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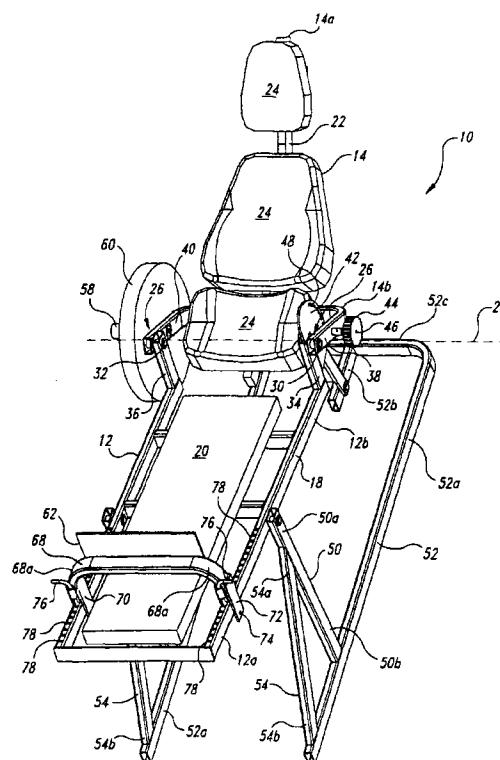
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(54) Exercise apparatus

(57) An exercise apparatus having a lower body support for supporting a lower body portion of the user, and an upper body support for supporting an upper body portion of the user. The lower support has a first end portion toward which the user's feet are positioned and a second end portion toward which the user's upper legs are positioned. The upper support has a first end portion toward which the user's head is positioned and a second end portion toward which the user's lower back is positioned. The support second end portions are positioned toward each other and coupled together for angular movement therebetween about a pivot axis of a pivot coupler. The pivot axis is located at about the position of an imaginary line extending between the user's hip joints when the user is resting on the supports in position for exercise. First and second members are coupled to the lower and upper supports, respectively, to hold them in an elevated position and permit their pivotal movement relative to the other support. A foot stop is attached to the lower body support first end portion and selectively moveable along the lower support first end portion to be engaged by the user's feet and limit movement of the user's body toward the lower support first end portion during exercise to keep the hinge line of the user's hip joints generally coincident with the pivot axis of the pivot coupler.

*Fig. 1***EP 0 782 872 A3**



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 10 0059

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	US 3 589 715 A (MARK MORRIS ET AL) 29 June 1971	1,9,10, 12,17, 18,22, 23,43	A63B23/02 A63B23/04
A	* column 1, line 55 - column 2, line 27; figure 2 *	27,28, 31,40,41	
X	US 5 324 247 A (LEPLEY JAN C) 28 June 1994	22-24, 27,29, 30,43-45	
A	* column 7, line 64 - column 8, line 39; figures *	1-3, 12-14, 17-19, 31-34	
A	EP 0 379 265 A (JONES ARTHUR) 25 July 1990	1,6-8, 12,15, 17,18, 20,22, 23,25, 27,29, 31,34, 35, 37-39, 43,46	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) A63B
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 8 August 1997	Examiner Neumann, E
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 I : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 10 0059

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
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A	<p>EP 0 121 902 A (DJAMTORKI SORRUSCH) 17 October 1984</p> <p>* page 4, last paragraph - page 6, paragraph 1; figures *</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>1-3,6,7, 12-15, 17-20, 22-24, 27, 29-33, 43-45</p>	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
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THE HAGUE		8 August 1997	Neumann, E
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