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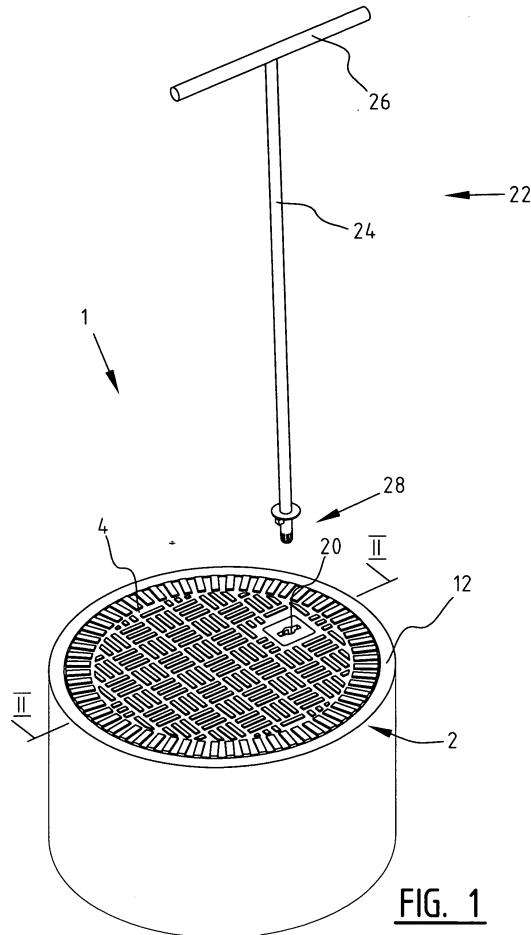
### (54) Closing device and method for closing a hole in the ground

(57) The present invention relates to a closing device (1) for closing a hole (2) in the ground, comprising:

- a lightweight plate part (4) for closing the hole in an edge (12) thereof; and  
- locking means for locking and unlocking the plate part relative to the edge, wherein the locking means comprise a mechanism which can be operated via an opening (20) in the plate part.

The invention also relates to a closing system and a method for respectively unlocking and locking a lightweight plate part relative to a hole in the ground, comprising the steps of:

- inserting a tool (22) in a first insertion position into an opening (20) of a plate part (4) arranged for this purpose, wherein the plate part comprises locking means for locking the plate part relative to an edge (12) of the hole (2);  
- moving the tool from the first insertion position into a second handling position, wherein in the first insertion position the tool can be respectively inserted into and removed from the plate part; and  
- moving the tool from the second handling position to the first insertion position, wherein the tool operates the locking means from an unlocked position to a locked position.





## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

 Application Number  
 EP 07 07 5870

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT   |  |  |  |
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| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS   |  |  |  |
| X : particularly relevant if taken alone<br>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category<br>A : technological background<br>O : non-written disclosure<br>P : intermediate document   |  |  |  |
| T : theory or principle underlying the invention<br>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date<br>D : document cited in the application<br>L : document cited for other reasons<br>.....<br>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document |  |  |  |

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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