

Title (en)  
DEVICES FOR FORMING CURVED OR CLOSED-LOOP STRUCTURES

Title (de)  
VORRICHTUNGEN ZUR FORMUNG GEKRÜMMTER ODER IN SICH GESCHLOSSENER STRUKTUREN

Title (fr)  
DISPOSITIFS POUR FORMER DES STRUCTURES CINTRÉES OU À BOUCLE FERMÉE

Publication  
**EP 2099390 A2 20090916 (EN)**

Application  
**EP 08702624 A 20080109**

Priority  
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Abstract (en)  
[origin: WO2008084479A2] A device for forming structurally stable curved structures includes an elongated element with a number of segments interconnected at effective hinges to allow deflection of each segment relative to adjacent segments between a reduced-curvature state and a flexed state. Neighboring segments have interlocking features forming an inter-segment locking configuration such that, when the segments are deflected from the reduced-curvature state to the flexed state, the interlocking features interlock adjacent of the segments so as to retain the segments in the flexed state corresponding to a predefined curved configuration of the elongated element. Additionally, or alternatively, a leading portion and a rear portion of the elongated element have features forming at least part of a loop-lock configuration effective to lock together the leading portion and the rear portion so as to form a closed loop structure.

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