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(54) Slim pushbutton unit

(57) Slim pushbutton unit (21), comprising a support base (23) and a button (24), mounted on the support base (23), provided for moving between an actuating position and a rest position. The button (24) has a body (28) hinge-mounted on the support base (23) through a linkage comprising a bridge section (29) of the aforementioned body (28). The crosspiece of the bridge (29)

constitutes the pin (31) of the hinge-mounting and has an appendage (32). The support base (23) comprises a protruding slug (34) that defines cylindrical surfaces (36, 37) and a channel (38), respectively coupled with the pin (31) and with the appendage (32) for rotational guidance and axial contrast of the button (24), substantially without any play.

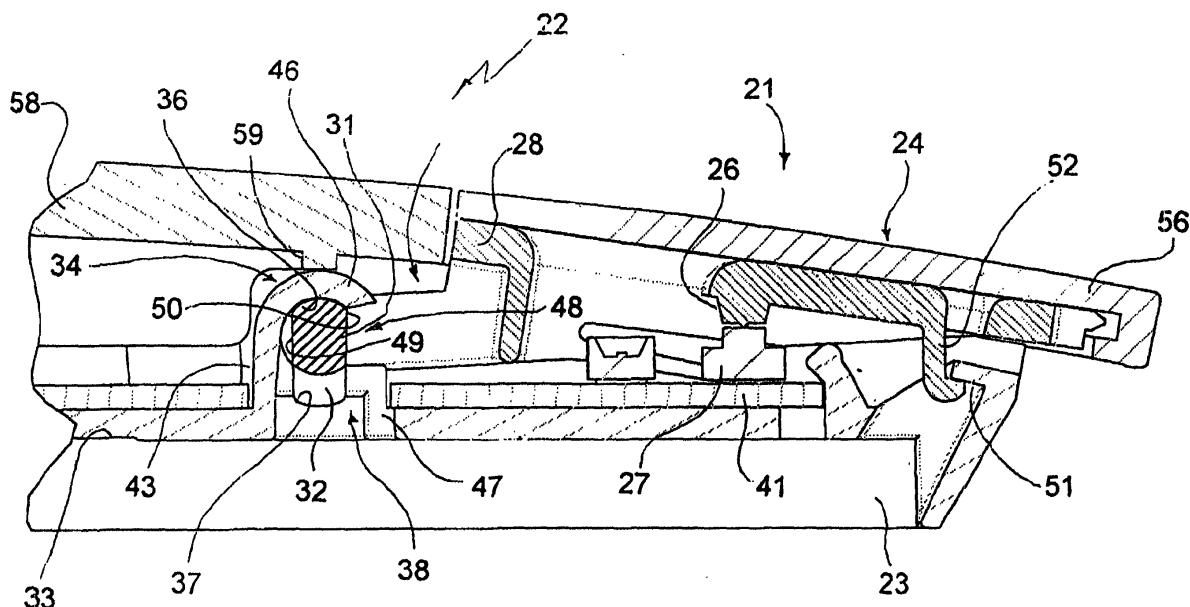


FIG. 4



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	
Y	EP 1 005 056 A (VALEO ELECTRONIQUE) 31 May 2000 (2000-05-31) * the whole document *	1,10-13, 15-17, 20-23	H01H21/22
Y	US 4 434 340 A (KONDO MASAO) 28 February 1984 (1984-02-28) * the whole document *	1,10-13, 15-17, 20-23	
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Y	EP 0 454 908 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC WORKS LTD) 6 November 1991 (1991-11-06) * column 4, line 14 - column 5, line 7 * * column 9, line 3 - line 52 *	10-12, 17,20-23	
A	WO 91/12599 A (SMART SET OY) 22 August 1991 (1991-08-22) * page 4, last paragraph - page 5, paragraph 2; figures *		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
A	DE 17 65 568 B (PHILIPS PATENTVERWALTUNG) 27 May 1971 (1971-05-27) * figures *		H01H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
The Hague	9 September 2004	Desmet, W	
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:

1-13,15-23



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: 1-13,15-23

Push-button unit comprising a support base and a button mounted on the base. The button has a hinge pin and a contrast appendage. The base has a protruding structure with coupling surfaces, respectively coupled with the pin and the contrast appendage.

2. claim: 24

Button panel. The buttons are arranged in a line and protruding on the two sides of the base. Shoulder (51) and tooth (52)

3. claims: 25, 26

Button panel. Button cover plates having the possibility of engaging the bodies of various buttons.

4. claim: 27

Button panel comprising a support base with protruding structures, buttons and a support plate. The protruding structures pass through apertures of the support plate.

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

EP 02 01 1158

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.

09-09-2004

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