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(54) **TAPE MEASURE AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURE**

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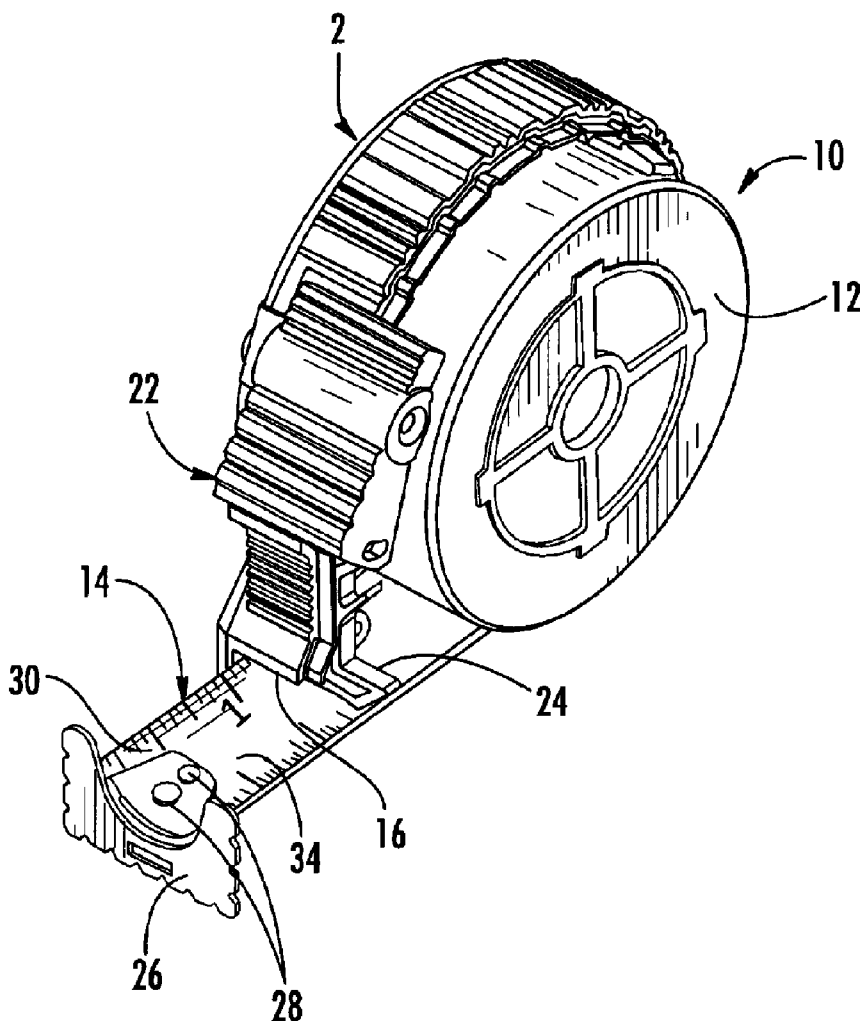
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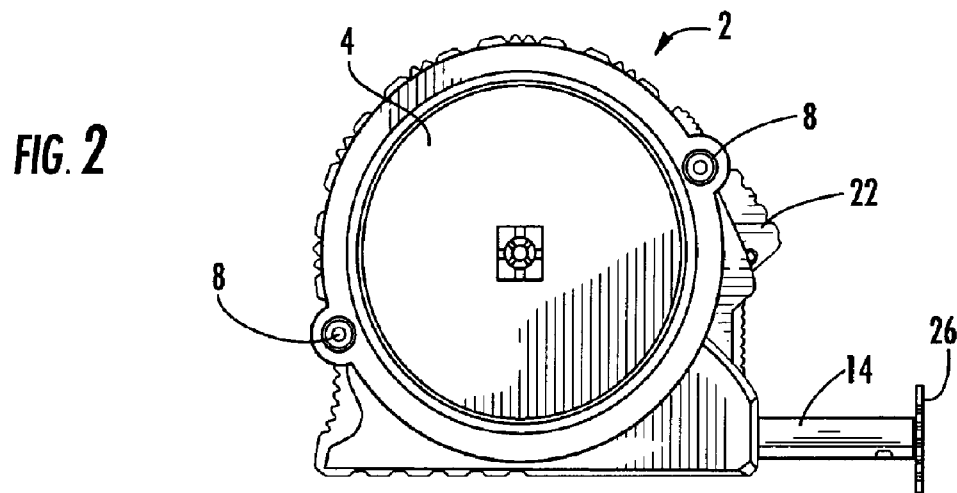
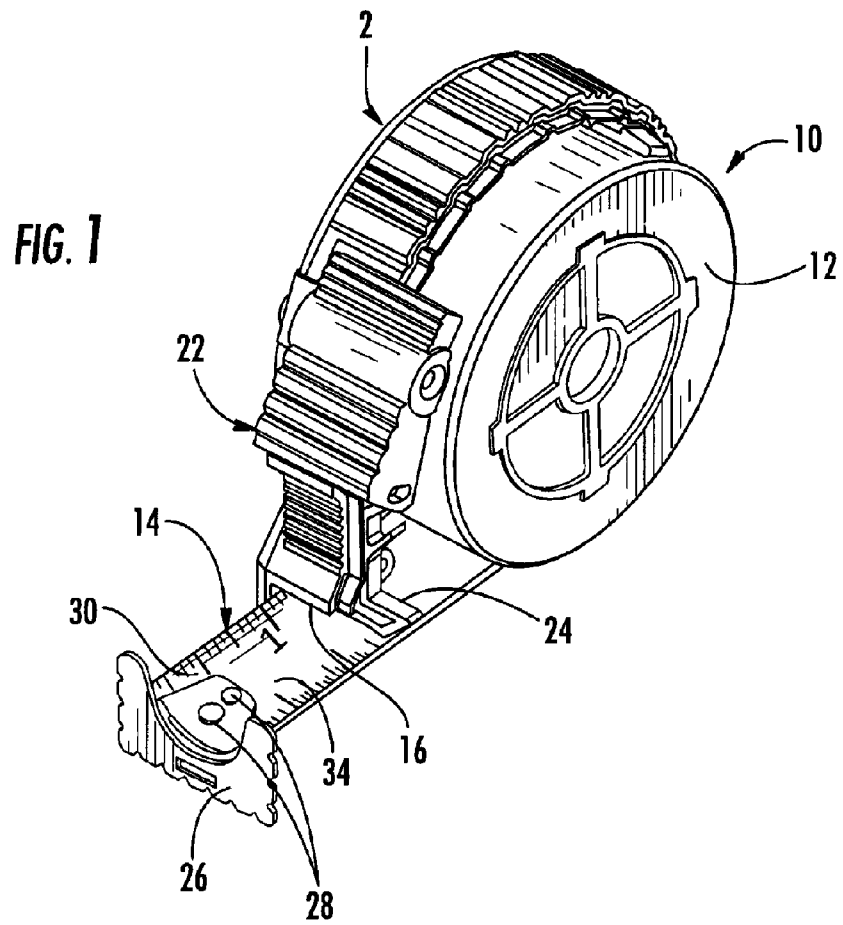
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A tape measure blade having improved wear characteristics, a tape measure utilizing such a blade, and a method of manufacturing such a blade are provided. A clear film made of polyester, nylon or other flexible, strong and relatively thin material is provided with the measurement indicia, markings or other material printed on one side thereof. The film is attached to the blade with the printed side contacting and secured to the blade such that the side of the film without printing is the side of the film exposed to the environment. Because the film is transparent the printed indicia are visible through the film.

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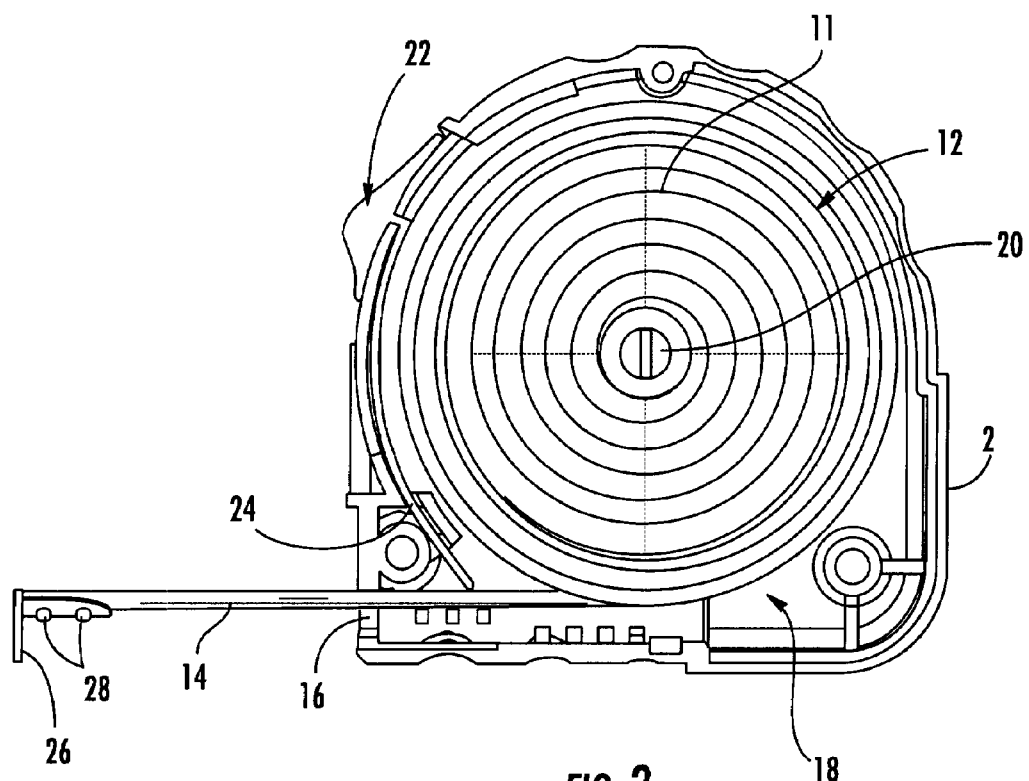


FIG. 3

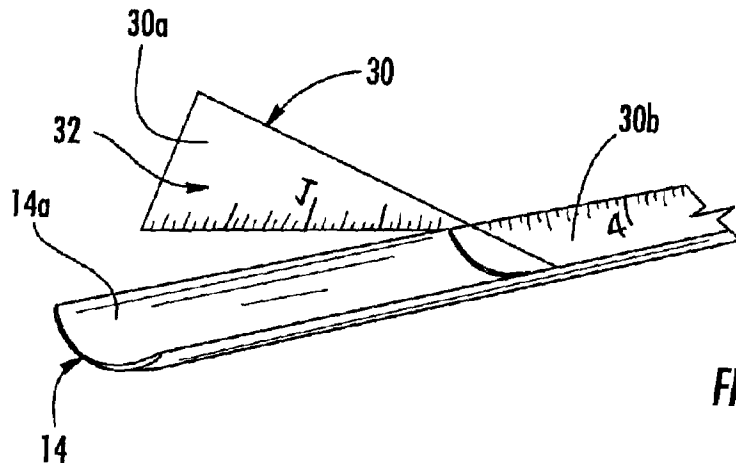


FIG. 4

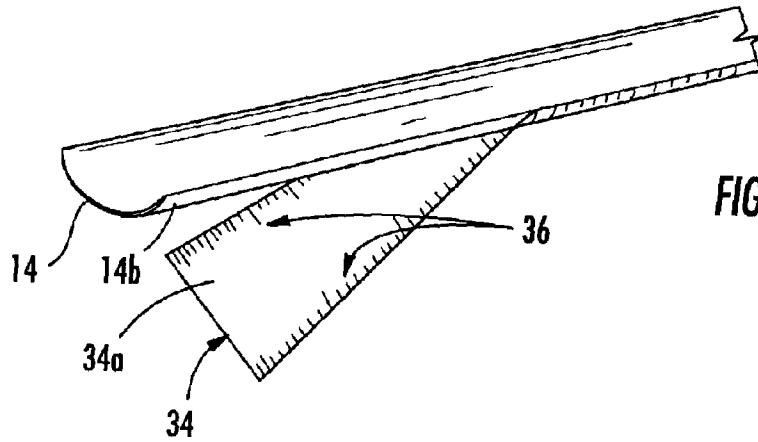


FIG. 5

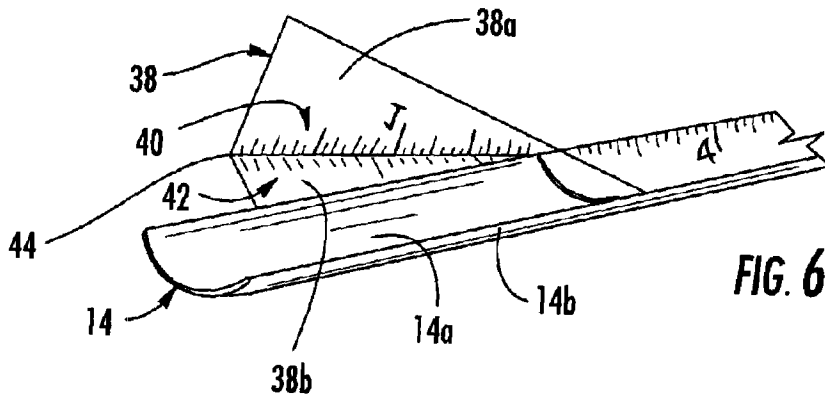


FIG. 6

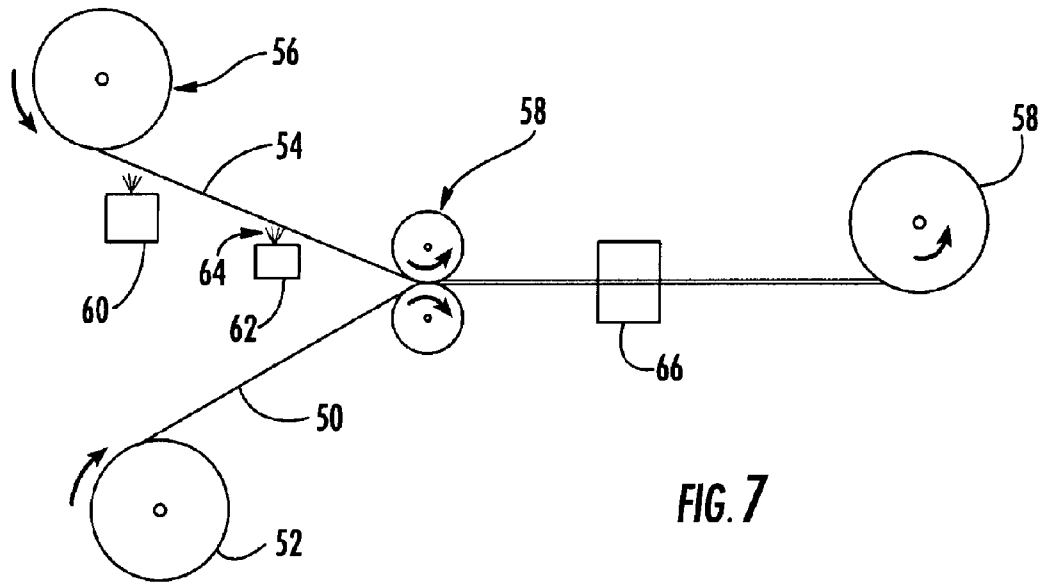


FIG. 7

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