



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication:  
**19.01.2005 Bulletin 2005/03**

(51) Int Cl.7: **A47C 19/02**

(21) Application number: **04254138.3**

(22) Date of filing: **09.07.2004**

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

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(30) Priority: **14.07.2003 GB 0316299**

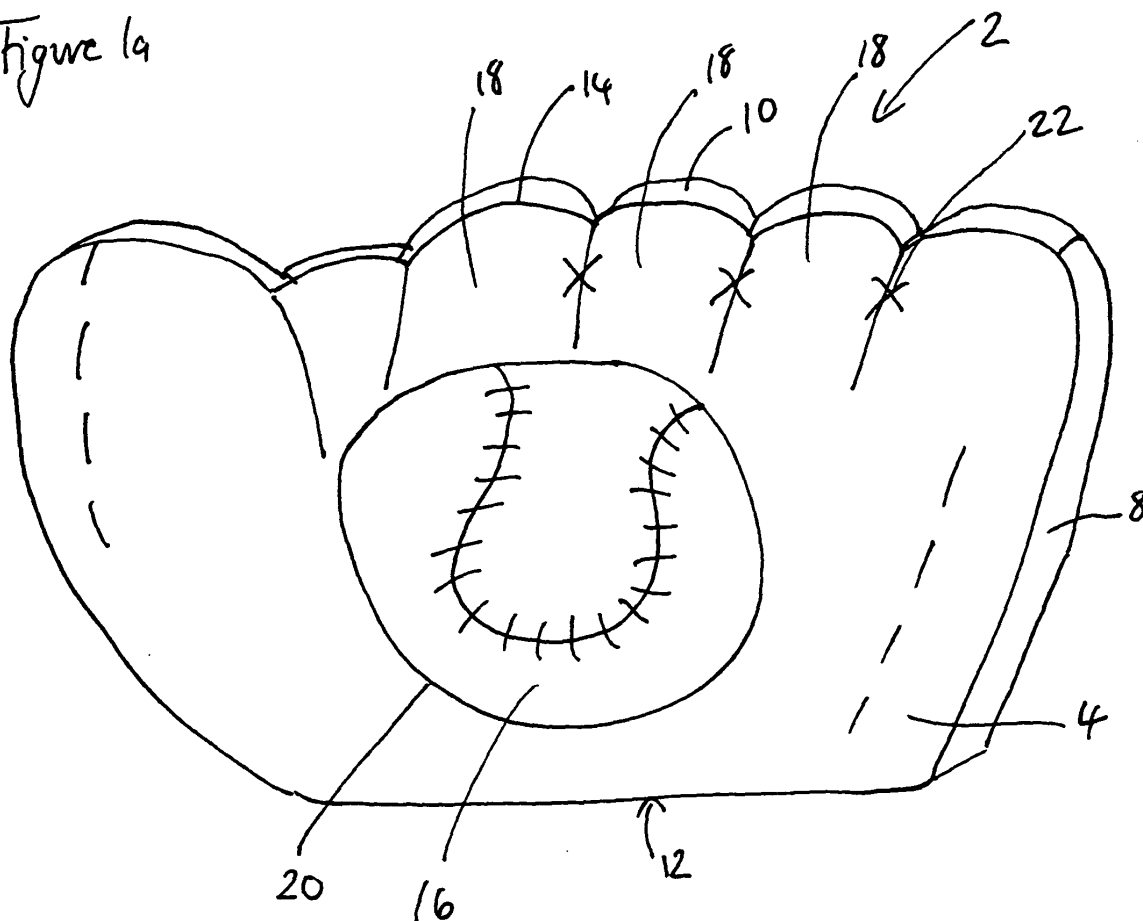
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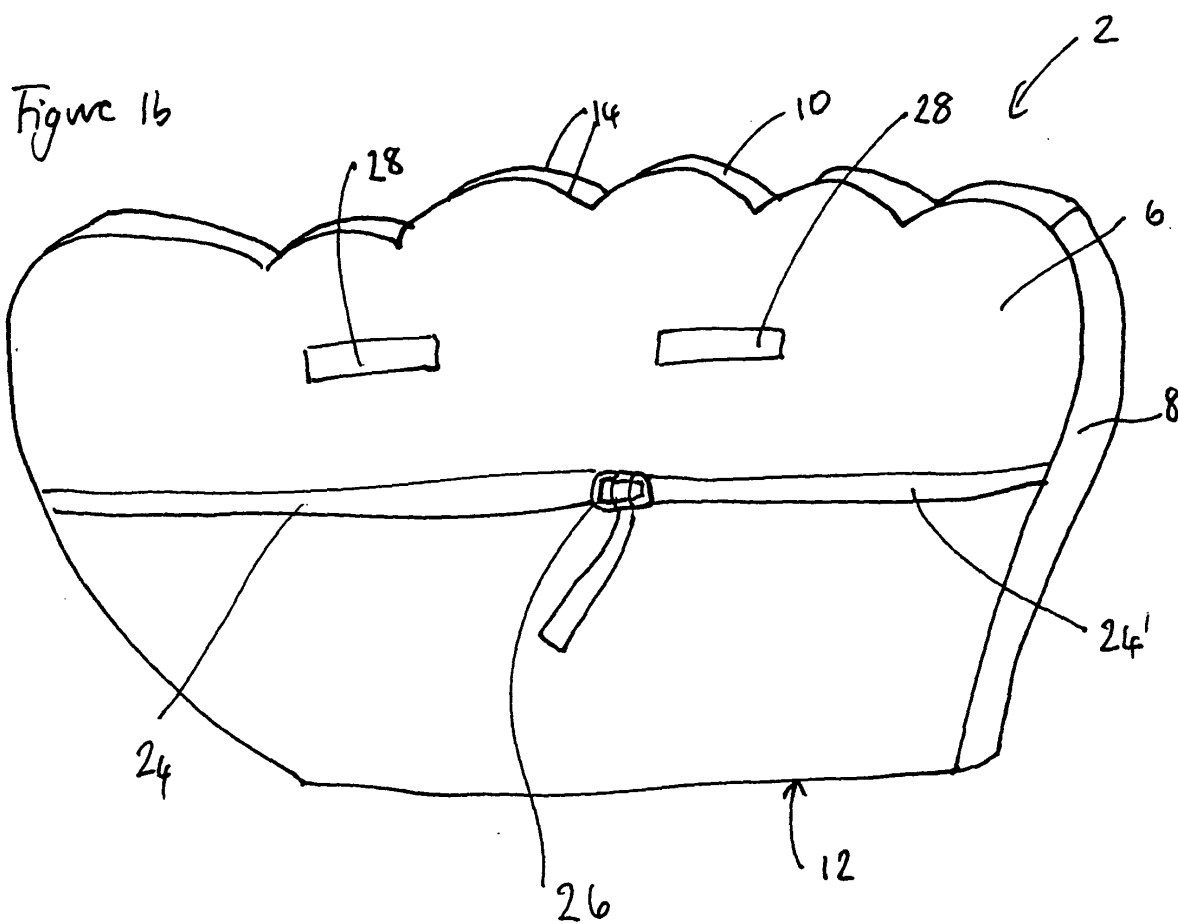
(54) **Headboard for a bed**

(57) The invention relates to a headboard for use with a bed. The headboard is provided with one or more characters, images, text, symbols and/or pictures on an

outer surface thereof. The outer shape of the headboard relates to the characters, images, text, symbols and/or pictures depicted on the outer surface.

Figure 1a





## Description

**[0001]** This invention relates to a headboard, and particularly although not necessarily exclusively to a headboard for use with a bed.

**[0002]** It is well known to provide headboards for connection with a bed to increase the comfort of a user when sitting up in the bed and to prevent the user's head or pillow from falling off the top of the bed during sleep. Conventional headboards typically include a substantially rigid board with fabric material fixedly connected thereto by adhesive, staples or some other form of permanent fixing means. Cushioning material is typically provided between the fabric material and the rigid board to provide a cushioned surface for a user to lean against. In addition, the headboard is typically fixedly connected to the bed. Thus, once the fabric material becomes soiled or worn, the headboard is useless and needs to be replaced in its entirety. In addition, the headboard is not easily changed if the user's bed is changed.

**[0003]** It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a headboard which overcomes the above-mentioned problems.

**[0004]** It is a further object of the present invention to provide a headboard which increases the aesthetic appeal of the same to a user, such as a child.

**[0005]** According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a headboard for attachment to a bed, said headboard provided with one or more characters, images, text, symbols and/or pictures on an outer surface thereof, and wherein the outer shape of the headboard relates to said characters, images, text, symbols and/or pictures.

**[0006]** The outer shape of the headboard is typically directly associated with the characters, images, text, symbols, pictures and/or the like shown on the headboard. For example, the outer edge of the headboard can be in the shape of the outer profile of a particular character, image and/or the like.

**[0007]** The characters, images, text, symbols, pictures and/or the like typically protrude outwardly from a surface of the headboard, such as from a front face of the headboard and/or from one or more edges or sides of the headboard.

**[0008]** Preferably the outer surface of the headboard is formed from a first material layer and the one or more characters, images, text, symbols, pictures and/or the like are formed, at least in part from a further material layer, which can be the same or different material to the first material layer.

**[0009]** In one embodiment the headboard is inflatable and can be provided with air inflation means for inflating the same. Air inlet means are typically provided on the headboard to allow inflation of the same. Closure means, such as a valve arrangement, can be provided in association with the air inlet means to close and/or open said air inlet means as required.

**[0010]** In one embodiment the headboard includes an

outer portion and at least one inner portion, the outer portion being removably located with said inner portion.

**[0011]** Preferably an outer portion is provided which forms the outer surface of the headboard and an inner portion is located at least partly within said outer portion.

**[0012]** Preferably said outer portion is in the form of a cover which is located with or over a whole or substantial part of said inner portion.

**[0013]** Preferably the inner portion is, includes or houses at least one inflatable member.

**[0014]** In one embodiment said cover is provided with attachment means for location with said inner portion.

**[0015]** In an alternative embodiment said cover has an opening with closure means provided therewith, the inner portion being located through said opening in a cavity defined by the walls of said cover.

**[0016]** Preferably the closure means are in the form of any or any combination of one or more zips, Velcro, buttons, clips, press studs, ties and/or the like.

**[0017]** In one embodiment the outer portion is a different shape and/or size to the inner portion. Thus, portions of the outer portion protrude beyond the outer edge of the inner portion.

**[0018]** Preferably the outer portion is formed from substantially flexible material.

**[0019]** Preferably the inner portion includes at least one layer of substantially resilient or soft material.

**[0020]** In one embodiment the inner portion includes a housing in which resilient and/or soft material is located. The housing in one example is in the form of a bag made from a textile material.

**[0021]** Preferably the substantially resilient and/or soft material contained in the housing includes any or any combination of fabric, foam, feathers and/or the like.

**[0022]** The inner portion housing can include at least one opening which is provided with closure means, thereby allowing user access to the contents of said housing for replacement and/or to add to the same.

**[0023]** In one embodiment the inner portion housing constitutes at least a first resilient layer and at least one further resilient layer provided therein.

**[0024]** Preferably the at least one further resilient layer is formed from foam material.

**[0025]** In one embodiment the inner portion includes a substantially rigid material layer to provide support for the headboard structure.

**[0026]** In one embodiment the headboard is provided with attachment means for attachment of the headboard to an existing headboard or wall surface. In this embodiment the attachment means includes any or any combination of adhesive, strap and buckle, ties, nuts and bolts, one or more clips and/or the like.

**[0027]** The advantage of the present invention is that the headboard can be provided in association with any type of bed and can be removably located therewith, thereby allowing the headboard to be transported easily between locations. The headboard has particular appeal to children due to the variety of different characters,

toys and/or scenes that can be depicted thereon. In addition, the cover of the headboard can easily be removed for cleaning, repair and/or replacement.

**[0028]** According to a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a bed having a headboard located therewith.

**[0029]** According to a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a headboard for attachment to a bed, said headboard including inflatable means.

**[0030]** Preferably the headboard includes at least one inflatable member. The inflatable member typically includes air inlet means and closure means associated therewith for allowing said air inlet means to be moved between open and closed conditions.

**[0031]** Preferably the headboard is removably located with respect to said bed. The bed can include any type of mattress which a user would typically sleep on.

**[0032]** An embodiment of the present invention will now be described with reference to the following figures wherein:

Figures 1a and 1b illustrate front and rear views of a head board according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a cross sectional view of the head board in one embodiment.

**[0033]** Referring to the figures, there is illustrated a three dimensional headboard 2 for use with a bed (not shown). The headboard 2 includes a front face 4, rear face 6, side walls 8, top 10 and base 12.

**[0034]** At least the front face 4 of headboard 2 is provided with an aesthetic design thereon, which in this example is in the form of a baseball glove and ball. The peripheral edge 14 of the front and rear faces 4, 6 are shaped according to the outer shape of a baseball glove. The design within the peripheral edge 14 of front face 4 includes additional three dimensional shaped items, such as base ball 16 and finger portions 18. These additional items are typically in the form of one or more compartments provided on front face 4, the outer edges of the compartments being defined by stitching 20. Padding in the form of foam can be contained in the compartments. Alternatively, padding can be provided on the opposite surface of said front face (i.e. located internally of the headboard). In either embodiment, the additional items, such as the base ball 6 typically protrude to a small degree from the front face 4, thereby providing increased realism of the items they are depicting. Printed matter or further additional fabric portions can be provided on front face 4 to add realism to the design. Thus, for example, stitching of the base ball glove can be depicted using fabric strips 22 which are stitched or adhered onto front face 4.

**[0035]** Piping or trimming can be provided around the peripheral edges of the front or rear faces and/or the additional items if required.

**[0036]** The rear face 6 of the headboard 2 is provided with attachment means in the form of two ties 24, 24' connected via a buckle 26. The ties can be located around an existing headboard or part of an existing headboard structure to attach headboard 2 thereto. The buckle can be adjusted with respect to the two ties 24, 24' to secure headboard 2 to the existing headboard/structure.

**[0037]** In addition, adhesive pads 28 can be provided on rear face 6 with release paper attached thereto. A user can remove the release paper when required and adhere the headboard 2 to a required surface. The adhesive pads can be attached to the rear face 6 by adhesive or via some other form of attachment means, such as VELCRO, thereby allowing the adhesive pads to be detachably attached to rear face 6. Thus, the user can then choose whether they wish to secure the headboard in a required position using the adhesive pads or using the ties/straps 24, 24' and buckle 26.

**[0038]** The headboard 2 typically includes an outer portion in the form of a cover 30, the external surfaces of which are shown in figures 1a and 1b and the cross section of which is shown in figure 2. The walls of the cover form front face 4, rear face 6, side walls 8, top 10 and base 12 and typically define an interior cavity. Closure means in the form of a zip can be provided along one wall of the cover, thereby allowing access to the interior cavity for repair and/or replacement of the contents therein and to allow the cover to be removed for washing purposes or repair.

**[0039]** The cushioning of headboard 2 is typically provided by an inner portion including a first cushioning layer 32 and a second cushioning layer 34. The thickness of these layers can vary as required but is typically of sufficient flexibility and softness/cushioning to allow a user to rest their head against headboard 2 without discomfort.

**[0040]** In the embodiment described, first cushioning layer 32 comprises a foam material of a required thickness. This layer can be provided in association with the interior surface of the front face 4, such as for example, to provide cushioning and/or shape to base ball 20 and/or other additional items depicted on front face 4. Alternatively, the foam material can be freely located in the cover to allow the cover to be easily removed from the inner portion.

**[0041]** Second cushioning layer 34 includes a bag type of housing in which cushioning material is provided, such as foam or lengths of fabric. Layer 34 can also be provided with closure means if required to allow a user to gain access thereto. Further layers can be provided as required.

**[0042]** It will be appreciated that a range of different designs can be provided by changing the two dimensional or three dimensional articles/ designs defined on the outer surfaces of the headboard and/or by changing the shape of one or more outer edges of the headboard. The size of the headboard can also be changed to allow

the same to fit to a camp bed, single bed, double bed, king size bed and/or the like.

**[0043]** The headboard can be formed from at least one inflatable member or one or more inflatable members can be provided within an outer cover of the headboard if required.

**[0044]** Although the above description refers almost exclusively to a headboard for location at the head of a bed, it will be appreciated by persons skilled in the art that the headboard could be located in any required position, such as the foot of a bed, and can be used independently of a bed (i.e., attached to a wall surface for a user to lean on).

## Claims

1. A headboard for attachment to a bed, said headboard provided with one or more characters, images, text, symbols and/or pictures on an outer surface thereof, and wherein the outer shape of the headboard relates to said characters, images, text, symbols and/or pictures.
2. A headboard according to claim 1 wherein the one or more characters, images, text, symbols and/or pictures protrude outwardly from the outer surface of said headboard.
3. A headboard according to claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the headboard is formed from a first material layer and the one or more characters, images, text, symbols and/or pictures are formed, at least in part, from at least one further material layer.
4. A headboard according to claim 1 wherein the headboard is inflatable.
5. A headboard according to claim 4 wherein air inlet means are provided on said headboard to allow inflation and closure means are provided in association with said air inlet means to close and/or open said air inlet means.
6. A headboard according to claim 1 wherein said headboard includes an outer portion forming the outer surface of the headboard, and an inner portion located at least partly within said outer portion.
7. A headboard according to claim 6 wherein said outer portion is a different shape to said inner portion.
8. A headboard according to claim 6 wherein said outer portion is removably located with respect to said inner portion.
9. A headboard according to claim 6 wherein said outer portion is in the form of a cover which is located with or over the whole or a substantial part of said inner portion.
10. A headboard according to claim 6 wherein the outer portion is provided with attachment means for removable location with said inner portion.
11. A headboard according to claim 6 wherein said outer portion has an opening with closure means provided therewith, said inner portion being placed through said opening and located in a cavity defined within the outer portion.
12. A headboard according to claim 11 wherein the closure means are in the form of any or any combination of one or more of zips, hook and loop fasteners, buttons, clips, press studs or ties.
13. A headboard according to claim 6 wherein the inner portion is, includes or houses an inflatable member.
14. A headboard according to claim 6 wherein the inner portion includes at least one layer of substantially resilient material.
15. A headboard according to claim 6 wherein the inner portion includes a housing in which resilient material is located.
16. A headboard according to claim 6 wherein the inner portion includes at least a first layer and at least one further layer formed of foam material.
17. A headboard according to claim 16 wherein the inner portion includes a substantially rigid material layer to provide support for the headboard structure.
18. A headboard according to claim 1 wherein the headboard is provided with attachment means to allow the engagement of the headboard to an existing headboard attached to a bed.
19. A headboard according claim 18 wherein the headboard is positioned to the front of the existing headboard to mask the existing headboard from view, in at least one viewing direction.
20. A bed having an existing headboard located therewith, and wherein a headboard as defined in any of claims 1 - 14 is attached thereto.

Figure 1a

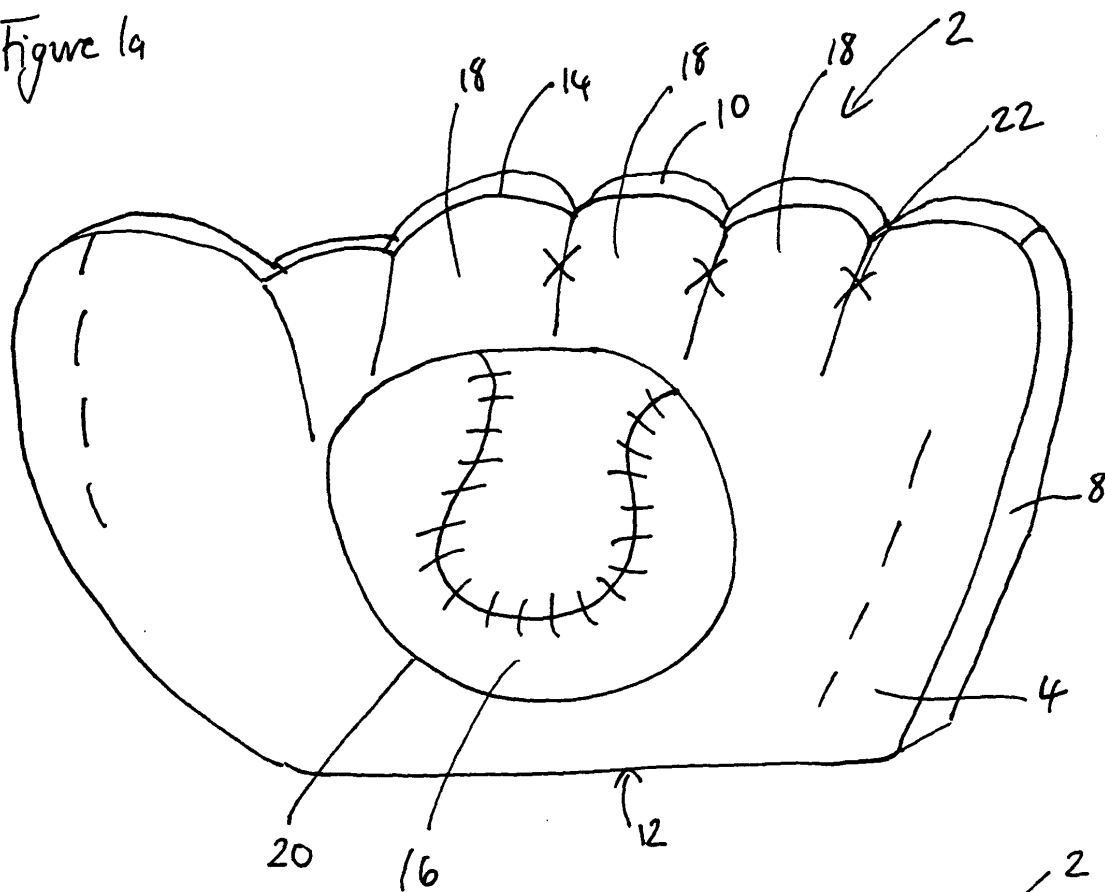
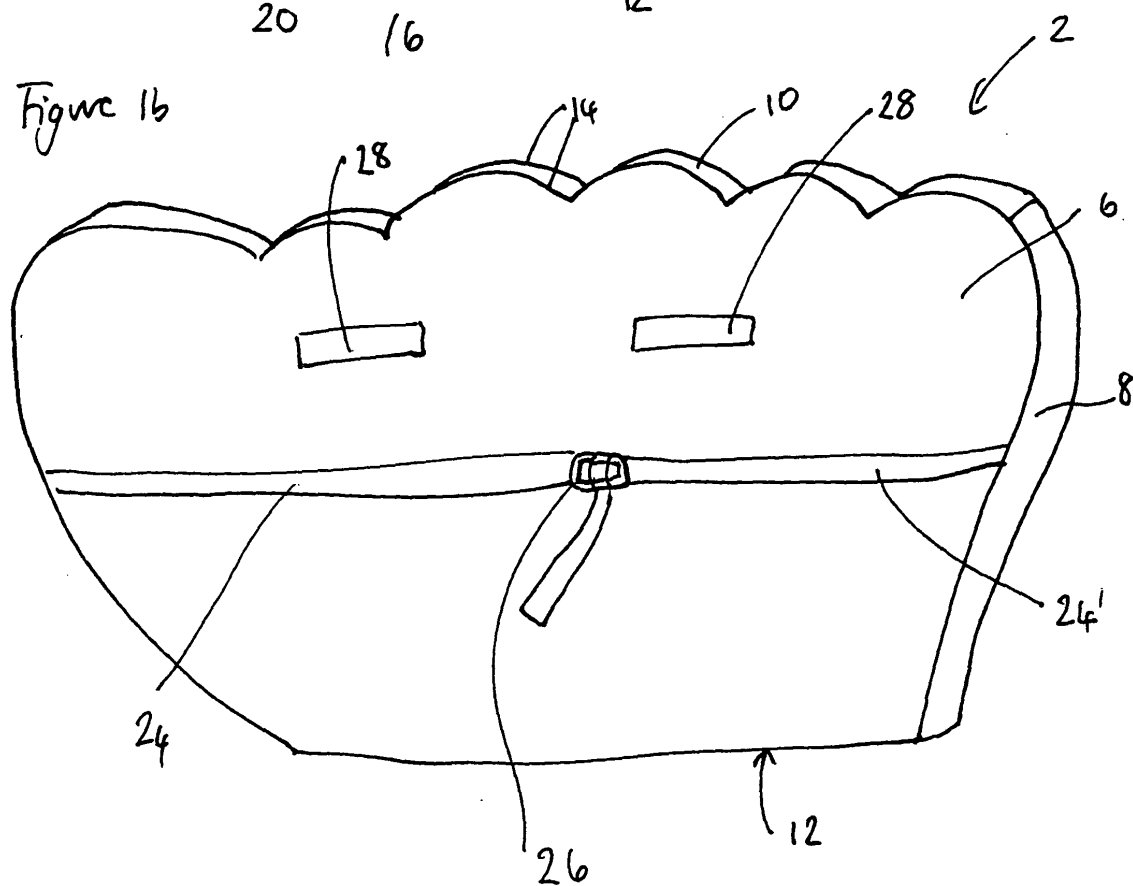


Figure 1b



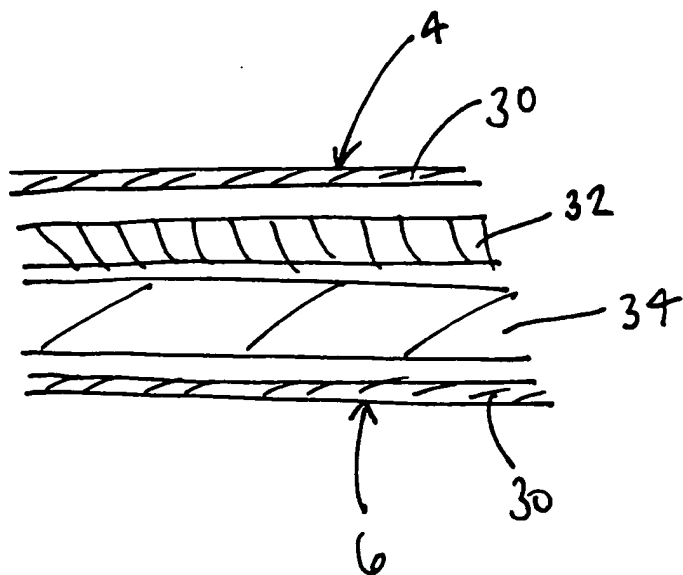


figure 2



European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 04 25 4138

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)
X	US 3 736 603 A (ROTHMAN) 5 June 1973 (1973-06-05) * abstract; figures *	1-3	A47C19/02
Y		4,13	
A		5-12, 14-20	
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Y	US 5 075 910 A (MORTEN) 31 December 1991 (1991-12-31) * abstract; figures *	4,13	
A		5	
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A	US 2 624 891 A (KATZOFF) 13 January 1953 (1953-01-13)  * claims; figures *	1-3, 6-12, 14-20	
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			A47C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		26 October 2004	VandeVondele, J
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EPO FORM 1503 03 82 (P04C01)



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

EP 04 25 4138

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
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26-10-2004

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