

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 742 339 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
24.09.1997 Bulletin 1997/39

(51) Int Cl.⁶: **E06B 9/262**, E06B 9/36,
 E06B 9/34

(43) Date of publication A2:
13.11.1996 Bulletin 1996/46

(21) Application number: **96112260.3**

(22) Date of filing: **11.12.1992**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
DE DK FR GB IT

(30) Priority: **19.12.1991 US 810331**
20.10.1992 US 963318
20.10.1992 US 963359
30.11.1992 US 977788

(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in
 accordance with Art. 76 EPC:
92311350.0 / 0 549 216

(71) Applicant: **HUNTER DOUGLAS INTERNATIONAL
 NV**
Curacao (AN)

(72) Inventors:
 • **Anthony, James M.**
Denver, Colorado 80211 (US)

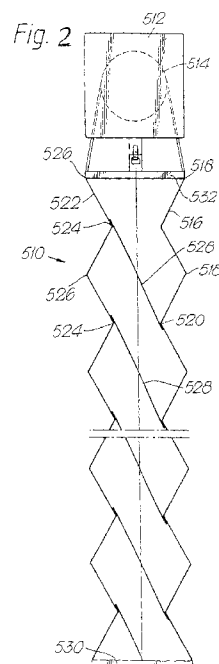
- **Oberg, Brad H.**
Westminster, Colorado 80030 (US)
- **Colson, Wendell B.**
Boulder, Colorado 80303 (US)
- **Hoffmann, Brian M.**
Westminster, Colorado 80234 (US)
- **Williams, Eric N.**
Louisville, Colorado 80027 (US)
- **Swiszczy, Paul G.**
Boulder, Colorado 80303 (US)
- **Jansen, Cornelis Marinus**
4285 WS Woudrichem (NL)

(74) Representative: **Allen, William Guy Fairfax et al**
J.A. KEMP & CO.
14 South Square
Gray's Inn
London WC1R 5LX (GB)

(54) Covering assembly for architectural openings

(57) A covering assembly in the form of a window blind includes a front sheer fabric 516, provided with a plurality of forward and rearward pleats 518, 520, and a rear elongate sheer fabric 522, again provided with forward and rearward pleats 524, 526.

A plurality of vanes 528 interconnect the front and rear sheets and are connected to the front and rear sheets at the location of the pleats. In one embodiment one edge of each vane is connected to the rear interior face of the forwardly extending pleat of one sheet, while the other edge is connected to the front interior face of a forwardly extending pleat of the rear sheet, and in another embodiment the one edge is connected as previously mentioned, but the other edge is connected to the forward interior face of a forwardly extending pleat of the rear sheet.

**EP 0 742 339 A3**



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 96 11 2260

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.6)
X	DE 75 13 576 U (RASMUSSEN) * page 8 - page 10; figures *	1,4	E06B9/262 E06B9/36 E06B9/34
A	FR 1 309 194 A (VIRLOUVET) * the whole document *	1,5	
A	DE 70 08 554 U (RONKHOLZ-TÖLLE) * page 7, last paragraph - page 10; figures *	1,5	
A	WO 87 04057 A (LEIBOWITZ) * the whole document *	1,5-12	
A	EP 0 311 304 A (HUNTER DOUGLAS) * the whole document *	1,5-12	
A	FR 1 220 085 A (NAEDER) * the whole document *	1,2	
A	FR 1 364 674 A (FROGET) * the whole document *	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
A	DE 35 25 515 A (MOSER)		E06B
A	US 4 984 617 A (COREY)		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 10 February 1997	Examiner VIJVERMAN, W
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 I : 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			

EPO FORM 1503 03.92 (P04C01)



European Patent
Office

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: 1-12



European Patent Office

EP 96 11 2260 - B -

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 1-12 : A window blind with pleats and vanes.
2. Claims 13-21 : A window covering assembly with parallel sheets, vanes and a roll-up mechanism.