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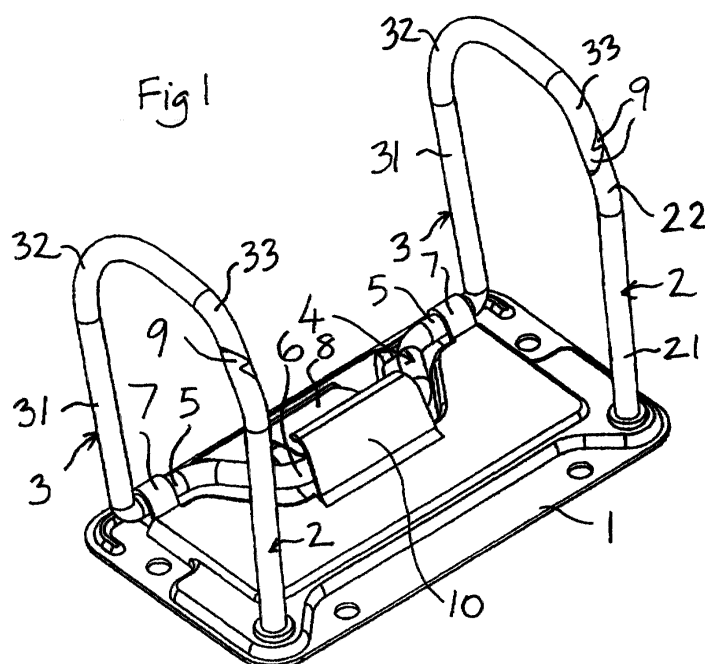
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(54) **Locking mechanism for a lever-arch type file**

(57) A locking mechanism for a lever-arch type file comprises a base plate (1), a pair of first arch elements (2) rigidly fixed to and upstanding from the base plate and a pair of second arch elements (3) pivotally mounted on the base plate for movement relative to the first arch elements between an open position and a closed

position. A leaf (8) spring mounted on the base plate acts permanently to bias the second arch elements (3) towards the open position. Inter-engaging teeth (9) on the first and second arch elements hold the second arch elements (3) in the closed position against the action of the spring (8).



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 30 7953

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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			B42F
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
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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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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