



(19)

Europäisches Patentamt  
European Patent Office  
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(11)

EP 1 077 117 A3

(12)

## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:  
11.04.2001 Bulletin 2001/15

(51) Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup>: B26B 5/00

(43) Date of publication A2:  
21.02.2001 Bulletin 2001/08

(21) Application number: 00117509.0

(22) Date of filing: 14.08.2000

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU  
MC NL PT SE

Designated Extension States:  
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: 14.08.1999 US 374522  
14.08.1999 US 374523  
14.08.1999 US 374524

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## (54) Adjustable safety utility knife

(57) An adjustable safety utility knife includes an elongated ergonomically shaped handle formed of two elongate shell members (14a,14b) each having a peripheral edge (16a,16b) and an outer generally convex surface (18a,18b) and an inner generally concave surface (20a,20b). The shell members are fastened at the peripheral edges along a vertical parting plane (P) to form an elongated internal cavity (24). The handle has a slot-like aperture (36) at the front end (26) substantially aligned with the parting plane and dimensioned for passage of a flat cutting blade (38) therethrough. A guide element (39) within the elongated cavity (24) guides the cutting blade between a first position for safely storing the blade fully inside said cavity and a second position for selectively extending the blade beyond the aperture to expose at least a portion thereof. A manually operated button (40) arranged on the top surface is coupled to the guide element for selectively moving the blade between the first and second positions. The handle has a rear opening at the back end for providing access to the elongated internal cavity. A carrier frame (50) has a blade cartridge receiving compartment (50') and dimensioned to be removably receivable within the cavity through the rear opening between a retracted position in which the carrier frame is at least partially moved exteriorly of the back end to provide access of the cartridge receiving compartment. A blade cartridge (52) for storing a plurality of flat cutting blades is receivable within the blade cartridge receiving

compartment. A carriage (139) includes a locking element for normally locking a cutting blade mounted theron to substantially fix the cutting blade against relative longitudinal movements between the cutting blade and carriage. The locking element includes an unlocking element (154) the actuation of which releases the cutting blade to permit relative longitudinal movements between the cutting blade and the carriage. Slip resistant elements are secured to the shell members along the top and bottom surface between a rearwardmost operative position of the manually operated button and the back end of the handle.

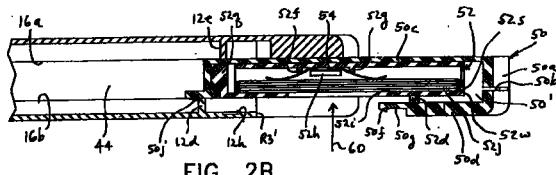


FIG. 2B

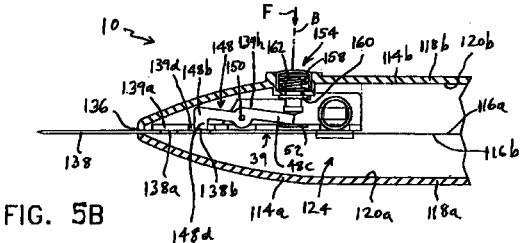


FIG. 5B



European Patent  
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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 11 7509

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
A	US 3 708 881 A (BENNETT R) 9 January 1973 (1973-01-09) * the whole document *	1	B26B5/00
A	US 5 644 843 A (YOUNG MONTE) 8 July 1997 (1997-07-08) * the whole document *	1	
A	US 3 577 637 A (BRAGINETZ PAUL A) 4 May 1971 (1971-05-04) * the whole document *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B26B
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search		Examiner
THE HAGUE	3 November 2000		HERYGERS, J
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			

**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:



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: 1-13

Utility knife with a blade cartridge in a carrier frame

2. Claims: 14-17

Utility knife with blade carriage having unlocking means for the blade

3. Claims: 18-28

Utility knife with slip resistant means.

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

EP 00 11 7509

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. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

03-11-2000

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)			Publication date
US 3708881	A	09-01-1973	NONE			
US 5644843	A	08-07-1997	NONE			
US 3577637	A	04-05-1971	DE	1948166 A	02-04-1970	
			GB	1241913 A	04-08-1971	
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