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(54) A swimming pool lane divider

(57) This swimming pool lane divider comprises a number of floats being strung on and attached to a flexible, longitudinal member, and is characterised in that the floats have a makeup being apt to absorb the energy of the waves being created in the water surface, said makeup being based on the presence of a resiliently deformable shell (1,2) innerly comprising the arrangement of an assembly of turbines (6) having their axles (7) arranged in a longitudinal arrangement with respect to the float. The shell (1,2) is made up in such a way as to allow the water to pass therethrough.

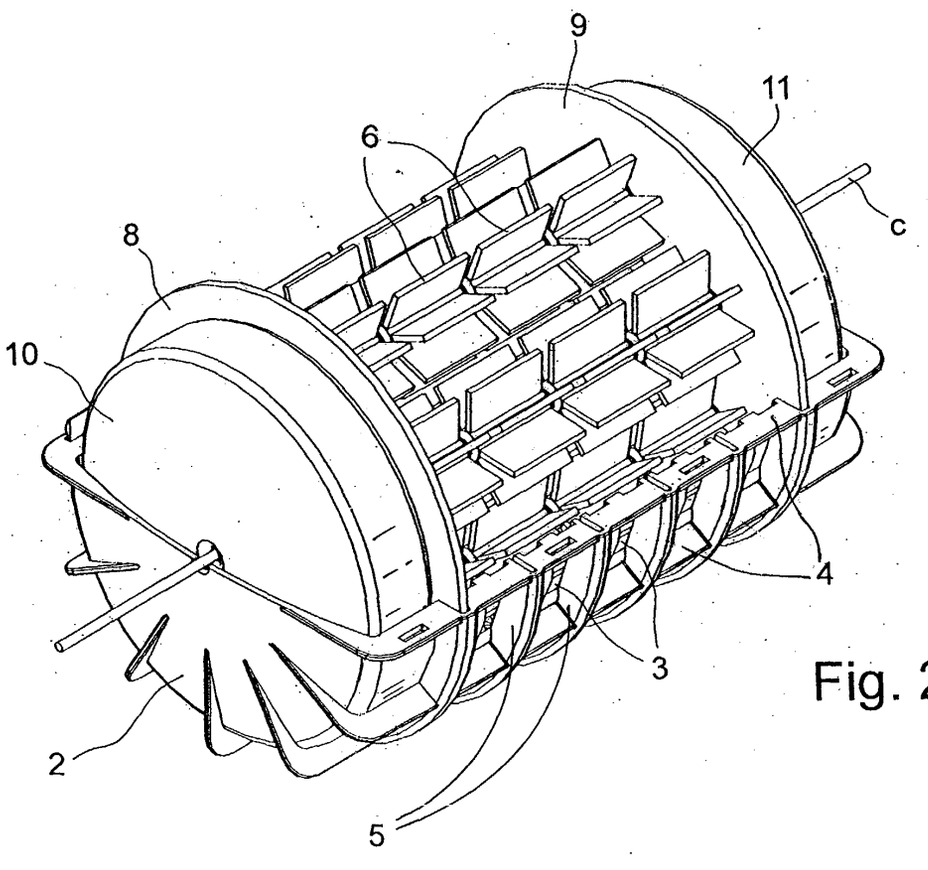

Fig. 2

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Description

[0001] As is known, public swimming pools and particularly competition swimming pools have arranged in them several swim lane dividers along their length in order to thus delimit the lanes along which the swimmers are to swim.

[0002] These swim lane dividers are made up of a number of small floats being aligned and strung on a longitudinal support such as a rope or the like.

[0003] Several float models are known which are generally made of plastics material and have different shapes and makeups such as those being spheroidal, disk-shaped, cylindrical and others.

[0004] With the use of these conventional swim lane dividers swimmers are at present facing the problem of the wake being created by themselves when advancing through the water. This wake brings about in reality a braking action being exerted on the swimmer and being created when the waves rebound after having hit the swim lane dividers, said braking action even partly affecting the adjacent swim lanes.

[0005] This invention has as its object a new swim lane divider being made up of special floats being apt to absorb the wave energy reaching them, thus enabling the swimmers to advance through the water without being hindered by the wake being created by themselves.

[0006] This swim lane divider is for such a purpose characterised in that the floats are made up in such a way as to be apt to absorb the wave energy thus lessening said braking action.

[0007] These floats are basically made up with a resiliently deformable shell allowing the water to pass therethrough towards the inside where as a means being apt to absorb the wave energy a turbine assembly aids said absorption and is made up of a series of turbines being arranged inside the float and having their axles arranged in a longitudinal arrangement.

[0008] The shell and the turbines are made of a resilient plastics material.

[0009] These and other characteristics will be best made apparent by the following detailed description whose understanding will be made easier by the accompanying two sheets of drawings showing a practical embodiment being cited only by way of an example not limiting the scope of the present invention.

[0010] In the drawings:

Fig. 1 illustrates in a perspective vie the float that will make up the swim lane divider;
Fig. 2 shows in a perspective view said float having had half a shell removed from it;
Fig. 3 represents Fig. 2 after having had some turbines removed; and
Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the inner portion of the float.

[0011] According to the drawings the float making up the swim lane divider comprises a substantially cylindrical shell being formed by two longitudinal half-shells (1) and (2) being provided with peripheral openings (3) and having longitudinally and transversely arranged outer ribs (4) and (5) being provided by way of short, flat gills.

[0012] A number of turbines (6) are arranged inside the shell and are mounted on longitudinal axles (7) being fitted at their ends to respective disk-shaped bases (8) and (9).

[0013] The float is strung on a rope (C) on which two transverse float end members (10) and (11) and a longitudinal float member (12) are also strung.

[0014] The replacement of the longitudinal float with one or more turbines is also contemplated if convenient.

[0015] Both the shell and the turbines will be preferably made of a slightly resilient plastics material, the water having access to the turbines through the openings (3).

[0016] The swim lane divider will be made up by stringing a number of floats such as the above-mentioned ones on a rope (C).

[0017] The invention can within its essentiality be put into practice in other embodiments only in detail differing from the one having been described above only by way of example, said other embodiments also falling within the scope of the protection being sought.

Claims

1. A swimming pool lane divider comprising a number of floats being strung on and attached to a flexible, longitudinal member, **characterised in that** the floats have a makeup being apt to absorb the energy of the waves being created in the water surface.

2. A swimming pool lane divider as per claim 1, **characterised in that** the float's makeup being apt to absorb the wave energy is based on the presence of a resiliently deformable shell (1, 2) innerly comprising the arrangement of an assembly of turbines (6) having their axles (7) arranged in a longitudinal arrangement with respect to the float.

3. A swimming pool lane divider as per claim 2, **characterised in that** the shell (1, 2) is made up in such a way as to allow the water to pass therethrough.

4. A swimming pool lane divider as per claim 2, **characterised in that** the shell (1, 2) and the turbines (6) are made of a resilient plastics material.

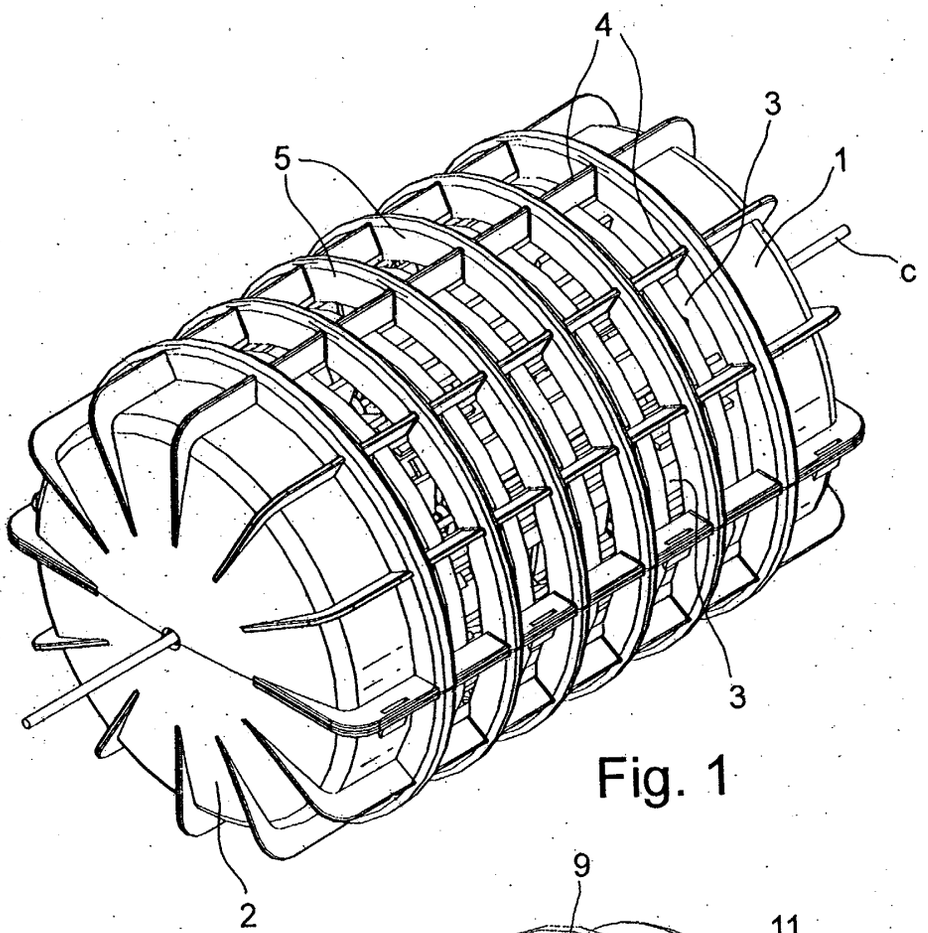

Fig. 1

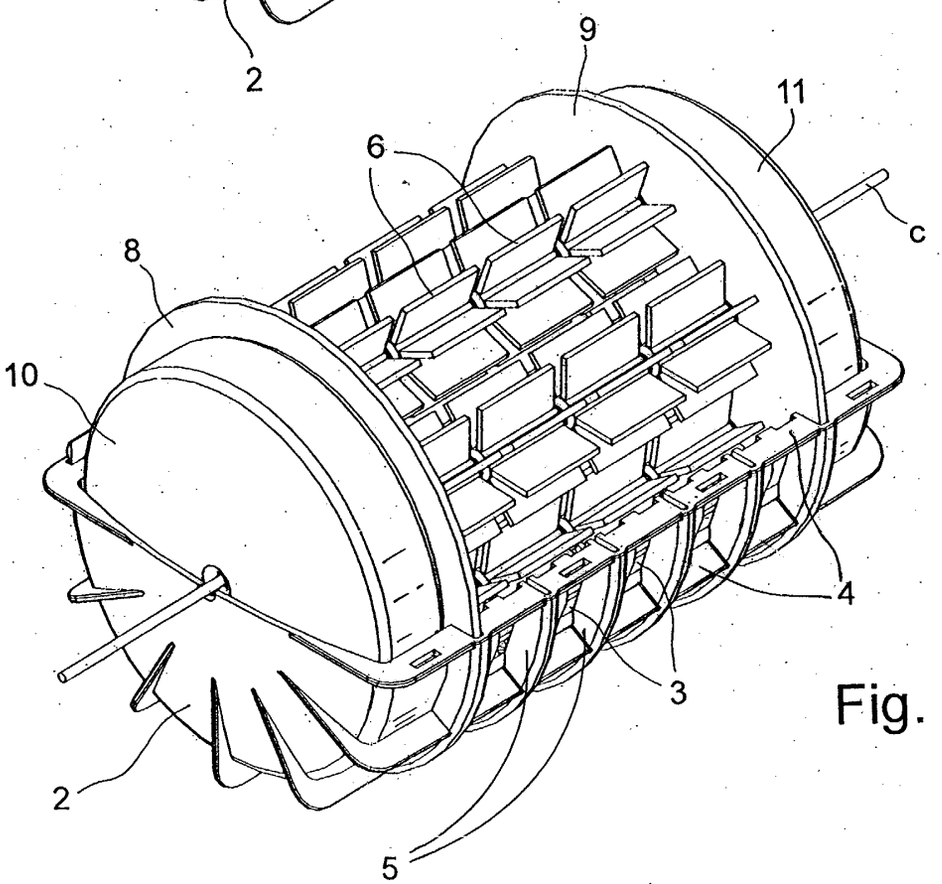

Fig. 2

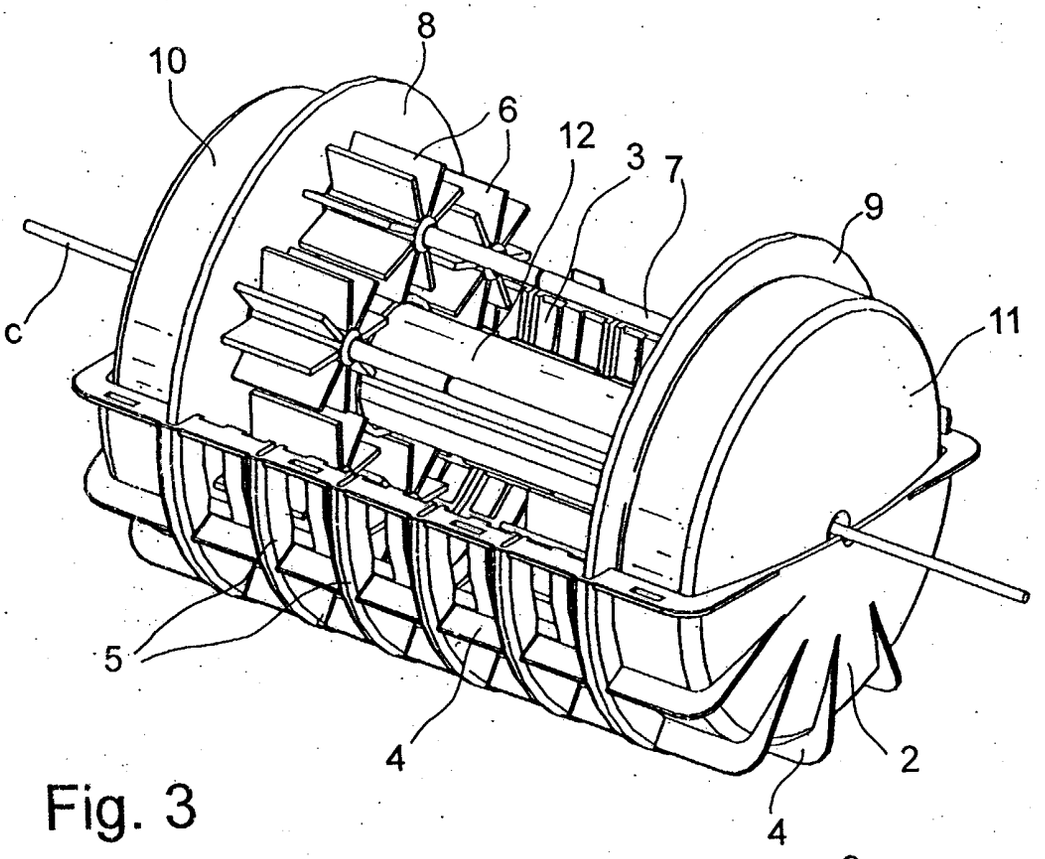

Fig. 3

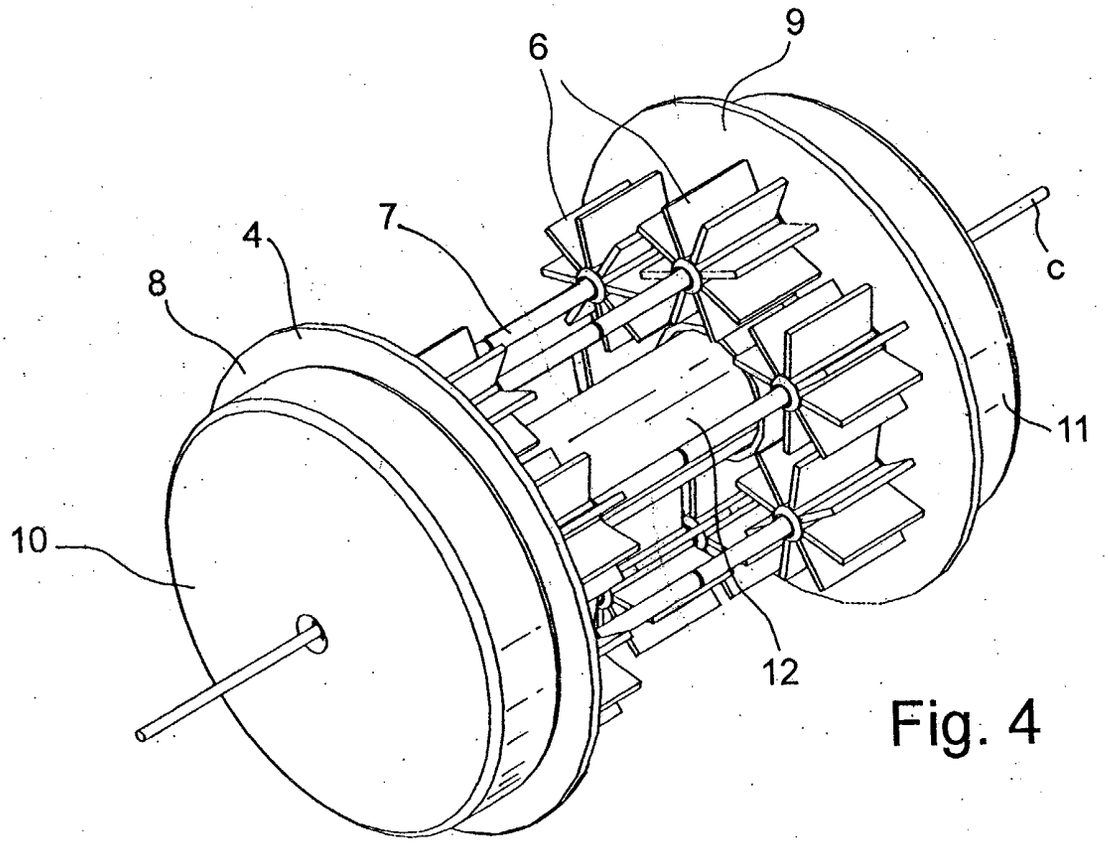

Fig. 4

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 03 38 0214

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)
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A	* the whole document *	2	

X	FR 2 742 464 A (VALLEE GAUTHIER) 20 June 1997 (1997-06-20)	1,3,4	
A	* page 2, line 7 - page 3, line 35; figures 1-3 *	2	

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A	* column 2, line 37 - column 5, line 29; figures 1-7G *	2	

X	US 3 755 829 A (WALKIET M) 4 September 1973 (1973-09-04)	1	
A	* column 2, line 46 - column 4, line 68; figures 1-7 *	2-4	

			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
MUNICH	27 November 2003	Stefanescu, R

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
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E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date
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L : document cited for other reasons

& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO. EP 03 38 0214

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
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82