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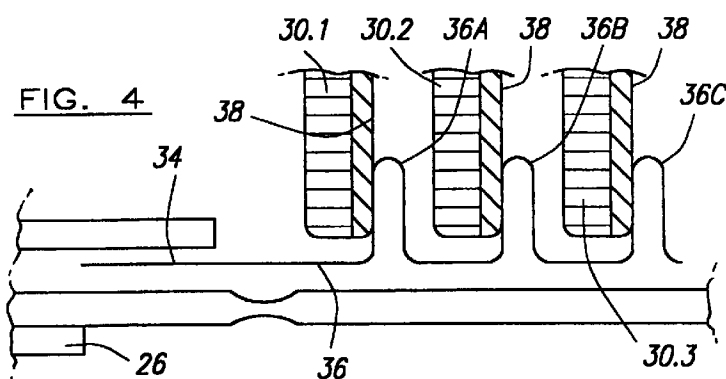
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(54) Holders for sample sheets

(57) A holder for sample sheets or swatches of carpet or other materials comprises a foldable sleeve which is folded around the sample sheets encasing same and a web of stout fabric material fixed at one end to the said sleeve. Two adjacent panels of the sleeve are releasably connected with press studs permitting the sleeve to be opened to reveal the sample sheets. Within the sleeve, the web is folded in concertina fashion and the edges of the sample sheets are adhered or otherwise fixed within the folds to one side of the web such that the web can

unfold relative to the sleeve whereby the individual samples can be hinged relative to the others so that all of it can be viewed. The sleeve is provided with a suspension aperture and by hanging or lifting the sleeve therefrom, the samples drop under gravity and the web unfolds such that the samples take up an overlapping condition depending from the web. In this condition, all the samples may be viewed simultaneously.



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Description

[0001] This invention relates to holders for sheets. In particular, although not exclusively, the invention relates to holders for samples of carpets. Such holders are more commonly known as pattern books, and this expression will be used hereinafter. It is to be noted however, that we perceive that the invention may have more general application in that the sheets which are held in the holder may take any form, provided that the invention is applicable.

[0002] A pattern book is simply an assembly of samples of carpet grouped so that the samples can be viewed in turn by a prospective purchaser of a carpet, by turning over the samples one by one, in much the same way as the pages of a book are turned over.

[0003] Arranging for the samples to hinge relative to for example a casing or cover, may be effected in a number of ways, but the most popular method is to connect the edges of the carpet samples to a spine of the cover or casing. This has the disadvantage that the carpet samples can only be hinged open one relative to another to a limited extent, which often means that not all of the sample can be viewed, but as the carpet samples are relatively stiff, this method of fixing tends to make the pattern book, once opened, to tend to close under the stiffness of the carpet samples themselves, which can be irritating.

[0004] Additionally, the sample can only be viewed one at a time, and it is often required that a number of samples be viewable, for example by being placed on a wall or a stand or the like.

[0005] The present invention concerns a pattern book which is free from the above disadvantages, and at least in a preferred embodiment, lends itself to viewing of all the samples simultaneously, and in accordance with the invention there is provided a pattern book comprising a plurality of carpet samples which are held one relative to another by means of a concertina web with the sample edges being fixed in the folds to one side of the web, the web being fixed to the cover of the pattern book such that the web can unfold relative to the cover whereby the individual samples can be hinged relative to the others so that all of it can be viewed.

[0006] Preferably, the web is connected only at one of its ends to the cover, and the other end is connected to the last sample in the book which is remote from where the web is connected to the cover.

[0007] Preferably, all of the samples can be withdrawn from the cover by an unfolding of the web, so that when the cover is held by or suspended from the suspension means, the samples drop under gravity and the web unfolds such that the samples take up an overlapping condition, but lying basically in the same plane and depending from the web by their upper edges. Each of the samples can be viewed by lifting up the samples immediately above.

[0008] Further preferably, the suspension means is an

aperture provided in the cover to which the samples are attached, said aperture adapted to receive a hanging hook or the like, by which the cover may be suspended from a wall.

[0009] Yet further preferably, the web is strong fabric web to which the carpet samples are firmly glued.

[0010] Most preferably, the cover is constructed from a stout sheet material blank which is folded into a rectangular sleeve in which the samples are contained.

[0011] It is preferred that the sleeve has a top, a base, a rear panel and two front panels which overlap, and which are releasably connected, for example by press studs, or touch and close fastener devices.

[0012] A carrying handle is also preferably provided to enable easy carrying of the pattern book.

[0013] In a most preferred aspect of the invention, reinforcing ribs are provided on the alternate side of the web and in the vicinity of the fixing of the samples to the one side of the web. This increases the longevity and strength of the pattern book as described hereinafter.

[0014] Preferably, the samples have front and rear faces, and portions of the rear faces proximate the periphery of the samples and/or the periphery of the samples are adhered or otherwise fixed in the concertina folds of the web.

[0015] Further preferably, in the region of the fixing of the samples to the web, reinforcing ribs are adhered or otherwise fixed to the alternate side of the web.

[0016] Most preferably, the width of the reinforcing ribs is substantially similar to the length of the web which is used in said fixing and is adjacent the portion of the rear face or the periphery of the particular sample.

[0017] An embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein;

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a holder according to the invention, with sample carpet sheets held therein;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the holder of Fig. 1 in opened condition;

Fig. 3 is a side view of the holder of Fig. 1 in opened condition, and illustrating the operation;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged view of the detail ringed in Fig. 3 showing how the carpet sample sheets are attached to the holder;

Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4, but showing one of the sample carpet sheets folded down to reveal the next carpet sample sheet;

Fig. 6 is a view of the holder when in the wall suspended condition;

Fig. 7 is an enlarged view of a pattern book in

opened condition similar to that of Figure 4, but showing reinforcing ribs according to a preferred aspect of the invention, and

Fig. 8 is a schematic rear perspective view of the portion of the web and carpet sample sheets attached thereto identified in Figure 6.

[0018] Referring to the drawings, and firstly to Fig. 1, a holder 10 is box shaped and comprises a cover 12 which is formed from rigid sheet material such as cardboard or the like. It preferably has a decorative surface finish. The cover is made up of a number of hinged interconnected panels comprising namely a top panel 14, a rear panel 16, a bottom panel 18 and two front panels 20 and 22 which overlap and are of a similar size. The front panel 22 is releasably fixed to the rear panel 20 by means of press studs 24 which engage corresponding socket fixings 26 shown in Figs. 3, 4 and 5. Panel 20 has a suspension aperture 21 whose purpose will be made clear hereinafter.

[0019] For the carrying of the holder the top panel 14 is provided with the handle 28.

[0020] The ends of the cover are open so that the edges of carpet samples 30 are visible.

[0021] The carpet samples are held in vertical parallel array, and are interconnected in accordance with the invention by means of a concertina folded web as will be explained.

[0022] To open the holder, the studs 24 are detached from the stud sockets 26 and then the outer front panel 22, the top panel 24 and the rear panel 16 can be folded in the opened out position shown in Fig. 2, or any other intermediate position, and the inner front panel 20 can be folded down as shown in Fig. 2.

[0023] This action reveals the sample sheets 30, and these can be hinged one relative to another about their lower edges so that, as shown in Fig. 2 a number 30a of samples can be folded to a horizontal position, whilst the remainder 30b remain upright. The front carpet sample of the group 30b can be viewed in its entirety.

[0024] The method of interconnecting the carpet samples is shown in more detail in Figs. 3, 4 and 5, and referring thereto, the cover 12 is shown as being in the open position with the panels lying in a common horizontal plane. On the inside of the panel 20 is a trapping strip 32 which is adhered to the panel 20, but traps therebetween an end 34 of a concertina folded web 36 which is of stout fabric material.

[0025] The web 36 has concertina folds 36A, 36B, 36C and so on which lie between adjacent carpet samples 30.1, 30.2, 30.3 and so on, as shown clearly in Fig. 4.

[0026] The rear faces 38 of the carpet samples are bonded for example by adhesive to the front sections of the concertina folds 36A, 36B and so on, but the rear portions of these folds are not adhered to the fronts of the carpet samples.

[0027] The other end of the web 36 indicated by reference 40 is adhered to the rear of the last carpet sample 30.N, and therefore the web 36 is only connected to the cover at the end 34. The carpet samples 30 considering the Fig. 3 position, can therefore be expanded rearwardly if desired to lie substantially horizontally (neglecting the slight inclination of all the samples except 30.N which would be caused by their resting on the next sample attached to the web), for instance on a table. Such an arrangement can be visualised with reference to Figure 6, as the condition of the pattern book therein shown would be identical to the condition adopted by a pattern book expanded along a horizontal plane.

[0028] When a customer wishes to look at the carpet sample, it is simply a matter of folding down the samples in turn and Fig. 5 shows how the first carpet sample 30.1 can be folded downwards in order to reveal carpet sample 30.2 for viewing by a user.

[0029] A particularly effective use of the holder is that it can be suspended from a wall display stand or the like as shown in Fig. 6. The holder is suspended on a wall hook via the suspension aperture 21, and the web unfolds as shown so that the samples 30 lie in overlapped condition, is substantially the same vertical plane, so that all can be viewed simultaneously, even if only part of all but the first sample can be so viewed.

[0030] The use of the web folded concertina fashion enables the full face of each carpet sample to be viewed in a convenient manner, and although the carpet samples may be slightly lifted up to the one which is being viewed, in the case of Fig. 2, and the samples above must be lifted in the case of Fig. 6.

[0031] The holder provides an excellent means for carpet sample holding and viewing.

[0032] Referring now to Figure 7, an enlarged view of a pattern book according to a modified aspect of the invention in a horizontal condition with carpet samples vertical is shown. The front faces carpet samples 30 are those which, when the web is in its expanded condition, are visible to a viewer of the pattern book. A length of the web 36 is adhered or otherwise fixed to the rear face 38 of the sample, which is typically a backing to the textile front face. In addition, reinforcing ribs 37.1, 2, 3 are adhered or otherwise attached to the alternate side of the web 36 to which the rear faces 38 of the samples are adhered. If the longest dimensions of the web and reinforcing ribs is termed as their length, then said reinforcing ribs are of a length which is substantially similar to the width of the web, and of a width which is substantially similar to the portion of the length of the web which is adhered to a particular carpet sample.

[0033] The reason for these reinforcing ribs is explained with reference to Figure 8, which shows a schematic perspective view of the rear of a pattern book according to the invention when suspended. Reinforcing ribs 37 are shown adhered to the web 36 in the fixing regions of the carpet samples to the alternate side of

said web. Such reinforcing ribs increase the longevity and strength of the pattern book because of the common method of bundling up the carpet samples and closing the book after a demonstration, which is to cup the lowermost carpet sample in the palm of a hand and simply gather each previous carpet sample by moving the hand upwardly in the direction shown by arrow 40. In addition, the reinforcing ribs 37 are ideally of a plastics material and have smooth surface to facilitate the sliding of the web thereover when the carpet samples are bundled together. Furthermore, the reinforcing ribs aid the uniform positioning of the samples within the pattern book when in its fully closed condition. It will be appreciated that such pattern books are subjected to rough handling, and in particular during the gathering motion, the portions 42 of the web which are adhered to the rear faces of the carpet samples will tend to be separated therefrom as the subsequent sample is urged upwardly. The reinforcing ribs 37 are provided to prevent, or at least mitigate the effect of this action, and thus increase the longevity of the product.

[0034] As stated herein, the invention can be used for other sheet samples such as flooring samples and the like, and instead of each sample showing a single carpet type, it may be constructed so as to show multiple layouts. Furthermore, each sample may be held in its own casing, such as a vacuum formed tray, which in turn is adhered to the concertina folded web.

[0035] It is possible to provide the cover with end panels if required.

Claims

1. A pattern book comprising a plurality of carpet samples which are held one relative to another by means of a concertina web with the sample edges being fixed in the folds to one side of the web, the web being fixed to the cover of the pattern book such that the web can unfold relative to the cover whereby the individual samples can be hinged relative to the others so that all of it can be viewed.
2. A pattern book according to claim 1 wherein the web is connected only at one of its ends to the cover, and the other end is connected to the last sample in the book which is remote from where the web is connected to the cover.
3. A pattern book according to claim 2 wherein a suspension means is provided in the cover and by hanging or lifting the cover therefrom, the samples drop under gravity and the web unfolds such that the samples take up an overlapping condition depending from the web.
4. A pattern book according to claim 3 wherein the suspension means is an aperture provided in the cover to which the samples are attached, said aperture adapted to receive a hanging hook or the like, by which the cover may be suspended from a wall.
5. A pattern book according to any of claims 1-4 wherein the web is strong fabric web to which the carpet samples are firmly glued.
6. A pattern book according to any of claims 1-5 wherein the cover is constructed from a stout sheet material blank which is folded into a rectangular sleeve in which the samples are contained.
7. A pattern book according to claim 6 wherein the sleeve has a top, a base, a rear panel and two front panels which overlap, and which are releasably connected.
8. A pattern book according to any of claims 1-7 wherein the cover is provided with a carrying handle to enable easy carrying of the pattern book.
9. A pattern book according to any of claims 1-8 wherein reinforcing ribs are provided on the alternate side of the web and in the vicinity of the fixing of the samples to the one side of the web.
10. A pattern book according to any of the preceding claims wherein the samples have front and rear faces, and portions of the rear faces proximate the periphery of the samples and/or the periphery of the samples are adhered or otherwise fixed in the concertina folds of the web.
11. A pattern book according to claim 10 wherein in the region of the fixing of the samples to the web, reinforcing ribs are adhered or otherwise fixed to the alternate side of the web.
12. A pattern book according to claim 11 wherein the width of the reinforcing ribs is substantially similar to the length of the web which is used in said fixing and is adjacent the portion of the rear face or the periphery of the particular sample.

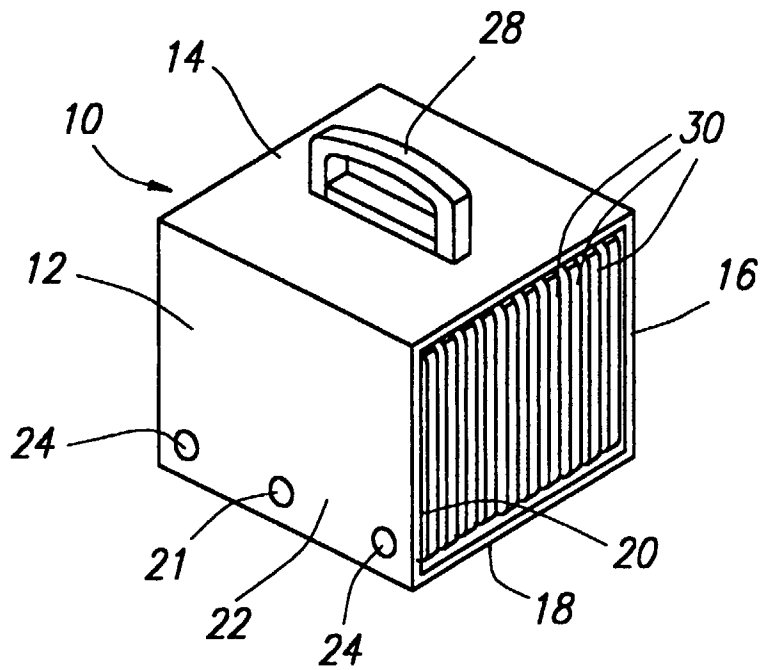


FIG. 1

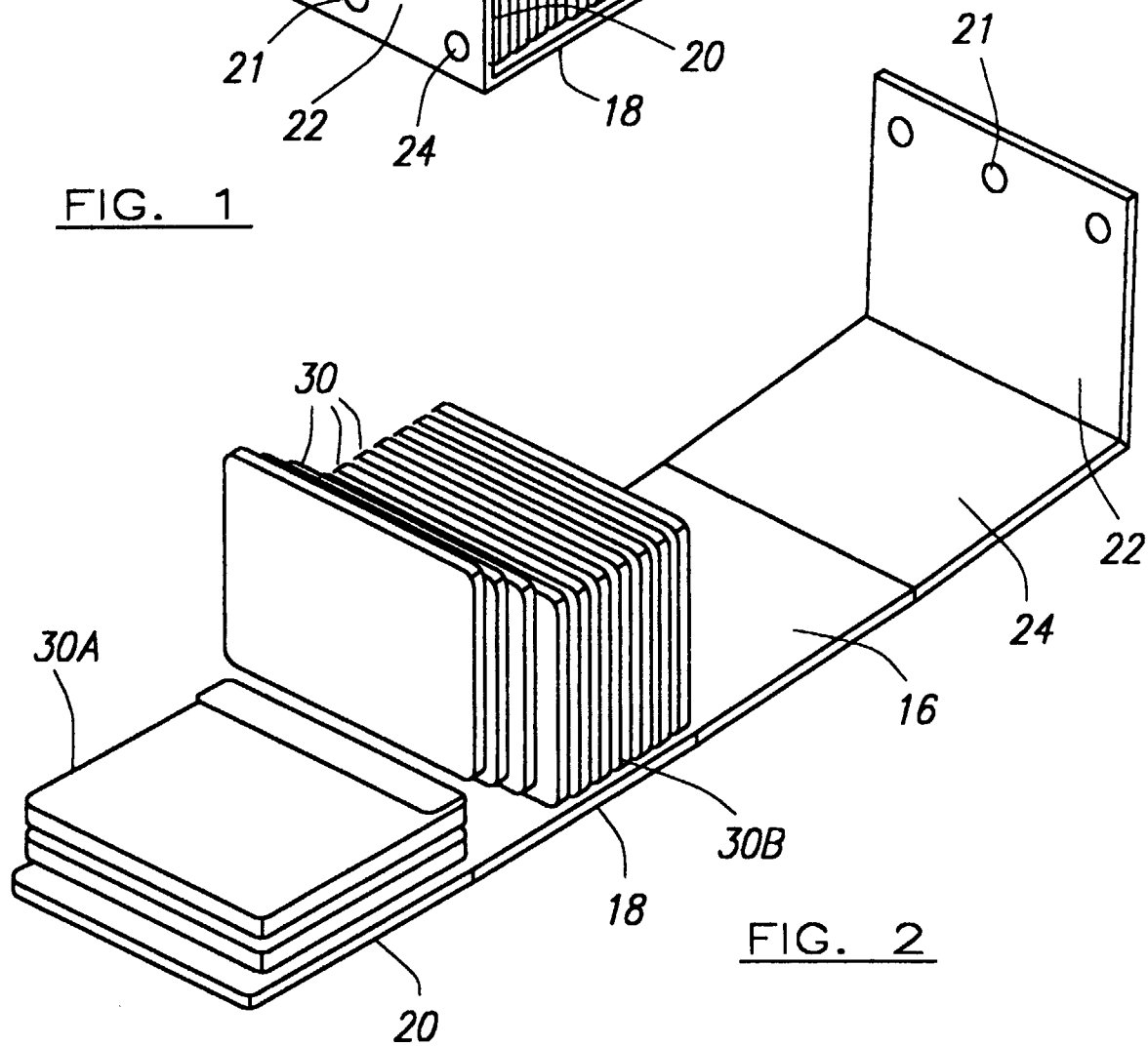


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

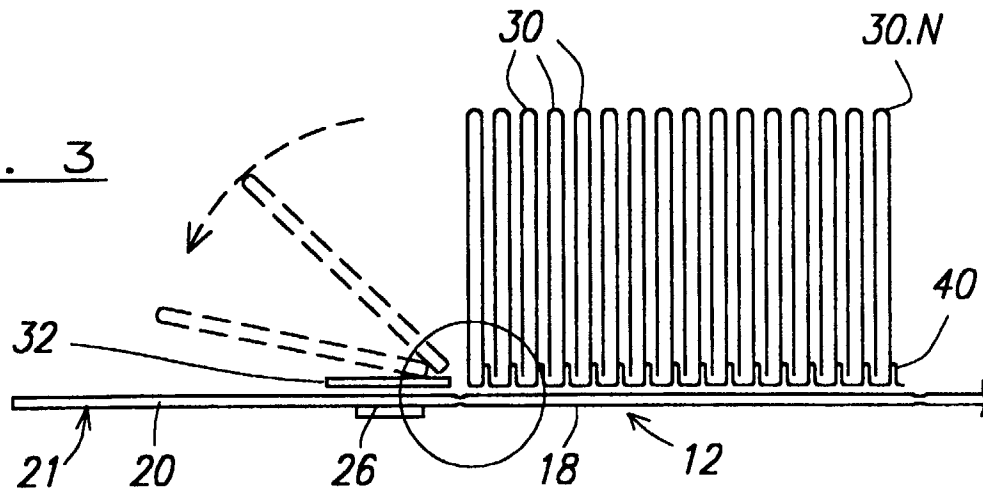


FIG. 4

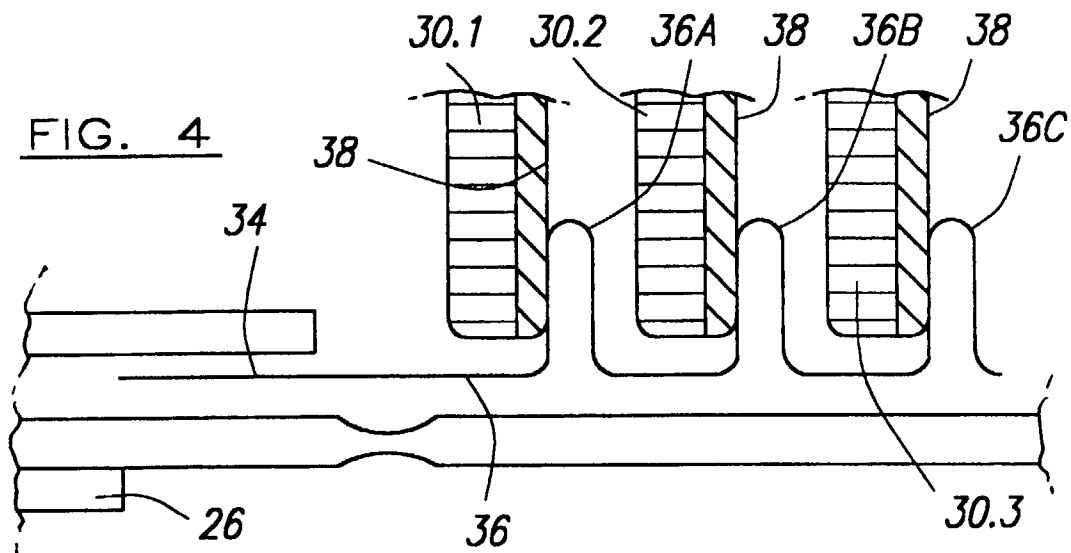
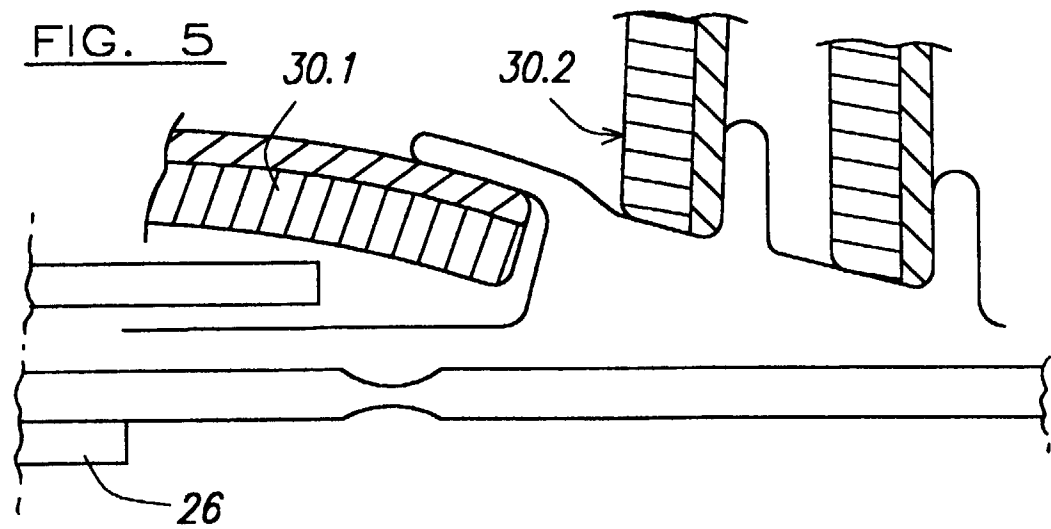


FIG. 5



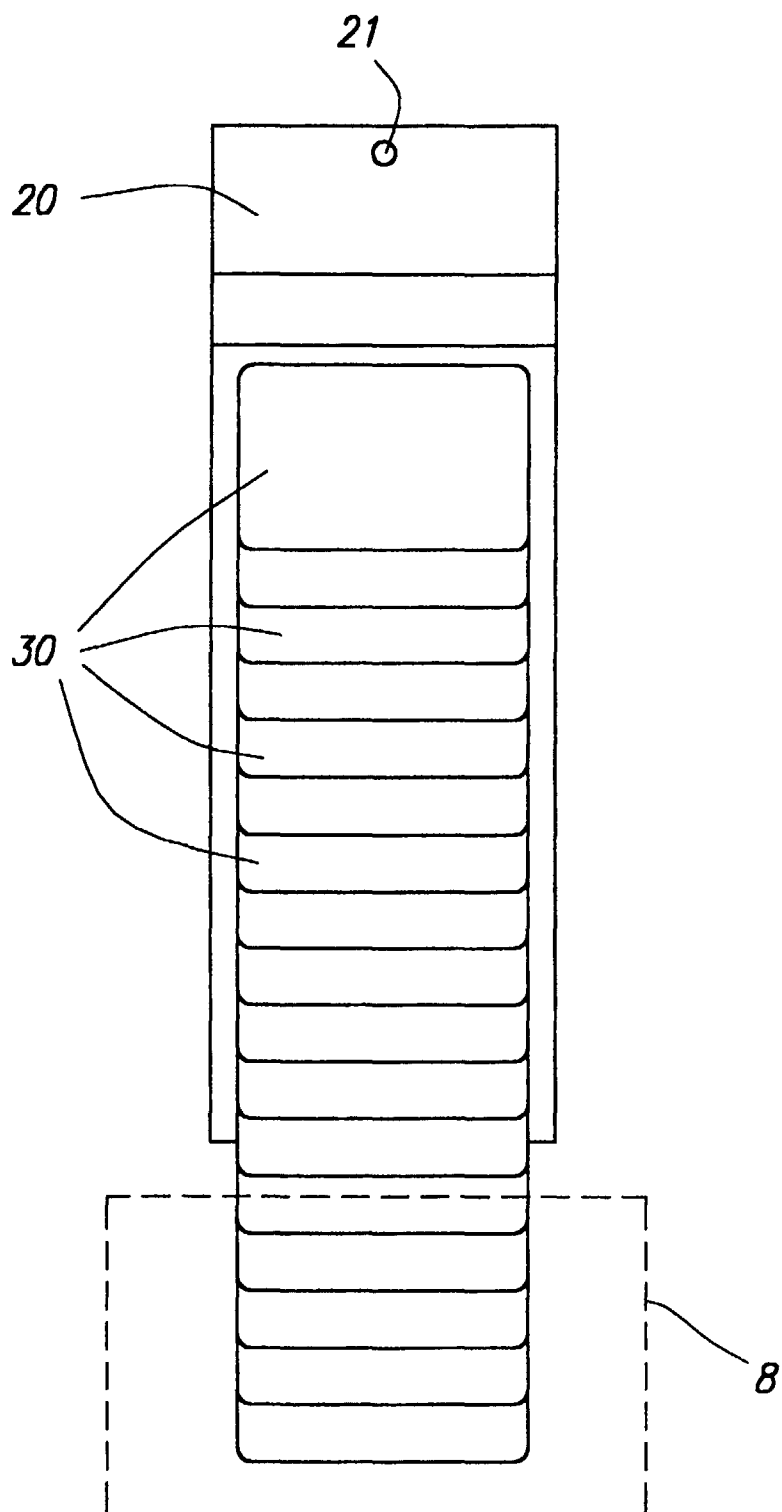


FIG. 6

FIG. 7

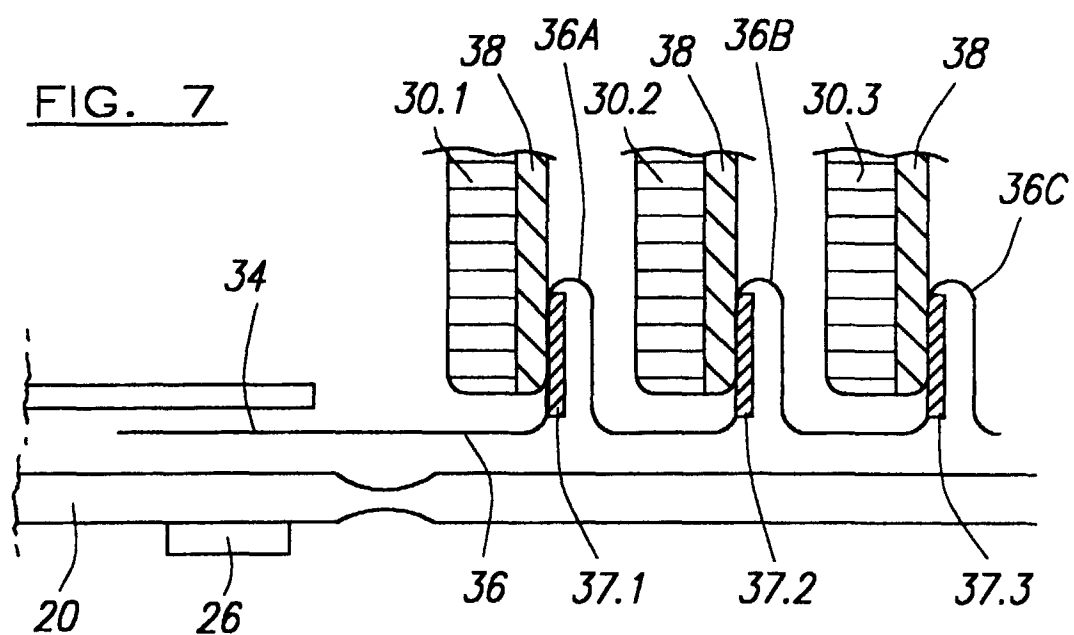
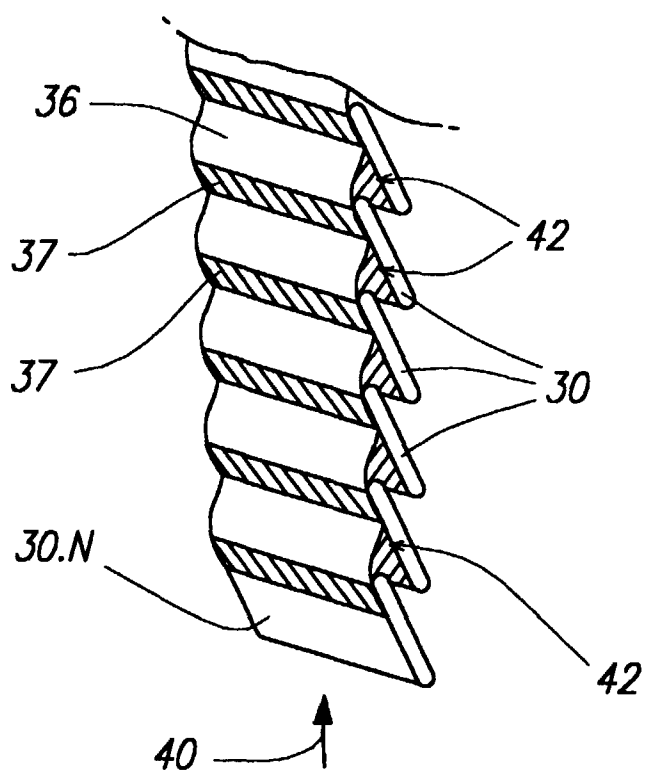


FIG. 8





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 10 1660

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)
Y	GB 1 347 010 A (NUTT CO.) 13 February 1974 * the whole document *	1-12	G09F5/04 A47F7/16
Y	FR 2 415 849 A (MODE INFORMATION) 24 August 1979 * figures *	1-12	
Y	DE 34 41 363 A (A. BÜNGER BOB-TEXTILWERK) 22 May 1986 * the whole document *	9-12	
A	FR 2 441 368 A (SPICQ) 13 June 1980 * claims; figures *	1-12	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			G09F A47F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 30 September 1998	Examiner Gallo, G
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