Exercise 4

Drafting Patent Claims

Measuring Device

WIPO Patent Drafting Course for Patent Agents from the ARIPO Member States and Observer States

Bastiaan Koster

Africa's only ISO 9001 Certified IP Firm

Postal Address: PO Box 440, Century City (Cape Town) 7446, South Africa
Physical Address: 1 Park Close, Central Park, Park Lane, Century City (Cape Town) 7441, South Africa (couriers, deliveries & visits only)
Document Exchange: Docex 16, Century City
Tel: +27 21 526 2800 | **Fax**: +27 21 526 2801 | **E-mail**: service@vonseidels.com | **www.vonseidels.com**

Partners: **www.vonseidels.com/partners**

Von Seidels
Intellectual Property Attorneys

Measuring Device

Your client manufactures general utility articles in the form of synthetic plastics mouldings. The following is an excerpt from a letter instructing you to prepare and file a patent application for a measuring device:

> "We are receiving many complaints from users about our measuring spoons, which we supply in sets comprising a number of separate spoons, each having a specific measure such as one teaspoon, one dessertspoon, and the like. The complaints focus on the way in which the various spoons are held together via apertures in their stems by means of a key ring holder. If the spoons are separated from the holder to facilitate use, they get lost. If the spoons are retained on the holder, the spoons not being used make the device difficult to use. The same difficulty generally applies to our sets of measuring cups.
>
> We have now come up with a solution in the form of an adjustable measuring device which we have sketched in Figures 1, 2 and 3.
>
> The measuring device 10 has a channel 12 having a rounded end portion 14. Flanges 16 extend laterally from upper edges of the channel. We provide an insert 20 having a longitudinal flat plate 22 as a cover and, extending at right angles therefrom, at one end, a tongue 24 fitting snugly within the channel 12. The insert 20 has, along lateral edges, "wrap-around" locating formations 26 embracing the flanges 16 to allow sliding of the insert 20 relative to the channel 12.
>
> In Figure 2, it is shown that each of the flanges 16 has a number of dimples 18 at longitudinally spaced positions and that the longitudinal cover 22 has a pimple at each side which is frictionally receivable within the respective dimples 18 to allow stepped adjustment.
>
> Along an external side of the channel 12, we provide calibration markings on a strip of paper or plastics glued to the channel 12. A fixed pointer 28 is provided at a side of the longitudinal cover 22 to indicate on the calibration markings 30 the position of the tongue 24 relative to the channel 12, and more specifically the volume of the exposed portion of the channel adjacent the rounded end portion 14.
>
> In use, the longitudinal cover 22 and more specifically the tongue 24 will be adjusted such that the remaining or exposed portion of the channel 12 adjacent the rounded end portion 14 is of a desired volume. The volume is shown by means of the pointer 28 on the calibration markings 30. Frictional location of the longitudinal cover 22 relative to the channel 12 by means of the pimples 32 and dimples 18 makes it easy to adjust the device for specific volumes.
>
> The channel 12 is open ended opposite to the rounded end portion 14 such that the insert 20 can easily be slid off the channel 12 to facilitate cleaning."

Draft claims, a brief description of the drawings, a specific description and an abstract to form part of a complete specification.

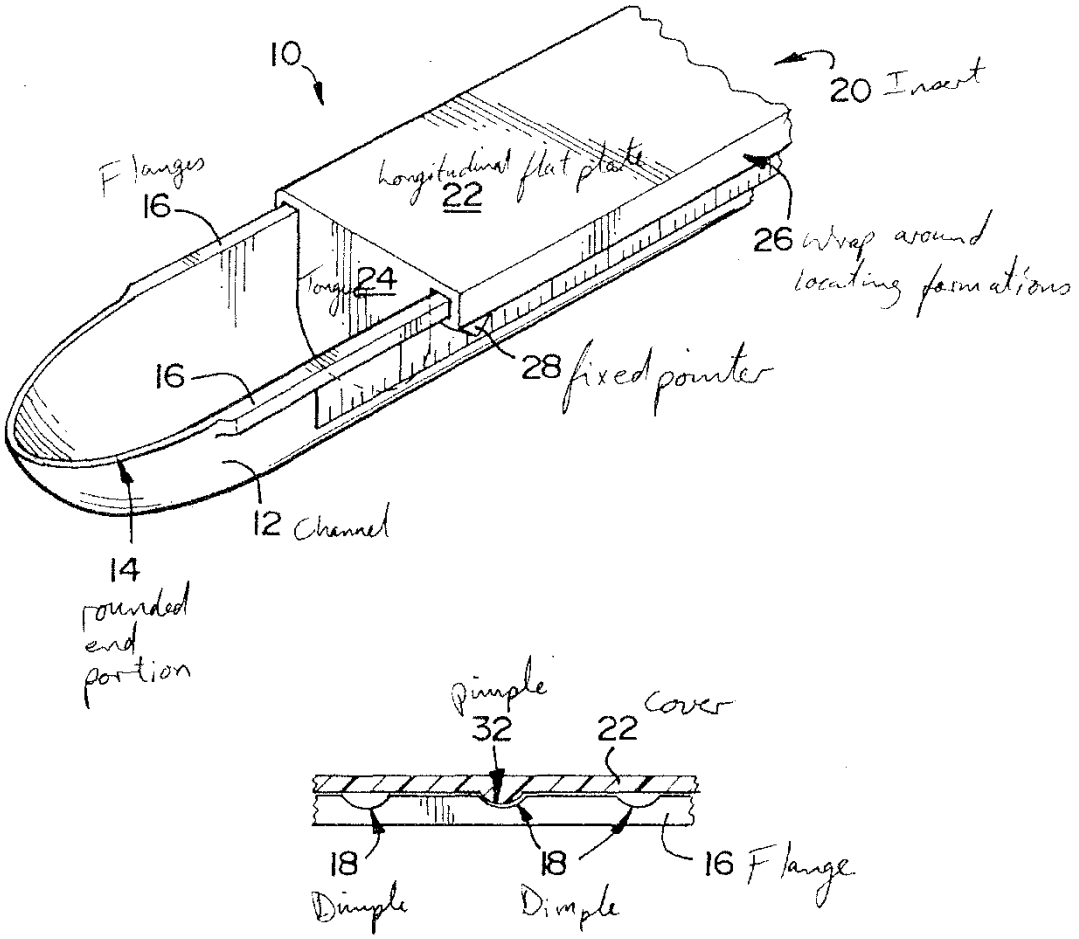
10
20 Insert
Flanges
16
Longitudinal flat plate
22
26 wrap around locating formations
Tongue 24
16
28 fixed pointer
12 Channel
14
rounded end portion
Pimple
32
22
Cover
18
Dimple
18
Dimple
16 Flange

FIG 2

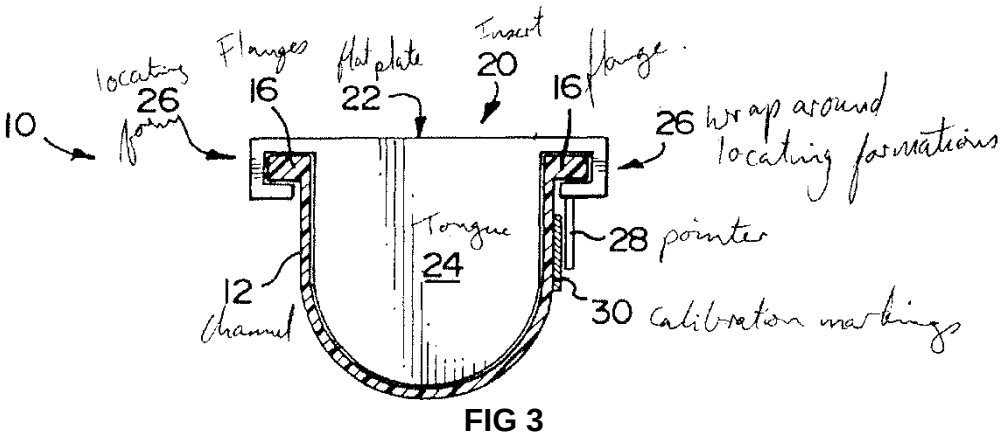
locating
26
Flanges
16
flat plate
22
Insert
20
16
flange
10
26 wrap around locating formations
Tongue
24
28 pointer
12
Channel
30 Calibration markings

FIG 3