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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

21 Application number: **88311544.6**

51 Int. Cl.⁵: **A63B 49/00, A63B 49/02**

22 Date of filing: **06.12.88**

A request for recognition of the priority 03.12.87
US 128,381 has been filed on the grounds of
Rule 85 (2) (3) EPC.

30 Priority: **03.12.87 US 128381**
26.08.88 US 236832
26.09.88 US 249337

43 Date of publication of application:
13.12.89 Bulletin 89/50

84 Designated Contracting States:
DE FR GB IT

88 Date of deferred publication of the search report:
31.10.90 Bulletin 90/44

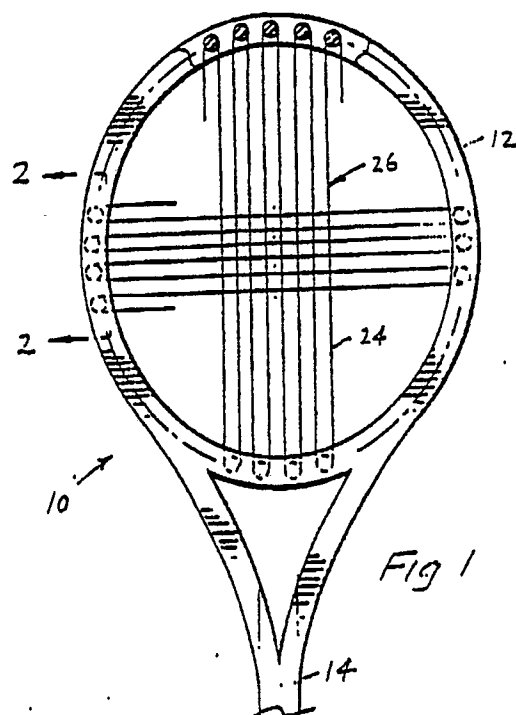
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54 **Tennis racquet.**

57 A racquet for tennis or the like, which comprises a frame with an appended handle with a plurality of guides mounted in spaced relationship along the frame in its plane. Each guide has an outwardly oriented portion concave in a plane normal to the plane of the frame and each guide is constructed of a self-lubricating and shock absorbent material. A string laced around the guides forms a ball impact grid within the frame. In one embodiment the guides are spools positioned between a pair of laterally opposed members forming the frame and in another embodiment the guides are bosses fixed to the outside of the frame with tangential apertures through the frame. In a further embodiment the guides are spools resting in sockets, or in a circumscribing channel, on the frame in its plane.





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application number

EP 88 31 1544

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. 4)
Y	GB-A- 309 238 (BROOKS) * Page 4, lines 23-35; page 4, lines 62-86; figures 1,3 * --	1,3-7, 9,15, 17,19	A 63 B 49/00 A 63 B 49/02
Y	WO-A-83 03 358 (FISCHER) * Page 11, lines 10-35; figures 6-8 * --	1,3-7, 9,19	
Y	DE-A-2 611 970 (BAUSCH) * Page 5, lines 11-22; page 6, lines 4-8; figures 1,2 * --	6,15, 17	
Y	US-A-3 528 658 (CHERIS) * Column 6, line 45 - column 7, line 12; figure 17 * --	12,14	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 4)
Y	US-A-3 083 968 (TAKABASHI) * Column 5, line 50 - column 6, line 13; figure 31 * --	12,14	A 63 B
A		11,18, 20	
A	US-A-4 331 331 (RODGERS) * Column 2, lines 36-40; column 2, ./. X	2,13	
X			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		15-03-1990	SCHÖNLEBEN

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category
A : technological background
O : non-written disclosure
P : intermediate document

T : theory or principle underlying the invention
E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date
D : document cited in the application
L : document cited for other reasons
& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document



CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ All claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ Only part of the claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid.
- namely claims:
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

X LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions.

namely:

1. Claims 1-20: Tennis racquet having a plurality of string guides constructed of self-lubricating and shock absorbent material
2. Claims 21,22: Tennis racquet having a strip constructed of an inner element of shock absorbent material and of an outer element forming string guides

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid.
- namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees has been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.

namely claims: 1-20

