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(54) **Modular step unit for prefabricated self-supporting ladders and a self-supporting ladder made thereby**

(57) A modular step unit for self-supporting metal ladders comprises a pair of side supporting or bearing constructions (3, 3', 3'') supporting a flat ladder step (4, 4'). Connecting means (9) connect each modular unit to an adjoining modular unit for defining a self-supporting ladder ramp (1). Each supporting construction (3, 3', 3'') comprises at least a substantially vertical inner element (5) arranged between and rigidly coupled to at least a pair of substantially horizontal outer elements (6). The inner element (5) can be coupled to at least a pair of outer elements (6) including in an adjoining modular unit (3) by a coupling device (15) the height of which can be adjusted to provide a variable height or rise ladder ramp.

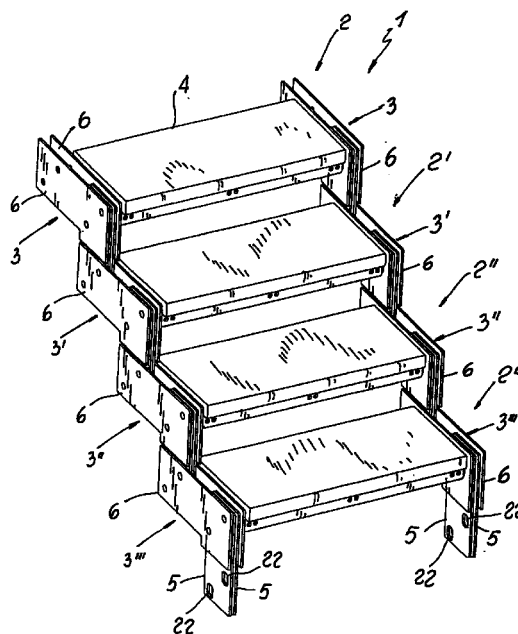


Fig. 2

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 99 10 4783

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			E06C E04F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 11 April 2000	Examiner Righetti, R
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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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11-04-2000

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