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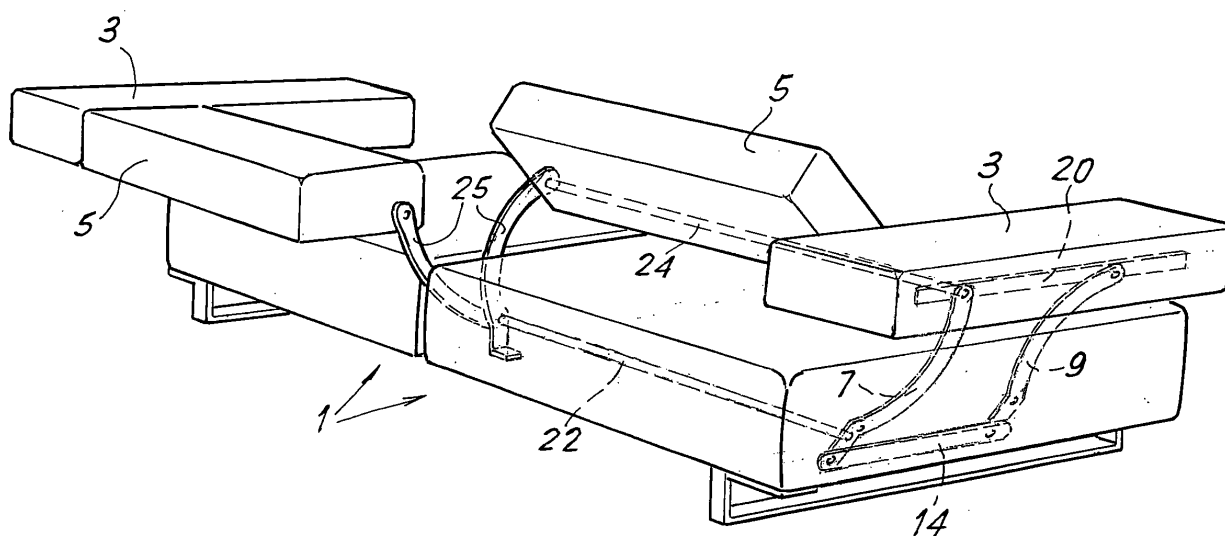
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(54) **A sofa in two sections suitable to take different configurations**

(57) The sofa comprises a single seat and two juxtaposed structures, independent from each other, each inclusive of back and at least an armrest, and each structure being constrained independently from the other to

the seat with at least a vertical parallelogram linkages (7; 9; 14) and an intermediate articulated arm (25) to take at least two different positions, one forward and one pushed back, with respect to the seat.

Fig. 6



Description

[0001] The invention relates to a sofa that - with a simple structure and with simple maneuvers - varies the configuration between the seat and the back with armrests, thus attaining substantial advantages with respect to currently known solutions. EP 1 118 295 shows a sofa - inclusive of a seat, of a back and of armrests - wherein a single structure forming back and armrests is constrained to the seat to take at least two different positions, one forward and one pushed back with respect to the seat. To obtain this said structure is constrained to the two ends of the seat with two vertical parallelogram linkages suitable to take at least the two different positions, forward and pushed back with respect to the seat. The back can be articulated to said structure to take a plurality of differently inclined configurations, independently from said positions taken by the structure. The parallelogram linkages are advantageously formed of curved lever arms, to reduce their visibility. At least the parallelogram linkages associated with the armrests are guided in slots formed in the seat. The back is composed of two sections with independently adjustable inclination.

[0002] The present invention relates to a sofa suitable to take different configurations, comprising a single seat, a double back and armrests, and which is characterized in that it comprises two sections, juxtaposed and independent from each other, each inclusive of a back and of at least an armrest, and each section being constrained independently from the other to the seat with at least a vertical parallelogram linkage to take at least two different positions - one forward and one pushed back - with respect to the seat.

[0003] In a practical embodiment, each section externally comprises a parallelogram linkage and internally a single intermediate articulated arm, juxtaposed with but independent from that of the other section.

[0004] Each back is articulated to its structure to allow it to take a plurality of differently inclined configurations, independently from the configurations that can be taken by the back of the other structure.

[0005] The invention will be better understood by following the description and accompanying drawing, which shows a non-limiting practical embodiment of the invention. In the drawing:

Figs. 1 and 2 show a front and plan view of the sofa in a possible configuration;

Fig. 3 shows a plan view of the sofa in a different configuration;

Figs. 4 and 5 show two sections according to IV-IV and V-V in Fig. 3;

Fig. 6 shows a perspective view of the configuration according to Fig. 3;

Figs. 7 and 8 show a cross section according to VII-VII in Fig. 3;

Fig. 9 separately shows the metal parts of the moving structures, in two configurations; and

Fig. 10 shows a perspective view of a configuration that can be taken by the sofa.

[0006] According to the figures in the accompanying drawing, the number 1 generically indicates a single seat with supporting frame 1A and an elastic thickness 1B, which can be produced in one of the ways technically known for this function; the seat 1 is fixed with respect to the upper part inclusive of armrests and parts of back, which are mobile. The upper part comprises two sections, each inclusive of at least an armrest 3 and a portion of back 5.

[0007] At each end of the seat 1 there are articulated two lever arms 7 and 9 (see in particular Figs. 7 and 8) pivoted respectively in 10 and 12 to the frame 1A and extending in a curve in two opposite directions for aesthetic requirements; these two lever arms 7 and 9 form part of a parallelogram linkage that develops at each of the arms 3 and comprises extensions 7A and 9A, and also a horizontal lower side 14 articulated to said extensions and upper articulations 16 and 18 pivoted to a structure 20 of the respective armrest; this structure 20 of the armrests also comprises a stiffening bar 22, and moreover, at the articulation 16, a further bar 24 about which the respective back 5 can rotate. Two independent sections with armrest and back are obtained therewith. The two bars 22 and 24 extend to approximately the middle of the seat 1, to each connect with a respective curved lever arm 25. The two lever arms 25 of the two sections are in proximity of each other but can move independently angularly together with the respective assembly 7, 22 and with the respective parallelogram linkage 7A, 14, 9A and with the respective arm 9. Each of the two sections 22, 7, 24, 25 supports the respective back 5 in an articulated way.

[0008] The curved extension of the lever arms 7, 25 and 9 and of the intermediate lever arms 25 is such as to limit their visibility to a minimum in the configurations that can be taken by the components of the sofa. In the base 1 of the seat, at and under the armrests 3 and at the two lever arms 25 there are provided slot-type guide means so that these lever arms can move to reach the various configurations.

[0009] Each of the two assemblies 3, 5 can be moved to the forward position and to the pushed back position independently from the other of said assemblies 3, 5.

[0010] The inclination of each of the sections of back 5 can be adjusted, from a completely horizontal configuration coplanar with the armrests 3 to configurations with a greater or lesser inclination as required, by means of adjustment mechanisms of a type known per se, which generally operate by means of successive raising movements, until reaching their respective end of travel positions.

[0011] Each of the armrests 3 can remain limitedly raised from the surface of the seat, both in the forward position and the pushed back position.

[0012] The various guide slots in the seat can be ap-

appropriately covered, as can the lever arms 7 and 9 that slide in said slots.

[0013] The metal components of the various frames will be produced so as to ensure maximum stiffness and also to provide the stops that the parallelogram linkages must take to allow the assemblies, composed of an armrest and of the respective section of back, to reach, independently from each other, the two forward and pushed back positions. 5

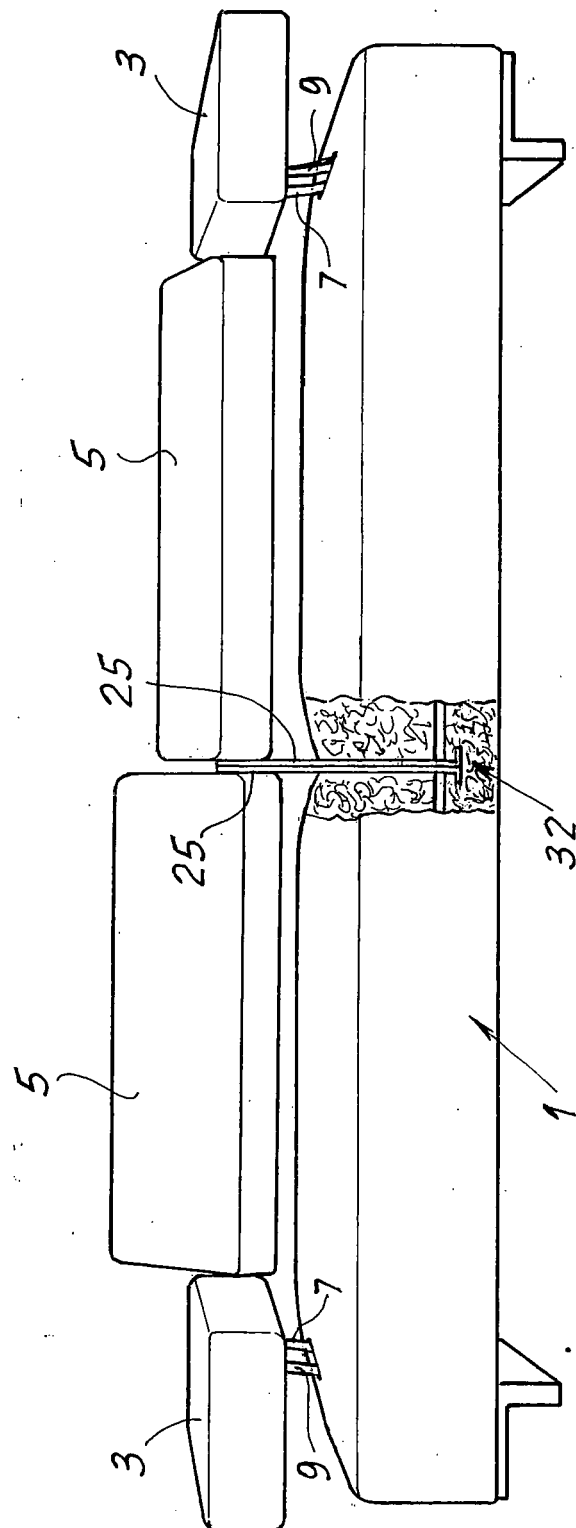
[0014] It is understood that the drawing only shows an example provided by way of practical demonstration of the invention and that said invention can vary in shapes and arrangements without departing from the scope of the concept on which the invention is based. 10

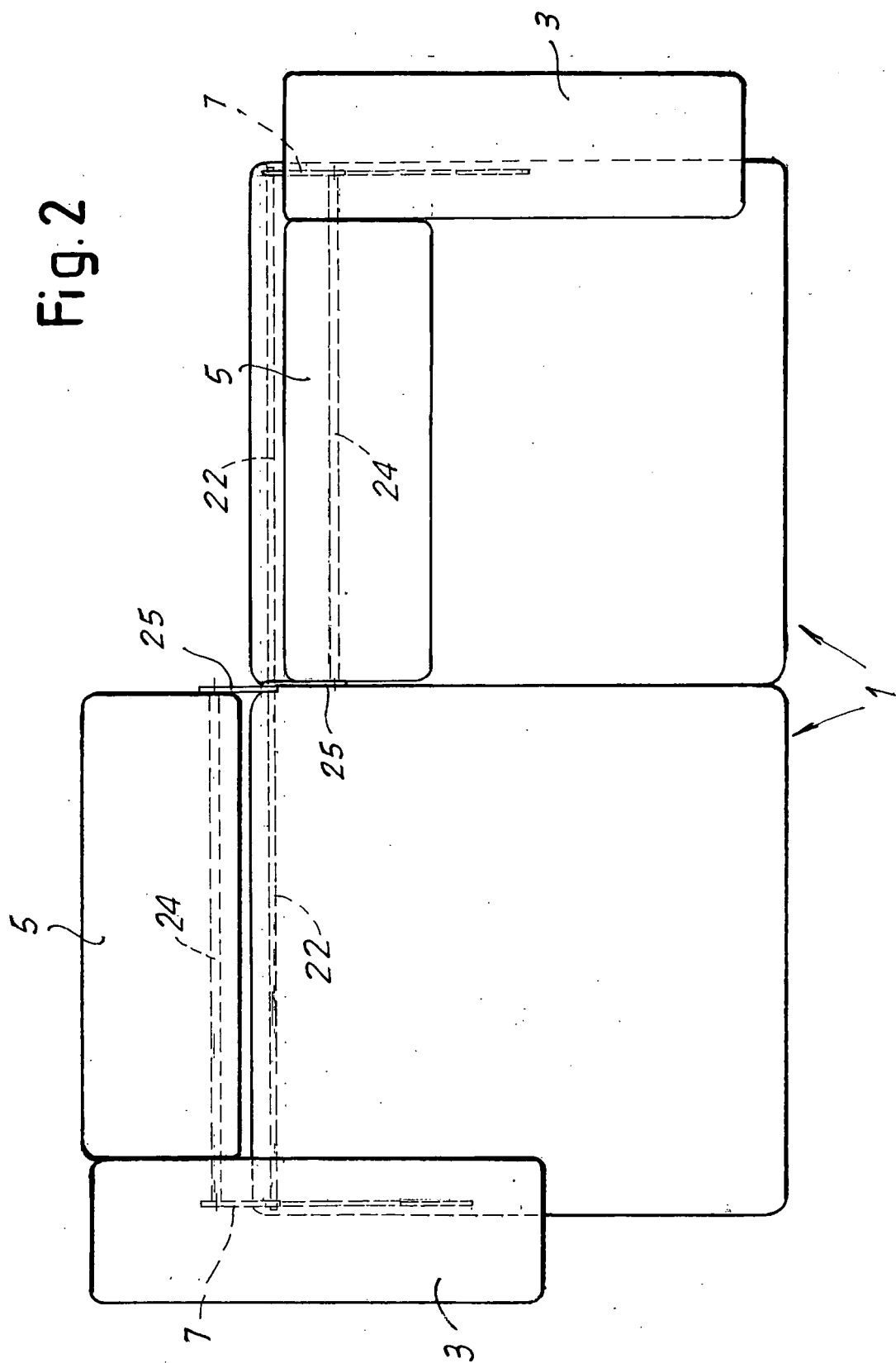
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Claims

1. A sofa suitable to take different configurations, comprising a single seat, a double back and armrests, **characterized in that** it comprises two sections, juxtaposed and independent from each other, each inclusive of back and of at least an armrest, and each section being constrained independently from the other to the seat with at least a vertical parallelogram linkage to take at least two different positions, one forward and one pushed back, with respect to the seat. 20 25
2. Sofa as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in that** each section externally comprises a parallelogram linkage (7, 9, 14) and internally a single intermediate articulated arm (25), juxtaposed with but independent from that of the other section. 30 35
3. Sofa as claimed in claim 1 or 2, **characterized in that** each back is articulated to the section thereof to allow it to take a plurality of differently inclined configurations, independently from the configurations that the back of the other section can take. 40
4. Sofa as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the internal and juxtaposed articulated arms (25) of the two structures are curved with the concavity facing the front to reduce their visibility. 45
5. Sofa as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the components of the external parallelogram linkage (7; 9; 14) and of the intermediate articulated arm (25) are rigidly connected by bars (22, 24). 50
6. A sofa in two sections, suitable to take different configurations; all as described above and represented by way of example in the accompanying drawing. 55

Fig. 1





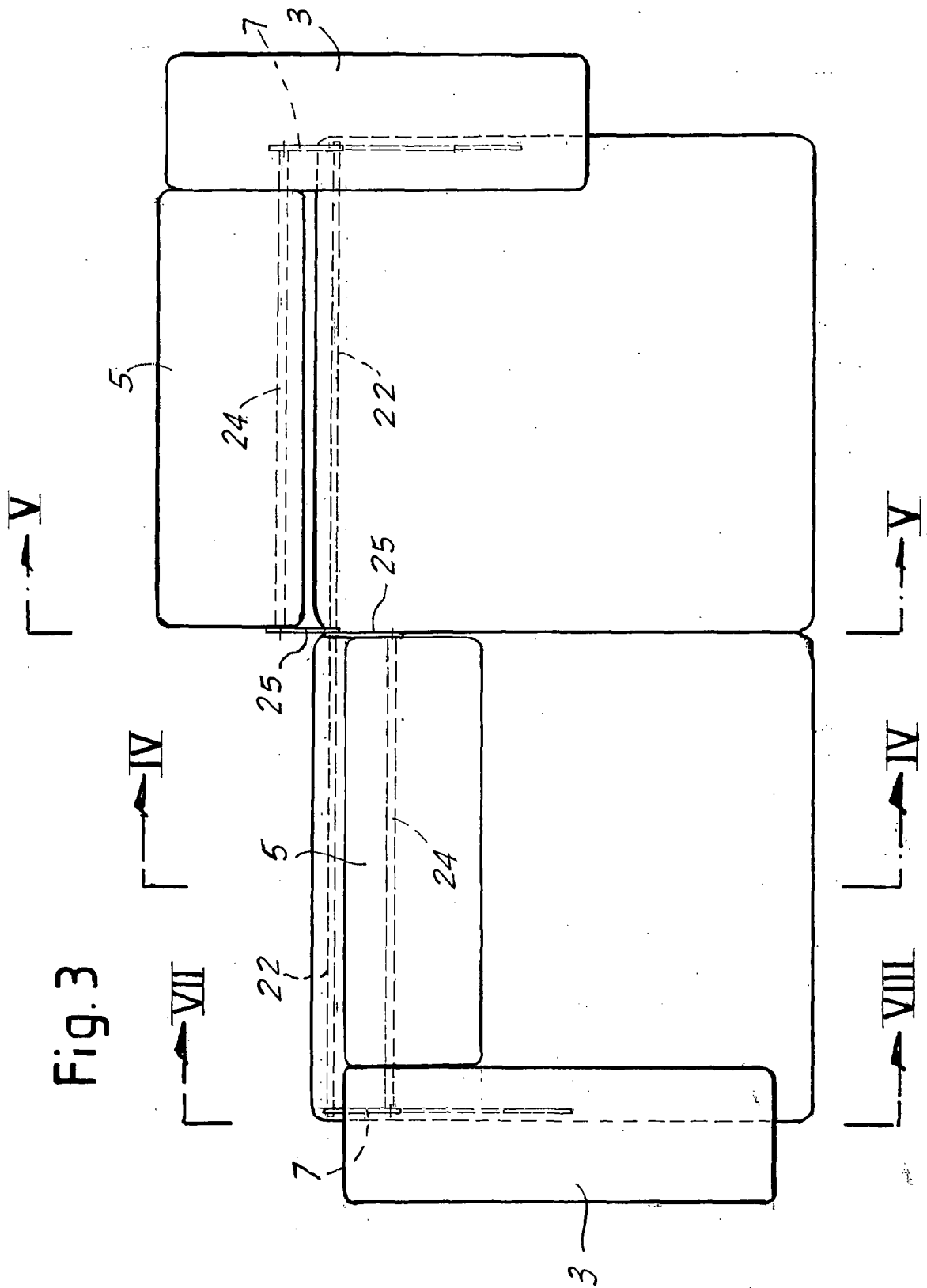


Fig. 4

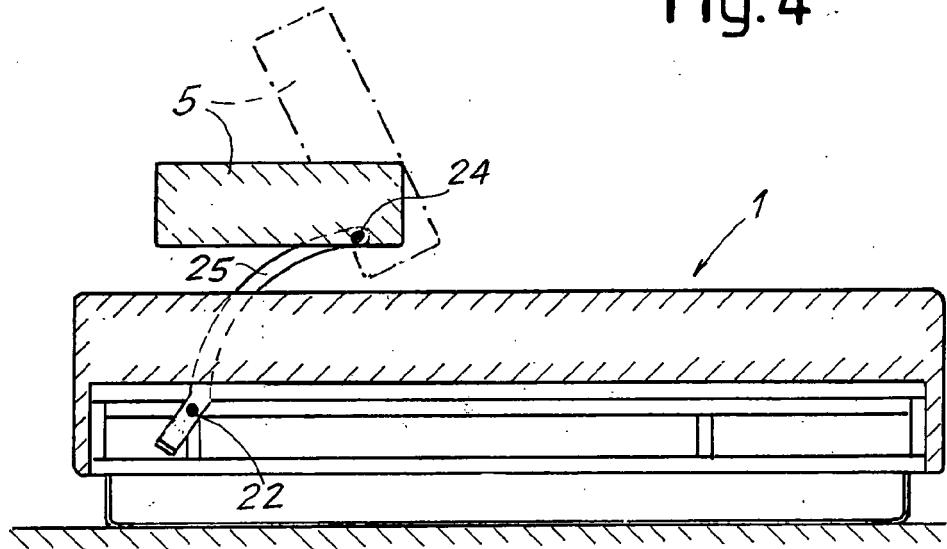


Fig. 5

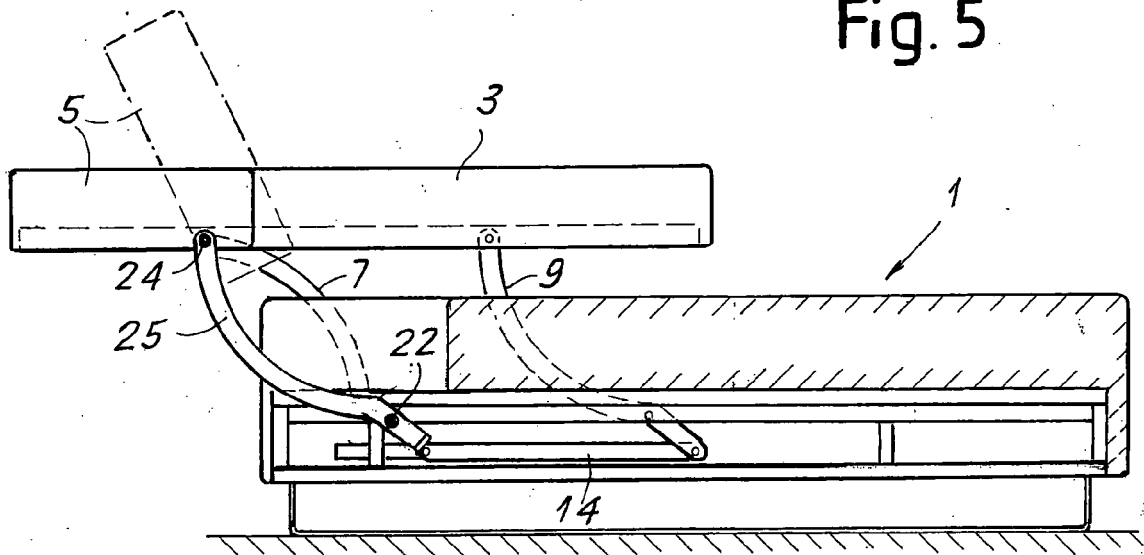
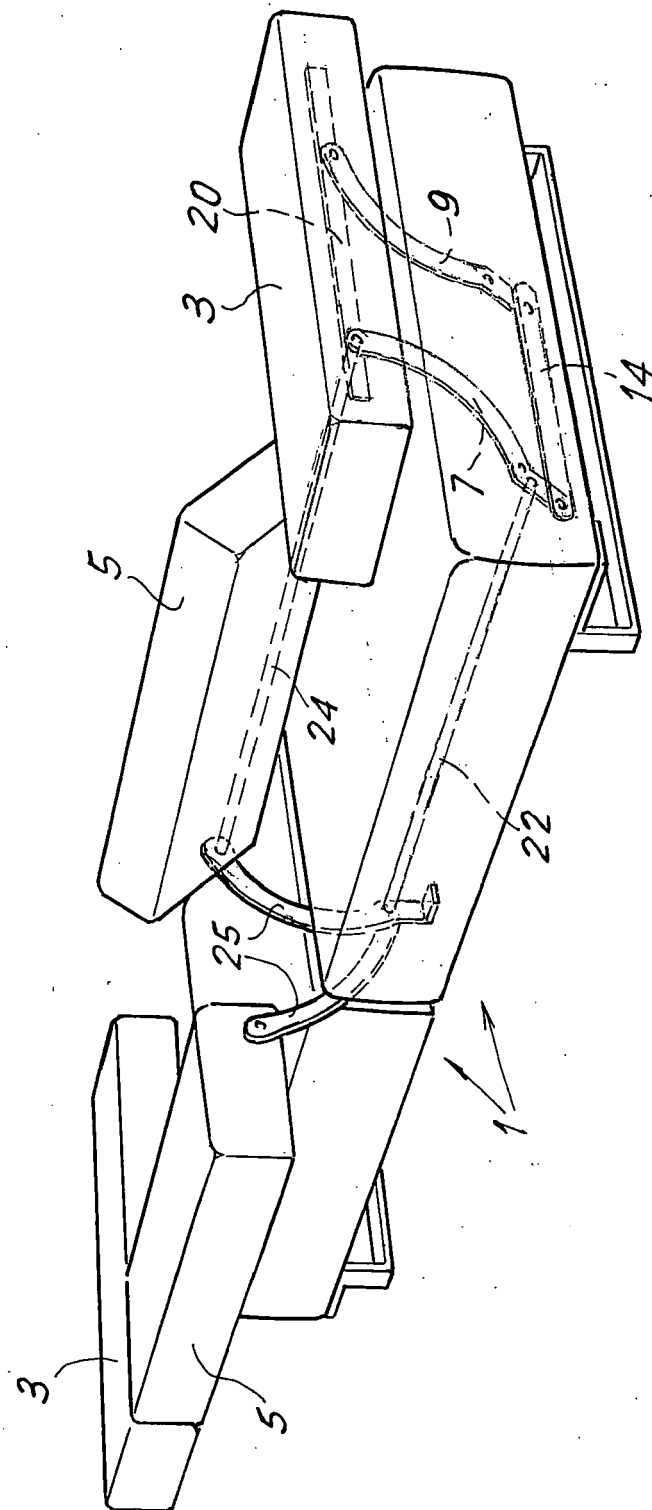


Fig. 6



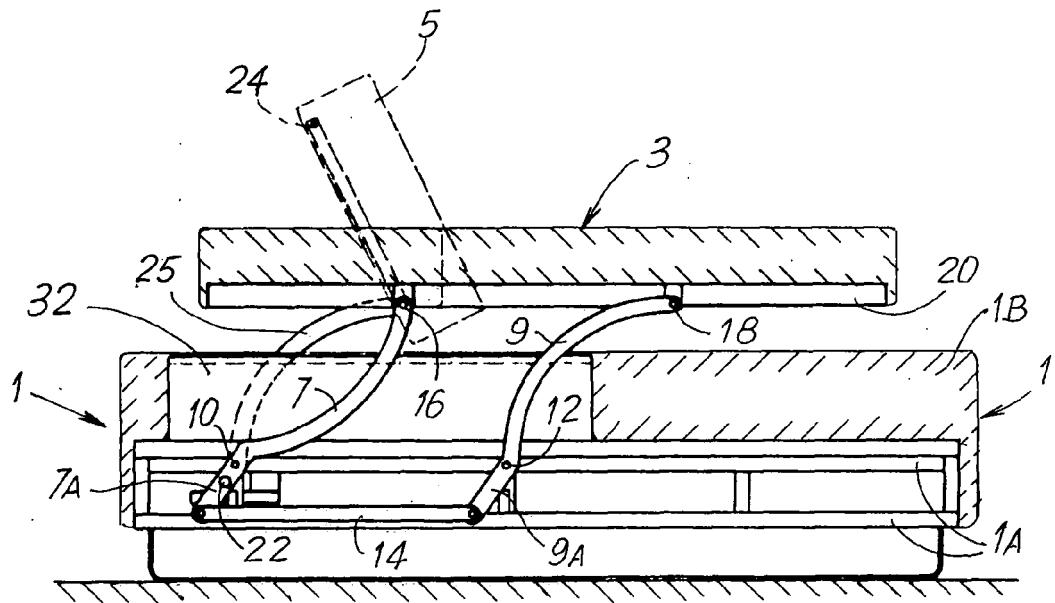


Fig. 7

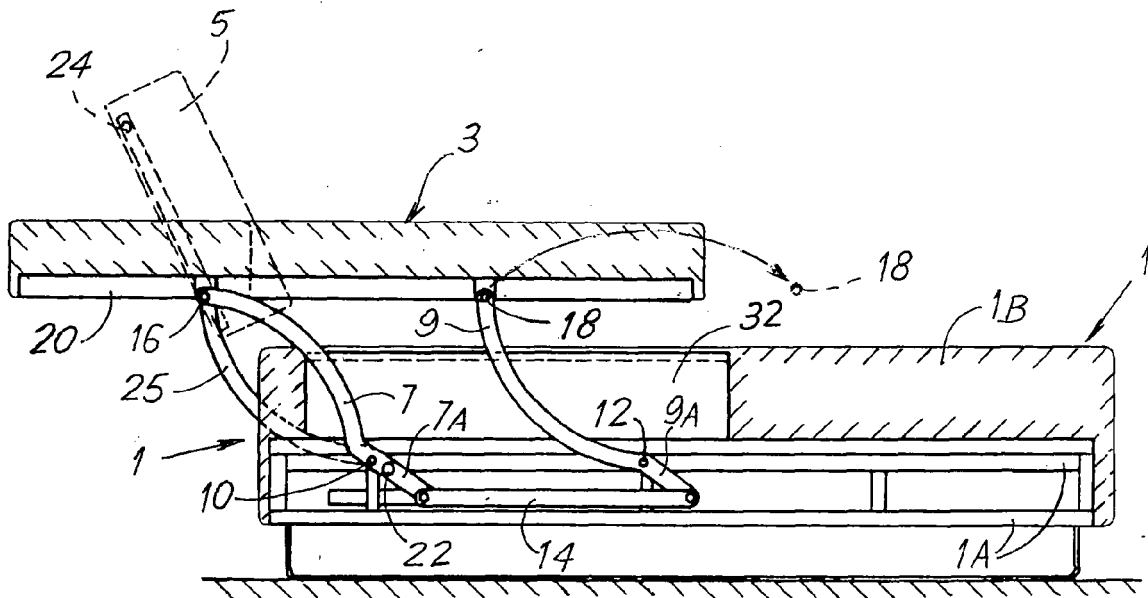
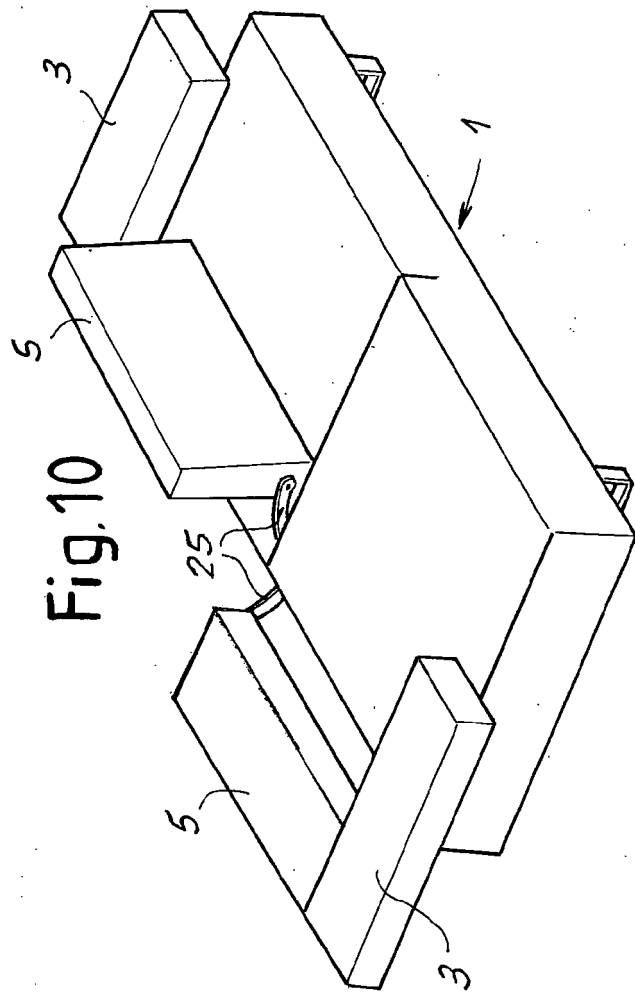
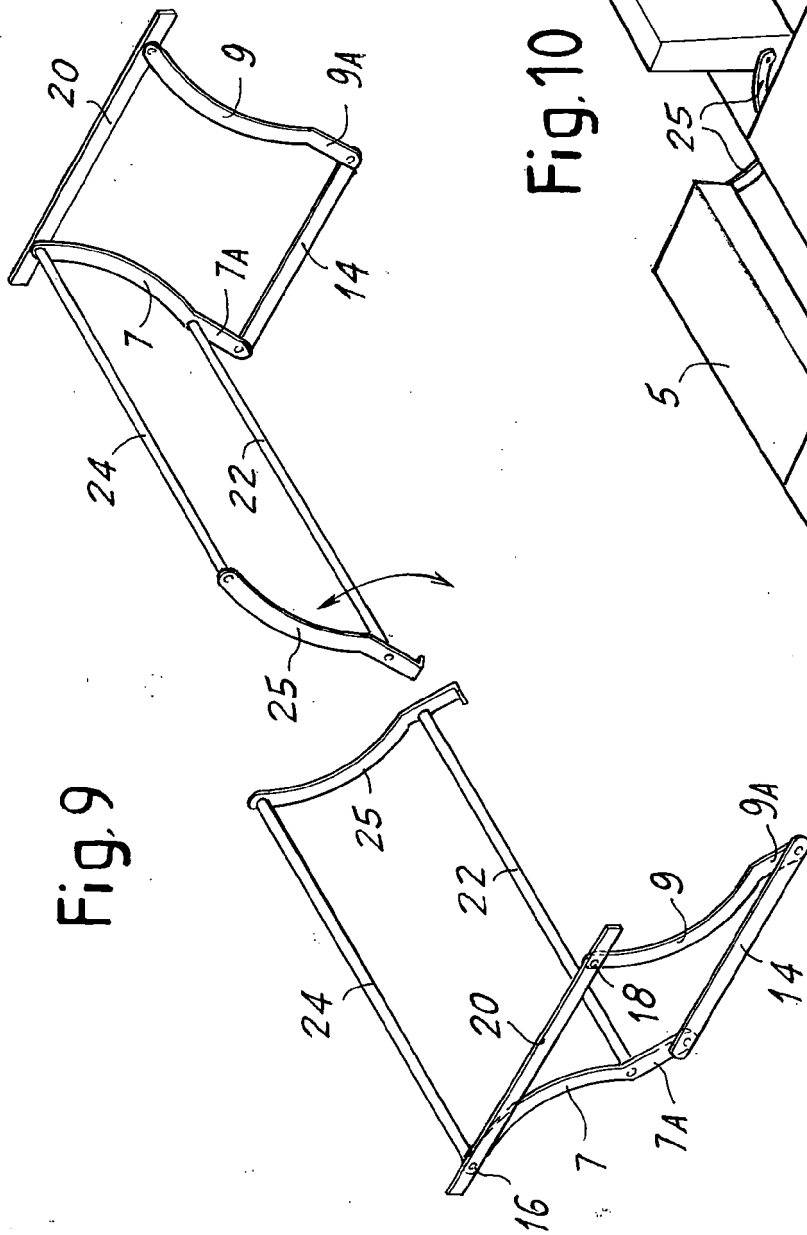


Fig. 8





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 08 42 5246

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	EP 1 464 256 A (ARKETIPO S P A [IT]) 6 October 2004 (2004-10-06) * abstract * * column 1 - column 2 * * figures * -----	1-6	INV. A47C17/18
A	DE 195 32 820 A1 (LIEBERKNECHT A [DE]) 13 March 1997 (1997-03-13) * abstract; figures *	1-6	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A47C
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich		25 July 2008	MacCormick, Duncan
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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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 08 42 5246

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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25-07-2008

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REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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