



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
10.10.2007 Bulletin 2007/41

(51) Int Cl.:
B42F 13/00 (2006.01)

(43) Date of publication A2:
03.10.2007 Bulletin 2007/40

(21) Application number: **07104829.2**

(22) Date of filing: **23.03.2007**

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

Designated Extension States:
AL BA HR MK YU

(30) Priority: **24.03.2006 US 388506**
15.02.2007 US 675494

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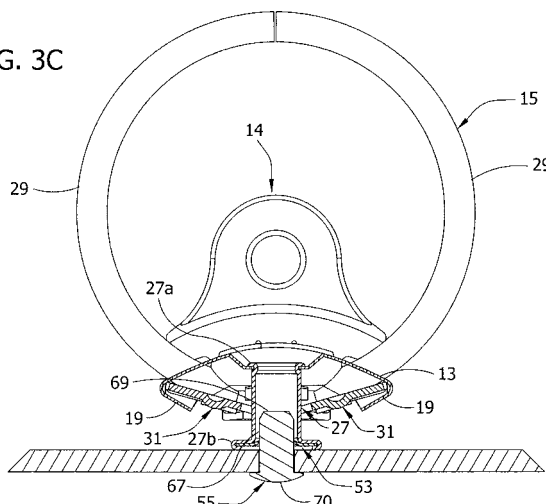
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(54) **Fastening system for a ring binder mechanism**

(57) A fastening system includes a tubular mounting post (27) engageable with a first structural member (3). The mounting post has an opened first end (27a), a second end (27b), and a sidewall extending therebetween and defining an interior channel. A retainer (53) is held within the interior channel against movement relative thereto and has a central opening sized smaller than the interior channel of the mounting post at the first end of

the mounting post. A fastener (55) is engageable with a second structural member (5) and has a shaft (67) sized in cross-section smaller than the interior channel of the mounting post (27) at least at the first end thereof and larger than the central opening of the retainer such that upon insertion of the shaft into the central opening of the retainer the retainer fastenably secures the fastener to the mounting post to thereby fasten the second structural member to the first structural member.

FIG. 3C





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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			B42F
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich		16 August 2007	Louvion, Bernard
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS 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 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			

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

EP 07 10 4829

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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