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(72) Inventor: Filippi, Giuseppe
35100 Padova (IT)

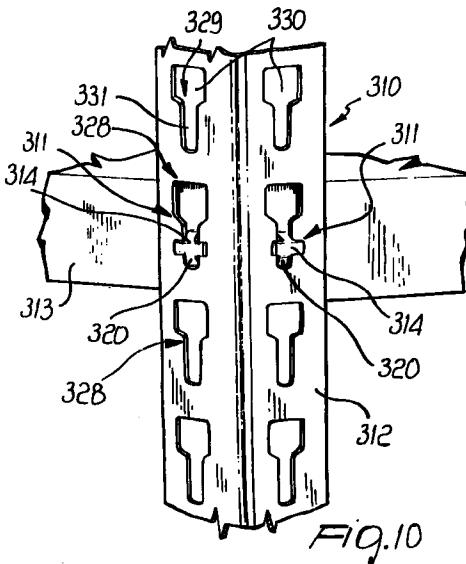
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(74) Representative: Modiano, Guido, Dr.-Ing. et al
Modiano & Associati S.r.l.
Via Meravigli, 16
20123 Milano (IT)

(71) Applicant: ANEMOS S.p.A.
35010 San Giorgio Delle Pertiche (Padova) (IT)

(54) Coupling device for light-duty metal set of shelves

(57) A coupling device for light-duty metal sets of shelves provided with uprights with which the shelves are associated directly, the device having a male component (14;103;203;314) that is formed directly on, or fixed to, a shelf (13;102;202;313) or an upright (12;101;201;312) and is constituted by a bracket (15;103;204;320) in which at least one portion is joined to the element from which it protrudes and has an inclined arrangement; the bracket has a transverse dimension that tapers along the direction for insertion in a corresponding and complementarily shaped female component (22;104;205;328) formed directly on the complementary component of the set of shelves or on an element that is fixed thereto.





EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 96 11 0679

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-A-15 54 465 (SCHAEFER SERRA) * claim 1; figures 1,2 *	1,13,15	A47B57/22 A47B57/16
X	US-A-2 147 759 (SULENTIC) * page 1, column 2, line 21 - line 42; figures 1-4,8 *	1,10-12	
X	GB-A-1 287 394 (STRONG-BLOCK S.P.A.) * page 2, line 59 - line 103; figures 1-7	1	
Y	*	10-12	
Y	FR-A-2 447 165 (POZZER) * page 2, line 38 - page 3, line 5; figures 1-4 *	10-12	
X	US-A-3 240 352 (BAKER) * claim 1; figures 1,2 *	1	
A	EP-A-0 102 841 (REPUBLIC STEEL CORPORATION) * abstract; figures 1-8 * * page 8, line 24 - page 11, line 2 *	2-4,7,9, 14,15	
A	US-A-3 208 778 (GORDON) * the whole document *	2-4,7,9	A47B
A	GB-A-2 260 481 (SAVAGE LTD) * abstract; figure 3 *	19	
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	22 January 1997	Jones, C	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			



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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 respects 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



LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION A POSTERIORI

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, namely:

1. Claims 1-9,13-20 : Coupling device for shelves comprising male- female elements in an inclined arrangement in that male element comprises 2 mutually opposite lugs extending from medium portion to be engaged in female T-slot.
2. Claims 10-12 : Coupling device for shelves comprising a male tab diverging upwards from an upright and a corresponding female pocket.