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Staton et al.

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(54) **THIN-WALLED ELASTIC PRODUCTS AND METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR MANUFACTURING SAME**

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USPC 264/215, 305
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A41D 19/00 (2006.01)
A41D 19/015 (2006.01)

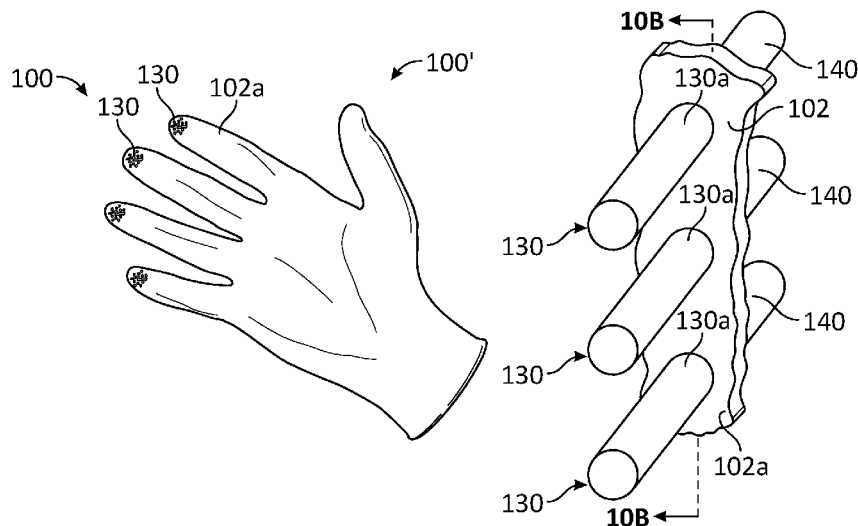
(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **B29C 41/14** (2013.01); **B29C 41/085** (2013.01); **B29C 47/005** (2013.01); **B29C 47/0026** (2013.01); **B29C 47/025** (2013.01); **B29C 47/786** (2013.01); **A41D 19/0055** (2013.01); **A41D 19/0096** (2013.01); **A41D 19/01547** (2013.01); **A61F 6/04** (2013.01); **A61F 2006/048** (2013.01); **B29L 2031/4864** (2013.01); **B29L 2031/7538** (2013.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

One method for creating barrier products (for example, condoms and gloves) includes: (a) dipping a former into a tank of elastic compound. The former has an indentation extending inwardly from an outer surface for creating a first protrusion on a first face of the barrier product. The method further includes: (b) removing the former from the tank of elastic compound, whereby some of the elastic compound removably adheres to the former and fills the indentation; (c) applying supplemental material to the elastic compound, whereby creating a second protrusion on a second face of the barrier product; and (d) fully drying the supplemental material. One barrier product includes an elastic wall having opposed faces, and first and second protrusions respectively extend from the opposed faces. The first and second protrusions are in cross-sectional alignment whereby rotational input forces on the first protrusion create rotational output forces on the second protrusion.

16 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets



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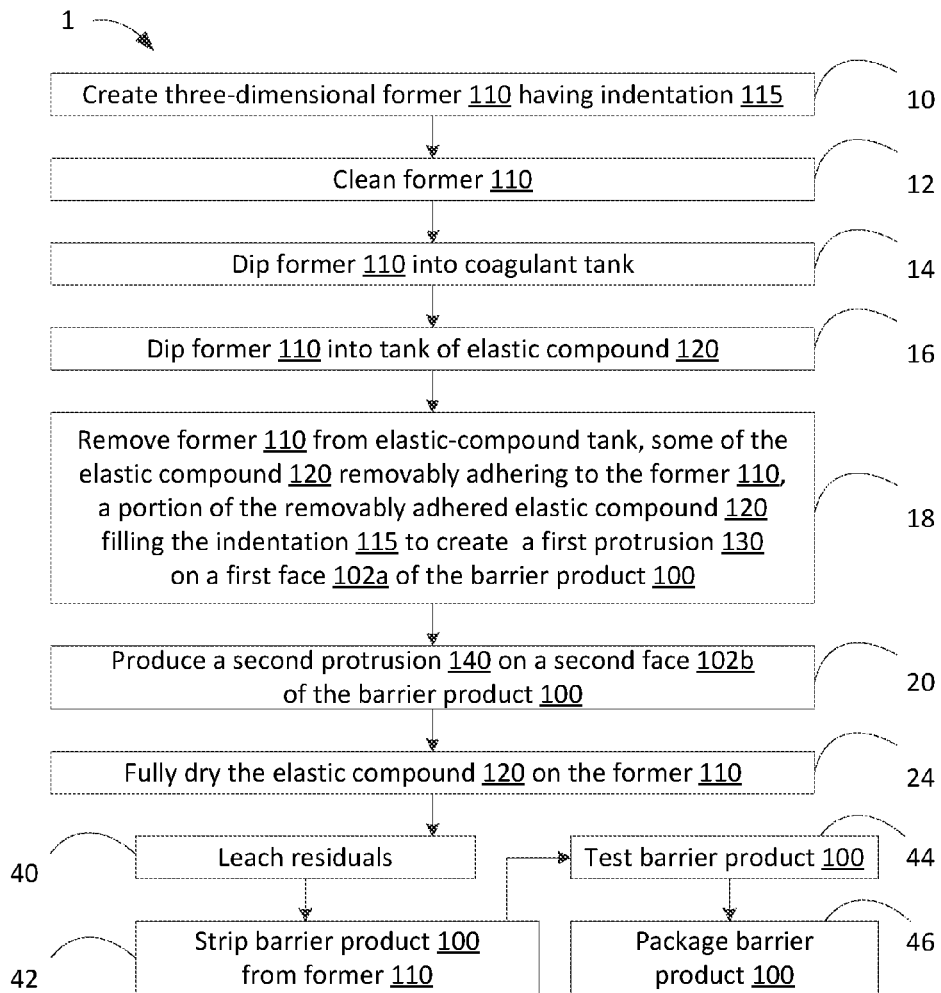


FIG. 1

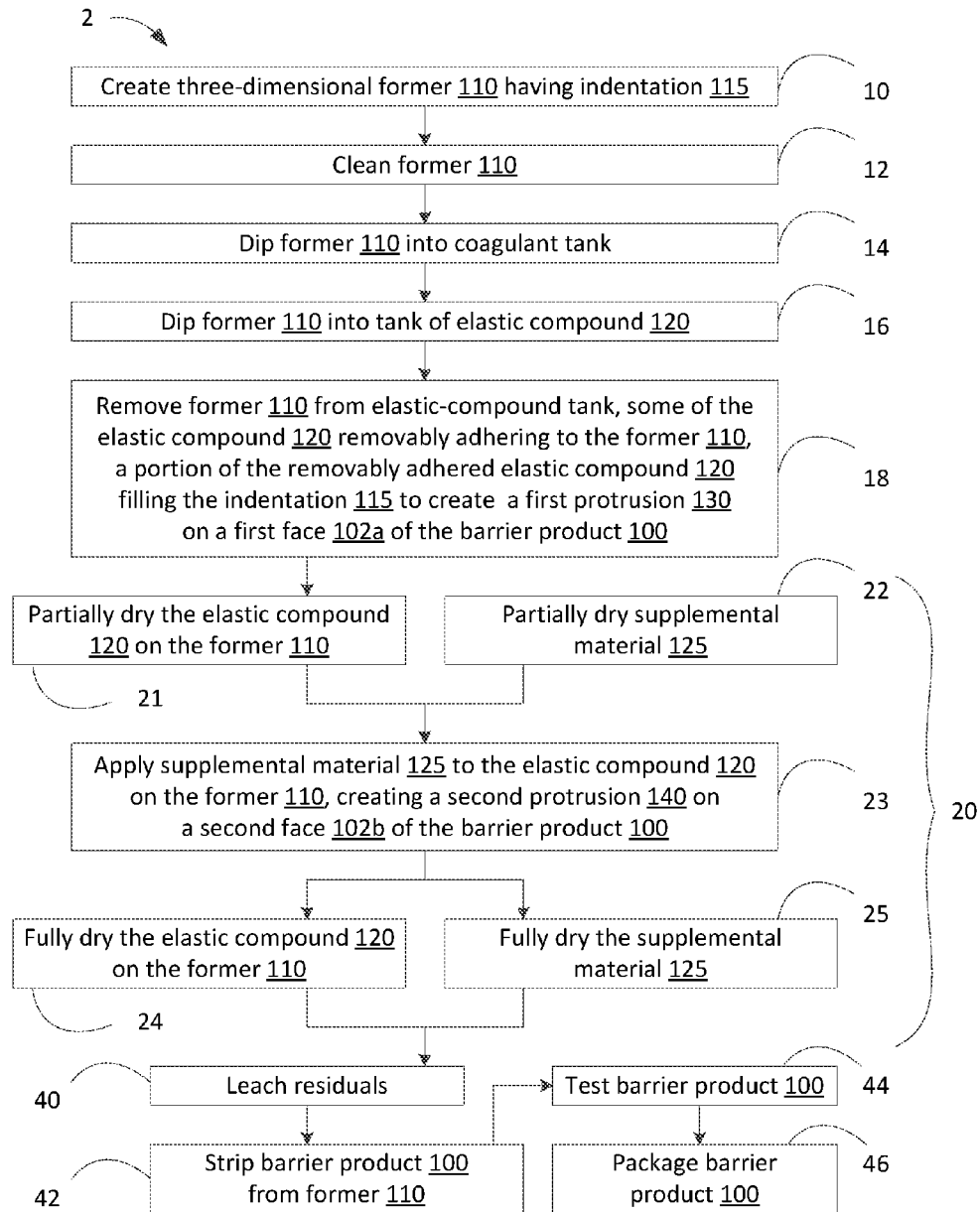


FIG. 2

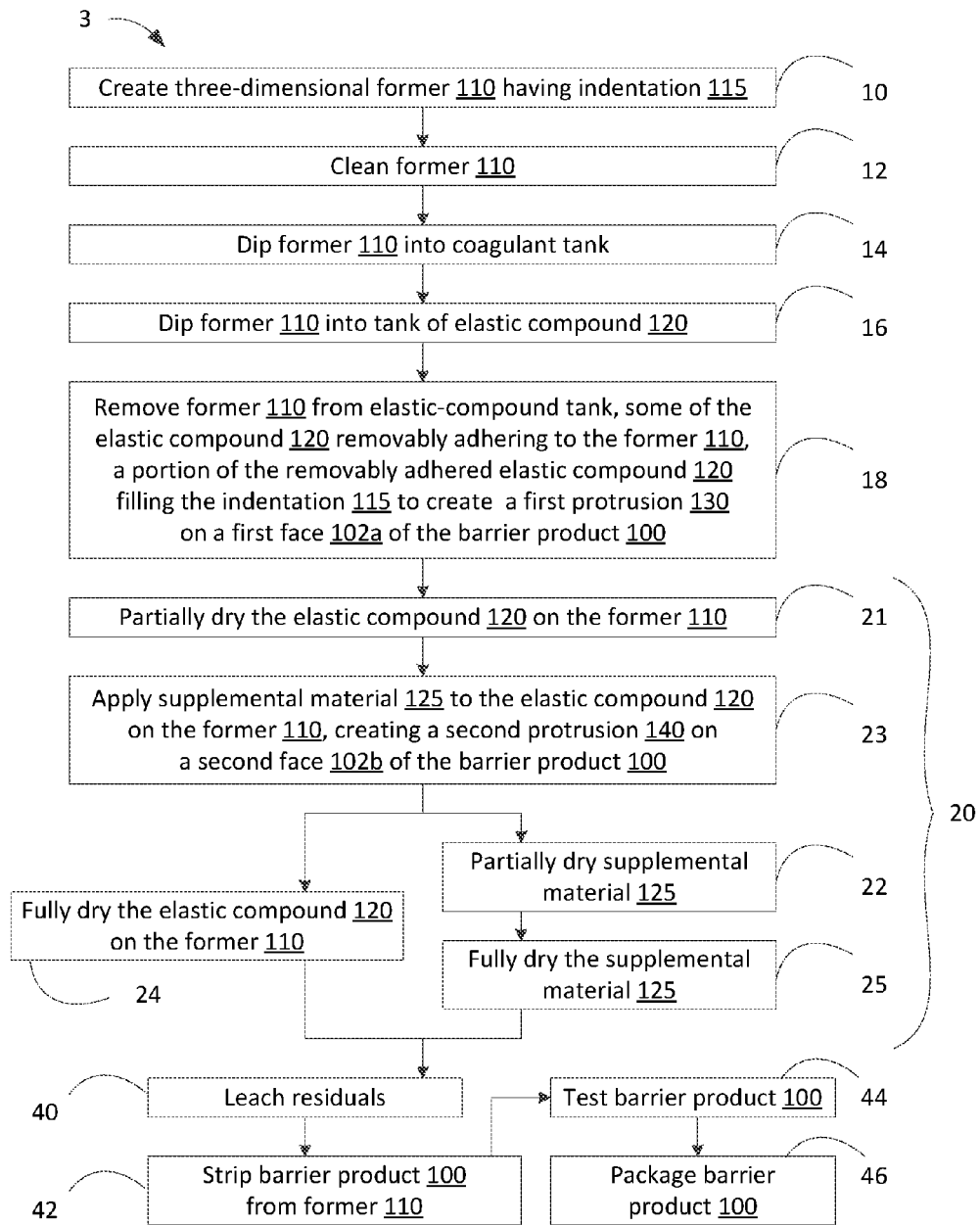


FIG. 3

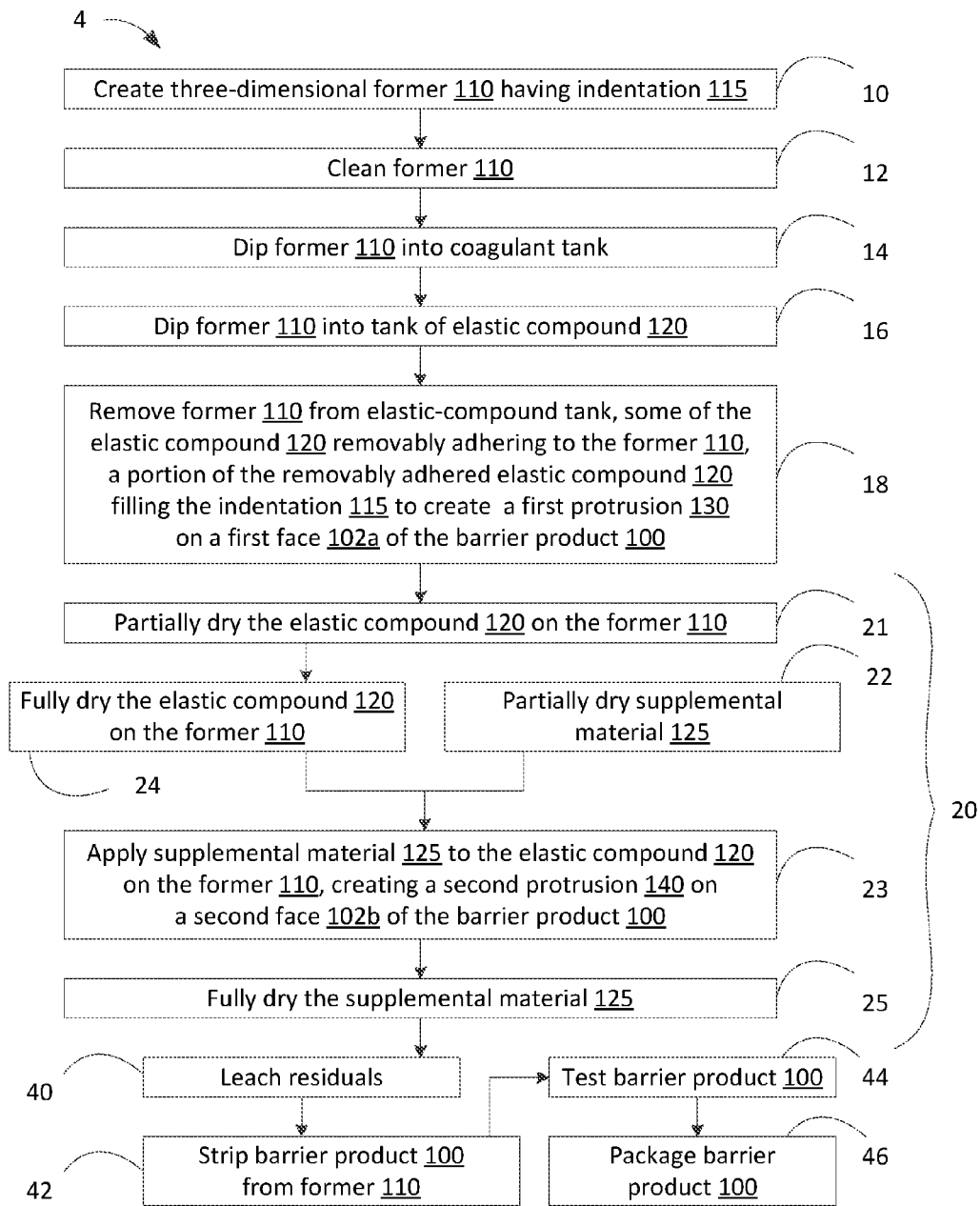


FIG. 4

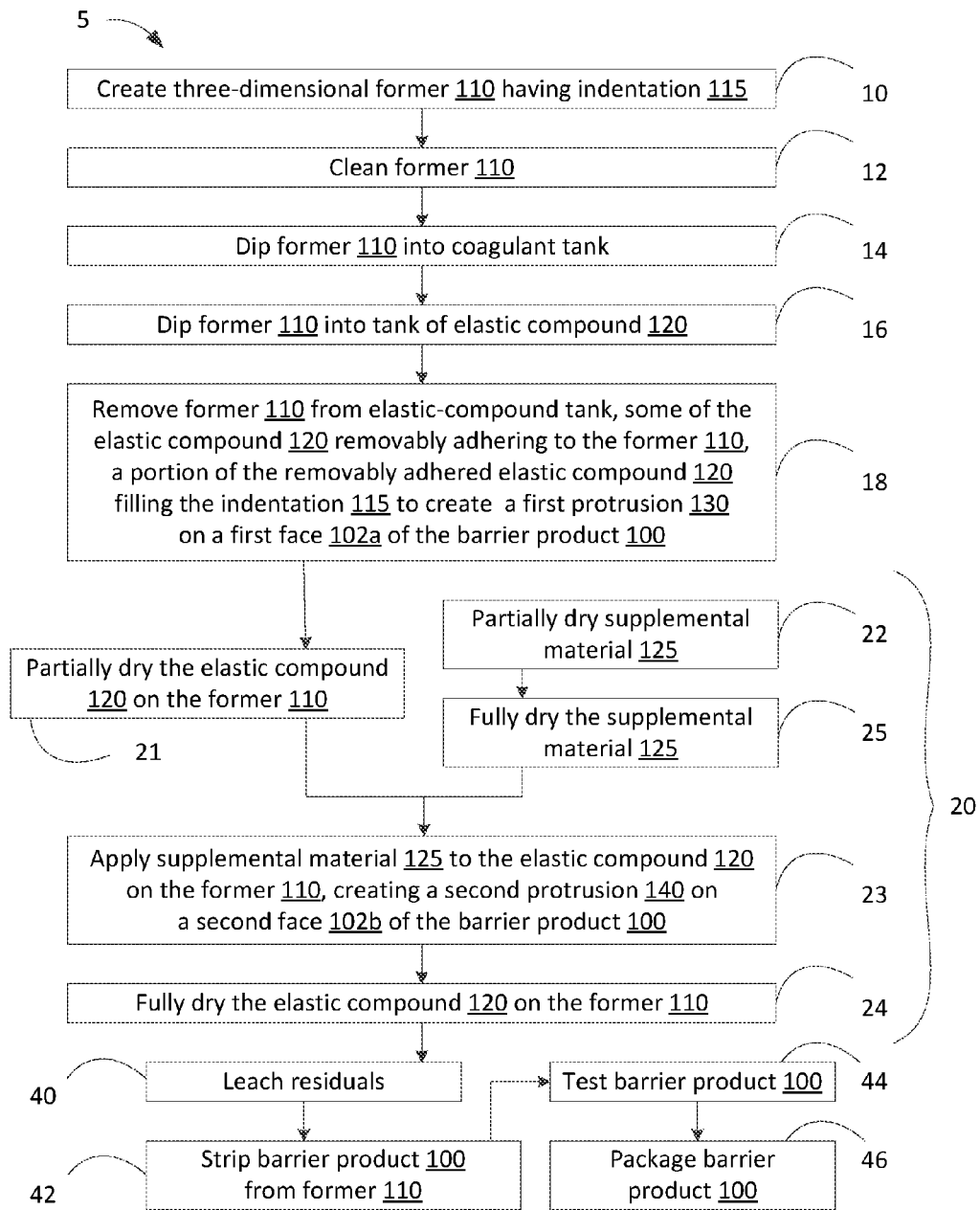


FIG. 5

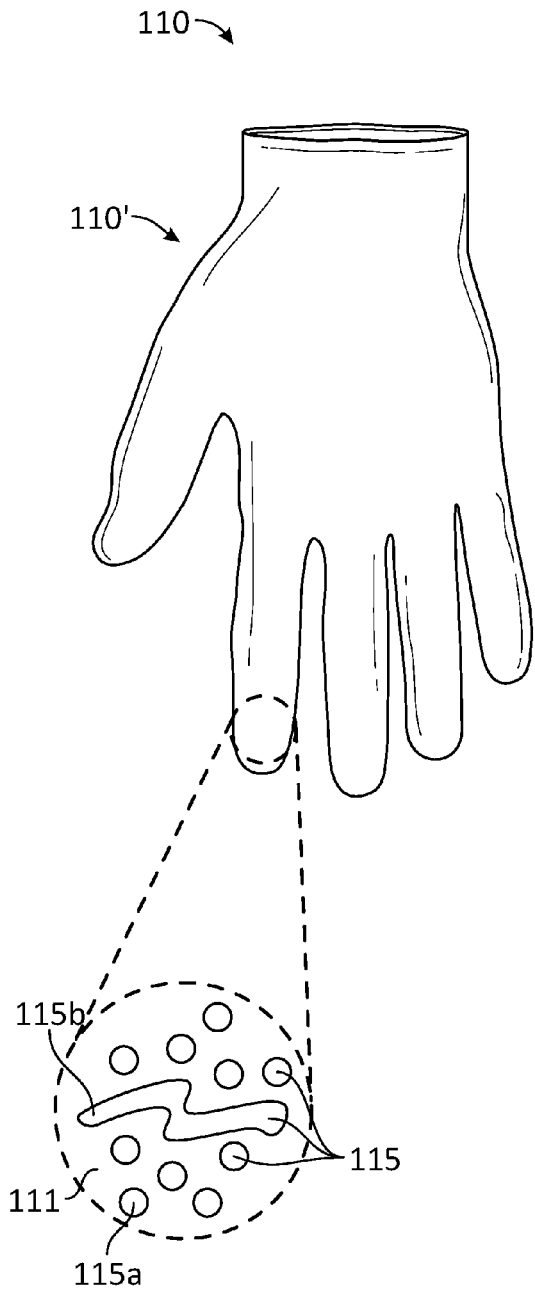


FIG. 6

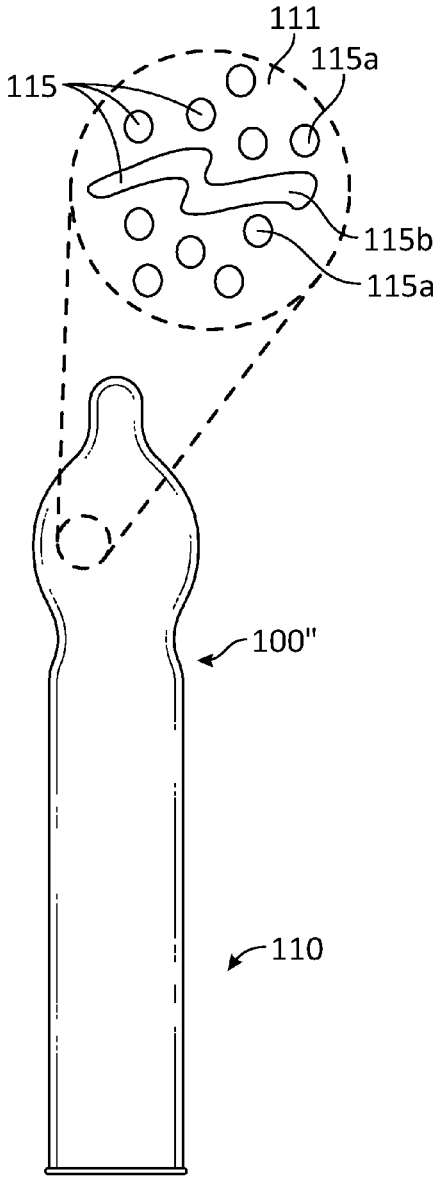


FIG. 7

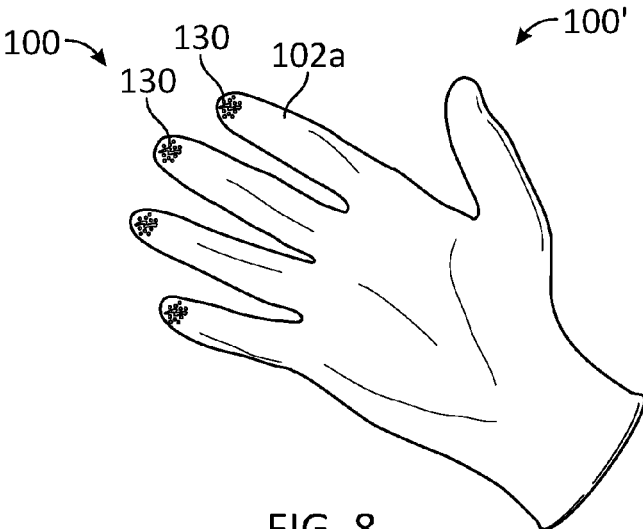


FIG. 8

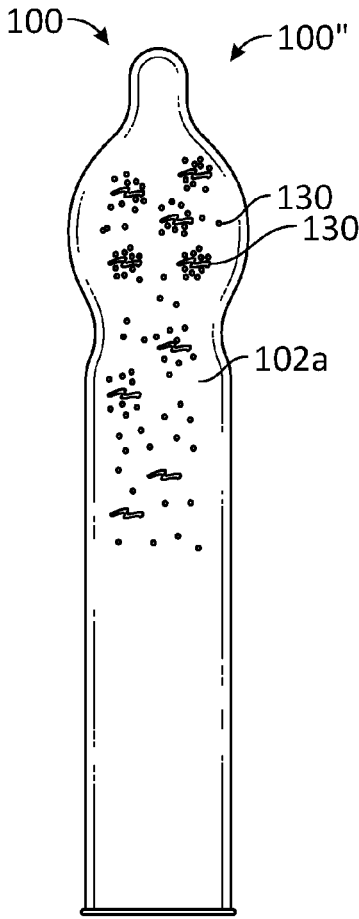


FIG. 9

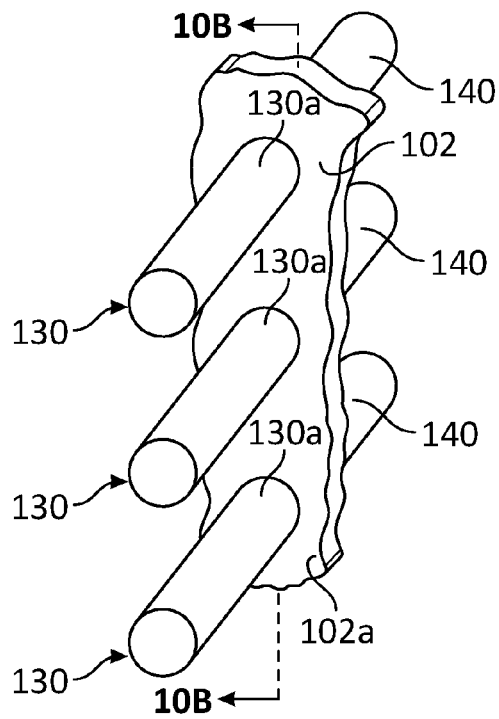


FIG. 10A

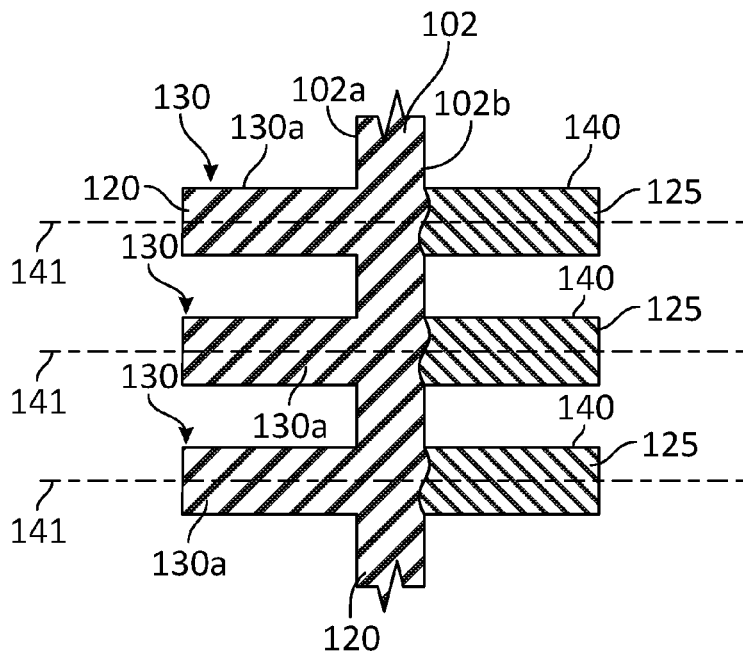
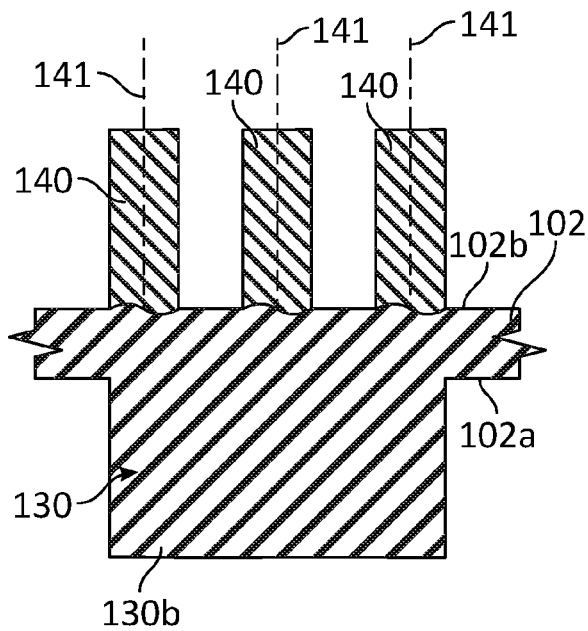
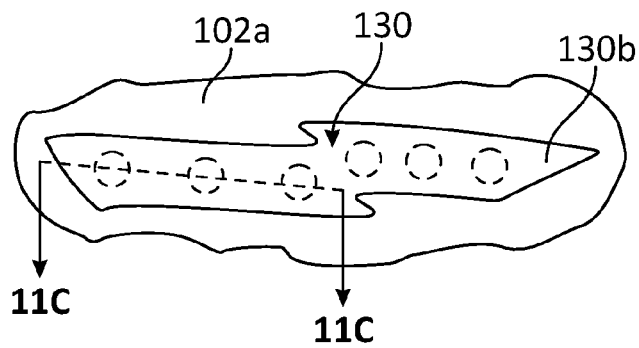
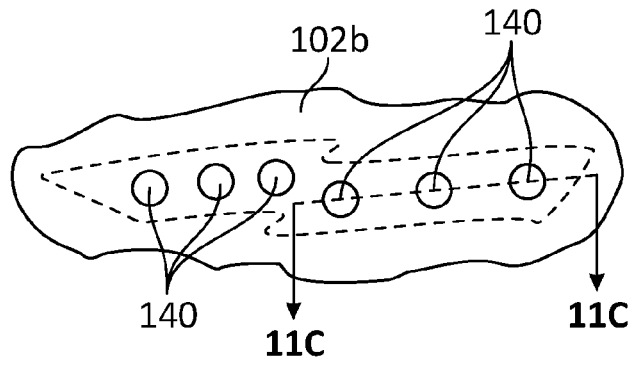


FIG. 10B



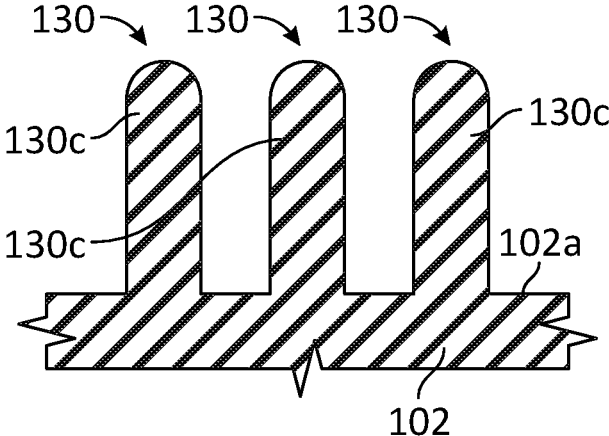


FIG. 12A

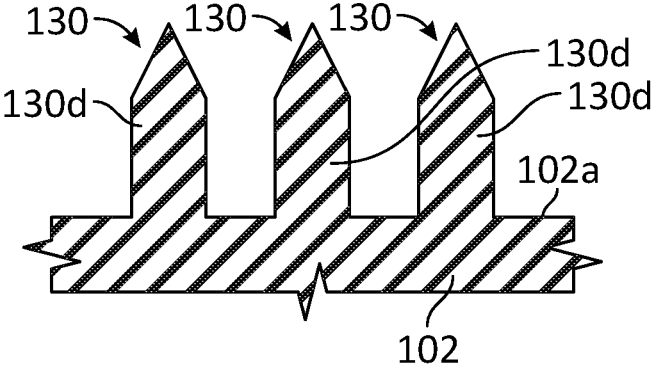


FIG. 12B

THIN-WALLED ELASTIC PRODUCTS AND METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR MANUFACTURING SAME

BACKGROUND

Thin-walled elastic products (or “barrier products”) such as medical gloves and condoms are often constructed of latex or synthetic compounds such materials as polyurethane, polyisoprene, nitrile rubber, polyvinyl chloride, and neoprene. These products are often made by first creating a three-dimensional form (or “former”), generally constructed of ceramic or metal. The former is typically cleaned using various bleaching, rinsing, brushing, and drying processes, and is then dipped into a heated coagulant tank (e.g., consisting of calcium nitrate and calcium carbonate) to allow the latex or synthetic material to adhere—but not bind—to the former. The coagulant may be particularly necessary based on the material used for the former; for example, various latex and synthetic materials may not adhere directly to ceramics. The length of exposure in the coagulant tank may directly affect the wall thickness of the manufactured product. The dipped former is then heated, dipped into a tank of elastic (e.g., latex or synthetic) compound, and chilled. After or concurrent with being chilled, the former (with the latex or synthetic compound) may be dripped to ensure an even surface. After dripping, the former (again, with the latex or synthetic compound) may be cured in a dryer to further solidify. Proteins and other residuals may then be leached from the cured latex or synthetic material to lower the potential for an allergic reaction, and the finished product may be stripped from the former, tested to ensure compliance with product standards, and packaged.

While such manufacturing methods and systems have proven to be generally effective in creating impenetrable barrier products, these products typically result in substantially decreased tactile stimulation. Prior efforts to overcome this problem have typically focused on decreasing the wall thickness of the barrier product.

Embodiments of the current invention relate generally to thin-walled elastic products and systems and methods for making such products.

SUMMARY

The following presents a simplified summary of the invention in order to provide a basic understanding of some aspects of the invention. This summary is not an extensive overview of the invention. It is not intended to identify critical elements of the invention or to delineate the scope of the invention. Its sole purpose is to present some concepts of the invention in a simplified form as a prelude to the more detailed description that is presented elsewhere.

According to one embodiment, a method is provided for creating a barrier product. The method includes the step: (a) dipping a former into a tank of elastic compound. The former has an outer surface and an indentation, and the indentation extends inwardly from the outer surface for creating a first protrusion on a first face of the barrier product. The method further includes the steps: (b) removing the former from the tank of elastic compound, whereby some of the elastic compound removably adheres to the former with a portion of the removably adhered elastic compound filling the indentation; (c) applying supplemental material to the elastic compound removably adhered to the

former, whereby creating a second protrusion on a second face of the barrier product; and (d) fully drying the supplemental material.

According to another embodiment, a method is provided for creating a barrier product. The method includes the step: (a) dipping a former into a tank of elastic compound. The former has an outer surface and an indentation, and the indentation extends inwardly from the outer surface for creating a first protrusion on a first face of the barrier product. The method further includes the steps: (b) removing the former from the tank of elastic compound, whereby some of the elastic compound removably adheres to the former with a portion of the removably adhered elastic compound filling the indentation; (c) producing a second protrusion on a second face of the barrier product; and (d) fully drying the elastic compound. Step (a) is performed before step (b), step (b) is performed before step (c), and step (c) is performed before step (d).

According to still another embodiment, a barrier product includes an elastic wall having opposed first and second faces, a first protrusion extending from the first face, and a second protrusion extending from the second face. The first and second protrusions are in cross-sectional alignment whereby rotational input forces on the first protrusion create rotational output forces on the second protrusion. Barrier products according to the current invention include, for example, condoms and gloves.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. 1 through 5 are flowcharts illustrating methods for creating barrier products according to embodiments of the current invention.

FIG. 6 is a front view of a former for creating a glove according to an embodiment of the current invention, shown with magnification.

FIG. 7 is a front view of a former for creating a condom according to an embodiment of the current invention, shown with magnification.

FIG. 8 is a front view of a glove according to an embodiment of the current invention.

FIG. 9 is a front view of a condom according to an embodiment of the current invention.

FIG. 10a is a perspective view of part of a barrier product according to an embodiment of the current invention.

FIG. 10b is a section view taken from FIG. 10a.

FIGS. 11a and 11b are front and rear views of part of a barrier product according to another embodiment of the current invention.

FIG. 11c is a section view taken from FIGS. 11a and 11b.

FIG. 12a is a section view of part of a barrier product according to still another embodiment of the current invention.

FIG. 12b is a section view of part of a barrier product according to yet another embodiment of the current invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

FIGS. 1 through 12b illustrate various methods and systems for manufacturing barrier products according to embodiments of the current invention, as well as barrier products according to embodiments of the current invention.

FIG. 1 provides a method 1 for creating barrier products 100 (e.g., gloves 100' and condoms 100", shown in FIGS. 8 and 9). At step 10, a three-dimensional former 110 is created having an outer surface 111 and at least one indentation 115

extending inwardly from the outer surface **111**. One former **110'**, for creating a glove **100'**, is illustrated in FIG. 6; another former **110"**, for creating a condom **100"**, is illustrated in FIG. 7; and still other types of barrier products **100** may be constructed using different formers **110**. The former **110** may be constructed of ceramic, metal, glass, or any other appropriate material, and the indentations **115** may be generally cylindrical, or of any other desired shape (e.g., rings, waves, ovals, et cetera). FIGS. 6 and 7 show some cylindrical indentations **115a** and some indentations **115b** shaped as irregular waves. After the desired former **110** is obtained at step **10**, the method **1** proceeds to step **12**.

At step **12**, the former **110** is cleaned. Debris on the former **110** may result in low-quality products, as is well understood. Cleaning is thus well known in the art, and may for example include various bleaching, rinsing, brushing, and drying processes (whether now existing or later developed). The method **1** continues from step **12** to step **14**.

At step **14**, the former **110** is dipped into a heated coagulant tank. It is well known in the art that various elastic compounds do not adhere to some materials which are often used to make formers, such as ceramics, and that coagulant materials may be used to allow elastic materials to adhere—but not bind—to a former. Calcium nitrate, calcium carbonate, and any other appropriate material (whether now existing or later developed) may be used in the coagulant tank. And, in some embodiments, step **14** may be omitted if the selected elastic compound appropriately adheres to the former **110** without coagulant material. The method **1** proceeds from step **14** to step **16**.

At step **16**, the former **110** is dipped into a tank of elastic compound **120**. The elastic compound **120** may be any appropriate natural or synthetic compound, whether now existing or later developed. Example elastic compounds include latex, polyurethane, polyisoprene, nitrile rubber, polyvinyl chloride, silicone, and neoprene.

After the former **110** is dipped at step **16**, the former **110** is removed from the elastic-compound tank at step **18**. Some of the elastic compound **120** removably adheres to the former **110** (via the coagulant material), and a portion of that removably adhered elastic compound **120** fills the indentation **115** to create a first protrusion **130** on one face **102a** of the barrier product **100** (i.e., on face **102a** of elastic wall **102**). Of course many first protrusions **130** may be created, matching the number of indentations **115** in the former **110**, and the first protrusions **130** will be shaped like the indentations **115**. Cylindrical first protrusions **130a** are shown in FIGS. **10a** and **10b**, and an irregular wave first protrusion **130b** is shown in FIGS. **11b** and **11c**. FIGS. **12a** and **12b** illustrate other first protrusions **130** having different shapes. First protrusion **130c** having a cylindrical portion and a domed tip is shown in FIG. **12a**, and first protrusion **130d** having a cylindrical portion and a conical tip is shown in FIG. **12b**.

After step **18**, at least one second protrusion **140** is produced on a second face **102b** (FIGS. **10b**, **11a**, and **11c**) of the barrier product **100** (i.e., on face **102b** of the elastic wall **102**). This is illustrated in FIG. **1** at step **20**. Production of the second protrusion **140** may be accomplished in various ways and may take various shapes (e.g., cylindrical, rings, waves, ovals, et cetera), as set forth in more detail below. In some embodiments, it may be particularly desirable for the second protrusion **140** to be in cross-sectional alignment with at least one of the first protrusions **130**. For example, FIGS. **10a** and **10b** show cylindrical first and second protrusions **130**, **140** in cross-sectional (and axial) alignment, and FIGS. **11a** through **11c** show a wave-shaped

first protrusion **130** and cylindrical second protrusions **140** in cross-sectional alignment. The terms “first” and “second” are merely used herein for convenience to discuss the protrusions on the opposed faces of the barrier products **100**.

The method **1** is shown continuing from step **20** to step **30**, where the elastic compound **120** is fully dried on the former **110**. While steps **10**, **12**, **14**, **16**, and **18** remain generally consistent throughout the illustrated methods **1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, and **5**, the timing of step **30** varies depending on the specific way that the second protrusion **140** is produced. And even in the method **1**, step **30** may occur before, or as part of, step **20**. Again, more information about producing the second protrusion **140** is provided below.

After the elastic compound **120** is fully dried on the former **110** and the second protrusion is created, residuals are leached at step **40**. The barrier product **100** is then stripped from the former **110**, tested, and packaged at steps **40**, **42**, **44**, and **46**. With the barrier product **100** packaged, the method **1** ends. Leaching, stripping, testing, and packaging are well known in the art and remain generally consistent throughout the illustrated methods **1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, and **5**.

FIGS. **2** through **5** illustrate more specific methods **2**, **3**, **4**, and **5** of creating the barrier product **100**, with each of the methods **2**, **3**, **4**, and **5** adding supplemental material **125** to create the second protrusion **140**. Of course multiple second protrusions **140** may be created, as desired. In some embodiments, the supplemental material **125** may be selected to be the same material as the elastic compound **120**. In other embodiments, the supplemental material **125** may differ, in whole or in part, from the elastic compound **120**. It may be particularly desirable for the second protrusion **140** to permanently bond to the elastic wall **102**, and for rotational input forces on the first protrusion **130** to create rotational output forces on the second protrusion **140**—as this may enhance the resonance transfer to the user. Thus, in addition to forming and aligning the protrusions **130**, **140** as disclosed, the materials **120**, **125** (whether the same or different) may be selected to achieve these goals. Steps **10**, **12**, **14**, **16**, **18**, **40**, **42**, **44**, and **46** in the methods **2**, **3**, **4**, and **5** are the same as in the method **1**.

In the method **2**, the elastic compound **120** on the former **110** is partly dried at step **21**, the supplemental material **125** is partly dried at step **22**, and the partly-dried supplemental material **125** is applied to the partly-dried elastic compound **120** on the former **110** to create the second protrusion **140** at step **23**. It may be particularly desirable for an applicator to be used which does not touch the partly-dried elastic compound **120** on the former **110**. Appropriate applicators may project (e.g., spray), press, roll, or otherwise apply the supplemental material **125** onto the partly-dried elastic compound **120** on the former **110** to create the second protrusion **140**. By being partly dried before being applied, the supplemental material **125** may be easily formed into and maintain its desired shape (e.g., cylindrical, cylindrical with a domed or conical tip, pyramidal, domed, conical, et cetera). Similarly, the elastic wall **102** may generally maintain its desired shape and thickness by being partly dried before receiving the supplemental material **125**. Nevertheless, in the method **2**, the elastic wall **102** and the second projection **140** are not fully dried (at steps **24** and **25**) until after the supplemental material **125** is applied at step **23**, allowing the elastic wall **102** and the second projection **140** to meld together. If desired, the elastic wall **102** may be initially formed with an increased thickness to ensure a desired final thickness. For example, it may be desirable for the elastic wall **102** to have a final thickness of 3.5 mil to 14 mil for the glove **100'** or a

thickness of 2 mil to 3 mil for the condom **100**". Desirability of increasing the initial wall thickness in this way may depend, for example, on the amount of drying before step **23**, the amount of force received by the elastic wall **102** during step **23**, the materials selected for the elastic compound **120** and the supplemental material **125**, and the alignment of the protrusions **130**, **140** (cross-sectional alignment increases the amount of elastic compound **120** adjacent the supplemental material **125**). Moreover, an adhesive material may be applied to the elastic wall **102** and/or the second projection **140** before or during step **23**. The addition of adhesive may also depend, for example, on the amount of drying before step **23**, the amount of force received by the elastic wall **102** during step **23**, and the materials selected for the elastic compound **120** and the supplemental material **125**.

Turning now to the method **3** (FIG. **3**), the method **3** primarily differs from the method **2** in the order of step **22**. In the method **3**, the supplemental material **125** is not partially dried (step **22**) before being applied to the elastic wall **102** at step **23**—and is instead dried after being applied to the elastic wall **102** at step **23**. Applying the supplemental material **125** in this way (before being partially dried) may for example be useful with some materials **120**, **125** to increase the bonding between the wall **102** and the second protrusion **140**.

Method **4** (FIG. **4**) primarily differs from the method **2** in the order of step **24**. In the method **4**, the elastic wall **102** is fully dried (step **24**) before the supplemental material **125** is applied at step **23**. Applying the supplemental material **125** in this way (after the elastic compound **120** on the former **110** is fully dried) may for example be useful with some materials **120**, **125** to ensure the integrity of the elastic wall **102**.

Method **5** (FIG. **5**) primarily differs from the method **2** in the order of step **25**. In the method **5**, the supplemental material **125** is fully dried (step **25**) before being applied to the elastic wall **102** at step **23**. Applying the supplemental material **125** in this way (after being fully dried) may for example be useful with some materials **120**, **125** to achieve the desired configuration of the second protrusion **140**.

In each of the methods **2**, **3**, **4**, and **5**, it may be preferred to apply the supplemental material **125** in step **23** in cross-sectional alignment with at least one of the indentations **115** such that the resulting first and second protrusions **130**, **140** are in cross-sectional alignment. This may be accomplished, for example, by mapping the indentations **115** into computer memory and controlling the applicator to align with the mapped indentations, by sensing the indentations and controlling the applicator to align with the sensed indentations, or by mechanically tuning the applicator to the desired alignment. As noted above, FIGS. **10a** and **10b** show cylindrical first and second protrusions **130**, **140** in cross-sectional (and axial) alignment, and FIGS. **11a** through **11c** show a wave-shaped first protrusion **130** and cylindrical second protrusions **140** in cross-sectional alignment. And, as shown in FIGS. **10b** and **11c**, the supplemental material **125** may be applied such that an axis **141** or centerline of the second protrusion **140** is generally perpendicular to the second face **102b**. Nevertheless, the supplemental material **125** may in other embodiments be applied in step **23** in cross-sectional misalignment with the former indentations **115** to result in misaligned protrusions **130**, **140**. Producing misaligned protrusions **130**, **140** may be less costly due to the reduced precision required in manufacturing compared

to manufacturing aligned protrusions **130**, **140**, and may in some embodiments still result in increased resonance transfer relative to the prior art.

While the methods **2**, **3**, **4**, and **5** apply the supplemental material **125** to create the second protrusion **140**, other embodiments may create the second protrusion **140** (step **20** in the method **1**) through other processes. For example, some of the elastic compound **120** removably adhered to the former **110** may be drawn away from the former **110**, such as by using suction, by spinning the former **110**, or by including ferromagnetic particles in the elastic compound **120** and applying targeted magnetic fields (i.e., electromagnetically) to draw the desired amount and configuration of the elastic compound **120** away from the former **110**. As another example, the elastic compound **120** removably adhered to the former **110** may be stamped to create the protrusion **140**.

And, while the methods discussed above refer to the former **110** being dipped into elastic compound **120**, some embodiments may utilize a sheet or particles of elastic compound **120** being heat-shrunk to the former **110** to form the wall **102** and the first protrusions **130**. Then the second protrusions **140** would be created using the supplemental material **125** as described above. Utilizing this heat-shrink method may allow increased protrusion density as the material shrinks (or cures). Increased protrusion density may in some embodiments add sensory and control precision by increasing granularity resolution of motion transfer through the wall **102**. This may be particularly beneficial as an improved form of conformal coating for electronic subsystems such as sensors, vibrating subsystems, biocompatibility for delicate integrated circuits that may be mounted on living surfaces or implanted within living creatures, and chemical compatibility to harsh environments for sensors and control actuators in applications such as robotic subsystems.

In use, the barrier product **100** is worn by a user, for example with the second face **102b** (and thus the second protrusions **140**) against the user's skin. As the face **102a** contacts an external surface, and especially in a non-perpendicular manner, the first protrusion **130** receives a rotational input force and in turn rotates, creating a rotational output force on the second protrusion **140** and enhancing the resonance transfer to the user. The user may thus sense the movement of the second protrusion **140**, strengthening the tactile experience. To maximize the tactile experience, the protrusions **130**, **140** may be strategically placed to interact with sensitive areas of the user's skin, and in some embodiments may be placed throughout the faces **102a**, **102b**. And resonance transfer may be greatest if the protrusions **130**, **140** are in cross-sectional alignment. It may be particularly desirable in some embodiments for resonance transfer to be tuned such that forces are transferred through the first and second protrusions **130**, **140** (and the wall **102**) with minimal losses.

As noted above, ferromagnetic particles may be dispersed in the elastic compound **120** for manufacturing purposes. Yet even if not used for manufacturing purposes, it may be desirable in some embodiments to include ferromagnetic particles (e.g., polymerized fullerene chains and networks) in the elastic compound **120** and/or the supplemental material **125**. Ferromagnetic material in the second protrusions **140**, for example, may cause the second protrusions **140** to move relative to the wall **102** when appropriate magnetic fields are induced near the barrier product **100** (e.g., condom **100**"); and movement of the second protrusions **140** may create output forces on the first protrusions **130**, causing the

first protrusions **130** to rotate and thereby add additional movement and sensation at both sides of the wall **102**. Due to the resonance transfer between the first and second protrusions **130**, **140**, the elastic compound **120** need not include the ferromagnetic particles to achieve magnetic reactivity if the supplemental material **125** includes the ferromagnetic material. Said differently, in use, physical and/or electromagnetic waveforms may be transferred through (or along the surface of) a substrate utilizing matched or mating transfer elements (protrusions) to efficiently vibrate (or otherwise move) the transfer elements structured to a wavelength that is naturally optimal for energy transfer at select frequencies. This may be referred to as isomorphic planar resonance, and strategic distribution of element patterns may allow discrete selective transfer per element along and through a common plane.

Similarly, piezoelectric particles (or other reactive particles which move when exposed to targeted radio frequencies, whether in audible or inaudible wavelengths) may be included in the elastic compound **120** and/or the supplemental material **125**. Piezoelectric particles in the second protrusions **140**, for example, may cause the second protrusions **140** to move relative to the wall **102** when appropriate radio frequencies are transmitted to the barrier product **100** (e.g., condom **100"**); and movement of the second protrusions **140** may create output forces on the first protrusions **130**, causing the first protrusions **130** to rotate and thereby add additional movement and sensation at both sides of the wall **102**. Due to the resonance transfer between the first and second protrusions **130**, **140**, the elastic compound **120** need not include the reactive particles to achieve RF reactivity if the supplemental material **125** includes the reactive particles. Targeted radio frequencies can be propagated and therefore directly and/or indirectly conducted through electromagnetic waves, air, liquid, or solid surfaces.

In some embodiments, particles which react to chemical stimuli by moving may be included in the elastic compound **120** and/or the supplemental material **125**. These reactive particles in the second protrusions **140**, for example, may cause the second protrusions **140** to move relative to the wall **102** when exposed to the chemical stimuli; and movement of the second protrusions **140** may create output forces on the first protrusions **130**, causing the first protrusions **130** to rotate as well. This may provide a tactile indicator, for example, when an undesired chemical stimulus is encountered, or may add movement and sensation when a desired chemical stimulus is encountered. Due to the resonance transfer between the first and second protrusions **130**, **140**, the elastic compound **120** need not include the reactive particles to achieve reactivity if the supplemental material **125** includes the reactive particles.

Many different arrangements of the various components depicted, as well as components not shown, are possible without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. Embodiments of the present invention have been described with the intent to be illustrative rather than restrictive. Alternative embodiments will become apparent to those skilled in the art that do not depart from its scope. A skilled artisan may develop alternative means of implementing the aforementioned improvements without departing from the scope of the present invention. It will be understood that certain features and subcombinations are of utility and may be employed without reference to other features and subcombinations and are contemplated within the scope of the claims. The specific configurations and contours set forth in

the accompanying drawings are illustrative and not limiting. Some steps may be performed in different orders than described herein.

The invention claimed is:

1. A method for creating a barrier product, the method comprising the steps:

(a) dipping a former into a tank of elastic compound, the former having an outer surface and an indentation, the indentation extending inwardly from the outer surface for creating a first protrusion on a first face of the barrier product;

(b) removing the former from the tank of elastic compound, whereby some of the elastic compound removably adheres to the former, a portion of the removably adhered elastic compound filling the indentation;

(c) at least one of:

(1) mapping the indentation into computer memory; and

(2) sensing the indentation;

(d) applying supplemental material to the elastic compound removably adhered to the former, whereby creating a second protrusion on a second face of the barrier product; and

(e) fully drying the supplemental material;

wherein applying supplemental material in step (d) comprises applying as least part of the supplemental material as a cylinder, the cylinder having an axis generally perpendicular to the second face; and

wherein applying supplemental material in step (d) comprises at least one of:

(1) controlling an applicator to apply the supplemental material in cross-sectional alignment with the former indentation using the mapping in the computer memory, whereby the first protrusion is aligned with the second protrusion; and

(2) controlling an applicator to apply the supplemental material in cross-sectional alignment with the former indentation using the sensing, whereby the first protrusion is aligned with the second protrusion.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps:

(i) partially drying the removably adhered elastic compound; and

(ii) fully drying the removably adhered elastic compound; wherein step (i) occurs before step (d), and wherein step (ii) occurs after step (d).

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps:

(i) partially drying the removably adhered elastic compound; and

(ii) fully drying the removably adhered elastic compound; wherein step (i) occurs before step (d), and wherein step (ii) occurs before step (d).

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step:

(i) partially drying the supplemental material;

wherein step (i) occurs before step (d).

5. The method of claim 1, wherein applying supplemental material in step (d) comprises projecting the supplemental material onto the removably adhered elastic compound with an applicator such that the applicator does not touch the removably adhered elastic compound.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step:

(i) partially drying the supplemental material;

wherein step (i) occurs before step (d).

7. The method of claim 1, wherein at least part of the indentation has a cylindrical configuration.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the elastic compound includes at least one item selected from the group consisting

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of latex, polyurethane, polyisoprene, nitrile rubber, polyvinyl chloride, silicone, and neoprene.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the composition of the supplemental material is the same as the composition of the elastic compound.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps:

(i) partially drying the removably adhered elastic compound; and

(ii) fully drying the removably adhered elastic compound; wherein step (i) occurs before step (d), and wherein step

(ii) occurs after step (d).

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step: (iii) partially drying the supplemental material;

wherein step (iii) occurs before step (d).

12. The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps:

(i) partially drying the removably adhered elastic compound; and

(ii) fully drying the removably adhered elastic compound; wherein step (i) occurs before step (d), and wherein step

(ii) occurs before step (d).

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step:

(iii) partially drying the supplemental material;

wherein step (iii) occurs before step (d).

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the barrier product is a condom.

15. A method for creating a barrier product, the method comprising the steps:

(a) dipping a former into a tank of elastic compound, the former having an outer surface and an indentation, the

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indentation extending inwardly from the outer surface for creating a first protrusion on a first face of the barrier product;

(b) removing the former from the tank of elastic compound, whereby some of the elastic compound removably adheres to the former, a portion of the removably adhered elastic compound filling the indentation;

(c) at least one of:

(1) mapping the indentation into computer memory; and

(2) sensing the indentation;

(d) producing a second protrusion on a second face of the barrier product, the second protrusion being in cross-sectional alignment with the first protrusion; and

(e) fully drying the elastic compound;

wherein step (a) is performed before step (b), step (b) is performed before step (d), and step (d) is performed before step (e); and

wherein the elastic compound includes ferromagnetic particles, and wherein producing a second protrusion in step (d) comprises electromagnetically drawing some of the removably adhered elastic compound away from the former using at least one of:

(1) the mapping in the computer memory; and

(2) the sensing.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the barrier product is a condom.

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