



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 1 236 846 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
05.11.2003 Bulletin 2003/45

(51) Int Cl.7: **E04H 4/10**

(43) Date of publication A2:
04.09.2002 Bulletin 2002/36

(21) Application number: **01110841.2**

(22) Date of filing: **04.05.2001**

(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: **28.02.2001 US 272659 P**
02.05.2001 US 847739

(71) Applicants:
• **LAST, Harry J.**
Kailua, Hawai 96734 (US)
• **Martin, Keith J.**
Old Basing Hants, RG 247 DE (GB)

• **Dunn, David**
Farnborough, Hants GU14.GAA (GB)

(72) Inventors:
• **LAST, Harry J.**
Kailua, Hawai 96734 (US)
• **Martin, Keith J.**
Old Basing Hants, RG 247 DE (GB)
• **Dunn, David**
Farnborough, Hants GU14.GAA (GB)

(74) Representative: **LOUIS- PÖHLAU- LOHRENTZ**
Postfach 3055
90014 Nürnberg (DE)

(54) **Swimming pool cover having reduced friction during slidable movement**

(57) A swimming pool cover for extension over and retraction from a swimming pool and where the cover may engage a portion of the deck surrounding the swimming pool during movement thereof. The swimming pool cover comprises a flexible fabric sheet of the type capable of being spooled or rolled and capable of being unrolled to extend over a swimming pool. The swimming pool cover is comprised of a sheet having a top surface and a bottom surface with the bottom surface extending over and potentially in contact with the upper surface of the water in the swimming pool. In order to reduce frictional effects between the bottom surface of the swim-

ming pool cover and the upper surface of the deck, the swimming pool cover is provided with a surface configuration which is roughened to substantially reduce surface area contact of the sheet with the deck of the swimming pool. In this way, frictional effects between the cover and the deck are reduced during movement thereof. The bottom surface configuration may adopt any of a variety of forms, including ribs formed on the bottom surface of the sheet, a mesh screen-like substrate secured to the bottom surface of the sheet, or a plurality of projections similar to those of an artificial turf secured to the bottom surface of the sheet, etc.

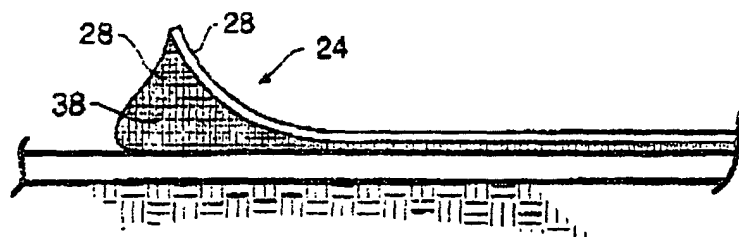


FIG. 2

EP 1 236 846 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 11 0841

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	FR 2 745 842 A (BOUVIER) 12 September 1997 (1997-09-12) * page 7, line 14 - line 19; figure 1 *	1,7	E04H4/10
A	US 3 748 664 A (MORITA) 31 July 1973 (1973-07-31)		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			E04H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		17 September 2003	Clasing, M
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			

EPO FORM 1503 03.92 (P04001)

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

EP 01 11 0841

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.

17-09-2003

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
FR 2745842	A	12-09-1997	FR	2745842 A1	12-09-1997
US 3748664	A	31-07-1973	US	3916457 A	04-11-1975