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(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROL OF SHOCK/BOUNDARY-LAYER INTERACTIONS**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**<sup>7</sup> ..... **B64C 21/08**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **244/198; 244/204**

(58) **Field of Search** ..... 244/198, 199,  
244/204, 207, 208, 209; 72/29.2

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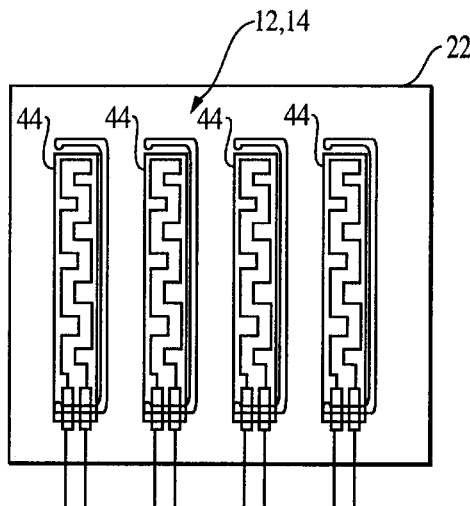
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Apparatus for controlling shock/boundary-layer interactions created by a supersonic shock on a surface of a structure, includes a cavity formed in the structure and having an opening on the surface. A plate is attached to the surface and covers the opening. A plurality of flaps are formed on the plate and is operable to cooperatively close the opening in response to subsonic airflow condition over the flaps, and open the opening to permit airflow through the cavity in response to supersonic airflow conditions over the flaps.

**38 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets**



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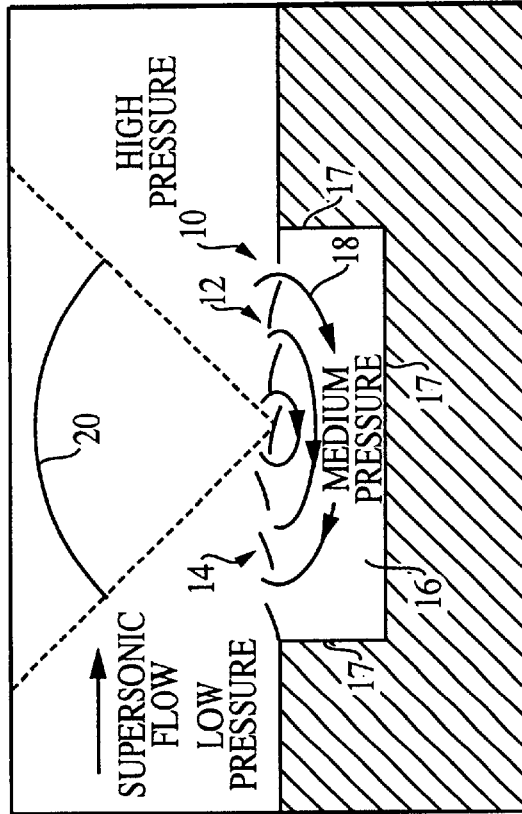


FIG. 1A

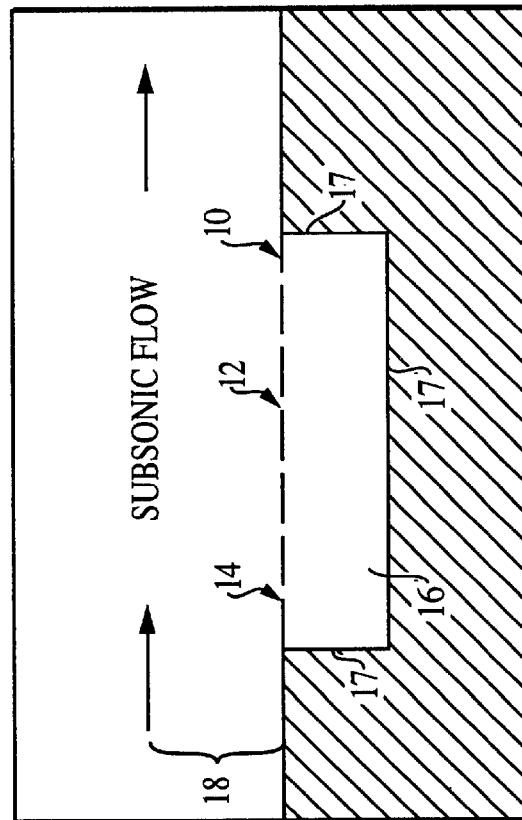


FIG. 1B

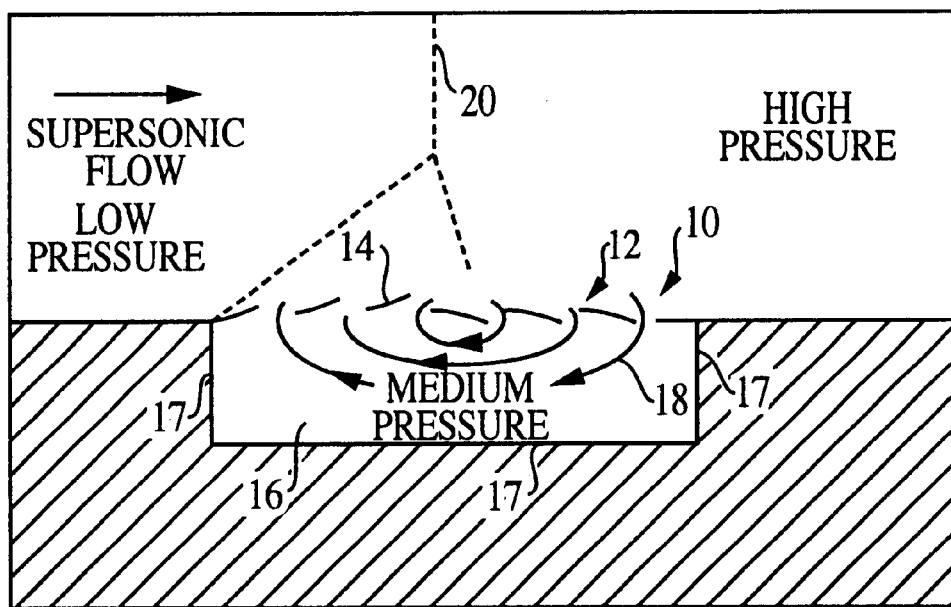


FIG. 1C

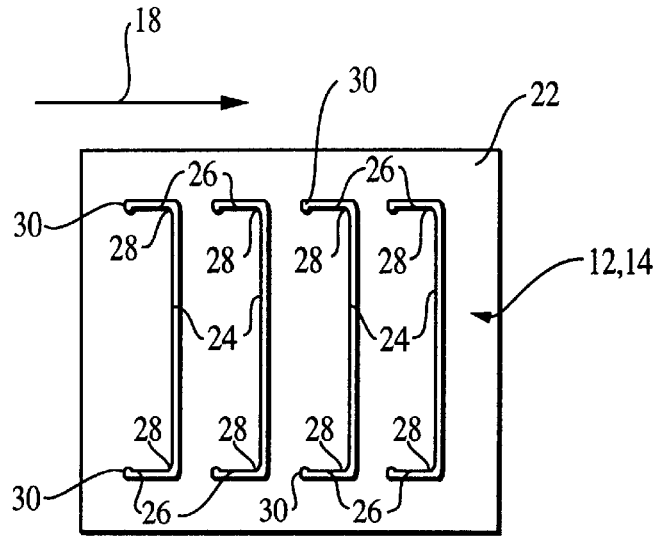


FIG. 2

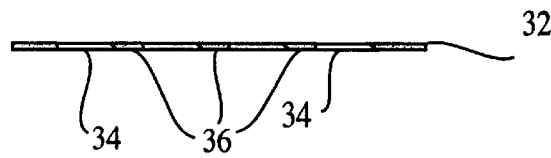


FIG. 3

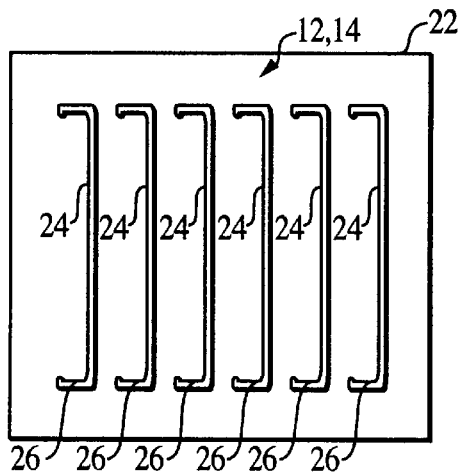


FIG. 4

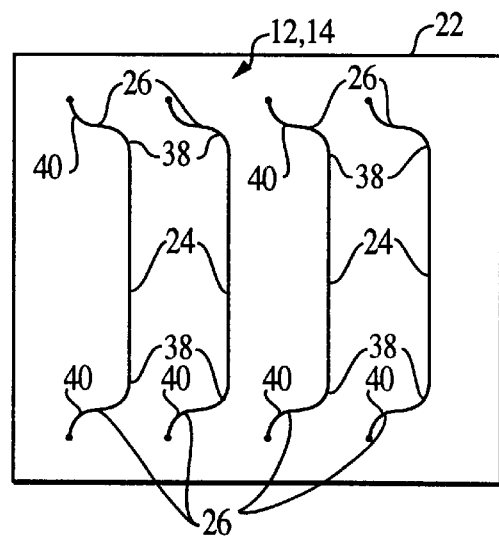


FIG. 5

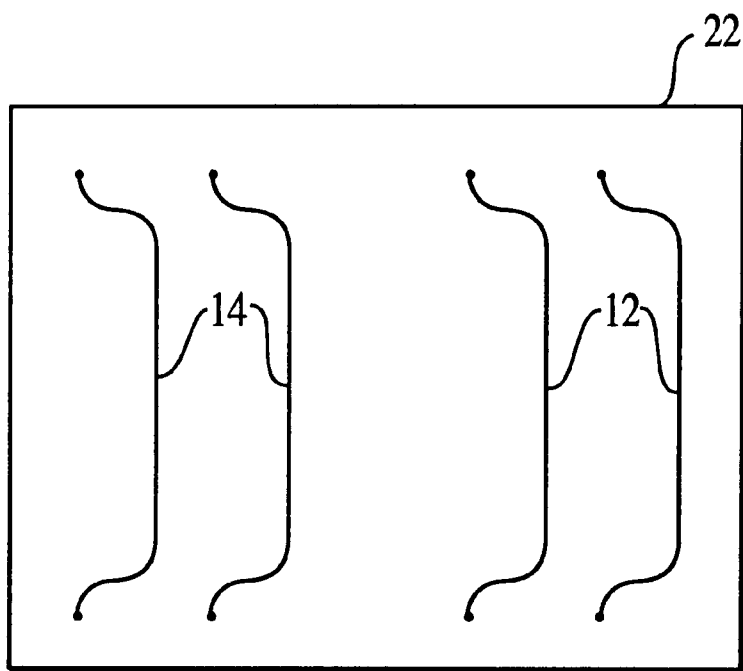


FIG. 6

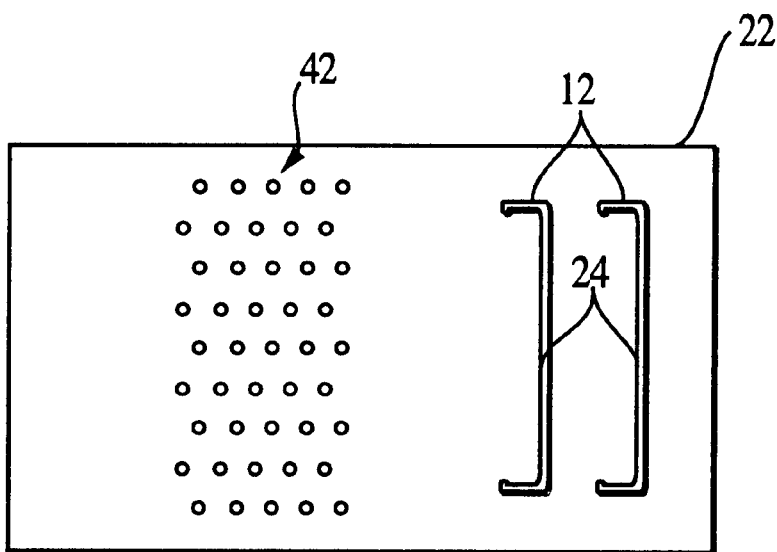


FIG. 7

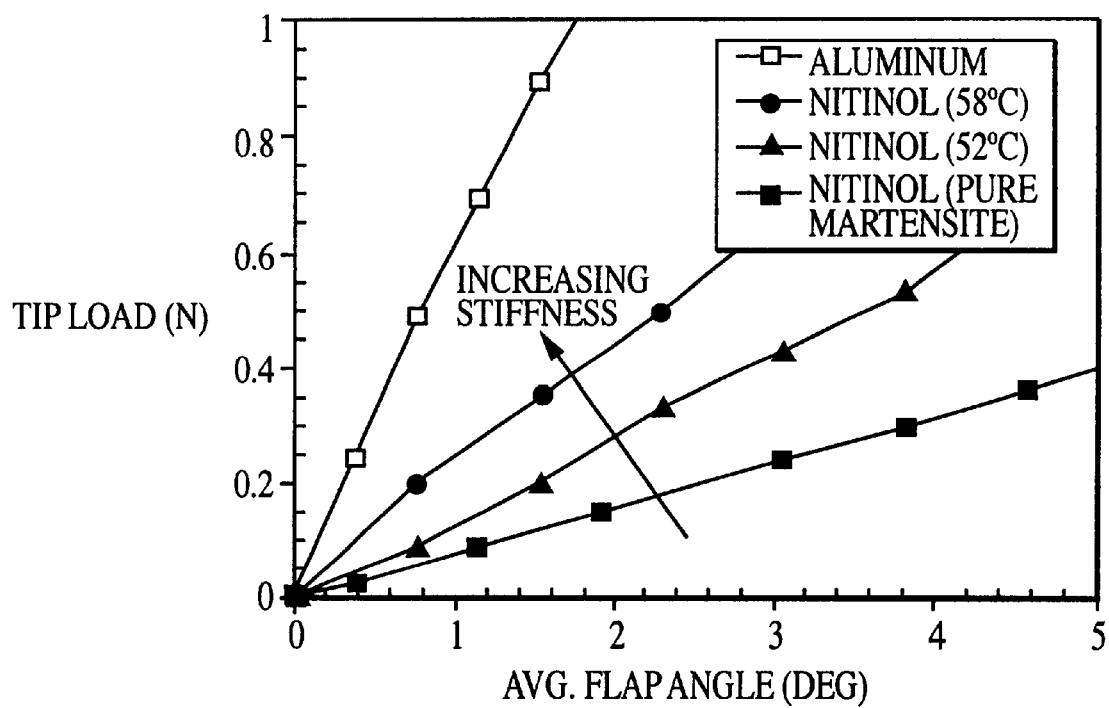


FIG. 8

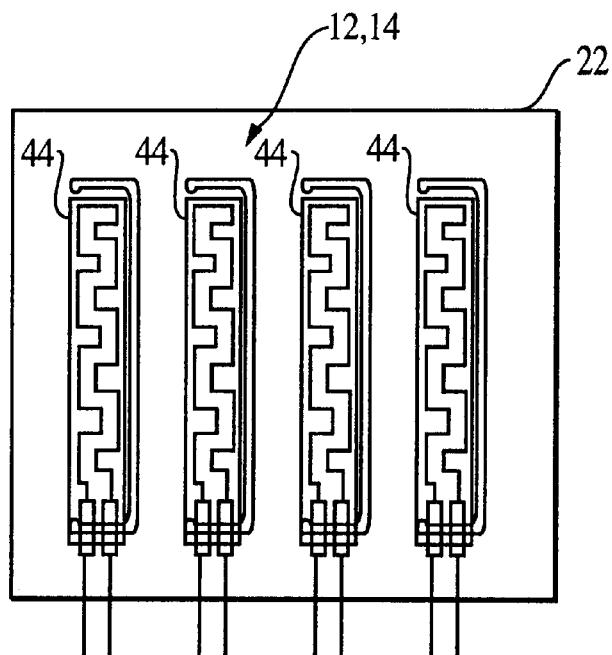


FIG. 9

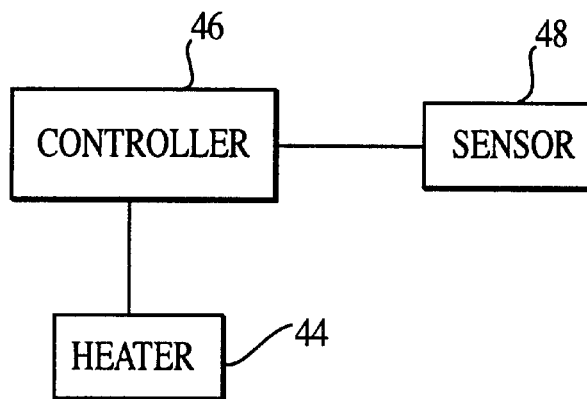


FIG. 10



## METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROL OF SHOCK/BOUNDARY-LAYER INTERACTIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/297,568, filed Jun. 12, 2001.

### STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT INTEREST

This invention was made with Government support under Contract No. F49620-98-1-0490 awarded by the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR). The Government has certain rights in this invention.

### FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to control of shock/boundary-layer interactions caused by supersonic airflow, and more particularly to configurations and actuation of flaps used in control of shock/boundary-layer interactions.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Shockwaves are encountered when an aircraft reaches supersonic airspeeds. Such shockwaves exert significant forces on the thin layer of air around the aircraft, a component referred to as the boundary layer. These shockwaves interact with the boundary layer and, during strong interactions, can cause the boundary layer to be degraded, and may also induce high levels of flow separation. These undesired boundary layer interactions accordingly bring about safety, performance, and longevity concerns, especially when the interactions occur inside of engine inlets.

Systems for alleviating such interactions have been developed. These systems bleed air near the boundary layer to suppress shockwave induced flow separation and improve overall flow uniformity. Active transpiration systems require some sort of ducting and/or pumping to bleed the air, which occupies valuable space, and increases the overall weight and cost of the vehicle.

One alternative to boundary layer bleed is to use cavity recirculation. This passive transpiration control method consists of a porous surface and a cavity underneath. The porous surface can be made of holes or slots. During supersonic flight, the changes in pressure will cause air downstream of the shock impingement to flow into the holes, through the cavity and then out through the holes upstream of the impingement. These systems have reduced mechanical complexity and expense compared to the conventional active transpiration systems. However, present models for passive transpiration systems have disadvantages. Transpiration rates are typically insufficient for effective boundary layer control due to the hole aerodynamics. For example, holes or slots that are normal to the surface create a geometry that is significantly less effective than angled holes for bleeding purposes. Further, the holes can yield increased drag at lower Mach speeds or subsonic air flight because of their continuous open state. This potential leads to the same design concerns experienced in needing to determine the location of shock boundary interaction in a particular aircraft so the holes can be limited to that area. Otherwise, drag losses become too significant.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to an apparatus for controlling shock/boundary-layer interactions created by a supersonic shock on a surface of a structure. The apparatus

includes a cavity formed in the structure and having an opening on the surface. A plate is attached to the surface and covers the opening. A plurality of flaps are formed on the plate and is operable to cooperatively close the opening in response to subsonic airflow condition over the flaps, and open the opening to permit airflow through the cavity in response to supersonic airflow conditions over the flaps.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1A is a diagram of a system for controlling shock/boundary-layer interaction in accordance with the present invention in a condition responsive to subsonic airflow;

FIGS. 1B and 1C are diagrams of the system for controlling shock/boundary-layer interaction in accordance with the present invention in conditions responsive to oblique and normal shocks, respectively, caused by supersonic airflow;

FIG. 2 is a top view of one embodiment of the flaps of the control system of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a sectional view of a stringer plate on which the flaps of FIG. 2 are adapted to be mounted;

FIG. 4 is a top view of another embodiment of the flaps of the control system of the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a top view of yet another embodiment of the flaps of the control system in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a top view of further embodiment of the flaps of the control system in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a top view of one embodiment of the flaps of the control system in accordance with the present invention in which upstream flaps are replaced with a plurality of holes;

FIG. 8 is a graph illustrating the affect of heat on nitinol;

FIG. 9 is a diagram showing heaters attached to flaps for controlling flap deflection in accordance with another embodiment of the control system of present invention; and

FIG. 10 is a block diagram of the control system of the present invention incorporating the heaters of FIG. 9.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring now to FIG. 1A, the operation of a shock/boundary-layer interaction (SBLI) control system 10 in accordance with one embodiment of the invention is illustrated in a condition responsive to subsonic airflow. The control system 10 includes a plurality of injection flaps 12 and bleed flaps 14 which control airflow through a cavity 16 bounded by physical barriers 17 on its remaining sides. During subsonic airflow, the mesoflaps 12, 14 remain closed over the cavity 16. In this condition, the cavity 16 and flaps 12, 14 create no interruption of a boundary layer 18 because the flaps effectively inhibit air circulation through the cavity 16. Thus, the subsonic flow condition of the flaps 12, 14 is an effectively smooth surface over which boundary layer 18 passes freely and without interference or added drag. The closed condition of the flaps is maintained under subsonic airflow as a result of the uniform or nearly uniform pressure between the boundary layer 18 and the cavity 16. No-shock conditions indicative of subsonic flow create a nearly constant streamwise pressure distribution on the flaps 12, 14. Thus, the pressure in the cavity 16 is nearly equal to that in the flow above the flaps 12, 14.

As is known in the art, the transition to supersonic airflow is accompanied by an oblique shock 20, as illustrated in FIG. 1B, or by a normal shock as shown in FIG. 1C. Such shocks 20 create strong streamwise pressure variations, with an area

of high pressure downstream of the shock **20** and an area of low pressure upstream of the shock **20**. The pressure variation created during supersonic airflow conditions deflects the flaps **12, 14** and creates the desired air circulation through the cavity **16**. High downstream pressure causes the injection flaps **12** to deflect into the cavity **16** and direct the boundary layer **18** into the cavity **16**. The nearly constant pressure in the cavity **16** will lie roughly between the high downstream pressure and low upstream pressure. Thus, the bleed flaps **14** upstream of the shock **20** deflect out of the cavity **16** to direct the airflow out of the cavity, thus circulating the boundary layer **18** as shown in FIG. **1B**.

By circulating the boundary layer **18**, the control system **10** reduces the interaction between the boundary layer and the shocks **20** that occurs at supersonic airflow conditions. The flaps **12, 14** direct the boundary layer **18** into and out of the cavity **16** at an angle. Angled active bleed systems have been previously shown to be more effective in controlling the interaction between the shock **20** and the boundary layer **18** than passive systems that direct perpendicular airflow.

Turning now to FIG. **2**, the flaps **12, 14** are formed on a flap plate **22**, and include a portion **24** extending generally transversely to the direction of the boundary layer **18**. A longitudinal portion **26** extends from each end of the transverse portion **24** generally perpendicularly to the transverse portion, and in the direction opposite to that of the boundary layer **18**. Each of the flaps **12, 14** have rounded corners **28** in order to minimize corner flap flutter and peak stress locations and a hole **30** at the distal end of each longitudinal portion **26** to relieve stress to the flaps as they are deflected.

In one embodiment, the flap plate **22** is fabricated from a nickel-titanium alloy known as nitinol, and includes four flaps **12, 14**. It should be understood that each of the flaps can be injection flaps **12** or bleed flaps **14** depending on the location of the shock **20**. The length of the transverse portion **24** of the flaps **12, 14** can be anywhere from approximately 1 to 20 boundary layer thicknesses, but is preferably about 10 boundary layer thicknesses. The length of the longitudinal portions **26** can be anywhere from approximately 1 to 3 boundary layer thicknesses. The thickness of the flaps **12, 14** is preferably less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a boundary layer thickness. The flaps **12, 14** are approximately 1 boundary layer thickness apart from each other.

It should be noted that the width and the length of the cavity **16** generally correspond with those of the flap plate **22**. The cavity depth should be at least one boundary layer thickness deep to provide adequate recirculation of the boundary layer **18**.

Referring to FIG. **3**, the flap plate **22** is configured and adapted to be mounted to a stringer plate **32**, which supports the flaps **12, 14** in all static areas. The stringer plate **32** includes a plurality of openings **34** corresponding to each of the flaps **12, 14**, and configured to allow the flaps to deflect up or down. Spars **36** formed adjacent each opening **34** and extending the width of the stringer plate **32**, are machined to a sharp angle for aerodynamic purposes. In the preferred embodiment, the thickness of the stringer plate **32** is approximately less than one boundary layer thickness.

It should be understood that the four-flap configuration of the control system **10** described in FIG. **2** is only one embodiment of the present invention, and that other configurations are also contemplated. The flap plate **22** may have more or less than four flaps, and the number of flaps may be even or odd. For example, a six-flap configuration in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention is shown in FIG. **4**. In the embodiment shown in FIG.

**4**, the basic shape of the flaps **12, 14** are the same as those of FIG. **2**. The six-flap configuration, however, is generally thinner than that of the four-flap configuration, though the general dimensions are similar. An increased number of flaps can provide increased performance when the ratio of shock height to boundary layer thickness becomes large.

Turning now to FIG. **5**, and in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, the flap plate **22** includes flaps **12, 14** that have generally "S" shaped longitudinal portions **26**. By curving the longitudinal portions **26**, sharp corners are avoided at both the trailing edge **38** of the flap (which significantly cuts down on flap flutter) and at the upstream edges **40** (which significantly reduces local stress levels and reduces fatigue failure). This configuration of the flaps **12, 14** also results in the airflow downstream of the curved portion being generally healthier (i.e., higher skin friction) and has stronger performance gains in terms of stagnation pressure recovery. In this context, skin friction is the shear stress the boundary layer **18** exerts on the surface and is generally indicative of "healthier" boundary layers. The stagnation pressure recovery is the integrated total pressure distribution downstream of the interaction and when it is higher, it is generally indicative of a lower gas dynamic drag on the system. The length of the transverse portion **26** of the flaps **12, 14** can be anywhere from approximately 1 to 3 boundary layer thicknesses, and the length of the longitudinal portions **26** can also be anywhere from approximately 1 to 3 boundary layer thicknesses. The thickness of the flaps **12, 14** is preferably less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a boundary layer thickness, and the flaps are approximately 1 boundary layer thickness apart from each other.

Turning now to FIG. **6**, and in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, the injection flaps **12** are separated from the bleed flaps **14** to form two groups of one-way flaps. In other words, the flaps upstream of the shock **20**, i.e., the bleed flaps **14**, are designated to bend only upwards, and the downstream flaps (the injection flaps **12**) designated to bend only downwards. Results from computational fluid dynamics have shown that improvement can be made to the performance of the flaps **12, 14**. In particular it has been shown computationally that the upstream or bleed flaps **14** should be located several (e.g., 5–10) boundary layer thicknesses upstream of the shock **20**. The downstream or injection flaps **12** are found to be efficient when located both near the shock interaction as well as further downstream, e.g. 2 to 5 thicknesses downstream. It should be understood that while this embodiment is illustrated using the flap configuration of FIG. **5**, other flap configurations, as shown in FIGS. **2** and **4**, for example, may also be used.

Turning to FIG. **7**, and in accordance with yet another embodiment of the present invention, the downstream or injection flaps **12** are designated to bend only downwards, as in the description with respect the embodiment shown in FIG. **6**. However, instead of the upstream or bleed flaps **14**, this embodiment employs a plurality of through holes **42** formed generally normal to the flap plate **22**. The holes **42** have a diameter which is approximately on the order of one boundary layer displacement thickness, i.e., approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the boundary layer thickness, as known in the art. The holes are arranged generally in rows in an area that is approximately the same as an area in which the injection flaps **12** are formed. The number of holes is generally consistent with a porosity of about 5%. Alternatively, the embodiment shown in FIG. **7** may be implemented with through holes **42** which have a diameter that is substantially smaller than the boundary layer displacement thickness, on the order of 5  $\mu\text{m}$  to 60  $\mu\text{m}$ , for example.

The flaps **12**, **14** described above deflect open at varying degrees depending on the speed of the airflow. As the pressure rise across the shock rises, the flaps **12**, **14** open to a larger degree, thereby circulating more boundary layer **18** through the cavity **16**. Thus, the control system **10** controls the boundary layer **18** and shock **20** interaction at the higher shock strength levels, while also preventing excess drag during lower Mach speeds. It should also be noted that it is the location of the impinging shockwave which determines which of the flaps are injection flaps **12** and which of the flaps are bleed flaps **14**. Thus, those skilled in the art will appreciate that using flaps constructed according to the invention in any general area in which the shocks **20** are a concern eliminates the need for advance knowledge of exact streamwise shock locations.

Results from experiments and computations have shown that there is an optimum amount of flap deflection for a given shock condition. Optimum deflection may depend on the strength and position of the shock which are known to vary in the high-speed boundary layer control applications, e.g., as altitude and Mach number change. In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, the stiffness of the flaps **12**, **14** are controlled to obtain optimum deflection. The variation in the stiffness of the flaps **12**, **14** is achieved by controlling the temperature of the flux. There is a transformation of the material from martensite to austenite with an increase in temperature. As shown in FIG. **8**, which shows the measurements of nitinol flap deflection under temperature variations, the transformation yields more than a two-fold increase in the modulus of Elasticity.

Turning now to FIG. **9**, micro-integrated circuit heaters **44** are employed to vary the stiffness of the flaps **12**, **14** for the case of nitinol mesoflaps. The heaters **44** are substantially the same size (width and length) as and adhered to the flaps **12**, **14** on the side facing the cavity **16**. In operation, the heat from the heaters **44** causes the flaps **12**, **14** to have an increased stiffness because of the phase transformation at higher temperatures, which in turn causes a reduction in the flap deflection.

Turning now to FIG. **10**, the heaters **44** are operatively connected to a controller **46** which determines the amount power to be supplied to the heaters **44** for controlling deflection of the flaps **12**, **14**. A pressure sensor **48** is located downstream of the shocks **20** and provides feedback signals to the controller **46**, so that adjustments can be made by the controller to maintain the optimum deflection amid changing conditions. The pressure sensor **48** may also be located in the cavity **16**.

While various embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described, it should be understood that other modifications, substitutions and alternatives are apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art. Such modifications, substitutions and alternatives can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, which should be determined from the appended claims.

Various features of the invention are set forth in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

**1.** Apparatus for controlling shock/boundary-layer interactions created by a supersonic shock on a surface of a structure, comprising:

- a cavity formed in the structure and having an opening on the surface;
- a plate attached to the surface and covering said opening;
- a plurality of flaps formed on said plate, said flaps being operable to cooperatively close said opening in

response to subsonic airflow condition over said flaps, and to open said opening to permit airflow through said cavity in response to supersonic airflow conditions over said flaps; and

control means for controlling an amount of deflection of said flaps.

**2.** The apparatus as defined in claim **1**, wherein at least one of said plurality of flaps deflects into said cavity to permit airflow into said cavity and at least one of the other of said flaps deflects away from said cavity to permit said airflow in said cavity to exit said cavity.

**3.** The apparatus as defined in claim **2**, wherein said at least one of said plurality of flaps that deflects into said cavity is located downstream of the supersonic shock, and said at least one of the other of said flaps that deflects away from said cavity is located upstream of the supersonic shock.

**4.** The apparatus as defined in claim **3**, wherein said plurality of flaps open to varying degrees depending upon the speed of the airflow.

**5.** The apparatus as defined in claim **3** wherein said control means controls said deflection amount by controlling the stiffness of said flaps.

**6.** The apparatus as defined in claim **5** wherein said stiffness is increased by heating said flaps.

**7.** The apparatus as defined in claim **6** wherein said heaters are micro-integrated circuit heaters.

**8.** The apparatus as defined in claim **3** wherein said controlling means includes a heater configured and operatively attached to each of said plurality of flaps, and a controller for adjustably supplying power to said heaters.

**9.** The apparatus as defined in claim **8** further including a sensor operatively connected to said controller for measuring air pressure downstream of said plurality of flaps, and wherein said controller adjusts power supply to said heater based on said air pressure.

**10.** The apparatus as defined in claim **8** further including a sensor operatively connected to said controller for measuring air pressure in said cavity, and wherein said controller adjusts power supply to said heater based on said air pressure.

**11.** The apparatus as defined in claim **8** wherein said plurality of flaps are made of nickel-titanium alloy (nitinol).

**12.** The apparatus as defined in claim **1**, wherein said flaps have substantially the same shape.

**13.** The apparatus as defined in claim **1**, wherein each of said flaps have a first portion extending substantially transversely to the airflow, and a second portion extending from each ends of said first portion substantially longitudinally to the airflow.

**14.** The apparatus as defined in claim **13**, wherein each of said second portions includes a first end and a second end, and each end of said first portion joins said first end of said second portion to from a substantially rounded corner.

**15.** The apparatus as defined in claim **14**, wherein a hole is formed at said second end of each of said second portions.

**16.** The apparatus as defined in claim **13**, wherein a hole is formed at an end of said second portion opposite said end of said first portion.

**17.** The apparatus as defined in claim **13**, wherein 4 flaps are formed in said plate.

**18.** The apparatus as defined in claim **17**, wherein a thickness of said flaps is less than approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a thickness of a boundary layer of air formed on the surface, a length of said first portion is approximately from 2 boundary layer thicknesses to 10 boundary layer thicknesses, and length of said second portion is approximately from 1 boundary layer thickness to 3 boundary layer thicknesses.

19. The apparatus as defined in claim 13, wherein six flaps are formed in said plate.

20. The apparatus as defined in claim 19, wherein a thickness of said flaps is less than approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a thickness of a boundary layer of air formed on the surface, a length of said first portion is approximately from 2 boundary layer thicknesses to 10 boundary layer thicknesses, and length of said second portion is approximately from 1 boundary layer thickness to 3 boundary layer thicknesses.

21. The apparatus as defined in claim 13, wherein said second portion extends generally in an "S" shape.

22. The apparatus as defined in claim 21, wherein a hole is formed at an end of said second portion opposite said end of said first portion.

23. The apparatus as defined in claim 21, wherein a thickness of said flaps is less than approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a thickness of a boundary layer of air formed on the surface, a length of said first portion is approximately from 1 boundary layer thickness to 3 boundary layer thicknesses, and length of said second portion is approximately from 1 boundary layer thickness to 3 boundary layer thicknesses.

24. The apparatus as defined in claim 13 wherein said flaps are separated from each other by approximately 1 boundary layer thickness.

25. The apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of flaps is designated to permit airflow into said cavity, and at least another one of said plurality of flaps is designated to permit said airflow out of said cavity.

26. The apparatus as defined in claim 25, wherein said at least one flap designated to permit airflow into said cavity is located approximately 1–10 boundary layer thicknesses downstream of the shock impingement location, and said at least another one of said plurality of flaps designated to permit airflow out of said cavity is located approximately 5–10 boundary layer thicknesses upstream of the supersonic shock.

27. Apparatus for controlling shock/boundary-layer interactions created by a supersonic shock on a surface of a structure, comprising:

a cavity formed in the structure and having an opening on the surface;

a plate attached to the surface and covering said opening;

a plurality of flaps and a plurality of holes formed in said plate, said flaps being operable to cooperatively close said opening in response to subsonic airflow condition over said flaps, and to open to permit airflow through said cavity in response to supersonic airflow conditions over said flaps, said holes being operable to permit said airflow in said cavity to exit said cavity.

28. The apparatus as defined in claim 27, wherein said plurality of flaps deflect into said cavity to permit airflow into said cavity.

29. The apparatus as defined in claim 28, wherein said plurality of flaps are located downstream of the supersonic shock, and said plurality of holes are located upstream of the supersonic shock.

30. The apparatus as defined in claim 27, wherein said plurality of flaps open to varying degrees depending upon the speed of the airflow.

31. The apparatus as defined in claim 27, wherein said plurality of holes have a diameter of approximately a thickness of one boundary layer displacement of air formed on the surface.

32. The apparatus as defined in claim 27, wherein said plurality of holes have a diameter of approximately  $5\ \mu\text{m}$  to  $60\ \mu\text{m}$ .

33. The apparatus for controlling an amount of deflection of a nitinol material in an environment in which said nitinol material is subject to deflection by an external force, said apparatus comprising:

a micro-integrated circuit heater configured and adapted to be attached to said nitinol material; and

a controller operatively connected to said heater for controlling an amount of power that is supplied to said heater;

wherein said heater adjustably applies heat to said nitinol material for changing the stiffness of said nitinol material in accordance with said amount of power supplied by said controller; and

said nitinol material is configured and arranged to be subjected to said external force.

34. The apparatus as defined in claim 33 further including a sensor, in communication with said controller, for measuring the external force applied to said nitinol material and sending said measurement to said controller, and wherein said controller controls said amount of power supplied to said heater based on said measurement from said sensor.

35. Apparatus for controlling shock/boundary-layer interactions created by a supersonic shock on a surface of a structure, comprising:

a cavity formed in the structure and having an opening on the surface;

a plate attached to the surface and covering and opening;

a plurality of flaps formed on said plate, said flaps being operable to cooperatively close said opening in response to subsonic airflow condition over said flaps, and to open said opening to permit airflow through said cavity in response to supersonic airflow conditions over said flaps;

wherein each of said flaps has a first portion extending substantially transversely to the airflow, and a second portion extending from each ends of said first portion substantially longitudinally to the airflow; and

wherein said second portion extends generally in an "S" shape.

36. The apparatus as defined in claim 35, wherein a hole is formed at an end of said second portion opposite said end of said first portion.

37. The apparatus as defined in claim 35, wherein a thickness of said flaps is less than approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a thickness of a boundary layer of air formed on the surface, a length of said first portion is approximately from 1 boundary layer thickness to 3 boundary layer thicknesses, and length of said second portion is approximately from 1 boundary layer thickness to 3 boundary layer thicknesses.

38. Apparatus for controlling shock/boundary-layer interactions created by a supersonic shock on a surface of a structure, comprising:

a cavity formed in the structure and having an opening on the surface;

a plate attached to the surface and covering said opening;

a plurality of flaps formed on said plate, said flaps being operable to cooperatively close said opening in response to subsonic airflow condition over said flaps, and to open said opening to permit airflow through said cavity in response to supersonic airflow conditions over said flaps;

means for controlling an amount of deflection of said plurality of flaps;

wherein at least one of said plurality of flaps is located downstream of the supersonic shock and deflects into

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said cavity to permit airflow into said cavity and at least one of the other of said flaps is located upstream of the supersonic shock and deflects away from said cavity to permit said airflow in said cavity to exit said cavity; wherein said controlling means includes a heater configured and operatively attached to each of said plurality of flaps, a controller for adjustably supplying power to

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said heaters, and a sensor operatively connected to said controller for measuring air pressure in said cavity, and wherein said controller adjusts power supply to said heater based on said air pressure.

\* \* \* \* \*

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
**CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO. : 6,651,935 B2  
DATED : November 25, 2003  
INVENTOR(S) : Loth et al.

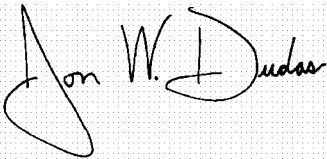
Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 8,  
Line 28, delete "and" and insert -- said --.

Signed and Sealed this

Nineteenth Day of October, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray dotted background. The signature reads "Jon W. Dudas" in a cursive style. The "J" is large and loops around the "on". The "W" is written with two distinct peaks. The "Dudas" part is written in a fluid, cursive script.

JON W. DUDAS

*Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office*