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(54) **Grave marking system and method for arranging a grave marking**

(57) The invention relates to a grave marking, consisting of a grave edge (1a,1b,1c,1d) and fixing means for fixing the grave edge to the ground surface. The fixing means consist of pins (2), each provided with a pointed outer end and a head part, and the grave edge is provided with recesses for receiving head parts of the pins. The grave marking further consists of a plate provided with openings at locations corresponding to positions of the recesses.

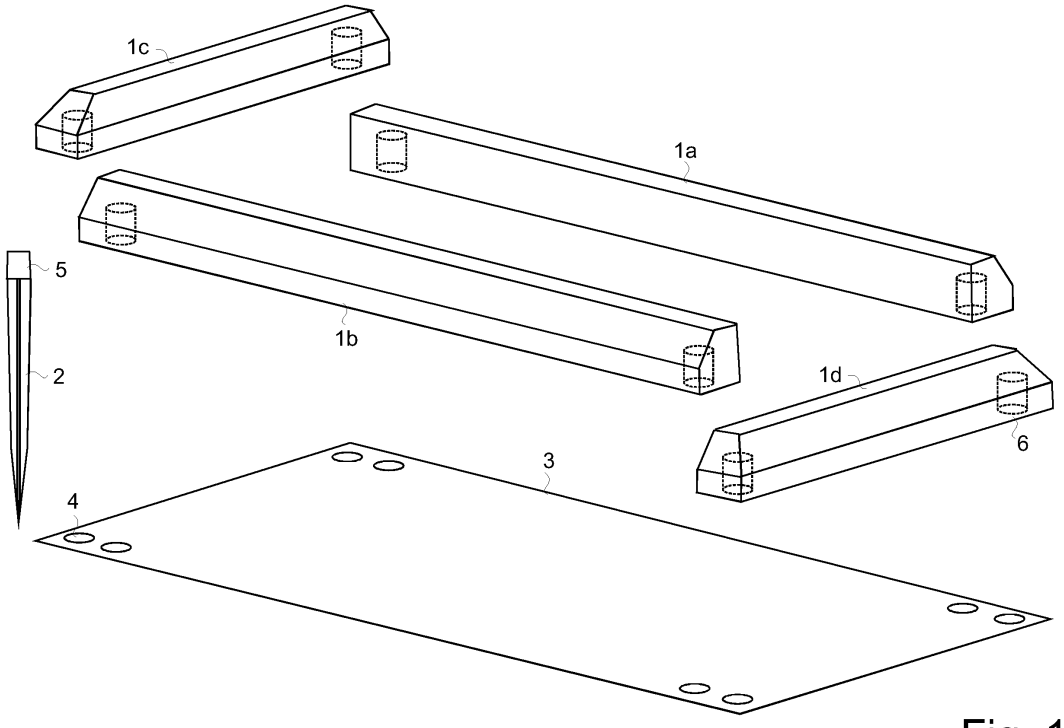

Fig. 1

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Description

[0001] The invention relates to a grave marking system comprising a grave edge with two long sides and two short sides, in addition to fixing means for fixing the grave edge to the ground surface. Grave marking systems of this type are frequently applied, wherein the grave edge is generally manufactured from stone and wherein the grave edge rests on a foundation which is embodied such that it can withstand the ravages of time for a long period of time. A drawback of the known grave marking system is that the costs are high, especially taking into account that a grave is now generally only maintained for 10 to 20 years, a period of time which can also be spanned by a less sturdily embodied grave marking system.

[0002] The grave marking system according to the invention obviates this drawback and has the feature that the fixing means comprise pin-like members, each provided with a pointed outer end and a head part, and that the grave edge is provided with recesses for receiving head parts of the pin-like members. The grave edge can in fact consist here of almost any type of material, provided it is possible to arrange recesses therein. It will be apparent that such a grave marking system can be arranged easily and quickly. An important additional advantage is that it is possible to prevent the grave having a neglected appearance for a longer period of time, this is often being the case with the traditional grave marking systems.

[0003] A favourable embodiment has the feature that it also comprises a plate-like member provided with openings at locations at least substantially corresponding to positions of the recesses. This plate-like member can serve here as a template, using which the pin-like members can be driven into the ground at the correct position in simple manner. The plate-like member then preferably takes a rigid form so that it is easily placed in level position. The top side of the head parts can then also be positioned in simple manner, whereby the grave edge comes to lie in level position irrespective of the flatness of the ground surface. After placing of the pin-like members the plate-like member can be removed, whereby the grave once again becomes visible and plants can for instance be arranged, although the plate-like member can also be left in place and the grave edge placed thereon. In that case the grave edge can for instance be filled with for example gravel or chippings, whereby the grave becomes maintenance-free. If desired, the plate-like member can be manufactured from a flexible material so that it can be stored and transported in very simple manner. A spirit level can then for instance be used to position the top sides of the head parts.

[0004] A further favourable embodiment has the feature that a plate-like member is provided with a central opening. The grave marking system can then be placed when the ground has not yet subsided, or insufficiently so. The plate-like member is preferably provided here with guide pins, and the system also comprises a cover plate, whereby the grave appears finished, even when the ground has not yet subsided, or not fully subsided.

[0005] The grave marking system can advantageously also be applied as a temporary gravestone because it can be easily removed again and no waste is produced here.

[0006] A further favourable embodiment has the feature that the grave edge is provided with fastening means for fastening the grave edge to the pin-like members. The fastening means can for instance consist of threaded holes, via which bolts can be screwed against the pin-like members.

A further favourable embodiment has the feature that the grave edge comprises four separate edge parts, wherein the pin-like members anchored in the ground and possibly the plate-like member ensure the mutual connection of the separate parts. This is a logistically attractive embodiment because such a grave marking system can be stored and transported in very simple manner.

[0007] A further favourable embodiment has the feature that two mutually opposite sides of the grave edge are each provided with a hinge. The grave edge can then be folded double during transport and storage, which generally has the effect of saving costs. The hinges are preferably arranged such that the undersides of the two other sides can be folded against each other. It is then generally sufficient to place pin-like members only under the hingeless sides when placing the grave edge.

[0008] A further favourable embodiment has the feature that the grave edge is manufactured from plastic. Such a grave edge can be produced inexpensively and is maintenance-free. If desired, it can moreover be produced such that the grave edge is apparently manufactured from stone.

[0009] A further favourable embodiment has the feature that the long sides and the short sides are each provided with a central cavity running in a lengthwise direction, whereby the weight and the material costs of the grave edge can be significantly reduced.

[0010] A further favourable embodiment has the feature that the grave edge is pressed from granular plastic material, for instance of the type released during shredding of used plastic. A for instance black or dark grey grave edge of attractive appearance can be realized by adding a suitable dye.

[0011] The invention also relates to a grave edge or pin-like member as part of a grave marking system as specified in the foregoing paragraphs.

[0012] The invention also relates to a method for arranging a grave marking, wherein a grave edge is placed around a grave. The inventive method has the feature that a plate-like member is placed on the grave, an edge of which member is provided with holes, and that pin-like members are driven into the ground via a number of holes, whereafter the grave edge is placed on heads of the pin-like members protruding from the ground, wherein recesses in the grave edge receive the heads.

[0013] A favourable realization of the inventive method

has the feature that the plate-like member is removed before the grave edge is placed.

[0014] An advantageous alternative realization has the feature that a space bounded by the grave edge and the plate-like member is at least partially filled with a granular material such as gravel or chippings.

[0015] A further favourable realization of the inventive method has the feature that the plate-like member is provided with an opening and guide pins, and that the opening is at least partially closed with a cover plate, whereby the grave appears well-tended, even when the ground has not yet subsided, or not fully subsided.

[0016] The invention will now be further elucidated with reference to the following figures, wherein:

Fig. 1 shows schematically a grave marking system according to the invention;
Fig. 2 shows schematically an alternative grave marking system according to the invention;
Fig. 3 shows schematically a further alternative grave marking system according to the invention;
Fig. 4A shows schematically a grave edge which is foldable in a transverse direction;
Fig. 4B shows a schematic view of this grave edge in a partly folded position;
Fig. 5A shows schematically a grave edge which is foldable in a longitudinal direction;
Fig. 5B shows a schematic view of this grave edge in a partly folded position;
Fig. 6A shows schematically a grave edge part;
Fig. 6B shows schematically a possible embodiment of a pin;
Fig. 6C shows schematically an alternative embodiment of a pin.

[0017] Fig. 1 shows schematically a grave marking system according to the invention, comprising a grave edge with four sides 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d and eight pins 2, of which only one is shown, and a template 3 provided with holes 4, using which pins 2 can be driven into the ground at the correct positions. Pins 2 are driven into the ground such that heads 5 protrude precisely above template 3, whereby they accurately define a plane. Template 3 is then removed and the four sides 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d are pressed onto pins 2, wherein recesses 6 in sides 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d receive the heads 5. The accurately positioned heads 5 provide for a fixed grave edge wherein sides 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d lie in one plane, irrespective of possible unevenness in the ground surface. Template 3 must of course have a sufficiently rigid form for this purpose. If the ground surface is flat, template 3 can, if desired, be embodied in a flexible material so that it can be transported in rolled-up form. It is also possible to leave template 3 in place and to place sides 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d on template 3. The grave edge then in fact becomes a vessel which can be filled with for instance grit or chippings or gravel. Edges 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d can be manufactured from any type of material, but are preferably manufactured from plastic, whereby they can be produced inexpensively and are also maintenance-free. Pins 2 are likewise manufactured from plastic and are preferably glass fibre-reinforced, so that they can be driven into the ground with a hammer without problem.

[0018] Fig. 2 shows schematically an alternative grave marking system according to the invention, wherein sides 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d and pins 2 are omitted. Template 3 is here provided with a central opening 7 which provides space for a heap of sand which is inevitably present after a funeral and which subsides in the course of time. In order to conceal the heap of sand from view, template 3 is provided with guide pins 8, over which, using holes 10, a cover plate 9 can slide as the heap of sand subsides. Cover plate 9 is here always situated within sides 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d so that the grave always gives the impression of being well-tended. Cover plate 9 is for instance manufactured from plastic and can be provided with an imprint with for instance a gravel design. Cover plate 9 can also be manufactured from a flexible material, for instance a fabric manufactured from plastic, and be tensioned over central opening 7.

[0019] Fig. 3 further shows schematically an alternative grave marking system according to the invention, wherein template 3 is provided with a central opening 7 over which a cover plate 9 provided with an edge 9a can be placed such that cover plate 9 protrudes above sides 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d and imparts a more classic appearance to the grave. Cover plate 9 is for instance manufactured from plastic and can be provided with a print with for instance a stone design.

[0020] Fig. 4a shows schematically an alternative embodiment of a grave edge, wherein sides 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d actually form one whole and wherein side 1a and side 1b are each divided and are provided with a hinge 11 a, 11b such that the grave edge can be folded in a transverse direction, this as shown in Fig. 4B. In folded position the grave edge is simpler to pack, store and transport. In the folded-out position it is possible, if desired, to support only sides 1c and 1d, wherein the weight of sides 1a and 1b holds the grave edge straight.

[0021] Fig. 5A shows schematically a further alternative embodiment of a grave edge, wherein sides 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d actually form one whole and wherein side 1c and side 1d are each divided and provided with a hinge 11c, 11d such that the grave edge can be folded in a lengthwise direction, this as shown in Fig. 5B. In folded position the grave edge is simpler to pack, store and transport. In the folded-out position it is possible, if desired, to support only sides 1a and 1b, wherein the weight of sides 1c and 1d holds the grave edge straight.

[0022] Fig. 6A shows a schematic side view of a grave edge part 1 with two or more recesses 6, in which heads of pins 2 can be received. Holes 12 are preferably provided into which a screw can for instance be screwed which clamps a pin 2 once it has been arranged, and in this manner effects a durable connection between grave

edge part 1 and pin 2. In the embodiment shown here, grave edge part 1 is further provided with a central cavity 13 which runs in a lengthwise direction and with which material can be saved and the weight of grave edge part 1 is reduced. If desired, central cavity 13 can be filled with for instance a honeycomb profile 14 of paper or plastic so as to increase the strength of grave edge part 1. Grave edge part 1 can advantageously be pressed from waste plastic particles in a per se known method. Fig. 6B shows schematically a possible embodiment of a pin 2 provided with a head 5 which, in the embodiment shown here, tapers to some extent so that it is self-locating, which simplifies placing of the grave edge. Pin 2 is manufactured from glass fibre-reinforced plastic and, in the embodiment shown here, has a cross-shaped cross-section, which limits the amount of material required and ensures a good attachment in the ground. Fig. 6C shows a schematic view of an alternative embodiment of a pin 2, wherein a collar 15 is also provided with which a template 3 can be fixed on the ground surface before the grave edge is placed.

Claims

1. Grave marking system, comprising a grave edge with two long sides and two short sides, in addition to fixing means for fixing the grave edge to the ground surface, **characterized in that** the fixing means comprise pin-like members, each provided with a pointed outer end and a head part, and that the grave edge is provided with recesses for receiving head parts of the pin-like members.

2. Grave marking system as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in that** the grave marking system also comprises a plate-like member provided with openings at locations at least substantially corresponding to positions of the recesses.

3. Grave marking system as claimed in claim 2, **characterized in that** the plate-like member is provided with a central opening.

4. Grave marking system as claimed in claim 3, **characterized in that** the plate-like member is provided with guide pins.

5. Grave marking system as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, **characterized in that** the grave edge is provided with fastening means for fastening the grave edge to the pin-like members.

6. Grave marking system as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, **characterized in that** the grave edge comprises four separate edge parts.

7. Grave marking system as claimed in any of the claims 1-5, **characterized in that** two mutually opposite sides of the grave edge are each provided with a hinge.

8. Grave marking system as claimed in claim 7, **characterized in that** the hinges are arranged such that the undersides of the two other sides can be folded against each other.

9. Grave marking system as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, **characterized in that** the grave edge is manufactured from plastic.

10. Grave marking system as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, **characterized in that** the long sides and the short sides are each provided with a central cavity running in a lengthwise direction.

11. Grave marking system as claimed in claim 10, **characterized in that** the grave edge is pressed from granular plastic material.

12. Grave edge or pin-like member as part of a grave marking system as claimed in any of the claims 1-11.

13. Method for arranging a grave marking, wherein a grave edge is placed around a grave, **characterized in that** a plate-like member is placed on the grave, an edge of which member is provided with holes, and that pin-like members are driven into the ground via a number of holes, whereafter the grave edge is placed on heads of the pin-like members protruding from the ground, wherein recesses in the grave edge receive the heads.

14. Method as claimed in claim 13, **characterized in that** the plate-like member is removed before the grave edge is placed.

15. Method as claimed in claim 13, **characterized in that** a space bounded by the grave edge and the plate-like member is at least partially filled with a granular material.

16. Method as claimed in claim 13, **characterized in that** the plate-like member is provided with an opening and guide pins, and that the opening is at least partially closed with a cover plate.

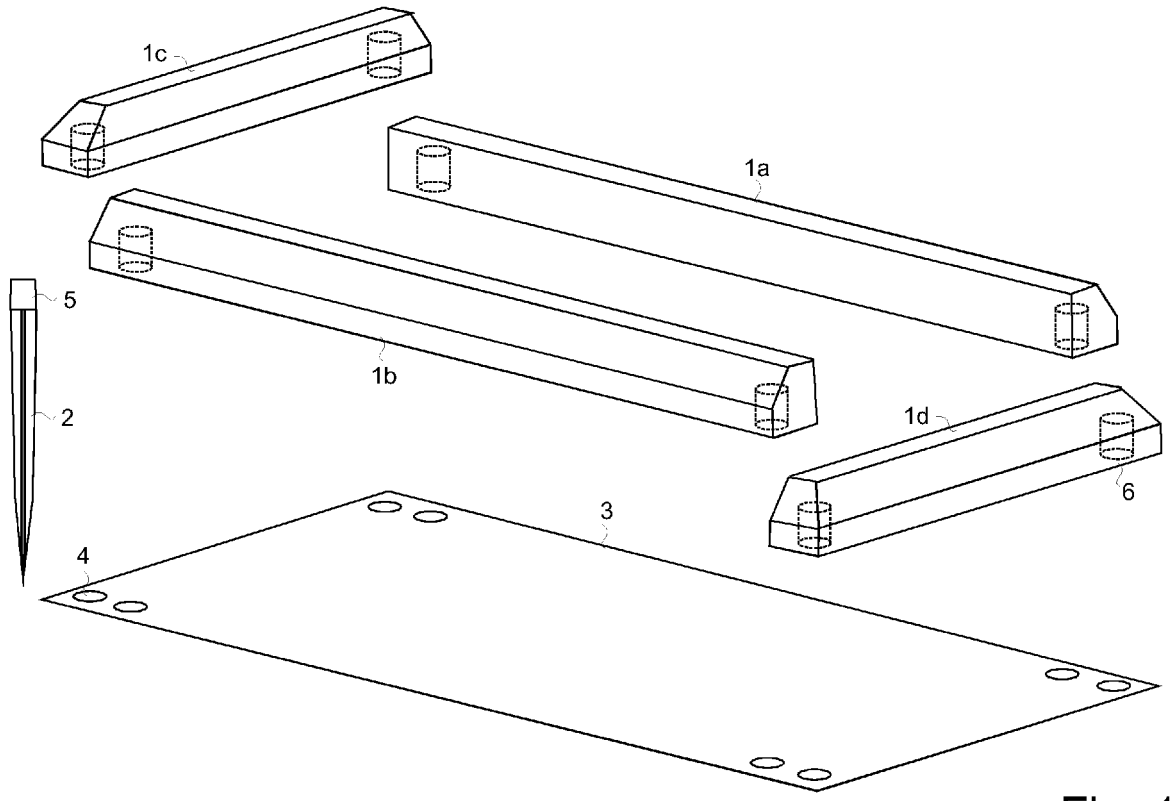

Fig. 1

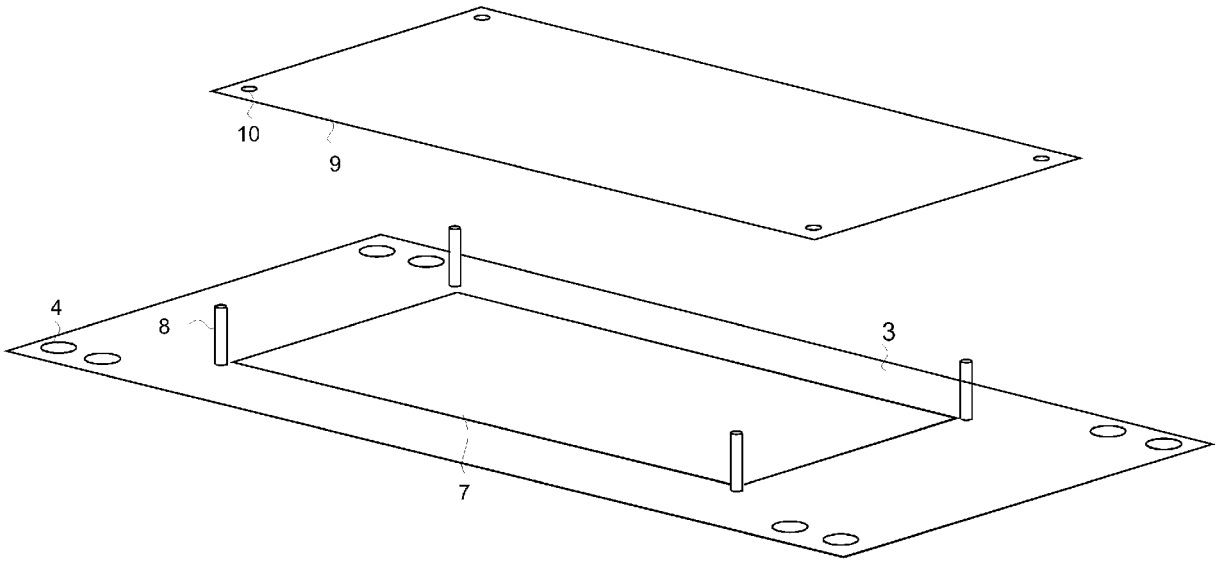

Fig. 2

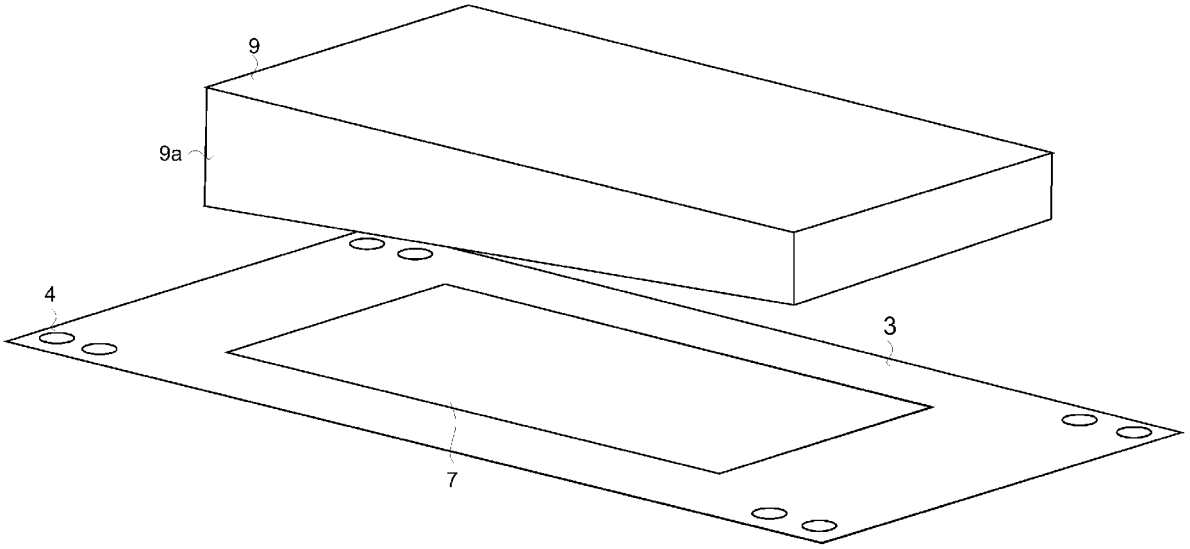

Fig. 3

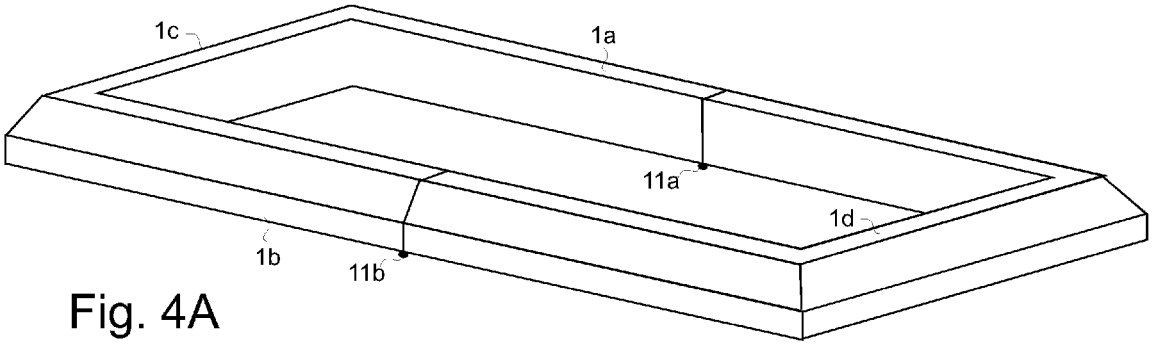

Fig. 4A

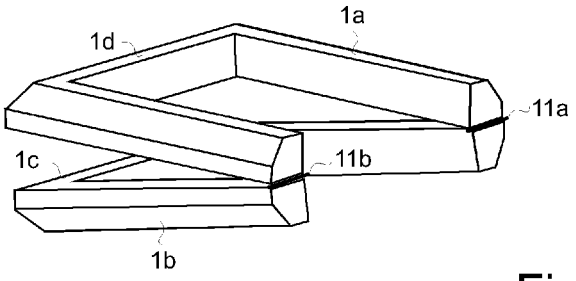

Fig. 4B

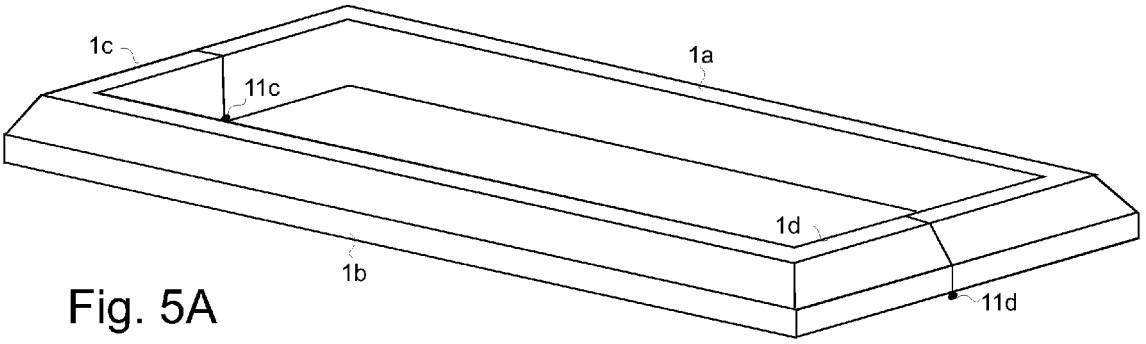

Fig. 5A

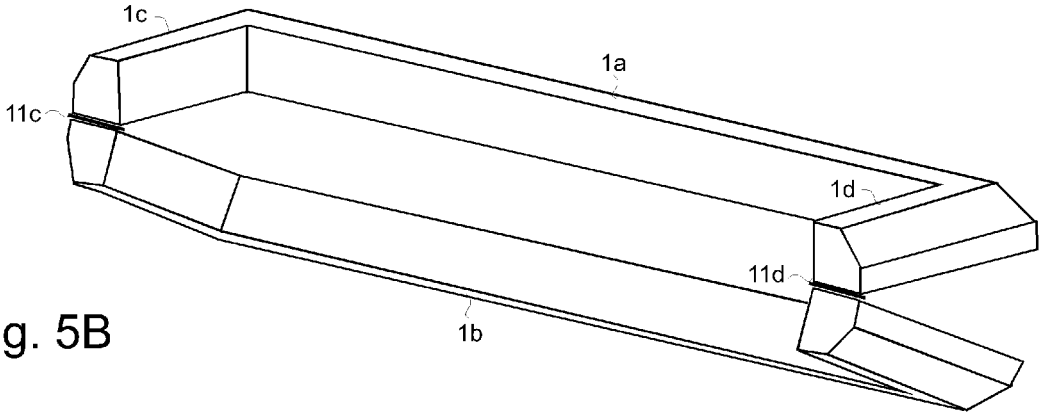

Fig. 5B

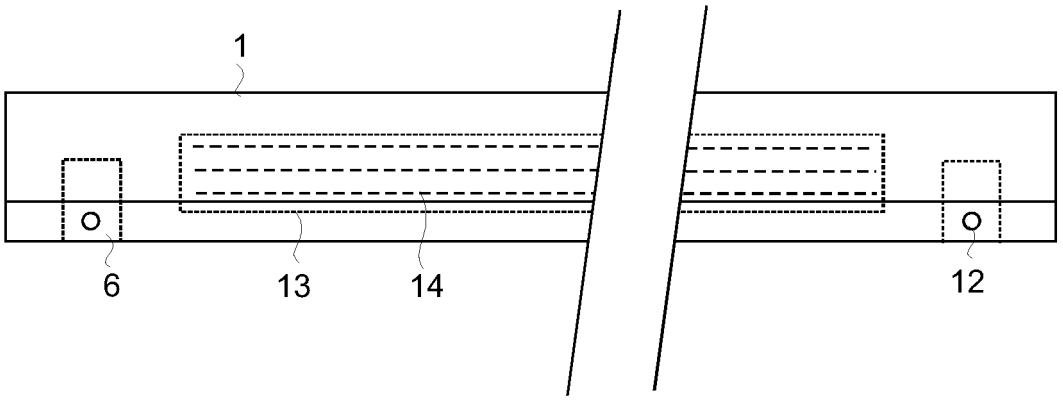

Fig. 6A

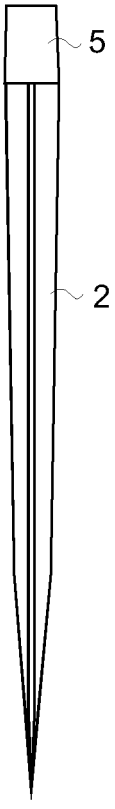

Fig. 6B

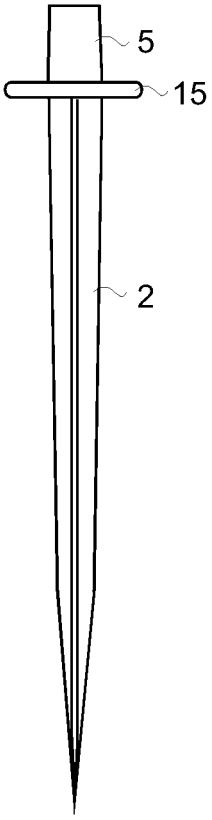

Fig. 6C