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Dimitriou

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(54) **PAINT BRUSH AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME**

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A46B 9/00 (2006.01)
A46D 3/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***A46B 9/005*** (2013.01); ***A46D 3/00*** (2013.01); *A46B 2200/202* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC A46B 9/005; A46B 2200/202; A46D 3/00
USPC 15/244.3
See application file for complete search history.

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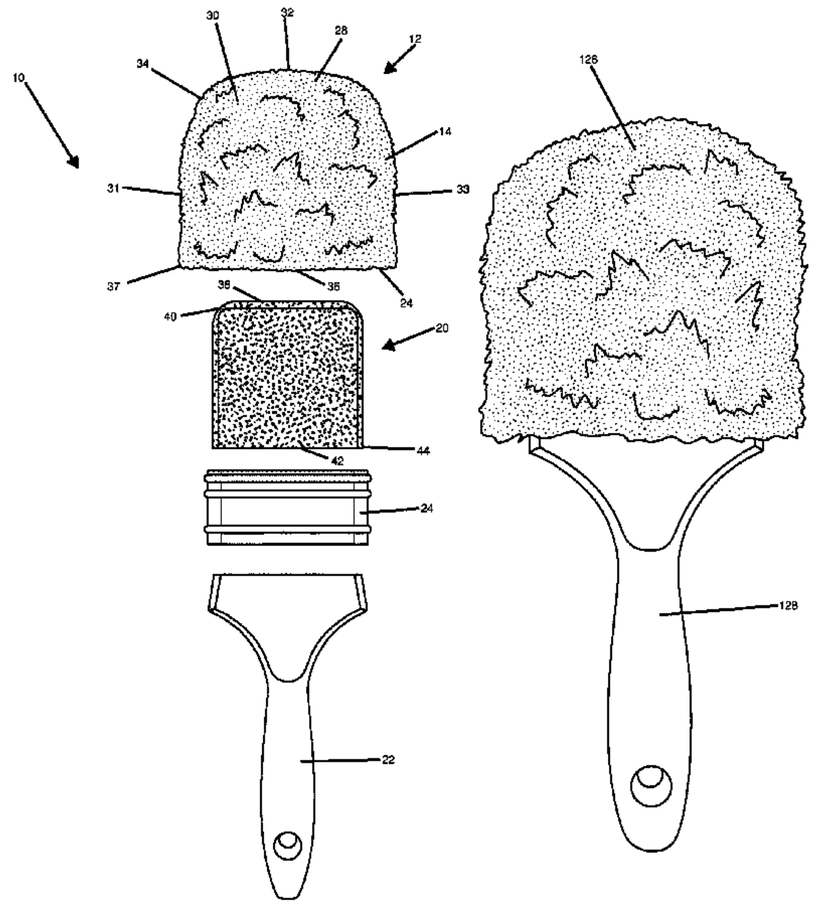
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A paint brush and method of making the same is disclosed. The paint brush includes a velutinous painting portion having a body including a cavity and an opening, an insert disposed within the body, a handle coaxial with the body, and a ferrule connecting the body to the handle to seal the insert within the body. The body includes an interior face having a rigid surface and an exterior face having velutinous members. The velutinous members include animal fur, synthetic filaments, and/or natural fibers. The method includes sewing fabric having a velutinous surface into a pocket having a cavity, positioning the pocket so the velutinous surface faces an exterior of the pocket, inserting a semi-rigid foam insert into the cavity to form a velutinous painting portion, and connecting the velutinous painting portion to a paint brush handle with a ferrule to form a paint brush having a velutinous painting portion.

10 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



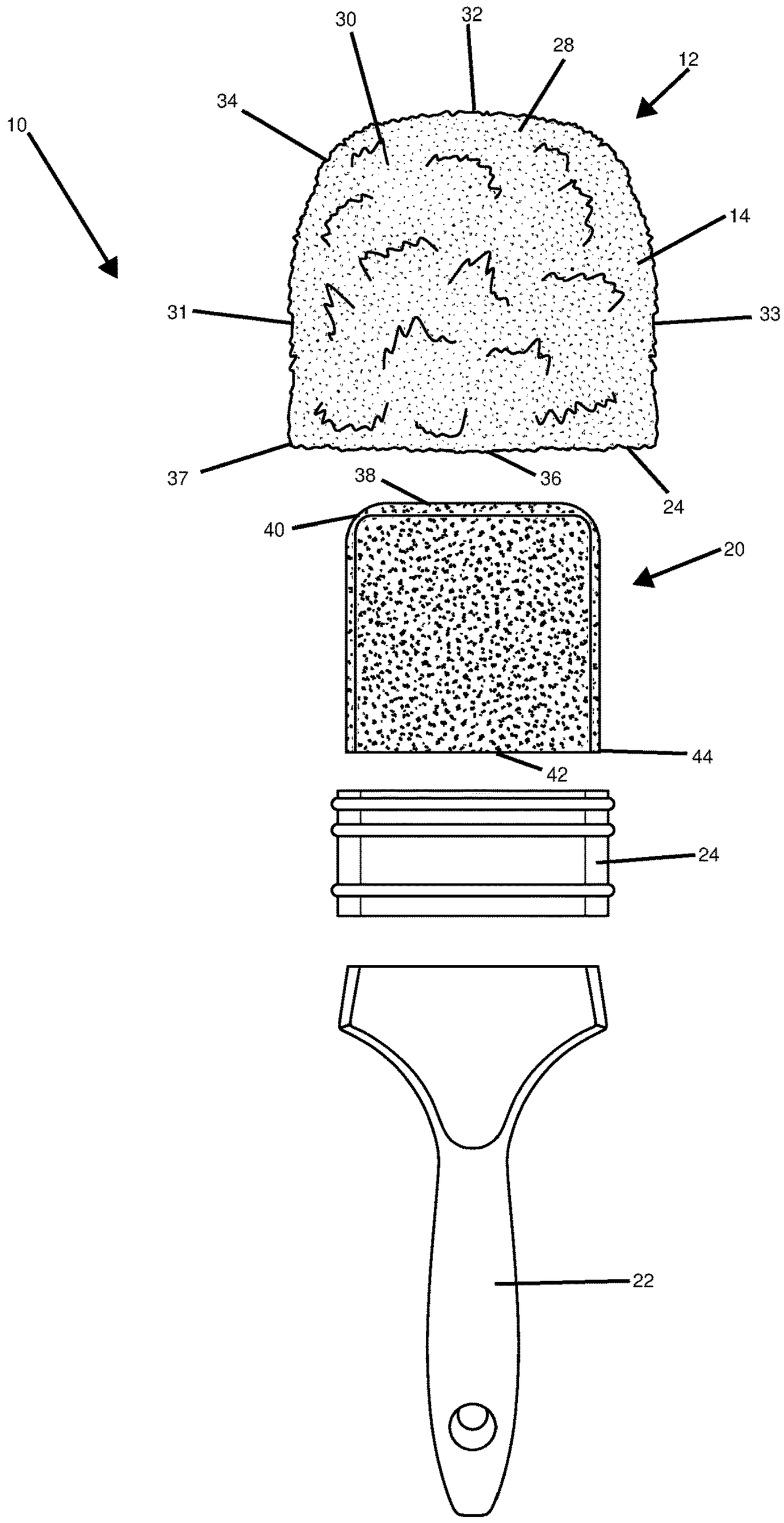


FIG. 1

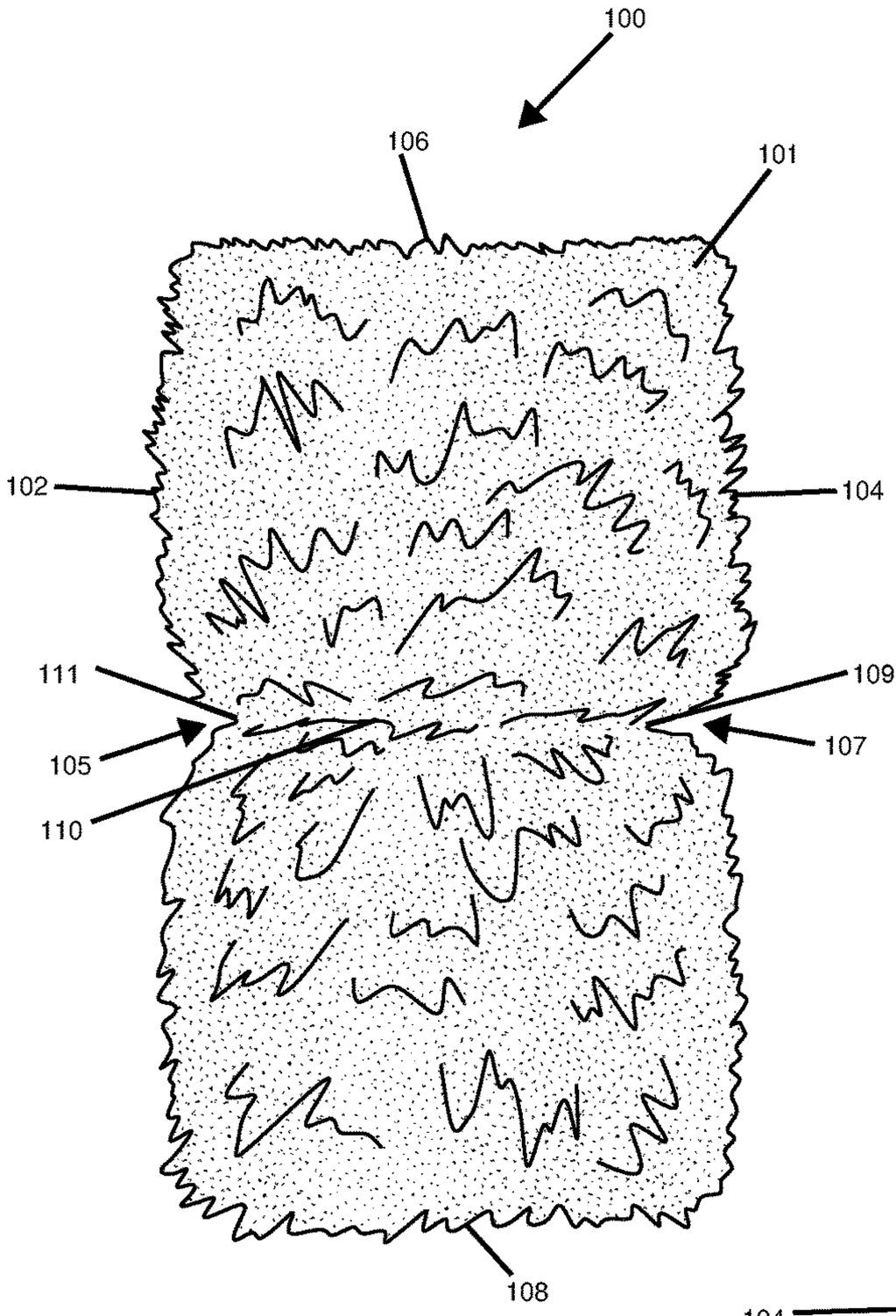

100
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FIG. 2A

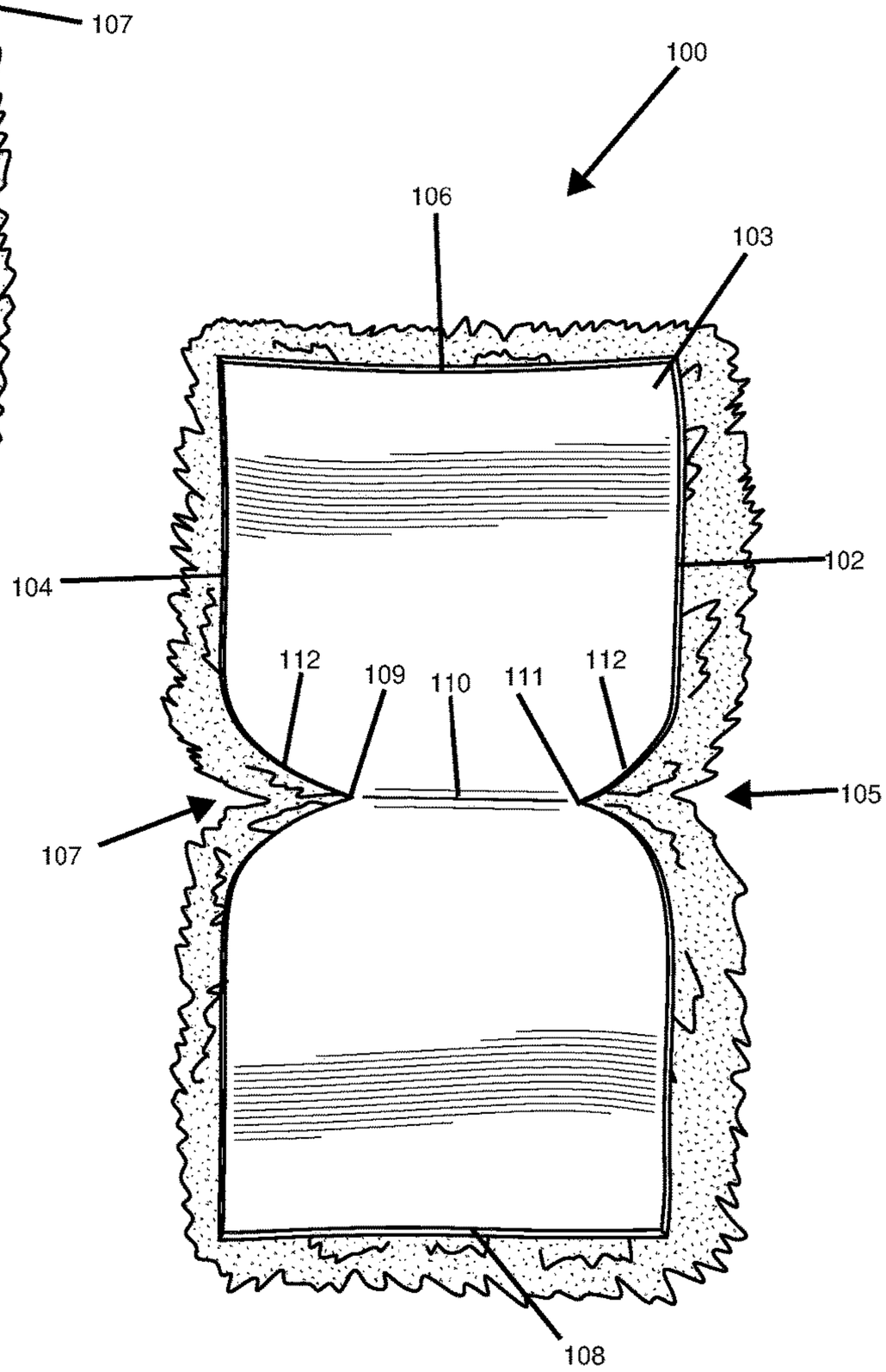
100
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FIG. 2B

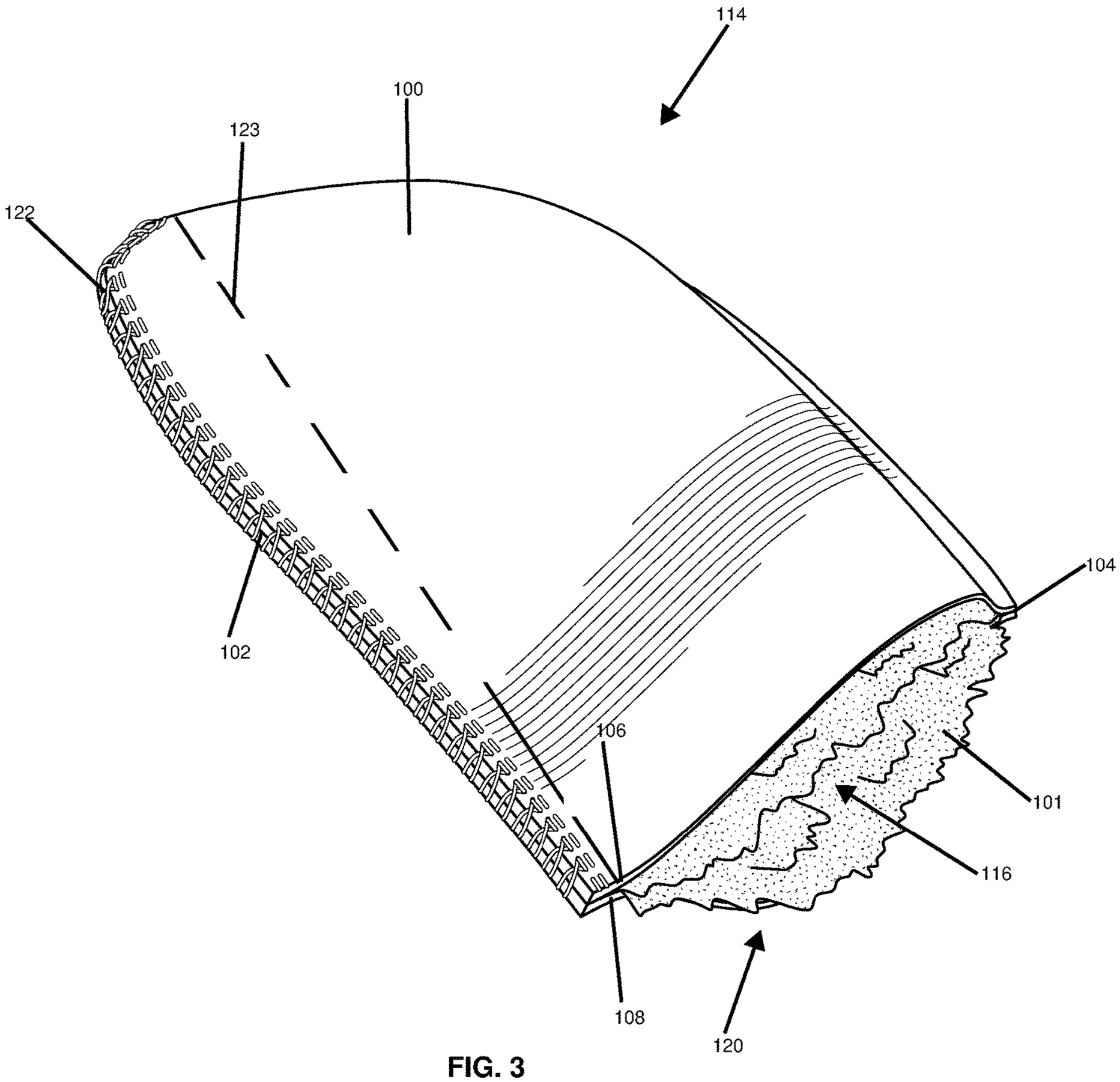

FIG. 3

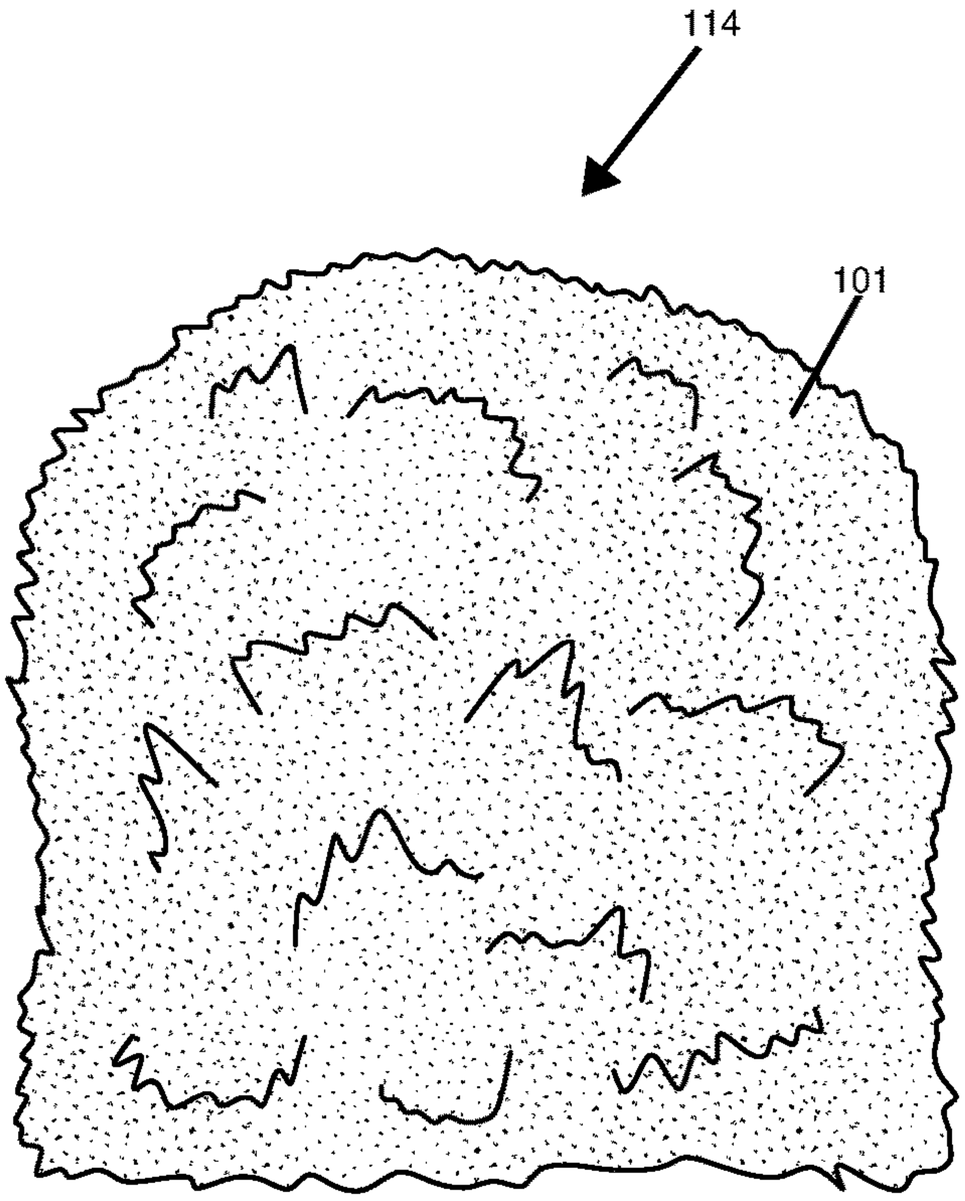

FIG. 4A

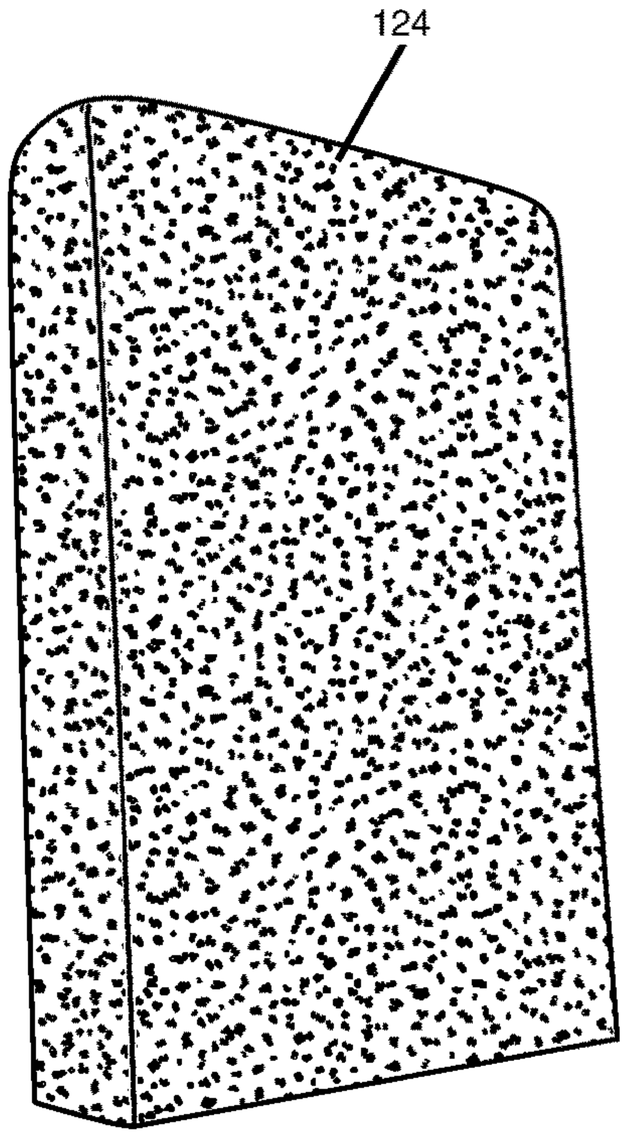

FIG. 4B

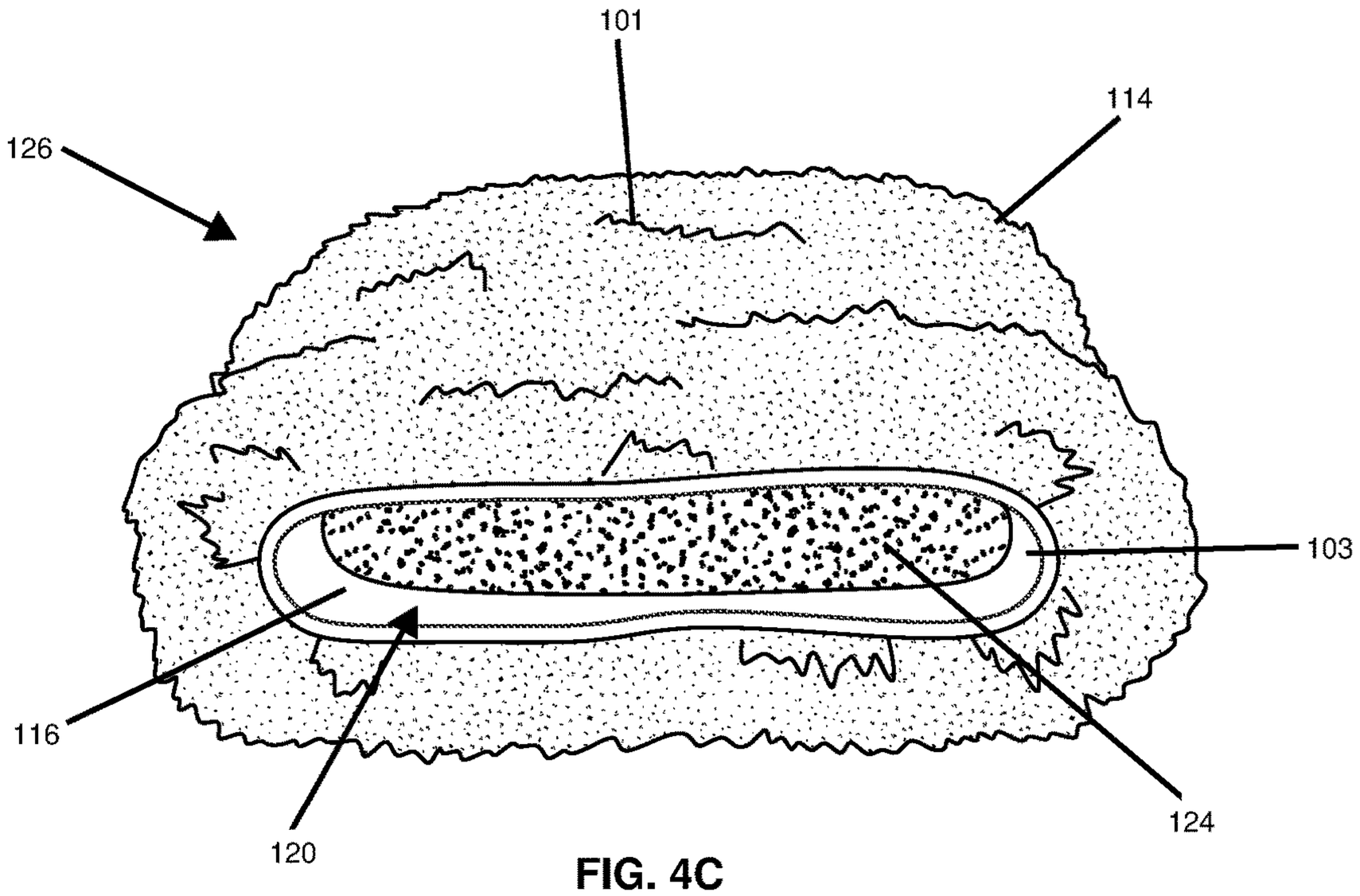

FIG. 4C

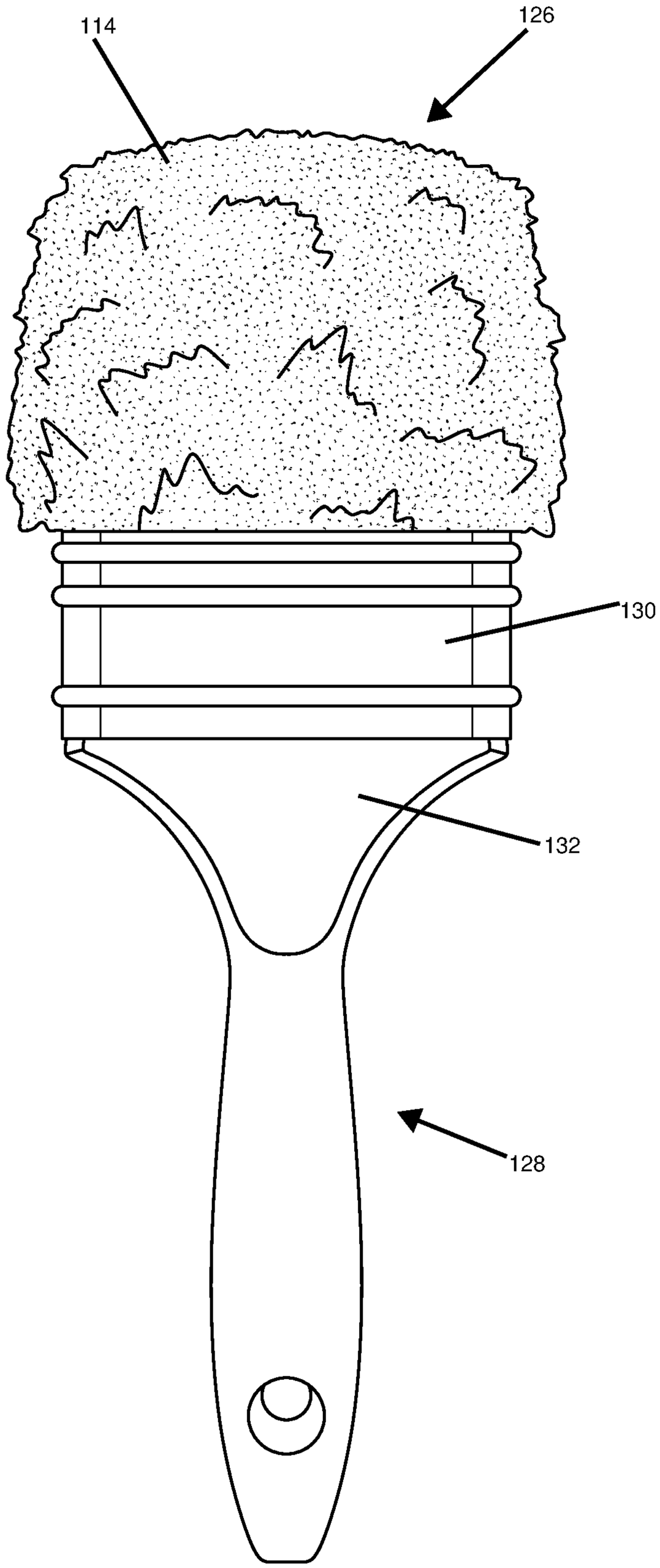

FIG. 5

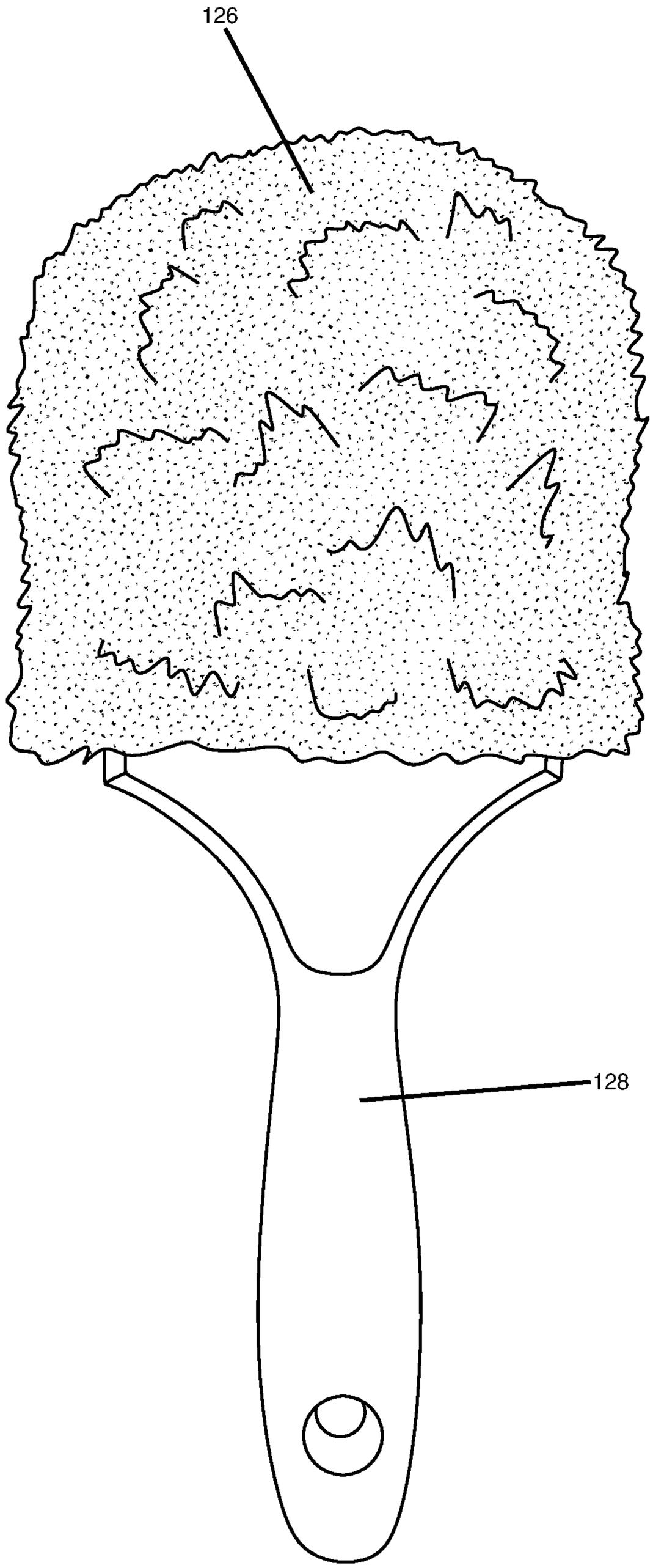

FIG. 6

PAINT BRUSH AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME

FIELD OF THE DISCLOSED TECHNOLOGY

The disclosed technology relates to paint brushes. More specifically, the disclosed technology relates to a paint brush including a velutinous painting portion and a method of making the paint brush.

BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSED TECHNOLOGY

Conventional paint brushes have painting portions made up of rigid bristles or filaments. Indeed, these painting portions typically include a variety of stiff natural or synthetic bristles or filaments attached to a handle by means of a ferrule. When performing brushstrokes with painting portion having these sorts of bristles, they typically only bend where they connect to the ferrule and are not themselves flexible. The limited flexibility of these types of rigid and stiff bristles limits the way in which a user can transfer paint onto a substrate surface, leaving a need for a more flexible, pliable, and supple paint brush that is capable of transferring paint onto the substrate surface differently, thereby enabling a user to apply paint to the substrate surface using unique approaches.

Accordingly, there is a need for a paint brush including a velutinous painting portion that enables a user to apply paint to a substrate surface differently and a method of making the same.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSED TECHNOLOGY

Disclosed herein is a paint brush with a velutinous painting portion. The paint brush includes a body including a cavity defining an interior volume and an opening having a perimeter edge. The opening provides access to the interior volume of the cavity. The body includes an interior face having a rigid surface and an exterior face having a surface including upright flexible velutinous members. A semi-rigid insert is disposed within the interior volume of the body. The semi-rigid insert includes a size less than or equal to a size of the interior volume of the cavity. A handle is coaxially disposed relative to the body. A ferrule connects the body and the handle to each other to seal the semi-rigid insert within the unitary body.

In embodiments, the unitary body comprises a distal end including an arcuate edge and a proximal end including the opening of the cavity. The proximal end is connected to the ferrule to seal the opening.

In some embodiments, the upright flexible velutinous members extend from the proximal end to the distal end of the body and over the entire exterior face of the body. In other embodiments, the velutinous members extend outwardly past a widest portion of the handle.

In certain embodiments, the semi-rigid insert is coterminous with the perimeter edge of the opening of the unitary body.

In embodiments, the velutinous members comprise animal fur selected from the group consisting of lamb fur, sheep fur, mink fur, rabbit fur, fox fur, chinchilla fur, coyote fur, muskrat fur, raccoon fur, skunk fur, beaver fur, ermine fur, fisher fur, fitch fur, lynx fur, marten fur, nutria fur, opossum fur, sable fur, squirrel fur, tanuki fur, and weasel fur. In some embodiments, the velutinous members comprise synthetic

hairs. In other embodiment, the velutinous members comprise fur and/or synthetics designed to and created for the purposes of mimicking fur.

Further disclosed herein is a method of making a paint brush having a velutinous painting portion. The method includes sewing a piece of fabric having a velutinous surface into a pocket defining a cavity including an interior volume and an opening. The opening provides access to the interior volume of cavity. The fabric includes a hard surface opposite the velutinous surface, a first side edge, a second side edge, the first side edge opposite the second side edge, a third side edge, and a fourth side edge, the third side edge opposite the fourth side edge. The method also includes turning the pocket inside out to position the velutinous surface on an exterior of the pocket and the hard surface on an interior of the pocket, inserting a semi-rigid foam insert into the cavity of the pocket to form a velutinous painting portion, and connecting the velutinous painting portion to a paint brush handle with a ferrule to seal the opening of the pocket with the ferrule and to seal the semi-rigid foam insert within the pocket.

In embodiments, the pocket is formed by folding the fabric in half onto itself about a central axis of the fabric to fold the velutinous surface in half onto itself, the first side edge in half onto itself, and the second side edge in half onto itself.

In some embodiments, the sewing comprises stitching a seam connecting the first side edge to itself and stitching a seam connecting the second side edge to itself to form the cavity between the first side edge and the second side edge and to position the velutinous surface on an interior of the pocket and the hard surface on an exterior of the pocket.

In other embodiments, the velutinous painting portion is connected to the paint brush handle such that the velutinous painting portion is coaxial with the handle and the opening of the pocket is aligned with a body of the handle.

In certain embodiments, the method includes cutting the fabric from a larger piece fabric so that the first side edge and the second side edge are longer than the third side edge and the fourth side edge.

In embodiments, the method includes cutting a triangular piece of fabric from a center of the first side edge and a center of the second side edge to form a cut-out on the first side edge and a cut-out on the second side edge, wherein the cut-out on the first side edge and the cut-out on the second side edge are aligned and define a central lateral line about which the rectangular piece is folded onto itself, the central lateral line extending from the first side edge to the second side edge about the central axis.

In some embodiments, the method includes cutting the semi-rigid foam insert from a larger piece of semi-rigid foam insert to generate a size that is approximately less than or equal to the size of the interior volume of the cavity.

For purposes of this disclosure, the following definitions are used. “Coaxial” is defined as “having a common axis.” “Radial” is defined as of or arranged like the radii of a circle or diverging from a common center.” “Cavity” is defined as “an unfilled space within a mass, such as a hollowed-out space.” “Pocket” is defined as “a small structure formed by sewing, joining, adhering such that it includes an opening on an end or side.” “Coterminous” is defined as “having the same boundaries or extent in space as an object, area, region, or point.” “Unitary” is defined as “an undivided unit or whole unit.” “Hard” is defined as “not easily penetrated, or not easily yielding to pressure.” “Fabric” is defined as “a textile, or a flexible material consisting of a network of natural or artificial fibers made through weaving, knitting,

spreading, crocheting, or bonding." "Rigid" is defined as "devoid of flexibility." "Semi-rigid" is defined as "rigid to some degree or in some parts." "Velutinous" is defined as "covered with a fine and dense pubescence of fur and synthetics designed to and created for the purpose of mimicking fur." "Pubescence" is defined as "soft down or fine, flexible, and supple filaments or hairs." "Filament" is defined as "a slender threadlike object or fiber." "Painting portion" is defined as "the brush head or portion of a paintbrush that holds the paint." "Ferrule" is defined as "a ring, cap, or sleeve placed around a pole, shaft, or a handle for joining or binding one part to another."

Any device or step to a method described in this disclosure can comprise or consist of that which it is a part of, or the parts which make up the device or step. The term "and/or" is inclusive of the items which it joins linguistically and each item by itself. "Substantially" is defined as at least 95% of the term being described and/or "within a tolerance level known in the art and/or within 5% thereof. Any device or aspect of a device or method described herein can be read as "comprising" or "consisting" thereof.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** shows an exploded elevation view of the paint brush, illustrating the components of the paint brush and one manner in which they assemble to form the paint brush according to one embodiment of the present disclosed technology.

FIG. **2**A shows a top plan view of the velutinous fabric, illustrating the velutinous fabric before being stitched to form the pocket of the velutinous painting portion according to one embodiment of the present disclosed technology.

FIG. **2**B shows a bottom plan view of the velutinous fabric, illustrating the velutinous fabric before being stitched to form the pocket of the velutinous painting portion according to one embodiment of the present disclosed technology.

FIG. **3** shows a perspective view of the pocket inside out, illustrating the manner in which the velutinous fabric is sewed to form the pocket of the velutinous painting portion according to one embodiment of the present disclosed technology.

FIG. **4**A shows an elevation view of the pocket, illustrating the pocket prior to insertion of the semi-rigid insert according to one embodiment of the present disclosed technology.

FIG. **4**B shows a perspective view of the semi-rigid insert, illustrating the semi-rigid insert prior to insertion into the interior cavity of the pocket according to one embodiment of the present disclosed technology.

FIG. **4**C shows a bottom view of the velutinous painting portion, illustrating semi-rigid insert inserted into the interior cavity of the pocket to form the velutinous painting portion.

FIG. **5** shows a partial exploded elevation view of the paint brush, illustrating the velutinous painting portion being attached to the handle according to one embodiment of the present disclosed technology.

FIG. **6** shows an elevation view of the paint brush, illustrating the arrangement of the paint brush after complete assembly according to one embodiment of the present disclosed technology.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS OF THE DISCLOSED TECHNOLOGY

The present disclosed technology provides a paint brush having a velutinous surface and a method of making the same. The paint brush includes a velutinous painting portion having a body including a cavity and an opening, an insert disposed within the body, a handle coaxial with the body, and a ferrule connecting the body to the handle to seal the insert within the body. The body includes an interior face having a rigid surface and an exterior face having velutinous members. The velutinous members include flexible and supple animal fur, synthetic filaments, and/or natural fibers. The method includes sewing fabric having a velutinous surface into a pocket having a cavity, positioning the pocket so the velutinous surface faces an exterior of the pocket, inserting a semi-rigid foam insert into the cavity to form a velutinous painting portion, and connecting the velutinous painting portion to a paint brush handle with a ferrule to form a paint brush having a velutinous painting portion. Reference is made herein to the attached drawings. Like reference numerals are used throughout the drawings to depict like or similar elements of the paint brush and the method of making the same. The figures are intended for representative purposes only and should not be considered to be limiting in any respect. Embodiments of the present disclosed technology will become clearer in view of the following description of the figures.

Referring now to FIG. **1**, there is shown an exploded elevation view of the paint brush, illustrating the components of the paint brush and one manner in which they assemble to form the paint brush according to one embodiment of the present disclosed technology. In embodiments, the present disclosed technology comprises a paint brush **10** comprising a velutinous painting portion **12** including a body **14** having a cavity **116** (see FIG. **4**C) including an opening **120** (see FIG. **4**C), a semi-rigid insert **20** disposed within the body **14**, a handle **22** coaxial with the body **14**, and a ferrule **24** connecting the body **14** and the handle **22** to each other to seal the semi-rigid insert **20** within the body **14**.

In embodiments, the body **14** comprises a first side **31**, a second side **33**, a distal end **32** including an arcuate edge **34**, a proximal end **36** including a rectangular edge **37**, a longitudinal length extending from the distal end **32** to the proximal end **36**, and a lateral width extending from the first side **31** to the second side **33**. The proximal end **36** connects to the ferrule **24** to seal the opening **120**. The cavity **116** defines an interior volume and includes a perimeter edge **24** defining the opening **120**. The opening **120** provides access to the interior volume of the cavity **116**. The body **14** includes an interior face (not shown) extending from the distal end **32** to the proximal end **36** and an exterior face **28** also extending from the distal end **32** to the proximal end **36**. The exterior face **28** is opposite the interior face. The interior face comprises a rigid surface and the exterior face **28** comprises a surface having a plurality of upright flexible velutinous members **30**. In embodiments, the body **14** is unitary in structure.

The velutinous members **30** are attached to the exterior face **28** and extend outwardly from the exterior face **28**. In some embodiments, the velutinous members **30** extend radially outwardly relative to a center of the body **14**. In other embodiments, the velutinous members **30** extend perpendicular relative to the surface of the exterior face **28**. The velutinous members **30** extend from the proximal end **36** to the distal end **32** and across the surface of the exterior face **28** of the body **14**. In embodiments, the velutinous members **30** extend over the entire surface of the exterior face such that they are coterminous with the perimeter edge

24 of the opening **120** of the body **14**. The velutinous members **30** extend outwardly past a widest portion of the handle **22**.

In embodiments, the velutinous members **30** comprise animal fur including lamb fur, sheep fur, mink fur, rabbit fur, fox fur, chinchilla fur, coyote fur, muskrat fur, raccoon fur, skunk fur, beaver fur, ermine fur, fisher fur, fitch fur, lynx fur, marten fur, nutria fur, opossum fur, sable fur, squirrel fur, tanuki fur, weasel fur, and/or the like. In some embodiments, the velutinous members **30** comprise synthetic filaments including rayon, nylon, polyester, acrylic, and/or the like. In other embodiments, the velutinous members **30** comprise natural fibers including silk, cotton, hemp, jute, cashmere, camel hair, ramie, and/or the like. In certain embodiments, the velutinous members **30** comprise filaments including fur and synthetics designed to and created for the purpose of mimicking fur.

The insert **20** comprises an upper end **38** including an arcuate edge **40** and a lower end **42** including a rectangular edge **44**. The insert **20** includes substantially the same size as the cavity **116** such that the insert **20** friction fits within the cavity **116**. In some embodiments, the insert **20** includes a size that is less than or equal to a size of the interior volume of the cavity **116** to provide a space in between the insert **20** and the interior face of the body **14**. In embodiments, the insert **20** is coterminous with the perimeter edge **24** of the body **14**. The insert **20** is semi-rigid to provide flexibility to the painting portion **12** while the paint brush **10** is in use. In some embodiments, the insert **20** comprises a foam material, such as a reticulated foam, an open-cell-structured foam containing pores, or a closed-cell foam that does not include interconnected pores. For example, in one embodiment, the insert **20** comprises a sponge. In embodiments, the body **14**, the semi-rigid insert **20**, the handle **22**, and the ferrule **24** are connected to one another to form the paint brush **10** by means of adhesives, staples, nails, tape, or a combination thereof.

Referring now to FIGS. **2**A and **2**B, simultaneously, FIG. **2**A shows a top plan view of the velutinous fabric, illustrating the velutinous fabric before being stitched to form the pocket of the velutinous painting portion according to one embodiment of the present disclosed technology. FIG. **2**B shows a bottom plan view of the velutinous fabric, illustrating the velutinous fabric before being stitched to form the pocket of the velutinous painting portion according to one embodiment of the present disclosed technology. The present disclosed technology also provides a method of making a paint brush having a velutinous painting portion. In embodiments, the method includes cutting a rectangular piece of fabric **100** including a velutinous surface **101**, a rigid surface **103**, a first side edge **102**, a second side edge **104**, a third side edge **106**, and a fourth side edge **108** from a larger piece fabric such that the first side edge **102** and the second side edge **104** are longer than the third side edge **106** and the fourth side edge **108**. In some embodiments, the method includes fabricating the rectangular piece of fabric **100** to include the velutinous surface **101**, the rigid surface **103**, the first side edge **102**, the second side edge **104**, the third side edge **106**, and the fourth side edge **108** such that the first side edge **102** and the second side edge **104** are longer than the third side edge **106** and the fourth side edge **108**. The velutinous surface **101** is opposite the rigid surface **103**. The first side edge **102** is opposite the second side edge **104**. The third side edge **106** is opposite the fourth side edge **108**.

In some embodiments, the method includes cutting a first triangular portion from a center **105** of the first side edge **102** and a second triangular portion from a center **107** of the second side edge **104** to form a cut-out **111** on the first side edge **102** and a cut-out **109** on the second side edge **104**. The cut-outs **111**, **109** are aligned and define a central lateral line **110** about which the fabric **100** is to be folded onto itself. The cut-outs **111**, **109** include arcuate edges **112** that enable the fabric **100** to fold onto itself more easily. The central lateral **110** line extends from the first side edge **102** to the second side edge **104** about a central axis of the rectangular piece of fabric **100**.

Referring now to FIG. **3**, there is shown a perspective view of the pocket inside out, illustrating one manner in which the velutinous fabric is sewed to form the pocket of the velutinous painting portion according to one embodiment of the present disclosed technology. In embodiments, the method comprises sewing the fabric **100** into a pocket **114** to form pocket **114** including a cavity **116** defining an interior volume and having an opening **120** that provides access to the interior volume of the cavity **116**. The pocket **114** shape is formed by folding the fabric **100** in half onto itself about a central axis of the fabric **100** to fold the velutinous surface **101** in half onto itself, the first side edge **102** in half onto itself, the second side edge **104** in half onto itself, and the third side edge **106** onto the fourth side edge **108**. The pocket **114** structure is finally formed by stitching a seam **122** to connect the first side edge **102** to itself and stitching a seam to the second side edge **104** to itself, thereby forming the cavity **116** between the first side edge **102** and the second side edge **104**, positioning the velutinous surface **101** toward an interior of the pocket **114**, and positioning the hard surface **103** toward an exterior of the pocket **114**. In some embodiments, tape **123** is positioned over the seams **122** to prevent adhesives, paints, and solvents from penetrating the velutinous surface **101** and/or leaking into the cavity **116**.

Referring now to FIG. **4**A-**4**C, simultaneously, FIG. **4**A shows an elevation view of the pocket, illustrating the pocket prior to insertion of the semi-rigid insert according to one embodiment of the present disclosed technology. FIG. **4**B shows a perspective view of the semi-rigid insert, illustrating the semi-rigid insert prior to insertion into the interior cavity of the pocket according to one embodiment of the present disclosed technology. FIG. **4**C shows a bottom view of the velutinous painting portion, illustrating semi-rigid insert inserted into the interior cavity of the pocket to form the velutinous painting portion. The method further comprises turning the pocket **114** inside out to position the velutinous surface **101** toward an exterior of the pocket **114** and the hard surface **103** toward an interior of the pocket **114**, and inserting a semi-rigid foam insert **124** into the cavity **116** of the pocket **114** via the opening **120** to form a velutinous painting portion **126**. In some embodiments, the method includes cutting the semi-rigid foam insert **124** from a larger piece of semi-rigid foam insert to generate a size that is approximately less than or equal to the size of the interior volume of the cavity **116**. In this way, the semi-rigid foam insert **124** friction fits within the cavity **116**. In embodiments, the semi-rigid foam insert **124** is attached to the cavity **116** by adhesives, staples, nails, tape, or a combination thereof.

Referring now to FIG. **5**, there is shown a partial exploded elevation view of the paint brush, illustrating the velutinous painting portion being attached to the handle according to one embodiment of the present disclosed technology. The method further comprises connecting the velutinous painting portion **126** to a paint brush handle **128** with a ferrule **130** to seal the opening **120** (see FIG. **4**C) of the pocket **114**

with the ferrule **130** and to seal the semi-rigid foam insert **124** (see FIG. **4**C) within the pocket **114** to form a paint brush having a velutinous painting portion. The velutinous painting portion **126** is connected to the paint brush handle **128** such that the velutinous painting portion **126** is coaxial with the handle **128** and the opening **120** of the pocket **114** is aligned with a body **132** of the handle **128**. In embodiments, the velutinous painting portion **126** is connected to the handle **128** by adhesives, staples, nails, tape, or a combination thereof.

Referring now to FIG. **6**, there is shown an elevation view of the paint brush, illustrating the arrangement of the paint brush after complete assembly according to one embodiment of the present disclosed technology. In embodiments, after the velutinous painting portion **126** is attached to the paint brush handle **128** with the ferrule **130** (see FIG. **5**), the velutinous painting portion **126** is positioned over the ferrule **130** such that the ferrule **130** does not interfere with operation of the paint brush.

The present technology can be carried out with one or more of the embodiments described. The drawings show embodiments with the understanding that the present description is to be considered an exemplification of the principles and is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the disclosure to the details of construction. The arrangements of the components are set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings.

While the disclosed technology has been taught with specific reference to the above embodiments, a person having ordinary skill in the art will recognize that changes can be made in form and detail without departing from the spirit and the scope of the disclosed technology. The described embodiments are to be considered in all respects only as illustrative and not restrictive. All changes that come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are to be embraced within their scope. Combinations of any of the methods, systems, and devices described herein-above are also contemplated and within the scope of the disclosed technology.

I claim:

1. A paint brush with a velutinous painting portion, comprising:

a painting portion comprising a unitary body including a cavity defining an interior volume and an opening having a perimeter edge, the opening providing access to the cavity, the unitary body including an interior face having a rigid surface and an exterior face having a surface including a plurality of upright flexible velutinous members;

a semi-rigid insert disposed within the interior volume of the body, the semi-rigid insert including a size less than or equal to a size of the interior volume of the cavity;

a handle connected coaxially to the body; and

a ferrule connecting the handle to the body to seal the semi-rigid insert within the body.

2. The paint brush of claim **1**, wherein the body comprises a distal end and a proximal end, the distal end including an arcuate edge and the proximal end including the opening, the proximal end connected to the ferrule to seal the opening.

3. The paint brush of claim **2**, wherein:

the body comprises a unitary body; and

the semi-rigid insert comprises a foam-like material.

4. The paint brush of claim **3**, wherein the plurality of upright flexible velutinous members extend from the proximal end to the distal end and over the entire exterior face of the body.

5. The paint brush of claim **4**, wherein the plurality of upright flexible velutinous members extend outwardly past a widest portion of the handle.

6. The paint brush of claim **5**, wherein the semi-rigid foam insert is coterminous with the perimeter edge of the opening of the body.

7. The paint brush of claim **4**, wherein the plurality of upright flexible velutinous members comprise animal fur selected from the group consisting of lamb fur, sheep fur, mink fur, rabbit fur, fox fur, chinchilla fur, coyote fur, muskrat fur, racoon fur, skunk fur, beaver fur, ermine fur, fisher fur, fitch fur, lynx fur, marten fur, nutria fur, opossum fur, sable fur, squirrel fur, tanuki fur, and weasel fur.

8. The paint brush of claim **5**, wherein the plurality of upright flexible velutinous members comprise synthetic filaments selected from the group consisting of rayon, nylon, polyester, and acrylic.

9. The paint brush of claim **6**, wherein the plurality of upright flexible velutinous member comprise natural fibers selected from the group consisting of silk, cotton, hemp, jute, cashmere, camel hair, and ramie.

10. The paint brush of claim **7**, wherein the plurality of upright flexible velutinous members comprise a filament selected from the group consisting of fur and synthetics designed to and created to mimic fur.

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