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## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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### (54) Floats

(57) A float (10) includes a hollow main body having four upper corners (13) each having a first recess defined in therein, a cavity (12) defined below the first recess, and a lug (11) extending outwardly therefrom at a position below the cavity. The hollow main body (10) further includes a second recess (14) defined in an upper side thereof. An anti-slip cover (15) is removably mounted to the second recess (14).

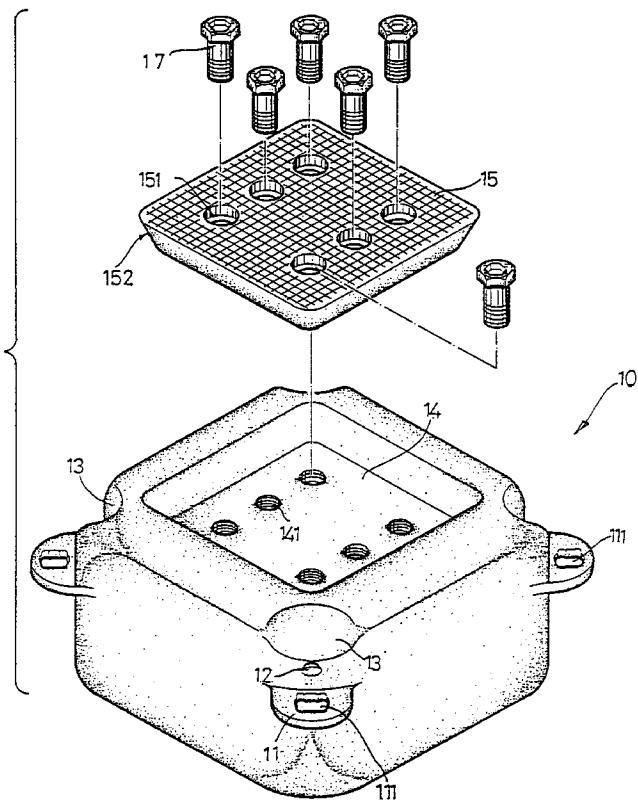


Fig 2

**Description****Background of the Invention**

The present invention relates to a float which provides a connection between the water and the shore and, more particularly, to a float which includes an anti-slip surface to avoid people slipping during walking thereon. The present invention also relates to a float which includes a removable cover to allow access to ropes, wires, and/or cables mounted therethrough for easy maintenance.

Floats may provide an additional space for people to move on water, and most of them are integrally formed by blowing. However, upper surfaces of the floats so formed are somewhat convex instead of being flat and thus may people walking thereon to slip. Even if protuberant patterns are provided on the upper surfaces of the floats, the anti-slip effect is poor as the floats are placed near the shore and the upper surfaces often have water thereon. In addition, wires and/or cables are often mounted to the floats to provide illumination, yet there is no suitable place for mounting the wires and cables. The present invention is intended to provide an improved float which mitigates and/or obviates the above problems.

**Summary of the Invention**

In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, a float comprises a hollow main body having four upper corners each having a first recess defined in therein, a cavity defined below the first recess, and a lug extending outwardly therefrom at a position below the cavity, the lug having a hole defined therein. The hollow main body further comprises a second recess defined in an upper side thereof. An anti-slip cover is removably received in the second recess. Preferably, the anti-slip cover includes protuberant patterns formed on an upper side thereof to provide the required anti-slip function.

In a second embodiment of the invention, a bottom surface defining the second recess includes two intersecting grooves defined therein through which ropes, wires, and/or cables are extended. Preferably, four corners at an intersection of the intersecting grooves are beveled to avoid damage to the ropes, wires, and/or cables.

Other objects, advantages, and novel features of the invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

**Brief Description of the Drawings**

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a first embodiment of a float in accordance with the present invention; Fig. 2 is an exploded perspective view of the float in Fig. 1;

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Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the float in Fig. 1; Fig. 4 is a perspective view illustrating a modified embodiment of the float; Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a second embodiment of a float in accordance with the present invention; Fig. 6 is an exploded perspective view of the float in Fig. 5; and Fig. 7 is a cross-sectional view of the float in Fig. 5.

**Description**

Referring to the drawings and initially to Figs. 1 to 3, a float in accordance with the present invention includes a hollow main body 10 having four upper corners each having a recess 13 defined therein. A cavity 12 is defined below each recess 13 and a lug 11 extends outwardly at a position below the cavity 12 and having a hole 111 defined therein. It is appreciated that the recess 13, the cavity 12, and the lug 11 are used for interconnection with another float and are not further described as being conventional.

The hollow float main body 10 further comprises a second recess 14 defined in an upper side thereof, and a bottom surface defining the second recess 14 includes a plurality of screw holes 141 defined therein. An anti-slip cover 15 is removably received in the second recess 14 by extending bolts 17 through screw holes 151 defined in the anti-slip cover 15 and the associated screw holes 141. Preferably, four sides 152 of the anti-slip cover 15 may be beveled such that the anti-slip cover 15 can be easily mounted to and dismantled from the hollow main body 10. Preferably, the anti-slip cover 15 includes protuberant patterns formed on an upper side thereof to provide the required anti-slip function. It is appreciated that the anti-slip cover 15 can be made of a material different from that of the hollow main body 10, for example, the anti-slip cover 15 can be made of rubber or other material having a greater frictional coefficient. Thus, the anti-slip cover 15 can be made separately from the main body 10. This is advantageous as the material and weight of the float is less limited when taking formation of the anti-slip patterns on the integrally formed float into consideration.

Fig. 4 shows a modified embodiment in which the area of the second recess (not specifically shown) is extended to cover an area between four arcuate flanges 16 which respectively form a wall defining the associated recess 13.

Referring to Figs. 5 to 7, in a second embodiment of the invention, the bottom surface defining said second recess 14 includes two intersecting grooves 18 (See Fig. 6) defined therein through which ropes, wires, and/or cables extend. This is advantageous, for example, after having bulbs connected to the wires, illumination can be provided. As shown in Fig. 6, four corners 181 at an intersection of the intersecting grooves 18 are beveled to avoid damage to the ropes, wires, and

cables. It is appreciated that the anti-slip cover 15 is removably mounted to the main hollow body 10 and thus provides easy access to the ropes, wires, and cables for maintenance.

Although the invention has been explained in relation to its preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that many other possible modifications and variations can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as hereinafter claimed.

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## Claims

### 1. A float comprising:

a hollow main body having four upper corners, 15  
each said upper corner having a first recess  
defined in therein, a cavity defined below said  
first recess, and a lug extending outwardly  
therefrom at a position below said cavity, said  
lug having a hole defined therein, said hollow  
float main body further comprising a second  
recess defined in an upper side thereof; and  
an anti-slip cover removably received in said  
second recess.

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2. The float as claimed in claim 1, wherein said anti-slip cover includes protuberant patterns on an upper side thereof.
3. The float as claimed in claim 1, wherein a bottom surface defining said second recess includes two intersecting grooves defined therein.
4. The float as claimed in claim 3, wherein four corners at an intersection of the intersecting grooves 30 35 are beveled.

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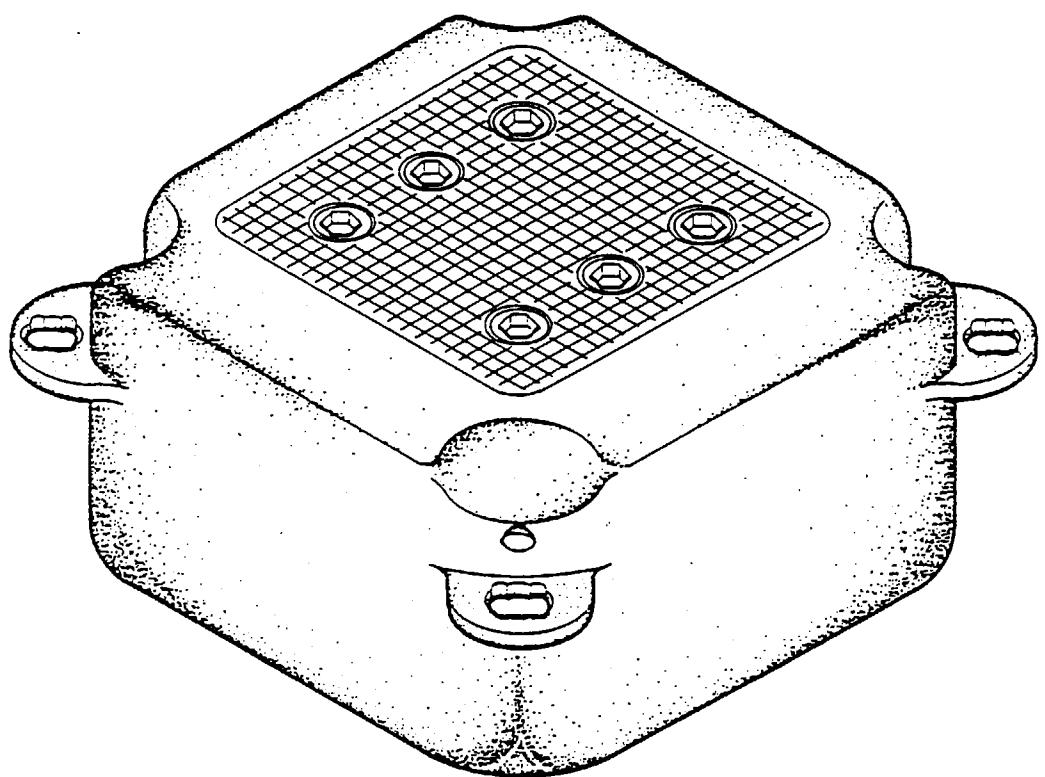


Fig 1

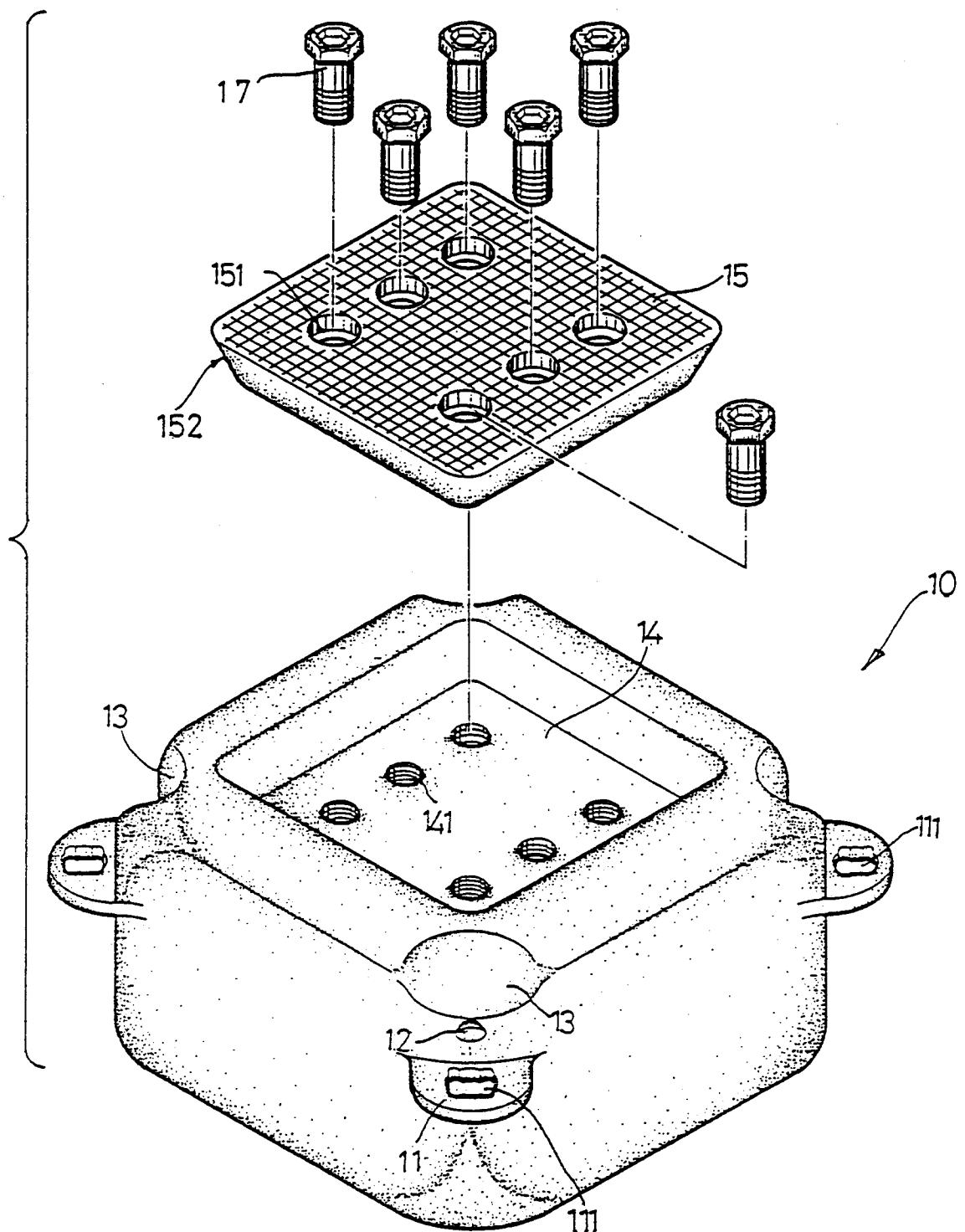


Fig 2

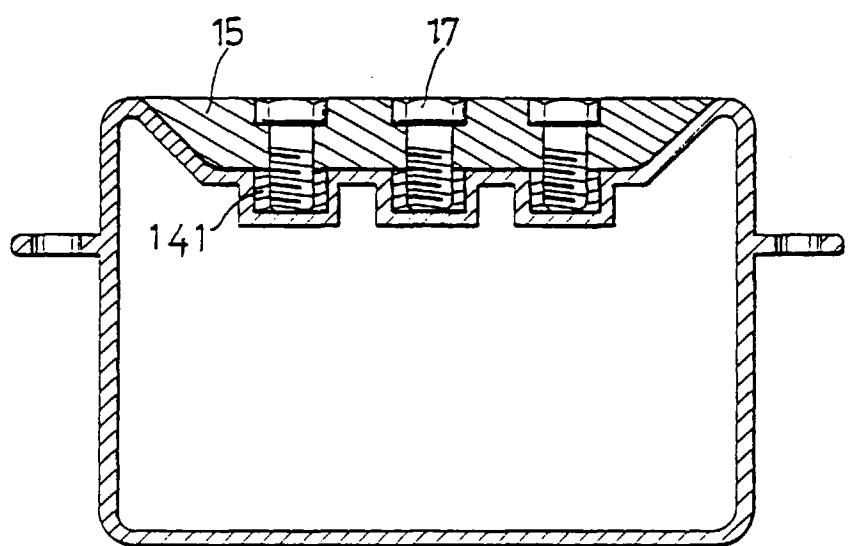


Fig 3

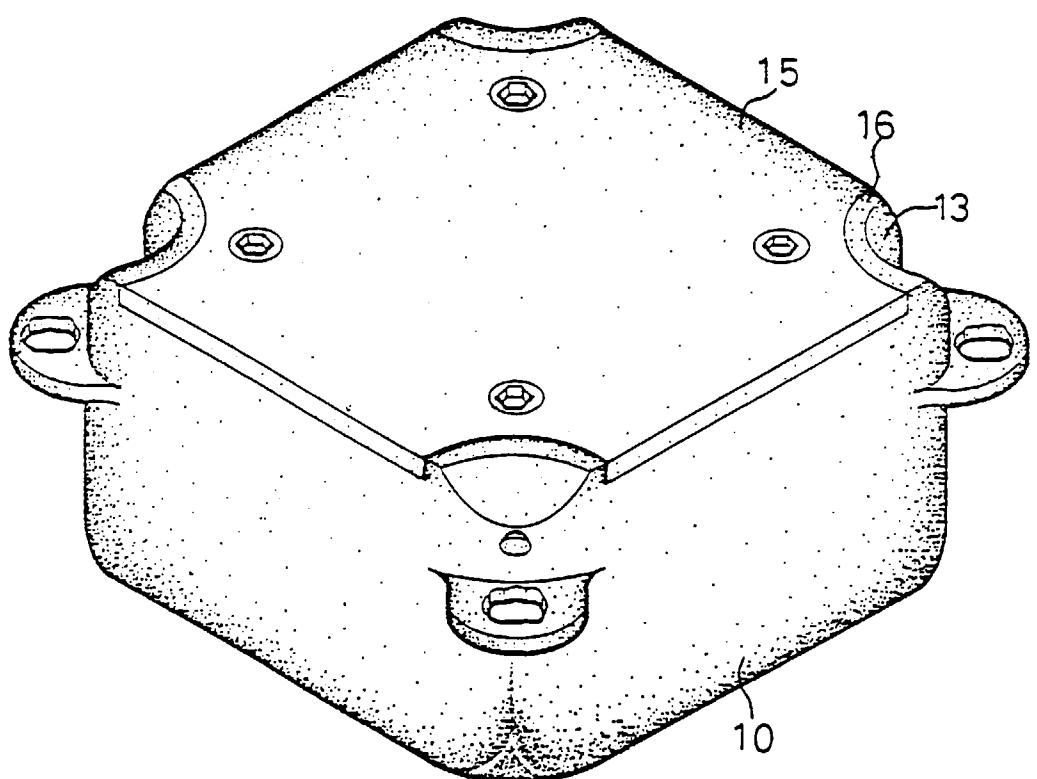
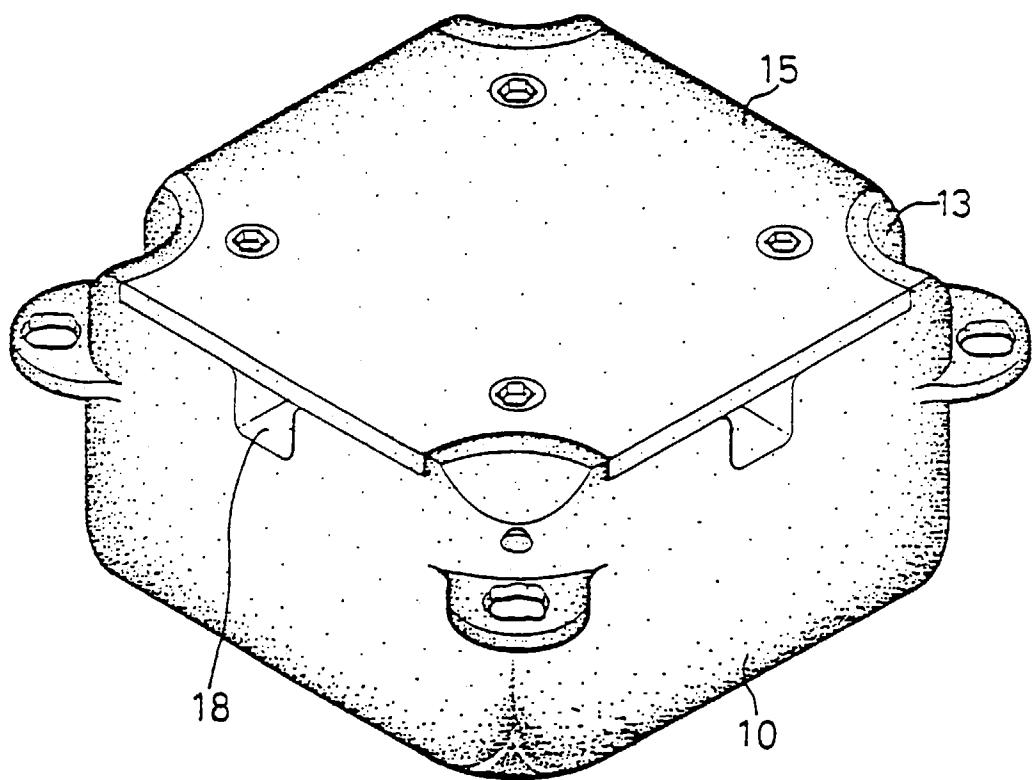


Fig 4



**Fig 5**

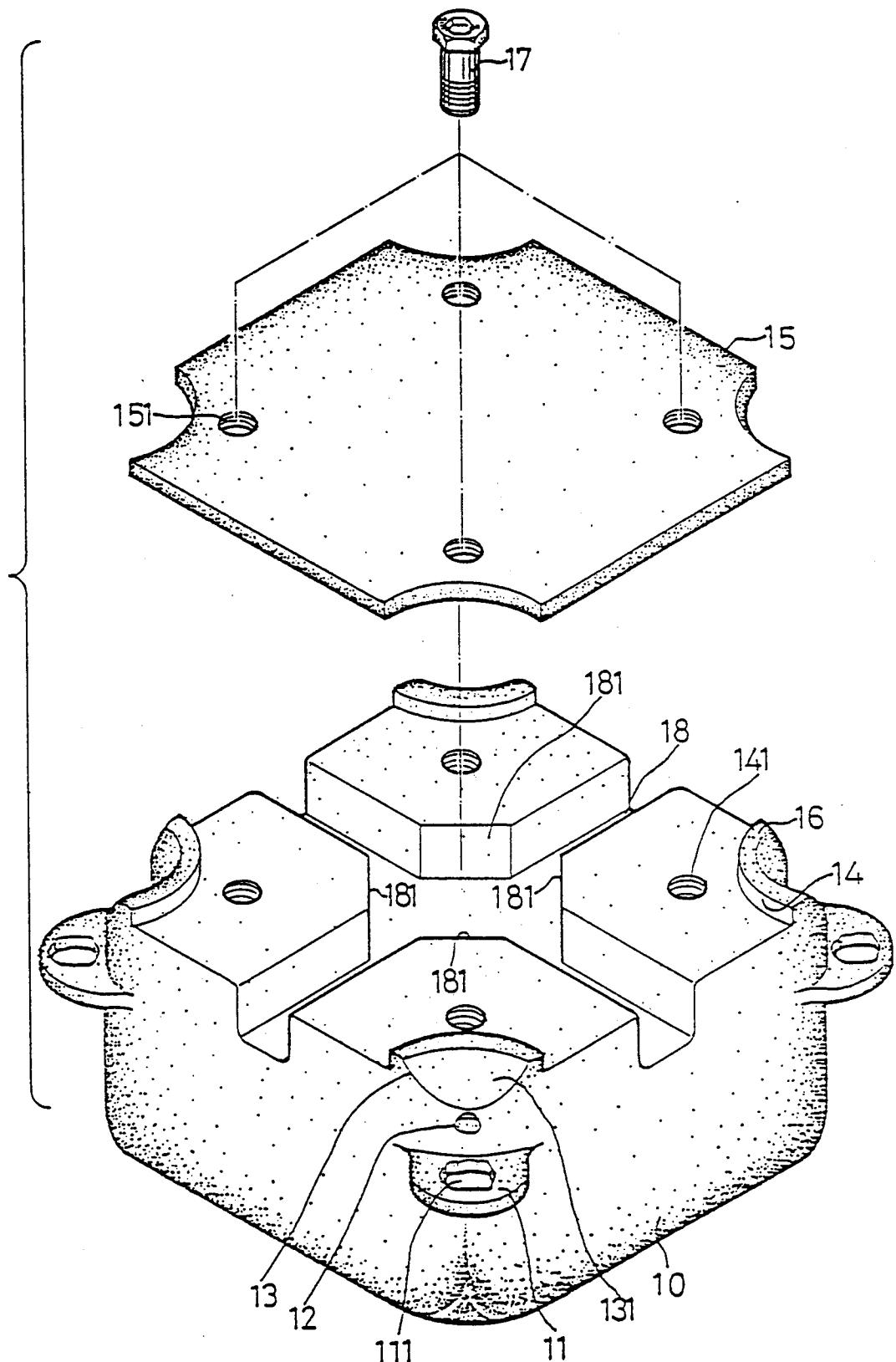


Fig 6

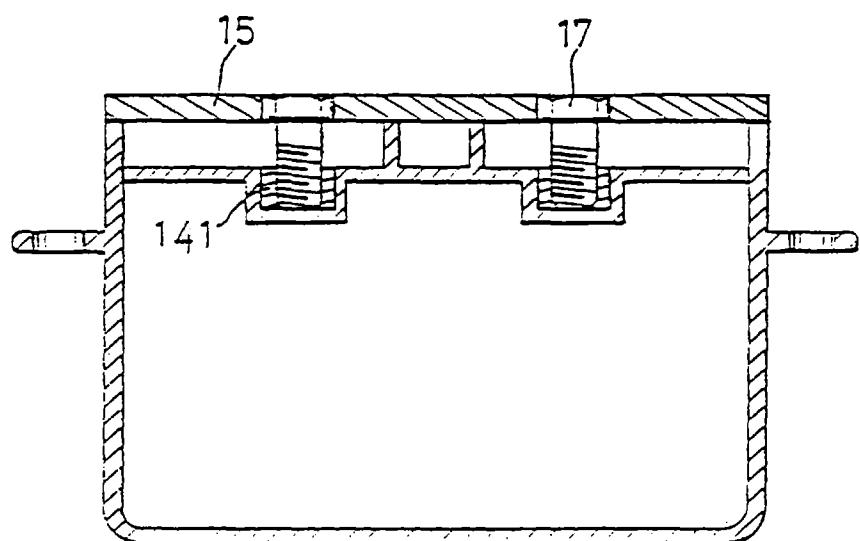


Fig 7



## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	EP 0 385 903 A (SA ATELIERS POLYVALENTS CHATEAUNEUF) * abstract; figures * * column 3, line 18 - line 21 * ---	1	B63B35/38
A	US 5 529 013 A (W.EVA) * abstract; figures * ---	1	
A	US 4 604 962 A (D.GUIBAULT) * abstract; figures * ---	1	
A	US 4 655 156 A (F.SVIRKLYS) * abstract; figures * * column 5, line 16 - line 18 * -----	1,3	
TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)			
B63B E02B			
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search		Examiner
THE HAGUE	7 February 1997		Stierman, E
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			