



(11) **EP 1 873 075 A1**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication:  
**02.01.2008 Bulletin 2008/01**

(51) Int Cl.:  
**B65D 37/00** (2006.01) **B65D 33/02** (2006.01)  
**B65D 33/06** (2006.01)

(21) Application number: **06013399.8**

(22) Date of filing: **28.06.2006**

(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 NL PL PT RO SE SI  
SK TR**  
Designated Extension States:  
**AL BA HR MK YU**

(74) Representative: **Ruschke, Hans Edvard  
RUSCHKE HARTMANN MADGWICK & SEIDE  
Patent- und Rechtsanwälte  
Postfach 86 06 29  
81633 München (DE)**

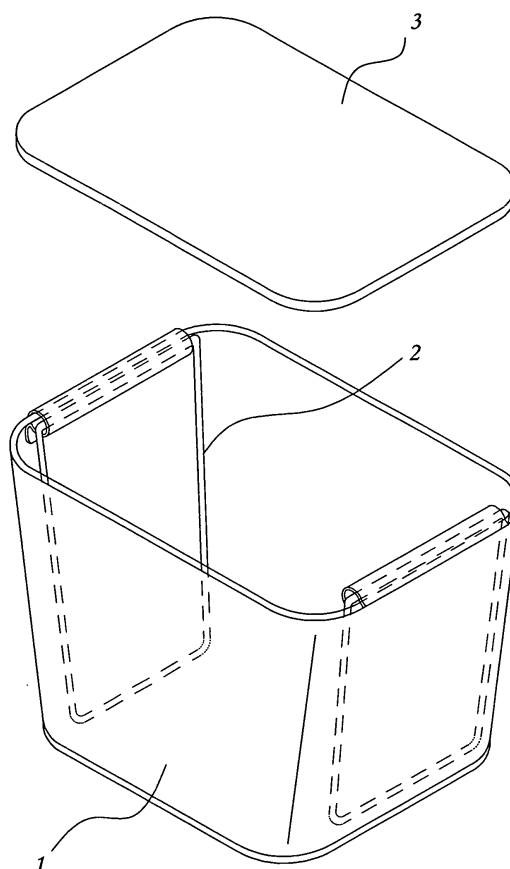
(71) Applicant: **Wang, Wen-Tsan  
Taipei City (TW)**

Remarks:  
Amended claims in accordance with Rule 137(2)  
EPC.

(72) Inventor: **Wang, Wen-Tsan  
Taipei City (TW)**

(54) **Collapsible basket**

(57) A collapsible basket having a collapsible fabric basket body, a hard bottom board attached to the top surface of the bottom panel of the basket body, and two support open frames formed of a respective metal wire rod and respectively hinged to the top side of the basket body at two sides and attachable to two opposite vertical peripheral panels of the basket body to support the basket body in shape.



*FIG. 1*

**EP 1 873 075 A1**

## Description

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### 1. Field of the Invention

**[0001]** The present invention relates a basket and more particularly, to a collapsible basket.

#### 2. Description of the Related Art

**[0002]** In order to save storage space, various commercial collapsible storage containers and baskets are created. These collapsible storage containers and baskets commonly have a fabric container or basket body, a plurality of horizontal top rods and horizontal bottom rods respectively horizontally fastened to the top and bottom sides of the vertical peripheral panels of the fabric container or basket body, and a plurality of vertical rods respectively vertically fastened to the junction between each two vertical peripheral panels of the fabric container or basket body. Further, each vertical peripheral panel of the fabric container or basket body has crossed folding lines. If the storage container or basket is not in use, the user can twist the horizontal top rods relative to the horizontal bottom rods to collapse the storage container or basket.

**[0003]** The conventional collapsible storage containers and baskets are functional, however they have a complicated structure, resulting in a high manufacturing cost. Further, for easy carrying by hand, these storage containers and baskets must be mounted with additional carrying handles.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

**[0004]** The present invention has been accomplished under the circumstances in view. It is the main object of the present invention to provide a collapsible basket, which has a simple structure and is easily collapsible. It is another object of the present invention to provide a collapsible basket, which has the support frames thereof usable as carrying handles. To achieve these and other objects of the present invention, the collapsible basket comprises a collapsible fabric basket body, a hard bottom board attached to the top surface of the bottom panel of the basket body, and two support open frames formed of a respective metal wire rod and respectively hinged to the top side of the basket body at two opposite sides. The support open frames can be turned inwards and closely attachable to two opposite vertical peripheral panels of the basket body to support the basket body in shape. Alternatively, the support open frames can be turned outwards to the outside of the basket body for use as carrying handles.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

### [0005]

FIG. 1 is an exploded view of a collapsible basket in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a side plain view, showing the support frames attached to the associating peripheral panels inside the basket body according to the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a side plain view, showing the support frames turned to the outside of the basket body according to the present invention.

FIG. 4 is an elevational view of the bottom board for the collapsible basket according to the present invention.

FIG. 5 is side plain view, showing the support frames attached to the associating peripheral panels outside the basket body according to the present invention.

FIG. 6 is a side plain view showing the collapsible basket collapsed according to the present invention.

FIG. 7A is an enlarged view of part A of FIG. 2.

FIG. 7B corresponds to FIG. 7A, showing a barrel mounted in the wrapping material around the top rim and one short side of the associating support frame.

FIG. 8 is a perspective view of an alternate form of the collapsible basket according to the present invention.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

**[0006]** Referring to FIGS. 1, and 2, a collapsible basket in accordance with the present invention is shown comprised of a basket body **1**, a bottom board **3**, and two support frames **2** provided inside the basket body **1** and respectively hinged to two opposite vertical peripheral panels of the basket body **1**.

**[0007]** The basket body **1** is made out of a soft fabric material in a circular, oval, rectangular, or any of a variety of shapes. According to this embodiment, the basket body **1** is a substantially rectangular container having a rectangular horizontal bottom panel and four linked vertical peripheral panels respectively connected to the four sides of the rectangular horizontal bottom panel and defining a top open side. In order to reinforce the strength of the basket body **1** and to enable the basket body **1** to be firmly supported in shape, a rigid top rim **13** is provided at the top side of each of the vertical peripheral panels around the top open side of the basket body **1** (see also FIG. 7A), and a bottom hem **12** is formed on the bottom side of the vertical peripheral panels around the four sides of the rectangular horizontal bottom panel of the basket body **1**. By means of folding up the bottom edge of each of the four vertical peripheral panels of the basket body **1** and then fixing the folded part in shape with stitches, the bottom hem **12** is made. Alternatively, a rigid bottom rim can be provided at the bottom side of each of the vertical peripheral panels of the basket body **1**.

**[0008]** The aforesaid rigid top rim **13** is made of a metal wire rod, i.e., the metal wire rod is bent into shape and affixed to the four vertical peripheral panels of the basket body **1** around the top open side of the basket body **1**.

**[0009]** The support frames **2** are rectangular open frames respectively formed of a metal wire rod. According to this embodiment, the support frames **2** are rectangular open frames, having a length not less than the depth of the basket body **1**. The support frames **2** each have one short side respectively hinged to the top side of one of two opposite vertical peripheral panels of the basket body **1**. The support frames **2** may be hinged to the basket body **1** in either of the following two ways. In the first way as shown in FIG. 7A, a wrapping material **11** is wrapped about the top rim **13** and one short side of the associating support frame **2** and then stitched to the associating vertical peripheral panel of the basket body **1**. In the second way as shown in FIG. 7B, a barrel **13** is used to hold the top rim **13** and one short side of the associating support frame **2** on the inside, and then a wrapping material **11** is wrapped about the barrel **13** and then stitched to the associating vertical peripheral panel of the basket body.

**[0010]** The bottom board **3** is a hard board that can be directly embedded in the bottom panel of the basket body **1**. In this case, the bottom panel of the basket body is made having two layers respectively covered on the top and bottom sides of the bottom board **3**. Alternatively, the bottom board **3** can be directly put inside the basket body **1** and supported on the top side of the bottom panel of the basket body **1**. As shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, the bottom board **3** has two side notches **31** at two opposite sides. The width of the side notches **31** is approximately equal to the width of the support frames **2** so that the other short side of each of the support frames **2** can be respectively positioned in the side notches **31** of the bottom board **3**.

**[0011]** When in use, the support frames **2** can be turned inwards to the inside of the basket body **1** and closely attached to the associating vertical peripheral panels of the basket body **1** and engaged into the side notches **31** of the bottom board **3**, as shown in FIG. 2. Alternatively, the support frames **2** can be turned outwards to the outside of the basket body **1** and closely attached to the associating vertical peripheral panels of the basket body **1**, as shown in FIG. 5. Further, the support frames **2** can be turned to the outside of the basket body **1** for use as carrying handles, as shown in FIG. 3. When not in use, the two support frames **2** are turned outwards from the associating vertical peripheral panels of the basket body **1**, and then the basket body **1** is collapsed, as shown in FIG. 6.

**[0012]** FIG. 8 shows an alternate form of the collapsible basket according to the present invention. According to this embodiment, the basket body **1** is a flat rectangular container made out of a soft fabric material and provided with a cover, and the two support frames **2** are respectively hinged to the vertical front and back panels of the basket body **1**.

**[0013]** Although particular embodiments of the invention have been described in detail for purposes of illustration, various modifications and enhancements may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is not to be limited except as by the appended claims.

## Claims

1. A collapsible basket comprising:

a collapsible basket body made of a soft fabric material, said basket body having a bottom panel, a plurality of vertical peripheral panels connected to the border of said bottom panel and defining with said bottom panel a top-open receiving chamber, and a rim fixedly provided at the top side of each of said vertical peripheral panels remote from said bottom panel;

a plurality of support frames hinged to said rim of said basket body for supporting said basket body in shape, said support frame each having a fixed end hinged to said rim, a free end opposite to said fixed end, and a length defined between said fixed end and said free end, said length being greater than the depth of said top-open receiving chamber; and

a hard bottom board secured to said bottom panel inside said basket body.

2. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said bottom board is embedded in the bottom panel of said basket body.

3. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said bottom board is supported on a top side of said bottom panel inside said basket body.

4. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 2, wherein said bottom board has a plurality of side notch in the border thereof for receiving the free ends of said support frames opposite to the hinged side.

5. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 3, wherein said bottom board has a plurality of side notch in the border thereof for receiving the free ends of said support frames opposite to the hinged side.

6. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 1, wherein the number of said support frames is 2, and the two support frames are respectively hinged to said rim at two sides corresponding to two opposite vertical peripheral panels of said basket body.

7. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a wrapping material wrapped about said rim and one side of each of said support frames and

stitched to said vertical peripheral panels of said basket body to secure said support frames pivotally to said basket body.

8. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a barrel holding said rim and one side of each of said support frames on the inside to secure said support frames pivotally to said basket body, and a wrapping material wrapped about said barrel and stitched to said vertical peripheral panels of said basket body. 5
9. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said basket body has a bottom rim extending around the border of said bottom panel. 10
10. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said basket body has a rectangular shape. 15
11. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said basket body has a cylindrical shape. 20
12. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said basket body has an oval shape. 25
13. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a cover hinged to a top side of one vertical peripheral panel remove from said bottom panel for closing said top-open receiving chamber. 30

#### Amended claims in accordance with Rule 137(2) EPC.

1. A collapsible basket comprising: 35  
a collapsible basket body (1) made of a soft fabric material, said basket body (1) having a bottom panel, a plurality of vertical peripheral panels connected to the border of said bottom panel and defining with said bottom panel a top-open receiving chamber, and a rim (13) fixedly provided at the top side of each of said vertical peripheral panels remote from said bottom panel; two support frames (2) respectively hinged to said rim of said basket body (1) at two sides corresponding to two opposite vertical peripheral panels of said basket body (1), and which can be hinged to a position adjacent the respective peripheral panel to support said basket body (1) in shape, each support frame (2) having a fixed end hinged to said rim (13), a free end opposite to said fixed end, and a hard bottom board (3) secured to said bottom panel inside said basket body (1); 50 55

characterized in that the length of the support frames (2), defined between said fixed end and said

free end, is greater than the depth of said top-open receiving chamber and the support frames (2) can be turned inwards to the inside of the basket body (1) such that the free ends of the support frames (2) lie outwardly with respect to the hard bottom board.

2. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said bottom board (3) is embedded in the bottom panel of said basket body (1).

3. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said bottom board (3) is supported on a top side of said bottom panel inside said basket body.

4. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 2, wherein said bottom board (3) has a plurality of side notches (31) in the border thereof for receiving the free ends of said support frames (2).

5. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 3, wherein the bottom board (3) has a plurality of side notches (31) in the border thereof for receiving the free ends of said support frames (2).

6. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a wrapping material (11) wrapped about said rim (13) and one side of each of said support frames (2) and stitched to said vertical peripheral panels of said basket body (1) to secure said support frame pivotally to said basket body (1).

7. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a barrel (21) holding said rim (13) and one side of each of said support frames (2) on the inside to secure said support frames (2) pivotally to said basket body (1) and a wrapping material wrapped about said barrel and stitched to said vertical peripheral panels of said basket body (1).

8. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said basket body (1) has a bottom rim extending around the border of said bottom panel.

9. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said basket body (1) has a rectangular shape.

10. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said basket body (1) has a cylindrical shape.

11. The collapsible basket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said basket body (1) has an oval shape.

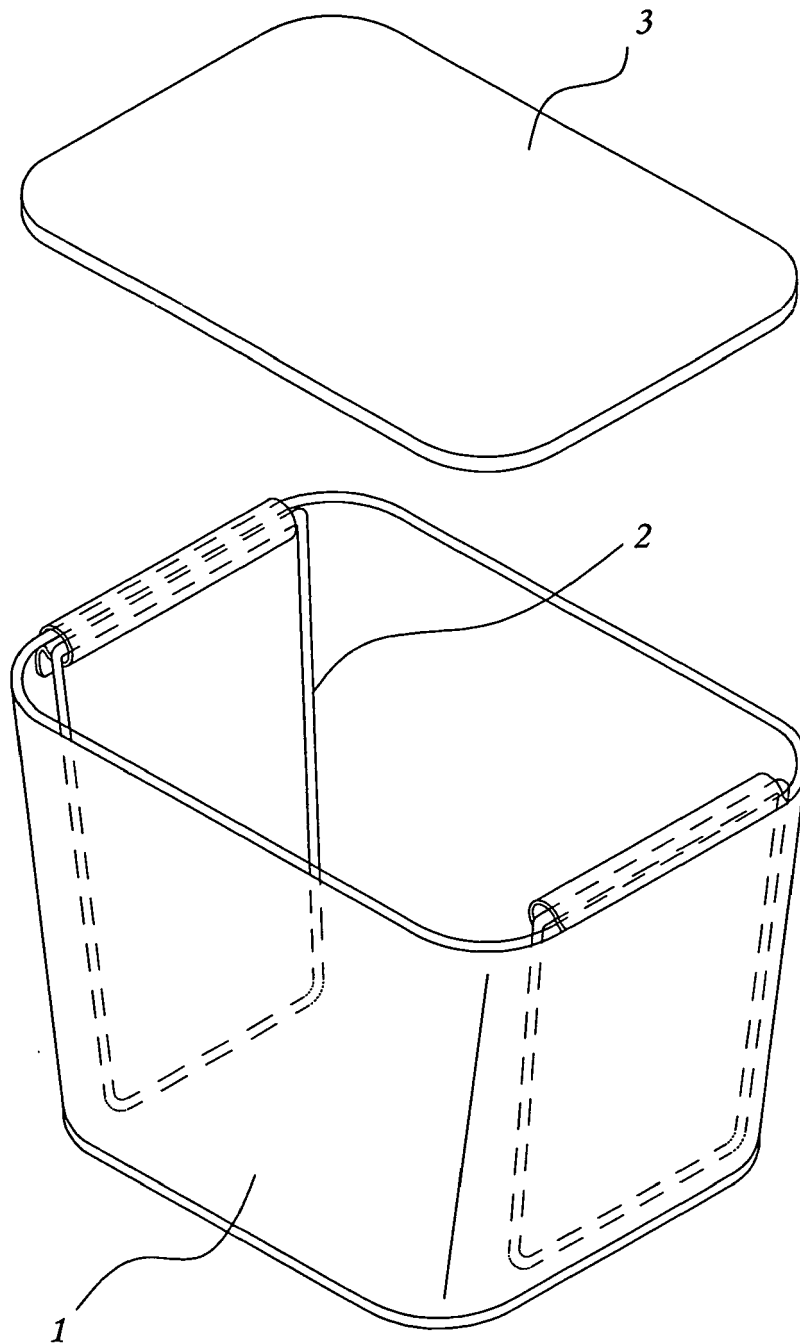


FIG. 1

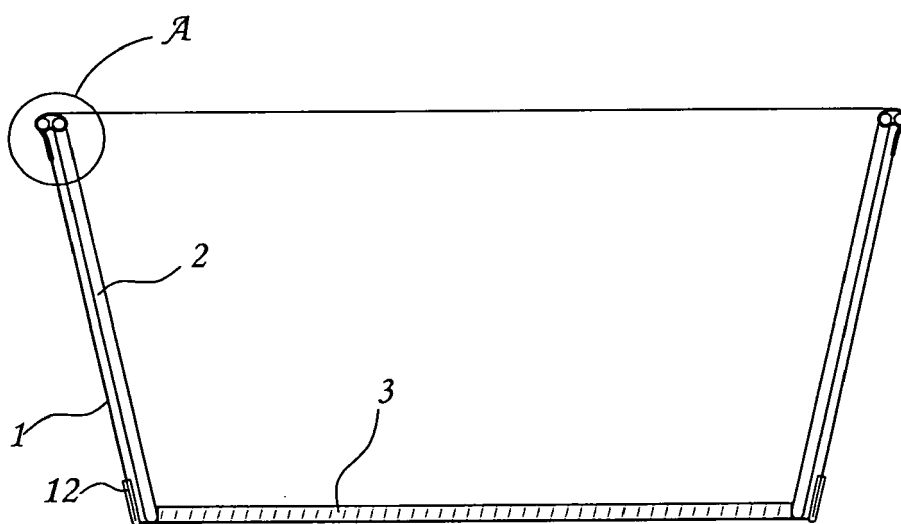
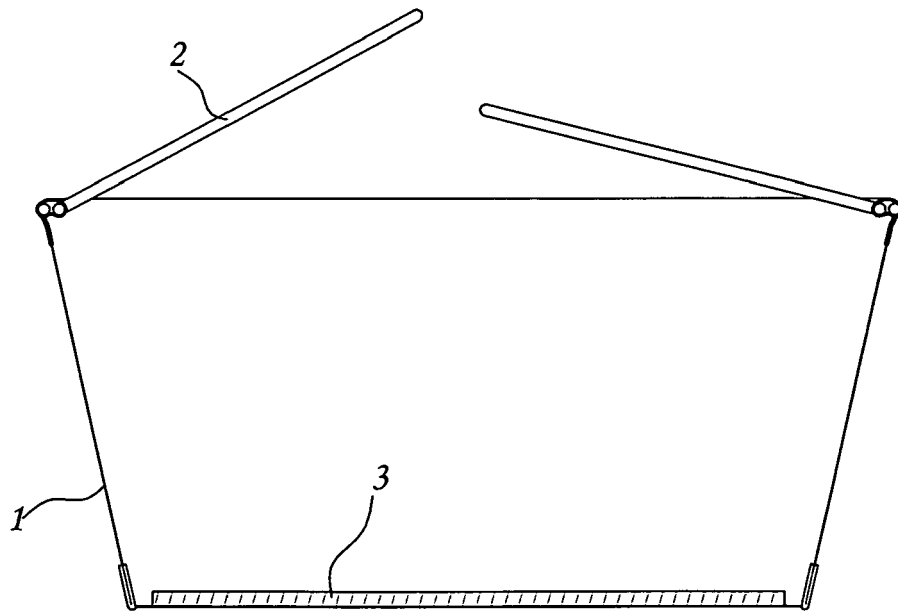


FIG. 2



*FIG. 3*

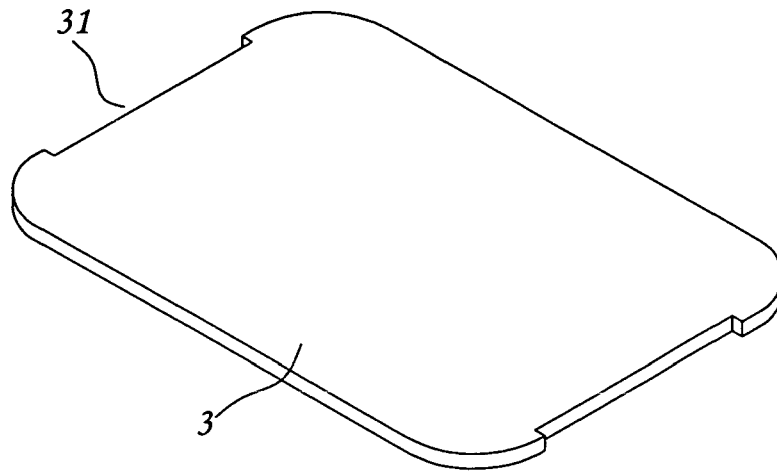


FIG. 4

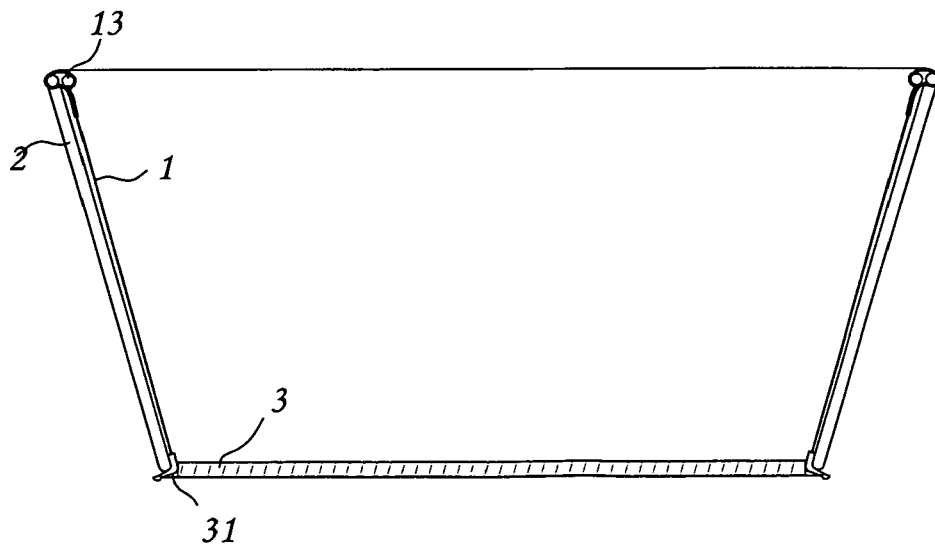
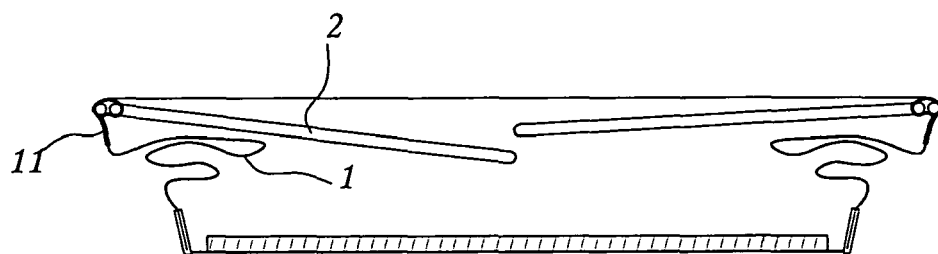
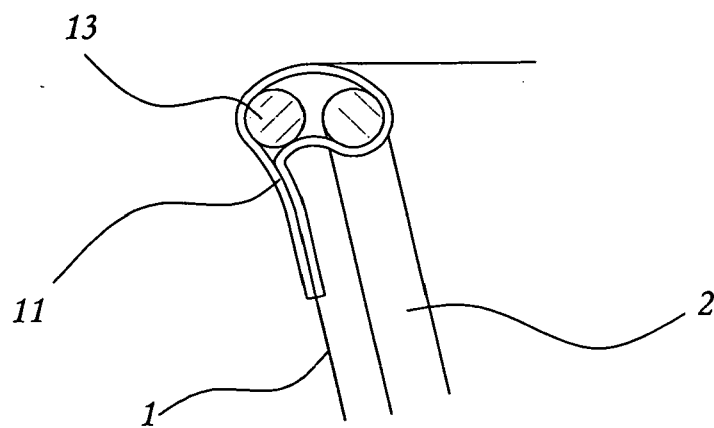


FIG. 5

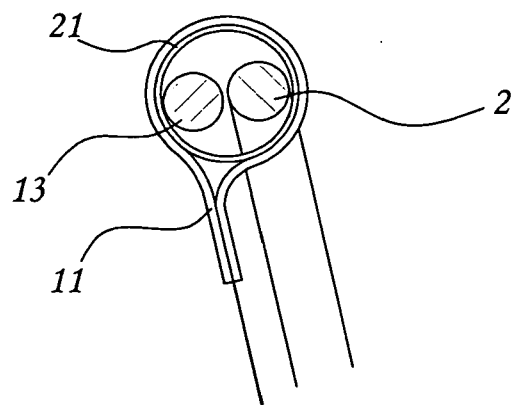




*FIG. 6*



*FIG. 7A*



*FIG. 7B*

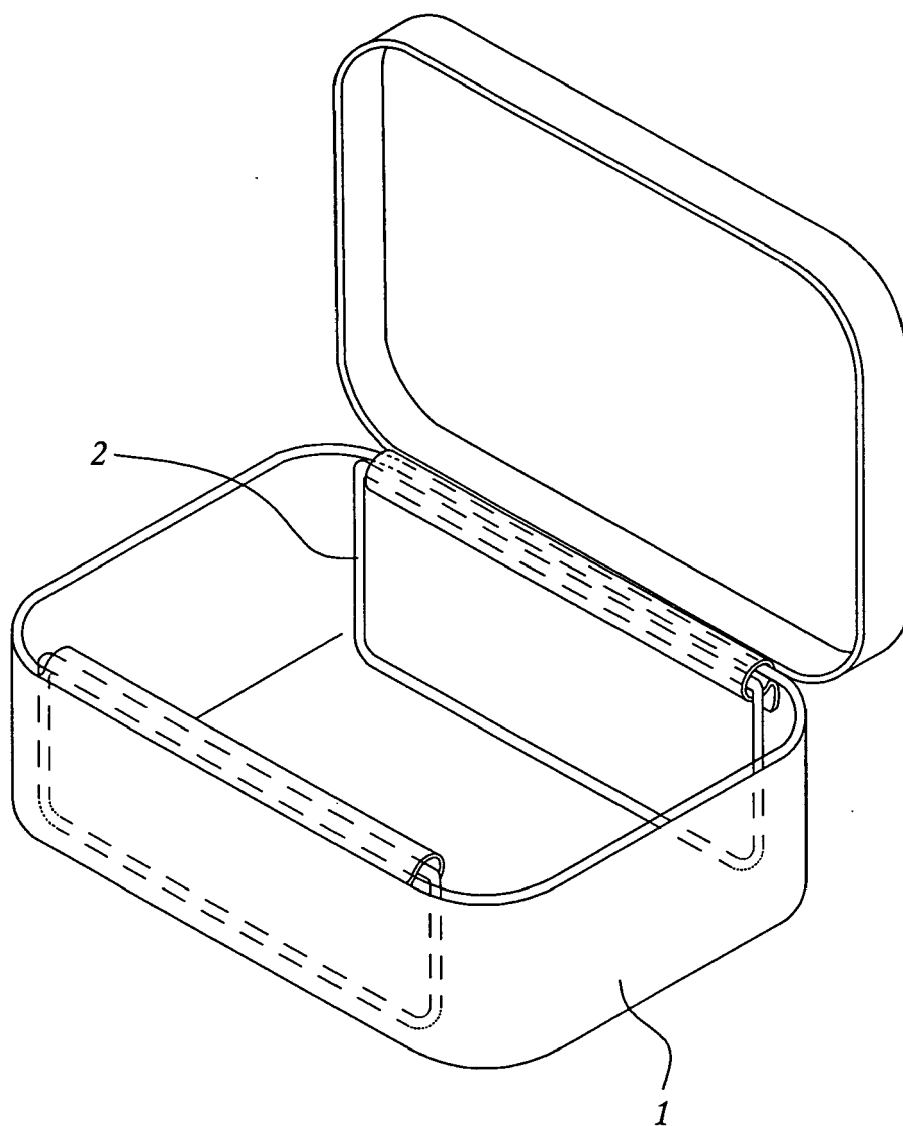


FIG. 8



European Patent  
Office

## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 06 01 3399

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 1 843 164 A (AMUND JOHNSON) 2 February 1932 (1932-02-02) * column 1, line 35 - column 2, line 62; figures 1-3 *	1-3,6, 8-12	INV. B65D37/00 B65D33/02 B65D33/06
X	EP 1 321 064 A (WANG WEN-TSAN [TW]) 25 June 2003 (2003-06-25) * paragraph [0006] - paragraph [0007]; figures 1,2 *	1-7,13	
X	US 2 030 204 A (GRAY DALE B) 11 February 1936 (1936-02-11) * column 2, line 4 - line 36; figure 1 *	1-3,6,7, 10	
X	US 1 981 774 A (MARTHA BLITZ) 20 November 1934 (1934-11-20) * column 2, line 58 - line 70; figures 1,3 *	1-3,10, 13	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			B65D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 24 November 2006	Examiner Appelt, Lothar
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			

2

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

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

EP 06 01 3399

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  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

24-11-2006

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 1843164	A	02-02-1932	NONE	
EP 1321064	A	25-06-2003	NONE	
US 2030204	A	11-02-1936	NONE	
US 1981774	A	20-11-1934	NONE	