

(19)



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(11)

EP 1 142 782 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
05.12.2001 Bulletin 2001/49

(51) Int Cl. 7: B63B 22/16, B63B 22/20

(43) Date of publication A2:
10.10.2001 Bulletin 2001/41

(21) Application number: 01302015.1

(22) Date of filing: 06.03.2001

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

(30) Priority: 08.04.2000 GB 0008635

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(54) Buoyant marker

(57) A messenger buoy (10) is designed for floating in water to provide a visual message. The buoyant marker (10) includes a message portion (12) which protrudes in use from the water and which bears the message,

and a stabiliser portion (14) for locating in the water, the stabiliser portion including an opening for receiving a ballast material (36). The messenger buoy may be used to display a message in an area of water such as a lake or gravel pit or in coastal areas.

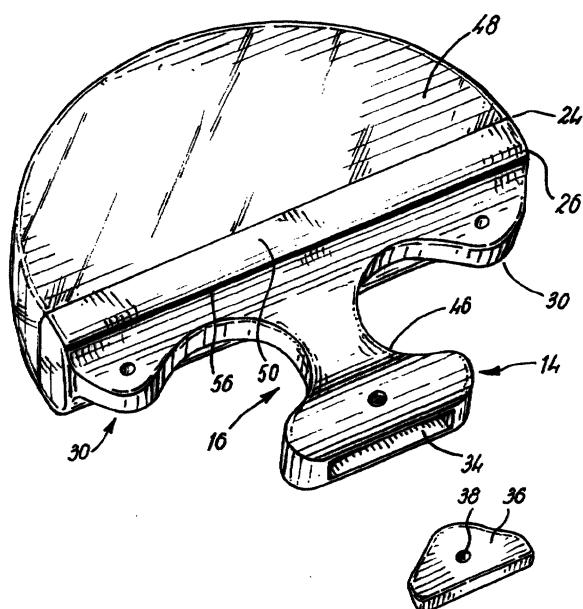


FIG. 2



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			
X	US 3 105 459 A (CONN SANFORD M) 1 October 1963 (1963-10-01)	1-6,8-11	B63B22/16 B63B22/20		
Y	* column 2, line 3 - line 72; figures *	3-5,7			
X	US 5 593 331 A (DUREN JOHN J) 14 January 1997 (1997-01-14)	1,2,6,7			
Y	* column 3, line 54 - column 4, line 44; figures *	7			
X,P	US 6 162 106 A (SHIEH STEVE S) 19 December 2000 (2000-12-19) * abstract; figures 5,6 *	1,2,6			
X	GB 915 526 A (EXPANDED RUBBER COMPANY LTD) 16 January 1963 (1963-01-16)	1,2,6,11			
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Y	WO 99 50675 A (GUINARD JEAN PAUL ;BRETONNE D INSTRUMENTATION OCE (FR)) 7 October 1999 (1999-10-07) * figures 2,3,5 *	3-5			
	-----		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)		
			B63B		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims					
Place of search	Date of completion of the search		Examiner		
MUNICH	9 October 2001		Moya, E		
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					

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

EP 01 30 2015

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.

09-10-2001

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