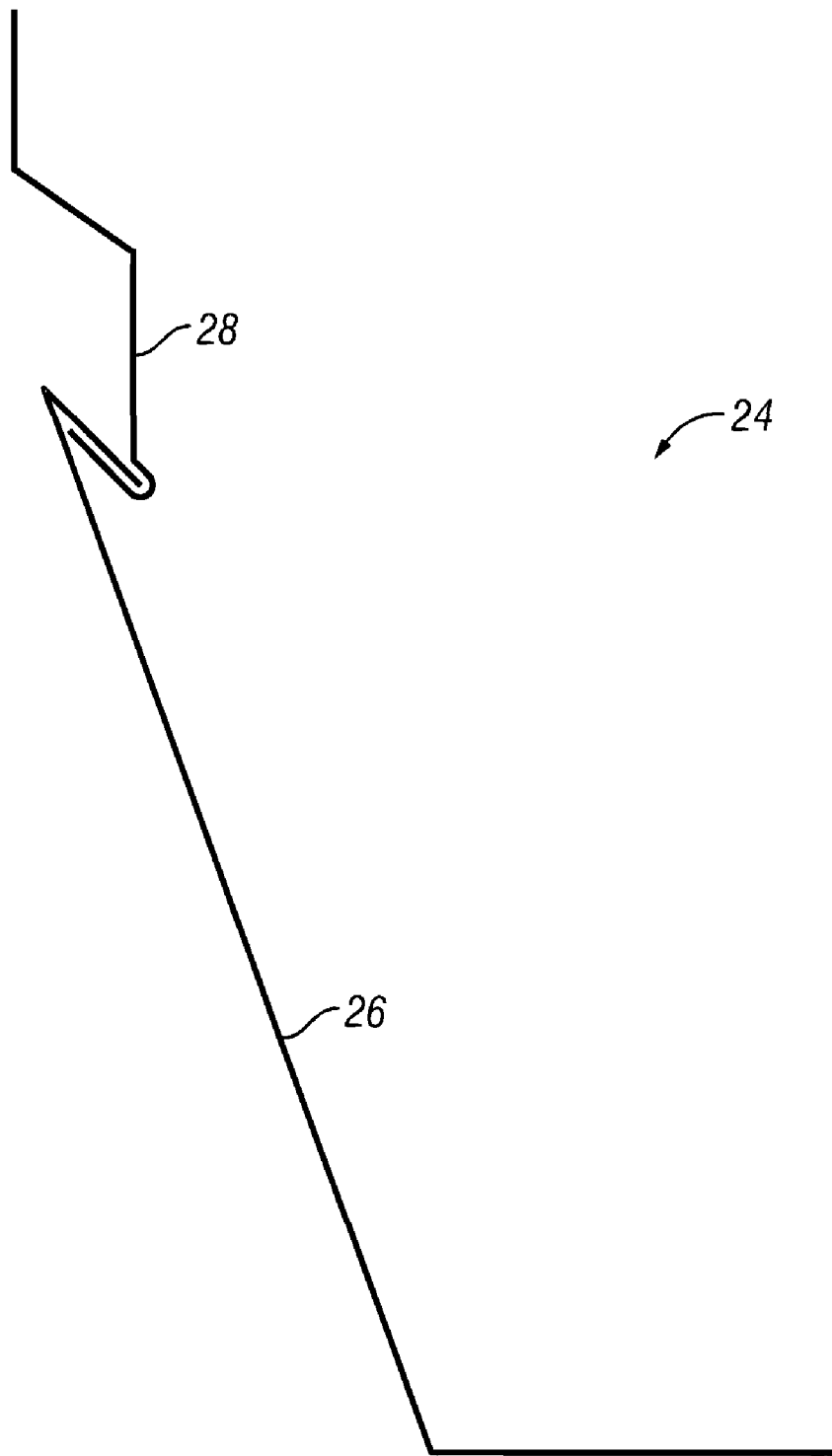


FIG. 15E

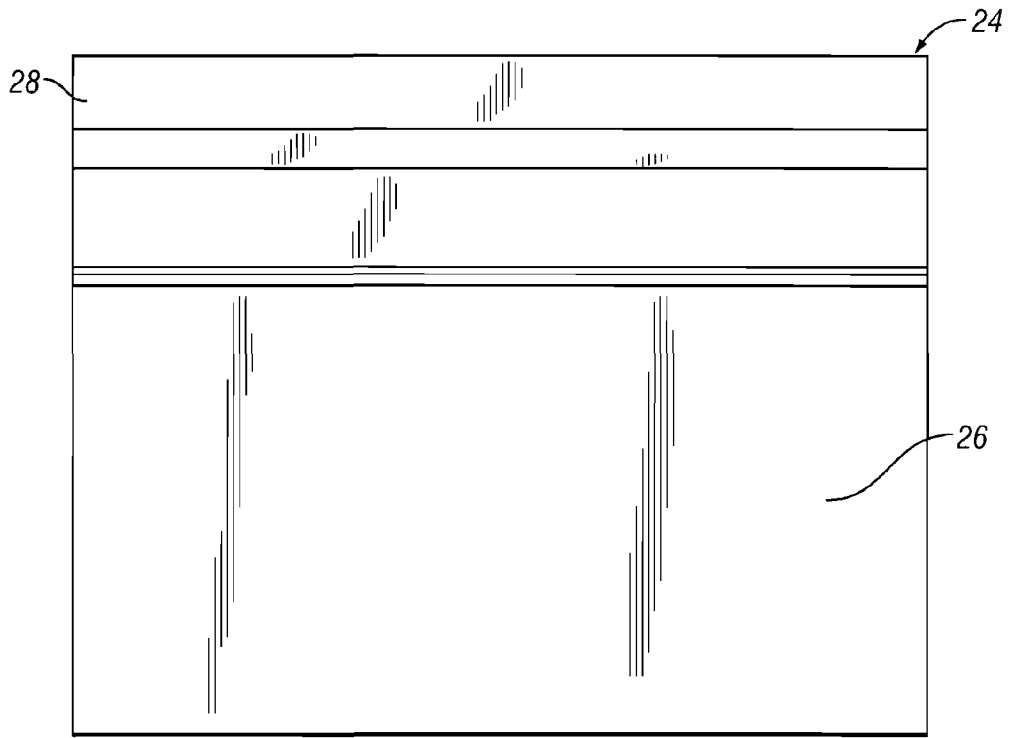


FIG. 15F

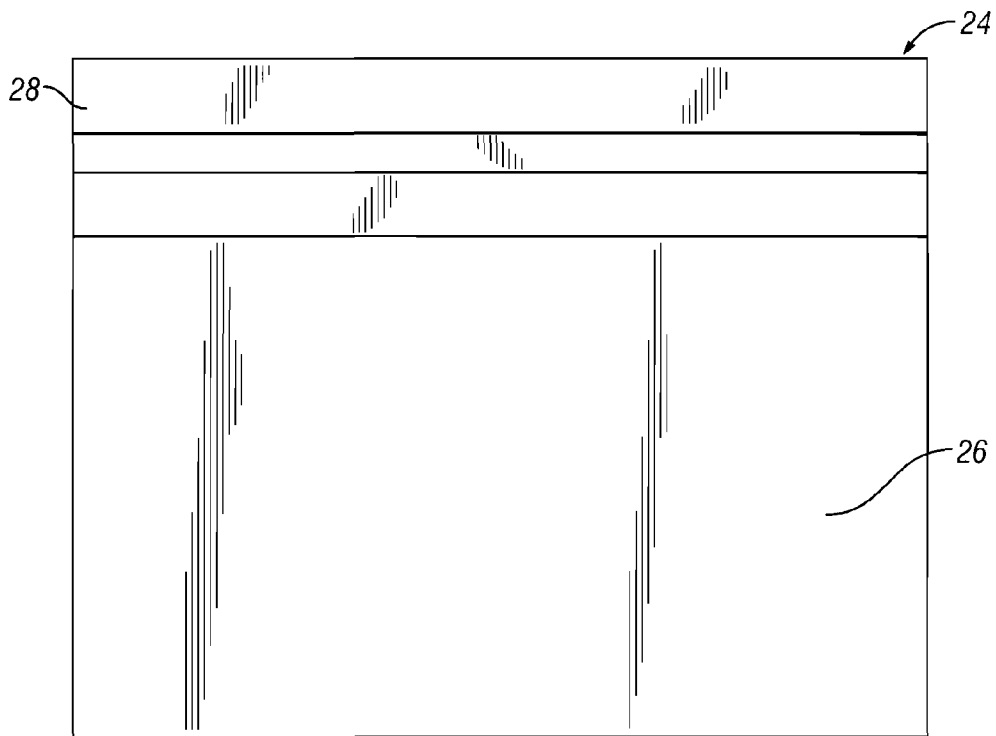


FIG. 15G

SINGLE PLY ROOFING SYSTEM**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation-in-part of the filing of U.S. application Ser. No. 12/476,827, entitled "Single Ply Roofing System", but Thomas Crego, et al., filed on Jun. 2, 2009; which application claims priority to and the benefit of the filing of U.S. application Ser. No. 11/925,601, entitled "Single Ply Roofing System", by Thomas Crego, et al., filed on Oct. 26, 2007, which application claims priority to and the benefit of the filing of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/891,367, entitled "Single Ply Metal Roofing System", by Thomas Crego, et al., filed on Feb. 23, 2007, and the specifications and claims, if any, thereof are incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**1. Field of the Invention (Technical Field)**

An embodiment of the present invention relates to a method and apparatus for a metal roofing system. Particularly, embodiments of the present invention relate to an improved single ply metal roofing system which permits the use of thicker sheeting than the prior art while solving thermal expansion and contraction issues which plague the prior art systems.

2. Description of Related Art

Known metal roofing systems permit only a maximum thickness of 30 gauge metal-sheeting to be applied to a roof. Such known systems rely on "hat" channel 2 disposed on a roofing substrate, (see prior art FIG. 1). The sheeting is screwed into the hat channel which fixedly holds the sheeting in place and prevents it from moving. Securing the sheeting to an inflexible member, such as a hat channel, prevents the sheet metal from being able to expand and contract with thermal cycling. Thermal expansion and contraction forces on the sheeting increase as the thickness of the metal increases. Accordingly, known systems cannot apply thicker and more substantial sheeting because thermal expansion and contraction occurs which results in excessive expansion and contraction of the metal. The excessive expansion and contraction of such metal-sheeting results in excessive forces being applied to the fasteners that are driven through it. These excessive forces cause the fasteners to either become loose or cause the sheeting to pull away from the fasteners; either of these scenarios results in a loose fit between the fastener and the sheeting, thus permitting water to pass between the fastener and the sheeting, thereby breaching the surface of the roof.

Because the known metal roofing systems are limited to a maximum thickness of only about 30 gauge, those systems are easily punctured. For example, puncturing may occur by a worker simply dropping a screwdriver during installation or dropping a tool while performing any other work on a roof, i.e. repairing a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning unit. Accordingly, a quick patch is not at all uncommon and such patches themselves often result in point of water entry several years later.

Yet another problem with known single ply roofing systems is that the roofing sheets are held to the top of the structure by screwing the edges of the roofing sheets onto hat channels that are disposed on the top of the structure. The hat channels themselves are modified, non-flexible, channel-iron members which rigidly and fixedly hold the roofing sheets in place. When the roofing sheets expand and contract, because

their edges are held firmly held in place, the roofing sheets must thus bow up in their central region. This continuous rising and falling of the central portion of each of the sheets in response to thermal expansion and contraction, coupled with the row of fasteners around the periphery thereof, results in metal fatiguing of the roofing sheets along the inside edge of the metal fasteners. Over time, the constant cycling of thermal contractions and expansions thus causes the breaks in the roofing sheets which thus enables water to breach the roofing surface. Because even thicker roofing sheeting experiences even greater expansion and contraction cycles, attempts to secure thicker sheeting to the known hat channels results in even more extreme rising and falling of the central portion of the sheets in response to the thermal expansions and contractions. This extreme rising and falling of the sheets results in metal fatiguing of the roofing sheeting in a much more rapid manner than what is typical.

Although insulating sheeting can and often is applied between the hat channels immediately below the roofing sheeting, the space beneath the hat channels typically remains un-insulated. Because the air within the un-insulated metal hat channels is exposed to warm and cold temperature cycles, condensation often forms along the inside of the hat channels. This condensation often results in non-protected metal surfaces rusting (i.e. the fasteners that are driven through the hat channels and which hold the sheeting thereto). The rusting of the very components that hold the metal roofing structures together is obviously a very undesirable quality in the known metal roofing structures.

Known metal roofing systems also provide undesirable flashing. This is because the flashing that is used to trim outer portions of known roof structures do not have an interlocking structure that adequately prevents water from blowing, splashing, or otherwise traveling therebetween, thus resulting in water breaching the roofing surface. Known metal roofing systems typically rely on a two-piece flashing arrangement wherein the upper portion of the flashing extends slightly beyond the lower portion. This simple overlap joint does not provide an effective seal in all instances.

There is thus a present need for a single ply metal roofing system which permits a thicker sheeting to be applied and which avoids metal fatiguing of the roofing sheeting and which further avoids the use of metal structures that permit condensation to form therein. There is also a present need for a metal roofing system that provides flashing which effectively prevents splashing and wind-driven rain from breaching the roof surface. There is yet another present need for a metal roofing system that more adequately resists puncturing of sheet metal while it is being installed and while other roof work is subsequently performed.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An embodiment of the present invention relates to a roofing system for an existing roofing substrate having at least one flexible support, the flexible support attached to the roofing substrate, and at least one layer of sheeting, the sheeting attached to the flexible support such that the flexible support flexes when the sheeting thermally expands and/or contracts. The insulating materials can be disposed above the roofing substrate and below the sheeting. The insulating materials can have a thickness of about 1 inch or more. In one embodiment, the sheeting is preferably a metal material and most preferably a steel material.

In one embodiment, at least a portion of the sheeting can comprise a thickness of from about 31 gauge to about 22

gauge, and most preferably a thickness of about 26 gauge. A waterproofing material can be disposed between overlapping portions of the sheeting.

In one embodiment, the roofing system of the present invention comprises at least one fastener which most preferably comprises a stainless steel material.

In one embodiment, the roofing system of the present invention preferably comprises a lower flashing component fastened to an upper surface of the sheeting and an upper flashing component fastened to an at least substantially vertical surface. The upper and lower flashing components most preferably are interconnected thereby providing a water-resistant seal.

Embodiments of the present invention also optionally comprise at least one expansion joint.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the upper flashing component of the flashing comprises a top vertical portion disposed against a wall, a single sloped portion disposed below the top vertical portion, a second vertical portion disposed below the single sloped portion, and a bottom portion having an acute upward angle bend, wherein the top portion of lower flashing component is wrapped at least partially within the acute upward angle bend.

In an alternative embodiment of the present invention, a sloped and stepped portion is disposed below the top vertical portion.

In another embodiment of the present invention, the flashing preferably includes an upper flashing component comprising a top vertical portion of the upper flashing component, the top vertical portion disposed against a wall, a single sloped portion disposed below said top vertical portion, a second vertical portion disposed below the single sloped portion, a bottom portion connected to the second vertical portion, said bottom portion comprising an acute upward angle bend, wherein a top portion of the lower flashing component is wrapped at least partially within the acute upward angle bend; and the lower flashing component comprises an acute angle bend such that the bend resides above that portion which is wrapped at least partially within the acute upward angle bend of the upper flashing component when the flashing is in an installed position, a single sloped portion of the lower flashing component disposed below the acute angle bend, and a horizontal portion disposed at the single sloped portion and secured to a roofing material.

In an alternative embodiment of the present invention, the upper component flashing comprises a stepped and sloped portion disposed below a top vertical portion of the upper component flashing. A second vertical portion is disposed below the single sloped portion.

In one embodiment of the present invention a flashing provides a water-resistant seal. The flashing preferably comprises a first end portion of a first component, wherein the first end portion comprises an acute angle and wherein a tip of the first end portion is interconnected with a first end portion of a second component, a second end portion of the first component, wherein the second end portion is securable to a roofing material; and a second end portion of the second component, wherein the second end portion is securable to a wall. The roofing material and the wall preferably form an angle of about 90 degrees. This embodiment optionally comprises waterproofing material disposed between the second end portion of the first component and the roofing material. The waterproofing material is preferably disposed between the second end portion of the second component and the wall. The roofing material can also comprise sheeting, preferably

metal sheeting. The waterproofing material is preferably disposed between the second end portion of the second component and the wall.

The flashing of the embodiment above preferably comprises a second component having a single sloped portion disposed below the second end portion and a vertical portion disposed between the single sloped portion and the first end portion. The second component alternative has a stepped and sloped portion disposed below the second end portion and a vertical portion disposed between the sloped and stepped portion and the first end portion.

In one embodiment, the first and second components comprise a single sloped portion of the second component disposed below the second end portion, a vertical portion disposed between the single sloped portion and the first end portion, and a single sloped portion of the first component disposed between the first end portion of the first component and the second end portion of the first component. In an alternative embodiment, first and second components comprise a stepped and sloped portion of the second component disposed below the second end portion, a vertical portion disposed between the stepped and sloped portion and the first end portion, and a single sloped portion of the first component disposed between the first end portion of the first component and the second end portion of the first component.

In another embodiment of the present invention, the flashing further comprises at least one flexible support, the flexible support disposed between the second end portion of the first component and the roofing material, at least one layer of sheeting, the sheeting attached to the flexible support such that the flexible support flexes when the sheeting thermally expands and/or contracts, and a waterproofing material disposed between overlapping portions of the sheeting.

One embodiment of the present invention comprises a water-resistant flashing system. The system includes upper and lower flashing components and bends disposed in the upper and the lower flashing components such that the components interconnect with respect to one another. Water attempting to penetrate therebetween would have to make a plurality of turns.

Another embodiment of the present invention comprises a flashing that provides a water-resistant seal. This embodiment preferably includes a lower flashing component and an upper flashing component, wherein a lower portion of the upper flashing component is hooked together and slidable to an upper portion of the lower flashing component, thereby providing a water-resistant seal.

An embodiment of the present invention relates to a method of installing a roofing system on a roofing substrate including attaching at least one flexible support to an upper portion of the roofing substrate and fastening a portion of a first sheeting at least partially onto an upper portion of the flexible support member. The method can also include disposing a portion of a second sheeting at least partially onto an upper surface of the first sheeting and/or disposing one or more insulating materials above the roofing substrate and abutting at least one of the insulating materials to at least one of the flexible support structures. In one embodiment of the present invention, the method can include fastening the lower flashing component to an end portion of the at least one layer of sheeting and fastening the upper flashing component to a wall, which can also further include slidably connecting the lower flashing component to the upper flashing component. Optionally, the method can also include installing at least one expansion joint.

The method can also include disposing a waterproofing material between at least some of the overlapping portions of

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the first and second sheeting. In the method, one or more coatings of material can be applied onto at least a portion of the sheeting.

Objects, advantages and novel features, and further scope of applicability of the present invention will be set forth in part in the detailed description to follow, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, and in part will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon examination of the following, or may be learned by practice of the invention. The objects and advantages of the invention may be realized and attained by means of the instrumentalities and combinations particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated into and form a part of the specification, illustrate one or more embodiments of the present invention and, together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention. The drawings are only for the purpose of illustrating one or more preferred embodiments of the invention and are not to be construed as limiting the invention. In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a cut-away view drawing of a prior art metal roofing system;

FIG. 2 is a cut-away view drawing illustrating an embodiment of the single ply metal roofing system of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is an exploded view schematic drawing illustrating an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a perspective view of a Z-shaped flexible support according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a cut-away side view illustrating a blind seam in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 6A is a cut-away side view illustrating an embodiment of the flashing of the present invention;

FIG. 6B is a perspective view drawing illustrating an embodiment of the flashing of the present invention;

FIG. 6C and D respectively illustrate top, bottom, views of a most preferred embodiment of the flashing of the present invention;

FIG. 6E illustrates a left side view of a most preferred embodiment of the flashing of the present invention; in this most preferred embodiment, the right side view is a mirror image of the left side view of the flashing;

FIG. 6F and G respectively illustrate front and back views of a most preferred embodiment of the flashing of the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a close-up side view illustrating a preferred embodiment of the interconnection between the upper and lower flashing halves;

FIG. 8 is a perspective view drawing illustrating an embodiment of the drip edge of the present invention;

FIG. 9 is a perspective view drawing illustrating an embodiment of an expansion joint of the present invention;

FIG. 10 is a perspective view drawing illustrating an alternative embodiment of an expansion joint of the present invention;

FIG. 11 is a drawing illustrating some of the possible design shapes for flexible support members of the present invention;

FIG. 12 is a drawing illustrating an embodiment of the roofing system of the present invention wherein a vent is provided;

FIG. 13 is a cut-away drawing illustrating an embodiment of the vent of the present invention;

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FIG. 14A is a perspective view of alternative embodiments of seam caps according to an aspect of the present invention;

FIG. 14B is a perspective view illustrating a roofing system with a seam cap in accordance with an aspect of the present invention;

FIG. 15A is a cut-away side view drawing which illustrates an embodiment of the flashing of the present invention wherein an upper component has a sloped top portion;

FIG. 15B is a perspective view drawing which illustrates an embodiment of the flashing of the present invention wherein an upper component has a sloped top portion;

FIG. 15C and D respectively are top and bottom view drawings which illustrate an embodiment of the flashing of the present invention wherein an upper component has a sloped top portion;

FIG. 15E is a left side view drawing which illustrates an embodiment of the flashing of the present invention wherein an upper component has a sloped top portion, and the right side view is a mirror image of the left side view of the flashing; and

FIG. 15F and G respectively are front and back view drawings which illustrate an embodiment of the flashing of the present invention wherein an upper component has a sloped top portion.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Embodiments of the present invention are directed to a metal roofing system. Particularly, embodiments of the present invention are directed to a metal roofing system which simultaneously provides thicker roofing sheeting and allows for thermal expansion and contraction without the adverse effects which are common to conventional systems.

Although the present invention is particularly directed toward metal roofing systems, the teachings of the present invention are not limited strictly to metals and can provide desirable results when used with other materials including but not limited to coated metals, metal alloys, composites, plastics, rubbers, fiberglass, other solid materials that are water resistant, combinations thereof, and the like. Accordingly, the terms "sheeting" and "flexible support" as used throughout the specifications and claims is intended to include all of these materials.

As used throughout the specification, the term "wall" is not limited strictly to the conventionally-defined wall, but rather, includes any surface or structure which a user wishes to bridge to the sheeting of the present invention with one or more flashings.

As used throughout the specification, the term "flexible support" includes all structures that flexibly bend and give in a manner which accommodates expansion and contraction of sheeting fixed thereto and can include any of the shapes illustrated on FIG. 11 and the like. As illustrated in FIG. 11, the flexible supports of the present invention preferably comprise an upper surface which extends beyond and thus overhangs one or more supporting upright portions thereof. Accordingly, the term "flexible support" does not include a hat channel disposed with its opening facing a roofing substrate as is used in the prior art.

As illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 3, an embodiment of the present invention is directed to roofing system 10, which is most preferably a single ply roofing system. Roofing substrate 12 preferably has flexible support 14, which is also preferably metal, attached thereto. While roofing substrate 12 is most preferably a solid and flat surface, roofing substrate 12 can be formed from spaced apart beams. Attachment of flexible support 14 can be made to roofing substrate by fasteners

and/or fastening methods known to those skilled in the art, including but not limited to, welding, riveting, screwing, nailing, gluing, combinations thereof, and the like. Flexible support **14** preferably has a plurality of fastener holes disposed along a length thereof for attachment to roofing substrate **12**. FIG. **4** illustrates a most preferred embodiment of flexible support **14** which preferably has two fastener holes **15** about 1" from a first edge of flexible support **14** and another set of two fastener holes **15** about 6" from the same edge of flexible support **14**, thereafter, flexible support **14** is most preferably fastened to roofing substrate **12**, through holes **15**, about every 6" along its length. Providing two or more holes at predetermined distances along a primary length of flexible support **14** enables an installer to attach flexible support **14** to substrate **12** more securely in that installers are less likely to install a single row of fasteners, which could otherwise enable flexible support **14** to rock back and forth, thus eventually loosening a single row of fasteners. Further, providing holes at predetermined distances helps to ensure that an installer of the roofing system will insert fasteners at the location of the holes and thereby helps to ensure that the fasteners are installed through the flexible supports at specified locations, thus improving installation consistency and quality. While not essential, one or more insulating materials **16** are preferably disposed above substrate **12** and abut flexible support **14**. In a most preferred embodiment, insulating materials **16** preferably comprise an expanded or extruded polystyrene foam material. In yet another preferred embodiment, insulating materials **16** are preferably at least 1 inch thick or have a thickness of about the height of flexible support **14**. Insulating materials **16** can also preferably include a lap joint or some other type of joint so each insulating piece locks together or partially overlaps one another, which avoids butting two pieces of insulation together which can result in a small gap at the joint that has no insulation.

Sheeting **18** is preferably disposed at least partially on top of flexible support **14** and is fastened thereto via one or more fasteners **20**. As previously discussed, sheeting **18** can be a constructed from virtually any rigid, semi-flexible, or flexible material depending upon the particular environment, application, and results to be achieved for a particular location as will be apparent to those skilled in the art. In a most preferred embodiment, however, sheeting **18** preferably comprises a metal and even more preferably a steel material. Sheetting **18** can comprise virtually any gauge of thickness, depending upon the application and environment as will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon studying this application. Sheetting **18**, however, preferably comprises a thickness of from about 11 gauge to about 36 gauge, and more preferably from about 22 gauge to about 32 gauge. In a most preferred embodiment, sheeting **18** comprises a thickness of about 26 gauge. Although sheeting **18** is illustrated in FIG. **2** as having a patterned surface, sheeting **18** can comprise a flat smooth surface, a rough and/or textured surface, a patterned surface, or another surface, in a most preferred embodiment, sheeting **18** preferably comprises ribs or bends also known as "mesas", disposed along the width of sheet **18**, which are about $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch to about $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch in height and which are most preferably about $\frac{3}{32}$ of an inch in height.

In a most preferred embodiment, waterproofing material **22**, such as for example butyl-tape, rubber stripping, roofing tar, and the like, which preferably has a width of about one inch to about 6 inches, and more preferably has a width of from about 1 inch to about 4 inches, and most preferably a width of about 2 inches, is preferably sandwiched between successive overlapping edge portions of sheeting **18**, as best illustrated in the exploded view of FIG. **3**. Each consecutive

edge portion of sheeting **18** preferably made to overlap directly above flexible support **14**. Waterproofing material **22** is also preferably disposed between the overlapping end portions of sheeting **18** directly above flexible support **14**. Because each of the overlapping edge portions of sheeting **18** and waterproofing material **22** preferably reside directly above flexible support **14**, one or more fasteners **20** can thus be used to secure all of them together.

Although those skilled in the art will appreciate that numerous types of fasteners and fastening methods can be used for fastener **20**, in a preferred embodiment, fastener **20** preferably comprises a screw-type fastener, and more preferably a rust-proof screw-type fastener, such as a galvanized screw, a powder-coated screw, a painted screw, and/or a screw made from a rust resistant material. In a most preferred embodiment, fastener **20** comprises a stainless steel screw-type fastener.

Because the upper portion of flexible support **14** is not in a rigid and staunch position with respect to the bottom portion, as in the hat channels of the prior art, but can instead easily flex, sheeting **18** attached thereto is thus not rigidly and fixedly secured to roofing substrate **12**. Because of the flexible nature of the flexible supports of the present invention, when sheeting **18** expands and contracts due to thermal cycling, and/or high winds, excessive forces are not applied to or around fasteners **20**. Because excessive forces are not applied to fasteners **20** from sheeting **18**, fasteners **20** do not substantially loosen and thus a water-resistant seal is maintained around them. In addition, because excessive forces are not applied around metal fasteners **20** by sheeting **18**, the holes within sheeting **18**, through which fasteners **20** pass, do not become enlarged, further enabling the present invention to maintain a water resistant seal. In addition, because the sheeting of the present invention is not rigidly held in place as in the prior art, during expansions and contractions excessive fatiguing of sheeting **18** does not occur.

In one embodiment, flexible support comprises a multi-axial flexible support which has an upper portion that can flex in more than one direction with respect to its lower portion and which upper portion can most preferably can flex not only from side to side, but also up and down with respect to its lower portion. In one embodiment the flexible support and multi-axial flexible support comprises an upper portion which has an end portion which is disposed a distance away from and thus does not reside directly above a substantially perpendicular supporting member of the flexible support and/or the multi-axial flexible support.

FIG. **5** illustrates a blind seam constructed in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. As those skilled in the art are aware, a blind seam is typically provided in metal roofing when a change in pitch occurs. Accordingly, blind seams often occur along an inner area of a portion of sheeting and not necessarily along an edge portion thereof. As illustrated therein, insulating materials **16** are preferably cut or otherwise provided such that they terminate at or near the desired location of the blind seam. Flexible support **14** is preferably secured to substrate **12** at the desired location of the blind seam. Insulating materials **16** are thus preferably caused to abut flexible support **14**. Waterproofing material **22** is preferably disposed on a top portion of flexible support **14**. Sheetting **18** is then preferably positioned above the location of the blind seam and one or more fasteners **20** are used to attach sheeting **18** to an upper portion of flexible support **14**.

Referring now to FIGS. **6A-6G**, a preferred embodiment of metal flashing **24** is illustrated. As illustrated therein, lower flashing component **26** is preferably fastened to an end portion of sheeting **18**. While numerous manners of attachment will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon studying

this application, a preferred embodiment of the present invention provides flexible support **14**, fastened to substrate **12** via one or more fasteners **20**, abutted next to insulating material **16** wherein sheeting **18** is disposed on top of an upper surface of flexible support **14** and wherein waterproofing material **22** is preferably disposed on an upper surface of sheeting **18**, substantially above flexible support **14** and wherein a lower end portion of lower flashing component **26** is disposed thereabove. One or more fasteners **20** are most preferably provided which fasten lower flashing component **26** through waterproofing material **22** and sheeting **18** to flexible support **14**. Upper flashing component **28** is preferably fastened to wall **30** of a structure which lies near an end portion of sheeting **18**. Most preferably, waterproofing material **22** is disposed between wall **30** and an upper end portion of upper flashing component **28**. One or more fasteners **20** are preferably used to fasten upper flashing component **28** to waterproofing material **22** to wall **30**. In a most preferred embodiment, lower flashing component **26** is preferably slidably connectable to upper flashing component **28**. FIG. 7 is a close-up drawing illustrating a preferred interconnection between upper component **28** and lower component **26**. Because of the wrap-around connection configuration, not only are the upper and lower portions of metal flashing **24** able to move freely due to thermal expansions and contractions associated with it, the roof, and the wall, but it is also virtually impossible for water to pass therethrough. Accordingly, flashing **24** of the present invention provides a water-resistant seal even when faced with splashes and wind-driven rains.

Referring to FIGS. 15A-15G, in one embodiment of the present invention, upper component **28** comprises a single sloped portion in lieu of the sloped and stepped portion as illustrated in FIGS. 6A-6G. By providing a single sloped portion, a plurality of additional bends are thus avoided, thereby increasing the ease and speed of manufacture of upper component **28**.

In one embodiment, a primer is applied to one or more surfaces of the metal components of the present invention before a finishing coating is applied. Although any finishing coating, which can be applied to the one or more metal surfaces and which provides rust resistance, will provide desirable results, a most preferred finishing coating is Valspar's WeatherX™ coating.

FIG. 8 is a drawing illustrating a drip edge according to an embodiment of the present invention. As illustrated therein, near an end portion of roof substrate **12**, flexible support **14** is preferably attached thereto with one or more fasteners **20**. As illustrated in FIG. 8A, a drip edge of the present invention preferably comprises a j-shaped piece of material for flexible support **14**, of course, numerous other shaped pieces of material can be utilized and will produce desirable results as will be recognized by those skilled in the art upon studying this application. Insulating material **16** is preferably disposed atop a lower portion of flexible support **14**. Drip strip **32** preferably comprises one or more bends which enable an upper portion of drip strip **34** to be sandwiched between an upper portion of flexible support **14** and weatherproofing material **22**. As further illustrated in FIG. 8, sheeting **18** is preferably secured to an upper portion of weatherproofing material **22** via one or more fasteners **20**. Fasteners **20** not only secure sheeting **18** and weatherproofing material **22**, but also secure an upper portion of flexible support material to an upper portion of drip strip **32**.

FIGS. 9 and 10 illustrate embodiments of expansion joint **34** of the roofing system of the present invention. Although expansion joints **34** can produce desirable results at virtually any spacing, expansion joints **34** are preferably provided

about every 20 to about every 350 feet along roofing substrate **12**. Expansion joints **34** are more preferably provided about every 50 feet to about every 200 feet along roofing substrate **12**. In a most preferred embodiment, expansion joints **34** are preferably provided about every 100 to about every 150 feet along roofing substrate **12**. While FIGS. 9 and 10 illustrate expansion joints comprising particular configurations, those skilled in the art will appreciate that expansion joints can be provided in various shapes, sizes, and configurations and desirable results will still be achieved. As illustrated in the FIGS. 9 and 10, expansion joint **34** is preferably formed by disposing expansion strip **36** between two portions of sheeting **18**. Weatherproofing strip **22** is preferably sandwiched between expansion strip **36** and sheeting **18** via one or more fasteners **20**. An upper portion of one or more flexible support members **14** is preferably secured to sheeting **18** and expansion strip **36** via one or more fasteners **20**. A lower portion of flexible support member **14** is preferably secured to roofing substrate **12** via one or more fasteners **20**. As illustrated in the figures, insulating material **16** is preferably disposed on each side of and/or between the one or more flexible support members **14** to which expansion strip **36** is connected. As previously discussed, flexible support members **14** can comprise numerous shapes, as illustrated in FIG. 9, flexible support members **14** comprise a z-shape, while FIG. 10 illustrates flexible support member as comprising an upside-down hat channel.

FIG. 11 illustrates just a handful of the numerous shapes which flexible support members **14** can comprise. As previously mentioned, the shape of the flexible supports of the present are not limited to just those illustrated, but can include any shape which, unlike the hat channel of the prior art (wherein sheeting is attached to a central upper portion of the hat and the legs of the hat are attached to a roofing substrate), can accommodate thermal expansion and contraction of the sheeting of the present invention.

FIG. 12 illustrates an embodiment of the present invention wherein a portion of roofing system **10** comprises vent **40**. As best illustrated in the cut-away view drawing of FIG. 13, vent **40** preferably comprises hollow section **42**, flap **44**, and lip **46**, which together form a one-way check valve that allows air to escape through hollow section **42** from the area between roofing substrate **12** and sheeting **18**, but which inhibits the flow of air through hollow section **42** into the area between substrate **12** and sheeting **18**. Although a particular design of a one-way vent is illustrated, any design of a one-way vent will provide desirable results so long as the one-way vent permits air to escape from beneath sheeting **18** and which most preferably inhibits the flow of air beneath sheeting **18**. Accordingly, vent **40** helps keep sheeting **18** in a flattened position and prevents the buildup of air between roofing substrate **12** and sheeting **18** which would tend to cause sheeting **18** to bow upwards and lift away from substrate **12**. In order to prevent rain water and other contaminants from passing through hollow section **42** of vent **40**, cover **48** is preferably provided above hollow section **42**. Although various sizes and spacing of vent **40** can be provided while producing desirable results, in a preferred embodiment, hollow section **42** preferably comprises a cross-sectional area of from about 4 square inches to about 600 square inches and most preferably from about 8 square inches to about 64 square inches and vent **40** is most preferably provided at a spacing of about one for every 500 square feet of sheeting used.

FIG. 14A and B illustrate seam cap **50** prior to and after installation onto an exposed end portion of seam **52** of sheeting **18** which end portion has been caused to be exposed due to an overlapping joint or another termination of sheeting **18**.

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An exposed end of factory seam 52 can provide an entry point for water within the roofing system of the present invention, which can be wicked along seam 52 of sheeting 18. It is thus desirable to reduce or prevent the exposure of an end of factory seam 52. FIG. 14A illustrates an embodiment of seam cap 50 and its alternative embodiment of seam cap 50'. As illustrated therein, seam cap 50 is most preferably provided in the shape of an angled piece of material, preferably a thin metal material, having a lower portion and an upper portion. Alternatively, seam cap 50' is provided which has a channel shape. In one embodiment, the lower portion of seam cap 50 is preferably slid under sheeting 18 at the termination portion of factory seam 52. A water-proofing calking or another water-proofing material can be disposed over and/or around the exposed end of seam 52 and the remaining upward protruding portion of seam cap 50 is bent over sheeting 18 so as to cover the exposed end of factory seam 52 after which time one or more fasteners can be provided through an upper portion of cap 50, sheeting 18, and lower portion of seam cap 50 at or near seam 52, thus sandwiching the exposed end of seam 52 within the water-proofing calking or other material (see FIG. 14B). In the embodiment of seam cap 50' a water-proofing calking or other waterproofing material is first either disposed on and around a terminal portion of factory seam 52 or is optionally disposed with the channel seam cap 50'. Seam cap 50' is then preferably slid around sheeting 18 at the terminal portion of seam 52, thus trapping the exposed end portion of factory seam 52 within water-proofing calking or another waterproofing material and seam cap 50' (see FIG. 14B). The end result achieved when using either seam cap 50 or seam cap 50' is basically the same.

Although the invention has been described in detail with particular reference to these preferred embodiments, other embodiments can achieve the same results. Variations and modifications of the present invention will be obvious to those skilled in the art and it is intended to cover all such modifications and equivalents. The entire disclosures of all references, applications, patents, and publications cited above and/or in the attachments, and of the corresponding application(s), are hereby incorporated by reference.

What is claimed is:

1. A flashing that provides a water-resistant seal comprising:

only two flashing components, said two components consisting of an upper flashing component, and a lower flashing component;

said lower flashing component comprising an upper portion;

said upper portion of said lower flashing component comprising an acute angle bend such that said bend such that said bend is at an upper most end of said lower flashing component and wraps at least partially around a lower end of said upper flashing component when said flashing is in an installed position, a sloped portion of said lower flashing component disposed below said acute angle bend;

said lower flashing component further comprising a lower portion, said lower portion of said lower flashing component comprising a substantially horizontally-extending portion, said substantially horizontally-extending portion securable to a roofing material; and

said upper flashing component comprising:

a top vertical portion, said top vertical portion disposable against a wall;

a sloped portion formed at a bottom portion of said top vertical portion;

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a second vertical portion of said upper flashing component extending from a bottom portion of said sloped portion of said upper flashing component; and
a bottom portion of said upper flashing component connected to said second vertical portion, said bottom portion of said upper flashing component comprising an acute upward angle bend, wherein a top portion of said lower flashing component is wrapped at least partially within said acute upward angle bend of said upper flashing component.

2. The flashing of claim 1 wherein said lower flashing component is secured to a roofing material.

3. The flashing of claim 2 further comprising a waterproofing material disposed between said lower flashing component and the roofing material.

4. The flashing of claim 2 wherein the roofing material comprises sheeting.

5. The flashing of claim 4 wherein said sheeting comprises metal sheeting.

6. The flashing of claim 1 wherein said lower flashing component is disposed on an end portion of the roofing material.

7. The flashing of claim 1 wherein said top vertical portion of said upper flashing component is attached to a vertical structure.

8. The flashing of claim 7 further comprising a waterproofing material disposed between said upper flashing component and the vertical structure.

9. The flashing of claim 7 wherein the vertical structure comprises a wall.

10. A flashing that provides a water-resistant seal comprising:

only two flashing components, said two components consisting of an upper flashing component, and a lower flashing component;

said lower flashing component comprising an upper portion;

said upper portion of said lower flashing component comprising an acute angle bend such that said bend such that said bend is at an upper most end of said lower flashing component and wraps at least partially around a lower end of said upper flashing component when said flashing is in an installed position, a sloped portion of said lower flashing component disposed below said acute angle bend;

said lower flashing component further comprising a lower portion, said lower portion comprising a substantially horizontally-extending portion, said substantially horizontally-extending portion securable to a roofing material; and

said upper flashing component comprising:

a first vertical portion, said first vertical portion of said upper flashing component disposable against a wall;

a substantially horizontally-extending portion formed at a bottom of said first vertical portion of said upper flashing component;

a second vertical portion of said upper flashing component extending from an end portion of said substantially horizontally-extending portion of said upper flashing component, said second vertical portion comprising a length less than said first vertical portion of said upper flashing component;

a sloped portion extending from a bottom portion of said second vertical position;

a third vertical portion of said upper flashing component extending from an end portion of said sloped portion

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of said upper flashing component; said third vertical component comprising a length greater than said second vertical portion; and

a lower portion of said upper flashing component connected to said third vertical portion, said bottom portion of said upper flashing component comprising an acute upward angle bend, wherein a top portion of said lower flashing component is wrapped at least partially within said acute upward angle bend of said upper flashing component.

11. The flashing of claim **10** wherein said lower flashing component is secured to a roofing material.

12. The flashing of claim **11** further comprising a waterproofing material disposed between said lower portion of said lower flashing component and said roofing material.

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13. The flashing of claim **11** wherein the roofing material comprises sheeting.

14. The flashing of claim **13** wherein the sheeting comprises metal sheeting.

15. The flashing of claim **10** wherein said lower flashing component is disposed on an end portion of the roofing material.

16. The flashing of claim **10** wherein said upper flashing component is attached to a wall.

17. The flashing of claim **16** further comprising a waterproofing material disposed between said upper flashing component and the wall.

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