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(71) Applicant:
**HUNTER DOUGLAS INDUSTRIES B.V.
3071 EL Rotterdam (NL)**

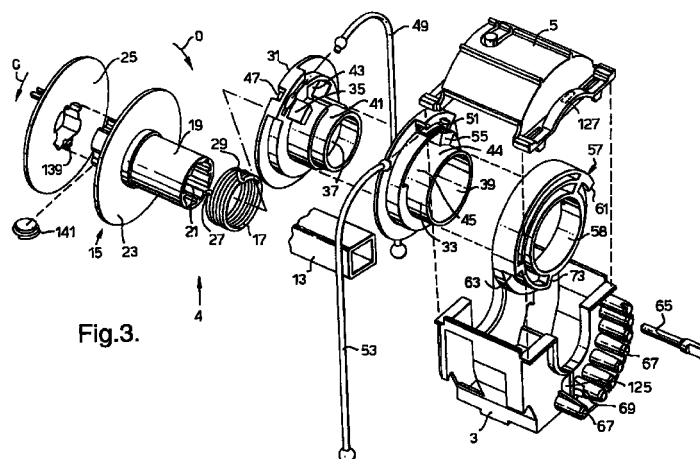
(72) Inventors:
• **Oskam, Herman
2855 AK Vlist (NL)**
• **Ponsen, Robert Jan
3315 HJ Dordrecht (NL)**

(74) Representative:
**Smith, Samuel Leonard
J.A. Kemp & Co.,
14 South Square,
Gray's Inn
London WC1R 5LX (GB)**

(54) **Operating mechanism for a venetian blind**

(57) An operating mechanism is provided which can raise, lower and tilt slats of a venetian blind, particularly an outside blind mounted externally of a building, and which comprises: a support body for rotatably receiving a rotatable drive shaft; a releasable clutch mechanism having at least a first element mounted for rotation by the drive shaft and a second element releasably engaged with the first element for moving the slats between opposite first and second angular positions; means defining the first and second angular positions; arresting means on the support body adapted to coop-

erate with the second element for establishing the opposite first and second angular positions; a retractable stop engageable with the second element to arrest the second element in an intermediate position between the opposite first and second positions and a lost motion mechanism interposed between the drive shaft and the retractable stop for engaging the retractable stop with the second element only after a predetermined number of revolutions of the drive shaft.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 30 3940

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.7)
A	US 5 228 491 A (RUDE EDWARD T ET AL) 20 July 1993 (1993-07-20) * the whole document *	1,12	E06B9/308 E06B9/307
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D,A	EP 0 190 626 A (HUNTER DOUGLAS IND BV) 13 August 1986 (1986-08-13) * the whole document *	1,12	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			E06B
-The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		7 August 2000	FORDHAM, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
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 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			

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Application Number

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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

1 - 10 , 12 - 19



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number
EP 00 30 3940

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-10, 12-19

An operating mechanism for raising, lowering and tilting the slats of a venetian blind; the operating mechanism comprising:

a support body, a releasable clutch mechanism, means defining first and second angular end positions, a retractable stop and a lost motion mechanism,

the lost motion mechanism ensuring that tilting of the blind slats does not cause their unintentional raising.

2. Claim : 11

An adjustable tape winding core for a venetian blind comprising a pulley body with a spool, the spool having a screw thread in which is rotatably received an adjustment screw plug,

thus allowing the tape winding to be adjusted to accommodate differences in length of lifting tape.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 30 3940

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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07-08-2000

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