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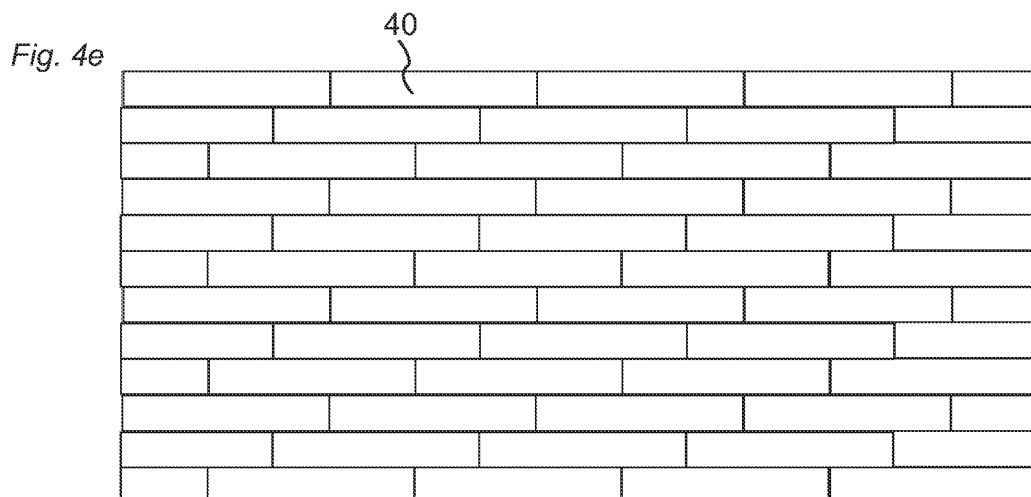
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(54) **Block of floorboards, flooring systems and methods for manufacturing and installation thereof**

(57) In a block of floorboards for providing a floating flooring, said block comprising a first floorboard (1) and a second floorboard (1') arranged such that at least one short edge of the first floorboard is aligned with at least one short edge of the second floorboard, said two floorboards being provided, at least along opposing long edges (4a,4b) with integrated connecting means for locking together the first floorboard with the second floorboard (1'), such that upper edge portions of the floorboards, in a joined state together define a vertical plane (VP), whereby said connecting means are adapted for locking together said floorboards in a horizontal direction (D2),

perpendicular to said vertical plane (VP), as well as in a vertical direction (D1), perpendicular to a main plane the floorboards, it is foreseen that a long edge (4a,4b) of said floorboards has a length not exceeding 80 cm and a short edge (5a,5b) of said floorboards has a length not exceeding 10 cm. The invention further comprises: a method for manufacturing a rectangular floorboard; a flooring system comprising two types of rectangular floorboard; a flooring system comprising four types of rectangular floorboards; a method for installing a flooring comprising two types of rectangular floorboards; and a method for installing a flooring comprising mechanically locked rectangular floorboards joined in parallel rows.



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 06 11 5825

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1 <del>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</del>			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 24 September 2008	Examiner Bouyssy, Vincent
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 ..... &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04/C01)



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**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due 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 those claims for which no payment was due.

**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:

see additional sheet(s)

☐ The present supplementary 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 (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION  
SHEET B**

Application Number

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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: 1-10

A block of mechanically lockable floorboards, wherein a long edge of said floorboards has a length not exceeding 80 cm and a short edge of said floorboards has a length not exceeding 10 cm.

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2. claims: 11-13

A method for manufacturing a rectangular floorboard having long edges provided with integrated connecting means.

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3. claims: 14-19

A flooring system comprising a first and a second type of mechanically lockable rectangular floorboards, wherein the length of the long edges is an even multiple of a length of the short edges, the connecting means of the first and the second types of floorboards are mirror-inverted and the first and the second types of floorboard are joinable to each other long side against short side, short side against short side and long side against short side.

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4. claim: 20

A method for installing a flooring comprising mechanically locked rectangular floorboards joined in parallel rows.

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

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