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(71) Applicant: **Murphy, Austin Charles**
The Elms, Tanners Lane
Denmead, Hampshire(GB)

(72) Inventor: **Murphy, Austin Charles**
The Elms, Tanners Lane
Denmead, Hampshire(GB)

(74) Representative: **Brooks, Nigel Samuel**
Hill Hampton East Meon
Petersfield Hampshire GU32 1QN(GB)

(54) **Tile trim.**

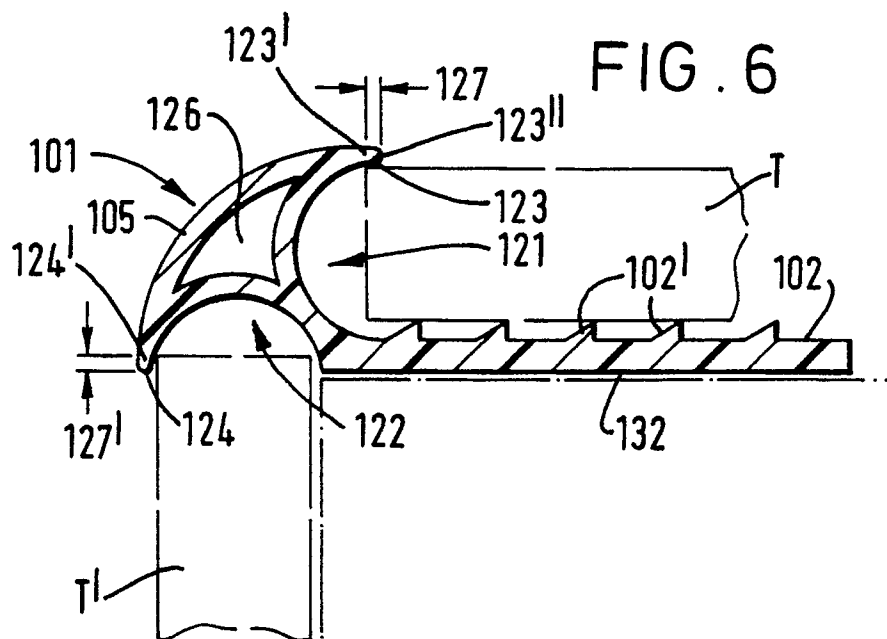
(57) A tile trim 101 for forming an edge to a plurality of ceramic tiles fixed to a face, the tile trim comprises:

a base web 102 for extension behind edge ones of the tiles,

a curved trim web 105 having an external trim surface for trimming the edge of the tiles, the trim

web having two marginal portions 123', 124' each having a respective marginal edge 123,124, and

a connection band 125 between the base web and the trim web intermediate the marginal edges, whereby the marginal portions of the trim web extend on respective opposite sides of the connection band.



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The present invention relates to a tile trim, that is to say an elongate product intended to form an edge to a plurality of ceramic tiles adhered to a wall or similar surface.

Various tile trim products are available, both as injection mouldings and the more usual extrusion mouldings of plastics materials. These products include a web for application against a wall beneath edge ones of tiles adhered to the wall and a trim surface which is generally a circularly-curved, quadrant section tangential to the surface of the tiles in use at one edge of the quadrant and normal to the wall at the other edge of the quadrant. Usually the quadrant section is directly connected to an edge of the web, although it may be connected thereto by a flange at right angles to the web. Prior sections are described with reference to the drawings below.

The object of the present invention is to provide an improved tile trim.

The tile trim of the present invention comprises:

a base web for extension behind edge ones of the tiles,

a curved trim web having an external trim surface for trimming the edge of the tiles, the trim web having two marginal portions each having a respective marginal edge, and

a connection band between the base web and the trim web intermediate the marginal edges, whereby the marginal portions of the trim web extend on respective opposite sides of the connection band.

In certain embodiments, one marginal edge is in front of the base web and the other marginal edge is normally behind the base web. Alternatively, the other marginal edge can be substantially coplanar with the base web. Preferably, the one marginal edge overhangs the base web.

In one embodiment, the connection band and the marginal portions of the trim web define two grooves for accommodating edges of tiles on two adjacent faces substantially at right angles to each other. Conveniently, each groove is substantially of part circular cross-section. The connection band can be an element extending obliquely to the base web towards the trim web. In the one embodiment, the connection band includes two curved portions extending from the oblique element to the trim web at its marginal portions, the curved portions defining the grooves and providing a void within the tile trim.

In accordance with a particularly preferred feature, the connection band is flexible. The connection band can be rendered flexible by provision of a thin section along its length. Alternatively, the connection band can be rendered flexible by provision of an elastomeric strip along its length.

The marginal portions are preferably adapted for the marginal edges to overlie the edges of the edge tiles. They can be provided with respective flats for abutment with the outer surface of the edge tiles.

Preferably, a lip is provided on front of the base web as an abutment for the edge tiles.

It should be particularly noted that the tile trims in accordance with the invention can be used both to trim tiles on two adjacent faces meeting at a corner and to trim tiles on a single face.

To help understanding of the invention, two prior trims and three tile trims according to the invention will now be described by way of example and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 is a broken perspective view of a prior tile trim in use;

Figure 2 is an enlarged scale cross-sectional view of another prior tile trim;

Figure 3 is an enlarged scale cross-sectional view of a tile trim according to the invention;

Figure 4 is a broken perspective view of the tile trim of Figure 3 in use in a manner similar to that of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is a broken perspective view of another use of the tile trim of Figure 3;

Figure 6 is a further enlarged cross-sectional view of the trim of Figure 3;

Figure 7 is a view similar to Figure 6 of a modified trim;

Figure 8 is a view similar to Figure 6 of another tile trim of the invention; and

Figure 9 is a view similar to Figure 6 of a further tile trim of the invention.

Referring first to Figure 1, this prior trim 1 has a base web 2 for attachment to a wall 3. From the exposed edge 4 of the web a quadrant trim web 5 extends back towards the base web 2. In use, edge tiles *T* at the edge of an expanse of them are abutted at their edges 6 against the free edge 7 of the trim web 5.

The other prior trim 11 shown in Figure 2 is generally similar, having a base web 12 and a quadrant trim web 15. However, these are interconnected by a flange 18 extending perpendicularly from the base web 12 to the abutment edge 17 of the trim web 15.

The tile trim 101 of the invention shown in Figures 3 to 6 also has a base web 102 and a quadrant trim web 105. These two webs are interconnected by a connection in the form of a divided connection element 125. The latter defines two part circular grooves 121, 122. One 121 is present between the base web 102 and the "returned" edge 123 of the trim web 105, that is the edge returned towards the base web 102. The other groove 122 is present between the base web 102

and the "opposite" edge 124 of the trim web 105, that is the edge which is opposite from the returned edge 123. The base web 102 and the trim web 105 are connected by the element 125, which extends at substantially 135° from the base web. It divides to follow both grooves 121,122 and is attached to the trim web close to the edges 123, 124 leaving a central void 126 within the trim web 105 and defining marginal portions 123',124' of the trim web 105 at the edges 123,124.

Referring now to Figure 4, the tile trim 101 is in use, in an analogous manner to that of the prior trim 1 of Figure 1, edging edge tiles T . Whilst this can be in the same manner as in Figure 1 with the edges of the tiles abutting the returned edge 123 of the trim, the returned edge 123 is spaced sufficiently from the base web 102 to allow the tiles to fit with a marginal region 127 thereof within the groove 121. For 6mm nominal thickness tiles, the spacing between the inside surface of the returned edge 123 and the base web 102 may suitably be 6.5mm. Alternatively, as shown in Figure 6, the spacing can be slightly larger, for instance 7mm to allow for a 1mm skim of grout over the base web 102. To guard against grout applied on the base web 102 being squeezed away, 0.5mm high ribs 102' are provided on the base web.

Turning now to Figure 5, the trim 101 is arranged at a corner 128 between two wall faces 129, 130 set at approximately 90° . Suitably the trim is tacked to the wall 129 or it can be secured with grout. The trim 101 in this use edges not only the tiles T on the wall 129 in a manner analogous to that of Figure 4, but also the tiles T on the wall 130, with their marginal regions 127' received in the groove 122. For this the opening of the groove 122 is the same as that of the groove 121, ie 6.5 or 7mm. It should be noted that positioning of the trim is particularly easy. It is held up by a hand on the wall 129. A tile T is offered up on the wall 130 and the degree of overlap of the trim beyond the wall 130 is adjusted until the tile T fits in the groove 122. This is repeated at another position along the trim, which thus is fully located for fitting of tiles T into the groove 122 along its length.

The exact shape of the trim 101 and fit of the tiles T , T' into the grooves 121, 122 is more clearly seen in Figure 6. The groove 121 is circularly curved and has an angular extent, including the marginal portion 123' of the trim web, slightly more than 180° . At the edge 123, the marginal portion 123' has a rounded nose 123''. The marginal portion 123' overlaps the marginal region 127 of the tile T . The groove 122 is also circularly curved. It should be noted that in the trim 101, the edge 124 does not extend appreciably beyond the wall side 132 of the base web 102 in order to avoid the lip holding the base web off the wall in the Figure 4

use of the trim.

Referring now to Figure 8, the trim 201 there shown has a base web 202, a trim web 205 and a connection band 225. The band 225 extends at 160° to the base web 202. Adjacent the trim web 205, the band has a thin section 250 forming a "living hinge", enabling the trim web to be hingedly adjusted with respect to the base web. This enables the height of the returned edge 223 above the base web 202 to be adjusted to accommodate different thicknesses of tile. Typically wall tiles vary in thickness from 6 to 10mm. In Figure 8 the trim web is shown at a position such that the outer trim surface 205' of the trim web at its edge 223 is flush with a thick tile T bedded on the base web. It will be noted that the opposite marginal portion 224' of the trim web extends behind the base web. When the trim 201 is being secured with grout to the wall 3, the result is that manual pressure on the tile T close to the edge 223 causes the trim web to pivot about the hinge 250 and the edge 223 to be urged into abutment with the edge of the tile.

A thin tile T' is shown in outline, with the trim web hinged to abut its outer surface. Again manual pressure on the tile will urge the trim web into abutment therewith.

Referring now to Figure 9, the trim 301 there shown is of a similar shape to that of the trim 201. It differs by the replacement of the living hinge by an elastomeric strip 350 in the same position. By means known per se, this trim can be extrusion moulded, and is advantageous where the trim web is of relatively hard plastics material, which does not form a convenient living hinge. Figure 9 shows one tile T accommodated within the opposite marginal portion 324' of the trim web and another T' within the returned marginal portion 323'. To limit the entry of this tile T' into the groove 321 formed by the trim web 305, the base web 302 is provided with a small lip 360.

It should be noted that the invention is not intended to be restricted to the details of the above described embodiments of the invention. For instance the shape of the grooves 121,122 in the trim 101 may be modified. They may not be exactly circularly curved, having curvature to allow the tile to enter the groove to an extent greater than a circular section would. For this, as shown in Figure 7, the rounded nose 123'' of the returned edge 123 and the rounded nose 124'' of the "opposite" edge 124 may have tangents close to 90° to each other for the first 1mm of entry into the groove. In Figure 7, the marginal portions 123',124' of the trim web have flats 133',131' for abutment with the marginal regions of the tiles. The grooves may be further modified to eliminate the central void 126.

Claims

1. A tile trim for forming an edge to a plurality of ceramic tiles fixed to a face, the tile trim comprising:
 - a base web for extension behind edge ones of the tiles,
 - a curved trim web having an external trim surface for trimming the edge of the tiles, the trim web having two marginal portions each having a respective marginal edge, and
 - a connection band between the base web and the trim web intermediate the marginal edges, whereby the marginal portions of the trim web extend on respective opposite sides of the connection band.
2. A tile trim as claimed in claim 1, wherein one marginal edge is in front of the base web and the other marginal edge is normally behind the base web.
3. A tile trim as claimed in claim 1, wherein one marginal edge is in front of the base web and the other marginal edge is substantially coplanar with the base web.
4. A tile trim as claimed in claim 1, claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the one marginal edge overhangs the base web.
5. A tile trim as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the connection band and the marginal portions of the trim web define two grooves for accommodating edges of tiles on two adjacent faces substantially at right angles to each other.
6. A tile trim as claimed in claim 5, wherein each groove is substantially of part circular cross-section.
7. A tile trim as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the connection band is an element extending obliquely to the base web towards the trim web.
8. A tile trim as claimed in claim 7 as appendant to claims 5 or 6, wherein the connection band includes two curved portions extending from the oblique element to the trim web at its marginal portions, the curved portions defining the grooves and providing a void within the tile trim.
9. A tile trim as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the connection band is flexible.
10. A tile trim as claimed in claim 9, wherein the connection band is rendered flexible by provision of a thin section along its length.
11. A tile trim as claimed in claim 9, wherein the connection band is rendered flexible by provision of an elastomeric strip along its length.
12. A tile trim as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the marginal portions are adapted for the marginal edges to overlie the edges of the edge tiles.
13. A tile trim as claimed in claim 12, wherein the marginal edges are provided with respective flats for abutment with the outer surface of the edge tiles.
14. A tile trim as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein a lip is provided on front of the base web as an abutment for the edge tiles.

FIG. 1

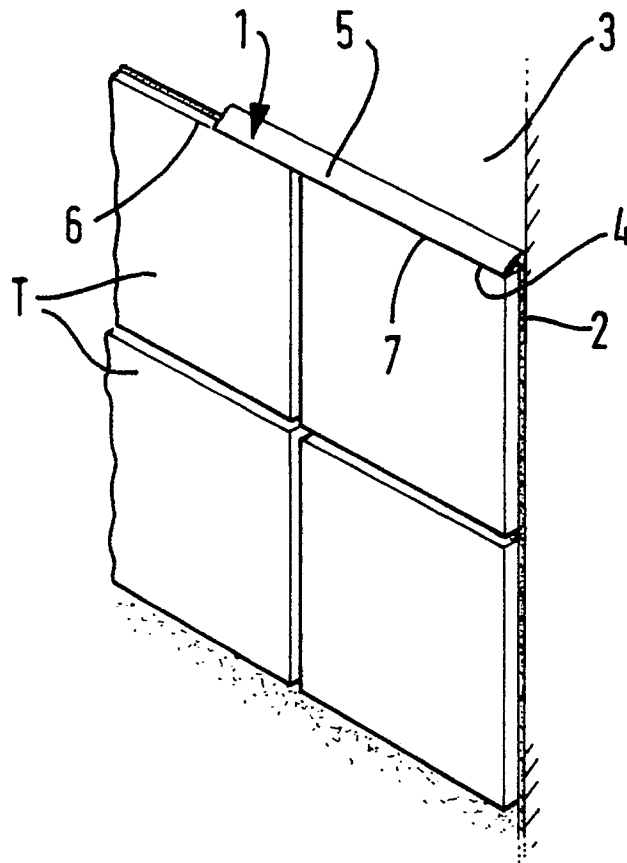


FIG. 2

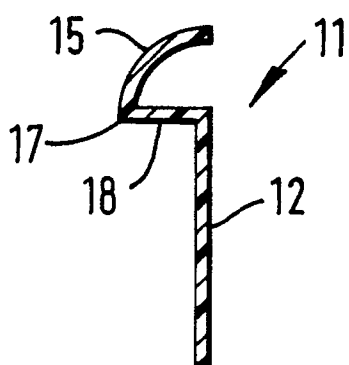
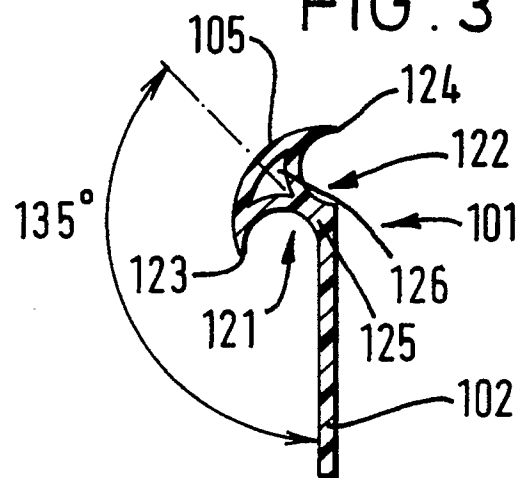
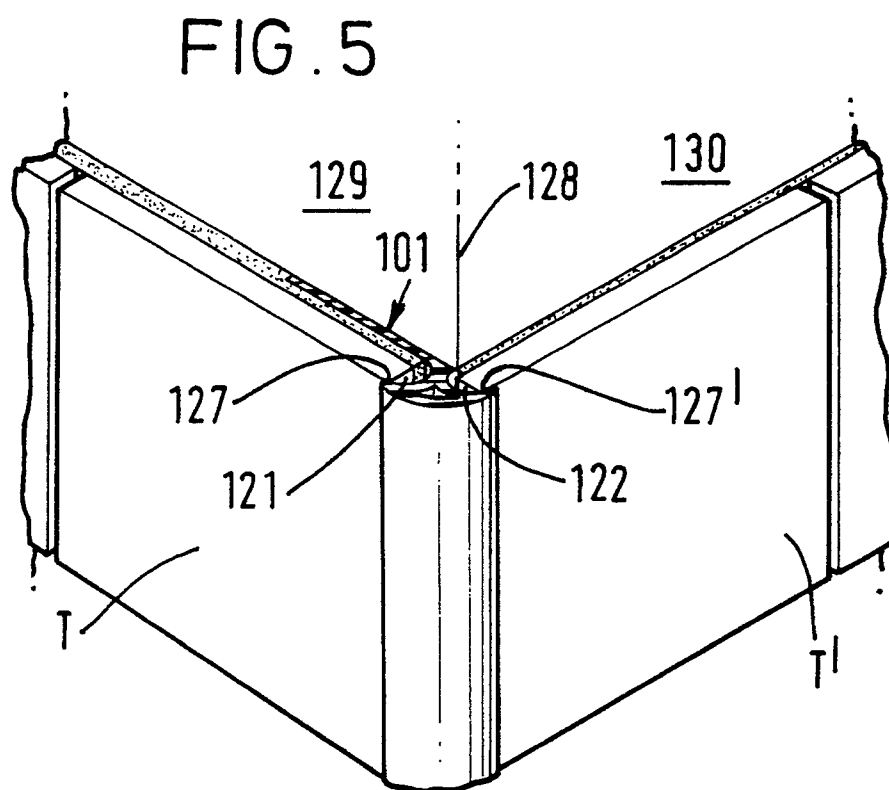
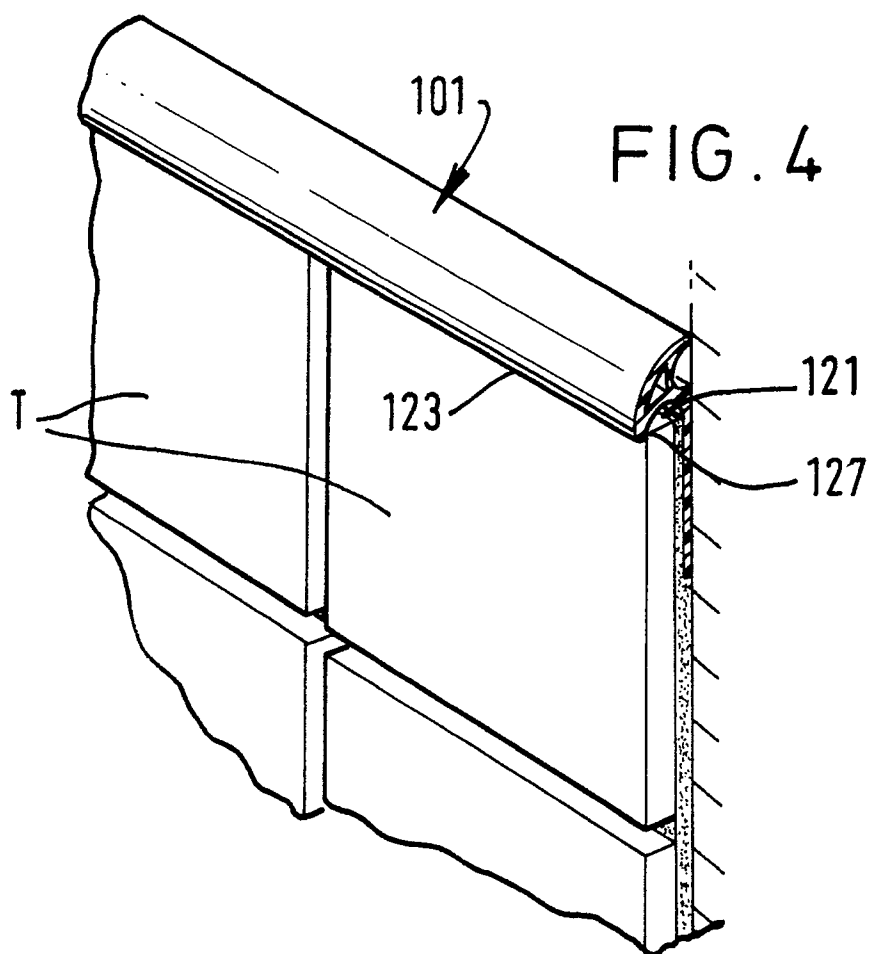


FIG. 3





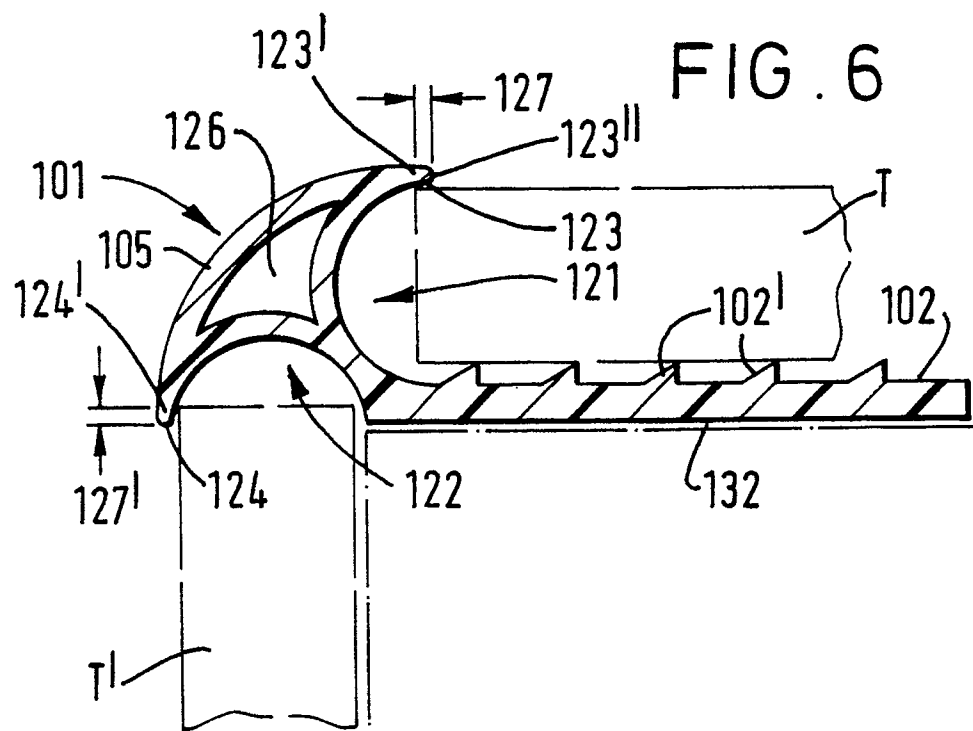


FIG. 7

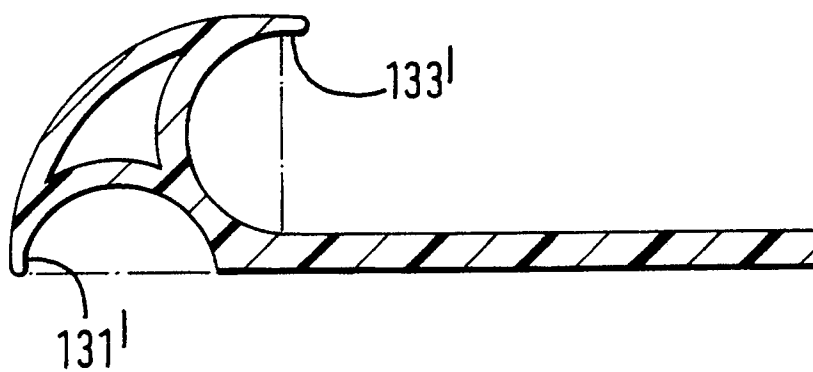


FIG. 8

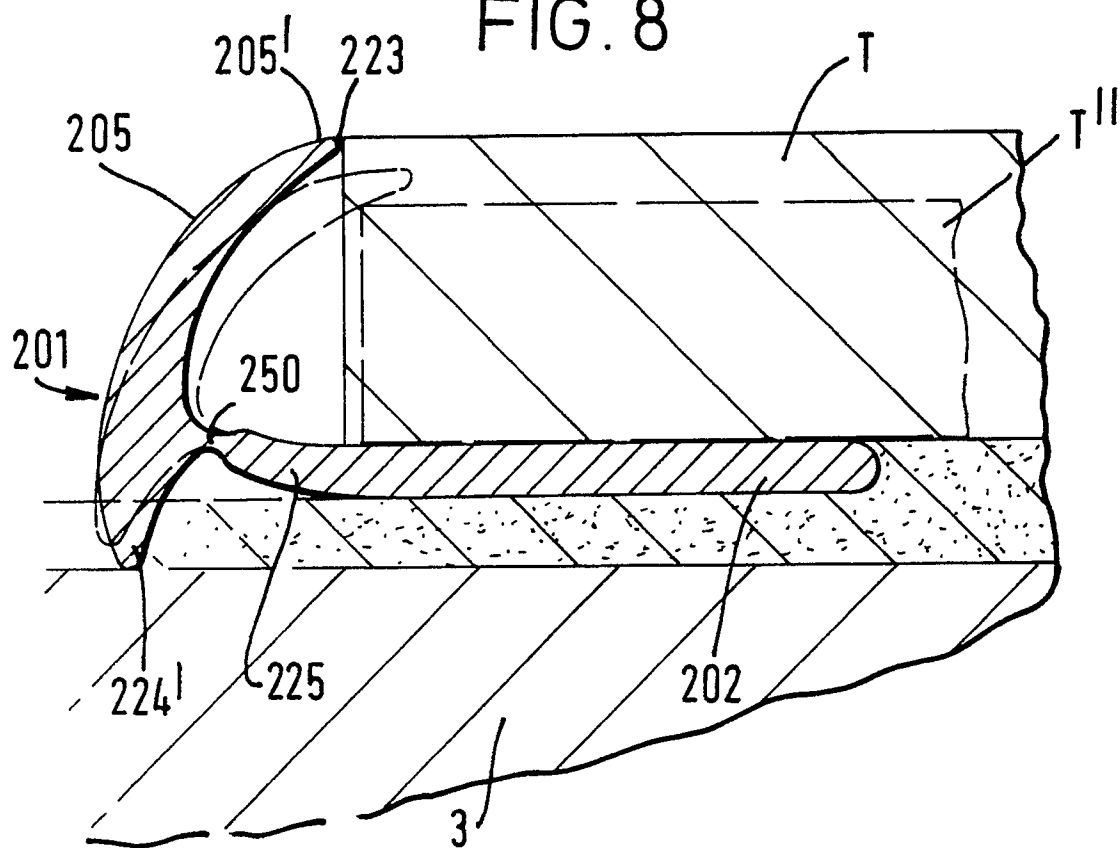
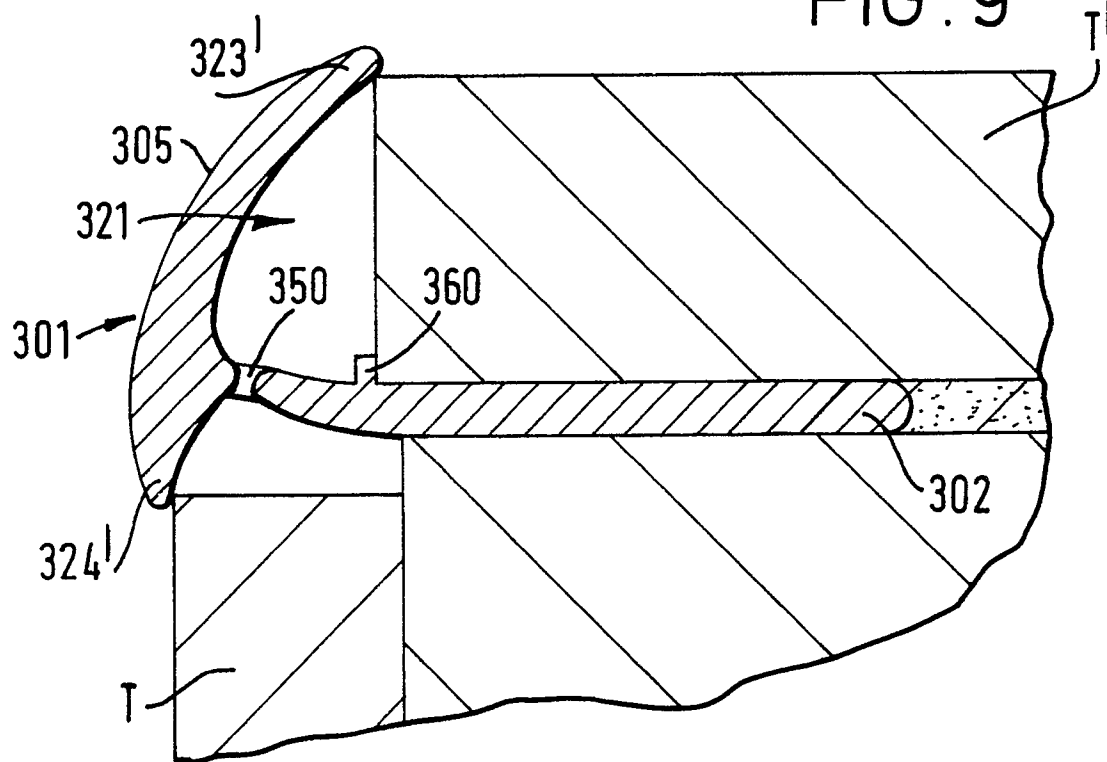


FIG. 9





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 91 30 1612

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	US-A-2 779 983 (SUNDELIN ET AL) * column 1, line 55 - column 4, line 3; figures 1,3 * - - -	1-5,7,12, 13	E 04 F 19/02 E 04 F 13/06
Y	GB-A-2 203 996 (VERTO LIMITED) * page 5, line 1 - page 9, line 2; figures 1-3 * - - -	1-5,7,12, 13	
Y,A	US-A-2 201 341 (LADON ET AL) * page 1, right column, line 30 - page 3, right column, line 33; figures 2,4-6 * - - -	1-5,7,12, 6	
P,Y	EP-A-0 394 036 (BRUCE) * column 4, line 54 - column 8, line 34; figures 1-7 * - - -	1-5,7,12	
A	CH-A-3 920 25 (BOLTA-WERK GMBH) * page 1, line 52 - page 2, line 51; figures 1,2,4-6 * - - -	1,5,6,8,12	
A	DE-A-3 640 822 (FA. WILHELM SCHADE) * column 2, line 19 - line 27 ** column 3, line 29 - column 5, line 14; figures 1,4,5 * - - - - -	1,9,10	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			E 04 F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of search 28 June 91	Examiner AYITER J.
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			