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(54) **Manufacturing method and bath tub made of composite material with improved supporting frame produced by such method.**

(57) A method for manufacturing a bath tub made of composite material comprises the steps of moulding the tub (11), applying a first substantially annular frame member (12) around its edge, applying a second substantially flat frame member (15) to the underside of the bottom of the tub (11), and inter-connecting said first and second with third frame members (14). Said method comprises a further step of applying lateral wall elements (34) around said tub

by removably coupling said wall elements to at least said third frame members. The tub manufactured according to such method therefore comprises, in combination, a circumferential frame member (12), a flat frame member (15) on the bottom and frame members (14) to connect them together. Lateral walls 34 can be applied by fitting them into springs 25 and into coupling means 33.

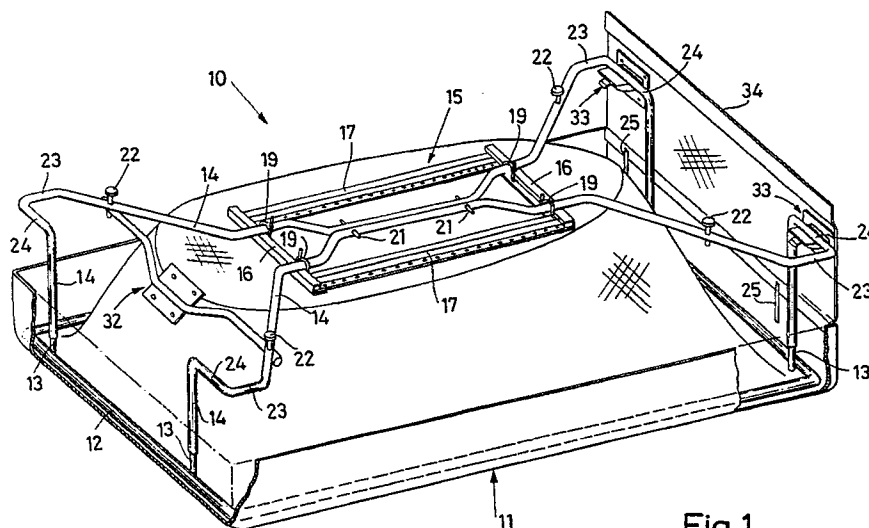


Fig.1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 90 20 3528

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.5)
Y A	GB-A-1 226 753 (ARMITAGE PLASTICS LTD) * The whole document * ---	1,3,4,8 ,13,14 2,5	A 47 K 3/16
Y	US-A-3 934 278 (SCHROCK) * Column 1, lines 8-29; column 2, line 65 - column 3, line 4; figure 1 * ---	1,3,4,8 ,13,14	
A	FR-A-2 256 743 (CHLORIDE SHIRES LTD) * The whole document * -----	1,2,4,5 ,8,13, 14	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			A 47 K
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 07-05-1991	Examiner PORWOLL H. P.
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.

☒ 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:

See sheet -B-

- ☐ 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: 1-8, 13, 14



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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 1-8,13,14: Manufacturing process of a bath tub with a support frame made of several parts and bath tub thus manufactured.
2. Claims 9-12: Mounting of cladding panels on a support frame of a bath tub.