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(54) **A combined set comprising covering elements and attachment members and a method for mounting said combined set**

(57) A combined set comprising at least two outside floor or wall covering elements (6) made of a synthetic material and a series of attachment members (3) for attaching said covering elements to a support (1), said covering elements having an upper and a lower surface and a first (15) and second (16) longitudinal edge, and wherein when attached on said support, a gap extends between

the first and second longitudinal edges of two subsequently mounted covering elements. A first (8) and second opening (9) is applied adjacent to said first and second longitudinal edges, respectively, each forming a cavity therein. Said openings giving access to at a first (11-R) and second (10-L) anchoring lip designed and dimensioned so as to match with said attachment member.

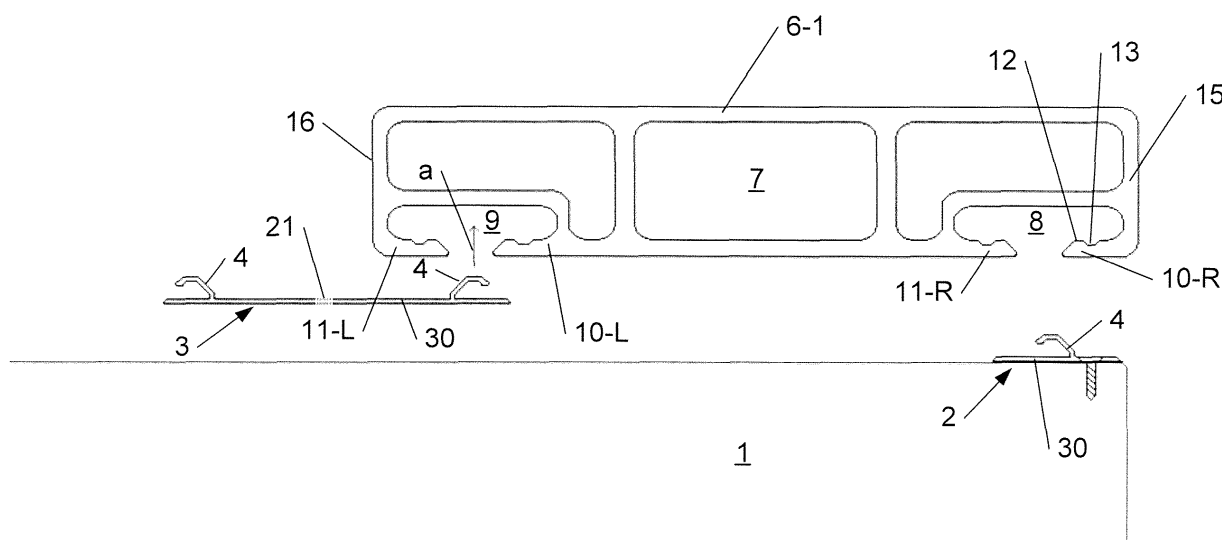


Fig. 1



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 08 15 1779

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	EP 1 691 002 A (HUDEL DR WOLFGANG [DE]) 16 August 2006 (2006-08-16) * abstract * * paragraphs [0001], [0019], [0040], [0041], [0044] - [0046], [0063], [0064] * * figures 1-3,6,12,14,15 *	1-3,6,7,12-16	INV. E04F13/18 E04F15/10 E04F13/08
A	WO 99/63178 A (THERMAL IND INC [US]) 9 December 1999 (1999-12-09) * page 3, line 1 - line 9 * * page 5, line 26 - line 31 * * page 7, line 18 - line 23 * * page 8, line 2 - line 13 * * figures 3-7 *	1,2,6,8-10,12,13	
X	WO 00/56996 A (THERMAL IND INC [US]; ANDRES THOMAS J [US]) 28 September 2000 (2000-09-28)	1,8-11,17	
Y	* page 1, line 5 - line 9 * * page 5, line 10 - line 29 * * page 5, line 36 - page 6, line 6 * * page 7, line 11 - line 16 * * page 7, line 24 - line 28 * * page 8, line 5 - line 18 * * page 9, line 2 - line 10 * * page 9, line 26 - page 10, line 35 * * figures 1-4,6-8 *	19,20,22	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) E04F E01C
Y	US 5 048 448 A (YODER DENNIS G [US]) 17 September 1991 (1991-09-17) * column 3, line 60 - line 66; figure 2 *	19,20,22	
X	US 2003/101673 A1 (WEST RONALD R [US] ET AL) 5 June 2003 (2003-06-05) * figures 1A,4-6 * * paragraphs [0020], [0027], [0035] *	1,4,5	
8 The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 23 June 2008	Examiner Bastian, Almut
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	

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

see additional sheet(s)

☐ The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number

EP 08 15 1779

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-10, 12-22

A combined set and a method for mounting this set.

1.1. claims: 1-4, 6, 7, 12-16, 19-22

A combined set and a method for mounting this set wherein the attachment member comprises a perforation for receiving a fixing member.

1.2. claims: 1-3, 5, 6, 7, 12-16, 19-22

A combined set and a method for mounting this set wherein the longitudinal edge has a shorter length than a thickness of the covering element.

1.3. claims: 1-3, 6-10, 12-16, 19-22

A combined set and a method for mounting this set wherein the covering elements have an alveolar structure.

1.4. claims: 1-3, 6, 7, 12-18, 19-22

A combined set and a method for mounting this set wherein the covering elements comprise a third opening.

2. claims: 1-3, 6, 7, 11-16, 19-22

A combined set and a method for mounting this set wherein the synthetic material of the covering elements is a composite material comprising a polymer.

Please note that all inventions mentioned under item 1, although not necessarily linked by a common inventive concept, could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee.

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

EP 08 15 1779

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.

23-06-2008

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