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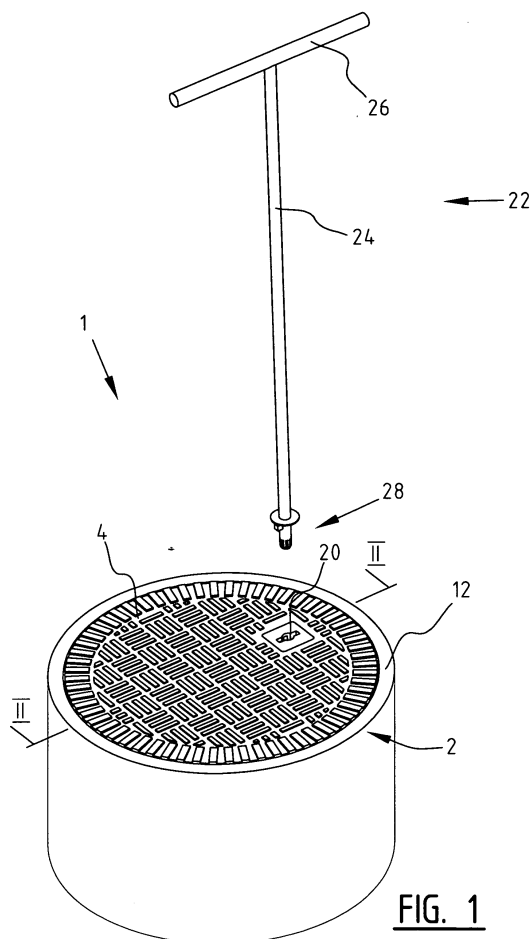
(54) **Closing device and method for closing a hole in the ground**

(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

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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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X	DE 200 12 023 U1 (STAHLBAU KURT KLATETZKI GMBH & [DE]) 11 January 2001 (2001-01-11)  * page 7, line 7 - page 8, line 10; figures 1,2 *	1-6, 13-15, 18,20	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 14 December 2009	Examiner Leroux, Corentine
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			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**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.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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14-12-2009

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