

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 927 799 A1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
07.07.1999 Bulletin 1999/27

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: **E04H 13/00**

(21) Application number: **97121207.1**

(22) Date of filing: **03.12.1997**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC
NL PT SE**
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(71) Applicant:
**Rodrigues, Robert Wallace
Bound Brook, NJ 08805 (US)**

(72) Inventor:
**Rodrigues, Robert Wallace
Bound Brook, NJ 08805 (US)**

(74) Representative:
**Sarup, David Alexander et al
Raworth, Moss & Cook,
Raworth House,
36 Sydenham Road
Croydon, Surrey CRO 2EF (GB)**

(54) Cemetery Monument

(57) A cemetery headstone/monument intended to be anchored upright in or on a foundation includes a carved or hollowed-out portion (11) which functions as a display area. The hollowed portion may extend through the width of the headstone from the front face (19) to the rear face (7) thus creating a display window. The removed front and rear faces of the headstone may be replaced by a flat rigid material, preferably transparent in nature, so as to create a protective enclosure for the display area. A locking mechanism (73) may be provided so as to secure the contents placed within the display area. A second embodiment of the invention provides for a headstone/monument suitable adapted to permit the non-permanent attachment of display devices (32,52) to the top and side surfaces (31,51) of

the headstone. The display devices are detachably mounted to the headstone through the use of appropriate bolting means anchored into the headstone and by aligning complimentary holes located in the display device with the pre-drilled holes (41,61) in the headstone. The top horizontal side of the headstone may have sloped edges to promote water runoff. A third embodiment of the invention provides for a headstone/monument wherein the storage and display area is defined by means of the removable assembly of vertical support members (72,86) detachably mounted to the top surface of the headstone/monument along with a top member (74,84) detachably mounted to the support members (72,86).

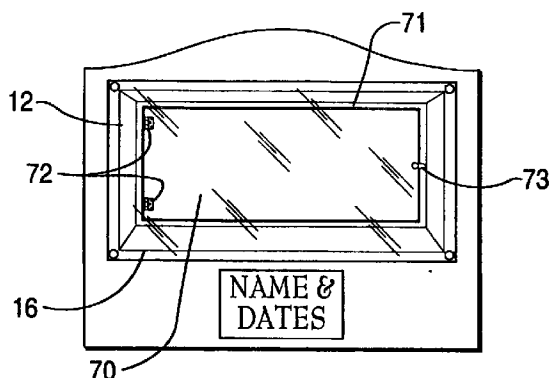


FIG. 3

EP 0 927 799 A1

Description**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

[0001] This invention relates to headstones/monuments of the type intended to be anchored upright in or on a foundation.

[0002] The placement of various items of personality at gravesites such as flowers, jewelry, photos and other mementos has long existed as a means of "keeping in touch" with the faithfully departed. These items of personality are usually placed on the ground adjacent to the headstone and as such, create cemetery maintenance problems especially in the area of grass cutting. Additionally, many cemeteries have rules and regulations which prohibit the placement of such items on or about headstones and other grave markers.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] It is apparent from the above that some form of personality display which could be utilized in conjunction with existing headstones or monuments would be ideal in affording heirs the opportunity to remember the deceased while at the same time overcoming cemetery objections relating to maintenance. In my pending application, Serial No. 701,022 entitled Monument Display case and Mounting Assembly I disclose a novel assembly for detachably mounting a display case to the upper portion of a headstone or monument. The present invention permits the display of various items of personality in connection with headstones/monuments at gravesites by focusing on the headstone/monument itself without the necessity of utilizing an external mounting device. Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a means for displaying items of personality in conjunction with a headstone. It is further an object of the present invention to provide such a display area by means of a hollowed or cut-out portion of the headstone itself. It is further an object of the present invention to provide such a display device by internally mounted bolting means. It is also an object of this invention to provide a headstone repository for items of personal property which may be secured by appropriate locking means.

[0004] It is yet a further object of this invention to provide a display device which may be adapted to any existing upright headstone or monument.

[0005] It is another object of this invention to provide a display device which may be adapted to headstones/monuments of irregular shape and size.

[0006] It is yet a further object of this invention to provide a display area adaptable to monuments in alternative settings of commemoration.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] The invention is described in the following in

greater detail with reference to the enclosed drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a front perspective view of the headstone and display area;

Figure 2 is a front perspective view of the headstone display area with attached enclosure panel;

Figure 3 is a rear perspective view of the headstone and display area with attached enclosure panel;

Figure 4 is a front perspective view of another embodiment of headstone and display area;

Figure 5 is a front perspective of the headstone with display case mounted on the top surface thereof;

Figure 6 is a top view of the headstone depicting the mounting means;

Figure 7 is a front perspective view of the headstone with side mounted flower holders;

Figure 8 is a side perspective view of a headstone depicting the mounting means for side display.

Figure 9 is a front perspective view of another embodiment of a headstone and display area;

Figure 10 is a top view of the headstone depicting the mounting means;

Figure 11 is a front perspective view of the embodiment shown in Figure 9 with a rear panel;

Figure 12 is a top view of the headstone depicting the mounting means.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0008] Referring to Figures 1, 2 and 3, one form of the novel cemetery monument of the present invention includes a main body section 1 formed of granite, marble or other type of stone or suitable structural material. Body section 1 includes a front or face panel 19, top panel 3, side panels 5 and a bottom panel 7.

[0009] The face panel 19 of body section 1 contains at least one hollowed-out aperture area 11 which extends through the width of the headstone from the front face to the rear face thus creating a window through the center area of the headstone which functions as a repository for various items of display at the grave site.

[0010] Hollowed-out portion 11 contains flat base member 15 which functions as a shelf or ledge upon which the various items of personality are placed for display. In addition, hollowed-out area 11 contains top surface 17 from which items of personality may be suspended by means of appropriate hook means. Display area 9 is provided for text information, such name and date inscriptions to be carved or for some type of decorative plaque to be attached.

[0011] As can be seen in Figures 2 and 3, hollowed out display area 11 may be rendered more secure by means of the attachment of panel members 10, 12, one of which may be transparent to permit viewing of the objects of display.

[0012] These enclosure panels 10, 12, may be secured directly to the front and back faces of the head-

stone by appropriate mounting means 14. Alternatively, securing the panels might involve the installation of a ledge or indentation 16, around the opening of each side of the headstone so as to receive each flat rigid panel thus allowing each panel to be secured in a way such that it would be flush with the external surface of the front or rear face of the headstone.

[0013] The mounting means for securing the panels to the front and rear faces of the headstone might include the use of bolts or a bonding agent. As yet another example of securing the front and rear panels, long bolts which pass through the hollowed opening could be used to secure the front and rear panels to each other.

[0014] As can be seen in Figure 3, access to the display area can be achieved through the creation of a door 70 in either the front panel 10 or rear panel 12 by removing or cutting out a portion of the panel to receive a molding 71 or door jamb to which a door may be hingedly attached by appropriate hinges 72. Alternatively, the enclosure panels may be hingedly attached directly to the headstone by means of conventional hinge and bolting means or attached to a secured molding or door frame thus allowing each panel to function as a door for gaining access to the enclosure.

[0015] An appropriate locking mechanism 73 located on the panels that may function as doors may also be utilized to further secure the display enclosure and prevent removal of display objects contained therein. Additionally, shelf supports may be placed inside the display area to increase the number of display surfaces.

[0016] As can be seen in Figure 4, the novel hollowed out display area may take many different shapes such as the depicted cross 24 which contains display surfaces 20, 22 and 23.

[0017] The size and shape of the hollowed out display area may further vary depending on the size and shape of the display case desired and the size and shape of the headstone material being used. Additionally, display area 11 may be created by hollowing out less than the full width of headstone 1, thus creating a display area for viewing from one side only.

[0018] A further embodiment of this novel invention is depicted in Figures 5 and 7 which provide for detachable display devices extending from the top or side surfaces of the headstone in a tasteful and aesthetic way.

[0019] Referring to Figure 5, conventional headstone 30 constructed of conventional granite, marble or other suitable stone or rigid material, provides for display case 32 detachably mounted to top surface 31 by appropriate bolting means as depicted in Figure 6. Display case 32 may contain a plurality of shelves 36 on which various items of personalty 35 may be displayed. Display case 32 may take many different sizes and shapes depending on the size of complimentary headstone 30.

[0020] As shown in Figure 6, display case 32 is detachably mounted to flat top surface 31 of headstone 30 through appropriate bolting means which may include threaded sleeves, anchors or threaded bolts

secured into headstone 40 by means of pre-drilled holes 41. The threaded sleeves, anchors or bolts may be secured into monument holes 41 by an appropriate bonding agent, or in the case of threaded sleeves or anchors in the pre-drilled holes, these will be used to receive the threaded bolts and may also be secured by the expansion and compression against the walls of the pre-drilled holes.

[0021] Display case 32 is detachably mounted to the top surface of headstone 30 by aligning complimentary holes in the bottom surface 33 of display case 32 with anchors, threaded sleeves or threaded bolts set in holes 41 and utilizing either threaded bolts or threaded nuts.

[0022] The top horizontal side of headstone 30 may be provided with sloped edges 38 so as to facilitate water run-off from top surface 31 of the headstone.

[0023] A further embodiment of this invention is depicted in Figures 7 and 8 which includes plant holders 52 mounted to side surface 51 of headstone 50. As described in connection with the mounting of display case 32 in Figure 5, appropriate pre-drilled holes 61 are provided to accommodate threaded sleeves, anchors or threaded bolts for means of detachably mounting plant holders 52 to side surface 51 of headstone 50.

[0024] Yet a further embodiment of this invention is depicted in Figures 9, 10, 11 and 12 which includes the detachable assembly of vertical members 72 and horizontal member 74 to each other and to the top surface of the main body section of headstone 70 thus defining a storage chamber 76. Panel members 72 and 74 may be formed of granite, marble or other type of stone to match the construction of main body section 70 or other suitable structural material. These members may be secured to each other and to the main body section 70 by means of metal pins or bolts anchored into pre-drilled holes 78 coupled with a sealing or bonding agent.

[0025] As can be seen in Figures 11 and 12, a further embodiment involves the detachable assembly of vertical members 86 and horizontal member 84 to each other and to the top surface of the main body section of headstone 88 thus defining a storage chamber. Figures 11 and 12 further depict back panel member 80 which may be formed of granite, marble or other suitable structural material thus defining a display area which may be viewed from one side only as compared to the open display area as depicted in Figure 9 which may be viewed from both sides of the monument. Suitable attachment means such as metal pins or bolts anchored in pre-drilled holes 82 coupled with a sealing or bonding agent may be employed to create the display area as depicted in Figure 11.

[0026] As depicted in Figure 3, the storage and display chamber 76 of Figures 9 and 11 may contain enclosure panels secured to vertical members 72 and 86 by appropriate mounting means with access being achieved through the creation of a door in either the front or rear panel which may be further secured through appropriate locking means. Additionally, shelf

supports may be placed inside the display area to increase the number of display surfaces.

[0027] The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.

Claims

1. A cemetery monument comprising a main body section said body section including a front face and a back face out of which is carved a hollow opening extending from said front face to said rear face which opening contains a flat top and bottom surface thus defining a central storage chamber within said headstone.
2. A cemetery monument comprising a main body section containing a front and back face surface;
 - a hollow opening extending from the front face to the back face of said main body section said hollow opening containing flat top and bottom surfaces thus defining a central storage chamber within said main body section;
 - one or more platform means contained within said storage chamber; and
 - a front and a back panel member attached to the front and back face of said headstone for enclosing said central storage chamber, and means for unlockably locking either of said panels in a closed position.
3. A cemetery monument including a main body section comprising a front face and a back face and a top surface and side surface;
 - a display case; and
 - a plurality of pre-drilled holes located in said top surface for receiving bolting means for securing said display case to the top surface of said monument.
4. A cemetery monument including a main body section including a front face and a back face and a top and side surface, a display case; and
 - a plurality of pre-drilled holes positioned in the side surface of said headstone for receiving bolting means for detachably securing said display case to the side surface of said headstone.
5. The monument according to Claim 2 wherein said panel member is of a transparent nature.
6. The monument according to Claim 2 wherein said locking means comprises a conventional lock and key.
7. The monument according to Claim 2 wherein said panel member is fabricated of plastic.
8. The monument according to Claim 2 wherein said platform means comprises a display shelf.
9. A cemetery monument comprising a main body section containing a front and back and top surface;
 - a first and a second vertical support member detachably mounted to the top surface of said monument; and
 - a top member detachably mounted to said support members whereby said vertical support members and said top member in combination define a storage chamber.

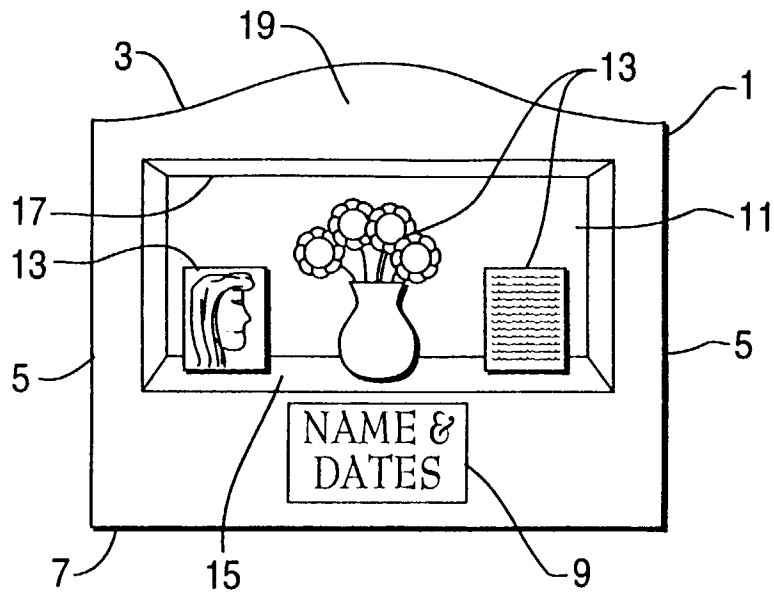


FIG. 1

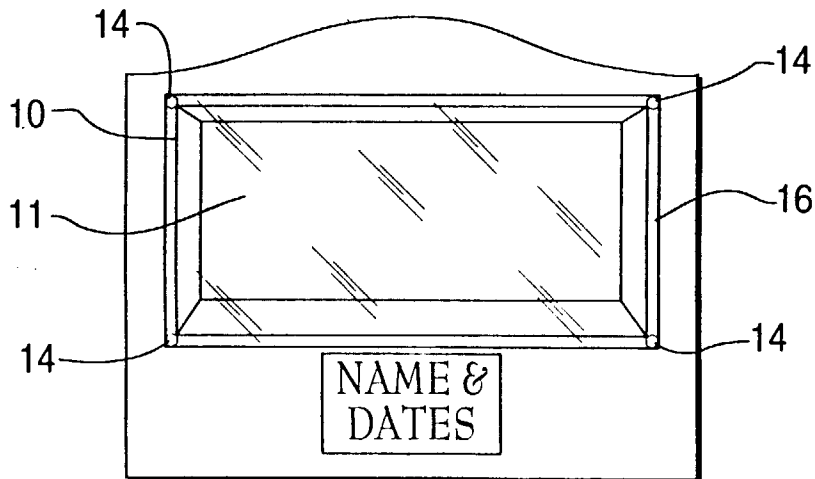


FIG. 2

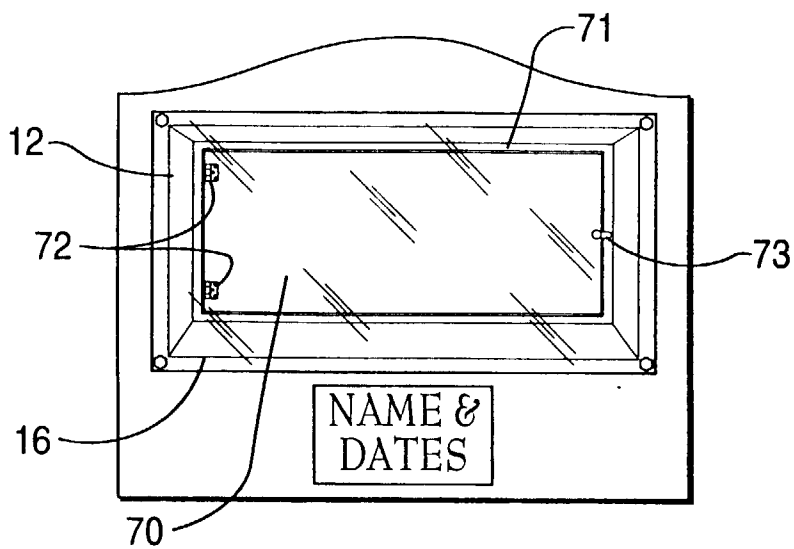


FIG. 3

FIG. 4

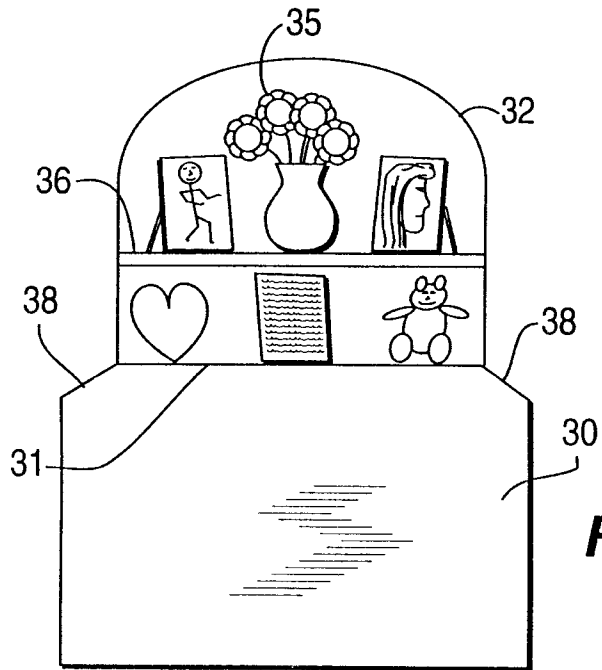
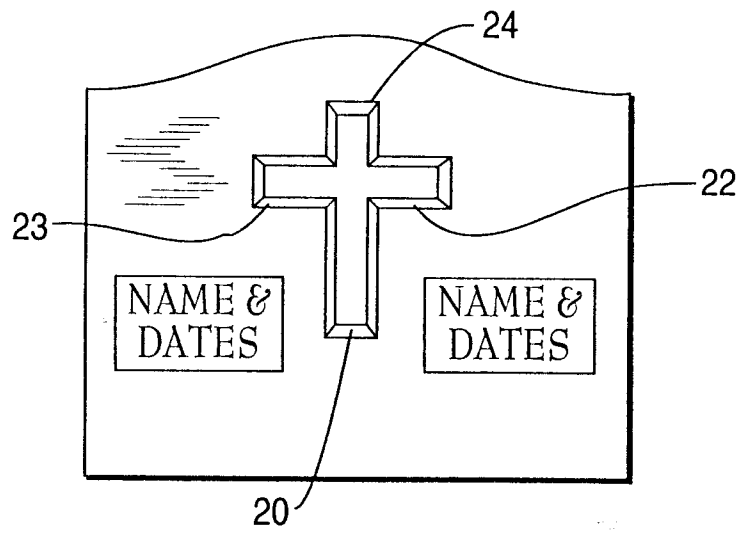


FIG. 5

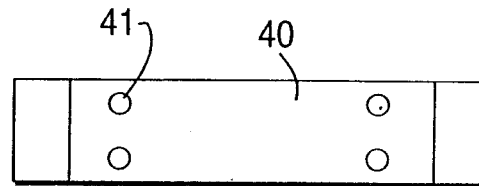


FIG. 6

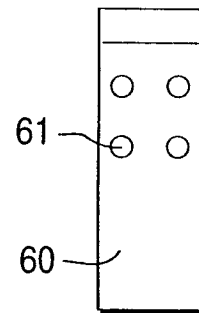


FIG. 8

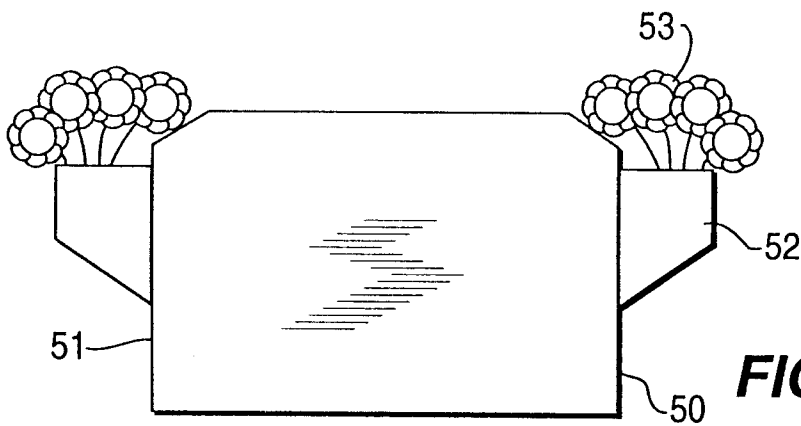


FIG. 7

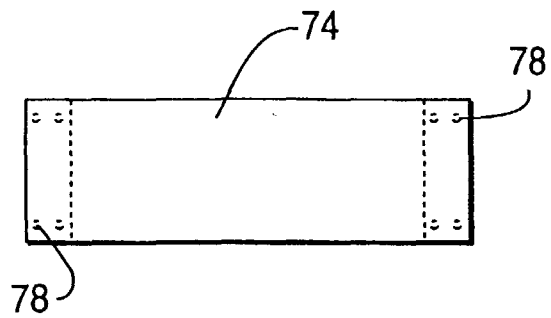


FIG. 10

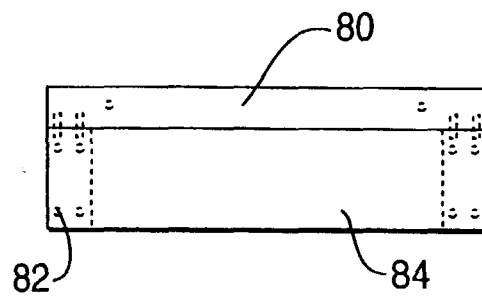


FIG. 12

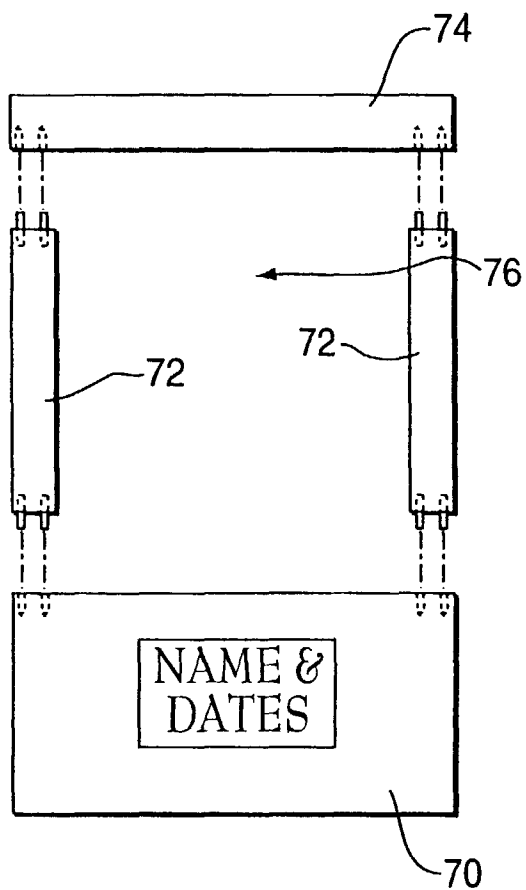


FIG. 9

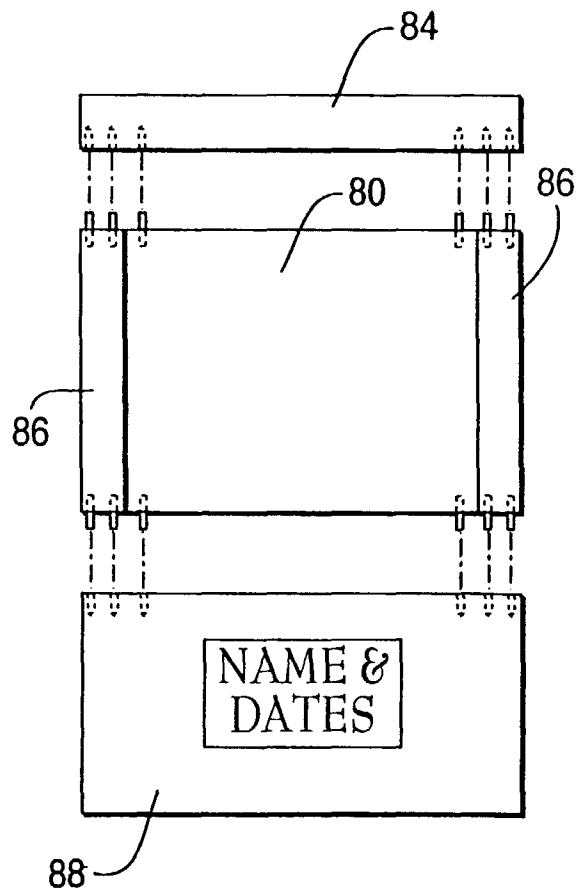


FIG. 11



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 12 1207

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	FR 2 584 443 A (T. VERDOUX) * the whole document *	1,2,5,7	E04H13/00
A	US 5 517 791 A (H. J. WEISS) * column 6, line 58 - column 7, line 48; figures 26-42,50-55 *	1-3,8	
Y	DE 36 21 971 A (K. EVELT) * the whole document *	1,2,5,6	
Y	CH 688 101 A (J. SCHNEIDER) * the whole document *	1,2,5,6	
X	US 5 363 609 A (J. P. HANCOVSKY) * the whole document *	9	
A	GB 405 131 A (M. BRESCIANI) * the whole document *	9	
A	GB 358 025 A (H. P. EDWARD) * the whole document *	2,8	
A,D	US 5 687 515 A (R. W. RODRIGUES ET AL) * the whole document *	3,4	E04H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 16 April 1998	Examiner Delzor, F
<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 L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)