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(54) **ADJUSTABLE SEAT CUSHION**

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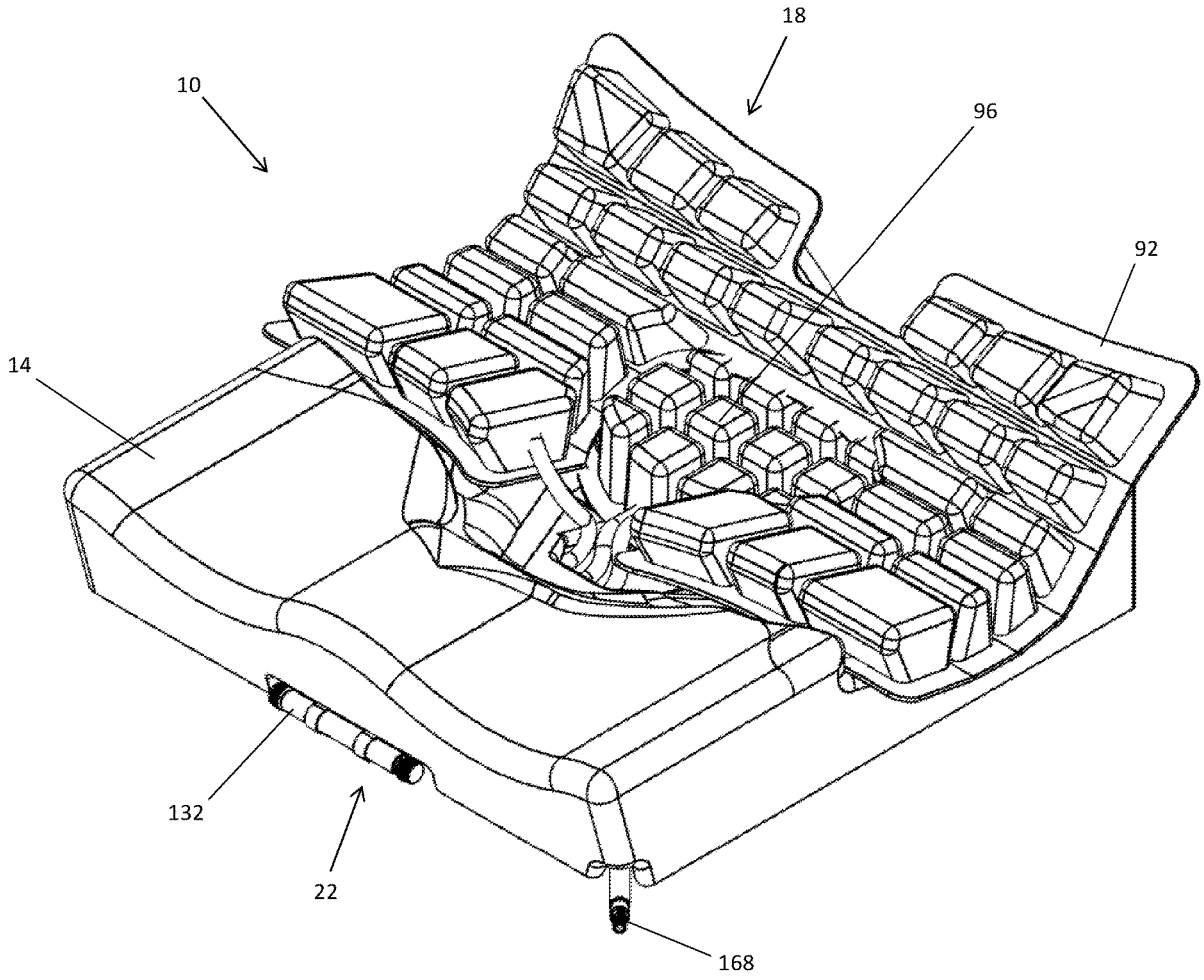
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A seat cushion assembly includes a base defining a leg support and a support portion recessed relative to the leg support, and an air pad assembly positioned on the recessed support portion, the air pad assembly including a plurality of independent air support zones that are configured to be separately inflated and deflated.



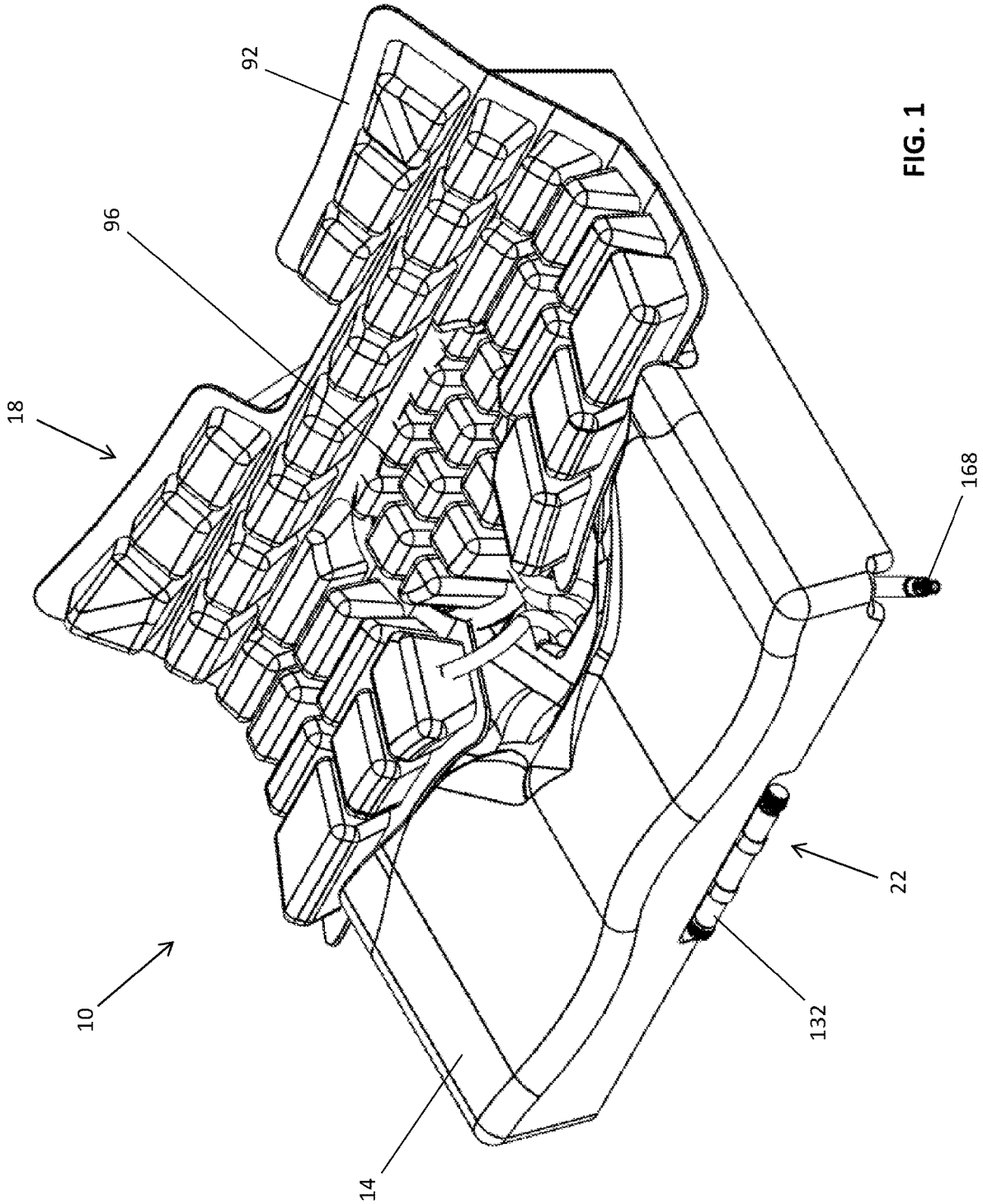



FIG. 1

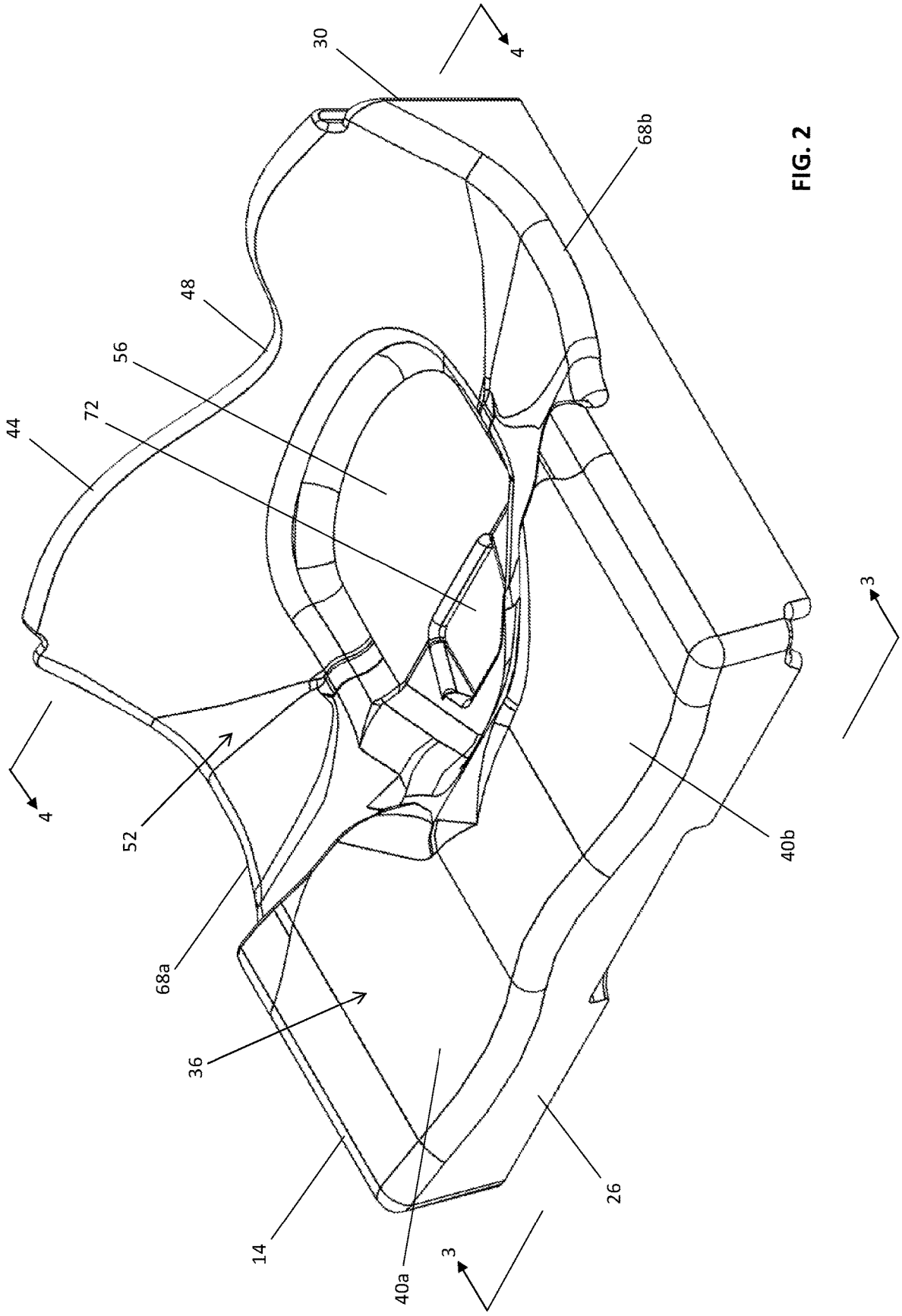



FIG. 2

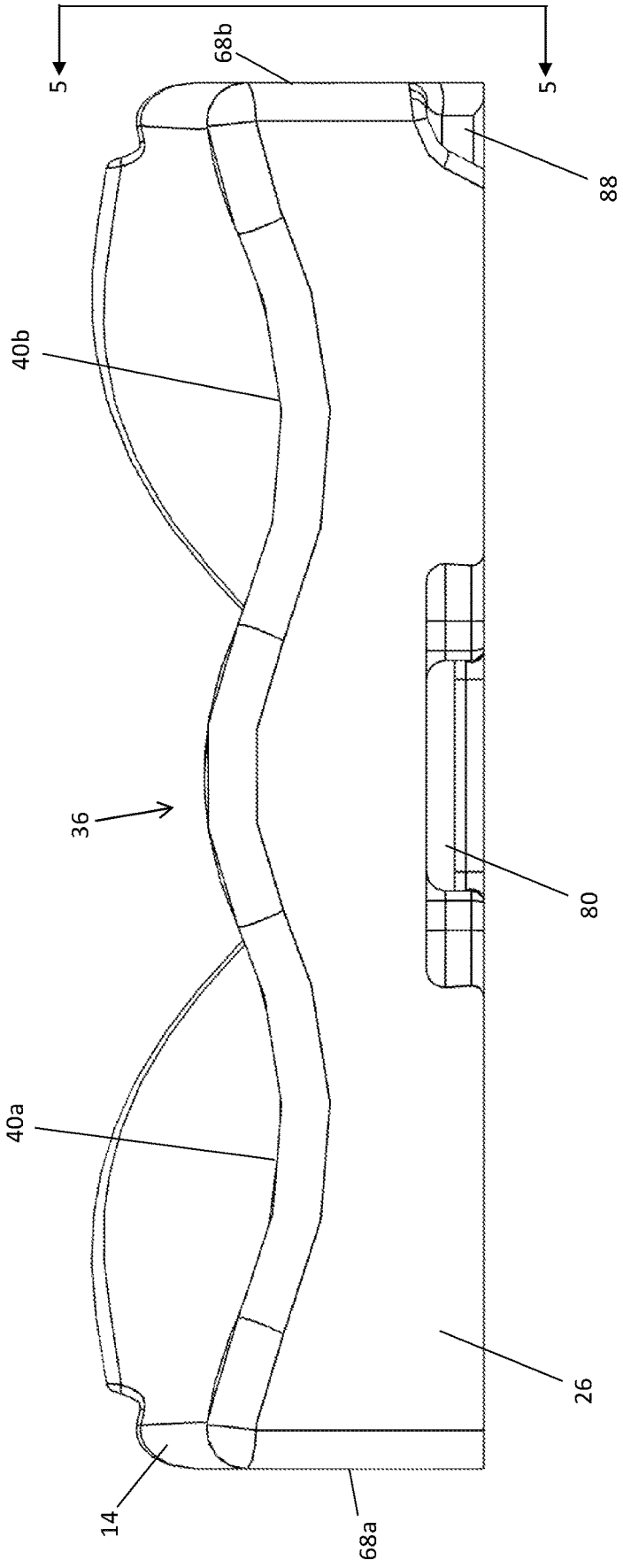



FIG. 3

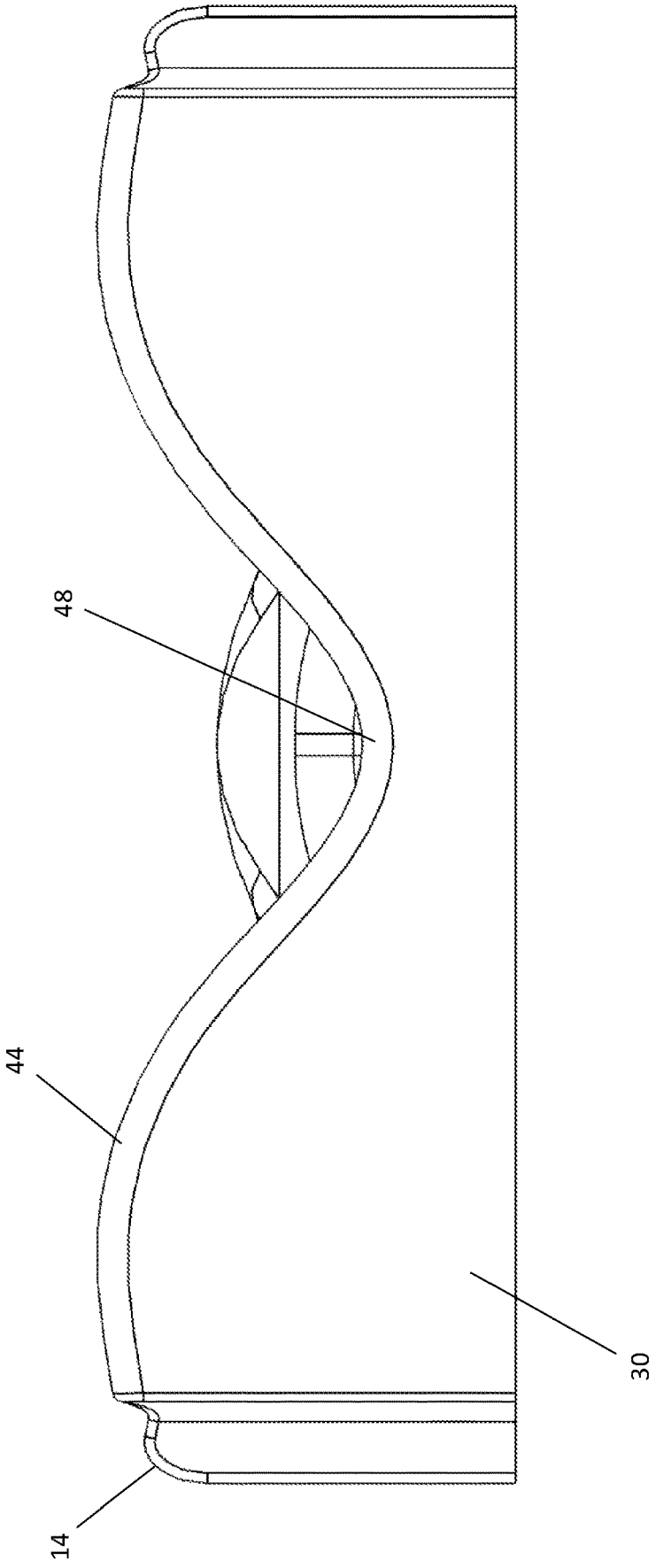



FIG. 4

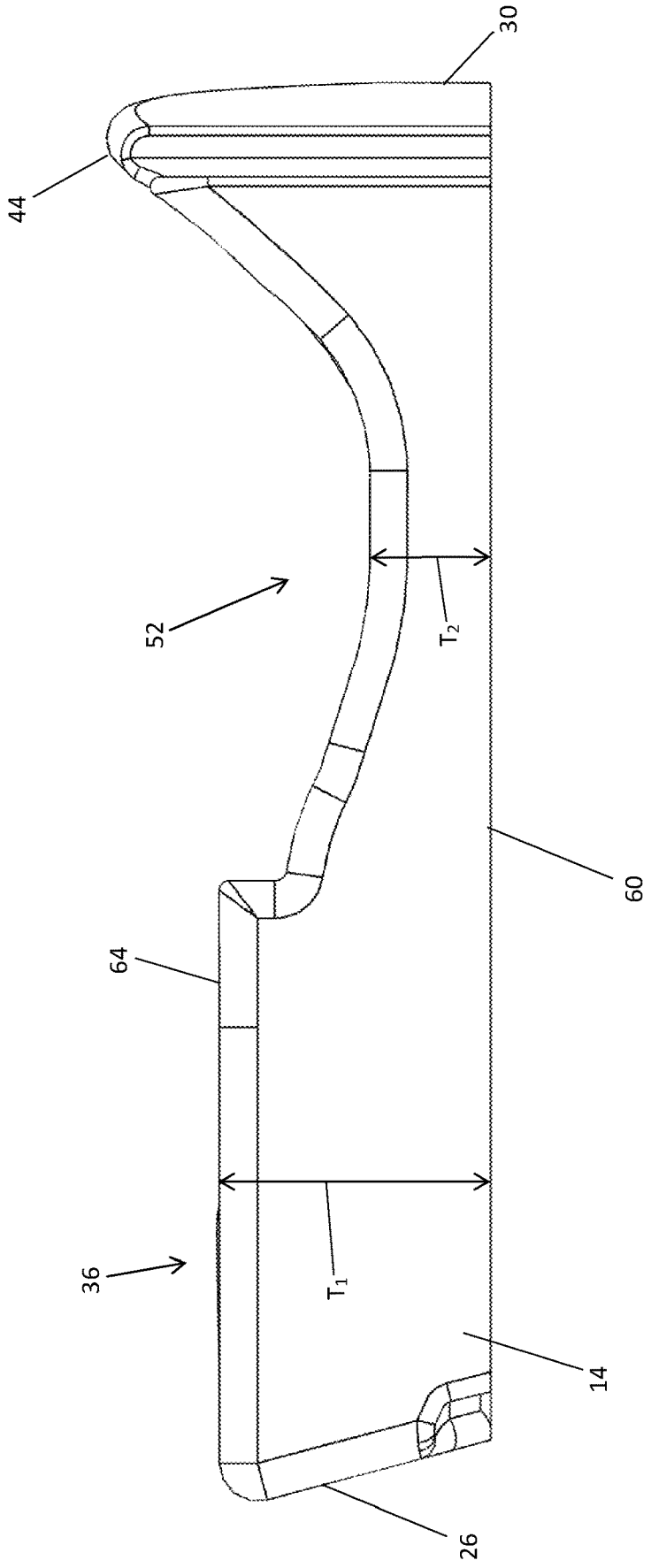
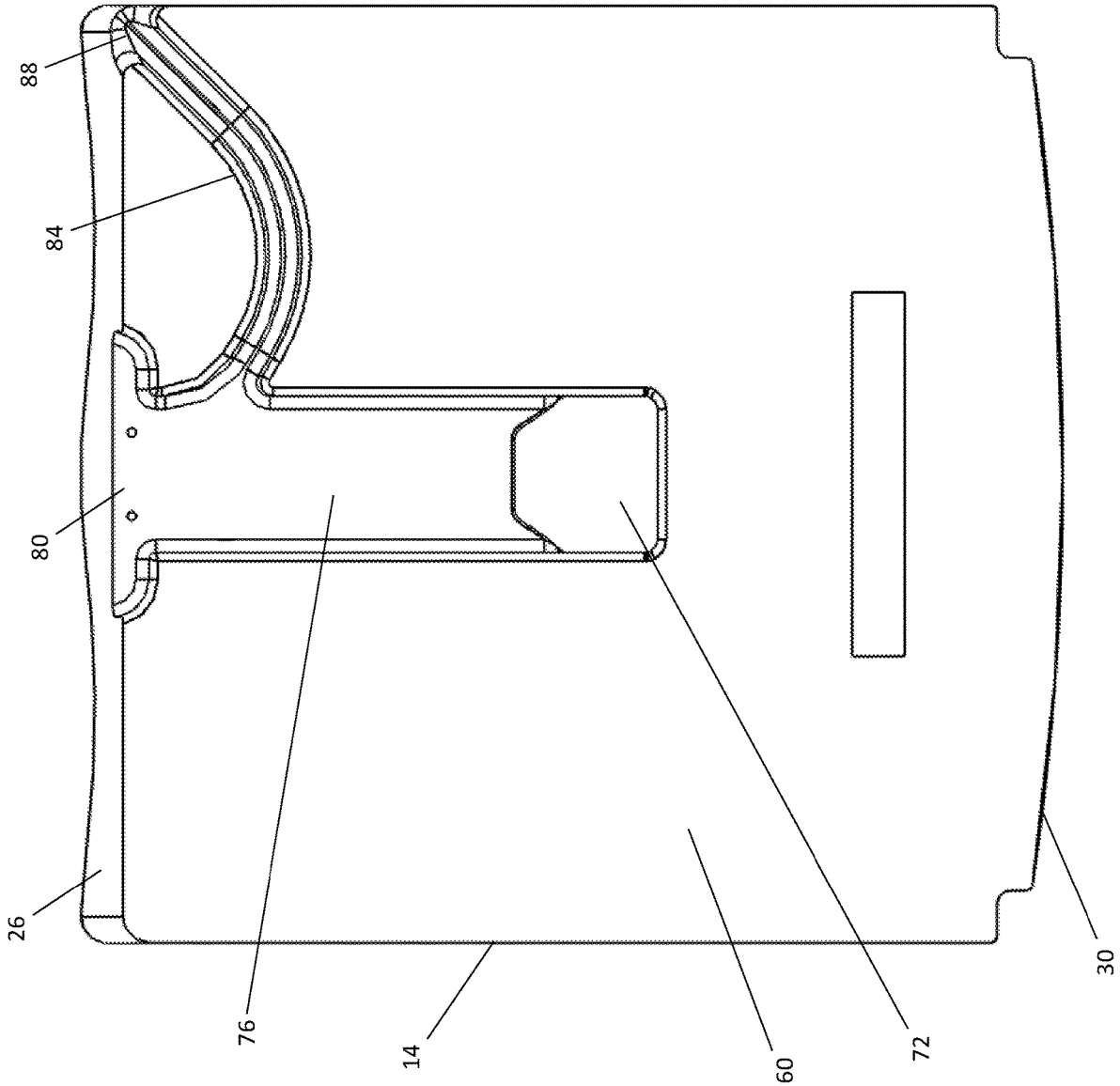



FIG. 5

FIG. 6



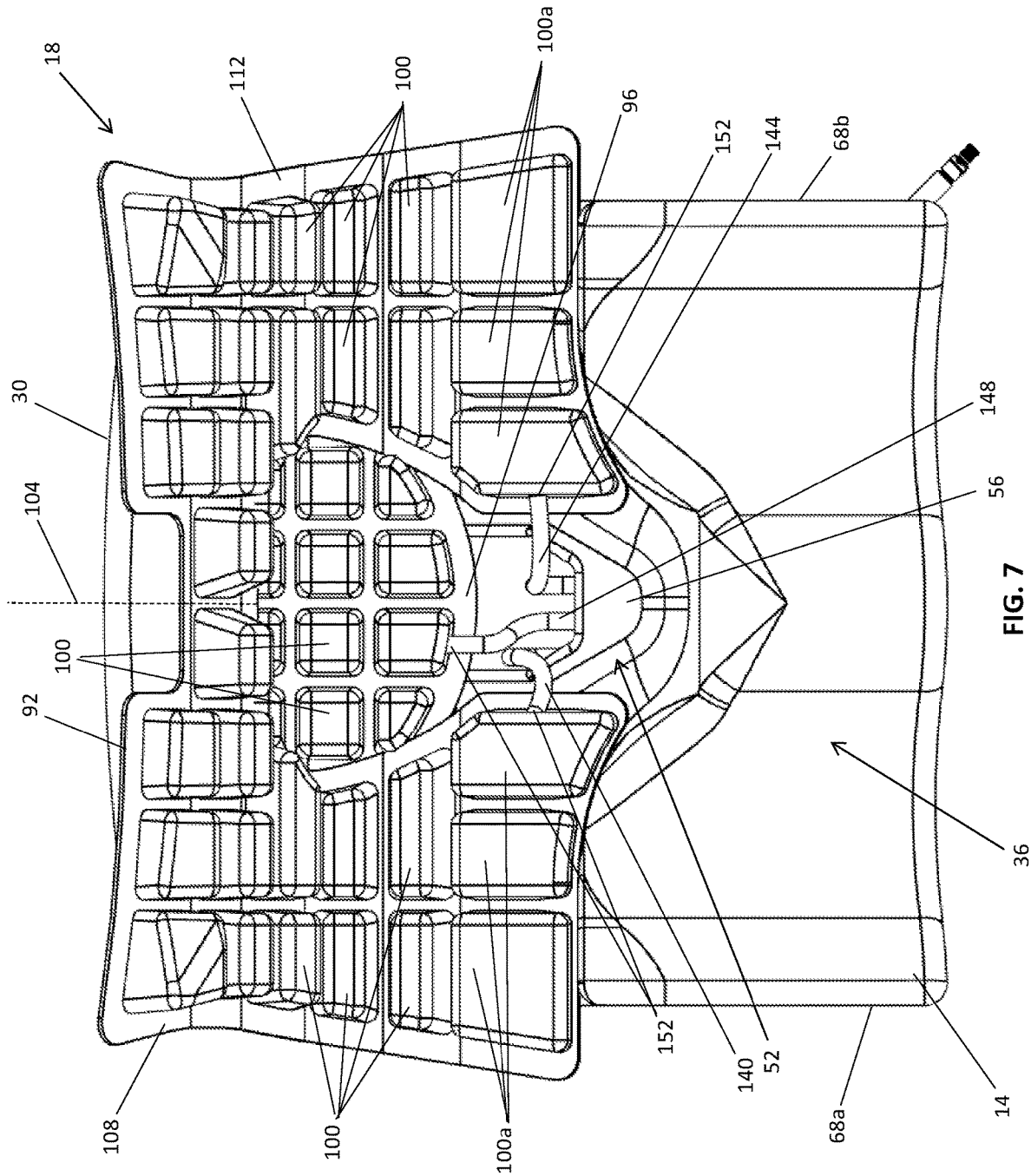

18
112
100
100a
96
152
144
68b
30
104
148
56
100
92
36
108
100
100a
152
140
52
68a
14

FIG. 7

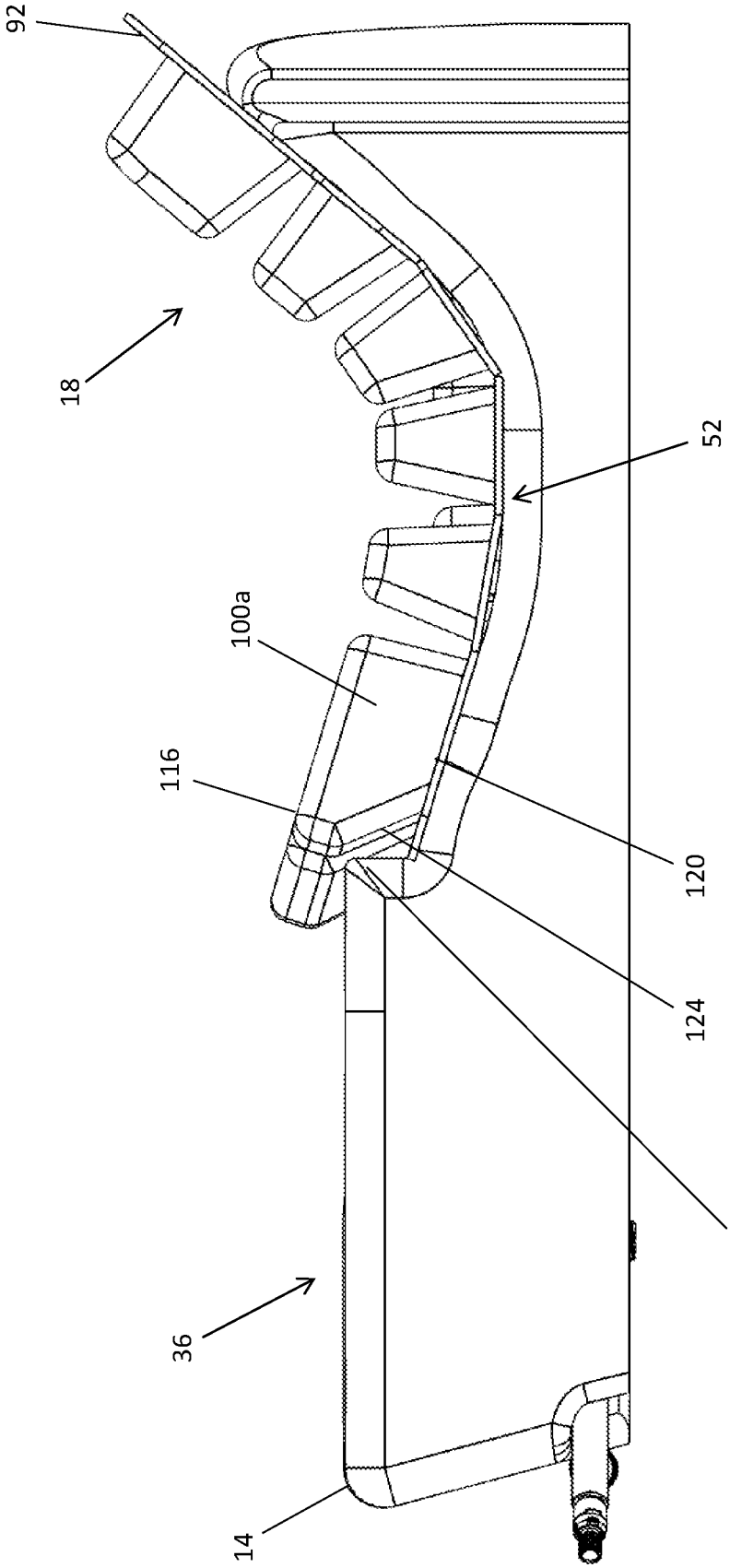



FIG. 8

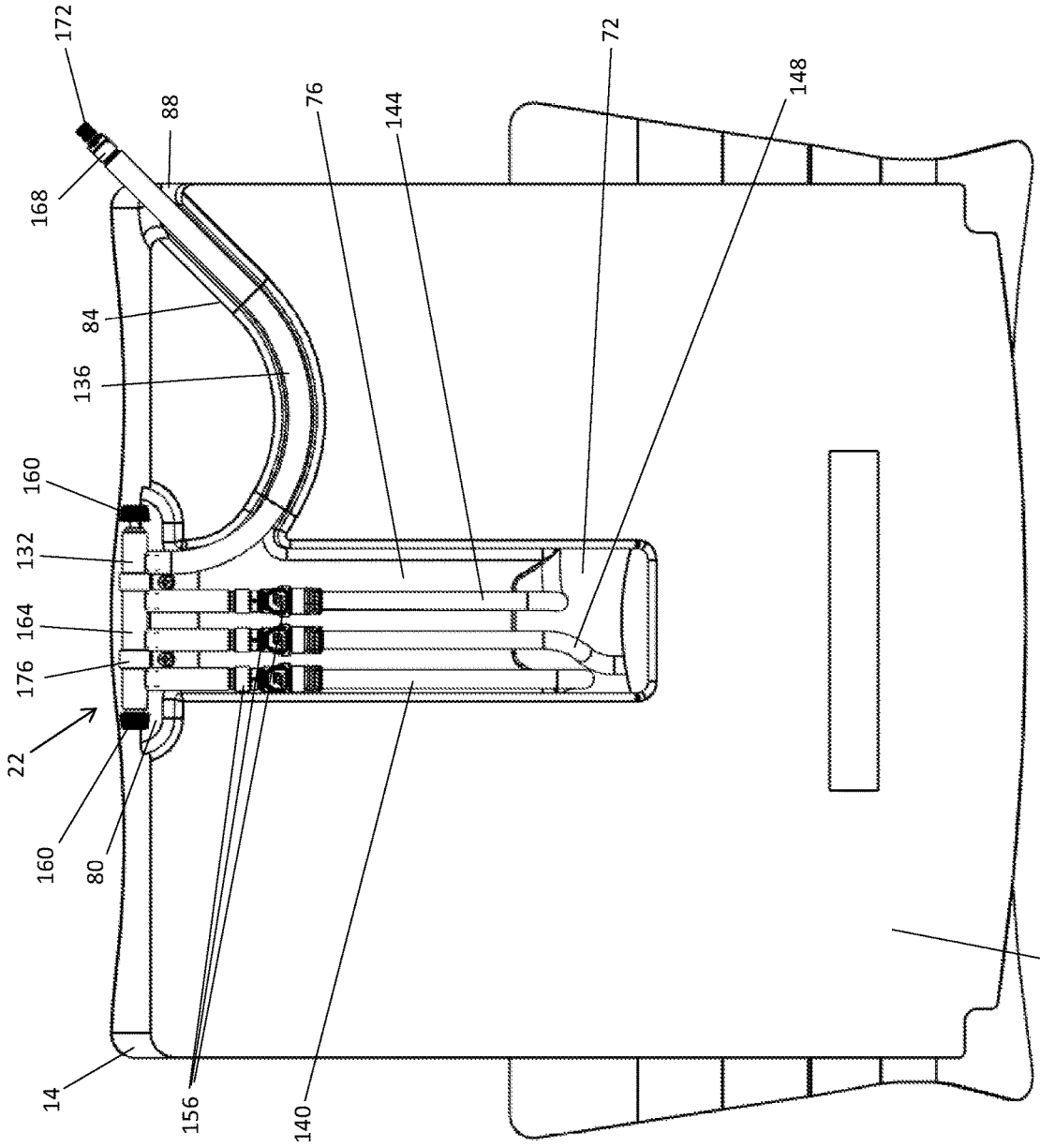

172
88
76
144
72
148
168
84
136
160
132
164
176
22
160
80
156
140
14
60

FIG. 9

# ADJUSTABLE SEAT CUSHION

## FIELD

**[0001]** The present disclosure relates to an adjustable seat cushion assembly for a wheelchair. More specifically, the present disclosure relates to an improved seat cushion that incorporates different materials for user support, and is adjustable to improve positional stability of a user while selectively offloading pressure from a user's ischial tuberosity.

## BACKGROUND

**[0002]** Seat cushions are generally known in the art. Seat cushions provide support to an individual while sitting. Individuals who are confined to a wheelchair can suffer from tissue breakdown, pressure sores, and other injuries caused by prolonged sitting. These injuries can be difficult to treat. In addition, while sitting, a substantial amount of a user's weight is concentrated in the region of the ischia and ischial tuberosity, which is the bony prominence of the buttocks and can be referred to as the "sit bones." Unless a user frequently moves, blood flow to the skin tissue in these regions can decrease, resulting in tissue degradation. Cushions designed for wheelchairs exist for reducing the concentration of weight in the region of the ischia. Some of these cushions generally seek to redistribute a user's weight more uniformly over a larger area of the buttocks. Unfortunately, known cushions have limited adjustability. Further, those that are adjustable require a user to be removed from the cushion to facilitate adjustment. Accordingly, there is a need for an adjustable cushion that can provide adjustment without user removal, improve positional stability while sitting, reduce pressure related injuries, and allow a user to offload their ischial tuberosity.

## SUMMARY

**[0003]** In one embodiment, the disclosure provides a seat cushion assembly that includes a base defining a leg support and a support portion recessed relative to the leg support, and an air pad assembly positioned on the recessed support portion, the air pad assembly including a plurality of independent air support zones that are configured to be separately inflated and deflated.

**[0004]** In another embodiment, the disclosure provides a seat cushion assembly that includes a base defining a leg support and a support portion recessed relative to the leg support, a pelvic well defined by the support portion, and a first air support member defining a first air bladder and a second air bladder, each air bladder includes a plurality of air cells, the plurality of air cells of the first air bladder are fluidly connected, the plurality of air cells of the second air bladder are fluidly connected, the first air bladder is separate from the second air bladder, wherein the first air support member extends partially around the pelvic well.

**[0005]** Other aspects of the invention will become apparent by consideration of the detailed description and accompanying drawings.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

**[0006]** FIG. **1** is a perspective view of an embodiment of an adjustable seat cushion assembly for use with a chair.

**[0007]** FIG. **2** is a perspective view of the base of the adjustable seat cushion assembly of FIG. **1**, with an adjustable air pad assembly and an airflow control assembly removed.

**[0008]** FIG. **3** is a front view of the base shown in FIG. **2**, taken along line **3-3** of FIG. **2**.

**[0009]** FIG. **4** is a back view of the base shown in FIG. **2**, taken along line **4-4** of FIG. **2**.

**[0010]** FIG. **5** is a side view of the base shown in FIG. **2**, taken along line **5-5** of FIG. **3**.

**[0011]** FIG. **6** is a bottom view of the base shown in FIG. **2**.

**[0012]** FIG. **7** is a top view of the adjustable seat cushion assembly of FIG. **1**.

**[0013]** FIG. **8** is a side view of the adjustable seat cushion assembly of FIG. **1**.

**[0014]** FIG. **9** is a bottom view of the adjustable seat cushion assembly of FIG. **1**.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

**[0015]** Before any embodiments of the invention are explained in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and the arrangement of components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the following drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced or of being carried out in various ways.

**[0016]** While the present disclosure illustrates an adjustable seat cushion assembly **10** that is configured for use with a chair, and more specifically a wheelchair, it should be appreciated that the adjustable seat cushion assembly **10** is not limited for use with a wheelchair. The adjustable seat cushion assembly **10** can be used with any suitable chair or support device suitable to support a person while sitting. Accordingly, as used herein, the term "chair" can include, but is not limited to, a wheelchair, an armchair, a rocking chair, a car seat, a swivel chair, an office chair, a recliner, a director's chair, a high chair, a sofa, a backed stool, and/or any clinical/medical chair such as a surgical chair, dental chair, chiropractic chair or massage chair. Accordingly, the adjustable seat cushion assembly **10** can be positioned on (or connected to or mounted on) any such suitable chair, and then adjusted to provide suitable support for a person that is sitting in the chair.

**[0017]** Referring now to the figures, FIGS. **1-9** illustrate an example of an embodiment of the adjustable seat cushion assembly **10**. The adjustable seat cushion assembly **10** is configured to be positioned on (or mounted to) a suitable chair, such as a wheelchair (not shown). The adjustable seat cushion assembly **10** is configured to selectively support a user through a first support material (e.g., foam) and a second support material (e.g., air) to improve positional stability, reduce pressure related injury, and allow a user to offload their ischial tuberosity (or "sit bones").

**[0018]** With reference now to FIG. **1**, the adjustable seat cushion assembly **10** is shown without a cover. The adjustable seat cushion assembly **10** includes a base **14** and an adjustable air pad assembly **18**. An airflow control assembly **22** is in fluid communication with the adjustable air pad assembly **18**.

**[0019]** The adjustable seat cushion assembly **10** shown in FIG. **1** can be positioned within (or covered by) the cover (not shown). The cover is configured to contact the body of a user. The cover can be made of any material suitable for

user contact, such as nylon, SPANDEX, a blend thereof, or any other suitable material (or combination of materials) that reduces the risk of user skin irritation, skin or soft tissue breakdown, sores, and/or any category or stage of pressure related injury. The cover is also configured to be removable in order to facilitate cleaning, laundering, or replacement.

**[0020]** With reference now to FIG. **2**, the base **14** is shown with the air pad assembly **18** and airflow control assembly **22** removed. The base **14** includes a front end **26** opposite a back end **30**. A leg support **36** is positioned towards the front end **26**. As shown in FIGS. **2-3**, the leg support **36** defines a pair of recessed leg troughs **40***a*, **40***b*. The leg support **36** and associated leg troughs **40***a*, **40***b* are contoured to support a thigh area of each leg.

**[0021]** With reference to FIGS. **2** and **4**, the base **14** defines a raised back ledge **44** (also referred to as a cantle **44**). The back ledge **44** is positioned towards the back end **30** of the base **14**. The back ledge **44** includes a central channel **48**.

**[0022]** Referring to FIGS. **2** and **5**, the base **14** includes a recessed support portion **52** (also referred to as a pelvic support portion **52**) positioned between the leg support **36** and the back ledge **44**. The recessed support portion **52** defines a pelvic well **56** (or a well **56**). The support portion **52** is recessed relative to (or below) the leg support **36**. As shown in FIG. **5**, a first thickness Ti of the base **14** at the leg support **36** is greater than a second thickness T**2** of the base **14** at the recessed support portion **52**. The first thickness Ti and the second thickness T**2** are both measured from a bottom surface **60** to a user contact surface **64** of the base **14**. With reference back to FIG. **2**, the support portion **52** is sloped from each respective side **68***a*, **68***b* of the base **14**, the leg support **36**, and the back ledge **44** toward the pelvic well **56**. The slope is an increasing depth (or increasing recess) such that the pelvic well **56** defines the deepest recess into the base **14**. The pelvic well **56** also defines an aperture **72** that extends entirely through the base **14**.

**[0023]** With reference to FIG. **6**, the bottom surface **60** of the base **14** includes a recessed channel **76**. The recessed channel **76** extends from a valve access end **80** (or a first end **80**) to the aperture **72**. A secondary channel **84** extends from the recessed channel **76** to an air nozzle access end **88**. As shown in FIGS. **3** and **6**, the valve access end **80** is positioned in the front end **26** of the base **14**. The air nozzle access end **88** is positioned at a corner of the base **14** between the front end **26** and a second side **68***b*. It should be appreciated that one or both of the valve access end **80** and/or the air nozzle access end **88** can be positioned at any location in the base **14** suitable to provide user access to a valve and/or an air nozzle. For example, the valve access end **80** and/or the air nozzle access end **88** can be positioned in the front end **26**, the back end **30**, a first side **68***a*, the second side **68***b*, or a corner (or transition) between the front end **26** and a side **68***a*, **68***b*, or the back end **30** and a side **68***a*, **68***b*.

**[0024]** The base **14** can be constructed of a first material. In the illustrated embodiment, the base **14** is formed of a firm foam material as the first material. In other embodiments, the base **14** can be constructed of multiple plies of material. For example, the base **14** can have a first layer of firm, dense support foam. A second layer of cushioning (or softer or less firm) foam can be positioned onto the first layer in targeted areas that contact a user, such as the leg support **36**. In yet other embodiments, the base **14** can be constructed of any material suitable for providing support to a user while sitting. The first material is provided to support a portion of a user.

**[0025]** With reference now to FIGS. **1**, **7**, and **8**, the adjustable air pad assembly **18** is configured to be positioned in the support portion **52** of the base **14**. The adjustable air pad assembly **18** includes a first air support member **92** and a separate, second air support member **96** (shown in FIGS. **1** and **7**). The first air support member **92** and the second air support member **96** are both removable from the support portion **52** to provide selective, customized support for a user. The air pad assembly **18** provides air as a second material to support a portion of a user.

**[0026]** With specific reference to FIG. **7**, the first air support member **92** defines two separate air bladders (not shown). Each air bladder has a plurality of air cells **100**, **100***a*. The first air support member **92** has an axis of symmetry **104** that separates a first side support **108** (also referred to as a right side support **108** or a first support **108**) and a second side support **112** (also referred to as a left side support **112** or a second support **112**). As such, the first side support **108** and the second side support **112** are symmetrical. The first side support **108** defines a first air bladder (or first air chamber or first internal air chamber) (not shown) that includes a plurality of air cells **100**, **100***a* (or a first plurality of air cells **100**, **100***a*). The first plurality of air cells **100**, **100***a* in the first side support **108** are in fluid communication with each other (or are fluidly interconnected). The second side support **112** defines a second air bladder (or second air chamber or second internal air chamber) (not shown) that includes a plurality of air cells **100**, **100***a* (or second plurality of air cells **100**, **100***a*). The second plurality of air cells **100**, **100***a* in the second side support **112** are in fluid communication with each other (or are fluidly interconnected). The first and second air bladders are separate and not directly fluidly connected to each other. As such, air cannot directly flow between the first and second air bladders. Accordingly, the first and second side supports **108**, **112** are separate and not directly fluidly connected to each other. Air in the first side support **108** cannot directly flow into the second side support **112**, and air in the second side support **112** cannot directly flow into the first side support **108**. Thus, air in one of the side supports **108**, **112** does not migrate to the other side support **112**, **108** as a user moves, providing a more stable support platform. Each side support **108**, **112** is also configured for separate, selective adjustment of an inflation level. The inflation level is a desired quantity of air within the associated air bladder. The desired inflation level can be achieved by either inflation or deflation of the air bladder in response to the quantity of air within the air bladder.

**[0027]** When positioned in the support portion **52**, the first air support member **92** partially surrounds the pelvic well **56**. More specifically, the first air support member **92** extends between the first side **68***a* and the pelvic well **56**, extends between the back ledge **44** and the pelvic well **56**, and extends between the second side **68***b* and the pelvic well **56**. As such, the first air support member **92** has a generally U-shape (or horseshoe shape). However, the first air support member **92** does not cover (or overlap) the pelvic well **56**.

**[0028]** With reference to FIGS. **7-8**, the air cells **100***a* of the first air support member **92** that are positioned proximate (or adjacent) to the leg support **36** have a cross-sectional shape that is distinct from the remaining air cells **100**. As

illustrated in FIG. **8**, the air cells **100***a* have an overhang (or undercut) cross-sectional shape. Stated another way, a first portion **116** of each air cell **100***a* that contacts a user has a greater length than a second portion **120** of each air cell **100***a* that is connected to the first air support member **92**. A sloped portion **124** extends between the first portion **116** and the second portion **120**. When the first air support member **92** is positioned on the support portion **52**, the air cells **100***a* are positioned adjacent the leg support **36**. A transitional edge **128** between the leg support **36** and the recessed support portion **52** is positioned near the sloped portion **124** of the air cells **100***a*. Thus, the first portion **116** of each air cell **100***a* extends over the transitional edge **128**. This reduces potential the risk of skin irritation, abrasion, or other skin or soft tissue breakdown caused by contact with the transitional edge **128**. In the illustrated embodiment, the air cells **100***a* are aligned in a row extending from the first side **68***a* to the second side **68***b* of the base **14**. In other embodiments, the air cells **100***a* can be arranged from the first side **68***a* to the second side **68***b* of the base **14** in a random pattern, in a laterally offset pattern, an alternating pattern, or any other suitable pattern to provide suitable support for a user. In the illustrated embodiment, the cross-sectional shape of the air cells **100***a* are different than the air cells **100**. The air cells **100**, **100***a* can be configured to inflate/deflate, function, and otherwise operate in a similar fashion.

**[0029]** With reference back to FIG. **7**, the second air support member **96** is removably positioned within (or received by) the pelvic well **56**. The second air support member **96** defines a third support. The third support defines a third air bladder (or third air chamber or third internal air chamber) (not shown). Stated another way, the second air support member **96** defines the third air bladder. The third air bladder includes a plurality of air cells **100** (or a third plurality of air cells **100**). The third air bladder is configured for selective adjustment of the inflation level, separate from the first and second air bladders.

**[0030]** In the illustrated embodiment, the first air support member **92** and the second air support member **96** are each formed of neoprene. In other examples of embodiments, the support members **92**, **96** can be formed of any material for transferring air, storing air, and providing support for a user while sitting.

**[0031]** Referring now to FIGS. **1** and **9**, the airflow control assembly **22** is in fluid communication with the adjustable air pad assembly **18**. More specifically, the airflow control assembly **22** is in fluid communication with the first air support member **92** and the second air support member **96**. The airflow control assembly **22** is configured to facilitate selective inflation and/or deflation of each of the first air bladder and associated first plurality of air cells **100**, **100***a*, the second air bladder and associated second plurality of air cells **100**, **100***a*, and the third air bladder and associated third plurality of air cells **100**.

**[0032]** With reference to FIG. **9**, the air flow control assembly **22** includes a valve **132** (also referred to as a control valve **132**). A first conduit **136** (also referred to as an air supply conduit **136** or a first air conduit **136**) is in fluid communication with (or fluidly connected to) the valve **132**. A plurality of conduits fluidly connect the valve **132** to the adjustable air pad assembly **18**, and more specifically to each of the air bladders of the first air support member **92** and the second air support member **96**.

**[0033]** With reference to FIGS. **7** and **9**, a second conduit **140** (also referred to as a first bladder supply conduit **140** or a second air conduit **140**) is in fluid communication with (or fluidly connects) the valve **132** and the first side support **108**. A third conduit **144** (also referred to as a second bladder supply conduit **144** or a third air conduit **144**) is in fluid communication with (or fluidly connects) the valve **132** and the second side support **112**. Accordingly, a plurality of conduits **140**, **144** fluidly connect the valve **132** and the first air support member **92**. A fourth conduit **148** (also referred to as a third bladder supply conduit **148** or a fourth air conduit **148**) is in fluid communication with (or fluidly connects) the valve **132** and the second air support member **96**. With reference back to FIG. **7**, each of the conduits **140**, **144**, **148** are configured to removably couple (or selectively couple) to a supply valve **152** (or a valve stem **152**) associated with each air bladder of the first and second air support members **92**, **96**. In other embodiments, each of the conduits **140**, **144**, **148** can be coupled to the respective first and second air support members **92**, **96** by a non-removal connection.

**[0034]** With reference back to FIG. **9**, each of the conduits **140**, **144**, **148** includes a fluid coupling **156** to selectively connect and disconnect the conduit **140**, **144**, **148** to the valve **132**. For example, the fluid coupling **156** can be a quick disconnect coupling, such as an in-line male coupling that selectively engages an in-line female coupling. An example of a suitable quick disconnect coupling includes a fluid quick coupling manufactured by LinkTech Couplings, a division of Nordson Corporation, which has a corporate headquarters in Westlake, Ohio. In other embodiments, the fluid coupling **156** can be any suitable coupling that facilitates a selective (or detachable) fluid connection between the valve **132** and each conduit **140**, **144**, **148** can be used.

**[0035]** The valve **132** includes an internal slide (not shown) coupled to opposing knobs **160**. The slide is configured to laterally slide within a valve housing **164**. By laterally moving the internal slide relative to the valve housing **164** in a first direction, the valve **132** selectively fluidly connects the conduits **140**, **144**, **148** to the air supply conduit **136**. Moving the internal slide relative to the valve housing **164** laterally in a second, opposite direction fluidly disconnects the conduits **140**, **144**, **148** and the air supply conduit **136**. An example valve **132** is the ISOFLO valve sold by Roho, Inc., a division of Permobil AB, which has a corporate headquarters in Timrå, Sweden. The valve is also disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 6,564,410, the contents of which are incorporated by reference in its entirety. In other embodiments, the valve **132** can be any suitable valve that provides a selective fluid connection between conduit **136** and conduits **140**, **144**, **148** to facilitate inflation and/or deflation of the first and second air support members **92**, **96**.

**[0036]** An air valve **168** (or inflation/deflation valve **168**) is coupled to the first conduit **136** at an end opposite the connection to the valve **132**. The air valve **168** includes a valve cap **172**. The valve cap **172** is rotatably connected to the air valve **168** to facilitate opening and closing of the air valve **168**. For example, rotation of the valve cap **172** in a first direction facilitates opening of the air valve **168**, while rotation of the valve cap **172** in a second direction, opposite the first direction, facilitate closing of the air valve **168**. The air valve **168** is configured to engage an air pump (not shown). The air pump can be a hand pump, a manual pump,

a motorized pump, or any other suitable pump that is configured to supply air to the adjustable air pad assembly **18**.

**[0037]** The air flow control assembly **22** is mounted (or coupled) to the base **14**, and more specifically the bottom surface **60** of the base **14**. This allows the air flow control assembly **22** and the associated components to be concealed, limiting exposure to potential damage and/or unintentional adjustment of the adjustable air pad assembly **18**. The valve **132** is mounted in the valve access end **80** of the recessed channel **76**. The valve **132** is mounted by a mounting assembly **176**. The mounting assembly **176** includes a plurality of loops that surround the valve housing **164**. The loops are fastened to the base **14** by one or more fasteners (e.g., a screw, a bolt, etc.). The valve **132** extends outward from the valve access end **80** such that it is exposed (or partially exposed) to provide user access to the valve **132**. The first conduit **136** is positioned in (or received by) the secondary channel **84**. The secondary channel **84** can be suitably sized to form a friction fit with the first conduit **136** to selectively retain the first conduit **136** in the secondary channel **84**. A portion of the first conduit **136** extends through the air nozzle access end **88** to provide user access to the air valve **168**. The conduits **140**, **144**, **148** are positioned in the recessed channel **76**, extending from the valve **132** through the aperture **72**. The conduits **140**, **144**, **148** then extend through the aperture **72** and into the conduits pelvic well **56**, where the conduits **140**, **144**, **148** connect to the respective first and/or second air support members **92**, **96**.

**[0038]** In operation, the air pad assembly **18** is configured to be selectively inflated and/or deflated to provide customized support for a user. To inflate the air pad assembly **18**, the air pump is coupled to the air valve **168**, and the valve cap **172** is actuated (rotated) into an open configuration. The valve **132** is similarly actuated into an open configuration, for example by sliding the internal slide laterally relative to the valve housing **164** in a first direction to create a fluid connection between the first conduit **136** and the conduits **140**, **144**, **148**. The pump can then supply air through the first conduit **136** and to the valve **132**, where air is distributed to the second conduit **140**, the third conduit **144**, and the fourth conduit **148**. Air travels through the conduits **140**, **144**, **148** to the respective first, second, and third air bladders of the first and second air support members **92**, **96**. This inflates the plurality of air cells **100**, **100***a* associated with the first side support **108** and the second side support **112**, and the air cells **100** of the second air support member **96**. Once the air pad assembly **18** is suitably inflated, the valve cap **172** is actuated (rotated) into a closed configuration. The valve **132** can also be actuated into a closed configuration, for example by sliding the internal slide laterally relative to the valve housing **164** in a second direction, opposite the first direction to terminate (or block) the fluid connection between the first conduit **136** and the conduits **140**, **144**, **148**. The air pump can be removed (or disengaged) from the air valve **168**.

**[0039]** After an initial inflation of the air pad assembly **18**, selective adjustment of the inflation level of the first and second air support members **92**, **96** can occur. For example, the valve cap **172** can be actuated into the closed configuration. With the valve **132** remaining in an open configuration, a user can engage the air pad assembly **18**, and more specifically can engage the first side support **108** and the second side support **112**, and the air cells **100** of the second air support member **96**. This can facilitate a redistribution of air within the air pad assembly **18**. For example, air can then travel from the first side support **108** to the valve **132** through the second conduit **140**. This air can then be redistributed from the valve **132** to the second side support **112** (through the third conduit **144**) and/or to the second air support member **96** (through the fourth conduit **148**). As another example, air can travel from the second side support **112** to the valve **132** through the third conduit **144**. This air can then be redistributed from the valve **132** to the first side support **108** (though the second conduit **140**) and/or to the second air support member **96** (through the fourth conduit **148**). As another example, air can travel from the second air support member to the valve **132** through the fourth conduit **148**. This air can then be redistributed from the valve **132** to the first side support **108** (though the second conduit **140**) and/or to the second air support member **96** (through the fourth conduit **148**). It should be appreciated that if the air pad assembly **18** is overinflated (or it is desired to reduce the total amount of air within the air pad assembly **18**), the valve cap **172** can be actuated into the open configuration to deflate the air pad assembly **18** to a desired inflation level. If the air pad assembly **18** is underinflated (or it is desired to increase the total amount of air within the air pad assembly **18**), the valve cap **172** can be actuated into the open configuration and air can be introduced into the air pad assembly **18** by the air pump to reach a desired inflation level. Once the desired inflation level is achieved (either by deflation or inflation), the valve cap **172** can be actuated into the closed configuration. Once the desired inflation level of the air pad assembly **18**, and the first side support **108**, the second side support **112**, and the air cells **100** of the second air support member **96** is achieved, the valve **132** can be actuated into a closed configuration to maintain the selected inflation level of the first side support **108**, the second side support **112**, and the air cells **100** of the second air support member **96**.

**[0040]** To deflate the air pad assembly **18**, the valve cap **172** of the air valve **168** is actuated (rotated) into the open configuration. The valve **132** is similarly actuated into an open configuration, for example by sliding the internal slide laterally relative to the valve housing **164** in a first direction to create a fluid connection between the first conduit **136** and the conduits **140**, **144**, **148**. With a user contacting the air pad assembly **18** (e.g., sitting on the air pad assembly **18**), air travels through from the respective first, second, and third air bladders of the first and second air support members **92**, **96**, through the conduits **140**, **144**, **148**, through the valve **132**, and out through the first conduit **136**, where the air is discharged through the air valve **168**. Once the user is properly positioned on the air pad assembly **18**, and a desired (or suitable) inflation level is achieved, the valve cap **172** is actuated (rotated) into a closed configuration. The valve **132** can also be actuated into the closed configuration, for example by sliding the internal slide laterally relative to the valve housing **164** in a second direction, opposite the first direction to terminate (or block) the fluid connection between the first conduit **136** and the conduits **140**, **144**, **148**.

**[0041]** One or more aspects of the adjustable seat cushion assembly **10** for a chair provides certain advantages. For example, the adjustable seat cushion assembly **10** provides two materials (or support materials) for improved user support while sitting. The first material being a foam material and the second material being air. The first material is

firmer than the second material. As such the first material (foam) is provided to support a leg region of a user, while a combination of the first material (foam) and the second material (air) is provided to support a pelvic region of a user. The second material (air) is advantageously adjustable and customizable to provide selective support for a user. The adjustability and customization of support occurs while the user is engaged with the adjustable seat cushion assembly **10** (e.g., sitting on the adjustable seat cushion assembly **10**). Accordingly, adjustment and customization of the air pad assembly **18** occurs with minimal disruption to the user (i.e., the user does not need to be removed from the seat cushion assembly **10** during adjustment or customization of the air pad assembly **18**).

**[0042]** The combination of the first material (foam) and the second material (air), along with the unique recessed support portion **52** and pelvic well **56**, reduces an immersion depth of a user into the adjustable air pad assembly **18** that is needed to provide full contact and support to the pelvic region of the user. In a seat cushion assembly that utilizes only air, a user generally needs to immerse into the seat cushion between approximately two inches and three inches for the seat cushion to fully contact the user. Full contact is necessary to provide adequate support for the user. The recessed support portion **52** and associated pelvic well **56** formed of the first material (foam), along with the second material (air) of the overlaying adjustable air pad assembly **18** achieves full contact with the user at a reduced immersion depth. For example, a user need only immerse approximately one inch into the adjustable air pad assembly **18**, and more specifically into the first air support member **92** and/or second air support member **96**, to achieve full user contact. The reduced immersion depth allows the adjustable air pad assembly **18** to utilize shorter (or less tall) air cells **100**, **100***a*.

**[0043]** In addition, the air pad assembly **18** includes a plurality of separate air zones to provide selective support for a user. The first air support member **92** defines two separate air support zones that are symmetrically arranged. A first air zone (or first air support zone) corresponds to the first side support **108** (and associated first air bladder and plurality of air cells **100**, **100***a*). A second air zone (or second air support zone) corresponds to the second side support **112** (and associated second air bladder and plurality of air cells **100**, **100***a*). In addition, the second air support member **96** defines a third air zone (or a third air support zone). The three air zones are independent, and can be separately adjusted and/or customized. In addition, as a user moves on the seat cushion assembly **10**, air from the three air zones does not move to any other air zone. As such, the three separate air zones improve positional stability.

**[0044]** Further, the air pad assembly **18** can be further customized by removing one of the first air support member **92** or the second air support member **96**. In the illustrated embodiment (or a first configuration), the adjustable seat cushion assembly **10** includes both of the first air support member **92** and the second air support member **96**. However, in certain situations, it may be desirable for a user not to use one of the first air support member **92** or the second air support member **96**. Accordingly, the first air support member **92** or the second air support member **96** can be selectively removed from the adjustable seat cushion assembly **10**. In one embodiment (or a second configuration), the first air support member **92** can be removed by disengaging the fluid coupling **156** positioned in the first and second conduits **140**, **144**. The first air support member **92** can then be removed (or disengaged) from the base **14**. The remaining second air support member **96** can be adjusted or customized to provide suitable support for a user in combination with the base **14**. In another embodiment (or a third configuration), the second air support member **96** can be removed by disengaging the fluid coupling **156** positioned in the third conduit **148**. The second air support member **96** can then be removed (or disengaged) from the base **14**. The remaining first air support member **92** can be adjusted or customized to provide suitable support for a user in combination with the base **14**. This configuration allows a user to float their ischial tuberosity bones over the pelvic well **56**.

**[0045]** In addition, the combination base **14** and air pad assembly **18** can provide improved support to reduce pressure related injuries and allow a user to offload their ischial tuberosity (or "sit bones"). The defined recessed leg troughs **40***a*, **40***b* formed of a foam material provides comfort and support for a user's leg region. The recessed support portion **52** and associated pelvic well **56** covered by the adjustable first and second air support members **92**, **96** create a stable support platform for the pelvic region of the user, while also facilitating a user to offload their ischial tuberosity (or "sit bones").

**[0046]** The air pad assembly **18** also includes a two-part deflation protection system for reducing a risk of unintentional or accidental deflation of the air pad assembly **18**. For example, in response to the valve **132** being in the closed configuration, but the valve cap **172** being in an open configuration, the valve **132** prevents deflation of the first side support **108**, the second side support **112**, and the air cells **100** of the second air support member **96**. As such, in situations where the valve cap **172** is accidentally or unintentionally placed into the open configuration, the valve **132**, when in the closed configuration, can block air flow and associated deflation of the air pad assembly **18**.

**[0047]** Additional features and advantages of the invention are set forth in the disclosure and the following claims.

What is claimed is:

**1**. A seat cushion assembly comprising:

a base defining a leg support and a support portion recessed relative to the leg support; and

an air pad assembly positioned on the recessed support portion, the air pad assembly including a plurality of independent air support zones that are configured to be separately inflated and deflated.

**2**. The seat cushion assembly of claim **1**, wherein the leg support includes a pair of recessed leg troughs.

**3**. The seat cushion assembly of claim **1**, wherein the support portion defines a pelvic well.

**4**. The seat cushion assembly of claim **1**, wherein the air pad assembly includes a first air support member defining a first air support zone and a second air support zone, the first and second air support zones being separate and independent.

**5**. The seat cushion assembly of claim **4**, wherein the first air support zone and the second air support zone are symmetric relative to an axis of symmetry.

**6**. The seat cushion assembly of claim **4**, wherein the first air support zone and the second air support zone are configured to partially surround a pelvic well defined by the support portion.

7. The seat cushion assembly of claim 4, wherein the air pad assembly includes a second air support member defining a third air support zone, the third air support zone being independent from the first air support zone and the second air support zone.

8. The seat cushion assembly of claim 1, wherein the air pad assembly includes a first air support member defining a first air bladder and a second, separate air bladder, each air bladder includes a plurality of air cells, the first and second air bladders correspond to independent air support zones.

9. The seat cushion assembly of claim 8, wherein the air pad assembly includes a second air support member defining a third air bladder, the third air bladder includes a plurality of air cells.

10. The seat cushion assembly of claim 1, further comprising an airflow control assembly in fluid communication with the air pad assembly, the airflow control assembly configured to selectively inflate or deflate the air pad assembly.

11. The seat cushion assembly of claim 10, wherein the base includes a bottom surface, the base defining a recessed channel in the bottom surface extending from an aperture in the base to a valve access end, the air flow control assembly positioned in the recessed channel.

12. The seat cushion assembly of claim 10, the airflow control assembly further comprising:

a valve fastened to the base;

a first conduit fluidly connecting the valve to an air valve;

a second conduit fluidly connecting the valve to a first air bladder defining a first air support zone; and

a third conduit fluidly connecting the valve to a second air bladder defining a second air support zone,

wherein the air valve is configured to facilitate inflation and deflation of the first air bladder and the second air bladder.

13. The seat cushion assembly of claim 12, wherein the air pad assembly includes a first air support member, the first air support member defining the first air bladder and the second air bladder, the first air bladder being symmetric to the second air bladder.

14. The seat cushion assembly of claim 13, further comprising a fourth conduit fluidly connecting the valve to a third air bladder defining a third air support zone, wherein the air pad assembly includes a second air support member defining the third air bladder.

15. The seat cushion assembly of claim 14, wherein:

the support portion defines a pelvic well,

the pelvic well defines an aperture extending through the base,

the base defining a recessed channel extending from the aperture in the base to a valve access end,

the valve is fastened to the base at the valve access end,

the second conduit, third conduit, and fourth conduit extend from the valve along the recessed channel and through the aperture into engagement with the respective air bladder.

16. A seat cushion assembly comprising:

a base defining a leg support and a support portion recessed relative to the leg support;

a pelvic well defined by the support portion; and

a first air support member defining a first air bladder and a second air bladder, each air bladder includes a plurality of air cells, the first air bladder is separate from the second air bladder, wherein the first air support member extends partially around the pelvic well.

17. The seat cushion assembly of claim 16, further comprising:

a second air support member defining a third air bladder, the third air bladder includes a plurality of air cells, the third air bladder is separate from the first and second air bladders, wherein the second air support member is removably received by the pelvic well.

18. The seat cushion assembly of claim 17, further comprising:

an airflow control assembly fastened to a bottom surface of the base, the airflow control assembly includes:

a valve;

a first conduit fluidly connecting the valve to an air valve;

a second conduit fluidly connecting the valve to the first air bladder by a removable connection;

a third conduit fluidly connecting the valve to the second air bladder by a removable connection; and

a fourth conduit fluidly connecting the valve to the third air bladder by a removable connection,

wherein the valve is configured to selectively fluidly connect the first air bladder, the second air bladder, and the third air bladder to the air valve to facilitate selective adjustment of an inflation level of the first air bladder, the second air bladder, and the third air bladder.

19. The seat cushion assembly of claim 16, wherein the first and second air bladders include a plurality of first air cells and a plurality of second air cells, the second air cells are positioned adjacent the leg support and define an overhang cross-sectional shape.

20. The seat cushion assembly of claim 19, wherein the overhang cross-sectional shape of the second air cells is defined by a first portion that is configured to contact a user, a second portion opposite the first portion, and a sloped portion extending between the first and second portions.

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