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(54) **A container for roller-applied coating compositions and its use in coating procedures for rough surfaces**

Behälter für mittels Farbrollern auftragbare Beschichtungszusammensetzungen und dessen Verwendung in Beschichtungsverfahren für raue Oberflächen

Réceptier pour compositions de peinture applicables au rouleau et son utilisation dans des procédés de peinture de surfaces rugueuses

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## Description

**[0001]** This invention relates to a container for roller-applied coating compositions and its use in coating procedures for rough surfaces.

**[0002]** Amateur or "DIY" (do-it-yourself) painters are reluctant to apply coating compositions (such as paints) by roller because of the perceived messiness of the procedure. The messiness arises because when a roller is dipped into a coating composition, it is usually loaded with an excess of the composition, especially if the painter is an amateur. The excess has to be removed from the roller or else it will drip and worse still, the excess will splash and fly from the roller when it is being rotated during the coating procedure. Current techniques for removing the excess do create a risk of mess.

**[0003]** The reluctance of amateurs to use rollers is further increased when the surface to be coated is rough as is the case when garden fences or decking made from sawn wood are to be coated and particularly if the fencing or decking comprise overlapping panels. This greater reluctance comes from the need to use a high degree of patience and skill to cause a coating composition to flow into recesses present in rough surface or overlapping surfaces and these recesses must be coated if uniform coating of the surface is to be achieved. It has now been discovered that the difficulties associated with achieving a uniform coating of a rough surface can be greatly reduced by using coating compositions which have viscosities much higher than those of conventional coating compositions used as wood preservatives. However, the use of higher viscosities increases the problems of messiness.

**[0004]** Current techniques for removing excess coating composition from a roller are basically of two types. The first type is widely used in the United Kingdom and it employs a tray provided with a well and a flat surface which slopes down to the well. Coating composition is poured from a container into the well and then a roller is loaded by inserting it into the coating composition in the well where it picks up an excessive amount of the composition. The excess is removed by withdrawing the roller from the well and rolling it over the flat surface whereupon excess composition is transferred onto the surface from where it drains back down the slope into the well. The use of such trays presents several risks of mess. Firstly, coating composition has to be poured from a container into the well which can be a messy operation when performed by amateurs, especially if the container is large and heavy. Secondly, the tray is awkward to hold or carry which creates a risk of tilting and consequent spillage of the composition from the well or flat surface. Thirdly, the tray has to be cleaned after use which can also be a messy operation when performed by amateurs.

**[0005]** The second technique for removing excess coating composition from a roller is widely used in Germany and it employs a grid (or "Gitter" to use the Ger-

man word). The grid is held over an open container which is dimensioned so as to allow a roller to be inserted into the container and which contains a volume of coating composition. The roller is inserted into the coating composition where it picks up an excessive amount of the composition. The roller is withdrawn from the coating composition and excess composition is removed by rolling the roller across the grid so as to transfer coating composition from the roller onto the grid from which it drips back into the main volume of the coating composition. The technique requires the grid to be held steadily over the container both whilst the roller is being rolled across it and whilst excess composition is dripping back into the main volume of composition. Such steady control of the grid can be difficult for amateurs particularly if a large roller is being used. In addition, after use, the grid either has to be discarded or cleaned and both options can result in coating composition contaminating other places.

**[0006]** A further technique involves a controlled loading of a roller by means of a grid floating on a semi-solid coating composition contained in a tray. The roller is loaded by rolling it back and forth across the floating grid so that coating composition flows through the grid and onto the roller which loads in a more controlled way with less risk of excessive loading. The technique requires the composition to be supplied in a tray dimensioned so as to be able to receive the back and forth movement of the roller but it works well provided that excessive pressure of the roller on the grid is avoided. However, avoidance of excessive pressure does require skill especially if the tray is being used in a restricted space such as at the top of a ladder. The coating composition must also be semi-solid which is not ideal for use on rough surfaces.

**[0007]** US-A-5283928 provides universal grid which extends from the top to the bottom of a paint can of circular cross section.

**[0008]** GB-A-616926 provides a tray element providing a mesh extending across part of the cross section of an open topped circular paint container. The mesh can strain excess paint removed from a brush by wiping the brush against the vertical edge or rim of the tray element. One of the objects of this invention is to provide a container for roller-applied coating compositions which container assists relatively mess-free removal of excess composition from a roller and which is especially suited for use with compositions of a viscosity high enough to facilitate uniform coating of rough or overlapping surfaces.

**[0009]** Accordingly, this invention provides a container for a roller-applied coating composition which container has an essentially rectangular opening dimensioned so as to allow a roller to be insertable into the container and into coating composition if contained in the container wherein the container is also provided with a grid for removing excess coating composition from a roller which grid is located below the opening and ex-

tends only part way across the container. In order to facilitate the coating of rough or overlapping surfaces, any coating composition contained in the container should preferably have a Rotothinner mid-shear viscosity at 20°C of at least 5 Pa.sec (Pascal.second) and an ICI Cone & Plate high shear viscosity of at least 0.03 Pa. sec.

**[0010]** Usually the mid-shear viscosity will not exceed 130 Pa.sec and the high shear viscosity will not exceed 0.1 Pa.sec.

**[0011]** The dimensions of the opening into the container are chosen so as to allow a conventional paint roller to be insertable down into the container. Usually this means choosing a container which is essentially rectangular with a width at least slightly greater than the width of conventional paint rollers. The provision of a grid which extends only part way across the container makes it possible to leave an access for the roller past the grid into the lower portion of the container and particularly into any coating composition supplied in this lower portion. On insertion of a roller through this access into the coating composition, the roller picks up an excess of the composition. The roller may then be withdrawn to just above the grid and subsequently rolled across the grid to transfer excess composition from the roller onto the grid from where it drips back into the main volume of the coating composition. Provided that the grid is located sufficiently below the opening, the whole process of removal of excess coating composition from the roller to the grid and its return to the main volume of the composition can be performed within the protection of the container making mess almost impossible to create.

**[0012]** The optimum spacing of the grid from the opening will depend to a large extent on the diameters of the rollers intended for use with the container. As a general guide, the distance from the top surface of the grid to the opening should be at least 75% of the diameter of the largest roller anticipated to be used. A distance of 100% of this diameter will ensure full protection against mess from the container and in practice a minimum distance of about 400mm is usually chosen. The distance from the grid to the base of the container is chosen to be commensurate with the volume of coating composition required to be supplied.

**[0013]** The grid may be supported in the container by any convenient method such as adhesive bonding to the walls of the container. However, it is preferably provided as part of a collar which is inserted as a close fit into the container and snap-fitted around the rim which defines the opening into the container. The collar may also carry snap-fit means for receiving a lid which closes the opening into the container. Such an arrangement has the advantage that the lid and collar can be co-assembled and then the co-assembly can be snap-fitted onto the container in a single operation after the container has been filled with coating composition. Preferably the lid is more flexible than the collar so as to facilitate removal of the

lid from the collar without causing an unintentional displacement of the collar from the container. Further resistance to such unintentional displacement may be achieved by providing a frangible bond or an easily disengageable connection between the collar and the container which requires a positive act to break or disengage. An adhesive bond may be used.

**[0014]** The container, grid or collar and lid may be made by injection moulding thermoplastics such as polyolefins including polypropylene, high, low and medium density polyethylenes and copolymers of propylene and ethylene. Other possible thermoplastics include polyamides, polyesters and butadiene-styrene copolymers.

**[0015]** The invention is illustrated by the following preferred embodiment described with reference to the drawings of which

Figure 1 is a plan view of a container according to this invention,

Figure 2 is a vertical section along the line A-A through the container shown in Figure 1 but with a lid in place and a volume of coating composition supplied in a lower portion of the container,

Figure 3 is a detail from Figure 2 which shows on a larger scale the snap-fitting means for the collar and lid.

**[0016]** Figure 1 shows a plan view of an empty container 1 having a base 2 and into which a close fitting collar 3 has been inserted. Base 2 and Collar 3 are more clearly shown in Figure 2. Figure 2 also shows top rim 9 of container 1 which defines an opening into container 1 which is rectangular and dimensioned so as to allow insertion of a conventional paint roller into container 1. Collar 3 carries a horizontal grid 6 which extends half way across container 1 so as to leave an access 7 which is amply large enough to allow passage of a conventional paint roller.

**[0017]** In use, the lower portion 1a of container 1 is filled with coating composition 5 to a level below grid 6 and is then closed by lid 4. To load a roller with coating composition 5, lid 4 is removed thereby opening container 1 and the roller is inserted via access 7 into coating composition 5. Withdrawal of the roller produces a roller which is loaded with an excess of coating composition 5. The roller is withdrawn through access 7 and then rolled across the upper surface of grid 6 whereupon excess coating composition 5 is transferred from the roller onto grid 6. The roller now loaded with an appropriate amount of coating composition 5 can be completely withdrawn from container 1 whilst the removed excess coating composition 5 drips down from grid 6 back into the main volume of coating composition 5 in the lower portion 1a of container 1. The entire procedure for loading a roller with an appropriate amount of very viscous coating composition 5 and for the return of ex-

cess composition to the lower portion 1 a of container 1 is performed within the protective confines of open container 1 and so the risk of mess is virtually nil.

**[0018]** Figure 3 shows on a larger scale the top right corner of container 1 when lidded. In particular, it shows how lid 4 makes a snap-fit onto a resilient top rim 8 of collar 3 and how in turn collar 3 snap fits onto top rim 9 of container 1.

**[0019]** Lid 4 is provided with a dependant resilient skirt 11 which in turn is provided with an inwardly projecting rib 12 engaged by a co-operating outwardly projecting rib 13 provided on resilient rim 8 of collar 3. Press-fitting rib 12 on lid 4 over rib 13 on collar 3 causes lid 4 to become engaged on collar 3 with a snap fit.

**[0020]** Similarly, collar 3 is provided with a dependent resilient skirt 14 which in turn is provided with an inwardly projecting rib 15 engaged by a co-operating outwardly projecting rib 16 provided on resilient rim 9 of container 1. Press fitting rib 15 on collar 3 over rib 16 on rim 9 cause collar 4 to become engaged on container with a snap fit. Rib 9 is also provided with a dependent reinforcing skirt 17 which resists distortion of rim 9 so helping to maintain a good snap fit during transportation of the container. Skirt 17 is also provided with a sloping shoulder 18 to which skirt 14 of collar 3 can be lightly adhesively bonded to guard against unintentional removal of collar 3 from container 1.

**[0021]** Whilst containers according to this invention can be used in procedures for coating both rough and smooth surfaces, they are especially well suited for use in procedures for coating rough and uneven surfaces such as those found on sawn wood fence panels and particularly where panels overlap. Hitherto the awkward recesses in such surfaces could only be efficiently coated by amateurs if the amateurs used brushes and applied relatively fluid coating compositions. Such fluid coating compositions would have Rotothinner mid-shear viscosities as low as about 0.08Pa.s at 20°C and ICI Cone & Plate high shear viscosities as low as 0.025Pa.s at 25°C. Compositions of this high degree of fluidity are not suitable for efficient application by roller.

**[0022]** As mentioned earlier, it has been discovered that coating compositions can be efficiently applied to rough surfaces by roller if the composition has a quite high viscosity and the problem of mess associated with loading highly viscous coating compositions onto rollers can be overcome. Suitable highly viscous coating compositions need to have Rotothinner mid-shear viscosities of from 5 to 130 (preferably from 60 to 130) Pa.sec at 20°C and ICI Cone and Plate high shear viscosities of from 0.03 to 0.1 (preferably from 0.07 to 0.1) Pa.sec at 25°C. It has been found that appropriate amounts of such viscous coating compositions can be loaded onto rollers in a non-messy way even by amateurs if the loading and recovery of excess composition is performed within the protection of a container according to this invention. In addition, the loading does not require the use of a device such as a tray which needs to be washed

after use and the containers can be easily fitted with a handle of the type conventionally used on paint cans so as to make it easy to hold the container steadily.

**[0023]** In view of the advantages of the use of containers according to this invention in procedures for coating rough surfaces, this invention also provides a method for applying a coating composition to a rough surface using a roller wherein

- a) a coating composition is selected which composition has a Rotothinner mid-shear viscosity of from 5 to 130 Pa.s at 20°C and an ICI Cone & Plate high shear viscosity of from 0.03 to 0.1 Pa.s at 25°C,
- b) the composition is supplied in a container provided with a grid according to this invention,
- c) the roller is inserted into the coating composition and withdrawn bearing an excess loading of composition,
- d) the withdrawn roller is rolled across the grid whereupon excess composition is removed and
- e) after removal of the excess composition, the roller is rolled across the rough surface whereupon composition is transferred from the roller to the surface.

**[0024]** The method is particularly useful in applying a coating composition which contains a biocide of the type used in the preservation of wood.

**[0025]** This invention also provides a lidded container provided with a grid wherein the container contains a highly viscous coating composition as described above.

**[0026]** For the purposes of this invention, ICI Cone & Plate high shear viscosity is determined at 25°C as follows:

**[0027]** Fixed shear-rate viscosity is measured using the cone and plate technique described in ASTM Test D4287-87, but with conditions adapted to produce a shear rate of 10,000/sec. The cone has an angle of 0.5° and a radius of 7.5mm.

**[0028]** Rotothinner mid-shear viscosity is determined at 20°C using the Sheen/ICI Rotothinner (Electrical Model) described in the Sheen leaflet headed "Viscosity Sheen" published by Sheen Instruments Limited of Kingston on Thames, Surrey, England.

## Claims

1. A container (1) for a roller-applied coating composition (5) which container has an opening which is essentially rectangular and dimensioned so as to allow a roller to be insertable into the container and into coating composition if contained in the container wherein the container also is provided with a grid (6) for removing excess coating composition from a roller which grid is located below the opening and divides the container into an upper and lower portion wherein the upper portion is defined by the

opening and the grid and the lower portion holds the coating composition wherein the grid extends only part way across the container leaving an access for the roller past the grid into the lower portion of the container.

2. A container according to Claim 1 in which the grid is attached to the container.

3. A container according to Claim 2 in which the attachment is in a manner that requires a positive act to break the attachment.

4. A container as claimed in any of the preceding Claims, wherein the grid is carried by a collar (3) which makes a close fit within and is supported by the container.

5. A container as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the collar is attached to the container to guard against unintentional removal of the collar from the container.

6. A container as claimed in any of the preceding Claims, wherein the container is provided with means to retain a lid (4).

7. A container as claimed in any one of Claims 4 to 6, wherein the container includes means for engaging a lid and/or the collar by means of a snap-fit.

8. A container according to any of the preceding Claims, wherein the container is closed by a lid and contains a coating composition having a Rotothinner mid-shear viscosity of from 5 to 130 Pa.s at 20°C and an ICI Cone and Plate high shear viscosity of from 0.03 to 0.1 Pa.s at 25°C.

9. A container according to Claim 8 wherein the Rotothinner mid-shear viscosity of the coating composition is at least 60 Pa.s at 20°C and its ICI Cone and Plate high shear viscosity is at least 0.07 Pa.s at 25°C.

10. A method for applying a coating composition (5) to a rough surface using a roller wherein

a) a coating composition is selected which composition has a Rotothinner mid-shear viscosity of from 5 to 130 Pa.s at 20°C and an ICI Cone and Plate high shear viscosity of from 0.03 to 0.1 Pa.s at 25°C;

b) the composition is supplied in a container provided with a grid according to any one of Claims 1 to 7;

c) the roller is inserted into the coating composition and withdrawn bearing an excess loading of composition;

d) the withdrawn roller is rolled across the grid

of said container whereupon excess composition is removed and

e) after removal of the excess composition, the roller is rolled across the rough surface whereupon composition is transferred from the roller to the surface.

11. A method according to Claim 10 wherein the coating composition has a Rotothinner mid-shear viscosity of at least 60 Pa.s at 20°C and an ICI Cone and Plate viscosity of at least 0.07 Pa.s at 25°C.

12. A method according to Claim 10 or Claim 11 wherein the coating composition contains a biocide of the type used in the preservation of wood.

### Patentansprüche

1. Behälter (1) für eine mit Rollern auftragbare Beschichtungszusammensetzung (5), wobei der Behälter eine Öffnung aufweist, die im wesentlichen rechteckig und dimensioniert ist, um es zu ermöglichen, daß ein Roller in den Behälter und in eine Beschichtungszusammensetzung einsetzbar ist, wenn sie in dem Behälter enthalten ist, wobei der Behälter auch mit einem Gitter (6) zum Entfernen von Überschußbeschichtungszusammensetzung von einem Roller versehen ist, welches Gitter unter der Öffnung angeordnet ist und den Behälter in einen oberen und einen unteren Bereich unterteilt, wobei der obere Bereich durch die Öffnung und das Gitter definiert wird, und der untere Bereich die Beschichtungszusammensetzung enthält, wobei das Gitter sich nur zum Teil über den Behälter erstreckt, wobei ein Zugang für den Roller über das Gitter in den unteren Bereich des Behälters freigelassen wird.

2. Behälter nach Anspruch 1, wobei das Gitter an dem Behälter befestigt ist.

3. Behälter nach Anspruch 2, bei dem die Befestigung auf eine Weise erfolgt, die eine bestimmte Einwirkung erfordert, um die Befestigung zu lösen.

4. Behälter nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, bei dem das Gitter von einem Reifen (3) getragen wird, der eine enge Passung mit dem Behälter macht und von dem Behälter gehalten wird.

5. Behälter nach Anspruch 4, wobei der Reifen an dem Behälter befestigt ist, um vor einer unbeabsichtigten Entfernung des Reifens aus dem Behälter zu schützen.

6. Behälter nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, wobei der Behälter mit Mitteln zum Halten ei-

nes Deckels (4) versehen ist.

7. Behälter nach einem der Ansprüche 4 bis 6, wobei der Behälter Mittel zum Ineingriffnehmen eines Deckels und/oder des Reifens mittels einer Schnapppassung umfaßt. 5
8. Behälter nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, wobei der Behälter mit einem Deckel verschlossen ist und eine Beschichtungszusammensetzung mit einer Rotothinner-Viskosität mittlerer Scherung von zwischen 5 bis 130 Pa.s bei 20°C und einer ICI-Kegelplattenviskosität hoher Scherung von zwischen 0,03 bis 0,1 Pa.s bei 25°C enthält. 10
9. Behälter nach Anspruch 8, wobei die Rotothinner-Viskosität mittlerer Scherung der Beschichtungszusammensetzung zumindest 60 Pa.s bei 20°C und ihre ICI-Kegelplattenviskosität hoher Scherung zumindest 0,07 Pa.s bei 25°C beträgt. 15
10. Verfahren zum Auftragen einer Beschichtungszusammensetzung (5) auf eine raue Oberfläche unter Verwendung eines Rollers, bei dem 20
- a) eine Beschichtungszusammensetzung ausgewählt wird, welche Zusammensetzung eine Rotothinner-Viskosität mittlerer Scherung von zwischen 5 bis 130 Pa.s bei 20°C und eine ICI-Kegelplattenviskosität hoher Scherung von zwischen 0,03 bis 0,1 Pa.s bei 25°C aufweist; 25
- b) die Zusammensetzung in einen mit einem Gitter versehenen Behälter gemäß einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 7 zugeführt wird; 30
- c) der Roller in die Beschichtungszusammensetzung eingesetzt und herausgezogen wird, wobei er eine Überschußbeladung der Zusammensetzung trägt; 35
- d) der herausgezogene Roller über das Gitter des Behälters gerollt wird, wodurch Überschußzusammensetzung entfernt wird; und 40
- e) nach dem Entfernen der Überschußzusammensetzung der Roller über die raue Oberfläche gerollt wird, wodurch die Zusammensetzung von dem Roller auf die Oberfläche übertragen wird. 45
11. Verfahren nach Anspruch 10, bei dem die Beschichtungszusammensetzung eine Rotothinner-Viskosität mittlerer Scherung von zumindest 60 Pa.s bei 20°C und eine ICI-Kegelplattenviskosität von zumindest 0,07 Pa.s bei 25°C aufweist. 50
12. Verfahren nach Anspruch oder Anspruch 11, bei 55

dem die Beschichtungszusammensetzung ein Biozid von der bei der Holzkonservierung verwendeten Art enthält.

## Revendications

1. Récipient (1) pour composition de revêtement appliquée au rouleau (5), lequel récipient a une ouverture qui est essentiellement rectangulaire et dimensionnée de manière à permettre de pouvoir insérer un rouleau dans le récipient et dans la composition de revêtement si elle est contenue dans le récipient, le récipient étant aussi muni d'une grille (6) pour enlever la composition de revêtement en excès à partir d'un rouleau, laquelle grille est située en dessous de l'ouverture et divise le récipient en une partie supérieure et une partie inférieure, la partie supérieure étant définie par l'ouverture et la grille et la partie inférieure contient la composition de revêtement à l'intérieur, la grille s'étendant uniquement partiellement à travers le récipient en laissant un accès pour le rouleau au-delà de la grille jusqu'à la partie inférieure du récipient. 10
2. Récipient selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la grille est fixée sur le récipient. 15
3. Récipient selon la revendication 2, dans lequel la fixation est faite d'une manière qui nécessite une action positive pour rompre la fixation. 20
4. Récipient selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel la grille est supportée par un collier (3) qui réalise un agencement serré dans le récipient et est supporté par le récipient. 25
5. Récipient selon la revendication 4, dans lequel le collier est fixé sur le récipient pour être protégé à l'encontre d'un enlèvement non-voulu du collier à partir du récipient. 30
6. Récipient selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel le récipient est muni de moyens pour retenir un couvercle (4). 35
7. Récipient selon l'une quelconque des revendications 4 à 6, dans lequel le récipient comporte des moyens pour venir en prise avec un couvercle et/ou le collier, par l'intermédiaire d'un agencement par encliquetage. 40
8. Récipient selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel le récipient est fermé par un couvercle et contient une composition de revêtement ayant une viscosité à cisaillement moyen au viscosimètre Rotothinner allant de 5 à 130 Pa.s à 20°C et une viscosité à cisaillement éle- 45

vé au viscosimètre ICI Cone and Plate allant de 0,03 à 0,1 Pa.s à 25°C.

9. Récipient selon la revendication 8, dans lequel la viscosité à cisaillement moyen au viscosimètre Rotothinner de la composition de revêtement est au moins de 60 Pa.s à 20°C et sa viscosité à cisaillement élevé au viscosimètre ICI Cone and Plate est au moins de 0,07 Pa.s à 25°C.

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10. Procédé pour appliquer une composition de revêtement (5) sur une surface rugueuse en utilisant un rouleau, dans lequel :

a) une composition de revêtement est sélectionnée, laquelle composition a une viscosité à cisaillement moyen au viscosimètre Rotothinner allant de 5 à 130 Pa.s à 20°C et une viscosité à cisaillement élevé au viscosimètre ICI Cone and Plate allant de 0,03 à 0,1 Pa.s à 25°C,

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b) la composition est fournie dans un récipient muni d'une grille selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 7,

c) le rouleau est inséré dans la composition de revêtement et est extrait en supportant une charge excessive de composition,

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d) le rouleau d'extraction est roulé à travers la grille dudit récipient, la composition en excès étant enlevée, et

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e) après enlèvement de la composition en excès, le rouleau est roulé à travers la surface rugueuse, la composition étant transférée du rouleau sur la surface.

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11. Procédé selon la revendication 10, dans lequel la composition de revêtement a une viscosité à cisaillement moyen au viscosimètre Rotothinner d'au moins 60 Pa.s à 20°C et une viscosité au viscosimètre ICI Cone and Plate d'au moins 0,07 Pa.s à 25°C.

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12. Procédé selon la revendication 10 ou 11, dans lequel la composition de revêtement contient un biocide du type utilisé dans la préservation du bois.

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Fig. 3

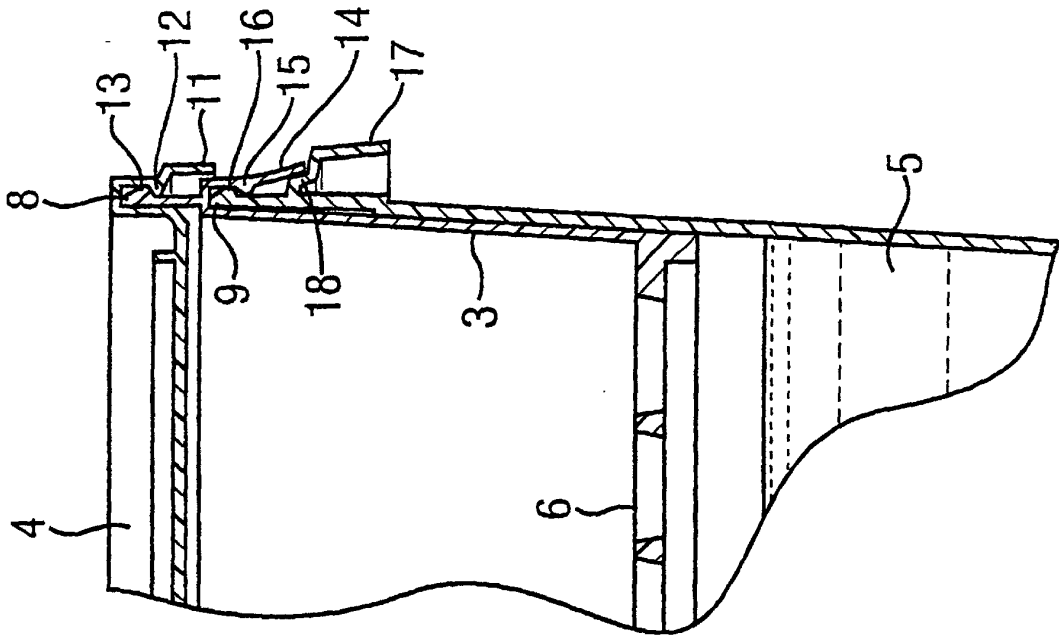
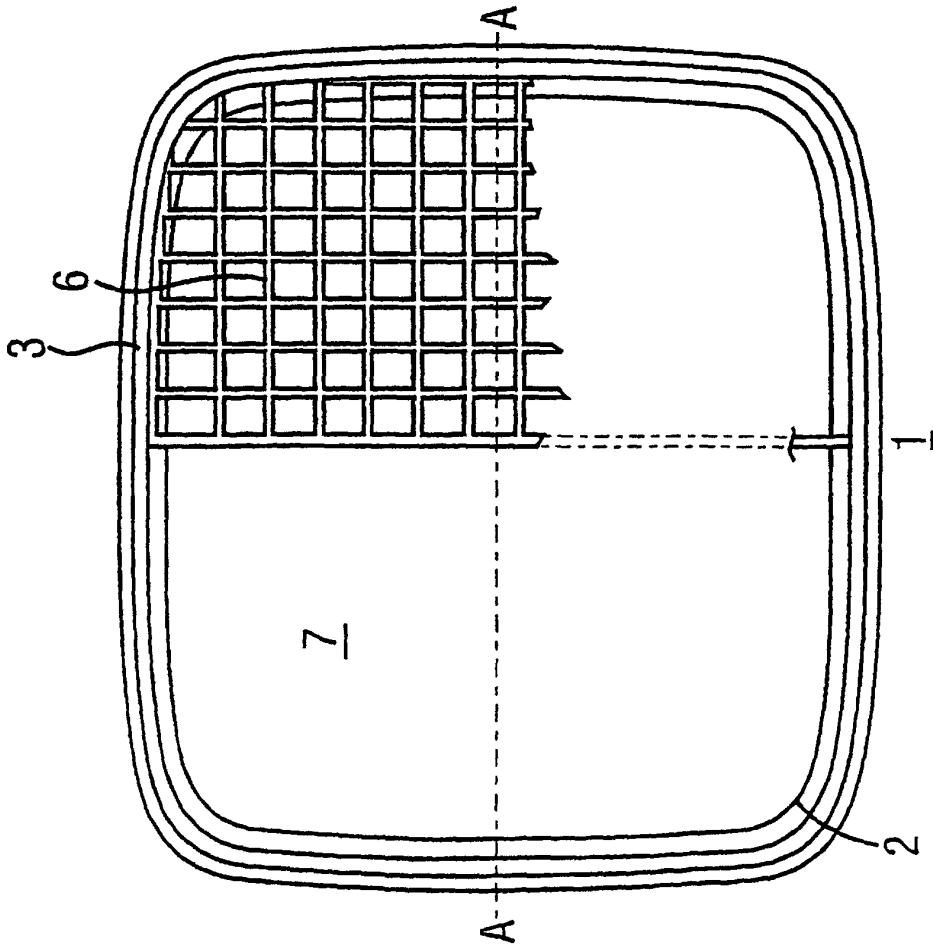


Fig. 1



*Fig. 2*

